An Archaeological Assessment of an Excavation Undertaken at Hungerford, Lufton, Brympton, Somerset 2015

James Gerrard, Andrew Agate and Holly-Ann Carl

School of History, Classics and Archaeology

Newcastle University

2016

Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Appendices

Introduction

This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological excavation carried out on a piece of land known as Hungerford, on the northern edge of the village of Lufton in Brympton Parish, Yeovil, Somerset. The National Grid Reference for the site is ST 5159317686. The excavation was carried out by Newcastle University and the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group between March 23rd and April 10th 2015.

The site is bounded on all sides by arable land. It is currently under the plough and used intensively for arable agriculture. At the time of the excavation the field was between crop rotations and covered by stubble.

The site was subjected to a geophysical (magnetometry) survey as part of a research project investigating the landscape setting of the late Roman 'Lufton Villa', located immediately north of the field (Fig 2). The geophysical survey revealed a complex and multi-period landscape and the excavation discussed in this report was designed to investigate this landscape and build on the results of work to the south in Mr Unwin's Field (Gerrard and Agate 2012; Gerrard and Agate 2013; Gerrard and Agate in prep.).

Weather conditions during the course of the excavation. The first week the weather was cold and dry; the second week began with gale force winds and was a great deal wetter but fortunately the final week saw hot and sunny conditions.

The completed archive of finds, written, drawn and photographic records currently resides at Newcastle University. In due course it will be deposited with a suitable local repository under the Site Code HUN15 and Accession Number TTNCM 68/2015 (OASIS ID: newcastle1-263675).

Geological Background

The site is located on a slight slope that forms one side of the valley containing the Roman villa and small watercourse known as Balls Water. The solid geology is Dyrham Formation Sandstone (British Geological Survey 2012). The site is located at 72.13m AOD.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The site sits between Ham Hill (a major prehistoric centre and multivallate hillfort) (Leivers *et al*. 2007; Sharples *et al.* 2012), Ilchester (an important Roman urban centre) (Leach 1982 and 1994), Montacute (an important late Saxon and early Norman religious and secular centre) and the late Saxon and medieval town of Yeovil. The village of Lufton was in existence by the time of the Domesday Book.

Archaeological work in the area has been limited. Leonard Hayward FSA excavated the villa in the decades following World War II (SOM HER 53634). This work identified a late Roman corridor type structure with an unusual bath house, decorated with mosaics (Hayward 1952 and 1972); reinvestigated in 2016 by the authors. Evidence for 'squatter' occupation may hint that the site continued to be occupied in the post-Roman period (Gerrard 2013). Since Hayward's excavations relatively little research has been undertaken. A watching brief was carried out to the south-west following plough damage of a deserted medieval settlement known as 'Barrow' in Odcombe. This

produced pottery of tenth- to fourteenth century date (Aston 1976; Pearson 1978; SOM HER54371). More recently an evaluation was carried out over a kilometre to the east of the current excavations which identified Roman field boundaries and some inhumation burials (Simmonds 2005; SOM HER 14454) in association with the Roman road running from Ilchester to Dorchester (SOM HER55102).

The current project to investigate the hinterland of the villa began with geophysical survey in 2009 and has continued, weather, crops and other factors permitting, ever since. Three seasons of excavation have been undertaken. Two of these were in a field immediately south of Hungerford and the other some distance away to the south west in Odcombe Parish (SOM HER 32919, report in prep.). The excavations to the south revealed Bronze and Iron Age settlement activity along with evidence of Roman period land divisions. This would appear to be the southern periphery of a landscape centred on Hungerford (Caldwell and Gerrard 2013; SOM HER29883).

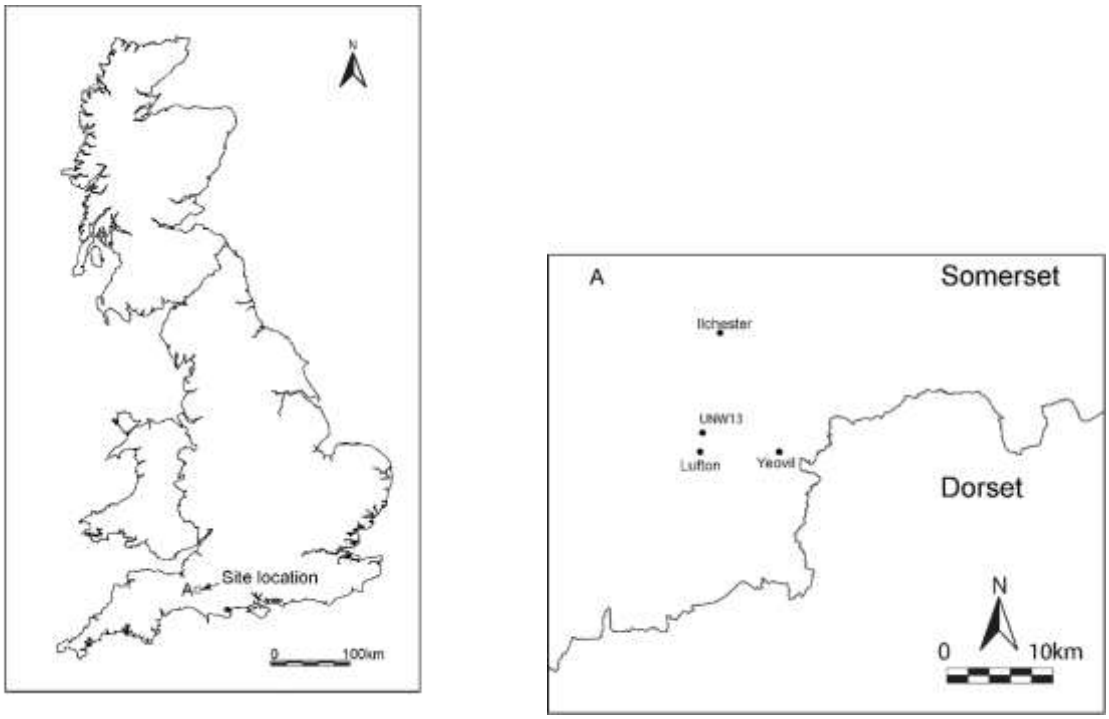


Fig 1 Site location

Archaeological Methodology

Prior to the excavation taking place, Hungerford was resurveyed with a Bartington fluxgate gradiometer. This allowed one trench measuring 100m x 4m to be laid out over relevant geophysical anomalies.

The stubble, ploughsoil and underlying deposits were excavated by JCB using a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. On exposure the edges of archaeological features were marked with spray paint and then identified and recorded using the MoLAS (1994) single context recording system. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered on pro-form recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections 1:10. The OD height of all strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. All features were given context numbers.

A level was traversed in from a bench mark located on the domestic building (previously barn) known as Lufton Byre with a value of 70.52m AOD. This enabled a two TBMs to be set up with values of 70.41m AOD and 67.42m AOD.

Photographs of principal features and excavation progress were taken digitally.

A total of seven environmental samples were taken of the archaeological deposits in order to recover environmental information. These were processed by Nigel Harvey of Geoflo.

In this report all contexts are shown in square brackets *ie* [12]. Small Finds are referred with 'SF' and sample numbers are enclosed thus {1}.

At the end of the excavation the trench was backfilled by machine.

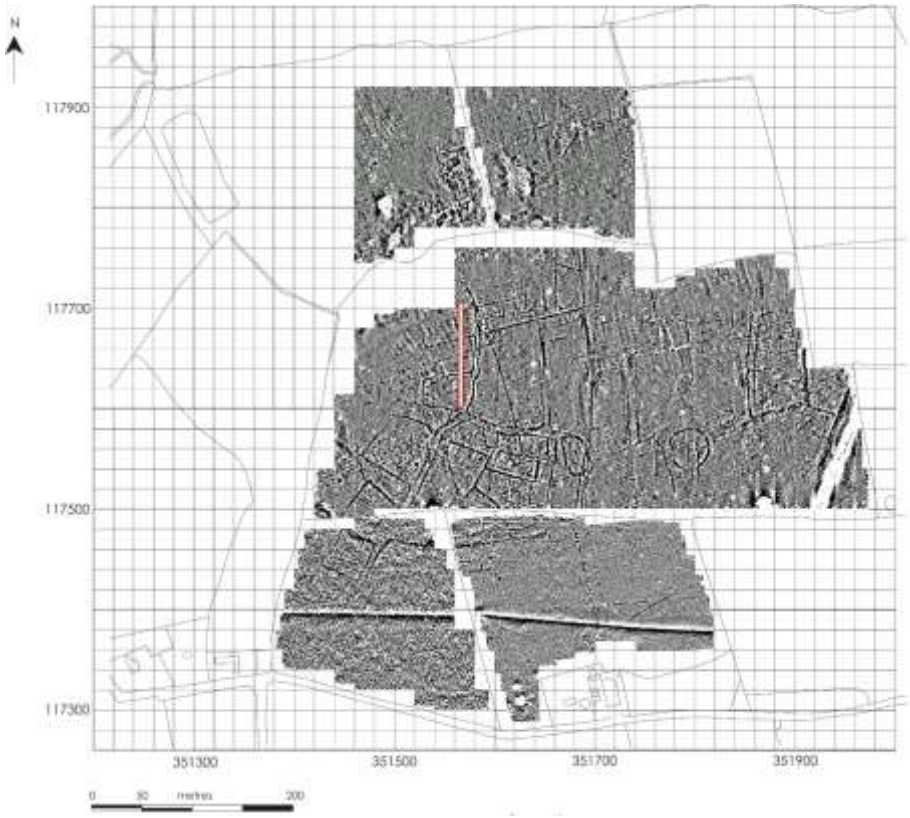


Fig 2. Magnetometry survey of Hungerford (centre) and surrounding field. The trench is marked.

Phased Archaeological Sequence

Phase 1: Natural

The natural deposits consisted of firm clay that varied across site from an orange colour to a bluish-grey [040]. At the northern end of the trench a machine dug sondage investigated this natural to a depth of nearly two metres. No significant variations were seen in section and the sondage was rapidly backfilled.

Phase 2: Prehistoric to Late Iron Age

Very little evidence of prehistoric activity was recovered. Residual and unstratified flint suggested activity from the Mesolithic period until the Bronze Age (Young below). Perhaps the most interesting

object is a trapezoidal arrowhead (Young below, Cat. 42), a rare object type of Late Mesolithic / Early Neolithic date. This was found in the fill [16] of a Roman period feature [017] (Fig 12).

Other than the struck flint the only hint of activity was a large but shallow pit [053] (Figs 3 and 17). This sub-rectangular feature was approximately 2.2m x 1.4m x 0.25m with concave sides and a flat base. It was filled with [052] a firm dark greyish brown silty clay deposit, with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded sandstone fragments. The only find recovered was a single piece of light grey translucent, struck flint. This secondary flake was broken transversely at the bulbar end and is discussed below (Young below).

Phase 3: Late Iron Age and Early Roman

During the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period (from *c.*50BC-*c.*AD200) archaeological activity increased dramatically. A number of cut features were identified and these can be correlated with anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. These features are described from the south to north.

[051] was the cut of an east-west linear with near vertical sides and a flat base approximately 1m x 50cm x 50cm (Figs 3 and 17). The fill [050] was weakly cemented dark brownish grey clay with charcoal, burnt clay, and burnt stone. All of the deposit was sieved through a 1cm mesh but no pottery was recovered. This is likely to be the remains of a plough truncated ditch.

Fig 3 Ditch [051] in the foreground with ditches [049] and [047] truncating prehistoric feature [053] in the middle distance.

Just north of ditch [051] were two other linear features (Fig 17). The earliest of these was cut [49], a linear feature with concave sides and a flat base, approximately 4m x 0.3m x 0.1m. This feature was filled by a firm dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and sandstone fragments [48]. It contained no finds.

Fill [048] and fill [052] were both truncated by [047], presumably a recut for [049] (Figs 3, 17 and 28). Cut [047] was an east-west ditch with concave to near vertical sides and a rounded base. Its dimensions were approximately >4m x 0.75m x 03m. The fill of this feature [046] was a firm dark brownish grey silty clay deposit with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded sandstone. Interestingly this deposit contained a lump of fired clay, probably part of an annular loomweight SF3. Twenty-two sherds of Black Burnished ware were also recovered, which date this fill to the early Roman period. Four pieces of residual flint were also found in this fill.

To the north of [047] and [049] was ditch [008] (Perhaps part of 'System 1': Caldwell 2010, Fig 5) (Figs 4, 5, 16, 20.7 and 29). This feature was orientated east west and was approximately >4m x 2.2m x 0.45m. Its fill [007] was a firm, mid-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones. [007] was 100% sieved through a 1cm mesh. Over a hundred sherds of pottery, mainly Black Burnished ware but including a single sherd of samian, were recovered. Also found in this deposit were fragments of struck flint and a copper alloy ring (SF 2). These finds are consistent with an early Roman date. The sherd of samian can be dated to c.AD50-65 (J. M. Mills below).

After the ditch was recorded a slot was dug through its base to prove that the feature had been fully emptied. This was demonstrated conclusively.

Fig 4 Ditch [008] and fill [007]

Fig 5 Ditch [008] with temporary baulk [007].

A group of intercutting ditches and deposits occupiednorthern part of the trench (Fig 12). The earliest of these features was a partially truncated ditch [044]. This linear feature had concave sides and a flat base and was approximately 2.26m x 1.73m x 0.49m. It was filled [043] with a firm brownish grey silty clay containing some burnt stone and charcoal. The deposit's colour was consistent throughout. Four tiny abraded crumbs of Black Burnished ware were recovered.

Sealing this ditch was a layer [012]/[015] (Fig 12). This firm, dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, occasional burnt stone and moderate iron staining was approximately 5m x >4 x0.3m. This deposit is perhaps best interpreted as a layer of hillwash. The small group of pottery from this deposit is indicative of a Roman date.

To the north of [012]/[015] was layer [045] (Fig 21). This had no stratigraphic relationship to [012]/[015] but may have been equivalent. A firm, dark greyish brown silty clay this deposit was found to contain a single sherd of Black Burnished ware.

Cutting [045] was ditch [017] (Figs 6, 12, 18.3, 21 and 24). This feature was >4m x 1.2m x 0.4m and orientated east-west. The north side was near vertical with the south side being convex with a flat base. The ditch was filled by [016], a firm mid blueish grey with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded burnt stones. From this fill 13 sherds of BB1 were recovered as well as one sherd of Central Gaulish samian of second-century date and struck flint.

To the south of [017] was the truncated remnant of ditch [019] (Fig 12). This cut [012]/[015] and was filled by [018], a firm dark grey silty clay with occasional burnt stone and charcoal. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Fig 6 Ditches [017] and [044].

The trackway (Fig 7)

The geophysical survey identified two parallel anomalies that ran in a sinuous, dendritic fashion from the approximate location of the villa southwards into Hungerford and Danscombe (System 1: Caldwell, 2010, Fig 5). Forming an integral part of the extensive enclosure system these anomalies were best interpreted as a trackway. One of the main purposes of the current excavations was to investigate this ditched trackway in the hope of defining its date and character.

On excavation it was clear that two parallel curvilinear features crossed the trench towards its northern end south of ditch [019] (Figs 7 and 13). These were in the correct location to be ditches defining either side of the putative trackway. The northern side was formed of a ditch approximately >4.5m x 1m x 0.5m orientated north-west to south-east [014] (Figs 18.1, 22 and 25). The cut [014] had concave sides with a flat base and was filled by [013], a firm dark yellowish-grey silty clay, with occasional manganese staining, burnt stone and charcoal. A small assemblage of pottery, including 19 sherds of BB1, a single sherd of Central Gaulish Samian of second-century date and two sherds of greyware were recovered from the western side of this fill, which was completely sieved.

At first there was some confusion about whether [014] cut [012] but after rain and cleaning it was clear that it did.

The southern edge of the track way [042] ran roughly parallel to [013] (Figs 13, 19.5, 23 and 26). It was orientated northwest to southeast. This curvilinear feature had concave sides and a flat base and was approximately >4m x 0.46m x 0.20m. Its fill [041] was a firm mid-brownish grey clay. One sherd of BB1 was recovered from the deposit along with a single fragment of CBM.

No evidence of a road surface or metalling was identified between the ditches.

The dating evidence from both of the trackside ditches is sparse but would seem to suggest that both were silting up during the early Roman period.

Fig 7 Trackway ditches [013] (left) and [042] (right).

Phase 4: The Late Roman Period

During the late third or early fourth century the villa building was constructed (Hayward 1952 and 1972). A number of features investigated in Hungerford are probably contemporary with the use of the villa.

Ditch [019] was recut (and almost completely truncated) by ditch [011] (Fig 12). This feature had concave sides and flat, rounded base and terminated within the trench. It was greater than 3m long, varied from approximately 2m wide to 0.2m wide and was approximately 0.4m deep. Its primary fill [010] was a compact greyish yellow silty clay with occasional burnt stone, some iron staining and sub-rounded stones. Some finds were recovered: a piece of struck flint and a fragment fired clay. The upper fill [009] was a compact dark blueish-grey silty clay with occasional burnt stones and charcoal flecks. A tiny assemblage of pottery, including a sherd of BB1, two sherds of Oxfordshire Red Colour Coated ware and a piece of CBM were recovered from this deposit. Together these finds would seem to indicate a date in the late Roman period. This ditch is likely to form part of geophysical anomaly group 'System 2' (Caldwell 2010, Fig 5).

At almost the mid-point of the trench a very clearly defined ditch [006] was identified (Figs 14 and 18.2). This feature was orientated east-west and was approximately > 4m x 1.2m x 0.45, with gradual sloping sides to the west turning to sharp. The lower fill of the ditch [005] was a firm, mid-orange brown silty clay with occasional charcoal fragments and contained one sherd of Black Burnished ware and 17 greyware sherds (ILCH G1) derived from a single vessel. The middle fill [004] was firm dark black silty clay with frequent charcoal fragments. This charcoal rich fill appeared to have been a single episode of dumping into the ditch and a sample {1} was taken for environmental analysis. The

upper fill [003] was soft mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. A fragment of mill stone (SF 1, Fig 9) was recovered from this fill and was found to be surrounded by a lens (30 x 50 x 10cm) of black sediment similar to [004]. Also recovered were two abraded sherds of Black Burnished ware and three abraded sherds of greyware.

The dating evidence from the fills of [006] lacks diagnostic elements so the chronology of this feature cannot be ascertained with any precision. There are, however, reasons for believing that the ditch might be best assigned to the late Roman period. The pottery would be consistent with such a date and the alignment of the ditch, which continues as a geophysical anomaly that forms part of 'System 2' (Caldwell 2010, Fig 5), shares its alignment with the villa to the north (Hayward 1952 and 1972). The millstone SF1 is also, perhaps, best interpreted as most appropriate to a late Roman context (Shaffrey 2015, 72).

Fig 8 Ditch [006] with its fills visible in the limit of excavation. The small holes in the base of the cut are animal burrows.

Fig 9 The millstone under excavation.

Phase 5 Medieval to Modern

The only medieval or later feature identified was ditch [021] (Figs 10, 15, 19.6 and 27). This feature aligns with a geophysical anomaly (System 5, Caldwell 2010, Fig 5) that correlates with a field boundary visible on the 19th century Tithe Map and more recent Ordnance Survey maps. The ditch had sharp sides with a flat base and is approximately >4m x 2.25m x 0.57m. The fill [020] was a firm mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. A single sherd of green-glazed late medieval pottery was found on the very surface of [020] and seven fragments of rounded Hamstone were found (measuring 30cm x 20cm x 20cm) evenly distributed through this deposit. All of [020] was sieved through a 1cm mesh so the lack of finds is rather surprising.

Fig 10 Post-Medieval ditch [021] and fill [020].

A narrow and shallow gully [023] was identified running from the north-west to the south east. It was filled with a greyish brown silty-clay [022]. Its relationship with ditch [021] was uncertain but it did not continue to the south of this ditch. This gully is similar in character to various agricultural features identified in previous seasons (Gerrard and Agate 2012) and we believe that it is just such a feature, which emptied into ditch [021].

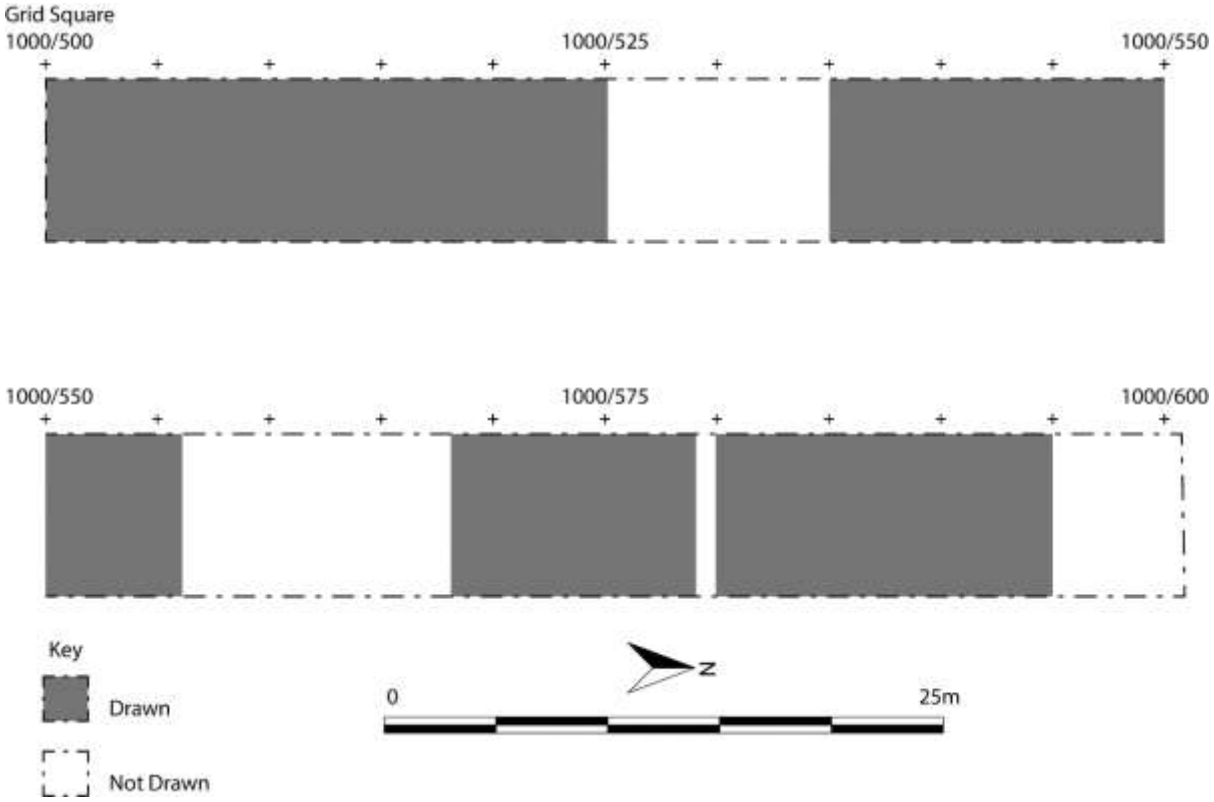


Fig 11 Plan showing areas of the trench drawn as plans. Those that were not drawn contained no archaeological features.

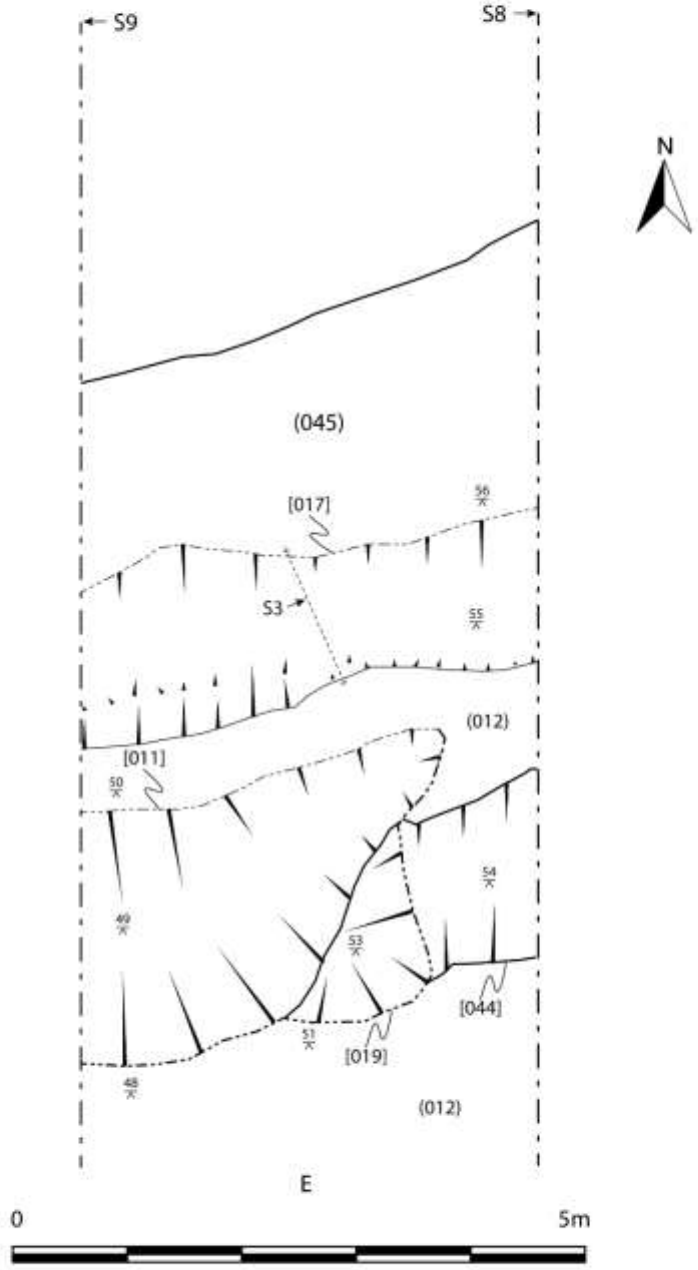


Fig 12 The most northerly group of excavated features (for levels see Appendix F).

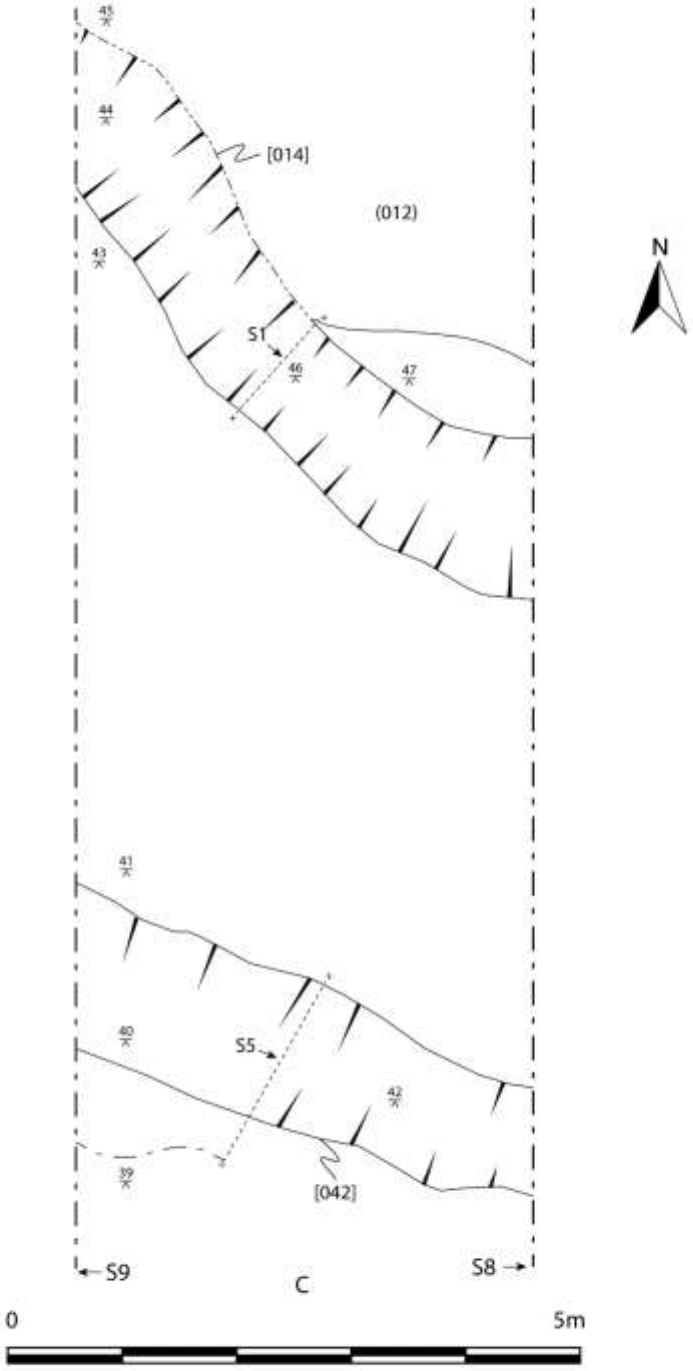


Fig 13 The ditches defining the trackway (for levels see Appendix F).

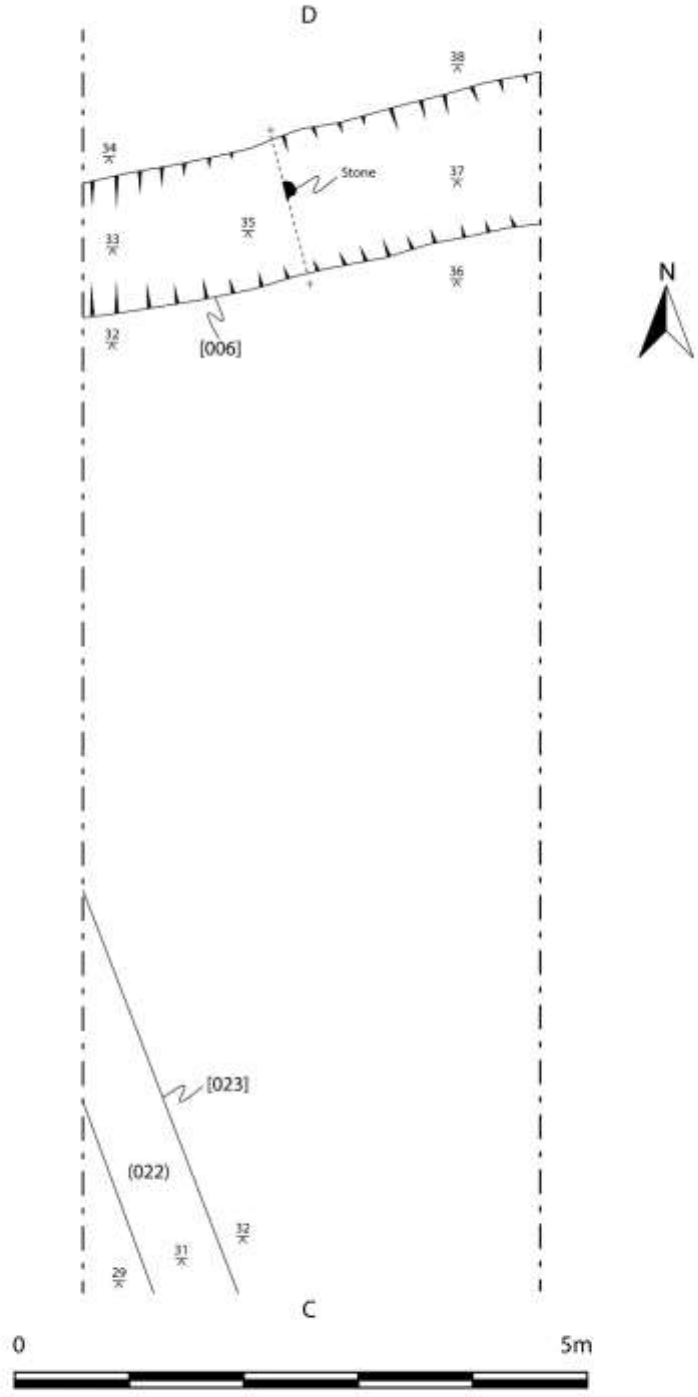


Fig 14 Features in the middle of the trench (for levels see Appendix F).

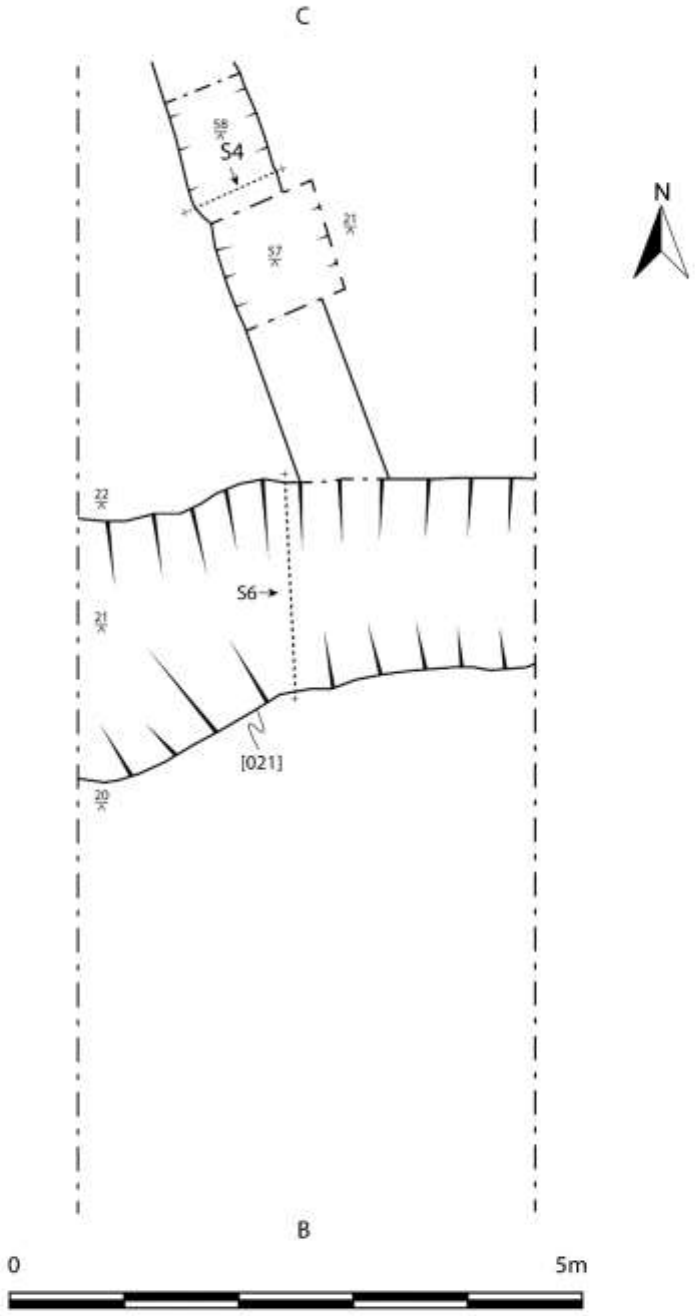


Fig 15 Post-Medieval ditch (for levels see Appendix F).

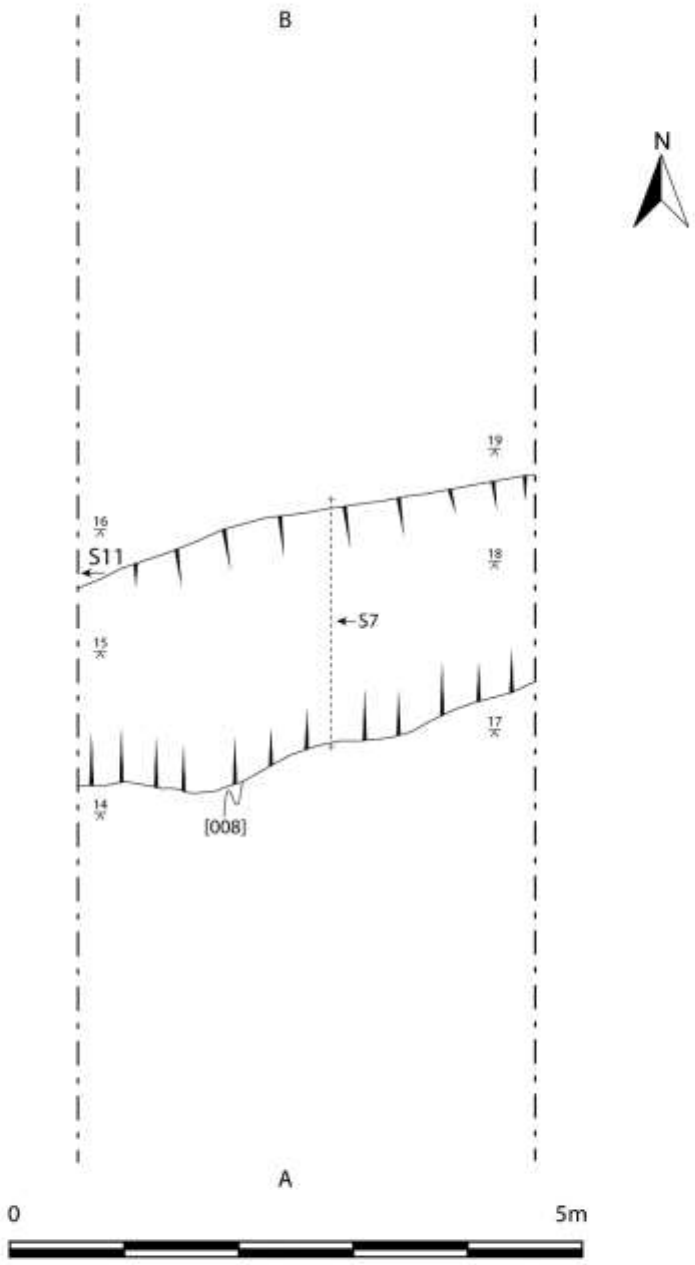


Fig 16 Roman boundary ditch (for levels see Appendix F).

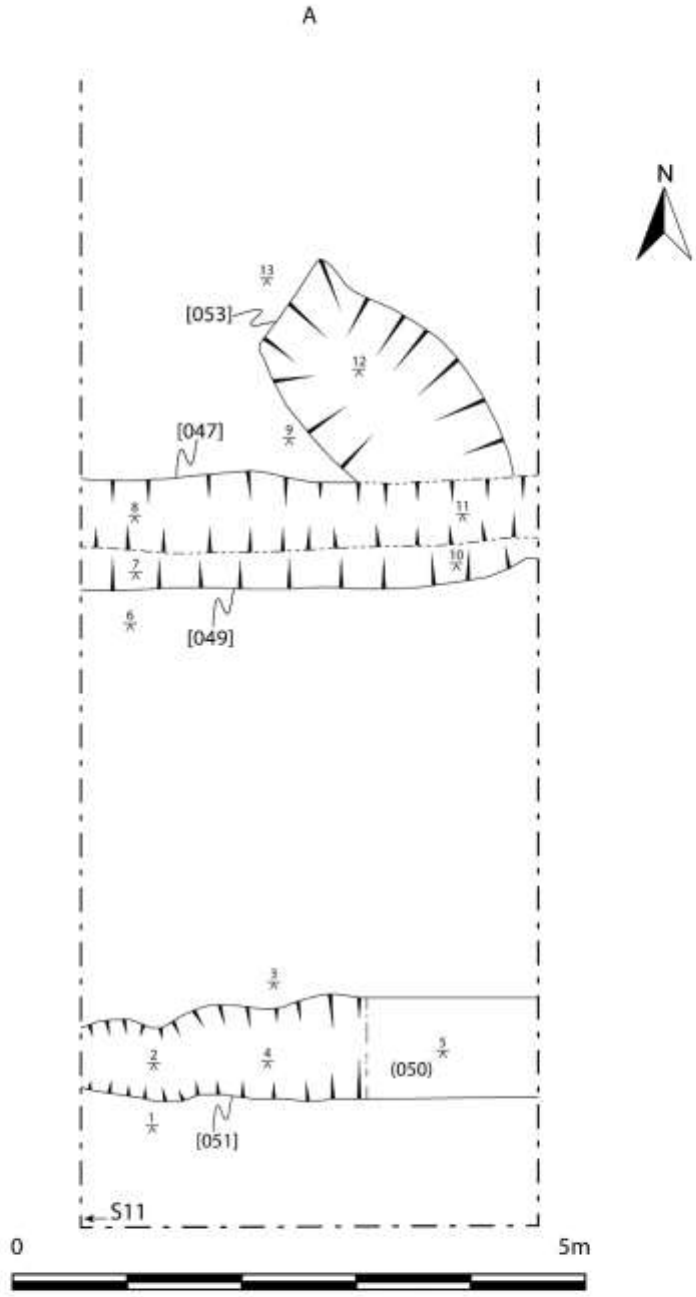


Fig 17 Features in the southern end of the trench (for levels see Appendix F).

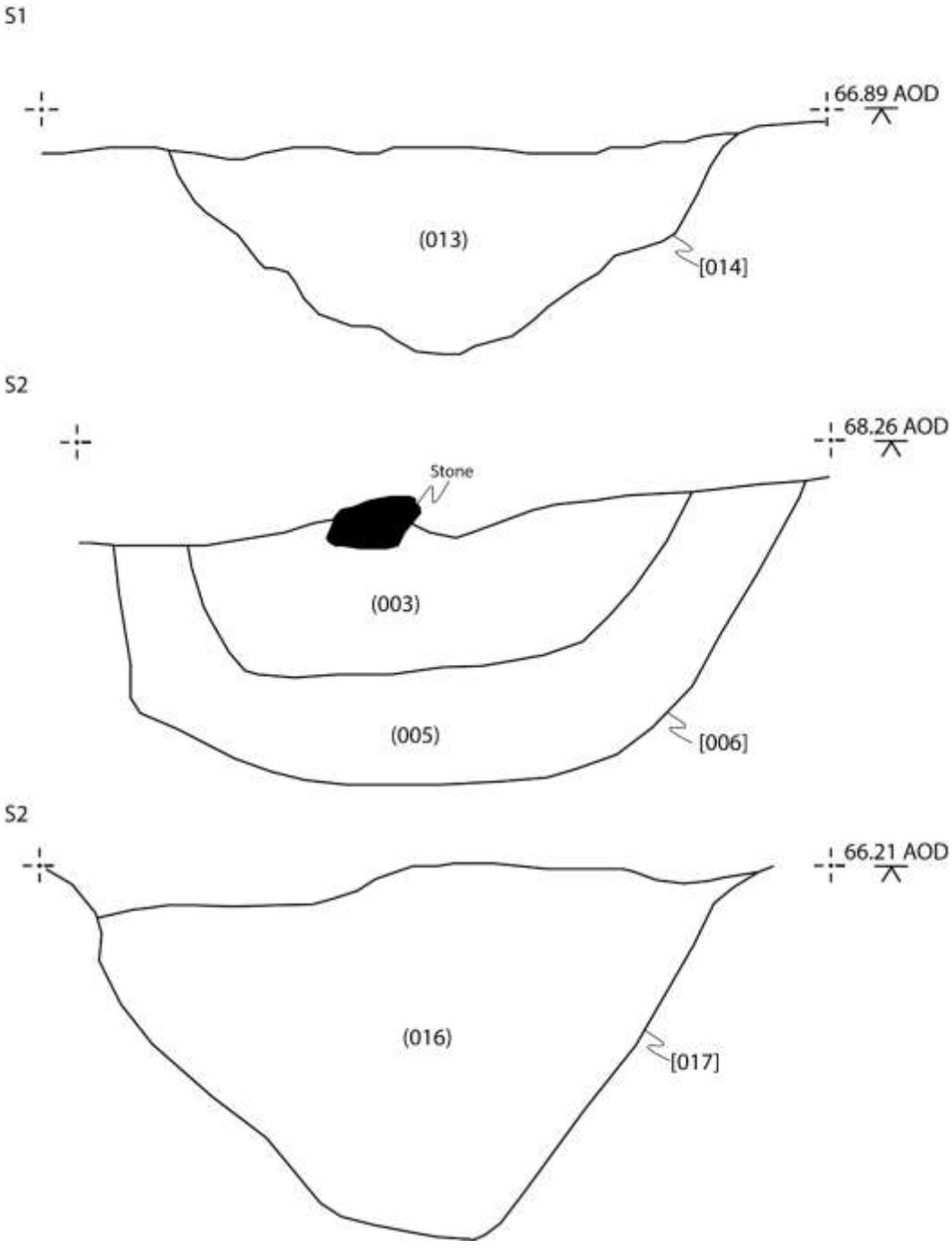


Fig 18 Sections 1-3.

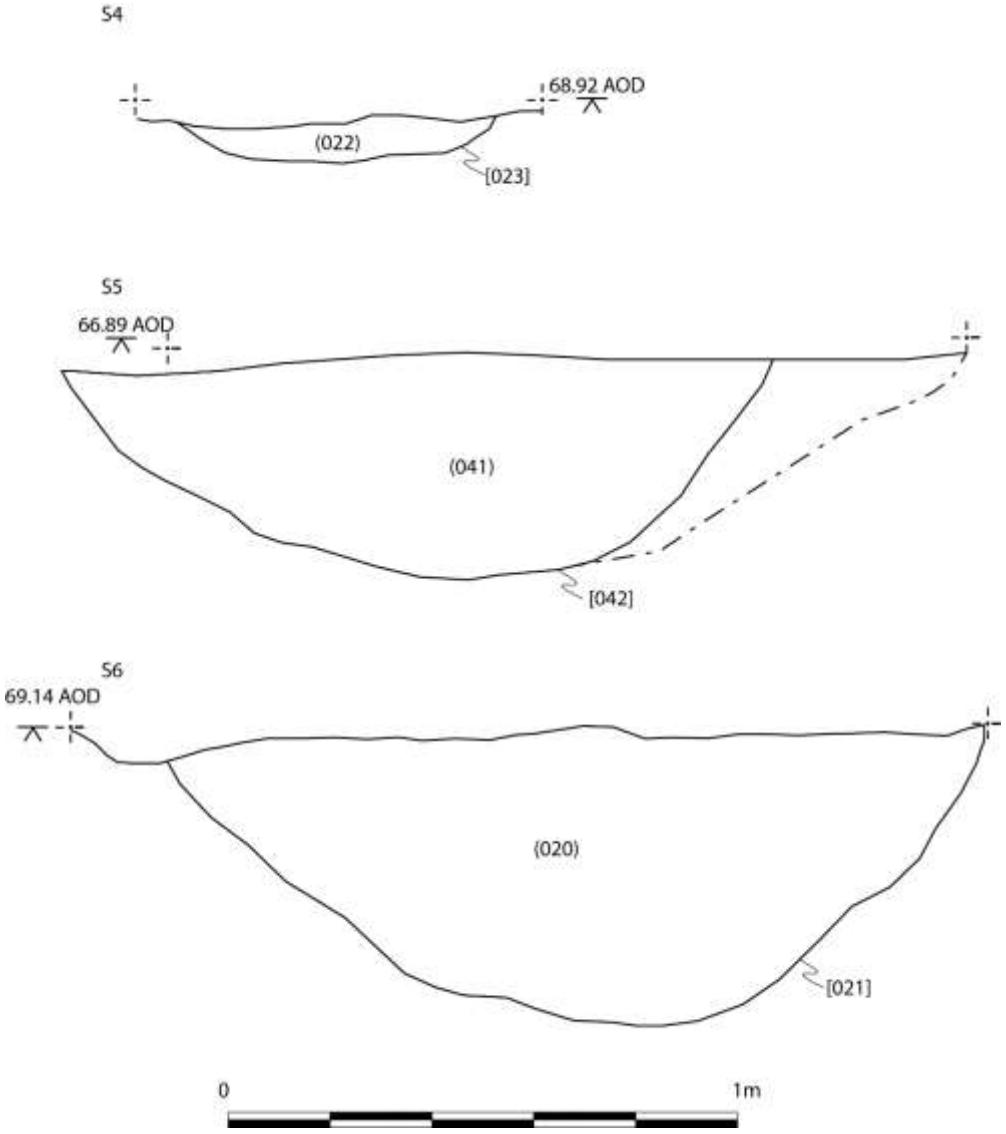


Fig 19 Sections 4-6.

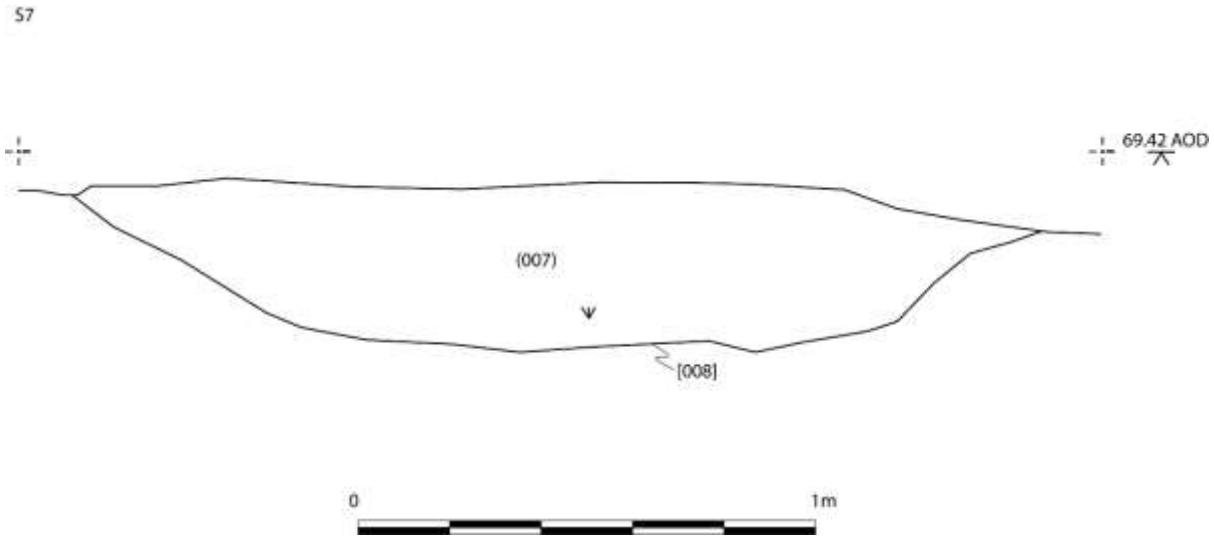


Fig 20 Section 7.

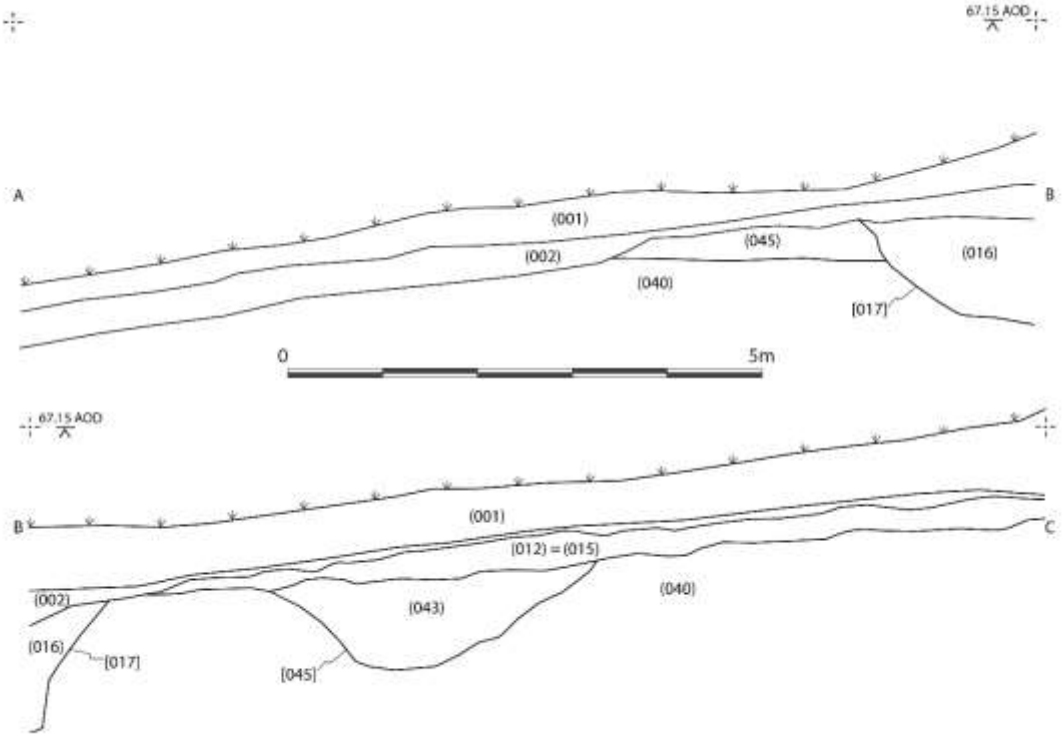


Fig 21 Section 8A.

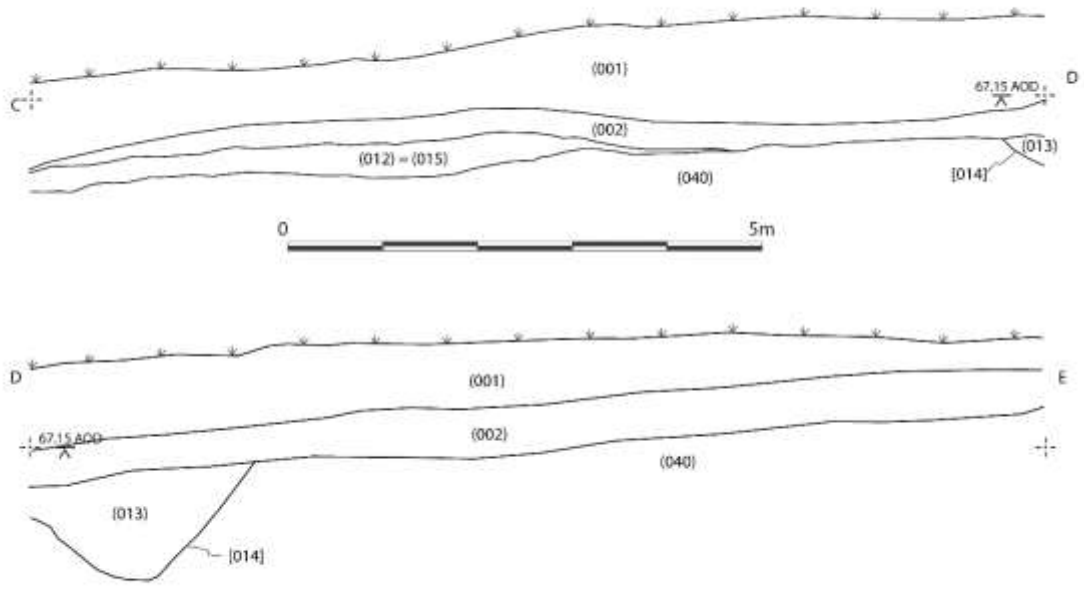


Fig 22 Section 8B.

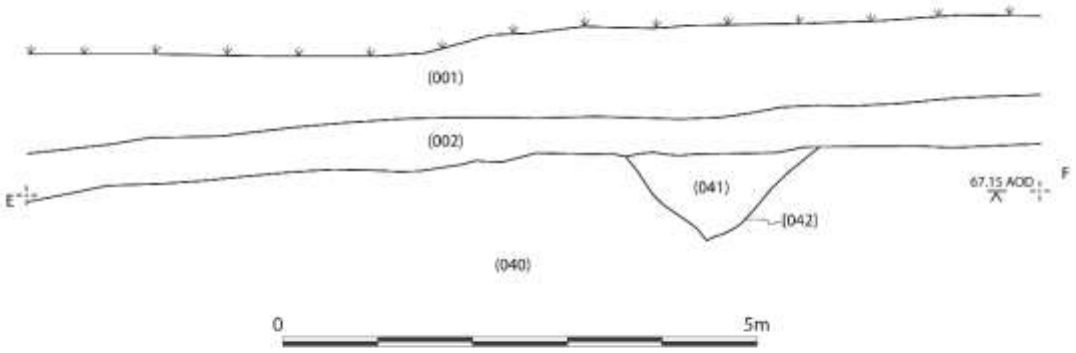


Fig 23 Section 8C.

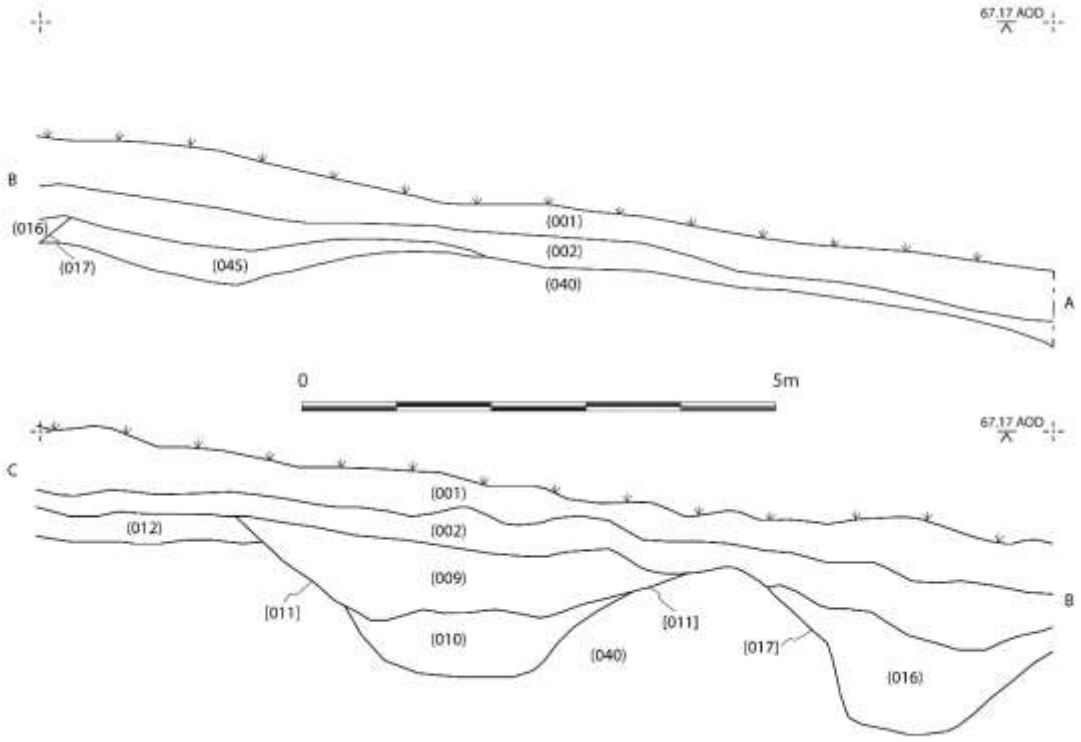


Fig 24 Section 9A

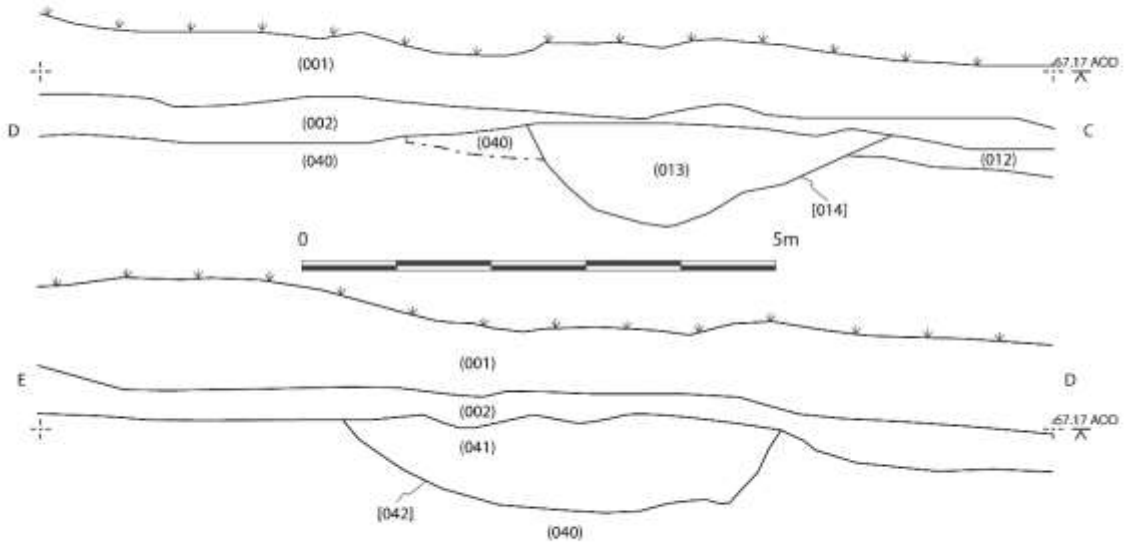


Fig 25 Section 9B.

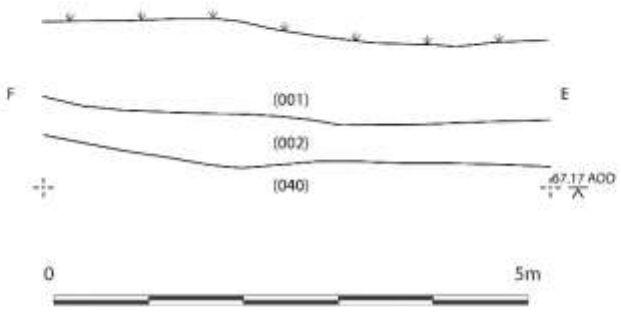


Fig 26 Section 9C.

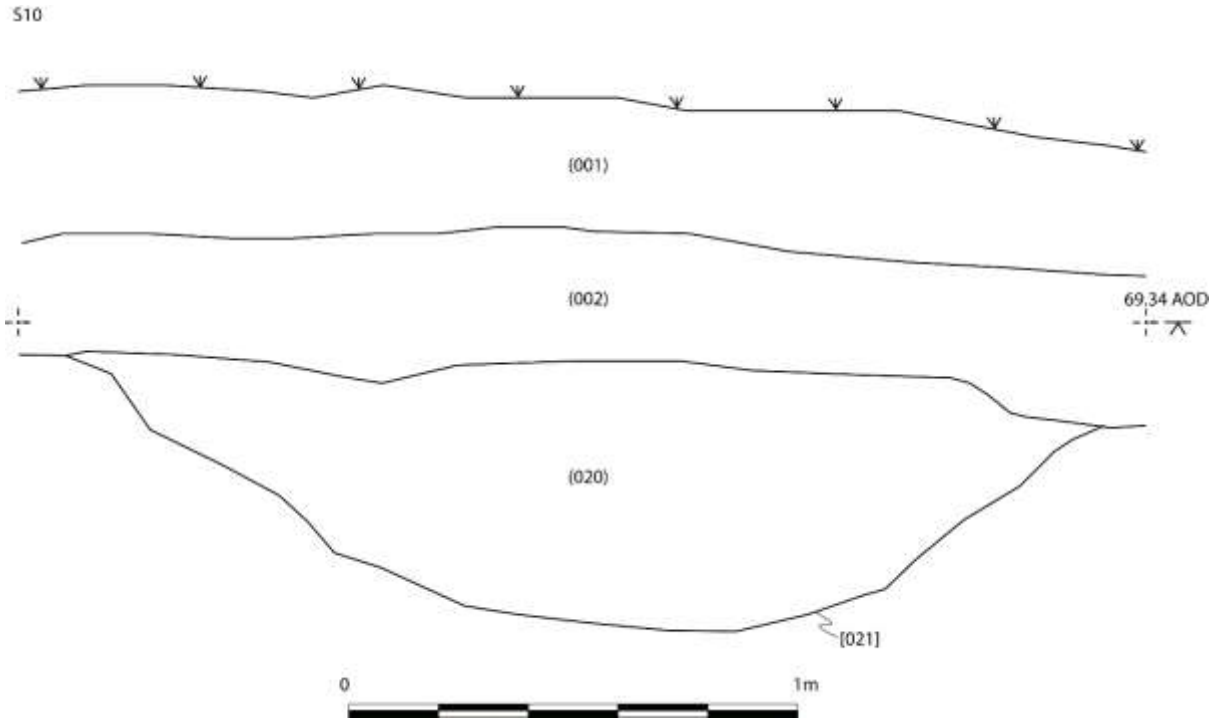


Fig 27 Section 10.

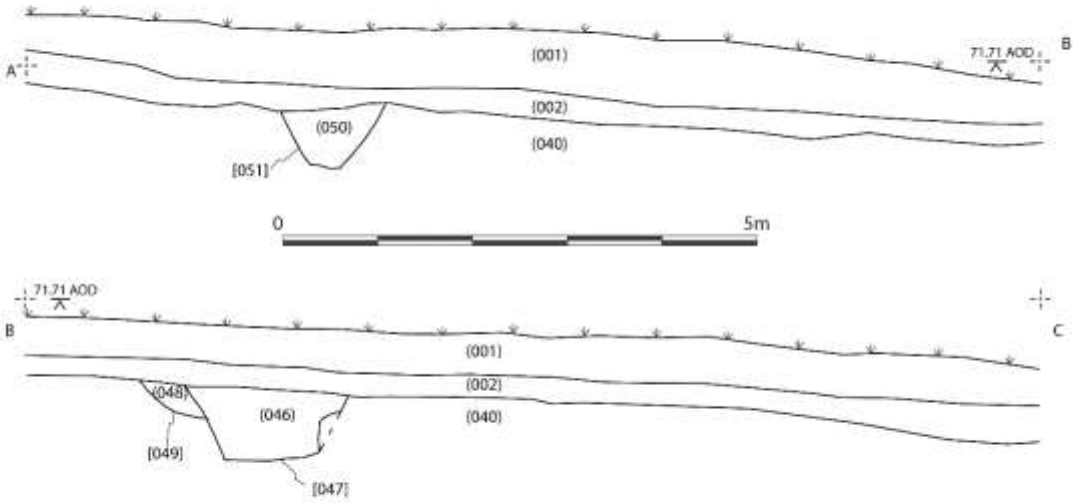


Fig 28 Section 11A

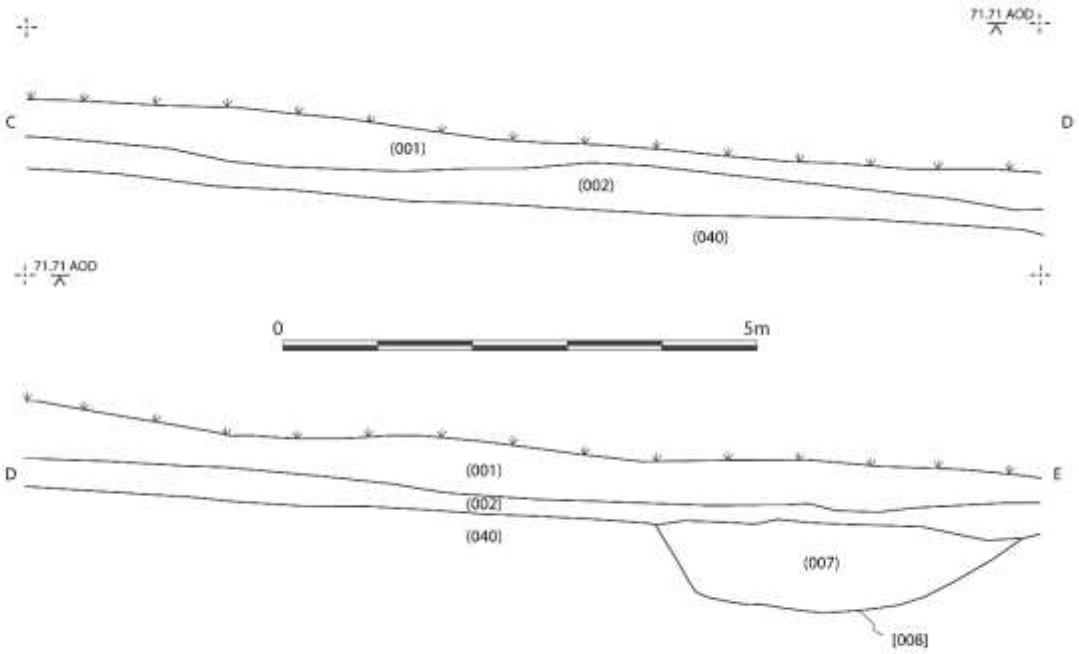


Fig 29 Section 11B

General Discussion

The excavations were designed to investigate the complex, multi-phase landscape identified in the geophysical survey. The trench succeeded in this aim, sampling and characterising a variety of features that can be associated with anomalies plotted by the geophysics.

Evidence for prehistoric activity was limited to a single possible feature [053]. The collection of residual and unstratified flints have, however, added materially to our knowledge of prehistoric activity. They suggest activity from the Mesolithic through until the Bronze Age and indicate that this was an exploited landscape throughout prehistory. It fits well with the evidence from the previous seasons of excavation to the south, which include further lithic assemblages and structural evidence for Bronze Age habitation (Gerrard and Agate 2013 and 2015).

The Late Iron Age saw a significant change in the way the landscape was being managed. While it is impossible to determine when the ditches for geophysical 'System 1' were dug, it is clear that these were silting up in the early Roman period. In Mr Unwin's Field ditches that seem to form the southern limit of 'System 1' were silting up during the very late Iron Age, or very early Roman period (Gerrard and Agate 2013 and 2015). The implication is that the arrangement of trackways and enclosures that form 'System 1' were probably dug in the Late Iron Age and continued in use into the late first century AD.

To date little evidence of activity within the enclosures of 'System 1' has been identified. Of course, the excavated areas in Hungerford and Mr Unwin's Field were both small. A reasonable hypothesis, based on the size of sherds and other occupation debris, might suggest that the focus of Late Iron Age activity was to the south of the trench dug in Hungerford (Gerrard and Agate 2015). The ditches

investigated in this season of excavation contained very few finds and generally the pottery was quite abraded. Only ditch [008] contained a group of pottery and a ring SF2 that might suggest close proximity to settlement activity. Ditch [047] contained a fragment of loom weight SF3 that, again, may suggest closer proximity to settlement. Both of these features were towards the southern end of the trench.

The presence of small quantities of samian from the early Roman features indicates that these ditches were silting up in the late first or second centuries AD. The presence of south Gaulish samian is interesting. How the activity at Lufton can be related to the Roman Conquest and the changing roles of Ham Hill and Ilchester as central places is an interesting research question. Certainly the inhabitants of the settlement at Hungerford would have witnessed the arrival of the Roman army in the region. They survived this event and the establishment of garrisons at Ilchester and Ham Hill to gain access to some, albeit small quantities, of new 'Roman' material culture. What changes occurred that led to the abandonment of enclosure systems in the late first or early second century remains a matter for further research.

In the late Roman period the main event was the construction of the villa approximately fifty metres north of the trench (Hayward 1952 and 1972). In this year's excavations the main features that can be plausibly associated with this are ditches [006] and [011] (Fig 24). Both of these ditches can be associated with 'System 2' identified by the geophysical survey (Caldwell 2010, Fig 5). The geophysics indicates that both of these features would cut across the trackway of the earlier 'System 1'.

The fills of ditch [011] and its earlier incarnations in the northern part of the trench are remarkable for the lack of finds and other material within them. The very small quantities of pottery are striking. For the century or more that the villa was occupied none of its occupants managed to walk a few tens of metres up a gentle incline to dump a bucket of waste.

A further uphill ditch [006] produced an interesting sequence. The pottery in its lower fill was unfortunately undiagnostic but the charcoal rich fill [004] looked like a deliberately dumped deposit. This is likely to be evidence of nearby settlement activity. The large fragment of millstone SF1 is a remarkable find. Its size and weight suggests it would not have been transported far and we may need to envisage a powered mill in the vicinity (Shaffrey 2015). Historically Ball's Water was used to power mills and a similar situation could have existed in the Roman period. Its presence, some distance from the stream, requires some explanation. In the north of England querns are found with such regularity in ditches in late prehistoric and early Roman contexts that their deposition has been linked to cosmological practices.

The only post-Roman feature encountered was ditch [021], which conforms to the geophysical 'System 5' (Caldwell 2010, Fig 5). This system can be related to historic field boundaries visible on the Tithe Map.

Recent academic research has devoted considerable discussion to the longevity of Roman period field systems and their influence on field boundaries present today (for instance Rippon *et al*. 2015). There is not space to go into this discussion in depth here. However, the north-south alignment of the villa is paralleled by 'System 2' and the modern field boundaries share this general alignment as does 'System 5' and ditch [021]. There is thus a possibility that the modern field systems perpetuate alignments laid out in the Roman period. Current research being undertaken by Dr John Davey is investigating this possibility in the Tintinhull region.

In summary, the excavations have characterised and dated the anomalies detected by geophysical survey in Hungerford (Caldwell 2010). This has demonstrated the excellent survival of a multi-phase archaeological landscape with evidence for activity stretching from the Mesolithic to the modern day.

A significant number of Newcastle University and undergraduates and local volunteers have been trained in excavation and recording. At the time of writing several 'Lufton veterans' have gone on to work as field archaeologists.

The Small Finds

James Gerrard and David Heslop

Only three small finds were recovered. This was a surprisingly small number, given that metal-detecting of all deposits and spoilheaps was carried out.

SF1 Fragment of a millstone [003]. David Heslop writes: Upper millstone with perhaps 20% extant, with radial fractures emanating from the edge of the eye. Diam. approx. 650-680 mm. Edge thickness 66 mm, reducing to 33 mm at eye. 55 mm from the eye, a straight ledge or step, 19 mm high suggests the presence of a square recess, which may be a rynd setting or a rebate for an external hopper. The fracture provides a cross-section through the eye, which has a round profile. The extant fragment (less than a quarter) has a single handle hole which forms a notch close to the outer edge, which is exposed in the fracture but the damage at the break is too great for the form of the socket to be clearly defined. The upper surface has been finished with coarse linear gauges up to 40 mm long by 7 mm wide and up to 4 mm deep. This tooling has been achieved with a blunt hammer to create an even but rough exterior.

The stone is a light-brown fine-grained sandstone, with sparse ferruginous inclusions, up to 3 mm. Possibly a locally available lithology.

SF2 Copper-alloy plain, circular finger-ring of 'D' shaped section [007]

SF3 Fragment of fired clay. Probably from an annular loomweight [046]

Fig 30 SF1 millstone fragment [003]

Fig 31 SF2Copper-alloy finger-ring [007]

Fig 32 SF3 Fragment of loomweight under excavation [046]

The Lithics

Dr Rob Young

Fifty two pieces of lithic material were submitted for analysis. These can be broken down by context as follows:

CONTEXT	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL MATERIAL
Surface Collection	11	21.15
0003	1	1.92
0005	3	5.76
0007	17	32.69
012	5	9.61
013	4	7.69
016	2	3.84
041	3	5.76
045	1	1.92
046	4	7.69

052	1	1.92
TOTAL	**52**	**99.95 (100)**

Raw material is dominated by various shades of grey flint and can be categorised as follows:

RAW MATERIAL	**NUMBER**	**% OF TOTAL RAW MATERIAL**
Grey flint	36	69.23
Fawn White Flint	1	1.92
Fawn/Grey Quartzy Flint	1	1.92
Grey/Brown Flint	2	3.84
Grey/Fawn Chert	1	1.92
Burnt Flint	9	17.30
Totally Re-corticated Flint	1	1.92
Completely Fawn Brown Patinated Flint	1	1.92
TOTAL	**52**	**99.97 (100)**

In terms of typological analysis the following categories have been identified:

ARTEFACT TYPE	**NUMBER**	**% OF TOTAL MATERIAL RECOVERED**
Cores	1	1.92
Scrapers	3	5.76
Chisel, Trapezoidal, Arrowheads	1	1.92
Utilised Secondary Flakes	1	1.92
Retouched Inner Flakes	1	1.92
Notched Flakes	1	1.92
Blades	1	1.92
Serrated Blade/Flake Segments	1	1.92
Flake/Blade segments	2	3.84
Primary Flakes	3	5.76
Secondary Flakes	10	19.23
Inner Flakes	16	30.76
Chips	4	7.69
Chunks	7	13.46
TOTAL	**52**	**99.94 (100)**

Technology

Of the waste flakes, one primary flake, 10 secondary flakes and 16 inner flakes were recorded. The lack of cores (1 example) from the site might suggest that all of the flint material had arrived in its finished form with primary knapping taking place 'off site ' or at the source of raw material, or that it represents the end process of knapping at the site, with the cores having been removed elsewhere.

In terms of general knapping technology, 19 pieces (just over 36% of all finds) exhibit plain butts and one retains a cortical butt, 12 exhibit pronounced bulbs of percussion and 8 retain diffuse bulbs. This would suggest that both hard and soft hammer technology had been applied in the manufacture of the assemblage.

Twelve of the 29 waste flakes (over 40% of the recorded waste flakes) are broken at the distal end, so as to remove the bulb of percussion. This might indicate an emphasis on the production of blade/flake segments for the manufacture of microliths.

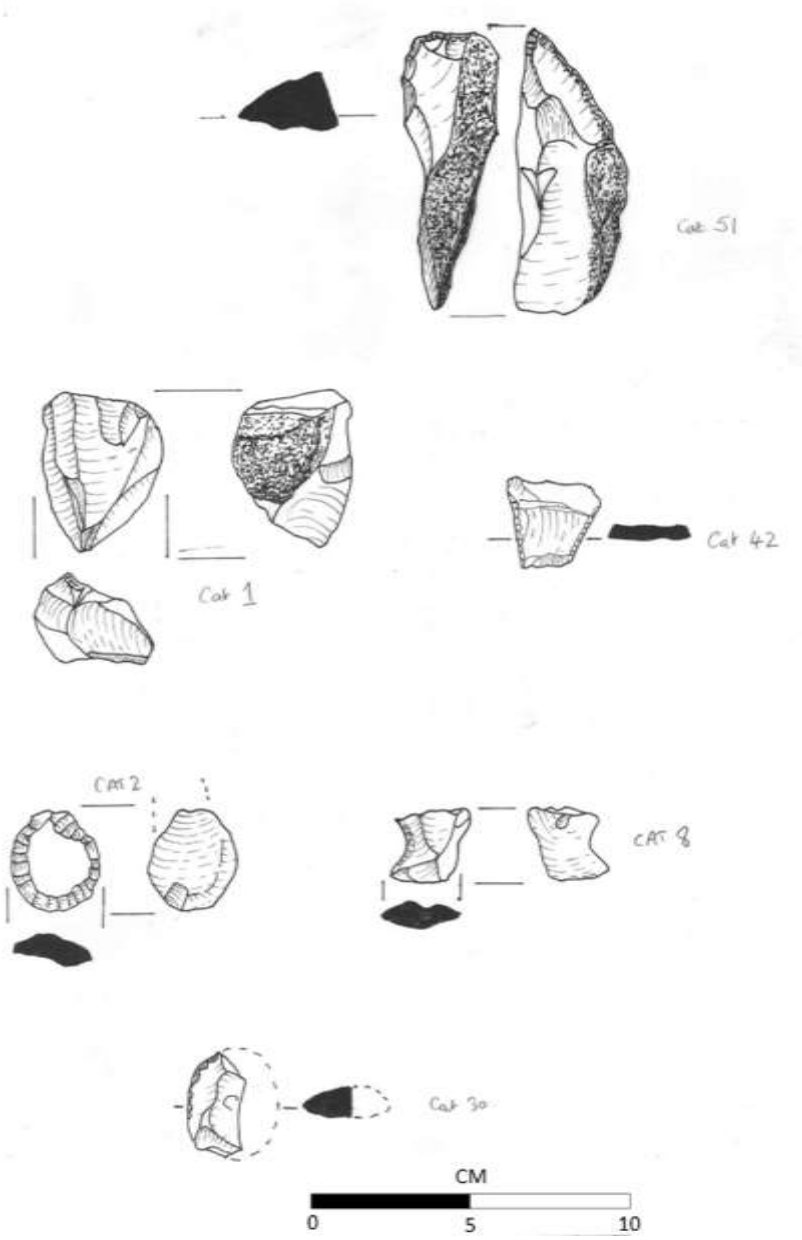


Fig 33 Illustrated lithics (Rob Young).

Typology

The main artefact types recorded can be discussed further as follows:

Cores (Fig 33 No. 1)

The single identified core **(Cat. 1)** comes from surface collection and shows multi-directional flaking, with one clear striking platform with an opposed keel from which flakes were removed from at least two directions. It is not chronologically diagnostic.

Scrapers (Fig 33 Nos. 2, 3 and 4)

Of the three scrapers recorded, one **(Cat. 2)** is a small 'thumb nail' scraper and comes from surface collection. It has parallels with Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age examples from many collections in the area. The burnt and broken example (Cat. 30) is un-diagnostic, as is the scraper on the end of the large flint chunk (Cat. 51).

Arrowheads (Fig 34 No. 5)

The single recorded example, **(Cat. 42),** is a rare occurrence of a trapezoidal arrowhead made on a retouched blade segment. This form of projectile point is common in the Later Mesolithic of NW Europe but does not really appear in the British Isles until the Neolithic.

Serrated Blade/Flake Segments and Notched Flake (Fig 35 No. 6)

One recorded, serrated, example (Cat. 49) could be of Mesolithic date, as could the notched flake (Cat.8).

General Discussion

This small assemblage of material contains elements that might span the period from the later Mesolithic through to the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

In general the assemblage appears fresh and sharp.

As can be seen from the catalogue descriptions several pieces exhibit edge damage and some light 'notching' that is not normally associated with utilisation or intentional retouch. It is suggested here that these pieces may have been damaged by the action of modern/recent ploughing across the site.

The presence of 9 burnt/calcined pieces (17.30% of the total material recorded) might indicate that this material had been discarded in the course of use and found its way into a domestic fire.
.

HUN 15 FLINT CATALOGUE

Surface Collection

1) Blade/flake **CORE** on grey flint nodule, exhibiting fawn/brown patination on one face. Single platform, with an opposed keel. Flakes removed from two directions. Hard, fawn, pebble/nodule cortex on one face. Retains small patch of hard fawn cortex-like inclusion in the body of the flint. Some hinge fractures on struck faces. **WEIGHT**: 19gms. **Max. Dimensions**: 36 x 29 x 18.

2) Fawn/white thumbnail **SCRAPER** on an inner flint flake. Bulbar end removed. Abruptly retouched around whole of circumference. **Angle of Retouch**: 59 degrees. **Max. Dimensions**: 21 x 19 x 5.

3) Grey, mottled secondary flake, broken transversely at the distal end. Plain butt, pronounced bulb and bulbar scar. Retains patch of hard, fawn, cortex on dorsal face at distal end. Small flakes removed on right edge, and at broken distal end, on bulbar face. **Max. Dimensions**: 24 x 21 x 5.

4) Dark grey secondary flake, bulb of percussion detached transversely. Scars from previous flake removals on dorsal face. Retains hard, fawn, pebble/nodular cortex on right edge and on distal end. Edges fresh with some edge damage/utilisation on left edge, bulbar face. **Max. Dimensions**: 25 x 16 x 4.

5) Bulbar end of mottled grey inner flint flake, detached transversely. Plain butt, diffuse bulb ? struck from core with opposed platforms. Max. Dimensions: 17 x 20 x 4.

6) Mottled grey inner flint flake, broken obliquely and irregularly at distal end. Large thick, plain butt, diffuse bulb. **Retouched** on right edge, dorsal face. Some retouch/utilisation on left edge, dorsal face. **Max. Dimensions**: 26 x 18 x 8.

7) Grey mottled secondary flint flake. Retains hard patch fawn pebble cortex on dorsal face. Notched across distal end ? by plough damage. Large angular striking platform, plain butt, pronounced bulb. **Max. Dimensions**: 20 x 22 x 8.

8) **Notched Flake** on dark grey, mottled, inner flint flake. Plain but abraded butt, pronounced bulb. retouched notch on left edge and ?inverse retouch/utilisation across distal end, bulbar face. **Max. Dimensions**: 17 x 17 x 5.

9) Distal end of grey, inner, flint flake, broken transversely at bulbar end. Large hinge fracture at distal end. **Max. Dimensions**: 21 x 16 x 7.

10) Heavy, fawn grey quartz inner flint flake, broken transversely at distal end. Small, plain butt, pronounced bulb and bulbar scar. Scars from previous removals on dorsal face. Hinge fracture visible on dorsal face. **Max. Dimensions**: 32 x 33 x 10.

11) Irregular grey mottled flint chunk ? shattered from a larger core. Retains hard, fawn, pebble/nodular cortex on one face. Shows incipient grey/white re-cortication on unworked surfaces. **WEIGHT**: 4gms. **Max. Dimensions**: 23 x 19 x 12.

HUN 15 (0003)

12) Distal end of grey/brown translucent ? primary flake, broken transversely at bulbar end. Retains hard, fawn, off-white pebble/nodular cortex on dorsal face. **Max. Dimensions**: 20 x 19 x 6.

HUN 15 (0005)

13) Grey mottled inner flint flake. Plain butt, diffuse bulb, and bulbar scar. Hinge fracture at distal end. Incipient white/fawn re-cortication visible on dorsal face, right edge, and distal end. Max. Dimensions: 23 x 16 x 5.

14) Light grey inner flint flake. Small, plain, butt and small pronounced bulb. Irregularly broken at the distal end. **Max. Dimensions**: 15 x 9 x 6.

15) Matt grey inner flint flake. Irregularly shattered. Circular spalls removed on bulbar face. ? from freeze/thaw action. **Max. Dimensions**: 21 x 22 x 7.

HUN 15 (0007)

16) Bulbar end of mottled grey inner flint flake, plain, but abraded, butt, diffuse bulb. Broken transversely at distal end. Off-white inclusions in body of the flint on right edge. Possible utilisation on left edge dorsal face. **Max. Dimensions**: 13 x 18 x 5

17) Grey/fawn, inner, chert blade segment, broken transversely at both ends. Parallel scars from previous blade removals on dorsal face. **Max. Dimensions**: 14 x 11 x 4.

18) Off-white burnt blade/flake segment, broken transversely at both ends. Pot-lid spall on bulbar face. Slight crackling on surfaces.

19) Mottled grey inner flint blade segment. Broken transversely at both ends**. Max. Dimensions**: 13 x 13 x 3.

20) Bulbar end of inner grey mottled flint flake. Thin plain butt, pronounced bulb and scar. Small, smooth white inclusions in body of the flint. **Max Dimensions**: 14 x 13 x 3.

21) Fine, light grey, translucent, secondary flint flake. Bulb of percussion irregularly detached. Hinge fracture at distal end. Retains small patch of hard, fawn, pebble/nodular cortex on dorsal face, left edge. **Max. Dimensions**: 19 x 15 x 3.

22) Heavy, thick grey mottled secondary flint flake. Retains hard patch of fawn/cream, pebble/nodular cortex on right edge at the bulbar end. Broken cleanly at distal end, edges sharp and fresh. Thick, plain, butt, pronounced sharp bulb of percussion, and bulbar scar. **Max. Dimensions**: 28 x 32 x 10.

23) Large, grey, mottled inner flint flake. Thin, plain butt, small, but pronounced, bulb. Slight hinge fracture at distal end. **Max. Dimensions**: 15 x 13 x 2.

24) Dark grey mottled secondary flake, retaining hard off-white pebble/nodular cortex at bulbar end and with off-white, cortex-like, inclusions in the body of the flint. Plain butt, diffuse bulb. **Max. Dimensions:** 21 x 16 x 4.

25) Irregularly shattered, grey/brown mottled inner flint chip.

26) Irregularly shattered, grey mottled, secondary chip. Retains hard fawn cortex on dorsal face.

27) Irregular, fawn brown flint chunk. Rounded and smoothed. Hard, fawn-brown pebble cortex, very smoothed on one face. **WEIGHT**: 1gm. **Max Dimensions**: 26 x 15 x 9.

28) Irregularly shattered, heavy, grey, mottled, secondary flint flake. All edges shattered and chattered. No obvious bulb of percussion. Hard, smoothed fawn, pebble cortex on 'dorsal' face. **Max. Dimensions**: 54 x 43 x 16.

29) Irregular, grey/white, calcined, inner flint fragment. Spalled and crackled. **Max. Dimensions**: 17 x 13 x 4.

30) Irregularly shattered, burnt, fragment from a **SCRAPER**. White, mottled, crackled, crazed and spalled. **Max Dimensions**: 22 x 12 x 7.

31) Grey/white secondary flint chip, exhibiting hard, fawn, smoothed cortex on one edge. **Max. Dimensions**: 9 x 9 x 4.

32) Burnt, angular, off-white/grey flint chunk. Smoothed and crackled**. WEIGHT**: 4gms. **Max. Dimensions**: 21 x 19 x 8.

HUN 15 (012)

33) Burnt, white, irregularly shattered flint chunk. **WEIGHT**: 2gms. **Max. Dimensions**: 16 x 14 x 9.

34) Burnt, white/grey inner flint chip.

35) Small fawn/brown/orange patinated, rounded, flint chunk. Weight: 1 gm. **Max. Dimensions**: 15 x 10 x 7.

36) Burnt grey/black primary chunk. **WEIGHT**: 1 gm. **Max. Dimensions**: 22 x 12 x 8.

37) Distal end of dark grey, secondary, flint flake. Dorsal face retains hard, rounded, fawn, pebble/nodular cortex on dorsal face. Some irregular flakes removed on bulbar face, right edge. Broken transversely at bulbar end. Some possible utilisation on right edge. **Max. Dimensions**: 22 x 21 x 8.

HUN 15 (013)

38) Bulbar end of burnt inner flake/blade. Irregularly shattered at distal end. Small, plain butt and diffuse bulb. **Max. Dimensions**: 13 x 12 x 4.

39) Grey mottled bulbar end of inner flint flake/blade. Plain, abraded, butt, pronounced bulb, broken transversely at distal end. **Max. Dimensions**: 12 x 18 x 4.

40) Bulbar end of inner white flint blade/flake segment. Plain butt, pronounced bulb. **Max. Dimensions**: 10 x 14 x 4.

41) Irregular, dark grey, primary, flint flake. Fawn cortical butt, punctiform bulb. **Max. Dimensions**: 10 x 19 x 6.

HUN 15 (016)

42) Transverse, **TRAPEZOIDAL, CHISEL ARROWHEAD**. Retouched on right and left edges. Leading edge (cutting edge) has a small chip removed. Made on dark grey, flake/blade, segment. Cutting edge broader than the base. **Max. Dimensions**: 18 x 20 x 3 **Width at base**: 11mm **DRAW.**

43) Grey, mottled, primary flake. Hard white pebble/nodular cortex on dorsal face. Plain butt, diffuse bulb. Natural perforation, with cortex in it. **Max. Dimensions**: 21 x 26 x 8.

HUN 15 (041)

44) Grey mottled inner flint blade, broken transversely at distal end. Small plain butt, pronounced bulb. Sharp fresh edges. **Max. Dimensions**: 18 x 12 x 3.

45) Dark grey, mottled, irregularly shattered inner flint flake. **Max. Dimensions**: 14 x 21 x 6.

46) Grey, inner, flint flake. Plain butt, diffuse bulb. **Max. Dimensions**: 18 x 11 x 2.

HUN 15 (045)

47) Totally white recorticated, secondary flint flake. Thick, plain butt, pronounced bulb and bulbar scar. Flake removed after re-cortication at bulbar end on dorsal face to reveal fawn/grey flint colour. Hard, pitted, white, cortex on dorsal face on right edge. Edges very sharp and fresh. Previous flake scars on dorsal face. **Max. Dimensions**: 43 x 27 x 6.

HUN 15 (046)

48) Burnt, totally white, spalled, inner, angular flint flake. Irregularly shattered at bulbar end and also spalled on bulbar face at bulbar end. **Max. Dimensions**: 23 x 22 x 7.

49) Grey mottled ? **SERRATED BLADE SEGMENT**, broken obliquely at bulbar end and transversely at distal end. Possible serrations on left edge. **Max. Dimensions**: 16 x 12 x 3.

50) Dark grey secondary flake, bulbar end shattered irregularly. Hard grey/fawn, smooth, pebble cortex on dorsal face. Edges very fresh – small hinge fracture at distal end. **Max. Dimensions**: 66 x 35 x 12.

51) Irregular, grey banded flint chunk. Soft fawn pebble/nodular cortex on one face. ? **SCRAPER** retouch on one edge. ? **END SCRAPER**. Max. Dimensions: 62 x 20 x 24. **Angle of Retouch**: 66 degrees. **DRAW.**

HUN 15 (052)

52) Light grey translucent, secondary flake. Broken transversely at bulbar end. Retains hard white, smooth, cortex on distal end, dorsal face. Edges very sharp and fresh. **Max. Dimensions**: 18 x 10 x 2.

Assessment of the pottery, ceramic building material and fired clay.

James Gerrard

The excavations produced a small assemblage of pottery numbering 244 sherds (weighing 1395g). This total included three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), a fragment of fired clay and a single sherd of medieval pottery.

Pottery was recovered from fourteen contexts and unstratified from the surface of the field and the spoilheaps. The assemblage is a small one and given the extensive programme of sieving this is all the more remarkable. Most pottery came from fill [7] of ditch [8]. This little group includes a number of fresh sherds in an early Roman BB1 fabric. Vessels included bead rim jar / beaker forms (WA 8/9: Seager Smith and Davies 1993) and a fragment of samian. Several other sherds of WA 8/9 forms were recovered from [13] and [46]. These are all from different vessels but the seeming over-representation of this form is worth of note. A pierced base in a gritty greyware was also recovered from [13] and can be set alongside the surprising number of pierced bases from a Late Iron Age context in Mr Unwin's Field to the south. Other vessels included a small number of jars, some fragments of Late Roman Oxfordshire Red Colour Coated ware from [9] and a WA20 (Seager Smith and Davies 1993) straight sided dish/bowl.

Quantification of the assemblage demonstrates that the majority of the assemblage was formed of BB1 (Table 1). The next most common fabrics were a group of grey wares. Most of these are probably of fairly local manufacture. Some appear to conform to the group published at Ilchester as 'Fabric Gi' (Leach 1982).

The majority of the sherds probably site more comfortably with an early Roman date range (Table 2). Definitely late Roman sherds were restricted to handful of Oxfordshire and New Forest products along with a few probably later Roman BB1 vessels. The small samian assemblage is notable. This is the first time that the project has encountered samian and the quantity compares with that recovered by

Hayward's excavations. The presence of samian (see report by J. M. Mills below) also reinforces the generally early Roman feel of the assemblage.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight
BB1	189	991
CBM	3	101
White Wares	2	2
Fired clay	1	6
Greywares	22	159
Ilch Gi	17	85
New Forest Colour Coated ware	1	8
Medieval Pottery	3	18
Oxidised ware	1	3
Oxfordshire Red Colur Coated Ware	2	12
Samian	3	8

Table 1 Quantification of the pottery by fabric from HUN15.

Context Number	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Spot date and comments
Unstratified	11	48	N/A
3	5	9	AD70-400
5	17	85	AD120-400
7	128	661	AD50-85
9	8	49	AD240-400+
10	1	6	Fired clay only
12	5	109	AD250-400 (inc. scored hypocaust tile)
13	22	167	AD43-250 Includes pierced base
15	2	25	AD120-400 (storage jar – check)
16	14	41	AD120-200
20	1	1	AD1200-1600 (Med pot)
41	2	17	AD43-400
43	4	5	AD43-400
45	1	3	AD43-400
46	22	155	AD50-275
TOTAL	244	1395	

Table 2 Pottery spot dates.

Assessment of the Samian

J. M. Mills

Three small sherds were submitted for identification. A sherd from the base angle of a Drag 15/17 [007] from La Graufesenque , South Gaul, dating to the late pre- to mid-Flavian period (c. AD50-85), and two Central Gaulish body sherds [016]. The sherds from Central Gaul, most likely produced at

Lezoux, are quite weathered with very little slip remaining; these can be dated no more closely than to the second century AD.

A background scatter of sherds, not suggestive of intensive occupation.

Assessment of the archaeometallurgical residues

Don O'Meara

The excavations at Hungerford, south of the Lufton Villa, Brympton, Yeovil, Somerset in 2015 produced just under 0.15kgs of material which can broadly be described as metallurgical wastes and residues. Material was recovered from context [007] (Table 3). In contrast to the material from the 2014 excavations (BAR14: Gerrard and Agate in prep.) the material recovered here can be classed as fuel ash material, rather than the broad category of 'slags', i.e. the specific waste products of metal production or working. This material was assessed in line with standard recommendations for the examination of material of archaeometallurgical significance (Historic England 2015). The purpose of this report is to assess the material recovered from Hungerford and make recommendation for further analysis.

This identification was made using the following standard procedures. The material was visually examined under the criteria of surface morphology, colour, density/magnetic susceptibility, and vesicularity. The colour is presented as general qualifications as discussed in the MoLAS site manual. The magnetic susceptibility was judged based on the tendency of the material to move a hand-magnet; weak-does not show magnetic attraction, moderate-shows a weak attraction when the magnet is held against the material, strong-the material can be picked up with a magnet, or the magnet can hold itself up through the attraction to the material. Vesicularity was judged by visual examination and by measuring the size of the vesicles with hand-callipers (accuracy to 0.1mm). The data from the three largest fragments is presented in Table 1. Measurements are in millimetres and weights are measured in grams.

Three larger fragments were examined, as well as eleven smaller fragments which all weighed less than 4 grams each. This material was recovered from context [007], the fill of ditch [008]. Finds from this feature include Romano-British pottery.

Fragment 1: this largest fuel ash fragment contained some evidence of surface flow, suggesting the material formed in a molten or liquid state. A fragment of fired clay was incorporated into the lower side (i.e. the side opposite to that which exhibited a flow pattern), though this could have formed either when the material flowed on a clay surface, or against a kiln wall. The upper surface was dark greyish-purple, becoming pale greyish, almost 'cream' or blueish-white in places.

Fragment 2: The fragment was similar in appearance in Fragment 1. It was also viscous in appearance, non-magnetic and light blueish-grey on its underside.

Fragment 3: the smallest of the three main fragments, this material also exhibited an upper dark purple surface, and a lower blueish-grey surface.

As well as these three fragments eleven smaller fragments weighing between 0.5-4 grams each were also recovered. They appeared to be derived from the larger fragments, or from similar type material.

The vesicles on all of the fragments recovered were in the size range of 1-7mm, but more typically were within the range of 3-4mm. None of the material was magnetic. Relative to the size of the items, and compared to true metallurgical slags, the fragments were light, highly vesicular (with these vesicles being irregularly spaced), and brittle.

Results

The assessment of the material produced only fuel ash, and therefore has not produced material indicative of specific high temperature processes. This is often problematical when such material is recovered from a context without other forms of archaeometallurgical debris (Biek and Bayley 1979, 6; Lucas and Paynter 2010, 3). Broadly speaking such material can form in any high temperature environment where organic fuel material is present.

No further work is recommended on the material at this time, though the material should be retained with the site archive should the research questions demand further analysis of this material at a later date.

	Length	Width	Breath	Weight	Vesicles	Magnetic
Fragment 1	76.6mm	56.8mm	40.9mm	74g	1-7mm	No
Fragment 2	60.4mm	50.6mm	28.2mm	40g	1-7mm	No
Fragment 3	41.6mm	45.7mm	31.5mm	18g	1-6mm	No

Table 3 Contexts and details of material

Pollen presence/absence assessment for Lufton, Somerset

Dr Suzi Richer

Summary

Three grab samples were taken from sediments within a ditch seen in cross-section at Lufton. Pollen was extremely poorly preserved or absent in all three samples. The only pollen that preserved came from the lower fill of ditch [011], whilst preservation was poor, the pollen indicated that slow-moving water was present in the ditch and that animals were likely to have been grazing near by.

Aims

The aim of the pollen presence/absence assessment was to determine the state of preservation, type, and quantity of remains recovered from the samples and information provided. This information will be used to assess the importance of the pollen remains.

Methods

Sampling policy

Grab samples <5>, <6> and <7> were taken from deposits considered to be of potential for the recovery of pollen by the excavators.

Processing and analysis

A total of three pollen sub-samples, each 2cm^3, were selected from the samples by the author. The samples were processed in EARTH, at Cardiff University of Aberdeen using a chemical preparation following standard procedures as described by Barber (1976) and Moore *et al* (1991).

Where preservation allowed, a presence/absence assessment was made whereby the preservation, abundance and main taxa in each sample were noted. A GS binocular polarising microscope at x400 magnification was used and identification was aided by the pollen reference manuals by Moore *et al* (1991) and Beug (2004). Nomenclature for pollen follows Stace (2010) and Bennett (1994).

Report

Sample information

Three samples were taken from ditch fills. All three samples were consisted of brown-grey, or grey-brown silty-sandy clay.

Pollen results

The results of the pollen analysis are summarised in Table 4.

Sample	Context	Sediment	Pollen present	Pollen abundance	Pollen preservation	Observed taxa
5	[016]	Brown-grey silty-sandy clay	N	-	-	-
6	[043]	Brown-grey silty-sandy clay	N	-	-	-
7	[010] lower fill of ditch [011]	Grey-brown silty-sandy clay	Y	Very low	Extremely poor	*Corylus*, *Cichorium intybus*-type, ***Lemna*** NPPs: **Microcharcoal**, Chaetomium-type, Sordaria-type, Cercophera-type

Table 4 Summary of the pollen assemblages from Lufton, taxa or groups in **bold** are dominant in the sample. NPP = non-pollen palynomorphs observed on the slide.

Preservation, abundance and deposit formation

Pollen was only preserved in one sub-sample, from sample 7 from context [010], from the lower fill of ditch [011]. Abundance was very low and preservation was extremely poor, where pollen was present the preservation was typified by crumpling, which is suggestive of either drying out or that the sediment had been compacted and water extruded (Delcourt and Delcourt 1980).

Sample 7 consisted of darker and greyer clay, and its position at the base of the ditch meant that it is likely to have remained waterlogged for longer, accounting for the survival of pollen in this sample. The higher samples are likely to have been subject to periods of waterlogging and drying out. These oscillating conditions, in conjunction with the presence of abrasive sand particles in the samples, is not conducive to the survival of pollen grains and accounts for the absence of pollen in samples 5 and 6. The following discussion focuses on sample 7.

Vegetation and human activity

Due to the poor preservation of pollen grains, very few interpretations can be drawn. However, the pollen and NPP spectra generally indicate that a small ditch with slow-running, or still, water ran through a grazed meadow-like environment with burning activity occurring nearby.

Sample 7 was very heavily dominated by microcharcoal, indicating that burning was occurring close-by.

The main pollen taxon represented in the sample was from an aquatic group, pondweeds (*Lemna*), suggesting that slow moving, or still, water had been present in the ditch. However, the sample also included fine sand particles suggesting that higher-energy water (but certainly not fast flowing) occasionally flushed through the ditch as well. This might be indicative of runoff from heavy rains entering the ditch.

The occurrence of fungal spores from *Chaetomium*, *Sordaria*-type and *Cercophera*-type are indicative of the near-by presence of herbivore dung, however, they can also represent the rotting of more general organic matter. Whilst both options are viable, the herbivore dung interpretation seems more likely in this context. This is because the spores would normally grow on moulding vegetation that was open to the air, but also moist, whilst a waterlogged context (as suggested by the pondweed) is certainly 'moist' it is not open to the air/aeration. The occurrence of the dandelion group (*Cichorium intybus*-type), albeit a solitary grain, is also indicative of a dry, meadow-like environment close-by, which is more indicative of a grazed area than a generally dark and damp environment where the presence of rotting vegetation would be more probable.

Synthesis

Three grab samples were taken from ditch sediments at the site. Pollen was extremely poorly preserved or absent in the samples. Pollen was only preserved in one sample from the lower fill of ditch [011]. Whilst preservation was poor, the pollen indicated that slow-moving water was present in the ditch and that animals were likely to have been grazing near by.

Environmental Samples

Liz Caldwell and James Gerrard

Seven environmental samples were taken (Table 5). These were processed by GeoFlo and await analysis as part of the wider programme of post-excavation work.

Standard flotation methodology:

Pre-soaked samples of known and recorded weight are processed by standard flotation methods. Samples are gently agitated by hand thus enabling a controlled and constantly monitored process, minimizing breakage of fragile material. No chemicals or mechanical agitation of the water is used. Flots are retained on a 0.25mm mesh and residues on a 1mm mesh. Flots and residues are dried in preparation for fractionation and sorting.

Sample Number	Context	Type	Description
1	[4]	Fill	Charcoal rich fill of [006]
2	[7]	Fill	Fill of [008]
3	[7]	Fill	Fill of [008]
4	[46]	Fill	Fill of [047]
5	[16]	Fill	Fill of [017]
6	[43]	Fill	Fill of [0044]
7	[10]	Fill	Fill of [011]

Table 5 Environmental samples.

Recommendations

The work has contributed to understanding the development of the landscape surrounding the Roman villa at Lufton. Given that new excavations of the villa have taken place (led by the Project Directors) in 2016, it seems sensible to advise publication of these results in a suitable periodical as context for the villa.

The state of preservation, character and date of the landscape identified by geophysical survey has been partially established. This should aid any discussion of the heritage management of this landscape.

No further analysis is recommended of the artefacts. SF1 and SF2 should be drawn and the millstone is of particular significance for our understanding of the economy of the area in the Roman period.

The environmental samples need to be assessed by a suitable specialist and the results incorporated within any publication.

Acknowledgments

All archaeological fieldwork depends on the kindness and support of many different individuals and institutions. The 2015 season was primarily funded by Newcastle University and Brympton Parish Council and we gratefully acknowledge this financial assistance. Mr and Mrs Pullen, who invited us on to their land and extended every kindness to us. Mike Grinter (Grinter Groundworks) opened the trenches for us and Colin Baker kindly provided a machine to assist with backfilling, for which we and the rest of the team were very grateful! Thanks also go to Liz Glaisher at Brympton Parish Council and the local residents of Lufton, who were incredibly helpful and supportive. Accommodation and every kindness was extended by Colin and Maggie Baker at Dairy Farm, Lufton. The assistance of the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group is gratefully noted.

Specific thanks go to Andrew Agate (NCL) who took on the sometimes onerous duties of co-director. James Hopper, Hayley Neal and Chris Whittaker served as site supervisors in an exemplary fashion. The excavation team from Newcastle comprised: Josh Basey; Samara Bedford, Holly-Ann Carl; Douglas Carr; Ellie Fisher; Elliott Jones, Tilly Reed and Zara Walwyn. Thanks also to Mike Charles who undertook the metal detecting, helped us dig and provided cider. The hardwork and good humour of all of these individuals ensured that this project would be a success.

Andrew Agate produced the illustrations for this report. Holy-Ann Carl prepared the finds for archiving, digitised records and co-authored the stratigraphic discussion above. We extend our thanks to the various specialist contributors: David Heslop (quern); J. M. Mills (samian); Dr Suzi Richer (palynology) and Dr Rob Young (lithics).

Fig 34 The excavation team. Back row from left: Elliot Jones, Douglas Carr, James Gerrard, James Hopper, Chris Whittaker, Joshua Basey, Andrew Agate. Front row from left: Ellie Fisher, Tilly Reed, Samara Bedford, Zara Walwyn, Holly-Ann Carl, Hayley Neal.

References

Aston, M. (1976) 'Barrow(?) Deserted village Odcombe'. *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History* 121, 115-116

Barber, K. (1976) History of vegetation, in S Chapman (ed.), *Methods in Plant Ecology*, 49–52. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications

Bennett, K. (1994) *Annotated catalogue of pollen and pteridophyte spore types of the British Isles*, unpublished report, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge

Beug, H-J, (2004) *Leitfaden der Pollenbestimung*. Munich: Verlag Dr. Friedrich Pfeil

BGS (2012) 1:50,000 data. http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Biek, L. and Bayley, J. (1979) Glass and other vitreous materials. *World Archaeology* 11, 1–25

Caldwell, L. (2010) *Hungerford, Lufton, Gradiometer Survey 2010*. South Somerset Archaeological Research Group Unpublished Report

Caldwell, L. and Gerrard, J. (2013) *Lufton Landscape Gradiometer Surveys October 2010 – September 2011*. South Somerset Archaeological Research Group Unpublished Report

Delcourt, P A, and Delcourt, H R, (1980) Pollen preservation and Quaternary environmental history in the southeastern United States, *Palynology*, **4**, 215–231

Gerrard, J. and Agate, A. 2012 *A Post-Excavation Assessment of an Excavation undertaken at Mr Unwin's Field, Lufton, Brympton, Somerset (UNW12)*. Unpublished Newcastle University Report.

Gerrard, J. and Agate, A. 2014 *A Post-Excavation Assessment of an Excavation undertaken at Mr Unwin's Field, Lufton, Brympton, Somerset (UNW13)*. Unpublished Nwcastle University Report.

Gerrard, J. and Agate, A. in prep. *A Post-Excavation Assessment of the Deserted Medieval Settlement of Barrow, Odcombe (BAR14)*.

Gerrard, J. (2013) *The Ruin of Roman Britain*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Hayward, L. (1952) 'The Roman villa at Lufton, near Yeovil', *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* 97: 91-112.

Hayward, L. (1972) 'The Roman villa at Lufton, near Yeovil', *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* 116: 59-77.
Historic England. (2015). *Archaeometallurgy*. Historic England, London.

Leach, P. (1982) *Ilchester Excavations Vol. I*. Bristol.

Leach, P. (1994) *Ilchester Volume 2: Archaeology, Excavations and Fieldwork to 1984*. Sheffield.

Leivers, M., Chisham, C., Knight, S. and Stevens, C. (2007) 'Excavations at Ham Hill Quarry, Hamdon Hill, Montacute, 2002', *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* 150, 39-62

Lucas, V.A.L. and Paynter, S. (2010). *Whitby Cliff, Whitby, North Yorkshire: An Assessment of Metalworking Debris from the Whitby Cliff Excavations*. English Heritage, Research Department Report Series 31-2010.

MoLAS (1994) *Archaeological Site Manual*. London, MoLAS

Moore, P D, Webb, J A, and Collinson, M E, (1991) *Pollen analysis* (2 ed). Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications

Pearson, T. (1978) Late Saxon and early Medieval pottery from the deserted village of Barrow(?) in Odcombe parish ST 508173. *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History* 122, 79-82.

Rippon, C., Smart, C. and Pears, B. (2015) *The Fields of Britannia*. Oxford, Oxford University Press

Shaffrey, R. 2015 'Intensive Milling Practices in the Romano-British Landscape of Southern England: Using Newly Established Criteria for Distinguishing Millstones from Rotary Querns'. *Britannia* 46, 55-92.

Sharples, N., Evans, C., Slater, A., Payne, A., Linford, P. and Linford, N. (2012) 'Ham Hill', *British Archaeology* 123: 34-39.

Simmonds, A. (2005) *Brimsmore, Yeovil, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation Report.* Unpublished Oxford Archaeology report No: 2692

Stace, C. (2010) *New flora of the British Isles* (3 ed). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Appendices

Appendix A: Context Register

Context	Type	Trench	Date	Name	Comments
001	Layer	A	24/3/15	JFG	Plough soil
002	Layer	A	24/3/15	JFG	Sub-soil
003	Fill	A	24/3/15	JFG	Light grey fill. Upper fill of ditch [006]
004	Fill	A	24/3/15	JFG	Charcoal fill of ditch[006]
005	Fill	A	24/3/15	JFG	Grey fill below (004). Fill of ditch [006]
006	Cut	A	24/3/15	JFG	Cut of E-W ditch
007	Fill	A	24/3/15	JFG	Fill of ditch [007]. With Roman pot
008	Cut	A	24/3/15	JFG	Cut of E-W ditch
009	Fill	A	25/3/15	JFG	Dark fill of ditch [011]
010	Fill	A	25/3/15	JFG	Light grey fill of [011]
011	Cut	A	25/3/15	JFG	E-W ditch, southern end
012	Layer	A	25/3/15	JFG	Layer cut by [011]
013	Fill	A	25/3/15	JFG	Fill of northern track [014]
014	Cut	A	25/3/15	JFG	Cut of northern track
015	Layer	A	27/3/15	CW	=(012)
016	Fill	A	27/3/15	CW	Upper fill of ditch [017]
017	Cut	A	27/3/15	CW	Cut of Ditch
018	Fill	A	30/3/15	HN	The fill of pit [019]
019	Cut	A	30/3/15	HN	Cut of pit
020	Fill	A	30/3/15	AA	Fill of [021]
021	Cut	A	30/3/15	AA	Cut of post-med? Linear
022	Fill	A	30/3/15	JH	Fill of [023]
023	Cut	A	30/3/15	JH	NW,SE Gully
040	Layer	A	30/3/15	AA	Natural
041	Fill	A	30/3/15	HN	Fill of [042]
042	Cut	A	30/3/15	HN	Cut of E-W linear, southern side of trackway
043	Fill	A	1/04/15	JH	Fill of [044]
044	Cut	A	1/04/15	JH	Cut of ditch
045	Layer	A	6/4/15	AA	Layer ?hillwash

046	Fill	A	6/4/15	AA	Fill of east- west linear
047	Cut	A	6/4/15	AA	Cut of east-west linear
048	Fill	A	7/4/15	AA	Fill of east-west linear
049	Cut	A	7/4/15	AA	Fill of east-west linear
050	Fill	A	7/4/15	HN	Fill of east-west linear
051	Cut	A	7/4/15	HN	Cut of east-west linear
052	Fill	A	8/4/15	JH	Fill of [053]
053	Cut	A	8/4/15	JH	Pit

Appendix B : Environmental Sample Register

Number	Context	Feature	Comments	Initials
1	(004)	Fill	Charcoal right fill of [006]	AA
2	(007)	Fill	Fill of [008]	AA
3	(007)	Fill	Fill of [008]	AA
4	(046)	Fill	Fill of [047]	AA
5	(016)	Fill	Fill of [017]	HAC
6	(043)	Fill	Fill of [044]	HAC
7	(010)	Fill	Layer fill of [011]	HAC

Appendix C : Small finds Register

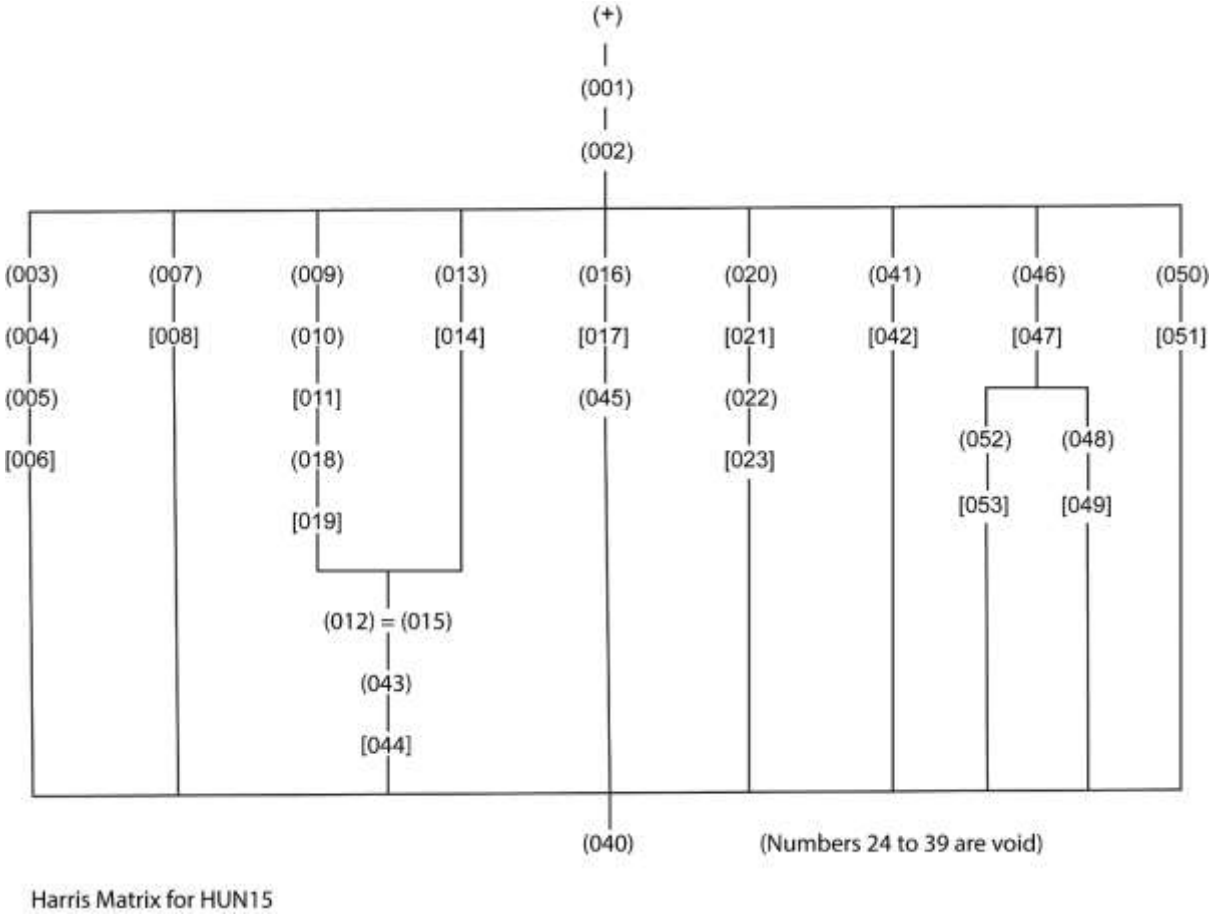
Context	Object Type	Material	Comments	Date	Initials
(003)	Millstone	Stone	In top of fill [006]	31/03/15	AA
(007)	Finger ring	Copper alloy	In top of fill [008]	04/04/15	AA
(046)	Loom weight fragment	Clay	Middle of fill [047]	07/04/15	SB

Appendix D: Photo register

Photo Number	Date	Direction	Scale	Identifier	Context	Notes
045	26/3/45	E	2m			1000/585
046	26/3/15	E	2m			1000/585
047	26/3/15	E	2m		[011]	1000/580
048	26/3/15	E	2m		[014]	1000/575
049	26/3/15	SE	2m			[014]
050	26/3/15	SE	2m			100/570
051	26/3/15	S	2m			Whole trench
052	26/3/15	N	2m			Whole trench
053	26/3/15	N	2m			Whole trench
054	26/3/15	N	2m			Whole trench
055	26/3/15	E		Cut	[006]	1000/550-1000/555
056	26/3/15	E		Cut	[006]	1000/550-1000/555
057	27/3/15	E	2m	Cut	[006]	Prior to extending slot
058	27/3/15	E	2m	Cut	[006]	Prior to extending slot
059	27/3/15	SE	2m	Cut	[014]	1000/570-1000/575
060	27/3/15	E	2m	Cut	[014]	1000/570-1000/575
062	30/3/15	W	1m/0.5m	Cut	[006]	(001) (002) (003) (004) (005)
063	30/3/15	W	1m/0.5m	Cut	[006]	(001) (002) (003) (004) (005)
064	30/3/15	W	1m/0.5m	Cut	[006]	(001) (002) (003) (004) (005)
065	30/3/15	E	1m/0.5m	Cut	[006]	(003) (005)
066	31/3/15	S	0.2m	Stone	In (003)	{1) Millstone
067	31/3/15	S	0.2m	Stone	In (003)	{1) Millstone
068	31/3/15	E	0.2m	Stone	In (003)	{1) Millstone
069	1/4/15	SE	2m/0.5m	Cut	(041) [042]	NW facing section [042]
070	1/4/15	SE	2m	Cut	(041) [042]	NW facing section [042]
071	1/4/15	SE	2m/.5m	Cut	(041) [042]	NW facing section [042]
072	1/4/15	E	2m/.5m	Cut	(020) [021]	West facing section
073	1/4/15	E	2m/.5m	Cut	(020) [021]	West facing section
074	1/4/15	E	2m	Cut	(020) [021]	West facing section
075	4/4/15			{2)		Finger ring from (007)
076	4/4/15					

077	4/4/15					
078	4/4/45					
079	4/4/15					Working shot
080	4/4/15					
081	4/4/15					
082	4/4/15					
083	4/4/15					
084	4/4/15					
085	4/4/15					North end of trench A
086	4/4/15					
087	4/4/15	E	2m/.5m	Cut	[017]	Northern ditch
088	4/4/15	E	2m/.5m	Cut	[017]	Northern ditch
089	4/4/15	E	2m/.5m	Cut	[044]	W. Facing section
090	4/4/15	E	2m/.5m	Cut	[044]	W. Facing section
091	4/4/15	E	2m/.5m	Cut	[017] [044]	Both South ditches
092	4/4/15	E	2m/.5m		[017][044]	Both South ditches
093	6/4/15	W	2m/.5m	Cut/Fill	(007)[008]	East facing section of LOE
094	6/4/15	W	2m/.5m	Cut/fill	(007)[008]	East facing section of LOE
095	7/4/15	W	2m/.5m			East facing section baulk
096	7/4/15	W	2m/.5m			East facing section baulk
097	7/4/15	W	2m/.5m			East facing section baulk
098	7/4/15	-	-	-	-	Working shot
099	7/4/15	-	-	-	-	Working shot
100	7/4/15	E	10cm	-	[047]	Stake hole in [047] ?
101	7/4/15	-	-	-	[047]	Loom weight in excavation
102	7/4/15	E	20cm	-	[047]	Loom weight in excavation
103	7/4/15	E	20cm	-	[047]	Loom weight in excavation
104	7/4/15	W	20cm	-	[047]	Loom weight?
105	8/4/15	W	2m/.5m	Cut/fill	(007) [008]	East facing section
106	8/4/15	W	2m/.5m	Cut/fill	(007) [008]	East facing section
107	8/4/15	W	2m/.5m	Cut/fill	(007) [008]	West facing section
108	8/4/15	W	2m/.5m	Cut/fill	(007) [008]	West facing section
109	8/4/15	E	2m	Cut/fill	[014] [042]	Trackway ditches
110	8/4/15	-	-	-	[014][042]	Working shot
111	8/4/15	SE	2m	Cut/fill	[014][042]	Trackway ditches
112	8/4/15	SE	2m	Cut/fill	[014][042]	Trackway ditches
113	8/4/15	SE	2m	Cut/fill	[014][042]	Trackway ditches
114	8/4/15	E	.5m	Cut/fills	[006](003)(005)	West facing section LOE
115	8/4/15	E	.5m	Cut/fills	[006](003)(005)	
116	8/4/15	E	.5m	Cut/fills	[006](003)(005)	
117	8/4/15	E	.5m	Cut/fills	[006](003)(005)	
122	9/4/15	S		TRA		
123	9/4/15	N	2m	TRA		
124	9/4/15	W	.5m	Cut/fills	[051]	N.Cut/Fill, Northern most ditch
125	9/4/15	W	2m	Cut	[047][049]	[053]
126	9/4/15	N	2m	Cut	[047][049]	[053]
128	9/4/15	-	-	-	-	Working shot
129	9/4/15	-	-	-	-	-
130	9/4/15	N	2m	Cut		[047] [049] [053]
131	9/4/15	N	2m	Cut	[153] [007]	Empty trench from [053] – [007]
132	9/4/15	N	2m		[007]	Taken at 1000/510
133	9/4/15	N	2m			Taken at 1000/515
134	9/4/15	N	2m		[021]	Taken at 1000/530
135	9/4/15	N	2m		[106]	Taken at 1000/540

Appendix E: Stratigraphic Matrix



Harris Matrix for HUN15

Fig 35 Harris matrix showing the stratigraphic relationships for HUN15.

Appendix F: Reduced levels for Figs 12-17

Level Number	Reduced level
1	71.52
2	71.17
3	71.21
4	71.49
5	71.53
6	70.97
7	70.84
8	70.88
9	71.31
10	71.26
11	70.95
12	70.88
13	71.12
14	70.51
15	70.01

16	70.34
17	70.40
18	70.11
19	70.31
20	69.23
21	68.51
22	69.97
23	68.93
24	68.99
25	69.00
26	68.85
27	68.77
28	68.83
29	68.76
30	68.78
31	68.76
32	68.17
33	67.57
34	68.08
35	67.63
36	68.21
37	67.60
38	68.06
39	67.22
40	66.67
41	67.03
42	66.89
43	66.83
44	66.34
45	66.74
46	66.44
47	66.89
48	66.47
49	65.91
50	66.31
51	66.53
52	66.26
53	66.21
54	66.86
55	65.55
56	66.20
57	68.85
58	68.77