

*An Archaeological Assessment
on the route of the Humberside
to Buncefield Pipeline.*

Pirton, Hertfordshire.



H-B 39-05



PETROFINA (UK) LTD.

HB-39-05

HUMBERSIDE TO BUNCEFIELD PIPELINE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

ASSESSMENT REPORT

DANE FIELD, PIRTON, HERTFORDSHIRE.

by

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FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION,

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C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
1. Introduction	1
2. Methodology	3
3. Results and Preliminary Phasing	5
4. Summary and Conclusions	11
5. Recommendations	13
6. Appendices:	
Appendix 1: Overall finds by weight	14
Appendix 2: Catalogue of Special Finds	14
Appendix 3: Environmental Samples	16

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Pirton, Hertfordshire ..	Facing page 1
Figure 2.	Location of Site	Page 2
Figure 3.	Pirton: Excavated Areas	Facing page 5
Figure 4.	Features recorded in the Northern Field Boundary Ditch	Facing page 7
Figure 5	Correlations between the Geophysical Survey read- ings and excavated features	Page 10

N.B. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors, and they take full responsibility for them. They are not necessarily the views of the North Hertfordshire District Council.

Dane Field, Pirton, Hertfordshire.

Petrofina site ref: HB-39-05

NHDC (Letchworth Museum) site ref: PDF-2'90

1. Introduction and Archaeological Background

1:1 In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, numerous inhumation graves, some containing pots, buckles and pins, were discovered during quarrying (or coprolite digging?) in Dane Field, now a wide expanse of farmland to the north-west of Pirton, Hertfordshire. Cremations in urns were also found. This cemetery, which may be tentatively dated to the sixth or seventh century, was not systematically dug; and even though on one occasion more than "a hundred bodies" were found, the location details are sparse, merely indicating a provenance in the north-west of Dane Field, an area curiously named "Cat's Brains" (around TL135315).

1:2 In January 1990, preliminary archaeological fieldwork was conducted along the proposed route of the Petrofina oil pipeline across Dane Field, hopefully to reveal further details of this site and any potentially related settlements. Members of the NHDC Museum Service Field Archaeology team excavated a number of small test pits following a programme of field walking and geophysical investigations. The entire route across Dane Field was sampled; however the test pits were primarily dug over an area of intense magnetometer anomalies near the northern boundary of field 0048 (TL136318).

1:3 No evidence for sixth or seventh century occupation was obtained from the northern area of Dane Field, although a few sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from further south during the earlier part of the survey. However, the test pits dug in the area highlighted by the geophysical survey revealed the existence of an extensive and previously unknown Romano-British settlement spanning at least the second and third centuries A.D.

1:4 It was strongly recommended in the report of this investigation (Went & Burleigh: A Pre-construction Archaeological Survey on the route of the Humberside to Buncefield Pipeline. Pirton, Herts. Letchworth Museum, 1990) that further archaeological work would be required in advance of pipeline construction. Accordingly, the Museum Service field team returned to the site in May, 1990 to begin excavations along the line of the pipe trench.

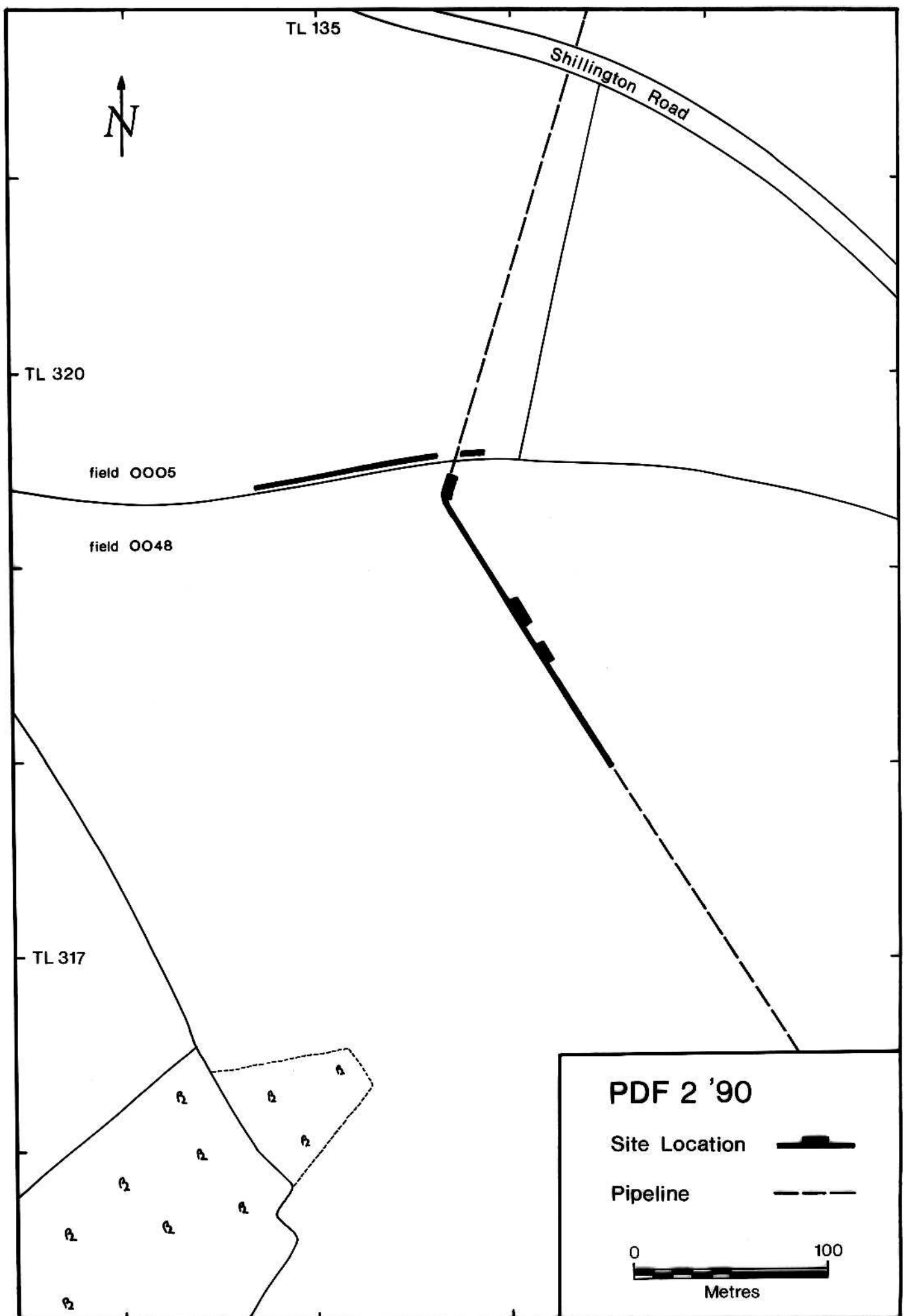


Fig.2

2. Methodology

2:1 In the first instance the line of the pipe trench was stripped of plough soil using a mechanical excavator. Previous fieldwork had provided a guideline for the probable limits of archaeological activity. The resulting trial trench was 1.4 m. wide (the width of the ditching bucket) and extended for 160 m. south-east of the point where the pipeline changed direction near the northern boundary of field 0048 (see figure 2).

2:2 The underlying slopewash was investigated through a number of test pits and then removed by machine to the level at which archaeological features were exposed. These were excavated manually. The trial trench was extended by 14 m. to the north in order to investigate further archaeological activity in this area.

2:3 After six weeks, excavation ceased as the pipe trench was dug within the trial trench. The walls of the pipe trench revealed further archaeological features which had previously been obscured beneath layers of colluvium, and these were recorded. The cutting of the pipe trench also exposed new sections across already excavated features providing further opportunities for investigation.

2:4 After the pipe trench had been backfilled three extensions (Areas A, B and C) were made to the east of the initial excavation in order to investigate several important or unresolved features which could not satisfactorily be investigated within the confines of the original trench. The areas were machine stripped to the level of archaeological features which were cleaned and recorded. Each feature was examined by means of slots, area excavation or half section as appropriate.

2:5 The plough soil and later slopewash deposits were removed in Area C revealing scatters of pottery suggestive of an occupation layer. Time did not allow for full excavation of this layer so a slot 0.75 m. wide was dug across the eastern edge of the area to ascertain the nature of the underlying archaeological deposits.

2:6 During the final week of excavation the contractor's machinery was employed to recut the boundary ditch between fields 0048 and 0005. The southern cleaned side truncated the contents of an earlier phase of the boundary ditch over which a substantial hedgerow now grows. However, the northern side was cut back further than the line of the original ditch, and revealed, albeit at a 45° angle, several features relating to the settlement, extending westwards from the pipeline for a distance of 160 m. Datable material was collected from these features which were recorded in section, the measurements being corrected from the ditch side to represent true elevations. (See figure 4).

2:7 The pipe trench was contained within a 20 m. wide access corridor from which the topsoil was normally stripped to prevent compaction and to allow the passage of construction vehicles.

To prevent disturbance of the archaeological area the topsoil was retained and a temporary construction roadway laid over the surface. Plough soil stripping was resumed to the north and south of the site. This area was examined and found to be devoid of archaeological features.

2:8 All archaeological deposits and features were given specific context numbers and fully described on pro forma record cards. Field drawings were made, and the heights of features calculated on a bench mark on a building at the junction of Hitchin Road and Shillington Road. All finds, including unstratified material, were kept for analysis. Environmental samples were taken where appropriate and a photographic record was maintained.

In total 11 weeks of fieldwork were required between May and August, 1990.

2:9 Finally the records were checked and analysed. The finds were processed and a preliminary assessment made. Illustrations were compiled from field drawings and this interim report prepared.

3. Results and Preliminary Phasing

Detailed phasing and interpretation has not been attempted for this report, although datable material from specific layers has been analysed in order to produce an outline description of the settlement's development. This may be altered with further evaluation.

Features within the excavated areas are referred to below by context numbers and illustrated in figure 3. Features recorded in the northern field boundary ditch are referred to by section number and illustrated in figure 4.

3:1 At the extreme southern end of the excavated trial trench four shallow, irregular pits were discovered (23, 90, 101 and 105) only one of which (101) contained datable material: a fragment of Neolithic Peterborough-type ware. Considering that the site is on a hill slope overlooking a seasonal water-course - (formalized in the early nineteenth century as the boundary ditch between fields 0048 and 0005) - and given the proximity of Knocking Knoll Long Barrow (see figure 1), perhaps a period of Neolithic activity may be suggested. Radiocarbon analysis of animal bone fragments recovered from these features may substantiate this hypothesis.

3:2 Within the area of the main settlement the earliest activity is represented by two ditches (82 and 330) and a shallow gully (113) contained within the central area of excavation. Sherds of coarseware pottery were found within these features indicating occupation in the late pre-Roman Iron Age (the period between the mid-first century B.C. and the mid-first century A.D.). By the late first or early second century the settlement had spread further north to cover a wider area. Two shallow features (61 and 81) may be associated with a large ditch (129), which perhaps formed part of an enclosure or defined the limit of nearby property. Slightly further to the north in Area C a deep pit (242) contained quantities of butchered bone and Romano-British shell-tempered pottery. The fills of this feature, together with those of a nearby ditch (192) were sealed by later datable layers and therefore contained stratigraphically within the second century. Two cut features also containing pottery of this period were recorded in the northern field boundary ditch (sections 44 and 52), although these single available sections were inadequate to define whether they were pits or ditches.

3:3 Major changes occur in the development of the settlement in the late second century. Layers of alluvial silt in Area C, containing late second century pottery sherds, may reflect a rise in the water level of the nearby stream. This was perhaps caused by exceptional seasonal rain, possibly aggravated by general changes in climate and sea level known to have affected south-east England during the Romano-British period. (Salway: Roman Britain. Oxford, 1981. p. 555.) In response to the encroaching flood levels a ditch (223) was dug and the upcast used to construct a containing bank (266).

The primary fill of this ditch yielded a redeposited cremation contained within a second century sand-tempered vessel broken in situ. With the exception of features seen in the northern field boundary ditch (which may be assumed to have been beyond the northern limit of flooding, perhaps protected by a comparable bank) the settlement continued to develop south of this barrier, progressing further up the hillside. Two shallow pits (213 and 216) seen in Area C appear to have been abandoned at about this time. The earlier ditch 192 may have been a previous attempt to channel or direct the rising waters. It contained sedimentary layers of clay and rounded stones from which environmental samples were taken (Appendix 3). However, it seems to have proved inadequate in the face of rising flood levels, and was subsequently sealed by the deposits contained within the northern area of the site by the bank 266. A deep pit (209) just to the south of the barrier bank contained late second century coarseware sherds within the primary fill, together with a large slab of stone with reticulated decoration. This feature was backfilled in the early third century incorporating large quantities of shell-tempered and greyware pottery sherds. Numerous pieces of animal bone, perhaps representing a single domesticate (horse?) were also contained within this fill. The final recut (172) in a sequence of ditches perhaps originating in the first century appears to have been abandoned in the late second century as indicated by a coin of Faustina/Lucilla (A.D. 161-179). Further to the north fragments of an occupation surface (36) sealed earlier features and yielded pottery sherds from the period late second to early third centuries.

3:4 The southern limit of Romano-British settlement was defined at this time by a large butt-ended ditch (255). This ditch superseded two earlier (early second century?) features: a ditch (116) and a shallow linear cut (112). A likely interpretation is that the earlier ditch represents a renewed boundary previously described by the earlier features. It is feasible that the butt-end of ditch 255, which is oriented slightly to the east, may be the corner of a large enclosure which continues beyond the limits of the excavation. This hypothesis is supported by the position of anomalies on the magnetometer readout recorded during previous fieldwork (see figure 5).

3:5 The original trial trench revealed an area of stone cobbling which was subsequently investigated in Area B and interpreted as a road surface (29) oriented north-east/south-west. The surface was composed of rounded flints (c. 50 mm. diameter) and patches of packed chalk fragments. Two broken quernstones were incorporated in the road surface which also contained sherds of coarseware pottery indicating a construction date probably during the late second century. Continued use may be inferred by repairs consisting of animal bone and fragments of later third century vessels. The earliest phases of two flanking ditches (284 and 155), perhaps the boundaries of properties to the south and north of the road, also date from the late second century. These features were also recorded on the geophysical survey readout (see figure 5), the ditches producing strong positive readings in contrast to the negative area indicating the road surface.

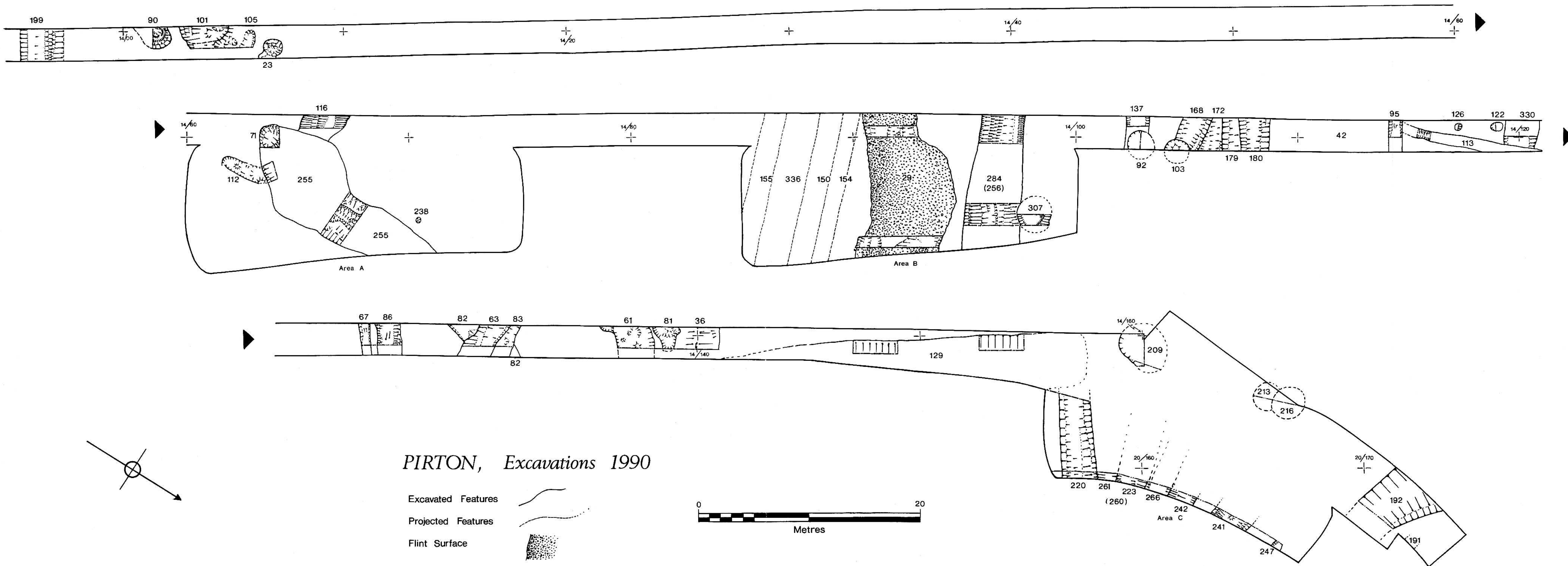


Fig. 3

3:6 Fragments of ceramic material (similar to late pre-Roman Iron Age grog-tempered pottery) were recovered from the primary fill of ditch 284 and were interpreted as remnants of the internal structure of an oven or kiln, perhaps demolished in the vicinity.

3:7 The two roadside ditches continued to develop with the road. The later recut (256) of the northern ditch was abandoned and allowed to silt up in the late third century. This fill yielded large quantities of domestic debris including animal bone and pottery sherds from which four vessels: a complete shallow Oxford ware bowl, two nearly complete coarse-ware jars and a grey ware pot were reconstructed. 1,178 grms. of ferrous slag, similar to material found on the road surface (29) were also recovered from this context, perhaps indicating nearby metalworking, possibly a smithy.

3:8 A second roadway with flanking ditches was recorded, bisected by the northern field boundary ditch (section 42).. The only datable phase, a layer of rounded stones (282), appeared broadly contemporary with the construction of road surface 29. However both earlier and later phases, composed of packed chalk, (281, 283 and 285) and a previous hollow way (335) indicated that this route endured over a considerable time, perhaps from the late Iron Age. This road was not encountered within the pipeline although it may be assumed from the angle at which it was revealed that it ran to the south, perhaps leading to a junction with road 29 at some unknown point to the west of the excavation area. If this was the case, a bridge or ford would have been necessary to span the intervening watercourse. Two other late second century features (either pits or ditches) were seen in the northern field boundary ditch, one near to the pipeline (section 43), and the other some 60 m. to the west (section 49).

3:9 Occupation continued in the late third and early fourth centuries indicated by datable material of this period contained within the upper fills of some of the earlier third century ditches. Several new features also appeared at this time. Fragments of late third century Nene Valley colour-coated ware were collected from the lower fills of ditch 86 and from the recut of ditch 83 (cut 63). The latter feature also contained fragments of animal bone, iron slag and mortaria.

3:10 The final fill of the recut northern roadside ditch (256) (previously dated to the early or mid third century) was truncated on the northern side by a large circular pit (307). A trial slot was excavated to a depth of 1.5 m. without reaching the base, at which point time and safety limitations forced a halt. The undercut chalk sides were indicative of a grain storage pit although excavation revealed no signs of such a use. Perhaps this feature was cleaned prior to abandonment, or it may be suggested that it functioned as a well. The cut contained deliberate backfilled rubbish deposits which produced pieces of animal bone and fragments of pottery including a body sherd of a large sand-tempered vessel. A terminus post

quem for these deposits was established in the late third or early fourth century by pieces of Oxfordshire colour-coated pottery (Baldock fabric series CC11).

3:11 Datable pottery fragments and a radiate copy coin (A.D. 273 onwards) found within the later fills of the large boundary ditch (255) indicate that this feature gradually fell into disuse through the third century. Final abandonment in the fourth century was implied by two coins of Constantius II (A.D. 353 onwards) recovered from the final slopewash fill.

3:12 By the late fourth century only a few features display evidence of occupation. This may reflect a decline in the nature of the settlement or that the focus of activity had migrated further from the location of the earlier settlement. The fills of a shallow gully (95) were dated to the late fourth or early fifth century by an unabraded coin of Theodosius (A.D. 388-404). This also provided a terminus ante quem for a patchy occupation surface which sealed this deposit and contained fragments of fourth century colour-coated ware and Much Hadham Romano-Saxon pottery (Baldock fabric series no. CC8/10 and 49). Further proof of the continuity of occupation was discovered in Area C where a deep pit (261) truncated earlier Romano-British features and contained fragments of fourth to fifth century sub-Roman, thumb-impressed grey ware pottery, securely stratified within the primary fill. Intrusive sub-Roman grey ware sherds were also recovered from the final fill of the northern roadside ditch recut (256).

3:13 No later features relating to the settlement were found during the investigation. However a large rim and body sherd of a coarse sand-tempered vessel, decorated in a style displaying Saxon influences, was found in the upcast material from the pipe trench in the vicinity of Area C. The fabric of the vessel was previously unknown, although it may reflect a continuation of the Romano-British/sub-Roman pottery tradition. The combination of the fabric and design indicates a date in the late fifth or the sixth century.

3:14 A broad shallow ditch (199) encountered at the extreme southern end of the excavated area was cut through layers of slopewash material which covered the Romano-British settlement elsewhere. This feature was considered to be medieval or later, possibly forming one of the subdivisions of the field which existed prior to modern amalgamation.

3:15 In the northern field boundary ditch a small cut (section 50) and a recut (340) seen in section 44 proved to be examples of a row of chalk packed postholes, regularly spaced at approximately 8 m. intervals along the northern edge of the boundary ditch. This alignment was clearly related to the field boundary and terminated near a disused gateway approximately 150 m. west of the pipe trench. A nineteenth or early twentieth century date is suspected.

PDF 2 90 Northern Boundary Ditch
location of features

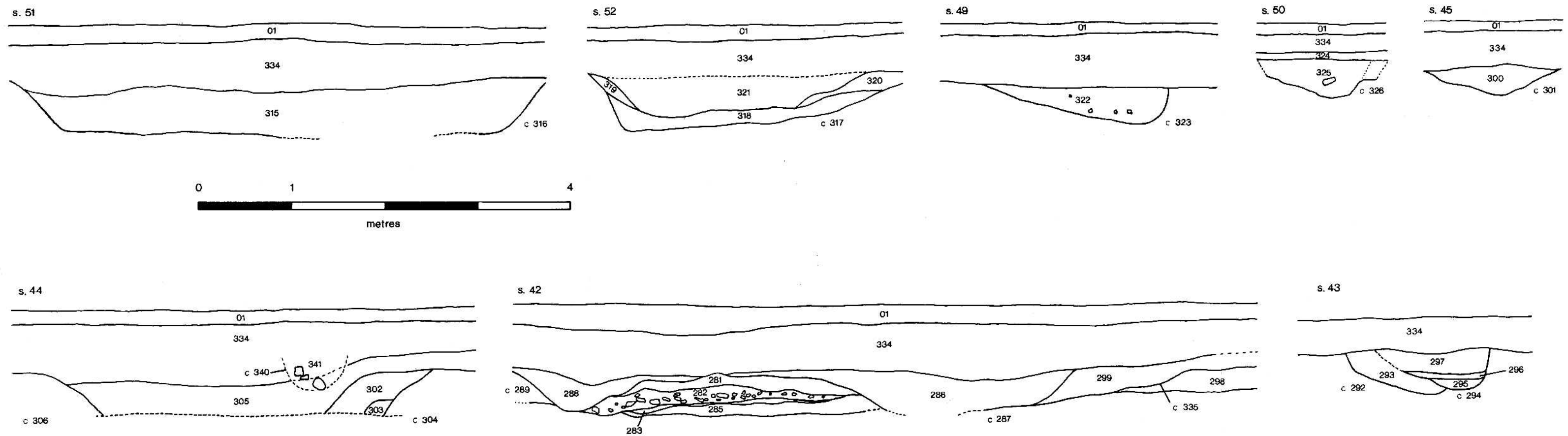
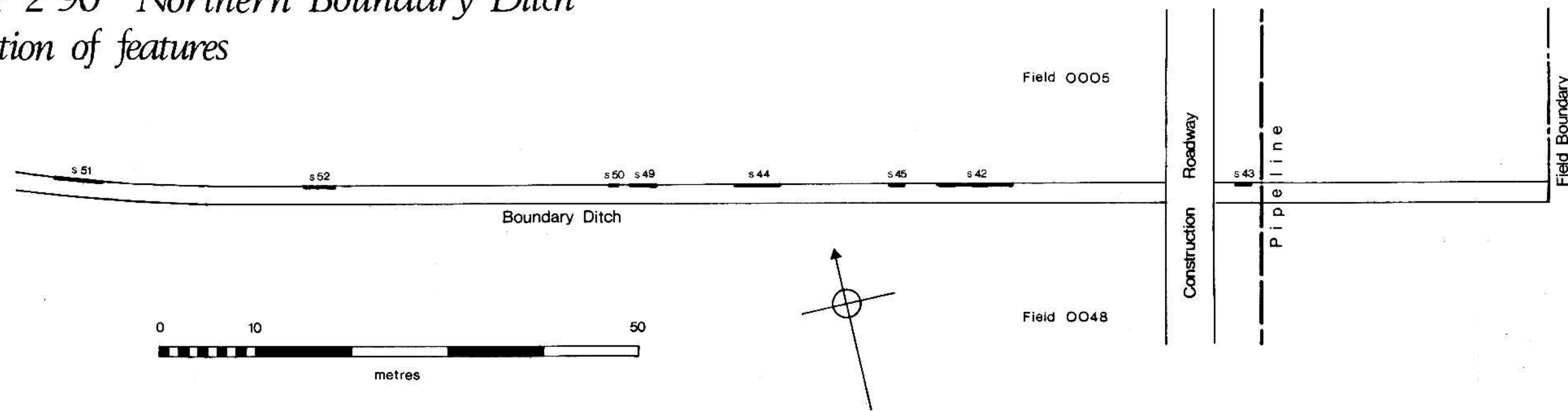
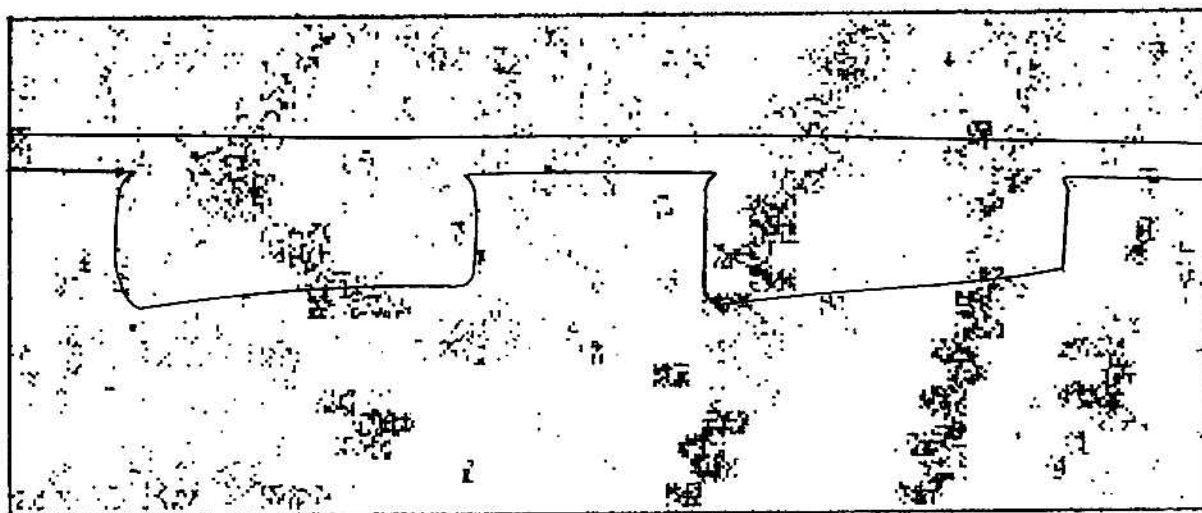


Fig. 4

3:16 A modern (twentieth century) drainage ditch containing a salt-glazed ceramic pipe was recorded both in the pipe trench and in Area C where it truncated an earlier Romano-British pit or ditch (271). This feature also obscured the butt-end or angle change at the north of ditch 129.

Magnetometer Survey



Excavated Features

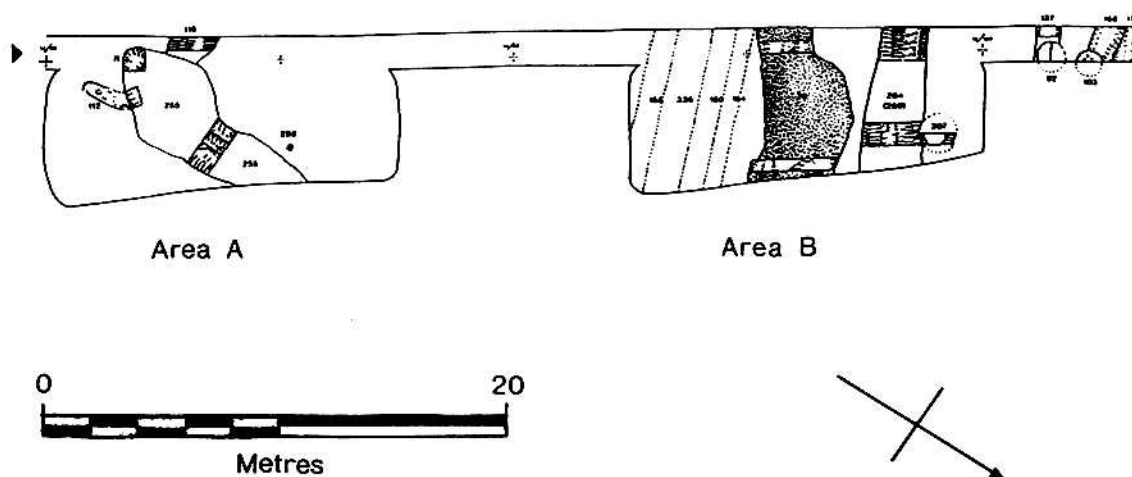


Fig. 5

4. Summary and Conclusions

4:1 The investigations near Pirton have produced valuable evidence for an important archaeological site, significant both for its size and for the duration of its occupation.

4:2 Perhaps in the third millenium B.C. a group of Neolithic settlers may have been attracted to the site by the gentle hillslope with its easily cultivable soil and neighbouring water source. Although there is no evidence to suggest continuing activity on the site over the following 2,000 years, it is tempting to speculate that Neolithic alterations to the landscape, in particular forest clearance, may have been capitalized upon by the inhabitants of a late Iron Age farming settlement which was identified slightly further to the north.

4:3 From small beginnings this settlement expanded through the first century A.D., perhaps reflecting an increase in agricultural demands which followed the Roman conquest in A.D. 43. The settlement continued to develop in the second century covering a wider area of the hillside, restricted only by rising flood levels. The earliest phase of the settlement may have been served by a road or hollow way running north from the site. In the second century a new cobbled surface was laid on this route and a second roadway built oriented east to west along the contours of the hill. The convergence of these roads may have formed the focus of the later settlement. Certainly many of the boundary ditches and at least on enclosure (seen both in excavation and on the magnetometer survey readout) aligned with this second road. The expenditure of time and effort involved in the creation of these substantial road surfaces may reflect the increasing importance of these routes for communication and trade with other areas. It is in the late second and third centuries that the settlement reached its maximum size as recorded in the limited sample afforded by the investigated areas. It may be possible to extrapolate a settlement area at this time of some 1.32 hectares south of the northern field boundary ditch and to the west of the excavated pipeline route. It may also be assumed that the settlement extends both to the north-west in field 0005 and to the east in field 0048, perhaps following the directions of the two roadways.

4:4 The settlement flourished in the later second and third centuries both in terms of extent and wealth as demonstrated by the presence of prestigious pottery vessels imported from major British and continental centres of production. This level of affluence appears to have continued in the fourth century, although there were few features of this period within the investigated area. This reduction may not necessarily reflect a decline in activity. Limitations of the investigated sample make it impossible to determine whether the settlement merely migrated from its earlier focus.

4:5 Continuity of occupation on the site was not broken by

the withdrawal of Roman provincial government in the early fifth century. Descendants of the Romano-British population probably continued to exploit the settlement's agricultural resources, leaving an occupation surface and a pit containing sub-Roman pottery.

4:6 Fragments of sixth or seventh century pottery recovered from the settlement site may suggest continued occupation, perhaps contemporary with the previously recorded Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Investigations revealed no trace of this cemetery: perhaps it lay to the east, or more probably to the west of the pipeline route. A quarry pit, perhaps of nineteenth century date, was seen in the pipe trench approximately 100 m. south of the excavated area, but this did not contain any residual fragments from such a discovery, and may be presumed not to be the cemetery location.

4:7 In all its phases the settlement was primarily agricultural in nature. It may have begun as a small farmstead and developed to the level of a wealthy farming complex possibly comparable in status to a villa. The settlement may have supplied its own domestic industrial needs, at least in the late second and early third centuries, where evidence for ironworking is apparent, and pottery manufacture may be suggested.

4:8 A settlement of this duration and extent must be assumed to have included numerous domestic and agricultural buildings. The excavation strategy was designed to reveal structural details, in particular those of an insubstantial nature. Apart from the shallow, flat-based gulleys (113 and 330) which were interpreted as wall foundations, perhaps beam slots, possibly associated with the otherwise undatable postholes (126 and 122), no other structural remains were revealed. This may be a reflection of the limitations of the investigation sample rather than the density of buildings on the site. Further evidence of structures may be inferred from the frequency of boundary ditches and from diagnostic finds such as tile fragments and hinge nails. A broken slab of finely dressed stone (millstone grit?) with the remnants of narrow carved arches along one edge was recovered from the storage/rubbish pit 209. This artifact, which may have formed part of a grille or window, or even a light screen similar to that found in the Mithraic temple at Carrawburgh (Northumberland), may have arrived on the site in a broken state, possibly for use as a quern rubber stone. However, the possibility of elaborate stone buildings on this site, which displays such affluence in the second and third centuries, cannot be ignored.

5. Recommendations

5:1 The newly-discovered Romano-British settlement in Dane Field, Pirton, is clearly of some importance, being both relatively extensive in area, occupied throughout the Roman period and, crucially, beyond. It is the first rural settlement in Hertfordshire and the northern Chilterns to produce not only sub-Roman pottery fabrics comparable to some of those recently identified from the contemporary market centre at Baldock; but also apparently sixth/seventh century Anglo-Saxon potsherds. These finds make the site virtually unique in the region, and it would certainly repay further study.

5:2 Moreover, the site is also unusual for the area since large parts of it are relatively well-preserved, buried as they are under a colluvial deposit. This means that structures, surfaces and other features are reasonably intact and well-stratified. There also appears to be an opportunity here for further environmental sampling from the flood deposits.

5:3 There is no doubt that the work done so far, and reported here, should be fully published in a suitable journal; perhaps Hertfordshire Archaeology.

5:4 It is estimated that the work needed to bring this important site to full publication standard includes the following:

- a. Further illustrations will be required including phase plans and section drawings, as well as finds illustrations. There may be as much as 10-12 weeks' work for an illustrator.
- b. Various specialist reports will be required including pottery, animal bone, slag, iron objects, coins, worked flint and environmental samples.
- c. There are a number of small finds requiring conservation.
- d. One or more radiocarbon dates could be obtained from animal bone from the suspected Neolithic pits.
- e. The text presented in this Report is no more than archive level and needs to be re-written incorporating any specialist reports, and to include a discussion placing the site in its regional context.

5:5 The production of a final publishable Report will require input from the site director, an illustrator, a finds officer, a number of specialists and probably a post-excavation assistant. Once the specialist reports were available, it should be possible to produce the final report over a period of about 3-4 months.

6. Appendices

6:1 Overall finds (by weight)

Type	Weight in grams
Pottery	42,993
Animal bone	15,398
Ferrous slag	4,294
Unidentified iron objects	3,304
Ceramic building material (tile)	701
Shell	213
Worked flint	163
Human bone (cremated)	101
Charcoal	60

6:2 Catalogue of special finds

Item	Related Feature	Cat. No.
Copper alloy coin. Faustina II/Lucilla. (AD. 161-179)	172	A6000
Copper alloy coin. Constantius II. (AD. 353 onwards)	255	A6001
Copper alloy coin. Constantius II. (AD. 353 onwards)	255	A6002
Copper alloy pin.	125 (layer)	A6003
Copper alloy coin. Tetricus I. (AD. 270-273)	U/S	A6004
Copper alloy object.	125 (layer)	A6005
Copper alloy coin. House of Theodosius. (AD. 388-402)	95	A6006
Copper object.	U/S	A6007
Lead stud.	44 (layer)	A6008
Lead object.	42 (layer)	A6009
Trade token. German 'Setton'. (16th or 17th century)	U/S	A6010
Copper fragment.	U/S	A6011

<i>Item</i>	<i>Related Feature</i>	<i>Cat. No.</i>
Copper alloy coin. Illegible. (c. AD. 200-250)	32 (layer)	A6012
Copper fragments.	26 (layer)	A6013
Copper alloy coin. Radiate copy. (AD. 273 onwards)	255	A6014
Copper alloy coin. Constantius II, Caesar. (AD. 335-337)	U/S	A6016
Lead object.	U/S	A6017
Copper alloy fragment.	123 (layer)	A6018
Stamped samian-ware base. (BIRACILLA)	124 (layer)	A6031
Copper alloy object. Fragment of sheet or strap.	13 (layer)	A6032
Copper alloy bow-backed brooch	226 (layer)	A6033
Stamped samian-ware base. (----LLSI)	U/S	A6034
Lead alloy cruciform object. (Pendant?)	U/S	A6035
Iron fragment. Blade or strap	29	A6036
Fragment of a glass vessel.	256	A6037
Iron hinge nail.	256	A6038
Iron hinge nail.	256	A6039
Shale bead.	256	A6040
Bronze object. Small semi-circular band.	256	A6041
Iron object (?)	256	A6042
Iron object. Fragment of blade or strap.	256	A6043

<i>Item</i>	<i>Related Feature</i>	<i>Cat. No.</i>
<i>Small glass fragment. Base of vessel.</i>	255	A6044
<i>Iron hook.</i>	U/S	A6045
<i>Iron object (?)</i>	29	A6051
<i>Bone pin.</i>	256	A6055
<i>Quernstone fragment.</i>	U/S	A6056
<i>Broken slab of decorated stone.</i>	209	A6057
<i>Quernstone fragment.</i>	29	A6058
<i>Quernstone fragment.</i>	29	A6059

Total: 39 items.

6:3 Environmental samples

<i>Layer (fill) no.</i>	<i>Feature/cut no.</i>	<i>Reason for sample</i>	<i>Sample no.</i>	<i>Qty.</i>
127	pit/209	Seed sample (wet sieving)	2100	c.8 kg.
142	"	"	2111	c.4 kg.
184	ditch/192	Molluscan analysis	2101	c.8 kg.
184	"	"	2102	c.8 kg.
184	"	"	2103	c.8 kg.
184	"	"	2104	c.8 kg.
184	"	"	2105	c.8 kg.
189	"	"	2106	c.8 kg.
189	"	"	2107	c.8 kg.
190	"	"	2108	c.8 kg.
50	ditch/81	General biological analysis	2109	c.5 kg.
329	pit/307	Seed sample (wet sieving)	2111	c.24 kg.

7. Acknowledgments

We would like to express our thanks to Ms. Helen Ashworth for the preliminary pottery evaluation, and to the Field Team staff: Christine Colley, Adam Garwood, Faith Pewtress, Tony Offord and Cheryl Thorogood, who maintained a high standard of excavation, often despite difficult and unpleasant conditions.