

Becoming Romano-British
The Landscape of the Late Prehistoric and Romano-British
Periods in the Vale of the White Horse.

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7 The Romanisation of the Landscape

7.1 Introduction

The previous three chapters have discussed a range of themes and introduced the archaeological evidence for landscape development in the Vale of the White Horse from the late Iron Age and through the Roman period. Chapter 4 focussed on the immediate neighbourhood of the religious complex at Marcham / Frilford where the construction of a Romano-British temple provided a centre for ritual and religious activities incorporating indigenous British traditions with Roman and Gaulish influences. This Roman ritual and religious activity may be a continuation of earlier Iron Age ritual practices on the site. In addition, social change in funerary practice led to the development of a late Roman organised inhumation cemetery.

A wider landscape view was taken in Chapter 5 where the impact of people, particularly of a growing population, was considered. Apart from attempting to estimate the population for part of the Vale in the late Roman period, the nature and size of settlements were examined to see whether the growing population was housed in new foundations or whether existing settlements were expanded. Settlement continuity in the Vale was also considered with regard to the known settlement discontinuity on the Thames gravels in the early second century AD.

Changes in the settlement structure in the middle and late Iron Age were presented in Chapter 6, with the abandonment of hillforts and their replacement by valley forts and the enclosed oppida at Abingdon and Dorchester-on-Thames. Discussed also in Chapter 6 were various forms of rural settlement including open, pit cluster settlements and enclosed settlements. Enclosed settlement, ditched field systems and trackways become more frequent in the late Iron Age.

This chapter concentrates on landscape change in the Roman period and begins with an analysis of a new element in the rural landscape of the Vale: villas, with their new construction techniques and architectural features. Villas, or villa estates, may indicate changes in landholding and in the economic and social structure of rural society. The second aspect discussed is the development of trackways and field systems. The re-organisation or re-alignment of trackways and field systems suggest agricultural

intensification and economic development. The final section of this chapter investigates whether such agricultural intensification and innovation can be seen in the archaeological evidence for arable and pastoral agriculture.

Urban life, an important aspect of Roman culture, is largely absent from the Vale of the White Horse. Small towns such as Dorchester-on-Thames and Abingdon in the east, and Wanborough in the west, may have provided local trading and administrative functions. Within the Vale itself, Wantage and Bowling Green Farm may have become small market and craft centres, but are better seen as villages rather than small urban centres. The temple and amphitheatre site at Marcham / Frilford may also have provided market and administrative functions, in addition to ritual and religious functions, but the evidence presented in chapter 4 provides no support for an interpretation as an urban site.

7.2 Villas in the Vale

The term villa is used both by ancient writers and modern archaeologists but not always with the same meaning. Most modern definitions of a 'villa' follow either an architectural or economic approach (Rivet 1964, 103-105; Percival 1976, 13-15; Salway 1981, 602-603, 614; Frere 1987, 259; Millett 1990a, 91-92; Mattingly 2006, 369-370). The architectural definition emphasises the distinction between villas and other rural buildings by listing construction techniques, materials employed and architectural features such as rectangular buildings incorporating stone, tile and glass, and incorporating hypocausts, mosaics and painted wall plaster. Distinguishing between the small, individual farmstead and a larger estate employing workers, and emphasising social and economic differentiation, underlies the economic approach. Social and economic aspects are stressed by Salway who argues that the term villa should only apply to rural houses demonstrating their inhabitants had "both accepted to a significant degree the Roman style of life and achieved the prosperity to put this into practice" (1981, 603). Typically, the function of a villa is seen as forming the centre of a farm or agricultural estate, or occasionally the centre of an industrial area.

Importantly, the villa was a house in the country (Salway 1981, 614). As the economic and social centre of a farm a villa cannot be in a town. Rivet (1964, 105) and Percival (1976, 14) refer to country buildings as *villae* and land as *ager*, which collectively form the farm or *fundus*. But not all rural buildings were *villae*. Rivet also describes turf hovels or *tuguria* and cottages or *casae*: perhaps the latter term is appropriate for Iron Age and Romano-British roundhouses and cottages.

Whether or not Rivet (1964, 105) is correct in arguing that villa owners were townsmen, and villas cannot exist without towns, villa owners would have had political and business connections with towns. As villas tend to cluster near towns, particularly small towns (Salway 1981, 596; Frere 1987, 258), they are seen as an important link between town and countryside. The relationship between small towns and villas can be explored spatially, but it is perhaps less easy to demonstrate archaeologically the economic and political relationships.

Social and economic differentiation can be examined through two simplistic binary opposites: a Romanised versus a non-Romanised lifestyle, and wealth versus poverty, as

illustrated in figure 7.1. Wealth and a Romanised lifestyle are not necessarily synonymous, particularly perhaps in the first and second centuries AD, and figure 7.1 illustrates that villas require both wealth and a Romanised lifestyle.

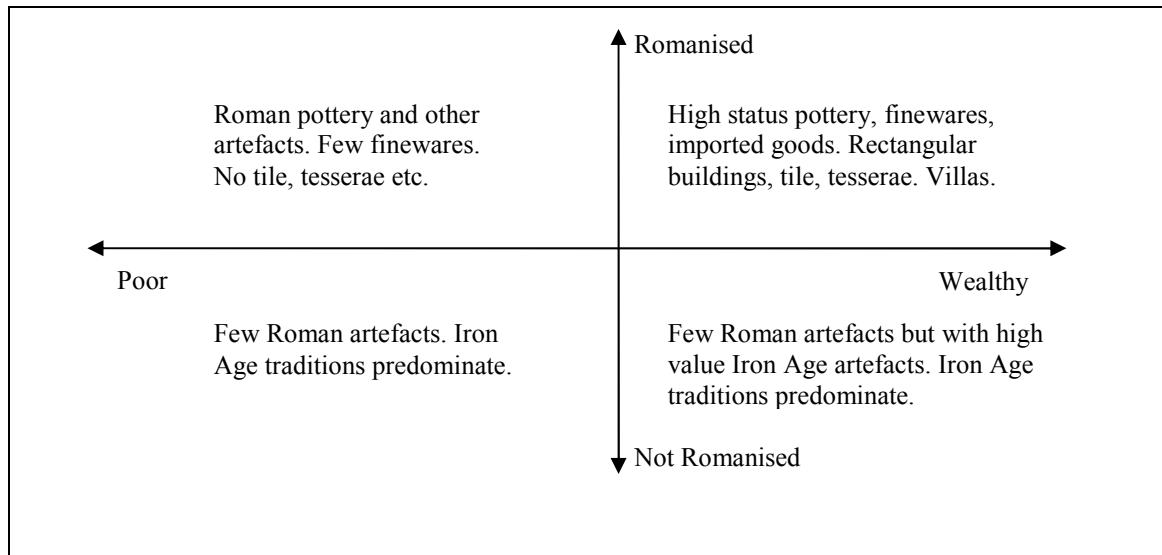


Figure 7.1 – Wealth versus Romanisation

A significant weakness of figure 7.1 is its static nature. Roman material culture became more widely distributed from the first to the fourth century AD, resulting in a movement over time from the bottom to the top of the diagram. In addition, peace and stability, coupled with new agricultural techniques and market opportunities, should have increased the overall level of prosperity, causing a shift from the left to the right of the figure. These trends are visible in the rural landscape through the introduction of new building forms and construction materials.

Although figure 7.1 might suggest four types of rural settlement it is more usual to distinguish between only two. Most common are settlements and farmsteads where developments in material culture are restricted to the adoption of Romano-British pottery and coinage, as indicated in the top left quadrant of figure 7.1. Limited economic and social change may be indicated by the slow disappearance of storage pits and the occasional use of rectangular buildings (Frere 1987, 258). Less frequent, but still widespread in the south-east of England, is the slow development of more expensive and elaborate buildings incorporating higher levels of culture and greater comfort expressed in a Roman style, as represented by the top right quadrant of figure 7.1.

The simplicity and slow development of many early villas is usually interpreted as indicating they belonged to the indigenous British aristocracy who started to invest and consume their wealth in a Romanised manner. Frere (1987, 258) feels able to distinguish between these initial simple villas and "peasant settlements" which might contain "painted walls, glass windows and even wooden floors". Yet, perhaps it is more likely that Salway is correct when he writes, "from these simple villas there is a gradual progression to the more or less untouched native farm, and I am not convinced that any clear line can be drawn between them" (1981, 602).

There is not an even distribution of villas within the upper Thames Valley and in her analysis of the Thames Valley Mapping Programme, Fenner (1994, 26 and Figure 16) highlighted three clusters of villas: near Lechlade, near Dorchester-on-Thames, and near Hambledon in Buckinghamshire. Earlier, Young (1986, 60) had suggested that the distribution of villas, together with their size and material culture, indicated where wealth and power were concentrated. He highlighted four villa clusters in Oxfordshire with the area of greatest villa density lying to the north of the river Windrush in the foothills of the Cotswolds and including Shakenoak, Ditchley and North Leigh. A further concentration is found in the north of the county with examples at Swalcliffe Lea and Thenford (Northants). A third villa zone lies to the south-east of the Cherwell from Middleton Stoney to Dorchester-on-Thames. Young's final cluster is the area between Abingdon and Dorchester-on-Thames and to the west of Abingdon in the Vale of the White Horse. He noted that apart from this area the well-settled gravel terraces of the river Thames lacked villas.

This absence of villas from most of the gravel terraces formed the basis of an economic and social model of the region by Hingley (1984; 1988; 1989). He observed that on the low-lying gravel terraces west of Oxford, Iron Age occupation was mainly characterised by closely spaced, open settlements. Further north, on the higher ground of the Oxford uplands, Iron Age settlements were further apart and usually enclosed. Settlement differences continued in the Roman period with the construction of numerous and wealthy villas in the uplands, particularly in the area of the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch. Hingley's model postulated that the open settlements of the Iron Age represented communal control of land, and the enclosed settlements indicated individual control of land and resources. Communal control in the Roman period led to the construction of

complex enclosure settlements in the Oxford Clay Vale but not villas. Individuals were either unable to amass sufficient wealth, or were inhibited in expressing their wealth by social constraints (Hingley 1988, 91; 1989, 124). On the uplands, individuals were free to participate in the competitive market and to display their status and wealth. The concentration of villas in the low-lying Vale of the White Horse, just to the south of river Thames from the open settlements of Hingley's model, may indicate the existence of a different set of economic and social forces in this area.

Villas are not only difficult to define, but also difficult to identify with certainty from incomplete archaeological evidence. Fourteen possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse are contained within Miles' list of Oxfordshire Romano-British villas (1982a, 69-71). The Oxfordshire HER lists sixteen sites as villas or possible villas situated in the civil parishes of the Vale of the White Horse, and a slightly different list is produced by the NMR records in Pastscape. Combining these sources gives twenty-two possible villas as listed in table 7.1 and their distribution is illustrated in figure 7.2¹. Only two are scheduled ancient monuments (Alfred's Castle SAM 28163) and West Challow (SAM 251). Included also in figure 7.2 are the villas at Maddie Farm (Gaffney and Tingle 1989) in Berkshire and at Starveall Farm in Wiltshire.

Figure 7.2 suggests there is not an even distribution of confirmed or possible Roman villas across the Vale. This may reflect the uneven density of archaeological research and fieldwork but it is unlikely that there are many more villa sites to be discovered. Table 7.1 and figures 7.3 and 7.4 illustrate the location of the villas with regard to the solid and drift geology. On the chalk downlands are the two sites in Ashbury while four sites lie on Upper Greensand adjacent to the chalk. Six villas are located on the sandstone or limestone of the Corallian ridge and two are situated on clay: Woolstone is close to the Upper Greensand and chalk of the downs, while Chilswell Farm, Cumnor, is situated on Kimmeridge clay, just below a band of Lower Greensand. The remaining seven villas are on the gravel terraces of the river Thames, overlying clay. Apart from Woolstone there are no known villas in the western clay lands of the Vale.

¹ The details of twenty of these villas are listed in Catalogue 2.

Civil Parish	HER PRN	NMR Number	Description	Solid Geology	Drift Geology	Soil Class
Abingdon	12849.02	SU49 NE 9	Site of an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Abingdon, of uncertain nature.	Kimmeridge Clay	Third (Wolvercote) Terrace	
Appleford	15824	SU59 SW 127	Iron Age/Roman Enclosure, Field System (Appleford Sidings)	Gault Clay	First (Northmoor) Terrace	2
Appleford	15310	SU59 SW 99	Cropmark remains of a multi-phase complex of rectilinear enclosures, ditches, trackways and possible hut circles, the majority of which are thought to be associated with the site of a Roman villa..	Gault Clay	First (Northmoor)Terrace	
Ashbury	7333	SU28 SE 89	Alfred's Castle (Iron Age enclosure and Romano-British building)	Chalk		3
Ashbury		SU28 SE 4	Probable site of a Roman villa indicated by cropmarks of an enclosure with a building in the NW corner.	Chalk		
Cumnor	10794	SP40 SE 39	? Roman Villa N of Bedswell Heath (Chilswell Farm)	Kimmeridge Clay		
Didcot	15939		Roman Coin Hoard and ?Villa at Didcot	Upper Greensand		2
East Hanney	7600	SU49 SW 4	?Villa on Pound Croft	Kimmeridge Clay	First (Northmoor) Terrace	4
Frilford	7115	SU49 NW 3	Roman Villa	Limestone		4
Garford	12136	S 49 NW 27	Garford Roman Villa	Limestone		3
Kingston Bagpuize	10604	SU49 NW 43	?Villa and Cemetery at Kingston Hill Farm	Sandstone		2
Kingston Bagpuize	15616	SU39 NE 37	Cropmark of a Roman Villa	Sandstone, close to Oxford Clay		
Kingston Lisle	2823	SU38 NW 4	Roman ? villa and pavement (Marginal)	Upper Greensand	Close to Head Deposits	4
Radley	D15269.04	SU59 NW 39	Romano-British Villa Complex at Barton Court Farm.	Kimmeridge Clay	Second (Summertown) Terrace	2
Stanford-in-the Vale	9237	SU39 NW 6 & SU39 NW 220	Romano British Settlement (?villa), Bowling Green Farm	Limestone		2
Stanford-in-the Vale	12754	SU39 NW 22	Roman ? Villa, Pottery (Gravel terrace on south side of Frogmore Brook)	Limestone	Close to Alluvial Deposits	2
Steventon	26410	(SU49 SE 162)	Possible Roman villa cropmark complex	Gault Clay	Head Deposits	3
Sutton Courtenay	1857	SU49 SE 2	Roman Villa (Dropshort Villa)	Kimmeridge Clay	First (Northmoor) Terrace	2
Sutton Courtenay	2852	SU59 SW 30	? Roman Villa at Penn Copse	Gault Clay	First (Northmoor) Terrace	2
Wantage	15887	SU38 NE 60	Romano-British Villa and Settlement	Upper Greensand		2
West Challow	7219	SU38 NE 1	Roman Villa East of Cornhill Farm	Upper Greensand	Close to Head Deposits	2
Woolstone	7316	SU28 NE 1	Romano-British Villa at Woolstone	Gault Clay		3

Table 7.1 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse

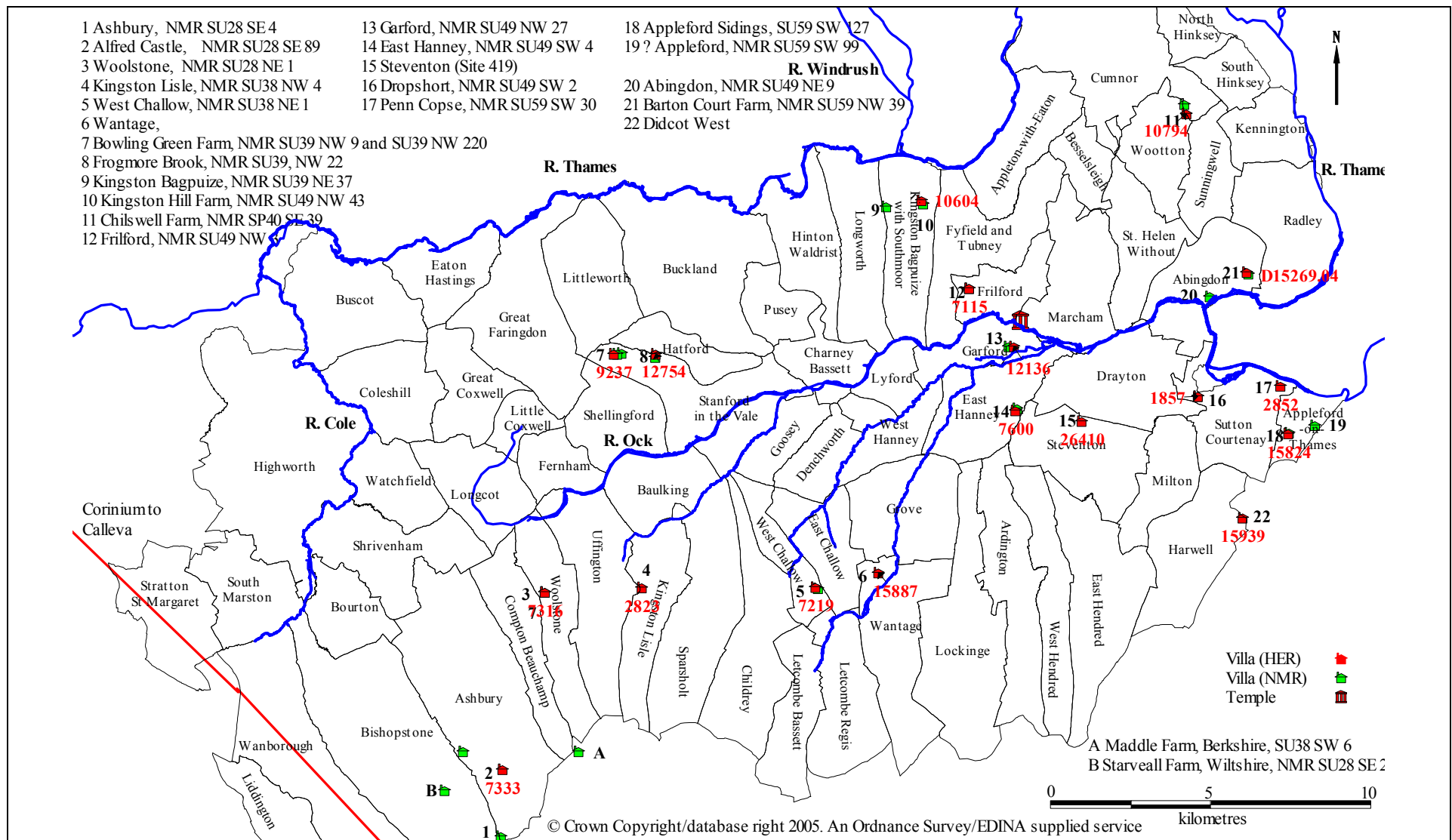


Figure 7.2 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse

The location of the villa sites with regard to modern soil classification is illustrated in figure 7.5. Ten of seventeen villas within the area of the Land Use Capability map are on class 2 land, even though this represents only 30% of the available land. This includes the villas on the gravel terraces close to the river Thames at Radley, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford and the villas on Upper Greensand below the Berkshire Downs at Didcot, Wantage and West Challow. The remaining seven villas are on land represented as class 3 or class 4 and which represents 60% of the available land as listed in table 7.2.

Class	Area (ha)	Percentage	Villas	% Villas
1	105	0.2	0	0.0
2	16,480	29.7	10	58.8
3	21,160	38.1	4	23.5
4	12,160	21.9	3	17.6
5	1,770	3.2	0	0.0
6	50	0.1	0	0.0
Unclassified	3,750	6.6	0	0.0
Total	55,475	99.8	17	100.0

Table 7.2 – Villa Distribution and Land Use Capability Classes (Jarvis 1973, 144-149).

Two possible explanations for this observed distribution are that by farming the best land, the owners accumulated sufficient capital to invest in villa construction, or alternatively, that those wanting to purchase and invest in a country estate sought out the most productive agricultural land.

It is possible to discern a number of geographical groupings of villas. Starting in the south-west there are a number of probable Roman villas on the chalk of the Berkshire Downs. These include the recently discovered Roman building within the Iron Age enclosure of Alfred's Castle (Gosden and Lock 2003), a possible villa at the extreme south of Ashbury (SU28 SE 4), the villa at Maddle Farm (Gaffney and Tingle 1989) just over the county boundary in West Berkshire and the villa at Starveall Farm in Wiltshire. This cluster of villas may be related to the nearby Roman road to Wanborough further west but as they lie outside the geographical limits of the Vale of the White Horse they are not discussed further.

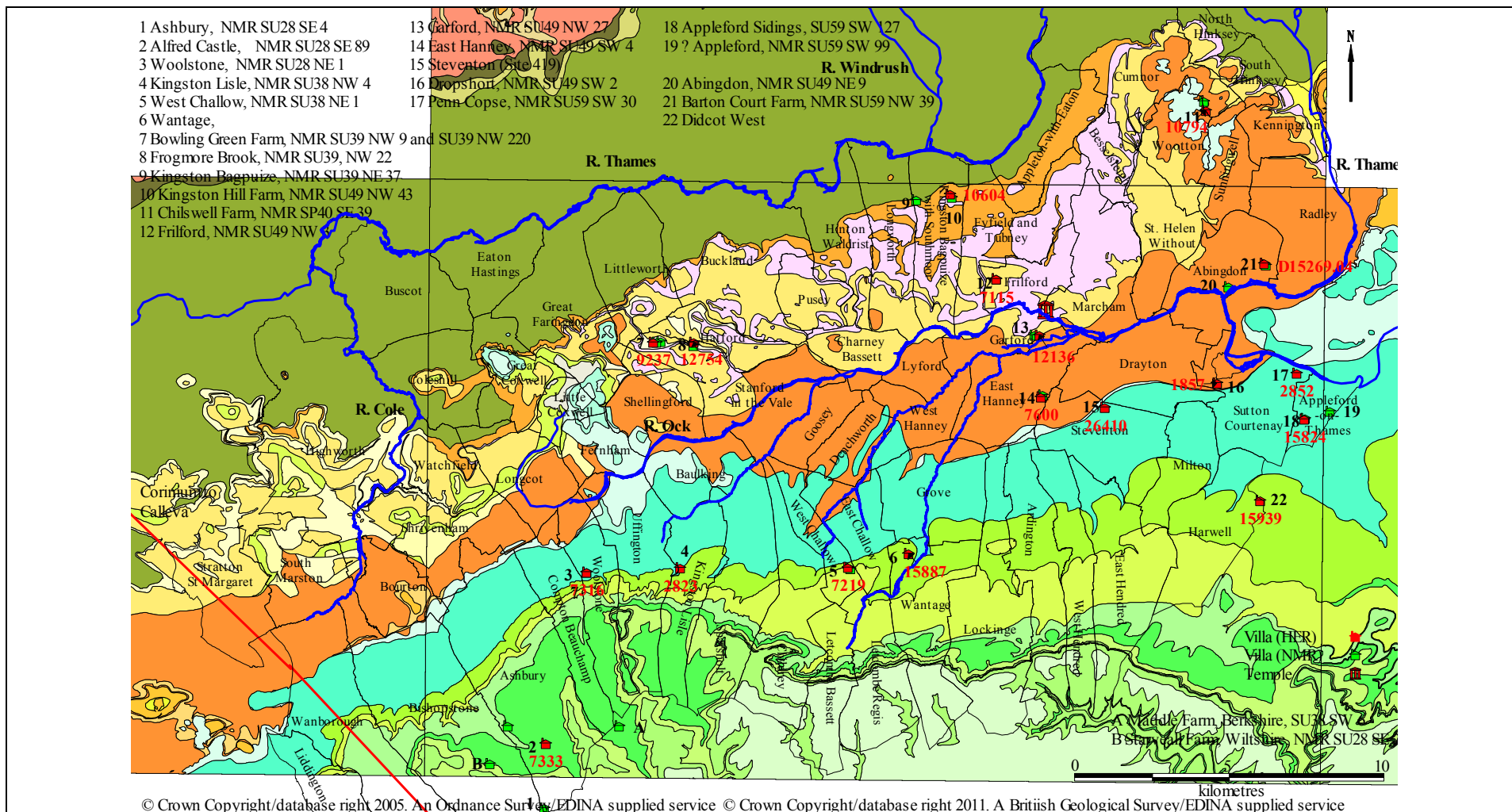


Figure 7.3 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse (Solid Geology)

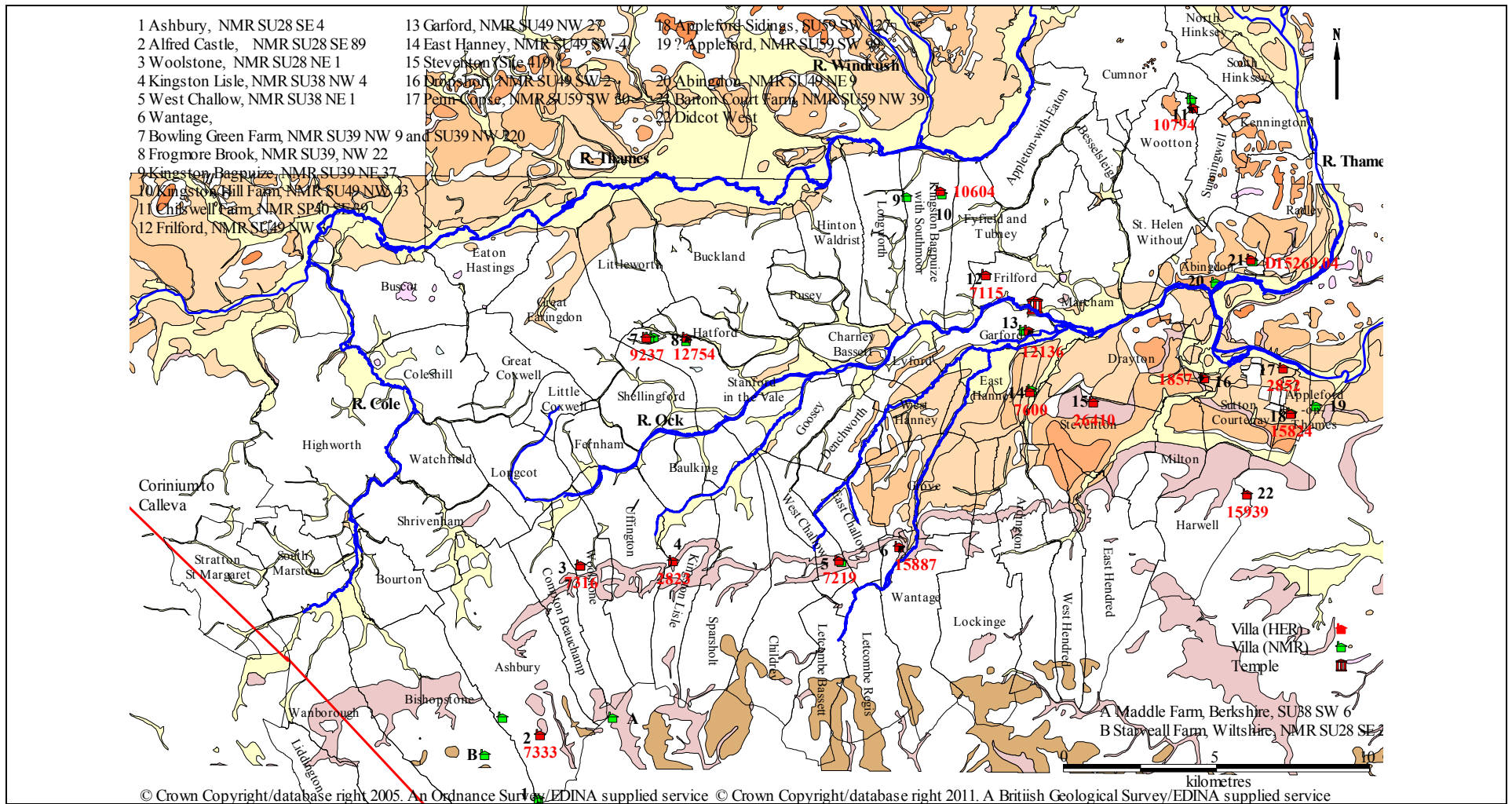


Figure 7.4 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse (Drift Geology)

Drift Geology	
Alluvium	River Terrace Deposits
Clay with Flints	Sand and Gravel of Uncertain Age
Hanborough Deposits	Summertown-Radley Terrace
Head Deposits	Till
Northmoor Deposits	Wolvercote Terrace
Peat	

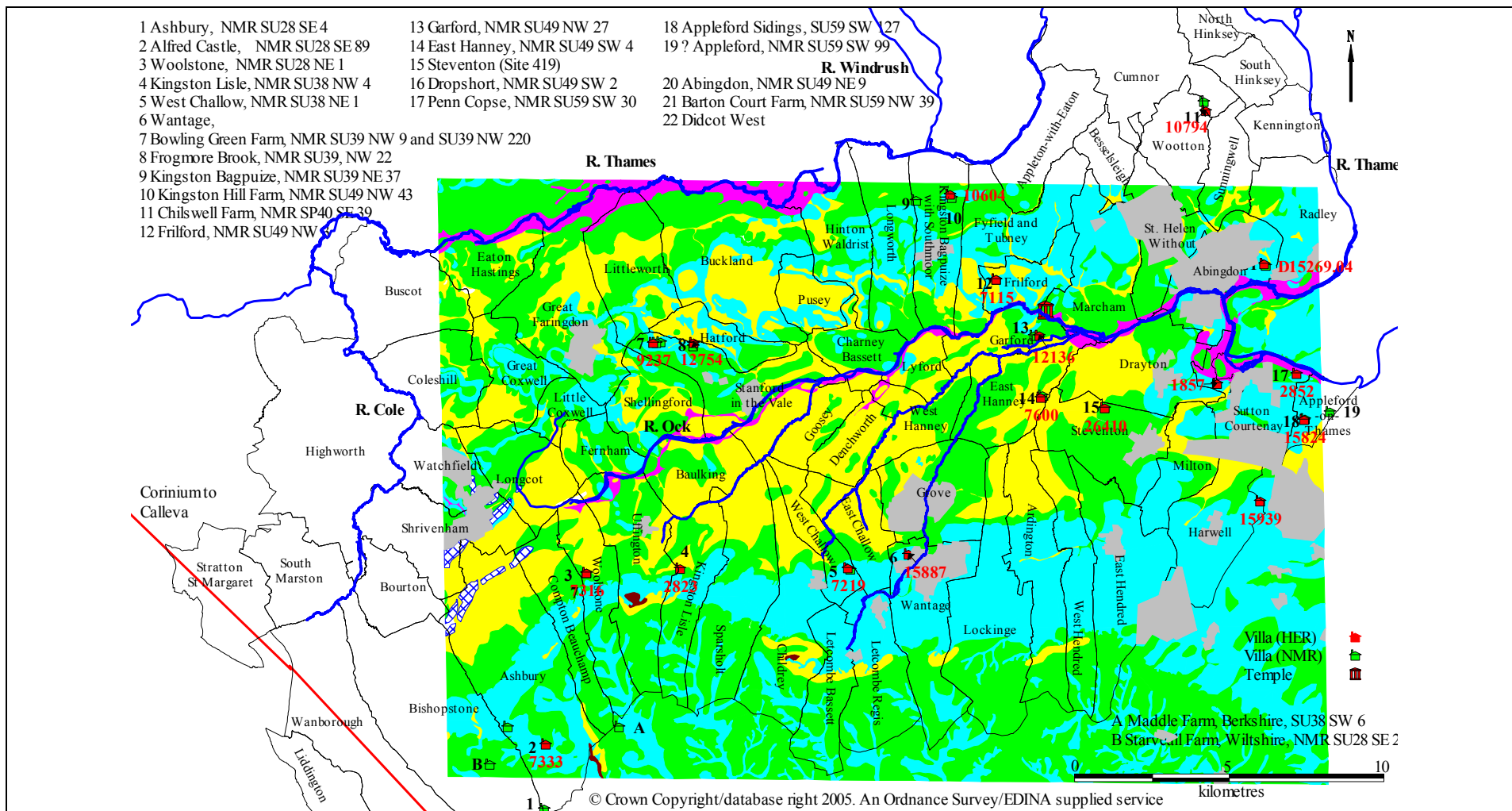
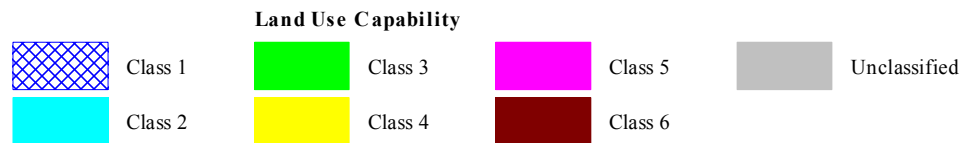


Figure 7.5 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse
 (Soils based on Land Use Capability)
 (Soil Survey of England and Wales – Sheet 253 (Jarvis 1973)
 (Soil map © Cranfield University (NSRI) 2015 used with permission)



A second group is located at the foot of the escarpment of the Berkshire Downs, where a line of later villages cling to the spring line near the Upper Greensand at the boundary between the chalk and the clay. These villages include Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, Woolstone, Childrey, West and East Challow, Wantage, West and East Hendred and Harwell. The springs also appear to have influenced Roman and earlier settlement. The villas at Woolstone (Anon-b 1885; Hamilton 1959) and West Challow (Davey 1876), located on flatter ground at the foot of the Downs in close proximity to water sources, were excavated in the nineteenth century. Woolstone villa, lying in the shadow of Uffington Castle hillfort and with at least two mosaic floors, may be the richest and largest in the Vale. The villa at West Challow, not far from the hillfort at Segsbury Camp, contained only five rooms and a corridor but may be part of a larger complex. Aerial mapping and geophysical survey have failed to reveal the villa at Woolstone but have demonstrated that the villa and related features at West Challow are located within a double ditched enclosure and trackway. A third possible villa may be located near the source of a small stream at Fawler, Kingston Lisle (Piggott 1927, 478; Gelling 1974, 372-373; Hooke 1987; Hooke 1988 Appendix 2; HER PRN 2823) but has been much disturbed by a later chapel and is not classified as a villa by the HER. Fourthly, at Wantage, the recent discovery of the foundations of a stone building have been interpreted as a possible villa (Barber and Holbrook 2002) but such a classification may depend on whether Wantage is viewed as a town. All four sites lie close to springs and to the Icknield Way.

Four or more villas lie on the sandstones and limestones of the Corallian ridge between the rivers Ock and Thames as illustrated on figure 7.2. The distribution is not even, with two in the west of Stanford-in-the-Vale, one or two in Kingston Bagpuize and one in the east, on the higher ground in eastern Cumnor overlooking the Thames Valley. On geographical and geological grounds the villa at Frilford also belongs to this group, but is instead discussed as part of the grouping of villas in the central Vale. A possible villa or Romano-British farmstead may lie in Watchfield where two small coin hoards together with Roman pottery and possibly tesserae were located in 1905 (Peake 1931). The HER reference D7109 and NMR reference SU 29 SE 4 suggest a Romano-British farmhouse or settlement.

None of the sites on the Corallian ridge has been fully excavated. Most work has probably been done at Bowling Green Farm (Chambers 1988; 1989; 1990; Mudd 1993) but

the excavations were limited in time and scope and are not adequately published. The actual villa site at Kingston Hill Farm (Parrington 1977; Cowell 1979; Cowell and Miles 1980; Moore 2001) has not been located and may have been destroyed under the current buildings. The limited excavation at Chilswell Farm (Grew 1980; Donald and Crawford 1987) also provides little information on dating, phasing or size. The geological characteristics of this site, close to the boundary of greensand and clay, is similar to the villas on the spring line at the foot of the Berkshire Downs.

The central Vale contains three small villas in close proximity to the Romano-British temple at Marcham / Frilford. The villa at Frilford was discovered and excavated in the nineteenth century (Evans 1897) while the sites at Garford (Hingley 1979) and East Hanney (Rutland and Thomas 1968) are more recent discoveries. The Frilford villa lies on the Corallian ridge north of the river Ock and is geologically more related to the previous group. South of the river Ock are villas at Garford and East Hanney. All three sites have been investigated through fieldwalking and geophysical survey as part of this thesis. More recently, as part of the archaeological investigations for the Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir proposal, a probable villa has been located in Steventon. Because of the proximity in location this new site is also discussed in this group.

The first three villas are situated in complex landscapes which suggest settlement and activity in the vicinity from at least the late Iron Age and throughout the Roman period. Each site is different. The villa landscape at Frilford, discussed in Chapter 5, with the villa located at the edge of an approximately circular enclosure, contains several separate elements which may not be contemporary with each other. At Garford, also discussed in Chapter 5, several periods of activity seem to be superimposed on each other and it is unclear which features relate to the villa. The Frilford and Garford villas are small and rectangular: cottage or corridor villas. The linear settlement at East Hanney, discussed in Chapters 5 and 6, is structured around a north-south trackway with an associated ditch whose length exceeds one kilometre, and where both Iron Age and Romano-British features are present. Despite geophysical survey and evaluation trenches it is not possible to say anything about the size and orientation of the villa. Similarly, at Steventon (Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007), where geophysical survey and evaluation excavation have taken place and demonstrated the probable existence of a villa, its size and orientation remain undetermined. It might be situated within an enclosed compound.

The final cluster of villas lies in the eastern part of the Vale, adjacent to the river Thames and includes Barton Court Farm in Radley², north of the river Ock, and a number of potential villas south of the river Ock in Appleford and Sutton Courtenay. The recent excavations at Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986) and Appleford Sidings (Booth and Simmonds 2009) provide detailed information, while at Sutton Courtenay, Dropshort Villa was partially excavated in 1966 (Reading Museum 1962, 118; Wilson and Wright 1967, 198). A further possible villa in Sutton Courtenay, at Penn Copse, was destroyed by a bulldozer in the 1960s (HER 2852; SU59 SW 30). South of these villas, and further from the river Thames, is a recently discovered villa near Didcot (RPS Consultants 2001) situated on the Upper Greensand and whose geology is therefore more similar to Wantage and West Challow further west.

The cluster of villas east of Abingdon, in Sutton Courtenay and Appleford, continues eastwards into Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham to form a link with Dyke Hills and Dorchester-on-Thames. Miles (1982a, 70) suggested villas at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham (HER 3172) and at a site in Little Wittenham (Rhodes 1948; HER 3161). Neither is officially classed as a villa by the HER although Baker (2003, 11) describes the former as containing painted plaster and stone roof tiles. Even if this building does not reach the status of a villa there is clearly some Roman aspiration. The second site has been recently investigated and some confirmation of its villa status obtained by the identification of a trapezoidal enclosure ditch (Allen *et al.* 2010). Further Roman buildings may be present at Hill Farm in Little Wittenham (HER 15360; HER 17392).

Disregarding the two sites in Ashbury and a site in Kingston Bagpuize, the summary statistics of nineteen potential villas are listed in tables 7.3 and 7.4 and further details are provided in Catalogue 2. These tables are used as the basis for the following discussion on villa chronology, enclosures, size and material culture.

² Barton Court Farm is actually in Abingdon civil parish. However, the Pastscape references for Barton Court Farm (NMR number SU 59 NW 39 and Monument Number 238005) give the parish as Radley. Similarly, the HER entries D15269.02 and D15269.03 for Barton Court Farm list the parish as Radley. It is probable both the HER and NMR are in error but for consistency with these two sources, I have stated Radley.

Civil Parish	HER PRN	NMR Number	Size	Orientation	Rooms	Hypocaust	Tiled Roof	Wall Plaster	Mosaic
Abingdon (Vineyard)	12849.02	SU49 NE 9	Unknown		>3	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Tesserae
Appleford (Sidings)	15824	SU59 SW 127	ca 9m by 7.5m	E-W	Unknown	No	No	No	No
Appleford	15310	SU59 SW 99	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Cumnor (Chilswell Fm)	10794	SP40 SE 39	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Flue tiles	Roof tiles	Painted wall plaster	Six tile tesserae
Didcot	15939		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Flue tiles	Roof tiles	Painted wall plaster	Unknown
East Hanney	7600	SU49 SW 4	?15m by 7m	? NNE-SSW	Unknown	Flue tiles	Roof tiles	Painted wall plaster	Unknown
Frilford	7115	SU49 NW 3	21m by 12m	NNE-SSW	12 + portico	One room at south-east.	Yes	Yes. Numerous colours	Tessellated pavement in hypocaust chamber
Garford	12136	SU49 NW 27	13.3m by 6m + 13.0m by 5.4m	NNW-SSE	5 + corridor	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	Unknown
Kingston Bagpuize	10604	SU49 NW 43	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Several tile fragments	Uncertain	Two tesserae
Kingston Lisle	2823	SU38 NW 4	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	One fragment of flue tile	Unknown	Unknown	13 tesserae
Radley (Barton Court)	D15269.04	SU59 NW 39	25m by 10m	NNW-SSW	6 + corridor + cellar	No	Ceramic and limestone tiles	Mainly white with some red	plain tessellated pavement
Stanford-in-the Vale (Bowling Green Fm)	9237	SU39 NW 6 & SU39 NW 220	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	Unknown
Stanford-in-the Vale (Frogmore)	12754	SU39 NW 22	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Steventon	26410	(SU49 SE 162)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Flue tiles	Roof tiles	Unknown	One tessera
Sutton Courtenay (Dropshort)	1857	SU49 SE 2	Unknown	Probably N-S	>3	Flue tiles	Yes	Painted wall plaster	Tesserae, circular coloured mosaic
Sutton Courtenay (Penn Copse)	2852	SU59 SW 30	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Wantage (Denchworth Road)	15887		18m by >12.5m	Possibly NE-SW	At least 4 + corridor	22 flue tiles	33 Tegulae, 22 imbrices.	White and red plaster	No evidence
West Challow	7219	SU38 NE 1	25m by 11m	NNE-SSW	5 + corridor	One room at south.	Not stated but probable.	Dull red.	Uncertain
Woolstone	7316	SU28 NE 1	Unknown but large (>30 m)	Unknown Possibly E-W	Unknown	None detected			At least 3

Table 7.3 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse

Civil Parish	HER PRN	NMR Number	Other Buildings	Enclosure Ditch	Date	Previous Site Occupation
Abingdon (Vineyard)	12849.02	SU49 NE 9	Unknown	Unknown	From early second century	Extensive Iron Age and early Romano-British occupation
Appleford (Sidings)	15824	SU59 SW 127	Possible	Double ditch	Mid First to early second century	No (Middle Bronze Age activity)
Appleford	15310	SU59 SW 99	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Cumnor (Chilswell Fm)	10794	SP40 SE 39	Possibly	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Didcot	15939		Unknown	Unknown	Possibly third and fourth century	Possible
East Hanney	7600	SU49 SW 4	Possibly	No	Unknown: second to fourth century pottery	Probable Iron Age settlement
Frilford	7115	SU49 NW 3	Yes – Possible bathhouse	Yes	Unknown: second to fourth century pottery	Probable extensive Iron Age settlement
Garford	12136	SU49 NW 27	Possible timber structures	Possibly	Unknown: second to fourth century pottery	Iron Age and also early Romano-British settlement
Kingston Bagpuize	10604	SU49 NW 43	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Possible
Kingston Lisle	2823	SU38 NW 4	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Radley (Barton Court)	D15269.04	SU59 NW 39	Yes – Building 2	41m by 34m. Entrance in west.	Late third and fourth century.	Late Iron Age and also early Romano-British settlement.
Stanford-in-the Vale (Bowling Green Fm)	9237	SU39 NW 6 & SU39 NW 220		Yes	Third Century	Probable late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement.
Stanford-in-the Vale (Frogmore)	12754	SU39 NW 22	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Steventon	26410	(SU49 SE 162)	Unknown	Possible	Possibly third and fourth century	Possible
Sutton Courtenay (Dropshort)	1857	SU49 SE 2	Probable	Unknown	Possibly second and third century	Probable first and second century occupation.
Sutton Courtenay (Penn Copse)	2852	SU59 SW 30	Unknown	Yes	Unknown: first to fourth century pottery	Probable.
Wantage (Denchworth Road)	15887		Unknown	Yes	Late third and fourth century.	Site used in earlier centuries. Metalled trackway.
West Challow	7219	SU38 NE 1	Yes	Yes	Probable fourth century	Irregular ditches in geophysical survey suggest earlier use of site.
Woolstone	7316	SU28 NE 1	Yes	Unknown	Probable fourth century	IA pottery found nearby. RB pottery of late first and second century AD found in 1955.

Table 7.4 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse

7.2.1 Villa Chronology

Establishing the initial and final dates for the majority of the villas listed in tables 7.3 and 7.4 is not possible. Most have not been excavated, and even for those that have, dates have not always been established. Nevertheless, figure 7.6 lists fifteen villas and suggests dates, or date ranges for eleven.

The earliest dated villas are close to Abingdon and the river Thames: Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986), Appleford Sidings (Booth and Simmonds 2009) and Dropshort, Sutton Courtenay (Wilson and Wright 1967). The early villas at Barton Court Farm and Appleford Sidings are represented by rectilinear timber buildings within ditched enclosures. The lack of ceramic building material suggests thatched roofs. These sites have been termed ‘proto-villas’ (Henig and Booth 2000, 85; Booth *et al.* 2007, 43-52) and appear to have been constructed in the first century AD and abandoned by the middle of the second century AD. The early Romano-British building (structure III) at Barton Court Farm, between 28 and 30 metres in length and 8.5 metres in width and aligned on an east-west axis, is much larger than the structures at Appleford Sidings, represented by the timber foundations of two consecutive buildings 9 metres in length and 4 to 7 and 3 to 6 metres in width, also on an east-west axis. Given the elaborate ditched enclosure at Appleford Sidings it would seem possible there were additional, larger buildings, now lost. Timber and thatch are standard Iron Age roundhouse materials: the new, intrusive landscape elements are the rectilinear buildings and enclosure ditches, particularly the double ditch at Appleford Sidings. New architectural elements are seen in the wall plaster at Barton Court Farm.

Of probable second century AD date is Dropshort villa in Sutton Courtenay, situated within a slightly trapezoidal ditched enclosure. The pottery obtained from the 1966 excavation survives in Reading Museum and although studied by Oxford Archaeology in the 1980s remains unpublished. Pottery recovered earlier, in 1962, was dated to the second century AD (NMR SU 49 SE 2) and limited investigations by Time Team in early 2012 also found material of this date. Roman construction techniques and materials such as stone foundations, ceramic building material, tesserae, wall plaster and glass, largely lacking at Appleford Sidings and the early villa at Barton Court Farm, may indicate that Dropshort villa is chronologically later. Chronological difference from the two other sites may also be indicated through its apparent north-south alignment. The pottery assemblage suggests the villa was constructed and abandoned within the second century AD.

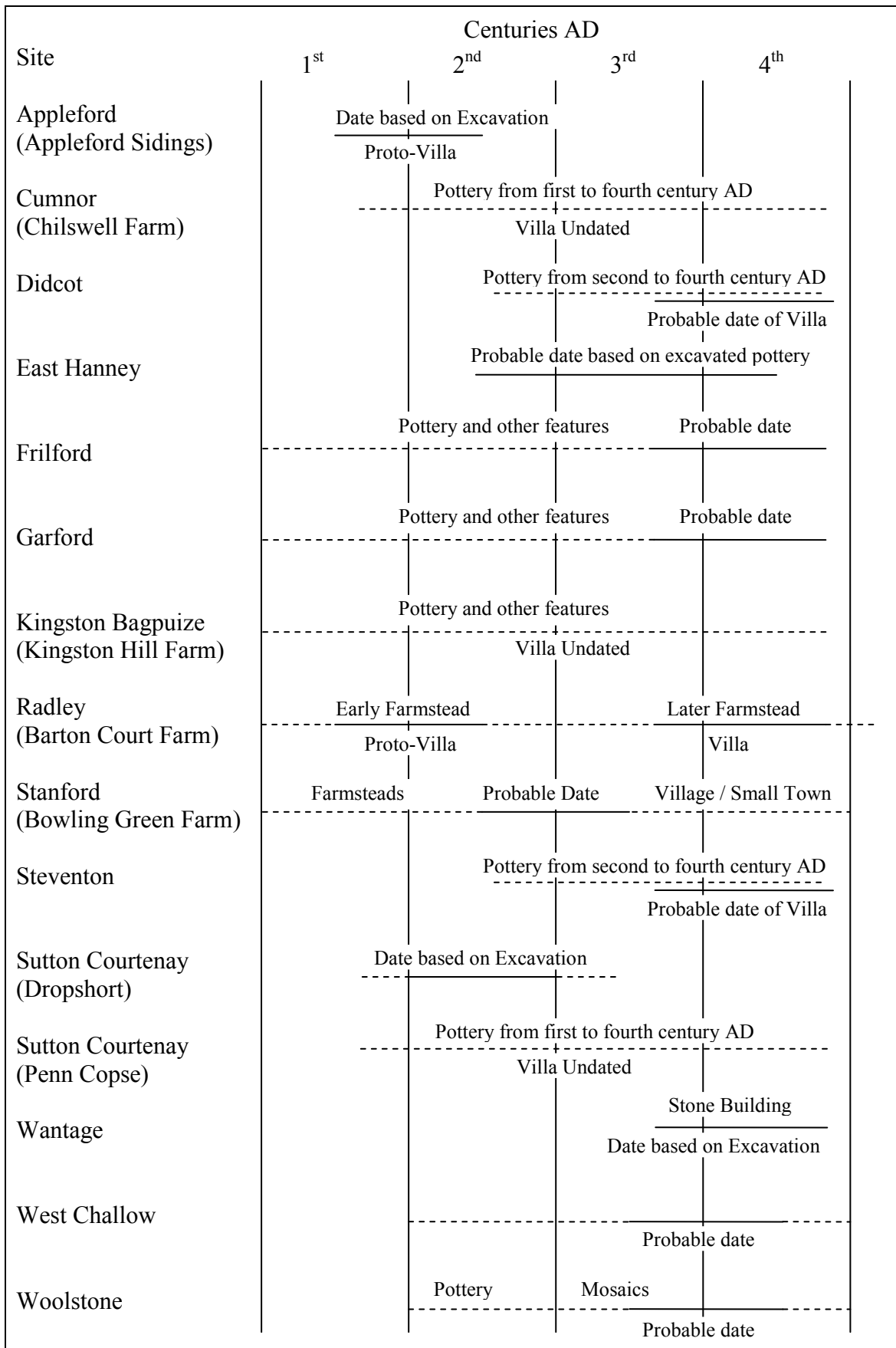


Figure 7.6 – Chronology of Villas in the Vale of the White Horse

These three early villas lie close to the Iron Age enclosed oppida and the later small towns of Dorchester-on-Thames and Abingdon, and within the area of late Iron Age Trinovantian coin distributions illustrated in figure 6.9. The construction and abandonment of these villas may be related to economic and political influences specific to this local area and could represent either the first aspirations of a local elite to a Roman lifestyle, or intrusive newcomers bringing new architectural and building styles.

Further west, in the Vale of the White Horse, the villas are less securely dated but are probably later. The small villas at Garford and Frilford were constructed on sites apparently in use since the middle and/or late Iron Age. Their origins may therefore differ from Appleford Sidings and they are more likely to represent the gradual accumulation of wealth sufficient to invest in Roman construction and consumption. Both villas are small, especially Garford, and are north-south aligned with a probable entrance or corridor in the east. At Stanford-in-the-Vale, the villa at Bowling Green Farm, dated to the second and third century AD on the basis of second century pottery, was located in an area of earlier Iron Age farmsteads, and was subsequently replaced in the fourth century AD by a small market village (Chambers 1988; 1989; 1990; Mudd 1993).

The chronology of the villas at East Hanney, Steventon and Didcot appear similar to each other. There is little or no evidence of direct continuity from the Iron Age at these sites, and the bulk of the pottery assemblages is dated from the second to the fourth century AD. The most probable date for these three villas is a start sometime in the third century and continued use into and possibly through the fourth century AD. Securely dated to the late third and fourth centuries AD is the late villa at Barton Court Farm where a north-south aligned cottage or corridor villa was set within a small oval enclosure, itself within a larger, slightly trapezoidal enclosure as illustrated in figure 7.7.

At Wantage excavation suggests the building represented by the stone foundations was constructed in the late third century AD and continued in use into the fourth century. Earlier Romano-British activity on the site is attested by the pottery. Interpretation of the building at Wantage as a villa is uncertain as its full extent has not been determined and its rural context is unclear. It is possible this is a Roman building adjacent to or forming part of a small urban, or partly urban, settlement. But whether urban or rural, it would appear to form an important Roman element of the late third and fourth century landscape.

The villa at Woolstone is undated but Cosh and Neal (2010, 279-280) have suggested the two mosaics are not typical of the fourth century and have speculated a third century AD date. Repairs to the mosaics suggest the building may have continued in use for some or most of the fourth century. The alignment of the excavated part of the building is approximately east-west, however the full extent and shape of the villa is not known. A similar third and fourth century AD date is probable for West Challow, situated within a double ditched enclosure and aligned north-south. Geophysical survey provides some evidence for earlier use of the site but not of the intensity or scale of Frilford and Garford.

At Chilswell Farm (Cumnor), Penn Copse (Sutton Courtenay) and Kingston Hill Farm (Kingston Bagpuize). the pottery assemblages include material from the first to the fourth century AD but fail to provide any precise dating evidence for any villa (if indeed these are villa sites). All three sites are left as ‘Villa Undated’ in figure 7.6

7.2.2 Villa Enclosures

The setting apart of a villa within a defined enclosure may represent a deliberate manipulation of the landscape to highlight economic and social status. Table 7.5 lists, in approximately chronological order, villas known to be set within a ditched enclosure. The largest of these is at West Challow. Although the size of the enclosure may be related to the size of the villa estate, there is no direct evidence for villa estate sizes.

Site	Enclosure Size	Enclosure Type	Entrance	Date
Appleford Sidings	75m by 55m	Double	South	First century AD
Barton Court Farm I	95m by 52m	Single, double on east	South	First century AD
Dropshort	ca 60 by 30m	Single	Unclear	Possibly second century AD
	ca 150m by 130m	Single, double on south	Unclear	Possibly second century AD
Penn Copse	75m by 75m	Single, possibly double	East	Unknown
Barton Court Farm II	40m by 30m	Single	West	Third / fourth century AD
	120m by 120m	Single, double on east	Unclear	Third / fourth century AD
Little Wittenham	ca 70m by 70m	Single	East	
West Challow	190 by 170m	Double	Probably East	Unknown, probably third/fourth century AD.

Table 7.5 – Rectangular and Trapezoidal Enclosures

Two villas possess both an inner and outer enclosure: Barton Court Farm II (Miles 1986, 11) and Dropshort as illustrated in figure 7.7. The use of two enclosures may serve to further differentiate the main villa building from other buildings and activities taking place within the outer enclosure. Two boundaries need to be crossed in order to reach the villa from the surrounding landscape. The enclosures at Dropshort, probably dating to the second century AD, are larger than those at Barton Court Farm II, dated to the late third century. Only the enclosures at West Challow are larger than the outer enclosures of Barton Court Farm II and Dropshort.



**Figure 7.7 – Villas with Inner and Outer Enclosure Ditches
Barton Court Farm II (Miles 1986, 11, Figure 8) (left),
Dropshort (NMR 24856/27 – 8th July 2006 © English Heritage) (right)**

Figure 7.8 illustrates the regular, ditched enclosures at Appleford Sidings, Appleford, and Dropshort and Penn Copse in Sutton Courtenay. The outer enclosure at Dropshort is substantially larger than the enclosures at Appleford Sidings, Penn Copse and Barton Court Farm I. These regular enclosures can be contrasted with the irregular enclosures at Frilford and the complex set of enclosures at Garford in figure 7.9. These differences again hint at different processes leading to the formation of villas, or differences in ownership or wealth. The large, rectangular, double-ditched enclosure at West Challow is also illustrated in figure 7.9.

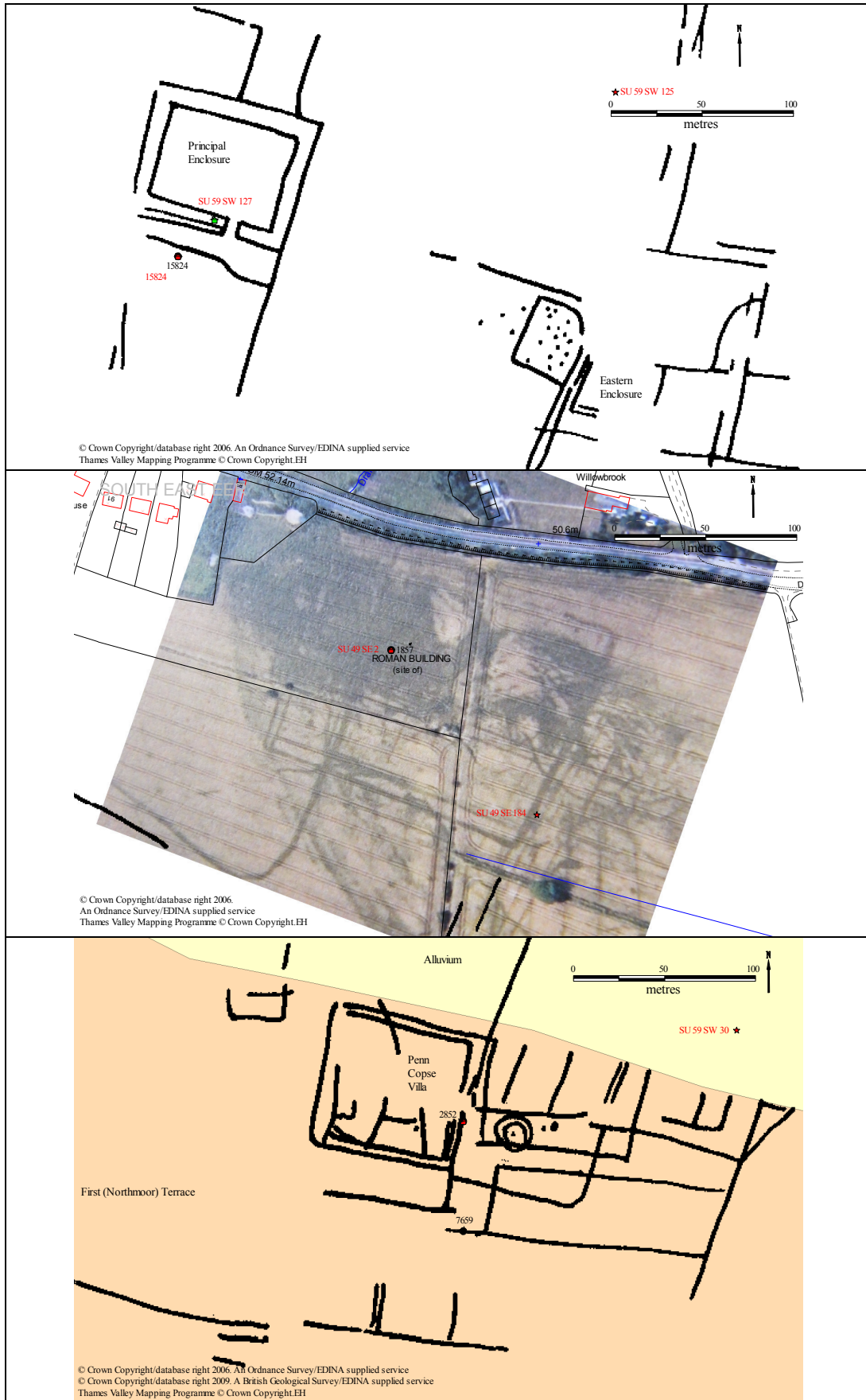


Figure 7.8 – Villas with Enclosure Ditches (Thames Terraces)
Appleford Sidings (top), Dropshort (middle), Penn Copse (bottom)
Dropshort (NMR 24856/27 – 8th July 2006 © English Heritage)

■ Villa

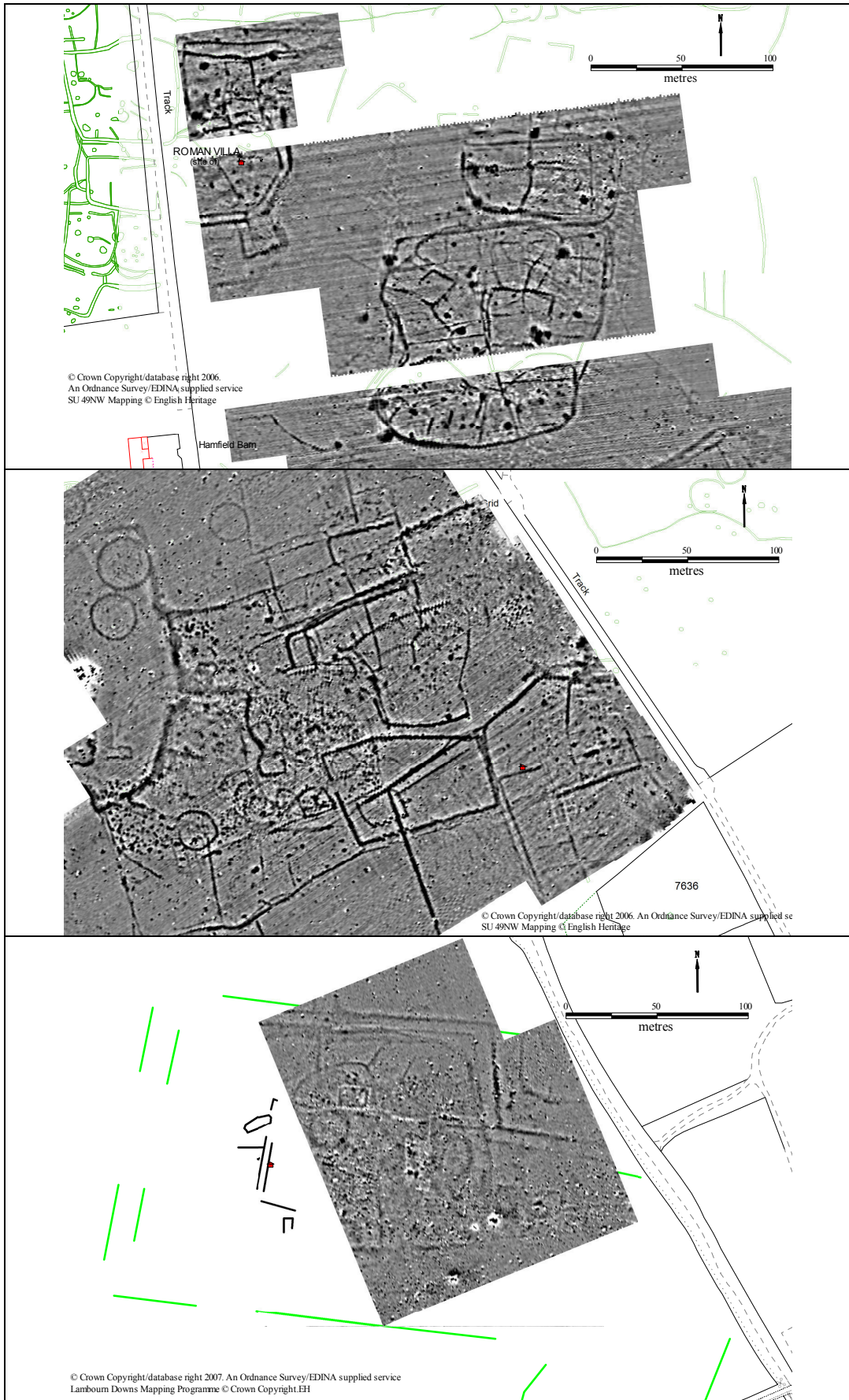


Figure 7.9 – Villas with Enclosure Ditches (Corallian Ridge and Upper Greensand) ■ Villa Frilford (top), Garford (middle), West Challow (bottom)

Both ‘proto-villas’, Barton Court Farm I and Appleford Sidings, have enclosure ditches. Although the trapezoidal enclosure at Barton Court Farm I is larger than the rectangular enclosure at Appleford Sidings, the status of Appleford Sidings is enhanced by the double-ditched construction: the two ditches are set three metres apart with the outer being more substantial. The importance of the southern side is indicated not only by a greater ditch depth but also by the entrance, formed by joining the inner and outer ditches to produce a causeway about seven metres in length and three metres wide. The ditch is deepest at the entrance causeway (Booth and Simmonds 2009, 25-30).

7.2.3 Villa Size, Layout and Material Culture

Young (1986, 60) suggests that the size and material culture of villas provides an indication of wealth and power. Table 7.6 extracts information from table 7.3, in approximate chronological order, for the limited number of villas where evidence for villa size, layout and material culture exists.

Site	Size	Orientation	Rooms	Date
Appleford Sidings	ca 9m by 7.5m	E-W	Unknown	First Century AD
Barton Court Farm I	ca 30m by 8m	E-W	Unknown	First Century AD
Dropshort	Unknown	Probably N-S	>3	Possibly second century AD
East Hanney	?15m by 7m	?NNE-SSW	Unknown	
Frilford	21m by 12m	NNE-SSW	12 + portico	
Garford	13.3m by 6m + 13.0m by 5.4m	NNW-SSE	5 + corridor	
Barton Court Farm II	25m by 10m	NNW-SSW	6 + corridor + cellar	Late third and fourth century AD
Wantage (Denchworth Road)	18m by >12.5m	Possibly NE-SW	At least 4 + corridor	Late third and fourth century AD
West Challow	25m by 11m	NNE-SSW	5 + corridor	Possibly third and fourth century AD
Woolstone	Unknown but large (>30 m)	Unknown	Unknown. At least 2	Possibly third and fourth century AD

Table 7.6 – Villa Size and Layout

The difference in size between the early structures at Appleford Sidings and Barton Court Farm has already been discussed. Indeed, with a length of 28 to 30 metres, the early phase villa at Barton Court Farm is only exceeded by Woolstone. The small size of the known buildings at Appleford Sidings appears incongruous in comparison to the double-ditched enclosure and the material culture apparent in the pottery assemblage.

The pottery assemblages from Appleford Sidings and Barton Court Farm I differ from other contemporary rural settlements. At Appleford Sidings, more extensive economic and trade contacts are suggested by the greater range of wares, and social change or difference, is indicated by new vessel types to prepare and serve food and drink (Booth and Simmonds, 2009, 79). Booth (Henig and Booth 2000, 173) has suggested a distinction between lower and higher status rural settlements can be made, in the late Iron Age and early Roman period, using a threshold of 5% in the percentage of fine and specialist wares within the overall assemblage. At Appleford Sidings the percentage of such wares was 7.2% by sherd count and 10.9% by weight, and in the early phase of Barton Court Farm was even higher, at 17.1% by weight (Booth and Simmonds 2009, 76).

Apart from the previous comments on its chronology and enclosures, relatively little can be said of Dropshort villa. Stone foundations and ceramic building materials demonstrate the building was more substantial, and Roman in its construction, than either Barton Court Farm I or Appleford Sidings. Roof and flue tiles indicate a tiled roof and at least one heated room; tesserae and wall plaster demonstrate Roman styles of internal decoration. The pottery from the 1966 excavation remains unpublished, limiting the discussion on material culture. Nevertheless, this would appear to be an important, relatively early, Roman site representing considerable power, status and wealth.

Two villas of very similar size and orientation to each other are Barton Court Farm II and West Challow. The five rooms at West Challow are linked by an eastern corridor with the largest room in the centre and the southern room heated by a hypocaust. Interior decoration is indicated by red wall plaster although no design was found (Davey 1876). There were six rooms at Barton Court Farm II, although two were only separated by a light partition. The rooms were linked by an eastern corridor but unlike West Challow there was no evidence for a heating system and instead there was a substantial cellar at the northern end. Tesserae and wall plaster were found throughout the building but only *in situ* in the cellar (Miles 1986, 31). Shorter, but slightly wider than these two villas is Frilford, consisting of twelve rooms and an eastern corridor or portico (Evans 1897). A large room in the south-east contained a hypocaust with a tessellated pavement and most of the recovered wall painting.

The similarities in size and orientation between these three cottage villas may indicate they all share a common date from the late third century AD to the fourth century AD. But there are significant differences in their enclosures and this form of simple corridor villa can be found from the first to the fourth century AD. At West Challow the pottery description is inadequate to distinguish fine and coarse wares and although Samian was noted this may pre-date the construction of the building. Similarly, at Frilford Evans (1897, 348) commented on Samian or pseudo-Arretine pottery and noted that New Forest ware indicated longer distance contacts.

These three villas appear to have an associated second building with stone foundations. At Barton Court Farm, a second, two-roomed building, located thirty-five metres east of the villa, was constructed in the mid-fourth century AD and continued into the second quarter of the fifth century (Miles 1986, 14). At Frilford, the foundations of two rooms of a second building were found twenty-seven metres from the north-eastern corner of the villa and may represent part of a bath house. A second building is also probable at West Challow, about twenty-seven metres to the north-west of the villa building.

Substantially smaller is the villa at Garford, where a three-room rectangular building seems to have two or three additional rooms or corridors on the east. The building is adjacent to a complex set of regular and irregular enclosures and may have developed from a 'native' settlement. The site has not been excavated and the only indication of its material culture is from fieldwalked material, discussed in Chapter 5. Ceramic building material such as fragments of tegula and pieces of combed tile of various patterns provides evidence of a tiled roof and at least one heated room. The pottery assemblage consisted largely of local wares extending through to the fourth century AD and included small quantities of mortaria and twenty sherds of Samian, some with patterns. The villa's small size and restricted material culture may indicate a small farmer and limited number of workers rather than a large managed estate.

Less is known of the villa at East Hanney from which fieldwalking in 2006 recovered a substantial amount of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building material. The area with the highest concentration of pottery and tile appears to be related to a feature visible in the geophysical survey to the right of a long linear ditch which may be the site of a

small villa, possibly fifteen metres in length by seven metres wide. The linear feature is at least 1.6 kilometres long and to its west are a complex set of rectangular and circular enclosures. Seven trenches were placed in this field as part of the evaluation work for the Thames Water Reservoir Proposal (Hall 1994). Trench 1 was positioned to investigate the villa and detected four linear features containing substantial blocks of masonry, and two further linear features further north which may also represent building foundations. Although the location of this trench and these linear features does not correspond to the villa site suggested by the geophysical survey and field-walking, this evidence may suggest more than one substantial building in this area. This villa, in the approximate middle of a linear settlement, has a local landscape quite different from the other villa sites.

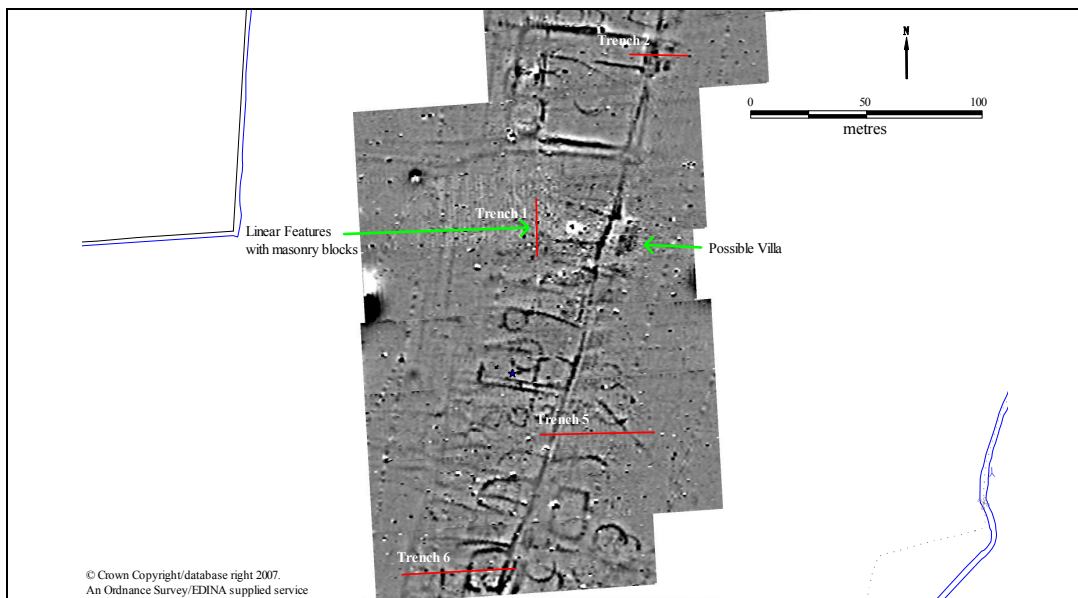


Figure 7.10 – Geophysical Survey of East Hanney Villa

Further south, in Wantage, the foundations of part of a stone building were located during a small excavation, and were discussed in Chapter 5. The excavated part contained four rooms, one of which may represent a staircase to an upper storey, and a corridor in the north-west. A minimalist view is that the building contained only four rooms and corridor in which case it measured 18 metres by 12.5 metres, aligned south-west to north-east with a western corridor. However, the building could have extended further to the south-west or more probably to the south-east, in which case the exposed portion represents the western end of a larger house. Barber and Holbrook (2002, 299) suggest the building was constructed after AD 270.

Important to the classification of this building as a villa are the 33 tegulae, 28 imbrices and 22 box flue tiles found. One room contained an opus signinum floor but there was no evidence of tesserae or mosaics. The bulk of the pottery assemblage is Romano-British: some sherds could date to the late first century AD but most are from the second to the fourth centuries AD. The percentage of fine and specialist wares may provide information about site status or urban versus rural contexts: for third and fourth century AD assemblages this figure is rarely less than 11% (Booth 1997, 134). At Wantage, the sum of the Continental imports and the colour coated wares, at about 15% to 17% of the assemblage (Timby in Barber and Holbrook 2002, 315) is similar to many low status rural sites. Timby highlights the high proportion of storage jars, which she feels are normally associated with storing and processing agricultural produce at rural rather than urban sites (Timby in Barber and Holbrook 2002, 315). This may suggest that if Wantage was a small town, it was still essentially rural, and that the building may be viewed as a villa rather than an urban town house.

The full size and orientation of Woolstone villa is not known. Members of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society visited the site in May 1884 and their report provides the fullest contemporary account (Anon-b 1885, 266-268). The excavations uncovered what was believed to be the main south wall, extending for at least 110 feet. A corridor lay to the north of the wall, and to the north of this was a series of rooms, one of which, near the centre, contained a mosaic floor. A second excavation in 1955 (Hamilton 1959), of over twenty small trenches, also uncovered a mosaic floor. Corridors bordered the room containing the mosaic on the south, west and north. The north corridor appeared to mark the northern boundary of the building and a cobbled or flagstoned courtyard lay to the south of the south corridor.

There is no detailed record of finds from either 1884 or 1955. Hamilton (1959, 85) mentions coarseware dating to the second and fourth centuries AD and some small fragments of Samian. But without information on ceramic building material it is not certain whether the roof was tiled or if there was a heating system. There are no hypocausts in any of the excavated rooms. Despite this lack of information, the mosaics suggest the villa to be an important, third or fourth century AD, Roman site representing considerable power, status and wealth.

7.2.4 Discussion

Within the upper Thames Valley three areas can be distinguished by their Roman settlement structure. Villas, some of which are very large and wealthy, are found in the Oxfordshire uplands, particularly in the area of the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch. The uplands provide a good source of building stone but Booth suggests that more significant may have been the presence of important and wealthy members of the Dobunni elite (Henig and Booth 2000, 90). This contrasts with the gravel terraces of the Oxford clay vale west of Oxford, which although densely settled, do not contain villas. Only in the very west, at sites such as Claydon Pike and Roughground Farm, and in the south, as at South Stoke and Whitchurch, are villas found (Henig and Booth 2000, 90). In the third zone, to the south and west of the river Thames, west of Abingdon in the Vale of the White Horse, villas are present on the Thames gravels, the Corallian ridge and the upper Greensand below the Berkshire Downs. These villas are generally smaller and less wealthy than those of north Oxfordshire, but still represent wealth, power, status, and social hierarchy. This suggests a different response to the impact of Roman culture in the Vale of the White Horse to other low-lying areas of the upper Thames Valley: a response more similar to the Oxfordshire uplands and the Berkshire Downs.

The Vale of the White Horse is therefore a villa landscape. But it is unlikely that the land directly owned or controlled by these villas covered the entire Vale. Lower status rural settlements remained in the majority and will have had various relationships and degrees of dependency on neighbouring villas. As indicated in figure 7.11, there are noticeable clusters of villas and also areas without villas. The chronological development of this villa landscape is also represented in figure 7.11, with the earliest villas located near the river Thames and probably associated with Abingdon and Dorchester-on-Thames. Barton Court Farm I and Appleford Sidings were abandoned early in the second century AD. Settlement discontinuity in the early second century AD, discussed in chapter 5, has been suggested by Lambrick (1992, 105) to mark the end of the late Iron Age social and economic system. From the middle second century AD onwards, the development of villas and other new or restructured settlements reflect the development of a 'Romanised' landscape with investment in housing, agriculture and infrastructure, and linked economically to market centres. Potential market locations include Abingdon, Wantage, Bowling Green Farm and perhaps Marcham / Frilford.

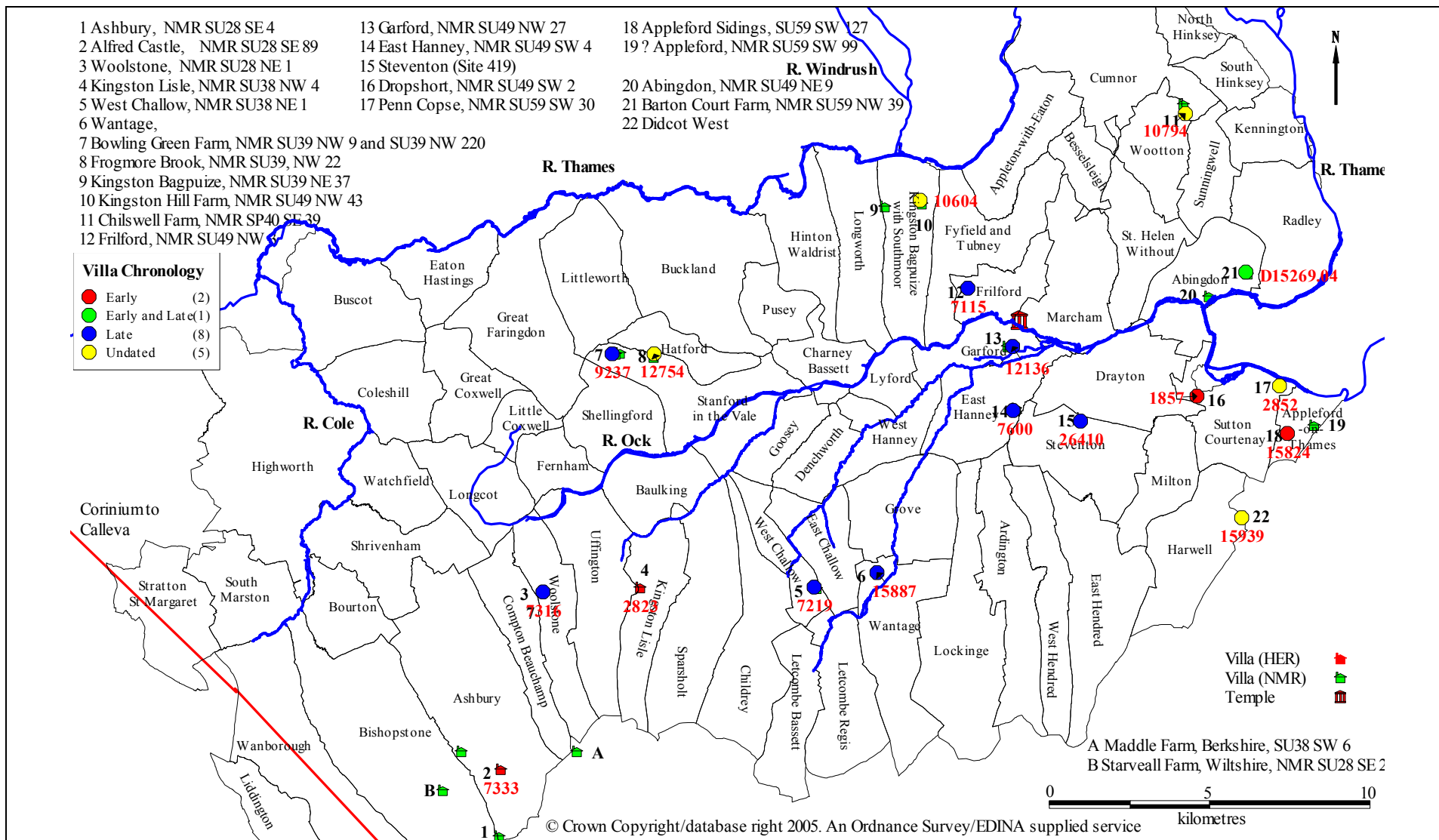


Figure 7.11 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse (Chronology)

From the early second century AD onwards villas were constructed in various locations in the Vale, with different geological properties, but with a preference for high quality soils. These developments took place both in the east, possibly an area of earlier Trinovantian influence, and in the west, areas of possible Dubonnic and Atrebatian influence. The first new villa near the river Thames following this social and economic realignment may have been Dropshort. Much later, after its abandonment, a new villa was established at Barton Court Farm in the late third century. Penn Copse, nearer Dropshort, may also date from this time.

Mausolea and walled cemeteries may also be associated with villas (Dark and Dark 1997, 48-51) but the evidence of such an association in the Vale of the White Horse is limited. Of the twenty large cemeteries listed in table 4.2 only Barton Court Farm is associated with a villa and it contained mostly infant burials. Villas are perhaps more likely to be associated with smaller cemeteries which may not have been detected in excavation or survey work. Late Roman cemeteries are also associated with non-villa sites as at Tubney Wood (Simmonds *et al.* 2011, 116-117) and Ashville Trading Estate (Parrington 1978, 23-25).

Villa landscapes often contain Romano-British temples (Dark and Dark 1997, 49). Rural temples are not rare in Roman Britain but the temple site at Marcham / Frilford is unusual in its association with an amphitheatre and late Roman cemetery. The development of temple, amphitheatre and cemetery as a large religious or ritual complex, discussed in Chapter 4, also suggests a difference in the response to Roman culture in the Vale of the White Horse in comparison to other areas of the upper Thames Valley.

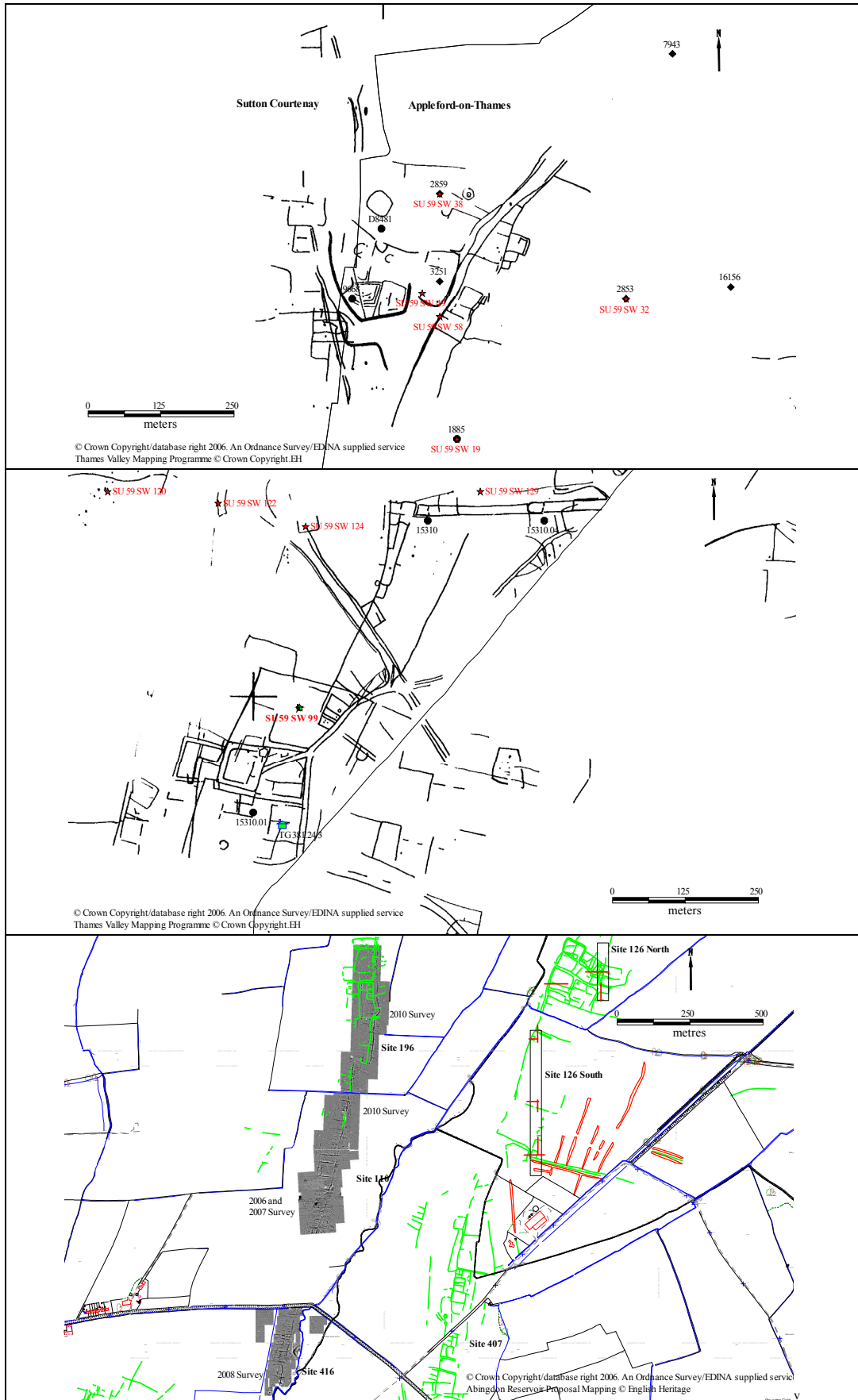
Important also in the developing Romano-British landscape are the roads and trackways which link villas and other rural settlements, field systems, temples and small towns with each other (Dark and Dark 1997, 48-51). The major roads north of the river Thames, linking Alchester with Dorchester-on-Thames in the south-east and with Cirencester in the west, were of little relevance to the local transport requirements of the Vale. A possible road linking Wantage, Frilford and the river Thames near the Oxford potteries, discussed in Chapter 4, would have provided a north-south route through the Vale. Evidence for tracks and routes through the Vale to link minor sites together comes primarily from cropmark evidence for ditched trackways as outlined in section 6.3.3. This local organisation and structuring of the landscape is discussed in the next section.

ditches and a trackway (Bourn, 2000; Booth and Simmonds 2005). These late Iron Age and early Roman trackways differ from later examples in their shorter length, at least as marked by ditches. Booth (2011, 4) interprets these short trackways as a settlement component rather than an indication of increasing communication between settlements.

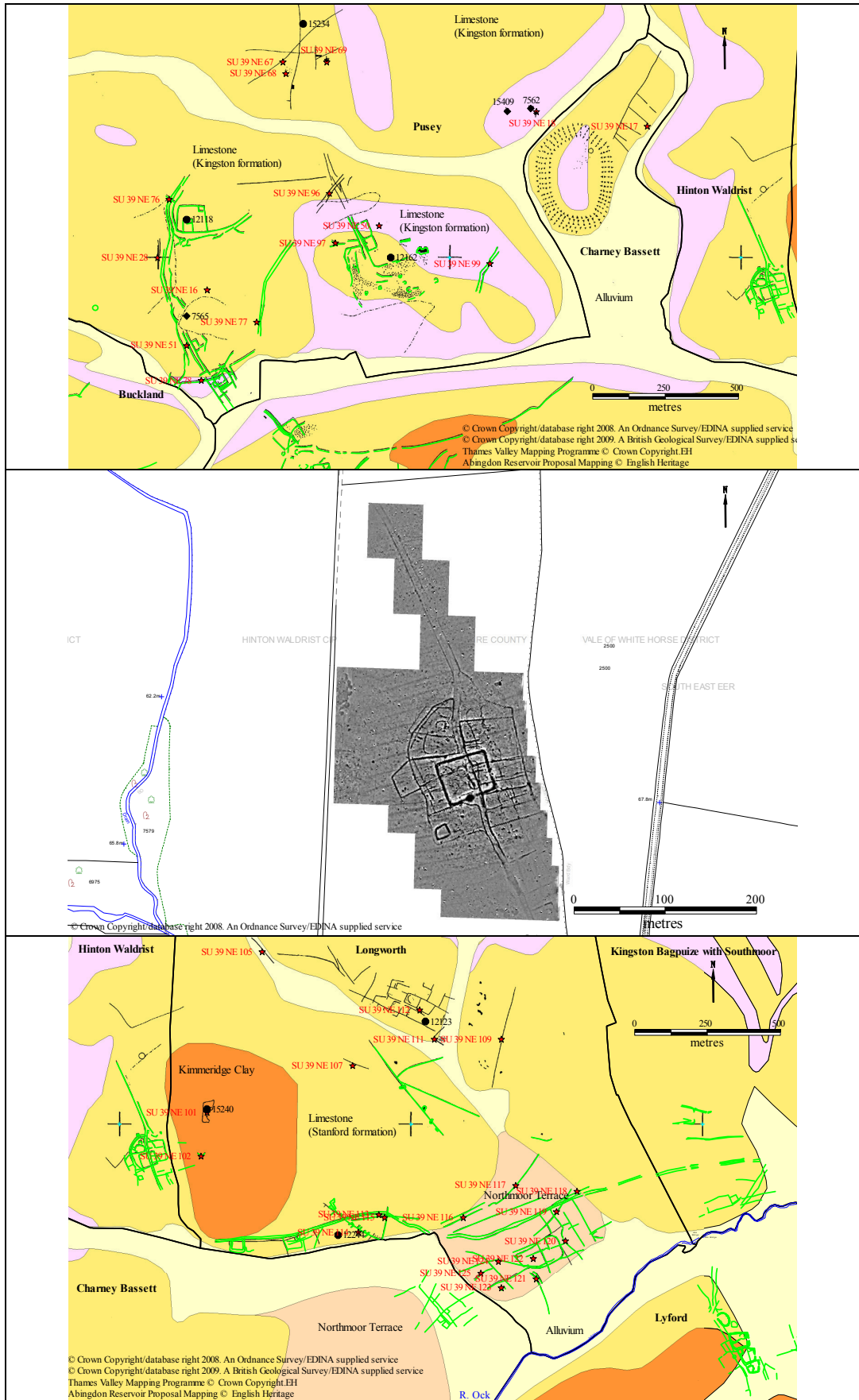
Longer distance trackways linking settlements together become more visible from the second century AD onwards (Booth 2011, 5). These may not be new routes: it is the digging of ditches which makes them visible. Possible reasons for this ditch digging include a greater desire to define and protect field boundaries as a result of the greater investment in agriculture, or to changes in land ownership and tenure relationships.

Cropmarks provide the best evidence of ditched trackways, biasing the results to those areas most susceptible to cropmark formation: the Thames gravels and parts of the Corallian ridge. This is the case at Appleford and figure 7.13 provides two examples. At Appleford Field a Romano-British trackway and various associated enclosures overlies an earlier middle Iron Age settlement. Material from the trackway ditches suggests a construction date in the early second century AD, while recuttings indicate they remained in use until at least the early or middle fourth century (Hinchliffe and Thomas 1981, 62). One of the trackways may lead northwards to the possible villa at Penn Copse while the southern trackway most probably connects to the western trackway at Appleford Sidings.

In north-east Appleford an extensive area of cropmarks containing trackways and rectangular enclosures associated with NMR Reference SU 55 SW 99 is illustrated in the centre of figure 7.13. The cropmarks are undated, but as the trackways are more linear than at Appleford Field, they are most likely to be from the late Roman period. They extend over a considerable distance and contain junctions leading to further settlements to suggest a well defined, interconnected landscape in which movement is controlled. The Thames Valley Mapping Programme has suggested that a villa is situated at location SU 5305 9278, indicated in blue with reference TG 381.24.3 (Fenner 1994, 152), but it has not been possible to locate any excavation or other report which confirms this identification through artefacts or structures.



**Figure 7.13 – Trackways on the Thames Gravels
Appleford Field (top), North-east Appleford, East Hanney and Steventon (bottom)**



**Figure 7.14 – Trackways on the Corallian Ridge
Pusey (top), Hinton Waldrist (middle), Hinton Waldrist and Longworth (bottom)**

Also on the Thames gravels, but further west, are the linear settlements at East Hanney, Drayton and Steventon discussed in Chapter 6 and dated from the second to the fourth centuries AD. In East Hanney the north-south trackway appears to be defined by a single ditch with the majority of the enclosures to the west. As illustrated in figure 7.10, trackways lead west between these enclosures to further fields and possibly into open areas further west. Both to the east of the trackway and to the west of the enclosures the countryside appears to be unenclosed. The Drayton-Steventon settlement appears similar, with a single or double ditched trackway to the west of a set of rectangular enclosures. The northern and southern limits of these two trackways are not known and it is unclear whether they only serve the visible enclosures or form part of a longer north-south route across the Vale. If the latter, the route would be undetectable unless accompanied by a ditch.

Figure 7.14 shows similar trackways on the Corallian ridge at Pusey and Hinton Waldrist, discussed in Chapter 6, which have not been dated by excavation but are suggested to date to the Roman period. The top part of figure 7.14, west of Cherbury Camp in Pusey, shows two tracks oriented north-west to south-east where, as at Appleford, the landscape appears to be structured by trackways linking individual settlements located at intervals along them. The western trackway contains a Y-shaped junction similar to the junction at Appleford Field. To the east of Cherbury Camp, in Hinton Waldrist, the middle diagram illustrates an oval settlement enclosure located directly on a double ditched trackway. The enclosure has internal subdivisions but does not appear to be associated with any external field system. It is therefore unclear whether the trackway is passing through arable or unenclosed pasture. The land could be subdivided by fences or hedges undetected by the aerial or geophysical survey. The lower part of figure 7.14 suggests this trackway is of more than just local significance as it continues eastwards through the southern part of Longworth and into Kingston Bagpuize, with a rectangular field system to its south. The field system and another trackway may continue southwards over the river Ock into Lyford. As with the north-south trackways at East Hanney and Steventon, the overall length and destination of this trackway is not known, but it may be a route north of the river Ock which then leads northwards at Hinton Waldrist towards the river Thames.

With the exception of the villa at East Hanney there is relatively little evidence for villas being directly connected to long distance trackways. Some villas have indications of trackways associated with their field systems as at Barton Court Farm II, and Frilford villa is situated within an enclosure with a double ditch which may represent a short trackway. A much longer trackway leads south towards the river Ock but may not be associated with the villa. The double ditched enclosure at West Challow may be associated with a trackway but there is no obvious trackway at Garford and the evidence is unclear at Dropshort and Penn Copse.

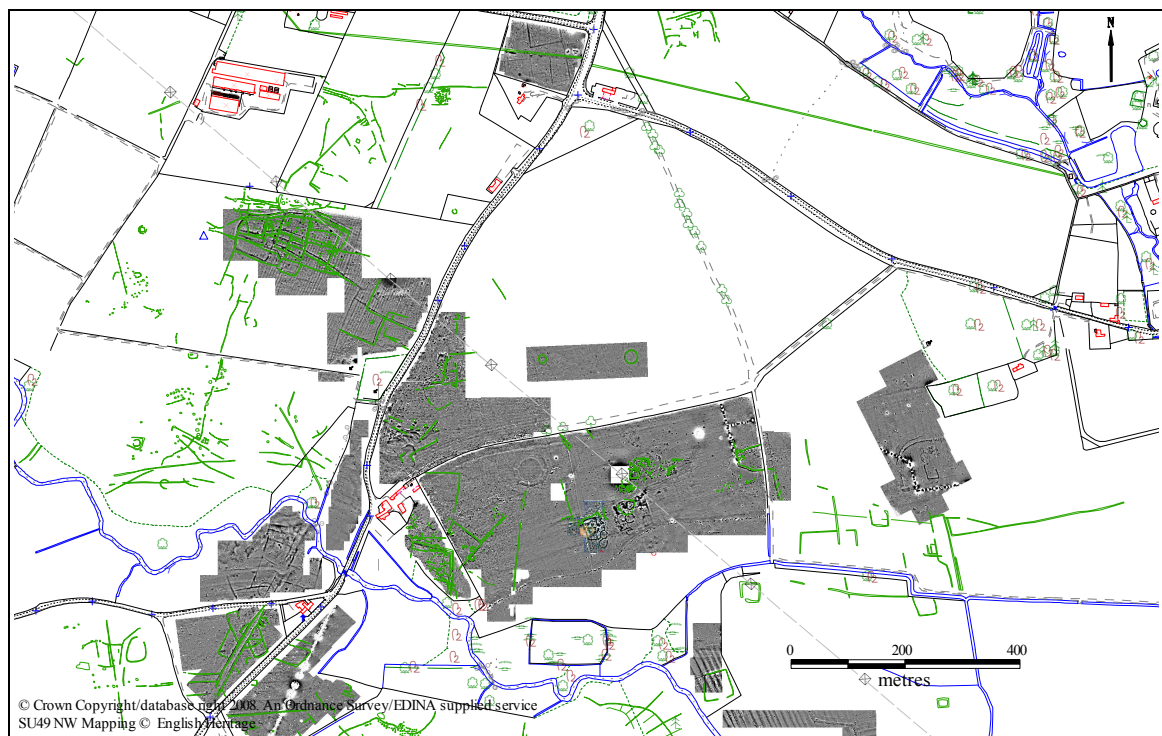


Figure 7.15 – Marcham / Frilford: Cropmarks and Geophysical Survey

Long distance trackways do not occur at the Marcham / Frilford temple site, as illustrated in figure 7.15. The temple may be located on a possible road linking Wantage, Frilford and the river Thames near the Oxford potteries, as discussed in Chapter 4. Apart from this potential road, there is no evidence for the control of movement to and from the temple or amphitheatre. Hingley (1985, 204) suggested the modern field footpaths and byways dated from the late Roman period but this is unconvincing as the other Roman trackways discussed here are unrelated to the modern landscape. Instead, it appears that the land around the temple complex was not enclosed by ditches and access to the amphitheatre was possible from any direction. Access from the south required crossing the river Ock but the river is not a major obstacle. This lack of ditches contrasts with the field system and enclosure to the north of the cemetery, and with most rural settlements.

7.3.1 Discussion

Booth (2011) has suggested four reasons for the growth in trackways in the later Roman period. Firstly, the requirement to control movement through the landscape and to define field boundaries could be related to possible changes in land ownership in the early second century AD, and which might represent a change from communal ownership to control by private individuals. Unlike much of the low-lying parts of the upper Thames Valley, the ability of individuals to amass and consume wealth is demonstrated by the development of villas within the Vale. Changes in land ownership and tenure would also require land to be defined for rental purposes and taxation. But trackways are not necessarily required for these purposes as such definition can also be achieved through boundary stones, fences and hedges. Such an argument is also restricted by the lack of knowledge of how land was owned and controlled within Roman Britain.

Secondly, there is the marked intensification of agriculture in the later Roman period, indicated by the extension of arable cultivation into marginal land previously used for pasture, and by the development of hay meadows to allow greater numbers of animals to be over-wintered. Such intensification probably brought all the land within the Vale into either arable or pastoral management. Yet figures 7.13 and 7.14 demonstrate that not all the land was subdivided by ditches. Substantial areas remained either open, or enclosed by fences and hedges, and a number of trackways appear to terminate in these open landscapes.

Thirdly, with the development of agriculture and a market economy, there was an increasing need for people, animals and material goods to move or be moved between farms and local markets, whether held in villages or small towns. Ditched trackways provide the means to move animals through a landscape used more extensively and intensively for arable cultivation. As well as local travel to markets and religious sites there would have been regional travel to larger towns for census and tax obligations. Officials, traders and craftsmen would have passed through the Vale. However, it is not clear that the known trackways in the Vale lead to market villages or towns. For example, the trackways at Barton Court Farm appear to lead south towards the river Thames, and east, rather than south-west towards Abingdon³. The ultimate destinations of the long trackways at East Hanney and Steventon remain unknown.

³ As illustrated on figure 7.7, the entrance of the inner enclosure at Barton Court Farm does face west.

Booth's final suggestion is an increase in the use of wheeled vehicles which are best served by paved or metalled surfaces. Ditches would be useful to drain all trackways, whether paved, metalled or unsurfaced. This perhaps explains the use of ditched trackways near settlements and field systems where there might have been frequent use of wheeled transport to move agricultural produce from the fields to storage or processing barns. Even without wheeled vehicles, drained trackways would be easier for humans and animals to use in wet weather.

The next section considers the nature of any agricultural expansion and intensification within the Vale, the second of Booth's explanations for the expansion of trackways, by comparing the archaeological evidence for arable and pastoral farming in the Iron Age and the Roman period.

7.4 Exploiting the Landscape

The primary source of evidence for crop management and animal husbandry is obtained from settlement sites where agricultural produce was processed. This may not provide a representative view of the balance between arable and pastoral activities, or between the importance of different domesticated animals and between different crops. Mixed farming is widespread in much of the upper Thames Valley in both the Iron Age and Roman period. On most Iron Age sites cattle and sheep bones are the most numerous, with lesser quantities of pig and horse. From the late Iron Age cattle bones predominate on the lower gravel terraces and floodplain (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 242-244). Charred cereal remains and waterlogged deposits demonstrate the widespread use of spelt wheat and six-row hulled barley throughout the Iron Age (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 252-253).

The increase in the cattle to sheep ratio, which began in the late Iron Age, continued into the Romano-British period (Booth *et al.* 2007, 278-283). On most Roman sites cattle bones are the most common, with lesser amounts of sheep, horse and pig bones. Agricultural innovation is suggested by the greater size of animals: the result of either better feeding or the introduction of new breeds from the Continent (Booth *et al.* 2007, 283). Throughout the Roman period spelt wheat and six-row hulled barley remained the major cereals, but new crops include flax from about AD 100, together with a wide variety of horticultural plants such as cabbage and celery, including introduced varieties. The management of floodplain grassland for hay is another new development (Booth *et al.* 2007, 278-283).

The summary in table 7.7 of the thirteen principal excavated⁴ sites in the Vale of the White Horse indicates relatively little difference in the main crops grown or animals maintained between the Iron Age and Roman period. Spelt wheat and barley, and cattle and sheep, are the most common crops and animals at all sites. Mixed farming is suggested at all sites apart from Watchfield, where there is little evidence for cereal cultivation. However, by measuring only relative proportions of cereals and animal bones, it is unclear whether there is any agricultural expansion on to new areas, or intensification leading to greater yields.

⁴ Bibliographic references are summarised in Appendix 3.

Parish	Site	Quality of the Evidence	Geology	Predominant Agriculture in the middle/late Iron Age	Predominant Agriculture in the Romano-British period
Abingdon	Ashville Trading Estate ⁵	Reasonable	Gravel Terrace	Spelt wheat and barley. Sheep, cattle, pig and horse.	Spelt wheat and barley. Sheep, cattle, pig and horse.
Appleford	Appleford Field	Reasonable	Gravel Terrace	Cattle, sheep, pig and horse	Cattle, sheep, pig and horse
Appleford	Appleford Sidings	Good	Gravel Terrace	(Late Iron Age/early Roman period covered in column to right)	Spelt wheat and barley. Dominant animal species is cattle but also sheep, pig and horse.
Cumnor	Farmoor	Good	Alluvium / Clay	Spelt wheat and barley found in settlement but not necessarily grown on site. Floodplain grassland with equal numbers of sheep and cattle. Fewer pigs and horses.	Possible arable cultivation of gravel terrace with spelt wheat. Small quantities of barley and oats. Floodplain grassland: increased proportion of cattle or horse, or decrease in sheep.
Faringdon	Coxwell Road	Good	Lower Greensand and Corallian Beds	Spelt wheat and barley. Sheep, cattle, pig and horse.	Spelt wheat. Sheep, cattle, pig and horse.
Hatford	Manorhouse Farm	Reasonable	Corallian Ridge	(Late Iron Age/early Roman period covered in column to right)	Spelt or emmer wheat and also barley. Sheep, cattle, pig and horse..
Kingston Bagpuize	Kingston Hill Farm	Limited	Corallian Ridge		Cattle, sheep, pig, horse.
Radley	Barton Court Farm	Good	Gravel Terrace	Emmer, bread and spelt wheat. Barley. Cattle, sheep, pig and horse	Emmer, bread, and spelt wheat. Barley, flax and legumes. Cattle, sheep, pig, horse.
Stanford-in-the-Vale	Bowling Green Farm	Limited	Corallian Ridge		
Tubney	Tubney Wood	Reasonable	Corallian Ridge	Spelt wheat and barley. Sheep, cattle, pig and horse	Spelt wheat and barley. Cattle, sheep, horse and pig.
Wantage	Denchworth Road	Reasonable	Upper Greensand	No evidence	Spelt wheat and barley. Also emmer and bread wheat. Cattle, sheep, horse and pig.
Wantage	Mill Street	Reasonable	Upper Greensand	No evidence	Spelt wheat and barley. Cattle, sheep, horse, pig
Watchfield	Watchfield Triangle	Good	Corallian Ridge	Evidence for cereal production slight. Pastoral farming: mainly cattle.	Evidence for cereal production slight. Pastoral farming: mainly cattle.

Table 7.7 – Arable and Pastoral Land Use at Excavated Sites in the Vale of the White Horse

⁵ Includes Wyndyke Furlong.

The evidence for crops and arable cultivation is derived mainly from charred remains and waterlogged deposits. Charred cereal grains demonstrate cereal processing but do not prove that the crop was grown nearby. For example, cereals are present at both Farmoor and Appleford Field, where pastoral activities on the adjacent floodplain are likely to have been more important than cereal production. Rather than cultivate the damp first terrace, grain may have been transported from neighbouring settlements better suited to arable.

Settlements on the second terrace provide better evidence of arable cultivation, and intensification in the Roman period. At Barton Court Farm, an expansion of arable cultivation from the well drained second terrace on to the floodplain during the Roman period is suggested by an increase in the percentage of seeds of damp ground species from 0.17% in the Iron Age seeds to 44% in the Roman period (Jones in Miles 1986, Fiche 9:B2). The evidence is similar at Ashville Trading Estate, where the proportion of damp ground species declined in the late Iron Age but increased in the Roman period. The initial decline appears linked to a field system re-organisation with a possible concentration of arable on the higher terrace, with pasture on the lower terrace and floodplain. Alternatively, previously damp fields may have been better drained by new ditches. The increase in damp ground species in the Roman period suggests arable expansion on wetter ground (Jones in Parrington 1978, 109-110).

On the Corallian ridge, at Coxwell Road, Faringdon, although the crops produced and processed were similar to Ashville Trading Estate, the excavation provided no evidence for the scale of agricultural production or change through time (Pelling in Cook *et al.* 2005, 274). But at Hatford, where again spelt wheat and barley were the major crops, agricultural intensification in the late Iron Age and early Roman period may be indicated by the development of permanent field boundaries, possibly indicating a move from pastoral farming to arable cultivation (Booth *et al.* 2005, 350-352). South of the river Ock, on the gravels and clays at East Hanney, Steventon and Drayton, the evaluation excavations for the Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir proposal provided evidence of mixed farming, with the predominant cereals being spelt wheat and barley with small amounts of oats (Hearne 2001, 10). Further south at Wantage, spelt wheat and barley were also the main crop with little evidence for peas, beans, fruits or exotic items. These samples, derived from agricultural processing, may not indicate what was consumed on the site (Fairbairn in Barber and Holbrook *et al.* 2002, 330).

The bone assemblages recovered from most settlement sites represent only a very small proportion of the total animal population over the settlement's lifetime. The data is also biased as it represents animal processing, feasting, or ritual deposition. Comparisons between sites are difficult because of different quantification methods: for example, bone fragment counts and minimum number of individuals (Hamilton in Cunliffe 2000, 59-60). Bone assemblage statistics are listed in tables 7.8, 7.9 and 7.10 for ten sites: four on the Thames gravel terraces, four on the Corallian ridge and two on the upper Greensand at Wantage. Published statistics do not exist for the clay Vale south of the river Ock but the evaluation excavations for the Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir demonstrate the presence of cattle, sheep, pig and horse in the Romano-British period (Hearne 2001, 10).

These tables indicate a predominance of cattle over sheep at three sites on the Thames gravels: Farmoor, Appleford Field and Barton Court Farm, and this is also the case at Appleford Sidings (Witkin in Booth and Simmonds 2009, 96-97). Only Ashville Trading Estate does not fit this pattern. Cattle are also the most common animal type at the two Wantage sites. The picture is different on the Corallian ridge, where sheep outnumber cattle at Coxwell Road, Faringdon, and Manorhouse Farm, Hatford. At Tubney, the majority species changes from sheep in the middle Iron Age to cattle by the late Iron Age. Watchfield differs as cattle predominate in all periods. An unusual component of the bone assemblage at Kingston Hill Farm, Kingston Bagpuize, were 46 cattle horn cores from at least 24 animals. As the majority of these horns were from males it was suggested they represent draft oxen working arable land (Wilson in Parrington 1977, 67-68).

A preference for cattle in the areas closest to the floodplains of the river Thames, with sheep on the drier lands of the Corallian ridge, reflects the water requirements of these animals. The floodplains provide permanent access to water and, as they are usually unsuitable for cereal crops, permanent grassland. On the drier terraces and the Corallian ridge, pasture and arable may have been intermixed and varied from year to year, with the stubble available for grazing after harvest. Sheep and cattle assist arable farming through their manure and oxen are needed to draw ploughs and wagons.

Farmoor Reservoir, Cunnor (First Gravel Terrace and Floodplain)

	Iron Age		Romano-British		Iron Age		Romano-British	
Cattle	8		7		89		204	
Sheep/Goat	7		4		69		106	
Pig	4		2		19		16	
Horse	3		8		36		31	
	Minimum Number of Individuals (Wilson in Lambrick and Robinson 1979, 129, Table 24: Minimum Number of Individuals)				Bone Fragment Frequency (Wilson in Lambrick and Robinson 1979, 128, Table 23: Bone Fragment and Oyster Shell Frequency at Farmoor)			

Appleford Field, Appleford (First Gravel Terrace)

	Iron Age		Romano-British	
Cattle	198	49%	387	64%
Sheep/Goat	99	25%	152	18%
Pig	53	13%	71	6%
Horse	43	11%	55	4%
	Bone Fragment Frequency (Wilson in Hinchliffe and Thomas 1981, 86, Table II: Bone and Shell Frequency at Appleford)			

Barton Court Farm, Radley (Second Gravel Terrace)

	Iron Age	First / Second Centuries AD	Third / Fourth Centuries AD
Cattle	24	9	47
Sheep/Goat	30	5	43
Pig	7	3	21
Horse	3	3	12
	Minimum Number of Individuals (Wilson in Miles 1986, Fiche 8:B13, Table 8: Minimum Number of Individuals)		

	Iron Age	First / Second Centuries AD	Third / Fourth Centuries AD
Sample Size	1099	365	3764
Cattle	40.3%	48.8%	50.6%
Sheep/Goat	37.8%	26.8%	25.9%
Pig	8.5%	11.2%	8.6%
Horse	8.6%	11.8%	10.3%
	Bone Fragment Frequency (Wilson in Miles 1986, Fiche 8:C13, Table 9: Percentage of Bone Fragment Frequency)		

Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon (Second Gravel Terrace)

	Iron Age		Romano-British		Iron Age		Romano-British	
Cattle	40	18%	4	27%	1072	31%	64	31%
Sheep/Goat	135	62%	6	40%	1841	54%	91	44%
Pig	25	11%	2	13%	326	9%	18	9%
Horse			2	13%	144	4%	10	5%
	Minimum Number of Individuals (Wilson in Parrington 1978, 113, Table XIV: Minimum Number of Individuals)				Bone Fragment Frequency (Wilson in Parrington 1978, 111, Table X: Bone and Shell Fragment Frequency)			

Table 7.8 - Domesticated Animal Frequencies at sites on the Thames Gravels

Coxwell Road, Faringdon (Lower Greensand and Corallian limestones and sand)

	Middle Iron Age		Late IA, early RB		Iron Age		Early RB	
Cattle	135	28%	78	23%	355	32%	18	23%
Sheep/Goat	321	66%	226	66%	596	53%	39	51%
Pig	21	4%	35	10%	124	11%	15	19%
Horse	13	3%	5	1%	48	4%	5	6%

Bone Fragment Frequency
(Charles in Cook *et al.* 2005, 257, Table 31 Animal Bone Fragments According to Period)

Bone Fragment Frequency
(Hamilton-Dyer in Weaver and Ford 2005, 161, Table 9: Animal Bone Distribution by Species)

Manorhouse Farm, Hatford (Corallian Ridge – sand and limestone)

	Late Iron Age		Romano-British		Late IA and Early RB	
Cattle	6	17.6%	9	23.7%	32	
Sheep/Goat	21	61.8%	21	55.3%	46	
Pig	3	8.8%	6	15.8%	32	
Horse	3	8.8%	1	2.6%	3	

Number of Individual Specimens
(Mounteney in Bourn 2000, 56, Table 12: Number of Individual Specimens)

Bone Fragment Frequency
(Evans in Booth and Simmonds 2005, 346, Table 7: Number of Animal Bones by Species and Feature Type)

Tubney Wood, Tubney (Corallian Ridge – sand and limestone)

	Middle Iron Age	Late IA, early RB
Cattle	5	25
Sheep/Goat	21	6
Pig	2	2
Horse	1	17

Bone Fragment Frequency
(Strid in Simmonds *et al.* 2011, 171, Table 10, Quantification of Identified Bones/Taxon by Phase)

Watchfield Triangle, Watchfield (Corallian Ridge – limestone and with sands, clays and gravels)

	Middle Iron Age		Late Iron Age		Early Roman	
Cattle	122	23.5%	128	23.8%	247	20.1%
Sheep/Goat	76	14.6%	47	8.7%	170	13.8%
Pig	33	6.3%	6	1.1%	29	2.4%
Horse	32	6.2%	12	2.2%	26	2.1%

Bone Fragment Frequency
(Hamilton-Dyer in Birbeck 2002, 275, Table 9: Animal Bone Assemblage by Phase)

Table 7.9 - Domesticated Animal Frequencies at sites on the Corallian Ridge

Wantage (Denchworth Road) (Upper Greensand with Clays)

	Romano-British	
Cattle	199	17%
Sheep/Goat	98	8%
Pig	27	2%
Horse	45	4%

Bone Fragment Frequency
(Maltby in Barber and Holbrook 2002, 321, Table 6: Animal Bone Fragments)

Wantage (Mill Street) (Upper Greensand with Head Deposits)

	Romano-British	
Cattle	177	23%
Sheep/Goat	151	19%
Pig	29	4%
Horse	20	3%

Bone Fragment Frequency
(Maltby in Holbrook and Thomas 1997, 157, Table 5: Species Represented in Animal Bone Assemblages)

Table 7.10 - Domesticated Animal Frequencies at Wantage

7.4.1 Discussion

Of the thirteen sites listed in table 7.7, three (Appleford Sidings, Barton Court Farm, Denchworth Road, Wantage) are villa sites discussed in section 7.2. There is no obvious difference in the agriculture, as measured by the residues of agricultural processing, between villa and non-villa settlements.

Ashville Trading Estate is unusual for a site on the Thames gravels for its high proportion of sheep bones, and correspondingly Watchfield, on the Corallian ridge, is unusual for its high proportion of cattle bones. It seems likely the settlement at Ashville/Wyndyke exploited as sheep pasture the sandstones and limestones of the Corallian ridge a short distance to the north and west, and that the inhabitants of Watchfield grazed cattle on the clay lands to the north and south (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 265). The difference in the bone assemblages between settlements on the Thames gravels and the Corallian ridge suggests each settlement maintained its own animal population, as the bone assemblages would be more homogeneous if animals were transferred between settlements before processing.

Stock management requires the movement of flocks and herds to and from water, from grazed pasture to regenerated or seasonally available pasture, and at certain times of year, on to arable land. This movement, becoming more controlled through time, is seen in the

growth of trackways and the sets of paddocks and small enclosures around settlement sites, where stock were gathered for lambing or calving, culling or processing. For most of the year the animals may not have been confined within bounded fields but instead may have been managed and moved by shepherds and cowherds. Away from settlements there appear to be large areas of empty land without evidence for permanent boundaries between fields or between pasture and arable. If hedges and fences were used for boundaries, rather than ditches, they remain archaeologically invisible.

Three examples of this apparently empty landscape are considered. At Hinton Waldrist, discussed in chapter 6 and illustrated in figure 7.14, the small enclosed settlement, located on a ditched trackway, does not appear to have any field boundaries beyond the settlement to mark out areas of pasture or arable. The linear settlements at East Hanney and Steventon, discussed in chapter 6 and illustrated in figure 7.13, are located on either side of Cow Common Brook. Here it is possible that the empty zone between the two settlements was used as pasture, possibly common to both, or with the brook marking a settlement boundary. The areas to the east and west of the two linear settlements and their enclosures were either pasture or arable, or a mixture of the two. As seen in figure 5.11, trackways lead out into these empty areas. Thirdly, at Appleford Field, discussed in chapter 5 and illustrated in figure 7.13, there is again a cluster of small paddocks and enclosures adjacent to the trackway. However, beyond the settlement there is no cropmark evidence for field boundaries, and Robinson (in Hinchliffe and Thomas 1981, 92) suggests the fields were either very large or were not enclosed.

This pattern is not limited to the Vale of the White Horse. The gravel terraces of the upper Thames Valley appear to have been managed during the Iron Age as large blocks of land divided by fences, hedges and streams rather than ditches (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 263). This was still largely the case in the later Roman period, when most of the Thames floodplain and lower gravel terraces were managed as open pasture land. Only in some areas is there evidence for more control and subdivision through ditched and hedged boundaries (Booth *et al.* 2007, 75). Open landscapes do not mean the land was not managed: in the medieval period land surrounding a nucleated village was managed as two or more large open fields divided into smaller furlongs. These furlongs provided the unit of management for arable crops, while pasture was provided by fallowing part or all of one of the large fields.

7.5 Conclusions

This chapter has considered the Romanisation of the landscape by discussing the development of villas, the growth of ditched trackway systems and field systems, and changes in agricultural management and exploitation of the landscape.

The landscape in which a villa develops has been shown to be varied. The early villas in the east, near the river Thames, are located within ditched, rectangular or trapezoidal enclosures, and appear to be new foundations of the late Iron Age or early Romano-British period. Some later villas, such as the late phase of Barton Court Farm, and probably West Challow, are also located within rectangular enclosures. Differing from these are the small villas at Frilford and Garford, which appear to be on sites occupied from the late Iron Age and possibly earlier, and although located in or near ditched enclosures, are not within a rectangular enclosure. Different again is the villa at East Hanney, which is situated in the middle of a long linear settlement, dated from the mid-second to the fourth century AD. This villa does not appear to be within a rectangular enclosure.

Ditched trackways are known from the middle Iron Age and become more common by the late Iron Age. But it is from the second century AD onwards that they become a more visible and frequent part of the landscape. Booth (2011, 5-6) associates their increase with the landscape re-organisation of the second century AD. The trackways are commonly associated with small paddocks and enclosures and they may be aligned with larger field systems. Their development appears linked to a requirement to control the movement of people and animals through an increasingly managed and exploited landscape.

The third section investigated the arable crops and domesticated animals employed within this managed landscape. There is little noticeable change from the Iron Age to the Roman period in the main crops grown and the animals raised. The available evidence cannot be quantified to investigate any agricultural intensification in terms of greater animal numbers or higher crop yields. At sites such as Barton Court Farm and Ashville Trading Estate an expansion of arable cultivation on to wetter land is suggested by an increase in specific weed species. The known tendency of the ratio of cattle to sheep to

increase in the Roman period has been observed. Also apparent is a higher cattle to sheep ratio for settlements on the gravel terraces than for settlements on the Corallian ridge and this would appear to be related to access to water.

Settlement expansion is suggested at the East Hanney, Drayton, Steventon linear settlements and the development of craft or trading villages is suggested at Wantage and Bowling Green Farm. Abingdon is also likely to have been an extensive settlement with marketing functions. The development of the Romano-British temple and amphitheatre at Marcham / Frilford, together with the late Roman inhumation cemetery are also important aspects of the Romanisation of the landscape and were discussed in chapter 4.

The final chapter draws the discussion of the landscape of the Vale of the White Horse together and compares this landscape with others in southern Britain.

8 Conclusions

8.1 Introduction

There have been previous archaeological surveys of the Vale of the White Horse. Tingle (1991) provided a multi-period analysis, based on a field-walking survey, of a narrow strip¹ in the extreme west of the Vale. Further east, Hingley (1979; 1980b; 1981b; 1982a; 1982b) had earlier undertaken extensive fieldwalking in Garford and Frilford, supplemented by an analysis of aerial photographs. This thesis differs from these surveys by considering a larger, more representative area of the Vale, and by its utilisation of a much greater range of archaeological evidence. It has investigated and illustrated the population dynamics and landscape organisation of the late Iron Age and Roman period. The demonstrated variation in population density and the diversity of settlement forms within the Vale suggest a variety of social and economic structures. The emergence of a Roman landscape, represented by small villas, small local centres and an unusual religious complex, differs from other low-lying areas of the upper Thames Valley.

A central aim of this study is to place the known archaeological material from the Roman temple and amphitheatre site at Marcham / Frilford within the context of the wider rural landscape of the Vale of the White Horse. Rural Romano-Celtic temples are not uncommon in southern Britain but the association with an amphitheatre, or semi-amphitheatre, is unusual. Unusual too is the association of a temple with a late Roman inhumation cemetery. Chapter 4 focussed on the immediate neighbourhood of the religious complex and section 4.8 discussed its location, function, status and chronology. The discussion of this religious complex is continued in section 8.7.

Further aims are to document and understand the nature of the Romano-British social, economic and religious life and its relationship to earlier Iron Age systems, and to compare the rural community of the Vale of the White Horse with other communities in the upper Thames Valley in the late Iron Age and Roman period. These aims were addressed in chapters 5 to 7 where the archaeological evidence for landscape development in the Vale of the White Horse from the late Iron Age and through the Roman period was evaluated by a discussion of themes such as population, settlement

¹ Two kilometres east-west by ten kilometres north-south.

density and form, settlement continuity, and the development of villas. These themes are reviewed in sections 8.2 to 8.7.

The scale of analysis moved from a single site in chapter 4 to the wider landscape in chapters 5 to 7. The opportunity is now taken to compare the results of this thesis with other similar studies. Both the Danebury Environs project, exploring the wider Iron Age and Roman landscapes around Danebury hillfort, and the Addenbrooke's Environs project in South Cambridgeshire (Evans *et al.* 2008), moved from a single site to a wider landscape perspective. Also considered are the Romano-British landscapes of the Salisbury Plain Training Area (McOmish *et al.*, 2002) and Taylor's (2007) analysis of Roman rural settlement. The results from the Vale of the White Horse are compared with these other studies.

8.2 Rural Settlement in the Iron Age and Roman Period

Chapter 6 discussed Cherbury Camp, Abingdon and Dyke Hills, large enclosures of the middle and late Iron Age, for their roles in creating and maintaining a community identity. This was done by estimating the resources required to construct the large banks and ditches. Group identity was also examined through the distribution of inscribed coins from three late Iron Age tribes: Trinovantian coins dominate in the east and Dobunnian and Atrebatian in the west. It was suggested that the small enclosure at the Noah's Ark Inn fell outside the range of normal Iron Age rural settlement.

Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement was investigated using the evidence from published excavations and aerial survey. As shown in table 6.6, the majority of middle Iron Age settlements appear to be open and tend to develop towards or be replaced by enclosed settlements by the late Iron Age. Tables 6.11 and 6.12 demonstrate that the majority of settlements are enclosed in the Roman period. Extensive field systems and trackways, illustrated in figures 6.19 to 6.26, developed from the late Iron Age and become more widespread in the Roman period.

The Iron Age landscape of the Vale of the White Horse appears similar to other parts of the upper Thames Valley. Long lived, open settlements of the middle Iron Age dominate the settlement pattern on the gravel terraces north of the river Thames in the Windrush Valley and at Cassington and Yarnton. Although the Vale appears not to have enclosed settlements such as Mingies Ditch and Watkins Farm, the use and occupation of the lower terraces and floodplain is known from Farmoor (Lambrick and Robinson 1979) and Thrupp Farm (Everett and Eeles 2000). Despite these similarities in settlement during the Iron Age, the Vale of the White Horse differs markedly from the adjacent gravel terraces of the Oxford Clay Vale in the Roman period, and this is discussed further in section 8.8.

8.3 Settlement Density

An estimate of the population in the first half of the fourth century AD was made in chapter 5 by considering whether the available archaeological evidence supported Millett's (1990a) view of a settlement density of 0.8 ± 0.5 per square kilometre. Nineteen parishes² were analysed to see if this view could be supported and the results are summarised in tables 5.3 and 5.6. Strong support for site densities in this range is provided by parishes on the Corallian ridge and the gravel terraces of the river Thames. Evidence for Romano-British settlement is very limited in parishes located on clay, such as Appleton and Lyford. This may simply reflect variations in the level and character of the archaeological data available, but it may also indicate real differences in Romano-British settlement densities. Tables 5.1 and 5.2 demonstrate that similar variation in settlement density was also present in 1086 and 1801. A further estimate of settlement density was obtained in chapter 6 using the aerial photographic mapping for the Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir Proposal (Winton 1999). The 78 square kilometres surveyed contained 71 Romano-British sites, providing a site density of 0.9 per square kilometre. However, not all these sites will have been in use in the early fourth century AD.

Comparative figures from other parts of England are available. Taylor (2007) discussed the results from ten fieldwalking surveys in England and Evans (Evans *et al.* 2008, 197) provides some numerical data for three of these, as listed in table 8.1. These results may be under-estimates as they are based only on fieldwalking but include both early and late Roman settlements. They are consistent with Millett's assumptions although it is likely these average values conceal some local variability.

	Raunds 44.6 km ² (Northamptonshire)		Barton Bendish 15.7 km ² (Norfolk)		Lodden 20.8 km ² (Norfolk)	
	Number	Density per km ²	Number	Density per km ²	Number	Density per km ²
Iron Age	19	0.4	15	0.95	9	0.4
Roman	32	0.7	13	0.8	13	0.6

Table 8.1 – Survey Site Densities from Fieldwalking
(Evans *et al.* 2008, 197, table 4.1)

² Documented in Catalogue 1.

Higher settlement densities have been obtained in recent survey work in Cambridgeshire, where extensive trial trenching was employed in conjunction with fieldwalking and geophysical survey. Three surveys are summarised in table 8.2.

	Addenbrooks/Trumpton		Barrington Down		Longstanton	
	1.95 km ²		1.7 km ²		6.5 km ²	
	Gravel Terrace		Boulder clay and chalk		Clay north of Cambridge	
	Number	Density per km ²	Number	Density per km ²	Number	Density per km ²
Iron Age	9	4.6	2	1.2	17	2.6
Roman	5	2.6	3	1.8	9	1.4

Table 8.2 – Survey Site Densities in Cambridgeshire from Fieldwalking (Evans *et al.* 2008, 181, table 3.2)

At two locations the Iron Age site densities are higher than the Roman. This may be due to a longer timescale but Evans notes that at Longstanton the Romano-British sites were much larger than the preceding Iron Age settlements, and rather than being equally distributed, were concentrated in two areas (Evans *et al.* 2008, 179). At Longstanton, much of the Romano-British population appear to have lived in large settlements or villages rather than in individual farmsteads. Large Romano-British settlements are also present on Salisbury Plain, where McOmish *et al.* (2002) have divided them into compact and linear. At both Longstanton and on Salisbury Plain these settlements consist of numerous buildings and small enclosures, and may reach 25 hectares in size. This trend towards larger settlements suggests differences in land holding and social structure between the Iron Age and the Roman period.

A similar movement towards larger settlements in the Vale of the White Horse is suggested by the linear settlements at East Hanney and Steventon, the market village at Bowling Green Farm, and possible nucleation at Wantage. However, these are smaller than the settlements at Longstanton or on Salisbury Plain, and individual farmsteads, a few of which developed into small villas, remain more numerous.

8.4 Population

The estimated population of the fourth century AD has been constructed by estimating the settlement density and the average number of people per settlement. Millett's (1990a) suggested values of settlement density of between 0.8 ± 0.5 per square kilometre, and the average number of inhabitants per site of between 20 and 50, were arbitrarily modified, depending on the available archaeological evidence for Romano-British settlement for each parish, to the values listed in table 5.5.

Although the estimate for each parish is subject to considerable uncertainty, the estimates appear more robust when aggregated into larger units. For the nineteen analysed parishes this produced an estimate of 3,730 people in 14,044 hectares (140.5 square kilometres) yielding a population density of 26.5 people per square kilometre. This density provides an estimated population of 14,605 for the 550 square kilometres of the sixty-six parishes in the study area and ca 3.1 million for the 116,000 square kilometres used by Millett for the inhabitable area of England.

The population estimates for the fourth century AD, 1086 and 1801 were compared in table 5.6 and figure 5.17. The high correlation between the fourth century AD and 1801 figures (0.7) supports the conclusion that at least part of the variation in the Romano-British population density is real and not just an artefact of inadequate archaeological data.

The estimated population in 1086 for these nineteen parishes was 3,810. If the size of the Romano-British population is similar to that of the late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval period, it is possible that the control of access to, and the use of, land may have been as complex and sophisticated as recorded in Anglo-Saxon land charters and medieval and later documentary sources. Such control could be reflected in the greater length of ditched trackways and extent of ditched field systems in the Roman period (Booth 2011), as seen in the linear settlements at East Hanney, Drayton and Steventon. This investment in land division and the control of movement and access suggests a formal system of land ownership, tenure and management.

8.5 Settlement Formation, Expansion and Continuity

Chapter 5 investigated settlement formation, expansion and continuity in the Iron Age and Romano-British period in the context of increasing population. The upper Thames Valley provides evidence for both new settlement formation in the late Iron Age and continuity of settlement from the middle Iron Age, with both types of settlement continuing into the early Roman period (Henig and Booth 2000, 106). Many settlements on the Thames gravels were abandoned in the early second century AD, particularly those first settled in the late Iron Age, and were replaced by new settlements and field systems (Booth *et al.* 2007, 42-52). Most newly created settlements of the second century AD remained occupied until at least the end of the third century AD, at which time there was a further period of settlement creation, abandonment or re-organisation (Booth *et al.* 2007, 75-79). Continuity of settlement location may indicate stability of land holding or ownership, and of resource exploitation, whereas discontinuity may suggest changes in the ownership and use of the land (Taylor 2007, 101).

Thirteen excavated sites in the Vale of the White Horse were analysed for settlement formation, expansion and continuity and the results are summarised in figure 5.19 and table 5.8. Settlements in existence in the middle Iron Age and which indicate expansion and continuity, but with possible relocation or reorganisation, include Ashville Trading Estate, Appleford Field, Coxwell Road (Faringdon) and Manorhouse Farm (Hatford). New formations in the late Iron Age or early Roman period include Appleford Sidings, Barton Court Farm, Watchfield, Wantage and possibly Bowling Green Farm. This suggests that the increasing population was housed both by expanding existing settlements, possibly by relocation, and by the formation of new settlements.

Sites which appear to be abandoned in the second century AD include Appleford Sidings, Barton Court Farm and Manorhouse Farm. Settlement re-organisation during the second century AD is attested at Appleford Field, Tubney, Watchfield and the two Wantage sites. The development of a villa at Bowling Green Farm appears to start during the second century AD. Settlements appearing to commence in the second century AD are limited to Farmoor and possibly Mill Street in Wantage.

In the three parishes investigated as part of the Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir proposal, figure 5.22 indicates that up to seven settlements may have been abandoned in the early second century AD and a further six may have commenced at this date. This provides considerable support for widespread settlement discontinuity at this date. Although most of the sites occupied in the Roman period provide evidence for previous Iron Age occupation they need not have been continuously occupied: the late Roman linear settlements at East Hanney, Drayton and Steventon are not a continuation of the previous middle Iron Age settlements.

The settlements at Frilford Ham Field and Garford Field 3, appear from aerial photographic and geophysical survey evidence to have been occupied in the middle or late Iron Age and through the Romano-British period. At both, small villas were constructed, probably dating to the third and fourth centuries AD. However, without excavation there is insufficient chronological precision to determine whether occupation was continuous, and whether and when, any settlement re-organisations occurred.

The above results can also be compared to ten fieldwalking studies analysed by Taylor (2007) and listed in table 8.3. Stability indicates a general balance between new settlement formation and abandonment (possibly little or none of either), and expansion and contraction describe whether new settlements outnumber, or are outnumbered by, abandoned settlements, respectively.

Survey	Iron Age to early Roman	Early to late Roman
Barton Bendish (Norfolk)	Discontinuity / contraction?	Stability
Holme (East Yorkshire)	Stability?	Stability
Loddon (Norfolk)	Stability / expansion	Stability / contraction?
Medbourne (Leicestershire)	Discontinuity / expansion?	Contraction
North Stoke (Oxfordshire)	Discontinuity / expansion?	Contraction
Raunds (Northamptonshire)	Expansion	Contraction
Shapwick (Somerset)	Stability	Stability / contraction
Wharram (East Yorkshire)	Expansion	Stability
Whittlewood (Northants/Bucks)	Expansion	Discontinuity
Wreake Valley (Leicestershire)	Stability	Stability

Table 8.3 – Continuity or Discontinuity from ten Fieldwalking Surveys (Taylor 2007, 101, table 6.3)

Taylor (2007, 101-102) contrasts the increasing number of settlements in the Iron Age to early Roman period with subsequent stability or decline. But a decline in the number of settlements need not mean a reduction in population: the inhabitants may have lived in fewer, but larger settlements. Unfortunately table 8.3 provides little insight into possible settlement discontinuity at the beginning of the second century AD beyond suggesting that from about this date new settlement formation no longer outnumbers settlement abandonment.

Evidence for settlement continuity or discontinuity on Salisbury Plain is difficult to obtain, mainly due to the lack of excavation to provide chronological precision. A rise in the number of settlements in the late Iron Age may indicate an increasing population (McOmish *et al.* 2002, 84). In the Roman period settlements expanded, with most villages reaching their maximum extent in the third or fourth centuries AD. Finds of Iron Age pottery in villages such as Charlton Down suggest it developed from an earlier, smaller late Iron Age settlement but continuity cannot be demonstrated (McOmish *et al.* 2002, 90). In a discussion of Salisbury Plain forming part of an Imperial estate, McOmish *et al.* (2002, 106) suggest, but without specific examples, that there is some evidence for settlement and cultivation discontinuity during the second century AD.

The evidence from the Vale, particularly from figures 5.19 and 5.22, suggests overall stability in the total number of settlements in the late Iron Age / early Roman period as compared to the late Roman period, but frequently in different locations. This may be related to changes in land ownership, or to attempts to manage the land more efficiently and intensively.

8.6 Exploiting the Landscape

The Vale of the White Horse provides a variety of natural resources suitable for a mix of arable and pastoral exploitation. These include the extensive floodplains of the river Thames and the narrower areas of land liable to flood along the river Ock and its tributaries. Such land would have been particularly suitable for summer grazing by cattle, and may have been managed for hay in the Roman period. Adjacent to the Thames floodplain are large areas of gravel terraces providing well drained, fertile soils suitable for arable cultivation. North of the river Ock, the light soils of the Corallian ridge, although liable to drought, are also suitable for arable cultivation and provide grassland for sheep and cattle. South of the river Ock, the heavier clays soils are less favourable for arable cultivation, but provide areas for grazing and woodland.

It is probable that the land was managed to exploit these differences, and that both people and animals moved to accomplish this. Flocks and herds may not have been kept permanently in bounded fields but instead moved through a largely open countryside on an annual cycle by shepherds and cowherds. The control of this movement appears as trackways, paddocks and systems for concentrating animals (Hamilton in Cunliffe 2000, 61). Communal access to grazing land has been suggested for Gravelly Guy and other Windrush valley sites (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 107) but there is insufficient evidence in the Vale to determine whether each settlement controlled its own grazing area or shared rights with its neighbours.

From section 7.4, the main arable crops were spelt wheat and six-row hulled barley: a pattern found throughout much of southern England and which formed the major element of the crop assemblage in the Danebury Environs project (Campbell in Cunliffe 2000, 47). At Danebury it was suggested the hillfort was used for bulk storage of processed grain, with the threshing and winnowing taking place at settlement sites such as Houghton Down and Suddern Farm (Campbell in Cunliffe 2000, 47). There is no evidence for such storage or redistribution functions in the Iron Age in the Vale, although Cherbury Camp and Abingdon may be potential storage, trading or consumer sites.

Also from section 7.4 the main domesticated animal species were sheep, cattle, pigs and horses. Cattle are generally more abundant than sheep on the gravel terraces, and

sheep more abundant on the drier Corallian ridge. At most sites there is a general tendency for the ratio of cattle to sheep to increase from the middle Iron Age through the late Iron Age and into the Roman period. This increase in the ratio of cattle to sheep over time is apparent throughout much of the upper Thames Valley (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 244; Booth *et al.* 2007, 283) and has also been observed on the chalk downlands in the Danebury Environs project (Hamilton in Cunliffe 2000, 72). It appears to be a general trend throughout Britain in the Roman period (Grant 2004, 387).

8.7 Romanisation of the Landscape

Chapter 7 addressed the Romanisation of the rural landscape within the Vale of the White Horse. Important is the introduction of villas with their new materials, construction techniques and architectural features. The Vale contained about twenty settlements which can be classed as villas, not all of which are contemporary, and none of which are especially large and wealthy. Considerable variation in villa size and form has been demonstrated. The early villas in the east, near the river Thames, are located within ditched, rectangular or trapezoidal enclosures, and appear to be new foundations of the late Iron Age or early Romano-British period. Some later villas, such as the late phase of Barton Court Farm, and probably West Challow, are also located within rectangular enclosures. The small villas at Frilford and Garford, on sites which appear to be occupied from the late Iron Age and possibly earlier, are located in or near ditched enclosures, but not within a rectangular enclosure. Different again is the villa at East Hanney, situated in a long linear settlement dated from the mid-second to the fourth century AD, which does not appear to be within a rectangular enclosure. The development of these villas, or villa estates, may indicate changes in landholding and also changes in the economic and social structure of rural society. Their number, and their relatively small size, suggests the land was owned or controlled by a number of small landowners rather than a few large owners.

More numerous, but just as varied, are the non-villa settlements in which the majority of the population lived. Although not always on the site of an earlier Iron Age settlement, they appear to represent substantial continuity in economic and social life from the late Iron Age. As discussed in chapter 6, the majority of such settlements are enclosed by ditches. This trend from open to enclosed settlements, together with the expansion of

ditched trackways and field systems suggest changes in land ownership, tenure and management, perhaps to support agricultural intensification and economic development.

An apparent change in the Roman landscape is an increase in settlement size. This is perhaps most clear in the linear settlements at East Hanney, Drayton and Steventon which extend for over a kilometre. Increasing settlement size is also suggested at Bowling Green Farm, where field survey indicated an extensive Romano-British settlement covering about twelve hectares between Bowling Green Farm and the possible villa at Frogmore Brook (Miles 1982a; Chambers 1988). An extensive settlement is also likely at Wantage. It is not clear whether Abingdon can be considered as a small town (Booth *et al.* 2007, 39) and although it remained occupied until the late Roman period, its importance, size and population may have been less than in the late Iron Age.

Important in the Roman landscape of the central Vale is the Roman temple and amphitheatre site at Marcham / Frilford. Hingley (1985) suggested a limited form of urban status or market activity as an explanation for an amphitheatre but recent field survey provides little support for this. There is no evidence for urbanism in terms of densely packed buildings or a rectilinear street system. Nevertheless, market activities are possible and the fields and enclosure to the north-west of the cemetery could be to manage stock on market days.

An unusual aspect of the temple is its association with a late Roman inhumation cemetery. Such cemeteries are a feature of the late Roman period and represent an important difference from Iron Age traditions. The major cemeteries in the Vale of the White Horse are listed in table 8.4. Although the Frilford cemetery is not the largest in the upper Thames Valley, it is the largest known in the Vale of the White Horse. Three features of the cemetery were identified in chapter 4 which correspond more closely with urban than rural cemeteries: the large number of burials, the general west-east alignment (Booth 2002, 21-22), and the organised rows of burials possibly indicating a 'managed cemetery'. It is argued that these features do not represent urbanism but instead provide evidence of the continuing significance and administration of the temple complex during the fourth and early fifth centuries AD.

Site Name	Parish	Context	Burials	Comments
Ashville	Abingdon	Rural	11	Eight west-east, three north-south
Barton Court Farm	Radley	Rural	26	Infant burials
Frilford	Frilford	Small Town?	>135 ³	West-north-west to east-south-east alignment
Radley I	Radley	Rural	35	North-south burials in reasonably ordered rows
Radley II	Radley	Rural	57	Fifty-seven mostly north-south aligned inhumations plus twelve cremations.
Tubney	Tubney	Rural	8+6	Eight late Roman plus six Post-Roman in Roman tradition
White Horse Hill	Uffington	Rural	49	In long barrow. Mostly west-east aligned with barrow. Also nine cremations
Wantage	Wantage	Small Town?	14	Aligned south-south-west to north-north-west. Cemetery undated but assumed to be Roman.

Table 8.4⁴ - Romano-British Cemeteries in the Vale of the White Horse
(Based on Booth 2002, 16-17, Table 1. Tubney from Simmonds *et al.* 2011)

The temple, amphitheatre and cemetery (and earlier Iron Age settlement) were most probably associated with a river crossing. However, the archaeological evidence for a major Roman road crossing the Vale from Wantage to Besselsleigh remains weak. Irrespective of whether there was a road, the religious complex is located within a densely populated, managed landscape. Extensive Iron Age and Romano-British settlements lie just to the south at Garford and to the west at Ham Field, Frilford. The settlements at East Hanney and Steventon to the south-east, and Abingdon to the east, are less than three and six kilometres away respectively. Using the population density estimate of 26.5 people per square kilometre obtained in chapter 5, an estimate can be made of the number of people living near Marcham / Frilford. This is illustrated in table 8.5 for three distances and suggests over 8,000 people lived within ten kilometres⁵ of the temple and cemetery in the fourth century AD. The area from which people could walk to the temple in about two hours is illustrated in figure 8.1.

Radius (km)	Area (km ²)	Population
1	3.14	83
5	78.5	2085
10	314	8340

Table 8.5 – Estimated Population near Marcham/Frilford

³ See Appendix 1.

⁴ Extracted from table 4.2.

⁵ Ten kilometres is about two hours walking time.

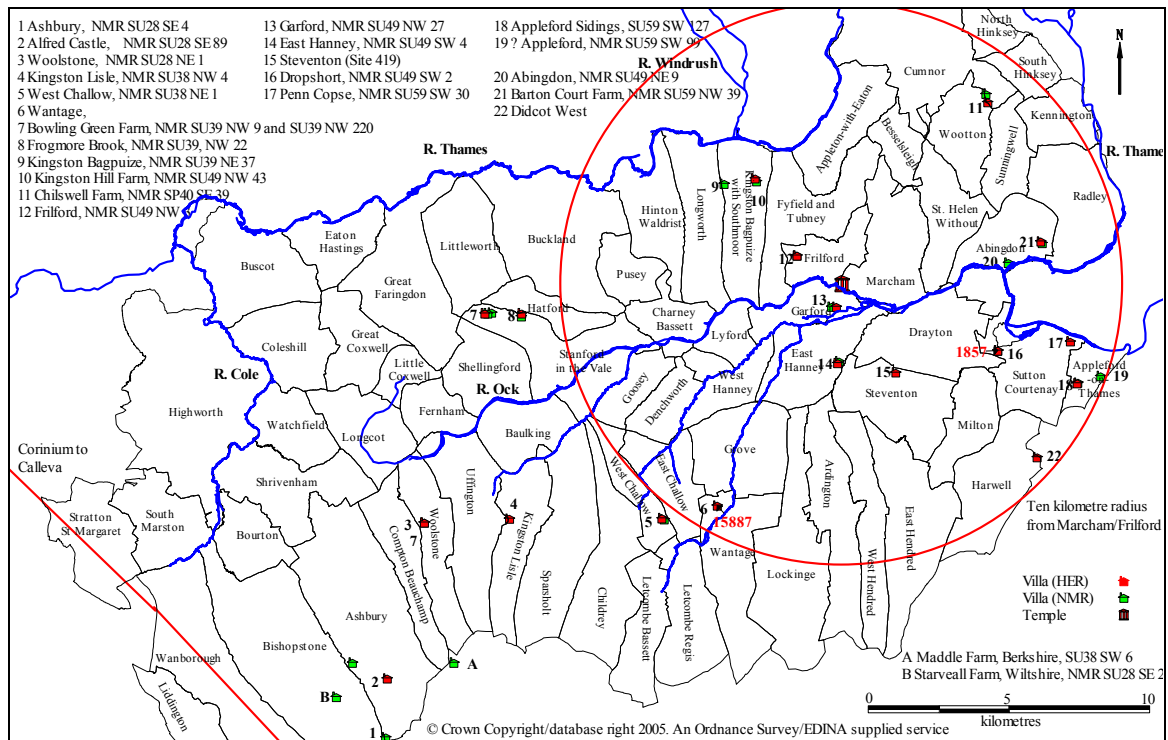


Figure 8.1 – Ten kilometre radius of Marcham / Frilford

The results of this study support Hingley’s (1985) interpretation of the temple, amphitheatre and cemetery as an extensive religious complex containing both monumental buildings and domestic structures. It also supports the view that this is a specialised religious site (Burnham and Wacher 1990) rather than a normal rural site containing a temple (Henig and Booth 2000, 68).

Further detail on the chronological development of the temple and amphitheatre will be provided when the recent excavations are published. The widespread discontinuity in settlement in the early second century AD might suggest this is a potential date for the initial construction of both. The cemetery and trench 2 building demonstrate the vitality of the site in the late Roman period. The temple complex operated within a well developed, moderately wealthy landscape occupied by a range of landowners.

8.8 Regional Settlement Variation

Variation in settlement forms is apparent within the upper Thames Valley in both the Iron Age and Roman period. Hey (2007) has distinguished a number of slightly different Iron Age landscapes and suggests they may derive from earlier settlement patterns. Areas incorporating Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, such as the central zone of the lower Windrush Valley, and also north and south of the river Ock, near the large open Iron Age settlements at Ashville Trading Estate and Abingdon, may have remained grassland and been managed as communal grazing, with arable fields located away from the monuments. Similar, but smaller, open settlements are found on the edge of the second gravel terrace at Cassington and Yarnton. Hey (2007, 165) argues these two settlements are independent, with no common land management, and suggests this may be related to the lack of a major Neolithic or Bronze Age ceremonial focus.

These settlements can be distinguished from areas near Dorchester-on-Thames and near Lechlade, where the landscape had been defined earlier by middle and late Bronze Age field systems. Although these had gone out of use by the Iron Age, the Iron Age settlement patterns in these areas differ from the Windrush Valley, Yarnton and the Abingdon area by having a mix of unenclosed and small enclosed settlements.

Differences in the late Iron Age settlement pattern of the upper Thames Valley have been highlighted by Hingley (1984; 1988; 1989), who contrasted the open, closely spaced settlements of the gravel terraces north of the river Thames with the more isolated, enclosed settlements of the Oxford uplands. He suggested the former represented communal control of agricultural resources, with arable cultivation on the gravel terraces and seasonal pasture on the floodplain, whereas the latter indicated individual control of the land and other resources. A different settlement structure continued into the Roman period: villas developed in the uplands but not on the gravel terraces. Hingley (1988, 91; 1989, 124) interprets this as reflecting economic and social differences: some inhabitants of the uplands were able to accumulate and display personal wealth and status, expressed through a villa, while on the densely populated gravel terraces, communal social obligations prevented this.

Regional variation in the Roman period is also apparent in the distribution of villas. Four villa clusters in Oxfordshire were identified by Young (1986, 60): to the north of the river Windrush in the foothills of the Cotswolds; in the north of the county; to the south-east of the Cherwell; and the area between Abingdon and Dorchester-on-Thames including the Vale of the White Horse. Young noted that apart from this final area the well-settled gravel terraces of the river Thames lacked villas. Similarly, based on the aerial survey mapping of the Thames Valley Mapping Programme, Fenner (1994, 26 and Figure 16) highlighted three clusters of villas: near Lechlade, near Dorchester-on-Thames, and near Hambleton in Buckinghamshire.

In chapter 6 it was suggested that the Iron Age landscape of the Vale of the White Horse appears similar to the open settlements of the gravel terraces north of the river Thames. But in the Roman period, the Vale of the White Horse differs from the gravel terraces of the Oxford Clay Vale by becoming a region of villas and local centres. The river Thames appears to form a boundary between two different economic systems in the Roman period, despite their apparent similarity in the Iron Age. Chronological development is represented in figure 7.11: from the middle second century AD onwards, villas and other new or restructured settlements develop across most of the Vale of the White Horse. The villas of the Vale are smaller and less ostentatious than those of the Oxfordshire uplands. Thus the Romano-British landscape of the Vale differed from both the gravel terraces of the Oxford Clay Vale and the Oxford uplands to the north.

This suggests a highly diverse settlement pattern within the upper Thames Valley, with quite localised differences in developments from the Iron Age and through the Roman period. This may reflect differences in social and economic structure: for example subsistence agriculture versus production of surpluses for sale at markets.

8.9 Future Research

The research described in this thesis has been undertaken as part of the University of Oxford's Vale and Ridgeway project⁶. Its focus has been the development of a rural community from the late Iron Age into the Roman period. Although its geographical area has been limited to the Vale of the White Horse it has also been integrated into the wider syntheses of the upper Thames Valley. Recently, a much larger study of Roman rural settlement has been initiated by Cotswold Archaeology and the University of Reading⁷. A principal feature of this new research project is its use of grey literature. In a recent paper on this project by Alex Smith⁸, the research themes listed in table 8.6 were introduced. Table 8.6 also indicates where these themes are discussed in this thesis.

	Theme	Section
1	Chronology	Chapters 4 to 7
2	Rural settlement morphology and architecture (Enclosed, Linear Developed, Open)	Chapter 6
3	Relationship of Rural to Urban Centres	
4	Rural Industry	
5	Religion	Chapter 4
6	Burial	Chapter 4

Table 8.6 – Research Themes of the Roman Rural Settlement Project

The main themes of this thesis, listed in table 8.7, have been deliberately limited to the first two above, with limited coverage of the last two, and are mainly subdivisions of theme 2 from table 8.6.

Theme	Chapter	Section
Population	Chapter 5	8.4
Settlement Density	Chapter 5	8.3.
Settlement Continuity	Chapter 5	8.5
Settlement Expansion	Chapter 5	8.5, 8.7
Hillforts, Valley Forts, Oppida	Chapter 6	8.2
Iron Age Communities	Chapter 6	8.2
IA and RB Rural settlements (Open, Closed, Linear)	Chapter 6	8.2, 8.7
Regional Settlement Variation	Chapter 6	8.8
Romanisation of the Landscape	Chapter 7	8.7
Villas	Chapter 7	8.7
Field Systems and Trackways	Chapter 7	8.2, 8.7
Exploiting the Landscape	Chapter 7	8.6

Table 8.7 – Thesis Themes

⁶ <http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/VRP1.html>

⁷ <http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/developer-funded-roman-archaeology-in-england/>

⁸ <http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Alex-Smith.pdf>

The potential for further work within the Vale of the White Horse remains high. Further analysis of the available material would provide information on the themes listed in table 8.6 not covered by this work, for example to address the economic and social development of the region.

Much of the data used in this thesis is derived from geophysical survey and aerial photographs. There remains much scope for further geophysical survey, and the cropmarks in the western part of the Vale remain unmapped. But the lack of chronological information limits the interpretation of geophysical and aerial survey data. The conclusions of this thesis will need testing through further commercial and research excavation.

8.10 Becoming Romano-British

This thesis has investigated the social and economic changes in the lives of the inhabitants of the Vale of the White Horse, a rural community, from the late Iron Age and through the Romano-British period. It has done so by presenting and evaluating the archaeological evidence for the use of the rural landscape within which people were born, raised, worked and died. It has demonstrated both the density and the diversity of Romano-British rural settlement forms which existed in the Vale of the White Horse, and the variety of settlement landscapes which existed within the upper Thames Valley.

These landscape and social differences support Mattingly's view (1997, 10; 2006, 17) that the term "Romanisation" downplays the variety of responses to the Roman conquest. A gradual trend of Romanisation is apparent in the widespread similarity of the material culture throughout the Vale to that of southern Britain and the north-western provinces of the Empire, as expressed in pottery, metalwork, coins and building forms. But equally important, the observed local and regional variations in settlement density and form demonstrate the variety of responses available in becoming "Romano-British", based on preceding Iron Age social and settlement structures, area of the country, and position in the social hierarchy.

Economic and social development from the middle Iron Age onwards, marked by agricultural intensification and control of access to the land, is demonstrated by the change from open to enclosed settlements, and the growth of ditched field systems and trackways. The clearest examples of aspirations to Roman identity in the Vale of the White Horse are the development of villas. But these are outnumbered by other forms of rural settlement, most of which remain based on preceding Iron Age traditions, although incorporating much new material culture. The construction and use of the temple and amphitheatre indicate a significant change in group identity in the way ritual and religious obligations were performed.

Appendix 1. Summary of Frilford Cemetery

a) Akerman 1865a. Thirty-eight graves including two lead coffins surrounded by stones.

b) Rolleston 1869. One hundred and twenty-three graves (four of these from October and November 1864 are most likely included in Akerman's figures, including the two lead coffins).

Romano-British Lead Coffins	4
Romano-British Hohlberg type	2
Anglo-Saxon with relics or in urn	20
Anglo-Saxon without relics	6
Romano-British of elongated (Cimbric) type	32
Romano-British of globose (Sion) type	21
River bed type	1
Indeterminate	14
Children	23
Total	123

c) Rolleston 1880.

March 22 1869. Young woman with comb in lead coffin (Romano-British)
May 3 1870. An old Anglo-Saxon woman
May 3 1870. Bones of a young person adjacent to Anglo-Saxon holy water vessel
May 23 1870. Skeleton of old Romano-Briton lying 18 inches below:
May 23 1870. Young Anglo-Saxon with spear, umbo and knife.
May 23 1870. Skeleton of old Romano-Briton buried with coffin below:
May 23 1870. Skeleton of old Anglo-Saxon woman

The four skeletons recovered on the 23rd May were in both cases examples where an Anglo-Saxon burial appeared to overlie an earlier, deeper Romano-British burial. The later burials were aligned nearly at right-angles to the earlier. These four skeletons and their grave goods were sent to Cornell University (Calkins 1978).

d) Moseley

Moseley investigated fresh discoveries from the quarry, including several enclosed in lead coffins (Evans 1897, 341).

e) Dudley Buxton 1921

Forty burials, thirty-five of which were Romano-British and five Anglo-Saxon. They lay in separate areas. Buxton (1921, 89) states 134 graves were excavated by Rolleston. However, Rolleston's published figures would indicate 130, of which four are probably Akerman's. Additionally Buxton (1921, 90) mentions that in 1912 E.T. Leeds and he located a Saxon grave in the northern corner of the quarry.

f) Bradford and Goodchild 1939

Six Romano-British burials to the north of Buxton's Romano-British area.

g) Hingley 1985.

Cites David Brown (pers comm.) that a total of 359 graves were uncovered and partly or wholly recorded.

h) Summary

Akerman	35
Rolleston 1869	119 (removing four which are Akerman's)
Rolleston 1880	7
E.T. Leeds and Dudley Buxton 1912	1
Dudly Buxton 1921	40
Bradford and Goodchild 1939	6
Total	208

If David Brown's figure is correct then over a third of the Frilford burials remain unpublished.

Appendix 2. References to Commercial Excavations near Marcham / Frilford

Location	Reference	
Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir Proposal	Hearne 2001 (Also Appendix 4)	Published
Millets Farm	Cass and Ford 2008	Grey Literature
Marcham Bypass	Bunn 2004; Cockin 2000	Grey Literature
Thames Water Pipeline (Cleeve to Fyfield)	Hart <i>et al.</i> 2012	Published

Appendix 3. References to Principal Published Excavations

Parish	Site	Reference
Abingdon	Ashville Trading Estate	Parrington 1978
	Wyndyke Furlong	Muir and Roberts 1999
Appleford	Appleford Field	Hinchliffe and Thomas 1981
	Appleford Sidings	Booth and Simmonds 2009
Cumnor	Farmoor	Lambrick and Robinson 1979
Faringdon	Coxwell Road	Weaver and Ford 2005; Cook <i>et al.</i> 2005
Hatford	Manorhouse Farm	Bourn 2000; Booth and Simmonds 2005
Kingston Bagpuize	Kingston Hill Farm	Parrington 1977; Cowell 1979; Cowell and Miles 1980; Moore 2001
Radley	Barton Court Farm	Miles 1986
Stanford-in-the-Vale	Bowling Green Farm	Chambers 1988; 1989; 1990; Mudd 1993
Tubney	Tubney Wood	Simmonds <i>et al.</i> 2011
Wantage	Denchworth Road	Barber and Holbrook 2002
	Mill Street	Holbrook and Thomas 1997
Watchfield	Watchfield Triangle	Scull 1993; Birbeck 2002; Heawood 2005

Appendix 4. References to Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir Excavations

These are all grey literature reports accessed in the HER.

3.1 Drayton

Site	Reference
109	Oxford Archaeology 1998a
126 North	Weaver 1998a
126 South	Weaver 1996
197	Weaver 1998b
402	Oxford Archaeology 1998a
410	Barber and Thomas 1998.
411	Oxford Archaeology 1998a

3.2 East Hanney

Site	Reference
110	Hall 1994
196	Barber and Thomas 1998
400	Oxford Archaeology 1998b
409	Oxford Archaeology 1998a
416	Thomas 1998
417	Oxford Archaeology 1998b

3.3 Steventon

Site	Reference
406	Barber 1998
407	Barber and Thomas 1998
412	Barber 1998
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Catalogue 1 Parish Catalogue

C1.1 Introduction

To estimate the Romano-British population in the Vale of the White Horse, as described in Chapter 5, a sample of nineteen parishes is used to investigate both the quality and quantity of the available archaeological evidence. These parishes are illustrated in figure C1.1 and surround the rural Romano-British temple site adjacent to the river Ock at Marcham / Frilford. They follow the course of the river Ock from Stanford-in-the-Vale in the west to Marcham in the east and are distributed across a range of soils and geology types likely to affect the economic potential for settlement, and hence for population. The solid geology includes Oxford Clay adjacent to the river Thames in the north, the sandstones and limestones of the Corallian ridge between the rivers Thames and Ock, Kimmeridge Clay south of the river Ock, and gravel drift deposits overlying Kimmeridge and Gault Clay in the south-east near to the river Thames.

The methodology used for estimating the Romano-British population follows Millett (1990a) and the results are given below in table C1.1.

Parish	Modern Area (ha)	Sites at 0.008/ha	20 per site	50 per site	Archaeological evidence	Predominant Geology
Appleford	297.1	2.5	50	125	Considerable	Gravel
Appleton	838.2	7	140	350	Little or none	Clay
Charney Bassett	488.7	4	80	200	Considerable	Corallian
Drayton	1070.2	9	180	450	Considerable	Gravel
East Hanney	890.2	7	140	350	Considerable	Gravel/Clay
Frilford	463.7	4	80	200	Considerable	Corallian
Fyfield and Tubney	1110.7	9	180	450	Some	Corallian
Garford	433.1	3.5	70	175	Considerable	Corallian/Clay
Goosey	390.7	3	60	150	Little or none	Clay
Hinton Waldrist	812.4	6	120	300	Reasonable	Corallian/Clay
Kingston Bagpuize	873.6	7	140	350	Reasonable	Corallian/Clay
Longworth	928.7	7	140	350	Reasonable	Corallian/Clay
Lyford	313.0	2.5	50	125	Some	Clay
Marcham	1017.2	8	160	400	Considerable	Corallian
Milton	592.3	5	100	250	Some	Gravel/Clay
Stanford-in-the-Vale	1181.5	9.5	190	475	Considerable	Corallian
Steventon	969.2	8	160	400	Considerable	Gravel/Clay
Sutton Courtenay	834.5	7	140	350	Considerable	Gravel
West Hanney	538.5	4	80	200	Some	Clay
	14043.5	113	2260	5650		

Table C1.1 – Estimated Population in the Fourth Century AD

The archaeological evidence for these nineteen parishes has been analysed to see whether it provides support for a site density of 0.008/ha (0.8 per square kilometre) and 20 or 50 people per site. This has produced a qualitative estimate of support ranked as little or none, some, reasonable or considerable as listed above in table C1.1. The analysis and qualitative estimate is based on the number of prehistoric and Romano-British entries in the HER and NMR Pastscape records, cropmark evidence from aerial photographic mapping programmes, and published and unpublished excavation records.

Discussions of Appleford, Appleton, East Hanney and Hinton Waldrist are included in Chapter 5.

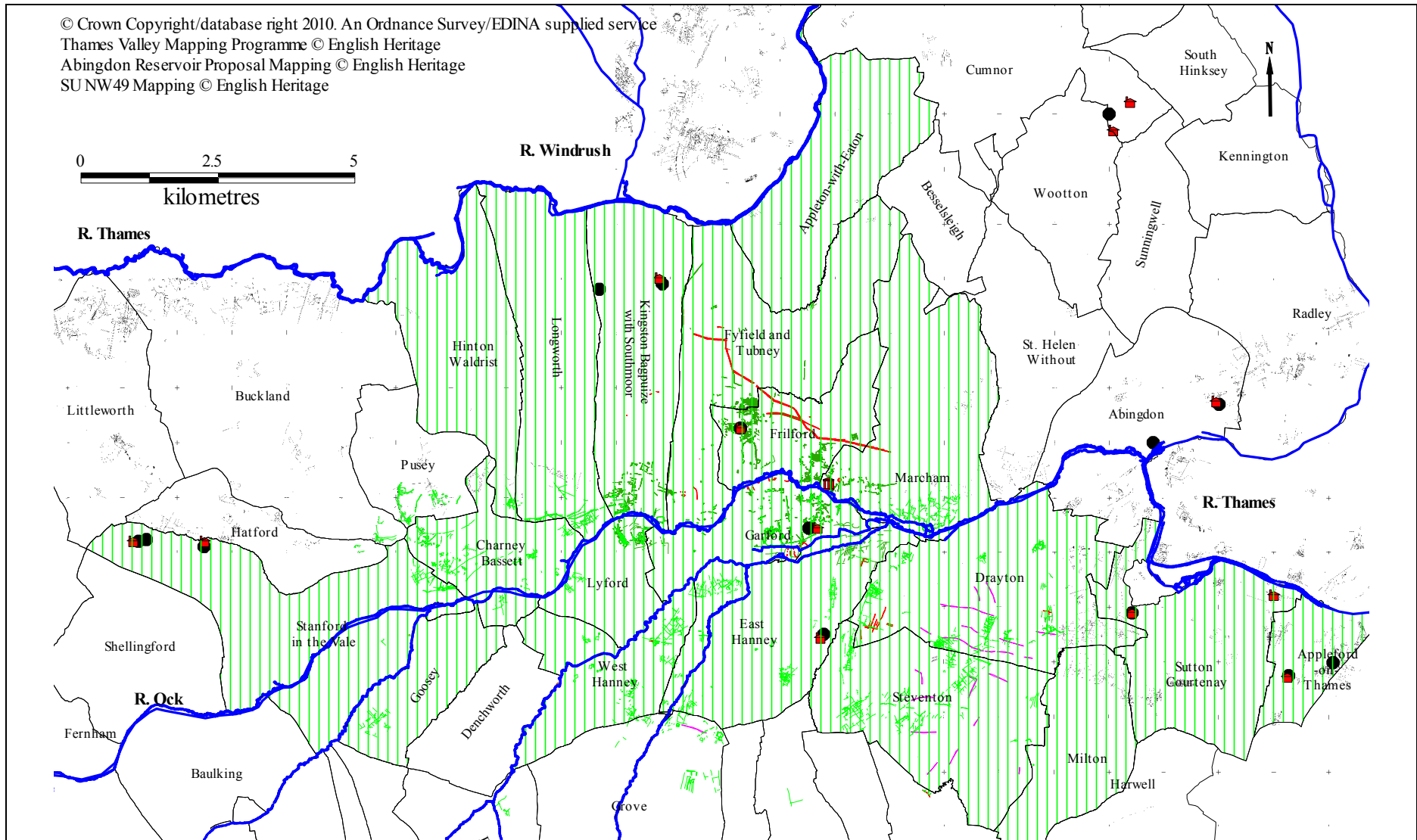


Figure C1.1 – Nineteen Civil Parishes in the Vale of the White Horse

C1.2 Appleford

Gault clay underlies all of Appleford but the drift deposits of the Thames terraces more are relevant to the settlement archaeology. Sands and gravels of the third or Wolvercote terrace are found in the south of the parish while to the north is an extensive area of the first or Northmoor terrace. Alluvial deposits are restricted to the extreme north close to the river Thames.

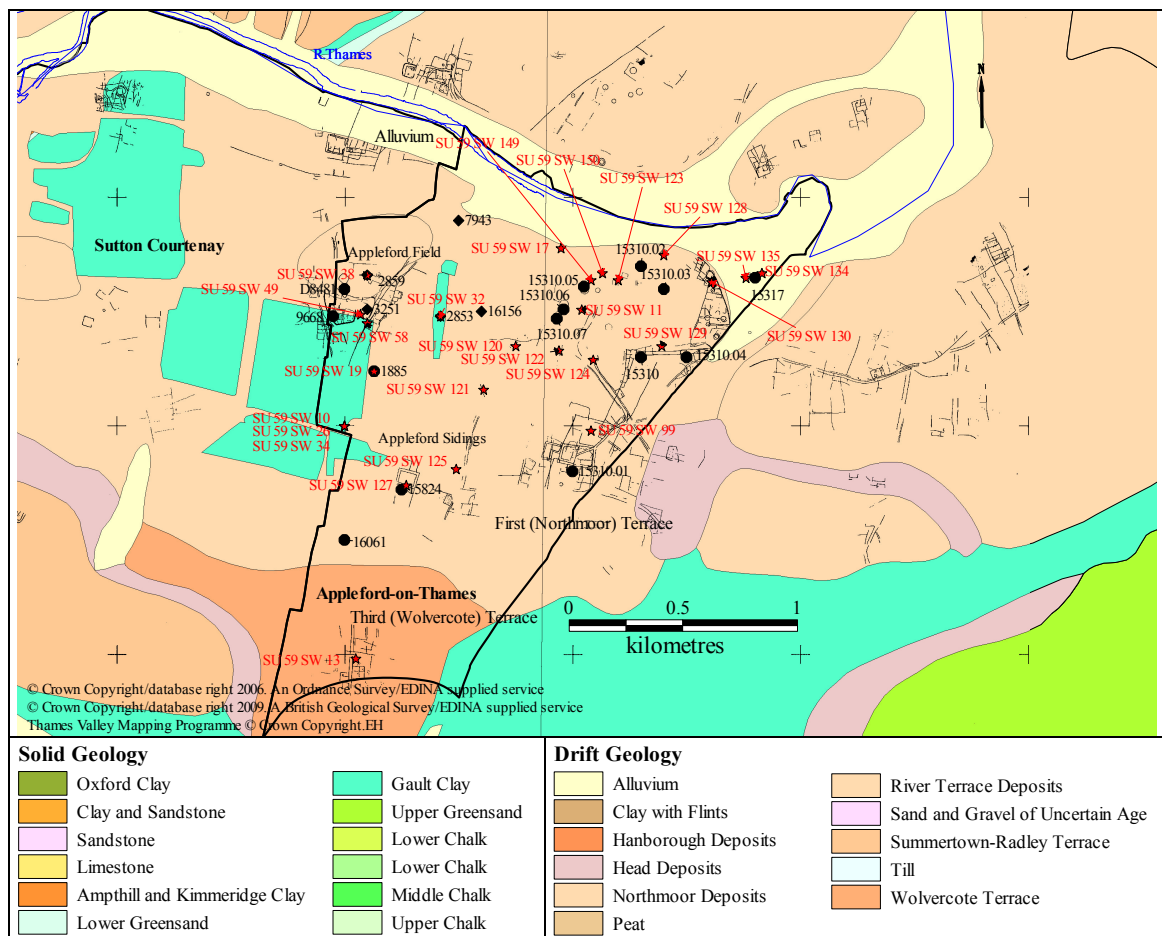


Figure C1.2a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Appleford (British Geological Survey Sheets 253 – Abingdon and 254 - Henley)

The archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Appleford is rich with 24 HER and 26 NMR references as listed in tables C1.2a and C1.2b respectively. These, together with the cropmark evidence from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme are shown on figure C1.2a. Of the 24 HER entries seven are Neolithic or Bronze Age, three are Iron Age, one is Iron Age and/or Roman and eight are Roman. Three entries are undated and two are multi-period. An important Iron Age find is 3251, a small hoard of currency bars (Brown 1971). Relevant for the Roman period are D8481, Iron Age and Roman cropmarks at Appleford Field (Hinchliffe and Thomas

1981); 9668, a pewter hoard (Brown 1974); 2859, a coin hoard (Kraay 1955; Robertson 2000, 303-305); and 15824, an enclosure, field systems and a possible villa at Appleford Sidings (Booth and Simmonds 2009). Undated are trackways and enclosures at 15310.01, 15310.03 and 15310.04, with multi-period finds (Bronze Age to Saxon) at 15310 and 16061.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
D8481	Iron Age/Roman Cropmarks	Trackway, rectangular enclosure, pit
1885	Bronze Age Beaker Burial	Burial
2839	Iron Age Pottery	Marginal, findspot
2847	Roman Pottery and Burial	Marginal, burial, findspot
2853	Roman Urn and Skeletons	Findspot
2855	Roman Coin	Marginal, findspot
2859	Roman Coin Hoard	Findspot
3251	Iron Age Currency Bars (Appleford Field, West of Appleford)	Findspot
7943	Roman Pottery	Findspot
7976	Roman Beads of Vitreous Paste	Marginal, findspot
9027	Bronze Age Beaker with Handle	Marginal, findspot
9668	Roman Pewter hoard	Burial
15310	Iron Age/Saxon Settlement, Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery	Settlement, barrow cemetery
15310.01	Rectangular Enclosure and Trackway	Trackway, rectangular enclosure
15310.02	? Ring ditch at Appleford	Ring ditch
15310.03	Northern Settlement Cluster at Appleford	Trackway, enclosure, circular enclosure, pit
15310.04	Rectangular Enclosure South of Northern Settlement	Rectangular enclosure
15310.05	Ring ditch in Barrow Cemetery at Appleford	Ring ditch
15310.06	Ring ditch in Barrow Cemetery at Appleford	Rectangular enclosure, ring ditch
15310.07	Ring ditch in Barrow Cemetery at Appleford	Ring ditch
15317	Bronze Age Ring Ditches	Round barrow, enclosure
15824	Iron Age/Roman Enclosure, Field System (Appleford Sidings)	Field system, villa
16061	Multi Period Settlement, Cremation, Ditches (ARC Quarries)	Settlement, cremation, boundary ditch
16156	Roman Coin	Findspot

Table C1.2a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Appleford
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

The NMR references range in date from the Bronze Age to the Roman period. The first eleven entries in table 1.2b relate to finds and can be matched with equivalent HER references. The latter fifteen entries are cropmark evidence largely based on the Thames Valley Mapping Programme.

The cropmark evidence occurs in distinct clusters. In the west is SU59 SW 49 (HER D8481), an extensive cropmark of an Iron Age or Roman settlement with trackways, a field system and a late or post-Roman cemetery at Appleford Field (Hinchliffe and

Thomas 1981) and illustrated in figure C1.2b. To the south-east are SU59 SW 125, a cropmark of an undated trackway and enclosures and SU59 SW 127 (HER 15824), a cropmark of a possible Roman villa enclosure and ditches at Appleford Sidings (Booth and Simmonds 2009). To the north-east lies SU59 SW 99 (HER 15310.01), an extensive cropmark suggesting a multiphase site containing ditches, enclosures and hut circles with a possible villa. North and west of this are undated cropmarks of tracks, ditches and enclosures at SU 59 SW 120, SU 59 SW 121, SU 59 SW 122, and SU 59 SW 124. In the north-east is an undated settlement at SU59 SW 129 (HER 15310).

NMR Number	Description
SU 59 SW 10	Iron Age (Glastonbury) 'B' Sherd from Appleford.
SU 59 SW 11	Cropmark remains of a probable Bronze Age round barrow cemetery
SU 59 SW 13	Cropmark remains of a possible farmstead of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 17	Human remains
SU 59 SW 19	Beaker burial
SU 59 SW 26	Roman pottery and burials probably from 'Dry Lease' were found in 1844 and 1861.
SU 59 SW 32	Two skeletons and a Romano British urn were found in 1842.
SU 59 SW 34	Roman coin from Appleford.
SU 59 SW 38	Two Roman coin hoards, consisting of coins of Constantine and his sons, were found on 31st December, 1954, whilst ploughing c.50 yards south of the road from Sutton Courtenay to Appleford. The smaller of these contained over 1,650 coins and seems to represent a hoard that closed about AD 327. The larger hoard closed about AD 347 and comprised nearly 4,000 coins. The hoards are on loan to the Ashmolean Museum.
SU 59 SW 49	Cropmark remains of an Iron Age/Roman settlement, trackways and field system at Appleford. Late Roman or post-Roman cemetery.
SU 59 SW 58	Iron currency bar hoard
SU 59 SW 99	Cropmark remains of a multi-phase complex of rectilinear enclosures, ditches, trackways and possible hut circles, the majority of which are thought to be associated with the site of a Roman villa and its compound and fragments of further enclosures outside. The villa site is centred at SU 5305 9278 within an incomplete compound which is defined on its northern and eastern sides by two ditches, possibly utilized as a trackway on the eastern side. The enclosure is divided into a number of rectilinear enclosures with sub-divisions.
SU 59 SW 120	Cropmark remains of a possible field boundary and pits of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 121	Cropmark remains of a possible trackway of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 122	Cropmark of a possible enclosure of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 123	Cropmarks of a square and a rectangular enclosure of Prehistoric or Roman date.
SU 59 SW 124	Cropmark of probable rectilinear enclosure of unknown Prehistoric date.
SU 59 SW 125	Cropmark remains of a probable trackway and enclosures of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 127	Cropmark remains of a possible Roman villa enclosure and ditches based on analogy with similar features nearby, and dated similarly to the 1st and 2nd centuries.
SU 59 SW 128	Cropmark of a probable Bronze Age round barrow.
SU 59 SW 129	Settlement of unknown date seen as cropmarks.
SU 59 SW 130	Cropmark remains of two amorphous pits of unknown date
SU 59 SW 134	Cropmark remains of a possible curvilinear enclosure.
SU 59 SW 135	Cropmark remains of two probable Bronze Age round barrows
SU 59 SW 149	A ring ditch is visible as a faint cropmark on aerial photographs. 18 metres in diameter, it is presumably part of the barrow cemetery recorded as SU 59 SW 11.
SU 59 SW 150	A rectangular enclosure and associated features visible as cropmarks on air photographs.

Table C1.2b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Appleford
 (Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

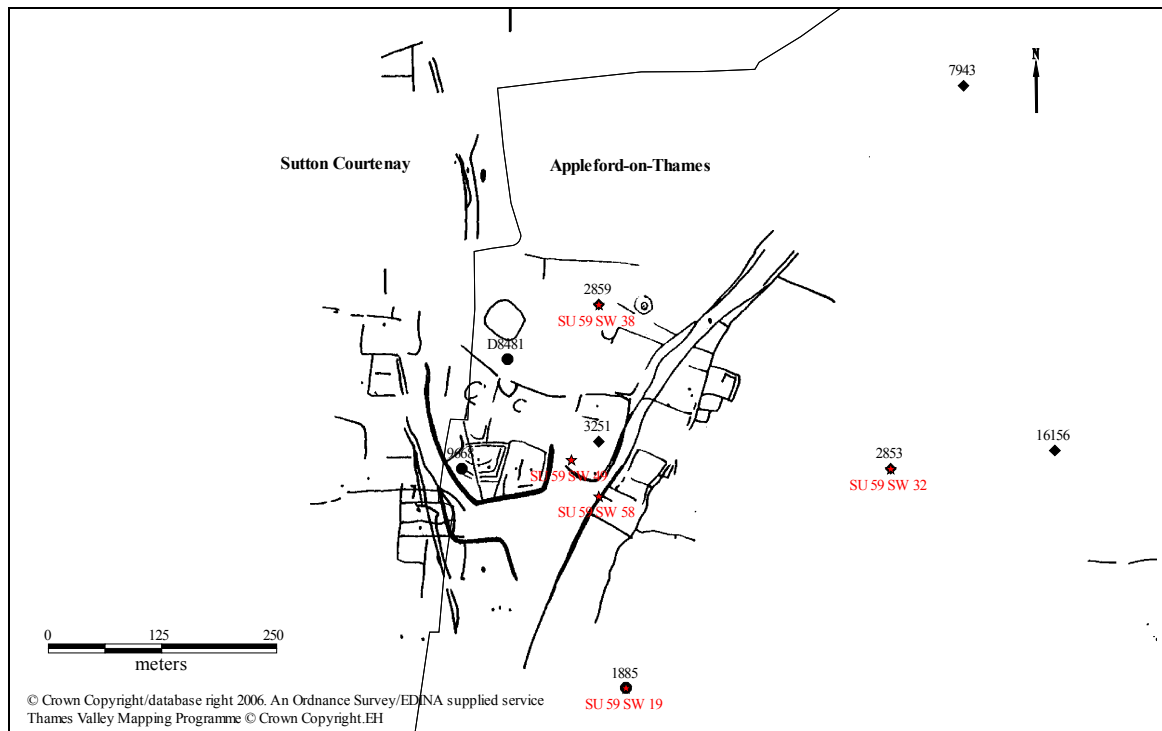


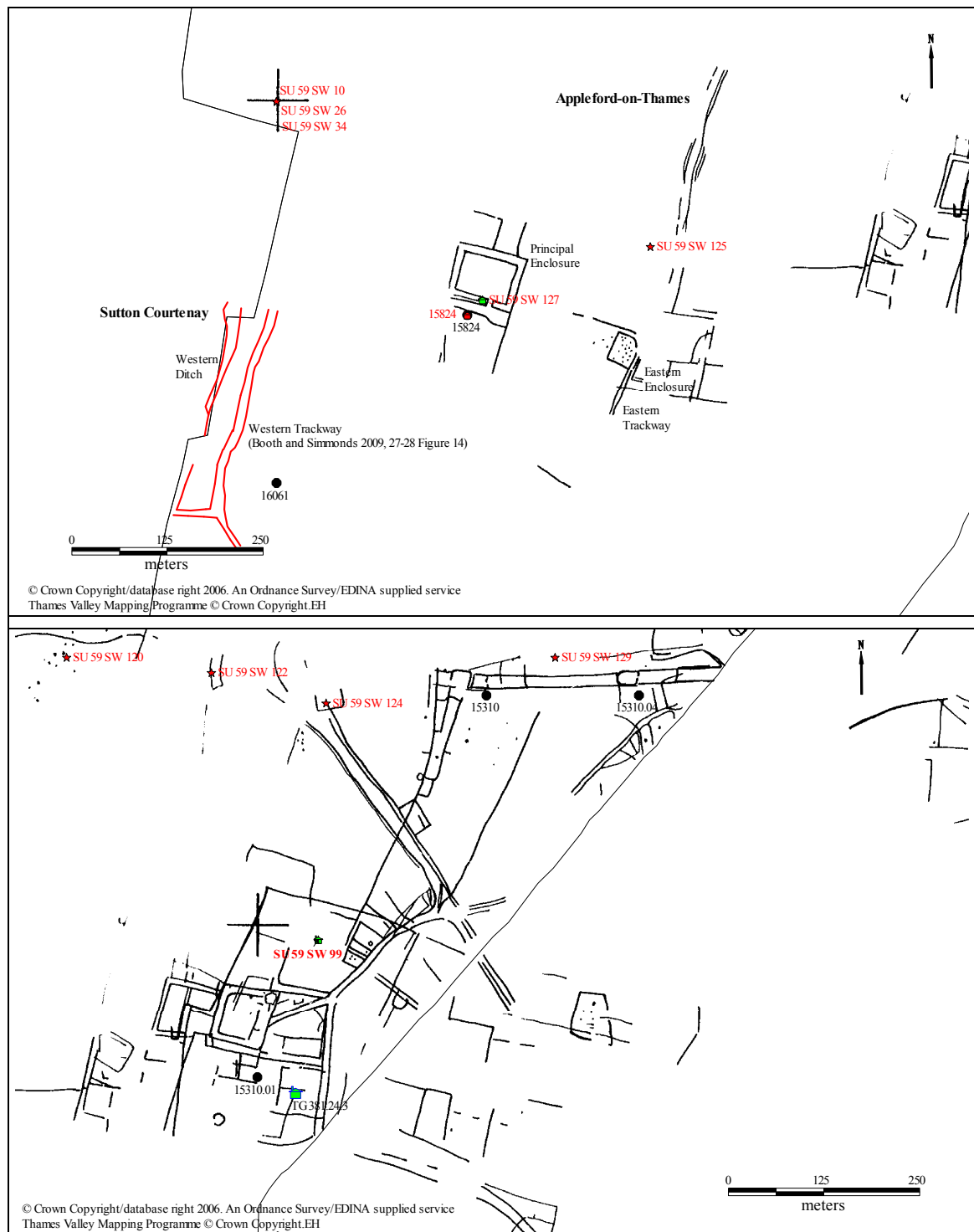
Figure C1.2b – The Cropmarks at Appleford Field (Hinchliffe and Thomas 1981)

Possible villa sites include SU59 SW 127 (HER 15824) where recent excavation provided a first or second century AD date for the enclosure ditches and possible villa (Booth and Simmonds 2009) and SU59 SW 99 (HER 15310.01) which has not been investigated. The cropmark evidence for these two sites is illustrated in figure C1.2c.

Appleford is the eastern most parish of the research area. But the rich prehistoric and Romano-British landscapes on the gravel terraces at Sutton Courtenay and Appleford do not end there. Further east are the parishes of Little and Long Wittenham (Baker 2003; Allen et al 2010) while to the north-east, across the Thames, are the important prehistoric and Romano-British sites surrounding Dorchester-on-Thames.

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests 2.5 sites in the 297 hectares of Appleford. The cropmark evidence supports this number of sites, although clearly they may not all be contemporary. Sites such as Appleford Field and SU59 SW99 appear compatible with a population estimate of 20 to 50 people per site. In addition, the presence of two coin hoards, the pewter hoard and two possible villa locations indicates the accumulation of both portable and fixed wealth, particularly in the fourth century. Therefore the archaeological evidence to support a postulated late Roman population in

the range 50 to 125 seems considerable. Indeed, the population is likely to have been greater.



**Figure C1.2c – Possible Villas in Appleford
SU59 SW 127, Appleford Sidings (Top) and SU59 SW 99 (Bottom)**

C1.3 Appleton

Appleton lies on the south and east of the river Thames. North and west of the river are extensive areas of alluvial and gravel terrace deposits with cropmarks extending over the first or Northmoor terrace. In contrast, south and east of the river, the solid geology dominates. Adjacent to the river is a band of Oxford clay and to its east is an area of sandstone and mudstone of the Corallian ridge.

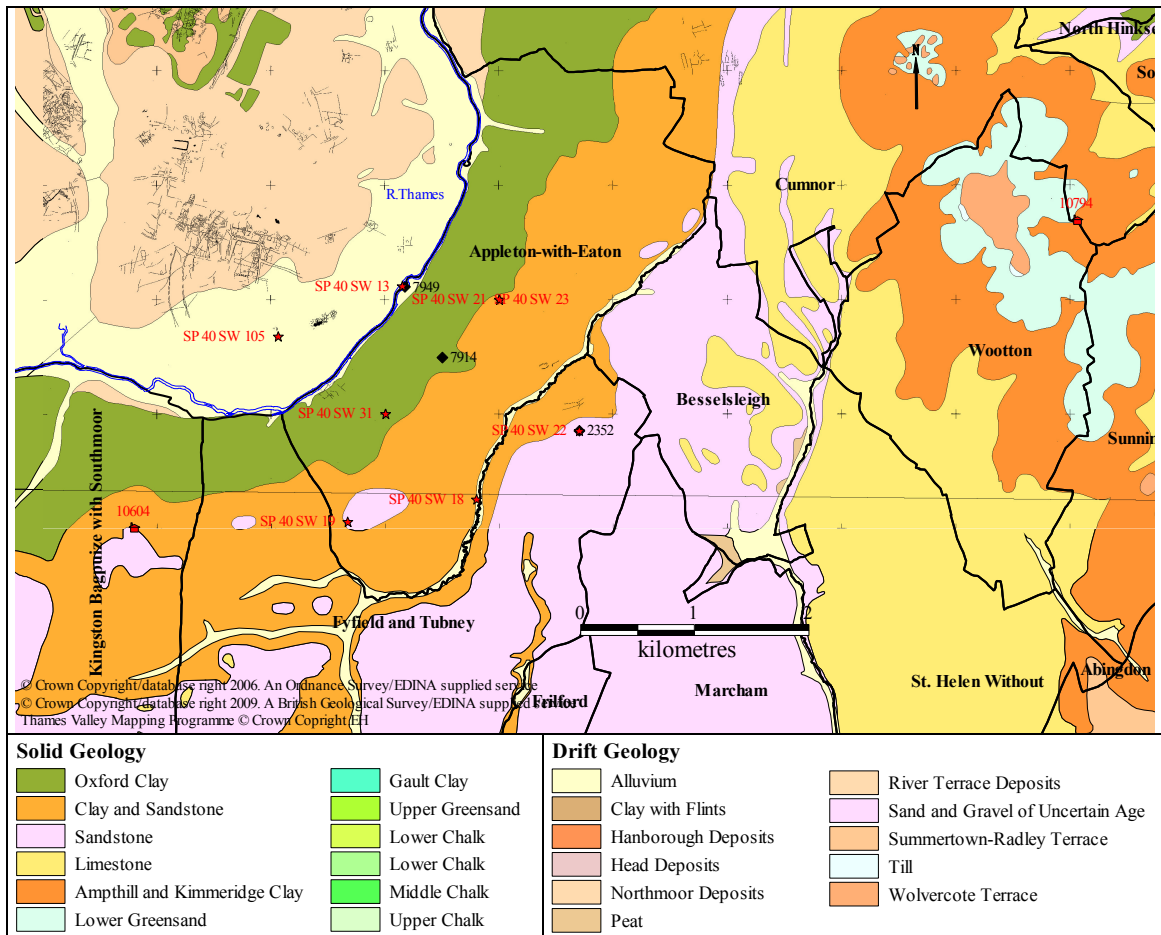


Figure C1.3a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Appleton (British Geological Survey Sheets 236 - Witney and 253 - Abingdon)

The very limited HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Appleton is listed in tables C1.3a and C1.3b respectively. These, together with the cropmark evidence from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme, are shown in figure C1.3a. Of five HER entries only three have grid references and one of these is actually in Tubney (2352). The remaining four describe small finds of Roman pottery and artefacts. The eight NMR references also mostly relate to nineteenth century artefact finds and only one (SP40 SW 105) is derived from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme. Sadly, the grid reference for this is for west of the Thames and is thus not for Appleton. SP40 SW 22 corresponds to the SMR reference 2352 in Tubney.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
1686	Roman artefacts	Marginal, findspot
1695	Roman pottery	Marginal, findspot
2352	Bronze Age, Roman, Medieval Surface Finds	Findspot
7914	Roman Pottery	Findspot
7949	Roman/Saxon Coins, Pottery and Spearhead (from bed of river)	Findspot

Table C1.3a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Appleton
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SP 40 SW 13	Saxon iron spearhead, Roman coins and pottery
SP 40 SW 18	Flint flakes
SP 40 SW 19	`U' burial
SP 40 SW 21	Roman bowl and bronze fibula
SP 40 SW 22	Flints, Bronze Age flint arrowheads, and Roman and Medieval pottery found at Tubney Manor farm.
SP 40 SW 23	Mesolithic flints from Appleton are now in the Ashmolean Museum.
SP 40 SW 31	Roman pottery
SP 40 SW 105	Potential trackway and ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.

Table C1.3b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Appleton
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

Only two small areas of crop marks are shown in the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and neither have Pastscape entries. The first lies in the south-west near the river Thames and the second in the east near the boundary with Tubney. Neither can be dated.

Although it is possible the river Thames marks a boundary between an intensively settled area to the north and west and a largely empty area to the south and east, it is perhaps more likely there is a deficiency in the available archaeological evidence. While Oxford clay is likely to restrict the formation of cropmarks, the soils in the east of Appleton should be more favourable. Nevertheless, it is clear the geology east of the river Thames is less supportive of cropmarks than the gravel terraces to the west. It remains surprising there are so few HER and NMR references to Romano-British finds and features.

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests seven sites in the 839 hectares of Appleton. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would indicate a population of 140 or 350 people. It is clear that the available archaeological evidence provides little support for this. But rather than conclude this area was largely unpopulated in the Roman period it is perhaps more reasonable to suggest the archaeological evidence is incomplete. In particular the lack of aerial photographic evidence from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme may be due to the Oxford clay inhibiting cropmarks.

C1.4 Charney Bassett

Charney Bassett is located on the limestone of the Corallian ridge. Also present are small bands of sandstone in the north, Kimmeridge clay in the west, Northmoor gravel terrace in the east and alluvial deposits in the south adjacent to the river Ock.

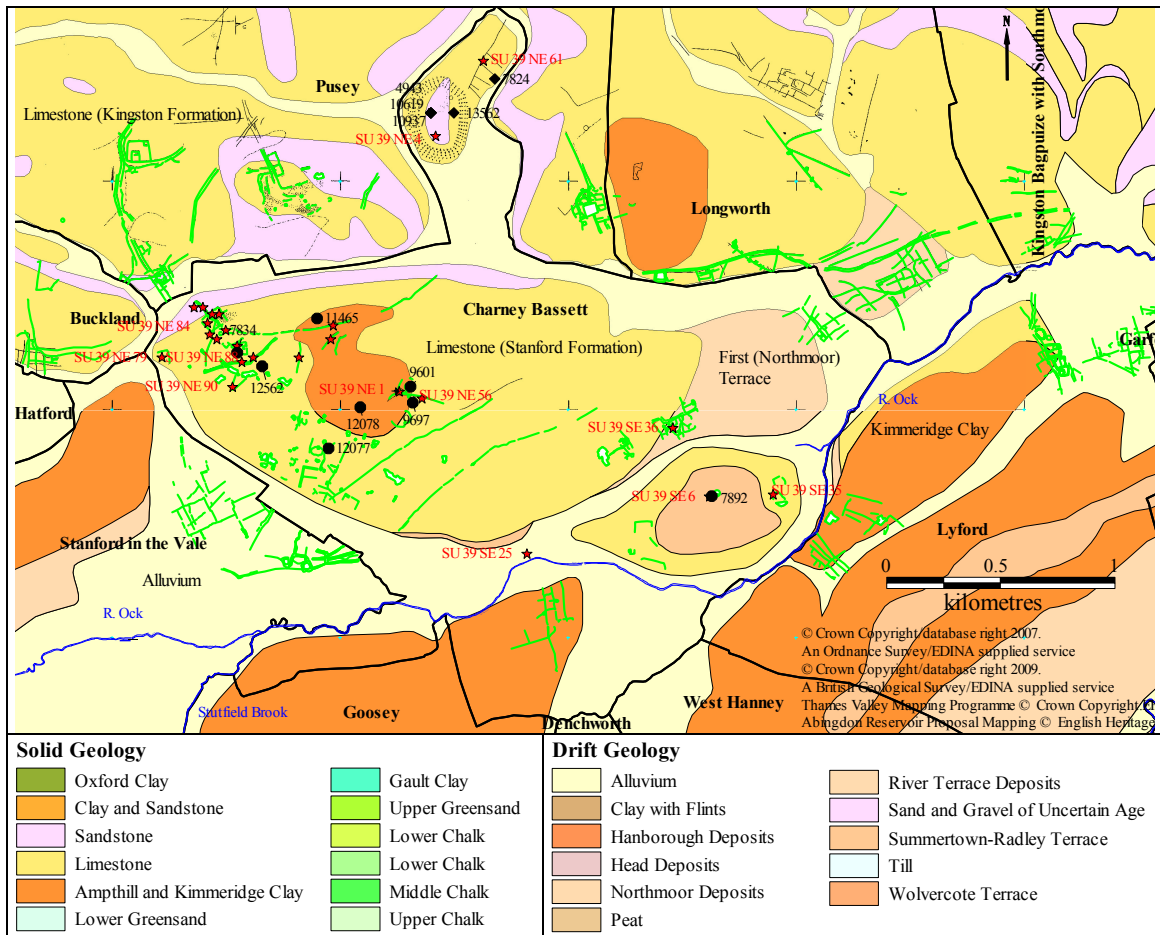


Figure C1.4a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Charney Bassett (British Geological Survey Sheets 236 - Witney and 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Charney Bassett is listed in tables C1.4a and C1.4b respectively. These, together with the cropmark evidence from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal, are shown in figures C1.4a and C1.4b. There are fifteen HER entries of which nine are Neolithic or Bronze Age, five are Iron Age or possibly earlier and only one is possibly Roman. In the north, HER 4943 refers to the Iron Age enclosure of Cherbury Camp while the two other Iron Age entries are 10937, an Iron Age gold coin and 13562, Iron Age pottery found by Richard Hingley. In the west of the parish are an undated but possibly Iron Age settlement at 12078 and pits at 12077.

Perhaps more securely dated to the Roman period is 7834, a rectilinear enclosure seen from aerial photographs and where a small scatter of Roman pottery was found.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
4943	Cherbury Camp	Findspot
7824	Late Bronze Age Axe	Findspot
7834	? Roman Enclosure and Pottery	Rectilinear enclosure, findspot
7892	Prehistoric Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
9205	Two Neolithic or Bronze Age Stone Axes	Marginal, findspot
9206	Neolithic to Bronze Age Flint Arrowheads	Marginal, findspot
9601	? Bronze Age Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
9697	? Bronze Age Ring Ditch (half a mile NW of village)	Ring ditch
10619	Bronze Age Arrowheads (Cherbury Camp)	Findspot
10937	Iron Age Gold Coin	Findspot
11465	? Bronze Age Barrows (On slight ridge - 1 mile NW of village)	Barrow
12077	Prehistoric Pits	Settlement, pit
12078	Dense Prehistoric Settlement	Settlement, rectilinear enclosure, pit
12562	? Bronze Age Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
13562	Iron Age Pottery	Findspot

Table C1.4a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Charney Bassett
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

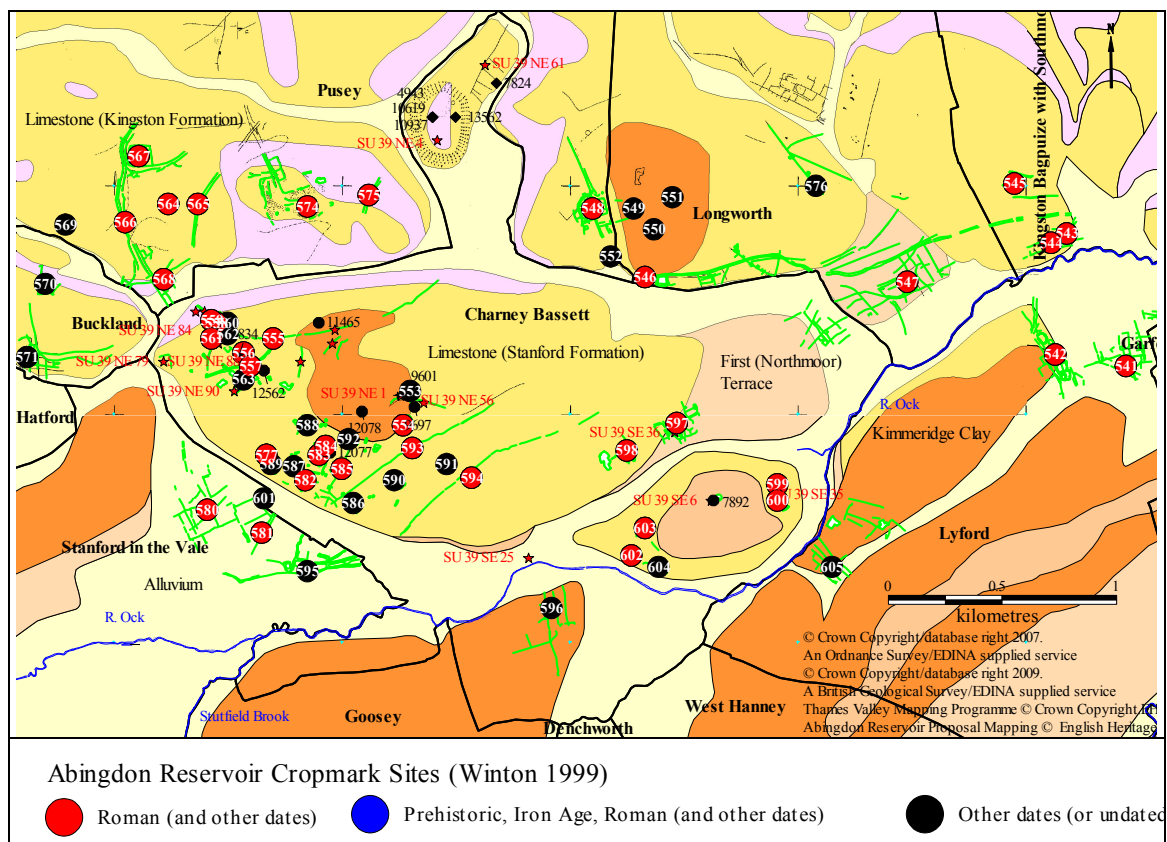


Figure C1.4b – Cropmarks in Charney Bassett

There are twenty-five undated, prehistoric or Roman NMR Pastscape entries, nineteen of which are derived from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme. The aerial photographic mapping illustrated in figure C1.4a reveals an extensive series of cropmarks in the west of Charney Bassett which continue northwards into Pusey and westwards into Buckland. Further cropmarks in the south-west appear to extend westwards into Stanford-in-the-Vale while cropmarks in the east of the parish appear related to those further north and east in Longworth.

NMR Number	Description
SU 39 NE 1	Probable Bronze Age round barrows and ditch seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 4	Iron Age multivallate hillfort containing cropmarks of a hut circle and pits. Well preserved although the outer Limestone blocks are visible in all the ramparts, but more numerous and conspicuous in the inner. Excavations in 1939 revealed a cobbled entrance way. Iron Age pottery and gold coin, an Early Medieval brooch, Neolithic flint axe and a Bronze Age arrowheads have been recovered from the site.
SU 39 NE 20	A probable Prehistoric or Roman settlement consisting of enclosures, a ditch, hut circles and pits seen as cropmarks.
SU 39 SE 6	Cropmark of probable Prehistoric or Roman round barrow site
SU 39 SE 25	A Neolithic polished flint axehead was dredged from the River Ock at Charney Bassett in the summer of 1978.
SU 39 NE 56	A possible Later Prehistoric boundary ditch is visible as a cropmark on air photographs. The site comprises a sinuous linear ditch which extends over a total distance of circa 750m and is orientated roughly WSW / ENE
SU 39 NE 61	Possible Medieval or later drainage system seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 72	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 79	Possible Prehistoric or Roman enclosure seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 80	Possible Prehistoric or Roman trackway seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 81	Possible enclosure of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 82	Probable Prehistoric or Roman boundary ditches, pits and pit clusters seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 39 NE 83	Potential Prehistoric or Roman hut circles seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 39 NE 84	Potential trackway of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 85	Probable boundary ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 86	Potential Prehistoric or Roman ditch and pits seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 87	Possible pit clusters of Prehistoric or Roman date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 39 NE 88	Possible pit of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 89	Probable trackway of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 90	Possible ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 91	Possible gravel pit of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 92	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 93	Possible ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 SE 35	Cropmark of a probable rectilinear enclosure, of uncertain date
SU 39 SE 36	Cropmarks of enclosures and associated trackways, probably of Prehistoric or Roman date

Table C1.4b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Charney Bassett
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

In the north SU39 NE 4 corresponds to HER 4943 for Cherbury Camp while in the east SU39 SE 35 and SE 36 describe undated trackways and enclosures. In the west there are cropmarks possibly associated with HER entries 12078 (a settlement) and 12077 (pits) To the north-west the possible Roman settlement of HER 7834 seems linked to

SU39 NE 20. The fifteen NMR Pastscape entries for SU 39 NE 79 to 93 all describe undated or suggested prehistoric or Roman features such as enclosures, ditches, trackways and pits.

Charney Bassett was also mapped as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal and these sites are shown in figure C1.4b. In these east of the parish, sites 597 to 600, 602 and 603 are suggested to be prehistoric or Roman (Winton 1999, 43-44) while in the west sites 554 to 559, 561, 577, 582 to 584, 586, 593 to 594 are suggested to be prehistoric or undated (Winton 1999, 34-42).

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare indicates four sites in the 489 hectares of Charney Bassett. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 80 or 200 people. The available archaeological evidence provides considerable support for this largely through the cropmark evidence suggesting a network of enclosures and trackways entering Charney Bassett from the west in Buckland and Pusey and passing through the parish to leave in the east towards Longworth. This network of trackways exists both to the east and west of Cherbury Camp in Hinton Waldrist and Pusey respectively. However, the HER and NMR evidence, together with the aerial photographic and geophysical survey evidence, does not suggest any Romano-British settlement within Cherbury Camp.

C1.5 Drayton

Drayton lies mostly on Kimmeridge clay with only the south-east of the parish extending onto Gault clay. More important to the soils and the archaeology are the complex sequences of drift deposits illustrated in figure C1.5a. In the west these are Northmoor deposits of the first terrace and to their east are Summertown-Radley material of the second terrace. Towards the north and centre are islands of Wolvercote third terrace deposits, and between the Wolverton and Summertown-Radley terraces are Head deposits of mixed sand, clay and silt. Only a limited area in the north of the parish is largely free of these drift deposits where the Kimmeridge clay is exposed. Cropmarks are visible across the gravel terraces but are notably absent from this clay area in the north.

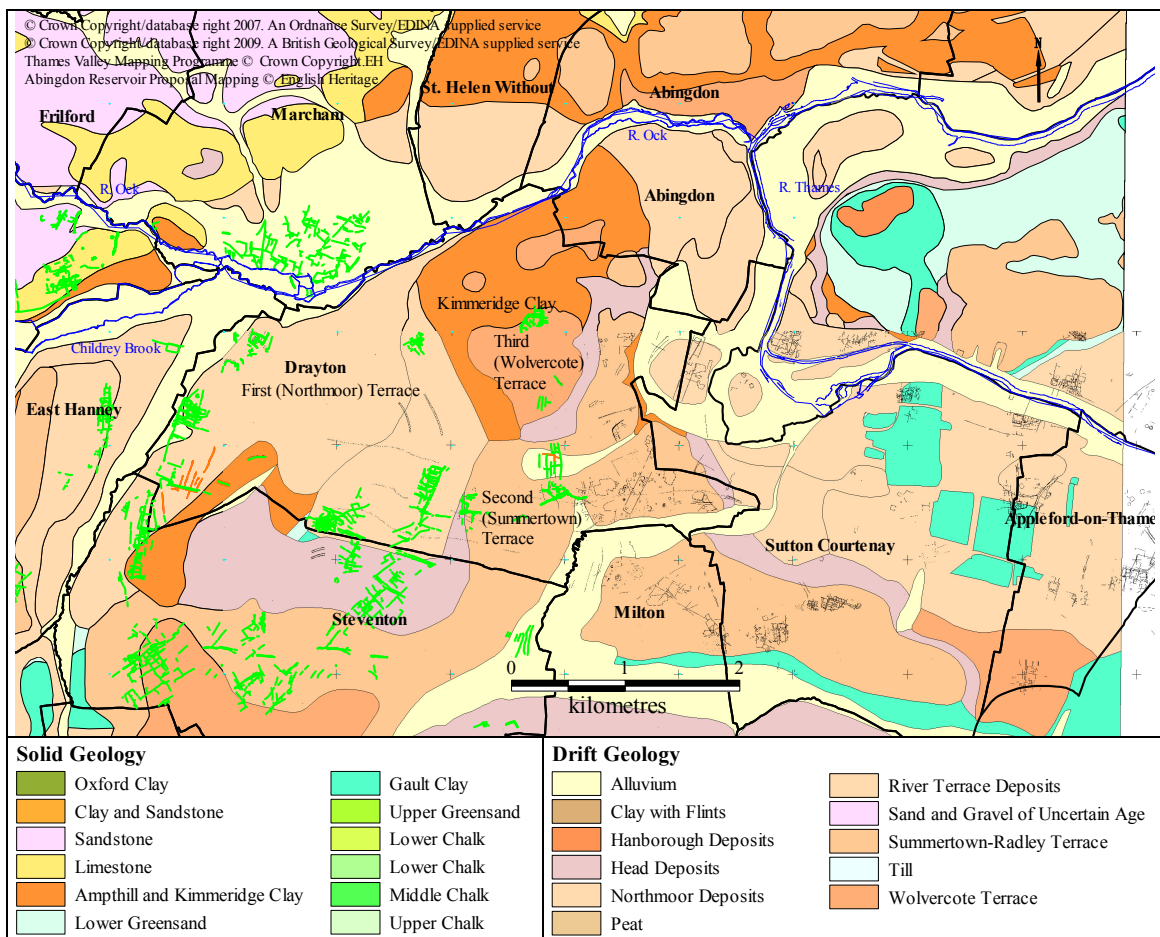


Figure C1.5a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Drayton (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

The archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Drayton is very rich with 51 HER entries and 62 NMR entries. A large number describe Neolithic or Bronze Age settlement on the gravel terraces of the Thames and the tables and maps are therefore restricted to probable Iron Age and Roman period features and artefacts. As this

still leaves 17 and 36 entries in tables 1.5a and 1.5b respectively, the HMR and NMR entries are shown separately in figures C1.5b and C1.5c. The cropmarks are from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme in the east and from the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal in the west.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
D11522	Roman Enclosures and Field System (Curtis & Son Gravel Pit, Oday Common)	Field system, trackway, enclosure
D11522.002	Roman Field System near Drayton	Field system
1465.01	Bronze Age to Roman Finds, Tithe Farm	Findspot
2652	Romano British Pottery	Findspot
2655	?Iron Age Round Mound and Roman Pottery	Round barrow
2669	Romano British Burial and Pottery	Burial, findspot
7597	Roman Pottery and Other Material	Findspot
8424	?Late Prehistoric Settlement Complex	Settlement, enclosure, circular enclosure, pit
8431	Prehistoric & Saxon Trackways and Pits	Grubenhau, hut, trackway, rectangular enclosure
8452	Prehistoric Enclosures	Enclosure
8455	Undated Pit and Linear Feature	Linear feature, pit
8458	Undated Enclosure and Linear Features	Rectangular enclosure, linear feature
8461	Prehistoric Circle and ? Enclosure ditch	Rectangular enclosure, ring
8467	Prehistoric Trackway, Enclosures, Pits, Linear Features	Trackway, enclosure, linear feature, pit, findspot
9095	? Romano British Settlement (Sutton Wick Field)	Settlement
15284	?Roman farmstead	Farmstead
15293	Prehistoric/Roman Field System	Field system

Table C1.5a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Drayton
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

Of the seventeen entries in table C1.5a at least nine seem securely dated to the Roman period. These include D11522, Roman enclosures and a field system, and D11522.002, a Roman field system. Finds of Bronze Age to Roman date are reported at Tithe Farm, 1465.01, while there is a possible Romano-British settlement at 9095. Romano-British pottery has been found at 2652, 2655, 2669 and 7597 while 15284 may be a Roman farmstead. Of the 36 relevant NMR records 32 are descriptions of undated, prehistoric or Romano-British features detected as cropmarks. Only four relate to finds of Roman material: SU49 NE13 (HER 2652); SU 49 NE 20 (HER 2655); SU49 SE 8 (HER2669); and SU49 SE 21 (HER 7597).

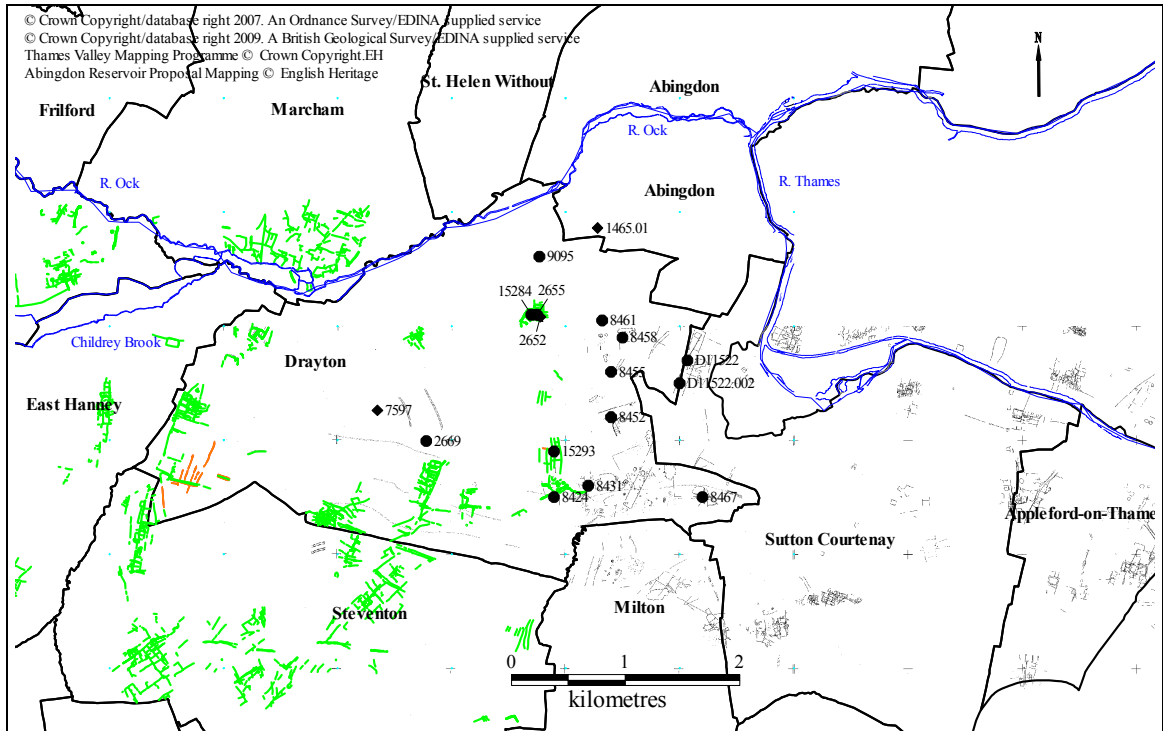


Figure C1.5b – The Late Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Drayton (HER entries)

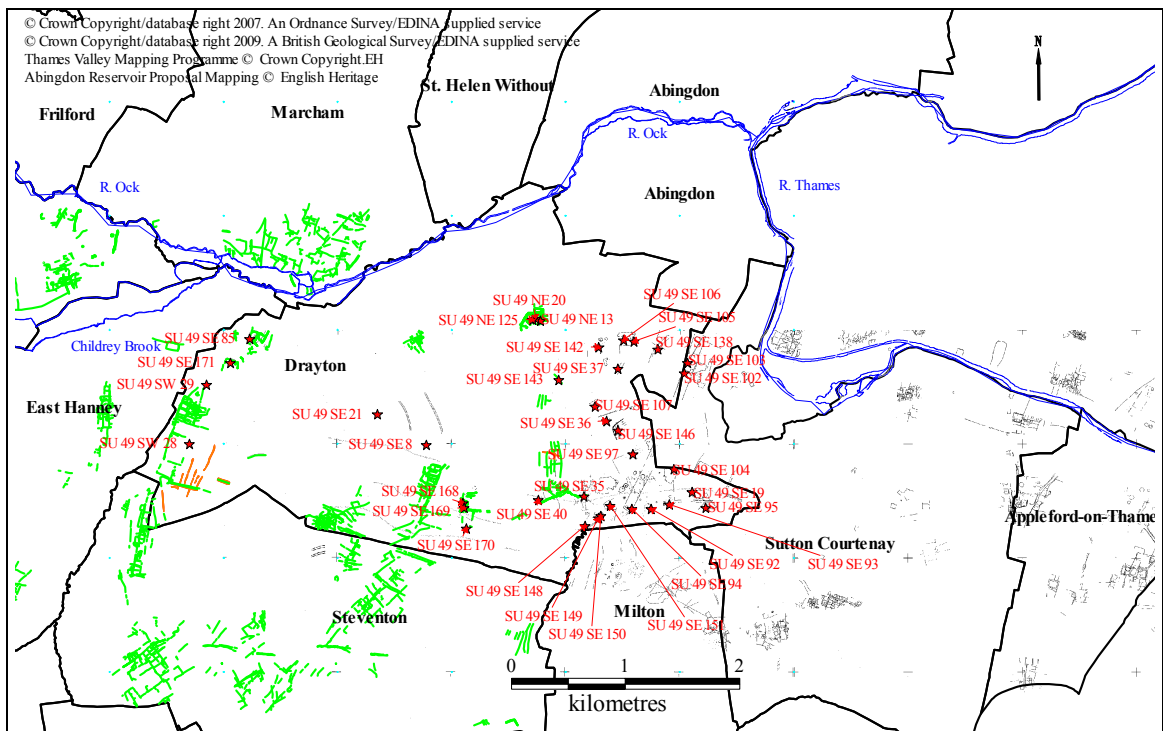


Figure C1.5c – The Late Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Drayton (NMR entries)

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 NE 13	Romano-British sherds found in the vicinity of Sutton Wick Field
SU 49 NE 20	Prehistoric or Roman Barrow at Sutton Wick.
SU 49 SE 8	A Romano British burial accompanied by pottery and fibulae, was found in Drayton Field in 1922.
SU 49 SE 19	Probable enclosures, trackway and field boundary of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 21	Roman pottery
SU 49 SE 35	Probable Prehistoric or Roman trackways, field system, pits, ditches, enclosures and hut circle seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 36	Potential Prehistoric or Roman hut circles seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 37	Possible ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 40	A possible Prehistoric or Roman settlement consisting of hut circles, field boundaries, a trackway and pits seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 85	Undated cropmarks at Drayton of rectilinear enclosures and ditches, some of which are probably field boundaries, visible on air photographs.
SU 49 SW 28	Undated cropmarks of a settlement, field system and trackways
SU 49 SE 92	Possible enclosure and pit of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 93	Possible pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 94	Possible pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs. Some of the pits may be grubenhauser
SU 49 SE 95	Possible enclosures and trackway of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 97	Probable pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 102	Possible Prehistoric or Roman enclosure seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 103	Possible Roman enclosure, trackway, field system and field boundary seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 104	Potential Prehistoric or Roman hut circle seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 105	Potential enclosure and ditch of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 106	Potential Prehistoric or Roman hut circle seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 107	Possible pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 138	Potential enclosure of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 142	Possible pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 143	Possible Roman ditch seen as earthworks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 146	Probable ditch, settlement, trackways and pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 148	Possible trackway of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 149	Probable enclosure and pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 150	Possible linear feature of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 151	Potential enclosure and field boundary of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 168	Potential enclosure of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 169	Potential field boundaries of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 170	Potential Prehistoric or Roman hut circle seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SW 29	Possible field boundary of unknown date seen as cropmarks.
SU 49 SE 171	Possible enclosure of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 NE 125	Fragmented remains of enclosures and ditches, possibly part of a field system and a possible hut circle, of unknown date, were seen as cropmarks and mapped from aerial photographs.

Table C1.5b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Drayton
 (Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

The archaeological evaluation for the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal investigated a number of sites in Drayton, and Hearne (2001) documents the seven main sites, of which six contained Romano-British material and four produced Iron Age pottery, as shown in table C1.5c. Two further sites were investigated: at site 102, three ditches, possibly of Iron Age or Romano-British date, were located, but nothing was found at site 153.

Site	Iron Age	Romano-British
109		Yes
126 North	Yes	Yes
126 South	Yes	Yes
197	Yes	
402		Yes
410	Yes	Yes
411		Yes

Table C1.5c – Sites in Drayton listed by Hearne (2001)

The cropmarks mapped as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.5d with twelve cropmark sites in Drayton (Winton 1999). The evaluation excavations provided evidence that cropmark sites 109, 126 North and South, 402, 410 and 411 had material of Roman date (Hearne 2001; Weaver 1996; Weaver 1998a; Oxford Archaeology 1998a; Barber and Thomas 1998) and these sites are therefore shown as Roman in figure C1.5d.

These trial excavations have usefully demonstrated that the sites were not all contemporary and that settlements changed their location. The site chronology is illustrated in figure C1.5e with early Romano-British settlement attested at sites 109, 402, and 411, and later Romano-British settlement at sites 109, 126 North, 126 South and 410.

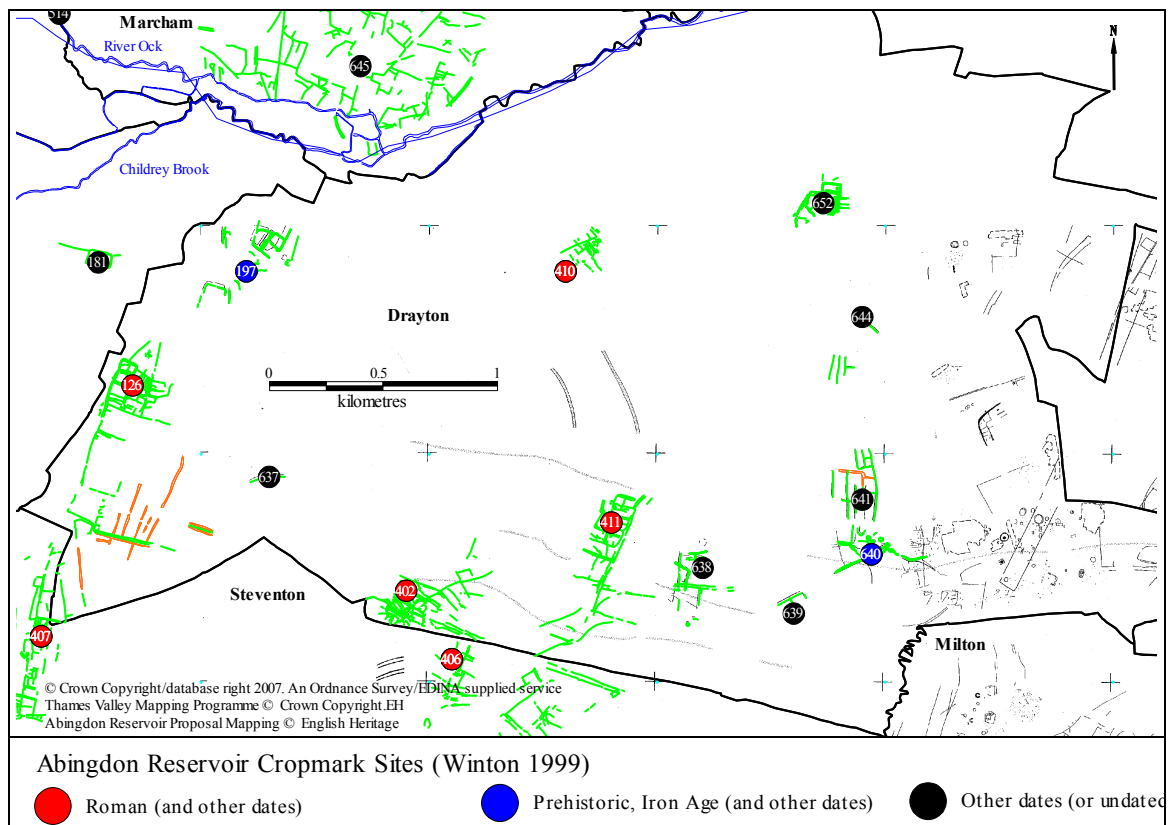


Figure C1.5d – Cropmarks in Drayton

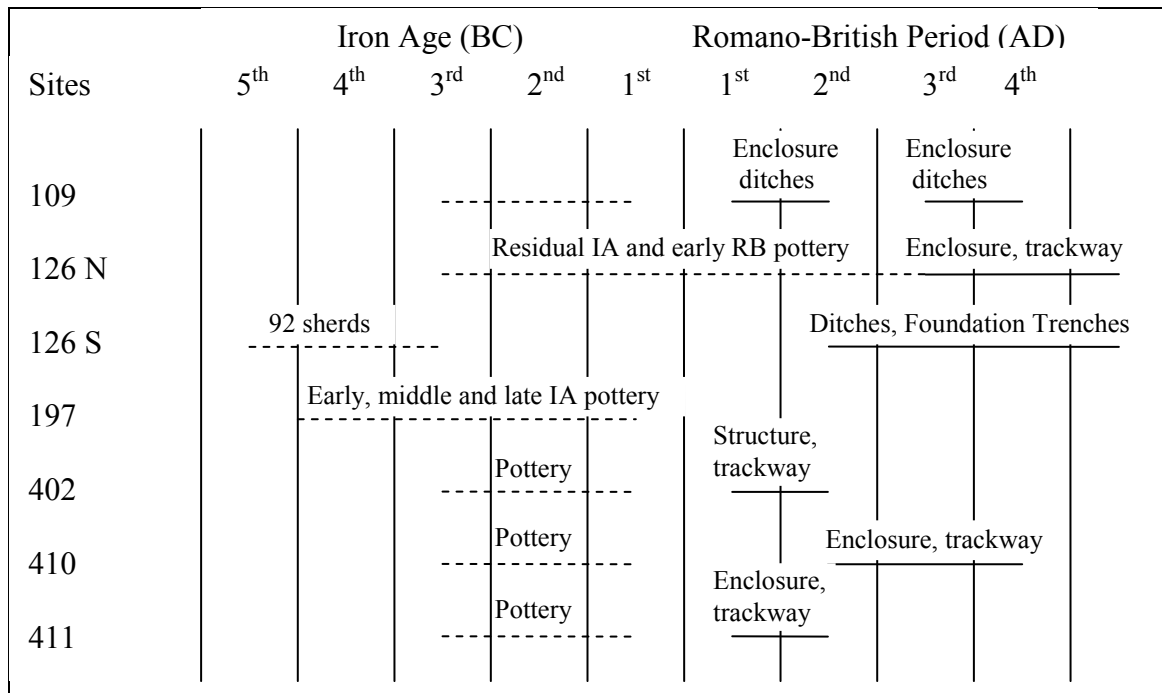


Figure C1.5e – Chronology of Sites in Drayton

Millett’s estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests nine sites in the 1070 hectares of Drayton. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 180 or 450 people. The aerial photographic evidence provides considerable support for this with small settlements on the gravel terraces. Seven sites were investigated as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal which demonstrated that the sites were not all contemporary and that later Romano-British settlement occurred at four sites.

C1.6 East Hanney

All of East Hanney lies on Kimmeridge clay except for a small area of lower greensand in the south-east. The drift geology is more complicated, as shown on figure C1.6a. Alluvial deposits occur in the north-west where the Letcombe and Childrey brooks converge and also in the east adjacent to Cow Common brook. Northmoor deposits of the first terrace are in the east and south-west while in the centre of the parish is a north-south band of Summertown-Radley material of the second terrace.

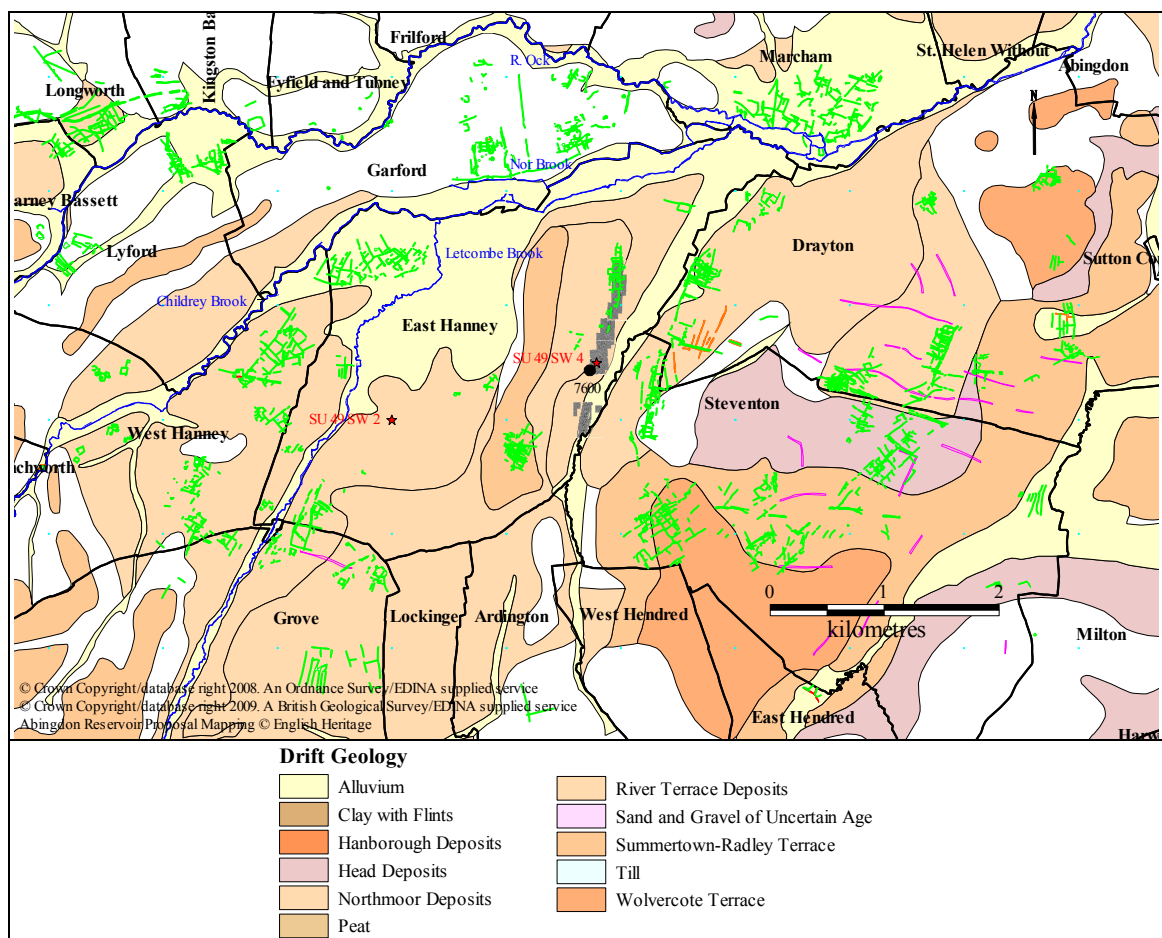


Figure C1.6a – Drift Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of East Hanney (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR references to prehistoric and Romano-British finds or features as listed in tables C1.6a and C1.6b and illustrated in figure C1.6a are meagre indeed, especially when compared to Drayton to the east. In part this is compensated for by the aerial survey mapping undertaken in the 1990s as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal. Also, as part of the reservoir evaluation, a range of sites were investigated by trial trenches. More recently, areas of East Hanney have been subjected to geophysical survey. In consequence an important body of archaeological material exists for East Hanney.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
7600	?Villa on Pound Croft	Villa, findspot

Table C1.6a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for East Hanney
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 SW 2	Gold coin of Cunobelinus
SU 49 SW 4	Excavations in 1967 revealed two floors of limestone slabs from a Roman building associated with finds ranging from the 1st to 4th century AD. One sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was also recovered.

Table C1.6b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for East Hanney
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

SU49 SW 2 refers to a find of a gold coin of Cunobelin and SU49 SW 4 describes a possible villa site where Roman pottery and tiles were found in the 1960s. HER reference 7600 refers to the same site. The literature relating to this villa is limited to a reference to sherds of second and third century Romano-British pottery and other material found east of the village of East Hanney (Case and Sturdy 1961, 132), and the subsequent discovery of further Roman material by Wantage District Field Club from a small two-day excavation undertaken in 1967 (Rutland and Thomas 1968). Pottery extending from the first to the third or fourth centuries was recovered, together with one Saxon sherd.

The archaeological evaluation for the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal investigated a number of sites in East Hanney, and Hearne (2001) documents seven main sites, of which five have Romano-British material and features and six contain Iron Age material, as shown in table C1.6c.

Site	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Romano-British
110 (Villa area)		Yes	Yes
181		Yes	
196 (North of villa)		Yes	Yes
400		Yes	Yes
409		Yes	
416 (South of villa)		Yes	Yes
417	Yes		Yes

Table C1.6c – Sites in East Hanney listed by Hearne (2001)

The cropmarks mapped as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.6b with eleven cropmark sites in East Hanney (Winton 1999). The evaluation excavations provided evidence that cropmark sites 196, 400, and 417 contain material of Roman date (Hearne 2001; Hall 1994; Barber and Thomas 1998; Oxford Archaeology 1998b; Thomas 1998) and these sites are therefore shown as Roman in figure C1.6b.

In the north-west an extensive system of enclosures and possible trackways runs towards West Hanney and there are smaller areas of cropmarks further south and to the west of the Letcombe brook. East of the brook, in the south of East Hanney, a further complex of cropmarks extends into Grove. On the eastern side of East Hanney there are cropmarks both north and south-west of the villa at HER 7600.

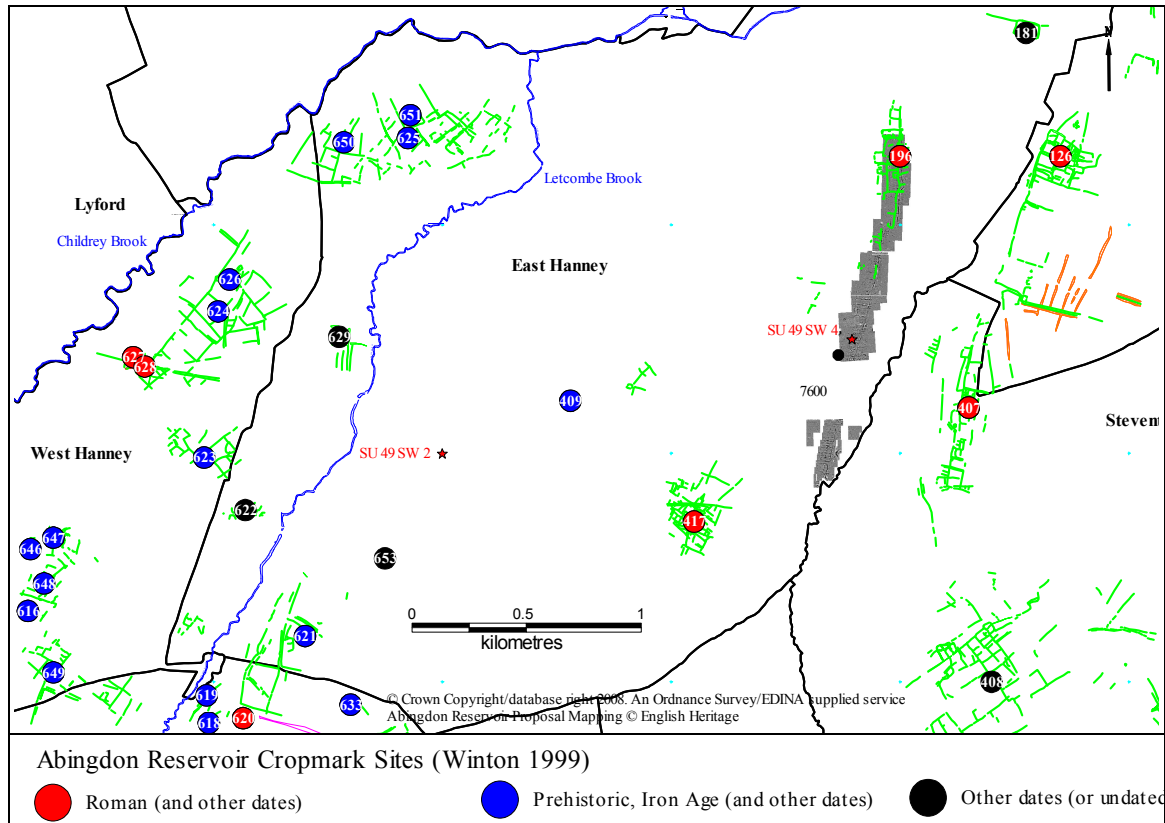


Figure C1.6b – Cropmarks in East Hanney

These trial excavations have usefully demonstrated that the sites were not all contemporary and that settlements changed their location. The site chronology is illustrated in figure C1.6c with early Romano-British settlement attested at sites 400 and 417 and later Romano-British settlement at sites 196, 110, 416 and 400.

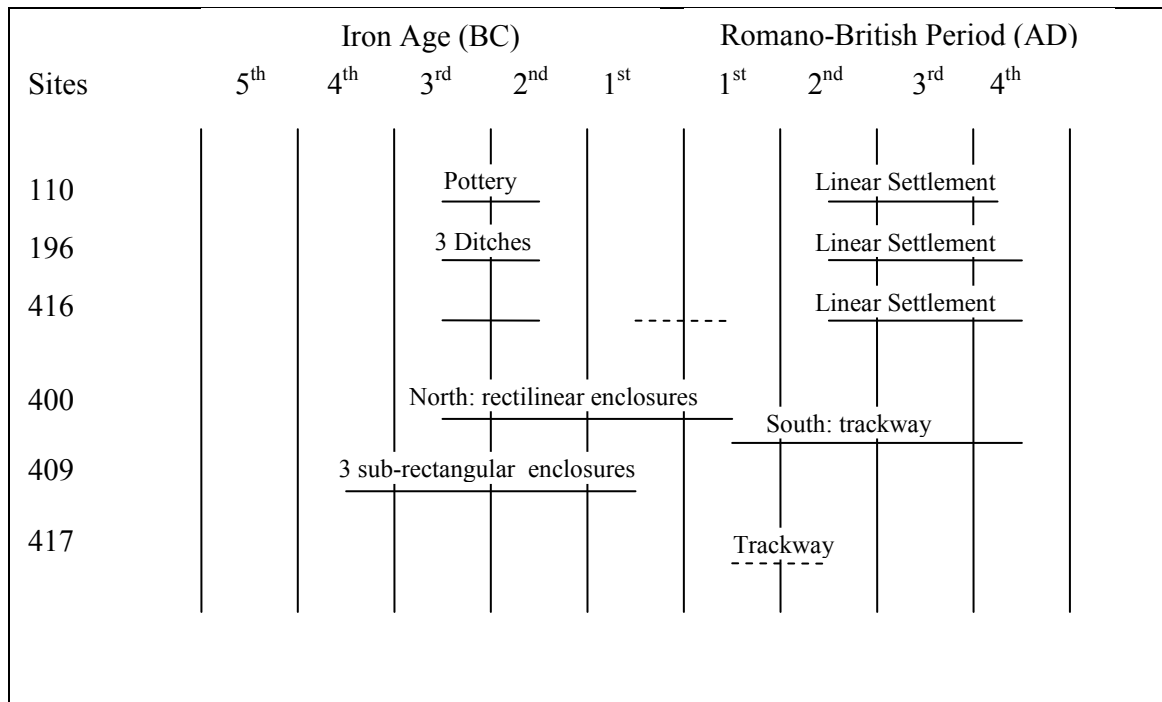


Figure C1.6c – Chronology of Sites in East Hanney

Millett’s estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests seven sites in the 890 hectares of East Hanney. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would indicate a population of 140 or 350 people. The aerial photographic evidence and excavations provide considerable support for this with extensive settlements on the gravel terraces in the east of the parish.

C1.7 Frilford

Frilford is located on the sandstones and limestones of the Corallian ridge. Its southern boundary is defined by the river Ock and alluvial deposits are found besides the river and its tributary streams.

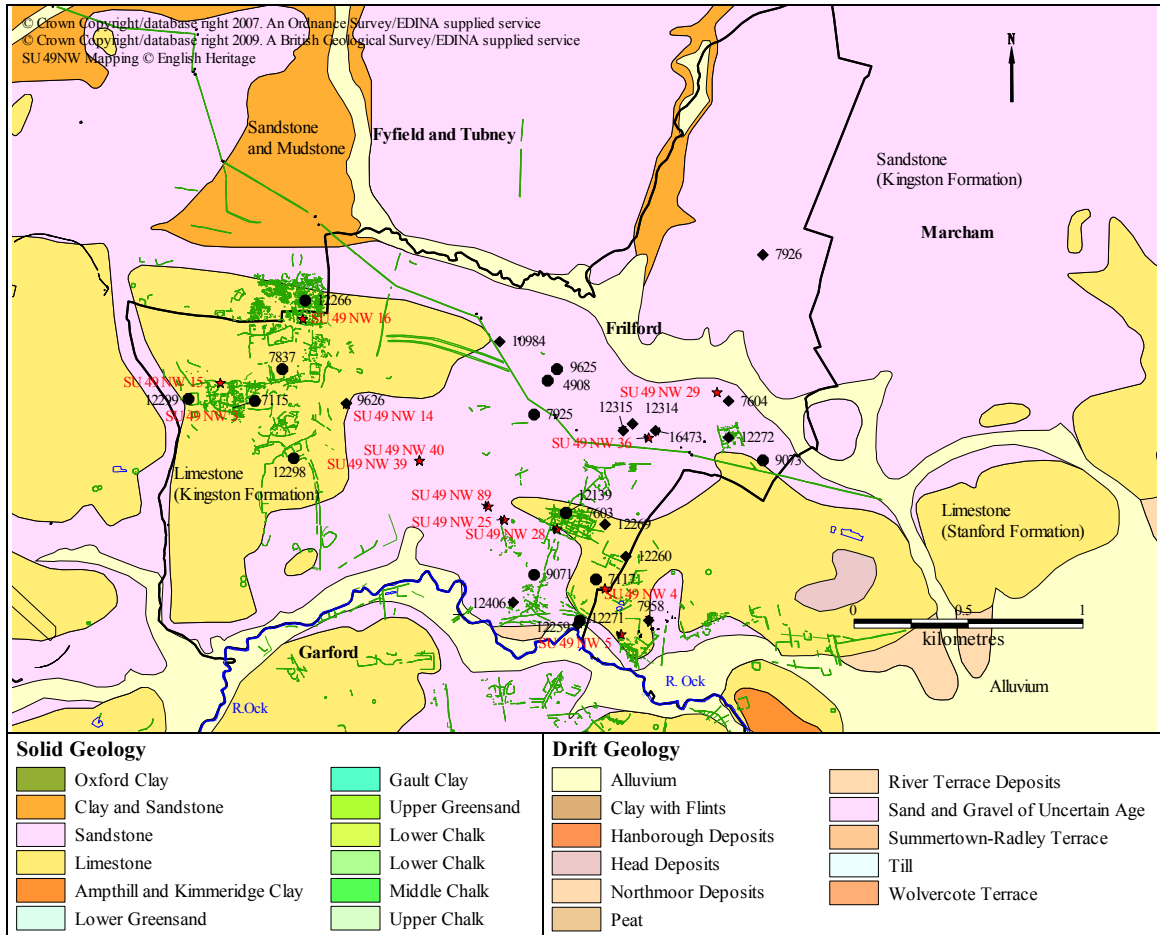


Figure C1.7a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Frilford (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

The archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Frilford is plentiful with twenty-nine HER entries and thirteen NMR references as listed in tables C1.7a and C1.7b respectively. These, together with cropmark evidence from the SU 49NW Mapping are illustrated in figure C1.7a. Of the twenty-nine HER entries twelve are for the Neolithic and Bronze Age, one is for the Iron Age and sixteen are for the Roman period. Of the thirteen NMR references nine relate to the Roman period. These entries predate the recent mapping of SU49 NW by English Heritage and the number of NMR Pastscape references is expected to have increased.

The long linear feature shown on figure C1.7a running from the north-west to the south-east is an anti-tank ditch dating from 1940. The majority of the cropmarks probably date from the prehistoric and Roman periods but some will of course be later. The cropmarks and HER references appear to be clustered in the east and west of the parish with relatively few entries in the centre. The NMR entries are more evenly distributed. This division into east and west appears related to the solid geology as the majority of the cropmarks are located on the limestone with fewer on the sandstone lying between. Frilford Heath in the north-east contains no cropmarks and only one HER reference (7926).

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
4908	Ring Ditch and Cremation	Cremation, ring ditch
7115	Roman Villa	Villa
7117	Romano-British Cemetery, Noah's Ark	Inhumation cemetery
7603	Roman Enclosures and Pottery	Rectangular enclosure
7604	Romano British Pottery and Tile	Findspot
7837	? Bronze Age Field System and Pits	Field system
7925	? Roman Settlement	Ditch
7926	Roman Pottery	Findspot
7958	Roman Coins	Findspot
9071	Lithic Scatter (SW of Frilford and north of the River Ock)	Lithic scatter
9073	Lithic Scatter (SE of Frilford)	Lithic scatter
9625	Bronze Age Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
9626	Bronze Age Flint Arrowhead	Findspot
10984	Roman Coin (c.250m north of Kingston Bagpuize/Frilford Road)	Findspot
12139	? Bronze Age Lithic Scatter (south west of Village)	Lithic scatter
12259	Bronze Age Lithic Scatter	Lithic scatter
12260	Bronze Age Scraper (South of Frilford)	Findspot
12266	Iron Age Settlement	Settlement, rectangular enclosure, pit, findspot
12269	Roman Pottery and Coin	Findspot
12271	Roman Pottery and Coin (in Field to South of Village)	Findspot
12272	Roman Pottery	Findspot
12298	? Roman Trackway, Cattle Pen	Trackway, cattle pen
12299	Bronze Age Ring Ditch (?barrow)	Barrow, ring ditch
12314	Bronze Age to Iron Age Scraper (in garden of Frilford Grange)	Findspot
12315	Roman Coin	Findspot
12406	Roman Pottery Scatter and Coin	Findspot
15908	Neolithic and Bronze Age Finds	Marginal, findspot
16473	Roman Spoon Bowl from Abingdon School Playing Field	Findspot
16592	Samian fragment	Marginal

Table C1.7a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER references for Frilford
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

Frilford contains extensive settlement evidence from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods which has been investigated through excavation, geophysical survey and

fieldwalking. Figure C1.7b shows where recent geophysical survey has been undertaken as discussed in Chapters 4 and 5. In addition, a small geophysical survey in the north-east of Frilford to investigate the Romano-British pottery described in HER 7926 failed to detect any archaeological features although further quantities of Roman pottery were found.

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 NW 3	Site of a Roman villa excavated in 1884; 12 rooms with a portico and a hypocaust were uncovered, possibly only one wing of the villa. Cropmarks of an Iron Age settlement and a probable Roman field system with possible grubenhauser cutting into it.
SU 49 NW 4	Frilford I. Mixed cemetery 1864-5. - stone quarry labourers discovered several graves with various objects. Akerman investigated 38 graves and found that 3 were certainly Anglo-Saxon and 2 in lead coffins were definitely Romano-British. In 1867-8 Rolleston excavated 123 graves. 10 of these were Anglo-Saxon cremation burials, some of which overlaid Romano-British inhumations, and there were 2 distinct classes of Anglo-Saxon inhumation recognised in addition. 1869-70 -further finds included circa 4 more Anglo-Saxon inhumations, 2 of which overlay Romano-British burials. 1912 - Buxton and Leeds found a further Anglo-Saxon grave. 1920 - Buxton excavated 40 Romano-British and 6 Anglo-Saxon graves. 1939 - More Romano-British graves found. In 1937 a series of trenches investigated the area to the north of the quarry. 6 Romano-British graves were found and the approximate northern limit of the cemetery was established. Quarrying has destroyed evidence where the Romano-British and the Saxon burials come together, but the absence of intrusive Saxon burials among the Roman ones suggests that the overlap between the cemeteries was comparatively small. A chronological analysis of burials from eleven sites in the Upper Thames region shows a total of 347 burials from Frilford I. Of these 54 have been dated; 26 are from AD 300-400 and there is then a scatter of ages through to about AD 600.
SU 49 NW 5	Iron Age and Roman settlements. The Roman settlement comprising of a temple complex, amphitheatre (SU 49 NW 41) and a late Roman/early Saxon cemetery (SU 49 NW 4). Possibly a Roman small town with specialised religious functions. The Iron Age settlement is dated from 300 BC. A more sophisticated circular building on stone foundations was constructed c. AD 80-90. and lasted to late 4th century. The Romano-Celtic temple, with annexes, was built near the rotunda, and dated from the 2nd half of the 1st century to post AD 400. Beneath the Romano-Celtic temple was a small circular structure with 2 child burials. Excavations also uncovered Roman buildings and evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement. The coin hoard found on the site contained coins from Constantine I to Gratian (AD 306-383) and was deposited c.AD 380-85.
SU 49 NW 14	BA flint arrowhead
SU 49 NW 15	Cropmarks of a small complex of rectangular enclosures, possibly associated with the nearby Roman villa, a field system
SU 49 NW 16	An Iron Age or Romano British settlement showing as enclosures, hut circles and field systems on air photographs are recorded here.
SU 49 NW 25	A Neolithic polished flint axehead was found by Mr. P.G. Westwood on the footpath between Manor or Cradle Farm, Frilford, and Garford. It may have come from one of the cultivated fields on either side. It is in the Ashmolean Museum (accession number 1958.71)
SU 49 NW 28	RB pottery
SU 49 NW 29	Romano-British pottery and tiles found at Pead's and Barnett's Farm
SU 49 NW 36	Flint implements
SU 49 NW 39	Roman pottery
SU 49 NW 40	IA/RB pottery
SU 49 NW 89	An enclosure and linear features visible as parchmarks in playing fields

Table C1.7b Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR references for Frilford
 (Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

A small villa was excavated in Ham Field, west Frilford, in 1884 (Evans 1897) and there is an extensive set of cropmarks. A geophysical survey in Ham Field illustrated in figure C1.7c shows at least three distinct sets of archaeological features. In the south is a set of small fields with trackways leading south and east, while to the west is a large funnel-shaped entrance. In contrast, the central area contains a number of oval shaped ditched enclosures. It is in one of these enclosures that the villa excavated by Evans lies. Finally, in the north are a number of large rectangular fields with some smaller, circular features.

Five circular features which may represent the foundation trenches or drip gullies of roundhouses can be identified. Four have diameters of about 12 metres while one has a diameter of 14 metres. One such circular feature lies between the two enclosures and remaining four are situated in the rectangular field system at the north of Ham field. These could date to either the Iron Age or Roman period.

The recent aerial photographic mapping has identified many more such circular features north of the A415 together with dense clusters of pits (HER 12266). This is perhaps more representative of an Iron Age occupation site but may well extend into and through the Roman period.

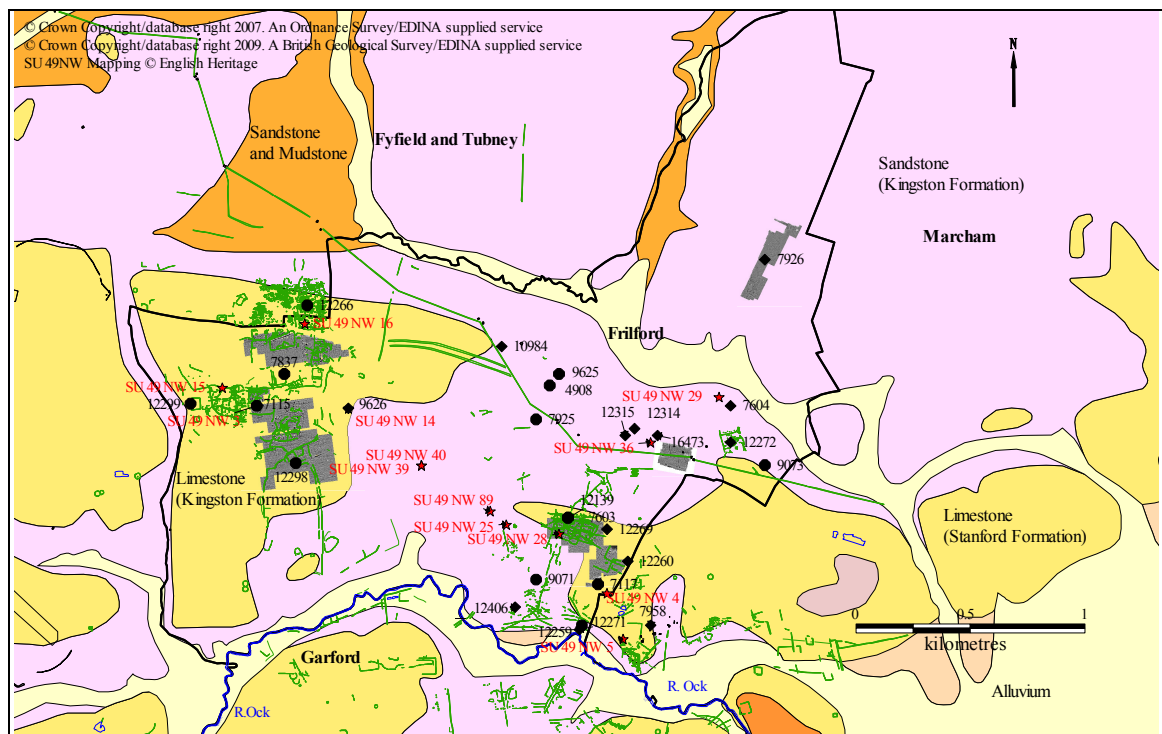


Figure C1.7b – Aerial Survey Mapping and Geophysical Survey in Frilford

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare indicates four sites in the 464 hectares of Frilford. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 80 or 200 people. It is clear that the available archaeological evidence provides considerable support for settlement in east and west Frilford, although less is known of the central part. Nevertheless, a fourth-century population in the range 80 to 200 seems reasonable and indeed could well be nearer 200 than 80. Settlement in Frilford seems to span much or all of the Iron Age and the Roman period.



Figure C1.7c - Geophysical Survey of Ham Field, 2007

C1.8 Fyfield and Tubney

Oxford clay is found adjacent to the river Thames in the north of the parish. To the south of the clay is the Corallian ridge with bands of sandstone and mudstone, sandstone and, finally, limestone in the south. Drift deposits are limited to alluvial deposits besides the river Ock and its tributary streams.

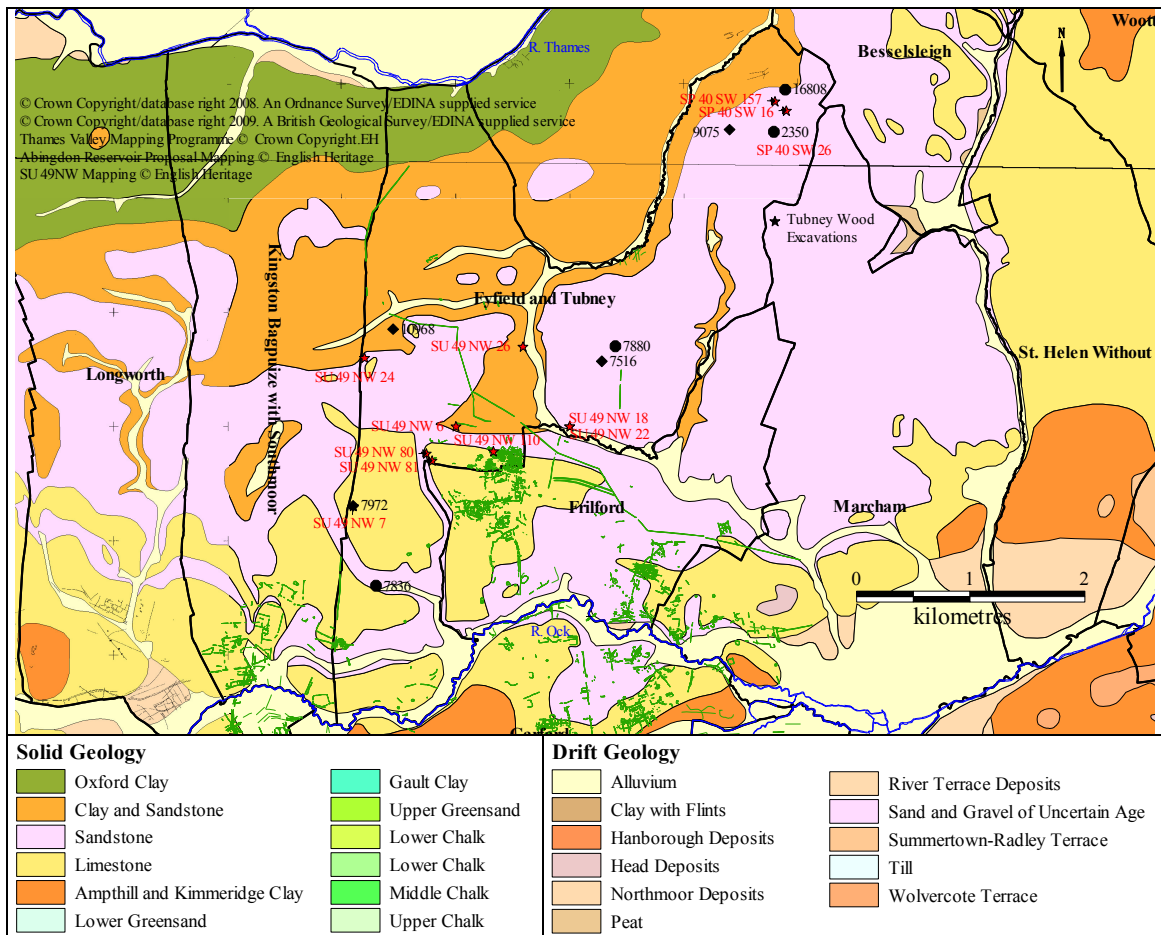


Figure C1.8a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Fyfield and Tubney (British Geological Survey Sheets 236 - Witney and 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Fyfield and Tubney is listed in tables C1.8a and C1.8b respectively. These, together with cropmarks from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme, the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal and the SU 49NW Mapping are illustrated in figure C1.8a. There are twelve HER entries but four are unlocated: 1672, 7861, 7707 and 9627. Of the twelve, six are Neolithic or Bronze Age, one Iron Age and five date to the Roman period. There are also twelve NMR Pastscape entries for the prehistoric and Roman periods of which seven are Neolithic or Bronze Age, one is Iron Age and three are Roman. One is undated. To these should be added NMR entry SP40 SW 22 and HER reference 2352, mistakenly

included in Appleton but relating to finds Bronze Age and Roman finds at Tubney Manor Farm. An indication of individual wealth is indicated by the hoard of 2000 coins (HER 7972, SW49 NW 7; Leeds 1946; Robertson 2000, 239) and a possible Roman building with roof tiles at HER 10968. However, neither is associated with any cropmarks.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
1672	Miscellaneous Romano British finds	Marginal, findspot
2350	2 Bronze Age Barrows (site of)	Barrow
7516	Neolithic/Bronze Age Axe and Arrowheads (150m north of Sandy Wood)	Findspot
7707	Bronze Age Spearhead	Marginal, findspot
7836	Four Bronze Age Ring Ditches	Ring ditch
7861	Iron Age Pottery	Marginal, findspot
7880	Bronze Age Round Barrow	Round barrow
7972	Roman Coin Hoard and Pottery (Near Aelfrith Ditch, c.1.5 miles SW of Fyfield)	Findspot
9075	Neolithic to Bronze Age Flints	Findspot
9627	Roman Cremation Urn	Marginal, cremation
10968	Roman Pottery and Roof Tiles	Findspot
16808	Roman ditches at Tubney Wood	Ditch

Table C1.8a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER references for Fyfield and Tubney
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

There are two main areas of cropmarks in Fyfield. The first has been recently mapped by the SU 49NW Mapping and lies in the centre-east, close to Frilford, on an extensive band of limestone as shown in the upper part of figure C1.8b. These cropmarks extend southwards into Frilford (Ham Field) and are discussed there. The second lies in the extreme south-east of the parish where six sites have been defined by the mapping for the Abingdon Reservoir proposal and are illustrated in the lower part of figure C1.8b. Three sites are undated (537 to 539), 533 is suggested to be Bronze Age, and two, partial enclosures at 534 and 536, are suggested to be prehistoric or Roman (Winton 1999, 28-29).

Recent excavations in Tubney have located part of a pit cluster settlement dated to the second and first centuries BC (Simmonds et al 2011). Ditched field systems were established in the Roman period but no definite settlement was located. To the north-east, an early Roman trapezoidal enclosure measuring 75 metres by 50 metres, felt to have a pastoral function such as a stock enclosure, was later replaced by a series of enclosures associated with a trackway from whose ditches 25 kg of mainly second century AD pottery was recovered. This may suggest settlement within one of the enclosures but no structural evidence was found.

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 NW 6	A Bronze Age looped and socketed bronze spearhead from Fyfield is in the Ashmolean Museum
SU 49 NW 7	A hoard of 2,106 Roman folles, in good condition and dating from 296 to 307 A.D., was found near the earthwork known as 'Aelfrith Dyke' about 1 1/4 miles SW of Fyfield village. The find lay just within the Fyfield parish boundary on land belonging to St. John Baptist College. There was no trace of a jar with the hoard which was probably buried in a chest or sack. Now in the Ashmolean Museum. An early 4th century hoard
SU 49 NW 18	IA sherd
SU 49 NW 22	A Romano British inurned cremation was found at Tubney in 1772. The find is now in the British Museum.
SU 49 NW 24	A Neolithic polished flint axe was found by Mr. G.A. Maclean while ploughing an orchard immediately north east of Kingston Bagpuize village. It was kept by the finder
SU 49 NW 26	A Neolithic polished stone axehead was found by Mr. J Spiers in the winter of 1925-6 in 'Rising Ground', a ploughed field south of the Oxford-Faringdon road. It is in the Ashmolean Museum (accession number 1958.72).
SP 40 SW 16	Miscellaneous Romano-British finds found at a barrow near the old church, Tubney.
SP 40 SW 26	The site of a destroyed barrow in the north part of Tubney Wood. Some Mesolithic flints have been recovered from here.
SU 49 NW 80	A ring ditch visible as a cropmark on air photographs. Probably representing a plough-levelled round barrow, it is circa 20 metres in diameter
SU 49 NW 81	A small complex of ditches possibly defining an enclosure and related boundaries visible as cropmarks
SP 40 SW 157	Archaeological evaluation at Tubney Wood Quarry in 2001 revealed an extensive scatter of early Mesolithic flints (including material found in 7 tree-throw holes). A small number of Neolithic and early Bronze Age flints were also retrieved. 8 ditches, possibly precursors of modern boundaries, were also noted. Two contained no finds later than early/middle Saxon, the remainder appeared to be medieval. 3 other undated ditches were also encountered
SU 49 NW 110	A probable Bronze Age round barrow site is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs taken in 2005. The site comprises a circular ring-ditch which probably defines a Bronze Age funerary monument such as a round barrow.

Table C1.8b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR references for Fyfield and Tubney
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests nine sites in the 1111 hectares of Fyfield and Tubney. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 180 or 450 people. The available archaeological evidence provides some support for this largely through the cropmark evidence, particularly in the south of the parish. There is also considerable evidence of earlier Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in this area of light soils on the Corallian ridge.

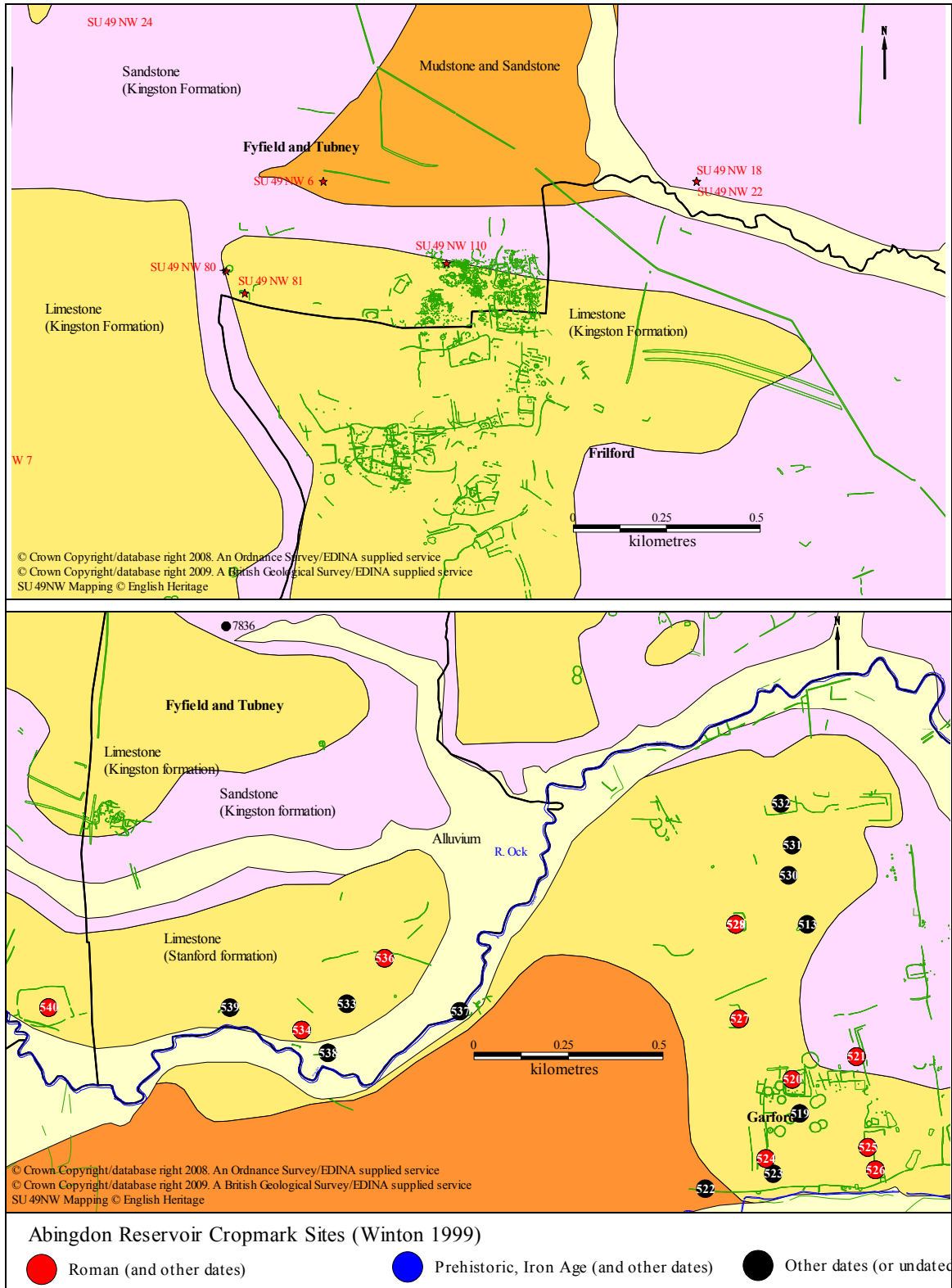


Figure C1.8b – Cropmarks in Fyfield and Tubney – Centre-East (Top) and South-East (Bottom)

C1.9 Garford

Garford lies to the south of the river Ock and to the north of the Childrey brook. Alluvial deposits are found adjacent to the river Ock and the Childrey and Nor brooks but, apart from this, the solid geology dominates with bands of limestone and sandstone from the Corallian ridge in the east and Kimmeridge clay in the west.

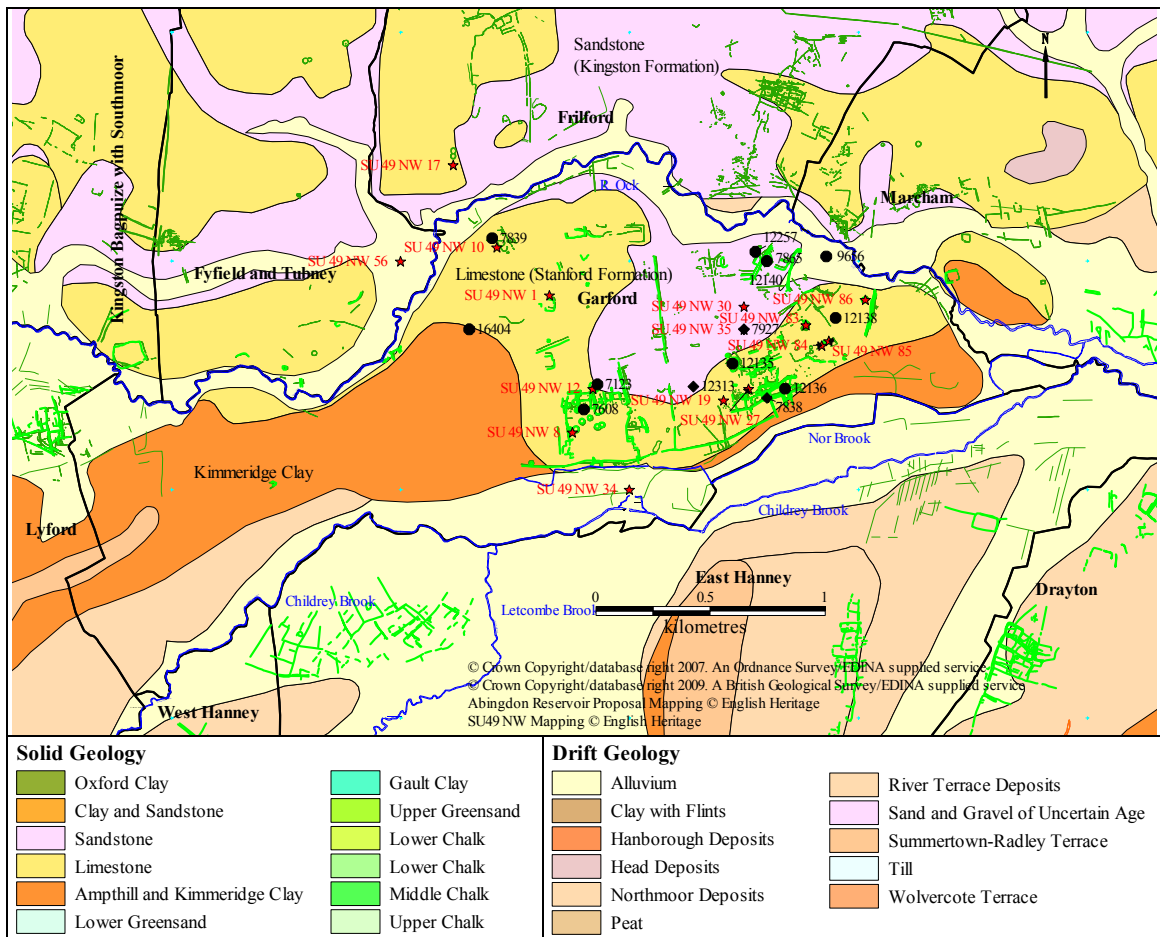


Figure C1.9a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Garford (British Geological Survey Sheets 236 - Witney and 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Garford is listed in tables C1.9a and C1.9 respectively. These, together with cropmarks from the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal and the SU 49NW Mapping are illustrated in figure C1.9a. Of sixteen HER entries two lack grid references: 7845 and 9204. Nine entries are for the Neolithic or Bronze Age, one is Iron Age, two are Iron Age and/or Roman and four are Roman. There are fifteen NMR Pastscape references for the prehistoric and Roman periods of which nine are Neolithic or Bronze Age, one is Iron Age, one is Iron Age and/or Roman and one is Roman. Three are undated.

Figure C1.9a demonstrates that the HER, NMR and cropmark evidence is largely restricted to the eastern half of Garford. Most of the known archaeological information from Garford comes from the limestone and sandstone of the Corallian ridge; the area of Kimmeridge clay in the south and west of the parish is largely devoid of recorded archaeology.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
7123	Bronze Age Round Barrow (Barrows Furlong, South of Garford village)	Round barrow
7608	Bronze Age Round Barrow Cemetery	Barrow cemetery
7838	Bronze Age Pottery	Findspot
7839	Bronze Age Ring Ditches	Ring ditch
7845	Bronze Age Pottery	Marginal, findspot
7865	Iron Age/Roman Pottery and Coins	Findspot
7927	Roman Pottery	Findspot
9204	Iron Age Coin	Marginal, findspot
9656	Bronze Age Ring Ditch (c. 350m SE of the Temple site)	Ring ditch
12135	? Bronze Age Ring Ditches	Ring ditch
12136	Garford Roman Villa	Villa, findspot
12138	Prehistoric Settlement Complex (south west of Frilford Village)	Settlement, trackway, enclosure, ring ditch
12140	? Roman Road and Enclosures	Road, ditched enclosure
12257	Bronze Age Lithic Scatter	Lithic scatter
12313	Roman Coin	Findspot
16404	Prehistoric Settlement at Garford	Settlement, enclosure, pit

Table C1.9a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER references for Garford
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 NW 1	Square cropmark seen on air photograph. Field investigation in 1963 found no surface trace
SU 49 NW 8	Cropmarks barrows sherds and finds
SU 49 NW 10	Ring-ditches (2) (sites of)
SU 49 NW 12	A round barrow which has been much reduced on its south side by ploughing
SU 49 NW 17	Cropmarks (sites of)
SU 49 NW 19	BA food vessel
SU 49 NW 27	Site of an Iron Age settlement and later Roman corridor villa indicated by cropmarks and artefacts
SU 49 NW 30	Roman pottery
SU 49 NW 34	IA pottery
SU 49 NW 35	Flint scatter retrieved from area of cropmark ring ditches
SU 49 NW 56	Flint flakes
SU 49 NW 83	A ring ditch is visible as a cropmark on air photographs.
SU 49 NW 84	A small square enclosure is visible as a cropmark on air photographs.
SU 49 NW 85	A ring ditch is visible as a cropmark on air photographs.
SU 49 NW 86	A ring ditch is visible as cropmarks on air photographs.

Table C1.9b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR references for Garford
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

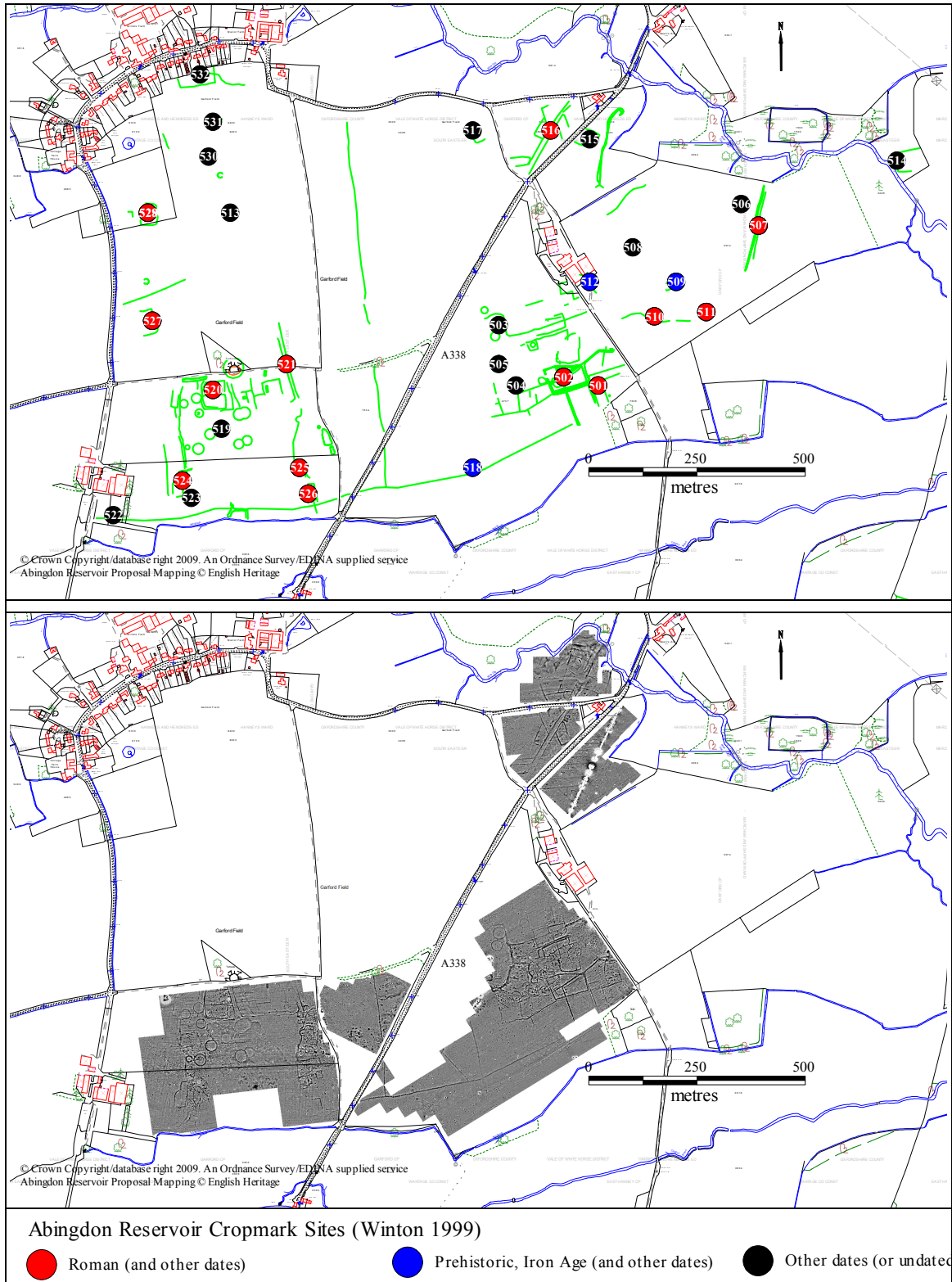


Figure C1.9b – Aerial Survey Mapping (Top) and Geophysical Survey (Bottom) in East Garford

Eastern Garford contains extensive settlement evidence from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods and which has been investigated through geophysical survey and

fieldwalking. Figure C1.9b shows the areas where recent geophysical survey has been undertaken and compares it with the results from aerial survey mapping.

Garford is second only to Charney Bassett in the number of cropmark sites mapped by the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal and thirty of the thirty-two sites are shown on figure C1.9b (site 514 is in Marcham). From these thirty sites Winton (1999) has suggested thirteen have a Roman date and three date to the prehistoric period or Iron Age. The remainder are later or undated.

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests 3.5 sites in the 433 hectares of Garford. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 70 or 175 people. It is clear that the available archaeological evidence provides considerable support for settlement in east Garford although very little is known of west Garford. Settlement in east Garford seems to span much or all of the Iron Age and the Roman period. Towards the end of the Roman period a small villa, with at least one heated room and a tiled roof, was constructed. In the west the clay may inhibit cropmarks but there are no HER or NMR reports of pottery scatters or other Roman artefacts. As a population in excess of 70 seems reasonable for east Garford and it is likely there was also settlement in west Garford, even if not so intensive, the archaeological evidence to support a population between 70 and 175 seems considerable.

C1.10 Goosey

The geology of Goosey is dominated by Kimmeridge clay with a small band of alluvium in the west adjacent to Stutfield Brook. The very limited archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Goosey is shown in figure C1.10. The single HER reference, 3043, is a find of a prehistoric arrowhead and there are no NMR Pastscape references. In addition, the neighbouring parish of Denchworth has no HER or NMR entries for the prehistoric and Roman periods. Sites 579 and 613, mapped by the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal, are interpreted by Winton (1999, 46) as medieval or post-medieval features.

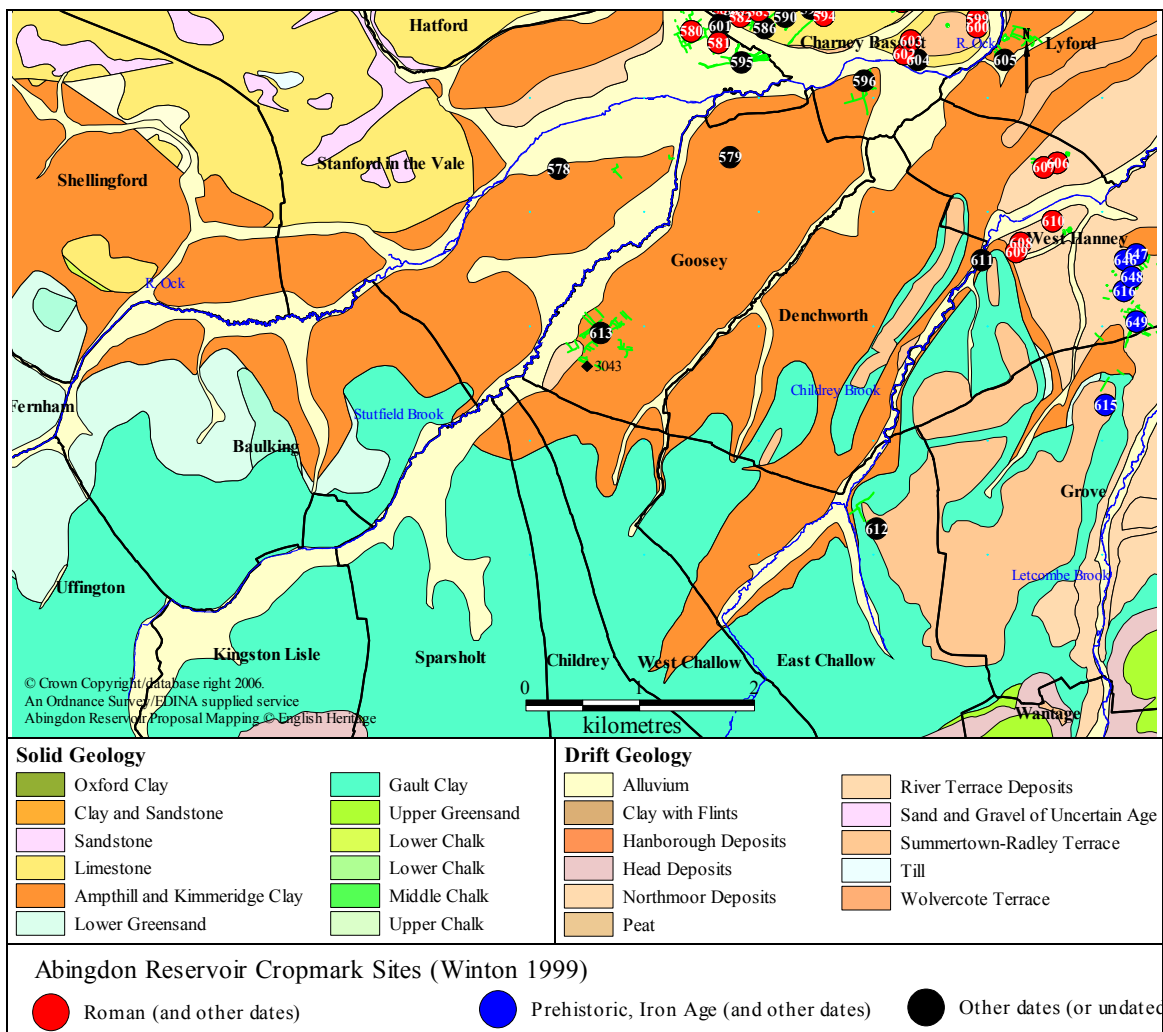


Figure C1.10 – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Goosey (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

Millett’s estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests three sites in the 391 hectares of Goosey. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 60 or 150 people. It is clear that the available archaeological evidence provides little support for

this. But rather than conclude this area was largely unpopulated in the Roman period it is perhaps more reasonable to suggest the archaeological evidence is incomplete. The lack of evidence from the mapping for the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal may be due to the Kimmeridge clay inhibiting crop mark evidence.

C1.11 Hinton Waldrist

Oxford clay is found adjacent to the river Thames in the north of the parish. To the south of the clay is the Corallian ridge with bands of sandstone and mudstone, sandstone and, finally, limestone in the south. Drift deposits are limited to a small area of first or Northmoor terrace in the extreme north-west of the parish while alluvial deposits are found beside the river Thames.

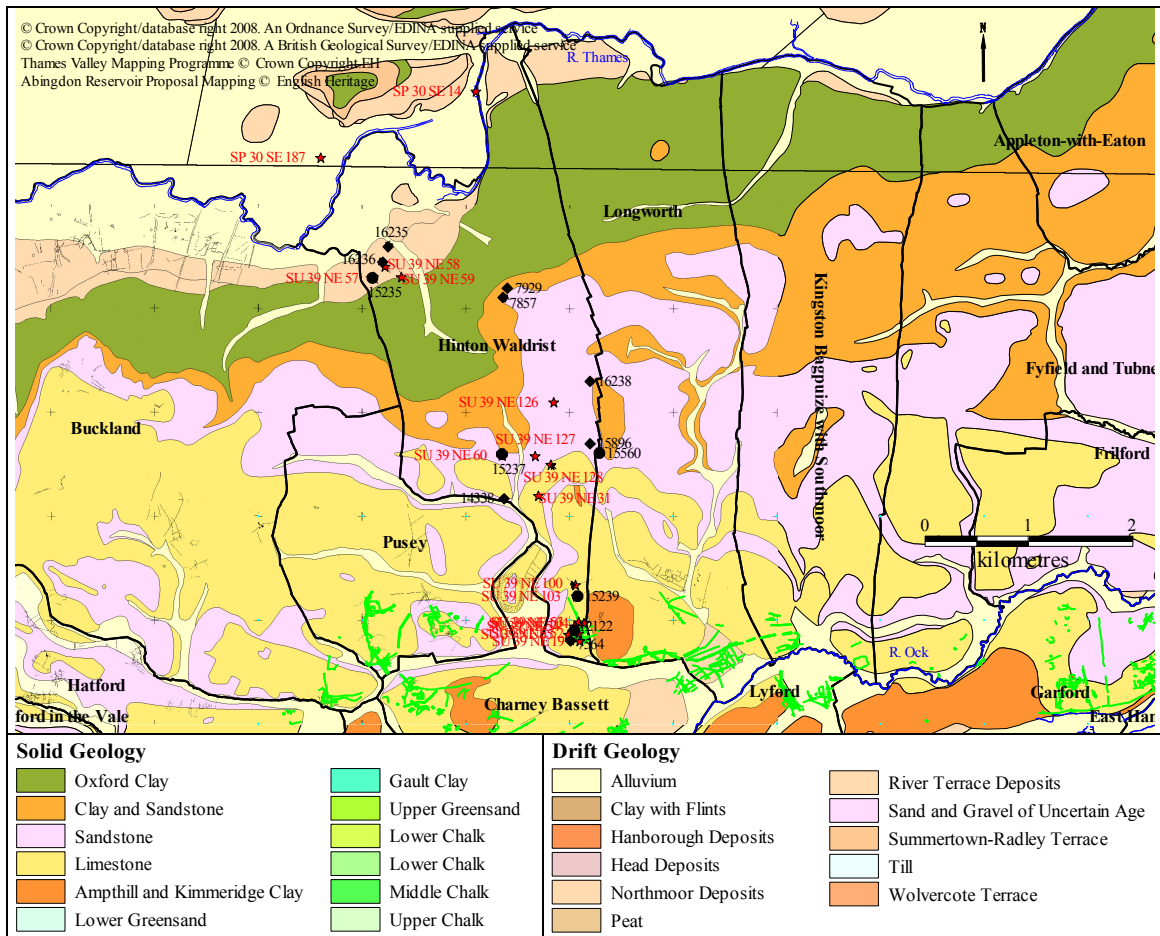


Figure C1.11a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Hinton Waldrist (British Geological Survey Sheets 236 - Witney and 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Hinton Waldrist is listed in tables C1.11a and C1.11b respectively. These, together with cropmarks from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.11a. Of the thirteen HER entries five relate to Neolithic or Bronze Age features or artefacts, three to Iron Age artefacts and five to Romano-British features or artefacts. There are eighteen NMR Pastcape references of which three record archaeological finds (SU 39 NE 19, SP 30 SE 14, and SU 39 NE 31) but of these only the first dates to the Roman period with the recovery of Iron Age and

Roman pottery from a small excavation. The remaining fifteen entries describe crop marks mapped as part of the Thames Valley Mapping Programme. The majority of these are enclosures and trackways which have been assigned a prehistoric or Roman date while a number of ring ditches have been dated to the Bronze Age.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
7564	Roman Pottery	Findspot
7857	Iron Age Pottery, Hinton Manor	Findspot
7929	Romano British Coins and Pottery	Findspot
12122	? Roman Linear Village	Linear settlement
14338	? Late Iron Age Cotter Pin	Findspot
15235	Bronze Age Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
15237	? Bronze Age Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
15239	Bronze Age Ring Ditch, Linear Feature	Linear feature, ring ditch
15560	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter (A420 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Bypass)	Lithic scatter
15896	Iron Age Coin	Findspot
16235	Roman Silver Coin	Findspot
16236	Roman Seal Box and Pottery	Findspot
16238	Bronze Age Spearheads and Pottery	Findspot

**Table C1.11a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER references for Hinton Waldrist
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)**

NMR Number	Description
SU 39 NE 19	Excavation prior to 1986 recovered Iron Age and Roman pottery, a bronze bracelet and an iron brooch
SP 30 SE 14	LBA Sword
SU 39 NE 31	Mesolithic flint working site found during construction of a SEB sub station
SU 39 NE 52	Probable Prehistoric or Roman enclosure seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 53	Probable Prehistoric or Roman trackway, ditches and enclosure seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 54	Possible Prehistoric or Roman trackway and hut circles seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 55	Possible Prehistoric or Roman ditch seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 57	Possible Bronze Age round barrow seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 58	Probable ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 59	Probable ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 60	Possible Bronze Age round barrow seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 100	Possible field boundary of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 103	Possible Bronze Age round barrow seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 104	Potential Medieval or later quarry seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SP 30 SE 187	Probable enclosures of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 126	Cropmark of a ring ditch, possible a Prehistoric or Roman round barrow site or a windmill site of Medieval or later date.
SU 39 NE 127	Cropmark of a possible curvilinear enclosure, of uncertain date
SU 39 NE 128	Cropmark of a rectilinear enclosure, of uncertain date

**Table C1.11b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR references for Hinton Waldrist
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)**

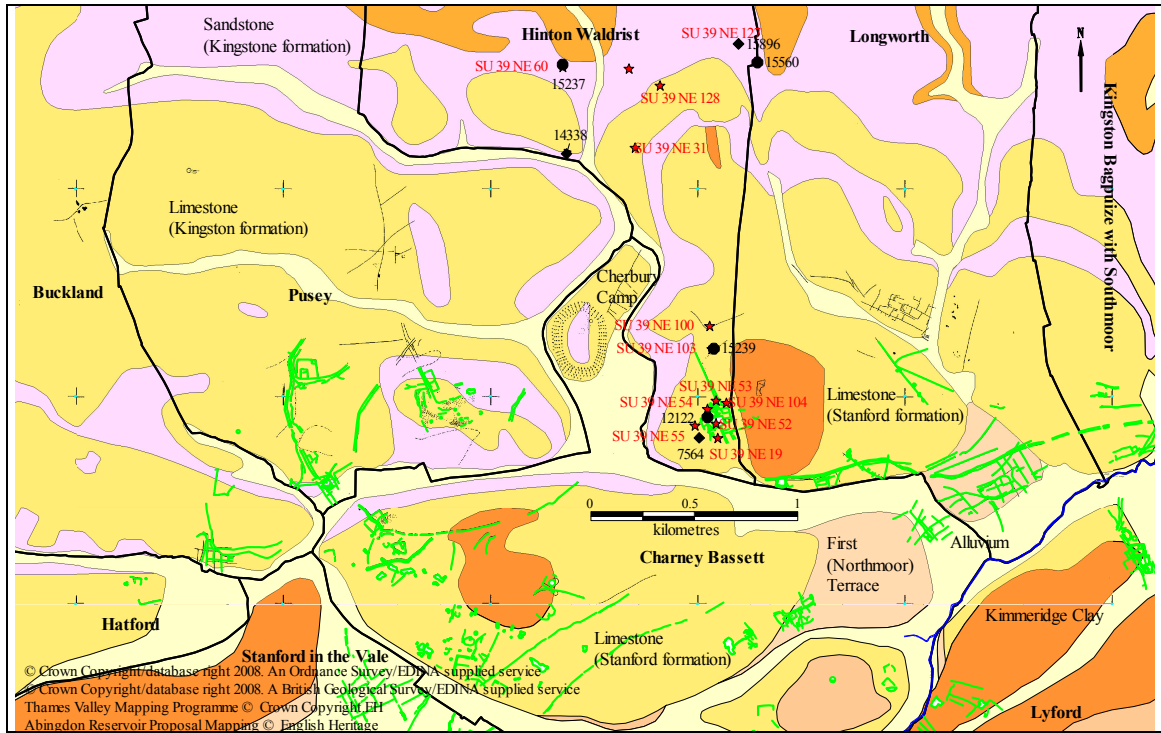
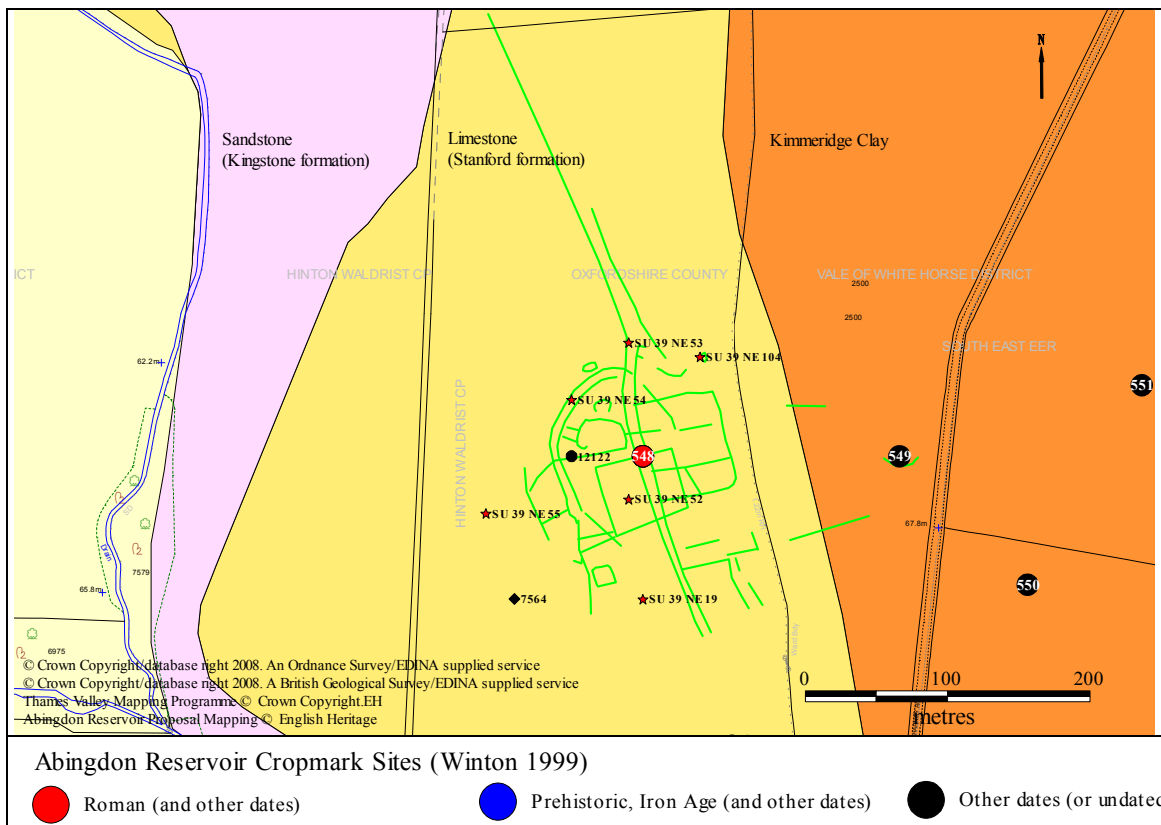


Figure C1.11b – The Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of South Hinton Waldrist



**Figure C1.11c – A Romano-British settlement in Hinton Waldrist
The aerial photographic, HER and NMR evidence**

It is noticeable that the cropmarks and HER and NMR references in the north-west are largely restricted to the gravels of the first or Northmoor terrace. An extensive area of

cropmarks are visible further west in Buckland on the alluvium and first terrace of the river Thames. The largest area of cropmarks in Hinton Waldrist is located on the limestone of the Corallian ridge in the south-east of the parish. Perhaps the most interesting HER references are 7564 and 12122 in the extreme south of the parish and east of the Iron Age enclosure of Cherbury Camp as shown in figure C1.11b. Also in this area are the NMR references SP39 NE 19, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 104. The first of these corresponds to HER 7564 while SP39 NE 52 to 55 refer to prehistoric or Roman enclosures as mapped by the Thames Valley Mapping Programme. This southern part of the parish was also subsequently remapped as part of the Abingdon Reservoir proposal where HER 12122 was mapped as Site 548 as shown in figure C1.11c. Winton (1999, 32-33) suggests a prehistoric or Roman date for these cropmarks.

Further information on this settlement was obtained by a geophysical survey and the results of this are discussed in Chapter 6 and illustrated in figure C1.11d The geophysical survey revealed a small, organised settlement aligned on a trackway defined by a double ditch. The morphology of the settlement, the pottery collected from the surface during the survey and earlier small excavations all suggest a Roman date, but with indications of earlier Iron Age activity.

If we consider Millett's figure of 20 or 50 people per site it is perhaps not unreasonable to assume at least 20 people occupying this site in the fourth century. It is unlikely that the settlement would have reached a population of 50. Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests six sites in the 812 hectares of Hinton Waldrist. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would indicate a population of 120 or 300 people. The archaeological evidence to support a postulated late Roman population in the range 120 to 300 seems reasonable. This is clearly biased towards the south and north-west of the parish where there are cropmarks but it is not unreasonable to assume that people also lived and worked in the archaeologically blank areas of the Oxford clay.

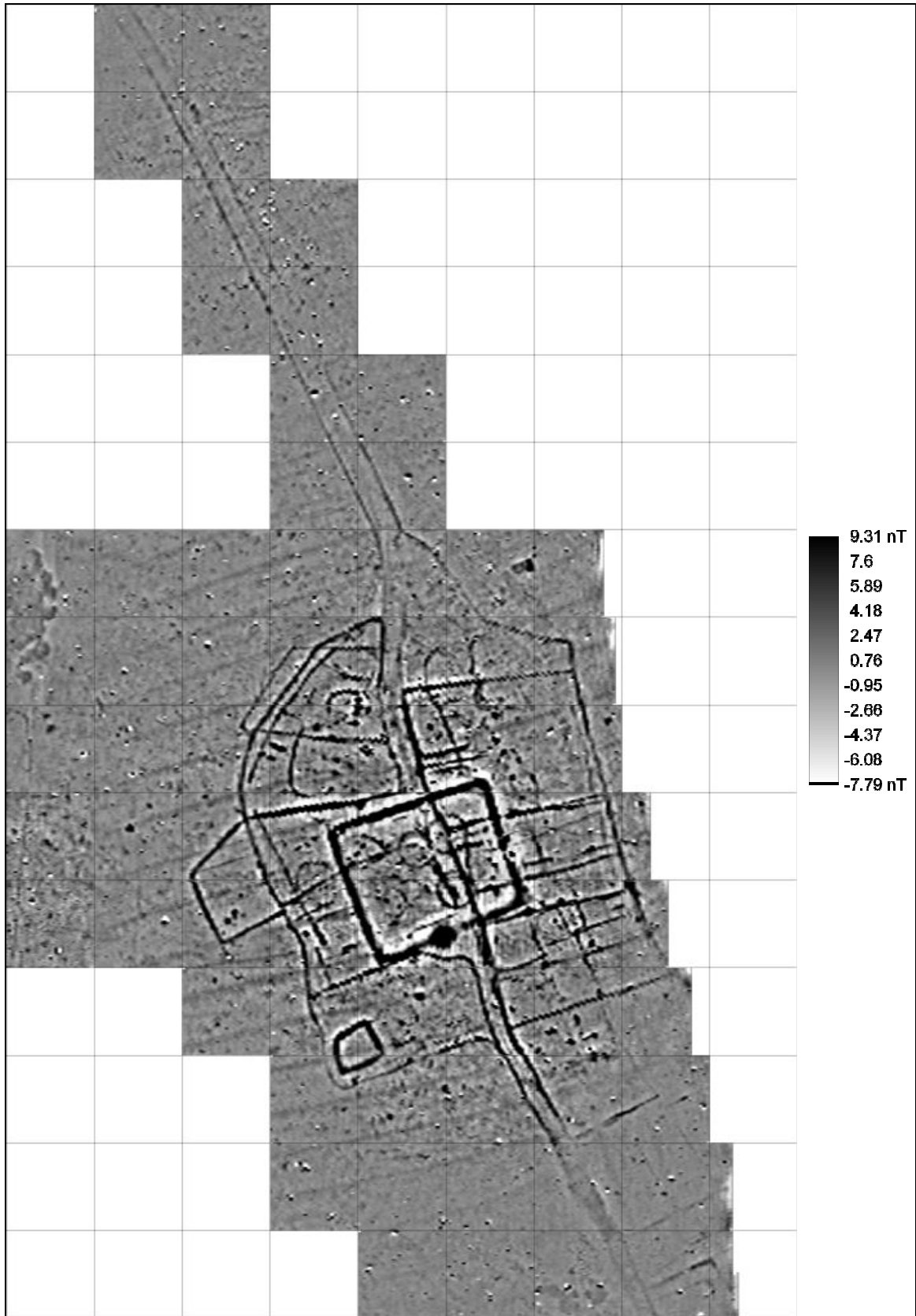


Figure C1.11d - Geophysical Survey at Lovell's Court Farm, Hinton Waldrist

C1.12 Kingston Bagpuize

Oxford clay is found adjacent to the river Thames in the north of the parish. South of the clay are bands of sandstone and sandstone mixed with mudstone forming the Corallian ridge. Limestone predominates in the south. Drift deposits are limited to a very thin band of first or Northmoor terrace in the extreme north of the parish and some alluvial deposits close to the river Thames.

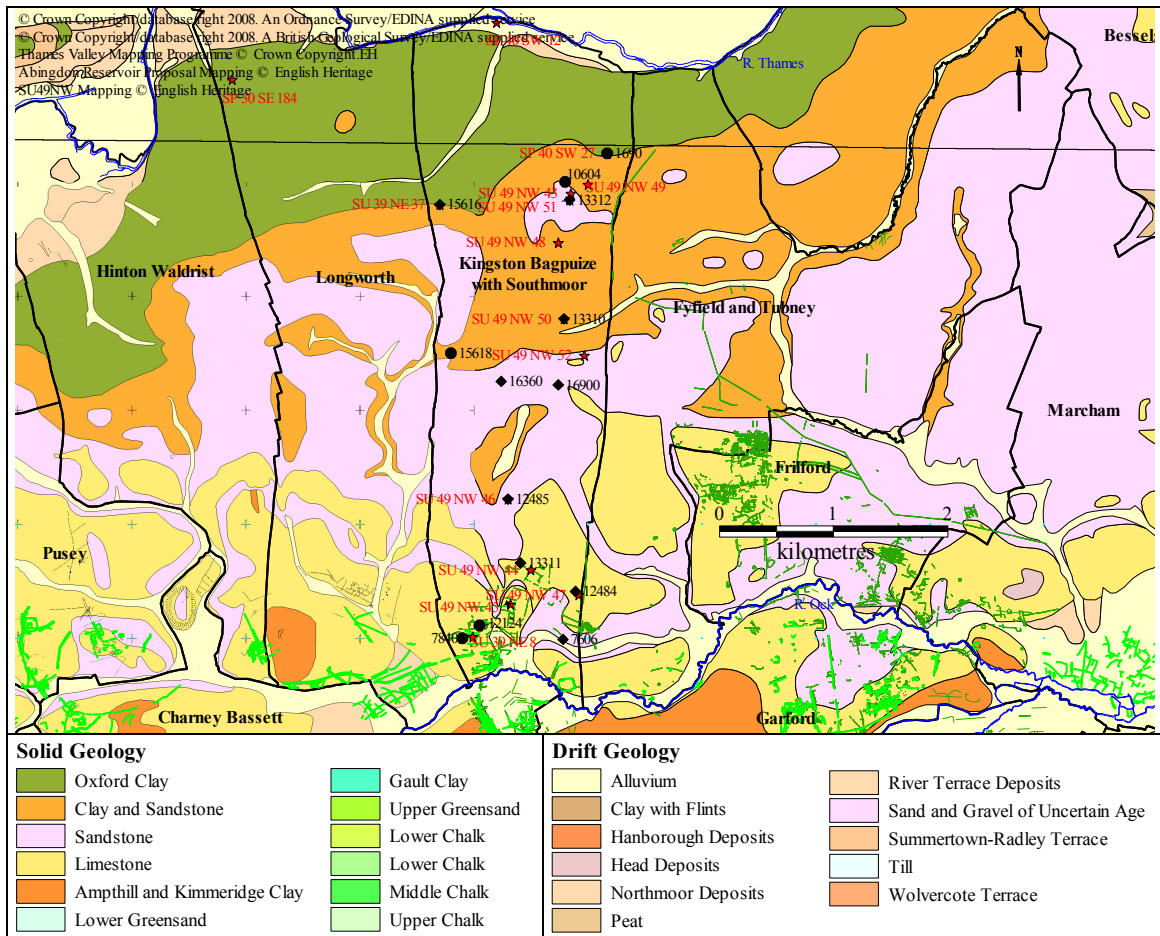


Figure C1.12a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Kingston Bagpuize (British Geological Survey Sheets 236 - Witney and 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Kingston Bagpuize is listed in tables 1.12a and 1.12b respectively. These, together with cropmarks from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme, the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal and the SU 49NW Mapping are illustrated in figure C1.12a. There are sixteen HER records of which two are not located: 7896 and 10935. Of the sixteen HER references three relate to Neolithic or Bronze Age features or artefacts, two to Iron Age pottery and ten to Romano-British features or artefacts. One settlement is undated.

Romano-British features and artefacts include 1690, a Romano-British occupation site; 10604, a possible villa and cemetery at Kingston Hill farm; 12484 and 12485, Roman pottery and tiles; 15616, the site of a possible Roman building; 15618, a Romano-British settlement site. Reference 16900 records a Roman mosaic although no further details have been located.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
1690	Romano British Occupation	Occupation site
7606	Roman Oxford Colour Coated Bowl	Findspot
7840	?Bronze Age Enclosure	Enclosure
7896	Cremation and Romano British Sites	Marginal, settlement, cremation
10604	?Villa and Cemetery at Kingston Hill Farm	Villa, cremation, inhumation
10935	Roman Coin	Marginal, findspot
12124	Undated Settlement	Field system, trackway, enclosure
12484	Roman Pottery and Tile Scatter (1km North of River Ock)	Findspot
12485	Roman Pottery & Building Material	Findspot
13310	Bronze Age Knife (500m North of Village)	Findspot
13311	Iron Age Pottery Scatter (To West of the Airfield)	Findspot
13312	Iron Age Pottery Scatter (Area of some 300m, South of Kingston Hill Farm)	Findspot
15616	Roman Building (site of)	Building
15618	Romano British Settlement Site (A420 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Bypass)	Settlement, findspot
16360	Neolithic Scraper from Southmoor	Findspot
16900	Roman mosaic	Findspot

Table C1.12a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER references for Kingston Bagpuize (Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 39 NE 8	Undated enclosures (seen as cropmarks).
SP 40 SW 12	Early Iron Age sword
SP 40 SW 27	Romano British occupation layer found containing much pottery
SU 39 NE 37	Cropmark of a Roman villa
SU 49 NW 43	Excavation uncovered the remains of a Roman building, possibly the site of a Roman villa. There was also evidence for Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon occupation of the site.
SU 49 NW 44	Ne Flint implements, IA Pottery
SU 49 NW 45	The cropmarks of encloures, the form of which suggests an Iron Age or Roman date, but there is no dating evidence.
SU 49 NW 46	A scatter of Roman pottery and a small building were found at this location.
SU 49 NW 47	A Romano-British Building, pottery and tiles were found
SU 49 NW 48	Ne flint implements
SU 49 NW 49	A scatter of Mesolithic flints and a possible early Neolithic site.
SU 49 NW 50	BA flint knife
SU 49 NW 51	IA pottery
SU 49 NW 52	Me flint implements
SP 30 SE 184	Possible ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs

Table C1.12b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR references for Kingston Bagpuize (Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

There are fifteen NMR Pastscape references of which one is from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme (SP30 SE 184) but which has a grid reference for Longworth. Of the remaining fourteen, five date from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age and two to the Iron Age: SP40 SW 12, an early Iron Age sword and SU49 NW 51, Iron Age pottery (HER 13312). There are six Roman period references: SP40 SW 27 (HER 1690), SU39 NE 37 (HER 15616), SU49 NW 43 (HER 10604), SU49 NW 45, SU49 NW 46 (HER 12485) and SU49 NW 47 (HER 12484). SU 39 NE 8 is undated.

Apart from some alluvial deposits in the south near streams and the river Ock, the soils are largely determined by the underlying solid geology. In the north this is Oxford clay and the only HER or NMR reference in this area is SP40 SW 12, an early Iron Age sword found in the river Thames. Further south the clay gives way to the Corallian sandstones and the HER and NMR references become more numerous. The boundary between the clay and the Corallian illustrated in figure C1.12b shows that HER references 1690 and 15616 lie close to this boundary. The important site at Kingston Hill Farm, HER 10604 (Parrington 1977; Cowell 1979; Moore 2001), lies on the Corallian ridge.

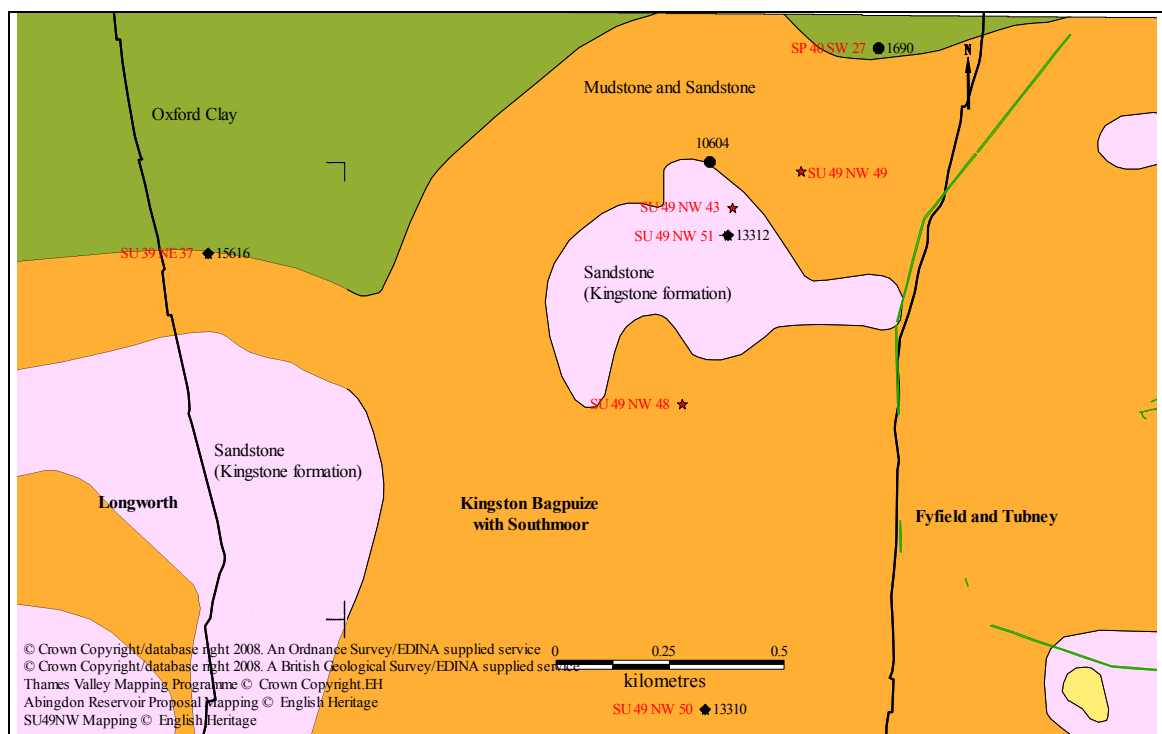


Figure C1.12b – The Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of North Kingston Bagpuize

In the late 1970s an archaeological survey of Kingston Bagpuize (excluding Southmoor) using fieldwalking and aerial photographic analysis identified two Iron Age sites and five Romano-British sites (Cowell and Miles 1980) which are listed in table C1.12c. These sites were not all new discoveries.

Site	Description	HER	NMR
3 (IA)	Scatter of Middle Iron Age pottery	13311	SU49 NW 44
7 (IA)	Scatter of Middle Iron Age pottery 300m south of Kingston Hill Farm	13312	SU49 NW 51
7 (RB)	Kingston Hill Farm	10604	SU49 NW 43
8 (RB)	Pottery and some CBM	12485	SU49 NW 46
9 (RB)	Romanised building CBM and pottery	12484	SU49 NW 47
10 (RB)	Cropmark of enclosures which appear IA or RB	12124	SU49 NW 45
11 (RB)	North Audley Farm	1690	SP40 SW 27

Table C1.12c

The reference to a Roman building or villa at HER 15616 (SU 39 NE 37) is uncertain. Both the HER and NMR cite David Miles (1982, 63) in which he states there is evidence for five areas of Romano-British activity and two villas at Kingston Bagpuize. From table C1.12c these villas are probably 10604 and 12484. However, in his Appendix 1 he lists only one villa in Kingston Bagpuize with a grid reference for a position in Southmoor (1982, 71). It is possible the appendix contains an error and a fictitious Roman building has been created.

HER 15618 relates to evidence for a Romano-British settlement found during the construction of the Kingston Bagpuize bypass in the early 1990s. Romano-British pottery was obtained from three ditch fills and Hunn (1992) suggested this pottery indicated a low status site such as a native farmstead dating to the third and fourth centuries. Subsequently, Hunn and Moore (1993) suggested the ditches were part of a field system close to a Romano-British settlement.

The cropmarks in the south of the parish are largely restricted to an area of limestone geology near the river Ock although some are on alluvial deposits. Figure C1.12c illustrates the range of largely undated cropmarks in the south of Kingston Bagpuize. It is probable that the majority of these date to the late prehistoric or Roman periods and this has been shown to be the case to the west at Hinton Waldrist and to the south-east at Lyford. However, further fieldwork will be required to demonstrate this for Kingston Bagpuize. Three sites have been defined by the mapping for the Abingdon Reservoir

field systems, ditches and pits of unknown date. It is probable that the majority of these date to the late prehistoric or Roman periods. This has been shown to be the case to the west at Hinton Waldrist and to the south-east at Lyford. However, further fieldwork will be required to demonstrate that this is the case. The remaining three references are SU39 NE 2 (HER 10928), SP30 SE 10 (HER 2448) and SU39 NE 3, a Roman coin.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
2448	Iron Age Sword (Near Langley Weir)	Findspot
10928	Multi Period Flints and Pottery	Findspot
12123	? Field System	
12244	Trackway System	
15240	Linear Feature	
15561	Lithic Scatter (A420 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Bypass)	Lithic scatter
15562	Lithic Scatter (A420 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Bypass)	Lithic scatter
15927	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter (A420 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Bypass)	Lithic scatter

**Table C1.13a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER references for Longworth
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)**

NMR Number	Description
SU 39 NE 2	Numerous lithic, pottery and other objects have been found on the surface at two small areas of nursery gardens at Longworth. Flints include a range of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age types. Pottery ranges in date from the Iron Age through to the Medieval period. Roman coins have also been found. Much material is in the Ashmolean Museum (accession numbers 1942.293, 1951.378, 1948.225 and 1945.133, though the last may actually come from Buckland - see SU 39 NW 18), while some is also in the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.
SU 39 NE 3	Roman coin
SP 30 SE 10	Iron Age Sword and Viking Axe and Spear
SU 39 NE 101	Potential enclosure of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 102	Potential enclosure of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs.
SU 39 NE 105	Possible ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 107	Possible ditches and boundary ditch of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 109	Possible field boundary of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs.
SU 39 NE 111	Possible enclosure and ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 112	Probable field system, ditches and pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 113	Possible trackway, enclosures and ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 114	Probable ditches, enclosure and pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 115	Possible ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 116	Possible ditches and field boundary of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 39 NE 117	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs.
SU 39 NE 118	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 119	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 120	Probable field system of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 121	Possible trackway and ditch of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 39 NE 122	Probable enclosure of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 123	Possible enclosure of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 124	Probable ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs
SU 39 NE 125	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as a cropmark on air photographs

**Table C1.13b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR references for Longworth
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)**

The cropmarks in the south of Longworth parish are largely restricted to areas of limestone geology and first or Northmoor terrace near the river Ock. Alluvial deposits are also present. Six sites have been defined by the mapping for the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal (Winton 1999, 31-33). Four of these (549, 550, 551, and 576) are undated while sites 546 and 547 are suggested to be prehistoric or Roman.

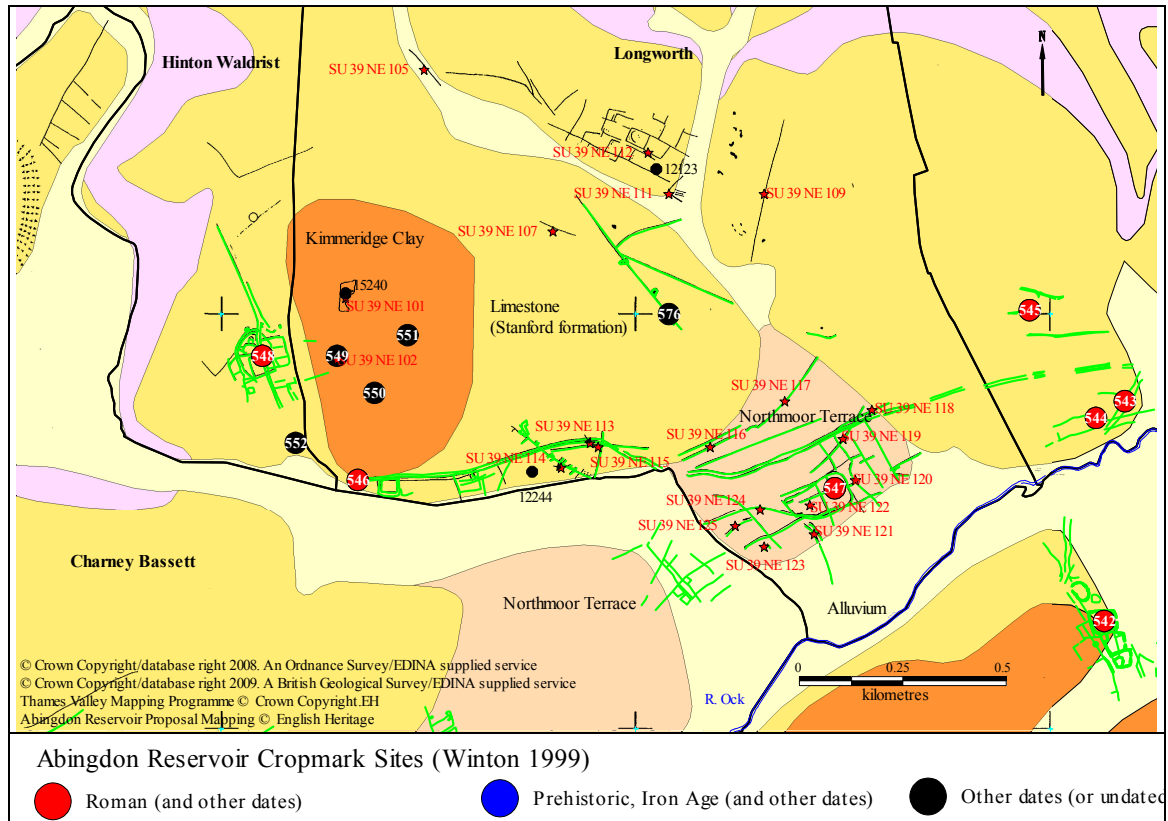


Figure C1.13b – Cropmarks in South Longworth

Millett’s estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests seven sites in the 929 hectares of Longworth. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 140 or 350 people. The aerial photographic evidence provides some support for this with settlements near the river Ock. However, these settlements have been dated largely by morphological similarities with other known and dated features. The archaeological evidence is clearly biased towards the south of the parish but it is not unreasonable to assume that people also lived and worked in the archaeologically blank areas. These include the sandstones of the Corallian ridge in the centre of the parish and the Oxford clay in the north.

C1.14 Lyford

The solid geology of Lyford is dominated by Kimmeridge clay although the limestone of the Corallian ridge extends a short distance to the south of the river Ock. In the east of the parish the clay is overlain by a band of gravel of the first or Northmoor terrace while a narrow strip of second or Summertown-Radley terrace runs north-east to south-west through the centre of the parish. Alluvial deposits are found near the river Ock.

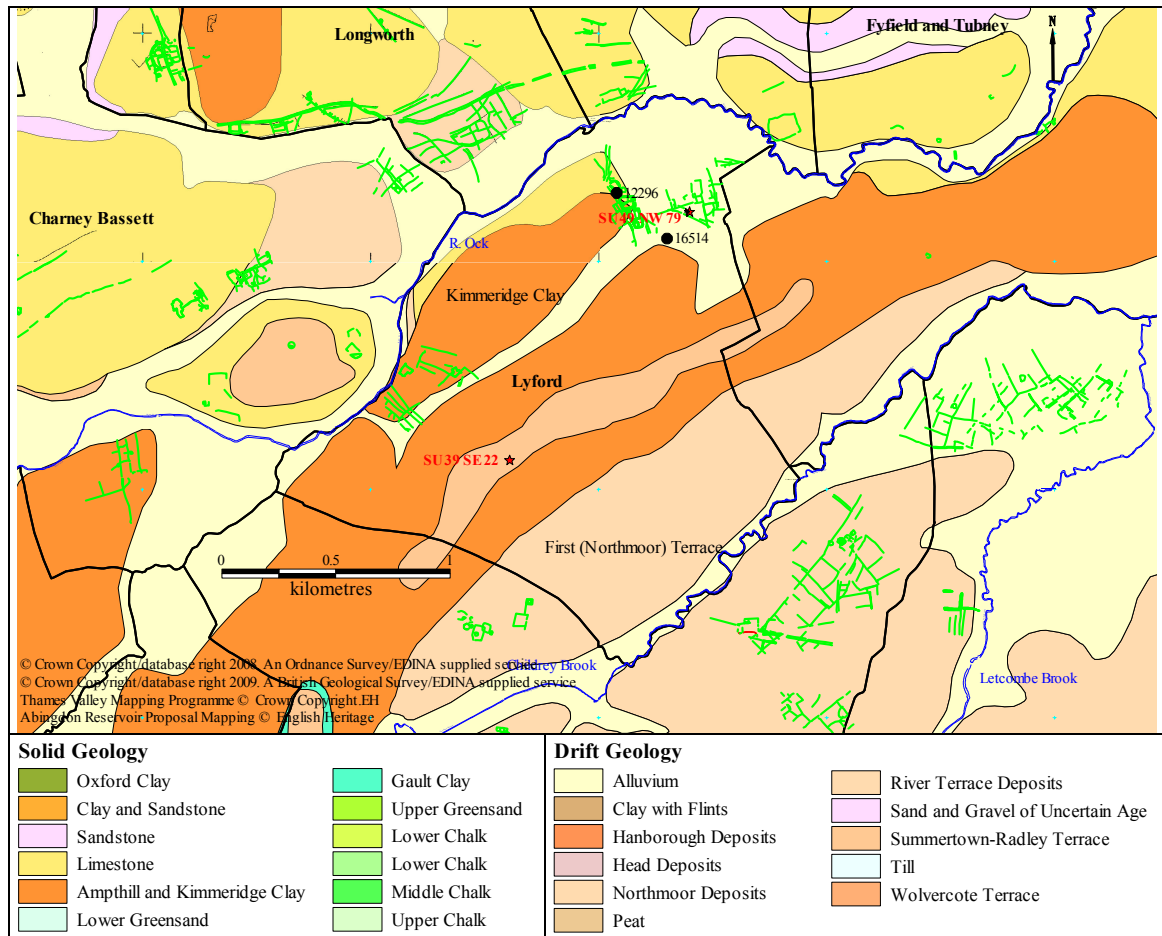


Figure C1.14a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Lyford

The limited archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Lyford is listed in tables 1.14a and 1.14b and illustrated in figure C1.14a. The two HER entries are for settlement areas recorded from aerial photographs, one of which is undated and the other is suggested to be of late Iron Age and Romano-British date based on fieldwalking by OUDCE students (Morton 2000). Of the two NMR references SU 39 SE 22 is for a sherd of Roman pottery while SU 49 NW 79 is for the cropmarks of a settlement complex and field system of probable Iron Age and/or Roman date visible on aerial photographs.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
12296	Undated Enclosures and Linear Features (South of the River Ock)	Settlement, rectangular Features (South of the River Ock)
16514	Iron Age/ Romano British Settlement on River Ock	Settlement, trackway, enclosure

Table C1.14a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Lyford
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 39 SE 22	Roman pottery
SU 49 NW 79	Cropmarks of linear features, possibly representing fragments of a Prehistoric or Roman field system

Table C1.14b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Lyford
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

The cropmarks mapped as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.14b. Sites 541 and 542 in the north are suggested to be of Roman date (Winton 1999) and correspond to HER entries 12296 and 16514 and NMR reference SU 49 NW 79. These cropmarks are situated on alluvial deposits overlying the limestones of the Corallian ridge and the Kimmeridge clay as shown in figure C1.14b. A second area of cropmarks lies in the west of parish adjacent to the river Ock on Kimmeridge clay. Winton (1999, 44) suggests site 605 represents medieval or post-medieval toft and croft boundaries of Lyford village.

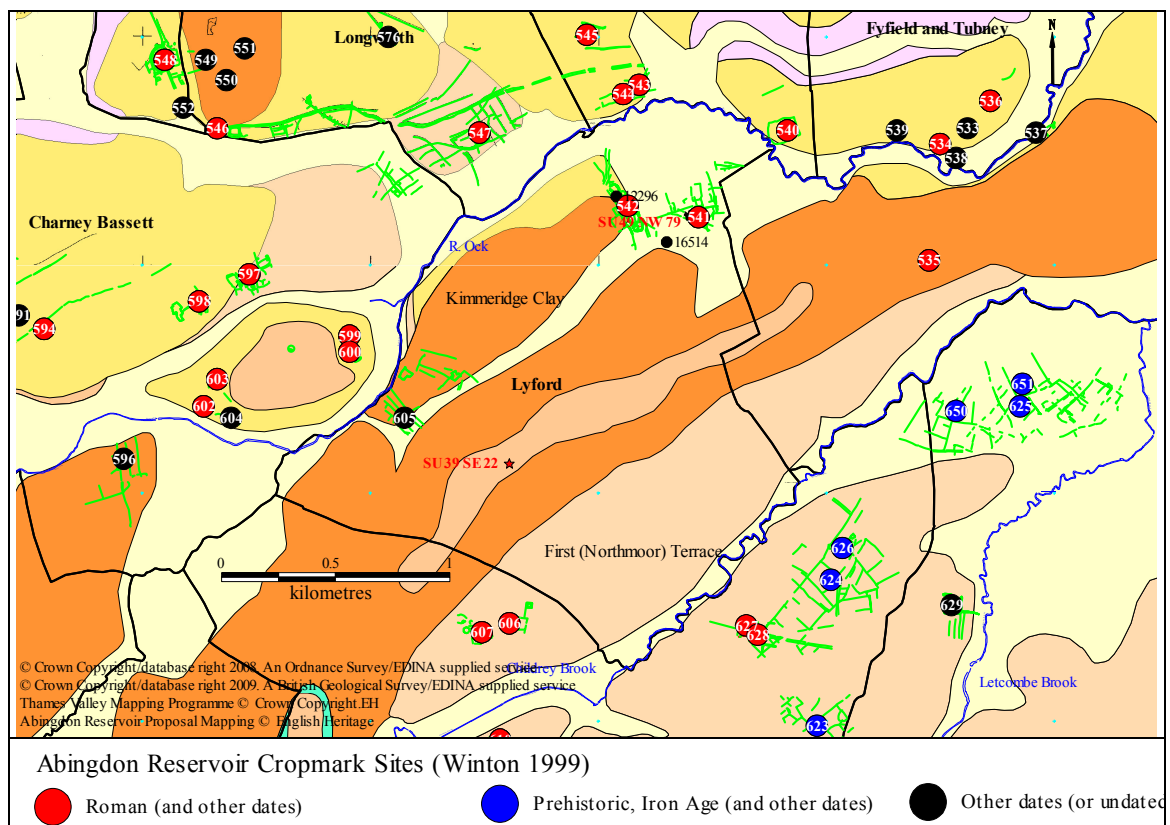


Figure C1.14b – Cropmarks in Lyford

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare indicates 2.5 sites in the 313 hectares of Lyford. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 50 or 125 people. The aerial photographic evidence provides some support for this with settlements near the river Ock. However, these settlements have been dated largely by morphological similarities with other known and dated features. Support for Winton's (1999, 30) suggestion that the cropmarks in the north of parish are of prehistoric or Roman date is provided by fieldwalking (Morton 2000, HER 16514). The lack of evidence for settlement further east in Lyford from the mapping for the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal may be due to the Kimmeridge clay inhibiting cropmark evidence.

C1.15 Marcham

Marcham is located on the sandstones and limestones of the Corallian ridge. The south-east of the parish is Kimmeridge clay but this is largely covered with alluvial deposits adjacent to the river Ock which forms the southern boundary of the parish. To the north-east of the alluvium are two or three small islands of first or Northmoor terrace.

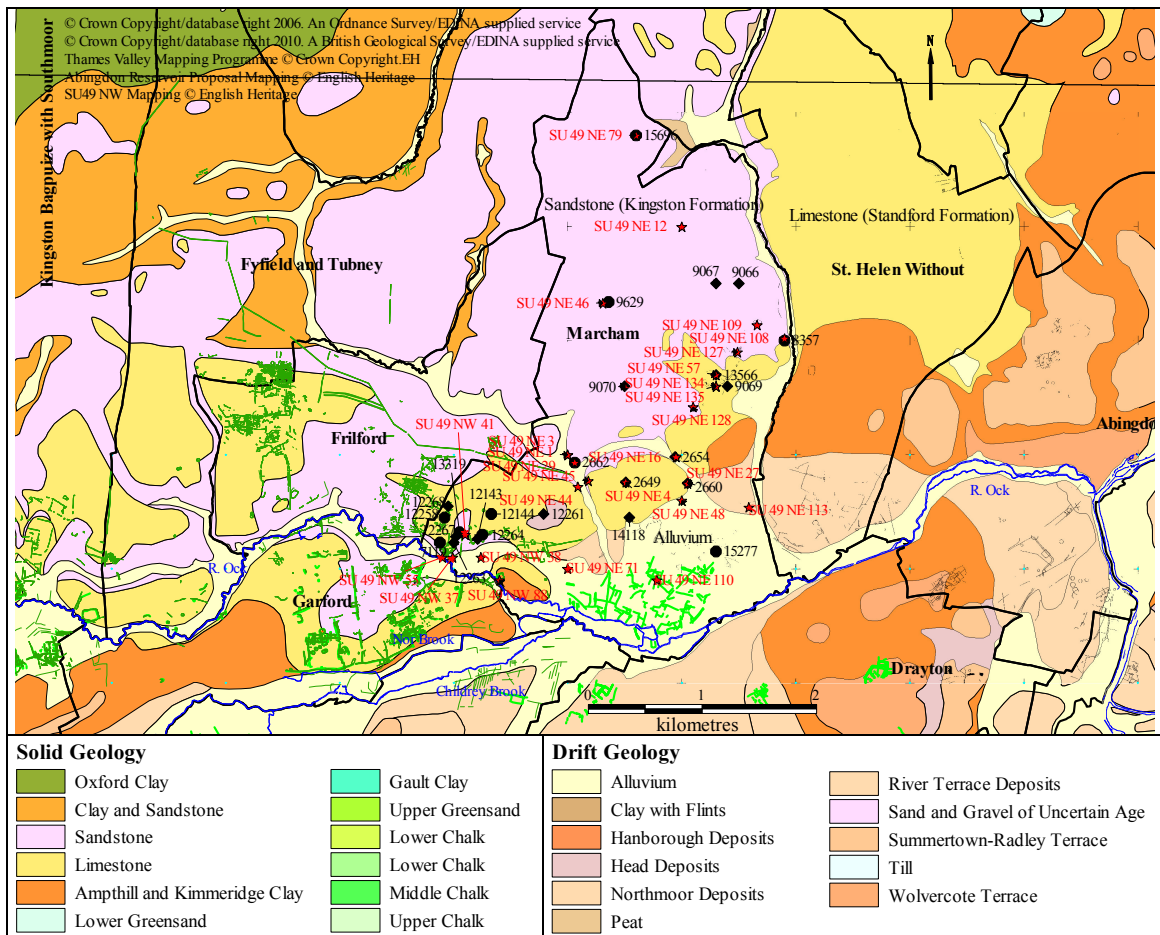


Figure C1.15a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Marcham (British Geological Survey Sheets 236 – Witney and 253 - Abingdon)

The relatively abundant HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Marcham is listed in tables C1.15a and C1.15b respectively. These, together with cropmarks from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme, the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal and the SU 49NW Mapping are illustrated in figure C1.15a. There are twenty-eight HER references of which four are not located. Of these twenty-eight references, ten relate to the Neolithic and Bronze Age and eighteen to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Roman period references include Roman coins for 2648, 2649, 2660 and 14118, with a Roman brooch at 12143. HER 2662 is recorded as a Roman occupation site while 7119 refers to the Iron Age and Roman temple at the Noah's Ark

Inn and 13319 to the amphitheatre nearby. Roman pottery and tile are recorded for 12267 and 12268 and Roman and Iron Age pottery at 13566 and Romano-British pottery at 2654, 9629 and 15988. Finally, 15277 is listed as a prehistoric or Roman field system.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
1458	Bronze Age Knife or Razor	Marginal, findspot
2647	Iron Age Coins	Marginal, findspot
2648	Roman Coins	Marginal, findspot
2649	Roman Coin	Findspot
2654	Romano British Coarse Ware (100 yards NW of small coppice near Hyde Farm)	Findspot
2660	Roman Coin	Findspot
2662	Roman Occupation Site; ?Roman Road	Road, occupation site
7119	Iron Age/Roman Temple, Noah's Ark	Settlement, shrine, temple
8357	? Bronze Age Ring Ditch and Pits	Pit, ring ditch
9066	Neolithic/Bronze Age Artefacts (South of Gozzard's Ford)	Findspot
9067	Neolithic to Bronze Age Flint Flakes (South West of Gozzard's Ford)	Findspot
9069	Neolithic to Bronze Age Flint Flakes (North of Junction of Cow Lane with Peat Moor Lane)	Findspot
9070	Neolithic to Bronze Age Flints (South East of Sheepstead House)	Findspot
9629	Roman Ditch and Pottery	Ditch, findspot
12143	Roman Brooch	Findspot
12144	? Bronze Age Ring Ditch (West of Village)	Ring ditch
12258	Bronze Age Lithic Scatter (East of Garford)	Lithic scatter
12261	Bronze Age Scraper	Findspot
12263	Middle Iron Age Pottery Scatter (East of Noah's Ark Inn)	Findspot
12264	Early Iron Age Settlement (East of Noah's Ark)	Settlement
12267	Roman Pottery, Tile, Coins & Metalwork	Findspot
12268	Roman Pottery, Tile and Coins	Findspot
13319	Amphitheatre Near Noah's Ark	Amphitheatre
13566	Roman and Iron Age Pottery	Findspot
14118	Roman Coin	Findspot
15277	Prehistoric-Roman Field System	Field system
15696	Neolithic to Post Med Artefact Scatter (Hitch Copse)	Artefact scatter
15988	Roman Artefact Scatter	Marginal, artefact scatter

**Table C1.15a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Marcham
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)**

There are twenty-seven NMR Pastscape references. Roman coins have been found at SU49 NE 3, SU49 NE 4 (HER 2469) and SU49 NE 27 (HER 2660) while SU49 NE 44 is a record of 30 Roman coins. SU49 NE 45 is a find of Roman coins and pottery, SU49 NE 16 (HER 2654) a find of Roman pottery, SU49 NE 29 records Roman pottery and bones while a ditch and Roman pottery were found at SU49 NE 46 (HER 9629). The amphitheatre east of the Noahs' Ark Inn is SU49 NW41. Finally, SU49 NE 79 (HER 15696) is a record of prehistoric flint implements and Roman to Post Medieval pottery near Hitch Copse in the north-east of the parish.

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 NE 1	Three Iron Age coins were found in Marcham parish and are now in the Ashmolean Museum
SU 49 NE 3	Two coins of Gallienus now in the West Collection at Abingdon Museum.
SU 49 NE 4	Roman coin from Marcham now in Reading Museum.
SU 49 NE 12	A Bronze Age palstave and a Bronze Age knife or razor found at Cothill. Both are in the British Museum
SU 49 NE 16	Romano-British potsherds found at a coppice near Hyde Farm.
SU 49 NE 27	Roman coin from Marcham
SU 49 NE 29	Possible 4th century Romano-British occupation site consisting of finds of pottery and animal bones
SU 49 NE 44	A pot containing approximately 30 Roman coins is said to have been found in the cemetery about 1919, but there are no details.
SU 49 NE 45	Roman coins and potsherds found in the garden of 15 Church Street.
SU 49 NE 46	Possible Romano-British occupation site consisting of a ditch and pottery.
SU 49 NE 48	Barbed and tanged arrowhead found in a market garden.
SU 49 NE 57	Cropmark remains of a possible Iron Age settlement, with a considerable amount of Iron Age pottery, Roman pottery and tiles associated.
SU 49 NW 37	Iron Age settlement
SU 49 NW 38	Iron Age settlement East of Noah's Ark
SU 49 NW 41	Roman Amphitheatre
SU 49 NW 55	Flint arrowhead
SU 49 NE 71	Neolithic or Bronze Age arrowhead found at Marcham
SU 49 NE 79	Prehistoric flint implements, Roman to Post Medieval pottery, indicating long-term settlement in the vicinity of Hitch Copse.
SU 49 NE 108	Cropmark remains of a probable Bronze Age round barrow visible as a single ring ditch mapped from air photographs.
SU 49 NE 109	Cropmark remains of three conjoined rectilinear enclosures of unknown date mapped from air photographs.
SU 49 NE 110	Extensive fragmented cropmark remains of numerous enclosures and ditches from a number of phases, probably part of a field system of unknown date, mapped from air photographs.
SU 49 NE 113	Cropmark remains of a rectilinear enclosure and fragmented perpendicular ditches of unknown date mapped from air photographs.
SU 49 NE 127	Cropmark remains of two conjoined possible Bronze Age round barrows, and a small square enclosure and pit of uncertain date mapped from aerial photographs
SU 49 NE 128	Cropmark remains of fragmented linear ditches and possible trackways and a hut circle of unknown date mapped from aerial photographs.
SU 49 NE 134	Findspot of three Neolithic axes and flints.
SU 49 NE 135	Cropmarks of two undated parallel ditches visible on air photographs.
SU 49 NW 88	A sub-rectangular ditched enclosure is visible as cropmarks in an area of ridge and furrow.

Table C1.15b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Marcham
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

The Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology of south-west Marcham has been discussed in Chapter 4. Two sites deserve further comment. HER 2662 (SU 49 NE 29) records the discovery before 1941 of an occupation layer about 100ft. long containing significant amounts of Roman pottery and animal refuse. The HER record also describes a trial trench which examined the low agger of a road running north-east from the Noah's Ark Inn. The road is described as 4.6 metres wide with a surface of limestone and clay 0.3 metres thick but it is unclear whether this trench is in the same location as the previous find. The third description within this record, a further trench in Pizzies Moor to examine the agger of this road, would appear to be at a different and unspecified location.

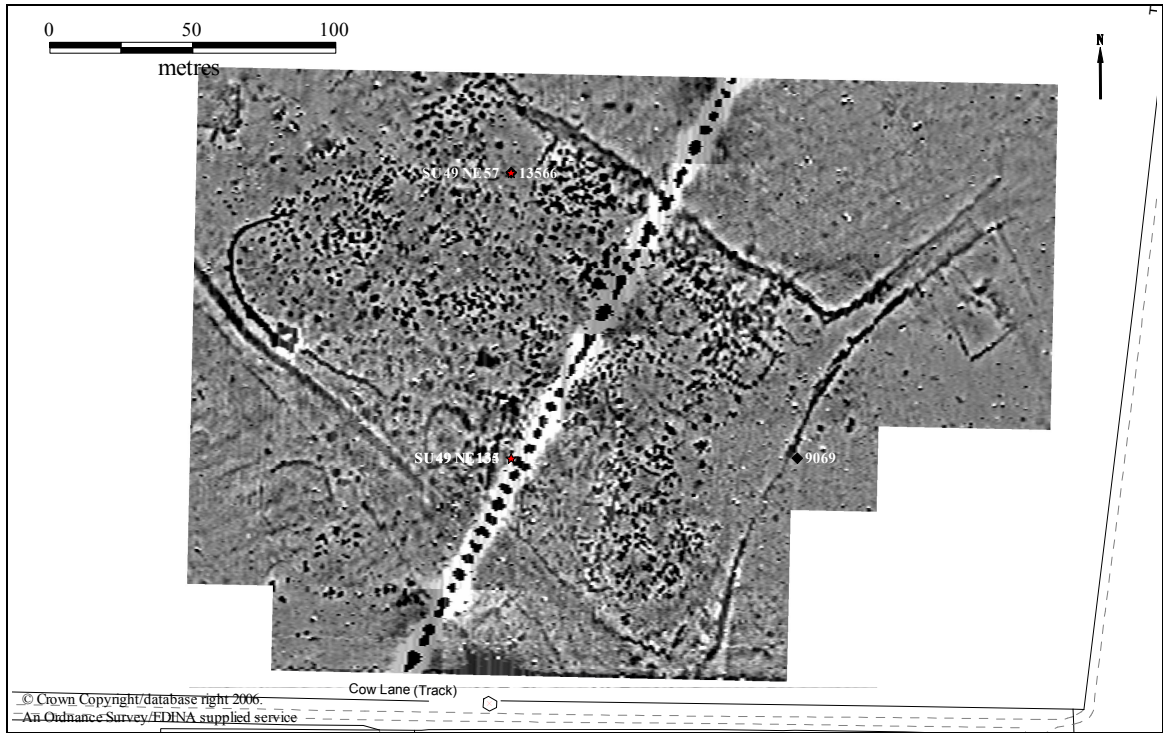


Figure C1.15c –Geophysical Survey at Cow Lane, Marcham (HER 13566)

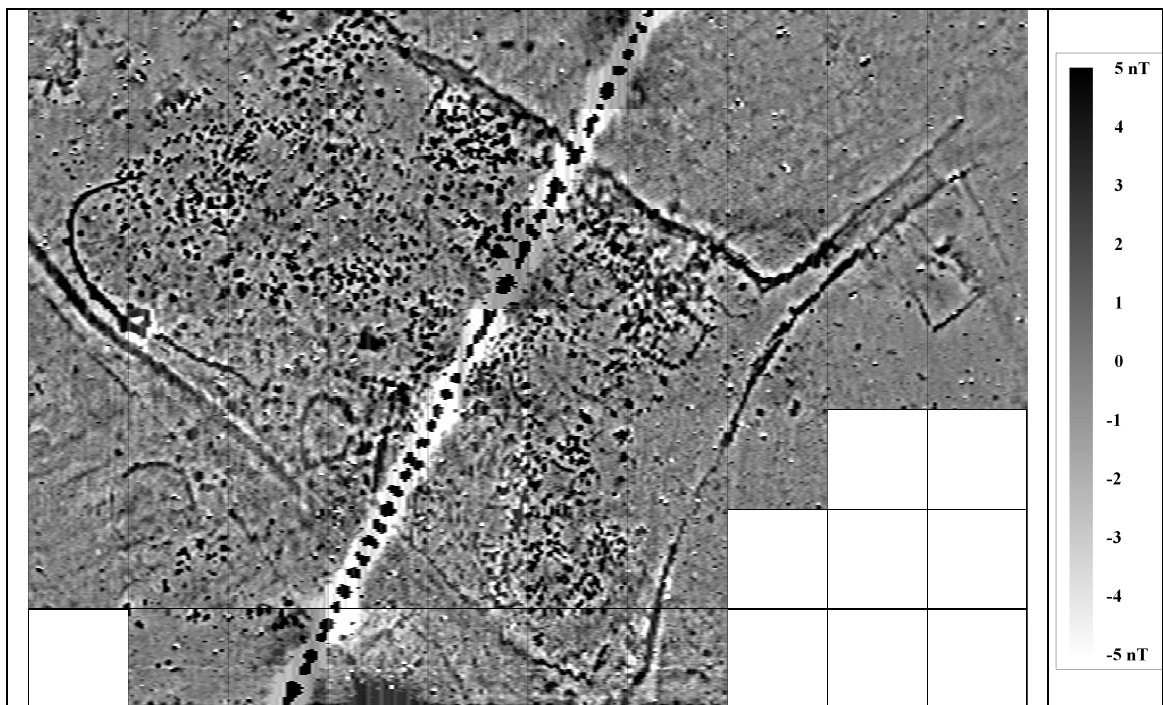


Figure C1.15d –Geophysical Survey at Cow Lane, Marcham (HER 13566)

C1.16 Milton

The underlying solid geology divides the parish into two with Upper Greensand in the south and Gault clay in the north. But it is the drift geology which appears to play an important role in the distribution of the known prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology, with most of the recorded sites and cropmarks limited to the second or Summertown-Radley terrace in the north.

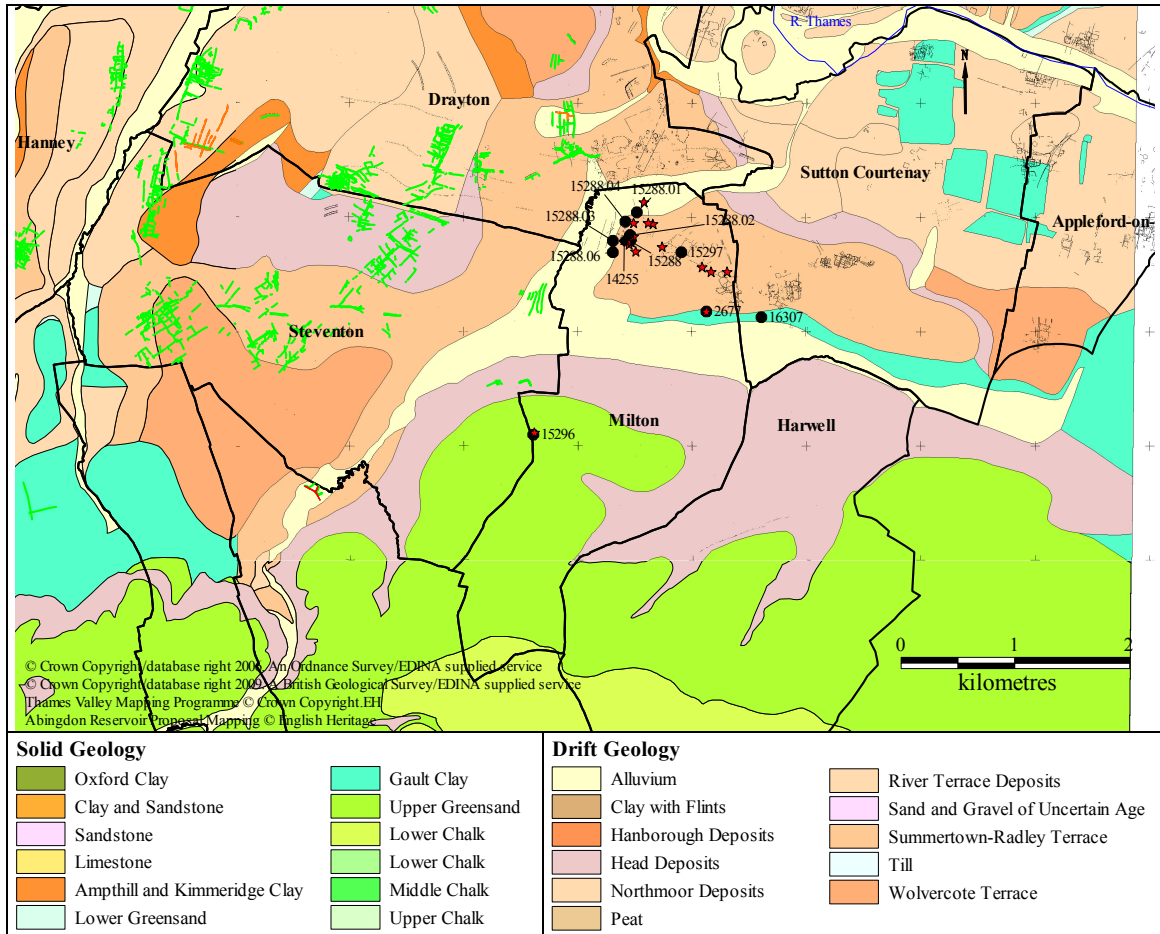


Figure C1.16a –Drift Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Milton (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Milton is listed in tables C1.16a and C1.16b. These, together with cropmarks from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.16a. Of the eleven HER entries seven describe undated cropmarks and settlements: 15288, 15288.01, 15288.02, 15288.03, 15288.04, 15288.06 and 15297. The remainder include 2677, a possible Romano-British cemetery; 14255, Iron Age pottery; and 16307 a multi-period occupation site (in Sutton Courtenay).

Of the fourteen NMR entries only SU49 SE 17 and SU49 SE 34 provide evidence of Roman settlement. However, nine entries describing undated enclosures, trackways, pits and ditches may also indicate Iron Age and/or Roman activity. As the HER and NMR records cluster in the north of the parish this area is shown in more detail in figure C1.16b.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
2677	? Romano British Cemetery	Cemetery
14255	Iron Age Pottery	Findspot
15288	Cropmarked Settlement Complex NW of Milton	Enclosure, pit
15288.01	Cropmarked Settlement Complex NW of Milton	Rectilinear enclosure
15288.02	Cropmarked Settlement Complex NW of Milton	Rectangular enclosure
15288.03	Cropmarked Settlement Complex NW of Milton	Circular enclosure
15288.04	Cropmarked Settlement Complex NW of Milton	Circular enclosure
15288.06	Cropmarked Settlement Complex NW of Milton	Trackway
15296	?Bronze Age ?Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
15297	? Prehistoric/Roman ? Field System	Field system
16307	Multi-Period Occupation Site	Trackway, ditch, enclosure, occupation site

Table C1.16a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Milton
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 SE 17	The discovery of inhumations with a Roman vessel and a spearhead indicates the site of a possible Romano British cemetery dating from the 3rd century AD.
SU 49 SE 34	Probable Prehistoric or Roman farmstead (enclosures) seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 110	Probable Bronze Age barrow cemetery (round barrows) seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 111	Probable enclosure, trackway and pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 113	Possible trackway and ditch of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 114	Probable settlement (pit clusters and pits) of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs. Some of the pits may be Early Medieval grubenhauser.
SU 49 SE 115	Probable pits of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 116	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 117	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 118	Possible field boundary of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 119	Possible ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 120	Probable trackway of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 153	Square enclosure, possibly an Iron Age square barrow, seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 160	Possible Bronze Age round barrow seen as cropmarks on air photographs

Table C1.16b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Milton
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

The aerial survey for the Abingdon Reservoir proposal only extended marginally into Millton and site 642 (Winton 1999, 55), described as a Bronze Age round barrow corresponds to HER 15296 and NMR SU49 SE160.

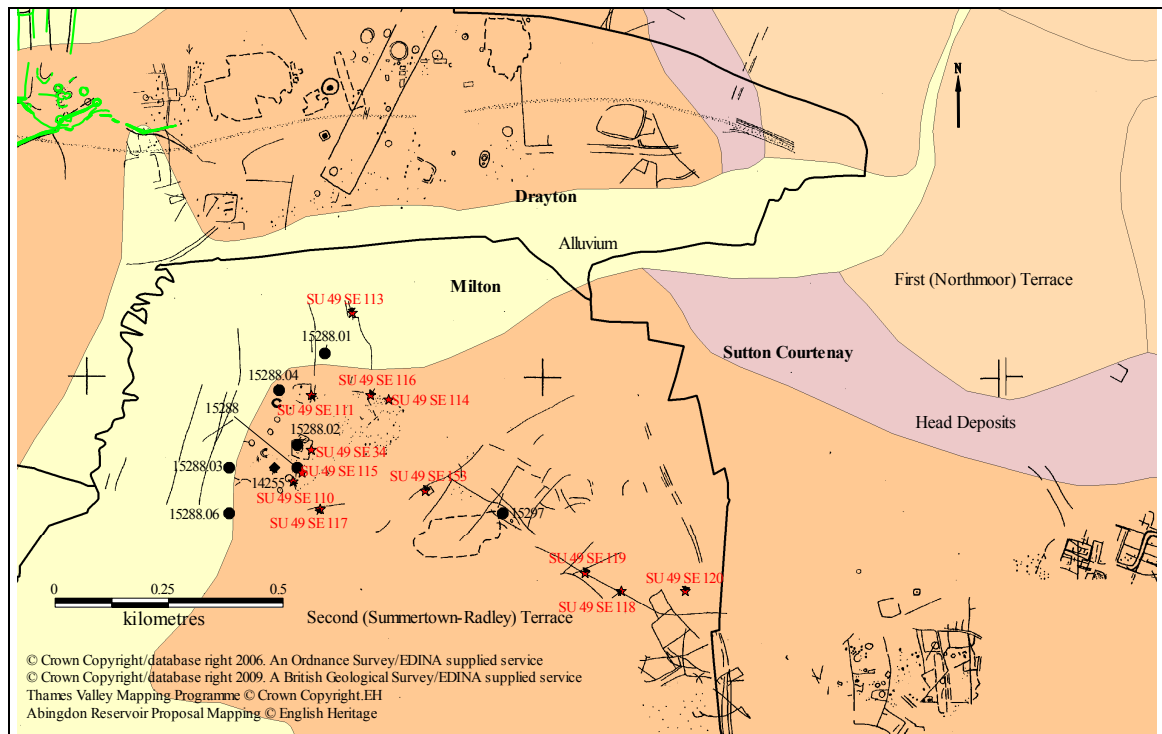


Figure C1.16b – Cropmarks of North Milton

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests five sites in the 592 hectares of Milton. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 100 or 250 people. The aerial photographic evidence provides some support for this with settlement in the north on the Thames terrace. However, these settlements have largely been dated by morphological similarities with other known and dated features. To the south of this main belt of cropmarks a possible Romano-British cemetery at HER 2677 (SU49 SE17) may provide some evidence of Romano-British settlement. The reason for the lack of cropmark evidence for occupation further south in Milton from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme is unclear as Upper Greensand usually provides good cropmark evidence.

C1.17 Stanford-in-the-Vale

Kimmeridge clay underlies much of the south and east of Stanford-in-the-Vale, extending east towards Charney Bassett and north-east towards Hatford. In the west are the limestones and sandstones of the Corallian ridge. Drift deposits are limited to alluvium in the valleys of the river Ock and the Frogmore brook which flows into the Ock from the north-west. Additionally there is a small island of the first or Northmoor terrace in the east.

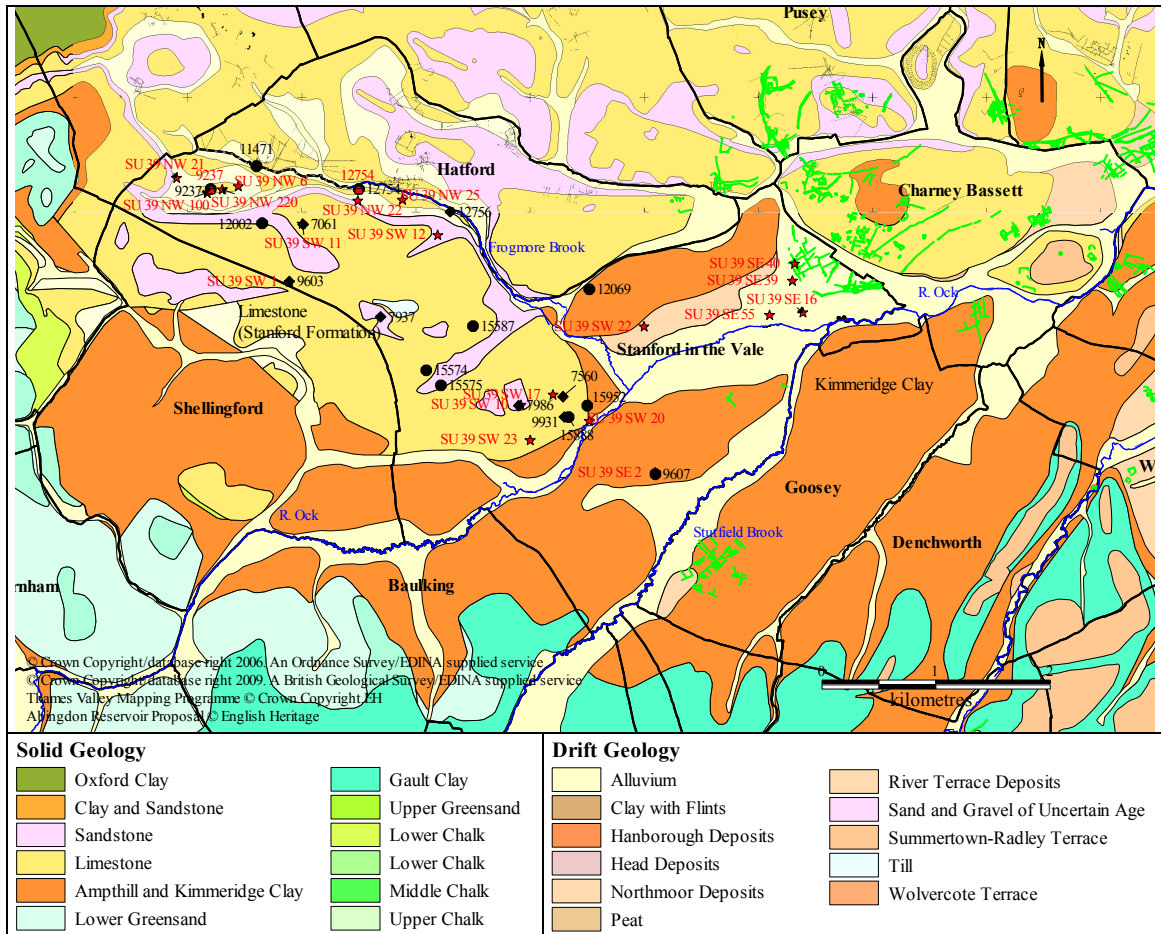


Figure C1.17a – Geology and the Late Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Stanford-in-the-Vale (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

The HER and NMR archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Stanford-in-the-Vale is shown listed in tables C1.17a and C1.17b respectively. These, together with cropmarks from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.17a. Of the eighteen HER references five refer to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, one (12002) possibly to the Iron Age and ten to the Roman Period. Two are multi-period sites. Six findspots of Romano-British material are noted: 7061, 7560, 7937, 7986, 9603, and 9931. A substantial Romano-British settlement is attested at 9237, Bowling Green Farm (Chambers 1988; 1989; 1990;

Mudd 1993) and a possible villa at 12754, south of Frogmore Brook (Miles 1982b). Small settlements may also have existed at 11471 and 12756 (Miles 1982b). Features covering a wide date range are recorded at 15888 and 15952.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
7061	Roman Coins and Brooch	Findspot
7560	Romano British to Medieval Artefacts	Findspot
7937	Romano British Pottery, Quern (700m SSE of Eastfield Farm)	Findspot
7986	Roman Spindle Whorl	Findspot
9237	Romano British Settlement (?villa), Bowling Green Farm	Villa, settlement
9603	Roman Coin	Findspot
9607	Two Bronze Age Barrows	Bowl barrow
9931	Roman Pottery and Ear Cleaner (6, Sheards Lane)	Findspot
11471	Roman Coin, Pottery & Platform (SE of Chinham Copse)	Building platform, findspot
12002	Prehistoric Trackway and Field System	Field system, trackway
12069	Prehistoric Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
12754	Roman ? Villa, Pottery (Gravel terrace on south side of Frogmore Brook)	Villa, findspot
12756	Roman Pottery and ? Wall (south from Frogmore Brook)	Wall, findspot
15574	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter	Lithic scatter
15575	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter	Lithic scatter
15587	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter	Lithic scatter
15888	Roman & Medieval Linear Ditches, Pits	Linear earthwork, rubbish pit, pit
15952	Iron Age - Medieval Ditch, Gully & Pottery	Ditch, gully, findspot

Table C1.17a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Stanford-in-the Vale (Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 39 NW 6	Excavations uncovered the remains of a late Iron Age settlement, a 2nd century AD villa with an enclosure and a 4th century settlement which grew up around the villa. Minature bronzes may indicate the site of a temple or shrine.
SU 39 SE 2	Sites of three Bronze Age bowl barrows, no visible remains
SU 39 SE 16	Romano british beaker fragments.
SU 39 SW 1	Roman coin found 1960 in ploughed farmland
SU 39 SW 10	Romano British spindle whorl.
SU 39 SW 11	Roman coin.
SU 39 SW 12	IA enclosure and pits
SU 39 SW 17	Roman pottery.
SU 39 NW 21	Linear features
SU 39 NW 22	Ploughing has revealed Roman building material and distinct building platforms and lines of walls can be seen. A large quantity of 2nd-4th century AD pottery was found, also an amber bead of probable Saxon date. Probably a Roman villa.
SU 39 NW 25	A Romano British field wall and Roman pottery was found here
SU 39 SW 20	A Roman settlement covering 6 hectares with finds of 2nd to 3rd century pottery and a 4th century coin.
SU 39 SW 22	Flint implements
SU 39 SW 23	Second century Roman pottery sherds found at Stanford in the Vale prior to 1950.
SU 39 NW 100	Possible Prehistoric or Roman enclosure seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 39 SE 39	Cropmarks of a field system of uncertain date.
SU 39 SE 40	Cropmark of a possible ring ditch of uncertain date
SU 39 NW 220	Evaluations and excavations at the Hills sand quarry site at Bowling Green Farm have located a substantial Romano-British settlement, thought to represent a large village with trading and market functions. Stone buildings, ovens, kilns and wells have been found.

Table C1.17b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Stanford-in-the Vale (Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

The eighteen NMR references also provide similar information suggesting three specific areas of Romano-British settlement. The first, at Bowling Green Farm (HER 9237) in the north-west of the parish, is shown in figure C1.17b. Two NMR records, SU39 NW 6 and SU39 NW 220 record rescue excavations undertaken in advance of sand quarrying. A second site, SU39 NW 22, further to the east and south of Frogmore Brook corresponds to HER 12754. The third site, in the south adjacent to the river Ock and underlying the modern village of Stanford-in-the-Vale at SU39 SW 20, appears to correspond to HER records 9931, 15888, 15952.

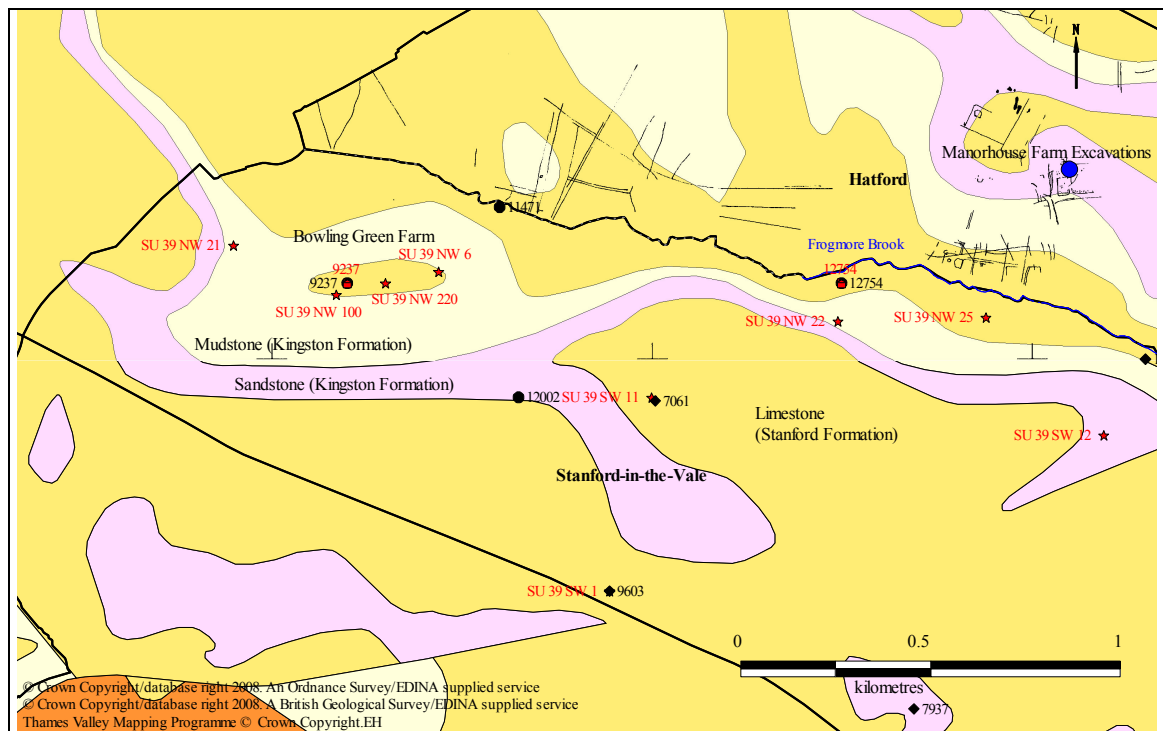


Figure C1.17b – The Late Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of north-west Stanford-in-the-Vale

There has been limited aerial photographic mapping of Stanford-in-the-Vale. The north-west of the parish lies within the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the east is within the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal mapping. Six sites are listed by Winton (1999, 39-42): sites 578 and 595 are suggested to be medieval or later, site 573 is undated, and only sites 572, 580 and 581 are suggested to be prehistoric and/or Roman.

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests 9.5 sites in the 1185 hectares of Stanford-in-the-Vale. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 190 or 475 people. Although the aerial photographic evidence is limited considerable support for a population of this order is provided by the evidence of Romano-British settlement at Bowling Green Farm and along the Frogmore brook.

C1.18 Steventon

The solid geology of Steventon is defined by an extensive band of Gault clay covering much of the parish. In the south-east is an area of Upper Greensand and in the north-west a belt of Kimmeridge clay. Lying between the Kimmeridge and Gault clays is a narrow ribbon of Lower Greensand. The drift geology is more complicated: in the east towards Milton there are bands of alluvium and Head deposits while to the west of these are two gravel terraces, the third or Wolvercote terrace in the south and the second or Summertown/Radley terrace in the centre. Further to the west, near East Hanney, the first or Northmoor terrace is reached. There is a further band of Head deposits in the north of the parish. The cropmark evidence is primarily, but not exclusively, located on the gravel terraces. In particular, a substantial cropmark complex is situated on the Head deposits in the north of the parish.

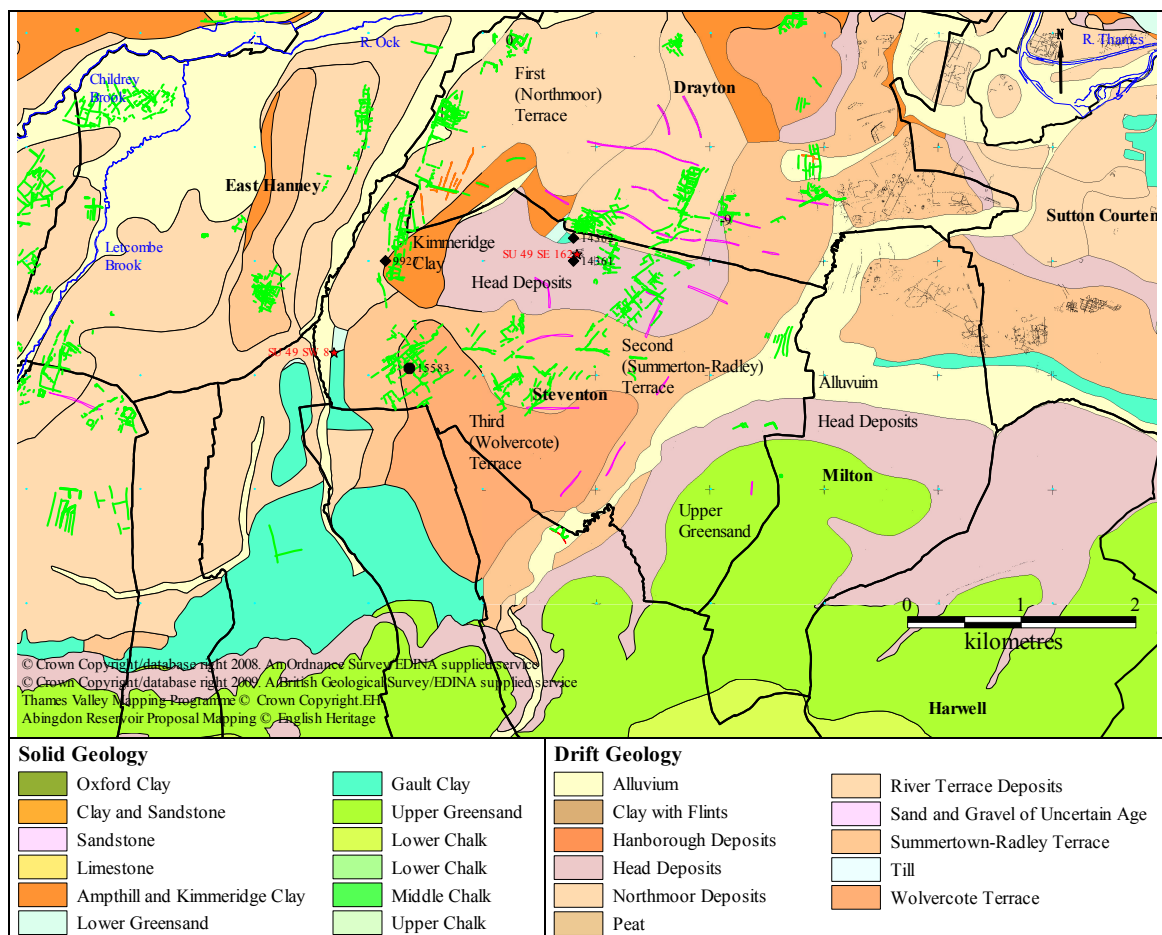


Figure C1.18a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Steventon (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

The limited archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Steventon is listed in tables C1.18a and C1.18b. These, together with cropmarks from the

Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal, are illustrated in figure C1.18a. There are only five HER entries and two NMR Pastscape references. Evidence for Roman activity is limited to pottery scatters.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
9927	Roman Sherds	Findspot
14361	? Roman Pottery, Coin and Brooch (SW side of the Mere Dike)	Findspot
14362	Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon Sherds (south of the Mere Dyke)	Findspot
15583	Neolithic/Bronze Age Lithic Scatter (Caudwell Fields 11 & 12)	Lithic scatter
16884	Bronze Age scabbard chape	Findspot

Table C1.18a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Steventon
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 SW 8	Gold stater of Cunobelinus found near Steventon.
SU 49 SE 162	Potential ditches of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.

Table C1.18b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Steventon
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

The archaeological evaluation for the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal investigated a number of sites in Steventon, and Hearne (2001) documents the six main sites, of which two are Bronze Age, four Iron Age and three Romano-British. Four of these plus the recently discovered villa at site 419 (Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007) are listed in table C1.18c.

Site	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Romano-British
406		Yes	Yes
407		Yes	Yes
408	Yes		
412		Yes	Yes
419			Yes

Table C1.18c – Sites in Steventon listed by Hearne (2001)

The cropmarks mapped as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.18b with seven cropmark sites in Steventon (Winton 1999). The evaluation excavations provided evidence that cropmark sites 406, 407 and 412 had material of Roman date (Hearne 2001, Barber 1998; Barber and Thomas 1998) and these sites are therefore shown as Roman in figure C1.18b.

The trial excavations have usefully demonstrated that the sites were not all contemporary and that settlements changed their location. The site chronology is illustrated in figure C1.18c with early Romano-British settlement attested at sites 406 and 412 and later Romano-British settlement at site 407.

C1.19 Sutton Courtenay

Gault clay underlies most of Sutton Courtenay with the exception of the north-west where Kimmeridge clay is present. More relevant to the settlement archaeology are the drift deposits of the Thames terraces. Sands and gravels of the first or Northmoor terrace are found in the north of the parish while to the south is an extensive area of the second or Summertown-Radley terrace. In the south-east is a small band of third or Wolvercote terrace. Alluvial deposits are restricted to the extreme north close to the river Thames and to the extreme south.

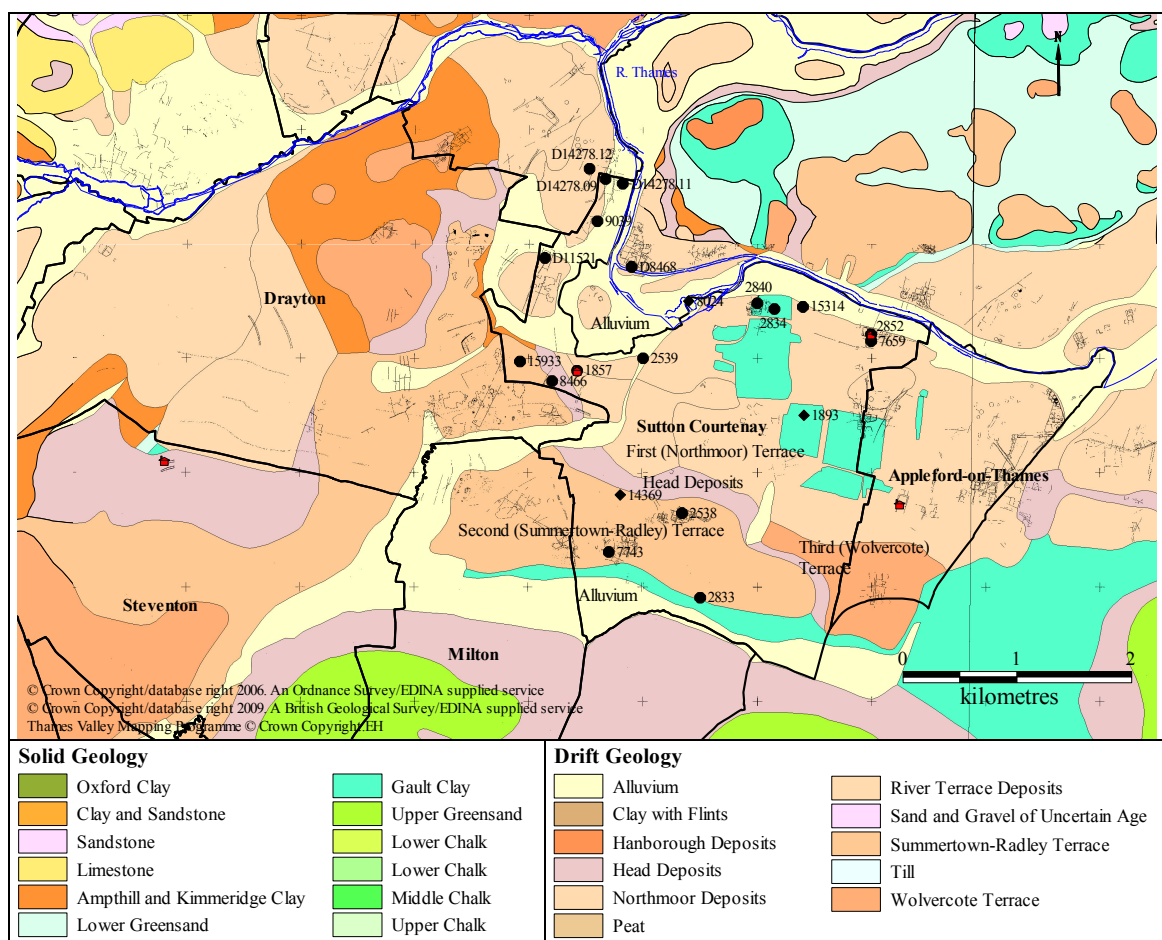


Figure C1.19a – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Sutton Courtenay (British Geological Survey Sheets 253 – Abingdon and 254 - Henley)

The archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for Sutton Courtenay is rich with 25 HER and 38 NMR Pastscape entries as listed in tables C1.19a and C1.19b respectively. These, together with the cropmark evidence from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme are shown on figures C1.19a, C1.19b and C1.19c. Of these twenty-five HER records, twelve relate to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, three to the Iron Age and seven to the Roman period. One is undated and two are multi-period. Roman

features and finds include 1857, a Roman villa (Dropshot); 2583, a linear village and field system; 2833, a Roman cemetery; 2834, possible Roman cremations and pottery; and 2852, a possible Roman villa (Penn Copse). Multi-period sites include 2539, a Bronze Age burial and Roman pottery.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
D8468	Undated Circular Enclosure	Circular enclosure
D11521	Prehistoric Enclosure	Rectangular enclosure
D14278.09	Two Ring Ditches in Corporation Farm Barrow Cemetery	Oval enclosure, ring ditch
D14278.11	Ring Ditches in Corporation Farm Barrow Cemetery	Ring ditch
D14278.12	Ring Ditches in Corporation Farm Barrow Cemetery	Ring ditch
1857	Roman Villa (Dropshot Villa)	Villa
1893	Bronze Age Palstave	Findspot
2538	Roman Linear Village/Field System	Aggregate field system, hut, linear settlement, ring ditch
2539	Bronze Age Burial and Roman Pottery	Burial, findspot
2833	Roman Cemetery	Cemetery, findspot
2834	Roman ? Cremations and Pottery	Cremation, ditch, findspot
2840	Prehistoric Rectilinear Enclosures	Rectilinear enclosure
2843	Bronze Age Implement	Marginal, findspot
2852	? Roman Villa at Penn Copse	Villa
2856	Roman Miscellaneous Finds	Marginal, findspot
5268	Bronze Age and Saxon Artefacts	Marginal, findspot
7659	? Bronze Age Double Concentric Circle (Penn Copse)	Double ditched enclosure
7743	Iron Age Settlement Site settlement, vill, enclosure	Field system, grubenhaus,
8024	Bronze Age Pottery	Findspot
8466	Undated Linear Features and Pits	Field boundary, linear feature
9039	Neolithic/Bronze Age Finds (Abingdon Sewage Works)	Trackway, boundary ditch, findspot
12848	Iron Age Inhumation burial	Marginal, inhumation
14369	Neolithic or Bronze Age Arrowhead	Findspot
15314	? Bronze Age Ring Ditch	Ring ditch
15933	Neolithic to Saxon Ditch, Pit and Pottery	Ditch, pit, findspot

**Table C1.19a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for Sutton Courtenay
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)**

The NMR references range in date from the Neolithic to the Saxon period. The first eighteen entries in table 1.19b relate to finds and can largely be matched with equivalent HER references. The latter twenty entries are cropmark evidence largely based on the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and are mostly undated. Important Roman features include SU49 SE 2, Dropshot Villa, (HER 1857), discovered in 1962 and excavated in 1966. A second possible villa site is SU59 SW30 at Penn Copse (HER 2852). Additional Roman finds include SU49 SE 3, SU 59 SW 30, SU59 SE 36 and SU59 SW 62. Erroneously included in Sutton Courtenay by the NMR is SU59 SW 48 (HER 9668), a hoard of 24 pieces of Romano-British pewter found in 1968 in Appleford.

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 SE 2	Dropshort Villa - The site of a Roman villa discovered in 1962 and excavated in 1966. Coins found date the site from the 1st to the 4th century AD. Extensive remains were found of a main building with a north-south range and possible wings to the east, all which face a central courtyard with timber outbuildings. Finds include the remains of tessellated floors, building materials, pottery and coins.
SU 49 SE 3	Romano-British finds and a Saxon burial were found in 1920 in Sutton Courtenay Lane, no further information.
SU 49 SE 18	Potential Bronze Age round barrows seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 59 SW 6	Romano-British cremation cemetery represented by cinerary urns, and ditches and an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery, found at the Amey pit in 1943-4.
SU 59 SW 7	Bronze Age burial associated with a tanged knife from Sutton Courtenay. A Romano-British sherd was also found.
SU 59 SW 16	Finds from the Thames at Sutton Courtenay include a Neolithic stone axe, a Late Bronze Age bronze socketed axehead, and an Anglo-Saxon shield boss. The last two are in the British Museum.
SU 59 SW 30	Cropmark remains of rectilinear enclosures and ditches possibly associated with a Roman villa site (excavated).
SU 59 SW 31	A Neolithic polished greenstone axe found in Sutton Courtenay parish was in the possession of Dr R Rice in 1937. The Rice collection is now in Abingdon Museum
SU 59 SW 35	Three Neolithic flint arrowhead found at Sutton Courtenay.
SU 59 SW 36	A probable Roman inhumation was interred with urns, brooches, a vase and ring. Other Roman finds from the area include a strigil, a bronze bell and fragments of a bronze chain. All found at Sutton Courtenay.
SU 59 SW 39	A Bronze Age palstave was found in April 1963 in Amey's gravel pit near Sutton Courtenay.
SU 59 SW 48	A hoard of Romano-British pewter, consisting of 24 pieces together with a number of iron objects, tools, etc., was found in 1968 in the Amey Group's gravelpits at Appleford and has been deposited in the Ashmolean Museum. The hoard, which is the third largest known, was remarkably well-preserved, and from the depth at which it was found had presumably been deposited in a well for safe-keeping, possibly in the late 4th/early 5th century. No trace of a building was observed, although pottery has been found, and ditches are visible in the gravel pits.
SU 59 SW 62	Roman bronze fibula found near Sutton Courtenay.
SU 59 SW 65	Iron Age jar found at Sutton Courtenay.
SU 59 SW 66	Inhumations found on the Old Ford Road near the Thames. Associated with the burial were a pair of small pottery vessels, iron fragments, a bronze ring and 5 late Iron Age bronze brooches.
SU 59 SW 68	Stone axe of Cornish or Devonian fine-grained rock found at Sutton Courtenay.
SU 59 SW 71	Bronze axe found in the Isis a short way below the new bridge.
SU 49 SE 83	Drayton Cursus - A Neolithic cursus visible as a cropmark on air photographs as an incomplete, single ditched, rectangular enclosure, 1665m by 78m, defined by 1 ditch with four sides visible.
SU 49 SE 98	Potential trackway of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 122	Probable enclosure of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 123	Possible enclosure of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 124	A probable Prehistoric or Roman settlement consisting of enclosures, hut circles, pits and a trackway seen as cropmarks on air photographs .
SU 49 SE 125	A probable Prehistoric or Roman settlement consisting of trackways, pits and enclosures seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 127	Probable Prehistoric or Roman field boundaries seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 132	Potential trackway of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 135	Probable Neolithic cursus seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 136	Possible Roman field boundary seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 155	Possible Prehistoric or Roman hut circle seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 156	Possible Iron Age square barrow seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 49 SE 157	Probable enclosure of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs
SU 49 SE 158	Possible ditch of unknown date seen as cropmarks on air photographs.
SU 59 SW 100	Cropmark remains of a possible field system of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 101	Cropmark remains of a probable rectilinear enclosure of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 102	Cropmark remains of a possible double ditched enclosure of unknown date.
SU 59 SW 103	Cropmark remains of ditches of unknown date, possibly part of an enclosure.
SU 59 SW 106	Cropmark remains of a probable BA round barrow.
SU 59 SW 109	Cropmark remains of rectilinear enclosures ditches and hut circle of Prehistoric or Roman date.

SU 49 SE 184 A complex of linear and rectilinear cropmarks which appear to represent a network of field boundaries and trackways, possibly associated with the adjacent villa site (SU 49 SE 2) though some may be of more recent origin.

Table C1.19b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for Sutton Courtenay
 (Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

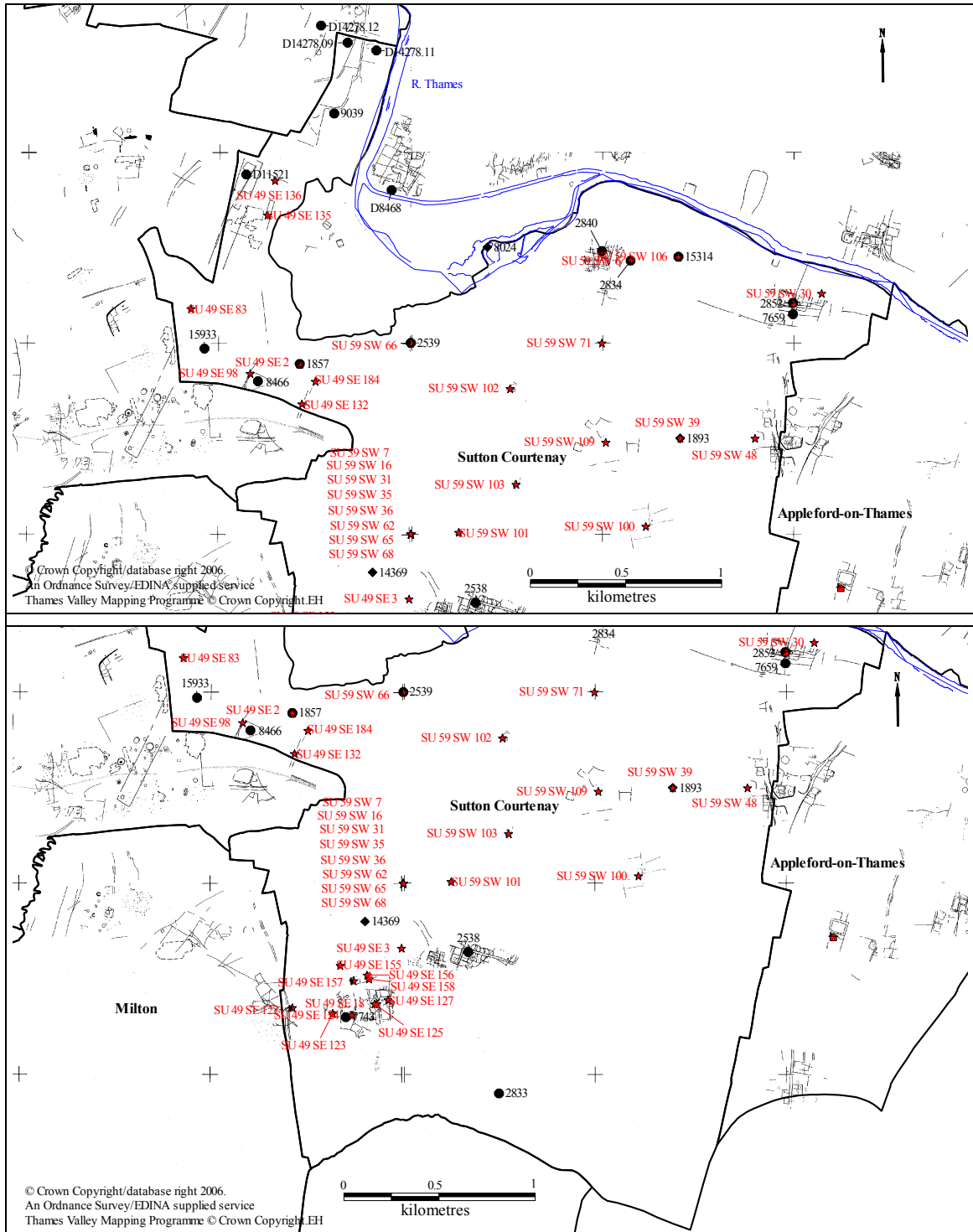


Figure C1.19b – Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of Sutton Courtenay
 North (Top) South (Bottom)

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests seven sites in the 834 hectares of Sutton Courtenay. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 140 or 350 people. The aerial photographic evidence provides considerable support for this with settlements near the Thames and also further south in the parish. These cropmarks have been dated largely by morphological similarities with other known and dated features. Excavation at Dropshort Villa suggests a second century AD date. Penn Copse is not confirmed as a villa and is undated.

C1.20 West Hanney

Kimmeridge clay underlies much of West Hanney, with Gault clay in the south-west. Scattered areas of extensive cropmarks have been mapped as part of the Thames Water reservoir proposal and these are largely restricted to the Northmoor deposits of the first terrace which cover much of the centre and north of the parish as shown in figure C1.20.

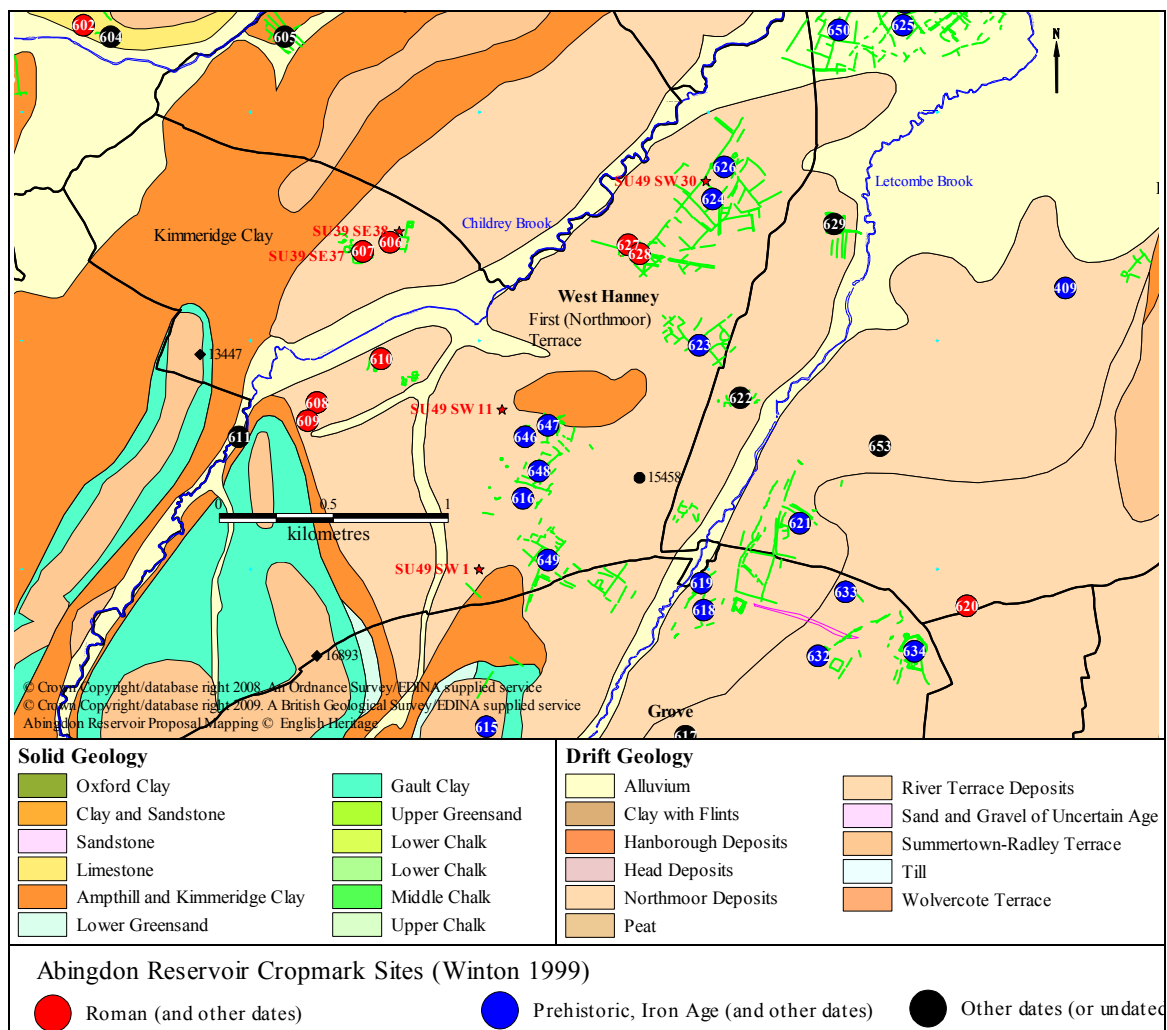


Figure C1.20 – Geology and the Prehistoric and Romano-British Archaeology of West Hanney (British Geological Survey Sheet 253 - Abingdon)

The limited archaeological data for the prehistoric and Romano-British periods for West Hanney is listed in tables C1.20a and C1.20b. These, together with cropmarks from the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal are illustrated in figure C1.20. Of the four HER references to prehistoric and Romano-British finds or features in West Hanney, one (9630) is not located. Roman pottery is recorded at Grange Farm (13477), while 16893 is associated with Iron Age and Roman finds. Of the NMR references SU49 SW 1 refers to a gold coin of Cunobelin. Cropmarks of enclosures

assumed to be of prehistoric or Roman date are associated with SU49 SW 30, SE 37 and SE 38.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
9630	Iron Age Gold Coins	Marginal, findspot
13447	Roman Pottery (Grange Farm)	Findspot
15458	Bronze Age Lithic Scatter	Lithic scatter
16893	Iron Age and Roman finds from West Hanney	Findspot

Table C1.20a – Prehistoric and Romano-British HER Entries for West Hanney
(Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)

NMR Number	Description
SU 49 SW 1	Gold coin of Cunobeline
SU 49 SW 11	A Neolithic polished stone axe was found in a field. It is now in Reading Museum (accession number 195:66). According to the museum, other similar objects were supposedly found nearby
SU 49 SW 30	Cropmarks of two small enclosures, probably of Prehistoric date
SU 39 SE 37	Cropmarks of a probable Prehistoric or Roman enclosed settlement site consisting of two rectilinear enclosures, probable hut circles and possible pits.
SU 39 SE 38	Cropmarks of two rectilinear enclosures. One appears to be a prehistoric or Roman enclosure, the other possibly a small Medieval moated site.

Table C1.20b – Prehistoric and Romano-British NMR Entries for West Hanney
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

In the north a large system of enclosures and possible trackways surrounds SU49 SW 30 defined by sites 624, 626, 627 and 628 (Winton 1999, 51-52). Winton assigns prehistoric dates to sites 624 and 626 and Roman dates to site 628 and part of site 627. To the north a further series of enclosures recorded as site 650 runs into East Hanney. A third series of enclosures or field systems lies to the east and south of SU49 SW 1 and SW 11 associated with site 616 which also contains sites 646 to 649. Winton (1999, 56-57) suggests a prehistoric date for these features. To the west of the Childrey Brook limited areas of cropmarks are associated with SU39 SE 37 and SE 38 and these correspond to sites 606 and 607. Winton (1999, 44-45) suggests a range of dates for these features: with prehistoric, Roman and medieval at 606 and Bronze Age, prehistoric and Roman features at 607. To the south, sites 608 to 610 are also suggested to have prehistoric or Roman dates (Winton 1999, 45-46).

Millett's estimate of 0.008 sites per hectare suggests four sites in the 540 hectares of West Hanney. For 20 and 50 inhabitants per site this would suggest a population of 80 or 200 people. The aerial photographic evidence provides some support for this with small settlements to the west of Childrey Brook and more extensive areas of cropmarks between the Childrey and Letcombe Brooks. However, these settlements have been dated largely by morphological similarities with other known and dated features.

Catalogue 2 Villa Catalogue

C2.1 Introduction

Twenty-two possible villa sites are illustrated in figure C2.1 but only twenty (3 to 22) are briefly discussed here. These twenty are located in sixteen parishes as listed in table C2.1. The available archaeological evidence includes aerial photographic mapping by English Heritage, geophysical survey, information contained in HER and NMR records, and published and unpublished excavations. The amount of such material differs substantially between sites.

Civil Parish	HER PRN	NMR Number	Site Name
Abingdon (Vineyard)	12849.02	SU49 NE 9	Site of an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Abingdon, of uncertain nature.
Appleford (Sidings)	15824	SU59 SW 127	Iron Age/Roman Enclosure, Field System (Appleford Sidings)
Appleford	15310	SU59 SW 99	Cropmark remains of a multi-phase complex of rectilinear enclosures, ditches, trackways and possible hut circles, the majority of which are thought to be associated with the site of a Roman villa..
Cumnor (Chilswell Fm)	10794	SP40 SE 39	? Roman Villa N of Bedswell Heath (Chilswell Farm)
Didcot	15939		Roman Coin Hoard and ?Villa at Didcot
East Hanney	7600	SU49 SW 4	?Villa on Pound Croft
Frilford	7115	SU49 NW 3	Roman Villa
Garford	12136	S 49 NW 27	Garford Roman Villa
Kingston Bagpuize	10604	SU49 NW 43	?Villa and Cemetery at Kingston Hill Farm
Kingston Bagpuize	15616	SU39 NE 37	Cropmark of a Roman Villa
Kingston Lisle	2823	SU38 NW 4	Roman ? villa and pavement (Marginal)
Radley (Barton Court Fm)	D15269.04	SU59 NW 39	Romano-British Villa Complex at Barton Court Farm.
Stanford-in-the Vale (Bowling Green Fm)	9237	SU39 NW 6 & SU39 NW 220	Romano British Settlement (?villa), Bowling Green Farm
Stanford-in-the Vale (Frogmore)	12754	SU39 NW 22	Roman ? Villa, Pottery (Gravel terrace on south side of Frogmore Brook)
Steventon	26410	(SU49 SE 162)	Possible Roman villa cropmark complex
Sutton Courtenay (Dropshort)	1857	SU49 SE 2	Roman Villa (Dropshort Villa)
Sutton Courtenay (Penn Copse)	2852	SU59 SW 30	? Roman Villa at Penn Copse
Wantage	15887	SU38 NE 60	Romano-British Villa and Settlement
West Challow	7219	SU38 NE 1	Roman Villa East of Cornhill Farm
Woolstone	7316	SU28 NE 1	Romano-British Villa at Woolstone

Table C2.1 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse

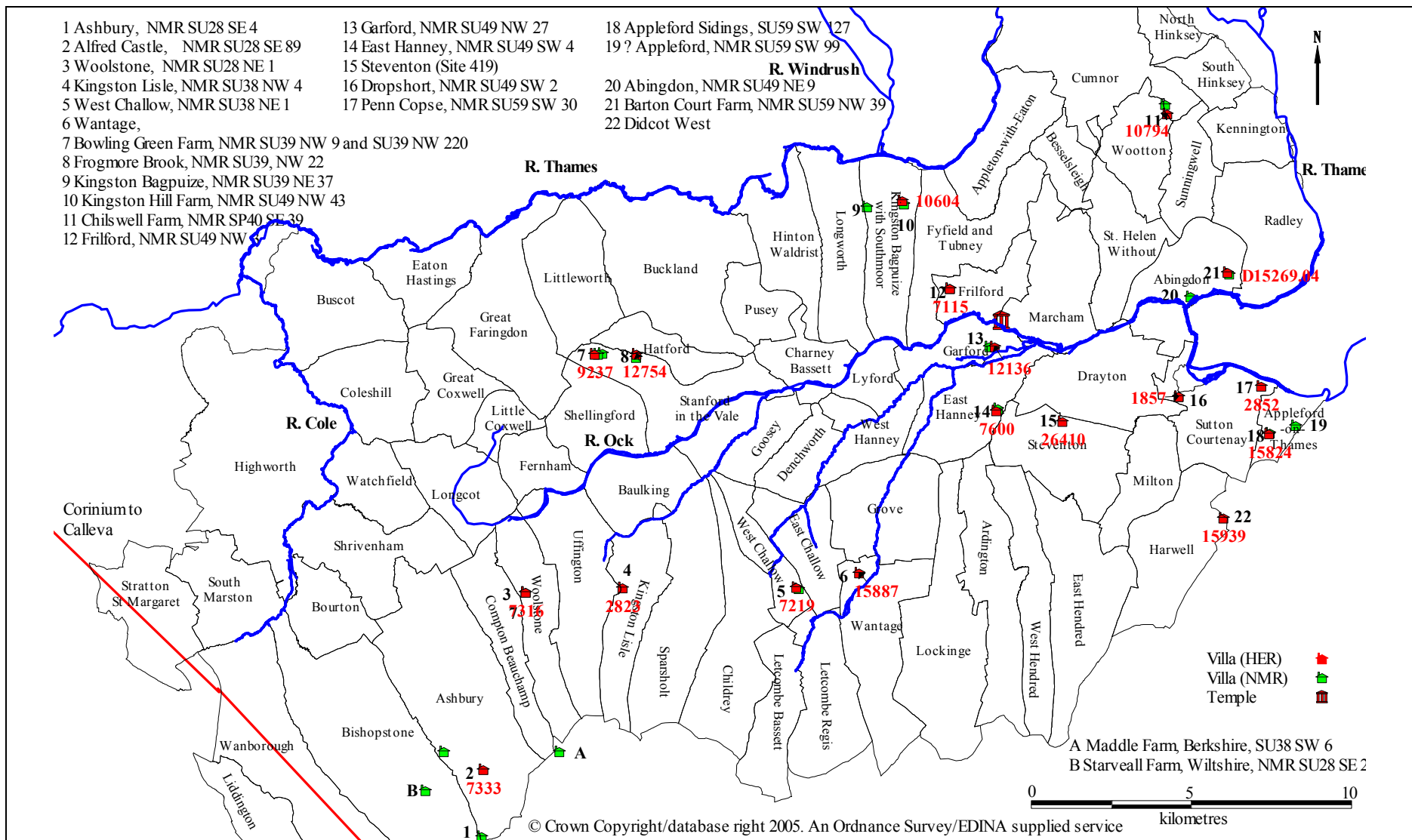


Figure C2.1 – Villas and possible villas in the Vale of the White Horse

C2.2 Abingdon

To the west of Abingdon the foundations of a wall and Roman artefacts were recovered at Tithe Farm during the construction of a new housing estate (Wilson and Wright 1969, 231; Abingdon and District Archaeological Society 1971, 21). This is recorded as HER 2988 (NMR SU 49 NE 49) and its location is shown in figure C2.2, but the evidence is considered too weak by the HER to be classified as a villa. Nevertheless, the recovered building material included roof tiles, flue tiles, tesserae, opus signinum and fragments of painted wall plaster (Roger Thomas, pers comm). This, together with considerable amounts of pottery and numerous small finds, does suggest a Roman building, most probably a small villa on the outskirts of Abingdon. Its date, size, orientation and relationship to other landscape features remain unknown.

Excavations in the Vineyard area of Abingdon in 1989 located parts of a Roman masonry building (Allen 1990, 74 ; Frere et al 1990, 333-334) and this has been suggested as a possible villa by Scott (1993, 157). Excavation of area 5 and the western part of area 4 of the Vineyard demonstrated extensive occupation from about 300 BC into the early Roman period. Activity appears to have declined from the middle of the second century AD, apart from an area in the south-east where parts of three rooms of a masonry building together with a yard were uncovered (Allen 1990, 73). A clay and mortar floor of a room in the north-east, about metre below the adjacent yard, may have been a cellar. Finds of painted plaster and large numbers of tesserae suggest a room in the south-west may once have contained a tessellated floor and decorated walls (Allen 1990, 74). A yard containing a corn drier and hearths, possibly for iron working, lay between these two rooms. Allen suggests the building was probably used for both agricultural and domestic purposes.

North of this building, and apparently related to it, a square, stone lined well contained a number of nearly complete pottery vessels dating to the early second century AD. Allen (1990, 74) suggests the well may provide a construction date for the building and also a date and evidence for major replanning. Although the well remained in use during the third century AD the date the building was abandoned is not known. Probably associated also with the building are a group of four Roman burials found 50 metres to the north-west. These burials were contained in one wood and the three lead coffins and Allen

(1990, 74) suggests these represent a wealthy group of individuals, possibly a family group. The location of the Vineyard site is indicated in figure C2.2 as the northern of the two sites with Roman masonry and is associated with HER reference 12849.02¹.

There are difficulties in considering this building as representing a villa as it appears to be located in a small town rather than a rural location. Other masonry buildings are known in Abingdon, for instance on or near East St Helens Street (Akerman 1865; Wilson and Wallis 1992) and this location is shown in figure C2.2 as the western of the two sites with Roman masonry. The NMR reference SU49 NE 9 suggesting a possible villa at Abingdon is also located in this area but discusses a wide range of features within the town. A second site, HER 13569, just outside the Iron Age ditches, produced Roman tiles, tesserae and fragments of wall plaster within medieval pits (Parrington and Balkwill 1976, 48). Although, perhaps, this material could have come from demolition anywhere in Abingdon, the excavators suggests the nearby presence of a building containing heated rooms, tessellated floors and painted wall plaster. Despite being outside the Iron Age oppidum this building may also form part of the small town rather than being a rural villa.

¹ HER Reference 12849 is for the multi-period Vineyard site, 12849.01 for the Iron Age element and 12849.02 the Romano-British element.

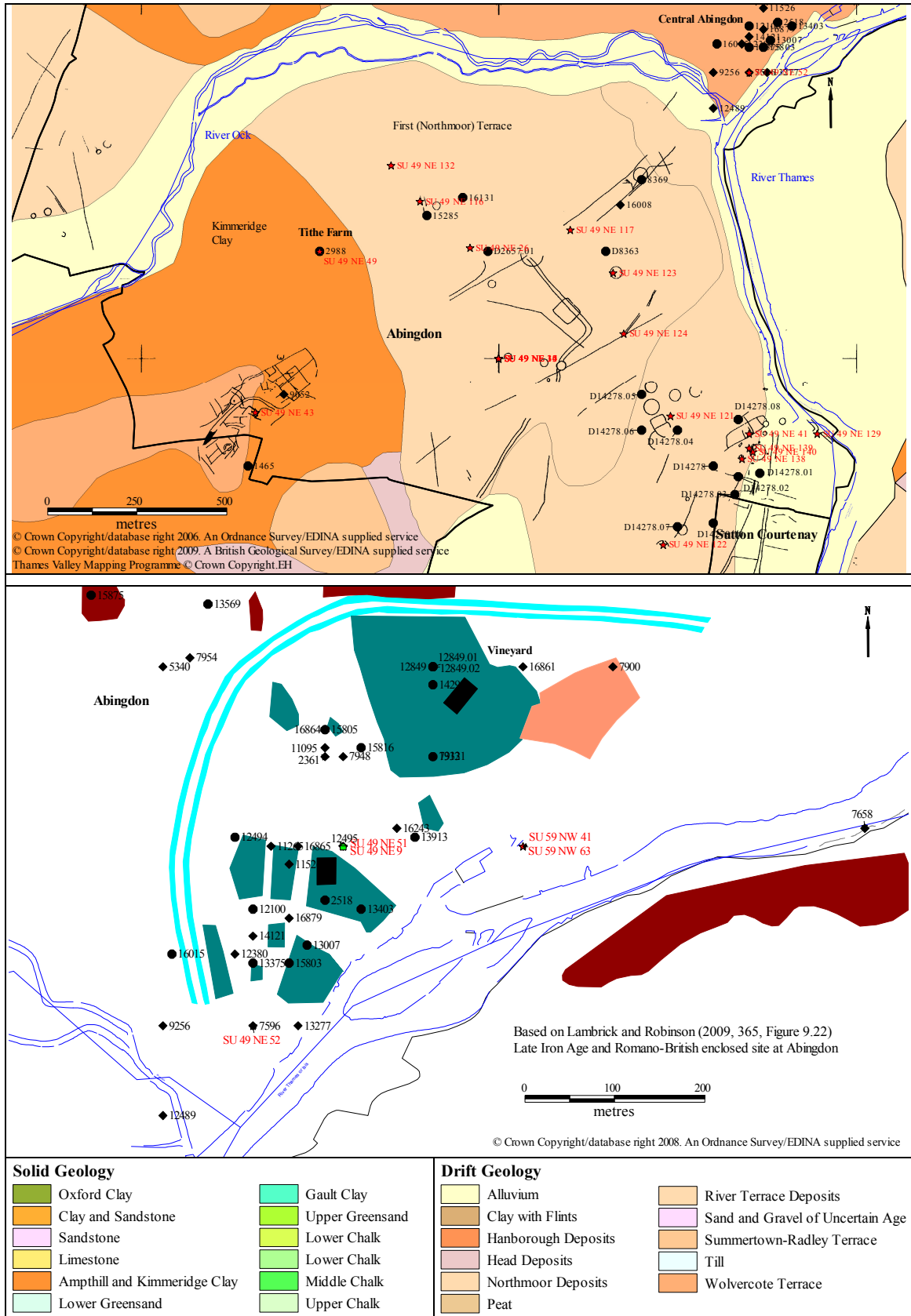


Figure C2.2 – Possible Romano-British Villas in Abingdon
Tithe Farm (HER 2988) (Top) – HER 13569 and Vineyard (HER 12849.02) (Bottom)

C2.3 Appleford

The potential villa site at Appleford Sidings is defined by a rectangular enclosure, 75 metres long and 55 metres wide, with double ditches on all four sides. The southern entrance is formed by the double ditches turning to join each other and provides an opening about 3.5 metres wide and 7 metres long (Booth and Simmonds 2009, 25). The enclosure is shown in figure C2.3 where, following Booth and Simmonds, it is termed the principal enclosure.

Evidence for rectangular structures was located in the southern part of the principal enclosure to the west of the entrance and consisted of a number of beam slots and associated post holes (Booth and Simmonds 2009, 30). The most clearly defined of these structures contained a north wall about nine metres long with rectangular corners in the east and west, and appears to define a building about 9 metres long by between 4 and 7 metres wide. This initial structure was subsequently replaced by another on the same alignment, measuring about 9 metres in length and between 3 and 6 metres in width. To the east of these two structures a single east-west slot may represent a further, similar building. Similarly, a single north-south slot to the north may represent a third similar building. No other features were detected in the enclosure.

Surrounding the principal enclosure is a set of field boundaries and trackways defined by ditches and which appear to have two chronological phases. A double ditched trackway running north-south lay approximately 200 metres to the west with a further ditch running north-south located about 30 metres beyond. The various recuts and realignments of this ditch suggest it may have had a longer lifespan than the enclosure and settlement. As this ditch, and others, appear to respect the two main trackway ditches, Booth and Simmonds (2009, 32) suggest the trackway represented an important local boundary feature. Its alignment suggests it may have connected with the trackway further north at Appleton Field and with a north-south aligned trackway and enclosures to the south (Booth and Simmonds (2009, 131). These possible connections are shown in green in the lower part of figure C2.3.

A second, narrower trackway lies approximately 180 metres to the east of the principal enclosure on a north-east to south-west alignment. This trackway turns to run north-west

to south-east at a point to the south-east of the principal enclosure. To the west of this trackway, and probably contemporary with it, is a small enclosure. This eastern trackway was later cut by three concentric ditches which form the south-west corner of a further rectangular enclosure termed the eastern enclosure on figure C2.3.

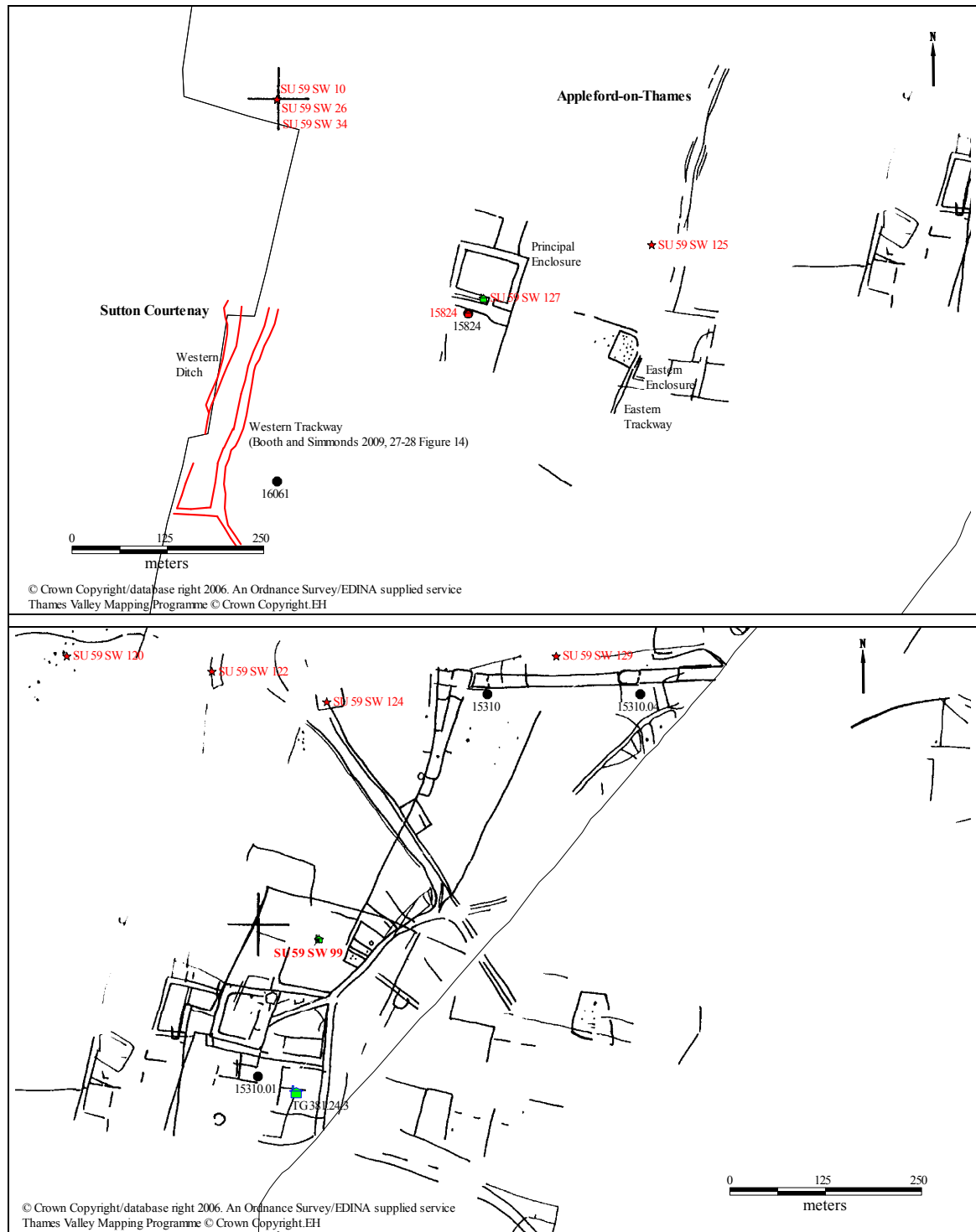


Figure C2.3 –Appleford Sidings (HER 15824, NMR SU59 SW 127)

The bulk of the pottery assemblage used for dating was recovered from the ditches defining the enclosures and field system and consisted of 2862 sherds of late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (Booth and Simmonds 2009, 64). The great majority of this dates from the middle of the first to the early second century AD with only a small element of later Roman material. This suggests activity at the site began possibly before the middle of the first century AD and continued into the early second century AD. Although it is not possible to determine whether occupation began before or after the Roman conquest in AD 43, Booth and Simmonds (2009, 74) tentatively suggest, on the basis of the proportion of “E wares” in the assemblage, that occupation began before conquest. There is no evidence, either through pottery or ditches, of previous Iron Age activity in the immediate area.

The principal enclosure corresponds to NMR Pastscape Reference SU 59 SW 127 and the detailed description from the earlier Thames Valley Mapping Programme is listed in table C2.2.

NMR Number	Description
SU 59 SW 127	Cropmark remains of a double ditched rectangular enclosure thought to be a villa enclosure seen at SU 5227 9276. The enclosure has an internal measurement of 50m x 70m and external 70m x 89m, and has an entrance in the southern side and has a number of associated perpendicular ditches attached to the outside ditch which are parts of further incomplete enclosures. This site is very similar to the excavated villa site situated to the north (TG.385.4.1), and a site immediately to the east which was dated through excavation to 1st-2nd centuries AD.

Table C2.2 – Detailed Pastscape Reference to SU 59 SW 127.
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

The excavated villa site to the north with reference TG.385.4.1 can be identified as Penn Copse, Sutton Courtenay, (Fenner 1994, 26), although the evidence for a villa there remains slight and is largely based on the form of the enclosure. The reference to a site immediately to the east is unclear but may refer to the eastern enclosure.

A possible successor settlement may be Appleford Field (Hinchliffe and Thomas 1981), where although the limited excavations did not provide any evidence of a villa, late Roman high status objects including a hoard of coins and pewter had previously been located. An alternative successor settlement may lie to the north-east of Appleford Sidings in an extensive area of cropmarks containing trackways and rectangular enclosures associated with NMR Reference SU 55 SW 99 as illustrated in figure C2.4. The Thames Valley Mapping Programme has suggested that a villa is situated at location SU 5305 9278 as indicated in blue on figure C2.4 with reference TG 381.24.3 (Fenner

1994, 152). It has not been possible to locate any excavation or other report which confirms, through artefacts or structures, this identification as a villa.

NMR Number Description

SU 59 SW 99 Cropmark remains of a multi-phase complex of rectilinear enclosures, ditches, trackways and possible hut circles, the majority of which are thought to be associated with the site of a Roman villa and its compound and fragments of further enclosures outside. The villa site is centred at SU 5305 9278 within an incomplete compound which is defined on its northern and eastern sides by two ditches, possibly utilized as a trackway on the eastern side. The enclosure is divided into a number of rectilinear enclosures with sub-divisions. There is evidence of a number of phases of apparently continual development of the site with features cutting others, appearing continuous with others. Leading out of the north-eastern corner of the villa compound is a trackway which meets a second double-ditched length of trackway at SU 5325 9301. This track is aligned NW-SE and can be traced for 700m, turning to the NE towards its northern end (TG.381.30.1). Associated with both these lengths of track are rectilinear enclosures which are attached to their side ditches at SU 5314 9297 and SU 5320 9313. The southerly comprises four accreted enclosures, one of which contains a possible hut circle TG.381.24.13 with a diameter of 5m. To the south-east is a third fragmented trackway aligned NW-SE which appears to be heading for the SE corner of the villa compound (TG.381.24.17). To the east and north-east are the fragmented remains of numerous ditches which are thought to be part of an associated field system (TG.381.24.7,18-24 and 38129.1)..

Table C2.3 – Detailed Pastscape Reference to SU 59 SW 99.
(Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

Difficult also to interpret is HER 15310 which contains references to the Appleford Field site to the west, as well as mentioning a Roman villa and associated features such as trackways and enclosures. These may relate to Appleford Sidings rather than to the villa proposed by the Thames Valley Mapping. The reference HER 15310.01 is limited to a comment on a sinuous trackway with an associated large rectangular enclosure.

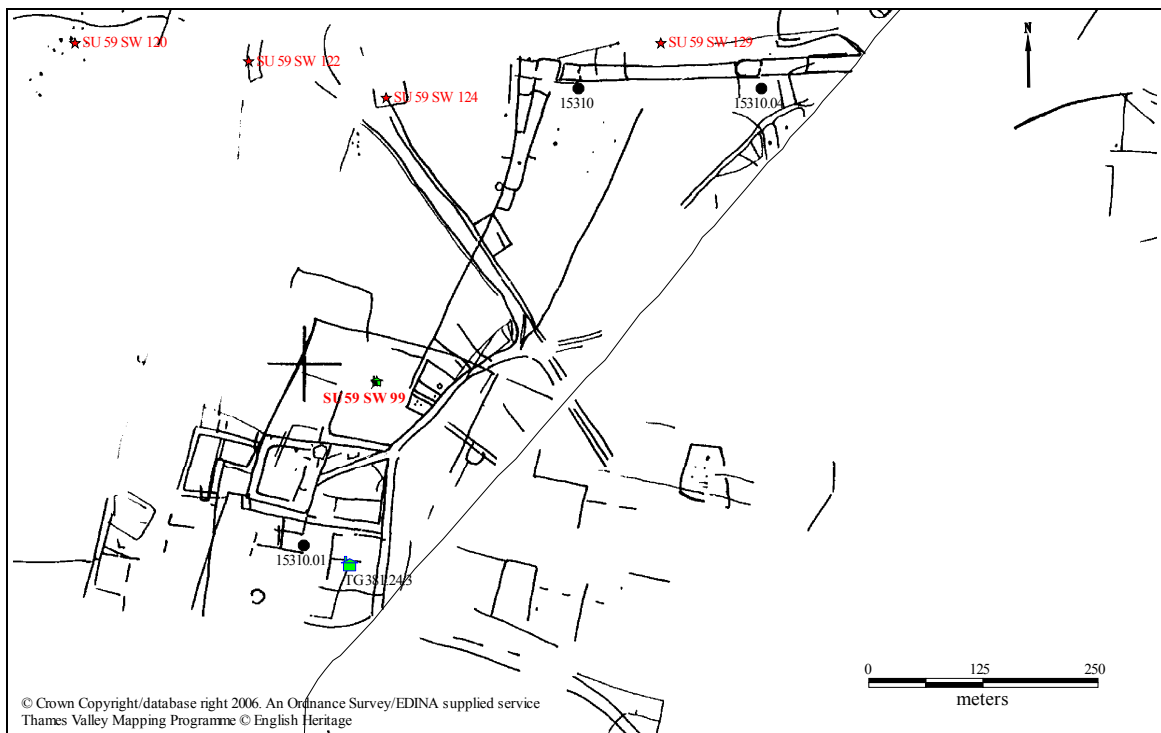
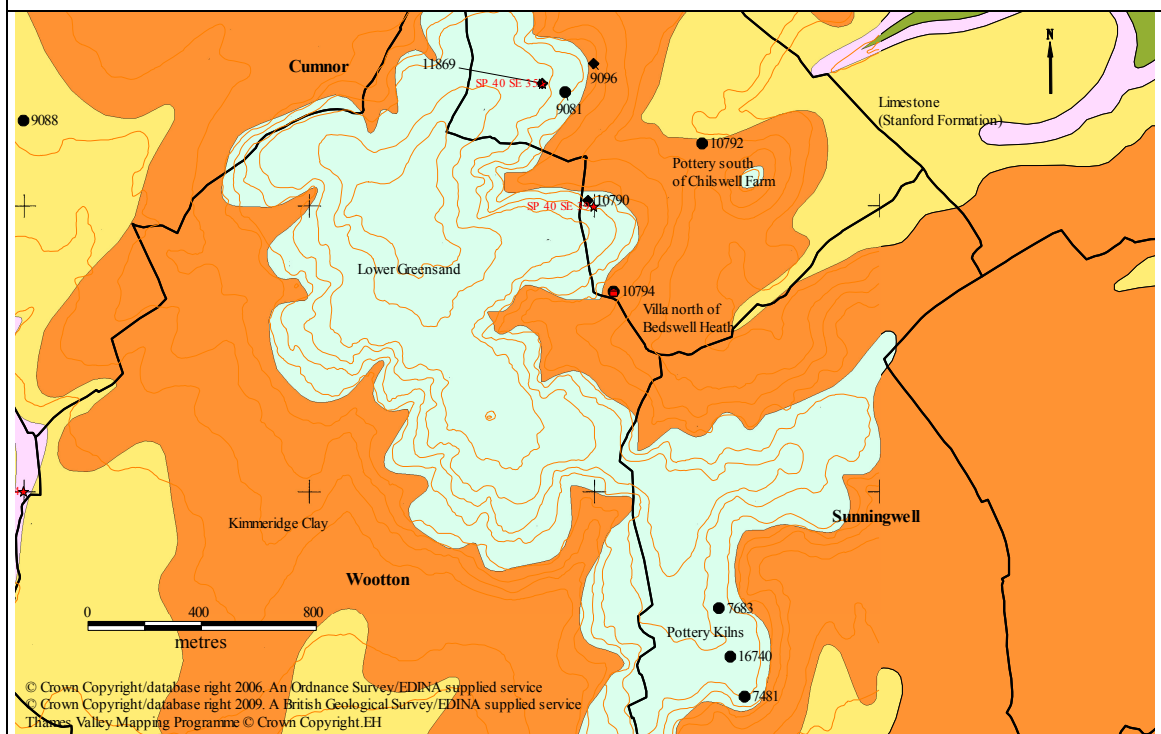
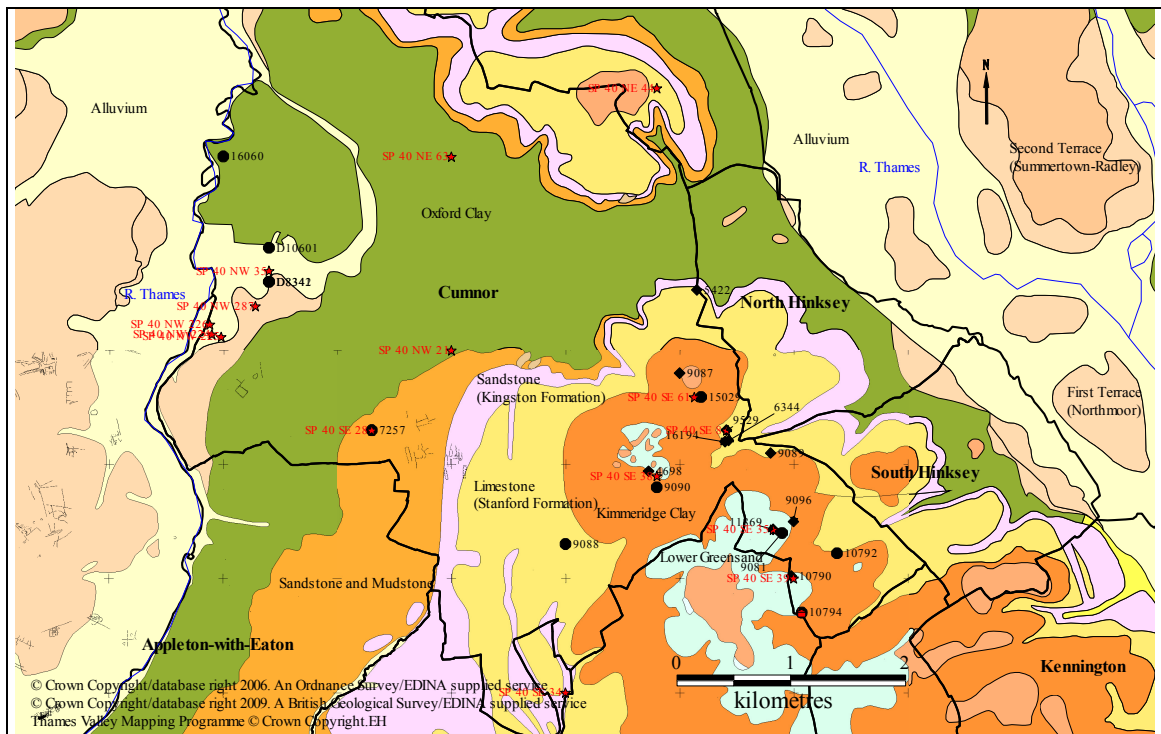


Figure C2.4 – North-east Appleford (HER 15310.01 and NMR SU59 SW 99)



Solid Geology		Drift Geology	
Oxford Clay	Gault Clay	Alluvium	River Terrace Deposits
Clay and Sandstone	Upper Greensand	Clay with Flints	Sand and Gravel of Uncertain Age
Sandstone	Lower Chalk	Hanborough Deposits	Summertown-Radley Terrace
Limestone	Lower Chalk	Head Deposits	Till
Ampthill and Kimmeridge Clay	Middle Chalk	Northmoor Deposits	Wolvercote Terrace
Lower Greensand	Upper Chalk	Peat	

Figure C2.6 – Cumnor

Villa

Two possible Roman roads or trackways have been suggested to cross this range of hills and are illustrated in figure C2.5. East of the river Thames lies the important Oxfordshire pottery industry. Although most of the materials for this pottery would have been sourced locally, Henig and Booth (2000, 166) observe that specific and distinctive grits used in the mortaria came from the Greensand deposits on Boar's Hill. A large number of pottery kilns have been found east of the river Thames but few have been located west of the Thames. However, a cluster of kilns have been discovered south of the possible villa site, in the northern part of Sunningwell (HER 7481, 16740, 7683). The location of these kilns is also indicated on figures C2.5 and C2.6 to the south of the possible villa.

During the Cumnor parish survey undertaken by Oxford University Archaeological Society in 1976-77, a scatter of pottery and building materials spread over a hectare was located on a south-east facing slope to the south of Chilswell Farm. Three specific concentrations were detected and one of these, area C, was selected for excavation as shown in figure C2.7. The two trenches found an *opus signinum* floor above a layer of small stones. On the north and east this was bounded by a stone wall of up to two courses containing yellow mortar (Donald and Crawford 1987, 189). The site has however been badly damaged by ploughing. Over 30 kg of pottery and 130 kg of tile was recovered. It is not clear from the report whether this was from the excavation or the field walking, but it seems more likely this is from both the fieldwalking and excavation. The most dense distribution of tile was in area C although Donald and Crawford (1987, 189) indicate that area A contained six tile tesserae and fragments of roof, floor and flue tiles. The pottery consisted mostly of coarse reduced wares but with some coarse oxidised wares, mortaria and white wares. Samian and black burnished ware were present in very small quantities. The date range appears to cover the late first to fourth centuries AD.

The evidence, although limited, suggests the excavated building is part of a villa and the other concentrations of material may be, perhaps, either the locations of further structures or demolition material. It is not possible to provide any indication of the date or size of the villa, or to what extent the site was used in the Iron Age and prior to the construction of the villa.

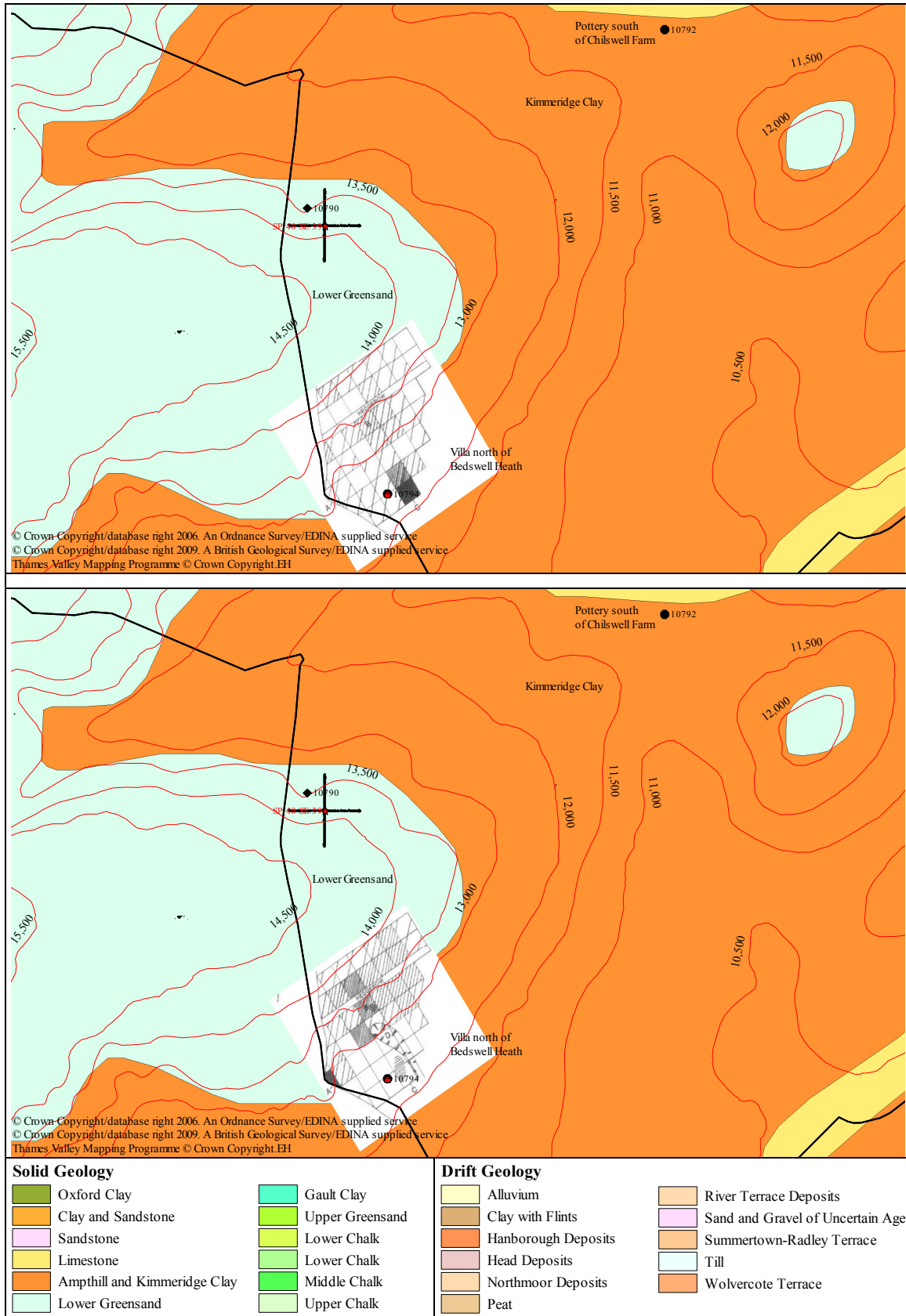


Figure C2.7 – Tile Distribution (Top), Pottery Distribution (Bottom)
 (Part of figure reproduced from Donald and Crawford,
 A Roman Villa at Chilswell Farm, Boars Hill, Oxon. *Oxoniensia*, 51, 1987, 191, Figure 4.)

Villa

C2.5 Didcot

The newly located villa in Didcot (HER 15939) is situated on the Upper Greensand. To the north are Head deposits of clay, sand, silts and gravels overlying the Gault clay of the Vale. The villa lies about six kilometres to the south-east of the possibly contemporary villa at Steventon and about three kilometres south-west of the much earlier villa at Appleford Sidings as illustrated in figure C2.8. The location of the villa on the Upper Greensand is geologically similar to the villas at Woolstone and West Challow.

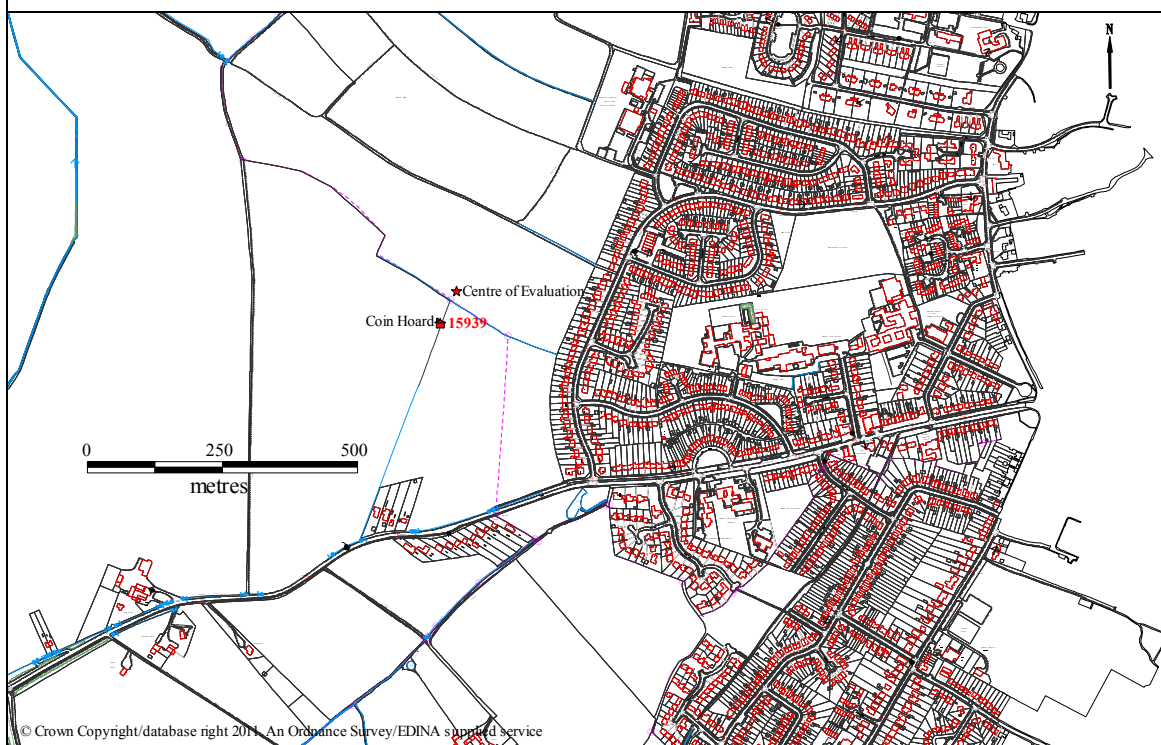
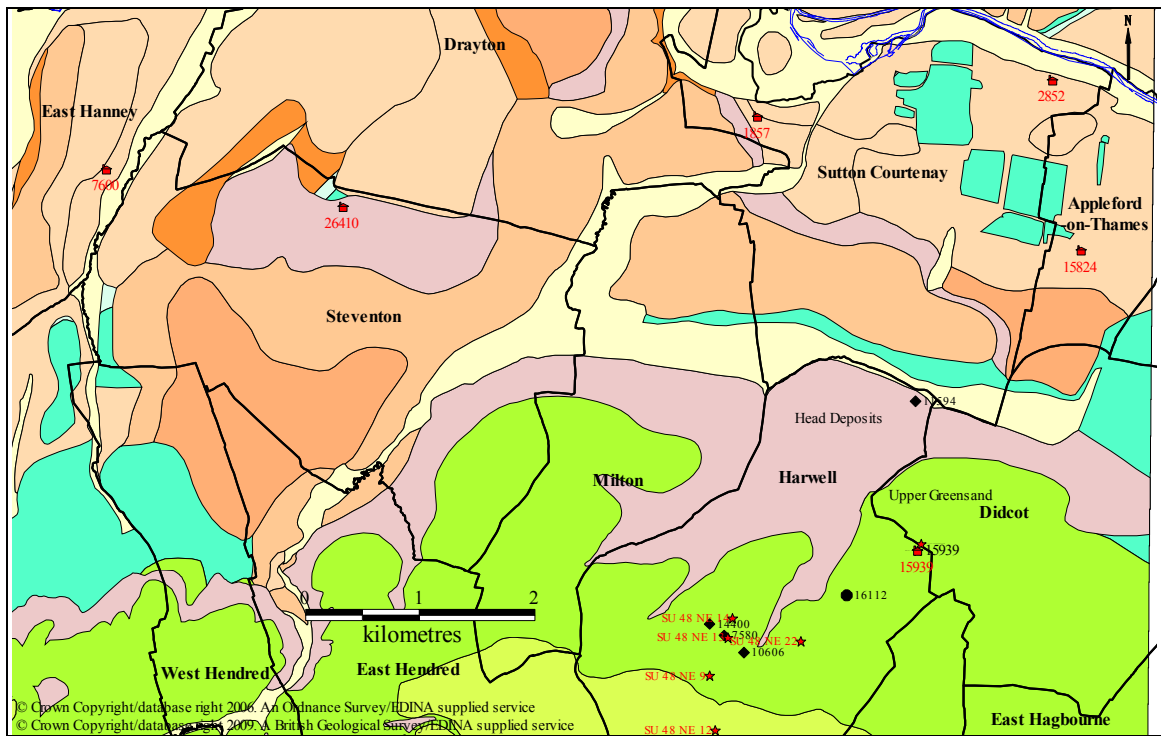
In 1995 a hoard of 126 gold coins dated to around AD 160 were found to the west of Didcot (Bland and Orna-Ornstein 1997a). Subsequently, in 2000, an area of over 14 hectares was evaluated in advance of potential development and to provide a context for the coin hoard (RPS Consultants 2001). The excavation recovered 21 sherds of prehistoric pottery, 783 sherds of Roman pottery and 318 fragments of Roman brick and tile. Five pieces of wall plaster of three different colours were recovered from one context, while plaster attached to wall tiles indicates that the heated walls were painted (RPS Consultants 2001, 34-35). The pottery and coin suggest a mid-third century date for the construction of the villa, which appears to have been a ‘cottage’ villa with a single row of rooms and with a possible passageway (RPS Consultants 2001, 45).

The Roman pottery assemblage is mainly late with only limited amounts of early Roman material. The fine and specialist wares account for 26.8% of the assemblage, which would be extremely unusual for the early Roman period, and many of these wares are known to be later than AD 240 (Booth in RPS Consultants 2001, Appendix 4). This high percentage of fine and specialist wares indicates a high status site and is compatible with an interpretation of the site as a villa.

	Tegula	Imbrex	Box Flue	Flat Tile	Misc. Frag	Brick	Total
Count	36	25	39	69	145	4	318
Weight (g)	4936	4193	4620	6980	2303	1345	24377

**Table C2.4 – Ceramic Building Material at Didcot West
(Booth in RPS Consultants 2001, Appendix 4)**

The coin hoard indicates a wealthy inhabitant in the mid-second century AD, but the villa, as represented by the ceramic building material listed in table C2.4 above, appears to be of the third and fourth century AD. The date of the coin hoard appears to be too late to be associated with the early second century settlement discontinuity, and there is no obvious continuity from any mid or late second century activity to the late Roman villa.



Solid Geology		Drift Geology	
Oxford Clay	Gault Clay	Alluvium	River Terrace Deposits
Clay and Sandstone	Upper Greensand	Clay with Flints	Sand and Gravel of Uncertain Age
Sandstone	Lower Chalk	Hanborough Deposits	Summertown-Radley Terrace
Limestone	Lower Chalk	Head Deposits	Till
Amphill and Kimmeridge Clay	Middle Chalk	Northmoor Deposits	Wolvercote Terrace
Lower Greensand	Upper Chalk	Peat	

Figure C2.8 – Villa in West Didcot (Harwell) (HER 15939)

C2.6 East Hanney

The villa (HER 7600) is situated on the first or Northmoor gravel terrace overlying the clay of the Vale. In 1961 sherds of second and third century Romano-British pottery and other material were found about a mile and a quarter east of East Hanney village (Case and Sturdy 1961, 132). Following the discovery of further Roman material by Wantage District Field Club, a small two-day excavation was undertaken at the end of September 1967 which revealed two floors of limestone slabs and gravel. Pottery extending from the first to the third or fourth centuries was recovered together with one Saxon sherd (Rutland and Thomas 1968). Examination of the material in Reading Museum, obtained from the fieldwalking and excavation undertaken in the 1960s, confirmed the interpretation of a Roman building, with numerous fragments of roofing and hypocaust flue tiles and one small piece of painted wall plaster. In the 1990s an extensive archaeological survey was undertaken in East Hanney in connection with a potential new water reservoir. This survey found further Iron Age and Romano-British material near East Hanney, together with a trackway leading north towards Frilford (Hearne, 2001).

The villa was located in 2006 through fieldwalking (Boyer et al 2007) as a substantial amount of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was present on the surface. The collected material showed a clear distributional pattern as illustrated in figure C2.9. The area with the highest concentration of pottery and CBM appears to be related to a feature visible, in the geophysical survey, to the right of a long linear ditch. This may be the site of a small villa, possibly fifteen metres in length by seven metres wide. The villa is associated with a long linear feature which runs both to the north and south of the villa and is at least 1.6 kilometres in length. To the west of this linear feature are a complex set of rectangular and circular enclosures. Importantly, the villa was investigated as part of the evaluation work for the proposed Thames Water reservoir and seven evaluation trenches were placed in this field (Hall 1994). Of these, trench 1 was positioned to investigate the villa and detected four linear features containing substantial blocks of masonry. In addition, two further linear features were detected to the north which may also represent building foundations. However, the trench provided no evidence for the size of the building or the number of rooms. Although the location of this trench and these features does not quite correspond to the villa location suggested by the geophysical survey and field-walking, this evidence may suggest a number of substantial buildings in this area.

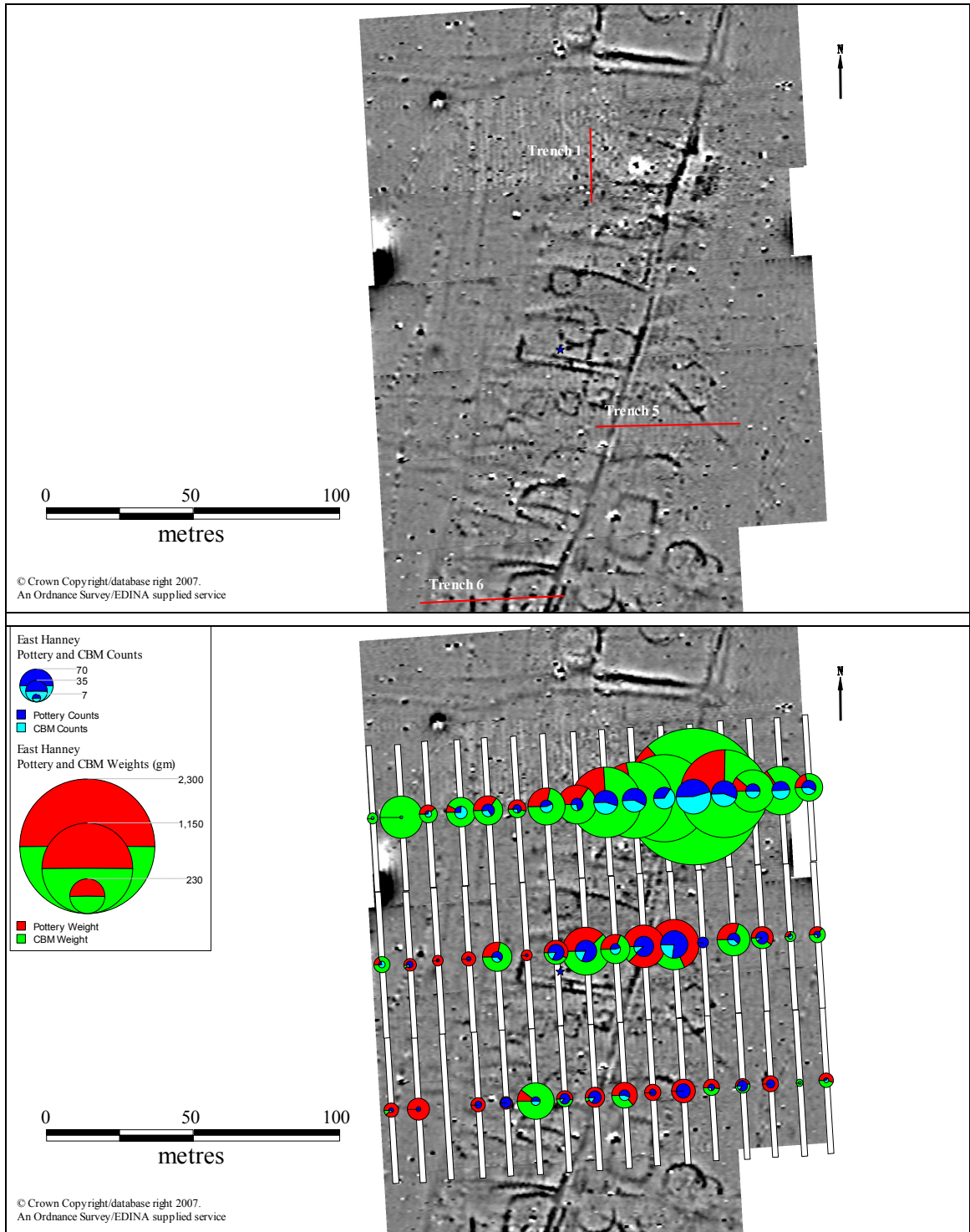


Figure C2.9 – Geophysical Survey and Fieldwalking at East Hanney Villa

The majority of the Romano-British pottery recovered in the excavation trenches was dated to the second century AD to the late third or early fourth century AD (Hall 1994). This does not provide dates for the beginning or end of the villa building itself but does suggest the middle to late Roman period.

C2.7 Frilford

The villa (HER 7115) is located about two kilometres to the north-west of the Romano-British temple site. The site was excavated in 1884 by Arthur Evans in conjunction with Professor Moseley (Evans 1897) and they exposed a “Roman dwelling house” measuring 69.5 feet by 40 feet with twelve rooms and a portico. A projecting hypocaust was situated in the south-east corner and in this room they also found evidence for a simple two-colour tessellated pavement and the majority of the wall-painting fragments. Evans suggested that to the east of this building there had been a gravel yard, and 88 feet to the north-east they located the foundations of another building, of which only two rooms survived. This appeared to be the remains of a hot-water reservoir, possibly for an adjacent bath house. A drain led from this reservoir to a pond about 80 feet to the west.

During 2006 and 2007 fieldwalking and geophysical survey in Ham Field located the villa and a range of other features as illustrated in figure C2.10. Seven 100 metre transects were walked over the site of the villa yielding 73 Roman and prehistoric pottery sherds together with 284 pieces of ceramic building material (Boyer 2006, 38). In particular, it is the ceramic building material, including tegulae, imbrices and flue tiles, which confirms the location of the villa. The geophysical survey revealed at least three distinct sets of archaeological features. In the south is a set of small fields with trackways leading south and east, and to the west is a large funnel-shaped entrance. In contrast, the central area contains a number of oval shaped ditched enclosures. The villa excavated by Evans is situated in the western enclosure. Finally, in the north of the field are a number of large rectangular fields with some smaller, circular features. The latter may represent gullies around roundhouses.

The geophysical survey failed to identify the features excavated and described by Evans. Instead, the survey demonstrates that the archaeological features in the immediate vicinity of the villa and in the surrounding fields are much more complicated than Evans realised. The villa is situated in the south-east of a ditched enclosure with a further ditched enclosure to the south-east. Crop marks extend into the field on the west and also into the field to the north of the A415 as seen on figure C2.10. It is probable that these enclosures represent settlement sites and not just stock enclosures. Five circular features which may represent the foundation trenches or drip gullies of roundhouses can be

identified in figure C2.11. One such circular feature lies between two oval enclosures and the remaining four are situated in a rectangular field system at the north of the field. Four have diameters of about 12 metres and one has a diameter of 14 metres and all could date to either the Iron Age or Roman period.

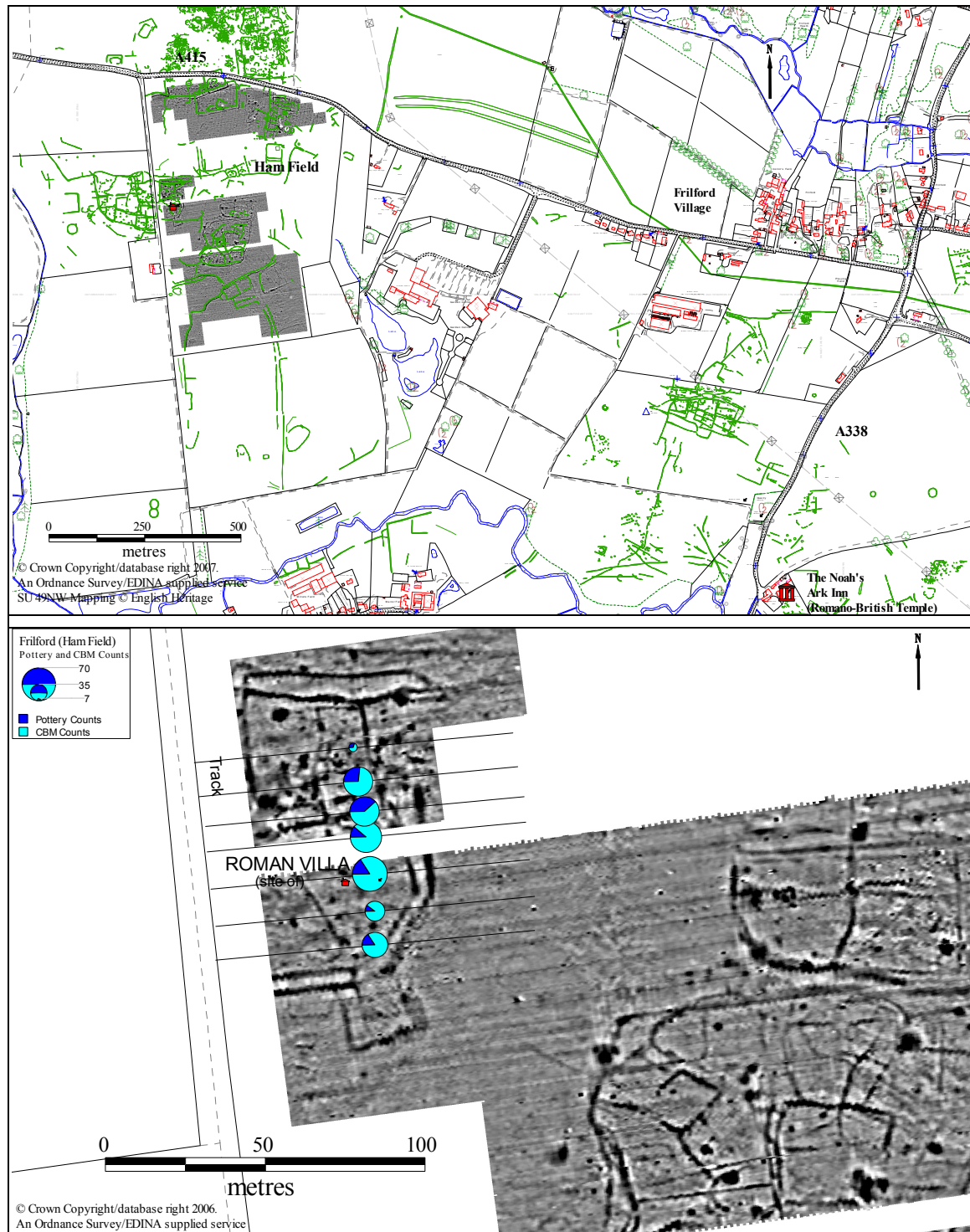
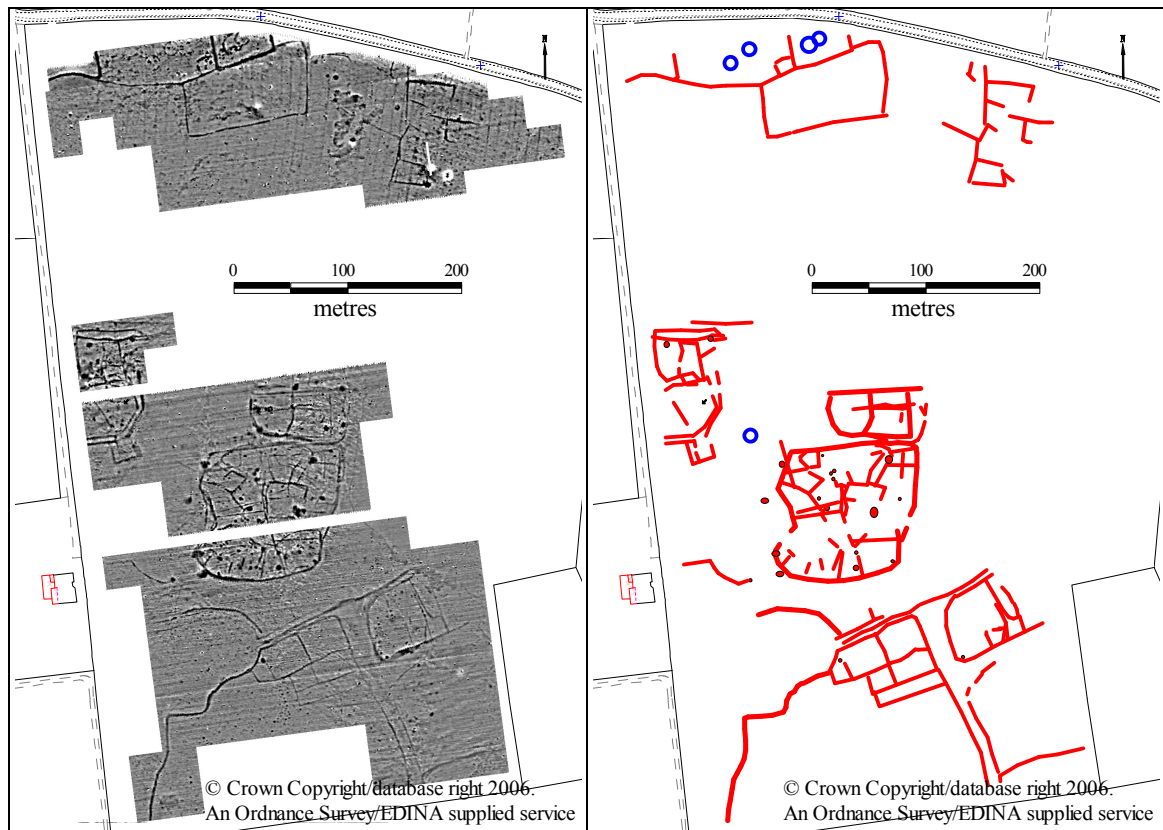


Figure C2.10 – Geophysical Survey and Fieldwalking at the Frilford Villa Ham Field (Top) – Detail of Villa Site (Bottom)

■ Villa



**Figure C2.11 – Ham Field: Aerial Survey Mapping and Geophysical Survey (Top)
Geophysical Survey and Interpretation (Bottom)**

The recent aerial photographic mapping has identified many more such circular features north of the A415 together with dense clusters of pits (HER 12266). This is perhaps more representative of an Iron Age occupation site but may well extend into and through the Roman period.

The villa lies in an area of considerable Iron Age and Romano-British activity. The pottery evidence uncovered by Evans and the recent fieldwalking dates from the first to fourth century AD. Four of the five coins discovered by Evans (1897, 351) are from the fourth century while the fifth is a coin of Trajan in the early second century. This makes it difficult to date the villa. Evans suggested it was probably contemporary with the third and fourth century AD cemetery to the east, which would also make it contemporary with the final phase of Barton Court Farm.

C2.8 Garford

The villa (HER 12136) is situated less than a kilometre to the south of the Romano-British temple site at Frilford. Arthur Evans described Roman material south of the River Ock when he recorded surface finds of pottery and other material extending south-east from the Noah's Ark Inn and beyond an old ford across the Ock to Blackington Copse (Evans 1897, 342). The villa was discovered by Hingley (1979, 128) from an analysis of aerial photographs and lies close to a small wood, but much further west than Blackington Copse: it is possible Evans has applied the wrong name to the wood. The villa is situated in an area of extensive crop marks suggestive of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and enclosures as illustrated in figure C2.14.

The villa is very small and of unusual shape. A drawing of it was published by Miles (1982, 73). It has subsequently been mapped as part of the Abingdon Reservoir proposal and has recently been investigated by magnetic and resistive surveys. The mapping and surveys have largely confirmed Miles's original interpretation but the resistive survey is perhaps best for estimating its size as seen in figures C2.12 and C2.13.

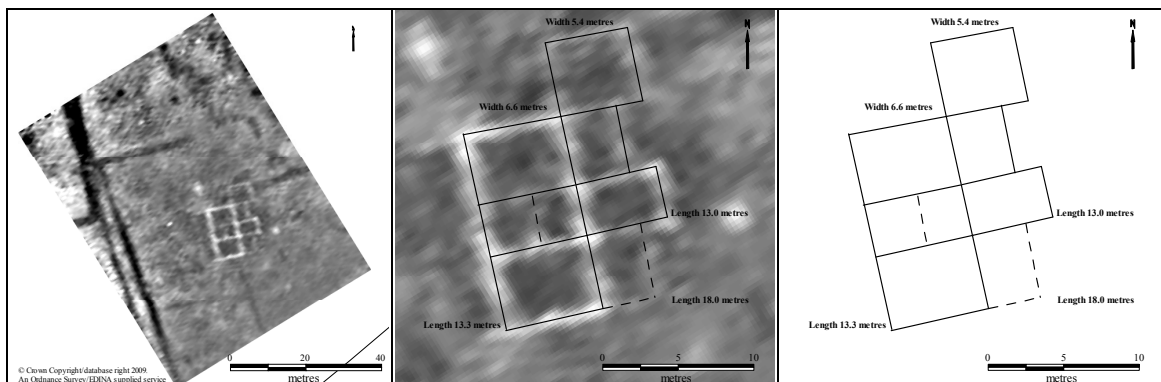


Figure C2.12 – Garford Villa (Resistivity Survey and Interpretation)



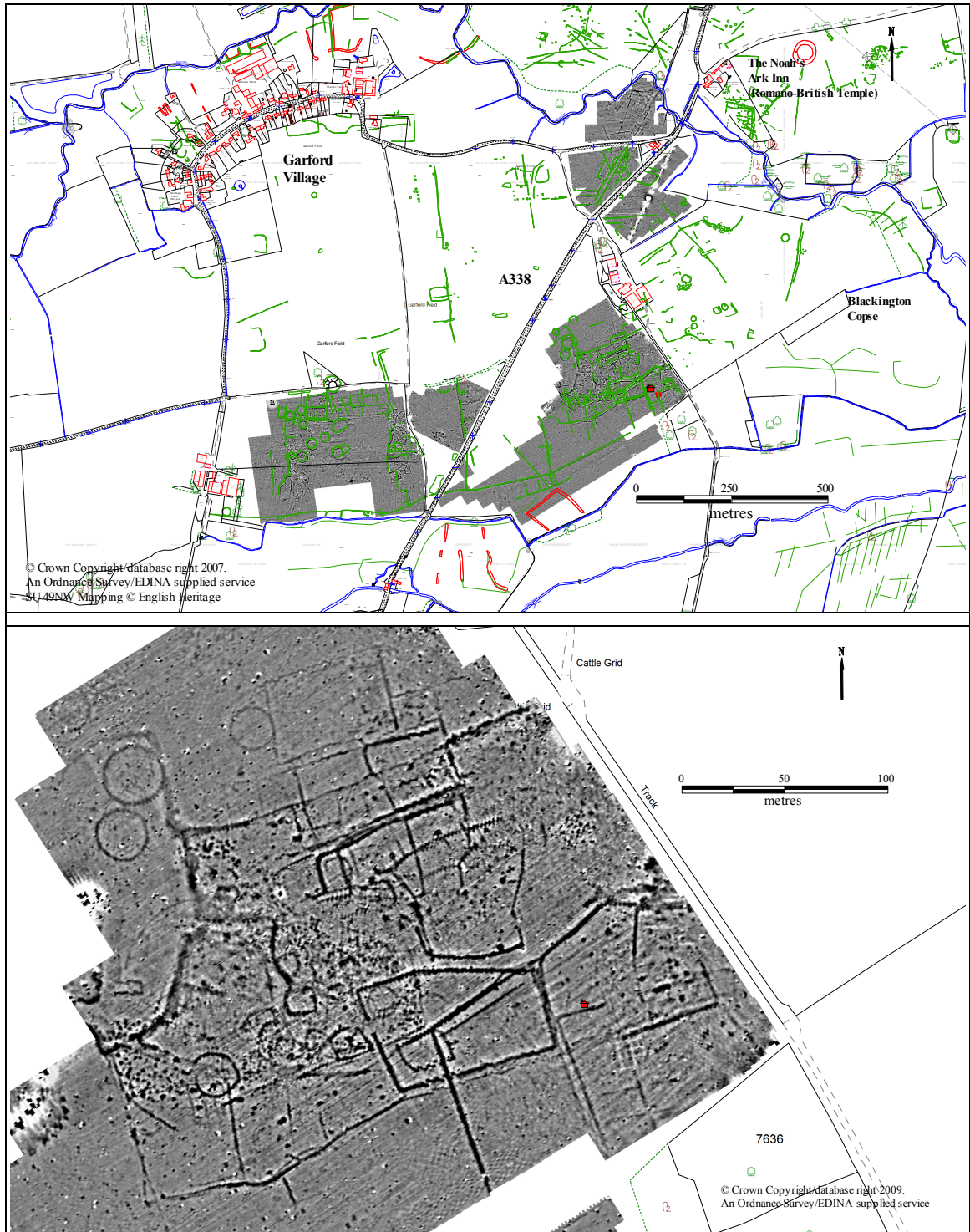
Figure C2.13 – Garford Villa (Resistivity Survey, Cropmarks and Interpretation)
Comparison with Abingdon Reservoir Proposal Aerial Photographic Mapping

The villa appears to consist of a rectangle measuring 13.3 metres by 6 metres on its western side and containing three rooms. The rectangle is very clearly defined in the resistive survey. To its east is a less symmetric structure consisting of two rooms in the north-east and centre-east and which may be linked by a corridor. The mapping from the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal suggests this corridor continues to the south-east corner and there is some support for this from the resistive survey.

The building would be symmetric if there was a room in the south-east to match that in the north-east. There is, perhaps, the merest hint of a south-eastern room in the resistive survey but this is not confirmed in either the magnetic survey or the aerial mapping. The resistive survey also indicates that the foundations of the eastern rooms and corridors are less resistive than the main rectangle. This may indicate there is more masonry surviving for the western rectangle than the eastern rooms, which may be due to deeper foundations. Possible explanations are that the western and eastern halves are not of the same date, or that the western portion contained an upper storey.

Figure C2.14 demonstrates that the villa is located beside numerous ditches outlining enclosures of various sizes and shapes. Nevertheless, it is difficult to identify that the villa sits within a ditched enclosure. Indeed one ditch appears to pass through the villa and it is not clear whether the ditch predates the villa or vice-versa.

The pottery collected during fieldwalking, as discussed in Chapter 5, ranges from the Iron Age and through the Roman period. As at Frilford, the area was occupied before the construction of the villa, and without excavation it is difficult to date the villa. The most probable date is the third and fourth centuries AD, largely contemporary with Frilford and Barton Court Farm.



**Figure C2.14 – Geophysical Survey at Garford Villa
Villa Area (Top) – Detail of Villa Site (Bottom)**

■ Villa

C2.9 Kingston Bagpuize

The HER list only one possible villa site in Kingston Bagpuize: HER 10604 but the NMR suggests two: SU49 NW 43 (HER 10604) and SU39 NE 37 (HER 15616). An archaeological survey of Kingston Bagpuize (excluding Southmoor) in the late 1970s, based on fieldwalking and aerial photographic analysis, identified two Iron Age sites and five Romano-British sites (Cowell and Miles 1980). Three of these are potential villa locations based on the presence of ceramic building material and are listed in table C2.5.

Site	Description	HER	NMR
7 (RB)	Kingston Hill Farm	10604	SU49 NW 43
8 (RB)	Pottery and some CBM	12485	SU49 NW 46
9 (RB)	Romanised building CBM and pottery	12484	SU49 NW 47

Table C2.5 – Potential Villa Sites in Kingston Bagpuize

Kingston Bagpuize was discussed by Miles (1982a) who felt there was evidence for two villas. Based on table C2.5 these are probably 10604 and 12484. Somewhat confusingly however, in his Appendix 1 he lists only one villa in Kingston Bagpuize with a grid reference for a position in Southmoor (1982a, 71) and this forms the basis of HER 15616 (site of probable Romano-British villa or building) and NMR SU39 NE 37 (cropmark of a Roman villa). There is no further evidence for such a villa and the Thames Valley Mapping Programme has not mapped any cropmarks in this area as shown in figure C2.15.

Of more relevance is the important site at Kingston Hill Farm (HER 10604). Although no villa has been found much circumstantial evidence has accumulated through a number of interventions and excavations. The excavation of a water pipe trench in 1975 led to the discovery of Roman pottery and bones about 40 metres south of the farm buildings. This led to a small excavation by the Oxford Archaeological Unit which revealed a mortar floor and a spread of stones (Parrington 1977). Also recovered were several hundred sherds of mostly unstratified pottery, the majority of which were greyware but with some sherds of Oxfordshire colour coat, and which date from the first to the fourth century. In addition, the finds included two tesserae, several fragments of Roman tile and a coin. An unusual component of the finds was 46 incomplete cattle horn cores representing at least 24 animals. As the majority of these horns were from males it was suggested the animals were draft animals working arable land.

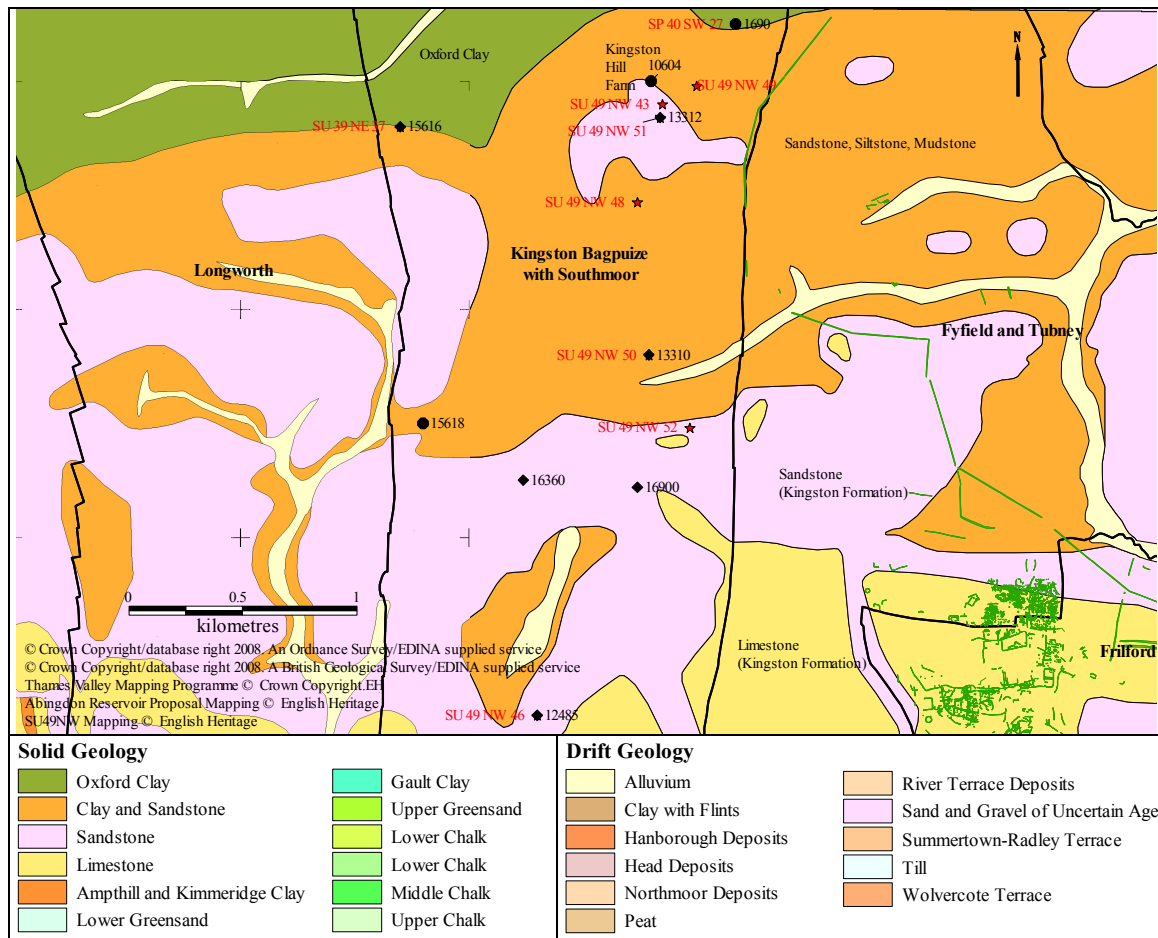


Figure C2.15 – Villas in Kingston Bagpuize

The construction of a further water pipe in the late 1970s uncovered pottery dating to the first half of the first century AD. To the north of this, pottery dating to the third and fourth century AD was recovered from a ditch during the excavation of a slurry lagoon. Further third and fourth century AD pottery was found in the spoil heap and in an occupation layer within the lagoon (Cowell 1979). More recently, construction work to the north of the existing farm buildings uncovered a cemetery, containing at least 20 burials, both cremations and inhumations, and which may be related to the presumed Roman settlement. Pottery dating from the first to fourth century AD was also found (Moore 2001).

Taken together, this evidence suggests the presence of a villa somewhere near or under the current farm buildings. There is also the strong suggestion of continuity from the middle Iron Age, through the late Iron Age and Roman periods and into the early Anglo-Saxon period. It is, however, not possible to make any statement about the size of the villa or its date.

C2.10 Kingston Lisle

To the east of Woolstone, close to the boundary between the Gault clay and upper greensand and adjacent to the source of a small stream, is the site of a possible villa at Fawler, Kingston Lisle. As at Woolstone and West Challow, the site is just to the north of the Icknield Way.

Appendix 2 of Hooke (1988) contains a brief report by I. Hornbrook, L. Green and M. Mellor on the finds collected at Fawler by the site's owner, Mr J.I.M. Stewart. These finds include almost equal quantities of Romano-British and medieval wares of which the Roman material is largely coarse reduced wares of local origin representing jars and bowls of various types. Perhaps most relevant are thirteen shaped tesserae representing part of a paved floor and one piece of flue tile. This description closely resembles that of HER PRN 9000 but no information is given on sherd count or assemblage weight. It is not mentioned whether the tesserae were of tile, or of different materials and colour. This collection now appears to be lost.

The evidence for a Roman villa is considered too marginal by the HER.

C2.11 Radley (Barton Court Farm)

The best researched villa in the Vale is Barton Court Farm (HER D15269.04, SU 59 NW 39), two kilometres north-east of Abingdon (Miles 1986). The site lies on the edge of the second, Summertown/Radley, gravel terrace as illustrated in figure C2.16. From this terrace the land descends southwards to the Kimmeridge clay. The villa sits within a series of ditched enclosures mapped by the Thames Valley Mapping Programme. Excavation has demonstrated three phases of occupation with the first enclosure dating to the late Iron Age. This first enclosure had sides varying in length from 61 metres to 76 metres defining an area of 0.35 hectares. Inside were further smaller enclosures, pits and postholes (Miles 1986, 4-8). The pottery dates this phase to the first half of the first century AD but apart from the pottery the finds assemblage was small. This Iron Age occupation appears to have been brief as the ditches had silted up by the beginning of the early Romano-British period.

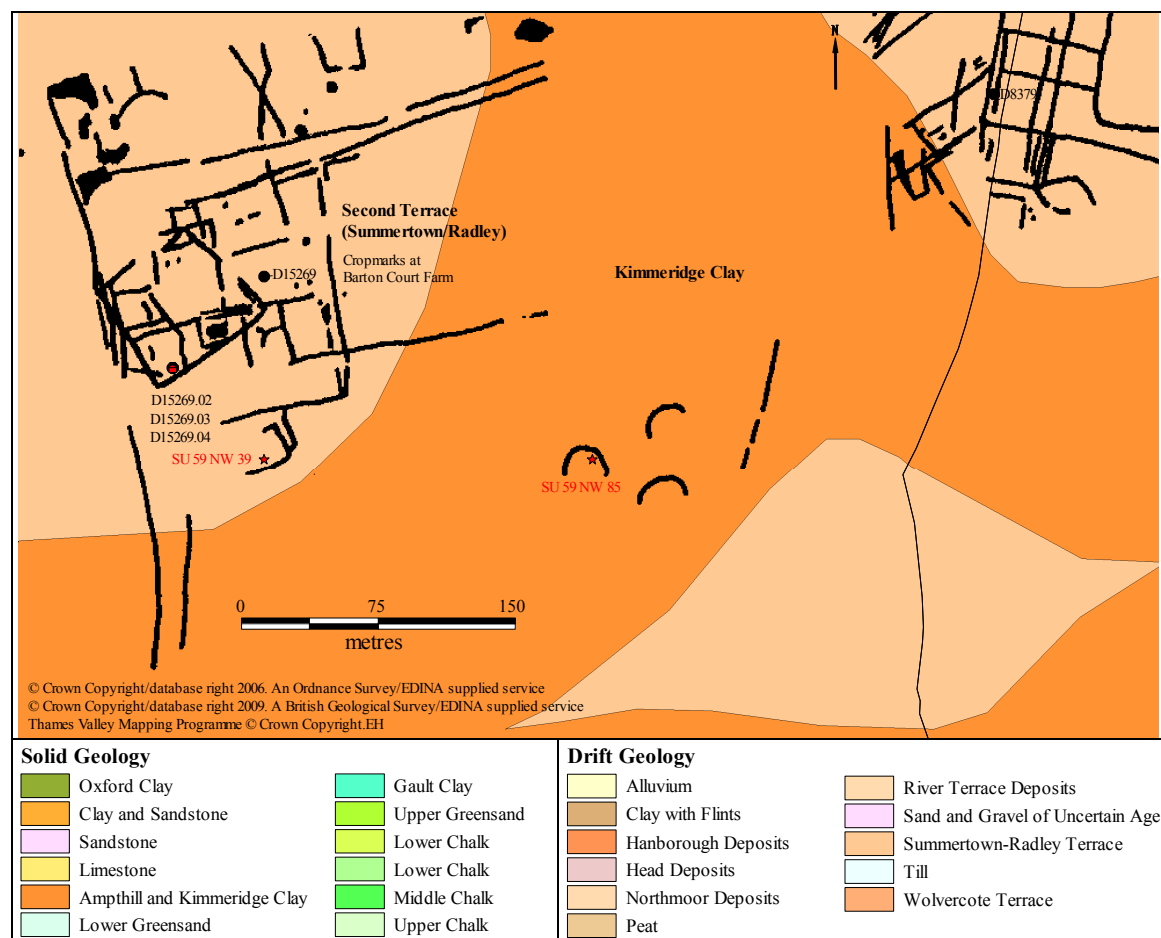


Figure C2.16 – Barton Court Farm

Villa

Possibly as early as the second half of the first century, a trapezoidal ditched enclosure was laid out on a new alignment over the earlier settlement. These new ditches measured 95 metres by 52 metres to enclose about 0.43 hectares, divided into two sections by two offset east-west ditches. In the southern section a rectangular structure measuring 8.5 metres by about 30 metres was uncovered and appears to have been a substantial timber building with plastered walls. As no tiles were found from this period Miles (1986, 9) suggests it was thatched. Associated with this phase were substantial amounts of pottery, most of it local wares but with small amounts of Samian. As with the earlier Iron Age occupation, the occupation in the early Romano-British period appears to have been brief and may have been finished by the mid second century AD.

Occupation on the site resumed in or by the fourth century. At this time a farmhouse or ‘cottage villa’ was constructed measuring 10 metres by 25 metres and aligned north-south. The building contained eight ground floor rooms and a cellar and was positioned within a ditched enclosure measuring 41 metres by 31 metres in extent. Beyond this lay a regular grid of ditched fields and yards covering 1.4 hectares (Miles 1986, 12-15). A second building, located about 35 metres east of the villa, was a two roomed cottage about 13.5 metres long and 7.5 metres wide. Miles suggests it was built at the same time the field system was laid out, probably in the mid to late fourth century and continued in use until the second quarter of the fifth century. This latter date is suggested by a hoard of worn late fourth century coins found within the building. During the fifth century the villa appears to have been systematically demolished and the stone robbed, possibly to construct another building elsewhere.

HER PRN	Site Name	Monument Types
D15269	Neolithic to Anglo Saxon Settlement (Barton Court Farm)	Settlement
D15269.03	Iron Age Farmstead at Barton Court Farm	Inhumation, enclosure, pit,
D15269.04	Romano-British Villa Complex at Barton Court Farm.	Corn drying oven, villa, inhumation, well, drove road, mosaic, enclosure, blacksmiths workshop
NMR Number	Description	
SU 59 NW 39	Barton Court Farm - A multiperiod settlement complex identified from cropmark evidence and excavation near Barton Court Farm. The earliest identifiable cropmark comprises a subrectangular enclosure measuring 65 metres by 70 metres. Excavations uncovered a settlement dating from the first century BC-first century AD. Also present was a 3rd-4th century Roman villa with associated buildings situated within a rectangular compound 125 metres by 145 metres. The ditched compound was visible as a cropmark. A Saxon settlement of grubenhauer and inhumations were also recovered.	

Table C2.6 – HER and NMR Entries for Barton Court Farm
(HER Source: Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record)
(NMR Source: www.pastscape.org – © Copyright and database rights Historic England)

C2.12 Stanford-in-the-Vale

There appear to be two villas in the north-west of Stanford-in-the-Vale: at Bowling Green Farm (HER 9237) and south of the Frogmore Brook (HER 12754). Both lie within the area covered by the Thames Valley Mapping Programme but although cropmarks are shown north of the Frogmore Brook in Hatford parish, none are mapped south of the brook as illustrated in figure C2.17. This may have been a policy decision within the Mapping Programme rather than an actual lack of cropmarks as Fenner (1994, 26) comments that, “sites such as the probable villas at Great Lemhill Farm, close to Roughground Farm, and at Bowling Green Farm near Stanford-in-the-Vale both lie within the project area but have not been transcribed from aerial photographs”.

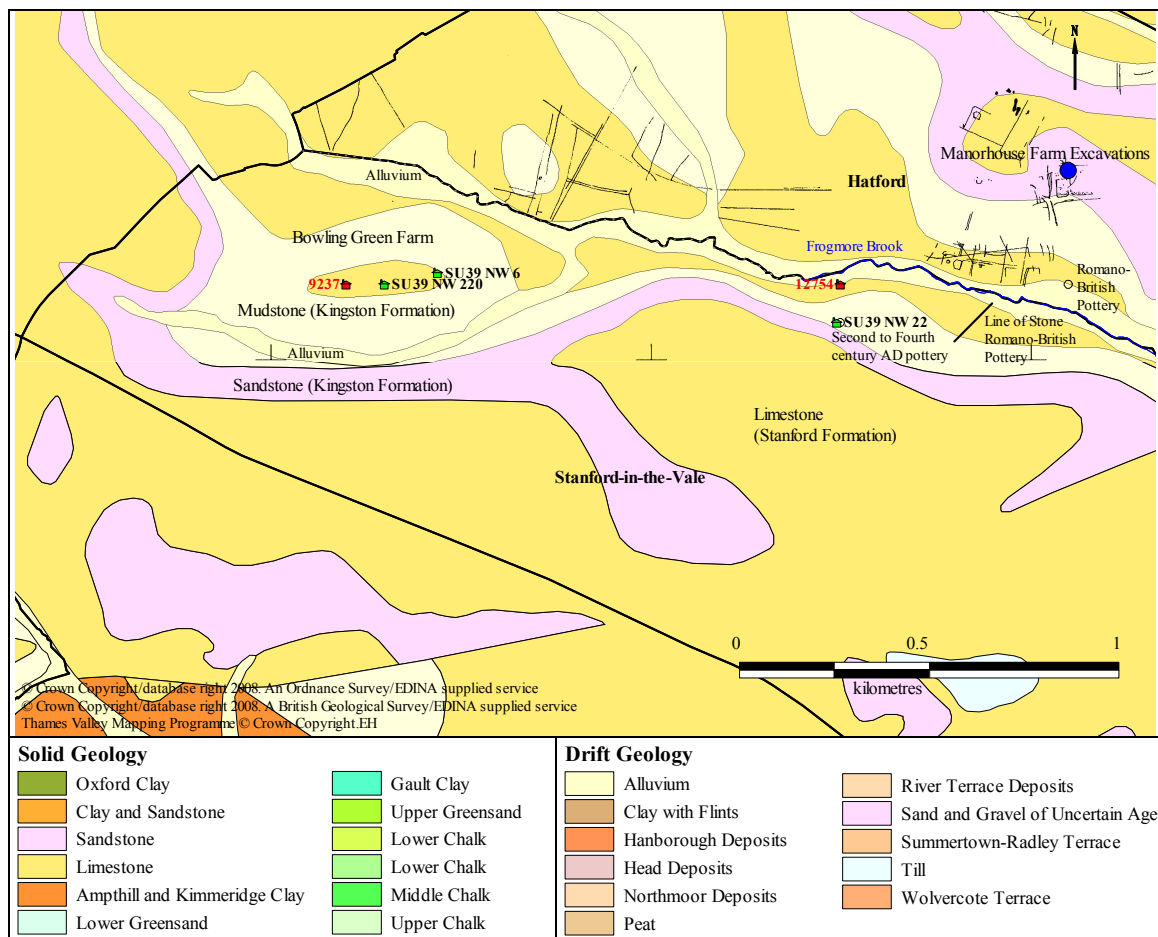


Figure C2.17 – Villas in Stanford-in-the-Vale

Villa

Little is known of the potential villa near the Frogmore Brook where two sites were discovered by fieldwalking in the 1970s. Found at the first was a large quantity of pottery, dating from the second to fourth centuries AD, tiles and a dressed stone with a mortared surface. This site is interpreted by Miles (1982a, 63-64) as a villa with an

extensive “native” settlement further up the slope westwards towards Bowling Green Farm. However, nothing more is known of the villa. To the east, Romano-British pottery was located within a line of stone detected in the plough soil (Faringdon Archaeological Study Group 1977, 34-35).

More is known of the villa and settlement at Bowling Green Farm. Field survey had previously indicated an extensive Romano-British settlement covering some twelve hectares between Bowling Green Farm and the possible villa at Frogmore Brook (Miles 1982a; Chambers 1988). Part of the western end of this settlement was excavated in advance of quarrying and a late third and fourth century AD settlement overlying late Iron Age and/or early Romano-British farms was exposed. The large number of building foundations, cobbled surfaces, paths, kilns and hearths led Chambers (1988) to suggest the presence of craftsmen and traders operating in a small market town. Further limited excavation in 1992 uncovered additional spreads of rubble and cobbled surfaces (Mudd 1993). Deposits of domestic rubbish suggest the settlement may have been in decline by the end of the fourth century AD.

This late Roman small town seems to have been aligned on an earlier villa located within a ditched enclosure. Material recovered from the enclosure ditch included pottery from the second century AD together with wall plaster. Lower quality buildings had replaced the villa by the fourth century (Chambers 1989). There are no published plans of the villa so its size and orientation are unknown. A probable date range is the second and/or third century AD with abandonment prior to the fourth century AD.

C2.13 Steventon

The newly located villa in Steventon at Site 419 (HER 26410) lies about two kilometres to the east of the possibly contemporary villa at East Hanney and to the south of a band of crop marks at Site 402 as illustrated in figure C2.18. It is situated on Head deposits of clay, sand, silts and gravels which overlie the Gault clay of the Vale. The solid geology to the north-west consists of a narrow band of Lower Greensand with Kimmeridge clay beyond.

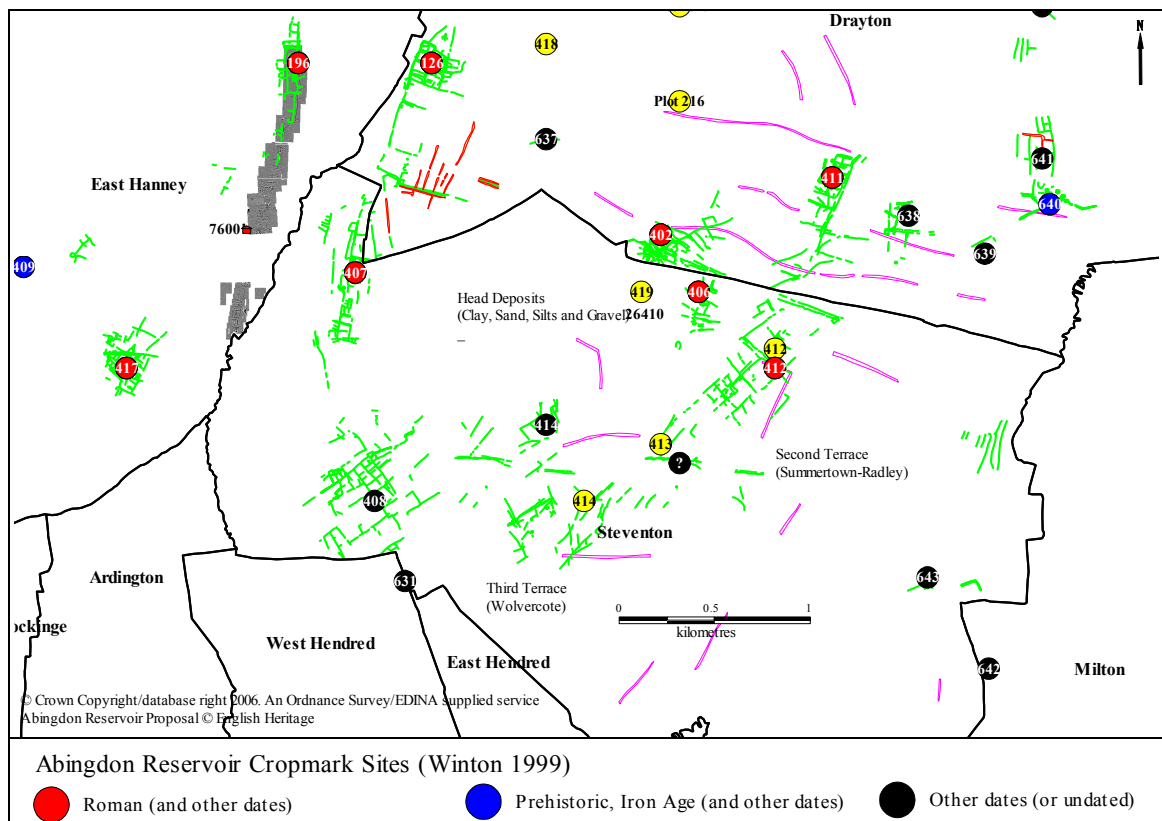


Figure C2.18 – Site 419 in Steventon

Site 419 was initially detected as an area of cropmarks and was subsequently investigated as part of the Abingdon Reservoir Proposal through geophysical survey and five evaluation trenches (Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007). The pottery recovered, which consisted of 350 sherds weighing over 5.4 kg, contained some middle Roman material but was primarily of late Roman date. The early Roman pottery, mainly greyware jars but with residual Samian in later contexts, suggests a small, low status settlement with some trading contacts. The middle and later Roman pottery, forming the majority of the assemblage, is dominated by greyware jars but contains a substantial element of dishes and mortaria, including Oxfordshire wares. Regional trade contact is attested through the

presence of Dorset black burnished ware, Nene Valley colour coated wares and some Savernake wares (Stansbie in Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007, Appendix 3). All this indicates a higher status settlement and is compatible with the view of a villa site.

The ceramic building material recovered is summarised in table C2.7 and included tegulae, imbrices, box and flue tiles. The assemblage is dominated by roof tile: the almost equal numbers of tegulae and imbrices suggest they were being used for roofing. Box and wall tile occurred in only small amounts but indicate heated rooms. Poole (in Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007, Appendix 4) suggests the wall tile has an early to mid Roman date, and the box tile indicates rebuilding and improvements in the later Roman period. The only piece of tessera found was of a size for a plain tessellated floor or mosaic border. With no evidence for a mosaic, the building most likely possessed only plain floors. The variety of building material suggests a villa of moderately high status, which may have had an associated bath suite (Poole in Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007, Appendix 4).

	Tegula	Imbrex	Box Flue	Wall Tile	Brick	Tessera	Flat	Total
Count	22	21	2	2	2	1	46	96
Weight (g)	3648	1897	300	520	342	14	2364	9085

**Table C2.7 – Ceramic Building Material at Site 419 in Steventon
(Poole in Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007, Appendix 4)**

However, by the nature of the evaluation, there is no indication of the size and orientation of the villa. Nevertheless, the area of the villa building, possible related structures and compound, is probably defined by the mapped cropmarks and geophysical survey anomalies (Cascade Consulting/LUC 2007).

C2.14 Sutton Courtenay

Sutton Courtenay may contain two villas: in the west of the parish excavations have been undertaken at Dropshort villa (HER 1857, NMR SU49 SE 2) while further east is a possible villa site at Penn Copse (HER 2852, NMR SU59 SW 30). Their locations on the first or Northmoor terrace are shown in figure C2.19.

Dropshort villa was discovered in 1962 when two tessellated floors were revealed together with tiles and pottery (Reading Museum 1962, 118). A subsequent limited excavation in 1966 revealed part of one or more buildings, possibly of different dates (Wilson and Wright 1967, 198). The ten coins dated from the first to late fourth century AD, with five from the mid-fourth century. Investigation of the written archive in Reading Museum confirms that the original 1962 discovery consisted of a pavement measuring three feet by six feet containing 1 inch square bricks set within a stone surround, with a circular, patterned mosaic a few yards away. Initially four, and later twelve, excavation trenches measuring ten by twenty-two feet were opened. Several of these were later enlarged and combined to produce eight trenches of irregular shape. Trenches 2 to 6 were excavated until the building levels were reached, but trenches 8 to 12 were only partially cleared and much of the destruction debris remained. Trench 2 corresponded to the initial 1962 discovery of the floors.

The remains of stone built walls were located in trenches 2, 5, 6 and 12 with possible footings in 8. These remaining foundations together with the traces of robber trenches enable four rooms to be identified, although it is not clear they all belong to the same building or phase. In addition, a square room or building of probable wooden construction was excavated in trench 4. Further remains, ditches and/or robbed out walls were observed in trenches 3 and 8 to 12. Only trenches 2 and 8 had significant quantities of tesserae so decorated floors may have been limited to these areas of the building. Evidence of decoration and elaboration is provided by finds of window glass and at least three wall plasters. However, due to the incomplete excavations and recording the evidence for the overall plan and phasing of the villa is inconclusive.²

² Summary based on excavation record of G. Thomas and subsequent analysis by Grace Scrimgeor of Oxford Archaeology in the 1980s.

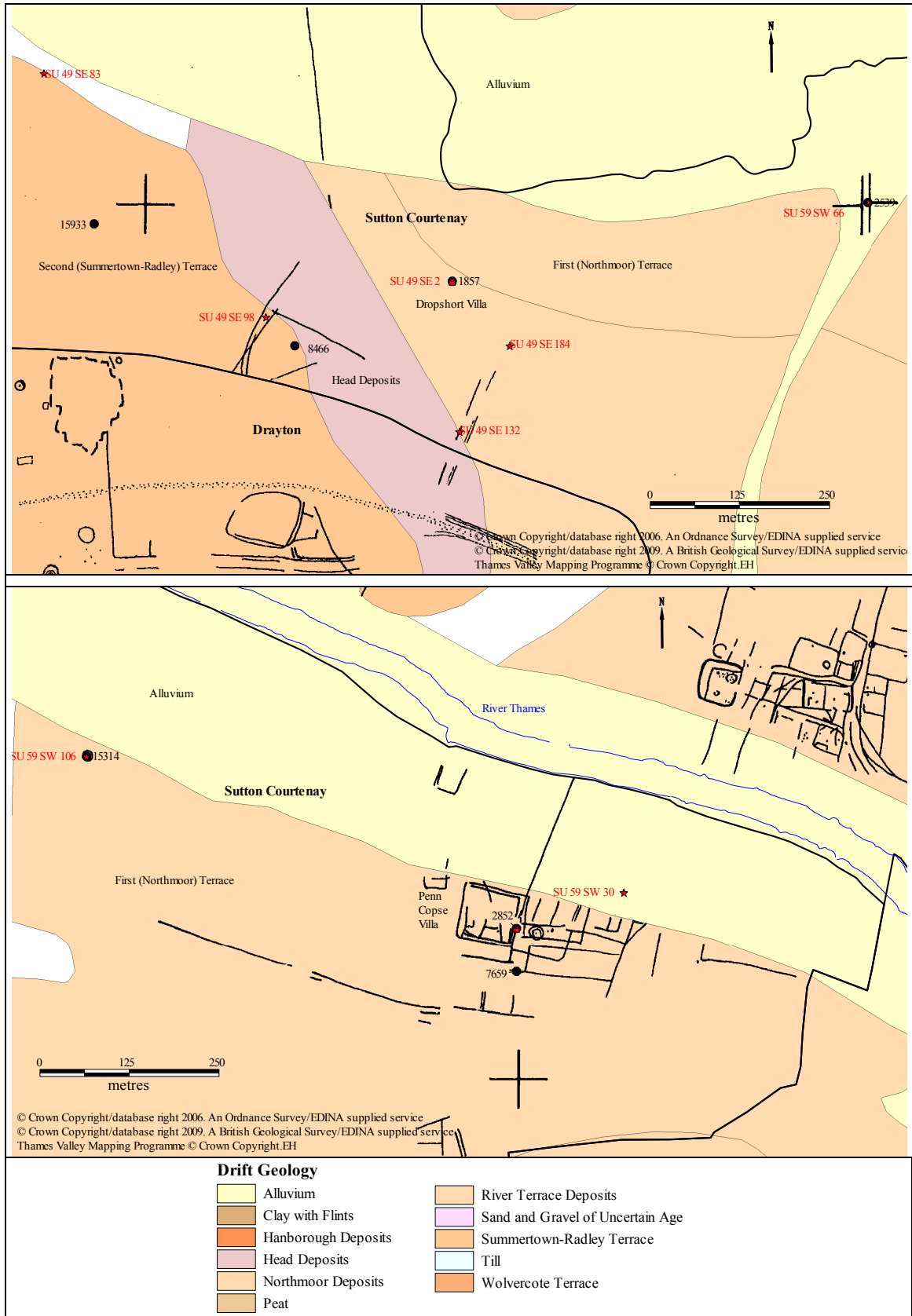


Figure C2.19 – Villas in Sutton Courtenay Dropshort (Top), Penn Copse (Bottom)

🏠 Villa

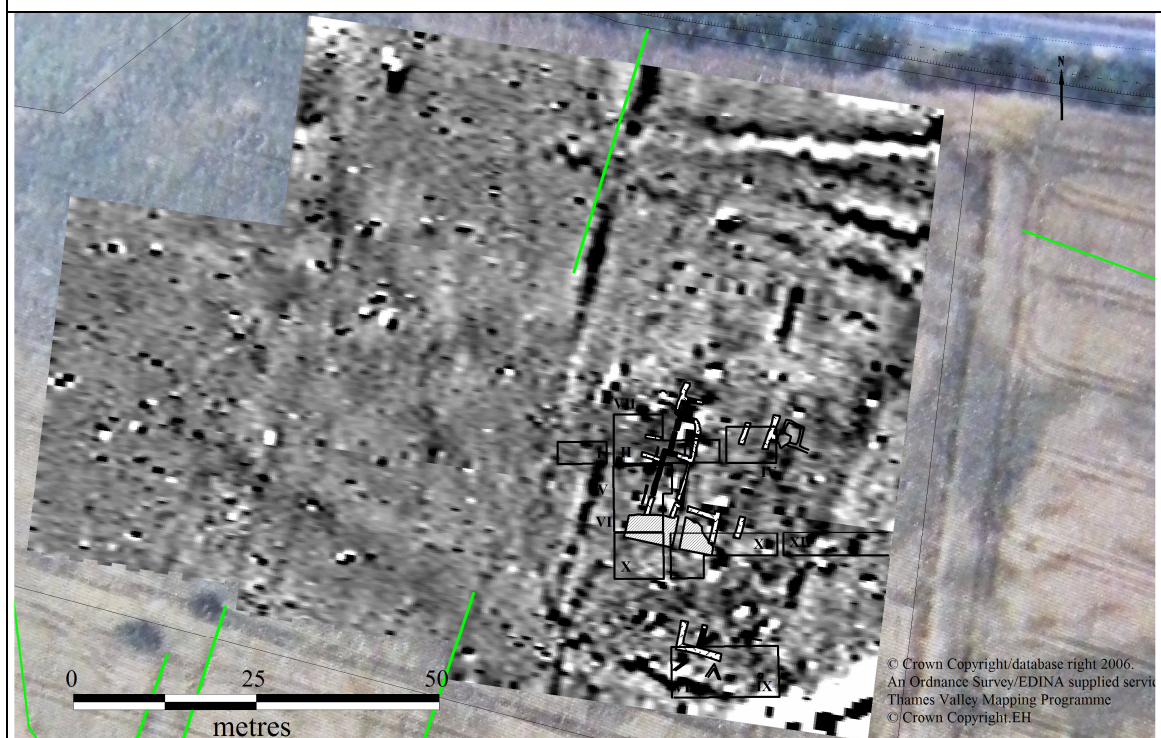
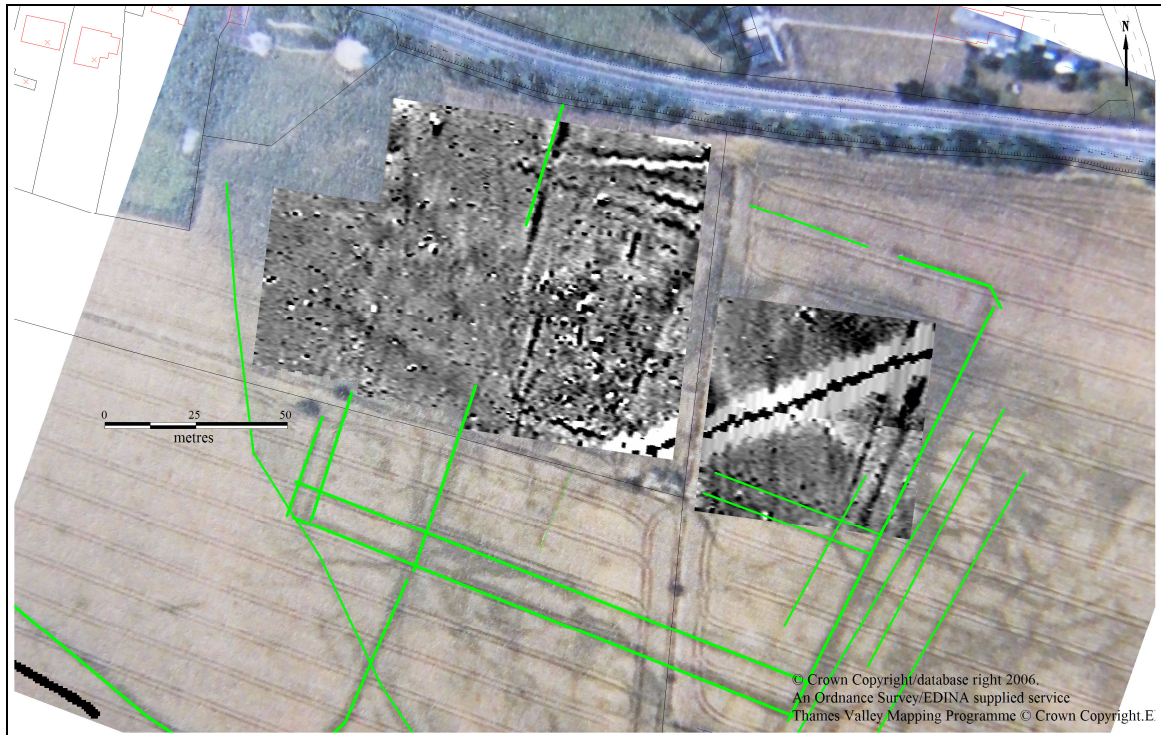


Figure C2.20 – Cropmarks at Dropshort Villa
 (NMR 24856/27 – 8th July 2006 © English Heritage)

 Villa

The Thames Valley Mapping Programme has not mapped any cropmarks which can be directly associated with Dropshort villa. However, more recent aerial photography, as shown in figure C2.20, has indicated a range of cropmarks in the immediate vicinity of the villa. Importantly, there appears to be a rectangular or trapezoidal enclosure with a double ditch on the south and a possible north-south trackway on the east. Geophysical survey in late 2011 demonstrated the villa lay within an oval shaped enclosure inside the trapezoidal enclosure as shown in figure C2.21.

According to NMR Pastscape Reference SU 49 SE 2 some of the pottery discovered in 1962 was retained by the Ashmolean Museum and dated to the second century AD. An excavation by Time Team in April 2012 uncovered part of the villa as shown in figure C2.22 and also dated the pottery to the second century AD. The coin evidence suggests some continued activity on the site.



**Figure C2.21 – Geophysical Survey at Dropshort Villa
(NMR 24856/27 – 8th July 2006 © English Heritage)
(Villa layout based on excavation record of G. Thomas
and subsequent analysis by Grace Scrimgeour of Oxford Archaeology)**

📍 Villa

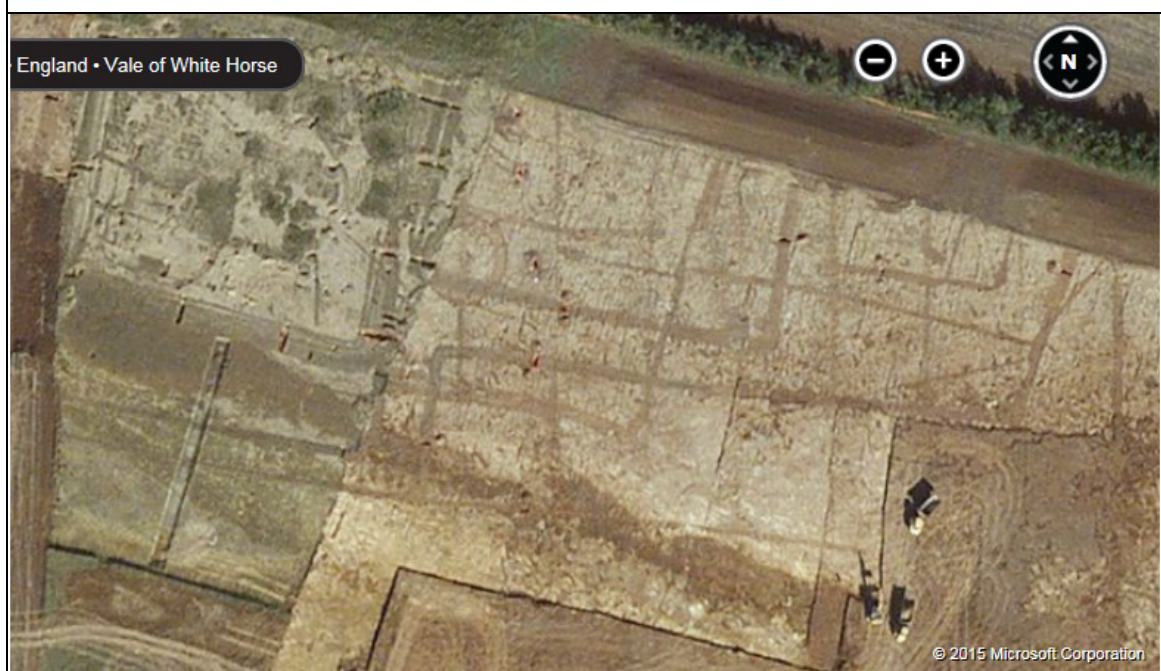
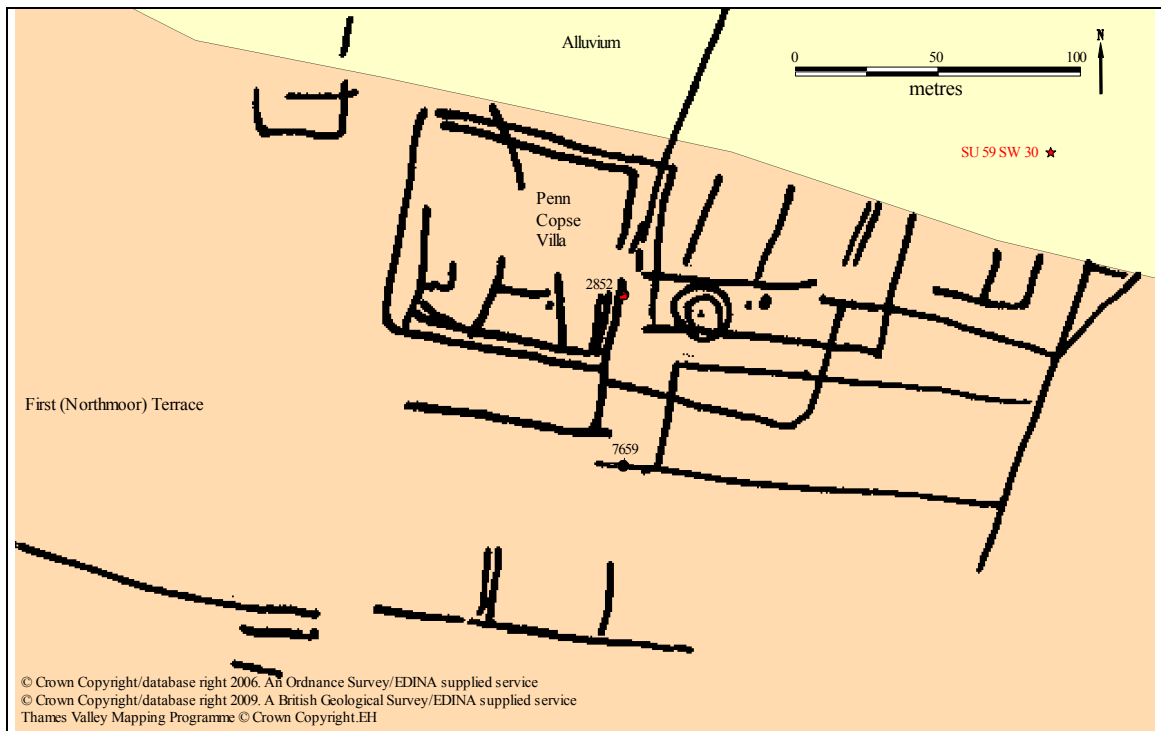


Figure C2.22 – Time Team Excavations at Dropshort Villa, April 2012

The possible villa at Penn Copse also appears to be associated with a square enclosure, possibly double ditched in parts, with a range of further rectilinear features to the east. To the south a ditch extends over 500 metres in a line roughly parallel with the river Thames. Although there is nothing to directly associate it with the enclosure it might be a trackway or boundary ditch.

The evidence for a villa at Penn Copse remains largely circumstantial. The limited excavation undertaken in 1962 and 1963, as the copse was cleared with a bulldozer, revealed buildings, a stone lined well or a storage pit together with pottery ranging from the first to the fourth centuries AD (HER 2852). More recently, three trenches excavated adjacent to the site in 2002 failed to provide any evidence for a villa (Mayes 2003, 77). Subsequent excavations uncovered four undated crouched burials, a middle Bronze Age burial and evidence of ditches forming Iron Age and Roman field systems (Norton 2008, 64-65). Again, there was nothing to indicate a villa.

Excavation is again taking place in advance of quarrying and figure C2.23 illustrates the cropmarks as mapped by the Thames Valley Mapping Programme and the ditches and other features revealed after removal of the topsoil.



Drift Geology

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alluvium | River Terrace Deposits |
| Clay with Flints | Sand and Gravel of Uncertain Age |
| Hanborough Deposits | Sommertown-Radley Terrace |
| Head Deposits | Till |
| Northmoor Deposits | Wolvercote Terrace |
| Peat | |

Figure C2.23 – Penn Copse, Sutton Courtenay
Cropmarks (top), Features after removal of topsoil (bottom)
 (Bing Maps Aerial Photograph © 2015 Microsoft Corporation)

Villa

C2.15 Wantage

Romano-British settlement in and around Wantage remains poorly understood. The medieval and modern town lies to the east of Letcombe Brook whereas Romano-British settlement appears to be located primarily in Belmont to the west of the brook. The clustering of prehistoric and Roman findspots and sites as recorded by the HER and NMR, illustrated in figure C2.24, suggests a reasonable Romano-British settlement density and it is probable Wantage was an extensive village or possibly a small town. Two sites excavated in this western part of Wantage in the 1990s, in advance of housing development, provide important evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity: Mill Street (Holbrook and Thomas 1997) and Denchworth Road (Barber and Holbrook 2002).

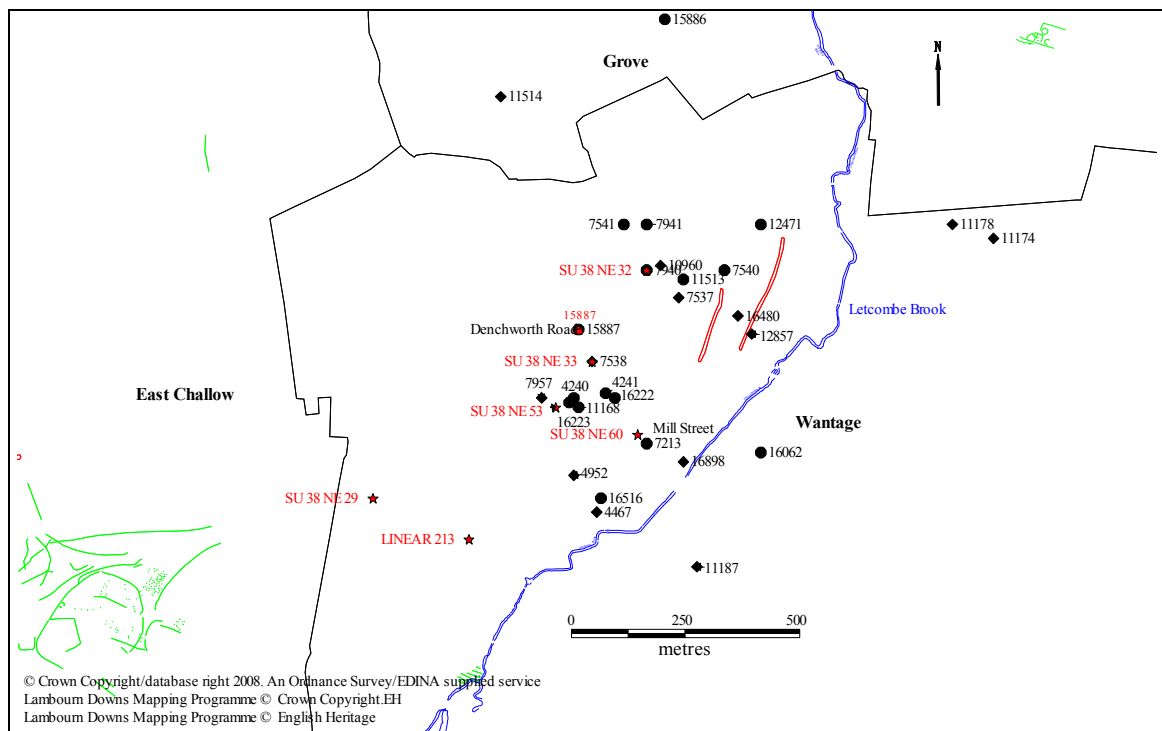


Figure C2.24 – Location of prehistoric and Romano-British HER and NMR references in Wantage

The foundations of a stone building were found at the latter site and this has been speculatively classed as a villa by the HER (PRN 15887). The foundations were detected on the edge of the planned excavation area and it appears probable the building continues south-eastwards under neighbouring gardens (Barber and Holcroft 2002, 300). Barber and Holbrook suggest the stone building was constructed after AD 270. The excavated part contained four rooms with a corridor in the north-west. One room may represent a staircase to an upper storey. As only part of the building could be excavated a full

interpretation is not possible. A minimalist view is that it contained only the four rooms and corridor in which case the building measured 18 metres by 12.5 metres, aligned south-west to north-east with the corridor on the west. However, the building could have extended further to the south-west, or more probably to the south-east. In this case the exposed portion is only the western end of a larger house. At some time after the fourth century the building was dismantled and robbed.

Evidence also exists for earlier activity on the site prior to the construction of the stone building. The earliest feature, dated to the late first to mid-second century AD in the north of the site, is metalled trackway together with ditches defining small agricultural or domestic plots. But from the mid-second to mid-third century the area appears to have been primarily agricultural.

The excavation recovered 1497 pottery sherds weighing 23.5 kg. Of these only 19 sherds were prehistoric and no prehistoric structural features were identified. The bulk of the material (1462 sherds, 23.3 kg) is from the Roman period and although some sherds could date to the late first century most are from the second to the fourth centuries. Only one Saxon sherd was found, dated to the sixth to ninth century. Of importance to the classification of the building as a villa are the 33 tegulae, 28 imbrices and 22 box flue tiles which were found. One room provided evidence of an opus signinum floor but there does not appear to be any evidence of tesserae or mosaics.

C2.16 West Challow

The villa (HER 7219) is situated at Cornhill Farm between the villages of East Challow, West Challow and Childrey, on the north sloping escarpment of the Berkshire Downs. The farmhouse at Cornhill Farm and the nearby Roman villa lie on a narrow band of Head and Coombe deposits with adjacent bands of upper Greensand as shown in figure C2.25. These deposits separate the lower chalk of the Berkshire Downs to the south from the Gault clay of the Vale to the north. A spring rises to the north-west of the villa, with the Icknield Way to the south.

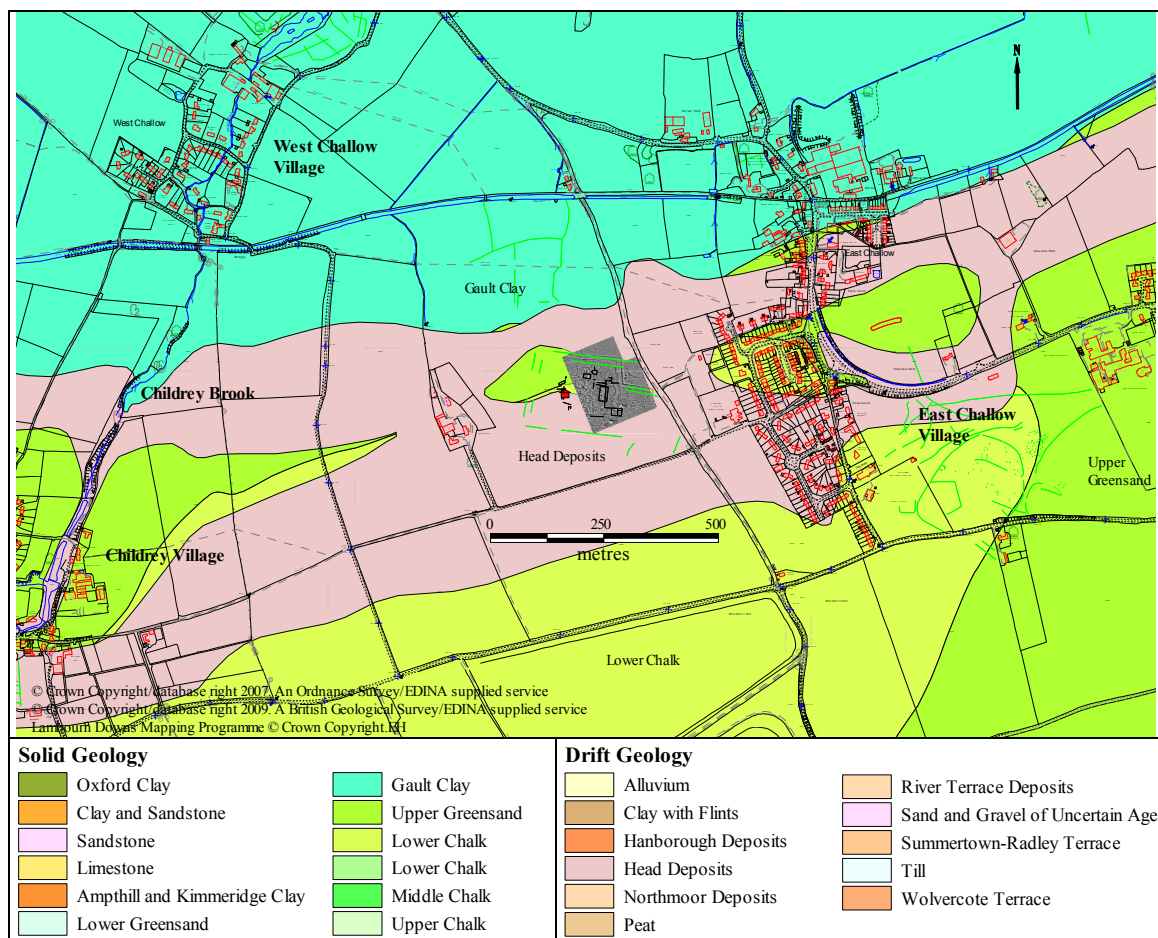


Figure C2.25 – West Challow and areas of Geophysical Survey

🏠 Villa

The villa was detected in 1876 when the stone foundations of a substantial building were removed from the field for re-use elsewhere (Davey 1876). For five weeks Davey recorded and collected material from the destruction of a small Roman villa measuring about 25 metres north-south and 11 metres east-west. It contained five rooms, the southernmost of which provided evidence for a hypocaust. One of three trenches dug in 1969 revealed a chalk wall about 0.6 metres wide and four metres long (Rutland and

Greenaway 1970, 57; Rutland and Greenaway 1972; 131) and a further small-scale excavation was carried out in 1972 (Naish 1973).

The villa and surrounding ditches are visible as cropmarks mapped by the Lambourn Downs Mapping Programme (Small 2002). The archaeological interpretation of these cropmarks is illustrated in figure C2.26. The central part of the figure, illustrating the villa itself, shows a number of rectangular buildings joined by walls within a rectangular enclosure defined by two concentric ditches.

The results of a geophysical survey undertaken to investigate the villa further are illustrated in figures C2.26 and C2.27. The features mapped by the Lambourn Downs Mapping Programme were detected and further detail added. The villa and other associated buildings appear to be enclosed within one or two continuous ditches defining a rectangular compound. In addition, a number of much more irregular features can be discerned. The northern part of the survey area appears relatively undisturbed with few magnetic anomalies and provides excellent detail of ditches and other features. In contrast, the south and west are more disturbed and hence more difficult to interpret. This may be the result of earlier stone robbing and archaeological investigations.

Whereas the aerial photographs suggest a building of size 30 metres by 18 metres, the geophysical survey suggest 28 metres by 15 metres. Both measurements are larger than those given by Davey who recorded a size of 25 metres north-south and 11 metres east-west (82 ft by 36 ft, Davey 1876, 383). It is possible that rubble from the collapse of the walls, or from the disturbance of the foundations in the 1870s lies outside the villa building and it is the extent of this spread which is being measured by the geophysical survey. As Davey actually saw the foundations, it is possibly best to accept his values.

To the north-west of the villa is a further rectangular structure, probably best interpreted as the foundations of another building, where it is possible that masonry is still present. In the closing sentences of his report Davey (1876, 392) remarked that “in all probability the remains of another and larger villa exist in the same field as yet uninjured and uncovered” How he formed this opinion is not known but this feature could perhaps be his postulated second villa. To the south-west of this building is a ring ditch about 20 metres in diameter.

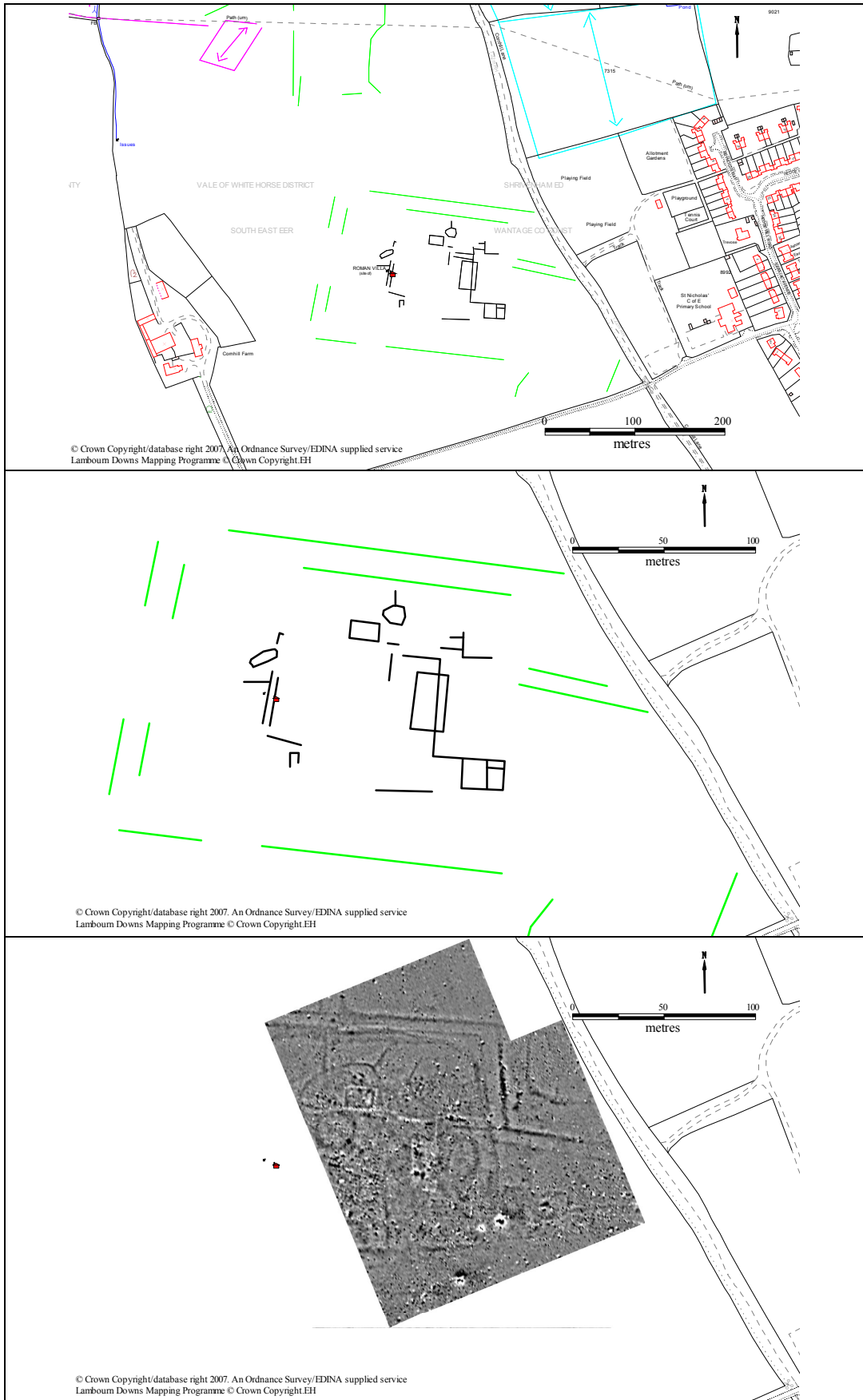


Figure C2.26 – West Challow Villa, Aerial Survey and Geophysical Survey ■ Villa
Aerial Survey Interpretation (Ditches are green, structures are black)

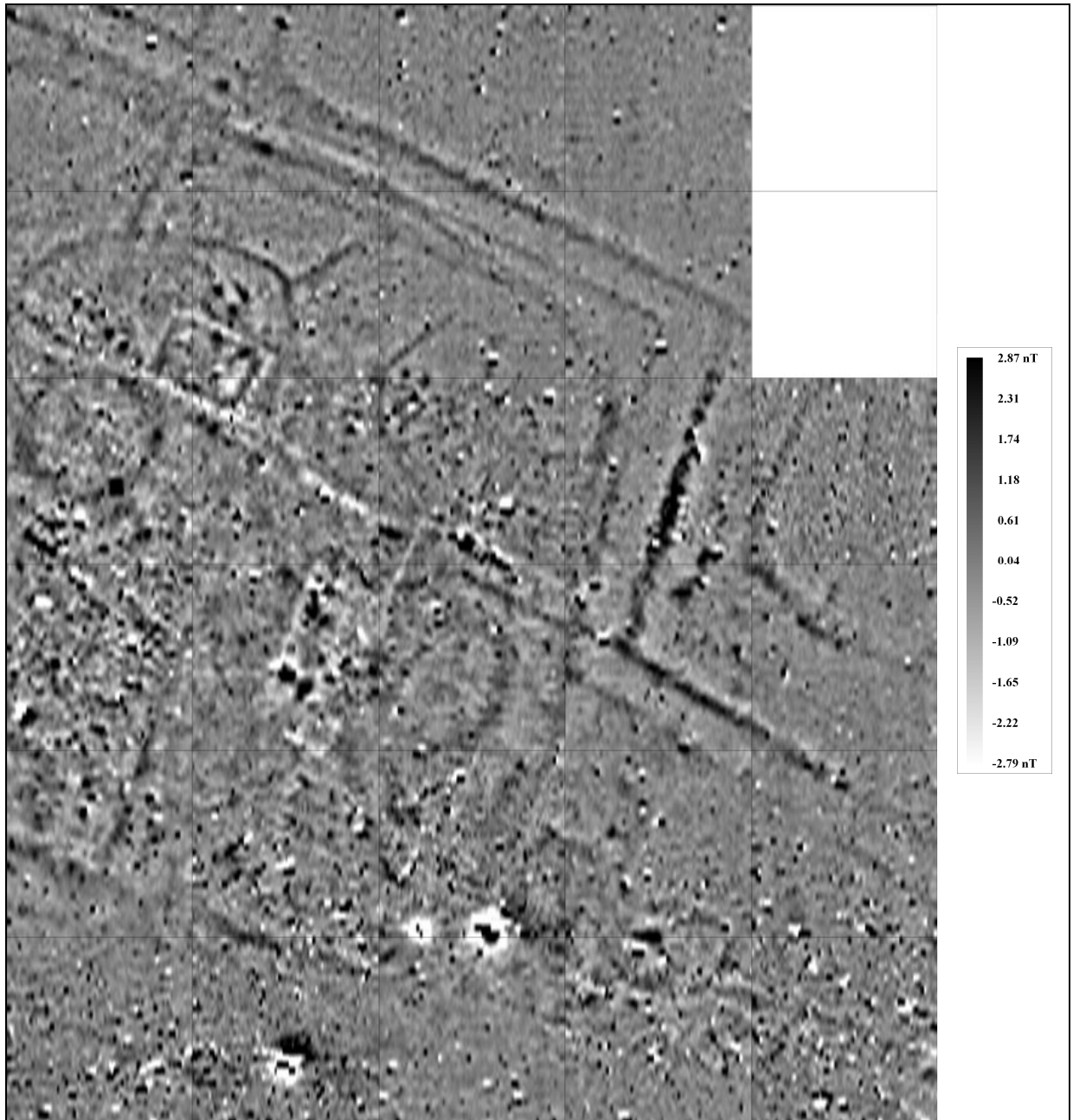


Figure C2.27 - Geophysical Survey of 28 grids (30 metre square) at Cornhill Farm, West Challow, 7th to 9th September 2006.

A polygonal feature to the north-east of the rectangular building was suggested by the aerial survey mapping but there is no geophysical evidence for this. Instead, the magnetometer survey has revealed a number of irregular enclosures defined by ditches. Both the aerial photographic mapping and the geophysical survey suggest the presence of a wall running north and south from the villa for about fourteen metres before turning east to form three sides of a possible courtyard in front of (or behind) the villa. The northern wall is quite clear on the geophysical survey, but the southern wall less so. There is no clear evidence for a fourth, eastern, wall which would have enclosed the area.

Davey stated that the villa contained a corridor on the east, and that its front was on the north-west. Neither the aerial photographic survey nor the geophysical survey provides evidence for which side was the front or back.

South-east of the villa the aerial photographic mapping suggests a further rectangular structure on the southern side of a possible courtyard. Here the geophysical evidence is more difficult to interpret but there is some evidence for rectangular features, not necessarily structures, and not quite in positional agreement with the aerial photographic mapping. The southernmost part of the survey area appears largely devoid of features apart from one possible ditch and one strong magnetic anomaly.

Finally, to the east of the villa both the aerial photographic mapping and the geophysical survey show two ditches, possibly representing a trackway, which lead west towards the northern end of the villa. Before reaching the villa, both ditches turn to the north to join the northern ditches. Visible to the east of the villa on the geophysical survey is a rather faint, enigmatic, oblong feature lying within what may be a courtyard.

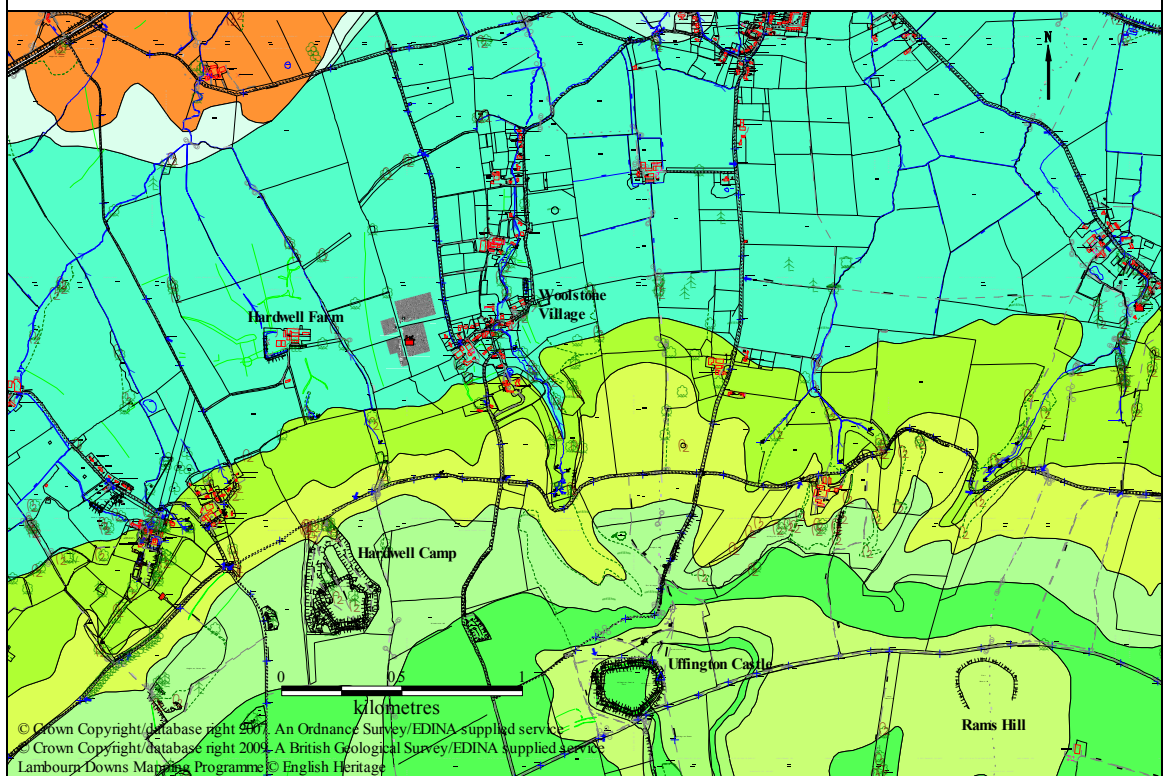
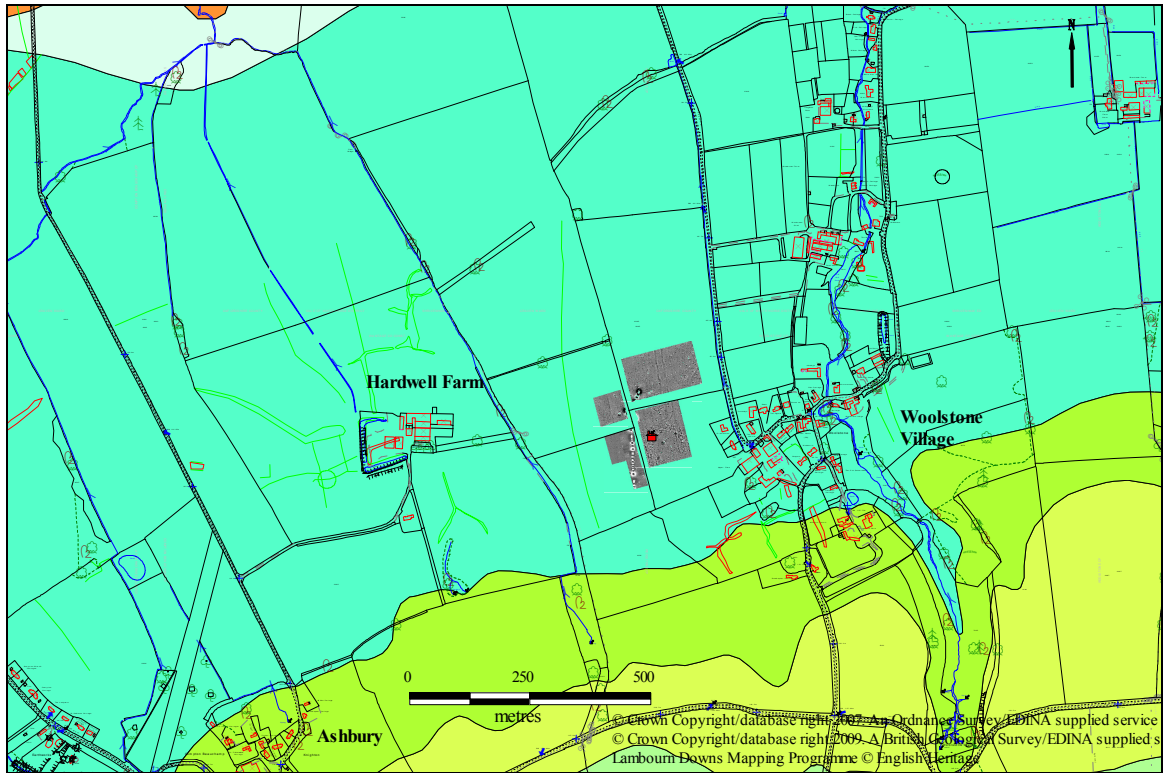
Although only the eastern half of the Roman villa compound has been surveyed, two buildings are clearly identifiable, namely the south-west/north-east oriented building reported by Davey, and a second rectangular building to its north-west. To the south-east of the villa there appear to be a number of rectangular features but it is unclear whether these are the robbed out trenches of further structures, or ditches defining enclosures. A series of continuous ditches appear to enclose the villa compound, although the south-eastern section remains unclear. It is unlikely that all the features revealed in the geophysical survey are contemporary with each other, but no attempt at a phasing has been made. Yet it appears probable there was a settlement on the site before the villa was constructed. This is suggested by a number of curved and irregular features. The modern landscape does not appear to have any relationship with the orientation of the villa or its compound.

C2.17 Woolstone













Discovered in 1884 during steam ploughing (Anon-a 1884, 181) the villa (HER 7316) is situated at the foot of the escarpment of the Berkshire Downs, west of the village of Woolstone, and lies on the Gault clay just below a band of Upper Greensand as illustrated in figure C2.28. Members of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society visited the site in May 1884 and their report provides the fullest contemporary account (Anon-b 1885, 266-268). The excavations uncovered what was believed to be the main south wall, which extended for at least 110 feet. A corridor lay to the north of this wall, and to the north of this was a series of rooms, one of which near the centre contained a mosaic floor. Buried in the corridor were three skeletons which were assumed to be Anglo-Saxon internments. A room to the south-west also contained a mosaic and is illustrated in figure C2.29.

A second excavation in 1955 consisted of over twenty small trenches (Hamilton 1959) and uncovered a mosaic floor as illustrated in figure C2.29. Corridors bordered the room containing the mosaic on the south, west and north: the north corridor appeared to mark the northern boundary of the building while a cobbled or flagstoned courtyard lay to the south of the south corridor. Although Hamilton believed she had located the northern wall of the villa, it is unclear from her report how far she believed the villa extended in either the eastern or western direction. Moreover, there is no indication as to whether she believed she was excavating the same area opened in 1884, or a different area. Recently, Cosh and Neal (2010) have demonstrated that the mosaic uncovered by Hamilton is not a third mosaic but rather part of the unpublished mosaic discovered in the central room in 1884. This allows the 1884 and 1955 excavations to be linked and the locations of the two mosaics are illustrated in figure C2.30. Neither mosaic can be closely dated but Cosh and Neal (2010, 279-280) suggest they are not typical of the fourth century and speculatively suggest the third century AD.

The Woolstone villa is not visible in aerial photographs, nor do any nearby features appear on the Lambourn Downs aerial survey mapping. This may be because the field containing the villa is pasture and appears to have been so for some considerable period of time. Nevertheless, the surrounding fields are under arable cultivation and few cropmarks have been observed. Perhaps more importantly, the villa is situated on clay.



Solid Geology

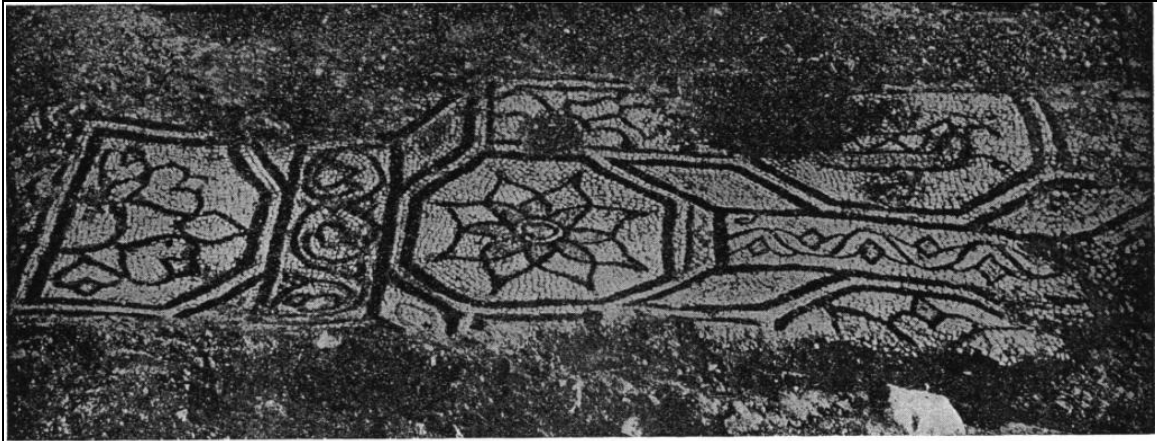
- | | |
|--|---|
|  Oxford Clay |  Gault Clay |
|  Clay and Sandstone |  Upper Greensand |
|  Sandstone |  Lower Chalk |
|  Limestone |  Lower Chalk |
|  Ampthill and Kimmeridge Clay |  Middle Chalk |
|  Lower Greensand |  Upper Chalk |

**Figure C2.28 – Woolstone and areas of Geophysical Survey (Top)
Woolstone Villa, Hardwell Camp, Uffington Castle, Rams Hill (Bottom)**

 Villa

A note in *Antiquary* for 1884 records that large quantities of Roman tile fragments, tesserae and pottery sherds were found in nearby fields (Anon-a 1884, 133). By selecting four fields for geophysical survey as shown in figure C2.28, an attempt was made to obtain more information about the location and extent of the villa, together with any associated features such as outbuildings, boundary ditches and possible trackways. Sadly, no archaeological features were detected.

Hamilton concluded her report with the comment “More information about the plan and different periods of the building would be an interesting addition to the knowledge of Roman British occupation of the area”. It is unfortunate her report failed to identify the exact location of her excavation and also that the geophysical survey failed to add any further information. From the evidence of the two excavations this would appear to be the largest and possibly wealthiest villa in the Vale of the White Horse. As at West Challow, the villa lies just to the north of the Icknield Way which would have connected it to Wantage in the west and Wanborough in the east. Its proximity to the White Horse and Uffington Castle suggest not only links with earlier activity but also the continuing importance of the locality during the Roman period. Moreover, the existence of a substantial Roman villa and probable other Romano-British settlements at Woolstone may provide the context for the Romano-British activity in and near Uffington Castle (Miles et al 2003, 251-252).



Woolstone Roman Pavement.

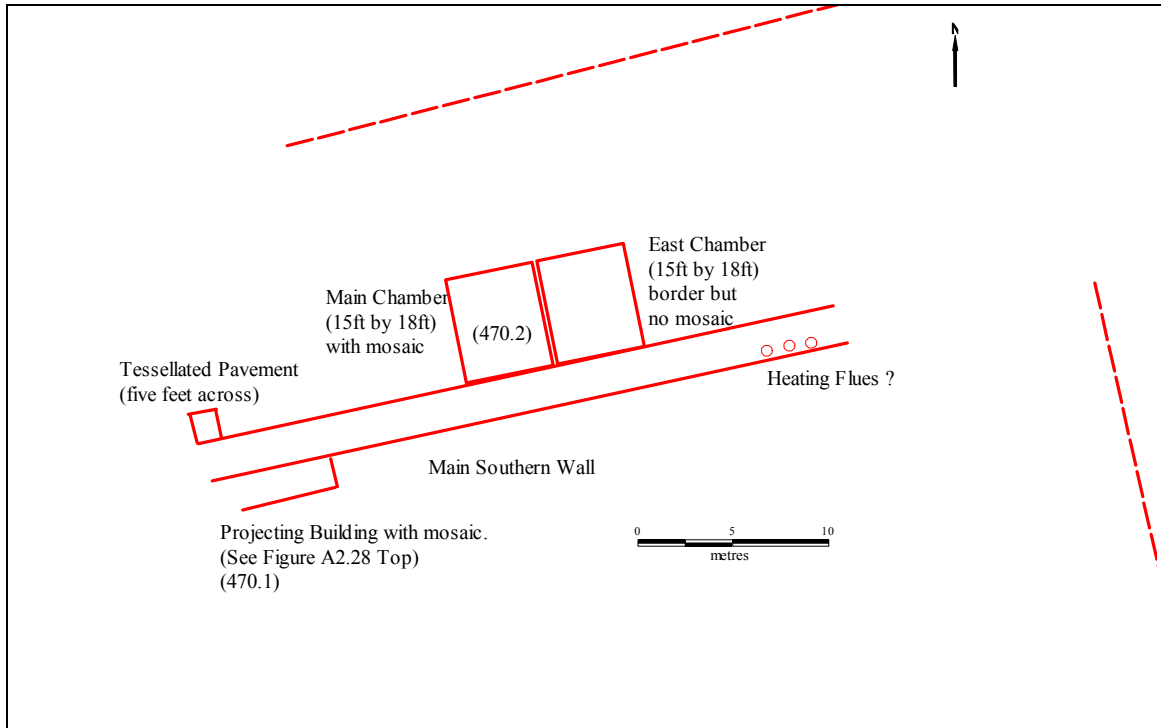
By courtesy of the Reading Museum.

**Mosaic Floor from 1884. (Grinsell 1939, 138)
Cosh and Neal (2010, 279-280, Mosaic 470.1)**

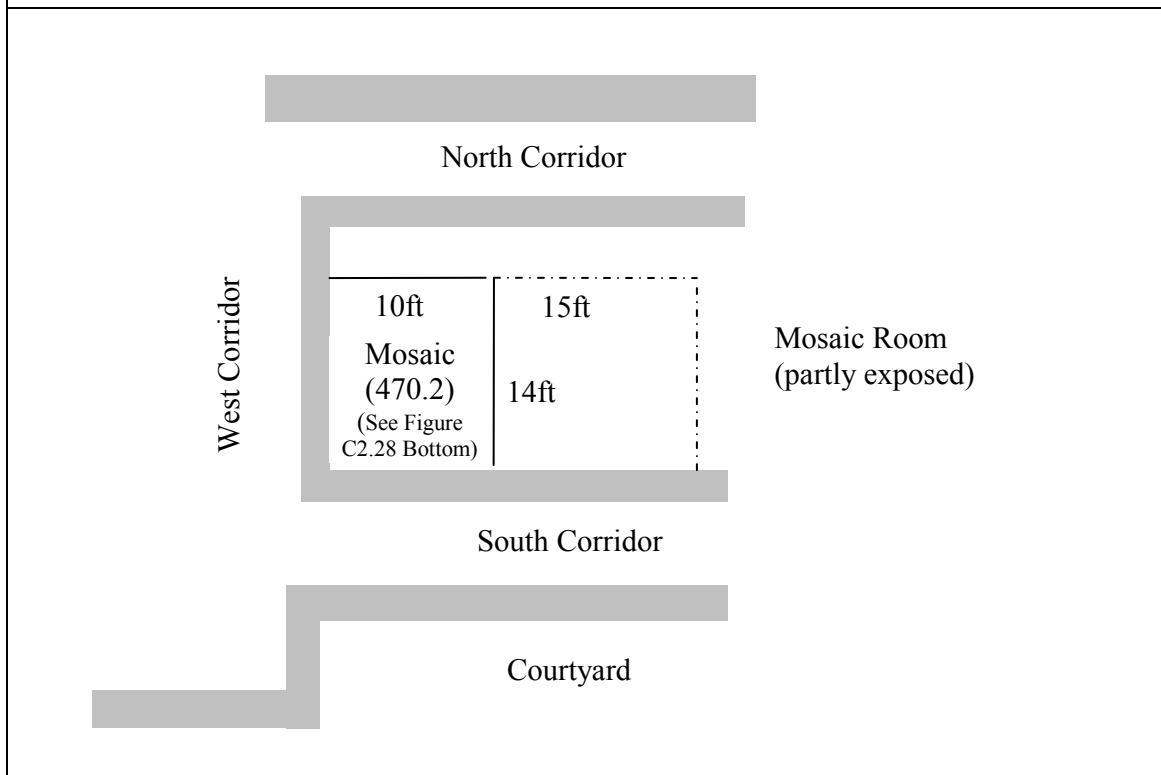


**Mosaic Floor from 1955. (Hamilton 1959)
Cosh and Neal (2010, 279-280, Mosaic 470.2)**

Figure C2.29 – Two Mosaic Floors at Woolstone Villa



Sketch of Villa based on 1884 description (Anon-b 1885)



Sketch of Villa based on Hamilton (1959, 84)

Figure C2.30 - Interpretations of Woolstone Villa