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Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd

**Tubney Wood Quarry Extension, Fyfield and Tubney,  
Oxfordshire**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT***

NGR SP 4480 0085

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## SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at Tubney Wood Quarry on behalf of Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd. The evaluation revealed an extensive scatter of early Mesolithic flint in the topsoil and subsoil; early Mesolithic flintwork was also present in seven tree-throw holes. In addition, a small number of later Neolithic and early Bronze Age flints were also recovered. Eight ditches were located, several of which run parallel to modern boundaries and may represent the medieval precursors to these. Two of these ditches could be early in date, as the latest material recovered from them is early to middle Saxon. Three other undated ditches in the east did not conform to the modern field layout. A single undated pit was also uncovered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2001 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at Tubney Wood on behalf of Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd in respect of a planning application to extend the existing quarry. A Brief was set by Oxfordshire County Council and a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Mr Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeologist. The development site is situated immediately north of New Plantation, Tubney and the existing quarry, and it is 3.2 hectares in area.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on sands overlying limestone on the Corallian ridge at 92 m to 95 m above OD overlooking the Thames Valley, and the River Thames is at a distance of 2 km (Pringle 1926). The site is situated on arable land at the edge of New Plantation, Tubney which slopes gently from east to west (Fig. 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the site was investigated during recent excavations in the adjacent area (Bradley and Hey 1993, 1-4), the results of which are presented below. The site is situated in an area rich in archaeological remains and there are several known archaeological sites adjacent to the development.
- 1.3.2 Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork has been recorded along the length of the Corallian Ridge (Case 1952/1953). This material has been mainly recovered by fieldwalking and as stray finds. Several multi-period scatters have been found near New Plantation, for example, at Parsonage Moor, Cothill (PRN 2273) and around Tubney Manor Farm (Underhill 1946, 58). In 1936, Leslie Grinsell inspected the area of New Plantation and reported that 'worked flints (a ? pigmy industry) are to be found on open ground immediately W' (Grinsell 1936, 21). Important environmental evidence for the Pre-Boreal to the Atlantic period has been recorded from a pollen sequence at Cothill Fen (Robinson and Wilson 1987, 26-28).



- 1.3.3 Excavations in advance of the existing quarry in New Plantation, revealed a spread of Mesolithic flint and late Neolithic to post-medieval pottery over the majority of the eleven hectare site (Bradley and Hey 1993). Excavation recovered in excess of 3600 flints, the majority of which dated from the early Mesolithic (9,800 - 8500 BP) based on technological traits and microlith typology. Although the flint was recovered from disturbed contexts, primarily topsoil and subsoil, two distinct concentrations of flint were located, containing up to 125 flints per cubic metre in the west of the area (*ibid.*, fig. 5).
- 1.3.4 Two round barrows may have existed in the area, one is believed to have been levelled around 1872 (Victoria County History Berkshire 1924, 379). The position of these barrows is not entirely clear although one seems to have been situated in the northern part of the wood 'in the vicinity of the old church' (Anon 1846, 69). Estate maps and early editions of OS sheets record one barrow in the same position as the barrow marked on modern OS map (SP 40 south-west); Rocque only records one barrow north-east of the location on the modern OS map (Magdalen College estate map and Rocque 1761). Grinsell also only notes one barrow; in a field inspection in 1936 he records 'a slight rise in the ground' 25 m south-east of the location on the modern OS map (1936, 21). It is possible, therefore, that there was only one barrow in the position now marked on the OS sheet.
- 1.3.5 Roman and medieval material has been found in and around New Plantation (PRN 1672, PRN 1695 and PRN 1686). There is ample evidence for Roman occupation to the south, for example, around Frilford and the pottery kilns to the east (Young 1986, 58-63). The medieval settlement of Tubney was originally centred around Tubney Manor Farm (Brooks, 1984, 121); and medieval activity is well attested in the area (Briggs 1986, 185-188).
- 1.3.6 The medieval church at Tubney is recorded in several historical sources. No structural traces were visible by 1731 (Brooks 1984, 129), but the graveyard is recorded as surviving and was noted in the Victoria County History (1924, 379). An 1841 tithe map shows the graveyard as an irregular quadrilateral enclosure; the projected position is illustrated on Figure 2 (Brooks 1984, 129).

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks are extended to Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd. for their assistance during the evaluation. Magdalen College Estates and their tenant farmer Mr David Morgen, kindly granted access to the field.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- To determine the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.

- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To establish the extent of the churchyard.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

### **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Scope of fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of fifteen trenches, each measuring 30 m by 1.60 m (Fig. 2) and representing 2% of the proposed development area. The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.1.2 In order to evaluate the distribution of finds in the topsoil and subsoil, 40 litre samples at both ends of each trench were sieved through a 5 mm mesh.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording**

- 3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned at 1:100 and, where excavated, their sections drawn at 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black-and-white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

#### **3.3 Finds**

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

#### **3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence**

- 3.4.1 Due to the poor preservation conditions and absence of waterlogged deposits no environmental samples were taken.

#### **3.5 Presentation of results**

- 3.5.1 Section 4.2 contains descriptions of the archaeological deposits and features, chronologically earliest to latest; additional context information can be found in the context inventory (Appendix 1).



## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site is located on loose sands with occasional outcrops of sandstone. In general, the natural geology is overlain by a mid to dark orangey brown silty sand subsoil, which varies between 0.14 m and 0.61 m thick. The subsoil was overlain by 0.20 m to 0.54 m of a loose mid grey brown silty sand topsoil. In Trenches 4, 5, 10 and 12, a former ploughsoil is present between the subsoil and topsoil, between 0.15 m and 0.30 m in depth. The total thickness of topsoil and subsoil in each trench ranged between 0.56 m and 1.0 m (0.70 m on average). The depth of the topsoil, and particularly the subsoil, was variable across the site, but in general the deposits were thickest to the west, down slope.

### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

#### *Early Mesolithic*

- 4.2.1 A dense scatter of early Mesolithic flintwork was present in the topsoil and subsoil; a few flints were also recovered from the natural sand in Trench 9 and a few from tree-throw pits. Mesolithic flintwork was recovered from every evaluation trench, but the quantity of material recovered differed markedly between trenches (Fig. 2).
- 4.2.2 A total of 1.2 m<sup>3</sup> of topsoil and subsoil was sieved, recovering a total of 58 flints (46.4 per 1 m<sup>3</sup> average over the entire site). Therefore, potentially, a substantial assemblage of 104,000 flints could be present over the 3.2 ha area, assuming an average depth of topsoil and subsoil is 0.70 m.
- 4.2.3 Sieving recovered 58 flints, of which 38 (66%) were recovered from the topsoil; this is comparable with the excavations at New Plantation where 68% of the flints were recovered from the topsoil (Bradley and Hey 1993, 10). The collection of three flints from the natural sand in Trench 9 indicates the considerable post-depositional vertical movement of the lithics.
- 4.2.4 A total of 20 tree-throw holes were identified, of which 14 were half sectioned. The tree-throw holes were sub-circular to irregular in plan and each contained a single fill of a light to mid orangey brown silty sand; the features dimensions ranged between 0.6 m to 3.5 m wide and were between 0.13 m and 0.82 m deep. The tree-throw holes all cut the natural sand and were sealed by the subsoil; disturbance of the tree-throw hole fills was occasionally visible in the subsoil. A total of 55 flints was recovered from seven of the excavated tree-throw holes; no finds of other materials were recovered. The flint recovered from these features dated from the early Mesolithic; no post depositional edge damage was present on these flints, unlike that encountered on flints in the topsoil and subsoil. It seems most likely, therefore, that the flint entered the tree-throw holes before ploughing took place, probably in the prehistoric period.



- 4.2.5 Considerable variation was present in the distribution of the flint collected (Table 1 and Fig. 2). Two areas with dense scatters were located. The first area includes Trenches 8, 9 and 13 and possibly Trench 6, where quantities of flint were collected from the surface and during sieving of both the topsoil and subsoil. This represented up to six flints per 40 l of soil sieved (0.04 m<sup>3</sup>), comparable in both area and density to the large concentration located in the previous excavation area in the quarry where up to 125 flints per cubic metre were recovered (Bradley and Hey 1993, 10-18).

Trench	Topsoil			Subsoil		Features		Total
	Tr. Area (30 x 1.6 m)	General	Sieving	Sieving	General	Tree-throw pits	Ditches	
1	6		2		1	1		10
2	4				1			5
3	21		6	2	2	35		66
4	19	10		5		9		43
5	5	9	1					15
6	17		7	1				25
7	10	4	1					15
8	5	37	2	6	13+3 (in Nat.)	8		74
9	10	35	9	5				59
10	10		1			2		13
11	9				2			11
12	5	12	1					18
13	13	22	6	1	1		1	44
14	6		2		1			9
15					5		1	6
Total	140	129	38	20	29	55	2	413

Table 1: The distribution of flint by trench and collection unit

- 4.2.6 A second concentration of flint was located in Trench 3; surface collection over the area of the trench recovered 21 flints and flint was also found in three of the four 40 l sieved samples. It is possible this concentration originates from the truncation of the tree-throw holes containing flint within the trench (see 4.2.4).
- 4.2.7 A general scatter of flint is present over the entire evaluated area. Localised concentrations of flint, such as at the north end of Trench 5, may be the result of the dispersal of small discrete scatters.

#### *Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age*

- 4.2.8 A total of nine flints, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead and a thumbnail scraper, was identified as dating from the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. These flints were spread over the entire evaluation area. In addition, a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from ditch 405.

#### *Roman*

- 4.2.9 A total of ten sherds of Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil, subsoil and as a residual element in later features.



*Possible Early/middle Saxon*

- 4.2.10 Two south-west to north-east ditches were located in Trenches 1 and 4 (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3) in the north of the site. In Trench 1 they were 1.85 m wide and 0.25 m deep, and 2.10 m wide and 0.25 m deep respectively; they intercut at the top but the relationship could not be established. In Trench 4 these ditches were wider and deeper (Fig. 3). The ditch to the north seems to be the later feature. One sherd of early or middle Saxon pottery was found in fill 404 of ditch 405; a prehistoric and two Roman sherds were also recovered. The features were disturbed by ploughing of the subsoil.

*Medieval and post-medieval*

- 4.2.11 In Trench 15 a south-west to north-east ditch, 1508, 2.38 m wide and 0.84 m deep was encountered (Fig. 4). While this ditch is on a similar alignment to those found in Trenches 1 and 4, tentatively dated to the Saxon period, ditch 1508 appeared to have cut the subsoil and was of a different character. The upper fills appeared disturbed (Fig. 4). Three fills were present in the ditch, the secondary (1506) contained sherds of pottery with a date range of the 11th to 14th century, whilst the upper fill (1509) was more mixed and contained animal bones and pottery which dated from the 11th to 16th century. The quantity and condition of the pottery in fill 1509 indicates medieval activity in close proximity to this feature.
- 4.2.12 Trench 11 contained a south-east to north-west aligned ditch (1104) 4 m wide and 0.51 m deep, a single pottery sherd of AD 1550+ was recovered from its fill 1105. The alignment of the ditches in Trenches 1, 4, 11 and 15 are the same as the current boundaries of the field.
- 4.2.13 Ploughing seems to have taken place on this site from at least the 11th century, as indicated by the presence of finds in these soils. The subsoil seen in all the trenches appears to be the result of ploughing action.

*Undated*

- 4.2.14 A shallow pit (804), 0.99 m in diameter and 0.20 m deep was half excavated in Trench 8. The pit contained a single charcoal-rich silty sand fill (805) with inclusions of reddened soil; no finds were made. It was sealed beneath the subsoil (802) and could, conceivably, be prehistoric (Fig. 3).
- 4.2.15 Four undated ditches were identified. In Trench 10 a north-south aligned, symmetrical 'V' shaped ditch (1005), 1.5 m wide and 1.1 m deep was excavated, whilst in Trench 12 an east-west aligned 'V' shaped ditch 1.7 m wide and 1.1 m deep was present; both ditches clearly cut the subsoil. These two ditches contain a similar profile and are aligned at right angles to each other; they may form a field boundary or enclosure. In Trench 13 a NNW-SSW aligned ditch (1305), 1 m wide and 0.35 m deep was encountered, and a non-diagnostic flint flake was retrieved from the single fill. Although not clear, this ditch may have cut the subsoil. A third ditch was



present in Trench 4, ditch (409); the ditch was 2.58 m wide and 0.66 m deep and again aligned south-west to north-east. This ditch clearly cut the subsoil and, although no finds were made, the ditch is most probably medieval or post-medieval in date.

## **5 RESULTS: FINDS DESCRIPTIONS**

### **5.1 Pottery**

- 5.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 68 sherds with a total weight of 757 g. The majority of the assemblage was medieval in date, although a single sherd (2 g) of probable prehistoric material and ten sherds (43 g) of somewhat abraded Romano-British material were also present. In addition, two sherds (38 g) of handmade early or middle Saxon material were also noted (Appendix 2).

### **5.2 Lithics**

- 5.2.1 A total of 413 flints was recovered from the evaluation (Table 1). The majority of the flintwork was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil; in addition, 55 flints were recovered from tree-throw holes and two from ditch fills. The assemblage recovered from Tubney Woods indicates the presence of significant early Mesolithic activity and a low density background spread of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age flintwork. The distribution of the flintwork across the site is not even and concentrations of flintwork are visible although these have been disturbed and spread during ploughing. The assemblage included 28 retouched flints representing 6.8% of the assemblage; tools including microliths, a burin, scrapers, piercers and edge retouched flakes were recovered. Retouched artefacts formed a significantly larger proportion of the assemblage than both the dense areas in New Plantation (Bradley and Hey 1993 16-21). It is also notable that the majority of the tools were found in the concentration around Trenches 8, 9 and 13 and only a single scraper was found in the vicinity of the scatter around Trench 3 (Appendix 3).

### **5.3 Stone**

- 5.3.1 Three pieces of worked stone and three pieces of burnt unworked stone were recovered from the excavation. The worked stone objects recovered included a quartzite hammerstone from Trench 8, a rounded flint pebble (burnt) which exhibited one burnished surface and a water-worn ovoid quartzite pebble with slight pecking on a flattened side. The burnt unworked stone consisted of two burnt unworked flints (5 g), and a rectangular piece of sandstone weighing 1.691 kg. The latter stone may have been used as a working surface or as a hearthstone. These finds are probably contemporary with the Mesolithic activity (Appendix 4).

### **5.4 Other finds**

- 5.4.1 Other finds include a small quantity of glass, animal bone, iron nails, clay pipe, slag, china, ceramic building materials and small fragment of copper alloy. The finds



were all recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts and are considered to be post-medieval in date, with the exception of the animal bone from the medieval ditch 1508. A quantification of these materials is presented in the context table (Appendix 1).

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The trenches were evenly distributed across the site and all cut features within the 2% area seen were sampled. The sieved 40 l samples of topsoil and subsoil at each end the evaluation proved to represent a very limited sample, both in spatial distribution and in the volume of soil examined (40 l = 0.04 m<sup>3</sup>). Therefore, although the evaluation has highlighted areas of relatively high density, smaller concentrations may not have been identified.

### 6.2 Overall interpretation

#### *Summary of results*

- 6.2.1 The scatter of flint present in the topsoil and subsoil indicates Mesolithic activity over the evaluated area. Variations in the flint distribution indicate a dense concentration centered on Trenches 6, 8, 9 and 13, and a second area around Trench 3 (Fig.2). These suggest densities comparable with the dense areas located in the adjacent quarry area (Bradley and Hey 1993, 9). The flintwork from the evaluation contained considerable evidence of knapping and a varied and high proportion of retouched artefacts were present, including two flints bearing use-wear from scraping hides. Early indications may indicate repeated or extended habitation, as was identified in New Plantation to the south (Bradley and Hey 1993).
- 6.2.2 A small number of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age flints were recovered and an undated shallow pit in Trench 8 may also belong to this period.
- 6.2.3 The three undated ditches in Trenches 10, 12 and 13, to the east of the site, have a different alignment to the possibly Saxon and medieval ditches to the west of the site.
- 6.2.4 A series of south-west to north-east aligned ditches in the north-west part of the site, located in Trenches 1, 4, 11 (1104) and 15, and aligned at a right angle to the previous ditches, possibly represent field boundaries associated with the medieval settlement to the west. The presence of one sherd of early to middle Saxon pottery, possibly in a contemporary ditch, may indicate early origins to the medieval settlement. The quantity of 11th to 16th century pottery recovered from ditch 1508 in Trench 15 indicates the ditch was in relatively close proximity to medieval activity to the west.
- 6.2.5 The eastern extent of the medieval graveyard was sought during the evaluation. No graves were located, despite the position of Trench 15 within the projected position of the graveyard (Fig. 2). The south-west to north-east ditch, 1508, in Trench 15

contained 11th to 16th century pottery, contemporary with the date of the graveyard and it is not inconceivable that this feature represents its southern limit, turning north to the west of Trench 1.

### *Significance*

- 6.2.6 The scatter of early Mesolithic flint is of particular significance as such assemblages are rare in the county. It is datable and discrete concentrations can also be observed within the scatter, despite the plough disturbance of the assemblage. Both these criteria have been highlighted by English Heritage as indicating significant lithic assemblages (English Heritage 2000, 7). In addition, it has the potential to reveal the types of activities conducted by hunter-gatherers here.
- 6.2.7 The medieval and possible Saxon ditches appear to represent field ditches at the edge of medieval settlement to the north-west.



## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

(Fo = Fill of)

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick . (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
1								
	101	Layer		0.40	Topsoil	Pot, nail, china, flint	8,1,2, 6	
	102	Layer		0.35	Subsoil	Pot, flint	1,1	
	103	Layer		0.25	Colluvium			
	104	Layer			Natural			
	105	Cut	1.80	0.30	Treehole			
	106	Cut	1.85	0.25	Ditch			
	107	Fill		0.15	Fo Ditch 106			
	108	Cut	2.10	0.25	Ditch			
	109	Fill		0.25	Fo Ditch 108			
	110	Cut	1.18	0.38	Treehole			
	111	Fill		0.38	Fo Treehole 110			
	112	Fill		0.30	Fo Treehole 105	flint	1	
	113	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 101(east)	Cu alloy fragment, flint	1,12	
2								
	201	Layer		0.39	Topsoil	CBM, flint	6,4	
	202	Layer		0.61	Subsoil	flint	1	
	203	Layer			Natural			
	204	Fill		0.24	Fo Treehole 205			
	205	Cut	0.92	0.24	Treehole			
	206	Fill		0.13	Fo Treehole 207			
	207	Cut	0.60	0.13	Treehole			
	208	Fill		0.38	Fo Treehole 209			
	209	Cut	0.90	0.38	Treehole			
3								
	301	Layer		0.32	Topsoil	china	1	
	302	Layer		0.38	Subsoil	Pot, clay pipe	4,1,2	

						flint,		
	303	Layer			Natural			
	304	Find Reference			Finds Reference	flint	21	
	305	Fill		0.75	Fo Treehole 306	flint	9	
	306	Cut	3.00	0.75	Treehole			
	307	Fill		0.53	Fo Treehole 308	flint	6	
	308	Cut	2.10	0.53	Treehole			
	309	Fill		0.32	Fo Treehole 310	flint	20	
	310	Cut	3.50	0.32	Treehole			
	311	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 301 (west)	flint	4	
	312	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) Subsoil 302 (west)	flint	1	
	313	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 301 (east)	flint	2	
	314	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) Subsoil 302 (east)	flint	2	
4								
	401	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	flint	10	
	402	Layer		0.30	Subsoil	Pot, china, CBM	2,1,2	
	403	Layer			Natural			
	404	Fill		0.51	Fo Ditch 405	Pot	4	
	405	Cut	2.00	0.51	Ditch			
	406	Fill		0.49	Fo Ditch 407			
	407	Cut	2.22	0.49	Ditch			
	408	Fill		0.66	Fo Ditch 409			
	409	Cut	2.58	0.66	Ditch			
	410	Fill		0.82	Fo Treehole 411	flint	9	
	411	Cut	1.78	0.82	Treehole			
	412	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 401 (north)			
	413	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 402 (north)			
	414	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 401 (south)	pot	3	



	415	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 402 (south)	Pot, bone, flint	1,1, 5	
	416	Find Reference			Surface coll. 401	flint	19	
5								
	501	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	Pot, china, CBM, flint	1,1,1, 9	
	502	Layer		0.27	Buried Ploughsoil			
	503	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	504	Layer			Natural			
	505	Cut	1.10	0.25	Treehole			
	506	Fill		0.25	For Treehole 505			
	507	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 501 (west)			
	508	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 502 (west)			
	509	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 501 (east)	flint	1	
	510	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 502 (east)			
	511	Find Reference			Surface collection of 501	flint	5	
6								
	601	Find Reference			Surface coll. of 602	flint	17	
	602	Layer		0.28	Topsoil	Clay pipe	2	
	603	Layer		0.51	Subsoil			
	604	Layer			Natural			
	605	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 602 (north)	flint	3	
	606	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 603 (north)	flint	1	
	607	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 602 (south)	Slag, glass, flint	1,1, 4	
	608	Fill		0.16	For Treehole 609			
	609	Cut	2.45	0.16	Treehole			
7								
	701	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	Pot, flint	1, 6	



	702	Layer		0.50	Subsoil			
	703	Layer			Natural			
	704	Void			Void			
	705	Void			Void			
	706	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 701 (west)	flint	1	
	707	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 702 (west)			
	708	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 701 (east)			
	709	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 702 (east)			
	710	Find Reference			Finds Reference	flint	10	
8								
	801	Layer		0.25	Topsoil	Pot, flint	1, 38	
	802	Layer		0.32	Subsoil	flint	13	
	803	Layer			Natural	flint	3	
	804	Cut	0.99	0.20	Pit			
	805	Fill		0.20	Fo Pit 804			
	806	Cut	1.26	0.36	Treehole			
	807	Fill		0.36	Fo Treehole 806	flint	8	
	808	Find Reference			Surface coll. topsoil 801	flint	5	
	809	Find Reference			Surface coll. 802			
	810	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 801(east)	flint	2	
	811	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 802 (east)	flint	6	
	812	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 801 (west)			
	813	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 802 (west)			
9								
	901	Layer		0.38	Topsoil	Pot, flint	1, 36	
	902	Layer		0.14	Subsoil	pot	1	
	903	Layer			Natural			

	904	Find Reference			Surface collection 901	flint	10	
	905	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 901 (north)	Pot, flint	1, 4	
	906	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 902 (north)	flint	4	
	907	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 901 (south)	Pot, flint	2, 5	
	908	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 902 (south)	flint	1	
10								
	1001	Layer		0.38	Topsoil			
	1002	Layer		0.30	Old Ploughsoil			
	1003	Layer		0.20	Subsoil			
	1004	Layer			Natural			
	1005	Cut	1.50	1.10	Ditch			
	1006	Fill		0.80	Fo Ditch 1005			
	1007	Cut	1.20	0.25	Treehole			
	1008	Fill		0.25	Fo Treehole 1007	flint	2	
	1009	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40lt) topsoil 1001 (west)			
	1010	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1002 (west)			
	1011	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1001 (east)	flint	1	
	1012	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1002 (east)			
	1013	Find Reference			Surface collection 1001	flint	10	
11								
	1101	Layer		0.54	Topsoil	Pot, glass, china	1,3,1	
	1102	Layer		0.24	Subsoil	flint	2	
	1103	Layer			Natural			
	1104	Cut	4.00	0.51	Ditch			
	1105	Fill		0.51	Fo Ditch 1104	pot	2	
	1106	Find Reference			Surface collection 1101	flint	9	



12								
	1201	Layer		0.50	Topsoil	flint	12	
	1202	Layer		0.15	Old Ploughsoil			
	1203	Layer		0.20	Subsoil			
	1204	Layer			Natural			
	1205	Cut	1.77	1.10	Ditch			
	1206	Fill		1.10	Fo Ditch 1205			
	1207	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1201 (north)	CBM	1	
	1208	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1202 (north)	flint	1	
	1209	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1201 (south)			
	1210	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1202 (south)			
	1211	Find Reference			Surface collection 1201	flint	5	
13								
	1301	Layer		0.28	Topsoil	flint	23	
	1302	Layer		0.42	Subsoil	Pot, flint	1,1	
	1303	Layer			Natural			
	1304	Fill		0.35	Fo Ditch 1305	flint	1	
	1305	Cut	1.00	0.35	Ditch			
	1306	Find Reference			Surface collection 1301	flint	13	
	1307	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1301 (east)	flint	1	
	1308	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1302 (east)	flint	1	
	1309	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1301 (west)	flint	5	
	1310	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1302 (west)			
14								
	1401	Layer		0.32	Topsoil			
	1402	Layer		0.40	Subsoil			
	1403	Layer			Natural			

	1404	Find Reference			Surface collection 1401	flint	6	
	1405	Fill		0.25	Fo Treehole 1406			
	1406	Cut	3.00	0.25	Treehole			
	1407	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1401 (north)			
	1408	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1402 (north)			
	1409	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1401 (south)	flint	1	
	1410	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) subsoil 1402 (south)	flint	2	
15								
	1501	Layer			Topsoil			
	1502	Layer			Subsoil			
	1503	Layer			Natural			
	1504	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1501 (north)	Pot, china, flint	1,1,4	
	1505	Sieving Reference			Sieving Reference (40l) topsoil 1501 (south)	Pot, bone, fe nail, flint	9,1,1, 2	
	1506	Fill			Fo Ditch 1508	Pot, bone, slag, flint	9,6,1, 1	
	1507	Fill			Fo Ditch 1508	Bone	2	
	1508	Cut			Ditch			
	1509	Fill			Fo Ditch 1508	Pot, bone	23, 15	



## APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

By Paul Blinkhorn

## Introduction

The pottery assemblage comprised 68 sherds with a total weight of 757 g (Table 2). The majority of the assemblage was medieval in date, although a single sherd (2 g) of probable prehistoric material and ten sherds (43 g) of somewhat abraded Romano-British material were also present. In addition, two sherds (38 g) of handmade early or middle Saxon material were also noted.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	P/hist		RB		E/MS		OXBF		OXY		OXAM		OXDR		CRM		WHEW		
Ctxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
101			2	3	1	19	1	6	1	2							1	3	19thC?
102									1	9									M11thC?
201							1	10							1	3			E19thC?
202			2	4															RB?
301																	1	1	19thC?
302			2	3			1	13											M11thC?
404	1	2	2	18	1	19													E/MS?
501							2	34									1	4	19thC?
602													1	26			2	96	19thC?
701													1	9					16thC?
801																	1	5	19thC?
902			1	12															RB?
1101							1	5									3	6	19thC?
1105													2	10					16thC?
1207																	1	9	19thC
1504							1	2									1	1	19thC
1505							1	1											11thC??
1506			1	3			5	77	3	19									11thC??
1509							1	16	17	291	3	16							13thC
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>125</b>	

## Fabric

The medieval and later pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

*OXBF: South-west Oxfordshire Ware, AD1050 – 1400. 14 sherds, 164 g.*

*OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 22 sherds, 321 g.*

*OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 3 sherds. 16 g.*

*OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 4 sherds, 45 g.*

*CRM: Creamware*, mid 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> C. 1 sherd, 3 g.

*WHEW: mass-produced white earthenwares*, mid 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> C. 11 sherds, 125g.

The two sherds (38 g) of early/middle Saxon handmade pottery both had a similar fabric, comprising sparse to moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Most of the context-specific assemblages comprised small and abraded sherds, with the exception of context 1509. This group was mainly made up of fairly large, unabraded sherds of glazed and/or slip-decorated jug fragments, indicating medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the excavation.



**APPENDIX 3 WORKED FLINT***By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark***Introduction**

A total of 413 flints was recovered from the evaluation. The majority of the flintwork was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil; in addition, 55 flints were recovered from tree-throw holes and two from ditch fills. The assemblage is dated on technological traits and typologically distinct artefacts (microliths) to the early Mesolithic. A small number of flints from the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age were also present, including a thumbnail scraper and a barbed and tanged arrowhead.

CATEGORY TYPE	Total
Flake	186
Blade	68
Bladelet	14
Blade-like	28
Irregular waste	18
Chip	43
Rejuvenation flake core face/edge	1
Rejuvenation flake tablet	3
Rejuvenation flake (crested blade)	6
Core single platform blade core	2
Bipolar (opposed platform) blade core	4
Tested nodule/bashed lump	1
Single platform flake core	2
Multiplatform flake core	1
Core on a flake	3
Unclassifiable/fragmentary core	3
Microlith (subdivide)	4
Barbed and tanged arrowhead	1
End scraper	6
End and side scraper	4
Thumbnail scraper	1
Piercer	1
Spurred piece	1
Serrated flake	2
Retouched flake	7
Burin	1
Miscellaneous retouch	1
Hammerstone	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>413</b>

*Table 3: The site assemblage by category***Raw Material and Condition**

The raw material used may be divided into two distinct groups. Firstly, accounting for in excess of 95% of the assemblage is a very good quality, dark brown flint with few cherty inclusions that exhibits a thick unabraded cortex (up to 10 mm). This flint is chalk flint, probably originating from the Berkshire Downs to the south. A second flint type, represented by only a few flakes, is a light brown to grey flint exhibiting a



heavily abraded, pitted cortex. This flint originates from the river gravels or another derived deposit.

The condition of the flint was variable. Flint from the topsoil and subsoil exhibited light to moderate post-depositional edge damage, in particular plough damage. No post-depositional edge damage was observed on flints from tree-throw holes. The surfaces of the flints varied from uncorticated to very heavily corticated; no pattern was observed between the degree of cortication and technological traits/date of the artefacts.

### **The Assemblage**

The flake material was generally of narrow proportions, approximately one third of the assemblage was of blade proportions (in excess of 2:1 length to breadth ratio). A large number of the flakes exhibited scars of blade removals on the dorsal surface and platform edge abrasion. In addition, the majority of the flints exhibited a diffuse bulb which appeared to have been struck using a soft hammer percussor. A number of rejuvenation flakes were present in the assemblage including platform rejuvenation tablets and crested blades. The technological traits of the flake material indicate the careful preparation and reduction of cores with the intention of producing blades. In addition, the presence of cortical and side trimming flakes indicates that cores were both prepared and reduced at this location.

A total of 15 cores and one tested nodule were recovered. Opposed platform blade cores were the most common core type encountered, although both flake and blade core types were present. Several of the flake cores appeared to have been blade cores at an earlier stage of reduction. The cores were all exhausted and varied in weight between 11 and 35 grams.

A total of 28 retouched flints were recovered. Four microliths were recovered, including two edge blunted points, an obliquely blunted point and a undiagnostic fragment (Clark 1934, 52-77); the identified forms are early Mesolithic in date. Additionally, a dihedral axis burin, two piercing tools, two serrated flakes, seven edge retouched flakes, eleven scrapers and a barbed and tanged arrowhead were recovered.

The scrapers were generally manufactured on small blade and blade-like flakes; one scraper was distinctly different, exhibiting very fine, almost scalar, uncorticated retouch on a corticated flake. The latter scraper has been interpreted as Beaker thumbnail scraper, whilst the other scrapers, although small, most probably represent Mesolithic forms. The barbed and tanged arrowhead was of a very poor standard, minimally adapting the flake's form with no fully invasive retouch.

Edge damage resulting from use was observed on a number of the flints in the assemblage, but not recorded in detail. Rounded edges were observed on a scraper and a retouched flake; this form of use damage is probably the result of scraping of animal hides (Tringham *et al.* 1974, 187-189).



## Conclusions

The assemblage recovered from current evaluation at Tubney Woods indicates the presence of a significant early Mesolithic activity and low density background spread of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age flintwork. The distribution of the flintwork across the site is far from even and although disturbed concentrations of flintwork are visible. The densest concentration is located in the vicinity of Trenches 8, 9 and 13. Soil sieving recovered up to six flints in a 40 l Sample (0.04m<sup>3</sup>); this indicates the area potentially contains similar densities of flint to the densest scatters in New Plantation immediately to the south (Bradley and Hey 1993, 9). In addition, a relatively large number of flints was collected from sieving and surface collection in Trench 3, perhaps indicating the presence of another large dense scatter. Sieving also recovered potentially significant a number of flints from the south ends of Trenches 4 and 6, perhaps indicating the remnants of disturbed, but still distinct, small scatters of flintwork.

**APPENDIX 4    WORKED STONE AND BURNT UNWORKED STONE**

*By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark*

Three pieces of worked stone and three pieces of burnt unworked stone were recovered from the excavation. The worked stone objects recovered included a quartzite hammerstone from Trench 8; a rounded flint pebble (burnt) which exhibited one burnished surface and a water worn ovoid quartzite pebble with slight pecking on a flattened side. The burnt unworked stone consisted of two burnt unworked flints, weighing 5 g and a rectangular block of sandstone weighing 1.691 kg. The latter stone may have been used as a working surface or possibly as a hearthstone.



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### **Maps**

Estate map of Tubney, Magdalen College Archive.

Rocque 1761 Map of Berkshire, Magdalen College Archive.

### **PRN Numbers**

PRN 1672 'two vases of late Roman manufacture' and 'a grey vase containing ashes' were found in the parish of Tubney, Arch Jnl 3 (1846), 69.

PRN 1686 Roman pottery was found at SP 4301, Appleton.

PRN 1695 Roman pottery and a bronze fibula were found at SP 4401, Appleton

PRN 2273, Fieldwalking conducted by the Abingdon Archaeological Society in December 1985, Mesolithic to Bronze Age flintwork recovered.



**APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS****Site name:** Tubney Wood Quarry Extension**Site code:** TUWQ'01**Grid reference**Type of evaluation: NGR 4480 0085**Date and duration of project:** 21-25 May 2001**Area of site:** 3.2 ha**Summary of results:** A scatter of early Mesolithic flint in the topsoil and subsoil and associated tree-throw holes containing Mesolithic flint, a probably early to middle Saxon ditch, a c.11th to 16th century field system and four undated ditches and an undated pit.**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: TUWQ 01.61

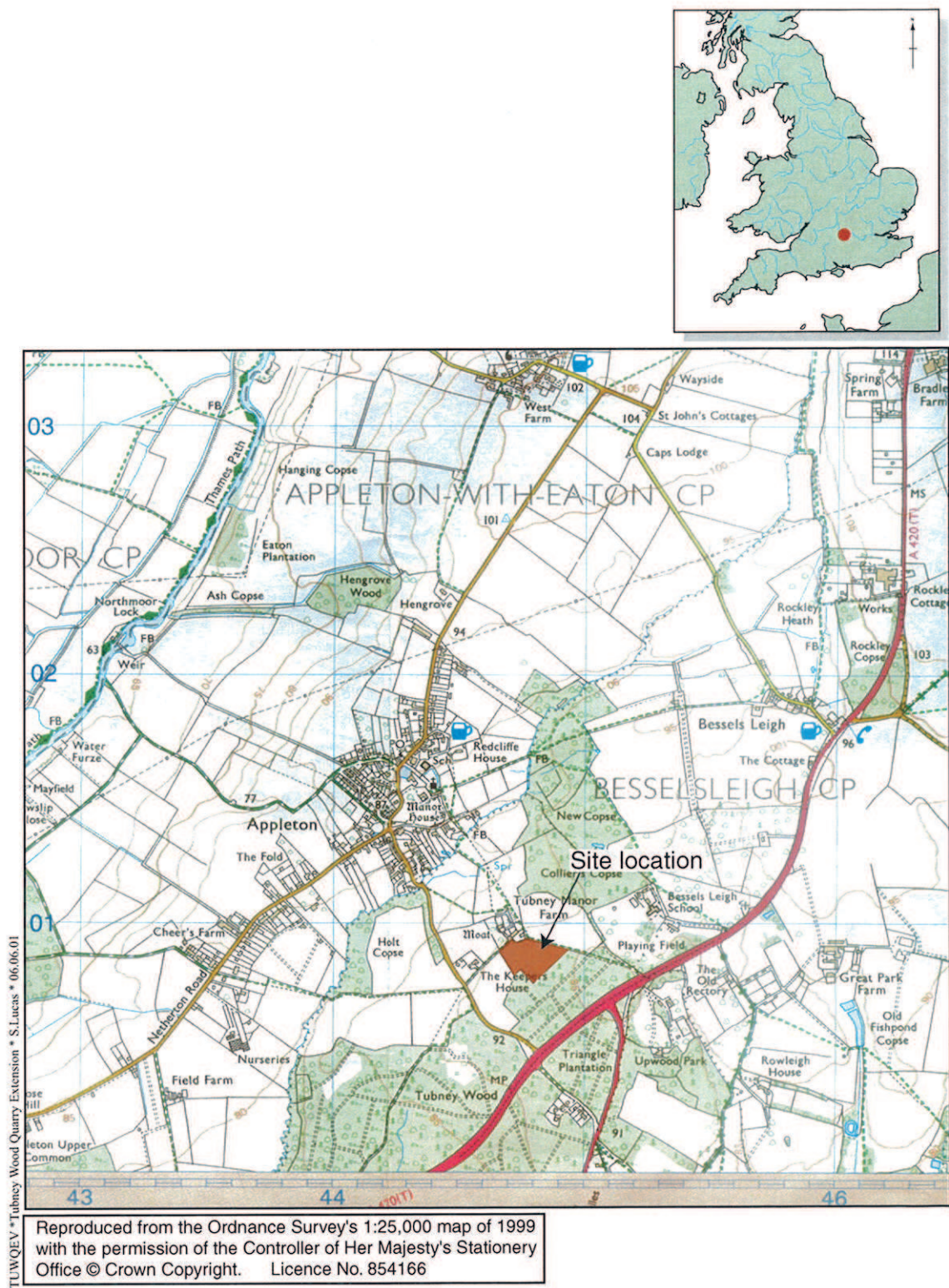


Figure 1: Site location plan.



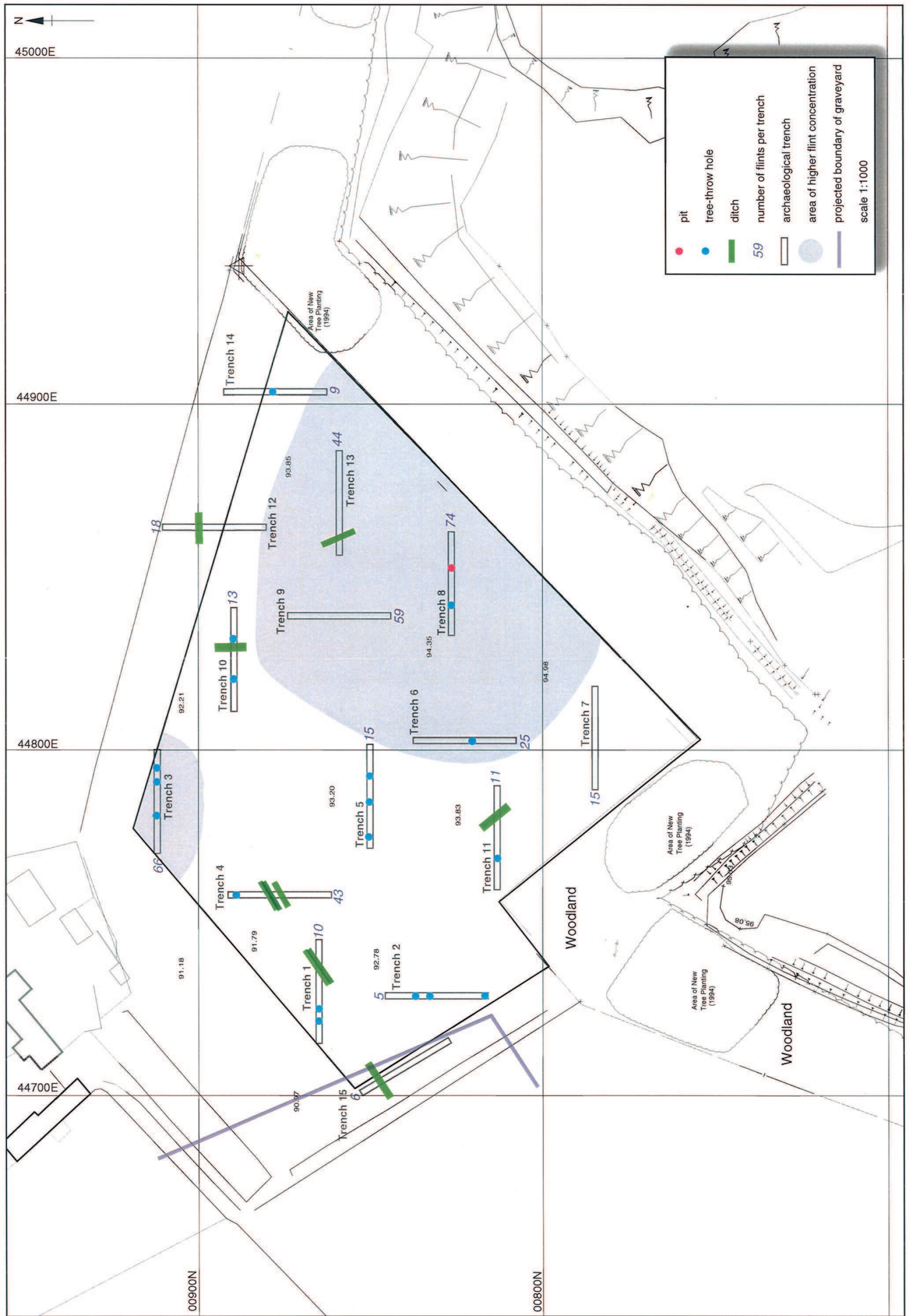


Figure 2: Trench locations relative to the proposed development showing the archaeological features identified.

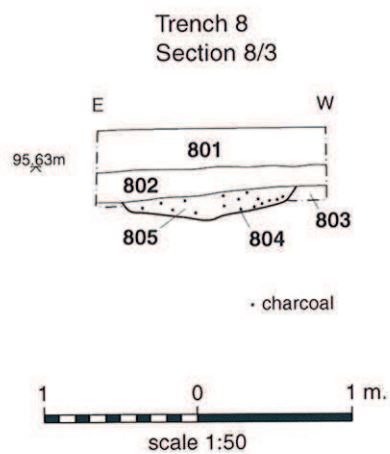
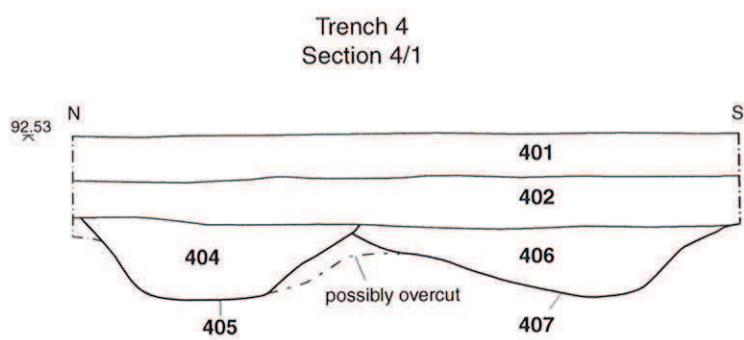
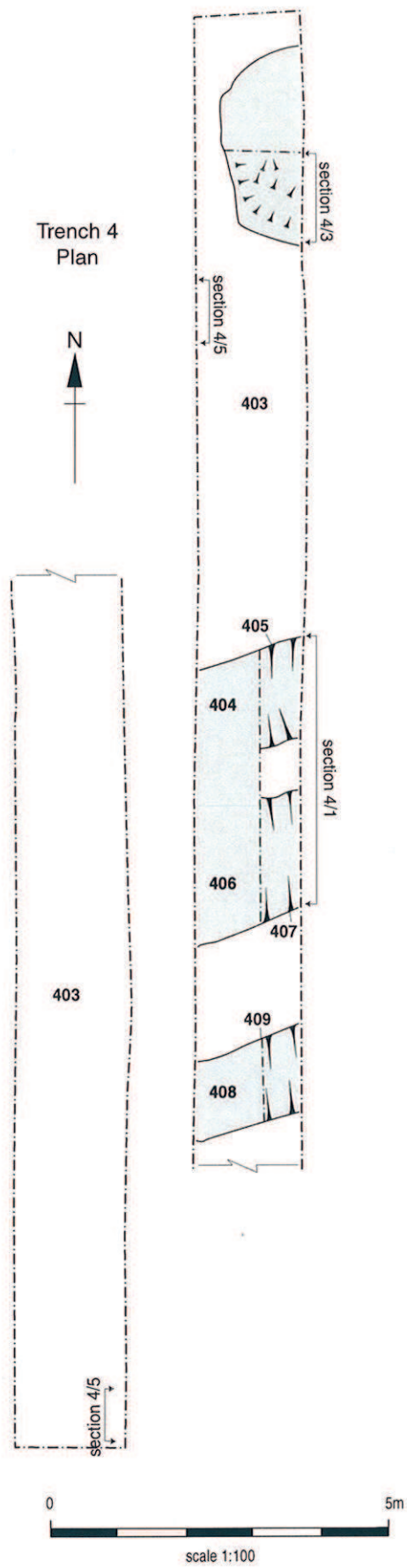
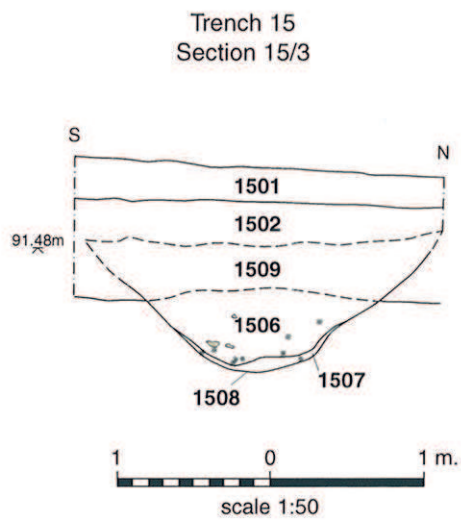


Figure 3: Trench 4, plan and section 4/1, and Trench 8 section 8/3.





- \* charcoal
- manganese rich sand natural
- sandstone

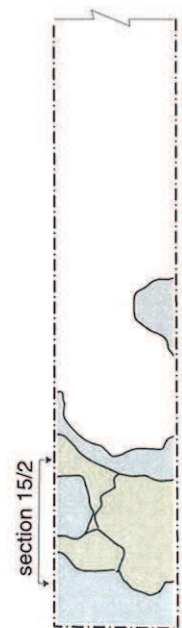
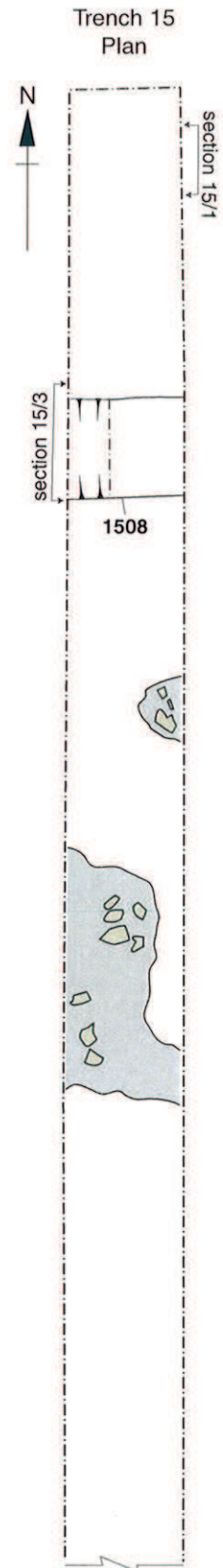


Figure 4: Trench 15, plan and section 15/3.



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