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COBBS LANE, GUILDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2009

Cambridgeshire HER Event Number ECB3218

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in September 2009 at Cobbs Lane, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 2844 4570). The evaluation was commissioned by the Cambridge Water Company in advance of the proposed installation of a replacement water pipe.

Map regression, HER assessment and aerial photograph assessment were carried out in advance of trial-trenching. The map regression and HER assessment highlighted that from the medieval period up until the present day Cobbs Lane has probably acted as the boundary between the two parishes of Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden and that the land adjacent to Cobbs Lane has remained agricultural fields. The aerial photograph assessment identified and mapped the remains of probable medieval and post-medieval settlement, agricultural activity and remnants of the 19th century industries. In particular, a possible ditch visible on the air photos, apparently associated with a moated site, may date to the medieval or post-medieval period and would be directly affected by the proposed pipeline.

Fourteen trial-trenches were excavated during the evaluation. A small number of residual worked flints provided evidence for activity dating from between the Mesolithic and Bronze Age periods on the site. The small size of the assemblage would suggest that there may have been small-scale or temporary usage of the site at some point during these periods. However, no features dating to these periods were uncovered. A small number of features including a pit and two ditches dated to the middle Iron Age period (5th/4th – 1st centuries BC) and may be associated with settlement activity. Several other undated pits may also date to this period.

Three main concentrations of medieval features were revealed. A dense concentration of medieval features near the northern end of the site, mainly north of the River Cam, some of which correspond with features visible on air photos, are probably associated with the moated enclosure at Bridge Farm. The pottery assemblage recovered from these features, which consisted of ditches and pits, is consistent with domestic usage, suggesting nearby settlement. The majority of the medieval assemblage appears to date to the mid-12th – 13th century AD, with smaller amounts of pottery suggesting less activity in the 14th and 15th century. The concentration of features, along with the presence of a moated enclosure nearby suggests that this area was heavily utilised during the medieval period.

A second group of mid-12th – 13th century features suggestive of ditched enclosures was located south of the river. A third group of medieval or early post-medieval features, at the south part of the site, consisted of two inter-cutting probable mid-12th – 13th century plot boundary ditches and a possible palisade ditch or fence line, perhaps of 16th century date or earlier, indicating the presence of an enclosure.

A large proportion of the features uncovered during the evaluation were undated. However, a number of these features correspond to features visible on the aerial

photographic assessment, and some of these are likely to represent field boundaries or ridge and furrow.

The Iron Age and medieval sites recorded during the evaluation are of local and regional archaeological importance. The evaluation provided sufficient information for a focused programme of archaeological mitigation work to be designed should the proposed pipeline go ahead.

Cobbs Lane, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by the Cambridge Water Company to undertake a programme of trial-trenching ahead of the proposed installation of a replacement water pipe adjacent to Cobbs Lane, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 2844 4570).

1.2. This report outlines the results of the field evaluation carried out during September 2009, and it has been prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 2001). This is in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990).

1.3. The evaluation conformed to a brief by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA 2009) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2009) which was approved by Andy Thomas, Senior Archaeologist for Cambridgeshire County Council prior to implementation.

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

2.1. The proposed pipeline route (hereafter referred to as 'the site') runs along the eastern side of Cobbs Lane, between Flecks Lane and 40m north of Tadlow Bridge crossing the River Cam (centred on NGR TL 2844 4570, Fig. 1). The site comprises the area proposed for the stripping of topsoil along the working area for the pipe laying, approximately 2km long and 12m wide (wider in places to accommodate compounds etc).

2.2. The site is at a height of between 26m and 30m AOD. The drift geology of the site comprises of superficial deposits of alluvium, sand and gravel, overlying solid geology of the Gault formation (British Geological Survey 2006).

2.3. The present character of the site is mainly arable fields, apart from a small pasture field at the southern end of the site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1. Cobbs Lane is a historic trackway between the villages of Guilden Morden and Tadlow, and also marks the parish boundary. To the east of the site several cropmarked enclosures of unknown date appear on

aerial photographs (CHER 06221). North of the site Bridge Farm (CHER 01208) is a moated medieval site.

3.2. Morden is mentioned in the Doomsday book as being held by Sheriff Picot of Cambridge, Lord Hardwin of Scales, and Geoffrey de Mandeville and Earl Roger. The earliest parts of the parish Church of St Mary date to the 13th century.

3.3. To the south of the site at Ashwell Street, an Iron Age and Romano-British cemetery containing over 180 burials of the 1st to 4th century AD was excavated in the 1930s (Lethbridge 1936). The cemetery may possibly be associated with cropmarks suggestive of a Romano-British winged corridor villa.

3.4. Map regression, HER assessment (McNichol 2009) and aerial photograph assessment (Deegan 2009) were carried out in advance of the evaluation. The map regression and HER assessment highlighted that from the medieval period up until the present day Cobbs Lane has probably acted as the boundary between the two parishes of Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden. The land adjacent to Cobbs Lane has remained agricultural fields. Within the wider study area the presence of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods indicated that there is potential for archaeological remains surviving in the easement of the pipeline. The aerial photograph assessment identified and mapped the remains of probable medieval and post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity and remnants of the 19th century industries of brick-making and coprolite digging. In particular, a possible ditch visible on the air photos apparently associated with the Bridge Farm (CHER 01208) moated site may date to the medieval or post-medieval period and would be directly affected by the proposed pipeline.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1. The principal aim of the evaluation was to ascertain, where possible, the location, extent, character, extent, condition, significance, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits which may be affected by the proposed groundworks.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1. A total of 14 trenches, measuring 12m, 25m, 38m or 50m long and 1.8 m wide, were excavated across the site (Fig. 2). This gives a total sample of 833 sq. metres which is approximately 3% of the total area to be stripped of topsoil (27,500 sq. metres). Some of the trenches were located to investigate features noted in the AP assessment and others were intended to test the areas between for unidentified features.

5.2. The trench locations were agreed in advance with Andy Thomas, Senior Archaeologist for Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice, Cambridgeshire County Council. The trenches were surveyed-in using differential GPS and located on the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5.3. All topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon, or to the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was carried out by hand.

5.4. A representative sample of archaeological features and deposits were manually sample excavated. This was done to sufficiently define their character and to obtain suitable dating evidence using the following strategy;

- 50% of pits or post-holes
- 1m or 0.5m wide section across linear features

5.5. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:50, and sections drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:20. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using black and white monochrome, colour slide and digital photography.

5.6. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within the Birmingham Archaeology Fieldwork Manual and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

5.7. The full site archive includes all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). The paper and finds archives will be deposited with the appropriate repository subject to permission from the Parochial Church Council.

6 RESULTS

6.1 The following section provides a summary narrative of the trial-trenching results, arranged by trench order and both feature (cut) and context numbers are highlighted in bold.

6.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

6.2.1 Trench 1 was located to intersect with a 'L'- shaped feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2), probably associated with the adjoining moated enclosure and with a possible curvilinear northeast-southwest aligned feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment.

6.2.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of grey alluvial clay (**102**), which contained gravel at the northwest part of the trench. This was sealed by a mixed layer comprising ploughsoil and alluvium (**101**), 0.1 m in depth, and overlain by ploughsoil (**100**) an average of 0.3 m in depth. Layer **102** was cut by five large ditches (**126**, **124**, **112**, **114** and **116**) one possible ditch terminal (**110**), and three possible pits (**104**, **106** and **108**), as well as a pebble surface (**122**). A field drain was also recorded (not described).

6.2.3 Ditch **126**, aligned northeast-southwest measured 1.2 m in width and a maximum of 0.68 m in depth. It was filled with light grey-brown clay (**127**) containing sherds of medieval pottery. Ditch **126** was cut by northeast-southwest aligned ditch **124**, which measured a maximum of 1.6 m in width and 0.38 m in depth. It was filled with dark brown silt-clay (**125**).

6.2.4 Cobble surface **122** measured a maximum of 2 m in width and 0.4 m in depth. The cobbles were set within a matrix of light grey clay (**123**) containing tile or brick fragments and modern finds (not retained).

6.2.5 Ditch **112**, aligned northeast-southwest, measured a maximum of 2.4 m in width and 0.45 m in depth. It was backfilled with mid grey-brown clay (**111**) containing sherds of medieval pottery.

6.2.6 Possible ditch terminal **110** measured a maximum of 0.95 m in width and 0.42 m in depth. It was filled with black-brown clay (**109**) containing sherds of medieval pottery.

6.2.7 Two shallow oval pits (**104** and **106**), 0.45 m and 0.35 m wide respectively, and less than 0.07 m deep, were filled with grey (**105**) and brown clay (**103**) each containing a sherd of medieval pottery. Another possible pit or possible ditch terminal (**108**), at least 0.82 m wide and 0.28 m deep, was located to the south of ditch terminal **110** and was filled with black-brown sandy clay (**107**) containing a sherd of medieval pottery.

6.2.8 Ditch **114** (Plate 1) measured a minimum of 2m in width, and 0.80 m in depth. It was filled with filled with light grey silt-clay (**121**), a grey silty sandy clay (**119**) containing part of a dog skeleton, a grey silty sandy clay (**113**) containing sherds of medieval pottery, fragments of possible quern stone and part of a dog skeleton, and a dark grey-brown silty sandy clay (**120**) containing sherds of medieval pottery. Its full width could not be ascertained because of

truncation by later ditch **116** the width of which was not fully defined within the trench.

6.2.9 Ditch **116** measured a minimum of 1.1m in width and 0.44m in depth. It was filled by a grey brown silty sandy clay (**115**) containing sherds of 19th century pottery.

6.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

6.3.1 Trench 2 was designed to intersect with a possible leat type feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2) associated with the adjoining moated enclosure.

6.3.2 The natural subsoil (**210**) was a light grey clay, recorded at a maximum depth of 0.80m below the present ground surface at the northern end of the trench. This was sealed by a brownish grey silty clay alluvial layer (**202**), 0.25m in depth. Above this was an orange-brown silty sandy clay (**201**), 0.40m in depth and overlain by ploughsoil (**200**) an average of 0.15m in depth.

6.3.3 Three features, or possible features, were recorded cutting layer **210** these were two possible pits or tree-boles, (**206** and **208**), both only partly exposed within the trench, and a possible ditch (**204**). Possible ditch **204** was overlain by a layer of brown-grey alluvium, **202**.

6.3.4 Possible ditch **204** (Plate 2) may have been aligned northeast-southwest, and was at least 2.5m wide and at least 1.45m deep, although only its northwestern edge was defined and its depth was ascertained by use of an auger. Its fills comprised a layer of brown clay, 0.1m in depth sealed by a dark brown-grey silt-sand-clay (**209**), 0.97m in depth, containing a sherd of Iron Age pottery. Fill **209** was sealed by mid grey silt-sand-clay (**203**), measuring 0.38m in depth (the depth of both lower fills was recorded by auguring).

6.3.5 Possible pit **206** measured a maximum of 1.1 m in diameter, and 0.29m in depth. It was filled with brown-grey silt-clay (**205**).

6.3.6 Possible pit **208** was 1.46m in diameter, and 0.26m in depth. It was backfilled with mid grey silt-clay (**207**).

6.4 Trench 3

6.4.1 Trench 3 was designed to test for linear archaeological features associated with the complex of features depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2) associated with the adjoining moated enclosure.

6.4.2 The earliest deposit recorded (**304**) was a light grey-yellow clay. Above layer **304** was a dark grey orange alluvial clay (**303**) measuring 0.28m in depth. This was sealed by a brown-grey sand-

clay (**301**), 0.22m in depth, which was below the ploughsoil (**300**), 0.26m in depth.

6.4.3 The trench contained no features, or possible features of archaeological significance. The natural subsoil was not recorded in this trench.

6.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

6.5.1 Trench 4 was located to investigate a possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.5.2 The natural subsoil (**403**) was composed of clay, sand and gravel. Layer **403** was sealed by a layer of alluvial clay (**402**), 0.86 m in depth, overlain by ploughsoil (**401**), 0.16m in depth. Three features, or possible features cut layer **403**: a northeast-southwest aligned gully (**405**), a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (**407**), and a ditch terminal or pit (**409**).

6.5.3 Irregularly-shaped gully **405** (Plate 3) measured a maximum of 0.86m in width and 0.11m in depth. It was filled with grey silt-clay (**404**) containing a sherd of medieval pottery.

6.5.4 Ditch **407** measured a maximum of 0.8m in width and 0.36m in depth. It was filled with grey-brown silt-clay (**406**).

6.5.5 Ditch terminal or possible pit **409** measured a maximum of 1.03m in diameter, and 0.2m in depth. It was filled with grey-brown silt-clay (**408**), similar to the fill of feature **407** above.

6.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 5)

6.6.1 Trench 5 was located to investigate a possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.6.2 The natural subsoil, (**502**) was a light brown-grey clay and this was sealed by an alluvial layer (**501**), 0.50m in depth, composed of mid brown silt-clay. This was overlain by ploughsoil (**500**), 0.20 m deep. An east-west aligned ditch (**503**), a pit (**513**) were recorded cutting subsoil **502**, together with a land drain (not described). Other features (**505**, **507**, **509** and **511**) were all probably of natural origin.

6.6.3 Ditch **503** measured a maximum of 0.9m in width and 0.25m in depth. It was filled with dark brown silt-clay (**504**).

6.6.4 Probable tree bole **505** measured a maximum of 0.45m in diameter, and 0.04m in depth. It was filled with dark brown clay (**506**).

6.6.5 Probable tree bole **507** measured a maximum of 0.4m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with mid-dark brown clay (**508**).

6.6.6 Probable tree bole **509** measured a maximum of maximum of 0.28m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with mid-dark brown clay (**510**).

6.6.7 Probable tree bole **511** measured a maximum of 0.4m in diameter, and 0.11m in depth. It was filled with mid brown-grey clay (**512**).

6.6.8 Pit **513** measured a maximum of 1m in diameter, and 0.14m in depth. It was filled with light brown-grey silt-clay (**514**).

6.7 Trench 6

6.7.1 Trench 6 was located to investigate a possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.7.2 The natural subsoil (**602**) comprised of a mixed clay and sand-clay, with gravel inclusions. The subsoil **602** was overlain by a layer of alluvial clay, (**601**) 0.2m in depth and sealed by ploughsoil (**600**), 0.30m in depth. The subsoil **602** was cut by two adjacent possible ditch termini (**605** and **607**), separated by a distance of 0.2m, and a gully (**603**), aligned northeast-southwest. The subsoil **602** was also cut by a field drain (not described).

6.7.3 Gully **606** measured a maximum of 0.41m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with light brown sand-clay (**604**).

6.7.4 Possible ditch terminal **605** measured 0.44m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was backfilled with dark brown clay (**606**).

6.7.5 Adjacent possible ditch terminal **607** measured 0.65m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled with dark brown clay (**608**).

6.8 Trench 7 (Fig. 5)

6.8.1 Trench 7 was located to investigate a possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.8.2 The natural subsoil comprised a light grey clay (**702**), interspersed with patches of red sand. This was overlain by a layer of brown sandy clay (**701**), 0.2m in depth, sealed by ploughsoil (**700**), 0.15m deep. The trench contained three ditches (**703**, **705** and **707**). Ditch **707** was aligned northeast-southwest, ditch **705** was aligned approximately north-south and ditch **703** was aligned northeast-southwest.

6.8.3 Ditch **703** measured a maximum of 2.3m in width and 0.3m in depth. It was filled with grey-brown clay (**704**).

6.8.4 Ditch **705** measured a maximum of 1m in width and 0.17m in depth. It was filled with grey clay (**706**).

6.8.5 Ditch **707** measured a maximum of 2.15m in width and 0.6m in depth. It was filled with light grey clay with flecks of red sand (**708**).

6.9 Trench 8 (Fig. 5)

6.9.1 Trench 8 was designed to test an apparent blank area depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.9.2 The natural subsoil comprised a grey clay (**803**), overlain by a layer of brown sandy clay, (**802**), 0.18m in depth, recorded beneath the ploughsoil (**801**) containing a sherd of medieval pottery, 0.16m in depth. The natural subsoil **803** was cut by two parallel northeast-southwest aligned, possibly associated ditches (**807** and **809**), both with a 'V'- shaped profile. Also cutting subsoil **803** was the possible southwestern terminal of a northeast-southwest aligned ditch, (**811**) and a northwest-southeast orientated ditch (**805**).

6.9.3 Ditch **805** measured a maximum of 0.8m in width and 0.46m in depth, and had a 'V'-shaped profile. It was filled with mid brown clay (**804**) containing sherds of medieval pottery.

6.9.4 Ditch **807** (Plate 4) measured a maximum of 1m in width and 0.38m in depth, and was filled with light brown clay (**806**) containing sherds of medieval pottery.

6.9.5 Ditch **809** measured a maximum of 1.2 m in width and 0.46 m in depth. It was filled with light brown clay (**808**).

6.9.6 Ditch **811** measured 0.86m in width and 0.27m in depth and had a 'U' -shaped profile. It was filled with mid grey clay (**810**) containing sherds of medieval pottery.

6.10 Trench 9 (Fig. 6)

6.10.1 Trench 9 was located to investigate a possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.10.2 The natural subsoil was a mottled grey sand-clay (**902**), sealed by overlain by a layer of brown sandy clay (**901**), 0.2 m in depth, overlain by the ploughsoil (**900**), 0.35m in depth. Two parallel northwest-southeast aligned ditches (**903** and **905**) cut subsoil **902**, approximately 4m apart. A field drain (not described) also cut subsoil **902**.

6.10.3 Ditch **903** measured a maximum of 1.15m in width and 0.36 m in depth, and had a 'U' -shaped profile. It was filled with grey-brown sand-clay (**904**).

6.10.4 Ditch **905** measured a maximum of 1.1m in width and 0.16m in depth, and had an irregular profile. It was filled with grey-brown sand-clay (**906**).

6.11 Trench 10

6.11.1 Trench 10 was located to investigate a possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.11.2 The natural subsoil comprised a light grey clay (**1007**), incorporating patches of light orange-brown clay-gravel. This subsoil **1007** was sealed overlain by a layer of brown sandy clay, (**1006**), 0.2m in depth, overlain by the ploughsoil (**1005**), 0.4m in depth, which contained sherds of post-medieval pottery. Subsoil **1007** was cut by two ditches or possible ditches, one aligned approximately east-west (**1004**), the other possible ditch (**1000**), aligned approximately east-west. Also cutting subsoil **1007** were an oval possible pit (**1003**), a possible small pit or posthole, (**1001**), and a small posthole (**1002**). Two field drains (not described) were also recorded.

6.11.3 Ditch **1004** had a stepped profile, and measured a maximum of 1.4m in width and 0.42m in depth. It was filled with brown clay (**1012**).

6.11.4 Possible ditch **1000** was excavated for a maximum width of 1.4 m, but the full width of this feature was not recorded within the trench; it measured a maximum of 0.1m in depth. This feature was filled with light orange-brown clay-gravel (**1008**).

6.11.5 Possible pit **1003** measured a maximum of 2.8m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled with brown-grey clay (**1011**).

6.11.6 Possible pit or posthole **1001** measured a minimum of 0.7 m in diameter and 0.1 m in depth. It was filled with grey-brown clay (**1009**).

6.11.7 Posthole **1002** measured a maximum of 0.2m in width and 0.15 m in depth. It was filled with brown-grey clay (**1010**).

6.12 Trench 11 (Fig. 6)

6.12.1 Trench 11 was located to investigate a possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2). Natural subsoil comprised of a light grey clay (**1120**) which was sealed by a layer of orange-brown sandy clay, (**1121**), 0.1-0.5m in depth, overlain by the ploughsoil (**1122**), 0.4 m in depth.

6.12.2 Four ditches, (**1100**, **1101**, **1102** and **1103**), and two discrete possible features, (**1106** and **1107**), were recorded cutting the natural subsoil **1120**. A recent field boundary ditch containing modern finds (not retained) also cut layer **1121**.

6.12.3 Ditch terminal **1100** measured a maximum of 1.3m in width and 0.32m in depth, and had a 'bowl' - shaped profile. It was filled with

grey-brown clay (**1112**), overlain by dark grey clay (**1108**) containing sherds of Iron Age pottery.

6.12.4 Ditch **1101** (Plate 5) was aligned northeast-southwest. It measured a maximum of 0.9m in width and 0.39m in depth, and had a 'U' - shaped profile. It was filled with mid grey clay (**1111**) containing sherds of Iron Age pottery which was overlain by a grey clay (**1110**) containing sherds of Iron Age pottery.

6.12.5 Feature **1106** measured a maximum of 1.15m in diameter, and 0.09m in depth. It was filled with dark grey-brown clay (**1115**). It is possible that this feature could be of natural origin.

6.12.6 Feature **1107** was irregular in shape and difficult to define in plan. It was filled with brown-grey clay (**1116**).

6.12.7 Ditch **1102** was aligned approximately east-west and was and had a steep-sided and flat-based profile. It measured a maximum of 0.52m in width and 0.28m in depth. It was filled with dark grey-brown clay (**1113**). This ditch was adjacent to ditch **1103**, which was aligned slightly differently. Ditch **1103** was steep-sided, and measured a maximum of 0.4m in width and 0.2m in depth. It was filled with mid grey-brown clay (**1114**).

6.13 **Trench 12** (Fig. 7)

6.13.1 Trench 12 was designed to test an apparent blank area depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.13.2 The natural subsoil (**1214**) was overlain by layer of light grey clay with few stone and chalk inclusions (**1212**), 0.15m in depth, which was sealed by the ploughsoil (**1213**), 0.4m in depth. Cutting the natural subsoil **1214** were four north-south aligned ditches (**1200**, **1207**, **1208** and **1210**). Five sub-circular pits (**1206**, **1205**, **1203**, **1202** and **1201**) and an irregularly-shaped pit, (**1204**) also cut natural **1214**. Ditches **1200** and **1208** were parallel, 1 m apart (measured centre-to-centre). Two recent land drains (not described) were also recorded.

6.13.3 Ditch **1200** measured a maximum of 0.9m in width and 0.3m in depth, and had a 'U'-shaped profile. It was filled with light grey clay (**1209**).

6.13.4 Ditch **1207** was irregular in plan, measuring a maximum of 0.84m in width and 0.2m in depth, and was filled with brown-grey clay (**1221**).

6.13.5 Ditch **1208** measured a maximum of 0.64m in width and 0.12m in depth. It had a 'U'-shaped profile and was filled with light brown grey clay (**1222**).

6.13.6 Ditch **1210** cut ditch **1200** and measured a maximum of 0.67m in width and 0.22m in depth. It had a 'U'-shaped profile and was filled with mid brown grey clay (**1222**)

6.13.7 Pit **1206** measured a maximum of 0.8m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. It had a 'U'-shaped profile and was filled with mid brown-grey clay (**1220**).

6.13.8 Pit **1205** (Plate 6) measured at least 0.38 m in diameter and 0.12 m in depth. It had a 'U'-shaped profile and was filled with mid brown clay (**1219**) containing sherds of Iron Age pottery.

6.13.9 Pit **1204** measured at least 1.34m in diameter and 0.36m in depth. It had a 'U'-shaped profile and was filled with mid brown clay (**1218**).

6.13.10 Pit **1203** measured a maximum of 0.70m in diameter and 0.1m in depth and was cut by a modern land drain. It had a steep sides and a flat base and was filled with mid brown-grey clay (**1217**).

6.13.11 Pit **1202** measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. It had a 'U'-shaped profile and was filled with mid brown clay (**1216**)

6.13.12 Pit **1201** measured a maximum of 0.94m in diameter, and 0.32m in depth. It had a steep sides and a flat base and was filled with mottled red and grey clay (**1215**).

6.14 Trench 13 (Fig. 7)

6.14.1 Trench 13 was designed to test an apparent blank area depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.14.2 The natural subsoil comprised a light grey sand-clay (**1307**), sealed by a layer of light brown sand-clay (**1306**), 0.08 m in depth and overlain by the ploughsoil (**1305**), 0.4m in depth. A single northwest-southeast aligned feature (**1300**, Plate 7) with a stepped profile cut layer **1307**. It measured a maximum of 0.6m in width and 0.12m in depth. At the base of **1300** were several irregular hollows (**1304**), 0.1m in depth, possibly traces of sub-circular postholes or equally may be the result of root action. The northwest hollow contained a sherd of early post-medieval pottery. Features **1304** and **1301** were filled with grey clay (**1302**) and sealed by light brown sand-clay (**1301**).

6.15 Trench 14 (Fig. 7)

6.15.1 Trench 14 was located to test for possible archaeological features close to Flecks Lane and to test an apparent blank area depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

6.15.2 The natural subsoil comprised a grey-brown sand-clay (**1408**), sealed by a brown sand-clay layer (**1401**), overlain by the ploughsoil (**1400**). Containing sherds of 19th century pottery. Two east-west aligned ditches (**1402** and **1404,** Plate 8) cut natural subsoil **1408**.

6.15.3 Ditch **1404** (Plate 8) had an irregular profile, measuring a maximum of 1.62m in width and 0.5m in depth. It was filled with grey-brown sand-clay (**1407**) containing sherds of medieval pottery, sealed by light grey-brown sand-clay (**1406**) containing sherds of medieval pottery, and overlain by grey-brown sand-clay (**1405**) containing sherds of medieval pottery.

6.15.4 Ditch **1402** (Plate 8) cut ditch **1404**, and had a 'U'-shaped profile, measuring a maximum of 0.6m in width and 0.36m in depth. It was filled with light grey-brown sand-clay (**1403**) which contained sherds of medieval pottery.

7 THE FINDS

7.1 **Pottery** by Paul Blinkhorn

7.1.1 Summary

7.1.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 108 sherds with a total weight of 1641g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rim sherd circumference was 0.70. It comprised a range of Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval wares, as follows:

7.1.2 Iron Age

7.1.2.1 F10: Dense shell fragments up to 10 mm, few other visible inclusions. 1 sherd, 174g, EVE = 0.

7.1.2.2 F11: Sparse quartz up to 0.5 mm; sparse to moderate shell up to 5 mm; sparse organic material. Rare red grog up to 1 mm. 21 sherds, 84g, EVE = 0.09.

7.1.2.3 The Iron Age assemblage was very fragmented apart from the single sherd of F10, which was from a very large, thick-walled vessel. Most of the prehistoric assemblage comprised small groups of plain body sherds with no diagnostic features. Flint tempered fabrics, usually indicative of a late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date in this area, were entirely absent. This suggests that the assemblage is all of middle and/or late Iron Age date. There also does not appear to be any wheel-thrown Iron Age pottery present, so a middle Iron Age date appears the most likely. Some support is offered for this in the form of a single sherd with scoring. Scored ware (Elsdon 1992), which is commonly found on middle – late Iron Age sites in the south-east

midlands, particularly Northamptonshire, is thought to be of middle Iron Age date, *i.e.* 5th/4th – 1st centuries BC, although it does appear alongside wheel-thrown wares in later Iron Age pottery assemblages in the lower Nene Valley (Knight 2002, 134-6). A small fragment of a rim sherd with fingertip decoration was also present. This is again typical of the middle Iron Age in the region. Both the diagnostic sherds occurred in context 1110.

7.1.3 Medieval and post-medieval

7.1.3.1 F301: Ely Ware, mid 12th -15th century (Spoerry 2008): Generic name for a quartz sand and calcareous tempered group of pottery fabrics mainly manufactured in Ely, but also with a second possible source in the Hunts. Fenland. Jars, bowls and jugs dominate the assemblage. Earlier vessels hand-built and turntable finished, later vessels finer and usually wheel-thrown. Wide distribution, including King's Lynn, where it was originally identified as 'Grimston Software'. 47 sherds, 840g, EVE = 0.48.

7.1.3.2 F328: Grimston Ware: 13th – 15th century (Leah 1994). Wheel-thrown. Dark grey sandy fabric, usually with grey surfaces, although orange-red and (less commonly) buff surfaces are known. Manufactured at the eponymous production centre near Kings Lynn, Norfolk. 2 sherds, 77g, EVE = 0.

7.1.3.3 F329: Potterspury Ware: ?AD1250/75-?1600. Wheel-thrown. Many kilns are known in eponymous Northamptonshire village, but it is not yet possible to relate fabrics to individual manufactories. Fabric usually buff with grey core, although brick-red fabric with buff or grey core also known. Glazed patchily on exterior of jugs and interior of base of bowls, usually glossy green. Bowls often have incised wavy lines, jugs finger-grooved on shoulder. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, rare black or red ironstone and calcareous inclusions. 1 sherds, 4g, EVE = 0.

7.1.3.4 F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400 (McCarthy 1979). Products of numerous known and many unknown kilns on the Jurassic limestone of west Northants/east Bedfordshire. Pale buff through virtually all colours to black, moderate to dense shelly limestone fragments up to 3mm, and any amount of ironstone, quartz and flint. Full range of medieval vessel types, especially jars and bowls, and 'Top Hat' jars. 9 sherds, 108g, EVE = 0.07.

7.1.3.5 F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares. A range of quartz-tempered coarsewares that are found throughout the east midlands and East Anglia. 4 sherds, 51g, EVE = 0.

7.1.3.6 F365: Late Medieval Reduced Ware, 14th – 16th century. Hard grey sandy ware, manufactured at a number of centres in the south-east midlands, such as Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire

(Blinkhorn 2007). Broad range of utilitarian vessels, particularly large bowls, jars and cisterns. 2 sherds, 30g, EVE = 0.06.

7.1.3.7 F401: Late Medieval Oxidized ware. Mid 15th – 16th century. Very hard orange sandy ware in a range of developed late medieval utilitarian forms, some with a dark green glaze. Numerous kiln sites throughout the south-east midlands, at places such as Glapthorn in Northamptonshire (Johnston 1997). Similar to material from many sites in the region, such as the 'Orange Sandy Ware' from Denny Abbey (Coppack 1980). 4 sherds, 22g, EVE = 0.

7.1.3.8 F425: Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 6 sherds, 108g.

7.1.3.9 F1000: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares. Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc. 10 sherds, 98g.

7.1.3.10 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region, and consists of a number of well-known fabric types from production centres in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Northamptonshire.

7.1.3.11 The assemblage is generally is fairly good condition, although most of the sherds are rather small, with the mean sherd weight of the medieval and later assemblage perhaps slightly distorted by a large fragment of an Ely Ware bowl from context [810]. The vessel has a fingertipped rim and light scoring on the body, and is a typical product of the industry (e.g. Spoerry 2008, fig. 19 no. 9). The vessel is likely to be of 13th century date (ibid. 66). Fragments of a possible storage vessel with applied strip and incised wavy line decoration were noted in context [113].

7.1.3.12 The bulk of the medieval assemblage appears to date to the mid-12th – 13th century; no obvious examples of later Ely ware are present, and the few sherds of Grimston ware are all plain, meaning a 13th century is most likely for them. Small amounts of 14th and 15th century pottery are present in the form of late medieval Oxidized and Reduced wares, but activity does appear greater in the pre-Black Death period.

7.1.4 Conclusions

7.1.4.1 Overall, this assemblage suggests that there was activity at this site in the middle Iron Age, and then throughout the medieval period. It appears to be entirely domestic in nature, and it would

be no surprise if substantial medieval remains were present in the immediate vicinity of these trenches.

7.2 **Lithics** by Barry Bishop

7.2.1 Introduction

7.2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of ten struck flints and a single burnt flint fragment. This section of the report quantifies and describes the material, comments on its significance and recommends any further work needed for it to attain its full research potential. Each piece of struck flint was examined by eye and X10 magnification and catalogued by context according to a basic typological/technological scheme, along with details of raw material, condition and, where possible, dating. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

Type	Trimming Flake	Flake	Blade	Blade-like flake	Core	Chunk	Unstruck Burnt Flint
Number	1	3	3	1	1	1	3g

Table 1: quantification of lithic material by context

7.2.2 Burnt Flint

7.2.2.1 A single fragment of lightly burnt flint weighing 3g was recovered from context 1115, the fill of cut 1106. It is lightly burnt, resulting in spalling across its surface but not affecting its translucent grey colour. Its condition is typical of flint that has been in close proximity to a hearth and, although undatable, it does indicate human activity in the vicinity of the feature prior to or during its infilling.

7.2.3 Struck Flint

7.2.3.1 The struck flint assemblage was small in quantity and consisted of four flakes, three blades, a core and a conchoidally fractured chunk (Table 1). The assemblage is in a variable condition, ranging from being sharp to chipped and abraded. All of the pieces had recortication, this ranging from being incipient to full. Due to the effects of recortication, the flints' colour is obscured, although recent chipping has revealed that most pieces were manufactured from a white speckled translucent black flint, with a single flake of brown flint also present. Cortex, which is present on eight of the ten struck pieces, consists of a mix of relatively unweathered rough cortex and ancient recorticated thermal scars. The struck pieces are all small; none exceed 55 mm in maximum

dimension and the core weighs 55g. The raw materials consist of small angular fragments of thermally fractured flint and were likely to have been obtained from glacial till, such as that which is present both to the north and south of the site.

7.2.3.2 No diagnostic or retouched pieces are present. Some evidence of utilization and smoothing is present on the right lateral edge of the flake from context 1116, although the generally abraded nature of the assemblage precludes positive identification of further utilization traces. The chunk from context 1108 exhibits some conchoidal flake scars as well as possible modification along a concave edge, it possibly forming a notched implement. Generally, the technological characteristics of the assemblage were homogeneous; three blades were present and the flakes tended to be thin with narrow and finely trimmed striking platforms. This would suggest that the bulk of the assemblage was produced between the Mesolithic and Early Bronze Age, perhaps most likely during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. Two possible exceptions to this are the core from context 406, which consisted of an angular chunk with a few flakes randomly removed, and the conchoidal chunk from context 1108. Both of these represent *ad hoc* attempts at flint knapping and tool production which would be more typical of later second and first millennium BC industries, perhaps even being contemporary with the other evidence for Iron Age activity recorded at the site.

7.2.4 Significance and Recommendations

7.2.4.1 The assemblage consists of a thin scattering of struck pieces recovered from a number of evaluation trenches and indicates widespread but low-key prehistoric activity in their vicinity.

7.2.4.2 Due to the size of the assemblage and its paucity of contemporary contextual associations, its interpretative potential is limited and no further work is recommended.

7.3 **Shell** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.3.1 Eighteen fragments of shell were recovered from the site. The shell came from three different species of mollusc; snail, mussel and oyster. Snail fragments were recovered from Trenches 1 and 12 (111 x 1, 119 x 1, 1218 x 1), mussel fragments from Trenches 1 and 4 (113 x 3, 119 x 3, 404 x 7) and oyster fragments from Trenches 4 and 14 (408 x 1, 1400 x 1). None of the shell showed signs of having been worked, and probably represents food waste rather than working material.

7.4 **Tile** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.4.1 Nineteen small fragments of tile were recovered from Trenches 1 (9 fragments) and 13 (10 fragments from ploughsoil). The tile was divided into five distinct fabrics, with the following results:

7.4.2 Fabric One Description: Pale orange core with buff surface, sandy texture. Examples recovered: (111) x 3, (115) x 2

7.4.3 Fabric Two Description: Hard-fired sandy fabric, orange-red throughout. Examples recovered: (115) x 1, (123) x 3, (1305) x 3

7.4.4 Fabric Three Description: Dark red/brown throughout, sandy with frequent large flint inclusions. Examples recovered: (1305) x 1

7.4.5 Fabric Four Description: Orange throughout, sandy, but finer than F1. Examples recovered: (1305) x 5

7.4.6 Fabric Five Description: Very fine, smooth fabric, pale yellow in colour. Examples recovered: (1305) x 1

7.4.7 None of the fragments of tile contained any diagnostic elements, decoration or traces of glaze, making dating of this assemblage very difficult. It is probable that the tile recovered from Trench 1 is of similar date to the pottery recovered from that trench (Blinkhorn, this volume), but the tile from the topsoil of Trench 13 is much more difficult to date.

7.5 **Stone** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.5.1 Seven fragments of stone were recovered from the site. Trench 1 produced four small fragments of possible quern stone (113), very similar to the two joining pieces of quern recovered from Trench 11 (1110). Trench 11 (1113) also produced a rectangular stone with rounded edges which had two smooth surfaces. This item may have been used as a rubbing stone.

7.6 **Glass** by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.6.1 Five fragments of glass were recovered. Trench 1 (115) produced two fragments of clear green bottle glass, one embossed with N &, presumably part of a company name. A base fragment from a clear green glass bottle was recovered from Trench 6 (600), and a body fragment from another clear green glass vessel was recovered from Trench 13 (1305). Trench 14 (1400) produced a very small fragment of dark green bottle glass. Most of these fragments are likely to date from the 19th century, although the dark green fragment could be from an earlier wine bottle

7.7 **Bone** by Matilda Holmes

7.7.1 Animal bone was recovered from Iron Age, medieval and 19th century features. The majority came from ditches, but also from a medieval gully, ploughsoil and an undated pit. The sample is very small, and does not warrant detailed analysis, although a brief overview is given below.

7.7.2 A summary of the animal bone assemblage is provided in Appendix 2, from which only domestic mammals (cattle, sheep/ goat, pig, horse and dog) were identified. Bones were in fair condition, and only two bore butchery marks.

7.7.3 Two partial dog skeletons were recovered. Hind limbs from contexts 113 (mid 15th century) and head, neck and forelimbs from context 119 (undated). Both were from ditch 114, and it seems likely given their similar preservation and condition, that they were originally from the same animal.

7.8 **Plant macro-fossil assessment** by Emma Kitchen

7.8.1 Methods and Results

7.8.1.1 Three samples were identified as having potential for plant macro-fossil assessment and were processed using standard methods. The results of the assessment are given below (Table 2). Sample 1 was taken from the fill (context 209) of possible medieval leat/ ditch 204 (Trench 2), identified in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2). Sample 3 was taken from a black, brown clay fill (context 109) from a possible medieval ditch terminal 110 (Trench 1) and sample 2 was taken from the fill (context 120) of medieval ditch 114 (Trench 1).

Taxa	Quantity
Rubus fruticosus	1
Aethusa cynapium	1
Sinapis arvensis	1
Poaceae spp.	1
Carex sp	2
Solanum sp	1
Chenopodium sp	2
Sambus nigra	1
Sambus ebulus	1
Baldellia ranunculoides	1
Alisma lanceolatum	1

Table 2: results of the plant-macrofossil assessment of Sample 1, context 209

7.8.1.2 The sample produced an impoverished fauna of seeds, with each species being represented by at most two occurrences. This assemblage has probably been affected by differential preservation, since the species recorded are robust remains resistant to decay. Interpretation must thus be regarded as tentative. The presence of Rubus fruticosus (brambles) Sambucus spp. (elder), Solanum (nightshade) indicate scrub/ wasteland, whilst other species such as Chenopodium (fat hen), Sinapis arvensis (charlock) and Aethusa cynapium (fools parsley) suggest disturbed, ruderal habitats. Baldellia ranunculoides, Alisma lanceolatum and Zannichellia palustris are all associated with non-turbulent freshwater conditions, suggesting the presence of standing water in the ditch. Carex (sedges) and Poaceae (grasses) occupy a range of open habitats, perhaps within the ditch and also in the wider environment.

7.8.1.3 Sample 3, context 109 and Sample 2, context 114
Both samples produced only a few charred unidentifiable seeds. Sample 2, context 114 also yielded a considerable number of molluscs and calcareous sediment derived from crushed molluscs.

7.8.2 Conclusions

The plant remains from ditch 204, context 209 indicate a disturbed scrubby habitat around the feature with standing water within the leat itself. The evidence for differential preservation means that these data may be regarded as highly tentative. The other samples contained no identifiable remains. No further work is recommended on this material.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Prehistoric

8.1.1 No features were uncovered on the site dating to before the Iron Age. However, a small number of worked flints were recovered as residual finds within some features. Although only a small number of flints were recovered, their presence suggests that there was at least limited small-scale or temporary activity in the area between the Mesolithic and Bronze Age periods.

8.2 Iron Age

8.2.1 A small number of features could be dated to the middle Iron Age period ($5^{th}/4^{th}$ – 1^{st} centuries BC). Linear ditch 1101 and possible ditch terminus 1100, in Trench 11, both contained sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, and may represent part of an enclosure.

8.2.2 Pit 1205 within Trench 12, south of the possible enclosure ditches, was also dated to the middle Iron Age period. A further four pits (1201, 1202, 1203, and 1206) of similar shape and containing similar fills to pit 1205 were also located within this trench and it is possible that they are contemporary. The function of these pits is unknown, however, the lack of material within may suggest they were not used for rubbish disposal. The presence of at least one Iron Age pit suggests that there may have been settlement activity in this area during this period.

8.3 Medieval

8.3.1 Within Trench 1, a number of features were dated to the medieval period. Ditches 112, 124, and 126 all contained sherds of medieval pottery mainly of 12th century AD date (with the exception of 112 which may have dated to the 15th century), and it is likely that these ditches correspond with the 'L'- shaped feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2) and are probably associated with the adjoining moated enclosure. Linear ditch 114 within Trench 1 is also of probable 12th century AD date and appears to correspond with a possible curvilinear feature, aligned northeast-southwest and depicted in the aerial photographic assessment. Possible ditch terminal 110 and possible pits 106, and 108 may also be of 12th century AD date with pit 104 possibly dating to the 15th century. The pottery assemblage recovered from these features is consistent with domestic usage, suggesting nearby settlement. The majority of the medieval assemblage appears to date to the mid-12th – 13th century AD, with smaller amounts of pottery suggesting less activity in the 14th and 15th century. The concentration of features, along with the presence of a moated enclosure nearby suggests that this area was heavily utilised during the medieval period.

8.3.2 The large linear feature 204 located within Trench 2 corresponds with the possible leat type feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2) which is associated with the adjoining moated enclosure. Although this feature is not securely dated, its association with the leat type AP feature suggests it is of medieval date and the Iron Age pottery recovered from its fill is probably residual.

8.3.3 A small linear gully 405, containing sherds of pottery of mid 12th century AD date, was located within Trench 4. It is possible that this represents a drainage gully.

8.3.4 Three linear ditches 805, 807, and 809 and a possible ditch terminal 811 all contained sherds of medieval pottery. It is likely that they relate to a series of enclosures dating to the mid 12th century.

8.3.5 Within Trench 14, two linear inter-cutting ditches 1402 and 1404, dated from the mid 12th to 13th century AD. It is likely that they formed part of a boundary possibly associated with a plot north of Flecks Lane.

8.3.6 Preservation of animal bone which consisted of cattle, sheep/ goat, horse, pig and dog appears to be fair, although potential for charred plant remains appears to be poor, for the samples assessed.

8.4 Post-medieval

8.4.1 In Trench 13 linear feature 1300, the profile of which suggests a palisade ditch or a former fence line possibly forming an enclosure, contained a single sherd of 16th century pottery. It is possible that this sherd was intrusive and the feature could be earlier.

8.4.2 Ditch 116, Trench 1 was of 19th century date. Cobble surface 122, Trench 1 was of modern date. A ditch containing modern finds, in Trench 11, corresponds with the possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2), and is likely to be a field boundary.

8.5 Undated

8.5.1 A large proportion of the features uncovered during the evaluation remain undated. However, a number of these features are correspond with features visible on the aerial photographic assessment, and some of these are likely to represent field boundaries or ridge and furrow. Ditch 406 within Trench 4 appears to correspond with the possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2), however, it is unlikely to be the cause of the AP feature due to the shallow nature of the feature and the masking effect of alluvial layer 402.

8.5.2 Linear feature 503 appears to correspond with the possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2), although it is again uncertain whether it is the cause of the AP feature, due to the shallow nature of the feature and the masking effect of alluvial layer 501. The remaining features within Trench 5 (505, 507, 509, 511, and 513) are most likely not of archaeological origin.

8.5.3 Two possible ditch terminals (605 and 607) revealed within Trench 6 may be part of a single discontinuous ditch which appears to correspond with the possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

8.5.4 Linear ditch 703 appears to correspond with the possible linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2). A

further two linear ditches (705 and 707) which remain undated were located in Trench 7.

8.5.5 Two parallel ditches (903 and 905) in Trench 9 are undated and do not correspond with a possible linear feature which was depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2).

8.5.6 Possible ditch 1000 located within Trench 10 may possibly correspond with the linear feature depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2), although it is equally possible this feature may have geological origins. Small posthole 1002 and linear ditch 1004 were also undated. The remaining features within this trench (1001 and 1003) may be of geological origin.

8.5.7 Parallel linear ditches 1102 and 1103 within Trench 11 remain undated, while the two pit-like features 1106 and 1107, also located within this trench are likely to be of natural origin.

8.5.8 The four north-south aligned ditches (1200, 1207, 1208 and 1210) within Trench 12 are undated, although they do correspond with alignment of ridge and furrow depicted in the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 2). The close vicinity of possible Iron Age pits to these ditches may also suggest that they could possibly be of similar date.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Features dating to the middle Iron Age were present towards the southern end of the site, within Trenches 11 and 12.

9.2 Three main concentrations of medieval features were identified. A large concentration of medieval features at the northern end of the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 4) mainly north of the River Cam are probably mostly associated with the moated enclosure at Bridge Farm.

9.3 A second group of mid-12th – 13th century features suggestive of ditched enclosures was located south of the river (Trench 8).

9.4 The third group of medieval features, at the south part of the site, consists of two inter-cutting probable plot boundary ditches (Trench 12). A possible palisade ditch or fence line, perhaps of 16th century date or earlier (Trench 13), suggests the presence of an enclosure.

9.5 The Iron Age and medieval sites recorded during the evaluation appear to be of local and regional archaeological importance and, as such, an archaeological mitigation strategy of the kind suggested in paragraph 30 of PPG16 (DoE 1990) may be required. This could involve preservation *insitu* or excavation and watching brief, or a combination of these strategies in advance

and during any proposed groundworks, although the mitigation strategy would ultimately be decided by CAPCA. The evaluation has provided sufficient information for a focused programme of archaeological mitigation work to be designed should the proposed pipeline go ahead.

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Appendix 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

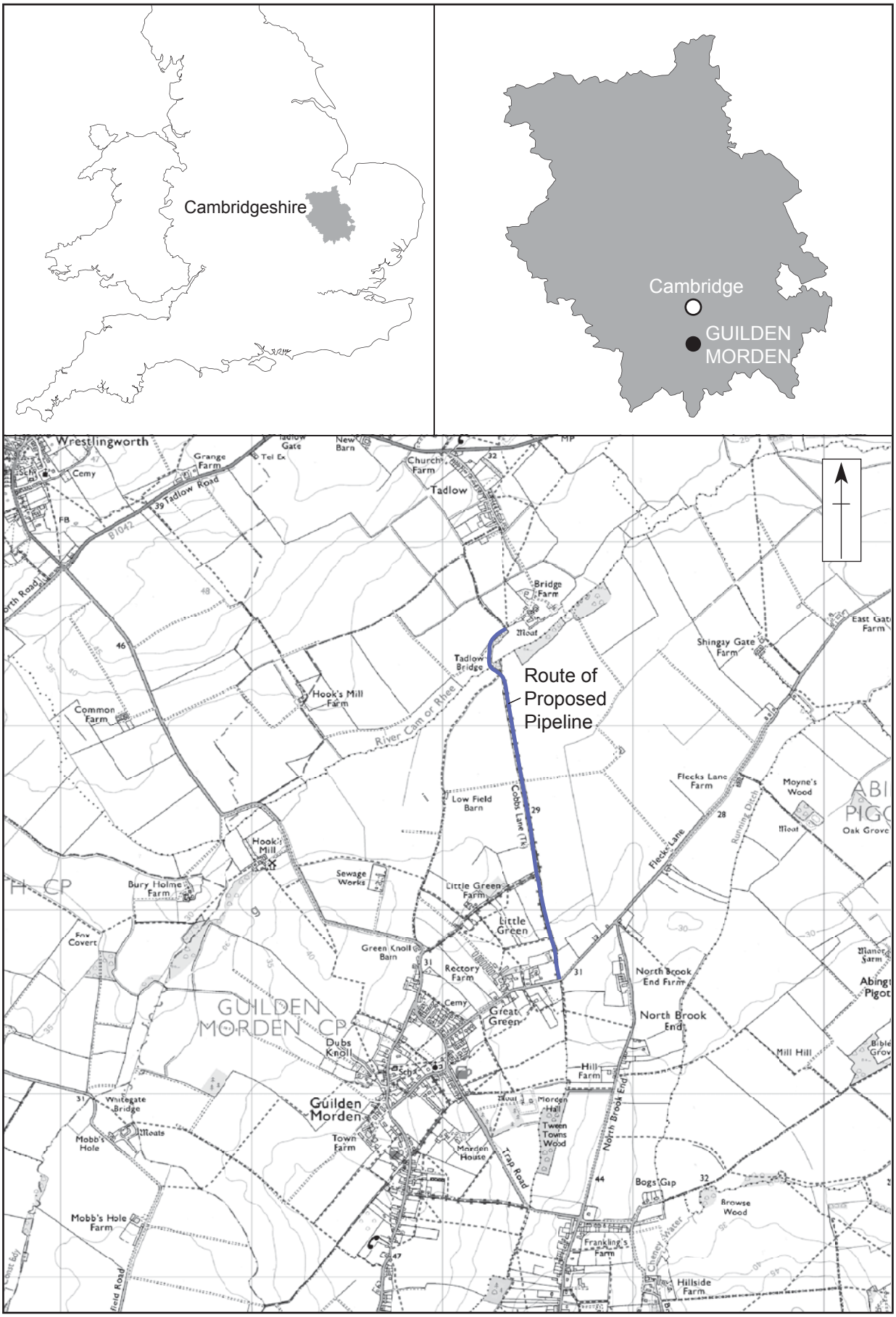
	F10		F11		F301		F330		F360		F328		F329		F365		F401		F412		F425		F1000		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
103					1	12																			M12thC
105																	1	11							M15thC
107					1	16	2	4																	M12thC
109							1	30																	12thC
111							2	16							2	30	2	7							M15thC
113					13	131																			M12thC
115																			1	6	3	83	4	63	19thC
120					4	49	1	47																	M12thC
127									1	28															12thC?
209			2	14																					IA
806					4	7																			M12thC
404					4	61																			M12thC
700																							2	4	U/S
801													1	4											U/S
804					4	15																			M12thC
810					9	507																			M12thC
1005																					2	20			U/S
1108			3	10																					IA
1110	1	174	9	50																					MIA
1111			4	8																					IA
1219			2	2																					IA
1304																					1	5			M16thC
1400																	1	4					4	31	19thC
1403					2	13																			M12thC
1405					1	9	3	11	3	23	1	55													13thC
1406					4	20																			M12thC
1407											1	22													13thC
Total	1	174	21	84	47	840	9	108	4	51	2	77	1	4	2	30	4	22	1	6	6	108	10	98	

Appendix 2: animal bone species representation (NISP)

Period (feature)	Iron Age (ditches 1100 and 1101)			12th century (ditches 110, 114, 811 and gully 405)			13th century (ditch 1404)	mid 15th century (ditches 112 and 114)			ploughsoil 1400	Undated (ditches 126, 204, 1004, and pit 1204)			
Species	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Dog	Sheep/ goat	Horse	Dog	Large mammal	Sheep/ goat	Cattle	Horse	Dog	Large mammal
Associated bone group									1*					1**	
mandible	1									1					
loose teeth	1				1		1				1				
Cervical vertebrae															1
sacrum								1							
scapula		2													
radius				1		1									
ulna	1														
pelvis			1		1							1			
femur						1									
tibia					1										
metapodial								1					1		
phalange	1											1			
Total	4	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

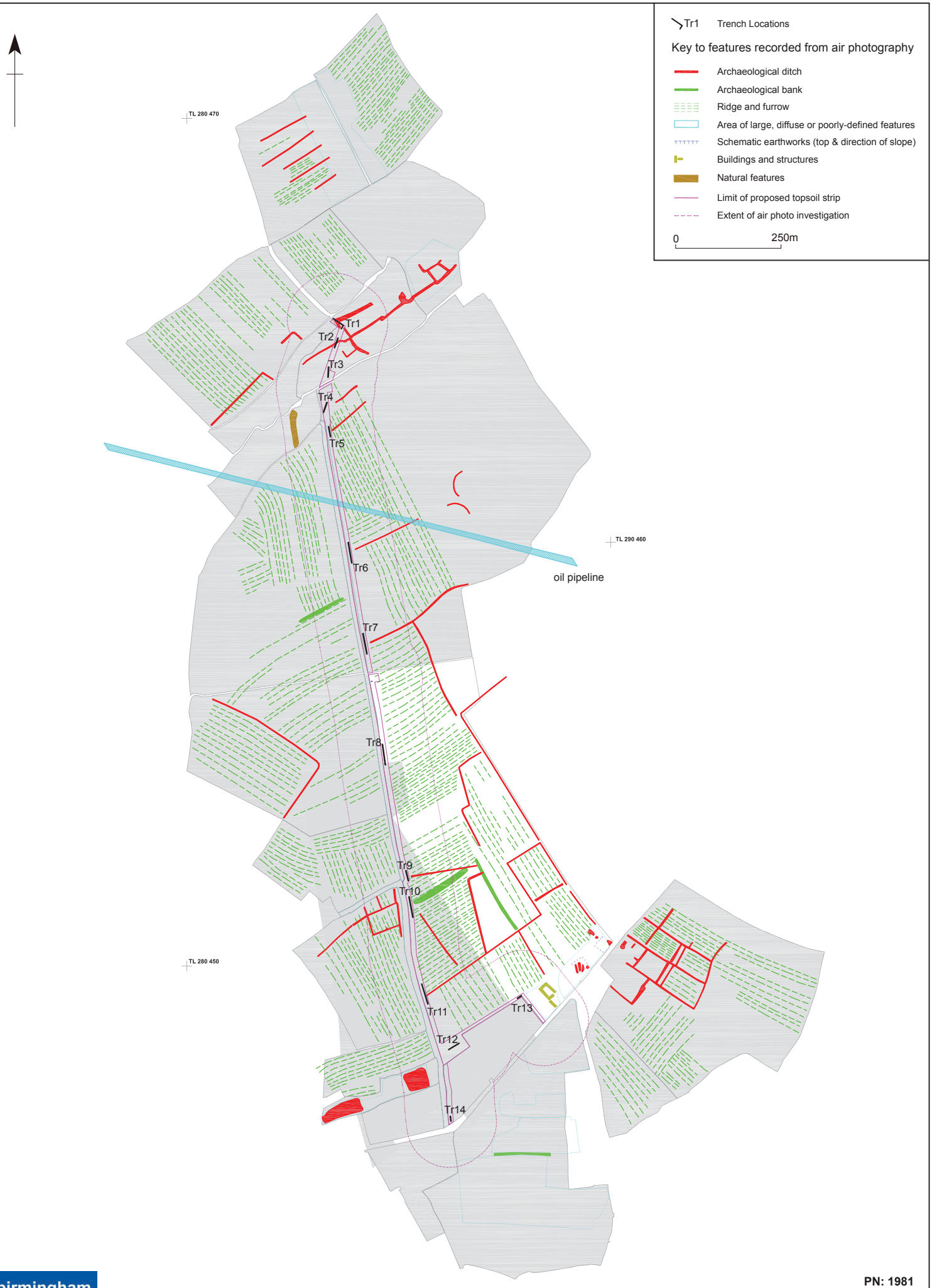
* dog partial skeleton from context 113 (ditch 114) comprising tibias, femora, part pelvis and 4 metatarsals

** dog partial skeleton from context 119 (ditch 114) comprising skull, mandibles, scapulae, humeri, radii, ulnae, 1st and 2nd cervical vertebrae and one other cervical vertebra.



PN: 1981
Cobbs Lane, Guilden Morden

Figure 1: Site Location



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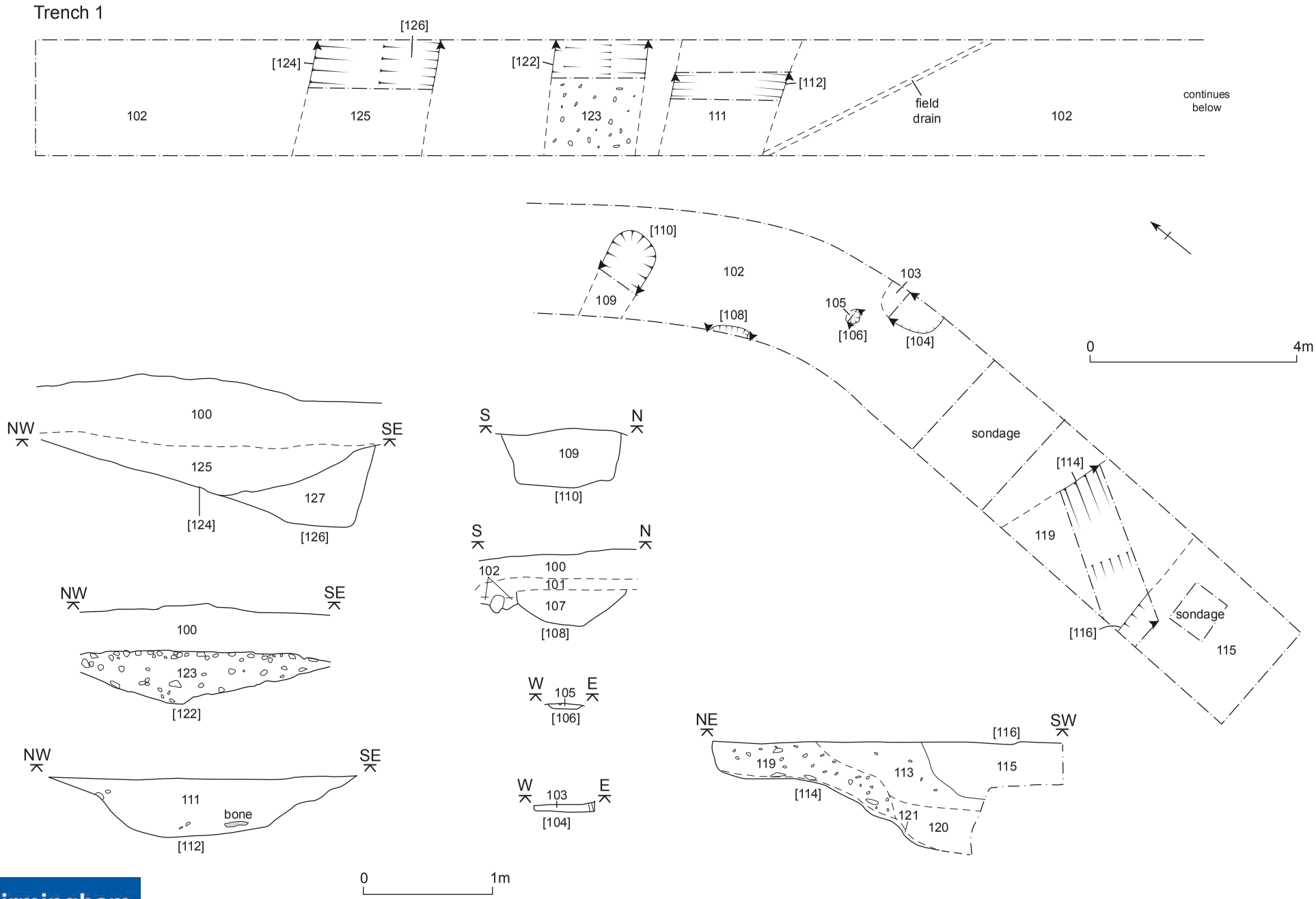
Guilden Morden

Figure 2: Trench locations



PN: 1981
Guilden Morden

Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections

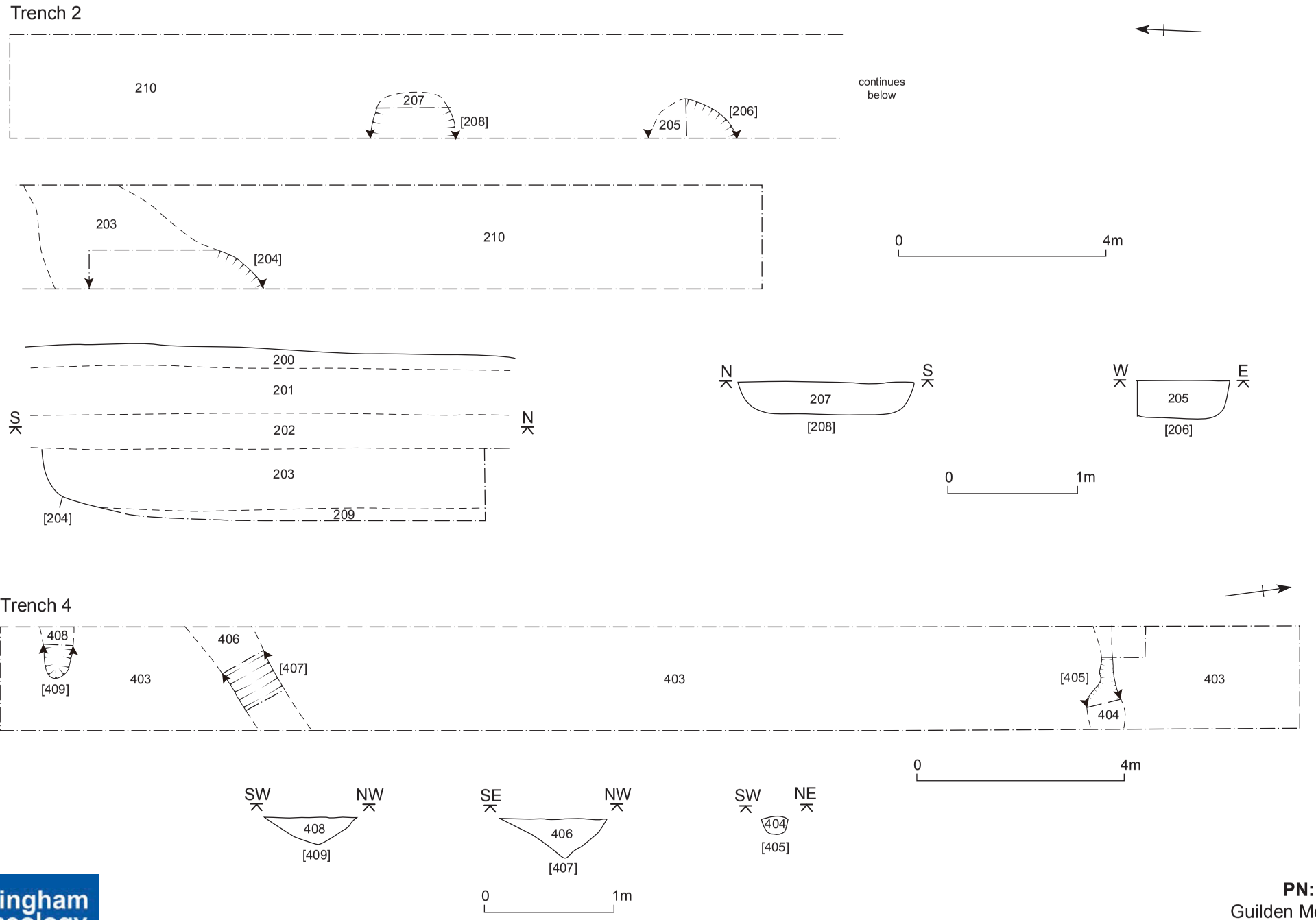


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Figure 4: Trenches 2 and 4, plans and sections

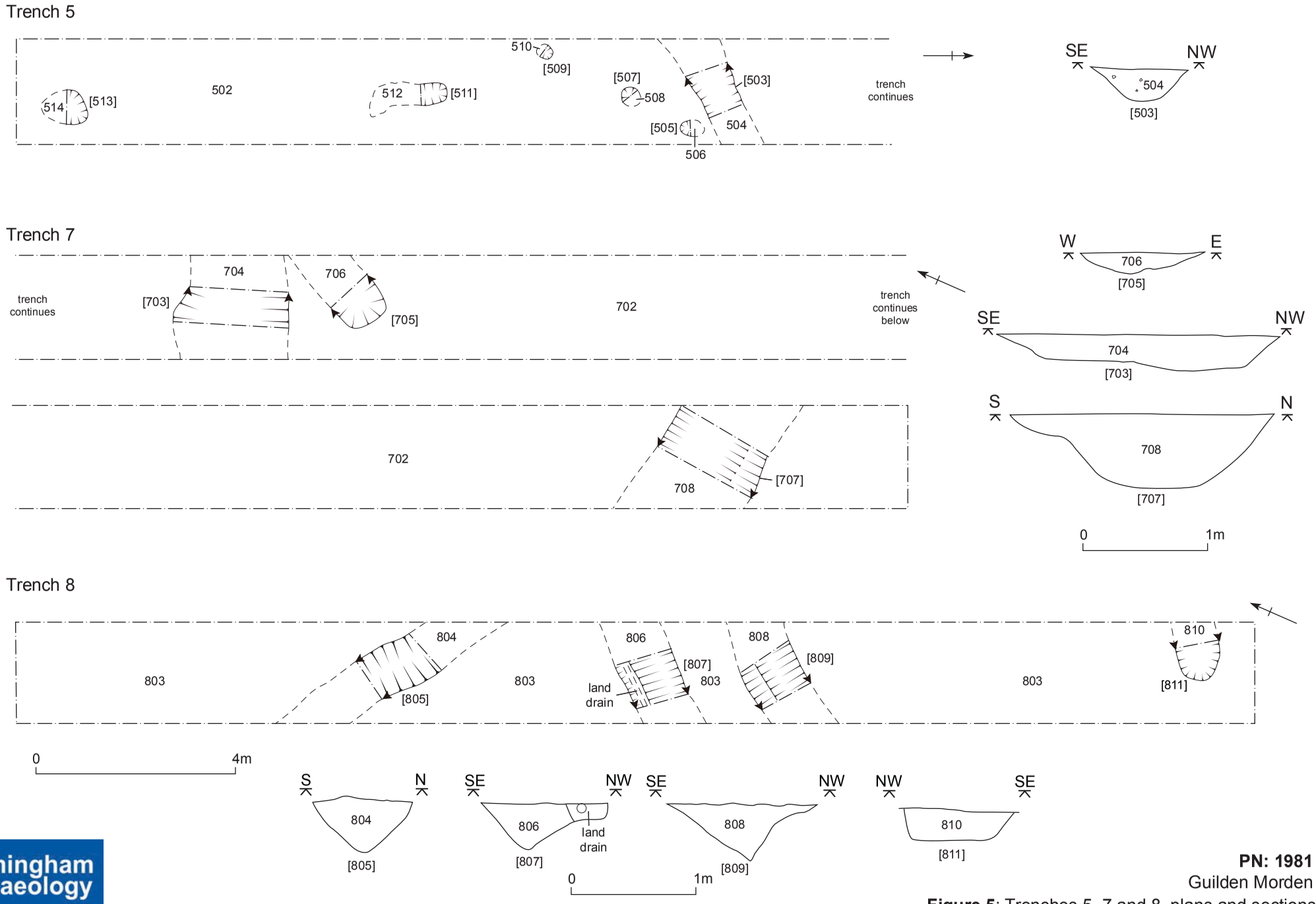

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Figure 5: Trenches 5, 7 and 8, plans and sections

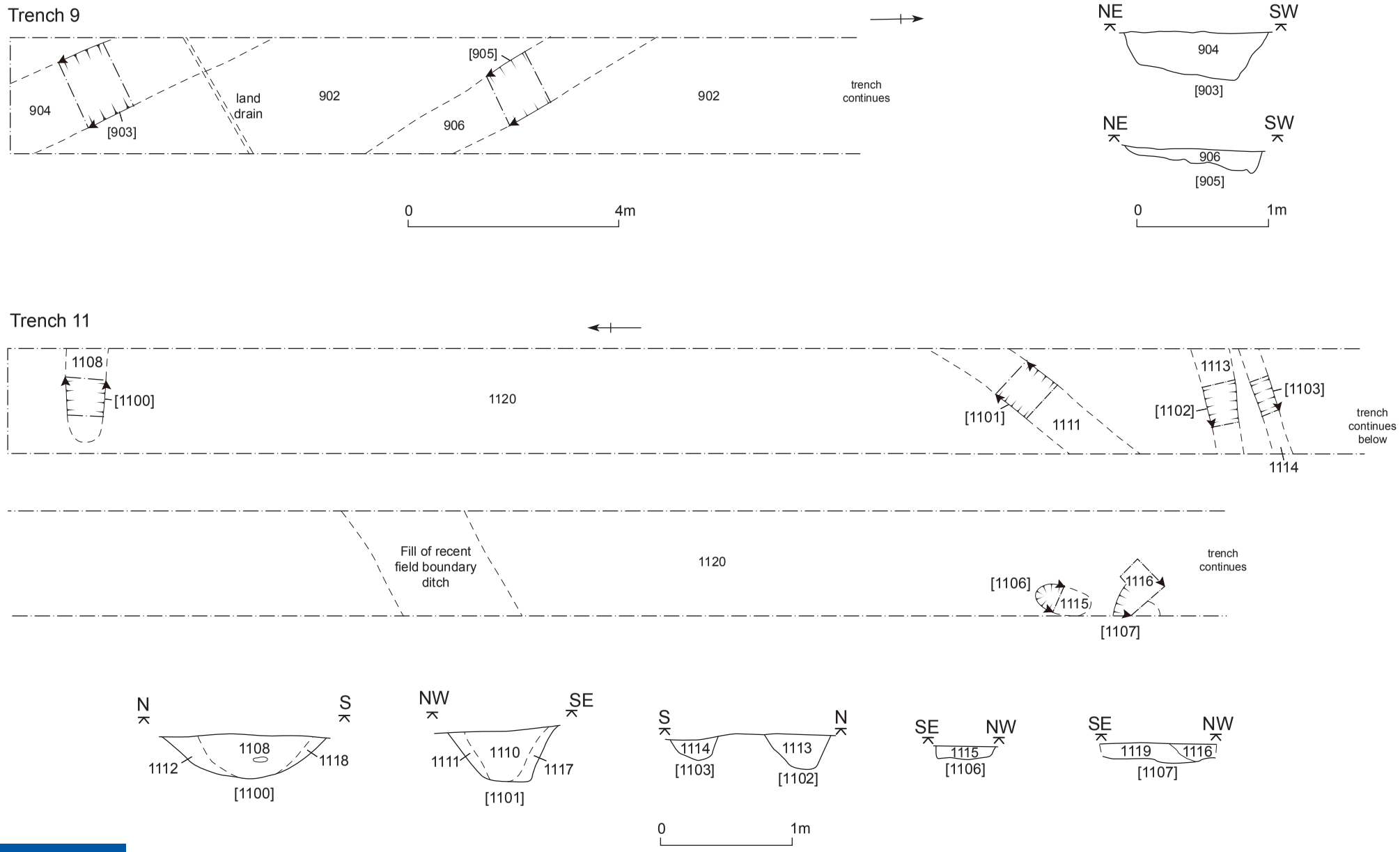

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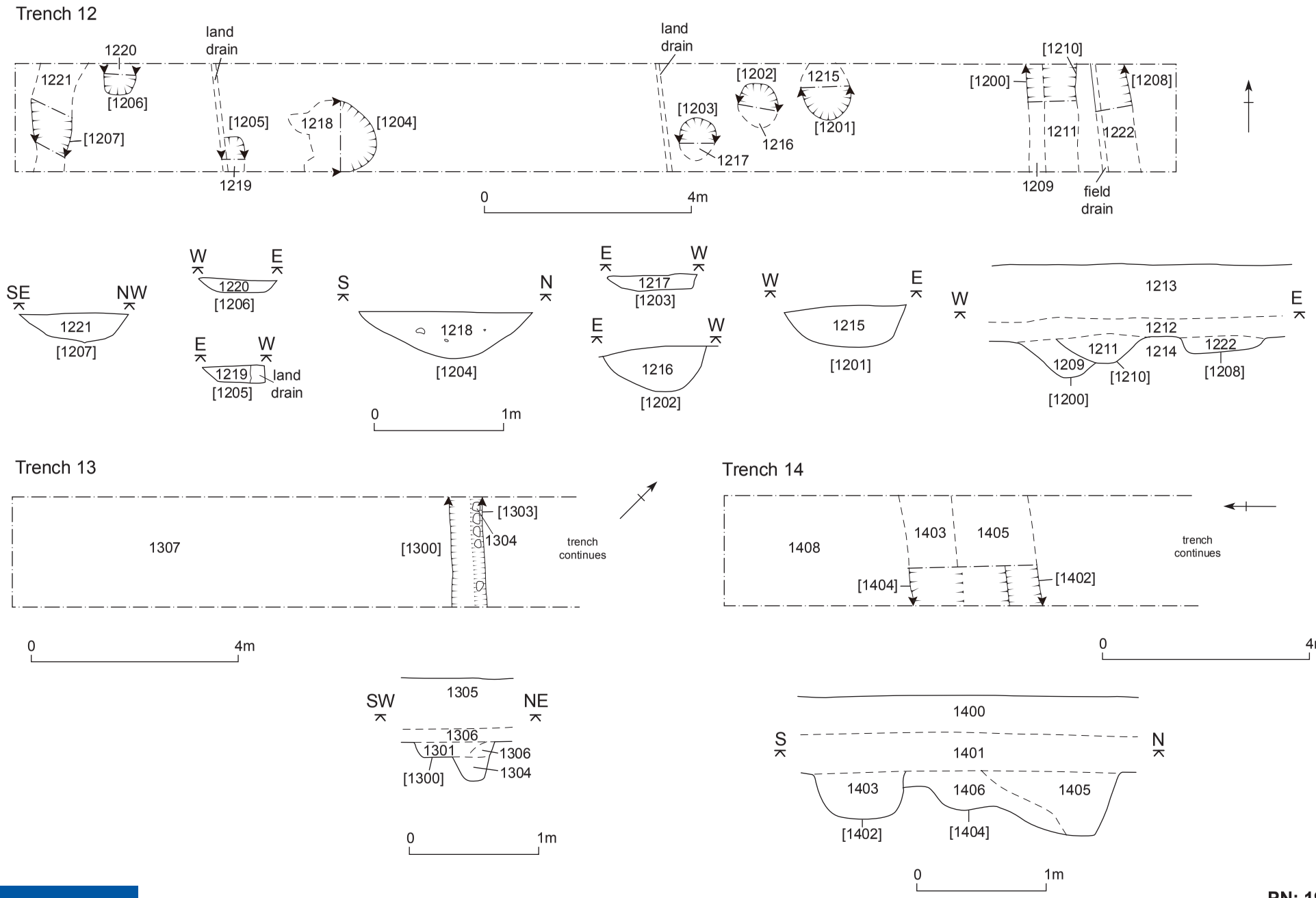
Figure 6: Trenches 9 and 11, plans and sections



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PN: 1981
Guilden Morden

Figure 7: Trenches 12,13 and 14, plans and sections

Trench 1

Trench 2

Trench 4

Trench 8

Trench 11

Trench 12

Trench 13

Trench 14