An archaeological evaluation on land at Oundle Lodge Farm, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire March-April 2014

Report No. 14/111

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Animal bone	Adam Reid
Charred plant remains:	Val Fryer BA MIfA

OASIS REPORT

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No. molanort1 - 180469	
Project name	Oundle Lodge Farm, Stoke Doyle Road	
Short description	MOLA was commissioned by Bletsoes to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the land at Oundle Lodge, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire. The work comprised a magnetometer survey and trial trenching. The magnetometer survey identified up to four ditched enclosures and a possible drove way. Trial trenching confirmed the presence of these ditched enclosures and pottery dating to the Iron Age was recovered from them. Further archaeological remains comprising a pit and a possible ring gully were also identified. Remnant furrows of a former ridge and furrow field cultivation system were recorded.	
Project type	Geophysical and Trial Trench Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Prehistoric enclosures	
Significant finds	Iron Age pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Oundle Lodge, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle	
Study area	*c* 1.6ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 024 873	
Height OD	*c* 45-48m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA	
Project brief originator	MOLA	
Project design originator	MOLA	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher and Jonathan Elston	
Project Managers	Adam Yates and Ian Meadows	
Sponsor or funding body	Bletsoes Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	March 2014	
End date	April 2014	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	MOLA Northampton	Iron Age pottery (1 box)
Paper		Site survey records
Digital		Geophysical survey & GIS data, digital images
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	An archaeological evaluation on land at Oundle Lodge Farm, Stoke Doyle, Northamptonshire March-April 2014	
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ABSTRACT

MOLA was commissioned by Bletsoes to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the land at Oundle Lodge Farm, Stoke Doyle Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire. The work comprised a magnetometer survey and trial trenching. The magnetometer survey identified up to four ditched enclosures and a possible drove way. Trial trenching confirmed the presence of these ditched enclosures and pottery dating to the Iron Age was recovered from them. Further archaeological remains comprising a pit and a possible ring gully were also identified. Remnant furrows of a former ridge and furrow field cultivation system were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Bletsoes acting on behalf of their clients, to carry out a archaeological evaluation comprising trial trenching on *c* 1.8ha of land at Oundle Lodge, Stoke Doyle Road, Northamptonshire (NGR . 502400 287320; Fig 1). The works were carried out in response to a recommendation for archaeological evaluation by Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor to inform, in advance of determination, a planning application for development of the land. The works were carried out accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012).

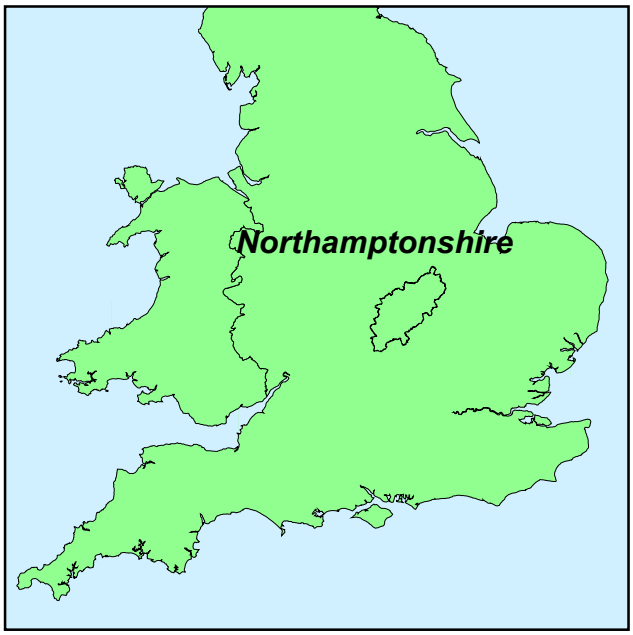
The evaluation followed approved Written Schemes of Investigations (WSI) (NA 2013 and MOLA 2014) and adhered to the procedural documents procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 1991; 2006).

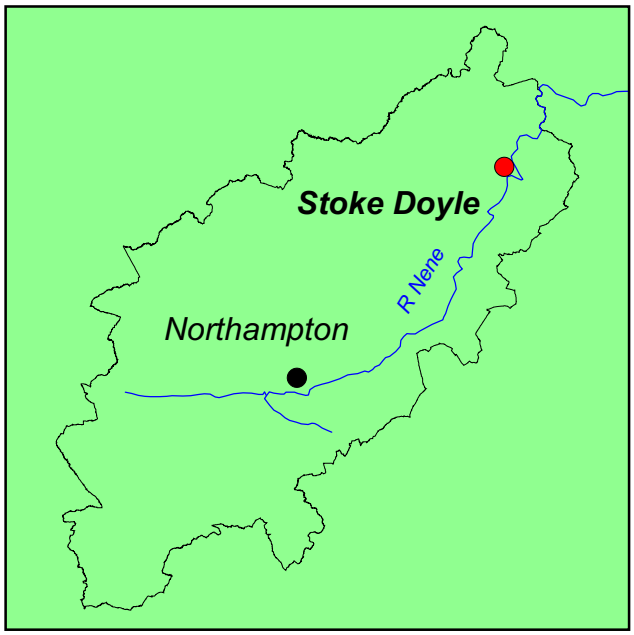
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

Oundle Lodge lies 1km to the south-west of Oundle and 400m to the west of Stoke Doyle Road (Fig 1). The current farm buildings of Oundle Lodge are surrounded by arable fields.

The proposed development area comprises two areas of impact totalling 1.8ha. The eastern area will have an access road and the larger western area, encompassing 1.42ha, will have the new agricultural buildings. Overhead power lines are aligned along the eastern boundary of the field.





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Site location Fig 1

The site lies between 47-48m aOD. The bedrock geology comprises Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation (undifferentiated). No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014).

General view of the western field, looking south-west Fig 2

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The survey site lies within an area of known archaeological interest. There is a number of reported finds and recorded monuments within a 1km range, especially along the river Nene located to the east (Fig 3). These records are summarised in Appendix A and include Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon period finds and sites.

A complex of cropmarks lies within the application area (Fig 1). These have been interpreted as enclosure ditches and pits of probable prehistoric date.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource within the development area in order to inform any future mitigation strategy.

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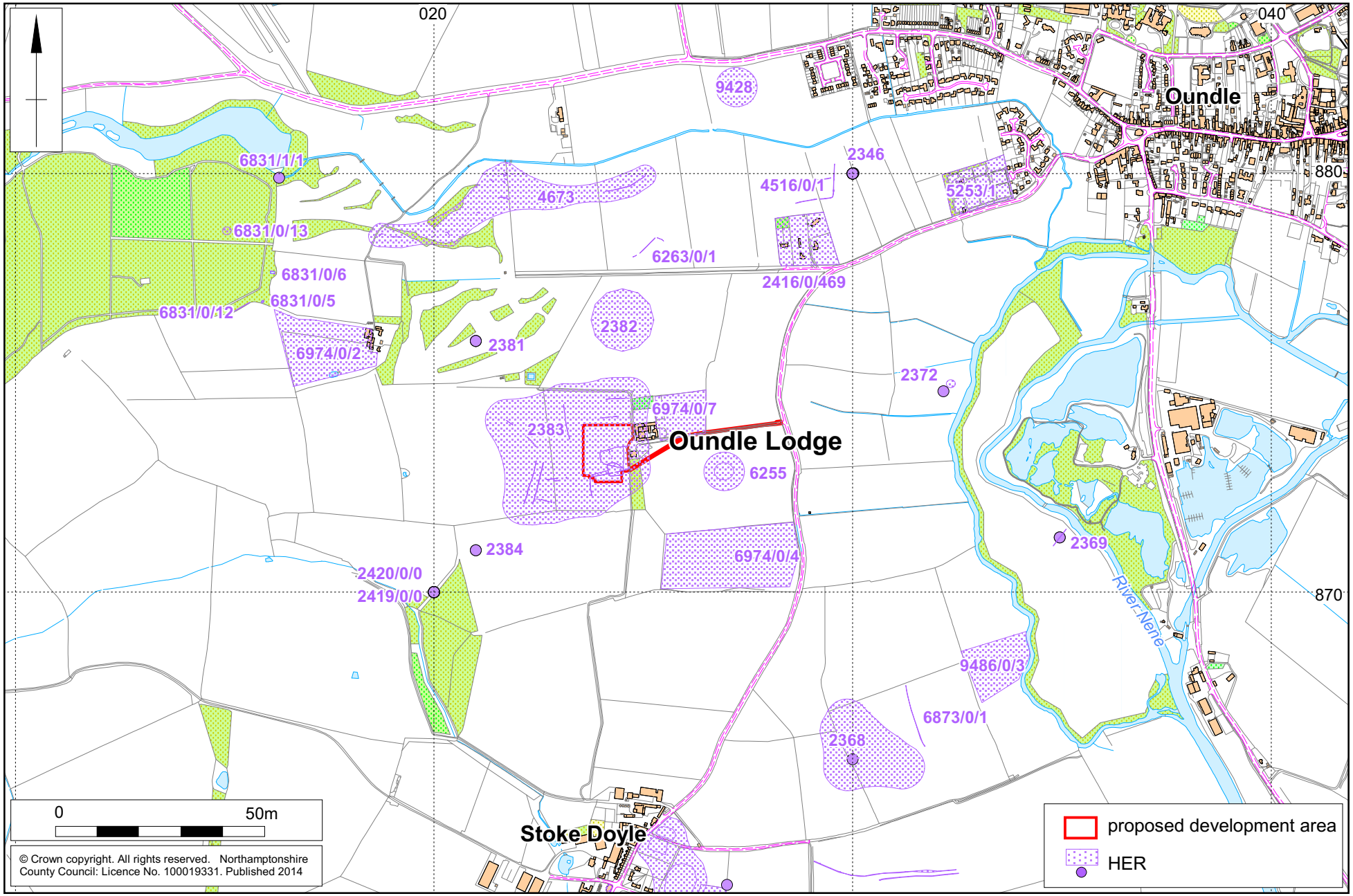


Hisotric Environment Record data

Fig 3

The evaluation was designed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological remains within the application area. The specific aims were:

- to establish the nature of the cropmark complex within the development area by geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation,
- to confirm the presence of the archaeological features suggested by the geophysical survey by trial trench evaluation,
- to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Specific research objectives will be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1991, Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012) as relevant depending upon the results of the evaluation.

3.2 Methodology

The geophysical survey by John Walford

The magnetometer survey was conducted with Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array, vertical component fluxgate gradiometers (Bartington and Chapman 2003). These are standard instruments for archaeological survey and can resolve magnetic variations as slight as 0.1 nanoTesla (nT).

An independent network of 30m grid squares was established within each of the two fields surveyed. The grids were set out with a tape measure and optical square and were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by means of a Leica 1200 dGPS. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid square, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per square. All fieldwork methods complied with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeologists (EH 2008; IfA 2011).

The survey data were processed using Geoplot 3.00v software. The striping was removed using the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function and destaggering of the data was performed where necessary. The processed data is presented in this report in the form of greyscale plots at a range of +4nT (black) to -4nT (white). These have been have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 4) and are shown with an interpretative overlay in Figure 5.

The trial trench evaluation

Eleven trenches were excavated totalling 230 linear metres; a 3% sample of the development area (Fig 7). All of the trenches were 1.8m wide, ten were 20m long and one was 30m long (Trench 10). They were positioned, using a Leica Viva Global Positioning System, to investigate probable archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey.

Excavation of topsoil and subsoil was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical

excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in MOLA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2014). Trenches containing possible archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 402, Trench 4, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20) where necessary. Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the evaluation, using 35mm black and white negative and digital images.

The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).

All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI prepared by MOLA (2014), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

4 THE MAGNETOMETER SURVEY RESULTS by John Walford and Garreth Davey

The survey has identified clear archaeological anomalies that correlate with the crop marks recorded in the western field. These appear to represent multiple ditched enclosures, probably of more than one phase (Figs 4-6, Enclosure A-C). The largest, Enclosure B, measures approximately 45-50m north to south and 50m east to west, and has a smaller D-shaped annex on its western side, Enclosure C. Its southern edge slightly overlaps with a smaller rectilinear Enclosure, measuring approximately 30m north to south and at least 40m east to west, Enclosure A. Further south there is a square cornered section of ditch which appears to define part of a much larger enclosure, Enclosure D. The full extent of this feature is unknown, as it continues beyond the limit of the survey area.

Parallel linear anomalies provide evidence for remnant furrows of ridge and furrow field system aligned north-south across the western field. Towards the north of the field they are crossed perpendicularly by a positive linear anomaly which corresponds with the earthwork of a former plough headland. Several negative linear anomalies have also been detected running perpendicular to the ridge and furrow. They are likely to have a modern origin, and may represent field drains or plough furrows.

An intensely magnetic linear anomaly aligned north-est to south-east in the north-eastern corner of the field, marks the line of a modern pipe. There are also several intense dipolar anomalies, representing ferrous material, scattered randomly across the survey are.

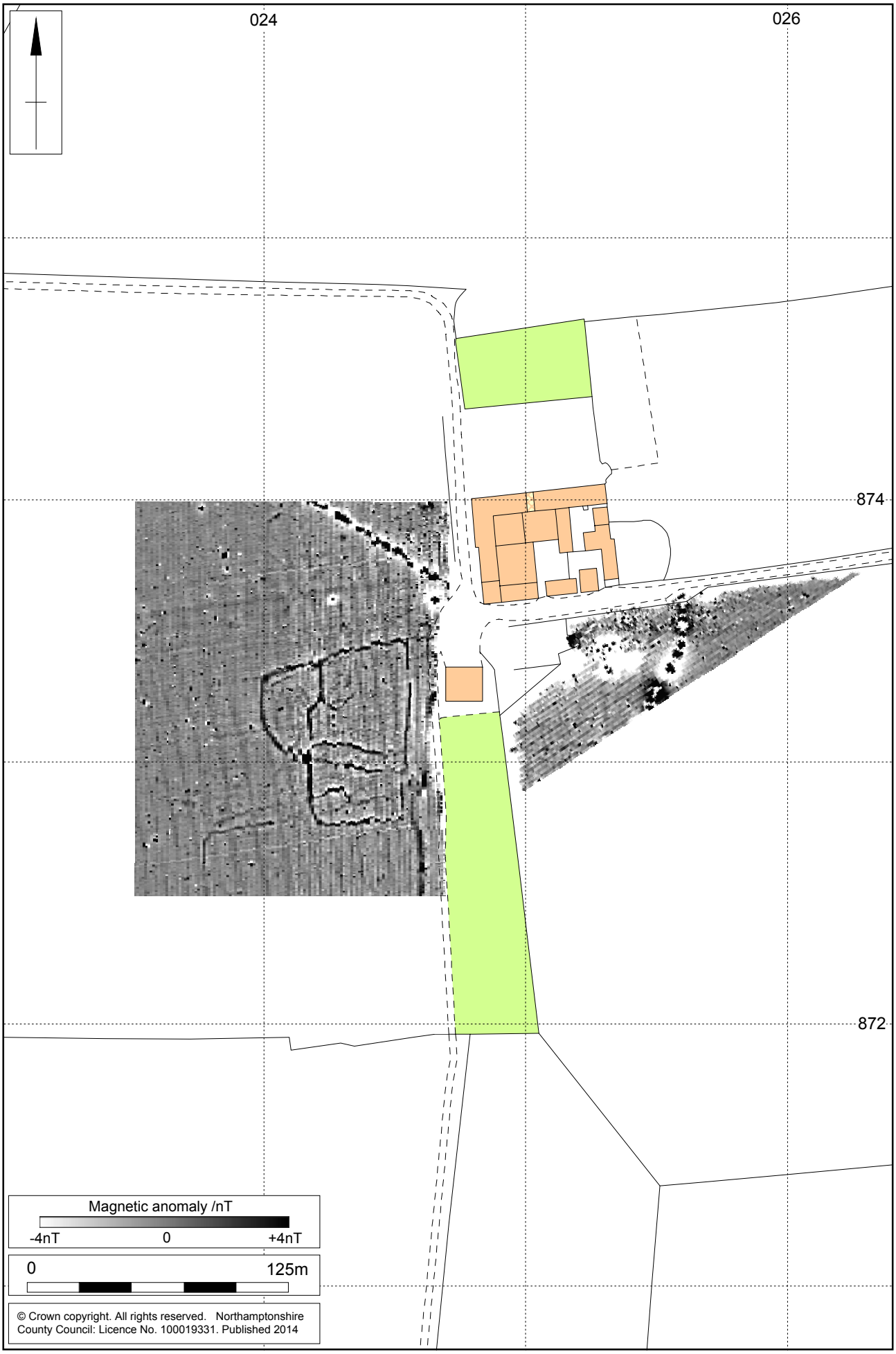
The survey in the eastern field has detected a positive linear anomaly which may represent a ditch extending eastwards from the main group of archaeological features. It has also detected a modern pipe, represented by an intense linear anomaly with alternating polarity, a possible cable trench, represented by a thin, weakly negative linear anomaly, and a cluster of ferrous anomalies indicative of modern metallic debris.

Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer survey results Fig 4

Scale 1:2000

Magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 5



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Magnetometer survey raw data Fig 6

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE by Carol Simmonds and Edmund Taylor

5.1 General comments

The natural substrate comprised limestone cornbrash and orange-brown clay-silt which was encountered between 0.30m and 0.45m below current ground level. This was by overlain by friable orange-brown clayey silt subsoil, 0.05m-10m thick. The overlying topsoil comprised friable brown-grey clayey silt which was generally 0.20m thick.

No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 1.

5.2 The Iron Age droveway, enclosures and other features

The droveway
Two parallel ditches in the southern part of the development area were identified by the geophysical survey and investigated in Trench 11 (Figs 7 and 8). They formed a droveway aligned east to west which was at least 50m long and 3.90m wide. The ditches were 0.80m-1.20m wide, 0.20m-0.25m deep with gradual sloping concave edges and a concave base. They were filled with light to mid orange-brown clayey silt which both produced fragments of animal bone.

The northern ditch may have continued as far as Trench 10 and was investigated as ditch [1006] (Fig 9) but this feature could also have been an internal division of Enclosure B (discussed below). The geophysical survey detected a linear anomaly parallel to and to the south of the northern ditch continuing up to and beyond Trench 10, (Fig 7), however, this was not present in the trench.

Enclosure A
Part of a rectilinear enclosure was identified by the geophysical survey and was investigated in Trenches 10 and 11. It was 81m east to west and at least 34m north to south (Fig 7). The eastern and western ditches lay beyond the development area and the northern boundary appeared to be formed by the southern ditch of the droveway [1106] (discussed above) and the southern ditch of Enclosure B (discussed below)

Enclosure B
A rectilinear Enclosure, aligned north to south, was 66m long and 39m wide (Figs 7 and 9. The enclosure ditch was investigated in Trenches 4, 9 and 10 (ditches [410], [907] and [1014] and was 0.90m-1.51m wide by 0.40m-0.94m deep. The profile varied from U-shaped to V-shaped. There was no evidence that the ditch had been recut. The fills ranged from firm grey-brown silty clay to soft yellow-grey sandy clay which produced pottery dating to the Iron Age and animal bone fragments.

Two parallel ditches, aligned east to west and 8m apart, formed internal divisions within the main enclosure (Fig 9, Sections 7 and 10). The northern ditch, [905] was U-shaped, 1.10m wide and 0.60m deep. The southern ditch, [1006], was V-shaped, 0.76m wide and 0.59m deep. They were filled with mid grey-brown to orange-brown silty or sandy clay which produced animal bone and sherds of pottery dating to the Iron Age.

Two L-shaped featured, identified by the geophysical survey, may also have been internal divisions within the main enclosure. These were investigated in Trenches 8 and 10 (Figs 7 and 9, Sections 9 and 11). Gully [805] was 0.30m wide, 0.10m deep with steep straight sides and a broad flat base. The mid brown-grey silty clay fill produced no finds. Ditch [1011] had been largely removed by a recut on the same alignment, ditch [1009]. This was 1.20m wide, 0.40m deep with a steep north-east edge and a gradual

sloping, slightly convex south-west edge. The clayey and sandy silt fills produced fragments of animal bone and pottery dating to the Iron Age.

Enclosure C

A D-shaped enclosure, aligned north to south, was 33m long and 22m wide (Figs 7 and 10, Sections 4 and 14). The eastern side was formed by the western ditch of enclosure B the northern and eastern parts of the ditch were investigated by Trenches 5 and 7. The ditch [509] and [706] was 0.72m-1.60m wide, 0.76-0.90m deep with a U-shaped profile. The yellow-brown silty and sandy clay fills produced pottery dating to the Iron Age and fragments of animal bone.

There was a parallel narrow internal gully, [505], 2m south of the northern ditch of the D-shaped enclosure. This was 0.60m wide, 0.24m deep with steep straight sides and a broad flat base. The brown-grey clayey silt fill produced sherds of pottery dating to the Iron Age and fragments of animal bone.

The possible ring ditch, [1016]

In Trench 10 there were two opposing gully terminals, 0.50m wide and 2.20m apart. These may have formed, unusually, a west facing entrance to a ring ditch which once surrounded a roundhouse (Fig 9). The gullies were not excavated but on the surface the fills comprised dark brown-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

Pit [406]

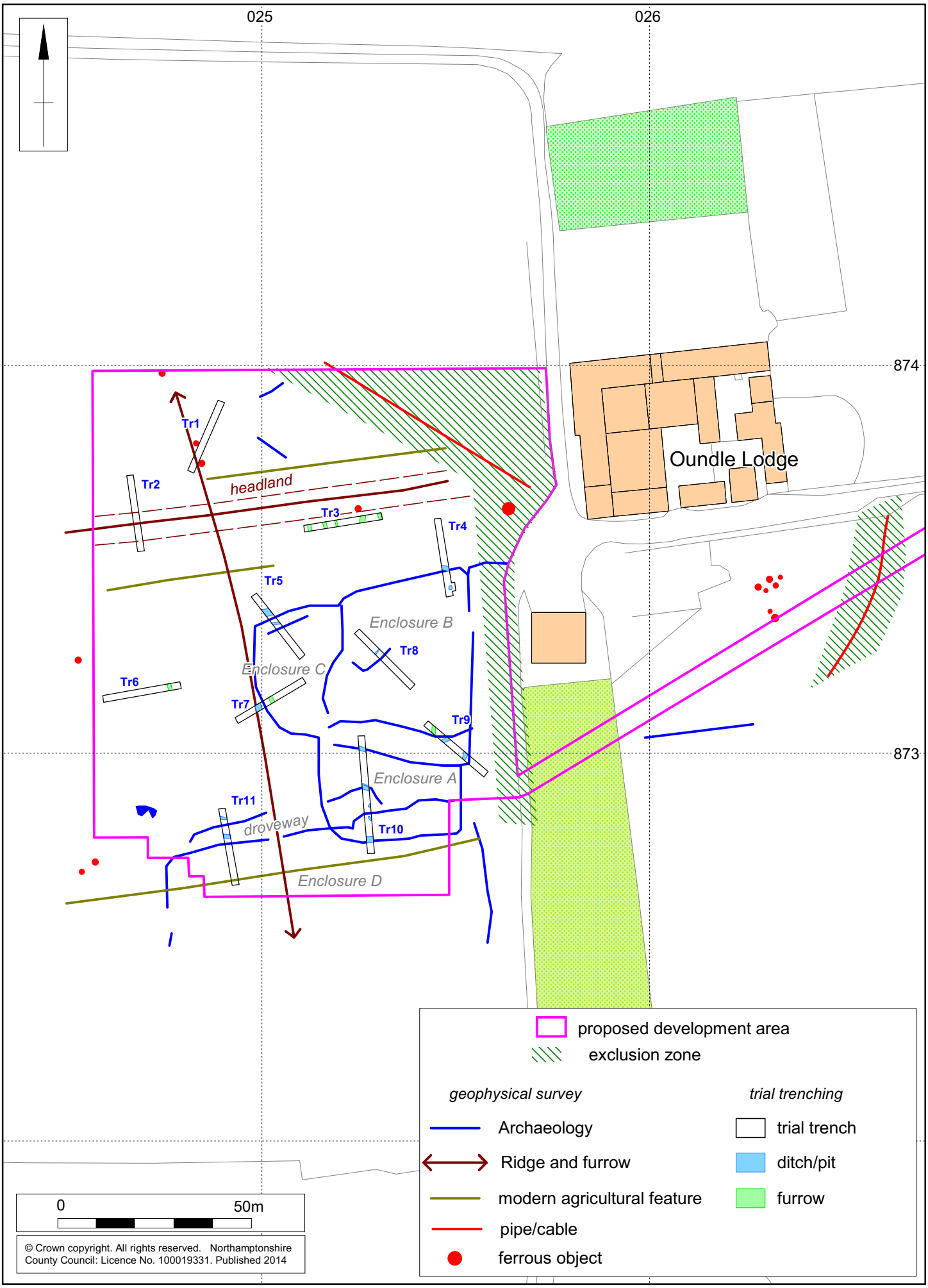
At the southern end of Trench 4 there was sub-oval pit 0.84m long, 0.56m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig 9, Section 1). It had steep sloping sides, a broad flat base and the clayey silt fills produced fragments of animal bone and pottery dating to the Iron Age.

5.3 Medieval ridge and furrow

The geophysical survey recorded remnant furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation across the site (Figs 4 and 5). The survey suggested that there were two furlongs within the area separated by a headland aligned east to westl, still visible as a low earthwork bank (Fig 11). The ridge and furrow to the south of the headland was aligned north-west to south-east and was clearly visible in the data. To the north of the headland there is the suggestion of very faint furrows on the same alignment.

The profile and composition of the headland was recorded in trench 2 (Fig 17). Although the subsoil was of a variable thickness it was the thicker topsoil at the centre of the headland that defined the earthwork (Fig 17).

Individual furrows were present in trenches 3, 6, 7 and 9 (Fig 17). In general the furrows were between 0.67 and 1m wide and up to 0.06m thick and comprised friable red-brown clayey silts.



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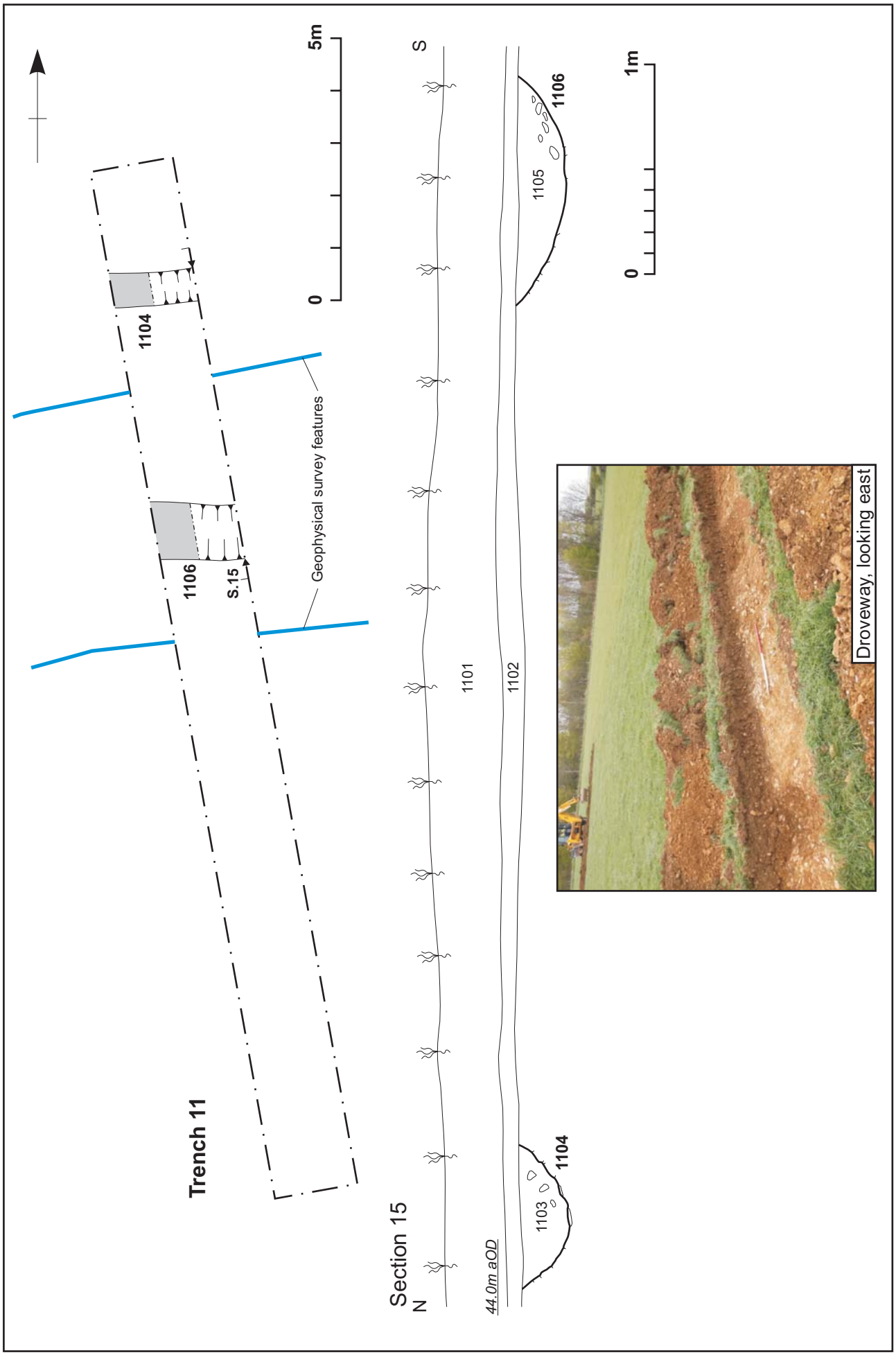
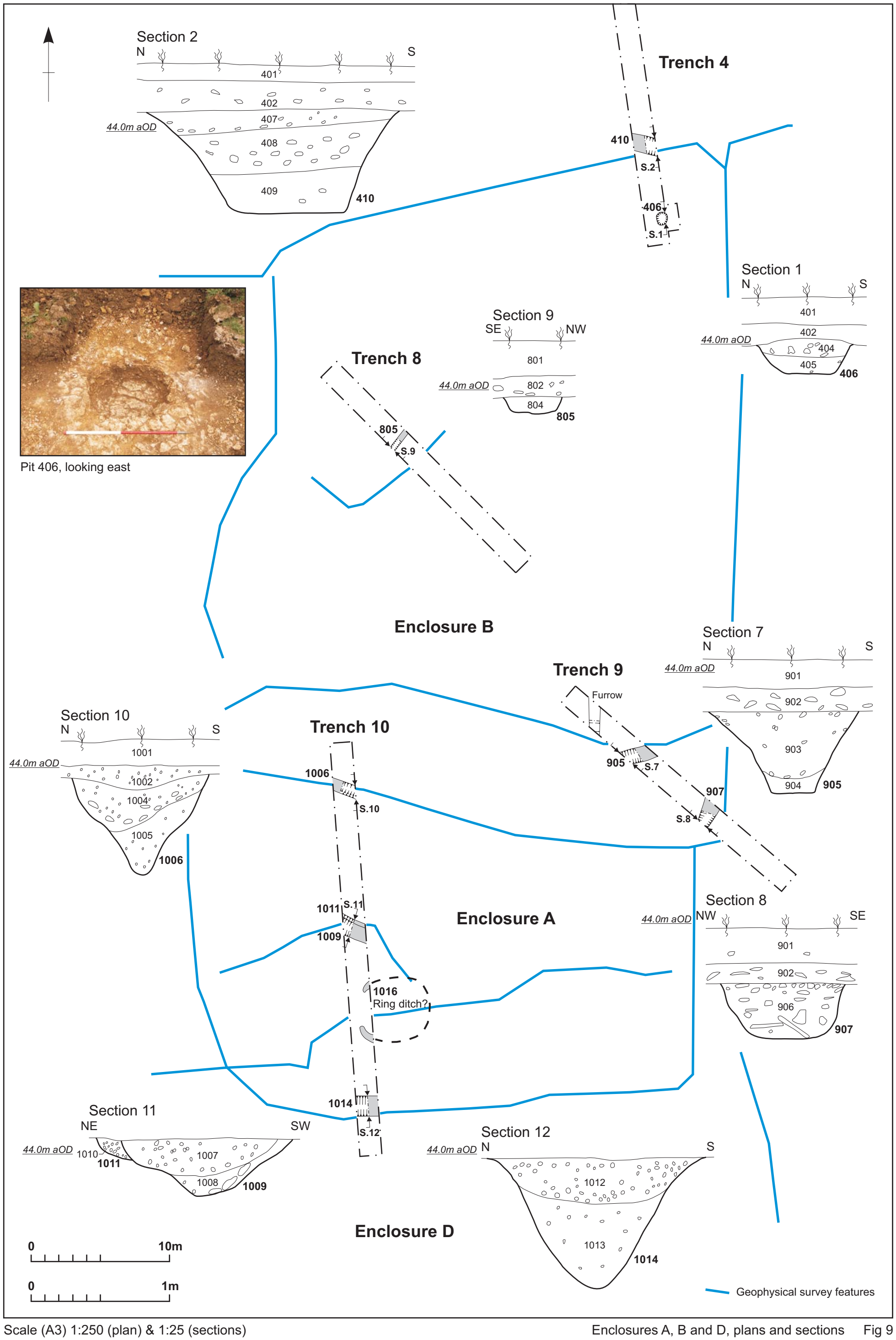
Trench locations with archaeological features and magnetometer survey interpretation

Fig 7

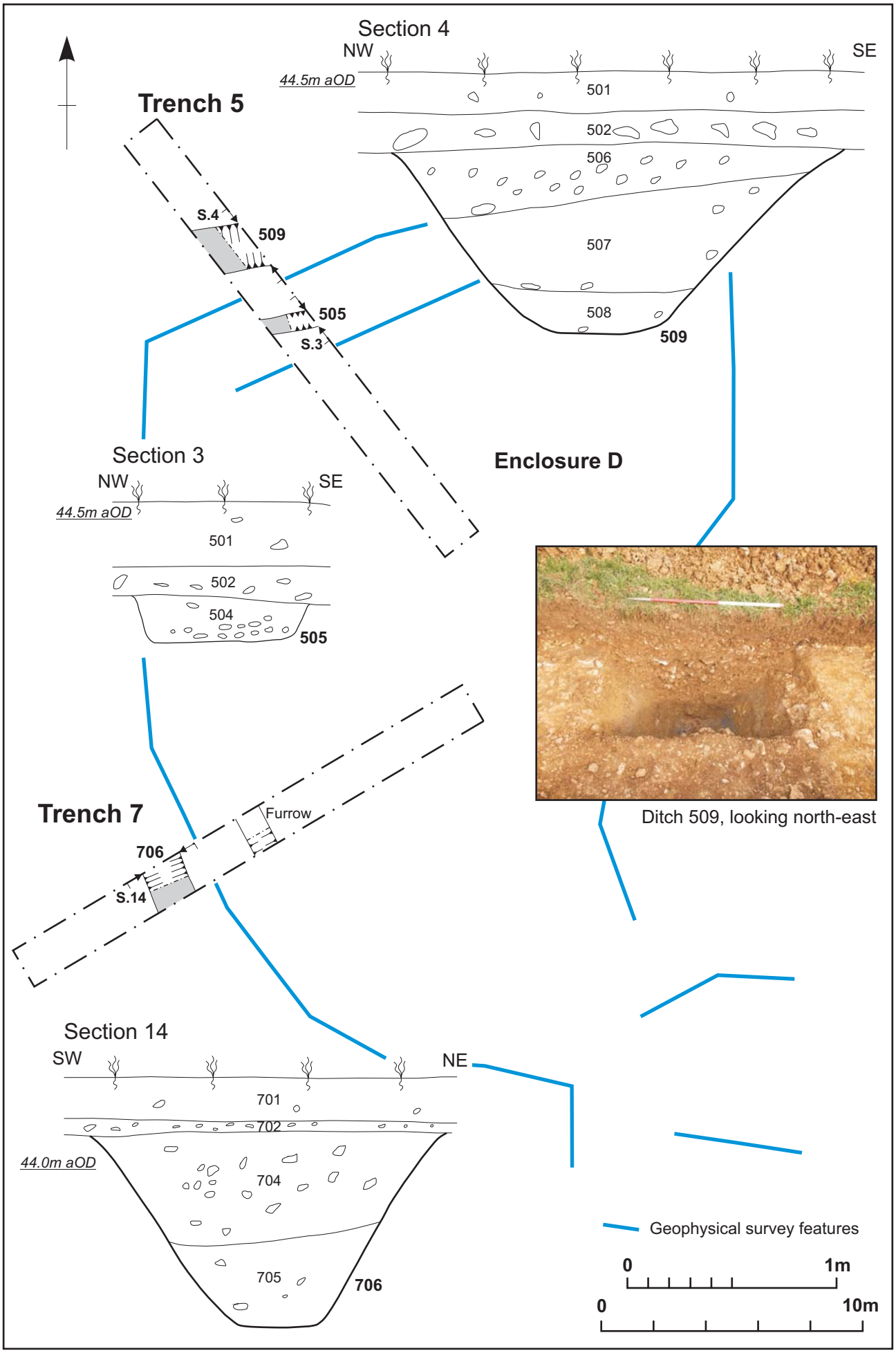


Scale (A4) 1:100 (plan) & 1:25 (section) The droveway, Trench 11 plan & section Fig 8



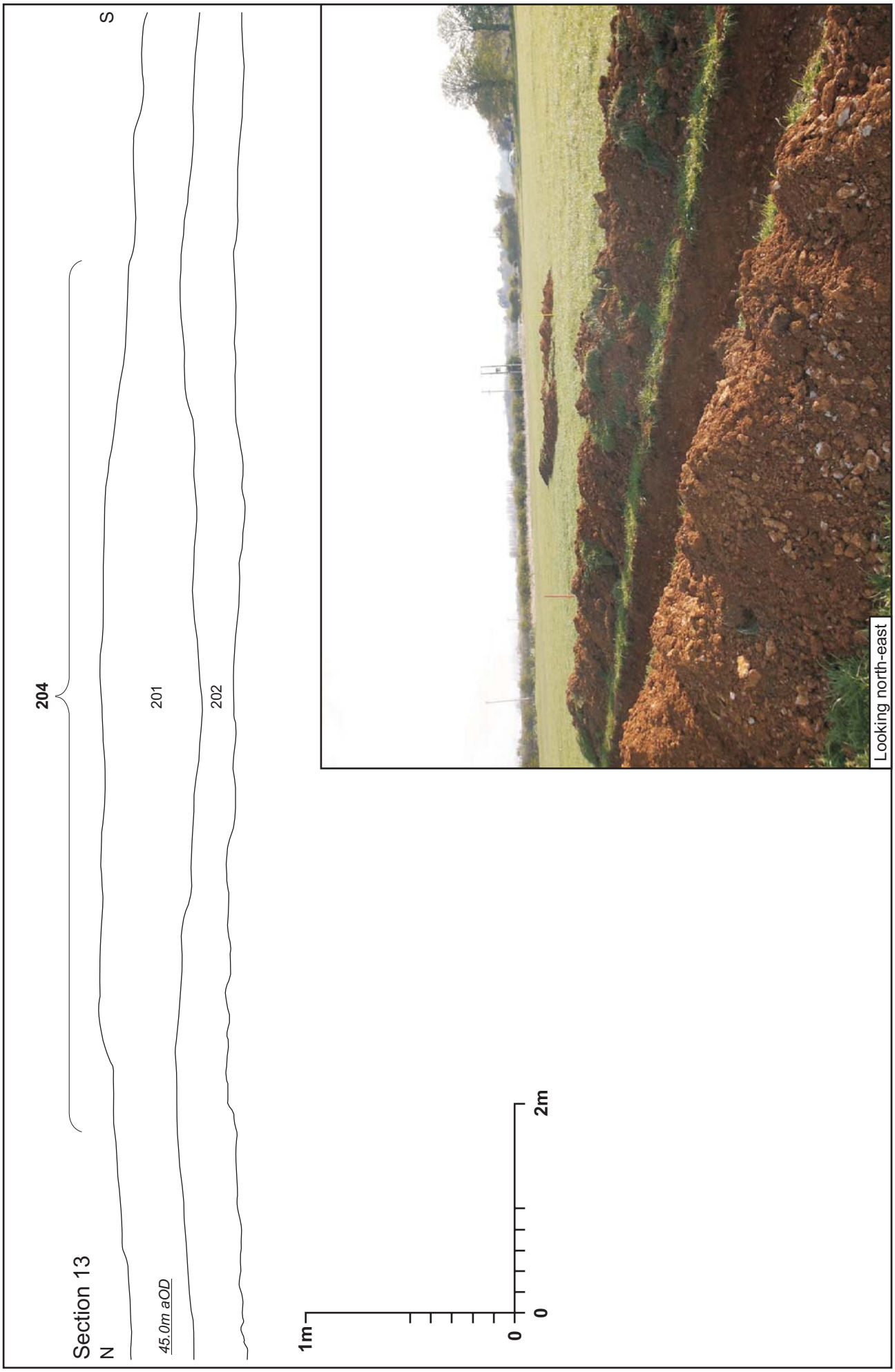
Scale (A3) 1:250 (plan) & 1:25 (sections)

Enclosures A, B and D, plans and sections Fig 9



Scale (A4) 1:25 (sections) & 1:200 (plan)

Enclosure C, plan and sections Fig 10



Scale (A4) 1:50 (x-axis) & 1:25 (y-axis)

The headland, trench 2 Fig 11

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

There is a small assemblage of late Iron Age pottery, comprising 66 sherds weighing 326g. It comprises mainly small sherds, but these are generally hard and well fired. The average sherd weight is 4.9g.

Fabrics
All sherds contain shell, with a majority, 80%, containing dense, large shell fragments and the remainder containing sparser smaller shell. The latter group generally come from thinner walled vessels, often black throughout, with smoothed surfaces.

Table 1: Quantification of Iron Age pottery

fill/cut	Coarse shell (sherds)	Fine/medium Shell (sherds)	Sherds	Weight (g)
404/406 pit	8	1	9	42
408/410 ditch, Enclosure B	6	2	8	51
504/505 gully, Enclosure C	15	5	20	63
507/509 ditch, Enclosure C	4	1	5	11
704/706 ditch, Enclosure C	3	1	4	32
705/706 ditch, Enclosure C	1	1	2	6
903/905 ditch, Enclosure B	1	2	3	51
1008/1009 ditch, Enclosure B	5	0	5	27
1012/1014 ditch, Enclosure B	6	0	6	18
1013/1014 ditch, Enclosure B	4	0	4	25
Totals	**53**	**13**	**66**	**326**
Percentages	**80%**	**20%**		

Form and chronology
Given the small size of the sherds, little can be said about vessel form, although as few sherds are particularly thick, it is likely that the assemblage largely comprises bowls and smaller jars, with little evidence for the presence of larger storage jars, with the exception noted below. The majority of the assemblage comprises plain body sherds, however, there is a flat-topped rim from a small thin-walled vessel, black throughout, from the fill (404) of pit [406] and a rounded rim with fingertip impressions from the fill (408) of ditch [410]. The group from ditch [410] also includes two scored ware sherds, one of which appears to be of combed scoring. A further scored ware sherd comes from the fill (1013) of ditch [1014]. All of these assemblages comprise sherds with grey cores and predominantly grey and sometimes brown surfaces. The presence of combed scoring and of a number of finer vessels, with smoothed surfaces, black throughout, suggests a late Iron Age date, 1st century BC.

A single group shows different characteristics. The fill (903) of ditch [905] contained the thick, rounded rim of storage jar in a fabric containing sparse crushed shell with a brown core and light brown surfaces. This is characteristic of late Iron Age storage jars of the early 1st century AD. A sherd in a similar fabric, with a grey core and light brown surfaces, comes from a vessel with a tapering upright rim.

The pottery assemblage suggests that the site is of late Iron Age date, perhaps beginning in the 1st century BC, although an earlier origin is possible, and continuing into the early 1st century AD.

6.2 **The Animal Bone** by Adam Reid

A total of 1.5 kg of animal bone was collected by hand from eleven different contexts during the course of excavation. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and to inform on the potential for further work.

Method
All material had been washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. Identifications took place without access to a reference collection and were aided by Hillson (1992) and France (2009). Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including Large Mammal (Cattle, Horse), Medium Mammal (Sheep/Goat, Pig, Large Dog) and Small Mammal (Small Dog, Cat, Rabbit). No microfaunal specimens were noted.

Preservation
The state of preservation of the material was poor in most cases, with a large degree of fragmentation. Some specimens demonstrate signs of moderate surface abrasion and no evidence of butchery or gnawing was observed.

Identification and quantification
The highly fragmented nature of the assemblage made identifications difficult, and 82% of the assemblage has been grouped as large or medium mammal. Context (404) (upper fill of Iron Age pit [406]) provided the most material: including 23 vertebral fragments from large mammal species. The ditch fills also provided identifiable material, with context (1103), fill of droveway ditch [1104]) containing five loose cattle teeth.

Aging and metrical data
The assemblage contained no neonatal or juvenile specimens and did not include any further evidence of age, such as mandibles with cheek tooth rows. No metrical data was available due to the fragmented nature of the assemblage.

Conclusion
The small nature of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any conclusions, other than to say that the main domestic taxa were utilised at the site. The presence of identifiable material from several of the excavated features indicates the possibility for future faunal analysis, should further work take place.

Table 2: Quantification of animal bone

Context/ Feature/ Type	Cattle *Bos*	Pig *Sus*	Sheep/Goat *Ovicaprid*	Horse *Equus*	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Total
404/406 pit	2	1	2	-	59	3	67
405/406 pit	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
408/410 ditch, Enclosure B	1	-	-	1	-	4	6
409/ 410 ditch, Enclosure B	2	-	-	1	2	4	9
504/505 gully, Enclosure C	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
507/509 ditch, Enclosure C	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
704/706ditch, Enclosure C	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
906/907 ditch, Enclosure B	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
1008/1009 ditch, Enclosure B	-	1	-	1	2	1	5
1103/ 1104ditch, droveway	8	-	-	-	-	24	32
1105/1106 ditch, Droveway	1	-	-	-	6	-	7
Total	**14**	**2**	**6**	**3**	**74**	**38**	**137**

6.3 **The charred plant remains** by Val Fryer

Evaluation excavations at Oundle recorded a ditched enclosure and other discrete features of Iron Age date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills with the enclosure ditches and four were submitted for assessment.

Method

The samples were bulk floated by MOLA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Most plant remains were charred, but three of the four assemblages also contained de-watered macrofossils. However, at the time of writing it was unclear whether these were contemporary with the ditches or later contaminants. Modern uncharred roots and seeds were also recorded.

Results

A single charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and individual wheat chaff elements (including a spelt (*T. spelta*) glume base) are recorded within samples 1, 2 and 4 along with comminuted fragments of charcoal/charred wood. Preservation of these remains is moderately good, although most appear to be somewhat abraded. All three assemblages also contain de-watered seeds of common segetal and ruderal weeds including fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.), sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia*) and chickweed (*Stellaria media*) although, as stated above, the contemporaneity of these remains with the contexts is uncertain. However, it is possibly of note that the sainfoin is of a small-seeded variety, with contemporary parallels known from, for example, Loves Farm, St, Neots (Fryer, forthcoming).

Other remains are scarce, although samples 2 (ditch [410], Enclosure B), 3 (pit [407]) and 4 (ditch [1009], Enclosure B) all contain small pieces of bone, some of which are

burnt. Small pieces of coal are also recorded, but it is thought most likely that these are modern in origin, being introduced via the post-depositional bioturbation of the deposits.

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, shells of both terrestrial and marsh/freshwater slum species are present within three of the four assemblages. Most specimens are moderately well preserved although all are bleached. As shells of *Lymnaea* sp. are predominant, it would appear that ditches [706] (Enclosure c), [410] (Enclosure B)and [1009] (Enclosure B) were all at least seasonally damp or partially water filled, possibly explaining why the same assemblages also contain de-watered seeds.

Conclusions

In summary, the paucity of charred macrofossils within the assemblages possibly suggests that the Enclosure was not primarily used for domestic/agricultural purposes. If the snail assemblage and the de-watered plant macrofossils are contemporary, they would appear to indicate that the area was covered with rough grassland and surrounded by damp or partially water-filled ditches, conditions which may have been more conducive to pastoral use.

Table 3: Charred plant macrofossils

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Fill/cut	**704/706**	**409/410**	**405/407**	**1008/1009**
Feature type	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**
Cereals				
Triticum sp. (grain)	-	x	-	-
(glume base)	-	-	-	x
(spikelet base)	x	-	-	-
T. spelta L. (glume base)	-	-	-	x
Herbs				
Aethusa cynapium L.	xdw	-	-	xdw
Atriplex sp.	-	xdw	-	-
Lamium sp.	xdw	xdw	-	xdw
Mentha sp.	-	xdw	-	-
Onobrychis viciifolia Scop.	-	xdw	-	-
Small Poaceae indet.	-	xdw	-	-
Large Poaceae indet.	xdw	-	-	-
Polygonum aviculare L.	-	xdw	-	-
Rumex sp.	-	xdw	-	-
Stellaria media (L.)Vill	xdw	xxdw	-	xdw
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	x
De-watered root/stem	x	x	-	x
Indet. floret	xdw	-	-	-
Indet.seeds	-	xdw	-	-
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	-	x	x
Bone	-	x xb	xx	x xb

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
Fill/cut	**704/706**	**409/410**	**405/407**	**1008/1009**
Feature type	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**
Burnt/fired clay	xcf	-	-	x
Small coal frags.	-	x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	-	-	x	x
Molluscs				
Woodland/shade loving species				
Trichia striolata	xcf	-	-	-
Open country species				
Helicella itala	x	x	-	-
Pupilla muscorum	-	x	-	x
Vallonia sp.	x	x	-	x
V. pulchella	xcf	xcf	-	xcf
Vertigo pygmaea	-	x	-	x
Marsh/freshwater slum species				
Lymnaea sp.	xx	xx	-	x
L. truncatula	x	-	-	-
Sample volume (litres)	**-**	-	-	-
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key to Table
x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens
dw = de-watered b = burnt cf = compare

7 CONCLUSION

The magnetometer survey detected a number of linear anomalies which correlated well with previously recorded cropmarks (Fig 1). The trial trench evaluation confirmed these to be a series of ditched enclosures dating to the Late Iron Age.

The pottery assemblage suggests a possible origin in the 1st century BC and abandonment after the 1st century AD. Scant environmental indicators may suggest a landscape more conducive to pastoral use although the paucity of faunal and environmental evidence makes this a very tentative suggestion. However, the presence of a possible droveway, a feature generally thought to be associated with the movement of livestock, would also suggest pastoral activity. A possible roundhouse in the southern end of Enclosure B is indicative of human occupation.

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APPENDIX A: TABLE OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

HER number	Description
2346	Palaeolithic activity
2368	Palaeolithic activity
2369	Undated ditch
2372	Bronze Age burials
2381	Undated activity
2382	Modern activity
2383	Prehistoric enclosures
2384	Bronze Age
2416/0/469	Modern, infectious diseases hospital
2419/0/0	Unstratified Roman finds
2420/0/0	Unstratified medieval find
4516/0/1	Undated field boundaries
4673	Post medieval ditches
5253/1	Oundle Cemetery
6255	Undated quarrying
6263/0/1	Undated ditch
6831/0/5	Undated pond
6831/0/6	Undated pond
6831/0/12	Undated bank and ditch
6831/0/13	Undated pond
6831/1/1	Undated limestone quarrying
6873/0/1	Undated ditch
6974/0/2	Medieval open field system
6974/0/4	Medieval open field system
6974/0/7	Medieval open field system
9428	Bronze Age settlement
9486/0/3	Medieval open field system

APPENDIX B: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	**20m x 2m, NE-SW**	**502385 287381**	**45.00m**	**0.39m & 44.61m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
101	Topsoil	Loose friable, dark grey-brown, clayey silt frequent stones and roots inclusions	0.24m	-
102	Subsoil	Friable, mid orange-brown ,clayey silt frequent limestone inclusions	0.15m	-
103	Natural	Cornbrash, mid yellow-brown, sandy silt with frequent limestone inclusions	-	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	**20m x 2m, N-S**	**502367 287361**	**45.20m**	**0.54m & 44.66m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
201	Topsoil	Loose friable, dark grey–brown, clayey silt frequent stone and roots inclusions	0.32m	-
202	Subsoil	Friable-firm, mid grey-brown, clayey silt frequent stones inclusions	0.22m	-
203	Natural	Cornbrash, mid yellow-brown, sandy silt frequent stone inclusions	-	
204	Earthwork Headland	E-W, gentle slope raised bank	At least 100m long, 7.5m wide and 0.10m high	-

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural (aOD)**
3	**20m x 2m, W-E**	**502420 287539**	**44.80m**	**0.50m & 44.30m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
301	Topsoil	Loose friable, dark grey- brown clayey silt frequent stone and root inclusions	0.29m	-
302	Subsoil	Friable mid orange-brown clayey silt with frequent limestone and charcoal inclusions	0.21m	-
303	Natural	Mid yellow –brown sandy silt frequent limestone cornbrash	-	
304	Fill of [305] furrow	Friable firm, mid red- brown, clayey silt frequent limestone inclusions	1.20m wide 0.13m thick	-
305	Furrow	N-S, gentle sloping sides with concaved base	1.20m wide 0.13m deep	
306	Fill of [307] furrow	Friable to firm, mid red brown clayey silt frequent limestone	0.50m wide 0.06m thick	-
307	Furrow	NW-SE, gentle sloping sides with concaved base	0.50m wide 0.06m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural (aOD)**
4	**20m x 2m, N-S**	**502446 287350**	**44.50m**	**0.26m & 44.24m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
401	Topsoil	Loose-friable, dark grey-brown, clayey silt freq stones and root inclusions	0.16m	-
402	Subsoil	Friable-firm, mid grey brow, clayey silt freq stone inclusions	0.10m	-
403	Natural	Cornbrash, mid yellow-brown, sandy silt freq limestone inclusions	-	
404	Fill of [406] pit	Friable, clayey silt, mid grey brown frequent small/med limestone inclusions	0.07m thick	Pottery Animal bone
405	Fill of [407] pit	Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey silt occasional small limestone inclusions	0.13m thick	Animal bone Sample 3
406	Pit	Oval, steep sided pit with flat uneven base	0.84m long, 0.56m wide 0.20m deep	
407	Fill of [410] ditch	Friable, mid grey-brown, silty sand	0.10m thick	-
408	Fill of [410] ditch	Friable-soft, mid grey- brown, silty clay	0.30m thick	Pottery
409	Fill of [410] ditch	Soft, light yellow-brown, sandy clay	0.35m thick	Sample 2
410	Ditch	E-W, U-shaped ditch with flat base	1.30m wide 0.85m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural (aOD)**
5	**20m x 2m, NW-SE**	**502404 287332**	**44.50m**	**0.30m & 44.20m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
501	Topsoil	Loose-friable, dark grey-brown, clayey silt frequent small-large pebbles and root inclusions	0.20m	-
502	Subsoil	Friable, mid orange- brown, clayey silt frequent limestone and flecks of charcoal inclusions	0.10m	-
503	Natural	Friable, mid yellow- brown, sandy silt frequent small-large pebbles and cobbles of limestone	-	
504	Fill of [505] gully	Firm, light brown-grey, clayey silt occasional flecks of charcoal, moderate small pebbles	0.24m thick	Pot Animal bone
505	Gully	E-W, gradually sloping sides with concave base	0.60m wide 0.24m deep	
506	Fill of ditch [509]	Friable, mid yellow-brown, clayey silt freq limestone inclusions	0.34m thick	-
507	Fill of ditch [509]	Friable-firm, dark orange-brown, clayey silt frequent large limestone	0.46m thick	Pottery Animal bone
508	Fill of ditch [509]	Friable, mid brown-yellow sandy silt occasional limestone and charcoal	0.20m thick	-
509	Ditch	E-W steep sloping sides with flat concave base	0.72m wide 0.76m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural (aOD)**
6	**20m x 2m, W-E**	**502369 287315**	**44.70m**	**0.31m & 44.39m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
601	Topsoil	Loose-friable, dark grey-brown, clayey silt frequent small-large pebbles, cobbles and root inclusions	0.22m	-
602	Subsoil	Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey silt frequent limestone and charcoal inclusions	0.09m	-
603	Natural	Friable, mid yellow-brown, sandy silt frequent small-large pebbles and cobbles of limestone	-	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural (aOD)**
7	**20m x 2m, Ne-Sw**	**502402 287313**	**44.43m**	**0.29m & 44.14m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
701	Topsoil	Loose-friable, dark grey-brown, clayey silt frequent small-large pebbles and root inclusions	0.21m	-
702	Subsoil	Friable, mid orange- brown, clayey silt frequent limestone and flecks of charcoal	0.08m	-
703	Natural	Friable, mid yellow-brown, clayey silt frequent small-large pebbles and cobbles of limestone	-	
704	Fill of ditch [706]	Firm, mid brown, sandy clay frequent small-large limestone inclusions	0.50m thick	Pottery
705	Fill of ditch [706]	Firm, mid brown, sandy silt, occasional small stones	0.40m thick	Pottery Sample 1
706	Ditch	N-S, V-shaped ditch with flat base	1.60m wide 0.90m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural (aOD)**
8	**20m x 2m, NW-SE**	**502431 287324**	**44.30m**	**0.35m & 43.95m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
801	Topsoil	Friable, mid brown-grey, clayey silt frequent cornbrash	0.25m	-
802	interface	Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey silt frequent cornbrash inclusions	0.10m	-
803	Natural	Firm, mid orange-brown, clayey silt	-	
804	Fill of ditch [805]	Soft, mid brown- grey, silty clay mod cornbrash and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.10m thick	-
805	Ditch	Linear NE-SW, U- shaped ditch with concave base	0.30m wide 0.10m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	**21m x 2m, NW-SE**	**502449 287301**	**44.00m**	**0.38m & 43.62m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
901	Topsoil	Firm, mid brown, sandy clay, freq small stone inclusions	0.28m	-
902	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-orange, sandy clay, mod small stone inclusions	0.10m	-
903	Fill of [905]	Firm, mid brown, sandy clay mod small-med stone inclusions	0.50m thick	Pottery Bone
904	Fill of [905]	Firm, mid brown-grey, silty clay	0.10m thick	-
905	Ditch	NE-SW, V-shaped ditch with flat base	1.10m wide 0.60m deep	
906	Fill of [907]	Firm/hard, mid brown, sandy clay freq stone inclusions	0.40m thick	Bone
907	Ditch	NE-SW, U-shaped profile, with flat base	0.90m wide 0.40m deep	
908	Fill of furrow [909]	Firm, mid grey brown, silty clay	0.04m thick	-
909	Furrow	NE-SW, U-shaped furrow with wide flat base	1.0m wide 0.04m deep	
910	Natural	Firm, mid orange, sandy clay freq small-med limestone inclusions	-	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	**30m x 2m, N-S**	**502426 287289**	**44.00m**	**0.32m & 43.68m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1001	Topsoil	Loose-friable, dark grey-brown, clayey silt frequent small-large pebbles	0.22m	-
1002	Subsoil	Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey silt freq angular limestone & flecks of charcoal.	0.10m	-
1003	Natural	Friable, mid yellow-brown, sandy silt freq small-large pebbles & cobbles of limestone		
1004	Fill [1006]	Friable, mid grey-brown, clayey silt freq large stones occasional charcoal	0.34m thick	-
1005	Fill [1006]	Soft, mid orange-brown, clayey sand occasional flecks of charcoal, limestone flecks and small pebbles	0.39m thick	-
1006	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE, gradual convex sloping sides, with rounded base	0.76m wide 0.59m deep	
1007	Fill of ditch [1009]	Firm-friable, dark grey-brown, clayey silt, frequent small stone	0.24m thick	-
1008	Fill of ditch [1009]	Soft, mid yellow-brown, clayey sand occasional flecks of charcoal	0.14m thick	Pottery Bone Sample 4
1009	Ditch	E-W, convex sided ditch with convex base	1.20m wide 0.40m deep	
1010	Fill of ditch [1010]	Friable, mid grey-brown, clayey silt frequent silt	0.07m thick	-
1011	Ditch	E-W gradual sloping ditch with uneven base	0.20m wide 0.07m deep	
1012	Fill of ditch 1014	Friable-firm, grey-brown, clayey silt frequent cobbles occasional flecks of charcoal	0.30m thick	Pottery
1013	Fill of ditch 1014	Firm, dark yellow-brown, silty clay occasional flecks of charcoal, freq small cobbles	0.60m thick	Pottery
1014	Ditch	E-W, U-shaped ditch with narrow rounded base	1.51m wide 0.94m deep	
1015	Fill [1016]	Friable, dark brown-grey, sandy silt occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles Unexcavated		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	**30m x 2m, N-S**	**502426 287289**	**44.00m**	**0.32m & 43.68m**
1016	Opposing gully terminals of ring ditch? Filled with 1015	Unexcavated	0.50m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
11	**20m x 2m, N-S**	**502391 287275**	**44.00m**	**0.39m & 43.61m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1101	Topsoil	Firm, mid brown-grey, clayey silt moderate cornbrash	0.29m	-
1102	interface	Firm, mid orange- brown, clayey silt frequent cornbrash	0.10m	-
1103	Fill [1104]	Firm, light orange-brown, silty clay, moderate cornbrash	0.20m thick	Bone
1104	Droveway ditch Filled with 1103	E-W, U-shaped ditch with concave base	0.80m wide 0.20m deep	
1105	Fill [1106]	Firm mid orange-brown, clayey silt moderate cornbrash	0.20m thick	Bone
1106	Droveway ditch Filled with 1105	E-W, U-shaped ditch with concave base	1.20m wide 0.20m deep	
1107	Natural	Firm, mid orange- brown, clayey silt frequent cornbrash	-	

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