

**PROJECT HARRY, SNELSHALL EAST  
MILTON KEYNES**

*Report on Archaeological Excavations*

**PROJECT HARRY, SNELSHALL EAST  
MILTON KEYNES**

**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS**

Prepared on behalf of  
**Environ UK Ltd**  
5 Stratford Place  
London  
W1C 1AU

By

**Wessex Archaeology in London**  
Unit 113  
The Chandlery,  
50 Westminster Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 7QY

**REF 58340.02**

**January 2005**

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## REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

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***Summary Information***

Town:	Milton Keynes
Parish:	Tattenhoe
Site Address:	Site C, Snelshall East (off Snelshall Road)
National Grid Reference (site centre):	483507/233254
Planning Application Number:	04/00968/FUL
Event Number:	932
Museum Accession Number	2004.147
Client Name	Environ UK Ltd
Fieldwork Type	Strip and Sample
Date Fieldwork Started	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2004
Date Fieldwork Completed	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2004

### *Acknowledgements*

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Oliver Cannon of Environ UK Ltd (the Client) for commissioning the project, Chris Dannant and Rupert Collins, environmental and ecology monitors for the site and Chris Birchenough of English Partnerships. Finally Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Brian Giggins the Milton Keynes Archaeological officer for his help during the lifetime of this project.

Reuben Thorpe (Project Manager) managed the project for Wessex Archaeology. Cornelius Barton (Project Officer), Andrew Sole, Simon Reames, Laura Cassie, Andrew Baines and David Brown undertook the fieldwork. This report has been written by Cornelius Barton with contributions by Reuben Thorpe, Lorraine Mepham, Stephanie Knight (finds) and Chris Stevens (environmental). The illustrations are by Mark Roughley.

### *Non-technical Summary*

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Environ UK Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation at Site C, Snelshall East, Milton Keynes, NGR 483494/233268 (the Site). The excavation followed three previous phases of work by Wessex Archaeology comprising Desk-Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Evaluation and comprised the final fieldwork stage to fulfil the archaeological condition on planning consent for development.

The Desk-Based Assessment, concluded that archaeological remains probably existed on the Site. The Geophysical Survey identified the presence of linear and other anomalies on the Site suggestive of archaeological features. The subsequent field evaluation identified an area in the southeast corner of the site where archaeological deposits and features survived above the 104m contour above Ordnance Datum.

Subsequent excavation revealed the truncated remains of three phases of Roman enclosure, pitting and a putative, semicircular, lean-to structure. These features were overlain by the remnants of relict medieval cultivation terraces known as ridge-and-furrow.

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## REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Planning Background

1.1.1 Environ UK Ltd commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological excavation on land at Snelshall East, Milton Keynes (the Site). The area in question had already been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation, and the excavation described in this report comprises the final phase of fieldwork to satisfy the archaeological condition on planning consent for the site.

#### 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The Site is roughly rectangular in shape and covers an area of approximately five and one half hectares, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 483800/233250 (**Figure 1**). It lies on the southern edge of Milton Keynes, on the line of the A421.

#### 1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The Site lies on a gentle north-facing slope at between 100m and 106m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology consists of glacial till above Oxford Clay.

#### 1.4 Previous Work and Archaeological Background

1.4.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2004a report no 56510.1). This sought to address the likely presence of archaeology on the Site, from previous work and find spots of archaeological material within 500m of the Site.

1.4.2 The DBA identified that it was probable that archaeological deposits dating to the Romano-British period (AD 43- 410) were present on Site (**Figure 1**). Further, the DBA recommended that an additional stage of work, comprising geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching, should be enacted.

1.4.3 A geophysical survey was undertaken in August 2004. This revealed several buried anomalies (**Figure 2**) possibly archaeological in origin.

1.4.4 Following this phase of geophysical survey an archaeological evaluation was undertaken of the Site in September 2004. This evaluation revealed the presence of archaeological deposits and features, dating to the Roman Period, in the southeast corner of the Site, around the 104m aOD contour.



## **1.5 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.5.1 The aims of the excavation were to:
- I. Characterise the nature, date, extent, form and function of underlying archaeological deposits,
  - II. Retrieve stratified assemblages of finds and ecofacts if and where present or preserved.

## **2 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Methodological Standards**

- 2.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (revised 2001).

### **2.2 Health and Safety**

- 2.2.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance. All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992. An H&S Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology.

### **2.3 Fieldwork**

- 2.3.1 Topsoil was stripped using a tracked 360' excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Machining continued until either undisturbed natural ground or archaeological deposits were reached. In the case of the latter, these were cleaned and excavated by hand.
- 2.3.2 Archaeological features were mapped (**Figure 3**) and located using a Total Station Theodolite (TST).
- 2.3.3 All spoil was scanned for finds by hand. All finds were allocated the relevant context number to secure their provenance.
- 2.3.4 Exposed archaeological features were cleaned by hand and a representative sample of each excavated and recorded.
- 2.3.5 All exposed archaeological deposits were investigated and fully recorded utilising Wessex Archaeology's standardised context recording system.
- 2.3.6 A minimum sample of 5%, away from intersections, was excavated through ditches and linear features not associated with settlement. All intersections were excavated to yield detail on sequence.
- 2.3.7 A minimum sample of 15%, away from intersections, was excavated through ditches and linear features associated with settlement. All intersections were excavated to yield detail on sequence.

- 2.3.8 All discrete features were half-sectioned or quadranted. A minimum sample of 50% was excavated.
- 2.3.9 A complete drawn and photographic record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes plans drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10, with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The height of all features was recorded in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.3.10 A full photographic record was maintained in both 35mm colour transparencies and black and white negative.
- 2.3.11 Features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standardised context recording system.

## **2.4 Finds Collection and Retention**

- 2.4.1 All finds were treated in accordance with the principles and practices set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993), Medieval Pottery Research Group (2001) and the Institute of field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance (1999).
- 2.4.2 All artefacts were retained from all stratified contexts, except where features or deposits were clearly modern. Material of modern date was noted and recorded prior to being discarded.
- 2.4.3 All retained artefacts were washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified. Metalwork was X-rayed where appropriate. All finds were stored in archivally stable conditions.

## **2.5 Environmental Sampling**

- 2.5.1 Environmental samples were taken and treated in accordance with the principles and practices outlined by English Heritage (2002) in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.
- 2.5.2 Deposits were sampled where they were likely to contain information relating to diet, economy, environmental regime, site formation process and/or dating evidence.

# **3 DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS**

## **3.1 Introduction**

The following section narrates the archaeological sequence on the Site by period, phase and feature type. Contexts representing the deposition, re-deposition or re-working of material, signifying use/disuse are enclosed in round parentheses i.e. (000). Those representing the actions of construction, reconstruction or truncation, are enclosed in square brackets i.e. [000].

## **3.2 Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 410)**

- 3.2.1 The majority of the features on site date to the Roman Period (**Figure 4**) and represent three phases of activity.
- 3.2.2 The archaeological features revealed represent elements associated with settlement definition and use, comprising truncated linear ditches and interrupted gullies, which define the northern edge of an enclosure. At least three discreet clusters of pits are also represented.

***Phase 1: AD 43 – 100 (Figure 5)***

- 3.2.3 The first archaeologically visible phase of human activity on the Site consisted of two ditches, [153, 147] forming a right-angled corner of an enclosure. Both features were very shallow, as the Site has suffered horizontal truncation through deep ploughing. It is likely that these ditches had originally extended further to the southeast and southwest, probably forming the corner of a large enclosure, possibly an animal pen.
- 3.2.4 Within the enclosed area, a semi-circular structure [220] was excavated. The final use/disuse of this feature was dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, but it may well have been in use much earlier. The edges of the structure are somewhat irregular, suggesting multiple, perhaps seasonal rebuilding. Structures of this type and date are relatively common in the Midlands, a similar, post built example, having been excavated at Normanton-Le-Heath in Leicestershire (Thorpe, Sharman and Clay 1994). These features have previously been interpreted as temporary or semi-permanent shelters for herdsman, possibly little more than windbreaks (Knight, 1984).

***Phase 2: AD 100 – 200 (Figure 6 & 7)***

- 3.2.5 The phase two activity testifies to a continuation of the pattern of land use established in Phase 1. The ditches were both re-cut [150, 139], reinforcing, though slightly diverging from the earliest phase. Phase 2 also witnesses the expansion of the excavated ditches as they are cut slightly broader and deeper, perhaps reflecting more intensive land use, or a consolidation of patterns of land division established some years earlier. A shallow pit [152] is cut by ditch [150], and may represent a sub-phase of activity.
- 3.2.6 Associated with ditches [150] and [139] were a number of small pits [160, 207, 211]. These were slightly deeper than the ditches, which may have allowed them to survive truncation. These pits contained an assortment of refuse, including pottery and animal bones.
- 3.2.7 This phase also saw the cutting of a line of smaller pits, [106] [108] and [110]. These pits lay to the northeast of ditches [150] and [139]. The pits contained Roman ceramics and their alignment implies that they were excavated while ditch [139] was in use. Their function, however, is uncertain. The pits are again truncated by later deep ploughing, and would have originally been some 0.5m deeper. They could therefore have supported posts of considerable size, although there is no direct evidence for this.

***Phase 3: AD 200 – 300 (Figure 8 & 9)***

- 3.2.8 Similarly to Phase 2, the excavated evidence from Phase 3 reflects a continuation and possibly an intensification of land use from the previous

phase. The corner of the enclosure was once more re-cut [137], though the stratigraphic relationship between the two ditches is ambiguous, due to later truncation, it appears likely that ditch [150] also remained in use during this phase.

3.2.9 A number of pits, containing domestic refuse, were also associated with this phase. As before, they contain evidence of food consumption on the Site, but there is no indication that butchery took place. Some of the pits contain burnt material and stone showing signs of being heated, which may indicate small fires being lit around the Site, (for warmth and cooking).

3.2.10 During this phase the semi-circular structure [220] went out of use and was allowed to silt up.

### **3.3 Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1538)**

3.3.1 The traces of relict cultivation terraces, known as ridge and furrow, represent the medieval period on Site (**Figure 2**). The ridge-and-furrow system covered approximately one third of the Site area, and could have been worked either by the inhabitants of Medieval Tattenhoe to the north of the Site (Ivens, Shepherd and Busby, 1995) or those of Medieval Bletchley, to the south.

### **3.4 Modern (AD 1789 - Present)**

3.4.1 The Site is crossed by several gullies and ditches dating to this period. These are mainly associated with land improvement.

## **4 THE FINDS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Finds in a very limited range of material types were recovered during the excavation. With the possible exception of four pieces of burnt, unworked flint, which could be of prehistoric origin, all of the finds are demonstrably (pottery and ceramic building material) or probably (animal bone, stone, fired clay and iron) of Romano-British date.

4.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**. All data are held on a database (MS Access®), in compliance with the requirements of Buckinghamshire County Museum's 'Procedures for deposit of archaeological archives', appendices 4 and 5 (version 1.4, September 2003).

### **4.2 Pottery**

4.2.1 The ceramic assemblage provides the primary dating evidence for the site. The assemblage is entirely Roman in date and has been quantified by broad ware group within each context; broadly following the groups defined for Milton Keynes by Marney (1989). **Appendix 2, Table 2**, presents the breakdown of the Roman assemblage by ware group.

4.2.2 The bulk of the assemblage is made up of coarsewares, much of which are likely to have been produced locally. These include shelly wares, probably

from several different production sites but including the Roman Kilns at Harrold in Bedfordshire. Grey sandy wares, probably including products of the Caldecotte II kiln (Buckinghamshire) as well as regional (Nene Valley) products; grog-tempered wares, here including the groups previously defined as 'soft pink grogged ware' and 'grogged shelly wares' (Marney 1989); and oxidised sandy wares were also found.

- 4.2.3 The identifiable vessel forms span the Roman period. There is one example of a greyware necked and cordoned jar of late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD type (154) and one shelly ware lid-seated jar of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD type (157). To these early forms can be added the occurrence of two sherds of samian (172). Most vessels, however, seem to be of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date or later. These include a range of necked jars with thickened rims and ephemeral cordons (102, 126, 151, 159, 200, 212) which later develop into the hooked rim jars characteristic of the late 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (124, 133, 136, 159, 172).
- 4.2.4 Other late Roman (later 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century AD) forms comprise dropped flange bowls (present in grey sandy wares and Black Burnished ware: from (159, 172), and an Oxfordshire whiteware mortarium (172) of type M22: (Young 1977).

### 4.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 4.3.1 The four pieces of ceramic building material recovered comprise two fragments of *tegula* roof tile (172), one fragment of *imbrex* (154), and one undiagnostic flat fragment (117).

### 4.4 Animal Bone

- 4.4.1 Most of the 144 bone fragments are in fair condition, with 34% in good condition. Scavenger activity has had limited effect on the assemblage, and four bones show gnawing marks. A very small percentage of bones were identified to species (16%), and of these ten were loose teeth, suggesting mechanical rather than chemical destruction, as the condition of the bone is generally good but the teeth had been lost from the jaw.
- 4.4.2 Cattle were the most common of the identified bones (n=21), with two sheep/goat teeth the only other identified examples. One rib fragment resembled deer in morphology but was too fragmentary to confidently assign to species. Eight bones could be aged, and four measured. Both juvenile and adult cattle were present with one very large individual present. One bone, possibly belonging to a bull was noted. Calculus was noted on a few cattle teeth, but not on those of sheep.
- 4.4.3 Butchery marks were seen on nine bones and included chops through bone, typical of Roman butchery methods, scrapes along the side of bone, presumably made during meat splitting or portioning, and well placed cuts for disarticulation. Some helical fractures, made when the bone was fresh, were also noted, and may indicate the splitting of bone for marrow extraction. One fragment may have been heated, as the bone shows discolouration and cracking thought to be caused by heating.

- 4.4.4 No unusual combinations of bone elements, which might suggest the zoning of activity areas, were observed.

#### **4.5 Other Finds**

- 4.5.1 These comprise two pieces of burnt but unworked flint; one piece of undiagnostic fired clay, probably structural, one piece of micaceous sandstone, possibly worked, and three iron nails. None of these are datable except by association – most occurred with Romano-British pottery - but it may be noted that burnt, unworked flint is a material type often associated with prehistoric activity.

### **5 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 A single bulk sample of 15 litres was taken from a Roman-British drip gully or foundation trench, (130) from Phase 3. The sample was processed and analysed for charred plant macros. Preservation of material was generally good although not all the material was identified.

#### **5.2 Methods**

- 5.2.1 The sample was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried in air. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.
- 5.2.2 The flot was sorted under a x10-x30 stereo-binocular microscope and plant macrofossils were then extracted, identified and quantified. The plant taxa identified from each sample are shown in **Appendix 3, Table 3**, and describe the assemblage following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

#### **5.3 Results**

- 5.3.1 The sample contained numerous remains of cereals. Of these by far the most abundant element were glumes (hull of the kernel) of hulled emmer or spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) with spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) dominating the assemblage. Cereal grains were less numerous and only spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) was present, however some grains resembled the short grained variety. Other cereal remains included coleoptiles that clearly came from germinated grains.
- 5.3.2 Remains of weed seeds were far less numerous and included several remains of oats (*Avena* sp.) including grains, awns and floret bases. The two floret bases recovered had characteristic horseshoe breakage scars indicative of the wild variety. Other grass seeds included those of perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). Other seeds included black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), vetches/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*).
- 5.3.3 The only other remains within the sample were of charcoal that contained some fragments of round wood. Including a probable twig/thorn of a

hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) or sloe (*Prunus* sp.). All of the larger charcoal fragments were ring-porous and so probably oak (*Quercus* sp.).

#### **5.4 Discussion**

- 5.4.1 In common with other similarly dated sites from the region, only spelt wheat was present with no remains of emmer wheat and few of barley, for example, Heelands, Willmill Hill (Jones 1987) and Bierton (Jones 1988). The same sites examined by Jones (1987, 1988) also produced a similar array of weed species, with few weed seeds present the assemblages dominated by seeds of oats and brome grass.
- 5.4.2 The high numbers of glume bases indicates that the samples derive from the dehusking of spelt wheat, usually one of the final operations to be undertaken as cereals are taken from storage and processed for immediate use (cf. Hillman 1981, Stevens 2003). The general absence and of larger weed seeds suggests that the crops had been largely processed prior to storage, removing the bulk of small weed seeds.
- 5.4.3 Of the weed seeds only stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) has any ecological significance. Stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) has been taken as an indicator of the cultivation of heavier, clay soils and hence improved ploughs (Jones 1981).
- 5.4.4 Jones records it as becoming commoner within the later Iron Age (Jones 1981, 1989), however, it is rarely recorded in any quantity prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, only gaining real prominence on some later Roman sites before becoming established as a common arable weed within Saxon and Medieval times. It is certainly far from widespread in the Roman period and appears on a fairly limited number of Roman sites, mainly of later Roman date and often in association with corn-dryers or malting ovens. Many of these are located in Southern England, for example, Alchester (Pelling 2002), Abingdon, Farmoor (Jones 1975, 1979) Gloucester (Clarke 1971), Milton Keynes (Jones 1987), Little Waltham (Wilson 1978), although it is also recorded from York (Hall and Kenward 1990, and Lancaster (Huntley in Buxton *et al.* 2000).

## **6 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 As pre-empted in the DBA, the dominant period of human settlement activity represented on Site dates to the Roman period spanning the mid 1<sup>st</sup> and the late 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- 6.1.2 No evidence dating to the early medieval (410 – 1066 AD) is represented though it is possible that the ridge-and-furrow represented on site may have had its antecedent in the period spanning the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **6.2 Nature of Human Activity and Land-use on the Site**

- 6.2.1 Evidence of human activity on site dates initially to the early Roman, or Romano-British period, around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Though no structures signifying building construction and occupation within the site were discovered belonging to this phase, use of the area as an open area associated with a settlement, to the south is unequivocal.
- 6.2.2 The earliest phase of land-use on the Site may represent one of two phenomena. Either the establishment of an enclosure proper in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Phase 1) and its gradual silting up. Or, alternatively, the delineation of land to be enclosed with shallow gullies, as at Twywell (Jackson 1975), followed by its backfilling at the beginning of Phase 2 and the establishment of this land division proper in the late 1<sup>st</sup>/ early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.
- 6.2.3 Phase 3 sees the maintenance of earlier patterns of land enclosure and the insertion and disuse (or disuse) of a temporary shelter in its northeast corner.
- 6.2.4 It is probable that though the disuse (infill of construction trench [220]) of this shelter is dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, the structure itself, possibly over several phases, was maintained from the late first/second century AD.
- 6.2.5 The presence of clusters of pits, spanning phases 2 and 3 - the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD - containing the detritus of food consumption, charcoal, fire scorched water rolled stones (pot boilers), places them as being contemporary with the use of [220].
- 6.2.6 The presence of stinking mayweed within the disuse fill of [220] probably indicates a changing agricultural regime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, reflected at the local level with cultivation encroaching onto the edge of the stream valley to the north. It is possible therefore that [155] and [204] may in fact represent plough scars or the remnants of Roman agriculture.
- 6.2.7 Generally on the Site during the Roman period, the Phase 1-3 arrangement of ditches suggests an increasing degree of formalisation of the landscape, between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, which was initially utilised as pasture for grazing animals.



- 6.2.8 The animal bone evidence would suggest that there was a substantial herd of cattle on the Site, along with sheep and goats. The phases of ditch digging and re-digging imply that the Site was in constant use, though on the (northern) margin of settlement, hence the drop off in feature density past (to the north of) the 105m aOD contour.
- 6.2.9 In the later (Phase 3) phase, cultivation of grain and possibly its processing was clearly taking place close by.
- 6.2.10 The line of small pits to the east of the main body of Roman features may have defined the eastern edge of the settlement; or defined access or grazing rites to the possible water meadows to the north. Roman settlements are sometimes surrounded by such boundaries, for example the site at Groom's Farm in the Meon Valley (Wessex Archaeology 1999).
- 6.2.11 During the Medieval period human activity on the Site involved the cultivation of food crops on raised terraces (ridges) between furrows. The width of these terraces was between 5m and 8m. To the north the low lying valley was used as water meadows, at least until the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Ivens, Shepherd and Busby, 1995 ).

## 7 THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Procedures for Deposit of Archaeological Archives* (Buck's County Museum 1999). Following agreement with the landowner, the project archive, including any finds and environmental samples, will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.
- 7.2 The resulting archive will be microfiched to the standards accepted by the National Monuments Record (NMR). One copy will be deposited with the County SMR; a further copy will be deposited with the NMR.
- 7.3 The details of this project will be entered onto the Oasis online database. A copy of the data entry form is appended to this document.

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9 APPENDIX 1. CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLES APPENDIX 1. CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLES

Thickness = deposit (dep) thickness. Depth = depth of cut

Context	Type	Description	Interpretative/Processual Keyword	Thickness /Depth
100	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay	Ploughsoil/ cultivation	0.36m
101	Dep	Mid yellow-brown clay/silt mix	Ploughsoil	0.28m
102	Dep	Mixed natural gravel deposit	Natural	
103	Dep	Mixed natural clay deposit (“brickearth”)	Natural	
104	Cut	Cut linear feature	Terrace construction/use	0.10m
106	Cut	Circular cut	Pit/ construction	0.11m
105	Dep	Mid brown clay loam- fill of [104]	Terrace use	0.10m
107	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay- fill of [106]	Pit use/disuse	0.11m
108	Cut	Circular cut	Pit/ construction	0.24m
109	Dep	Dark grey-brown silty clay- fill of [108]	Pit use/disuse	0.24m
110	Cut	Broad oval cut	Pit/ construction	0.12m
111	Dep	Dark grey-brown silty clay- fill of [110]	Pit/ use/disuse	0.12m
112	Cut	Cut of ditch	Modern drain/ construction	0.10m
113	Dep	Mid red-brown clay loam- fill of [112]	Drain use/disuse	0.10m
114	-	Void- no. unassigned	-	
115	-	Void- no. unassigned	-	
116	Cut	Circular cut	Pit/ construction	0.27m
117	Dep	Mid red-brown silty clay- fill of [116]	Pit/ use/disuse	0.27m
118	Cut	Circular cut	Pit/ construction	0.21m
119	Dep	Compacted mid brownish-grey silty clay- fill of [118]	Pit/ use/disuse	0.11m
120	Dep	Reddish-grey silty clay- fill of [118]	Pit/ use/disuse	0.21m
121	Cut	Cut of linear feature	Modern drain/ construction	0.14m

Context	Type	Description	Interpretative/processual keyword	Thickness /Depth
122	Dep	Fill of modern drainage feature	Drain use/disuse	0.14m
123	Cut	Semi-circular ditch- part of group [220]	Structure/ construction	0.18m
124	Dep	Mid grey clay loam with orange mottling- fill of [123]	Structure/ disuse	0.18m
125	Cut	Cut of NE-SW linear	Ditch/ construction	0.18m
126	Dep	Mid dark-grey silty clay- fill of [125]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.18m
127	Cut	Cut of treethrow	Tree/ demolition	0.20m
128	Dep	Mid grey silty clay- fill of [127]	Ibid	0.20m
129	Cut	Cut of semi-circular ditch- part of group [220]	Structure/ construction	0.19m
130	Dep	Mid grey clay with 5% flint gravel- fill of [129]	Structure/ disuse	0.19m
131	Cut	Oval cut	Pit/ construction	0.16m
132	Dep	Mid grey silty clay- fill of [131]	Pit/ use	0.16m
133	Dep	Mid grey silty clay- fill of [208] (Roman pit)	Pit/ use	0.15m
134	Dep	Mid blue grey silty clay- fill of [208] (Roman pit)	Pit/ use	0.20m
135	Dep	Mid yellowish-grey silty clay with flint nodules- fill of [208] (Roman pit)	Pit/ use	0.25m
136	Dep	Dark grey silty clay with flint gravel- fill of [209] (Roman pit)	Pit/ use	0.38m
137	Cut	Cut of NE-SW linear	Ditch/ construction	0.17m
138	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay- fill of [137]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.18m
139	Cut	Cut of NE-SW linear	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.13m
140	Dep	Pale yellow-brown silty clay- fill of [139]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.13m
141	Cut	Cut of ditch- same as [137]	Ditch/ construction	0.05m
142	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay- fill of [137]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.05m
143	Cut	Cut of tree-throw	Tree/ demolition	0.08m
144	Dep	Pale yellow-brown silty clay- fill of [143]	Tree/ demolition	0.08m
145	Cut	Cut of NW-SE ditch	Ditch/ construction	0.21m
146	Dep	Mid red-grey clay- fill of [145]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.21m
147	Cut	Cut of NW-SE ditch	Ditch/ construction	0.11m

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretative/processual keyword</b>	<b>Thickness /Depth</b>
148	Dep	Dark brownish-red silty clay- fill of [147]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.11m
149	Dep	Dark grey-brown silty clay- fill of [150]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.24m
150	Cut	Cut of E-W ditch	Ditch/ construction	0.24m
151	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay with sandstone- fill of [152]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.33m
152	Cut	Sub-circular cut	Pit/ construction	0.33m
153	Cut	Cut of NE-SW shallow linear	Ditch/ construction	0.15m
154	Dep	Mid-brown silty clay- fill of [153]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.15m
155	Cut	Ephemeral, possibly linear feature	Uncertain	0.24m
156	Dep	Pale grey silty clay- fill of [155]	Uncertain	0.24m
157	Dep	Mid grey silty clay with chalk fragments- fill of [207] (Roman pit)	Pit/ use/disuse	0.09m
158	Dep	Mid grey silty clay- fill of [206] (Roman pit)	Pit/ use/disuse	0.19m
159	Dep	Pale brownish-grey silty clay- fill of tree-throw [211]	Tree/ demolition	0.26m
160	Cut	Circular cut (Roman)	Pit/ construction	0.18m
161	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay- fill of [160]	Pit/ use/disuse	0.18m
162	Dep	Dark grey silty clay- fill of [200]	Structure/ disuse	0.12m
163	Cut	Cut of N-S linear	Ditch/ construction	0.13m
164	Dep	Light grey-brown silty clay- fill of [163]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.13m
165	Cut	Cut of E-W linear	Ditch/construction	0.20m
166	Dep	Mid grey silty clay- fill of 165]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.28m
167	Cut	Cut of modern channel	Drain/ construction	0.10m
168	Dep	Mid grey silty clay- fill of [167]	Drain/ use/disuse	0.10m
169	Dep	Dark brown silty clay- fill of gully [204]	Ditch/ use/disuse	0.20m
170	Cut	Circular feature (Roman)	Pit/ construction	0.10m
171	Dep	Mid orange-grey silty clay- fill of [170]	Pit use/disuse	0.10m
172	Dep	Dark grey-brown silty clay with charcoal- top fill of Roman pit [207]	Pit use/disuse	0.44m
173	Dep	Mid brownish-grey silty clay-	Drain use/disuse	0.22m

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretative/processual keyword</b>	<b>Thickness /Depth</b>
174	Cut	Cut of tree-throw	Tree/ demolition	0.14m
175	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay- fill of [174]	Tree/ demolition	0.14m
176	Dep	Mid grey-brown silty clay- middle fill of [207]	Pit/ use/disuse	0.56m
177	Dep	Pale grey-brown silty clay- lower fill of [207]	Pit/ use/disuse	0.71m
178	Cut	Cut of modern feature- not excavated	Feature construction	-
179	Dep	Fill of [178]	Feature disuse	-
180-199		VOID- Nos not assigned	Enclosure ditch	-
200	Group	Group no. for NE-SW linear	Ibid	-
201	Group	Group no. for NW-SE linear	Ibid	-
202	Group	Group no. for modern cut	Drain	-
203	Group	Group no. for NW-SE linear	Enclosure Ditch	-
204	Cut	Linear(Roman)	Ditch/ construction	0.20m
205	Cut	Circular feature (Roman)	Pit/ construction	0.22m
206	Cut	Cut of N-S linear (Roman)	Ditch/ construction	0.19m
207	Cut	Circular feature (Roman)	Pit/ construction	0.09m
208	Cut	Circular feature (Roman)	Pit/ construction	0.29m
209	Cut	Circular feature (Roman)	Pit/ construction	0.38m
210	Group	Group no. for semi-circular structure (Roman)	Building/structure	-

## APPENDIX 2. FINDS TABLES AND QUANTIFICATIONS

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds	Spot Date
102	7/605		13/233		C2/C3
111	8/35		17/264		RB unspec
113			1/1	2 burnt flint	RB unspec
117		1/22	2/15	1 fired clay	RB unspec
119	3/60		3/93		RB unspec
124			1/460		C3/C4
126	4/17		12/104		RB unspec
130	1/61		8/34		RB unspec
131	4/36				Undated
132			7/221	1 stone	RB unspec
133			4/61		C3/C4
135	5/102				Undated
136	36/379		9/138		C3/C4
151	1/5		7/304		C2/C3
154		1/193	26/295		late C1/C2
156			4/43		RB unspec
158			6/178	1 iron	RB unspec
159	15/104		20/264		C2-C4
160			1/7		RB unspec
171			24/225		C2/C3
172	10/688	2/174	43/709	1 iron	late C1-C4
200			3/53	2 burnt flint	C2/C3
209				1 iron	
212	70/417		37/333		C2/C3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>164/2509</b>	<b>4/389</b>	<b>249/4057</b>		

Table 1: Tabulation of Finds by Context

Ware Group/Type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
Samian	2	7
Amphora	1	142
Shelly wares	68	928
Grog-tempered wares	62	1682
Grey sandy wares	82	866
Black Burnished ware	4	121
Oxidised sandy wares	21	139
Nene Valley colour coat	1	12
Nene Valley whiteware	2	33
Oxfordshire colour coat	4	30
Oxfordshire whiteware	2	97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>4057</b>

**Table 2:** Tabulation of Pottery by Ware Group



11 APPENDIX 3. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE DETAILS

Feature Type	Structure/Building	
Context	(130)	
Vol. size (l)	15 L	
Flot size (ml)	110 ml	

<b>Cereals</b>		
<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Qty</b>
Triticum sp. L. (grain)	wheat	9
Triticum spelta L. (grain)	spelt wheat	1
Triticum spelta L. (glume base)	spelt wheat	60
Triticum dicoccum/spelta (glume base)	emmer/spelt wheat	490
Triticum dicoccum/spelta (grains)	emmer/spelt wheat	4
Cereal (germinated coleoptiles)	cereal	2
Other Species		
<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Qty</b>
Chenopodiaceae	goosefoots	2
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) A. Löve	black bindweed	1
Rumex sp. L.	docks	2
Crataegus monogyna/Prunus sp.	thorn	1
Vicia L./Lathyrus sp. L.	vetch/pea	1
Vicia /Pisum/Lens immature	pea/bean	2
Anthemis cotula L.	stinking chamomile	1
Avena sp. L. (grains)	oat	10
Avena sp. L. (awns)	oat	10
Avena sp. L. (floret base wild)	oat	2
Lolium perenne L.	perennial rye grass	1
Bromus sp. L.	brome	2
Large seed indet.	3 degraded seeds	3

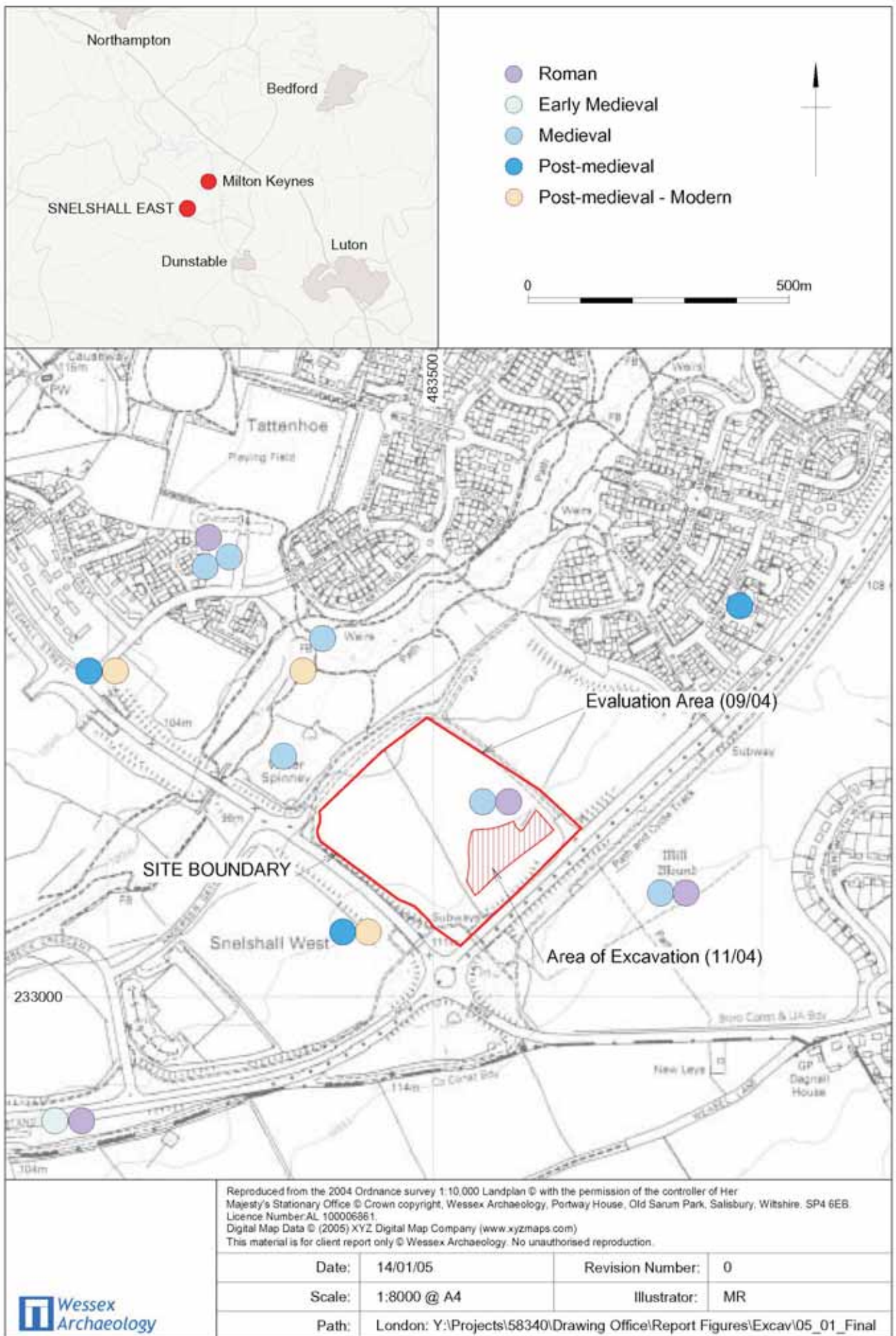
**Table 3.** Identification and Quantification of Plant Species Identified

Feature type/no	Context	Sample size litres	flot size ml	Flot					Residue Analysis			
				Grain	Chaff	uncharred	Weed Seeds	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm		
Gully	(130)	1	15	110	40	B	A*	-	C	A	smb - (C) moll -t (B)	-

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs  
Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

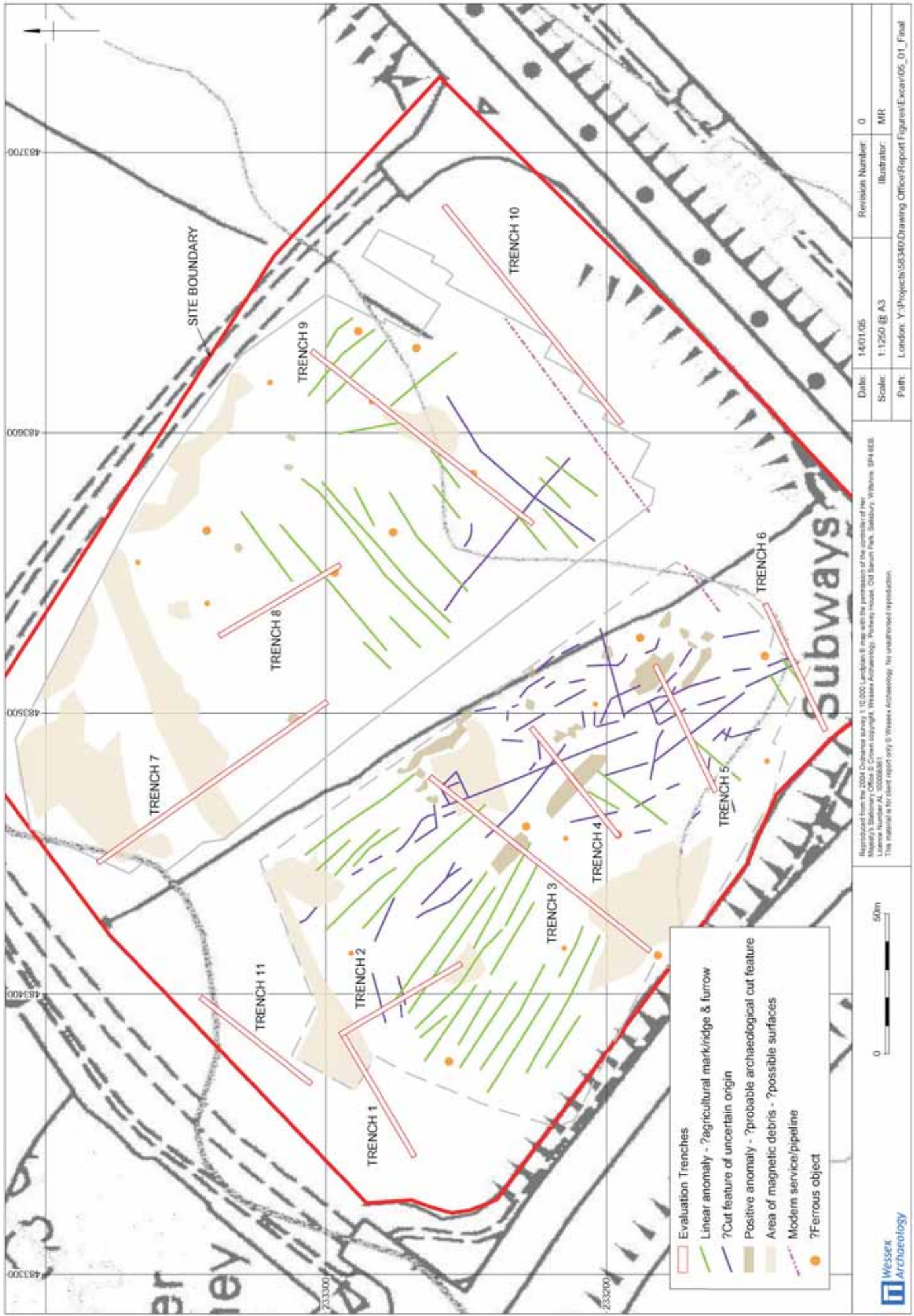
NOTE: 1flot is total, but flot in *italics*= ml of rooty material. 2Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains. The sample was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

**Table 4.** Assessment of the Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal

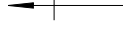


Site Location Map showing Evaluation Area, Excavated Area and SMR Find Spots

Figure 1

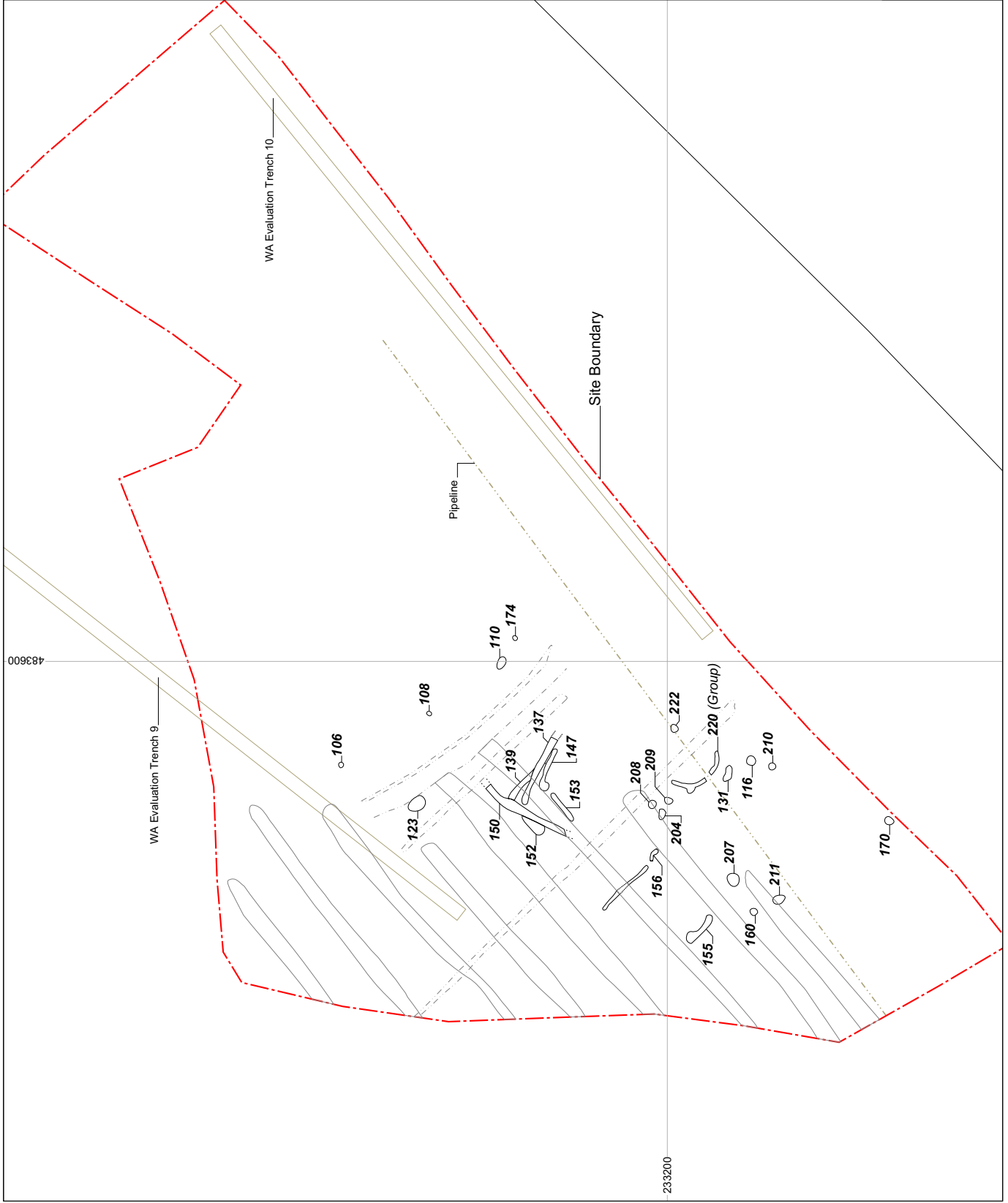


Geophysical Survey Results and Location of Evaluation Trenches Figure 2

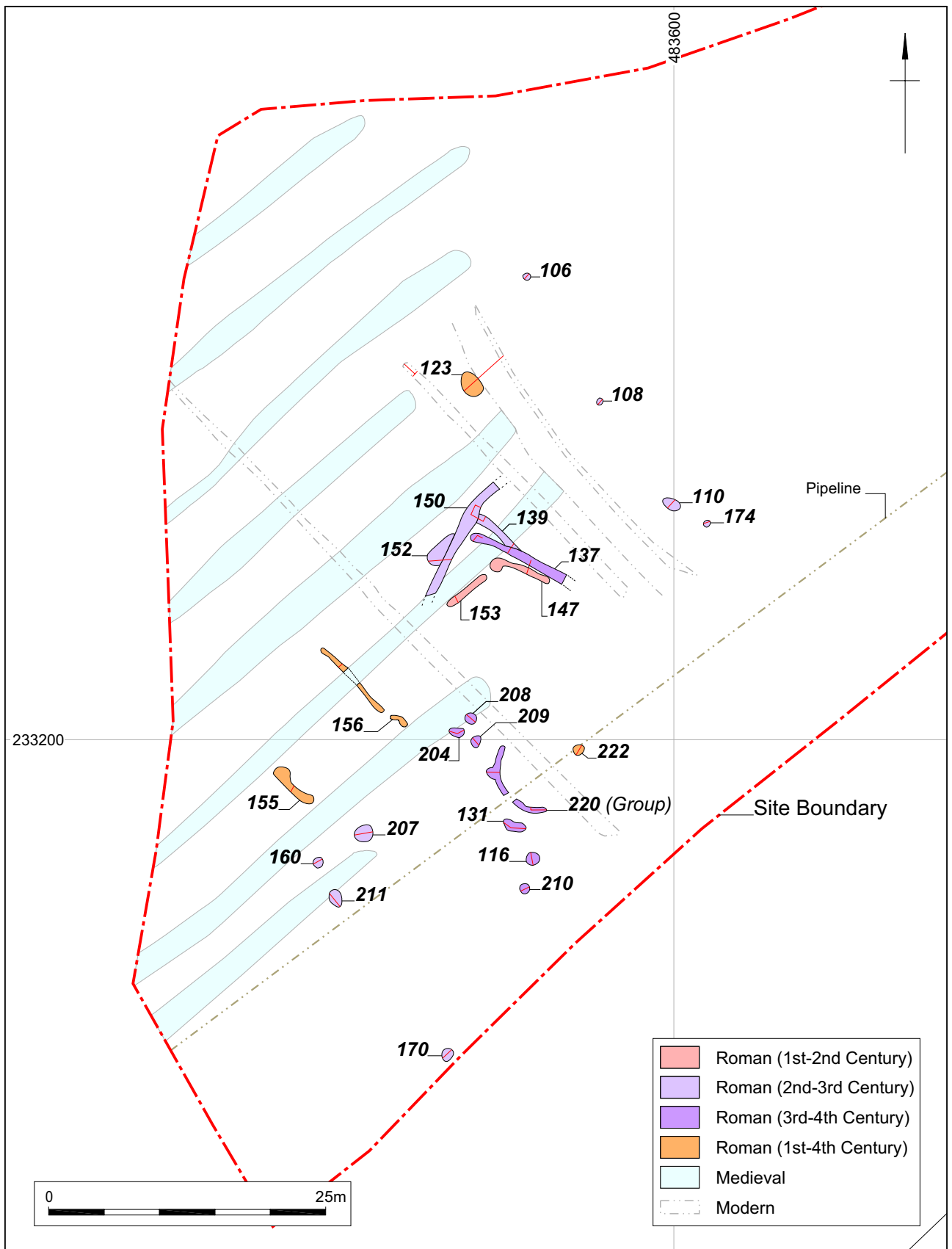



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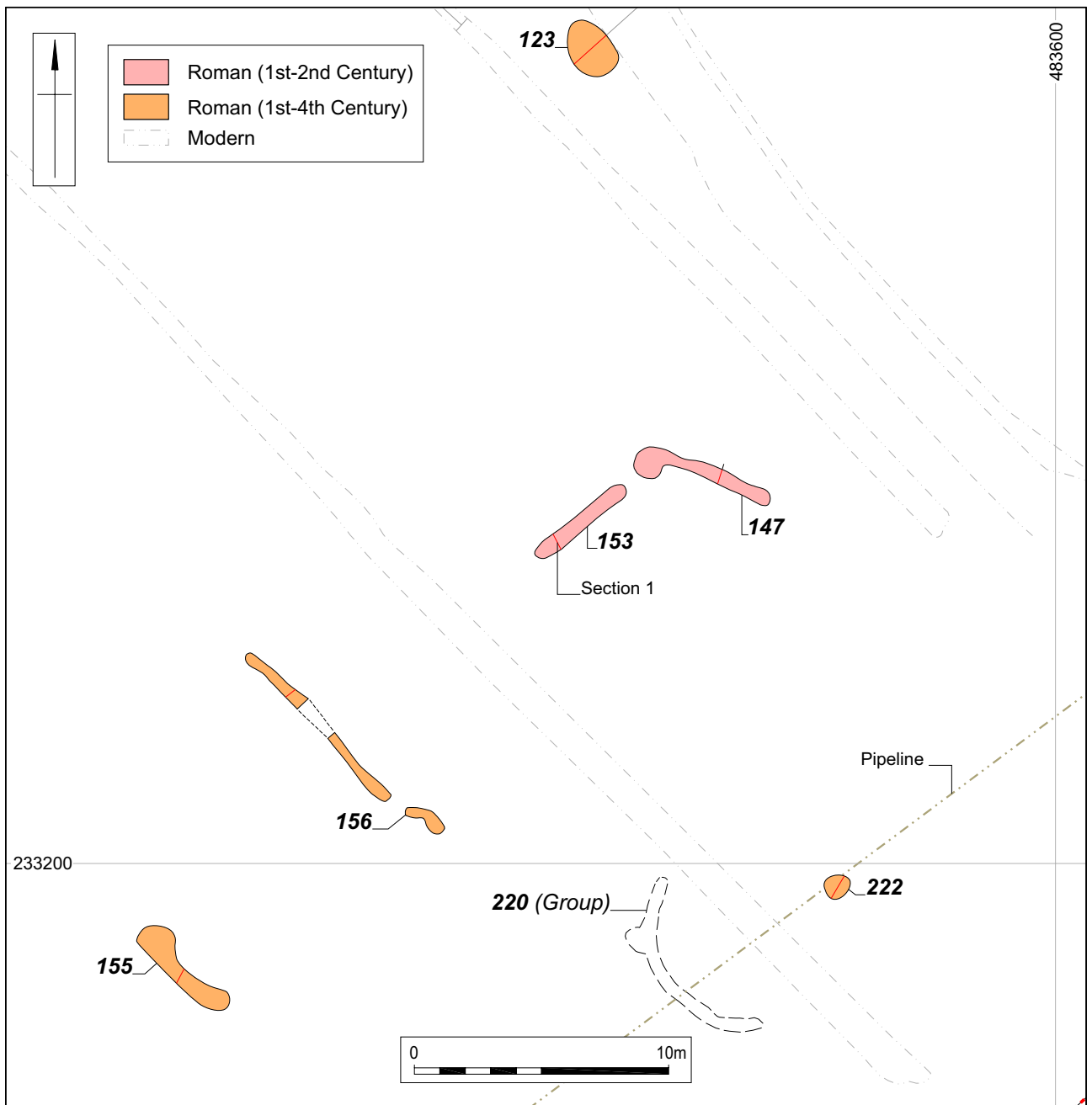
Plan of Excavated Area



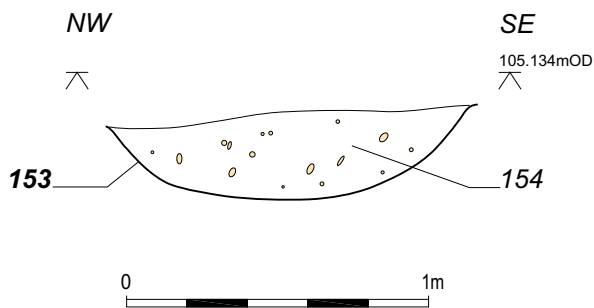
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All Features Phase Plan

Figure 4



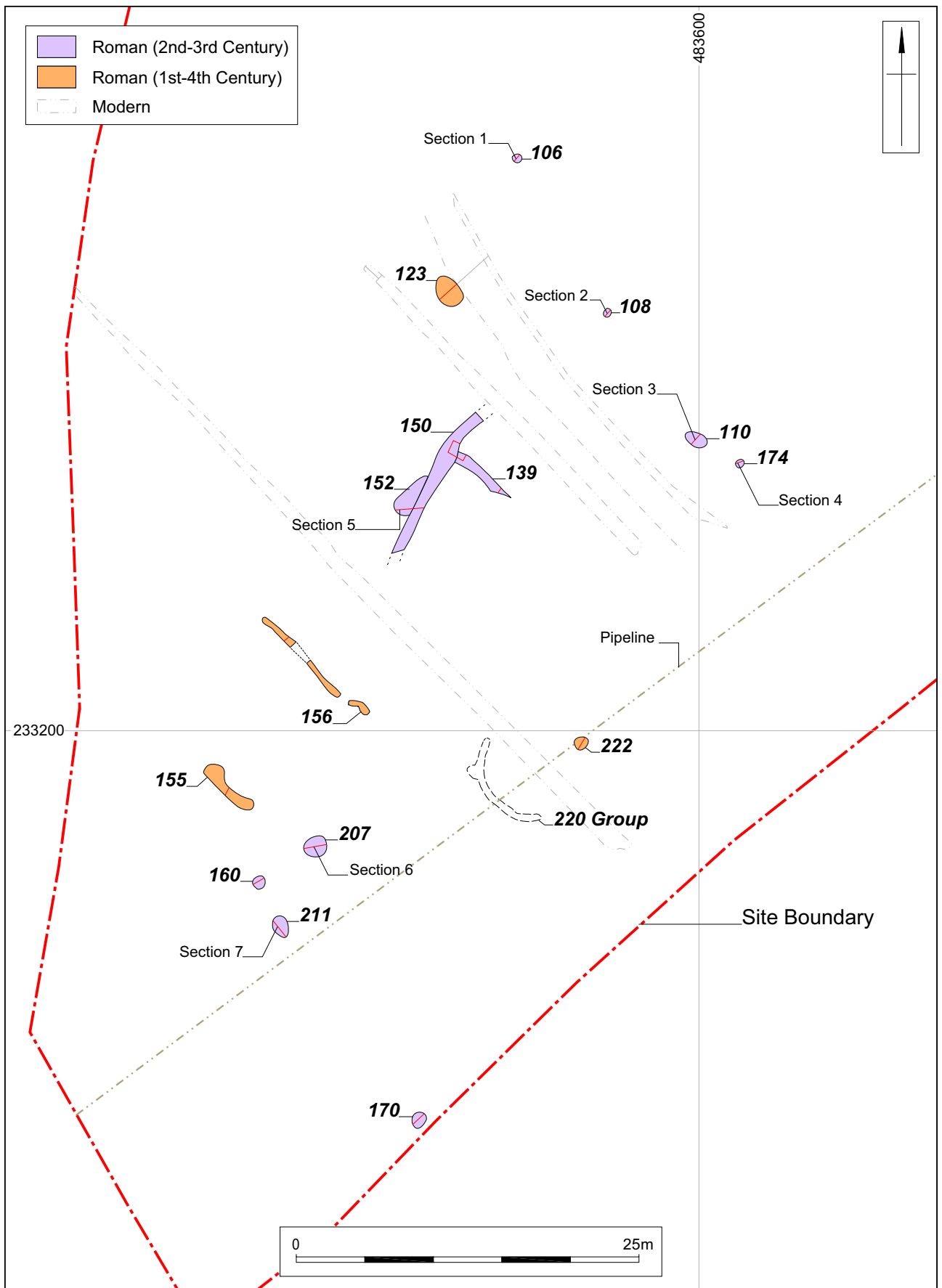
### Section 1



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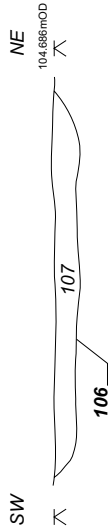
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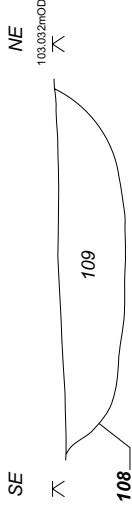
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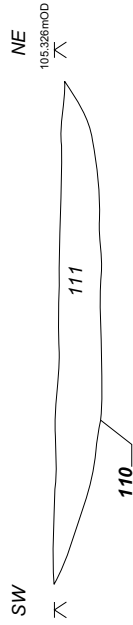
Section 1



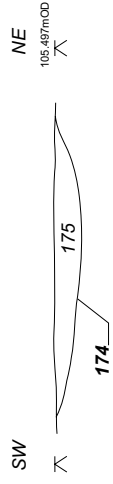
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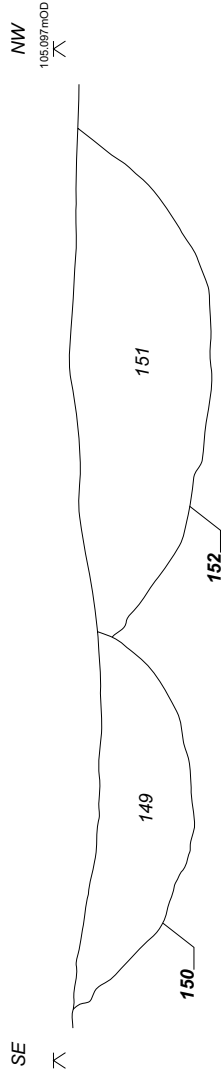
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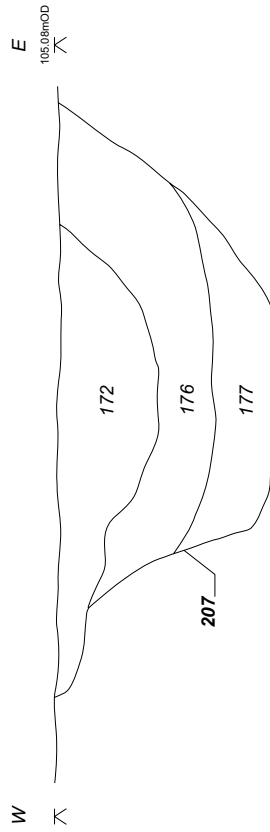
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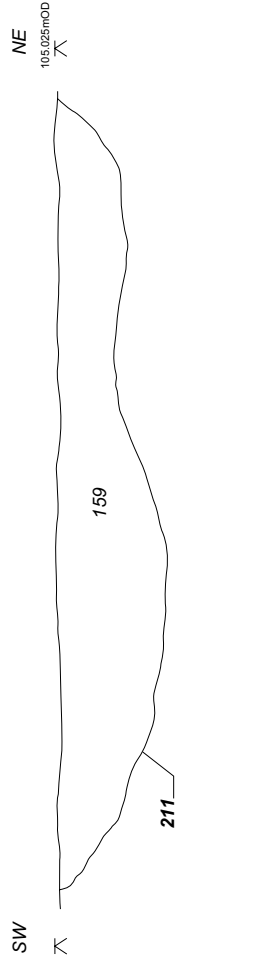
Section 5



Section 6

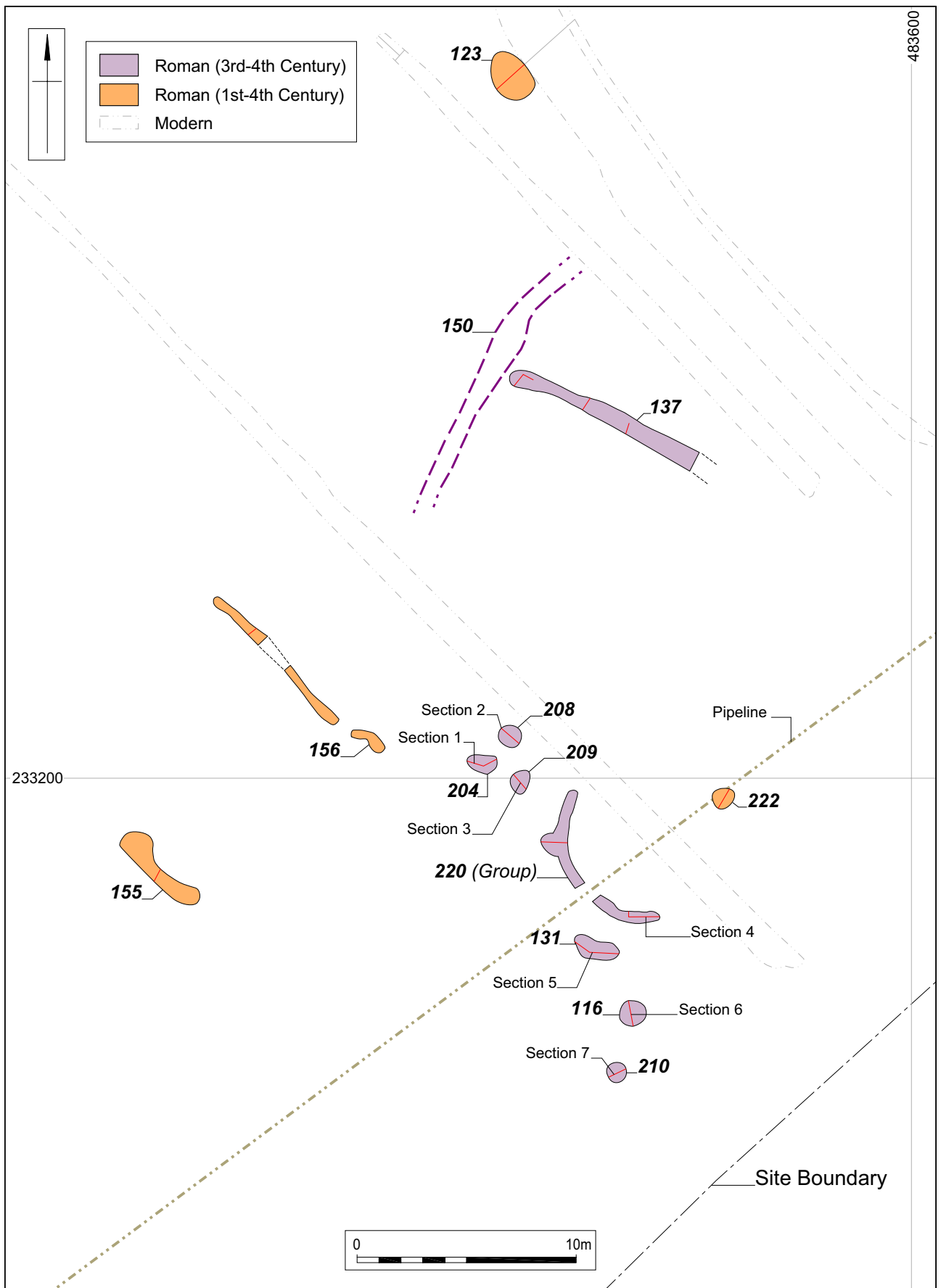


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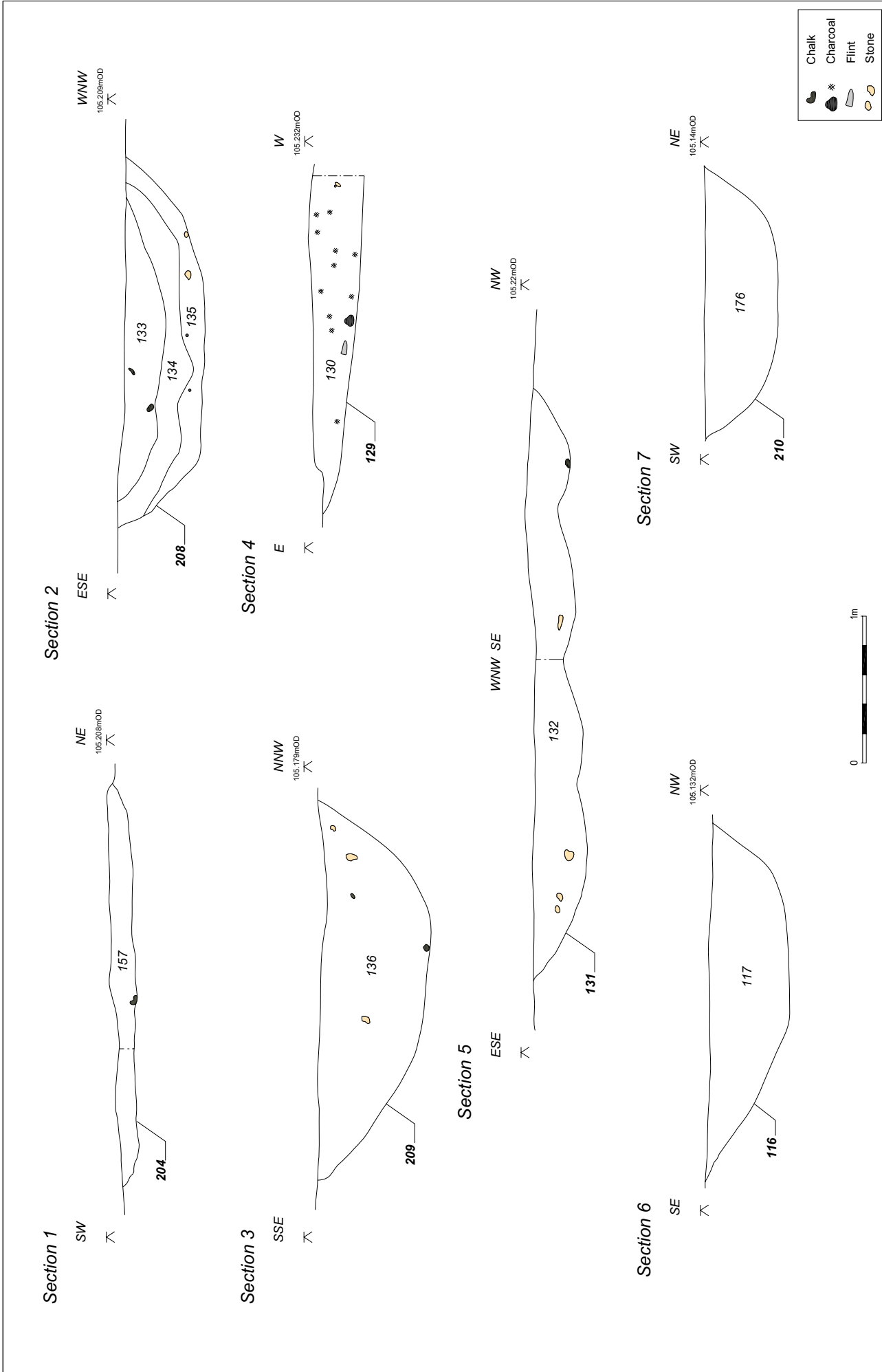


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Sections From Roman Features (3rd-4th Century)

Figure 9



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**Head Office:** Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

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