



Coln Gravel
(Thornhill Farm Pit)
Fairford
Gloucestershire

**Revised Post Excavation Assessment
and Updated Project Design**



Oxford Archaeology

April 2005



ENGLISH HERITAGE



**Client: English Heritage
Hanson PLC**

Coln gravel (Thornhill Farm pit), Fairford, Gloucestershire
Revised Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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SUMMARY

Between October and November 2003 and continuing between October and December 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a programme of archaeological work on part of an important Iron Age and Roman settlement at Coln Gravel, (Thornhill Farm Pit) Fairford, Gloucestershire, in the Upper Thames Valley. The excavations were the final part of a longstanding series of archaeological investigations in the area, in advance of gravel extraction by Hanson Aggregates Ltd.

A number of highly significant discoveries were made, including:

- A series of middle to late Iron Age enclosures with associated ring gullies and other settlement features, which suggests the presence of a significant settlement site.
- A series of late Iron Age/ early Roman boundary ditches forming major landscape divisions with associated enclosures, perhaps related to stock enclosure, or to settlement.
- A second century enclosure ditch with associated inhumation burials and a second century trackway (a continuation of a feature uncovered by OAU during earlier investigations at Thornhill Farm) cutting across the northern part of the site.

Excavation of the Iron Age and Roman landscape was undertaken in two phases ahead of gravel extraction. The first phase of fieldwork was conducted in 2003, whilst excavation of the majority of the site was conducted from October 2004 until December 2004.

Approximately 6.5 ha of the Iron Age and Roman landscape was excavated, revealing 15 enclosures, along with outlying field systems and a small cemetery. The landscape divisions were aligned north-west/south-east and the smaller enclosures were predominantly situated in the northern part of the site.

Artefactual and stratigraphic evidence was reasonably well preserved, and stratigraphic analysis conducted as part of the current assessment suggests three principal Iron Age and Roman phases spanning early 1st to the late 2nd centuries AD.

At the southwestern end of the site part of a right-angled double enclosure ditch seemed to define a small Roman cemetery, containing nine inhumation burials. Excavations of the surrounding archaeology (part of the same landscape) by OAU (Jennings *et al.* 2004) suggest that most of this area was out of use by the late Roman period. The lack of evidence of occupation dated to the late Roman period from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) supports this idea and indeed the next archaeologically recognisable phase of activity seems to be represented by medieval plough furrows, running from north to south down the western part of the site.

Overall, the quantity of material remains, reasonable preservation and stratigraphic sequences and location within a well-studied landscape, mean that the Coln Gravel (Thornhill farm Pit) Iron Age and Roman landscape is of moderate importance within a regional and national research framework. The recently submitted EH funded Cotswold Water Park Project has provided a detailed archaeological context for this region, and so the data from the Coln Gravel site has great potential to further our understanding of this complex and important landscape.

The research aims within current assessment are based upon local issues derived from the Cotswold Water Park Project in addition to current national and regional research frameworks, including *Understanding the British Iron Age: an agenda for action* (Haselgrove *et al.* 2001) and *Britons and Romans: advancing an archaeological agenda* (James and Millet 2001). Such research aims include:

- Intra-site organisation and development within Iron Age and Roman landscape
- Economy and control of resources
- Identity
- Ritual practice
- Regionality
- Processes of change

The Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) site lies within a well studied archaeological landscape, and the current assessment has shown the potential of the project to refine our knowledge of this landscape, while also addressing the research aims listed above.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document forms an Assessment and Updated Project Design for the site archive generated by fieldwork undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (OA) on the site at Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), Fairford Gloucestershire in 2003 and 2004. The project meets various criteria of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF), which aims to reduce the impact on the historic environment of aggregate extraction. In particular these are:
- 1.1.2 *Research to enhance understanding of the scale and character of the historic environment in aggregate producing areas in order to provide the baseline information necessary for effective future management.*
- Analysis and research within the Coln-gravel post-excavation project will enable a greater understanding of the historic environment in this aggregate producing area.
- 1.1.3 *Training and professional development: programmes to raise awareness, to improve the quality of historic environment work undertaken in response to aggregate extraction, and to develop and promote the uptake of best practice.*
- The Coln Gravel excavations were carried out using an 'iterative' approach (see below), a research-led process which promotes greater inclusiveness and input from all archaeologists working on the site in addition to clients, academics, and county archaeologists. By this approach we believe we have obtained optimum research results and best value.
- 1.1.4 *Supporting the operation of the planning system through assistance with excavation, analysis and dissemination of unexpected archaeological discoveries subject to English Heritage's normal conditions and the analysis and dissemination of important data from past work undertaken in response to aggregate extraction.*
- The Coln Gravel site is very important as a component of the wider historic landscape. Full analysis will provide very useful information especially when combined with data from the earlier excavations at Thornhill Farm and Claydon Pike. The site also produced a number of discoveries that had not been expected, including potentially ritual deposits and a cemetery.
- 1.1.5 *Addressing the effects of old mineral planning permissions*
- Permission to extract this area had been granted in 1983, and so the work carried out in this project fulfils this particular criteria.
- 1.1.6 The document sets out the research framework and proposed methods for the analysis and report preparation, as prescribed by English Heritage MAP 2 (Phase 4).

2 PROJECT HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

- 2.1.1 The Coln Gravel site lies in the Upper Thames Valley in Gloucestershire, near the confluence of the Rivers Thames and Coln, immediately south of the A417 Lechlade to Fairford Road (SU 180998). The site straddled the First Gravel Terrace of the Upper Thames Valley approximately 1 km to the north-east of the Coln floodplain at a height of 76 m OD. In prehistory the terrace was dissected by relict water courses and marshy areas, but islands and tongues of gravel provided well drained sites which were dry enough for settlement. To the south of the site, inliers of Oxford Clay and river gravels give way to the alluvium of the valley floor before rising up to the sand and limestones of the Corallian ridge in the direction of Swindon. To the north, the gravel terraces rise to meet the clay and cornbrash of the Cotswold dip slope and limestone uplands.

2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 The earliest evidence for occupation comes in the form of Mesolithic flint scatters which are mostly concentrated on the higher ground of the limestone uplands, and are known from over 40 sites in Gloucestershire (Mudd *et al.* 1999, 6-7). Until recently research into the Neolithic and Bronze age occupation of the region has tended to concentrate on the monumental classes of evidence such as chambered tombs, barrows and ring ditches (Darvill 1987). Non-monumental sites and find spots are increasingly well-known, but are still relatively rare. Neolithic settlement evidence in the form of pit clusters has been located at a number of sites in the Lechlade area, including The Lodgers (Darvill *et al.* 1986), Roughground Farm (Allen *et al.* 1993, 9-15) and Gassons Road in Lechlade itself (King 1998, 269-271).
- 2.2.2 To the south of Cirencester the remains of an extensive late Bronze Age settlement have been uncovered at Shorncliffe Quarry, Somerford Keynes (Hearne and Adam 1999). Evidence of large scale land division dating to the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age has been found at Butler's Field (Boyle *et al.* 1998), Gassons Road (King 1998, 269-271) and Roughground Farm (Allen *et al.* 1993). Evidence for early Iron Age settlement on the Cotswold uplands remains relatively rare apart from the hillforts, and is mostly known from stray finds (Darvill 1987, 132-133). The Upper Thames Valley in east Gloucestershire and west Oxfordshire was densely occupied during the middle Iron Age. Excavations at Claydon Pike, Fairford, Thornhill Farm, Fairford (Jennings *et al.* 2004) and Shorncliffe Quarry, Somerford Keynes (Hearne and Adam 1999) have confirmed that many of the cropmarks discovered during the intensive aerial surveys of the 1970s belong to this period.
- 2.2.3 Although most excavated middle Iron Age sites in the Upper Thames Valley showed some kind of continuity into the late Iron Age and early Roman period, in many instances the nature and form of the occupation altered. At Claydon Pike, the settlement shifted to the south and changed from an un-nucleated mixed farmstead to a specialist pastoral settlement with associated stock enclosures (Miles *et al.* forthcoming). At Roughground Farm, approximately 3 km from Claydon Pike, a similar settlement was established during the early 1st century AD, with individual

stock and occupation areas (Allen *et al.* 1993). Other nearby sites from this period include Cleveland Farm, Ashton Keynes (Coe *et al.* 1991), Stubbs Farm, Kempsford (OAU 1993) and two sites at Somerford Keynes (Neigh Bridge; Miles *et al.* forthcoming, and Shorncliffe Quarry; Hearne and Adam 1999).

- 2.2.4 The Roman period saw a dense concentration of occupation, estimated at one site per kilometre in the Upper Thames Valley (Miles 1989). Aerial photographs along the gravel terraces have revealed a dense series of settlements and field boundaries, many of which have proved to be of Roman date, such as that at Wigmore to the east of Lechlade (Miles *et al.* forthcoming). In general it appears that agricultural patterns of the Iron Age continued into the Roman period, although the Roman period did herald the first introduction of managed grassland, with evidence for hay meadows at Farmoor (Lambrick and Robinson 1979, 83-87) and Claydon Pike (Miles *et al.* forthcoming).
- 2.2.5 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation is very slight indeed and is nearly all confined to burials. A cemetery containing at least 180 burials plus an undetermined number of cremations was found at Fairford in the 1850s (Smith 1852), dated to the mid 5th - 6th century (Dickinson 1976, 105). Another cemetery of mid or late 5th-7th century date was excavated in 1985 at Butler's field near Lechlade (Boyle *et al.* 1998). The settlement associated with these burials appears to lie in an arc to the north-west of the current town, with possible sunken featured buildings (SFBs) being located in cropmarks, and 6th to 8th century pottery being recovered (*ibid.*, 5). A group of six SFBs, a four-post structure and associated pits and ditches were revealed in excavations behind Sherbourne House just to the south of the cemetery (Bateman *et al.* 2003), while Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found in another nearby excavation at the Lodors (Darvill *et al.* 1986).
- 2.2.6 The later medieval settlement pattern in the Gloucestershire Upper Thames Valley was similar to that of today. The origins of Lechlade and Fairford can be traced back to the late Saxon period and by the 15th century the manor of Fairford was held by the earls of Warwick. It was at this time that the town and parish began to flourish. A medieval roadway called the White Way or Salt Way ran from Droitwich to Lechlade.

2.3 Background to the 2003/4 excavation

- 2.3.1 Oxford Archaeology were requested by Hanson Aggregates Ltd (hereafter Hanson) to carry out the mitigation works for the latest phase of sand and gravel extraction at Coln Gravel, Thornhill Farm Pit near Fairford, Gloucestershire (SU 180998). The quarry encompasses a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM - Gloucestershire Monument No. 459), known as *Settlement site south of Claydon Cottages*, much of which was open area excavated with scheduled monument consent by OAU in the 1980s. The parts of the monument where excavation had taken place were subsequently quarried. The southern area of the monument (c 6.5 ha) was left undisturbed despite the fact that permission to extract this area had been granted by the Secretary of State in 1983. Through open-area excavation of the selected areas of the monument in the 1980s and its succeeding preservation by record, Hanson fulfilled their archaeological obligations with regard to SMC.

- 2.3.2 In 1999, notwithstanding this consent, the remainder of the site became subject to the Review of Old Minerals Planning Permissions (ROMP). In the course of the ROMP process Hanson produced an Environmental Statement, an element of which deals with archaeology. Subsequent to this in 2001, an archaeological desk-based assessment commissioned by Hanson (OAU 2001) drew attention to the known archaeological features within the remaining area of the SAM, visible as cropmarks. In 2003 with the ROMP still undecided, and a previous understanding that English Heritage (EH) were to fund excavation of the remaining area, Hanson announced their desire to continue mineral extraction from the decommissioned monument site.
- 2.3.3 However, EH were by this time not in a position to allocate sufficient funds. In due acknowledgement of expected changes to the archaeological process, Hanson convened a meeting with representatives of EH, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and OA, at which Hanson agreed to contribute funding towards the archaeological fieldwork of the 2 hectare land-take, whilst EH agreed that Hanson's responsibility would be for the fieldwork only. This area was excavated in 2003 by OA based on an 'iterative' (see below), research led approach to the fieldwork with EH, subject to financial availability, to fund the subsequent assessment, analysis and dissemination phases of work. In June 2004, a meeting was held between representatives of Hanson, EH, GCC and OA to discuss the remaining 4.5 hectares of the monument and post-excavation funding. Due to the success of the 'iterative' approach in 2003, all parties agreed to the same procedure for the 2004 fieldwork. It was agreed again that Hanson's responsibilities ended with the fieldwork, the pursuit of post-excavation funding resources being the responsibility of GCC and EH.
- 2.4 **'Iterative' Archaeology**
- 2.4.1 The excavation of the western 2 hectares of the site in 2003 utilised an 'iterative' approach, an on-site research-led process geared to allow the development of working hypotheses in order to achieve optimum research results and best value. Due to the agreed success of this approach, it was again adopted in 2004.
- 2.4.2 Initially, in the accustomed manner, a series of research questions were propounded prior to the commencement of fieldwork (see Section 3), based upon the extent of the archaeological knowledge of the site. Once the site had been stripped of topsoil and the archaeology exposed in plan, the quality, significance and potential was assessed, following which the research questions were modified or augmented.
- 2.4.3 Essentially, once excavation had commenced, the iterative process relied upon a constant flow on information between excavators and analysts. The unearthed material was assessed on a daily and weekly basis to a sufficient extent (e.g. spot dating of pottery; examination of soil samples) to allow on-site sampling procedures to focus only on the retrieval of useful and relevant data. The sampling strategy was then sufficient to enable an understanding of the character and date of the archaeology, without unnecessary replication of redundant data and information.

3 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 Original fieldwork aims

- 3.1.1 Confirm the extent and plan of the Roman field system.
- 3.1.2 Confirm the chronology and character of the main trackway.
- 3.1.3 Examine apparently blank areas for insubstantial features in order to understand the usage of the wider landscape.
- 3.1.4 Ascertain the character, date and function of other substantial enclosures.
- 3.1.5 In the light of the discovery of the unusual five-sided enclosure alongside the 'southern boundary ditch' (ditch 2701), to ascertain the character, date and function of the three apparently similar cropmark features to the west that also seem to flank the boundary.
- 3.1.6 Attempt to distinguish any evidence for ritual in the form of structured or 'placed' deposits.
- 3.1.7 Determine the eastern extent of the geometrically laid out Roman ditches found in the centre of the 2003 excavation area.
- 3.1.8 Identify and collect environmental indicators that would further refine our knowledge of agricultural regimes and landscape both within the immediate locality of the settlements of Thornhill Farm, Claydon Pike and Kempsford Bowmoor, and indeed, throughout the region.

3.2 Specific research aims of the current assessment

- 3.2.1 A number of specific research aims with which to test the data from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) at the Assessment stage are listed below.
- 3.2.2 Aim 1: Settlement and people: Social, ritual and economic processes
 - 1.1 *What can the Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) excavations tell us about intra-site development within the Iron Age to Roman landscapes?*
 - 1.2 *Can the Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) data increase our understanding of settlement economy and the control of resources?*
 - 1.3 *How far does the data from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) provide evidence for how people's identities were expressed?*
 - 1.4 *How far can data from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) increase our understanding of Romano-British burial practice?*
- 3.2.3 Aim 2: The wider context
 - 2.1 *How can the Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) landscape increase our understanding of regional settlement patterns?*

3.2.4 Aim 3: Processes of change

- *3.1 What evidence can the Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) data provide to increase our understanding of local and regional processes of change from the middle Iron Age to the late Roman period?*

4 ASSESSMENT OF PHASING AND STRATIGRAPHY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Iron Age and Roman site at Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) has a reasonably well preserved stratigraphic sequence, given the degree of truncation which the site has suffered. Few of the major features stand alone and where they do, they are well dated and demonstrate good spatial relationships with other features within the settlement. It is therefore important that full analysis is undertaken, in order that the site's development is properly understood. In addition to further work on the stratigraphic sequences (see below), the distribution of finds across site will be of importance in determining whether enclosures were used for settlement or for managing stock.

4.2 Quantification

Record Type	Quantity
Context Sheets	2640
Site Plans A1	30
Site Plans A4	186
Sections A1	0
Sections A4	383
Levels Sheets	44
Small Finds Sheets	2
Bulk Finds Sheets	10
Environmental Sample Sheets	22
B&W Films	44
Colour Slide Films	44

4.3 Results: Site phasing

- 4.3.1 The phasing presented below is provisional and the phasing of individual features may be subject to change upon full stratigraphic analysis.
- 4.3.2 *Middle Iron Age/late Iron Age (Fig. 3)*
- 4.3.3 The majority of middle/late Iron Age features comprised annular or sub-rectangular enclosures. There were nine in total (enclosures: 2639, 2687, 2481, 2480, 2479, 2477, 2478, 2710 and 2709) producing small assemblages of shell and limestone tempered pottery, including some slack-sided and handmade everted rim jars. Seven of these enclosures (2639, 2687, 2481, 2480, 2479, 2478 and 2477) formed a linear group orientated north-west/south-east and lying to the south west of a boundary ditch (2482) on the same alignment, which turned to the south at its south-eastern end, where it was cut away by later ditches. The sub-rectangular ditched enclosure (2687) had been constructed on the extreme edge of the settlement. Its ditch was notably deep and two cattle skulls were recovered from a terminus of its north-west facing entrance (see 'Potential' below).

4.3.4 The remaining two enclosures (2710 and 2709) were more isolated lying in the north-eastern corner of the site on the very edge of the excavation. At the very western edge of the site, in the north west corner was a large ring-gully (2705) approximately 16 m in diameter, probably representing the remains of a roundhouse. Enclosure ditch 2687 was re-cut once (2688) and contained a relatively substantial assemblage of shell and limestone tempered pottery. All the middle/late Iron Age activity was restricted to the northern part of the site. The middle and late Iron Age settlement is clearly peripheral to the contemporary settlement lying to the north and west, previously excavated by OAU (Jennings *et al.* 2004).

4.3.5 *Late Iron Age/early Roman (Fig. 3)*

4.3.6 The late Iron Age/early Roman period was characterised by five larger sub-rectangular enclosures (2690, 2706, 2712, 2723 and 2702) and four substantial boundary ditches (2693, 2701, 2711, 2714), that divided the landscape up into a series of roughly north-west/south-east orientated landscape divisions. These are clearly related to the settlement to the north and west, previously excavated by OAU (Jennings *et al.* 2004). The areas within the southernmost of these major landscape divisions presumably represent a major open tract of meadowland of late Iron Age/early Roman date. A length of boundary ditch (2701) contained substantial quantities of discarded burnt limestone fragments, along with quantities of shell-tempered pottery of middle to late Iron Age date and sandy grey wares of early Roman date. Boundary ditch 2711 which recut ditch 2701 turned to the south halfway along its length, returning to join ditch 2701 some 60 m to the north-west and thus creating a sub-rectangular enclosure (2712), which although not present at the inception of the late Iron Age/early Roman phase, may still be considered late Iron Age/early Roman in date. This was probably contemporary with north-east/south-west orientated ditch (2708) which lay to its north-west. Enclosures (2706 and 2702) lay within the central landscape division between ditches 2701 and 2698 and may have formed a focus for settlement or stock enclosure if contemporary. Enclosure 2706 measured 12 metres across and had a funnel-shaped opening to the north-west, formed by postholes. The perimeter ditch, which had been re-cut, was preceded by a post-hole enclosure, one of which contained the mandible of a pony at its base. Inside the enclosure, a large pit produced large fragments of pony bones together with pottery, and can be regarded as a structured deposit (see below). The fills of enclosure 2706 contained a substantial assemblage of pottery including shell-tempered ware of a middle/late Iron Age type and Severn Valley ware.

4.3.7 Enclosure 2690, a double ditched rectangular enclosure, the fills of which contained a reasonably substantial assemblage of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery, lay in the south-east corner of the excavated area to the south-east of the major north-south boundary ditch. Within the outer boundary of this enclosure, in the south-west corner within an oval pit, was a crouched adult inhumation (1858). A linear ditch (2698) orientated north-east/south-west and running down the eastern side of the site, cut ditches 2697 and 2693, before being joined by an angled ditch (2696) running off it at a right angle to the west. Although stratigraphically later than the major late Iron Age/early Roman phase this ditch may still be considered late Iron Age/early Roman

in date. A substantial rectangular enclosure (2723) orientated north-east/south-west lay to the west of ditch 2698 and cut ditch 2714.

4.3.8 *Early-middle Roman (Fig.3)*

- 4.3.9 Early-middle Roman features were largely contained within the southern part of the site. These consisted of a series of roughly north-west/south-east running boundary ditches (2694, 2695, 2715, 2717), cutting the late Iron Age/early Roman ditches but indicating a degree of continuity in the layout of the landscape, and a substantial rectilinear enclosure, defined by ditches 2715 and 2716, which was orientated north-west/south-east and extended beyond the western limits of the excavated area. These were probably contemporary with a double ditched enclosure (2692, 2704) associated with an inhumation cemetery containing nine adult inhumations in the south-western corner of the site, a series of short linear ditches (2691) enclosing a smaller square ditched enclosure (2689) in the south-eastern corner of the site and a rectangular enclosure defined by ditch 2700 to the north of ditch 2694. Additionally a north-west/south-east orientated trackway (2697) defined by two ditches was constructed across the northern part of the site. The trackway ran beyond the edge of excavation at either end, cutting ditch 2698 at its south-eastern end. Ditch 2694 ran from north-west to south-east turning to the south half way along its length, where it was paralleled by ditch 2717 before resuming its course to the north-west. Running off ditch 2694 to the north and forming a rectangular enclosure was right angled ditch 2700. This was subdivided at its north-western end by linear ditch 2721. Ditch 2695 ran from north-west to south-east, dividing the site in half and cutting the enclosure formed by ditch 2700. Ditch 2695 was cut in its turn about half way along its length by ditch 2715 turning from its north-west/south-east orientation to run south-west/north-east and possibly join ditch 2716. Ditch 2716 ran north-east/south-west, respecting ditches 2694 and 2717, before turning to the north-west and running beyond the edge of the excavation. Together ditches 2694 and 2717 defined the substantial enclosure described above. Ditch 2692 was a right-angled ditch running south-east/north-west before turning to the south-west. Five adult inhumations (259, 260, 262, 264, 278) lay parallel to the south-western return of this ditch on its south-eastern side and a further two (292, 294) lay parallel to the south-east/north-west orientated arm on its south-western side. Five more graves (1053, 1057, 1061, 1074 and 1071) lay in a group towards the south-eastern end of ditch 2692 to the north west of a north-east/south-west orientated ditch (2722). Ditch 2692 was paralleled to its north and west by a similar ditch (2704) and together they formed the double ditched enclosure containing the inhumations described above. The two ditches were not necessarily contemporary, either of them potentially being earlier than the other, but they clearly post date late Iron Age/early Roman ditch 2693. Enclosure 2689 was a small square ditched enclosure four metres in width, which extended under the section in the south-eastern corner of the site. Its fills contained a substantial assemblage of early to middle Roman pottery. Enclosure 2689 lay within a rectangular enclosure (2690) oriented north-east/south-west defined by three linear stretches of ditch, which also contained substantial assemblages of early Roman pottery. It is possible that this cluster of features is associated with the known settlement at Kempsford Bowmoor, lying c 50-60 m to the south-west, which is dated approximately 2nd – late 3rd/early 4th century AD.

4.3.10 *Late Roman (Fig. 3)*

- 4.3.11 At some point after the early-middle Roman enclosures had gone out of use a probable trackway or field boundary (2375) defined by two ditches was constructed running down the western side of the site from north to south. This feature was seen during the earlier excavations conducted by OAU (Jennings *et al.* 2004) where it was dated to the late Roman period. Although no late Roman finds were recovered from it during the 2003/2004 excavations a late Roman date seems appropriate on the basis of the earlier finds.

4.3.12 *Medieval (Fig. 3)*

- 4.3.13 Between the middle Roman period and the early medieval period the site at Coln-Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) appears to have been uninhabited. However, at some point in the medieval period the extreme western side of the site was used for agricultural activity, as demonstrated by the remains of plough furrows.

4.3.14 *Post-Medieval*

- 4.3.15 A pit (2554) within Enclosure (2712) contained an iron knife with remains of a wooden handle, a possible iron awl and cess-type material. Analysis in this assessment (see 5.4) has indicated that the knife is of post-medieval date.

4.4 **Stratigraphic work to date**

- 4.4.1 The records of the 2003/4 excavation have been subject to an assessment level analysis. The major stratigraphic relationships crucial to understanding the phased layout of the settlement have been checked and correlated to spot dates provided by the pottery assessment. All of the ditch boundary sequences defining major landscape divisions and enclosures have been preliminarily established. A digital context database has been created and a number of digital plans have been produced.

4.5 **Potential of the stratigraphic data**

- 4.5.1 In general, the stratigraphic integrity of the site was reasonable. However, the majority of features and deposits were relatively heavily truncated, with an estimated 0.30 m to 0.40 m of deposit having been removed prior to excavation.
- 4.5.2 Ditches and gullies ranging in date from middle Iron Age to early-middle Roman were laid out across the site. A number of these features intercut, although due to the similar nature of their fills the relationships between them were not always that clear.
- 4.5.3 Many features, including enclosure ditches were not stratigraphically related, and can therefore only be assigned a phase on the basis of datable pottery and observed spatial relationships.
- 4.5.4 Nevertheless, despite this relative paucity of stratigraphically related features, the data does have potential to address some of the project aims expressed in Section 3. Specifically, it should be possible to establish the chronology and nature of occupation and therefore to investigate the relationship of the site with its contemporary landscape and to determine the nature of any structured deposits. Two

enclosures in particular are significant in this respect, (2706 and 2687), as both contained the apparent structured remains of animals (see above).

- 4.5.5 It should also be possible to tie the site stratigraphy to that of the surrounding archaeology previously excavated by OAU (Jennings *et al.* 2004). Analysis of the Romano-British burials should increase our understanding of Romano-British burial practice, especially when related to the known cemetery group at nearby Claydon Pike, which is similar in many ways. Additionally there were at least two enclosures 2689 and 2706 which contained mixed assemblages of Roman pottery and pottery traditionally assigned to the middle and late Iron Age in terms both of fabrics and forms. Further study of these assemblages should help to throw light on pottery chronologies in a notoriously difficult area. Specific artefact distribution patterns and the presence or absence of certain artefact types may perhaps throw light on how people expressed their identities.

4.6 Recommendations

- 4.6.1 A full archaeological description should be generated, and publication standard plans and sections produced, based upon chronological information from the pottery spot dates. Artefact and ecofact distribution plots are needed. A full methodology is to be found in the Method Statement.
- 4.6.2 *Tasks required to complete the stratigraphic record and sequence and produce site narrative*

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Stratigraphic	D Stansbie	10
2	Plotting and spatial analysis of finds/environmental data	D Stansbie	5
3	Produce site narrative	D Stansbie	5
4	Prepare drawing briefs for publication plans + sections	D Stansbie	2
5	Illustrations phase plans, sections (etc)	Illustrator	10
6	Check Illustrations	D Stansbie	1
7	Illustrations (corrections)	Illustrator	5

5 SUMMARY OF THE FINDS ASSESSMENTS FROM APPENDICES

5.1 Iron Age and Roman pottery by Dan Stansbie (Appendix 1)

5.1.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

5.1.2 The pottery assemblage from the Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) excavations comprises 1772 sherds weighing just over 10 kgs. Amongst it there are significant assemblages belonging to three broad chronological groups: middle Iron Age and/or transitional middle Iron Age/late Iron Age, late Iron Age and early Roman. The pottery was scanned rapidly by context group, with quantification (number of sherds and total weight of group) derived principally from the initial basic finds record. Material was separated out by broad period and for the Roman pottery a note of the presence of major ware groups (following the standard OA system for recording Roman pottery) and some individual fabrics was made (see further below). OA ware codes were used to identify these at this stage. An estimated date (spot date) was assigned to each context group.

5.1.3 *Results*

5.1.4 Sherds belonging to all three groups were distributed across the excavated area and sherds from the middle Iron Age group were often mixed with late Iron Age and Roman material, casting some doubt on the solidity of the chronological boundaries used here. The largest concentration of middle Iron Age material however, came from the middle/late Iron Age and early Roman enclosure ditches (2687 and 2707) in the northern part of the site. Late Iron Age material was similarly concentrated in middle/late Iron Age and early Roman enclosure ditches in the northern part of the site, but a significant amount also came from the substantial boundary ditches (2701, 2711) which divided up the site in the early Roman period. Roman pottery was also concentrated in the boundary ditches, but significant amounts also came from the trackway ditches (2697) which bisected the north-western part of the site, from the enclosure ditches in the south-western part of the site (2690/2691) and from the enclosure ditches in the south-eastern part of the site (2692/2704).

5.1.5 *Statement of potential*

5.1.6 The pottery has the following key areas of potential, relating to different chronological periods:

5.1.7 *Middle Iron Age*

5.1.8 The middle Iron Age landscape/settlement at Coln Gravel lay in a relatively isolated region of Iron Age Britain, in ceramic terms. The range of middle Iron Age fabrics and forms present therefore has the potential to address questions of regional chronology, particularly the question of how far production of the calcareous wares may have extended into the late Iron Age and to what degree they may represent a hybrid middle/late Iron Age group in this area. There is also the potential to expand our knowledge of the geographical origins and distribution of middle Iron Age fabrics.

5.1.9 *Late Iron Age*

5.1.10 The late Iron Age assemblage, although smaller than the middle Iron Age group will help to throw light on regional chronologies, site status and local trading links, given its size and the range of forms and fabrics present. The assemblage also has the potential to address the question of how far the production of local grog-tempered wares may extend into the early Roman period and whether or not that production overlaps with the production of Savernake wares.

5.1.11 *Roman*

5.1.12 The Roman assemblage is reasonably substantial and like the other groups should help to throw light on questions of regional chronology and pottery supply. Given the presence of some mixed groups the assemblage also has the potential to address the question of the chronology of Savernake ware, particularly whether or not it dates to before the conquest period on this site. Analysis of the relative proportions of different fabric types and particularly functional vessel class, will throw light on the social status of the sites inhabitants. Analysis of the pottery from the burials in similar terms may further elucidate this question.

5.1.13 *Recommendations*

5.1.14 The full methodology for recommended work can be found in Section 9.3. A summary is presented below.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Pottery processing and basic recording	D Stansbie	5
2	Write report	D Stansbie	4
3	Prepare drawing briefs	D Stansbie	0.5
4	Illustrations	Illustrator	3
5	Check illustrations/edit report	D Stansbie	0.5

5.2 **Worked Flint by Rebecca Devaney (Appendix 2)**5.2.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

5.2.2 The excavations produced only one worked flint, it was scanned for diagnostic technological traits. General notes on condition and raw material were made.

5.2.3 *Results*

5.2.4 The single flint was a possible end scraper from the fill of early Roman boundary ditch 2701 at the point where it cut middle/late Iron Age enclosure 2687. It was clearly residual in this context, but indicates activity in the area during the earlier prehistoric period.

5.2.5 Statement of potential

5.2.6 There is little potential for further analysis. However, the significance of the relative dearth of worked flint in lies in the fact that it indicates a relative absence of earlier prehistoric activity in this area.

5.2.7 Recommendations

5.2.8 The full methodology for recommended work can be found in section 9.8. A summary is presented below.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Edit Report for publication	D Stansbie	0.5

5.3 Worked Stone by Ruth Shaffrey (Appendix 3)**5.3.1 Methods of assessment and quantification**

5.3.2 A total of 44 pieces of stone were retained during the excavations. The majority of these are chunks of burnt unworked limestone, but there is also a saddle quern, a rubber, a processor and a whetstone. All stone was briefly looked at and where necessary, examined with the aid of a x10 magnification hand lens. The weight of the burnt stone was recorded by the finds department.

5.3.3 Results

5.3.4 The assemblage includes three pieces of worked stone and one piece of unworked but utilised stone. All four are very good examples of stone artefacts and the three worked items are all extremely well made. It is rather unusual for all the worked stone from a site to be of such high quality, but it is unlikely that this is attributable to any one phase of activity, as they appear to represent different dates. The rubber and saddle quern are both of Prehistoric date while the whetstone is of Roman date. One other 'small find' is unworked.

5.3.5 Potential

5.3.6 The worked stone assemblage is small but valuable given the high quality of the workmanship and the fact that at least two or possibly three of the items appear to have been imported; this would need to be clarified by further analysis. If the two prehistoric items are imported, this would add to our growing understanding of the distribution of stone artefacts in the region. That aspect is worthy of expansion, especially if the artefacts come from well-stratified and non-residual contexts; the saddle quern has been reused, presumably in a hearth but it will be interesting to see if it still comes from an early context. The processor also has potential. It is a beautiful example that may be interpreted as having some status attached to it and the multi-functionality of it needs to be further investigated. The whetstone is unstratified but is of Roman date and a brief discussion of how it fits with the regional evidence is warranted.

5.3.7 *Recommendations*

- 5.3.8 In order to address the project aims and objectives, the following tasks are recommended. A more detailed account of the methodology can be found in Section 9.4.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Worked stone full publication standard catalogue	R Shaffrey	0.5
2	Lithological analysis including 2 thin sections	R Shaffrey	1
3	Research of prehistoric stone use, whetstones and processors	R Shaffrey	1
4	Investigation into saddle quern manufacture and distribution	R Shaffrey	1
5	Report writing	R Shaffrey	2.5
6	Drawing briefs plus checking and editing report	R Shaffrey	0.5
7	Illustrate worked stone	Illustrator	2.5

5.4 *Metalwork by Ian Scott (Appendix 4)*

5.4.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

- 5.4.2 The metalwork assemblage from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), comprises 79 pieces. The metalwork was recorded in full, and the individual items were assigned to broad functional categories. The information was entered into a digital database. Prior to the Assessment the material was x-rayed. The assemblage was then assessed for Analytical Potential and Group Value.

5.4.3 *Results*

- 5.4.4 The metalwork assemblage from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) comprises 79 pieces, including 58 iron fragments, 13 pieces of slag or cinder, 2 copper alloy fragments and 3 lead objects.
- 5.4.5 The Copper alloy comprises a small cast edge fragment, too small to be closely identified, and a small piece of sheet decorated with six closely set pin holes along one edge. The lead objects comprise a small irregular pierced disc, possibly a small weight, a thick circular pierced weight and a cast object, which has been rolled into a ball. The latter may be a trial casting or a lead model.
- 5.4.6 The iron includes 49 hobnails, a knife fragment (sf 1) and a knife with part of its wooden handle (sf 30) and an awl (sf 31). Small finds 30 and 31 are from context 2554. The form of the tang of the knife suggests that it is post-medieval in date. The remaining objects consist of miscellaneous scraps.

5.4.7 *Potential*

- 5.4.8 The metalwork assemblage has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

5.4.9 *Recommendations*

- 5.4.10 In order to address the project aims and objectives, the following tasks are recommended. A more detailed account of the methodology can be found in Section 9.5.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (days)
1	Edit Report for publication	I Scot	1

5.5 **Fired Clay by Dan Stansbie (Appendix 5)**5.5.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

- 5.5.2 An assemblage of 235 fired clay objects weighing 3954 g was recovered from the Coln Gravel (Thornhill farm pit) excavations. The fired clay was scanned rapidly by context group, with quantification (number of objects and total weight of group) derived principally from the initial basic finds record. A note of the presence of major fabric groups was made (see further below).

5.5.3 *Results*

- 5.5.4 The material was largely recovered from undateable or post medieval contexts. The remainder was from contexts of middle/late Iron Age and early Roman date (7% in middle/late Iron Age contexts by weight and 12% in early Roman contexts by weight). The majority of the fired clay was assigned to fabrics 1 and 4 and is likely to have been used in a structural capacity. Some of this material was hard fired, with smooth surfaces, but much of it was more amorphous. One piece from context 2039 had three finger tip impressions. A few pieces (eg in contexts 138, 1358 and 2367) appeared to have come from hearth or oven bases.

5.5.5 *Potential*

- 5.5.6 The fired clay assemblage has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

5.5.7 *Recommendations*

- 5.5.8 In order to address the project aims and objectives, the following tasks are recommended. A more detailed account of the methodology can be found in Section 9.7.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Edit Report for publication	D Stansbie	0.5

5.6 **Ceramic Building Material** by Dan Stansbie (Appendix 6)5.6.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

5.6.2 Forty six fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the excavations. All of the material was scanned for the assessment.

5.6.3 *Results*

5.6.4 The material is undiagnostic and generally fragmentary, and abraded.

5.6.5 *Potential*

5.6.6 The ceramic building material assemblage has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

5.6.7 *Recommendations*

5.6.8 The small quantities of ceramic building material recovered do not warrant further study. The ceramic building material should be retained. An edited version of the assessment report should be included in the final report. In order to address the project aims and objectives, the following tasks are recommended. A more detailed account of the methodology can be found in Section 9.6.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Edit Report for publication	D Stansbie	0.5

5.7 **The Jet Bead** by Leigh Allen (Appendix 7)5.7.1 *Methods of Assessment and Quantification*

5.7.2 A single jet bead (SF 6) of Roman date was recovered from context 1076; it was briefly assessed.

5.7.3 *Results*

5.7.4 The bead is sub-rectangular in shape with a domed face and has a small indentation at the centre and incised notches at the rounded corners. The long sides of the bead are undercut and pierced laterally by two holes. The undercut sides would have allowed the bead to sit up against the next and form a curve to fit around the wrist or arm.

5.7.5 *Potential*

5.7.6 The jet bead has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

5.7.7 Recommendations

5.7.8 In order to address the project aims and objectives, the following tasks are recommended. A more detailed account of the methodology can be found in Section 9.9.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Edit Report for publication	L Allen	0.5

6 SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS FROM APPENDICES

6.1 The human skeletal remains *by Annsofie Witkin (Appendix 8)*

6.1.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

6.1.2 This report assesses the potential for further analysis of the human skeletal remains from Thornhill Farm. The assemblage comprises ten poorly preserved adult inhumations. Skeleton 1858 dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, skeletons 1054, 1058, 1062 and 1075 dates to the early Roman period and skeletons 259, 263, 265, 299 and 355 to the Roman period. This is based on associated finds and the spatial relationships of the burials to other dated features.

6.1.3 The inhumations were examined to determine preservation, completeness, age and sex where possible, as well as potential for further analysis in accordance with the guidelines for producing assessments for human bone (Mays *et al* 2002). An age estimate was based on dental attrition (Miles 1962). Any pathological lesions observed were noted.

6.1.4 *Results*

6.1.5 All of the remains were in very poor condition with extensive cortical erosion. All the bones, including the crania, were also heavily fragmented. The completeness of the remains was also poor with between 2% and 25% surviving from each skeleton. The preservation and completeness is summarised in Appendix 8 Table 1.

6.1.6 All the remains were from adult individuals, only one could be sexed, skeleton 355, who was male. Four individuals had part of the dentition present which enabled these to be aged. Three skeletons (299, 355 and 1858) were aged between 30 and 40 years and one, skeleton 1075, was aged between 18 and 24 years.

6.1.7 Only one individual (299) had pathological lesions present which consisted of two carious lesions.

6.1.8 *Burial practice*

6.1.9 The orientation of the adult graves was generally broadly south-north or north-south. The individuals were predominately buried supine but one was crouched (1858). Only one of the burials contained grave goods in the form of hobnails located at the feet of skeleton 355 (see Appendix 8 Table 2).

6.1.10 *Potential*

6.1.11 *The inhumation burials*

6.1.12 The articulated skeletons are overall in a very poor state of preservation and completeness. There is therefore no potential for further analysis. However, the final report will include a more detailed discussion of the remains, placing them within the context of the contemporary landscape, including comparisons with the nearby cemetery at Claydon Pike, as well as a catalogue. The report will follow the guidelines set out in IFA paper number 7 (Brickley and McKinley 2004).

6.1.13 *Recommendations*

- 6.1.14 In order to address the project aims and objectives, the following tasks are recommended. A more detailed account of the methodology can be found in Section 9.10.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Literature search	A Witkin	0.5
2	Report writing	A Witkin	2

6.2 *Animal Bone by Emma-Jayne Evans (Appendix 9)*

6.2.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

- 6.2.2 This report encompasses the animal bones from the site at Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), from which a total of 2118 fragments (12916 g) of bone and teeth were excavated.

- 6.2.3 Identification of the bone was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology with access to the reference collection and published guides. All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Also, fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as small (small mammal size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

6.2.4 *Results*

6.2.5 *Quantity of material*

- 6.2.6 All of the hand collected animal bone from Thornhill Farm has been fully analysed and recorded for this assessment. Almost all the bone has fresh breaks, and re-fitting of broken fragments has reduced the total fragment count to 745.

6.2.7 *Species Representation*

- 6.2.8 A total of 172 fragments of bone and teeth were identifiable to species, 23.1% of the total number of bones assessed. All of the identifiable bone is from domestic species, as shown in Table 1 in Appendix 9. None of the sheep/goat bones were identifiable as either sheep or goat.

6.2.9 *Condition*

- 6.2.10 The bone has survived in poor condition. The degree of fragmentation has no doubt affected the number of bones identifiable to species and the amount of information that can be gained from the identified bone. There is very little butchery evidence, with only seven identifiable bones exhibiting cut and chop marks. Of these seven

bones, two cattle skulls have cut marks associated with skinning, with the rest having been chopped for marrow extraction, or having dismemberment cut marks. None of the bones have gnawing marks, one cattle molar had been burnt (along with eight other small unidentifiable fragments), and ten bones could be measured, although none of these measurements can be used to estimate withers heights. Twelve mandibles could be aged, and fusion data is limited. Four bones have pathological changes, and articulations were noted between a number cattle and sheep/goat bones.

6.2.11 *Potential*

6.2.12 There is limited potential for the animal bones from this site to reveal the importance and use of animals to the local population (Research Aim 1.2). However, the presence of structured animal bone deposits in enclosures 2706 and 2687 has potential to increase our understanding of Iron Age ritual practices and their continuation into the Romano-British period (Revised Research Aims 1.2 and 2.2). Overall, the data from the analysis is limited, and the only work remaining for this site is to analyse any bones that may be present from sieving, and to re-work this assessment into a final report.

6.2.13 *Recommendations*

6.2.14 In order to address the project aims and objectives, the following tasks are recommended. A more detailed account of the methodology can be found in Section 9.11.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (days)
1	Writing of Report	E-J Evans	1

6.3 **Macroscopic Plant Remains, Insects and Snails** by Laila Sikking and Mark Robinson (Appendix 10)

6.3.1 *Methods of Assessment and quantification*

6.3.2 A total of 115 samples were taken during the excavation of 2003/2004 for the recovery of waterlogged and charred plant remains, snails, pollen and bones and artefacts. Ninety-eight were assessed, of which 30 samples were for waterlogged remains, 21 samples for charred remains, 25 samples for snails and 22 samples from burial features for bones and artefacts. Half the samples were processed and assessed on site during the excavation to provide feedback on the sampling strategy in the field (see Appendix 10). Through this process it was decided that some of the original samples were not worth assessing, due to the very limited potential of the environmental material within certain features. The samples for pollen (monoliths) have not been processed and assessed at this stage due to the time constraints of the current assessment.

6.3.3 After an initial brief assessment a selection of flots was taken to Mark Robinson at the Oxford University Museum for a more detailed examination.

6.3.4 *Results for Molluscs*

- 6.3.5 Snails were present in most of the samples taken during the 2004 excavation. The snail samples produce a picture of ditches and pits with stagnant water in the bottom, surrounded by an open landscape. There were no indications found for flowing water in the ditches. A sequence of snail samples <135/1> -<135/7> was retrieved from a pit [2525]. The upper samples contained a wider variety of species than the basal samples of the pit. The aquatic species *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula* suggest that the pit must have contained temporary puddles of stagnant water and terrestrial species as *Vallonia* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group indicate an open landscape around the pit.

6.3.6 *Results for Waterlogged plant remains and insects*

- 6.3.7 In general, the preservation of the waterlogged samples is quite poor. The waterlogged remains in the samples are deteriorating due to the lowering of the water level in the last 20 years. Live worms were seen in several samples which are a indication of active deterioration. The samples that are relatively better preserved form a picture of damp grassland which was used for pasture and disturbed land. . Sample <128> (2554) from the mid-late Iron Age enclosure ditch (2687) produced the largest range of species of both seeds and insects (see Table 3). The taxa suggest a wet pastoral grassland and nutrient-rich disturbed ground. Plant species and insects from sample <129> (2501) from the same Iron Age enclosure ditch suggest the presence of waste settlement ground and pastoral land. There are no obvious indications for hedges in the surroundings of the ditch. The sample contains seeds from *Potentilla anserina* (silver-weed: wet pasture land), *Hyoscyamus niger* (henbane: probable presence of dung) and the beetle *Phyllopertha horticola*; all of which indicate grassland. In general, the waterlogged samples from the site create a picture of disturbed land and grassland being grazed by animals. This is consistent with the published results from earlier excavations on the site (Robinson 2004).

- 6.3.8 The sequence of samples that were taken within a ditch of the Roman trackway (2697) (samples <139> bottom until <144> top) produced a limited number of waterlogged seeds and molluscs. All samples produced snails that indicated that the ditch contained stagnant water and eventually silted up. The only sample that produced waterlogged seeds that are possibly ancient is sample <142> (2524). The seeds were from rush (*Juncus* sp.). The ditches of this Roman trackway that were excavated during earlier seasons produced species that are characteristic of hay meadows (Robinson 2004). None of these species appeared in this sequence of samples.

6.3.9 *Results for Charred Plant remains*

- 6.3.10 Only a small number of samples produced charred plant remains (see Table 3). Sample <98> (2089) from early Roman ditch 2711 contained both charred seeds and charcoal. About 30 cereal grains were recognised but most were unidentifiable. The grains that were identifiable consisted of *Hordeum vulgare* ssp. *vulgare* (hulled 6-row barley) and *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (emmer or spelt wheat). The sample also contained mixed carbonised plant material that possibly derived from burned dung or

bread. The weed *Galium aparine* (goose-grass) was also present in the sample. Some charcoal was identified as *Alnus/Corylus* (alder/hazel).

- 6.3.11 Occasionally waterlogged samples contained charred plant remains. Sample <128> (2554) from the Iron Age enclosure (2687) produced a charred wheat grain (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and glume bases from spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*).

6.3.12 **Potential**

- 6.3.13 The snail samples give a consistent picture of the conditions in and around the ditches and pits. None of the samples had outstanding potential for further analysis.
- 6.3.14 The results are consistent with those of earlier publications of the site (Jennings *et al.* 2004) and it is recommended that some limited analysis of the plant remains is included in the final publication.
- 6.3.15 Sample <128> (2554) from the Iron Age enclosure contained a large range of waterlogged seeds and insects and has the most potential for further analysis. Sample <129> has limited potential for analysis. Sample <124> (1634) from the same enclosure ditch is actively deteriorating (live worms) and is only worth analysing if the feature (1626) is considered to be important enough. Only one sample with charred plant remains has potential for further analysis. Sample <98> (2089) from the early Roman ditch 2711 contains barley and wheat and it might be possible to distinguish if the wheat is spelt or emmer.
- 6.3.16 Analysis of the pollen monoliths is important as there is potential for reconstructing the local environment at the time of sediment deposition.

6.3.17 **Recommendations**

- 6.3.18 The following is a summary of the work needed. A more detailed methodology can be found in Section 9.12.

No.	Task	Personnel	Time (Days)
1	Charred remains - sorting samples	Technician	1
2	Charred remains Identification and report	M Robinson	1.5
3	Waterlogged remains - sorting samples	Technician	3
4	Waterlogged remains - analysis and report	M Robinson	3
5	Sorting of sample 128 (40 litres) for insects	Technician	2
6	Analysis and report on insect remains	M Robinson	2
7	Preparation of pollen cores	Technician	6
8	Rapid Assessment of pollen cores	E Huckerby	3
9	Analysis of pollen cores and report preparation	E Huckerby	20
10	Incorporation of results into final report	M Robinson	0.5

7 OVERALL STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

7.1.1 The original fieldwork aims of the project have been set out in Section 3. An assessment of the stratigraphy and finds (Sections 5, 6 and appendices) includes statements of potential for answering these aims. An overall statement of potential in regard to both the individual finds and environmental categories, and site stratigraphy will now be presented. Firstly measuring the results against the original project aims, and then against the national regional and local research context. This is with a view to presenting revised research aims and objectives for the project.

7.2 Results measured against the original project aims

7.2.1 The majority of the original fieldwork aims of the project were fulfilled to some degree. The extent and plan of Roman field system was confirmed, as was the chronology and character of the main trackway. Apparently blank areas were examined for insubstantial features in order to understand the usage of the wider landscape. Most such insubstantial features were tree throw holes, suggesting that such apparently blank areas had been cleared for agricultural use. However it is not certain when this clearance took place.

7.2.2 The character and date of the more substantial enclosures has been established, but their function is less clear. The absence of structures within these enclosures may suggest a primarily agricultural use, but this absence may be accounted for by the degree of truncation which was quite severe. The character, date and function of the three smaller enclosures alongside the southern boundary ditch (2701) has been established. Although it now seems that at least two of them (2639 and 2687) were earlier than, rather than contemporary with, the boundary ditch. The third (2706 excavated in 2003) is slightly offset from the boundary ditch and may well be contemporary with it, although this is not yet certain. The size of these three enclosures and quantity of pottery and animal bone from their fills suggests a domestic function, rather than stock enclosure. Furthermore, within two of them (2706 and 2687) there is evidence for the structured deposition of animal remains. This does not preclude the enclosures from being primarily domestic in nature however, as integration of ritual and domestic activity seem to have been a tradition of native society, both before and after the Roman conquest. Further structured deposits with domestic contexts have for example been found in the earlier Thornhill Farm excavations in addition to other Thames Valley sites such as Claydon Pike, Farmoor (Lambrick and Robinson 1979, 132), Gravelly Guy (Lambrick and Allen forthcoming) and Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986, microfiche 8:B7-B12). This is clearly an area that would benefit from more detailed post-excavation analysis, including plotting the distribution of different classes of artefact both within and between features.

7.2.3 The eastern extent of the Roman ditches found in the centre of the 2003 excavation area was not comprehensively determined, as they may well run on beyond the eastern extent of excavation. Our knowledge of agricultural regimes and landscape was refined through the collection of further environmental evidence.

7.2.4 *Topographical and Geological considerations*

- 7.2.5 During the 2004 excavation at Coln Gravel attempts were made to determine how far topographical and geological considerations acted as constraints and determinants of settlement location.
- 7.2.6 A contour study was initially undertaken of the micro-topology (Fig. 4) and the main geological variations across the site were then mapped. It is quite evident from this that certain clusters of discrete enclosures and features were situated on localised promontories within the gravel. At the north-western extent of the site the areas of middle and late Iron Age/early Roman settlement were clearly located with respect to this marginally higher ground (eg enclosures 2706, 2702, 2639 etc). The previously unknown focus of Roman settlement in the south-eastern part of the excavation area is also situated upon a small promontory, as is the Roman cemetery in the south-west of the site. It must be stressed that the micro-topological survey exaggerates the actual height as a means of analysis, but nevertheless the evidence suggests that this change in ground level was a significant factor in settlement organisation.
- 7.2.7 The micro-topological survey has also shown the importance of water management in this part of the ancient landscapes of the Thornhill Farm / Coln Gravel site. A number of main linear features (eg 2701, 2711, 2693) probably acted as main drainage runs for both settlement areas and fields. Both geo-archaeological and environmental examination of deposits concluded that the water table had been close to the ground surface until fairly recently. The species of snails preserved in a number of late Iron Age and Roman ditches were clear evidence of standing water. The preservation of waterlogged remains was, however, extremely poor in comparison with the findings of the 1980s, which is probably due to the lowering of the ground water level over the last 20 years.
- 7.2.8 The alluvium on the site was also examined by a geo-archaeological specialist during the course of the excavation, particularly where late Iron Age ditches appeared to have been dug through alluvial deposits. It was, however, confirmed that the ditches were cut into Late Glacial alluvium.

7.3 *The local, regional and national research context*

7.3.1 *The national research context*

- 7.3.2 English Heritage has provided a number of recent statements concerned with potential research frameworks for archaeological studies. These include the draft *Research Agenda* for consultation (EH 1997, hereafter *Agenda*) and *Exploring our Past 1998* (hereafter *EOP 98*). Additionally two major documents setting out research frameworks for the archaeological study of the Iron Age and Roman periods have been published recently. These are *Understanding the British Iron Age: an agenda for action* (Haselgrove *et al.* 2001) and *Britons and Romans: advancing an archaeological agenda* (James and Millet 2001). The Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) project seeks to address a number of issues which have been identified as priorities by these and other documents, including the current English Heritage

funded Cotswold Water Park Project, recently submitted by OA. These broadly include:

- Settlement development and hierarchy (*Agenda*, 51 T 1; *EOP* 98, 1.7; Taylor 2001; Haslegrove *et al.*, Section C2.1)
- Landscapes (*Agenda*, 55 L; Haslegrove *et al.*, Section C2.2; *EOP* 98, programme 1.4, 1.7, 3).
- Chronological Issues (Haselgrove *et al.*, section B)
- Material Culture (Haselgrove *et al.*, section D)
- Identity (Hill 2001; Allason-Jones 2001).
- Regionality (*Agenda*, p. 55 L 3; Haslegrove *et al.*, Section E)
- Processes of Change (*Agenda*, p 44, PC1, PC 4 and PC 5; Haslegrove *et al.*, Section F)
- The Iron Age Roman transition (Creighton 2001)
- Material approaches to the identification of different Romano-British Site types (Evans 2001)
- Rural society in Roman Britain (Taylor 2001)

7.3.3 *Local and Regional Research context*

- 7.3.4 The OA excavations at Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) uncovered features from two main chronological periods: the middle to late Iron Age and the Roman period. The trackways and enclosures uncovered during the course of the excavation clearly indicate an agricultural landscape. The pottery assemblage, which contains little in the way of imported wares and the animal bone assemblage suggest that the settlement associated with this landscape was of low to moderate social status. Similarly inhumations of Roman date do not seem to indicate a population of any great status. In these respects the archaeology of Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) fits well with the archaeology of the surrounding landscape, as uncovered by OA during their earlier excavations at Thornhill Farm and Claydon Pike. Additionally the presence of large enclosures linked by trackways seems to suggest the large-scale movement of stock, also an important feature of the surrounding Iron Age and Roman archaeology.

8 REVISED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

8.1.1 The excavations at Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) revealed a multi-period agricultural landscape/settlement of intrinsic research value. Its significance lies primarily in its position in a wider landscape of similar character and chronological range, and consequently its ability to fill in gaps in our knowledge about that wider landscape. Similarly certain artefact assemblages recovered from the site could enable us to fill in gaps in our knowledge of local artefact chronologies, thus contributing to greater understanding of regional artefact chronologies. The following revised research aims and objectives reflect this situation, and are based upon the current assessment of the excavation data.

8.2 Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age

- **1.1 Settlement form and development:** Is the middle to late Iron Age activity representative of a single contemporary settlement, or can phases of activity be distinguished within it?
- **1.2 The nature of site activity:** Can the overall material culture assemblage and its patterns of deposition shed light onto the exact nature of occupation at the site?
- **1.3 Site in the landscape:** How does the chronology and form of the settlement tie in to the surrounding archaeology previously excavated by OAU (Jennings *et al.* 2004)?
- **1.4 The nature of the material culture assemblage:** How far is the material culture assemblage and its associated patterns reflective of wider patterns in the region. Particularly to what degree might traditionally middle Iron Age shell tempered pottery fabrics and handmade forms extend into the late Iron Age, and what evidence is there for structured deposition?

8.3 Roman

- **2.1 Settlement form and development:** Can the chronology of the two major phases of Roman landscape enclosure be refined? Can the chronology of the inhumation burials and of the major trackway that cuts across the northern part of the site be refined? Can the stratigraphy of the site be tied in to the surrounding early Roman settlement previously excavated by OAU (Jennings *et al.* 2004)?
- **2.2 The nature of site activity:** Can an analysis of the artefact assemblage, particularly the animal bone assemblage shed further light on the agricultural use of the landscape? Can further analysis of the enclosures elucidate their function, in terms of agricultural or settlement functions?
- **2.3 Site in the landscape:** How does the chronology and form of the settlement tie in with the surrounding archaeology at Thornhill Farm (Jennings *et al.* 2004), Kempsford Bowmoor and Claydon Pike.
- **2.4 The nature of the material culture assemblage:** How far is the material culture assemblage and its associated patterns reflective of wider patterns in the region? How far are distributions of imported Roman pottery reflective of wider regional distribution patterns? How far do relative proportions of Roman vessel classes reflect the status of the inhabitants and how far are these proportions reflected in pottery from the inhumations?

9 METHOD STATEMENT

9.1.1 The tasks listed below are those required to complete the publication of the Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) data. The methods are required to fulfil the revised research aims outlined in Section 8 above. The link between method and objectives is shown in Table 9.1. At the outset of the project should be a seminar in order to inform the specialists about the site and research aims and to generate discussion which will contribute to the final analysis.

9.2 Stratigraphy

9.2.1 In order to gain a full understanding of the stratigraphy of the Iron Age and Roman landscape, full stratigraphic analysis of the enclosure ditches and the major landscape boundary ditches will need to be carried out. Additionally, the spot dates of pottery vessels from the grave fills will need to be correlated with those from the fills of the surrounding enclosure ditches, in order to try and refine the relationship between the burials and the enclosure.

9.2.2 The specific tasks are as follows:

- Finalise the stratigraphic sequence for the 2003 and 2004 excavation areas (group features)
- Enter the outstanding 2003 and 2004 excavation records onto the database
- Finalise the stratigraphic sequence of the major boundary ditches
- Check and group the enclosure stratigraphic sequences
- Check and update 2003 and 2004 excavation database with group level information
- Plotting and spatial analysis of finds/environmental data using the CAD plans which will be imported and integrated into an ArcView GIS. The plots will use the grid co-ordinates of the findspots to create different finds layers over the base map. The results of the plots will be visually inspected for any significant patterns and compared with results from excavations at the previously excavated Thornhill Farm site.
- Stratigraphic analysis and revision (middle to late Iron Age features, late Iron Age to early Roman enclosures and boundary ditches, early Roman enclosures and cemetery, and early Roman trackway)
- Produce phased publication plans and sections, based upon chronological information from the pottery spot dates.

9.3 Pottery

9.3.1 The following proposals relate to the Iron Age and Roman pottery. It is proposed that the assemblage (except the pottery from sieved sample residues, which will be scanned rapidly) be fully recorded using the standard procedures of the well-

established OA Roman pottery recording system (Booth 1992) with modifications as appropriate, in particular to accommodate local fabric types not at present specifically referenced in the system. The system is cross-referenced to the national Roman pottery fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) and fabric/ware codes will also be cross-referenced to those used for the Thornhill Farm excavations as necessary.

9.3.2 The pottery will be examined by context groups and recorded in terms of fabric, form, decoration and use and reuse characteristics. Quantification will be by sherd count, weight and EVEs to maximise the potential of the data. The data will be entered into an Access database and will be manipulated with links to the site context database.

9.3.3 The report will aim to present a full account of the pottery in terms of the following headings.

- Introduction: quantities, methods, condition and general character of assemblage.
- Fabrics: description, quantification and discussion.
- Forms: description, quantification and discussion.
- Context and chronology: spatial and chronological variation in the assemblage.
- Functional aspects: use and reuse, the relationship of assemblages to specific functional areas. Includes taphonomy.
- General discussion: chronological range and character of assemblage, nature of supply and its economic implications (trade etc), functional aspects, regional (and wider if appropriate) comparisons, status.
- Illustrated catalogue of pottery by context/phase groups

9.4 **Worked Stone**

9.4.1 The worked stone has been scanned and partially recorded, but full recording needs to be done. The specific tasks are as follows:

- Full recording and description of the saddle quern, whetstone, rubber and processor.
- Recording of all other worked stone, including the material not catalogued during the assessment and entry into database and preparation of publication standard catalogue.
- Lithological analysis including thin section study and comparison. The saddle quern and rubber fragment have been recommended for thin sectioning.
- Report writing including literature search for additional comparative material.
- Drawing briefs preparation and checking.

9.5 **Metalwork**

9.5.1 The following tasks are needed for the final analysis of the metalwork from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), in order to address the revised research aims in section 8.

- Editing of assessment report for full publication

9.6 **Ceramic Building Material**

9.6.1 The following tasks are needed for the final analysis of the ceramic building material from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), in order to address the revised research aims in Section 8.

- Editing of assessment report for full publication

9.7 **Fired Clay**

9.7.1 The following tasks are needed for the final analysis of the fired clay from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), in order to address the revised research aims in Section 8.

- Editing of assessment report for full publication.

9.8 **Worked flint**

9.8.1 The following tasks are needed for the final analysis of the worked flint from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), in order to address the revised research aims in Section 8.

- Editing of assessment report for full publication.

9.9 **The Jet Bead**

9.9.1 The following tasks are needed for the final analysis of the jet bead from Coln Gravel (Thornhill farm Pit), in order to address the revised research aims in section 8.

- Editing of assessment report for full publication.

9.10 **The human remains**

9.10.1 The following tasks are needed for the final analysis of the human remains from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), in order to address the revised research aims in Section 8.

- A catalogue of human remains will need to be produced.
- Burial practice will need to be examined in the context of contemporary examples from other sites including Claydon Pike.
- The text will need to be finalised for publication with the results/discussion of foregoing analysis.

9.11 Animal bone

9.11.1 The following tasks are needed in the full analysis of the animal bone from the site:

- Analysis and quantification of animal bone recovered from sieving.
- Examination of the assemblage alongside that from the Thornhill Farm and Claydon Pike excavations.
- Finalise text for publication with results/discussion of foregoing analysis.

9.12 Macroscopic Plant Remains, Insects and Snails

9.12.1 The following tasks are needed for the final analysis of the macroscopic plant and insect remains from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), in order to address certain of the revised research aims in Section 8.

- The flots specified should be sorted under a binocular microscope. All seeds, chaff and other identifiable dry charred remains (excluding charcoal) should be picked out, identified in full and quantified. A publication report should then be prepared from the results. Sample 128 (40 litres) will need to be sorted for insects.
- The waterlogged flots should be sub-sampled to give a equivalent of 0.25 kg and sorted in water under a binocular microscope for plant remains. All the waterlogged remains should be identified in full and quantified. A publication report should be prepared from the results.
- Rapid assessment of the pollen cores, involving a description of the 6 cores and subsample taking 4 from each monolith therefore making a total of 24 samples. These then need to be prepared using a standard chemical procedure (method B of Berglund & Ralska — Jasiewiczowa (1986)), using HCl, NaOH, sieving, HF, and Erdtman's acetolysis to remove carbonates, humic acids, particles > 170 microns, silicates, and cellulose respectively. A rapid assessment of the pollen will follow, with time not being spent on identifying pollen grains to the lowest possible taxonomic level unless immediately obvious. Indeterminable grains will also be recorded, as an indication of the state of the pollen preservation.
- The relevant pollen monoliths will then be analysed with identification of the well preserved pollen grains and a report produced, including diagrams.
- Sample 128 (40 litres) will need to be sorted for insects and a publication report prepared from the results.
- The results of all environment analysis will be incorporated within a final overall report.

9.13 Illustrations of plans, sections and finds

- 9.13.1 A substantial number of plans and sections will need to be produced in order to provide the necessary level of detail for the report. Plans and sections will be needed of all major enclosures, ditches and important stratigraphic sequences, and phase plans drawn up, both of the site as a whole (adapted from existing plans) and areas. Most of the plans and sections will be produced using Adobe Illustrator, although ArcView distribution maps will be produced to aid in the analysis.
- 9.13.2 As the finds assemblage from the site is relatively small, only a small quantity of finds (specifically pottery and worked stone) will need to be illustrated. The numbers of objects it is recommended to be illustrated is in accordance with normal conventions for assemblages of this size.
- 9.13.3 Time will be needed for producing drawing briefs and for checking the illustrations as they are produced.

9.14 Preparation of published report

- 9.14.1 It is envisaged that the report will be published within the local County Journal (*Trans Bristol and Glos Archaeol Soc*) and will present an account of the Iron Age and Roman landscape in relation to previous work in the area and address the revised research aims detailed in Section 8. The publication costs have not been included here. The publication outline is presented in Section 10.

9.15 General project tasks

9.15.1 *Project management, monitoring and review*

- 9.15.2 The project will be managed by Alex Smith with support from Dan Stansbie, and internal monitoring by Alistair Barclay. Drawing office management will be undertaken by Paul Backhouse. IT support will be provided by Paul Miles. Environmental management will be undertaken by Dana Challinor. Finds and archive administration will be undertaken by Leigh Allen and Olivia Pierpoint.

9.15.3 *Report assembly and editing*

- 9.15.4 The reports will be assembled and checked against the illustrations by Dan Stansbie and Alex Smith. Draft publication texts will be checked by individual contributors. Substantive editing will be carried out by Alex Smith or another appropriate Senior Project Manager.

9.16 Archives

- 9.16.1 Oxford Archaeology's archiving standards will be adhered to at all times with regards to project documentation and archivally suitable materials used (see Walker 1990). All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered and indexed as part of the research archive. This will be sent for microfiche and then submitted to the National Monuments Record. After completion of the project the archive will be stored at the OA finds depot at Standlake until an adequate storage facility is provided in the county of Gloucestershire.

9.16.2 The digital archive (all relevant databases, CAD plans, GIS, Illustrations, spreadsheets, Word-processing documents) will be prepared by OA staff with appropriate documentation and metadata. This will comprise:

- A file of documentary metadata for all word-processed documents
- A file of documentary metadata for databases
- A file of documentary metadata for CAD & GIS drawings
- A file of documentary metadata for digital images

9.16.3 The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), as is required under the Historic Environment Commissions policy. The project archive from the previous work at Thornhill Farm is to be disseminated by the ADS under the overarching RECAP project and there should be potential for including the Coln Gravel digital archive in this scheme. This should be discussed at the publication/dissemination stage.

9.16.4 A completed OASIS form will be submitted to English Heritage upon completion of the project.

9.17 **Health and safety statement**

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

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

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

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

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

9.17.2 *Specific risks – Coln Gravel (Thornhill farm Pit) post-excavation*

9.17.3 Lifting and carrying finds boxes. Loading and unloading boxes and moving boxes. Care will be taken to avoid muscular-skeletal injury through improper handling.

9.17.4 Handling of pottery. The site was not contaminated and therefore there are no problems from this source. Basic hygiene rules apply. No eating or drinking at the work area. Wash hands and face prior to eating or drinking. However, because the pottery can produce fine dust particles, it will be necessary to take basic precautions – working in a well ventilated space, use of water spray to keep dust down - to avoid inhaling dust during handling. Masks will only be used if the dust cannot be controlled by other means.

- 9.17.5 Computer use. The work will involve a substantial amount of data input and word processing. The regulations laid regarding the use of Display Screen Equipment will be adhered to. In particular regular breaks will taken while using computers.
- 9.17.6 Data inputting and Word processing. This work could quite extensive and therefore care will be taken to avoid prolonged periods of work without breaks to avoid any risks of repetitive strain injury.
- 9.17.7 A copy of the above will be provided to the members of the OA project team.

Research Objectives	9.2 Stratigraphy and phasing	9.3 Pottery	9.4 Worked Stone	9.5 Metalwork	9.6 CBM	9.7 Fired Clay	9.9 Jet Bead	9.10 Human Remains	9.11 Animal Bone	9.12 Plant Remains	9.12 Insect & Snails
1.1	X	X									
1.2	X	X							X	X	X
1.3	X								X	X	X
1.4		X	X								
2.1	X	X		X	X			X			
2.2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.3	X								X	X	X
2.4		X	X	X	X	X	X				

Table 9.1: Methods and research objectives

10 OUTLINE PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

**EXCAVATIONS AT COLN GRAVEL (THORNHILL FARM PIT),
FAIRFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE****AN IRON AGE TO ROMAN RURAL SETTLEMENT IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY***by
Dan Stansbie and Alex Smith*List of Contents
List of Figures
List of Tables
Preface
Summary
Acknowledgements**SUMMARY** *c* 200 words**INTRODUCTION** *c* 1000 wordsSite location and project background
Geology, geography and topography
Archaeological background
Excavation methodology**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION** *c* 3000 words

Middle to late Iron Age

Late Iron Age to early Roman

Early-middle Roman

Medieval

FINDS**Pottery** *by Dan Stansbie* *c* 2000 words**Flint** *by Rebecca Devaney* *c* 100 words**Worked Stone** *by Ruth Shaffrey* *c* 1500 words**Metalwork** *by Ian Scott* *c* 250 words**Other Finds** *c* 250 words*Fired Clay* *by Dan Stansbie**Ceramic Building Material* *by Dan Stansbie**The Jet Bead* *by Leigh Allen*

ENVIRONMENTAL

Human bone <i>by Annsofie Witkin</i>	<i>c</i> 1000 words
Animal bone <i>by Emma-Jayne Evans</i>	<i>c</i> 1000 words
Charred plant remains <i>by Laila Sikking</i>	<i>c</i> 500 words
Waterlogged plant remains <i>by Laila Sikking</i>	<i>c</i> 500 words
Molluscan remains <i>by Laila Sikking</i>	<i>c</i> 500 words

GENERAL DISCUSSION *c* 1000 words

THE SITE IN ITS LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT *c* 2000 words

TOTAL: *c* 14, 800 words

Illustrations:

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Phased features

Figure 3: Detailed plans of selected features

Figure 4: Sections

Figure 5: Pottery illustration

Figure 6: Worked stone illustration

As previously mentioned in Section 9.14, it is envisaged that the report will be published within the local County Journal (*Trans Bristol and Glos Archaeol Soc*).

11 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

11.1 Project team and management responsibilities

Name		Responsibilities
Alex Smith	OA	Project manager, report writing, editing
Dan Stansbie	OA	Stratigraphy, analysis and interpretation, pottery, fired clay, CBM
A Barclay	OA	Publications manager/Project monitor
Emma Jayne Evans	OA	Animal Bone
Annsophie Witkin	OA	Human bone
Dana Challinor	OA	Environmental management
Leigh Allen	OA	Finds manager, jet bead
Olivia Pierpoint	OA	Archive manager
tba	OA	Database Manager
Ruth Shaffrey	OA	Worked Stone
Paul Backhouse	OA	Graphics Office Manager
Paul Miles	OA	IT Manager
Elizabeth Huckerby	OA	Pollen
Kate Brady	OA	Research Assistant
Illustrator	OA	Site and finds illustrations
Technician	OA	Processing environmental samples
Technician	OA	Transport of finds and other technical support
External specialists		
Prof Mark Robinson	Oxford	Charred and waterlogged plant and insect remains
Ian Scott	Freelance	Metal Work

11.2 Task list

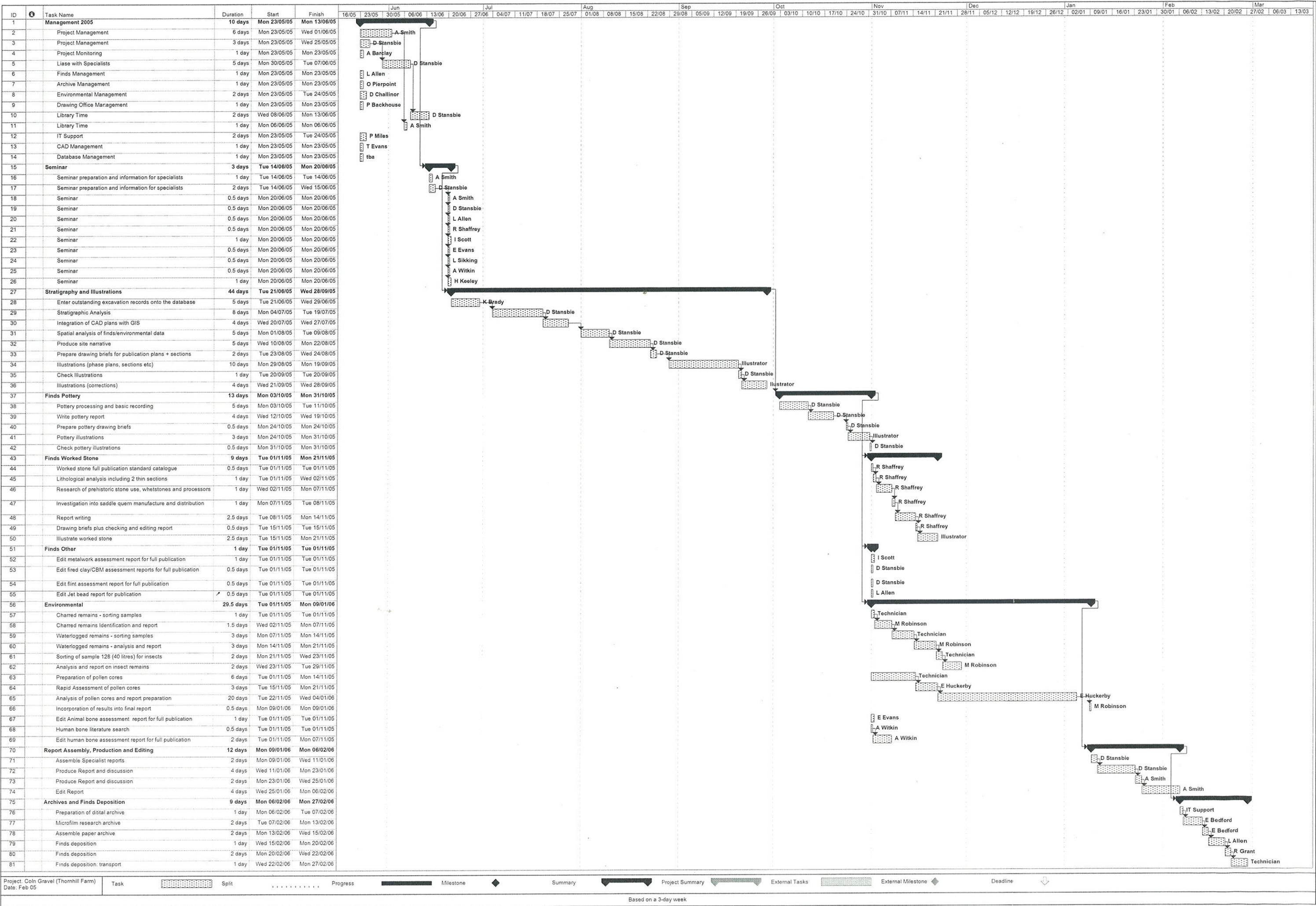
Task	Method	Task Description	Performed by	Days
		Management 2005		
1	9.15	Project Management	A Smith	6
2	9.15	Project Management	D Stansbie	3
3	9.15	Project Monitoring	A Barclay	1
4	9.15	Liase with Specialists	D Stansbie	4
5	9.15	Finds Management	L Allen	1
6	9.15	Archive Management	O Pierpoint	1
7	9.15	Environmental Management	D Challinor	2
8	9.15	Drawing Office Management	P Backhouse	1
9	9.15	Library Time	D Stansbie	2
10	9.15	Library Time	A Smith	1
11	9.15	IT Support	P Miles	2
12	9.15	CAD Management	T Evans	1
13	9.15	Database Management	tba	1
		Seminar		
14	9.1.1	Seminar preparation and information for specialists	A Smith	1
15	9.1.1		D Stansbie	2
16	9.1.1	Seminar	A Smith	0.5
17	9.1.1		D Stansbie	0.5
18	9.1.1		L Allen	0.5
19	9.1.1		R Shaffrey	0.5
20	9.1.1		I Scott	1
21	9.1.1		E Evans	0.5
22	9.1.1		E Huckerby	0.5
23	9.1.1		A Witkin	0.5
24	9.1.1		H Keeley	1
		Stratigraphy and Illustrations		

25	9.2	Enter outstanding excavation records onto the database	K Brady	5
26	9.2	Stratigraphic Analysis	D Stansbie	8
27	9.2	Integration of CAD plans with GIS	CAD Operator	4
28	9.2	Spatial analysis of finds/environmental data	D Stansbie	5
29	9.2	Produce site narrative	D Stansbie	5
30	9.2	Prepare drawing briefs for publication plans + sections	D Stansbie	2
31	9.2	Illustrations (phase plans, sections etc)	Illustrator	10
32	9.2	Check Illustrations	D Stansbie	1
33	9.2	Illustrations (corrections)	Illustrator	4
		Finds Pottery		
34	9.3	Pottery processing and basic recording	D Stansbie	5
35	9.3	Write pottery report	D Stansbie	4
36	9.3	Prepare pottery drawing briefs	D Stansbie	0.5
37	9.3	Pottery illustrations	Illustrator	3
38	9.3	Check pottery illustrations	D Stansbie	0.5
		Finds Worked Stone		
39	9.4	Worked stone full publication standard catalogue	R Shaffrey	0.5
40	9.4	Lithological analysis including 2 thin sections	R Shaffrey	1
41	9.4	Research of prehistoric stone use, whetstones and processors	R Shaffrey	1
42	9.4	Investigation into saddle quern manufacture and distribution	R Shaffrey	1
43	9.4	Report writing	R Shaffrey	2.5
44	9.4	Drawing briefs plus checking and editing report	R Shaffrey	0.5
45	9.4	Illustrate worked stone	Illustrator	2.5
		Finds Other		
46	9.5	Edit metalwork assessment report for full publication	I Scott	1
47	9.6 and 9.7	Edit fired clay/CBM assessment reports for full publication	D Stansbie	0.5
48	9.8	Edit flint assessment report for full publication	D Stansbie	0.5
49	9.9	Edit Jet bead report for publication	L Allen	0.5
		Finds Environmental		
50	9.12	Charred remains - sorting samples	Technician	1
51	9.12	Charred remains Identification and report	M Robinson	1.5
52	9.12	Waterlogged remains - sorting samples	Technician	3
53	9.12	Waterlogged remains - analysis and report	M Robinson	3
54	9.12	Sorting of sample 128 (40 litres) for insects	Technician	2
55	9.12	Analysis and report on insect remains	M Robinson	2
56	9.12	Preparation of pollen cores	Technician	6
57	9.12	Rapid Assessment of pollen cores	E Huckerby	3
58	9.12	Analysis of pollen cores and report preparation	E Huckerby	20
59	9.12	Incorporation of results into final report	M Robinson	0.5
60	9.11	Edit Animal bone assessment report for full publication	E Evans	1
61	9.1	Human bone literature search	A Witkin	0.5
62	9.1	Edit human bone assessment report for full publication	A Witkin	2
		Report Assembly, Production and Editing		
63	9.14	Assemble Specialist reports	D Stansbie	2
64	9.14	Produce Report and discussion	D Stansbie	4
65	9.14	Produce Report and discussion	A Smith	2
66	9.14	Edit Report	A Smith	4
		Archives and Finds Deposition		
67	9.16	Preparation of digital archive	P Miles	1
68	9.16	Microfilm research archive	E Bedford	2
69	9.16	Assemble paper archive	E Bedford	2
70	9.16	Finds deposition	L Allen	1
71	9.16	Finds deposition	R Grant	2
72	9.16	Finds deposition: transport	Technician	1

11.3 Costs

Costs 2005/6				
OA Staff		Days	Rate	Cost
Project manager	A Smith	14.5	179	£2,596
Project officer	D Stansbie	39.5	120	£4,740
Publications manager	A Barclay	1	179	£179
Finds manager	L Allen	2.5	139	£348
Archive manager	O Pierpoint	1	139	£139
Graphic Office manager	P Backhouse	1	179	£179
Geomatics manager	T Evans	1	179	£179
Environmental manager	D Challinor	2	139	£278
IT support	P Miles	3	179	£537
Database manager	tba	1	139	£139
Specialist	D Stansbie	10	120	£1,200
Specialist	A Witkin	3	120	£360
Specialist	E Huckerby	23.5	120	£2,820
Specialist	E Evans	1.5	120	£180
Specialist	L Allen	0.5	139	£70
Specialist	R Shaffrey	7	120	£840
Research Assistant	K Brady	5	98	£490
CAD operator	tba	4	120	£480
Illustrator	tba	19.5	120	£2,340
Finds assistant	R Grant	2	82	£164
Technician	tba	13	82	£1,066
Archives	E Bedford	4	82	£328
Total salary costs for year				£19,651
External Specialists				
Metalwork	I Scott	2	150	£300
Environmental	M Robinson	7	250	£1,750
Stone thin section x 2 (@£20/section)				£40
Total specialist fees for year				£2,090
Non-staff costs				
Transport				£200
Computer/graphics consumables				£100
Total non-staff costs for year				£300
Overheads				
OA staff @ 25%				£4,913
External @ 10%				£209
Total overheads				£5,134
TOTAL COST 2005/6				£27,162

11.4 Project Cascade



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: POTTERY

by Dan Stansbie

1. Introduction

A total of 1772 sherds, weighing 10,432 g, were recovered during two seasons of fieldwork between 2003 and 2004. This material was rapidly scanned to determine context dates and to assess the character of the pottery. The ceramic evidence divided into two main periods - Iron Age and Roman. No detailed examination of the pottery was undertaken. A note was made of the most diagnostic Roman pottery using OA's standard recording system for fabrics.

2. Results

2.1 Middle Iron Age

All shell-tempered and limestone-tempered pottery was dated to the Middle Iron Age and separated from the rest of the assemblage. A small proportion of sand-tempered fabrics was also assigned to this period, but its identification is uncertain and may more properly belong to the Roman period. Middle Iron Age pottery totalled 644 sherds, weighing 3368 g, representing 32% of the whole assemblage by weight. Five slack-sided jars are present, all in shell tempered ware or shell and limestone tempered ware along with a single handmade everted rim jar and a simple rimmed bowl. There are also a number of undiagnostic rim forms. Unsurprisingly both the pot types and the fabrics are paralleled in the Middle Iron Age assemblage from the nearby site of Thornhill Farm, Fairford (Timby 2004, 90-108).

2.2 Late Iron Age

Grog-tempered pottery along with some limestone-tempered and some shell and limestone-tempered wares were dated to the late Iron Age. Late Iron Age pottery totalled 229 sherds, weighing 1206 g, representing 12% of the whole assemblage by weight. Two hand made everted rim jars are present, along with four wheel made everted rim jars and a high shouldered narrow-necked jar with a double shoulder cordon. There is also one bead rim vessel and the base of a jar with a hole drilled through the centre. Both pot types and fabrics are paralleled in the Late Iron Age assemblage from Thornhill Farm (Timby 2004, 90-108).

2.3 Roman

Roman pottery forms the largest proportion of the assemblage, taking a 55% share (5738 g). This was predominantly of early Roman date, largely comprising locally produced North Wiltshire wares (both oxidised and reduced) and Severn Valley wares. Everted-rimmed jars are typical in these fabrics, although a trumpet mouthed flagon, a lid or platter and at least two flanged bowls are also present. Savernake ware is also well represented, with two everted-rimmed jars. Fine and specialist wares are also present but not in significant quantities. A small amount of black burnished ware is present, along with an imitation black-burnished ware cooking pot made from a local sandy fabric. Samian ware is scarce and most, if not all is South Gaulish. Some pieces may have originated from Central Gaulish production centres, but together emphasise an early Roman date. A North Gaulish white ware mortarium was also present, as was a disc shaped counter made from an amphora body sherd.

2.4 Condition

With an average sherd weight of 6g, the condition of the pottery assemblage as a whole is average. Surfaces are generally poor, however with many sherds showing a high degree of abrasion. Roman finewares in particular are poorly preserved, with many of the samian sherds nearly devoid of slip. Residuality is difficult to assess without full recording. However, some shell-tempered ware sherds were noted in contexts that must date to the late Iron Age or Roman periods.

3. Potential

The pottery assemblage is clearly significant and offers potential for further study. The size of the middle Iron Age assemblage and the range of fabrics and forms present ensure that it will make a significant contribution to the regional type-assemblage. Further study may help to throw light on the geographical origins and local distribution of the middle Iron Age shelly limestone wares. The late Iron Age assemblage, although smaller than the Middle Iron Age group will help to throw light on regional chronologies, site status and local trading links, given its size and the range of forms and fabrics present. The Roman pottery is also worthy of further study, as it represents a reasonably large assemblage with a restricted date range. A small number of good groups with reasonably well preserved datable, diagnostic, material are evident. Such material should provide well-dated sequences, which can inform about pottery supply to the site. The pottery can also help to chart site chronology. The virtual cessation of the settlement during the late second or early third century is interesting, and reference to work carried out at nearby Thornhill Farm (Jennings *et al.* 2004) should be made to determine any shifts in settlement focus. The presence of samian, black burnished ware and a North Gaulish white ware mortarium in particular provides useful evidence for site status (essentially rural, but with high status elements). Analysis into functional composition may also contribute to this. Questions regarding context formation may also be addressed, revealing social practices such as rubbish disposal and perhaps structured deposition.

4. Recommendations

It is proposed that the assemblage (except the pottery from sieved sample residues, which will be scanned rapidly) be fully recorded using the standard procedures of the well-established OA Roman pottery recording system (Booth 1992) with modifications as appropriate, in particular to accommodate local fabric types not at present specifically referenced in the system. The system is cross-referenced to the national Roman pottery fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

The pottery will be examined by context groups and recorded in terms of fabric, form, decoration and use and reuse characteristics. Quantification will be by sherd count, weight and EVEs to maximise the potential of the data. The data will be entered into an Access database and will be manipulated with links to the site context database. The report will aim to present a full account of the pottery in terms of the following headings:

Introduction: quantities, methods, condition and general character of assemblage.
Fabrics: description, quantification and discussion.
Forms: description, quantification and discussion.

General discussion: chronological range and character of assemblage, nature of supply and its economic implications (trade etc), functional aspects, regional (and wider if appropriate) comparisons, status.

Illustrated catalogue of pottery by context/phase groups.

Table 1 Iron Age and Roman Pottery

Ctx	Sh no	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
116	1	1	sand tempered	MIA/LIA
189	2	13	sand-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
216	3	8	Shell-tempered	MIA/LIA
218	3	19	oolitic limestone-tempered	MIA/LIA
224	6	14	Grog-tempered 1 base sherd	E1-L1
295	3	12	black surfaced ware R50 imitation black burnished ware, 1 Cooking jar	E2-M2
302	4	21	grog-tempered ware	LIA
314	2	6	Grog-tempered ware	LIA
315	1	4	North Wilts oxidised ware O30	L1-L2
323	3	71	central Gaulish samian S30 Dragendorf 37, black-burnished ware B11 (1 everted rimmed necked jar)	L1- L2
341	2	15	Severn Valley ware O40, sandy grey ware R20	L1-M2
352	2	4	Severn Valley Ware O40	L1-M2
375	17	69	coarse shell tempered ware, fine sandy ware	MIA/LIA
376	6	8	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
379	11	10	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
380	5	14	Shell-tempered	MIA/LIA
386	55	311	Limestone and shell tempered (C24), 1 slack sided /barrel shaped jar	MIA/LIA
391	3	17	Shell-Tempered	MIA/LIA
396	2	10	coarse shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
398	7	43	sand-tempered	MIA/LIA
402	4	17	coarse shell-tempered	MIA/LIA
419	3	31	Shell tempered, 2 rim sherds	MIA/LIA
420	9	28	Shell and limestone tempered ware, sand-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
423	1	5	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
436	92	711	Shell and Limestone tempered C24 slack-sided handmade jar	MIA/LIA
452	1	19	Shell and limestone tempered ware	MIA/LIA
458	8	26	Shell and Limestone tempered ware, grog-tempered ware, sand tempered ware, Severn valley ware O40	E1-L1
461	5	8	Shell-tempered	MIA/LIA
462	1	5	Severn Valley ware O40, 1 everted rim jar	L1-L2
481	3	88	coarse shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
489	4	51	shell and limestone tempered ware 1 base, shell tempered ware	MIA/LIA
493	4	28	Shell tempered	MIA/LIA
497	3	99	coarse shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
499	29	111	Shell tempered 1 rim	MIA/LIA
525	4	47	Shell tempered ware, 1 slack-sided jar, shell and limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
567	4	55	shell-tempered	MIA/LIA
569	7	134	Severn Valley ware O40, Limestone and shell-tempered	M1st
570	58	161	Shell tempered	MIA/LIA
581	3	5	Coarse Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
602	1	5	Sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
604	40	556	Severn Valley Ware O40, Malvernian limestone tempered ware, limestone tempered ware 1 necked everted rim jar , grog tempered ware 2 necked everted rim jars	M 1stAD
605	1	7	Black-burnished ware B11	L1-L2
608	13	40	Limestone-tempered ware, grog-tempered 1 high-shouldered necked jar	E1-L1
614	4	14	Shell and limestone tempered ware	MIA/LIA
618	1	7	Coarse shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
647	2	10	Shell-tempered ware, shell and limestone tempered ware	MIA/LIA
651	14	18	Shell-tempered ware, Shell and limestone tempered ware	MIA/LIA
651	14	18	limestone-tempered	MIA/LIA
665	1	20	North wilts fine grey ware, R10	L1-L2

714	2	24	coarse shell-tempered	MIA/LIA
816	6	9	Shell and Limestone-tempered	MIA/LIA
818	5	17	Shell-tempered 1 slack-sided/barrel shaped jar	MIA/LIA
825	6	12	Shell tempered	MIA/LIA
833	10	23	Severn valley Ware O40, black-surfaced ware R50	L1-L2
834	2	14	(Severn Valley ware) O40	L1-M2
855	3	61	Shell and Limestone tempered	MIA/LIA
857	12	21	Shell-tempered, Severn valley ware O40 1 necked everted rim jar	L1-L2
861	9	97	Limestone and shell tempered , 1 slack sided jar, burnt	MIA/LIA
862	1	5	Shell and Limestone-tempered	MIA/LIA
864	4	85	coarse shell-tempered ware 1 simple rim bowl	MIA/LIA
865	2	14	R20 sandy grey ware, 1 undiagnostic rim sherd	Roman
1001	2	11	Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1002	1	5	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1003	2	6	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1004	23	188	Grog-tempered ware	LIA
1005	3	28	Grog-tempered ware	LIA
1006	12	19	North Wilts Oxidised ware O30	L1-L3
1007	2	71	Savernake ware E81	L1-L2
1008	1	4	Shell-tempered ware	MIA
1009	3	11	Severn Valley ware O40	L1-L2
1010	3	6	Severn valley ware O40	L1-L2
1011	27	54	Shell-tempered ware, Sand tempered ware	MIA
1012	3	14	Sand-tempered barrel shaped jar	MIA
1013	2	7	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware, North Wilts sandy grey ware R20 1 everted rim jar, grog-tempered ware	L1-L3
1014	7	140	Grog-tempered 1 jar hole drilled in base	LIA
1015	1	12	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1016	22	57	Grog-tempered ware 1 everted rim jar, 1 body cordon	M1-L1
1017	6	23	Grog-tempered 1 everted rim jar	M1-L1
1018	4	18	Shell and Limestone tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1019	8	6	North Wilts sandy grey ware	L1-L3
1020	1	2	North wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1021	3	5	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1022	1	19	North wilts sandy grey ware R20 1 everted rim jar	L1-L3
1023	3	12	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1023	3	12	North Wilts Oxidised ware)30	L1-L3
1024	3	27	Coarse shell-tempered ware, grog-tempered ware	LIA
1026	18	52	Limestone tempered ware 1 bead rim vessel, grog-tempered ware	LIA
1027	1	16	North Wilts Fine grey ware R10	L1-M3
1028	2	4	Shell and limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1029	3	152	North Gaulish White ware Mortaria	L1-M2
1030	7	42	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, 1 Lid or platter	L1-L3
1030	7	42	North Wiltshire sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
1031	63	704	Savernake Ware E81 1 everted rim necked jar	L1-L2
1032	7	80	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, Savernake ware E81	L1-L2
1033	10	84		
1033	10	84	North Wiltshire sandy grey ware R20, rusticated decoration	L1-M2
1034	76	324	Grog-tempered ware, North Wilts fine grey ware R10 North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, 1 everted rim jar	L1-E2
1035	48	186	Savernake ware E81, North Wilts sandy grey ware 1 everted rim necked jar R20	M1-L1
1036	6	56	Savernake Ware E81	L1-M2
1037	14	36	Severn valley ware O40, North Wilts Sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
1038	4	32	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3

1039	3	30	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20 1 everted rim jar	L1-L3
1040	2	4	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
1041	1	6	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1042	1	2	Severn valley ware O40	L1-L2
1043	7	23	Shell and Limestone tempered ware C24	MIA/LIA
1044	13	54	Limestone and shell-tempered ware 1 hand made everted rim	LIA
1045	10	19	Grog-tempered ware	LIA
1046	1	2	Grog and sand tempered ware	LIA
1047	2	15	Savernake ware E81	L1-L2
1048	6	31	Grog-tempered ware	LIA
1049	2	4	Shell-tempered bead rim vessel	MIA/LIA
1065	4	34	North Wilts Sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1066	2	5	Grog-tempered ware, shell-tempered ware	LIA
1067	1	5	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1068	1	52	Limestone tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1069	2	5	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1070	1	2	Central Gaulish samian	E2-L2
1078	2	8	Grog-tempered R20	LIA
1079	3	8	Grog-tempered ware 1 everted rim jar, Shell and limestone tempered ware, Savernake-tempered ware	L1-L2
1080	3	2	South Gaulish samian S20	M1-E2
1081	2	3	Shell and limestone tempered ware C24	MIA/LIA
1082	2	14	Limestone and shell-tempered 1 hand made everted rim jar	LIA
1083	2	6	Sandy	MIA/LIA
1084	2	33	grog-tempered 1 base	LIA
1085	13	54	Grog-tempered 1 everted rimmed necked jar	L1
1086	7	40	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20 1 everted rim necked jar	L1-L3
1087	1	10	sparse shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1104	1	8	Severn Valley ware O40	L1-M2
1107	1	7	Severn Valley Ware O40	L1-L2
1110	1	6	North Wilts oxidised ware O30	L1-L3
1112	3	16	North Wilts Fine grey ware R10	L1-L2
1119	2	43	Savernake ware	M1-M2
1121	6	38	Sandy grey ware	Roman
1145	2	4	Savernake Ware E81, North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
1167	1	2	Grog-tempered	LIA
1185	7	28	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1207	4	6	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1207	4	6	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
1217	3	6	Shell tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1266	11	14	Limestone-tempered ware, Severn Valley Ware	L1-L2
1341	2	92	Savernake ware E81, North Wilts grey ware R20 1 flanged bowl	L1-L2
1349	5	70	Grog and sand-tempered ware 1 wheel made necked jar	LIA
1363	1	13	Sand-tempered Glaucontic	MIA/LIA
1373	1	39	Savernake ware E81	E1-L1
1386	10	62	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, North Wilts fine grey ware R10, Shell-tempered ware, Severn valley ware O40	L1-L2
1389	6	36	Grog/organic-tempered 1 everted rim necked jar, Savernake ware E81	E1-L1
1423	1	33	Amphora counter	Roman
1428	1	5	Sand-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1438	1	2	North Wilts Oxidised ware O30	L1-L2
1450	1	5	Grog-tempered 1 everted rim necked jar	LIA
1463	1	25	Severn Valley ware O40	L1-M2
1479	1	8	Severn Valley ware O40	L1-M2

1512	6	90	Savernake ware, North Wilts fine grey ware R10, 1 flanged bowl	L1-L2
1521	2	10	South Gaulish samian	M1-E2
1522	1	4	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1523	1	3	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
1524	4	6	Grog/organic/flint-tempered	L1A
1525	1	8	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20 1 everted rimmed jar	L1-L3
1539	2	15	Severn Valley Ware O40	L1-M2
1557	4	16	Savernake ware E81	E1-L1
1566	2	3	North Wilts oxidised ware	L1-L3
1583	1	4	Sandy grey ware R20	Roman
1588	3	6	North Wilts Sandy grey ware R20 1 everted rim jar, Grog-tempered ware	L1-L2
1596	55	644	Grog and sand-tempered ware, Shell-tempered ware 1 slack-sided jar, Savernake ware E81 1 everted rim jar, North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, 1 everted rim jar	L1-E2
1599	4	15	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, Savernake Ware E81	L1-L2
1616	2	4	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1629	2	3	Shell and Limestone tempered ware C24	MIA/LIA
1654	1	3	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1656	1	7	North Wilts sandy grey ware	L1-L3
1671	1	14	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1697	1	2	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1715	2	4	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1795	11	68	Shell-tempered ware bead rim jar, Savernake-tempered ware E81, North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
1867	1	17	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1874	2	6	Coarse shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1875	1	33	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1878	5	5	Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
1901				
1901	6	7	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware 1 rim sherd (slack-sided/barrel shaped jar), Grog-tempered ware	LIA
1912	3	12	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1926	8	58	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, 1 everted rim jar	L1-L3
1932	2	6	Sand-tempered ware	LIA
1936	32	108	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, Savernake Ware E81	L1-L2
1970	2	13	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3
1973	30	78	North Wilts fine grey ware R20	L1-L3
2039	1	6	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2043	1	10	Limestone-tempered ware 1 handmade everted rim jar	MIA/LIA
2049	4	12	Limestone-tempered ware, Severn Valley ware O40	L1-L2
2050	1	1	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA
2051	8	10	Shell-tempered ware, sand-tempered ware, Severn valley ware O40	L1-L2
2063	8	167	North Wilts Oxidised ware O30, 1 Flagon, North Wilts Sandy grey ware R20 2 everted rim necked jars, Savernake ware E81	L1-E2
2068	39	118	Grog-tempered ware, Savernake Ware E81, North Wilts sandy grey ware R20 1 everted rim jar	L1-L2
2087	8	5	Severn-Valley ware O40	L1-L2
2094	6	10	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2099	1	1	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2101	5	18	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware, Severn valley ware O40	L1-L2
2103	1	1	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2106	1	3	Shell and Limestone-tempered pottery	MIA/LIA
2116	2	10	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2157	4	22	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2169	1	1	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2171	4	18	Coarse shell-tempered ware, Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2174	1	4	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L3

2213	2	7	Grog-tempered ware, shell and limestone tempered ware	LIA
2217	4	10	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2220	16	36	Limestone-tempered ware, Grog-tempered ware 1 shoulder cordon	MIA-LIA
2227	1	15	Sand-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2244	2	1	North Wilts Oxidised ware O30	L1-L3
2248	2	7	Grog-tempered (shoulder cordon)	LIA
2266	61	300	Grog-tempered ware, 1 jar with shoulder cordon, Severn valley ware O40	L1-L2
2308	23	184	North Wilts sandy grey ware R20, North Wilts fine grey ware R10, Severn Valley ware O40	L1-L2
2309	2	5	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2319	1	1	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2322	3	50	Savernake Ware E81, North Wilts sandy grey ware R20	L1-L2
2362	1	2	Savernake Ware E81	L1-L2
2392	3	3	Sand-tempered	MIA/LIA
2393	3	10	Shell-tempered ware, horizontal incised cordon below oblique incised lines	MIA/LIA
2404	4	2	Limestone-tempered	MIA/LIA
2428	2	2	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2458	19	41	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware, Grog-tempered ware	LIA
2461	2	2	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2462	59	254	Grog-tempered ware 1 jar with neck cordon, Shell and Limestone tempered ware	LIA
2501	30	207	Shell-tempered, 1 jar (base)	MIA/LIA
2504	1	9	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2505	2	4	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2512	4	6	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2515	3	8	Shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2552	10	32	Shell-tempered ware, sand tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2581	12	145	Sand-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2592	30	15	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2594	3	36	Shell and Limestone-tempered ware, sand-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2620	1	2	South Gaulish samian ware	L1-E2
2654	9	90	Coarse shell-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2658	3	12	Sand-tempered ware	MIA/LIA
2678	30	173	Shell-tempered ware, 1 everted rim jar	LIA

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APPENDIX 2: WORKED FLINT

by Rebecca Devaney

1. Introduction

A single piece of flint, a possible end scraper, (SF. 33) was recovered from context 2662.

2. Results

The scraper is made on a small, plunging flake. It has a lipped bulb, which is indicative of a soft hammer mode. There is direct retouch on the distal left and right, however, the scraper has suffered moderate post-depositional damage and it is likely that the retouch continued around the distal end to form an end scraper.

3. Potential

The worked flint assemblage has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

4. Recommendations

No further work is required.

APPENDIX 3: WORKED STONE*by Ruth Shaffrey***1. Introduction**

A total of 44 pieces of stone were retained during the excavations at Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit). The majority of these are chunks of burnt unworked limestone, but there is also a saddle quern, a rubber, a processor and a whetstone. All the stone was briefly looked at and where necessary, examined with the aid of a x10 magnification hand lens. The weight of the burnt stone was recorded by the finds department.

2. Results

The assemblage includes three pieces of worked stone and one piece of unworked but utilised stone. All four are very good examples of stone artefacts and the three worked items are all extremely well made. It is rather unusual for all the worked stone from a site to be of such high quality, but it is unlikely that this is attributable to any one phase of activity, as they appear to represent different dates. The rubber and saddle quern are both of Prehistoric date while the whetstone is of Roman date. One other 'small find' is unworked.

Table 1. Catalogue of worked stone

Context	SFNO	Description	Notes	Lithology
481		Possible multi-functional processor / hammerstone	Flat, oval, well-rounded pebble used as a hammerstone and possibly for other things as there is some polish on the surface	
2501	29	Rubber fragment	Nicely shaped but only edge fragment remains. Burnt / blackened on one edge.	ORS? Needs thin section
1034	34	Complete cigar shaped whetstone	Very well used with concave profiles on all four sides.	Probably Kentish Rag but deserves closer look
855	5	Half a saddle quern	Beautifully made. Pecked all over and nicely shaped. Heavily blackened and burnt in one particular zone on base where exposed	ORS? Needs thin section

Table 2 Catalogue of burnt un-worked stone

Context	Weight (g)	Description	Lithology
476		Lump of ironstone, unworked	Ironstone
458		unworked fossil	
1792		SF 25. Small chunk with a hole through it, but this appears to be natural	Shelly limestone

Table 3 Catalogue of un-worked stone

Context	Weight (g)	Description	Lithology
216	3109	9 burnt and unworked chunks	Limestone
365	596	3 burnt and unworked chunks	Limestone
118	786	6 burnt and unworked chunks	Limestone
142	34	1 burnt and unworked chunk	Limestone
376	5	1 burnt and unworked chunk	Limestone
218	754	3 burnt and unworked chunks	Limestone
532	556	2 burnt and unworked chunks	Limestone
529	464	5 burnt and unworked chunks	Limestone
2554	4389	burnt chunks. One is very large and has holes but these are natural	Limestone

3. Potential

The worked stone assemblage is small but valuable given the high quality of the workmanship and the fact that at least two or possibly three of the items appear to have been imported; this would be clarified by further analysis. If the two prehistoric items were imported, this would add to our growing understanding of the distribution of stone artefacts in the region. That aspect is worthy of expansion, especially if the artefacts come from well-stratified and non-residual contexts; the saddle quern has been reused, presumably in a hearth but it will be interesting to see if it still comes from an early context. The processor also has potential. It is a beautiful example that may be interpreted as having some status attached to it and the multi-functionality of it needs to be further investigated. The whetstone is unstratified but is of Roman date and a brief discussion of how it fits with the regional evidence is warranted. In addition, analysis of the distribution of the density of burnt stone can inform about activity on site.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the worked stone be fully recorded and analysed. A study should be made of the distribution of the burnt un-worked stone. The saddle quern and rubber need to be thin sectioned in order to determine a provenance and the whetstone needs to be more closely examined (this should not be thin sectioned as it is complete). All four worked items should be illustrated as they are excellent examples. The purpose of the processor needs to be assessed and, as very little focus has been made in the past on the multi-functionality of such items, this could be expanded. All four items need to be assessed in relation to their context of discovery and discussion should focus on:

- context of recovery - are any deliberate depositions given their high quality?, are they well stratified?
- the prehistoric use of stone (imported and otherwise) in the region, and what these examples add to our understanding (even if not stratified)
- the use of Roman whetstones in the area
- the use of multi-functional processors (in its given period)
- the dating and depositional nature of well-worked saddle querns such as this one - can we determine when they were first made to such a high standard and which sites have produced them? It might warrant a map or site list.
- what all the artefacts reveal about the activity on, and status of, the site

APPENDIX 4: METALWORK

by Ian Scott

1. Introduction

1.1 Methodology

The metalwork was recorded in full, and the individual items were assigned to broad functional categories. The information was entered into a digital database. Prior to the Assessment the material was x-rayed. The assemblage was then assessed for Analytical Potential and Group Value.

1.2 Assessment Aims

- (i) To establish the quantity and quality of the assemblage and consider its group value.
- (ii) To identify the range of types present and, where possible, to date objects typologically. The stratigraphic context of the finds was considered but not dealt with in detail at this stage.
- (iii) To establish the level of further analysis is required, to determine the form of the publication report and catalogue, and to identify objects or groups of objects which would be worthy of publication and/or illustration.

2. Results

2.1 Preservation

The preservation of the ironwork is good, although much of the material is encrusted with corrosion products. Much of the material is fragmentary. The copper alloy and lead is well preserved.

2.2 Provenance and Dating

Most of the metal finds (n=65) were recovered from Iron Age or early to middle Romano-British contexts. These finds include 49 hobnails from a single Romano-British grave fill.

Ten fragments of cinder or slag were recovered from a middle to late Iron Age context (ctx 816). A curved length of wire came from a late Iron/early Romano-British context (ctx 2362) but being small could be intrusive. The material from early to middle Romano-British

contexts comprises a small fragment possibly from a knife and three pieces of slag (ctx 289), a single nail fragment (ctx 346) and 49 hobnails (ctx 295).

Two objects came from a single undated feature (ctx 2554). They were a knife with parts of its wooden handle still *in situ* (sf 30) and a possible awl (sf 31). The form of the hafting of the knife suggests that it is of post-medieval in date.

The remaining metalwork (n=9) was recovered by the use of metal detector. None of these pieces is closely datable, or of any particular intrinsic interest.

2.3 Composition of the assemblage

The metalwork assemblage from Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit) comprises 79 pieces, including 58 iron fragments, 13 pieces of slag or cinder, two copper alloy fragments and three lead objects.

The Copper alloy comprises a small cast edge fragment, too small to be closely identified, and a small piece of sheet decorated with six closely set pin holes along one edge. The lead objects comprise a small irregular pierced disc, possibly a small weight, a thick circular pierced weight and a cast object, which has been rolled into a ball. The latter may be a trial casting or a lead model.

The iron includes 49 hobnails, a knife fragment (sf 1) and a knife with part of its wooden handle (sf 30) and an awl (sf 31). Small finds 30 and 31 are from context 2554. The form of the tang of the knife suggests that it is post-medieval in date. The remaining objects consist of miscellaneous scraps.

2.4 Group value

The Group Value of the assemblage is strictly limited. The Iron Age/Romano-British finds are of limited quantity and range, and the assemblage is dominated by hobnails and fragments of cinder or slag. The only identifiable object is a small possible knife fragment. The metal detector finds are undiagnostic. The only distinctive objects are of late date and from an otherwise undated feature (fill 2554, cut 2525).

3. Potential

The metalwork assemblage has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

4. Recommendations

No further work is required.

Table 1 metalwork

Context	Sf No	Phase	Count	L(mm)	W(mm)	Function	Sub-Function	X-ray ref	Metal
816		m-l IA	10			Industrial	Waste	1358	fe
2362	10	l IA -e RB	1	33		Miscellaneous	Wire	1358	fe
289		e-m RB	3			Industrial	Waste	1358	fe
289	1	e-m RB	1	32		Household	Cutlery	1358	fe
295	3	e-m RB	49			Personal	Footwear	1358	fe
346	2	e-m RB	1			Nails		1358	fe
1531	8	md	1	20		Query		1358	cu
1531	9	md	1	20		Query			pb
1699	18	md	1	28		Miscellaneous	Bar	1358	fe

1700	19	md	1	20	20	Query		1358	cu
1701	20	md	1	33		Industrial			pb
1702	21	md	1			Household	Furnishing	1358	fe
1703	22	md	1	71		Miscellaneous	Rod	1358	fe
1704	23	md	1	70	15	Miscellaneous	Strip	1358	fe
1705	24	md	1	24	15	Measure			pb
2554	30	undated	1	215		Household	Cutlery	1359	fe
2554	31	undated	1	125		Tool	Carpenter	1358	fe

APPENDIX 5: FIRED CLAY

by Dan Stansbie

1. Introduction

An assemblage of 235 fired clay objects weighing 3954 g was recovered from the Coln Gravel (Thornhill farm pit) excavations. This material has been provisionally identified and recorded. The fired clay was assigned to one of four fabrics. Fabric 1 contains sand, but no other obvious inclusions, fabric 2 is calcareous, fabric 3 is limestone tempered and fabric 4 is sandy with grog inclusions. All were oxidised and hard fired. Impressions of organic remains were visible in the surfaces of all fabrics. The majority of the assemblage was identified as fabric 1. The material was largely recovered from undateable or post medieval contexts. The remainder was from contexts of middle/late Iron Age and early Roman date (7% in middle/late Iron Age contexts by weight and 12% in early Roman contexts by weight).

2. Results

The majority of the fired clay was assigned to fabrics 1 and 4 and is likely to have been used in a structural capacity. Some of this material was hard fired, with smooth surfaces, but much of it was more amorphous. One piece from context 2039 had three finger tip impressions. A few pieces (e.g. in contexts 138, 1358 and 2367) appeared to have come from hearth or oven bases.

Table 1 Fired Clay tempering agent (e.g. sand) is given for examples of clay prepared before firing

Ctx	Type/Prepared Fabric	Count	Weight	Comments
138	fired clay/sand	8	222	structural/hearth/oven base
462	fired clay/sand	1	9	structural/daub
493	fired clay/sand/limestone	1	3	structural/daub
602	fired clay/sand	1	7	structural/daub
825	fired clay/sand	3	9	structural/daub
864	fired clay/sand	5	39	structural/daub
1004	fired/clay	1	1	structural/daub
1010	fired clay/sand	1	4	structural/daub
1016	fired clay/clay pellets	2	12	structural
1024	fired clay/sand	8	27	structural
1025	fired clay/sand	2	6	structural
1026	fired clay/sand	2	5	structural/daub
1028	fired clay/calcareous	3	9	structural/daub

1032	fired clay/sand	2	7	structural 1 surface present
1035	fired clay/sand	1	4	structural/daub
1037	fired clay/sand	3	32	structural/daub
1039	fired clay/organic	3	9	structural/daub
1082	fired clay/sand	2	7	structural
1083	fired clay/sand	1	8	structural/daub
1087	fired clay/sand	2	8	structural/daub
1145	fired clay/sand	1	3	structural
1266	fired clay/sand/ fired clay/calcareous	3	8	structural/daub
1358	fired clay sand/fired clay limestone	12	98	structural/hearth/oven/ 1 surface present
1512	fired clay/sand	1	3	structural/daub
1588	fired clay	1	2	structural/daub
1629	fired clay/sand	2	37	structural, 1 surface present
1641	fired clay/calcareous	1	5	structural/daub
1878	fired clay/calcareous	8	31	structural/daub 1 surface present
1903	fired clay/ sand	1	2	structural/daub
1932	fired clay/sandy calcareous	12	35	structural/daub
1970	fired clay/ clay pellets	1	16	structural/daub
2039	fired clay/organic	1	37	structural/daub 3 finger tip impressions
2051	fired clay/sand	2	12	structural
2053	fired clay/ calcareous	1	2	structural/daub
2167	fired clay/sand	1	36	structural
2169	fired clay/sand	1	5	structural/daub
2170	fired clay/calcareous	4	10	structural/daub
2174	fired clay	1	2	structural/daub
2229	fired clay/sand	17	327	structural/ 1 surface present
2308	fired clay/sand	7	24	structural/daub
2314	fired clay/sand	3	5	structural/daub
2336	fired clay/sand-fired clay/sand/calcareous-fired clay/organic	21	1714	structural 1 surface present-hearth/oven base/daub
2362	fired clay/sand/calcareous-fired clay/sand	32	367	hearth/oven base 1 surface present
2367	fired clay/calcareous	1	36	structural/hearth/oven base
2392	fired clay/sand	1	7	structural
2429	fired clay/sand	1	2	structural/daub
2504	fired clay/organic	1	9	structural/daub
2515	fired clay/sand	6	45	structural
2554	fired clay/ sand	11	183	structural 2 surfaces
2583	fired clay/limestone	5	8	structural
2678	fired clay/calcareous	1	10	structural

3. Potential

Pottery dating should help to define the chronology of the fired clay assemblage more closely.

4. Recommendations

No further work is recommended except for basic publication editing.

APPENDIX 6: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

by Dan Stansbie

1. Introduction and Results

Forty six fragments of undiagnostic ceramic building material were recovered.

2. Potential

The ceramic building material assemblage has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

3. Recommendations

Beyond editing this report for publication no further work is required.

APPENDIX 7 THE JET BEAD

by Leigh Allen

1. Introduction

A single jet bead (SF 6) of Roman date was recovered from context 1076, it was briefly described.

2. Results

The bead is sub-rectangular in shape with a domed face and has a small indentation at the centre and incised notches at the rounded corners. The long sides of the bead are undercut and pierced laterally by two holes. The undercut sides would have allowed the bead to sit up against the next and form a curve to fit around the wrist or arm.

3. Potential

The jet bead has negligible potential for further analysis and publication.

4. Recommendations

Beyond editing this report for full publication no further work is required

APPENDIX 8: HUMAN REMAINS

by Annsofie Witkin

1. Introduction

This report assesses the potential for further analysis of the human skeletal remains from Coln gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit). The assemblage comprises ten poorly preserved adult inhumations. Skeleton 1858 dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, skeletons 1054, 1058, 1062 and 1075 date to the early Roman period and skeletons 259, 263, 265, 299 and 355 to the Roman period. This is based on associated finds and the location of the burials to other dated features.

The inhumations were examined to determine preservation, completeness, age and sex where possible, as well as potential for further analysis in accordance to the guidelines for producing assessments for human bone (Mays *et al* 2002). An age estimate was based on dental attrition (Miles 1962). Any pathological lesions observed were noted.

2. Results

2.1 Summary

All of the remains were in very poor condition with extensive cortical erosion. All the bones, including the crania, were also heavily fragmented. The completeness of the remains was also poor with between 2% and 25% surviving from each skeleton. The preservation and completeness is summarised in Table 1.

All the remains were from adult individuals, only one could be sexed, skeleton 355, which is male. Four individuals have part of the dentition present which enabled these to be aged. Three skeletons (299, 355 and 1858) were aged between 30 and 40 years and one, skeleton 1075, was aged between 18 and 24 years.

Only one individual (299) has pathological lesions present which consist of two carious lesions.

2.2 Provenance

Four of the inhumation burials (1054, 1058, 1062, 1075) were located together in a small area in the south-western end of the site. Another grave cut (1071) was also within this area but no bone had survived.

Skeleton 1858 was situated on the south-eastern part of the site between two late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure ditches (1595 and 1938).

Skeletons 259, 263, 265, 299 and 355 were located in the far south-western end of the site. The burials were in a line adjacent to a boundary ditch dated to the 1st and 2nd century AD. Another two possible grave cuts were in this area but no bones were recovered.

2.3 Burial practice

The orientation of the adult graves was generally broadly south-north or north-south. The individuals were predominately buried supine but one was crouched (1858). Only one of the burials contained grave goods in the form of hobnails located at the feet of skeleton 355 (see Table 2).

3. Potential

The articulated skeletons are overall in a very poor state of preservation and completeness. There is therefore no potential for further analysis.

4. Recommendations

However, the final report should include a more detailed discussion of the remains as well as a catalogue. The report should include the following which should follow the guidelines set out in IFA paper number 7 (Brickley and McKinley 2004)

- Skeletal inventory and preservation
- Dental inventory
- Age assessment
- Sex determination
- Dental pathology

The location of the burials in the landscape, the grave goods present, orientation and body positioning are all important aspects of funerary ritual which merit a full discussion and should form part of the final report with appropriate comparative examples.

APPENDIX 9: ANIMAL BONE

by *Emma-Jayne Evans*

1. Introduction

This report encompasses the animal bones from the site at Coln Gravel (Thornhill Farm Pit), from which a total of 2118 fragments (12916 g) of bone and teeth were excavated.

Identification of the bone was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology with access to the reference collection and published guides. All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Also, fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as small (small mammal size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

The quantification of species was carried out using the total fragment count, in which the total number of fragments of bone and teeth was calculated, and this figure broken down to the total number of fragments identifiable to each species. In addition the minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated using the zoning method (Serjeantson, 1996). The elements used for working out MNI do not include ribs, vertebra, loose teeth, tarsals and carpals unless these are the only elements present.

Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985), Grant (1982), and Levine (1982), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult (fully fused) bones were taken according to the methods of von den

Driesch (1976), with asterisked (*) measurements indicating bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface.

2. Results

2.1 Quantity of material

All of the hand collected animal bone from Thornhill Farm has been fully analysed and recorded for this assessment. Almost all the bone has fresh breaks, and re-fitting of broken fragments has reduced the total fragment count to 745.

2.2 Species Representation

A total of 172 fragments of bone and teeth were identifiable to species, 23.1% of the total number of bones assessed. All of the identifiable bone is from domestic species, as shown in Table 1 below. None of the sheep/goat bones were identifiable as either sheep or goat.

Table 1 Number of bones identifiable to species (MNI)

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Horse	Pig	Dog	Unidentified	Total
Total	95 (5)	34 (3)	36 (3)	6 (1)	1 (1)	573	745

2.3 Condition

The bone has survived in poor condition, with the majority scoring 3 or 4 using Lyman's grading system. The degree of fragmentation has no doubt affected the number of bones identifiable to species and the amount of information that can be gained from the identified bone. There is very little butchery evidence, with only seven identifiable bones exhibiting cut and chop marks. Of these seven bones, two cattle skulls have cut marks associated with skinning, with the rest having been chopped for marrow extraction, or having dismemberment cut marks. None of the bones have gnawing marks, one cattle molar had been burnt (along with eight other small unidentifiable fragments), and ten bones could be measured, although none of these measurements can be used to estimate withers heights. Twelve mandibles could be aged and fusion data is limited. Four bones have pathological changes and articulations were noted between a number cattle and sheep/goat bones.

3. Potential

There is very little potential for the animal bones from this site to reveal the importance and use of animals to the local population.

4. Recommendations

The data to come out of the analysis is very limited and the only work remaining for this site is to analyse any bones that may be present from sieving, and to re-work this assessment into a final report.

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APPENDIX 10: MACROSCOPIC PLANT REMAINS, INSECTS AND SNAILS

by Laila Sikking and Mark Robinson

1. Introduction

A total of 115 samples were taken during the excavation of 2003/2004 for the recovery of waterlogged and charred plant remains, snails, pollen and bones and artefacts. Ninety-eight were assessed, of which 30 samples were for waterlogged remains, 21 samples for charred remains, 25 samples for snails and 22 samples from burial features for bones and artefacts. Half the samples were processed and assessed on site during the excavation to provide feedback on the sampling strategy in the field (see below). Through this process it was decided that some of the original samples were not worth assessing, due to the very limited potential of the environmental material within certain features. The samples for pollen (monoliths) have not been processed and assessed at this stage due to the time constraints of the current assessment.

Soil samples, ranging in size from 10 to 40 litres, were processed for charred plant remains and charcoal by mechanical flotation in a modified Siraf-type machine, with the samples held on a 500µm mesh and the flot collected onto a 250µm mesh. The flots were air-dried and a brief assessment was carried out. The flots (or in the case of larger flots, a sub-sample of material) were rapidly scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification. Any seeds or chaff noted were provisionally identified and an estimate of abundance made.

Samples with waterlogged remains were hand floated with a bucket onto a 250µm mesh. Both flots and residues were kept wet in small containers. Samples taken for the recovery of snails were hand floated with a bucket onto a 500µm mesh and the flots and residues were air-dried.

After an initial brief assessment a selection of flots was taken to Prof. Mark Robinson at the Oxford University Museum for a more detailed examination.

Location and phasing of assessed samples

Samples were taken from a wide variety of features on the 2003 and 2004 excavation sites, with the majority being from ditches (see Table 1). An initial assessment of some of the samples in 2003 indicated that the potential for charred plant remains at this site was limited, with very few of the features producing worthwhile assemblages. Further sampling was more focused upon features/deposits which were most likely to produce good environmental material, including the mid-late Iron Age enclosure ditch 2867, early Roman boundary ditch 2711 and mid Roman trackway ditch 2697. A number of samples are from as yet unphased features but this will be expected to fall upon full stratigraphic analysis.

Feature type	Mid-late Iron Age	Roman	Un-phased at present
Ditch	18	19	11
Pit	0	12	6
Grave	0	18	3
Other (gully, posthole, tree throw etc)	0	1	10
Total	18	50	30

Table 1: Number of assessed samples by phase and feature type

2. Results

2.1 Molluscs

Snails were present in most of the samples taken during the 2004 excavation. The snail samples produce a picture of ditches and pits with stagnant water in the bottom, surrounded by an open landscape. There were no indications found for flowing water in the ditches. A sequence of snail samples <135/1> -<135/7> was retrieved from a pit [2525]. The upper samples contained a wider variety of species than the basal samples of the pit (see results Table 2). The aquatic species *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula* suggest that the pit must have contained temporary puddles of stagnant water and terrestrial species as *Vallonia* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group indicate an open landscape around the pit.

2.2 Waterlogged plant remains and insects

In general, the preservation of the waterlogged samples is quite poor. The waterlogged remains in the samples are deteriorating due to the lowering of the water level in the last 20 years. Live worms were seen in several samples which are a indication of active deterioration. The samples that are relatively better preserved form a picture of damp grassland which was used for pasture and disturbed land. . Sample <128> (2554) from the mid-late Iron Age enclosure ditch (2687) produced the largest range of species of both seeds and insects (see Table 3). The taxa suggest a wet pastoral

grassland and nutrient-rich disturbed ground. Plant species and insects from sample <129> (2501) from the same Iron Age enclosure ditch suggest the presence of waste settlement ground and pastoral land. There are no obvious indications for hedges in the surroundings of the ditch. The sample contains seeds from *Potentilla anserina* (silver-weed: wet pasture land), *Hyoscyamus niger* (henbane: probable presence of dung) and the beetle *Phyllopertha horticola*; all of which indicate grassland. In general, the waterlogged samples from the site create a picture of disturbed land and grassland being grazed by animals. This is consistent with the published results from earlier excavations on the site (Robinson 2004).

The sequence of samples that were taken within a ditch of the Roman trackway (2697) (samples <139> bottom until <144> top) produced a limited number of waterlogged seeds and molluscs. All samples produced snails that indicated that the ditch contained stagnant water and eventually silted up. The only sample that produced waterlogged seeds that are possibly ancient is sample <142> (2524). The seeds were from rush (*Juncus* sp.). The ditches of this Roman trackway that were excavated during earlier seasons produced species that are characteristic of hay meadows (Robinson 2004). None of these species appeared in this sequence of samples.

2.3 Charred plant remains

Only a small number of samples produced charred plant remains (see Table 3). Sample <98> (2089) from early Roman ditch 2711 contained both charred seeds and charcoal. About 30 cereal grains were recognised but most were unidentifiable. The grains that were identifiable consisted of *Hordeum vulgare* ssp. *vulgare* (hulled 6-row barley) and *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (emmer or spelt wheat). The sample also contained mixed carbonised plant material that possibly derived from burned dung or bread. The weed *Galium aparine* (goose-grass) was also present in the sample. Some charcoal was identified as *Alnus/Corylus* (alder/hazel).

Occasionally waterlogged samples contained charred plant remains. Sample <128> (2554) from the Iron Age enclosure (2687) produced a charred wheat grain (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and glume bases from spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*).

3. Potential

The snail samples give a consistent picture of the conditions in and around the ditches and pits. None of the samples had outstanding potential for further analysis.

The results are consistent with those of earlier publications of the site and it is recommended that some limited analysis of the plant remains is included in the final publication.

Sample <128> (2554) from the Iron Age enclosure contained a large range of waterlogged seeds and insects and has the most potential for further analysis. Sample <129> has limited potential for analysis. Sample <124> (1634) from the same enclosure is actively deteriorating (live worms) and is only worth analysing if the feature [1626], a ditch, is considered to be important enough. Only one sample with charred plant remains has potential for further analysis. Sample <98> (2089) from the early Roman ditch 2711 contains barley and wheat and it might be possible to distinguish if the wheat is spelt or emmer.

Analysis of the pollen monoliths is important as there is potential for reconstructing the local environment at the time of sediment deposition.

4. Recommendations

The flots specified should be sorted under a binocular microscope. All seeds, chaff and other identifiable dry charred remains (excluding charcoal) should be picked out, identified in full and quantified. A publication report should then be prepared from the results. Sample 128 (40 litres) will need to be sorted for insects and a publication report prepared from the results.

The waterlogged flots should be sub-sampled to give an equivalent of 0.25 kg and sorted in water under a binocular microscope for plant remains. All the waterlogged remains should be identified in full and quantified. A publication report should be prepared from the results.

Rapid assessment should be conducted of the pollen cores, involving a description of the 6 cores and subsample taking 4 from each monolith therefore making a total of 24 samples. These then need to be prepared using a standard chemical procedure (method B of Berglund & Ralska — Jasiewiczowa (1986)), using HCl, NaOH, sieving, HF, and Erdtman's acetolysis to remove carbonates, humic acids, particles > 170 microns, silicates, and cellulose respectively. A rapid assessment of the pollen should follow, with time not being spent on identifying pollen grains to the lowest possible taxonomic level unless immediately obvious. Indeterminable grains should also be recorded, as an indication of the state of the pollen preservation.

The relevant pollen monoliths will then be analysed with identification of the well preserved pollen grains and a report produced, including diagrams.

Sample 128 (40 litres) will need to be sorted for insects and a publication report prepared from the results.

The results of all environment analysis will be incorporated within a final overall report.

5. References

Robinson, M., 2004. The plant and invertebrate remains. In: Jennings, D & J. Muir, S. Palmer A. Smith. *Thornhill Farm, Fairford, Gloucestershire. An Iron Age and Roman pastoral site in the Upper Thames Valley*. Oxford Archaeology, Oxford.

Molluscs	Samples taken for molluscs										Waterlogged samples					
	<135/2>	<135/3>	<135/4>	<135/5>	<135/6>	bottom <135/7>	<78>	<79>	<80>	<101>	<129>	bottom <141>	<142>	<143>	top <144>	<114>
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>		x	x				x	x	x		x	x			x	x
<i>Lymnaea peregra</i>											x	x				
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>							x									
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>		x		x			x	x		x	x	x	x			x
<i>Carychium</i> sp.				x				x	x		x					
<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i>											x					
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	x							x	x							
<i>Vertigo antivertigo</i>												x			x	
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	x							x	x							
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>							x	x	x							
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x		x	x
<i>Vallonia pulcella</i>									x				x			
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>							x	x	x	x						
<i>Punctum pygmaea</i>									x							
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>							x									
<i>Limax/Deroceras</i> sp.	x	x														
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
<i>Cepaea/Arianta</i> sp.	x	x								x						

Table 2: The Results from of the assessment of samples with molluscs.
x indicates the presence of the species in the sample.

Plant remains and insects																
Charred remains	<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i>		x							x						
	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>		x													
	Cereal indet		x													
	Glume base <i>Triticum spelta</i>									x	x				x	
	<i>Galium aparine</i>		x							x						
	<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> (Charcoal)		x													
	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (Charcoal)											x				
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>								x		x		x		x	
	<i>Rumex</i> sp.													x	x	
	<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>								x	x						
	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.									x						
	<i>Chenopodium album</i>										x					
	<i>Chenopodium ficifolium</i>									x						
	<i>Atriplex</i> sp.									x					x	
	<i>Ranunculus</i> subgen. <i>Batrachium</i> sp.	x		x	x	x	x				x					
	<i>Ranunculus</i> cf. <i>repens</i>										x					
	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>									x						
	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>								x	x						
	<i>Callitriche</i> sp.							x								
	<i>Mentha</i> sp.			x												
	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>										x					
	<i>Plantago major</i>									x						
	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>													x		
	<i>Carduus</i> sp.									x					x	
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>									x						
	<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>					x										
	<i>Juncus</i> sp.					x				x	x	x			x	x

Insects	<i>Juncus articulatus</i> gp.					X	X										
	<i>Juncus effusus</i> gp.						X										
	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>			X			X										
	<i>Silpha</i> sp.								X								
	<i>Geotropas</i> sp.								X								
	<i>Aphodius</i> sp.	X						X	X	X							
	<i>Xantholinus</i> sp.								X								
	<i>Longitarsus</i> sp.								X								
	<i>Onthophagus</i> sp.								X								
	<i>Rugilus</i> sp.								X								
	<i>Philonthus</i> sp.								X								
	<i>Megasternum obscurum</i>			X													
	<i>Agriotis</i> sp.			X													
	<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>									X							

Table 3: The Results from of the assessment of samples with waterlogged and charred plant remains and insect remains.

x indicates the presence of the species in the sample.

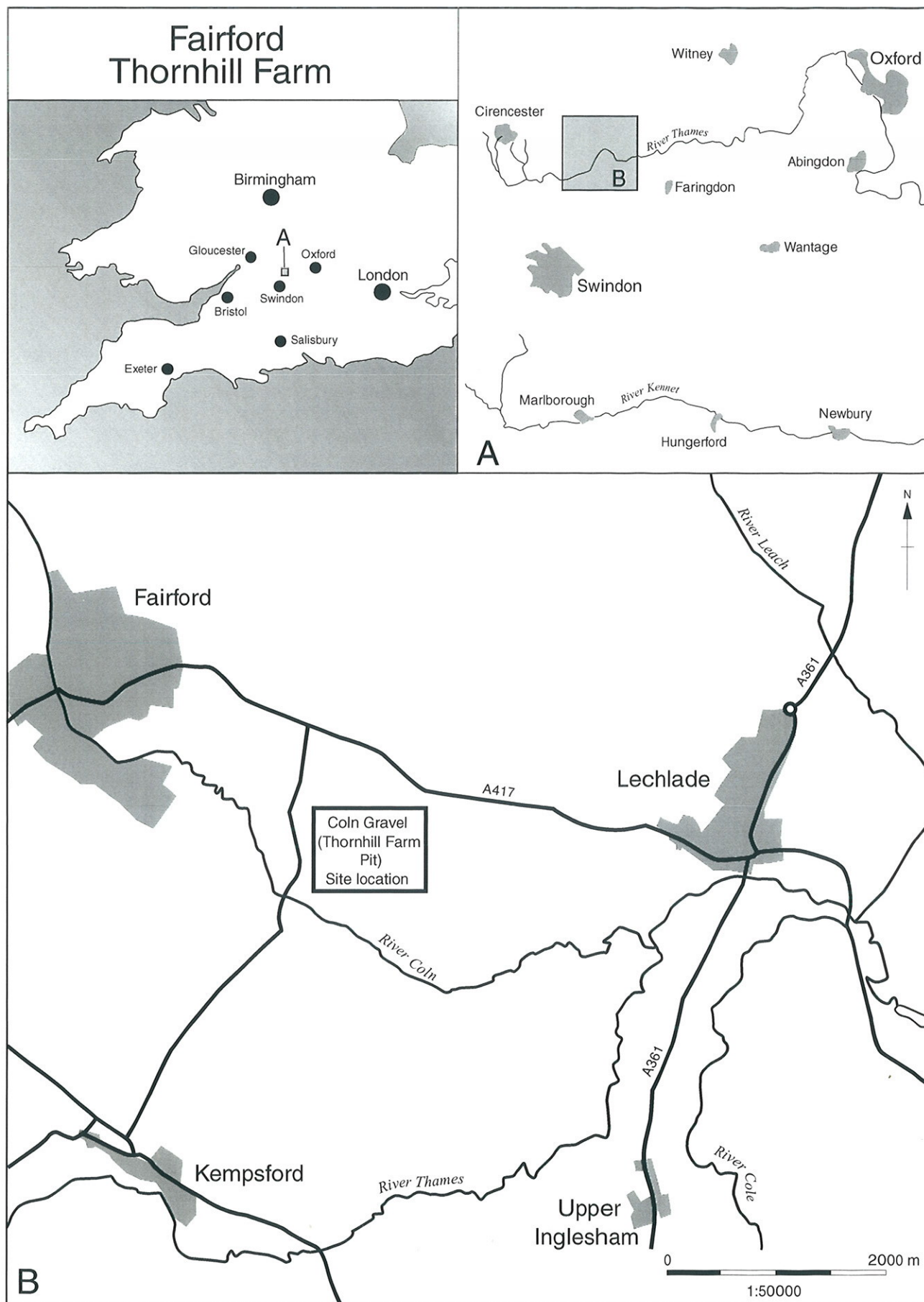


Figure 1



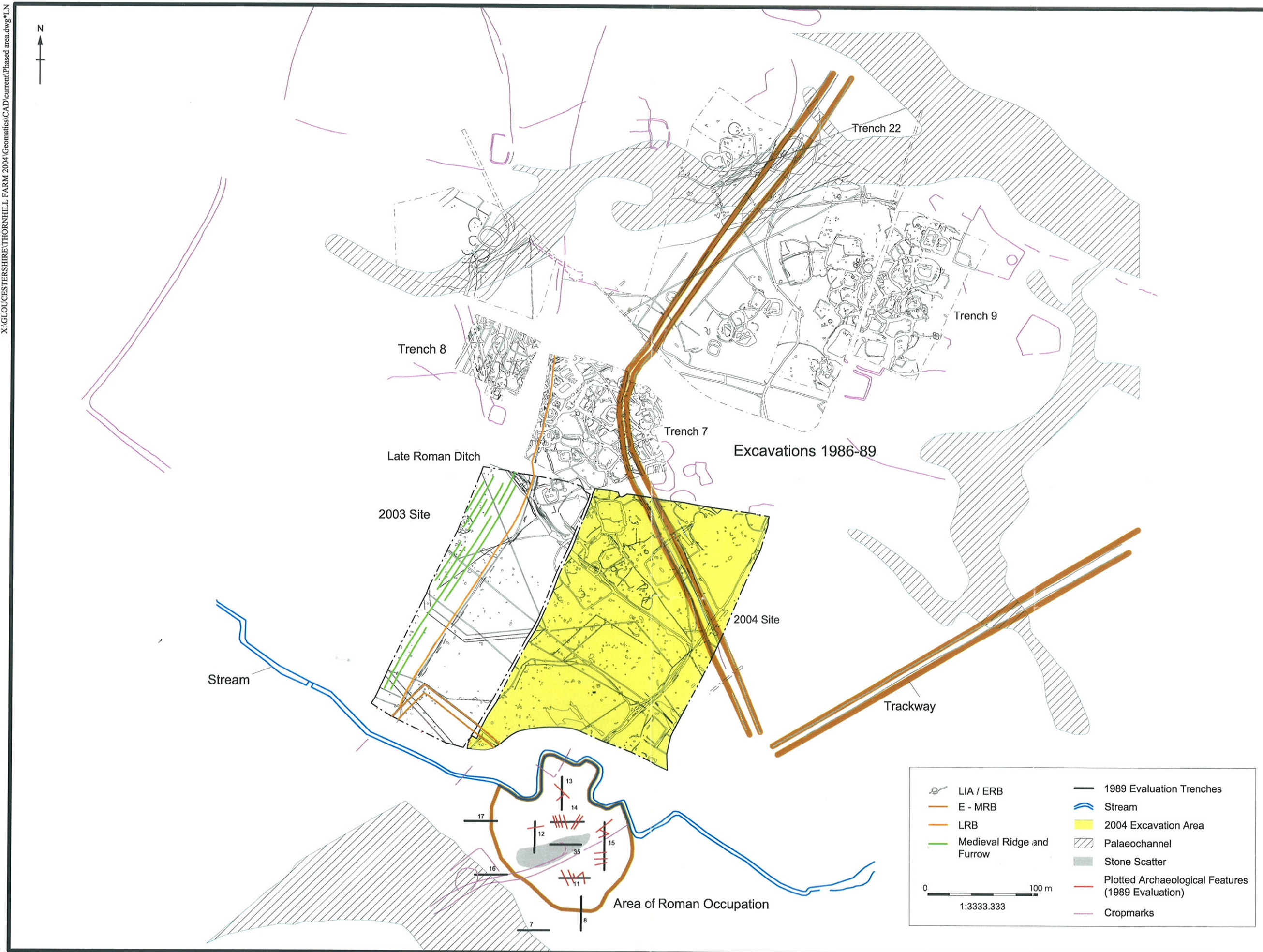


Figure 2: Current excavation area in relation to previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area.

Thornhill Farm 2004

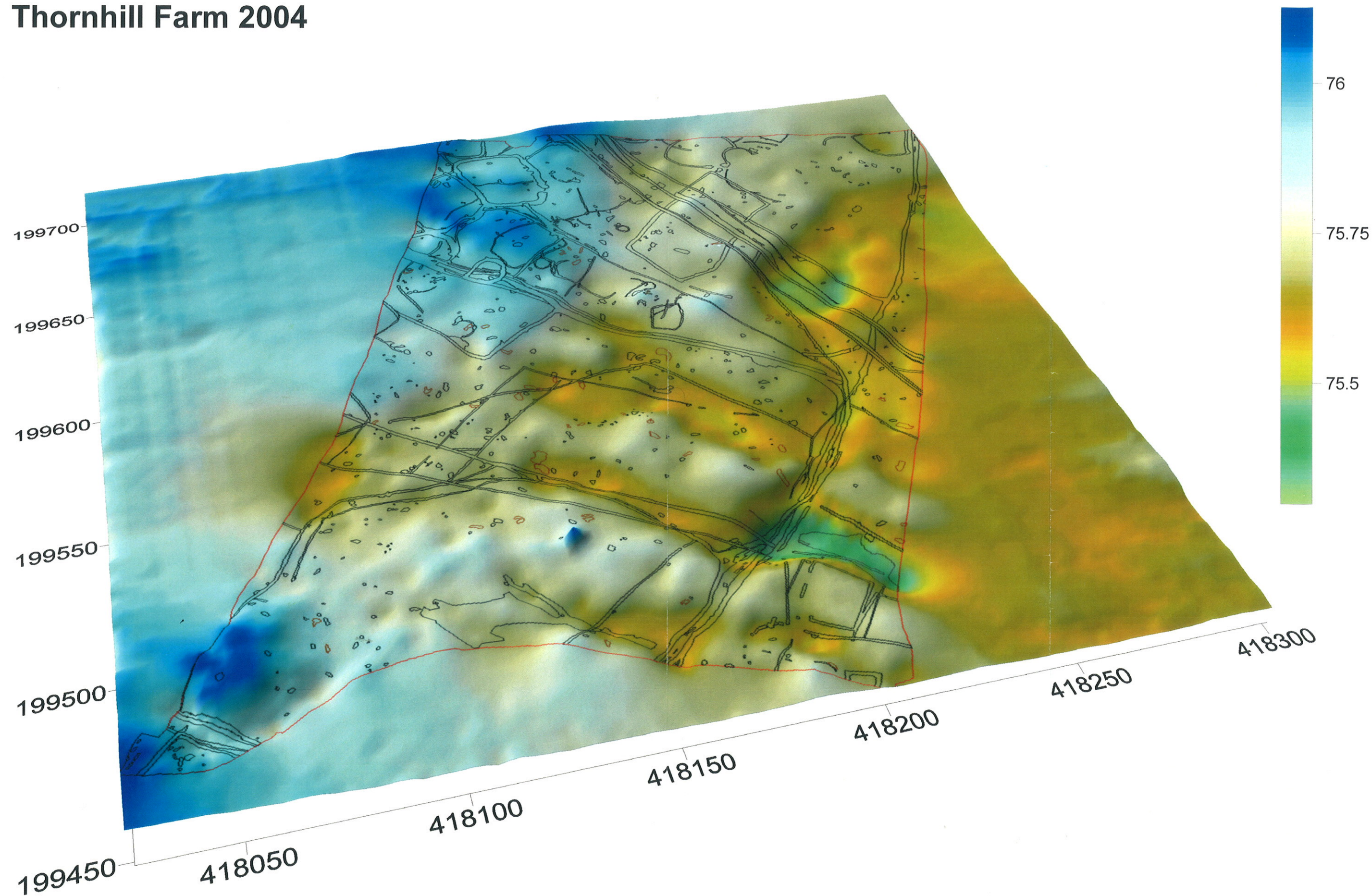


Figure 4: Contour Survey of the 2004 excavation area



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