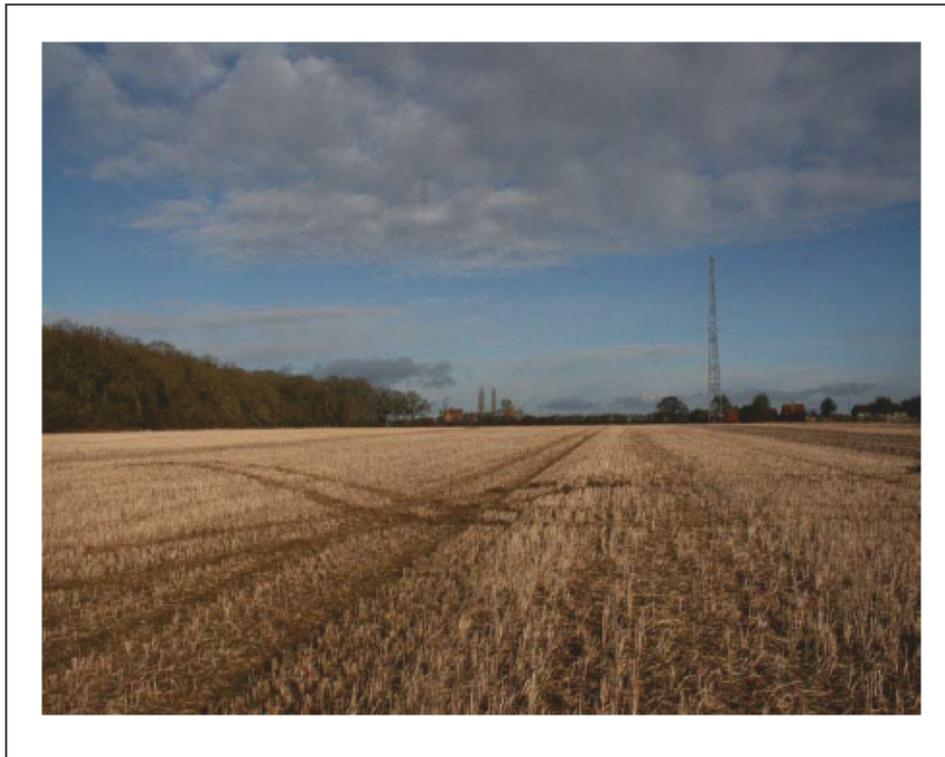


# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Clapham Solar Farm, Bedfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**



**By**

**Iestyn Jones &  
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**Report No. 1342**

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# Archaeology Wales

## Clapham Solar Farm, Bedfordshire

### Archaeological Evaluation Interim Assessment Report

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## Summary

*Archaeology Wales was commissioned by Stratus Environmental Ltd to carry out a trenched evaluation on land adjacent to Fairfield Farm, Clapham, Bedford, prior to the construction of a proposed solar farm. The work followed a previous Desk-based Assessment and Geophysical Survey of the site, both of which indicated a potential for the survival of archaeological remains.*

*Forty-three, 20.0m long, trenches were excavated across the field. Approximately half of these targeted anomalies identified by the Geophysical Survey, while the remainder were spaced at regular intervals across the remaining blank areas. Care was taken to avoid services trenches, in particular the large north-south aligned water main that crossed the centre of the site.*

*The majority of the 43 trenches contained no archaeological features, with evidence being confined to the western, south-eastern, and eastern-central parts of the site. Despite a relative lack of recovered artefactual material, four periods of occupation were identified: late Neolithic or early Bronze Age, mid to late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval.*

*The excavated evidence suggests occupation and activity over a broad timeframe in the vicinity of the site. The main period of occupation seems to have been from the mid Iron Age through to the Romano-British period, when it is possible that ditches located in the south-east part of the site defined the outer limits of settlement activity that was focused in fields located further to the east. Evidence for Neolithic / early Bronze Age and medieval activity was more ephemeral, but enough to suggest that further contemporary evidence is located nearby.*

## 1. Introduction

In May 2014 Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by Stratus Environmental Ltd to carry out an archaeological desk based assessment (AW Report 1235) and site walkover on land adjacent to Farfield Farm, Clapham, Bedford (NGR TL 03689 54221; fig.1) ahead of the proposed development of a solar farm (Houliston 2014). Following this work SBC Renewables, at the request of Stratus Environmental Ltd, commissioned Met Geo Environmental to carry out a geophysical survey of the proposed site in December 2014 (Phillips and Burns 2014). Based on the findings of this survey Archaeology Wales were commissioned by Stratus Environmental Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation (AW Project number 2252). Following discussions with Historic Environment Team of Bedford County Council (BBC-HET) and discussions with the client, five 40m by 2m trenches and thirty-eight 20m by 2m trenches were located over anomalies highlighted within the geophysical survey. This report presents the results of the field evaluation, which was carried out in January 2015.

## 2. Site Description

### Location, Topography, Geology

The site covers an irregular inverted L shaped area covering 15.85 hectares 2km to the north-west of the Bedford suburb of Clapham (centred on NGR TL 03689 54221; fig. 2). The landscape can be described as open lowland arable farmland with scattered woodlands and a network of footpaths, bridleways and green lanes (LUC 2007, 57). The geology of the site can be described as Jurassic undifferentiated mudstone, siltstone and sandstone underlying poorly sorted glacial till deposits with poorly draining lime rich loamy and clayey soils (BGS 2015; Soilscales 2015).

## 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The historical development of this area of northern Bedfordshire has been largely determined by the location of the heavy soils, which overlie the natural Oxford Clay deposits, and the river gravels associated with the River Great Ouse and its tributary streams.

The earliest occupation evidence comes from a flint assemblage and pits of possible Mesolithic date, which were found on a gravel terrace just 150m from the present course of the River Great Ouse during excavations at Ursula Taylor Lower School (Dawson 1988). Such finds are more likely in riverside areas or lighter soils and less likely to be found on heavier clay soils in the area of the present site (LUC 2007, 15).

Evidence of occupation during the late Iron Age and Roman period is shown by enclosure cropmarks and the Iron Age Hill fort at Mowsbury Hill, 3km to the east of the proposed site. Late Iron Age and Roman sites have also been found during the Ursula Taylor Lower School excavations (Dawson 1988). A Roman corn drying kiln and early to mid Saxon Sunken Feature Buildings (SFBs) were discovered during work to construct the A6 Clapham bypass to the south of the proposed site (Albion Archaeology 2001).

The church of St Thomas of Canterbury in Clapham was built during the late Saxon pre-Norman period although it was substantial rebuilt during the thirteenth and nineteenth century. The Victoria County History of Bedford (1912, 128-132) details the growth of the settlement during the medieval and post-medieval periods, with the importance of water meadows, woodland, and agricultural land all highlighted. Later nineteenth expansion of the settlement resulted from increased industrialisation, particularly the brick-making industries which exploited the heavy clays of north Bedfordshire.

The area around the development site appears to have been predominantly agricultural. Although a change occurred as a result of the second world war, when three military bases were constructed: a WAF camp to the east of Twin Wood, a prisoner of war camp to the south, and an airfield to the east. The WAF camp and the prisoner of war camp are now abandoned and in a ruinous state, whereas the

airfield has taken on a new life, as an events arena, and the home of the Glenn Millar Memorial Museum.

The desk-based assessment carried out by Archaeology Wales in June 2014 suggested that prehistoric features may be present in the field as a cropmark of possible enclosure was located in the field immediately to the east. In addition to this cartographic evidence suggested that number of possible military camp or agricultural buildings appear to have been located along the eastern site boundary (Houliston 2014, 31). The geophysical survey carried out by Met Geo Environmental in December 2014 identified a number of anomalies within the field (Phillips and Burns 2014). A number of linear positive magnetic responses concentrated in the south-west area of the field appear to be evidence of ploughing activity whilst a number of linear field drains and some ferrous pipe work appear to be located in several areas throughout the site. Curvilinear and linear anomalies in the south-east corner of the site appear, from survey data, to be field or enclosure ditches that may be associated with the possible prehistoric activity in the adjacent field (Phillips and Burns 2014, 5-7).

#### 4. Evaluation

Following consultation with BBC-HET and the client it was decided to excavate five 40m long trenches and thirty eight 20m long trenches in specific locations determined by the location of the anomalies on the 2014 geophysical survey (see fig. 3). Trenches 2, 8, 18, 26, 27 were 40m long and 2m wide and the remainder were 20m long and 2m wide.

##### **Trench 1** (*Figs. 4, 5, 11*).

Trench 1 was located within the south-eastern end of the development. It was aligned east to west, with an average depth of 0.45m. The ploughed topsoil (100) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay with an average depth of 0.15m and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty, clay subsoil (101), 0.30m deep on average containing occasional fragments of flint and small sub rounded stones. The natural substrata (102) was viewed at 0.45m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid brownish-yellow clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of flecks of chalk and small sub rounded stones.

Within the confines of trench 1 a group of four intercutting pits (103, 110, 112, 114) were discovered within the western end of the trench along with three separate linear features (105, 107, 108), one of which (107) had cut the pit grouping (Figs. 5, 11). All features found within the trench had been cut through natural (102). Pit [110] was found to be an earlier pit in the group which had been cut by later pit [103] and was described as being circular in plan, steep sided with a gentle break of slop at the base. The base of the feature was observed as being flat and survived to a measured width of 0.20m. This feature contained a single fill (111) that consisted of a light greyish-orange clay-silt containing occasional small pieces of chalk.

Pit [103] was found to have steep cut sides with a sharp break of slope at the base measuring 0.50m in diameter by 0.30m deep. The pit contained a single fill (104) which consisted of a firm mid brownish-orange clay silt containing occasional inclusions of small pieces of flint. This pit was found to be a later recut into the eastern side of Pit [110].

Pit [114] consisted of a circular pit measuring 0.89m in diameter by 0.32m in depth which also appears to cut earlier pits [103] and [110]. This feature contained a single fill (115) which consisted of a firm/friable mid orange-brown clay which contained occasional inclusions of small sub round stones and chalk fragments.

Pit [112] was viewed as being circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a pointed base measuring 0.15m in diameter by 0.07m deep. The feature contained a single fill this being (113) which consisted of a soft dark reddish-brown silt which had been heavily contaminated by charcoal. Other inclusions found within the fill consisted of occasional small sub round stones and some flints which appear to have been heat affected.

Linear [105] was on north-east/south-west alignment and had straight cut sides with a round base measuring 0.25m deep by 0.10m wide. A single fill was found within the linear this being (106) which consisted of a moderately compacted light brown-grey clay with rare small sub rounded stones. A red clay pipe was found at the base of the fill.

Linear feature [107] was found to be aligned on a north-west/south-east axis and had cut earlier pits [110] and [103]. The cut of the feature appeared to be 0.3m deep and around 0.20m wide. Excavation ceased when a large 0.20m diameter ceramic red pipe was discovered in the base of the cut.

Linear [108] continued on a north-east/south-west alignment across the trench which was an identical alignment to linear [105]. The feature was observed as having straight cut sides with a round base measuring 0.10m wide by 0.25m deep. A single fill (109) was found within the linear and is described as being a moderately compacted dark-grey/ light-brown clay with rare inclusions of small sub rounded stones. A clay pipe was revealed at the base of the fill.

### **Trench summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. Four intercutting pits were discovered, one of which predates an undated linear feature. The three separate linear features which were also found within trench 1 appear to be all 20th century in date and relate to recent attempts of past agricultural land management being conducted on the site.

### **Trench 2 (Figs. 4, 5, 11, 17)**

Trench 2 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development and was 40m long, aligned east to west and excavated to a depth that varied between 0.38m and 0.55m. The top/plough soil (200) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay with an average depth of 0.20m and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (201),

varying in depth between 0.30m and 0.45m containing occasional flint and small sub rounded stones. The natural substrata (202) was viewed at around 0.45m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid brownish-yellow clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of flecks of chalk and small sub rounded stones. Within the confines of trench 2 one large ditch was observed along with a narrow linear/gully (Fig. 5, 11, 17).

Ditch [203] was found on a north-west/south-east alignment measuring 1.2m wide and 0.45m in depth. The sides of the ditch gently sloped on the south western side with a more moderate to steep cut on the north-east side. The base was concaved and a modern land drain was found to have cut its south-eastern corner. The basal fill found in the ditch (206) consisted of a fairly compacted light grey clay with black specks. Inclusions noted within the fill consisted of frequent amounts of small, medium and large sized stones some of which were chalk. Several land snail shells were found within this deposit and have been retained within the bulk sample. The upper fill (204) consisted of a fairly compact light orangey-brown sandy clay containing infrequent amounts of small stone. No datable evidence was recovered from this deposit.

Linear [205] was partially excavated and revealed a clay land drain in the base of the feature, therefore no further recording was undertaken. Three very narrow linear plough marks were noted at the eastern end of the trench and are thought to relate to historic ploughing.

#### **Trench summary**

This 40m long trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. A large ditch and drain were located. Ditch [203] appears to conform with a magnetic anomaly which was recorded within this location on the previous geophysical survey but did not provide dating evidence. Land drain [205] also appears to conform with an anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey.

#### **Trench 3 (Fig.4)**

Trench 3 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development and was aligned north-west to south-east, with an average depth of 0.50m. The top/plough soil (300) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay which varied in depth between 0.20m and 0.30m and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (101), 0.20m deep on average containing occasional flecks of flint and small sub rounded stones. The natural substrata (102) was viewed at 0.50m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid brownish-yellow clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of flecks of chalk and small sub rounded stones.

#### **Trench summary**

Trench 3 was located within the south-eastern end of the development. The trench comprised ploughed topsoil overlying natural clayey deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were discovered within this trench.

**Trench 4** (*Figs. 4, 6, 11, 18*)

Trench 4 was located within the south-eastern end of the development and was aligned north-west to south east, with an average depth of 0.50m. The top/plough soil (400) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay with an average depth of 0.20m and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (401), 0.15m deep on average containing occasional fragments of flint and small sub rounded stones. The natural substrata (402) was viewed at 0.45m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid brownish-yellow clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of flecks of chalk and some small sub rounded stones.

One north to south aligned double ditch feature was recorded within the south-eastern end of the trench 4 along with one single north-east/south-west aligned linear feature observed with the opposite north-western end of the trench. Both features were found to have been cut into natural clay (402) (*Fig. 6, 11, 18*).

The double eastern feature [403] measured 0.48m wide by 0.30m deep and had steep sloping sides with a concave base. A single fill (404) was recorded which consisted of a mid to dark grey clay with moderate inclusions of small stones. Iron Age Pottery and animal bone were also found within this deposit. The western ditch of the boundary [405] measured 0.44m wide by 0.14m deep and was observed as having steep sloping sides with a concave base. The lowest fill encountered consisted of a fairly compacted mid yellow clay (407), which contained moderate inclusions of small stones. Overlying (407) friable mid to dark grey silty clay (406) was encountered which contained moderate inclusions of small stones along with some bone and pottery sherds. One large intact fragment of pottery was noted between the interface of fills (406) and (407) and may be the remains of a vessel base whilst all of the sherds from fill 406 were from a single vessel.

The single ditch [408] which was found in the north-western end of trench 4 measured 0.9m in width by 0.35m deep. The sides of the feature were observed as being steep cut with a pointed base which appeared slightly undercut within its south western section which would have been caused it is assumed through erosion by running ground water. The feature contained a single fill (409) that consisted of a soft mid yellowish-brown clay, which contained occasional inclusions of small flints. Finds of bone, burnt daub and Iron Age pottery were also present with this fill.

**Trench summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. Two ditch features found within this trench appear to correspond with the magnetic anomalies found during the previous geophysical survey at this trenches location. Pottery finds found within both features would indicate a mid to late Iron Age date and are therefore probably broadly contemporary.

**Trench 5** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 5 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development and was aligned north-east to south-west, with an average depth of 0.50m. The top soil (500) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay which varied in depth between

0.15m and 0.30m and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (501), 0.25m to 0.40m deep on average and containing occasional fragments of flint and small sub rounded stones. The natural substrata (502) was viewed at 0.50m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid brownish-yellow clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of flecks of chalk and small sub rounded stones.

### **Trench Summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

### **Trench 6 (Figs. 4, 6, 12,19)**

Trench 6 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development and was aligned north-west to south-east, with an average depth of 0.50m. The top soil (600) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay with an average depth of 0.20m and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (601), measuring 0.35m in depth and containing occasional fragments of flint and some small sub rounded stones. The natural substrata (602) was viewed at approximately 0.50m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid brownish-yellow clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of flecks of chalk and small sub rounded stones.

Within the central area of trench 6 a collection of shallow post holes were revealed which formed a semi-circle in plan and continued under the south-west facing section of the trench (Fig. 6, 12, 19).

Post hole [603] was observed as being circular in plan with concave sides and base measuring 0.22m in length by 0.39m wide and 0.06m in depth. A true estimate of the post holes length could not be obtained as part of the feature continued under the south-west facing baulk of the trench. A single fill (604) was observed within the post hole which consisted of a firm mid grey brown silt clay containing moderate inclusions of small angular and sub rounded stones.

Post hole [605] appeared sub-circular in plan with both rounded sides and base measuring 0.31m in length by 0.22m wide and to a maximum depth of 0.05m. A single fill (606) was recorded within the feature which was viewed as a firm orange-grey silt clay containing moderate inclusions of sub angular and sub rounded stones. This feature has been truncated by later post hole [607] that was oval in plan with concave sides and a flat base measuring 0.74m in length by 0.42m wide and 0.09m deep. The feature aligns roughly north-west to south-east and truncates adjacent post holes [605] and [609]. The fill of post hole (607) was a firm mid brown-grey silt clay with moderate inclusions of small sub angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks (608).

Post hole [609] was view as oval shaped in plan with concave sides and a flat base measuring 0.88m in length, 0.52m wide and 0.21m in depth. This post hole was earlier than [607] and [611] and was truncated by both later features. A single fill (610) was recorded from within [609] and consisted of a firm mid grey-brown silt

clay with occasional small sub rounded stones and occasional medium sized chalk stones. One piece of worked flint was found within this deposit and was retained. Post hole [611] was viewed as being an irregular shape in plan with concave sides and a concave base. The overall size of the feature measured 0.58m in length, 0.81m wide by 0.20m deep and was found to have truncated both [609] and [613] whilst being truncated by [615]. The feature was found to contain a single fill, which was recorded as a firm mid grey-orange silt sand with blue clay lenses. Inclusions found within the fill consisted of occasional sub round and sub angular stones with some occasional flecks of charcoal.

Post hole [613] was viewed as being circular in plan with concave sides and base. The feature measured overall 0.34m in length by 0.28m wide and 0.12m in depth and was found to have been truncated by adjacent post hole [611]. A single fill was observed with the feature and was viewed as a firm mid grey-orange silt clay (614) containing occasional inclusions of small sub rounded stones.

Post hole [615] was observed as being circular shaped in plan with concave/straight sides and an irregular base. The feature was found slightly within the ring of post holes but not centre and measured 0.46m in length by 0.44m wide and 0.23m deep. The northern part of this feature continued under the south west facing bulk of the trench therefore a true estimate of the features length could not be obtained. A single fill was recorded from within the post hole and consisted of a firm mid brown-orange clay silt [616] which contained moderate inclusions of small sub rounded and angular stones.

### **Trench Summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. A semi-circular ring of post holes was discovered within the central area of this trench although none, with the exception of post-hole 609 that contained a piece of worked flint, produced any artefacts. The post holes formed a semi-circular ring in plan and could have been part of a small palisade or livestock enclosure.

### **Trench 7 (Figs. 4, 6)**

Trench 7 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development and was aligned north to south, with an average depth of 0.70m. The top soil (700) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay which measured 0.20m in depth and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (701), 0.20m deep on average containing occasional flint and small sub rounded stones. Underlying the subsoil a mid yellowish-brown organic silt was revealed (702) measuring 0.25m depth and appeared to be the remains of an alluvial organic deposit. The natural substrata (703) was viewed at 0.65m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid yellowish-grey clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of chalk flecks. Only feature noted was a drain and ceramic pipe. Unexcavated.

### **Trench Summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. A modern land drain was the only features observed within the confines of the trench.

**Trench 8** (*Figs. 4, 7, 13, 20*)

Trench 8 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development. It was 40m long and aligned north to south, with an average depth of 0.70m. The top soil (800) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay which measured 0.15m in depth and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (801), 0.20m deep on average containing occasional flint and small sub rounded stones. Underlying the subsoil a mid yellowish-brown organic silt was revealed (802) measuring 0.30m depth and appeared to be the remains of an alluvial organic deposit. The natural substrata (803) was viewed at 0.70m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid yellowish-grey clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of chalk flecks.

During the recording of trench 8 the remains of one linear feature were observed along with two shallow post holes all of which had been cut into the natural (803). The two post holes were found within the northern area of the trench (*Fig. 7, 13, 20*). Post hole [806] formed a circular shape in plan with rounded corners and u-shaped concave sides. The base of the feature was rounded and measured overall 0.50m in diameter by 0.08m deep. A single fill was found within the post hole and consisted of a firm mid brown-grey clay (807) which contained occasional small to medium sized sub angular stones.

Post hole [808] measured 0.55m in diameter by 0.04m in depth and was roughly circular in plan with u-shaped concave sides. The base of the feature was near flat and contained a single fill. Fill (809) proved to be a firm mid brown-grey clay with dark red-brown patches and contained occasional small to medium sized inclusions of angular stones.

Linear feature [804] was a relatively recent cut that housed a large red clay pipe at the base and therefore it was concluded that this feature was part of a modern drainage system and not an archaeological feature.

**Trench Summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. Two post-holes were discovered within the northern area of the trench although both features are undated. Linear feature [804] was initially thought to be the remains of a field boundary, however, upon further investigation it was revealed as a cut for a red clay drainage pipe.

**Trench 9** (*Figs. 4, 7, 13, 21*)

Trench 9 was located within the south-eastern end of the development and was aligned north-west to south-east, with an average depth of 0.45m. The top/plough soil (900) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay with an average depth of 0.15m and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (901), 0.30m deep on average containing occasional flint fragments and small sub rounded stones. The natural

substrata (902) was viewed at 0.45m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid brownish-yellow clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of flecks of chalk and small sub rounded stones.

In total trench 9 contained three separate linear features, all aligned north-east to south and all were found to cut the natural substrata deposit (902) (Figs. 7, 13, 21). Linear [903] measured 0.75m in width by 0.25m deep and had a 45 degree sloped sides with a flat base. A single fill (904) was revealed within the feature which consisted of a soft to moderately compacted dark brown silt clay.

Linear [905] had 45 degree sloping sides with a flat base and measured 0.90m wide by 0.30m deep. The feature contained two separate fills, the basal fill (906) was viewed as a soft to moderate dark yellow silty clay which was probable re-deposited natural. Overlying the basal fill a soft to moderate compacted dark brown silt (907) was revealed which completed the stratigraphic sequence for this feature. The two remaining features were found to be modern land drains. No further archaeological features were found within the confines of trench 9.

### **Trench Summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. Three linear features with a common alignment were discovered within this trench although none were dated. Two of these can be interpreted as modern land drains.

### **Trench 10 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 10 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development and was aligned north to south, with an average depth of 0.65m. The top/plough soil (1000) comprised a loose, dark orange-brown, silty clay which measured 0.30m in depth and contained moderate inclusions of sub angular stones. This overlay a loose, mid orangey-brown, silty clay, subsoil (1001), 0.10m deep on average containing occasional fragments of flint and small sub rounded stones. Underlying the subsoil a mid yellowish-brown organic silt was revealed (1002) measuring 0.25m depth and appeared to be the remains of an alluvial organic deposit. The natural substrata (1003) was viewed at 0.65m below existing ground level and consisted of a mid yellowish-grey clayey silt which contained occasional inclusions of chalk flecks.

### **Trench Summary**

This trench was located within the south-eastern end of the development. No archaeological features or deposits were located within this trench.

### **Trench 11 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 11 was located in the south-eastern area of the development, was aligned northeast to southwest, and had a maximum depth of 0.8m. The trench contained a lightly compacted, dark brown, silt clay topsoil, 0.30m deep and contained infrequent small stone inclusions (1100). Underlying the topsoil, a moderately compacted, light yellowish-brown, clay subsoil was revealed (1101), 0.20m deep. The natural substrata was first observed at 0.50m below present ground level and consisted of a

firm, yellowy-brown, silty clay which is contained frequent inclusions of small pieces of flint and chalk (1102).

**Trench Summary.**

Trench 11 was located in the south-eastern area of the development. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of this trench.

**Trench 12 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 12 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development and was aligned north-east to south-west, with an average depth of 0.80m. The top soil (1200) comprised a lightly compacted, dark brown, silty clay which measured 0.30m in depth and contained infrequent small stone inclusions. This overlay a moderately compacted, light yellow-brown clay, subsoil (1201), measuring 0.50m deep on average containing occasional fragments of flint and small sub rounded stones. The natural substrata (1202) was viewed at 0.80m below existing ground level and consisted of a light yellowish-brown clay which contained frequent inclusions of fragments of chalk and flint.

**Trench Summary**

Trench 12 was located within the south-eastern corner of the development. One modern clay land drain was the only archaeological feature discovered within this trench. Trench 12 was also within an area that collected large amounts of ground water and therefore was submerged for most of the work.

**Trench 13 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 13 was located within the central eastern area of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.60m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (1300), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and flints, measuring 0.30m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (1301), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30m in depth. The natural substrata (1302) was 0.6m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted light yellow brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk and flints.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 13.

**Trench Summary**

Trench 13 was located within the central eastern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

**Trench 14 (Figs. 4, 8)**

Trench 14 was located within the central eastern area of the development as was aligned on a north-east to south-west axis with a maximum depth of 0.6m. The

topsoil found throughout the trench was viewed as a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (1400), containing infrequent inclusions of flints and chalk fragments. The underlying subsoil (1401) consisted of a moderately compacted light yellowish-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk pieces and flints. The underlying substrata (1402) was located at 0.60m below existing ground level and consisted of a very compacted light yellowish-brown clay with frequent inclusion of small pieces of flint and chalk.

Three modern ceramic land drains were observed at the north eastern end of the trench all aligned south-east to north-west and were spaced around 3m apart. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 14.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 14 was located within the central area of the site. Three modern ceramic land drain pipes were located at the north-eastern end of the trench and the remainder of the trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 15 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 15 was located east of the central area of the development, excavated on an east to west alignment and continuing to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The overlying topsoil (1500) was viewed as a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay containing infrequent stone inclusions of small pieces of chalk and flints. This deposit measured on average 0.20m in depth. The subsoil deposit found within the trench consisted of a moderately compacted light yellowish-brown clay (1501), containing frequent stone inclusions. The underlying substrata (1502) was revealed at 0.50m below existing ground level and was recorded as a very compacted light yellowish-brown clay containing very frequent inclusions of chalk and flints.

One ceramic modern clay pipe was observed crossing the middle part of the trench on a south-west to north-east alignment.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 15 was located within the mid-eastern end of the development. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within this trench.

#### **Trench 16 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 16 was situated within the central area of the development, excavated on a north-east to south-west alignment and continuing to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The overlying topsoil (1600) was viewed as a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay containing infrequent stone inclusions of small pieces of chalk and flint. This deposit measured on average 0.20m in depth. The subsoil deposit found within the trench consisted of a moderately compacted light yellowish-brown clay (1601) that was 0.3m deep, containing frequent stone inclusions. The underlying substrata (1602) was revealed at 0.50m below existing ground level and was recorded as compacted light yellowish-brown clay containing very frequent inclusions of chalk and flints. No

features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 16.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 16 was located within the central area of the development.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within this trench.

#### **Trench 17 (Figs. 4, 8)**

Two land drains were observed before the trench was submerged. Further excavation and recording work proved impossible.

#### **Trench 18 (Figs. 4, 9, 22)**

Trench 18 was 40m long, aligned on a north- west to south-east alignment and excavated to an average total depth of 0.50m. The overlying topsoil (1800) consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silty clay containing infrequent stone inclusions, measuring 0.20m in depth. The underlying subsoil (1801) was recorded as a compact light yellow brown clay containing frequent stone inclusions with an average depth of 0.30m throughout the trench. The natural soil horizon (1802) was encountered at 0.50m below existing ground level and consisted of a very compact light yellow-brown silt clay containing frequent stone inclusions.

Two separate north-east to south-west aligned linear features were discovered within the confines of Trench 18, both were found to have cut natural (1802) (Fig. 4, 9, 22). The south-eastern most linear [1803] was observed as having a flat base with 45 degree sloping sides, measuring 0.70m wide by 0.10m deep. The basal deposit found within the linear consisted of a soft to moderately compacted dark yellow clay-silt (1807). Overlying the basal deposit a soft to moderate compacted dark brown silt clay was revealed (1804).

The north-western most linear [1805] was only partially excavated due to the remains of an Iron clad cable being found cut across the mid part of the feature. Therefore due to health and safety considerations this feature was not fully excavated.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 18 was a 40m long and located in the southern area of the site. Two north-east to south west aligned linear features were examined within this trench. Neither of the features produced datable artefacts and are therefore likely to be undated field boundaries.

#### **Trench 19 (Figs. 4, 9, 14)**

Trench 19 was located near to the southern boundary of the development area, aligned north-east to south-west with an average depth of 0.50m. The topsoil found throughout trench 19 consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (1900) which continued at an average depth of 0.20m and contained infrequent stone

inclusions. Underlying the topsoil a compacted light yellow-brown clay subsoil was revealed (1901), containing frequent stone inclusions, measuring 0.30m in depth. The underlying natural substrata (1902) was first viewed at 0.50m below ground level and consisted of a very compact light yellow-brown clay which contain frequent stone inclusions.

Trench 19 contained one linear ditch and a single shallow linear gully terminus, both had been cut into the natural substrata (1902) (Fig. 9, 14).

Linear gully terminus [1905] consisted of gentle to moderate sloping sides with a flat base measuring 1.24m in length, 0.25m wide and a maximum of 0.31m in depth. Only the south eastern half of the cut was visible as the rest of the feature continued under the south-eastern facing baulk of the trench 19. One fill was viewed within the gully and this consisted of a moderately compacted light greyish-brown clay (1906) containing occasional small pieces of flint. This feature was truncated by later ditch [1903].

Ditch [1903] was aligned north-west to south-east measuring 1.50m wide by 0.50 deep and had partially truncated adjacent earlier feature gully [1905]. A single fill [1904] was found within ditch [1903], consisting of a moderately compacted light grey to dark brown silt clay. Found within the fill was frequent fragments of small flint and pieces of chalk. Some animal bone was also found within the upper part of the fill and is thought to be the remains of cattle.

No datable artefacts were recovered from either ditch [1904] or gully [1905] and therefore both features are undated.

### **Trench Summary**

This trench was located in the southern boundary of the development and contained one linear gully and shallow linear gully terminus. The ditch contained animal bone but no datable artefacts. The ditch terminus did not contain dating material.

### **Trench 20 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 20 was located within the south-western corner of the field and was positioned on a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment with a maximum depth of 0.5 m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2000), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.2 m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2001), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.3m in depth. The natural substrata (2002) was 0.5m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted light greyish brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk and flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 20.

### **Trench Summary**

Trench 20 was located within the south-western corner of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 21** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 21 was located within the central eastern area of the field and was positioned on a north to south alignment with a maximum depth of 0.42m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2100), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.23m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2101), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.19m in depth. The natural substrata (2102) was 0.6m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted light greyish brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk and flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 21.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 21 was located within the central southern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 22** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 22 was located within the central southern area of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.40m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2200), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.24m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted mid brown clay was revealed (2201), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.16m in depth. The natural substrata (2202) was 0.4m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted light yellow brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk and flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 22.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 22 was located within the central southern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 23** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 23 was located within the central southern area of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.42m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2300), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.24m in depth.

Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2301), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30m in depth. The natural substrata (2302) was 0.18m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted greyish brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk and flints.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 23.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 23 was located within the central southern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 24 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 24 was located within the south-eastern area of the field and was positioned on a north-west to south-east alignment with a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown clay (2400), which contained occasional flint, measuring 0.24m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2401), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.17m in depth. The natural substrata (2402) was 0.41m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted light yellow brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk and flint. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 24.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 24 was located within the south-eastern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 25 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 25 was located within the south-west corner of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.52m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2500), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.28m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2501), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.24m in depth. The natural substrata (2502) was 0.52m below the existing ground level and was recorded as firm light brown clay containing some small to medium sized stone. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 25.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 25 was located within the south-eastern corner of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

**Trench 26** (Figs. 4, 10, 15, 23)

Trench 26 was 40 long and located within the western side of the development on a north to south alignment and excavated to a depth of 0.52m. A dark brown clay topsoil (2600) was revealed first which measured 0.29m in depth and contained occasional small fragments of sub angular flint. The underlying subsoil (2601) consisted of a light brown clay containing occasional small fragments of flint and measuring 0.20m in depth. The natural geological substrata was revealed at 0.42m below present ground level and consisted of a light yellowish clay (2602) which contained occasional small to medium sized sub angular stones.

During the excavation of trench 26 a group of intercutting pits was recorded within the middle of the trench along with one linear field boundary and one separate small pit. All features were found to have been cut into natural (2602) (Figs. 10, 15, 23) Pit [2603] consisted of a circular shape in plan with shallow to slight cut sides, measuring 0.53m in diameter by 0.05m deep and was located with the central to northern part of trench 26. A single fill was found within the feature, consisting of a soft to moderately compacted mid brown silt clay (2604). No datable artefacts were found amongst the fill and therefore this pit is of an unknown date.

Linear [2607] was found running parallel on a north to south alignment across the centre of trench 26 for 3.5 m. The cut measured 0.87m wide by 0.16m deep and was observed as having gentle to moderate sloping sides with a flattish base. A mid brown silt clay (2608) was revealed within the centre of the ditch and contained occasional small sub angular stones.

Within the mid area of trench 26 an irregular shaped feature which was dark grey in colour was revealed and continued from under the western baulk for approximately 1.0 metre in the centre of the trench. This feature was initially thought to be a tree throw due to its irregularity but upon excavation it was discovered to be several intercutting pits. A slot was excavated against the western baulk to investigate the group. With the eastern facing section three separate pits were visible.

Pit [2609] was the earliest sequentially and measured 0.80m wide by 0.50m deep and was found to have very steep sides with a flattish base. Within the pit a single fill was observed (2610) which consisted of a friable mid to dark reddish-brown silty clay containing infrequent amounts of small stones. This feature had been truncated by later adjacent pits [2605] and [2611].

Pit [2605] was viewed in the northern side of the eastern section and was recorded as being u-shaped with 45 degree sloping sides and having concave base. Overall the pit measured 0.45m in width by 0.26m in depth and contained a single fill (2606), recorded as a friable mid to dark grey silty clay with infrequent inclusions of small stones. This feature has cut earlier pit [2609].

Pit [2611] was viewed in the southern side of the eastern section and had steep cut side with a concave base. Overall the pit measured 0.65m in wide by 0.35m in deep and contained a single fill (2612), recorded as a friable light to mid grey clay with no inclusions. This feature has cut earlier pit [2609].

Within the slots eastern facing section five other pits/recuts were visible. Sequentially the earliest pit viewed was pit [2623]. Only the southern part of the feature was visible in section due to subsequent later pits truncating and removing the northern side of the feature. The pit measured a surviving width of 0.70m by 0.24m deep and contained a single fill consisting of a friable light to mid grey clay (2620). This feature had been truncated by later pits [2622] and [2616]. Pit [2018] was visible in the north side of the section and measured 0.17m wide by 0.05m deep and contained a single fill (2621), which consisted of friable light to mid grey clay that was very sterile in nature. It was recorded that pit [2618] had been truncated by later overlying pit [2616].

The next pit in the stratigraphic sequence was pit [2622] which measured 0.35m wide by 0.11m deep and appeared to have cut earlier pit [2623] and then in turn appeared to have been truncated by later pit [2616]. One fill was observed within the pit which consisted of a friable light to mid grey clay [2617] which contained no inclusions. Pit [2616] is recognised as the latest pit in the stratigraphic sequence, measuring 1.35m wide by 0.28m deep and contained (2619), a friable mid grey clay which could be the remains of a recut in pit [2616].

No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the pit fills therefore these features are considered to be a series of undated pits.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 26 was 40m long and located within the western side of the development and contained a group of intercutting pits. No dating evidence was observed within these pits and therefore their dating is relative and stratigraphic. No clear organic material was discovered within the samples for dating purposes.

#### **Trench 27 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 27 was located within the central area of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.42m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2700), which contained occasional flint stones, measuring 0.20m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2701), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.10m in depth. The natural substrata (2702) was 0.30m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted light greyish brown clay containing occasional flint. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 27.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 27 was located within the central eastern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 28 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 28 was located within the central area of the field and was positioned on a north-west to south-east alignment with a maximum depth of 0.32m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2800), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.21m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2801), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.11m in depth. The natural substrata (2802) was 0.32m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compacted light greyish brown clay containing occasional inclusions of flint. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 28.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 28 was located within the central area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 29 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 29 was located within the central area of the field and was positioned on a north to south alignment with a maximum depth of 0.55m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (2900), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.24m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (2901), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.20m in depth. The natural substrata (2902) was 0.44m below the existing ground level and was recorded as moderately compact light grey brown clay containing occasional inclusions of flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 29.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 29 was located within the central area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 30 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 30 was located within the central area of the field and was positioned on an east to west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.60m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (3000), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.20m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (3001), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30-0.40m in depth. The natural substrata (3002) was 0.50-0.60m below the existing ground level and was recorded as moderately compact light grey brown clay containing frequent inclusions of stone.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 30.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 30 was located within the central area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 31 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 29 was located within the central eastern area of the field and was positioned on a north-west to south-east alignment with a maximum depth of 0.5m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (3100), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.20m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (3101), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30m in depth. The natural substrata (3102) was 0.5m below the existing ground level and was recorded as moderately compact light yellow brown clay containing very frequent inclusions of natural flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 31.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 31 was located within the central eastern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 32 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 32 was located within the central western area of the field and was positioned on an east to west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (3200), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.20m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (3201), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30m in depth. The natural substrata (3202) was 0.50m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of natural flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 32.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 32 was located within the central western area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 33 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 33 was located within the central area of the field and was positioned on an east to west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (3300), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.20m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (3301), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30m in depth. The natural substrata (3302) was 0.50m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of natural flint. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 33.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 33 was located within the central area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 34 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 34 was located within the central western area of the field and was positioned on a north to south alignment with a maximum depth of 0.70m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (3400), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.40m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (3401), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30m in depth. The natural substrata (3402) was 0.60m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk and natural flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 34.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 34 was located within the central western area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 35 (Figs. 4, 10, 15, 24, 25, 26)**

Trench 35 was located north-east of the centre of the site and was aligned on an east to west axis with a maximum depth of 0.6m. The topsoil found throughout the trench was viewed as a 0.26m deep lightly compacted dark brown silt clay (3500), containing infrequent inclusions of natural flints and chalk stones. The underlying subsoil (3501) consisted of a 0.34m deep moderately compacted light yellow-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of chalk stones. The underlying substrata (3502) was first viewed at 0.60m below existing ground level and consisted of a very compacted light yellowish-brown clay with frequent inclusion of small pieces of natural flint and chalk.

Within the confines of trench 35 in total four linear features were revealed along with a curvilinear gully, a linear gully and a single post hole. Three modern land drains

were also noted cutting across the trench on a north to south alignment. All of the above mentioned features were found to have been cut into the natural (3502) (Figs. 10, 15, 24, 25, 26).

Curvilinear gully [3503] was found at the far eastern side of trench 35 and was recorded as heading on a roughly an east to west alignment before turning north to head under the northern baulk of the trench. A break in the course of the gully was found near the northern baulk of the trench and was initially thought to be a post hole. Further investigation disproved this and it may be that the gully was a segmented ditch that may form part of a sub circular enclosure. The gully was 0.28m deep and 0.26m wide and contained a single fill (3504). Fill (3504) consisted of a friable mid to dark grey silty clay containing infrequent inclusions of small stones, a sherd of twelfth to fifteenth-century medieval Shelly Ware, some animal bone and a single deer antler. The eastern side of this feature had been truncated by a north to south aligned modern land drain.

Linear [3505] was aligned on a north-west to south-east axis with a sharp cut western side and more moderate to shallow cut on the features eastern side. The base of the feature was slightly v-shaped and overall the ditch measured 1.5m wide by 0.27m in depth. Two separate fills were noted within this feature. The basal fill (3506) consisted of a blackish-blue clay silt-containing occasional inclusions of small flints and measuring on average 0.25m in depth. The upper fill of the ditch consisted of a plastic yellow-brown clay (3514) containing occasional small sub angular stones. No dateable artefacts were retrieved from within this feature therefore this feature is of an unknown date.

Linear [3507] was unexcavated and is considered to be either the remains of a past field boundary or a modern active land drain.

Ditch terminus [3509] was found within the centre/eastern side of trench 35 and was found to continue for an unknown distance under the southern bulk of the trench. The cut for the feature was observed to have gentle to moderate sloping sides with concave base. Overall the ditch terminus measured 2.10m wide by 0.35m deep and contained two separate fills these being (3510) and (3511). Basal fill (3511) was viewed as a soft mid yellow-brown clay containing small sub round stones and measured around 0.11m in depth. Overlying the basal fill a soft dark grey-brown silt clay was observed (3510) which contained occasional small sub rounded stones and continued to a maximum depth of 0.22m. Both these deposits contained sherds of Coarse and Fine Greyware, sherds of a Nene Valley Mortarium and Shelly Ware all of which date to the Romano-British period.

Gully [3517] was found to lead into ditch terminus [3509] and it is thought that both features may be chronologically contiguous. The gully was aligned on a north-east to south-west alignment measuring around 0.20m in width. This feature was unexcavated.

Linear [3512] was located within the western end of trench 35 and was aligned on a north-west to south-east alignment measuring 1m wide by 0.32m deep. The sides of the feature were observed as being cut to a moderate to steep gradient, with a flat base and containing a single deposit (3513). Deposit (3513) consisted of a plastic mid

orange brown clay silt containing occasional small fragmented flints along with some Shelly and Grog-tempered Romano-British pottery.

Post hole [3515] was found cut into the base of linear [3512] and is considered to be later in date. The feature was unexcavated and measured around 0.20m in diameter containing a soft blackish silty clay [3516].

No further archaeological features or artefacts of significance were found within the confines of trench 35.

#### **Trench Summary**

This trench was located north east of site centre. Four linear features were revealed within the trench along with a curvilinear gully, a linear gully and a single post hole. Two of the linear features appear to be Romano-British in date (first to fourth-century AD) and ceramic evidence suggests that the curvilinear gully appears to be medieval in date (c. 1100- 1400 AD).

#### **Trench 36 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 36 was located within the central northern area of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.55m. The topsoil consisted of mid to dark grey silty clay (3600), measuring 0.24m in depth.

Underlying the topsoil a mid orangey-brown silty clay was revealed (3601), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.16m in depth. The natural substrata (3602) was 0.55m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of flint. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 36.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 36 was located within the central northern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 37 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 37 was located within the north-eastern area of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.55m. The topsoil consisted of a dark grey clayey silt (3700), measuring 0.26m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (3701), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.24m in depth. The natural substrata (3702) was 0.50-0.55m below the existing ground level and was recorded as light yellow-brown clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 37.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 37 was located within the north-eastern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

**Trench 38** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 38 was located within the central northern area of the field and was positioned on an east to west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.42m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (3800), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.26m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a mid orangey-brown clay was revealed (3801), measuring 0.14m in depth. The natural substrata (3802) was 0.40m below the existing ground level and was recorded as a light yellow-brown clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 38.

**Trench Summary**

Trench 38 was located within the central northern area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

**Trench 39** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 39 was located within the north-western area of the field and was positioned on a north to south alignment with a maximum depth of 0.42m. The topsoil consisted of a dark grey clayey silt (3900), measuring 0.24m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted mid orangey-brown silty clay was revealed (3901), measuring 0.16m in depth. The natural substrata (3902) was 0.40m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 39.

**Trench Summary**

Trench 39 was located within the north-western area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

**Trench 40** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 40 was located within the north-western area of the field and was positioned on an east to west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a mid to dark grey clayey silt (4000), measuring 0.28m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a mid orangey-brown brown silty clay was revealed (4001) measuring 0.16m in depth. The natural substrata (4002) was 0.44m below the existing ground level and was recorded as a light yellowish-brown clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 40.

**Trench Summary**

Trench 40 was located within the north-western area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

**Trench 41** (*Fig. 4*)

Trench 41 was located within the north-western area of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil

consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (4100), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.30m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (4101), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.20m in depth. The natural substrata (4102) was 0.50m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 41.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 41 was located within the north-western area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 42 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 42 was located within the north-western area of the field and was positioned on a north-west to south-east alignment with a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silt clay (4200), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.20m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (4201), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.30m in depth. The natural substrata (4202) was 0.50m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of natural flint.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 42.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 42 was located within the north-western area of the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **Trench 43 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 43 was located on the northern boundary of the field and was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment with a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a loosely compacted dark brown silty clay (4300), which contained infrequent inclusions of chalk and natural flints, measuring 0.15m in depth. Underlying the topsoil a moderately compacted light yellowish brown clay was revealed (4301), which contained frequent stone inclusions of chalk and flint, measuring 0.35m in depth. The natural substrata (4302) was 0.50m below the existing ground level and was recorded as very compact light yellow-brown clay containing frequent inclusions of natural flint. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were found within the confines of trench 43.

#### **Trench Summary**

Trench 43 was located on the northern boundary the site and contained no archaeological features or deposits.

## 5. Finds & Environmental Samples

### 5.1 Summary

A total of 188 items were recovered by hand during the evaluation. These consisted of 64 sherds of pottery, 20 lithics, 60 animal bone fragments, 23 fragments of daub, 14 fragments of stone & chalk, and 7 shell fragments. In addition, 11 animal bone fragments were recovered from one of the environmental samples taken, making the total size of the animal bone assemblage 71.

Examination of the dates of the artefacts recovered indicates that four periods are represented: Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, recovered from Trench 26 (dating from flint, supported by animal bone); Iron Age, recovered from Trench 4 (dating from flint & pottery, supported by animal bone); Romano British, recovered from Trench 35 (dating from pottery, supported by animal bone); and medieval, also recovered from Trench 35 (dating from pottery).

Unfortunately, heavy disturbance of sub-soil deposits by modern root activity made the site generally unsuitable for environmental samples. Of the 20 samples taken during the evaluation, only three were considered suitable for processing. One of these was taken from an undated feature in Trench 13 and two from Trench 26, one of which was tentatively dated by lithics to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Small amount of carbon, some fibrous material, and flint and chalk fragments were recovered from all three samples, although none of this was in sufficient quantity or of sufficient quality to warrant further analysis. The only materials recovered of archaeological value were the 11 fragments of animal bone from the feature of possible Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date (Context 2612) in Trench 26.

#### *Hand Recovered Artefacts*

	Context	Description	Amount	Weight in grams	Kept/Disc.
<b>Pottery</b>					
	404	Prehistoric (IA) sherds	11	123	Kept
	406	Prehistoric (IA) sherds	26	72	Kept
	409	Prehistoric (IA) sherds	4	43	Kept
	3504	Romano-British sherd	1	3	Kept
	3510	Romano-British sherds	16	273	Kept
	3511	Romano-British (Mortarium)	4	195	Kept
	3513	Romano-British sherds	2	123	Kept
<b>Daub</b>					
	404		2	1	Kept
	406		3	1	Kept
	409		22	44	Kept
	3510		1	126	Kept

	3513		2	9	Kept
<b>Lithics</b>					
	404	(see lithics report below)	5	8	Kept
	406	(see lithics report below)	1	28	Kept
	409	(see lithics report below)	1	5	Kept
	1904	(see lithics report below)	3	98	Kept
	1906	(see lithics report below)	7	80	Kept
	2612	Poss Late Neo/ EBA flake	1	7	Kept
	3504	(see lithics report below)	2	6	Kept
<b>Animal Bone</b>					
	404		7	41	Kept
	406		2	20	Kept
	409		18	257	Kept
	1904	Incl. 4 teeth	11	134	Kept
	3504	Incl. 1 horn	6	336	Kept
	3510		16	417	Kept
<b>Stone</b>					
	404	1 burnt and 1 polished stone	2	529	Kept
	406	Burnt stone	5	1.349	Kept
	409	Chalk and limestone	7	10	Kept
	409	Daub	23	44	Kept
<b>Shell</b>					
	404	Fossilised oyster shell	1	25	Kept
	409	Land snail shells	6	7	Kept
		<b>Total finds:</b>			
		<b>Pottery</b>	64		
		<b>Lithics</b>	20		
		<b>Animal bones</b>	60		
		<b>Stone &amp; daub</b>	37		
		<b>Miscellaneous</b>	7		
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>188</b>		

### *Flotation Samples and results*

Bucket Flotation using 1mm sieve and 250mu mesh

Sample number	Context number	Soil volume	Sample weight	% Sample processed	Weight Flot 1, 1mm	Inclusions Flot 1.	Weight Flot 2, 250 mu	Inclusions Flot 2.	Weight Bucket res.
n/a	113	2L	2.1Kg	100%	10 gr	Few very small flecks of charcoal	73 gr	Tiny flecks of	185 gr

								charcoal,	
						Some organic material		chalk and flint, some	
						Flint and chalk		organic material & sand	
13	2612	3L	3.5Kg	100%	7 gr	Few tiny flecks of charcoal	45 gr	Tiny flecks of charcoal,	423 gr
						Some organic material		chalk and flint, some	
						Flint and chalk		organic material & sand	
						Burnt clay 2 gr.			
						Animal bone 63 gr.			
14	2619	3.5L	3Kg	100%	3 gr	Few very small flecks of charcoal	58 gr	Tiny flecks of charcoal,	298 gr
						Organic material		chalk and flint, some	
						Flint and chalk		organic material & sand	

#### ***Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age***

A single irregular flake recovered from context 2612 in Trench 26 is, diagnostically, late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date. Eleven animal bone fragments from medium to large sized mammals were retrieved from the same context.

#### ***Iron Age***

Three contexts from Trench 4 (404, 406 & 409) produced undiagnostic pottery broadly dateable to the mid-late Iron Age: fill (404) from ditch [403], the upper fill (406) of ditch [405], and fill (409) from ditch [408]. Lithics were recovered from all three of these contexts, although this does not necessarily imply that flint was being worked in the vicinity of the site at that time. Poor quality animal bone was present in (409), (404) and (407), the latter being the lower fill of ditch [403]. Context 409 also produced 22 fragments of daub. However, these fragments were undiagnostic, so the origin of this material is uncertain.

#### ***Romano-British***

Three contexts from Trench 35 (3510, 3511 & 3513) produced Romano-British pottery. Fragments of Nene Valley mortarium in contexts 3510 and 3511 were from the same vessel. Animal bone recovered from context 3510 was in better condition than that recovered from elsewhere and included evidence of heavy butchery. One fragment had been gnawed by dogs

#### ***Medieval***

A single sherd of Medieval Shelly Ware (AD 1100-1400) and three fragments of animal bone were recovered from context 3504 in Trench 35.

### *Undated*

Ten lithics recovered from two contexts in Trench 19 (1904 & 1906) were generally undiagnostic. Context 1904 included a crude scraper of Bronze Age or later date, but was also notable for the presence of pig, the only such material found on the site, and donkey, a rare find in all periods on British archaeological sites.

## 5.2 Pottery: *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 64 sherds with a total weight of 744g. It comprised a mixture of Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval wares, as follows:

### *Iron Age*

**F1: Sandy Fine shell.** Sparse to moderate shell platelets up to 1mm, rare to sparse sub-round quartz up to 1mm. 33 sherds, 177g.

**F2: Medium Shell.** Moderate to dense shell platelets up to 3mm. 4 sherds, 24g.

**F3: Sandy Grog.** Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, rare to sparse sub-angular grog up to 1mm. 3 sherds, 24g.

**F4: Coarse Shell.** Moderate to dense shell platelets up to 10mm, rare to sparse sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm. 1 sherd, 13g.

Context 409 produced 22 sherds of burnt daub weighing 44g. The sherds from 406 are all from the same vessel. None of the pottery was in any way diagnostic, meaning the assemblage can only be given a broad date of the mid-late Iron Age based on the fabrics, and the fact that none of the vessels were wheel-thrown. Allowing for the fact that much of the pottery was low-fired and friable, the assemblage was generally in fairly good condition, and all appears reliably stratified.

### *Romano-British*

The Romano-British pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Stainsbie 2007), as follows:

**R06B: Coarse Greyware.** 8 sherds, 91g.

**R06C: Fine Greyware.** 1 sherd, 43g.

**R12A: Nene Valley Mortarium.** 8 sherds, 310g.

**R13: Shelly Ware.** 4 sherds, 29g.

**R35: Grog-tempered Ware.** 1 sherd, 30g

The fragments of Nene Valley mortarium noted in contexts 3510 and 3511 are all from the same vessel. A fragment of shell-tempered *tegula* of Harrold type (Brown 1994) and weighing 118g occurred in context 3510. The assemblage is, in the main, in good condition, and appears reliably stratified.

### *Medieval*

A single medieval sherd was noted. It was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1977), as follows:

**B07: Medieval Shelly Ware: AD1100-1400.**

The sherd is slightly abraded, and could be residual. It is certainly at least the product of secondary deposition.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

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

Cntxt	F1		F2		F3		F4		R06B		R06C		R12A		R13		R35		B07		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
404	4	75	4	24	3	24																M/LIA
406	26	72																				M/LIA
409	3	30					1	13														M/LIA
3504																			1	3		12thC
3510									8	91	1	43	4	115	3	24						RB
3511													4	195								RB
3513															1	5	1	30				RB
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>		

### 5.3 Lithics: Dr Amelia Pannett

The archaeological evaluation undertaken in advance of the construction of a proposed solar farm at Clapham produced an assemblage of 20 struck lithics. The site is located in an area of mudstone and siltstone, north of the flint bearing chalk deposits located around Luton. Flint nodules do not occur naturally in the geology in this part of Britain, although lithic raw materials are alocally abundant. The raw materials included a range of colours, including white, brown, and grey, indicating that the flint derived from a variety of sources.

Trench	No. of Lithics
4	7
19	10
26	1
35	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

Table 1. Number of lithics by trench.

The assemblages from each trench will be discussed separately. No context information was available at the time of writing the report.

#### ***Trench 4***

*Context 404 – single fill of ditch [403]*

The assemblage comprised five lithics. One of the lithics was natural, this will not be discussed further.

The remaining four lithics comprised one complete flake, one distal flake fragment and two pieces of angular shatter. The complete flake had been struck from a core of indeterminate form (no distinguishing dorsal scars) and was irregular. It measured 37.2mm in length, 31.6mm wide and 13.7mm thick. The flake retained a cortical platform and a hinged termination and is probably the result of a primary reduction sequence – the initial stages of nodule working to create a core.

The distal flake fragment measured 48mm in length and had been struck from a single platform flake core. It retained a stepped termination and some cortex on the dorsal surface. The chunky flake is probably the result of a primary reduction sequence.

One of the pieces of angular shatter measured 35mm in length and had multiple striking scars on both dorsal and ventral surfaces. The second measured 33mm in length and comprised a fractured nodule with a number of striking scars. There was no identifiable platform or termination on either piece.

None of the pieces had been retouched and all are undiagnostic.

*Context 406 – upper fill of ditch [405]*

A single lithic was recovered from the context. It comprises a chunk of white flint, 59mm in length, from which at least one irregular flake has been struck. The piece can be classified as angular shatter.

The angular shatter has not been retouched and is undiagnostic.

*Context 409 – single fill of ditch [408]*

The assemblage comprises a small shattered fragment of patinated flint. It is considered to be natural.

**Trench 19**

*Context 1904 – single fill of ditch [1903]*

The assemblage comprised three lithics, one of which is considered to be natural. The remaining two lithics comprised complete flakes, one regular (length greater than width and with parallel edges) and one irregular. The regular flake measured 47.7mm in length, 26mm wide and 12.3mm thick and had been struck from a single platform flake core. The platform was missing but the flake retained a hinged termination.

The irregular flake measured 42.6mm in length, 31.9mm wide and 19.3mm thick. The flake retained a planar platform 7.1mm wide and a stepped termination and is the result of a primary reduction sequence. The flake had not been retouched and is undiagnostic.

The regular flake had abrupt retouch along the left side (viewed from the dorsal surface) forming a rough scraper edge. This crude scraper was probably manufactured as an expedient tool, crafted to meet an immediate need and then discarded. It is likely to be Bronze Age or later in date.

***Context 1906 – single fill of ditch terminus [1905]***

The assemblage comprised seven lithics, two of which are natural and will not be discussed further.

The remaining five lithics comprise one complete flake, two distal flake fragments and two pieces of angular shatter. The complete flake measured 45.3mm long by 40mm wide and 14.3mm thick. The flake retained a damaged cortical platform and a feathered termination and is the result of a primary reduction sequence, with the flake struck across a nodule to remove the cortex.

One distal flake fragment measured 25mm in length and one measured 13mm in length. Both retained feathered terminations. The smaller of the flake fragments had been struck from a single platform flake core and had patinated surfaces.

The two pieces of angular shatter had scars from multiple strikes. One measured 42mm in length and had shattered when struck, the second measured 30mm in length and comprised a rough flake-like piece but without any recognisable platform or termination.

None of the pieces had been retouched and none are diagnostic.

***Trench 26******Context 2612 – single fill of pit [2611]***

The assemblage comprised a single irregular flake measuring 27.7mm in length, 27.6mm wide and 7.6mm thick. The flake had been struck from a single platform flake core, with the dorsal surface showing multiple scars from flake removals and a prepared platform. The platform had been damaged and was unidentifiable, but the feathered termination was complete.

The flake had not been retouched. The reduction sequence and the core working is diagnostically late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

***Trench 35******Context 3504 – single fill of gully [3503]***

The assemblage comprised two lithics, both angular shatter. One piece is considered to be natural and will not be discussed further.

The second piece measured 21.5mm in length and comprised a chunk of flint with multiple striking scars. It retained no identifiable platforms or terminations and is undiagnostic.

***Discussion***

The assemblage of material recovered during the evaluation at Clapham reveals that lithics were being worked and used on the site. The majority of pieces are undiagnostic, and several are natural, however one of the diagnostic pieces reveals that flint was being worked and used on the site in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The single flake fragment from pit [2611] could be residual, but in lieu of any additional dating material from the pit may provide a date for the feature.

The recovery of Iron Age pottery from several of the lithic producing contexts provides tentative dating for the struck flints from these dated features. The issue of whether flint was exploited in the Iron Age is a contentious one, with the generally accepted view that the production and use of flint artefacts declined and ceased altogether within the later Bronze Age. However, flint continues to be recovered from Iron Age sites and it is not possible to dismiss all of this material simply as residual (Pannett 2014, Humphrey 2007). Iron Age lithics are characterised by poor quality manufacturing, with a hard hammer technique used and nodules struck wherever angles allowed in the hope of a useable result. There was little selection of material and manufactured pieces were crude and expedient. The material from Clapham is characterised by the poor quality manufacturing techniques, the range of raw materials used and the expedient nature of the single tool (crude scraper from context 1904). There appears to have been little to no nodule/core preparation and flakes are chunky and generally retaining cortex. The pieces produced would, however have been effective tools for cutting and scraping and can, with some confidence, be attributed to the Iron Age, contemporary with the use of some of the features on the site.

#### 5.4 Animal Bone: Lee Broderick

##### *Methods*

The methods used for recording the bones are based on a heavily modified version of that described by Davis (1992), a full account of which can be found in Broderick (2014). In brief, this consists of a light diagnostic zone approach, with emphasis placed on those elements where at least 50% of an articular surface (or occlusal surface, in the case of teeth) is present. Other identifiable material is also recorded and is counted in NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) totals.

##### *Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age*

	Large mammal	Medium mammal	<i>Equus</i> sp.	<i>Equus asinus</i>	<i>Bos</i> sp.	<i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i>	<i>Sus</i> sp.	Total
NISP	5	6	0	0	0		0	11
% NSP	2.89	3.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.36
							<b>Total NSP</b>	<b>173</b>

The material from context 2612 came from a small pit, dated by the inclusion of a single lithic artefact of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. It was the only material examined which was recovered from a flotation sample rather than by hand and was deemed by the excavators to be of particular interest to their research questions.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to assign any of the recovered specimens to a species, although it was generally observed that the material derived from medium to large sized mammals (roughly sheep sized to cow sized) – i.e. there were no specimens of small mammal, or of bird or other taxonomic classes present. It was also possible to say that six of the specimens definitely derived from medium mammals and five from large mammals. Ten of the recovered specimens measured between 25mm and 50mm, including the identified large mammal specimens, with all others being under 25mm at their greatest length. Preservation was moderately good, with a Behrensmeyer (1978) weathering stage of 3 being noted as typical for the material.

It's difficult to draw any conclusions from this. The principle domestic food species are medium and large mammals so it should be no surprise that an anthropogenic assemblage from this period should consist primarily of specimens of that type.

### *Iron Age*

	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Equus sp.	Equus asinus	Bos sp.	Ovis aries/Capra hircus	Sus sp.	Total
NISP	4	1	0	0	4	1	0	10
% NSP	14.81	3.70	0.00	0.00	14.81	3.70	0.00	37.04
							<b>Total NSP</b>	<b>27</b>

The Iron Age material derived from two ditches – [403] and [408], including two contexts from ditch [403] (404 and 407) and one from ditch [408] (409). Very few specimens were recovered – just 27 in total – but it was possible to identify 10 specimens (37%), including 5 to species level. These were a mandible of *Bos sp.* (cow) missing only the second premolar and third molar, two further fragments of *Bos sp.* mandible, a *Bos sp.* tibia and a caprine (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) radius. The large mammal remains included two ribs and a vertebra.

It was possible to assign the *Bos sp.* mandible to Grant's (1982) wear stage 42, equating to an age at death of between 6½ and 7½ years (Jones and Sadler, 2012). The condition of the recovered material was variable but not good: 11 specimens showed evidence of root-etching, including 8 where more than half the surface was affected, and 12 specimens were at weathering stage 4, with the remainder at stage three. Most of the specimens were between 25mm and 50mm at their greatest length but 5 were less than 25mm, 2 were between 50mm and 75mm, 1 between 75mm and 100mm and the mandible was greater than 100mm.

This is the first period on the site for which we have definite evidence of some of the species present. It remains a very small sample though and it's difficult to suggest much more than that at present.

### *Romano-British*

	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Equus sp.	Equus asinus	Bos sp.	Ovis aries/Capra hircus	Sus sp.	Total
NISP	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	6
% NSP	18.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.75	0.00	0.00	37.50
							<b>Total NSP</b>	<b>16</b>

The Romano-British assemblage derived from a single context (3510) from a ditch terminus [3509]. In many ways it's similar to the Iron Age assemblage, being small and containing 37% identifiable specimens. There were no medium mammal specimens observed in this assemblage. The *Bos sp.* specimens identified were an astragalus and distal and proximal parts of radii - there was also a mid-shaft fragment of radius identified to large mammal, along with parts of a pelvis and a rib.

The proximal section of radius showed signs of heavy butchery, with three different marks recorded: an axial chop through the proximal articulation running in antero-posterior direction; a horizontal/oblique chop through the shaft; and a horizontal chop through the proximal end. Heavy butchery of *Bos sp.* is a common feature of

Romano-British sites and this fits that pattern. The astragalus has suffered a fresh break (possibly related to excavation) and so it is possible only to measure the GLM (Greatest Length, medial side).

The astragalus showed signs of having been gnawed by dogs. It's notable that this was the only specimen from this period where root-etching covered less than 50% of the bone surface; it's entirely possible that other specimens may have suffered similar damage, only to have the indications removed by subsequent post-depositional taphonomic actions. Adding further to the picture of poor preservation were 5 specimens being recorded at weathering stage 3, 10 at stage 4 and 1 at the maximum stage of 5. These may all be contributory factors in the odd statistic of all six identified specimens being greater than 50mm at their greatest length and all others being less than 50mm.

Despite being smaller than the two earlier assemblages and having generally poorer preservation it is arguably the one which has revealed the most information thus far.

### *Mediaeval*

	Large mammal	Medium mammal	<i>Equus sp.</i>	<i>Equus asinus</i>	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i>	<i>Sus sp.</i>	Total
NISP	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
% NSP	16.67	16.67	0.00	0.00	16.67	0.00	0.00	50.00
							<b>Total NSP</b>	<b>6</b>

Smaller even than the Romano-British assemblage, the medieval component consists of a single context (3504) from a gully [3503]. Of the six specimens present, one was from a large mammal vertebra, one a medium mammal tibia shaft and one a *Bos sp.* horncore. This was fragmented but it is possible to reassemble the basal, tip and mid portions if a greatest length measurement were required in addition to basal circumference. The basal portion of the horncore was still attached to part of the skull, which showed an oblique chop through the back – slightly lower than would normally be made for detaching a horncore.

Weathering was at a uniform stage 3 and root-etching present on less than 50% of the surface of all specimens, except in the case of the horncore, where it was absent and weathering was only at stage 2. It's possible that this difference could be explained by the bone originally being deposited with its protective horn covering still present, which would be consistent with the unusual butchery.

The three unidentified specimens were between 25mm and 50mm at their greatest length, the medium mammal specimen 50mm-75mm, the large mammal vertebra 75mm-100mm and the parts of the horncore, together, more than 100mm.

### *Context 1904 (Undated)*

	Large mammal	Medium mammal	<i>Equus sp.</i>	<i>Equus asinus</i>	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i>	<i>Sus sp.</i>	Total
NISP	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	4
% NSP	0.00	0.00	9.09	9.09	0.00	0.00	18.18	36.36
							<b>Total NSP</b>	<b>11</b>

The material from context 1904 was from a ditch [1903] which contained no datable artefacts and, as such, the fauna material cannot be dated at present. Despite this significant shortcoming though, it's notable for two things – firstly for containing the only remains of *Sus* sp. (pig) found on the site so far and, secondly for containing evidence of *Equus asinus* (donkey). This was in the form of a third, mandibular, molar. *Equus asinus* remains a rare find in all periods on British archaeological sites and so, if further excavations were to be carried out and this context found to be datable, it could be of regional or national significance.

All the specimens from this context were from 50mm to 75mm at their greatest length (with the exception of the *Equus asinus* tooth) and were at weathering stage 3.

### Discussion

At present it is not possible to recommend this assemblage for further analysis. This is primarily due to its small size, however, and it has to be acknowledged that the present assemblage derives from archaeological evaluation and not a full excavation.

The preservation of the material in the assemblage was typically poor, combining moderate to high levels of weathering with substantial root-damage. Despite this poor preservation the proportion of specimens identified at least to taxonomic class level was good. The specimens were typically of a size range consistent with hand-collection but it seems more than imprudent at present to make any firm interpretations of economic or ecological implications based on the material.

Bedfordshire is fortunate in being in an area where a thorough zooarchaeological review was carried out within the last decade (Albarella and Pirnie, 2008) and it is here that any comparative work should begin. Several more recent, period-specific, zooarchaeological reviews have also been carried out in the Historic England 'Southern England' region (Allen, n.d.; Holmes, n.d.; Serjeantson, 2011) and these may be worthwhile for comparing general trends. For the later phases of the site it may also be worth comparing material with that from West Cotton (Albarella and Davis, 1994) – a significant rural site in a neighbouring county.

## 5.5 Daub, stone, chalk and shell

A total of 23 fragments of daub, 14 fragments of stone & chalk, and 7 shell fragments were recovered. None of this material was diagnostic, although it is noteworthy that the largest number of daub fragments came from one of the Iron Age contexts in Trench 4.

## 6. Conclusions

The geophysical survey highlighted a number of anomalies across the site, some of which are likely to have been caused by modern water utility pipes (Fig. 3). In addition to this, several areas of the site contained anomalies that appeared to have been caused by deep ploughing. The geophysical survey also suggested that anomalies possibly associated with temporary farm buildings were present towards the east of the site. A number of curvilinear and linear features appeared to be present

in the south-east corner of the survey and were interpreted as being of potential archaeological significance due to the presence of field system crop marks in fields further to the east, beyond the adjacent track-way.

The vast majority of the 43 trenches excavated during the evaluation contained no archaeological features. Evidence for historical ploughing was discovered in one trench (Trench 2) in the south-eastern area of the site and a number of ceramic land drains were encountered within several trenches. The need for effective field drainage within this clayey site was demonstrated within trenches 12 and 17, which were abandoned due to persistent flooding during the evaluation.

Evidence for prehistoric activity was demonstrated within a number of trenches, the earliest of which was in Trench 26 in the western area of the site (Fig. 4 & 6). A pit [2611] contained a single flake, possibly of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date (c. 3500-1500 BC), although the flake may have been residual. Eleven undiagnostic bone fragments from medium to large sized mammals were retrieved from the same context.

A number of middle or late Iron Age pottery sherds within ditches in Trench 4, located at the south-eastern area of the site (Fig. 4), suggest a broad Iron Age date (c. 500-50 BC). The presence within these features of daub, animal bone and crudely worked lithic material, in addition to the pottery, suggests Iron Age domestic activity in the vicinity of the site, although not necessarily within the area of the site itself. Crop mark evidence indicates that the focus of this activity may have been located further to the east.

Continued occupation into the Roman period is suggested by the discovery of features containing Romano-British pottery and animal bone in Trench 35, which was located north-east of the central area of the site (Fig. 4). Two of the linear features within this trench appear to date broadly to the second to fourth century AD. The animal bone recovered was in better condition than that recovered elsewhere and included evidence of heavy butchery. One fragment had been gnawed by dogs.

A curvilinear feature containing medieval (AD 1110-1400) pottery, also within Trench 35, suggests the presence of a possible stock enclosure at a much later date in this area.

The discovery of prehistoric and medieval features within the large field comprising the site suggests occupation and activity over a broad timeframe in the Clapham area. The main activity was in the western, south-eastern, and eastern-central parts of the site, while the main period of occupation seems to have been from the mid Iron Age through to the Romano-British period, when it is possible that ditches located in the south-east part of the site defined the outer limits of settlement activity that was focused in fields located further to the east.

## 7. Acknowledgements

Archaeology Wales would like to thank Stratus Environmental and the Historic Environment Team of Bedford County Council for their kind assistance during this work.

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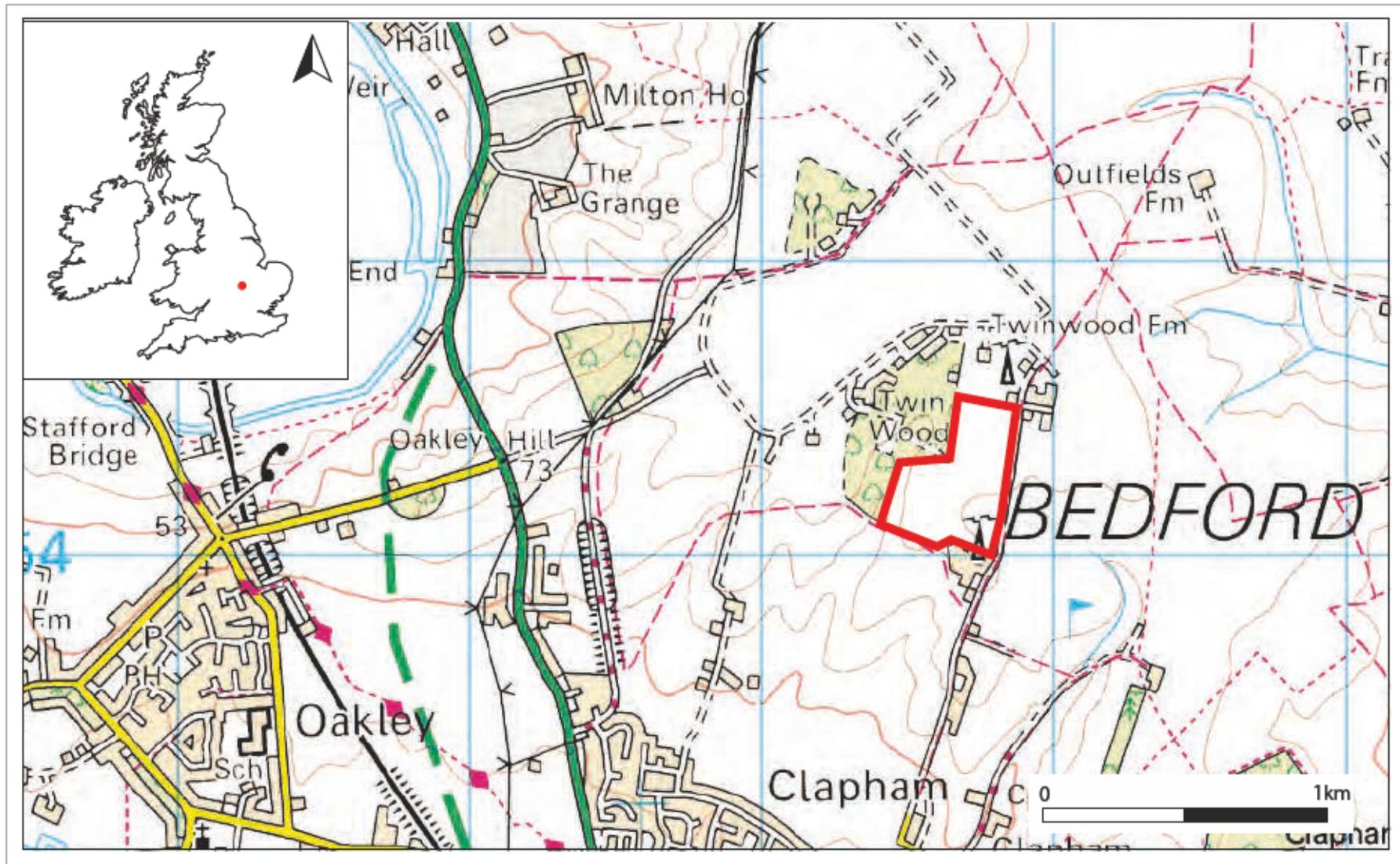


Fig 1: Figure showing location of assessment area

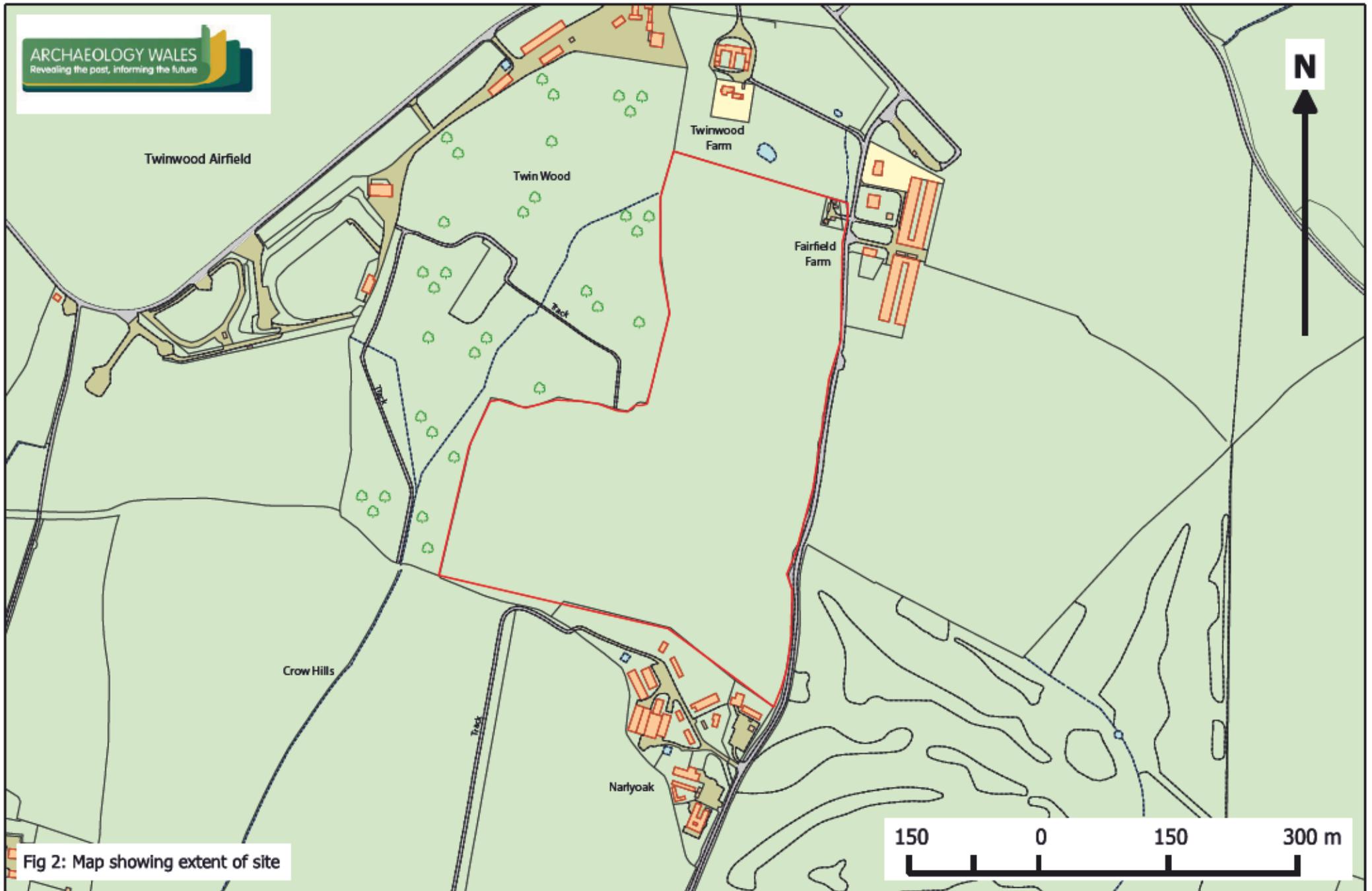


Fig 2: Map showing extent of site

KEY

-  Positive magnetic anomalies - enhanced magnetic response
-  Negative magnetic anomalies - reduced magnetic response
-  Area of scattered dipolar responses - possibly caused by ground disturbance or fired / ferrous material (e.g. bricks / iron fragments)
-  Area of dipolar responses - probable buried ferrous utility pipe
-  Linear positive magnetic response - probable ploughing activity
-  Linear positive magnetic response - possible field boundary / track
-  Linear dipolar magnetic response - probable clay field drain / ditch
-  Discreet dipolar magnetic response - probable ferrous response
-  Proposed archaeological evaluation trench 20m x 2m and 40m x 2m

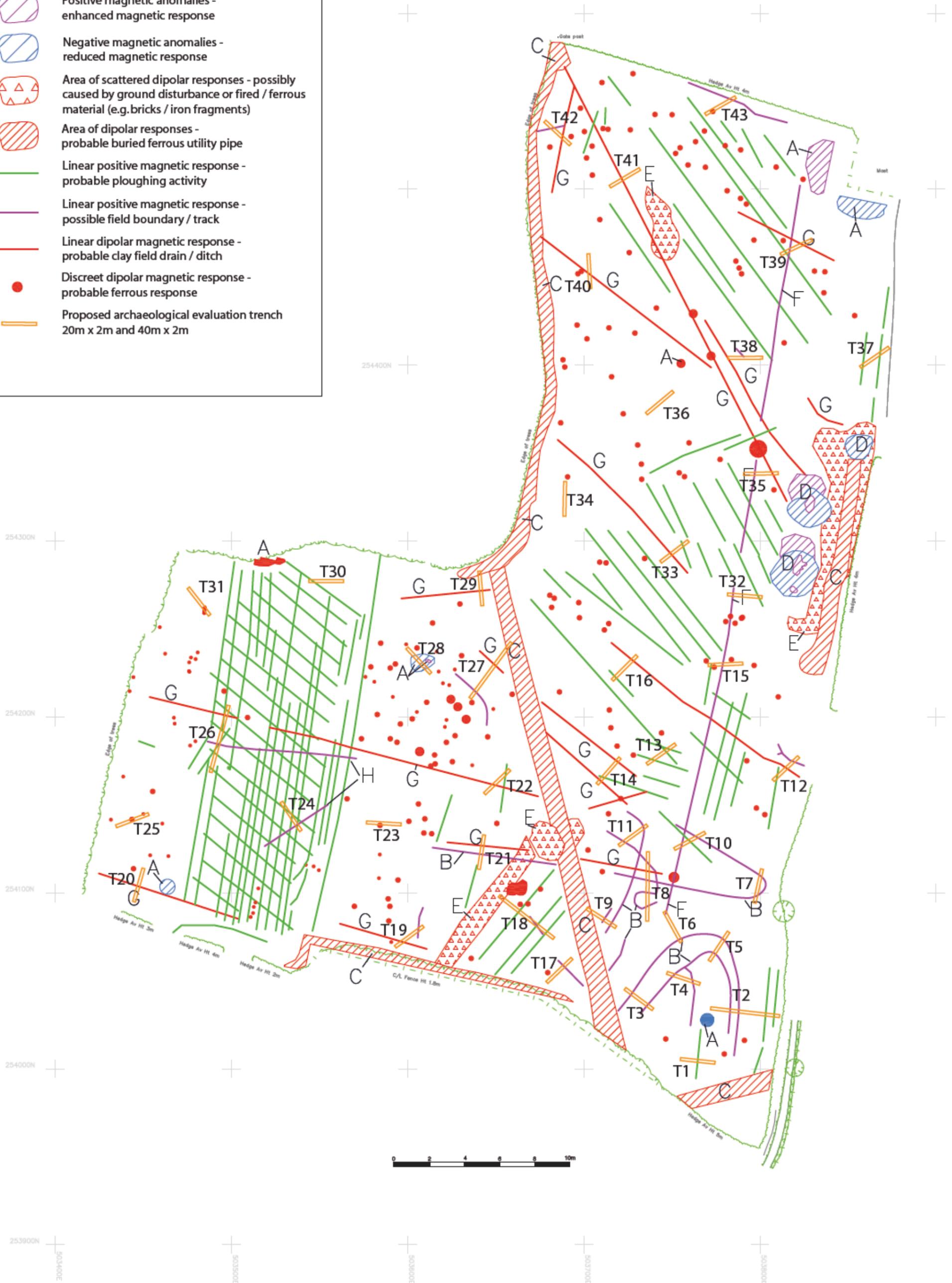
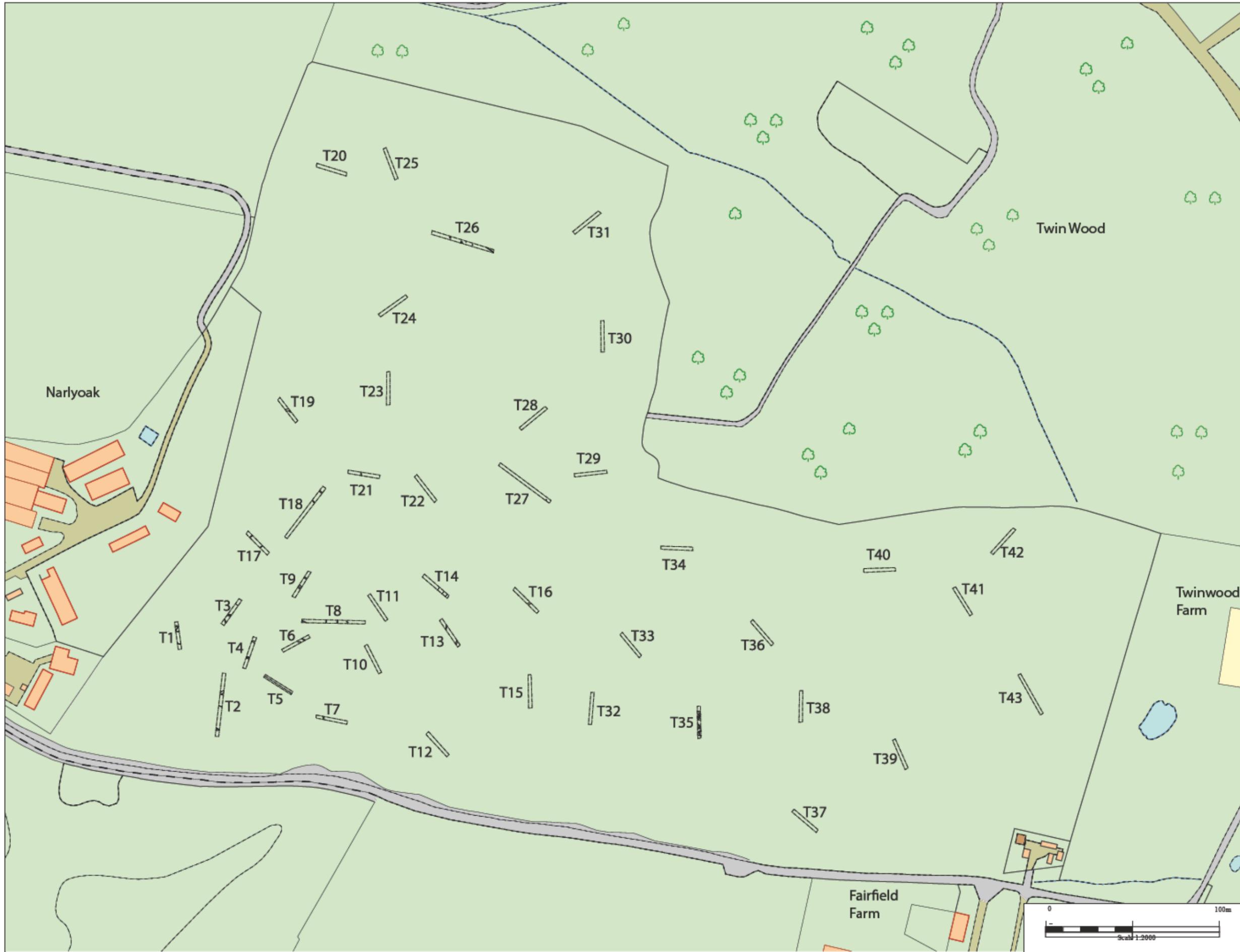


Fig. 3 Clapham Solar Farm geophysical survey anomalies and trenching plan



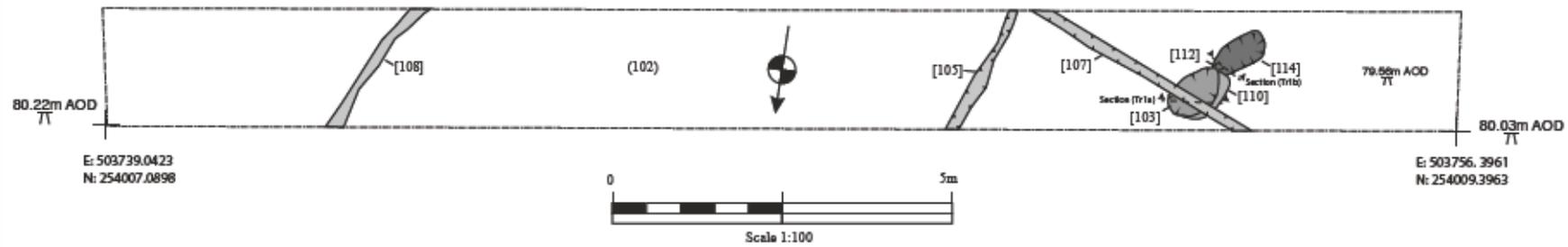
OS Map data reproduced by Archaeology Wales Ltd under Ordnance Survey Copyright Licence No. 100055111



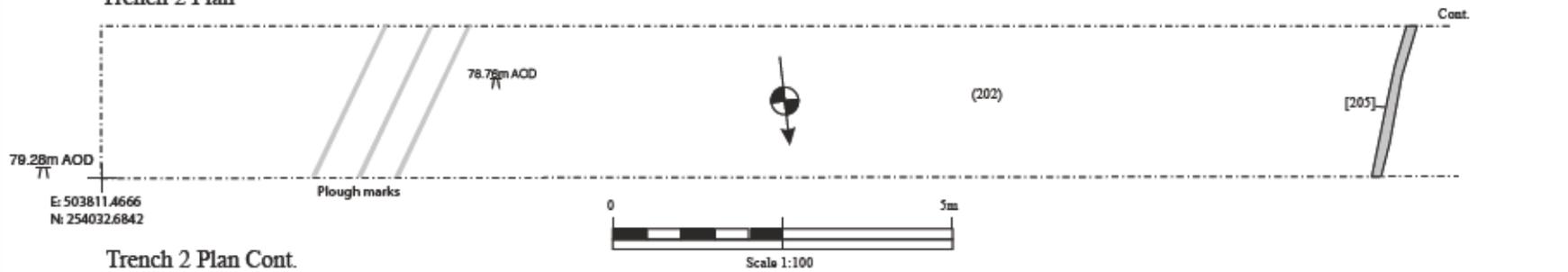
Fig. 4  
Location of  
trenches



Trench 1 Plan



Trench 2 Plan



Trench 2 Plan Cont.

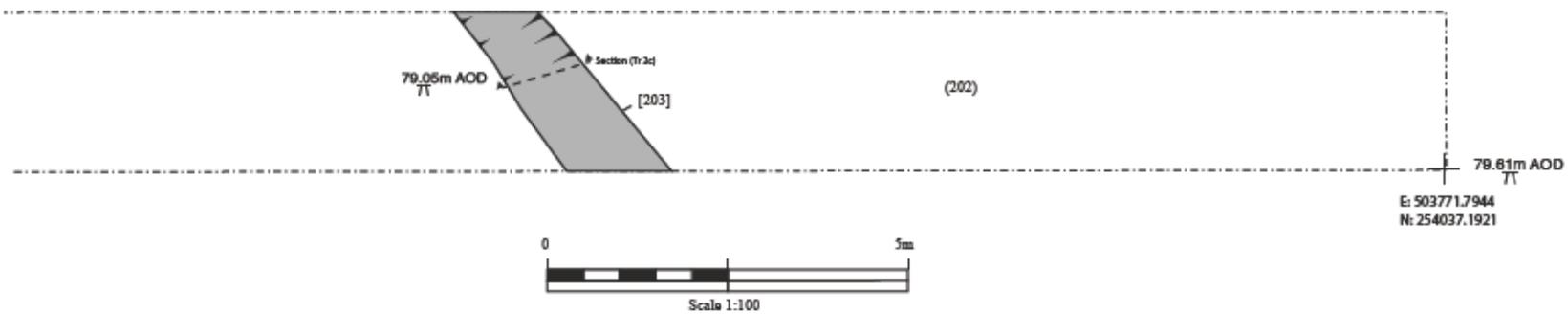


Fig. 5

Plans of Trenches  
1 and 2

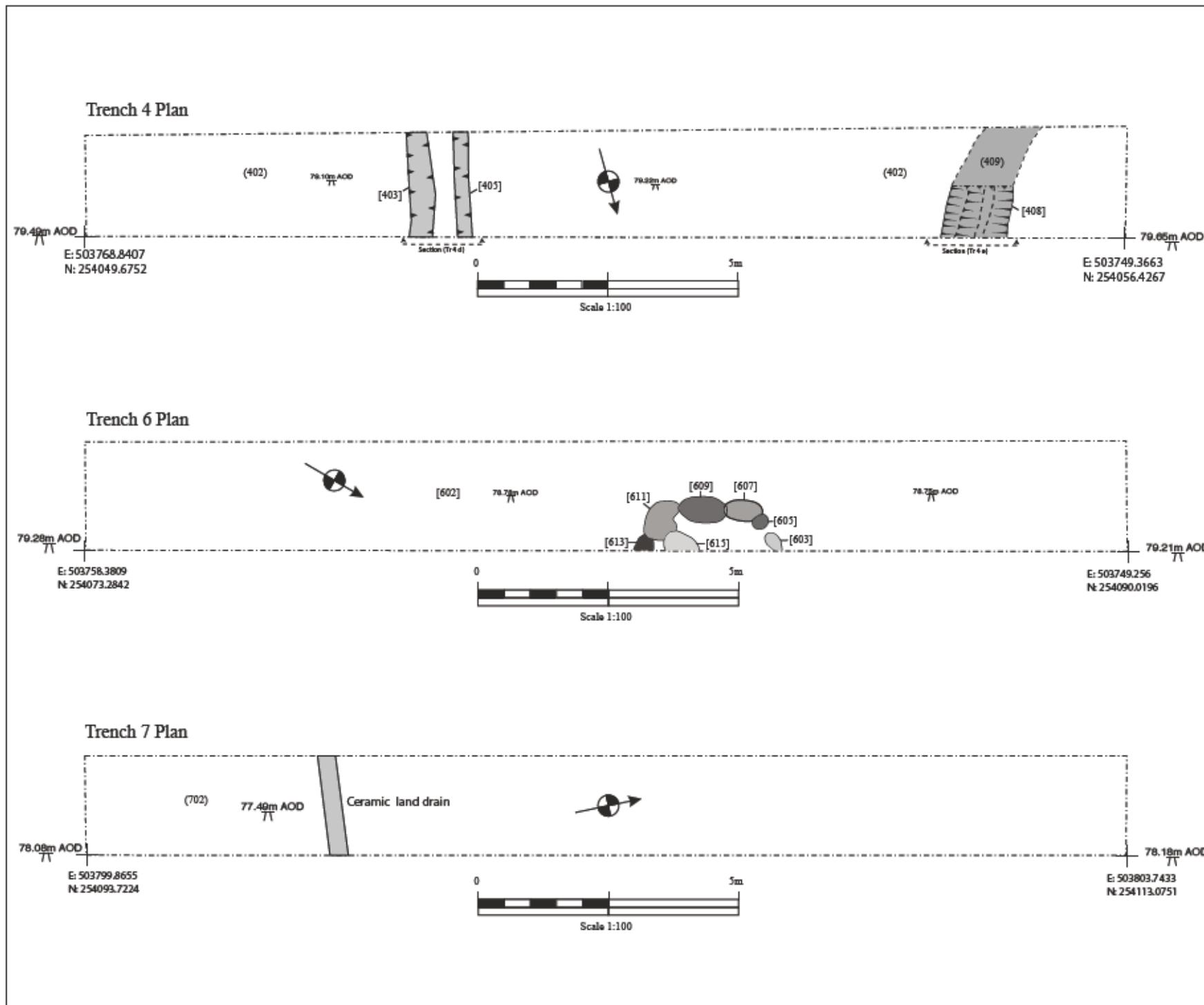


Fig. 6  
Plans of Trenches  
4, 6 and 7

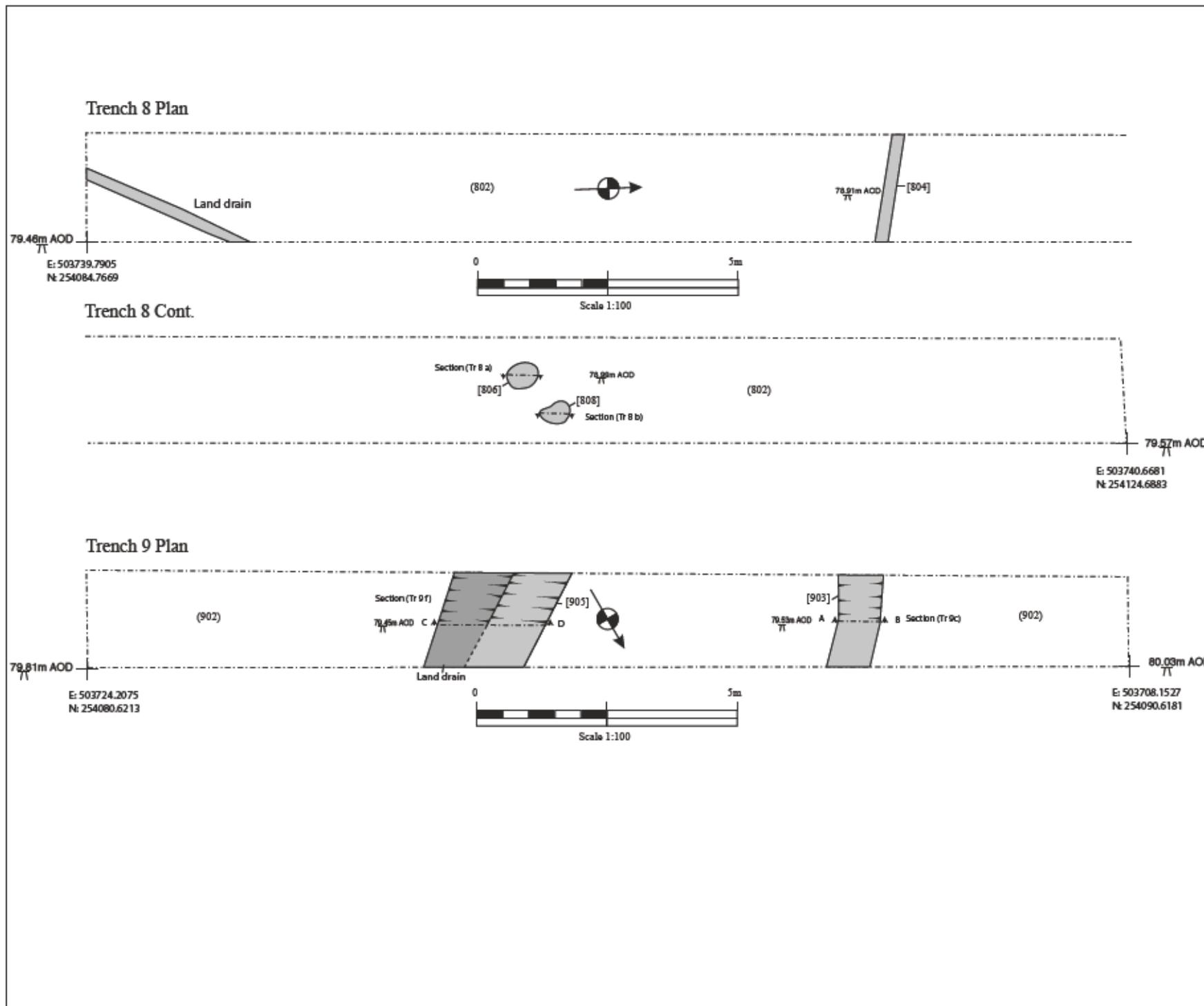
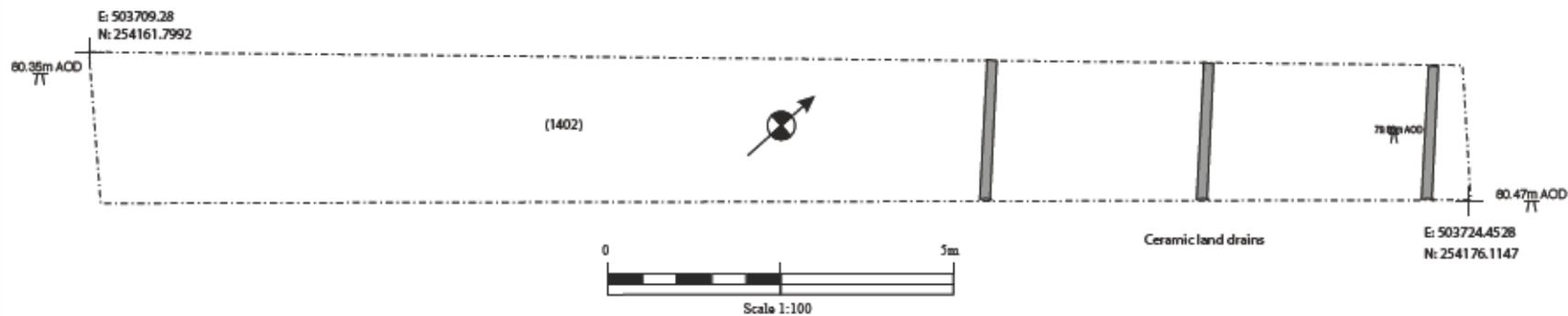


Fig. 7  
Plans of Trenches 8  
and 9

### Trench 14 Plan



### Trench 17 Plan (prior to flooding)

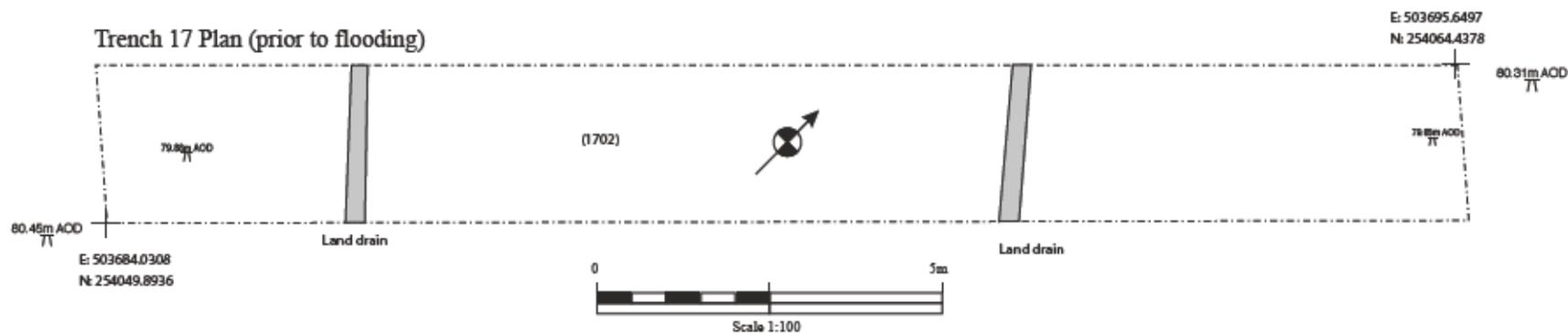
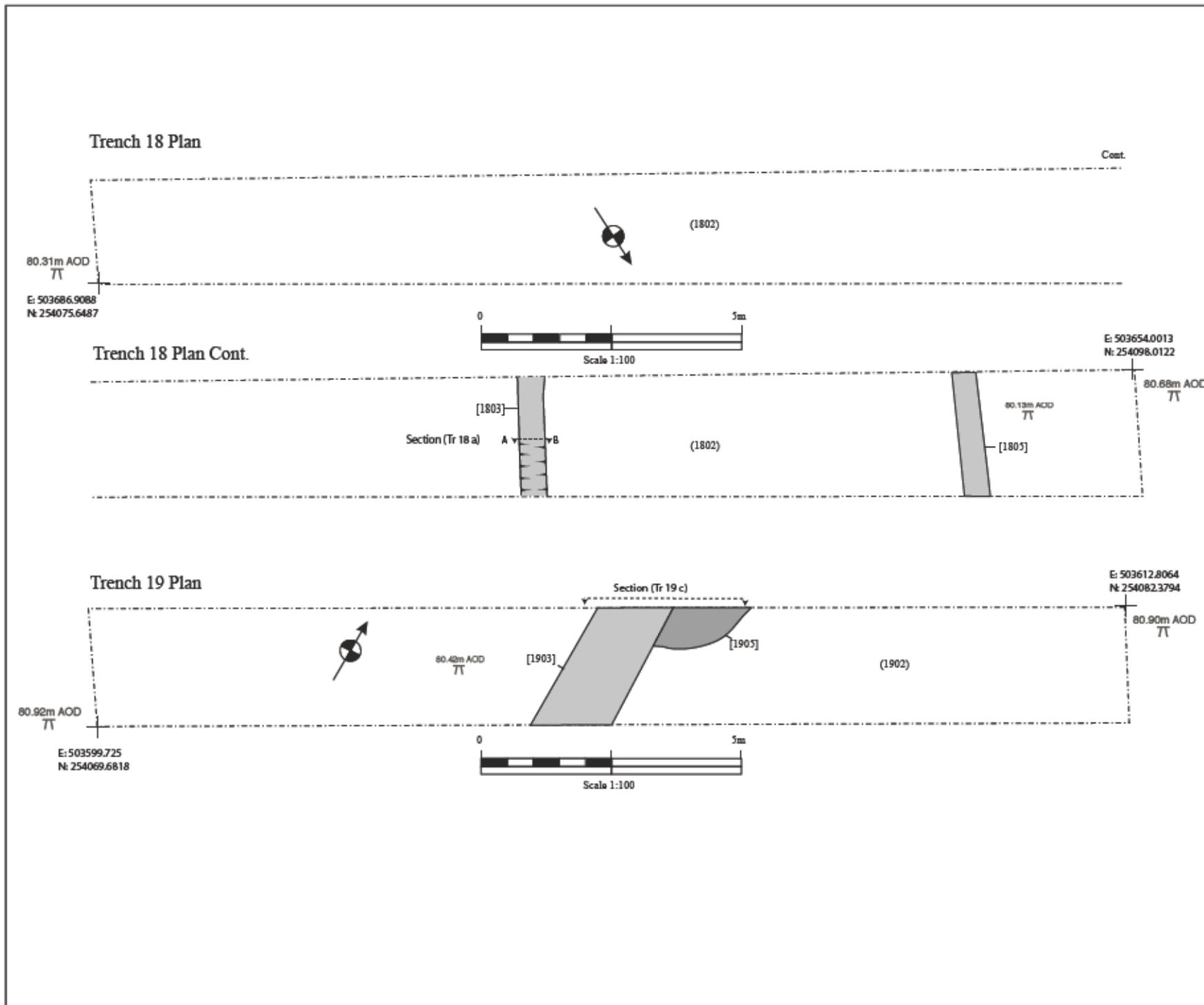
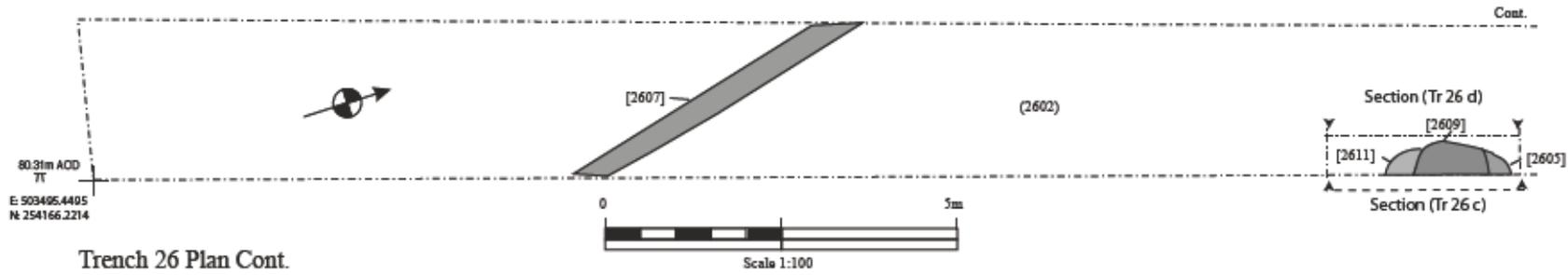


Fig. 8  
Plans of Trenches  
14 and 17



**Fig. 9**  
Plans of Trenches  
18 and 19

### Trench 26 Plan



### Trench 26 Plan Cont.



### Trench 35 Plan

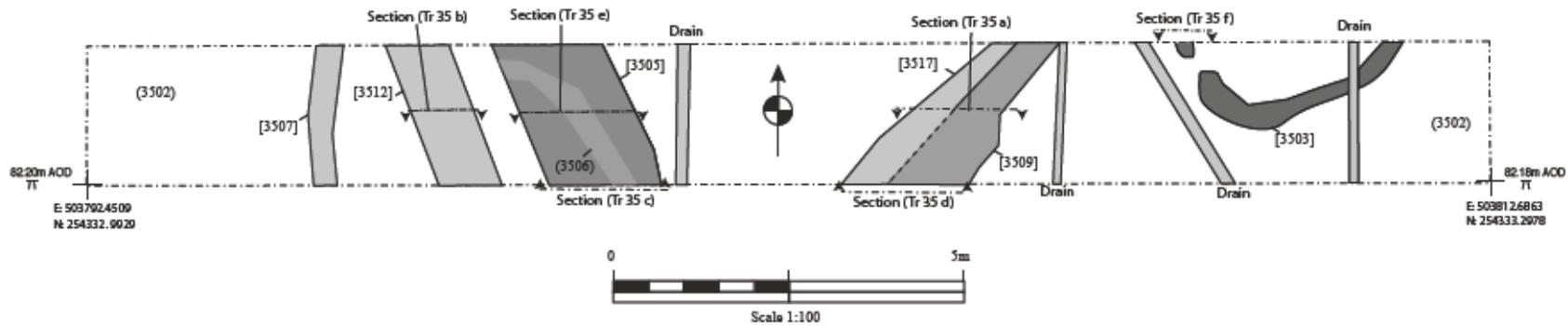
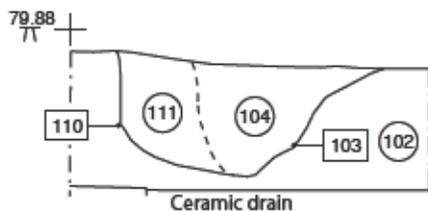


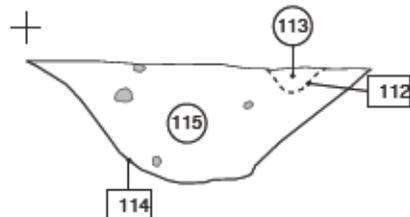
Fig. 10  
Plans of Trenches 26  
and 35

### Trench 1

a. South facing section of ditch [103] & [110]= original cut

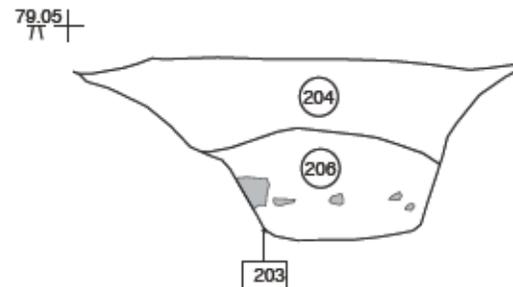


b. North-east facing section of pits [112] & [114]



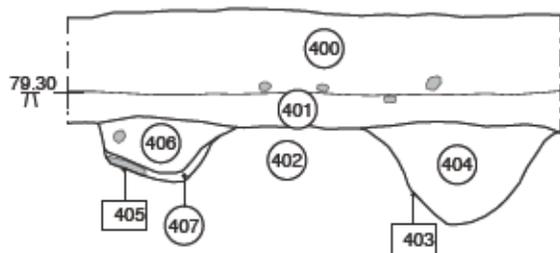
### Trench 2

c. South-east facing section of ditch [203]



### Trench 4

d. South facing section of ditches [403] & [405]



e. South facing section of [409]

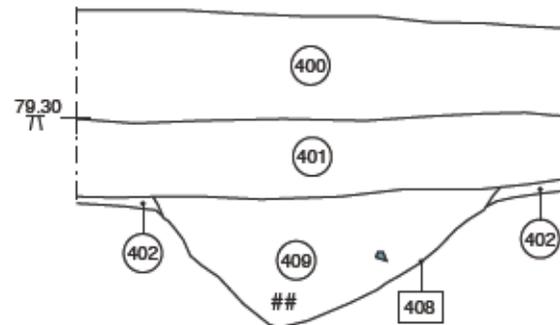
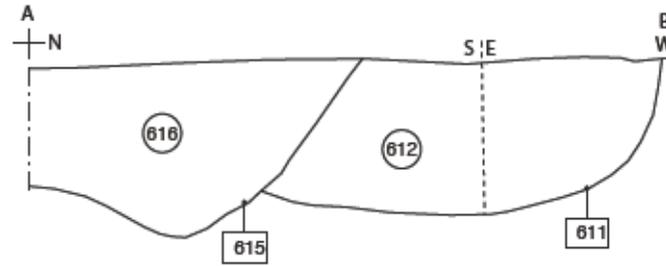


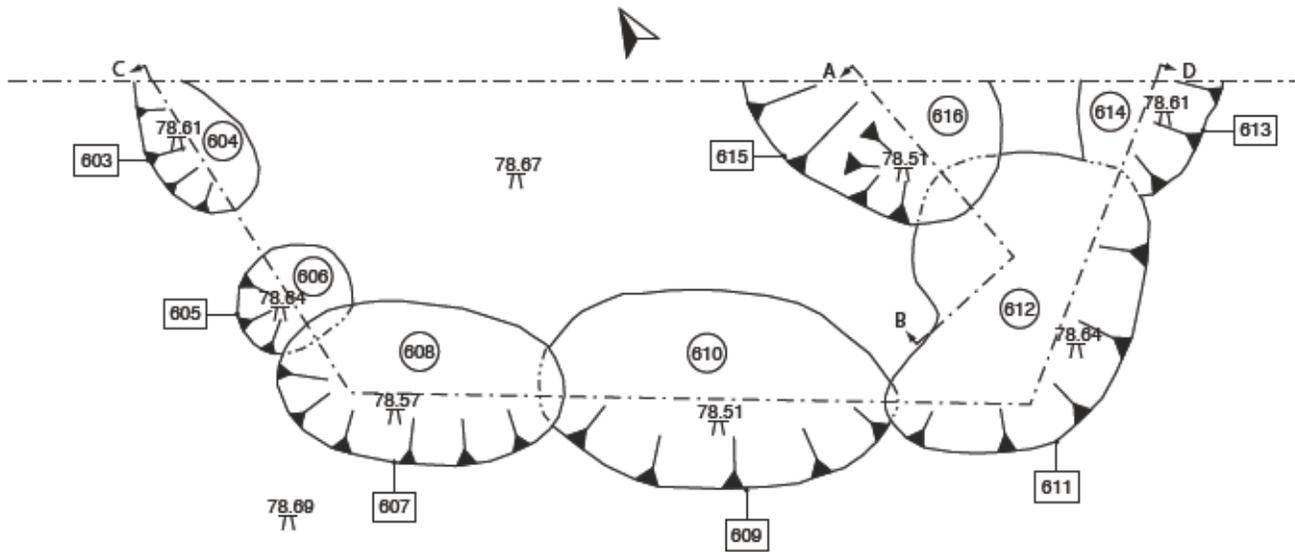
Fig. 11

Section drawings of features within Trenches 1, 2 and 4

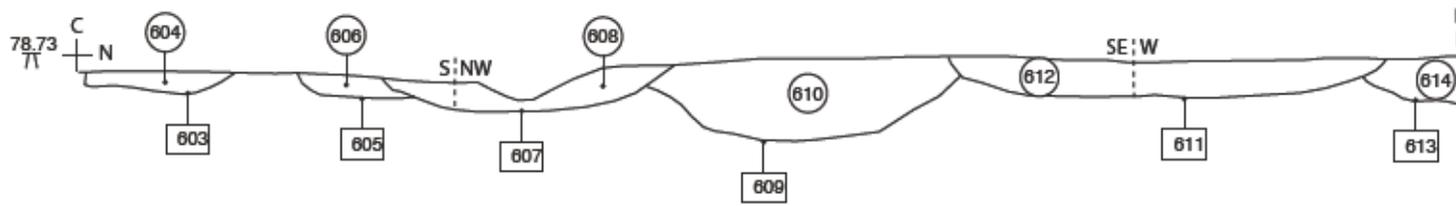
### Trench 6



a. Section of intercutting postholes [615] & [611]



b. Post excavation plan of postholes [603] to [615]



c. Section of intercutting postholes [603] to [613]

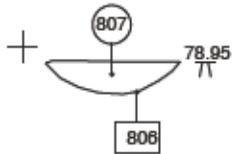


Fig. 12

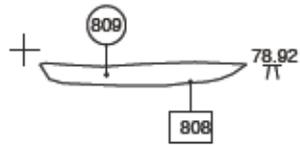
Section and plan drawings of features within Trench 6

### Trench 8

a. East facing section of posthole [806]

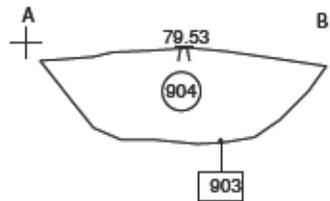


b. East facing section of posthole [808]

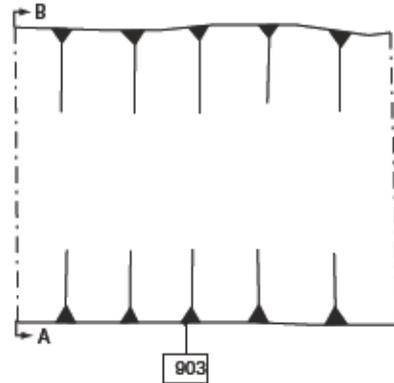


### Trench 9

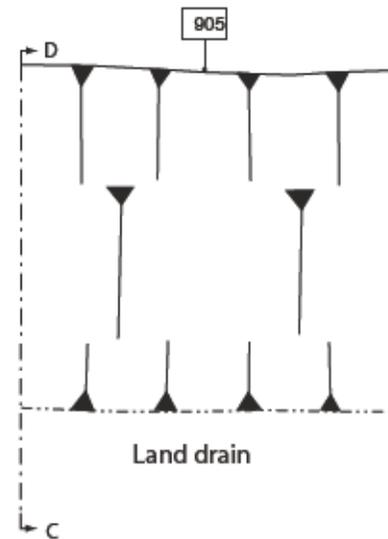
c. South-west facing section of ditch [903]



d. Post excavation plan of ditch [903]



e. Post excavation plan of ditch [905]



f. South-west facing section of ditch [905] cut by land drain

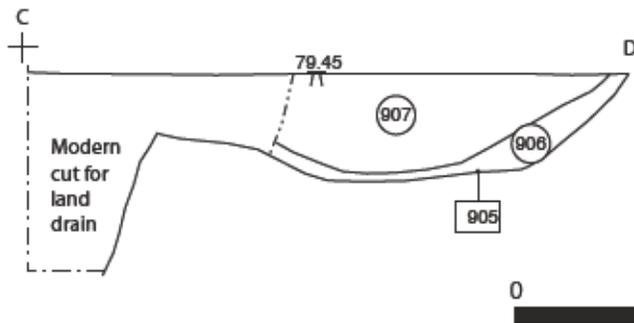
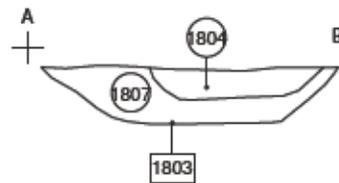


Fig. 13

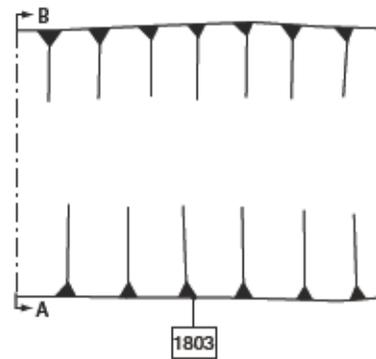
Section and plans of features within Trenches 8 and 9

### Trench 18

a. West facing section of ditch [1803]



b. Post excavation plan of ditch [1803]



### Trench 19

c. South-east facing section of ditch [1903] and gully [1905]

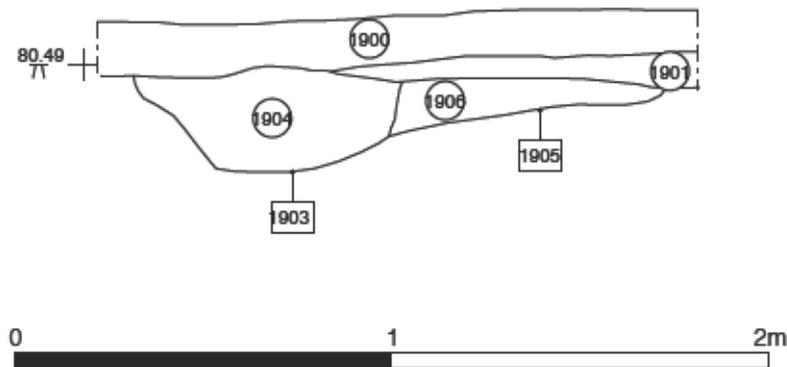
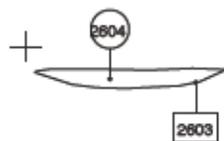


Fig.14

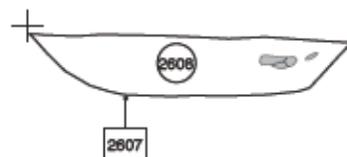
Section and plan drawings of features within Trenches 18 & 19

## Trench 26

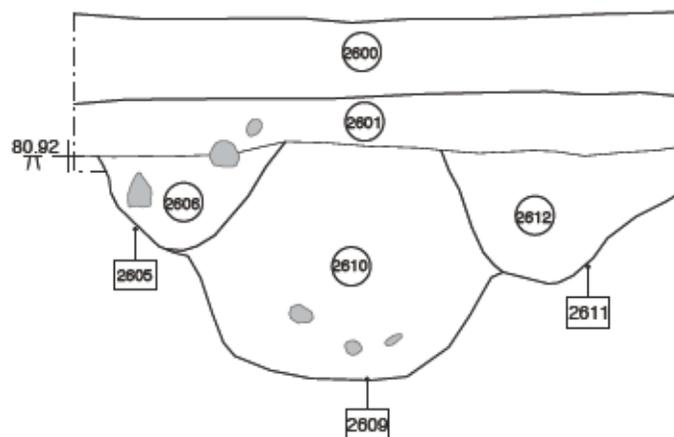
a. South-east facing section of pit [2603]



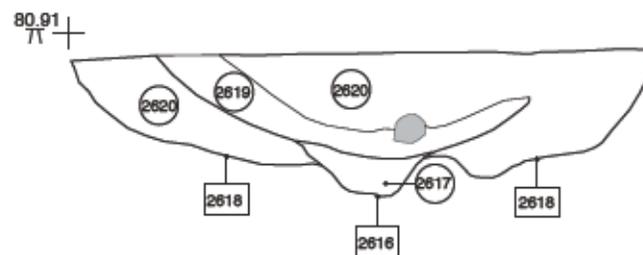
b. South facing section of boundary ditch [2607]



c. West facing section of pits [2605], [2609] & [2611]



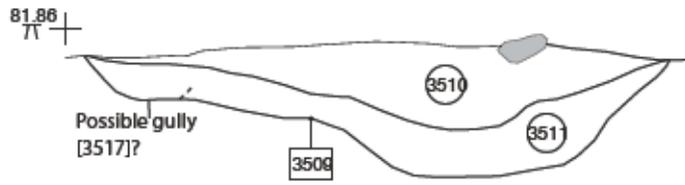
d. East facing section of pits [2616] & [2618]



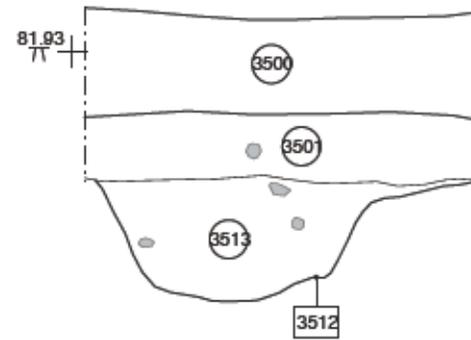
0 1 2m

Fig. 15  
Sections of  
features within  
Trench 26

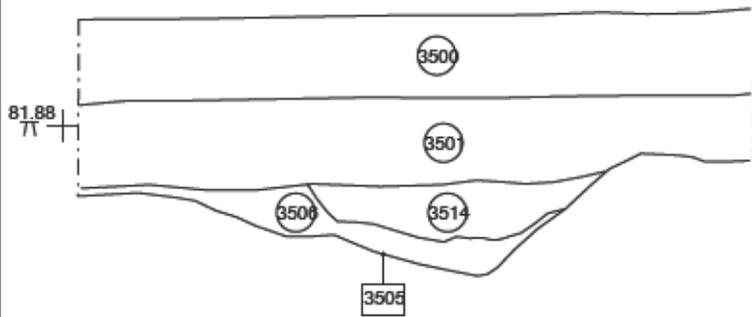
a. South facing section of ditch [3509]



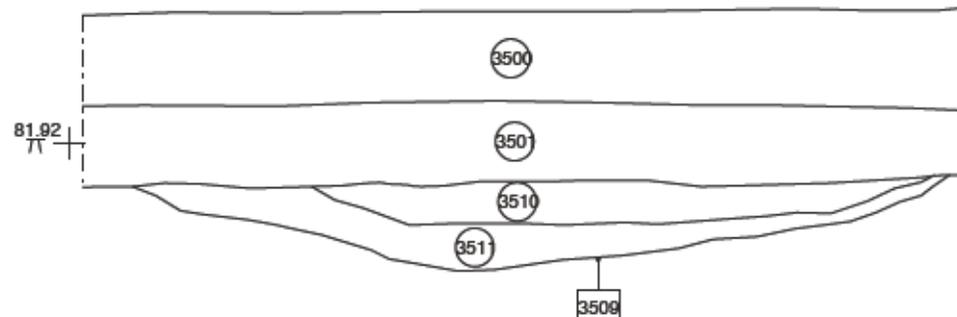
b. South facing section of ditch [3512]



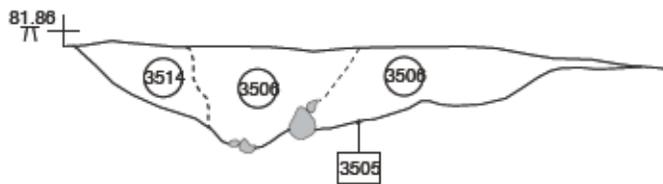
c. North facing section of gully [3505]



d. North facing section of ditch [3509]



e. South facing section of gully [3505]



f. South facing section of gully [3503]

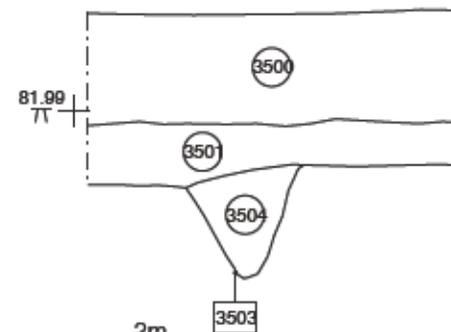


Fig. 16  
Sections of  
features within  
Trench 35



a. Post- excavation image of ditch [203] in Trench 2  
(looking north-west)



b. Post- excavation image of ditch [203] in Trench 2  
(looking south-east)

Fig. 17

Trench 2 images



a. Post excavation image of possible Iron Age ditch profile [408] in trench 4 (looking north)



b. Post excavation image of possible Iron Age double ditches [403] and [405] in trench 4 (looking north)

Fig. 18

Trench 4 images



a



b

Images of semi-circular pattern of post-holes in Trench 6 [603]-[615] (a. looking north-east;  
b. looking north-west)

Fig. 19

Images of Trench  
6 features



a. Post excavation image of post-hole [806] (looking west)



b. Post excavation image of post-hole [808] (looking east)

Fig. 20

Images of Trench  
8 features



a. South-west facing section image of feature [903] (looking north-east)



b. South-west facing section image of feature [906] (looking north-east)

Fig. 21

Images of Trench  
9 features



a. West facing section image of of feature [1803]  
(looking east)



b. West facing section image of of feature [1805]  
(looking east)

Fig. 22

Images of Trench  
18 features



a. Post-excitation image of multiple pits [2605]-[2612] in trench 26 (looking east)



b. Post-excitation image of multiple pits [2605]-[2618] in trench 26 (looking north)

Fig. 23

Images of Trench  
26



a. Post-excitation image of Romano British ditch [3509] in plan and section (looking north)



b. Post-excitation image of section through Romano British ditch [3509] (looking south)

Fig. 24

Images of  
features in  
Trench 35 (1)



a. Post-excitation image of curvilinear gully [3503] (looking east)



b. Post-excitation image of section through curvilinear gully [3503] (looking east)

Fig. 25

Images of features within Trench 35 (2)



a. Post-excavation image of west end of trench 35 showing linear features [3505] and [3512] (looking west)



b. Post-excavation image of west end of trench 35 showing linear features [3505] and [3512] (looking south)

Fig. 26

Images of  
features within  
Trench 35 (3)

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX I:**

Contexts Register

Clapham Solar Farm, Bedfordshire – CSF/15/EV

## Appendix 1: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions
100	01	Topsoil: dark orange-brown silty clay	0-0.15m
101	01	Subsoil: mid orange-brown silty clay	0.15-0.45m
102	01	Natural: mid brown-yellow clay	0.45m+
103	01	Pit with steep sides cut through (102)	0.5m (diam) x 0.3m(d)
104	01	Fill of pit (103) mid-brown orange clay with flint	0.3m (d)
105	01	Linear cut (NE-SW) with straight sides and rounded base. Drain	0.25m (d) x 0.10m (w)
106	01	Fill of [105] Light brown grey-clay with some sub-rounded stones	0.25m (d)
107	01	Linear cut feature (NW-SE) –straight sides and rounded base containing 0.2m diameter red pipe	0.3 (d) x 0.2m (w)
108	01	Linear cut feature (NE-SW). Straight sides and rounded base. Drain	0.10 (w) x 0.25m(d)
109	01	Fill of [108]. Dark grey-brown clay	0.25m (d)
110	01	Truncated Pit – circular – steep sides and flat base. Cut by [103]	0.2m (diam) x 0.3m (d)
111	01	Fill of [110]. Light grey orange clay	0.3m (d)
112	01	Pit- circular sloping sides and pointed base	0.15m (diam) x 0.07m(d)
113	01	Fill of [112] dark red-brown silt with charcoal inclusions	0.07m (d)
114	01	Pit – circular cut pit [103] and [110]	0.89m (diam) x 0.32m (d)
115	01	Fill of [114]. mid-orange brown clay with stone and chalk fragments	0.32m (d)
200	02	Topsoil: dark orange brown silty clay	0-0.2m
201	02	Subsoil: mid orange brown silty clay	0.2m-0.45
202	02	Natural: Mid brown-yellow clayey silt with some stone and chalk fragments	0.45m+
203	02	Cut of ditch (NW-SE). Sloping sides (gentle –moderate)	1.2m (w) x 0.45m (d)
204	02	Upper fill of [203] light orange brown sandy clay	-
205	02	Linear cut feature containing ceramic land drain (partially excavated)	N/R
206	02	Lower fill of [203]. Light grey clay	-
300	03	Topsoil: dark orange-brown silty clay	0- 0.3m
301	03	Subsoil: mid orange brown silty clay	0.3-0.5m
302	03	Natural: mid brown-yellow clayey silt with chalk and stone	0.5m+
400	04	Topsoil: dark orange brown silty clay	0-0.2m
401	04	Subsoil: mid orange brown silty clay	0.2m -0.45m
402	04	Natural: mid brownish yellow clayey silt with chalk fragments and stone	0.45m +
403	04	Cut of curvilinear ditch (N-S) with steep sides and concave base. Cut into subsoil (402)	0.48m (w) x 0.3m (d)
404	04	Fill of [403]. Mid to dark grey clay with IA pottery and animal bone	0.3m (d)
405	04	Cut of curvilinear ditch (N-S) with steep sides and concave base. Cut into subsoil (402)	0.44m (w) x 0.14m (d)
406	04	Upper fill of [405]. Mid to dark grey silty clay. IA pottery	0.10m (d)
407	04	Lower fill of [405]. Mid yellow clay with stones.	0.04-0.06m (d)
408	04	Cut of ditch ( NE-SW) with steep sides and pointed base	0.9m (w) x 0.35m (d)
409	04	Fill of [408]. Yellow brown clay with flint. Bone, burnt daub and IA pottery	0.35m (d)
500	05	Topsoil: dark orange brown silty clay	0-0.3m
501	05	Subsoil: mid orange brown silty clay	0.3m -0.5m

Clapham Solar Farm, Bedfordshire – CSF/15/EV

502	05	Natural: mid brown yellow clayey silt	0.5m +
600	06	Topsoil: dark orange brown silty clay	0-0.15/0.2m
601	06	Subsoil: mid orange brown silty clay	0.2m-0.45m /0.50m
602	06	Natural: mid-brown yellow clayey silt	0.50m +
603	06	Post hole- sub-circular with rounded sides and concave base.	0.22m? (l) x 0.39m (w) x 0.06m (d)
604	06	Fill of [603]. Mid grey brown silty clay and stones.	0.06m (d)
605	06	Post hole.- sub circular with rounded sides and base. Cut into (602)	0.31m (l) x 0.22m (w) x 0.05m (d)
606	06	Fill of [605]. Orange grey silty clay with stones	0.05m (d)
607	06	Post hole-oval with rounded sides and flat base. Cut into (602)	0.74m (l) x 0.42m (w) x 0.09m (d)
608	06	Fill of [607]. Mid brown grey silty clay with stones and charcoal flecks	0.09m (d)
609	06	Post hole- oval with rounded sides and flat base. Cut into (602)	0.88m (l) x 0.52m (w) x 0.21m (d)
610	06	Fill of [609]. Mid grey brown silty clay with stones and chalk fragments. One worked flint.	0.21m (d)
611	06	Post hole- irregular form with rounded (concave) sides and base.	0.58m m(l) x 0.81m (w) x 0.2m (d)
612	06	Fill of [611]. Mid grey orange silty sand with blue clay lenses, stone and charcoal flecks	0.2m (d)
613	06	Post hole- sub circular with rounded sides and base.	0.34m (l) x 0.287m (w) x 0.12m (d)
614	06	Fill of [613]. mid grey orange silty clay with some stones.	0.12m (d)
615	06	Post hole – circular with slight rounded and straight sides and irregular base	0.46m (l) x 0.44m (w) x 0.23m (d)
616	06	Fill of [615]. Mid brown-orange clay silt with some stones.	0.23m (d)
700	07	Topsoil: dark orange brown silty clay	0-0.2m
701	07	Subsoil 1: mid orange-brown silty clay	0.2m- 0.40m
702	07	Subsoil 2: mid-yellow brown organic silt	0.4m – 0.65m
703	07	Natural: yellow-grey clayey silt	0.65m+
800	08	Topsoil: dark orange-brown silty clay	0-0.15m
801	08	Subsoil 1: mid orange brown silty clay	0.15-0.35m
802	08	Subsoil 2: mid-yellow-brown organic silt	0.35-0.65m
803	08	Natural: Mid yellow grey clayey silt	0.70m +
804	08	Linear cut that housed a large red ceramic drain pipe	-
805	08	Modern backfill of drainage pipe ditch [804]	-
806	08	Post hole- circular with rounded sides and rounded base	0.50m (diam) x 0.08m (d)
807	08	Fill of [806]. Mid brown grey clay with dark red-brown patches with small stones	0.08m (d)
808	08	Post hole- circular, flat base.	0.55m (diam) x 0.04m (d)
809	08	Fill of [808]. mid brown-grey clay with stones.	0.04m (d)
900	09	Topsoil: dark orange-brown silty clay	0-0.15m
901	09	Subsoil: mid orange-brown silty clay	0.15m-0.45m
902	09	Natural: mid brown-yellow clayey silt	0.45m +
903	09	Linear cut feature (NE-S) with 45° sloping sides and flat base	0.75m (w) x 0.25m (d)

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904	09	Fill of [903]. Dark brown silty clay	-
905	09	Linear cut feature (NE-S) with 45° sloping sides and flat base	0.9m (w) x 0.30m (d)
906	09	Lower fill of [905]. Dark yellow silty clay	?
907	09	Upper fill of [905]. Dark brown silt	?
1000	10	Topsoil: dark orange brown silty clay	0-0.3m
1001	10	Subsoil 1: mid orange-brown silty clay	0.3m- 0.40m
1002	10	Subsoil 2: alluvial organic	0.4-0.65m
1003	10	Natural: mid yellow-grey clay silt	0.65m +
1100	11	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.3m
1101	11	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.3-0.5m
1102	11	Natural: yellow-brown silty clay with natural flint and chalk	0.5m+
1200	12	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.3m
1201	12	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.3m-0.8m
1202	12	Natural: light yellow-brown clay with fragments of chalk and flint	0.8m +
1300	13	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.3m
1301	13	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.3m – 0.6m
1302	13	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay	0.6m+
1400	14	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.3m
1401	14	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.3m -0.6m
1402	14	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay	0.6m +
1500	15	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.2m
1501	15	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.2m-0.5m
1502	15	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay	0.50m +
1600	16	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.2m
1601	16	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.2m-0.5m
1602	16	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay	0.50m +
-	17	Submerged	-
1800	18	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.2m
1801	18	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.2-0.3m
1802	18	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay	0.5m +
1803	18	Linear cut feature (NE-SW) with 45° sloping sides and flat base	0.7m (w) x 0.1m (d)
1804	18	Upper fill of [1803]. Dark brown silty clay	-
1805	18	Linear Cut feature: partially excavated ditch for cable.	-
1806	18	Modern backfill of [1805] not recorded	-
1807		Lower fill of [1803]. Dark yellow clayey silt	-
1900	19	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.2m
1901	19	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.2-0.3m
1902	19	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay	0.5m +
1903	19	Linear cut feature (NW-SE). Partially truncated [1905]	1.5m (w) x 0.5m (d)
1904	19	Fill of [1903]. Light grey – dark brown silty clay with animal bone and BA or later worked flint	0.5m (d)
1905	19	Linear gully terminus with sloping sides and flat base	1.24m (l) x 0.25m (w) x 0.21m (d)
1906	19	Fill of [1905]. Light greyish-brown clay	0.21m (d)
2000	20	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.2m
2001	20	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.2-0.3m
2002		Natural: V. compact light grey-brown clay	0.5m +
2100	21	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.23m
2101	21	Subsoil: light yellow-brown clay	0.23m-0.42m
2102	21	Natural: V. compact light grey-brown clay	0.42m +

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2200	22	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.24m
2201	22	Subsoil: mid-brown clay	0.24m-0.40m
2202	22	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay with stone	0.4m +
2300	23	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.24m
2301	23	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.24m-0.42m
2302	23	Natural: V. compact grey-brown clay with stone	0.42m +
2400	24	Topsoil: dark brown clay	0-0.24m
2401	24	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.24m-0.41m
2402	24	Natural: V. compact light yellow-brown clay with stone	0.41m +
2500	25	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.28m
2501	25	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.24m-0.52m
2502	25	Natural: V. compact light brown clay with stone	0.52m +
2600	26	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.29m
2601	26	Subsoil: light brown clay	0.24m-0.49m
2602	26	Natural: V. compact yellow clay with stone	0.49m +
2603	26	Pit – circular with shallow sides and flat base. Cut into (2602)	0.53 (diam) x 0.05 (d)
2604	26	Fill of [2603], mid-brown silty clay	0.05m (d)
2605	26	Pit- circular with 45° sloping sides and rounded base- truncates [2609]. Cut into (2602)	0.45m (max w) x 0.26m (d)
2606	26	Fill of [2605], Dark grey silty clay	0.26m (d)
2607	26	Linear cut feature (N-S). Moderate sloping sides and flat base	0.87m (w) x 0.16m (d)
2608	26	Fill of [2607], Mid brown silty clay	-
2609	26	Pit – circular with steep sides and flat base. Truncated by [2605] and [2611]. Cut into (2602).	0.8m (diam) x 0.5m (d)
2610	26	Fill of [2609] with dark red brown silty clay	0.5m (d)
2611	26	Pit- visible in section, steep sides and rounded base. Truncates [2609].	0.65m (w) x 0.35m (d)
2612	26	Fill of [2611], Light to mid grey clay with small stones. Worked flint- late Neo/EBA.	0.35m (d)
2616	26	Pit- irregular form. Sloping sides and flat base. Latest in sequence of intercutting pits. Cuts [2622], [2623], [2618]	1.35m (w) x 0.28m (d)
2617	26	Fill of [2622], Light to mid to grey clay	0.10m (d)
2618	26	Pit - visible only in N side of section. Truncated by [2616].	0.17m (w) x 0.05 (d)
2619	26	Fill of [2616] mid grey clay	0.08m (d)
2620	26	Fill of [2623] light to mid grey clay	0.24m (d)
2621	26	Fill of [2618], Light to mid grey clay	0.05m (d)
2622	26	Pit – visible in section only, cut by [2623], truncated by [2616].	0.35m (w) x 0.11m (d)
2623	26	Pit – visible only in section. Earliest in sequence and truncated by pits [2616] and [2622].	0.7m (w) x 0.20m (d)
2700	27	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.20m
2701	27	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.20m-0.30m
2702	27	Natural: V. compact greyish-brown clay with stone/flint	0.30m +
2800	28	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.21m
2801	28	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.21m-0.32m
2802	28	Natural: V. compact greyish-brown clay with stone/flint	0.32m +
2900	29	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.24m
2901	29	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.24m-0.44m
2902	29	Natural: V. light grey-brown clay with stone/flint	0.44m +
3000	30	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.20m
3001	30	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.20m-0.5/0.6m
3002	30	Natural: light grey- brown clay with	0.5/0.6m +

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		stone/flint	
3100	31	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.20m
3101	31	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.20m-0.50m
3102	31	Natural: greyish-brown clay with stone/flint	0.50m +
3200	32	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.20m
3201	32	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.20m-0.50m
3202	32	Natural: V. compact yellow-brown clay with stone/flint	0.50m +
3300	33	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.20m
3301	33	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.20m-0.50m
3302	33	Natural: V. compact yellow-brown clay with stone/flint	0.50m +
3400	34	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.40m
3401	34	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.40m-0.70m
3402	34	Natural: V. compact greyish-brown clay with stone/flint	0.7m +
3500	35	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.26
3501	35	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.26-0.60
3502	35	Natural: V. compact greyish-brown clay with stone/flint	0.60m +
3503	35	Gully cut- segmented and curvilinear (E-W).	0.28m (d) x 0.26m (w)
3504	35	Fill of [3503]. Mid to dark grey silty-clay, stones and a single sherd of medieval pottery, animal bone and deer antler	0.28m (d)
3505	35	Linear cut feature (NW-SE). Steep sided on W side, shallow on W E side with V shaped base.	1.5m (w) x 0.27m (d)
3506	35	Lower fill of [3505]. Black-blue clayey silt with burning evidence.	0.25m (d)
3507	35	Linear feature: Unexcavated	-
3508	35	Fill of [3507]: Unexcavated	-
3509	35	Cut of ditch terminus (NE-SW). Sloping sides and rounded (concave) base	2.1m (w) x 0.35m (d)
3510	35	Upper fill of [3509], dark grey-brown silty clay. RB pottery	0.22m (d)
3511	35	Lower fill of [3509], mid yellow-brown clay with stones. RB pottery.	0.11m (d)
3512	35	Linear cut feature (NW-SE) moderate/steep sides, flat base	1.0m (w) x 0.32m (d)
3513	35	Fill of [3512], plastic mid orange-brown clayey silt with flint and RB pottery	0.35m
3514	35	Upper Fill of [3505]. Plastic yellow-brown clay.	0.12m (d)
3515	35	Post-hole cut into base of [3512]. (unexcavated)	0.2m (diam)
3516	35	Fill of [3515]. Black silty clay (unexcavated)	-
3517	35	Linear cut feature (NE-SW).	0.2m (w)
3518	35	Fill of [3517]. Light grey silty clay (unexcavated)	?
3600	36	Topsoil: mid-dark grey silty clay	0-0.24m
3601	36	Subsoil: orange-brown silty clay	0.24m-0.55m
3602	36	Natural: V. compact yellow-brown clay with stone/flint	0.55m+
3700	37	Topsoil: mid-dark grey silty clay	0-0.26m
3701	37	Subsoil: yellow-brown silty clay	0.26m-0.50m
3702	37	Natural: yellow-brown clay	0.50m +
3800	38	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.26m
3801	38	Subsoil: orange-brown silty clay	0.26m – 0.40m
3802	38	Natural: yellow-brown clay	0.4m +
3900	39	Topsoil: dark grey clayey silt	0-0.24m
3901	39	Subsoil: mid orange-brown silty clay	0.26m – 0.40m
3902	39	Natural: V compact yellow-brown clay	0.4m +
4000	40	Topsoil: dark grey clayey silt	0-0.28m

## Clapham Solar Farm, Bedfordshire – CSF/15/EV

4001	40	Subsoil: orange-brown silty clay	0.26m – 0.44m
4002	40	Natural: yellow-brown clay	0.44m +
4100	41	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.30m
4101	41	Subsoil: yellow-brown clay	0.30m – 0.50m
4102	41	Natural: V compact yellow-brown clay	0.5m +
4200	42	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.20m
4201	42	Subsoil: orange-brown silty clay	0.20m – 0.50m
4202	42	Natural: yellow-brown clay	0.5m +
4300	43	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay	0-0.15m
4301	43	Subsoil: orange-brown silty clay	0.15m –0.5m
4302	43	Natural: yellow-brown clay	0.5m +

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX II:**

AW Specification

**ARCHAEOLOGY WALES LIMITED:**

**Specification**

**for an Archaeological Field Evaluation**

**at**

**Clapham Solar Farm,  
Bedfordshire**

**Prepared for:  
Stratus Environmental Ltd**

**Project No: 2252**

**January 2015**

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## NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*This Specification details a proposal for a trenched evaluation on land at the Tinsley Estate, near Clapham, Bedfordshire, designed as an investigation of potential buried archaeology within the development area of a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for Stratus Environmental Ltd.*

### **1. Introduction**

The proposed development is for a solar power farm (Photovoltaic panels) on land near Clapham, Bedfordshire (Henceforth – the site). The development has been proposed by Stratus Environmental Ltd on behalf of their clients. The local planning authority is Bedford Borough Council (BBC), to whom the Historic Environment Team (BBC-HET) act as advisors. The site is centred on NGR TL 03713 54278 (see the attached plans).

BBC-HET has determined that the proposed development may potentially affect buried archaeological remains, but as yet they have insufficient information to identify the form, character, type, or date of the buried archaeology. Consequently, BBC-HET has requested that a trenched evaluation is carried out at the site. The work follows a previous Desk-based Assessment and Geophysical Survey.

This Specification has been prepared by Mark Houlston (MIfA), Managing Director, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of Stratus Environmental Ltd. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed during the proposed evaluation.

AW is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA). The proposed work will be managed by Mark Houlston and the site will be supervised by Chris Smith (MCIfA). All field-work will be undertaken by suitably qualified staff and in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the IfA.

### **2 Site specific objectives**

The proposed archaeological work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material that might be affected by the proposed development, in particular its character, distribution, extent, condition, date and relative significance.

A report will be produced that will provide information which is sufficiently detailed to allow informed planning decisions to be made that can safeguard the archaeological resource. This will include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests. The report will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.

As a result, the following will be formulated:

A) A strategy to mitigate the potential impacts on the archaeological resource as a result of the proposed construction

B) The formulation of a programme of further archaeological investigation (if required) to fulfil the above.

### **3 Scope of the work**

The archaeological work for the site will be undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1 – On site evaluation

Phase 2 – Production of an illustrated report

Phase 3 – Deposition of site archive

Phase 1 - The archaeological field evaluation will be for the whole of the application area. Five 40m long and thirty eight 20m long evaluation trenches will be excavated in the locations specified on the attached plan. A contingency has been allowed for the excavation of further trenches up to a total area of 1000m<sup>2</sup>, although this would only happen following a recommendation by BBC-HET and discussions with the representatives of the client and AW.

Phase 2 – Production of an illustrated and bound report, which will be submitted in duplicate to BBC-HET.

Phase 3 – Subject to the agreement of the site owner, the written, drawn and photographic records of the evaluation, together with any finds, will be deposited with the local museums service within a reasonable time of completion. Bedford Museum will be contacted beforehand and a suitable acquisition number will be obtained.

### **4 Methodology**

#### **4.1 Phase 1 - Field Evaluation**

##### Preliminary work

After ensuring the siting of live services, tree preservation orders and other constraints, the evaluation trenches will be excavation according to the locations in the attached plan.

##### Evaluation

The trenches will be excavated initially using a machine fitted with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching blade. Thereafter all identified archaeological contexts will be excavated manually unless otherwise agreed with the curator in advance. All modern overburden and non-archaeological subsoils will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All archaeological contexts subsequently located will be adequately sampled in order to define their function, date, and relationship to adjacent features.

Sample percentages of each feature will include up to 20% of all linear features, 50% of postholes and sub-1m pits through half sectioning, and 20% of pits over 1m in diameter through opposing quadrant excavation. However, these figures will be treated as indicative, and could be increased at the discretion of the site supervisor and in consultation with BBC-HET. Excavation slots in linear features will be a minimum of 1m in length.

All trench sides and bases will be cleaned manually by hoes or by trowelling to

reveal contexts in plan and profile. This will be completed even if the trench apparently reveals only natural deposits.

Human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation will occur until BBC-HET and the local coroner have been informed. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it will take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

All work will be undertaken in compliance with the Treasure Act and subsequent amendments.

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. The primary photographic record will be taken in 35mm black and white film supplemented where appropriate by digital and/or colour slide. Digital photographs will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 14 mega pixels or above.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate. All section drawings and plans will be tied into the OS datum.

Museum accession number BEDFM2015.03 will be clearly marked on all project documentation.

## **5 Monitoring**

BBC-HET will be contacted prior to the commencement of site works and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to this Specification that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to BBC-HET for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of BBC-HET will be given access to the site so that they can monitor the progress of the work. A contingency has been allowed for the excavation of further trenches up to a total area of 1000m<sup>2</sup>, should this be recommended by BBC-HET following a monitoring visit. Discussions will take place between representatives of the client, AW and BBC-HET before any such work takes place.

BBC-HET will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during the post-fieldwork programme.

If significant archaeological remains are discovered (i.e. any deposits or artefacts of potential regional or national significance), BBC-HET will be informed immediately.

## **6 Archiving and Reporting**

### ***Site archive***

An ordered and integrated project archive will be prepared in accordance with the

National Monuments Record agreed structure and be deposited with Bedford Museum upon completion of the work. Bedford Museum will be contacted beforehand and a suitable acquisition number will be obtained. the report contains an OASIS summary sheet.

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006 upon completion of the work on site. It will include:

- All site records (fully cross-checked and catalogued)
- Digitised copies of all site plans
- All artefacts (cleaned, marked and catalogued as appropriate)
- All ecofacts (sample processed and catalogued as appropriate)
- An interim or summary report on the above.

### ***Final reporting***

Copies of the final report will be sent to Stratus Environmental Ltd, the archaeological advisors (BBC -HET), the local planning authority, and for inclusion in the regional HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal no later than one year after the completion of the work. Museum accession number BEDFM2015.03 will be clearly marked on all project documentation. All relevant information will be logged with the national OASIS database.

Terminology will be consistent with the English Heritage Thesaurus.

The client report will contain, as a minimum, the following elements:

- Concise English non-technical summary of the results
- Detailed plans of the site
- Site illustrations, related to Ordnance Datum
- Written description
- Artefactual and Ecofactual summaries
- Statement of local and regional context
- Impact assessment with mitigation proposals
- Conclusions as appropriate
- Bibliography
- A copy of this Specification

### ***Final archive***

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will be maintained, the report and the final (project) archive will be deposited in an appropriate repository no later than six months after completion of the work. The contents of the archive will be agreed beforehand.

## **7 Resources and timetable**

### **Standards**

The fieldwork will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

### **Equipment**

The project will use existing AW equipment.

**Timetable of archaeological works**

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

**Insurance**

Archaeology Wales Limited (AW) is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

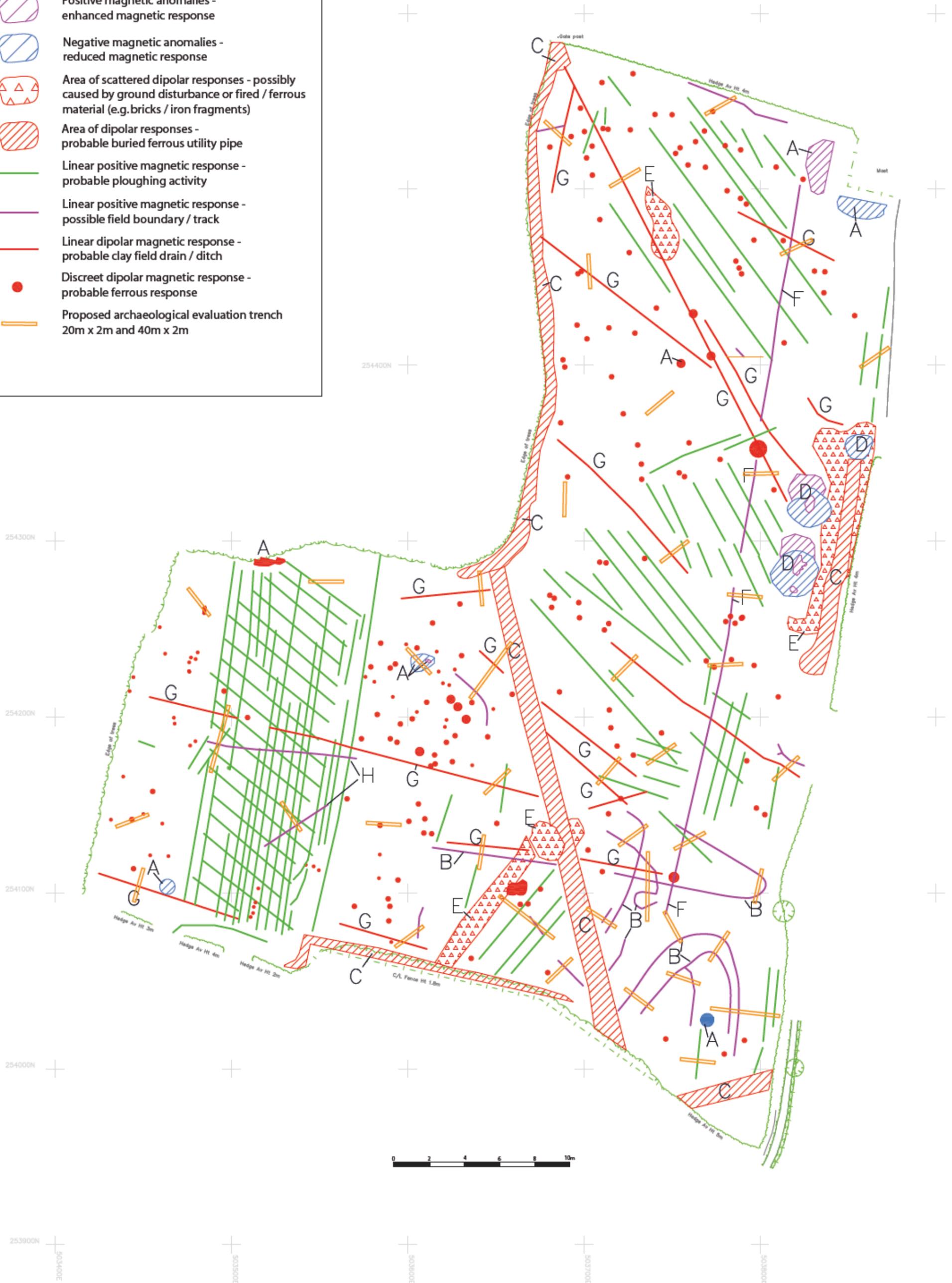
**Health and safety**

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974*, and the AW Health and Safety Policy.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees will be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.

**KEY**

-  Positive magnetic anomalies - enhanced magnetic response
-  Negative magnetic anomalies - reduced magnetic response
-  Area of scattered dipolar responses - possibly caused by ground disturbance or fired / ferrous material (e.g. bricks / iron fragments)
-  Area of dipolar responses - probable buried ferrous utility pipe
-  Linear positive magnetic response - probable ploughing activity
-  Linear positive magnetic response - possible field boundary / track
-  Linear dipolar magnetic response - probable clay field drain / ditch
-  Discreet dipolar magnetic response - probable ferrous response
-  Proposed archaeological evaluation trench 20m x 2m and 40m x 2m



Clapham Solar Farm Proposed trenching plan - 5 x 40m trenches & 28 x 20m trenches

# Archaeology Wales



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