



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
AT
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FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE SN7 7PL

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Summary

From March 12th to October 1st 2018 an archaeological excavation was conducted at the site of Park Road, Faringdon by John Moore Heritage Services. This excavation followed on from an earlier archaeological evaluation, and focused on an area towards the south-west of the site, on the higher ground, which had been identified as the location of a Romano-British settlement, spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD, and comprising enclosure ditches, pits and postholes indicative of a hillside farmstead. The Excavation aimed to further investigate the extent and nature of this settlement, in particular to record evidence relating to the sites economy, and how it may be compared with other sites in the region.

Evidence from the excavation demonstrated episodes of activity from the Mesolithic period through to the modern era. During the earliest phase, residual Mesolithic flints found across the site indicated that the high ground to the south of Faringdon was frequented by hunter-gatherer groups, who exploited a range of environmental niches in the immediate vicinity. During the Neolithic period and into the Bronze Age the landscape comprised a mixture of open country and shady environs. One Neolithic pit produced significant amounts of Grooved Ware pottery, whereas further activity was once again represented by residual flint recovered from secondary deposits.

The Bronze Age was better represented than preceding periods. A beaker burial dating to the Early Bronze Age was excavated in the western portion of the site, with a second inhumation demonstrated activity during the transition from the Middle to Bronze Age period.

The landscape begins to be more intensively used and exploited during the Iron Age. A ring ditch dating to this period was discovered to the south of the site, and a large bisecting ditch running northeast-southwest through the site marked the beginning of spatial organisation, which bounded activity to the west.

Throughout the course of the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, the settlement witnesses increasing activity and investment. Changes appear in the form of the creation of a number of enclosures, alongside a metalled trackway. Despite these changes, continuity can be seen in the layout and spatial patterning at the site. Furthermore, continuity from the preceding period can also be identified in relation to the activities undertaken, notably in regard to the mixed economy which was practiced. Despite the sites predominantly agricultural nature, a range of activities have also been identified, notably the structured special deposits recorded within a roofed or fenced 2nd century pit adjacent to the trackway.

Whilst the 2nd century appears as the most archaeologically visible, significant activity continues into the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Alterations to the trackway were undertaken and quarrying develops as another key element of the site's economy. Nevertheless the agricultural regime of the Iron Age and Early Roman period continue, as evidenced in the form of a corn dryer and possible malting tank, alongside the creation in the 4th century of a stone mill or barn building. Furthermore, two stone lined wells attest to increased water management. It is hypothesised that the site is integrated into a larger landholding during the 4th century.

The archaeological evidence at Park Road, from the Iron Age and through to the 4th century is reflective of a number of settlements and patterns of activity more broadly in the Upper Thames Valley and Cotswolds during these periods. Close parallels can be seen at adjacent sites to the south of Faringdon, but also others further afield.

There is little activity for the following phases, and it seems that the site was largely abandoned. A single pit dates to the Early Saxon period, but colluvial layers recorded across the site indicate a period of general disuse.

A small number of features dating to the Medieval period are seen at the site. By this time Faringdon had developed into a possible royal centre, on the fringes of which Park Road was located. The activity, in line with other nearby sites to the south of the historic centre of Faringdon, appears agricultural in nature and is represented by ditches, furrows and pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figures 1-2)

The development site is located on the south-western side of Park Road, Faringdon, 200m west of the junction of the A420 and the A417. The archaeological recording area is at NGR SU 28959454 centred. It lies at approximately 115m OD sloping upwards westwards from the east. The proposed site area is currently mostly under arable cultivation. The underlying geology of the southern part of the site is Lower Greensand with Corallian sands, clay and limestone in the northern part.

1.2 Planning Background

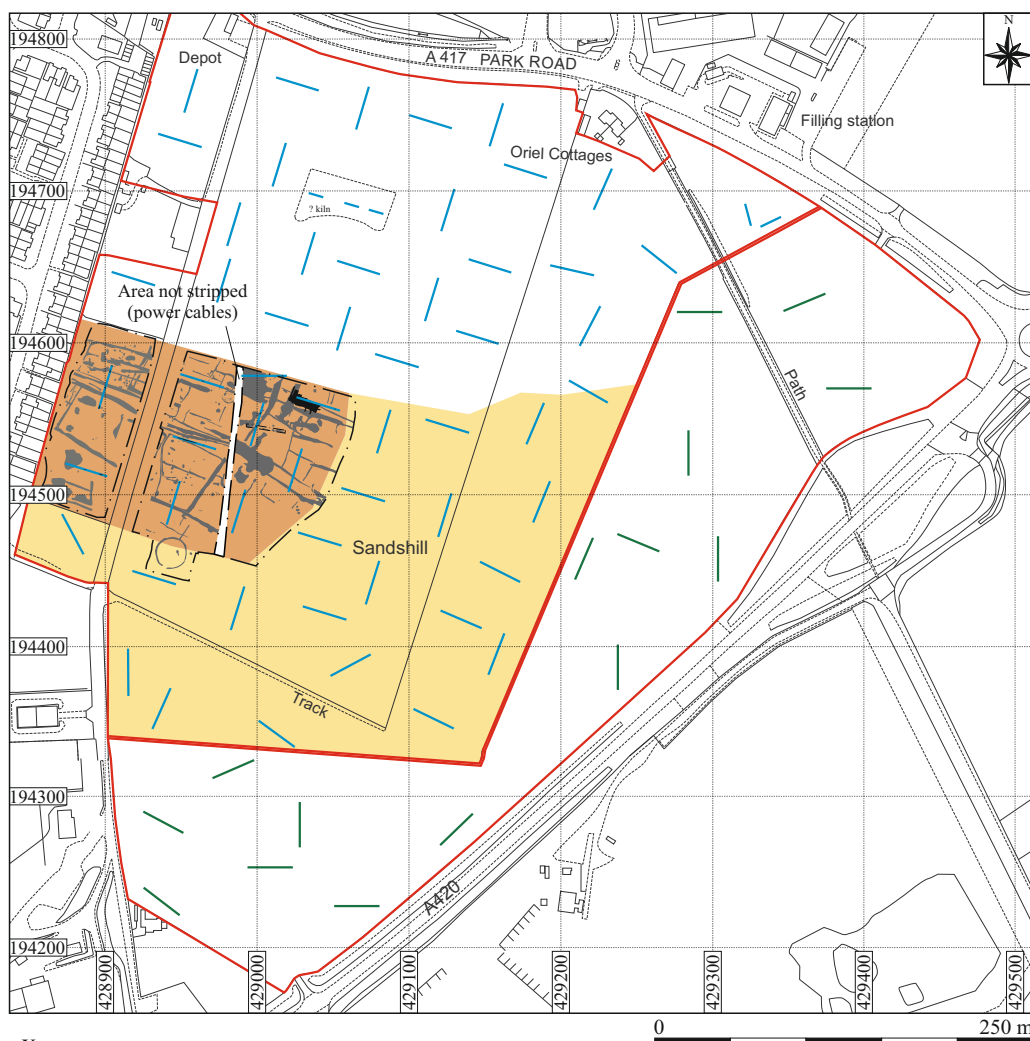
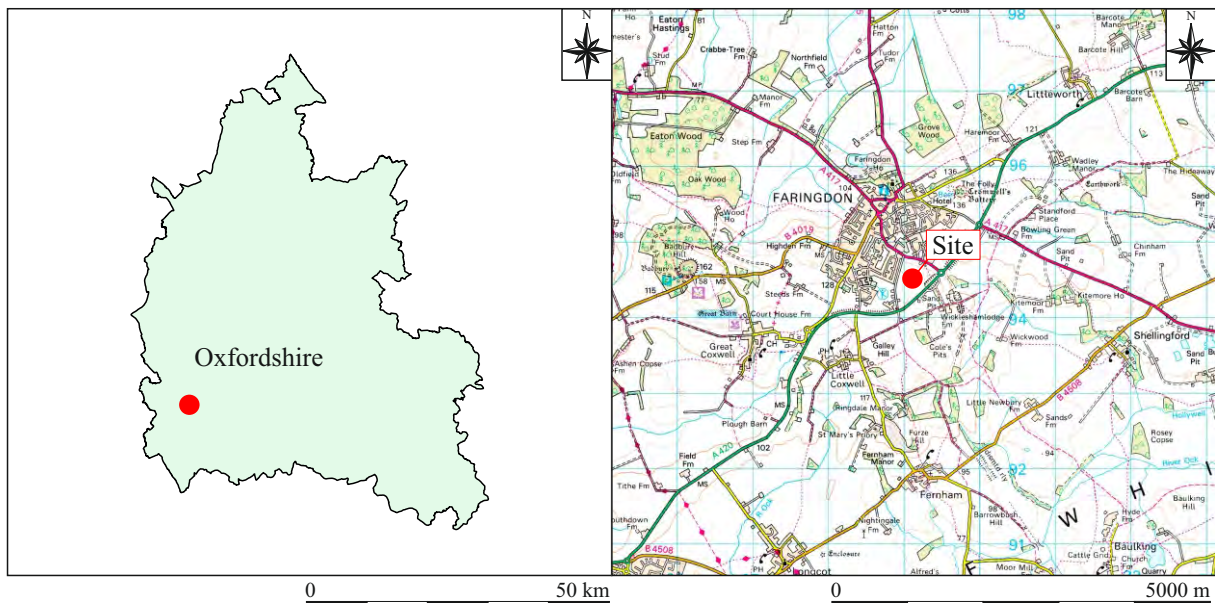
The Vale of the White Horse District Council have granted outline planning consent for *Hybrid application for the demolition of existing building/structures and the comprehensive redevelopment of Land South of Park Road, Faringdon, comprising up to 425 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) including affordable homes, flexibility to enable the provision of an Extra Care facility (Use Class C2 or C3), the provision of land for a school (Use Class D1), vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access from Park Road and Sands Hill, parking, public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage, and other associated works: . 'Phase 1' (Full details): 103 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), access and parking, public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage, parking and other associated works. . Outline: up to 322 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), Extra Care Facility (Use Class C3 or C2), land for a school (Use Class D1), access and parking, public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage, parking and other associated works (P17/V1082/O)*. Archaeological evaluation has established that there are archaeological features within the site and conditions have been attached that require a programme of archaeological recording to be undertaken in advance of the development.

Oxfordshire Historic Environment Team (OHET) has indicated the area required for an Archaeological Recording Action.

John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) was commissioned to undertake this work, and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2018) was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the *Brief*. This *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) proposed the methodology by which the archaeological investigations were to be carried out.

1.3 Archaeological Background (Figure 2)

Find-spots and sites with archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic through to post-medieval periods have been found within 500m of the study site. The desk-based assessment (Cook 2009), from which this summary background was drawn, detailed the potential for encountering such remains. The aim of this summary background is to set the site in its immediate context; all references are to be found in the original Desk-Based Assessment.



- Key**
- Site boundary
 - Excavation Area
 - Evaluation trench (2012)
 - Evaluation trench (2016)
 - Archaeological feature
 - Roman settlement area
 - Approximate extent of Corallian sands

Figure 1: Site Location

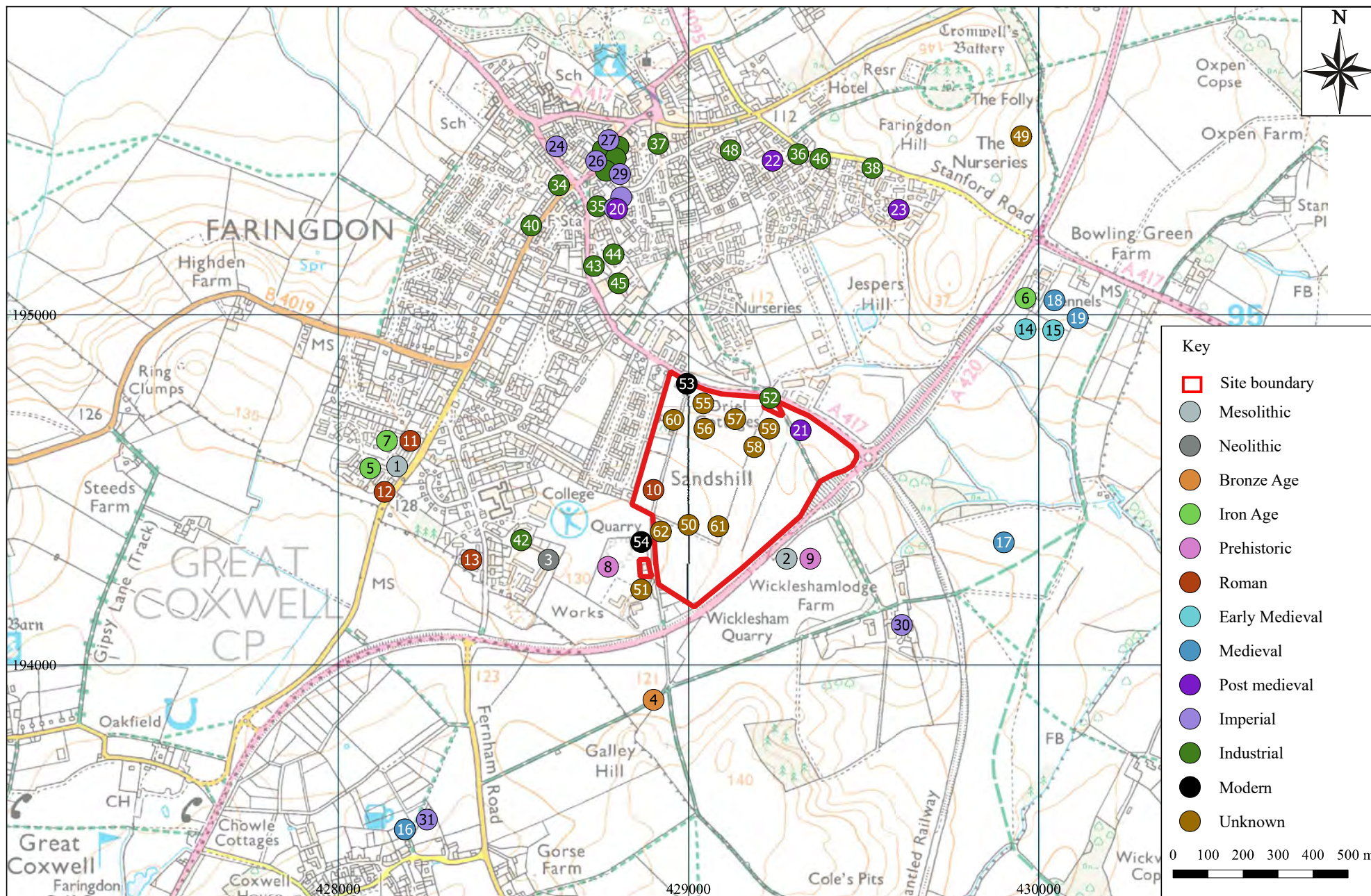


Figure 2. Surrounding Historic Environment Record sites

1.3.1 Iron Age (ca 700 BC- 43 AD)

The Iron Age in the region has been characterised as valley bottom pastoral exploitation contrasted with hillside and high ground arable farming (Miles 1986, 53), with little evidence for dense occupation or complex hierarchies (Miles 1998, 16). More enclosed settlements – such as Barton Court Farm, Abingdon (Miles, 1986), Gravelly Guy (Lambrick and Allen 2004) and Thornhill Farm (Jennings *et al.* 2004) – are known from the 2nd century BC onwards.

There were two groups of features within the proposal area – **OA 6** and **OA 52** – which were identified in the Oxford Archaeology (OA) desk-based assessment (Cook 2009) as of possible Iron Age or Roman origin.

Within the Study Area there are four sites or find-spots of Iron Age or possible Iron Age origin. These are:

- **OA 1** - an excavated Iron Age settlement site found to have been in continuous occupation during the Early to Middle Iron Age (Weaver and Ford 2005); & **OA 20** finds of Iron Age pottery (Cook *et al.* 2005); (both located ca 850m to the west of the Site)
- **OA 23** - cropmarks of a circle of postholes of possible Iron Age origin (ca 500m north-east of the Site);
- **OA 33** - the findspot of two sherds of possible Iron Age pottery (ca 850m north of the Site).

The excavations carried out at Coxwell Road (Weaver and Ford 2005; Cook *et al.* 2005) revealed extensive Iron Age activity from the early Iron Age onwards. The site excavated by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (Weaver and Ford 2005) continued in use into the Roman period as a shrine.

1.3.2 Romano-British Period (43-410 AD)

The Roman landscape was largely unchanged from the later Iron Age, consisting of small enclosed farmsteads in mixed field systems with connecting trackways (Young 1986, 61) within the context of larger *oppida*-style sites such as Dyke Hills, Abingdon and Cassington Big Ring (Salway 2000, 5).

The pattern of Roman land use is not fully understood, although a number of settlement sites have been investigated elsewhere along the Corallian ridge. These sites, such as those at Watchfield Triangle (Heawood *et al.* 2005), Bowling Green Farm (Mudd 1993) and Hatford (Booth *et al.* 2005) are in the vicinity of Faringdon, but outside the Study Area of the DBA. Romano-British pottery has also been recovered as scatters at Bury Hill and Great Coxwell, also outside the Study Area (OA 2007, 13).

There were no positively identified features or finds of Romano-British origin in the Desk-Based Assessment within the proposal area.

Within the Study Area (Cook 2009, Fig 2) four features or find-spots of Romano-British date were identified. These comprise:

- **OA 1** - a possible circular shrine, a number of possible enclosures and finds of pottery (*ca* 800m west of the Site)
- **OA 5** - topsoil finds of Romano-British pottery at Wicklesham Quarry (*ca* 500m to the south and east)
- **OA 16** - the find-spot of Romano-British coarseware pottery (*ca* 500m to the west);
- **OA 32** - the find-spot of three Roman coins (*ca* 1000m to the north-west).

The Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) site at Coxwell Road (Weaver and Ford 2005) had Romano-British activity within the Study Area, and the Site therefore has an uncertain but probably low to moderate potential to contain Romano-British deposits.

1.3.3 Post-Medieval Period (1550+ AD)

Faringdon expanded to the west of the present town during the post-medieval period, with little expansion south toward the proposal area before the 19th century. Leland in the 16th century describes the ‘champion’ or arable land that lay outside of the town (Page *et al.*, 1946, 489), in which the proposal area is situated.

Faringdon must have been reasonably prosperous, as of the nine market towns in the environs, it is one of only two to have retained its market status throughout the post-medieval period (Bond, 1986, 136). It suffered damage during the Civil War however, when the Royalists seized and held Faringdon House between 1643 and 1646.

The Faringdon Parish Enclosure map of 1773 and Tithe map of 1850 do not depict the land on which the Site lies in any detail.

The 1811 Ordnance Survey 2 inch draft drawing of Wantage shows the proposal area in sufficient detail to depict a possible quarry, although by the time of the Ordnance Survey 25” 1st Edition map of 1878; Berks Sheets VIII.9, 10, VIII.13, 14, the quarry is no longer indicated, although ‘Old Brick Kiln’ is noted at the north of the proposal area. The 1st Ed. OS map of 1876 also illustrates the proposal area as containing or being part of land divided into five fields. The path (**OA 41**) can clearly be seen on the 1st Ed. OS map of 1876 and all subsequent maps.

By 1900 the 2nd Edition OS map does not show the location of the ‘Old Brick Kiln’. A well is illustrated on the west side of the proposal area (**OA 8**). Oriel Cottages (**OA 9**) and associated gardens also appear on the 2nd Ed. OS map of 1900. Oriel Cottages are not listed nor locally designated as a historic building.

The OA DBA notes feature **OA 47**, the extant brick building situated in the north-west corner of the proposal area. The DBA states that this appears first on the 3rd Edition OS map of 1914, although it first appears on the 1912 1:2500, where it is marked as a pumping station for Faringdon Rural District. The agricultural shed (**OA 49**) seen on aerial photographs is not depicted on any OS map.

Quarry pits (**OA 7, 17 and 53**) on the 1st Ed. OS Map of 1876 probably associated with Faringdon Kilns (**OA 34**) were outside the proposal area.

These are a number of post-medieval features and finds related to the development of Faringdon which have been recovered from the historic core and Conservation Area (**OA 25, OA 28, OA 29 and OA 31**).

The OA DBA identified the presence of a potential brick-kiln (**OA 42**) within the proposal area and the recorded kiln adjacent (**OA 4**), and postulated the presence of associated quarry pits (**OA 43 to 46**). No evidence for these features was present.

The above background has been extracted from the OA archaeological desk-based assessment (Cook 2009) and edited to be relevant to this report. The desk-based assessment established that there was a low to moderate potential for later prehistoric and Roman period remains within the study site. This conclusion was based upon a survey of the Historic Environment Records held by Oxfordshire County Council. Recent use of the study site for agriculture was believed to have had the potential to impact upon the archaeology, truncating or removing previously surviving archaeological deposits. Results from the evaluation have demonstrated the presence of preserved archaeological remains.

Two stages of evaluation of the planning application site were carried out in October 2012 and August 2016 by John Moore Heritage Services (2012; 2016). Archaeological remains were found within one area of the site. These consisted in a Romano-British settlement comprising enclosure ditches, pits and postholes, indicative of a hillside farmstead.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were:

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

And in particular:

- To record the evidence relating to this apparent hillside farmstead to reveal the economy of the farmstead (livestock or agricultural or mixed) for comparison with other such sites in the region.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In accordance with the WSI (JMHS 2018) approved by OHET, JMHS carried out the archaeological investigation of the development area. Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the WSI.

3.2 Methodology

The archaeological investigation at the development site, located on the south-western side of Park Road, Faringdon consisted of the excavation of an area measuring 15,200m² and of one additional area measuring 6,060m² to the west. These areas were separated by a modern, tarmacked road.

Any archaeological deposits and features revealed were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan before being excavated and recorded at an appropriate level. Any archaeological features or other remains i.e. concentrations of artefacts, were recorded by written, drawn and photographic record. All remains were sample excavated. Any variation to this was agreed with Oxfordshire Historic Environment Team (OHET), on behalf of the local planning authority. All artefacts were collected and retained except for concentrations of building material where a representative sample was kept.

Sample excavation levels for features were:

- All structural features or those relating to a specialised activity were subject to a 100% sample
- All post and stake holes that relate to specialised activities were subject to a 100% sample. Others, subject to a 50% sample
- A 50% sample of all pits was undertaken
- Up to 10% or 10 metres, whichever is greater, of all linear features was sampled

4 RESULTS

(Figure 3, Plate 1)

4.1 Field Results



Plate 1. General view of site
Looking south-west



Figure 3: Site Plan

All features were assigned with individual context number. Context numbers without brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in round brackets () show feature fills or deposits of material and numbers in bold indicate grouped features.

4.2 General Deposits

A total of 2,445 contexts were recorded during the excavation of the site. 533 of the deposits (over 21%) contained dating evidence. The vast majority features dated to the Roman period, with a peak occurring during the 2nd century or later.

Topsoil deposits were assigned the number (1000) in the eastern part of the site and (2702) in the western part.

Subsoil deposits were assigned context numbers (1001), (1667), (2298), (2658), (2703), (2780), (2781), (2788), (2864) and (2865).

The topsoil and subsoil observed across site contained material ranging from the Roman to the Post-Medieval periods, including 4th century coins, Roman finger rings, and post-medieval buckles.

The underlying geology was recorded as (1012) and (2392).

Deposits naturally formed were observed in association with archaeological features; these were (1246), (1286), (1316), (1339), (1353), (1400), (1438), (2258), (2283), (2320), (2534), (2535), (2683), (3001) and (3145). Occasional Roman pottery fragments were recovered from a number of these deposits.

Additionally, naturally occurring depressions were filled by deposits (1863), (1865), (2546), (2548), (2799), (2800), (2801) and (2952).

A number of deposits originated from bioturbation; (1263), (2441) and (3215) contained Roman materials, while (3225) had post-medieval material. Similar deposits (1076), (1136), (1142), (1143), (3083), (3140) and (3184) did not contain any finds.

Naturally formed deposits occasionally obliterating archaeological features were also recorded as 'overburden'. A number of these dated to the Roman period: (1667), (1722), (2072), (2247), (2268), (2390), (2547), (2769), (2770), (2771), (2774), (2784), (3185), (3206) and (3212), while (1069), (1433), (1521), (1764), (2031), (2536), (2563), (2768), (2983) were dated to the post-medieval to modern periods. Deposits (1575), (2040) (2177) and (3190) did not contain any dating evidence.

Similarly, deposits described as 'colluvium' sealed features in some areas; Roman material was recovered from deposits (2282), (2308), (2338), (2631), (2763), (2877), (2906), (3183) and (3220). Deposits (2899), (3011) and (3135) were dated to the post-medieval period, while deposits (2137) and (2632) were devoid of materials.

One deposit possibly originating from trampling (1030) overlain part of 2nd century Enclosure B as well as undated pit 1029.

One additional, modern deposit (2762) was also recorded; this consisted of the backfill of Evaluation Trench 5, located in the eastern area of the site, which was excavated during an earlier stage of archaeological investigations carried out in 2012 (JMHS 2012).

4.3 Phase 1. Prehistoric (Figures 4-7, Plates 2-3)

4.3.1 Phase 1a. Mesolithic to Bronze Age

Mesolithic activity was represented by residual Early Mesolithic worked flint and other later Mesolithic material recovered from deposits across site; however, no features could be dated to these period.

Late Neolithic Grooved Ware was recovered from pit 2720 (Fig. 5, Section 438). This measured 1.45m x 0.96m and was 0.56m deep. Fill (2721) was a mid-brown sandy deposit which contained a total of 20 sherds of Grooved Ware, worked flint (SF355), animal bone and a single *Hordeum sp.* (Barley) grain. Molluscs recovered from the pit included burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* and two shade-loving *Oxychilus sp.*

Beaker Burial 3057

Sub-rectangular grave 3057 (Fig. 5), measuring 1.3m x 0.78m and 0.2m deep, contained the inhumation of an older adult male (Skeleton 1) laid supine, with legs flexed tightly at the knee on his left side with the head towards the west. Fragments of a comb decorated Beaker were placed on the left side of the head. A flint knife (SF119), a large flint flake (SF116) and a fossil (SF118), as well as a strip of metal (SF115) accompanied the burial. Molluscs recovered from the fill of the grave included *Vallonia sp.*, *Oxychilus sp.* and *Vertigo pygmaea*, suggesting a mixture of 'open country' and 'shady' environments (potentially a woodland edge) in the immediate vicinity of the grave.

Burial Pit 1674

Pit 1674 (Fig. 4 and Plate 2) contained three fills. Primary fill (1675/1677) was a sandy silt which contained no finds, while deposit (1676) contained a single sherd of intrusive 2nd century pottery.



Plate 2. Pit 1674

The latter deposit contained the remains (Skeleton 2) of a single, older adult female; radiocarbon dating of one of the recovered teeth indicated a Late Bronze Age date for the inhumation (Appendix 10).

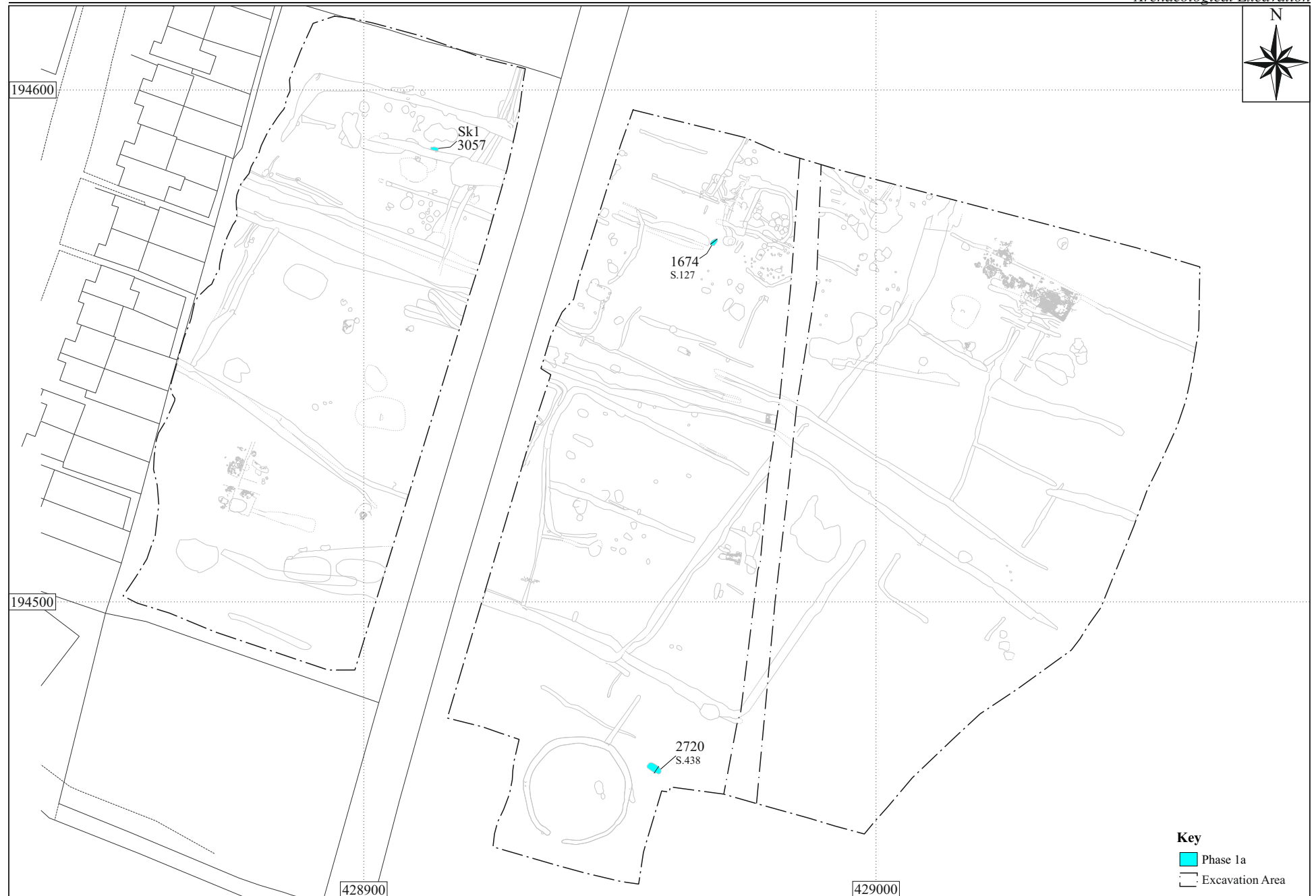


Figure 4: Mesolithic to Bronze Age Features (Phase 1a)

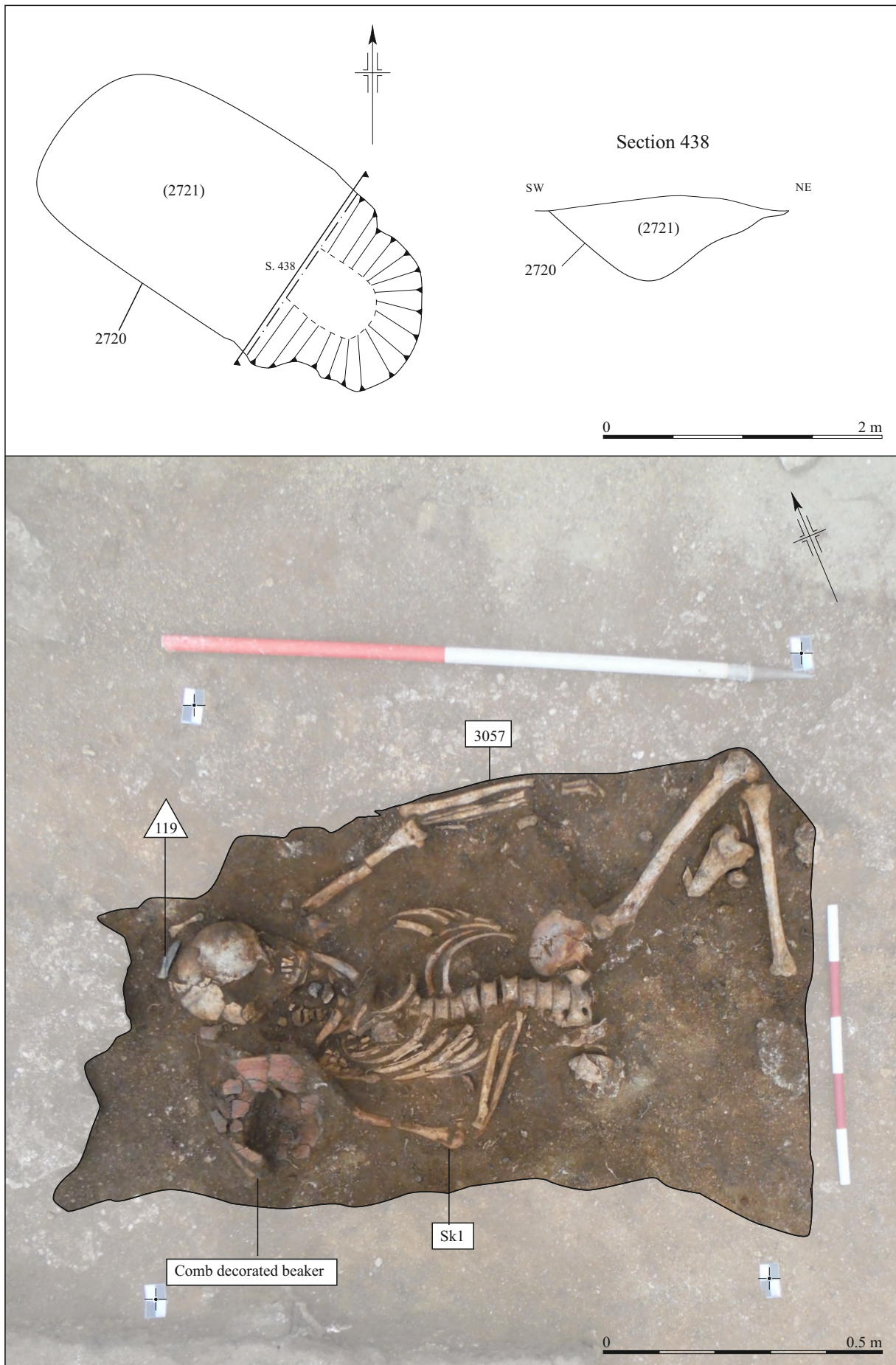


Figure 5: Pit 2720 and Beaker Burial 3057

4.3.2 *Phase 1b. Iron Age to Early Roman*

Pre-Iron Age to Early Roman Features (Figures 6-7)

A number of features which did not contain any dating material were stratigraphically earlier than features securely dated to the Iron Age-Early Roman period.

In the western area of the excavation, one ill-defined feature 3156 contained no dating materials, but was cut by Late Iron Age pit 3154. Feature 3156 measured 0.3m in width and 0.2m in depth, and contained a single deposit (3157).

Small pit 1715 contained no finds but was cut by later feature 1717, from which Late Iron Age pottery was recovered.

Iron Age ring ditch **6002** cut postholes 2716 (Fig. 7, Section 436) and 2718 and pits 2675, 2681 (Fig. 7, Section 428) and 2684. No material was recovered from these features.

Undated ditch 2266 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 322) was cut by Late Iron Age ditch **6026**.

Iron Age to Early Roman Pits (Figure 6)

Circular pit 1134 contained 11 sherds of Iron Age pottery in its single fill. The pit measured 0.7m in diameter and was 0.13m deep. Fill (1135) was a loose, mid-greyish brown sand and also contained occasional charcoal.

Single sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from pits 2775, 3174 and 3143. The latter was circular in shape and measured 0.60m in diameter and was 0.22m deep. The single fill was a dark brown sandy silt.

Substantial quantities of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fills of pits 1169 and 1717. Pits 1407 and 3154 also contained pottery dated to this period. The features had similar dimensions (between 0.8 and 1.2m in diameter and 0.18 to 0.74 deep) and fills of similar composition, but formed no coherent pattern and were spread across the centre and north of the site.

Pit 3196 was larger than these examples, with a diameter of 1.2m, and contained five fills. A total of 133 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from its middle fill (2198), while the upper fill (3201) contained a further 15 sherds, including one of an Italian wine amphora, probably Dressel 1-2/4. The pit also contained a stone slab fragment, animal bone and burnt material.

Pit 2006, a sub-oval feature measuring 0.32m x 1.62m located in the north-west corner of the site, contained two fills from which animal bone including horse, cattle and sheep/goat as well as a total of 99 sherds of Later Iron Age-Early Roman pottery were recovered. Upper fill (2008) also contained a flint flake. This feature cut pit 2004, from which eight sherds of pottery of the same period were recovered.

Pit 1274 measured 1.3 by 1.85m and was 0.57m deep. Its single fill (1275) contained animal bone and 10 sherds of Later Iron Age-Early Roman pottery. Pit 1305 was sub-oval and measured 1.54m by 2.17m; from its fill (1306) nine sherds of Later Iron Age-Early Roman pottery and animal bone fragments were recovered. Pit 2111 was truncated by undated pit 2113. It measured 2.5m by 1.9m and was 0.81m deep. The single fill was a light grey-brown silty sand and contained animal bone, a fragment of flat-topped beehive quern (SF6), one flint flake (SF374) and six sherds of Later Iron Age-Early Roman pottery.

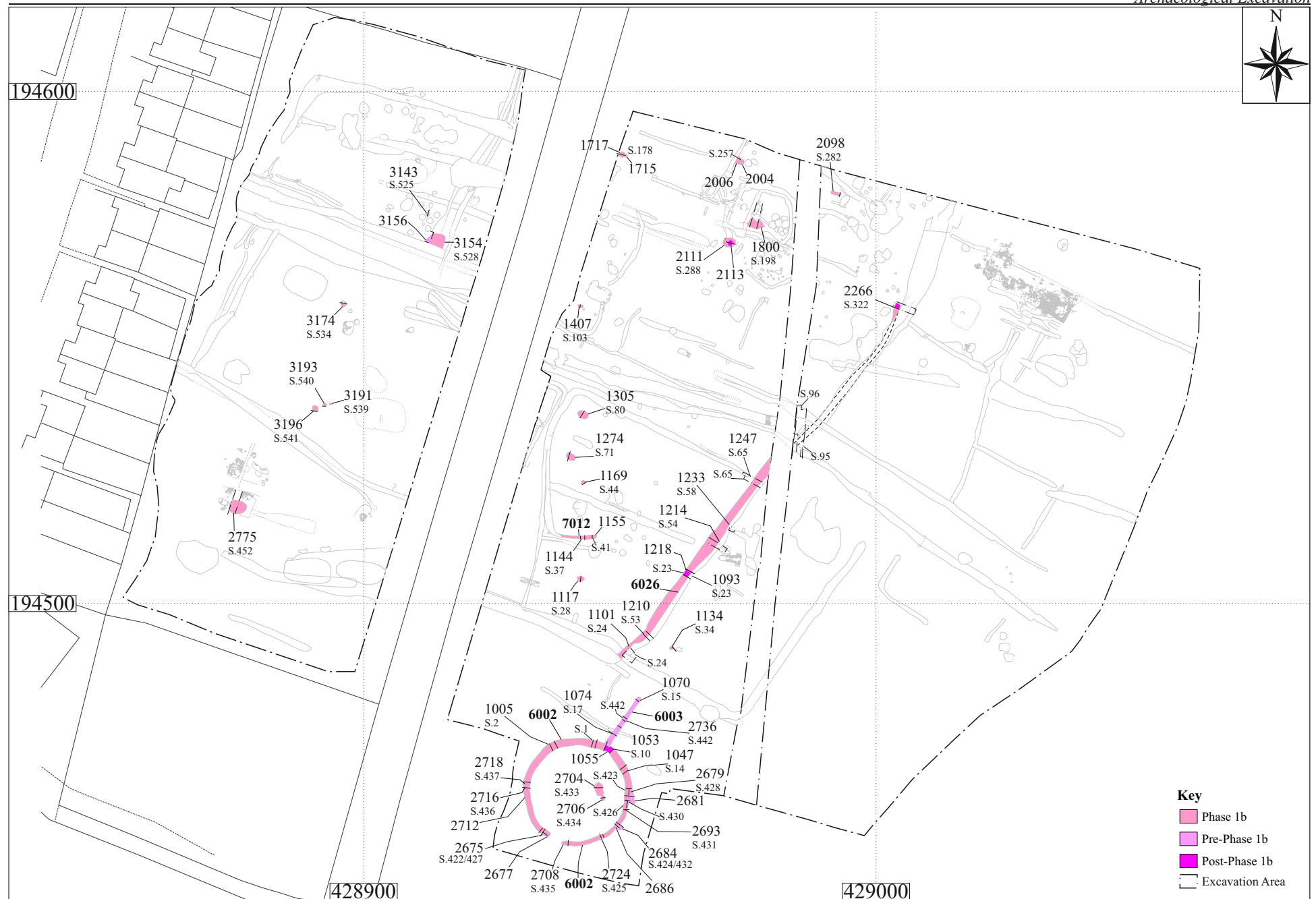


Figure 6: Iron Age to Early Roman Features (Phase 1b)

Pit 1800 was sub-rectangular in plan and contained three fills from which animal bone, one Roman nail and a total of seven sherds of Later Iron Age-Early Roman pottery were recovered. This feature was cut by pit 1802.

Pit 1117 measured 1.48m in diameter and was 0.4m deep. It contained two deposits: a primary fill (1119) from which animal bone, burnt limestone, fired clay and a single sherd of Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery were recovered. Upper fill (1118) was 0.22m thick and contained no finds.

Iron Age to Early Roman Ditches (Figures 6-7)

Ring Ditch 6002

Ring ditch **6002** (Figures 6-7, Sections 1, 10, 14, 428, 431, 435, and 436, Plate 3) was located in the southernmost area of the site; it was penannular, with an entrance to the south-west. It had a diameter of *ca* 21.5m, was between 0.5m and 1m in width and up to 1.1m deep. The feature was investigated through a total of eleven interventions; the cuts had a 'V' shaped profile with a sharp break of slope at the top, very steeply sloping, regular, symmetrical sides and a tapered base, and contained between one and three fills.



Plate 3. Ring Ditch **6002**
Looking north

A single fill was observed in cuts 2708 (Fig. 7, Section 435), 2686 and 1047 (Fig. 7, Section 14), where it was described as a compact reddish-brown sandy silt. Two fills were observed in cut 1002 (Fig. 7, Section 1), the primary fill (1004) a compact reddish-brown sandy silt, overlain by (1003), a reddish-brown sandy clay. The remaining interventions (Fig. 7, Sections 10, 428, 431 and 436) contained three fills each: a compact reddish-brown sandy silt primary fill (1007), (1056), (2680), (2693), (2700), (2725), (2713) and (2701); episodes of slumping from the sides of the cut (1008), (1062/1063), (2689/2690/2691), (2698/2722), (2698), (2726), (2714) and (2694/2695); and a dark brown sandy loam tertiary fill, (1064), (2679), (2692), (2696), (2727), (2715) and (2672).

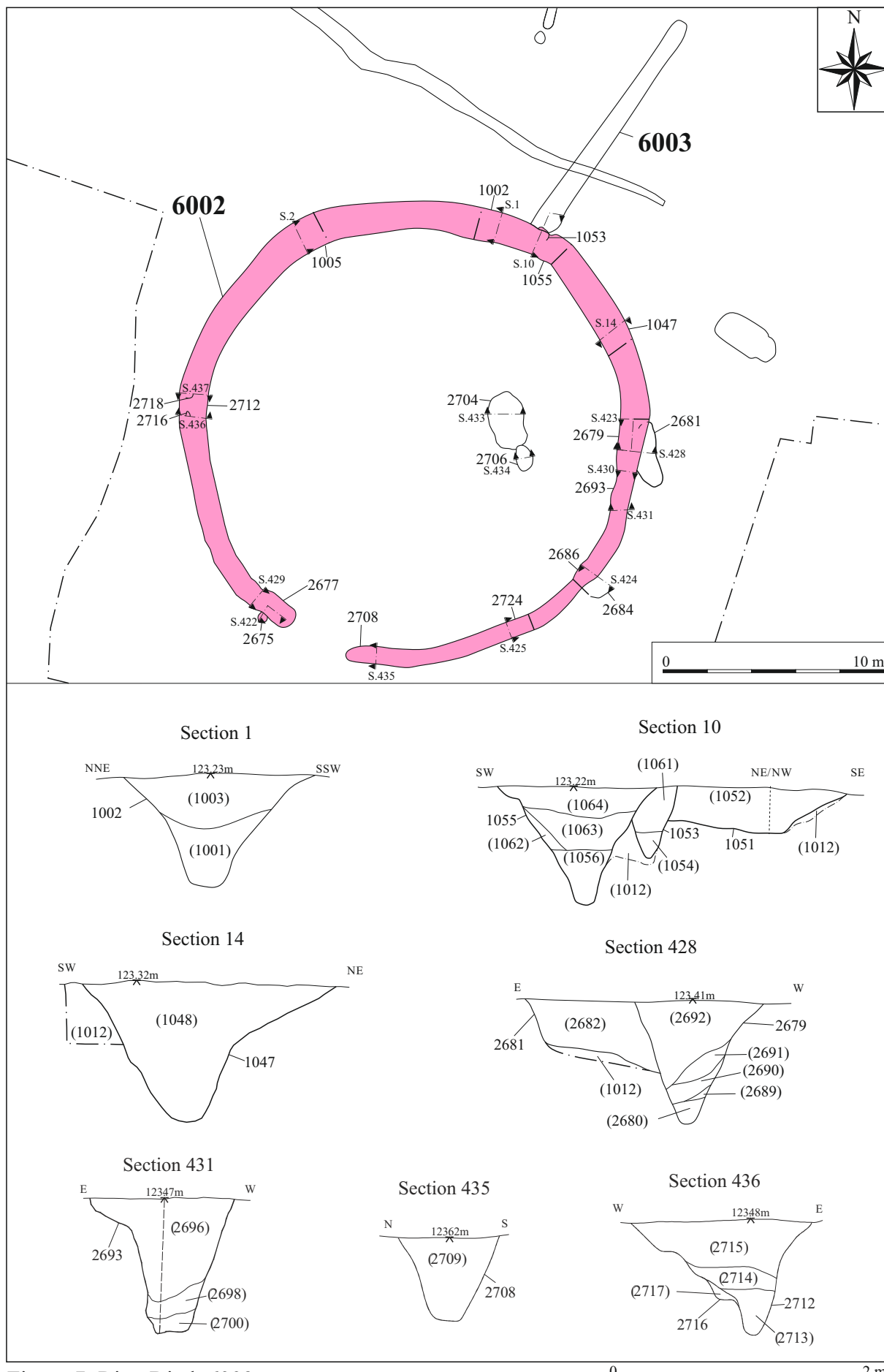


Figure 7: Ring Ditch 6002

0 2 m

A small amount of pottery sherds was recovered from seven of the ring ditch deposits; the upper fills contained material dated between the Iron Age and the 2nd century, slump deposit (2722) contained a single intrusive sherd of pottery date to the middle 3rd century and (2726) had a single example of 1st century Grog-tempered ware.

Animal bone was found in six of the fills, (1004), (1048), (2678), (2709), (2725) and (2726). Radiocarbon dating of one of the only fragment of bone recovered from primary fill (2725) indicated a Middle Bronze Age date for the material (Appendix 10); however, the item was considered to be residual.

Stone and flint artefacts were also present; they included a fragment of saddle quern from deposit (2709), one residual Early Mesolithic blade, and a strike-a-light.

A total of eight environmental samples were taken from ring ditch **6002**, three of which returned no results. Only two spelt grains were recovered from primary fill (2709), whilst small amounts of barely and unidentifiable cereal were recovered from tertiary fills (2692) and (2696), and slump deposit (2694).

One possible posthole 2710 was located at the base of the eastern ditch terminus; it had an oval shape, and measured 0.3x0.2m, with a depth of 0.29m. No finds were collected from its only fill (2711); however, cereal and spelt grains were recovered through floatation.

Ditch 6003

Ditch **6003** was cut by ring ditch **6002**. This feature was located to the north of the ring ditch and ran northeast-southwest. The south-western terminus of the ditch 1051 (Figure 7, Section 10) was cut into the natural (1012) and was partially truncated by posthole 1053 and by the ring ditch cut 1055. The terminus was regular and rounded, with moderate breaks of slope at the top and base of the feature. It had moderately sloping, regular sides and a sub-rounded, regular base and had a single fill, a light brown sandy silt (1052). A similar profile was evident in cuts 1070, 1074 and 2736. Fill (2737) of cut 2736 contained two pieces of worked flint.

Ditch 6026

One ditch, measuring over 80m in length and orientated southwest-northeast, was located in the central area of the site. Six interventions were excavated to investigate this feature; only one single fragment of Later Iron Age-Early Roman pottery was recovered from deposit (1248), the fill of cut 1247. Additionally, one strike-a-light was found in fill (1102); this deposit also contained animal bone, as did fill (1215).

The profile of the feature was generally rounded, as visible in cuts 1247, 1233, 1093, 1101 and 2269; however, cuts 1214 and 1210 showed a more irregular profile.

Ditch **6026** is likely to have continued to the north-west, where deposit (2270), the fill of cut 2269, contained seven sherds of Later Iron Age-Early Roman pottery and animal bone. Cut 2269 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 322) was 1.16m wide and 0.34m deep and contained a single light brown sandy silt fill. Ditch **6026** cut earlier ditch 2266 and was cut by later ditch **6029**, part of Enclosure B, and by 3rd century ditch **7052**.

Ditch 7012

One additional linear ditch, dated to the Later Iron Age-Early Roman period, was present in the central area of the site. Ditch **7012** measured approximately 10m in length and was orientated east-west; it was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep.

Cut 1145 had a rounded profile and two fills; the lower deposit (1146) contained two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone; a single piece of flint was recovered from the upper fill (1145).

Terminus 1156 had a similar profile; its sandy fill (1156) was devoid of finds.

One isolated linear feature was recorded in proximity of the north-eastern limit of excavation. Ditch 2098 was orientated northwest to southeast, had a shallow, concave profile and measured 0.62m wide and 0.09m deep. Its single deposit (2099) contained three sherds of pottery dating to the Later Iron Age-Early Roman period.

Post-Iron Age to Early Roman Features (Figure 6)

Three features devoid of dating material were stratigraphically later than features securely dated to the Iron Age to Early Roman period.

One circular posthole 1053 (Fig. 7, Section 10), measuring 0.26m in diameter and 0.48m in depth, was cut into the south-western terminus of ditch **6003**. No materials were recovered from its fills (1054) and (1061).

Pit 2113 cut Iron Age pit 2111. It was a sub-circular and measured 0.81m in depth and had a single fill (2112), a friable, light brown-grey silty sand deposit.

A shallow gully 1218 with gradually sloping sides and measuring 0.09m in depth was cut into ditch **6026**; no materials were recovered from its sandy silt fill (1219).

Possible Iron Age Features (Figures 6-7)

Two intercutting pits, 2704 and 2706 were located within the area defined by ring ditch **6002**. Both features contained spelt wheat grains, suggesting an Iron Age or later date, but had no other dating material; additionally, there was no stratigraphic relationship between these pits and ring ditch **6002**.

4.4 Phase 2. Roman

(Figures 8-30, Plates 4-16)

The main phase of activity on the site was dated to this period, with particular intensity during the 2nd century. Chronological sub-divisions are based on the pottery chronology; however, there is large potential for overlap between phases, especially in the later part of the 2nd century and later.

4.4.1 Roman Features

A number of features (Figure 8) were attributed to the Roman period in general, as the quantity and nature of the materials recovered did not allow for secure dating.

The relationship between pit 1789 and Roman ditch **7017** was unclear; however, it is likely that the both features dated to this period. Pit 1789 was shallow, measuring 0.1m in depth, and had a single, sandy fill (1790).

Pit 2965 cut the two linear features **7038** and **7039**. It had an irregular profile and contained two fills (2966) and (2967); one hob nail was recovered from the latter deposit.

A single sherd of pottery identifiable only as Roman was recovered from (1139), the fill of sub-oval pit 1138.

Similarly, posthole 2214 contained one fragment of Roman pottery.

Pit 1819 was stratigraphically later than Roman ditch **7017**; however, its fill (1820) was devoid of finds.

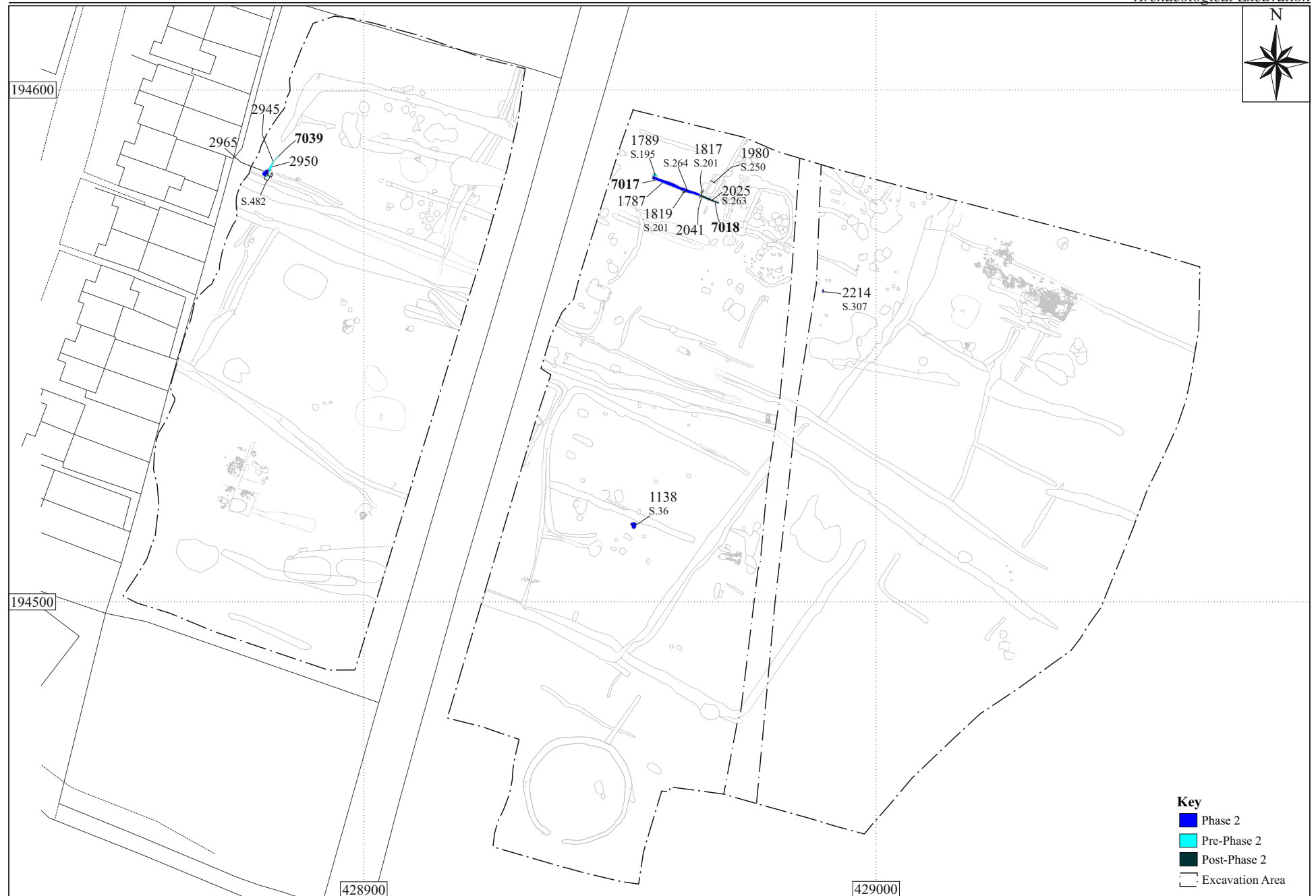


Figure 8: Roman Features (Phase 2)

One short linear feature **7039**, orientated northeast-southwest, was investigated in two interventions, cuts 2945 and 2950. Both measured less than 0.1m in depth and contained a single fill, (2946) and (2951) respectively. A single nail dated to the medieval or post-medieval period was recovered from (2951) but was considered intrusive. This feature was cut by pit 2965.

Ditch **7017** was also orientated northwest-southeast, but was located in the central part of the site. It measured almost 11m in length and was very shallow, with a depth of only 0.05m. One fragment of Roman pottery was collected from its sandy fill (1788), observed in cut 1787. The feature was cut by pit 1819 and ditch **7018**.

Ditch **7018** was on the same alignment of ditch **7017** and could represent a later extension of the feature. Cut 2025 had an irregular profile, while terminus 2041 appeared to be more regularly concave. No materials were recovered from fills (2026) and (2042).

4.4.2 Phase 2a. 1st Century

Pre-1st Century Features (Figure 9)

A small number of features devoid of dating materials were stratigraphically earlier than features securely dated to the 1st century.

Circular pit 1866 was cut by 1st century pit 1869. It measured 0.52m in width and 0.5m in depth, and contained two sandy silt deposits; lower fill (1867) and upper fill (1868). No materials were recovered from this feature. It appear to have obliterated ditch **7073**.

Similarly, rounded pit 1417 was almost entirely obliterated by ditch **7000**, dated to the 1st century. Fill (1418) contained a single fragment of animal bone.

Pit 2254 was 0.42m in depth and measured 0.42x0.5m, and was cut by ditch **7067**. Neither of its three fills (2255) (2256) and (2257) contained materials.

No materials were recovered from the two deposits (2048) and (2050) in posthole 2047; however, this feature was cut by later pit 2013, dated to the 1st century or later.

Ditch **7073** was located in the northern area of the site. Cuts 1977 and 1982 had a V-shaped profile; a more irregular profile was observed in cut 2056. A single fragment of Roman pottery was recovered from fill (1978) in cut 1977; however, ditch **7073** was cut by pit 1866, stratigraphically dated to the 1st century or earlier.

1st Century Structures (Figures 9-10)

*Possible Corn-Dryer **7067***

On possible structure **7067** could represent an early type of corn dryer, formed by an elongated linear feature, representing the flue, associated with a sub-circular pit, representing the bowl. The flue, orientated northwest-southeast, was investigated through five interventions (cuts 2011, 2174, 2212 and 2252). The width of the feature was approximately 0.6m, and its depth varied between 0.24 and 0.54m. Fill (2012) in cut 2011, was the only deposit containing materials; animal bone and four fragments of 1st century or later grog-tempered ware were recovered from it. The sub-circular chamber 2013 measured *ca* 0.85m in diameter and contained two deposits, (2019) and (2049). A substantial assemblage of 47 sherds of pottery dated to the late 1st century was collected from the pit, accompanied by animal bone and fragments of stone slabs and slate. Possible corn dryer **7067** is located in an archaeologically dense area of the site; the structure cut posthole 2047, ditch 2063 and pit 2254.

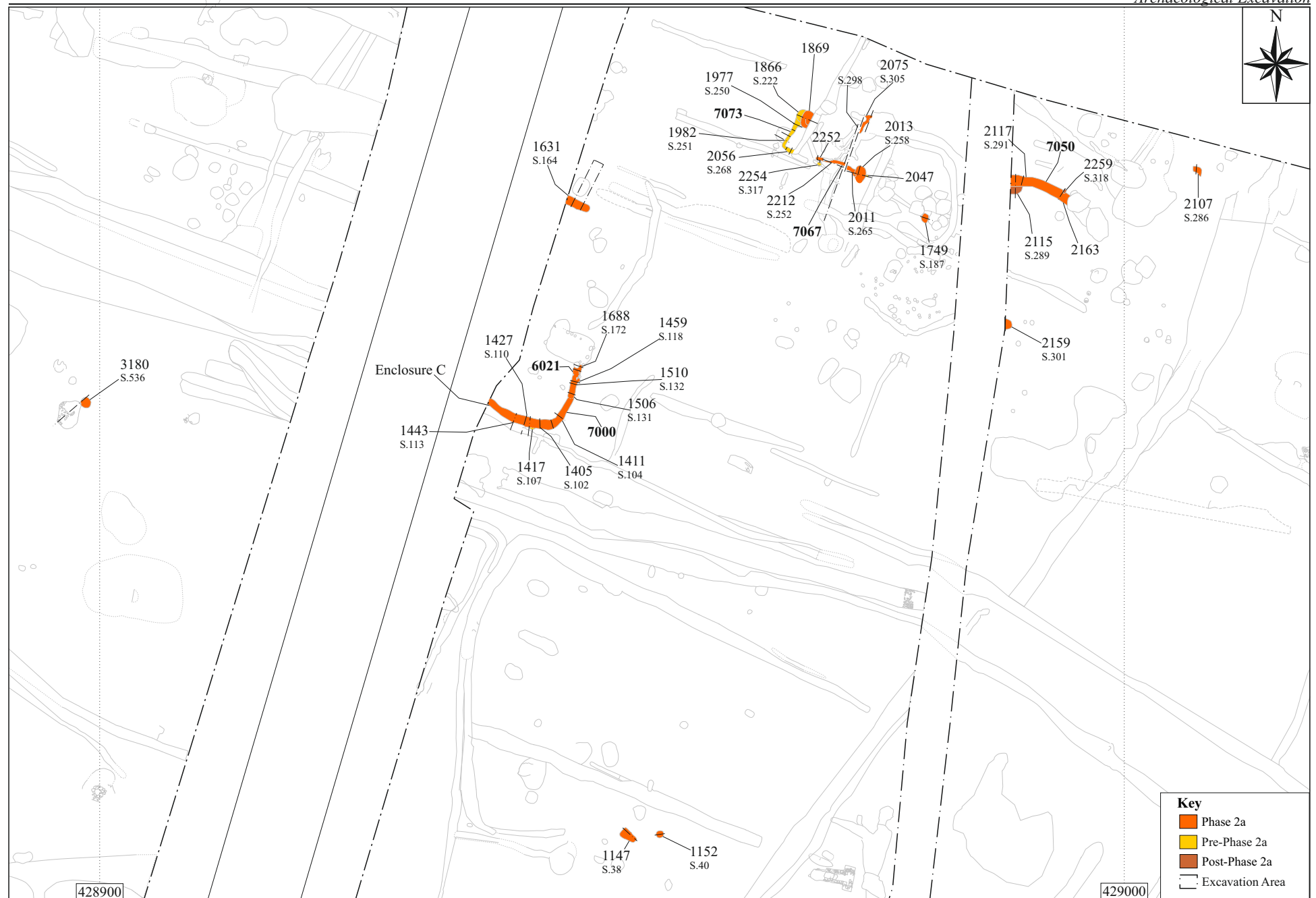


Figure 9: 1st Century Features (Phase 2a)

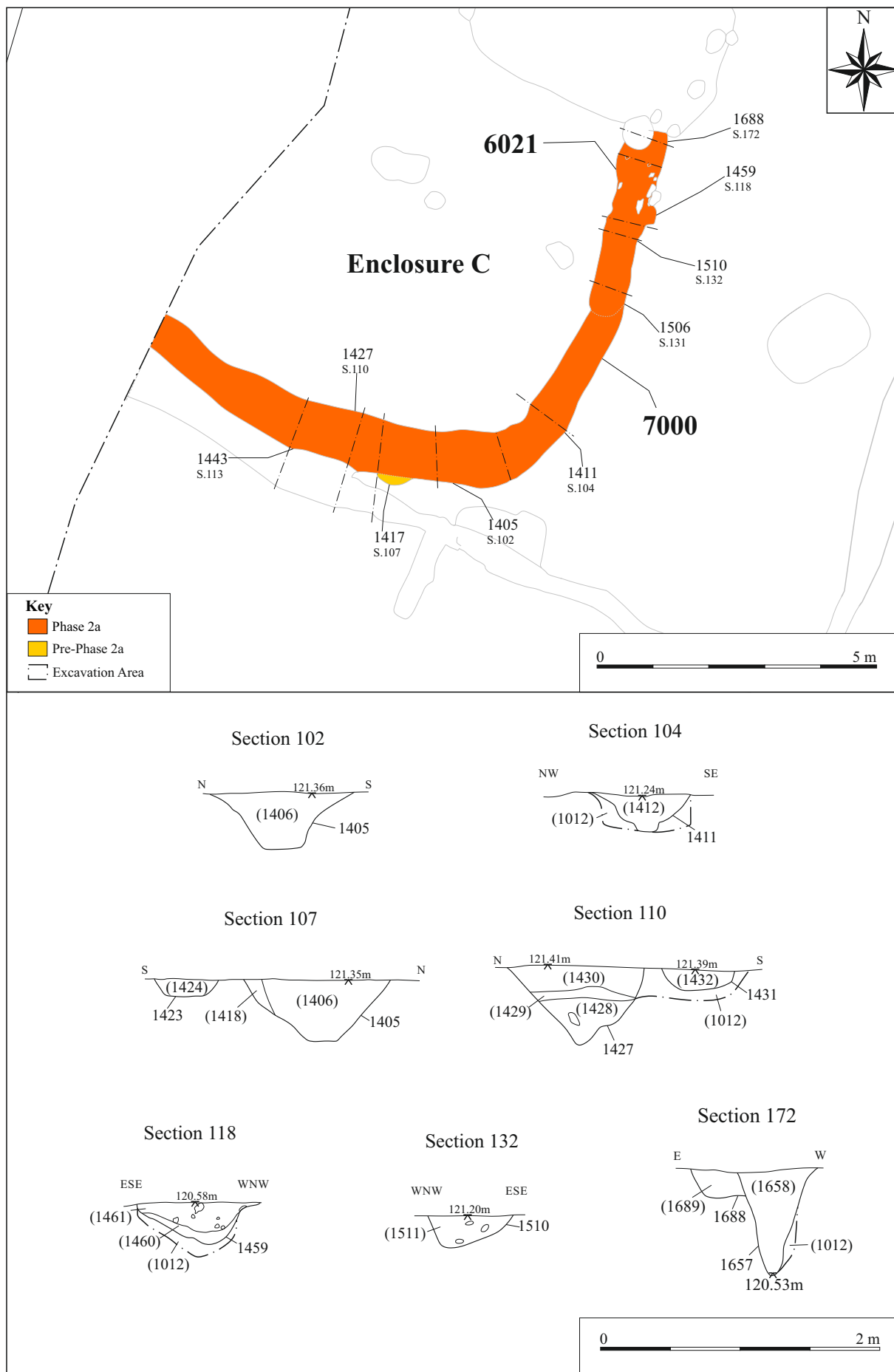


Figure 10: Enclosure C

Possible Enclosure C

Ditches **7000** and **6021** could have formed a small enclosure in use during the 1st century (Figs. 9-10). A linear ditch with an irregularly rounded profile **6021** measured 2.5m in length and run on a north-south alignment. The northern end of this feature was recorded as cut 1688 (Fig. 10, Section 172) and measured 0.8m in width and 0.18m in depth, with a single fill (1689). Cut 1459 (Fig. 10, Section 118) had similar width but was 0.3m in depth; it contained two fills, (1460) and (1461). Towards south, cut 1510 (Fig. 10, Section 132) was 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep, with a single fill (1511). Cut 1508 had a single fill (1509) and was preserved to a maximum width of 0.46, as it was truncated by later ditch **7000**, which was approximately 11m long, and might represent an alteration or extension of ditch **6021**. A small quantity of animal bone and a total of 20 fragments of late 1st century pottery were recovered. Ditch **7000** was L-shaped, with fairly regular gradual sides and rounded base. Its width varied between 0.7 and 1m, while its depth was 0.28m in the shallowest cut 1405 (Fig. 10, Sections 102 and 107) and 0.66m in the deepest, cut 1427. Cut 1427 (Fig. 10, Section 110) was the only one containing two fills, (1428) and (1429), while 1405, 1411 (Fig. 10, Section 104), 1443 and 1506 contained a single deposit each. A total of 67 sherds of pottery dated to the late 1st century was recovered from this feature; animal bone, slag and flint were also present. One environmental sample collected from deposit (1429) contained spelt, avena and barley. Ditch **7000** truncated ditch **6021** and appeared to be a recut, alteration or extension of the linear feature to the north.

1st Century Pits (Figure 9)

In the western area of the site, circular pit 3180 (Figs. 9 and 20, Section 536) measured 1m in diameter and 0.4m deep. The primary fill (3182) was a light brown silt from which no finds were recovered. Above it, deposit (3181) was a mid-brown silty sand from which 12 sherds of mid-late 1st century pottery were recovered, along with a spindle whorl SF120.

A substantial assemblage of 44 sherds of 1st century pottery was recovered, along with animal bone, from deposit (1154), the upper fill of pit 1152; its lower fill did not contain any material. The feature was 0.75m in diameter.

In proximity of the northern limit of excavation was pit 1869. It was 0.47m by 1.74m and was 0.53m deep, and contained three deposits. The lowest fill (1870) was a dark red-brown sandy silt; secondary fill (1871) was a yellow-brown sandy silt, whilst upper fill (1872) was a mid-grey brown sandy silt deposit. Animal bone and a total of 18 pottery sherds were recovered from the feature; this material dated mostly to the late 1st century, although a small number of residual earlier fabrics was noted, as well as a Late Neolithic flint blade. This feature cut pit 1866 and was in turn cut by later pit 1873.

To the east, pit 2159 measured 1.04m in diameter and was 0.36m deep. The primary fill (2160) contained animal bone and 60 pottery fragments dating to the mid-late 1st century, while fills (2161) and (2162) were devoid of finds.

The greyish brown sandy loam fill (2108) in shallow pit 2107 contained a single sherd of pottery dated to the late 1st century. The feature was located towards north in the eastern area of the site.

1st Century Linear Features (Figure 9)

One isolated ditch terminus 1631 was observed in the central area, extending outside the limit of excavation towards west. It measured 0.76m wide and was 0.16m deep. The single fill (1632) contained three sherds of 1st century pottery.

The relationships between ditch 2075 and other features in the area is unclear. Ditch 2075 was 0.58m deep and contained three sandy clay fills, (2076), (2077) and (2078); burnt stone, animal bone and 20 fragments of pottery were recovered from this feature. The vast majority of the material dated to the late 1st century; however, two examples of later pottery were also present.

Ditch 7050

Ditch **7050** was exposed for a maximum length of over 12m, and appeared to extend towards west outside the excavation area. Cut 2117 had near vertical sides and a flat base, measured 0.69m in width and 0.91m in depth. It contained four fills, (2127), (2128), (2129), (2136), all described as loose, light to mid-brown sand deposits. The linear feature appeared to have a different profile towards east, with cut 2163 measuring 1.8m wide and only 0.22m deep. A total of 17 sherds of pottery dating to the late 1st century were recovered from this feature, with a number of fragments of later date also present. However, ditch **7050** was severely disturbed by later pits 2115 and 2259 as well as pits 2167 and 2346, dated to the 4th century; the later material recovered from deposit (2164) within cut 2163 was therefore considered intrusive.

Post-1st Century Features (Figure 9)

Two pits located in the northern area of the site were stratigraphically later than features securely dated to the 1st century, although devoid of any finds.

Sub-circular pit 2115 measured 1.02m in diameter and was 0.63m deep; it contained a single fill (2116), a loose, mid-brown grey sand deposit containing no materials. This feature cut earlier ditch 2117.

Small pit 2259 measured 0.28x0.22m, and was 0.1m deep; its only fill (2260) was a friable, brown-reddish silty sand. It cut ditch **7050**.

4.4.3 Phase 2b. 2nd Century

Pre-2nd Century Features (Figures 11-20)

A number of features contained no artefacts, but were stratigraphically earlier than features securely dated to the 2nd century.

Ditch 7032

Ditch **7032** measured *ca* 6m in length and was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest, and positioned in the westernmost area of the site. Southern terminus 2934 was 0.8m wide and 0.07m deep; the feature continued as cuts 2970, 2976 and 2939 (Fig. 36, Section 2939), of similar dimensions. None of the fills contained materials; however, ditch **7032** was stratigraphically earlier than 2nd century or later ditch **7028**.

Pit 3069 was located in the north-western corner of the site; it was cut by ditch 3071.

Towards south, small pit 3260 was cut by ditch **6029**, dated to the 2nd century, and in turn cut natural feature 1262.

Ditch **6033** cut small, irregular pit 3261; this contained a single fill (3258).

In the western area, and close to the eastern limit of excavation, ditch 2913 was located; it was cut by ditch 2915, containing pottery dated to the 2nd century or later.

In the central area of the site, a substantial pit 1680 (Figure 11, 14 and 19, Section 130) was cut by 2nd century pits **6007** and 1502. It measured 1.56m in diameter and was 0.64m deep. The only fill (1681) contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the 2nd century or late.



Figure 11: 2nd Century Features (Phase 2b)

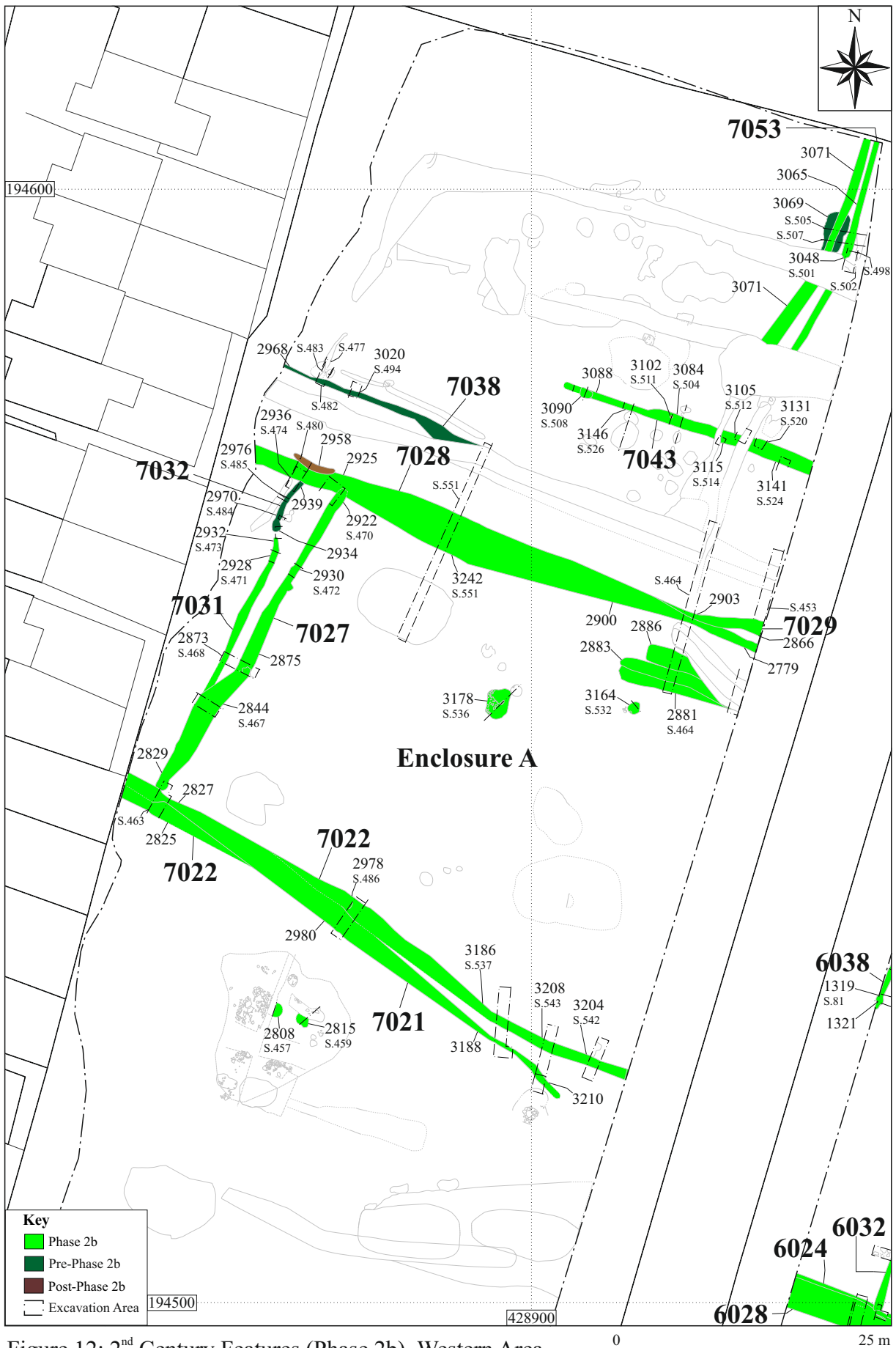


Figure 12: 2nd Century Features (Phase 2b). Western Area

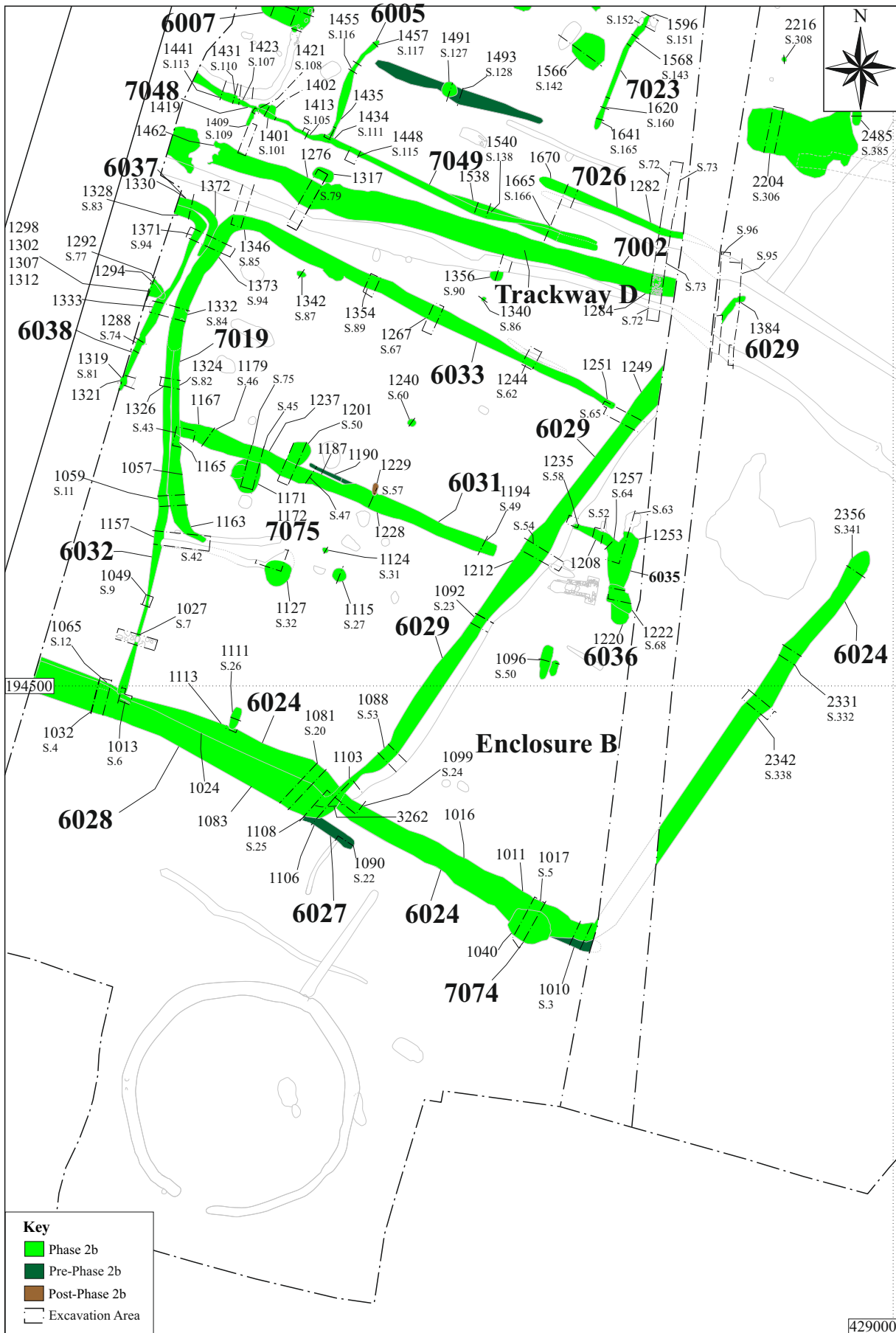


Figure 13: 2nd Century Features (Phase 2b)
Central Area - South

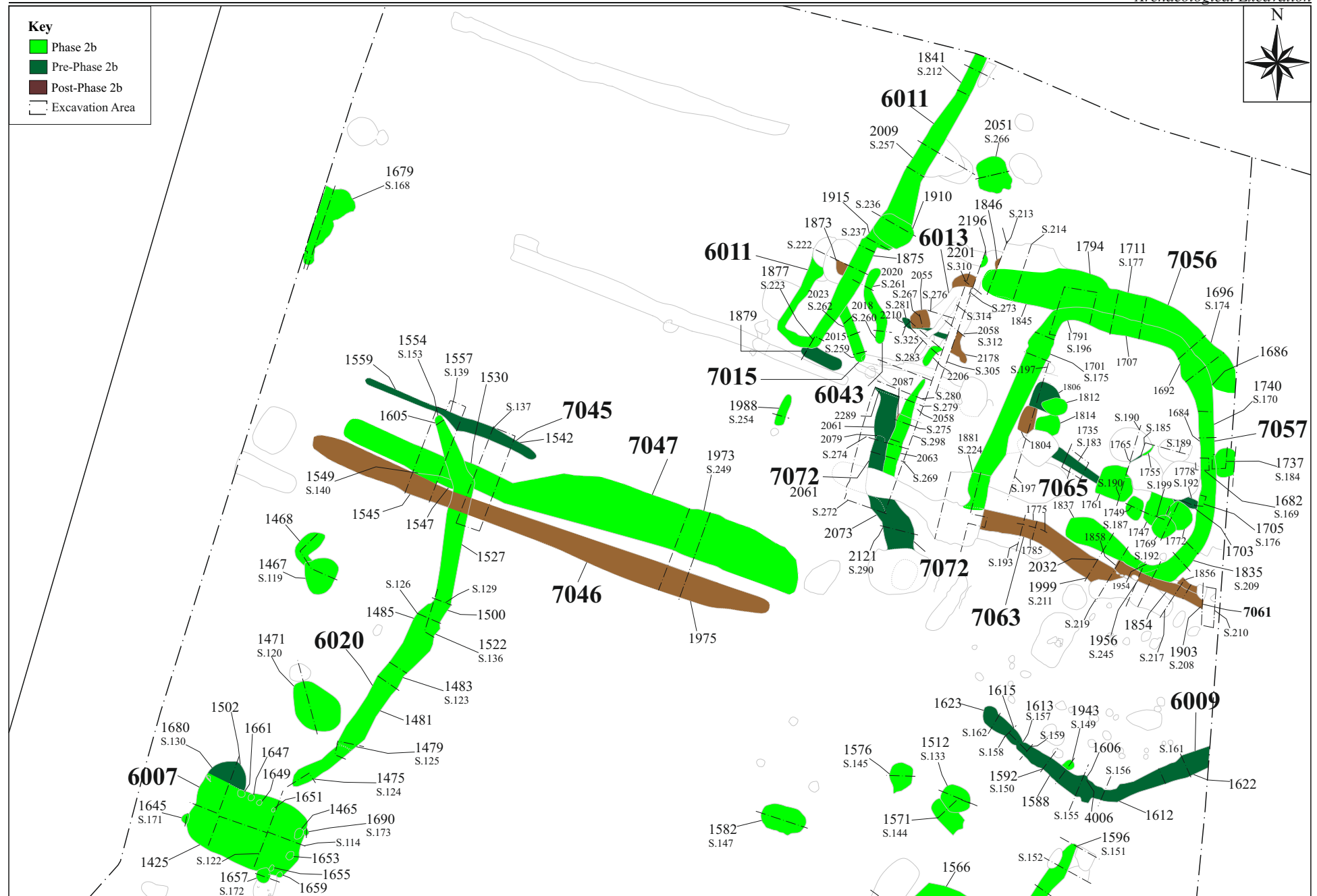


Figure 14: 2nd Century Features (Phase 2b). Central Area - North

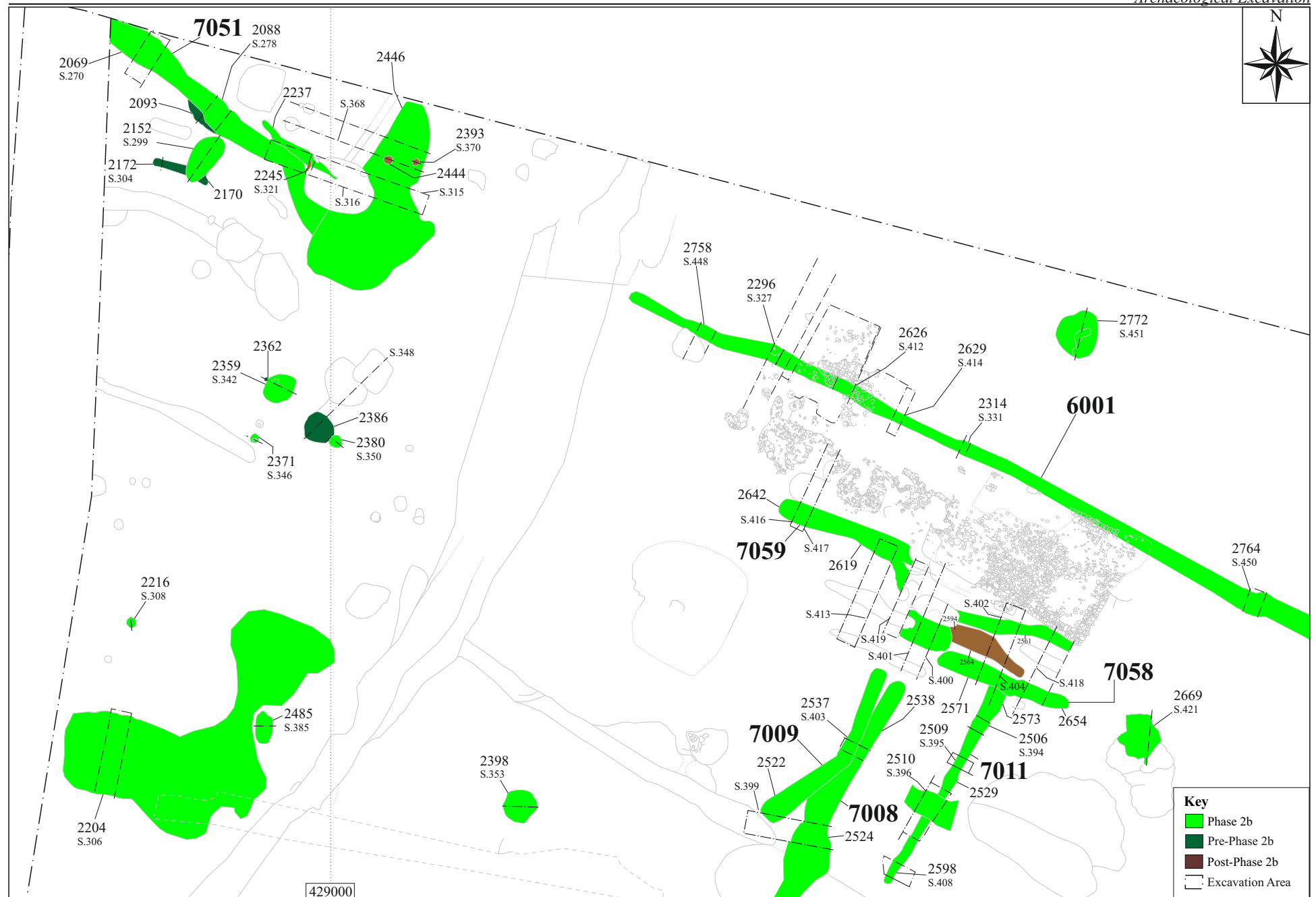


Figure 15: 2nd Century Features (Phase 2b). Eastern Area

One ill-defined feature 1533, possibly a pit, was located between ditches **7045** and **7047**. Initially identified as a ditch, the feature was only visible in a single intervention. It measured 0.42m in depth and contained four fills, (1534), (1535), (1536) and (1537); the seven pottery sherds recovered from it only allowed for a general Early Roman date. However, the feature was stratigraphically earlier than 2nd century ditch **7047**.

Pit 4006 was 0.45m deep and was largely truncated by ditch **6009**.

Sub-circular pit 1806 measured 1.1m in diameter and 0.12m in depth; it was cut by pit 1804, which contained 2nd century material.

Pit 1980 was cut by ditch **6011**. It was 0.15 deep and had a diameter of 0.25m; its only fill (1981) was a mid-brown, grey sandy silt.

Elongated pit 2093 measured 1.1x0.36m and was 0.16m deep. It was cut by 2nd century or later ditch **7051**.

Shallow pit 2386 was cut by 2nd century pit 2380.

Ditch 7065

One ditch **7065**, located within Enclosure **7057**, was visible for a length of approximately 2m. This feature was stratigraphically later than pit 1765, but earlier than 2nd century pit 1761. Cut 1735 had an irregularly concave profile and was 0.49m wide and 0.1m deep. Its fill (1736) was a mid-brown grey loamy sand deposit with chalk inclusions. Further south was cut 1763, measuring 0.18m in depth and containing one deposit (4003).

In the same area was pit 1765, which measured 0.32m in width and 0.24m in depth, and contained one sandy silt deposit (1766). This feature was stratigraphically earlier than ditch **7065**.

Two postholes contained no dating materials, but were both cut by ditch 2063, dated to the 2nd century. Posthole 2079 was 0.32m deep and contained a single fill, (2080).

Posthole 2226 measured 0.26m in depth and had two fills, (2226) and (2227).

One additional circular posthole 2362 was recorded; it was 0.06m deep and was cut by pit 2359, which contained material dated to the 2nd century.

Enclosure B, dated to the 2nd century, cut a number of ditches devoid of dating material. Ditch terminus 1010 was orientated southeast-northwest and was cut by ditch **6024**, which followed the same alignment.

Ditch **6027** (Figure 13) had an orientation similar to ditch **6028**, also part of Enclosure B, which cut it.

Small ditch or gully terminus 1190 was truncated by ditch **6031**. Its fill (1191) contained a single iron nail of uncertain date.

Isolated ditch 1493, located in the central area of the site, was cut by 2nd century pit 1491. It measured ca 10m in length, had a concave profile, and contained two deposits, (1494) and (1498).

Towards north, 2nd century pit 1772 cut shallow ditch 1778, and measured 0.03m in depth; this appeared to be also truncated by Enclosure **7057**, which also cut ditch 1703.

Ditch terminus 1879 was equally shallow, with a recorded depth of 0.04m; it contained a single fill (1880) and was cut by 2nd century ditch **6011**.

Gully terminus 2210 had one fill (2211) and was cut by ditch **6013** in the same area of site.

Similarly, gully 2289, which contained one deposit (2290), was cut by ditch **7072**, which did not contain any material either, but was in turn cut by 2nd century ditch 2063.

A group of ill-defined linear features was located in the northern section of the central area; a number of these features was devoid of finds, but cut by 2nd century ditches.

Ditch **7045** was orientated northwest-southeast. Cut 1542 was 0.48m wide and 0.32m deep, and contained two sandy clay deposits (1543) and (1544). Cut 1557 had a concave profile and measured 0.68m in width and 0.22m in depth. A single fill (1558) was recorded. This feature was cut by ditch **7047** and in turn cut linear feature 1559.

Feature 1559 was 0.52m wide and 0.16m deep, with a single fill (1560). Its full extent was not established; however, it was cut by ditch **7045**.

Similarly, ditch 1547 was found to be cut by ditches **7046** and **7047**; the recorded profile was irregularly concave and measured 0.5m wide and 0.24m deep. A single sandy loam deposit (1548) was present. It remains undetermined if the feature extended further.

Gully 1552 was 0.49m in width and 0.28m in depth, and contained a single deposit (1553). This feature was cut by ditches 1547 and **7047**; its full extent was not determined.

In the north-eastern corner of site and to the south of Building F, ditch 2566 had a concave profile and contained three deposits, (2567), (2568) and (2570). No artefacts were recovered from this feature; however, it was cut by 2nd century ditch **7058**.

Ditch 6009

One L-shaped ditch **6009** was observed in the north area of the site. No artefacts were recovered from its fills, although it was stratigraphically earlier than 2nd century pit 1943. Eastern terminus 1622 had a concave profile and measured 0.62m wide and 0.20m deep. Cut 1612 had similar dimensions. Toward south, cut 1606 measured 0.94m in width and 0.46m in depth. Cut 1588 measured 0.64m wide and was 0.31m deep. Fill (1589) of the ditch contained no finds, but was cut by cut by pit 1943, which contained a single sherd of 2nd century pottery as well as one intrusive fragment of medieval pottery. Cuts 1592 and 1613 were also part of this feature. Western terminus 1623 was 0.62m wide and 0.20m deep and was cut by pit 1615.

Ditch 7072

Located in the northern area of site was also ditch **7072**, a linear feature orientated north-northeast to south-southwest. Cut 2121 measured 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep and had a single fill, (2122). It was cut by post-medieval ditch **7064**; this feature also truncated deposit (2074) in cut 2073. Ditch **7072** appeared to continue towards north as cut 2061; here it was cut by 2nd century or later ditch 2063, and in turn cuts gully 2289 and posthole 2079.

Ditch 7020

In the northern area, a short ditch **7020** was devoid of finds, but was cut by 2nd century pit 2152. Both cuts 2170 and 2172 had a concave profile, and measured between 0.38 and 0.48m in width and 0.2 and 0.28m in depth.

2nd Century Structures (Figures 11-20, Plates 4-10)

Enclosure A

A large portion of the western area of the site was occupied by Enclosure A (Figures 11-12 and 16), initially formed by ditches **7022** and **7027**, and possibly continuing

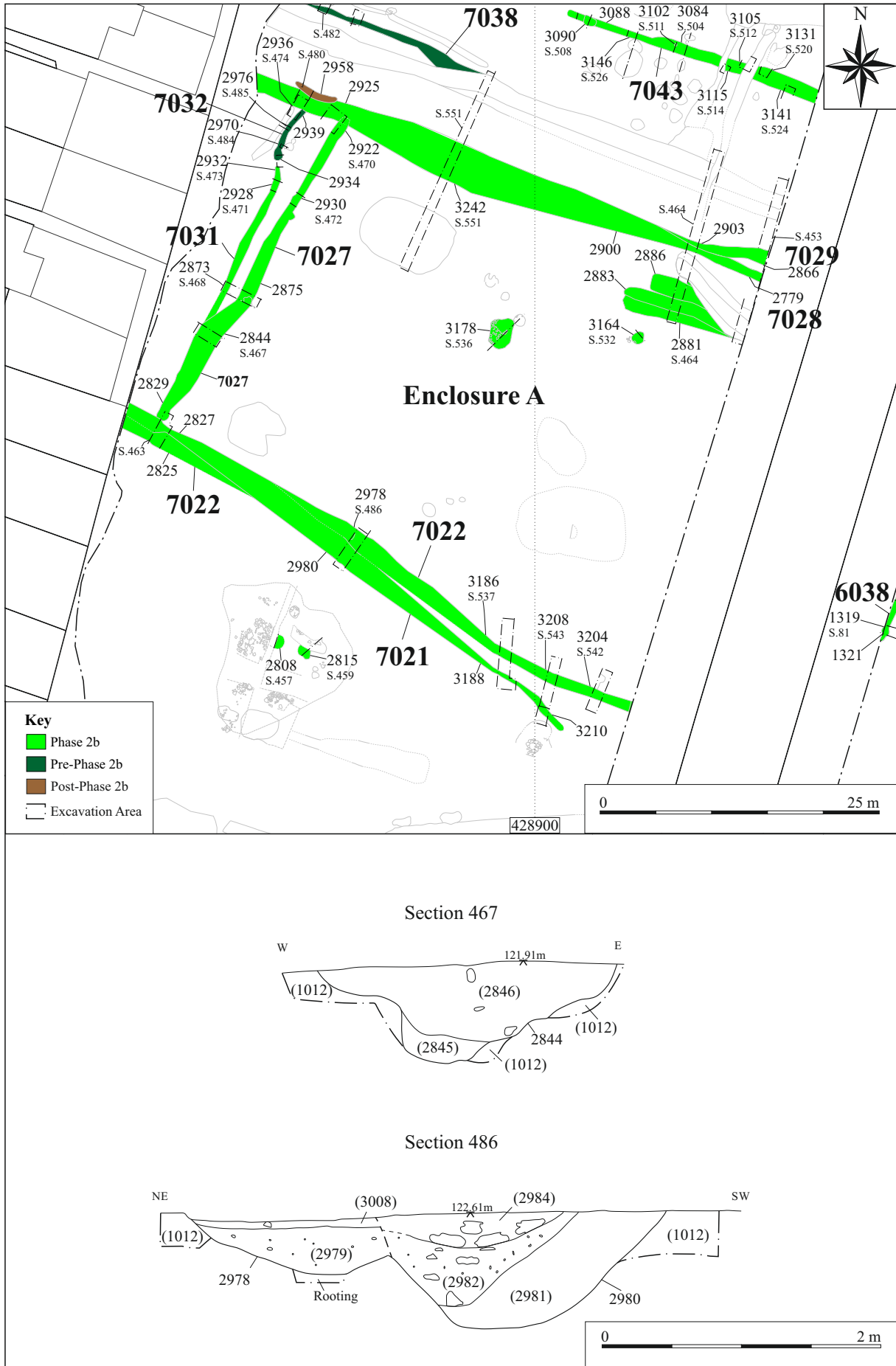


Figure 16: Enclosure A

towards east as ditch **6038**; the structure appeared to have been altered during the 2nd century, with **7021** cutting previous ditch **7022** along the same alignment, and ditch **6037** replacing previous ditch **6038**. Ditch **7022** was orientated northwest-southeast, and measured over 50m in length. Cut 2825 was 1.2m wide and 0.54m deep; it contained a single fill (2826), from which 20 fragments of pottery dated to the 2nd century and animal bone were recovered. Cut 2978 (Figure 16, Section 486) measured 1.6m in width and 0.4m in depth, and had two fills, (2979) and (3008); one Roman nail and 2nd century pottery sherds were found in the latter. A single sherd of grog-tempered ware was collected from deposit (3187), contained by cut 3186; this measured 0.96m in width and depth. Cut 3208 had a similar width, but was only 0.24m deep; its fill (3208) contained animal bone. Cut 3204, equally shallow with a 0.21m depth, had no finds in its fill (3205). Ditch **7022** was subsequently cut by ditch **7021**; its most westerly cut 2827 was 1.38m wide and 0.46m deep and contained a single fill (2828). Cut 2980 (Figure 16, Section 486) was 1.8m wide and 0.85m deep and contained three deposits. Primary fill (2981) was a mid-orange brownish sandy silt; secondary fill (2982) was a mid-brown sandy silt loam; tertiary fill (2984) was a dark brown sandy silt. Further east, cut 3188 measured 0.4m in width and 0.25m in depth, and had a single fill (3189). Terminus 3210 measured 1.08m wide and was 0.54m deep with one fill (3189), a dark grey brown loam. Ditch **7021** was securely dated to the 2nd century or later by the presence of 58 pottery sherds recovered from all its fills, together with animal bone and a single hob nail.

The western side of Enclosure A was formed by ditch **7027**, running northeast to southwest, which measured *ca* 33m in length. Northern terminus 2922 measured 0.97m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled by (2923), a mid-dark grey brown sandy silt, and cut ditch **7028**. Cut 2930 was 0.62m wide and 0.14m deep and was filled by mid-brown sandy deposit (2931). Further south, the ditch continued as cut 2875, which was 1.28m wide and 0.48m deep. This contained a single dark reddish-brown sandy loam fill from which no finds were recovered. Cut 2844 (Figure 16, Section 467) measured 2.15m wide and 0.7m deep; it had two fills, (2845) and (2846). Cut 2829 was 0.56m wide and 0.86m deep, and contained a single deposit (2830). Animal bone and a total of 24 sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd century were recovered from this feature.

L-shaped ditch **6038**, located in the central area of site, was possibly part of Enclosure A. All of the six deposits recorded contained animal bone and a total of 48 fragments of 2nd century pottery. Cut 1328 measured 0.93m wide and 0.32m deep and contained a single fill (1329). Two fills, (1374) and (1375), were observed in cut 1371, measuring 0.76m wide and 0.26m deep. A single sherd of intrusive 3rd century pottery was recovered from this intervention. Cut 1333 was 0.8m wide and 0.24m deep. Cut 1288 was a 0.76m wide and 0.19m deep ditch with a single fill (1289). Cut 1319 measured 0.54m in width and 0.23 in depth, and contained a single deposit (1320). Ditch **6038** was later altered by ditch **6037**; its southern terminus 1372 was 0.48m wide and 0.22m deep, and contained two deposits (1376) and (3259) from which four sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered, and deposit (3259). It was cut by later ditch **6033**, part of Enclosure B. Cut 1330 measured 0.83m in width and 0.28m in depth, and had a single fill (1330).

Enclosure B

During the 2nd century, one additional Enclosure B (Figures 11, 13 and 17) occupied the central area of the site. This was formed originally by ditches **6024**, **6032** and **6033**, and subsequently altered by ditches **6028**, **6029**, **6031** and **7019**.

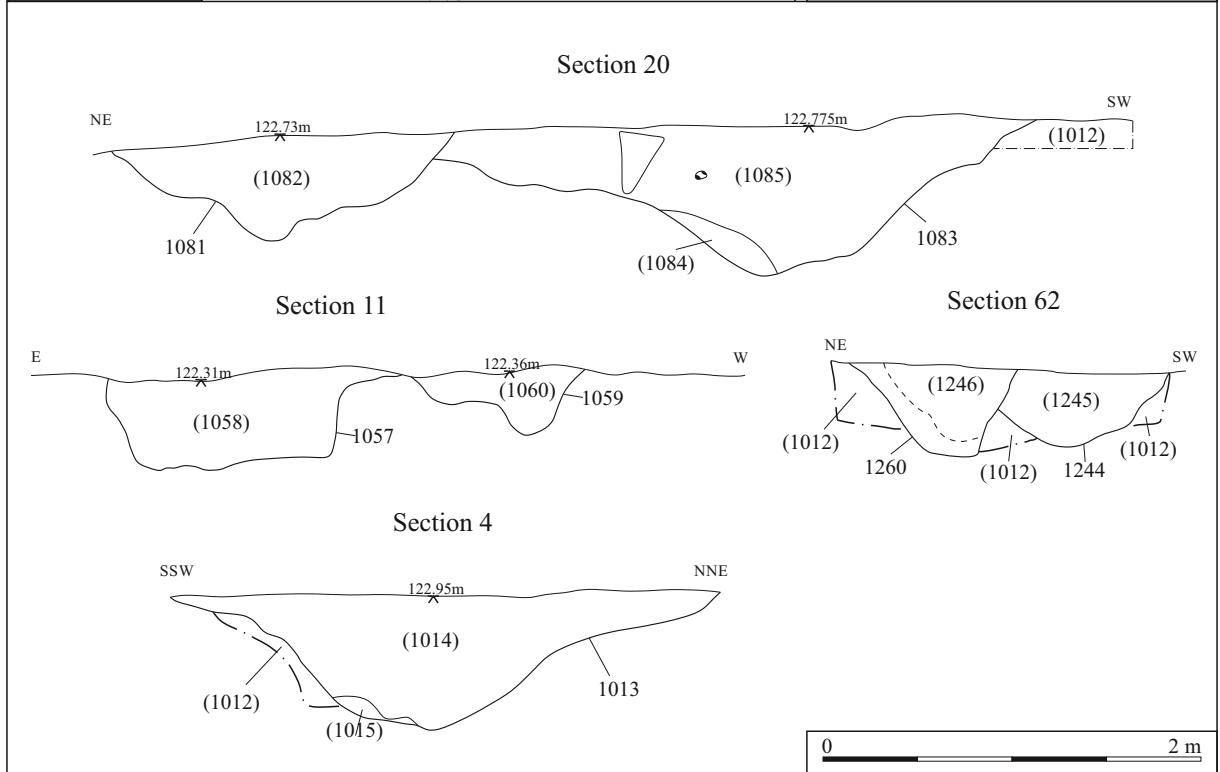
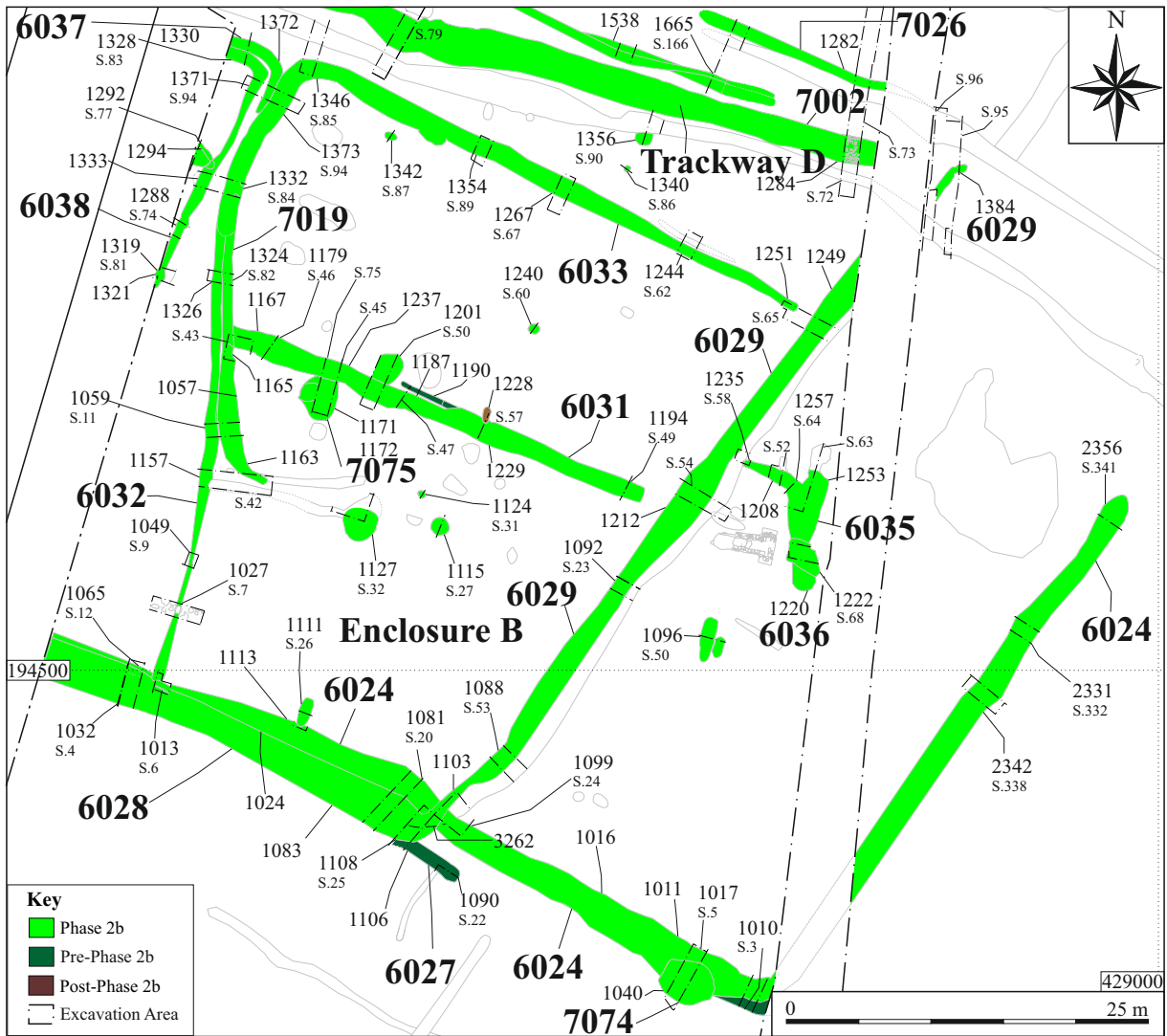


Figure 17: Enclosure B

L-shaped ditch **6024** was over 90m long and extended outside the excavation area towards west. Cut 1065 measured 0.7m in width and 0.5m in depth; its fill (1065) was truncated by later ditch **6028**. Further east, cut 1024 was also disturbed by ditch **6028** and **6032**. Cut 1113 was truncated by pit 1114. Cut 1083 (Fig. 17, Section 20) was 1.8m wide and 0.54m deep and contained two fills. Primary fill (1084) was a thin layer of re-deposited natural, whilst main fill (1085) contained animal bone and 16 sherds of pottery dated between the late 1st and 2nd century. A more substantial assemblage of 2nd century pottery, consisting of 128 fragments and accompanied by animal bone, was recovered from deposit (1110), the single fill of cut 1099; this measured 1.24m wide and 0.6m deep. Cut 1016 contained two fills, (1033) and (1034), devoid of finds; it was largely cut by large pit **7074**. Two deposits (1019) and (1020) were observed in cut 1011; a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from it. Cut 2350 was 1.46m in width and contained four deposits, (2351), (2352), (2354) and (2355); it did not contain any materials, but was cut by a later alteration 2342, from which 16 sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered. Cut 2331 measured 1.92m wide and 0.46m deep; animal bone and four sherds of 2nd century pottery were found in its fill (2332). This section of ditch **6024** was also altered by cut 4008, which contained two deposits (2333) and (4009) and six fragment of pottery dated to the 2nd century or later. North-eastern terminus 2356 was 1.82m wide and 0.40m deep. The single fill (2357) contained animal bone and 19 sherds of 2nd century or later pottery.

Ditch **6024** was altered in multiple sections by ditch **6028**, running northwest-southeast. The feature contained materials indicating a 2nd century date; however, a total of six residual fragments of Iron Age fabrics were also present.

Cut 1013 (Fig. 17, Section 4) measured 2.95m in width and 0.7m in depth; it cut ditch **6024** and contained two sandy silt fills, (1014) and (1015), from which animal bone and 2nd century pottery were recovered. Cut 1032 had a concave profile and was 0.66m wide and 0.44m deep; its single fill (1023) contained animal bone and a single residual sherd of Iron Age pottery, as did deposit (1082) within cut 1081 (Fig. 16, Section 20). Cut 1108 measured 1.02m wide and 0.43m deep. Animal bone was recovered from its fill (1110).

Ditch **6032** formed the western boundary of Enclosure B. Southern terminus 1021 measured 0.56m in width and 0.36m in depth, and cut ditch **6024**; a single fill (1022) was present. Cut 1027 had a single fill (1026), a V-shaped profile with a flat base, and was 0.9m wide and 0.38m deep; the feature was cut by later ditch **7003**. Cut 1049 measured 0.63m in width and 0.28m in depth, and contained one deposit (1050). Towards north, cut 1059 (Fig. 17, Section 11) was 0.9m wide and 0.34m deep, with one silty sand fill (1060). Cut 1157 had a similar V-shaped profile with a flat base and a single deposit (1158), which contained one iron stud of uncertain dating. Cut 1326 measured 0.51m in width and 0.41 in depth; a single deposit (1327) was observed within it; here, ditch **6032** was later altered by ditch **7019**. Animal bone and a total of 30 sherds of pottery dated between the late 1st and the 2nd century were collected from ditch **6032**; a single fragment of intrusive post-medieval pottery was also recorded.

During the 2nd century, Enclosure B was modified with the excavation of additional partitions and the alteration of existing features. L-shaped ditch **6033** formed the north boundary of the enclosure. Although its physical relationship with ditch **6032** is unclear, the material recovered from the latter points to an earlier date for that feature. Cut 1332 contained four sandy-loam deposits, (1334), (1335), (1336) and (1337), from which animal bone and pottery dated to the 2nd century or later were recovered. Cut 1373 measured 1.36m wide and 0.56m deep and contained three fills. Primary fill (1377) was a dark brown sandy loam; above this, fills (1378) and (1379) contained

animal bone and pottery. The feature cut ditch **6037** and pit 3261. Cut 1346 formed the north-west corner of Enclosure B and measured over 1.13m wide and was 0.61m deep. The fill (1347), a mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt, contained animal bone and 20 sherds of pottery. Cut 1267 was 1.4m wide and 0.44m deep and contained two deposits (1268) and (1269); animal bone and pottery were found in the upper fill. Towards south-east, cut 1244 (Fig. 17, Section 62) was smaller, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.21m deep, with a single fill (1245) containing pottery, animal bone and flint. A single fill (1252) was present in terminus 1251.

One additional ditch **7019** run parallel and partially truncated ditch **6032**. Its southern terminus 1163 measured 0.52m wide and 0.15m deep, and had a single mid-reddish brown silty sand fill (1164). Cut 1057 (Fig. 17, Section 11) measured 1.54m wide and 0.56m deep and contained one fill (1058); further north, cut 1165 was 1.04m wide and 0.18m deep, with a single silty sand fill (1166). Deposit (1325) was the single fill of cut 1324, measuring 0.73m wide and 0.32m deep. Animal bone and a total of 121 fragments of pottery were recovered from this feature. The assemblage indicates an overall date of the 2nd century or later for the material; however, a considerable portion of it is dated to the early or middle Iron Age, and includes a finger-tipped, carinated vessel. Such a large quantity of early pottery could have originated from Iron Age features present in this area, subsequently obliterated by the Roman interventions. Ditch **7019** cut Late Iron Age Ditch **7012** but was in turn cut by 2nd century or later ditch **6031**.

The internal area of Enclosure B was subdivided by the creation of northeast-southwest orientated ditch **6029**, which cut earlier ditch 3262 as well as Late Iron Age-Early Roman ditch **6026**. The dating material suggests a 2nd century or later date for this feature; the occasional 3rd century pottery sherds recovered from ditch **6033** was probably intrusive, originating from later ditch **6034**. A single deposits (1105), devoid of finds, was observed in cut 1103. Cut 1088 was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep. Its light brown silty sand fill (1089) contained a substantial assemblage of 88 sherds of late 2nd century pottery and animal bone. Cut 1092 had an irregularly concave profile and contained four deposits. Fills (1094) (1095) and (1096) contained animal bone and a total of 13 pottery sherds dated to the 2nd century or later. Fill (1097) was devoid of finds. 12 additional sherds of the same period, as well as animal bone, were recovered from deposit (1213) contained within cut 1212, which measured 2.28m in width and 0.53m in depth. Cut 1249 was 1.52m wide and had a single fill (1250). The feature could have possibly continued towards northeast, although the physical relationship between ditch **6029** and the possible continuation was not confirmed as it lay outside of the excavation area. Cut 1384 was 1.26m wide and 0.34m deep, while cut 1394 was 1.6m wide and 0.28m deep. Both contained a single fill each, (1385) and (1395) respectively; no materials were recovered from either deposit.

One additional partition **6031**, perpendicular to ditch **6029**, was also created during the later 2nd century. It run northwest to southeast and measured over 30m in length. North-western terminus 1167 had a shallow, concave profile and was 1.3m wide and 0.19m deep; it had a single fill (1168), and cut ditch **7019**. Cut 1179 measured 1.93m wide and 0.38m deep; it contained a single dark grey-brown silty sand fill (1180). Two deposits (1173) and (1238) were observed in cut 1237, which was 1m in width and 0.28m in depth. Further east cut 1200 measured 1.8m wide and 0.36m deep and contained two fills (1202) and (1204). Similarly, cut 1187 contained two fills: primary fill (1189) was 0.06m thick and above this, fill (1188) was 0.31m thick; the feature measured 1.22m wide. Cut 1228 measured 1.3m wide and 0.2m deep. Primary fill (1231) was a dark brown sandy loam, whilst upper fill (1230) was a reddish-brown sandy loam. South-eastern terminus 1194 was 1.2m wide and 0.28m deep, with a

single fill (1195). Animal bone fragments and a total of 56 sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd century or later were present. This feature was cut by quarry pit **7074**.

Enclosure 7057

One curvilinear ditch (Figures 11, 14 and 18, Plate 4) defining a sub-rectangular area measuring approximately 95 square meters was located in the northern area of the site; a large number of intercutting pits was observed within such enclosure. Animal bone and a total of 27 fragments of 2nd century pottery were recovered from this feature.



Plate 4. Enclosure **7057** and Corn Dryer **6013**
Aerial photograph, looking east

The southern limit of this possible enclosure appears to return westward, where terminus 1837 measured 0.8m in width and 0.28m in depth, and had a single fill (1838). Cut 2032 was 0.24m wide and 0.38m deep; it contained a single deposit (2033), a firm, grey-brown silt. Cut 1954 had a single fill (1955/1961), a mid-orange brown sandy loam which contained animal bone; it was truncated by later ditch **7062**. A single fill (1836) was observed in cut 1835, which was 0.7m wide and 0.44m deep. Further north, cut 1705 measured 0.61m in width and 0.24m in depth, and contained a single deposit (1706); here, the feature cut earlier ditch 1703. Cut 1740 was 0.36m wide and 0.16m deep, and had a single sandy silt fill (1741). A single deposit (1685) was also observed in cut 1684, which measured 0.59m wide and 0.21m deep; similarly, cut 1686 (Fig. 18, Section 170) contained a single deposit (1687). Forming the northern side of the enclosure, cut 1692 measured 0.68m in width and 0.38m in depth, and contained three fills: (1693), (1694) and (1695). Ditch **7056**, also dated to the 2nd century or later, was cut by 1692 and by 1707 (Fig. 18, Section 177); three fills (1708), (1709) and (1710) were also observed within the latter. Cut 1791 (Fig. 18, Section 196) represented the north-western corner of Enclosure **7057**; one iron pruning hook (SF46) was recovered from its middle fill (1782). Cut 1701 had a rounded profile and contained a single fill (1702). The western side of the feature continued as cut 1881, measuring 0.38m deep and containing a single deposit (1882).

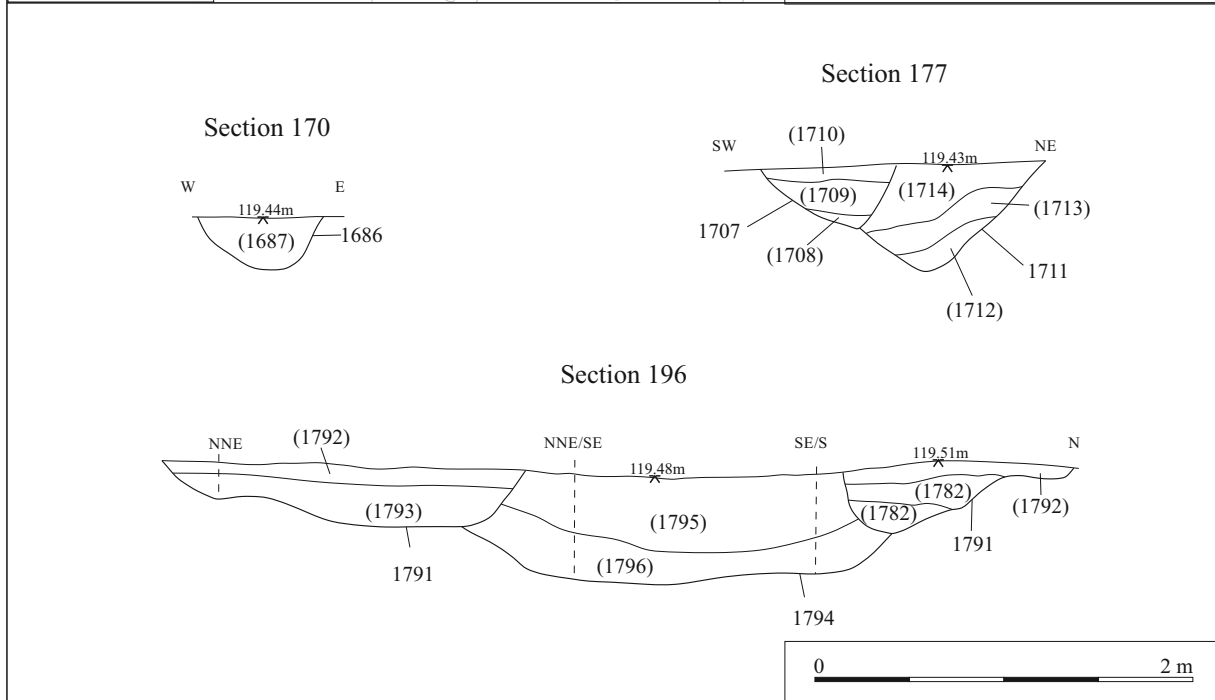
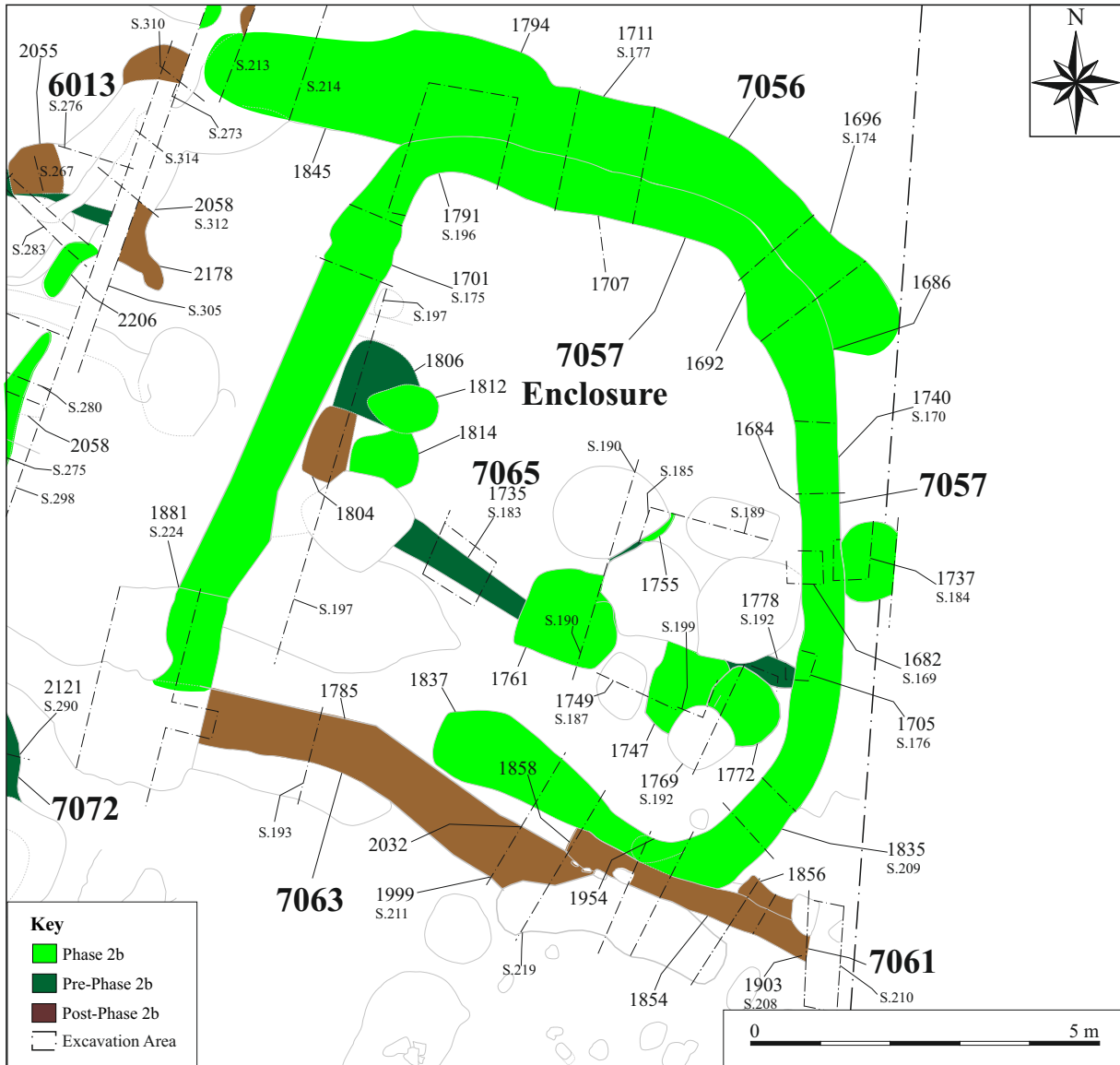


Figure 18: Enclosure 7057

Corn Dryer 6013

Immediately to the west of Enclosure 7057 was corn dryer 6013 (Figures 11, 14, Plates 4-6); the feature was heavily disturbed by later activity in this area.

Corn dryer 6013 was initially interpreted as a kiln; however, the presence of a considerable amount of cereal grains, the lack of pottery wasters and other kiln-related equipment and the overall morphology of this feature suggests that it is more likely a corn dryer than a kiln. Small quantities of pottery and animal bone were recovered from this feature; additionally, one environmental sample was collected from deposit (2059); this yielded a large cereal grain assemblage composed primarily of spelt grain, in addition to a smaller component of barley grain.



Plate 5. Corn dryer 6013
Composite photograph of section 298 through



Plate 6. Corn dryer 6013
During excavation, looking north

The feature comprised cut 2058/2199/2206/2280, which measured more than 3m long and 2.14m wide and ran northeast-southwest with an apparent circular chamber at the south-west end. A circular feature at the north-east end of the cut may have been a stokehole. A number of deposits were observed within cut 2058/2199/2280: deposit (2060/2186), a heavily cemented light orange-brown sandy loam, formed part of the chamber wall. Fill (1985/2192) overlay a deposit of charcoal. All of the remaining deposits in cut 2058 (2059), (2085), (2203), (2207), (2208), (2220), (2221), (2222), (2223), (2224), (2251) and (2288) were of similar composition (light brown silty sand). Similarly, the deposits observed in cut 2199 (2182), (2183), (2185), (2191),

(2193), (2195), (2197), (2293) and (2294) were described as light brown sandy loam fills. Three fills attributed to cut 2206, (2208), (2209) and (2291), while a single deposit (2281) was observed in cut 2088.

The stratigraphic relationships in this area were very complex, resulting in the presence of relatively large quantities of residual material. An assemblage of 19 fragments of pottery was recovered from corn dryer **6013**; the material ranged in date from the late 1st to the 2nd or later century. Additional pottery dated to the same period was recovered from pit 2055, which cut corn dryer **6013**; however, the corn dryer itself cut ditch 2063 and pit 2196, from which 2nd century or later sherds were recovered.

Pit 6007

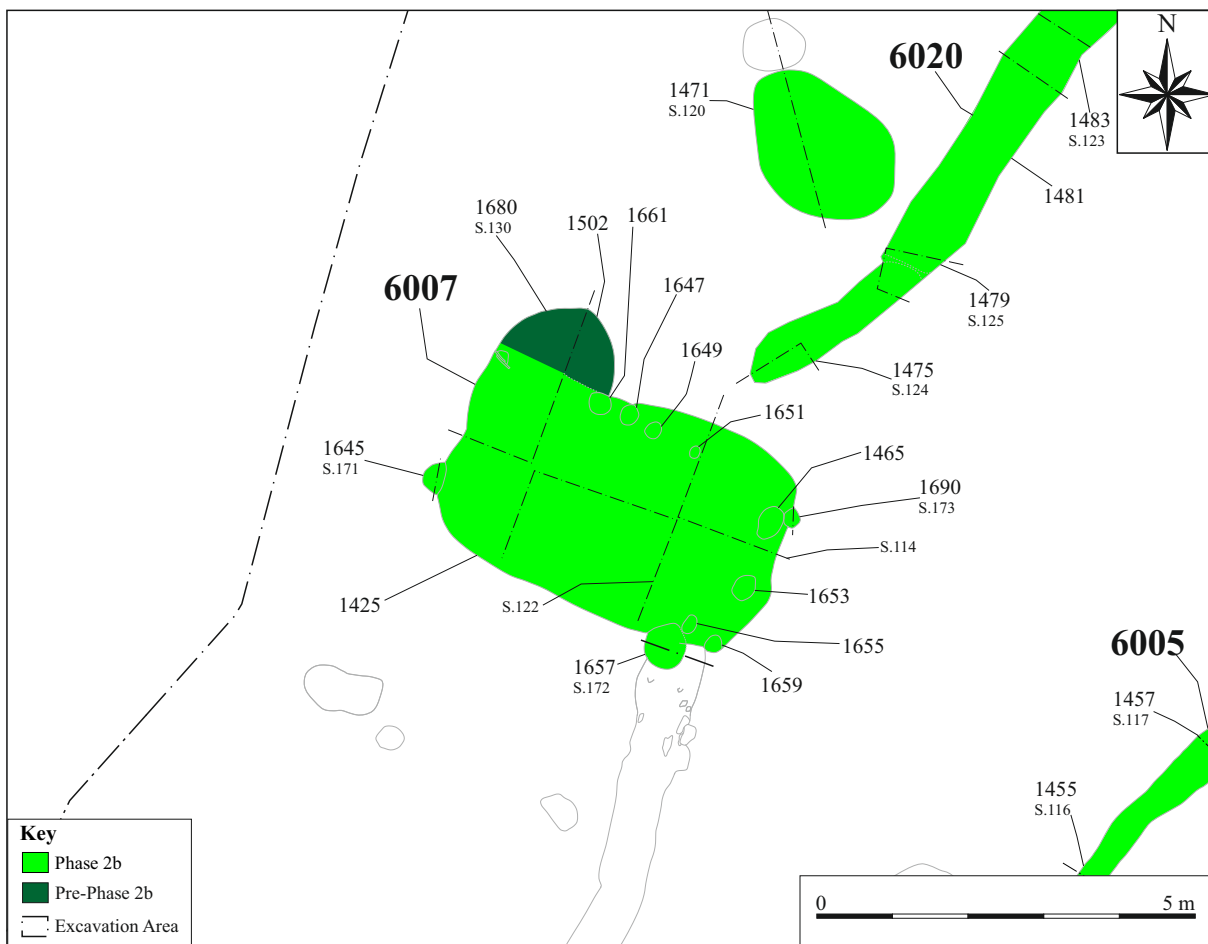
A large pit **6007** (Figures 11, 14 and 19, Plate 7), composed of a sub-rectangular pit and 11 associated postholes, was situated in the central area of the site, towards north. The feature appeared to have undergone multiple alterations in a relatively short time during the 2nd century.



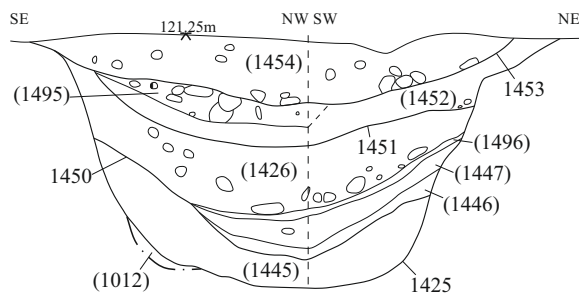
Plate 7. Pit **6007**.

Looking east (left) and horse skulls at base of pit cut 1425 (right)

The original pit cut 1425 (Fig. 19, Sections 114 and 130) measured 4.6m by 2.94m and was 1.38m deep. Its only fill (1445) was a mid-orange brown silty sand with occasional charcoal inclusions, and contained 17 sherds of late 1st century to 2nd century pottery and animal bone. A subsequent re-cut 1450 (Fig. 19, Sections 114 and 130) contained four deposits (1446), (1447), (1496) and (1426) from which a total of 35 sherds of pottery dated to the same period were recovered, together with animal bone. Deposit (1446) was a charcoal rich lens including vitrified fuel ash, which contained a deliberately placed horse cranium and three articulated vertebrae; environmental remains included a large amount of spelt, oat, and barley grains. A spindle whorl and slag were also found in this fill. Deposit (1426) was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt which contained a copper alloy brooch of Nauheim Derivative form (SF26) dating between the Late Iron Age and the late 1st century. A second recut 1451 (Fig. 19, Sections 114 and 130) was also recorded; this was filled by two deposits (1452) and (1495), from which a considerable assemblage of 63 pottery sherds dated to the 2nd and later century was recovered. One flint end scraper and animal bone were also present. The last alteration consisted of a cut 1453 (Fig. 19, Sections 114 and 130), measuring 0.5m at its deepest point, filled by a firm sandy silt deposit (1454) from which animal bone and pottery dated to the later 2nd century were recovered. Pit 1425 was associated with a series of postholes 1645, 1647, 1649, 1651, 1653, 1655, 1657 (Fig. 10, Section 172), 1659, 1661 and 1690, located along its edge.



Section 114



Section 130

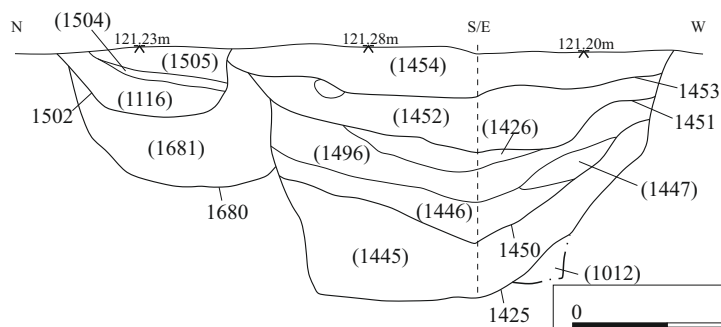


Figure 19: Pit 6007

Single sherds of grey-grog pottery dated to the 2nd century were recovered from the fills of 1657 and 1661. The postholes varied in diameter from 0.22m to 0.43m and were between 0.15m and 0.7m deep. The two larger postholes, 1465 and 1653, were located at the eastern end of the feature. Posthole 1465 measured 0.46m in diameter and was 0.9m deep. Its fill was a mid-reddish brown sandy silt from which a single sherd of Early Roman pottery was recovered. Adjacent to 1465, posthole 1653 was of similar dimensions, measuring 0.33m in diameter and 0.83m deep. Fill (1654) was a mid-brownish sandy silt and contained no finds.

Trackway D

One trackway (Figures 11-13, Plates 8-10), orientated west-northwest to east-southeast, appeared to run across the excavation area, extending for more than 190m and appearing to continue beyond the limit of excavation. It was formed by two parallel ditches, defining an internal stone surface. The initial stage of construction of this feature, trackway D, was dated to the 2nd century; however, the trackway was subsequently altered during the 3rd century (Trackway E).



Plate 8. Trackway D
Orthophotograph

In the western area of the site, the southern limit of trackway D was formed by ditches **7029** and **7028**.

Ditch **7029** was orientated east-west; it extended beyond the limit of excavation towards east, and was subsequently altered by ditch **7028**. Cut 2866 had a stepped profile and was 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep. It contained four fills: primary fill (2867) was a reddish-brown silty sand; above this (2868) and (2869) were of similar composition, a red-brown silty sand, and appeared to represent gradual infilling of the ditch. The main fill of this ditch was (4005), a light grey-brown sandy silt. Cut 2903 had a concave profile, and measured 0.36m in ditch and 0.82m in depth; it contained two deposits, (2904) and (2905). Five sherds of Iron Age pottery, as well as a single fragment of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware were recovered from the feature.

Running on the same alignment was ditch **7028**. Its westernmost cut 2936 (Fig. 36, Section 474) was 1.66m wide and 0.46m deep, and contained two fills. Primary fill (2937) was 0.3m thick, whilst upper fill (2938) measured 0.24m in thickness. Cut 2925 measured 1.9m wide and 0.9m deep and also contained two fills. The primary fill (2926) was a mid-orange brown silty sand whilst upper fill (2927) was a mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt. Further south-east was cut 3242, measuring 1.8m wide and 0.4m deep, and containing one mid-grey brown loamy sand fill (3243). Cut 2900 had a concave profile and measured 1.12m in width and 0.6m in depth. Two deposits (2901), a mid-brown sandy loam and (2902), a mid-greyish brown sandy loam. Cut 2779 was 1.14m wide and 0.62m deep; it also contained two fills, (2803) and (2783). Animal bone and a small assemblage of 31 pottery fragments were recovered from this feature. The majority of the sherds were dated to the 2nd century or later period; five examples of residual Iron Age fabrics were also present, as well as two later sherds of Oxfordshire Red-Slipped Ware. The latter were found in cut 2779 and were probably the result of disturbance along the edge of the excavation area. Ditch **7028**

was cut by ditch 2958 and by ditch **7027**, which formed part of Enclosure A; in turn, it cut earlier ditch **7029** and gully **7032**.

Ditch **7038** could possibly represent the northern limit of trackway D. Its cuts 2968 and 3020 had a regular, rounded profile and measured between 0.1 and 0.15m in depth. No finds were recovered from this feature; however, it was cut by pit 2965, dated to the Roman period, and appeared to have been altered during the course of the 3rd century, although the physical relationship between ditches **7038** and **7034** was not investigated.

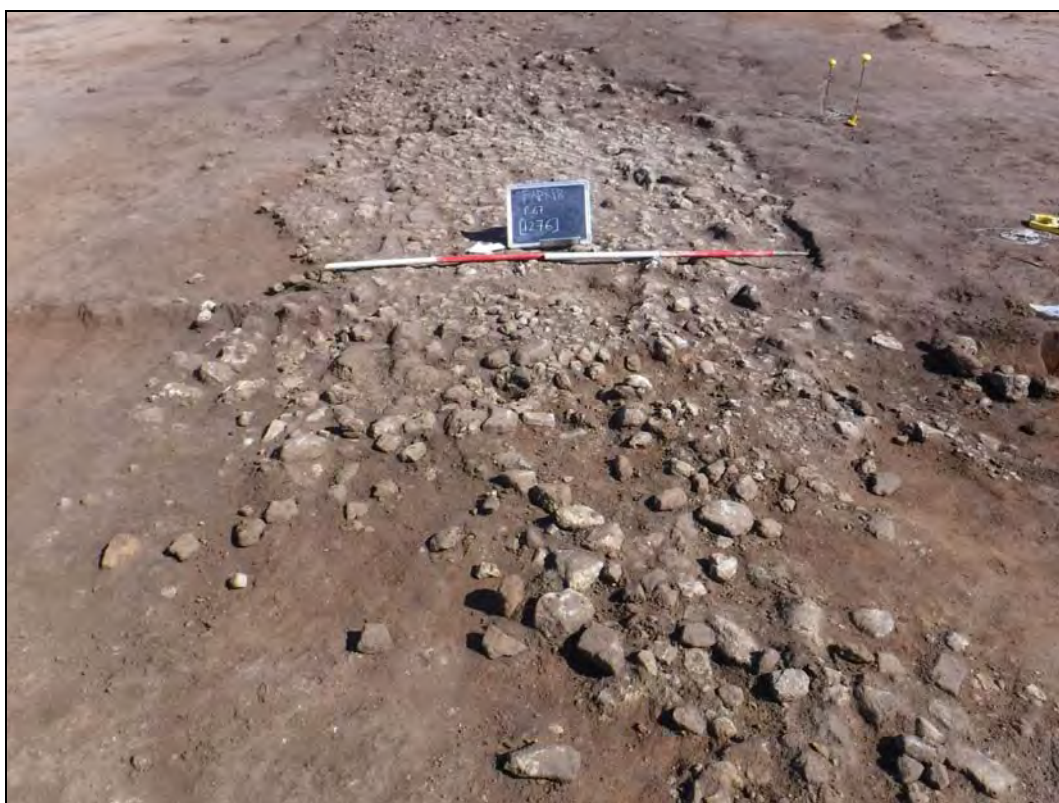


Plate 9. Trackway D surface **7002**
Looking west

The northern limit of trackway D survived in the central area of site as ditches **7026** and **7049**.

Ditch **7049** measured approximately 40m in length, and was oriented southeast-northwest. Cut 1665 was 0.35m wide and 0.1m deep, with a single fill (1666), a sandy silt deposit. Cut 1540 was equally deep, but measured 0.75m in width. A single fill was observed, (1541). Further west, cut 1448 had a concave profile and measured 0.84 in width and 0.19m in depth. Its single fill (1449) was a light brown, sandy loam deposit. One fill (1436) was present in cut 1434, which was 0.48m wide and 0.12m deep. Cut 1413 was 0.32m wide and 0.08m deep, with a single fill (1414). Concave cut 1401 measured 0.48m in width and 0.24m in depth; it had a single fill (1403), a light brown, sandy loam. Cut 1421 (Figs 13 and 20, Section 108) was 0.37m wide and 0.16m deep, with a concave profile. A single fill (1422) was observed. Cut 1423 (Figure 10, Section 107) was 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep, and contained a single deposit (1424). Cut 1431 (Figure 10, Section 110) measured 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep, with one fill (1432). The westernmost cut was 1441; it was 0.63m wide, 0.22m deep, and contained a single deposit (1442). Animal bone, one Roman nail and a total of 30 pottery sherds were recovered from this feature. The material ranged in date

from the late 1st century to the medieval period. The majority of the sherds dated to the 2nd century, and the three medieval sherds are to be considered intrusive; stratigraphically, this feature was earlier than 2nd century ditch 1538. Ditch **7049** also cut pit 1402, ditch **7048** and ditch **7000**, which formed part of Enclosure C.

Although partially obliterated by later ditch **7001**, an alignment similar to ditch **7049** was evident for ditch **7026**. Cut 1282 (Fig. 24, Section 72) was 0.68m wide and 0.42m deep, and had a single fill (1283), a dark brown-grey silty sand. Western terminus 1670 measured 0.9m in width and only 0.05m in depth; animal bone and nine sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered from its fill (1671).



Plate 10. Trackway D surface **7002** and ditches **7028**, **7034** and **7035**
Composite photograph

Remains of the stone surface of trackway D also were also observed in the central area of site, represented by surface **7002**. The foundation for this feature is represented by cut 1462 which had a convex camber measuring 0.2m in width, onto which stones forming the road surface (1463) had been placed; the construction cut was also filled by deposit (1464), a friable sandy silt. The structure continued towards southeast as cut 1276, which was 2.52m wide; the stone surface (1277) measured 0.04m in thickness. Cut 1284 (Fig. 24, Section 72) was much wider, measuring 4m, and contained stone surface (1287) and backfill deposits (1273) and (1285). A considerable quantity of pottery sherds (392 fragments), largely dating to the 2nd century or later, were collected from this feature. Additional Roman artefacts recovered included one coin, identified as an imitation of Tetricus I Antoninianus, one key and nails. However, due to the nature of the structure and the shallow topsoil present on site, the stone surface was severely disturbed over time, resulting in the presence of a non-trivial amount of both earlier residual and later intrusive material, which included post-medieval pottery as well as clay pipe fragments.

In the north-eastern corner of site, underneath 4th century Building F, was an ill-defined possible surface (2604); this was a 0.15m thick silty clay deposit, containing three sherds of 2nd century pottery.

2nd Century Pits (Figures 11-18 and 20)

Pit 2808 was located in the south-western corner of the excavated area. It had a regular, concave profile measured 1m in width and contained two deposits, (2809) and (2810). The six pottery sherds recovered from the feature suggested a date to the late 2nd century.

In the same area was pit 2815; it measured 1.25m in diameter and was 0.47m deep. It contained three fills: the primary fill was (2816), above it was fill (2817), a light reddish-brown clay loam, which was in turn overlain by upper fill (2818). Animal bone, one nail of Roman date and a total of seven sherds of pottery, including a single fragment of Samian ware, were found. The feature was dated to the 2nd century.

Towards north, pit 3164 measured 1.02m by 1.14m and was 0.32m deep. A series of seven deposits were observed: the lowest (3171) was a thin lens of charcoal-flecked sand. Above this was deposit (3170), a greyish brown sandy silt; fill (3169) contained flecks of charcoal and thin lens of sandy silt. Sandy silt deposit (3168) measured only

0.05m in thickness. Deposit (3167) was heavily burnt, as was (3166) above this. A 0.1m thick layer of sandy silt (3165) was the uppermost deposit. Fragments of Oxfordshire Refined Ware and Black Burnished Ware were recovered from the feature. Two environmental samples were collected to further investigate the nature of pit 3164; however, only a small number of *Cecilioides acicula* snail shells were recovered.

Irregular pit 3178 (Figs. 12 and 20, Section 536) measured 2.5m in width and 0.28m in depth, and contained three deposits, (3179), (3202) and (3203). Only 2 sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered from this feature; animal bone was also present, and charcoal and slag were recovered from a sample collected from deposit (3178).

Pit 7074

A large pit **7074** (Figs. 11, 13, 17 and 20, Section 5) cut Enclosure B in proximity of its southern corner. The original cut 1017 had a rounded profile and measured 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep. Primary fill (1035) was a thin, brownish yellow sandy clay, over which (1036), a slightly darker sandy clay was observed. Fill (1037/1038) was 0.14m thick and contained a single sherd of 2nd century or later pottery and animal bone. Fill (1039) was a mid-brownish grey sandy clay. A re-cut 1040 was also observed; this measured 3.1m in width and 1.25m in depth, and contained 5 deposits. Top deposit (1041), dipping from north to south, was overlain by deposit (1042), which contained four sherds of 2nd century or later pottery and animal bone. Fill (1043) was a thin lens of mid-brownish yellow sandy clay; a second tip deposit (1045) sloping from south to north, was also present. The uppermost fill was (1046), a light brown sandy clay deposit.

A number of pits dated to the 2nd century were identified within the area defined by Enclosure B (Fig. 13). Pit 1111 was only 0.09m deep and 0.87m wide; it contained a dark brown-reddish silty sand deposit (1112), from which six fragments of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered.

Pit 1115 (Figs. 13 and 20, Section 27) measured 1.38m in diameter and was 0.4m deep. It contained a single fill (1116) from which animal bone, eight sherds of 2nd century or later pottery and ceramic building material were recovered.

Pit 1124 was 0.59m in diameter and 0.16m deep. A single sherd of pottery dated to the 2nd century or later was recovered from its fill (1125).

A more substantial feature was pit 1127, which measured 2.3m in diameter and 0.74m in depth. It contained three fills: the primary fill (1129) was 0.28m thick and contained no finds. Middle fill (1130) was a thin sandy clay lens over which lay upper fill (1131). Animal bone and four sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered from the latter.

Pit 1196 was also located in this area. It measured 1m by 1.3m and was 0.24m deep. The yellow-brown silty sand fill (1197) contained materials suggesting a 2nd century date, although three residual Iron Age sherds were also present.

Also within Enclosure B, elongated pit 1240 measured 0.76x0.48m, and was 0.36m deep. The feature was dated to this period on the basis of a single sherd of pottery recovered from its single fill (1241).

Pit 1342 was 0.57m by 0.8m and 0.53m deep. The fill (1343) was a mid-grey brown sandy silt and contained a single large sherd of pottery, animal bone and a fragment of a beehive quern stone.

Pit 1340 was located immediately to the north of Enclosure B and was only 0.06m deep. The material from its only fill (1340) indicated a 2nd century date for the feature.

Towards north, pit 1317 was very shallow (0.08m) and had a diameter of 1.9m. Its fill (1318) contained a single sherd of 2nd century or later pottery.

In the same area, pit 1356 (Fig. 24, Section 90) measured 0.91m in width and 0.16m in depth. A single fill (1357) was observed; this contained two sherds of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware, and was cut by pit 1358.

Against the western limit of excavation of the central area was pit 1292. It was 1.57m in diameter and was filled by a mid-brownish grey sandy silt (1293), which contained animal bone and four sherds of 2nd century or later pottery. This feature was altered multiple times by later activity in the area. The first re-cut 1294 had vertical-sides and contained one deposit (1295), with burnt stone and a residual Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery, and one residual Late Neolithic flint knife.

To the south of pit 1292 was pit 1321, measuring 0.82 by 0.46m, with a depth of 0.14m. It contained a single deposit (1322), from which five sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd century were collected. Its relationship with ditch **6038**, possibly forming part of Enclosure A, was unclear.

Towards north, pit 1402 was 0.78m by 0.66m in extension, and 0.28m deep. The fill (1404) contained two sherds of 1st to 2nd century pottery in a dark brown sandy loam matrix.

Pit 1491 had a concave profile and measured 1.38m in width and 0.79m in depth. It contained one lower fill (1497), from which two fragments of 2nd century pottery were recovered, and one upper fill (1492). This feature cut ditch 1493.

Towards west, a pit 1502 (Figs. 14 and 19, Section 130) was 0.99m in diameter and 0.37m in depth. It contained three fills, the primary fill (1503) contained charcoal flecks and three sherds of 2nd century or later pottery. Secondary fill (1504) contained no finds, whilst animal bone was recovered from the upper fill (1505). This feature cut earlier pits 1680 and **6007**.

Intercutting pits 1571 and 1512 were located in the northern-central sector of the site. Pit 1571 was 0.56m in diameter. The lower fill (1572) contained animal bone, ceramic building material and ten sherds of 2nd century pottery, whilst the upper fill of this feature appeared to comprise a dump of stones (1574) from which no finds were recovered. This feature was cut by pit 1512, which was 1.12m wide and contained four deposits. Primary fill (1517/1573) was a reddish-brown loamy silt; above this, a sandy layer (1518), measuring 0.04m in thickness, was observed. This was overlain by fill (1519), similar in composition to the primary fill. Materials collected from these deposits included animal bone, one hob nail and a total of six sherds of 2nd century pottery. The uppermost fill of the feature, (1513/1520) was a loamy sand deposit with concentration of stones; it contained materials dating between the 2nd and 4th century, including one coin of Constantinus I (319 AD, SF30). The later material is considered to be intrusive.

Pit 1566 was irregularly oval in plan, measuring 3m by 3.2m and 0.3m deep. The single fill (1567) contained five sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd century as well as animal bone.

In the same area, isolated pit 1576 was also recorded. It was sub-circular, measuring 1.14m by 1.04m and 0.39m deep. Fills (1577) and (1578) contained no finds, while only a single sherd of 2nd century pottery was recovered from its upper fill (1579).

Oval pit 1582 measured 0.69m in width and 0.32m in depth. It contained four fills, (1583), (1600), (1602) and (1604). Although a single fragment of 13th century pottery was found among the assemblage collected from this feature, it was likely to be intrusive, as the remainder of the material is composed by eight sherds of Roman pottery, dateable to the 2nd century.

Pit 1943 was shallow and truncated ditch **6009**. Its fill (1587) contained a single fragment of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware.

One additional cluster of pits was observed to the west of ditch **6020**. Pit 1471 had an irregular concave profile and measured 1.95m by 0.5m. Animal bone and 11 sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered from its only fill (1472).

Sub-circular pit 1467 was 0.7m in diameter and 0.12m deep. Its single fill (1469) contained five sherds of 1st to 2nd century pottery.

A single sherd of the same date was found in adjacent pit 1468, containing fill (1470). In the same area, pit 1485 cut ditch **6020**. It measured 0.9m in width and 0.51m in depth, and contained two deposits; lower fill (1486/1525) and upper fill (1499/1526). Animal bone and three sherds of 2nd century pottery were collected from the latter deposit.

In the northernmost area of the site pit 1737 was located. This measured 1.47m by 0.5m and was 0.37m deep. The primary fill (1738) was a mid-grey brown sandy silt, devoid of finds. Above this, fill (1739) contained animal bone and 15 sherds of 2nd century pottery. It was cut by Enclosure **7057** immediately to the west.

Sub-rectangular pit 1988 was located to the west of Enclosure **7057**. It measured 1.28m by 0.38m and was 0.19m deep. Its fill was a mid-grey brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks (1989), which contained animal bone and six sherds of 2nd century pottery.

Further north, sub-circular pit 1910 measured 0.54m by 1.15m and was 0.45m deep, and contained four deposits. Fill (1911) was a dark red-brown sandy silt; this was overlain by (1912), a thin (0.08m) deposit containing small stones. This was in turn overlain by (1913), similar to deposit (1911). A total of 15 fragments of pottery were recovered from this feature, including part of an Italian wine amphorae, probably Dressel 1-2/4. Fired clay, animal bone and one Roman nail were also present. This feature was cut by ditch **6011**.

To the south of pit 1910 was another pit 2045, devoid of finds but stratigraphically dated to the same period. Measuring 0.16m in width and 0.17m in depth, it contained a single fill (2046). It was cut by ditches **6043** and **6011**, both dated to the 2nd century.

Two clusters of pits dated to this period were also recorded within Enclosure **7057**. Pit 1761 was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.28m wide and 0.38m deep, and contained two deposits. Fill (1762) was a sandy silt deposit, measuring 0.34m in thickness; fill (1764) had a similar composition, and was 0.16m thick. Animal bone and pottery dating to the 2nd century or later were recovered from this feature; however, a single fragment of intrusive 16th century pottery was also present.

Pit 1747 (Figs. 18 and 20, Section 187) had a concave profile and measured 0.81m wide and 0.3m deep. Its single fill (1748), a grey sandy loam deposit, contained animal bone and 10 sherds of 2nd century pottery. It was cut by later pit 1815, but the physical relationship with pit 1744 remains unclear.

Pit 1749 (Figs. 18 and 20, Section 187) was located directly to the west of pit 1747; it was 0.7m wide and 0.22m deep. Fill (1750) was a grey sandy silt and contained animal bone and a small quantity of pottery dated to the 2nd century.

Pit 1769 measured 0.55m by 0.68m and was 0.48m deep. The primary fill (1770) resulted from the collapse of the sides of the pit, and was overlain by (1771), a dark grey-brown sandy silt which contained five sherds of early 2nd century pottery, burnt stone and animal bone.

This pit was truncated by pit 1772, which measured 1.05m in diameter and was 0.3m deep. It contained two fills, a sterile primary deposit (1773) and an upper fill (1774) from which a substantial assemblage of 18 sherds of 2nd century or later pottery, animal bone and a stone tile fragment were recovered. This pit was stratigraphically later than ditch 1778.

Pit 1814 was located towards the western side of Enclosure **7057**. It had a concave shape with a flat base and measured 0.58m in depth. Its fill (1813) was dark brown-grey sandy silt; it was cut by pits 1802 and 1812. Animal bone and three sherds of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware were present.

Pit 1812 was 0.5m in diameter and 0.58m in depth. It contained a single fill (1811) from which nine sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered. This feature cut earlier pits 1806 and 1814.

Immediately to the north of ditch **7056** was pit 2196; it was 1.82m wide and 0.62m long, and had a V-shaped profile. Its only fill (2198) contained four sherds of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware and animal bone fragments. It was cut by corn dryer **6013**, while the relationship with ditch 1888 remains unclear.

Further east, pit 2152 measured 2.6m by 1.34m and was 0.64m deep. It contained three deposits: lower fill (2155), middle fill (2154) and upper fill (2153). Animal bone and 13 fragments of pottery dated to the 2nd century were collected from this feature, which truncated earlier ditch **7020**.

In the same area, pit 2359 measured 1.54m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. Its fill (2360) contained animal bone, worked flint and a small quantity of pottery dated to the 2nd century.

Pit 2446 had an irregular shape, measuring a maximum of 2.47m in width and 0.46m in depth. Its two fills (2413) and (2447) were both sandy silt deposits, containing fourth fragments of 2nd century pottery combined. Animal bone, spelt and Lady's Mantle were also observed.

Isolated pit 2371 was 0.4m in diameter and 0.1m deep. Its fill (2372) contained stone fragments and part of a stone tile, along with three sherds of 2nd century or later pottery.

Pit 2380 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 348) was located 3m north-east of pit 2371. It was circular, with a slightly V-shaped profile, and measured 0.14m wide and 0.17m deep. Single fill (2381) contained animal bone and two fragments of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware. This pit cut pit 2386.

Pit 2485 measured 1.86m by 0.86m and was 0.35m deep. A total of nine sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd century or later were collected from its two fills, (2486) and (2487/2492).

Pit 2398 was located further southwest. It measured 1.55m in diameter and was 0.19m deep. Primary fill (2402) was a reddish silty sand deposit, measuring 0.12m in thickness. Above this, fill (2399) was 0.11m thick and was a mid-yellowish-brown silty sand. It was overlain by fill (2400), which was 0.08m thick. The upper fill (2401) was similar to deposit (2402) in composition, and measured 0.08m in thickness. A total of 19 sherds broadly dated to the 2nd century were recovered from this feature; one example of Samian pottery as well as one intrusive post-medieval fragment were present. Approximately 1000g of fired clay were also recovered. Spelt barley, cleavers and undetermined cereal grains were also noted.

Sub-circular pit 2594 was 1.36m in diameter. Primary fill (2595) contained no finds, but four sherds of 2nd century or later pottery and animal bone were recovered from the middle fill (2596). Upper fill (2597) was also devoid of material; a concentration

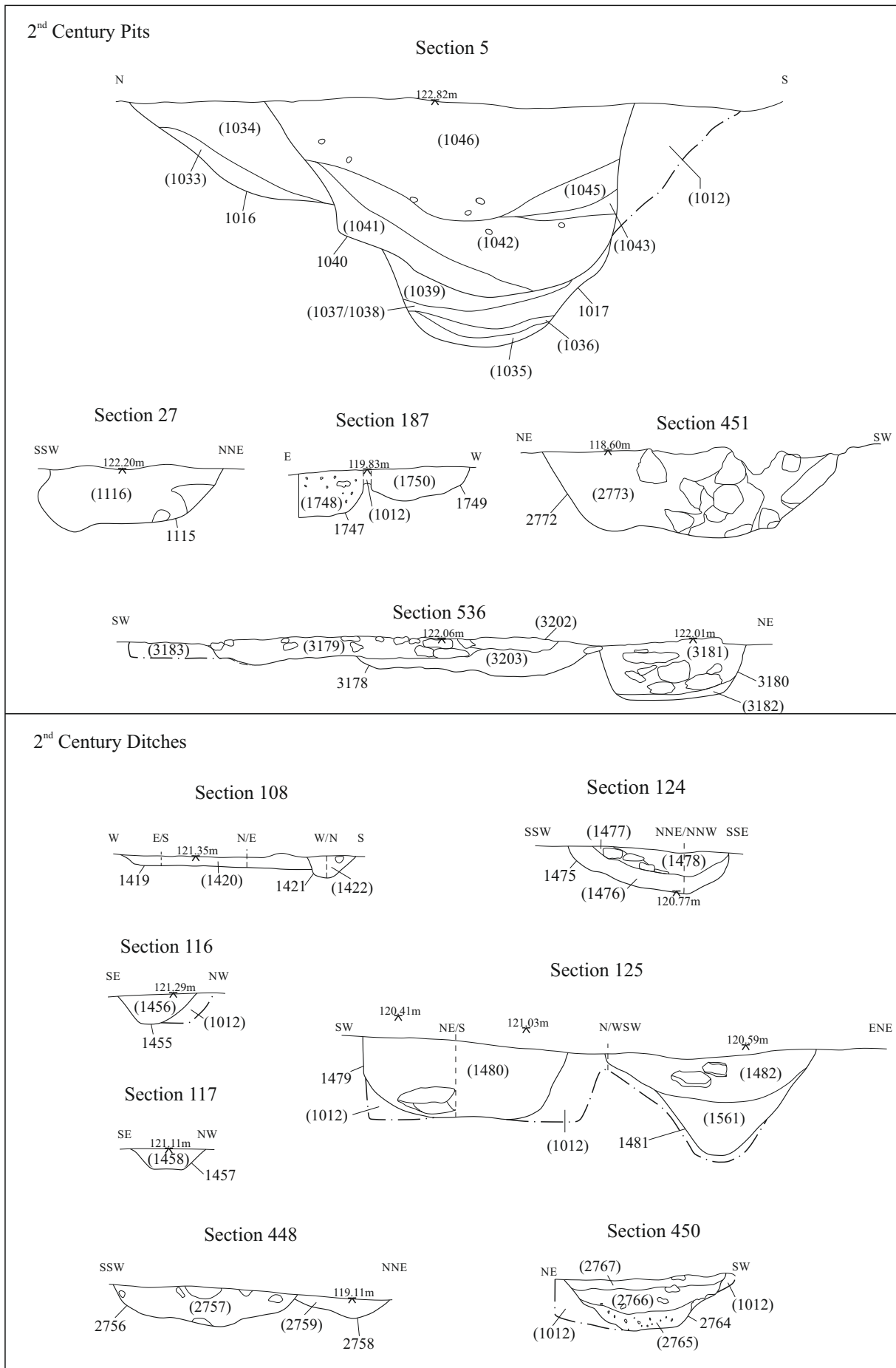


Figure 20: 2nd Century Pits and Ditches

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of clay (2550) was noted within this deposit. This pit was cut by pit 2551; its physical relationship with ditch **7069** remains undetermined.

In the easternmost area of site one isolated pit 2669 was recorded. It was 1.96m in diameter and 0.45m deep. Animal bone and a small assemblage of six pottery sherds, dated to the 2nd century, were recovered from its two fills (2670) and (2671).

Pit 2772 (Figs. 15 and 20, Section 451) was also isolated, but located further to the north. It measured between 2 and 2.3m in width and was 0.66m deep. It contained a single fill (2773) from which animal bone and 20 sherds of pottery, mostly fragments of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware, were recovered.

2nd Century Quarry Pits (Figures 11-15)

A number of quarry pits dated to the 2nd century were located in the central area of the site.

Quarry pit **7075** was located in the centre of Enclosure B, and cut its ditch **6031**. Cut 1171/1172 was irregular and measured up to 1.8m across and 0.44m deep. Pottery and animal bone were recovered from each of its seven fills, (1174), (1175), (1181), (1183), (1184), (1185) and (1186). Only two sherds of pottery, found in deposits (1184) and (1186), were dated to the 3rd century and are to be considered intrusive; the remaining assemblage, consisting of 36 fragments, was securely dated to the 2nd century.

In the same area, quarry pit 1201 measured 2.1m in diameter and 0.32m in depth; it contained two fills, (1203) and (1205). Animal bone and 14 sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd century were recovered from this feature, as well as large limestone fragments. It was cut by ditch **6031**, part of Enclosure B.

Towards east, quarry pit 1222 was similarly irregular in shape and measured up to 2.16m in diameter; it contained two deposits, lower fill (1223) and upper fill (1270). Three fragments of 2nd century pottery and animal bone were collected from this feature; a single, intrusive 3rd century sherd was also present. The feature was cut by ditch **6036**.

A further quarry pit 1679 was located near the edge of the excavation in the northern central area. This was over 3m in diameter and 0.12m deep, with an irregular base. Fill (1678) contained eight sherds of 2nd century or later pottery, as well as limestone slabs.

To the north of Enclosure **7057** was pit 2051, which was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.35m wide and 0.4m deep. Two fills were recorded, a lower loamy sandy clay deposit (2053), measuring 0.27m in thickness, and one 0.15m thick upper loamy sand fill (2053); both contained frequent stone inclusions. Animal bone and a group of five pottery sherds indicating a 2nd century date for this feature were recovered from it.

In the north-eastern part of the excavated area was a large quarry pit 2204. This measured a maximum of 11.9m by 9.5m, had an uneven base and contained four deposits. Primary fill (2205) and top fill (2248) contained no finds, while middle fills (2235) and (2236) contained a total of 34 sherds of 2nd century or later pottery, as well as animal bone, fired clay and a stone tile fragment (SF324).

2nd Century Posthole (Figures 11 and 15)

In the eastern area of the site, a posthole 2216 was recorded. It measured 0.46m in width and 0.11m in depth. Its single fill (2217) was a brown-greyish sand deposit, containing a single fragment of Samian ware.

*2nd Century Linear Features (Figures 11-15, 18 and 20)**Ditch 6004*

One isolated ditch **6004** measuring 18m in length and running northwest-southeast, was located to the south of Enclosure A. The south-eastern terminal of the ditch 2733 was 1.5m wide and 0.6m deep. This contained two fills, (2735) and (2734), a mid-brown clayey sand fill. Cut 2730 was 1.3m wide and 0.48m deep, and contained two deposits. The primary fill (2731) was 0.36m thick; above this was fill (2732). The western terminal 2728 measured 0.9m in width and 0.16m in depth and contained a single fill (2729). Animal bone and a total of 13 fragments of pottery were recovered from this feature. The assemblage was mostly composed of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware sherds, dated to the 2nd century or later; however, a single fragment of Oxfordshire Red-Slipped Ware, dated to the 3rd-4th century, was present.

Ditch 7031

Further north in the same area, ditch **7031** was orientated northeast-southwest, and run parallel to the western side of Enclosure A. Cut 2873 had a concave, rounded profile and measured 0.67m wide and 0.24m deep. A single fill (2874) was present; animal bone and two fragments of pottery dated to the 2nd century were recovered from it. Cut 2928 measured 0.66m wide and 0.18m deep, and was filled by a sandy silt deposit (2929), from which four additional sherds of pottery of the same date were recovered. A single deposit (2933) was also observed in terminus 2932, which measured 0.38m wide and 0.14m deep. This feature is contemporary to Enclosure A and could have formed part of it; however, the relationship between the two ditches was not investigated.

A cluster of linear features dating to the 2nd century was observed close to the eastern limit of excavation of the western area of site. These features appear to have continued eastwards and extended beyond the limit of excavation; however, the physical relationships between these features could not be established during the excavation.

Ditch 2881 had a shallow, rounded profile and measured 1.02m in width and 0.24m in depth; it contained a single deposit (2882), from which one residual early Mesolithic flint core and two sherds of Late 1st to 2nd century pottery were collected.

This feature was cut by ditch 2883, which had a similar profile and measured 0.84m wide and 0.34m deep. Two fills were recorded in this feature, (2884) and (2885); pottery dating to the Iron Age and 2nd century was recovered from it.

Ditch 2886 measured 0.72m in width and 0.34m in depth; it contained two deposits (2887) and (2888), and was tentatively dated to the 2nd century based on the presence of a single sherd of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware. This feature cut ditch 2883.

Ditch 7043

Further north was ditch **7043**. The western terminus 3088 was 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep, and had a single dark brown-greyish sandy silt fill (3089). Cut 3146 measured 0.55m in width and 0.15m in depth, and had a single fill (3147). Further west, cut 3084 was deeper, measuring 0.23m, and contained two deposits, (3085) and (3104). A single fill (3106) was observed in the 0.51m wide, 0.12m deep cut 3105. Cut 3115

was 0.66m wide and only 0.08m deep; its single fill (3116) was a sandy silt loam. Cut 3131 was much wider, measuring 2.3m, but equally shallow, and contained one fill (3132). A single fill (3142) was also observed in cut 3141, which measured 1.4m wide and 0.12m deep. Only two sherds of pottery were recovered from this feature, one dated to the 3rd century and one to the 17th century. The stratigraphic relationships between ditch **7043** and the other features in the area, however, suggests this material is to be considered residual. Ditch **7043** is, in fact, cut by 3rd century ditches **7036** and **7042**, but also by 2nd century pit 3090, indicating a likely date of the 2nd century.

Ditch 6035

Within Enclosure B, a short linear feature **6035** was observed. Terminus 1235 was 0.19m wide and 0.44m deep, with a concave profile. Its only fill (1236) was a friable, mid yellow-brown silty sand. Here, ditch **6035** cut Late Iron Age-Early Roman ditch **6026**. Cut 1208 was shallower, measuring 0.18m in depth and 0.98m in width. It contained one sandy deposit (1209), and was cut by pit 1206. Cut 1257 was similarly wide but had a more accentuated concave profile, measuring 0.68m deep. Two fills were observed, (1258) and (1259); from this intervention, a single fragment of 2nd century or later pottery was recovered. The relationship between ditches **6035** and **6036** was not investigated.

One additional ditch 3262 was almost completely obliterated by Enclosure B ditches **6028** and **6029**. Its single fill 1104/1109 contained two sherds of pottery dated to the Late 1st to 2nd century; however, ditch 3262 was stratigraphically later than ditch **6028**, which was also part of Enclosure B and was dated to the 2nd century or later period.

Ditch 7048

A short ditch **7048** running north-south was located immediately north of Enclosure B. Terminus 1409 was 0.36m wide and 0.18m deep; a single deposit (1410) was present. Cut 1419 (Figs. 13 and 20, Section 108) was shallow, measuring only 0.06m in depth, and was 0.32m wide. Its only fill (1420) was a light-brown grey sandy silt. One Roman hob nail and three fragments of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware were collected from the feature; a single sherd of Iron Age pottery as well as one intrusive clay pipe fragment were also present. Ditch **7048** was cut by later ditch **7049**.

Ditch 6036

Running north-east in the same area was ditch **6036**. Cut 1253 was 1.14m wide and 1.36m deep and contained four fills; primary fill (1254) was 0.32m thick; above this was deposit (1264), measuring 0.6m in thickness. Fill (1255) and (1256) were both *ca* 0.3m thick. Further south, cut 1220 measured 1.59m in width and 0.2m in depth, and had a single silty sand fill (1221). 12 sherds of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware were recovered from this feature, as well as animal bone. It cut earlier pit 1222; the relationship with ditch **6035** was not investigated.

Ditch 6005

Perpendicular to ditch **7049** was one further ditch **6005**. Its northern terminus 1457 (Figs. 13 and 20, Section 117) was 0.47m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (1458). This feature continued as cut 1455 (Figs. 13 and 20, Section 116), which measured 0.67m in width and 0.1m in depth. A single fill was recorded, (1456). The southern terminus 1435 was 0.54m wide and 0.28m deep, and contained a single deposit (1437). All of the deposits contained Oxfordshire Reduced Ware pottery

sherds; additionally, a single fragment of grey grog tempered pottery, as well as animal bone and flint were recovered.

Ditch 7023

Isolated ditch **7023** run for 10.9m along the same alignment as ditch **6005**, and was located further north-east in the same area; it had an irregularly concave profile. Its southern terminus 1641 was 0.61m wide and 0.26m deep, and contained a single fill (1642). Cut 1620 measured 0.28m in width and 0.11 in depth, and contained one sandy silt deposit (1621). Cut 1568 was 0.57m wide and 0.16m deep and contained a mid-brown sandy silt fill (1569). Northern terminus 1596 was 0.56m wide and 0.18m deep, with a single fill (1569), a mid-grey brown sandy silt.

Materials recovered from this feature included animal bone and a total of eight sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd century or later. Ditch **7023** was cut by later pit 1598.

Ditch 6020

One curvilinear ditch **6020**, measuring approximately 16m in length, was located in the central part of site, north of pit **6007**. Its southern terminus 1475 (Figs. 14 and 20, Section 124) was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, and contained three fills, primary fill (1476), a red-brown clayey silt, middle fill (1477), and (1478). Cut 1479 (Figs. 14 and 20, Section 125) had a single fill (1480) and similar measures. Cut 1481 (Figs. 14 and 20, Section 125) was 0.75m in width and 0.39m in depth, with a concave profile. Its two fills (1482) and (1561) were described as grey-brown silt. Towards north, cut 1483 measured 0.83m wide and 0.24m deep; a single fill, (1484), was observed. Cut 1522 measured 0.38m wide and 0.39m deep and contained one deposit (1523). In this section, ditch **6020** was cut by pit 1485. The feature continued as cut 1500, measuring 0.65m in width and 0.24m in depth, and with a concave profile. A single fill (1501) was recorded. Both cuts 1527 and 1554 cut earlier ditch **7047** and had two fills, (1528) and (1529), and (1555) and (1556) respectively. Northern terminus 1605 was 0.38m wide and 0.48m deep, and had a single fill (3264). Only five pottery sherds, animal bone and a single oyster shell were recovered from this feature. The date of the material appeared to suggest a date of the late 1st century; however, the feature is stratigraphically later than ditch **7047**, dated to the 2nd century.

Ditch 7047

Ditch **7047** was stratigraphically earlier than curvilinear ditch **6020**. It was orientated northwest-southeast and extended ca 18m in length. Its western terminus 1549 had a rounded profile, measuring 0.4m in width and 0.4m in depth, and contained two fills, (1550) and (1551); a single flint was recovered from the latter. Cut 1530 was 0.56m wide and 0.28m deep; the only dating material for ditch **7047** was collected from its two fills (1531) and (1532), and consisted in 8 sherds of 2nd century pottery. Eastern terminus 1973 was 1.97m wide but only 0.1m deep, and contained a single fill (1974).

Ditch 6011

One almost 14m long ditch **6011** was located in the northernmost area of the site. Cut 1841 had a V-shaped profile and measured 0.55 wide and 0.4m deep; it had a single fill (1842), a mid-brown sandy silt deposit. Cut 2009 was 0.73m wide and 0.41m deep, with a single fill (2009). Cut 3267 also contained a single deposit (1914), measuring 0.37m in thickness. Three deposits, (1916), (1917) and (1918) were observed in cut 1915, which was 0.98m wide and 0.67m deep. Ditch **6011** continued south as cut 1875; this measured 0.61m in width and 0.5m in depth, and contained one fill (1876). Cut 1877 also contained only a single fill (1878), and measured 0.92m

wide and 0.3m deep. A substantial assemblage of 52 pottery sherds was collected from this feature; a small amount of residual Iron Age material was present along with 2nd century pottery. Animal bone was also present. This feature cut ditch 1879 and pits 1910, 2006 and 2045, and was cut by pit 1873.

Ditch 7015

Ditch **7015** run northwest-southeast at an angle to ditch **6011**; however, the physical relationship between the two features was not investigated. Terminus 2015 measured 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep and contained two fills. Primary fill (2017) was a thin silting layer, overlain by (2016), a greyish-brown sandy silt. Ditch 7015 continued as cut 2023, which was 0.0m wide and 0.4m deep. This cut contained a single fill (2024) from which animal bone and two sherds dating to the mid-2nd century or later.

Ditch 6043

In the same area, one irregular ditch **6043** was recorded. Northern terminal 2020 was 0.38m wide and 0.22m deep, and had two fills (2021) and (2022); its southern counterpart 2018 had a similar V-shaped profile but contained a single deposit (2019). This feature was cut by 2nd century pit 2045; animal bone and a single fragment of grey grog pottery were recovered from it.

Ditch 7056

Immediately to the north of Enclosure **7057** was ditch **7056**. Cut 1696 measured 0.66m wide and 0.38m deep; it contained deposits (1697), (1698), (1699) and (1700). Three fills (1712), (1713) and (1714) were observed within cut 1711, which measured 1.02m wide and 0.59m deep. Further west the feature continued as cut 1794, and was 1.72m in width and 0.56m deep. Primary fill (1796) was 0.22m thick, while upper fill (1795) measured 0.34m in thickness. Two deposits (1847) and (1848) were also recorded in cut 1845, which measured 0.95m wide and 0.84m deep. A substantial assemblage of 30 pottery sherds were recovered from this feature; the majority dated to the 2nd century, although some earlier residual fabrics were noted. Animal bone was also present.

Ditch 1538 run parallel to ditch **7049** and was stratigraphically later than it. Its single fill (1539) contained two sherds of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware pottery, dated to the 2nd century or later.

Further north, a short ditch 1682 was cut by Enclosure **7057**. It was 0.45m wide and 0.09m deep; it had one fill (1683), from which a single fragment of 2nd century or later pottery was recovered.

In the same area was also ditch 1775; it was 1.2m wide and 0.82m deep and contained two fills, the primary fill (1776) was a dark greyish black sandy silt which contained charcoal, animal bone and 17 sherds of 2nd century or later pottery. Above this (1777) contained no dating evidence. This ditch cut likely represented a recut of ditch **7063**, but was not seen in further interventions to the east and west.

Ditch 2063 was in the same area, and was orientated northeast-southwest. It measured 0.96m wide and 0.73m deep, and contained a mid-orange brown sandy silt primary fill (1996), from which two residual sherds of Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery were recovered. Secondary fill (1995) was the most substantial deposit, measuring 0.37m thick and composed of a mid-orange brown silty sand. This contained animal bone, flint and ten sherds of Late 1st to 2nd century or later pottery. Upper fill (2066) contained two sherds of 2nd century or later pottery. The stratigraphic relationships in

this area are particularly complex; ditch 2063 cut postholes 2225 and 2079, as well as ditch 2061. It was in turn cut by pit 2087, ditch **7064**, corn dryer **6013** and corn dryer **7067**.

Ditch 7053

One ditch **7053**, orientated northeast-southwest, was located in eastern area of the site. Cut 3048 was 0.19m wide and 0.35m deep; it had two sandy loam fills (3049) and (3050). A single deposit (3066) was contained within cut 3065; one fragment of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware was collected from it. This feature was cut by later ditch **7054**.

Towards north in the eastern area was a ditch 3071, orientated approximately north-south and measuring 15.5m in length. It had a V-shaped profile and was 0.9m wide and 0.8m deep. Primary fill (3080) was a light brown yellowish silty sand; above this were deposits (3074) and (3073), of similar composition but containing fragments of limestone. Upper fill (3072) was a dark brown sandy silt. A substantial pottery assemblage was recovered from this feature; the 60 fragments were primarily dated to the 2nd century, although some residual Iron Age fabrics were present. Animal bone was also recovered.

Ditch 7051

Ditch **7051** was located in proximity of the northern limit of excavation in the eastern area of site. It measured 1.81m wide and was 0.58m deep, and contained lower fill (2070) and upper fill (2071). This feature continued to the east as cut 2088, a 0.99m wide ditch which was 0.33m deep and contained three fills; (2090), (2091) and (2092). A total of 40 fragments of pottery dated to the 2nd or later century were collected from this feature; a substantial amount of animal bone, one hob nail, flint and a fragment of *tegula* were also present. Ditch **7051** cut earlier pit 2093. The eastern extent of the feature is uncertain.

Ditch 6001

Ditch **6001** run along a north-northwest to south-southeast alignment, and was over 53m long. Western terminus 2758 (Figs. 15 and 20, Section 448) was 0.66m wide and 0.12m deep and contained a single fill (2759). A single deposit (2297) was observed in cut 2296, which was 0.92m wide and 0.22m deep. Cut 2626 measured 0.75m in width and 0.24m in depth and had two fills, both a mid-reddish brown silty sand, (2627) and (2628). Cut 2629 was narrower and shallower (0.48m and 0.18m, respectively) and contained a single fill (2630). Further south-east, cut 2314 had a concave profile and measured 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Two deposits were recorded, (2315) and (2316). Cut 2605 was 0.84m wide and 0.3m deep, and had a single fill (2606); here the ditch was truncated by 4th century robber's trench 2307. Cut 2764 (Figs. 15 and 20, Section 450) was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep, and had three deposits (2765), a sandy silt loam, (2766), a silty loam, and (2767), a sandy loam. 19 pottery sherds dated to the 2nd century or later, animal bone and one hob nail were recovered from this feature. It was cut by 4th century quarry pit 2757.

One small ditch 2647 was located in the area of 4th century Building F; it was 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep. Fill (2647) contained two sherds of 2nd century or later pottery.

Ditch 7058

On a similar alignment was ditch **7058**; this feature was stratigraphically later than ditches **7011** and 2566. Cut 2571 had a concave profile and measured 0.98m in width and 0.32m in depth. It had a single fill (2572). Further west, cut 2654 was as wide, but

only 0.22m deep, and contained a single deposit (2655). 12 fragments of 2nd century or later pottery were collected from this feature.

Ditch 7059

One additional ditch **7059** run parallel to ditch **6001**. Its terminus 2642 was 1.4m wide and 0.19m deep, and had an irregularly concave profile. A single fill (2643) was observed; it contained a Roman nail and two sherds of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware. Cut 2619 measured 0.82m wide and was 0.82m deep. It contained two fills, the primary fill (2620) was a mid-brown sandy loam; upper fill (2621), a mid-orange brown silty sandy loam. Two additional fragments of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered from this deposit. .

Ditch 7004

One ditch **7004** was dated to the 2nd century or later based on seven fragments of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware pottery recovered from it; however, the feature appeared to be part of a group of ditches dated to a later period. To the south, cut 2467 was 0.98m wide and 0.22m deep and contained a single, mid-orange brown sandy loam fill (2468); this was cut by later ditch **7001**. Cut 2493 was 6m to the north of 2467 and was 0.82m wide and 0.18m deep, with a similar fill (2494). Cut 2498 was 0.8m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a greyish brown clayey sand fill (2499). The physical relationship between this feature and ditch **7005** was unclear but the latter contained materials dated to the 4th century.

Ditch 7008

On the same alignment but further north was ditch **7008**. Cut 2524 measured 2.11m in width and 0.28m in depth; it had a single fill (2525), a friable, mid-brown sandy silt, containing animal bone and 15 sherds of 2nd century pottery, including examples of Samian. Cut 2538 was similarly deep at 0.26m, and was 0.65m in width; it contained three fills, (2542), (2543), and (2544), which were devoid of finds. This feature was cut by ditch **7009**.

Ditch 7009

Ditch **7009** measured approximately 8m in length and had a slightly curved shape in plan. Cut 2537 was 0.72m wide and 0.28m deep, and contained three fills. The lowest, (2539) was 0.12m thick; above this, fill (2540) was equally thick. Upper fill (2541) was only 0.03m thick. A total of eight fragments of 2nd century or later pottery, as well as animal bone and flint, were recovered from this feature, which was stratigraphically later than ditch **7008**.

Ditch 7011

Ditch **7011** also run southwest to northeast, and measured 11m in length. Terminus 2598 was 0.5m wide and 0.09m deep; a single fill (2599) was observed; similarly, cut 2529 contained a single fill (2582). Cut 2509 had two fills, a sandy silty loam (2514) and a sandy loam (2515) deposits. Two deposits, (2507) and (2511) were also present within cut 2506, which measured 0.7m wide and 0.26m deep. The northernmost cut was 2573; it contained one deposit (2574), a mid-brown silty sand. Only three sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered from this feature; however, the dating was confirmed by the stratigraphic relationship of ditch **7011** and ditches **7058** and 2510, both dated to the same period.

One ill-defined linear feature 2510, identified as a furrow, was located in the north-western corner of the site. The feature measured 1.4m in width and 0.2m in depth, and cut ditch **7011**. It contained two deposits (2526) and (2527), from which two fragments of 2nd century or later pottery and animal bone were recovered.

In the same area, and with similar orientation, was a short ditch 2561. It was 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep, and contained a single sandy silt deposit (2562); two fragments of Black Burnished Ware were found in it.

Towards the northern limit of excavation in the western area was ditch 2237; it had a concave profile and measured 0.64m wide and 0.32m deep. Two loamy sand fills were observed, (2238) and (2239); the former contained a single sherd of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware pottery and a fragmentary disc rotary quern stone (SF64).

Post-2nd Century Features (Figures 12-15)

A number of features did not contain any dating materials but were found to be stratigraphically later than features securely dated to the 2nd century; additionally, two pits, 1846 and 2055 were stratigraphically dated to this phase, although earlier residual material was recovered from them.

In the western area was ditch 2958; it was 0.6m wide and 0.19m deep and measured 3.8m in length. Its only fill (2959) was a sandy silt deposit with no finds. The feature cut ditch **7028**, which formed part of the 2nd century trackway.

One posthole 3102, measuring 0.26m in width and 0.12m wide, was cut at the base of ditch **7043**. It contained a single fill (3103).

One pit 1229 was located in the southern portion of the central area of the site. It measured 0.58m deep and 0.26m deep, with a sandy clay fill (1232); this pit cut ditch **6031**, part of Enclosure B.

2nd century pit 1292, located against the western limit of excavation of the central area, was subjected to a number of alterations which were stratigraphically later than the original pit 1292 but earlier than the latest alteration cut 1314, dated to the 3rd century. Cut 1298 contained two fills (1299) and (1301), and was cut by 1302, in which a single fill (1303) was observed. A further, shallow cut 1307, measuring 0.1m in depth was also recorded; this contained three different deposits, (1308), (1310) and (1311). Cut 1312 was only 0.35m in width and had a single fill (1313). None of the deposits observed within these re-cuts contained any material.

Towards north, sub-oval feature 1615 was 0.44m wide and 0.28m deep and had a single sandy silt fill (1616). This pit cut ditch **6009**.

Pit 1873 was also sub-circular and measured 0.7m in width and 0.34m in depth. It had a single fill (1874) and cut earlier ditch **6011** and pit 1869.

A number of pits were also observed in the vicinity of Enclosure **7058**. Pit 1804 was located within the enclosure; it measured 1.18m in width and 0.52m in depth and had a slightly V-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (1803), and cut pit 1806, which contained no finds but was stratigraphically dated prior to the 2nd century.

To the north of Enclosure **7058** was circular pit 1846, which was 0.92m wide and 0.6m deep. Its fill 1849 contained a small quantity of Iron Age to Early Roman pottery; the feature was stratigraphically later than 2nd century ditch **7056**, therefore the material is to be considered residual.

To the west of Enclosure **7058** were two additional sub-circular pits. Pit 2087 measured 0.55m in width and 0.2m in depth and had a single sandy silt fill (2089); it cut 2nd century ditch 2063.

Pit 2095 was 0.46m wide and 0.12m deep, and contained one deposit (2096) which was devoid of finds. This feature was only visible in section and could be seen to cut ditch **7072**.

Sub-circular pit 1856 was located to the south of Enclosure **7058**. It measured 0.25m in width and 0.18m in depth and contained one firm, brown silt deposit (1857). It cut ditch **7061**, which was in turn later than 2nd century Enclosure **7057**.

Ditch 7063

Immediately to the south of Enclosure **7057** was ditch **7063**. This feature comprised concave cut 1999, which measured 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep and had a single grey-brown silt fill (2000). Further west, cut 1785 had a similar profile and measured 0.72m wide and 0.33m deep; it contained a single fill (1786). No dating materials were recovered from the feature; however, it was cut by 2nd century ditch 1775.

Ditch 7061

Immediately to the south of Enclosure **7057** was ditch **7061**, running northwest-southeast. Cut 1858 was 0.5m wide and 0.32m deep, with two fills (1859) and (2034). Cut 1956 measured 0.77m in width but only 0.14m in depth, and had one fill (1957). Cut 1854 was even shallower, at 0.08m, and was 0.28m wide; a single fill (1855) was recorded. Cut 1903 measured 0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth and had a concave profile; it contained a single deposit (1904). The feature was devoid of materials, but was found to be stratigraphically later than Enclosure **7057**.

Corn Dryer **6013** was cut by two pits 2201 and 2055. Pit 2201, which was sub-circular and measured 0.52m wide and 0.4m deep, with a single fill (2202).

Pit 2055 had a concave profile and was 0.27m deep. It contained deposit (2054), a mid-orange brown sandy silt from which animal bone and two sherds of pottery dated to the 1st to 2nd century were recovered; however, the stratigraphic relation with Corn Dryer **6013** indicated the pit was later than the 2nd century.

A short ditch 2178 was also stratigraphically later than Corn Dryer **6013**. It measured 0.54m wide and 0.46m deep, with a rounded profile. It contained two sandy loam deposits (2179) and (2180).

Ditch 7046

In the central area, ditch **7046** was recorded. Cut 1545 measured 0.7m in width and 0.18m in depth; the feature continued towards east as cut 1975. Its fills (1546) and (1976) respectively were devoid of finds, but it appeared to be stratigraphically later than ditch **7047**, dated to the 2nd century.

Ditch 2564 was located in the eastern area of the excavation. It cut ditch 2566, also devoid of finds but stratigraphically earlier than 2nd century ditch **7058**. Ditch 2564 had a concave profile measuring 1.04m wide and 0.3m deep; it contained a single deposit (2565).

Three pits devoid of dating materials but stratigraphically later than 2nd century features were also observed in the eastern area of the site.

Small pit 2245 was 0.17m in width and only 0.06m in depth, with an irregularly concave profile. It had a single fill (2246), and cut ditch 2237.

Pit 2393 was equally shallow, measuring 0.06m deep and 0.3m wide. It contained a single dark brown-grey sandy silt deposit (2394) from which animal bone was recovered, and cut pit 2446. The latter was also cut by pit 2444, which was 0.4m wide and 0.22m deep with a single fill (2445).

4.4.4 Phase 2c. 3rd Century

Pre-3rd Century Features (Figures 21-23)

A number of features across the excavation area were devoid of dating material but were found to be stratigraphically earlier than features securely dated to the 3rd century.

In the western area of the excavation, a pit 2804 was recorded; it was cut by 3rd century pit 2806. This measured 0.44m in diameter but only 0.1m in depth, and contained a single mid-brown grey silty sand deposit.

A pit with two possible re-cuts pre-dating 3rd century features was observed in the central area of the site. Pit 1633 was altered twice by later activity; the original cut survived as an over 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep concave feature, containing a light brown-orange sandy clay deposit (1635).

Possible pit 3249 preserved extent was 0.55m wide and 0.32m deep; a single deposit (1637) was observed within it, described as virtually identical to deposit (1635). This cut might have been the same as 1633; however, the physical relationship between the two was obliterated by later re-cut 3250, which was dated to the mid-3rd century or later.

Concave pit 2029 was located immediately to the south of Enclosure **7057**, and was largely cut by mid-3rd century ditch **7062**. Its surviving extent was 0.28m in width and 0.38m in depth, a single deposit (2030) was present.

One quarry pit 2592 was also located in the eastern area. It was irregularly oval in plan and measured 3m by 1m, and was 0.22m deep. Its single fill (2593) was a mid-dark brown grey sandy silt, from which no materials were recovered; however, this feature was stratigraphically earlier than 3rd century ditch **7010**.

Similarly, ditch **7052** cut sub-circular pit 2753; this measured 0.8m in width and 0.46m in depth, and contained two deposits. Fill (2754) was a silty sand deposit 0.1m thick, while fill (2755) was a 0.38m thick sandy silt deposit.

Within a group of intercutting pits located in the easternmost area of site, was pit 2668. The profile of the pit remains undetermined, as it was heavily truncated by pits 2639 and 2633; the surviving extent was 0.62m wide and 0.26m deep. Two fills were observed: (2637) was a sandy loam, while (2638) was a silty sandy loam.

3rd Century Structures (Figures 21-25, Plates 11-12)

Trackway E

The northwest to southeast Trackway D was extensively altered during the 3rd century; the modifications consisted mainly of re-cuts of the two parallel ditches defining the trackway (Figs. 21-23 and 26).

In the western area of the site, the southern limit of the earlier trackway (ditch **7028**) was maintained during this phase of use.

The northern limit appeared to be initially formed by ditch **7035**; this might have altered or replaced previous ditch **7038** on the same alignment, and was in turn cut by ditch **7034**. Cut 3240 was 1.16m wide and 0.34m deep, and had a rounded profile. It contained a single deposit (3241), a loose, dark brown orange loamy sand.

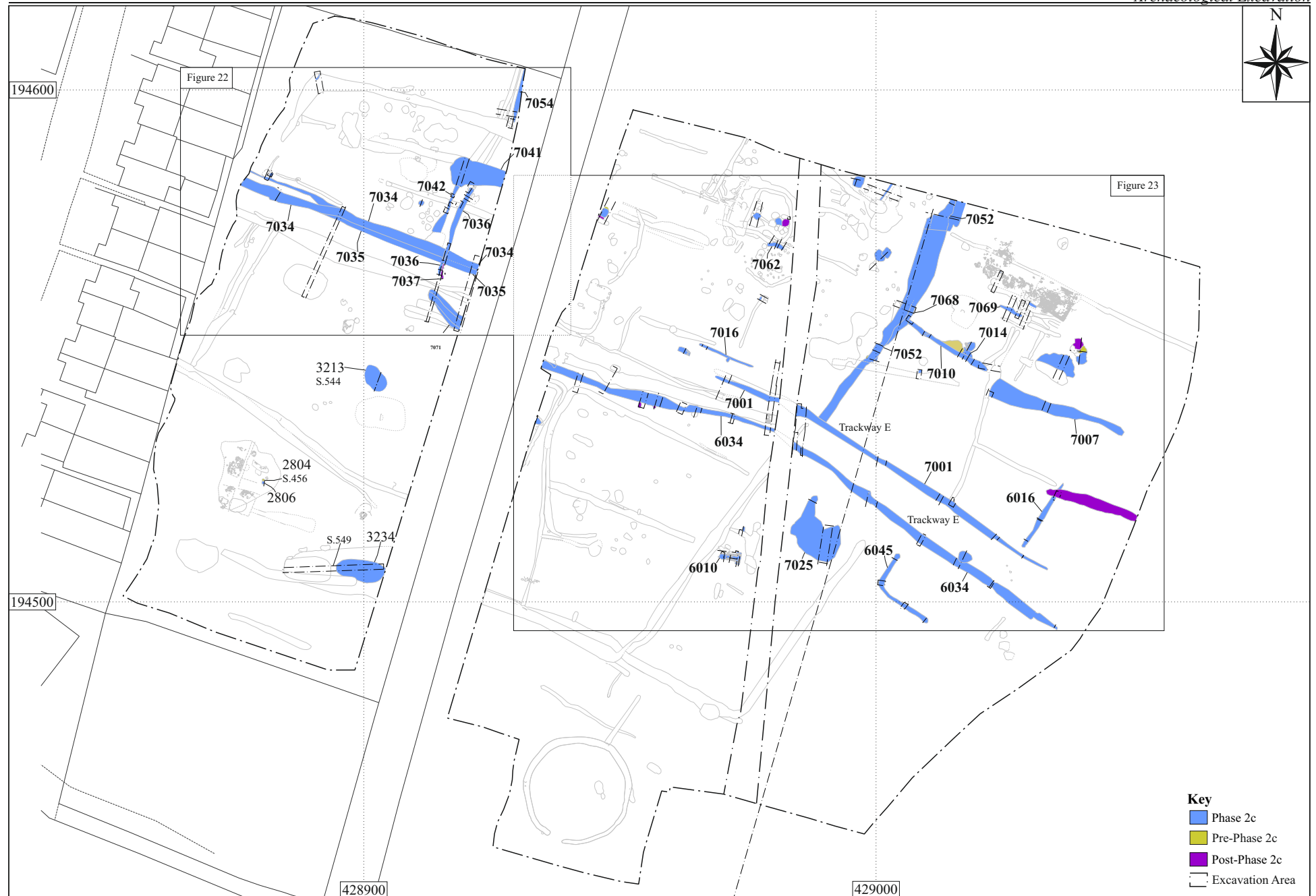


Figure 21: 3rd Century Features (Phase 2c)

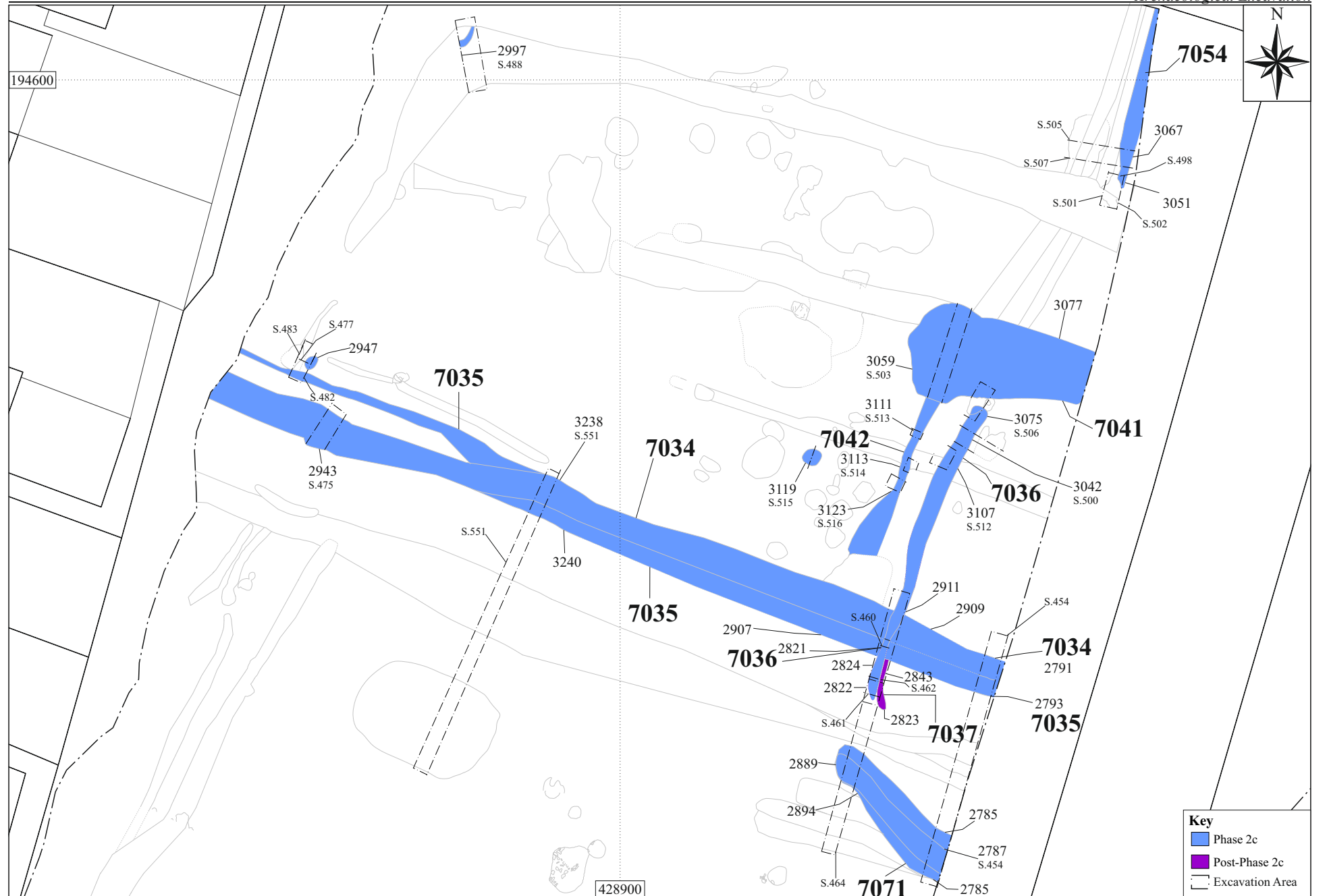


Figure 22: 3rd Century Features (Phase 2c) - Western Area

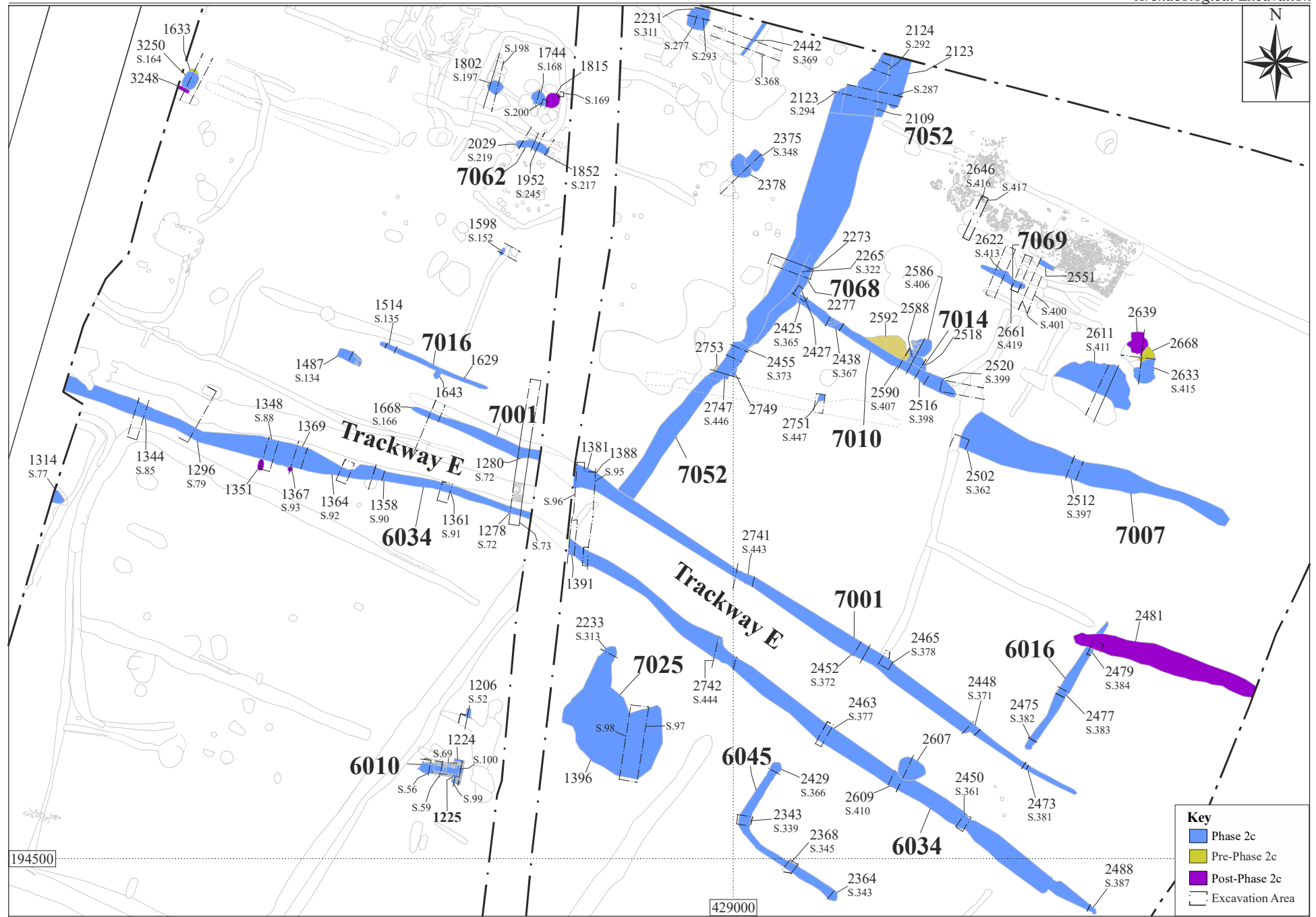


Figure 23: 3rd Century Features (Phase 2c) - Central and Eastern Areas

Further east, cut 2907 had an irregular profile and measured 1.16m in width and 0.82m in depth. Its single fill (2908) was a sandy loam deposit with chalk inclusions. Cut 2793 was 1.09m wide and 0.23m deep; a single fill (2794) was recorded. Animal bone, one Roman nail and a group of 24 fragments of pottery dated to the 3rd century were recovered from this feature.

Ditch **7034** run on the same northwest-southeast alignment, and appeared to be roughly contemporary, although stratigraphically later than, ditch **7035**. Ditch **7034** was also cut by ditches 2911 and 2915. Cut 2943 which measured *ca* 1m wide and was filled by (2944) and (2953). 11m to the east was cut 3238, which measured 1.56m wide and 0.25m deep. The single fill (3239) of this feature was a mid-orange brown silty sand. Cut 2909 had stepped profile and was 0.82m wide and 0.46m deep, with a single fill (2910). Further east, cut 2917 was 0.92m in width and 0.24m in depth, and contained two deposits: sandy silt (2918) and sandy loam (2921). Cut 2791 had a stepped profile and measured 1.6m wide and 0.68m deep. The only fill (2792) was a mid-orange brown silty sand. Animal bone, stone and 24 pottery sherds dated to the 3rd century were recovered from this feature.

In the central area of the site, the southern limit of trackway D was represented by ditch **6034**, which continued into the eastern area of the excavation. Cut 1344 measured 1.57m wide and was 0.65m deep, with a single fill (1345). Cut 1296 was 0.43m in depth and contained two deposits, (1297) and (1304). To the east, cut 1348 was 2.2m wide and 0.4m deep, and contained two fill sandy loam fills (1349) and (1350). Two deposits (1365) and (1366) were also observed in cut 1364, which measured 1.8m wide and was 0.35m deep. Cut 1358 (Fig. 24, Section 90) was concave, and measured 1.32m wide and 0.29m deep. The lower fill (1359) of this cut was 0.9m thick, and the upper fill (1360) was 0.3m in thickness. Further east was cut 1361 (Fig. 24, Section 91), measuring 1.32m wide and 0.3m deep and containing a single fill (1362). One deposit (1279) was observed in cut 1278 (Fig. 24, Section 72), which measured 1.1m wide and was 0.35m deep. Ditch **6034** continued into the eastern area of the excavation as cut 1369 (Fig. 24, Section 93); this had an irregularly concave profile and measured 2.7m in width and 0.43m in depth. Its primary fill (1380) was a light brown greyish deposit; secondary fill (1370) had a similar composition. Cut 1396/1391, which measured 1.83m wide and 0.62m deep, contained a single sandy silt deposit (1363/1392). Cut 2742 was 2.1m wide and 0.5m deep, and had two fills (2743) and (2744). One sandy silt deposit (2464) was observed within cut 2463, which measured 1.8m wide and 0.35m deep. Further east, cut 2609 measured 1.59m wide and 0.39m deep, and had a single fill (2610). An irregularly concave profile was also recorded for cut 2450 (Fig. 24, Section 361), which measured 1.5m wide and 0.55m deep; it contained one sandy silt deposit (2451). A single deposit (2471) was also present in cut 2471, which was 1.2m wide and 0.27m deep. South-eastern terminus 2488 had a concave profile, measured 0.6m in width and 0.12m in depth, and had a single fill (2489). Ditch **6034** was disturbed by later pits 1351, 1367, 2607 and by quarry pit 2740; in turn, it cut pit 1356, ditch **6029**, part of Enclosure B, and ditch **7002**, part of the earlier trackway D. A substantial assemblage of 234 fragments of pottery was recovered from this feature; the vast majority was Oxfordshire Reduced Ware, but Oxfordshire Red-Slipped Ware, Black Burnished Ware and five sherds of Samian pottery were also present, indicating a date of the 3rd century for this feature. Roman hob nails and other structural ironwork were also found; a fragment of saddle quern (SF24) was also present, together with animal bone and flint.

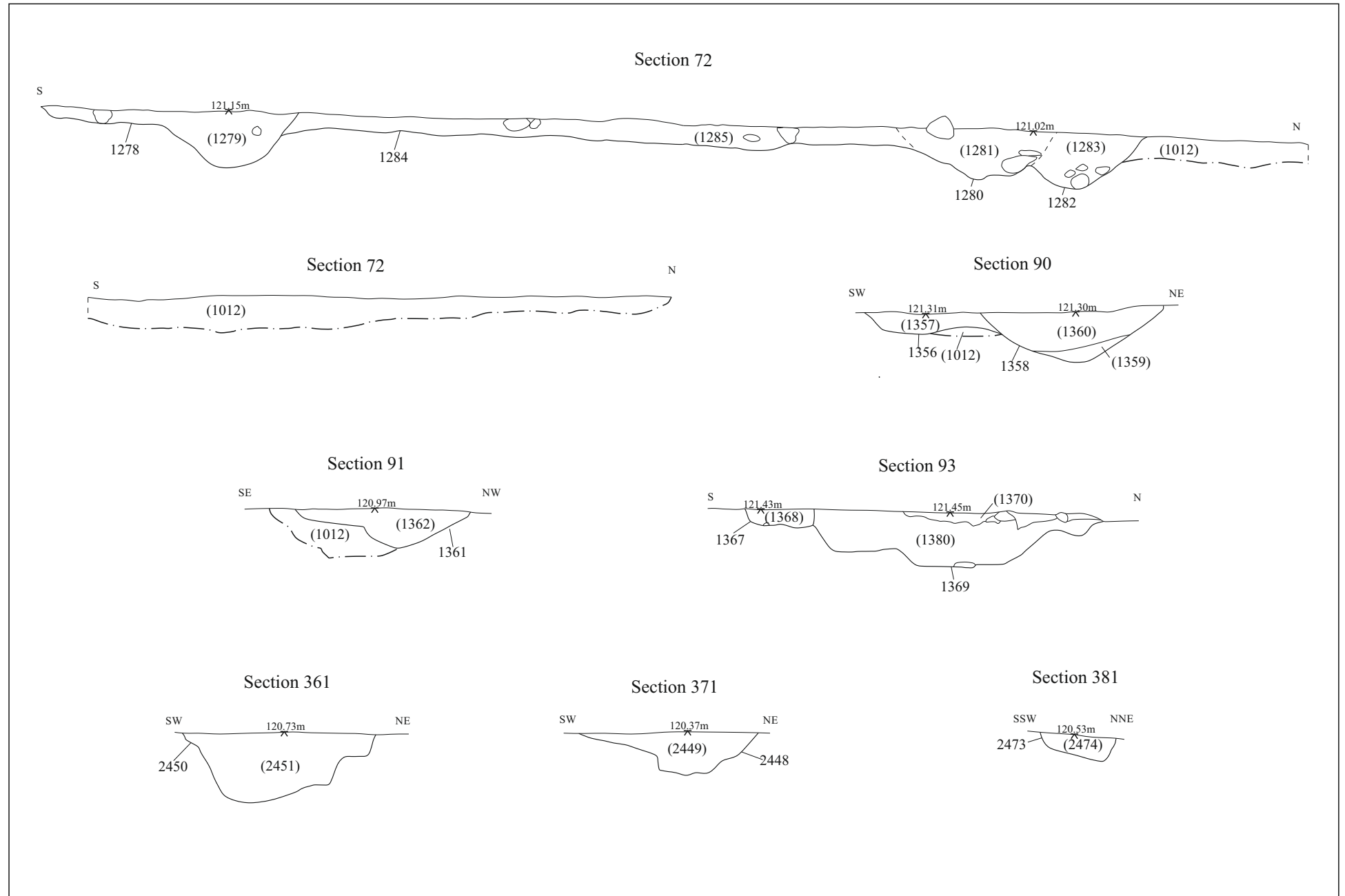


Figure 24: Trackway E (Phase 2c)



Similarly to ditch **6034**, the northern limit of trackway E was formed by one ditch **7001**, which had its western terminus in the central area, but continued into the eastern area of the excavation. This ditch ran on the same alignment and partially obliterated and replaced the previous phase ditch **7026**. 2nd century ditch **7004** was also cut by ditch **7001**; this was in turn disturbed by quarry pit 1397. Cut 1386 was 2.2m wide and 0.87m deep, and had a slightly V-shaped profile. Its only fill was (1387), a sandy clay deposit. Cut 1668 had a V-shaped profile and was 0.61m wide and 0.25m deep; it contained a single fill (1669). One deposit (1281) was found within cut 1280 (Fig. 24, Section 72), which measured 1.2m in width and 0.3m in depth. Ditch **7001** continued towards east as cut 1388; it had a stepped profile and measured 2.4m wide and 0.75m deep. Two deposits were recorded: the lower (1389) was a reddish-brown sandy silt, whilst upper fill (1390) was a dark grey brown sandy silt. Cut 1381 had a concave profile and measured 1.4m in width and 0.28m in depth, and contained two deposits, (1382) and (1383). A single sandy silt loam deposit (2739) was contained in cut 2741; this was 1.56m wide and 0.68m deep. Cut 2452 was 1.88m wide and 0.45m deep. The lower fill (2453) was a 0.32m thick mid-orange brown sandy silt, while upper fill (2454) was a sandy loam deposit measuring 0.18m in thickness. Further south-east was cut 2465; it had a concave profile and measured 1.19m wide and 0.32m deep. A single sandy loam fill (2466) was recorded. Cut 2448 (Fig. 24, Section 371) was irregular, measured 1.35m wide and was 0.31m deep, and had a single fill (449). The easternmost intervention was cut 2473 (Fig. 24, Section 381), which measured 0.58m wide and 0.20m deep. The single fill (2474) was a mid-brown orange silty sand. Animal bone and a total of 90 pottery sherds were recovered from ditch **7001**. The ceramic assemblage was dated to the 3rd century; however, a single residual Iron Age sherd as well as one intrusive 18th century pottery fragments were also recorded.

Corn Dryer 6010

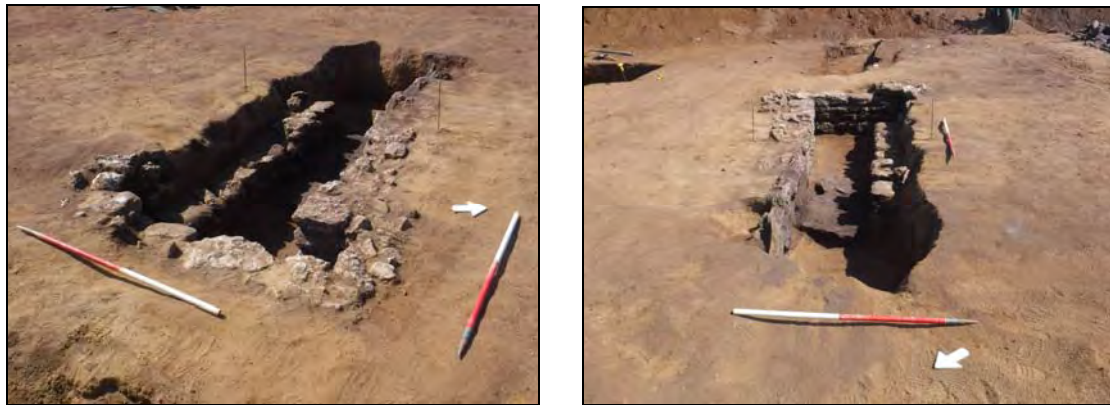


Plate 11. Corn dryer **6010**.
Looking west (left) and looking south-east (right)

Towards the eastern limit of excavation of the central area of site was a stone-built, T-shaped corn dryer **6010** (Figures 21, 23 and 25, Plate 11). This was formed of construction cut 1224 (Fig. 25, Sections 56, 59, 69, 99 and 100), which measured 4.3m by 1.4m and was 0.75m deep; it was lined by slabs of roughly hewn limestone set in uneven courses which formed the main structure **1225** of the feature. A backfill deposit (1399), a 0.52m thick mid-yellow brown sandy silt, was observed within cut 1224.

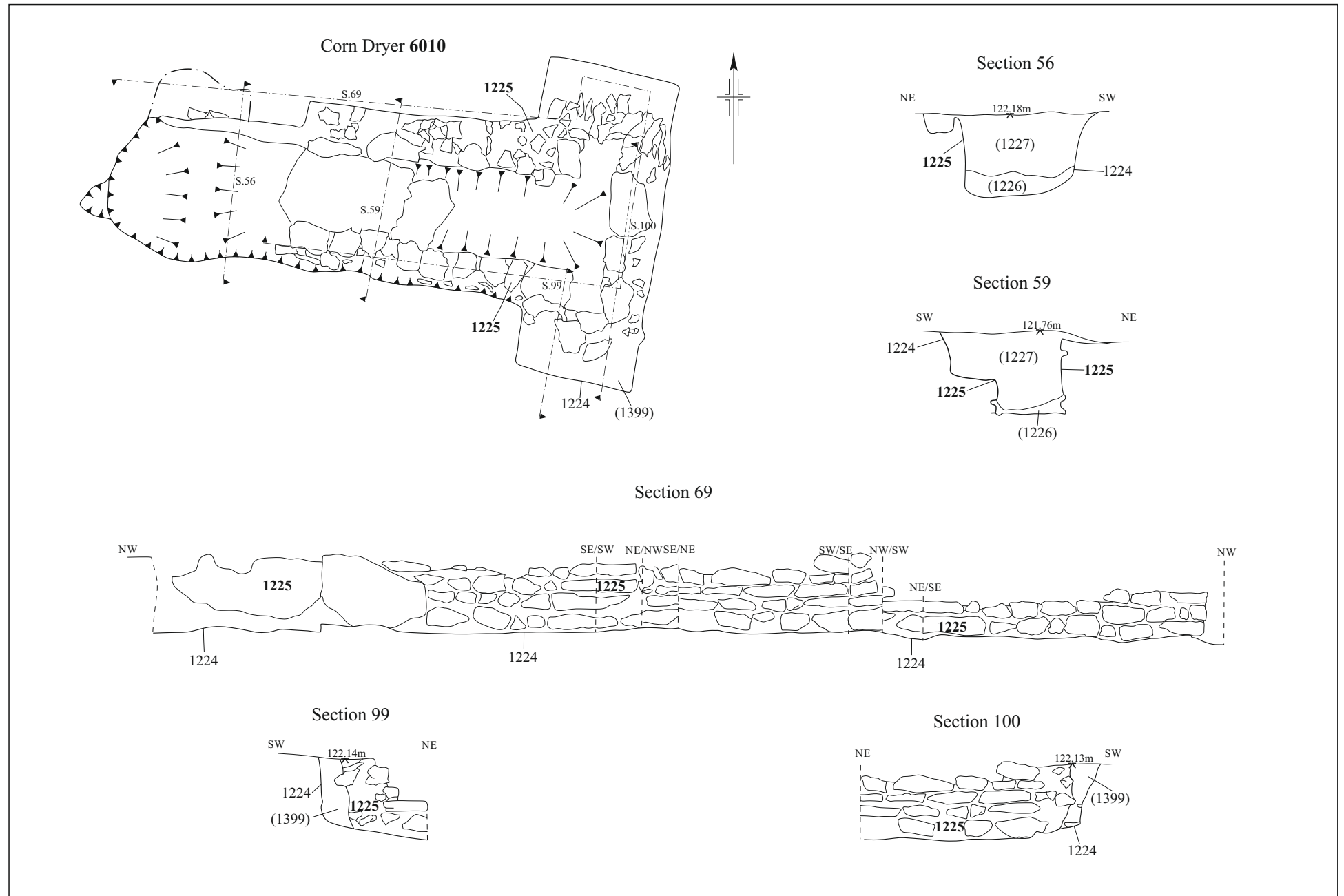


Figure 25: Corn Dryer 6010 (Phase 2c)



The stone lining **1225** was filled by two deposits, lower fill (1226) and upper fill (1227); one burnt material deposit (2723), measuring 0.11m in thickness, was also observed. All the finds from this deposit are associated with milling, and included animal bone, fragments of rotary quern stone (including SF332 and SF333), spelt and avena. A small assemblage of 38 fragments of pottery was also recovered from this feature. Oxfordshire Reduced Ware was the most represented fabric; however, the presence of Oxfordshire Red-Slipped Ware as well as Black Burnished Ware suggest the feature was in use during the 3rd century.

Stone Lined Feature 2231

In the north-eastern corner of the eastern area of the excavation was a feature **2231** (Figs. 21 and 23, Plate 12) which appeared to have been lined with stone slabs. The construction cut 2086 contained several deposits; primary fill (2100) was a thin clay layer, identified as a possible lining, over which a thicker deposit of clay (2101), measuring between 0.3 and 0.4m in thickness, was placed. Limestone slabs forming a possible structure **2231** were noted at the bottom of cut 2086; the slabs appeared to be roughly worked, and had approximate dimensions of 0.75m by 0.25m by 0.15m.



Plate 12. Stone-lined feature **2231**
Looking east (left) and looking north-east (right)

This possible structure was filled by deposit (2138), a 0.15m thick sandy clay, over which was deposit (2151), a soft, mid-brown clay-silt, above which a clayey silt deposit (2102) was observed. The uppermost deposit (2146) was a light brown sandy clay measuring 0.15m in thickness. A substantial assemblage of 74 fragments of pottery was recovered from this feature; the vast majority was of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware; however, the presence of later fabrics, like Oxfordshire Red-Slipped Ware and Oxfordshire White Ware, indicated a 3rd century date for the material. A fragment of disc rotary quern stone (SF57) and animal bone were also present; spelt grains, glume bases and barley, and other cereal grains were recovered through flotation of the samples collected from feature **2231**.

3rd Century Pits (Figures 21-23 and 26)

A number of pits dated to the 3rd century were observed across site. Pit 2947 was located in the western area, close to the westernmost limit of excavation. It measured 0.88m by 0.63m and was 0.29m deep. It contained two fills, the lowest of which (2948) was 0.16m thick and contained no finds, whilst upper fill (2949) contained animal bone, a Roman nail and a single sherd of mid-3rd century or later pottery. In the same area but towards east was isolated pit 3119. The pit was 1m in diameter and 0.35m deep. Fill (3120) was a silty sand deposit containing animal bone and a

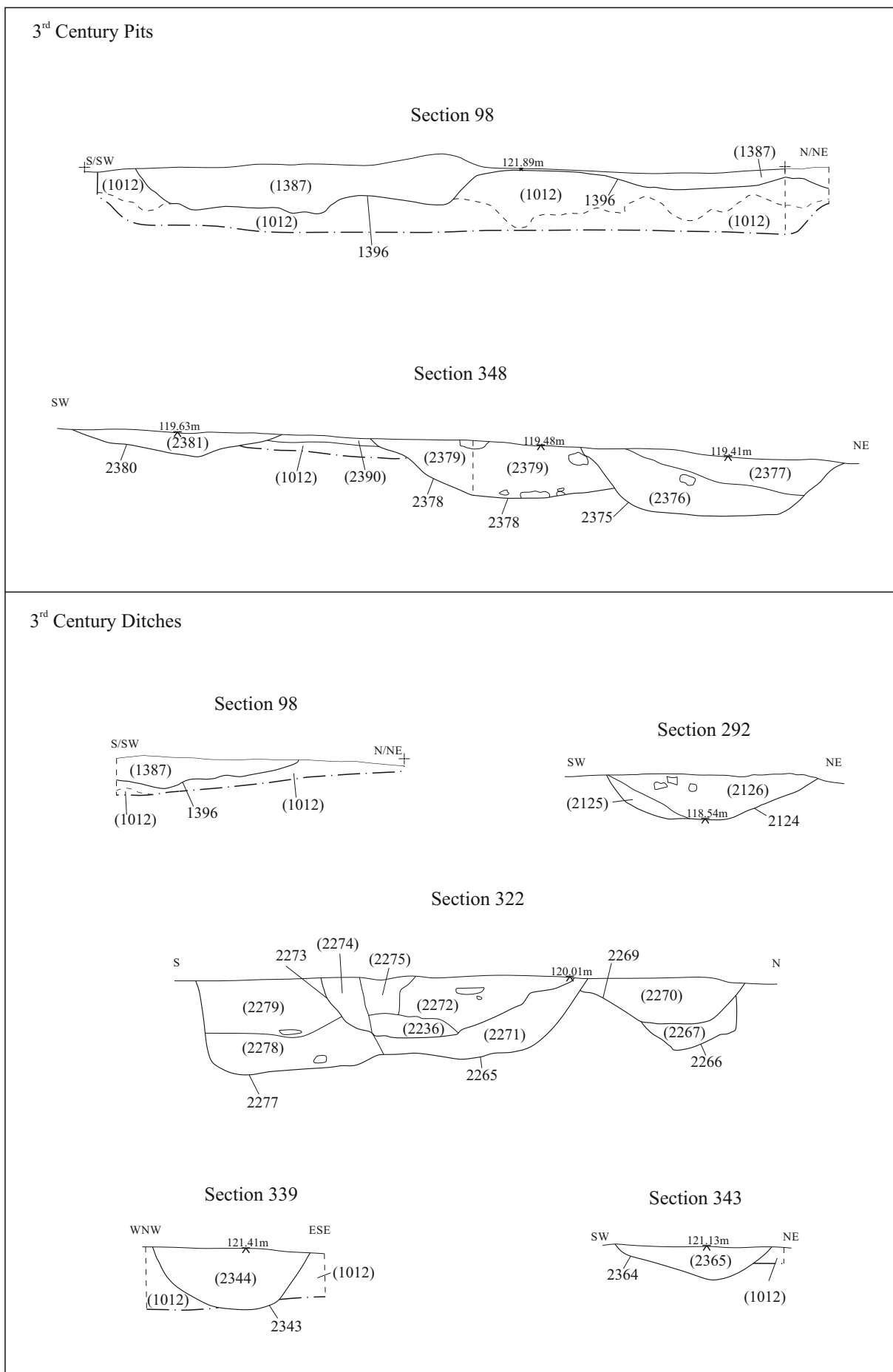


Figure 26: 3rd Century Pits and Ditches (Phase 2c)

0 2 m

small assemblage of three pottery sherds, including residual Iron Age fabrics and a single example of 3rd century Oxfordshire Red-Slipped Ware.

In this area was also pit 3234; it measured 0.86m in diameter and was 0.6m deep, with a single fill (3235), which contained flint and a group of 34 sherds of pottery dated to the mid-3rd century. This feature was cut by later pit 3230.

Isolated pit 3213 measured 2.3m in width and 0.2m in depth, and had a sub-circular shape in plan. Its fill (3214) contained animal bone and three sherds of pottery dated to this period; however, a single fragment of intrusive modern pottery was also noted.

In the central area was pit 1206; it had a concave profile and measured 0.49m wide and 0.22m deep, and cut ditch **6035**. Fragments of a triangular perforated brick as well as substantial assemblage of 21 pottery sherds were recovered from its fill (1207); the pottery dated to the 3rd century, although three intrusive sherds of post-medieval pottery were noted.

Pit 1314 was also located in this area, in proximity of the western limit of excavation; this feature represented the later alteration of 2nd century pit 1292. It had a concave profile and measured 0.88m in width and 0.21m in depth; it had a single fill (1315), from which animal bone and 11 sherds of mid-3rd century or later pottery were recovered.

Further northeast, pit 1643 was irregular in shape and measured 1.09m in diameter. It contained a single fill (1644) from which two sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered; however, the feature was dated to the 3rd century as it was found to be stratigraphically later than ditch **7016**.

Pit 1487 was also located in the central area; it measured 2.5m by 1.08m and was 0.25m deep. The primary fill (1516) was a thin lens of redeposited natural. The main fill of the pit was (1488), which contained 97 sherds of mid-3rd century or later pottery and large amounts of animal bone (mostly sheep/goat), some of which was semi-articulated. Slabs of stone, probably tile manufacturing waste, were also recorded from this fill.

Near the eastern limit of excavation of the central area was sub-oval pit 1598; it had a concave profile and measured 0.4m in width and only 0.1m in depth. A single fill (1599) was observed; animal bone and three sherds of pottery were recovered from it. Pit 1598 cut ditch **7023**.

Further north was pit 3250, which appeared to be a re-cut of earlier pit 3249. It measured 1.3m in width and 0.3m in depth, and had a primary fill (1636) as well as a secondary fill (1617) of sandy clay. Animal bone and a rivetted copper alloy strip fragment (SF41) were collected from this feature; eight fragments of pottery dated to the mid-3rd century were also present. Pit 1617 was cut by later feature 3248.

Within Enclosure 7057, two pits dated to the 3rd century were found. Animal bone and seven fragments of pottery dating to this period were recovered from pit 1744, which was 1.36m in diameter and contained two deposits; lower fill (1745) and upper fill (1746).

Pit 1802 was 0.52m in diameter and 0.6m deep. The single fill (1801) contained 23 sherds of mid-3rd century or later pottery, animal bone and part of a two-link snaffle bit (SF50). This feature earlier pits 1814 and 1800.

In the western area of the excavation was pit 2806; it was 0.52m in diameter and 0.28m deep. Fill (2807) was a mid-grey mottled with dark red sandy silt, which contained 14 sherds of Black Burnished Ware and two additional sherds of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware. A fragment of rotary quern stone SF420 was also recovered from this feature. Pit 2806 cut earlier pit 2804.

Sub-circular pit 2607 was immediately to the north of ditch **6034**, and cut it. It had a concave profile and measured 2.28m in width and 0.4m in depth; a single mid-brown grey silty sand deposit (2608) was observed. A small group of five pottery sherds dated to the 3rd century or later was collected from this feature, as well as flint. Pit 2378 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 348) was located near the western limit of excavation in this area and was stratigraphically earlier than pit 2375. It had an irregular shape in plan and measured 1.48m wide and 0.4m deep. A single sandy silt deposit (2379) was present; it contained a small group of six pottery sherds dated to the 3rd century.

Toward east was sub-oval pit 2551; it was 1.98m in diameter and 0.62m deep and contained a total of three fills. Primary fill (2552) was a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt 0.32m thick; the secondary fill (2553) was a mid-brown grey sandy loam measuring 0.36m in thickness and upper fill (2554) was a sandy silt loam deposit. Animal bone and pottery sherds dating to the 3rd century or later were recovered from this feature, which was found to cut 2nd century pit 2594. Pit **7014** was located to the south of pit 2551. Cut 2518 was 0.63m wide and 0.43m deep and had a single fill (2519). Cut 2588 was wider, measuring 1.15m, but shallower, at 0.2m, also with a single fill (2589). Animal bone and a small group of 13 sherds of pottery dated to the 3rd century were collected from this feature; however, intrusive post-medieval material, in the form of two pottery sherds and two fragments of clay pipe were also present.

Additionally, pits dated to the 3rd century were observed in this area of the excavations. Pit 2633 had a diameter of 1.51m and was 0.48m deep. It contained three fills, the lowest of which (2634) was 0.14m thick loamy sand deposit; above it was (2635), a sandy silty loam measuring 0.24m in thickness. Upper fill (2636) was 0.2m thick sandy silty loam deposit. A total of 10 pottery sherds dating to the mid-3rd century, and animal bone, were recovered from this feature, which cut earlier pit 2668.

Further north was pit 2375 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 348), which measured 1.9m in diameter and was 0.44m deep. Primary fill (2376) and upper fill (2377) contained animal bone, a fragment of box flue and a total of 126 sherds of pottery, mainly of Black Burnished Ware.

3rd Century Quarry Pits (Figures 21-23 and 26)

One quarry pit 7041 was observed in the western area of the excavation; it had an irregular shape in plan. Cut 3059 was 5.9m wide and 0.42m deep and contained three deposits, (3060), (3061) and (3062). Cut 3077 measured 1m in width and 0.22m in depth; two fills were observed within it, (3078) and (3079). Animal bone and a total of 45 pottery fragments were recovered from this feature; the material included some residual Iron Age sherds, but the vast majority of it indicated a date of the 3rd century or later. This feature cut earlier ditch **7042**.

In the eastern area of the excavation was quarry pit **7025**, which measured a maximum of 11.7m by 7.8m. Cut 1396 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 98) contained a single deposit (1387); similarly, cut 2233 contained one fill (2234). Animal bone, a disc rotary quern stone (SF63) and a total of 33 pottery sherds were recovered from this feature. Although the majority of the pottery dated to the 2nd century or later, the presence of Black Burnished Ware and Oxfordshire White Ware indicated a later date for quarry pit **7025**. This feature was cut by later quarry pit 1397.

Toward north, one quarry pit 2586 was recorded; it measured 2.12 by 1.78m. It was 0.22m deep and contained a single fill (2587), from which four sherds of 2nd century

or later pottery were recovered; however, pit 2586 was found to be stratigraphically later than 3rd century pit **7014**. This deposit also contained fragments of limestone, possibly tile production waste.

In the same area was also quarry pit 2751. It had an irregular shape in plan and measured 0.5m in depth. A single mid-brown reddish sandy silt deposit (2752) was present; a single sherd of residual Iron Age pottery and one of 3rd century date were recovered from it. Quarry pit 2751 was cut by ditch 2749.

Towards east, quarry pit 2611 measured 3.2m in diameter and contained three deposits. The primary fill (2612) was 0.26m thick; secondary fill (2613) was 0.26m thick, and upper fill (2614) measured 0.2m in thickness. 20 sherd of pottery indicating a 3rd century date were recovered from this feature, together with animal bone.

One rather large quarry pit 2123 was located further north. It was sub-oval in shape and measured 2.26m wide and 0.6m in depth. A number of fills were observed: (2110), (2130), (2131), (2132), (2133), (2134), (2135), (2144) and (2142); a total of 21 pottery sherds dating to the mid-3rd century, animal bone and one Roman coin (SF56) dated to 330-340 AD were recovered from this feature.

3rd Century Linear Features (Figures 21-23 and 26)

Ditch 2997 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 488) was located in the western area of the excavation, towards north. The exact extent of this feature remains undetermined, as it was largely obliterated by later ditch 2995 and furrow **7040**. It measured 0.4m wide and was 0.15m deep, and contained one fill (2998), from which a single sherd of mid-3rd century or later pottery was recovered.

Ditch 7054

In the north-eastern corner of the western area was ditch **7054**. It measured approximately 10m in length, between 0.44m and 0.95m in width and between 0.14m and 0.2m in depth. Both cuts 3051 and 3067 had a concave profile; a total of three fills (3052), (3053) and (3068) were recorded. A single sherd of Oxfordshire white ware was collected from this feature, which cut earlier ditch **7053**.

Ditch 7042

Ditch **7042** was located near the eastern limit of excavation of the western area. It was orientated approximately north-south and measured 7.5m in length. Cut 3111 was 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep, with a single fill (3112). Cut 3113 measured 1.38m wide and 0.31m deep, and contained one sandy loam deposit (3114). Further south, cut 3123 was 0.6m wide and 0.32m deep, and contained a single mid-brown sandy loam fill (3124). A total of 13 fragments of pottery indicating a 3rd century date were recovered from this feature. Ditch **7042** was stratigraphically later than 2nd century ditch **7043** and earlier than contemporary ditch **7041**.

Ditch 7036

Ditch **7036** run parallel to ditch **7042** for approximately 18m, and was cut by later ditch **7037**, which also had similar orientation. Northern terminus 3075 had an irregularly concave profile and measured 0.92m in width and 0.27m in depth; a single fill (3076) was observed. Cut 3042 was 0.89m wide and 0.46m deep, and contained a single sandy silt deposit (3043). Towards south was cut 3107, which measured 1.27m wide and 0.59m deep. Three fills were observed: lower fill (3108) was a 0.1m thick sandy silt deposit; middle fill (3109) was of similar composition, and measured 0.15m in thickness. Sandy silt deposit (3110) was the uppermost fill, and was 0.3m thick. Cut 2821 had an irregular profile and measured 0.65m wide and 0.34m deep; two fills

were present, (2831) and (2832). Cut 2824 measured 0.49m wide and 0.62m deep. Primary fill (2837) was a thin lens of redeposited natural 0.2m thick. Above this, (2838) was an orange-brown loamy sand deposit, which was below (2839), a slightly more substantial deposit, 0.44m thick. The upper fill (2840) was a loamy sand deposit measuring 0.26m in thickness. Southern terminus 2822 had a concave profile and measured 0.66m in width and 0.68m in depth; three fills were present: silty sand deposit (2833), loamy sand deposit (2834) and sandy loam deposit (2835). Worked flint, animal bone, one Roman nail and one iron strip (SF111) as well as a small assemblage of 17 pottery sherds were recovered from this feature; the material dated mostly to the 3rd century, although two residual Iron Age fragments were also present.

Ditch 7071

South-east of ditch **7036** was a possible ditch **7071**. The exact extent and shape of this feature were not defined during fieldwork; additionally, the stratigraphic relationship with other features observed in the area was not fully investigated. Cut 2785 measured 3.04m wide was 0.9m deep and contained a relatively complex sequence of fills. Primary fill (2872) was a red-brown sandy silt; over this was a series of overlapping fills (2871), (2786) and (2870). Fill (2795) overlay (2870) and appeared to share the same stratigraphic relationship as (2797), although this relationship had been removed by recut 2787. The uppermost fill of 2785 was deposit (2796), which was equivalent to (2798). Western terminus 2894 had an irregular, V-shaped profile and measured 0.8m in width and 1.1m in depth. The primary fill was (2895), 0.14m thick, mid-yellowish silty sand deposit; above this was sandy loam (2890/2896), which was 0.54m in thickness. Deposit (2891/2897) had a similar composition and was 0.32m thick. Upper fill (2893/2898) was also a sandy loam deposit, measuring 0.18m in thickness. A very substantial assemblage of 208 fragments of pottery was recovered from this feature; it included large amounts of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware and Black Burnished Ware. Animal bone was also noted. Later, ill-defined features 2787 and 2889, part of a cluster observed in this area, appeared to cut ditch **7071**.

Along the eastern limit of excavation of the western area two additional ditches dated to the 3rd century were recorded. These are part of a cluster that appeared to have continued westward; however, the physical relationships between these features could not be established during the excavations.

Ditch 2787 was identified as a re-cut of ditch **7071**. It had a V-shaped profile and measured 2.48m in width and 0.79m in depth. Its three fills (2782), (2789) and (2790) contained animal bone and 48 fragments of pottery indicating a mid-3rd century date for the feature. One iron staple and a copper alloy brooch of Nauheim Derivative form (SF107), dating to the late Iron Age to late 1st century were also found.

Similarly, ditch 2889 appeared to have cut ditch **7071**. Measuring 3.6m wide and 1m deep, the feature was assigned a single fill, (2892). From this, 7 sherds of 2nd century or later pottery were recovered, together with animal bone and a Roman nail; however, the feature was stratigraphically later of ditch **7071** and therefore to be dated to the 3rd century at the earliest.

Ditch 7016

Ditch **7016** was located to the north of trackway E in the central area of the site; it measured approximately 11m in length and run parallel to trackway E. Terminus 1514 was concave, 0.52m wide and 0.34m deep. A single fill (1515) was noted. Further east, cut 1629 was similarly wide but only 0.2m deep. Its only fill (1630) was a sandy deposit. A large assemblage of 46 sherds of pottery, dated to the 3rd century, was

collected from this feature; animal bone and seven hob nails (SF31 to SF37) were also present. Ditch **7016** was cut by contemporary pit 1643.

Ditch 7062

Curved ditch **7062** was located immediately to the south of Enclosure **7057**. Its western terminus 2027 was 0.8m wide and 0.32m deep and had a concave profile. A single fill (2028) was observed. Cut 1952 had a similar profile and measured 0.81m in width and 0.36m in depth; three deposits were recorded, (1953), (1959) and (2001). Eastern terminus 1852 was also concave and measured 0.7m wide and 0.34m deep; it contained a single deposit (1853). Flint, animal bone and 11 sherds of pottery indicating a 3rd century date were recovered from the feature. Earlier pit 2029 and Enclosure **7057** were cut by ditch **7062**.

Ditch 6045

Towards south in the eastern area of the excavations was an isolated, L-shaped ditch **6045**. The northern terminal 2429 was 0.88m wide and 0.54m deep. It contained a 0.52m thick primary fill (2430) above which was deposit (2431). Cut 2343 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 339) measured 1.14m wide and 0.44m deep. The single fill (2344) was a sandy loam deposit. Ditch **6045** curved to the south-east, where cut 2368 measured 1.1m wide and contained two deposits; primary fill (2369) was a mid-orange brown silty sand 0.12m thick, above which was greyish brown sandy loam (2370). Southern terminal 2364 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 343) was 1.1m wide and 0.22m deep, and contained a single deposit (2365). Animal bone and a fragment of black glass dated to the 2nd century were recovered from this feature; however, a small assemblage of four pottery sherds indicated a 3rd century date for ditch **6045**.

Ditch 6016

Linear feature **6016** was orientated southwest-northeast and measured almost 15m in length. Southern terminus 2475 measured 0.76m wide and 0.11m deep, and contained one deposit (2476). To the north, cut 2477 was 1.06m wide and 0.36m deep, also with a single fill (2478). Cut 2479 was 0.43m wide and 0.3m deep, with a single fill (2480). Animal bone and 19 sherds of mid-3rd century pottery were collected from this feature. Ditch **6016** was cut by linear feature 2481.

Ditch 7007

Ditch **7007** was located in the same area and was orientated southeast-northwest. Shallow cut 2512 measured 2.04m in width but only 0.05m in depth; it contained a single fill (2513), a dark brown grey silty sand. The feature continued north-west as cut 2502, which measured 1m wide and 0.3m deep, and had a single fill (2503). Four fragments of pottery dating to the 3rd century were recovered. The stratigraphical relationships between ditch **7007** and the two ditches perpendicular to it, **7004** and **7008**, was not investigated.

Ditch 7010

Ditch **7010** had a similar alignment and measured approximately 18m in length. Eastern terminus 2520 measured 1.4m wide and was 0.42m deep, and contained a silty sand deposit (2521). Cut 2516 had a concave profile and measured 1.01m in width and 0.37m in depth; a single silty sand deposit (2517) was present. Further west, cut 2590 was 1.1m wide and 0.38m deep and contained a single deposit (2591). Cut 2438 had a more V-shaped profile, and measured 0.6m in width and 0.38m in depth. One silty sand fill (2439) was recorded. Cut 2425 was concave, 0.9m wide and

0.27m deep, and contained a single fill (2426). Animal bone and a substantial assemblage of 59 pottery fragments was recovered. The most represented fabrics were Oxfordshire Reduced Ware and Black Burnished Ware; a single example of Samian Ware was also present. Ditch **7010** was stratigraphically later than pit **7014** and quarry pit 2592, and in turn earlier than ditch **7068**; it was also disturbed by bioturbation 2440.

Ditch 7068

Toward north in the same area was ditch **7068**, orientated northeast-southwest and visible for a length of approximately 23m, although the original extent of the feature could have been greater, as later ditch **7052** appeared to have largely obliterated it. Cut 2277 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 322) was 1.24m wide and 0.68m deep and contained two fills: (2278), a 0.36m thick sandy silt deposit, and (2279), a deposit of similar composition measuring 0.4m in thickness. Cut 2427 was 2.6m wide and 0.81m deep and had a single fill (2428). Animal bone and a sizeable assemblage of 40 pottery sherds dated to the 3rd century were found in this feature. Ditch **7068** cut earlier ditch **7010** and was in turn cut by later ditch **7052**.

Ditch 2749 was also located in the eastern area of the excavations; it was mostly obliterated by mid-3rd century ditch **7052**. It was 1.2m wide and 0.49m deep, with a concave profile; one deposit (2750) was observed. Although devoid of finds, this feature was stratigraphically later than 3rd century quarry pit 2751 but earlier than mid-3rd century ditch **7052**.

Gulley 2442 was located in proximity of the northern limit of excavation in the eastern area of the site. It was 0.34m wide and 0.16m deep, with one sandy silt deposit (2443) which contained burnt material, spelt, oat and barley grains, animal bone and 16 sherds of 3rd century or later pottery. Gulley 2442 was cut by 4th century pit 2240.

Ditch 7052

A substantial linear feature **7052** was located in the eastern area of the site; it run northeast-southwest and measured over 50m in length. The materials collected from ditch **7052** included 164 sherds of pottery, animal bone and slate, and indicated a date of the mid-3rd century or later for this feature. Ditch **7052** was stratigraphically later than quarry pit 2123, pit 2753, and ditches 2749, **6026** and **7068**; the relationship with ditch **7001** was not investigated. Additionally, one recut 2273 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 322) was also recorded. The northernmost cut was 2747; it was 1.47m wide and 0.42m deep, with a single fill (2748). Cut 2455 had a concave profile and measured 1.6m in width and 0.37m in depth; it contained a silty sand deposit (2546). Cut 2265 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 322) was 1.54m wide and 0.38m deep, with a single fill (2271); here ditch **7052** was altered by a recut 2273, which measured 1.82m in width and 0.44m in depth, and contained deposits (2236), (2272), (2274) and (2275), from which residual, earlier materials were recovered. Cut 2109 also had a concave profile, measuring 2.13m wide and 0.46m deep. Two fills were observed, one 0.22m thick silty loam (2119) above which was deposit (2120), a 0.22m thick sandy silty loam. The southernmost cut 2124 (Figs. 23 and 26, Section 292) was 1.5m wide and 0.32m deep, and contained a reddish brown silt deposit (2125).

Ditch 7069

One additional ditch **7069** was recorded immediately to the south of 4th century Building F. Cut 2661 was 0.64m wide and 0.22m deep, with a single fill (2662).

Western terminus 2622 was 1.02m wide and 0.26m deep, also containing a single deposit (2623). Animal bone and a small assemblage of eight pottery sherds indicating a date of the mid-3rd century were recovered from this feature. The physical relationship between ditch **7069** and pit 2594 was not investigated.

Post-3rd Century Features (Figures 21-23)

A number of features were found to be stratigraphically later than features securely dated to the 3rd century.

Ditch 7037

In the western area of the excavation was a short linear feature **7037**, of a northeast-southwest orientation, which run parallel and cut ditch **7036**. Northern terminus 2823 was 0.32m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a single loamy sand deposit (2836). To the south, two deposits (2841) and (2842) were contained within cut 2843, which measured 0.6m in width and 0.18m in depth. This feature was devoid of finds, but was found to be stratigraphically later than 3rd century ditch **7036**.

Two ditches located along the eastern limit of excavation of the western area were part of a cluster. The physical relationships between these features and their possible continuations was not established during the excavations.

Cut 2911 had an irregularly concave profile, and was 1.06m wide and 0.34m deep; a single sandy loam deposit (2912) was observed. This feature cut Trackway E, dated to the 3rd century.

Further north, cut 2915 had an irregular profile and measured 0.76m in width and 0.3m in depth. It contained two deposits: (2916), a 0.2m thick sandy loam fill, and (2920), a silty sand fill measuring 0.12m in thickness. Four sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd century were recovered from this feature; however, it was found to be stratigraphically later than trackway E.

Pit 1351 was located immediately to the south of trackway E in the central area. It was 0.78m wide and only 0.09m deep; a single mid-brown sandy silt fill (1352) was observed. No finds were recovered from this feature, but it was found to be stratigraphically later than 3rd century trackway E.

One Roman iron knife (SF23) was recovered from deposit (1368), the fill of 0.52m wide pit 1367 (Fig. 24, Section 93); no additional dating material were recovered from this feature, which cut trackway E.

In the same area but close to the western limit of the excavation was one ill-defined feature 3248. It had a concave profile and measured ca 0.52m in width and 0.08m in depth, and contained a single sandy clay fill (1634). The full extent and nature of the feature were not recorded. Feature 3248 was stratigraphically later than mid-3rd century pit 3250.

Within Enclosure **7057** was pit 1815. This was sub-circular in shape and measured 0.9m in width and 0.58m in depth; its only fill (1816) was devoid of finds. The physical relationship between pits 1815 and 1744 was not investigated; however, the former was found to be later than pit 1747.

Two quarry pits dated to this period were found in close proximity to the western limit of excavation in the eastern area of the site. Quarry pit 1397 measured at least 1.95m in diameter and had a single fill, (1398); its full extent remains undetermined, as the feature was only seen in section. The three sherds of 2nd century or later pottery

recovered from its fill (1398) are to be considered residual, as this feature cut 3rd century trackway E, as well as earlier Enclosure B.

Similarly, earlier material was collected from deposit (2738), contained in quarry pit 2740, which measured 1.9m wide and cut 3rd century trackway E.

Pit 2639 was part of a cluster located in the easternmost area of the excavation. Measuring 0.62m wide and 0.34m deep, it had a concave profile and contained two deposits, silty sandy loam (2659) and sandy loam (2660). Although it contained no dating material, pit 2639 was stratigraphically later than pit 2668, which also contained no finds but was in turn cut by 3rd century pit 2633.

To the south so these pits was linear feature 2481, which was visible for *ca* 18m and appeared to extend to the east, beyond the limit of excavations. It measured 1.95m in width and 0.08m in depth, had a single fill (2482), and cut 3rd century ditch **6016**.

4.4.5 Phase 2d. 4th Century

Pre-4th Century Features (Figures 27-28)

Three of the pits identified in the western area of the excavations were devoid of dating materials, but were stratigraphically earlier than features securely dated to the 4th century.

Quarry pit 2777 measured 1.8m wide and 0.2m deep, and was filled by a mid-orange silt deposit (2778). This feature was overlain by colluvium deposit 2763, which contained materials dated to the 4th century.

One sub-circular pit 3232 was also probably a quarry pit, and was cut by 4th century pit 3230. It measured 1.3m in width and 0.18m in depth, and contained a single deposit (3233).

Further north, quarry pit 3121 had an irregular shape and measured over 0.74m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained a single sandy silt fill (3122). This feature was cut by 4th century pit 3133 and by post-medieval ditch **7044**.

Similarly, pit 2263 had no dating material but was stratigraphically earlier than well **2167**, dated to the late 4th century. This pit was located in the eastern area of the site, towards north; it measured 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, and contained a single sandy silt deposit (2264).

In the same area, construction cut 2304 for Building F truncated pit 2663; this measured 0.22m in width and 0.22m in depth, and contained one sandy loam deposit (2664) which was devoid of any materials.

4th Century Structures (Figures 27-29, Plates 13-16)

Building F

The most prominent structure dated to the 4th century was Building F (Figures 27-28, Plates 13-14), a construction occupying an area of *ca* 78 square meters, located in the north-eastern corner of the excavations.

The rectangular structure of Building F was defined by linear construction cuts which only partially survived the later disturbance. Only a small quantity of animal bone was recovered from one of its deposits; no dating material was present. On the western and south sides of the structure was construction cut 2304/2665; this had a concave profile and varied between 0.35 and 1.2m wide and was 0.18 to 0.65m deep. A number of backfill deposits were recorded; (2508) was described as sandy loam; (2560), (2580), (2581), (2582), (2585) and (2666) as silty sand, and (2674) as sandy silt.

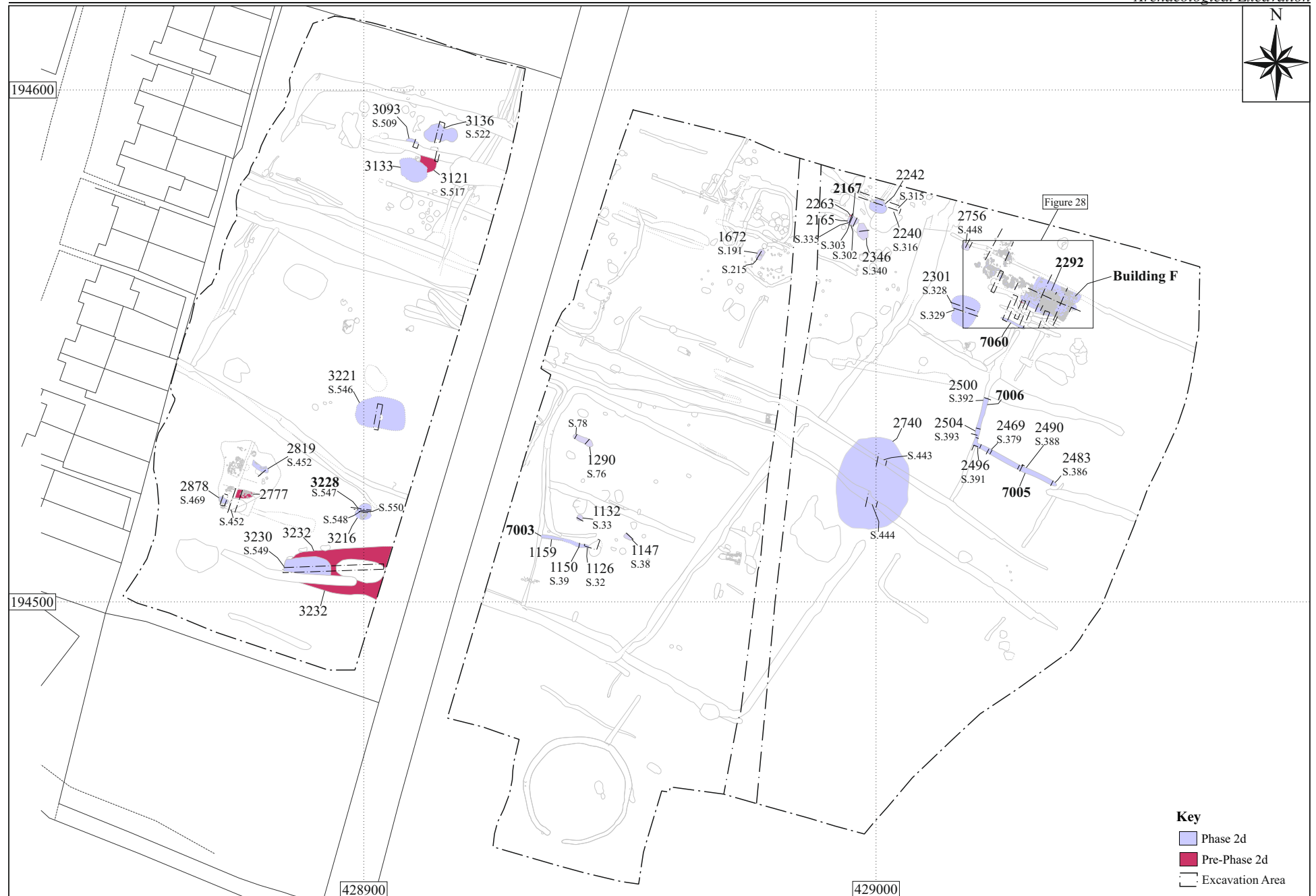


Figure 27: 4th Century Features (Phase 2d)

On the eastern side was construction cut 2600, measuring 0.4m in width and 0.36m in depth; its backfill (2604) was a sandy clay deposit. This construction cut appeared to have disturbed an earlier possible surface (2604), dated to the 2nd century.

Additionally, a short ditch 2583, measuring 1.09m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.18m in depth, run parallel to the southern wall of structure **2292**; this could have functioned as drainage for Building F. No materials were recovered from its only fill (2584).



Plate 13. Building F
Aerial photograph, looking south-west

Structure **2292** comprised randomly coursed, faced limestone and sandstone blocks, surviving to a maximum of three courses.

Within structure **2292**, three deposits were observed; deposit (2321) was made of sand; deposit (2358) was a silty sand and (2495) was a silty clay deposit. These had the apparent function of levelling layers for floor 2323/2334.

Above floor 2323/2334 was an occupational layer 2319; this was a dark brown, soft sandy silt deposit measuring 0.15-0.2m in thickness, which contained numerous artefacts dated to the 4th century. 199 sherds of pottery including substantial quantities of Black Burnished Ware and Oxfordshire Red-Slipped Ware were recovered, together with two Barbaric imitation coins (SF76 and SF77), bone hairpins (SF78, SF82 and SF85), and animal bone.

Additionally, inside the area defined by structure **2292**, two postholes were observed. Posthole 2335 was located in the south-western corner of the building, and measured 0.36x0.38m and was 0.14m deep; it contained two fills, (2336) and (2337), devoid of finds.

A similar posthole 2339 was located near the northern wall of structure **2292**; it was 0.36x0.28m in plan and measured 0.1m in depth. It also contained two fills devoid of materials, (2340) and (2341).

The disuse of the structure caused the collapse of parts of the masonry, which resulted in a number of deposits mainly consisting in limestone blocks deriving from structure

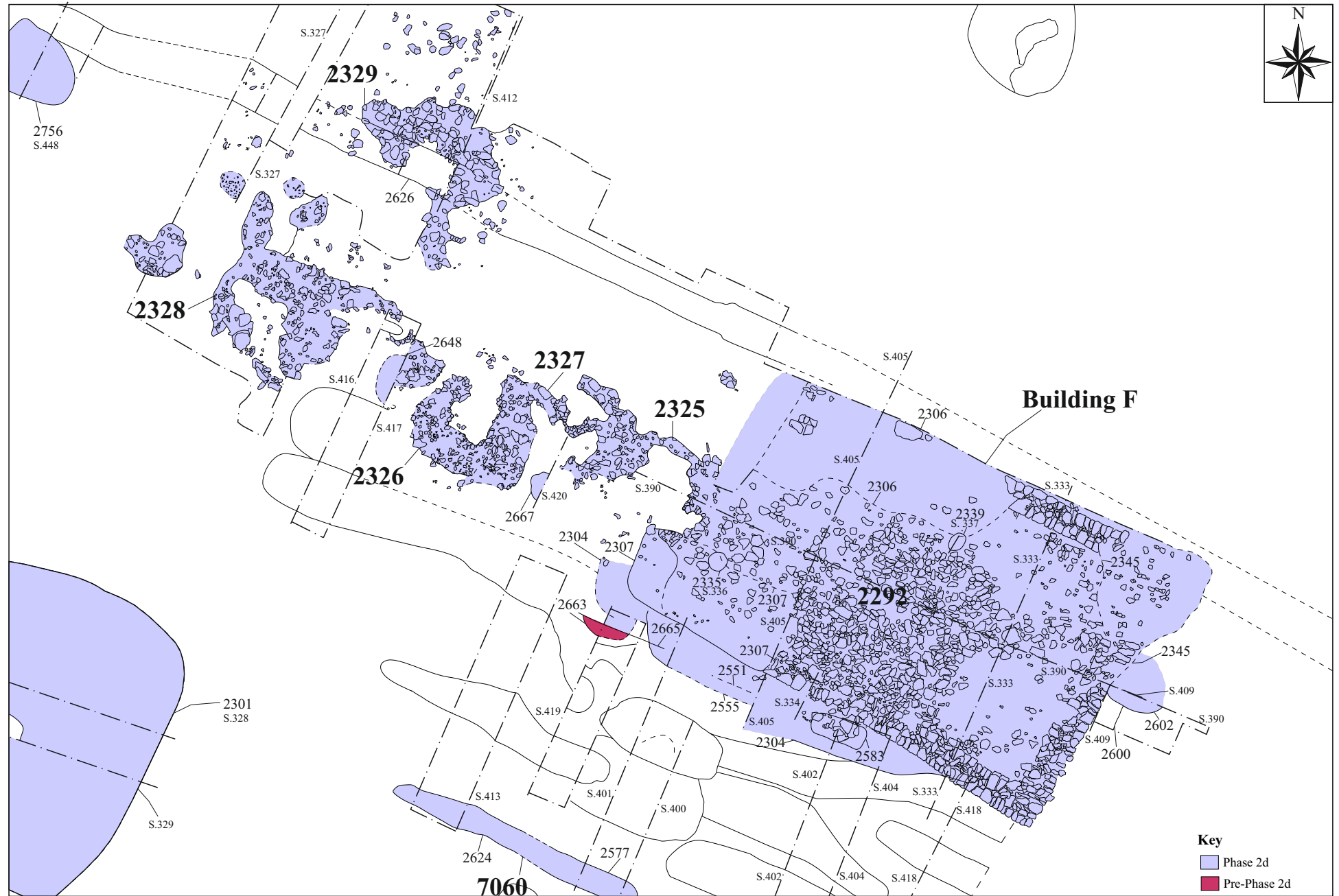


Figure 28: Building F (Phase 2d)

2292. These deposits (2305/2397), (2318), (2325), (2326), (2327), (2328), (2329) and (2330) formed an irregularly shaped surface, extending for a length of approximately 20m. A variety of Roman materials were collected from these deposits; these included a substantial assemblage of 454 sherds of pottery dating between the 2nd and the late 4th centuries, a key (SF75) and other metal objects, and animal bone.



Plate 14. Building F
Collapse deposits

Later in the 4th century, Building F was repeatedly subjected to the plundering of building materials, as demonstrated by the presence of four robber's trenches within its footprint. The south-western corner of the building was truncated by robber's trench 2555/2558/2307; it measured between 1.12 and 3.4m wide and between 0.25 and 0.42m in depth, and had an irregular profile. It contained four deposits, (2324) and (2556) were described as sandy silt, (2557) was a sandy loam, and (2559) a sandy silty loam. This feature also cut 3rd century pit 2551. The materials collected from robber's trench 555/2558/2307 included a coin of Theodora (337-340 AD), animal bone and oyster shells, and a substantial assemblage of 153 pottery sherds, which included residual Iron Age as well as 4th century fabrics.

Robber's trench 2306 was located further north, which measured approximately 3x7m. Animal bone and 161 pottery sherds dating between the 2nd and 4th centuries were recovered from its only fill (2361), a mid-brown sandy silt deposit.

Cutting the north-eastern corner of Building F was robber's trench 2345, which was 2m wide and 0.4m deep, and contained one deposit (2391) from which animal bone and three fragments of pottery dating to the 3rd-4th century were collected.

Robber's trench 2602 was located to the east of the structure; this feature was sub-circular, measured over 3.52m in width and 0.3m in depth, and contained a single deposit (2603). Three sherds of residual 2nd century pottery and animal bone were present.

Well 3228

In the western area of the excavation one isolated stone-lined well **3228** (Figures 27 and 29, Section 550) was observed. Its construction cut 3216 was sub-circular and measured 1.9m in width and over 3.2m in depth. Three deposits were observed within construction cut 3216: sandy loam deposit (3247), sand deposit (3246) and silty sandy loam deposit (3229). Stone lining **3228** was made of roughly worked limestone slabs of various dimensions, laid in irregular courses and bonded with a clay sandy loam material. Within well **3228** three fills were present: sandy loam deposit (3227), measuring over 1.5m in thickness; sandy silt deposits (3226), which was 0.55m thick, and (3217), which appeared to measure *ca* 1m in thickness. The only materials from well **3228** were recovered from the latter deposit, and included animal bone as well as a total of 34 pottery fragments indicating a late 4th century date for the disuse of this feature.

Well 2167

One additional stone-lined structure identified as a well **2167** (Figures 27 and 29, Section 302, Plate 15) was located in the eastern area of site, close to the northern limit of excavations.

Construction cut 2165 was 1.86m in diameter and was investigated to a maximum depth of approximately 1.5m; a layer of clay lining (2166) was observed within the cut. Masonry **2167** consisted of roughly worked limestone slabs of various dimensions, laid in irregular courses and held by sandy clay bonding material. Deposit (2169), a mid-brown grey sandy silt, appeared to have been contemporary with the use of the well. Materials recovered from well **2167** included animal bone and a substantial assemblage of 93 pottery sherds; although the vast majority of the fragments were of Oxfordshire Reduced Ware, later fabrics (Black Burnished Ware and Midlands Late Roman Shelly Ware) were also present. The well appears to have been backfilled as a single event by a mid to dark-brown grey silty loam deposit (2168); a whetstone (SF436), one iron staple (SF1003) were collected from this deposit. Well **2167** was stratigraphically later than pit 2263 and also cut 1st century ditch **7050**.



Plate 15. Well 2167
Prior to excavation (left) and post-excavation, looking east

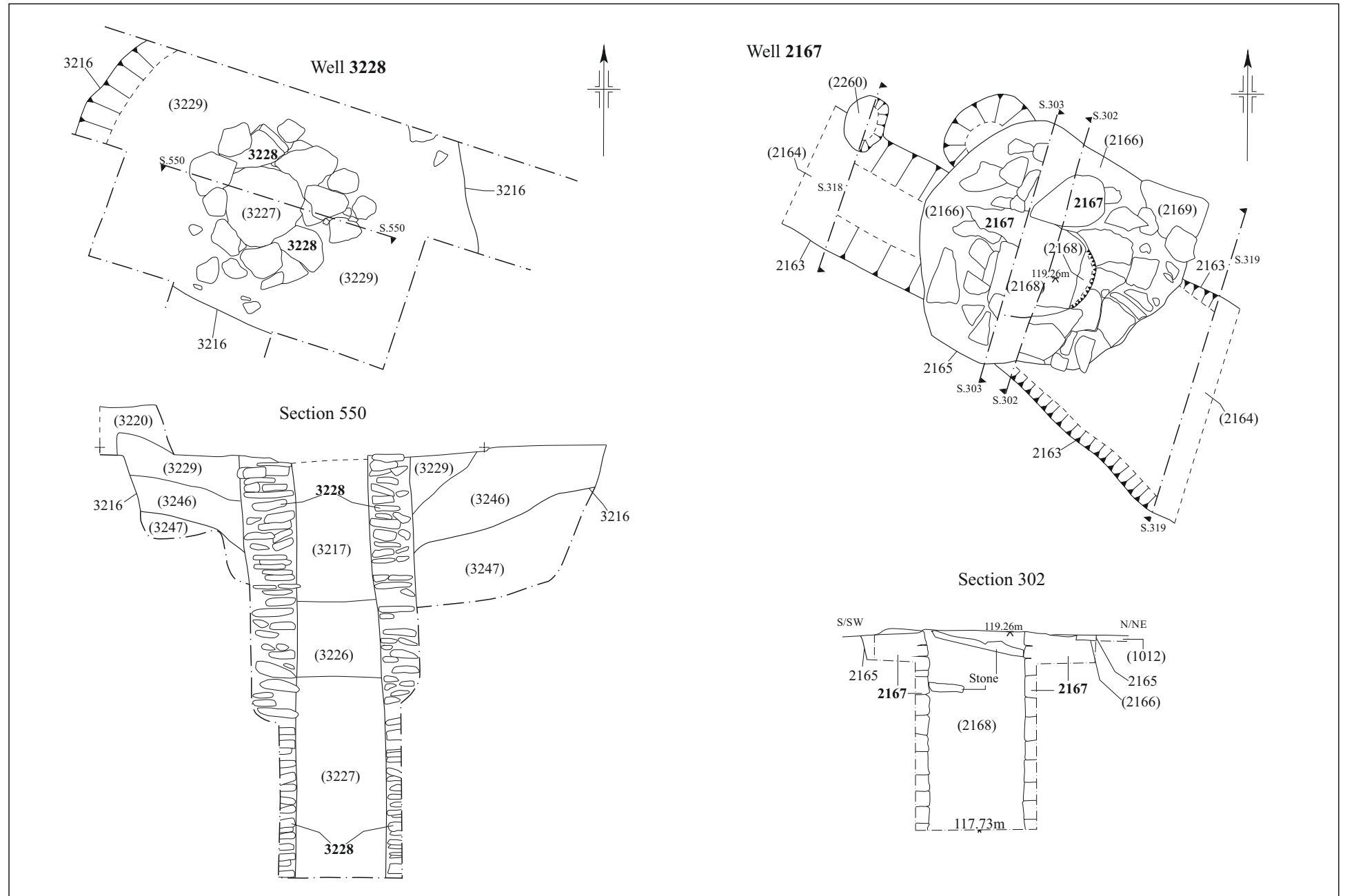


Figure 29: Well 3228 and Well 2167 (Phase 2d)

0 2 m

4th Century Pits (Figures 27 and 30, Plate 16)

A number of pits scattered across site contained materials dating to the 4th century or later. In the south-western area of site was pit 2819: it measured 0.8 by 1.1m and was 0.15m deep. The fill (2820) contained 139 sherds of late 4th century or later pottery, animal bone, a fragment of box flue, a fragment of *tegula* and a fragment of antler tine decorated with two inscribed ring-and-dot motifs (SF110).

In the vicinity of pit 2819 was pit 2878 (Figs. 27 and 30, Section 469). This measured 1.15m in diameter and was 0.45m deep. Both lower (2879) and upper fills (2880) were described as yellowish-brown silty sand deposits; these contained a total of 34 pottery fragments dating to the mid to late 4th century as well as animal bone, heat affected limestone blocks, a fragment of a quern stone (SF114), and one coin (SF113) dating to 364-367 AD.

Pit 3230 was located towards the eastern limit of excavation in this same area; it had a concave profile and measured 0.45m in depth. A single silty sand fill (3231) was recorded; flint, animal bone and an assemblage of 41 sherds of pottery, dated to the late 4th century or later period were hand-collected from this feature. Pit 3230 cut earlier pits 3232 and 3234.

Further north was pit 3093; it measured 0.66m in depth and over 0.8m in width, although its full extent was not determined. Three deposits were recorded: lower fill (3094), a sand deposit measuring 0.3m in thickness; middle fill (3095), a 0.5m thick sandy loam deposit; and upper fill (3096), of similar composition but measuring 0.1m in thickness. A total of 17 pottery sherds were found in this feature, with the most represented fabric being Oxfordshire Reduced Ware; however, the presence of later fabrics indicated a 4th century date for the assemblage. A single, intrusive sherd of pottery dated to the medieval period was also noted, probably the result of disturbance by later activities in the area, such as the creation of post-medieval ditch **7044**.

Two pits dated to this phase were located in the central area of the excavation, within the area defined by 2nd century Enclosure B. Elongated pit 1147 measured 0.97m by 1.66m and was 0.44m deep. The pit contained two deposits, lower fill (1148) and upper fill (1149). Animal bone and 31 sherds of pottery indicating a 4th century date for this feature were collected from both its fills.

Isolated pit 1132 (Figs. 27 and 30, Section 33) was 1.18m in diameter and 0.46m deep. It contained a single fill (1133) which showed evidence for burning. A variety of materials was recovered from this feature; these included stone tile and box flue fragments, animal bone, a disc rotary quern stone fragment (SF8) and two sharpening stones (SF11 and SF12). 56 pottery sherds indicating a 4th century date for pit 1132 were also found.

Pit 1672

One sub-rectangular pit 1672 (Figs. 27 and 30, Section 191, Plate 16) was located immediately to the south of Enclosure **7057**, in the central area. It measured 1.28m by at least 1.16m, and was 1m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base. It contained multiple deposits, the lowest of which (1754) was a 0.15m thick deposit of sand; a lens of dark-brown black silty loam (1768) was also observed. Fill (1753) was 0.52m thick sandy loam deposit. Fill (1767) was of similar composition and was 0.26m thick, while upper fill (1673) was a loamy sand, measuring 0.34m in thickness. The presence of a significant assemblage of 214 sherds of pottery indicated a 4th century or later date; one spindle whorl (SF43) was also found. A substantial quantity of animal bone was present; horse, cattle, sheep and pig were represented in the assemblage, which included a complete cow skull (Plate 16). Roman metalwork,

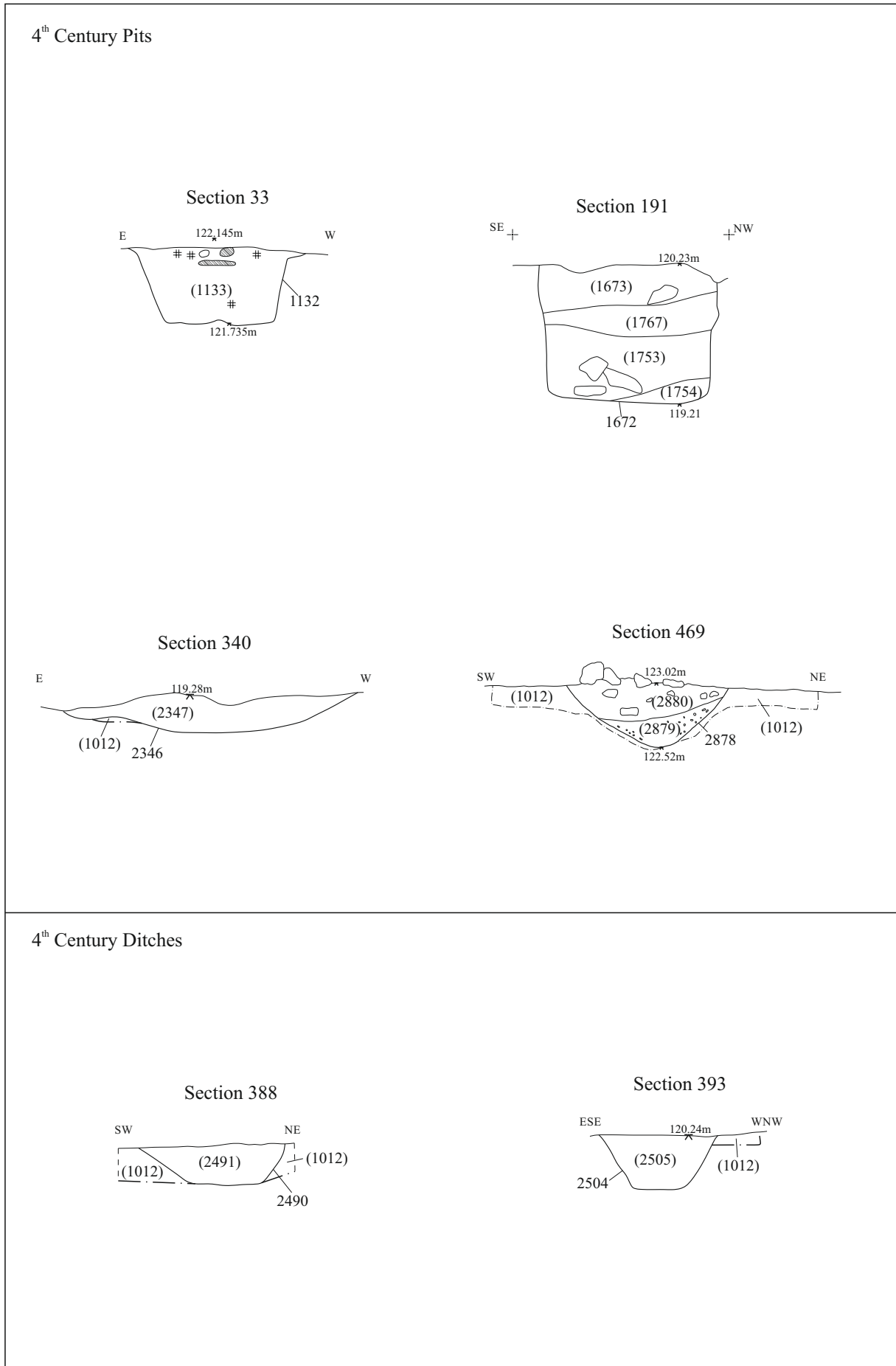
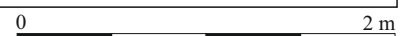


Figure 30: 4th Century Pits and Ditches (Phase 2d)



including a hob nail, one iron tool (SF44), a whittle tang knife (SF45), an iron blade (SF48), and two copper alloy brooch fragments (SF49 and SF52) was also recovered from this feature.



Plate 16. Pit 1672
Cow skull before (left) and during excavation (right)

A number of 4th century pits were also present in the eastern area of the site, in the vicinity of the northern limit of excavation. Pit 2240 measured 3.48 by at least 1m, and was 0.5m deep. The single fill (2241) contained animal bone, part of an iron snaffle bit link (SF59) and an iron nail, as well as a total of 114 fragments of pottery indicating a late 4th century date for this feature, which was stratigraphically later than contemporary pit 2242.

Pit 2242 was circular and measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.4m in depth. Primary fill (2243) was a sandy loam deposit with burnt material, while upper fill (2244) was a loamy sand deposit. Animal bone and a total of 100 sherds pottery were collected from this feature; the most represented fabric was Oxfordshire Reduced Ware, but later fabrics dating to the 4th century were also present. Pit 2242 was contemporary but stratigraphically earlier than pit 2240.

Pit 2346 (Figs. 27 and 30, Section 340) was located in proximity of well **2167**. It measured 3.32m long by 2.12m wide and was 0.26m deep. The pit contained a single fill (2347) which was particularly rich in finds; these included some residual material (one Late Neolithic flint flake) as well as a Roman iron nail, animal bone, ceramic building material and a total of 249 sherds (3.04kg) of pottery, indicating a 4th century date for this pit.

4th Century Quarry Pits (Figure 27)

Three quarry pits dated to the 4th century or later were located in the western area of the site. Quarry pit 3221 was sub-oval in shape and measured over 6m by 10m. It contained two fills: the lowest (3223) was a sandy silt deposit measuring 0.3m in thickness. While upper fill (3222) was a 0.2m thick silty sand deposit. A total of 33 pottery sherds dated to this period and animal bone, including a horse jawbone and

sheep and cattle bone, were recovered from this feature. Quarry pit 3221 was disturbed by post-medieval three throw 3225, which resulted in the inclusion of one intrusive fragment of post-medieval glass bottle in deposit (3222).

Further north, quarry pit 3133 had a diameter of at least 4.4m and contained a single fill (3134), and was stratigraphically later than pit 3121. Materials recovered from this feature included animal bone, Roman glass and 32 sherds of pottery which included fragments of Midlands Late Roman Shelly Ware, dated to the last quarter of the 4th century, as well as intrusive post-medieval fabrics.

Immediately to the south of furrow **7040** was quarry pit 3136. This had an irregular shape in plan and a maximum width of 3.7m, and measured 0.35m in depth. It contained two silty sand deposits, (3237) and (3138); from these, animal bone and a significant assemblage of 34 fragments of pottery was recovered, indicating a 4th century date for this feature; however, some intrusive post-medieval material, including one sherd of pottery and one 17th century shoe buckle (SF1007) were present.

Immediately to the south of Building F, in the eastern area of the excavations, was quarry pit 2301. This was irregular in shape, and measured 6.05m by more than 3m. It was 0.2m deep and contained a single fill (2302), from which animal bone, a Roman iron staple (SF69), a fragment of a disc rotary quern stone (SF431) and 27 sherds of late 4th century pottery were recovered from this fill; a single, intrusive fragment of modern Refined Whiteware was also present.

One additional quarry pit 2756 (Figs. 27-28 and 20, Section 448) was located in the north-eastern corner of the excavation area, and cut ditch **6001**. It measured 1.6m by 1.31m, and was 0.28m deep; the only fill (2757) contained limestone fragments, animal bone and eight sherds of pottery dated to the 4th century.

4th Century Ditches (Figures 27 and 30)

Ditch 7003

Located in the central area of the excavation was linear feature **7003**, a ditch orientated east-west and measuring *ca* 9.5m in length. Cut 1159 had a concave profile and measured 0.5m in width and 0.22m in depth. A single fill (1160), a sandy silt deposit, was present. Cut 1150 measured 0.67m wide and was 0.06m deep, and had a single fill (1151). Further east, cut 1126 was 0.52m wide and 0.32m deep, and contained a single sandy clay fill (1128). The material collected from this feature included residual Iron Age pottery fabrics as well as intrusive clay pipe fragments; however, the pottery assemblage indicated a date of the 4th century. Animal bone was also present. The stratigraphical relationship between ditch **7003**, ditch **6032** and pit 1127 remains unclear.

Towards north was isolated ditch 1290, which had an irregular concave profile and measured approximately 4m in length. The only fill observed was a sandy loam deposit (1291) containing six pottery sherds dated to the late 4th century or later.

Ditch 7005

Ditch **7005** was located in the eastern area of the excavation, and was orientated northwest to southeast. Its eastern terminus 2483 was 0.96m wide and 0.14m deep, and had a single fill (2484). Cut 2490 (Figs. 27 and 30, Section 388) had a slightly V-shaped profile with a flat base, and measured 0.25m in depth; it contained a single sandy silt deposit (2491). Further west, cut 2469 was 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep, with one fill (2470). Cut 2496 measured 0.78m in width and 0.2m in depth, and also

contained a single fill (2497). The physical relationship between ditch **7005** and ditches **7004** and **7006** was not fully investigated. Materials collected from this feature included stone, flint, animal bone and pottery. With the exception of a single, residual Iron Age sherd, the pottery included fabrics dating to the late 4th century or later.

Ditch 7006

Perpendicular to ditch **7005** was ditch **7006**; it measured approximately 14m in length and was orientated northeast to southwest. Cut 2005 was 1.1m in width and 0.32m in depth, and contained a single reddish-brown sandy silt fill (2501). Further south was cut 2504 (Figs. 27 and 30, Section 393), which measured 0.89m wide and 0.39m deep and contained a single fill (2505). Animal bone and a total of 98 pottery sherds were recovered from this feature. The fabrics recorded included Midlands Late Roman Shelly Ware, dated to the late 4th century. The physical relationship between ditches **7006**, **7004** and **7005** remains unclear, as it was not fully investigated during the excavation.

Ditch 7060

In the same area and immediately south of Building F was isolated ditch **7060**. Cut 2624 had a concave profile and measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep; it contained a single fill (2625), a sandy loam deposit. Towards east, cut 2577 was 0.52m wide and contained two fills: primary fill (2578) was 0.22m thick, whilst upper fill (2579) was 0.2m thick. A lens of firm, mid brown grey clay (2549) was also noted. Animal bone and a small group of four pottery sherds dated to this period were recovered.

4.5 Phase 3. Saxon (Figures 31-32)

The only feature dated to this phase was isolated pit 2311 (Figures 31 and 32, Section 330), located in the central area of the excavation; the sub-circular feature measured 1.8m by 1.32m and was 0.27m deep, and had an irregular, stepped profile. Two fills, (2312) and (2313) were observed; one fragment of glass and two sherds of pottery dated to the 5th century were recovered from this feature.

4.6 Phase 4. Medieval (Figures 31-32)

The medieval activity was represented by occasional intrusive pottery sherds, recovered mostly from the surface of Trackway D. The only feature dated to this period was quarry pit 2615, located in the north-eastern corner of the excavation area. Quarry pit 2615 measured 2.55m in width and 0.82m in depth, and contained three deposits. Lower fill (2616) was a 0.48m thick silty sand deposit; middle fill (2617) was a gravelly, sandy silt measuring 0.2m in thickness, while upper fill (2618) was a sandy silty loam deposit, 0.24m thick. Animal bone, flint and pottery including Minety-type Ware as well as residual Roman sherds were present. Quarry pit 2615 cut 3rd century pit 2611.

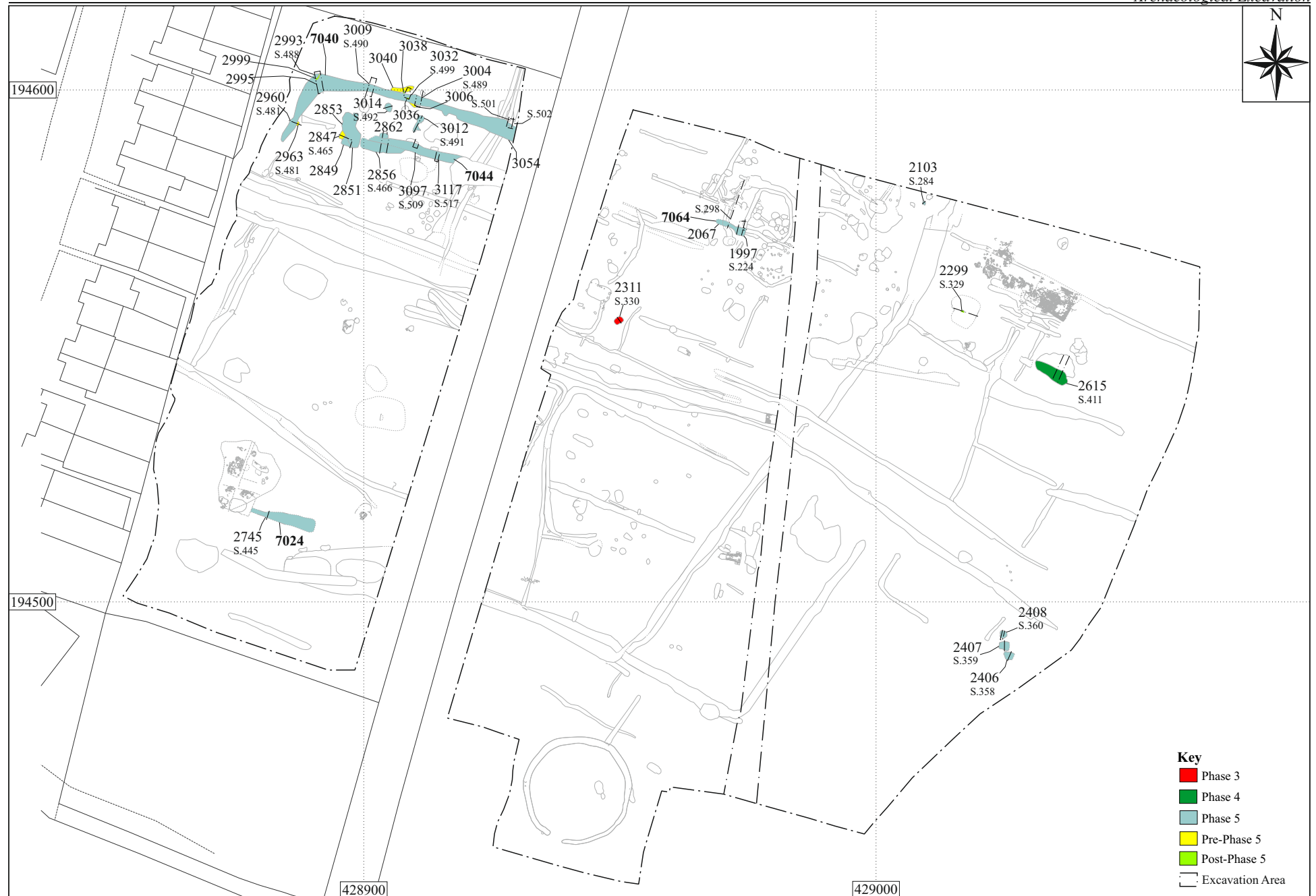


Figure 31: Saxon (Phase 3), Medieval (Phase 4) and Post-Medieval (Phase 5) Features

0 50 m

4.7 Phase 5. Post-Medieval (Figures 31-32)

Pre-Post-Medieval Features (Figures 31-32)

A number of features did not contain any dating materials, but were stratigraphically earlier than features securely dated to the post-medieval period. The majority of these are concentrated in the north-western corner of the excavation area, where post-medieval furrow **7040** cut a number of pits and ditches. Pit 2963 had a concave profile and measured 0.56m in width and 0.18m in depth; its only fill was a light brown orange loam deposit (2964).

Pit 3038 was partially obliterated by later activity, and in turn cut ditch 3040. It was exposed to a maximum width of 0.7m and to its full depth of 0.36m, and contained a sandy loam deposit (3039).

The full extent of ditch 2995 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 488) remained undetermined as the feature was almost completely obliterated by furrow **7040**, and was therefore only visible in section. It was 1m wide and 0.12m deep, with a single fill (2996).

A short ditch 3040 was also present in this area. It measured 1.08m in width and 0.24m in depth; a single sandy loam deposit (3041) was observed within it.

Immediately to the south of ditch 3040, and similarly truncated by furrow **7040**, was ditch 3006. One sandy loam deposit (3041) was present in cut 3006, which measured 0.56m wide and 0.1m deep.

In the same area was also pit 2847 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 465), which had a concave profile and measured over 1m wide and 0.3m deep, and had one silty sand fill (2848). This feature was cut by 19th century pit 2849.

Post-Medieval Pits (Figures 31-32)

A number of pits securely dated to the post-medieval period were also concentrated in the north-western corner of the site.

Isolated pit 3014 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 342) had a concave profile and measured 1.5m wide and 0.46m deep. Within it, three different deposits were observed: lower fill (3015), a dark brown sandy silt; middle fill (3016), a deposit of similar composition but lighter in colour; and upper fill (3017), also a brown sandy silt deposit. Various materials dating to the post-medieval period were collected from this feature, including pottery, clay pipe, glass and iron nails.

Pit 2862 was sub-circular in plan and had a concave profile; it measured 1.08m in width and 0.48m in depth. A single mid-brown grey sandy silt deposit (2863) was present; it contained possible bone stylus (SF112), post-medieval pottery and glass and clay pipe fragments. This feature cut post-medieval ditch **7044**.

Pits 2849 and 2851 both dated to the 19th century and were part of a cluster located immediately to the south of furrow **7040**. Pit 2849 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 465) was stratigraphically later than pit 2847, and in turn partially truncated by later pit 2853; it was preserved to a maximum width of 0.76m and was 0.44m deep. A single light-brown grey sandy silt deposit (2850) was present; the materials collected from it included pottery and glass dating to the 19th century, as well as structural ironwork and animal bone.

Pit 2851 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 465) had no physical relationship with pit 2849, although both were cut by pit 2853. The preserved width of cut 2851 was 0.6m, and its full depth was 0.28m. The sandy silt fill (2852) contained glass dated to the 19th century and one iron nail.

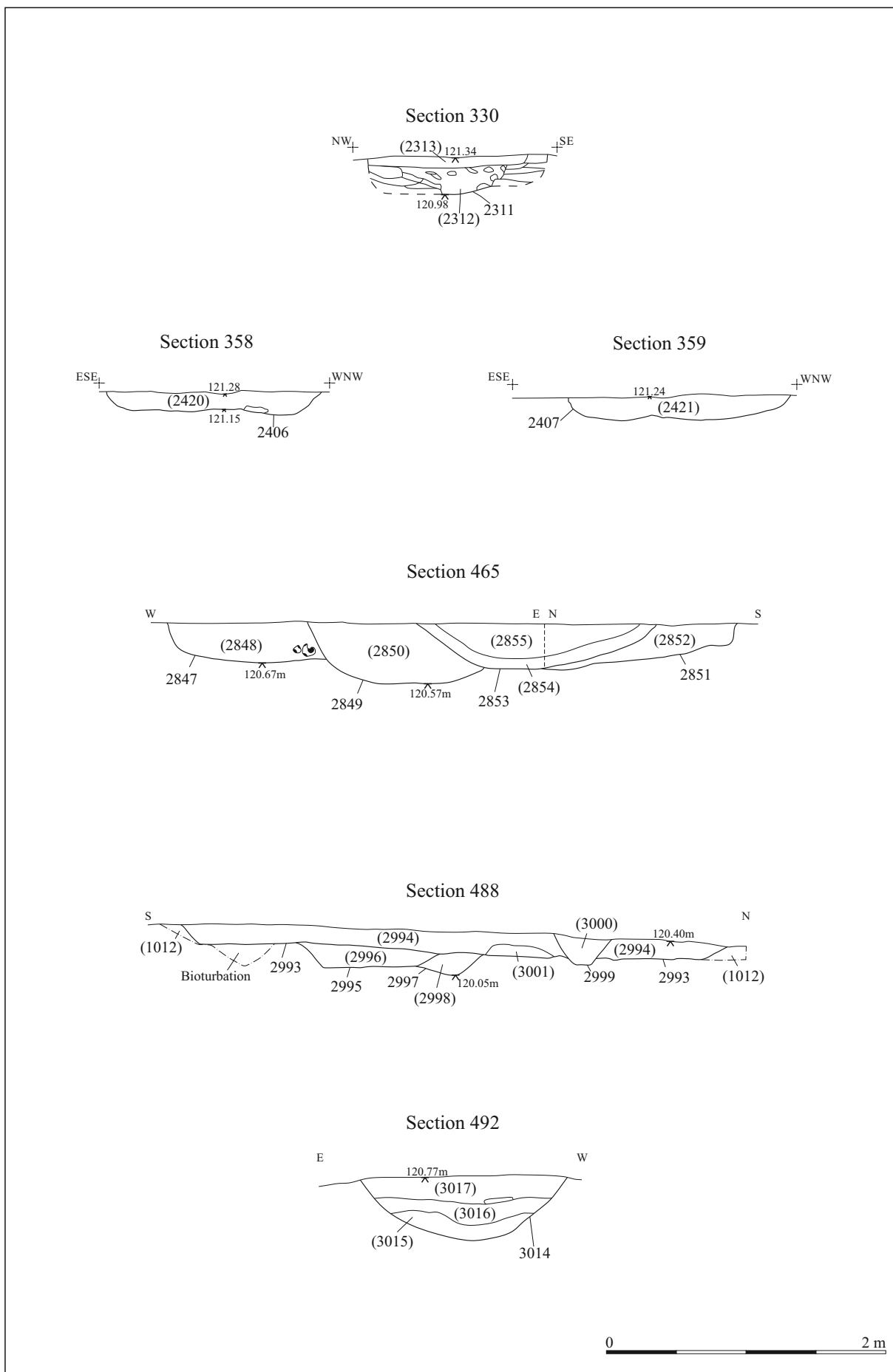


Figure 32: Saxon (Phase 3), Medieval (Phase 4) and Post-Medieval (Phase 5) Pits and Ditches

One pit 2103, dated to this period, was recorded in the eastern area of the site, close to the northern limit of excavations. Pit 2103 was 0.56m wide and only 0.07m deep; it contained a single fill (2104), a sandy loam deposit from which a single sherd of Refined Whiteware was recovered.

Post-Medieval Quarry Pits (Figures 31-32)

Quarry pit 3012 was located in the western area of site, immediately to the south of furrow **7040**. It measured 3.45m wide and 0.1m deep, and contained one silty sand deposit (3025), from which animal bone, slate and 19th century glass were collected.

A cluster of three isolated quarry pits dated to this period was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the excavation area. Pit 2406 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 358) was 1.45m in width and 0.18m in depth, with a single fill (2420), a sandy loam deposit with frequent stone inclusions, which contained glass dated to the 17th century or later, animal bone, and one iron nail.

Pit 2407 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 359) measured 1.6m wide and 0.18m deep, and also had a single fill (2421), very similar in composition to deposit (2420). A single fragment of Post-medieval Redware as well as animal bone were recovered from this feature.

Pit 2408 was sub-circular in shape and measured 1.4m in width and 0.19m in depth. Its single fill (2422) was also a loamy sand with frequent stone inclusions, containing clay pipe and five sherds of pottery dating to the 18th century or later. One residual Roman *tessera* (SF327) as well as one sherd of pottery from this period were also present.

Post-Medieval Linear Features (Figures 31-32)

Most of the linear features dated to the post-medieval period were concentrated in the north-western corner of the site.

Furrow 7024

One isolated linear feature **7024**, measuring *ca* 11m in length and approximately orientated east-west, was located in the southern section of the western area of the excavations. Cut 2745 was concave and measured 0.76m in width and 0.12m in depth, and contained one mid-brown sandy silt fill (2746). Further east, cut 2760 was equally deep but much wider, at 2.18m; a single deposit (2761) was present. Only three pottery fragments were recovered from this feature; two residual Roman sherds accompanied by Post-medieval Redware, which suggested a date to the post-medieval period for this feature.

Furrow 7040

The most prominent was furrow **7040**; it measured over 55m in length and run southeast to northeast, bending then towards south. Southern terminus 2960 had a concave profile and was 1.41m wide and 0.2m deep; two loam deposits (2961) and (2962) were present. Cut 2993 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 488) measured 3.14m in width and 0.16m in depth, and had a single sandy silt fill (2994). Further east, cut 3009 was narrower, measuring 1.7m in width, and was 0.22m deep; a single fill (3010) was present. One deposit (3033) was also observed within cut 3032, which was 0.92m wide and 0.07m deep. Cut 3004 was 0.1m deep and 1.7m wide, and contained a sandy loam deposit (3005). The easternmost cut was 3054; it had an irregular profile and measured 1.22m in width and 0.14m in depth. A single fill (3055), a silty loam with occasional stone inclusions, was noted. The dating material

recovered from furrow **7040** was limited to two sherds of pottery dating to the 16th century or later; animal bone and coke were also present. Furrow **7040** was stratigraphically later than pits 2963 and 3038, as well as of ditches **7053**, 2995, 2997, 3034 and 3006; in turn, it was earlier than pit 3036 and gully 2999.

Furrow 7044

Running on an alignment similar to furrow **7040** was furrow **7044**, which measured approximately 26m in length. Cut 2858 was partially obscured by later activity; it had a stepped profile and was preserved to a maximum width of 1.5m, and measured 0.5m in depth. It contained two deposits, a yellow-brown silty sand (2859) and a dark brown mottled silty sand deposit (2861). Cut 3097 was concave, 0.9m wide and 0.23m deep; a single sandy loam fill (3098) was present. Further east the feature continued as cut 3117, which measured 1.6m in width and 0.13m in depth. One deposit (3118) was recorded. Animal bone and clay pipe fragments, indicating a post-medieval date, were recovered from furrow **7044**; stratigraphically, this was later than 4th century pits 3121 and 3093, and earlier than post-medieval pits 2856 and 2862.

Ditch 3034 was disturbed by later activities, including furrow **7044**, therefore its full extent remained undetermined. It appeared to have a concave profile, measuring 0.59m wide and 0.28m deep; a single sandy clay deposit (3035) was observed, from which two sherds of Refined Whiteware were recovered.

Ditch 7064

Ditch **7064** was the only post-medieval linear feature located in the central area of the excavations, immediately to the south of Roman Enclosure **7057**. Cut 1997 measured 1.82m in width and 0.37m in depth, and contained a sandy loam deposit (1998). Cut 2067 was 1.2m wide and 0.59m deep, and also contained a single fill (2068). Five sherds of post-medieval or later pottery were collected from this feature, which was also found to be stratigraphically later than Roman ditches **7072** and 2063; the physical relationship with Enclosure **7057** was not investigated.

Post-Post-Medieval Features

A number of features were devoid of any material, but were found to be stratigraphically later than features securely dated to the post-medieval period; with the exception of feature 2299, located in the eastern area of the excavations, these features were concentrated in the north-western corner of the site.

Immediately to the south of furrow **7040** was a cluster of pits which included pit 2853, which cut 19th century pits 2849 and 2851. Pit 2853 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 465) had a concave profile and measured over 0.92m wide and 0.32m deep. Its lower fill (2854) was a mid-brown yellow gravel deposit, measuring 0.08m in thickness, while the upper fill (2855) was a 0.24m thick sandy silt deposit.

In the same area was pit 2856, a concave feature measuring 1.86m in width and 0.2m in depth, containing a single sandy silt deposit (2857). This feature cut furrow **2844**.

One additional pit 3036 cut furrow **7040** on its northern side; it was 0.64m wide and 0.38m deep, with one mid-brown yellow sandy silt fill (3037).

Furrow **7040** was also cut by gully 2999 (Figs. 31 and 32, Section 488), which measured 0.38m in width and 0.18m in depth, and contained a mid-brown loam deposit (3000).

Sub-circular pit 2299 cut quarry pit 2301, located to the south-west of Building F. Pit 2299 was exposed to a maximum width of 0.56m, and measured 0.74m in depth; two fills were observed, one 0.34m thick sandy silt lower deposit (2300), over which was one additional fill (4007).

4.8 Undated Features

(Figures 33-36)

A number of features exposed during the excavation, although containing some materials, could not be closely dated as the artefacts recovered were undiagnostic; additionally, no stratigraphic relationships between these and other, securely dated features were present.

In the north-western area and to the north of Trackway D, one pit 3158 was recorded. Measuring 1.32m in width and 0.23m in depth, it contained one sandy silt loam deposit (3159), from which animal bone and one nail for which no date could be provided were collected.

Further north was pit 3002; it had an irregular profile and measured 0.92m in width and 0.32m in depth. One sandy loam deposit (3003) was present, which contained animal bone.

Within the area defined by Enclosure B, one gully and a number of pits containing animal bone, but no other material, were found. Pit 1122 was sub-circular and measured 0.14m in depth and 0.74m in width, and contained a sand deposit (1123).

Pit 1161 had a concave profile and was 0.36m wide and 0.28m deep. Its fill (1162) was a mid-brown sandy silt deposit, containing animal bone.

In the same area was also pit 1192, which was sub-rectangular in plan and measured 2.4m by 1.52m. A single deposit (1193) was observed, from which animal bone, daub and charcoal were collected.

Still within Enclosure B was also a short gully **6044**, from which animal bone was collected. Cut 1242 was 0.34m wide and 0.08m deep, with a single light brown fill (1243). Cut 1265 measured 0.48 in width and 0.1m in depth, and also had a single fill (1266).

In the central area and to the west of Enclosure C was pit 1415, which was 0.37m wide and 0.08m deep; it contained a loamy sand deposit (1416), from which animal bone was collected.

Further north, in the area surrounding Enclosure **7057**, some additional features were observed. Pit 1590 had a concave profile, was 0.26m wide and 0.08m deep; its single sandy silt deposit (1591) contained some animal bone.

Close to the northern limit of excavation was linear feature 1888, a 0.46m wide and 0.54m deep ditch, with two fills (1889) and (1890); animal bone was collected from it.

Similarly, animal bone was recovered from sand deposit (2044), the single fill of posthole 2043, which measured 0.6m in width and 0.57m in depth.

Intercutting Undated Features

Additional features did not contain any finds, and only had stratigraphic relationships with equally undated features. These groups were scattered across the site, although the vast majority was concentrated in the area of 2nd century Enclosure **7057**.

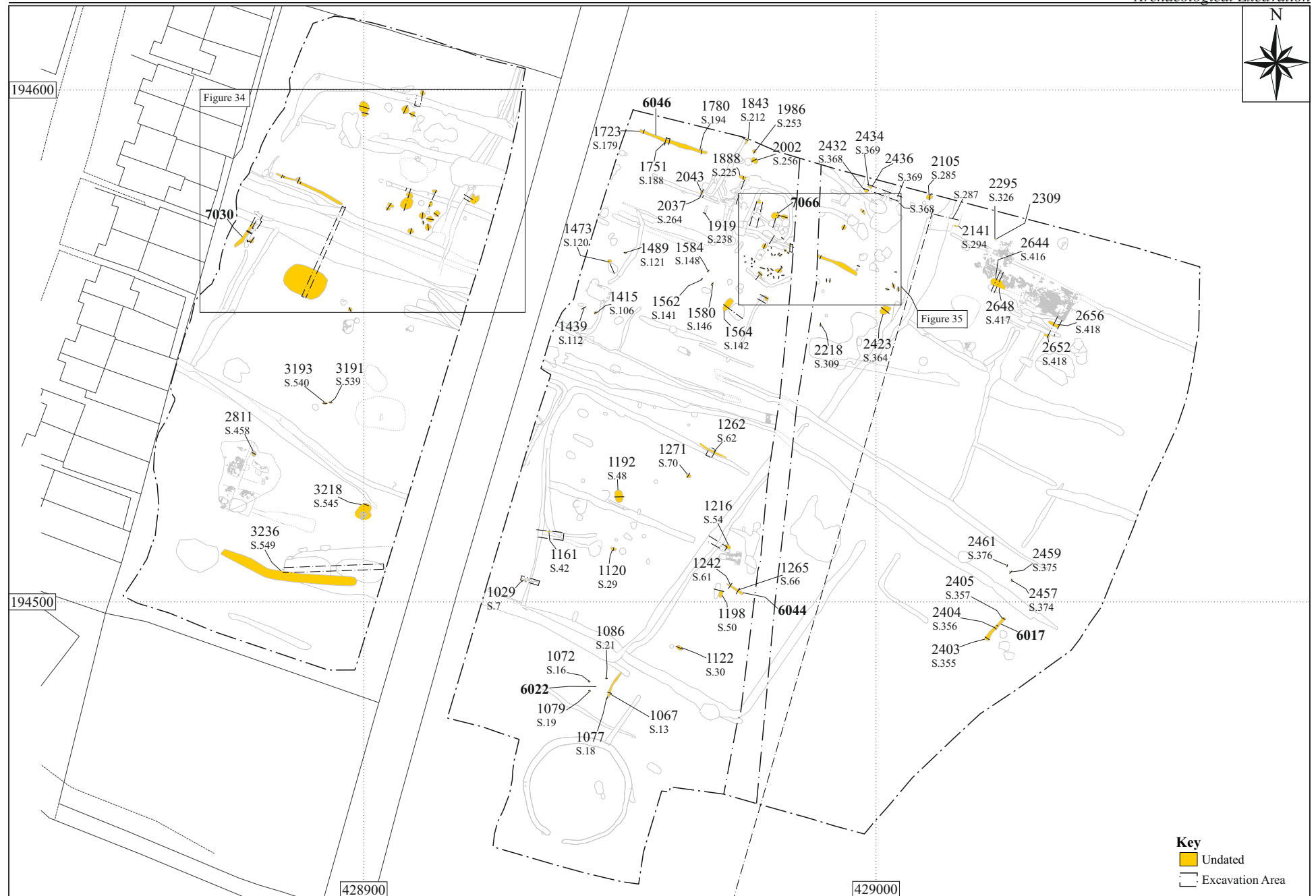


Figure 33: Undated Features

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Some of these clusters were located in the western area of the excavation. To the west of Enclosure A were pits 2957 and posthole 2955. Pit 2957 had a concave profile and measured 0.7m in width and 0.3m in depth, and contained a dark brown orange sandy loam fill (2919). It was cut by later posthole 2955, which was 0.42m wide and 0.32m deep, with one sandy silt deposit (2956).

In the same area was one additional cluster of three features. The earliest of this group was posthole 2991, which measured 0.32m wide and 0.3m deep, and had one sandy silt fill (2992) which contained frequent stone.

This feature was cut by pit 2985; the latter was sub-oval in shape and measured 0.75m in width and 0.87m in depth, and contained three fills. Lower fill (2986) was a 0.12m thick sandy silt deposit; middle fill (2987) measured 0.52m in thickness and was of similar compositions, as was upper fill (2988), which was 0.21m thick.

Ditch 2989 cut both features 2991 and 2985. It was 0.56m wide and 0.24m deep, and contained two fills (2990) and (3013).

Further north-east in the same area were intercutting pits 3148 and 3150. Earlier pit 3148 was sub-oval in plan and 0.2m deep; it contained one fill (3149) and was cut by pit 3150. The latter measured 2.2m in width and 0.45m in depth, and contained a silty sand deposit (3151).

In the same area, pit 3044 was located; it measured 0.11m in depth and contained a silty sand deposit (3045). It was stratigraphically earlier than pit 3046, which measured 1.2m in width and 0.23m in depth; two fills were observed, (3047) and (3056).

Two pits 3026 and 3029 were located to the south of furrow **7040**. Pit 3026 had a concave profile, measured 1.04m wide and contained a sandy silt deposit (3027) which was 0.2m thick, overlain by a 0.14m thick deposit (3028) of similar composition. Later pit 3029 cut it; this was 1.88m in width and 0.4m in depth, and also contained two sandy silt deposits (3030) and (3031).

Within Enclosure **7057** in the central area were two clusters of intercutting pits. Pit 1757 had a stepped profile and measured 1.24m wide and 0.4m deep; it contained two lower sandy deposits (1758) and (1759), and one 0.4m thick sandy silt upper fill (1760). Pit 1757 was stratigraphically later than pit 1755; this was 0.32m wide and 0.26m deep, with a single fill (1756), and was also cut by pit **7066**.

Pit 7066

Pit **7066** was sub-oval in plan and was stratigraphically later than pit 1755. Cut 1742 measured 0.94m in width and 0.34m in depth, and was filled by a mid-brown sandy silt deposit (1743). Cut 1783 had a concave profile, and was 1.34m wide and 0.8m deep; a single fill (1784) was present.

Also within Enclosure **7057** were intercutting pits 1808 and 1810; both had concave profiles, and were 0.18m deep. Pit 1808 was stratigraphically earlier, and had one sandy silt fill (1807), while later pit 1810 was filled by (1811), a silty clay deposit.

Four additional pairs of intercutting features were also found to the south of Enclosure **7057**. Pit 1993 was cut by pit 1991; the former was 0.36m wide and 0.21m deep, with a loamy sand fill (1994). Pit 1991 had similar dimensions, measuring 0.52m wide and 0.26m deep, and also contained a loamy sand deposit (1992).

Two of the groups were composed by intercutting pits and postholes. Pit 1927 had a concave profile and measured 0.82m in width and 0.28m in depth, and had a single fill (1928); it was cut by a 0.37m wide, 0.24m deep posthole 1923, which was filled by sandy silt (1924).

Similarly, pit 1937, which was 0.26m wide and 0.08m deep and had one fill (1938), was cut by posthole 1939; this measured 0.22m in width and 0.14m in depth, and contained a sandy silt fill (1940).

In the same area intercutting postholes 1892 and 1990 were also located. Earlier posthole 1892 measured 0.28m wide and 0.16m deep, and had a loamy sand fill (1962); it was cut by posthole 1990, which was 0.22m in width and 0.1m in depth, with a fill (1963) similar in composition to deposit (1962).

Only four pairs of such intercutting features clusters were observed in the eastern area of the excavation. To the west of ditch **7052** were pits 2382 and 2384. Earlier pit 2382 was 0.38m wide and 0.12m deep, and had a single fill (2383); it was cut by pit 2384, which measured 0.4m in width and 0.1m in depth, and contained one silty sand deposit (2385).

In close proximity of Building F was linear feature 2644, a 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep ditch with one fill (2654); it was cut by pit 2648, which was sub-circular in shape, measured 1.06m wide and 0.34m deep, and contained one deposit (2649).

To the west of Building F were also intercutting postholes 2295 and 2309; the stratigraphical relationship between the two features was not determined. Posthole 2295 was 0.21m wide and 0.19m deep, and had a single sand fill (2303). Posthole 2309 measured 0.46x0.13m, and was 0.14m deep; it also contained a single fill (2310) a sand deposit.

Close to the northern limit of excavation in the eastern area were also shallow pits 2434 and 2436. Pit 2434 was sub-circular in plan, was 0.3m wide and 0.04m deep; it contained a silty sand fill (2435). It was cut by pit 2436, measuring 0.5m in width and 0.06m in depth and contained one deposit (2437).

Isolated Undated Structure

Possible Structure 6022

In the central area of the site, immediately to the north of ring ditch **6002**, a possible structure **6022** was recorded; it was composed of four postholes, apparently defining a sub-rectangular area. Posthole 1086 (Figs. 33 and 36, Section 21) was only 0.1m in depth and filled by deposit (1087), a friable, mid-brown sandy clay. Posthole 1072 (Figs. 33 and 36, Section 16) was 0.04m deep and was filled by a single fill (1073), of composition similar to (1087). Posthole 1079 (Figs. 33 and 36, Section 19) was also shallow, measuring 0.14m in depth, and filled by a single deposit (1080). Posthole 1077 (Figs. 33 and 36, Section 18) was deeper than the others, at 0.46m, and was filled by dark brown, sandy clay (1078).

Isolated Undated Features

Additional pits devoid of any material were observed across the excavation area. All of these features were isolated, therefore had no stratigraphic relationships with other features, dated or undated.

In the south-western corner of the excavation area was a possible fire pit 2811; this had a concave profile and measured 0.84m wide and 0.64m deep. It appeared to be stone lined, and contained three deposits: a lower sand fill (2812), measuring 0.18m in thickness; one 0.28m thick ash deposit (2813), and a brown-grey sand upper fill (2814).

A number of undated pits were located within or in proximity of Enclosure A, in the western area of the site. Pit 3218 was immediately south of ditch **7021**; it was over 1.08m in width and 0.54m in depth, and contained one deposits (3219).

To the east of ditch **7032** was pit 2972, which was 0.22m wide and 0.24m deep, and had a single fill (2973).

Pit 3176 was 0.72m in width and 0.2m in depth and had a single fill (3177).

To the south was pit 3191; it was 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep, with one clay with sandy silt fill (3192).

Pit 3193 measured 0.62m wide and 0.12m deep and had two fills: lower silt deposit (3194), measuring 0.09m in thickness, and upper deposit (3195), a 0.03m thick clay deposit.

Also within Enclosure A was large quarry pit 3244, located to the south of ditch **7028**. It measured 5.16m in width and 0.36m in depth, and contained one loamy sand fill (3245).

A cluster of isolated pits devoid of materials was located immediately to the north of ditch **7034**, in the western area of the excavations.

Table 1. Undated pits to the north of ditch **7034**

Cut No.	Fill No.	Width (m)	Depth (m)
3081	3082	0.54	0.19
3086	3087	1.1	0.26
3125	3126	1.1	0.3
3127	3128	0.56	0.4
3129	3130	0.69	0.32
3152	3153	0.98	0.22
3160	3161	1.26	0.18
3162	3163	0.64	0.11
3172	3173	1.22	0.32

Further north, and immediately to the south of furrow **7040**, two additional pits were recorded. Pit 3100 had an irregular profile and was 0.7m wide and 0.62m deep, and contained a single deposit (3101).

Pit 3018 also had an irregular profile, and measured 1m in width and 0.34m in depth. A single fill (3019) was observed.

The vast majority of the undated, isolated sub-circular features was concentrated in the central area of the excavations.

Within the area defined by Enclosure B, some isolated and undated pits were identified. Pit 1029 had a concave profile and was 0.28m deep; it contained one silty sand deposit (1028)

Pit 1120 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.56m wide; it had a depth of 0.18m and contained a single fill (1121).

To the east was pit 1198, which was 0.64m wide and 0.3m deep, with one silty sand deposit (1199).

Pit 1216 was further north; it measured 0.65m in width and 0.09m in depth. One deposit (1217) was contained in it.

Oval pit 1271 was 0.6m wide and 0.18m deep, and had a single mid-brown orange sand fill (1272).

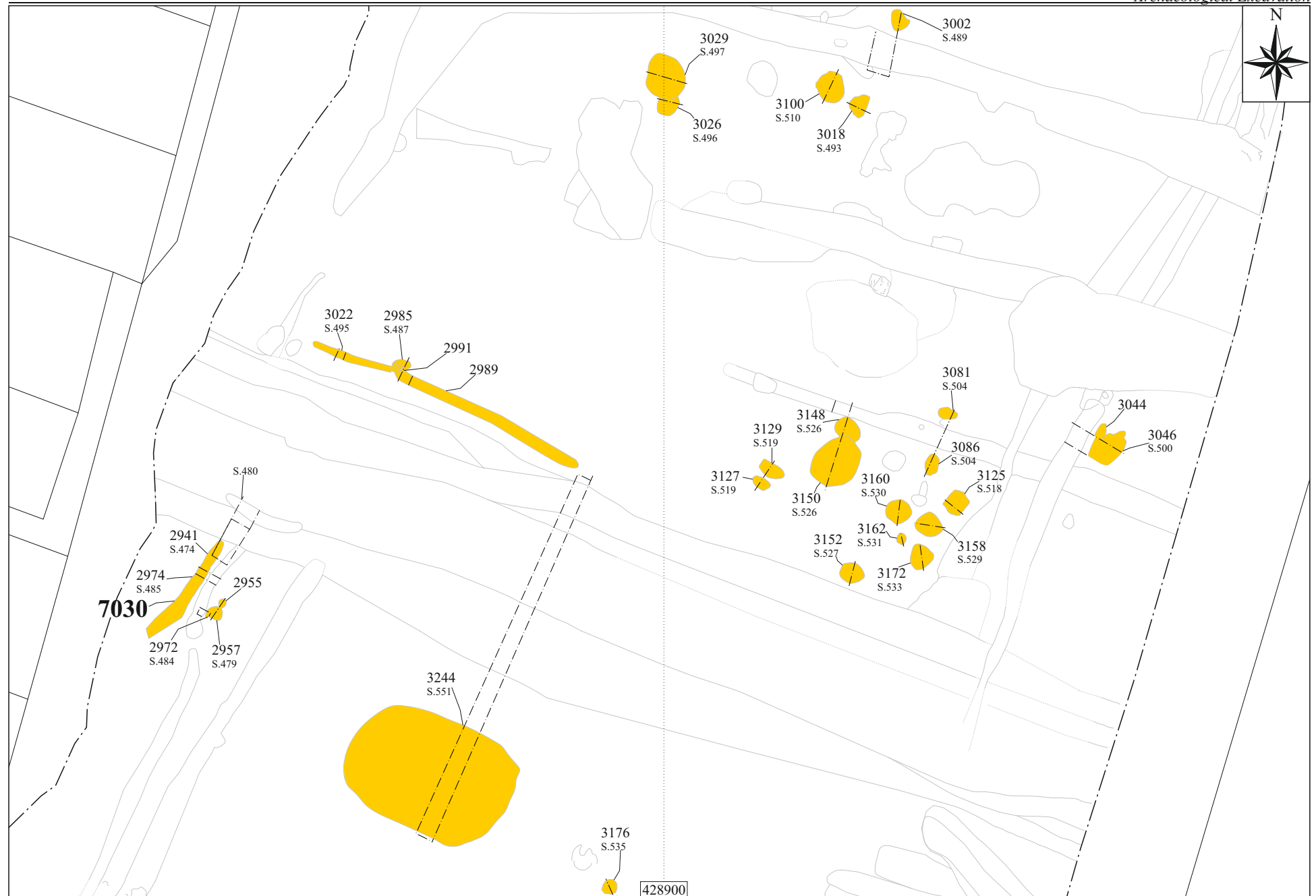


Figure 34: Undated Features to the North of Ditch 7034

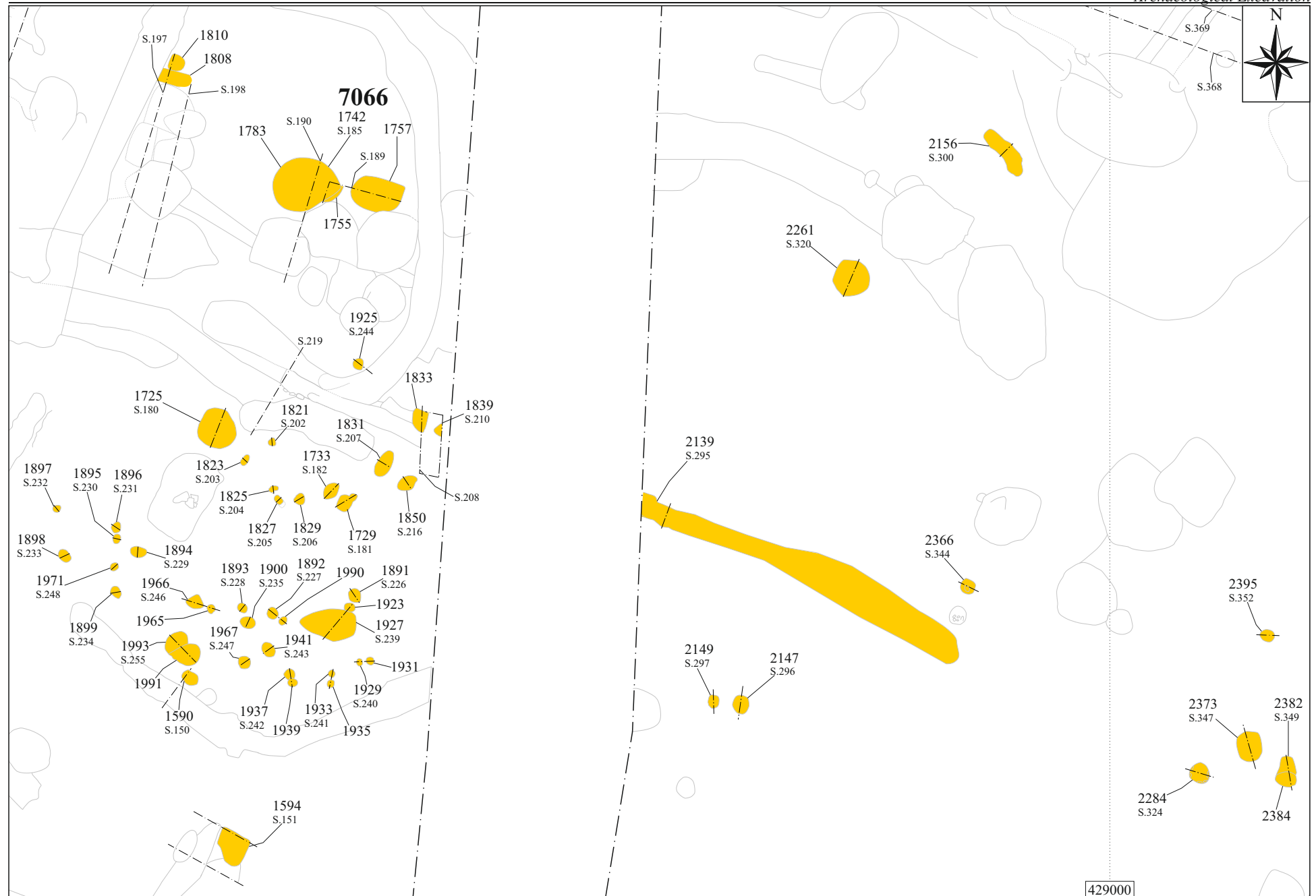


Figure 35: Undated Features - Central and Eastern Areas

Towards north and close to the western limit of excavation, to the west of Enclosure C, three undated sub-circular features were also found. Posthole 1439 had near-vertical sides and measured 0.36m in depth; it had a single fill (1440).

Pit 1473 was located to the west of ditch **6020**. Measuring 0.5m in width and only 0.1m in depth, it contained a single sandy silt deposit (1474).

Posthole 1489 was further north in the central area; it measured 0.28m wide and 0.12m deep, and had one fill (1490).

Five additional features were concentrated to the north and north-west of ditch **7023**. Pit 1594 had a concave profile and measured 0.23m wide and 0.81m deep; a single fill (1595) was recorded.

Three postholes were also observed. Posthole 1580 was 0.39m wide and 0.1m deep, and was filled by deposit (1581); posthole 1562 was 0.31 in width and 0.23m in depth, and contained two fills (1563) and (1570).

Two deposits (1585) and (1586) were observed within posthole 1584, which measured 0.33m wide and 0.26m deep.

In the same area was also one quarry pit 1564; it was irregular in plan and measured 3x1m, and was 0.2m deep. It contained one sandy silt deposit (1565).

A substantial number of postholes of various shapes and dimensions was recorded immediately to the north of L-shaped ditch **6009**; no coherent structure pattern was discerned.

Table 2. Undated postholes to the north of ditch **6009**

Cut No.	Fill No.	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1891	1964	0.32	0.11
1893	1948	0.22	0.25
1894	1922	0.24	0.05
1895	1921	0.24	0.05
1896	1908-1909	0.22	0.06
1897	1901-1902	0.22	0.07
1898	1944-1945	0.28	0.16
1899	1946-1947	0.24	0.07
1900	1849-1951	0.38	0.24
1929	1930	0.2	0.3
1931	1932	0.2	0.3
1933	1934	0.18	0.12
1935	1936	0.2	0.12
1941	1942	0.3	0.12
1965	1970	0.16	0.13
1966	1969	0.36	0.09
1967	1968	0.32	0.08
1971	1972	0.16	0.04

One undated and isolated posthole was observed within the area defined by Enclosure **7057**. Posthole 1925 had a concave profile and was filled by brown grey silt deposit (1926). Immediately to the south of Enclosure **7057** a further cluster of undated, isolated pits and postholes was also recorded.

Table 3. Undated sub-circular features to the south of Enclosure **7057**

Cut No.	Type of Feature	Fill No.	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1725	Pit	1726-1728	0.78	0.26
1729	Pit	1730-1732	0.55	0.28
1733	Posthole	1734	0.5	0.3

Cut No.	Type of Feature	Fill No.	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1821	Posthole	1822	0.2	0.3
1823	Posthole	1824, 1885	0.15	0.15
1825	Posthole	1826	0.2	0.2
1827	Posthole	1828	0.12	0.18
1829	Posthole	1830	0.3	0.17
1831	Posthole	1832, 1886-1887	0.2	0.2
1833	Pit	1834, 1905-1907	0.5	0.4
1839	Pit	1840	0.6	0.3
1850	Posthole	1851	0.34	0.2

Four additional isolated sub-circular features were present in the northernmost part of the central area of the excavations.

Table 4. Undated sub-circular features in the north part of the central area of site

Cut No.	Type of Feature	Fill No.	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1986	Pit	1987	0.65	0.39
1919	Posthole	1920	0.29	0.35
2002	Pit	2003, 2035-2036	1	0.42
2037	Posthole	2038	0.28	0.2

In the eastern area of the site, a group of three postholes, arranged on a slightly curved alignment, were located in proximity of the easternmost limit of excavation, between ditches **6034** and **7001**. Posthole 2457 was 0.3m wide and 0.24m deep, with a concave profile and a single fill (2458).

Posthole 2459 measured 0.4m in width and contained a sandy loam deposit (2460).

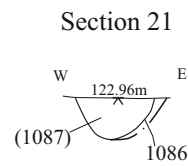
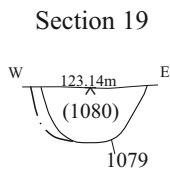
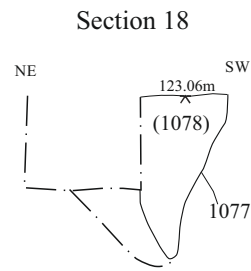
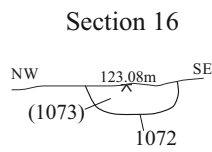
To the north-east was posthole 2461; this was 0.25 deep and 0.25m wide, and had one fill (2462).

Further north in the same area, the vast majority of isolated and undated sub-circular features were recorded in the north-western corner, to the west of ditch **7052**. The only feature to the east of ditch 7052, and close to the northern limit of excavation, was pit 2141. It had a concave profile and measured 0.38m wide and 0.14m deep, and contained two sandy silt deposits (2142) and (2143).

Table 5. Undated sub-circular features to the west of ditch **7052**

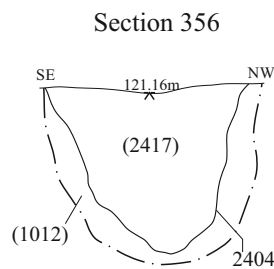
Cut No.	Type of Feature	Fill No.	Width (m)	Depth (m)
2105	Pit	2106	1.5	0.04
2147	Posthole	2148	0.41	0.14
2149	Posthole	2150	0.28	0.08
2218	Posthole	2219	0.3	0.11
2261	Pit	2262	0.95	0.3
2284	Pit	2285-2287	0.46	0.42
2366	Posthole	2367	0.35	0.2
2373	Pit	2374	0.82	0.3
2395	Posthole	2396	0.35	0.08
2423	Pit	2424	1.49	0.2
2432	Pit	2433	0.78	0.12

Undated Structure **6022** Postholes



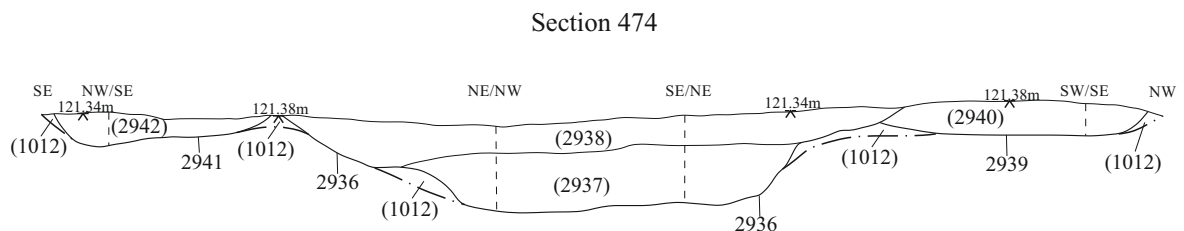
0 1 m

Undated Linear Feature



0 1 m

Undated Linear Features



0 2 m

Figure 36: Undated Pits, Postholes and Linear Features

A number of undated and isolated linear features were also recorded across the site. In the south-western area of the excavation was furrow 3236, which was 1.56m wide and 0.31m deep, and contained a single fill (3237). Ditch 3022 was found immediately to the north of ditch **7038**, and run on a similar alignment. It was 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep, and had two fills: a 0.03m thick sandy silt deposit (3023) and one sandy silt fill will frequent gravel (3024).

Gully 7030

Measuring approximately 6m in length, gully **7030** was orientated northeast to southwest, and was located near the westernmost limit of excavation. North terminus 2941 (Figs. 33-34, 36 Section 474) was 0.51m in width and 0.19m in depth, and had a single silty sand fill (2942). Further south, cut 2974 was 0.48m wide and 0.16m deep, with a single sandy silt fill (2975).

In the central area, three isolated linear features were situated in proximity of Enclosure B. To its south was gully 1067, which measured *ca* 5.5m in length and was roughly perpendicular to ditch **6027**. Cut 1067 had a concave profile and was 0.65m wide and 0.39 deep, and contained a single deposit (1068).

In the same area was gully 1860, which had a concave profile and measured 0.5m in width and 0.26m in depth; it had a single fill, (1861), devoid of finds.

To the north of the enclosure, and running parallel to ditch 6033, was small ditch 1260 (Fig. 17, Section 62), which measured 0.42m in width and 0.3m in depth, and had a single sandy silt fill (1261).

Ditch 6046

Ditch **6046** was found in the central area, close to the northern limit of excavation. Running west-northwest to east-southeast, it was approximately 14m in length; terminus 1723 was 0.65m wide and 0.11m deep, with one fill (1724). Cut 1751 measured 0.96m in width and 0.2m in depth, and contained one brown-grey sand deposit (1752). Further south-east was cut 1780, measuring 0.54 wide and only 0.05m deep; a single fill (1781) was observed.

Ditch 1843 was further north, and appeared to have extended beyond the limit of excavation. One sandy silt deposit (1844) was contained in its cut, which measured 0.32m wide and 0.11m deep.

Ditch 6017

In the south-eastern corner of site was ditch **6017**, which was orientated southwest to northeast. Terminus 2403 had a concave profile and was 0.95m wide and 0.5 deep; it had two loamy sand fills, (2414) and (2415). Cut 2404 (Figs. 33 and 36, Section 356) had a single fill (2417) and measured 0.55m in width and 0.44m in depth, and had a V-shaped profile. The profile of terminus 2405 was concave, 0.65m wide and 0.26m deep; two fills were present, (2418) and (2419).

Extending beyond the western limit of excavation in this area was gully 2139, a 0.66m wide, 0.03m deep, and *ca* 7m long feature with an irregularly concave profile. Its only fill (2140) was a grey-brown sand deposit.

Further north was ditch 2156; it measured 0.43m in width and 0.11m in depth, and contained two deposits: one lower silty loam deposit (2157) overlain by a loamy sand deposit (2158).

To the south of Building F two additional isolated ditches were recorded. Ditch 2652 was 0.4m in width and 0.1m in depth and had a single fill (2563).

One deposit (2657) was also observed within ditch 2656, which was 0.62m wide and 0.36m deep.

5 ARTEFACTS

5.1 Earlier Prehistoric Pottery *by David Mullin*

Late Neolithic

A total of 21 sherds weighing 141g were recovered from fill (2721) of pit 2720; two additional fragments were recovered through the floatation of sample <23>. All of the sherds are from the body of a large, vertical-sided vessel but no rims or bases are present and it is not possible to estimate the dimensions of this vessel.



Plate 17. Grooved Ware from pit 2720

A total of eight of the sherds are decorated (Plate 17). All of the sherds have incised lines forming either parallel bands or chevrons. A single sherd had a pair of wavy lines on each side of parallel horizontal lines and three sherds have added plastic decoration. Two of the latter sherds have a wavy line, the other a cordon with slashes. The fabric of the pottery has very small, rare grog pellets and frequent quartz sand. It is well fired and a buff-orange colour.

The decoration of this vessel suggests that it is Late Neolithic Grooved Ware, probably of the Clacton sub-style (Wainwright & Longworth 1971).

Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age

A total of 122 sherds weighing 444g were recovered from context (3058), the fill of grave 3057; 16 additional fragments were recovered through the floatation of sample

<18>. The sherds represent part of a vessel, probably less than a quarter being represented. Rims and bases are present, but it was not possible to reconstruct a complete vessel profile. Nevertheless, this appears to be a Beaker with a carination relatively high on the vessel, falling into Needham's (2005) Tall Mid-Carinated Beaker class.

Nearly all of the sherds are decorated with comb impressions which form a complex design (Plate 18). From the rim down this comprises: a row of five closely-spaced parallel lines; a blank band; a row of four closely-spaced parallel lines; a blank band; a row of three closely-spaced parallel lines; a row of diamonds/crosses banded top and bottom by parallel lines; a row of three closely-spaced parallel lines; a blank zone; a row of four closely-spaced parallel lines; a blank zone; a row of two closely-spaced parallel lines; another row of diamonds/crosses banded top and bottom by parallel lines; a small blank zone at the base of the vessel. This decorative scheme is difficult to parallel, but is similar to vessels 66, 129, 130 and 155 recorded by Clarke (1970).

The fabric of the vessel is a very clean, well-prepared clay with occasional sand and rare grog. It is well fired, with buff inner and outer surfaces and a slightly reduced core.



Plate 18. Carinated Beaker from grave 3057

Discussion

The majority of Grooved Ware finds in Oxfordshire are of the Durrington walls style, with the Clacton style poorly represented (Cleal and MacSween 1999). The only site where Clacton style Grooved Ware was recovered in any quantity was Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt (Lambrick and Allen 2004), where grog and sand fabrics were also present.

Single sherds of Beaker have been recovered from neighbouring sites at Coxwell Road, Faringdon (Weaver and Ford 2004, Cook *et al.* 2004). Sherds have also been

recovered at Hatford Quarry (JMHS *pers. comm.*) and Bowling Green Farm (Weale 2011) to the east of Faringdon.

Beakers are known from across Oxfordshire and flat graves are recorded in Oxford at Summertown and Polstead Road (Leeds 1938), the Gene Function Building (Boston *et al.* 2003) and Southmoor Road (Manning and Leeds 1921). Flat graves are also known from Stanton Harcourt and Gravelly Guy, with flat cemeteries at Cassington and Foxley Farm, Eynsham (Garwood 2011).

The decoration of the Beaker from Park Road is difficult to parallel with any of the other Beakers from the county, but Tall Mid-Carinated Beakers are recorded from Radley 950, Dorchester on Thames XII and Mount Farm grave 618 (Needham 2005).

5.2 Iron Age and Roman Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological excavation resulted in the recovery of more than 10,000 sherds of pottery weighing ca 139kg dating to the later prehistoric and Roman periods (Appendix 1, Table 18).

In general terms the assemblage was in average to good condition with a mixture of well-fragmented and better preserved sherds. Surface preservation was less good and in many cases surface finishes had been lost. There are a few cases of multiple sherds from single vessels. The overall average sherd weight was 13.7g.

Pottery was recovered from over 520 archaeological contexts, most of which represent fills of negative features, particularly pits and ditches. The quantities range from single sherds up to a maximum of 441 sherds from colluvium deposit (3220). Around 50% of the contexts only yielded between 1 and 5 sherds and 63% ten sherds or less which has some ramifications in terms of the accuracy of the dating. In total 23 contexts yielded in excess of 100 sherds but this includes topsoil, subsoil, colluvium and other naturally formed deposits.

The general composition of the assemblage is described by chronological period followed by an overall assessment of the potential of the material.

Later Prehistoric-Early Roman

There are a few sherds present suggestive of an Early or Early-Middle Iron Age date, most notably a finger-tipped, carinated vessel from Enclosure B, but the feature is dated by the presence of later Roman wares. Three saucepan-style vessels from ditch 1717 and pit 3119 may be of Middle or Late Iron Age date. Occasional other sherds also hint at sparse Early-Middle Iron Age activity but frequently occur alongside later finds.

Some 700 sherds are designated as Late Iron Age-Early Roman in date. These mainly comprise calcareous-tempered (fossil shell/limestone) and sandy wares. There are surprisingly few featured or clear diagnostic sherds to assist the dating and a significant number of the sherds occur as re-deposited pieces in later contexts. In addition there are sherds of grog-tempered ware which could be Late Iron Age-Early Roman in date.

Potentially of Late Iron Age date and contemporary with the 'Belgic' style grog-tempered wares are two sherds of Italian wine amphorae, probably Dressel 1-2/4 from the upper fills of pits 1910 and 3196 respectively. There are also a few local

finewares, in particular butt beakers probably from the Abingdon area which are likely to date to the pre-Flavian period. There are no contemporary imported finewares present.

Roman

The Roman pottery assemblage appears to span the entire Roman period and can be broadly divided into 1st century (Flavian period onwards); 2nd century, 3rd century, 4th century and later 4th century on a presence/absence basis of certain wares. Roman wares proper probably only appear from the Flavian period onwards coinciding with the development of the Oxfordshire pottery industry.

In general, the assemblage is dominated by local coarsewares, particularly products of the Oxfordshire industries. In addition, there are a few continental imports and a small number of British regional imports.



Plate 19. Samian pottery

The imported continental finewares include 61 sherds of Samian mainly from Lezoux, Central Gaul with one possible East Gaulish sherd. Forms include cups, Dragendorff (Drag.) forms 27, 33 (x3); dishes Drag. 31 (x4), Drag. 35/6, Drag. 32, Ludo Tg; bowls Drag. 37, Drag. 38 and a *mortarium* Drag. 45. There are two examples of potters' stamps, probably illegible as they are in a much worn state, and one larger decorated sherd along with a few decorated flakes. Also present are single sherds of Central Gaulish fine ware and Cologne beaker and two sherds of Moselle black-slipped ware. Amphorae are conspicuously absent apart from the two early Italian sherds noted above.

Regional imports are dominated by Black Burnished Ware largely from the Poole Harbour area (DOR BB1) but with also a significant amount of South-West BB1 (SOW BB1). Overall, these account for around 8.7% of the Roman assemblage. There

are examples of jars, plain-walled dishes, flat-rim bowls, grooved-rim bowls and flanged-rim conical bowls spanning the 2nd through to the 4th century.

Other identifiable regional imports are sparse but include Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNV CC); New Forest colour-coated ware (NFO CC); Mancetter-Hartshill white-slipped ware and ca 127 sherds of late Roman shelly ware (ROB SH). This latter type, probably from the Bedfordshire area and mainly comprising jars, generally dates to the last quarter of the 4th century and beyond.

Local wares are dominated by grey sandy wares which broadly fall into the Oxfordshire Reduced Ware industry (OXF RE; OXF FR). These include quite a diversity of types which have been broadly divided into the finer grey wares and the sandier types for the assessment although the latter includes several variants which may reflect chronological trends. These two groups account for around 52.6% by count of the total recovered assemblage.



Plate 20. Face flagon SF101

Products of all the other known Oxfordshire wares are also present including various grog-tempered storage jars, white wares (OXF WH), parchment ware (OXF PA), oxidised ware, white-slipped ware (OXF WS) and most notably colour-coated wares (OXF RS).

Several of the white wares and white-slipped wares feature as *mortaria* with examples of Young (1977) types M17, M18, M20, M22 and WC7 dating to 3rd through to 4th century. A *mortarium*, probably from the Oxfordshire area on the basis of the trituration grits, had a well-defined stamp on the flange. Also present were a number of white ware jars, including burnt white ware examples and at least one flagon (ibid) type W15 and one beaker W38. The parchment ware was more limited and included examples of Young (ibid) jars and bowls, types P5, P24, P25 and P34.

Other than the Reduced Wares the most prolific local group were the colour-coated wares nearly all of which dated to the later Roman period. A diverse range of forms were present, including beakers (*ibid.*) (C23, C27), flagons (C11), jug (C13), jars (C16, C18), dishes (C40, C44-C48) and bowls (C51, C55, 68-70, C75, C78, C81, C83, C89) and *mortaria* (C97, C100). There was one example of a face flagon (SF101) and one potter's stamp recovered from Building F.

Several vessels showed evidence of use in the form of sooting or internal calcareous deposits and a few sherds have been burnt. At least three Iron Age sherds had internal burnt residue (pits 2159, 1169 and 2159). One storage jar from Building F showed textile impression made before firing.

A few vessels showed post-firing modifications, largely in the form of holes drilled through the wall or base. There were at least five sherds fashioned into counters and one into a square (ditch 7071). Two sherds had notches made after firing and there was one graffiti (Building F).

Chronology

On the basis of the pottery there appears to have been a hiatus in the Bronze Age with slight traces of renewed activity from the Early-Middle Iron Age although it is difficult to isolate specific features dating to this phase of use. Occupation seems to have been more definite from the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period, with pottery of this date coming from 15 pits and postholes, and 5 ditches. Discriminating later Iron Age material from early Roman is not possible with rural sites of this nature. The presence of an Italian amphora is of note, probably imported in the Late Iron Age. Similar isolated examples have been found in Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. Other contemporary or Early Roman imports are absent.

The site appears to have continued in use throughout the Roman period into the later 4th century or beyond. The very low incidence of imported continental and regional imported ware reflects an essentially rural settlement. The agricultural nature is perhaps highlighted by a high incidence of large storage-type jars, Samian accounts for ca 0.65% by count, a figure typical of a Roman rural settlement.

Summary and potential

The excavation produced a very fairly large group of pottery spanning the Roman period (1st-4th century) accompanied by small scale earlier and later prehistoric activity. The assemblage is dominated by the presence of local wares with a limited repertoire of forms. Samian, often used as an indicator of site status, is at around 0.6% typical of a rural establishment.

It would appear that the site has undergone considerable disturbance with many groups dated by a small or single sherds of later date mixed in with essentially earlier material. This has some ramification on dating very small groups which may not necessarily be representative of the date of the deposit in which they occur. It should also be noted that a significant proportion of the pottery comes from naturally accumulated deposits such as topsoil, subsoil, or colluvium, most of which contains odd sherd of post-Roman pottery.

Spindle Whorl by Simona Denis

One partial disc-shaped pottery spindle whorl (SF123) was found in deposit (1446), the lower fill of pit **6007**. The two fragments of Black Burnished Ware fabric weighed 8.54g combined; it had a quadrangular profile, with a reconstructed diameter of *ca* 30mm, with a perforation of *ca* 4mm in diameter.

5.3 Post-Roman Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 83 sherds with a total weight of 1022g. It was mostly post-medieval, but a few sherds of Romano-British, Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon and medieval material were also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 2, Table 19. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The assemblage largely comprises small sherds and no refits, indicating that it is all the product of secondary deposition, with many apparently stratified sherds showing signs of abrasion.

The Romano-British sherds were both residual, and were recorded using the codes of the Oxfordshire Roman type-series. The two sherds consisted of a rimsherd from an Oxford Whiteware (fabric W22) jar from context 1273 (Trackway D) and a small bodysherd in fine Greyware (fabric R11) from context (2422), the fill of pit 2408. The two sherds (20g) of Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon (5th–9th century) pottery are in a fine sandy fabric with sparse flecks of mica and rare calcareous inclusions. They are typical of the tradition in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2008).

Much of the medieval material was also residual. It was recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1994), as follows:

OXAM:	Brill/Boarstall Ware, AD1200 – 1600. 7 sherds, 31g.
OXBB:	Minety-type Ware, early 13 th –16 th century. 2 sherds, 16g.
OXBF:	North-East Wiltshire Ware, AD1050–1400. 8 sherds, 65g.
OXBX:	Late Medieval Brill/Boarstall Ware, 15 th –early 17 th century. 1 sherd, 4g.

The wares are all common finds in the region, and are from a mixture of unglazed jars and glazed jugs which is typical of the period.

The post-medieval wares were recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDG:	Green-glazed Border Ware, 1550 – 1700. 2 sherds, 4g.
CHPO:	Chinese Porcelain, 1700+. 1 sherd, 5g.
CREA:	Creamware, 1740-1830. 5 sherds, 25g.
CSTN:	Cistercian Ware, 1470 – 1600. 2 sherds, 8g.
FREC:	Frechen Stoneware, 1550-1750. 2 sherds, 5g.
HORT:	Horticultural Earthenwares, 19 th –20 th century. 2 sherds, 31g.
LONS:	London-type Stoneware, 1680 +. 1 sherd, 9g.
PMR:	Post-medieval Redware, 1550+. 33 sherds, 711g.
REFW:	Refined Whiteware, 1800+. 12 sherds, 84g.
STMB:	Staffordshire-type Mottled Ware, 1680 – 1800. 2 sherds, 3g.
SWSG:	Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware, 1720–1800. 1 sherd, 2g.

The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region, and consists of a mixture of utilitarian earthenwares and finer tablewares. The bulk of the post-medieval Redware assemblage is fragments of large bowls, the main product of the tradition.

5.4 Fired Clay *by Jane Timby*

Some 3256 fragments of fired clay, weighing 11,483g, were recovered from 59 contexts. Two main fabrics are present: one containing mainly sand and the other containing added organic material.

Most pieces are small with no obvious function and not particularly datable. In many cases it is difficult to determine whether the material is burnt clay, degraded ceramic building material or burnt, fine grained stone. In a few instances, for example, from ditch **7052**, the pieces show one smoothed surface suggesting it is structural material from a kiln or oven.

There are two exceptions where specific objects can be identified. The first are 24 pieces from four or five round oven plates recovered from pits 1643 and 2819, quarry pit 2123, and colluvium (2877). These are in a coarse shell-tempered fabric and where measurable show diameters of 230-240 and 160mm. Such items are being increasingly recognised in later prehistoric and Early Roman contexts and in some regions in the Late Roman period and are regarded as oven furniture. The other object of note is represented by several pieces from a large triangular perforated brick from pit 1206. The brick has a thickness of 80mm and traces of perforations across the corners. Traditionally such items were identified as loom-weights but it is increasingly recognised that some functioned as oven bricks. As this is a particularly large example this seems a likely function. A corner from a possible second example came from pit **6007**.

In terms of distribution, particular high concentrations of fired clay were recovered from corn drier **6010** with some 865 fragments weighing 2317g, pit **6007** with 324 small pieces weighing just 207g and pit 2398, with 1650 tiny, rounded fragments weighing 1000g. Together these account for 87% of the recorded fired clay by count.

5.5 Ceramic Building Material *by Jane Timby*

In total some 215 pieces of ceramic building material, weighing 7357g, were recorded; at least 197 pieces, of a combined weight of 6535g, are probably of Roman date. Most of these pieces, 163 by count, 82.7% of the assemblage, are very fragmentary and degraded with no clear diagnostic features to identify the form.

The most common Roman type is box-flue used in hypocaust systems which account for 13%. Most pieces can be identified from linear combing on the exterior. Several show evidence of use with blackening on the interior. Also present are at least seven *tegulae* (roof tile) and one *pila*.

The ceramic building material was distributed across 67 contexts with no apparent significant concentrations of material.

Post-medieval roof tile, one piece with a nail hole, came from the topsoil with further possible pieces from other deposits. The degraded state of most of the pieces made identification and dating uncertain for many, which could be Roman or later in date.

5.6 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Simona Denis

The excavations produced a total of 21 fragments of clay pipe stems (Table 6), of a combined weight of 47.2g; no mouthpiece fragments were recovered. The material was recovered from 14 different deposits; of these, nine produced a single fragment of clay pipe, an additional four contained two fragments each, and a single deposit contained the remaining 4 examples.

The clay pipe stems were individually examined, weighted, and measured; no stamps, decorations, or marks of any kind were observed. The fragmentary state of the objects prevented from any attempt to reconstruct the original overall length or indicate a dating, as unmarked stem fragments without diagnostic features or decorations have very little dating value in themselves.

Table 6. Clay Tobacco pipe occurrence by context

Context	Context Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Date
1001	Subsoil	1	5.7	Post-Medieval
1160	Fill of furrow 1159	1	2.2	
1277	Trackway D surface 7002	4	10.7	
1410	Fill of ditch 7048	1	0.6	
1464	Trackway D surface 7002	1	4.2	
2422	Fill of pit 2408	1	2.1	
2519	Fill of pit 7014	1	3.6	
2762	Backfill of Trench 5	1	2.2	
2859	Fill of ditch 7044	2	3.6	
2861	Fill of ditch 7044	1	1.6	
2863	Fill of pit 2862	2	3.6	
3016	Fill of pit 3014	2	2.6	
3017	Fill of pit 3014	2	2.7	
3225	Fill of three throw 3224	1	1.8	
Total		21	47.2	

The largest concentration of pipes was found in association with Trackway D; a total of five fragments were collected from surface **7002**. Whilst pertaining to the largest concentration of clay pipes at the site, the assemblage still only represents a limited number of examples across this considerably large feature. The trackway itself is securely dated to the 2nd century or later, and therefore the presence of clay pipes across this feature is considered intrusive. Pit 3014 contained four fragments, associated with post-medieval pottery. Two examples, recovered from subsoil (1001) and (2762), the backfill of evaluation Trench 5, are to be considered essentially unstratified. The remaining 10 examples were collected from discrete features, comprising 4 pits, one furrow, one ditch and a single tree throw.

Based on the relative stratigraphic relationships and the presence of single fragments of clay pipes, the items collected from 2nd century or later ditch **7002** and **7048**, 3rd century pit **7014** and 4th century furrow **7003**, are also likely intrusive.

Associated post-medieval materials, including pottery, were recorded for all the remaining deposits containing clay pipe fragments.

5.7 Quern Stones by Ruth Shaffrey and Ann Clarke

Introduction

A total of 58 fragments representing up to 39 querns were recovered during the excavations at Faringdon. These are described by type and lithology below. Full details can be found in the project archive.

Morphology and Petrography

A wide range of stone types was utilised for the querns (Table 7). Fragments of local Lower Greensand were recovered from five contexts. Only one of these is certainly from a quern and that is a rotary quern of ferruginous sandstone which probably stems from the local Greensand beds (SF415), from modern backfill deposit (2762). A second fragment of ferruginous sandstone has been worn down on one face and may be a reused quern fragment (SF2 from subsoil (1001). The remaining three fragments are worn and burnt and may represent degraded quern fragments; these are certainly from the local Lower Greensand. The first two were recovered from corn dryer 6010 (SF332 and SF333) and the third from pit 2398 (SF334). This material is well-known as a source of querns during later prehistory and the earlier Roman period (Shaffrey and Roe 2022), as is sarsen, which is the source of a single saddle quern here.

Most of the querns are made from imported stone types. Querns of Iron Age or very early Roman form are mainly made of Lodsworth Greensand with a single quern of Old Red Sandstone of comparable form. The remaining Roman disc querns are all made of Millstone Grit, Old Red Sandstone and Mayen lava. Lava often survives only as small fragments, as seen here, because it degrades in acidic soil conditions, so little can be said about the querns, other than an acknowledgement of their presence. Both fragments were found in contexts of probable later Roman date (SF421 and SF422 from modern backfill deposit (2762) and colluvium (2763), where they are residual. Millstone Grit querns and millstones were imported from northern England, whilst Old Red Sandstone querns were imported from the Wye Valley/Forest of Dean area.

Table 7. Lithologies of querns and millstones

Lithology	Number of querns
Grand Total	39
Old Red Sandstone	9
Lodsworth Greensand	7
Millstone Grit	7
Probable Old Red Sandstone	6
Faringdon Greensand	5
Greensand	2
Lava	2
Sarsen	1

A limited range of quern forms is present in the assemblage, with a small number of saddle querns and late Iron Age forms and a far greater proportion of Roman ‘disc’ type querns (Table 8). These are described by form and lithology below.

Table 8. Types of querns

Type	Number objects
Saddle quern	1
Possible saddle quern	2
Possible quern	4
Rotary quern	27
Millstone	3
Probable millstone	2
Grand Total	39

Saddle Querns

Three small pieces of probable saddle querns are much fragmented, probably from heat damage but all retain part of a smooth flat surface, which has been worn out to the edge to indicate their original function. One piece (SF407) was found in the terminus of ditch **6002**, another from ditch **6034** (SF24) and the third fragment from overburden deposit (3206) (SF418). One of these is made from sarsen (SF407). Sarsen was not used to make rotary querns in the south Oxfordshire area and was most commonly used for saddle querns during the Iron Age. The other two probable saddle querns are made from Greensand, one of which is certainly from Lodsworth (SF418), whilst the other is probably an Oxfordshire Lower Greensand, although it does not resemble any samples of local material and it may simply be a burnt, and not very cherty, example of Lodsworth stone.

Rotary Querns

Fragments of three or four upper stones and two lower stones of Iron Age ‘beehive’ form were recovered. The upper stones are all of conical flat-topped type, typical of Mid-Late Iron Age querns of Lodsworth stone, from which they are all made. Two examples each bear the remains of a lateral handle slot on the upper face and along a broken edge (SF1, subsoil (1001) and SF6, pit 2111). The estimated diameter of 360mm and 350mm respectively makes these querns of typical size for querns from this quarry, and their maximum thicknesses of 100mm suggests moderate to high use before discard (Shaffrey and Roe 2011). A fragment of an upper stone (SF72) has a similar concave grinding surface and diameter to SF1 but it is thinner (65mm thick). This was also found in the subsoil (1001) and may have originally been part of the same quern stone. A fourth example (SF21, pit 1342) is probably of the same form as its surviving fragments show it tapered in thickness towards the edge.

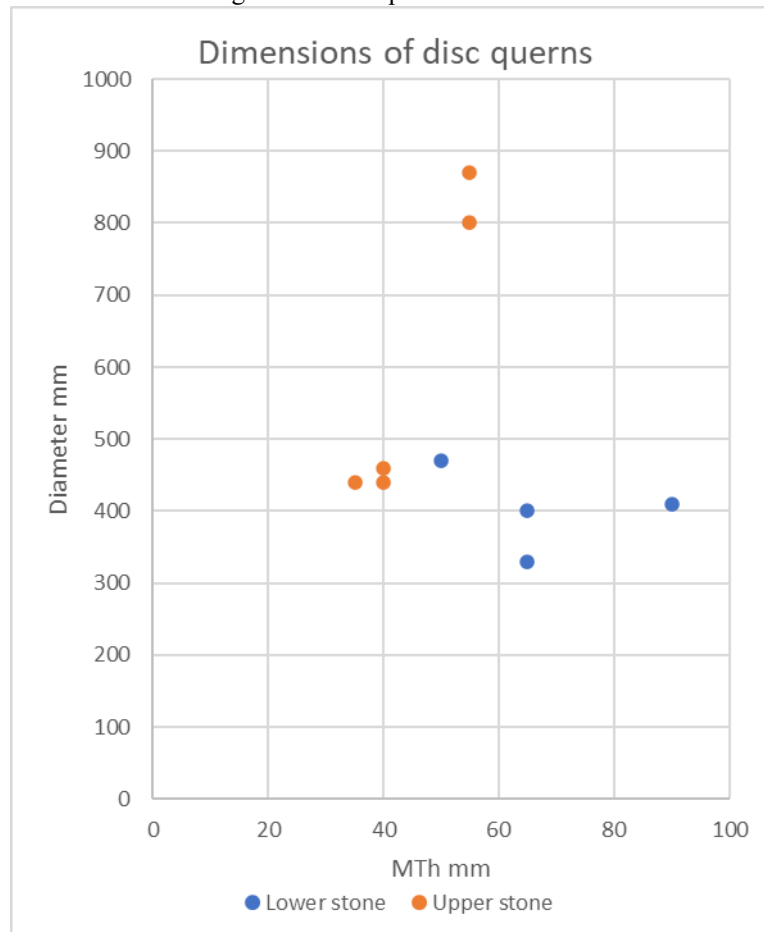
The remains of four lower stones of Iron Age-Early Roman form were recovered. Two of these are of Lodsworth stone and both lower stones are worn so that there is a lip around the socket, as is typical for lower querns of this stone (Shaffrey 2019). A fragment of a lower stone (SF22, pit 1342) has a spindle socket (35mm in diameter and 40mm deep), which is consistent with Late Iron Age to very Early Roman quern forms. The worn face is pecked and ground to a slight concave angled profile. It has a broken thickness of 150mm which suggests that it had not been in use very long when it was broken, as blanks of this stone measure only up to a maximum of 20cm in thickness (Peacock 1987: 66).

A heavily burnt fragment (SF420 pit 2806) of a Greensand lower stone bears a rounded, ground worn face and a fragment of Old Red sandstone lower stone is also of early form, with a partially perforated spindle socket and worn, convex grinding surface (SF63, quarry pit 7025).

Disc Querns

All of the disc querns are fragments of simple, flat disc querns. Two fragments from separate contexts refitted to form a larger piece (SF60 and SF300) but otherwise each find represents a single quern. Ten were identified as upper stones, and four as lower stones; two examples have been used as both an upper and lower stone (SF8 and SF432). One of these (SF8, pit 1132) has some pronounced rotational wear and a smoothed area around the feed pipe on one face with the remnants of harped grooving on the other. Meanwhile SF432 has radial grooves placed in a band 80mm around the edge. Six other pieces are too fragmented to identify. There are five items amongst the disc querns that are classified as millstones because of their size. The two largest millstones are very similar in dimensions. The central holes of both are the same in diameter and profile and the wear around the central holes is so similar as to suggest they were both used in the same mechanism and perhaps with the same partner stone. The only difference between them is that one (SF15.2) has a peck-dressed working surface whilst the other (SF15.1) has heavy concentric grooving showing that it had been used for grinding for a longer time, or perhaps they were paired with differently-textured partners.

Figure 37. Disc querns dimensions



All the upper stones have been pecked to shape with a flat upper face, occasionally with straight or flared sides, otherwise with rounded edges. Only nine stones have measurable diameters: these range from 440mm to 870mm but with distinct clusters at 440mm to 470mm and 800mm to 870mm. Maximum thicknesses were measurable on 17 of the stones, and these range from 30mm to 55mm.

Few features survive on what are a group of very simple disc querns – six have evidence for a central hole which range in size from 70mm to 100mm in diameter though four cluster between 70mm and 80mm wide. The profiles vary from funnel-shaped to parallel-sided to the widest hole which is made through a thin disc. SF301 has a shallow 5mm deep basin shaped hopper of 80mm around the eye (overburden deposit (3185). No stick holes or other evidence for a turning mechanism are present on any of the upper stones though since these are all fragments, some of the evidence may be missing.

The working faces of the upper stones have been pecked to dress the surface. Only one upper stone showed evidence for segmented grooving (SF8, pit 1132) and this also has a modified upper face. The stones show various stages of wear prior to their abandonment: heavy, concentrically worn grooves are visible on ten stones, which were produced through use in conjunction with a lower stone that bore large, hard inclusions. As the pebbles in the lower stone became ground smooth so the wear on the upper stone would become smoother. Five upper stones have smoothly worn faces.



Plate 21. Quern fragments from corn dryer **6010**

The two larger stones are separate pieces and do not refit. The size and profile of the central hole is the same, but the upper one shows more surface preparation than the other which has heavily worn concentric rings. Indicates both used on same mechanism.

The four lower stones are thicker than the upper stones though they tend to be smaller in diameter than the surviving upper stones. Two stones (SF57 and SF408) are thickest in the centre and have a convex profile. The stone from corn dryer **6010** (SF16) has a flatter angled face and the sides (like SF57) have been dressed to a rough straight profile. A narrow spindle hole worked through the base survives only on SF57 and is roughly 45mm wide.

After use the rotary quern stones were broken and redeposited in pits or occasionally ditches. None were found in secondary structural features. Corn dryer **6010** held six disc querns (Plate 21) including the two large millstones and the smallest lower stone. All had been destroyed by fire. Another concentration of quern fragments comprises those from the backfill of Trench 5 (2762) (two upper disc querns and one lower disc quern) and two querns from features subsequently excavated in that immediate area including an upper disc quern and a lower beehive quern stone.

Discussion

Rotary querns are thought to have been introduced 4th–5th Century BC though the flat-topped Sussex derivative which is represented at Faringdon can be an early Romano-British type (Shaffrey 2006); their breakage and abandonment probably dates to around this period. Ceramics from the pits in which beehive querns were found: pit 2111 (Late Iron Age-Early Roman); 1342 (2nd century); and 2806 (3rd century) are towards the late end for use of these quern types.

Many of the disc rotary querns come from pits or deposits that are undated by ceramics, making it difficult to determine any sequence for manufacture or use of the querns during the occupation of the site. However, the possible querns of Lower Greensand are almost certain to come from the large series of quern quarries located at Cole's Pits just to the south of Faringdon (Crawford 1953). These querns, and others produced from the same Lower Greensand in the Culham area, were used across the south Oxfordshire region during the Iron Age for saddle querns and also in lesser numbers during the Iron Age and Roman periods for rotary querns (Shaffrey and Roe 2022).

The rotary querns at this site are nearly all made from stone that has been imported some considerable distance to the site, with Old Red Sandstone from the Wye Valley/Forest of Dean the most numerous, followed by querns of Millstone Grit and Ludsworth Greensand. Given the emphasis on grain processing at this site, it seems likely that the local Greensand, which is not particularly well cemented, was spurned in favour of higher quality imported goods from the major quern producing quarries. The assemblage of querns and millstones from these excavations in Faringdon is large and clearly indicative of an emphasis on cereal processing on or very near the site. It is the largest single assemblage of querns to have been recovered in the region in recent years with only the assemblages of querns from Didcot Great Western Park and further afield at Thame being comparable (Shaffrey forthcoming, Shaffrey pers obs). Over 60 querns have been found in Faringdon, with 39 of those being from the present site and the remainder from previous excavations along the Coxwell Road (Shaffrey 2004; Williams 2004; Shaffrey pers obs).

Amongst this assemblage are fragments from between three to five millstones, of which four were found in a deposit within corn dryer **6010** and one in the backfill of Evaluation Trench 5. Millstones were too large to be easily powered by hand by a single person simply leaning over the stone. They required different mechanisation

and additional power to operate – whether this be extended levers and animals or two or more people such as in the Iberian pushing mill (Alonso and Frankel 2017), or by the construction of a watermill. The density of millstone fragments at this excavation and the substantial size of the pieces suggest that they haven't been moved very far from their original point of use. They can also be added to a further two millstones from excavations at an earlier phase of works on Coxwell Road (Shaffrey pers obs), which may represent additional millstones although no attempt was made to see if the fragments adjoined any in the current assemblage.

The nearest suitable watercourse appears to have been the River Cole and a watermill was in operation on that river at Coleshill some 3km to the west at the time that Domesday Book was compiled. It is possible that grain was dried in Faringdon before being ground at a mill on the River Cole and that the concentration of millstone fragments represents a reuse of the stones from an associated location. This seems difficult to believe, however, given the dumped deposit in which the millstones were found and their association with corn dryer **6010**. It is far more likely that the millstones were used in association with the corn dryer during the Mid-Roman period and that they represent the existence of an animal or human powered mill on (or very near to) the site.

The archaeobotanical evidence suggests that barley, spelt and oats were being cultivated and processed, and all of these could have been ground on the querns or millstones. Although there is often evidence for the processing of grains for both flour and for the purposes of brewing, that does not appear to have been the case here since sprouted grains are absent. We can therefore assume the querns and millstones were utilised in the grinding of grains for flour and the production of food products. Though the rotary querns are fragmented and redeposited they were clearly used and buried throughout the various occupations of the site. They demonstrate the developments in grinding equipment and organisation of work from the small beehive querns to the large disc querns and millstones which together with the corn dryer show the changes in grain processing and the centralising of flour production during the later occupations of the site.

5.8 Worked Stone *by Ann Clarke*

Whetstones and Sharpening Stones

Four of the whetstones are blocks or slabs of fine-grained to medium-grained sandstones which have been worn to concave or skewed profiles on faces and/or ends and sides (SF3, SF9, SF79 and SF328). They are all fragments. Subsequent use of SF79 as an anvil or working rest has left a pecked groove 10mm wide and 4mm deep in the centre of a worn face.

Three other whetstones are different to the above, both in material and form. A tapering cylindrical stone of light grey, fine-grained sandstone (SF323) is broken across the width. Weathering has destroyed the original working traces on the tool. A whetstone made of schist (SF413) is also much abraded on its surface though it is clearly a haunch hone that has been broken across the width. The materials of both of these whetstones are probable imports. The schist haunch hone would normally date to a Viking period so its occurrence in deposit (2320) associated with a natural formation process is of interest. A third whetstone (SF436) is a fragment of a narrow

rectangular cobble, the material tentatively identified as a possible schist. Two faces have been worn to flat, smooth surfaces.

The sharpening stones are flat sandstone slabs with grooves on the surface from the maintenance of metal blades. Both have broken after use. A group of seven short, shallow grooves was made on the surviving corner of SF11. The surface of SF12 (Plate 22) has been modified more heavily; firstly, with part of one face worn smooth and slightly skewed and with brown discolouration from use as a whetstone. Subsequently three V-shaped blade marks 4mm wide and 1-2mm deep were made in the centre of this face followed by a light spread of pecking across this face.



Plate 22. Sharpening stone SF12

The two sharpening stones (SF11 and SF12) and a slab whetstone (SF9) were found together in pit 1132 (together with quern fragment SF8). The rest of the whetstones were associated with deposits rather than being dumped in cut features.

Slab Fragments

The thirty-one stone slab fragments ranged in thickness from 8mm to 30mm and were made using limestone or medium-grained sandstone, some with shell inclusions. Most were fragments with no original edge surviving but occasionally straight or curved edges were observed as well as squared or rounded corners. One piece (SF303, pit 3196) was slightly tapering in profile and was broken across a possible perforation that had been pecked from both faces and could be described as a roof tile. The other slab fragments had no other features and may have been used in masonry as tile courses.

A slab fragment (SF315) was coloured red on one face and was found in deposit (2305), associated with the collapse of Building F. A further seven slab fragments were also associated with Building F. The rest of the slab fragments were scattered in ditches and pits across the site.

Stone slab fragments were recorded at Heybridge, Essex with a similar wide range of thicknesses to Faringdon (13mm – 40mm) and here coarse ceramic tiles used in masonry were 19mm thick (Atkinson and Preston 2015).

Triangular Tesserae

Three small sandstone slab fragments were sub-triangular in form and of a similar size 34mm–45mm in width and 38mm–45mm in height. All of the edges were broken rather than shaped. They could be some form of tesserae. Along with these can be considered a larger, more regular triangular slab of sandstone (SF2). The edges have been shaped to an oblique triangle at 150mm wide and 127mm in height and the upper face has been dressed by pecking.

Triangular slabs of similar sizes to the smaller ones from Faringdon are described on finds.org as tesserae. Interestingly, two are associated with the Building F (SF325 and SF326) which may support their decorative use, and the other (SF327) was from pit 2408.

Pounder/Grinder

A rounded waterworn cobble (SF47) was selected for a use which has left distinctive wear traces: including light pecking and grinding around one end and a flat facet has been formed by pecking down one side. There is also a circular patch of damage in the centre of one face. This may date to the Iron Age use of the area though it was ultimately deposited in ditch 1775.

Ground Stone

A rectangular block of medium-grained sandstone (SF2) has been used on the surviving end in a rocking motion which has worn down the original corner to a rounded, ground, and convex surface. Subsequently one face was covered in black residue and then it broke across the width. It was found in subsoil (1001).

Fossils

The five fossils include three bivalves, part of an ammonite, and a pebble fossil sponge. The latter piece (SF330, pit 2965) is a simple unmodified pebble with numerous dimples over the surface.

Two of the bivalves (SF54 and SF55) have been modified by grinding away the rock cement around the edge leaving the shell outline. These may have been shaped to use as a mosaic pieces, or some other applied decorative object, as the back face of fossil SF55 and to a lesser extent fossil SF54, are coated in a brown sandy matrix. Both of these modified fossils were found in ditch **7051**, together with a small, pear-shaped lump of soft, very fine-grained, white material (SF53) with a convex, smooth face which is probable daub or similar material. Another fossil bivalve fragment (SF331) with no surviving signs of modification was found in ditch 2886.

A piece of branched, black carbonate (SF118) was identified as the internal mould of an ammonite chamber. It was found in the Beaker grave 3057.

Stone Ball

The stone ball (SF322) is made from medium-grained sandstone and has been pecked all over to shape a sphere with slight flattened opposite faces. Its diameter varies from to 38mm-42mm. It could be some form of ballista ball though it might be rather small

for such a purpose. Stone balls similar to this are found in Iron Age hillforts of SE Scotland where they date from 200BC–100AD and here they are thought to have been used as counters or tallies rather than as military hardware (Clarke 2004). The stone ball was found in the dumped deposit 2774 together with the cylindrical whetstone SF323.

5.9 Worked Flint by Ann Clarke

There is limited prehistoric activity on site as demonstrated by the cut features and ceramics, but worked flint was found across the site where it was mostly redeposited in later features. The majority of the worked flint is composed of the products of knapping: blades and flakes, many of which have no surviving platform with which to determine the knapping method. There is however, a range of formal tools and manufacturing techniques which demonstrate that there was prehistoric activity which dated from the Early Mesolithic to the Bronze Age in the area prior to the Roman occupation (Tables 9 and 10).

Table 9. Worked flint
Numbers in brackets refer to finds from Ring Ditch 6002

	Total	Beaker grave	Pits	Ditches	Topsoil	Other contexts
Blades	25		3	13 (7)	6	3
Flakes	22	1	6	10 (1)	2	3
Retouched tools	10	1	5	3 (3)	1	
Core	1			1		
Pebble	1			1		
Chunks	8			6 (1)	1	1
Small flakes	4		1	2 (1)	1	
Total	71	2	15	36 (13)	11	7

Table 10. Retouched tools and strike-a-lights

Knives	3
Edge retouch	3
End scrapers	2
Strike-a-lights	2
Invasive flaking	1
Microlith crescent	1

The flint is predominantly grey, mottled chalk flint which has been altered by varying degrees of patination or cortication after deposition. A quartered waterworn pebble of dark red flint together with a secondary flake from the same nodule (SF400 and SF399, ditch 7000) is the only evidence for the use of pebble flint.

The earliest evidence for flint working comes from a large blade end scraper made of mottled grey flint and now heavily patinated (SF383, pit 6007) which is likely to date to the Early Mesolithic or perhaps Epipalaeolithic. The distal end survives of a broad (31mm), thick, crested blade which has a slightly curved scraper edge made on the distal end. Found in a large pit with numerous recuts and mixed assemblages this end scraper is likely to have been acquired at some point, perhaps in Roman or an even later period as a curiosity or else reused as a tool.

The only core found is an opposed platform blade core of fresh-looking mottled dark grey flint with both platforms angled to the back of the core (SF349, ditch 2881).

Designed to produce long, broad blades this is likely to date to the Early Mesolithic. A blade 45mm long and 23mm wide (SF430, ring ditch **6002**) was produced from an opposed platform core.

A fine narrow blade crescent microlith (SF367, ring ditch **6002**) made on flint which is now heavily corticated dates to Late Mesolithic activity in the area. It was found together with a similarly heavily corticated blade fragment (SF366).

Evidence for Late Neolithic flint working is also present: for example a blade detached along a relic patinated platform edge and subsequently flaked invasively (SF378, pit 1869); a knife made from a flake which was also detached from a heavily patinated block and with scalar retouch down one side (SF20, pit 1294); a flake from a multi-platform core (SF359, pit 2346); a possible biface thinning flake (SF355, Late Neolithic pit 2720); and a broad blade detached from a Levallois-like core (SF358, ring ditch **6002**). Other reworking of earlier material is the retouch around the distal end of a patinated core trimming flake to make an end scraper (SF397, topsoil (1000).

A fine knife was found together with a large flake (Plate 23) from the Beaker period grave 3057.



Plate 23. Knife SF119 and broad flake SF116 from Beaker burial 3057

The knife (SF119) is made on a broad blade with a deep, flat platform and is 77mm long. One edge has been modified with invasive retouch from the distal end to half way down one side. The broad flake (SF116) is slightly shorter than the knife at 59mm and also has a flat platform as well as a hinge fracture on the distal end. Two blades bore irregular edge damage down one side as if from use as a strike-a-light (SF385 and SF388).

The worked flint is scattered across the site, with just two pieces: a fine knife (SF119) and a large flake (SF116) securely dated within the Beaker period grave. The rest of the flints are redeposited in later contexts. The distribution does not suggest that there are specific concentrations of disturbed prehistoric activity. Ring ditch **6002** had a concentration of 13 pieces of worked flint (Table 9) but these included the crescent microlith, the blade from an opposed platform core, as well as the blade from a Neolithic Levallois-like core so clearly there is mixing from a range of early deposits. The Late Neolithic pit 2720 just to the east of ring ditch **6002** had a single piece of worked flint that might be a thinning flake from a biface.

A broad thinning flake (SF355) was the only worked flint from Late Neolithic pit 2720. It was heavily patinated and may not be part of the original pit deposits.

A fine flint knife (SF119), a broad flake (SF116) and a fossil (SF118) accompanied the Beaker burial 3057.

5.10 Slate Tiles *by Simona Denis*

A very small assemblage of 7 slate fragments, of a combined weight of 76.4g, was recovered during the archaeological investigations. The majority (5 fragments) of the material was collected from three discrete features; the remaining items were collected from subsoil and colluvium deposits.

Table 11. Slate fragments occurrence by context

Context	Type of Context	No. of Items	Length	Width	Thickness	Weight (g)
2049	Fill of dryer 7067	1	19	25	4	6
2308	Colluvium	1	60	30	6	15.4
2748	Fill of ditch 7052	1	60	30	4	14
2781	Subsoil	1	36	29	4	5.8
3025	Fill of pit 3012	1	55	47	4	22.2
		1	35	33	6	11.2
		1	30	20	3	1.8
Total		7				76.4

All of the recovered fragments were very small in size (Table 11) and lacked any diagnostic feature. A number of slate small objects dating to the Roman period, like gaming pieces and spindle whorls, are known; however, the items collected at Faringdon are likely to have originated from roofing tiles, although none of the examples retained the characteristic nail hole.

The use of slate as roofing material is recorded in Oxfordshire at villa sites as Shakenoak Farm and Ditchley Park. The use of this material in Roman times seems to have been very limited, compared to the Post-Medieval period (Henig and Booth 2000; 162-3), and particularly the 19th century, when slate roof tiles became common.

5.11 Worked Bone *by Nicola Rogers*

Bone Hairpins

Three bone hairpins (SF78, SF82 and SF85) were all retrieved from the same occupation layer (2319), within Building F. All three have simply-shaped plain globular or ovoid heads, and are the most common form of Roman bone hairpin worn

by women, dating from c.150/200 – 400 A.D. (Greep 1998, 269). Context (2319) also produced two 3rd century coins (SF76 and SF77); the deposit was within Building F, which was thought to have been demolished in the 4th century so it seems most likely that the pins derive from 3rd-4th century activity.

- Bone hairpin, incomplete, end of shaft broken off, with sub-ovoid head, top slightly convex. L.48mm Head diam. 7mm. Shaft section diam. 3.5mm. SF78, Context (2319).
- Bone hairpin, complete, with ovoid shaped head of biconvex section. L.86mm Head L.11mm W.5mm Thick. 4.5mm. Shaft section diam. 3mm. SF82, Context (2319).
- Bone hairpin, complete apart from shaft tip, with sub-globular head, possible slight swelling to centre of shaft. L.71mm Head diam. 6mm Shaft section diam. 3.5mm. SF85, Context (2319).

Bone Objects

An incomplete bone shaft with a pointed tip (SF112) was found in the fill of a pit 2862, dated to the post-medieval period. The thicker diameter of the shaft and the lack of a taper to it, apart from immediately above the point, suggest that this is not part of a Roman hairpin, nor of a dress pin from the post-Roman period. The lack of an upper end makes identification difficult, but one possibility is that it is an incomplete medieval stylus; these often had metal points, but at least one example from York which was entirely made of bone was identified as a stylus or parchment pricker (MacGregor *et al.* 1999, 1974-75, 8042). Alternatively, SF112 could be part of an 18th or 19th century lace-making tool.

SF122 is a fragment of a bone object made from a hollowed-out bone and with a single perforation; unfortunately the function and dating of this object cannot be made out from what remains. SF122 was found in topsoil (1000).

- Bone object, incomplete with upper end broken off, shaft of circular section with pointed tip. L.51mm Shaft diam. 5mm. SF112, Context (2863).
- Bone hollowed out fragment, itself in two adjacent fragments with a single perforation. Also two other small fragments. Largest fragment L.57mm W.10mm Perforation Diam. 5mm. SF122, topsoil (1000).

Antler Object

A fragment of antler tine that has been decorated with two inscribed ring-and-dot motifs (SF110) was recovered from a late 3rd century pit fill; such a small fragment cannot be identified with any certainty but one possibility is that it could be part of a socketed implement handle.

- Antler tine fragment, sub-triangular with two ring and dot motifs. L.29mm W.14mm Thick. 5mm. SF110, Context 2820.

5.12 Coins by Pierre-Damien Manisse

A total of 15 roman copper alloy coins was recovered during the excavation at land off Sands Hill, Faringdon. Overall they are in fair condition, allowing dating. They testify of a Roman occupation during the late third and fourth centuries (Fig. 38). Such a distribution is typical in Britain (Cooke 2011). They are all isolated coin loss though two of the imitation came from the same context. They are all from common series.

Figure 38. Coins by period

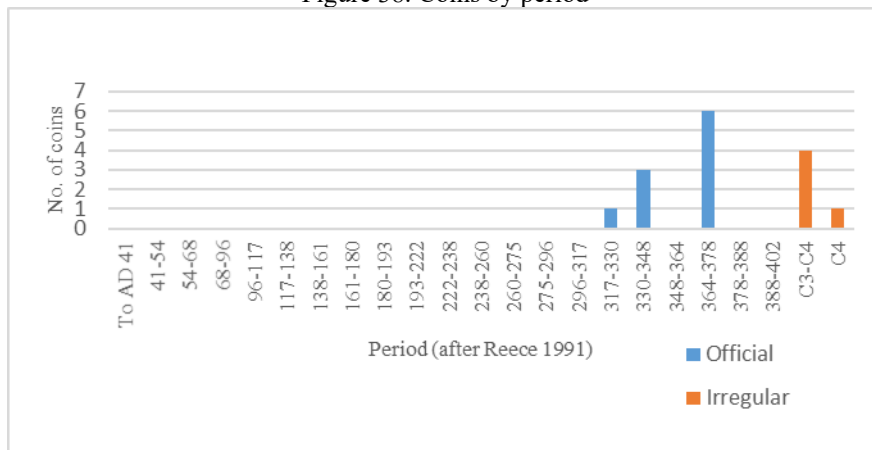
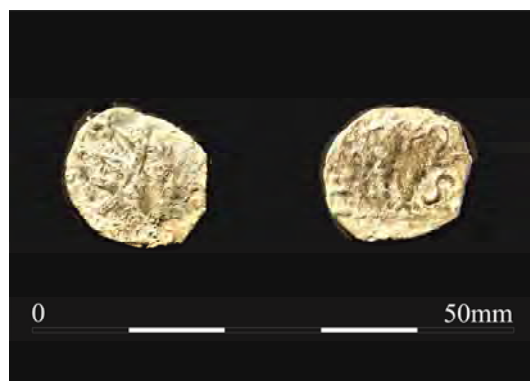
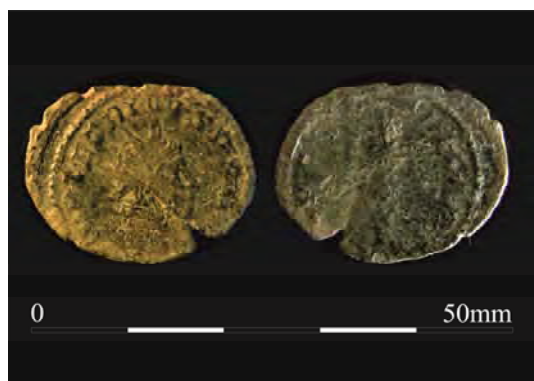
*Catalogue*

Plate 24. Roman coins SF19 (left) and SF77 (right)

- SF19 – CuA – Barbaric imitation of Tetricus I antoninianus – 3rd C. AD – Context (1277)
O/ IMP TETRICVS P FA[...] - Radiate head r. of Tetricus I
R/ IIIC[...] AVG – Victory standing l.
2.48g 23.6mm 6h
- SF77 – CuA – Barbaric imitation of Tetricus II antoninianus “PIETAS AVGG” – 3rd C. AD – Context (2319)
O/ Illegible - Radiate head r. of Tetricus II
R/ Illegible – Sacrificial implements (jug, lituus)
0.77g 15.5mm 4h

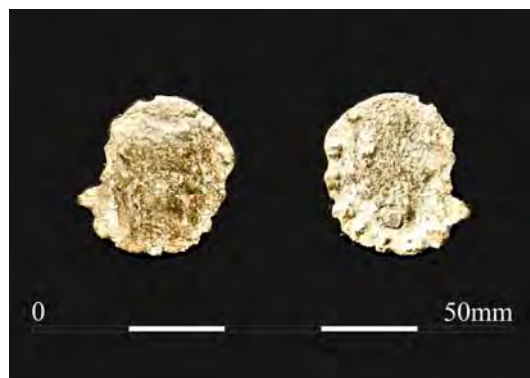


Plate 25. Roman coins SF70 (left) and SF76 (right)

- SF70 – CuA – Barbaric imitation – 3rd C. AD – Context (2308)
O/ Illegible - Radiate head r.
R/ Female deity standing r., a star in the field

- 1.43g 19mm 11h
- SF76 – CuA – Barbaric imitation – 3rd C. AD – Context (2319)
O/ Illegible - Radiate head r.
R/ Illegible
0.56g 16.7mm -h



Plate 26. Roman coins SF30 (left) and SF56 (right)

- SF30 – CuA – AE3 – 319 AD – London mint – Context (1513)
O/ IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG – Laureate, helmeted and cuirassed bust of Constantinus I
R/ VICTORIAE LAETA[E PRINC PERP] //PLN – Two victories standing holding a shield inscribed VOT/PR over a column or altar between them.
Ref. = cf. RIC 7/154
3.37g 18.7mm 6h
- SF56 – CuA – AE3 – 330-340 AD – illegible mint – Context (2110)
O/ CONSTAN[TINOPOLIS] – Helmeted and cuirassed bust l. of Constantinopolis
R/ Anepigraph //[...] – Victory standing l., r. foot on prow, holding a sceptre in r. hand and a shield in l. hand
1.92g 19.4mm 12h



Plate 27. Roman coins SF81 (left) and SF105 (right)

- SF81 – Theodora – CuA – AE4 – 337-340 AD - Trier mint – Context (2324)
O/[FL] MA[XTHEO]DORAE AVG – Draped and laureate bust r. of Theodora
R/ PIETAS RO[MANA] //[...] – Pietas standing facing r., holding an infant against her.
1.70g 16.0mm 12h 2 fragments
- SF105 – CuA – AE4 – 347-348 – Trier mint - Context (2763)
O/ CONSTAN[S PF AVG – Draped, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust r. of Constans
R/ VICTORIA [DD AVGG Q NN] /D //TRS – Two victories standing facing each other, holding a wreath in r. hand and a palm over shoulder in l. hand.
Ref. = RIC 8/195
1.65g 15.4mm 6h



Plate 28. Roman coins SF113 (left) and SF83 (right)

- SF113 – CuA – AE3 – 364-367 AD – Aquilea mint – Context (2880)
O/ DN VALENTINI|ANVS P F AVG – Draped, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust r. of Valentinian I
R/ SECVRITAS | REIPVBLICAE /B·| //SMAQP – Victory advancing l., holding a wreath in r. hand and a palm in l. hand
Ref. = RIC 9/9a
2.45g 19.6mm 6h
- SF83 – CuA – AE3 – 364-367 AD – Arles mint – Context (1000)
O/ DN VALEN|S PF AVG – Draped, diademed and cuirassed bust r. of Valens
R/ SECVRIT[AS] | REIPVBLICAE /OFI //CONST – Victory advancing l., holding a wreath in r. hand and a palm in l. hand
Ref. = RIC 9/9b
2.65g 19.4mm 6h



Plate 29. Roman coins SF97 (left) and SF90 (right)

- SF97 – CuA – AE3 – 364-367 AD – Lyon mint – Context (1000)
O/ [DN VALEN]|S PF AVG – Draped, diademed and cuirassed bust r. of Valens
R/ SECVRITAS | REIPVBLICAE /OFI //LVG[...] – Victory advancing l., holding a wreath in r. hand and a palm in l. hand
Ref. = RIC 9/12
2.51g 18.0mm 12h
- SF90 – CuA – AE3 – 364-367 AD – Lyon mint – Context (1000)
O/ DN VALEN|S PF AVG - Draped, pearl-diademed and cuirassed bust r. of Valens
R/ GLORIA RO|MANORVM /O[F]I //L]VG[...] – The Emperor advancing r., dragging a kneeling captive and holding a standard.
Ref. = RIC 9/10b
2.29g 17.9mm 6h



Plate 30. Roman coins SF5 (left) and SF106 (right)

- SF5 – CuA – AE3 – 367-375 AD – Lyon mint – Context (1001)
O/ DN GRATIAN|VS AVGG AVG – Draped, diademed and cuirassed bust r. of Gratian
R/ SECVRITAS | REIPVBLICAE /OF|I/:crescent //LVG(S) – Victory advancing l., holding a wreath in r. hand and a palm in l. hand
Ref. = RIC 9/21b
2.11g 17.4mm 12h
- SF106 – CuA – AE3 – 375-376 AD – Lyon mint – Context (2763)
O/ DN GRATIAN|VS PF AVG - Draped, diademed and cuirassed bust r. of Gratian
R/ GLORIA [RO]|MANORVM /R|S //LVGS – The Emperor advancing r., dragging a kneeled captive and holding a standard.
Ref. = RIC 9/22b
1.94g 16.4mm 12h

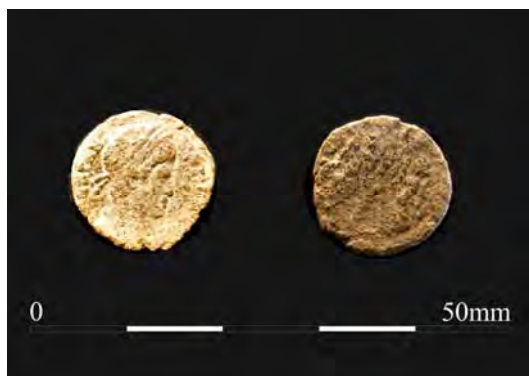


Plate 31. Roman coin SF104

- SF104 – CuA – AE4 imitation – 4th C. AD – Context (2768)
O/ Illegible – Laureate bust r.
R/ Two victories standing facing each other
1.33g 14.8mm 12h

5.13 Metal Objects *by Nicola Rogers with a contribution by Martin Henig*

5.13.1 Roman

Dress Accessories

Brooches (Plate 32)

Two Roman copper alloy brooches were identified, both being of the Nauheim Derivative form, and of Late Iron Age to late 1st century date (Cool and Baxter 2016, 1648). The more complete example is SF26 (see Appendix 4 for the conservation treatment report, Table 23), which has a decorated bow and conforms to Mackreth's Nauheim Derivative Type 4.b.1 (Mackreth 2011, 18-19), which he notes is a form that

has previously been found in Oxfordshire (Mackreth 2011, 19). SF26 was recovered from the fill of a recut pit, dated to the Flavian period, with which it could be contemporary. SF107 is also clearly a Nauheim Derivative type, but it has lost the end of its bow and catch plate, and its form has been distorted during deposition, making further identification to type impossible; found in the upper fill of a ditch which has a 3rd century date, this brooch must be residual.



Plate 32. Roman brooch SF26

- Copper alloy bow brooch, complete with spring of four turns, chord passing underneath bow, slightly convex tapering bow with series of obliquely angled grooves immediately below spring, and 3 horizontal grooves below these before plain taper to end, solid catch plate, tapering pin. Bow L.57mm W.6mm Pin L.59mm Section diam.2.5mm Spring W.11.5mm Section diam. 2.5mm. SF26, Context (1426).
- Copper alloy bow brooch, incomplete with spring of four turns, flat tapering bow which appears undecorated, end of bow broken off, tapering pin bent round towards tip, no catch plate. Bow L.27.5mm W.5.5mm Pin L.31.5mm Section diam. 1.5mm Spring W.10mm Section diam. 2.5mm. SF107, Context (2782).

Jewellery (Plate 33)

A copper alloy finger ring with ribbed decoration (SF95) was found in modern topsoil; this simple design could be a 'trinket ring' of 3rd – 4th century date (Cool 1998, 58), but such finger ring forms are found at almost any time from the Roman period onwards.

- Copper alloy finger ring, of rectangular section, with ribbed decoration. Diam. (internal) 18.5mm Section W.3.5mm. SF95, Topsoil (1000)

The Intaglio Ring by Martin Henig (Plate 33)

The intaglio ring SF96 was recovered from topsoil (1001). The intaglio itself is made from moulded glass, usually green or blue, and belongs to quite a large and common group of 'Romano-British imitations', almost all example of which are found in Britain and particularly southern Britain (Henig 2007, nos 539-578). Similar examples have been found at Abingdon (Henig, 2007, no.545), Cirencester (Henig, 2007, no.54), Richborough (Henig, 2007, no.547), Forcester (Henig, 2007, no.548), West Hill, Uley (Henig, 2007, no.549), Cirencester (Henig, 2007, no.550), Hamstead Marshall (Henig, 2007, no.551), Uley (Henig, 2007, no.553), Kingscote (Henig, 2007, app.171), Exeter (Henig, 1991, 241-242) and Dunkirt Barn at Abbots Ann (Cunliffe and Poole, 2008, 241-242). The discordant human figures can be compared with some of the more debased of the radiates and would therefore date these and the rings in which they are set to the 3rd century.



Plate 33. Roman rings SF96 (left) and SF95 (right)

Hob Nails

A small number of hob nails (24 in total) were recovered from contexts across the site (see Appendix 3, Table 20); these were used in the manufacture of leather shoes, for attachment of soles to uppers, and also as reinforcement of the sole surface. Leather elements of shoes were not found, so the hob nails represent the only physical evidence of any footwear, although it should be noted, that some shoes of the period, particularly from the mid-4th century onwards, were not nailed and thus would not show up in the material remains (van-Driel Murray 2001, 345). The low number of hob nails and apparent lack of any concentrations of them suggest that these are all random survivals.

Iron Tools

Leatherworking Tools

Two deposits produced tanged iron awls used to pierce leather (SF2000, SF121; see Appendix 4 for the conservation treatment report, Table 23); these simple tools would have had socketed handles and could date to the Roman through to the medieval periods. SF2000 was found in a colluvium layer dated to the 4th century, and SF121 from an overburden deposit dating to the Roman period.

- Iron tanged awl, tanged end incomplete, pointed working end of sub square section. Awl L.98mm Tanged end W.3.5mm Working end W.4.5mm. SF2000, Context (2308).
- Iron tanged awl, with tang of sub-square section, working end of sub-circular section. L.90mm Tanged end W.4mm Working end Section diam. 4.5mm. SF121, Context (3206)

Other Tools (Plate 34)

SF46 is a small socketed tool with a hooked blade, which was probably used as a pruning tool, or to cut leaves (Manning 1985, 56-57); it was found in a 2nd century or later ditch fill.

A very substantial object (SF44) which measures 35cm in length, may also be a tool; it has one spatulate end which appears to have a looped terminal, while the other end is of square section, and it was found in the lowest fill of a pit which had upper fills dating to the 4th century. Clearly Roman in date, the function of this object is uncertain, but the length of the spatulate handle and of the working end of the tool suggests it may have been used in working with fire. Roman tools of similar size but with hooked ends have been identified as flesh-hooks, suggesting that SF44 could be a poker or similar.



Plate 34. Roman iron tool SF46 (top) and SF44 (bottom)

- Iron pruning hook, socketed, end of socket broken off, convexly curved blade. Socket L.56mm W.16mm Blade L.47.5mm W. 12mm. SF46, Context (1782).
- Iron tool, with one long flat spatulate end with looped terminal, other end of sub-square section, extreme tip broken off. Total L.350mm Spatulate end L.192mm W.18mm Thick.4mm. SF44, Context (1754).

Knives and Shears

Two whittle tang knives were found; SF45 was found in the same deposit as the possible poker (SF45), and is unusual in appearing to have been repaired. Only visible on the X-ray, two square headed rivets are positioned just below the blade back, and the composition of the metal used in the blade back and tang looks visibly different from that of the blade. The knife conforms to Manning's Type 15, which he notes is the commonest Roman form (Manning 1985, 115).

SF23 came from the fill of a pit pre-dating the 3rd century; its shape suggests that it could date to the Roman period. Its slightly wavy back and broad tapering blade is very similar to that of Manning's Type 11A knives (Manning 1985, 114).

Blade fragment SF25 may be part of a pair of shears; it was recovered from the upper fill of a 3rd century ditch.

- Iron knife, whittle tang, with curved shoulder, back appears to slightly slope up, convex cutting edge. Two square rivets appear to attach the cutting edge to the back and tang. Blade L.106.5mm W.32mm Tang L.69mm. SF45 Context (1754).
- Iron knife, incomplete, part of tang survives, slightly sinuous back, broad blade tapers to tip which has broken off. Blade L.131mm W.40mm Tang L.27mm. SF23, Context (1368).
- Iron ?shears blade, incomplete narrow tang in line with back, cutting edge angles up to tip. Blade L.106mm W.27mm Tang L.14.5mm. SF25, Context (1366).

Structural Ironwork

Apart from a small number of nails (Appendix 3, Table 21), there is very little structural ironwork from levels dated to the Roman period. A rectangular staple (SF2001) came from 3rd century ditch fill, and a U-shaped staple (SF2002) from Late 4th century well 2167 fill; another rectangular staple (SF69) may also be of Roman date. A stud (SF2003) was retrieved from a 2nd century ditch fill.

- Iron rectangular staple. L.72mm W.25mm. SF2001, Context (2782).
- Iron U-shaped staple fragment. L.18.5mm W.20mm. SF2002, Context (2168).
- Iron rectangular staple, elongated oval with projecting ends. L.37.5 W.11.5mm. SF69, Context (2302).
- Iron stud, domed head with incomplete shank. L.18mm Head Diam. 18mm. SF2003, Context (1158).

Most structural ironwork is typically undatable, and it is clearly quite possible that some of the nails found in later levels (Appendix 3, Table 22) could have originated in the Roman period; it is also worth noting, however, that the lack of other types of structural ironwork identified in Roman levels, is also echoed in later deposits.

Keys (Plate 35)

Two Roman keys were recovered; SF75 is a barb-spring padlock key with a rectangular bit with rectangular cut-out at right angles to the stem. It operated a padlock with two or four barb springs (Manning 1985, 96), the most common type of padlock used in the Roman period (Manning 1985, 95), and it was recovered from a deposit associated with the collapse or demolition of Building F, from which the bone hair pins also came. The other key (SF29) is an L-shaped lift key, with a bit that appears to have originally had three teeth; Manning noted that this is the most common type of key found in Roman Britain (Manning 1985, 90) which would have unlocked a fixed lock on a door or chest. It was found in a construction trench backfill dated to the 2nd century or later.



Plate 35. Roman keys SF29 (left) and SF75 (right)

- Iron barb-spring padlock key with incomplete looped terminal, rectangular bit at 90 degrees with rectangular cut-out. L.126mm Stem W.12mm Bit L.17mm W.16mm Cut-out W.9.5mm. SF75, Context (2318).
- Iron L-shaped lift key, incomplete, looped terminal broken off, shaft of circular section, bit of rectangular section, at 90 degrees to shaft, with remains of two broken teeth. Shaft L.83mm Section Diam. 8.5mm Bit L.42mm W.12mm Projection W.4mm. SF29, Context (1464).

Horse Equipment

Snaffle Bits (Plate 36)

Fragments of two iron two-link snaffle bits were found in Roman levels; SF50 comprises a ring and one link and was recovered from the fill of a mid-3rd century pit. An incomplete link SF59 came from a 4th century or later pit fill. A third fragment from an undated natural deposit (SF108) could be of almost any date from the Roman through to the post-medieval period.



Plate 36. Roman snaffle bit SF50

- Iron ring with link looped around ring, part of a two-link snaffle bit. Ring external diam.82mm Section Diam.7mm Link L.67mm W.12mm. SF50, Context (1801).
- Iron snaffle bit link, incomplete, with slightly convex shaft, looped at one end, other end broken, part of a two-link snaffle bit. L.77.5mm W.8mm Loop Diam.12.5mm. SF59, Context (2241).
- Iron ring with link looped around ring, part of a two-link snaffle bit. Ring Diam.47mm Section Diam. 5.5mm. Link L.71mm. SF108, Context (2799).

Fittings

At least two iron and three copper alloy strips with rivets and/or perforations may be parts of unidentified fittings; their findspots suggest that they date from the Roman period.

- Copper alloy strip fragment, rivet in one end, other end broken. L.23.5mm W.2.5mm. SF41, Context (1617).
- Iron strip with square perforation at each end, ends rounded. L.92.5 W.32 Thick.3mm. SF80, Context (2305).

Strips/Offcuts

Featureless strips or offcuts comprise one find of copper alloy, and four finds of iron, including SF115 which comprised two strips, and was found in Beaker Bronze Age grave fill.

- Iron strip fragments x two. Larger L.21mm W.13mm Thick. 1.5mm. SF115, Context (3058).

Plate Fragment

An iron plate fragment with two nails in situ (SF2004) is part of an unidentified object, found in late 4th century robber trench fill.

- Iron plate in 3 adjoining fragments, perforated by two nails. L.(together). 96mm W.33mm. SF2004, Context 2324.

5.13.2 Post-Roman

Buckles

Two copper alloy buckles (SF86, SF2005) which were recovered from modern contexts are medieval in date. SF86 is largely complete, with a surviving pair of buckle plates and a roller for tightening the strap at the pin rest; it was recovered from topsoil, but is similar in form to buckles found in 14th century deposits in York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2894, 14319) and mid-14th-early 15th century in London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 96-97). SF2005 is fragmentary, comprising only the front part of the frame which has a lip at the pin rest; it seems most likely that this buckle was originally a double-oval form with a central pin bar, a form noted by Egan as probably having 'a specialised purpose' (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 89), and being found in London in late 13th-late 14th century contexts (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 87-89). SF2005 was found in Trench 5 backfill.

The distinctively slightly convex profiles of two further copper alloy buckles (SF2006, SF2007) indicate that both are probably from shoes and are likely to date from the later 17th-18th centuries (Egan 2005, 37). SF2006 is rectangular and although the central pin bar is missing, points for its attachment can be seen on the frame; this buckle was found in a pit fill. Also double-looped, SF2007 has retained its iron pin; it was retrieved from topsoil.

- Copper alloy buckle, in two fragments, sub-rectangular, with slightly convex narrowed sides, corner mouldings, and with a roller on the pin rest, both buckle plates survive broken across perforations. Buckle L.16.5mm W.18.5mm Pin rest W.3mm Buckle plate L.18mm W.10mm. SF86, Context (1000).
- Copper alloy buckle, incomplete, sub-oval frame of sub-triangular section, pin bar and pin broken off, with flattened projection or lip at pin rest. L.20m W.24mm Frame section W.6mm. SF2005, Context (2762).
- Copper alloy shoe buckle, rectangular, slightly convex profile with points for attachment of separate pin bar, now missing, as is pin, ends flattened. L.26mm W.18.5mm Frame section W.4mm. SF2006, Context (3137).
- Copper alloy shoe buckle, double-looped, rectangular, slightly convex profile with iron pin. L.33mm W.20mm Frame section W.3mm Pin L.19mm. SF2007, Context (1000).

Structural Ironwork

Apart from nails (Appendix 3, Table 22), the only other items of structural ironwork from later levels comprise a hinge pivot from subsoil (SF67, Context (2298)), a split pin (SF98, Context (1000)) found in topsoil, and a large suspension ring (Context (2702)), also from topsoil, all of which could be residual and cannot be dated.

Tool

A complete iron mattock head (SF4) found in topsoil must be modern.

- Iron mattock head, with both working ends, shaft with central perforation. L.179mm Blade W.26mm. Perforation Diam.25mm. SF4, Context (1000).

5.13.3 Metalworking Debris by David Dungworth

All of the material submitted for assessment was examined visually and recorded following standard guidance (English Heritage 2011).

A little under 0.3kg of material was examined. This includes non-diagnostic ironworking slag, vitrified fuel ash or clay (it was not possible to determine which), and a natural iron concretion (Table 12). The very small size of the assemblage, and the absence of any definite iron smelting slag, are consistent with the assemblage deriving from smithing activity rather than smelting.

Table 12. Metalworking residues

Context	Dating	Type	Weight t(g)
1166	C2	Non-diagnostic ironworking slag	68.0
1406	C1	Non-diagnostic ironworking slag	178.6
1446	C2	Vitrified fuel ash or clay	9.8
3098	Post-medieval	Non-diagnostic ironworking slag	6.8
2102	Mid-C3	Iron concretion	2.6
1452	C2	Vitrified fuel ash or clay	24.6
Total			290.4

This small assemblage is best interpreted as showing signs of some Roman iron smithing in the vicinity (probably in the 2nd century). If the smithing took place within the area excavated, then it is likely that smithing was a very occasional activity. The entire slag assemblage could have been generated in a single day.

5.14 Glass by *David Dungworth*

The glass assemblage comprises 46 fragments with a combined weight of 210.61g (Appendix 5, Table 24). The thickness varies from 0.1mm to nearly 10mm. Very few of the fragments are large enough to allow the identification of an overall form. A few curved fragments are quite thick and dark coloured, and so are likely to be wine bottles. Much of the glass is effectively colourless and completely free from any weathering. It is likely that this glass was manufactured after the 1830s (Dungworth 2011; 2012).

Seven fragments of glass were found in Roman contexts. Some of these are characteristically thin-walled and pale-coloured but some are much darker and thicker. A small fragment of blown glass, olive-green in colour and originating from a vessel, was recovered from deposit (3043), dated to the 3rd century. Two of the fragments (from contexts (1797) and (3222), appear to be fragments of post-medieval wine bottles and are presumed to be intrusive in these contexts. One dark glass fragment is effectively black and Roman glass of this type is known (Cosyns 2015).

A single fragment of glass came from a Saxon context (2313). This has a thickened edge which might be a rim of a vessel or the cut edge (selvedge) of broad or cylinder glass.

All the remaining glass is from post-medieval, or from contexts which cannot be securely dated; much of this glass has a colour/finish which indicates that it was made after the 1830s.

Coke by *Simona Denis*

An extremely limited quantity of coke was hand-recovered from four different deposits.

Subsoil (1001) contained two fragments, weighing 4.7g; while colluvium (2282) contained two fragments, weighing 3.3g.

Two additional examples were found in stratified deposits: (1531), fill of Roman ditch 7047, and (3055), fill of post-medieval furrow 3054, contained one fragment each, weighing 2.5g and 1.9g respectively.

Derived from coal, coke is a fuel with high carbon content, commonly used in Britain during the post-medieval period.

6 HUMAN REMAINS

Two inhumations were encountered during the excavations; one Early Bronze Age Beaker burial, the grave for SK1, and SK2, recovered from pit 1674. Full details of the methodology are given in Appendix 6; details of the radiocarbon analysis for the remains are given in Appendix 10.

6.1 Skeleton 1, Beaker Burial 3057 by *Linzi Harvey*

The skeletal material recovered from burial 3057 has been subjected to osteological analysis in order to provide an inventory of the material and assess its condition. The aim of this report is to ascertain demographic and health information about the assemblage, including the age, sex, stature and pathological or traumatic condition of any individuals recovered.

An Early Bronze Age date (c. 2600-1600 BC) has been suggested for the burial, based on the comb-decorated beaker (SF117) associated with the individual (Simona Denis pers comm. 2016). A fine flint knife SF119, flint flake SF116 and fossil SF118 were also recovered along with the remains.

Completeness and Preservation

The skeletal remains were around 85% complete and were consistent with a single adult individual. All main skeletal elements were represented, although not all bones were complete. The degree of fragmentation was high, with both old and new breaks present throughout the skeleton. This fragmentation appears to be a result of truncation or post-depositional disturbance and the poor condition of the bone itself, which was root-etched and chalky in appearance. In some areas there was root action extending into the bone itself, particularly in spongy elements such as the pelvis.

Additional Material

All material in this assemblage was consistent with human bone and most could be identified to body part. There was no animal bone or other material present in this sample.

Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)

On the basis on the number of left femora present, a minimum of one individual is represented by the remains (MNI=1). There were no repeated elements. On the basis of size, shape, robusticity and colour, and refitting fragments, it is probable all remains belong to a single individual. This is consistent with the excavation of SK1, a single individual from grave cut 3057.

It is worth noting that a single finger bone was found out of place near the skull of SK1. This element (a right third metacarpal) was not repeated in the rest of the assemblage, and on the basis of colour, size and shape, appears to be similar to the other metacarpal bones recovered belonging to SK1. It also appears to articulate well with the right second metacarpal. It is likely therefore that post-depositional disturbance or bioturbation is at fault for this out of place element. However, the recovery of disarticulated bones from individuals other than the main inhumation in Bronze Age contexts is not unknown, and with burial practises such as excarnation present in this period (Parker Pearson 1999: 86) it could have been possible the metacarpal originated elsewhere, if not for the good fit with articulating elements.

The MNI should be thought of as a conservative estimate of the number of individuals present at the site, as the true number could be higher if further ground-breaking works were to take place on or near site.

Burial Position and Laying Out

SK1 was buried in a sub-rectangular pit, in a partially crouched position on its left side (Figure 5). Laid supine, with legs flexed tightly at the knee, the right arm of SK1 was positioned across its lower torso, with the left arm slightly away from the body. Its head was on its left side, with a comb-decorated beaker positioned over the individual's right shoulder. SK1 was aligned roughly east-west, with the head towards the west. Whilst it is more typical for primary Bronze Age inhumations to be aligned north-south (Parker Pearson 1999: 87) the body position of SK1 is broadly in keeping with what might be expected of a Beaker burial of this period.

Age at Death Estimation

On the basis of age-related changes to the pubic symphysis, auricular surface and cranial sutures the age of SK1 could be estimated to between 40 to 60 years old at death. This would place SK1 into the Older Middle Adult, or Older Adult age categories.

Sex Estimation

The biological sex of SK1 could be estimated using several diagnostic features of skull and pelvis, despite the highly fragmentary nature of the remains. Three out of three sexually diagnostic features of the pelvis, including the greater sciatic notch and preauricular sulcus, were classified as male or probable male. Six out of seven sexually diagnostic features present in the fragmentary skull, including the supra-orbital ridge, glabella and mental eminence, were classified as male. The general robusticity of the remains in addition to these diagnostic features supports the biological sex estimation for SK1 as male.

Stature

Stature is genetically determined, although full height is only attained with sufficient nutrition and good health (Roberts & Manchester 1995: 26). Stature could be estimated for SK1 as around 165.5cm (5'5") plus or minus about 3cm. Although stature estimation is generally considered to be more accurate using the femur, this estimation is based on measurements of the ulna and tibia due to poor preservation of the femurs. Estimates for stature in the Bronze Age range between 167 to 177cm for males, and between 154 and 161cm for females (Roberts & Cox 2003: 86). SK1 therefore falls just under the typical male stature range for British Bronze Age males.

Metric and Non-Metric Data

As many post-cranial measurements as possible were collected. Due to the incomplete nature of the sample, only six measurements could be taken, all of which are given in Table 13.

Table 13. Metric data

Element	Measurement type	Side	Measurement (mm)
Ulna	Max length	Left	246
Humerus	Head diameter	Right	43
Tibia	Max length	Left	345
Patella	Max length and width	Left	44 x 38
Femur	Head diameter	Right	45
Femur	Head diameter	Left	46

Once reconstructed, it was possible to assess some cranial non-metric traits. These are listed in Table 14. No other traits were observed in the post-cranial material, although no formal survey was undertaken due to the high fragmentation.

Table 14. Non-metric traits
(0 absent, 1 present)

Non-metric trait	Left	Mid-line	Right
Metopic suture		0	
Supraorbital notch	1		1
Supraorbital foramen	0		0
Zygomatico-facial foramina (2 large)	1		1
Condylar facets (double)	1		1

Pathology and Trauma

A single healed fracture was observed in the fourth lumbar vertebrae (Plate 37), located at the base of the left inferior articular process. Although fractures of the lower spine are relatively common in active populations, facets like this are less commonly affected than the vertebral bodies, pedicles or spinous processes (Galloway & Wedel 2014: 185). In this case, the facet has detached, rotated and healed in a more superior and lateral position. This has resulted in a flattened articulation and has brought about osteophytic changes to the corresponding superior articular facet of the fifth lumbar vertebra. Spinal fractures in the lower back can be caused by many different things, primarily indirect trauma, pre-existing disease, or stress (Lovell 1997) but can include falls or direct blows to the back.



Plate 37. Skeleton 1 pathology
L4 facet fracture (top left); skull fragment (bottom left); L2 SN and lipping (right)

The vertebral column was largely complete, although fragmentary, with 21 vertebrae present. Schmorl's Nodes - depressions caused by an intervertebral disc hernia protruding into the trabecular bone of the vertebral body - were noted in nine thoracic and lumbar vertebral bodies (43%). Most vertebrae present (81%, 17/21) also exhibited small amounts of osteophytic lipping (additional bone growth) around the vertebral bodies or articular. Schmorl's nodes and osteophytic lipping are often designated as Degenerative Disease of the Spine, age-progressive changes which are uncommon in those under 30 years of age, but which reach 80-90% involvement after age 75 (Aufderheide & Rodriguez-Martin 1998: 96).

Spinal joint disease was noted on 14.1% (32/227 individuals) of the individuals recorded in this time period in Britain by Roberts & Cox (2003:78). Although clearly age-related, the presence of joint disease can also be associated with active or stressful lifestyles – in the Bronze Age, this would potentially be related to an increase in agricultural activity, or the clearance of landscapes for monuments and settlements.

Parts of the cranial vault were noted to be bilaterally thickened in appearance, primarily in the parietal and occipital regions. The thickness was found to be around 10 or 11mm in some areas, with the inner cancellous bone (the diploë) appearing somewhat expanded and porous. This is difficult to assign to a specific condition but may be associated with a metabolic, haematological or growth disorder. Paget's Disease of bone, for example, is a condition which disrupts the normal turnover rate of bone and can lead to thickening of the bone (Aufderheide & Rodriguez-Martin 1998: 414). However, the porosity and thickness does not appear to be extensive enough to be Paget's - nor does it appear elsewhere in the skeleton, which might be expected in a systemic condition.

Finally, a small number of bony spurs (bone exostoses) were noted on the medial aspect of distal left fibula, in the area of articulation with tibia. This is likely to be associated with a soft tissue injury to the ankle area, in which some damage to the interosseous membrane or ligaments had previously taken place.

Dental Pathology

Although highly fragmentary, small parts of the mandible and the maxilla were present, in addition to most of the individual's teeth. All upper teeth were present, and all lower teeth, aside from two (probably lateral) incisors were represented, meaning that a total of 30 teeth were present. It was not possible to assess periapical voids (abscesses etc.), antemortem tooth loss, or periodontal disease due to a lack of undamaged bony jaw material. The dental health of SK1 was generally good though, with no evidence of dental caries (cavities). Small amounts of calculus, a mineralised plaque deposit, were noted on the anterior upper teeth and on several lower cheek teeth (33%, 10/30 teeth affected). Calculus deposits on teeth are not uncommon in archaeological populations and affected around 37.5% of individuals of this period (Roberts & Cox 2003: 82) in Britain. Calculus is usually considered to be a reflection of poor dental hygiene, where an individual fails to remove plaque deposits from the teeth through brushing or scraping.

The teeth were in wear, with small patches of dentine exposed where the dental enamel had worn away during normal mastication, as would be expected for a middle aged or older adult individual. Several teeth (11/30, 37%) exhibited small dental chips out of the enamel. These changes are commensurate with the individual's age and likely reflect the use of teeth as a 'third hand' in manipulating objects day-to-day.

Discussion

The human remains from the Beaker burial represent around 85% of a single individual. The overall condition of the remains was fair, although surface detail was obscured by poor preservation (including root action damage) and high fragmentation. The fragmentation of the remains, with both old and new breaks which refitted suggests post-depositional damage and some degree of truncation. Whilst some smaller elements of the hands and feet were missing, most skeletal elements were represented in the sample and it was possible to ascertain some demographic information about the individual.

Sexually diagnostic features of the skull and pelvis suggest that SK1 was biologically male, and age-related skeletal changes indicate he was between 40 and 60 years old at the time of death. He would have attained a stature of around 165.5cm (5'5" tall) and

although relatively slight of frame, appeared relatively robust with some prominent muscle attachments.

A small number of pathological changes were noted, which included some degenerative spinal joint disease in the form of Schmorl's Nodes of the vertebral bodies and some osteophytic lipping of vertebral bodies and joint facets. A single traumatic lesion was identified in one of the lower lumbar vertebra, a healed facet fracture of the left inferior articular process. Some parts of the cranial vault appeared to be thickened, although this has not been associated with a specific condition and no other systemic conditions or infections were noted. Some small bone growths in the left ankle area suggest a previous soft tissue injury. Given the small quantity of remains, it is difficult to draw wider conclusions about SK1, although it seems reasonable to summarise him as an older male who had experienced a degree of physical activity during his life.

There were few dental pathologies and generally SK1's teeth were in good order, although fragmentation and missing bone from the maxilla and mandibular regions meant that it was not possible to undertake a full dental health survey. Small amounts of calculus were observed, which usually indicates a lack of dental hygiene (e.g. failure to remove plaque deposits from the teeth) but these were slight in nature. No cavities were noted.

6.2 Skeleton 2, Pit 1674 by Milena Grzybowska

The Human bone (SK2) analysed here was derived from fill (1676) of pit 1674. A summary of the osteological analysis is presented in Table 15. Dental inventory is presented in Appendix 6, Table 27, whereas the hard copy of skeletal inventory and non-metric traits catalogue along with metrical and pathological data are included in the archive.

Preservation

The human remains displayed excellent surface preservation and high post-depositional fragmentation.

Completeness

The skeleton was 21-40% complete. The bone fragments represented all the major areas of the body: skull, torso and upper and lower limbs. The preservation, morphology, symmetry and consistency of pathological changes of the bone as well as the presence of articulating elements, such as the cervical section of the spine, indicated the fragments represented a single individual.

Demographic data

The morphology of the mandible, humerus and pelvis indicated that the individual represented a probable female falling into the old middle adult age category. Degenerative changes of the spine further corroborated the results of age estimation.

Metric analysis

The high fragmentation of the bone limited collection of metric data to few elements (Table 15). An approximate measurement of the radial head diameter further suggested the female sex of the individual, whereas a rough estimation of stature suggested the probable female measured around 165cm±4.30cm in height.

Table 15. Skeleton 2

Feature number	1674
Skeleton Number	SK2
Sex	?female
Age Category	OMA
Age	Based on an incomplete pubis symphysis: (38.2±10y) (Suchey-Brooks 1990)
Surface Preservation	excellent
Fragmentation	severe
Completeness (%)	21-40%
Skeletal Inventory	Fragmentary: R and L mandible, C4, C5, C7, T12 and four lumbar and five thoracic vertebrae, two fragments of ribs, L scapula, L clavicle, R and L humerus, R and L radius, R and L ulna, R and L ilium, R and L pubis, L femur, R fibula, R triquetral, L MTC2 and 3, two proximal phalanges, L first distal phalanx, three intermediate phalanges, R and L talus, L calcaneus, L intermediate cuneiform, R MTT1, one metatarsal, R mandibular canine, upper premolar
Measurements	WDH: R: 58.9mm, L:59.0mm ulna maximum length (approximate - fragmentation): L: (251-3mm) radial head diameter (approximate - erosion): (20.54mm) stature estimation based on ulna (approximate): (165±4.30cm)
Non-Metric Traits	None observed
Dental Pathology	Calculus, enamel hypoplasia, periodontal disease, hypercementosis
Skeletal Pathology	Osteoarthritis of spine and possibly elbows, intervertebral disc disease

Non-metric traits

Normal variation traits are relatively rare osteological features of varying aetiology. Few of the elements were available for the standard non-metric traits observation. No normal variation traits were scored as present.

Dental pathology

The presence, location and severity of all dental pathologies were recorded to an individual tooth level. Periodontal disease (PD) and periapical lesions (PL) were recorded on an individual tooth level using methods advised by Ogden (2008), which focus on the morphology of the alveolar margin (PD) and the size of the void, porosity of its lining and the morphology of the rim (PL). In total 2 teeth and 8 tooth position were observable for pathological changes. Identified dental pathologies included calculus, linear enamel hypoplasia (LEH) and periodontal disease.

Dental calculus

Mineralized plaque (calculus), suggestive of poor oral hygiene or higher protein diet, was visible on surviving teeth. Supragingival (above the gum) mineralised plaque of right canine (Plate 38, bottom left image) indicated that anterior teeth were moderately affected.

Enamel hypoplasia

Hypoplastic defects of enamel are formed due to growth disruptions to the cells producing enamel matrix (Hillson 1996) and may be related to the low birth weight, malnutrition, diabetes or major infections. A single tooth, for which the presence and absence of this characteristics was possible to establish, showed linear enamel hypoplasia of the lower crown.

Periodontal disease

A mandible tentatively suggests the individual suffered from periodontal disease, which originates as an inflammation of soft tissues (gingivitis) that subsequently extends to the bone (periodontitis) and results in an increased distance between the bone and cemento-enamel junction of a tooth. Although it was not possible to observe any of the teeth within their respective mandibular sockets, changes to molar alveoli were consistent with traits (Ogden 2008) characterising periodontal disease. The aetiology of the disease is multifactorial with diets rich in sucrose, poor oral hygiene, the presence of calculus and increasing age being major contributory factors.

Hypercementosis

A premolar was affected by hypercementosis, a periapical deposition of excessive radical cementum (Figure 45, bottom right image). Hypercementosis is seen particularly in older people and may present as idiopathic, secondary to local factors or systemic disorders. The aetiology of hypercementosis includes a chronic periapical inflammation, occlusal trauma, impaction, loss of opposed teeth as well as possible periodontitis (Zhou *et al.* 2012). It is possible that the mineralisation of dental plaque contributed to the development of periodontitis, which may have led to the deposition of thick periapical cementum.

The mandible showed bilateral labial exostoses at the third molar position.

Osteoarthritis (OA)

Osteoarthritis is a common synovial joint disease characterised by a loss of articular cartilage and the subsequent reaction of the subchondral and marginal bone. The condition may manifest itself in the form of the pitting of the articulation surface and osteophytes, whereas eburnation (polishing) of the joint surface is considered a definite diagnostic feature of osteoarthritis. Individual was affected by osteoarthritis of cervical and lumbar section of the spine. Incompleteness of the vertebral column precludes defining the extent of the bone changes; however indicates skipped lesions. Cervical section of the spine displayed extensive alterations indicative of OA, (Figure 45, top left image), whereas lumbar vertebrae (L3/L4) were moderately affected. Observed polishing of the apophyseal facets proved the person remained active. An injury, activity, age as well as systemic and genetic predispositions may play role in the development of OA (Rogers and Waldron, 1995). Skeletal components right elbow (distal humerus and proximal ulna) showed mild osteophytosis.

Intervertebral disc disease (IDD)

Further changes to the spine included intervertebral disc disease (IDD), which results from a rupturing and herniation of the discs and manifests itself as coarse pitting sometimes associated with marginal osteophytosis of vertebral bodies. Upper body of cervical vertebra C7 was affected by advanced IDD (Plate 38, top right image) with the osteophyte slightly encroaching on to the intervertebral foramen.



Plate 38. Skeleton 2 pathology

(Top left) OA: eburnation (arrow), porosity and marginal osteophytes; cervical vertebrae (left apophyseal facets of C4/C5); (Top right) IDD: coarse pitting (arrow), marginal and surface osteophytosis, C7; (Bottom left) dental calculus, lower

Conclusions

The symmetrical morphology and pathological changes of bone as well as the presence of articulating elements and consistent character of dimorphic traits across the skeleton indicated that the human remains found within pit 1647 represent an old middle adult probable female. The inclusion of small skeletal elements, such as carpals and distal phalanges suggested the remains were to some extent articulated at the time of interment within the pit, whereas the excellent surface preservation indicated the skeleton was not exposed to the elements prior to its final deposition.

Good surface condition of bones allowed for observation of some pathological changes, whereas fragmentation and incompleteness of the skeleton considerably limited metric analysis and observation of non-metric traits. The height of the individual and exceeded the maximum heights characterising females from pre-Roman populations (Roberts and Cox 2003, 86, 103). Provided all the skeletal elements represent indeed a single individual, the observed pathological changes of bone and teeth offer some insight into the person's life. Dental calculus and enamel hypoplasia showed the individual suffered consequences of poor oral hygiene or diet high in carbohydrate and/or protein and during early life endured a period of stress, during which the deposition of enamel temporarily ceased.

Osteoarthritis of the spine, osteophytosis of right elbows, as well as degenerative disc disease may be related to the individual's age and repeated activity overloading the affected joints.

7 ECOFACTS

7.1 Animal Bone by Clare Ingrem

A considerable quantity of animal bone was recovered from Park Road, Faringdon. This report considers the material derived from the securely dated Iron Age and Romano-British deposits which for the purposes of this report has been divided into four phases: Iron Age-Early Roman, 1st-2nd century, 2nd century or later and 3rd-4th century.

A variety of features were uncovered during the investigation but most of the animal bone came from pits and ditches.

Data

A total of 3,278 fragments (Appendix 7) were recovered by hand collection of which 32% are identifiable (Table 16). The largest samples came from deposits dated to the 2nd century or later, and to the 3rd-4th centuries, with smaller amounts associated with the other phases. Overall, sheep are the most numerous species with horse, cattle, pig, dog, badger (*Meles meles*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and a corvid (probably rook) all represented.

Sieved samples produced a further 132 specimens although only 17 are identifiable and again, most of these came from 3rd-4th century deposits. In addition to cattle and sheep, rodent and amphibian remains are present but, as these most probably represent natural fatalities, they are not considered further.

Included in the NISP data are 163 specimens that belong to articulated remains and partial skeletons (Appendix 7, Table 28). Most belong to sheep and came from contexts dated to the 2nd century or later and the 3rd-4th century.

Table 16. Taxa representation (NISP)

<i>Taxa</i>	Iron Age- Early Roman	1 st -2 nd Century	2 nd Century or later	3 rd -4 th Century	Total
Horse	4	9	1	10	24
Cattle	11	40	48	132	231
Sheep	3	4	12	55	74
Sheep/goat	16	58	107	401	582
Pig	4	4	9	14	31
Dog	3	2	2	2	9
<i>Meles meles</i>	1	1	3		5
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>				1	1
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				2	2
<i>Corvidae spp.</i>				1	1
Large mammal	13	56	762	190	1021
Medium mammal	5	36	150	327	518
Small mammal	0	1	9		10
Unidentifiable	21	73	57	397	548
Total	81	284	1160	1532	3057
Total identifiable	42	118	182	618	960
% identifiable	52	42	17	40	31

7.1.1 Iron Age-Early Roman

The Iron Age-Early Roman assemblage (Figure 39; Appendix 7, Table 29) is small, consisting of only 43 identifiable specimens, all of which were recovered by hand. Almost half the remains belong to sheep although horse, cattle, pig and dog are all present.

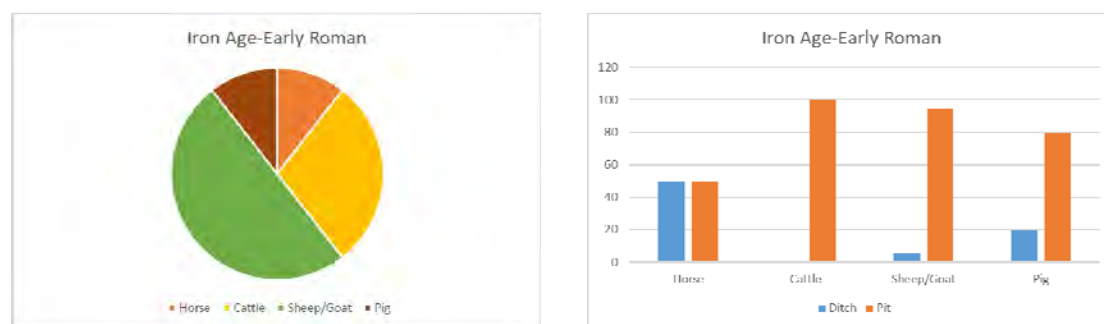


Figure 39. Taxa representation of the Iron Age-Early Roman assemblage

Horse is represented by a pelvis, a metatarsal and two lower molars and it is conceivable that the latter derive from the same individual. The crown height of the molars indicates that the animal was between 11-20 years old when it died.

Cattle are represented by 9 specimens almost all of which derive from the head and feet, the exception being a scapula. A minimum of one individual is represented

Twenty-two specimens belong to sheep and these included elements from most parts of the body (head, major limbs and feet) with a minimum of three individuals represented. Dental ageing data is available from two specimens and indicates that one individual died whilst aged between 6-12 months whilst another was aged between 3-4 years. In addition, the recovery of a humerus with its distal epiphysis in the process of fusing provides evidence for the death of a 3-4-month-old lamb.

Five pig bones were recovered, a mandible, radius, pelvis, lateral metapodial and a skull fragment. A mandibular first molar at wear stage 'b' indicates that one pig was immature when it died.

Evidence for the presence of dog comes from two isolated mandibular premolars and a mandible that is similar in size to a modern day greyhound.

The majority of the Iron Age-Roman material is in good condition. Evidence for canid gnawing is visible on a large proportion (28%) of the identifiable assemblage. Two fragments (5%) are burnt.

Most of the identifiable remains came from pit deposits including all of the cattle bones (Figure 39). The Iron Age ring ditch **6002** is a particularly interesting feature but securely dated contexts produced a single specimen - a sheep tibia that came from fill (1004).

7.1.2 1st-2nd century

During the 1st and 2nd centuries (Figure 40, Appendix 7, Table 30), sheep are the most numerous *taxa* with cattle also fairly well represented. Pig is relatively scarce being less numerous than horse. A few specimens belong to dog and a mandible to a badger.

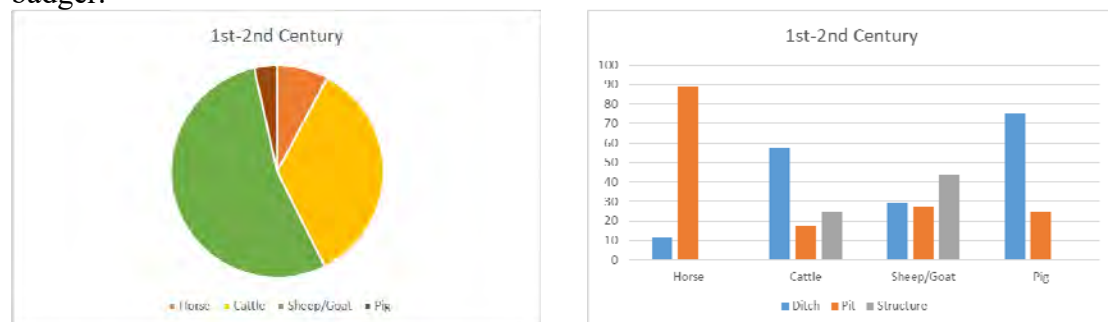


Figure 40. Taxa representation of the 1st-2nd century assemblage

The horse remains include a skull, mandible, 1st phalanx and 4 cervical vertebrae, 3 of which articulate. Crown height indicates that the mandible came from a horse aged between seven and a half and fourteen years and the skull from an animal aged eleven and a half to fifteen and a half so it is possible that they belong to the same individual. Cattle are represented by 40 specimens with most parts of the body (head, major limbs and feet) represented. Calculation of the minimum number of elements (MNE) indicates that scapulae are the most numerous element representing a minimum of four individuals. The only articulated bones are an atlas and axis. Dental data is scarce but indicates that one animal was aged between 15-26 months when it died whilst the age of another three individuals ranged from three to ten years. No evidence for juvenile animals is available from the bone data since all of the elements that were able to provide epiphyseal fusion data are fused.

Sixty-two specimens belong to sheep, 15 are from partial skeleton and articulations. Mandibles are the most numerous element according to NISP although elements from most parts of the carcass are present. The predominance of mandibles is confirmed by the calculation of MNE with a minimum of 6 individuals represented.

Ageing data is again scarce but tooth eruption and wear data indicates that 57% of the sheep represented were culled between the ages of 3-4 years with a smaller peak (29%) in slaughter of animals aged between 12-24 months. The bone fusion data similarly indicates that few animals survived into adulthood. Context (1985), associated with corn dryer **6013**, produced fifteen bones that conceivably belong to

the partial skeleton of a young animal; these include a distal humerus in the process of fusing so provides evidence for the death of a lamb aged 3-4 months.

Pig is represented by nine specimens including a mandible, ulna, two pelvises and a skull fragment representing a minimum of one individual. A mandibular first molar at wear stage 'b' provides evidence for the death of an immature pig as does an unfused proximal ulna.

Dog is represented by specimens which are similar in size to a modern day greyhound.

Most of the material is in moderate condition. 11% percent of the identifiable assemblage displays evidence for canid gnawing including specimens belonging to horse, cattle, sheep and pig. Butchery marks are preserved on a smaller proportion (3%) with chop and cut marks present on two cattle elements and cut marks visible on one sheep and one pig bone. Three sheep specimens are calcined.

Most of the cattle and pig remains came from ditch deposits whereas all but one of the horse bones were recovered from pits. A small sample of bones that include cattle and sheep remains came from deposits associated with the corn dryer.

7.1.3 2nd Century or later

A total of 1160 specimens (Figure 41; Appendix 7, Table 31) were recovered by hand collection from features dated to the 2nd century or later; almost two-thirds of the assemblage belongs to sheep including 39 bones that belong to partial skeletons or articulated remains. Most of the other specimens belong to cattle with only nine pig bones present. Horse is represented by a 1st phalanx and dog by a canine tooth.

Elements from all parts of the cattle skeleton are present with mandibles the most numerous bone according to NISP. The calculation of MNE supports this and indicates that a minimum of three cattle are represented. A mandible and two isolated third molars provide ageing data and indicate that one cow/steer died between the age of 3-6 years and the other two between 6-8 years. In addition, the distal epiphysis of a humerus is in the process of fusing thereby providing evidence for the death of one animal when aged less than 15-20 months.

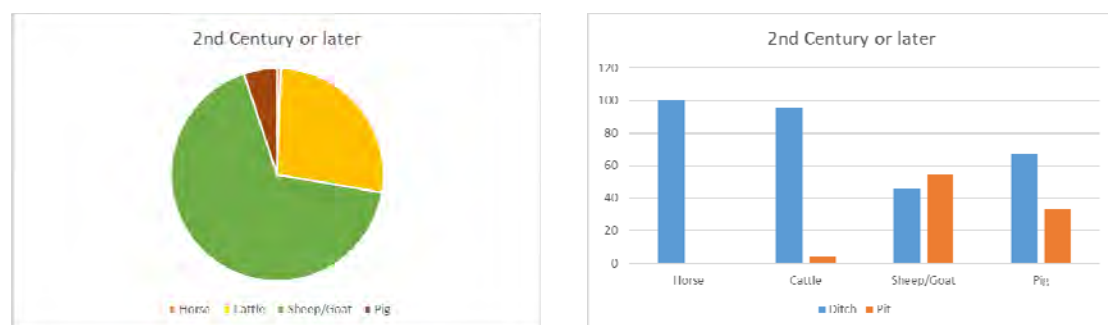


Figure 41. Taxa representation of the 2nd century or later assemblage

Sheep are similarly represented by elements from all parts of the carcass with mandibles the most numerous element according to NISP although in this case, the calculation of MNE indicates that tibiae are more numerous and represent a minimum of four individuals. The small sample of tooth eruption and wear data provides evidence for the culling of sheep at various ages. The sample of bone data, although

generally less reliable, is slightly larger and in contrast indicates that most sheep died before reaching adulthood. Pit 2669's fill (2670) produced the partial skeleton of an immature sheep; the distal tibiae and metapodials are in the process of fusing so provide evidence for the death of an animal at approximately 20 months old.

Pig is represented by specimens including one isolated tooth, a mandible, femur and metatarsal. A premolar belongs to an immature pig and the distal epiphyses of both bones are unfused indicating that at least one animal died before reaching 2 years.

The majority of the assemblage is in good condition. Nine percent of the assemblage displays evidence for canid gnawing with horse, cattle and sheep all affected. A smaller proportion preserves evidence of butchery (4%) in the form of cut and chop marks; with the exception of one sheep bone that has a cut mark all belong to cattle.

All the major domestic animal remains came from pits and ditches. Cattle and pig have a higher representation in the ditch material whilst sheep dominate in the pits. The single horse specimen came from a ditch.

7.1.4 3rd-4th Century

The largest sample of animal bone came from 3rd-4th century deposits (Figure 42, Appendix 7, Table 32) and consisted of 1532 fragments of bone of which 40% are identifiable. Further specimens came from the sieved samples. Once again, the assemblage is dominated by sheep and cattle with sheep almost four times as numerous as cattle. Fifty six bones belonging to sheep and medium mammal are derived from partial skeletons and articulated remains. A small number of pig and horse bones are present. Dog is represented by a mandible belonging to an animal larger than a modern-day greyhound. A few specimens belong to wild animals including a fragment of red deer antler, a coracoid and ulna belonging to mallard duck and a femur to a corvid (probably rook).

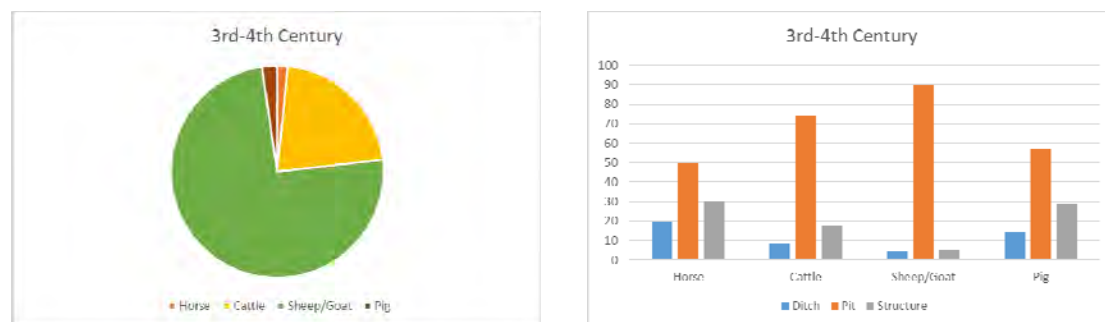


Figure 42. Taxa representation of the 3rd-4th century assemblage

Elements from most parts of the cattle skeleton are present. Tibiae are the most frequent element according to both the NISP and MNE data although less noticeably so in the latter calculation which also indicates that a minimum of three individuals are represented. Three mandibles (two of which are a pair) and an isolated premolar provide an indication of the age at death and all belong to animals aged between 15-26 months. Epiphyseal fusion data also indicates that few cattle survived into adulthood with 60% slaughtered before they reached 30 months.

Sheep are also represented by bones from most parts of the carcass but in this instance the mandible is clearly the most frequent element according to NISP and MNE with a minimum of twenty individuals represented. A reasonable sample of tooth eruption and wear data is available and this indicates a clear peak (70%) in slaughter between the age of 6-12 months. The culling of a large proportion of sheep in their 1st year is supported by the bone data. The partial skeleton of a sheep and a foetal/neonatal lamb came from a pit's fill (1488) and conceivably represent the death of a pregnant ewe. One pit's fill (1599) produced a deposit comprised almost entirely of sheep heads and feet representing a minimum of twelve individuals.

Seven percent of the assemblage displays evidence of canid gnawing with cattle and horse affected more than sheep. One percent of the sample preserves butchery marks with single cut and chops present on bones belonging to both cattle and sheep.

The majority of the 3rd-4th century assemblage came from pits with a relatively small sample derived from ditch deposits and from deposits associated with structures (Building F and well 2167). Unsurprisingly, almost all of the sheep bones and most of the cattle and pig remains came from pit deposits whilst the small sample of horse bones are more evenly distributed.

Metrical data fall within the range of measurements recorded at contemporary sites, with the exception of a horse humerus which has a trochlear breadth 6.7mm larger.

Interpretation and discussion

The Iron Age-Early Roman assemblage is insufficient in size to be able to provide reliable information concerning the economy and culture during this period. However, the predominance of sheep suggests continuity with later periods of occupation whilst body part representation indicates that, as would have been common practice, sheep arrived at the site on the hoof and the presence of a lamb that livestock were raised nearby. Despite the small sample of pig, the presence of bones from the head, fore-limb, hind-limb and feet similarly suggest that whole carcasses may have been present. Evidence for dogs comes not only from their remains but also by the recovery of bones exhibiting clear signs of gnawing.

The predominance of sheep is unlikely to wholly reflect differential butchery and disposal practices since most of the slightly larger 1st-2nd century assemblage derives from ditch deposits. Cattle remains are often more numerous in ditches than in pits whilst the opposite occurs in respect of sheep, a pattern thought to reflect variations in methods of butchery and cooking depending on carcass size. It has been suggested that whilst it may have been common practice to spit roast whole sheep in areas where food was consumed, cattle carcasses would have been subjected to more intensive butchery prior to cooking with much of the waste ending up in ditches on the periphery of settlements. (Maltby 1985).

During the 1st-2nd century, the slaughter of animals in their third year suggests that sheep were valued not only for meat but also for their secondary products (wool, manure, milk) since at this age they would have already supplied several fleeces. Livestock continued to arrive on the hoof although it is possible that some shoulders of beef were imported given the slight over-representation of cattle scapulae, bones which would not be expected to survive in greater numbers than denser elements such as the mandible. That said the sample of cattle remains is relatively small and

discrepancies in body part representation could also reflect disposal practices. The small sample of ageing data suggest that most cattle survived into adulthood so would have been valued as much for traction and secondary products (milk, manure, blood) as they were for meat. Pork from immature pigs continued to be eaten occasionally and horses and dogs were kept in small numbers.

The 2nd century or later sample is larger than that recovered from the previous phase and a higher proportion of the remains came from pits. Despite this, frequencies of cattle and sheep are very similar and so once again, there is no reason to believe that the predominance of sheep is the result of taphonomic bias. The two samples display continuity in several other respects although there is no evidence for young lambs and this might be explained by taphonomic and/or disposal bias given the relative abundance of dense tibiae.

According to the larger 3rd-4th century sample, the proportion of sheep increased at the expense of cattle. This pattern is relatively unusual for the Late Romano-British period, a time when the agricultural economy was intensifying and mature cattle were required to provide traction. The sample of cattle ageing data is extremely small but where it does exist, it also contrasts with the expected pattern since it appears that few cattle were kept into adulthood so they must have been kept primarily to provide high quality beef. There is little doubt that husbandry practices were focused on sheep and the peak in mortality of those in their first year suggests sheep were also kept primarily to supply meat. Pigs, horses and dogs continued to play a small role in the lives and economy of those living at the settlement.

There is some evidence for the exploitation of wild animals during this late phase although the piece of red deer antler could well represent an antler that had been shed and was collected rather than having been obtained through hunting. Similarly, whilst mallard duck could have made a welcome addition to the diet it is equally possible that both the mallard and rook remains represent natural fatalities.

Much of the 3rd-4th century dental ageing data derives from the deposit of sheep heads and hooves so might, in part, reflect differential disposal and recovery. Despite this, the deposit clearly indicates that sheep were often culled at a young age, possibly to avoid overwintering. Heads and feet are generally removed during primary butchery and there is historical evidence to suggest that horns and feet commonly remained with the hide and were used as handles during transport to areas where tanning and horning activities took place (Serjeantson 1989). At Park Road, there is nothing to suggest that the deposit of heads and feet consists of anything other than mundane butchery and so it may have been common practice to leave the skulls and feet attached to hides. The recovery of a partial sheep skeleton and foetal/neonatal lamb from a pit most probably represents the death of a pregnant ewe and whilst it is possible that the deposit has ideological associations without supporting contextual evidence, it might equally represent the natural death of a sick animal.

Comparison with Contemporary Sites

The relative proportions of domestic animals found at Romano-British sites is generally thought to reflect the degree of Romanisation since at many villa and urban sites the proportions of cattle and pig appear to increase over time at the expense of sheep/goat (King 1978, 1992). Investigations by Hamshaw-Thomas (2000) also suggest that the shift from sheep to cattle reflects a general economic intensification

caused by social rather than cultural change. At Park Road the predominance of sheep and its increase over time provides evidence for the continuation of a more traditional husbandry regime, with the influence of economic and dietary changes that were taking place elsewhere imperceptible. A high incidence of sheep is not without parallel at native rural settlements; for instance, at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt where over 4,000 identifiable fragments were recovered (Mulville *et al.* 2004) sheep/goat were the most numerous taxa according to fragment counts. They were similarly the most common species at many other contemporary rural settlements in southern Britain including Ewell, Surrey (Ingrem nd), Uffington White Horse Hill, Oxfordshire (Ingrem 2003) and Owslebury, Hampshire (Maltby 1987: 335).

At Park Road, there is a general decrease in the age at which sheep were slaughtered over time. The pattern is not dissimilar to that noted at Gravelly Guy where mortality profiles also indicate the focus was on meat production with a high proportion of sheep culled between 6-12 months and between 2-3 years (Mulville *et al.* 2004). There is evidence to suggest that sheep were primarily kept to provide meat during the Romano-British period (Maltby 1981), a pattern noted at other sites in the region including Uffington White Horse Hill (Ingrem 2003) and the roadside settlement at Ewell (Ingrem nd).

At highly Romanised sites there is usually a predominance of mature cattle (Ingrem 2012) and this focus on mature animals is thought to reflect the increasing importance of secondary products (traction, milk, manure, blood) in the economy, particularly the use of cattle for traction as a means to increase agricultural production. At Park Road there is evidence for the slaughter of immature cattle but whether or not this is a true reflection of the husbandry strategy is uncertain given the limited nature of the tooth eruption and wear data. Once again, the data displays parallels with other small rural sites and supports the idea that the intensification of agricultural practices is not always reflected in mortality profiles (Maltby 1982: 179-182) since some, including Ballksbury (Maltby 1981: 180) and Winnal Down (Maltby 1985: 110) have produced high proportions of immature cattle. At Gravelly Guy (Mulville *et al.* 2004) there is evidence for two peaks in slaughter – at around 8 months and as adults/old adults and this is thought to represent the continued mixed use of cattle and the tighter regulation of meat production (Mulville *et al.* 2004).

Highly Romanised settlements tend to have relative high frequencies of pig (King, 1978, 1992) and so the scarcity of pigs at Park Road provides further evidence for the continuation of more traditional farming practices. The small amount of pork that was eaten came from immature pigs, unsurprising since pigs provide little in the way of secondary products so are generally slaughtered prior to adulthood once they have reached their optimum meat weight. Evidence for this type of culling strategy is commonplace at contemporary settlements, both urban and rural (Ingrem 2003, 2012).

Horses would have been valued for transport and as pack animals and their bones are commonly recovered from Romano-British settlements albeit in small numbers. This is generally the case at Park Road with the relatively high frequency in 1st-2nd century deposits most probably a reflection of the small sample size although high frequencies have been recorded at some contemporary sites including Stanton Harcourt airfield (10%) (Ingrem nd) and at Gravelly Guy (6%) where their relatively high frequency in the early enclosures suggested to Mulville *et al.* (2004: 468) an initial continuity with the Middle Iron Age period.

Some settlements such as Gravelly Guy, have produced evidence for dog butchery and burials but their status at Park Road is uncertain. They might have been kept as pets or for guarding and hunting; alternatively, their remains might represent feral dogs living in the vicinity of human habitation sites in order to take advantage of the rich picking on offer.

There is little evidence for hunting at Park Road which again compares well with the general pattern for the period when there is a scarcity of wild animals. Whether the antler fragment was collected or obtained by hunting is uncertain but red deer are often present in small numbers and King (1978; 207-232) notes that at sites where deer are present, in the vast majority of cases they belong to red deer, a scenario illustrated at both Stanton Harcourt airfield and Gravelly Guy.

The recovery of partial skeletons and articulated remains is not unusual at Iron Age and Roman sites and some of these 'special deposits', particularly those recovered from enclosed features such as pits and wells are thought to have ideological associations (Grant 1991, Hill 1995, Ingrem, 2007). At Danebury, Hampshire the basal layers of grain storage pits regularly produced skeletons and articulated remains which have been interpreted as propitiatory offerings (Grant 1984) and at Silchester (Ingrem 2007), a cremated sheep recovered from a mid-Roman pit is also thought to represent ideological activities. Identifying deposits associated with symbolic behaviour is not straightforward and generally requires supporting contextual evidence; consequently, the exact nature of the sheep burials at Park Road, including the pregnant ewe, remains uncertain.

Summary

The samples assigned to the various phases of occupation at Park Road are small but provide evidence for a continuing focus on sheep/husbandry throughout the Romano-British period. Rather than adapting production to meet the demands of the urban markets and the broader economy it appears that the opposite occurred and the practices characteristic of native rural settlements intensified with an increasing emphasis being placed on the production of meat from young sheep and to a lesser degree cattle.

7.2 Environmental Evidence

7.2.1 Palaeobotanical and Charcoal Analysis by Luke Parker

Palaeoenvironmental analysis was undertaken on flots recovered from samples taken from 32 archaeological contexts (Appendix 8, Tables 33-35). These samples were recovered predominantly from features which have been dated to the Early-Mid Romano-British period by associated pottery. Cereal grains were frequently recovered from samples, along with associated agricultural weed seeds and cereal chaff. A feature containing multiple recuts (pit **6007**), as well as the fills of two corn dryers (**6010** and **6013**), were of particular interest in providing information on the agricultural activity that took place at the site.

The degree of preservation varied within the same context. Remains from a single context could either barely be identifiable or they could be in pristine condition. The spelt wheat grains recovered from the lower fill (1446) of pit **6007** are a good illustration of this (Plate 39; squares in the background are 1mm in width). The x10

microscope image of spelt grains from the this sample displayed a large variation in the degree of preservation, from the spelt grain at the top with all anatomical features and surface details clearly visible to the heavily pitted and barely identifiable specimen at the bottom.



Plate 39. Grains from feature **6007**
Spelt grains (left) and *Hordeum cf. vulgare* grain (right)

Charcoal assemblages consisted predominantly of indeterminate small (<2mm) fragments, with the exception of those recovered from the corn dryer **6010** deposits (1226) and (1227), the upper fill of ring ditch **6002** (2241), and the upper fill (3202) of pit 3178. Within corn dryer **6010** deposits (1226) and (1227) and the upper fill (3202) of pit 3178 well-preserved moderate (2-10mm) to large (>10mm) fragments of charcoal were recovered, with anatomical features (i.e. tyloses etc.) clearly visible.

Charred cereal remains were frequently present within sampled archaeological contexts. Generally, these were restricted to one or two grains of either spelt (*Triticum spelta*), oat (*Avena sp.*), or barley (*Hordeum sp.*); however, the fills from corn dryer **6010** (1226) and (1227), corn dryer **6013** (fill (2059), pit **6007** recuts (1446), (1447) and (1452) and nearby ditch **7000** fill (1429) also contained quantities of wild seeds, particularly those within pit **6007** recuts (1446), (1447) and (1452).

Corn dryer **6010** deposits (1226) and (1227) contained large quantities of cereal grains which were primarily barley, as well as a smaller quantity of spelt grain and an even smaller quantity of oats. A number of the barley grains from these two contexts, as with those from other barley-yielding contexts, possessed distinctly 'twisted' forms, which is a characteristic that can be indicative of many-rowed barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) (Jacomet, 2006). Those grains which clearly displayed this 'twisting' and are recorded as *Hordeum cf. vulgare* in Table 33 (Appendix 8); however, it is considered likely that all recovered barley grains within that context are also multi-rowed barley. The quantities of wild seeds contained within the two fills (1226) and (1227) of corn dryer **6010** are notably low in number, being restricted to just two Polygonaceae (buckwheat family) seeds each and one knapweed (*Centaurea sp.*) seed in the lower fill (1226).

Moderate (2-10mm) to large (>10mm) fragments of charcoal were recovered in particular from corn dryer **6010** lower fill (1226), but to a lesser degree from the upper fill (1227). All identified fragments were English ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Similarly large fragments of exclusively ash charcoal were recovered from the upper fill (3202) of pit 3178, alongside quantities of slag. Tyloses were visible within the vessels of a number of the ash charcoal fragments from both contexts. Where tyloses were not visible this is considered to result from an inability to observe them adequately due to poor preservation, as opposed to their absence.

Pit **6007** recuts 1450 and 1451 both contained fills which yielded large numbers of cereal grains. The lower fill (1446) of recut 1450 yielded a large cereal assemblage, containing a majority of oats, a slightly smaller proportion of spelt wheat and a minority of barley grains. As with the fills (1226) and (1227) of corn dryer **6010**, some of the grains displayed distinctly 'twisted' forms indicative of multi-rowed barley.

Roughly two thirds of the oats were >3mm in size. Spelt glume bases and spikelet forks were present, although only seven of the former and two of the latter were present. Roughly 60% of the entire flot from pit **6007** recut fill (1446) was composed of ruptured, indeterminate cereal grains. Wild seeds were also recovered from this context with the majority being cleavers (*Galium sp.*), as well as brome grass (*Bromus sp.*), forget-me-not (*Myosotis sp.*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and single seeds of dock (*Rumex sp.*) and buckwheat. Three hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) were also recovered from this context. The lower middle fill (1447) of pit **6007** recut 1450 contained a more restricted palaeobotanical assemblage, although this still displayed roughly similar proportions of species as the lower fill (1446) of recut 1450. The assemblage was composed overwhelmingly of charred botanical material, with charred wood being a very minor proportion of the total flot.

The lower fill (1452) of pit **6007** recut 1451 contained a significant cereal grain assemblage, which was of a different composition to the two fills (1446) and (1447) of recut 1450. This assemblage was composed primarily of spelt wheat (92 individuals), a minority proportion of oats (57 individuals) and a smaller proportion of barley grains (49 individuals). A large number (62 individuals) of spelt glume bases was recovered, alongside eight spelt wheat spikelet forks. Roughly 40% of the entire recut fill (1452) was composed of indeterminate ruptured cereal grains. In addition to these, large numbers of wild seeds were recovered. The majority were, again, cleavers, alongside frequent buckwheat, common vetch and brome grass seeds, as well as a small number of forget-me-not, dock, knapweed and Poaceae (grass family) seeds. Unlike the underlying fills (1446) and (1447), lower fill (1452) of pit **6007** recut 1451 also contained a notable concentration of charred wood. This charred wood comprised predominantly small (<2mm) and medium (2-10mm) fragments of charred twigs of an indeterminate species.

Nearby, the middle fill (1429) of ditch **7000** contained an assemblage of cereal grain consisting primarily of oats, a minority proportion of spelt grain and a smaller proportion of barley grain. Eleven spelt wheat glume bases were recovered. Weed seeds were present primarily in the form of cleavers, as well as dock, mustard genus (*Brassica sp.*), grass family, buckwheat and brome grass.

The middle fill (2400) of pit 2398 yielded a cereal assemblage composed of a small number of wheat and barley grains, but primarily a larger quantity of spelt glume

bases and spikelet forks, as shown in the microscope image at x10 magnification of spelt glume bases from the middle fill (2400) of pit 2398 (Plate 40; squares in the background are 1mm in width).

Corn dryer **6013** deposit (2059) yielded a large cereal grain assemblage composed primarily of spelt grain, in addition to a smaller component of barley grain.



Plate 40. Spelt wheat from pit 2398

Discussion

The varieties of cereals recovered are characteristic of the Romano-British period. Spelt wheat is introduced into southern England in the latter half of the Iron Age (Cunliffe 2004, 408) and gradually spreads northwards, becoming dominant during the Romano-British period. Similarly, oats become a more common food-source from the Romano-British period onwards. Although wild varieties of oats are commonly found as agricultural weeds (i.e. *Avena fatua*) and are difficult to differentiate from domesticated oats based purely on the grains (the chaff is necessary for accurate distinctions), the quantity of oats recovered from the site would suggest deliberate cultivation was practised here.

All wild seeds are typical examples of agricultural weeds encountered in field systems. The most commonly encountered wild seed in the palaeobotanical assemblages was cleavers. This is a commonly encountered agricultural weed, particularly in less well-drained and more clay-rich soils. Similarly, brome-grass is a frequently-encountered agricultural weed and occurs more frequently during the Romano-British period onwards. These, as well as the other weed seeds, are commonly found as accidental inclusions in grain assemblages having avoided screening processes that were intended to remove them.

The charred botanical assemblages recovered from corn dryer **6010** deposits (1226) and (1227) comprise primarily barley, alongside a smaller component of spelt grains. The absence of cereal chaff suggests that the cereals were being dried prior to storage as a food source, rather than being parched as part of cereal processing (see Hillman 1987). A common alternative use of barley was in brewing and was often heated in order to encourage malting; however the lack of the distinctive sprouts on the grains which would otherwise reflect malting attempts makes this unlikely.

The exclusive recovery of ash charcoal from the lower deposit (1226) of corn dryer **6010** probably reflects its use as fuel. Ash is a wood that burns well at high temperatures for prolonged periods which makes it well-suited as a prolonged heat source. It is also for this reason that ash would be a desirable choice for use in industrial processes, as suggested by the presence of slag alongside the ash charcoal in the upper fill (3202) of pit 3178.

The pit **6007** recuts 1450 and 1451 yielded samples which display variation in palaeobotanical assemblages which were probably deposited over a relatively short period of time. The lowermost fills (1446) and (1447) produced palaeoenvironmental assemblages composed almost exclusively of charred cereal grains which were primarily spelt or oat (in roughly equal proportions) and a smaller amount of barley. The clear dominance of charred grain probably reflects accidental charring of stored grain prior to its disposal within recut 1450. This differs from the overlying lower fill (1452) of recut 1451 which yielded an assemblage containing a greater proportion of spelt grain, as well as a relatively large quantity of spelt wheat chaff, specifically the glume bases and spikelet forks. This charred chaff reflects the latter stages of cereal processing where the grains were separated from the tough outer glumes. The large number of weed seeds also reflects these later stages of cereal processing, where sieving was used to remove the weed seeds, along with the glume chaff. In conclusion the cereal grains and chaff, along with associated agricultural weeds, reflect the site's rural agrarian economy during the early-mid Romano-British period.

7.2.2 Molluscan Analysis by Faidra Katsi

Molluscan analysis was undertaken on flots which were recovered from samples taken from 32 archaeological contexts in order to assess their palaeoenvironmental potential. Molluscs can provide information on the local landscape and the vegetation history. The molluscan assemblages derived from samples taken from a variety of features including ditch and pit fills, corn dryers, a grave and a posthole fill, as well as an occupation layer within a building. The sampled features are dated from the Mid-Late Iron Age to the late Romano-British period.

Results

Twenty-six samples yielded molluscan remains. The identified molluscs were recorded in Tables 36-37 (Appendix 9). The most common snail and the one with the largest assemblages in every sample was the burrowing mollusc *Cecilioides acicula* (samples <1> from corn dryer **6010** fill (1226) and sample <12> from the occupation layer within Building F yielded more than 2,000 shells). Burrowing snails are usually found as empty shells in animal burrows, ant hills or as flood debris of rivers. They can easily be transferred by roots or cracks on the ground due to their small size (maximum 5.5x 1.2mm).

Vallonia sp. and *Oxychilus* sp. were present in large numbers in pit **6007** fill (1452) (tMNI=16), the occupation layer (2319) which yielded seventeen individuals and in the grave fill (3058) which contained eight individuals (Appendix 9, Table 36). *Vallonia* sp. was present in small quantities in the fill (1226) of corn dryer **6010**, in corn dryer **6013** fill (2059) and in ring ditch **6002** fills (2727), (2678) and (2692). *Oxychilus* sp. shells were present in corn dryer **6013** fill (2059) (tMNI=27), 24 individuals were found in Building F occupation layer (2319), nine in the fill grave (3058) and seven in ring ditch **6002** fill (2709). Smaller quantities of shells were present in corn dryer **6010** fills (1226) and (2723), in pit fills (3202), (2721), (2705), (2676) and (2707), in ring ditch **6002** fills (2696), (2725), (2727), (2709) and (2692) and in the posthole fill (2711). Three shells of *A. nitidula* were present in corn dryer **6013** fill (2059) and four *Lymnaeidae* occurred in pit **6007** fill (1452). Two fills – pit **6007** fill (1452) and grave fill (3058) – yielded *V. pygmaea*. Two of the three *V. pygmaea* snails from the grave fill (3058) were charred. A single *Trochulus hispidus* snail was present in corn dryer **6010** fill (2723), one individual of *Discus rotundatus*

was present in ring ditch **6002** fill (2727) and one snail of the *Cochlicopidae* family was identified in ring ditch **6002** fill (2726).

In order to assist the interpretation of molluscan environments the species were divided into four groups: ‘catholic’, ‘open country’, shade-loving’ and ‘freshwater catholic’ groups. The ‘open country’ and ‘shade-loving’ groups made up the majority of the identified snails, when *C. acicula* shells are excluded. The ‘open country’ group are represented in these assemblages by *Vallonia* sp. and *Vertigo pygmaea* snails. *Aegopinella nitidula* and *Oxychilus* sp. constitute the ‘shade-loving’ group. The samples taken from pit **6007** fill (1452) and the grave fill (3058) contained high numbers of the ‘open country’ group, whereas high numbers of ‘shade-loving’ species were present in corn dryer **6013** deposit (2059) and the occupation layer (2319). The ‘catholic’ group (here represented by *Trochulus hispidus*, *Cochlicopidae* and *Discus rotundatus*) and the ‘freshwater catholic’ group (comprising Lymnaeidae) were underrepresented in the assemblage.

The environmental preferences of the molluscan assemblage are presented in Appendix 9, Table 37 and Figure 43. Wet environments with rich vegetation – meadow like landscapes – is the most favourable habitat for this assemblage. *Oxychilus* sp. and *V.pygmaea* snails can tolerate environments modified by humans (e.g. gardens). Shady habitats, as exemplified by swampy forest environments, are also very well represented, mainly by the ‘catholic’ and the ‘shade-loving’ group.

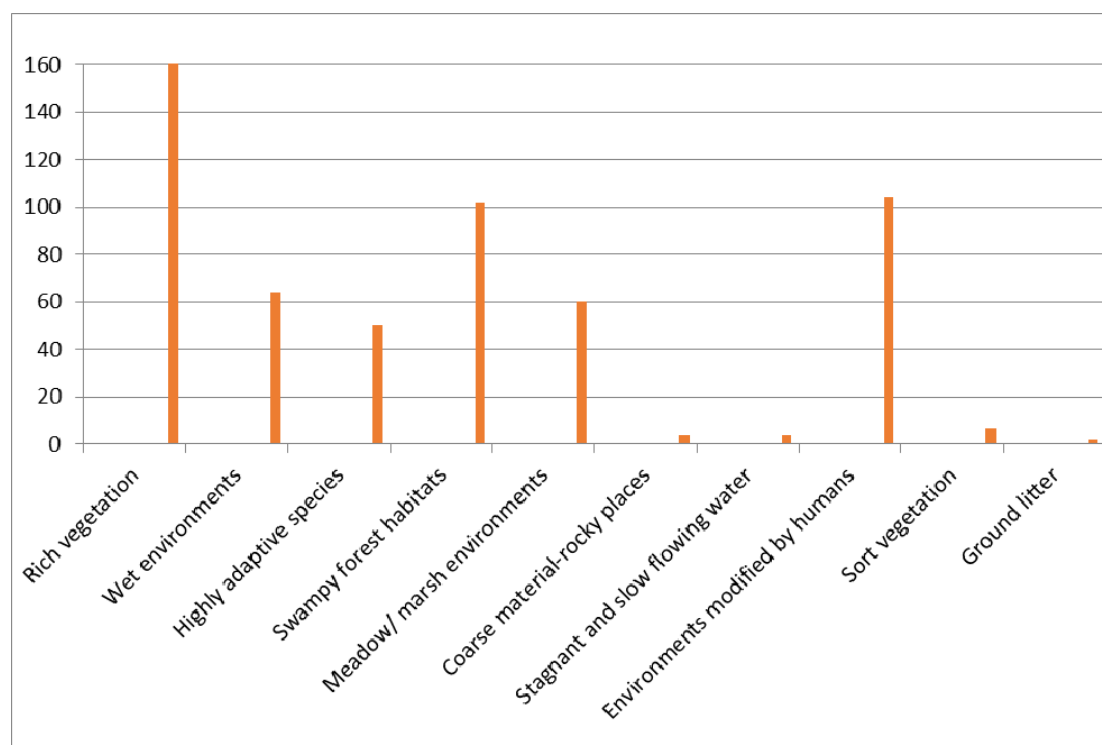


Figure 43. Molluscan environmental preferences

Discussion

The contexts with larger numbers of snails, and therefore more stable ecological conditions and slower rates of sedimentation, were pit **6007** fill (1452), corn dryer **6013** deposit (2059), occupation layer (2319) and grave fill (3058). These contexts are probably reliable indicators of the palaeolandscape.

Pit **6007** fill (1452) and grave fill (3058) presented higher concentrations of ‘open country’ snails, whereas corn dryer **6013** deposit (2059) and the occupation layer (2319) yielded more ‘shade-loving’ species. Despite that, the grave fill (3058) and the occupation layer (2319) had good representation of both groups. Molluscan assemblages recovered across a grassland-woodland boundary tend to be a mixture of ‘shade-loving’ and ‘open country species’ (Davies 2008, 39-42). Alternatively, this diversity could indicate taller vegetation, which can support ‘shade-loving’ snails amongst wet short grassland. Moreover, *Oxychilus* snails, the most representative of the ‘shade-loving’ species, will tolerate and are commonly found in environments modified by humans. Given the intensive human activity at the site from the Late Iron Age to the late 4th century, it is more probable that a meadow-like landscape with patches of long grass existed.

Among the contexts with a relatively high concentration (tMN=23) of individuals was the fill (1452) pit **6007**, which yielded mainly (87%) ‘open country’ species. Two out of a total of three individuals of *V. pygmaea* were charred. Since the pit fill contained charred seeds and charcoal it is more likely that these snail shells were burnt accidentally alongside the seeds and the wood during food preparation. Therefore, they are not indicative of the microenvironment of fill (1452) but the environmental habitat where the seeds were burnt or collected. However *Vallonia* sp., the species with the highest number of individuals in the assemblage, usually inhabits wet environments with rich vegetation, such as meadows or marshes.

The deposit (2319) is an occupation layer within Building F. The presence of snails in this deposit could be interpreted as being associated with the activities that had taken place in this building. *Vallonia* sp. snails were probably transferred into the building with other materials (note that animal bones and pottery were also recovered from the same layer). *Oxychilus* snails (especially *Oxychilus cellarius*) can live in various humid shady habitats, including cultivated areas, under or among stones, under litter, in humid cellars or in backyards under garbage. Similarly, the presence of *Oxychilus* sp. in corn dryer **6013** fill (2059) can be explained by the preference for the snails to inhabit humanly-created and shady environs.

What is difficult to explain is the presence of relatively high number (tMN=19) of land snails in the grave fill (3058). As mentioned above, large assemblages of molluscs represent relatively slow sediment accumulation. Backfilling a grave is, however, usually a relatively rapid process. It is therefore likely that the molluscan assemblage represents the ecological conditions of the ground before the burial. In this instance, the molluscan assemblage consists of a mixture of ‘open country’ and ‘shade-loving’ species, similar to the environmental conditions outlined above.

In conclusion, based on the molluscan evidence, it is likely that broadly open conditions prevailed when the site was occupied; however, rank or tussocky grassland had probably developed within and perhaps around the periphery of the site.

7.2.3 Marine Shells by Simona Denis

Seven individual shells, weighing 97.11g in total, were hand collected during the investigations; a very limited quantity of additional material (0.2g) was recovered from the heavy fraction of soil samples. All of the hand-recovered shells were

identified as British Native Oyster or European Flat Oyster (Winder 2011). Generally, the shells were in fair conditions.

Table 17. Marine shell occurrence by context

Context	Type of Context	Sample No.	No. of Items	Type	Weight (g)
1447	Fill of pit 6007	7	1	Undetermined	<0.1
2282	Colluvium	N/A	1	Oyster right valve	28
			1	Oyster left valve	5.3
			2	Oyster valve	3.1
2308	Colluvium	N/A	1	Oyster right valve	7.8
2319	Occupation layer within Building F	N/A	1	Oyster left valve	45.7
		12	2	Undetermined	<0.1
2324	Fill of robber's trench 2307	N/A	1	Oyster right valve	7.1
Total			10		97.11

The assemblage was too limited in numbers to yield any significant information, other than indicating the consumption of oysters in the area in Roman times.

8 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Documentary Archive

Project Brief
Written Scheme of Investigation
Project Report
Primary Records
Primary Drawings

Material Archive

Finds
Environmental Remains

Digital Archive

Digitised Primary Records
Digitised Drawings
Synthesised Registers
QGIS Files
Digital Photographs
Report Text Files

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services. Documentary and material archives will be transferred to the Oxfordshire County Museum Service with accession number OXCMS:2018.13; the digital archive will be transferred to Archaeology Data Service in due course.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Prehistoric

9.1.1 *Earlier Prehistoric*

During the earlier prehistoric period at Park Road, Faringdon, the landscape was one of a mixture of open country and shady environs, typical of much of the region at that time.

9.1.2 *Mesolithic*

The earliest evidence for human activity comes from a small amount of Mesolithic worked flint recovered from secondary contexts across the site. Despite the recovery

of these finds during the excavation, no features could be directly attributed to this period. The flint implements dating to the early Mesolithic period comprise a large blade end scraper alongside a core which was designed to produce long broad blade. A microlith, dating to the later Mesolithic period was also recovered. The evidence for this period at the site reflects patterns of activity seen more broadly in the immediate vicinity, such as at a number of sites along the Coxwell Road (Cook *et al.* 2004; Weaver and Ford 2004), adding to the general impression of use of this area by hunter-gatherer groups during that period. The area of the site and surrounding find-spots are located on the Corallian ridge, in an area which was not densely wooded, and adjacent to a range of environmental niches, thus providing an advantageous site for hunter-gatherer groups to exploit a range of resources. (Hey and Robinson 2011).

9.1.3 *Neolithic*

There is no evidence of further activity across the site until the Late Neolithic period, when sherds of Grooved Ware pottery, worked flint and animal bone were deposited in pit 2720. Small amounts of contemporary worked flint were also recovered from secondary contexts across the site.

The nearest location where Grooved Ware is known is Lechlade, where pits containing pottery, worked flint, charcoal and animal bone were excavated at Roughground Farm and the Loaders in the 1970s (Jones 1976). Further to the east of the site, Grooved Ware has been recovered from the Abingdon area and Radley, again from pits. Additional Grooved Ware is known from the Witney/Eynsham area, from excavations at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt and Cassington (information from Botfield 2012). The Clacton substyle is the least common from the Upper Thames Valley and has only been recovered from four sites (Corporation Farm, Gravelly Guy, Roughground Farm and Tower Hill).

Neolithic pottery has been found during other archaeological work closer to the site at Park Road, although not Grooved Ware. Alongside this, small numbers of possible Neolithic flints have been found during excavations at Coxwell Road (Cook *et al.* 2004; Weaver and Ford, 2004). Further west, roughly 1km west of the excavations at Park Road, a Late Neolithic post-built rectangular building was excavated, dated by associated grog tempered pottery and a radiocarbon sample returning a date of 2466-2294 cal BC (Sanchez and Mundin 2017). This pattern of archaeological evidence indicates that on the higher ground to the south of the historic centre of Faringdon, the Later Neolithic period began to see increased human activity following what appears to be a period of continued sporadic or transitory human presence and activity in the landscape during the earlier Neolithic.

9.1.4 *Bronze Age*

Progressing from the Neolithic and in to the Bronze Age, archaeological activity indicates increasing human presence, although still limited. The Beaker Burial within grave 3057 is perhaps the most significant of the early prehistoric material recovered from the site. Radio-carbon dating of the burial indicated a date of 3932BP±27, placing the individual firmly within the Early Bronze Age. The grave does not appear to have been associated with a ring ditch or mound, and was disturbed by a later ditch. Nevertheless, around 85% of the skeleton was present, although highly fragmented. The individual appears to have been an adult male, in a partially crouched position on

its left side. The body was supine, with legs flexed tightly at the knee and aligned roughly east-west, with the head towards the west. The burial was accompanied by a flint knife, a flint flake and fossil.

Beaker flat graves are known from Stanton Harcourt and Gravelly Guy, to the north of Faringdon, with a group occurring in and around Oxford, at Summertown and Polstead Road (Leeds 1938), Southmoor Road (Manning and Leeds 1921) and the Gene Function Building (Boston *et al.* 2003). The latter burial was of a female, accompanied by a late style Beaker and worked flint, probably within a flat grave. Three additional, later graves were also associated with a ring ditch here. A flat grave at Yarnton contained a crouched burial accompanied by two Beaker vessels and worked flint. An adult male, accompanied by a Beaker, worked flint and gold “basket” earrings was present in Barrow 4A at Barrow Hills, Radley, and a further three flat graves were also excavated here. These were all accompanied by metalwork, worked flint and animal bone. Similar flat cemeteries are known from Cassington and Foxley Farm, Eynsham (Garwood 2011). The former comprised 11 or 12 burials from which 5 or 6 Beakers were recovered, whilst 18 graves were uncovered at the latter. The Beakers here were diverse and covered a wide chronological range.

Closer to the site at Faringdon, single Beaker sherds have been recovered from neighbouring sites at Coxwell Road, Faringdon (Weaver and Ford 2004, Cook *et al.* 2004), Hatford Quarry (Booth *et al.* 2004) and also Bowling Green Farm (Weale 2011).

There is little other evidence for occupation of the site during the later Bronze Age, and activity continues to be very limited. The Middle Bronze Age is represented by a single, residual fragment of bone collected from a fill of the later Iron Age ring ditch **6002**, and radiocarbon dated to 3175BP±28.

The transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age is represented by further burial evidence, in this case in the form of a grave for an adult female dating to the 3101BP±28. The pathological evidence indicated a lifestyle in-keeping with the limited evidence for this period more generally throughout the Thames Valley. This individual's stature was larger than most in relation to national estimates for the period, but consistent with examples of female burials dating from the Bronze Age to Iron Age from some nearby sites, such as Yarnton (Lambrick, 2009). Other pathological indicators identified a lifestyle of labour intensive activities, and potentially high carbohydrate and/or protein diet, resulting in poor oral hygiene, typical of the period.

have been established at the site some time either preceding or during the Bronze Age.

9.1.5 Iron Age

The landscape remained open during the Iron Age and in to the Roman period. Evidence from environmental samples indicates a meadow-like environment with locales of long grass, perhaps more specifically towards the periphery of the site. Sampled features dated to this period demonstrate that spelt barley and other unidentifiable cereals were being grown in the vicinity.

The Iron Age and Early Roman phase at the site witnesses the rise of settlement and activity in keeping with evidence from other nearby sites at Coxwell Road (Cook *et al.* 2004; Weaver and Ford 2004) and Highworth Road (Sanchez and Munding 2017). These nearby sites provided evidence of occupation in the form of a possible shrine, farmsteads, and settlements, consisting of roundhouses, enclosures, boundary ditches, storage pits and post-holes.

The most conspicuous feature at this site during this period is ring ditch **6002**, located to the south of the site. This consisted of a circular ditch, with an entrance to the south-west. The true nature of this feature is difficult to establish, but it most probably relates to either a circular enclosure or a roundhouse. Examples of roundhouses have been excavated at Coxwell Road and Highworth Road (Cook *et al.* 2004; Weaver and Ford 2004; Sanchez and Munding 2017), some examples of which included encircling ring gullies. Alongside roundhouses, evidence of circular enclosure ditches dated to the Middle Iron Age also exists nearby (Cook *et al.* 2004). Remains of Early Iron Age roundhouses in the area measured from 5.2m to 18m in diameter, whereas those of the Middle Iron Age measured 10m to 11m in diameter.

Ring ditch **6002** differs from nearby Iron Age examples of circular enclosures and roundhouses in a variety of ways. At 21.5m in diameter, it is significantly larger. Additionally, unlike nearby roundhouses, it is not associated with extensive contemporary settlement evidence, and no internal postholes were identified within the area delimited by ditch **6002**. Whilst this is suggestive of an enclosure rather than of a roundhouse, it is not implausible that evidence of postholes may have been truncated or removed by later agricultural activity at the site. Nevertheless, within the confines of ditch **6002**, two pits were identified. Due to a lack of artefactual evidence, their exact date is unknown but, based on the environmental data which is consistent with that of the ditch **6002**, it is possible that they may be broadly contemporary.

Running north-east from ring ditch **6002** were two ditches, **6003** and **6026**, orientated roughly on the same alignment with a break of ca.7.5m between them. The former was cut by ring ditch **6002**, but did not provide any reliable dating material; however, its stratigraphic relationship, orientation and form suggest that it too may well be representative of the Iron Age activity at the site, although slightly earlier than the ring ditch **6002**. The larger of the two ditches, **6026**, provided material for reliable dating to the Later Iron Age and Early Roman period, and signifies a period of increasing subdivision of space and organisation of activities at the site.

The 7.5m break between these two ditches would have provided access between two parcels of land located east and west of the ditches **6003** and **6026**. To the east, no

features dating to this period were recovered, whereas to the west evidence of activity in this period can be seen in the form of a number of isolated pits and ditches, none of which demonstrate any clear pattern. Alongside pottery, fragments of beehive quern, amphora, burnt limestone and fired clay indicate a broad range of activities that may have been taking place within this space. Evidence of grain and cereal processing, identified via the fragment of beehive quern, is also reiterated in the form of a piece of saddle quern found in a deposit within ring ditch **6002**. Only small numbers of animal bone were recovered from this phase, and include sheep, cattle and pig, although numbers are too small to suggest which had economic importance, although sheep are normally seen to dominate during the Iron Age in Britain. Horse and dog were also present in small quantities.

9.2 Roman

9.2.1 1st Century

The evidence for the 1st century demonstrates that, whilst the site developed during this time, there was largely continuity from the preceding period. This is befitting of evidence from nearby settlements. Recent excavations at Coxwell Road (Brady, 2019 and Brady *et al.* 2021) have indicated that a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures established in the late 1st century sat adjacent to a previous Middle Iron Age settlement, and overlay earlier Iron Age enclosure ditches on a similar orientation to that of the later 1st century settlement. Further afield, excavations at Gravelly Guy to the north-east (Lambrick and Allen 2004), and Summerford Keynes (Miles *et al.* 2007) and Horcott (Pine and Preston 2004) further west demonstrate that settlements remained largely unaltered during the transition between the Iron Age and into the Roman period. At Thornhill Farm a major re-organisation of the settlement took place in the Later Iron Age, with the construction of enclosures and paddocks, which continued to develop into the Roman era (Jennings *et al.* 2004).

At Park Road, the area to the west of the main north-west to south-east ditch **6026**, which likely continued in use during this period, is still the focus of activity. A number of dispersed and isolated pits and ditches existed, with a concentration of features to the north of the site. The evidence from these features does not provide detailed information of differential activities undertaken across the site. However, it is clear that spatial planning and organisation was taking place, as features at this time are largely orientated on a north-east to south-west axis, conforming to the layout seen during the Iron Age. A possible corn dryer **7067** was located in the area to the north, oriented roughly east to west, and consisting of a flue and a chamber. Unfortunately, no elements of a superstructure survived, and it appears to have been relatively crudely constructed and heavily truncated by later pits. Soil samples collected from this feature demonstrate that spelt wheat and barely were used, much like the evidence from the Iron Age; however, in this period oats are also present. Further environmental samples from the site confirm the cultivation and processing of these species.

Located towards the centre of the area west of ditch **6026**, and oriented similarly north-east to south-west, was another possible enclosure C formed principally by ditches **6021** and **7000**. Unfortunately, much of this possible enclosure remains outside of the limit of excavation, under the current route of Park Road, and therefore limiting understanding and interpretation of the feature. Only the eastern side of the

enclosure is visible, with the northern section of the eastern side either non-existent, or completely removed by the creation of a later 2nd century ditch which aligns well with the 1st century ditches discussed here. Ditch 1631, which runs parallel to the southern edge of ditch **7000**, may have comprised a northern section of this enclosure, indicating that this was a sub-rectangular enclosure typical of the period.

No features dating to this period were found within the enclosure, but presence of animal bone and slag may point towards a range of small scale agricultural, industrial and domestic activities in the immediate vicinity.

9.2.2 2nd Century

During the 2nd century in the upper Thames Valley there is evidence of substantial change at a number and variety of settlements. A hiatus in the early 2nd century has been argued (Booth *et al.* 2007), although the pattern is very mixed. Some settlements, such as Thornhill Farm (Jennings *et al.* 2004) and Gravelly Guy (Lambrick and Allen 2004) indicate a period of abandonment, whilst others such as Summerford Keynes, Claydon Pike (Miles *et al.* 2007) and Tubney Woods (Simmonds *et al.* 2011) demonstrate radical reorganisation. Furthermore, evidence from Watchfield (Birbeck, 2001), located south-west of Faringdon, and Hatford (Bourn, 2000) to the east have potentially indicated settlement dislocation. Closer to the site of Park Road, a new settlement was established at Bowling Green Farm at Stanford in the Vale (Mudd, 1993). The earlier excavations at Coxwell Road indicated that the area of substantial Iron Age activity was succeeded by a smaller area reused in the Roman period, significantly with the construction of a shrine (Weaver and Ford 2004). At this time, sub-rectangular enclosure ditches may also have been established (Cook *et al.* 2004; Brady 2019 and Brady *et al.* 2021). The evidence from more recent excavations at Coxwell Road, alongside the results of this excavation, indicate that on the high ground to the south of the historic centre of Faringdon, during the 2nd century, significant settlement development, organisation and occupation occurred.

At Park Road, activity continues without any settlement hiatus, and the site is more intensively developed and ordered. A series of large rectilinear enclosures are established on the same orientation and reusing the previous main north-east to south-west ditch which bisected the site, and is now re-cut as ditch **6029**. Once again, the majority of activity seems to be located to the west of this ditch, but during the 2nd century activity begins to extend eastward. This is largely evident in the form of ditches and pits, the former of which are aligned with the general site layout. During this phase sheep dominate the faunal assemblage, with cattle and pig present to a lesser extent, alongside evidence of horses and dogs. This indicates a continuation of more traditional, local husbandry regimes dating back to the Iron Age, with little Roman influences. Alongside this, the environmental assemblage indicates a general continuation of cultivation of crops from the preceding period.

Enclosures A and B

Enclosures A and B dominate the southern and central portions of the site during the 2nd century. Enclosure A, measuring 63.3m by 27.9m and enclosing an area of approximately 0.210ha, was the westernmost of the two enclosures and occupied most of this area; only two pits dated to this period were located within its bounds, severely limiting the data regarding the nature of the activities undertaken within the enclosure. Animal bone found in the pits and in the enclosure ditch indicate agricultural activity

more generally. However, the two pits were relatively consistent in regard to depositional fills, indicating that potentially small scale industrial activity may have taken place, as evidenced by the presence of heavy burning, charcoal and slag.

Enclosure B appears slightly more complex. It initially comprised a larger footprint, measuring 61.8m by 41.3m with an area of 0.226ha, and during the course of the 2nd century was increasingly subdivided and altered by internal ditches, which carved the enclosure into three main areas. Whilst agricultural activity took place within this enclosure, as evidenced by the presence of animal bone and a fragment of beehive quern stone, so did industrial activity, in the form of the extraction of the natural limestone indicated by the presence of a number of quarry pits. However, quarrying was not limited to only the area within the confines of Enclosure B, but also seen more widely distributed across the site.

A similar system of 2nd century enclosures have been identified further west at Coxwell Road (Brady, 2019). Here, a pattern of five enclosures were investigated, and associated with pits containing charred plant remains, quern stones, stone tile fragments and animal bone, demonstrating a similar pattern of activity. It may well be that the quarry pits which have been identified at Park Road during this period provided the stone tile fragments seen at Coxwell Road.

Trackway D

At this time, a trackway D was constructed, running along the line of the northern edge of Enclosures A and B, with a north-east to south-west orientation. What remains of the 2nd century trackway comprises the ditches which flanked the metalled stone surface, which had been significantly disturbed in subsequent periods. No evidence of the 2nd century trackway running further east existed beyond ditch **6029**, but it is quite possible that earlier trackway ditches dated to the 2nd century could have been completely removed by the cutting of the 3rd century trackway E ditches in this area.

The construction of this trackway in a formal manner is a significant change to the organisation of the settlement at Park Road. In contrast to the layout of the previous period, it cut across an area where no previous trackway or thoroughfare stood, connecting Park Road with other areas of settlement further west, and likely downhill towards similar rural settlements distributed along the tributaries of the River Ock, such as the newly established sites at Bowling Green Farm (Mudd 1993). Interestingly, the line of the trackway running west of the site accords with the alignment of previous field boundaries, and if projected further it would align with the B4019 – Highworth Road. However, no evidence for a trackway has been identified along this projection. Nonetheless, a short section of similarly constructed metalled trackway, smaller in scale, oriented north-west to south-east, and dating to this period, was also identified at Coxwell Road (Brady, 2019).

During the 2nd century in the upper Thames Valley, trackways become pervasive throughout the countryside. They would have been a highly visible and significant component in the landscape (Booth 2011). They are associated with changes in the concept of property ownership, the definition or redefinition of landholdings, increased exploitation of the rural landscape, increased travel and connectivity and potentially increased control. The example found out Park Road fits this pattern of increased trackway construction at this time (Booth 2011). Alongside the creation of

enclosures at the site, and evidence for a range of agricultural and small scale industrial activity, notably in the form of quarrying, the trackway seems emblematic of this attempt to maximise rural exploitation and impose increasing order and potentially ownership on the land.

Enclosures and Activity North of Trackway D

Immediately north of trackway D, the possible enclosure formed by ditch **7000**, alongside **6021** and ditch 1631, appear to have gone out of use by the 2nd century. Interestingly though, the alignment of the trackway appears to respect the location of the earlier potential enclosure C. Full interpretation of this is hampered by the modern road which overlies part of this area, but some inferences may still be made. The line of the trackway, broadly oriented north-west to south-east, seems to be on slightly different alignments in the western and eastern areas of the excavation. On the western side of the eastern area of excavation, the northern trackway ditch appears to skirt the former ditch **7000**. Beyond this point in the western area of excavation the trackway reappears, albeit slightly further north. It may be assumed therefore that the former possible enclosure C, comprising ditches **7000**, **6021** and 1631, continued as a defined area in some fashion. As aforementioned, the previous 1st century enclosure ditches went out of use by the 2nd century, and further changes can be seen. To the north, a new ditch **6020** appears, which continues on the alignment of the former ditch **6021** and terminates roughly in line with the former ditch 1631. It is possible that ditch **6021** recut and completely removed evidence of an earlier ditch in this area which defined the north-eastern limit of the possible 1st century enclosure. A ditch defining the western side of this area may have also existed in this period, although this remain conjectural.

Significantly, a large pit **6007** was located in this area. Its depositional sequence, environmental assemblage, and finds assemblage are of particular note. Other than the material which dates the inception of this feature to the beginning of the 2nd century, little further evidence can be gleaned from the initial cut of this pit and associated fill. It was re-cut a further two times during the 2nd century; at this time, evidence of vitrified fuel ash or clay and concentrations of burnt wood and charred remains indicate episodes of burning *in situ*. Whether this burning was meaningful or accidental, is difficult to establish. The environmental remains suggest accidental charring of stored grain, whereas the inclusion of placed horse skulls with partial articulation of vertebrae indicate carefully curated and planned processes of deposition. The discovery of an earlier Late Iron Age to 1st Century brooch in the upper deposit of the pit could further point towards the deposition of an heirloom.

As well as this intriguing depositional sequence, pit **6007** was encircled by 11 postholes, having the appearance of a sunken feature building. Examples of Roman sunken feature buildings have been recorded in Kent (Ellis, 2017), and Yorkshire (Mackey 1999; Wrathmell and Nicholson, 1990). However, the form of these indicate much shallower structures, with clear surfaces and/or floor levels. It is more likely that these postholes relate to a potential fence surrounding the pit, or indicating that the pit was in fact roofed at some point.

The exact nature of pit **6007** remains unknown. Based on the evidence, it is tempting to ascribe ritual activity to this feature. Special or structured deposits have been identified at a number of sites (Lambrick and Allen, 2004, 489-90; Simmonds et al. 2011, 112), but most relevantly at Coxwell Road (Cook *et al.* 2004), where a pit to the

south of the site included two complete horse skulls, along with further animal remains, reminiscent of the deposits and artefacts within pit **6007**. In the case of Coxwell Road, these pits date to the Iron Age, but it is clear at Park Road that significant continuity between the Iron Age and the early Roman period existed. Generally, pits containing these special deposits often appear at entranceways or boundaries. The location of pit **6007**, at the southern end of ditch **6020**, and located directly north of the previous possible enclosure ditch termini of **7000** and **6021**, would conform to this pattern.

Whether this pit contained special deposits denoting ritual activity is difficult to establish with absolute certainty. An alternative interpretation may be that pit **6007** constituted a large roofed storage pit which suffered from episodes of accidental burning, and periodic re-use as a refuse pit.

Further north-east, a series of other smaller areas of discrete activity are visible. Another corn dryer **6013** is constructed in the immediate vicinity of the earlier 1st century corn dryer. Located directly east of this was a small sub-circular enclosure ditch **7057**, within which a number of intercutting pits was situated. Unfortunately, none of these pits were sampled, which may have further elucidated their function. It is understood that these pits indicate a series of storage pits, which were carefully partitioned from the rest of the site and located adjacent to the nearby corn dryer.

A similar sub-circular enclosed area existed directly south of ditch **7057**, and defined by ditches **7061** and **6009**. Both of these ditches did not provide more secure stratigraphic dating but are considered to be broadly contemporary, indicating redefinition of this space over the course of the 2nd century. Located within this area was a dense area of postholes, alongside fewer pits. The postholes were undated and do not appear to conform to an organised layout, neither do they represent any clear spatial pattern. Their dense distribution within this potentially sub-circular ditch may indicate a relationship and possible contemporaneity, although this is only inference and difficult to prove. Due to their shallowness, there is little that one can reconstruct based on size and morphology. If these postholes were to relate to ditches **7061** and **6009** and were dug in the 2nd century were to be the case, they may represent a series of post-built structures.

9.2.3 The Later Roman Period

The 2nd century pattern of settlement at the site of Park Road changed considerably during the 3rd and into the 4th century. Although the general axial orientation of the site remained, the previous enclosures which subdivided the area went out of use, although it is possible that those areas could still have been bounded by hedgerows no longer visible in the archaeological record. At the time, the site appeared to constitute larger spaces, the bounds of which may well lie outside of the excavation area, demonstrating a significant change in landholdings and ownership. Few features were seen to the south of the site, and activity was now focused in the area north of the trackway, and more specifically to the north-east of the site.

The trackway itself underwent alterations during the 3rd century. Some of the trackway ditches were re-cut and a large gap or open space appears on its northern side, in the area of the previous possible small enclosure C and pit **6007**. Whilst it is possible that later agricultural activity has removed evidence of the 3rd century

trackway ditch in this area, it is also plausible that an open space was created to provide access to land north of the trackway E. The trackway ditches appear to run across the whole site, and south-eastern extensions of the trackway can be seen in plan. As aforementioned, the earlier 2nd century phase of the trackway D ditches may have also run through this area, being completely removed by the later 3rd century ditches.

Small segments of ditches can be seen perpendicularly running off the line of the northern edge of the trackway in the western area, but it is to the east of the site that we see more considerable ditches aligned with the trackway's orientation. The ditches in this area are rather segmented and do not conform to neat land division, but may encompass a small 3rd century enclosure. These comprise ditches **6016**, **7007**, **7010**, **7068** and **7052**. The morphology of these ditches is not comparable and may demonstrate a slow and continual evolution and definition of this rectangular area. A single quarry pit 2751 was located in this area.

Interestingly, ditch **7052** continued on the alignment of the 2nd century ditch **6029**, but to the north of the trackway, truncating the earlier Iron Age ditch 2266. The fact that this 3rd century ditch respected earlier alignments that immediately preceded it indicates that some level of either visibility or memory of these boundary and enclosure ditches existed into the 3rd century, quite possibly in the form of hedgerows.

Alongside quarry pit 2751, a number of additional quarry pits were seen throughout the site, but mainly concentrated to the eastern area of the excavation. Some of these quarry pits produced thin stone slab fragments, some with perforations interpreted as roof tile waste; other slabs may have had a similar function or have been utilised as tile courses within masonry structures.

Quarrying and agricultural activity seem to be the main activities undertaken at Park Road. Agricultural activity for this period can most evidently be seen in the form of a T-shaped corn dryer **6010**, located south of trackway E. This corn dryer, oriented approximately east to west, was constructed of limestone, likely quarried in the immediate vicinity. Finds from one of the deposits were directly associated with milling; also, a fragment of rotary quern stone typical of this period was found. Other fragments of rotary quern stone were recovered from pits across the site, demonstrating that cereal processing was a key activity undertaken at Park Road. Interestingly many of the rotary quern stones appear to be imported from the Wye Valley/Forest of Dean area. This higher quality material seems to be favoured over more local resources, indicating a level of knowledge and specialism, alongside demonstrating that the settlement was engaging in trade networks further west. Excavations in the Faringdon area have recovered a significant number of quern stones, indicating that cereal processing was a major component of the local economy. Similar corn dryers have been found at other nearby sites, notably at Coxwell Road (Cook *et al.* 2004; Brady 2019 and Brady *et al.* 2021). Based on the environmental remains of this corn dryer's fill, it appears that barley was the predominant cereal processed at Park Road, whilst spelt and oats were being cultivated to a lesser extent, demonstrating continuity in crop cultivation from the preceding centuries.

During this period, a clay and stone lined pit **2231** was in use. The exact nature of this pit is also uncertain. The clay and stone lining indicate waterproofing and formal construction processes, and infer that it might have been a small water tank, located

near the main area of activity in the north-east of the site during the 3rd century. Two of the deposits were sampled, from which the majority of cereal grains recovered comprised spelt. Whilst this pit could be interpreted as a water tank, the environmental remains could suggest another potential use for this feature. The major component of the site appears to be agricultural, with a particular focus on the cultivation and processing of spelt, barley and oats. Malting of barley does not appear to be evident from the archaeobotanical evidence from corn dryer **6010**, but this absence of evidence may not be entirely dismissive of the idea that additional small scale brewing may have been undertaken at the site. As such, pit **2231** could have constituted a malting tank used for soaking grains. Few examples of such activity have been identified at other sites, such as at Stebbing Green, Essex (Owen and Bedwin 1988), and more similarly at Weedon Hill, Aylesbury (Wakeham and Bradley, 2013).

The evidence from Park Road offers a rare glimpse into the 3rd century in the area around Faringdon, as other nearby excavations have failed to demonstrate any significant remains dating to this time. Notably, it is at this time that the 2nd century shrine at Coxwell Road is backfilled (Weaver and Ford, 2004), and the second century enclosure system at Coxwell Road also goes out of use (Brady 2019). Generally the evidence of the Park Road site accords with changes that occurred in Britain, and more specifically the regions of the Upper Thames Valley and Cotswolds, during the 3rd century. The archaeological evidence in these regions demonstrate that many 2nd century sites were either abandoned or transformed, with a number of new sites coming into existence. East of Yarnton there was a significant decline and possible settlement shift (Lambrick, 2009), and Cassington witnessed continuity but at a reduced scale (Case, 1982). Meanwhile, further west, at Claydon Pike, the previous 2nd century enclosure system was transformed into a modest villa estate (Miles *et al.* 2007). A pattern that emerges over these two regions is that significant changes to landownership and landholdings took place, which can be seen in a reorganisation at a number of sites. One noticeable element is the increasing number of stone buildings and the creation of larger landholdings at rural sites, alongside a rise in villa sites. It has been argued that these changes may well be associated with the establishment of the province of Britannia Prima, which may have led to a series of land reforms (Booth *et al.* 2007: 77).

At Park Road, this trajectory appears to continue from the 3rd and into the 4th century, as is the case across the region. Notably, the trackway seems to go out of use by this period, and a large quarry pit is dug through it in the eastern area of the excavation. A number of other quarry pits also attest to ongoing stone extraction taking place across the site. Other pits indicate that there was an increase in the use of iron tools, as the most abundant Roman metal finds recovered dated to the 4th century. Leatherworking tools are present, as well as a possible fire poker, iron knives, and shears, alongside structural ironwork.

Pits dated to the 4th century also provided evidence of buildings in the vicinity. Box flue tiles are the most abundant identifiable ceramic building material recovered; these, together with the presence of *tegulae*, attest to a nearby building or structural remains as well.

The most considerable structure dating to the 4th century is a stone building F, located in the north-east of the site. The building was rectangular in shape, and witnessed later robbing of materials, particularly on its western half, where little remained of the

footings. The stone footings of the building probably supported a timber superstructure. Despite the heavy robbing, deposits associated with the occupation of the building contained ceramics, animal bone and cereal remains, as well as a padlock key and three bone hairpins. Whilst these may represent a domestic function, the large amounts of cereal grains suggest a specialist function, similarly cereal rich deposit we only found with cereal processing, quern stones and possible special depositions. The environmental analysis indicated a large number of molluscs recovered from the occupation deposit within the structure. The *Vallonia* type is interpreted as being transferred to the building in association with activities that were taking place across the site, whilst the *Oxychilus* type prefer shady habitats, including cultivated areas, backyards, humid cellars and other human created shady environs. In the light of this, building F can be interpreted as being associated with the agricultural activities, either as a Roman mill or barn building.

The interpretation as a possible mill is due to the presence of three certain and two probable millstones at the site, the weight and size of which would have made transport difficult. Previous work has also suggested that a mill must be close to Park Road (Shaffrey, in Brady, 2019: 38), and it is possible that this building fulfilled this function. If building F was a mill, then it would have been human or animal powered, as no suitable watercourse is present within the vicinity.

A mill excavated at Orton Hall Farm in Cambridgeshire had similar dimensions to the one at Park Road; however, there does not appear to have been a standardised plan for Roman period mills or granaries (Mackreth, 1996). Another similarly sized mill, albeit water-powered and earlier in date, was excavated at Redlands Farm, Stanwick, Northamptonshire (Anon, 1992).

Two stone wells were constructed in the 4th century, one located in the western portion of the site, the other approximately 30m east of the building. Both appear to go out of use in the later 4th century. It is at this time that the building also goes out of use, and is subsequently plundered for its construction materials.

9.3 Saxon to Post-Medieval

Whilst the Upper Thames Valley was a thriving and prosperous region during the 4th century, significant changes occurred during the 5th century onwards. Environmental and archaeological evidence in the region suggest that, whilst farming did continue to some extent, reduced river sediment deposition indicates a reduction in farming (Booth *et al.* 2007, 80). Further west at Frilford there is substantial evidence for the Sub-Roman period, nearby at Tubney Woods there is evidence of burials at this time. Further west, the key settlement of Cirencester seems to have continued through the 5th century. For Faringdon, there is little evidence relating to this period. The earliest material following the Roman period comes in the form of a residual Saxon material found at Coxwell Road (Saunders, 1998), and a Saxon pit at All Saints Church (Harvey *et al.* 2014).

At Park Road, following the abandonment of the 4th century Roman period, evidence of any activity is considerably scarce. A single pit was dated to the Saxon period, which constitutes one of the very few examples of 5th century occupation at Faringdon.

which constitutes one of the very few examples of 5th century occupation at Faringdon.

By the 10th century Faringdon is thought to have been a royal centre, and a palace associated with a large manor is located there by the 11th century. Finds of this date recovered at Park Road were often intrusive or residual, and represent very sparse activity. One quarry pit was dated to this period, which produced Minety type ware, dated between the 13th and 16th centuries. The identification of a quarry pit may demonstrate that there was increasing activity related to this period nearby. Medieval material from Highworth Road supports increasing activity, although still on a small scale, during the medieval period. Furthermore, a number of furrows were dated to this period, demonstrating that agricultural activity was taking place. The pattern of increasing agricultural activity to the area south of Faringdon's historic centre continues into the post-medieval period. At Park Road this is represented by a number of furrows, ditches, pits and quarry pits, indicating a slowly increasing intensive exploitation of the rural landscape.

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Appendix 1. Iron Age and Roman Pottery

by Jane Timby

Methodology

The pottery was recorded using recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (Barclay et al. 2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The later prehistoric wares are coded using letters to denote the main fabric constituents as recommended in PCRG (1997). Known named or traded Roman wares are coded with reference to the National Roman fabric reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998; <http://www.romanpotterystudy.org/>). Rims were additionally coded to form and, where relevant, types are referenced to known corpora (e.g. Young 1977). The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Rims were additionally measured for diameter and the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE) (cf. Orton et al. 1993). Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. Unwashed material was analysed for diagnostic material but smaller body sherds of reduced sandy wares grouped generically. For the assessment the grey-wares were treated quite generically with the bulk being subsumed under Oxfordshire grey sandy ware. Post-Roman and other non-ceramic material was noted and removed and bagged separately. Fragments of natural unworked stone were discarded. A summary in context order of the main fabrics recorded, accompanied by a spot date, can be found in Table 18.

Table 18. Iron Age and Roman Pottery occurrence by context and type

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
1000		11	5		11	9	18	10	112	3	22	44	245	2595.5	Post-Med
1001		17	7		2	4	15	2	33		6	21	107	2713	Post-Med
1009												1	1	3	Roman
1014		4							4		34	37	79	877	LC1-C2
1020												1	1	4	Roman
1022			1										1	6	C1+
1023		1											1	5	IA
1038									1				1	7	C2+
1042									2			2	4	20	C2+
1050			2										2	41	C1+
1058		33	7				2	1			11	9	63	1330	IA-Roman
1060									7			15	22	146	C2+
1082		1											1	5	IA
1085		1	3						7		2	3	16	287	LC1-C2
1089			7						1			80	88	2259	LC2-C3
1094								1	1		1	1	4	202	C2+
1095		1							2			2	5	44	C2+
1096									4				4	41	C2+
1100									2		1	1	4	20	C2+
1109				1				1			4	38	44	1348	LC1-C2
1110			7			1			29		8	83	128	949	C2+
1112		1				2			3				6	50	C2+
1116		4	1		1	1						1	8	97.5	C2+
1119			1										1	9	LIA-E Roman
1125												1	1	52	C2+
1128		1					5		9			1	16	217	C4
1131		1						1	1			1	4	32	C2+
1133		3	1			4	7	1	29	2	2	7	56	742	LC4
1135		11											11	157	IA
1139												1	1	4	Roman
1146		2											2	7	LIA
1148		2											2	73	C1
1149		5	7						2		2	13	29	410	LC3-C4
1154		34									10		44	687	C1
1158									2				2	11	LC1-C2+
1160			1								1	1	3	11	C1
1164		1	6					1	9			2	19	161	C2+
1166		5				1			2		1		9	112	C2+
1168			1			4		1	4			3	13	498	C2+
1170		17											17	184	LIA

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
1174						1			1			2	4	52	C3+
1175									4			1	5	125	C2+
1180		1			1		2		6				10	140	MC3+
1181									2			1	3	98	C2+
1182						2	2		1			1	6	53	MC3+
1183									3		1		4	20	LC1-C2+
1184						3		1	3				7	69	EC3+
1185						2					1		3	197	C2+
1186						3		1	7			1	12	35	C2+
1188			1					1	4			2	8	133	C2+
1189						1							1	28	C3
1195									3			5	8	100	C2+
1197		3										2	5	21	C2+
1202		1	1						9			2	13	294	LC1-C2
1203		2	2						4		6		14	245	C2+
1204									2		1		3	43	LC1-C2
1207						2		9	7			3	21	255	C3+
1213			4						6		1	1	12	212	C2+
1221									5				5	61	C2+
1223						1	1		2				4	43	MC3+
1226									4			3	7	417	C2+
1226 <1>									11			5	16	68	C2+
1227		2				4	8		12			4	30	541	MC3+
1227 <2>						2			1			3	6	3	MC3+
1241												1	1	11	LC1-C2
1245									1			2	3	179	LC1-C2
1248			1										1	9	LIA-E Roman
1250									1			3	4	45	C2+
1254									1				1	10	C2+
1255									6				6	94	C2+
1258												1	1	32	C2+
1269			1								2	1	4	82	LIA-E Roman
1273			2			1	13	3	74			10	103	626	Post-Med
1275		4	4									2	10	78	LIA-E Roman
1277		3			4	8	10	5	94		2	33	159	1357	C2+
1279							1		4			5	10	123	MC3+
1281							2		17			1	20	98	MC3+
1285							2		8			4	14	53	MC4
1289						2			8			1	11	103	C3
1291									1	3		2	6	38	LC4+
1293			1			1					2		4	43	C2+

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BBI	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
1295			2										2	295	LIA-E Roman
1304						2	1	1	11			3	18	207	MC3+
1306			3	3							1	2	9	50	LIA-E Roman
1315		1					1				1	8	11	716	MC3+
1318									1				1	13	C2+
1320									1				1	43	C2+
1322						1			1		2	1	5	133	C2+
1325		5	5								7	13	30	418	LIA-E Roman
1327		1	1						1				3	32	LC1-C2
1329								1	9			1	11	66	C2+
1334							1		3		2	1	7	89.5	MC3+
1336									1		4		5	70	LC1-C2
1337						1			7		3	1	12	101	C2+
1338		3							3			2	8	47	LC1-C2
1341									1			1	2	7	C2+
1343												1	1	68	C2
1345						4			3			6	13	118	LC2+
1347		4	8						2		1	5	20	883	LC1-C2
1350			1			1	2		19	1	1	3	28	265	LC4+
1355			1				1					14	16	291	MC3+
1357									2				2	9	C2+
1360						5	6		38			11	60	708	MC3+
1362									6				6	72	C2+
1365		1	1		1	2	3		21			5	34	547	MC3+
1374						1		1				9	11	122	LC3-C4
1375									3			3	6	139	C2+
1376		1				2			1			4	8	89	C2+
1378									2			2	4	32	LC1-C2
1379									4		5	2	11	99	C2+
1380					2	2	9		18		2	10	43	582	MC3+
1382									1				1	2	C2+
1387						2			15		3	3	23	513	C2+
1390						1			5		1		7	66	MC2+
1398									2			1	3	91	C2+
1399									1				1	8	Roman
1403									2			1	3	18	C2+
1404				2									2	27	C1-C2
1406		13	1						3		3	2	22	319	LC1-C2
1408		2	1										3	61	LIA
1410		1				1							2	10	C2+
1412		3	3						1		3	3	13	161	LC1-C2

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
1414			1						1				2	13	LC1-C2
1420									3				3	8	Roman
1424		5							1			1	7	26	M-LC1
1426		5	2						6		3	5	21	388	M-LC1
1428		7							3		2	1	13	130	M-LC1+
1430		7	5						2		2	3	19	571	M-LC1+
1432		5							2		2	3	12	235	LC1-C2
1433		6							3			1	10	99.5	M-LC1
1436						1			3		1		5	26	C2+
1437									6		1	2	9	159	C2+
1445		1	5						1		5	5	17	393	LC1-C2
1446			5	1					3			2	11	305	LC1-C2
1446 <6>						2			3				5	14	LC1-C2
1447		1	1									1	3	30	M-LC1
1449												1	1		C2+
1452		2					3		15		1	31	52	1038	MC3+
1452 <5>							9						9	60	270-400
1454		7	6	5			1		19		34	9	81	1207	MC3+
1456									2			1	3	20	C2+
1458									1				1	11	C2+
1461		8	2						1		6	2	19	413	LC1-C2
1464							4		19	1		7	31	238	Post-Med
1466			1										1	28	LIA-E Roman
1469		1	1						3				5	13	LC1-C2
1470									1				1	6	LC1-C2+
1472		3							6		2		11	75	LC1-C2+
1477		2											2	16	LIA-E Roman
1486											1	2	3	32	LC1-C2+
1488						9	1	2	50		1	34	97	1169.5	MC3+
1495		1	1						1		3	5	11	367	M-LC1
1497									2				2	14	C2+
1503									3				3	130	C2+
1511			1										1	58	LIA-E Roman
1513							1		1		2		4	101.5	MC3+
1515						4		1	25		4	7	41	470	C2
1519			1			1					1	1	4	97	C2
1521		1					2						3	33	MC3+
1528									1			2	3	68	LC1-C2
1531									3			2	5	21	LC1-C2
1532						1			1		1		3	11	C2+
1535			4									3	7	117	E Roman

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
1539									2				2	10	C2+
1541						1					1		2	12	C2+
1548													6	210	
1567			4						1				5	22	LC1-C2+
1569						5							5	66	C2
1572						2		1	6			1	10	76.5	C2
1573						1						1	2	65	C2
1579									1				1	28	C2+
1587									1				1	5	C2+
1599			1			1	1						3	30	MC3+
1602		1	1				1		5			1	9	23.5	Post-Med
1617							2					3	5	33	MC3+
1621									2				2	9	C2+
1630						1	1		1		1	1	5	65.5	MC3+
1632		2										1	3	28	C1
1636		1	1						1				3	4	LC1-C2
1642						1					4	3	8	100	C2+
1644						1					1		2	55	MC2+
1658											1		1	43	LC1-C2
1662											1		1	4	C1-C2
1664						1	2		9	3		2	17	107	LC4
1666						3	1		4				8	79	MC3+
1667									1			1	2	16	LC1-C2
1669		1				1	1		7		1	4	15	76	MC3+
1671									9				9	77	C2+
1673		5				1	18		88	13	11	10	146	1411	LC4+
1676									1				1	1	C2+
1678									5			3	8	108	C2+
1681									1				1	6	C2+
1683									1				1	5	C2+
1685											1		1	29	C2+
1687									1				1	11	C2+
1694		1										2	3	53	LC1-C2+
1695		1										1	2	102	LIA-E Roman
1698			1						2				3	24	C2+
1700		1	1									2	4	32	LIA-E Roman
1706											1		1	20	C1-C2
1709		1	1						1				3	22	C2+
1714											2	1	3	40	C1-C2
1718		6											6	136	LIA
1721		2	1	1							1	5	10	170	LIA-E Roman

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BBI	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
1739					1				3		3	8	15	118.5	C2
1745							3		1		1	2	7	83	MC3+
1748									8		1	1	10	137	LC1-C2+
1750									1			4	5	17	C2+
1753		1	1				4	1	21	2	1	28	59	399	LC4+
1754													2	9	Roman
1762									2		3		5	144	C2+
1767		2	1						3			1	7	236	C2+
1771		1					1		1		1	1	5	45	EC2
1774					1			1	7		4	5	18	308.5	C2+
1776		5				1			3		3	5	17	258	C2+
1782		1	2						1				4	44	LC1-C2
1788									1				1	8	Roman
1792		1				1							2	8	C2+
1795											2		2	36	LC1-C2
1796									1			1	2	34	C2+
1797		1	2									1	4	65	E Roman
1798												1	1	16	LIA-E Roman
1799		1	1										2	36	LIA-E Roman
1801		1				3	3		11		2	3	23	312	MC3+
1811						6			3				9	46	C2+
1813									3				3	136	C2+
1842		2											2	5	LIA-E Roman
1847		1	1						3		3	2	10	85	M-LC1+
1848		1	1								4		6	210	M-LC1+
1849		1	3									1	5	34	LIA-E Roman
1865									2				2	27	C2+
1870		1	6						2		3	1	13	90	M-LC1+
1872			1						1			13	15	654	LC1-C2
1876		2							10		4	1	17	164	EC2
1878									4		2		6	50	EC2
1882		3		1					1		1	3	9	135	LC1-C2
1911		1							2			5	8	50	LC1-C2
1913		1	1						1		1	3	7	139	M-LC1
1916		8											8	220	LIA-E Roman
1917									1		2	16	19	351	M-LC1+
1953		2	1				1		7				11	59	MC3+
1978												1	1	7	Roman
1984													5	57	Roman
1985		1							1		3		5	67	LC1-C2+
1989		1							4		1		6	82	LC1-C2

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
1995		3							4		1	2	10	113	LC1-C2+
1996		1											1	2	LIA-E Roman
2005		7										1	8	197	LIA-E Roman
2007		3	28								1		32	549	LIA-E Roman
2008		65	2										67	1302	LIA
2010		1	3						15		3	4	26	304	LC1-C2
2012			3						1				4	42	M-LC1+
2014		3	2										5	21.5	LIA
2021											1		1	5	LC1-C2
2024							1		1				2	9	240-400+
2049		30	2						1		1	8	42	1122	M-LC1
2053		1		1					2		1	1	6	36	LC1-C2
2054											1	1	2	25	C1-C2
2059			7										7	157	LIA-E Roman
2059 <11>			3			1			3				7	34	LIA-E Roman
2060		1							4				5	136	M-LC1
2066			1			1							2	14	C2+
2070												3	3	195	C1-C2
2071						1			9		3	7	20	139	C2+
2072			1						7		1	1	10	121	C3+
2077		14		1					1		1	3	20	91	LC1-C2
2092						3			11			3	17	175	C2+
2099		2	1										3	16	LIA-E Roman
2102						1	2		27		1	23	54	383	MC3+
2102 <9>						3			8			12	23	26	MC3+
2108											1		1	25	C1+
2112		2	3									1	6	61	LIA-E Roman
2120			1			1	1	1	32		9	12	57	682	LC3-C4
2128			1								2	2	5	88	E Roman
2132						1					2	6	9	124	C2+
2133						1			6			5	12	123	C2
2136		1	4								3	2	10	176	M-LC1
2138 <10>									1		4		5	10	LC1-C2
2151					1		3	2	7			7	20	174.5	MC3+
2154		2	4						4		3		13	264	C2
2160		57	2									1	60	1514	M-LC1
2164		1	1				1		4			4	11	152	MC3+
2166						3			43	2		1	49	433	LC4+
2168						2	5	1	84	3		3	98	780	LC4+
2169					1	2			50			1	54	380	C3
2180		2											2	62	LIA

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BBI	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
2198									4			3	7	82	C2+
2215									1				1	5	Roman
2217					1								1	9	C2+
2234						1		4	3			2	10	83	C3
2235								1	8			1	10	53	C2+
2236					2	1		1	15			5	24	430	C2+
2238									1				1	8	Roman
2241					1	3	7		78	15		10	114	872	LC4+
2244			2				5		79	9	2	3	100	1073	LC4+
2247						1	2		6		1	1	11	121	MC3+
2268			4			5	5		161	3	3	18	199	2172	LC4+
2270			6	1									7	52	LIA-E Roman
2272		2			3	6		5	11		3	13	43	442	C2
2278						10			19		2	2	33	255	C2
2281											1		1	10	LC1-C2
2282					1	55	40	8	163	4	5	75	351	3499	LC4+
2294						1							1	1	C2+
2297						1			1			1	3	10.5	C2+
2298							2		5			6	13	79	240-400
2302						2	3		14	1		7	27	331	C4+
2305						60	40	6	146	1	2	51	306	4263.5	LC4+
2308		1	1			18	39	5	140	4	3	18	229	3226	LC4
2315													1	27	Roman
2318						19	16	1	73		5	33	147	2261	C4
2319					2	23	22	2	89		3	17	158	2818.5	C4
2319 <12>					1	10	5				3	22	41	39	C4
2324		18				22	17	2	77		2	12	150	2051	LC3-C4
2327									1				1	19	Roman
2332								1	3				4	42	C2+
2333									4			2	6	121	C2+
2344					1							2	3	37	LC3+
2347					1	26	9		181		3	29	249	3042	C4
2348						1			5		1		7	93	LC3-C4
2349						3			6				9	94	C2+
2357					1			1	11			6	19	252	C2+
2360		1	1						5			2	9	87	LC1-C2
2361						11	33		89		2	26	161	1700	C4
U/S		1			1	5			75	2		5	89	1960	Post Med
2365									1				1	17	C2+
2372									2			1	3	32	C2+
2376						1						2	3	39	LC3-C4

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
2377		3				100	1		15			7	126	2335	MC3+
2379						3			3				6	49	C3
2381									2				2	21	C2+
2391						1		1	1			1	4	48	C2+
2400 <15>									1				1	1	C2+
2401					1	2			11			4	18	123.5	C2+
2402									1				1	2	C2+
2413												2	2	22	LC1-C2
2413 <13>												1	1	1	LC1-C2
2426						1							1	22	C2+
2428						1			6				7	136	C2+
2439								1	7				8	164	C2+
2441						18			1				19	154	C2
2443						2						14	16	46	C3+
2447												2	2	20	C1
2449							6					1	7	41	MC3+
2451							1		2				3	37	MC3+
2453								2	7			1	10	178	C3+
2454						2			15		1	7	25	265	C3+
2456						15	7		31		1		54	545	MC3+
2464					1	2			4			2	9	226	LC2+
2466						1	1		3		1		6	88	MC3+
2470						2	4	1	29	2		8	46	1237	LC4+
2472									1				1	38	C2+
2478							3		3			1	7	204	MC3+
2480							2		5			5	12	69	MC3+
2486									3			3	6	40.5	C2+
2487						1			2				3	42	C2+
2491		1											1	17	IA
2494											1		1	27	LC1-C2
2499									7				7	14	C2+
2501									4			4	8	128	C2+
2503						1	1		1			1	4	19	MC3+
2505			1			15	10	1	45	10	3	5	90	1708	LC3-C4
2511						1			2				3	57	C2+
2517						2			6			1	9	108	C2+
2519									3		6		9	202	LC1-C2+
2521						3	1	1	8		3		16	356	MC3+
2523						1			1				2	11	C2+
2525					3	3			7		1	1	15	105	MC2+
2526												1	1	8	Roman

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BBI	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
2527									2				2	18	C2+
2539									1				1	23	C2+
2541									5				5	30	C2+
2546							2		1	1			4	38	LC4+
2547						1			1				2	28	C2+
2548							1	1	2				4	55	MC3+
2552									2			1	3	115	LC2+
2553						1	1		1			1	4	396	LC3-C4
2556									3				3	23	C2+
2562						2			4				6	30	C2+
2572									12			2	14	146	C2+
2579						2			1			1	4	32	C4
2587						1			2			1	4	7.5	C2+
2589								1	2			1	4	32	MC3+
2591						4		1	5		1	6	17	229	C3+
2596									3			1	4	21	C2+
2601													1	3	Roman
2603									3				3	9	C2+
2604									1			2	3	43	C2
2608		1				2	1		1				5	29	C3+
2610					1				5			1	7	64	C2+
2613		1					3		4			1	9	55.5	MC3+
2614						1	1		9				11	60	MC3+
2618									2			1	3	23	Post-Med
2621									2			1	3	14	C2+
2623									2				2	105	C2+
2625									4				4	30	C2+
2628						5			2				7	61	LC2-C3
2635						2			3				5	84	C3+
2636							5						5	249	MC3+
2643									2				2	9	C2+
2647									1				1	7	C2+
2662							3		3				6	39	MC3+
2670									2			1	3	51	C2+
2671									3				3	37	C2+
2692						1							1	1	C2+
2692 <30>			1										1	5	C1+
2696									1				1	9	C2
2703			1		2	10	4		46	1	1	8	73	1926	Post-Med
2709		3											3	40	M-LIA
2715	1												1	6	L Neolithic-EBA

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
2721	20												20	143	MC3+
2721 <23>	2												2	5	Neolithic
2722							1						1	36	MC3+
2726 <31>	5												5	2	LIA-E Roman
2727 <27>			1										1	2	C1+
2729									2			2	4	112	C2+
2732									4				4	57	C2+
2734							1		4				5	22	MC3+
2738					1	2						1	4	101.5	C2+
2739									1			3	4	32	C2+
2744									1			1	2	26	C2+
2748							1		9				10	62	MC3+
2752	1											1	2	21	LC3-C4
2757						2			6				8	71	LC3-C4
2759						1			3				4	22	C2+
2761									2				2	17	Post-Med
2762						1	18		2			3	24	335	Modern
2763					1	3	6		57		1	4	72	1137	MC3+
2765						1			1			1	3	216	C2+
2766									2				2	28	C2+
2768						16	47	3	200	10	2	25	303	5323	LC4+
2769							12	1	41			5	59	799	MC3+
2770							5						5	477	MC4+
2771							1		3	1		2	7	60.5	LC4
2773		1				1			17			1	20	185	C2+
2774						5			15			1	21	145	C2+
2776		1											1	5	IA
2780							4	1	16	1			22	229	MC3+
2781			3				7	1	25	3	1	7	47	562	LC4+
2782						4	5		33		4	2	48	534	MC3+
2783							2		3		1		6	50	MC3+
2784					2	2	1		8	1		2	16	220	LC4+
2786						29		1	41		10		81	1617	C3
2788					1	13	6		25	1		1	47	1531	LC4+
2792							3		10		3	2	18	369	MC3+
2794		1	1			1	3	1	10			2	19	346	MC4+
2799					1	1	3	1	33	2	10	5	56	1140	LC4
2807						14			2				16	248	EC3+
2809							1		3			2	6	43.5	C2+
2816									2				2	8	C2+
2817						1			2				3	46	C3+

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BBI	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
2818					1	1							2	61	C2
2820						12	21	9	85	5		7	139	1573	LC4+
2826		1	5			1			6		1	6	20	186	C2
2828		1							4		2	4	11	157	LC1-C2
2830									3				3	41	C2+
2832		1							3			1	5	43	C2+
2839						2	3	1	6			2	14	120	C3
2846						1					1		2	54	C3
2874									1		1	1	3	10	C2
2877		1				2			2				5	64	LC3-C4
2879						1			2	1		2	6	14	LC4
2880			1			1	12		13			1	28	28	MC4
2882		1	1						1			2	5	60	LC1-C2
2884		1							1			1	3	28	C2
2887									1			3	4	90	C2+
2890									3	1	2		6	74	LC4
2891									7				7	52	C2+
2892									5		1	1	7	55	C2+
2896								3	17		2	3	25	283	C2+
2897						1			15			1	17	148	C2+
2898						1			31		5		37	168	C2+
2899									1			1	2	55	Post-Med
2901		2		1					1			2	6	95	LC1-C2
2902		3			1								4	93	C2
2905		4							1				5	25	LC1-C2
2906									1			1	2	134	C3-C4
2908									4			1	5	49	MC3-C4
2912													3	124	Roman
2918									2			1	3	123	C2+
2920									4				4	136	C2+
2921									3				3	32	C2
2923			1		1				4			1	7	30	C2
2926									1				1	7	C2+
2927												1	1	6	C2+
2929									3			1	4	45	C2+
2931									4			8	12	232	C2+
2937						1							1	4	C2+
2938						1			6		2	3	12	94.5	LC2+
2949												1	1	3	MC3+
2952						1	4		13	1		3	22	364	LC4
2981		2	5					1	1				9	89	C2+

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
2982		2	1						1			1	5	19.5	EC2
2984		4					3		6			6	19	217	MC3+
2998							1						1	5	MC3+
3008			3										3	8	LIA-E Roman
3035									3				3	13	Post-Med
3043		3											3	18	IA
3055									1				1	37	Roman
3058	110	2										1	113	550	Prehistoric
3058 <18>	16												16	13	L Neolithic-EBA
3061		2					3		1		4	10	20	233	MC3+
3062		1					1		22			1	25	327	MC3+
3066									1				1	12	C2+
3068								1					1	9	C3
3072		1		4	1	2		1	6		2	5	22	513	C2
3073		3	1	9				1	1		8		23	276	LC1-C2
3074		3	2					1	4		4	1	15	389	LC1-C2
3076		1											1	22	IA
3091									3				3	17	C2+
3094							1						1	4	MC3+
3095									1				1	1	LC4+
3095						2			10	1	1		14	96	LC4+
3106							1						1	178	C4
3110									1				1	9	C2+
3112									4				4	70	C2+
3120		2					1						3	50	MC3+
3124							2		3			4	9	106	MC3+
3134						1	1		20	4		6	32	453	C2+
3135									1				1	31	C2+
3137						5			13			1	19	152	C2+
3138		1					1	1	10	1		1	15	101.5	LC4+
3144		1											1	62	IA
3155		3	2										5	48	LIA
3165						1			1				2	9	C2+
3170						3			5				8	46	LC3-C4
3175				1									1	10	IA
3181			1								7	4	12	273	M-LC1
3185		1	1			2	3		33	1	1	12	54	684	LC4+
3187			1										1	28	C2+
3189						1			8		2	2	13	194	C2+
3198		85	48										133	3875	LIA
3201		2	12									1	15	1042	LIA

Context	EP	IA	Gr	FL	Sam	BB1	OXFRS	OXFWH	OXFRE	ROBSH	GYGR	Other	Tot No.	Weight (g)	Date Range
3202 <21>												1	1	1	C2+
3203											1		1	5	LC1-C2
3206		1	1		1		2		4				9	120	MC3+
3211									1				1	31	C2+
3212		4					2		15		1	1	23	214	C2
3214							2		1				3	88	MC3+
3215						1			1				2	3	C2
3217							11		18	3	1	1	34	273.5	LC4+
3220			1		1	25	12	2	353		3	44	441	3656	C2+
3222		2				2	3		16	1		6	30	232	LC4+
3223				1					2				3	15	C2+
3225												1	1	8	Roman
3231					1	3	9	1	21	3	1	2	41	695	LC4+
3235							4	1	27			2	34	472	MC3+
TOTAL	155	702	347	33	62	817	718	131	4854	127	487	1705	10156	139465.5	

Appendix 2. Post-Roman Pottery
by Paul Blinkhorn

Table 19. Post-Roman Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntx	E/MSAX		OXBF		OXBB		OXAM		OXBX		CSTN		BORDG		FREC		PMR		LONS		STMB		CHPO		SWSG		CREA		HORT		REFW		Date
	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W			
1000							1	3									2	43														17thC	
1001																	5	153														17thC	
1028																	1	22														17thC	
1069																	4	67														16thC	
1273																	1	5														17thC	
1277																										1	3		2	5	MOD		
1449			2	28																												M11thC	
1452																													1	1	MOD		
1464			1	5			1	3									2	11														17thC	
1587			1	6																												M11thC	
1602					1	4																										13thC	
1762																	1	5														16thC	
2068																	1	2														16thC	
2104																													1	3	MOD		
2282							1	2																								13thC	
2302																													1	2	MOD		
2313	2	20																														E/MSAX	

Cntx	E/MSAX		OXBF		OXBB		OXAM		OXBX		CSTN		BORDG		FREC		PMR		LONS		STMB		CHPO		SWSG		CREA		HORT		REFW		Date
	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W	
2363			1	3					1	4																						15thC	
2401																2	17															16thC	
2421																1	79															18thC	
2422							1	3					1	2	1	3									1	2	1	4				M18thC	
2474																											1	4				M18thC	
2519																1	4										1	11				M18thC	
2618					1	12																										13thC	
2703																2	56															17thC	
2761																1	26															17thC	
2762																2	83													1	18	MOD	
2768			1	6			2	14											1	9									1	17	MOD		
2781																1	4															17thC	
2784																							1	5								18thC	
2788										1	7																					L15thC	
2850																1	25													3	37	MOD	
2863													1	2		1	17												1	14	MOD		
2899																1	24															17thC	
3005																1	17															16thC	
3016																1	20															16thC	
3017																1	31										1	3				M18thC	
3035																														2	12	MOD	
3055											1	1																				L15thC	
3095						1	6																									13thC	
3132																						1	2									L17thC	
3134			1	10																		1	1									L17thC	
3138															1	2																M16thC	
3214																														1	6	MOD	
3220			1	7																												M11thC	
Total	2	20	8	65	2	16	7	31	1	4	2	8	2	4	2	5	33	711	1	9	2	3	1	5	1	2	5	25	2	31	12	84	

Appendix 3. Metal Objects*by Nicola Rogers**Methodology*

This report covering metal and bone and antler objects from the excavations has been written using information provided by the FAPR18 Context Inventory and a 'preliminary phasing' document (both dated Dec.2019). Some of the finds had been given small find numbers, and others had not; where appropriate, some temporary find numbers have been assigned by the author. All of the iron and copper alloy finds had been X-rayed before the report was compiled, and identifications of the metal objects have been made using the information provided by the X-rays. In addition, three finds (SF26, SF121, SF1001) received investigative conservation treatment involving selective corrosion removal to aid identification.

Catalogue entry abbreviations: L. = length; W. = width; Thick. = thickness; Diam. = diameter.

Table 20. Hob nails by context date

Context	Context Type	Context Date	Find Number	Number of hob nails
1573	Fill of pit 1512	C2		1
1020	Fill of ditch 6024	C2		2
2828	Fill of ditch 7021	C2+		1
2071	Fill of ditch 7051	C2+		1
1420	Fill of ditch 7048	C2+		1
1515	Fill of ditch 7016	C3	SFs31-37	7
2610	Fill of ditch 6034	C3		1
1304	Fill of ditch 6034	C3		4
2138	Fill of stone-lined feature 2231	MC3+		1
2319	Occupation layer within Building F	C4		3
1673	Fill of pit 1672	LC4+		1
2967	Upper fill of pit 2965	Roman		1
Total				24

Table 21. Roman nails by context

Context	Context type	Context date	Number of nails/nail fragments
1191	Fill of gully	Roman	
1273	Backfill of construction cut	C2+	3
1277	Backfill of construction cut	C2+	7
1360	Fill of ditch	C3	1
1464	Backfill of construction cut	C4+	1
1666	Fill of ditch	C2+	3
1673	Fill of pit	LC4+	2
1782	Fill of ditch	C2+	3
1797	Fill of pit	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	1
1911	Fill of pit	C2	1
2072	Overburden	C3+	1
2241	Fill of pit	LC4+	2
2282	Colluvium	C4+	
2318	Collapse of Building F	C4	6
2319	Occupation layer within Building F	C4	1
2324	Fill of robber's trench	C4	1
2347	Fill of pit	C4	1
2464	Fill of ditch	C3	1
2547	Overburden	C2+	3
2643	Fill of ditch	C2+	1
2743	Fill of ditch	C3+	1
2794	Fill of ditch	C3	1
2817	Fill of pit	C2+	1
2832	Fill of ditch	C3	1
2892	Fill of ditch	C3	2
2949	Fill of pit	C3	1
2951	Fill of ditch	Roman	1
3008	Fill of ditch	C2+	1

Context	Context type	Context date	Number of nails/nail fragments
3137	Fill of quarry pit	C4+	1
Total			38

Table 22. Post-Roman nails by context

Context	Context type	Context date	Number of nails/nail fragments
1000	Topsoil	Modern	14
1001	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	3
2420	Fill of pit	Post-Medieval	1
2703	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	1
2762	Trench 5 backfill	Modern	3
2768	Overburden	Post-Medieval	7
2850	Fill of pit	C19	4
2852	Fill of pit	C19	4
2863	Fill of pit	Post-Medieval	8
3015	Fill of pit	Post-Medieval	4
3016	Fill of pit	Post-Medieval	2
3017	Fill of pit	Post-Medieval	1
3159	Fill of pit	Undated	1
Total			77

Appendix 4. Report on the Investigative Conservation of Metal Small Finds

by M. Felter, C. Wilkinson

Introduction

This report describes the conservation work undertaken to investigate metal objects from the site of Faringdon, Oxfordshire, as excavated by John Moore Heritage Services. The work carried out has been selective corrosion removal from the objects submitted. Please also refer to the conservation assessment report dated 19th March, 2019. Once the artefacts have been treated they will be packed appropriately for return to the client.

Description

The following objects were submitted for conservation:

- SF26, copper alloy brooch
- SF121, Context 3206, Iron possible awl
- Object (no small find number) from Context 2308, Iron possible awl




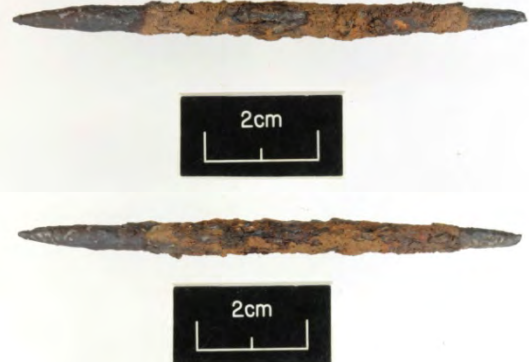
Methodology

Individual treatment notes can be seen in the table below, but in general corrosion was removed selectively from the iron surfaces using the air abrasive with 29 micron aluminium oxide powder. The copper alloy was investigated by removing corrosion with a scalpel under magnification.

Recommendations

The objects are currently stable however they require storage in a dry environment with a relative humidity below 15% to avoid active corrosion. The rest of the metal objects from the site also require dry storage and this dry environment should be maintained. The objects should be handled with care whilst wearing gloves due to the fragile nature of the exposed surfaces.

Table 23. Treatment record table

<p>SF26, Context 1426, Copper alloy brooch, X9247</p> <p>The object was found to be in overall good condition. Encrusted sand and silt covered the surface of the object overlying a layer of uneven but stable, mid-green corrosion products. Sections of MPO (possible wood) are present towards the end of the bow. The location of these indicate that they are incidental, relating to the burial environment rather than the object itself. X-ray shows the metal core to be intact and even although thin in places.</p> <p>Treatment: The object was investigated by removing the overlying sand, silt and corrosion products using a combination of a scalpel, wooden tools and a porcupine quill under magnification. Any more encrusted areas were first dampened using swabs of 50:50 IMS (Industrial Methylated Spirits) and R.O (Reverse Osmosis) water to aid removal. The entire surface was then consolidated using a solution of 5% Paraloid B72 (methyl methacrylate co-polymer) w/v in acetone applied with a brush. Finally a thin layer of Renaissance Microcrystalline wax was buffed onto the surface.</p> <p>Investigation revealed a section of incised linear decoration on the bow. Although stable, the surface is scratched in places when viewed under magnification.</p>	<p>Photograph Before Conservation</p>  <p>Photograph After Conservation</p> 
<p>SF121, Context 3206, Iron tanged tool, X9248</p> <p>The object was found to be in poor condition, covered with thin and patchy orange red corrosion products and encrusted soil, with numerous spots of active corrosion, as well as cracking and flaking of the surface. X-ray shows the metal core to be present but with substantial mineralisation at the edges.</p> <p>Treatment: The object was investigated by removing corrosion from the working end using the air abrasive with 29 micron aluminium oxide powder. A small section at the other end was also investigated in this way to clarify the shape. The object tapers to a sharp point at the working end confirming this to be an awl. The other end is also slightly tapered but ends in a blunt point. There is a crack to the very tip.</p>	<p>Photograph Before Conservation</p>  <p>Photograph After Conservation</p> 

Appendix 5. Glass

by David Dungworth

All of the material submitted for assessment was examined visually and recorded following standard guidance (English Heritage 2011).

Table 24. Glass occurrence by context

Context	SF	Context date	Colour	Weathered?	Thickness	Weight	Flat/Curved	Comment	Date
1000		Post-medieval	?opaque	very	3.5-6.3	7.61	curved	bottle?	post 1630
1069		Post-medieval	olive green	very	3.4-5.8	22.74	curved	bottle	post 1630
1273	18	C2+	very pale green	yes	1.2-1.5	1.69	curved		?
1277		C2+	very pale blue green	no	0.1	0.05	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale blue green	no	1.8-1.9	0.27	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale green	slight	1.0-1.1	0.3	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale green	slight	1.2-1.3	0.6	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	blue	no	1.4-1.6	0.29	flat?		?
1277		C2+	pale green	very	2.0-3.3	0.66	curved	bottle?	pre 1830
1277		C2+	amber	slight	1.8-2.0	1.06	curved	bottle?	post 1830
1304		C3	pale green	yes	1.2-1.3	0.93	flat?		?
1797		Late Iron Age- Early Roman	olive green	yes	2.6-2.8	4.27	curved	bottle?	post 1630
2282	65	C4+	colourless	yes	0.5-1.7	0.38	curved	folded foot of goblet?	?
2302	68	C4+	colourless	slight	1.0-1.9	0.92	curved	rim?	?
2308	74	C4+	very pale green	yes	2.5-3.5	1.84	curved		?
2313		Saxon	very pale green	slight	2.5-4.4	1.65	flat?	rim or selvedge	?
2365		C3	black	slight	8.3-9.6	7.85	curved	bottle	?
2420		Post-medieval	very pale green	yes	1.0-1.1	0.45	flat?		?
2420		Post-medieval	amber	slight	4.0-4.4	2.96	curved	bottle	post 1630
2702		Post-medieval	pale blue green	no	2.7-4.0	5.87	curved	square moulded bottle	post 1870
2709		Late Iron	olive green	yes	2.0-3.7	5.71	curved	bottle?	post 1830

Context	SF	Context date	Colour	Weathered?	Thickness	Weight	Flat/Curved	Comment	Date
1000		Post-medieval	?opaque	very	3.5-6.3	7.61	curved	bottle?	post 1630
1069		Post-medieval	olive green	very	3.4-5.8	22.74	curved	bottle	post 1630
1273	18	C2+	very pale green	yes	1.2-1.5	1.69	curved		?
1277		C2+	very pale blue green	no	0.1	0.05	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale blue green	no	1.8-1.9	0.27	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale green	slight	1.0-1.1	0.3	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale green	slight	1.2-1.3	0.6	flat?		post 1700
		Age-Early Roman							
2762		Modern	colourless	no	2.7-3.8	8.49	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2762		Modern	olive green	slight	3.8-5.6	6.01	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2850		C19	colourless	no	3.0-3.5	0.97	curved		post 1830
2850		C19	olive green	no	2.4-3.2	4.01	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2850		C19	pale green	no	5.7-6.0	18.54	curved	rim of jar (dia 81mm)	post 1830
2852		C19	colourless	no	2.0-3.3	11.27	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2852		C19	colourless	no	3.0-3.3	11.01	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2852		C19	colourless	slight	3.0-5.5	6.9	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2852		C19	colourless	slight	3.5-3.8	4.95	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2852		C19	colourless	slight	2.6-3.2	1.79	curved	bottle?	post 1830
2863		Post-medieval	olive green	no	3.1-4.0	8.58	curved	bottle	post 1630
2863		Post-medieval	blue green	no	3.0-3.4	2.32	curved		?
2863		Post-medieval	colourless	very	2.1-2.4	1.61	flat?		post 1830
2863		Post-medieval	colourless	slight	2.1-3.2	4.87	curved		post 1830
2863		Post-medieval	colourless	slight	2.5-4.0	3.83	curved		post 1830
2863		Post-medieval	colourless	slight	1.8-4.0	4.82	curved	bottle?	post 1830
3017		Post-medieval	colourless	slight	2.1-2.2	6.81	flat?		post 1830

Context	SF	Context date	Colour	Weathered?	Thickness	Weight	Flat/Curved	Comment	Date
1000		Post-medieval	?opaque	very	3.5-6.3	7.61	curved	bottle?	post 1630
1069		Post-medieval	olive green	very	3.4-5.8	22.74	curved	bottle	post 1630
1273	18	C2+	very pale green	yes	1.2-1.5	1.69	curved		?
1277		C2+	very pale blue green	no	0.1	0.05	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale blue green	no	1.8-1.9	0.27	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale green	slight	1.0-1.1	0.3	flat?		post 1700
1277		C2+	very pale green	slight	1.2-1.3	0.6	flat?		post 1700
3017		Post-medieval	colourless	slight	1.5-1.6	1.87	flat?		post 1830
3017		Post-medieval	very pale green	yes	3.4-5.1	10	curved	bottle?	post 1830
3017		Post-medieval	very pale green	slight	1.2-1.3	0.67	flat		post 1700
3025		Post-medieval	colourless	yes	2.0-2.4	2.32	curved	bottle?	post 1830
3025		Post-medieval	pale green	yes	1.7-2.4	1.85	flat?	rim or selvedge	?
3043		C3	olive green	very	2.7-3.8	3.71	curved		?
3134		C4	colourless	yes	3.0-4.0	4.44	curved		?
3222		LC4+	?opaque	very	4.7-5.1	10.87	curved	bottle?	post 1630

Appendix 6. Human Remains

by Linzi Harvey and Milena Grzybowska

Methods

Skeletal remains had been washed and were examined macroscopically, using light magnification (x10) where necessary. Information was recorded onto pro forma skeletal inventory and recording forms, following Cifa and English Heritage guidelines (Brickley & McKinley 2004, Mays & Brickley et al. 2004 respectively). Photographs were taken for illustrative purposes with additional magnification where necessary. Copies of these photographs will be submitted with the electronic report. Analysis took place during April 2019.

Preservation and Completeness

An assessment was made of the state of preservation of the skeletal remains considering the appearance of the cortical bone and condition of the joint surfaces: from 'good' (1) to 'poor' (3).

- (1) 'Good' Bone surface is in good condition with no erosion, fine surface detail such as coarse woven bone deposition, if present, would clearly be visible to the naked eye
- (2) 'Moderate' Bone surface is in moderate condition, with some post-mortem erosion on long bone shafts, but the margins of the articular surfaces and some prominences eroded
- (3) 'Poor' Bone surface is in poor condition with extensive post-mortem erosion, resulting in pitted cortical surfaces and long bones with articular surfaces absent or severely eroded

A skeletal inventory, estimation of completeness and description of each context was undertaken. Disarticulated material or bone that appeared charnel in nature was also noted in order to calculate the minimum number of individuals (MNI) present in the assemblage. The MNI was calculated using the number of left femora in the assemblage.

Completeness

The completeness of the skeleton was calculated according to the percentage of the bones present in relation to the total number of bones in a human body. This is estimated through an assessment of the amount of material representing different areas of the body. The skeleton was ascribed into one of five categories of completeness: 0-20, 21-40, 41-60, 61-80, 81-100 per cent.

Age at Death

Age at death estimation was based on several commonly used aging techniques. The adult sample was aged using epiphyseal fusion data (Schwartz 1995), cranial suture closure (Meindl & Lovejoy 1985), age-related changes of the pubic symphysis and the auricular surfaces of the ilium (Brooks & Suchey 1990 and Lovejoy et al. 1985) and dental attrition (Miles 1962) where appropriate. The age of the sub-adult and neonatal sample was determined using epiphyseal fusion data (Scheuer & Black 2000), dental development (Moorrees et al. 1963a, 1963b) and length of long bones (Scheuer et al. 1980) where appropriate.

For descriptive purposes, skeletons were assessed and then assigned to the following broad age categories:

Table 25. Age categories

Description	Age range
Neonate	36 weeks – 1 month
Infant	< 1 month – 2 years
Child	2 – 12 years
Adolescent	13 – 18 years
Young adult	18-25 years
Middle adult A	26-35 years
Middle adult B	36-44 years
Older adult	>45 years

Sex estimation

Estimation of biological sex was only considered appropriate for the adult sample and was based on macroscopic observation of key skeletal landmarks in the cranium/mandible and pelvis (after Schwartz 1995). Where present, a number of predetermined sexually diagnostic features were marked on a five-point scale as

follows: 1 = male, 2 = possible male, 3 = intermediate, 4 = probable female and 5 = female. These scores were tallied, and the modal average taken as the likely sex of each individual.

Metric and Non-Metric Data

Measurements of complete long bones were recorded in order to aid biological sex estimation and determine stature for individuals over 18 years of age. This was calculated using formulae created by Trotter (1970) and carries a standard deviation of around 3cm. Given the small quantity of material, only a few non-metric traits of the skull and post-crania could be assessed.

Palaeopathology

The nature and location of pathological changes and trauma were described, and a diagnosis made if appropriate. Basic pathological information was obtained from Aufderheide & Rodriguez-Martin (1998) and Roberts & Cox (2003), with additional references as required.

The recording of dental pathology, where dental remains were present, covered six pathological changes; ante-mortem tooth loss, calculus deposits, carious lesions (cavities), dental enamel hypoplasia, periapical voids (including abscesses, cysts and granulomas) and periodontal changes (Hillson 1996). Each observation was recorded by tooth or tooth position as appropriate, by presence/absence.

Prevalence rates of disease allow comparison between and within populations. Due to its small size, prevalence rates were not calculated for this assemblage.

Dental Catalogue

L – location; S- severity; A – aetiology; GL – gum line; P – supragingival (above GL); B – subgingival (below GL); St – stage; periodontitis stages: 1-3 are equivalent to stages ‘2-4’ in Ogden (2008); ‘cl’ – carious lesion; ‘w’ – wear; ‘x’ – unobservable; ‘0’ – pathology not present, ‘8?’ – loose root possibly from this location

Table 26. SK 2 dental inventory

FAPR 19 SK2																		
Periapical lesions L/S(1-3)/Ae																		
Caries L/S (1-4)																		
Periodontitis St (1-3)																		
Calculus L/S(1-3)/GL																		
EL L/S (1-3)																		
Presence	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
Upper tooth	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	R L	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Lower tooth	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Presence	?2	2	2	\	\	5	2	\		\	\	\	\	2	2	?4	?2	
EL	x	x	x			x	x							x	x	x	x	
Calculus	x	x	x			BL/2/P	x							x	x	x	X	
Periodontitis	?3	?3	?3			x	x							x	x	?3	?3	
Caries	x	x	x			0	x							x	x	x	x	
Periapical lesions	0	0	0			x	x							x	0	0	0	
Other	Upper premolar unsided with hypercementosis and remnants (flecks of calculus A), EL: L/2; LIM2 - possible congenital absence; lower M3 alveoli porous bilaterally; exostoses bilaterally at lower M3 labially at alveoli; mandible filled with porous trabecular bone																	

Loose Teeth: Dental Development Codes after Alqahtani 2009

Table 27. Dental catalogue codes

<p>Presence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. tooth present 2. post-mortem loss 3. ante-mortem loss 4. congenital absence 5. tooth present (no socket observable) 6. tooth erupting 7. deciduous retention 8. root only, area present <p>\ area absent (no tooth nor socket or insufficient socket) - unobservable</p> <p>Location of caries</p> <p>O - Occlusal L - Lingual B - Buccal M - Mesial D - Distal G - Gross (site of origin no longer identifiable) R - Root surface</p> <p>Severity of caries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Enamel destruction only 2- Destruction of dentine without exposure of pulp chamber 3- Destruction of dentine with pulp chamber exposed 4- Gross destruction (crown largely destroyed) <p>Severity of periodontal disease:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - slight 2 - medium 3 - considerable <p>Periapical lesion - sinus size:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - <3mm 2 - =>3mm<7mm 3 - >7mm 	<p>Location of calculus</p> <p>O - Occlusal L - Lingual B - Buccal M - Mesial D - Distal A - all sides (not occlusal)</p> <p>Gum line</p> <p>B - Subgingival P - Supragingival</p> <p>Severity calculus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - slight 2 - medium 3 - considerable <p>Location of enamel hypoplasia:</p> <p>C - Cusp crown M - Middle crown L - Lower crown</p> <p>Severity of linear enamel hypoplasia:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Just discernible 2 - Clear groove 3 - Gross defect <p>Location of periapical lesion:</p> <p>E - external I - internal M - maxillary</p> <p>Periapical lesion aetiology:</p> <p>C - carious lesion W - wear</p>
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Appendix 7. Animal Bone

by Claire Ingrem

Methodology

Anatomical elements were identified to species where possible with the exception of ribs and vertebrae which were assigned to animal size categories. Mandibles and limb bones were recorded using the zonal method developed by Serjeantson (1996) to allow the calculation of the Minimum Number of Elements (MNE) and Individuals (MNI); this is based on the most numerous zone of a single element taking into account side. In addition, all bone fragments over 10mm in the hand recorded material were recorded to species or size category to produce a basic fragment count of the Number of Identified Specimens (NISPS). Fragments categorised as large mammal are likely to belong to horse or cattle, those in the medium mammal category to sheep/goat or pig.

The presence of gnawing and butchery together with the agent responsible was recorded and evidence for burning was noted.

Measurements were taken according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976) and Payne and Bull (1982) for mammals, and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds. The wear stages of the lower cheek teeth of cattle, caprines and pig were recorded using the method proposed by Grant (1982) and age attributed according to the method devised by Payne (1973), Legge (1982) and O'Connor (1988). The fusion

stage of post-cranial bones was recorded and age ranges estimated according to Getty (1975).

A selected suite of elements was used to differentiate between sheep and goat (Boessneck, 1969, Payne 1985): horn core, distal humerus, proximal radius, distal metapodials, astragalus, calcaneus and deciduous fourth premolar. No elements were positively identified to goat so for the purposes of this report the caprine remains are referred to as sheep.

Where possible, metrical data has been compared with measurements held on the Animal Bone Metrical Archive Project (ABMAP). All fall within the range of measurements recorded at contemporary sites.

Condition of the bone and taphonomy

In order to estimate the potential of an assemblage to provide taphonomic information, the condition of the bone is graded on a scale of 1 to 5. That assigned to '1' is deemed to be in excellent condition, demonstrating little post-depositional damage whilst bone material classed as '5' has suffered severe surface erosion and can be identified only as 'bone'. Almost all the bones recovered from the deposits at Park Road are in good (Grade 2) or moderate (Grade 3) condition and therefore preserve evidence for gnawing and butchery.

The survival of bone is generally density-dependent and consequently species and anatomical representation will almost certainly have been biased as a result of the various taphonomic processes that seek to destroy bone from the moment it is deposited. In particular, the bones of smaller animals such as sheep and pigs are less likely to survive than those derived from larger animals such as horses and cattle. Bones that are comprised of dense cortical bone such as limb bone shafts are also more likely to survive than those comprised of spongy cancellous bone such as limb bone ends, ribs and vertebrae. Similarly, porous juvenile bones are likely to have suffered preferential destruction.

Table 28. Number of specimens belonging to articulated remains or partial skeletons (all hand collected)

Taxa	IA-ER	1 st -2 nd C AD	2 nd C AD or later	3 rd -4 th C AD	undated	Total
Horse	2	3				3
Cattle		2			2	4
Sheep		15	39	45	35	134
Medium mammal ¹			7	11	4	22
Total	3	20	46	56	41	163

Table 29. Anatomical representation (NISP) of the Iron Age-Early Roman assemblage

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Dog	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
Horncore		2						2
Upper molar			2					2
Lower molar	2		2					4
Lower premolar					2			2
Incisor		1						1
Mandible		2	5	1	1			9
Scapula		1				1		2
Humerus			3					3
Radius			1	1				2
Pelvis	1			1				2
Tibia			3			1		4
Calcaneus		1						1
Metacarpal		1	2					3
Metapodial		1						1
Metatarsal	1		2					3
Lateral metapodial				1				1
1st phalanx			1					1
Thoracic vertebra						2		2

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Dog	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
Lumbar vertebra							2	2
Sacrum						2		2
Skull fragment				1		1		2
Tooth fragment			1					1
Limb bone fragment							3	3
Vertebra fragment						1	1	2
Rib fragment						1		1
Total	4	9	22	5	3	13	6	62

Table 30. Anatomical representation (NISP) of the 1st-2nd century assemblage

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Dog	<i>Meles meles</i>	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
Skull	1								1
Horncore			4						4
Zygomatic		2	1						3
Occipital condyle	1	1							2
Maxilla		2	2						4
Mandible	1	6	14	1		1	1		24
Upper premolar		3	2						5
Upper molar		8	7						15
Incisor	1	1	1						3
Lower premolar		2	6						8
Lower molar		1	11						12
Atlas		2	2						4
Axis		2			1		1		4
Scapula		7	2						9
Humerus		3	2				2		7
Radius		2	7		1				10
Ulna				1					1
Pelvis		4	4	2			1		11
Femur		1	7		1			3	12
Patella		1							1
Tibia		2	13		1		3		19
Astragalus		1							1
Calcaneus			2						2
Sesamoid							1		1
Metacarpal		1	10						11
Metatarsal		3	10						13
Metapodial			3						3
1st phalanx	1	3	3						7
2nd phalanx		2							2
3rd phalanx		1							1
Sesamoid							1		1
Cervical vertebra	4							1	5
Thoracic vertebra								2	2
Caudal vertebra								1	1
Lumbar vertebra								1	1
Rib								5	5
Skull fragment				1			7		8
Limb bone fragment							4	14	18
Vertebra fragment							6	6	12
Rib fragment							6	16	22
Total	9	61	113	5	4	1	33	49	275

Table 31. Anatomical representation (NISP) of the 2nd century or later assemblage

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
Horncore		1	1					2
Skull		1						1
Zygomatic		2	2					4
Nasal		1						1
Frontal		1						1
Upper premolar		1	3					4
Upper molar		3	8					11
Lower premolar		1	1					2
Lower molar		4	13	1				18
Canine					1			1
Maxilla		1	2					3
Mandible		9	11	2		2	2	26
Axis		1	1					2
Scapula		2	3			1		6
Humerus		3	6			3		12
Radius		3	6					9
Ulna		1	5					6
Pelvis		3	3			1		7
Femur		1	6	1			5	13
Patella			1					1
Tibia		2	10				5	17
Carpal		1	1					2
Astragalus			1					1
Calcaneus		2	1					3
Metacarpal		2	7					9
Metatarsal	1	1	3	1				6
Metapodial			1					1
1st phalanx		3	3					6
2nd phalanx	1		1					2
3 rd phalanx		1						1
Cervical vertebra						1	2	3
Thoracic vertebra						3	9	12
Lumbar vertebra							5	5
Sacrum						1		1
Rib						3	11	14
Skull fragment						9		9
Tooth fragment				2				2
Limb bone fragment						7	4	11
Vertebra fragment						10	9	19
Rib fragment						13	29	42
Total	2	51	100	7	1	54	81	296

Table 32. Anatomical representation (NISP) of the 3rd-4th century assemblage

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Dog	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
Horncore		5	14						19
Antler						1			1
Skull		2							2
Zygomatic		1	13						14
Frontal			1						1
Occipital condyle		1	14						15
Petrous			4						4
Upper premolar			3				2		5
Upper molar		5	23				5		33
Lower premolar		4	14						18
Lower molar		1	21				2		24
Canine				3					3
Incisor	1	1	3						5
Premaxilla			9						9
Maxilla			23	2					25
Mandible		5	70	1	1		3	3	83
Atlas		1							1
Axis		2							2
Hyoid			6						6
Scapula		3	12				2	3	20
Humerus	1	6	11	2			3	1	24
Radius	2	5	14						21
Ulna		3	3						6

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Dog	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
Pelvis	1	4	7				1		13
Femur	1	4	8				1		14
Tibia	1	13	23	3			3	2	45
Carpal		4	2						6
Astragalus	1	1	3						5
Calcaneus		3	4						7
Navicular cuboid		3	3						6
Sesamoid								1	1
Metacarpal	1	2	25	2					30
Metatarsal	1	6	30						37
Metapodial		2	24						26
1st phalanx		3	45	1					49
2nd phalanx		2	7						9
3rd phalanx		1	6						7
Cervical vertebra							1	1	2
Thoracic vertebra								8	8
Lumbar vertebra							4	10	14
Caudal vertebra							1	6	7
Sacrum								1	1
Rib								11	11
Skull fragment		21	2				2	193	218
Tooth fragment		3	2				2		7
Limb bone fragment							11	18	29
Vertebra fragment							7	6	13
Rib fragment							13	48	61
Costal cartilage								9	9
Total	10	117	449	14	1	1	63	321	976

Appendix 8. Palaeobotanical and Charcoal Analysis

by Luke Parker

Methods

40L of fill from each archaeological feature was sampled, where possible, unless the feature contained less than 40L whereupon the entirety of the excavated fill was sampled.

The flots were weighed, air dried, and scanned using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). The flots were then scanned and separated out into charcoal and plant macrofossils.

Up to ten identifiable charcoal fragments were analysed. Charcoal with a size of >2mm was fractured to obtain clean sections on the tangential, transverse and radial planes. These could then be identified using a high power Leica GXML3030 binocular microscope (up to x600). Species identification was undertaken using plates and guides from Scoch et al. (2004), as well as comparison with a modern reference collection. Details of charcoal anatomical features were recorded.

Botanical macrofossil identification was undertaken using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). Botanical macrofossil identification utilised plates and guides from Martin and Barkley (2000) and Cappers et al. (2006), as well as comparison with a modern reference collection. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Cereal identification utilised the guide by Jacomet (2006). All botanical macrofossils present were assessed. The presence of uncharred organic material was noted and the quantity estimated as a proportion of the processed flot.

Results

Table 31 displays details on the recovered flots from the archaeological samples which included charred cereal remains. Table 32 gives details of charred, non-cereal,

wild seeds which were also recovered from the archaeological samples. Table 33 provides details of identified anatomical features from the charcoal fragments.

Table 33. Recovered cereal and botanical remains from sampled archaeological context

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	Flot Weight	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) grain	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) glume base	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) spikelet fork	Avena sp. (Oat) grain	Avena sp. (Oat) grain (<3mm length)	Hordeum sp. (Barley) grain	Hordeum cf. vulgare (Many-rowed barley) grain	Indet. cereal grain
1	1226	Corn dryer 6010 lower deposit	Moderate (2-10mm) - large (>10mm) charcoal fragments	40L	64.73g	16			5		77	16	47
2	1227	Corn dryer 6010 upper deposit	30% indeterminate uncharred plant matter; 20% moderate (2-10mm)-large (>10mm) charcoal fragments; 50% small (<2mm) charcoal	40L	41.70g	25	1	1	4		145	13	16
3	1429	Middle fill of ditch 7000	70% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	10L	9.34g	17	11		12	29	3	2	75
6	1446	Lower fill of pit 6007	60% ruptured indeterminate cereal grains	40L	49.89g	169	7	2	62	109	26	11	60% of flot
7	1447	Lower middle fill of pit 6007	30% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	10L	8.54g	19			6	13	2	1	22

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	Flot Weight	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) grain	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) glume base	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) spikelet fork	Avena sp. (Oat) grain	Avena sp. (Oat) grain (<3mm length)	Hordeum sp. (Barley) grain	Hordeum cf. vulgare (Many-rowed barley) grain	Indet. cereal grain
5	1452	Lower fill of pit 6007	Small (<2mm) and medium (2-10mm) indeterminate charcoal fragments and twigs; 40% ruptured indeterminate cereal grains	40L	48.47g	92	62	8	52	5	36	13	40% of flot
11	2059	Corn dryer 6013 deposit	Predominantly small (<2mm) charred material; well preserved cereal grains	40L	36.48g	113	7		3		26	6	77
9	2102	Upper middle fill of stone-lined feature 2231	70% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	30L	14.19g	24	36	9				1	16
10	2138	Upper fill of stone-lined feature 2231	70% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 3 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	15L	2.21g	3							

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	Flot Weight	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) grain	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) glume base	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) spikelet fork	Avena sp. (Oat) grain	Avena sp. (Oat) grain (<3mm length)	Hordeum sp. (Barley) grain	Hordeum cf. vulgare (Many-rowed barley) grain	Indet. cereal grain
12	2319	Occupation layer within Building F	40% uncharred agricultural remains; 20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	40L	39.18g	6	3		2		1		15
14	2394	Fill of pit 2393	Small (<2mm) charred material	5L	1.16g								
15	2400	Middle fill of pit 2398	40% uncharred rootlets; 45% small (<2mm) charred material, 15% medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments	30L	15.67g	5	44	4			3		11
13	2413	Upper fill of pit 2446	40% uncharred rootlets; 70% small (<2mm) charred material, 25% medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments	20L	8.67g		2						19

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	Flot Weight	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) grain	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) glume base	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) spikelet fork	Avena sp. (Oat) grain	Avena sp. (Oat) grain (<3mm length)	Hordeum sp. (Barley) grain	Hordeum cf. vulgare (Many-rowed barley) grain	Indet. cereal grain
	2241	Fill of pit 2240	50% Moderate (2-10mm)- large (>10mm) charcoal fragments; 50% small (<2mm) charred material		5.09g								
16	2443	Fill of gully 2442	20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	10L	16.61g	32	1			2	3		36
28	2678	Fill of ring ditch 6002	100% uncharred rootlets	10L	0.81g								
30	2692	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets	50L	23.82g						3	2	
33	2694	Fill of ring ditch 6002	20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	10L	16.47g								2
24	2696	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; 4 Asteraceae seeds	30L	2.21g	2						2	1

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	Flot Weight	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) grain	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) glume base	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) spikelet fork	Avena sp. (Oat) grain	Avena sp. (Oat) grain (<3mm length)	Hordeum sp. (Barley) grain	Hordeum cf. vulgare (Many-rowed barley) grain	Indet. cereal grain
26	2705	Fill of small pit 2704	80% uncharred rootlets; well-preserved charred cereal grains	20L	11.54g	1						1	
32	2707	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds and 1 Asteraceae seed	40L	12.18g						3	1	1
29	2709	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 4 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds and 1 Asteraceae seed	40L	10.16g	1		1					1
34	2711	Fill of posthole 2710	80% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	5L	0.81g								

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	Flot Weight	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) grain	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) glume base	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) spikelet fork	Avena sp. (Oat) grain	Avena sp. (Oat) grain (<3mm length)	Hordeum sp. (Barley) grain	Hordeum cf. vulgare (Many-rowed barley) grain	Indet. cereal grain
23	2721	Fill of pit 2720	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	20L	6.71g						1		
17	2723	Burnt deposit in corn dryer 6010	20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	30L	18.34g	3		1					
25	2725	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; 3 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	13L	0.87g								
31	2726	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	20L	2.03g								

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	Flot Weight	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) grain	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) glume base	Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) spikelet fork	Avena sp. (Oat) grain	Avena sp. (Oat) grain (<3mm length)	Hordeum sp. (Barley) grain	Hordeum cf. vulgare (Many-rowed barley) grain	Indet. cereal grain
27	2727	Upper fill of ring ditch 6002	50% uncharred plant debris; well-preserved charred cereals; insect remains	20L	9.86g								
18	3058	Fill of grave 3057	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	25L	1.16g								
18	3058	Fill of grave 3057 – within vessel		25L	23.34g								
19	3167	Lower burnt fill of pit 3164	100% uncharred rootlets	6L	1.27g								
21	3202	Upper fill of pit 3178		2L	4.46g								
22	3202	Upper fill of pit 3178	10% uncharred rootlets; magnetic material (industrial waste?)	2L	104.03g	2			1		1		2

Table 34. Recovered charred wild seeds from sampled archaeological contexts

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla sp.)	Knapweed (Centaurea sp.)	Forget-me-not (Myosotis sp.)	Common vetch (Vicia sativa)	Mustard genus (Brassica sp.)	Cleavers (Galium sp.)	Dock (Rumex sp.)	Polygonaceae (Buckwheat)	Poaceae	Bromus sp. (Brome Grass)	Dogwood (Cornus sanguinea)
1	1226	Corn dryer 6010 lower deposit			1						2			
2	1227	Corn dryer 6010 upper deposit									2			
3	1429	Middle fill of ditch 7000		13				9	23	13	1	4	3	
6	1446	Lower fill of pit 6007	3			5	9		83	1	1		16	
7	1447	Lower middle fill of pit 6007		1	1				19				2	
5	1452	Lower fill of pit 6007			3	1	16		62	5	28	1	16	
11	2059	Corn dryer 6013 deposit							6					
9	2102	Upper middle fill of stone-lined feature 2231						3		1	2			
10	2138	Upper fill of stone-lined feature 2231												
12	2319	Occupation layer within Building F								1				
15	2400	Middle fill of pit 2398			1				2	2	1			
13	2413	Upper fill of pit 2446		1		1				2	1	1		

Table 35. Charcoal identification details

The degree of ring curvature is given on a scale of 1 (entirely flat curvature) to 5 (very strongly curved); degree of vitrification is given as blank (no vitrification), L (low) or H (high); and other features are given as either y (yes) or blank (no).

Context No.	1226	Sample No.	1	Feature Desc.	Lower fill of corn dryer [1225]	Sample Weight (g)	64.73g	
Fragment No.	Fragment Size	Species	Ring Curvature	Vitrification	Radial Cracks	Tyloses	Fungal Hyphae	Narrow Rings
1	34mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	2					
2	8mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
3	22mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	2			y		
4	5mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
5	32mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1			y		
6	8mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
7	22mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
8	10mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
9	24mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	2			y		
10	36mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	2			y		
Context No.	1227	Sample No.	2	Feature Desc.	Upper fill of corn dryer [1225]	Sample Weight (g)	9.86g	
Fragment No.	Fragment Size	Species	Ring Curvature	Vitrification	Radial Cracks	Tyloses	Fungal Hyphae	Narrow Rings
1	34mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	5					y
2	8mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	3					y
3	10mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	3					y
Context No.	2241	Sample No.	27	Feature Desc.	Upper fill of ring ditch	Sample Weight (g)	1.44g	
Fragment No.	Fragment Size	Species	Ring Curvature	Vitrification	Radial Cracks	Tyloses	Fungal Hyphae	Narrow Rings
1	12mm	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	2	L	y			
2	8mm	Stony Fruits (Maloideae)	0					
3	10mm	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	1	L	y			
Context No.	3202	Sample No.	21	Feature Desc.	Upper fill of pit [3178]	Sample Weight (g)	104.03g	
Fragment No.	Fragment Size	Species	Ring Curvature	Vitrification	Radial Cracks	Tyloses	Fungal Hyphae	Narrow Rings
1	32mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1			y		
2	8mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
3	28mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1			y		
4	10mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
5	14mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1			y		
6	28mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1			y		
7	32mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
8	26mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1			y		
9	8mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					
10	12mm	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	1					

Appendix 9. Molluscan Analysis

by Faidra Katsi

Methodology

All shells were identified to species level, where possible, under a low-power binocular microscope with comparison to a reference collection. Evans (1972), Cameron (2008), Kerney (1999) and Welter-Schultes (2009) were used for molluscan identification and characterisation of their ecological preferences. Nomenclature follows Anderson (2008). The Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) was calculated using the most frequently occurring Non-Repetitive Element (NRes: spire, anterior and posterior canal, aperture, operculum and umbiculus) for each taxon (tMNI) after Harris et al. (2015). This method was used in order to avoid species underestimation when only the apices were counted (Giovas 2009). Fragments with no identifiable characteristics were recorded as 'indeterminate'. To assist the discussion, terrestrial molluscs were subdivided into the environmental groupings ('catholic', 'loving-shade' and 'open country' snails) suggested by Evans (1972). Shells of *Ceciloides acicula*, a burrowing (and possibly intrusive) species formed the 'burrowing snail category' and although they were tabulated and counted, their environmental preferences were not accounted.

Table 36. Identified molluscan species

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	<i>Vallonia sp.</i>	<i>Oxychilus sp.</i>	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	Cochlicopidae	Lymnaeidae	Indeterminate	Total (excluding <i>C. acicula</i>)	% Catholic species	% Shade-loving	% Open country	% Freshwater catholic
1	1226	Corn dryer 6010 lower deposit	Moderate (2-10mm) - large (>10mm) charcoal fragments	40L	2000+	1	3								4		25	75	
3	1429	Middle fill of ditch 7000	70% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	10L	54														
5	1452	Lower fill of pit 6007	Small (<2mm) and medium (2-10mm) indeterminate charcoal fragments and twigs; 40% ruptured indeterminate cereal grains	40L	262	16				3 (2 charred)			4		23			87	3
9	2102	Upper middle fill of stone-lined feature 2231	70% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	30L	14														

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	<i>Vallonia sp.</i>	<i>Oxychilus sp.</i>	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	<i>Cochlicopidae</i>	<i>Lymnaeidae</i>	Indeterminate	Total (excluding <i>C. acicula</i>)	% Catholic species	% Shade-loving	% Open country	% Freshwater catholic
10	2138	Upper fill of stone-lined feature 2231	70% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 3 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	15L	67														
11	2059	Corn dryer 6013 deposit	Predominantly small (<2mm) charred material; well preserved cereal grains	40L	1000+	2	27		3						32		93.7	6.3	
12	2319	Occupation layer within Building F	40% uncharred agricultural remains; 20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	40L	2000+	17	24			2					43		55.8	44.2	
15	2400	Middle fill of pit 2398	40% uncharred rootlets; 45% small (<2mm) charred material, 15% medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments	30L	354														

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	<i>Vallonia sp.</i>	<i>Oxychilus sp.</i>	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	<i>Cochlicopidae</i>	<i>Lymnaeidae</i>	Indeterminate	Total (excluding <i>C. acicula</i>)	% Catholic species	% Shade-loving	% Open country	% Freshwater catholic
16	2443	Fill of gully 2442	20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	10L	14														
17	2723	Burnt deposit in corn dryer 6010	20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	30L	75		4				1				5		80	20	
18	3058	Fill of grave 3057	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	25L	335	8	9		2						19		47.4	52.6	
18	3058	Fill of grave 3057 – within vessel		25L															
19	3167	Lower burnt fill of pit 3164	100% uncharred rootlets	6L	5														
22	3202	Upper fill of pit 3178	10% uncharred rootlets; magnetic material (industrial waste?)	2L	8		1								1		100		

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	<i>Vallonia sp.</i>	<i>Oxychilus sp.</i>	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	<i>Cochlicopidae</i>	<i>Lymnaeidae</i>	Indeterminate	Total (excluding <i>C. acicula</i>)	% Catholic species	% Shade-loving	% Open country	% Freshwater catholic
23	2721	Fill of pit 2720	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	20L	41		2								2		100		
24	2696	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; 4 Asteraceae seeds	30L	76		2								2		100		
25	2725	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; 3 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	13L	11		2								2		100		
26	2705	Fill of small pit 2704	80% uncharred rootlets; well-preserved charred cereal grains	20L	32		3								3		100		
27	2727	Upper fill of ring ditch 6002	50% uncharred plant debris; well-preserved charred cereals; insect remains	20L	24	1	3	1						1	6	16	50	16	
28	2678	Fill of ring ditch 6002	100% uncharred rootlets	10L	12	1									1			100	

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	<i>Vallonia sp.</i>	<i>Oxychilus sp.</i>	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	Cochlicopidae	Lymnaeidae	Indeterminate	Total (excluding <i>C. acicula</i>)	% Catholic species	% Shade-loving	% Open country	% Freshwater catholic
29	2709	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 4 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds and 1 <i>Asteraceae</i> seed	40L	50		7								7		100		
30	2692	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets	50L	67	1	3								4		75	25	
31	2726	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds	20L	12							1			1	100			
32	2707	Fill of ring ditch 6002	90% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material; 2 uncharred <i>Urtica dioica</i> seeds and 1 <i>Asteraceae</i> seed	40L	105	1	3								4		75	25	

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Composition of the flots	Sample Volume	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	<i>Vallonia sp.</i>	<i>Oxychilus sp.</i>	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	Cochlicopidae	Lymnaeidae	Indeterminate	Total (excluding C. acicula)	% Catholic species	% Shade-loving	% Open country	% Freshwater catholic
33	2694	Fill of ring ditch 6002	20% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	10L	34														
34	2711	Fill of posthole 2710	80% uncharred rootlets; small (<2mm) charred material	5L	17		3								3		100		
36	2676	Fill of pit 2675	100% uncharred plant debris	10L	4		1								1		100		

Table 37. Environmental habitats of identified molluscs

Environmental habitats of identified molluscs											
	Species	Rich vegetation	Wet environments	Highly adaptive - catholic species	Swampy forest habitats	Meadow/ marsh environments	Coarse material - rocky places	Stagnant and slow-flowing water	Environments modified by humans	Sort vegetation	Ground litter
Catholic group	<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
	Cochlicopidae		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓
	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Open-country group	<i>Vallonia sp.</i>		✓	✓		✓					
	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		
Shade-loving group	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓				
	<i>Oxychilus sp.</i>		✓			✓			✓		
Burrowing snails	<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>										✓
Freshwater catholic group	Lymnaeidae	✓	✓					✓			

UBANo	Sample ID	Material Type	¹⁴ C Age	±	F14C	±	mg Graphite
UBA-48960	SK1	human tooth	3932	27	0.6129	0.0021	0.991
UBA-48961	SK2	human tooth	3101	26	0.6797	0.0022	1.000
UBA-48962	2725	animal bone	3175	28	0.6735	0.0024	0.986

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Belfast BT9 6AX
Northern Ireland

Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-48960
Date of Measurement: 2022-10-07
Site: Faringdon
Sample ID: SK1
Material Dated: bone, antler or tooth root
Pretreatment: Collagen
mg Graphite: 0.991
Submitted by: Simona Denis

Conventional ¹⁴ C	
Age:	3932±27 BP
Fraction	using AMS
corrected	δ ¹³ C

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Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-48961
Date of Measurement: 2022-10-07
Site: Faringdon
Sample ID: SK2
Material Dated: bone, antler or tooth root
Pretreatment: Collagen
mg Graphite: 1.000
Submitted by: Simona Denis

Conventional ¹⁴ C	
Age:	3101±26 BP
Fraction	using AMS
corrected	δ ¹³ C

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Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-48962
Date of Measurement: 2022-10-07
Site: Faringdon
Sample ID: 2725
Material Dated: bone, antler or tooth root
Pretreatment: Collagen
mg Graphite: 0.986
Submitted by: Simona Denis

Conventional ¹⁴ C	
Age:	3175±28 BP
Fraction	using AMS
corrected	δ ¹³ C

Marine samples will require re-calibration with the marine calibration curve

3

RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM*

CALIB REV8.2

Copyright 1986-2020 M Stuiver and PJ Reimer

*To be used in conjunction with:

Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.

UBA-48960

48960

Radiocarbon Age BP 3932 +/- 27

Calibration data set: intcal20.14c

% area enclosed cal AD age ranges

Reimer et al. 2020

relative area under
probability distribution

68.3 (1 sigma) cal BC 2471- 2435 0.425

2425- 2403 0.236

2380- 2348 0.339

95.4 (2 sigma) cal BC 2560- 2539 0.036

2491- 2340 0.927

2323- 2302 0.037

Median Probability: -2417

UBA-48961

48961

Radiocarbon Age BP 3101 +/- 26

Calibration data set: intcal20.14c

% area enclosed cal AD age ranges

Reimer et al. 2020

relative area under
probability distribution

68.3 (1 sigma) cal BC 1416- 1381 0.506

1342- 1308 0.494

95.4 (2 sigma) cal BC 1429- 1288 1.000

Median Probability: -1358

UBA-48962

48962

Radiocarbon Age BP 3175 +/- 28

Calibration data set: intcal20.14c

% area enclosed cal AD age ranges

Reimer et al. 2020

relative area under
probability distribution

68.3 (1 sigma) cal BC 1495- 1477 0.348

1456- 1422 0.652

95.4 (2 sigma) cal BC 1503- 1408 1.000

Median Probability: -1452

References for calibration datasets:

Reimer P, Austin WEN, Bard E, Bayliss A, Blackwell PG, Bronk Ramsey C, Butzin M, Edwards RL, Friedrich M, Grootes PM, Guilderson TP, Hajdas I, Heaton TJ, Hogg A, Kromer B, Manning SW, Muscheler R, Palmer JG, Pearson C, van der Plicht J, Reim Richards DA, Scott EM, Southon JR, Turney CSM, Wacker L, Adolphi F, BÄntgen U, Fahrni S, Fogtmann-Schulz A, Friedrich R, KÄhler P, Kudsk S, Miyake F, Olsen J, Sakamoto M, Sookdeo A, Talamo S. 2020.

The IntCal20 Northern Hemisphere radiocarbon age calibration curve (0-55 cal kB Radiocarbon 62. doi: 10.1017/RDC.2020.41.

Comments:

* This standard deviation (error) includes a lab error multiplier.

** 1 sigma = square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)

** 2 sigma = 2 x square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)

where ^2 = quantity squared.

[] = calibrated range impinges on end of calibration data set

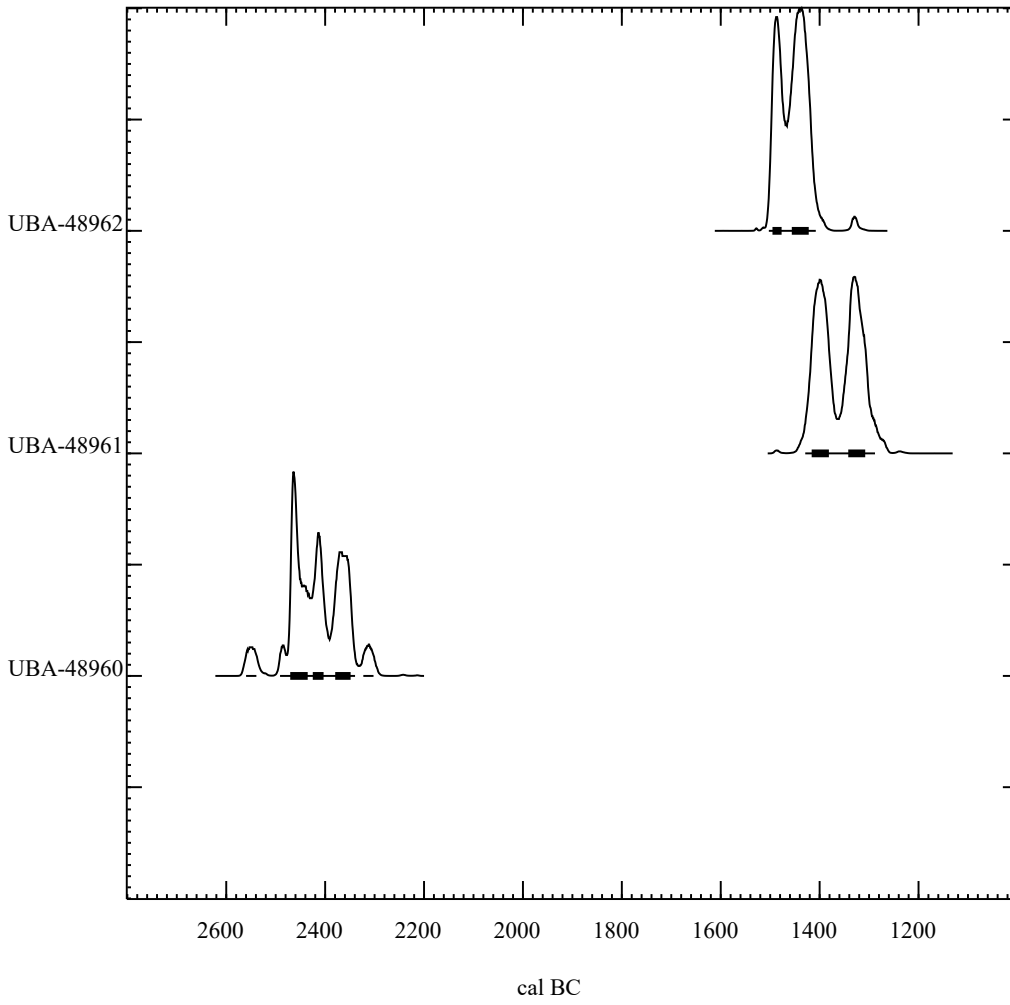
0* represents a "negative" age BP

1955* or 1960* denote influence of nuclear testing C-14

NOTE: Cal ages and ranges are rounded to the nearest year which may be too precise in many instances. Users are advised to

round results to the nearest 10 yr for samples with standard deviation in the radiocarbon age greater than 50 yr.

Posterior Probability Distributions



<>

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UBNo	Sample ID	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$	C:N ratio	Pretreatment	Yield
48962	2725	-23.1	7.8	3.10	Collagen	6.30
48961	SK2	-20.6	11.6	3.11	Collagen	11.40
48960	SK1	-21.0	10.2	3.10	Collagen	5.10

C:N values are one indication of the degree of preservation of bone protein ("collagen") and/or contamination by soil organic substances. The recommended values for C:N atomic values reported here are between 2.9-3.5. (1,2).

1. van Klinken, G.J., *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 1999. **26**(6): p. 687-695.
2. Ramsey, C.B., et al., *Radiocarbon*, 2004. **46**(1): p. 155-163.