

Iron Age Settlement at Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement



Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Report



March 2010

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1119

OASIS No: oxfordar3-67882

NGR: SP 6751 3485 and SP 6410 3601

Iron Age Settlement at Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement

Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

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Report Date: March 2010

Report Number: 1119
Site Name: Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement
HER Event No: n/a
Date of Works: June – July 2009
Client Name: Anglian Water
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: n/a
Grid Ref: SP 6751 3485 and SP 6410 3601
Site Code: XBU BUB 09
Finance Code:
Receiving Body:
Accession No: AYBCM : 2009.49
Prepared by: Chris Thatcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: February 2010

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Position: Project Manager
Date: March 2010
Signed: 

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Summary

Between 23 June 2009 and 16 July 2009 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an Archaeological Evaluation followed by a small open area excavation of an Iron Age ring ditch, on a section of the line of the Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement (NGR SP 6751 3485 and SP 6410 3601). A Watching Brief had previously been conducted on Phase 1 of the pipe route (NGR: SP 6753 3487 to SP 6877 3424) that revealed modern agricultural deposits.

This was in response to a desk-based assessment (Morgan 2009) that had highlighted the possibility of the pipe trench crossing several areas of archaeological potential. These included the route of two possible Roman Roads and a ring ditch identified by geophysical survey. A total of 23 trenches were excavated and these were targeted to investigate the remains highlighted above. The work was commissioned by Anglian Water.

The evaluation revealed low levels of archaeological activity spanning the pre-historic to post medieval period across the development area. This was primarily in the form of residual finds that included occasional prehistoric flint and pottery dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age, Roman pottery and post medieval wares. It also demonstrated that the putative Roman roads either did not pass through the area on their suggested routes or had been entirely truncated by later agricultural activity.

The excavation of the penannular ditch and earlier gullies revealed a sequence of Early to Middle Iron Age occupation up to three phases of activity were recorded in the form of small enclosures and a roundhouse.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted between 23 June 2009 and 16 July 2009, on a section of the line of the Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement (NGR SP 6751 3485 and SP 6410 3601).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Alqassar of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The pipeline corridor traverses an undulating landscape located on Limestone bedrock overlain by highly mixed glacio-fluvial deposits including sands and gravels, till and undifferentiated till.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Two phases of work were completed prior to the evaluation. These comprised a desk-based assessment (Morgan 2009), commissioned for the full length of the pipe route and an archaeological watching brief carried out on Phase 1 of the pipeline (NGR: SP 6753 3487 to SP 6877 3424).
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was completed by Oxford Archaeology (OA) in June 2009 and revealed overall deposits of modern ploughsoil sealing earlier 18th/19th-century worked soils, including ridge and furrow ploughing, as well as two possible clay or gravel pits and a dew pond. No other significant archaeology was observed (Sims, 2009).
- 1.3.3 The desk based assessment detailed the full archaeological and historical background of the pipe route. A summary of this is included below.
- 1.3.4 The assessment showed that the proposed route passed immediately to the south of the one of the carriage drives associated with Stowe Park, a Grade I Registered Park and Garden. The route runs c 30m south-west of Water Stratford Lodge, a Grade II Listed Building.
- 1.3.5 It also demonstrated that the route would pass through twelve identified features. Six of these sites were of low or negligible importance (former field boundaries or trackways), two were of local importance (areas of well- preserved ridge and furrow), with four of uncertain but potentially high importance. This latter category comprised the possible courses of two Roman roads, an earthwork of unknown origin, and a complex of former farm buildings.
- 1.3.6 It was determined that the Detailed Study Area had an uncertain but probably low potential to contain archaeological deposits of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods,

and a high potential to contain Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeological deposits. The potential for encountering Iron Age archaeological deposits was deemed to be medium with a high potential to include Roman archaeological deposits.

- 1.3.7 The potential for uncovering early medieval archaeological deposits was uncertain but probably low. During the medieval and post-medieval periods area was predominantly farmland with an uncertain but probably low potential to include significant archaeological deposits.
- 1.3.8 A number of modern intrusions were identified such as the insertion of services, the construction and widening of the A422, compaction and disturbance by agricultural plant, quarry pits, landscaping evident in the borehole survey, former field boundaries and a former farm buildings complex of the roads.
- 1.3.9 The majority of the route lay in arable farmland that was probably first intensively cultivated in the later medieval period using ridge and furrow cultivation. These ridges would have afforded a certain level of protection to any surviving archaeological deposits whereas the furrows may have led to further truncations. More recent post-19th century agricultural practice had removed most of the earthworks and eroded any buried deposits.
- 1.3.10 Twelve hedgerows were identified within the Detailed Study Area that appeared to meet the definition of 'Important hedgerow' under the provisions of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. These were liable to be breached by the pipeline easement.

1.4 Iron Age

- 1.4.1 There are a total of 1622 records dated to the Iron Age within The Sites and Monuments Records for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. A further 144 records are attributed to the Middle or Late Bronze Age along with numerous undated cropmarks that probably also date to this period (Kidd, In prep).
- 1.4.2 The overall pattern of settlement for this period indicates concentrations of later Bronze Age activity along the Icknield Belt, in the Ouse Valley at Milton Keynes and in the Middle Thames. For the remainder of the county the evidence for occupation is more fragmentary. A similar pattern of settlement is recorded for the Iron Age especially in the north of the county around Milton Keynes with pronounced growth in settlement recorded from the middle Iron Age onwards (Kidd, In prep).
- 1.4.3 It is possible that some of the bias towards evidence for settlement around Milton Keynes and Aylesbury is a result of these areas being the focus of development that has necessitated a more rigorous programme of excavation in these localities. The results of this research suggest that during the later prehistoric period numerous, substantial and permanent settlements were found in a wide diversity of locations, which indicates that occupation may in fact have been widespread across the county rather than concentrated at key points according to soil type and topography (Kidd, In prep).
- 1.4.4 The environmental data gathered from sites within the county, when taken in conjunction with the evidence for the construction of field systems, droveways and the large-scale land-division, suggests that at the latest Buckinghamshire was extensively cleared of woodland by the middle/late Iron Age (Kidd, In prep).
- 1.4.5 Land use between settlements is harder to pinpoint but there is little indication of extensive ditched field systems where large scale monitoring of topsoil stripping has been undertaken for pipelines or roads. There is however, some evidence for a more

structured landscape, for instance at Dinton, Princes Risborough, in the form of Iron Age linear ditches (Kidd, In prep). During the Late Iron Age period a more structured pattern of settlement is apparent with the creation of large rectilinear ditched enclosures, like those recorded at Bancroft and Coldharbour Farm (Kidd, In prep).

1.5 Acknowledgements

- 1.5.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. Chris Thatcher directed the fieldwork with the assistance of James Fairbairn and Michael Webster. Survey was undertaken by Gareth Rees. Thanks also to Dave McMasters, the Anglian Water project manager for his assistance. The illustrations were produced by Louise Bush and Andy Corrigan.
- 1.5.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Eliza Alqassar, Archaeological Officer for Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service. The site evaluation was monitored by Ruth Beckley and Sandy Kidd.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Evaluation

Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

Methodology

- 2.1.2 The Brief required that a total of 24 trenches be excavated. Of these 19 were 50m in length x 2m in width, 3 were 100m long x 2m in width and 2 were 75m in length x 2m in width. The trench locations were determined by the results of the DBA.
- 2.1.3 In the event it was not possible to fully excavate a number of the trenches. The westernmost trench (original Trench 24) on this section of the route was not excavated as a result of issues of access and the proximity of large trees. There was also no access to the original location of Trench 8 and the site of Trench 9 was blocked by a silage heap and fencing. It was however possible to partially excavate this latter trench, which was subsequently re-numbered Trench 8, for continuity.
- 2.1.4 An extra 25m of trenching was excavated to the east of Trench 11, which was split into two parts (Trenches 10 and 11), the first section was 75m in length, the eastern section 50m long. This was in order to maximise the coverage of the trenching within the region of a putative Roman road. Trench 10 was located on a ridge that was deemed a likely route for the road.
- 2.1.5 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with two wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.1.6 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GPS.
- 2.1.7 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.1.8 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.1.9 A total of 6 environmental samples were taken from archaeological features during the course of the evaluation.
- 2.1.10 The evaluation took place during a spell of particularly hot weather and ground conditions on site were often very dry and hard, even down to the natural deposits.

2.2 Excavation

Aims

- 2.2.1 The evaluation revealed a concentration of archaeological remains within Trench 13 and it was determined through consultation with BCAS, Anglian Water and OA East that a small open area excavation should take place, immediately following on from the evaluation, in order to mitigate the impact of the pipeline works.

- 2.2.2 The main aim of the excavation was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

Iron Age and Roman

- 2.2.3 To establish the date, layout, function of the Iron Age structure and to investigate any associated features within the width of the pipeline easement.

Methodology

- 2.2.4 An open area measuring 10m x 18m was opened using a wheeled JCB-type excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, exposing a total of 0.05ha.
- 2.2.5 All excavation areas were cleaned as necessary to facilitate the identification of archaeological features and buried soils. All features were mapped onto a base plan by hand at 1:50. The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GPS.
- 2.2.6 A minimum 50% of each discrete feature was excavated and all archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.7 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.8 A total of 9 environmental samples were taken from archaeological features during the course of the evaluation.
- 2.2.9 The evaluation took place during a spell of particularly hot weather and ground conditions on site were often very dry and hard, even down to the natural deposits. There was, however, a period of light to medium rainfall during the last days of the project, which proved invaluable for the recording of the site.

3 EVALUATION RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation and excavation phase are presented below. The blank trenches are catalogued in Appendix A. The excavation conducted around Trench 13 is dealt with separately from the description of the trench.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was the furthest east of the trenches located on this phase of the pipeline works and was situated below the crest of a gently sloping hill.

3.2.2 Three possible archaeological features were recorded in this trench (Fig. 3a). These consisted of shallow linear cuts two of which were aligned north to south, the third east to west. Ditch **104** crossed the trench perpendicular to its long axis and was possibly curvilinear in plan. It was 0.34m wide and 0.15m deep and filled by a single mid brown deposit (103) that was found to contain a single sherd of pottery.

3.2.3 Ditch **106** lay approximately 4 metres to the east of **104** on an east to west alignment, this was a slightly more extensive feature, 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep. Sherds of pottery were recovered from the light reddish brown deposit filling this ditch (105).

3.2.4 A slightly amorphous spread of grey brown clay silt was recorded to the east of the feature and a section excavated through it revealed it to be fairly irregular in profile and no finds were recovered from its sterile fill. Feature **109** was quite probably a natural deposit rather than a deliberate cut.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 50m long, 2m wide with a maximum depth of 0.45m. This trench was located on the opposing slope of the same hill as Trench 1.

3.3.2 A low frequency of archaeological features were also recorded in this trench (Fig. 3a). Approximately 2m from the western edge of the trench a shallow, slightly curvi-linear feature was recorded. This ditch (**204**) was 0.50m wide by 0.37m deep, with steep sides and a slightly concave base, its gravelly fill (203) contained no finds.

3.3.3 A shallow pit (**206**) was recorded approximately seven metres to the east of ditch **204**. This shallow profiled pit was filled with a silty gravel (205) probably derived from the topsoil layers and natural weathering. No finds were recovered from the features in Trench 2.

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 50m long, 2m wide and up to 0.35m deep. It was situated below Trench 2, close to the bottom of the hill. An increase in the depth of deposits was recorded at its western end, this was attributed to an accumulation of natural material washed downslope by natural taphonomic processes.

3.4.2 As with the preceding trenches a fairly low density of archaeological activity was recorded in this trench (Fig. 3a). This was concentrated in the central part of the trench. Approximately 20m from its southern limit a fairly shallow, irregular sided ditch (**306**) was recorded traversing the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. This

feature was up to 0.25m deep and 1.40m wide, its single fill (305) was a stoney sand and gravel that was probably naturally derived and contained no finds.

- 3.4.3 Located three metres to the east of ditch **306** was a shallow gully (**316**), 2.5m long and 0.6m wide. Two sections were excavated through this feature, one at either end that revealed it to be no more than 0.25m deep. It too contained a single, stoney fill (308) that contained no finds.
- 3.4.4 The third feature recorded in this trench was a shallow posthole (**311**) that lay approximately four metres east of gully **316**. Posthole **311** was 0.45m in diameter and 0.25m deep in plan with steep sides and a concave base, its fill (310) contained no finds or evidence for packing but some charcoal flecking was noted within its make-up.

3.5 Trench 6

- 3.5.1 Trench 6 was orientated east to west and was 50m long, 2m wide and up to 0.45m deep. Two modern field drains were recorded running through the central section of the trench.
- 3.5.2 Within the easternmost ten metres of the trench two shallow ditches were recorded (Fig. 3a). The first, ditch **607** lay on a north to south alignment. It was fairly small, being only 0.38m in width and 0.17m deep, but had a pronounced V shaped profile. No finds were recovered from its fill (606).
- 3.5.3 Ditch **609** lay immediately to the east of ditch **607** on a convergent alignment that suggested that these two features would have intersected to the north of the trench. Whilst ditch **609** was the same depth as **607** it was slightly wider measuring 0.64m in width and with a fairly shallow sided U shaped profile. Its sole fill (608) proved to be sterile.

3.6 Trench 10

- 3.6.1 Trench 10 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 50m long, 2m wide and up to 0.40m deep. At the westernmost end of the trench a modern field drain was recorded running east to west through the trench. This trench was situated on a ridge that was deemed a likely route for the road. No evidence for a Roman road was found in this location although a number of features were recorded in the western half of the trench.
- 3.6.2 Four shallow pits were recorded along the length of the trench (Fig. 3a). The easternmost of these was the largest in plan (**1013**), being almost 2m in diameter. Upon investigation it was found to be only 0.10m deep but sherds of pottery were recovered from its single fill (1012). Pit **1011**, lay 5.50m to the west and measured 0.80m in diameter by 0.23m in depth. It was filled by a single, stoney deposit (1010) that contained no finds.
- 3.6.3 Lying 3m to the west of **1011**, in the centre of the trench was pit **1009**. This pit was very similar in dimensions and contained a single fill (1008) that bore the same characteristics as that of 1010.
- 3.6.4 The fourth pit (**1007**) was located another 3m to the west and was the smallest of the pits recorded in Trench 10. It was only 0.47m in diameter and 0.12m deep and contained no finds in its single fill (1006).

3.7 Trench 11

- 3.7.1 Trench 11 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 75m long, 2m wide and up to 0.45m deep. The purpose of this trench was to establish whether or not the route of a putative Roman road passed through this area.
- 3.7.2 The road was not found within this trench and two modern furrows were recorded which suggests that were the road to have traversed this area it may well have been truncated by modern disturbance (Fig. 3b). The westernmost furrow was investigated in order to confirm that it was indeed a modern feature. The second furrow was located approximately 40m from the western end of the trench. Immediately adjacent to this modern feature lay a shallow gully (**1109**) that extended into the trench from its northern side and terminated close to the southern limit. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.
- 3.7.3 The remaining features recorded within the trench consisted of shallow, ephemeral pits (**1105**, **1107**, **1119**, **1124** & **1126**) that contained no dating evidence.

3.8 Trench 13

- 3.8.1 Trench 13 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 50m long, 2m wide and up to 0.21m deep. This trench was located in order to investigate the results of the geophysical survey that suggested the presence of possible archaeological remains close to the compound in the form of a ring ditch and pitting.
- 3.8.2 The trench confirmed the presence of a penannular ditch within the easement (Fig. 4). Its original location appeared to reveal only one segment of the ditch and so the trench was extended by an extra 10m in order to confirm the extent of the archaeological remains.
- 3.8.3 It was decided, through consultation with Anglian Water, BCAS and OA East, that a small open area excavation should take place in this area in order to fully record these remains.
- 3.8.4 The results of this work are discussed below in Section 4.

3.9 Trench 16

- 3.9.1 Trench 16 was orientated east to west and was 50m long, 2m wide and up to 0.50m deep. Two shallow gullies (**1605** & **1607**) were recorded running parallel with one another through the trench on a west east-west to east south-east alignment (Fig. 3b). These features were very similar in dimensions, at 0.55m in width by 0.18m in depth. Neither contained any finds.

3.10 Trench 18

- 3.10.1 Trench 18 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 50m long, 2m wide and up to 0.60m deep.
- 3.10.2 A single feature (**1803**) was recorded 5m from the western end of the trench (Fig. 3b). The entirety of pit **1803** was not revealed but in plan its east to west axis measured at least 1.60m. The section excavated through this feature revealed it to be 0.28m deep and flat based with a single, clay derived, sterile fill (**1802**).

3.11 Trench 19

- 3.11.1 Trench 19 was orientated east to west and was 75m long, 2m wide and up to 0.28m deep. A number of undated ditches were recorded running along this trench (**1906**,

1909, 1917 & 1919) (Fig. 3b). These were broadly aligned east to west and south-west to north-east with an average width of 0.50m and depth of 0.30m. Also recorded in this trench were two tree throws (**1905 & 1913**).

3.11.2 Approximately 53m from the trench's eastern end there was an area of Cornbrash, a natural outcrop of limestone blocks, that continued beyond the western limit of the trench.

3.12 Trench 23

3.12.1 Trench 23 was orientated north-west to south-east and was 50m long, 2m wide and up to 0.42m deep. Two furrows were recorded crossing the trench perpendicular to its axis. One of these was truncated by a modern pit (Fig. 3b).

4 EXCAVATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The excavation area measured 10m x 18m and encompassed the limits of the archaeological remains as defined by Trench 13 (Section 3.8). These comprised several sections of a penannular ditch which appeared to define an enclosure with an internal diameter of approximately 11m (Plate 4). At least 50% of each feature was sampled by the excavation of a mixture of long sections and full width sections located to define the stratigraphic relationships between those features that intersected (Figs. 2 & 4).
- 4.1.2 On the western side of the enclosure several elements of a possible earlier phase were recorded truncated by the penannular ditch segments.

4.2 Penannular Enclosure

- 4.2.1 This feature was composed of up to three sections (Fig. 4). The easternmost element of these remains comprised a curvi-linear ditch that was 0.50m in diameter and varied in depth from 0.25m at its northern terminus to 0.50m at the point where it extended beyond the easement at the southern limit of the site (Plate 1). Opposing long sections (**1310**, **1312**, **1314**, **1316**, **1318**, **1320** & **1322**) were excavated along almost the full length of this feature, and these revealed a gradual increase in depth towards the south with no apparent breaks in the cut to suggest that it was segmented.
- 4.2.2 Several concentrations of medium to large pieces of locally sourced stone were noted in four of the sections (**1312**, **1316**, **1318** & **1320**), these were spaced approximately 1.5m apart and may have represented the remnants of packing for posts.
- 4.2.3 The assemblage of pottery recovered from this feature comprised a total of 50 sherds and was dated to the middle Iron Age, with a preponderance medium and coarse sand and shell body sherds recovered (Appendix B.2).
- 4.2.4 The opposing side of the enclosure was recorded approximately 10m to the west and comprised a section of ditch that was 5m long and between 0.60m and 0.70m wide with a steep sided U shaped profile (**1338**, **1340**, **1352** & **1354**). This segment of ditch was an average of 0.40m deep. A total of 31 sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature (Appendix B.2), whose single fill (1337, 1339, 1351 & 1353) was a homogeneous mid grey brown clay silt (Plate 2).
- 4.2.5 The northernmost terminus of this feature (**1354**) in conjunction with terminus **1310** from the eastern segment apparently formed a north facing entrance that was between 6m and 7m wide.
- 4.2.6 The third element of the enclosure was recorded extending from the southern limit of the excavation (**1324**, **1326**, **1328** & **1330**). The 5m of this feature that was visible within the easement was straight in plan, unlike the preceding ditches, which were curvi-linear. Ditch terminus **1330** formed a 2.50m wide western entrance to the enclosure. In section the ditch was between 0.60m and 0.70m wide by up to 0.50m deep with a steep sided U shaped profile. It was filled by a single homogeneous mid grey brown deposit (1323, 1325, 1327 & 1329) that contained a total of 39 sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery, two flint flakes were also recovered from context 1325.

- 4.2.7 The alignment of this ditch suggested that it formed the southern boundary of the enclosure although whether this feature formed a continuous boundary with ditch **1310** was not established as the south-eastern corner of the enclosure lay beyond the limit of the excavation.

4.3 Earlier Phases

- 4.3.1 Two possible earlier phases were recorded truncated by ditch segment **1326** and **1338**. It was not possible to determine which of these phases was earliest as they did not directly intersect at any point.

Segmented Ditch

- 4.3.2 Two 3m long segments of ditch, spaced approximately 1.5m apart, were recorded that appeared to form part of an earlier, curvi-linear ditch. The northernmost of these (**1342**, **1346** & **1350**) was on average 0.50m wide and 0.17m deep. A total of 17 sherds of pottery dated broadly to the Early to Middle Iron Age period, were recovered from context 1341, the fill of **1342**.
- 4.3.3 The southern section of ditch (**1328** & **1332**) was of very similar proportions although far fewer finds were recovered from this feature, fill 1327 was found to contain only 2 sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery.

Gullies

- 4.3.4 Lying immediately to the east of ditches **1342** and **1328** were two curved gullies. These were much smaller than the other linear features recorded within the excavation area, both were on average only 0.25m deep by 0.40m wide. The northernmost gully (**1306**, **1344**, **1348** & **1356**) curved sharply from a south-east to north-west alignment onto a north to south alignment at the point where the three phases of ditching intersected and continued beyond the limit of the excavation (Plate 3). In total only 8 sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature, whilst a single flint flake was recovered from context 1347.
- 4.3.5 The gully's southern terminus (**1306**) lay adjacent to the northern terminus of the second gully (**1334** & **1336**). This feature was aligned perpendicular to the course of gully **1306** travelling north-west to south-east until it intersected with ditch **1330** and not continuing beyond this point. The close proximity of the terminus' of these gullies suggests that they respected one another and may have been contemporary, forming part of a small enclosure system that extended beyond the bounds of the pipeline corridor. However given the limited extent of the remains it is impossible to draw any further conclusions about the nature of any occupation during this phase.

5 FIND SUMMARIES

5.1 Artefact Summary

Lithics

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of seven struck flints, consisting of four flakes, two retouched implements and a core was recovered. The condition of the assemblage was variable with a degree of chipping and abrasion, suggestive of residual deposition, apparent in all examples.

- 5.1.2 There was no evidence of *in situ* flintworking and the raw materials were likely to have been derived from local sources. Overall, the assemblage was indicative of low level pre-historic activity in the vicinity but was too small to elucidate its nature or significance

Pottery

- 5.1.3 A total of 214 sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered. The majority of the material was recovered from the excavation area around Trench 13. The pottery was in generally poor condition, many of the sherds were heavily abraded and several have been burnt.
- 5.1.4 Few diagnostic sherds were recovered but those that were indicated that the assemblage as a whole was probably dated to the middle Iron Age.
- 5.1.5 Small quantities of pottery were also recovered from a variety of contexts and along with some unstratified material. This material was predominantly of late Iron Age to early Roman date.

5.2 Environmental Summary

Faunal Remains

- 5.2.1 An extremely small and fragmented assemblage weighing 0.95Kg and totalling only 26 countable bones was recovered. The assemblage consisted entirely of domestic mammal remains, with cattle the most prevalent with small quantities of sheep/goat and horse also recorded.

Environmental Samples

- 5.2.2 Fourteen bulk samples were taken from features within the trenches. The lack of plant remains recorded suggested either poor preservation or that there was little occupation in the vicinity.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Discussion

- 6.1.1 The evaluation revealed low levels of archaeological activity spanning the pre-historic to post medieval period across the development area.
- 6.1.2 This was primarily in the form of residual finds that included occasional prehistoric flint and pottery dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age, Roman pottery and post medieval wares.
- 6.1.3 Low levels of Iron Age/Roman activity were recorded in the vicinity of Trenches 1 – 3 in the form of possible field and enclosure boundaries, whilst in Trench 13 more direct evidence for occupation was noted that warranted further investigation. The results of this work are discussed below.

6.2 Iron Age Activity

- 6.2.1 The excavation of the penannular ditch and earlier gullies revealed a sequence of Early to Middle Iron Age occupation within this part of the pipeline corridor. Up to three phases of activity were recorded, which took the form of small enclosures and included a ring gully associated with a possible roundhouse.
- 6.2.2 The inference that the ring gully marked the site of a dwelling is supported by the presence of fairly evenly distributed concentrations of stone within the latest phase of the ring ditch, especially within its eastern segment, as these may have represented packing for posts that formed part of the superstructure for a roundhouse.
- 6.2.3 This conclusion is given further weight by the finds assemblages recovered from within the ditches. The pottery was of domestic function and the faunal remains, too, were typical of general settlement and domestic waste.
- 6.2.4 Unfortunately, the soil conditions were not conducive to the preservation of either bone or environmental remains and so it proved impossible to elucidate the exact nature, or scale of any occupation on the site.
- 6.2.5 This was reflected in the fact that no plant remains survived in the samples and also in the unusually high frequency of mandible fragments and teeth recovered; this bias was in all likelihood down to the fact that these elements survive longer in acidic soils.
- 6.2.6 The assemblage of flint flakes recovered from the ring ditch were typical examples of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flintworking. All were chipped, which suggests that they were residually deposited rather than representative of contemporary *in situ* activity. These finds indicate that low-key prehistoric activity was taking place in the vicinity.
- 6.2.7 Of particular note was a barbed and tanged arrowhead of probable Early Bronze Age provenance (Plate 5). This piece was found in the topsoil close to the ring ditch but could not, with any certainty, be associated with the ditch itself. possessions
- 6.2.8 Barbed and tanged arrowheads were frequently included as Early Bronze Age funerary goods. It was noted during the excavation that the north facing entrance to the ring ditch pointed directly towards a low mound close to a break of slope north of the development area that may have represented the site of a barrow. It should be pointed out that this feature was not investigated as it lay well beyond the development area and so no conclusive interpretation can be made. However, the proximity of this find to the ring-ditch coupled with the alignment of the entrance is potentially of significance as

it raises the possibility that the site respected an area to the north associated with earlier funerary practice.

6.3 Significance

- 6.3.1 The area cited for disturbance by the pipe route contained a low incidence of archaeological features typical of low density rural settlement similar to that identified by the Desk Based Assessment (Morgan 2009) . It also demonstrated that the putative Roman roads either did not pass through the area on their suggested routes or had been entirely truncated by later agricultural activity.
- 6.3.2 Where more extensive remains were identified in the vicinity of Trench 13, a programme of full excavation was carried out that fulfilled the stated aim of the investigation by establishing the date, layout and probable function of the archaeological features.
- 6.3.3 The excavation is of note as it recorded previously unknown remains that contribute to a growing body of evidence for more widespread later prehistoric occupation of this part of the county. In recent years here have been numerous excavations around the more intensively developed local population centres such as Milton Keynes, the Thames Valley and Aylesbury. This has inevitably resulted in a bias in the amount of archaeological evidence recorded in these localities when compared with less densely populated areas. With this in mind these remains provide an invaluable contribution to our understanding of Iron Age settlement patterns in the region.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench1						
General description				Orientation		NW - SE
3 possible ditches recorded.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil, Dark brown silty sand	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil, Mid brown silty sand	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
103	Fill	0.34	0.15	Ditch fill	Y	50BC-AD70
104	Cut	0.34	0.15	Ditch cut	-	-
105	Fill	0.8	0.2	Ditch fill	Y	AD250-410
106	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch cut	-	-
107	Fill	-	-	Ditch fill	-	-
108	Fill	-	-	Ditch fill	-	-
109	Cut	-	-	Ditch cut	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NW - SE
Low frequency of undated archaeological features comprising one pit and ditch.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-		Topsoil, Dark brown silty sand	-	-
201	Layer	-		Subsoil, Mid brown silty sand	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
203	Fill			Ditch fill	-	-
204	Cut			Ditch fill	-	-
205	Fill			Pit fill	-	-
206	Cut			Pit cut	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NW - SE
Low frequency of undated archaeological features comprising one pit two ditches. A single sherd of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery recovered from soil layers.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	-	Topsoil, Dark brown silty sand	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	Subsoil, Mid brown silty sand	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	Y	EIA-MIA
303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
304	Layer			Natural	-	-
305	Fill	0.25	1.4	Ditch fill	-	-
306	Cut	0.25	1.4	Ditch cut	-	-
307	Fill	0.1	0.07	Gully fill	-	-
308	Fill	0.6	0.25	Gully fill	-	-
309	Layer			Band of silt	-	-
310	Fill	0.25	0.45	Posthole fill	-	-
312	Cut	0.25	0.45	Posthole cut	-	-
313	Layer			Band of sand	-	-
314	Layer			Band of clay	-	-
315	Layer			Band of gravel	-	-
316	Cut	0.6	0.25	Gully cut	-	-
Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NW - SE
No archaeological features present.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.12m	Topsoil, Dark brown silty sand	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.10m	Subsoil, Mid brown silty sand	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE - SW
No archaeological features present. Trench located on steep slope. Depth of deposits increased significantly downslope to up to 0.80m. Trench stepped out towards base of slope in order to stabilise sides.					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	85
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.25m	Topsoil, Dark brown silty sand	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.55m	Subsoil, Mid brown silty sand	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Low frequency of undated archaeological features comprising two shallow ditches recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
601	Layer	-	-	Topsoil, Dark grey brown sandy silt	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Subsoil, Red brown sandy gravel	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Natural, Mixed clay and sandy gravel	-	-
604	Cut	0.2	-	Modern Field Drain	-	-
605	Cut	0.2	-	Modern Field Drain	-	-
606	Fill	0.17	0.38	Ditch fill	-	-
607	Cut	0.17	0.38	Ditch Cut	-	-
608	Fill	0.17	0.64	Ditch fill	-	-
609	Cut	0.17	0.64	Ditch Cut	-	-
Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E -W
No archaeological features were present. Natural deposits were highly mixed with bands of grey blue clay interspersed between sand and gravel deposits.					Avg. depth (m)	0.50m
					Width (m)	2m
					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date

700	Layer	-	0.25m	Topsoil, Dark grey brown sandy silt	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.25m	Subsoil, Red brown sandy gravel	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural, Mixed clay and sandy gravel	-	-
Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	N - S
No archaeological features present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	39
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
800	Layer	-	0.24m	Topsoil, Dark grey brown sandy silt	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.22m	Subsoil, Red brown sandy gravel	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	SE - NW
No archaeological features present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	-	0.24m	Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.22m	Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation		NW - SE
Four shallow pits recorded in western half of trench. Putative Roman Road not located.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1001	Layer	-	-	Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
1003	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
1004	Fill	0.26	0.09	Field drain	-	-
1005	Cut	0.26	0.09	Field drain	-	-
1006	Fill	0.46	0.15	Pit fill	-	-
1007	Cut	0.46	0.15	Pit cut	-	-
1008	Fill	0.79	0.22	Pit fill	-	-
1009	Cut	0.79	0.22	Pit cut	-	-
1010	Fill	0.8	0.23	Pit fill	-	-
1011	Cut	0.8	0.23	Pit cut	-	-
1012	Fill	0.1	2	Pit fill	-	-
1013	Cut	0.1	2	Pit cut	y	EIA-MIA
Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		NW - SE
Several furrows recorded along length of trench along with 5 undated pits				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		75
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1101	Layer			Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-
1102	Layer			Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
1103	Layer			Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
1104	Fill			Pit fill	-	-
1105	Cut			Pit cut	-	-
1106	Fill			Pit fill	-	-
1107	Cut			Pit cut	-	-
1108	Fill			Ditch fill	-	-

1109	Cut			Ditch Cut	-	-
1110	Fill			Ditch fill	-	-
1111	Cut			Ditch Cut	-	-
1112	Fill			Pit cut	-	-
1113	Cut			Pit fill	-	-
1114	Cut			Furrow	-	-
1115	Cut			Modern Field Drain	-	-
1116	Cut			Modern Field Drain	-	-
1117	Cut			Modern Field Drain	-	-
1118	Fill			Pit fill	-	-
1119	Cut			Pit cut	-	-
1120	Cut			Modern Field Drain	-	-
1121	Fill			Modern Field Drain	-	-
1122	Cut			Modern Field Drain	-	-
1123	Fill			Pit fill	-	-
1124	Cut			Pit cut	-	-
1125	Fill			Pit fill	-	-
1126	Cut			Pit cut	-	-

Trench 12

General description

No archaeological features present.

Orientation

NW - SE

Avg. depth (m)

0.5

Width (m)

2

Length (m)

50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1200	Layer	-	0.25m	Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.25m	Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	NW - SE	
Penannular ditch recorded within trench. Topsoil stripped across entirety of easement in this area.				Avg. depth (m)	0.21	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1301	Layer	-	-	Subsoil, mid brown grey silty clay	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural, light brown grey clat	-	-
1303	Fill	0.55	0.45	Ditch fill	Y	EIA - MIA
1304	Cut	0.55	0.45	Ditch Cut	-	-
1305	Fill	0.09	0.27	Ditch fill	Y	EIA - MIA
1306	Cut	0.09	0.27	Ditch Cut	-	-
1307	Fill	0.36	0.57	Ditch fill	Y	EIA - MIA
1308	Cut	0.36	0.57	Ditch Cut	-	-
Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	E -W	
Four furrows, spaced approx 10m apart recorded along with modern field drain. No archaeological remains recorded.				Avg. depth (m)	0.48	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1400	Layer			Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-
1401	Layer			Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
1402	Layer			Natural, mid yellow grey, clay gravel	-	-
Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	E - W	
A possible furrow and modern field drain were recorded within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)	0.78	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1500	Layer			Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-

1501	Layer			Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
1502	Layer			Natural, mid yellow grey, clay gravel	-	-
Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	E - W
Two shallow, undated gullies recorded					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1601	Layer	-	-	Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
1603	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
1604	Fill	0.55	0.18	Ditch fill	-	-
1605	Cut	0.55	0.18	Ditch cut	-	-
1606	Fill	0.55	0.18	Ditch fill	-	-
1607	Cut	0.55	0.18	Ditch cut	-	-
Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NW - SE
No archaeological features present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1700	Layer	-	0.25m	Topsoil, Dark brown sandy silt	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.30m	Subsoil, Mid brown sandy gravel	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural, Sandy gravel	-	-
Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	NW - SE
Single undated pit recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date

1800	Layer			Topsoil, Mid grey brown, silty clay	-	-
1801	Layer			Subsoil, light grey brown, silty clay	-	-
1802	Fill			Pit fill	-	-
1803	Cut			Pit cut	-	-
1084	Layer			Natural, light blue grey clay, w/chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 19

General description	Orientation	E - W
A number of undated features were recorded within this trench and these were comprised mainly of shallow linear features.	Avg. depth (m)	0.28
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	75

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1901	Layer	-	-	Topsoil, dark grey brown clay silt	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Subsoil, mid grey brown silty clay	-	-
1903	Layer	-	-	Natural, mixed clay, gravel and cornbrash	-	-
1904	Fill	0.6	0.23	Pit fill	-	-
1905	Cut	0.6	0.23	Pit cut	-	-
1906	Fill	0.55	0.3	Ditch fill	-	-
1907	Cut	0.55	0.3	Ditch Cut	-	-
1908	Fill	0.5	0.23	Ditch fill	-	-
1909	Cut	0.5	0.23	Ditch Cut	-	-
1910	Fill	0.25	0.07	Posthole fill	-	-
1911	Cut	0.25	0.07	Posthole cut	-	-
1912	Fill	1	0.15	Tree throw fill	-	-
1913	Cut	1	0.15	Tree throw fill	-	-
1914	Fill	0.85	0.26	Pit fill	-	-
1915	Cut	0.85	0.26	Pit cut	-	-
1916	Fill	1.25	0.38	Ditch fill	-	-
1917	Cut	1.25	0.38	Ditch Cut	-	-
1918	Fill	0.8	0.42	Ditch fill	-	-
1919	Cut	0.8	0.42	Ditch Cut	-	-
1920	Layer	-	-	Mixed gravel deposits	-	-
1921	Layer	-	-	Cornbrash	-	-
1922	Fill	-	-	Field drain	-	-

1923	Cut	-	-	Field Drain	-	-
Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	E - W
This trench was originally intended to be 75m in length. However the line of the modern water pipe was recorded at approximately 50m along the trench from the western edge. The extent of modern disturbance attributed to this modern service cut and the fragility of the existing pipe precluded further excavation of the trench. No archaeological features were present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2000	Layer	-	0.35m	Topsoil, Dark brown clay silt	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.45m	Subsoil, Mid grey brown silty clay	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural Limestone and clay	-	-
Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	E - W
No archaeological features were present.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2000	Layer	-	0.20m	Topsoil, Dark brown clay silt	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.25m	Subsoil, Mid grey brown silty clay	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural Limestone and clay	-	-

Trench 22						
General description				Orientation	E - W	
Palaeochannel recorded at eastern end of trench				Avg. depth (m)	0.34	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2200	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 23						
General description				Orientation	E - W	
Two furrows recorded within trench. No archaeological features recorded				Avg. depth (m)	0.42	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2301	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
2303	Layer	-	-	Mixed sand, clay and gravel Natural	-	-
2304	Fill	0.48	0.11	Modern pit	-	-
2305	Cut	0.48	0.11	Modern pit	-	-
2306	Cut	1.5	0.12	Furrow	-	-
2307	Cut	2.5	-	Furrow	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Lithic Assessment

By Barry Bishop

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 The investigations at the above site resulted in the recovery of seven struck flints. This report quantifies and describes the material, comments on its significance and recommends any further work needed for it to attain its full research potential. Each piece of struck flint was examined by eye and X10 magnification and catalogued by context according to a basic typological/technological scheme, along with details of raw material, condition and, where possible, dating (see Table 2). All metrical descriptions follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification

Type	Flake	Core	Retouched
Number	4	1	2

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material

Description

- B.1.2 The assemblage may be regarded as small and consisted of four flakes, two retouched implements and a core (Table 1; Appendix 1). The assemblage is in a variable condition although all of the pieces exhibit some degree of chipping and abrasion, suggestive of residual deposition and no indications of *in situ* flintworking are evident. The flint was translucent and varied in colour from black, grey and brown. Cortex, which was present on four of the seven pieces, consisted of a mix of relatively unweathered rough cortex and ancient recorticated thermal scars. This indicates that the raw materials were likely to have been obtained from fluvio-glacial deposits, such as are present in the site's vicinity.
- B.1.3 The core consisted of a small thermal spall weighing 16g that had a few small flakes removed from its perimeter. Three of the flakes were recovered from the ring-ditch feature and the barbed and tanged arrowhead was found in topsoil deposits close to the ring-ditch.
- B.1.4 The pieces from the fills of the ring-ditch are not closely dateable but would be typical of those from Bronze Age contexts. They were all in a chipped or slightly chipped condition, however, and may have been residually deposited into the fills.
- B.1.5 The barbed and tanged arrowhead is typologically diagnostic of Early Bronze Age industries. It is in a slightly chipped condition and part of its tang and one of its barbs is missing. It weighs 3.0g and measures 38mm long by 19mm wide and is 4mm thick. It was competently made using finely executed pressure flaking that completely extends over one face and most of the other. A 'fluted' step fracture originating from its tip may represent impact damage. As its tang is missing, it cannot be precisely classified but it is likely to be either a Sutton C or Kilmarnock type (Green 1980). The proximity of the ring-ditch to where it was recovered is interesting as barbed and tanged arrowheads were frequently included as Early Bronze Age funerary goods.

- B.1.6 The other retouched piece consisted of a burnt end-scraper fragment. Such implements are not closely dateable although this example was well made and has a nicely arced working edge, and would certainly not be out of place in a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age assemblage.

Significance and Recommendations

- B.1.7 The assemblage was recovered from three of the evaluation trenches and indicates low-key prehistoric activity in their vicinity. A few flakes were recovered from a ring-ditch feature although these may be residual and the arrowhead, although found close by, cannot with any certainty be associated with it. Overall, the assemblage is too small to illuminate the nature or significance of the prehistoric activities and therefore has only limited interpretative potential.
- B.1.8 Due to the size of the assemblage and its paucity of contemporary contextual associations, no further work is recommended. It does, however, contribute to the wider understanding of prehistoric landscape use in the region and a brief description of the assemblage should be deposited with the local Historic Environment Record and included as part of any published account of the fieldwork.

Bibliography

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Ctxt.	Flake	Core	Retouch	Flint Colour	Cortex	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
310			1	Translucent Black	Smooth	Burnt	Meso to EBA	Burnt distal fragment of a convex end scraper with finely executed steep scalar retouch
1110	1			Translucent Grey	None	Chipped	Undated	Small trimming flake
1110		1		Translucent Black	Rough	Chipped	BA	Thermal spall with small flakes removed from perimeter
1325	1			Translucent Black	Thermal	Slightly chipped	BA	Wide cortical striking platform
1325	1			Translucent Grey	None	Chipped	BA	Distal fragment
1347	1			Translucent Black	Rough	Chipped	BA	Small
9999			1	Translucent Brown	None	Slightly chipped	EBA	Barbed and tanged arrowhead

Table 2: Catalogue of Struck Flint

B.2 Iron Age and Roman pottery

Dan Stansbie

Introduction and methodology

- B.2.1 A total of 214 sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing 1010 g, were recovered, during the evaluation. The majority of the pottery (170 sherds, weighing 750 g) was recovered from the fills of a penannular ditch. All of the material was rapidly scanned to determine context-group dates and to assess its character. Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. A note was made of the pottery using the Oxford Archaeology later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2007).

Condition

- B.2.2 The condition of the pottery is generally poor, with an average sherd weight of 5 g. Many of the sherds are heavily abraded and several have been burnt. The surface condition of the sherds is moderate.

Pottery from the penannular ditch

- B.2.3 The assemblage from the penannular ditch is dominated by body sherds in medium and coarse sandy and shelly fabrics (AS2, AS3 and AS4). These are supplemented by body sherds in a fine/moderate sandy fabric (A2). A single body sherd in a sandy fabric with ironstone inclusions (AI3) is also present. Diagnostic vessels comprise three slack-sided jars; two in sandy and shelly fabrics (AS2/AS4) and one in fine/moderate sandy fabric.

Dating

- B.2.4 The majority of the the material comprising body sherds, or undiagnostic rim sherds can be broadly dated to the early to middle Iron Age, however, the few diagnostic vessels are middle Iron Age and the assemblage as a whole is therefore probably middle Iron Age.

Other pottery

- B.2.5 The remainder of the assemblage is from a variety of contexts and includes some unstratified material. This material mostly consists of late Iron Age to early Roman grog-tempered ware (E80) and sandy and shelly fabrics (E30, E40) of the same period, although some late Roman pink-grogged ware (O81) is also present. In addition there is a single body sherd in a sandy/shelly early to middle Iron Age fabric (AS2).

Potential and recommendations

- B.2.6 The assemblage is small and has little intrinsic potential for further study, however, its association with a penannular ditch gives it some interest. The assemblage gives a probable middle Iron Age date to the ditch, although further study of the fabric and forms may have the potential to alter this. In addition the

pottery suggests a domestic function (i.e. a roundhouse) for the ditch and further study, including plotting the distribution of pottery, may have the potential to shed light on deposition practices/activity areas. The assemblage should be recorded using an appropriate recording system.

Further Work

Task	Personnel	Days
Full Recording of Assemblage	Pottery Specialist	1
Plot assemblage distribution	Pottery Specialist	0.5
Report Writing	Pottery Specialist	0.5

References

Booth, P, 2007 Oxford Archaeology Roman pottery recording system, Oxford Archaeology, unpublished (revised) Insert finds reports

Context	Sherd No.	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
103	8	27	E40 shelly fabrics, E80 grog-tempered fabrics, E30 medium sandy fabric	50BC-AD70
105	15	120	O81 Pink-grogged ware	AD250-410
302	1	1	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1012	12	73	A2 sandy fabric, AS2 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1303	7	29	AS2 sandy/shelly fabrics (1 jar rim sherd)	EIA-MIA
1305	5	6	A2 sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1307	9	94	A13 sandy/ironstone fabric, A2 sandy/shelly (1 jar rim sherd)	EIA-MIA
1309	26	79	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric (1 slack-sided jar/bowl), A2 sandy fabric	MIA
1311	3	23	A2 (1 jar), AS3 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1313	2	14	AS2 sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1315	4	4	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1319	15	28	AS3 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1321	7	11	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric, A2 fine sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1323	15	43	A2 sandy fabric, AS2 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1325	21	107	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric, AS3 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1327	2	3	AS2 sandy/shelly	EIA-MIA
1329	1	2	A2 sandy fabric (1 jar rim sherd)	EIA-MIA
1334	6	4	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1337	4	12	A2 sandy fabric, AS2 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1339	11	134	AS4 sandy/shelly fabric (1 slack-sided jar)	MIA
1341	17	41	A2 sandy fabric, AS2 sandy/shelly fabric, AS 3 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1347	3	26	A2 sandy fabric (1 slack-sided jar rim sherd)	MIA
1351	10	71	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric, A2 sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1353	6	35	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric, A2 (burnt sherd body sherd), AS3 sandy/shelly fabric (1 jar rim sherd)	EIA-MIA
1357	3	13	AS2 sandy/shelly fabric, AS3 sandy/shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1409	1	10	Post-medieval – glazed/sandy	PMED
U/S	3	93	E80 grog-tempered fabric, O81 Pink-grogged ware (1 storage jar rim)	N/A

Table 3: Catalogue of pottery by context

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remains

Chris Faine

Introduction and methodology

- C.1.1 0.95Kg of faunal material was recovered along the route of the Buckingham to Brackley trunk main yielding 26 “countable” bones (see below). Residuality appears not be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Identifiable faunal material was recovered from 19 contexts dating from the Late Iron Age. In addition to the identifiable sample a further 32 fragments were not identifiable to species but classified as “large mammal”. Contexts **1311**, **1322**, **1331** & **1341** contained no identifiable elements.
- C.1.2 Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see table 1). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant, 1982). Wear stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles.

The Assemblage

- C.1.3 The assemblage consists entirely of domestic mammal remains, with cattle the most prevalent taxon. The vast majority of the cattle remains consist of loose teeth and mandible fragments from animals no younger than 8 months, along with a portion of butchered humerus from context **1357**. Sheep/goat remains also include loose teeth but also a greater number of long bone fragments, mostly metapodia. Horse remains are limited to context **1313** and consist of four mandibular teeth from an adult animal.

Conclusions

- C.1.4 This is an extremely small and fragmented assemblage consisting largely of loose teeth and mandibular fragments. Whilst the proportion of mandibles in the assemblage is unusual, this is most likely due to taphonomic factors. The assemblage most likely represents general settlement/domestic waste.

	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	15	57.7	14	70
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	7	27	5	25
Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)	4	15.3	1	5
Total:	26	100	20	100

Table 4: Species distribution for the assemblage

References

- Dobney, K & Reilly, K. 1988 *A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones*. *Circaea* 5(2): 79-96
- Davis, S. 1992 *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. AML rep. 81/91 London
- Driesch, A von den. 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*, Harvard: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology Bulletin 1

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methodology

- C.2.1 Fourteen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- C.2.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for two weeks prior to processing in order to break down the heavy clay.
- C.2.3 Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank/bucket flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 5.

Quantification

- C.2.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories
- # = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens
- C.2.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance
- + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Comments	Flot Volume (ml)	Preservation	Cereals	Chaff	Modern Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments	Residue Volume (ml)	Small animal bones	Large animal bones	Pottery	CBM	Flint debitage	Residue comments
1	1303	1304	pit	animal bone/IA pot	1	Charred	#	0	#	++	0	Single grain – poor preservation	800	0	0	0	0	0	No finds
2	1305	1306	slot	animal bone/IA pot	1	Charred	0	0	#	++	0		200	0	#	0	0	0	
3	1307	1308	slot	animal bone/IA pot	3	Charred	#	0	#	++	+	Single grain – poor preservation	800	0	#	#	0	0	Tiny frags burnt bone
4	1309	1310	Post hole	animal bone and flint	1	Charred	0	0	#	++	+	small hazelnut frag	1000	0	0	0	0	0	No finds
5	1104	1105	Post hole	Poss. modern	5	Charred	0	0	## #	0	+	Chenopodium sp, Apiaceae, Silene vulgaris	300	0	0	0	0	0	No finds
6	1112	1113	Post hole	north section, edge of trench	1	Charred	0	0	#	++	+	charcoal only	200	0	0	0	0	0	No finds
7	1325	1326	ditch	ditch fill latest gully	1	Charred	0	0	#	+	+	charcoal only	400	#	#	0	0	#	
8	1351	1352	ditch	ditch fill poss. later gully	20	Charred	0	0	#	+	+	lots roots	600	0	0	0	0	#	
9	1335	1336	gully	fill of poss. early phase of gully	30	Charred	0	0	#	+	+	lots roots	800	0	#	##	0	0	
10	1334	1340	ditch	ditch fill, later gully	20	Charred	0	#	#	++	+	spelt glume base	1000	0	#	0	##	0	
11	1309	1310	gully	terminus	30	Charred	#	0	#	+	+	Single grain	800	0	#	#	0	0	
12	1321	1322	ditch		20	Charred	0	0	#	+	+	lots roots	600	0	##	0	0	0	burnt bone frag

13	1412	1413	pit	dark fill poss. burning	4	Charred	0	0	#	+	0	fired clay specks	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	charcoal
14	2204		pale aoch anne l		2	none	0	0	0	0	0	nothing	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	No finds

Table 5: Results

Preservation

C.2.6 The majority of the samples contain plant remains preserved by carbonisation. The exceptions are Sample 5, fill 1104, post hole 1105 which contains modern seeds and Sample 14, fill 2204, palaeochannel which did not contain any preserved remains. Preservation of charred plant remains is poor.

Plant Remains

Cereals

C.2.7 Charred cereal grains are present in three of the samples; each as single specimens that are poorly preserved. IA single chaff element of a spelt (*Triticum spelta*) glume base was noted in Sample 10, fill 1139, ditch 1340.

Weed seeds

C.2.8 Charred weed seeds are absent in this assemblage. The majority of the samples contain untransformed seeds of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*). Sample 5, fill 1104, post hole 1105 contains numerous untransformed seeds of fat hen along with seeds of Bladder campion (*Silene vulgaris*).

Ecofacts and Artefacts

C.2.9 Three of the samples contain occasional sherds of pottery. Sample 13, fill 1412, pit 1413 contained numerous specks of fired clay. Half of the samples contain fragments of animal bone. Two gully samples, Samples 7 and 8, contain possible worked flint flakes

Contamination

C.2.10 Modern roots and seeds were present in most of the samples.

Discussion

C.2.11 The lack of plant remains suggests that either the conditions at the site do not favour preservation or that there was little evident occupation. The abundant untransformed seeds in Sample 5 verifies that this feature is indeed modern in date.

Statement of Research Potential

C.2.12 The low density of plant remains from the site is essentially uninformative and have no research potential.

Further Work and Methods Statement

C.2.13 The low densities of plant remains from the site are not considered to merit full analysis.

C.2.14 If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and possible weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

Bibliography

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APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Kidd, S In Buckinghamshire Later Bronze Age and Iron Age, Historic
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- Morgan, M 2009 Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement Scheme,
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
- Sims, M 2009 Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement
Scheme Phase 1, Archaeological Watching Brief

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-67882			
Project Name	Buckingham to Brackley Trunk Main Replacement			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	22-06-2009	Finish	20-07-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XBUBUB09	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	N/A	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
	Select period...	Lithics	Mesolithic -10k to -4k
	Select period...	Lithics	Neolithic -4k to -2k

Project Location

County	Buckinghamshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Buckingham		
Parish	Buckingham		
HER	Buckingham		
Study Area	1450m	National Grid Reference	SP 6751 3485

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	OA East
Project Design Originator	BCAS
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location ...OA East	OA East	OA East
AYBCM : 2009.49	AYBCM : 2009.49	AYBCM : 2009.49

Archive Contents/Media


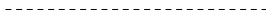






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Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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




Notes:

Drawing Conventions

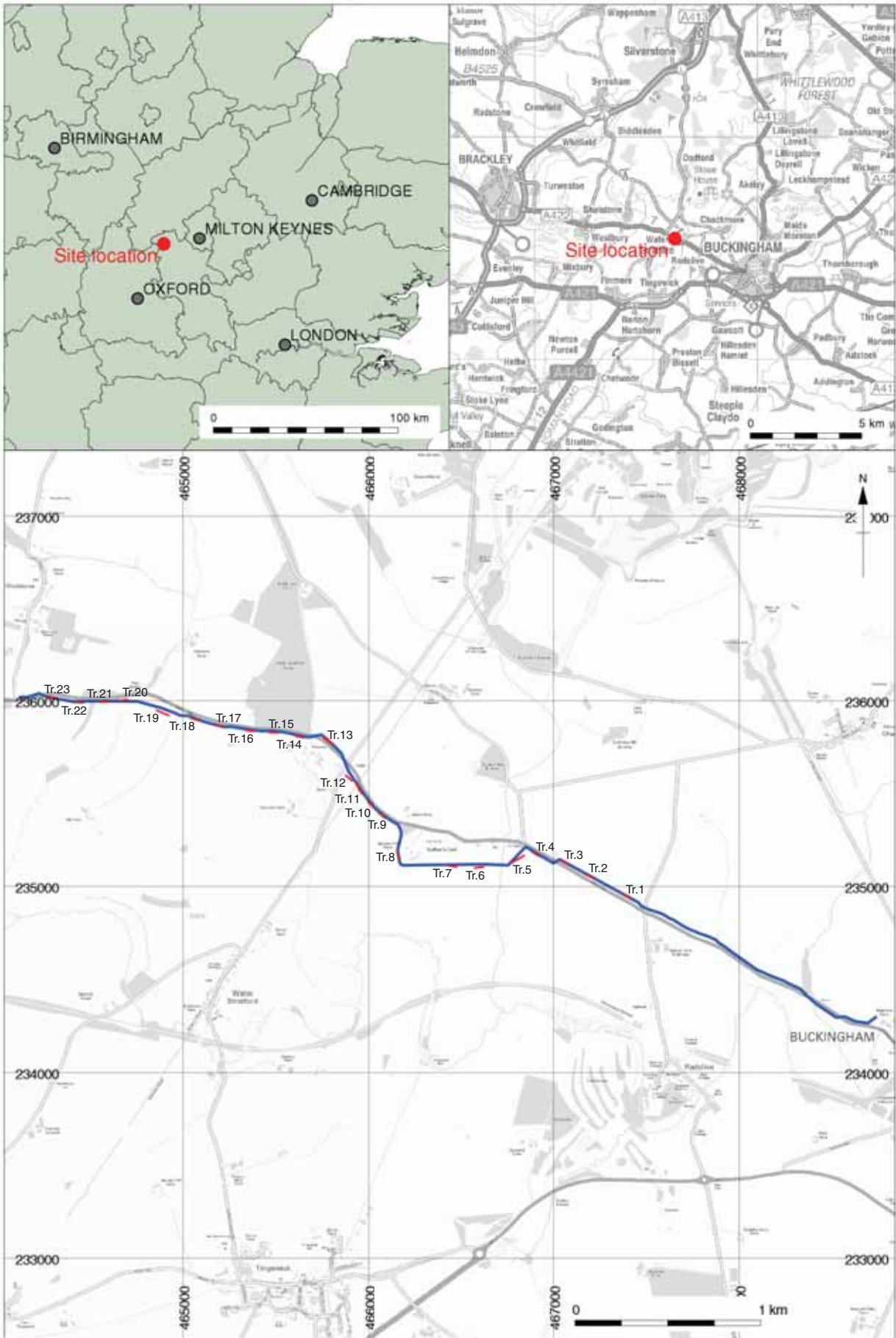
Plans

Limit of Excavation	
Break of Slope	
Illustrated Section	
Archaeological Feature	
Excavated Slot	
Archaeological Spread	
Ridge and Furrow	
Cobbled Surface	
Cut Number	118

Sections

Limit of Excavation	
Cut	
Cut-Conjectured	
Deposit Horizon	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Top Surface/Top of Natural	
Cut Number	
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	 18.45m OD
Stone	
Bone	
Pottery	

Convention Key



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Figure 1: Site location showing route of the pipeline (blue) and the trenches (red)

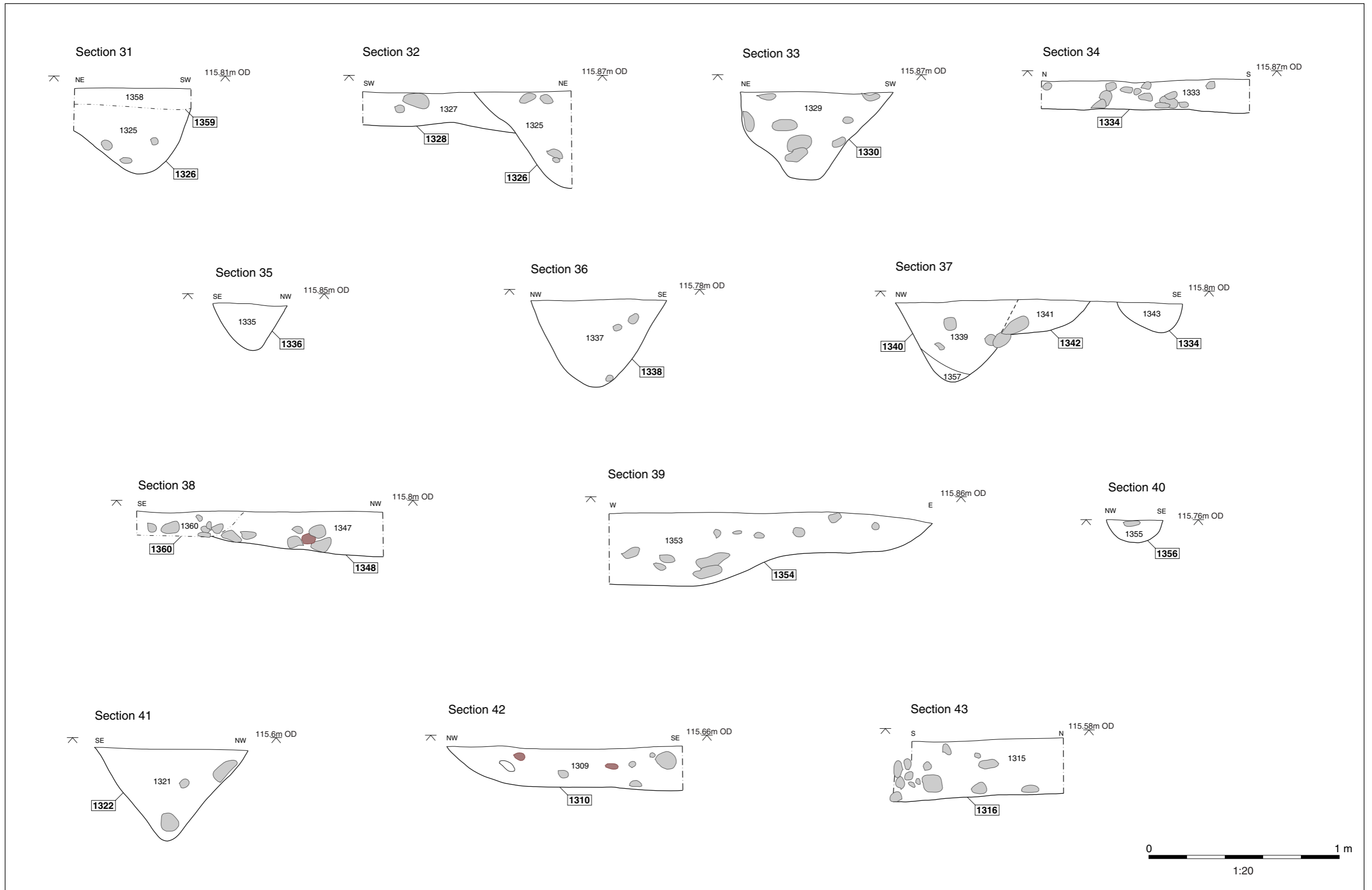


Figure 2: Selected sections

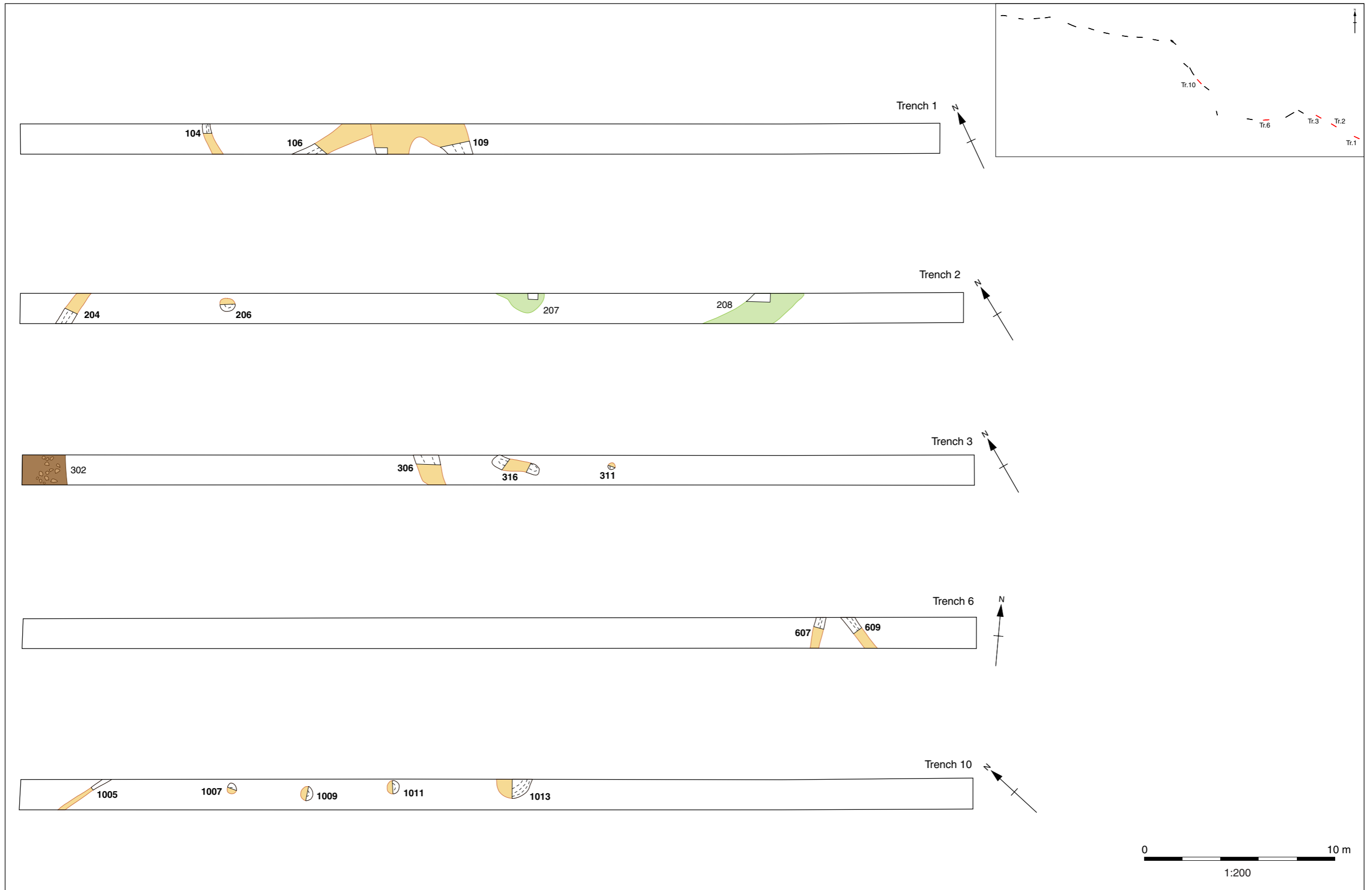


Figure 3a: Trench plans

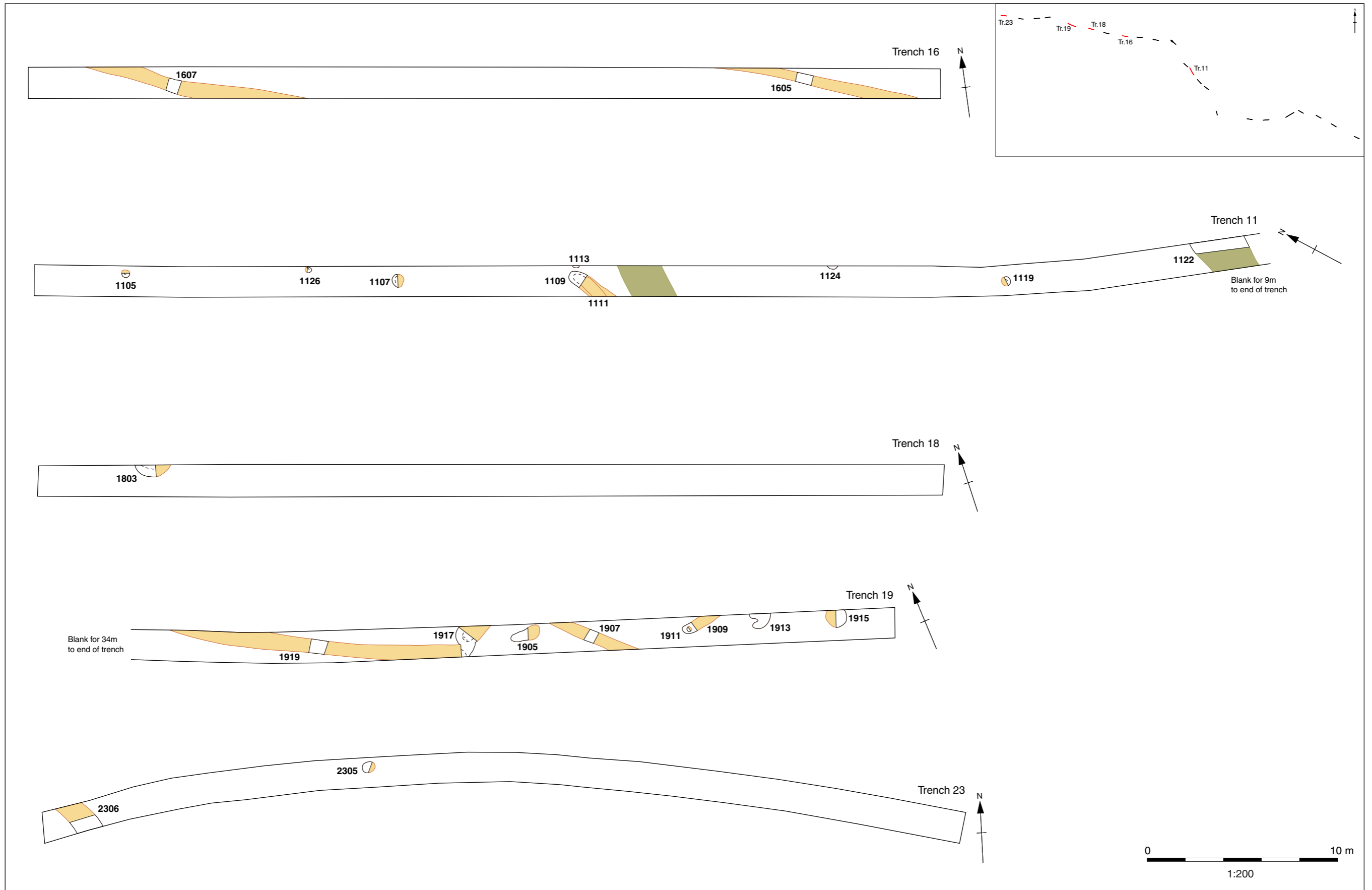


Figure 3b: Trench plans

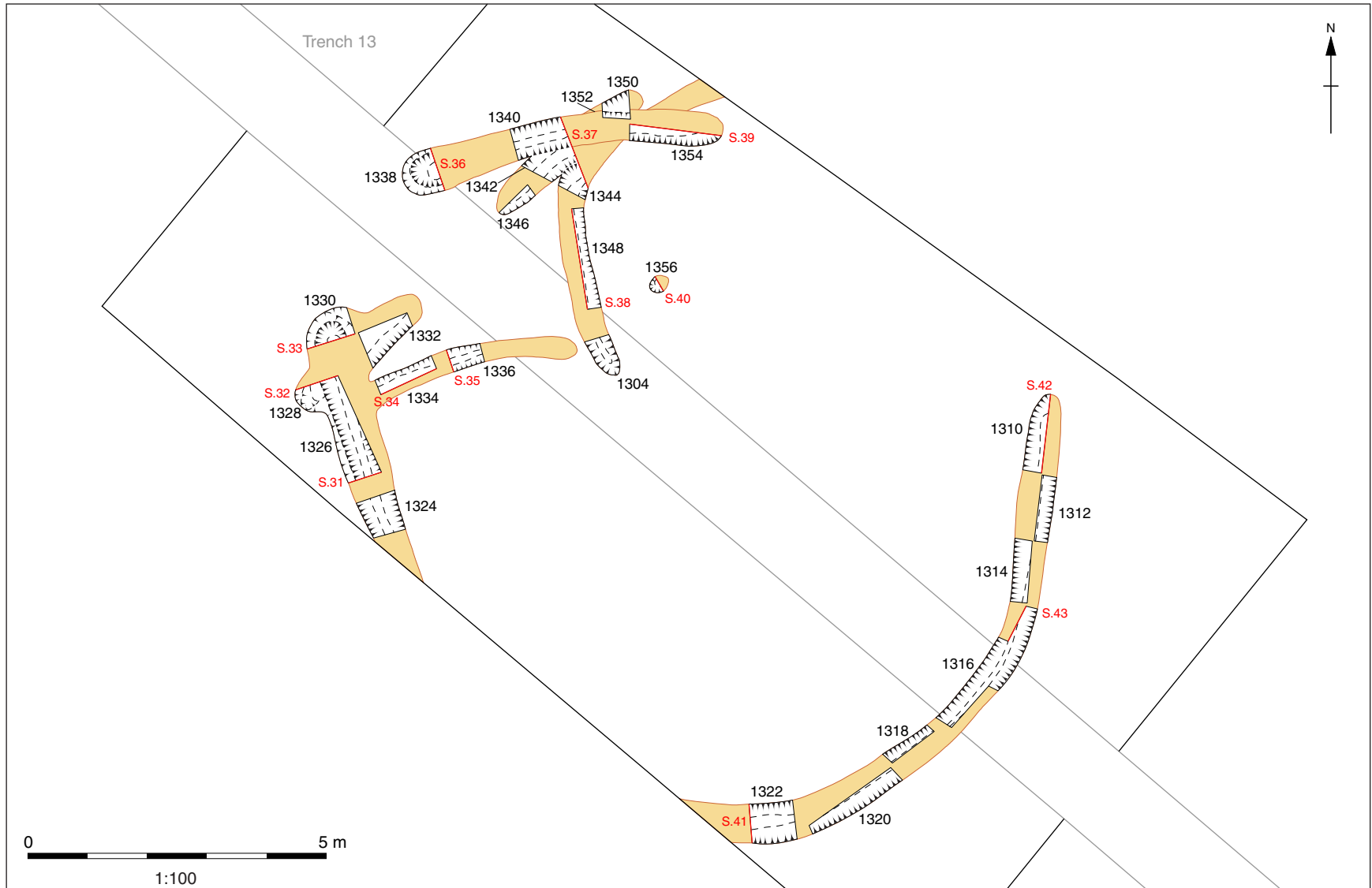


Figure 4: Plan of Iron Age ring ditch



Plate 1: Penannular enclosure ditch 1322



Plate 2: Penannular enclosure ditch 1340



Plate 3: Gully 1348



Plate 4: Plan shot of penannular enclosure

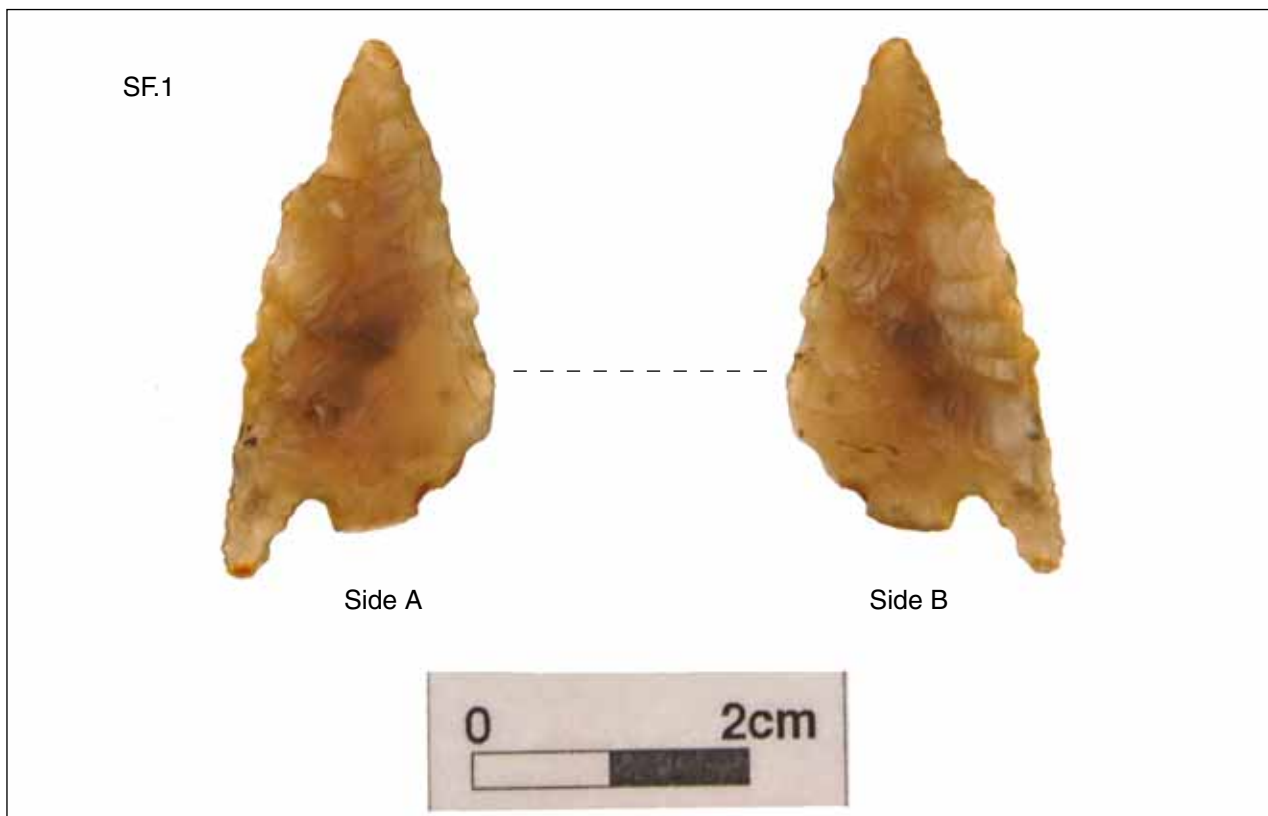


Plate 5: Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead



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