

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**MARSH MEAD FARM, CUDDINGTON ROAD,**

**DINTON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**SP 7578 1157**

*On behalf of*

*Mr Brian Berkery*

**AUGUST 2009**

**REPORT FOR** Mr Brian Berkery  
c/o KWA Architects  
Chalk Farm  
High Street  
Babraham  
Cambridge  
CB22 3AG

**PREPARED BY** Gwilym Williams

**ILLUSTRATION BY** Eoin Fitzsimons

**FIELDWORK** 12th - 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**REPORT ISSUED** 20th August 2009

**ENQUIRES TO** John Moore Heritage Services  
Hill View  
Woodperry Road  
Beckley  
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ  
Tel/Fax 01865 358300  
Email: [info@jmheritageservices.co.uk](mailto:info@jmheritageservices.co.uk)

**Site Code** DIMM 09  
**JMHS Project No:** 2079  
**Archive Location** The archive is currently held by JMHS and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course under Accession Number: 2009.140

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>	
1.1 Site Location	1	
1.2 Planning Background	1	
1.3 Archaeological Background	1	
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>4</b>	
3.1 Research Design	4	
3.2 Methodology	5	
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>5</b>	
4.1 Excavation Results	5	
4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results	9	
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>9</b>	
5.1 Pottery by Paul Booth	9	
5.2 Animal Bone by Milena Gryzbowska	11	
5.3 Other Finds	12	
5.4 Environmental Remains	13	
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>APPENDIX</b> Archaeological Context Inventory	<b>15</b>	
 <b>FIGURES</b>		
<b>Figure 1</b>	Site and Trench locations	2
<b>Figure 2</b>	Trenches 1-3 Plans and sections	6
<b>Figure 3</b>	Trenches 4 & 5 Plans and sections	8

---

**Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation of five trenches on land at Marsh Mead Farm, Dinton on the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The evaluation revealed several Roman field ditches dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD or later and a single post-medieval gully. A pit or terminal of a ditch may be of middle Iron Age date.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The site is located between Dinton and Cuddington on the Cuddington Road at NGR SP 7578 1157. The northern half of the site is located on Kimmeridge Clay with bands of Portland Stone and Purbeck Limestone to the south. The decayed limestone, known locally as ‘witchert’, is a clay deposit containing limestone pieces. The drift geology consists mostly of undifferentiated Head, with Alluvium along the banks of the River Thames, forming the northern boundary of the site.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

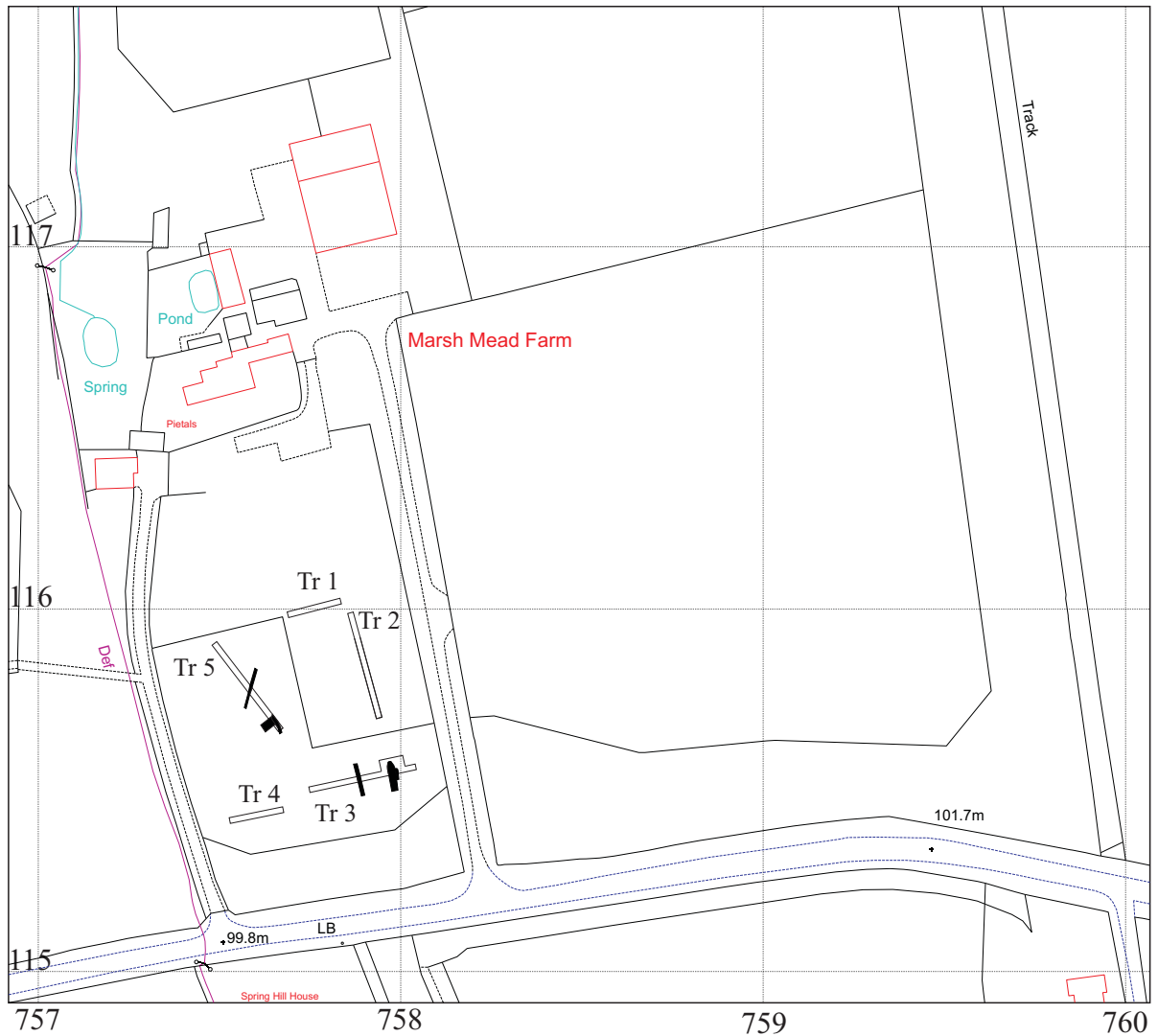
A planning application is to be submitted for the erection of a garage and new stables, storage barns, all weather arena and canter track to Aylesbury Vale District Council. Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) has advised that a pre-determination programme of archaeological work should be carried out.

The Archaeological Evaluation was designed to establish the presence/absence and condition of any archaeological deposits thought to be present within the site in order to help formulate any future mitigation strategies, if necessary. This is in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan Policies.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the fields immediately south of Cowley Farm in 2004 by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS 2004). The discovery of the butt end of a Roman ditch suggested that a field system associated with the Roman settlement could have extended to the north-west of the Roman site (HER 04989).

Fieldwalking in the field immediately to the south-east of Cowley Farm (350m north-west of the site) recovered early Neolithic to late Bronze Age lithics (HER 4989). These appeared to be evenly spread throughout the field. Further similar material of the same date range was found in the field to the north-east of Cowley Farm during fieldwalking (HER 4981). A slight concentration was found in one area. Further lithics of the early Neolithic to late Bronze Age period (HER 4982) were found during fieldwalking of the field to the west of Dinton Castle and East of Marsh Mead Farm. A concentration of finds in part of the field may indicate a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age site. During excavations of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery within this field, a pit containing a Neolithic blade was found along with a further undated feature. Other early Neolithic to late Bronze Age flints were recovered during the excavation (HER 4982). A Neolithic to Bronze Age scraper was found north of Dinton Castle (HER 2295).



© Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449



Figure 1. Trench location

Apart from the concentration of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age lithics to the west of Dinton Castle and the slight concentration in the field to the north-east of Cowley Farm there appears to be a fairly uniform scatter of material of the early Neolithic to late Bronze Age over the general landscape between Cowley Farm and Dinton Castle. It is presumed that settlement sites occurred in the area and may be in the vicinity of the two concentrations of finds. The fieldwalking south-east of Cowley Farm suggests that no prehistoric settlement was in the area of the proposed development. Further Mesolithic to Bronze Age flint scraper and flakes came from the spoil of a pipeline c. 250m south-east of Marsh Mead Farm (HER 4248).

The fieldwalking in the field to the south-east of Cowley Farm found a concentration of Romano-British pottery in the southern two-thirds of the east part of the field (HER 4989) c. 150-200m from Cowley Farmhouse. This pottery along with finds of tile suggests a building was located here. A general scatter of pottery of this date was found elsewhere in this field and in the field to the north-east of Cowley Farm (HER 4981). This scatter continued into the field west of Dinton Castle (HER 4982) where along with Romano-British pottery, probable Belgic pottery was recovered. Roman metalwork was recovered from metal-detecting immediately east of Dinton Castle Pottery from the whole Romano-British period appears to be present in the area and the activity may have commenced c. 100BC. The general scatter of pottery is probably the result of manuring of fields around the presumed settlement site.

The fieldwalking suggests the presence of a Romano-British settlement 150-200m away from the proposal site and therefore the proposed development site is likely to be within fields associated with the settlement.

To the south of Aylesbury Road and east of Springfield Farm a probable ditch containing early-mid Saxon pottery was found during a watching brief (HER 4749). This may relate to a settlement or be a field boundary. A Saxon cemetery has been found by Dinton Castle (HER 0686).

The topographical location on lighter soils overlooking a river is likely to have been favoured for early settlement, a supposition supported by the archaeological evidence from the immediate vicinity (see above HER 4981, 4989 and 10252) and other sites along the ridge such as Aylesbury (Iron Age hillfort and Saxon Minster), Stone (Roman settlement), Dinton (pagan Saxon cemetery) and Haddenham (cropmarks and prehistoric artefact scatters).

Fieldwalking west of Dinton Castle has produced a large quantity of medieval pottery and some post-medieval sherds (HER 4982). The large difference in amounts of medieval and post-medieval pottery retrieved from this field and that from the other fields walked in the area is unexplained. The other fields have produced negligible amounts with no medieval pottery from south-east of Cowley Farm, 2 sherds from the field north-north-east of Springhill Farm (HER 4980) and one sherd from the field north-east of Cowley Farm (HER 4981). The last is surprising given that this field is known to have been in agricultural use during the medieval period as evidenced by ridge and furrow showing on aerial photographs within this field and fields further to the north and west.

The earliest map available at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies was the 1770 Jeffrey's map of the county. This showed Cowley Farm to the west, which is still

extant, and Holywell Farm to the north. The Inclosure Award map of 1803 shows the property as a single field, North Mead Field, owned by Thomas Wootton. No buildings are shown within the property, and the west edge of the property is shown to be the edge of historic Dinton parish. The 1825 Bryant map of the county shows the same farms as Jeffrey with the addition of Field Farm to the east. No field boundaries are shown. The name Field Farm is replaced by Starvehall or Starveall Farm by 1885 on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. The 1st Ed. OS map is also the first to show Springhill Farm. Holywell Farm to the north disappeared at some point after the 1922 edition.

The Solent Thames Historic Environment Resource Assessment for Roman Buckinghamshire has noted the pattern of rural settlement is one of dispersed agrarian villas and farmsteads. To date there is no evidence for nucleated “village” settlement (Zeevat and Radford 2007).

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To aim to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the proposal area.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

Particular aims for the project were:

- Establish whether Romano-British remains are present.
- Establish whether prehistoric remains are present

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

In response to Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service’s (BCAS) Brief, a scheme of investigation was designed by JMHS and agreed with BCAS and the applicant. The work was carried out by JMHS and involved the excavation of five trial trenches across the site

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field

Archaeologists (1994) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

### **3.2 Methodology**

In order to satisfy the aims of the investigation it was agreed to excavate five trenches totalling 120m in length and 1.6m in width across the site using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The resulting surfaces were hand cleaned before any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand in order to meet the aims as defined above. A contingency for an additional 30m of trenching was available to be used either to answer specific questions or to determine the extent and density of any remains found. This was used to examine what was initially believed to be a wall, but which was determined to be an outcrop of limestone bedrock. The trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed all weather arena, stable block, barns and horse exerciser.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. All archaeological features were scanned with a metal-detector. Following discussion with Ruth Beckley, the monitoring archaeologist with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service Trench 3 was extended to investigate a possible wall. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

## **4 RESULTS**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in ( ) indicate fills or deposits of material whilst numbers referring to features themselves are shown without brackets.

### **4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)**

The trenches were located in the positions indicated on the Written Scheme of Investigation with the exception of Trench 4 that was turned through 90<sup>0</sup> due to the presence of trees.. The trenches were issued with a set of context numbers. Context numbers in ( ) indicate feature fills or deposits of material. Those without brackets refer to features themselves. All trenches contained topsoil, subsoil and natural 'witchert'. These were recorded as Trench number followed by /01 for topsoil, /02 for subsoil and /03 for natural. Where these were the only contexts present, they have not been detailed in the trench description, but are in the context inventory.

#### **Trench 1 (Figure 2)**

Trench 1 was oriented east by northeast/west by southwest. It was 15m long and 1.5m wide. The top of the trench at the east end was 99.58m OD, the base was 99.32m OD. The top at the west end was 99.30m OD, the base 99.08m OD. No archaeological features were present.

#### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was oriented north by northeast/south by southwest. It was 30m long and 1.5m wide. The top of the trench at the north end was 99.68m OD, the base was 99.44m OD. The top at the south end was 99.90m OD, the base 99.65m OD. No archaeological features were present. Trench 2 had a thin deposit c. 0.1m thick of

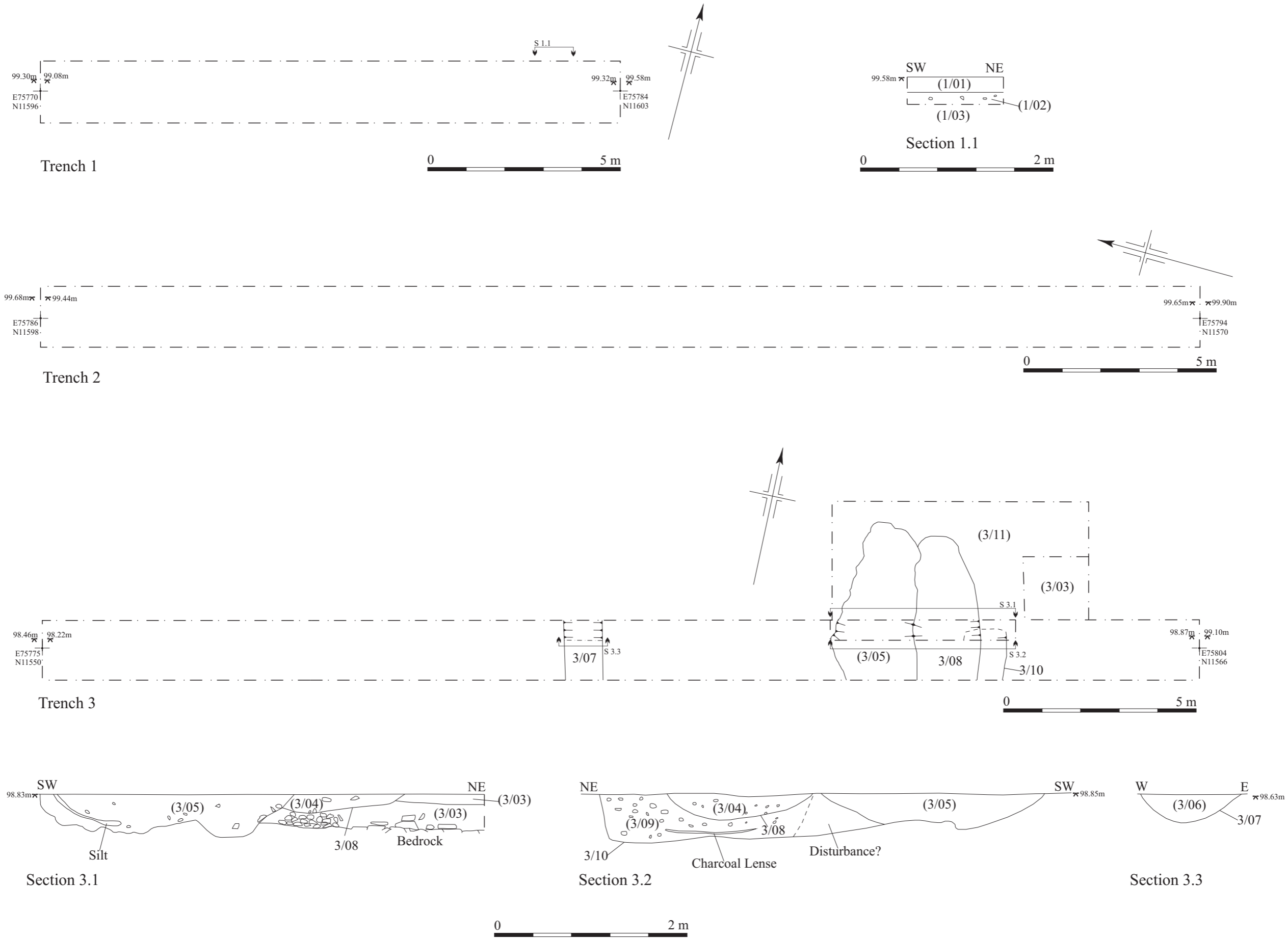


Figure 2. Trenches 1-3 plans and sections

topsoil along the east side, which was investigated. It did not prove to be an archaeological feature.

### **Trench 3**

Trench 3 was oriented east by northeast/west by southwest. It was 30m long and 1.5m wide. It was extended to the north 3m from the east end with a box measuring 7m by 3m to investigate the possible presence of a wall, which proved to be lamination of the limestone bedrock. The top of the trench at the east end was 99.10m OD, the base was at 98.87m OD. The top of the trench at the west end was 98.46m OD and the base was 98.22m OD.

At the eastern end of the trench was a straight-sided pit or possible ditch 3/10 cut into the natural 'witchert' (3/03). The eastern edge was cut into clay, the northern edge was defined by laminated limestone within the clay. It measured at least 1.5m north/south and approximately 2m east/west; the western edge was disturbed by the later tree throw hole (3/05). The pit was 0.45m deep. The markedly greater depth of the feature, when compared with that of the ditches, may well indicate a pit rather than a ditch, although it should be noted that the ditch found at Cowley Farm was similarly deep (JMHS 2004, 8). The pit 3/10 was filled by a dark grey-brown loamy silty clay with limestone pieces (3/09).

The upper part of the pit 3/10 was cut by a shallow ditch 3/08, which measured more than 3.7m north/south, 1.5m across and 0.26m deep. It was filled with dark grey-brown loamy silty clay with limestone pieces and burnt stone (3/04). Animal bone was recovered from the deposit, which indicated a domestic assemblage. Pottery yields a date-range of AD240-300. A single fragment of post-medieval peg-tile was also recovered, although this is intrusive. The middle Iron Age material could have come from the underlying pit fill (3/09)

Both of these features were disturbed on the western edge by a later tree throw hole, which when the area was opened to the north extended 4m north/south. The base of the tree throw hole was irregular, which was filled with mid brown silty clay (3/05); paler and more sandy silting was apparent on the eastern side of the deposit. Roman pottery was recovered from the deposit, although a post-medieval sherd of pottery and part of a peg tile were also present within the deposit.

East of the pit 3/10 the subsoil was disturbed, although no features were apparent. This deposit of pale brownish white silty clay with loamy streaking (3/11) was very similar to the subsoil, though here it was c. 0.2m deeper than elsewhere in the trench. Post-medieval peg-tile and bone was recovered from the deposit. This may be related to the disturbance caused by the tree throw hole.

To the west, a shallow gully 3/07 ran north/south, measuring more than 1.6m by 1m wide east/west. It was 0.3m deep and was filled with dark brown silty clay (3/06). A single small piece of clay pipe stem and a post-medieval sherd of pottery were recovered from the fill indicating a post-medieval date for the field gully.

### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was oriented east by northeast/west by southwest. It was originally oriented north/south, but due to the presence of a plantation of trees at the southern end of the

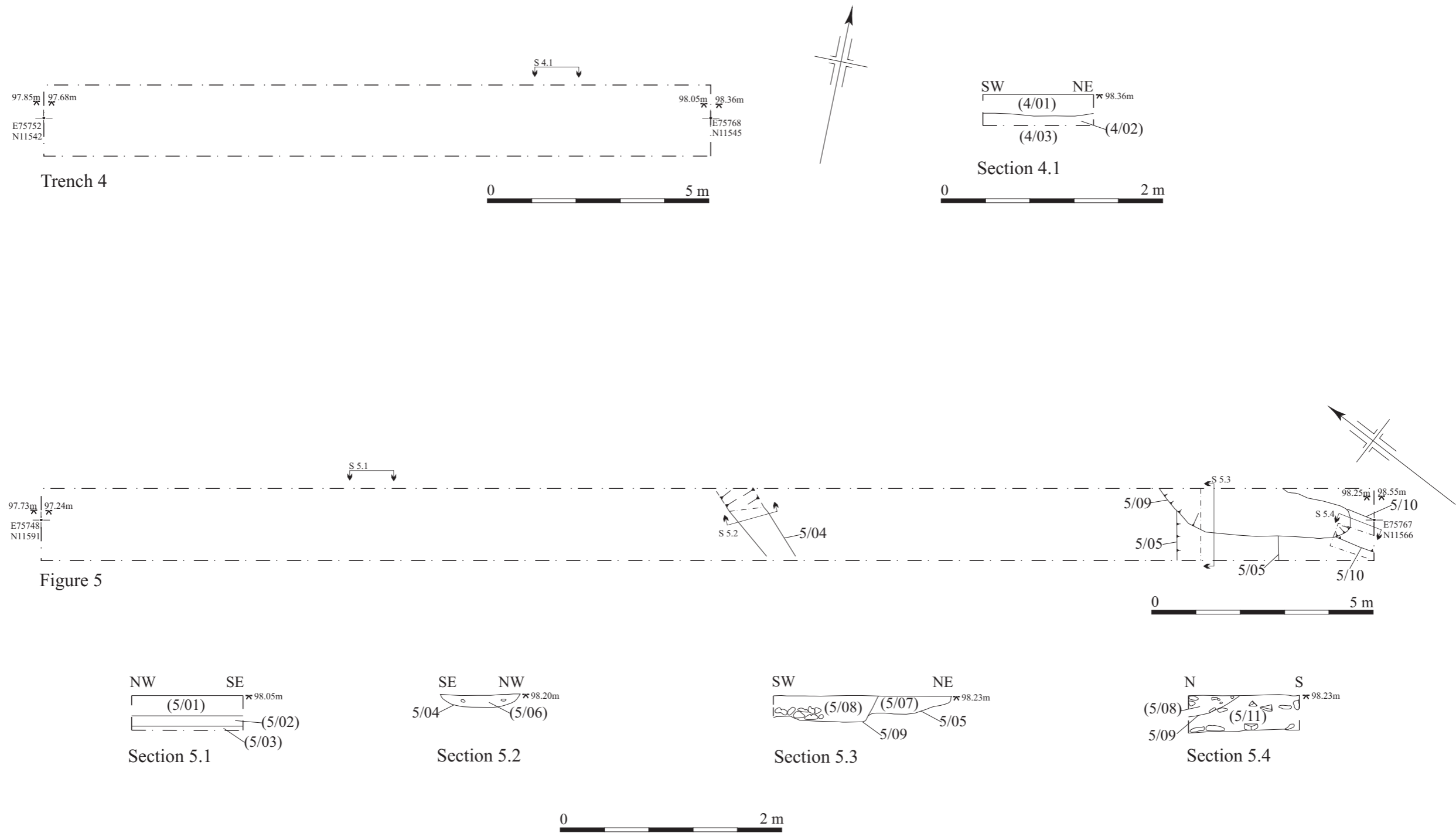


Figure 3. Trenches 4 & 5 Plans and sections

trench it was swung 90° at the north end. It was 15m long and 1.5m wide. The top of the trench at the east end was 98.36m OD, the base was 98.05m OD. The top at the west end was 97.85m OD, the base 97.68m OD. No archaeological features were present.

### **Trench 5**

Trench 5 was oriented northwest/southeast. It was 30m long and 1.5m wide. The top of the trench at the north end was 97.73m OD, the base was 97.24m OD. The top at the south end was 98.55m OD, the base 98.25m OD.

In the middle of Trench 5 a shallow gully 5/04 measuring more than 1.6m long, 0.3m wide and 0.15m deep ran northeast/southwest. It was filled with mid grey-brown silty clay with small limestone pieces (5/06). Pottery from it is dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD or later.

At the south end of the trench ditch 5/10 ran north by northwest/south by southeast measuring more than 1m long, 0.80m wide and 0.35m deep. It was filled with firm mid brown-grey silty clay with charcoal flecking and limestone pieces (5/11). Bone and pot were recovered from the fill. The pottery dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD or later. The ditch 5/10 was cut by a similarly oriented ditch 5/09 (see below).

The ditch 5/09 also cut a broad shallow ditch 5/05. The ditch 5/05, which appeared likely to terminate beyond the west edge of the trench, was oriented northeast/southwest. It measured 2.2m wide and 0.28m deep. It was only observed for 1.1m as it was cut to the east by 5/09. The ditch 5/05 was filled with mid grey-brown silty clay with limestone pieces (5/07). Pottery from it is dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD or later.

The ditch 5/09 was oriented north by northwest/south by southeast. It measured more than 3.5m long, 1m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled with dark brown-grey silty clay and limestone pieces (5/08). Again pottery from the feature is dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD or later.

## **4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results**

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The excavation of the trenches took place in overcast conditions with occasional light rain on day one. The northern extension to Trench 3 was carried out on day two in good weather.

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Pottery by Paul Booth**

The evaluation produced 55 sherds (737 g) of Iron Age and Roman pottery, plus two fragments (8 g) of post-medieval glazed red earthenware. The pottery was scanned rapidly and recorded using codes in the Oxford Archaeology later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system. Quantification was by sherd count and weight, with quantification of vessels by rim count (the full records are in archive). The sherds were in variable condition in terms of size, but mostly in fairly good condition with

regard to erosion/abrasion and with surfaces well-preserved. The pottery is summarised by context group below.

*Pottery quantities (no. sherds/weight) by context and period*

Context	Iron Age	Roman	Context (ceramic) date	Fabrics etc/comment (vessel types represented by rims in brackets)
3/4	18/244	14/252	240-300?	AZ3 jar; C10 (jar), O10, O30 (bowl), O81, R10, R30, R50, M22 (Young type M17)
3/5		6/90	2-4C or 18C+	O80, R10, R20, C10, plus post-medieval fragment (1/1) ?intrusive
3/7			post-medieval	Glazed red earthenware (1/7)
5/6		4/18	2C or later	O10, R30
5/7		3/24	2C or later	R30
5/8		2/28	2C or later	R10 (?jar)
5/11		8/81	2C or later?	R10 (jar or bowl), R30, M22. A post-medieval CBM fragment is also present
TOTAL	18/244	37/493		

### ***Iron Age***

A group of sherds, many probably from a single vessel, from context 3/4 may have been from the fill of an underlying feature cut by this ditch. The sherds are all in the same handmade fabric, tempered with common large rounded quartz sand grains and having occasional elongated voids, perhaps from burnt out organic inclusions. The vessel was a simple upright form with a very slightly expanded and outturned rim, and dates to the middle Iron Age.

### ***Roman***

The Roman pottery is in a range of generally undiagnostic fabrics typical of but not necessarily deriving from the Oxford pottery industry. Some regional non-Oxford products were also present:

- M22. Oxford white ware mortarium. 2 sherds, 118 g.
- O10. Fine oxidised 'coarse' wares, ?Oxford product. 2 sherds, 11 g.
- O30. Medium sandy oxidised 'coarse' ware, source uncertain. 1 sherd, 68 g.
- O80. Grog-tempered oxidised coarse ware, source uncertain. 1 sherd, 6 g.
- O81. Pink grogged ware (Stowe). 3 sherds, 21 g.
- R10. Fine reduced 'coarse' wares, mostly Oxford products. 9 sherds, 75 g.
- R20. Sandy reduced coarse wares. 1 sherd, 2 g.
- R30. Moderately sandy reduced coarse wares. 12 sherds, 72 g.
- R50. Black-surfaced medium sandy reduced coarse wares. 1 sherd, 13 g.
- C10. Shell-tempered wares, ?local. 5 sherds, 109 g.

None of the fabrics derives from outside the region. Most of the sherds in the standard 'Romanised' fabrics (O10, O30, R10-R50) may have been Oxford products, but

similar fabrics could also have been produced more locally. The single sherd in fabric O30 is from a flanged bowl comparable to Young (1977) type O48, but not exactly similar, and this vessel is quite likely not to have been an Oxford product.

### ***Discussion***

The middle Iron Age sherds from context 3/4 are in fresh condition and most probably derived originally from a feature of middle Iron Age date. Pottery characteristic of the late Iron Age and late Iron Age/early Roman transition, which is very common in this area, is completely absent here. While many of the Roman fabrics cannot be dated closely, together they provide no indication of significant activity before the 2nd century. The shell-tempered fabric tradition is encountered throughout the Roman period - these sherds need not be specifically of early Roman date. Most of the Roman context groups are too small to allow close dating and can only be assigned a date in the 2nd century or later. The one larger group, from context 3/4 is dated most closely by the Oxford white ware mortarium of Young (1977) type M17, to which a range of AD 240-300 is assigned. The flanged bowl in fabric O30 (see above) could be of similar, rather than earlier, date, and the three small sherds of fabric O81 in this group are of a fabric which, while in production probably as early as the late 1st century AD, is considerably more common in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Although the groups are small and negative evidence is therefore of limited value, the absence of Oxford colour-coated ware may be significant and could suggest that there was relatively little activity of 4th century date on the site.

### **5.2 Animal Bone by Milena Gryzbowska**

An assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Roman deposits during an archaeological evaluation at Marsh Mead Farm, Cuddington Road, Dinton. Oxfordshire by John Moore Heritage Services in June 2009. Animal bone was recovered from a number of features including ditches and pits.

All hand collected bone fragments were examined, with the number of potentially identifiable and unidentifiable bones being counted for each context, to provide a basic NISP (Number of Identified Specimens Present). Bones and teeth were identified using following references: Schmid (1972), Lasota-Moskalewska (1997), France (2009). The number of bones or teeth that could provide ageing or sexing information was recorded and evidence of butchery was noted.

In order to estimate the potential of an assemblage to provide taphonomic information, the condition of the bone is graded on a scale of 0 to 5. That assigned to '0' 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'. Vast majority of the bones were assigned to grade '2' indicating that the general condition of the assemblage recovered.

### ***Results***

A total of 80 fragments of animal bone were recovered of which over a third is identifiable to taxa (Table 1). The material was recovered by hand collection. Overall sheep/goat is the most frequent taxa, constituting over a half of identified fragments followed by cattle (Table 1) and pig.

Table 1. Taxa representation (NISP)

Context	Sheep-goat	Cattle	Pig	Unknown	Total	Weight
3/04	15	6	4	44	69	461
3/05	2	1	-	4	7	31
3/11	-	1	-	1	2	31
5/07	-	-	-	1	1	2
5/11	-	-	-	1	1	3
Total	17	8	4	51	80	528
%	21	10	5	64		

Ageing data could be obtained from three loose teeth of which 1 belongs to sheep/goat and 2 to cattle (Table 2). None of the specimens could provide an indication of sex. Evidence for butchery and burning was observed during recording. The butchery marks were consistent with disarticulation/jointing of the carcass and meat removal.

Table 2. Ageable specimens

Taxa	Numbers of ageable specimens
Sheep/goat	3
Cattle	2
Total	5

### Discussion

The evaluation at Marsh Mead Farm resulted in the retrieval of 80 fragments of animal bone and teeth. This collection represents a domestic assemblage, with butchery and burning evidence noted. The bones retrieved from Roman contexts belong to the major domesticated species such as sheep, cattle and pig.

The assemblage provides limited information on the animal utilisation and husbandry practices undertaken on site save the presence and use of the identified species, although it is interesting to note high frequency of sheep/goat fragments.

### 5.3 Other Finds

Material	Context number	Fragment count	Weight (g)
Burnt stone	3/4	8	697
CBM	3/4	3	47
Post-medieval Tile	3/4	3	29
	3/11	1	31
Clay pipe	3/6	1	2
Clinker	3/5	2	11

Two contexts produced single bone needles. These were (3/04) and (3/05).

## 5.4 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation at Marsh Mead Farm revealed four Roman field boundaries and a possible pit, although the latter may well be an earlier ditch. The pit at Marsh Mead Farm was straight-sided with a flat base cut 0.45m into the 'witchert'. The ditch from the evaluation at Cowley Farm to the west was also steep-sided and similarly deep, although it was not seen in full. The Middle Iron pottery may have derived from the fill of this feature. They are in fresh condition.

The ditches excavated at Marsh Mead Farm were generally shallow, measuring between 0.15m and 0.3m deep. In Trenches 3 and 5 three ditches – 3/10, 5/9 and 5/10 – were oriented north by northwest/south by southeast. The ditch 5/5, which was cut by the later ditch 5/9, appeared to return to the west on a southwest orientation, although given the limited view afforded by an evaluation it may well have formed a right angle. The northernmost ditch 5/4 was oriented north by northeast/south by southwest and did not appear to respect the same alignment as the other field boundaries. It is possible that two phases of activity are represented on site, or that internal subdivision of the fields would explain the different alignments.

Pottery, bone and burnt stone from ditch 3/08 in particular are indicative of domestic refuse. It is possible that the burnt stone may be associated with a structure, though no evidence for such was observed during the evaluation. The pottery dates the Roman occupation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and later.

Middle Iron Age activity on the site is evidenced from the pottery that may have come from the pit or ditch terminal 3/10. While no other material of this date has been found through fieldwalking this may be due to this type of pottery being more fragile than Roman pottery and thus not surviving later ploughing.

Field-walking to the west of the site at Cowley Farm and to the east of the site west of Dinton Castle revealed extensive remains from the Roman period. An evaluation carried out by John Moore Heritage Services evidenced a Roman field ditch (JMHS 2004) to the northwest of the current site. Although no features associated with Roman structures were identified during the evaluation, the not insignificant quantity of animal bone, some of which evidenced butchery and burning, and the pottery indicates the presence of a settlement in the vicinity of the site.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Davis, S. J. M. (1987). *The Archaeology of Animal Bones*. London, Batsford.

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

---

France, Diane L. (2009). *Human and Nonhuman Bones Identification. A Colour Atlas*.  
CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological  
Field Evaluation*. Revised 2001

JMHS 2004 *An Archaeological Field Evaluation at Cowley Farm, Aylesbury Road,  
Cuddington, Buckinghamshire*.

Lasota-Moskalewska, A. (1997). *Archeozoologia*. Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN,  
Warszawa

Schmid, E. (1972). *Atlas of Animal Bones: For Prehistorians, Archeologists and  
Quaternary Geologists. Knochenatlas: Für Prähistoriker, Archäologen und  
Quatärgeologen*, Elsevier Science Ltd, New York and Amsterdam

Zeepvat, R.J. and Radford, D. 2007 *Solent Thames Research Framework, Roman  
Buckinghamshire – Draft*

**Archaeological Context Inventory**

ID	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Findings	Interpretation	Date
<b>Trench 1</b>								
1/1	Deposit	Soft, black-brown silt.	0.15	Tr.	Tr.		Topsoil	Modern
1/2	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay.	0.10	Tr.	Tr.		Subsoil	-
1/3	Deposit	Witchert. Light yellow-white silty clay.	-	Tr.	Tr.		Natural	-
<b>Trench 2</b>								
1/4	Deposit	Soft, black-brown silt.	0.15	Tr.	Tr.		Topsoil	Modern
1/5	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay.	0.10	Tr.	Tr.		Subsoil	-
1/6	Deposit	Witchert. Light yellow-white silty clay.	-	Tr.	Tr.		Natural	-
<b>Trench 3</b>								
3/01	Deposit	Soft, black-brown silt.	0.15	Tr	Tr		Topsoil	Modern
3/02	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay.	0.10	Tr	Tr		Layer (Subsoil)	-
3/03	Deposit	Light yellow-white silty clay.	-	Tr	Tr		Natural geology	-
3/04	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Frequent small to large limestone fragments.				Pot, bone, tile, bone needle, CBM, clinker.	Fill of ditch 3/08	
3/05	Fill	Mid brown silty clay. Irregular shape in plan.				Pot, bone, bone needle.	Possible natural feature. Possibly root action.	
3/06	Fill	Friable, dark brown silty clay.	0.3	1.05	1.6	Pot, clay pipe.	Fill of post-med field boundary 3/07.	
3/07	Cut	N/S linear, Sharp BoS at top on W side, more gradual on E side. Concave sides and imperceptible BoS at base. Rounded base.	0.3	1.05	1.6		Post-med field boundary.	
3/08	Cut	NW/SE linear, 90° BoS at top with concave sides and 85° BoS at base. Flat base.	0.45	1.2	Unk.		Ditch	
3/09	Fill	Loose, dark black-grey silty clay. 30% small limestone fragments.	0.45	1.2	Unk.		Fill of pit 3/10.	
3/10	Cut	Unknown shape, squared NE corner, Sharp BoS at top E side, diffuse BoS at top W side. W and N sides straight, E side not visible. Sharp BoS at base. Flat base.	0.5	1.6	2.2		Possible pit.	

ID	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Findings	Interpretation	Date
3/11	Deposit	Moderate, pale brownish-white silty clay. Occasional limestone pieces. Some loamy streaking. Very ploughed.	0.2	3.0	3.0	Bone, CBM, tile.	Subsoil/ Natural interface.	
<b>Trench 4</b>								
4/01	Deposit	Loose, dark grey-brown silt. 10% small stones.	0.15m	Tr	Tr		Topsoil	
4/02	Deposit	Loose, medium grey-brown clay silt. 10 -15% small limestone fragments.	0.1m	Tr	Tr		Layer (subsoil)	
4/03	Deposit	Witchert. Light white-yellow. 40% small limestone fragments.	-	Tr	Tr		Natural geology.	
<b>Trench 5</b>								
5/01	Deposit	Dark grey-brown silt. 10% small stones	0.17	Tr	Tr		Topsoil	
5/02	Deposit	Loose, mid dark-grey brown clayey silt. 20-30% limestone fragments.	0.09	Tr	Tr		Layer (subsoil)	
5/03	Deposit	Witchert. Mid yellow-white, 60% small limestone fragments.	-	Tr	Tr		Natural geology.	
5/04	Cut	N/S linear, BoS at top 40°. Concave sides. BoS at base 30°. Flat base.	0.12	0.7	1.6		Possible ditch	
5/05	Cut	NE/SW linear, BoS at top 80°. Concave sides. BoS at base 80°. Flat base	0.23	1.10	2.30		Ditch	
5/06	Fill	Firm, mid grey-brown silty clay. Small limestone fragments.	0.12	0.7	1.6	Pot	Fill of possible ditch 5/04	
5/07	Fill	Firm, mid grey-brown silty clay. 30% small stones.	0.23	1.10	2.3	Pot, bone.	Fill of ditch 5/05	
5/08	Fill	Firm, dark grey-brown silty clay. 40% small limestone fragments.	0.30	1.00	3.50	Pot	Fill of possible ditch 5/09.	
5/09	Cut	N/S curvilinear, BoS at top 80°. Concave sides. BoS at base 80°. Flat base.	0.30	1.00	3.50		Curvilinear ditch.	
5/10	Cut	N/S linear, Sharp BoS at top and at base. Vertical sides and slightly concave base.	0.35	0.80	1.00		Ditch	
5/11	Fill	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional flecks of charcoal, frequent large angular pieces of limestone concentrated at base of feature.	0.35	0.80	1.00	Pot, bone, shell.	Fill of ditch 5/10	