Land at North Shrivenham Oxfordshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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P13/V1810/O (Phase A) and P15/V2541/O (Phase B)
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Legal & General Homes to undertake an archaeological excavation prior to development on land east of Highworth Road (B4000), Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, SN6 8DE. The excavation area is centred on NGR 423560 189320.

The work was carried out as a condition of planning consents granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council (refs P13/V1810/O and P15/V2541/O) and entailed the excavation of approximately 4 ha divided between four areas. The excavations were undertaken between 21 July and 23 November 2018.

The excavated areas contained a complex and relatively dense concentration of archaeological features, including the remains of at least 15 roundhouses and 11 small rectangular post-built structures, as well as many pits and postholes, of which around 320 were excavated. The features were interspersed with a multi-phase system of ditched enclosures and land divisions, overlain by or laid out to either side of a long-lived trackway that extended along the ridge between the excavated areas. A large and varied finds assemblage was recovered, including over 51 kg of (mainly Iron Age) pottery and 116 kg of animal bone as well as worked bone, shale and metal objects (including Roman coins and items of personal adornment), cremated and unburnt human bone, pieces of quern stones, worked flint, slag and fired clay. The remains of a wooden box containing late Roman pewter plates was also found during the previously reported evaluation phase. Occasionally rich, varied and well-preserved assemblages of archaeobotanical remains were recovered from bulk samples taken from a selection of excavated contexts.

Much of the evidence derives from multiple, broadly contiguous phases of occupation, perhaps mostly spanning the Early–Middle Iron Age but also extending into the latter stages of the period. The site continued to be used, albeit much less intensively, throughout the Romano-British period; whilst there are indications of domestic activity nearby at this time, the inhabited areas seem to have shifted elsewhere – probably to the west of the development site. Indications of pre-Iron Age activity are sparse, whilst post-Roman remains chiefly comprise traces of medieval/earlier post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation as well as later field boundaries, all potentially laid out with reference to the ancient trackway.

The evidence will make an important contribution to the understanding of Iron Age, and to a lesser extent, Romano-British settlement, land-use and economic practises in the Vale of the White Horse and are of local and regional significance. Accordingly, this assessment sets out recommendations for a program of further analysis and includes proposals for publication of the results in the form of a Wessex Archaeology Occasional Paper.

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Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Smith's Construction for their assistance on site, as well as the members of the Shrivenham Heritage Society for sharing their local knowledge and, especially, Neil Maw for documenting the excavation through drone photography.

Land at North Shrivenham Oxfordshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Legal & General Homes to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation prior to development on land east of Highworth Road (B4000), Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, SN6 8DE. The excavation area is centred on NGR 423560 189320 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The development is sub-divided into two phases (Phase A and B), with separate outline planning applications (ref. P13/V1810/O and P15/V2541/O) for each submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC). In some of the planning documentation, the Phase A and B developments are alternatively identified as Phases 1 and 2, respectively.

1.1.3 The Phase A planning application (P13/V1810/O) sought permission for mixed-use development of up to 240 dwellings, provision for a new primary school, along with associated public open space and highways works. The Phase B planning application (P15/V2541/O) was for mixed-use development of up to 275 dwellings and up to 400 square metres of A1 retail use, associated public open space, as well as a new roundabout junction on the A420 and other highways works on Highworth Road.

1.1.4 The Phase A and B developments were granted outline planning permission by VWHDC on 6 October 2017, subject to conditions. Identical conditions relating to archaeology were attached to both:

Phase A Condition 19/Phase B Condition 16

The applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall be responsible for organising and implementing an archaeological investigation, to be undertaken prior to development commencing. The investigation shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF and saved policy HE10 of the adopted Local Plan 2011.

Phase A Condition 20/Phase B Condition 17

Prior to the commencement of the development and following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 16, a staged programme of archaeological investigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF and saved policy HE10 of the adopted Local Plan 2011.

1.1.5 Desk-based assessments (The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) 2014; 2015), geophysical surveys (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2013; 2014) and trial trenching (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; 2015) were undertaken prior to determination of the planning applications. The Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS), acting as the archaeological planning advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), subsequently prepared a *Design Brief for Archaeological Recording Action* for each phase of the development (Coddington 2017a–b). The objectives outlined in the OCAS design briefs (Coddington 2017a–b) were as follows:

The mitigation strategy will seek to alleviate damage to significant archaeological deposits/features, and the developer will be responsible for ensuring this by:

a) implementing a full set-piece excavation to deal with all significant remains. If areas of low significance are revealed during the programme these may be dealt with, if agreed by the planning archaeologist, through selective recording action or smaller scale sampling. A watching brief may also be implemented during construction if deemed necessary.

b) and where practical and feasible, or where the status and survival quality of the remains is deemed to be of national importance (using the Secretary of States Non-Statutory Criteria), physical preservation in situ.

1.1.6 The design briefs were prepared following consultation between Wessex Archaeology, acting on behalf of the client, and OCAS. This included agreement on the location and extent of the excavation areas, as shown on Figure 1, which were informed by the results of previous archaeological investigations and the footprint of the development. The agreed mitigation strategy also specified preservation *in situ* areas where no archaeological excavation was to be undertaken as these areas would not be impacted by the development. These were based on:

- the retention of a hedge-line dividing the Phase A and B development along the line of which, and a buffer zone either side of, no archaeological excavation or ground-moving would be undertaken on ecological grounds; and
- areas within the development that are to be retained and managed as pockets of green space between residential development.

1.1.7 Written schemes of investigation (WSIs) (Wessex Archaeology 2018a–b), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards for the excavation and post-excavation work, were approved by OCAS. All works were carried out in accordance with the WSIs. The excavations were undertaken between 21 July and 23 November 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavations and to assess their potential to address the research aims outlined in the WSIs. It also recommends a programme of further analysis, and outlines the resources needed, to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the results through publication and the curation of the archive.

1.2.2 The report does not include detailed assessment of the results of the preceding evaluations. However, the reported findings of the evaluations (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; 2015) are discussed in the context of the excavation results where relevant. In addition, the recommendations for further analysis set out in this report include proposals for integrating the results of the evaluations where appropriate.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The development site is on the north-west side of Shrivenham, which is in south-west Oxfordshire, approximately 9.7 km north-east from the centre of Swindon and 1 km south-west of the village of Watchfield. It is bounded to the south-west and north-east, respectively, by Highworth Road and Pennyhooks Lane, and to the north-west by the A420.

1.3.2 The Phase A development area (approximately 15.87 ha) is immediately to the south of the Phase B area (approximately 10.2 ha), with a south-west to north-east hedgerow/field boundary dividing them. At the time of the investigations, the development areas were divided between seven fields. The excavated areas were located in the north-western part of the Phase A development site and south-eastern part of the Phase B development site (refer to section 4.1; Fig. 1, Plate 1).

1.3.3 The boundary between the Phase A and B development areas coincides with a low, south-west–north-east ridge. Within the Phase A excavation area, the land slopes down from north-west to south-east, from approximately 106.60 m OD to 100.70 m OD, while in Phase B the land falls from south-east to north-west, from approximately 107.40 m OD to 101.40 m OD. The ridge, and the excavation areas as a whole, slope down gradually from the south-west to the valley of the Pennyhooks/Tuckmill Brook – a tributary of the River Cole – some 0.5 km to the north-east.

1.3.4 Geologically, the site lies at the foot of the Corallian Ridge. Three types of bedrock are mapped within the development area: in the south is ferruginous sandstone of the Down Sandstone Member, in the centre is mudstone of the Ampthill Clay Formation and in the north is limestone of the Stanford Formation (British Geological Survey (BGS) online viewer). No superficial deposits are recorded in this location by the BGS.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and historical context

Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was described in two desk-based assessments (EDP 2014; 2015), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area around the development site. The following presents a summary of the results, supplemented by information from additional referenced sources.

Earlier prehistoric (970,000–700 BC)

2.1.2 The desk-based assessments (EDP 2014; 2015) identified almost no recorded evidence of earlier prehistoric activity within the 1 km study area. However, a recent evaluation on land at Longcot Road, approximately 570 m south of the Phase A development area, recovered worked flint (blades) of probable Mesolithic date (Wessex Archaeology 2018c). Late Mesolithic worked flint was also recovered north of Watchfield, some 1.4 km north-east of the development area, during excavations associated with construction of the A420 Shrivenham Bypass (Scull 1992). Subsequent excavations on a neighbouring site at Watchfield also uncovered a concentration of Mesolithic worked flint (Birbeck 2001).

2.1.3 Some indications of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, in the form of residual finds and a small number of features, were identified during the Shrivenham Bypass investigations (Scull 1992), although evidence of activity during these periods has been poorly represented during other work in the local area. By contrast, Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age remains are relatively abundant across some parts of Oxfordshire, especially the Upper Thames Valley (Morigi *et al* 2011), and neighbouring counties (Bradley 2014).

Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43) and Romano-British (AD43–410)

2.1.4 The Vale of the White Horse Survey identified little evidence of Iron Age activity within the area covered by the project, other than the conspicuous hillforts to the north and south (Tingle 1991). However, Iron Age remains have been recorded with greater frequency in this area with the subsequent expansion of development-led investigations. Widespread and substantial evidence of Iron Age occupation has been recorded across more intensively investigated parts of Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties (Allen 2006; Lambrick *et al* 2009; Lambrick 2014a), suggesting that sampling biases had, to some degree, previously resulted in an under-representation of activity during the period. Indeed, work in the local area since the Vale of the White Horse Survey has uncovered significant evidence relating to this period, including the remains of a small enclosed Early–Middle Iron Age settlement that was partly exposed and recorded at Watchfield during the Shrivenham Bypass excavations (Scull 1992). The settlement was subject to further excavation in 1998, which uncovered the southward continuation of the enclosure, two inhumation graves and several pits – one of which contained a complete, articulated cattle skeleton (Birbeck 2001).

2.1.5 An evaluation on the west side of Highworth Road and immediately adjacent to the Phase B development area, identified a concentration of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes that were predominantly dated to the Early–Middle Iron Age (TVAS 2014). Evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age occupation has also been recorded further to the west at South Marston (Reynolds 2014).

2.1.6 The development area lies some 5 km east of Ermin Street, the major Roman road linking the *civitas* capitals at Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) and Gloucester (*Glevum*) via Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunnorum*). Also sited along the road was the small town at Wanborough (*Durocornovium*), near Swindon. Late Iron Age and Romano-British remains have been recorded with some frequency during investigations in the local area. This is perhaps unsurprising given the extensive evidence of activity on the Berkshire Downs to the south and the Upper Thames valley to the north and east (Booth *et al* 2007; Fulford 2014a; Lambrick *et al* 2009; Smith *et al* 2016).

2.1.7 A complex of Late Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure ditches and associated pits, and a small Romano-British cremation cemetery were recorded during the excavations at Watchfield in 1998 (Birbeck 2001). Later work on a neighbouring site uncovered associated Late Iron Age and early Roman enclosures, possible mid–late Roman ovens and the remains of two post-built structures (Heawood 2004). Relatively large quantities of Late Iron Age–early Roman pottery found during both episodes of excavation suggest the focus of settlement lay nearby.

2.1.8 Traces of Roman occupation were also recorded 200 m west of the development area, to the west of Highworth Road, during construction of the Shrivenham bypass. These included pits, ditches and cobbled areas, as well as a spread of limestone rubble indicative of a building nearby (HER MOX9457; Frere 1984, 302). Further Romano-British settlement-related features were revealed during subsequent (as-yet unreported) excavations of a site immediately south of the A420 where trial trenching had uncovered predominantly Early–Middle Iron Age remains (see above; TVAS 2014) (Hugh Coddington, pers comm).

2.1.9 More recently, trial trenching on land at Farleigh Road, some 350 m south-west of the development area revealed several Late Iron Age/Romano-British ditches and pits (Upson-Smith 2013). Further to the west, areas of rural Roman settlement have also been recorded at Roves Farm (OAU 2014) and South Marston, the latter of also contained Late Iron Age/early Roman burials (Askew 2014; MOLA 2005; Reynolds 2014).

Saxon (AD 410–1066), medieval (AD 1066–1500) and post-medieval (AD 1500–present)

2.1.10 A large early Saxon inhumation cemetery, dating from the 5th and 6th centuries AD, was discovered north of Watchfield during the Shrivenham bypass investigations (Scull 2001). Only partially excavated, the remainder of the cemetery is now scheduled (NHLE 1010755). An unusual prone burial found close by during subsequent excavations was suggested to be of late Roman or early Saxon date (Birbeck 2001) but little other direct evidence of activity during this period has been recorded in the local area.

2.1.11 Shrivenham is mentioned in late Saxon charters, whilst the corresponding entry in Domesday indicates that this was a large and populous royal holding in 1086. During the medieval period, Shrivenham appears to have developed as the principal settlement within a very large parish, surrounded by subsidiary, dispersed and isolated hamlets, including Bourton, Watchfield, Longcot and Fernham. The development areas lay well beyond the medieval core of Shrivenham, and presumably coincided with the open fields attached to the settlement.

2.1.12 Much of the landscape surrounding Shrivenham, presumably including the location of the development areas, continued in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval period, the process of enclosure having been largely completed by the late 18th century (Page and Ditchfield 1924). Cartographic evidence examined during the desk-based assessments (EDP 2014; 2015) supports the assertion that the land within the development site was used for agricultural purposes since at least the late 18th century and confirms that the extant field boundaries had remained largely unchanged from the mid-19th century through to the time of the excavations. Highworth Road and Pennyhooks Lane, which border the Phase A and B development areas, had evidently been established by 1768, as they are depicted on John Rocque's map of the Hundred of Shrivenham (BRO D/EX 52/M/1; reproduced in AAU 2012, Fig. 3). The 1879 and 1899 OS maps also depict a track called 'Slade Lane' extending along the north-west–south-east field boundary at the eastern edge of the Phase B excavation area.

2.1.13 Shrivenham expanded rapidly in the second half of the 20th century, with development radiating out from the historic core to the west, south and east, including along the western side of Highworth Road. The Shrivenham bypass (A420) was constructed in 1983–4.

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Geophysical surveys

2.2.1 A geophysical survey of the Phase A development area was carried out in May 2013 (Archaeological Surveys Limited 2013). Geophysical anomalies of archaeological interest were largely concentrated within the northern-western parts of the Phase A development area, along the southern side of the ridge corresponding with the boundary with the Phase B development area to the north (Fig. 1). The survey results were interpreted as relating to a series of rectilinear enclosures and linear ditches, which appeared to be associated with five (possibly eight) ring ditches and numerous pits. The ring ditches were generally 12–18 m in diameter and seemed to relate to large round houses. Widespread burning and other occupational debris were indicated by the strength of the anomalies. Another probable ring ditch (external diameter 23 m) and associated enclosure was identified a little further along the ridge to the north-east. The responses from the southern and western parts of the putative ring ditch were significantly enhanced, suggesting its fills incorporated burnt material. Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were evident throughout the Phase A survey areas in the form of discrete blocks of parallel linear anomalies/trends, the orientations of which closely conformed to the layout of the extant field system. Few other potentially

significant anomalies were detected throughout the remainder of the Phase A development area.

2.2.2 The Phase B development area was subject to geophysical survey in August and September 2014 (Archaeological Surveys Limited 2014). The survey detected a dense concentration of geophysical anomalies extending along the northern side of the ridge at the southern edge of the Phase B development area (Fig. 1). These appeared to represent the continuation of features previously detected immediately to the south in the Phase A survey area. The survey also indicated the presence of at least seven additional ring ditches and several small rectangular or irregularly shaped enclosures, possibly deriving from more than once phase of activity. Parallel linear anomalies extending to the north-east from the main concentration of anomalies were thought to have possibly been associated with a trackway. The results suggested that the remainder of the Phase B survey area had limited archaeological potential although, as with the Phase A survey, widespread traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were detected.

Evaluations

2.2.3 The Phase A and Phase B evaluations comprised the excavation of 16 and 20 trenches, in October 2013 and February–March 2015, respectively (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; 2015). Phase A trenches are referred to below as A1–16 and Phase B trenches as B1–20 (Fig. 1). Both phases of evaluation demonstrated a close correlation between archaeological features and the results of the preceding geophysical surveys.

2.2.4 The evaluations revealed a concentration of predominantly Iron Age settlement-related features on the ridge between the two development areas. The Iron Age settlement was characterized by several ring ditches, interpreted as the remains of roundhouses, and small rectilinear enclosures on top of the ridge, with larger enclosures (possible field systems) spreading down the slopes to the north and south.

2.2.5 Early–Middle Iron Age finds and a ring ditch, possibility associated with a roundhouse and previously identified by the geophysical survey, were recorded in Trench A8. Ditches in Trenches A1 and A8, which also coincided with circular/penannular geophysical anomalies, were also interpreted as the remains of roundhouses. A further possible ring ditch was detected nearby by the survey, but no corresponding feature was identified in Trench A3 (or during the excavation of Area 3). A re-cut ditch in Trench A9 was thought to have possibly been associated with a small enclosure rather than a roundhouse. Three ring ditches, associated with Middle Iron Age pottery, were also identified in the Phase B evaluation (two in Trenches B10 and one in Trench B11). Again, these were thought to be associated with roundhouses and could be correlated with features identified by the geophysical survey. Clusters of pits were identified amongst the probable roundhouses and enclosures along the ridge, particularly at the south-east end of Trench B6 and the east end of Trench B8.

2.2.6 Little evidence of pre-Iron Age activity was recorded in either phase of evaluation. However, a small quantity of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery found in pits in Trenches B8 and B9, and a sherd of Early–Middle Bronze Age pottery from the surface of an unexcavated posthole in Trench B8, were taken as an indication that the settlement may have had Bronze Age origins.

2.2.7 Few Romano-British features were identified in either phase of evaluation. Notably, however, the Phase A evaluation uncovered the remains of a wooden box containing two late Roman pewter plates (Trench A1). Ditches containing pottery ranging in date from the 2nd to 3rd and mid-3rd to 4th centuries AD in Trenches A1 and A7 were thought to possibly

be associated with a Romano-British field system. In addition, a fragment of tegula was recovered from Trench A8. The only features confidently identified as Romano-British in the Phase B evaluation were two parallel ditches in Trench B5, which lay 80 m north of the Phase B excavation area (Area 4). At least some of the larger rectilinear enclosure ditches (orientated north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west) were thought to possibly be of Romano-British in date, but this was not possible to determine conclusively because of the large amount of potentially residual Iron Age material present. The evidence from both phases of evaluation, as well as previous investigations 250 m to the west of the site (Upson-Smith 2013), appeared to indicate that the focus of Romano-British settlement on the ridge lay further to the west.

2.2.8 The geophysical surveys and evaluations identified traces of ridge and furrow cultivation throughout both development areas. In the Phase B evaluation, a ploughing headland was noted adjacent to the modern field boundary that forms the south-eastern limit of the development area. In Trench B8, modern plough soils overlaid a buried soil horizon, possibly representative of the medieval headland, which in turn sealed the archaeological features. No buried soil horizon was identified further along the ridge in Trenches B13, B14 and B16, towards the north-east end of the excavation area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the excavation, as defined in the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Specific aims

3.2.1 The specific aims of the project, as stated in the WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2018a–b) and based on previous investigation at the site, were to:

- more fully target and understand the results of the previous geophysical survey, which were only partially targeted by the programme of evaluation trenching;
- establish if the previous work undertaken at the site is a true indication of the archaeological potential or could it be more extensive than would appear to be indicated;
- establish where possible more exact chronologies, extent and nature of the Iron Age settlement activity at the site and if continuity of settlement from the Bronze Age into the Iron Age can be established, and whether settlement during the Iron age period itself is continuous or broken with reestablishment of settlement in the same place;
- establish more exactly the date and nature of the numerous round features/ring ditches seen on the geophysical survey and which were partially investigated in the

evaluation. Are these roundhouses for domestic settlement use or do they have another function such as for ritual or funerary purposes?

- establish evidence of continuity between the Iron Age and Romano-British periods if present;
- establish whether evidence of more extensive Romano-British activity is present directly within the site as previous work within the site and its vicinity suggest that the centre of this activity lies outside of the site to the west;
- determine whether evidence relating to other periods not previously recorded in work undertaken can be identified; and
- develop other as-yet unidentified aims and objectives during the course of the investigation based on the evidence as it may be revealed in consultation with OCAS and client.

3.3 Research objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the Solent-Thames Research Framework (Hey and Hind 2014), the research objectives of the excavation, as defined in the WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2018a–b), were to:

- assess the potential of the excavation results to analyse the development of the architecture of late prehistoric houses from the middle Bronze Age to late Iron Age;
- use the excavation results to explore the reason for the increased intensity of the settlement in the Iron Age;
- determine the date, extent and character of the development area in the Romano-British period to assist in the better characterisation of settlement patterns in the Vale of the White Horse;
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in refining chronologies of type series within the region; and
- determine the relation of surviving ridge and furrow to early cartographic sources.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2018 a–b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The excavation of the Phase A development area covered three separate areas (‘Areas 1–3’) totalling 1.95 ha. A single excavation area, measuring *c.* 2.4 ha, had initially been proposed but, in the event, the area was sub-divided and reduced in size with the agreement of OCAS, due to constraints relating to access and the retention of a hedgerow between Areas 1 and 2. The excavation of the Phase B development area covered a single area

('Area 4') of approximately 2.04 ha; slightly smaller than the proposed 2.1 ha (Fig. 1; Plate 1).

4.1.3 The excavations were targeted on locations where the development would impact on significant archaeological remains identified by the geophysical surveys and evaluations. The Phase A and B excavations encompassed (in whole or part of) Trenches A1–10, B6, B9–14 and B16. Areas proposed for public open space and ecological exclusion zones along the hedge line between the two phases of development were excluded from the excavations.

4.1.4 The accession code OXCMS:2018.30 was obtained for the excavation.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same positions as those proposed in the WSIs (Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the upper surface of the natural substrate was exposed.

4.2.2 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from modern (19th century or later) deposits were recorded on site and not retained.

4.2.3 The surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of the archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation and in accordance with the minimum levels specified in the WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2018a–b).

Recording

4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2018a and b).

The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The OCAS Principle Archaeologist and Planning Archaeologist monitored the excavations on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the methodology proposed in the WSIs, to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and OCAS

5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 The excavated areas contained a complex and relatively dense concentration of archaeological features, including the remains of at least 15 roundhouses and 11 small rectangular post-built structures, as well as many pits and postholes of which around 320 were excavated. The features were interspersed with a multi-phase system of ditched enclosures and land divisions, overlain by or laid out to either side of a long-lived trackway that extended along the ridge between the excavated areas.

5.1.2 Much of the evidence derives from multiple, broadly contiguous phases of occupation, perhaps mostly spanning the Early–Middle Iron Age but also extending into the latter stages of the period. Spread out along the length of the ridge, the settlement pattern was seemingly polyfocal and probably characterised by the agglomeration of multiple domestic units. Areas of inhabitation perhaps shifted periodically and, although not all may have been in use concurrently, some locations were clearly re-occupied or continuously used over extended periods.

5.1.3 The site continued to be used, albeit much less intensively, throughout the Romano-British period, as indicated by pottery and other finds from the upper fills of some probable Iron Age ditches and re-cutting of others, along with newly established land divisions and enclosures and a few pits – including one, recorded during the evaluation, that contained the remains of a wooden box in which several late Roman pewter plates were found. The types and quantities of associated Roman finds are probably indicative of domestic activity nearby, but the lack of obviously contemporary structural remains and the paucity of features such as pits suggests that the inhabited areas lay elsewhere – probably to the west of the development site.

5.1.4 Indications of pre-Iron Age activity are sparse, whilst post-Roman remains chiefly comprise traces of medieval/earlier post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation as well as later field boundaries.

5.1.5 Just over 51 kg of (mainly Iron Age) pottery and 116 kg of animal bone – including the almost complete, articulated remains of animals buried in pits – was recovered. Other finds include worked bone, shale and metal objects (including Roman coins and items of personal adornment), cremated and unburnt human bone, pieces of quern stones, worked flint, slag and fired clay. The types and quantities of finds – particularly the large assemblages of animal bone and pottery – are consistent with the residue of prolonged occupation. Occasionally rich, varied and well-preserved assemblages of archaeobotanical remains were recovered from bulk samples taken from a selection of excavated contexts.

5.1.6 Inevitably, some anomalies detected by the geophysical surveys were not shown to correspond with archaeological features – possibly because they were associated with truncated or ephemeral remains preserved only as areas of magnetic disturbance in the subsoil. Conversely, the excavation revealed other, often small or insubstantial features such as gullies and pits/postholes that were, understandably, not predicted by the surveys. In general, however, the excavation results closely correlate with those of the geophysical surveys, as well as the trial trenching. The combined results of the investigations strongly indicate that Iron Age and Romano-British remains extend beyond the limits of excavation, particularly into the preservation *in situ* area between the excavated areas, but decline in frequency away from the ridge. It is likely that associated features also continued west of the development area, beneath the residential properties on the opposite side of Highworth Road.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.7 All written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into an Access database for assessment, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminarily phasing was carried out using stratigraphic relationships and spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.1.8 There are difficulties in establishing the phasing and chronology of the site at this stage of assessment. A proportion of the large pottery assemblage, which provides the bulk of the dating evidence, is not sufficiently diagnostic (eg, featureless/undecorated body sherds, long-lived forms and fabrics) to ascribe it – or the contexts in which it was found – to specific archaeological periods/sub-periods. The overlapping temporal range of some of the more distinctive pottery types also presents complications in terms of establishing the relative chronologies of the features. In addition, due to the intensity and continuity of activity spanning the earliest or Early Iron Age into the late Romano-British period, the potential effects of residuality, intrusiveness and curation of artefactual materials demand consideration. These problems are likely to be exacerbated where features probably remained open for prolonged periods and/or were re-cut or intercut, as was the case with many of the ditches and quarry pits, which produced chronologically mixed finds assemblages.

5.1.9 Despite these obstacles, and the moderate complexity of the sequence, stratigraphic relationships between intercutting features were often quite clearly distinguishable and a sufficient proportion of excavated contexts yielded securely stratified and closely datable finds to broadly phase the site. Whilst the phasing presented below is provisional, there is scope to refine the sequence, as detailed in section 9.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The soil sequence consisted of a typically 0.30 m thick mid-grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, which overlaid a mid-grey subsoil with yellow/brown mottling. The subsoil thinned out to the north and south, and attained a greater thickness (0.25–0.30 m) at the northern edges of Areas 1–3 and the southern limit of Area 4; this seems to be due to the formation of a ploughing headland parallel with the north-east–south-west hedgerow/ridge between the Phase A and B development areas.

5.2.2 The geology was changeable, with the south-west–north-east ridge corresponding with a band of light to mid-yellow ‘brash-like’ limestone bedrock. As the land sloped down to the north in Area 4, the geology changed to a mid-brown sandy silt and then to blue-grey clay of the Ampthill Clay Formation. A similar change was observed in Areas 1–3, with ‘brash-

like' limestone bedrock giving way to sandy silt and then clay as the land sloped down to the south.

5.3 Pre-Iron Age

Earlier prehistoric

5.3.1 The earliest phases of activity are evidenced by 287 pieces of worked flint from the excavation and 21 pieces from the trial trenching (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; 2015), most, if not all of which was found residually in later depositional contexts. Little of this material is chronologically diagnostic, but a broken blade from Iron Age/Romano-British ditch 1793 (cut 1032; Area 4) could be of Late Upper Palaeolithic date, whilst a Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic component is indicated by several blades. A broken Early Neolithic leaf arrowhead was also found in Iron Age ditch 1733 (cut 280; Area 1). Since flint working potentially continued into the Iron Age (Butler 2005, 189–91; Lambrick *et al* 2009, 186) it is possible that some undiagnostic elements of the assemblage derive from this period. No potentially significant concentrations of worked flint are apparent; its distribution was widespread, with most pieces being found in isolation.

5.3.2 A sherd (19 g) of possibly Early–Middle Bronze Age grog-tempered pottery was also recovered from the surface of an unexcavated posthole in Trench B8 of the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2015); the location of this trench was not re-examined during the excavation as it lay within the preservation *in situ* area between Areas 3 and 4.

Late prehistoric

Cremation grave 630 (Area 3)

5.3.3 The remains of a probable unurned cremation burial were found close to the northern limit of Area 3 (Fig. 5). The grave (630) was 0.8 m in diameter, 0.1 m deep and had moderately steeply sloping sides and a flattish base (Plate 2). The burial remains were incorporated with re-deposited pyre debris to form a single deposit (631), recorded as a dark brown/black sandy silt, with some mottling resulting from worm action/rooting. The deposit was fully excavated in quadrants and comprehensively sampled. Three sherds (38 g) of undiagnostic late prehistoric pottery were also recovered from the feature, along with a tiny, intrusive modern sherd and small amounts of fired clay, animal bone and burnt flint. The feature is perhaps contemporary with nearby remains associated with Iron Age occupation but could equally be rather earlier or of Romano-British date.

5.3.4 Other evidence of mortuary activity of uncertain, but nevertheless prehistoric date is limited to occasional fragments of unburnt disarticulated human bone found in several Iron Age features (refer to section 6.9).

Other remains

5.3.5 Pottery (with a total weight of 338 g) from pits in Trench B8 (between Areas 3 and 4) and Trench B9 (Fig. 1) was provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (Cotswold Archaeology 2015). Small amounts of undiagnostic late prehistoric pottery were also recovered during the evaluations (*Ibid*; Cotswold Archaeology 2013). The earliest chronologically distinctive pottery from the excavation, however, is attributed to the Early Iron Age (refer to section 6.2).

5.4 Iron Age settlement

Roundhouses

Overview

5.4.1 The excavation identified the remains of at least 15, and possibly 19 or more roundhouses. Most had been detected by the geophysical surveys and several were confirmed by trial trenching (refer to section 2.2). The structures are primarily evidenced by penannular/ incomplete ring-shaped gullies or ditches, usually with few obviously associated postholes. The features probably represent wall slots/trenches. They exhibit some variation in morphology and size (ranging up to 2.7 m in width and 1 m in depth – most being considerably smaller – and from 5.9–19.5 m in internal diameter). It is currently uncertain if this variability has any correlation with date or function.

5.4.2 The roundhouses seem to have been spread out along the ridge between the excavation areas. Their distribution – along with clearly associated pits/postholes and the remains of rectangular post-built structures – hints at multiple foci of occupation, some locations having been episodically/continuously used over a prolonged period, with individual structures occasionally being rebuilt close by, or on roughly the same footprint. Many cannot be closely dated within the period, although the associated finds (and other settlement-related features found nearby) suggest a continuous span of occupation throughout the Iron Age. Occasionally, larger quantities of finds or slightly unusual items were found in individual slots excavated through the ditches/gullies (or intersecting pits). This could be the result of waste being dumped or inadvertently accumulated within them, but there may be some evidence for structured deposition.

5.4.3 Further details are tabulated in Appendix 1.

Area 1

5.4.4 Two probable roundhouse ditches/gullies (1720 and 1721) were set close together in the northern part of Area 1 (Fig. 2; Plates 3 and 8 (visible at centre right of image)). Arranged concentrically to them were other incomplete curvilinear ditches (1722 and 1723); these could be components of the same structures but seem more likely to indicate that the roundhouses had been rebuilt.

5.4.5 The truncated remnant of probable roundhouse ditch/gully 1722 lay just inside the north-eastern quadrant of 1720. The only finds from 1722 are a few small pieces of animal bone (51 g). In contrast, a large assemblage of mostly undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (175 sherds, 1737 g) and animal bone (just over 4 kg) came from roundhouse ditch/gully 1720. This included 99 sherds, weighing 1118 g and 1199 g of animal bone found in the stony upper fill (cut 139, context 141; Plate 4) near one of its terminals. A few pieces of worked flint were also recovered from 1720. A possible posthole (0.6 m in diameter and just 0.04 m deep) in the centre of 1720 (and the projected circumference of 1722) may be the remains of some associated structural component, although it contained no datable finds. Pits 106 and 137 (see below) were also dug into/near each of the opposing terminals in the eastern side of roundhouse ditch/gully 1720 (Fig. 2), perhaps indicating the positions of door-posts.

5.4.6 A small quantity of Iron Age pottery and 775 g of animal bone came from possible roundhouse ditch/gully 1723, which truncated the northern edge of 1720 and lay concentric to the more complete, but not fully exposed 1721 (Figs. 2 and 10). Roundhouse ditch/gully 1721 produced a slightly larger assemblage of undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (79 sherds, 533 g) and animal bone (702 g), in addition to two possible stone slingshots. A piece of worked antler (ON 49) – possibly part of a handle or toggle – also came from a possible pit/posthole (109) intercut with one of its terminals. The opposing terminal intersected with

Early/Middle Iron Age pit 338 (see below; Plate 6), although, as with 109, it was not possible to establish a stratigraphic relationship. Another Iron Age pit (333) lay close to the terminal. The western, outer edge of ditch/gully 1721 slightly intersected with Early/Middle Iron Age pit 113 (see below; Figs. 2 and 13, Plate 5) but the relationship could not be determined. No features were located within 1721/1723.

5.4.7 Another possible roundhouse ditch/gully, detected immediately north of Area 1 by the geophysical survey (Fig. 1), was excavated in Trench A8, producing a few sherds of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; ditch 805). The outer edge of the feature seems to have been slightly exposed at the northern limit of Area 1 but was not excavated (Fig. 2; west of 1721). A further possible ring ditch identified by the geophysical survey immediately north-west of Area 1 was shown to correlate with a natural feature during the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; Trench A6).

Area 2

5.4.8 The largest of the possible roundhouse ditches/gullies (1736), with an internal diameter of approximately 19.5 m, was almost entirely exposed in the northern part of Area 2 (Fig. 2; Plate 8, visible at top, centre right of image). It was considerably wider and deeper (up to 2.5 m by 0.94 m) to the south-east (Fig. 10), where its circuit was punctuated by a 5 m gap, which presumably marks the position of an entrance. The feature was, however, slightly irregular in plan which could indicate that this was the remains of an enclosure rather than a roundhouse. The fragmented remains of a Middle Iron Age saucepan pot (33 sherds, 562 g) were found, as if deliberately placed, in the slightly mixed upper fill of one of the terminals (cut 376, context 379; Plate 7), along with several less diagnostic sherds, pieces of burnt stone and flecks of charcoal (not collected) and animal bone (300 g). The latter included two horse mandibles, perhaps also forming part of some structured deposit. Other finds from the feature included 223 sherds (1323 g) of mostly undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (as well as an intrusive post-medieval sherd), 2.3 kg of animal bone, a few pieces of worked flint and fired clay. Over half of the animal bone came from the upper fill in one excavated section (cut 380, context 383), which also produced two pieces of worked bone (including a point; ON53). Samples of the ditch fills contained relatively large amounts of charred cereal grain and chaff. Pit 384, which contained the almost complete, articulated remains of a horse (Plate 27; see below) was cut into the inner edge of 1736. A few other probable Iron Age pits/postholes (374, 416 and 416) were scattered within the space described by 1736, although it is unclear if they were associated with the structure.

5.4.9 A much smaller and incomplete curvilinear gully (1739; Fig. 2) 3 m west of 1736 is potentially the truncated remains of another roundhouse – perhaps an ancillary building to the principal domestic structure situated immediately adjacent. However, it is not certain if they were contemporary; 1739 produced only a small amount of undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (12 sherds, 216 g), as well as intrusive medieval pottery, 413 g of animal bone, a piece of worked stone and a few pieces of burnt flint. Moreover, the gully may never have formed a complete circuit, and could be the remains of a windbreak/screen or part of a small enclosure rather than a roundhouse.

Area 3

5.4.10 Four probable roundhouse ditches/gullies were uncovered in the northern part of Area 3 (Fig. 5; Plate 9). These were situated amongst a relatively dense concentration of settlement-related features, including numerous pits and the remains of several rectangular post-built structures (see below), all bounded by a (probably later) ditched enclosure (refer to section 5.5). Several of the roundhouse ditches/gullies had previously been identified by the geophysical survey and trial trenching; these preliminary investigations (Fig. 1) also demonstrated that similar features continue beyond Area 3, particularly to the north.

Together, the features in this part of the site seem to relate to a focus of domestic activity that was occupied episodically or continuously throughout much of the Iron Age.

5.4.11 With an internal diameter of approximately 14.7 m, roundhouse ditch/gully (1776) was also one of the largest of its type (rivalled or exceeded only by 1720 in Area 1 and 1736 in Area 2; see above). The ditch/gully varied between 0.4–1 m in width and was 0.03 m to 0.6 m deep (average 0.2 m). It was punctuated by gaps in the shallowest parts of its circuit to the north-west and south; these appear to be the result of truncation. A larger break to the south-east, up to 7 m across, probably represents the position of an entrance. Eighty-one sherds (599 g) of predominantly Early/Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from the feature, along with animal bone (624 g) and a few pieces of worked flint; much of the material came from a slot excavated near one of its terminals (cut 641; Plate 10). The opposing terminal (cut 603) was cut into the latest of two intercut Early/Middle Iron Age pits (597 and 601; Fig. 10, Plate 11; see below).

5.4.12 Four small, undated postholes (671, 704, 706 and 732) perhaps formed a vestibule, just inside the putative entrance to 1776. Several other small pits/postholes within the ditch/gully (eg, 580, 606, 615, 620, 648 and 741) could also be integral elements of the structure, but they do not seem to form a coherent pattern and cannot be definitively attributed to the same phase of activity.

5.4.13 Four other postholes (1820), each around 1 m in diameter, 0.3–0.4 m deep and with well-defined post-pipes (Figs. 5 and 11, Plate 12), were arranged in a square (measuring approximately 2.7 m along each axis) in the centre of roundhouse ditch/gully 1776. A few small sherds of Iron Age pottery and pieces of animal bone (101 g) came from them. The postholes may have formed an integral component of the roundhouse, but they could be the remains of an unrelated rectangular post-built structure (i.e. a 'four-poster') akin to others nearby (eg, 1774 or 1775, see below). Indeed, it is possible that 1776 was not part of a roundhouse and instead formed an enclosure around the post-built structure. Comparable arrangements of postholes within penannular/ring-shaped Iron Age roundhouse ditches/gullies have been reported elsewhere, but their interpretation remains open to debate (Lambrick *et al* 2009, 145).

5.4.14 An incomplete and perhaps highly truncated ditch/gully (1779), 12 m east of 1776, is possibly the remains of another roundhouse that was not detected by the geophysical survey. A small quantity of Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered from the feature.

5.4.15 Roundhouse ditch/gully 1772, immediately WSW of 1776, can probably be attributed to the Middle Iron Age based on pottery (97 sherds, 1330 g, mostly from a single vessel) found in a slot excavated through its eastern side (cut 537). Other finds included a few undiagnostic Iron Age and (presumably intrusive) Romano-British sherds, and a small amount of animal bone. Several pits/postholes were cut into or scattered within and around the feature, although it is uncertain if any were closely associated/contemporary with it. However, this clearly cannot have been the case with a group of four postholes forming the remains of a probable small Iron Age rectangular structure (1775; see below), which converged with the eastern side of 1772.

5.4.16 Roundhouse ditch/gully 1778, which was superimposed over 1776, is possibly one of the latest examples. It produced just a small amount of Iron Age pottery (as well as a piece of animal bone), including one large Late Iron Age/early Romano-British sherd (44 g). It is the only example in this area that was not identified by the geophysical survey – probably because it had been obscured by other features. These include a mass of intercutting pits

(1819), probably the result of successive phases of extraction, that were dug into its southern edge during the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period (refer to section 5.6).

5.4.17 The geophysical survey detected another possible roundhouse ditch/gully near the north-eastern edge of Area 3, but no corresponding feature was found in the excavation or trial trenching (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; Trench A3).

5.4.18 A final outlier (1822) was located 60 m south of the others (Fig. 4). Only 5.9 m across internally, it was the smallest of the roundhouse ditches/gullies. Five sherds of possibly Middle/Late Iron Age pottery and a small piece of animal bone were recovered from the feature. It was cut by a series of possibly later Iron Age and Romano-British ditches and gullies (921, 923, 925 and 927; refer to section 5.5).

Area 4

5.4.19 Another group of probable roundhouse ditches/gullies was identified in the central, southern part of Area 4 (Figs 7–8; Plates 8 (visible at centre right of image) and 13); several of them were also recorded in Trench B10, producing similar types of finds to those from the excavation (Cotswold Archaeology 2015). Some of the features were cut into a complex of intercutting quarry pits (eg, 1304 and 1309; see below) and several ditches (1434, 1796, 1799 and 1806; refer to section 5.5), all of which are probably of earlier Iron Age date. In turn, two of the roundhouse ditches/gullies (1800 and 1808) were truncated by later Iron Age/Romano-British ditches (1794 and 1795; refer to section 5.5).

5.4.20 One of the features (1808) (Fig. 7) was initially interpreted as the remains of a possible prehistoric monument as it seemed to form a continuous circuit and was more substantial (1.2–2.75 m wide and up 1 m deep; Fig. 12, Plate 14) than some of the roundhouse ditches/gullies. However, it cut Iron Age pit 1198 and its secondary fills yielded Iron Age and Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (33 sherds, 291 g) – as well as small amounts of animal bone (including a skull), worked flint and burnt flint. It is unclear why the ditch did not incorporate an obvious entrance but, nevertheless, it seems likely to have formed part of an Iron Age roundhouse.

5.4.21 Situated immediately adjacent to 1808 was a C-shaped ditch (1802), which had been re-cut and was up to 1.8 m wide and 0.75 m deep. Whilst 1802 may have formed part of a small enclosure, screen/windbreak or other form of structure, its interpretation is uncertain. It is similar, however, to another curvilinear section of ditch (1804) that had re-cut part of a more convincing roundhouse ditch/gully (1803) nearby. Almost 4 kg of animal bone was found in 1802 (most coming from cut 1096, context 1097), along with fragments of a clay/ceramic spindle whorl (ON25) and 140 sherds (588 g) of Iron Age pottery (including three large Early/Middle Iron Age sherds). Finds from 1804 (mostly recovered from cut 1239, context 1240) included undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (168 sherds, 1639 g), over 4 kg of animal bone (including a piece fashioned into a toggle, ON20, and a piece of antler, ON23) and three fragments of a human femur.

5.4.22 Roundhouse ditch/gully 1803 produced only small, individual pieces of animal bone, fired clay and Iron Age pottery. Three small pits/postholes (1224, 1226 and 1237) were situated near the gap in its eastern side, although it is uncertain if they were associated with 1803/1804. A further, incomplete curvilinear gully (1805) intersected, and was almost concentric with 1803, but their stratigraphic relationship could not be determined. It produced only a very small assemblage of Iron Age pottery and animal bone. The spatial coincidence of 1803 and 1805 suggests they are the remains of a roundhouse rebuilt on roughly the same footprint.

5.4.23 Roundhouse ditch/gully 1800 (the second largest of the features, with a diameter of c.13.75 m produced 33 sherds (291 g) of pottery, including three large Middle/Late Iron Age sherds (183 g), a few pieces of worked flint and a small amount of animal bone. Its southern side, which presumably included its entrance, was substantially obscured by later ditches. Another penannular roundhouse ditch/gully (1798; Fig. 12), 13 m ENE of 1800, contained only undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (93 sherds, 481 g), animal bone (1631 g), a crumb of fired clay and pieces of worked flint.

5.4.24 The final (probable) roundhouse ditch/gully (1791) in Area 4 (Fig. 9) occupied an isolated position, at least 50 m from the closest other example (1736, in Area 2; Figs. 1 and 2). Approximately one quarter of its circuit was exposed, the remainder extending beyond the limit of excavation and, seemingly, lost to truncation; the geophysical survey (Fig. 1) had indicated that the feature was more complete, perhaps with an entrance to the south. The only associated finds were a few pieces of worked flint and crumbs of Iron Age pottery.

Rectangular/other post-built structures

Overview

5.4.25 The remains of perhaps eleven, small post-built structures were identified. Most are defined by sets of four postholes arranged in a square or rectangle measuring between 2 m and 3 m along each axis. The postholes, some of which incorporated stone packing, were up to around 1 m in diameter (but usually rather smaller) and rarely more than 0.3 m deep. The interpretation of some of the 'structures' is less certain, partially because the excavators occasionally considered that the individual features were more likely to be small pits than postholes.

5.4.26 The post-built structures are of a type (sometimes referred to as 'four-posters') commonly recorded at late prehistoric settlements, particularly those dating to the Late Bronze Age and earlier part of the Iron Age in parts of the Thames Valley (Lambrick *et al* 2009, 271). Such structures may have fulfilled a range of functions – some, for example, are occasionally suggested to have had a role in mortuary activity (eg, as excarnation/exposure platforms) – although they are frequently interpreted as raised granaries. If this were the case here, it is uncertain whether the structures were used for storage alongside pits (see below).

5.4.27 The post-built structures were quite scattered but often found near roundhouse gullies/ditches and pits/postholes – some of which can be attributed to a specific sub-division of the period. Most of the post-built structures, however, can only be attributed a broadly Iron Age date. Animal bone, burnt flint, fired clay, undiagnostic Iron Age pottery, slag and worked flint were recovered from some examples, but generally only in very small quantities. Only one (1821 in Area 3) can be tentatively attributed to a specific part of the period (the Early/Middle Iron Age) based on the finds evidence. Samples taken from some examples (1775 and 1821 in Area 3) also contained charred cereal grains and chaff.

5.4.28 Additional details are tabulated in Appendix 2.

Area 1

5.4.29 The remains of one rectangular post-built structure were identified in Area 1 (1727; Fig. 3; Plate 15), situated at least 35 m from several roundhouse ditches/gullies (1720–3; Fig. 2).

Area 2

5.4.30 A single post-built structure (1741) was also recorded in Area 2, approximately 7.5 m east of Middle Iron Age (or later) roundhouse ditch/gully 1736 (Fig. 2). It consisted of just three postholes, each around 0.2 m deep – a fourth perhaps having been lost to truncation.

Area 3

5.4.31 The remains of several post-built structures were found amongst the Iron Age roundhouse ditches/gullies, pits and postholes in the northern part of Area 3 (Figs 4–5). One (1821), situated 13 m east of Early/Middle Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1776, consisted of four steeply sided features, each measuring between 0.6 m and 0.8 m in diameter and 0.22–0.4 m in depth. Seven sherds (89 g) of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery came from the basal fill of one (719) of the features. Other finds from 1821 included small amounts of (less diagnostic) Iron Age pottery, animal bone, slag and burnt flint. Samples taken from the fills of two of the features (654 and 702) contained charred cereal remains. The excavators considered that three of the features were likely to be small pits rather than postholes and it is plausible that this was the case – their arrangement perhaps being coincidental. Certainly, they are slightly less convincing as the remains of a post-built structure than some of the other examples.

5.4.32 Area 3, in addition to 1821 and, possibly, 1820 (Fig. 11; see above), contained three more conclusively interpreted post-built structures (1773, 1774 (Fig. 12; Plate 16) and 1775). One (1773) was of quite different construction to the others; it incorporated a pair of parallel beam slots, and several of the postholes seem to have been periodically replaced (Plate 17).

5.4.33 Three other features (710, 1780 and 1781) in this area (Fig. 5), recorded as short sections of shallow gully (up to 0.5 m wide and 0.15 m deep), are of uncertain function, although they might also be beam slots associated with a small rectangular structure. Numerous small sherds of Iron Age pottery (82 g) and fragments of animal bone (84 g) were recovered from them, along with very small amounts of charred cereal remains.

5.4.34 A little over 1 kg of shell-tempered pottery was found in one (667) of five small (average 0.3 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep) pits or postholes (1826), set 1–3 m apart in a slightly curving linear group in Area 3 (Fig. 5). The only other finds from the features are a few small sherds of pottery (from 658) and tiny pieces of animal bone. A small amount of cereal grain also came from posthole 667. The circumstances surrounding the inclusion/deposition of the comparatively large amount of pottery in feature 667 are uncertain, as is the function of the pits/postholes, although they may have formed part of a fence-line, windbreak/screen or similar type of structure.

Area 4

5.4.35 Numerous probable Iron Age postholes (see below) were uncovered in the western part of Area 4, to the north of the Iron Age roundhouse ditches/gullies, pits and postholes in Area 3. Most of the postholes do not form the remains of recognisable structures, but at least two possible ‘four-posters’ (1823 and 1824) can be distinguished amongst them (Fig. 6). Another group of seven postholes (1825) in this part of Area 4 may form the remains of a third rectangular structure.

5.4.36 A further cluster of seven postholes (1807) in the middle of Area 4, a little to the north-east of several other Iron Age roundhouse ditches/gullies (Fig. 7; see above), are possibly part of a similar structure. One of the postholes (1106) contained two small fragments of unburnt human bone.

Pits and postholes

Overview

5.4.37 Of the approximately 320 excavated pits and postholes (which includes probable quarry pits and features identifiable as the remains of structures), around 58% (183 examples) can only be provisionally assigned a broad Iron Age date. A small proportion of the excavated pits and postholes (just 13 examples, excluding quarry pits; see below) can be provisionally assigned to the Early/Middle Iron Age; four (113, 338, 780 and 1250) were amongst the largest/deepest of all the pits unrelated to quarrying/extraction. A slightly smaller number of the pits/postholes can be attributed to the Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age, whilst the remainder are largely undated. At least some of the inconclusively dated pits/postholes (refer to section 5.10) presumably also derive from the Iron Age. However, the small quantities of pottery and other chronologically diagnostic finds from some examples could be residual given the density and prolonged duration of Iron Age occupation – the features perhaps being associated with some other, less conspicuous phase of activity.

5.4.38 The pits – excluding those apparently dug for extractive purposes, which are discussed separately – probably served a variety of functions, although many were perhaps originally used for storage. The pits had been infilled through a combination of natural silting processes, deliberate backfilling and deposition of waste, but almost all contained just one or two fills. A few examples, such as 113 in Area 1 and 1076 in Area 4 (see below) may provide evidence for structured deposition. The pits varied considerably in size; the largest (1809) measured 4.16 m by 2.94 m across and 1.24 m in depth, although most were less than 1.5 m in diameter and under 0.3 m deep. Their profiles were also quite heterogeneous, some having vertical or undercut edges, often with flat bases, whilst many others had more gradually sloping sides and a few were somewhat irregular.

5.4.39 Features recorded as postholes occasionally had identifiable post-pipes or contained stones used as packing material, although the majority lacked these distinctive elements and were interpreted based on their dimensions, profiles and associations. It is doubtful whether scattered and isolated 'postholes' could be distinguished from small pits and, as such, some features could equally be placed in either category. Postholes associated with/forming the remains of recognisable structures are described above.

5.4.40 Additional information relating to all excavated pits/postholes is tabulated in Appendix 3.

Area 1

5.4.41 A moderately large elongated pit (338) intersected with one of the terminals of roundhouse ditch/gully 1721 in Area 1 (see above; Fig. 2; Plate 6) but their stratigraphic relationship could not be established. The primary fill of the pit contained no finds, but the overlying layer produced 53 sherds (503 g) of Iron Age and Early/Middle Iron Age pottery and 728 g of animal bone. Bulk samples of the deposit also contained cereal grains and chaff in some abundance.

5.4.42 Another large, vertically sided and flat-bottomed pit (113) was intercut with the western edge of ring gully 1721 (see above; Figs 2 and 13, Plate 5) but, again, their stratigraphic relationship could not be determined. The pit contained five fills, derived from natural infilling, backfilling and deposition of occupation waste. Sixty-four sherds (450 g) of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from the pit along with 428 g of animal bone. Several large blocks of seemingly unworked limestone were also found at the base of the pit.

5.4.43 Four sherds (107 g) of Early/Middle Age pottery (along with less diagnostic Iron Age pottery) also came from a solitary posthole (304) near the western limit of Area 1 (Fig. 3).

5.4.44 Two pits set a few metres apart to the south of roundhouse ditches/gullies 1720–3 (see above; Fig. 2) produced sherds of distinctive Middle Iron Age pottery. One (154) yielded 14 sherds (220 g) as well as 1428 g of animal bone, and the other (164) contained 40 sherds (169 g), just 50 g of animal bone and a fossil. Both pits were over 1 m in diameter, but no more than 0.33 m deep. A pair of pits/postholes was dug into/near the terminals of roundhouse ditch/gully 1720. The larger of the features (106; Plate 18) contained Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (52 sherds, 462 g) and 637 g of animal bone; its counterpart (137) yielded just a few Iron Age sherds and a small piece of fired clay. A few other pits/postholes were scattered amongst the remains of the roundhouses, although most cannot be closely dated.

5.4.45 A cluster of eight pits (1728) was exposed (one was not excavated) in the north-west corner of Area 1 (Fig. 3). The pits were of similar dimensions, measuring approximately 1–1.5 m in diameter and less than 0.3 m in depth, and each contained a single fill. Most produced undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (in total, 28 sherds, 205 g) and small amounts of animal bone (with a combined weight of 231 g).

5.4.46 Several other pits and possible postholes (eg, 146, 148, 150, 158, 160, 189, 191, 193 and 195) were scattered irregularly along (predominantly the eastern) edge of probable Iron Age ditch 1724 (Fig. 3; refer to section 5.5). No finds came from most of them, but one (148) produced seven sherds (53 g) of Iron Age pottery and a few pieces of animal bone, fired clay, worked flint and slag. Given their position relative to the ditch, all are of suspected to be similar date. Three pits (251, 253 and 260) a little to the south-east were cut by the ditch. One (260), measuring approximately 1.50 m in diameter and 0.5 m deep, was somewhat irregular in shape, prompting the excavator to suggest that it was the product of bioturbation, although it is perhaps anthropogenic; it yielded 42 sherds (321 g) of Iron Age pottery and a small quantity of animal bone. Pits 251 and 253 contained no finds.

5.4.47 Small amounts of chronologically undiagnostic Iron Age pottery and animal bone also came from a few other pits scattered across Area 1 (eg, 172, 179, 255, 310 and 323).

Area 2

5.4.48 Area 2 contained few potentially Iron Age pits and postholes and none that obviously date to the earlier part of the period. Just one example (384) can be provisionally attributed to the latter part of the Iron Age based on its stratigraphic relationship with (Middle Iron Age or later) roundhouse ditch/gully 1736 (Fig. 2; see above). The pit, which contained the almost complete, articulated remains of a horse (Plate 27), is discussed below.

5.4.49 A pair of pits (429 and 435), a little south of truncated roundhouse ditch/gully 1739 (see above), produced small amounts of animal bone and undiagnostic Iron Age pottery. Five sherds (28 g) of Iron Age pottery also came from a pit (374) within the space defined by Middle Iron Age (or later) roundhouse ditch/gully 1736 (see above). Four small postholes (412, 414, 416 and 426), which yielded a few tiny pieces of Iron Age pottery, were also found within and around 1736.

Area 3

5.4.50 Pit 780, another comparatively large Early/Middle Iron Age pit with vertical/undercut sides and a flat base (Fig. 13, Plate 19), was located roughly 18 m south of the potentially contemporary ring gully 1776, in Area 3 (Fig. 5). Its two fills produced almost 1.8 kg of

pottery, animal bone (493 g), a few pieces of burnt flint, a possible stone slingshot and a relatively large quantity of charred cereal remains.

5.4.51 Despite seeming to pre-date roundhouse ditch/gully 1776, the position of a pair of intercut pits (597 and 601; Figs 5 and 10, Plate 11) relative to its putative entrance may be significant. The pits were around 1.3 m in diameter, less than 0.4 m deep and produced moderately large finds assemblages. Pit 597 yielded 37 sherds (421 g) of Iron Age and Early/Middle Iron Age pottery and 605 g of animal bone, whilst pit 601 contained 34 Iron Age sherds (243 g), a few pieces of fired clay and 712 g of animal bone – including a piece fashioned into a needle (ON10). Eight sherds of probable Early/Middle Iron Age pottery also came from one (722) of several less conclusively dated postholes in this part of Area 3.

5.4.52 Pit/postholes 507 and 577 are of Middle Iron Age or later date as they were dug into and perhaps associated in some way with roundhouse ditch/gully 1772 (Fig. 5; see above). The only finds from the features were a few sherds of undistinctive Iron Age pottery and a small amount of animal bone. A small quantity of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery was also found residually in a mass of Romano-British quarry pits (1819) in Area 3 (see below).

5.4.53 Scattered amongst the remains of the roundhouses and post-built structures in the north-western part of Area 3 (Fig. 5) were numerous pits (445, 453, 458, 469, 481, 622, 652, 656, 768, 805, 820 and 822) and postholes (455, 467, 501, 512, 557, 577, 691, 712 and 830). The features were presumably associated with the long-lived focus of Iron Age occupation but cannot be dated more specifically within the period. Several other undated pits/postholes in this area are potentially also of Iron Age (or Romano-British) date (refer to section 5.10). A dense concentration of pits was also uncovered a little to the north of Area 3 in Trench B8 (Fig. 1), although little excavation was carried out (Cotswold Archaeology 2015). The Iron Age pits were generally 1 m or less in diameter, whilst features interpreted as postholes averaged 0.45 m in diameter. Almost all were under 0.3 m deep. The pits yielded small amounts (typically less than 100 g, and none exceeding 230 g) of undiagnostic Iron Age pottery, alongside a few tiny (potentially residual and/or intrusive) Early Iron Age, late prehistoric and Romano-British sherds. Other finds included animal bone (just 380 g in total), and very small amounts of burnt flint, fired clay, flint and slag. The postholes contained similar finds, albeit in much smaller quantities. Cereal remains were also recovered in variable quantities from several of the features (445, 455, 622, 652, 656, 712, 805, 820 and 822).

5.4.54 Two shallow outlying pits (833 and 897) at the southern edge of Area 3 (Fig. 4) also produced small amounts of undistinctive Iron Age pottery (less than 200 g in both cases). A single tiny fragment of (possibly intrusive) Romano-British pottery and a small amount of animal bone were also found in pit 833. The smaller of the features (897) contained Iron Age pottery (11 sherds, 166 g), and was largely infilled by an unusual concentration of unworked local limestone and sandstone fragments, possibly dumped into the disused pit. The pits might be contemporary with a small Middle/Late Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully (1822; see above) a few meters to the north-east.

Area 4

5.4.55 Two pits (996 and 1076) in Area 4 (Fig. 8), which produced Early Iron Age pottery, are potentially amongst the earliest features on the site. Pit 996 was seemingly dug into the southern edge of ditch 1790 (refer to section 5.5). Its two fills yielded 28 sherds (197 g) of Early Iron Age pottery (along with a few, less diagnostic sherds), animal bone (537 g) and small amounts of fired clay, worked flint and slag. A partially intact ceramic vessel (ON19), part of which had been lost to truncation, was found in the other pit (1076). Measuring just under 0.3 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep (Fig. 13), pit 1076 may have been dug specifically

to deposit the vessel. Pit 1076 was sealed by the metalled surface (1797) of a later trackway (see below).

5.4.56 Another pit (1250), 10 m south-west of pit 1076, was also overlain by the trackway metalling (1797; Figs 8 and 13; Plate 20). It was 1.4 m in diameter, 0.68 m deep and had vertical to slightly undercutting sides and a flat base. As with many of the Iron Age pits, the feature had presumably initially been used for storage. Its primary fill produced no finds, but the three overlying deposits, seemingly formed through deliberate infilling and deposition of waste, contained 139 sherds (564 g) of Early/Middle (and less diagnostic) Iron Age pottery, animal bone (1.7 kg, including a horse skull), and a few pieces of worked flint, iron, slag and burnt flint. Samples of the pit fills also contained relatively large amounts of cereal remains. Sherds of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone were also recovered from two moderately large (probable storage) pits (1420 and 1678) in the western part of Area 4 (Fig. 6). One (1420) also produced a few joining fragments of antler (an offcut from antler working; ON32).

5.4.57 No obviously later Iron Age pits/postholes were identified in Area 4, except one probable Late Iron Age/Romano-British example (1621; refer to section 5.6). However, numerous other pits/postholes can be assigned broadly to the Iron Age. The features were predominantly scattered and occasionally concentrated in small groups within the large ditched enclosures in the western part of the area (Fig. 6; refer to section 5.5). Several unexcavated and undated pits/postholes were also distributed across the western part of Area 4; most are probably of Iron Age date, although some are equally likely to be Romano-British. A few other Iron Age pits and postholes (eg, 1190, 1198, 1203, 1224, 1226, 1233, 1237, 1245, 1264 and 1827) were situated near the roundhouse gullies/ditches in the middle of Area 4 (Figs 7–8), but the features were scarce across the remainder of the area. Most of the features produced small quantities of finds. The largest assemblages came from a comparatively large pit in the western part of the area (1612, which yielded 874 g of Iron Age pottery and a few small, possibly intrusive Romano-British sherds) and another example (1560, which contained a little under 1 kg of animal bone and 102 g of pottery) cut into probable Iron Age enclosure ditch 1812 (refer to section 5.5; Plate 21). An isolated pit near the northern limit of the excavation (1614) and another located near C-shaped ditch/gully 1802 (see above; Fig. 7) also produced larger than average quantities of finds (including, respectively, 117 sherds, 352 g, and 40 sherds, 515 g, of Iron Age pottery). Samples taken from the fills of a selection of the features (eg, 898, 940 and 1422) produced cereal remains in variable quantities.

Quarry pits

5.4.58 Several large, amorphous areas of intercutting pits were scattered across the excavation areas. These largely appear to be the result of quarrying/extraction, targeting both the underlying clay and, to a lesser extent, the solid bedrock (eg, limestone/brash). However, some of the later pits were predominantly cut through the backfills of earlier ones rather than the natural substrate, suggesting that they may have had some other function.

5.4.59 The objective of the quarrying is uncertain, but the extracted material could have been used in various ways that left little or no direct archaeological trace – for example, in the creation of earth-based (i.e. cob) mass-walling, daub, ovens, earthworks, floors and areas of hardstanding. Some of the quarry pits presumably also provided the metalling (1797) for the trackway laid out, at some indeterminate point, along the length of the ridge (refer to section 5.5).

5.4.60 Where tested through excavation, the individual quarry pits were demonstrated to vary considerably in terms of their profiles, dimensions and fills. Typically, however, they were

somewhat irregular, and were larger, deeper (often measuring several metres across and 0.5–1 m in depth) and contained more fills than the other pits. Although Early Iron Age to Romano-British pottery – along with other types of artefactual material – was recovered from the pits, it is doubtful that individual episodes of quarrying can be securely dated or phased. This is largely because quarrying seems to have taken place periodically and, once each phase of extraction had ceased, the pits were probably frequently left open to gradually infill (although perhaps occasionally used to dump waste and/or spoil generated by subsequent phases of extraction) thus presenting ample opportunities for re-working and accumulation of residual artefacts within them. It is also questionable whether stratigraphic relationships could be clearly established if some of the quarry pits had been dug into the edges of open ditches or others that had been recut. Nevertheless, on stratigraphic grounds and, to some degree, inferences based on the density of the pits, it can be argued that this was a long-lived activity, carried out from the earlier part of the Iron Age and probably extending into, but declining in frequency during the Romano-British period (as evidenced, for example, by 1819 and 1828–9 in Area 3; refer to section 5.6).

5.4.61 Early phases of quarrying are indicated by the apparent truncation of a small area of quarry-pitting (1021) by the suspected earlier Iron Age enclosure ditch 1796 (Area 4; Fig. 8; refer to section 5.5). A larger cluster of quarry pits (eg, 1101, 1304 and 1309) a little further to the west, encompassing roughly 20 m by 12 m, also seem to have been cut through by another part of the enclosure (1806; Fig. 7) as well as several later roundhouse ditches/gullies (eg, 1800, 1803 and 1805; see above). In turn, the pits appeared to truncate probable Early/Middle Iron Age ditch 1799. It is possible that this area, as with other extensively quarried locations, was used episodically for extractive purposes over an extended period.

5.4.62 The largest area of intercutting pits (eg, 1379 (Plate 22), 1410, 1814 (Plate 23) and 1818), covering an area of around 38 m by 32 m, was in the western half of Area 4 (Fig. 7). The features were intercut with several Iron Age/Romano-British ditches (eg, 1794, 1811 and 1813; refer to section 5.5). Although the sequence is difficult to establish with confidence, the pits largely seemed to pre-date the ditches, and are perhaps mostly of earlier Iron Age date. A varied assemblage of finds was recovered from the pits in this area, including over 2.6 kg of Early/Middle Iron Age and less diagnostic Iron Age pottery, 12 kg of animal bone (4.8 kg of which came from one of the upper fills of cut 1504, context 1510), part of a quern stone (ON47), a fragment of a bone pin (ON50) and small amounts of worked flint, burnt flint, fired clay and slag.

5.4.63 Another, smaller group of intercut pits (306, 343 and 347; Fig. 3, Plate 24) in Area 1 is possibly of slightly later date; sample excavation yielded almost 1 kg of Iron Age pottery, including 61 Middle/Late Iron Age sherds (386 g), as well as 3.3 kg of animal bone, pieces of fired clay (74 g), part of a shale vessel, worked flint and slag. Also of note is another group of quarry pits (297) in the south-western part of Area 1 (Fig. 3), in which articulated cattle remains had been buried (Plate 25; see below).

5.4.64 Several large amorphous features, some intersecting with the edges of Iron Age/Romano-British ditches, that were surveyed throughout the excavation areas but did not form part of the excavated sample are possibly also intercutting quarry pits.

Animal burials – Areas 1 and 2

5.4.65 Pits 203 in Area 1 and 384 in Area 2 each contained the articulated and largely complete remains of a horse (Plates 26–7). Pit 203 was approximately 20 m south-east of the probable remains of the roundhouses in Area 1 (see above; Fig. 2). Pit 384 was cut into the inner edge of Middle Iron Age (or later) roundhouse ditch/gully 1736 (Fig. 2). Both pits were

relatively shallow (maximum 0.3 m deep), with the result that the remains had been truncated horizontally. The animals had been placed on the bases of the pits, which were then backfilled with material very similar in composition and appearance to the natural substrate. This suggests that, rather than being pits that that had been re-purposed, the features were dug specifically to bury the remains of the animals. Potentially corroborating this, the shape and dimensions of each pit (refer to Appendix 2) seems intended to have accommodated the remains of the animal buried within. Eleven sherds (31 g) of Iron Age pottery were found in the backfill of pit 384, and a few tiny pieces of Iron Age pottery and worked flint came from pit 203.

5.4.66 Although much less complete, articulated cattle bones were found in one of several probable intercutting Iron Age quarry pits (297) in the south-western part of Area 1 (see above; Fig. 3, Plate 25). The quarry pit also produced 37 sherds (174 g) of Iron Age pottery and small amounts of worked flint, fired clay and slag.

5.5 Iron Age–Romano-British land division

Overview

5.5.1 Numerous ditches, defining enclosures, a trackway and other land divisions, were uncovered throughout the excavated areas. Although some elements extended downslope away from the excavated areas, the geophysical survey and trial trenching results indicate that the enclosures/ditch systems are largely concentrated along the ridge (Fig. 1).

5.5.2 The complex of ditches is clearly the product of multiple phases of development, characterised by periodic maintenance (eg, re-cutting), abandonment and re-organisation, potentially spanning the Early Iron Age through to the late Romano-British period. At this stage, it is not possible to confidently establish the temporal origin and longevity of some of the ditches, several of which probably remained in use over an extended period. In part, this is due to the chronologically mixed and only broadly diagnostic finds assemblages from some examples. Given the prolonged duration and continuity of activity on the site, as well as the apparent intensity of occupation during the Iron Age (particularly in relation to the Romano-British period), there is also a high potential for residuality amongst the finds. In addition, occasional re-cutting is likely to have obscured the earliest phases of some of the ditches. It is also difficult to correlate distinct phases of enclosure/land division with more closely datable feature types (eg, pits, postholes and roundhouse gullies/ditches) – particularly where stratigraphic relationships and/or spatial associations are lacking. Accordingly, the specific functions of the enclosures are not always immediately apparent. Further difficulties arise due to incomplete exposure of some of the ditches, although the geophysical survey results (Fig. 1) assist greatly in tracing them between and away from the excavated areas. Despite these obstacles, however, a loosely defined sequence for the development of the ditches can be outlined.

Earlier Iron Age enclosure ditches and other land divisions (Area 4)

5.5.3 The earliest recognisable phase (or phases) of land division is represented by a group of ditches in the central and eastern parts of Area 4 (1789, 1790, 1796, 1799 and 1806; Figs 7–9; Plates 8 (visible at centre left of image) and 13). Ditch 1796 and parts of ditches 1790 and 1806 formed the southern, eastern and north-western sides, respectively, of a large trapezoidal enclosure, encompassing around 0.28 ha and measuring approximately 67 m (ENE–WSW) by 50 m (NNW–SSE) internally. Large gaps between the ditches presumably formed entrances in the north-eastern (20 m across) and south-western (11 m across) corners of the enclosure. The enclosed space seems to have been sub-divided by a 20 m long section of ditch, extending perpendicular to and apparently contemporary with ditch 1806. The ditches were typically between 1–2 m wide and around 0.4–0.75 m deep

(Fig. 14); ditch 1796 was slightly narrower and shallower and had been re-cut for at least part of its length (Plate 28). The only features within the enclosure were a few pits/postholes of broadly Iron Age and uncertain date.

5.5.4 The junction of ditches 1790 and 1796, at the south-east corner of the enclosure, was largely concealed by a later (also Iron Age) pit (1809; Fig. 8). From this point, ditch 1790 seemed to turn outwards and continue a little over 80 m beyond the enclosure to the ENE, where it had been partially recut on a slightly different orientation (Fig. 8). Ditch 1789, separated from the eastern terminal of ditch 1790 by a gap of 16.5 m, continued the same alignment for at least 24.5 m and presumably belongs to broadly the same phase of land division (Fig. 9).

5.5.5 Ditch 1806 extended beyond the southern edge of the enclosure, where it was truncated by ditches 1794 and 1795 (Fig. 7; see below). Its projected intersection with a similar and probably roughly contemporary ditch (1799) was also disturbed by several intercut quarry pits (see below). Ditches 1799 and 1806 do not seem to have continued into Area 1.

5.5.6 Ditches 1790, 1796, 1799 and 1806 must have been established early in the sequence as they were overlain, variously, by ditches/gullies associated with two probable Iron Age roundhouses (1798 and 1800, the latter of which is potentially of Middle/Late Iron Age date) and the ditches of a seemingly long-lived trackway (1786 and 1793–5; Figs 7 and 14; Plate 31; see below). A probable Early Iron Age pit (996) also seems to have been cut into the upper fills at the southern edge of ditch 1790 (Fig. 8; refer to section 5.5).

5.5.7 The precise date of ditches 1789, 1790, 1796, 1799 and 1806 is uncertain; those forming the enclosure (1796, 1790 and 1806) produced approximately 3 kg of pottery, the bulk of which can only be attributed a broadly Iron Age date. Ditch 1790, however, yielded 30 Early Iron Age sherds (304 g; all from its primary fills) and two Early/Middle Iron Age sherds (42 g). A commensurate (ie, Early Iron Age) date for the enclosure is tentatively suggested, but four sherds (48 g) of possibly Middle/Late Iron Age pottery also came from the ditch – including one ostensibly found in its primary fill. Other finds from ditches 1796, 1790 and 1806 comprised 8.5 kg of animal bone (almost half of which came from 1790) and a few pieces of fired clay, worked flint, burnt flint and charred cereal remains. Probable Early Iron Age sherds were also included amongst the otherwise undiagnostic Iron Age pottery assemblage (weighing 2 kg) from ditch 1799. Approximately 1.47 kg of animal bone also came from the ditch. The only finds from ditch 1789 were a few crumbs of Iron Age pottery.

Other Iron Age enclosure ditches and other land divisions

Enclosure ditch 1812 (Area 4)

5.5.8 Ditch 1812, in the western half of Area 4 (Fig. 6), appears to have described the western and southern sides of another, comparatively early large trapezoidal enclosure measuring approximately 70 m (east–west) by 48 m (north–south) and encompassing around 0.39 ha. The projected extent of the enclosure beyond the excavated areas is based on extrapolation of the geophysical survey results (Fig. 1). Ditch 1812 was a substantial feature, measuring almost 4 m in width and 1.56 m in depth in one excavated section, although it was generally only around 0.7 m deep and 1.5–2.5 m wide (Fig. 14, Plates 21 and 29). A north-west–south-east Iron Age ditch of similar proportions was recorded a little to the south in Trench A6 (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; ditch 607); the geophysical survey results suggest that this feature may have joined ditch 1812 beyond the excavated areas.

5.5.9 The northern side of the enclosure appears to have been re-cut, and possibly extended and re-orientated to form parts of several other conjoined enclosures, by ditch group 1813 (see below). The eastern side of the enclosure, as indicated by the geophysical survey, did not

seem to continue northwards into the excavated area, suggesting that it was open to the north-east. The geophysical survey also indicates that the south-eastern part of the enclosure defined by ditch 1812 was overlain by the north-east corner of a Romano-British enclosure partially revealed in Area 3 (see ditch 1771, below). Ditch 1812 was also cut by later Iron Age/Romano-British trackway ditches/land divisions 1794 and 1795 (see below) near the southern edge of Area 4.

5.5.10 Up to seven fills, largely formed through natural processes, were recorded in ditch 1812. The sequence possibly includes material accumulated against the base and one side of the ditch through erosion of an internal bank. Thirty-three sherds (338 g) of undiagnostic Iron Age pottery were recovered from its primary and secondary fills, whilst a few pieces of Romano-British pottery (eight sherds, 87 g) came from its uppermost, tertiary fill. Other finds included 2459 g of animal bone and a few pieces of worked flint, fired clay and a piece of polished stone.

5.5.11 A mass of intercutting quarry pits (1814 and 1818) and a scatter of other Iron Age pits/postholes, including the remains of four-post structure 1823 (see above), were found within the space described by ditch 1812. North–south ditch 1811 (see below) also extended across the middle of the putative enclosure. It is uncertain, however, if any of these features were contemporary with ditch 1812.

Enclosure ditch group 1813 (Area 4)

5.5.12 Ditch group 1813 (perhaps together with ditch 1811; see below) defined a series of conjoined enclosures that were partially exposed in the western part of Area 4 (Figs 6–7; Plate 30). The enclosures seem to have been cut through the much lighter fills of ditch 1812 (see above). Some of the ditches extended north of Area 4, where they can be partially traced by reference to the geophysical survey results (Fig. 1). The relationship between 1813 and trackway ditches/land divisions 1794 and 1795, to the south (see below), is unclear, although the enclosures seem to have been partially defined by or laid out with reference to them. Indeed, the western part of ditch 1794, together with ditch 1656/1659 (see below), possibly defined the south-west corner of an enclosure forming part of the same complex. However, a large Romano-British ditched enclosure (defined by ditches 1817 and 1830, see below) seems to have been appended to or superimposed over this part of the enclosure system, obscuring its original extent.

5.5.13 The ditches grouped as 1813 varied from 1–1.5 m in width and 0.16–0.7 m in depth. Some re-cutting was noted in one excavated section (Fig. 14). Associated finds included 2.3 kg of Iron Age pottery, a little over 4 kg of animal bone, 1.4 kg of fired clay (including a perforated triangular object), fragments of a human tibia (bearing signs of having been worked), two iron objects (ONs17 and 44) and a 4th century Roman coin (ON45). The dearth of later finds suggests that the ditches of 1813 had been largely infilled and/or gone out of use during the Romano-British period, although they had clearly influenced the position of the later enclosure defined by ditches 1817 and 1830.

5.5.14 North–south ditch 1811 (Fig. 7) was possibly contemporary/associated with enclosure ditch group 1813. The geophysical survey suggests that ditch 1811 extended north of Area 4, perhaps for up to 125 m. Around 1 m wide and 0.4 m deep, ditch 1811 produced approximately 1 kg of Iron Age pottery, although 19 sherds (87 g) of Romano-British pottery were also retrieved, suggesting that it could be somewhat later in date than 1812 and was perhaps associated/contemporary with ditch group 1813 (see below). Other finds from 1811 comprised animal bone (740 g), a few pieces of worked flint, burnt flint, fired clay and slag, and a toggle made of animal bone (ON31). Another much narrower and shallower ditch (1294) extended parallel to 1811, as if defining the opposite side of a trackway, although

the feature was considerably obscured by quarry pits and subject to only limited excavation. It produced no finds.

5.5.15 Ditch 1801 (Fig. 7), which extended 86 m east of 1813 was perhaps also related to this phase of land division, although it is equally likely to have been broadly contemporary with the earlier ditch 1812 (see above). The ditch was less than 1 m wide, under 0.3 m deep and yielded a few sherds of Iron Age pottery and pieces of animal bone. It seemed, in plan, to truncate probable earlier Iron Age enclosure ditch 1806 but the intersection was not excavated.

5.5.16 Numerous undated or Iron Age pits/postholes were scattered throughout the area enclosed by ditch group 1813 (Figs 6–7). However, no identifiable remains of structures (other than possible post-built structures 1823–5, refer to section 5.4) were uncovered in this area, which could indicate that the enclosures were not directly related to domestic activity.

Enclosure ditch 1784 (Area 4)

5.5.17 The north-eastern part of Area 4 contained a small open-ended ditched enclosure (1784; Fig. 9), the interior of which measured 8.5 m (north-east to south-west) by 11.3 m (north-west to south-east). The ditch varied between 0.7 m and 1.4 m in width, attained a maximum depth of 0.33 m and had moderately sloping, generally concave sides and a flat or slightly concave base. It contained a single fill, from which 54 sherds (549 g) of Iron Age pottery were retrieved, along with animal bone (201 g), a few small pieces of burnt flint (2 g) and slag (1 g) as well as charred cereal grains and chaff. A re-cut ditch (863/868), of similar dimensions to ditch 1784, extended across the open end of the enclosure, approximately 2 m from its terminals. Its fills yielded just three small sherds (5 g) of Iron Age pottery, 141 g of animal bone, a tiny piece of slag and charred cereal grains. A concentration of unworked stone, probably material dumped into the top of the ditch, was exposed but not excavated. Another, smaller ditch (1785), approximately 0.5 wide, 0.3 m deep and 12.5 m long, joined one of the terminals of ditch 1784, although the stratigraphic relationship was not clearly established. It contained no finds but is presumably broadly contemporary with ditches 1784 and 863/868. Few other potentially Iron Age features were encountered in this part of Area 4.

Other probable Iron Age ditches (Areas 1–3)

5.5.18 Iron Age roundhouse ditches/gullies 1736 and 1739, in Area 2 (refer to section 5.4), were flanked by NNW–SSE ditches 1735 and 1737–8 (Fig. 2), which were set 54 m apart. It is uncertain, however, whether the latter were contemporary with the structures. Ditch 1737, and its re-cut 1738, yielded Iron Age pottery (45 sherds, 248 g), animal bone (617 g) and fragments of a bone point or awl (ON52). Finds from ditch 1735 included 152 sherds (782 g) of late prehistoric, Early Iron Age and Iron Age pottery and a small amount of animal bone. The comparatively early date of much of the pottery from 1735 seems in conflict with the stratigraphic relationship recorded in Area 4 (Fig. 9), where the ditch seemed to cut trackway ditches 1786 and 1793, which are probably of later Iron Age date; the reasons for this are unclear. Ditches 1737–8 can be projected north of Area 3, based on the geophysical survey results (Fig. 8), where it followed a similar alignment to the eastern side of the earlier Iron Age enclosure defined by ditch 1790 in Area 4. This could, however, be coincidental.

5.5.19 Re-cut ditch 1724/1725, in Area 1 (Fig. 3), also follows a similar orientation to the ditch (1806) forming the eastern side of the probable earlier Iron Age enclosure in Area 4. Again, it is uncertain if the features were closely linked, although a modest quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery (10 sherds, 228 g) from ditch 1724 suggests it is later than the enclosure in Area 4. Approximately 8.7 kg of animal bone came from the ditches. Most of this (7.2 kg), including three cattle skulls and a horse skull, was found in a single slot excavated through

1724 (cut 247, context 250), where it had seemingly been dumped or deliberately placed. Other finds from 1724/1725 included undiagnostic Iron Age pottery (53 sherds, 882 g), a few pieces of slag, worked flint and fired clay, and the tip of a bone point or awl (ON51). The function and extent of the ditches is uncertain, although they may have formed part of a large enclosure (some 77 m by 68 m across) bounded to the north by trackway ditches (see below) and to the west by a substantial ditch recorded in Trenches A5 and A6 (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; ditch 503/607). In turn, this phase of land division/enclosure might be associated with other enclosures formed by ditches 1737/8 and 1735 in Area 2 (see above).

5.5.20 The southern part of Area 2 coincided with two other ditches (1733 and 1740) that were orientated broadly north-east–south-west and spaced 16.5–22 m apart (Fig. 2). The northern-most of the ditches (1733) also continued west into Area 1, where it seemed to have been extended by ditch 1730 (Fig. 3). Although discontinuous within the excavated areas, the geophysical survey (Fig. 1) suggests that the features continued, perhaps intermittently, considerably further north-east. Ditch 853, just within the eastern tip of Area 4 (Fig. 9), can be projected to form part of the northern ditch, which along with its counterpart, can be traced on the survey at least 165 m further to the north-east, continuing beyond the eastern edge of the development area. The ditches, which were between 0.5 m and 1 m wide and 0.1–0.55 m deep, produced only a small amount of Iron Age pottery (16 sherds, 93 g) and animal bone (73 g), as well as a flint arrowhead (ON4), and a medieval copper alloy clasp (ON6) and a Roman copper alloy ring (ON5) – both found using metal detectors, and possibly intrusive.

5.5.21 Other possibly Iron Age (or Romano-British) ditches include a recut example (860/862) that extended NNE–SSW through the eastern part of Area 3 (Figs 3–4), and others at the southern edge of Areas 1 (326/329; Fig. 3) and 3 (921/923/925; Fig. 4) (see below).

Iron Age–Romano-British trackway ditches/land divisions (Area 4)

5.5.22 A series of parallel, predominantly ENE–WSW ditches (889, 1786, 1793, 1794 and 1795) exposed along the southern edge of Area 4 appear to have formed part of a trackway laid out along the ridge between the excavation areas (Figs 6–9; Plates 1, 8, 13 and 30). The ditches, which presumably functioned as major land divisions, also seem to have defined, or influenced the position of several enclosures (see above/below). Although the full extent of the ditches is uncertain, they can be partially traced beyond the limits of excavation by reference to the geophysical survey results (Fig. 1).

5.5.23 Ditches 1786 and 1793, in the eastern part of Area 4 (Figs 9 and 14), were set approximately 5 m apart. The southern-most of the ditches (1786) extended 70 m to the ENE from the southern edge of Area 4 before turning ESE, where it was flanked by another, smaller section of ditch (889) for at least 25 m, both continuing beyond the limit of excavation (Fig. 9). Although it may have been partially lost to truncation, ditch 1793 seems to have terminated a little over 30 m from the point where ditch 1786 diverted to the ESE. Ditch 1793 extended 135 m to the WSW, where it divided into two ditches (1794 and 1795), which continued along slightly divergent alignments (Fig. 7). Ditch 1795, probably the earlier of the two and contemporary with the earliest phases of ditch 1793, was exposed intermittently at the southern edge of Area 4. It terminated 110 m WSW of its junction with 1794 and close to the ENE end of a smaller, probably Romano-British ditch (1816, see below; Fig. 6) that shared its orientation. Ditch 1794 was more fully revealed, demonstrating that it was at least 190 m long. It seems to have been punctuated by a small gap before joining a NNW–SSE ditch (1656/1659) that was partially exposed at the south-western limit of Area 4 (Fig. 6).

5.5.24 In all likelihood, the ditches were altered, extended and maintained over a prolonged period; indeed, incidences of (perhaps localised) re-cutting were recorded in sections through ditches 1793 (Plate 31), 1794 and 1795, although it was not possible to trace individual cuts between excavated slots. The ditches typically contained between one and three fills, which were largely interpreted as having been formed through natural, gradual silting processes. Their dimensions and profiles were variable, although most were relatively broad and shallow. The recut ditches of 1795, for example, were up to 2 m wide but only 0.2 m deep (Fig. 15), whilst those of 1794 were 0.60–1.75 m wide and 0.22–0.63 m deep – generally being substantially wider and deeper to the south-west (Fig. 15, Plate 32). The recut ditches of 1793 were up to 1.44 m wide and 0.44 m deep. Ditch 1786 was comparatively large, with a maximum width of 2.5 m (though typically around 1.5 m) and up to 0.6 m in depth (Plate 33). Ditch 889, however, was only 0.4 m wide and 0.26 m deep.

5.5.25 Parallel with, and immediately to the south of ditches 1793 and 1794 there was an intermittent layer of fossil ragstone and limestone cornbrash fragments (1797) (Figs 2, 7–8, and 14–5; Plate 34). The layer, up to around 0.1 m thick and measuring approximately 88 m by 3 m, appears to be the remnant of a metalled surface laid between the northern trackway ditch (1793–4) and its counterpart to the south (1786). There was no contact between layer 1797 and ditch 1793, although the former seems to have been cut by ditch 1795 (cut 1182, in turn re-cut by 1180); the section gives no indication that the metalling had eroded into the open trackway ditch (Plate 35). The only finds from 1797 are a few tiny crumbs of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (4 g), slag, worked flint and an early Roman copper alloy brooch (ON35).

5.5.26 Pottery of Iron Age (three sherds, 10 g) and Romano-British (two sherds, 8 g; both from its upper fill) date was recovered from ditch 1786, along with animal bone (250 g) and a flint scraper (ON9). Ditch 889 produced just a tiny crumb (1 g) of Iron Age pottery. Sixty-one sherds (266 g) of Iron Age pottery, some potentially attributable to the middle part of the period with other pieces of possible Late Iron Age/Romano-British date, came from ditch 1793. Other finds from ditch 1793 comprise 490 g of animal bone, a copper alloy button (ON12) and a few pieces of worked flint, burnt flint and fired clay. Nine sherds (20 g) of Iron Age pottery, a tiny fragment of animal bone and pieces of worked flint were found in ditch 1795. A considerably larger assemblage came from ditch 1794, including pottery attributable to the Iron Age (61 sherds, 473 g, including some Late Iron Age/Romano-British material and a single large Early Iron Age sherd, weighing 88 g, from its primary fill) and Romano-British period (37 sherds, 388 g; predominantly found in its upper fills in the western part of the feature). Other finds from 1794 comprised 1946 g animal bone, a perforated and polished bone object (ON54), 217 g of fired clay, a few pieces of worked flint and burnt flint, a tiny unidentified piece of copper alloy (ON48), an iron object (ON18), and two 3rd–4th century Roman coins (ONs13–14).

5.5.27 Stratigraphic relationships support a comparatively late date for the ditches; 1786, 1793 and 1794 were superimposed over several Early/Middle Iron Age ditches (eg, 1790, 1799, 1806 and 1812), whilst the remnants of the trackway metalling (1797) sealed earlier Iron Age pits/postholes 1076, 1250 and possibly 1126 (refer to section 5.4). Ditches 1794 and 1795 were cut through Middle/Late Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1800 (1794 also truncated possible Middle Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1808 and C-shaped Iron Age ditch 1802; refer to section 5.4).

5.5.28 Parts of the ditches were probably established during the latter stages of the Iron Age and at least some sections must have remained partially open during the Romano-British period. It is unclear how long the route continued in use, although the ditches – perhaps having

been extended, re-aligned or partially re-cut – had clearly influenced the position and partly defined a pair of Romano-British enclosures exposed in Areas 3 and 4 (see below).

Romano-British enclosure ditches

Co-axial enclosures 1726 (Area 1)

5.5.29 A group of co-axial ditches (1726), partially exposed at the southern edge of Area 1 (Fig. 3), defined several conjoined rectangular enclosures. The features were superimposed over probable Iron Age ditches 1724 and 326/329 (see above). The enclosures covered an area of at least 62 m (north-east to south-west) by 25 m (north-west to south-east). The ditches were, on average, 0.7 m wide and 0.25 m deep; that forming the southern side of the enclosures (cut 341) was of similar depth to the others but somewhat wider (2 m). The ditches yielded Iron Age (20 sherds, 82 g), Late Iron Age (three sherds, 21 g) and Romano-British (15 sherds, 51 g) pottery, and a few tiny pieces of animal bone. A Saxon/medieval copper alloy dress fitting (ON7) and a small piece from the rim of a medieval/post-medieval copper cooking vessel (ON1) were also retrieved using metal detectors, although they are perhaps intrusive. The interiors of the enclosures were largely outside of the excavated area, and the geophysical survey (Fig. 1) identified no obviously associated features within them. The ditches were partially detected by the survey and, whilst there is no indication that the enclosures were significantly more extensive than suggested here, the southern-most ditch (341) can be projected to have continued to the south-west into the southern part of Area 3, where it was recorded as ditch 927 (Fig. 4; see below).

Enclosure ditch 1771 (Area 3) and associated features

5.5.30 Romano-British (33 sherds, 436 g) and Iron Age (24 sherds, 184 g) pottery was found, along with a few undiagnostic prehistoric/late prehistoric sherds, in WSW–ESE ditch 1771 (Fig. 5; Plate 9). Other finds included four Roman copper alloy coins (ON36–39), a shale spindle whorl (ON3), animal bone (1165 g) and a few pieces of fired clay and worked flint. The ditch was, on average, 1.3 m wide and between 0.35 m and 0.7 m deep. A single secondary fill was recorded in most excavated slots, although two fills were occasionally discerned. Exclusively Iron Age pottery (just three sherds, 10 g) was recovered from a small, heavily truncated ditch (1782), re-cut by 1771, although this is potentially residual (Plate 36). The ditches appear to bound the area containing a concentration of Iron Age settlement-related features, but their proximity to Late Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1778 (refer to section 5.4) suggests the enclosure was not contemporary with them.

5.5.31 It can be inferred from the geophysical survey results (Fig. 1) that ditch 1771 formed the southern side of a rectangular enclosure, encompassing around 0.66 ha (of which approximately 0.15 ha was exposed in Area 3) and measuring approximately 122 m (WSW–ESE) by 55–60 m (NNE–SSW). The re-cut ditch forming the western side of the enclosure was excavated in Trench A1 (Cotswold Archaeology 2013; Trench A1, ditches 109 and 111), producing sherds of Roman pottery attributable to the 2nd–4th centuries AD. However, a substantial ditch corresponding with the suspected eastern side of the enclosure (outside the excavated areas), yielded only a small quantity of Iron Age pottery and no Romano-British finds during the evaluation (*Ibid*., Trenches A5 and A6, ditch 503/607).

5.5.32 The northern boundary of the enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey, was not seen to correlate with any sub-surface features during the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2015; Trench B8). However, its northern side was possibly defined by ditches partially exposed a little further to the north during the excavation, at the southern edge of Area 4 (ditches 1795 and 1816; see above/below). Ditch 1816 (Fig. 6) was somewhat narrower and shallower (0.8 m wide and 0.23 m deep) than 1771, and the only associated

finds are a tiny sherd of Romano-British pottery and a small amount of animal bone. The part of ditch 1795 north of the enclosure was not excavated.

5.5.33 Other than numerous intercutting pits (1819, 1828 and 1829; all presumably associated with extraction) on the inner edge of ditch 1771 (Figs 5 and 15; see below), the only convincingly Romano-British feature found within the enclosure was pit 1621 (see below). It is possible, however, that some of the inconclusive pits/postholes in this area are contemporary with the enclosure.

5.5.34 Ditch 927, the extrapolated continuation of ditch 341 (125 m to the north-east in Area 1; see above), lay 55 m to the south of and parallel with ditch 1771 (Fig. 4). It was a little narrower (0.9–1.6 m) but deeper (0.64 m) than ditch 341 and contained two fills, which produced Romano-British (eight sherds, 43 g) and Iron Age (two sherds, 3 g) pottery. The ditch truncated Middle/Late Iron Age roundhouse gully/ditch 1822 (refer to section 5.4) and seems to have re-cut a series of possible later Iron Age/Romano-British gullies and ditches (921, 923 and 925; also overlying 1822), albeit on a slightly different alignment. The geophysical survey results (Fig. 1) suggest that re-cut ditch 326/329, in Area 1, might represent the continuation of these land divisions.

5.5.35 Ditch 1783 extended perpendicular to ditches 1771 and 927 and seems to have partially defined two large enclosures (Fig. 4). It was up to 0.65 m wide, 0.35 m deep and, in most excavated slots, contained a single secondary fill. Associated finds comprised late prehistoric, Iron Age and (predominantly) Romano-British pottery, as well as a few pieces of animal bone, burnt flint, slag, iron and worked flint.

Enclosure ditches 1817 and 1830 (Area 4)

5.5.36 A relatively large quantity of Romano-British pottery (171 sherds, 2367 g, some of which is dateable to the latter part of the period) was found, along with 79 Iron Age sherds (654 g) and 1196 g of animal bone (including a piece of horn; ON 43) in ditch 1830 (Fig. 6). The substantial ditch, up to 2.66 m wide and 0.88 m deep (Fig. 15, Plates 32 and 37–8), appears to have formed the southern and western sides of a rectangular enclosure extending to the north of the Romano-British enclosure defined by ditch 1771 in Area 3 and Iron Age/Romano-British trackway ditches/land divisions 1794 and 1795. This seems to have been superimposed almost directly over an earlier sub-rectangular enclosure partially formed by ditches 1794 and 1656 (see above).

5.5.37 Ditch 1830 contained three relatively dark grey brown fills and had a steeply sloping outer edge and a more gradually sloping, convex inner side; the abrupt break of slope possibly indicates that the ditch had been re-cut. The geophysical survey results (Fig. 1) suggest that the ditch also extended NNW, roughly parallel with Highworth Road, for at least another 135 m past the north-east corner of the enclosure. This seems to have been confirmed by the evaluation, which uncovered a pair of large, parallel ditches in Trench 5B, which contained Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (Cotswold Archaeology 2015; ditches 5003 and 5005).

5.5.38 The eastern side of the enclosure appears to have been formed by a rather smaller ditch (1817; Fig. 6). This yielded mostly Iron Age pottery (14 sherds, 78 g), but two large joining sherds (29 g) from a Romano-British jar rim were found in its primary fill. The ditch that is inferred to have formed the northern side of the enclosure was surveyed but not excavated. The enclosure defined by these ditches measured approximately 43 m (NNE–SSW) by 48 m (WSW–ESE) and encompassed 0.21 ha.

5.5.39 The south-western corner of the enclosure seems to have been sub-divided by NNW–SSE ditch 1606 (Fig. 6), which was 0.85 m wide and 0.15 m deep. Six sherds (28 g) of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the ditch. The ENE–WSW return of ditch 1606 was excavated in Trench B6 (Cotswold Archaeology 2015; ditch 6007), producing, it seems, residual Iron Age pottery.

5.6 Other Romano-British remains

Overview

5.6.1 Few features other than ditches (refer to section 5.5) can be definitively attributed to the Romano-British period. No traces of structures are recognisable, and it is doubtful that their apparent absence can be explained as a result of truncation given the survival of relatively insubstantial Iron Age features such as postholes. It is possible, however, that remains of buildings with particularly shallow foundations, perhaps constructed using sill beams, may not have survived. Whilst there seems to have been a decline in domestic activity across the site by or during the period, the distribution of Romano-British features and finds (including approximately 4 kg of pottery) suggests a focus of occupation lay nearby – probably to the west of the development area. Although much of the assemblage cannot be closely dated at this stage, the chronology of the finds spans the Late Iron Age/Early Roman–Late Roman period.

Pits/postholes

Areas 1 and 2

5.6.2 No obviously Romano-British pits/postholes were encountered in Areas 1 and 2.

Area 3

5.6.3 Late Iron Age roundhouse gully/ditch 1778 was truncated by a large group of intercutting pits (1819), which covered an area of approximately 13 m by 6.5 m (Fig. 5). In turn, the pits appeared to be cut by Romano-British enclosure ditch 1771 (see above; Fig. 15; Plate 9). The pits – interpreted by the excavators as the result of periodic quarrying – were somewhat irregular in plan and profile. They also varied in size, up to a maximum of around 3 m across and 0.6 m in depth. A little over 1 kg of Iron Age and (mostly) Romano-British pottery and 274 g of animal bone was recovered from the pits.

5.6.4 Two smaller groups of similar, intercut pits (1828 and 1829) were located a little further to the ENE, also along the inner edge of enclosure ditch 1771 (Fig. 5). Pit group 1828 (Plate 39) produced 12 sherds (75 g) of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery and 741 g of animal bone. Twelve sherds (183 g) of predominantly Romano British (and late prehistoric) pottery, a small amount of animal bone (165 g) and a few pieces of worked flint came from pit group 1829

5.6.5 No other convincingly Romano-British pits or postholes were encountered in Area 3 during the excavation. However, the remains of a wooden box containing two late Roman pewter plates and 4th century pottery was found in a rectangular pit, a few metres to the west of (and external to) the probable Romano-British enclosure (partly defined by ditch 1771), in Trench A1 (Fig 1; Cotswold Archaeology 2013; pit 103).

Area 4

5.6.6 Just four probable Romano-British pits/postholes were identified in Area 4. Potentially the earliest of these is pit 1621, which lay in the western part of the area (Fig. 6; Plate 40). It contained Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery (23 sherds, 192 g), animal bone (40 g) and two pieces of ceramic building material. Approximately 108 m to the ENE,

two large and irregular intercut pits (1317 and 1374; Fig. 7) yielded a few sherds of Romano-British pottery, along with a little over 1 kg of animal bone. The fourth feature (1465; Fig. 6) – possibly an isolated posthole of uncertain function or a small, steeply sided pit, produced a single small sherd of probable late Romano-British pottery.

5.7 Medieval–early post-medieval

5.7.1 There is no evidence for continuity of activity or land-use into the early post-Roman period, although this may have been difficult, if not impossible to detect if it were the case. Nevertheless, a copper alloy dress fitting (ON7) found, apparently intrusively, in Romano-British ditch 1726 (cut 1744) is potentially of Saxon (or medieval) date.

5.7.2 The next identifiable phase of activity, following the abandonment of the Romano-British enclosures, saw the land being pressed into cultivation, as evidenced by several furrows (1815), which extended across the western end of Area 4 (Fig. 6; Plate 38). Quite when this occurred is unknown, although the formation of the furrows was presumably underway during the medieval period and likely continued into the earlier part of the post-medieval period. The north-west to south-east furrows (1815) extended perpendicular to the ridge between the excavated areas, probably to aid drainage. However, their orientation could also have been influenced by the earlier trackway laid out along the ridge (refer to section 5.5) if this had remained evident above ground. The furrows were 6.5–12.5 m apart, varied between 1.5 m and 4 m in width and were 0.05–0.3 m deep. A few residual sherds of Romano-British pottery, a piece of struck flint and four later Roman (3rd and 4th century AD) copper alloy coins (ONs 15–16 and 33–34) were retrieved from them. The furrows seem to have been associated with a possible ploughing headland recorded just beyond the southern edge of Area 4 during the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2015; Trench B8). The development of a ploughing headland parallel with the extant field boundary/hedgerow between the Phase A and B development areas is probably corroborated by the increased thickness of subsoil encountered in this location during the excavation (refer to sections 2.2 and 5.2).

5.7.3 Ploughing trends detected by the geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2013; 2014) could be correlated with the furrows. Other furrows, which the geophysical survey had suggested were widespread throughout the excavation areas may have largely survived only as bands of magnetic disturbance in the subsoil. Nevertheless, faint traces of furrows are apparent on aerial photographs in other parts of the excavated areas (Plates 13 and 30) where they were not perceptible at ground level and hence could not be surveyed. A few other broad and shallow, undated linear features excavated in the north-western part of Area 3 (eg, 563/574, 875, 1777; Fig. 4) and the eastern end of Area 4 (eg, 917, 1792; Fig. 9) follow the same orientation as the ploughing trends identified by the surveys. These are also potentially the remnants of furrows, but this is occasionally contradicted by stratigraphic relationships recorded, albeit often tentatively, by the excavators.

5.7.4 The only other indications of medieval/earlier post-medieval activity are provided by occasional unstratified and intrusive finds, comprising a few metal objects recovered using metal detectors and a tiny sherd of pottery.

5.8 Later post-medieval to modern

5.8.1 Features and finds of later post-medieval to modern date were scarce and largely reflect the continued use of the land for agricultural purposes. Although unexcavated, two closely spaced, parallel ditches, which extended north-west to south-east across the middle of Area 4 (Fig. 8), can be correlated with a field boundary recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1879. The land division and other extant field boundaries

were presumably established as a result of late post-medieval or 19th century enclosure but their orientations suggest that they had partially consolidated the layout of earlier parcels of ridge and furrow. The extant field boundary dividing Areas 1–3 and Area 4 followed a similar orientation to the main axis of the Iron Age–Romano-British enclosures and trackway. Whilst this could be coincidental – the position of the field boundary perhaps being dictated by local topography – the earlier features may have influenced the process of enclosure if they had retained some surface expression.

5.8.2 A network of agricultural land drains extended throughout the excavation areas, particularly Areas 2 and 4. The land drains, along with occasional deeper plough scars, had resulted in very localised truncation of some archaeological features, although this did not significantly obstruct their interpretation.

5.8.3 Post-medieval finds largely comprised a few sherds of pottery and metal objects (recovered using metal detectors), which were either unstratified, came from undated features or were found intrusively in clearly earlier contexts.

5.9 Natural features

5.9.1 The excavation areas contained several, mostly shallow and irregular features interpreted as tree-throw hollows or other localised areas of bioturbation (eg, root disturbance/animal burrows). Nine of the features were excavated (278, 726, 734, 745, 747, 826, 946, 1674 and 1700). Two tree-throw hollows in Area 3 produced finds (734, Iron Age pottery, 14 g; 745, animal bone, 14 g). A few small pieces of animal bone and single sherds of late prehistoric and Romano-British pottery also came from tree-throw hollow 946 in Area 4. None of the other natural features contained finds.

5.10 Undated/unphased features

5.10.1 Numerous features throughout the excavated areas – predominantly pits/postholes – cannot be assigned to a specific phase of activity, either because they did not form part of the excavated sample or because they produced no datable finds and/or were not clearly associated with closely dated features. Most are probably of Iron Age or Romano-British date, although some could derive from other, less conspicuous phases of activity. Excavated pits/postholes that remain undated are listed in Appendix 3.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The excavation produced approximately 175 kg of finds, ranging in date potentially from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to modern. The assemblage has been quantified by material type within each context; this information is summarised in Table 1. The finds have been visually scanned at a minimum, and this report summarises the range of material recovered, its nature, condition and potential date range.

Table 1 Quantification of finds

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery		
Iron Age	*6253*	*47,760*
Roman	*350*	*4040*
Medieval	*1*	*2*
Post-medieval	*2*	*39*
Modern	*1*	*1*
Sub-total	6607	51,842

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Fired clay	142	2041
Ceramic building material	3	94
Metalwork *Copper alloy* *Iron* *Lead*	 20 12 1	 44 131 5
Slag	233	246
Worked flint	287	N/A
Burnt flint	137	331
Stone	24	3087
Shale	3	50
Worked bone	14	125
Human bone	19	204
Cremated human bone	N/A	953
Animal bone	17,088	116,275

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage (6607 sherds, 51,842 g) is of Iron Age to modern date, with a chronological focus in the Early to Middle Iron Age period. Roman pottery accounts for 5.3% of the assemblage (by number of sherds), whilst medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery together account for just four sherds. Condition of the material is variable – the mean sherd weight for the Iron Age pottery is fairly low at 7.6 g, with the calcareous wares suffering to a greater extent than the sandy wares in the post-depositional environment. The harder fired Roman pottery survives slightly better, with a mean sherd weight of 11.5 g, but the surfaces are again often abraded. The assemblage has been quantified (number/weight in grammes) by broad ware group (e.g. shelly ware, sandy ware and so forth) in each context. Comment has been made on identifiable form type, surface treatment, decoration, evidence of use and any other salient features. The level of recording accords with the 'basic record', aimed at rapidly characterising an assemblage, and providing a comparative dataset - Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5). Table 2 gives the breakdown of the assemblage by ware type.

Table 2 Pottery totals by ware type

Phase/fabric	Number	Weight (g)
Iron Age		
Calcareous	*3216*	*27,610*
Fine shellly limestone	4	95
Leached fabric	1370	9372
Oolitic fabric	37	440
Oolitic fabric (glauconitic matrix)	3	10
Shelly limestone	68	696
Shelly ware	1248	12,889
Sparse shell	486	4108
Sandy wares	*2998*	*19,593*
Glauconitic sand with sparse flint	5	48

Phase/fabric	Number	Weight (g)
Glauconitic sandy ware	9	77
Glauconitic sandy with sparse shell	8	172
Sandy ware	2963	19,267
Sandy ware with sparse flint	4	16
Sandy ware with sparse shell	9	13
Other		
Flint-tempered	22	320
Grog-tempered ware	12	195
Organic tempered ware	3	36
Uncertain	2	6
Sub-total	*6253*	*47,760*
Roman		
Black Burnished ware	4	64
Fine shelly ware	1	6
Greyware	216	2196
Grog-tempered ware	39	1045
Mica-dusted ware	1	3
Oxidised ware	22	56
Oxfordshire colour-coated ware	1	17
Samian	10	125
Sandy ware	49	312
Savernake-type	1	179
Shelly ware	1	8
White-slipped redware	2	10
Whiteware	3	19
Sub-total	*350*	*4040*
Medieval		
Glazed whiteware	1	2
Post-medieval/modern		
Post-medieval redware	2	39
Refined whiteware	1	1
Total	**6607**	**51,842**

Iron Age

6.2.2 The Iron Age fabrics are dominated by calcareous wares and sandy wares (Table 2). These occur in fairly equal quantities, with the calcareous fabrics accounting for 51.4% of the assemblage by count (57.8% by weight) and sandy wares 47.9% by count (41% by weight). Other fabrics comprise flint-tempered, grog-tempered and organic tempered, but quantities

are insignificant (≤0.2% of the assemblage by count). The raw materials for the pottery may all have been obtained from the local geology, with deposits of Kimmeridge Clay, the limestones and sandstones of the Corallian Group, Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation, and the Lower Greensand and Gault, all found within a 7 km radius of the site. The use of calcareous and sandy fabrics is typical of this region during the Iron Age, although the proportions may be significant with a shift from the exploitation of calcareous wares to more sandy wares during the Early to Middle Iron Age (Jones 2007). The 15 flint-tempered sherds are well-made and likely to derive from vessels brought to the area from the Wessex region. No other regionally traded wares have been identified at this stage.

6.2.3 The most commonly occurring forms are bowls and jars with carinated profiles. Ten partially reconstructed profiles were recorded, with a further 22 examples broken at the neck/shoulder join. The carinated forms include a tripartite bowl in a red-finished, sandy fabric from pit 996 and a bipartite bowl in a sandy fabric from ditch 1796; both are long-necked. Possible jar types include one in a shelly limestone-gritted fabric, decorated with finger-tip impressions around the shoulder from posthole 304. Other jars or bowls of carinated profile were found in ditch 1735, posthole 304, ditch 1796, pit 1250, ditch 1799 and ditch 1790. The less diagnostic examples, broken at the neck/shoulder join, were also recovered from pit 1076, pit 1379, pit 1420, ditch 1830, ditch 1813, pit 1422, ditch 1799, pit 1809, ditch 1794, pit 113, roundhouse gully 1721, roundhouse gully 1739, roundhouse related ditch 1776 and pit 507. The rim tops are typically flattened or sometimes rounded; one is decorated with fingertip/fingernail impressions on the top. This class of vessel is relatively long-lived, occurring most commonly on earlier Iron Age (*c.* 800-400 BC) sites in the region such as Farmoor (Phase I, Lambrick 1979), Groundwell West (Timby 2001), Ashville (Period 1, DeRoche 1978) and Horcott Quarry (Brown 2017), but some are occasionally found in slightly later contexts. A vessel with flared rim and more rounded shoulder, decorated with a band of fingertip impressions around the shoulder, is of probable 5th/4th century BC date (ditch 1790).

6.2.4 Across the region there is a chronological progression in vessel forms from angular, carinated types to those with more rounded or neutral profile, and these later types are well-represented at Shrivenham and other sites such as Ashville (Period 2, DeRoche 1978), Farmoor (Phase II, Lambrick 1979), Ridgeway Farm, Purton (Brook with Seager Smith 2017), Mingies Ditch (Wilson 1993), Deer Park Road (Timby 1995), Guiting Power (Saville 1979), Groundwell Farm (Gingell 1982), Groundwell West (Timby 2001), Thornhill Farm (Timby 2004) and Claydon Pike (Jones 2007).

6.2.5 The most commonly occurring Middle Iron Age forms at Shrivenham are simple vessels with neutral profiles and undifferentiated flattened or rounded rims. Six examples were recovered, from ditch 1790, pit 1420, pit 1809, roundhouse related ditch 1804 and ditch 1793. Four similar vessels, of more convex profile, were identified from pit 106, structure 1825, ditch 1794 and pit 154. Five vessels are of ovoid profile (pit 113, pit 773, ditch 1811, roundhouse related ditch 1803 and pit 1383. Three saucepan pots include one with burnished curvilinear decoration from ring ditch 1808, a plain example from roundhouse associated ditch 1736, and one with a horizontal groove below the rim from pit 695 (group 1819). All have beaded rims and well-finished surfaces; two are in sandy fabrics and one is flint-tempered. The vessel from roundhouse 1736 appears to have been deliberately deposited in the terminal of the roundhouse gully (slot 376). The saucepan pots are likely to be regional imports from production centres in the Wessex region; such vessels are found on sites in the Thames Valley region from the 3rd century BC onwards (Timby 2001, 21).

6.2.6 Four slack-shouldered jars were recorded - from pit 780, roundhouse related ditch 1798, roundhouse related ditch 1776, pit 597 and a particularly large example (*c.* 380 mm rim

diameter) from roundhouse associated gully 1800. The example from ditch 1776 has fingertip/fingernail impressions along the rim top. Barrel-shaped jars, with slightly shaped necks and out-turned or flattened rims, were recorded from five features: pit 338, pit 306, roundhouse 1772, pit 164 and enclosure ditch 1724.

6.2.7 Round-bodied jars and bowls in sandy fabrics came from pit 106 (two vessels), pit 306 and pit 597. Plain bowls with undifferentiated rims were occasionally recorded (ditch 1790, ON 11), as well as some vessels which may have functioned as a dish or lid (pit 1809, pit 770, roundhouse related ditch 1804). Two possible cups with plain rounded or flattened rims were recorded – one from pit 601 with a rim diameter of just 60 mm, and one from ditch 1794 with a diameter of 90 mm; both are in sandy fabrics. A biconical bowl in a shell-gritted fabric came from ditch 1384. A lug handle, in an unoxidised shell-gritted fabric, was recorded from the ditch of C-shaped enclosure 1802 (ON 25). It is similar to an example from the Middle Iron Age assemblage from Deer Park Road Witney (Wilson 1993, fig. 35, 39) and Early to Middle Iron Age handles found at Ashville (DeRoche 1978, fig. 32, 19; fig. 44, 188; fig. 48, 261).

6.2.8 Many rims are broken at the neck/shoulder join and it is not possible to discern the type of vessel they originate from. These include plain rounded or flattened rims, expanded rims, internally bevelled rims and beaded rims. Bases are flat or occasionally demonstrate a footring.

6.2.9 A tightly curved body sherd, in a silty/very fine sandy fabric, from roundhouse 1720 (fill 141, slot 139) may be part of a metalworking crucible.

6.2.10 The limited evidence for pottery of Late Iron Age date includes a body sherd with fine cordon from pit 693; a perforated base in a sandy fabric, from roundhouse 1778, may also be of this date. Body sherds in grog-tempered fabrics from ditches 1726 and 1794, and pit 1621 are also of likely Late Iron Age date.

6.2.11 Surface treatments noted on the Iron Age pottery include rough wiping (usually with organic material), burnishing and smoothing, and red-finishing. The wiping was most commonly seen on the external surface of the coarser, calcareous fabrics, and smoothing and burnishing on the finer sandy wares, but not exclusively so. Twenty-four instances of possible red-finish were noted, all on vessels made from sandy fabrics. This surface treatment is typically associated with ceramics of earlier Iron Age date. Although more common on pottery from sites in the Wessex region, red-finished vessels have also been recorded from a number of Thames Valley sites (Timby 2001, 23-24). At this stage of analysis it has not been possible to ascertain if the effect was created by burnishing or the application of a slip. Two body sherds in a sandy fabric have a ridged surface and may derive from a furrowed bowl. Decorative motifs occur rarely; they include fingertip and fingernail impressions, and burnished and incised lines. Evidence of actual vessel use is provided by the occurrence of burnt residue on the internal surface and sooting on the external surface, but these are uncommon. Traces of limescale, left by the boiling of water, were occasionally noted.

6.2.12 The Iron Age pottery from Shrivenham shares close affinities with the material from the Thames Valley and Cotswolds regions. The range of fabrics and forms includes earlier Iron Age types such as the red-finished bowls and shouldered jars, but also indicators of Middle Iron Age activity in terms of the barrel-shaped jars, round-bodied bowls and saucepan pots. There is a general trend across the region from the use of calcareous fabrics to more sandy fabrics, and these are present in fairly even quantities at Shrivenham. Brown (2017, 274) notes the difficulty in close dating of Iron Age sites in the Upper Thames Valley as the

ceramic sequence is still quite poorly defined and there is a lack of supporting radiocarbon dates. The overall character of the Shrivenham pottery assemblage suggests occupation from the 6th century BC to the late 2nd century/early 1st century BC, with some indicators of slightly later activity. The material recovered during the previous evaluations at the site is comparable with that from the excavation, and enhances the record (Cotswold Archaeology 2013, 2015).

Roman

6.2.13 The Roman pottery assemblage (350 sherds, 4040 g) derives from 65 contexts, but only three contained greater than 25 sherds – all fills of ditch 1830. Some 33 sherds of Roman pottery were also found across the fills of ditch 1771. Both features also contained quantities of residual Iron Age pottery in their fills.

6.2.14 Imported wares are restricted to ten sherds of samian, including a form 18 platter and a form 35/36 bowl/dish. The identified British finewares comprise a single sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware and one mica-dusted sherd. The oxidised wares include white-slipped redware and white ware; no forms were discernible. The coarsewares are predominantly greywares – forms include seven everted rim jars, three narrow-necked jars, a bead-rimmed jar and a beaker. The grog-tempered pottery includes Savernake types - two large jars and a necked jar were recognised in this group. Amongst the sandy wares is a small everted rim jar. Regionally traded wares comprise Black Burnished ware from south-east Dorset – a flat-rimmed bowl (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, type 22) and a plain rimmed dish (*ibid* type 20) were identified in this fabric. Small quantities of calcareous fabrics were also noted, but these may be residual Iron Age types.

Post-Roman

6.2.15 A single sherd of medieval pottery – a glazed whiteware, was intrusive in roundhouse gully 1739. Single sherds of post-medieval redware were recovered from enclosure ditch 1788 and roundhouse associated ditch 1736. A very small piece of refined whiteware was intrusive in a cremated-related deposit in pit 630.

6.3 Fired clay and ceramic building material

6.3.1 The fired clay assemblage (142 pieces, 2041 g) derives from 40 contexts. It includes a perforated triangular object from Iron Age enclosure ditch 1813 (fill 1351). This is incomplete, being damaged on almost all surfaces, but appears to have been quite irregular in shape, with slightly sloping sides and rounded corners. It measures 145 mm in length, is 90 mm wide and thick, and weighs 1221 g. It is made from a sandy clay, fired to a yellowish brown to reddish brown colour on the exterior but not oxidised throughout. It has a single perforation made slightly off centre, 50 mm from one end. This type of object is a well-known form, common in Iron Age contexts across the whole of southern Britain and remaining current well into the 2nd century AD (Wild 2002, 10). Traditionally, they have been interpreted as loomweights used in textile weaving but it is now considered more likely that they were bricks associated with ovens and/or kilns, and perhaps used as linings or pedestals (Lowther 1935; Poole 1995, 2015). Part of a perforated object was also recorded from pit 1379 but too little survives to ascertain the type of object from which it came.

6.3.2 The remainder of the assemblage comprises amorphous fragments, typically in a yellowish brown to reddish brown sandy clay, although a shell-gritted fabric was occasionally recorded. The largest group (283 g) came from pit 1823; all other features produced fewer than 100 g. These are likely to derive from oven/hearths or other structures. Possible wattle impressions were noted amongst pieces from pit 1823, ditch 1796 and pit 1711. A corner fragment from a structure or object came from ditch 1794.

6.3.3 Only three fragments of ceramic building material were recovered; all are undiagnostic flakes of possible Romano-British date.

6.4 Metalwork

6.4.1 The metalwork assemblage comprises 33 items: 20 of copper alloy, 12 of iron and one of lead alloy. Approximately half of the group (19) were recovered by metal detector and the rest by hand. The majority of items (26) were recovered from linear features (ditches and furrows) with the remainder recovered from subsoil (two), pits (two), roads/trackways (two) and one unstratified item.

Copper alloy

6.4.2 Most of the copper alloy group (12 items) comprise coins, of Roman issue. The group follows the common pattern for British sites, with few early coins and a proliferation of 3rd and 4th century issues. Two can only be broadly dated to this period, with the remaining coins identifiable as 4th century nummi. Of the coins identifiable to issuer, seven coins are issued by House of Constantine emperors, spanning the period AD 307 to 361 and two are House of Valentinian emperors, AD 364-378.

6.4.3 Of the remaining eight items, most are of personal adornment. The earliest-dated material includes two finger rings of probable Roman date, recovered from ditch 408 (ON 5) and from subsoil 102 (ON 41). A Colchester Derivative brooch of 1st century AD was found in trackway 1123 (ON 35).

6.4.4 A dress-fitting, probably a hooked tag, of possible Saxon or medieval date, was recorded from ditch 1744 (ON 7) and a medieval buckle plate came from ditch 408 (ON 6). The buckle plate bears traces of gilding on the upper surface and has five attachment holes, although no rivets survive. A rim fragment of a cast copper alloy cooking vessel was recovered from ditch 1742 (ON 1). The fragment is from a skillet, cauldron or similar and is dateable to the medieval to post-medieval periods. A post-medieval button, with integrally cast eye and small circular face, was recovered from ditch 1032 (ON 12).

Iron

6.4.5 Of the 12 items of iron, four are too fragmentary to identify to form or function. Two are possibly agricultural fragments, likely the tips of bladed or tined implements (ON 44 from ditch 1769 and an unstratified item). Four nail or nail fragments were recovered from two pit and two ditch deposits. Three cannot be closely dated, as they are of a ‘standard’ form (square shank and round head) introduced in the Roman period and continued largely unchanged until industrialisation in the post-medieval period. One is a probable horseshoe nail of medieval date, recovered from ditch 386 - Clark (2004, 87) gives a 13th century date for such types from dated deposits in Winchester.

6.4.6 Items of personal adornment are limited. Ditch terminus 857 produced a single hobnail, from the sole of Roman-dated footwear. A possible finger ring from ditch 1767 comprises a hoop with rounded terminals (ON 40). These terminals are reminiscent of Iron Age and Roman snake rings of Johns (1997) Type B.

Lead alloy

6.4.7 The single lead alloy item (ON 46 from ditch 860), is the handle terminal of an item of cutlery of probable 18th or 19th century date. A partial marker’s mark is visible, but efforts to trace the marker have not proved successful.

6.5 Slag

6.5.1 Tiny quantities of material (most <10 g) recorded as slag or 'industrial waste' came from 30 contexts, much of it recovered from bulk soil samples.

6.5.2 The material from 25 contexts comprises fuel ash slag, most if not all of which is unlikely to have derived from metalworking. It is generally grey in colour, light in weight and vesicular, in many cases probably representing small fragments of vitrified clay or daub. The largest quantities came from contexts 188 (76 g) and 1251 (37 g), with a further 11 g of red, partly vitrified clay from context 1249.

6.5.3 Additionally, four contexts contain undiagnostic possible iron smithing slag/fuel ash slag (contexts 149 – 6 g; 373 – 6 g; 918 – 8 g; 1368 – 4 g). A further 13 g of material from Iron Age context 1423 includes a small fragment of what may be hearth lining retaining part of a tuyére hole. If so, then this is most likely from a smithing hearth, the hole allowing air to be blown into the hearth from the bellows.

6.6 Flint

6.6.1 The 287 pieces of worked flint from 175 contexts, which were assessed from the excavation, demonstrated a low density of material from each context. Most pieces were collected from Iron Age features and were therefore all likely to be derived. None of the collections contained multiple numbers of pieces, which were predominantly restricted to individual flakes and blades with very few retouched tools.

6.6.2 Flint does not occur naturally at the site; its presence is therefore of considerable interest. Some of the raw material is of good quality and was probably introduced directly from the chalk. Other pieces are of inferior quality and may represent nodules that were eroded from the chalk and obtained more locally.

6.6.3 The combined assemblage is both too small and poorly stratified to be reliably informative. The range of condition and technology suggest that the multi-period activity is likely to be represented, all of which pre-dates the Iron Age. The initial appearance of human activity at the site is unconfirmed but may be indicated by a broken blade from Iron Age ditch 1793 (fill 1033), which may be of Late Upper Palaeolithic date. Subsequent activity is represented by a number of blades, which argue for continued activity into the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, the last being confirmed by the presence of a broken leaf arrowhead from Iron Age ditch 1733 (fill 282). It is impossible to sub-divide this small collection into individual chronological components, however these conclusions supplement existing evidence from the area (Harding 2002). Other retouched material was represented by end scrapers and knives.

6.6.4 Burnt flint, amounting to 137 pieces (331 g) was recovered from 23 contexts, but all containing fewer than 75 g. The class of material is intrinsically undatable but frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

6.7 Stone and shale

6.7.1 The stone assemblage (27 pieces) includes worked items and those that appear to be naturally formed but may have been utilised. Portable objects include a sarsen quern fragment, probably of rotary form, from Iron Age pit 1818 (ON 47). A flat disc of sandstone (66 x 64 x 10 mm) from Iron Age ditch 1739, appears to have been deliberately, if roughly, shaped, perhaps to use as a pot lid. The most commonly occurring objects are ovoid-shaped sandstone pebbles, naturally formed, but likely to have been used as slingshots. Four were recovered, all from features of Iron Age date - two from roundhouse 1721, one

from ditch 1735 and one from pit 780. The smallest measures 27 x 22 x 21 mm, the largest is 45 x 35 x 31 mm. Two fragments of slate, probably from roofing material, were recovered from Roman ditch 1812, but may be intrusive.

6.7.2 Three pieces of stone appear to be polished but the type of objects from which they derived are uncertain. They were recovered from Iron Age ditch 1726, Iron Age pit 1190 and Roman ditch 1812.

6.7.3 Six spheres of stone, in limestone or ironstone/marcasite, were recorded. These naturally formed pieces have no obvious signs of working or utilisation but may have been deliberately collected. Three, each 25 mm in diameter, came from Iron Age pit 1728, two (40 mm diameter) from posthole 606 and one (18 mm diameter) from posthole 1538. Two fossils were also recorded, from Middle Iron Age pit 164 and Iron Age ditch 1740. These also represent items that are not worked but may have been deliberately collected and deposited. A piece of unworked but heated (reddened and cracked) stone came from Roman ditch 1812.

6.7.4 Two shale objects were recorded – part of a vessel from Iron Age pit 306 and a spindle whorl fragment from Roman ditch 1771 (ON 3). The vessel is a necked, cordoned bowl with beaded, out-turned rim (220 mm rim diameter, 12% present); it is of Late Iron Age date. The spindlewhorl is of biconical section but has broken in half both vertically and horizontally; the original diameter was 40 mm, with a central perforation of 10 mm. Both are likely to derive from the shale outcrops around Kimmeridge Bay, south-east Dorset, located 115 km to the south of Shrivenham. This industry produced a range of shale objects throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The lack of evidence for any shale working on site suggests these objects represent traded goods or personal possessions brought to site through marriage or other mechanisms.

6.8 Worked bone

6.8.1 A small assemblage of worked bone (14 pieces, 125 g) was recovered from 12 features.

6.8.2 Two polished antler fragments from Iron Age roundhouse 1721 (fill 110, ON 49) may derive from a handle or toggle. Three joining fragments from a short length of antler beam or tine were recovered from pit 1420 (ON 32). These represent on off-cut from antler working. Both ends had been sawn, and part of a saw cut is visible at one end.

6.8.3 A needle came from Iron Age pit 601. It is incomplete, broadly round in section and c 3 mm thick (ON 10). One end is flattened (7 mm wide), slightly pointed and perforated with a single small circular hole (diameter: 1.7 mm). The shaft has become polished through use. The object survives to a length of 50 mm but the lower part of the shaft/tip is missing. A shaft fragment from a second possible needle, or pin, was recovered from Iron Age roundhouse 1720 (fill 141, ON 50).

6.8.4 A bone toggle or fastener was recovered from Iron Age ditch 1239 (ON 20). It is of square cross section, 11 mm wide and 31 mm long. It had been made from a hollow bone and drilled laterally with a circular perforation (4 mm diameter laterally and 4-6 mm longitudinally). It is highly polished through use and has traces of wear around the perforations, resulting from friction caused by the use of a thread/cord. This example is undecorated. Bone toggles have been recovered from other sites in southern England including Danebury (Sellwood 1984) and Glastonbury Lake Village (Bulleid and Gray 1917, 406 and 460).

6.8.5 A tool made from a sheep long bone came from Iron Age ditch 1730. The object is incomplete, with part of the shaft and the proximal/distal end of the bone surviving. There is a transverse circular perforation (5 mm diameter) through the central area of the shaft; traces of polish, resulting from use, are visible on the shaft. The object survives to a length of 81 mm; the shaft is 10 mm diameter. It is similar to an example from Danebury (Sellwood 1984, tools class 1, fig. 7.37, 3.177-8) and examples from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray 1917, class A). The shaft is hollow, being bored longitudinally. The use of such tools is uncertain but thought to relate to weaving, perhaps as bobbins (Sellwood 1984, 392). Part of a second tool of this type was also recovered from Iron Age/Roman ditch 1794 (ON 54). This survives to a length of 72 mm; the perforation is 5 mm. It has been smoothed or shaped.

6.8.6 A splinter/point came from Iron Age roundhouse ditch 1736 (fill 383, ON 53). Made from a split long bone, it tapers to a rounded point, surviving for a length of 115 mm before breaking, and is up to 25 mm wide. The surface is highly polished through use, presumably some form of craft activity - perhaps textile working or pottery manufacture. The tip from a more roughly made point was also recovered from this fill. The broken tips from probable points were also recorded from ditch 1724 (ON 51) and ditch 1738 (ON 52).

6.8.7 Part of a hollow bone, with polished surface, was found in ditch 1811 (ON 31). It is 10-13 mm wide and survives to a length of 37 mm; it is too incomplete to ascertain the type of object from which it derives. Fragments from bone objects also came from ditch 1804 and posthole 1237. Both are short (15 mm and 21 mm), polished sections of bone that have been burnt.

6.9 Human bone

Introduction

6.9.1 Human bone, cremated and unburnt, was recovered from six contexts in two areas of the site (Areas 3 and 4). The remains of an unurned cremation burial with redeposited pyre debris (631, Grave 630; Plate 2) was found in Area 3, situated on the northern edge of the investigations and 2–3 m to the north of two of the Iron Age roundhouses recorded in this area (1772 and 1776; Fig. 5). The deposit has been tentatively dated to the later prehistoric period on the basis of residual pottery sherds found within the matrix; other archaeological components might also be residual, though the fired clay and burnt flint could comprise elements of pyre debris.

6.9.2 Fragments of disarticulated unburnt bone were found redeposited in five contexts distributed across a 120 m central section of Area 4, comprising the fills of two postholes, two ditches and one roundhouse ditch (Table 3). Posthole 1106 comprised one in a group of seven (1807; (Fig. 7) which, given their position some 6 m to the north-west of roundhouse 1798, are believed to represent the remains of some form of storage structure associated with the Iron Age settlement. Whilst a commensurate later prehistoric date is suggested by association and on stratigraphic grounds, the date of the redeposited and potentially curated human remains (recovered close to the base of the posthole) could predate that of the settlement features.

6.9.3 The bone recovered from roundhouse ditch 1804 (cut 1289), posthole 1479 and the various ditches all derived from the upper fills, some in association with fragments of redeposited Romano-British pottery. There is no evidence suggestive of deliberate ‘placement’ in any of these cases, though this possibility cannot be fully discounted in every instance. All these fragments were recovered from amongst the animal bone assemblage and the specific location of the human bone was not observed in excavation. The currently available evidence suggests all these deposits were made in the Iron Age/Romano-British period but,

as with the bone from posthole 1106, there is a strong possibility that the bone itself relates to mortuary activity undertaken in a slightly earlier phase.

Methods

6.9.4 The human remains were subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, the presence of pathological lesions and information related to the mortuary rites and taphonomic processes. Assessments were based on standard ageing and sexing methods (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for preservation of the unburnt bone was made according with McKinley (2004a, fig 6).

Results

6.9.5 The cremation grave (630) had survived to a relatively shallow depth (0.10 m) and small flecks of bone were evident in the charcoal-rich matrix at stripped surface level. It is, therefore, possible that a small amount of bone may have been lost during machine stripping of the site and/or due to earlier horizontal truncation. The bone is in good visual condition, and both compact and a representative proportion of trabecular bone (prone to preferential destruction in an adverse burial environment) are present. Consequently, it appears unlikely that much bone will have been lost as a consequence of taphonomic factors associated with the burial soil matrix.

6.9.6 The condition of the unburnt bone is variable. The skull fragments from postholes 1106 and 1532 are only lightly eroded (Grades 1–2); elsewhere the degree of erosion is slight-moderate, with a similar level of abrasion to the bone from two deposits (gully 1289 and posthole 1479) suggesting the involvement of different taphonomic mechanisms.

6.9.7 No complete skeletal elements were recovered. In most cases the damage is indicative of old breaks to dry bone, though there are instances of fresh breaks and some have no adjoining fragments indicating a small amount of bone was lost in excavation. There is one example of a helical fracture, in the left distal femur shaft from the roundhouse gully 1289, indicating the bone was broken whilst 'green'.

Table 3 Summary from assessment scan of human bone

Context	Cut	Deposit type	Quantification	Age/sex	Comment
631	630	un.burial + rpd	955 g	adult 21–40 yr ??female	
1105	1106 (1807)	R (posthole)	2 frags. s	adult >30 yr ??female	1–2; old breaks; joining fragments right medial frontal bone
1292	1289 (1804)	R (roundhouse ditch)	3 frags. l.	adult >18 yr ?male	2–3; old breaks, some helical; slightly polished; canid gnawing; left distal femur shaft (large/robust)
1480	1479	R (posthole)	5 frags., s.u.	subadult/adult >15 yr ?female	2–3; old breaks; joining fragments small/gracile left prox. humerus shaft, & occipital vault (nuchal crest 1–2)
1533	1532	R (ditch)	5 frags., s.	adult >18 yr	1–2; fresh breaks no joins; frontal bone inc. supra-orbital area; bi-lateral *cribra orbitalia*
1558	1555 (1813)	R (ditch)	2 frags. l.	adult >18 yr ??male	2–3; old breaks; joining frags. right tibia shaft (excluding anterio-medial section); slightly polished shaft; fileting & chop marks; worked

KEY: R – redeposited; un.– unurned; rpd – redeposited pyre debris; s.a.u.l. – skull, axial skeleton, upper limb, lower limb (skeletal areas represented where not all are present)

6.9.8 Several of the bone fragments have a slightly 'polished' appearance which might indicate repeated 'handling' of the bone. Examples include the exocranial surface of the skull fragments from posthole 1106, the lack of weathering and abrasion to which suggests the bone had not been subject to long exposure or repeated episodes of redeposition, but there is some evidence to suggest curation of the remains. The two other examples, both of which involve elements of the lower limb with 'polished' patches on the shafts, also show evidence of further human and animal manipulation. The helical fracture to the femur shaft from roundhouse ditch 1804 (cut 1289) is reminiscent of bone which has been deliberately broken-open for marrow extraction, and there is also evidence for canid gnawing around the distal end of the bone indicating it must have been exposed at some early stage. The human manipulation of the fragment of right tibia shaft from ditch 1813 (cut 1555) is more elaborate with modification of the broken distal end of the shaft indicating it functioned as some form of 'tool'. There are a series of fine, short, parallel 'fileting' marks in the anterior aspect, all set at same approximately 45 degree angle (superior-medial to distal-lateral) and extending along a 20 mm length of the shaft from the distal end (Plate 41), indicating adhering soft tissues had been cleaned off the bone. A single short chop mark is evident juxta the distal end on the dorsal aspect (Plate 42). The broken distal end of the bone, 20 mm longer in the dorsal aspect than in the anterior, shows extensive smooth wear/polishing (Plate 43).

6.9.9 The cremated bone represents the remains of an adult, 21–40 years of age, possibly female. No pathological lesions were observed in this rapid scan, and no materials identifiable as pyre goods. Much of the bone is blue/black or grey in colour, indicative of poor oxidation of the organic components of the bone. Numerous factors could have influenced the level of oxidation including the size of the pyre, the weather or the presence of insulating materials around the body. The extensive nature of this poor degree of oxidation may be observed in cremated remains of any period but tends to be more frequently observed in later prehistoric and Romano-British contexts (see eg, McKinley 2008).

6.9.10 A minimum of two individuals (based on duplication of skeletal elements) are represented amongst the unburnt bone assemblage, an adult female >30 years of age and an adult male >18 years. One of the adults had lesions in the eye sockets indicative of *cribra orbitalia*, a metabolic disorder associated with childhood iron deficiency anaemia, though other contributory factors, such as parasitic infection, are also recognised (Molleson 1993; Roberts and Manchester 1995, 166–9).

6.10 Animal bone

6.10.1 A total of 17099 fragments (116.266 kg) of animal bone came from deposits of Iron Age and Romano-British date. The assemblage comprises 1424 identified fragments (Table 4) and includes nine associated bone groups (or ABGs; Table 5), counted as one specimen each.

6.10.2 Animal bone also came from the trial trench evaluation stage of fieldwork (Cotswold Archaeology 2013 and 2015), with an unspecified quantity from Area A and a further 187 (5.541 kg) from Area B.

Table 4 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by phase

Species	Iron Age	Early to Middle Iron Age	Middle Iron Age	Middle to Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age/early Romano-British	Romano-British	Unphased	Total
cattle	399	90	42	11	54	28	11	635
sheep/goat	288	99	34	6	32	28	14	501
pig	84	18	14	2	5	5	2	130
horse	82	23	17	-	6	7	3	138
dog	7	-	2	-	2	1	-	12
red deer	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
woodcock	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
vole	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
rodent	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
frog	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	**866**	**232**	**109**	**19**	**99**	**69**	**30**	**1424**

Methods

6.10.3 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and assessed following current guidelines for best practice (Baker and Worley 2014 and 2019). Information quantified includes species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Results

Preservation and gnawing

6.10.4 Most fragments are in good condition and have intact cortical surfaces showing little or no signs of weathering or erosion. A small proportion, mostly from ditch fills, are poorly preserved and these are likely to be residual, having been reworked and redeposited from earlier contexts. This fits with the evidence for residual pottery from ditch fills and is unsurprising given the degree of re-cutting.

6.10.5 Gnaw marks are present on 15% of bones, mostly from ditches and quarry pits, but also some from pits and structures. This is a relatively high proportion and indicates that the assemblage has been significantly impacted by the bone chewing habit of dogs, which can complete obliterate bones from the archaeological record and reduce more fragile elements to unidentifiable fragments.

Iron Age

6.10.1 A total of 899 identified animal bones came from broadly dated Iron Age contexts, including a deposit spread and the fills of ditches, pits, posthole structures and roundhouse gullies. Concentrations of animal bones were noted from ‘C-shaped’ enclosure 1802, pits 1809 and 306, quarry pit group 1818, and roundhouse gullies 1720 and 1804.

Table 5 Animal bone: list of ABGs

Context	Cut	Group	Feature	Date	Species	Comment
205	203	-	animal burial	Iron Age	horse	complete skeleton (adult male)
298	297	-	quarry pit	Iron Age	cattle	skull, cervical and thoracic vertebra, and ribs
1216	1213	1809	pit	Iron Age	horse	post-cranial bones two individuals
1316	1315	1811	ditch	Iron Age	dog	skull, pair mandibles and atlas vertebra
1347	1345	1813	enclosure ditch	Iron Age	horse	articulating humerus, radius and ulna
1510	1504	1818	quarry pit	Iron Age	cattle and horse	cattle post-cranial bones from two individuals, horse skull and mandibles (male)
1561	1560	-	pit	Iron Age	dog	post-cranial bones from same individual
0388	0384	-	animal burial	Early to Middle Iron Age	horse	complete skeleton (adult male)
1251	1250	-	pit	Early to Middle Iron Age	horse	skull (male) and atlas vertebra

6.10.2 Bones from livestock dominate the assemblage, accounting for 89% NISP (Table 4). Cattle bones are common (46% NISP) and most were found as disarticulated remains, but a few ABGs came from quarry pits (Table 5). These comprise a skull and associated cervical and thoracic vertebrae, and ribs from 297, and several post-cranial bones from two animals from 1504, part of group 1818. Sheep/goat bones account for a further 33% NISP, followed by pig at 10%. The range of skeletal elements, from all parts of the beef, mutton and pork carcass, is consistent with a self-sufficient subsistence farming strategy. Most of the butchery evidence relates to primary dismemberment and secondary reduction, but there is also some evidence for skinning, including marks of two cattle skulls from roundhouse gully 1804, and the processing of cattle bones for marrow.

6.10.3 Bones from calves, lambs and perinatal pigs were noted, providing evidence for the breeding and rearing of livestock close to the settlement. The spatial distribution of bones shows some differences between feature types. For example, bones from medium-sized livestock (e.g. sheep/goat and pig) are more numerous from roundhouse gullies than other feature types, while bones from larger livestock (e.g. cattle and horse) are more numerous from pits and ditches. These differences in disposal practices could indicate the separation of area where the carcasses of different sized livestock were processed, sheep/goat and pig near roundhouses and larger livestock in peripheral areas away from domestic occupation (Wilson 1996).

6.10.4 Horse bones are relatively common and account for just under 10% NISP. Most were found as disarticulated remains and some show signs of butchery. The pattern of marks is like that seen on cattle bones and this suggests that horse carcasses were also processed for meat. In addition to the disarticulated remains of horses are several ABGs, these came from pits 203, 1809 and 1818, and enclosure ditch 1813 (Table 5). The horse burial from pit 203 is that of a pony-sized adult male.

6.10.5 Rarer elements include several disarticulated dog bones plus and two ABGs (Table 5), four fragments of red deer bone, including a worked piece of antler from roundhouse 1721, and a wing bone from a woodcock from pit 347. In addition, a small number of rodent bones came from sample residues.

Early to Middle Iron Age

6.10.6 A total of 232 identified bones came from Early to Middle Iron Age contexts, mostly the fills of pits and ditches, but also posthole structure 1825 and roundhouse gully 1798. Most (89%) of the identified bones are from livestock, sheep/goat bones are slightly more numerous than cattle, at 43% NISP, compared to 39%, while pig bones are a relatively minor component, at just 8%. The broad range of elements and presence of some bones from neonatal animals, is consistent with a self-sufficient subsistence economy in which livestock were breed and reared to provide meat and secondary products for the settlement. Pathological changes on some bones indicate that cattle may also have been used as traction animals to aid arable cultivation as part of a mixed farming regime. Several disarticulated horse bones, some showing signs of butchery, and two ABGs were also found, including the burial of a pony-sized adult male from pit 384 (Table 5). A few rodent and amphibian bones came from sample residues.

Middle Iron Age

6.10.7 A total of 109 identified bones came from securely dated Middle Iron Age contexts, including enclosure ditch 1724, roundhouse gullies 1736 and 1772, and pits 154 and 164. The assemblage is dominated by bones from livestock (83% NISP; Table 4), particularly cattle and sheep/goat, but few pigs. A group of three cattle skulls (and a horse skull) came from enclosure ditch 1724, one of the skulls has numerous cut marks across its surface, many result from skinning but the locations of a few suggest that the skull was more thoroughly cleaned, perhaps in for display purposes (Hambleton and Maltby 2008, 91–2).

6.10.8 A few disarticulated horse bones, some of which show signs of butchery, and two dog bones were also found. Two horse mandibles, deposited in the south-west terminal (slot 376) of roundhouse gully 1736, are from juvenile and old adult animals, these may have been deliberately placed, perhaps as a foundation or closing deposit. This deposit may be related in some way to the horse burial from pit 384, which cut the interior edge of the north-side of the roundhouse gully.

Middle to Late Iron Age

6.10.9 A small number of identified bones came from broadly dated Middle to Late Iron Age contexts, including the fills of ditch 1777, pit 106, posthole 577 and roundhouse gullies 1800 and 1822. Most of the bones are from cattle, some from sheep/goat and two from pigs.

Late Iron Age to early Romano-British

6.10.10 A total of 99 bones came from broadly dated Late Iron age to early Romano-British contexts, mostly the fills of ditches forming field systems, ladder enclosures and a trackway, but also pit 693 and roundhouse gully 1778. Most (92%) of the identified bones are from livestock, cattle bones dominate and account for 55% NISP, followed by sheep/goat (32%) and then pig. A small number of disarticulated horse and dog bones were also found.

Romano-British

6.10.11 A total of 69 identified bones came from several broadly dated Romano-British ditch and pit fills. Again, bones from livestock dominate and there are equal numbers of cattle and sheep/bones, and a few bones from pig, horse and dog.

Unphased

6.10.12 A small number of bones from livestock and horse came from unphased contexts, mostly the fills of discrete features such as pits and postholes.

6.11 Conservation

6.11.1 Assessment has included x-radiography of the metal objects to clarify constructional details and to aid in identification; the plates will form part of the permanent archive. The preservation of the metalwork is variable, with the iron typically more corroded and fragmentary than the copper alloy. Items are considered stable and are stored in a suitable environment, with self-indicating desiccating silica gel as appropriate. No immediate conservation requirements are noted at this stage.

6.11.2 The shale spindle whorl is currently stored wet. Prior to deposition it will require treatment with polyethylene glycol before control drying. The shale vessel is currently stored in a cool, high humidity environment, with supporting packaging.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Fifty bulk sediment samples were taken from a range of Iron Age and Romano-British chronology features such as pits, postholes, ditches, gullies and a cremation burial, and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence. The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

Table 6 Sample provenance summary

Phase	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Early / Middle Iron Age	9	229	Postholes, pits, ditches
Middle Iron Age	2	56	Roundhouse
Iron Age	30	750.5	Postholes, pits, ditches, gullies
Prehistoric	4	70	Cremation burial
Iron Age / Romano-British	1	38	Ditch
Romano-British	2	76	Ditches
Undated	2	17	Ditch, posthole
Totals	**50**	**1236.5**	

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks.

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 4 and 66 litres, and on average was around 25 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Syraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm / 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm / 4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and animal bone was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables

3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = >10, B = 9–5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa. Mollusc nomenclature follows Anderson (2005).

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were generally small (Appendix 4). There were mainly high numbers of roots and moderate numbers of modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Small numbers of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* were noted in one sample (posthole 338, deposit 340). Environmental evidence was fairly abundant and comprised plant remains preserved (often with iron coating) by carbonisation, mainly small quantities of mature and roundwood charcoal (sometimes iron coated), small animal bones and the remains of terrestrial molluscs. Slag, industrial waste and vitrified material were also present in some samples.

Prehistoric

7.3.2 Samples from cremation grave 630 (deposit 631) produced sparse charred plant remains but did contain moderate to large amounts of mature wood charcoal. Also present were fairly well-preserved seeds of Vicieae (vetches) and *Galium* sp. (bedstraw).

Iron Age

7.3.3 Almost all the samples from Iron Age features contained both cereals and other taxa, although preservation was variable with iron coating present in many cases. Features of note are pits 306, 445, 780, 820 and 1422 (deposits 316, 446, 782, 821 and 1423) and posthole 338 (deposit 340) which all contained similar, rich assemblages of cereal remains (grains and chaff) that included *Triticum* sp. (wheat, including *T. spelta* (spelt)) grains, glume bases and spikelet forks, *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grains and rachis segments, and unidentified cereal grain fragments and a culm node. Other taxa were present in abundance across these samples and included seeds of Poaceae (grasses, including *Avena/Bromus* (oats/brome), *Lolium/Festuca* (rye grass/fescue) and *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail), bedstraw, Asteraceae (daisy family), Cyperaceae (sedges), Polygonaceae (knotweeds, including *Rumex* sp., dock), vetches, *Sherardia arvensis* (field madder), *Veronica* sp. (speedwell), Trifolieae (clovers), *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain), *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell fragments and an unidentified tuber. Mature wood charcoal was present in generally small quantities, with the exception of pit 820 (deposit 821) which contained a moderate amount, including roundwood. Small animal bones were also noted in of these features.

7.3.4 The remaining Iron Age samples containing charred plant assemblages were generally dominated by cereal grains and chaff including wheat, spelt and barley. Other additional types of remains present included a tuber of *Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp. *bulbosum* (onion couch grass), a seed of *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), a tentatively identified endocarp of *Prunus* sp. (plum/cherry) and an unidentified root. Mature wood charcoal, sometimes iron coated was also noted in generally small quantities. Small animal bones and industrial waste/vitrified material were also present in many samples. No environmental remains apart from small amounts of mature wood charcoal were present in posthole 722 (deposit 724) or ditch group 1790 (deposit 1059).

Iron Age–Romano-British

7.3.5 Ditch group 1793 (deposit 1040) produced a moderately sized, but poorly preserved charred assemblage containing both cereal remains and other taxa. Cereals included grains and

chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks) of wheat, including spelt, barley grains and unidentified cereal grain fragments. Also present were seeds of bedstraw, vetches and grasses (including rye grass/fescue and meadow grass/cat's tail), and a small amount of mature wood charcoal.

Romano-British

7.3.6 Two samples were taken from ditch group 1783 (deposits 870 and 911). Deposit 870 contained a small, poorly preserved, iron coated assemblage of charred cereal remains including wheat grains and glume bases, and unidentified cereal grain fragments. Also present were a vetch seed, small amounts of mature wood charcoal and small animal bones. Deposit 911 produced only a small amount of iron coated, mature wood charcoal.

Undated

7.3.7 Ditch cut 1055 (deposit 1056) produced a small, poorly preserved assemblage containing wheat, barley and unidentified cereal grains, a small amount of mature wood charcoal and small animal bones. Only iron coated, unidentified cereal grain fragments and industrial waste/vitrified material were present in posthole 451 (deposit 452).

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 A prehistoric cremation grave has a rich deposit of wood charcoal which can be representative of fuel selection practices. In addition, the wood charcoal from a few Iron Age pit deposits with significant quantities can provide a complementary view of fuel exploitation practices.

7.4.2 The assemblage of charred plant remains from the Iron Age deposits, and particularly those from pits and postholes, is consistent with domestic crop-processing activities carried out in the vicinity of the sampled features. This evidence is significant due to its good preservation and diversity and can contribute to the understanding of the types of activities carried out at the site. The different proportions of types of remains can point to different taphonomical pathways and may be traced to particular stages of crop-processing. In addition, the presence of remains from wild plants are representative of wild resource exploitation and potential management.

7.4.3 The remainder of the evidence, from possible Romano-British features, is too poorly preserved to be representative of any activities.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

8.1.1 Few conclusive traces of pre-Iron Age activity can be identified at the site. Consequently, there seems to be little potential to address the specific aims and research objectives pertaining to the Bronze Age, as outlined in the WSIs (refer to section 3), or to gain any other significant insights into early phases of activity through further analysis. However, evidence relating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods undoubtedly has further research potential. This is relevant to several of the originally defined project aims and objectives, as well as other avenues of enquiry.

8.1.2 The origins of the settlement potentially extend back to the earliest Iron Age (*c*. 800–600 BC). The proposals for radiocarbon dating and more detailed analysis of the finds (refer to sections 8.2 and 8.4) might clarify this, and thereby provide opportunities to identify and examine continuity of occupation through this transitional period. The reasons for the marked increase in visibility and intensity of activity from the Early Iron Age onwards are

also currently unclear, although this might be illuminated through further study (eg, through literature review, examination of the recorded distribution of prehistoric activity in the local area and consideration of the landscape context of the site).

8.1.3 The site was seemingly occupied, more or less continuously throughout the Iron Age by a community, probably practicing a mixed agricultural economy. The settlement appears to have been polyfocal and probably characterised by the agglomeration of multiple domestic units, although the density of occupation at any given point is unclear. This is partially because the precise number of roundhouses, as well as their specific and relative chronologies are not fully understood. Although there is evidence for periodic re-organisation of the land and shifting of the foci of domestic activity, the rebuilding of roundhouses and clustering of associated features such as pits and post-built structures, suggests that the importance attached to specific locations persisted far beyond the lifespan of a single structure. This is clearly illustrated, for example, by the palimpsest of three roundhouses in Area 3, which seem to date from between the Early/Middle Iron Age and the latest stages of the period. There was, it seems, some permanence in the way that the landscape was structured around the inhabited areas. Nonetheless, the evidence for multiple phases of land division indicate that the landscape was not static; whether periods of re-organisation also coincided with spatial shifts, fluctuations in intensity or brief discontinuities in domestic activity is currently uncertain due to a lack of chronological specificity.

8.1.4 The chronology, longevity and phasing of Iron Age and Romano-British land division are especially poorly understood at present. This presents obvious difficulties in understanding the development of the site, the functions of individual enclosures/land divisions and correlations with other more closely datable feature types. Some aspects of the relationships between the trackway, enclosures and inhabited areas are, for example, unclear. Although it is unlikely that these uncertainties can be fully resolved, there is considerable potential to refine the sequence through further analysis of the stratigraphic evidence, combined with information derived from other specialist work.

8.1.5 The remains of the numerous roundhouses and post-built structures are broadly typical of the types of Iron Age domestic architecture recorded at sites throughout the region. Nevertheless, the structural remains exhibit certain morphological variations, for example, in the scale of the ditches/gullies, internal diameter, orientations of entrances and the presence/absence of associated structural elements. Whether these relate to identifiable and meaningful differences in construction, chronology or function is uncertain; some of the structures are currently not closely dated and there are no obvious indications that any were used for anything other than primarily domestic or ancillary purposes. However, there is some potential to gain a better understanding of the construction, function and life-cycles of the structures through comparative analysis and more detailed examination of the stratigraphic evidence. There is also the potential to explore less prosaic, social aspects of Iron Age domestic architecture, for example, evidence for structured deposition associated with the roundhouses – perhaps linked with the foundation, abandonment or decommissioning of the structures, or marking some important event during their period of use.

8.1.6 There is also some potential for evidence of formalised depositional practises to be identified and explored in other contexts, especially in the many pits scattered throughout the site and the carefully cleaned animal skulls found in ditch 1724. Also notable in this regard is the pit excavated during the evaluation, in which the remains of a wooden box containing two late Roman pewter plates were found.

8.1.7 The excavation results seem to corroborate the hypothesis that the focus of Romano-British activity in the immediate area lay to the west of the development site, as indicated by earlier excavations (eg, Heawood 2004; TVAS 2014; Upson-Smith 2013; and as-yet unreported work west of Highworth Road). The reasons for the apparent shift of occupation to the west are currently unclear.

8.1.8 The substantial remains associated with Iron Age and, to a lesser extent, Romano-British occupation, land use, economic practises and other forms of activity are broadly comparable in character, scale and complexity with those identified at many sites in the wider region, particularly the densely settled and intensively farmed landscape of the Upper Thames Valley. Nevertheless, Shrivenham lies a little outside the recorded distribution of these frequently prolific sites. Consequently, the evidence from the investigations will make an important contribution to understanding of the character and distribution of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation in the less extensively investigated Vale of the White Horse. The results also add greatly to our understanding of Iron Age–Romano-British settlement activity, landscape organisation Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the local area and has to potential to contextualise the findings of earlier work (eg, Birbeck 2001; Heawood 2004; Scull 1992; TVAS 2014; Upson-Smith 2013; and as-yet unreported excavations west of Highfield Road.

8.1.9 Analysis of the stratigraphic evidence has the potential to contribute to several components of the Later Bronze Age and Iron Age Research Agenda outlined in the Solent-Thames Research Framework (Lambrick 2014b), including the following:

- *10.5.2 Reasons for increases in the intensity of settlement should be explored, for example whether this reflects a switch from family to more communal management of animals and crops, and the role of land-use divisions in this process;*
- *10.5.3 The factors that led to the common shift of settlement location in the late Iron Age need to be identified;*
- *10.6.7 The size of communities in the Iron Age, their social and economic relationships and the degree of economic specialisation need more investigation;*
- *10.7.1 The development of the architecture of late prehistoric houses over a long time scale from the middle Bronze Age to late Iron Age may be clarified*; and
- *10.7.3 The role of four-posters needs better understanding. An association with pastoral farms might suggest that some were for fodder, and the 'megaposters' found at Mingies Ditch and other sites might support this theory. Further detailed study of the implications of the differing size of postholes for these structures would be valuable.*

8.1.10 In addition, the evidence from Shrivenham may assist in understanding certain aspects of the Romano-British period that are currently poorly understood, as highlighted by the Roman period Research Agenda Solent-Thames Research Framework (Fulford 2014b, 179), which notes that:

'*There are no clear boundaries between Iron Age and Roman in this region although it is clear that during the 1st century BC to early 2nd century AD there was a period of major change in the countryside'* and that there is a '*need to gain an understanding of settlement, its density and variability as well as economy in other environments, such as claylands and heathlands* [specifically including the Vale of the White Horse]*. This is crucial not only to our*

understanding of population density and its fluctuation over time, but also to determining the extent of woodland in the region and its change through time.'

8.1.11 The possibility that visible traces of earlier phases of land use (eg, the position of the trackway and other Iron Age/Romano-British land divisions) had influenced the spatial organisation of the medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape is of some interest. There is little potential to confirm this or to gain a more detailed understanding (as suggested in the original project aims see section 3), although reference to the landscape context of the site, as well as early maps and the documented history of enclosure in the local area would aid discussion of the hypothesis.

8.2 Finds potential

8.2.1 The finds assemblage has provided evidence of activity on site, potentially from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the modern day, with particular emphasis on the Early to Middle Iron Age. The earliest evidence is provided by a broken flint blade of possible Late Upper Palaeolithic date. Activity in the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic is also represented in the flint assemblage. The only other indicator of early prehistoric activity is a single sherd of possible Early to Middle Bronze Age pottery, found during the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2015).

8.2.2 The bulk of the finds assemblage derives from activity during the Early to Middle Iron Age and provides evidence for everyday activities including the exploitation of raw materials, the trade/exchange of finished objects, crafts such as textile-working, and economic activities (animal husbandry, grain-processing).

8.2.3 Analysis of the prehistoric finds assemblage by material type and in relation to their deposition, will help in understanding the character of human activity within the landscape. It has long been recognised that pit and ditch deposits on Iron Age sites in southern England were often structured (Cunliffe 1992; Hill 1995) and close examination of the relationship between material types and their place of deposition on the site may assist in understanding the relationship between everyday and ritual activities.

Pottery

8.2.4 The pottery has already provided the chronological framework for the site. It is possible this may be further refined through detailed fabric and form analysis. A chronological trend from the coarse calcareous fabrics to sandy wares throughout the Iron Age in this region has been demonstrated at a number of site (Jones 2007); the shift from angular to more rounded forms has also been recognised. Full fabric analysis, in relation to stratigraphic and spatial positioning, may further elucidate the chronology of the site. At a regional level, the chronology of the Iron Age ceramics is still poorly defined and the application of radiocarbon dating to key sequences in the Shrivenham assemblage would contribute to knowledge in this area. The need to refine chronologies in this region is highlighted in the Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014, section 10.3). Fabric and form analysis will also assist in identifying evidence of trade and exchange – for example the flint-tempered wares.

8.2.5 Some functional interpretation, and hence a consideration of the range of on-site activities, may be gained from an examination of vessel form, size, and also through patterns of deposition. Vessel form provides indicators of intended vessel use, but actual vessel use may be examined through a programme of organic residue analysis, to identify any surviving preserved residues, such as animal fats and plant waxes, with the vessel walls. The application of this technique to pottery assemblages from other Iron Age and Romano-British sites in Britain (cf Dunne *et al* 2020) has provided evidence for the processing of

dairy products, and ruminant and non-ruminant carcass products, thereby increasing our understanding not only of vessel use but also diet and animal husbandry.

8.2.6 As noted above, the processes surrounding the deposition of pottery (and other artefacts) within the Iron Age features are of obvious interest. Differential deposition between various features types, e.g. pits, structures and ditches, could also be explored.

8.2.7 Analysis of the Iron Age pottery from Shrivenham will provide a detailed data set that may be incorporated in any regional syntheses (Hey and Hind 2014, section 10.8.3).

8.2.8 The Roman pottery offers limited potential for further analysis as the group sizes are small.

Fired clay

8.2.9 The perforated objects are likely to derive from ovens or hearths and examination of their location on site, in relation to other finds and environmental remains, may shed some light on their use (Hey and Hind 2014, 10.8.1). The remaining assemblage comprises structural fragments, but the quantities are too small for meaningful analysis to take place.

Metalwork

8.2.10 The assemblage is fragmentary which limits the usefulness to inform on site activity. However, it provides good dating evidence, especially the coins and some items of dress accessories.

8.2.11 Pewter plates buried in a wooden box were identified in the evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2013). These vessels are archaeologically significant and should be subjected to XRF analysis (subject to the permission of the landowner) to determine their composition and reported on for publication.

Stone and shale

8.2.12 The stone assemblage includes ovoid pebbles that are likely to have been used as slingshots, perhaps for hunting small game or as a defensive weapon. Limited evidence for grain processing is provided by the single quern fragment. The shale vessel and spindle whorl are indicative of trade/exchange, deriving from Kimmeridge in south east Dorset. The vessel is a rare find and its presence at Shrivenham may be informative of social relationships. The spindlewhorl provides evidence of textile working. Also of interest amongst the stone are the pieces that may simply have been collected as curios.

Worked bone

8.2.13 The manufacturing of objects from animal bone, including antler, is evidenced in the assemblage. These objects also provide evidence of textile-working and other crafts.

Human bone

8.2.14 With the assistance of more precise dating of the individual deposits of unburnt bone, the osteological analysis should provide more detailed demographic data regarding the minimum number of individuals (MNI; unburnt bone), age and sex. Although no pathological lesions were observed in the scan of the cremated bone some may be revealed during detailed examination of the remains, which will enable assessment of the health and, by inference, potentially the status of the individual with reference to other remains of similar date.

8.2.15 The majority of the bone within cremation grave 630 was recovered from the southern and western quadrants. Given the large size of this feature – 0.83 x 0.81 m – this still gives a

substantial area over which this material was dispersed, and details of the formation process would have been more accessible had the deposit been excavated in small blocks. However, it is hoped that further information pertaining to the deposit/deposits (ie, burial and ?secondary deposit of pyre debris) might be recoverable with further analysis of the archaeological components and site data. The date of this burial is currently uncertain but its proximity to the settlement features suggests it is unlikely to be of a commensurate date. Exactly how close in date these forms of activity are to each other will give a useful insight into temporal variations in landuse. The presence of a small Romano-British cremation cemetery was reported at Watchfield, 1.5 km to the north-east, in 2001 (Birbeck), and such small cemeteries and singletons are common in the Romano-British rural landscape.

8.2.16 Redeposited and potential curated unburnt human bone of Early to Middle Iron Age date was also found at the site in Watchfield, including parts of a cranium (frontal and parietals) from a ditch fill. In the latter case the skull featured a large, healed trepanation (McKinley 2001, fig 16) which may have influenced the choice of these particular remains for use in what appeared to form a 'placed deposit'. It has been suggested that the remains of individuals who had died in specific ways, such as in combat, may have been preferentially selected for curation of this kind (Redfern 2008). Whether the skull elements found in posthole 1106 served a similar function has yet to be investigated.

8.2.17 It has long been recognised that the growing numbers of disarticulated and generally fragmentary human bones recovered from Iron Age assemblages must derive from activities other than the disturbance of earlier graves (Whimster 1981, 178; Booth and Madgwick 2016). It is widely agreed that at least part of the normal rite of disposal of the dead in the Iron Age was almost certainly by excarnation (Cunliffe 1992) – be that exposure or burial with subsequent lifting of the 'transformed' remains. The apparent deliberate fragmentation of relatively green bone has also been observed in Early Iron Age material from various sites, eg, Salisbury and Figsbury (Whimster 1981) and Danebury (Walker 1984). Closer dating of the various mortuary deposit at Shrivenham and further investigation of the other archaeological components will enable the remains to be studied in their appropriate temporal context and assist in furthering our understanding of the treatment of the dead and how their remains were recognised, viewed and continued to function in the sphere of the living.

Animal bone

8.2.18 The assemblage includes a relatively large number of identified bones, many of which provide additional information relating the age at slaughter, butchery, and size and conformation of livestock (Table 7). However, while the assemblage merits further analysis to record this data and report on the findings, it is acknowledged that much of the bone came from broadly dated Iron Age contexts and this limits the potential for intra- and inter-site comparisons. Further work on the stratigraphy and datable finds assemblages, coupled with a targeted programme of radiocarbon dating may improve this situation and allow for a more refined interpretation of the dataset.

8.2.19 The assessment results suggest that the husbandry strategy for cattle and sheep/goat may have been linked to arable cultivation (i.e. manure and traction) as part of a self-sufficient subsistence strategy. Reconstruct mortality profiles based on tooth eruption/wear and the epiphyseal fusion state of post-cranial bones, should clarify this.

Table 7 Animal bone: quantity and type of detailed information available

Information type	Iron Age	Early to Middle Iron Age	Middle Iron Age	Middle to Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age to early Romano-British	Romano-British	Unphased	Total
Age - fusion	201	54	20	3	19	5	4	306
Age - mandibles 2+ teeth	47	11	4		4	4	2	72
Biometric	85	20	5	1	10	4	3	128
Butchery	91	21	8	5	6	6	4	141

Other finds

8.2.20 The ceramic building material, flint, burnt flint and slag have no potential for further analysis.

8.3 Environmental potential

8.3.1 The analysis of the charred plant remains in a selection of samples has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement, the local environment and local agricultural practices. The analysis of the wood charcoal in a selection of samples can provide information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland.

8.4 Summary of potential

8.4.1 The evidence produced by the investigations has the potential to make an important contribution to the study of Iron Age, and to a lesser extent, Romano-British settlement, land-use and economic practises in the Vale of the White Horse. These are areas that are currently poorly understood relative to more intensively investigated parts of the region. Accordingly, the results are of local and regional significance, and merit further analysis and dissemination through publication.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

9.1.1 The revised aims of the project are to:

- refine the preliminary chronology and phasing through detailed examination of the stratigraphic evidence combined with analysis of the finds and application of scientific dating;
- analyse the evidence for Iron Age domestic and ancillary architecture and its links with function, chronology and social/economic practises;
- understand the development of the enclosure system and trackway and tie this more closely to the social context and economic/functional differentiation of space over time;
- examine the shifting nature, location and intensity of occupation throughout the Iron Age periods, identifying evidence for continuity and discontinuity in settlement and the organisation of the landscape, and explore the factors potentially responsible for

the apparent decline in activity and shift in the focus of occupation away from the site during the Romano-British period;

- analyse the evidence for crafts, agriculture, non-agricultural economic practices and exchange, as well as instances of structured deposition and mortuary activity;
- refine the Iron Age ceramic chronology through the application of radiocarbon dating and fabric and form analysis;
- fully describe and illustrate the late Roman pewter plates found during the evaluation, employing scientific techniques (XRF spectrometry) and comparative analysis as appropriate, and examine the circumstances surrounding their deposition;
- analyse the evidence for wild and cultivated plant use and agricultural practises, and animal husbandry – how does this change over time and is there evidence of intensification/specialisation; and
- relate the analysed results of the excavation to the evidence uncovered during other work in the surrounding area and place them in their local and regional contexts.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – proposals for analysis

9.2.1 As the phasing presented within this report is based on a provisional assessment of the stratigraphic relationships and the preliminary assessment of datable finds (principally pottery) in different feature groups, further stratigraphic and spatial analysis is required to refine the phasing of key features and to gain a better understanding of the development of settlement and landscape organisation across the site. The project database, begun at assessment stage, will require updating (re-phasing, re-grouping etc) following this stratigraphic analysis, before other finds/environmental specialist analyses are undertaken.

9.2.2 Once the initial specialist analysis is complete (particularly the radiocarbon dating and further work on the finds), the stratigraphic specialist will make the required revisions to the site phasing. The stratigraphic specialist will then write the publication text, concentrating on the description of the sequence, and referring to key finds and environmental data as appropriate. Synthetic studies, publications and 'grey literature' reports will be reviewed to provide an up-to-date understanding of the wider archaeological context of the site and to aid discussion of the results in the proposed publication.

9.2.3 The stratigraphic specialist will work closely with all other specialists to provide the contextual information they require to progress their analyses. The stratigraphic specialist will be the principal author of the proposed publication and will be responsible for the integration of specialist reports into the final publication text. Throughout the project, the stratigraphic specialist (and other specialists) will be advised by the Project Manager.

9.3 Finds evidence – proposals for analysis

9.3.1 A programme of analysis is proposed for the more significant categories of material; these are detailed below.

Pottery

9.3.2 The pottery assemblages recovered by Cotswold Archaeology during the preliminary works will be included in the programme of analysis.

9.3.3 The Iron Age pottery will be subject to detailed analysis, according to national guidelines (Barclay et al 2016; PCRG 2010). Vessel profiles will be reconstructed for illustration, where appropriate. Reporting will focus on the range of vessels present – in terms of fabric, form, size, surface treatment, decoration and evidence of use, spatial patterning and depositional patterns. Provision should be made for the illustration of up to 60 vessels.

9.3.4 Thirty samples of Iron Age pottery may be selected for organic residue analysis to examine vessel use, diet and subsistence.

9.3.5 The Roman pottery has been recorded to a basic level but some further refinement of fabric identifications will be carried out, and a summary report produced. No further work is proposed for the small quantity of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery.

Metalwork

9.3.6 The metalwork report should include discussion of the artefacts in their local and regional context and economic/functional interpretation, drawing on the results of the XRF analysis. The plates should be illustrated.

9.3.7 A short report for publication, including full coin list, is recommended for the excavation finds. Illustrations of selected items (up to six) should be considered. The Roman brooch should be attributed to Mackreth (2011) class, and further parallels sought for the two probable Roman coins and the Saxon or medieval dress fitting.

Stone and shale

9.3.8 The existing catalogue entries for the stone should enhanced and up to nine objects illustrated.

9.3.9 The shale spindlewhorl will require conservation treatment and controlled drying prior to deposition.

Worked bone

9.3.10 The worked bone has been recorded to a sufficient level but further work will concentrate on examining the depositional context of the objects, and considering them at a regional level. Four objects should be illustrated.

Human bone

9.3.11 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedure (McKinley 1994, 5–6; 2004b). All unsorted <4mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan at this stage to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual.

9.3.12 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age of the individuals will be estimated using standard methodologies (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex will be confirmed from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981). Non-metric traits will be recorded (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978). Pathological lesions are recorded in text and via digital photography.

9.3.13 Examination and comparative study of the mortuary rites will contribute to widen our understanding of attitudes to the dead in later prehistory and across the transition period associated with the incoming Roman influences. Aspects of pyre technology and the cremation mortuary rite will be discussed within their regional and temporal contexts.

9.3.14 It is recommended that bone samples from all contexts are submitted for radiocarbon analysis to enable the remains to be set and discussed in their correct temporal context.

Animal bone

9.3.15 The animal bone assemblage should be fully recorded using established methods and following current guidelines for best practice (Baker and Worley 2014 and 2019). Potential inter-site comparisons can be made with the Iron Age sites at Watchfield (Hamilton-Dyer 2002; Bates 2004), Faringdon (Leech 2010), Radley (Wilson 1998), Abingdon (Wilson *et al* 1978) and Purton (Higbee 2017). Further consideration should be given to ABGs and placed deposits in order to more fully understand their significance. More detailed analysis of the spatial distribution of bones may provide some insight into patterns of behaviour and depositional practices.

Other finds

9.3.16 None of the other finds merit further analysis. However, the information gathered as part of this assessment for these material categories will be adapted for inclusion in the publication report.

9.4 Environmental evidence – proposals for analysis

9.4.1 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a 'P' in the analysis column in Appendix 4. All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the <5.6/4 residues and the flot, which may be subsampled with the aid of a riffle box in the case of very rich assemblages. The analysis will involve the full quantification (Antolín and Buxó 2011) of the charred plant assemblages.

9.4.2 Samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a 'C' in the analysis column in Appendix 4. Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975). Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980).

9.4.3 It is recommended that flots and extracted environmental materials from phased deposits are retained and any unphased material or unsorted residues not required for analysis are discarded.

9.5 Scientific dating proposals

9.5.1 A series of radiocarbon dates are recommended for submission to gain a better understanding of the chronology of the site. Some issues associated with the radiocarbon dating methods are likely to occur, as the degree of reliability and precision of the calibration curve for the Iron Age period can be variable depending on the particular radiocarbon age measurements. To try to overcome these issues, samples are recommended for submission in a staged approach, initially submitting a selection of seven samples, to be complemented, subsequently, with up to eight additional submissions if the initial batch provides workable results (Table 8).

9.5.2 Reporting of the radiocarbon dating results will follow international conventions (Bayliss and Marshall 2015; Millard 2014). The calibrated age ranges will be calculated with OxCal 4.4 (Bronk-Ramsey and Lee 2013) using the IntCal20 curve (Reimer *et al* 2020). All radiocarbon dates will be quoted as uncalibrated years before present (BP), followed by the lab code and the calibrated date-range (cal BC) at the 2σ (95.4%) confidence, with the end points rounded out to the nearest 10 years.

Table 8 Summary of samples proposed for radiocarbon dating

Entity	Rationale	Material
Cremation grave 630 (context 631)	Verify chronology of mortuary activity	Cremated human bone
Cremation grave 630 (context 631)	Verify chronology of mortuary activity/test for potential old-wood effects on the cremated bone	Charcoal (from short-lived taxon)
Pit 1250 (context 1251)	Refine site and ceramic phasing/ chronology	Animal bone (horse skull, atlas vertebra)
Roundhouse ditch 1736 (cut 376, context 377)	Refine site and ceramic phasing/ chronology	Animal bone (horse mandible)
Enclosure ditch 1724 (cut 247, context 250)	Refine site and ceramic phasing/ chronology	Animal bone (cattle or horse skulls)
Roundhouse ditch 1808 (cut 1255, context 1258)	Refine site and ceramic phasing/ chronology	Animal bone (horse skull or articulating cattle radius/ulna)
Enclosure ditch 1790 (cut 1209, context 1211)	Refine site and ceramic phasing/ chronology	Animal bone (horse skull)
Up to eight additional samples (targets to be determined), to be submitted if initial tranche of samples (above) return sufficiently precise dates	Refine site and ceramic phasing/ chronology	Various, eg, securely stratified animal bone in articulation, mandibles retaining teeth and post-cranial elements with unfused epiphysis, charcoal/charred plant remains

9.6 Proposals for publication

9.6.1 Following the completion of the programme of further analysis recommended above, it is proposed that the results of the excavations (and trial trenching) are reported on in the form of a Wessex Archaeology Occasional Paper. This is a well-established series, subject to review and is widely available through Wessex Archaeology's website and Oxbow Books. the report will also be made into an ebook. A short summary article and note will be submitted, respectively, to the regional journals *Oxoniensia* and *South Midlands Archaeology* to 'signpost' the main publication.

9.6.2 The main publication will comprise an introduction giving the background to the project, followed by a narrative describing the evidence for activity on the site in a chronological sequence, within which the Iron Age evidence will be presented thematically. Relevant specialist detail will be incorporated within the narrative text and presented in individual sections as appropriate. The findings will be discussed within their local and regional contexts. Reference will be made to the results of other archaeological work in the surrounding area (eg, Birbeck 2001; Heawood 2004; Scull 1992; TVAS 2014; Upson-Smith 2013; and as-yet unreported excavations west of Highfield Road).

Provisional synopsis of Wessex Archaeology Occasional Paper

Working title: *Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and enclosure at Shrivenham, Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire*

by Tom Wells, with specialist contributions

Chapter 1: Introduction	2000 words
Chapter 2: Iron Age landscape development, organisation and economy	7000 words

Chapter 3: Iron Age domestic and social practises	7000 words
Chapter 4: The Romano-British and post-Roman landscape	2000 words
Chapter 5: The finds	16–18000 words
Chapter 6: The environmental evidence	5000 words
Chapter 7: Specialist scientific reports	4000 words
Chapter 8: Discussion	5000 words
References	4000 words

Total: approximately 50–55000 words, 25–30 figures, 25 plates, 10–12 tables

9.7 Programme for analysis and publication

9.7.1 Analysis and publication will commence when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by OCAS on behalf of the LPA, and the work has been commissioned in full by the client.

9.7.2 Typically, the analysis and publication programme for a project of this scale and complexity will take around 24 months but will vary depending on the availability of specialists and external laboratories. A project-specific programme will be developed and agreed at the time of commission.

9.8 Personnel and resources

9.8.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication (Table 9).

Table 9 Task list

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
Management and support			
1	Project management	4	R Clarke (tbc) (SM)
2	Project monitor and QA	1	A Burgess (D)
3	Finds management	2	R Seager Smith (SM)
4	Environmental management	1	I López-Dóriga (SPO)
5	Publication/production management	3	P Bradley (SM)
Pre-analysis			
6	Check phasing and grouping, update site database	10	T Wells (PO)
7	Digitisation of selected drawings	5	GO
8	Project meetings	2	All
9	Background research	3	T Wells (PO)
10	Extraction of environmental materials (16 samples)	4	N Mulhall (ES)
11	Liaison re: CA evaluation archive (if required)	2	G P Jones (PM)
Analysis and specialist reporting			
Stratigraphic			
12	Stratigraphic analysis and reporting (including 5 days for compiling signpost journal article)	25	T Wells (PO)
Finds			
13	Pottery analysis and reporting	24	G P Jones (PM)
14	Organic residue analysis	Ext.	tbc

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
15	Metalwork analysis and reporting	3	K Marsden (PO)
16	XRF (lead-alloy bowls x 2, subject to landowner permission)	Ext.	External – tbc
17	Stone and shale reporting	2	G P Jones (PM)
18	Worked bone reporting	1.5	G P Jones (PM)
19	Miscellaneous finds reporting	1	G P Jones (PM)
20	Human bone analysis and reporting	4	J I McKinley (TS)
21	Animal bone analysis and reporting	30	L Higbee (SPO)
22	Finds illustration and photography (<40 pottery vessels; 10 x stone; 8 x metalwork; 4 x worked bone; 1 x fired clay)	20	GO
23	Conservation (shale object)	1	Lynn Wootten (PO)
Environmental			
24	Plant remains analysis and reporting (13 samples)	7.5	I López-Dóriga (SPO)
25	Wood charcoal analysis and reporting (3 samples)	Ext.	tbc
Scientific dating			
26	Radiocarbon samples (up to 15 samples)	Ext.	External – Radiocarbon lab
27	Radiocarbon reporting	1	I López-Dóriga (SPO)
Report compilation			
28	Introduction and background	3	T Wells (PO)
29	Compile and integrate report	3	T Wells (PO)
30	Discussion	5	T Wells (PO)
31	Bibliography	2	T Wells (PO)
32	Captions (figures, plates and tables)	2	T Wells (PO)
33	Brief finds and figure illustrations	2	T Wells (PO)
34	Illustrations	20	GO
35	Edit report (including 1 day for journal article)	8	P Andrews (SM)
36	Peer review	2	tbc
37	Revise report following peer review	3 3	All GO
38	Copy edit (including 1 day for journal article)	8	P Bradley (SM)
39	Typesetting	15	GO
40	Check proofs (including journal article proofs)	6	All
41	Revise and produce 2nd proofs	3 3	All GO
42	Printing costs	Ext.	tbc
43	Distribution	1	P Bradley (SM) & PM
44	Ebook conversion	Ext.	External
Archiving			
45	Finalisation/implementation of selection strategy	1	M Taylor (PO)
46	Physical archive preparation	2.5	J Whitby (PS)
47	Physical archive deposition	1	J Whitby (PS)
48	Digital archive preparation	10	T Burt (PS)
49	Digital archive deposition charge	Ext.	External – ADS
50	Physical archive storage grant	Ext.	External – Museum

9.9 Management structure

9.9.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Post-excavation Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in the Updated Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled.

9.9.2 The Post-excavation Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. They will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

9.9.3 The Post-excavation Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager and the Senior Publications Manager, who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Oxfordshire Museum Service has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **OXCMS:2018.30**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.1.2 Although it is proposed to examine elements of the evaluation archives, where accessible, as part of the programme of analysis (refer to section 9), Wessex Archaeology does not propose to take possession of them or the responsibility for archiving them.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

10.2.1 The excavation archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Oxfordshire Museum Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

10.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 59 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of finds and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 6 files/document cases of paper records

10.3 Selection policy

10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained.

The selection policy will be agreed with the museum and fully documented in the project archive. A provisional outline of the proposed selection strategy is set out below:

- Pottery (6607 sherds, 51,842 g): retain all.
- Fired clay (142 pieces, 2041 g): retain perforated objects only.
- Ceramic building material (3 pieces, 94 g): retain none.
- Metal objects (20 x copper alloy, 12 x iron, 1 x lead): retain all.
- Slag (233 pieces, 246 g): retain none.
- Worked flint (287 piece): retain all.
- Burnt flint (137 pieces, 331 g): this has been discarded.
- Stone (24 pieces, 3087 g): retain all.
- Shale (3 pieces, 50 g): retain all.
- Human bone: retain all.
- Animal bone (17,088 pieces, 116,275 g): retain all.
- Flots and extracted environmental materials from phased deposits: retain all
- Unphased environmental material and unsorted residues not required for analysis: discard.

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields completed (ref: wessexar1-406756; Appendix 5). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted on completion of the project and acceptance of the report by OCAS on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however,

will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of *the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Roundhouse gullies/ditches

Group	Area	Period	Internal diameter	Width	Depth	Position of entrance	Notes	Finds/samples
1720	1	IA (M/LIA?)	14.8 m	0.38–1.2 m	0.06–0.55 m	East	Cut by ring gully 1723, concentric to ring gully 1722. Central posthole 131? Pits/postholes at entrance, 106 and 137, possibly marking the positions of door-posts. Large quantity of pottery and animal bone from one excavated slot (cut 139)	AB, P
1721	1	IA	10 m	0.9 m max	0.44 m max	South-east	Concentric to ring gully 1723? Possibly recut/intersects with a pit/posthole at terminal (cuts 108/109) but relationship not apparent. E/MIA pit/posthole (338) at opposing terminal (cut 336), but relationship not established.	AB, F, P, S, WB (ON 49, antler–toggle/handle? – from pit/posthole 109)
1722	1	IA	13 m?	0.65 m max	0.08 m max	? (not to north-east)	Concentric to 1720. Central posthole 131? Considerably truncated/incomplete.	AB
1723	1	IA	10–13 m?	0.76 m max	0.48 m max	? (not to south)	Overlies ring gully 1720. Concentric to ring gully 1721? Considerably truncated/incomplete	AB, F, P
1736	2	MIA?	19.5 m	2.35 m max	0.27–0.94 m	South-east	Cut by pit containing animal burial (384). Notably wider and deeper at terminals (cuts 376 and 418); large quantity of pottery, including remains of an MIA vessel, found in 376. Large quantity of animal bone found in cut 380. A few internal pits/postholes, but unclear if directly related to the structure.	AB, ES (cut 0418), FC, F, P, WB (ON 53, bone point)
1739	2	IA	8.5 m?	0.75 m max	0.23 m max	? (not to south-east)	Considerably truncated/incomplete.	AB, BF, P, S
1772	3	MIA?	10 m	0.2–0.85 m	0.08–0.27 m	East	Coincides with (ie, is not contemporary with) four-post structure 1775. Surrounds and is cut by several pits/postholes.	AB, F, P
1776	3	E/MIA	14.7 m	0.4–1 m	0.03–0.6 m	South-east	Overlain by ring gully 1778. Gaps in circuit to north-west and south-west due to truncation. Undated postholes inside entrance- internal porch? Square arrangement of postholes in centre (1820) – structural element of roundhouse or unrelated four-poster? Several other pits/postholes in interior; uncertain if related/contemporary with the structure. Terminal (cut 603) cuts pit 601 (in turn cuts pit 597)	AB, F, P
1778	3	LIA (/ERB?)	9 m	0.33–0.54 m	0.08–0.22 m	South-east	Truncated by intercut quarry pits 1818. Overlies ring gully 1776	AB, P
1779	3	IA	7.3 m?	0.36–0.6 m	0.23 m max	? (not to north-east)	Considerably truncated/incomplete	AB, P
1791	4	IA	10 m?	0.6 m max	0.13 m max	? (not to west)	Outlying position. Considerably truncated/incomplete	P, F
1798	4	IA	10 m	0.52–0.9 m	0.23–0.35 m	South-east	Cuts enclosure ditch 1796	AB, FC, F, P
1800	4	M/LIA	12 m	0.85–1.05 m	0.2–0.49 m	South-east?	Cuts enclosure ditches 1799 and 1806, and is cut by trackway ditches 1793-1795	AB, BF, F, P

Group	Area	Period	Internal diameter	Width	Depth	Position of entrance	Notes	Finds/samples
1802	4	IA	6.7 m?	0.95–1.8 m	0.43–0.75 m	Open to east	C-shaped (not due to truncation?), may not be part of a roundhouse. Cut by trackway ditch 1794. Cuts ring gully 1803	AB, P (ON25, spindle whorl)
1803	4	IA	10.2 m	0.9–1.4 m	0.05–0.4 m	North-east?	Partially recut by ring gully/ditch 1804? Cut by C-shaped gully 1802. Almost concentric to ring gully 1805; the features intersect and therefore cannot be contemporary, but their stratigraphic relationship could not be established	AB, FC, P
1804	4	IA	?	2–2.7 m	0.75 m	n/a	Cuts/recuts southern part of ring gully 1803?	AB (inc. ON 23, antler), FC, F, HB, P, WB (ON20, toggle)
1805	4	IA	9–10 m?	0.44–0.73 m	0.13–0.3 m	? (not to north)	(Almost) concentric to ring gully 1803; the features intersect and therefore cannot be contemporary, but their stratigraphic relationship could not be established. Considerably truncated/incomplete	AB, F, P
1808	4	IA (MIA?)	10 m	1.2–2.75 m	0.66–1 m	?	Ditch is unusually wide/deep (particularly to the north-east) and appears to form a complete circuit; possibly not the remains of a roundhouse? Cut by trackway ditch 1794	AB, F, P
1822	3	M/LIA	5.9 m	0.44–0.71 m	0.07–0.1 m	West?	Truncated by ditches/gullies 921, 923, 925 and 927. Outlying position	AB, P

AB = animal bone, BF = burnt flint, ES = environmental sample assessed, FC = fired clay, F = worked flint, HB= human bone, ON = Object Number, P = pottery, S = stone, WB = worked bone

Appendix 2 Rectangular post-built structures

Group	Cut numbers	Area	Period	Approx. dimensions	Notes	Finds/samples
1727	0234, 0236, 0270, 0283	1	IA	2.5 x 2.4 m		AB, P
1741	0431, 0433, 0438	2	IA	2.5 x 2 m		AB, F, P, Sl
1773	0460, 0462, 0465, 0514, 0517, 0520, 0522, 0524, 0526, 0528	3	IA	2.5 x 2.4 m	Incorporates beam slots 462 and 520. Several postholes re-cut, suggesting structure re-built	AB, P
1774	0812, 0813, 0816, 0818	3	IA	2.4 x 2.3m		AB, F, P
1775	0487, 0530, 0534, 0549	3	IA	2.4 x 2.6 m	Coincides with ring gully 1772 and therefore cannot be contemporary with it	AB, BF, ES (cut 0487), F, P, Sl
1807	1104, 1106, 1108, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1116	4	IA	2.5 x 2.7 m?	Slightly less conventional in form than other examples; incorporates several additional postholes, slightly irregular shape in plan	AB, FC, HB, P
1820	0608, 0625, 0634, 0645	3	IA	2.7 x 2.7 m	Located centrally within ring gully 1776 and possibly forms an integral part of the structure of a roundhouse	AB, P
1821	0654, 0702, 0714, 0719	3	E/MIA?	2.9 x 2.4 m	Interpretation is tentative as 0702, 0714, 0719 were recorded as pits	AB, BF, ES (cuts 0654 and 0702), F, P, Sl
1823	1497, 1511, 1514, 1608	4	IA	2.7 x 2.4 m	Interpretation is tentative as located amongst a scatter of other potentially related features and because 1511 and 1608 are possibly pits	AB, FC, P
1824	1667, 1706 (and two possible unexcavated postholes)	4	Uncertain (IA?)	2.8 x 2.55 m	Interpretation is tentative as only partially excavated and 1667 was recorded as a pit	
1825	1680, 1682, 1684, 1686, 1688, 1690, 1692	4	IA	2 m x 1 m	Slightly less conventional in form than other examples; more elongated and incorporates several additional postholes	AB, F, P

AB = animal bone, BF = burnt flint, ES = environmental sample assessed, FC = fired clay, F = worked flint, HB = human bone, P = pottery, Sl= slag

Appendix 3 Excavated pits and postholes

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
0471		3	(Late prehistoric) IA?	Posthole	1	0.27	0.27	0.09	AB, P
0658	1826 (posthole alignment)	3	Late prehistoric (IA?)	Posthole	1	0.35	0.20	0.20	AB, P
0663	1826 (posthole alignment)	3	Late prehistoric (IA?)	Posthole	1	0.24	0.33	0.10	
0665	1826 (posthole alignment)	3	Late prehistoric (IA?)	Posthole	1	0.30	0.12	0.15	
0667	1826 (posthole alignment)	3	Late prehistoric (IA?)	Posthole	1	0.23	0.20	0.32	AB, P, ES
0669	1826 (posthole alignment)	3	Late prehistoric (IA?)	Posthole	1	0.38	0.22	0.22	
0996		4	EIA	Pit	1	2.15	1.23	0.25	AB, FC, F, P, Sl
1076		4	EIA	Pit	1	0.28	0.25	0.15	P (inc. ON19)
0113		1	E/MIA	Pit	5	1.50	0.85	0.61	AB, F, P
0304		1	E/MIA	Posthole	1	0.44	0.24	0.18	P
0338		1	E/MIA	Pit	2	1.78	0.68	0.42	AB, ES, F, P
0597		3	E/MIA	Pit	3	1.40	1.24	0.39	AB, I, P
0601		3	E/MIA	Pit	2	1.28	1.28	0.20	AB, FC, F, P, WB (ON10, bone needle)
0654	1821 (four-post structure?)	3	IA (E/MIA?)	Posthole	1	0.78	0.30	0.33	AB, BF, ES, F, P
0702	1821 (four-post structure?)	3	IA (E/MIA?)	Pit/posthole	1	0.80	0.20	0.40	AB, BF, ES, P, Sl
0714	1821 (four-post structure?)	3	IA (E/MIA?)	Pit/posthole	2	0.66	0.38	0.22	
0719	1821 (four-post structure?)	3	E/MIA	Pit/posthole	2	0.78	0.60	0.40	AB, P
0722		3	E/MIA	Posthole	3	0.22	0.14	0.20	P, ES
0780		3	E/MIA	Pit	2	1.14	0.74	0.63	AB, BF, ES, P, S
1250		4	E/MIA?	Pit	4	1.42	1.36	0.68	AB, BF, ES, F, I, P, Sl
1420		4	E/MIA	Pit	3	1.55	1.17	0.57	AB, P, WB (ON32, antler fragments)
1678		4	E/MIA	Pit	1	0.44	1.24	0.30	AB, P
0131		1	IA?	Pit/posthole	1	0.62	0.61	0.04	F
0133		1	IA?	Posthole	2	0.44	0.42	0.33	AB, P
0137		1	IA	Pit/posthole	1	0.28	0.48	0.13	FC, P
0148		1	IA	Pit	1	0.75	0.54	0.10	AB, FC, F, P, Sl
0150		1	IA?	Posthole	1	0.32	0.42	0.16	
0158		1	IA?	Posthole	1	0.30	0.18	0.10	
0160		1	IA?	Posthole	1	0.32	0.28	0.16	P
0172		1	IA	Pit	1	1.20	0.72	0.31	AB, P
0179		1	IA	Pit	1	0.94	0.92	0.19	AB, P
0189		1	IA?	Posthole	1	0.32	0.29	0.16	
0191		1	IA?	Posthole	1	0.34	0.18	0.03	
0193		1	IA?	Pit	1	0.64	0.62	0.14	
0195		1	IA?	Pit	1	0.58	0.38		
0203		1	IA?	Pit (animal burial)	2	1.50	0.68	0.30	AB (animal burial), F, P
0213	1728 (pit group)	1	IA	Pit	1	1.80	0.80	0.14	AB, P
0217	1728 (pit group)	1	IA	Pit	1	1.60	0.60	0.18	AB, F, P
0219	1728 (pit group)	1	IA	Pit	1	1.32	1.27	0.20	AB, F, P

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
0221	1728 (pit group)	1	IA	Pit	1	0.55	0.55	0.16	AB
0225	1728 (pit group)	1	IA	Pit	1	1.50	0.70	0.09	AB, P
0227	1728 (pit group)	1	IA	Pit	1	1.10	0.62	0.27	AB, P, S
0231	1728 (pit group)	1	IA	Pit	1	0.59	0.59	0.12	AB
0234	1727 (four-post structure)	1	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.14	0.10	AB, P
0236	1727 (four-post structure)	1	IA	Posthole	1	0.32	0.44	0.15	
0251		1	IA?	Pit	1	1.63	0.66	0.15	
0253		1	IA?	Pit	1	0.00	0.52	0.12	
0255		1	IA?	Pit	1	0.98	0.90	0.29	AB, P
0260		1	IA	Pit?	3	1.35	1.60	0.58	AB, P
0270	1727 (four-post structure)	1	IA	Posthole	2	0.28	0.42	0.12	AB
0283	1727 (four-post structure)	1	IA	Posthole	1	0.38	0.10	0.06	P
0297		1	IA	Pit (animal burial, in disused quarry?)	3	1.75	1.84	0.33	AB (animal burial), FC, F, P, Sl
0306		1	IA	Pit	8	2.59	1.40	0.83	AB, ES, FC, F, P, Shale, Sl,
0310		1	IA?	Pit	1	0.52	0.52	0.15	P
0323		1	IA?	Pit	1	0.84	0.42	0.21	P
0333		1	IA	Pit	1	1.18	0.21	0.10	P
0343		1	IA?	Pit	3	1.28	0.48	0.79	
0347		1	IA	Pit	5	2.25	2.30	1.09	AB, F, P
0374		2	IA	Pit	1	1.19	1.10	0.22	P
0412		2	IA?	Posthole	1	0.12	0.18	0.09	P
0414		2	IA?	Posthole	1	0.12	0.21	0.08	
0416		2	IA	Pit	1	0.34	0.43	0.17	P
0426		2	IA	Posthole	2	0.38	0.16	0.14	
0429		2	IA	Pit	1	0.54	0.67	0.17	AB, P
0431	1741 (four-post structure)	2	IA	Posthole	1	0.45	0.60	0.22	F
0433	1741 (four-post structure)	2	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.42	0.26	
0435		2	IA	Posthole	2	0.50	0.77	0.31	AB, F, P
0438	1741 (four-post structure)	2	IA	Posthole	1	0.36	0.39	0.19	AB, P, Sl
0445		3	IA	Pit	1	1.10	0.40	0.25	AB, ES, FC, F, P
0453		3	IA?	Pit	1	0.80	0.40	0.15	AB
0455		3	IA	Posthole	2	0.60	0.56	0.16	AB, ES, FC, F, P, Sl,
0458		3	IA	Pit	1	0.77	0.65	0.15	AB, F, P
0460	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.76	0.40	0.25	AB, P
0465	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.62	0.62		P
0467		3	IA?	Posthole	1	0.36	0.32	0.24	
0469		3	IA?	Pit	1	0.80	0.31	0.20	
0481		3	IA	Pit	1	0.91	0.38	0.16	AB, F, P
0487	1775 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	2	0.46	0.64	0.21	AB, BF, ES, F, P, Sl
0501		3	IA	Posthole	1	0.43	0.43	0.10	P
0512		3	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.40	0.19	P
0514	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	2	0.70	0.28	0.31	P
0517	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	2	1.02	0.32	0.32	AB
0522	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.72	0.84	0.29	AB, P
0524	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.32	0.65	0.23	P

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
0526	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.49	0.44	0.09	AB
0528	1773 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.28	0.45	0.22	
0530	1775 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.55	0.30	0.26	
0534	1775 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.62	0.17	
0549	1775 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.26	0.56	0.17	AB, P
0557		3	IA?	Posthole	1	0.49	0.46	0.17	
0608	1820 (four-post structure/structural element of roundhouse 1776)	3	IA	Posthole	3	1.08	0.46	0.31	AB, P
0622		3	IA?	Pit	2	0.96	0.96	0.19	AB, ES, P
0625	1820 (four-post structure/structural element of roundhouse 1776)	3	IA?	Posthole	2	1.14	0.99	0.30	
0634	1820 (four-post structure/structural element of roundhouse 1776)	3	IA?	Posthole	2	1.20	0.40	0.32	AB
0645	1820 (four-post structure/structural element of roundhouse 1776)	3	IA	Posthole	2	1.00	0.89	0.40	P
0652		3	IA	Pit	1	1.10	0.44	0.21	AB, ES, P, Sl
0656		3	IA	Pit	1	0.55	0.31	0.09	P, ES
0691		3	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.34	0.34	AB, F, P
0712		3	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.44	0.28	AB, ES, P
0768		3	IA	Pit	1	0.46	0.28	0.19	AB, P
0805		3	IA	Pit	2	0.98	0.42	0.55	AB, BF, ES, P
0812	1774 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	2	0.54	0.46	0.14	AB
0813	1774 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	2	0.52	0.50	0.31	F, P
0816	1774 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.48	0.55	0.29	AB
0818	1774 (four-post structure)	3	IA	Posthole	1	0.48	0.44		
0820		3	IA	Pit	1	1.00	0.48	0.20	AB, BF, ES, P
0822		3	IA	Pit	2	0.91	0.48	0.20	AB, BF, ES, P
0830		3	IA	Posthole	2	0.34	0.52	0.25	AB, P
0833		3	IA	Pit	1	1.90	0.96	0.14	AB, P
0897		3	IA	Pit	2	0.70	0.38		P
0898		4	IA?	Pit	1	1.22	1.05	0.15	BF, ES, F, P
0940		4	IA	Pit	1	0.90	0.46	0.19	ES, FC, F, P
1010		4	IA	Pit	1	1.01	0.69	0.17	AB, P
1012		4	IA	Pit	1	0.84	0.80	0.15	AB, F, P
1019		4	IA	Pit	1	4.40	1.52	0.11	P
1101		4	IA?	Pit	1	3.14	1.00	0.17	AB
1104	1807 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.61	0.52	0.13	P
1106	1807 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.59	0.56	0.19	HB

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
1108	1807 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.37	0.36	0.11	AB, P
1110	1807 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.59	0.47	0.23	P
1112	1807 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.32	0.28	0.19	P
1114	1807 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.52	0.40	0.12	FC
1116	1807 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.34	0.22	0.12	
1126		4	IA (E/MIA?)	Pit/Posthole	2	0.65	0.54	0.44	AB, BF, ES, FC, P, Sl
1136	1827 (pit group)	4	IA?	Pit	1	0.62	0.56	0.17	
1138	1827 (pit group)	4	IA?	Pit	1	0.53	0.52	0.11	AB, P
1140	1827 (pit group)	4	IA?	Pit	1	1.12	1.06	0.11	AB, F
1142	1827 (pit group)	4	IA	Pit	1	0.72	0.66	0.22	AB, FC, P
1144	1827 (pit group)	4	IA?	Pit	1	0.70	0.64	0.28	AB
1160	1809 (large pit)	4	IA	Pit	4	4.16	2.94	1.24	AB, P
1190		4	IA	Pit	1	0.80	0.60	0.36	AB, F, P, S
1198/ 1220		4	IA	Pit	1	1.50	1.20	0.39	AB, P
1203		4	IA?	Posthole	1	0.28	0.26	0.24	
1213	1809 (large pit)	4	IA	Pit	4	4.16	2.94	1.24	AF, F (ON24, scraper), P
1224		4	IA?	Pit	1	0.94	0.76	0.23	P
1226		4	IA?	Pit	1	0.73	0.53	0.18	AB, F, Sl
1233		4	IA	Pit	1	1.02	1.02	0.11	F, P
1237		4	IA?	Posthole	1	0.52	0.48	0.17	WB
1245		4	IA	Pit	2	1.44	1.40	0.22	AB, P
1259		4	IA?	Pit	1	0.40	0.40	0.11	
1264		4	IA	Pit	2	0.79	0.78	0.30	FC, P
1304		4	IA	Pit	4	3.3	0.6	1.04	AB, F, P
1309		4	IA?	Pit	1	3.30	0.65 +	0.27	
1338	1818 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	3	1.36 +	0.90 +	0.58	AB, P
1355	1814 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	1	2.28	1.70	0.38	AB, F, P
1357	1814 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	2	0.95	0.76	0.41	AB, P
1360	1814 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	2	1.02	0.66	0.48	AB, F, P
1363	1814 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	1	0.80	0.60	0.26	AB, F, P
1365	1814 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	1	0.70	0.46	0.25	AB, F, P
1379		4	IA	Pit	4	2.3+	0.75 +	0.83	AB, BF, ES, FC, F, P, Sl
1397	1818 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	7	6.20	0.7+	1.00	AB, F, P, S (ON47, quern)
1410		4	IA	Pit	9	2.36	1.80	0.87	AB, FC, P, WB (ON50, bone pin fragment)
1422		4	IA	Pit	1	1.50	1.41	0.55	AB, BF, ES, F, P, Sl
1443	1818 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	1	1.22 +	1.20	0.26	AB, P
1445	1818 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	1	2.30	0.87 +	0.29	AB, P
1451		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.51	0.48	0.46	AB, P

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
1463		4	IA	Pit	1	0.86	0.56	0.32	P
1468		4	IA	Pit	3	0.99	0.84	0.70	AB, BF, F, P
1477		4	IA?	Posthole	1	1.10	0.90	0.20	P
1481		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.92	0.84	0.14	F, P
1495		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.40	0.35	AB, P
1497	1823 (four-post structure?)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.45	0.40	0.30	P
1499		4	IA?	Pit	2	0.85	0.83	0.17	AB, FC, P
1502		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.33	0.33	0.28	FC, P
1504	1818 (quarry pits)	4	IA	Pit	6	5.04 +	1.00 +	0.85	AB, F, P
1511	1823 (four-post structure?)	4	IA	Pit/posthole	2	0.61	0.57	0.47	AB, FC, P
1514	1823 (four-post structure?)	4	IA	Posthole	2	0.50	0.40	0.35	P
1522		4	IA?	Posthole	1	0.52	0.50	0.31	AB, P
1526		4	IA	Posthole	3	0.52	0.50	0.41	AB, P
1560		4	IA	Pit	1	1.00	1.00	0.16	AB, P
1584		4	IA	Pit	1	0.96	0.96	0.27	AB, F, P
1590		4	IA	Pit	2	2.86	0.88 +	0.65	AB, F, P
1593		4	IA	Pit	1	1.00	0.91	0.11	P
1608	1823 (four-post structure?)	4	IA	Pit/posthole	1	0.28	0.70	0.43	AB, FC, P
1610		4	IA	Pit	1	0.30	0.75	0.06	P
1612		4	IA	Pit	1	1.00	1.76	0.30	AB, P
1614		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.60	0.59	0.23	AB, F, P
1617		4	IA	Pit	1	0.60	1.10	0.19	AB, F, P
1619		4	IA	Pit	1	0.60	0.30	0.30	AB, F, P
1643		4	IA	Pit	2	1.16	0.97	???	AB, P
1650		4	IA	Pit	1	0.90	0.90	0.18	P
1654		4	IA	Pit	1	1.84	0.82	0.23	AB, FC, P
1661		4	IA	Pit	1	1.45	1.45	0.12	AB, F, P
1669		4	IA	Posthole	2	0.73	0.36	0.23	F, P
1680	1825 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.26	0.24	0.23	AB, F, P
1682	1825 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.32	0.30	0.22	P
1684	1825 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA?	Posthole	1	0.28	0.26	0.2	
1686	1825 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA?	Posthole	1	0.20	0.20	0.13	
1688	1825 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.38	0.34	0.34	P
1690	1825 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA	Posthole	1	0.30	0.28	0.26	P
1692	1825 (posthole group/ structure)	4	IA?	Posthole	2	0.32	0.34	0.27	
1695		4	IA	Posthole	2	0.70	0.58	0.35	AB, P
1698		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.20	0.34	0.29	AB, P
1702		4	IA	Pit	1	1.25	0.95 +		AB, P
1709		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.18	0.30	0.20	AB, P
1711		4	IA	Pit		1.25	0.48 +		FC, P
1713		4	IA	Posthole	1	0.40	0.40		P

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
1715		4	IA	Posthole	1				AB, P
0154		1	MIA	Pit	1	1.55	1.42	0.33	AB, P
0164		1	MIA	Pit	2	1.22	1.11	0.14	AB, P, S
0384		2	M/LIA?	Pit (animal burial)	1	2.15	1.70	0.24	AB (animal burial), P
0106		1	M/LIA	Pit/posthole	1	1.05	0.86	0.27	AB, P
0507		3	M/LIA?	Pit	1	1.00	0.85	0.25	P
0577		3	M/LIA?	Posthole	2	0.68	0.54	0.18	AB, P
0693		3	LIA?	Pit	1	0.62	0.65	0.24	AB, F, P
0695	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	2	2.10	1.30	0.44	AB, FC, P
0756	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	2	3.00		0.39	AB, P
0759	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	1	1.00	1.42	0.25	AB, P
0761	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	1	1.00	0.87	0.22	AB, P
0763	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	1	0.42	0.28	0.21	AB, F, P
0765	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	2	0.52	0.46	0.21	AB
0770	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	2	0.89	0.50	0.59	AB, P
0773	1819 (quarry pits)	3	LIA/RB	Pit	1	1.68	0.54	0.28	AB, P
1621		4	LIA/RB	Pit	2	1.82	1.7	0.62	AB, CBM, P
0785	1828 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB?	Pit	1	0.90	0.90	0.26	AB
0787	1828 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB?	Pit	1	0.54	1.00	0.22	P
0789	1828 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB	Pit	3	1.00	1.40	0.39	AB, F, P
0795	1828 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB?	Pit	1	0.64	0.62	0.43	AB
0797	1828 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB?	Posthole	1	0.46	0.46	0.36	F, P
0837	1829 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB	Pit	1	0.80	0.65	0.32	AB, F, P
0839	1829 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB?	Pit	1	0.40	0.35	0.33	
0841	1829 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB?	Pit	1	0.50	0.65	0.37	AB, F, P
0843	1829 (pit group, possibly quarries)	3	RB	Pit	1	0.50	0.20	0.34	AB, F, P
1317		4	RB (3rd/4th C?)	Pit	3			0.71	AB, P
1374		4	RB?	Pit	1	0.84	0.70	0.60	AB, P
1465		4	RB?	Posthole	2	0.51	0.46	0.39	P
0146		1	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.60	0.46	0.12	
0167		1	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.62	0.55	0.08	

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
0177		1	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.64	0.59	0.07	AB
0263		1	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.56	0.48	0.05	AB
0289		1	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.92	0.84	0.36	AB
0299		1	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.85	0.44	0.14	
0301		1	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.48	0.37	0.22	AB
0331		1	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.00	3.40	0.54	
0440		3	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.90	0.86	0.24	BF
0443		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.22	0.20	0.10	
0451		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.18	0.28	0.10	AB, ES, P, Sl
0473		3	Uncertain	Pit	2	0.95	0.93	0.21	
0475		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.43	0.43	0.30	AB
0477		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.60	0.27	0.15	
0489		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.40	0.23	0.22	
0491		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.20	0.30	0.22	
0493		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.46	0.46	0.15	
0495		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.10	0.20	0.03	
0497		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.22	0.66	0.14	
0532		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.35	0.28	0.18	
0539		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.50	0.47	0.16	
0541		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.12	0.26	0.21	AB
0545		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	1.00	0.80	0.20	AB, F
0551		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.56	0.51	0.18	
0559		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.45	0.40	0.17	
0580		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.05	0.88	0.21	
0590		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.30	0.30	0.28	
0606		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.70	0.37	0.10	S
0613		3	Uncertain	Posthole	2	1.00	0.55	0.23	
0615		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	1.10	0.40	0.20	
0620		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	1.00	0.60	0.10	
0632		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.24	0.30	0.04	
0648		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.27	0.16	0.25	
0650		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.88	0.50	0.35	AB
0671		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.58	0.20	0.17	
0673		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.55	0.19	0.25	
0700		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.15	0.35	0.06	
0704		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.28	0.28	0.19	AB
0706		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.30	0.18	0.04	
0717		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.45	0.19	0.11	
0730		3	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.76	0.28	0.14	
0732		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.43	0.37	0.12	
0736		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.43	0.20	0.12	
0738		3	Uncertain	Pit	2	0.88	0.42	0.18	AB
0741		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.35	0.22	0.09	
0749		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.30	0.14	0.18	
0777		3	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.42	0.22	0.19	
0783		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.67	0.30	0.23	
0799		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.44	0.20	0.14	
0801		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.16	0.33	0.12	AB
0803		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.20	0.39	0.10	
0810		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.32	0.46	0.07	
0828		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.27	0.29	0.31	
0845		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.11	0.47	0.06	
0849		3	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.46	0.30	0.15	
0851		3	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.26	0.57	0.12	
0893		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.32	0.66	0.10	
0904		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.00	0.70	0.15	
0934		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.30	1.10	0.11	
0954		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.88	0.75	0.12	
0960		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.86	0.81	0.25	P
1021		4	Uncertain	Pit	2	5.00	1.6 +	0.38	
1174		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.17	1.09	0.09	
1176		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.37	0.32	0.11	
1330		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.73	0.65	0.20	
1389		4	Uncertain	Pit	2	1.96	1.96	0.40	AB, F, P

Cut	Group	Area	Period	Interpretation	No. of fills	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Finds/samples
1439		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.28	0.96	0.30	AB, FC
1447		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.52	0.46	0.07	
1449		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.46	0.36	0.17	
1453		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.44	0.42	0.25	
1455		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.26	0.22	0.08	
1457		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.44	0.42	0.25	
1459		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.50	0.44	0.29	
1472		4	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.60	0.25	0.30	
1475		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.34	0.30	0.20	AB, P
1479		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.68	0.63	0.19	AB, HB
1492		4	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.50	0.47	0.38	P
1524		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	0.80	0.64	0.11	
1535		4	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.40	0.38	0.44	AB, FC
1538		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.46	0.33	0.32	F, S
1540		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.74	0.44	0.12	AB
1542		4	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.48	0.48	0.30	P
1546		4	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.45	0.45	0.45	AB, P
1640		4	Uncertain	Posthole	2	0.43	0.40	0.32	
1667	1824 (four-post structure?)	4	Uncertain (IA?)	Pit/posthole	1	0.41	0.20	0.11	
1672		4	Uncertain	Pit	1	1.17	0.64	0.19	
1676		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.40	0.38	0.32	
1704		4	Uncertain	Posthole	1	0.45	0.45		
1706	1824 (four-post structure?)	4	Uncertain (IA?)	Posthole	1	0.38	0.38		

AB = animal bone, BF = burnt flint, CBM = ceramic building material, ES = environmental sample assessed, FC = fired clay, F = worked flint, HB= human bone, I = Iron, ON = Object Number, P = pottery, Sl, = slag, S = stone, WB = worked bone

Appendix 4 Environmental evidence/macrofossils/charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments
Early/Middle Iron Age pits and postholes																
338	340	338	2	40	40	30%, A, E, I, Cecilioides acicula (A)	A*	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains and Triticeae culm node	A*	Poaceae (*Avena/Bromus, Avena* sp., *Lolium/Festuca, Poa/Phleum*), *Galium* sp., Vicieae, Cyperaceae, Polygonaceae, tuber	5	Mature, some iron coating	Sab	P	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
722	724	722	28	6	2	70%, C	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature	-	-	-
780	782	780	29	38	30	60%, A, E, I	A*	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	B	Vicieae, *Galium* sp., Poaceae	2	Mature	Sab	P	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
1250	1251	1250	48	31	40	70%, C, E	A	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	A	Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum, Lolium/Festuca, Avena/Bromus*), Vicieae, *Galium* sp., Trifolieae, Polygonaceae, *Corylus avellana*	3	Mature	Slag/industrial waste, Sab	P	Heterogenous
1250	1252	1250	49	33	35	60%, C, I, E	A	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	B	Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca, Avena/Bromus*), *Galium* sp., Cyperaceae, Vicieae	3	Mature	Slag/industrial waste, Sab	-	Heterogeneous
1250	1253	1250	50	31	40	15%, C, I, E	A	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	A	Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum, Lolium/Festuca, Avena/Bromus*), Vicieae, *Galium* sp., Trifolieae, *Rumex* sp.	5	Mature	Slag/industrial waste, Sab, Moll-t	P	Heterogeneous
1029	1059	1790	57	10	15	80%, C	-	-	-	-	-	2	Mature	-	-	-
Early/Middle Iron Age ditches																
1029	1053	1790	43	15	20	70%, C	C	C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	C	Poaceae, cf. *Prunus* sp. endocarp, Vicieae	3	Mature	-	-	Poor, some iron coating
1074	1075	1796	45	25	30	70%, C, E, I	A	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	C	*Galium* sp., Vicieae	2	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Poor, some iron coating
418	419	1736	4	38	125	25%, A, E, I	A	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains and rachis segments	A	Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca, Avena/Bromus*), Vicieae, *Galium* sp., Trifolieae, *Ranunculus* sp.	60	Mature, some iron coating	-	P, C	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
418	422	1736	5	18	25	60%, B, I	B	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	C	*Corylus avellana, Plantago lanceolata*, Poaceae, Vicieae	4	Mature	Sab	P	Poor, some iron coating
Iron Age pits and postholes																
306	316	306	1	38	40	70%, A, E, I	A*	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	A*	Poaceae (*Avena/Bromus, Lolium/Festuca*), *Galium* sp., Asteraceae, Cyperaceae, Polygonaceae	5	Mature	Moll-t, Sab		Heterogeneous
445	446	445	3	20	35	70%, A, I	A*	A**	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains and rachis segments	A*	Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca, Poa/Phleum*), *Galium* sp., *Sherardia arvensis*, Vicieae, Asteraceae, *Rumex* sp., *Veronica* sp., Trifolieae	2	Mature	Sab	P	Heterogeneous, some iron coating

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments
455	456	455	7	7	35	90%, A**, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	-	-	1	Mature	-	-	Heterogeneous
455	457	455	8	9.5	15	80%, A	B	-	*Triticum spelta*, *Hordeum vulgare*	C	Poaceae	<1	Mature	Industrial waste/vitrified material	-	Heterogeneous
622	624	622	11	10	15	80%, A, E	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum, Lolium/Festuca*), Vicieae, Polygonaceae	Trace	Mature	Sab	-	Poor, some iron coating
652	653	652	17	35	30	70%, A, E, I	B	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	B	Vicieae, Cyperaceae, Trifolieae, Poaceae, indet. root	2	Mature	Sab	P	Poor, some iron coating
656	657	656	19	17	20	70%, A, E, I	B	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	C	Vicieae, Trifolieae, Poaceae	2	Mature	-	-	Poor, some iron coating
667	668	1826	20	31	15	15%, A, E, I	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	4	Mature, some iron coating	Industrial waste/vitrified material	-	Poor, some iron coating
712	713	712	26	17	15	70%, A, E, I	B	C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume base), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	C	Polygonaceae, Vicieae	1	Mature, some iron coating	Industrial waste/vitrified material	-	
805	806	805	31	31	25	70%, A*, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*), *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Vicieae, Poaceae, *Sherardia arvensis*, *Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp. *bulbosum* tuber	1	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
820	821	820	32	42	125	15%, A, E, I	A*	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	A	Vicieae, Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca, Poa/Pheum*), *Corylus avellana*, *Galium* sp.	30	Mature + roundwood	Sab	P, C	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
822	824	822	33	30	30	60%, A*, E, I	B	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	A	Vicieae, Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca*), *Galium* sp., Trifolieae, Polygonaceae, Chenopodiaceae	5	Mature	Sab	P	Heterogeneous
898	899	898	38	32	20	90%, B, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	Trace	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Poor, some iron coating
940	941	940	39	32	25	90%, C, I	B	A*	*Triticum* sp. glume base, *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	B	Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca, Poa/Phleum*), *Galium* sp., Vicieae	<1	Mature, some iron coating	-	P	Poor, some iron coating
1126	1128	1126	47	20	35	70%, C	A	C	*Triticum* sp. glume base, *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	C	Poaceae (inc. *Poa/Phleum*), Vicieae	3	Mature	Industrial waste/vitrified material	-	Poor, some iron coating
1379	1382	1379	54	20	10	80%, A*	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grains and spikelet fork	C	*Crataegus monogyna*	<1	Mature	-	-	Poor
1379	1383	1379	53	20	35	30%, C	A	C	*Triticum* sp. glume base, *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	C	Poaceae	5	Mature	Slag/industrial waste	-	Poor
1422	1423	1422	55	30	45	60%, C, I	A*	A**	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	A*	Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca, Avena/Bromus*), *Galium* sp. *Plantago lanceolata*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rumex* sp., Trifolieae, Vicieae	3	Mature	Sab	P	Heterogeneous
487	488	1775	10	20	5	80%, A, E	A	C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	C	Poaceae, *Galium* sp.	<1	Mature	Industrial waste/vitrified material	-	Poor, some iron coating

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments
487	511	1775	9	7	15	70%, A*, I	B	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and glume bases, Triticeae	B	Poaceae, Vicieae	<1	Mature	Industrial waste/vitrified material	-	Poor, some iron coating
654	655	1821	16	29	30	15%, B, E, I	B	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	B	*Galium* sp., *Cyperaceae*, *Trifolieae*, *Corylus avellana*	2	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
702	703	1821	24	36	25	70%, A, E	A	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks)	B	Poaceae (inc. *Lolium/Festuca*), Vicieae, Cyperaeae	2	Mature, some iron coating	Industrial waste/vitrified material, Sab	-	Poor, some iron coating
Iron Age gullies and ditches																
710	711	710	25	28	15	80%, B, E, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp. glume bases, *Hordeum vulgare* grains	C	Vicieae, Poaceae	<1	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Poor, some iron coating
863	867	863	46	6	5	70%, C, E	C	B	*Triticum* sp. glume bases and spikelet forks, Triticeae grains	-	-	<1	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Poor, some iron coating
677	678	1781	23	9	8	60%, B, E	C	B	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks)	C	*Galium* sp.	Trace	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
871	872	1784	35	33	20	80%, C	B	C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	C	*Galium* sp., Poaceae	<1	Mature	-	-	Heterogeneous
873	874	1784	36	31	35	80%, C	A	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	C	*Galium* sp., Poaceae, Vicieae	1	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	Heterogeneous, some iron coating
886	888	1786	37	36	60	60%, C	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	-	-	25	Mature, iron coated	-	-	Poor, some iron coating
1315	1316	1811	51	36	60	30%, C	A	B	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	A	Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum, Lolium/Festuca*), Vicieae, *Galium* sp., *Rumex* sp., *Sherardia arvensis*, Polygonaceae	15	Mature	Moll-t, Sab	P	Heterogeneous
1336	1337	1811	52	38	20	80%, C	B	B	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	C	Poaceae, Vicieae, Polygonaceae	<1	Mature	-	-	Poor
Iron Age / Romano-British ditch																
1037	1040	1793	44	38	25	70%, C, E	A	C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* and Triticeae grains	A	Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca, Poa/Phleum*), *Galium* sp., Vicieae	4	Mature	-	-	Poor
Prehistoric unurned cremation grave																
630	631	630	12	16	120	5%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	35	Mature	-	C, C14 (short-lived species)	-
630	631	630	13	15	250	<1%, C, E	-	-	-	C	Vicieae, *Galium* sp.	100	Mature	-		Fair
630	631	630	14	18	125	1%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	50	Mature	-		-
630	631	630	15	21	220	<1%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	100	Mature	-		-
Romano-British ditches																
857	870	1783	34	66	25	80%, A*, E, I	B	C	*Triticum* sp. glume bases, Triticeae grains	C	Vicieae	1	Mature	Sab	-	Poor, some iron coating
910	911	1783	40	10	4	60%, B	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature, some iron coating	-	-	-
Undated posthole and ditch																

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments
451	452	451	6	4	15	70%, C	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	3	Mature	Industrial waste/vitrified material	-	Poor, some iron coating
1055	1056	1055	42	13	35	70%, C, E	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	4	Mature	Sab	-	Poor

Appendix 5 OASIS form

12 OASIS ID: wessexar1-406756

Project details

Project name	Land at North Shrivenham, Oxfordshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology, commissioned prior to development by Legal and General Homes, undertook an archaeological excavation east of Highworth Road (B4000), Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, SN6 8DE, centred on NGR 423560 189320. As a condition of planning consents granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council (refs P13/V1810/O and P15/V2541/O), this comprised the excavation of approximately 4 ha divided between four areas between 21 July and 23 November 2018. The complex and dense concentration of archaeological features uncovered include the remains of at least 15 roundhouses and 11 small rectangular post-built structures and many pits and postholes. These were interspersed with a multi-phase system of ditched enclosures, land divisions and a long-lived trackway that extended along the ridge between the excavated areas. Finds included over 51 kg of (mainly Iron Age) pottery and 116 kg of animal bone, worked bone, shale and metal objects (including Roman coins and items of personal adornment), cremated and unburnt human bone, pieces of quern stones, worked flint, slag and fired clay. Occasionally rich, varied and well-preserved assemblages of archaeobotanical remains were retrieved from bulk samples. This evidence derives from multiple, broadly contiguous phases of occupation, spanning the Early-Middle Iron Age and the latter stages of the period. The site continued to be used, albeit less intensively throughout the Romano-British period. Indications of pre-Iron Age activity are sparse, whilst post-Roman remains comprise traces of ridge and furrow cultivation and later field boundaries, all potentially laid out with reference to the ancient trackway.
Project dates	Start: 21-07-2018 End: 23-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	T21082 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	P13/V1810/O - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	P15/V2541/O - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	OXCMS:2018.30. - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	CREMATION GRAVE Iron Age
Monument type	ROUND HOUSE (DOMESTIC) Iron Age
Monument type	HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Iron Age

Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	ANIMAL BURIAL Iron Age
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Iron Age
Monument type	RING DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	CURVILINEAR DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	POST BUILT STRUCTURE Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Early Iron Age
Monument type	ENCLOSURE DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	TRACKWAY Late Prehistoric
Monument type	CO-AXIAL ENCLOSURE Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	POSTHOLE Roman
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Medieval
Significant Finds	BLADE Upper Palaeolithic
Significant Finds	BLADE Mesolithic
Significant Finds	BLADE Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	LEAF ARROWHEAD Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	SHERD Iron Age
Significant Finds	BUTCHERED ANIMAL REMAINS Iron Age
Significant Finds	CARVED ANTLER Uncertain
Significant Finds	STONE SLINGSHOT Uncertain
Significant Finds	SAUCEPAN SHERDS Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	SHERD Roman
Significant Finds	SLAG Iron Age
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	RING Roman
Significant Finds	BROOCH Roman
Significant Finds	DRESS-FITTING Early Medieval
Significant Finds	SHALE SPINDLE WHORL Roman
Significant Finds	BONE NEEDLE Iron Age
Significant Finds	HUMAN REMAINS Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Roman
Significant Finds	SHALE VESSEL SHERD Iron Age

Investigation type	"""Open-area excavation""","""Part Excavation"""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE VALE OF WHITE HORSE SHRIVENHAM Land at North Shrivenham
Postcode	SN6 8DE
Study area	4 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 23560 89320 51.601755328559 -1.659789846197 51 36 06 N 001 39 35 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	Steve Thompson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Legal & General Homes

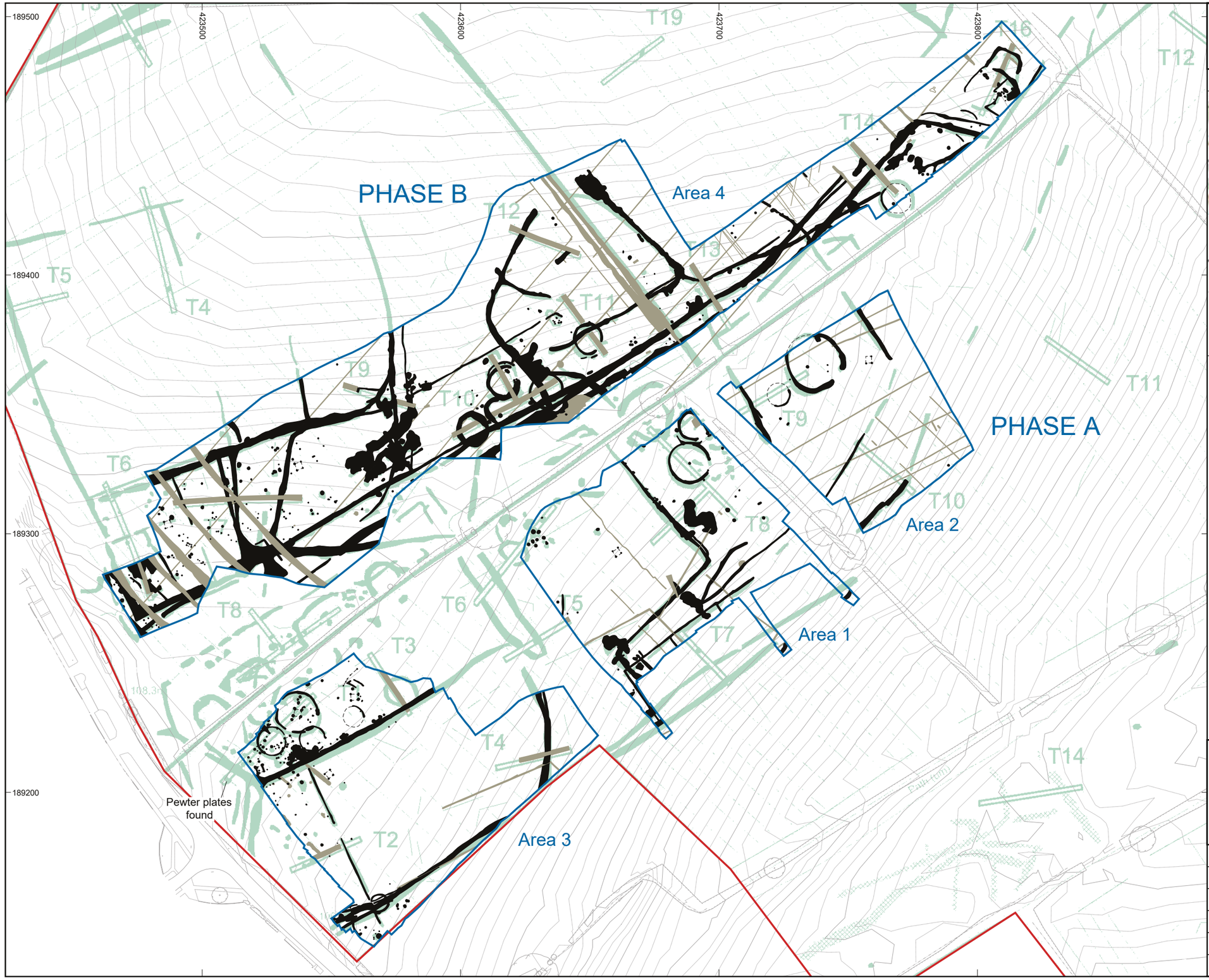
Project archives

Physical Archive ID	OXCMS:2018.30.
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	TBC
Digital Archive ID	OXCMS:2018.30.
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics","other","Animal Bones"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Oxford County Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	OXCMS:2018.30.

Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text","Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at North Shrivenham, Oxfordshire. Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wells, T.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thompson, S.
Other bibliographic details	T21082.4
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	A4 Client Report with plates and both A3 and A4 figures , Blue spine.



- Site boundary
- Excavation areas
- Archaeology
- Non-significant features
- Previous geophysical / archaeological results

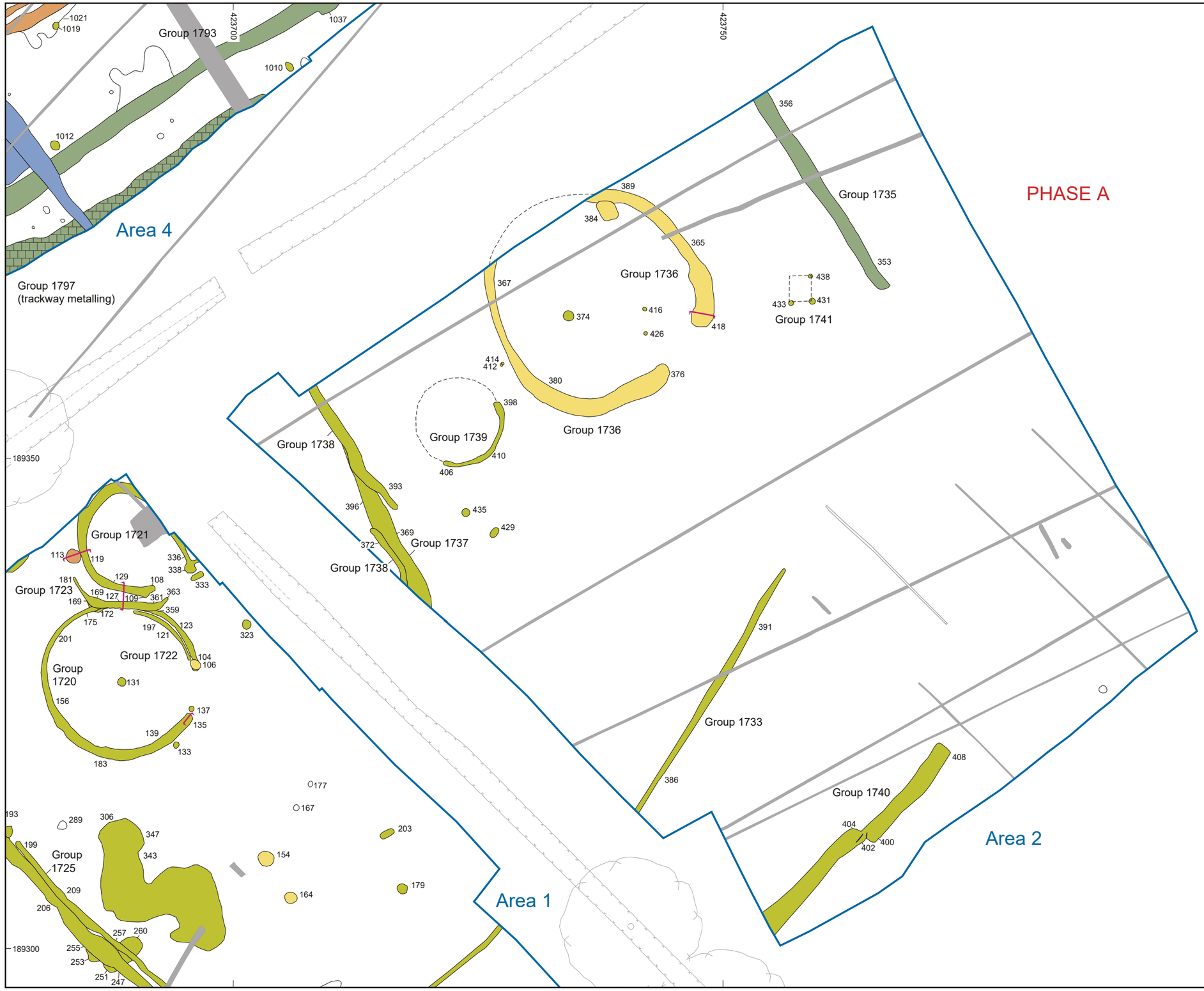
0 50 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	08/09/2020
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:1500 @A3
Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\
Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07	

Site location, excavated features, trial trench locations and geophysical survey results

Figure 1



Development site boundary
Excavation Area
Late prehistoric
Early/Middle Iron Age
Middle/Late Iron Age
Iron Age
Iron Age/Romano-British
Romano-British
Medieval/early post-medieval (furrows)
Post-medieval
Modern/disturbance
Bioturbation
Unphased
Metalled surface
Section locations

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	08/09/2020
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:400 @A3
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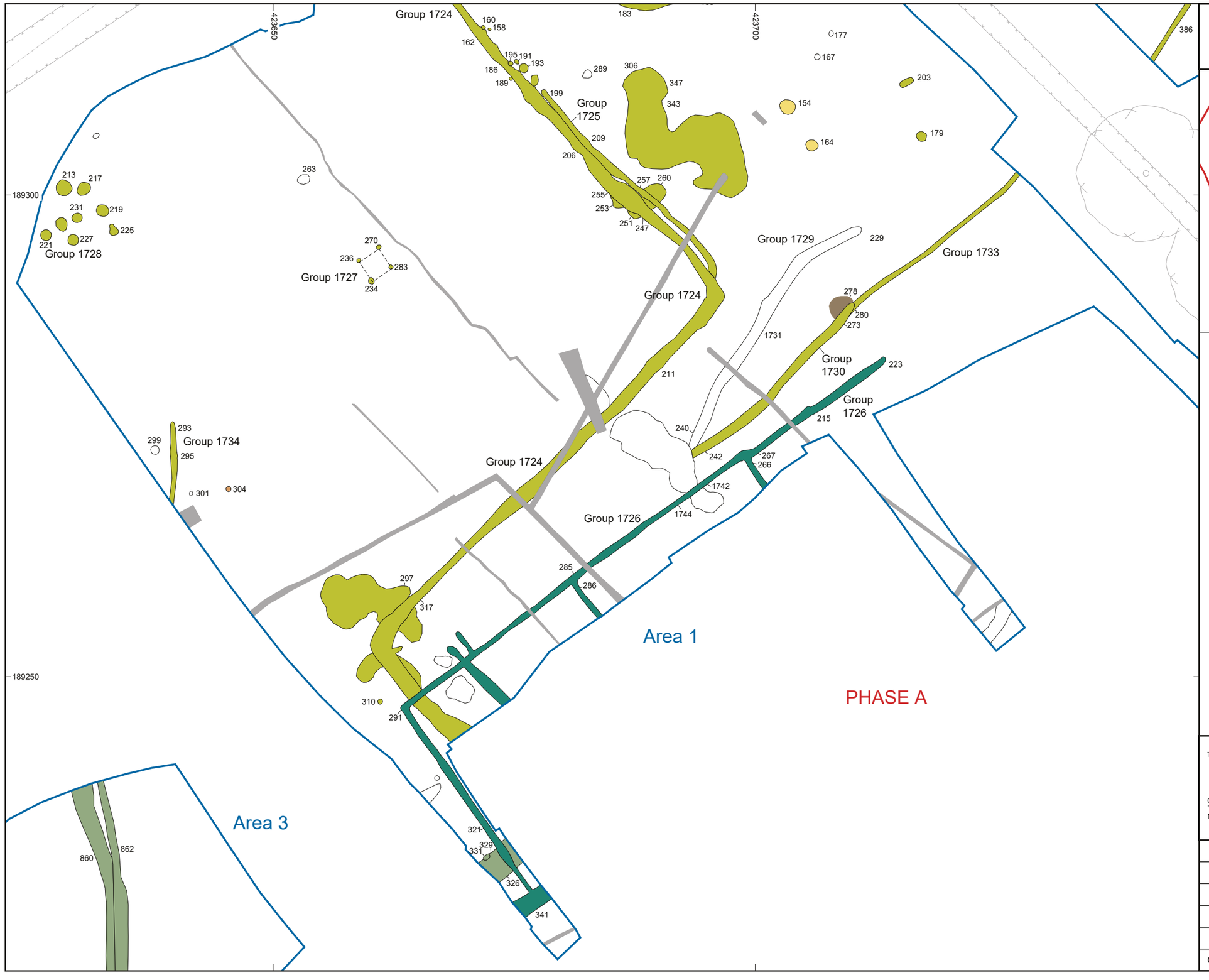
Detail phased plans

Figure 2



Development site boundary
Excavation Area
Late prehistoric
Early/Middle Iron Age
Middle/Late Iron Age
Iron Age
Iron Age/Romano-British
Romano-British
Medieval/early post-medieval (furrows)
Post-medieval
Modern/disturbance
Bioturbation
Unphased

0 10 20 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

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Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\
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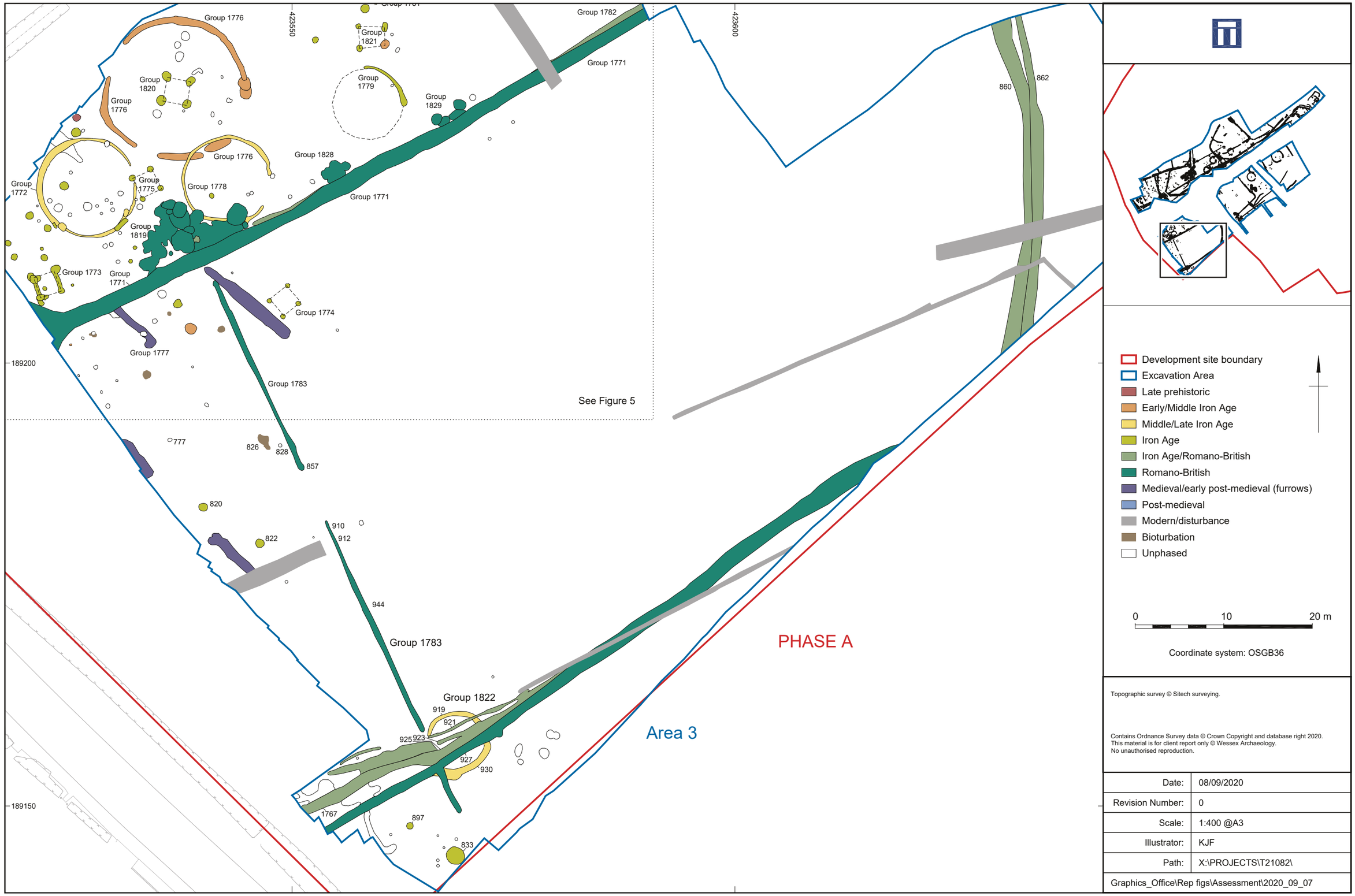
Detail phased plans

Figure 3



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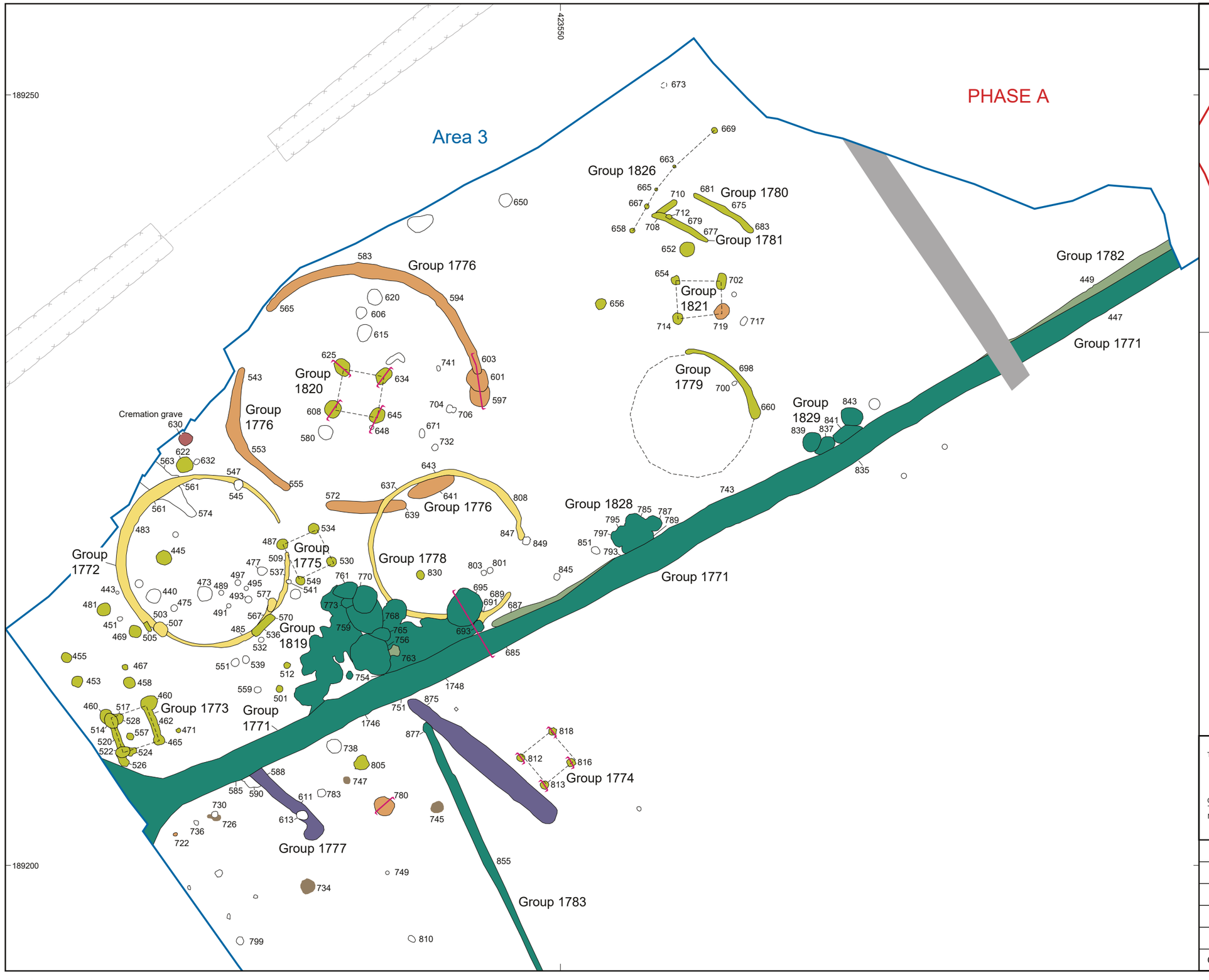
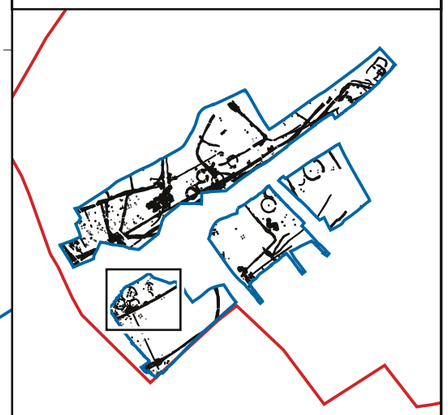
Detail phased plans

Figure 4





Development site boundary
Excavation Area
Late prehistoric
Early/Middle Iron Age
Middle/Late Iron Age
Iron Age
Iron Age/Romano-British
Romano-British
Medieval/early post-medieval (furrows)
Post-medieval
Modern/disturbance
Bioturbation
Unphased
Section locations

0 10 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

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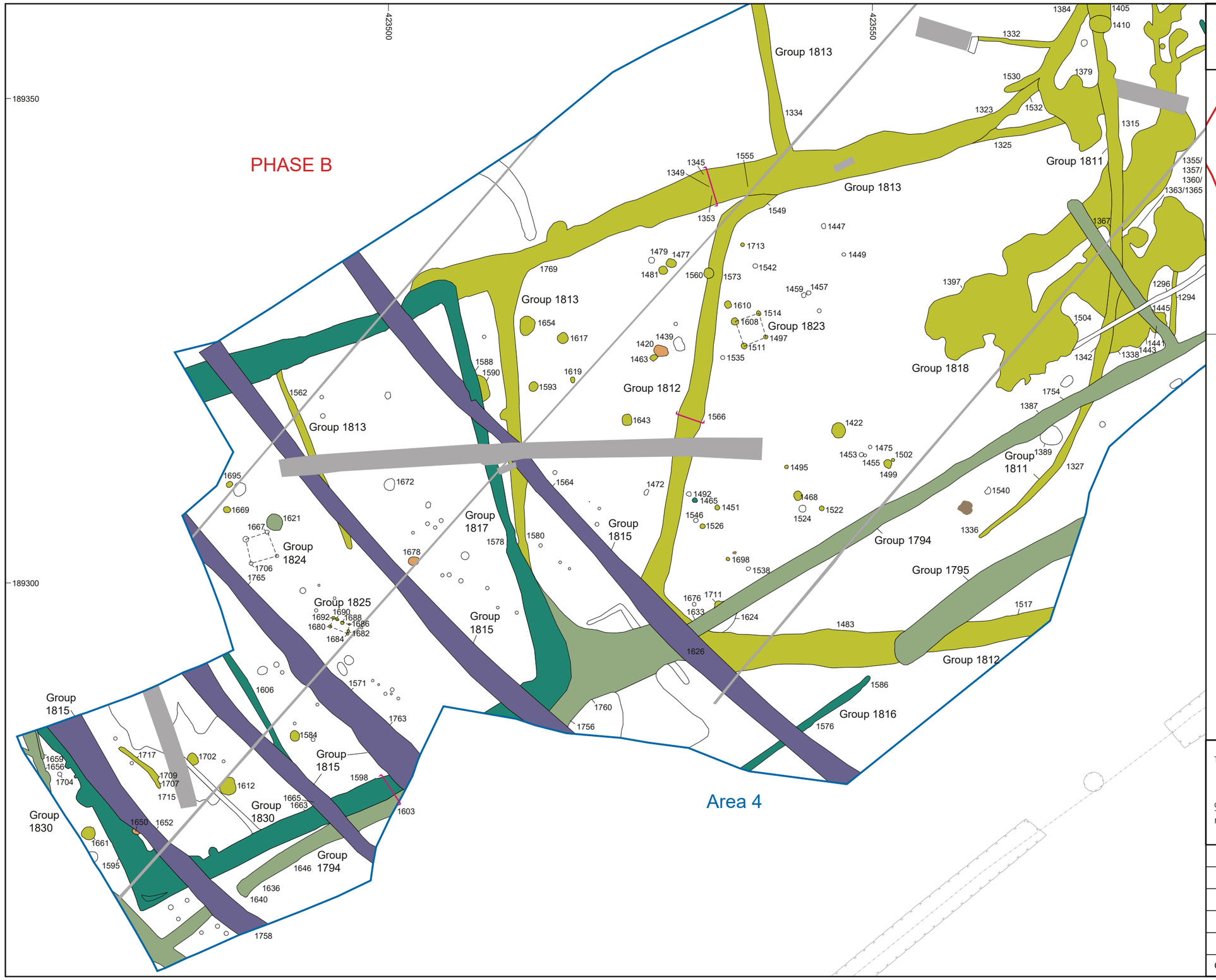
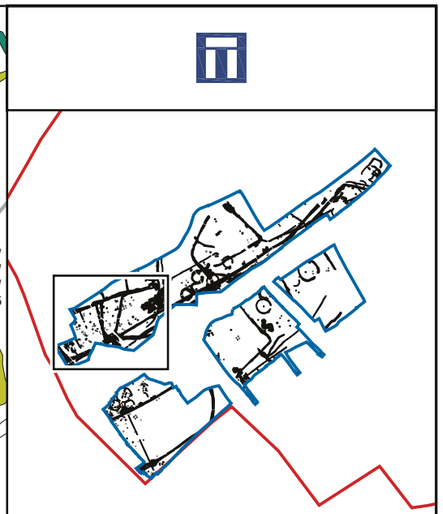
Detail phased plans

Figure 5





Development site boundary
Excavation Area
Late prehistoric
Early/Middle Iron Age
Middle/Late Iron Age
Iron Age
Iron Age/Romano-British
Romano-British
Medieval/early post-medieval (furrows)
Post-medieval
Modern/disturbance
Bioturbation
Unphased
Section locations

0 10 20 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	08/09/2020
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:400 @A3
Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\
Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07	

Detail phased plans

Figure 6

PHASE B

423550 423600 423650

189400 189350

Group 1806 Group 1806 Group 1801 Group 1807 Group 1798 Group 1801 Group 1805 Group 1806 Group 1803 Group 1804 Group 1793 Group 1799 Group 1800 Group 1813 Group 1813 Group 1811 Group 1814 Group 1808 Group 1794 Group 1802 Group 1795 Group 1797 (trackway metalling) Group 1794 Group 1810 Group 1795 Group 1823 Group 1818 Group 1811

Area 4

Layer 1122 Layer 1123 Layer 1131 subsoil remnant

0 10 20 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

- Development site boundary
- Excavation Area
- Late prehistoric
- Early/Middle Iron Age
- Middle/Late Iron Age
- Iron Age
- Iron Age/Romano-British
- Romano-British
- Medieval/early post-medieval (furrows)
- Post-medieval
- Modern/disturbance
- Bioturbation
- Unphased
- Metalled surface
- Section locations

Date:	08/09/2020
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:400 @A3
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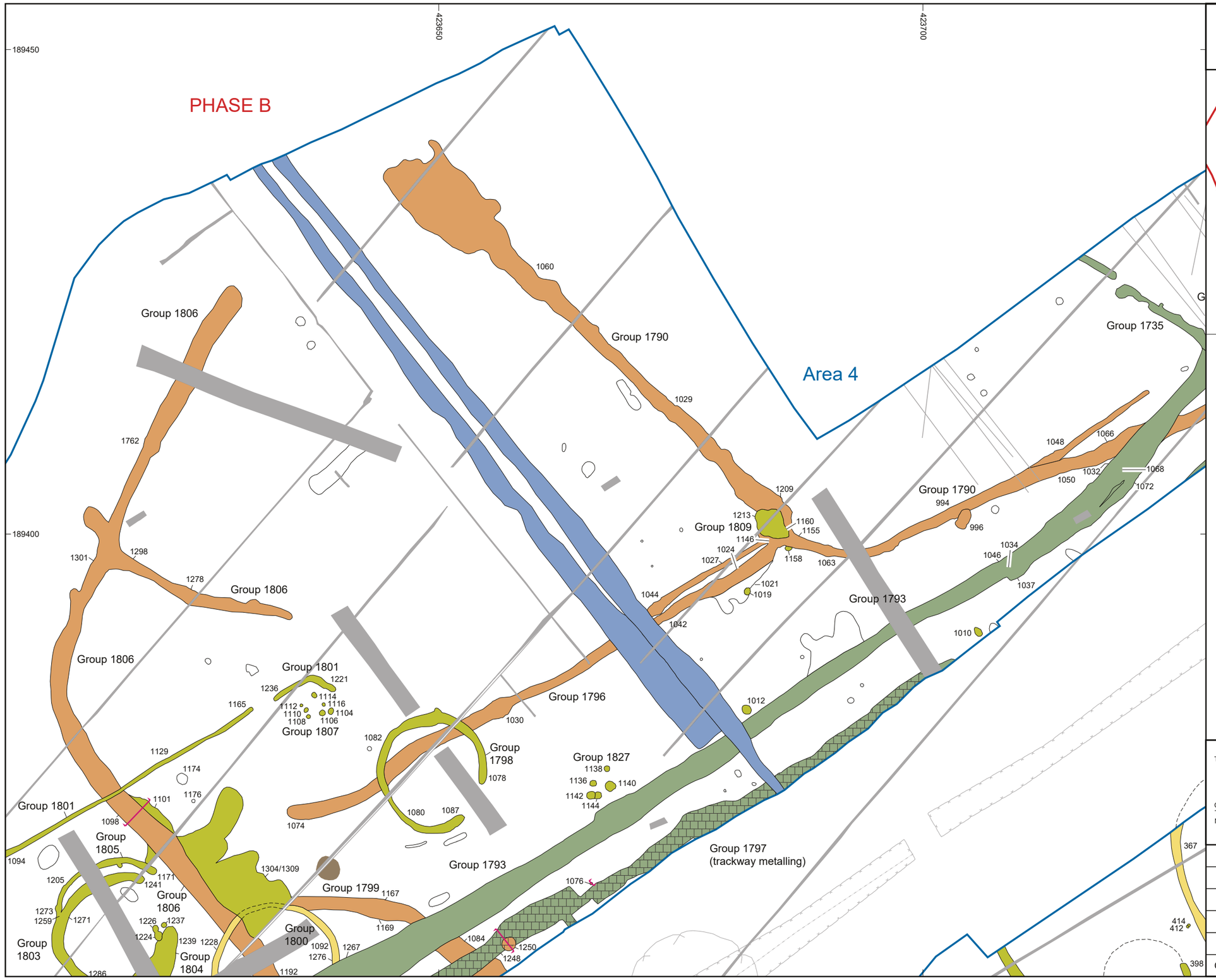
Detail phased plans

Figure 7



Development site boundary
Excavation Area
Late prehistoric
Early/Middle Iron Age
Middle/Late Iron Age
Iron Age
Iron Age/Romano-British
Romano-British
Medieval/early post-medieval (furrows)
Post-medieval
Modern/disturbance
Bioturbation
Unphased
Metalled surface
Section locations

0 10 20 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	08/09/2020
Revision Number:	0
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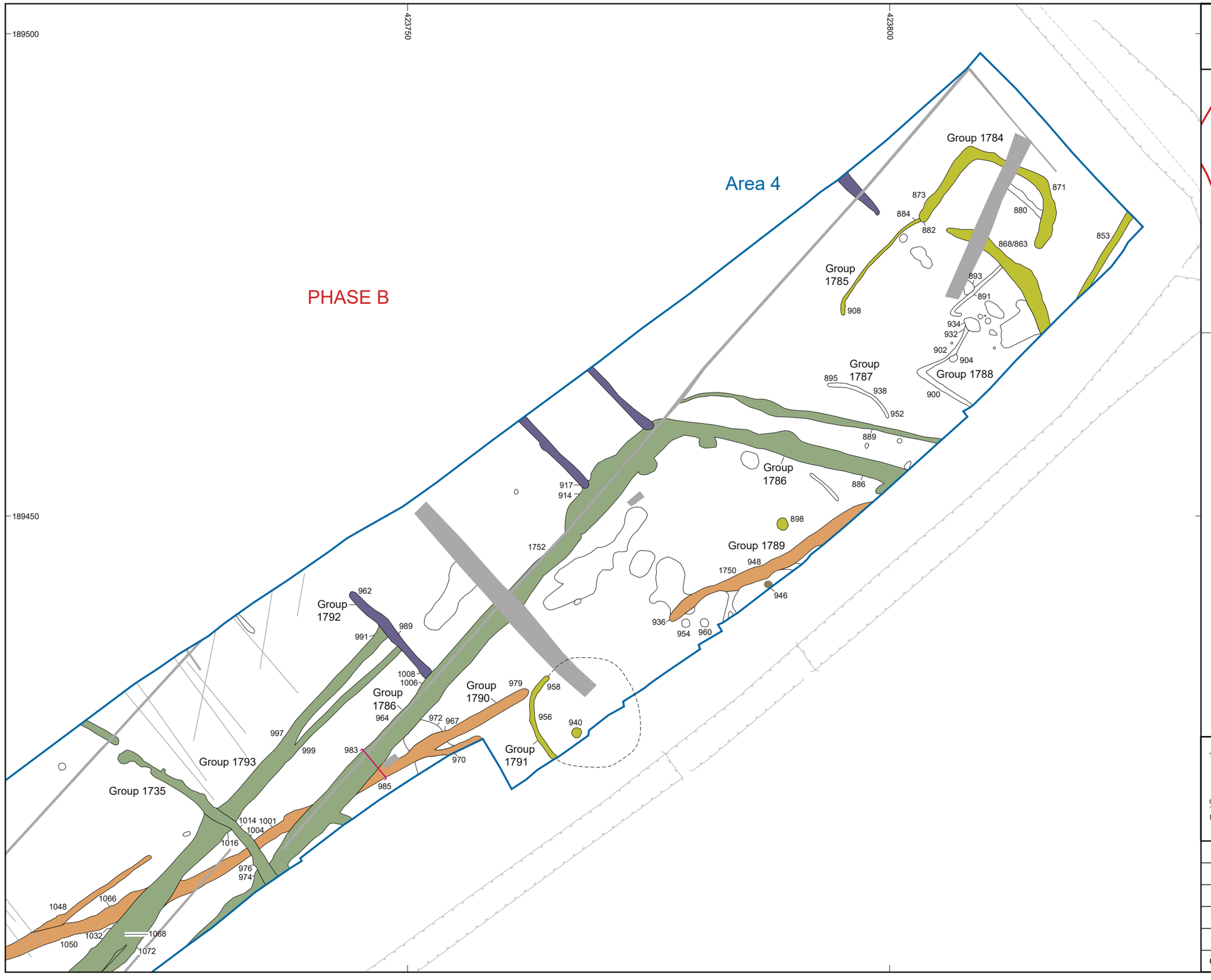
Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07	

Detail phased plans

Figure 8



Development site boundary
Excavation Area
Late prehistoric
Early/Middle Iron Age
Middle/Late Iron Age
Iron Age
Iron Age/Romano-British
Romano-British
Medieval/early post-medieval (furrows)
Post-medieval
Modern/disturbance
Bioturbation
Unphased
Section locations

0 10 20 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	08/09/2020
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:400 @A3
Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\
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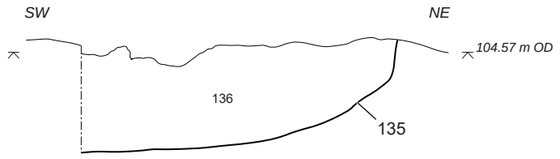
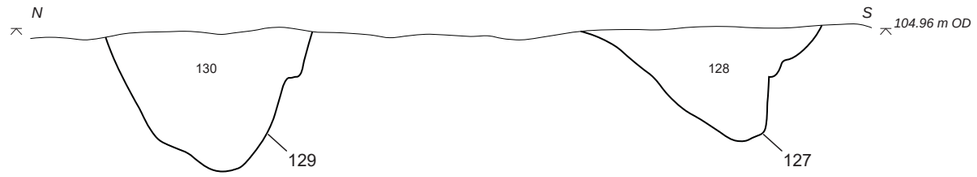
Detail phased plans

Figure 9

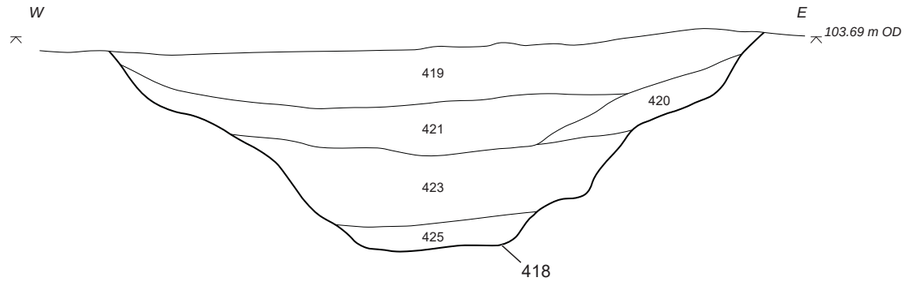
South-east facing longitudinal section through terminal of Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1720 (cut 135), Area 1



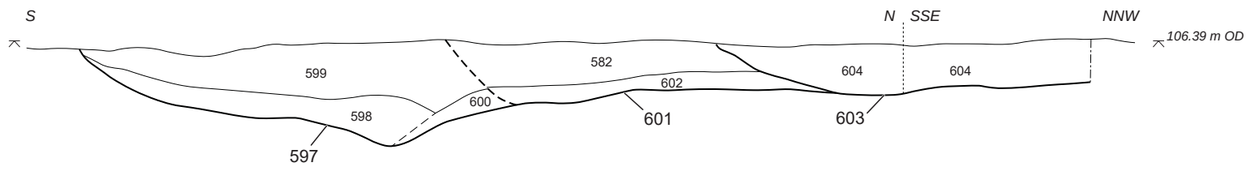
West facing section through Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gullies 1721 (cut 129) and 1723 (cut 127), Area 1



South south-west facing transverse section through terminal of possible roundhouse ditch 1736 (cut 418), Area 3



East facing section through terminal of probable Early/Middle Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1776 (cut 603) and pits 597 and 601



0 1 m

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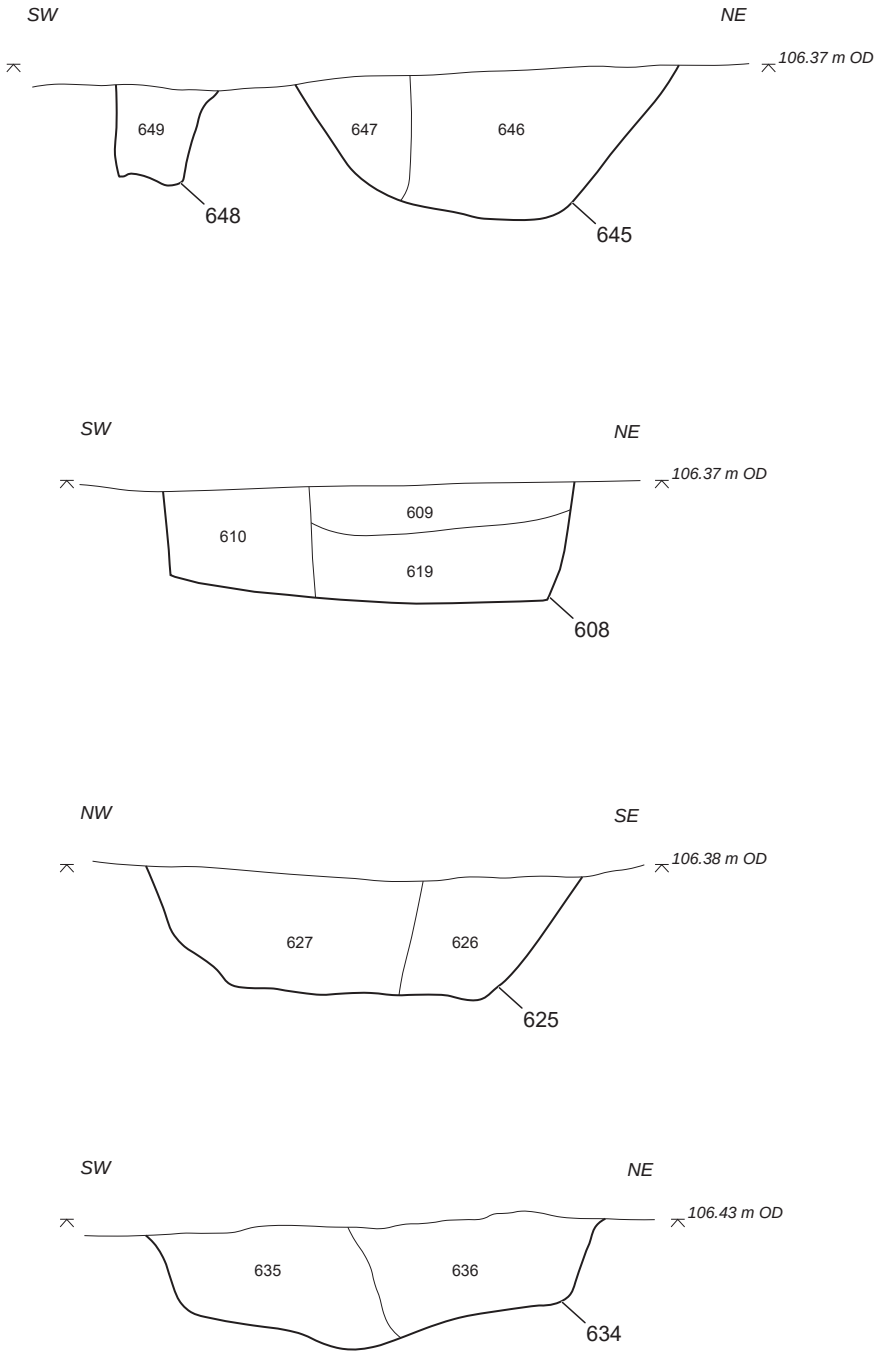
Sections through Iron Age four-post structure 1820, centrally located within probable roundhouse ditch/gully 1776, Area 3



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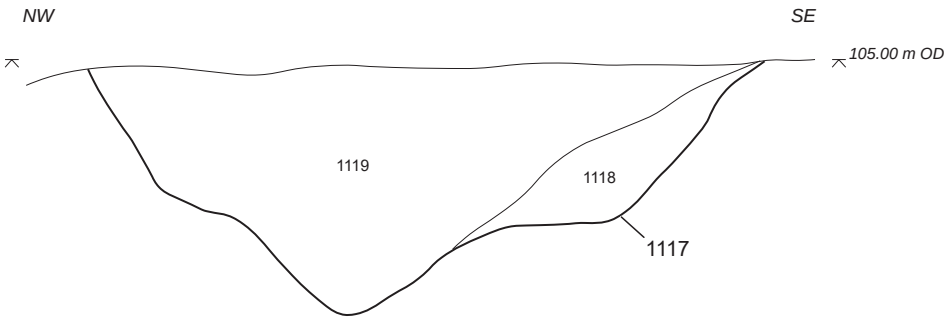
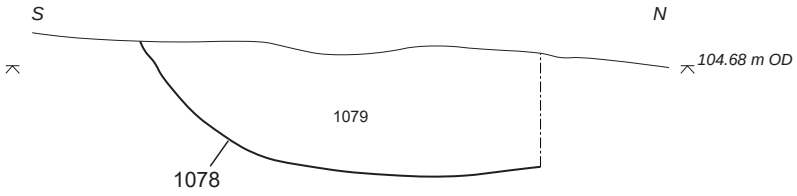
Sections

Figure 11

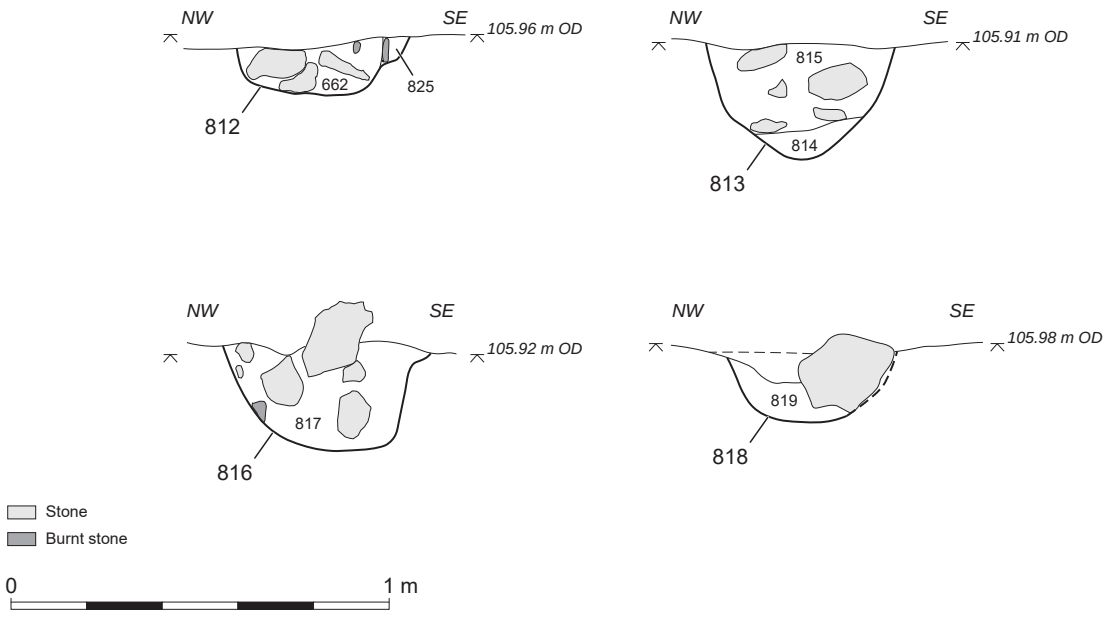
South-west facing section through possible Iron Age roundhouse ditch 1808 (cut 1117), Area 4



East facing longitudinal section through terminal of Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1798 (cut 1078), Area 4



Sections through Iron Age four-post structure 1774, Area 3



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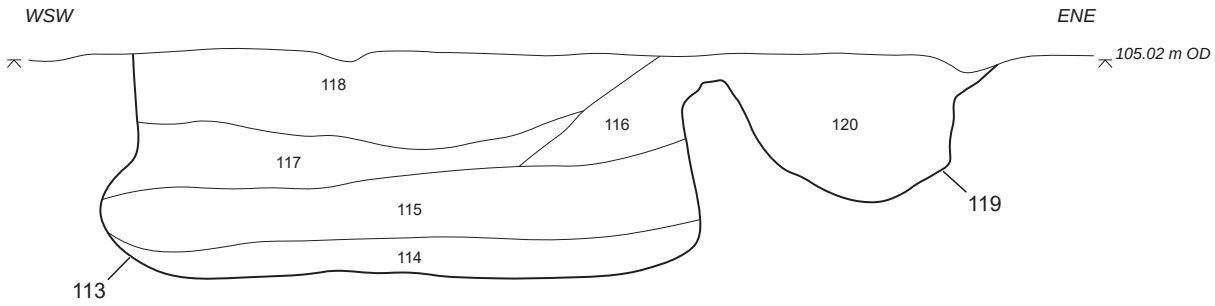
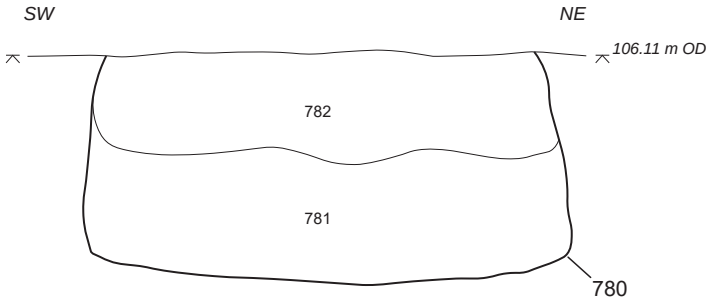
Scale:	1:20 @ A4	Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07		

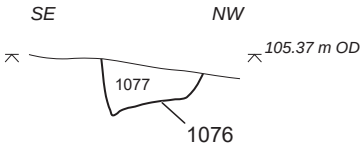
South south-east facing section through Early/Middle Iron Age pit 113 and Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1721 (cut 119), Area 1



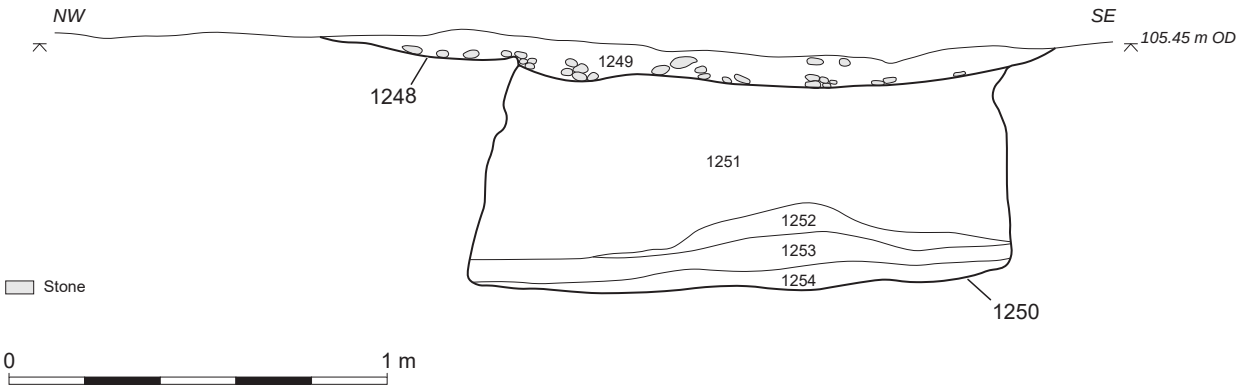
South-east facing section through Early/Middle Iron Age pit 780, Area 3



North-east facing section through Early Iron Age pit 1076, Area 4



South-west facing section through Early/Middle Iron Age pit 1250, sealed by trackway metalling 1797 (1248), Area 4



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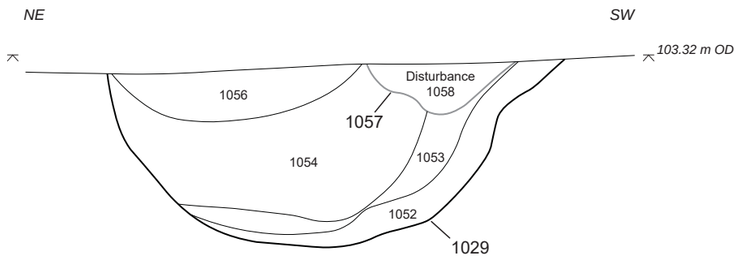
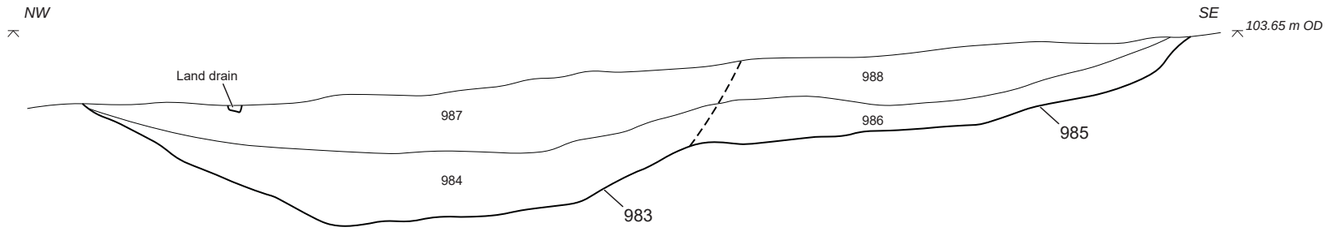
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07		

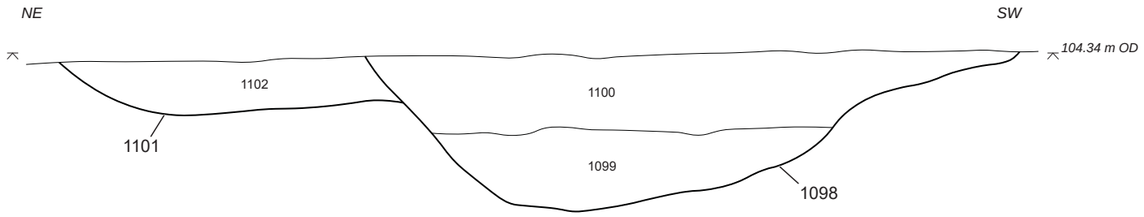
North-west facing section through probable (Early?) Iron Age enclosure ditch 1790 (cut 1029), Area 4



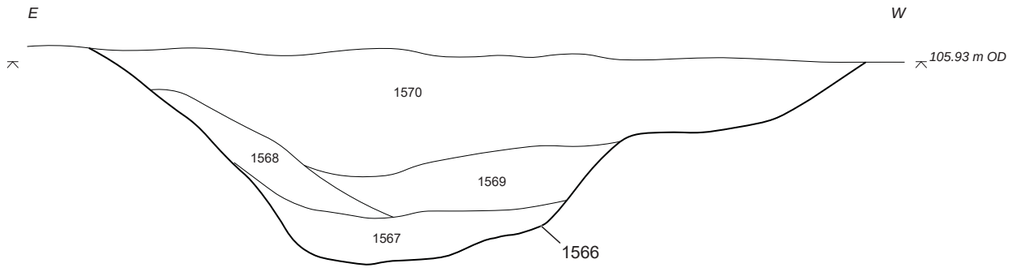
South-west facing section through (Early?) Iron Age ditch 1790 (cut 985) and trackway ditch 1786 (cut 983)



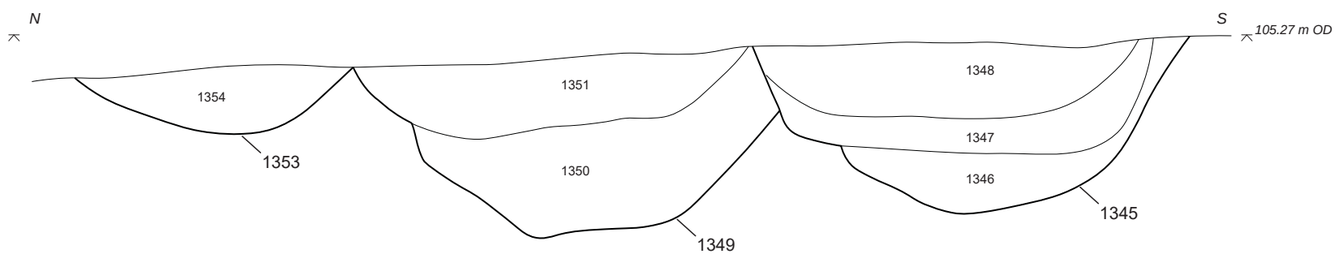
North-west facing section through probable (Earlly?) Iron Age enclosure ditch 1806 (cut 1096) and pit 1101, Area 4



North-east facing section through probable Iron Age enclosure ditch 1812 (cut 1566), Area 4



West facing section through recuts of probable Iron Age enclosure ditch 1813 (cuts 1345, 1349 and 1353), Area 4



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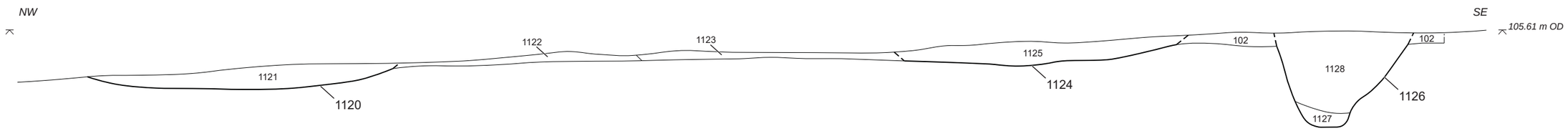
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07		

Sections

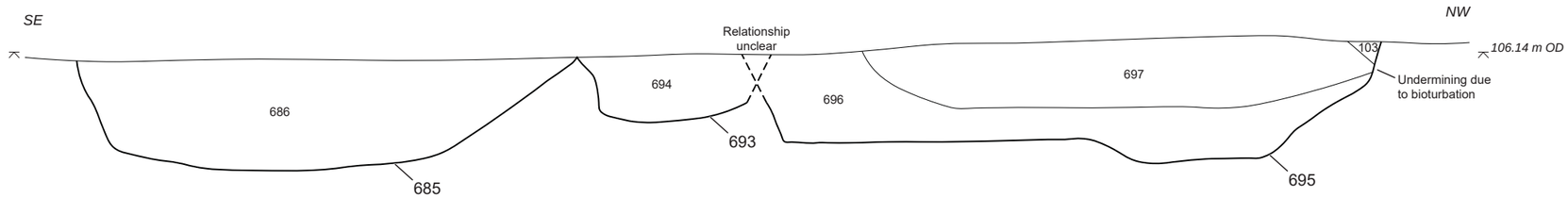
Figure 14

South-west facing section through trackway ditch 1795 (cut 1120) , trackway metalling 1797 (1122/3), possible ditch 1124 , remnant subsoil 102 and possible Early/Middle Iron Age pit 1126



South-west facing section through later iron Age/Romano-British ditch 1794 (cut 1603)
and possible Romano-British enclosure ditch 1830 (cut 1598), Area 4

North-east facing section through Romano-British enclosure ditch 1771 (cut 685) and quarry pits 1819 (cuts 693 and 695), Area 3



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Sections

Figure 15

Date:	10/09/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07		

Plates 1: South-west facing aerial view of the excavations (photo N Maw)

Plate 2: East facing section through possible late prehistoric unurned cremation grave 630, Area 3 (scale 0.5 m)

Plate 3: North-facing aerial view of Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gullies 1720–3 in Area 1 (photo N Maw)

Date:	10/09/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07		

Plate 4: South-west facing section through Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1720 (cut 139), Area 1 (scale 1 m)

Plate 5: South facing section through Early/Middle Iron Age pit 113 and Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1721 (cut 119), Area 1 (scale 2 m)

Date:	10/09/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07		

Plate 6: West facing section through Early/Middle Iron Age pit 338 and terminal of Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1721 (cut 336), Area 1 (scale 2 m)

Plate 7: North-east facing transverse section through terminal of Middle Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1736, Area 2 (scales 1 m and 0.5 m)

Date:	10/09/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\T21082\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Assessment\2020_09_07		

Plate 8: Vertical aerial view of Areas 1–2 and central part of Area 4. North-east at top of image (photo N Maw)

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	WAF/KJF
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Plate 9: North-east facing aerial view of northern part of Area 3, showing Iron Age roundhouse ditches/gullies 1772, 1776 and 1778, and Romano-British pits 1819 and ditch 1771 (photo N Maw)

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Plate 10: West facing section through Iron Age roundhouse ditches/gullies 1776 (cut 641) and 1778 (cut 643), Area 3 (scale 1 m)

Plate 11: East facing longitudinal section through terminal of Early/Middle Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1776 and Iron Age pits 597 and 601 , Area 3 (scale 2 m)

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Plate 12: East facing section through pit/posthole 645, part of possible four-post structure 1820 inside Early/Middle Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1776, Area 3 (scale 0.5 m)

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Plate 13: South-east facing aerial view of the excavations, central part of Area 4 in foreground (photo N Maw)

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Plate 14: South-west facing section through Iron Age ring ditch (possibly part of a roundhouse) 1808, Area 4 (scale 1 m)

Plate 15:North-west facing view of Iron Age post-built structure 1727, Area 1 (scales 1 m)

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Plate 16: North-east facing view of Iron Age rectangular post-built structure 1774, Area 3 (scales 2 m and 1 m)

Plate 17:East facing view of Iron Age beamslot and post-built structure 1773, Area 3 (scales 2 m and 1 m)

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Plate 18: West facing longitudinal section throughterminal of Iron Age roundhouse ditch/gully 1720 (cut 104) and Middle/Late Iron Age pit 106, Area 1 (scale 1 m)

Plate 19: South-east facing section through Early/Middle Iron Age pit 780, Area 3 (scale 1 m)

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Plate 20: South-east facing view of Early/Middle Iron Age pit 1250, Area 4, during excavation (scale 1 m)

Plate 21: South-facing section through Iron Age pit 1560 and enclosure ditch 1812, Area 4, (scale 1 m)

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Plate 22: East facing section through Iron Age quarry pit 1379, Area 4, viewed from the south-east (scale 1 m)

Plate 23: North facing section through Iron Age quarry pits 1814, Area 4 (scales 1 m and 0.5 m)

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Plate 24: North-west facing view of Iron Age quarry pits 306, 343 and 347, Area 1 (scale 2 m)

Plate 25: Articulated animal bone, dumped in one of several intercut Iron Age quarry pits (297), Area 1 (scales 1 m)

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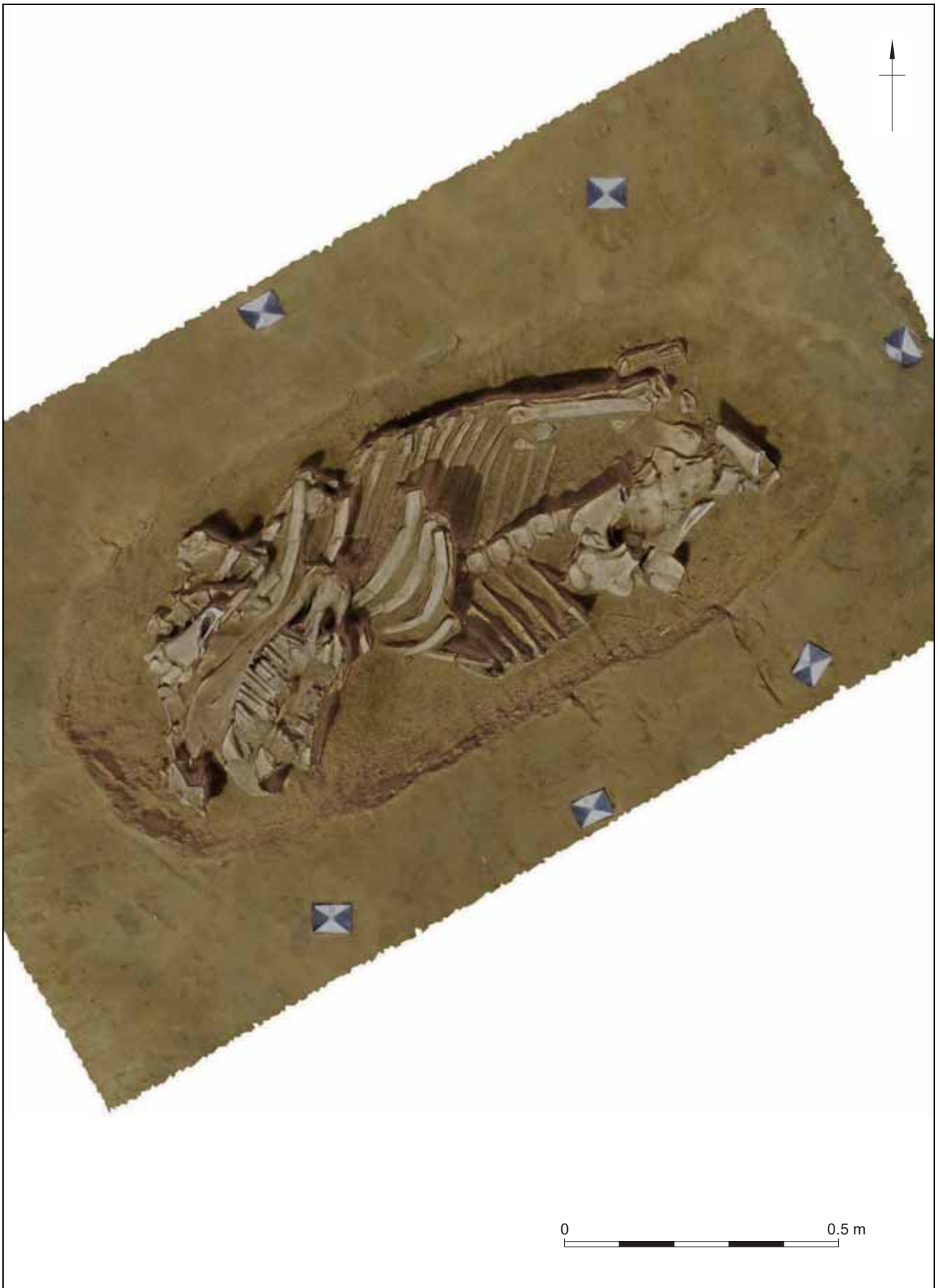

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Plate 26: Orthographic photogrammetric image of horse burial in pit 203, Area 1

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Plate 27: Orthographic photogrammetric image of horse burial in pit 384, Area 2

Plate 28: North-east facing section, viewed from the north, through probable earlier Iron Age, recut enclosure ditches 1796, Area 4 (scale 2 m)

Plate 29: East facing section through probable Iron Age enclosure ditch 1812 (cut 1483, Area 4 (scales 2 m and 1 m)

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Plate 30: Aerial view of western, central part of Area 4 (photo N Maw)

Plate 31: South-west facing section through probable earlier Iron Age ditch 1790 and re-cut trackway ditch 1793, Area 4 (scale 2 m)

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Plate 32: South-west facing section through trackway/enclosure ditch 1794 and possible Romano-British enclosure ditch 1830, viewed from the north-west, Area 4 (scale 2 m)

Plate 33: South-east facing section through trackway ditch 1786 (cut 886), Area 4 (scale 1 m)

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Plate 34: South-west facing section through metalled surface 1797, trackway ditch 1795 (cut 1120) and pit 1126, Area 4 (scale 2 m)

Plate 35: North-east facing section, viewed from the north, through metalled surface 1797 and re-cut trackway ditch 1795 (cuts 1180 and 1182), Area 4 (scale 2 m)

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Plate 36: North-east facing section through Romano-British ditch 1771 (cut 447) and ditch 1782 (cut 449), viewed from the east, Area 3 (scale 1 m)

Plate 37: South-east facing section through Romano-British enclosure ditch 1830 (cut 1595) and furrow 1815 (cut 1652), viewed from the south-west, Area 4 (scale 2 m)

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Plate 38: North-east facing aerial view of Area 4, showing Romano-British enclosure ditch 1830, enclosure/trackway/ land division ditch 1794 and furrows in foreground, and enclosure ditches 1812, 1813 and 1817 beyond (photo N Maw)

Plate 39: South-west facing section through intercutting Romano-British pits 1828 and Romano-British ditch 1771, Area 3 (scale 2 m)

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Plate 40: West facing section through Late Iron Age/Romano British pit 1621, Area 4 (scale 1 m)

Plate 41: Ditch 1813 (cut 1555), right tibia shaft fragment: 'fileting' marks in the anterior aspect distal end

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Plate 42: Ditch 1813 (cut 1555), right tibia shaft fragment: short chop mark juxta the distal end on the dorsal aspect

Plate 43: Ditch 1813 (cut 1555), right tibia shaft fragment: extensive smooth wear/polishing to broken distal end of the bone

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