Berry Hill Farm
Taplow, Buckinghamshire

Phase 4 Area 2 Post-excavation Assessment,
and Updated Project Design for all phases of excavation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Summerleaze Ltd to undertake a strip, map and sample excavation of 3.8 hectares of land (referred to as Phase 4 Area 2) at Berry Hill Farm, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, in April–September 2017. The recent excavation was the final stage of a programme of works that had included several previous phases of excavation (totalling an additional 4.7 hectares) and watching brief, as well as non-intrusive surveys and assessments, undertaken since 2004 (each separately reported). The investigations were carried out in accordance with a planning condition for permitted minerals extraction. The site, centred on NGR 491280 181690, lies on a gentle south-west facing slope approximately 700 m to the south-east of the centre of Taplow, 0.5 km to the east of the River Thames.

This report presents the provisional results of the recent excavation, and a combined assessment of the potential of all the phases of excavation to address the project aims defined in the written schemes of investigation. It includes an updated project design which outlines a programme of further analysis work to achieve the revised project aims, and the resources needed to attain the dissemination of the results via publication and the curation of the archive.

The excavations have produced evidence of human activity ranging from the Middle Palaeolithic (150,000–30,000 BC) to the post-medieval/modern period (16th century onwards), though the site was not continuously occupied for all this extensive time range. The focus of activity and settlement dates from the Early Neolithic to the Early/Middle Saxon periods, though it is in the later prehistoric period that the landscape is first organised, then subsequently re-organised (at least twice) in the Middle/Late Iron Age–Romano-British period, mostly for agricultural purposes, though settlement and funerary evidence are also present.

Early prehistoric evidence is restricted to the finding of an unstratified handaxe of Middle Palaeolithic date and limited evidence of pit digging in the Early Neolithic period. A segmented ring ditch and a continuous ring ditch in the north and north-east of the site and a penannular ditched enclosure in the south-east may represent funerary monuments of possible Late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age date, though there was no surviving evidence of associated mortuary deposits and recovered finds and environmental remains were limited (in both number and range).

It was during the later prehistoric period that the landscape was first divided into a series of rectilinear fields and though dating evidence is slight (and at times mixed because of later activity relating to landscape reorganisation), the origins of this belong to the Middle/Late Bronze Age, though parts may have remained in use into the Iron Age. A small number of pits and postholes and at least two waterholes appear to be associated with this field system, though no Bronze Age/Early Iron Age structures are discernible.

A Middle/Late Iron Age unenclosed settlement was revealed, represented by at least two roundhouses, and a large number of pits and postholes, as well as a considerable quantity and range of both artefacts and charred plant remains. A single inhumation burial was recorded in a pit/grave, associated with structured deposits of animal bone and other finds; a sample of the human bone was radiocarbon dated (SUERC-81911, 2154±28 BP: 360–100 cal. BC).

In the Late Iron Age, or possibly slightly earlier, the landscape (in the southern half of the site) was reorganised into a system of sub-rectangular enclosures. The presence of these was first indicated by cropmarks on aerial photographs, as recorded in the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record, and confirmed by geophysical survey undertaken as part of this project. Excavation has shown that these enclosures were remodelled again in the early Romano-British period but infilled by the mid-2nd century AD. The faunal remains, and the funnel-like arrangement of ditches likely to

represent droveways, suggest that livestock (probably cattle) may have been an important part of the economy during this period. Other recovered artefacts and environmental remains provide some information about other domestic activities including textile production; crop/plant-processing; butchery; leather- and bone-working; and metal-working (though the evidence in some cases for these activities is slight); as well as personal dress and diet. Small groups of postholes within some of the enclosures suggest four-post structures that may have functioned as possible granaries, and a number of pits were also present.

A more extensive field system created in the early–middle Romano-British period replaced the earlier enclosures. A corn-drying oven and the remains of a possible structure post-date some of these field ditches, with other ditches suggesting this system too was slightly modified throughout its use. It is likely that the focus of settlement in this period lay outside the site, with the uncovered features largely representing agricultural activity on the edge of a farmstead. However, some evidence of cremation funerary rites is also recorded, including a relatively rare possible *bustum* burial, though there is the possibility that this relates to the Late Iron Age–Early Romano-British phase.

There appears to be a hiatus of activity within the site in the late Romano-British period. Diagnostic late Roman pottery is very sparse and largely came from a small number of pits and ditches; three 4th-century AD coins were also recovered.

The discovery of five sunken-features buildings of Early/Middle Saxon date in the south of the site is regionally significant given the proximity to the rich 'Taplow' burial of 7th-century AD date approximately 600 m to the north-west and the limited evidence of contemporaneous settlement in the local area. Recovered finds and environmental remains indicate domestic activities taking place including plant-processing, butchery, antler-working and textile production.

No features of medieval date were present, with only very small quantities of pottery and CBM found, these probably representing the manuring of fields surrounding the village of Taplow that grew from early medieval times. A small number of field ditches in the central and eastern parts of the site are of post-medieval date, again with only a limited number and range of finds recovered. A number of pits, including some large probable quarry pits, remain undated.

The surviving multi-period remains situated on the Taplow terrace on the edge of the Thames floodplain are, overall, of local to regional significance. Further analyses focused on the stratigraphic sequence, the finds and environmental evidence, supplemented by attempts to better date this sequence through radiocarbon dating, is appropriate and will augment our current understanding of this part of the Middle Thames Valley. A programme of post-excavation analysis, guided by revised research objectives, is proposed leading to publication of the results in the form of a Wessex Archaeology occasional paper, a well-established series subject to academic peer review. A short article signposting the publication will also be prepared for inclusion in the regional journal, Following the completion of the analyses, the full physical archive from the project, subject to an outlined selection policy, will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum and the digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) to ensure its long-term curation.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology extends its thanks to Summerleaze Ltd for commissioning the archaeological excavations, in particular to Mike Lowe for his communication and assistance throughout the project. Wessex Archaeology is grateful for the advice of Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer, who monitored the project for Buckinghamshire County Council. AerialCam are acknowledged for undertaking an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) survey of the Phase 4 Area 2 excavation area.

Berry Hill Farm, Taplow, Buckinghamshire

Phase 4 Area 2 Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design for all phases of excavation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Summerleaze Ltd to undertake a staged programme of archaeological works in advance of quarrying on a site covering approximately 17 ha (centred on NGR 491280 181690) at Berry Hill Farm, Taplow, Buckinghamshire (**Fig. 1**). The site lies in an area of known potential for Lower Palaeolithic deposits within the Taplow Gravel terrace, as well as within an extensive cropmark complex of enclosures and field systems of late prehistoric to Romano-British date.

1.1.2 In 2005 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken along an access road to the quarry during which no archaeological remains were observed (Wessex Archaeology 2005). In 2006–7 two adjacent areas of the site (referred to as Phase 1 and Phase 2), totalling 2.56 ha, were subject to strip, map and sample excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2008a). Following these works, a desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken (Wessex Archaeology 2008b) prior to the consideration by Buckinghamshire County Council of a planning application for gravel extraction (planning ref. 08/01364/CM).

1.1.3 In 2012–2013 strip, map and sample excavations were undertaken of two area (Phase 3 North and Phase 3 South), totalling 2.15 ha, to the immediate west of Phases 1 and 2 (Wessex Archaeology 2013a; 2013b). In addition, two phases of geoarchaeological watching brief were maintained during the quarrying in the Phase 1 and 2 areas (Wessex Archaeology 2012; 2013c; 2016). Following these works a post-excavation assessment of the combined results of the Phase 1–3 fieldwork was produced (Wessex Archaeology 2014a).

1.1.4 In April 2014, a planning application (planning ref. CM/35/14) was submitted for an extension of the permitted extraction (referred to as Phase 4) into areas to the north, west and south of Phases 1–3. Phase 4 included an area of high archaeological potential at the south, containing a substantial enclosure complex. The application was supported by the report of a previous geophysical survey undertaken in 2007 (ArchaeoPhysica 2007), the Phase 1–3 assessment report (Wessex Archaeology 2014a), and an updated desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2014b). The application was granted in June 2014, with the following archaeological condition:

Condition 10

No part of the development shall be commenced until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to record and preserve archaeological features that are present at the application site and to comply with policy CS19 of the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

1.1.5 Between April 2015 and October 2016, the northern and western parts of Phase 4 (Area 1 (A–C) and part of Area 2 at the west), totalling 5 ha, were subject to strip, map and sample excavation (Wessex Archaeology 2017). The excavation of the southern part of Phase 4 (the larger part of Area 2), covering 3.84 ha, was undertaken during April–September 2017, the results of which are described in this report (see Results, below).

1.1.6 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with a series of project designs and written schemes of investigation (WSIs) prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2004; 2006; 2007; 2009; 2014c), following briefs prepared by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) (BCAS 2003; 2009). The WSIs were approved by the County Council's Senior Archaeology Officer, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing, and detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation programme.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary description of the results of the Phase 4 excavation, and a combined assessment of the potential of all the stages of fieldwork to address the projects aims outlined in the WSIs. It also recommends a programme of further analysis work, and outlines the resources needed, to achieve those aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results through publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The site lies approximately 700 m to the south-east of the centre of Taplow, 0.5 km to the east of the River Thames, between Maidenhead to the west and Slough to the east (**Fig. 1**). The site is bounded to the north, west and south by natural vegetation screening, beyond which lies agricultural land, playing fields and residential development. The site lies on a gentle south-west facing slope which extends from a height of approximately 36 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) in the north-eastern corner, to 30 m OD at the south-western corner.

1.3.2 The solid geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlying which are commercially viable depths of gravel and sand deposits of the Taplow Gravel Member (British Geological Survey online viewer). These sands and gravels form part of a large Pleistocene fluvial terrace of the middle Thames. Overlying the sands and gravels are heterogeneous deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay or 'Brickearth' deposits, sometimes referred to as the Langley Silt complex (Gibbard 1985). Thermoluminescence (TL) dating of the deposits in the Taplow area (Gibbard *et al.* 1987) has demonstrated that much of this material in the locality is secondarily derived Devensian loess, although it was noted to vary considerably locally. There is some suggestion that the Langley Silt complex contains both cold and warm stage deposits (Wessex Archaeology 1998).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail within the updated desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2014b), on which the following summary is based. This section excludes the results of the earlier archaeological works related to the development of the site (Phases 1–3), as these are summarised within the site assessment and updated project design (below).

2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

2.2.1 A number of finds of Palaeolithic flint tools and flakes have been recorded during the large-scale extraction of gravel in pits to the south-east of the site, while Mesolithic and Neolithic flints have been recovered 150 m to the north.

2.2.2 Features containing Neolithic pottery were excavated during fieldwork at Amerden Lane West and also along the route of the Taplow–Dorney pipeline which traversed the western part of the site. The former comprised a number of sherds of Neolithic Fengate Ware recovered from a tree-throw hole which also contained sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. The pipeline investigations recorded three pits at Site B containing Peterborough Ware (probably Mortlake sub-style), dating them to the Middle Neolithic, with a fourth pit probably also of a similar date (Hart *et al*. 2011, 39).

2.2.3 Site A of the Taplow–Dorney pipeline contained a large number of pits and postholes associated with a Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age settlement bounded by a single ditch: two Late Bronze Age ditches were recorded in Site B (Hart *et al*. 2011, 39–42). A possible Bronze Age midden containing pottery, struck flint and burnt flint was recorded within a hollow at Amerden Lane East with another similar deposit at Amerden Lane West, located 2 km to the south of the site.

2.2.4 Large-scale excavations at Taplow Court, approximately 500–600 m north-west of the site, have uncovered evidence for a series of successive hilltop enclosures beginning in the Late Bronze Age (Allen *et al.* 2006). A large V-shaped ditch with a rampart and post-built palisade was constructed on the high ground east of the Thames which was in use between the 11th and 9th century BC. Excavation within the interior of the enclosure was limited, but nevertheless provided evidence of internal fencelines, possible roundhouses and four-post structures, associated with occupation layers which produced the majority of the artefactual material.

2.2.5 Following a hiatus in activity, the site was subsequently reoccupied in the Early–Middle Iron Age (probably 5th century BC), with the construction of a large U-shaped ditch which defined an area of high ground approximately twice the size of the earlier fortification, followed by the addition of an even larger, outer ditch which is less well dated. The timber ramparts of the inner ditch showed evidence of having been destroyed by fire, whilst the outer ditch remained open until the early medieval period (Allen *et al.* 2006).

2.2.6 Early edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show two linear earthworks running broadly east–west at Bapsey Field, to the south of Taplow Court. The 1899 2nd Edition OS map labels these features as a ‘British Camp’ and historically they have been assumed to be indicative of an Iron Age hillfort on the high ground. However, their alignment does not match the recorded course of the known hillfort ditches as excavated (Allen *et al.* 2006), and it is likely that they represent later features.

2.2.7 Gravel extraction at Station Pit to the south-east of the site uncovered a large pit containing Early Iron Age pottery and a saddle quern, indicating nearby settlement. The topsoil above the pit produced Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, and additional finds of Romano-British pottery and a 3rd-century AD coin were recorded elsewhere in the gravel works.

2.2.8 A cropmark complex of probable later prehistoric to Romano-British date is known from aerial photographs to lie within the southern part of the site (Bucks County Council HER ID 4551) and these have been confirmed by geophysical survey. The cropmarks have

been interpreted as comprising rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures, trackways, linear features and pits.

2.2.9 The Taplow–Dorney pipeline excavation uncovered a small number of pit features which contained pottery of Middle and Late Iron Age/early Romano-British date, along with a trackway and some field ditches dated to the Romano-British period in Area A. At the southern end of Area B, features included another trackway and a small number of pits/postholes interpreted as Romano-British in date (Hart *et al*. 2011, 10–16).

2.2.10 A number of poorly fired pottery urns containing 400–500 silver coins, dating from the late 2nd century AD and earlier, were found near Taplow Station, perhaps indicative of nearby settlement. Romano-British pottery was also recorded at The Walnuts, 300 m south-west of the site.

2.3 Saxon and medieval

2.3.1 No sites or findspots of Saxon date are recorded within 500 m of the site. However, a barrow containing a very rich 7th-century AD Saxon burial was excavated in 1883 and is located approximately 600 m to the north-west. Known as the 'Taplow barrow', this funerary monument stands in the former churchyard of the medieval St. Nicolas' Church which was demolished to make way for Taplow Court in the 19th century. A late 6th–7th century AD Saxon inhumation and the possible remains of a Saxon building have also been found nearby during the excavations at Taplow Court, together with quite large assemblages of Saxon finds from the upper fills of the U-shaped Iron Age ditch and outer ditch, suggesting occupation, and that the ditches and earthworks were still extant in this period (Allen *et al.* 2006). Bapsey Pond, some 800 m to the north-west of the site, is traditionally associated with St. Birinus, the first Bishop of Dorchester, who is said to have baptized Saxon converts there in the 7th century.

2.3.2 The manor of Taplow was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Thapeslau', derived from a personal name and the Old English 'hlaw', and interpreted as 'the burial mound of Taeppa', possibly the high-status individual buried within the barrow. The site of the medieval manorial buildings is currently unknown but it can be assumed that they would have been close to the original church of St. Nicolas which lay east of the Taplow mound, and would have formed the focus of early settlement within the village. Medieval pottery was also recorded at The Walnuts, 300 m south-west of the site.

2.4 Post-medieval and modern

2.4.1 Taplow underwent minimal expansion in the post-medieval period, with no evidence of any substantial suburban development prior to the 19th century. The immediate environs of the site appear to have remained predominantly rural in character for much of this period. The 1787 Taplow enclosure map records the majority of the land in the triangle formed by Berry Hill, Boundary Road and the A4 as open, unfarmed ground, labelled as the 'Town Field, for tythe of open field' giving the first allotment to the rector.

2.4.2 The medieval church fell into disrepair and the current church of St. Nicolas was built in the west of the village in 1828, shifting the focus of development. Many of the listed buildings within Taplow date from the 19th century and the rejuvenation of the village.

2.4.3 George Hamilton, 1st Lord Orkney, bought the neighbouring estates of Taplow and Clivedon in the early 18th century, remodelling the existing house numerous times. The estate was sold to Charles Pascoe Grenfell in 1852, who employed William Burn to remodel the house in its current Tudor style. Former lodges to the 18th century house

remain as 'South Lodge' 300 m south-west of the site, and 'Upper Lodge' 350 m to the south-west. An icehouse belonging to Taplow Court, demolished following building recording in advance of the Windsor–Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme, was located on the River Thames 1 km south of the main house

2.4.4 Early editions of OS maps show the site as a large open area south-east of the village of Taplow. The current boundaries of the adjacent parcels of land have remained largely unchanged since that date. Later editions of OS maps record limited change within the site, though increased residential development is evident within the wider environs.

2.4.5 There is documentary evidence of mineral extraction and quarrying at Taplow since the 16th century (South Bucks District Council 2007), and the early OS maps show a number of active pits. The Taplow Station pit, located to the south-east of the site, is thought to have been opened for the construction of the Great Western Railway.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavations, as stated in the project designs and WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2004; 2006; 2007; 2009; 2014c) were in compliance with the CIfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a).

Phases 1–3

3.1.2 The general aim of the Phases 1–3 excavation was:

- To investigate and undertake excavation to establish the extent (where possible), date, character, relationship, condition and significance of surviving archaeological features, artefacts and deposits.

3.1.3 The overall aim of the Phase 4 excavation as stated in the WSI was:

- To undertake the mitigation fieldwork, analysis and publication of the results to a high academic standard, placing the site within its wider context.

3.1.4 In addition, the following research objectives were identified in the project briefs (BCAS 2003; 2009):

- To seek to locate and record any Palaeolithic deposits lying within the Taplow Gravels;
- To establish the chronology, layout, development and function (e.g. arable/pastoral) of any identifiable field system(s) and associated features (e.g. crop processing or storage areas);
- To interpret the results of the project within the context of current knowledge and research of the Middle Thames Valley.

Phase 4

3.1.5 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the research objectives of the Phase 4 excavations (Wessex Archaeology 2014c) were:

- To establish the location, extent, character, date, significance and quality of identified archaeological deposits, features and artefactual scatters;
- To undertake the characterisation of the nature of human exploitation throughout the site and how this changes through time;
- To enable a reconstruction of the changing environment of this part of the Thames Valley, in terms of its geomorphology, vegetation and climate;
- To assess the results of the fieldwork and to set out and undertake a programme of further analysis, leading to eventual publication of the results.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the project designs and WSIs (Wessex Archaeology 2004; 2006; 2007; 2009; 2014c) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using GPS, in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**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 natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 Where necessary, the surface of archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features such as tree-throw holes were also investigated.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from both 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, with the exception of burnt flint which was weighed, noted and discarded, a sample being retained for analysis.

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. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

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 OSGM15 and OSTN15, 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.

Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) survey

4.2.7 A UAV (or drone) was employed to take a range of aerial images of the site during the recent excavation in May 2017. The report front and back covers and **Plate 1** show aerial views of the Phase 4 Area 2 excavations.

4.2.8 The survey was carried out using a DJI Inspire 2 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) with a Zenmuse X4S camera. Photos were taken from a height of 67 m in parallel transects. The resulting ground sample distance was 1.79 cm per pixel. The survey was conducted in OSGB36 (15) and covered an area of 0.058 sq km and georeferencing was provided by the UAV's on-board GNSS system. The captured photographs were processed in Agisoft Photoscan to produce a 3D model. This was then scaled and positioned using the on-board GNSS data. The resulting error in the 3D model was as follows; X: 1.53 m, Y: 1.45 m, Z: 0.97 m, XY: 2.11 m, Total error: 2.32 m. The 3D model was used to generate orthoimages of the site.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2014c). 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).

Human remains

4.3.2 The human remains were removed under the terms of a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains held by Wessex Archaeology (Ref: 16-0079 dated 14th April 2016). The excavation and post-excavation assessment of human remains was in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols and undertaken in-line with current guidance documents (e.g. McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Planning Officer, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the works. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the Senior Archaeology Planning Officer.

4.5 Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

4.5.1 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated and checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into an Access database for assessment, which can be updated during further analysis. The excavation has been preliminary phased using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section consists primarily of the results of the most recent phase of strip, map and sample excavation – Phase 4 Area 2 (**Plates 1** and **2**) (it excludes the small northern part of Area 2 excavated at the same time as, and previously reported with, Phase 4 Area 1). The results are presented by period and a phased plan of the archaeological features is shown on **Figs 2**–**4**.

5.1.2 The Phase 4 Area 2 results are preceded by brief summaries of the previous phases of excavation, which have already been described in detail in the earlier interim assessment reports (Wessex Archaeology 2008a; 2014a; 2017).

5.2 Previous stages of excavation

Phases 1–3 summary

5.2.1 The earliest excavated features comprised two pits containing Early Neolithic pottery and flints, along with charred cereal remains and hazelnut shells (**Fig. 1**). A single pit with Beaker pottery (of Early Bronze Age date) was also found. Given the presence of residual Neolithic flints (and possibly also pottery) in later features and natural features, it may be that some of the undated pits across the site are also of Neolithic date.

5.2.2 The principal remains recorded are the ditches of a later prehistoric field system that was subsequently modified and added to in the Late Iron Age–early Romano-British period. Following the recent excavation (Phase 4 Area 2) these ditches are known to be a continuation of the field and enclosure complex to the south-west, with the later prehistoric field system also recorded to the north (in Phase 4 Area 1, below).

5.2.3 Among the ditches there were a number of other features including postholes, shallow pits and possible waterholes, most of them insecurely dated but many likely to be late prehistoric, and a well and a small square enclosure (of uncertain function) of Romano-British date (**Fig. 1**). No Saxon or medieval features were identified, and the latest features comprise a small number of post-medieval and modern field boundaries.

5.2.4 The excavation produced relatively small quantities of settlement waste, primarily pottery and worked flint, confirming the predominantly agricultural character of the landscape. There was very little surviving animal bone, and only small amounts of burnt flint and fired clay. However, a small quantity of ironworking slag, probably deriving from smithing, was also found.

Phase 4 Area 1 summary

5.2.5 The principal findings of the Phase 4 Area 1 excavation (which included the small northern part of Area 2 at the west) relate to two main phases of prehistoric activity, the earliest of which is likely to be represented by a segmented ring ditch of possible Late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age date (**Fig. 1**). A second, continuous ring ditch was located some 80 m to the north-west. Neither of these were securely dated and there was no surviving evidence for mortuary activity. Within the wider excavation area, small quantities of residual worked flint and Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from a number of contexts, including later features, representing a background level of activity contemporary with that seen within the Phases 1–3 area.

5.2.6 The second main phase of activity was principally represented by further ditches of the later prehistoric field system recorded to the south. Among the ditches were two possible

Middle–Late Bronze Age pits, five undated linear ditches or gullies, two undated pits. There were also two post-medieval pits and several natural features.

5.2.7 During this phase of work, as part of the initial ground investigations of the southern part of Phase 4 Area 2, an exploratory trench was excavated which confirmed the presence of archaeological features and an enclosure [Enclosure 3] that had been previously detected by the geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2007).

5.3 Site-wide phasing

5.3.1 The archaeological remains across the site are characterised in part by a complex array of ditches (**Fig. 1**). While these are relatively sparse in the northern half of the site (Phase 1, Phase 3 North, the small northern part of Phase 4 Area 2, and Phase 4 Areas A–C), they increase in density towards the south, so that in the most recently excavated area it is evident that there are multiple phases of ditches representing a series of overlapping field systems and enclosures (**Plate 1**).

5.3.2 Towards the north of the site, most ditches are orientated east–west or north–south and appear to form part of a field system of a single broad phase. This field system extends into the central part of the site (Phases 1–3) with the same orientation, but further to the south its main axis appears to change to approximately NNE–SSW. Also present in Phases 1–3 is a second set of ditches with their axes aligned broadly north-west to south - east and north-east to south-west, which to the south is closely associated with, but chronologically distinct from, an arrangement of enclosures, whose long axis are also aligned approximately NNE–SSW.

5.3.3 As a result, the three main phases of ditch construction evident in Phase 4 Area 2 all have similar orientations. While their phasing (and sub-phasing) is facilitated by the recorded stratigraphic relationships, by the spatial relationships between the ditch systems, and by the finds recovered from them, there remain several ditches of uncertain phase. The phasing presented below, therefore, is necessarily provisional at this assessment stage but may be clarified by further stratigraphic analysis.

5.4 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.4.1 The upper surface of the natural geology was variable across the site, but predominantly comprised moderately well sorted small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint gravel within a mid-dark grey brown coarse sand or mid-orange brown sandy silt matrix. Patches of mid orange brown sandy clayey silt (brickearth), containing occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles, were also exposed intermittently at the upper surface of the natural; this superficial deposit became thicker and more continuous towards the southern portion of the site.

5.4.2 Excavation of deeper features , particularly in the southern portion of the site, encountered deposits of a very loose mid yellow brown gritty sand within the natural gravels.

5.4.3 Probable colluvial deposits were encountered where the topography sloped away towards the southern boundary of the site. Some archaeological features were cut into this deposit and, therefore, machine-stripping was halted at this level. Three trenches were excavated into the colluvial deposits, showing they were up to approximately 0.4 m thick, and revealed that they masked earlier features (**Fig. 2** and **Plate 1**).

5.4.4 Above the natural was a subsoil, 0.3–0.5 m thick, comprising a deposit of well-sorted, homogeneous, mid orange brown to mid grey brown fine, sandy silt, with occasional small

to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded pebbles. This was overlain by a topsoil, 0.10–0.35 m thick, comprising a mid–dark greyish-brown, fine sandy silt loam with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles.

5.5 Early Neolithic

5.5.1 The earliest investigated feature was a single pit (5122) dating to the Early Neolithic, which was located in an area containing an abundance of Iron Age pits (**Fig. 3**). Pit 5122 was circular in plan, 0.44 m in diameter and 0.25 m deep with concave, steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The upper fill had probably been deliberately backfilled and produced an assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery: 44 sherds likely to be from a single vessel, a weakly shouldered/carinated bowl.

5.6 Middle/Late Bronze Age

5.6.1 A penannular ditch (6157) was identified in the south-eastern corner of the site (**Fig. 2**). The ditch had an internal diameter of approximately 17 m, the western terminal curving in slightly from its projected line. It was up to 1.8 m wide and 0.7 m deep, being deepest in the north-eastern quadrant, although considerably shallower in many of the excavated slots, most of which had a concave profile (**Plate 3**). Opposing terminals appear to define a south-facing entrance, approximately 11.5 m wide. Phasing for this feature remains uncertain due to the small and abraded nature of the pottery recovered (average sherd weight of 2.7 g). Dated sherds span the Bronze Age to Saxon periods; the largest component of the assemblage dates to the Middle/Late Bronze Age (41 g). Sherds that were only possible to assign a broad Bronze Age or general Prehistoric and Late Prehistoric date are also present, along with small quantities of worked and burnt flint. Later sherds of Roman and Saxon date are probably intrusive. It seems likely that the feature dates from at least the Middle Bronze Age, whilst an earlier prehistoric date cannot be ruled out.

5.6.2 Internal features were sparse with only two features recorded, and both were of different phases to the ditch. The penannular ditch cut through a shallow, undated oval pit (6135) close to its eastern terminal, and a shallow pit dated to the Romano-British period (6144: 0.65 m wide and 0.14 m deep) was located immediately inside the ditch.

5.7 Late Prehistoric

Field system

5.7.1 Ditch 4435 in the northern part of the excavation area (**Fig. 4**) is a continuation of a ditch (709) recorded in Phase 3 South which appears to be closely associated with a field system, considered to be of later prehistoric date (probably Middle–Late Bronze Age), recorded intermittently but extensively across the northern half of the site. Ditch 709 ran north to south, before curving towards the SSW, and this slight change of direction is maintained by other ditches of this probable phase further to the south. Another ditch (6295) in Phase 3 North is probably associated and extends this boundary approximately 100 m further north (**Fig. 1**).

5.7.2 Ditch 4435, which followed a slightly sinuous line for 78 m, was 0.3–1.0 m wide and 0.3–1.1 m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flat or concave base. Following a similar line between 1.5 m and 7 m to its west there was a second ditch (4433) which terminated 5.5 m north of ditch 4435. It was 0.2–1.5 m wide and 0.3–0.45 m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flat base. Both ditches contained small finds assemblages that included a single sherd of Late Prehistoric pottery, animal bone, fired clay and worked flint. Eight

sherds of Early or Middle Roman pottery from 4435 are considered to be intrusive given the later remodelling evident from the stratigraphic sequence.

5.7.3 The slightly irregular lines of these two ditches appear to have been continued further to the south, after a gap of some 30 m, by a series of similar ditches (eg, 6202, 6235, 6236, 6278; **Figs 2**–**3**) the lines of which are frequently obscured by later features.

5.7.4 Other apparently associated ditches lay perpendicular to the main, broadly north–south spine, as previously recorded in the central northern parts of the site (**Figs 3**–**4**). These include ditch 6205, the WNW–ESE line of which reflects the slight change in the field system's axis. It ran from the eastern edge of the excavation for 95 m before ending at a north-west-pointing terminal. It was approximately 0.7 m wide and 0.15–0.35 m deep with shallow to steep sides and generally flat base. Few artefacts were recovered, these including worked flints and pottery. The pottery has been dated to the Late Iron Age or early Romano-British period but was invariably small body sherds and the largest sherd came from an intercutting section and may be intrusive. Along its length ditch 6205 was stratigraphically the earliest feature and was cut by ditches belonging to later phases.

5.7.5 The identification to the south of further perpendicular ditches associated with this field system is hampered by the presence of numerous other ditches with similar orientation. However, ESE–WSW aligned ditches 6210, 6212, 6226 and 6227, also belong to this period (**Fig. 3**). Ditch 6226 produced the largest pottery assemblage with 49 sherds (419 g) all of which belonged to the same vessel, though none are diagnostic. A possible eastern extension to this field system is suggested by ditch 6198, some 36 m to the east of ditch 6226, with the gap between suggesting an entranceway. Ditch 6198 was cut by ditches dated to the Romano-British period.

Pits

5.7.6 Pits and postholes were a common feature across the excavation area and 16 have been phased as Late Prehistoric. There was a slight concentration in the central and western part of the excavation area, which may have been associated with the crossing point of two arms of the Late Prehistoric field system (**Fig. 3**). The features were generally circular or oval in plan, between 0.14–0.78 m deep, and contained small quantities of finds. A summary is provided in **Appendix 1**.

5.8 Iron Age

Structures

5.8.1 The excavation recorded evidence of two structures, probable roundhouse drip gullies, that date to the Iron Age, possibly the Middle to Late Iron Age. These structures were located within the Late Prehistoric field system indicating it may have continued in use; in the case of roundhouse 4985 the field ditches appear to respect the position of the drip gullies. The roundhouses were defined by penannular gullies which had internal diameters of 7.5–12 m, and structural postholes were identified in one. Excavation of the structures produced typical domestic assemblages that included Iron Age pottery, fired clay, animal bone and worked and burnt flint.

<u>Roundhouse 4985</u>

5.8.2 The possible drip gully of a roundhouse was recorded in the central part of Area 2. The near-circular gully (4985, **Figs 3** and **5**) ran from a terminal on the eastern side, around the northern and western sides, before being obscured by a later feature (5517) on the south side; the north-western end of a short length of gully at the south-east may represent the opposing terminal marking a 4.3 m wide entrance facing SSE. The gully,

which had an internal diameter of 11.9–13.2 m, was up to 0.5 m wide and 0.27 m deep, with concave sides and base. The finds assemblage (total 1 kg) included fired clay, worked and burnt flint, slag and Iron Age pottery; the largest group of pottery (201 g) came from the north-eastern terminal.

5.8.3 Three pits (4875, 4889, 4941) were recorded within the interior, but as there was significant number of similarly sized pits in this part of the site, it is unclear whether these were directly associated with the roundhouse; details of these pits are presented along with the other pits in **Appendix 1**.

Structure 6182/6279

5.8.4 Towards the south-east corner of the excavation area was a penannular gully (6182, **Figs 2** and **5**) with a 1.7 m wide entrance facing WNW. The gully, which had a rounded square shape, measured internally 8 m (WNW–ESE) by 7 m. It was up to 1.25 m wide and 0.6 m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flat base. Within the interior was a square setting of four pits or large postholes (group 6279), each positioned within approximately 1 m of the four rounded 'corners'. The setting was approximately 3.1 m square (centre to centre), the four pits/postholes averaging 1 m wide and 0.4 m deep with moderate to steep sides and flat or concave bases. Two additional postholes (6123 and 6129) were positioned 2.6 m apart, each 1.3 m outside the gully's terminals, probably forming a porched entrance. Another small posthole (6160) was also possibly associated.

5.8.5 The gully was cut on its northern side by Romano-British pit 5871 (1.2 m wide and 0.4 m deep), and on its south side by Middle/Late Iron Age pit 6089 (1.1 m wide and 0.55 m deep) and feature 6056 (0.83 m x 0.5 m x 0.36 m deep).

5.8.6 No pottery was found within the gully, but the pits/postholes produced Iron Age pottery, some of which may be more closely dated to the Middle or Late Iron Age; animal bone, worked and burnt flint and fired clay completed the finds assemblage. The pottery from the square setting of pits/postholes and the relationship of the gully to Romano-British pit 5871 indicate that this structure was probably part of the Iron Age settlement.

Pits and postholes

5.8.7 A total of 91 pits and postholes were dated to the Iron Age either directly or through spatial association with other features; a summary of these features is provided in **Appendix 1**. With the majority it was only possible to assign a broad Iron Age date, but 20 were phased to the Middle/Late Iron Age and six to the Late Iron Age. In plan the pits had either a circular or oval shape, and they varied in size from small shallow features to larger deeper examples (up to 1.3 m deep).

5.8.8 The pits were found across a wide area with noticeable concentrations in the areas surrounding roundhouse structures, particularly 4985 where 26 dated pits lay within 20 m of the structure (**Fig. 3**). A large flat bottomed, sub-circular pit (6283) that measured 2 m by 1.2 m and 0.67 m deep was located in the south-western corner of the excavation, close to a possibly later roundhouse (5571; **Fig. 2**). It had steeply sloping, concave sides that were undercut in places. The fills contained pottery generically dated to the Iron Age (310 g), as well as fired clay, some with wattle imprints, indicating a structural origin.

5.8.9 Pits were also found in intercutting groups, which spanned areas of 6–70 m^2 (**Fig. 2**). One such group, lying 25 m to the west of roundhouse 6182/6279, formed a 7 m wide linear band that spread across 15 m and represents repeated use of this area. A group of intercutting pits and postholes (6292), just inside the southern edge of the later Field 2 (see below), collectively measured 3.06 m by 2.75 m, with the deepest example at 0.5 m.

The single fill of the largest pit (5180) contained 78 g of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery. Several large fragments of millstone or quernstone, as well as both imbrex and tegula roof tiles, had been pressed into its upper fill (5187) and appeared to form a possible surface approximately 1.5 m x 1 m, indicating that the final infilling may be associated with a later Romano-British activity.

5.9 Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

5.9.1 The most recent excavation identified a complex arrangement of ditches forming overlapping field systems and enclosures. These had first been recorded from aerial photographs in the Buckinghamshire HER, and were confirmed by geophysical surveys which generally showed the broad outline of the enclosures but not their stratigraphic complexity or the large numbers of pits and postholes. These are of a broad Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British date and may have continued in use into the middle Romano-British period, in the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD. Two distinct phases of landscape organisation are suggested below, based on the stratigraphic and spatial relationships of the ditches and their finds assemblages.

Phase 1 – Enclosures 1 and 2

5.9.2 A pair of adjoining sub-rectangular enclosures – Enclosure 1 to the north and Enclosure 2 to the south – were recorded towards the northern end of the excavation area, defined by ditches with generally moderately steep sides and concave bases (**Fig. 4**). The enclosure ditches were probably in use during the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British period (1st century BC to 1st century AD). The lower fills contained Late Iron Age pottery, as well as pottery of a broader Iron Age date, and may serve to date the construction of the enclosure; middle Roman pottery from the upper fills suggests they had fallen out of use by the mid-2nd century AD.

5.9.3 The ditch (6268) forming the western sides bowed slightly inwards on the western side of Enclosure 1, and at the enclosure's north-west corner this slightly curving line was continued northwards for a further 2.5 m by a shallower ditch (6280) which then turned to the north-west and continued for 45 m beyond the edge of excavation; ditch 6280 was 0.35–0.63 m deep (average 0.48 m). It appears, therefore, that Enclosures 1 and 2 were established on the eastern side of this pre-existing ditch (6280), which was subsequently recut and deepened (as 6268); ditch 6268 was 0.95–1.1 m deep. If ditch 6280 had originally continued south (from its turn near the north-west corner of Enclosure 1) it had been completely truncated by ditch 6268.

5.9.4 A mixed pottery assemblage which included sherds of a broad Iron Age and early or middle Romano-British date came from enclosure ditch 6268. Two pieces of worked bone, a pin and awl (ON 152 and 153), were also found in the upper fills. Butchery marks and evidence of marrow extraction was noted on recovered cattle bone.

<u>Enclosure 1</u>

5.9.5 Enclosure 1 was trapezoidal in shape measuring internally 28–35 m (NNE–SSW) by 34–35 m (WNW–ESE), enclosing 1075 m² (**Fig. 4**). It had a 2.5 m wide entrance at its south-east corner. The ditch forming its eastern and northern sides (4432) had been recut (4436), to a shallower depth, mostly along its outer edge (**Plate 4**). However, only single cuts were recorded at the entrance terminal, and where the ditch approached the enclosure's north-west corner it cut ditch 6280 (above). Ditch 4332 was 2.2–3.7 m wide and 0.7–1.2 m deep, while recut 4436 was 2.1–2.3 m wide and 0.4–0.7 m deep. As the ditch at entrance terminal was only 1.2 m wide and 0.6 m deep it is possible that the

entrance had originally been wider, with the recut continuing beyond an earlier terminal to the north.

5.9.6 The southern side of Enclosure 1 (and the northern side of Enclosure 2, below) was defined by ditch 6281 (**Plate 5**), which ran perpendicular from, and was contemporary with, ditch 6268. It then turned at a right angle to the SSW before terminating on the northern side of the entrance of Enclosure 2. Ditch 6281 was up to 2.6 m wide and 1–1.2 m deep.

5.9.7 Enclosure 1 contained a small number of discrete features. These included two small clusters of postholes. One group (4120), near the north-east corner of the enclosure, comprised four postholes, up to 0.4 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep, in an approximately square arrangement (2.4 m square) and a fifth on the eastern side; these might represent a granary-type structure. Another, less regular group of five postholes (4121) of similar size, 12 m WNW of structure 4120, formed no obvious pattern. Both structures are considered to be contemporary with the enclosure and contained small assemblages of Late Prehistoric and Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery. In the south-east of the enclosure were two pits (4047 and 4134) dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period, while another (4144) to the north-west contained no datable finds.

Enclosure 2

5.9.8 Enclosure 2 was also trapezoidal in shape, measuring internally 33–40 m (NNE–SSW) by 30–33 m (WNW–ESE), enclosing 1156 m² (**Fig. 4**). It had a 5.6 m wide entrance midway along its eastern side. Its northern side, and northern part of its eastern side, were formed by ditch 6281 (above), and its western side by ditch 6268, which turned at near right angles to the south-east and then north-east to form the enclosure's southern side and the southern part of its eastern side, terminating on the south side of the entrance. At the south and south-east ditch 6168 was 0.95–1.2 m deep, comparable to the other ditches (6281 and 4432).

5.9.9 Enclosure 2 also contained small numbers of pits and postholes (**Fig. 4**). These included a setting of four postholes (a possible fifth was not excavated) within the entrance (6282), two in the centre, and another two just inside the two ditch terminals, probably representing some form of gate. There was also a loose cluster of seven postholes near the south-east corner of the enclosure, including three in a 4.6 m line aligned parallel to the main axis of the enclosure, and a tighter group of four, possibly forming three corners of a four-post granary-type structure, measuring 1.8 m by 2.7 m. Near the centre of the enclosure was a pair of postholes 1.9 m apart. Eleven pits within the western half of the enclosure suggest activity across the Late Iron Age to early Romano-British periods (4069, 4269, 4333 and 4350 date to the Iron Age; 4251, 4266 and 4327 are Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British, and the others are undated).

Phase 1 – Enclosures 3 and 4

5.9.10 A second pair of adjoined enclosures (Enclosure 3 and 4, **Figs 2** and **3**) lay some 30 m SSW of Enclosures 1 and 2, and shared the same axis. An exploratory trench had previously been excavated across the full width of Enclosure 3 (and extending into Enclosure 4) at the same time as the Phase 4 Area 1 excavation, as part of the initial ground investigations of Area 2 (WA 2017, figs 1 and 3).

5.9.11 The eastern of the two, Enclosure 3, was broadly comparable in its size and sub-rectangular form to Enclosures 1 and 2, and also had a probable east-facing entrance. However, Enclosure 4 – the northern part of its eastern side forming the western side of Enclosure 3 – was considerably longer and had a distinctly outwardly bowed western side.

The boundaries defining these enclosures comprised a more complex set of ditches, some of which were in places recut, the nature of which suggest clear modifications to the enclosures, with associated subsidiary ditches both inside and outside. The sequence of construction is therefore less easy to identify than with Enclosures 1 and 2. This is also hampered by a spread of colluvial material, which obscured parts of the enclosures' circuits.

5.9.12 Construction of the enclosure ditches probably occurred during the Iron Age, with modifications and recuts throughout the subsequent transition period. Where confidently identified, the lower fills of the earliest phase of the enclosures produced Late Iron Age pottery and pottery of a broad Iron Age date, whilst Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery was found in the upper fills. The later recuts showed evidence for having been backfilled, their upper fills containing early to middle Roman pottery, and this may provide an end date for the occupation and use of the enclosures.

5.9.13 The backfilling of the later recuts produced finds that suggest settlement and craft working debris. Along the northern boundary of Enclosure 4 a cattle burial (ABG 5061, **Fig. 3**) had been made in the partially infilled ditch (6255); other animal burials were found at the southern edge of the enclosure and include a near-complete dog skeleton and a partially articulated cattle skeleton (ABG 5982 and 6116, **Fig. 2**), both found close to the western terminal of a shallow ditch (6239). Elsewhere, fragments of quernstones (ON 113–114), a copper alloy pin (ON 101), slag, fired clay, CBM and burnt flint were retrieved from the upper fills.

Enclosure 3

5.9.14 Enclosure 3 was sub-rectangular, with slightly rounded corners, and measured internally 44 m (NNE–SSW) by 31–34 m (WNW–ESE), enclosing 1440 m² (**Figs 2** and **3**). Aerial photographs show what appears to be an entrance approximately midway along its eastern side, although this was not clearly revealed by excavation. Instead, what appear in the photographs to be slightly inward turning ditch terminals, some 4 m apart, seem to be linked to a less well defined linear feature, narrower than the enclosure ditch, perhaps associated with a gate arrangement or the later blocking of an original entrance. On its eastern side the enclosure is defined, north of its entrance, by ditch 6254. At the north-east corner, where it was 3.3 m wide, this turns to the north-west, cutting an earlier ditch (6250) following a similar line some 3 m to the east. Along the northern side of the enclosure, at least two phases of ditch cut were recorded (**Plate 6**), the less substantial (6254) lying on the outer edge of the earlier cut (6250).

5.9.15 Although a later pit/spread of soil (5517), 4–6 m wide, masked the central part of the enclosure's northern side, there are no suggestions that there might have been another entrance in this location, although it cannot be entirely ruled out. The two ditch cuts continued west towards the enclosure's north-west corner where there was a complex intersection of ditches. A section across the western end of the ditch, just before the intersection, revealed a single ditch cut, having relatively gently sloping sides and a steep narrow slot in the base. An aerial photograph, however, shows that the dark upper fills of the ditch along the northern side of the enclosure terminated just short of the intersection, and this may indicate only the ditch's original cut (6250), and not its recut (6254), reached the north-west corner, leaving a gap here of 2–3 m.

5.9.16 The original cut along the enclosures northern side appears at its western end to have turned, unbroken towards the SSW, but due to subsequent modifications of the enclosures it was not possible to trace this ditch further. The western boundary of the enclosure was shared with Enclosure 4 and it may be that the original northern ditches of

both enclosures (6250 and 6203) were adjoined. A section approximately midway along the western side again showed two phases of ditch cut, the recut (6255) largely truncating the original cut (6203), which here also had a steep narrow slot in the base, and again following a line slightly to the west. As the ditch approached the south-west corner, again only a single cut was recorded, presumed to be that of the recut.

5.9.17 At the south-west corner there was another complex set of intersecting ditches, although it appears that the main enclosure ditch (6255) turned to the south-east, along the enclosure's southern side. Here there was another spread of soil (5818) concealing the lines of some of these ditches, raising the possibility of an obscured entrance at this location. There is potentially greater evidence for an entrance here (than in the north side), suggested by the possibly inward curving line of the inside edge of the enclosure ditch (6255) on the western side of the spread, and also by the possible northward turn of a smaller, external ditch (6252), on the eastern side of the spread. The line of this small ditch was continued to east by ditch 6252 which mirrored the south-east corner of Enclosure 3 (ditch 6254) and continued to the NNE as ditch 6251. It is uncertain if these three ditches belong with the earliest phase of the enclosure, or – and perhaps less likely, are later additions.

5.9.18 A significant number of possible pits and postholes lay inside the enclosure, of which a small sample were excavated. Approximately 20 possible pits were recorded, mostly in the southern half of the enclosure, some of them in short lines. Four (5314, 5536, 5476, 5932) were excavated and produced moderate finds assemblages. The dateable material accords well with the earliest phase of the enclosure; pit 5476 contained Iron Age pottery, with Middle/Late Iron Age pottery found in 5932. Six possible postholes (not excavated) were recorded towards the western side of the enclosure, four of them in a rough rectangle (2 m x 1.75 m), approximately opposite the entrance, and possibly representing a granary structure. Four postholes were excavated in the earlier exploratory trench near the enclosure's north-east corner, although no comparable features were recorded during the excavation in this area. As a fifth posthole was recorded in the trench cutting the fill of the enclosure ditch, it may be that these five features were all later in date.

5.9.19 A short distance to the east of Enclosure 3 was a large, oval-shaped pit (5045) measuring 6 m x 4.5 m. The base was not reached but the feature was over 1.2 m deep and had straight, steeply-sloping to vertical sides; a small quantity of Roman pottery was found in the upper fills, along with CBM and slag. This feature was interpreted as a waterhole or gravel extraction pit.

Enclosure 4

5.9.20 Enclosure 4 was quite distinct from Enclosures 1–3, measuring approximately 100 m long (NNE–SSW) and up to 36 m wide (ESE–WNW), with a curving western side (**Figs 2** and **3**). In plan it appears to have been defined for much of its length by two parallel ditches 2.5–3.5 m apart. Excavation showed the enclosure to be of two phases, with the outer ditch representing the earlier boundary. Such reworking is evident in aerial photographs where it appears that the outer and inner ditches (6203 and 6257/6255) diverged midway along the enclosure's northern end, where there appears to have been a distinct gap between them, then converged again at the north-east corner. The finds assemblages from excavated sections supports a phased reworking of the enclosure. The enclosure's entrance may have been at its southern end, though a spread of soil obscured this part.

5.9.21 The earlier ditch on the curving western side (6203), which was 1.2–1.5 m wide and up to 0.35–0.55 m deep, ran north from a probable terminal at the enclosure's south-west corner (in Trench 3), gradually curving towards the NNE, then turning ESE at the north-

west corner, where it was cut by the more substantial inner ditch (6255) – approx. 2.2 m wide and 0.8 m deep – the later recut that formed the eastern side of Enclosure 4 (and the western side of Enclosure 3). Ditch 6203 continued to the east, though it is presently unclear whether it turned to the SSW forming the original eastern edge of Enclosure 4 (where it was only partially visible due to the later recut, 6255) or whether it connected with the original cut of Enclosure 3 (6250).

5.9.22 The southern end of the enclosure was also reworked and slightly extended southwards. The earlier phase was represented by ditch 6216, which shared a consistent curving line with the enclosure's western and northern sides. In the south-east it was cut by a later ditch (6238; see para.5.9.26 below) that was associated with the remodelling of the enclosure. The enclosure's western ditch (6203) continued beyond 6216 for 6 m and there is a suggestion on aerial photographs that it may also have turned to the east following the same curved line (**Fig. 2**). Two ditches (6238 and 6239) were recorded cutting the eastern end of 6216 and it is possible that one of these ditches relates to the ditch identified on aerial photographs.

5.9.23 The recut of Enclosure 4 (6255) was most substantial on the northern and eastern sides of the enclosure. The ditch had a V-shaped profile (0.8 m deep) and varied in width (1.1–2.45 m). The upper darker fills, visible in both aerial photographs and excavated sections, contained higher finds densities and in places may have been deliberately backfilled into the ditch (**Plate 7**). Significant deposits in this regard were found near the midpoint of the northern end where a cattle burial (ABG 5061) had been made in the ditch recut (6255). The animal was laid along the ditch with the head to west; the legs were bent and tucked in towards the body, and the spine was twisted so that the pelvis lay flat (**Fig. 3**; **Plate 8**). Around the northern end of the enclosure higher quantities of animal bone, pottery and other finds were found, and may suggest increased activity on this side – potentially the 'back' if the entrance lay on the southern side.

5.9.24 The recut extended part way along the western side of the enclosure, mirroring the slight curve of the earlier ditch. In its southern part ditch 6255 shallowed to 0.45 m deep but its line was continued to the south of spread 5515 by a smaller ditch (6257; **Fig. 2**) with a similar fill. Approximately 26 m to the south of ditch 6257 a less substantial ditch (6244) may also be associated.

5.9.25 As noted above, the eastern side of Enclosure 4 (the western side of Enclosure 3) had been recut for parts of its length at the north, but to the south only a single cut (probably recut 6255) was recorded. Where this ditch approached the south-west corner of Enclosure 3 it did not initially follow a straight line but curved slightly eastwards following the line of Enclosure 3. However, the eastern side of Enclosure 4 was continued to the south beyond this by ditch 6238, which may indicate that it was an addition to the already existing Enclosure 3. Approximately 8 m to the south of Enclosure 3, the course of ditch 6238 was obscured by a spread of soil (5818/5848) and an extensive cluster of intercutting pits, but its course was picked up further to the south beyond this. As it approached the southern edge of the excavation, it turned at right angles to the west (as ditch 6239). The significance of ditch 6239 may be reflected by the fact that the near-complete skeleton of a dog (ABG 6116), and a partially-articulated cattle skeleton (ABG 5982) consisting of the skull, spine and several ribs, were found close to its western terminal (**Plates 9** and **10**), this perhaps defining an 18 m wide entrance at the south end (with the south end of ditch 6203 marking the opposing terminal). It can be noted that Enclosure 4 had significant animal bone deposits at both its northern and southern ends.

5.9.26 The interior of Enclosure 4 contained various pits and postholes. Fifteen of these were excavated, though only one of the pits (5739) produced a significant finds assemblage, the remainder either undated or containing few finds. Pit 5739, a large sub-circular feature with steep, near-vertical sides (1.28 m deep) contained a number of charcoal-rich and rapidly-deposited fills (**Plate 11**). Pottery of Middle/Late Iron Age date, a loomweight (ON 142) and fragments of worked antler (ON 140) were recovered. Within the pottery assemblage, six bead rim jars with intricate decorative schemes were represented, and several cross-context joins were identified, the presence of which suggests that material was probably being gathered up from nearby sources and intermittently dumped within the pit, possibly from middens or settlement/industrial areas. Environmental samples (176–183) were taken from these deposits (see below).

5.9.27 An extensive spread of intercutting pits lay partially within the enclosure, towards its south-eastern corner. The pits were sealed by a soil layer (5818) and, where excavated, contained pottery of Iron Age and Roman-British date. A cluster of postholes were located close to the northern edge of the enclosure, but no discernible structures were identified. A four-post structure was located centrally towards the southern end of the enclosure, but was not excavated; spatially it may be related to either Enclosure 4 or the later rectilinear fields.

5.9.28 Other ditches (5506, 6243, 6245 and 6246) investigated in the northern half of Enclosure 4 probably represent internal spatial divisions belonging to the same broad phase as the enclosure. One ditch (6256), running down the eastern side of the enclosure for 52 m, was stratigraphically earlier than the recut (6255), while the rectilinear layout formed by the other four ditches appears to have been associated with 6256.

Inhumation burial

5.9.29 A single inhumation burial was recorded, associated with a grave/pit (5096) located close to the intersection of several ditches of different phases (**Fig. 3** and **Plates 12**–**13**). This feature was recorded to cut infilled Late Prehistoric ditch 6202 to the east, and Late Iron Age/early Romano-British ditch 6263 to the west, although the latter relationship is somewhat uncertain. The grave/pit was oval in plan, measuring 1.5 m long (NE–SW), 1.2 m wide and 0.4 m deep, with steep, concave sides and a flat base. It also cut what appeared to be an earlier small pit which survived as a shallow circular cut, 0.4 m wide and 0.08 m deep, in the base of the grave.

5.9.30 A sample from the femur was submitted for radiocarbon dating and returned a date of 2154 ± 28 BP (SUERC-81911, 360–100 cal. BC at 95% confidence; section 8 below), suggesting a Middle–Late Iron Age date. This date raises some issues with the archaeological phase of the burial. On stratigraphic grounds the burial lies within the Iron Age to Romano-British phases of activity, and pottery recovered from the grave has been provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age or early Romano-British periods. It was recorded in the field that the pit/grave cut Romano-British ditch 6263, but there remains some uncertainty over this relationship and, therefore, it is considered questionable at this stage, particularly in light of the radiocarbon date. Further clarification of the stratigraphic sequence and the date of the pottery and other associated finds during analysis may allow for more accurate phasing of the feature.

5.9.31 The grave contained the remains of an inhumation burial (5095) of a young adult male lying flexed on left side; the upper body had slumped back into a supine position with the head towards the east (see human bone, section 6.12). There was a charcoal-rich deposit in the base of the grave/pit (sealing the fill of the earlier pit). Several objects were found

within the feature's deliberate backfill (5097; **Plates 12**–**13**) that may have been deliberately placed around the burial.

5.9.32 A chalk fragment (ON 112) lay close to the right hand. This hand was initially concealed below a large lump of natural ironstone that, on removal, revealed a partially-complete cattle skull (ON 111) which the hand appeared to have been gripping, with some fingers above it and others below. There were also two large flint nodules, one of which was burnt, placed near the feet. Numerous pieces of animal bone, forming a loosely dispersed group (including a second cattle skull and mandibles of both horse and cattle) had been deposited on the northern side of the skeleton; other finds included fired clay, pottery (of Late Iron Age–early Romano-British date), stone and worked and burnt flint (totalling some 49 kg). Above the burial a further finds-rich deposit completed the infilling of the grave, this deposit containing just under 9 kg of artefacts including animal bone, fired clay, pottery (of Late Iron Age–early Romano-British date), stone, worked and burnt flint.

5.10 Romano-British

5.10.1 The excavations have identified a range of features that are more securely dated to the Romano-British period, including a corn-drying oven, a well, structures and field ditches (**Figs 2**–**4**). These features are located across the Late Iron Age to early Romano-British enclosures and may have, to some level, been contemporary with the later use of these or with elements of the Phase 2 field system. However, it is also clear that some of the structures post-date the field system as they were dug into the top of the infilled ditches. The recovery of early to middle Romano-British pottery from backfilled layers in the top of Enclosures 3 and 4 may be significant in this regard and suggests that the Romano-British occupation included the backfilling/dumping of rubbish from domestic and craft activities in earlier enclosure ditches.

Phase 2 – Field system

5.10.2 The arrangement of the Phase 1 enclosures was replaced and in places overlain by a more extensive but generally less regular arrangement of rectilinear field ditches. Although later than the enclosure ditches, many of the field ditches appear to have been laid out with reference to them, and they share the same overall alignment. Some of the Phase 2 ditches, such as the northern end of Enclosure 1, and connected ditch 6280, may have continued in use and been incorporated within the later field system. Because the post-enclosure field system appears to have undergone phases of modification and reorganisation, there are a number of ditches which cannot be securely phased. Finds from the field system ditches span the Middle Neolithic to middle Romano-British period, such a wide range of material reflecting the multi-period nature of activity on the site. The current interpretation suggests that these field systems belong to the Romano-British phase, with earlier material presumably residual, whereas the middle Roman pottery may represent specific backfills into portions of the field system that remained at least partially open into the late 2nd century AD.

5.10.3 The stratigraphically relatively late date of this field system is indicated most clearly by the ditches of Enclosure 5, a rectangular enclosure or field that cut the southern parts of Enclosures 3 and 4 (**Fig. 2**). This enclosure was not physically connected to any of the ditches of the post-enclosure field system and has more of the character of a distinct enclosure rather than a field. Enclosure 5 was defined by ditch 6241 along the north-western, north-eastern and part of its south-eastern sides, and by ditch 6240 around the remainder of its extent. It was 51–53 m long (WNW–ESE) by 32–38 m wide (NNE–SSW), with a 5 m wide entrance midway along its eastern end, and a 3 m wide gap at its south-western corner. Although only relatively shallow, at 0.5 m deep, a rich finds assemblage

was recovered that included a copper alloy ear scoop (ON 144) and dumps of pottery, CBM and animal bone. Amongst the pottery were substantial parts of an Oxford white ware mortaria and greyware vessels that date to the 2nd century AD.

5.10.4 Approximately 8 m to the west of Enclosure 5 was a smaller, rectangular enclosure or field (Field 1; **Fig. 2**), 37–39 m long (WNW–ESE) by 26–27 m wide (NNE–SSW), defined by ditch 6260 along its eastern side, its northern terminal cutting an earlier corn-drying oven (6289), and by ditch 6231 around the other three sides. It had two entrances, one 6.5 m wide near the south-eastern corner, and the other almost 8 m wide at its north-eastern corner; an earlier, much narrower (1.5 m wide) entrance appears to have existed here (see below). Pottery from the field's ditches included early to middle Roman wares (1.2 kg) and sherds that could only be assigned a broad Romano-British date (1.2 kg). Within Field 1, smaller ditches may represent an earlier phase of the field, or internal divisions that separated the area into two. A short length of gully (6234) was slightly off-set from the south-eastern entrance and the terminal of a curving gully that led from the north-eastern entrance. This arrangement may have been a staggered entrance used to control the movement of animals.

5.10.5 The north-eastern entrance connected Field 1 to another of comparable size, Field 2 (33–35 m long by 28–29 m wide, **Fig. 3**) that abutted it to the north. Field 2 was defined by ditch 6231 on its southern side, ditch 6229 on its western side and, with 5223, also on its northern side, with ditch 6261 to the east. The shared entrance of these two fields also gave access to the east.

5.10.6 As with Field 1 to the south, Field 2 also had an 8 m wide break at its north-eastern corner. This led to a less regular arrangement of ditches appearing to define a smaller field, possibly subdivided or modified through the 1st–2nd century AD. The ditches along the eastern side of this smaller field were aligned south-west to north-east, reflecting the relative positions of Enclosures 2 and 4, and there was a complex set of ditches in the space between the enclosures that are hard to interpret, but clearly represent a number of phases of field reorganisation in this area.

5.10.7 Ditch 6208 that formed the north-eastern side of this complex of smaller fields turned (at the south-east) towards the north-east and followed a slightly curving line around the outside of Enclosure 2, forming two sides of another, larger field (**Figs 3** and **4**). This field was defined by ditch 6207 on the north-west side, which also lay just outside Enclosure 2, and by ditch 6269 to the north-east which extended north-west to south-east across the earlier enclosure, before turning north-east, parallel with ditch 6268 and just 2–3 m beyond it. Ditch 6208 contained 1.5 kg of Romano-British pottery, of which 900 g was dated as early or middle Romano-British.

5.10.8 Ditch 6208 also continued beyond these fields towards the north-west, as did a parallel ditch (6206) 16 m to its north, probably indicating the extension of this field system to the west. It is possible that some of the ditches defining Enclosure 1, as well as ditch 6208 which ran north-west from it, continued in use in this phase, as they broadly follow the layout of the field system ditches in this area. Pottery from across the field system spans the Late Prehistoric to middle Romano-British periods and reflects the multi-period nature of the occupation overall, though the date of pottery from key elements such as Enclosure 5 (2nd century AD) and ditch 6208 (early–middle Romano-British) and Field 1 (early–middle Romano-British) support a Romano-British date for this field system.

5.10.9 The field system also continued further to the north-east, having been previously revealed during the excavations of Phases 1, 2 and 3 South, and was represented primarily by

three long parallel ditches (**Fig. 1**). The longest and westernmost of these (6296) was recorded running north-west to south-east for 100 m before turning to the north-east for a further 150 m, then curving NNW. There were a number of breaks along its length, some, as at the south-west, possibly the result of truncation. The slightly bowed SW–NE line of ditch 6296 was matched by two parallel ditches – ditch 6293 25 m to the south-east, and ditch 6294 a further 13–14 m beyond this. At their north-eastern ends ditches 6293 and 6294 turned towards the east, in the latter this appearing to be a later remodelling. Together with ditch 6296 these created a funnel-like arrangement at the end of what may have been a 25 m wide droveway. It is unclear whether ditches 6293 and 6294 were contemporary or whether one replaced the other, either widening or narrowing the droveway.

5.10.10 At its southern end the droveway opened out into the north-eastern corner of a large sub-rectangular open space, bounded by Enclosure 5 at its southern end and by fields on the other three sides; these included, on its eastern side, a set of fields extending beyond the eastern edge of the excavation (**Fig. 3**). This open area was approximately 160 m long, aligned NNE–SSW, at least 47 m wide at the northern end but increasing to 88 m in width at its southern end. It had a number of possible entrance points leading off in various directions, into or between the surrounding fields. These included a 28 m wide gap at the south-east corner, between Enclosure 5 and the fields extending to the east, suggesting a continuation of the of the routeway in this part of the site

5.10.11 The array of ditches on the eastern side of the open area was quite irregular in its layout but appears to have comprised long fields flanking the eastern side of the open area and the southward continuation of the droveway. As with the other fields, these fields also appear to have undergone changes over time (**Fig. 3**). At the north-east corner of Area 2 there was a series of fields with breaks in their ditches allowing access from the north. The easternmost of these is defined on its western side by a curved ditch (6215), comparable to the curved line of ditch 6208 on the western side of the open area. Ditch 6215 may have been superseded or added to by ditches 6213 and 6218 which encroached further into the open area.

5.10.12 Close to the eastern edge of the excavation, ditch 6214 had the same alignment as the easternmost of the droveway ditches (6294) in Phase 2 to the north. Ditch 6214 lay broadly parallel to 6218 and its alignment was continued to the south by an unexcavated gully and ditch 6197, suggesting narrow rectangular fields and perhaps also indicating that the open space and the droveway were encroached upon over time

5.10.13 Further to the south, a rectilinear arrangement of ditches (6247–6249) enclosed an area measuring approximately 60 m x 17.5 m and indicates the continuation of this Phase 2 field system (**Fig. 2**). The ditches appeared to frame earlier penannular ditch (6157) at their southern extent; whether this was deliberate is uncertain, but the penannular ditch may still have been visible as a low mound and/or partially infilled ditch at the time of the laying out of the field system.

5.10.14 Dating of the eastern field system ditches accords well with other ditches of the field system, with Late Iron Age to middle Romano-British pottery found throughout. The largest pottery assemblage (1.2 kg) came from ditch 6217 and included a bowl from the Alice Holt kilns on the Hampshire Surrey border, and indicates an early to middle Romano-British date. Amongst the other finds were a quernstone (ON 98), a loomweight (ON 96), CBM and animal bone.

5.10.15 Later modifications to this field system were apparent in the west of the excavation area. Ditch 6211 formed a T-shaped arrangement and appears to have been laid out over the infilled ditches of Field 2, with which it shared a similar, slightly offset, alignment. It contained predominately Roman pottery, which included middle Roman (AD140–200) sherds, and a 4th-century AD coin (ON 123) was found midway along the ditch. As suggested above, the arrangement of these ditches accords well with that of the slightly earlier field ditches, and it is possible that elements of the earlier system continued in use into the middle Romano-British period whilst in other places new ditches were added.

Structures

Corn-drying oven 6289

5.10.16 At the north-eastern corner of Field 1 was the remains of a corn-drying oven (6289; **Fig. 2** and **Pl. 14**) within construction cut 5544, with a stokehole (5494) at the northern end. The corn-drying oven was cut into curving ditch 6232 and its eastern side was heavily truncated by the northern terminal of Phase 2 field ditch 6260, but the masonry wall forming its western side remained largely intact. The wall of the oven's chamber/flue, which was 3 m long, 0.6 m wide and 0.4 m deep, consisted of random courses of reused and fragmentary Romano-British tiles (including *imbrex* and *tegula* roof tiles) laid flat. The edges of the abutting tiles formed the facing of the wall, which was approximately ten courses high and bonded with an orange/brown sandy clay. Behind this lay a rubble core of large flint nodules bonded using the same clay material. The northern end of the chamber/flue was lined with clay and contained thicker deposits of charcoal than the rest of the feature, with the natural gravel below the charcoal scorched red. The stokehole contained conjoining fragments of several vessels dating to the early and middle Romano-British periods, including around 50% of one vessel, with sherds belonging to a flagon and parts of an imported Gaulish vessel and poppy head beaker. Environmental samples 166–168 were taken from this oven.

5.10.17 Corn-drying oven 6289 appears to have been built over the earliest phase of Field 1 ditch 6232 and subsequently cut by a later phase of ditch (6260) of the same field.

5.10.18 Lying approximately 4 m to the north-east of corn-drying oven 6289 was pit 6285. This was oval (3.13 by 2.6 m) with steeply sloping sides, the upper fills producing Romano-British pottery and CBM. The base of the pit was not reached during hand excavation, but it was augured to a depth of 3.5 m. Given the feature's depth it has been tentatively interpreted as a well; its proximity to the corn-drying oven might suggest the two features were contemporary. This appears to be supported by its spatial arrangement with surrounding features; pit 6285 seemingly blocks the entrance between Fields 1 and 2, suggesting that it is associated with a later (sub)phase of activity, like the corn-drying oven.

Structure 5218

5.10.19 Structure 5218 comprised an arrangement of three shallow beam slots, each approximately 0.25 m wide with moderately steep sides and concave bases, which appeared to form the northern corner of a rectangular structure measuring at least 2.4 m by 4.5 m (**Fig. 3**). Two parallel beam slots, aligned north-west to south-east, were 0.7–0.8 m apart; the third, perpendicular to them, terminated to the south-west with a possibly associated posthole (5139, which was 0.8 m in diameter and 0.12 m deep). The beam slots cut the upper fill of ditch 6262, indicating the structure may be part of a later subphase. The posthole contained no finds, but the beam slots contained nine sherds (117 g) of pottery, none particularly diagnostic, stone (26 g) and burnt flint (258 g). The

structure is assigned a Romano-British date based mainly on its stratigraphic relationship, as well as this being the latest date for the pottery recovered from it.

Structure 5771

5.10.20 A segmented penannular ditch comprising long segment 5772 and short segment 6266 was located to the south of Field 1 (**Figs 3** and **5**). A 5.6 m wide break in its NNE side suggests a possible entrance (associated with two postholes, see below), though there was also a narrower, 1.3 m wide break in the WNW side. The ditch segments, which enclosed an area measuring 8 m (ESE–WNW) by 6.5 m, were up to 0.9 m wide and 0.3 m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flat base.

5.10.21 Within the wider, northern break in ditch segment 5772 were two postholes (5695 and 5705), 3.4 m apart, 1 m to the SSW of which (within the interior) was a matching pair of short slots (5697 and 5725), each aligned parallel to the lines of ditches 5772 and 6266. In a similar position to these slots, on the south-western side of the interior, was a 3.7 m long curved gully (5773), concentric with ditch 5772. Gully 5773 was up to 0.4 m wide and 0.15 m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. As slots 5697 and 5725 were both less than 0.1 m deep it is possible that they had originally formed part of the inner gully, but had since been truncated, although their position suggests that they were associated with the wide probable entrance on the northern side. A short length (2.2 m) of shallow gully (5757), outside the western break in the ditch and partly blocking it, may have been associated.

5.10.22 The structure produced a fairly large finds assemblage given the depth of the features, with a total of 2.5 kg recovered, including pottery, worked and burnt flint, fired clay and animal bone. The pottery was predominately of Romano-British date, with middle Roman pottery found in the outer ditch (5772). Its proximity to Field 1 ditch 6231 may suggest the structure predates this later phase of enclosure, and the structure may instead have been contemporary with an earlier phase of the field or the corn-drying oven 6289.

Pits

5.10.23 A total of 31 Romano-British pits and postholes were identified, with a further eight pits dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British phase (**Appendix 1**). These features were generally located within the later field system, with a slight focus towards Field 1. The pits were of varying size and shape and probably had functions that included small to medium sized rubbish pits and wells or waterholes (see pit 6285 above). Artefacts recovered from the pits were of a domestic nature, although slag and some fired clay may also indicate craft activities. Artefact quantities vary, with some pits containing only small sherds of pottery whilst others produced large amounts of material; for example, 9 m to the south of structure 5771 a small sub-circular pit (5605, **Fig. 2**) contained a copper alloy penannular brooch (ON 135) and a large amount of pottery (3.4 kg) dated to the late 1st to early 2nd century AD. Late Roman pottery was recovered from three of pits and indicates that limited activity continued into the 3th–4th centuries AD.

Cremation burials

5.10.24 Close to the northern corner of the eastern extension to the Romano-British field system were three features that contained cremated human bone (see human bone below, section 6.12). One of these features is a rare example of a possible *bustum* burial (4400) – a pyre site with an under-pyre pit which also functioned as the grave; the second feature was a cremation grave (4257) and the third contained a cremation-related deposit (4421). The three features lay within 13 m of each other (**Fig. 4**). Though no conclusive dating evidence was found (only a single 2 g sherd of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British

pottery was recovered from grave 4257 together with some iron nails) these features are tentatively phased as Romano-British given their apparent spatial association with the eastern field system.

5.11 Saxon

5.11.1 Towards the southern half of the excavation area were five Early/Middle Saxon sunken-featured buildings (SFBs), in use at some time in the 5th–8th centuries AD (**Fig. 2**). The structures were of broadly similar form, comprising sub-rectangular or sub-square pits that ranged in size between 3.3–4.8 m long by 2.2–3.6 m wide, with postholes at the ends and/or along the sides of the pits. All five structures contained pottery, along with objects that included an iron knife and worked bone and antler. These features represent settlement and are particularly significant given the proximity of the rich 'Taplow' burial of 7th-century AD date approximately 600 m to the north-west at Taplow Court.

Sunken-featured building 5533

5.11.2 SFB 5533 (**Fig. 6**), 18 m to the south of SFB 5678, was the most atypical example, having no clearly associated postholes. It had a similar ESE–WNW alignment to SFB 5678, and the sub-rectangular pit was 3.3 m long by 2.3 m wide and just 0.13 m deep, with moderately sloping straight sides and a flat base. A possible structural posthole (5836) was located just to the west of the pit; its dark central fill perhaps representing a postpipe; a single sherd of Early/Middle Saxon pottery and animal bone came from the fill. The pit itself produced further Early/Middle Saxon pottery (182 g), an iron knife and a possible piece of worked bone (ONs 133 and 150).

Sunken-featured building 5678

5.11.3 SFB 5678 (**Fig. 6**, **Plate 15**), similar in form to SFB 5894, lay approximately 90 m to the WNW and was also aligned WNW–ESE. The SFB's sub-rectangular pit was 4.8 m long, 3.6 m wide and 0.25 m deep, with moderately steep concave sides and an irregular base. The northern side was almost straight, while the southern side bowed outwards. It had large postholes (5567 and 5565) centrally placed at either end, each approximately 0.5 m diameter and 0.6 m deep, and seven smaller postholes (up to 0.3 m diameter and 0.35 m deep) along each side. A large assemblage of Early/Middle Saxon pottery (3.5 kg) was recovered, which included sherds from a handled bowl, along with animal bone (931 g), fired clay, CBM, stone, and worked and burnt flint.

Sunken-featured building 5894

5.11.4 SFB 5894 (**Fig. 6**, **Plate 16**) lay 4.5 m NNE of penannular gully 6182, its long axis (like that of the gully) aligned WNW–ESE. It comprised a sub-rectangular pit, 4.3 m long, 2.9 m wide and 0.15 m deep, with moderately steep concave sides and an irregular base; 12 postholes lay around the inner edges of the pit, similar in layout to SFB 5678 approximately 90 m to the ESE. The SFB pit had a slightly bulbous WNW end where there was a large posthole or small pit (5880) at least 1.2 m in diameter and 0.53 m deep, this perhaps dug later to remove or replace a post; at its base was the remains of a smaller, possibly original posthole (5890), 0.38 m in diameter and surviving less than 0.1 m deep. Opposite this was a single posthole (5892), 0.33 m in diameter and 0.6 m deep, in the centre of the ESE end of the SFB pit. In addition, there were five smaller postholes along either side of the pit, these up to 0.3 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep. Pottery (991 g) from the SFB pit is of Early/Middle Saxon date, and the animal bone assemblage includes worked red deer antler (ON 151) and several axially split long bone shaft fragments.

Sunken-featured building 6287

5.11.5 The northernmost SFB, 6287 (**Fig. 6**), was represented by a sub-rectangular pit that was 3.3 m long (east–west) by 2.2 m wide and 0.4 m deep, with moderate to steep sides and a flat base; around its edge was an arrangement of six postholes. At the eastern edge of the pit, posthole 5376 (0.35 m deep) had a clear postpipe, while the opposing posthole (5388) at the west end had steeply sloping sides and was 0.46 m deep. Two further postholes (5379 and 5382) lay on the north and south sides of the pit and had similarly deep profiles (0.3–0.34 m), possibly indicating that the roof was supported by four posts. Just outside the pit at the west end was an additional posthole (5385), suggesting a repair or extra support; a shallow scoop (5391) in the base of the pit may indicate the position of a sixth, internal post. Although smaller than the other SFBs, its form suggests that SFB 6287 was a similar type of structure. A small assemblage (584 g) of Early/Middle Saxon pottery was found in the pit along with residual Iron Age and Roman sherds, animal bone, fired clay and burnt flint.

Sunken-featured building 6291

5.11.6 Some 90 m to the south-east of SFB 6287, and close to the south-east corner of the excavation, was SFB 6291 (**Fig. 6**). This comprised a rounded, sub-square pit (6189) measuring 3.5 m east–west by 3.2 m north–south and 0.35 m deep, with moderately steep concave sides and an irregular base. It had single postholes in the centre of its east and west sides (6191 and 6193, respectively), each up to 0.6 m in diameter and 0.8 m deep, and a third posthole (6195), 0.5 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep, in the north-west corner. The finds assemblage included Early/Middle Saxon pottery (434 g) and residual Roman pottery, with small quantities of animal bone burnt flint and CBM. This SFB was of a similar structural form to SFB 6287.

5.12 Post-medieval–Modern

5.12.1 The northern portion of the site was bisected by a modern gully, 4434, aligned east–west and extending across the entire width of the site.

5.12.2 It is possible that many of the undated, large, amorphous pits dug presumably to quarry gravel (para. 5.13.3) also belong to this period.

5.13 Undated

Structure 6274

5.13.1 An arrangement of undated postholes located north of SFB 5894, in the wide gap between Enclosure 5 and the field system on the east side of the site, may represent a post-built structure (**Fig. 2**). Four postholes (5898, 5936, 5970 and 5988), averaging 0.75 m wide and measuring 0.2–0.3 m deep, formed a regular square, with the posts spaced 3 m apart (centre to centre). Posthole 5936 was cut by a fifth posthole (5939), possibly a replacement or an additional support, or alternatively forming a pair with a sixth posthole (6162), 2.3 m west of the structure. None of the postholes contained any finds. The proximity of this structure to roundhouse 6182/6279 (10 m to the south) may imply an Iron Age date for what may have been a four-post granary structure.

Pits and postholes

5.13.2 Ninety-eight pits and postholes excavated across the site remain undated (**Fig. 2**). Of these features, 19 contained artefacts: the assemblages were generally small with animal bone, fired clay and burnt flint the most common materials. Tentative Iron Age and Romano-British dates have been suggested for five of the undated features and it may be possible, following further analysis, to assign phases to other features based on their

spatial arrangement and form. For example, four-post structure 6274 (see above) and a possible fence line (postholes 4601–4613) could belong to either the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British or Romano-British phase.

Large pits

5.13.3 The southern portion of the site contained three large, amorphous pits, presumed to be the result of gravel extraction, which were investigated by a combination of hand-dug sections and machine-excavated trenches. All three pits were cut into the infilled ditches of the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Enclosures 3 and 4: pit 5515 (16 m diameter), pit 5517 (14.7 m by 6.5 m) and pit 5159 (11 m by 9 m) (**Fig. 2**). All three pits were deep, with pit 5517 investigated to a depth of 3 m. Few finds were recovered from the features and are in all likelihood residual given the levels of activity seen in earlier periods, Prehistoric pottery and fired clay came from 5159 and a small quantity of Late Roman pottery (4 sherds 84 g) was found in 5517.

Colluvial spread

5.13.4 Covering the southern portions of Enclosures 3 and 4 (and much of the south/south-west part of the site) was a spread of colluvial material (**Fig. 2**). This material probably washed down the gentle, south-facing slope, most likely as a result of earlier agricultural activity during the earlier part Romano-British period. An area measuring approximately 26 m² was excavated into this colluvial material by machine, revealing two distinct layers, together in places up to 0.75 m thick. This revealed several intercutting Iron Age pits; collectively they covered an area of 14 m x 7 m, and had average depths of approximately 0.5 m.

5.13.5 In addition to this area, three east–west aligned trenches were excavated into the colluvial deposits (**Fig. 2**). Of these, Trench 3 revealed a possible continuation of ditch 6203, which was not investigated but followed a broad north–south alignment, and the terminal of ditch 6239, which was hand-excavated. Trench 1 revealed several features that were not excavated, and Trench 2 contained no features.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This section considers the finds from the Phase 4 Area 2 excavation. Finds from previous phases of work (Phases 1–3 and Phase 4 Area 1 and Area 2 north) have already been reported on (Wessex Archaeology 2014a; 2017); cross-reference will be made to these where appropriate, and quantities for all phases are included in the tabulated data. Statements of potential (see below, section 9.2) and recommendations for further analysis and publication (section 10.2) are based on combined quantities.

6.1.2 All finds from all phases of work have been recorded on a single database (Access), by quantity (count and weight) and by material type. Summary totals by material type are given in **Table 1**.

6.1.3 The assemblage from Phase 4 Area 2 largely replicates the material recovered from previous phases, but significantly increases the overall quantities, particularly for pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay, worked and burnt flint, stone and animal bone. There are also human remains from two deposits of unusual type. Finds range in date from Neolithic to post-medieval, with an emphasis on the late prehistoric to Romano-British periods. However, the current assemblage does also include a small Saxon component (pottery and bone objects), not previously seen from the site.

Table 1 Find totals by material type (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Material	Phases 1–3	Phase 4 (Area 1 & 2 north)	Phase 4 (Area 2)	Total
Pottery	381/2520	426/6232	8143/98,623	8950/107,375
Early prehistoric	*34/187*	*56/204*	*74/501*	*164/892*
Late prehistoric	*189/1271*	*357/5976*	*3347/28,265*	*3893/35,512*
LIA/RB	*154/988*	*11/35*	*4230/63,856*	*4395/64,879*
Saxon	-	-	*486/5956*	*486/5956*
Medieval	-	*1/12*	-	*1/12*
Post-medieval	*4/74*	*1/3*	*1/3*	*6/80*
Undated	-	-	*5/42*	*5/42*
Ceramic Bdg	21/516	9/704	443/169,269	473/170,489
Material	-	*2/485*	*405/165,824*	*407/166,309*
Roman	-	*4/206*	-	*4/206*
Medieval	-	*3/13*	*3/1126*	*6/1139*
Post-medieval	*21/516*	-	*35/2319*	*56/2835*
Undated				
Fired Clay	36/487	-	1850/67,276	1886/67,762
Worked Flint	121	135	330	586
Burnt Flint	180/4380	457/10416	1917/159,811	2554/47,350
Stone	3/274	2/339	272/46,737	277/33,350
Glass	2/6	-	3/4	5/10
Slag	2411 g	-	520 g	2931 g
Metalwork (no.)	1	2	258	262
Coins	-	-	*4*	*4*
Copper alloy	-	-	*10*	*10*
Iron	*1*	*3*	*244*	*248*
Worked Bone (no.)	-	-	7	7
Human Bone (wt.)	-	-	1035 g crem 1 inhum	1035 g crem 1 inhum
Animal Bone	36/44	1/3	8834/54,264	8871/54,311

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage (8143 sherds, 98,623g) provides the primary dating evidence for the site. It ranges in date from Early Neolithic to post-medieval, but its focus is on the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods (**Table 2**). Sherds from each context were subdivided into broad ware groups (e.g. flint-tempered ware) or known fabric types (e.g. Verulamium region white ware) and quantified by the number and weight of pieces. A breakdown of the assemblage by both chronological period and ware type is shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Breakdown of pottery by chronology and ware type

Period	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	MSW (g)
Neolithic	Sand and flint-tempered ware	44	317	
	Peterborough Ware	3	27	
	Flint-tempered ware	2	12	
	Sub-total	*49*	*356*	*7.3*
Bronze Age	Flint-tempered ware	25	145	

Period	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	MSW (g)
	Sub-total	*25*	*145*	*5.8*
Late Bronze Age OR Early Iron Age	Sand and flint-tempered ware	97	1370	
	Flint-tempered ware	6	162	
	Sandy ware	3	37	
	Sub-total	*106*	*1569*	*14.8*
Iron Age	Mixed temper (sand, iron, calc) ware	2030	16,619	
	Sandy ware	284	1574	
	Organic-tempered ware	150	1727	
	Sand and flint-tempered ware	161	1080	
	Grog-tempered ware	91	967	
	Flint-tempered ware	76	1631	
	Grog and sand tempered ware	29	434	
	Calcareous ware	23	69	
	Sandy ware	20	302	
	Shell-tempered ware	18	79	
	Mixed temper ware	15	161	
	Vesicular ware	15	87	
	Glauconitic sandy ware	6	63	
	Sub-total	*2918*	*24,793*	*8.5*
Later prehistoric	Sand and flint-tempered ware	133	738	
	Flint-tempered ware	146	1001	
	Grog-tempered ware	30	136	
	Sandy ware	11	17	
	Grog and sand tempered ware	1	2	
	Organic-tempered ware	1	8	
	Shell-tempered ware	1	1	
	Sub-total	*323*	*1903*	*5.9*
Late Iron Age/Romano-British				
Imported wares	Les Martres de Veyre samian	26	374	
	South Gaulish samian	11	36	
	Central Gaulish samian	10	125	
	North Gaulish mortarium	1	257	
	North Gaulish ware	1	17	
	Central Gaulish black-slipped ware	1	2	

Period	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	MSW (g)
Regional wares	Verulamium region white ware	35	935	
	Verulamium white-slipped ware	7	257	
	Oxford white ware	17	1207	
	Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware	13	163	
	SE Dorset black burnished ware	12	116	
	Savernake type ware	2	35	
	Hoo Island white-slipped ware	1	9	
	Nene valley colour-coated ware	1	2	
	Romano-British glazed ware	1	1	
	Portchester D ware	8	38	
Local wares	Grog-tempered ware	1369	24,837	
	Greyware	1365	13,905	
	Grog and sand tempered ware	619	10,979	
	Organic-tempered ware	142	1483	
	Oxidised ware	151	1724	
	Mixed temper (sand, iron, calc) ware	127	3327	
	Flint-tempered ware	115	2215	
	Sandy ware	90	833	
	Shell-tempered ware	47	307	
	Sand and flint-tempered ware	27	368	
	Calcareous ware	17	138	
Unsourced wares	Unsourced colour-coated ware	9	62	
	Mica-dusted ware	4	94	
	Sand and rock-tempered ware	1	10	
	Sub-total	*4230*	*63,856*	*15.1*
Early/Middle Saxon	Organic-tempered ware	244	2664	
	Sandy	224	2987	
	Coarse sandy ware	15	198	
	Coarse sandy ware with organics	2	94	
	Shell-tempered	1	13	
	Sub-total	*486*	*5956*	*12.2*
Post-medieval	Post-medieval redware	1	3	
Uncertain date	Organic-tempered ware	2	4	
	Sandy	2	33	

Period	Ware type	No.	Wt. (g)	MSW (g)
	Flint and calcareous ware	1	5	
	Sub-total	*5*	*42*	*8.4*
Overall total		8143	98,623	12.1

6.2.2 The condition of the assemblage is extremely variable, as shown by the wide range in mean sherd weights (**Table 2**). Post-depositional leaching and/or abrasion of fabrics was frequently noticeable, in some cases leading to the complete loss of original surfaces. Body sherds with no associated rims account for 42% of total sherd count. This paucity of diagnostic sherds has hampered dating and resulted in the allocation of broader, more tentative, chronological ranges (five sherds remain undated at this stage). By contrast, key groups, dated to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, contain well-preserved semi-complete and complete vessels.

Neolithic

6.2.1 The earliest pottery, 44 sherds (317 g) from an Early Neolithic sand and flint-tempered ware weakly shouldered/carinated bowl was recovered from pit 5122. The hard-fired fabric of this vessel is in good condition, and key diagnostic sections survive (although not the full profile). Further Neolithic sherds were found residually in the fills of ditches 6208 and 6198. These comprise the rim and neck of a Middle/Late Neolithic Peterborough ware triangular rim jar or bowl, and two sherds more tentatively dated as Neolithic (one decorated with rows of stabbed/impressed dots).

6.2.2 These finds are consistent with previous phases of excavation on the site where small quantities of Neolithic pottery were recovered, including 18 sherds from an Early Neolithic shouldered bowl (Phase 3 North; Phase 4 Area 1). Low levels of Neolithic pottery are also a component of other assemblages in the immediate vicinity. Peterborough ware was identified in the assemblage from the Taplow to Dorney pipeline (McSloy 2011, 23), while worked flint and a sherd of probable Early Neolithic date was discovered at Taplow Mill (Anderson and Barclay 2013).

Bronze Age

6.2.3 Bronze Age pottery is limited, with a total of just 25 sherds (145 g), and only three diagnostic flat-topped rims attributed to this period. The group consists entirely of coarse flint-tempered fabrics, typical of the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition of southern England. Such wares were a much larger component of the assemblage previously retrieved from the site (Wessex Archaeology 2017, 12).

6.2.4 Most of the Bronze Age sherds (including the three diagnostic fragments) were found in penannular ditch 6157. A small concentration (13 sherds, 41 g) from fill 6132 are likely to be from one vessel, possibly a small globular jar of Middle/Late Bronze Age date. Five further contexts from this feature also contain flint-tempered fabrics (6 sherds, 30 g) broadly dated as ‘prehistoric’ or ‘late prehistoric’. It may be possible to refine dating of these sherds when the material from the ditch is re-examined as a feature group. The remaining Bronze Age sherds (8 sherds, 90 g) from other areas of the site were all residual finds in later, Iron Age or Romano-British features.

Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age

6.2.5 Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery forms a very small component of the assemblage, just 1.3% of the total sherd count. Despite the small quantities, the sherds are characteristic of regional patterns for this period. A distinct shift is observed from the

use of purely flint-tempered fabrics, seen in the earlier Bronze Age material, to sandier variants (see **Table 2**). It was also noted that several of the fabrics contained noticeable quantities of ferruginous pellets, potentially a characteristic of a local clay source. Sandy and sand/flint mixed temper fabrics of this date are also a key component of the prehistoric assemblages from adjacent sites at both Taplow Court (Edwards 2009, 124–5, table 7.11) and the Taplow to Dorney pipeline (McSloy 2011, 24).

6.2.6 The single largest concentration (77 sherds, 1079 g) of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age sherds derived from posthole 5108 in the west of the site. The sherds all appear to come from the same vessel, a high shouldered jar with a slightly externally expanded and fingertip-impressed rim. From the partial profile surviving, the form is similar to an example found in the Taplow to Dorney pipeline assemblage (McSloy 2011, 30, fig 17, no 16), albeit with a less pronounced shoulder. The condition of the jar is unusual as it is extremely burnt, to the point of vitrification and the distortion of some sections (particularly the rim).

6.2.7 Posthole 5143 contained a second concentration (21 sherds, 296 g) of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age sherds. These also appear to be from one vessel (except for one tiny rim fragment of a second vessel). The only diagnostic sherd to survive is a single fingertip-impressed rim, the shape of which indicates a vessel with an elongated neck. The remaining material dated to this period (8 sherds, 194g) occurred residually in ditch 4432 of Enclosure 1 and ditch 6256 of Enclosure 4.

Iron Age

6.2.8 Pottery of an Iron Age date made up most of the assemblage from the previous phases of the site (Phases 1–2, Phase 4 Area 1), although still limited in quantity. The Iron Age component from the current phase is large and represents over a third of the total sherd count. Precise dating has frequently been hampered by the high proportion of plain body sherds with no associated rims, although fabric type and overall appearance has been used to provide tentative Iron Age dates in these instances. In stark contrast however, this period also includes some of the best-preserved pottery, with several key deposits of semi-complete vessels. Where dating can be refined, a concentration (around 25% of all Iron Age sherds) is evident from the Middle/Late Iron Age period.

6.2.9 The range of fabrics is overwhelmingly dominated by a mixed temper ware which accounts for 70% of all Iron Age sherds. The key characteristics of this fabric are common calcareous inclusions (shell and ?tufa), with varying quantities of ferruginous pellets, sand and/or flint. The calcareous content has often been leached from sherds leaving voids and resulting in a noticeable lightness when handled. The appearance of the calcareous and iron inclusions is suggestive of natural occurrence in the clay, rather than deliberately added temper.

6.2.10 Fabrics of very similar description were identified in the assemblages at Thorpe Lea Nurseries, Egham (Jones 2009, 121–2). The early Holocene river deposits of the Thames/Colne deltaic hinterland were proposed as a potential source (*ibid*, 121). The proximity of this area to Taplow, in combination with the dominance of the fabric in the assemblage, gives further credence to this possibility. Middle Iron Age fabrics with shell and ferruginous pellets are also present in the assemblages at Castleview Road, Slough (Brook and Seager-Smith in press, fabric C1) and Southlea Farm, Datchet (Barclay 2010, 18), both in north-east Berkshire.

6.2.11 Only a few of the remaining Iron Age fabrics are present in significant quantities (**Table 2**). Despite the variance in temper utilised it is likely that almost all these fabrics were

produced locally. The only potential exception is six sherds of glauconitic sandy ware (most likely to be from just one or two vessels). Glauconite is usually associated with Greensand outcrops and the nearest of these is to the north-west in Oxfordshire. This concentration on localised production is typical of late prehistoric pottery in the region. Until the end of the 1st century BC there is little evidence of pottery originating outside the Thames catchment (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 203).

6.2.12 The nearby assemblages from Taplow Court and the Taplow to Dorney pipeline contain much lower quantities of Iron Age material (particularly Middle Iron Age vessels). Despite these differences in scale between the assemblages there are still similarities. A key point of interest is the mention of large quantities of ferruginous pellets in Iron Age fabrics (Edwards 2009, 120, table 7.7, fabric Ai; McSloy 2011 24–5, fabric Fe1). This characteristic was not only observed in the mixed temper fabric, but also in several of the other wares (especially the sandier fabrics). The consistent appearance of these inclusions through the fabric variants is again indicative of utilisation of the same, probably local, clay source.

6.2.13 Diagnostic sherds show an almost exclusive concentration on globular jars or jar/bowls across all fabrics. This is primarily the result of a chronological bias towards the Middle/Late Iron Age. These vessels include examples with upright rounded rims and slightly everted rims, the latter reflecting the most common type in the Thorpe Lea Nursery assemblage in Berkshire (Jones 2009, 121 and 134, fig 5.37). It was also noted at Thorpe Lea that certain rim forms were difficult to ascribe between a globular jar or a straight-sided saucepan (*ibid*, 122). The same problem was present in the Taplow assemblage, none of the vessels having enough of a profile to be definitively identified as a saucepan. The remaining Iron Age vessel forms are mainly restricted to further jar types, comprising a few examples of weakly shouldered and ovoid jars as well as a slightly everted rim cordoned type. A group from pit 4661 also contains the slightly more unusual addition of a small thumb pot.

6.2.14 Around two-thirds of the total sherd count of the Iron Age pottery was retrieved from pits and postholes. Of the 116 features encompassed by these categories, only 21 examples contain more than 25 sherds. Several groups, containing well-preserved semi-complete vessels, were retrieved from posthole 4371, pit 4505 and pit 5739. Pit 5739 is particularly worthy of note, its assemblage comprising six globular jars in the mixed temper ware with multiple cross-context joins over three fills (5742, 5743, 5768). Each jar has an individual intricate decorative scheme beneath the rim and across the shoulder. The designs include the use of arcs, crosses, leaf/oval stabbed impressions and cross-hatching/lines with girth grooves above and below the decorative zone. It appears likely from the similarity in decoration and firing condition of the jars (primarily oxidised and heavily burnt with fire clouding and cracking evident) that they were made together. It is a possibility that they were kiln wasters and production was close by to the site. Sherds of this fabric were frequently heavily burnt/fire-damaged elsewhere in the assemblage and not just within this group, although it may be noted that fragments of at least two antler objects from pit 5739 (fill 5768) were also burnt.

Prehistoric

6.2.15 A total of 287 sherds (1799 g) was attributed a ‘late prehistoric’ date and could lie anywhere between the Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age. With a mean sherd weight of 6.3 g and frequent surface abrasion (in some cases removing the original surfaces entirely), it is likely that many of these sherds have been re-deposited. A further 36 sherds (104 g), in even poorer condition, were given a broader ‘prehistoric’ date. Both categories mainly encompass flint- and sand and flint-tempered wares (see **Table 2**).

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

6.2.16 The Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery represents the largest component of the assemblage (52% of total sherd count). However, groups in many deposits lacked sufficient diagnostic sherds to refine dating within this period. Where refinement has been possible, a concentration on Early Roman pottery is evident. Even those groups dated to the Middle Roman period are likely to not be much later than the mid-2nd century AD. Diagnostically Late Roman pottery is very sparse.

6.2.17 The Late Iron Age/Romano-British sherds were recovered from 317 contexts in 150 features, but only 29 of these contained more than 50 sherds. Most of these features are ditches or pits, with the largest concentration from Enclosure 5. This includes a large group (266 sherds, 5130 g) from ditch 6240 (cut 6016) which comprises substantial sections of a wide range of vessels, some almost complete, dating to the 2nd century AD.

6.2.18 A small proportion (19.5%) of sherds were ascribed a Late Iron Age or early Romano-British date. With the continuation of selected fabric types and forms ±through the Late Iron Age into the Romano-British period, distinguishing a pre- or post-conquest date is not always possible. These groups primarily consist of 'Belgic-type' grog-tempered wares which were produced throughout the 1st century AD. Diagnostic sherds are principally small rim sherds, with only a few examples of partial profiles. The calcareous mixed temper ware (see Iron Age discussion above) also continues to be a notable component, but it is unclear whether production categorically continues beyond the conquest. Vessels of potentially the same industry in the Thorpe Lea Nursery groups include one example of a Gallo-Belgic style platter (Jones 2009, 122 and 133, fig 5.36, no 203). Nevertheless, even this wheelthrown vessel could still be of either pre-conquest or Claudian date.

6.2.19 A Late Iron Age or early Romano-British group retrieved from pit/grave 5096 is particularly notable. The pit included the remains of a flexed inhumation burial as well as a series of deliberately placed objects (including flint nodules, stones and animal bones (horse and cattle); see corresponding sections of finds report). A total of 131 sherds (3259 g) of pottery was retrieved from this feature, with a clear majority (122 sherds, 3191 g) in the mixed temper fabric. At first appearance, a Late Iron Age date would be appropriate, but two sherds of Romanised greyware and a mixed temper ware footring base sherd with similarities to the form of a Pélichet 47 (Gaulish) amphora may indicate a later (Romano-British) date. The selection and placement of the objects in the pit and their relationship to the burial is, however, much more consistent with Iron Age traditions, and a radiocarbon date on the burial places it broadly in the Middle–Late Iron Age (SUERC 81911, 2154±28BP: 360–100 cal BC; see below).

6.2.20 A continued concentration on locally produced wares is evident. Just 3.5% of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British sherds are accounted for by imported or regionally sourced products. The imports mainly consist of sherds of samian ware with both the South and Central Gaulish production centres represented (see **Table 2**). The condition of these sherds is highly variable reflecting the overall nature of the assemblage. Corn-drying oven 6289 contained the best-preserved examples, with half a form 18/31 dish and conjoining rim sherds (with traces of a rivet hole between them) from a form 37 bowl. The latter is the only example of a mould decorated vessel. Remaining imported vessels are limited to just two sherds from North Gaulish vessels (including a mortarium body sherd from ditch terminus 6222), and a single sherd of Central Gaulish black-slipped ware from pit 5016. It was notable that amphorae fabrics are completely absent from the assemblage, despite the presence of these other imported products.

6.2.21 The range of regionally sourced fabrics is wide ranging with products from Dorset through to Cambridgeshire (see **Table 2**). However, the overall quantities are very limited with most fabrics amounting to fewer than ten sherds. The largest component (42 sherds, 192 g) consists of coarsewares from the Verulamium industries to the east (dating to the Early or Middle Roman period). Mortaria appear to be one of the key products brought to the site from this area, with three rim sherds as well as further body sherds identifiable from their trituration grits. No other rim sherds were found, but several neck sherds with handle scars indicate that flagons were being traded as well.

6.2.22 Products from the Oxfordshire industries to the west also feature (30 sherds, 1370 g). Soft-fired Late Roman fineware sherds are mainly abraded and in poor condition with few recognisable forms. White ware sherds from three mortaria survive in much better condition. Two of these (Young 1977, 72–6, types M18 and M20) were recovered from layer 5398. A semi-complete example of a wall-sided mortarium (Young 1977, 72–3, type M14) from Enclosure 5 (ditch 6016) is a more unusual component of the assemblage. This type is thought to date somewhere between AD180 and 240 (*ibid*, 72) but accompanying pottery from this ditch appears slightly earlier, and the date of this form potentially needs reviewing.

6.2.23 The local fabrics are dominated by grog-tempered wares and greywares (see **Table 2**). The high levels of the former, in combination with the continued presence of large quantities of bead rim jars, reflect the bias towards the early Roman period. The greywares are very varied, and likely to be largely from small-scale local production rather than established industries. There are some regional products from the Alice Holt kilns included in this category, but these sherds are not present in significant numbers. A large well-preserved sherd from a cheese press lid (ditch 6247, terminus 4986) is a relatively unusual find among the greywares.

6.2.24 Some of the greyware sherds are from vessels of very similar appearance to products of the Highgate industry, located in North London (Davies *et al* 1994, 75–88). The fabric itself is not as granular, and is much more variable, than Highgate Wood C Reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 136), but the similarity lies in the replication of distinctive forms and decoration (including white slip and barbotine dots). Such greyware sherds were also recognised in the Taplow Court assemblage (Biddulph 2009, 135), but remain unsourced. The quantities suggest that these vessels are more than occasional copies and may be the work of a potter who has migrated into the local area from the Highgate industry.

6.2.25 The remaining fabrics are limited to small quantities (**Table 2**). The inclusion of organic-tempered wares (quite distinct from the Saxon organic-tempered wares – see below) is unusual for the Roman period, but despite a reasonably large total (142 sherds) only a few vessels are represented. An everted rim jar (55 sherds, 351 g) from ditch 6234 accounts for most of this total. This jar has a smooth/hard-fired surface appearance, more consistent with Romanised greywares, in contrast to the soft-fired Iron Age variant of the fabric. The range of oxidised wares, though much more limited than the greywares, show a similar dating emphasis with a concentration on Early Roman forms. These include rims from a butt beaker, a collared (Hofheim-type) flagon and a beaker with short rounded everted rim. A 2nd-century AD component is also evident with two examples of bead and flange mortaria. Finewares are only accounted for by a few sherds of unsourced colour-coated ware and mica-dusted ware. A substantial part of a mica-dusted flat rim bowl (from ditch 6016, enclosure 6242) has strong similarities with London products (Davies *et al*. 1994, 138–9, fig 116, no 149). A single sherd of sand/rock-tempered ware is of unknown although certainly non-local source.

6.2.26 Evidence for repair/re-use is limited. Possible traces of a glue repair are present on a greyware body sherd (ditch 6240) and a piece of Central Gaulish samian (ditch 6254) has the edge of a post-firing hole (probably from a rivet repair). One of the jar bases from pit 4505 has a series of post-firing holes, potentially having been adapted into a strainer or colander.

Saxon

6.2.27 Saxon pottery was not represented amongst the assemblage from earlier phases of work on the site. It makes up around 6% of the current assemblage by sherd count (486 sherds, 5956 g) – a small but significant presence.

6.2.28 Fabrics are approximately equally divided between organic-tempered and sandy wares, with two sherds of mixed temper (sandy with organic inclusions), although the divisions between these groups are not clear-cut and they are more likely to represent a spectrum of variation between the two types. One sherd is in a shell-tempered fabric (probably fossil shell), also containing sparse organic inclusions. The sandy and organic-tempered fabrics are typical of Early/Middle Saxon ceramic traditions across much of southern England. A very similar range of wares was identified from Castleview Road, Slough (Brook with Seager Smith in press), and other comparable assemblages are known from previous excavations at Taplow (Blinkhorn 2009) as well as from Dorney (Blinkhorn 2002), Wraysbury, Berkshire (Astill and Lobb 1989), London Borough of Harlington (Mepham 2015) and Staines and Molesey, Surrey (Jones 1982; Laidlaw and Mepham 1996). It is assumed that most if not all of this material was locally produced, although there are hints of possible non-local source(s) amongst the coarse sandy sherds, one or two of which contain mica and/or polycrystalline quartz. While not containing any visible geologically distinctive inclusions, it is possible that these sherds originate from further afield, possibly the Midlands.

6.2.29 Diagnostic sherds (mainly rims, with a few decorated sherds) are relatively plentiful. Rim sherds appear to belong most frequently to convex vessels with closed or neutral profiles, but there are also a few bowls and cups and a small thumb pot, as well as five handled vessels (bowls or jars) with (presumably paired) perforated lugs integral to the rims. There are no identifiable biconical vessels although a couple of long-necked rims could have belonged to such vessels. Decoration is very scarce, and is confined to one sherd with tooled decoration, one with stamped rosettes in defined zones, one boss and one sherd with traces of possible impressed decoration. Vessel forms and decorative techniques are again well paralleled in the local area, apart from the handled vessels, although there is one example from Harmondsworth (Cowie and Blackmore 2008, fig. 76, <P162>) as well as a few other examples from the London area (*ibid*, fig. 24, <P28>, <P40>).

6.2.30 The roughly equal proportions of sandy and organic-tempered wares, combined with the apparent absence of carinated or biconical forms and other indications of an early date (late 5th century) within the Early/Middle Saxon period, suggests that this assemblage can be broadly dated at this stage as 6th–8th century.

6.2.31 Virtually all of the Saxon pottery (468 sherds) was recovered from SFBs. Sherds came from all five SFBs excavated, though the quantities varied widely, from ten to 263 sherds. The largest assemblage came from SFB 5678, and this included all examples of vessels with perforated lug handles. Other sherds occurred in very small quantities (one or two sherds per feature) in pits 5555 (possibly intrusive in a Late Iron Age/Romano-British feature) and 5836, and penannular ditch 6157 (intrusive in a prehistoric feature).

Medieval and Post-medieval

6.2.32 Pottery of medieval and later date was extremely scarce. One small body sherd (3 g) of post-medieval redware was recovered from ditch 6211. The remaining pottery from this feature was Romano-British in date and it is therefore assumed that this sherd is intrusive. A further seven sherds (one medieval and six post-medieval) came from earlier phases.

6.3 Ceramic building material

6.3.1 The ceramic building material (CBM; brick and tile) is predominantly of Romano-British date (**Table 1**). Although recovered from 52 features and deposits, the bulk of the CBM was associated with corn-drying oven 6289 (87% of the total by weight), with 97.3 kg used in the construction of the underfloor flue wall and a further 51 kg, probably derived from other parts of the structure, being found in the overlying soil layer 5429. Only three other groups, from Romano-British ditch 6260 (27 pieces, 5.4 kg), pit 5180 (14 pieces, 5.2 kg), and well 6285 (16 pieces, 1597g), comprised more than a single kilogram.

6.3.2 The Romano-British assemblage is dominated by *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles and the smaller, thinner types of Roman brick (*bessalis*, *pedalis* and *lydion*). No complete lengths/widths were noted amongst the roof tiles, most of the examples from the corn-drying oven (where the largest pieces of all types occur) seeming to have been deliberately broken into flat fragments for ease of construction. One brick from the corn - drying oven is 295 mm long/wide, at least 250 mm in the opposite direction and 35–40 mm thick, while two others are 320 mm long/wide, by at least 225 mm and 230 mm respectively, and 30–35 mm thick. Three thicker pieces (>50 mm), two from the flue wall of the corn-drying oven and one from overlying layer 5429, are from the larger, thicker brick types (e.g. *sesquipedalis* or *bipedalis*), but no dimensions, edges or other diagnostic features were preserved.

6.3.3 Fabrics are relatively uniform (hard, fine, well-prepared, fully oxidised, slightly sandy clays with few other inclusions) throughout the assemblage, although one or two examples of the use of poorly-wedged, very dry-looking laminated fabrics were also noted. A good number of the fragments from the corn-drying oven exhibit firing errors (such as uneven oxidisation, bloating, blistering, vitrification and warping), characteristic of production waste, while circular separator knobs had not been removed from the surfaces of several bricks. Finger-smeared signatures on six bricks and four flat fragments from either *tegulae* or bricks (one from ditch 4571, all others from the corn-drying oven) are all of the same form – a semi-circle drawn with a single finger against the edge of the piece – perhaps supporting the idea that much of this material comes from a single tilery. Dog/cat paw-prints occur on three flat fragments probably from *tegulae* (corn-drying oven 6289), while one with a deer hoof print came from the enclosure ditch 6254. One flat fragment probably from a brick (Romano-British ditch 5966) has pre-firing, deeply-incised lattice keying on its underside.

6.3.4 The four fragments of medieval roof (peg) tile came from pit 506 where they may be intrusive, while the post-medieval brick and tile came from pits 1017, 1020 and 6035 and modern feature 4156. The undated pieces consist of small, flat or featureless fragments and flakes.

6.4 Fired clay

6.4.1 The fired clay can be divided into two principal groups – portable objects and more amorphous fragments probably of structural origin, the latter group forming the bulk of the assemblage from this site.

6.4.2 A total of 25 portable objects were recognised, comprising a small, cylindrical spindle whorl (Iron Age pit 4754), two oval slingshots (Iron Age pits 5739 and 5774), 19 perforated triangular objects (Iron Age pits 4651, 4709, 4889, 5185, 5739 and 6089, the ditches of Late Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure ditches 4432 and 6255, Romano-British ditches 6217 and 6231, undated pits 4365 and 5331 and colluvial layer 6040) and three annular weights of Saxon date (SFBs 5533 and 6287).

6.4.3 Spindle whorls occur on most Iron Age sites although rarely in any great numbers. Like the example from pit 4754, most of the examples from Danebury (e.g. Poole 1984, 401, type 1, fig. 7.46, 7.36–38) are made in sandy fabrics and are plain although others from sites such as All Cannings Cross, Meare and Glastonbury are decorated. Both slingshots are oval with pointed ends, but are of different sizes, the one from pit 5739 being 25 mm long while that from pit 5774 is 38 mm long. Two examples of similar size were found during the Heathrow Terminal 5 excavations (Marter Brown 2010, 1–2). Poole (1984, 398) suggests that size may relate to their use, with the small examples perhaps used for hunting game, while the larger shots were used when hunting larger animals, such as deer or against human opponents.

6.4.4 Perforated triangular objects are 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). Only one of the examples from this site is complete (ON 142 from pit 5739; 100 mm high, 72 mm wide, 40 mm thick), all the others being highly fragmentary. Although traditionally interpreted as loom weights used in textile weaving, it is now considered more likely that these items were associated with ovens, hearths and/or kilns, perhaps used as supports, linings or pedestals (Lowther 1935; Poole 1995).

6.4.5 The three annular weights of Early/Middle Saxon date were probably used to hold the warp threads taught on an upright weaving loom. All are fragmentary but in the region of 120–140 mm in diameter. The most complete, one of the two from pit 5533, has a D-shaped cross-section 25 mm wide and 40 mm high, with a perforation 70 mm in diameter.

6.4.6 The remainder of the assemblage (4793 pieces, 70 kg) comprises structural fired clay. The largest single group was recovered from pit/grave 5096 (2229 pieces, 29.4 kg), with just 27 other features, predominantly of Iron Age and Romano-British date, containing more than 20 pieces or 500 g. The pieces are generally small (mean fragment weight is 14.6 g) and many are abraded. Most are made in soft, oxidised or variably-fired, sandy fabrics, sometimes with flint, grog, organic and/or calcareous inclusions in a range of frequencies and coarseness. The larger, more diagnostic pieces tend to have one smoothed, flattish surface, sometimes with a whitish ‘skin’, and widely-spaced wattle impressions (10–20 mm in diameter) running in a single direction parallel with the surface. A handful of pieces from pit/grave 5096 have wattle impressions in two directions, at right-angles or on a slight diagonal to each other, while a still smaller number have impressions of shaped (flat) timbers. The interior of the pieces is invariably broken, so there is no evidence for the thickness of the clay layer covering the timber frameworks. This, coupled with the widely-spaced wattle impressions, suggests that much of this material was used over light frameworks of rods rather than the woven hurdles characteristic of wattle and daub walling, and therefore it is perhaps more likely to derive from the bases, walls or covers of ovens/hearths. One piece (ON 76) from enclosure ditch 4432 is probably from a perforated oven plate, but in general the assemblage is too fragmentary to permit the identification of such pieces. None of the pieces provide evidence for high-temperature pyrotechnical activities, so it is probable that the ovens/hearths were of a domestic nature.

6.5 Worked flint

6.5.1 The flint assemblage amounts to 330 pieces; a breakdown of the assemblage by type is given in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Composition of the flint assemblage

Flint Types	No.	% of assemblage
Retouched tools:		
Palaeolithic handaxe	1	0.30
Scraper	9	2.73
Projectile points	1	0.30
Piercers	2	0.61
Denticulates	1	0.30
Microdenticulates	2	0.61
Misc. retouch	7	2.12
Retouched tools total	*23*	*6.97*
Debitage:		
Cores (incl. fragments)	11	3.33
Rejuvenation tablet	1	0.30
Flakes (incl. broken)	251	76.06
Blades (incl. broken)	11	3.33
Bladelets (incl. broken)	7	2.12
Chips/microdebitage	20	6.06
Debitage	6	1.82
Debitage total	*307*	*93.0*
Total	**330**	**100**

Raw Material

6.5.2 A number of raw material types are evident, the bulk of which is comprised of medium grey flint. There are also darker and lighter grey, and mixed brown and grey examples. Many pieces have inclusions and other flaws. The cortex is generally thin, ranging from dirty grey through to buff in colour. The most likely source of this material is the local drift geology and/or river gravels.

6.5.3 Two microdenticulates from Phase 4 Area 1 were identified as having been manufactured from Bullhead flint. This distinctive raw material is often considered to be of consistently good flaking quality and was often used for blade manufacture in the Neolithic period. It was derived ultimately from the Reading Beds and may have been deliberately collected from that source.

Condition

6.5.4 The condition of the flint is very varied, however most pieces show signs of post-depositional edge damage. Some pieces remain quite fresh. There are also instances of patina and thermal fracturing. The broken handaxe (found unstratified) is heavily patinated and weathered.

Technology

6.5.5 Although the bulk of the assemblage consists of flakes, it is clearly very mixed and represents a number of technological styles. There is considerable variation in the style of

flaking, and the size and shape of the flakes are also varied, but the bulk are clearly core trimming flakes.

6.5.6 The evidence for deliberate blade and bladelet production is limited to a flake with blade scars on it, and a relatively small number of blades and bladelets which are unremarkable in morphology and manufacture style.

6.5.7 There are a limited number of retouched pieces comprising scrapers, denticulates, microdenticulates, a piercer and a projectile point.

6.5.8 The scrapers were recovered from layer 4001, later prehistoric ditch terminal 6198, Iron Age pits 4209, 4661 and 6283, Iron Age roundhouse 4985, Romano-British roundhouse 5771 and Romano-British ditch 6204. The scrapers are varied in style and represent a number of different reduction strategies.

6.5.9 A piercer was recovered from enclosure ditch 6256, alongside Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery.

6.5.10 A denticulate was recovered from ditch 6254, and two microdenticulates were recovered from pit 5004 and ditch 6250 respectively, all features tentatively dated to the Iron Age.

6.5.11 A projectile point was recovered from pit 4909. This pit also contained Iron Age and Romano-British pottery. The projectile point appears to be an abandoned transverse arrowhead, which remained incomplete due to knapping errors.

6.5.12 The only significant concentration of flint occurred in the fill of Saxon sunken-featured building 5678. This group of material contained evidence of knapping and blank production in the form of blades, and does appear to contain material generated from one core in a single knapping episode, although the context itself suggests that this is redeposited material perhaps in a feature which disturbed a pre-existing knapping floor or dump of material. This concentration of flint is clearly not in its original context and can only loosely be dated to the Neolithic on very general stylistic terms – including the presence of blades and bladelets.

Chronology

6.5.13 There are only two retouched tools which are potential chronological indicators in the entire assemblage, comprising a projectile point and a handaxe. Unfortunately, both of these are of limited value as the projectile point is unfinished and the handaxe is unstratified. However, the projectile point appears to be a transverse arrowhead which would date to the Middle–Late Neolithic. The handaxe is broken and damaged but appears to be Middle Palaeolithic. Neither of these identifications are completely secure due to the damaged nature of both pieces.

6.5.14 Tools from previous phases of fieldwork are confined to an edge-flaked knife, two serrated flakes and three scrapers, all possibly Early Neolithic (all from Phases 1–3). A group of 49 pieces from a natural hollow in Phase 4 Area 1 included a blade core and a number of well-made blades, including four adapted for conversion into microdenticulates; these typological and technological attributes are chronologically compatible with the Early Neolithic pottery from this feature.

6.5.15 Taken as a whole, and including the material from previous phases, the bulk of the assemblage looks Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in date, with indications of possible earlier material given the blades and bladelets, but these appear mostly likely to be Early

Neolithic. Examples of Iron Age flint working are known (Young and Humphrey 1999) – however, with the exception of three very crudely made scrapers from roundhouse 5771, ditch 6204 and pit 6283, none of the assemblage could be securely dated to the Iron Age. Although found in Iron Age contexts, none of these scrapers would be out of place in a later Bronze Age assemblage and cannot be closely dated.

6.5.16 Overall, the assemblage shows that prehistoric activity took place in the area certainly from the Early Neolithic onwards, although the handaxe potentially indicates activity of a much earlier date. The flint concentration in sunken-featured building 5678 demonstrates that localised earlier prehistoric flint knapping occurred, but that the resulting debris was disturbed by later activity in the area.

6.6 Burnt flint

6.6.1 Burnt, unworked flint was recovered in some quantity from Phase 4 Area 2 (1917 pieces weighing 160 kg). The largest groups (each over 2 kg) came from Iron Age pits 4269, 4505, 5739, and 5864, Late Iron Age/early Romano-British ditch terminal 6268 (Enclosure 2), Late Iron Age to early Romano-British pits 4079 and 4400, ditches 6200 and 6273, and pit/grave 5096. Burnt flint is intrinsically undatable but is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity, including settlement and funerary processes.

6.6.2 Pit/grave 5096 contained a deliberate deposit of burnt flint (5274, 16.5 kg), which appears to have derived from a single episode of burning with the flint subsequently placed in this feature.

6.6.3 From previous phases of fieldwork, burnt flint formed a low-level background scatter across the site, although one relatively large deposit (8.3 kg) came from an undated pit in Phase 4 Area 1.

6.7 Worked stone

6.7.1 The worked stone assemblage includes 45 pieces (18,363 g) of quern material, most deriving from features of Roman date. The remainder of the stone comprises pebbles and pebble fragments, or pieces of chalk, some with evidence of charring or burning, but with no clear signs of working or utilisation.

6.7.2 The most commonly occurring quern lithology is Millstone Grit, probably from the Pennines. The largest group of this material formed part of a layer of stone and ceramic building material fragments pressed into the upper fill of pit 5180 (context 5187). These quern fragments are pecked on one surface and scored on the other; some are quite friable and may have been burnt. At least six are likely to come from the same quern (ONs 102, 103, 105, 107, 109 and 110); another Millstone Grit quern may be represented by ON 106. Fragments from other Millstone Grit rotary querns, or similar coarse sandstone quern materials, were found in ditches 6211, 6217 and 6255, pit 4790 and beamslot 5218.

6.7.3 Greensand quern fragments from the Lodsworth quarries of West Sussex were found in ditches 6211 and 6217, with a further possible example from ditch 6268. Seven unsourced Greensand quern fragments were also found. Two came from above-mentioned layer 5187 – one with an angled grinding surface (ON 104) and a rotary quern with a square hopper (ON 108). Fragments from possible Greensand querns were also found in Iron Age pits 4762 and 4889.

6.7.4 Lava rotary querns are also represented in the assemblage, from ditch 6027 and layer 5358. This vesicular rock is commonly identified as coming from the Mayen-Niedermendig

area of the Eifel region of Germany, however other sources are possible, including one near Volvic in the Auvergne region of France.

6.7.5 A piece of worked sandstone from posthole 5771 has a dished surface and may have been used as a rubstone or similar.

6.7.6 Pebbles, or pebble fragments, were recovered from 42 contexts. Most appear to be a quartzitic sandstone and many are of a size and shape that could be comfortably held in the hand and utilised as a hammer or rubstone/processor, but show little, if any, evidence of prolonged use.

6.7.7 Weathered pieces of chalk were found in eight contexts (29 pieces, 333 g) but none show any signs of working. The context of one is significant as it was found in the hand of the individual buried in pit/grave 5096 (ON 112).

6.8 Glass

6.8.1 Three pieces of glass were recovered, comprising one piece of vessel glass and two beads.

6.8.2 The vessel glass comprises a small Romano-British body fragment in a very pale blue/green glass; the vessel form is unknown. It was found in gully 6247.

6.8.3 Of the two beads, one came from roundhouse 4985. This is a small (diameter 7 mm) annular bead in translucent blue glass, which falls into Guido's group 6 (ivb) beads (Guido 1978, 66–8). These are a long-lived type which began to be imported around the 6th century BC and continued to appear throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, and then into the post-Roman period. In this instance, judging by the associated pottery, the bead is of Iron Age date.

6.8.4 The second bead is a small (diameter 5 mm) globular bead in opaque blue glass. Again, this is a long-lived type (Guido 1978, 70, group 7 (iv)), in use from the Iron Age through at least to the Romano-British period and probably beyond. This example came from late Romano-British pit 5871.

6.8.5 The only other glass recovered from the site were two fragments from post-medieval/modern vessels found in Phases 1–2.

6.9 Slag

6.9.1 Only a small quantity of material was recovered from the Phase 4 excavation, amounting to a little over 0.5 kg (**Table 1**). The assemblage includes 49 g (from five contexts) recognised as fuel ash slag, of which 37 g (from three contexts) is a lightweight, light-coloured (pale to mid-grey), vesicular material clearly derived from some high temperature process, but not necessarily related to metallurgical activity. It has been suggested, for example, that this material is formed by a reaction between an alkaline fuel and silicates present in the natural (sandy) ground surface or in the clay lining of an oven or hearth (Bayley *et al*. 2001, 21). The other 12 g of fuel ash slag is most likely to derive from ironworking.

6.9.2 The remaining 452 g generally comprises small, slightly abraded fragments of undiagnostic iron working slag, the largest single piece (154 g) coming from Iron Age roundhouse gully 4985; only one other context (Romano-British pit 5045 – 134 g) contained over 100 g of debris. This material is moderately dense and rather amorphous,

with no flow structure apparent; it is most likely to be the result of small-scale iron smithing activity, but debris from smelting cannot be ruled out.

6.9.3 The only other significant deposit of slag from previous phases of fieldwork was encountered in Phases 1–2, where a pit, very tentatively dated as Early–Middle Iron Age (pit 96), produced just under 2.4 kg of material possibly deriving from iron smelting, although smithing is equally possible. It included hammerscale and, although the slag had probably been redeposited in the feature, the base of the pit was burnt, and it is possible that this represented the base of an ironworking furnace or smithing hearth.

6.10 Metalwork

Coins

6.10.1 Four Roman copper alloy coins were recovered. Three are 4th century AD *nummi* and one (ON 123) is an earlier denomination (an *As*) and was likely minted in the 2nd century AD. All appear to have suffered post depositional corrosion and objects 123 (ditch 6211) and 132 (ditch 6231) show signs of pre-depositional wear. The X-radiograph image of object 116 (ditch 6241) suggests a stylised engraving on the reverse indicating a possible barbarous copy. The coin recovered from pit 5871 is much better preserved and bears a SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE reverse type of the Valentinian dynasty (364 to 378 AD).

Copper alloy

6.10.2 Six copper alloy objects were found, most of probable Roman date. Three represent brooches – a penannular brooch from pit 5605, a pin from ditch 6269 and the foot of a brooch from Iron Age pit 5125. The tapering tip from a pin or needle was recovered from ditch 6255. Toilet items comprise a complete spoon with small, round head (ditch 6240) and a suspension loop, probably from a nail cleaner (ditch 6281).

6.10.3 Small, amorphous fragments (four in total) were also recorded from pit 5605 and hollow 5894.

Iron

6.10.4 The iron assemblage provides evidence for a range of activities and most items derive from features of Late Iron Age to early Roman or Roman date. Personal items include at least six hobnails from pit 5871 and a brooch spring and pin from pit 6505. Evidence for textile working is provided by a sewing needle from ditch 6240. The tools include a cleaver, knife, awl and hook. The cleaver is socketed, with the back of the blade rising slightly towards the socket (cf Manning 1985, fig. 30, type 4). It was recovered from the tertiary fill of ditch 6281 (ON 71). The knife, from pit 5533 (ON 133), has a straight back, dropping towards the tip, the cutting edge rising slightly towards the tip (cf Manning 1985, types 14/19). A short rod with tapering ends, from ditch 6263, may be a leatherworker's awl or carpenter's bit. The hook is small with an open socket and probable nail hole (ditch 6260, ON 115). Manning notes that such hooks may have been used for a range of tasks, including pruning and as leaf-hooks (Manning 1985, 56–7).

6.10.5 Much of the assemblage comprises fastenings and fittings. A latch-lifter, used to pass through a hole and lift a latch or bolt, came from ditch 6267. This simple type of key was introduced during the Late Iron Age and continued in use throughout the Romano-British period (Manning 1985, 88). Part of an object with a looped end from ditch 4432 may represent a fragment from a second latch-lifter, or perhaps a hoof pick or other object type. A loop-headed spike was recovered from ditch 6211 (ON 128). A group of at least 64 small iron nails was found in cremation grave 4257. All have round, flat heads and square-sectioned shanks. Most are 20–30 mm long, with a few longer examples (40 mm

to 60 mm). The bend in some of the shanks indicate they were fixed to wood of varying thickness. They may derive from a box or casket, or perhaps an item of furniture. A bar fragment was also found in this grave but the type of object from which it derived is unknown. A curved strip with one round perforation and one square perforation may be part of a binding or reinforcing strip (ditch 6211, ON 130). Possible binding strips were also found in modern feature 4157. Other miscellaneous fittings include 15 flat-headed nails, 15 rod/shank fragments, two bar fragments and two strips. A large corroded mass from pit 4905 has been identified from X-ray as sections of chain with a suspension ring.

6.11 Worked bone

6.11.1 Five worked bone objects, plus fragments from at least two more, were recovered from Phase 4 Area 2. Two objects came from Saxon contexts, and one object was an unstratified find; the remainder were from Iron Age features.

6.11.2 Objects from Iron Age features include a short length of point/needle shaft (ON 152), and a sheep tibia cut obliquely to a gouge point at one end (ON 153), with an overall use-wear polish (both from ditch terminal 6268). Needles, points and gouges are well paralleled in the extensive Iron Age assemblage from Danebury (Sellwood 1984, figs 7.32–36).

6.11.3 From Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5739, seven joining fragments make up most of an object made from the tip of a red deer antler tine, with a transverse perforation through the wider end. Three further conjoining antler fragments are likely to represent a second such object, although neither end is present and there is no sign of a perforation, while seven further fragments could belong to either object, or to another/others (all ON 140). All 17 fragments have been burnt, although this has not been sufficient either to distort the form of the objects or to obscure the surface polish on both conjoining sections. These objects were associated with a group of six substantially complete pottery vessels, also showing signs of burning (see above), and may form part of a 'structured deposit'. They may be horse harness cheek pieces (see, for example, Seager Smith 2000, fig. 97, no. 95).

6.11.4 Saxon SFB 5894 produced one item which may be either a piece of waste or an unfinished object (ON 151). This is the tip of an antler tine (probably red deer) with roughly faceted sides; the surface is smooth but does not display obvious use-wear polish. Antler tine ends are the most common element of antler-working waste; they were generally discarded, but were also sometimes adapted for use as implements, often with little modification, as seen in objects from Southampton (Riddler and Trzaska-Nartowski 2003, 70, fig. 10).

6.11.5 A short length of shaft (length 34 mm, diameter 7–9 mm), of unknown species, does show overall use-wear polish (ON 150). This seems most likely to be part of a pinbeater or thread picker, an implement used to separate the threads on a warp-weighted loom (MacGregor 1985, fig. 101, 14–17). Such objects are commonly found throughout the Saxon period. This example came from SFB 5533.

6.11.6 The unstratified object (ON 149) is a thin disc (diameter 31 mm) of uncertain date and function. It was probably made from a mammal long bone.

6.12 Human bone

Introduction

6.12.1 Nine contexts contained human bone. The remains of an unurned cremation burial with redeposited pyre debris were recovered from grave 4257. Some 8 m to the east of the latter and situated 4 m apart lay two features of similar size and form (4400 and 4421)

from which cremated bone was recovered. Feature 4400 probably represents the remains of a *bustum* – a pyre site with an under-pyre pit which also functioned as the grave – whilst the nature of feature 4421 is currently unclear. The other contexts all formed components within pit 5096 some 57 m to the south of these cremation-related features, including the remains of a flexed inhumation burial (5095), and redeposited bones and bone fragments predominantly from the same individual recovered from various parts of the backfill. It is currently unclear if the pit comprised a grave dug specifically for burial or if a pre-existing feature was utilised for mortuary purposes.

6.12.2 Neither of the burials featured closely datable artefactual materials which could be confidently directly associated with the act itself. Several nails and degraded fragments of burnt Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery were found in cremation grave 4257. These probably represent the remains of pyre goods; however, the possibility of at least some residual or intrusive materials cannot be fully dismissed. A similar Late Iron Age/early Romano-British date was suggested for the inhumation burial through the presence of sherds of pottery and ceramic building materials within the grave fill. The form of this burial – flexed on the left side, with flint nodules apparently placed around parts of the body and disarticulated animal bone scattered around and over it – is strongly suggestive of Iron Age traditions as opposed to Romano-British. Radiocarbon analysis of a sample of the human bone confirmed this observation, returning a broad Middle–Late Iron Age date for the burial. No dating evidence was recovered from the *bustum* 4400 and only a few fragments of residual Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery were found in feature 4421; although both are likely to be of a commensurate date to that suggested for the cremation grave, there is no conclusive evidence that such is the case.

Methods

6.12.3 The human remains were subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, potential for indices recovery and the presence of pathological lesions. 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

6.12.4 A summary of the results is presented in **Appendix 2**. The condition of the unburnt bone is variable. Most has a relatively fresh appearance but some elements, e.g. the left upper limb and right side of the mandible (both of which had laid lower-most within the grave), are heavily eroded; total bone loss due to erosion is, however, unlikely. The skull is heavily fragmented and many of the articular ends of the lower limb bones have been crushed, the former as a result of recent disturbance (during machine stripping of the site and excavation) and the latter largely due to the pressure exerted by the weight/compaction of the overlying grave fill (which had common inclusions of ceramic building materials). Some of the bones show crush marks characteristic of damage to semi-green bone and feature longitudinal cracking suggestive of exposure to an overly-arid environment. Although there had been post-depositional damage to skeletal remains, they were sealed below an intact horizon and there is no evidence of horizontal truncation or loss of bone from the deposit due to modern disturbance.

6.12.5 Similarly, although the cremation grave had survived to a relatively shallow depth (0.10–0.14 m), little or no bone was evident at surface level, most appearing to lie at the base of the cut, and it is unlikely that much if any will have been lost from the deposit due to disturbance. Both compact and trabecular bone (prone to preferential destruction in an adverse burial environment) are present within the assemblage, though the majority of the bone fragments are unusually small (<20 mm).

6.12.6 The cremated bone from *bustum* 4400 all lay in a well-sealed, 0.05 m deep charcoal-rich deposit across the base of the 0.25m deep feature and no bone will have been lost due to disturbance. However, the potential nature of this feature – and that of the adjacent 4421 – was unfortunately not recognised at the time of excavation, and both were subject to only half-sectioning, meaning 50% of the deposits remained unexcavated. Undoubtedly a substantial quantity of bone – probably at least the same amount again as that recovered – will be missing from both contexts.

6.12.7 A minimum of four individuals is represented (MNI), one unburnt and three cremated. The unburnt remains are those of a young adult male, all recovered from pit 5096. The cremated remains from grave 4257 are those of a currently unsexed older adult <45 years of age. The cremated bone from *bustum* 4400 is that of a young/mature adult, also currently unsexed. A third cremated individual is indicated by a single bone fragment recovered from the upper fill of pit 5096, where it was found together with many elements and fragments of animal bone (unburnt and burnt/charred) and two fragments of skull vault from the inhumation burial 5095 (fresh breaks to these fragments suggest they were there as a consequence of recent disturbance). The bone from feature 4421 could represent the remains of a fourth cremated individual, but the uncertain nature of the deposit and its proximity to cremation grave 4257 mean the relatively meagre quantity of bone found within it could have derived from one of the individuals represented elsewhere within this small assemblage.

6.12.8 Several pathological lesions were observed in the remains of the young adult male. Infection of the left maxillary sinus (primary sinusitis) and the left lower lung (potentially the result of such conditions as pleurisy, bronchial disease or tuberculosis) were indicated by the presence of partially healed surface new bone. Both could be linked to poor living conditions featuring damp, smoky environments. There is also some suggestion of a small soft tissue growth in the same area of the lung as the infection was noted in. Moderate dental calculus was seen on most tooth crowns.

6.12.9 Some of the redeposited bones within pit 5096 were found over 1 m away from their place of origin – right toe bones from grave fill above the skull area. A few other hand and foot bones are missing, together with the whole of the right side of the maxilla and other right facial bones. These observations suggest some post-depositional disturbance (?human manipulation) of the remains after skeletalisation.

Discussion

6.12.10 The form and nature of the mortuary deposit in pit 5096 is intriguing. The other materials within the fill do not have the appearance of random deposits (**Plates 12**–**13**). The flint nodules and other large stones appear to 'frame' the distal half of the body; the substantial quantities of horse and cattle bones (complete elements – particularly skulls – and fragments; see Animal bone, section 6.13) lying around the body were mostly placed to the north, i.e. 'behind' the body; whilst the deposit of ceramic building materials 'sealing' the burial was largely situated to the south. There is evidence indicating these deposits were not necessarily all made at the time of burial. The post-deposition shifting of the body (upper body slumped back and head dropped down on to upper chest) demonstrates that a soil matrix was not immediately packed around it; the longitudinal splitting to some bone might suggest partial exposure to the elements; and the movement of foot bones from the west to the east end and higher-up in the pit fill suggests re-visiting, potentially to insert other elements within the feature. The charcoal-rich basal fill could reflect the symbolic 'cleansing' motif, characterised elsewhere in features of various forms, in this case prior to its reuse for mortuary and/or other ritual purposes.

6.12.11 The practice of making burials in existing pits, as opposed to specifically cut graves, is a commonly recorded Iron Age rite within parts of southern England, with a concentration in the Wessex region (Whimster 1981, fig 4). The latter lists no recorded finds for Buckinghamshire or Berkshire, though there are several examples from neighbouring Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. Although there is some evidence for 'careless' or 'unceremonious' deposition, contrary to some claims that 'careful burial' was not practised in Southern Britain (Cunliffe 1992), many of the pit burials were carefully 'made' formal deposits, with the deceased arranged in position. Most were flexed or crouched, with a suggested preference for the left side, the predominant orientation ranging between north–south and east–west (Whimster 1981, 5–25). Whilst the majority of later Iron Age lone graves feature artefactual grave goods, this was often not the case with pit burials. Associated deposits of animal carcasses or parts thereof are a recurring feature (e.g. Farley and Jones 2012, figure 22 and 23; Harding 2015, 254–7; Parfitt 1995, 146–50). The association between human remains and other materials expressive of economic importance is potentially of great symbolic significance in such later prehistoric societies and might have been seen as instrumental in securing the future success of a community (Sharples 1991; Hill 1995). Although animal remains from graves are frequently viewed as 'food for the dead', in the Taplow example, as elsewhere, they may better be linked to future food for the living.

6.12.12 Cuts 4400 and 4421 were very close in size and depth at 2.4 x 0.90 by 0.25 m deep and 2.33 x 0.96 m by 0.28 m deep respectively. The former had clear evidence of *in situ* burning to the sides of the feature, and a distinctive layer of charcoal/fuel ash in the base from which the cremated bone (and other burnt components) was recovered. It is unfortunate that only half the feature was excavated and that the cremated remains were recovered *en masse* rather than in blocks as the latter would have assisted in illustrating details of the formation process (McKinley 2000; 2013), but this should not preclude some further analysis. The fills of cut 4421 differ in several respects from those of 4400, and whilst the feature might prove to represent the remains of a *bustum*-style pyre site, the remains were clearly subject to different treatment from those found in 4400 and feature 4421 is unlikely to have formed the place of burial.

6.12.13 *Busta* appear to represent a largely Romano-British phenomena in the British Isles, though rare earlier examples have been recorded (Whimster 1981, 154 and 354). Even within the Romano-British period such features are not common, Philpott (1991, 48–49) citing examples from only 10 sites and Strück (1993, table 1) a further six, the writer adding at least seven (McKinley 2017); it has been argued that not all are true *busta* (*ibid.*). Only one other potential *bustum* is listed by Strück from the county, at Thornborough (Strück 1993, table 1). More recently, *busta* have also been recognised at Denham, Buckinghamshire (Pine 2018).

6.13 Animal bone

Introduction

6.13.1 A total of 8834 fragments (or 54.264 kg) of animal bone came from archaeological deposits in Phase 4 Area 2. Once conjoins and associated bone groups are considered (hereafter ABG) the total falls to 3379 fragments (**Table 4**).

6.13.2 An additional small quantity (37 fragments or 47g) of animal bone came from deposits in previous excavation areas. These include Romano-British ditches 683 and 712, Iron Age/Romano-British posthole 716 and undated pit 1017. The preservation state of this material is poor, consequently most of the fragments were unidentifiable to species and

skeletal element, and only two as cattle-sized fragments of long bone shaft and tooth enamel.

6.13.3 Most of the bone was recovered by hand and the rest retrieved from the sieved residues of bulk samples. The assemblage includes material of Iron Age, Romano-British and Early–Middle Saxon date.

Methods

6.13.4 The assemblage was rapidly scanned, and the following information quantified where applicable: 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.

Table 4 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by period from Phase 4 Area 2

Species	Iron Age	Late Iron Age-early Romano-British	Romano-British	Early–Middle Saxon	undated	Total
cattle	152	79	94	31	10	366
sheep/goat	96	30	63	10	5	204
pig	27	10	12	11	2	62
horse	29	11	39	6	1	86
dog	2	3	8	-	-	13
red deer	6	-	-	1	-	7
domestic fowl	-	-	1	2	-	3
duck	1	1	-	-	-	2
crow	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total identified	**314**	**134**	**217**	**61**	**18**	**744**
mammal	1195	482	598	272	76	2623
rodent	4	1	-	-	-	5
bird	1	-	-	-	-	1
amphibian	3	-	-	-	-	3
fish	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total unidentifiable	**1206**	**483**	**598**	**272**	**76**	**2635**
Overall total	**1520**	**617**	**815**	**333**	**94**	**3379**

6.14 Results

Preservation and fragmentation

6.14.1 Bone preservation varies from good to poor. The fills of some enclosure ditches, pits and sunken-featured buildings (hereafter SFB) include bones in different states of preservation and this is a general indication that material has been reworked and redeposited.

6.14.2 The assemblage includes four ABGs and a significant number of complete or near complete bones amongst the disarticulated material, for example the disarticulated bones associated with inhumation grave 5096. However, most of the assemblage consists of disarticulated bones from carcasses that have been processed for meat and this material

is reasonably fragmented and consequently only 22% of fragments are identifiable to species and skeletal element.

6.14.3 Gnaw marks were apparent on only 82 post-cranial bones (approx. 2%) most of which came from ditch deposits, particularly Enclosures 1 to 4. The evidence indicates that the assemblage has not been significantly biased by the bone chewing habit of scavenging carnivores and reiterates the likelihood that ditches include residual bones that are likely to have derided from surface detritus.

Iron Age

6.14.4 The assemblage comprises 1520 fragments of animal bone and includes material from Middle to Late Iron Age deposits and more broadly dated Iron Age contexts. These include the lower fills of Enclosures 1 to 4, penannular ditch 6182, roundhouse structure 4985, inhumation grave 5096, and several pits and postholes. Most bones came from pits (64%) and ditches (35%).

6.14.5 Approximately 21% of fragments from Iron Age deposits are identifiable to species. Bones from livestock dominate and account for 88% NISP. Cattle bones are particularly abundant (48%), followed by sheep/goat (30%) and then horse (11%) and pig (8%). Less common species include dog, red deer (antler), duck and crow.

6.14.6 All parts of the cattle and sheep/goat carcass are present, and despite the small number of pig bones, the range of skeletal elements also suggests that whole carcasses are represented. This information indicates that livestock were slaughtered and butchered in the immediate area and the meat consumed locally. This fits with evidence from many Iron Age settlements for self-sufficiency in the procurement of meat (Hambleton 1999, 31).

6.14.7 Detailed analysis of age-related information (e.g. epiphyseal fusion and tooth eruption and wear) is outside the scope of this assessment, however the amount of available data (**Table 7**) is adequate to reconstruct the mortality profile for cattle and clarify the nature of the husbandry strategy. The presence of a few calf bones suggests that dairying may have played some part in the regime, but perhaps as part of a mixed strategy.

6.14.8 Butchery marks were frequently noted on cattle bones. Most relate to dismemberment and reduction of the carcass into meat joints but some result from skinning, filleting and marrow extraction. For example, cut marks associated with skinning were noted on a skull from pit 4505, and filleting cut marks were noted on a scapula from ditch 6268, part of Enclosures 1 and 2. A few of the cattle bones from 6268 had also been exploited for marrow. The butchery evidence indicates that cattle carcasses were extensively exploited, a practice that is perhaps unsurprising given the apparent self-sufficient nature of the livestock economy.

6.14.9 A few neonatal and older lambs were noted amongst the sheep/goat bones from some pits. This evidence indicates that these pit deposits accumulated during the spring lambing season and into the early summer. One function of the enclosures is likely to have been livestock control and pregnant ewes may have been separated from the flock during this vulnerable period.

6.14.10 Of note is a group of mostly complete but disarticulated bones associated with Middle–Late Iron Age inhumation burial 5096 located at the intersection of ditches 6202, 6262 and 6263. The animal bones were deposited in the northern half of the grave cut where they form a loosely dispersed heap next to the skeleton. The bones are from at least two cattle and a horse, and they include skulls, mandibles and post-cranial bones from both the fore-

and hind-quarters. The right hand of the skeleton was placed on one of the cattle skulls (ON 111). The deposit also includes three sheep/goat bones and charred and calcined fragments of skull and post-cranial bones. The deposit from 5096 bears many similarities with a double inhumation burial and associated animal bone deposit from a Late Iron Age pit at Viables Farm in Basingstoke (Millett and Russell 1982).

Late Iron Age–early Romano-British

6.14.11 A total of 617 fragments of animal bone came from deposits dated to the Late Iron Age–early Romano-British transition. These include Enclosures 1 to 5, trackway 6235, penannular ditch 5771, and several pits and postholes. Most of the bones came from ditches (93%).

6.14.12 The identified bones (22% of the total) are dominated by cattle (60% NISP), followed by sheep/goat (22%), horse (8%), then pig (7%) dog and duck. Most parts of the cattle carcass are present and any absences or under representations are the result of small sample size. The evidence from the cattle bones appears to suggest that there was little change in the farming regime or self-sufficient nature of the economy.

6.14.13 Of note are two ABGs from ditch 6255 which formed part of Enclosures 3 and 4. These comprise articulating bones from the right forequarter of a horse (slot 5064) and a complete cattle skeleton (slot 5058). The cattle skeleton is that of a senile animal and was placed along the base of the ditch facing west with its legs tucked tightly up towards the body. The positioning of the limbs ensured that the carcass fitted snugly along the length of the ditch and implies that some care was taken to inter the animal, perhaps because it had been part of the herd for a significant length of time.

Romano-British

6.14.14 A total of 815 fragments of animal bone came from Romano-British deposits, some closely dated but the majority only broadly dated to the period. These include Enclosures 1 to 5, corn dryer 6289, roundhouse 5772, well 6285, and several pits and gullies. Most of the bones came from ditches (66%) and pits (15%).

6.14.15 The identified bones (27% of the total) are dominated by cattle (43% NISP), followed by sheep/goat (29%), then horse (18%), pig (6%), dog and domestic fowl. All parts of the cattle and sheep/goat carcass are present, and the range of horse body parts also suggests the presence of whole carcasses. The evidence suggests continuity in the local livestock economy from the preceding Iron Age period.

6.14.16 A few bones from calves and lambs are present and it is likely therefore that dairying continued to play some part in the husbandry regime for cattle and that the enclosures continued to be used for stock control, including the separation of pregnant ewes over winter and into the lambing season.

6.14.17 Butchery marks were noted with the greatest frequency on cattle bones. Chop marks are common and most relate to the initial stages in the carcass reduction sequence, although there is also some evidence for specialist processes such as meat curing specifically to preserve shoulders of beef. A sawn off-cut of metatarsal shaft from ditch 6260 indicates small-scale bone-working in the vicinity, and cut marks consistent with skinning were noted on a dog pelvis from pit 5929, so it is possible that dog pelts were also being processed.

6.14.18 Two ABGs were found a short distance apart near the terminus of ditch 6239. One is the axial skeleton of an old adult cattle and the other the complete skeleton of dog. The cattle

bones comprise the vertebral column and ribs, and the skull and mandibles. These were deposited as separate units, the skull having been detached from the atlas vertebra and placed on top of the thoracic area. The dog, a medium-sized animal with an estimated withers (or shoulder) height of approx. 0.53 m, lay on its left side with its limbs positioned to give the impression that the animal was running. Burial of dogs placed in 'life positions' have been noted elsewhere and include examples of running, urinating, mating, sleeping and sitting (Powell 2017, 87).

Early–Middle Saxon

6.14.19 A total of 333 bone fragments came from Early–Middle Saxon features. Most of the bones came from SFBs 5678 and 5894, with moderate numbers from SFB 6287 and negligible amounts from SFB 6291 and pits 5533 and 5836. The identified bones (18% of the total) are mostly from livestock, particularly cattle. Less common species include horse, red deer and domestic fowl. The material from SFB 5894 includes several axially split long bone shaft fragments and this is evidence that meat joints were extensively exploited, including for marrow. A shaped piece of red deer antler also came from SFB 5894, and SFBs 5678 and 6287 included several charred bone fragments.

Undated

6.14.20 A small number of fragments came from undated pits and a few postholes and ditches. The identified bones include cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse.

Conclusions

6.14.21 A moderate-sized assemblage of animal bones came from the Phase 4 Area 2 excavation. Approximately 22% of fragments are identifiable to species (**Table 7**) and much of this material came from broadly dated Iron Age and Romano-British deposits. It has been suggested that a minimum NISP count of 300 is required for an accurate assessment of livestock husbandry (Hambleton 1999, 40), and while none of the phased assemblages fit these criteria there are some interesting aspects that merit further investigation.

6.14.22 The pastoral economy at Berry Hill Farm during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods was one primarily based on cattle farming. Detailed recording of age-related information is outside the scope of this assessment, however the presence of calves implies that dairying may have played some part in the husbandry strategy. Evidence for specialist butchery techniques was noted on some cattle scapulae.

6.14.23 The assemblage also includes several placed deposits of animals and articulated bones from some ditches, but perhaps the most significant deposit is the one associated with inhumation grave 5096.

6.15 Conservation

6.15.1 Finds which may be considered as vulnerable, and thus potentially in need of conservation treatment, comprise the metal objects, particularly the ironwork, which are actively corroding. Metal objects have already been X-rayed (see above), and the X-ray plates will act as a basic record for objects which may suffer further deterioration, and which may not be recommended for long-term curation. Some further X-raying may be necessary in order to refine identifications.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A total of 122 samples were taken from the last stage of fieldwork from Phase 4 Area 2. Of these, 102 bulk sediment samples, including a mollusc series of small bulks, were taken from features with a wide-ranging chronology, including a penannular ditch of a probable barrow, roundhouse gullies, sunken-featured buildings, ditches, pits, wells/waterholes, postholes, cremation grave and an inhumation grave/pit; these were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence (**Table 5**). Nineteen samples from inhumation burials were processed by wet-sieving for the recovery of skeletal material, after subsampling for palaeoparasitological analysis (a small subsample of 10–20 ml of sediment from the pelvic area from one of the graves was taken). One sample was taken from a pit for the recovery of artefacts. The bulk environmental samples break down into the following phase groups:

Table 5 Bulk sample provenance summary

Phase	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Bronze Age	3	69.5	Ditch, pits
Iron Age	28	536	Ditches, pits, postholes, roundhouse
Late Iron Age/early Romano-British	38	1094.5	Ditches, pits, postholes, cremation burials, inhumation burial
Romano-British	27	395.9	Ditches, pits, wells, structures
Saxon	4	191	SFBs
Uncertain	2	35	Pits, posthole
Totals	**102**	**2321.9**	

7.1.2 This report includes analysis recommendations for all phases of work at the site (see Section 9.5), the results of which have already been reported in a series of interim reports. Overall, 156 samples were taken during all phases of investigations at the site.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains to address the project aims and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks. The nature of this assessment follows recommendations outlined in Historic England guidance (Campbell *et al*. 2011).

7.2.2 Eighteen samples from earlier stages of work in Phase 4 (Area 1 A–C) were previously processed, assessed and reported on (WA 2017). This information facilitated a site-specific sampling strategy (SSSS) to guide sampling during the excavation of Phase 4 Area 2. This recommended sampling between 40 and 60 litres of sediment when permitted by deposit size, as the density of environmental evidence in the previously assessed sediment seemed to be generally low. The interim reports also indicated that the rarity of evidence very likely resulted from features directly related to the processing of

plant resources not having been identified yet and highlighted the potential for further sampling of domestic features. Therefore, recommendations were made in the SSSS to sample features associated with domestic activities (hearths, ovens, pits, floors) over other types of features, such as ditches and postholes, which would be sampled if appropriate.

7.2.3 The volume of the bulk sediment samples from the recent excavation varied between 1.5 and 80 litres per sample, and on average was around 25 litres. The nine small bulk samples for land molluscs varied between 0.25 and 1.5 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1/0.5 mm fractions. The skeleton samples were processed by wet-sieving on a 9 mm and 1 mm size mesh. The artefact sample was processed by wet-sieving on a 4 mm and 1 mm size mesh. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. A riffle box was used to split large flots into smaller flot subsamples when appropriate (two samples with flots >1 litre).

7.2.4 The flots were scanned using stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x45 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered (Pelling *et al*. 2015), 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 In general, the flots from the bulk sediment samples were of variable sizes (**Appendix 3**). There were differing numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material showed varying degrees of preservation. Wood charcoal was noted in a range of quantities and was from mature and roundwood with visible cut marks on some pieces. Remains of terrestrial molluscs and small animal bones were also present in some samples. Charred insect legs and a small animal charred faecal pellet were present in two samples. No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples. Slag, hammerscale and vitrified sand were present in some samples.

Bronze Age

7.3.2 The bulk sediment samples from penannular ditch 6146 (fill 6157) and pits 4647 and 4832 contained a very small assemblage of charred cereal grains. Charred remains included *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and *Triticum* cf. *dicoccum* (hulled wheat, tentatively identified as emmer). Charcoal from these features was present in very small amounts and was from mature wood.

Middle to Late Iron Age

7.3.3 The bulk sediment samples from 11 of the Iron Age pits (4209, 4477, 4505, 4628, 4656, 4661, 4941, 5241, 5476, 5484 and 6089), and roundhouse gully 6112 (fill 6182) and roundhouse 6279 (postholes/pits 6140, 6150, 6164 and 6168), contained the charred remains of both cereals (Triticeae) and wild plants. Cereals included *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and unidentified fragments of Triticeae, poor preservation preventing further identification. Wild plant species included field-madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), *Rumex* sp. (dock), Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail) and *Avena* sp. (oat)), elder (*Sambucus* sp.), Vicieae (vetches) and Trifolieae (clover/medick/trefoil), Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot), paren-chymatic tissue and a bud of indeterminate taxa. Charcoal from these features was present in generally small to moderate quantities and was mainly from mature wood; two ditches 6231 (cut 5656), the terminus of 6239 (cut 4476) and pit 4477 also contained roundwood.

7.3.4 Iron Age pit 5774 had a higher number of charred plant remains. Specimens included seeds of Poaceae (grasses, including *Lolium/Festuca* (ryegrass/fescue)), Cyperaceae (sedges), Polygonaceae (knotweed), fruit remains of *Sambucus* sp. (elder) and *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), and buds of indeterminate taxa. Cereals included *Triticum* sp. (wheat, including *T. spelta* (spelt) grains and glume bases) and a single grain of *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Charcoal from this feature was present in small quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.5 Eight bulk sediment samples from deposits in Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5739 contained varying numbers of charred remains of cereals and wild plants, with deposits 5750, 5765 and 5766 containing the largest amounts of material. Cereal remains included grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks) of *Triticum* sp. (wheat, one wrinkled grain present), including *T. spelta* (spelt, one grain sprouted) and *T. dicoccum* (emmer), and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Remains of exploited fruits from potentially managed shrubs and trees included *Sambucus* sp. (elder), Maleae (apple tribe, which includes apples, pears, whitebeam, rowan, service tree, and mountain-ash) and a *Prunus* sp. (plums/cherries) endocarp. Wild plant seeds present comprised *Chenopodium* sp. (goosefoot), Cyperaceae (sedges), Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail), *Avena* sp. (oat), and *Bromus* sp. (brome)), Caryophyllaceae (pinks), Asteraceae (daisy family), Vicieae (vetches), Trifolieae (clover/medick/trefoil), *Fumaria* sp. (fumitory), Polygonaceae (knotweed, including *Rumex* sp. (dock)) and buds of indeterminate taxa. Charred insect legs were present in deposit 5741. Charcoal in this feature was noted in generally moderate quantities and was mainly from mature wood, with two deposits, 5750 and 5766, containing roundwood.

Late Iron Age/early Romano-British

7.3.6 The bulk sediment samples from Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pits 4266, 5864 and 4047, structures 4120 (postholes 4055, 4067, 4087, 4102, and 4106) and 4121 (postholes 4069, 4072, 4085, 4099 and 4104), cremation grave 4257, possible *bustum* cremation deposit 4400, and possible cremation deposit 4421, ditches 6268 (cut 4016), 4432 (cut 4039), 6268 (cut 4063), 6268 (cuts 4407 and 4437), 6281 (cuts 4168 and 4313) and 6207 (cut 4651) were dominated by the charred remains of cereals (grains and chaff), but also contained varying numbers of charred wild plant seeds. Cereal species present were *Hordeum vulgare* (barley), Triticum sp. (wheat, including *T. dicoccum* (emmer) and *T. spelta* (spelt; grains, glume bases and spikelet forks)), a tentatively identified grain of *Secale cereale* (rye), unidentified Triticeae grain fragments, and glume bases and spikelet forks of Triticum sp. Other possibly cultivated or managed plants include *Prunus* sp. (plums/cherries) endocarp fragments, *Beta vulgaris* (beet) and Trifolieae

(clover/medick/trefoil). Other wild plants present, many of which may have acted as weeds, were Poaceae (grasses, some tentatively identified, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail), *Bromus* sp. (brome), *Avena* sp. (oats) and *Lolium/Festuca* (ryegrass/fescue)), *Sherardia arvensis* (field madder), *Galium* sp. (bedstraw), Vicieae (vetches), *Veronica* sp. (speedwell), *Fumaria* sp. (fumitory), *Asteraceae* (daisy family), *Chenopodium* sp. (goosefoot), *Polygonaceae* (knotweed, including *Rumex* sp. (dock)), Cyperaceae (sedges) and buds of indeterminate taxa. Wood charcoal was present in these features in generally low or moderate quantities and was from mature wood. Possible *bustum* cremation deposit 4400 and ditch 6268 (cut 4407) contained high quantities of wood charcoal from mature wood and roundwood. Cremation grave 4257, deposit 4258, contained a moderate amount of charcoal from mature wood and roundwood; some roundwood pieces appeared to have visible cut marks.

7.3.7 The two deposits from pit 4269 (4271 and 4272) contained high numbers of charred cereal remains. Species included *Triticum spelta* (spelt, grains and a glume base), *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and unidentified fragments of Triticeae grains, glume bases and a culm node. Wild plants present in this feature included the charred remains of Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail) and *Bromus* sp. (brome)), *Rumex* sp. (dock), *Ranunculus* sp. (buttercup), *Cyperaceae* (sedges), *Caryophyllaceae* (pinks) and *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn). Charcoal from this feature was present in small quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.8 Pit 4079, deposit 4082, contained fairly high numbers of charred cereal grains and chaff. The assemblage mainly consisted of Triticum sp. (wheat, including T. *spelta*) grains and glume bases, but also contained *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and some unidentified fragments of Triticeae. Charred seeds of *Bromus* sp. (brome) were also present. Charcoal from this feature was present in moderate quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.9 Ditch terminus 6268 (cut 4307), deposit 4308, also contained fairly high numbers of charred cereal grains and chaff. The bulk sediment sample was dominated by Triticum sp. (wheat, including *T. dicoccum* (emmer) and *T. spelta* (spelt)) grains and chaff (glume bases and a spikelet fork). *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grains were also present. Wild seeds included the charred remains of Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail) and *Bromus* sp. (brome)), *Aphanes* sp. (parsley-piert), *Centaurea* sp. (knapweed), *Galium* sp. (bedstraw), *Chenopodium* sp. (goosefoot), Vicieae (vetches) and Trifolieae (clover/medick/trefoil). Charcoal from this feature was present in fairly high quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.10 The bulk sediment samples from a deliberate charcoal deposit at the base of inhumation grave 5096 contained moderate numbers of charred remains of both Triticeae (cereals) and wild plants. Cereals included mainly *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) but also Triticum sp. (wheat) and unidentified cereal grain fragments. Chaff consisted of only a small number of cereal culm nodes. Other plants present, some of them potential weeds and others possibly exploited, included Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail) and *Bromus* sp. (brome)), *Chenopodium* sp. (goosefoot), *Galium* sp. (bedstraw), *Sambucus* sp. (elder), *Asteraceae* (daisy family), *Brassicaceae* (mustards), Trifolieae (clover/medick/trefoil), Cyperaceae (sedges), *Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp. *bulbosum* tubers (onion couch grass) and buds of indeterminate taxa. Charcoal from this feature was present in generally small quantities, with the exception of deposit 5286 which contained moderate quantities. All wood charcoal was from mature wood.

Romano-British

7.3.11 The bulk sediment samples from Romano-British structure 5571 (gully cuts 5548 and 5871), pits 4251, 5451, 5555, 5605, 5904 and 5907, and ditches 6201 (cut 4595) and 6255 (cut 5064), contained generally low to medium numbers of both charred cereals and wild plants. Cereals included *Triticum* sp. (grains and chaff, including *T. spelta* (spelt), *T. dicoccum* (emmer) and *T. aestivum/turgidum* (naked wheat, tentatively identified), and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Other plant species present included Poaceae (grasses, including *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tail), *Avena/Bromus* (oats/brome), *Avena* sp. (oats, grains and awns)) and *Lolium/Festuca* (ryegrass/fescue)), Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot), Asteraceae (daisy family), Polygonaceae (knotweeds, including *Rumex* sp. (dock)), Cyperaceae (sedges), *Galium* sp. (bedstraw), Vicieae (vetches, some large seeded), Trifolieae (clover/medick/trefoil), and *Ranunculus* sp. (buttercups). Charcoal from these features was present in generally small quantities and was from mature wood, with the exception of feature 5605 which contained roundwood. Pit 5451 contained high quantities of charcoal and was from mature and roundwood.

7.3.12 The bulk sediment samples from the deposits in corn-drying oven 6289 contained generally high numbers of charred cereal grains, chaff and other plant seeds. Cereals included *Triticum* sp. (wheat, including *T. spelta* (spelt; grains (some sprouted) and chaff (glume bases, spikelets and rachis segments)) and *T. dicoccum* (emmer grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks)), and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley, grains and rachis segments). Also present were unidentified Triticeae grain fragments, some sprouted, coleoptiles and detached embryos. Other plant remains present were similar to those in the features of this phase mentioned above, but also identified were *Linum usitatissimum* (flax) seed capsule fragments and *Viola* sp. (violet). Charcoal from this feature was present in small quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.13 Ditch 6240 (cut 6016), deposit 6017 (three bulk sediment samples), contained moderate numbers of charred cereal remains and wild plants. Cereals included *Triticum* sp. (wheat, including *T. spelta* (spelt; grains, glume bases and spikelet forks), Triticeae culm nodes and a detached embryo, and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grains. Wild plant remains were similar to those in the other features but also included Rosaceae (family including apples, pears, plums etc) fruit. Charcoal from this feature was present in generally low quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.14 The deposits in well 6285 (cut 5150) contained varying numbers of charred grains, chaff and wild seeds, with higher numbers present in deposits 5151, 5335 and 5366. Cereals included *Triticum* sp. (wheat, including *T. spelta* (spelt; grains, glume bases, spikelet forks and rachis fragments)), *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and unidentified cereal grain fragments and chaff. Wild plant remains were similar to those in the other features. The series of small bulk samples taken as a mollusc column had low numbers of land molluscs present in most of the samples, the only species being the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula.* Charcoal from this feature was present in small quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.15 Ditch 6201 (cut 4595), deposit 4597, contained fairly high numbers of both charred cereals and wild plant seeds. The cereal assemblage consisted mainly of *Triticum spelta* (spelt) grains and glume bases, with some *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grains also present. The wild seed assemblage was very similar to that in the rest of the samples but also included *Malva* sp. (mallow) and buds of indeterminate taxa. Charcoal from this feature was present in moderate quantities and was from mature and roundwood.

Saxon

7.3.16 SFB 5678 (cut 5563, backfill deposit 5564) and SFB 5894 (backfill deposit 5889) both contained identical charred grain assemblages. Species include *Triticum aestivum* tp. *compactum* (short stubby naked wheat grains), *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) and unidentified Triticeae grain fragments. Deposit 5564 also contained charred remains of Poaceae (grasses, including *Avena* sp. (oats) and *Lolium/Festuca* (ryegrass/fescue)), and potentially cultivated large seeded Vicieae (vetches, including *Pisum sativum* (cultivated garden pea)) and Trifolieae (clover/medick/trefoil). Deposit 5889 did not contain any other plant remains. Charcoal from these features was present in moderate quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.17 SFB 6287 (cut 5373, backfill deposit 5375) was dominated by the charred remains of wild plants. Species include *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), Asteraceae (daisy family), Trifolieae (clover/medick/trefoil), *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain), Caryophyllaceae (pinks), Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot), Poaceae (grasses, including *Lolium/Festuca* (ryegrass/fescue) and *Poa/Phleum* (meadow grass/cat's tails)), Cyperaceae (sedges), *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell and *Rumex* sp. (dock). Cereal species present include *Hordeum vulgare* (barley), *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and unidentified cereal grain fragments. Charcoal from this feature was present in moderate quantities and was from mature wood.

7.3.18 SFB 6291 (cut 6189, deposit 6190) contained only small numbers of charred cereal grains including *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Charcoal from this feature was present in small quantities and was from mature wood.

Undated

7.3.19 The charred plant assemblages from the bulk sediment samples from undated posthole 4224 and possible pit 4226 were generally small. Grains present were of indeterminate taxa and therefore not useful for the purpose of phasing. Cereal species included *Triticum* sp. (wheat, including a grain of tentatively identified *T. spelta* (spelt) grains). Other charred remains included remains of fruits, such as *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell; seeds of wild plants such as *Veronica hederifolia* (ivy-leaved speedwell), indeterminate plant tissue fragments and tuber, and a small animal faecal pellet. Charcoal from these two features was present in small quantities and was from mature wood. Posthole 4224 contained moderate amounts of mature and roundwood charcoal with possible cut marks visible on some of the roundwood pieces.

8 RADIOCARBON DATING

8.1 Material and methods

8.1.1 A radiocarbon sample of a fragment of femur from inhumation grave 5095 was submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), University of Glasgow. Reporting of the radiocarbon dating (see **Table 6**) results follows international conventions (Bayliss and Marshall 2015; Millard 2014). Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar *et al*. (2016). The calibrated age ranges were calculated with OxCal 4.2.3 (Bronk-Ramsey and Lee 2013) using the IntCal13 curve (Reimer *et al*. 2013). All radiocarbon dates are 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. The ranges have been calculated according to the maximum intercept method (Stuiver and Reimer 1986).

8.2 Results

8.2.1 The radiocarbon measurement of the sample was successful and confirmed the Iron Age chronology of the funerary rite. Unfortunately, the calibration curve for the period is not precise, with the dating result falling roughly in the Middle to Late Iron Age (SUERC-81911, 2154±28 BP: 360–100 cal. BC, **Table 6**). The largest probability (60% at 2σ) is broadly in the 2nd century (235–95) cal BC (see full lab report, **Appendix 5**).

Table 6 Summary of radiocarbon result

Lab. Ref.	Sample reference	Date BP	δC13 ‰ (IRMS)	δN15 ‰	calibration (2 sig. 95.4%)
SUERC-81911 (GU488899)	61058_(5095)_Femur (1 g.)	2154 ± 28	-20.4‰	12.2‰	360–100 cal. BC

9 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 The excavations have produced evidence of human activity ranging from the Middle Palaeolithic (150,000–30,000 BC) to the post-medieval/modern period (16th century onwards), though the site was not continuously occupied for all this extensive time range. The focus of occupation and settlement dates from the Early Neolithic to the Early/Middle Saxon periods, though it is in the later prehistoric period (possibly from the Middle/Late Bronze Age) that the landscape is first organised and subsequently re-organised (at least twice) through the Iron Age–Romano-British period, mostly for agricultural purposes, though settlement and funerary evidence are also present. The results presented within this assessment have the potential to augment our current understanding of the archaeology of the Middle Thames Valley (Garwood *et al*. 2011, Lambrick *et al*. 2009).

9.1.2 This section outlines the potential of the data (stratigraphic, finds and environmental) to contribute to the original research objectives of the excavation, leading to a revision of these research objectives for recommended further analysis.

9.2 Stratigraphic overview and potential

Early prehistoric

9.2.1 Early prehistoric evidence is scant and restricted to the finding of a single handaxe of Middle Palaeolithic date, though as this was found unstratified it has very limited potential. In spite of geoarchaeological watching briefs during earlier stages of work, no deposits of archaeological or paleoenvironmental significance were identified for further investigation. Diagnostic flint of Late Glacial/Mesolithic date is not recognisable within the relatively small flint assemblage.

9.2.2 The earliest features recorded were three Early Neolithic pits, located in the central and northern parts of the site, and there is some evidence that tree-throw holes may also have been utilised in this period. Neolithic pottery sherds recovered from the fills of later prehistoric ditches and worked flint from one of the Saxon SFBs are residual but do provide further evidence. This Neolithic activity may have been linked to transient communities moving through the landscape. There is the potential to explore the nature of

this Neolithic occupation, following the confirmation of this chronology by the proposed radiocarbon dating of charred plant remains (below), thereby allowing it to be discussed in relation to known contemporaneous activity within the Middle Thames Valley such as at Taplow Court (Allen *et al.* 2009), Taplow Mill (Anderson and Barclay 2013), Cippenham (Ford *et al.* 2003;and Taylor 2012), Kingsmead Quarry, Horton (Wessex Archaeology forthcoming) and ongoing excavations by Wessex Archaeology at Riding Court Farm, Datchet.

Prehistoric ring ditches

9.2.3 An undated segmented ring ditch in the north-east of the site is the remains of a probable barrow monument of possible Late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age date. Unfortunately, though a high proportion (approximately 50%) of the monument was hand-excavated, the absence of datable finds, environmental remains or direct evidence of funerary activity from this monument limits its potential to contribute to the research objectives. The same is true for the continuous ring ditch (a second probable barrow) in the north of the site (from which three pottery sherds of probable Neolithic date were recovered together with small quantities of charred plant remains), as well as for a larger, penannular enclosure of provisional Middle/Late Bronze Age date in the south of the site. The variability in recovered material types between chronological phases/areas of the site should be considering as there may be taphonomic reasons for this scarcity of ecofacts. Nonetheless, spatial examination of these monuments in relation to other features, including both the Neolithic and Bronze Age pits and later prehistoric field system ditches (some of which appear to respect these monuments), and comparison of these monuments with other similar typological examples from other sites in the area (e.g. Eton Rowing Lake, the Maidenhead–Windsor Flood Alleviation Scheme, Cippenham and Kingsmead Quarry, Horton) should enhance their understanding.

Late prehistoric

9.2.4 It was during the later prehistoric period that the landscape was first divided into a series of rectilinear fields and enclosures, the origins of which date to the Middle/Late Bronze Age, though parts may have remained in use into the Iron Age. The field ditches were more easily discerned in the north of the site where they contained small amounts of Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery (and where they were not obscured by Iron Age–Romano-British ditches which followed a similar orientation). Here, the ditches are mostly orientated north–south and east–west and defined a series of fields, some of which appear to have respected the earlier ring ditch. In the central and southern parts of the site the orientation of the field system shifts slightly, and is harder to trace, but is present beneath the later remodelling. Most prominent are the long, curving ditches defining a boundary which appears important in the laying out of the system and possibly functioned as a droveway.

9.2.5 A small number of pits have also been dated to the Middle/Late Bronze Age, the shallower examples mainly located in the northern area of the site, with at least one deeper waterhole also present here. Other pits of later prehistoric date are located in the central and western parts of the site; at least one posthole in the west of the site contained pottery of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, though no structures are discernible. Further analysis of the pits/postholes, focusing on the artefacts/depositional contexts, their spatial distribution in relation to other contemporary features within the site, as well as in the pipeline excavation to the immediate west, may suggest foci of activity within the field system.

Iron Age

9.2.6 Iron Age settlement is indicated by at least two roundhouse structures located in the south of the site, seemingly sited within the later prehistoric field system, with one roundhouse appearing to respect one of the field ditches. Datable finds indicate that two of the roundhouses are of probable Middle–Late Iron Age date, with a third being tentatively phased as Romano-British, and almost 100 pits and postholes have been provisionally dated as Iron Age. There is further potential to elucidate the nature of the activities undertaken within this unenclosed settlement through analysis of the pits and the finds and environmental data they contained.

9.2.7 A single inhumation burial was recorded, in association with probably structured deposits of animal bone and other finds, in a grave/pit at the intersection of two ditches in the central part of Phase 4 Area 2. A sample of bone was radiocarbon dated and the results indicate a Middle–Late Iron Age date. Further analysis is needed to clarify the stratigraphic sequence here which seemingly suggests a later date than the scientific dating and Iron Age characteristics of the burial. An additional radiocarbon sample of charcoal from a deposit beneath the inhumation will also assist with confirming dating.

Late Iron Age–Romano-British

9.2.8 A system of sub-rectangular enclosures was probably laid out in the Late Iron Age, though possibly earlier as pottery broadly dated as Iron Age was also found exclusively in the lower fills of the same ditches. Finds of middle Roman date in the upper fills of the later recuts of these enclosures suggest these were remodelled in the early Romano-British period but infilled by the mid-2nd century AD. Small groups of postholes within some of the enclosures suggest four-post structures that may have functioned as granaries, and a number of pits were also present. There is the potential to provide information on domestic and craft activities and site economy through closer examination of the depositional context of various finds, and further analyses of the finds themselves. Stratigraphic analysis also has the potential to clarify sub-phasing regarding the development of these enclosures. For example, a funnel-like arrangement of ditches in the centre of the site (Phases 1 and 2) is interpreted as a droveway leading to an open area, and though dating evidence is slight this may have originated at the same time as the enclosures. This arrangement was then modified in the early–middle Romano-British period when a more extensive field system was created overlying the former enclosures, with another track or droveway alongside the fields, following the same curving line of the earlier enclosures.

9.2.9 The evidence, therefore, suggests that the site was continuously occupied from at least the Middle/Late Iron Age until the middle Romano-British period. There is the potential for stratigraphic analysis to further understand the development of the enclosures and the later field system, and to define sub-phases of activity. For example, a corn-drying oven, a well and beamslots of a possible structure all appear to post-date the Romano-British field system. Analysis will also focus on the depositional context of finds and environmental remains within features of these later phases.

Early/Middle Saxon

9.2.10 Saxon settlement is represented by five sunken-featured buildings recorded in the south of the site. This is regionally significant given the proximity of the rich ‘Taplow’ burial of 7th-century AD date located approximately 600 m to the north-west of the site. Other evidence of Saxon settlement has been found nearby, primarily in the upper fills of the Iron Age hillfort ditch (Allen *et al.* 2006). There is clear potential to examine the structure and layout of these SFBs, along with the finds and environmental evidence they

contained, to provide information on the nature of the settlement, craft industries and the local environment/agricultural practices. This can be considered in relation to other contemporary sites within this part of the Middle Thames Valley, including Taplow Court (Allen *et al.* 2009), Castleview Road, Slough where three SFBs of Early Saxon date were discovered (Andrews and Clarke in press) and the adjacent site of Ditton Park where two further SFBs were recorded; two radiocarbon dates obtained from residues on associated pottery are possibly as early as the 4th-century AD (Platt 2017).

Medieval and post-medieval

9.2.11 No features of medieval date were present, and only very small quantities of medieval pottery and CBM were found. It is probable that the focus of settlement shifted after the Middle Saxon period and became nucleated in the area of the present village of Taplow from the 11th century onwards. The land at Berry Hill Farm is likely to have been given over to agriculture, though there is no surviving evidence of field boundaries that can be dated to the Late Saxon or medieval period. A small number of field ditches in the central and eastern parts of the site are of post-medieval date, but only a limited number and range of finds was recovered from these. Consequently, there is no potential for any further stratigraphic analysis of the post-medieval remains.

9.3 Finds potential

9.3.1 The most recent phase of fieldwork (Phase 4 Area 2) has significantly expanded the existing finds assemblage from the site. The main points of interest can be summarised as follows:

- Large pottery assemblage of later prehistoric and Romano-British date, including possible 'wasters' from pottery production, and at least one probable 'structured deposit'; useful addition to ceramic dataset for the area and a possible contribution to discussion of production and distribution;
- Small but significant Saxon component (mainly pottery, with two bone objects) from sunken-featured buildings; augments settlement evidence which is as yet scarce from the area;
- Unburnt Middle Iron Age human remains from inhumation grave of unusual type, associated with deliberate deposits of animal bone, burnt flint and (subsequently) ceramic building material; of possible regional significance;
- Cremated human remains from possible Late Iron Age/early Romano-British *bustum*-type pyre site, of regional significance if identification is correct.

9.3.2 The potential of individual material types is discussed below.

Pottery

9.3.3 The pottery assemblage is of local interest and provides evidence for the trading and ceramic influences of the region. A chronological structure for the site has been established through the spot dating of contexts, with a concentration on the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The prehistoric assemblage, combined with that from previous phases, is sufficiently large to warrant further analysis.

9.3.4 The full potential of the Iron Age and Romano-British pottery is restricted by the poor condition of many sherds and the poor survival of diagnostic pieces in many of the feature groups. However, further analysis of the assemblage is warranted to complete recording

of the pottery according to the nationally recommended standards (PCRG *et al.* 2016) and set it within its local and regional context. The possibility of on-site (or nearby) pottery production will be investigated further through the possible 'wasters' identified.

9.3.5 The Saxon assemblage, although relatively small (but in a better state of preservation than the earlier pottery), is nevertheless significant; it provides the first evidence for settlement of this date from the immediate area, possibly contemporaneous with the rich 7th-century burial excavated in the 19th century, and supplements other small assemblages from south Buckinghamshire and north-east Berkshire. The possibility of non-local pottery types should be further investigated (through petrological analysis), as this will add to our understanding of production and distribution in this period. The assemblage does not lend itself to particularly close dating, and the possibility of radiocarbon dating from the SFBs should be pursued with the aim of refining this.

Ceramic building material

9.3.6 Although the assemblage is far too small to imply the existence of substantial Romanised structures in the vicinity, the presence of production waste associated with corn-drying oven 6289 is significant. This material highlights the existence of a Romano-British tilery in close enough proximity to facilitate the re-use of its waste material in the building of a utilitarian agricultural structure. Known Roman tileries are comparatively rare, but were generally sited close to a ready market, on the outskirts of towns, the edges of fields or the periphery of 'home' farming settlements associated with villas. Characterisation of this material will therefore provide an opportunity to source some of the building material used in the more sophisticated urban centres and villas in this part of the Thames valley.

9.3.7 The quantities of medieval and later building material recovered are too small for them to warrant further consideration.

Fired clay

9.3.8 The portable ceramic objects are all common types and provide evidence for textile production from the Iron Age through to the Saxon period. The bulk of this material, however, is of structural origin, probably derived from domestic ovens and hearths. The highly fragmentary, often abraded nature of this material limits any contribution it can make to the characterisation of these structures, but more detailed consideration of its fabrics and distribution across the site may provide evidence for changes in the materials used and/or the location of such structures through time.

Worked flint

9.3.9 The assemblage is relatively small, and there are no significant context groupings. The Palaeolithic hand axe is of some significance, but was found unstratified, and is one of a number recorded from gravel extraction in the immediate vicinity of the site. There are strong indications that most if not all of the rest of the assemblage is redeposited (with the possible exception of a small Early Neolithic group associated with pottery in a natural hollow in Phase 4, Area 1). As such, there is little potential for this material to contribute further to the aims of the fieldwork.

Stone

9.3.10 It is likely that the quernstones were used to grind flour and, therefore, have the potential to provide evidence of domestic activity at the site. These objects are also indicative of trade and exchange as they derive from sources in south-east England, northern England and the Continent.

Slag

9.3.11 The evidence for metalworking is minimal. The latest phase of fieldwork produced a small quantity of undiagnostic iron working slag from Iron Age and Romano-British contexts, but no *in situ* remains, and no further analysis is proposed for this material. Further iron working slag, either from smithing or smelting, was recovered from a pit in Phases 1–2. An Early/Middle Iron Age date was postulated for the pit, but on very slim ceramic evidence. In the absence of any firm dating for this feature, further analysis of this feature is not warranted.

Metalwork

9.3.12 The metalwork has the potential to provide evidence for a number of aspects of daily life during the Romano-British period including dress, personal hygiene, textile-working, leather-working or carpentry, perhaps butchery, structures and burial practices.

Worked bone

9.3.13 It should be possible to refine the classification of the Iron Age gouge using the Danebury typology, which may give some indication of function. Further parallels for the Iron Age cheek pieces and the modified antler tine from a Saxon SFB should also be sought, again with a functional interpretation as the aim, and. The deposition of the former as burnt objects with similarly burnt pottery in a probable 'structured deposit' should also be investigated further and discussed.

Human bone

9.3.14 Analysis should provide more detailed demographic data regarding the age and sex of the cremated individuals and clarify the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Metric data, enabling the calculation of some skeletal indices, can be recovered from the unburnt burial remains in pit 5096 with some reconstruction. Detailed analysis will facilitate full recording of the pathological lesions, the study of which will enable assessment of the health and, by inference, potentially the status of the individual with reference to other remains of similar date.

9.3.15 The form and nature of the mortuary deposit in Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pit 5096 is of particular interest and suggests several distinct episodes of activity surrounding the act of burial, including possible re-visiting of the grave to insert other elements. Closer dating of the deposit and further investigation of the other archaeological components will enable the remains to be studied in their appropriate temporal context, as well as assist in furthering our understanding of the treatment of the dead at this important time of political upheaval and flux.

9.3.16 Features 4400 (undated) and 4421 (Late Iron Age/early Romano-British), very close together and almost certainly associated, may include the remains of a *bustum*-style pyre site, an uncommon feature type in both Iron Age and Romano-British periods. If this is so, then the features make an important addition to this category of mortuary feature both locally and nationally. Although these features were not completely excavated, it should be possible to deduce some aspects related to the cremation process and subsequent treatment of the *in situ* remains from analysis of the bone itself and the skeletal elements represented.

Animal bone

9.3.17 Most (97%) of the animal bones came from Phase 4 Area 2, with an additional small quantity (25 fragments) from other areas. The assemblage merits further analysis to record the information quantified in **Table 7**. This information will complete the archive and

form the basis for the publication report which will summarise the analysis results and attempt to place the assemblage within a wider regional context, including further consideration of the placed deposits (Morris 2011) and any regional parallels, such as the double inhumation burial and animal bone deposit at Viables Farm, Basingstoke (Millett and Russell 1982).

Table 7 Quantity and type of detailed information available for further study

Information type	Iron Age	Late Iron Age–early Romano-British	Romano-British	Early–Middle Saxon	Total
Age - fusion	65	31	35	15	146
Age - mandibles 2+ teeth	17	5	15	2	39
Biometry	33	13	22	6	74
Butchery	46	15	32	8	101
Total	**161**	**64**	**104**	**31**	**360**

9.3.18 Animal burials and other deposits of articulated bones represent good candidates for radiocarbon dating. Suitable deposits include the following:

- dog burial and cattle axial bones from ditch 6239;
- cattle burial from ditch 6255, Enclosure 4;
- and other suitable samples that might help refine the ceramic chronology or phasing of the site.

9.4 Environmental potential

Charred plant remains

9.4.1 The Phase 4 Area 2 excavation has uncovered substantial evidence for plant processing activities dating from the Neolithic to Early/Middle Saxon periods, with a particular emphasis on the Iron Age and Romano-British phases of settlement. The evidence is particularly relevant as it reflects important changes in farming and plant exploitation, including the incorporation of new crops (abandonment of hulled wheats and adoption of free-threshing ones, cultivation of flax and beet) and agricultural challenges (accidental introduction of persistent weeds, naturalised as archaeophytes, which can inform about agricultural techniques and field conditions).

9.4.2 The assemblages of charred plant remains retrieved in the previous phases of fieldwork at the site were very small but provide evidence of domestic activities in the wider area. The increased amounts from the most recent excavation are largely due to having located the structures, ditches and pits where the remains and by-products of processing activities might have been deposited, as well as the increased target bulk sample volume (from 40 to 60 litres).

9.4.3 Low densities in charred plant evidence might also be due to depositional conditions. Despite the suitability of soil pH (acid, conductive to preservation of plant material in a carbonised state; Braadbaart *et al*. 2009), the shallowness of the topsoil, together with the alternation between wet and dry states of the deposits above the gravels, might have produced the extreme fragmentation of charred plant material (Hansen 2001).

Charcoal

9.4.4 The analysis of the wood charcoal from a selection of samples would provide information on the species composition, as well as management and exploitation of the local woodland resource.

Molluscs

9.4.5 Small assemblages of shells of terrestrial molluscs were present in some of the deposits and were identified as *Cecilioides acicula*. This is a burrowing (and potentially intrusive) species of land snail, and consequently has little potential to provide more detailed environmental information about the surrounding area.

Summary

9.4.6 Overall, the environmental evidence from the site has potential for further work to contribute information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment, and local plant exploitation practices and their evolution over time, from the early farming communities in the Neolithic until Saxon times.

10 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

10.1 Stratigraphic recommendations and proposed methodologies for analyses

10.1.1 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, some further stratigraphic and spatial analysis is required to refine the phasing of key features and to aid a better understanding of the development of settlement and landscape organisation across the site.

10.1.2 The project database, begun at assessment stage, will need updating (re-phasing, re-grouping etc.) following this stratigraphic analysis, before other finds/environmental specialist analyses are undertaken.

10.1.3 The known archaeological background in the immediate vicinity of the site will be reassessed. This will include reviewing published reports and available, unpublished 'grey literature' archaeological reports in order to provide an up-to-date understanding of the wider context of the site, as well as to enable discussion of the broader archaeological context of the archaeological remains in the proposed publication.

10.1.4 Once the initial specialist analysis is complete (particularly the radiocarbon dating and further work on the ceramic sequence), the stratigraphic specialist will make the required revisions to the site sequence and periodisation. The stratigraphic specialist will then write the detailed outline of the publication text, concentrating on the description of the sequence, and referring to key finds and environmental data as appropriate.

10.1.5 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 occasional paper 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.

Digital survey data and UAV photogrammetric model

10.1.6 Following stratigraphic analysis, which will seek to better determine sub-phases relating to the Iron Age–Romano-British enclosures and field systems, it will be necessary to undertake a certain amount of digitising of the recorded drawn plans and sections to produce an updated, overall, phased CAD drawing of the excavations. Drawn sections and plans of specific features (e.g. roundhouses, SFBs, inhumation/cremation burial features) will also be digitised for inclusion as figures within the publication report.

10.1.7 To achieve a greater level of accuracy for the UAV derived photogrammetric model than that generated by the UAV contractor, Wessex Archaeology would reprocess the photographic data set. This would involve importing the photos into Agisoft Metashape, and using 3D coordinates generated from the site GNSS survey to provide control points. Standard processing methods would then be used to create a 3D textured mesh. The accuracy of this reprocessed data set will be checked via a processing report generated by Agisoft Metashape, and by comparison to additional check coordinates taken from the site GNSS survey. From this model a scaled and georeferenced orthographic image would be generated, giving an accurate, scaled photographic depiction of the site with no distortion.

10.2 Finds recommendations and proposed methodologies for analyses

Pottery

10.2.1 Full fabric and form analysis are recommended for the prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon components of the assemblage in accordance with national guidelines (PCRG *et al.* 2016; MPRG 1998). However, given the limitations of the condition of many sherds in the prehistoric and Romano-British assemblage, this analysis should focus on the largest feature groups. The groups retrieved from posthole 4371, pits 4505 and 5739 warrant particular attention. Provision should be made for the illustration of 70 vessels.

10.2.2 The Saxon assemblage will be analysed *in toto*, and discussed within its local and regional context. Up to five fabric samples will be submitted for petrological analysis, and the results of this analysis incorporated in the discussion. A selection of vessel forms (maximum 15 vessels) will be illustrated.

Ceramic building material

10.2.3 The basic brick/tile types have been quantified by the number and weight of pieces present within each context as part of this assessment. To complete the archive, detailed fabric descriptions will be prepared for the Romano-British production waste, and the four *tegula* cut-aways (all from corn-drying oven 6289) require dating according to Warry's (2006) type series. This data, coupled with that collected as part of this assessment, as well as and more detailed considerations of the distribution of this material across the site, will be used in the preparation of a publication report.

10.2.4 A policy of selective retention will be adopted for the CBM (see Storage and Curation, below).

Fired clay

10.2.5 All the fragments have been recorded by type, count and weight within each context as part of this assessment. Detailed fabric descriptions are required to augment the information already recorded for the portable objects, and a report will be prepared describing and comparing these items with other local examples and their implications for the range of activities carried out on the site. Five items (two slingshots, the spindle whorl, the complete perforated triangular object and the most complete annular loom weight) will require illustration.

10.2.6 Broad fabric descriptions will be prepared for the larger groups of structural fired clay, in particular that from pit/grave 5096. The results of this assessment, coupled with more detailed considerations of the distribution of this material across the site, will then be used in the preparation of a publication report.

10.2.7 A policy of selective retention will be adopted for the fired clay (see Storage and Curation, below).

Worked flint

10.2.8 Existing reports will be collated and incorporated in the publication report, accompanied by illustration of a selection of the retouched pieces (maximum ten objects). The Palaeolithic handaxe will also be illustrated.

Stone

10.2.9 The stone assemblage will be fully analysed to confirm source identification, obtain measurements for the querns, and identify any evidence of working or utilisation amongst the retained pebbles. Up to six objects may be drawn.

Glass

10.2.10 A brief search for parallels for the Iron Age and Romano-British beads will be conducted within the published assemblages for sites in the area. Any information will be added to the existing report and catalogue entries enhanced accordingly. No illustration is required.

Metalwork

10.2.11 Investigative cleaning is recommended for two iron objects, in order to confirm identifications (see below). Following this, further analysis is proposed - parallels will be sought for all identifiable objects, and catalogue entries enhanced accordingly. The assemblage will be described and discussed chronologically within functional categories, citing relevant parallels in order to support identifications and dating. Up to eight iron objects and three copper alloy items should be illustrated.

Worked bone

10.2.12 Further limited analysis is proposed, in order to refine the identification of the Iron Age gouge, and to seek further parallels for the Iron Age cheek pieces and the Saxon modified antler tine. The context of the burnt cheek pieces will also be considered further. Catalogue entries and existing text for the worked bone objects will be enhanced accordingly. Five objects (pin/point shaft, gouge, modified antler tine, two cheek pieces) will be illustrated.

Human bone

10.2.13 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.

10.2.14 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age of the individuals will be estimated using standard methodologies (Brothwell 1972; Beek 1983; 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). A standard series of measurement will be taken on the unburnt bone (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004) and skeletal indices calculated (Bass 1987; Trotter and Gleser 1952; 1958). Non-metric traits will be recorded (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and via digital photography.

10.2.15 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 linked to the incoming Roman influences. Aspects of pyre technology and the cremation mortuary rite will be discussed within their regional and temporal contexts.

10.2.16 It is recommended that bone samples from the cremation burial deposit and the *bustum* are submitted for radiocarbon analysis to enable the remains to be set and discussed in their correct temporal context. Ideally the remains from feature 4421 should also be scientifically dated.

Animal bone

10.2.17 The assemblage will be analysed following established methods and guidelines (Baker and Worley 2014) and consider current research priorities (Allen *et al.* 2017; Hambleton 1999 and 2008, Holmes 2017).

Conservation

10.2.18 On the basis of the X-rays, and a scan of the metal objects concerned, minimal further recommendations for conservation treatment are proposed.

10.2.19 Copper alloy objects are considered to be in a sufficiently stable condition, and require no further cleaning.

10.2.20 Two iron objects should be subjected to investigative cleaning in order to reveal details of manufacture and form (see **Table 8**).

Table 8 Finds requiring conservation treatment

Context	Object No	Material	Object type	Proposed treatment
4970		Iron	Awl/bit	Investigative cleaning to aid identification
5497	115	Iron	Hook	Investigative cleaning to aid identification

10.2.21 There are other objects of intrinsic interest amongst the ironwork (e.g. needle, cleaver, knife, latchlifter), but it is considered that investigative cleaning will not yield significant further detail of these objects that are not currently visible on the X-rays, and would moreover potentially make the objects more vulnerable to further deterioration.

10.2.22 The metal objects may be targeted for selective retention (see below), and objects retained will be appropriately packaged in stable storage (airtight plastic tubs with drying agent) for long-term curation.

10.3 Environmental recommendations and proposed methods for analyses

10.3.1 A series of samples is proposed for further work, as summarised below in **Table 9**:

Table 9 Number of samples with further potential by phase and type of analysis

Phase	Plant extraction	Plant analysis	Charcoal analysis
Early Neolithic	7	-	-
Bronze Age	9	-	-
Iron Age	-	5	5
Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British	-	9	5
Romano-British	-	8	5
Saxon	-	3	3
Undated	-	-	-
Totals	*16*	*25*	*18*

Charred plant remains

10.3.2 The analysis and full quantification of a selection of the charred plant assemblages with enough remains for incorporation into wider statistical analyses is recommended. All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the fine (<5.6/4 mm) residue fractions 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 *et al*. 2016) and taphonomic assessment of the charred plant assemblages.

10.3.3 The remainder of the assemblages recovered do not require full quantification due to the small number of remains, but the fine (<5.6/4 mm) residue fractions of a selection of key samples from earlier prehistoric phases with little information should be further sorted for the extraction of plant remains. These will be added into the relative quantification assessment results and incorporated into the analysis reports and publications, as they provide some interpretative information, albeit limited, about plant exploitation activities.

10.3.4 The samples proposed for flot and fine residue extraction and full quantification analysis are indicated with a "PA" in the analysis column in **Appendix 3**, the samples for only fine residue extraction as "PE". Analysed and assessed flots are recommended for retention and deposition in the relevant museum and any sorted and unsorted residues are recommended for discard after the analysis proposals have been met.

Wood charcoal

10.3.5 The analysis of the wood charcoal from a selection of samples would provide information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a "C" in the analysis column in **Appendix 3**. Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2 mm residue together and the flot (>2 mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x40. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus, and nomenclature according to Stace (1997); individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

Land snails

10.3.6 No further analysis is proposed for the molluscs.

10.4 Scientific dating recommendations and proposals for analysis

10.4.1 A total of 13 radiocarbon samples will be submitted for dating (**Table 10**). Reporting of the radiocarbon dating results follows international conventions (Bayliss and Marshall 2015; Millard 2014). The calibrated age ranges will be calculated with OxCal 4.2.3 (Bronk-Ramsey and Lee 2013) using the IntCal13 curve (Reimer *et al*. 2013). 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 10 Summary of samples proposed for radiocarbon dating

Entity	Rationale	Material
Neolithic pit 0518	Early agriculture and improved understanding of phasing	Cereal grain
Neolithic pit 0518	Early agriculture and improved understanding of phasing	Hazelnut
Neolithic pit 0566	Early agriculture and improved understanding of phasing	Cereal grain
Neolithic pit 0566	Early agriculture and improved understanding of phasing	Hazelnut

Entity	Rationale	Material
Charcoal layer at the base of IA inhumation 5096	Understanding of funerary rite and improve phasing	Charred plant remains
IA pit 5739	Improved understanding of phasing	Worked antler
IA pit 4505	Improved understanding of phasing /ceramic sequence	Pottery residue or cattle skull
Dog burial (LIA/ERB ditch 6239)	Improved understanding of phasing	Dog bone
Cattle burial (LIA/ERB ditch 6255)	Improved understanding of phasing	Cattle bone
Cremation grave 4257	Improved understanding of funerary rite	Human bone
Possible *bustum* 4400	Improved understanding of funerary rite	Human bone
SFB 5678/5894/6287	Improved understanding of phasing	Animal bone/charred plant remains
SFB 5678/5894/6287	Improved understanding of phasing	Animal bone/charred plant remains

10.5 Updated project aims

10.5.1 The original aims and research objectives of the project are presented in section 3, and so are not repeated here. No *in situ* artefacts or faunal remains of Palaeolithic (or Mesolithic) date or associated deposits of paleoenvironmental significance were found. Therefore, one objective can now be completely discounted: *to locate and record any Palaeolithic deposits lying within the Taplow Gravels*.

10.5.2 The remaining original research objectives can now be reviewed given the assessment results and are clarified and updated below. Future analyses and the publication will be led by the following updated research objectives:

- What is the nature and significance of the evidence of Early Neolithic activity? Can radiocarbon dating more accurately date this activity? Is there evidence for the introduction of domesticated plants and the transition to farming? How does this evidence compare to other excavated sites in the Middle Thames Valley?

- What evidence is there for potential funerary monuments of Neolithic/Bronze Age date, and how do they relate to Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation and the settled and organised landscape of the Bronze Age, particularly the Middle Thames Valley?

- What is the nature and significance of the development of the field system in the Middle–Late Bronze Age/Iron Age (later prehistoric period) and how does this compare to current knowledge within this part of the Middle Thames Valley? Is there evidence for associated settlement activity within this field system?

- What is the nature of the unenclosed Iron Age settlement and can the date of this be refined through radiocarbon dating? Is there evidence of structured deposits within the Iron Age pits and what information does this provide about 'ritual' and daily life?

How does this activity relate to the occupation of the nearby Taplow hillfort, and what does this tell us about its hinterland?

- Is the landscape continually occupied from the Iron Age into the Romano-British period?
- How is the landscape reorganised through the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, and what can the finds/environmental data tell about the nature of the economy, agricultural practises and other domestic activities?
- How does the Iron Age inhumation and cremation burials of possible Romano-British date add to current knowledge of mortuary practises in this period within the region? Can scientific dating confirm help to more accurately date this activity?
- What is the nature and significance of the Early/Middle Saxon settlement evidence and how does this add to current knowledge of this period within the Taplow area and wider environs? Can scientific dating help to more accurately date this settlement activity? What information can environmental remains and finds assemblages provide on agricultural practises and other domestic activities in the Saxon period?

10.6 Proposals for publication

10.6.1 The significance of the results of the excavations at Berry Hill Farm, Taplow – particularly in relation to Early Neolithic activity; later prehistoric and Iron Age–Romano-British settlement activity, landscape organisation and mortuary practises; and Early–Middle Saxon settlement – warrants detailed publication, describing specific components of the archaeology, the overall development of the site, and its relationship to the known archaeology of the Taplow area and wider Middle Thames Valley region.

10.6.2 It is proposed that, following the further analyses outlined above, the finalised results of the excavations will be reported in the form of a Wessex Archaeology occasional paper, a well-established series subject to academic peer review. This series is widely available via Wessex Archaeology's website and Oxbow Books; the report will also be made into a downloadable Ebook.

Provisional synopsis of occasional paper

An Iron Age–Romano-British farmstead and Saxon settlement in the Middle Thames Valley with earlier prehistoric activity: excavations at Berry Hill Farm, Taplow

by Gail Wakeham, with specialist contributions.

Introduction	3,000 words
Results	20,000 words
Finds and environmental reports	15,000 words
Discussion	4,000 words
Bibliography	3,000 words

Total: approximately 45,000 words, 20 figures, 15 plates, 12 tables

10.6.3 In addition, it is proposed that a short signpost article will be prepared for publication in the regional journal *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

10.7 Programme for analysis and publication

10.7.1 Analysis and publication will only commence when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by Senior Archaeology Officer Buckinghamshire County Council, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, and the work has been commissioned in full by the client (Summerleaze Ltd).

10.7.2 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.

10.8 Personnel and resources

10.8.1 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 11**).

Table 11 Task list

Task no.	Task description	Days	Grade	Staff
Management and support				
1	Project management	5	SPM	R. Clarke
2	Project monitor and QA	1	SPM	P. Bradley
3	Finds management	1	SPM	R. Seager Smith
4	Environmental management	0.5	SPO	I. López-Dóriga
5	Publication/production management	4	SPM	P. Bradley
Pre-analysis				
5	Check phasing and grouping, update site database	15	TS	G. Wakeham
6	Reprocessing of UAV data	0.5	PO	R. Marziani
7	Digitisation of selected drawings	15	PA	K. Stevens
8	Project meetings	3	All	All
9	Background research	3	TS	G. Wakeham
10	Extraction of environmental materials	12.5	PS and PA	N Mulhall & another
Analysis and specialist reporting				
Stratigraphic				
11	Stratigraphic analysis and reporting (all periods)	40	TS	G. Wakeham
Finds				
12	Prehistoric & Romano-British pottery: analysis & reporting	45	SPO	A Thorp
13	Saxon pottery: analysis and reporting	3	SPM	L Mepham
14	Saxon pottery: petrological analysis	5 samples	external	G Perry
15	CBM: analysis & reporting	3	PM	G Jones
16	Fired clay: analysis & reporting	2	PM	G Jones
17	Worked flint: collation of existing reports	1	PO	E Gittins
18	Stone: catalogue & reporting	4	external	R Shaffrey
19	Glass: catalogue & reporting	0.25	SPM	L Mepham

20	Metalwork: catalogue & reporting	3	PM	G Jones
21	Worked Bone: catalogue & reporting	0.5	SPM	L Mepham
22	Human Bone: residue scan, analysis & reporting	5	TS	J I McKinley
23	Animal Bone: analysis, reporting & C14 sampling	15	SPO	L Higbee
24	Illustration: pottery (70 pottery sherds)	11	GO	Nancy Dixon
25	Illustration: other finds (5 fired clay, 6 stone, 11 flint, 11 metal, 5 worked bone = 38 total)	11	GO	Nancy Dixon
26	Conservation: cleaning of selected iron objects	1	external	Wilts Cons Centre
Environmental				
27	Plant remains analysis and reporting (41 samples)	20	SPO	I. López-Dóriga
28	Wood charcoal analysis and reporting (16 samples)		external	tbc
29	Paleoenvironmental summary	1	SPO	I. López-Dóriga
30	Radiocarbon dating (13 samples)		external	external
31	Radiocarbon reporting and graphics	1.5	SPO	I. López-Dóriga
Publication Report compilation				
32	Introduction and background	3	TS	G. Wakeham
33	Compile and integrate report	3	TS	G. Wakeham
34	Discussion	5	TS	G. Wakeham
35	Bibliography	2	TS	G. Wakeham
36	Captions (figures, plates and tables)	2	TS	G. Wakeham
37	Prepare brief for illustrations	2	TS	G. Wakeham
38	Prepare illustrations	13.5	GO	Illustrator
39	Edit report	5	SPM	R. Clarke
40	Peer review	1.5	SPM	P. Andrews
41	Revise report following peer review	2	All	All
42	Copy edit and revise	8	SPM	P. Bradley
43	Typesetting	10	GO	illustrator
44	Check proofs	5	PM	All
45	Revise and produce 2nd proofs	3	GO	illustrator
46	Printing costs	£1, 800	external	
47	Distribution	1	SPM	P. Bradley
48	Ebook conversion	2.5	SPM & GO& external	P. Bradley & Illustrator
49	Preparation of *Records of Buckinghamshire* article	1.5	TS	G. Wakeham
Archiving				
50	Physical archive preparation	3	PA	J Whitby
51	Digital archive preparation	3	PS	T Burt
52	Finalisation and implementation of selection strategy	0.5	PO	M Laidlaw
53	Final environmental archive checking	0.5	PS	N Mulhall
54	Physical archive deposition	1	PA	J Whitby
55	Digital archive deposition charge	£750	external	ADS
56	Box storage charge(@£100/unit)	£11,200	external	Bucks County Museum

10.9 Management structure

10.9.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Project 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.

10.9.2 The Project 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 Project 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.

10.9.3 The Project 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.

11 STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

11.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Buckinghamshire County Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **AYBCM:2005.124**. 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.

11.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

11.2.1 The complete physical site archive, which will include paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Buckinghamshire County Museum (2013), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

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

- 112 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type; this includes a number of boxes of unsorted environmental residues which will be processed and discarded during analysis
- 9 files of paper records and A3/A4 graphics
- 1 roll of A1 graphics

Digital archive

11.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which will include born-digital data (survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports) as well as a scanned security copy of the physical records (see below), will be deposited with the Archaeology

Data Service (ADS) to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by full metadata.

11.3 Selection policy

11.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), with the aim of retaining only those finds with further research potential beyond the immediate remit of the current project, or which fulfil other criteria within the Museum's collecting policy.

11.3.2 In this instance, the following selection policy is proposed:

- *Pottery:* the pottery assemblage will be retained *in toto*.
- *Ceramic building material (CBM):* large assemblage, but fragmentary (few surviving complete lengths/widths) and of a repetitive nature. All complete lengths/widths, the marked pieces (e.g. with animal prints or lattice keying) and samples of the production waste from corn-drying oven 6289 will be retained. The remainder of the assemblage will be dispersed.
- *Fired clay:* large assemblage, but fragmentary and largely composed of undiagnostic fragments. the portable objects will be retained for long-term storage, along with samples of the more diagnostic pieces of structural origin from the larger feature groups. It is recommended that the rest of the assemble is discarded or otherwise dispersed.
- *Worked flint:* the worked flint will be retained *in toto*.
- *Burnt flint:* the burnt, unworked flint has already been discarded, as of minimal further potential.
- *Stone:* all worked stone objects will be retained, but not the apparently unutilised pebbles, or any other unworked pieces, as these have little or no further research potential.
- *Glass*: the Iron Age and Romano-British beads and vessel glass will be retained; post-medieval/modern fragments will be discarded.
- *Slag:* no slag is recommended for retention – quantities are very small and most do not represent *in situ* deposits, and dating is unconfirmed for the most productive feature in Phases 1–2. This has little or no further research potential.
- *Metalwork*: all identifiable objects, apart from nails (but including hobnails), will be retained, but not miscellaneous bar/rod/strip/sheet fragments, or other unidentifiable fragments.
- *Worked bone:* all bone/antler objects will be retained.
- *Human bone:* all human bone will be retained.
- *Animal bone:* unidentifiable scraps from Phases 1-3 and 4, Area 1 will be discarded; all remaining bone to be retained.

11.3.3 The selection policy will be agreed with BCAS and the museum and fully documented in the project archive. All finds have been, or will have been, recorded to an appropriate archive level before any selection takes place.

11.4 Security copy

11.4.1 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.

11.5 OASIS

11.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. 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.

12 COPYRIGHT

12.1 Archive and report copyright

12.1.1 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.

12.1.2 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.

12.2 Third party data copyright

12.2.1 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 Summary tables of excavated pits and postholes (by phase)

Neolithic and Late prehistoric pits and posthole

CUT NO	SHAPE	Dimensions (m)	DEPTH (m)	SIDES	SLOPE	BASE	Finds	Phase
5122	Circular	0.44 x 0.43	0.25	Concave	Steep	Flat	P	E. Neo
4456	Circular	0.9 x 0.8	0.2	Straight	Moderate	Concave	P, AB	LP
4515	Ovoid	0.53 x 0.67	0.22	Concave	Steep	Flat	P, BF	LP
4532	Ovoid	0.55 x 0.53	0.24	Straight	Vertical	Concave	P, BF	LP
4598	Ovoid	0.97 x 1.04	0.68	Concave	Steep	Flat	P	LP
4647	Oval	0.6 x 0.55	0.2	Concave	Vertical	Concave	P, FC, BF, S	LP
4712	Oval	1.84 x 1.4	0.78	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, F, BF	LP
4765	Circular	0.64 x 0.64	0.13	Concave	Shallow	Concave	P, AB, BF	LP
4832	Circular	0.26 x 0.24	0.09	Convex	Moderate	Convex	P, FC, BF	LP
4848	Circular	0.48 x 0.43	0.14	Convex	Moderate	Flat	P, BF	LP
4856	Circular	1.3 x 1.05	0.56	Stepped	Steep	Flat	P, F	LP
4860	Circular	0.76 x 0.74	0.6	Straight	Steep	Tapered	P	LP
4988	Oval	1.2 x 0.9	0.77	Convex	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F	LP
5093	Circular	0.48 (diam.)	0.32	Stepped	V. steep	Irregular	P	LP
5108	Circular	0.50 (diam.)	0.30	Vertical		Flat	P, S	LP
5143	Circular	1.00 x 0.95	0.29	Vertical	Undercut	Irregular	P, AB, BF, FC	LP
5200	Circular	0.97 (diam.)	0.2	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, BF	LP

Iron Age pits and postholes

CUT NO	SHAPE	Dimensions (m)	DEPTH (m)	SIDES	SLOPE	BASE	Finds	Phase
4014	Ovoid	1.2 x 1.5	0.2	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, BF	LIA
4018	Circular	2 x 1.7	0.5	Varied	Mod/steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F, BF, M, S	M/LIA
4153	Ovoid	0.96 x 0.74	0.9	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P	IA
4164	Ovoid	2.35 x 1.33	0.11	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P	IA
4166	Ovoid	1 x 0.88	0.23	Concave	Moderate	Uneven	P,	IA
4190	Ovoid	1.16 x 0.4	0.49	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P	IA
4209	Ovoid	1.82 x 1.46	0.62	Straight	V. steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F, WF	IA
4228	Ovoid	1.52 x 1.22	1.31	Straight	Steep	Not fully excavated	P	IA
4253	Ovoid	1.5 x 1.42	0.25	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, BF	IA
4269	Circular	1.45 x 1.55	0.42	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	M/LIA
4327	Ovoid	1.94 x 1.4	0.3	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, BF, M, S	LIA
4333	Ovoid	1.36 x 1.32	0.3	Straight	Mod/steep	Flat	P	IA
4371	Oval	0.62 x 0.44	0.13	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P	LIA
4350	Circular	0.94 x 0.94	0.18	Straight	Steep	Flat	P	IA
4384	Ovoid	0.62 x 0.53	0.32	Straight	Steep	Concave	P	IA
4392	Ovoid	0.52 x 0.38	0.13	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB	IA
4405	Ovoid	0.66 x 0.52	0.16	Convex	Steep	Concave	P, AB	LIA
4408	Circular	0.4 (diam.)	0.28	Straight	Vertical	Concave	P, CBM	IA
4477	Ovoid	1.42 x 1.15	0.2	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F, BF	M/LIA
4483	Circular	1.95 x 1.63		Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, AB, FC, BF	IA
4505	Ovoid	2 x 1.8	0.9	Irregular	Mod/steep	Concave	P, AB, FC, BF	M/LIA
4508	Ovoid	0.67 x 0.42	0.18	Straight	Steep	Flat	P	IA
4573	Ovoid	1.28 x 1.24	0.15	Concave	Steep	Flat	P, CBM	IA
4628	Oval	2.5 x 1.95	0.7	Varied	Varied	Concave	P, AB, BF	M/LIA
4644	Circular	1.6 x 1.36		Varied	Varied	Flat	P, AB, BF, Sl, S	IA
4651	Ovoid	1.56 x 0.76	0.4	Concave	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	M/LIA

4656*	Oval	2.42 x 1.74	0.8	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	IA
4661*	Ovoid	1.6 x 1.47	0.57	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F, BF,	M/LIA
4678	Oval	2.2 x 1.6	0.6	Straight	Steep	Concave	P, FC	M/LIA
4682	Circular	0.72 x 0.62	0.27	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB	IA
4684	Circular	1.1 x 0.6	0.2	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P	IA
4709	Ovoid	1.4 x 1.2	0.36	Irregular	Steep	Flat	FC	IA(?)
4741	Ovoid	1.06 x 0.25	0.32	Concave	Varied	Flat	P, FC, BF	IA
4747	Circular	1.02 x 0.94	0.19	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, BF	IA
4754	Irregular	0.66 x 0.65	0.14	Straight	Steep	Irregular	P, FC	IA
4762	Oval	2.1 x 1.5	0.8	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F, BF, S	M/LIA
4794	Ovoid	1.54 x 1.3		Concave	Steep	Flat	P, AB	IA
4817	Irregular	1.2 x 0.7	0.21	Concave	Shallow	Flat	P	IA
4854	Ovoid	0.45 x 0.42	0.19	Convex	Steep	Convex	P	IA
4866	Circular	0.55 x 0.55	0.32	Concave	Steep	Flat	P,	IA
4875	Ovoid	1.06 x 1.08	0.54	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, FC, F, BF	IA
4878	Ovoid	0.86 x 0.84	0.35	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, FC, F. BF	IA
4889	Ovoid	1.16 x 1.06	0.5	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, BF, S	LIA
4896	Ovoid	1.52 x 1.2	1.13	Concave	Steep	Flat	P, AB	IA
4941	Circular	1.07 (diam.)	0.5	Undercut	Steep	Flat	P, AB FC, F, BF	M/LIA
4997	Ovoid	1.42 x 1.3	0.58	Straight	Moderate	Flat	P, FC, F	IA
5004	Ovoid	0.8 x 0.65	0.17	Straight	Moderate	Flat	P, F	IA
5011	Circular	2.4 (diam.)	0.61	Concave	Mod/steep	Flat	P, AB, F	M/LIA
5027	Ovoid	0.88 x 0.84	0.49	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P	M/LIA
5098	Circular	0.8 (diam.)	0.23	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, AB	M/LIA
5100	Ovoid	1.25 x 1.08	0.57	Varied	Steep	Flat	P, FC, F, BF	M/LIA
5106	Oval	1.24 x 0.44	0.3	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, FC	IA
5110	Ovoid	2.10 x 2.02	0.59	Undercut	Vertical	Flat	P	IA
5117	Oval	4.2 x 3	0.22	Straight	Mod/steep	Flat	P, AB, BF	IA
5119	Oval	1.18 x 1.06	0.36	Undercut	Varied	Flat	P, AB	IA
5125	Ovoid	0.9 (diam.)	0.23	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, CBM, BF, M	IA
5127	Ovoid	1.65 x 1.15	0.25	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, FC	IA
5129	Sub-circular	1.08 x 0.88	0.21	Concave	Steep	Flat	P, FC	IA
5190	Oval	0.68 x 0.6	0.06	Straight	Gentle	Irregular	P	IA
5241	Circular	1.4 x 1.3	0.48	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF, S	IA
5303	Ovoid	1.4 x 1.3	0.63		Steep	Flat	P, FC, CBM	IA
5316	Oval	1.8 x 1.2	0.4	Concave	Mod/steep	Flat	P, AB, FC	M/LIA
5318	Ovoid	1.7 x 1.3	0.3	Concave	Moderate	Sloping	P, AB	IA
5393	Circular	1.18 x 1.13		Straight	Vertical	Flat	P	IA
5447	Ovoid	1.2 x 0.8	0.1	Straight	Moderate	Flat	P	IA
5470	Circular	1.5 x 1.34	0.47	Straight	Steep	Concave	P, AB, BF, S	IA
5476	Circular	2 x 1.9	0.92	Concave	Undercut	Flattish	P, AB, BF, S	IA
5484	Circular	0.58 (diam.)	0.17	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, AB, BF, S	IA
5524	Oval	0.92 x 0.72	0.26	Concave	Flat	Steep	P, AB, FC, F, BF	IA
5536	Oval	2.66 x 2.24	0.43	Concave	Steep	Flat	P	M/LIA
5699	Circular	1.32 x 1.28	0.9	Straight	Steep	Irregular	P, AB	IA
5729	Ovoid	1.06 x 0.8	0.25	Straight	Moderate	Concave	P, F	IA
5739	Ovoid	2.84 x 2.12	1.28	Straight	V. steep	Concave	P, AB, FC, CBM, BF, S, Sl	M/LIA
5774	Ovoid	1.77 x 1.63	0.4	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, AB, FC, F, S	IA
5839	Ovoid	2.34 x 2	0.6	Straight	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, FC, F, BF, S	IA
5864	Ovoid	1.85 x 1.56	0.62	Concave	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF, S	LIA

5932	Circular	1.7 x 1.54	0.95	Undercut	Vertical	Concave	P, AB, FC	IA
6018	Circular	2.16 x 1.94	0.48	Concave	Steep	Flat	P	IA
6047	Circular	0.8	0.53	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, F, BF	IA
6050	Circular	1.44 x 1.1	0.56	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, F, BF	M/LIA
6058	Circular	1.75 x 1.72	0.87	Convex	Steep	Concave	P, AB	IA
6102	Circular	1.91 x 1.81	0.58	Undercut	Vertical	Flat	P, AB, F, BF	M/LIA
6105	Ovoid	1.52 x 1.4	0.47	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	IA
6123	Sub-circular	0.26 x 0.22	0.22	Straight	Steep	Concave	AB, BF	IA
6160	Sub-circular	0.34 x 0.26	0.45	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, FC, BF	IA
6129	Sub-circular	0.26 x 0.18	0.21	Straight	Steep	Concave	-	IA
6140	Sub-circular	1.04 x 0.8	0.3	Straight	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, BF	M/LIA
6150	Sub-circular	1.14 x 0.92	0.54	Straight	Moderate	Concave	P, AB, BF	IA
6160	Sub-circular	0.34 x 0.26	0.45	Straight	Vertical	Flat	P, FC, BF	IA
6164	Sub-circular	1.0 x 0.68	0.55	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F, BF	IA
6168	Ovoid	1.26 x 1.08	0.41	Concave	Steep	Flat	AB, BF	IA

Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pits and posthole

Cut No	Shape	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Sides	Slope	Base	Finds	Phase
4047	Ovoid	1.15 x 0.95	0.35	Straight	Moderate	Uneven	P, AB, BF	LIA/ERB
4134	Ovoid	1.7 x 1.2	0.85	Undercut	V. steep	Flat	P	LIA/ERB
4257	Oval	0.7 x 0.5	0.14	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, FC, BF, M	LIA/ERB
4266	Circular	0.82 x 0.8	0.56	Straight	Vertical	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	LIA/ERB
4421	Oval	2.33 x 0.96	0.28	Concave	Shallow/mod	Irregular	P, FC, C.HB, F, BF, S, M	LIA/ERB or RB
4564	Circular	2.1 x 3.2	0.68	Concave	Steep	Concave	P, BF	LIA/ERB or RB
4950	Irregular	2.2 x 0.8	0.1	Irregular	V. shallow	Flat	P	LIA/ERB
5453	Circular	1.4 (Diam.)	1.0	Irregular	Steep	Concave	P	LIA/ERB

Romano-British pits and posthole

CUT NO	SHAPE	Dimensions (m)	DEPTH (m)	SIDES	SLOPE	BASE	Finds	Phase
4007	Ovoid	0.83 x 0.81	0.75	Concave	Steep	Unex	P, F, BF	RB
4251	Circular	1.2 x 1.1	0.2	Concave	Mod/steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, CBM, BF	RB
4466	Oval	2 x 1.2	0.23	Concave	Shallow	Concave	P, FC	MRB
4534	Oval	2.1 x 1.1	0.18	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, AB, FC, BF	RB
4549	Ovoid	0.68 x 0.64	0.28	Convex	Steep	Convex	P, AB, S	RB
4702	Unknown	0.6	0.13	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P	RB
4734	Ovoid	1.7 x 1.2	0.75	Concave	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, F	RB
4790	Ovoid	2.75 x 1.36	0.2	Concave	Gentle	Flattish	P, S	RB
4909	Oval	1.23 x 0.35	0.22	Concave	Moderate	Concave	P, AB, F	RB
4952	Unknown	1.2 x 0.75	0.55	Stepped	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	RB
4955	Circular	1.46 (diam.)	0.55	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	RB

5016	Oval	0.46 x 0.2	0.06	Straight	Steep	Concave	P, AB	MRB
5045	Oval	6 x 4.5	1.23	Straight	Steep	Unex	P, CBM, Slag	RB
5139	Circular	0.83 (diam.)	0.12	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	RB
5334	Circular	0.55 (diam.)	0.36	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, CBM, BF, M	RB
5364	Ovoid	0.4 x 0.35	0.24	Straight	Vertical	Flat	P	RB
5451	Ovoid	0.9 x 0.74	0.16	Irregular	Moderate	Concave	FC	RB
5555	Ovoid	1.10 x 1	0.35	Irregular	Steep/mod	Concave	P, AB, FC, BF	RB
5605	Circular	1.2 (diam.)	0.35	Straight	Moderate	Concave	P, AB, FC, CU, M	E/MRB
5638	Oval	1.9 x 1.65	0.55	Straight	Moderate	Flat	P	RB
5759	Sub-Circular	0.76 x 0.6	0.23	Irregular	Shallow	Irregular	P	RB
5871	Circular	1.21 (diam.)	0.29	Convex	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF, Cu, Fe, Glass	LRB
5878	Oval	1.33 x 0.6	0.35	Concave	V. steep	Concave	P, FC	LRB
5901	Ovoid	0.82	0.46	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB	RB
5904*	Oblong	1.52	0.25	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC, BF	RB
5907*	Ovoid	1.18 x 1.05	0.9	Irregular	Steep	Flat	P, FC, CBM, BF	RB
5929	Circular	0.5 (diam.)	0.44	Straight	Steep	Flat	P, AB, FC	RB
6012	Circular	2 (diam.)	1.0	Concave	Moderate	Concave		
6035	Oval	2.8 x 1.12	0.25	Concave	Shallow	Irregular	P, AB, CBM	LRB
6144	Ovoid	0.77 x 0.65	0.14	Concave	Moderate	Flat	P, AB, M	RB
6277	Oval	12.7 x 0.94	0.3	Concave	Steep	Flat	P	RB
6285	Ovoid	3.13 x 2.6	3.5+	Straight	Vertical	Unexc.	P, AB, FC, CBM, BF, M	RB

Undated pits and posthole

CUT NO	SHAPE	Dimensions (m)	DEPTH (m)	SIDES	SLOPE	BASE	Finds	Phase
4123	Ovoid	0.9 x 0.86	0.15	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
4144	Oval	1.5 x 1.0	0.25	Straight	Steep	Irregular	-	-
4149	Ovoid	0.8 x 0.7	0.16	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	-
4186	Ovoid	0.97 x 0.7	0.10	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	-
4207	Circular	0.57 x 0.56	0.33	Straight	V. steep	Flat	-	-
4224	Oval	0.5 x 0.34	0.12	Concave	Moderate	Flat	BF	-
4226	Irregular	0.74 x 0.43	0.18	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular	AB, BF	-
4274	Oval	1 x 0.6	0.1	Irregular	Shallow	Irregular	FC	-
4282	Ovoid	0.8 x 0.7	0.14	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	-
4286	Ovoid	0.56 x 0.3	0.2	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
4297	Circular	0.44	0.16	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
4301	Ovoid	0.76	0.17	Irregular	Irregular	Sloping	-	-
4302	Irregular	1 x 0.54	0.21	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
4330	Circular	1.6 (diam.)	0.58	Concave	Moderate	Sloping	-	-
4365	Circular	0.6 x 0.7	0.17	Straight	Steep	Flat	FC (Loomweight)	-
4375	Circular	0.35 x 0.3	0.2	Straight	Vertical	Concave	-	-
4382	Ovoid	0.65 x 0.55	0.25	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4394	Circular	0.36 x 0.35	0.07	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	-
4495	Circular	0.35 (diam.)	0.18	Straight	Steep	Flat	-	IA?
4519	Circular	0.43 (diam.)	0.04	Concave	Steep	Flat	-	IA?

4552	Circular	0.5 (diam.)	0.1	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	IA?
4562	Circular	0.5 (diam.)	0.13	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	IA?
4584	Circular	0.5 (diam.)	0.2	Straight	Steep	Flat	BF	-
4587	Circular	0.75 x 0.4	0.15		Shallow	Irregular	-	-
4589	Ovoid	0.63 x 0.52	0.16	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
4591	Circular	0.46 x 0.42	0.11	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	-
4593	Circular	0.3 (diam.)	0.08	Concave	Shallow	Flat	-	-
4601	Circular	0.21 (diam.)	0.06	Concave	Shallow	Flat	-	-
4605	Circular	0.22 x 0.18	0.08	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4607	Circular	0.24 x 0.23	0.05	Concave	Mod/steep	Concave	-	-
4609	Circular	0.26 x 0.24	0.08	Concave	Irregular	Concave	-	-
4611	Ovoid	0.31 x 0.22	0.10	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4613	Circular	0.2 x 0.17	0.06	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4623	Ovoid	0.62 x 0.46	0.12	Concave	Shallow	Flat	-	-
4638	Ovoid	1.10 x 0.64	0.3	Convex	Steep	Convex	F	-
4640	Circular	0.3 x 0.25	0.15	Concave	Steep	Concave	FC	-
4654	Oval	0.33 x 0.23	0.11	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4686	Circular	0.42 x 0.4	0.14	Concave	Shallow	Concave	BF	-
4693	Circular	1.4 (diam.)	0.81	Concave	Steep	Unex	FC, F BF, S	-
4718	Oval	1.01 x 0.6	0.17	Straight	Steep	Irregular	-	-
4720	Oval	1.14 x 1.4	0.37	Irregular	Steep	Flat	-	-
4739	Ovoid	0.59 (diam.)	0.56	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4783	Circular	0.38	0.09	Concave	Moderate	Flat	F, BF	-
4788	Oval	0.74 x 0.55	0.27	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4809	Circular	0.7 (diam.)	0.3	Straight	Steep	Concave	AB	-
4883	Circular	1.04 x 1.02	0.13	Concave	Shallow	Flat	AB	-
4898	Ovoid			Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
4922	Circular	0.48 x 0.42	0.28	Straight	V. steep	Flat	-	-
4958	Oval	1.29 x 1.24	0.53	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	-
4971	Oval	0.72 x 0.58	0.19	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	-
5014	Circular	0.4 x 0.36	0.1	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
5037	Circular	1.43 x 1.41	0.23	Straight	Steep	Flat	AB, BF	-
5074	Irregular	1.14 x 1.14	0.49	Straight	Steep	Flat	-	-
5089	Irregular		0.15	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
5091	Ovoid	0.46 x 0.52	0.12	Straight	Moderate	Flat	FC, F, Sl	-
5103	Circular	0.77 x 0.76	0.56	Straight	Vertical	Irregular	-	-
5131	Ovoid	0.93 x 0.8	0.44	Straight	Vertical	Irregular	-	-
5134	Oval	0.98 x 0.62	0.4	Straight	Vertical	Flat	-	-
5159	Ovoid	3.25 x 1.2	1.25	Straight	Steep		P, FC	Post-med?
5192	Circular	00.74 (diam.)	0.28	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
5219	Ovoid	0.48 x 0.32	0.43	Straight	Vertical	Concave	-	-
5239	Oval	0.8 x 0.5	0.18	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	-
5287	Circular	0.39 x 0.37	0.08	Concave	Moderate	Concave	AB, FC, BF	-
5314	Circular	1.36 x 1.3	0.38	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	-
5327	Oval	1.45 x 0.32	0.07	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
5331	Circular	0.88 x 0.83	0.10	Concave	Shallow	Flat	FC, BF	-
5341	Oval	0.45 x 0.45	0.4	Varied	Steep	Flattish	-	-
5369	Ovoid	0.96 x 0.3	0.4	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
5396	Circular	0.8 x 0.74	0.32	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	-
5409	Ovoid	0.94 x 0.86	0.32	Concave	Steep	Flat	-	-
5420	Ovoid	1.14 x 1.03	0.32	Concave	Steep	Flat	-	-
5425	Ovoid	0.58 x 0.34	0.43	Straight	Steep	Flat	-	-
5445	Circular	0.28 (diam.)	0.2	Straight	Steep	Flat	-	-
5472	Oval	0.9	0.2	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
5499	Ovoid	0.56 x 0.42	0.19	Straight	Steep	Irregular	-	-
5501	Circular	0.4 (diam.)	0.25	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
5509	Oval	1.14	0.3	Concave	Moderate	Concave	FC	-
5515	Irregular	7.75	2.6	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	Post-Med?
5517	Irregular	5.5	3	Concave	Steep	Concave	P	Post-Med?

5691	Circular	0.32 x 0.28	0.05	Straight	Mod/steep	Flat	P	RB?
5822	Oval	2.50 x 1.4	0.25	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
5827	Oval	2.5 x 1.4	0.25	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
6006	Ovoid	1.3 x 1.18	0.28	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	-
6014	Ovoid	1.0 x 0.8	0.55	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
6020	Ovoid	0.65 x 0.55	0.15	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
6067	Oval	2.6 x 1.6	0.4	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	-
6095	Circular	2 (diam.)	0.15	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
6099	Ovoid	1.02 x 0.87	0.42	Straight	Steep	Flat	-	-
6117	Circular	1.1 (diam.)	0.65	Concave	Steep	V-shaped	-	-
6125	Oval	1.33 x 1.1	0.25	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
6127	Oval	0.9 x 0.6	0.16	Concave	Shallow	Concave	-	-
6133	Circular	0.63 (diam.)	0.4	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
6135	Sub-circular	0.8	0.43	Concave	Moderate	Flat	-	-
6142	Circular	0.23 x 0.2	0.29	Concave	Moderate	Concave	-	-
6158	Circular	0.75 (diam.)	0.31	Straight	Steep	Concave	-	-
6162	Circular	1.05 (diam.)	0.12	Straight	Moderate	Irregular	-	-
6183	Oval	0.62 x 0.42	0.26	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
6185	Oval	1.10 x 0.5	0.45	Concave	Steep	Concave	-	-
6274 (4-post strc.)	Square	2.5 x 2	0.36	Circular	Steep	Concave	-	-

Appendix 2: Summary of results from scan of human bone

context	cut	deposit type	quantification	age/sex	pathology	comment
4258	4257 (0.14 m)	unurned burial + inc. rpd	528.7 g	adult <45 yr		many small frags, few b/g; some trab.; Fe staining (nails), pot sherds (LIA/ERB)
4401	4400	pyre site & ?grave *bustum*	458.0g	adult 18–45 yr		feature only half excavated, no blocks; all skeletal areas represented, trabecular & compact
4423	4421	?crd	45.7g	subadult/adult >12 yr		feature only half excavated, no blocks; little trab.
5095	5096	inhumation burial (flexed left side; pit burial)	95%	adult 24–29 yr male	calculus; primary sinusitis (left antrum); periosteal new bone – visceral surface left lower ribs (min. 3; healing); plastic change (indicative alien tissue area lower left lung); surface defect – right calcaneum talus surface	grade 1–4, (left UL heavily eroded on side; right mandible heavily eroded); skull badly smashed, all fresh breaks, not quite all there (right side face absent) may reconstruct; numerous hand bones absent (not with animal bone); odd post-depositional warping left fibula, several bones have dry cracking & some semi-green bone crush marks (overlying pressure); no complete lower limb bones (ends crushed, old breaks) so stature estimates from UL. *1 g right distal femur (dorsal) shaft for C14*
5097	5096	R backfill Gp 5293 (SW final fill)	2 frags. s. 4.8 g	1) = 5095 2) subadult/adult >12 yr		1) skull vault with fresh breaks 2) distal femur articular surface well oxidised
5271	5096	R backfill Gp 5296 (NE above burial remains)	3 bones, 1 frag. l .	= 5095		foot bones from backfill above skull, i.e. indicates post-depositional disturbance/ manipulation following skeletalisation
5273	5096	R backfill Gp 5296 (N quad above burial remains)	2 frags. s.a.	= 5095		
5274	5096	R backfill Gp 5296 (W quad above burial remains)	1 bone u.	= 5095		L lunate (again some distance from L hand as this quad over feet/legs)
5280	5096	R backfill Gp 5281 (S quad around burial remains)	4 bones, 2 frags. u.	= 5095		hand bones – with animal bone (ABG 111)

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

Appendix 3: Assessment of the environmental evidence/macrofossils/charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
Neolithic																	
0518	0519		61056_30	8	20		20%	C	-	*Triticum dicoccum*	A	*Corylus avellana*	2/4 ml	-		PE, C14 (2x)	
0566	0567		61056_33	20	40		10%	B	-	*Triticum* sp.	B	*Corylus avellana*	1/2 ml	-		PE, C14 (2x)	
1169	1170	1254	61058_67	22	80	100% res.	10%	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t	PE	
1181	1182	1254	61058_68	40	65	25% res.	10%, B	-	-	-	C	Indet. plant tissue	<1ml/2ml	Mature	Moll-t	PE	
1195	1197	1246	61058_69	30	35	25% res.	50%, C, E	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana*	<1ml	Mature	Slag, Moll-t	PE	
1210	1211	1246	61058_70	30	30	25% res.	90%, B, E, I	-	-	-	C	Indet. plant tissue	<1ml	Mature	-	PE	Poor
1225	1226	1246	61058_71	26	5	25% res.	90%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t, slag	PE	
Bronze Age																	
0816	0817		61058_51	18	3		10%	C	-	Triticeae	C	*Corylus avellana*	<1/<1 ml	-		PE	
0829	0830		61058_52	16	5		20%	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-		PE	
1105	1106	1247	61058_63	16	20	50% res.	15%, C	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t		
1096	1097	1248	61058_61	16	20	50% res.	80%, B	-	-	-	-	-	1ml/0.5 ml	Mature	Moll-t		
6146	6147	6157	61058_200	40	60		90%, A**, E, I	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*	-	-	Trace	Mature	-	PE	Heterogenous
1101	1102	1101	61058_62	35	65	25% res.	5%, C	-	-	-	C	Parenchymatic tissue	2ml/1ml	Mature	-		Poor
4647	4648	4647	61058_117	28	45		70%, A, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* cf. *dicoccum*	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-	PE	Poor
4832	4833	4832	61058_122	1.5	30		80%	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-	PE	-
0046	0047		61051_2	19	40		50%	-	-		C	*Corylus avellana*	1ml/3ml	-		PE	

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
0052	0054		61051_3	4	4		10%	-	-		-	-	-	-	Cf. coal	PE	
0096	0097		61051_6	8	30		95%	-	-		-	-	0/0.5ml	-		PE	
0578	0592		61056_32	30	10		35%	-	-	-	-		-	-		PE	
Iron Age																	
4209	4212	4209	61058_106	37	40		90%, C, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	*Rumex* sp., *Poa/Phleum*, Trifolieae, parenchymatic tissue	1ml	Mature			Poor
4477	4478	4477	61058_113	36	30		80%, C	-	-	-	-	-	4ml	Mature + roundwood	-		-
4505	4507	4505	61058_114	35	20		80%, B, E	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	B	*Bromus* sp., *Sambucus* sp., Cyperaceae	Trace	Mature	-		Heterogenous
4656	4658	4656	61058_119	2	30		<1%	-	-	-	-	-	10ml	Mature + roundwood	-		-
4628	4629	4628	61058_116	9.5	250		<1%	C	-	cf. *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Vicieae	120ml	Mature	-		Poor
4661	4662	4661	61058_120	15	3		20%, I	C	-	Triticum sp., Triticeae	C	Parenchymatic tissue	2ml	Mature	-		Poor
4941	4943	4941	61058_123	37	27		90%, C, E, I	C	-	Triticeae	C	Vicieae, *Sherardia arvensis, Plantago lanceolata*	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t		Heterogenous
6089	6091	6089	61058_196	20	20		80%, C, E, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grains + spikelet fork	C	Poaceae	1ml	Mature	-		Poor
5241	5244	5241	61058_127	39	50		70%, B, E, I	-	-	-	C	Poacee	3ml	Mature	-		Poor
5476	5479	5476	61058_160	4.5	170		<1%, C, E	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	60ml	Mature + roundwood	-		Poor
5476	5481	5476	61058_161	4	250		<1%, C, E	-	-	-	C	Indet. bud	60ml	Mature	-		Fair

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
5484	5485	5484	61058_159	5	60		2%, I	-	-	-	-	-	35ml	Mature	-		-
5774	5776	5774	61058_173	19	60		20%, C, E, I	B	C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains (B) + glume bases, *Hordeum vulgare* grain (C)	A	Poaceae (*Lolium*/*Festuca*), Cyperaceae, Polygonaceae, *Sambucus* sp., *Crataegus monogyna* fruit, indet. Buds	15ml	Mature	Moll-t	PA	Heterogenous
5739	5741	5739	61058_177	5	45		1%, C, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp. (grain is wrinkled)	A	Maleae, *Prunus* sp. endocarp, *Chenopodium* sp., Cyperaceae, *Poa*/*Phleum*, Caryophyllaceae	30ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, charred insect legs	PA	Heterogenous
5739	5743	5739	61058_178	5	10		2%, C, I	C	C	*Triticum spelta* grain (sprouted) and glume base	B	Poaceae, *Chenopodium* sp., Cyperaceae, Asteraceae	<1ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t		Heterogenous
5739	5745	5739	61058_181	6	7		1%, C, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	-	-	2ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t		Poor
5739	5747	5739	61058_179	18	10		60%, C, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grains and glume base	C	Poaceae	2ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t		Heterogenous
5739	5750	5739	61058_176	59	5025	0.25	<1%, C, I	A	A*	*Triticum* sp. (A) + *Hordeum vulgare* (C) grains, *T. dicoccum* + *spelta* chaff (glume bases + spikelet forks)	A	*Bromus* sp., indet buds	700ml	Mature + roundwood	Moll-t	PA, C	Heterogenous
5739	5765	5739	61058_183	8	50		5%, C, E, I	A*	C	*Hordeum vulgare* (A*),	A*	Poaeae (*Avena* sp.), *Sambucus* sp.,	25ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-	PA, C	Heterogenous

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
										Triticum cf. *dicoccum* grain (C) and spikelet fork (C)		Chenopodiaceae, *Rumex* sp., Vicieae, Trifolieae, Cyperaceae			t,		
5739	5766	5739	61058_182	25	170		10%, C, E, I	A*	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, *Triticum* sp., Triticeae	A*	Poaeae (*Bromus* sp.), *Fumaria* sp., *Chenopodium* sp., Vicieae, Cyperaceae, Polygonaceae, Trifolieae, indet bud	100ml	Mature + roundwood	Vitrified sand, Moll-t, Sab	PA, C	Heterogenous
5739	5768	5739	61058_180	4	10		15%, C, I	C	C	*Hordeum vulgare* grain, *Triticum* sp. grain and glume base, Triticeae	C	Poaceae, *Chenopodium* sp, *Sambucus* sp.	3ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t		Heterogenous
6160	6161	6160	61058_204	8	4		90%, C	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-		-
6112	6113	6182	61058_199	20	30		90%, B, E, I	C	-	Triticeae	C	Poaceae, Vicieae	Trace	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
5788	5794	6283	61058_175	35	40		80%, B, E,I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	B	Poaceae (*Avena* sp, *Poa*/*Phleum*), *Chenopodium* sp., Trifolieae, *Rumex* sp.	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
6140	6141	6279	61058_202	20	20		90%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	1ml	Mature	Moll-t		-
6150	6151	6279	61058_201	20	20		80%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	2ml	Mature	Moll-t		-
6164	6165	6279	61058_205	20	30		90%, B, E, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grain + glume base	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
6168	6169	6279	61058_203	20	20		90%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	1ml	Mature	-		-
0532	0533		61056_31	30	15		20%	-	-		A	*Corylus avellana* shell frags	1/2 ml	-			
Late Iron Age / early Romano-British																	

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
5864	5866	5864	61058_184	53	1100	0.5	<1%, C, E, I	A	-	*Hordeum* vulgare, *Triticum* sp. (cf. *dicoccum*), Triticeae	C	Indet buds	300ml	Mature + roundwood	Sab	C	Heterogenous
5096	5286		61058_142	80	50		2%, C, E, I, F	A*	-	*Hordeum vulgare* (A*), *Triticum* sp. (C)	A	Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum*, *Bromus* sp.), *Chenopodium* sp., *Galium* sp., *Sambucus* sp.	25ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t	PA	Fair
5096	5286		61058_143	14	1.5		1%, C, I, F	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	A*	Poaceae, Chenopodiaceae, *Galium* sp., *Sambucus* sp., Asteraceae	<1ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t		Heterogenous
5096	5286		61058_144	17	2		10%, C, I, F	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare* (A), Triticum sp. (C)	B	Poaceae, *Chenopodium* sp., Brassicaceae, Asteraceae, Trifolieae	<1ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t, sab		Heterogenous
5096	5286		61058_145	20	10		1%, C, E, I, F	A*	C	*Hordeum* vulgare (A*), *Triticum* sp. (C), Triticeae culm nodes	A*	*Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp. *bulbosum* tubers, *Sambucus* sp., Asteraceae, *Chenopodium* sp., Brassicaceae, Poaceae (*Poa/Phleum*, *Bromus* sp.), Cyperaceae, indet. Buds	<1ml	Mature	Vitrified sand, Moll-t	PA	Fair
4047	4049	4047	61058_78	58	60		60%, A*, E, I	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	4ml	Mature	-		Poor
4079	4082	4079	61058_80	20	125		60%, C, E, I	A**	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) glume bases and grains (A**), *Hordeum vulgare* (B),	C	Poaceae (*Bromus* sp.)	35ml	Mature	-	PA	Heterogenous

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
										Triticeae							
4055	4056	4120	61058_88	8	30		60%, A*, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (A, inc. *spelta*), *Hordeum vulgare* (C), Triticeae	-	-	5ml	Mature	-		Poor
4067	4068	4120	61058_89	17	60		60%, A*, E, I	A*	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	C	cf. Poaceae	5ml	Mature	Moll-t	PA	Poor
4087	4088	4120	61058_90	26	60		70%, A*, E, I	A*	-	*Triticum* sp. (inc. spelta), *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae	5ml	Mature	Moll-t	PA	Poor
4102	4013	4009	61058_91	20	60		70%, A*, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (A), *Hordeum vulgare* (C), Triticeae	-	-	8ml	Mature	-		Poor
4069	4071	4121	61058_83	9.5	20		70%, A, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	1ml	Mature	-		-
4072	4073	4121	61058_84	19	30		60%, A*, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	1ml	Mature	-		-
4085	4086	4121	61058_85	19	25		60%, A*, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-		Poor
4099	4101	4121	61058_86	20	15		80%, A*, E, I	C	-	Triticeae	C	Poaceae (*Lolium*/*Festuca*)	1ml	Mature	-		Poor
4104	4105	4121	61058_87	16	20		80%, A*, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-		-
4257	4258	4257	61058_97	8	500		<1%, C, E, I	B	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks)	A	Poaceae (*Bromus* sp.), *Sherardia arvensis*, indet. buds	150ml	Mature + roundwood, some roundwood with possible cut marks	Moll-t	C	Heterogenous
4257	4258	4257	61058_	6	60		10%, C, E	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	-	-	15ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
			98														
4257	4258	4257	61058_99	6	175		<1%, C, E, I	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	70ml	Mature	-		Poor
4257	4258	4257	61058_100	9	120		5%, C, E	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	-	-	70ml	Mature	-		Poor
4266	4262	4266	61058_102	30	15		80%, C, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
4266	4263	4266	61058_103	32	15		70%, C, I	C	-	*Triticum dicoccum*	-	-	1ml	Mature	Moll-t, sab		Poor
4400	4401	4400	61058_109	40	200		5%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	200ml	Mature + roundwood	-	C	-
4421	4423	4421	61058_110	52	60		80%, B, E	-	-	-	-	-	10ml	Mature	-	C	-
4016	4017	4432	61058_77	40	35		15%, A*, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	B	*Galium* sp., Poaceae, Vicieae	10ml	Mature	-		Heterogenous
4039	4040	4432	61058_76	35	20		15%, A*, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp. (B), *Hordeum vulgare* (C), Triticeae	B	*Galium* sp., Poaceae (Poa/Phleum)	3ml	Mature	Moll-t		Heterogenous
4039	4041	4432	61058_75	40	40		60%, A*, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *spelta*), *Hordeum* vulgare (C), Triticeae	A*	*Galium* sp., *Veronica* sp., Vicieae, *Prunus* sp. endocarp, *Rumex* sp., Poaceae (Avena sp.), *Beta vulgaris*	5ml	Mature	Moll-t	PA	Heterogenous
4063	4084	4432	61058_79	39	30		60%, A*, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	C	*Fumaria* sp.	<1ml	Mature	-		Poor
4106	4017	4432	61058_92	25	50		60%, A*, E, I	A*	-	*Triticum spelta* (A*), *Hordeum vulgare* (C), Triticeae	-	-	15ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
5096	5288	5287	61058_147	4	10		70%, I	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*	C	Poaceae, Asteraceae	<1ml	Mature	Sab		Heterogenous
4307	4308	6268	61058_108	34	60		60%, C, E, I	A**	C	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *dicoccum* and	A*	Poaceae (*Poa*/*Phleum*, *Bromus* sp.), *Aphanes*	30ml	Mature	Moll-t, hammersca	PA	Heterogenous

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
										spelta) grains (A**) and chaff (glume bases and spikelet fork), *Hordeum vulgare* grains (C)		sp., *Centaurea* sp., *Galium* sp., *Chenopodium* sp., Vicieae, Trifolieae			le		
4407	4451	6268	61058_112	36	750		<1%, C, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *dicoccum*), *Hordeum vulgare*, *Secale cereale*?, Triticeae	C	Indet. buds	350ml	Mature + roundwood	-	C	Heterogenous
4437	4439	6268	61058_111	8	1		50%, C	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-		Poor
4168	4170	6281	61058_93	54	40		60%, A, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *dicoccum*), *Hordeum vulgare* (C), Triticeae	C	Poaceae	10ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
4313	4314	6281	61058_107	34	15		50%, C, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae (*Bromus* sp.)	5ml	Mature	Moll-t, hammerscale		Poor
4269	4271	4269	61058_104	59	50		40%, C, I	A***	C	*Triticum spelta*, *Hordeum vulgare* grains, *T. spelta* glume base, Triticeae culm node	A	Poaceae (*Bromus* sp., *Poa*/*Phleum*), *Rumex* sp., *Ranunculus* sp.	1ml	Mature	-	PA	Fair
4269	4272	4269	61058_105	47	20		15%, B, E, I	A***	C	*Triticum spelta* and *Hordeum vulgare* grains, *Triticum* sp.	A	Poaceae (inc. *Bromus* sp.), Cyperaceae, Caryophyllaceae, *Rumex* sp., *Crataegus*	1ml	Mature	-	PA	Fair

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
										glume bases		*monogyna*					
4651	4653	4651	61058_118	40	35		70%, A, E, I	A	B	*Hordeum vulgare* grains, *Triticum* sp. grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet frags), Triticeae culm node	A	Trifolieae, Poaceae (*Bromus* sp.), *Chenopodium* sp., Vicieae, Polygonaceae, Cyperaceae, indet. bud	1ml	Mature + roundwood	-		Heterogenous
0637	0638		61056_34	12	10		10%	-	-	-	-		0/<1 ml	Sab (B)			
Romano-British																	
5548	5549	5772	61058_174	39	35		70%, B, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp. (inc. sprouted grain), *Hordeum vulgare*	C	Poaceae (*Avena* sp., *Poa*/*Phleum*), Asteraceae	<1ml	Mature	-		Heterogenous
5428	5498	6289	61058_167	33	35		10%, C, E, I	A*	A**	*Triticum spelta* grains (inc. sprouted) and chaff (glume bases, spikelets, rachis segments), *Hordeum vulgare* grains, Triticeae coleoptiles and detached embryos	A*	*Viola* sp., Poaceae (*Lolium*/*Festuca*, *Poa*/*Phleum*, *Avena*/*Bromus*, *Avena* sp. awns), Chenopodiaceae, Asteraceae, Polygonaceae, Cyperaceae, *Galium* sp., Vicieae, Trifolieae, *Linum usitatissimum* seed capsule frag	3ml	Mature	Sab, Moll-t	PA	Heterogenous
5428	5541	6289	61058_166	27	35		15%, B, E	A	A	*Triticum* sp. grains (A) and	A*	*Viola* sp., Poaceae (Lolium/Festuca,	<1ml	Mature	Sab, Moll-t	PA	Heterogenous

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
										glume bases + spikelets, *Hordeum vulgare* grain (C)		*Poa*/*Phleum*, *Avena* sp. grain and awn), Chenopodiaceae, Asteraceae, *Rumex* sp., Cyperaceae					
5428	5557	6289	61058_168	34	60		60% C, I	A*	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *dicoccum* and *spelta*) grains and chaff (A*, glume bases and spikelet forks) and *Hordeum vulgare* grains and rachis segment (C), Triticeae coleoptiles, detached embryos, some sprouted grains	A**	*Viola* sp., Poaceae (*Lolium*/*Festuca*, *Poa*/*Phleum*, *Avena*/*Bromus*, *Avena* sp. awns), *Chenopodium* sp., Asteraceae, *Rumex* sp., Cyperaceae, Vicieae, Trifolieae, *Galium* sp., *Ranunculus* sp.	3ml	Mature	Sab	PA	Heterogenous
5871	5873	5871	61058_185	38	50		70%, A, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* cf. *aestivum*/*turgidum*, *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	15ml	Mature	Moll-t	C	Poor
4251	4252	4251	61058_96	10	10		90%, C, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-		Poor
5150	5335	5334	61058_164	1.5	20		<1%, A*, E, I	A	A*	*Triticum* sp. (inc. spelta) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), *Hordeum vulgare* grains	A*	Poaceae (*Lolium*/*Festuca*, *Avena* sp. grains + awn), Asteraceae, Vicieae, Chenopodiaceae, Trifolieae, Cyperaceae, *Rumex* sp., *Galium* sp.,	4ml	Mature	-	PA	Heterogenous

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
												Caryophyllaceae					
5451	5452	5451	61058_158	9.5	400		<1%, C, E	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	C	Vicieae	200ml	Mature + roundwood	-	C	Poor
5555	5556	5555	61058_169	35	30		60%, B, E, I	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Vicieae (large seeded), Asteraceae	8ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
5605	5606	5605	61058_171	40	50		70%, C, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Vicieae	10ml	Mature + roundwood	Moll-t	C	Poor
5605	5637	5605	61058_172	36	50		60%, C, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	10ml	Mature	Moll-t	C	Poor
5904	5906	5904	61058_186	7	20		70%, C, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	B	Poaceae (*Bromus* sp.), Chenopodiaceae, Vicieae	1ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
5907	5911	5907	61058_187	2	3		<1%, I	-	-	-	-	-	2.5ml	Mature	-		-
4595	4597	6201	61058_115	34	90		5%, A, E, I	A*	C	*Triticum* sp. (*spelta*) grains (A*) and glume bases, *Hordeum vulgare* grains (C)	A*	*Galium* sp., Vicieae, *Malva* sp., Caryophyllaceae, Poaceae (*Avena*/*Bromus*, *Avena* sp., *Lolium*/*Festuca*), Cyperaceae, *Rumex* sp., indet. Buds	60ml	Mature + roundwood	-	PA, C	Heterogenous
6016	6017	6240	61058_197	1	15		<1%, C, I	A	A	*Triticum* sp. (*spelta*) grains and chaff (glume bases, spikelet forks), Triticeae culm nodes	A	Poaceae, Rumex sp.	5ml	Mature	Moll-t		Heterogenous

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
6016	6017	6240	61058_198	1.5	20		<1%, C, I	A	A	*Triticum* sp. grains and glume bases, spikelet forks, *Hordeum vulgare* grains	B	Poaceae, *Rumex* sp., Trifolieae, *Avena* sp. awn, Asteraceae	5ml	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
6016	6017	6240	61058_206	20	30		40%, C, E	A*	C	*Triticum* sp. grains and glume bases, detached embryo, *Hordeum vulgare* grain (C)	A*	Poaceae (*Lolium*/*Festuca*, *Poa*/*Phleum*, *Avena* sp., *Bromus* sp.), Asteraceae, *Rumex* sp., *Sambucus* sp., Cyperaceae, *Chenopodium* sp., *Ranunculus* sp., Rosaceae fruit	10ml	Mature	Moll-t	PA	Heterogeneous
5064	5070	6255	61058_124	18	4		10%, C, E, I	C	-	Triticeae (inc. cf. *Triticum* sp.)	B	Poaceae, Trifolieae, Asteraceae	2ml	Mature	-		Poor
5150	5151	6285	61058_162	1.5	4		2%, I	C	A*	*Triticum spelta* grain and chaff (glume bases, spikelet forks)	C	Poaceae, Asteraceae	1ml	Mature	-	PA	Heterogeneous
5150	5366	6285	61058_163	1.5	20		<1%, C, E, I	A*	A	*Triticum spelta* grains and glume bases, *Hordeum vulgare* grains	A*	Poaceae (*Lolium*/*Festuca*, Asteraceae, Vicieae, Chenopodiaceae, Trifolieae, Cyperaceae, *Rumex* sp.	5ml	Mature	Moll-t, C (*Cecilioides acicula*)	PA	Heterogeneous
5150	5367	6285	61058_165	1.5	10		<1%, I	C	-	Triticeae	C	Chenopodiaceae	1ml	Mature	Moll-t, C (*Cecilioides acicula*)		Poor
5150	6069	6285	61058_189	0.5	3.5		1%, C, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp., glume bases and spikelet forks, *Hordeum*	C	Vicieae, Asteraceae, Polygonaceae	<1ml	Mature	-		Poor

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
										vulgare and Triticeae grains							
5150	6070	6285	61058_190	1	1		1%, C, I,	-	C	*Triticum* sp. glume base and spikelet fork	C	Poaceae, Vicieae	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t C (*Cecilioides acicula*)		Poor
5150	6071	6285	61058_191	0.3	0.5		<1%	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t C (*Cecilioides acicula*)		-
5150	6072	6285	61058_192	1.3	1.5		<1%, C, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grain and glume base	C	Poaceae	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t C (*Cecilioides acicula*)		Heterogenous
5150	6073	6285	61058_193	1	0.25		<1%, C, I	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	-		-
5150	6074	6285	61058_194	0.9	2		<1%, C	-	-	-	-	-	1ml	Mature	-		-
Early–Middle Saxon																	
5563	5564	5678	61058_170	57	125		60%, A, E, I	A	-	*Triticum aestivum* tp. *compactum*, *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	B	Poaceae (*Avena* sp., *Lolium/Festuca*), Vicieae (inc. *Pisum sativum*), Trifolieae	30ml	Mature	-	PA, C	Heterogenous
5894	5889	5894	61058_188	56	250		60%, A, E, I	A	-	*Triticum aestivum* tp. *compactum, Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	45ml	Mature	-	PA, C	Heterogenous
5373	5375	6287	61058_157	32	120		60%, C, E, I	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare* (C), *Triticum* sp. (A), Triticeae	A*	*Crataegus monogyna*, Asteraceae, Trifolieae, *Plantago lanceolata*, Caryophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Poaceae (*Lolium/Festuca,*	40ml	Mature	Moll-t	PA, C	Heterogenous

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
												Poa/Phleum), Cyperaceae, *Corylus avellana, Rumex* sp.					
6189	6190	6291	61058_207	46	100		80%, A, E, I	B	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*	-	-	15ml	Mature	-		Poor
Undated																	
0041	0040		61051_1	30	100		20%	-	-		C	Poaceae culm nodes	3ml/10 ml	-			
0071	0072		61051_4	8	30		10%	-	-		-	-	4ml/2ml	-			
0073	0074		61051_5	2	10		70%	-	-		-	-	0/0.5ml	-			vitrification
0141	0142		61051_7	27	80		80%	-	-		-	*Vicia* sp.	0/0.5ml	-			
0845	0846		61058_50	17	10		10%	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	-			
0833	0834		61058_53	19	10		10%	B	-	*Triticum* sp.	-	-	<1/1 ml	-			
1111	1110		61058_73	24	35	100% res.	40%, A	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml/2ml	Mature	-		
1118	1119		61058_65	32	55	100% res.	1%	C	-	*Triticum* sp. (cf. *spelta*)	-	-	7ml/4ml	Mature			Poor
1171	1172		61058_66	39	100	25% res.	80%, C	-	-	-	-	-	1ml/4ml	Mature	-		
1173	1245		61058_74	4	60	100% res.	30%, A	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Pottery frags		
1231	1232		61058_72	40	10	25% res.	90%, A, E	C	-	*Triticum* sp.	C	Indet. plant tissue	<1ml	Mature	-		Poor
1045	1046	1076	61058_1	9	2	100% res.	60%, B, E	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana*	<0.5ml	Mature	-		
1050	1051	1076	61058_2	7	2	100% res.	60%	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature	-		
1058	1059	1076	61058_3	7	2.5	100% res.	80%, C	-	-	-	C	*Veronica hederifolia*, Indet. plant tissue + tuber	Trace	Mature	-		Poor
1068	1069	1076	61058_4	8	2.5	100% res.	80%	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana*	Trace	Mature	Moll-t		Poor
1114	1115	1253	61058_64	7	10	100% res.	20%, C, E				C	*Corylus avellana*, small faecal pellet	1ml/<1ml	Mature	-		Fair

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Charred other	Notes for table	Charcoal >2 mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Preservation
4224	4225	4224	61058_94	28	225		10%, A, I	-	-	-	-	-	125ml	Mature + roundwood, some large pieces + roundwood with cut marks	-		-
4226	4227	4226	61058_95	7	30		90%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	<1ml	Mature	Moll-t		-

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = >10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhyzal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f/c = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, PA = plant analysis, PE = plant extraction, C14 = radiocarbon.

Appendix 4: Parasitological analysis report

Methodology

One sample was collected from the pelvic region of a prehistoric skeleton and analysed by microscopy. To prepare the sample for microscopy, 5-7 g of soil was weighed and mixed with 20 ml of MilliQ- water. The sample was vortexed and left overnight to disaggregate. A subsample of 500 μl was then taken for microscopy. Two rounds of microscopy were carried out per sample using light microscopy on a Nikon Eclipse E400 with Nikon 10x/0.25 Ph1 DL and 40x/0.65 Ph2 DL objectives. No further processing was carried out on the samples however they were agitated before pipetting to stop denser material settling. A QImaging MP5.0 RTV camera was used with the software QImaging QCapture pro to record any suspected eggs in a sample and these images were assessed against reference images before the final count number was confirmed.

Results

After two rounds of microscopy, no helminth eggs were identified. We would expect the prehistoric population to suffer from helminth infections however, based on modern prevalence rates (often <20%) there is a high chance that helminths would go undetected in a single sample.

Appendix 5: Radiocarbon lab report

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Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Director: Professor F M Stuart Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

27 September 2018

Laboratory Code	SUERC-81911 (GU48899)
Submitter	Ines Lopez-Doriga Wessex Archaeology Portway House Old Sarum Business Park Salisbury SP4 6EB
Site Reference	Berry Hill, Taplow
Context Reference	Burial
Sample Reference	61058_(5095)_Femur
Material	Bone (human) : Femur
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-20.4 ‰
$\delta^{15}N$ relative to air	12.2 ‰
C/N ratio (Molar)	3.2
Radiocarbon Age BP	2154 ± 28

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

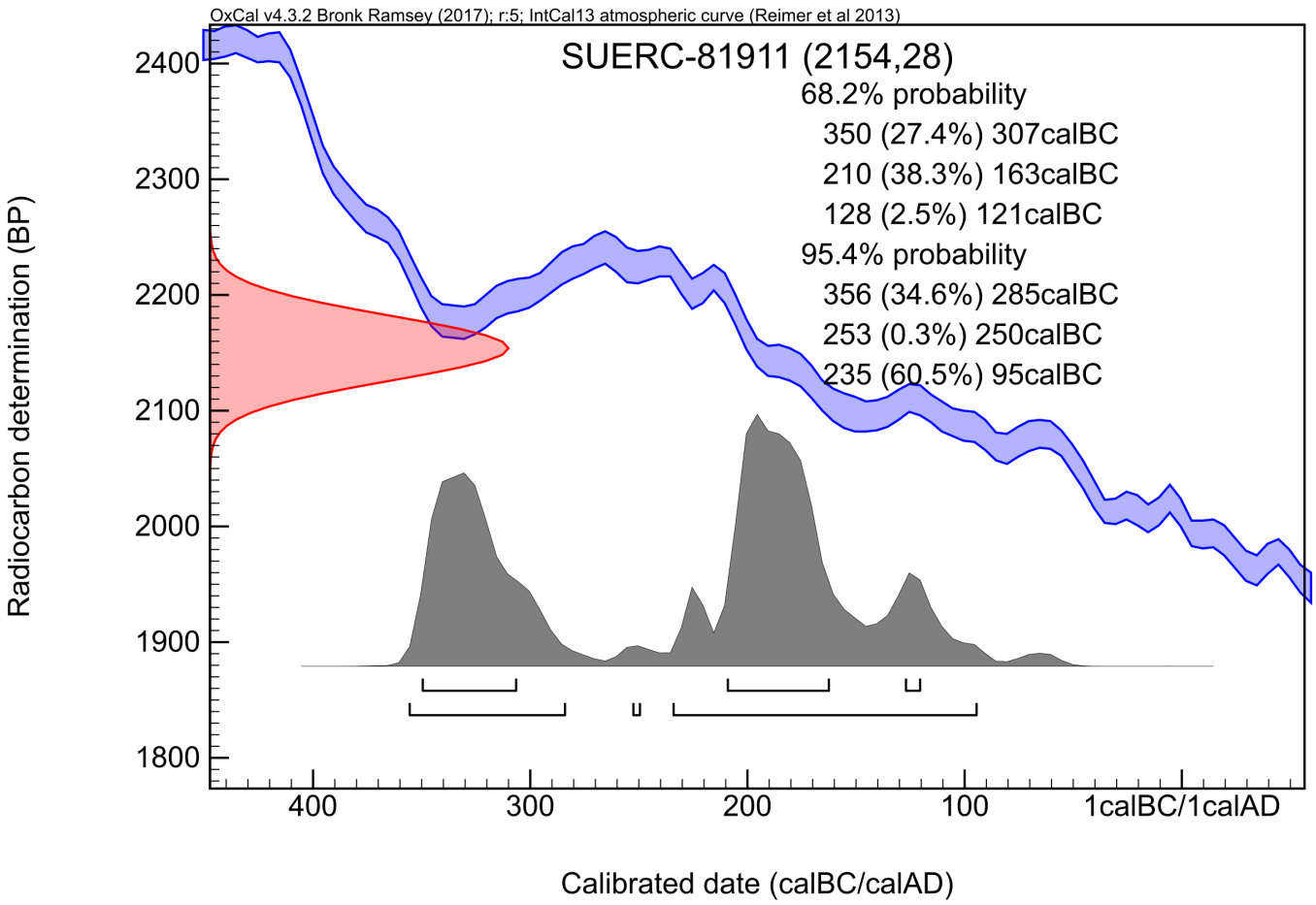
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.*

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by : E. Dunbar

Checked and signed off by : P. Nayont



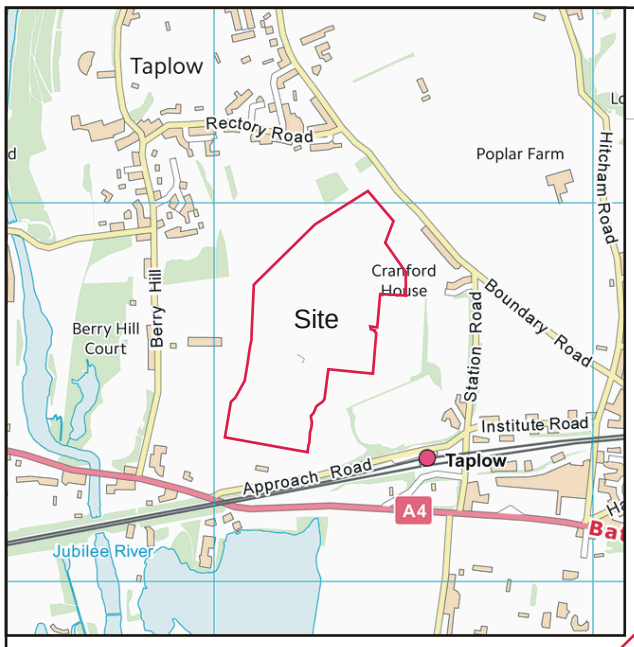
The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60*

† Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon 55(4) pp.1869-87*



491200
491400
182000
181800
181600
181400

Phase 4 Area 1A
Ring ditch 1246
Segement ring ditch 1076
Phase 4 Area 1B
Phase 4 Area 1C
Beaker pit 5591
Neolithic pit 566
Neolithic pit 518
Phase 4 Area 2
Phase 3 North
Phase 1
6295
Phase 3 South
6293
Phase 2
6296
Roman well 393 and earlier dewpond
6294
Small Roman enclosure
Phase 4 Area 2
Trench 1
Trench 2
Trench 3
Phase 4 Area 2

0
100 m

Site boundary
Area
Trench
Archaeology

Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Date:	04/04/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:2000 at A3	Illustrator:	KL
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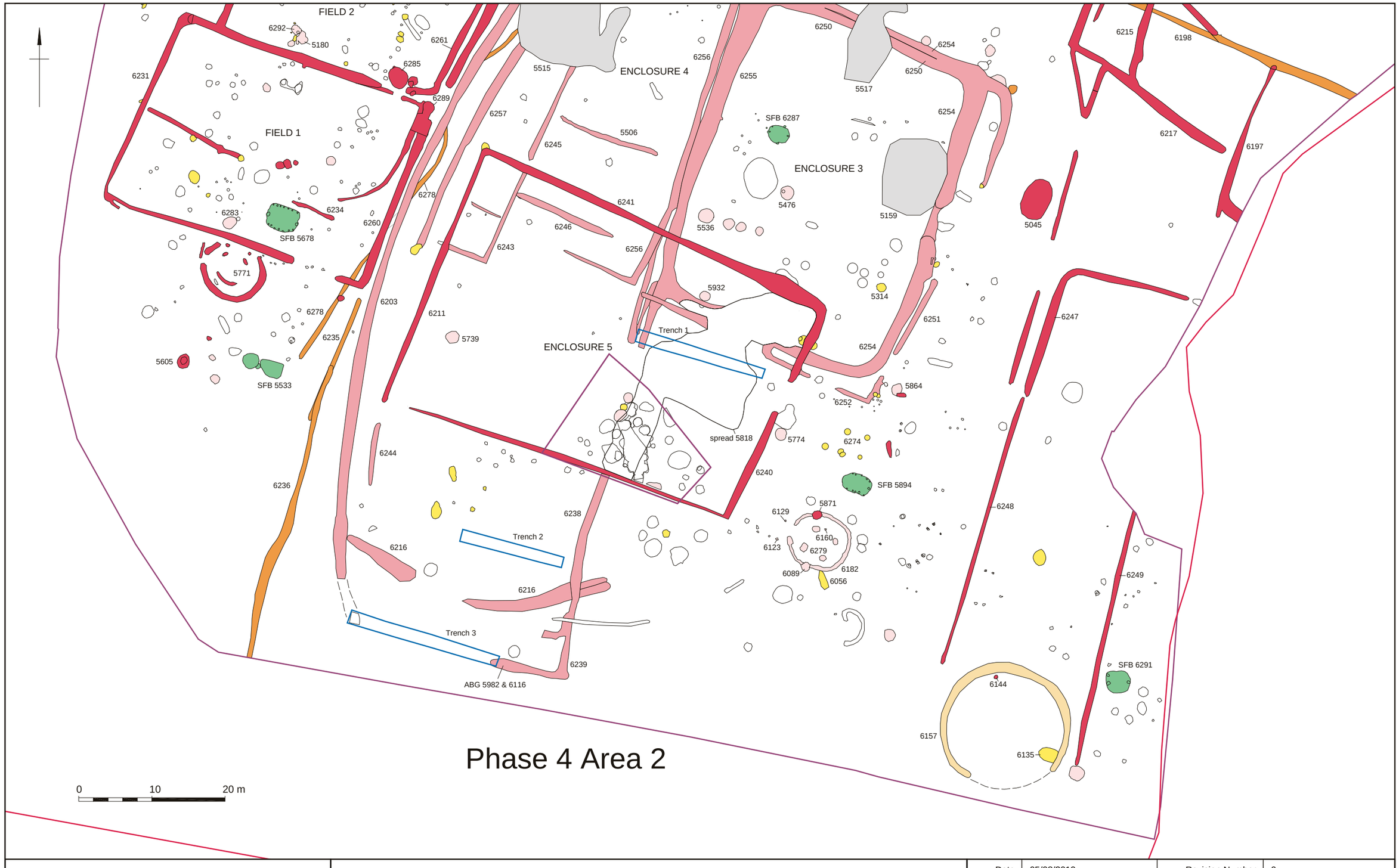
Site location and all phases of excavation

Figure 1



Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Site boundary
Area
Trench
Early Neolithic
Middle/Late Bronze Age
Late Prehistoric
Iron Age
Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British
Romano-British
Anglo-Saxon
Post-medieval/modern
Undated
Unexcavated
Projected

Date:	05/08/2019	Revision Number:	0
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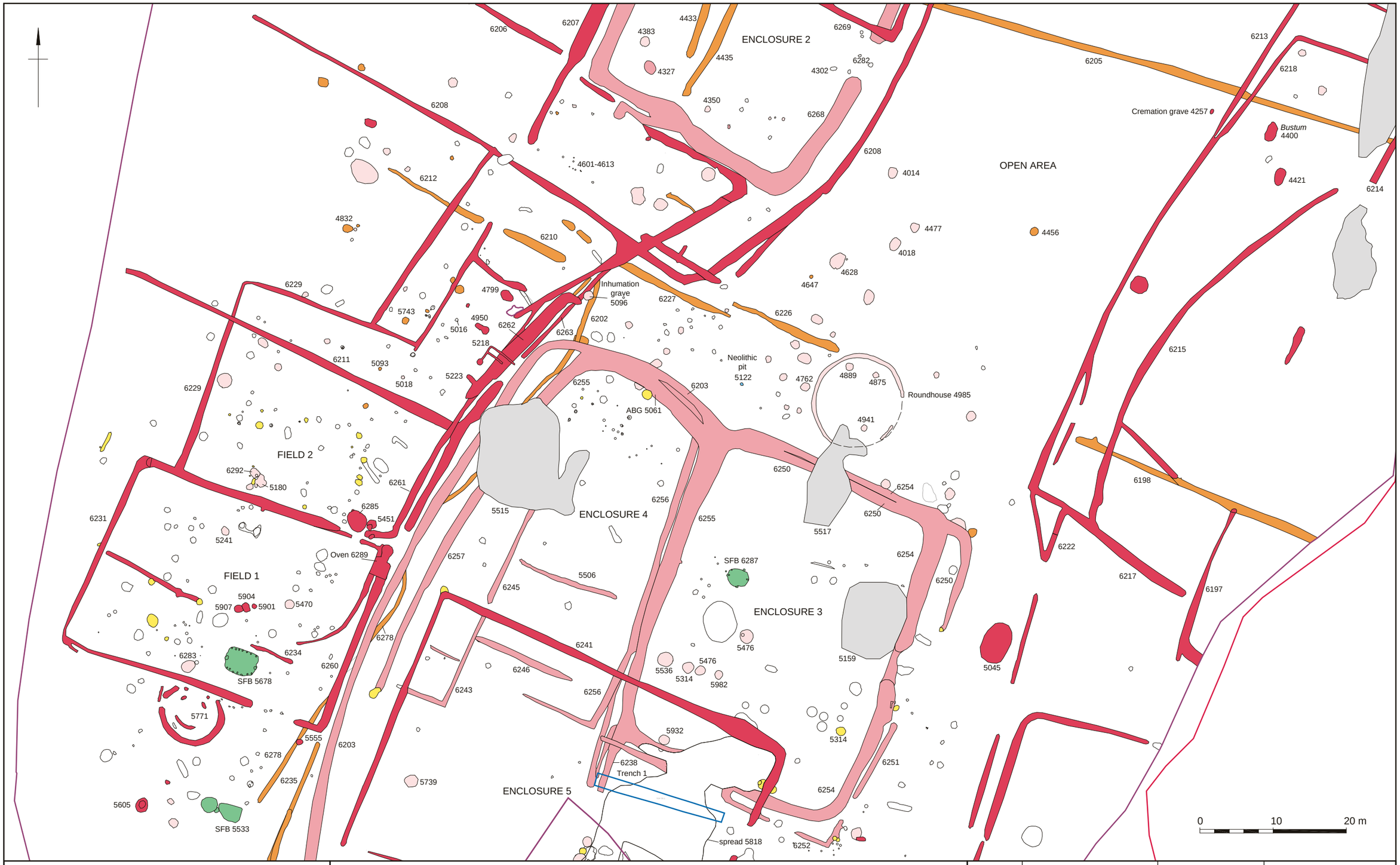
Detailed phased plan of southern Phase 4 Area 2

Figure 2



Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Site boundary
Area
Trench

Early Neolithic
Middle/Late Bronze Age
Late Prehistoric

Iron Age
Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British
Romano-British

Anglo-Saxon
Post-medieval/modern
Undated

Unexcavated

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Detailed phased plan of central Phase 4 Area 2

Figure 3

Phase 4 Area 2

Phase 3 South

6295
709
6280
4436
4144
4432
4433
4435
4121
4120
ENCLOSURE 1
6296
4134
6268
4047
6281
4266
4069
4269
4434
4251
4433
6207
6206
4333
ENCLOSURE 2
6269
6213
4253
6205
4435
4327
6282
4302
6208
6218
4426
4228
6208
4350
6268
Cremation grave 4257
Bustum
4400
OPEN AREA
4421
6212
6214
6215
0 10 20 m

Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Site boundary
Area
Trench
Early Neolithic
Middle/Late Bronze Age
Late Prehistoric
Iron Age
Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British
Romano-British
Anglo-Saxon
Post-medieval/modern
Undated
Unexcavated

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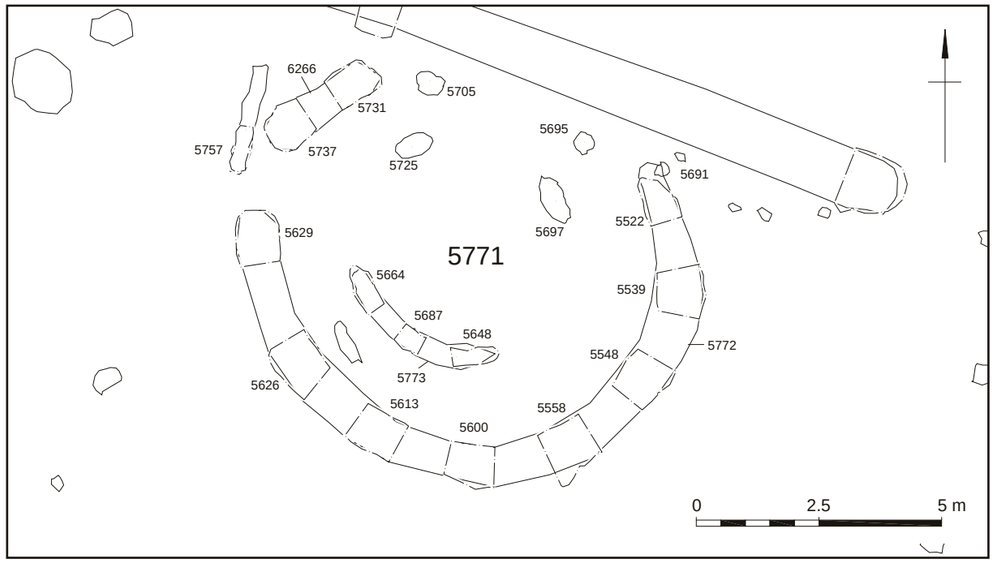
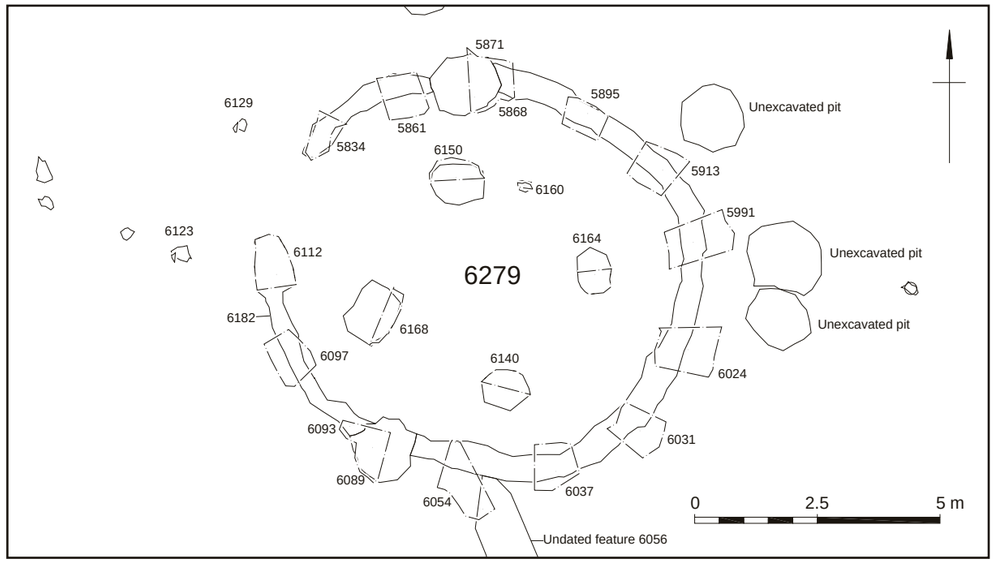
Detailed phased plan of northern Phase 4 Area 2

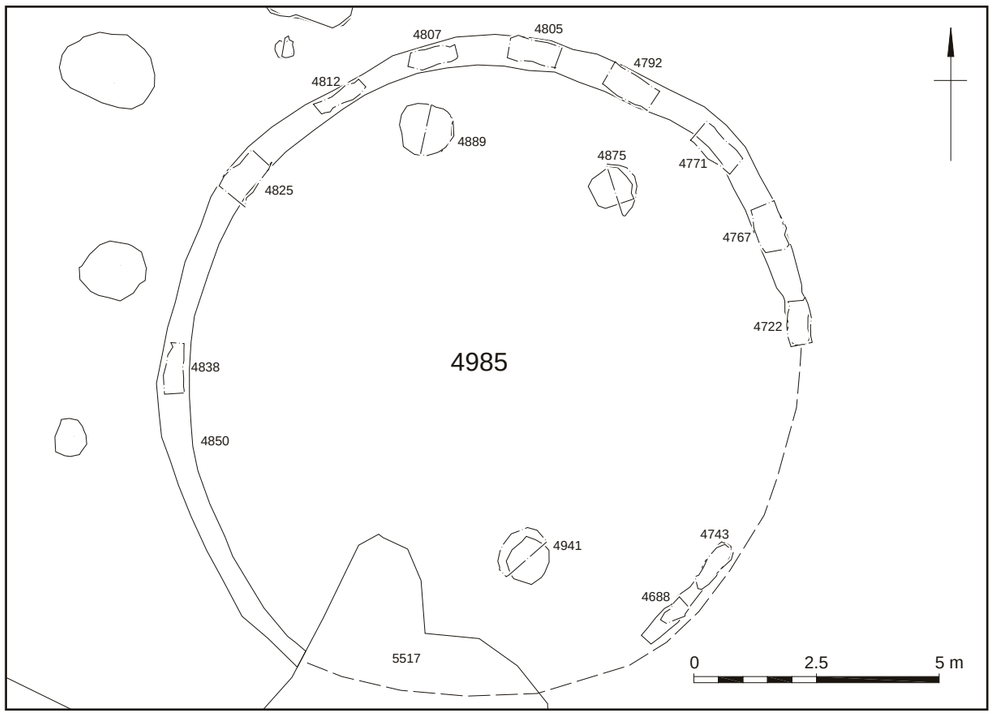
Figure 4



Roundhouse 5771



Roundhouse 6279



Roundhouse 4985

Archaeological feature

Slot

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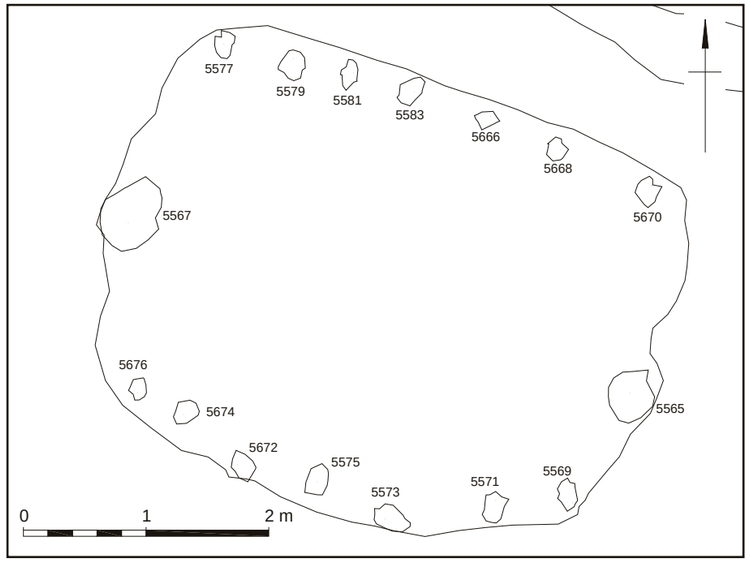
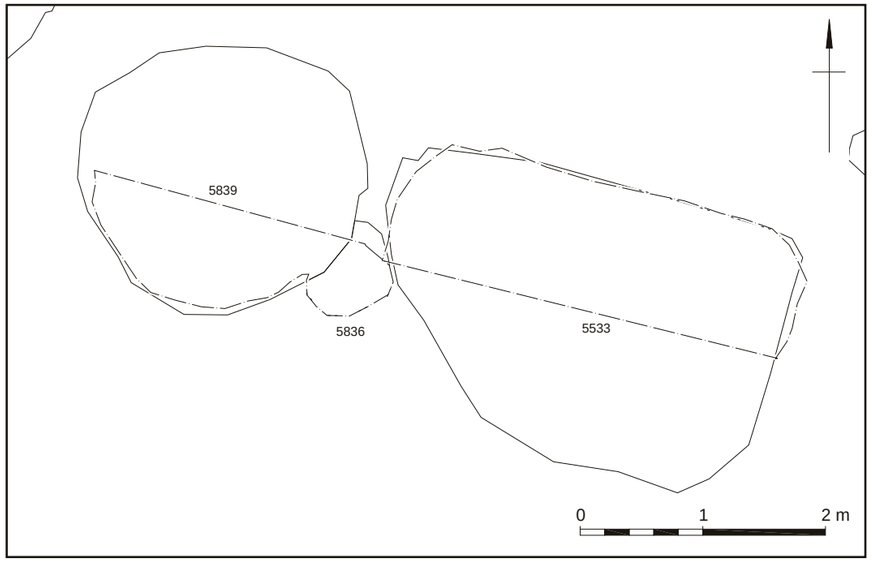
Detailed plans of Iron Age and Romano-British roundhouse structures

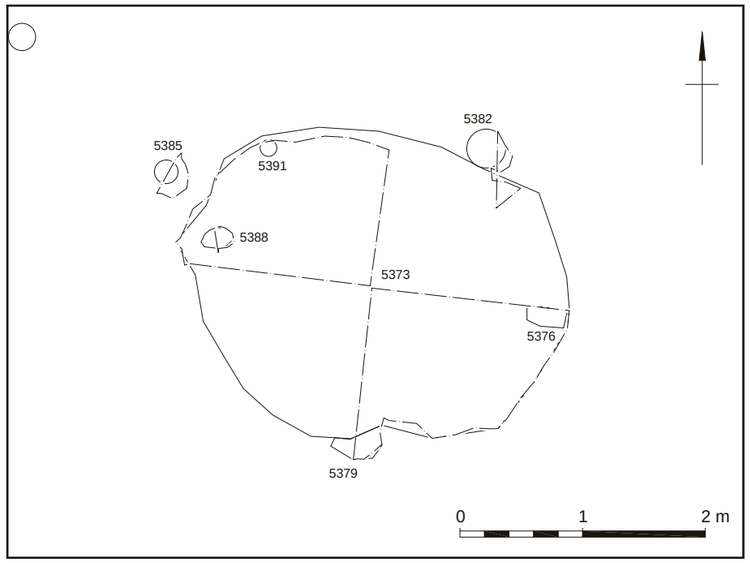
Figure 5



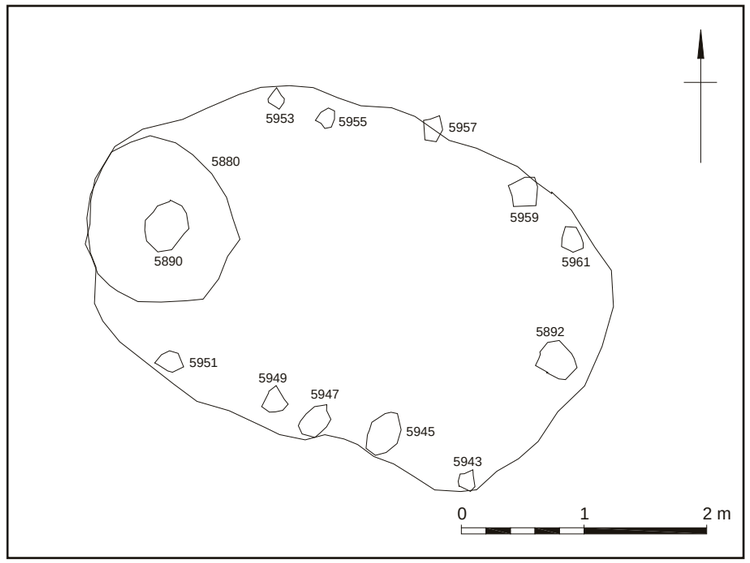
SFB 5678



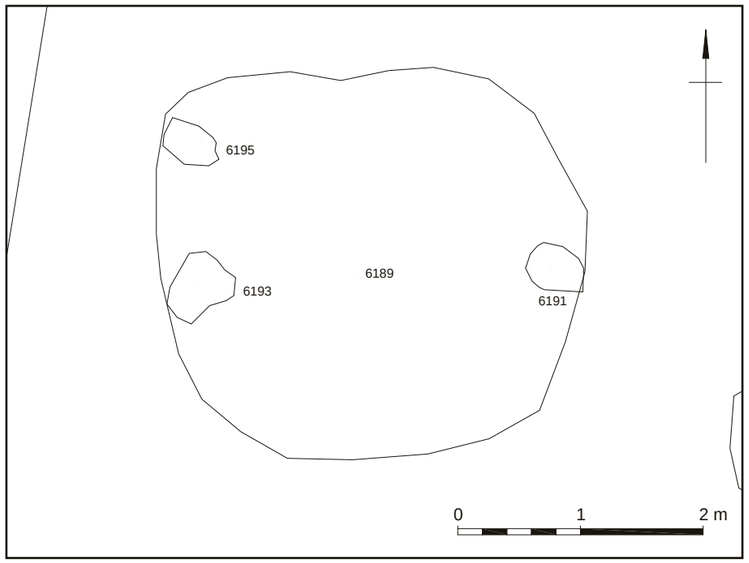
SFB 5533



SFB 6287



SFB 5894



SFB 6291

Archaeological feature

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Detailed plans of Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings

Figure 6

Plate 1: Aerial view of Phase 4 Area 2, viewed from the south-west

Plate 2: : General view of excavations from the north-east

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Plate 3: North-west facing section of penannular ditch 6157, scale 1 m

Plate 4: North-east facing section of Enclosure 1 ditches 4432 and 4436, scales 1 m and 2 m

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Plate 5: East facing section through ditch 6281 separating Enclosures 1 and 2, scales 1 m and 2 m

Plate 6: South-east facing section of Enclosure 3 ditches 6250 and 6254, scale 2 m

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Plate 7: South facing section of Enclosure 4 ditches 6255 and 6203, scale 2 m

Plate 8: Cattle burial 5061 in Enclosure 4, ditch 6255, viewed from the north-east, scales 1 m and 0.5 m

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Plate 9: Dog skeleton 6116 in Enclosure 4, ditch 6239, scale 0.5 m

Plate 10: Partially articulated cattle burial 5982, in Enclosure 4, ditch 6239, scale 1 m

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Plate 11: South facing section of Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5739, scale 1 m

Plate 12: Inhumation burial 5096 with associated artefacts, viewed from the west, scale 1 m

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Plate 13: Inhumation burial 5096, viewed from the west, scale 1 m

Plate 14: Corn-drying oven 6289 viewed from the north-east, truncated by ditch 6260, scale 1 m

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Plate 15: Sunken-featured building 5678 viewed from the north-west, scales 2 m

Plate 16: Sunken-featured building 5894 viewed from the north-east, scale 2 m

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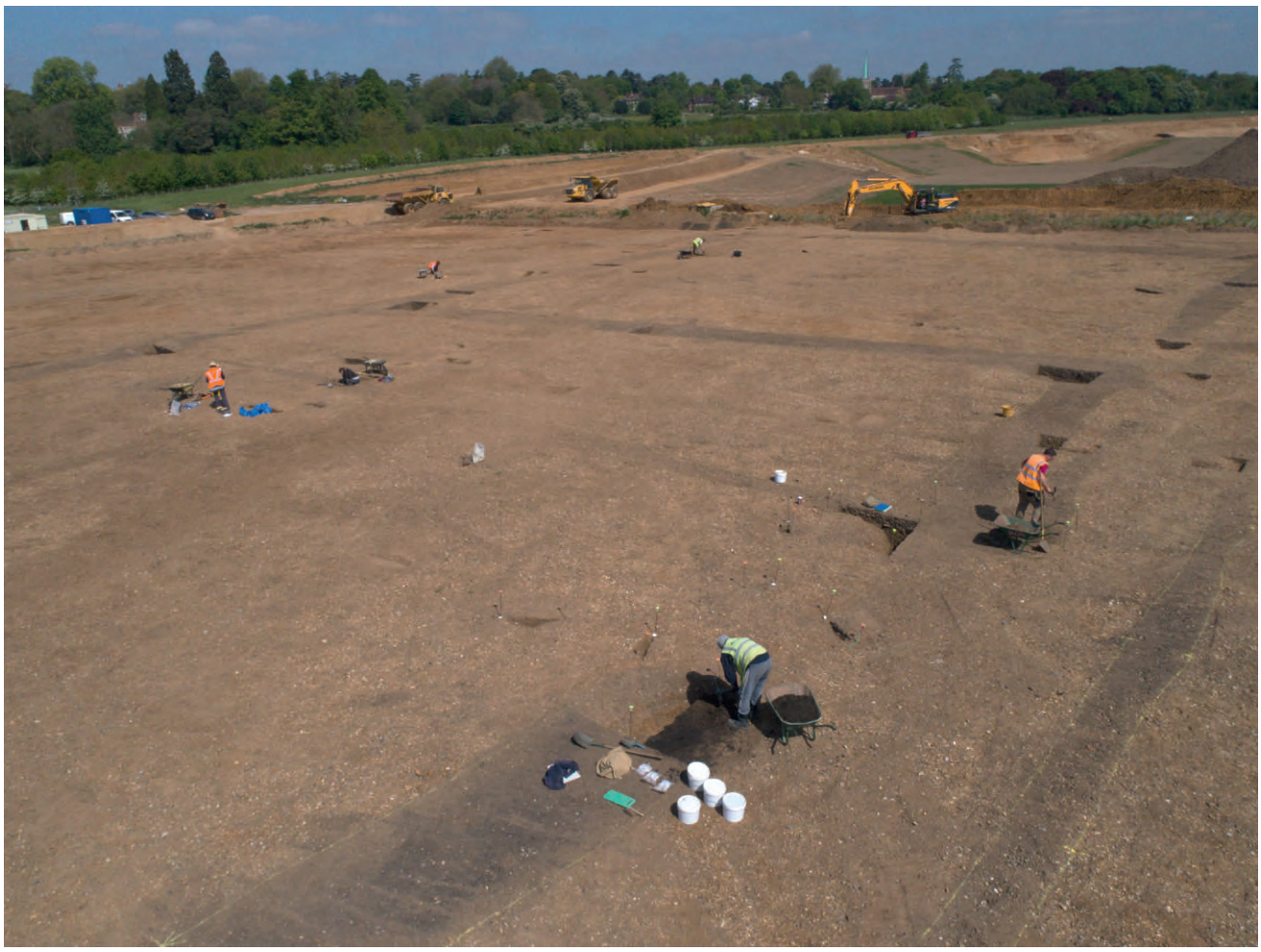

wessex archaeology

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