

# Land East of Riverdene Basingstoke, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

PROJECT CODE BERD 93

SU 650523

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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LAND EAST OF RIVERDENE, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

(SU650523)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT.

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a field evaluation on land east of Riverdene, Basingstoke, Hampshire, between December 7th and 17th 1993, on behalf of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Evidence of prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon settlements was revealed. There was also evidence of postglacial colluvial deposits on the hill slopes.

INTRODUCTION

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have produced a development brief for residential housing. Section 7 of the brief describes the need for an archaeological evaluation, as recommended by the County Archaeological Officer.

The OAU produced a written scheme of investigation which was approved by the County Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork took place between December 7th and 17th 1993, and the site was visited by Mr. D. Hopkins (County Archaeological Officer) on the 15th December.

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of the archaeological remains within the development area.

The site lies on a W-E spur of Upper Chalk with drift deposits of clay with flints, overlooking the River Loddon to the N, and the original line of the A30 to the S. It comprises approximately 8.5 ha of pastureland, bisected N-S by an old trackway known as Dead Man's Lane.

To the N and NE of the site extensive evidence of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement has been found. Although there are no known archaeological sites in the development area, the favourable location of high ground close to a river would suggest a high archaeological potential.

In more recent times the site has formed part of Basingstoke common, and is now, in places, heavily overgrown.

## METHODOLOGY (fig 1)

The evaluation took the form of a 2% sample excavation. A total of 29 were machine excavated using a JCB equipped with a 1.6 m toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were nominally 30 m in length, although in a few cases their length was abbreviated slightly, or their position altered, to avoid heavily wooded areas.

Each trench was machined down to the natural subsoil or chalk, or to the archaeological horizon, if identifiable, or to a safety limit of 1.2 m. In the case of Trench 22 the machining was stopped at the water table (0.7 m).

Features revealed by the machining were manually cleaned, photographed, recorded in section and plan, and hand excavated. All features and deposits were assigned unique context numbers trench by trench. The trench number acts as a prefix to the context number (i.e. 4/1 = Trench 4 context 1).

## RESULTS.

### GENERAL

All trenches, with the exception of Trench 22, revealed an overburden of silty loam topsoil (/1), between 0.20 and 0.25 m in depth, overlying a medium brown silty clay subsoil/ploughsoil (/2), which varied in depth from 0.05 m on the crest of the ridge to 0.30 m at the bottom of the N slope.

On the crest of the ridge, and its E and SE slopes the subsoil /2 directly overlay a natural subsoil of reddish clay with large flint nodules, which itself overlay the chalk. The N slope revealed evidence of successive waves of hillwash or colluvium, up to 1.0 m deep at the bottom of the slope.

The following text summarises the results for each trench. Further details of each trench are presented in Table 1.

The trench descriptions are grouped according to the archaeological evidence.

Prehistoric:	Trenches 4, 9, 12, 19.
Saxon:	Trenches 5,7.
Post Medieval:	Trenches 13, 22, 16.
Undated:	Trenches 2,8,20,21,27,28.

### PREHISTORIC.

Prehistoric activity was identified in three discrete areas:

- 1) On the crest of the ridge in Trenches: 4, 9, 19. Further undated features also occurred to the west in trenches 20 and 21.



- 2) An isolated pit in Trench 12 on the north east slopes.
- 3) A flint concentration (although none within stratified features) on the south slope in areas of trenches 5 and 7.

Trench 4 (fig 3) 30 m. NW-SE.

The trench was dug from the flat top of the ridge into a hollow to the S, revealing a considerable build up of colluviation in the hollow. A chalky silt plough soil (4/4) was identified at a depth of 0.50m, and produced a sherd of Roman pottery. The full depth of the colluvial deposits was not revealed, due to safety considerations.

The N end of the trench, under very shallow overburden, revealed one NE-SW ditch 4/8, cut into the natural flinty clay. A sherd of prehistoric pot and a flint flake was recovered from the excavated fill.

Trench 9 (fig 5) 30 m. NE-SW.

The trench revealed two shallow NE-SW ditches 9/4 and 9/8, approximately 20 m apart, and one posthole 9/6. No dating evidence was recovered from these features, but it was recognised that 9/8 may be a continuation of 4/8, and therefore of a similar date.

Trench 12 (fig 5) 30 m. NW-SE.

On the NE side of the ridge, this trench revealed evidence of at least 1.2 m depth of colluvial deposits, with a small pit 12/7 identified at the S end of the trench, at a depth of 0.50 m, under the upper colluvial layer 12/3. The fill of this pit produced a quantity of Neolithic or possibly Early Bronze age pottery and flint.

Trench 19 (fig 6) 29 m NW-SE.

The trench was situated on the N side of the crest of the ridge. The S end of the trench revealed a 2.0 m wide pit 19/9 and a number of small postholes, possibly forming a fence line. Five flint flakes were recovered from the fill of the pit.

SAXON

Definite archaeological features of Anglo Saxon date were identified in two adjacent trenches 5 and 7; trench 2 40 metres to the west produced an undated posthole.

Trench 5 (fig 4) 28.5 m NW-SE.

The trench partly revealed a 0.25 m deep, flat bottomed rectangular feature 5/11, oriented N-S, and cut onto a chalk ridge which runs close to the surface through the S part of the trench. The full measurement of 5/11 in plan was estimated to be 4.3 m N-S x 3.0 m W-E. In the N exposed corner a well-defined subrectangular posthole was identified.

The dark silty fill of 5/11 was partly excavated, producing a quantity of Early Saxon pottery, fragments of a loom weight and some animal bone.

The evidence of 5/11 points very strongly to it being a sunken feature building, or 'grubenhau' of the Early Saxon period.

Trench 7 (fig 4) 27.5 m NW-SE.

This trench was sited and machined after Trench 5 had revealed the Saxon features, in an attempt to clarify the extent of the Saxon settlement.

Near the S end of the trench, and situated on the same chalk ridge as was exploited in Trench 5, was a flat bottomed, possibly rectangular feature 7/8, partly revealed. It was oriented N-S, and measured 4.3 m x 3.2 m (estimated), and 0.24 m deep. Two postholes, 7/9 and 7/11 were identified within the area of the feature.

The feature contained a fills 7/3 and 7/5, of dark grey brown silty clay, overlying 7/4, a 0.06m deep layer of chalky gavel which lined the bottom of the feature. 7/3 and 7/5 produced quantities of Early Saxon pottery, a bone spindle whorl, and an unidentified iron object. It was concluded that this feature was also an Early Saxon sunken feature building.

#### POST MEDIEVAL.

Trench 13 30 m. NW-SE.

The S end of this trench was cut into a hollow on the N slope of the site. This revealed part of a steep sided feature 13/4, probably a quarry, cut into a ridge of chalk. It was filled with a mix of chalk and silty clay, which produced no dating evidence. From the evidence of the present contours, it would appear that the quarry is approximately ovoid and measures 25 m W-E and 30 m N-S.

The lack of colluvial build up over the backfill of the quarry, and the fact that it appears to respect the line of Dead Man's Lane, immediately to the W, would suggest that it is not an ancient feature.

Trench 16 30 m. NW-SE.

The trench, at the bottom of the N slope, showed evidence of at least 1.2 m of colluvial and alluvial deposits. The N half of the trench contained a considerable amount of ash and modern rubbish in the topsoil. At the N end this deepened sharply to below the limit of

excavation, possibly marking the S edge of the line of the old Basingstoke Canal (opened 1794), and recently infilled.

Trench 22. 27 m. W-E.

Beneath a topsoil layer containing much modern debris was a 0.30 m deep layer of chalky rubble in a matrix of silty clay, (22/2). This overlay a very silty brown layer with a high organic content, approximately 0.10 m deep, overlying what appeared to be natural alluvial clay (22/4). The present water table coincided with the top of layer 22/3. A sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from 22/3.

The trench was situated on the edge of the line of the Basingstoke Canal, and layers 22/1, 22/2 and 22/3 represent the silting up, and subsequent backfilling of, the canal, earlier this century.

UNDATED

Trench 2. 27 m. N-S

This trench, on the N side of the top of the ridge, revealed one possible posthole, but no dating evidence. It lies immediately west of the dated Anglo Saxon features in 5 and 7.

Trench 8. 24.5 m. NE-SW.

One NW-SE shallow ditch was identified (8/4). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 20. 30 m. NE-SW.

The trench was situated on the upper part of the N slope, and revealed one ovoid pit 20/6, which contained no finds. However slight charcoal flecking was noted in the fill.

Trench 21. 30 m. NW-SE.

The trench contained one W-E gully 21/9 and one W-E gully terminal 21/5. A very small and abraded pottery sherd, possibly Roman, was found in the fill of 21/5.

Trench 27 (fig 6) 30 m. NW-SE.

On the lower part of the N slope, this trench revealed a series of colluvial layers, sealing a W-E ditch 27/8. Abraded fragments of Early Prehistoric, Iron Age and Saxon pottery were recovered from colluvial layers 27/3 and 27/4, but no dating evidence was found in the fill of the underlying ditch 27/8.

Trench 28. 30 m. NW-SE.

The trench revealed deep colluvial deposits, the uppermost one 27/3 sealing a possible shallow W-E ditch 28/7, which possibly is a continuation of 27/8. Charcoal flecking was noted in the fill of 28/7, but no dating evidence was recovered.

#### Other Trenches.

Trenches 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 and 26 contained no archaeological features.

#### METAL DETECTOR SURVEY

A brief metal detector scan was undertaken on the evaluation area. This did not produce significant finds. The depth of colluvial deposits on the hill slopes would have considerably reduced the effectiveness of the type of survey.

#### TOPOGRAPHY (fig 2)

Although the present topography shows a ridge of relatively undramatic contours, the excavation indicated that the original chalk was much steeper on the N slope, and was cut by deep glacial rifts and smaller glacial run-off gullies, mostly oriented W-E.

In places the underlying chalk is very close to the present surface, and this characteristic has been exploited in the siting of the Saxon huts in Trenches 5 and 7, and by the quarry in Trench 13.

#### COLLUVIAL AND ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS.

A notable feature of the site was the shallowness of the soil on the crest of the hill, and the deep colluvial (hillwash) deposits on the lower N slopes, and in the hollow crossed by Trench 4. Deposits were of variable depths and there was much local variation. It was not possible to establish a common sequence of colluvial layers, even comparing those in trenches close together (eg Trenches 26,27,28.). It is clear, however, that there have been episodes of colluviation since the early prehistoric period.

In the N half of Trench 26 the NE-SW edge of a palaeochannel was revealed, filled with successive alluvial deposits of clay and chalky silt. This would appear to represent an earlier course of what is now the Loddon, or one of its tributaries.

## INTERPRETATION (fig 2)

Artefacts recovered from the evaluation indicate prehistoric activity from the mesolithic/early neolithic through to late Bronze Age/Iron Age. Actual positive settlement evidence however appears to be confined to the vicinity of the crest of the ridge in Trenches 4, 9, and 19. Although no dating evidence was recovered from features excavated in Trenches 8, 20 and 21, it is possible that settlement activity encompasses these areas as well. The prehistoric evidence in the colluvium filled Trench 12 is, by its position, difficult to incorporate into a ridge-top settlement, and so must remain inconclusive.

Specific dating of the separate elements from the limited evidence is difficult; much of the material derived either from colluvium or was residual in later features (eg in the sunken feature building in Trench 7). However from the stratified material tentative dates may be assigned: the pit in trench 12 would appear early Bronze Age; some of the settlement on the crest of the ridge appears late Bronze Age.

There is little doubt that Trenches 5 and 7 located two typical Early Saxon sunken feature buildings. Both structures were apparently deliberately sited on a W-E ridge of underlying chalk on the S side of the site, presumably to secure a well-drained and firm interior for each building. This suggests that, if there are more structures, they might also be sited along this ridge. However, identifying the extent of the settlement is difficult, as no Saxon evidence was found except that in the actual confines of the two features 7/8 and 5/11.

Excavations just over one kilometre away at Cowdreys Down (Millet M., with James S, 1983) have revealed a similar dated settlement. Here 2 sunken feature structures were associated with up to 16 post or trench founded buildings. The settlement here was extensive spreading over two hectares.

The quarry identified in Trench 13 may well have associations with the Basingstoke Canal, which was opened in 1794 and infilled earlier this century.

## RELIABILITY OF EVALUATION RESULTS

A two percent sample size on this type of evaluation is normally large enough to meet the objectives of the archaeological brief. However, it cannot guarantee to discover all significant archaeological remains. Two specific aspects need to be acknowledged in this exercise. Firstly the type of archaeological remains detected ie prehistoric and Saxon settlement (both probably principally consisting of timber structures ) are not the most conducive to being identified in narrow trenches. Defining the extent of settlements is therefore not very reliable particularly if buildings are dispersed. Secondly colluvial deposits by sheer depth of accumulation may well mask archaeological features thus exacerbating the first problem.

Sources:

Millet M, with James S, 1983 , Arch J 140, "Excavations at Cowdreys Down, Basingstoke, Hampshire".



BASINGSTOKE. LAND EAST OF RIVERDENE. BERD93.

TABLE OF CONTEXTS.

CXT	TYPE	WIDTH	DEPTH	DATE	COMMENTS	FINDS
Tr.1						
1/1	LAYER	-	<0.30	MOD	TOPSOIL	
1/2	LAYER	-	<0.40	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	1 FL
1/3	LAYER	-	-		NATURAL	
Tr.2						
2/1	LAYER	-	<0.20	MOD	TOPSOIL	
2/2	LAYER	-	<0.25	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
2/3	FILL	0.30	0.12		OF 2/4	
2/4	P/HOLE?	0.30	0.12	?	POSSIBLE	
2/5	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.3						
3/1	LAYER	-	<0.27	MOD	TOPSOIL	5 FL
3/2	LAYER	-	<0.40	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
3/3	NATURAL	-	-		CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.4						
4/1	LAYER	-	<0.20	MOD	TOPSOIL	
4/2	LAYER	-	<0.12	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
4/3	LAYER	>20.0	<0.33	MED?	COLLUVIUM/PLOUGH	
4/4	LAYER	>15.0	<0.10		PLOUGHSOIL	1 SHD PM
4/5	LAYER	-	<0.56	?	COLLUVIUM	
4/6	LAYER	-	-	?	COLLUVIUM	
4/7	FILL	1.04	0.30	B.A.	OF 4/8	1 SHD LBA;3 FL
4/8	DITCH	1.04	0.30	B.A.	NE-SW. =9/8?	
4/9	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.5						
5/1	LAYER	-	<0.30	MOD	TOPSOIL	1 SHD PM;1 TILE PM;6 FL
5/2	LAYER	-	<0.24	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	3 FL
5/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
5/4	FILL	4.0 N-S	<0.25	SAXON	OF 5/11	2 TILE RB;8 SHD SAX;1 LOOM WT SAX;1 FL
5/5	FILL	3.9 N-S	<0.25	SAXON	OF 5/13	1 SHD SAX
5/6	FILL	-	0.32	?	NAT IN HOLLOW	2 SHD SAX; 2 FL

CXT	TYPE	WIDTH	DEPTH	DATE	COMMENTS	FINDS
5/7	LAYER	-	0.06	SAXON	IN BASE OF 5/11	5 SHD SAX; 2 FL
5/8	FILL	0.13	0.30	SAXON	OF 5/9	
5/9	P/HOLE	0.13	0.30	SAXON	N. CORNER OF 5/11	
5/10	GULLY	-	-		NAT. IN CHALK	
5/11	FEATURE	4.0 x 3.0 est.	<0.23	SAXON	SUNKEN FEATURE BUILDING	
5/12	NATURAL				CHALK RIDGE	
5/13	CUT	2.0 N-S	0.35	SAXON?	UNDER 5/11	
Tr. 6						
6/1	LAYER	-	0.25	MOD	TOPSOIL	
6/2	LAYER	-	0.10	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
6/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr. 7						
7/1	LAYER	-	0.20	MOD?	TOPSOIL	1 SHD PM; 17 FL
7/2	LAYER	-	0.20	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	1 SHD SAX; 38 FL
7/3	FILL	4.3 N-S	0.18	SAXON	OF 7/8	1 SHD ?PREH; 9 SHD SAX; 2 LOOMWT SAX; 1 SHD MED; 4 FL
7/4	FILL	4.3 N-S	0.05	SAXON	OF 7/8	1 FL
7/5	FILL	1.5 N-S	<0.15	SAXON?	OF 7/8	74 SHD SAX; 4 FL
7/6	FILL	-	<0.18	SAXON	OF 7/8	
7/7	NATURAL				CLAY+CHALK	
7/8	FEATURE	4.3 N-S	<0.24	SAXON	SUNKEN FEATURE BUILDING.	
7/9	P/HOLE	0.30	0.25	SAXON	WITHIN 7/8	
7/10	FILL	0.30	0.25	SAXON	OF 7/9	
7/11	P/HOLE	0.27	0.14	SAXON	WITHIN 7/8	
7/12	FILL	0.27	0.14	SAXON	OF 7/11	
7/13	LAYER	-	<0.32	B.A.	COLLUVIUM	16 FL
7/14	LAYER	-	<0.15	B.A.	COLLUVIUM	11 FL
7/15	LAYER	-	<0.06	B.A.	COLLUVIUM	14 FL
7/16	LAYER	-	-	B.A.	COLLUVIUM	
7/17	NATURAL				SANDY CLAY	
Tr. 8						
8/1	LAYER	-	-	MOD	TOPSOIL	
8/2	LAYER	-	-	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
8/3	FILL	1.40	0.46	?	OF 8/4	



CXT	TYPE	WIDTH	DEPTH	DATE	COMMENTS	FINDS
8/4	DITCH	1.40	0.46	?	N-S	
8/5	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.9						
9/1	LAYER	-	0.23	MOD	TOPSOIL	
9/2	LAYER	-	<0.26	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
9/3	FILL	0.50	0.26	B.A.?	OF 9/4	
9/4	DITCH	0.50	0.26	B.A.?	NE-SW	
9/5	FILL	0.37	0.28	B.A.?	OF 9/6	
9/6	P/HOLE	0.37	0.28	B.A.?	E OF 9/4	
9/7	FILL	0.60	0.15	B.A.?	OF 9/8	
9/8	DITCH	0.60	0.15	B.A.?	NE-SW. =4/8?	
9/9	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.10						
10/1	LAYER	-	0.25	MOD	TOPSOIL	
10/2	LAYER	-	<0.11	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
10/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.11						
11/1	LAYER	-	0.31	MOD	TOPSOIL	
11/2	LAYER	-	<0.15	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
11/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.12						
12/1	LAYER	-	0.22	MOD	TOPSOIL	
12/2	LAYER	-	0.10	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	2 SHD MED
12/3	LAYER	-	<0.14	?	COLLUVIUM/ PLOUGH	2 SHD PREH; 1 FL
12/4	LAYER	-	<0.28	?	COLLUVIUM	
12/5	LAYER	-	>0.20	?	COLLUVIUM	
12/6	NATURAL				CHALK+FLINT	
12/7	PIT	0.95x 0.55	0.45	B.A.		
12/8	FILL		0.45	B.A.	OF 12/7	5 SHD PREH; 25 FL
Tr.13						
13/1	LAYER	-	0.24	MOD	TOPSOIL	
13/2	LAYER	-	<0.42	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
13/3	LAYER				COLLUVIUM	
13/4	QUARRY	>6.0 N-S	>1.10	P/MED?		
13/5	FILL	>6.0 N-S	>1.10	P.MED?	OF 13/4	1 TILE PM
Tr.14						

CXT	TYPE	WIDTH	DEPTH	DATE	COMMENTS	FINDS
14/1	LAYER	-	0.26	MOD	TOPSOIL	
14/2	LAYER	-	<0.36	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
14/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr. 15						
15/1	LAYER	-	<0.20	MOD	TOPSOIL	
15/2	LAYER	-	<0.24	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
15/3	NATURAL				SILTYCLAY+CH ALK	
Tr. 16						
16/1	LAYER	-	0.25	MOD	TOPSOIL	
16/2	LAYER	-	0.18	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
16/3	NATURAL				SILTYCLAY+CH ALK	
16/4	P/HOLE	0.45	0.23	MOD		
16/5	FILL	0.45	0.23	MOD	OF 16/4	
Tr. 17						
17/1	LAYER	-	0.24	MOD	TOPSOIL	
17/2	LAYER	-	<0.16	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
17/3	NATURAL				SILTYCLAY+CH ALK	
Tr. 18						
18/1	LAYER	-	<0.20	MOD	TOPSOIL	
18/2	LAYER	-	<0.14	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
18/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
18/4	NATURAL				CHALK	
Tr. 19						
19/1	LAYER	-	0.28	MOD	TOPSOIL	1 SHD PM
19/2	LAYER	-	0.12	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
19/3	LAYER	-	<0.08	?	?NATURAL	
19/4	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
19/5	FILL	-	0.19	B.A.	OF 19/9	3 FL
19/6	FILL	-	0.18	B.A.	OF 19/9	
19/7	FILL	-	0.10	B.A.	OF 19/9	
19/8	FILL	-	0.06	B.A.	OF 19/9	2 FL
19/9	PIT	1.60 N-S	0.43	B.A.		
19/10	FILL	-	0.12	B.A.?	OF 19/11	
19/11	P/HOLE	0.13	0.12	B.A.?		
19/12	FILL	-	0.09	B.A.?	OF 19/13	
19/13	P/HOLE	0.10	0.09	B.A.?		



CXT	TYPE	WIDTH	DEPTH	DATE	COMMENTS	FINDS
19/14	VOID					
19/15	FILL	-	-	B.A.?	OF 19/16 NOT EX	
19/16	P/HOLE	0.08	-	B.A.?	NOT EX.	
19/17	FILL	-	0.09	B.A.?	OF 19/19	
19/18	FILL	-	0.02	B.A.?	OF 19/19	
19/19	P/HOLE	0.28	0.11	B.A.?		
19/20	FILL	-	0.08	B.A.?	OF 19/21	
19/21	P/HOLE	0.11	0.08	B.A.?		
19/22	FILL	-	-	B.A.?	OF 19/23 NOT EX	
19/23	P/HOLE	0.10	-	B.A.?	NOT EX	
19/24	FILL	-	0.14	B.A.?	OF 19/25	
19/25	P/HOLE	0.20	0.14	B.A.?		
19/26	FILL	-	-	B.A.?	OF 19/27 NOT EX	
19/27	P/HOLE	0.18x 0.13	-	B.A.?	NOT EX	
19/28	FILL	-	0.20	B.A.?	OF 19/29	
19/29	FEATURE	0.60x 0.40	0.20	B.A.?	PIT OR GULLY TERMINAL	
Tr.20						
20/1	LAYER	-	0.15	MOD	TOPSOIL	
20/2	LAYER	-	0.28	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
20/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
20/4	FILL	-	0.26	B.A.?	OF 20/6	
20/5	FILL	-	0.12	B.A.?	OF 20/6	
20/6	PIT	1.30x 0.76	0.40	B.A.?		
Tr.21						
21/1	LAYER	-	<0.23	MOD	TOPSOIL	
21/2	LAYER	-	<0.20	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
21/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
21/4	FILL	-	0.28	RB?	OF 21/5	1 SHD ?
21/5	GULLY	0.50	0.28	RB?	W-E. TERMINAL	
21/6	FILL		0.10	?	OF 21/7	
21/7	P/HOLE	0.25	0.10	?		
21/8	FILL	-	0.20	?	OF 21/9	
21/9	GULLY	0.80	0.20	?	W-E	
Tr.22						

CXT	TYPE	WIDTH	DEPTH	DATE	COMMENTS	FINDS
22/1	LAYER	-	<0.30	MOD	TOPSOIL	
22/2	LAYER	-	<0.30	MOD	INFILL	
22/3	LAYER	-	<0.32	MOD	OLD TOPSOIL?	1 SHD PM
22/4	NATURAL	-			ALLUVIUM	
Tr.23						
23/1	LAYER	-	<0.28	MOD	TOPSOIL	
23/2	LAYER	-	<0.30	MED	PLOUGHSOIL	
23/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.24						
24/1	LAYER	-	<0.28	MOD	TOPSOIL	
24/2	LAYER	-	<0.32	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
24/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.25						
25/1	LAYER	-	<0.25	MOD	TOPSOIL	
25/2	LAYER	-	<0.33	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
25/3	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
25/4	NATURAL				CHALK RIDGE	
Tr.26						
26/1	LAYER	-	<0.32	MOD	TOPSOIL	
26/2	LAYER	-	<0.34	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
26/3	LAYER	-	<0.50	?	COLLUVIUM	
26/4	LAYER	-	<0.44	?	COLLUVIUM	1 FL
26/5	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
Tr.27						
27/1	LAYER	-	0.21	MOD	TOPSOIL	
27/2	LAYER	-	0.24	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
27/3	LAYER	-	0.39	?	COLLUVIUM	1 SHD SAX; 1 FL
27/4	LAYER	-	0.22	I.A.?	COLLUVIUM	1 SHD PREH; 1 SHD IA; 1 SHD ?
27/5	LAYER	-	>0.20	?	COLLUVIUM	
27/6	FILL	-	0.19	?	OF 27/8	
27/7	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
27/8	DITCH	0.97	0.19	?	NE-SW	
Tr.28						
28/1	LAYER	-	<0.25	MOD	TOPSOIL	
28/2	LAYER	-	<0.30	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
28/3	LAYER	-	<0.35	?	COLLUVIUM	
28/4	LAYER	-	<0.20	?	COLLUVIUM	

CXT	TYPE	WIDTH	DEPTH	DATE	COMMENTS	FINDS
28/5	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	
28/6	FILL	-	<0.14	?	OF 28/7	
28/7	GULLY?	0.60	0.14	?	W-E	
Tr.29						
29/1	LAYER	-	<0.28	MOD	TOPSOIL	
29/2	LAYER	-	<0.13	MED?	PLOUGHSOIL	
29/3	LAYER	-	<0.46	?	COLLUVIUM	
29/4	LAYER	-	<0.34	?	ALLUVIUM	
29/5	LAYER	-	>0.10	?	ALLUVIUM NOT EX	
29/6	LAYER	-	>0.10	?	ALLUVIUM NOT EX	
29/7	LAYER	-	-	?	ALLUVIUM	
29/8	NATURAL				CLAY+FLINT	

### KEY

PREH Prehistoric

RB Roman

SAX Anglo Saxon

MED Medieval

PM Post Medieval

SHD Pottery Sherd

FL Flint

A Hardy OAU  
January, 1994

## Basingstoke Land East of Riverdene Ceramic Assessment

By Lucy Bown

In total 126 sherds (3.2Kg) of pottery were recovered from excavation comprising 9 Prehistoric, 4 Iron Age, 102 Early Saxon, 4 Medieval, 5 Post Medieval and 2 unidentified. Other ceramic pieces are two fragments of Roman tile, 3 Early Saxon loomweights and 2 fragments of post medieval tile.

### Earlier Prehistoric

Nine flint tempered sherds probably of Earlier Prehistoric date are found in situ associated with fill 4/7, 12/3, 12/8 and 27/4.

### Iron Age

Four very abraded sand tempered sherds of possible Iron Age date are found in colluvium 27/4.

### Early Saxon

102 sherds from four Early Saxon cooking pots form the largest group of pottery present in this assemblage. These are simple handbuilt domestic cooking pots probably of 5th - 7th century date. Four vessels are represented by three rims and a large number of body sherds clearly belonging to the same vessel. The vessels are of a simple rounded form with flattened bases, tooled and smoothed on the interior, and with plain slightly out-turned rims. The majority of sherds are from the same vessel, (found in feature 7/8) which appears to be a large rounded cooking pot with smoothed, lightly burnished exterior surfaces. The sherds have an average wall thickness of 1 cm and have been crudely and heavily smoothed into shape

The early saxon vessels divide into two fabric types: a crudely tempered sand-tempered fabric in which the sub-angular are abundant and ill-sorted ranging in size from 0.2 -0.3mm and a finer fabric in which there are abundant quartz of less than 0.1mm and sparse sub-angular quartz up to 0.2mm. Both fabrics have organic tempering.

All of the Early Saxon pottery is associated with two sunken buildings found in Trench 5 and Trench 7. Three pieces of loomweight of Early Saxon date are also associated with these sunken buildings.



## Medieval

4 quartz tempered sherds, probably of 12th to mid 14th-century date are found associated with medieval ploughsoil and 27/2 but also intrusively in 7/3. One undiagnostic sherd tempered with flint and quartz could be either Prehistoric or Medieval in date and was found in medieval ploughsoil 12/2.

## Post Medieval

5 sherds including Blackware and Red Earthenware of 17th to 19th-century date and a probable Dutch red earthenware of late 14th to 16th century date are all associated with topsoil layers 5/1, 7/1 and 22/3 respectively.

## Summary of pottery by Context

4/4	1 shd	PM	1600 -1800	7/5	74 shd	ESAX	400 - 600
4/7	1 shd	LBA					
5/1	1 shd	PM	1900				
	1 tile	PM		12/2	2 shd	MED	1100 - 1350
5/4	2 tile	ROM		12/3	2 shd	Earlier Prehistoric	
	8 shd	ESAX	400-600	12/8	5 shd	Earlier Prehistoric	
	1 loomweight	ESAX	400-600				
5/5	1 shd	ESAX	400-600	13/5	1 tile	PM	
5/6	2 shd	ESAX	400-600				
5/7	5 shd	ESAX	400-600				
7/1	1 shd	PM	1600-1800	19/1	1 shd	PM	1600-1900
7/2	1 shd	ESAX	400-600	21/4	1 shd	?	
7/3	1 shd	Prehist?		22/3	1 shd	PM	1350 -1550
	9 shd	ESAX	400-600	27/2	1 shd	MED	1100 - 1350
	2 loomweight			27/3	1 shd	ESAX	400-600
	1 unfired clay			27/4	1 shd	Earlier Prehistoric	
	1 shd	MED	1100 - 1350		1 shd	Iron Age	
					1 shd	?	

## Basingstoke Land East of Riverdene Flint Assessment

By Philippa Bradley

### Introduction

An assemblage of 158 pieces of struck flint and 4 pieces of burnt unworked flint was recovered from the evaluation. The material was recovered from pit fills, ditches and layers. The typology of the assemblage is summarised below :

Flakes	120
Blades	3
Blade-like flakes	13
Bladelets	1
Chips	3
Irregular waste	4
Cores	4
Core fragments	6
Retouched forms	4
Burnt unworked flint	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>

In addition two soil samples from trench 7/14 and 7/15 were taken to recover small pieces of struck flint. A brief inspection of the unsorted 10-2 mm residues has shown that they do contain some struck flint.

### Raw materials

The majority of the flint is dark brown to black with occasional cherty or crystalline inclusions. Cortication is variable. There are also a few pieces of grey flint with frequent cherty and crystalline inclusions. A blade core fragment from trench 7/2 may be grey chert. One or two pieces of flint with very dense white cortication seem to have been reworked. All of this material would have been available locally.

### Discussion

Only four retouched pieces were recovered and these are not particularly diagnostic forms (a ?knife fragment from 5/1, an end scraper from 7/2, a notched flake from 7/3 and a ?scraper fragment from 7/5). However, these forms would not be out of place in a Neolithic or Bronze Age context. The retouch on the scraper from 7/2 is invasive and may indicate an Early Bronze Age date for this piece. Technological traits of some of the larger groups of material were therefore used for dating. This must be regarded as tentative due to the lack of diagnostic forms and the small samples of flint.

The flint from trench 7 seems to be the product of controlled knapping, both hard and soft hammers were used. The blades, blade-like flakes, bladelet and blade core fragments, some showing signs of platform preparation, would indicate a Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. The lack of diagnostic forms precludes refinement of the dating at present. There seems to be some mixing of material in this trench, a later Neolithic date for a keeled core from 7/13 would be more appropriate.

The other large group of material came from trench 12/8. This material would seem to be of Neolithic or early Bronze Age character although again there are no diagnostic pieces.

Some of the other material recovered, for example, from trench 4/7 seems to be the product of unsystematic knapping, hard-hammers being more commonly used. This material may be Bronze Age in date.

#### Composition by Trench

- 1/2. 1 flake
- 3/1. 5 flakes
- 4/7. 3 flakes
- 5/1. 5 flakes, 1 ?knife fragment
- 5/2. 1 flake, 1 blade-like flake, 1 core fragment
- 5/4. 1 flake
- 5/6. 2 flakes
- 5/7. 2 flakes
- 7/1. 12 flakes, 2 blades, 2 irregular waste, 1 burnt unworked flint
- 7/2. 25 flakes, 4 blade-like flakes, 1 blade, 2 chips, 4 core fragments, 1 multi-platform core (182 g), 1 end scraper
- 7/3. 2 flakes, 1 blade-like flake, 1 notched flake
- 7/4. 1 flake
- 7/5. 3 flakes, 1 ?scraper fragment
- 7/13. 11 flakes, 1 blade-like flake, 1 bladelet, 1 chip, 1 keeled core (195 g), 1 multi-platform core (75 g)
- 7/14. 9 flakes, 2 blade-like flakes
- 7/15. 7 flakes, 2 irregular waste, 1 core fragment, 1 multi-platform core (140 g), 3 burnt unworked flints (including one large piece c. 90 g)
- 12/2. 1 flake
- 12/8. 22 flakes, 3 blade-like flakes
- 19/5. 3 flakes
- 19/8. 2 flakes
- 26/4. 1 flake
- 27/3. 1 flake

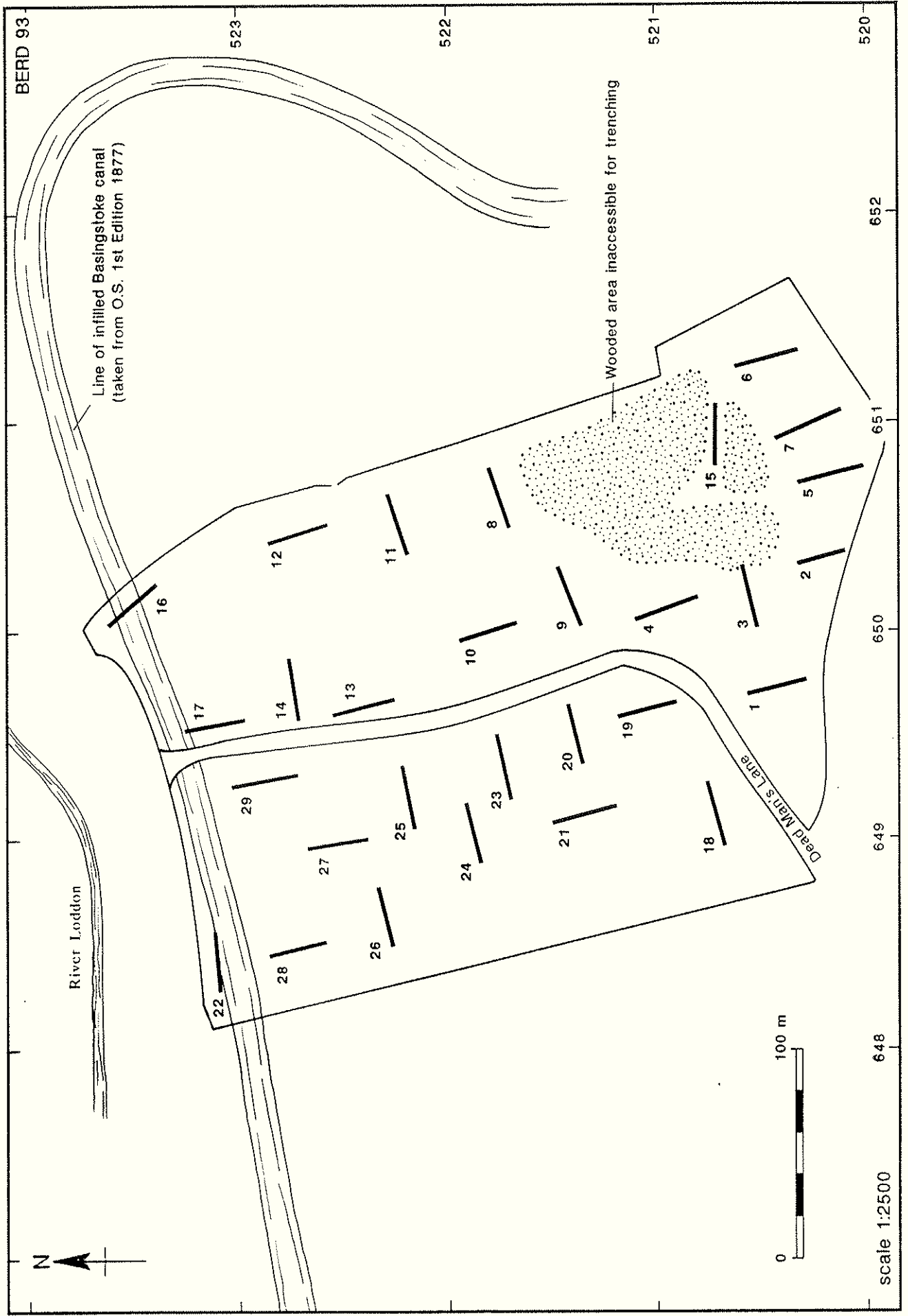


figure 1 Trench location



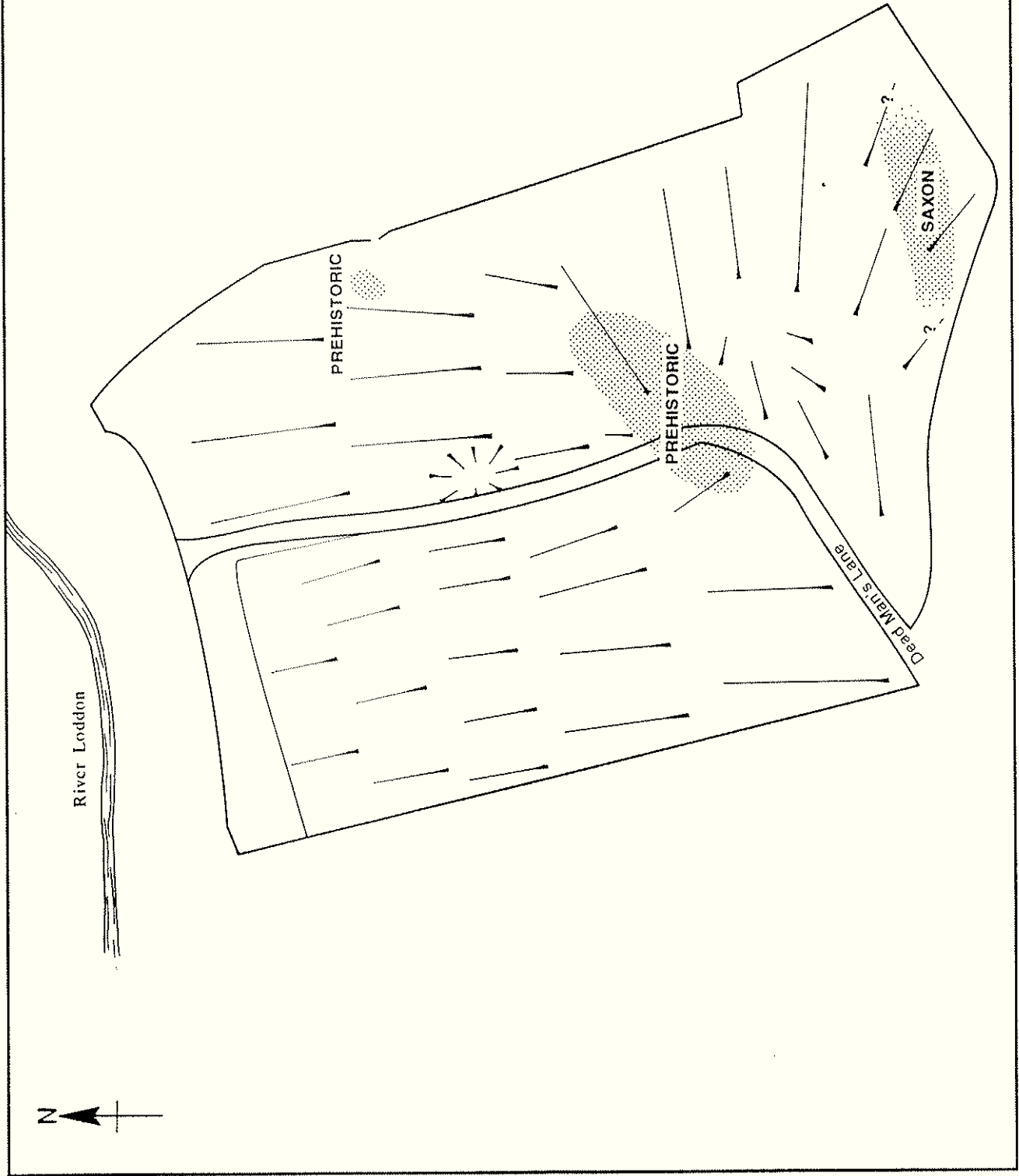


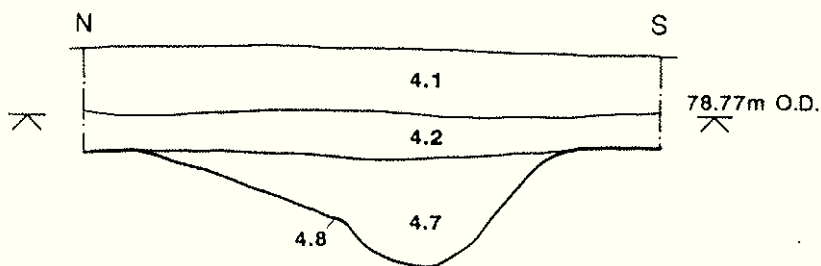
figure 2 Hachure plan with extent of identified prehistoric & Saxon features

### Trench 4

#### Plan

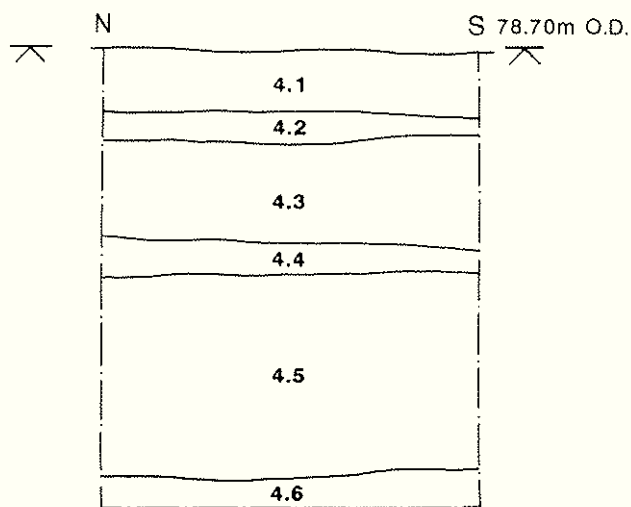


#### Section 4.1



scale 1:20

#### Section 4.2

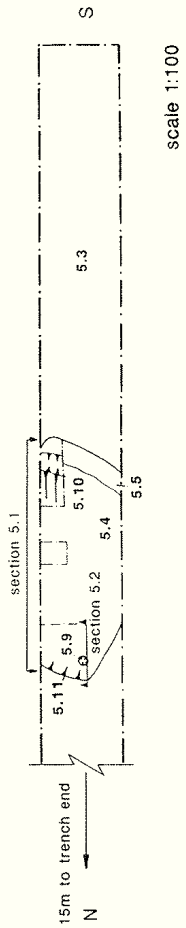


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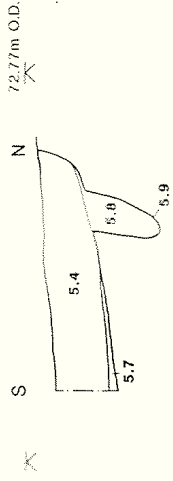
scale 1:100

figure 3 Trench 4 plan & sections

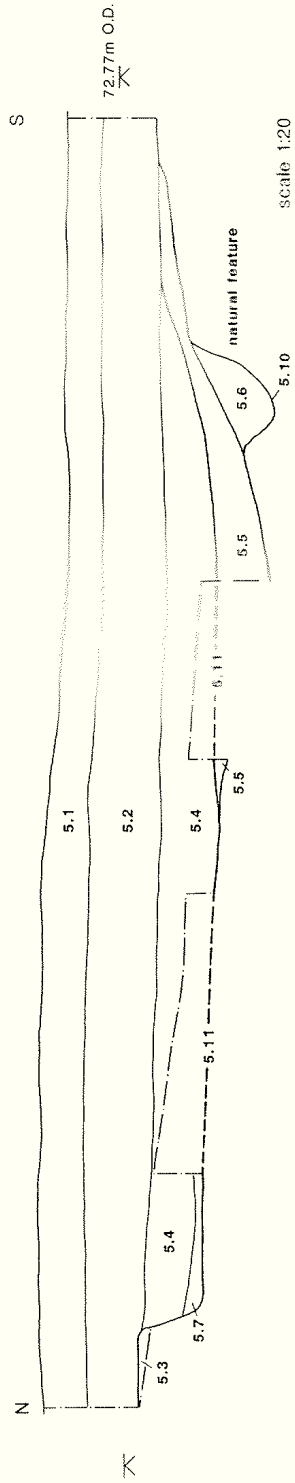
Trench 5  
Plan



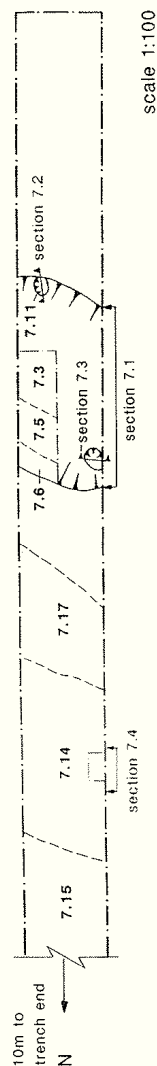
Section 5.2



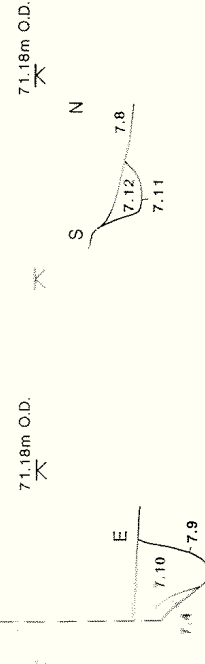
Section 5.1



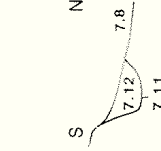
Trench 7  
Plan



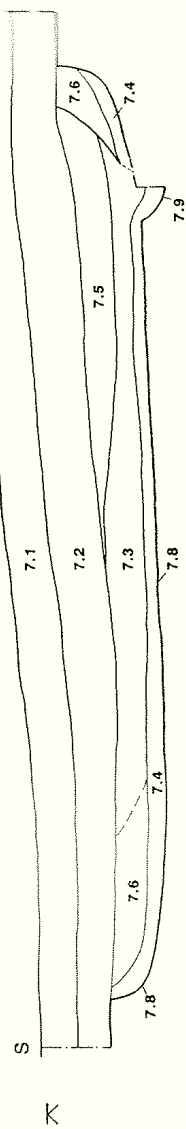
Section 7.2



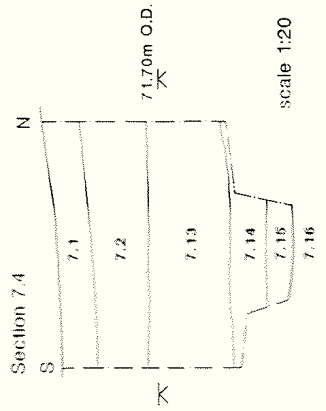
Section 7.3



Section 7.1

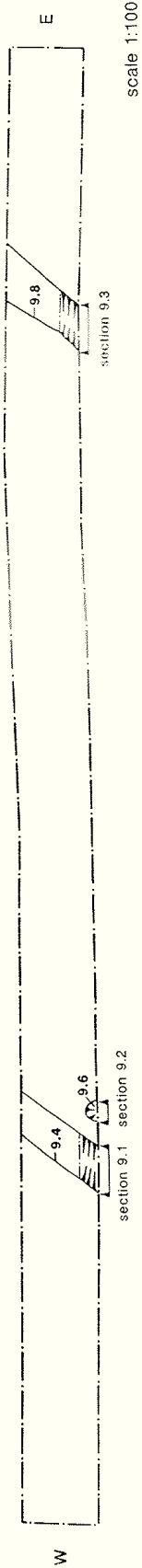


Section 7.4



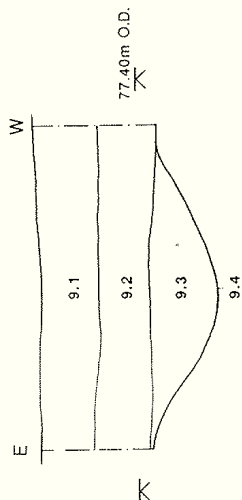
### Trench 9

Plan

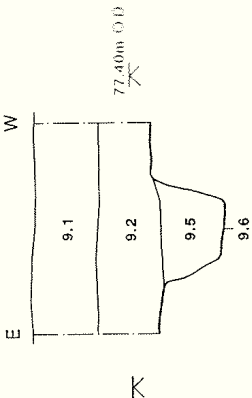


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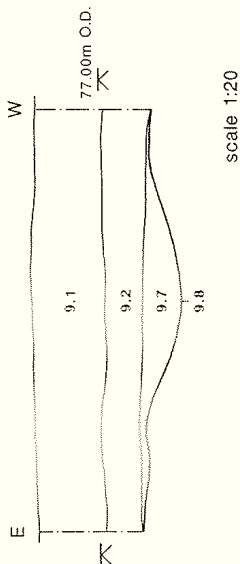
### Section 9.1



### Section 9.2



### Section 9.3



scale 1:20

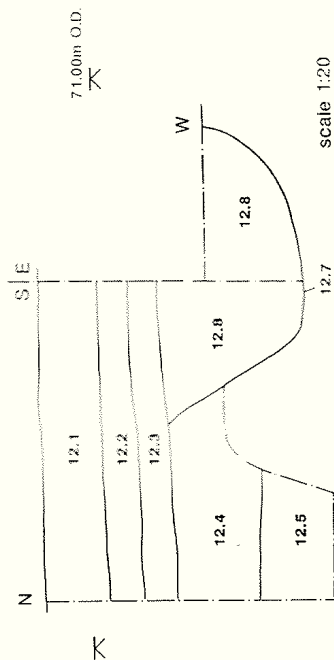
### Trench 12

Plan



scale 1:100

### Section 12.1

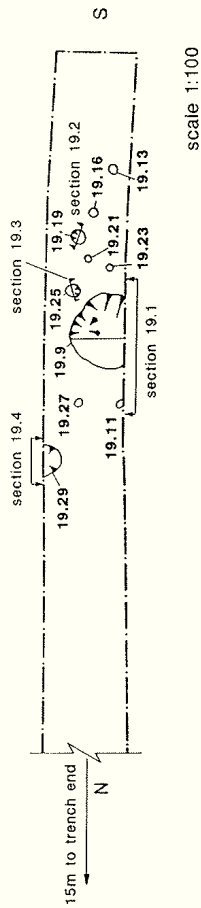


scale 1:20



### Trench 19

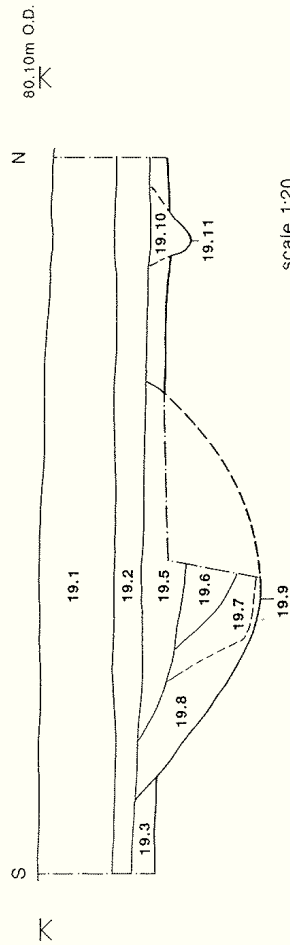
Plan



scale 1:100

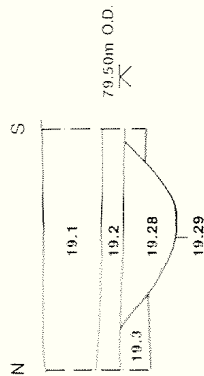


### Section 19.1



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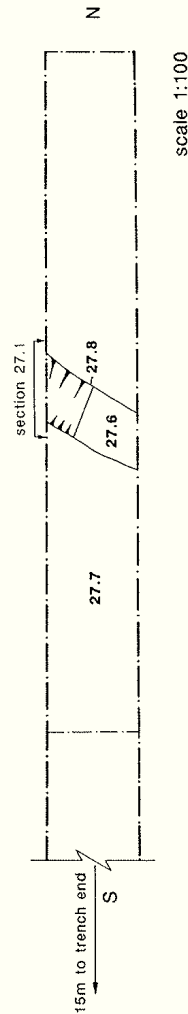
### Section 19.4



scale 1:20

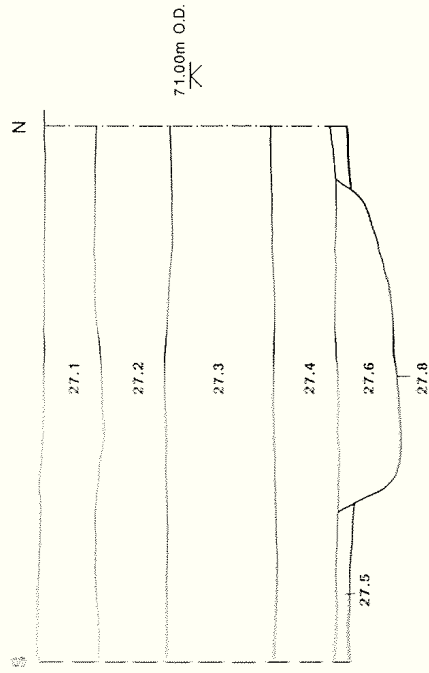
### Trench 27

Plan



scale 1:100

### Section 27.1



scale 1:20

Figure 6 Trenches 19 & 27 plans & sections



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