Land to the East of Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Jayflex Construction Limited

by Steve Ford
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BMF05/116

October 2006
Summary

Site name: Land to the east of Horton Road, Colnbrook Berkshire

Grid reference: TQ 0165 7650

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 2nd August-31st October 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: BMF05/116

Summary of results: Some 522 trenches were excavated across the site. This revealed a range of artefacts and deposits ranging from Mesolithic through to post-medieval date. Occupation deposits of Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval date were recorded but with large numbers of undated linear features (field boundaries?) also found. In general, finds were few and both the artefacts and preservation are typical of dry land locations.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course.
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a c. 50ha parcel of land forming a single large field located to the east of Horton Road and south of Colnbrook, Slough, Berkshire (TQ 0165 7650) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Alan Fitzpatrick of Jayflex Construction Limited, The Royal Waiting Room, Datchet Road, Windsor, SL4 1QG.

Planning permission is to be sought from Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the extraction of sand and gravel. The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desktop study (Preston 2005) and in order to mitigate the effects of development on the archaeological heritage, a field evaluation has been required to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990), and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead’s policies on archaeology on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology who advises the borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford with the assistance of Sue Burden, James Haygreen, James McNicoll-Norbury, Freya Massey, Danielle Milbank, Anthony Morrin, Mary O’Donoghue, Georgina Pascoe and Sean Wallis from 2nd August to 31st October 2006 and the site code is BMF 05/116. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site currently consists of a single field of agricultural land which is partly dissected by a hedge and another former boundary surviving as a bank. The extraction area consists of c. 50ha of land which is centred on TQ 0165 7650. The site is bounded to the north-west and west by Horton Road with the Queen Mother reservoir beyond, to the north-east by Colnbrook and to the south by Horton village. To the east of the site is further farmland.
The land is relatively flat, at an elevation varying only from 18.8m above Ordnance Datum in the south to 19.3m in the north. Several tracks indicated on Ordnance Survey maps dating from the 1970s which formerly subdivided the site are now only visible as earthworks at the southern end of the site.

The site lies on Flood Plain gravel (Quaternary river terrace deposits) surrounded by alluvium (BGS 1981). The modern ploughsoil was uniformly of about 0.3m thickness below which usually was a silty sand subsoil of variable thickness but usually not less than 0.1m. The trenches were deeper with a greater volume of subsoil at the southern end of the site and also in the proximity to some boundaries and former trackways. The natural geology on-site was most frequently revealed to comprise a thin layer of overburden above the gravel. This was usually of a silty sand, sometimes stony and typically of 0.10–0.15m thickness. In some trenches it was occasionally thicker and included a higher clay content such that the material might be described as ‘brickearth’ in archaeological parlance. A very few trenches were very shallow with topsoil overlying gravel directly and could be considered as gravel ‘islands’. However, none of the surrounding areas contained palaeo-river channels, nor obvious post-glacial alluvial deposits indicative of frequent flooding and the significance of these raised areas as potentially preferred zones for occupation is diminished.

It was anticipated that more extensive areas of ‘brickearth’ would be encountered and that trenches would need to be over-machined and hand cleaned to reveal archaeological deposits. By and large, this problem was not encountered with archaeological deposits being clearly recognizable cutting the silty sand cap to the gravel once the subsoil had been removed. Dark clayey patches were observed in almost every trench and initially these were investigated as a routine. However, the vast majority were unambiguously of non-archaeological origin with irregular edges and profiles and lacking cultural material such as artefacts or charcoal. It was noted that some modern ploughscars which had penetrated the capping material were also infilled with dark clayey material. Several of these patches, though, were present in areas containing certain archaeological deposits and their exact origin is obscure. A number of rootholes contained much charcoal, sometimes with fire reddening of the surrounding material. The brickearth also on occasion contained calcareous deposits. A few of these were investigated but were of geological origin.

Details of the trench stratigraphy are presented in Appendix 1.

**Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment for the project which formed the archaeological contribution to an Environmental Statement (Preston 2005). In summary the site lies
in an archaeologically rich area of eastern Berkshire encompassing the Thames and Colne Valleys with a wide range of sites and finds from early Mesolithic times through to medieval and beyond (Ford 1987; Lewis 1989; MoLAS 2000; Ford and Pine 2003). The gravel terraces of the river Thames are generally regarded as being rich in finds and deposits of both prehistoric and later periods with many sites recorded from the air (e.g., Gates 1975; Longley 1976) and many finds dredged from the river itself.

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

A single phase of fieldwork was agreed with Berkshire Archaeology and which was to comprise the excavation of 545 trenches each 25m long and 1.8m wide and located to examine all areas of the site in a stratified random sampling pattern (approximately a 5% sample by area). Spoilheaps were to be searched for finds.

**Results**

Due to various constraints on the site, some 522 trenches were eventually dug (Fig. 2), all 2.1m wide and between 13.0m and 35.1m in length (for a total area of 26414m², slightly over a 5% sample). The trenches were dug by a 360° machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The trench details are presented in Appendix 1 with the following narrative concerned only with those trenches containing certain or possible archaeological deposits (Fig. 3).

**Trench 2**

This trench was 24.9m long, 0.50m deep and aligned NW-SE. It contained ditch 1 and postholes 5 and 6. Ditch 1 was 0.33m deep and 1.0m wide and had two fills (50, 54). It was aligned NE-SW. Posthole 5 was 0.39m across and 0.17m deep and had a single fill (55). Posthole 6 was 0.4m across and 0.12m deep with a single fill (56). No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.
Trench 3
This trench was 27.4m long, 0.45m deep and aligned NNW- SSE. It contained a possible short length of ditch aligned north-south (7) which was 0.3m deep and 1.17m wide with a single fill (57). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 4
This trench was 24.8m long, 0.45m deep and aligned NNW- SSE. It contained gully 2 which was 0.49m across and 0.12m deep and had a single fill (51). It was aligned WSW-ENE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 8
This trench was 27.3m long, 0.5m deep and aligned NNE- SSW. It contained posthole (8) which was 0.14m across and 0.2m deep and had a single fill (58). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 13
This trench was 27.4m long, 0.4m deep, aligned NE-SW. It contained ditch 3, which was 0.3m deep and 1.3m wide and had a single fill (52). It was aligned east-west. It contained fragments of animal bone and a single prehistoric struck flint as possible dating evidence.

Trench 14
This trench was 32.0m long, 0.4m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch 4, 0.25m deep and 0.31m wide which had a single fill (53). It was aligned SW-NE. It contained a few fragments of animal bone but no dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 17
This trench was 20.1m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained a probable treehole (12), which was 0.12m deep and 0.94m across which had a single fill (64). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 20
This trench was 22.4m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NE-SW. It contained ditch 13, 0.4m deep and 0.97m wide which had a single fill (65). It was aligned NW-SE. It contained 11 sherds of prehistoric date.

Trench 21
This trench was 24.6m long, 0.5m deep, aligned NE-SW. It contained two ditches (30, 31) and a probable tree hole (32). Ditch 30 was 0.35m deep and 0.7m wide with a single fill (83). It was aligned SW-NE and contained one sherd of Iron Age pottery. Ditch 31, which cut ditch 30, was 0.83m deep and 0.68m wide with three fills (84-86). It was aligned NW-SE.

Trench 22
This trench was 25.0m long, 0.4m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch 11, 0.36m deep and 1.36m wide which had a single fill (63). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 24
This trench was 26.1m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a ditch (14) and a ditch with a gang junction (16, 17). Ditch 14 was 0.28m deep and 1.14m wide which had a single fill (66). It was aligned SW-NE. Ditch 16 (fill 68) was 0.53m deep and 17 (fill 69) was 0.37m deep. Both were aligned NW-SE and joined as two terminals forming a gang junction partly lying beneath the baulk. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features and the stratigraphic sequence between ditches 14 and 16/17 could not be established within the trench.

Trench 25
This trench was 24.8m long, 0.4m deep, aligned north-south. It contained gully 15, 0.17m deep and 1.4m wide which had a single fill (67). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 27
This trench was 24.3m long, 0.45m deep and aligned NW-SE. It contained four postholes (20-23). Posthole (20) was 0.29m across and 0.18m deep and had a single fill (72). Posthole (21) was 0.29m across and 0.15m deep with a single fill (73). It contained one sherd of probable Iron Age pottery. Posthole (22) was 0.34m across and 0.10m deep and had a single fill (74). Posthole (23) was 0.15m across and 0.16m deep and had a single fill (75).

Trench 29 [Plate 1]
This trench was 24.4m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained a gully with a gang junction (18, 19). It was aligned NW-SE. Gully terminal 18 (fill 70) was 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a few fragments of prehistoric pottery. Gully terminal 19 (fill 71) was 0.45m wide and 0.18m deep but no dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 32
This trench was 25.8m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a ditch (26), 0.23m deep and 1.7m wide which had a single fill (78). The profile suggests that it might comprise two features. It was aligned WSW-ENE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 33
This trench was 23.6m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained gullies 24 and 25, both aligned NW-SE. Gully 24 (fill 76) was 0.10m deep and 0.18m wide which had a single fill (67). No dating evidence was recovered. Gully 25 was 0.35m deep and 0.12m wide with a single fill (77) and one sherd of Iron Age pottery.

Trench 34
This trench was 29.2m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained two ditches (27, 28). Ditch 28 had a sinuous edge and was located mostly beneath the baulk. As such it might be a pit group. A slot was dug and showed it to be 0.3m deep with a single fill (80). It was aligned SW-NE. A prehistoric struck flint was the only
dating evidence was recovered. Ditch (27) was 1.05m wide and 0.22m deep with a single fill (79). It was aligned NW-SE. Dating evidence was limited to one prehistoric struck flint.

**Trench 37**
This trench was 22.6m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained two gullies (38 and 39) both aligned SE-NW. Gully (38) was 0.10m deep and 0.32m wide which had two fills (92, 94) and may represent two discrete features. It one sherd of early prehistoric pottery. Gully 39 was 0.16m deep and 0.79m wide with a single fill (93). No dating evidence was recovered. Three other doubtful features (35-37) were investigated within this trench. These might be post holes.

**Trench 39**
This trench was 24.3m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained two gully terminals (45, 46), which were partially obscured by subsoil or midden material. Gully terminal 45 was 0.14m deep and 0.3m wide and had a single fill (152). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered. Gully terminal (46) was 0.15m deep and 0.6m wide which had a single fill (153). It was aligned NNW-SSE. No dating evidence was recovered. The subsoil material was investigated by two sondages (95, 96) and found to be 0.15m deep overlying gravel but contained no cultural material.

**Trench 47**
This trench was 25.2m long, 0.55m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gullies 9 and 10. Gully 9 was 0.28m deep and 0.57m wide with a single fill (59). Gully 10 was 0.2m deep and 0.47m wide and had three fills (60-62). Both were aligned NE-SW. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 51**
This trench was 20.3m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a ditch (121) 0.33m deep and 1.3m wide which had a single fill (179). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 52**
This trench was 30.4m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NE-SW. It contained ditch 120, 0.5m deep and 0.50m wide which had a single fill (178). It was aligned NNE-SSW. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 53**
This trench was 21.5m long, 0.5m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a wide ditch (43), 0.23m deep and 2.6m wide which had a single fill (150). It was aligned SW-NE. Its width suggests that it might possibly be composed of two features though there is little evidence for this in the profile. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 57**
This trench was 23.6m long, 0.4m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained ditch 44, 0.54m deep and 1.62m wide which had a single fill (151). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 59
This trench was 29.5m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch 41, 0.33m deep and 0.81m wide which had a single fill (98). It was aligned NNW-SSE. No dating evidence was recovered. This ditch may be the same ditch (42) as that examined in Trench 60.

Trench 60
This trench was 23.1m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch 42, 0.12m deep and 0.77m wide which had a single fill (99). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered. This ditch may be the same ditch (41) as that examined in Trench 59.

Trench 61
This trench was 29.0m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained ditch (47), 0.55m deep and 0.94m wide which had a single fill (154). It was aligned NW-SE. A few fragments of animal bone but no dating evidence was recovered. Two possible features (48, 49) were investigated in this trench but are considered to be tree holes.

Trench 64
This trench was 27.6m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a probable pit (100) which was 0.8m across and 0.2m deep which had a single fill (157). Apart from animal bone, no finds were recovered.

Trench 66
This trench was 27.0m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a ditch (101) and a gully terminal (102). Ditch 101 was 0.28m deep and 0.56m across which had a single fill (159). It was aligned WSW-ENE. No dating evidence was recovered. Gully terminal (102) was 0.34m wide and 0.07m deep with a single fill (160). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 67
This trench was 30.6m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained two parallel ditches (33, 103) aligned SW-NE, one of which may be a recut of the other. Ditch 33 was 0.32m deep and 1.1m wide which had a single fill (88). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered. Ditch 103 was 0.2m deep and 0.8m wide which also had a single fill (158). No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

Trench 72
This trench was 27.3m long, 0.45m deep, aligned east-west. It contained two ditches (110, 111) both aligned NW-SE. Ditch 110, 0.43m deep and 0.61m wide had a single fill (167). No dating evidence was recovered. Ditch 111, 0.30m deep and 0.65m wide had a single fill (168). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 75
This trench was 28.8m long, 0.55m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained two ditches (113, 114). Ditch 113 was 0.50m deep and 1.1m wide and had two fills (170, 175). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was
recovered. Ditch 114 was 0.20m deep and 0.5m wide and had one fill (171). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 79
This trench was 22.1m long, 0.5m deep, aligned NE-SW. It contained gully 108, 0.28m deep and 0.58m wide which had a single fill (165). The gully curved slightly but was more or less aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 80
This trench was 26.0m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SSE-NNW. It contained gully 109, 0.16m deep and 0.50m wide which had a single fill (166). It was aligned SSW-NNE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 81
This trench was 24.8m long, 0.4m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a ditch (112), 0.11m deep and 0.61m wide with a single fill (169). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 82
This trench was 21.5m long, 0.5m deep, aligned WSW-ESE. It contained two ditches (115, 116). Ditch 115 0.11m deep and 0.65m wide had a single fill (172). It was aligned NNE-SSW. No dating evidence was recovered. Ditch 116 0.18m deep and 1.2m wide had a single fill (173). It was aligned WNW-ESE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 83
This trench was 32.1m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch 119, 0.82m deep and 1.25m wide which had two fills (177, 183). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 87
This trench was 26.9 long, 0.5m deep, aligned WNW-ESE. It contained ditch 117, 0.22m deep and 0.80m wide which had a single fill (174). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 90
This trench was 22.4m long, 0.45m deep, aligned east-west. It contained a possible pit or treehole (123), 0.16m deep and 0.50m wide which had a single fill (181). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 92
This trench was 22.0m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a possible pit (122) partly located beneath the baulk. It was 0.16m deep and 0.50m wide which had a single fill (180). No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 99
This trench was 24.2m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained two ditches (126, 127). Ditch 126 was 0.90m deep and 2.31m wide which had a single fill (184). It was aligned NW-SE. 5 sherds of early prehistoric pottery were recovered as dating evidence. Gully (127) was 0.14m deep and 0.74m wide which had a single fill (185). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 100
This trench was 19.0m long, 0.6m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch (124), 0.22m deep and 0.95m wide which had a single fill (182). It was aligned SW-NE. Seven sherds of early prehistoric pottery were recovered as dating evidence.

Trench 102
This trench was 29.6m long, 0.45m deep, aligned east-west. It contained a large dark silty sand spread (125). A sondage 0.53m x 0.43m was dug through it and revealed that natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.33m. It is considered that this deposit is a localized patch of subsoil occupying a small hollow. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 117
This trench was 26.4m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained a ditch and a gully (129, 137). Gully (129) was 0.3m deep and 0.47m wide with a single fill (187). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered. Ditch 137 was 0.65m deep and 1.6m wide which had a single fill (196). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 119
This trench was 24.2m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained a gully and a ditch (128, 130), postholes (131, 132) and a pit (135). Gully 128, 0.15m deep and 0.81m wide which had a single fill (186). It was aligned west-east and tile fragments indicated a post-medieval date. Ditch 130, 0.48m deep and 1.26m wide which had a single fill (188). It was aligned SE-NW. One sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered as possible dating evidence. Posthole 131 was 0.24m across and 0.15m deep with a single fill (189) It contained animal bone and struck flint as possible dating evidence. Posthole 132 was 0.32m across and 0.11m deep with a single fill (190). No dating evidence was recovered. Pit 135 was 0.72m across and 0.22m deep with a single fill (193) It contained animal bone but no dating evidence.

Trench 120
This trench was 24.5m long, 0.4m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a ditch (142), 0.69m deep and 1.56m wide which had one fill (251). It was aligned NW-SE. Five sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered as dating evidence in addition to two sherds of early prehistoric pottery.
Trench 126
This trench was 33.0m long, 0.45m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained ditch (136), 0.46m deep and 0.94m wide which had two fills (194, 195). It was aligned west-east. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 141
This trench was 27.4m long, 0.5m deep, aligned west-east. It contained ditch (138), 0.31m deep and 0.45m wide which had a single fill (197). It was aligned NW-SE. One prehistoric struck flint were recovered as possible dating evidence.

Trench 142
This trench was 24.6m long, 0.4m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gully (141), 0.07m deep and 0.28m wide which had a single fill (250). It was aligned WSW-ESE. No dating evidence was recovered. This feature is possibly the same as ditch 140 in Trench 150.

Trench 150
This trench was 23.0m long, 0.5m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained two parallel ditches (139, 140). Ditch 139, 0.2m deep and 0.7m wide had a single fill (198). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.
Gully 140, 0.2m deep and 0.6m wide had a single fill (199). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered. It is possible that this feature is the same as ditch 141 in Trench 142.

Trench 163
This trench was 26.7m long, 0.6m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch (147), 0.20m deep and 0.59m wide which had one fill (256). It was aligned NNW-SSE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 166
This trench was 25.9m long, 0.4m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (207), 0.24m deep and 0.72m wide which had one fill (266). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 186
This trench was 20.6m long, 0.9m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch (143), 0.46m deep and 0.94m wide which had one fill (252). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 187
This trench was 20.5m long, 0.73m deep, aligned NE-SW. It contained gully (145), 0.12m deep and 0.46m wide which had one fill (254). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 196
This trench was 22.0m long, 0.7m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained gully terminal (149), 0.33m deep and 0.83m wide which had one fill (258). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 208
This trench was 28.5m long, 0.6m deep, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained gully (144), 0.16m deep and 0.48m wide which had one fill (253). It was aligned WSW-ESE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 211
This trench was 26.0m long, 0.58m deep, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained ditch (146), 0.35m deep and 0.80m wide which had one fill (255). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 218
This trench was 26.0m long, 0.46m deep, aligned east-west. It contained a ditch (200), 0.28m deep and 0.87m wide which had one fill (259). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 221
This trench was 22.0m long, 0.52m deep, aligned north-south. It contained gully (148), 0.07m deep and 0.28m wide which had one fill (257). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 222
This trench was 19.2m long, 0.5m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (208), 0.44m deep and 1.35m wide which had one fill (267). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 229
This trench was 21.2m long, 0.55m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (211), 0.15m deep and 1.2m wide which had one fill (270). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 230
This trench was 20.1m long, 0.5m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (201), 0.41m deep and 1.35m wide which had one fill (260). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 232
This trench was 19.8m long, 0.5m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained one ditch (212), 0.1m deep and 1.2m wide which had one fill (271). It was aligned NNW-SSE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 238
This trench was 20.0m long, 0.48m deep, aligned WNW-ESE. It contained a pit or ditch terminal (202), 0.55m deep and 1.96m wide which had one fill (261). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 240
This trench was 24.0m long, 0.54m deep, aligned north-south. It contained gully (209), 0.11m deep and 0.72m wide which had one fill (268). It was aligned WNW-ESE. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 258
This trench was 20.2m long, 0.50m deep, aligned north-south. It contained gully (203), 0.21m deep and 0.56m wide which had one fill (262). It was aligned NW-SE. A well produced flint blade was the only item recovered as dating evidence.

Trench 260
This trench was 19.6m long, 0.53m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a pit or possibly a tree hole (210), 0.18m deep and 0.55m across which had one fill (269). A large sherd (in 17 pieces) of Late Bronze Age pottery provided dating evidence for this feature.

Trench 262
This trench was 20.2m long, 0.46m deep, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained ditch (247), 0.20m deep and 0.75m wide which had one fill (355). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 267
This trench was 22.2m long, 0.53m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (248), 0.09m deep and 0.75m wide which had one fill (356). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 272
This trench was 17.6m long, 0.52m deep, aligned north-south. It contained one posthole (218), 0.09m deep and 0.21m across which had one fill (279). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 276
This trench was 20.4m long, 0.5m deep, aligned WNW-ESE. It contained ditch (217), 0.25m deep and 0.57m wide which had one fill (278). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 277
This trench was 21.6m long, 0.46m deep, aligned east-west. It contained gully (204), 0.22m deep and 0.50m wide which had one fill (263). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 282
This trench was 18.7m long, 0.6m deep, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained gully (206), 0.12m deep and 0.41m wide which had one fill (265). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 288
This trench was 21.0m long, 0.6m deep, aligned east-west. It contained two ditches (219, 220). Ditch 219, 0.15m deep and 0.48m wide had one fill (285). It cut (recut) ditch 220 which was 0.18m deep and 0.62m wide and one fill (286). Both were aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.
Trench 289
This trench was 22.0m long, 0.8m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained gully 221, 0.1m deep and 0.97m wide which had one fill (287). It was aligned north-south. It contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery as dating evidence.

Trench 296
This trench was 24.2m long, 0.48m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gully terminal (205), 0.11m deep and 0.55m wide which had one fill (264). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 303
This trench was 23.0m long, 0.5m deep, aligned east-west. It contained a ditch (231) and three postholes (228-230). Ditch 231 was 0.14m deep and 1.25m wide with one fill (284). It was aligned north-south. A sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery provided dating evidence. Posthole 230 was 0.13m deep and 0.21m across. A sherd of prehistoric pottery provided dating evidence. Posthole 228 was 0.13m deep and 0.3m across. Posthole 229 was 0.10m deep and 0.19m across. No dating evidence was recovered from the latter two features.

Trench 307
This trench was 23.0m long, 0.52m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gully (214), 0.14m deep and 0.69m wide which had one fill (273). It was aligned SW-NE. A single struck flint was the only dating evidence recovered.

Trench 308
This trench was 20.8m long, 0.42m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (213), 0.12m deep and 1.66m wide which had one fill (272). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 309
This trench was 24.4m long, 0.55m deep, aligned east-west. It contained gully (215), 0.10m deep and 0.5m wide which had one fill (274). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 312
This trench was 20.4m long, 0.54m deep, aligned north-south. It contained two ditches (225, 226) and a gully (227) all parallel and aligned SW-NE. Ditch 225 was, 0.36m deep and 1.28m wide which had one fill (465). Ditch 226 was 0.14m deep and 0.45m wide with one fill (466). Gully (227) which was 0.08m deep and 0.3m wide had one fill (466). No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.

Trench 313
This trench was 24.0m long, 0.54m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained hearth (216) and gully (222). Hearth (216) was 0.2m deep and 027m wide but partly lay beneath the baulk. It had three fills (275–277), the middle fill of which (276) was fire-reddened. No dating evidence was recovered. Gully (222) was 0.08m deep and 0.58m wide with one fill (280). It was aligned WNW-ESE. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 315
This trench was 25.0m long, 0.52m deep, aligned east-west. It contained a gully (223), 0.14m deep and 0.65m wide which had one fill (288). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 316
This trench was 23.6m long, 0.55m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained gully (224), 0.12m deep and 0.7m wide which had one fill (289). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 317
This trench was 22.1m long, 0.51m deep, aligned WSW-ENE. It contained a ditch (245), 0.35m deep and 0.72m wide which had one fill (353). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 320
This trench was 21.5m long, 0.51m deep, aligned WSW-ENE. It contained one ditch (232), 0.35m deep and 0.65m wide which had one fill (296). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 322
This trench was 27.7m long, 0.45m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch (233), 0.2m deep and 0.8m wide which had one fill (297). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 323
This trench was 24.1m long, 0.54m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch (234), 0.1m deep and 0.48m wide which had one fill (298). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 326
This trench was 25.2m long, 0.5m deep, aligned WSW-ENE. It contained ditch (235), 0.22m deep and 0.75m wide which had one fill (299). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 329 [Plate 2]
This trench was 21.0m long, 0.49m deep, aligned north-south. It contained three gullies (238, 239, 240) all parallel to each other aligned east-west. Gully (238), 0.15m deep and 0.42m wide had one fill (291). Gully 239, 0.16m deep and 0.40m wide had one fill (292). It was cut (recut?) by gully 240. Gully 240, 0.15m deep and 0.76m wide had one fill (293). No dating evidence was recovered from any of these gullies.

Trench 330
This trench was 25.6m long, 0.54m deep, aligned north-south. It contained gully (244), 0.13m deep and 0.58m wide which had one fill (352). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 331
This trench was 21.0m long, 0.55m deep, aligned WNW-SSE. It contained a gully (241), 0.10m deep and 0.47m wide which had one fill (294). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 336
This trench was 22.0m long, 0.5m deep, aligned north-south. It contained one posthole (236), 0.11m deep and 0.3m across which had one fill (295). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 337
This trench was 20.2m long, 0.52m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a gully (243) and a gully terminal (242). Gully (243), 0.12m deep and 0.471m wide had one fill (351). Gully terminal (242) was 0.1m deep and 0.54m wide and had one fill (350). Both were aligned NW-SE and neither contained any dating evidence.

Trench 346
This trench was 23.0m long, 0.6m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (237), 0.12m deep and 1.12m wide which had one fill (290). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 347
This trench was 22.5m long, 0.53m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained ditch (301), 0.22m deep and 1.0m wide which had one fill (359). This ditch formed the corner of a rectangular plan and was aligned north-south and east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 351
This trench was 24.2m long, 0.56m deep, aligned east-west. It contained pit (300), 0.25m deep and 0.60m wide which had one fill (358). 2 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery provided dating evidence.

Trench 354
This trench was 22.7m long, 0.6m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained a possible gully (302), 0.12m deep and 0.90m wide which had one fill (360). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 372
This trench was 22.1m long, 0.54m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained ditch (249), 0.13m deep and 0.6m wide which had one fill (357). It was aligned SW-NE. Struck flint was the only dating evidence recovered.

Trench 373
This trench was 18.8m long, 0.52m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a short ditch (304) and a ditch (307). For ditch (304) both terminals were located in the trench, though it is possible that a second feature or treehole has obscured the southern terminal. It was 0.45m deep and 1.3m wide which had one fill (362). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered. Ditch (307), 0.30m deep and 0.85m wide which had one fill (365). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 374
This trench was 22m long, 0.55m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a gully (305) and a gully terminal (306). Gully (305), 0.10m deep and 0.7m wide which had one fill (363). It was partially cut (recut) by gully 306. No
dating evidence was recovered. Gully terminal (306) was 0.10m deep and 0.8m wide which had one fill (364). A single flint scraper provided the only dating evidence recovered. Both were aligned NW-SE.

**Trench 375**
This trench was 21.1m long, 0.6m deep, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained ditch (303), 0.26m deep and 1.0m wide which had one fill (361). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 376**
This trench was 21.4m long, 0.49m deep, aligned SSW-NNE. It contained a sinuous ditch examined by two slots (308, 309). It was 0.12m deep and 0.7m wide which had one fill (366/367). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 380**
This trench was 20.5m long, 0.45m deep, aligned SE-NW. It contained gully (246), 0.22m deep and 0.53m wide which had one fill (354). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 382**
This trench was 22.0m long, 0.48m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained ditch (312), 0.22m deep and 1.13m wide which had one fill (370). The profile of this feature suggests that it is possibly two features. It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 384**
This trench was 22.1m long, 0.55m deep, aligned east-west. It contained two ditches (310, 311). Ditch (310) was 0.22m deep and 0.73m wide which had one fill (368). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered. Ditch 311, was 0.18m deep and 0.19m wide which had one fill (364). It was aligned SW-NE. This ditch contained post-medieval tile.

**Trench 389**
This trench was 27.1m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained two gullies (318, 319). Gully 318, 0.20m deep and 0.62m wide which had one fill (376). It was aligned SW-NE. Possible gully (319) was 0.16m deep and 0.60m wide which had one fill (377). This feature slightly curved in plan but was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 391**
This trench was 25.2m long, 0.5m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained two ditches (313, 314). Ditch 313, 0.23m deep and 0.88m wide which had one fill (371). It was aligned WSW-ENE. No dating evidence was recovered. Ditch 314, 0.2m deep and 0.7m wide which had one fill (372). It was aligned WSW-ENE. It contained an iron object suggesting that the feature might be of post-medieval date.
**Trench 392**
This trench was 25.5m long, 0.49 deep, aligned east-west. It contained two gullies (34, 427). Gully 34 was a doubtful feature 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep, aligned north-west. Gully (427) was 0.3m wide and aligned north-south. A large fragment of brick indicated a post-medieval date.

**Trench 393**
This trench was 24.6m long, 0.4m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained gully (325), 0.07m deep and 0.58m wide which had one fill (383). It was aligned east-west. Two large tile fragments indicated that the feature was of post-medieval date.

**Trench 394**
This trench was 24.1m long, 0.56m deep, aligned north-south. It contained two gullies (320, 321) which intersected and a feature investigated but considered to be a treehole (322). Gully 320 was, 0.13m deep and 0.4m wide which had one fill (378). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered. Gully 321 was, 0.13m deep and 0.46 wide which had one fill (37). It was aligned SW-NE. Neither gully provided any dating evidence and neither could the stratigraphic relationship between them be established.

**Trench 397**
This trench was 22.1m long, 0.88m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained a gully (317), 0.11m deep and 0.53m wide which had one fill (375). It was aligned NNW-SSE. No dating evidence was recovered.

**Trench 398**
This trench was 24.2m long, 0.57m deep aligned north-south. It contained two gullies (326, 328) and one posthole (327). Gully 326, 0.12m deep and 0.25m wide had one fill (384). It was aligned SW-NE. Gully (328), 0.09m deep and 0.49m wide had one fill (386). It was aligned NW-SE. Posthole (327) was 0.26m across and 0.14m deep with a stepped profile. It had one fill (385). No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.

**Trench 400**
This trench was 25.4m long, 0.62m deep, aligned WNW-ESE. It contained two gullies (323, 324). Gully (323), 0.18m deep and 0.37m wide which had one fill (381). It was aligned NW-SE. Gully (324), 0.12m deep and 0.36m wide which had one fill (382). It was aligned SW-NE. Neither contained dating evidence.

**Trench 408**
This trench was 21.6m long, 0.58m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained one gully (329), 0.24m deep and 0.84m wide which had one fill (387). It was aligned NW-SE. A sherd of Roman pottery provided dating evidence.
Trench 417  
This trench was 21.2m long, 0.57m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained ditch (333), 0.58m deep and 1.46m wide which had one fill (391). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 433  
This trench was 22.3m long, 0.52m deep, aligned east-west. It contained gully (332), 0.10m deep and 0.63m wide which had one fill (390). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 435  
This trench was 22.0m long, 0.47m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a ditch (418) which was unexcavated, 1.0m wide and aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 437  
This trench was 23.3m long, 0.52m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a ditch (415) which was unexcavated, 1.12m wide and aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 438  
This trench was 19.5m long, 0.66m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained a ditch (416) which was unexcavated, 0.78m wide and aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 439  
This trench was 21.0m long, 0.54m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gully (330), 0.09m deep and 1.0m wide which had one fill (388). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 440  
This trench was 21.0m long, 0.57m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gully (331), 0.13m deep and 1.06m wide which had one fill (389). It was aligned NW-SE. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery provided dating evidence.

Trench 449  
This trench was 27.0m long, 0.57m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gully (336) and gully terminal (337). Gully (336), 0.09m deep and 0.55m wide had one fill (394). It was aligned WNW-ESE. No dating evidence was recovered. Gully terminal 337, 0.09m deep and 0.50m wide had one fill (395). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 452  
This trench was 29.1m long, 0.6m deep, aligned north-south (NE–SW). It contained three gullies (343, 344, 345). Gully 343 0.2m deep and 1.15m wide which had one fill (453). It was aligned east-west and tile fragments indicated a post-medieval date. Gully 344 was 0.17m deep and 1.55m wide which had one fill (454). It was aligned SW-NE and it intersected gully 345 though the stratigraphic sequence was unclear. Gully (345) 0.14m deep and 0.65m wide had one fill (455). It was also aligned SW-NE. Neither of the latter two gullies produced dating evidence.
Trench 456
This trench was 28.2m long, 0.52m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a ditch (407) which was unexcavated, 0.7m wide and east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 462
This trench was 30.2m long, 0.60m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained three gullies (340, 408, 409). Gully (408) was unexcavated, 0.4m wide and was aligned WNW-SSE. Gully (409) was also unexcavated, 0.72m wide and was aligned WNW-SSE. Gully (340) was 0.2m deep and 0.7m wide with one fill (398). It was aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 463 [Plate 3]
This trench was 28.2m long, 0.6m deep, aligned WNW-ESE. It contained several pits (420, 421, 423, 424, 428, 335) and gully (422). Pit (335) was 0.98m across and was excavated to a depth of 0.65m and augered to a further 0.65m below this. It contained two fills (393, 399) which produced 15 sherds of prehistoric date, one of Roman date and one undated sherd. Spoilheap finds indicate that the other unexcavated features in this trench are also likely to be of medieval date.

Trench 465
This trench was 30.2m long, 0.4m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained gully (341), 0.18m deep and 0.68m wide which had one fill (450). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 468
This trench was 29.4m long, 0.55m deep, aligned WSW-ENE. It contained a ditch (342), 0.5m deep and 1.05m wide and had two fills (451, 452). It was aligned north-south. A sherd of Bronze Age pottery provided dating evidence.

Trench 469
This trench was 27.9m long, 0.4m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained gully (339), 0.10m deep and 0.48m wide which had one fill (389). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 470
This trench was 25.8m long, 0.45m deep, aligned north-south. It contained ditch (411), which was unexcavated, 0.5m wide and aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 472
This trench was 27.4m long, 0.48m deep, aligned NW-SE. It contained a ditch (413) which was unexcavated, 0.5m wide and aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 473
This trench was 27.2m long, 0.48m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained a gully (346), 0.1m deep and 0.6m wide which had one fill (457). It was aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 474
This trench was 27.0m long, 0.48m deep, aligned SSW-NNE. It contained ditch (414) which was unexcavated, 0.54m wide and aligned east-west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 480
This trench was 28.8m long, 0.6m deep, aligned east-west. It contained a ditch (412) which was unexcavated, 0.7m wide and aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 487
This trench was 31.1m long, 0.5m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained ditch (334), 0.25m deep and 0.25m wide which had one fill (392). It was aligned WSW-ENE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 488
This trench was 32.6m long, 0.5m deep, aligned WNW-ENE. It contained a ditch (410) which was unexcavated, 0.6m wide and aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 501
This trench was 31.5m long, 0.52m deep, aligned east-west. It contained a ditch (338), pits (315, 316) a gully (419) and a posthole (425). Ditch (338) was 1m wide and 0.42m deep, aligned NW-SE. It did not produce any datable finds but was cut by LBA pit (316). Pits (315) and (316) were shallow bowl-shaped features 1.2m across and 0.18m deep and partly merged into each other. Both were prodigious in finds of pottery (68 and 178 sherds respectively with a further 33 sherds from either pit) with some struck and burnt flint. Gully 419 was unexcavated but was cut by LBA pit 316. Posthole 425 was unexcavated.

Trench 506
This trench was 28.9m long, 0.55m deep, aligned north-south. It contained gully (348), 0.16m deep and 1.18m wide which had one fill (456). The gully gently curved from south west to north west. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 507
This trench was 32.6m long, 0.5m deep, aligned north-south. It contained a ditch (426) which was unexcavated, 1.04m wide and aligned NW-SE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 510
This trench was 31.5m long, 0.57m deep, aligned WNW-ESE. It contained gully 347, 0.08m deep and 0.6m wide which had one fill (458). It was aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered.
Trench 513
This trench was 28.7m long, 0.73m deep (but overcut by 0.2m) aligned east-west. It contained a small pit (349) and a gully (400). Pit (349), 0.45m deep oval shaped in plan 0.7m x 0.4m across which had one fill (459). It was largely backfilled with burnt flint but no dating evidence was recovered. Ditch (400) was 0.3m deep and 1.0m wide which had one fill (460). It was aligned SW-NE. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 514
This trench was 30.2m long, 0.53m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained one gully (417) which was unexcavated, 0.22m wide and aligned NW-SE. This features was densely infilled with burnt flint but otherwise no dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 517
This trench was 25.0m long, 0.8m deep, aligned east-west. It contained two ditches (401, 402). Ditch 401, 0.2m deep and 1.24m wide which had one fill (461). It was aligned north-south. One sherd of medieval pottery provided dating evidence. Ditch 402, 0.3m deep and 1.7m wide which had one fill (462). It was aligned NW-SE. Apart from some animal bone, no dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 518
This trench was 23.4m long, 0.76m deep, aligned east-west. It contained ditch (403). Ditch (403), 0.18m deep and 1.25m wide had two fills (463, 464). It was aligned north-south. 1 sherd of medieval pottery provided dating evidence.

Trench 521
This trench was 25.9m long, 0.88m deep, aligned west-east. It contained a pit (405) more than 4m in diameter and a ditch (406) 1m wide aligned east-west. Neither feature was excavated but it seems likely that pit 405 cuts ditch 406. 4 sherds of pottery were recovered as dating evidence from the (truncated) surface.

Trench 522
This trench was 25.4m long, 0.79m deep, aligned SW-NE. It contained a single pit (404) more than 8m in diameter that occupied most of the north eastern end of the trench. It was unexcavated but 3 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered as dating evidence from the (truncated) surface.

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

The evaluation resulted in the recovery of an assemblage of 456 sherds of pottery weighing 4097g. The assemblage covered a wide chronological range with sherds dating from the Neolithic period through to post-medieval times. Overall pottery was recovered from 62 different trenches of which 60% produced single sherds
only and a further 14.5% two sherds. A particularly large assemblage of some 283 sherds, 62% of the total assemblage, came from Trench 501. The sherds were of variable condition. The overall average sherd weight is just 9g but in reality the assemblage comprised a mixture of larger better-preserved pieces and some very small sherds. The fresher, larger sherds came from the negative feature fills. For the purpose of this assessment the assemblage was scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight. The low incidence of featured sherds and the diverse chronological range meant that some pieces could not be dated with a high level of confidence. The resulting data are summarized in Appendix 3.

In the following report the assemblage is described chronologically.

Early prehistoric
Sixteen sherds were considered to be potentially of early prehistoric date. In all cases the sherds are coarse calcined flint-tempered bodysersheds. There were no featured sherds to confirm the presence of Neolithic wares but sherds from trench 37 and possibly trenches 99, 100, 120 and 289 are strong candidates. A similar temper of variable coarseness was also used for middle and later Bronze Age material.

Neolithic activity is already well documented from around Horton with significant finds of pottery and other artefacts (Preston 2003).

Two possible sherds of Bronze Age urn were identified, one flint-tempered sherd from trench 152 and one grog-tempered sherd from trench 468.

Late Bronze Age
Sherds probably dating to the later Bronze Age formed the greatest component of the assemblage with some 313 sherds. The majority of sherds were calcined flint-tempered with a small number of fine sandy dark grey pieces. The grading and quantity of flint varied greatly between sherds suggestive of a number of different vessels, possibly of variable size and capacity.

The group includes a number of rims from handmade everted or flared rim jar forms, some with finger depressed rim edges. One oxidised vessel had a thickened, folded over rim, which had been thumb-depressed on the side and top. A few sherds also had finger depressions on the body. Some of the base sherds showed slightly protruding feet and in at least one case the underside had been heavily gritted with additional flint.

Most of the later Bronze Age assemblage came from trench 501 with 68 sherds and 178 sherds respectively from features 315 and 316. Smaller numbers of sherds were noted from trenches 21, 119, 120, 260, 303, 351 and 473. Feature 210 in trench 260 produced several sherds from one vessel.

Typologically the assemblage shows similar traits to the material excavated at Reading Business Park, Aldermaston Wharf and Knight’s Farm, Burghfield (Hall 1992; Bradley et al. 1980).
**Iron Age**

Seven sherds were allocated to the Iron Age period. Again the sherds were largely flint-tempered but of different character to the preceding material. Featured sherds were again absent.

Trenches with potentially Iron Age material include 21, 33, 99, 119 and 440.

In addition some 31 sherds could not be dated any closer than ‘prehistoric’. Some of these just comprised small crumbs.

**Roman**

Roman activity, although intimated from at least 16 sherds, appears to be sparse with no obvious foci present. Some of the grey sandy wares could easily be confused with medieval pieces and vice-versa but there are enough rim sherds present to confirm a Roman presence.

Diagnostic pieces, where present, might suggest earlier rather than later Roman date. The low intensity of sherds might suggest manuring scatter out beyond a settlement.

Sherds were recovered from trenches 20, 32, 44, 48, 50, 85, 151, 408, 448, and 463.

**Medieval**

Medieval material was quite well represented with some 56 sherds spread across 27 trenches again suggestive of a background scatter but with a foci at the southern end of the site.

Sherds appear to be mainly from plain domestic jars and include sandy, flint and sandy and limestone, flint and sandy wares equating with Newbury fabrics A-C (Vince 1997) and early Surrey sandy wares.

**Post-medieval**

Some 13 sherds of post-medieval date came from 13 separate trenches. The sherds include English stoneware, glazed and unglazed earthenware and Surrey-Hampshire Border ware.

**Struck flint by Steve Ford**

A small collection of struck flint comprising 115 items including 9 pieces of dubious antiquity was recovered during the evaluation. The collection comprised 84 flakes, 2 narrow flakes (blades), 6 cores, 3 scrapers, a denticulate scraper and 10 spalls. The majority of the finds were recovered from a search of the spoilheaps. The struck flint is detailed in Appendix 4. A small number of the pieces were patinated or burnt.

Apart from a well produced blade from gully 203 in trench 258, which is likely to be of mesolithic or earlier neolithic date none of the remaining flintwork is closely datable, though the finds associated with Late Bronze Age features 315 and 316 seem secure. The remainder can only be attributed a broad Neolithic/Bronze Age date. The distribution of the unstratified struck flint is shown on Figure 24.
Stone by Steve Ford
Three fragments (394g) of Niedermendig lava, probably from quernstones were recovered from the spoilheap of trench 463. It is likely that this material was derived from nearby unexcavated pit 423. This material was used for quernstones and imported in large quantities in the Roman and medieval periods.

Coin by Steve Ford
A single heavily abraded copper alloy coin was recovered from the spoilheap of trench 393. It is probably a 19th century penny but is completely illegible.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys
A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during the evaluation, from 7 different contexts (Appendix 5). A total of 176 fragments were recovered, weighing 848g. The remains were highly fragmented and very poorly preserved. All cortical bone appeared striated and discoloured by the burial environment. There was no evidence of butchery cut marks.

Overall, species identification was minimal, due to the poor preservation of the bone. The majority of identified elements were canine. A dog proximal femur was found in context (364), while a dog distal femur, proximal tibia, and several lumbar vertebrae fragments were retrieved from context 133. The only other identifiable elements were from cattle. A bovine mandible with teeth, and a fragmented tibia were recovered from (364). Contexts 315 and 315/316 contained a large number of tooth fragments. It is important to note that all fragments present from this latter context were infundibulum-type teeth belonging to the bovid/sheep/goat spp. The identifiable fragments were of bovine origin, and thus it is suggested that the fragments present are possibly of cattle, which have become highly fragmented during or after the time of excavation. It is possible, however, that sheep/goat teeth may be represented in the numerous fragments.

A small amount of burnt bone was also recovered from context 315 (373) / 316 (374) (Appendix 6). The majority of burnt pieces were exceedingly small and unidentifiable; however a cow rib and a cow talus fragment were present.

Tile by Steve Ford
A small collection of 14 fragments (646g) of tile were recovered from four gullies as detailed in Appendix 7. The fragments are not closely datable and have no diagnostic features but are of medieval, or more likely, later date.
Charred Plant Remains by Steve Ford

Five contexts were sampled for charred plant remains and a 10Litre subsample of each was floated over a 0.25mm mesh. The details are presented in Appendix 8. All five samples contained wood charcoal but only that from Late Bronze pit 316 produced abundant material. Three other samples produced a few unidentified weed seeds.

Summary and Conclusions

This evaluation of a large parcel of land, as might be expected, based on the results of other similar-sized projects carried out in this region in recent years, has found a wide range of archaeological deposits and finds of various periods. It has again demonstrated a distinction between the landscape scale of archaeological evidence on the one hand and the neat concept of a specific location that the term ‘site’ implies, on the other. It is no surprise that in both historic, and well back into prehistoric times, human populations have widely used this landscape. Earlier studies, such as of upland areas, aerial photography and large scale fieldwalking have frequently demonstrated this elsewhere (Fleming 1978; Ford 1987b; Benson and Miles 1974). Studies such as this evaluation have demonstrated that similar evidence is present in previously ‘blank’ areas and that this survives as below-ground archaeology.

Whilst the above comments touch upon the academically interesting topic of the use of space and landscape in the past, this is of little help in defining archaeological deposits for planning purposes, and these concepts have to be translated into a practical and usable form. The evidence therefore needs categorizing and summarizing and this has been achieved with reference to five categories:

- Stray artefacts finds (casually lost or discarded objects, or those dispersed during manuring)
- Clusters of intensive activity (occupation sites)
- Isolated deposits
- Landscape features (field ditches and boundary features)
- Negative areas.

Before proceeding further, a few comments are applicable to the evaluation in general. Artefacts were generally rare with the majority of deposits containing no datable material. Where finds were recovered, these were usually in small numbers from any one context. There was some bone survival on the site, more so associated with medieval deposits, but it is unclear if the paucity of bone finds in general is due to poor preservation characteristics of the soil, or as for pottery finds, the material was simply not deposited in the first place. No deposits were encountered which contained organically preserved material. The vast majority of the features investigated were shallow and probably never penetrated the water table. It is possible from the size of the largest of the medieval pits/quarry pits (unexcavated) that the lower reaches could include organic remains.
preserved by waterlogging but this speculation is true for most sites; for this site the vast majority of the archaeology will be typical of dry land locations. A limited amount of sieving for charred plant remains was carried out but it was clear from the excavation of the majority of the features that even wood charcoal was not common.

**Stray artefact finds**
The stray artefact finds recovered from the spoilheaps are shown on Figure 24. Finds from stratified contexts are presented in the artefact catalogues only. Finds of struck flint are to be found dispersed widely across the site with no marked tendency to cluster, and no locations have been identified where prehistoric occupation is represented only by a concentration of struck flint within the topsoil. For prehistoric pottery, the numbers are very small, and are restricted to the northern part of the site generally coincident with the distribution of Iron Age deposits. However, this is also broadly true of the few sherds of Roman pottery and with such low numbers this may just be a result of random factors. Medieval pottery is present in three clusters though it is only for the southern cluster that the finds are coincident with medieval features and several are likely to be derived from the latter.

**Clusters of intensive activity (occupation sites)**
Some five areas of the site contain clusters of deposits which can be considered to reflect the presence of occupation sites. These clusters are presented on Figure 25 but the defining characteristics of these zones are variable. For example, parts of the large cluster towards the north of the site include areas containing postholes and pits but the identification of this zone as a single cluster is based on the presence on the linear features which provided the bulk of the pottery dating evidence. The southern part of the site contains trenches with a range of deposit types (pits, postholes, linear features) along with dating evidence. Several other locations contain clusters of undated linear features only, but these too may well be shown if further investigated to represent occupation remains.

**Isolated deposits**
A small number of discrete deposits of interest were found (eg 210, Tr 260) that appear to be well removed from other areas of more intense activity.
**Landscape features (field ditches and boundary features)**

The vast majority of the deposits examined comprised linear features. These were often poorly dated (eg containing only a single struck flint, which may be residual) or wholly undated. As far as could be discerned from the short lengths revealed in the trenches, most of the linear features were straight and are likely to represent field boundaries or paddocks, ie organized landscape features beyond areas of occupation. They were arranged on a variety of orientations and probably reflect several phases of landscape division. On occasion some of these features could be identified as being present in more than one trench but it was not usually possible or wise to attempt to match linear features between trenches to identify specific field layouts.

**Negative areas**

Whilst certain and probable archaeological deposits are present across the whole of the proposal site, several zones in excess of 1ha each contained no such features.

**Period summary**

*Mesolithic, Neolithic, earlier Bronze Age*

These periods were not obviously well represented in the evaluation. A single fine blade was the only struck flint clearly of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. It was recovered from a gully but does not necessarily date that feature. Other flintwork is not closely datable and could as easily be of later (Bronze Age) date as of any earlier periods. Several sherds of pottery were considered to be of earlier prehistoric date (ie not Late Bronze Age or Iron Age) but were to small to be of more certain attribution.

*Late Bronze Age*

Several deposits unambiguously of Late Bronze Age date were discovered with a particular localized cluster towards the southern end of the site (trench 501). Various other deposits across the site produce similar dating evidence but usually from the presence only of a small number of finds. Some of the stray finds of pottery are thought to be derived from urns and if so indicate some middle Bronze Age activity on the site even though this was not demonstrable as surviving cut features.

*Iron Age*

It is considered that a significant proportion of the deposits at the northern end of the site represent Iron Age activity. It is recognized that the term ‘Iron Age’ covers a wide span of time and that the pottery evidence available here is not able to differentiate between the early, middle and later Iron Age periods currently. Whilst many features in this area are undated and even the dated ones rely on the presence of just one or two pottery
sherds, the pattern is, at least, reasonably consistent. It is considered that this Iron Age evidence is typical of the period, with occupied areas surrounded by, or amongst, ditched paddocks, trackways and enclosures. Some of the ditches were substantial and could well define enclosures (for stock or settlement), and others which were ephemeral perhaps typical of paddocks or fields. These deposits did include other occupation indicators such as postholes and pits in small numbers. Some gullies were also of dimensions and curvilinear plan to suggest that they might represent ring gully (house) structures, though this was not unambiguously so.

Roman
Roman finds are surprisingly few with a small collection of abraded pottery from the spoilheaps presumably reflecting manuring. A single sherd from a gully might indicate a Roman date for that feature but otherwise no deposits can be considered unambiguously to be of Roman date.

Saxon and Medieval
No finds or deposits of Saxon date were found. Evidence for the medieval period comprised a scattering of pottery from the spoilheaps across the site presumably reflecting manuring. More importantly was a concentration of ditches, pits and large pits or quarries at the southern end of the site which clearly represents an area of occupation including zones used for paddocks and rubbish disposal. This area which is proximate to the village of Horton and to Ashgood Farm and Berkyn Manor may represent part of a former location of the medieval settlement.

Post-medieval
Several of the small gullies found on the site contained brick or tile as dating evidence and were probably of post-medieval date. The information gained from the map regression presented in the earlier desktop assessment (Preston 2005) could not provide much detail before the tithe map of 1838, but by then the field pattern was much the same as that presented on late 20th-century maps. The many gullies and ditches found during the evaluation are more numerous than the boundaries shown on these maps and are at various different alignments. Whilst several of these gullies are likely to be of medieval or earlier date it is also possible that they reflect land allotment in early post-medieval times.

In conclusion, this evaluation has demonstrated the archaeological potential of the site and characterized the range of deposits encountered. It has identified locations with high, low and no archaeological potential sufficient to provide detailed information which can be used to mitigate the effects of development on the archaeological heritage.
References

Benson, D and Miles, D, 1974, The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels, Oxfordshire Archaeol Unit Survey 2, Oxford
Ford, S, 1987, East Berkshire Archaeological Survey, Berkshire County Counc Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading

Preston S, 2005, ‘Berkyn Manor Farm, Colnbrook, Berkshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/116, Reading
Figure 1. Location of site within Colnbrook and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Horton Road
Figure 3. Locations of certain and possible features within trenches.
Land east of Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire 2006

Figure 4. Plans of trenches.
Figure 5. Plans of trenches (continued).
Figure 6. Plans of trenches (continued).
Figure 7. Plans of trenches (continued).
Land east of Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire 2006

Figure 8. Plans of trenches (continued).
Figure 9. Plans of trenches (continued).
Figure 10. Plans of trenches (continued).
Figure 11. Plans of trenches (continued).
Figure 12. Plans of trenches (continued).
Land east of Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire 2006

Figure 13. Plans of trenches (continued).

Trench 521

Trench 521 (continued)

Trench 522

Figure 13. Plans of trenches (continued).
Land east of Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire, 2006

Figure 15: Sections (continued)
Figure 16: Sections (continued)
Topsoil

Figure 17: Sections (continued)

BMF 05/116
Figure 18: Sections (continued)
Figure 19: Sections (continued)
Land east of Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire, 2006

Figure 20: Sections (continued)
Figure 21: Sections (continued)
Land east of Horton Road, Colbrook, Berkshire, 2006

Figure 23: Sections (continued)
Figure 24. Location of spoilheap finds.
Figure 25. Areas of higher archaeological potential.
Plate 1. Trench 29 looking south, Gully 18/19. Scale 1m.

Plate 2. Trench 329 looking east, Gullies 238, 239 and 240. Scales 1m, 0.5m, 0.1m.
Plate 3. Trench 463 looking west, Pit 335 and associated features. Scales 2m and 1m.

Plate 4. Trench 501 looking north-west. Pits 315, 316 and associated features. Scales 1m, 0.3m, 0.1m.