

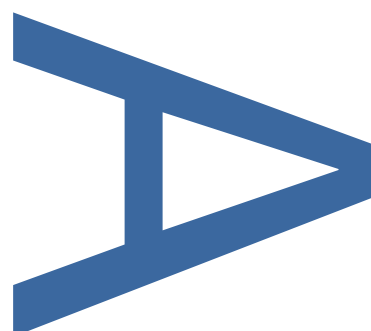
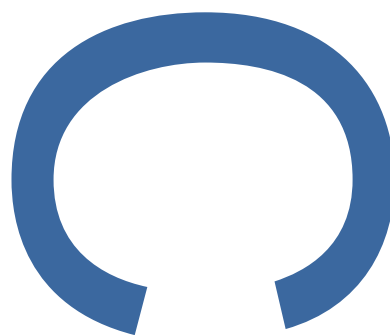
**LAND OFF CHELTENHAM ROAD,
EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP
AND SAMPLE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

WHER EVENT NUMBER: WSM 70403

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REPORT: R. 13631



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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**Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on Land off Cheltenham Road,
Evesham, Worcestershire**

Local Planning Authority: Wychavon District Council

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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample project at land off Cheltenham Road, Evesham. The work was required to investigate and record an area of known archaeological remains, ahead of a new development comprising the construction of new domestic properties including associated access, service routes and landscaping for which outline planning permission has been granted by Wychavon District Council.

Excavation and recording was undertaken within two separate areas; these areas (A and B) revealed elements of a Romano-British rural landscape, comprising a system of field boundaries and possible stock droveways, which lay on the periphery of a nearby settlement described by earlier investigations (EDP 2015). Evidence from Area A demonstrated that the significant ditch features here were regularly maintained during the period, and it seems likely that the spaces in between the enclosed areas would have been practicable for driving stock from field-to-field. This sequence of intersecting field boundaries also demonstrated that the postulated droveways were twice re-oriented between east-west and north-south aligned spaces during the lifetime of the site. Area B added to this distinctive system of north-south and east-west field boundaries and droves and, additionally, revealed an earlier system of Iron Age gullies on a different alignment that represents a quite dissimilar organization of space within the pre-Conquest rural landscape. Environmental assessment showed species common to wet ground and standing water (both areas) and open ground (Area B) rather than cultivars in the Romano-British period. This evidence, combined with the presence of bones of cattle and sheep or goat, supports the interpretation of a predominantly pastoral landscape of livestock management ditches and fields here during the Romano-British period. Medieval dated plough furrows were also recorded and are evidence of a much later field system in use on the site. The results are of local interest.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land off Cheltenham Road, Evesham (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 0321 4178; Figures 1-2). The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases, between the 9th July and 1st August 2018 (Area A) and the 17th September and 12th October 2018 (Area B). The investigations were commissioned by Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Bloor Homes to investigate, record and fully understand the known archaeological resource, ahead of the construction of new domestic properties including associated access, service routes and landscaping for which outline planning permission has been granted by Wychavon District Council (Planning References: W/15/02761/OU & 18/01722/RM).
- 1.2 The development has been demonstrated to affect the known below ground archaeology and, as a result, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) required a programme of archaeological investigation through a strip, map and sample exercise be undertaken to investigate the archaeological resource, to gain a full understanding of the date, function, evolution and development of all features and deposits present and to place the archaeology into its wider landscape context.
- 1.3 The definition of an archaeological strip, map and sample is ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ClfA 2014a).
- 1.4 The archaeological strip, map and sample was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Jonathan Webster of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA 2018) in response to an archaeological comment issued by the Historic Environment Advisor, Wychavon District Council. In addition, this method statement follows the guidelines set out in the WSI agreed by Aiden Smyth for the site (EDP 2018), and conforms to guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:
- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (ClfA 2014a);
 - *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (ClfA 2014b);
 - *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of*

archaeological materials, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIfA 2014c);

- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England: London (HE 2015);
- *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited: London (Taylor and Brown 2018);
- *Fieldwork Operations Manual, Regional Variation Addendum*; Warwick Office, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited: Warwick (Webster 2018);
- *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for research*, University of Birmingham: Oxford (Watt 2011).

1.5 This report describes the results of the archaeological strip, map and sample and sets the results within the known local and regional archaeological resource of the area. The site archive will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

2.1 The purpose of the archaeological strip, map and sample was to investigate the known archaeological resource and gain a full understanding of its character, date, form and function. The aims outlined here have been drawn together with reference to the regional research framework for the West Midlands (Watt 2011). These aims were re-assessed periodically and adapted both during the archaeological fieldwork and before undertaking this post-excavation assessment to maximise the potential of research questions that could be addressed by the archaeological resource.

2.2 The original general aims were set out in the WSI prior to any intrusive works being undertaken and were as follows. All of these general aims were still relevant, and taken into consideration:

Research Aims 1 (RA1): General aims

- Research Aim 1.1 (RA1.1): Determine the character, date, extent and distribution of archaeological deposits as well as their potential significance;
- Research Aim 1.2 (RA1.2): Determine the levels of disturbance to archaeological deposits from plough damage or any other practices undertaken across the site;
- Research Aim 1.3 (RA1.3): Determine the site evolution, stratigraphic relationship and phasing of all activities within the investigation area;
- Research Aim 1.4 (RA1.4): Gain a full understanding of all activities and their place within the wider landscape context;
- Research Aim 1.5 (RA1.5): Characterise the spatial distribution of different activities and relationships between them;
- Research Aim 1.6 (RA1.6): Record the archaeological deposits in such a fashion as to allow for a full understanding and later reinterpretations of the site sequence to be undertaken.

2.3 Following a study of the previously undertaken archaeological investigations (see Section 5), a revised, more focused, set of research aims were produced based in relation to the known priorities of the local regional research frameworks. These have been separated into appropriate chronological phases.

Research Aims 2 (RA2): Prehistoric deposits

- Research Aim 2.1 (RA2.1): Investigate the origins of activity;
- Research Aim 2.2 (RA2.2): Understand domestic settlement organization;
- Research Aim 2.3 (RA2.3): Investigate landscape use;

Research Aims 3 (RA3): Romano-British deposits

- Research Aim 3.1 (RA3.1): Understand the transition between later prehistory and Romano-British usage on the site;
- Research Aim 3.2 (RA3.2): Understand settlement organization, usage and abandonment;
- Research Aim 3.3 (RA3.3): Understand how/if regional identities vary over time;
- Research Aim 3.4 (RA3.4): Investigate variations in landscape use, specifically relating to the layout of field boundaries and possible droveways;
- Research Aim 3.5 (RA3.5): Investigate postulated Romano-British road, its construction, phasing, use and abandonment.

3 **GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

3.1 **Geology and Soils**

- 3.1.1 The underlying geology is mapped as mudstone associated with the undifferentiated Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, deposited between 210 and 183 million years ago during the Jurassic Period, in a local environment dominated by warm and shallow lime-mud rich seas. This is mapped as being overlain by a combination of clay, silt, sand and gravel associated with sub-aerial head deposits formed over the last three million years through a gradual migration of material primarily from Chilterns to the east (BGS 2018).
- 3.1.2 The soils are mapped as unit 5 freely draining lime-rich loamy soils that are typical degraded upcast material from the parent geology. To the west this is mapped as bounding unit 9, lime-rich loam and clay soils with impeded drainage (LandIS 2018).

3.2 **Topography**

- 3.2.1 The site is located at the southern tip of Evesham, just under 2km from the town centre, in a crook to the immediate west of the A46. It is limited to the south by Evesham football club and to the north by the former Brooklands Farm, which has now been redeveloped as part of the current expansion of new domestic properties of which the current area of investigation is part. Arable fields continue to the west and southwest where they are bisected by the River Isbourne, which flows from south to north. The ground is situated at a height of c.34m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) and is broadly level in nature, dropping at the very western end of the field towards the River Isbourne.
- 3.2.2 At the time of investigation the site comprised a single arable field with two public rights of way within it and a permissive footpath; these follow the field's eastern and northern boundaries. The first right of way ran north to south along the eastern bank of the River Isbourne at the western boundary of the arable field, and was distant from both archaeological areas. The second was orientated broadly northeast to southwest with a diagonal course across the south eastern corner of the arable field and very close to Area A.

4 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 **General**

- 4.1.1 The first known archaeological investigation within the wider development area was undertaken by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (Webster 2011) as part of pre-application works, to the immediate north of the current archaeological investigations and east of Brooklands Farm. Subsequently, a geophysical survey was undertaken of the whole site area (GSB 2014) and a larger phase of evaluation trenching, encompassing the entirety of the current site was completed (CA 2014). This was followed by an archaeological and cultural heritage assessment (EDP 2015), which whilst identifying that no designated heritage assets were recorded within the site boundary, noted that 22 entries were recorded within a wider 1km search area in the local Worcestershire Historic Environments Records (WHER) office database.
- 4.1.2 A summary of the evidence drawn from the previous phases of work is outlined below in chronological period order.

4.2 **Prehistoric**

- 4.2.1 The underlying Head deposit geology was noted as having potential for Palaeolithic material to be present and a handaxe was recovered to the west of Brooklands Farm, although the precise location is not known (WHER Reference: **WSM 49680**). To the south of the proposed development the landscape contains multiple cropmarks (WHER References: **WSM 10125** & **WSM 15412**) which have been interpreted based on morphological characteristics as of probable Iron Age/Romano-British date.
- 4.2.2 To the east of the site a scatter of lithics was recovered from a garden in 2013 (WHER Reference: **WSM 48571**). Whilst to the immediate south, during the construction of the current Evesham football ground, a series of postholes from which Bronze Age material was recovered were revealed (WHER Reference: **WSM 48184**).
- 4.2.3 Within the area of the current phase of archaeological investigations, the geophysical survey (GSB 2014) and archaeological evaluation (CA 2014) revealed that field enclosures, pits and a trackway of late Iron Age through to Romano-British date run through the site. Following the earlier evaluation to the immediate north (to the immediate east of Brooklands Farm, now under development), an excavation was undertaken that revealed a series of Iron Age dated ring ditches, positioned within an enclosure. Several phases of activity were seen, with this arrangement interpreted as group of roundhouses within a farmstead enclosure (CA forthcoming).

4.3 Romano-British

- 4.3.1 As mentioned above, cropmark evidence was interpreted as Iron Age to Romano-British on morphological grounds, and these were later identified during the geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation. Likewise, the results of the archaeological excavation to the immediate north seemed to suggest that that the enclosure, whilst Iron Age in inception, continued in use throughout the Romano-British period (CA forthcoming).
- 4.3.2 To the immediate south of the development area, and running through it in a roughly north/south direction, a Romano-British road (WHER Reference: **WSM 30625**) is known through a combination of aerial photographs, geophysical survey and an archaeological evaluation undertaken c.100m to the south of the site to the east of the A46 (Miller and Mann 2002). This road had earlier been postulated as running into the Romano-British settlement of Evesham (Dalwood 1996) and it has been suggested that this 'hub' settlement was surrounded by a series of outlying satellite activity sites radiating away from the main settlement. These satellite sites would have sat in the lee of the main trade arteries that comprised the road and river routes of the Avon valley, and would have allowed produce to be distributed quickly.
- 4.3.3 Additionally, roughly 0.5km to the south a second road, orientated east/west has been postulated based on cropmark evidence (WHER Reference: **WSM 05494**) with a possible 'temple' also being suggested from cropmark evidence roughly 100m from the crossroads (WHER Reference: **WSM 10126**).

4.4 Early-medieval/Medieval

- 4.4.1 At present there is little evidence of early-medieval activity within the landscape, although the excavation to the immediate north revealed material which was provisionally assigned to this period (CA forthcoming). The Romano-British north/south road is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon charter (WHER Reference: **WSM 3381**) demonstrating that the route continued into the immediate post Romano-British period at least.
- 4.4.2 Likewise, evidence for medieval activity in the immediate landscape is sparse with the landscape seemingly continuing as semi-enclosed field systems intermixed with small farmsteads. To the immediate west of the area of investigation the Hampton Mill complex (WHER Reference: **WSM 02715**) was recorded as a complex of two mills in the Domesday Book, although this had been reduced to a single mill by the 13th century. Across much of the landscape, including the current site, expanses of ridge and furrow are present either as earthworks, cropmarks or geophysical anomalies.

4.5 **Post-medieval/Modern**

- 4.5.1 The continuum of the landscape as a partially enclosed field system was maintained into the post-medieval period with field boundaries becoming progressively more structured before hedgelines were removed with the advent of modern agricultural technology. Brooklands farm (WHER Reference: **WSM 57148**) along with similar dated farmsteads such as Eastwick (WHER Reference: **WSM 57147**), 0.5km to the north, were constructed primarily in the latter post-medieval period as a result of the industrialisation of the agricultural process.

4.6 **Conclusions**

- 4.6.1 Based on the evidence outlined above, it was concluded that archaeological investigations within Areas A and B would be most likely to recover remnants of a field system of Iron Age and/or Romano-British date, associated primarily with fringe activity from the near settlement enclosures. In addition, the route of the postulated north-south Romano-British road was anticipated to fall within Area B.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 5.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological strip, map and sample (PCA 2018), in agreement with the Local Planning Authority (LPA), set out the excavation methodology to be employed. This was undertaken to best satisfy the stated objectives of the project as set out in Section 3 above.
- 5.1.2 The results of the 2014 geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation by trial trenching highlighted the presence of a single phase of Romano-British field boundaries, three sets of parallel ditches (two north-south and one east-west aligned), a possible partial square-shaped enclosure containing pits, and burnt animal bones (CA 2014; GSB 2014). Later cultivation activity was represented by agricultural furrows. As a result of this the LPA focused on two areas that were deemed to have a high potential and to best characterise and understand the wider archaeological landscape (Figure 2 and 3).
- 5.1.3 Area A was 790m² in area and sub-triangular in shape. The shape of this area reflects the course of the public footpath which cut diagonally across the south eastern corner of the field, and defined the eastern boundary of the site. The area to the southeast to be retained as open space by the development. Area A targeted three east-west linear features where they intersected in the geophysical survey with two north-south linear features. Area B measured 1,125m², was roughly rectangular in shape and measured 40.00m from east to west by 30.00m from north to south. This second area targeted a square-shaped enclosure, seen in the geophysics plot, which had featured a pit with burnt bone during trial trenching, and aimed to further characterise two north-south oriented parallel linear features also encountered during the earlier evaluation, and postulated as part of a Romano-British road.
- 5.1.4 Each area was fenced-off and these were then surveyed using GPS points supplied by EDP. Topsoil and subsoil deposits removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket with spoil removal undertaken by two 6 tonne dumpers working in succession, working in north to south, west to east strips. Spoil was separated into topsoil and subsoil and taken to specified bund locations within the working areas away from the excavations. Routes taken were monitored to ensure that excessive rutting did not take place. The above was undertaken with constant close archaeological supervision by a suitably experienced archaeological supervisor. The works in Area A were completed over a four week period with the stripping of 0.30-0.40m of overburden. The works in Area B were completed over a five and a half week period, with an additional week spent on backfill due to poor weather. In this area between 0.45-0.60m of overburden was stripped.

5.1.5 It was noted upon excavation that the placement of the features in relation to their geophysical counterparts was misaligned to the northeast by c.4.50m (Figure 3). The points provided were rechecked on site and confirmed correct, it is believed this error was likely due to an accumulated error undertaken during the transfer of data from the initial geophysical survey. Of particular note was the absence of the square-shaped enclosure interpreted by the geophysical survey within Area B (Figure 3). Instead, two right angled corner ditches were encountered. Also unexpected was a pit containing a dump of burnt material with two associated drainage gullies encountered in Area A. A single modern service trench was encountered orientated broadly east-west in Area B that truncated all other features and contained a modern metallic pipe at its base.

5.1.6 Once exposed all surfaces were cleaned by hand and all possible features were inspected for their potential, selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and palaeo-environmental samples. Overburden deposits were examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

5.2 Recording Methodology

5.2.1 Archaeological features were sample excavated sufficiently to fully characterise them, understand their relationships and determine their significance. Features were excavated as follows;

- Discrete features (i.e. pits, postholes) were excavated to a minimum of 50% based on the potential for the recovery of important material or ecofactual assemblages;
- Features of possible natural origin (e.g. variations in the geology) were excavated until a full characterisation of the feature type, profile, fill and any other characterisations were adequately demonstrated;
- Linear features (e.g. ditches and gullies) were excavated to a minimum of 10% or until a full understanding of the feature was ascertained. All intersections were excavated to establish relationships;

5.2.2 The limits of excavations, heights Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica Viva series GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Each point was recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model and coded to an internal PCA database to provide a dataset that recorded feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other information that may be relevant. This survey provided a three-dimensional geo-referenced visual representation of the archaeology present.

5.2.3 Hand drawn sections were made at an appropriate scale, primarily 1:10. Site plans were produced to show the location of monitored works. These plans were accurately related

to the National Grid. All plans and sections were levelled in respect to AOD and drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

5.2.4 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2018; Webster 2018). Context sheets were primarily filled in by the archaeologist who excavated the feature/deposit. All deposits recorded during the archaeological works are listed in Appendix 2.

5.2.5 All deposits were recorded with sufficient data to allow for a full characterisation of the context and its relationships to be made and for future studies to query and compare the dataset with confidence.

5.2.6 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the archaeological strip, map and sample using a Canon EOS 1300D digital SLR camera with a 18.0-megapixel resolution. Digital Photographs were taken of all deposits and all images were labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to a site specific photography register and regarded as part of the primary archive.

5.3 **Stratigraphic Matrix**

5.3.1 A 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagram was used to record stratigraphic relationships during the course of the fieldwork. This record was compiled, fully checked and interrogated during the fieldwork so that any discrepancies or confusions could be tested on the ground.

5.3.2 Once fieldwork was completed, the finished Harris Matrix was digitised and used to help provide a framework upon which the phasing, dating and foci of the areas of investigation could be examined.

5.4 **Finds recovery and processing**

5.4.1 All artefacts recovered during the course of the archaeological strip, map and sample investigation were suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (CIFA 2014c) and the *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (Perrin et al. 2014).

5.4.2 Archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise, date them and determine their significance.

5.4.3 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA *Fieldwork*

Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2018) and the PCA *Fieldwork Operations Manual Regional Variation Addendum*; Warwick (Webster 2018).

5.5 Palaeoenvironmental Sampling

- 5.5.1 A structured programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling appropriate to the specific aims of the project was implemented. The strategy and methodology for the sampling of deposits were undertaken in accordance with the agreed methodology provided in the WSI (PCA 2018) and followed Historic England (Formerly English Heritage) Centre for Archaeology Guidelines “*Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post – excavation*” (EH 2011). Wet and dry bulk samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, gastropods, small bones, finds and charcoal, from sealed and datable features. Each sampled context was taken in isolation and were not taken from the intersection of features or where context horizons could not be fully defined. Palaeoenvironmental samples were sent to PCA’s in-house specialist for processing in laboratory conditions (see Appendix 4).

5.6 Archive Preparation and Deposition

- 5.6.1 PCA will make provisional arrangements for the deposition of the site archive with Worcestershire County Museum and all documents, artefacts and any other material associated with the project have been marked with the WHER reference number **WSM 70403**. Preparation of the site archive has followed local guidelines ahead of deposition (WCC 2015).
- 5.6.2 The site archive includes all project records and cultural material produced by the strip, map and sample, and in addition to local guidelines has been prepared in accordance with current guides to best practice (Brown 2011, Perrin et al 2014, WCC 2015).

5.7 Dissemination

- 5.7.1 On completion of the fieldwork this project was registered with the **Online Access** to the **Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS)** (See Appendix 5) and a digital copy of the archaeological report will be made available upon its approval by the client and LPA.

5.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

- 5.8.1 The quality and thoroughness of the investigation process undertaken was such that it enabled a complete picture of the development and evolution of the site to be compiled. The specific methods employed allowed for the investigation of individual features to be undertaken in such a way that changes of understanding during the post excavation phase could be made with confidence and with the data to hand. As such the archive

produced provides a high level of confidence in both areas of investigation.

6 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section describes the results of the archaeological strip, map and sample project. The findings are listed by phase and then area. The archaeological investigations produced evidence of multiple phase use, primarily Romano-British in date, but also extending into the medieval and post-medieval periods. For further details of individual contexts descriptions please see Appendix 2.

Contexts have been assigned to the following broad periods:

Period 1 – Natural/Geological

Period 2 – Iron Age

Period 3 – Romano-British

Period 4 – Medieval and post-medieval

Phase 5 – Modern/20th Century

6.2 Period 1: Natural/Geological (Both Areas)

- 6.2.1 The natural substrate was encountered at varying depths across the two investigation areas but was at a deeper level in Area B. The geology in Area A, **(1003)** was encountered at around 33.25m AOD and was a fine grained sand of light yellowish brown to orange and white, in colour and moderate to loose in compaction. In Area B **(2003)** was seen at around 33.00m AOD and varied in colour between greyish orangey brown to pale yellowish brown and pinkish white. This deposit was predominantly sand with occasional gravels but sandy clay was also noted in the north western quadrant. Context **(2109)**, In Area B, was a sterile soft blueish 'band' of clay, which was probably produced by the waterlogging of **(2003)**.

6.3 Period 2: Iron Age (Area B only)

- 6.3.1 A number of short lengths of narrow linear features – termed gullies due to their dimensions – were recorded running across the site, on roughly east-west and north-south aligned orientations, with multiple breaks along their courses. These formed a system of gully features or a segmented gullies. These feature had predominantly sandy fills, none of which produced dating. An Iron Age date was provided by pit **[2065]** which cut gully **[2067]**, within segmented gully **[2088]**, **[2069]**, **[2067]**, **[2047]**, **[2129]** and **[2121]**.

6.3.2 Segmented Gully [2017], [2087], [2055], [2059], [2080], [2082], [2073], [2071], [2145], [2095]

This arrangement of linear shaped features ran in alignment across the northern side of Area B. The dimensions of these feature varied to a degree but that seen in intervention **[2017]** is typical – this feature measuring 0.37m deep and 1.12m wide (Figure 7). This feature was filled by a firm greyish yellowy brown silty sand. Profiles along the segmented gully were also varied but generally, profiles were either gently concaved or moderately or steeply sided with a flat base. At the western limit of excavation, **[2095]**, the segmented gully was truncated by an undated feature **[2092]**. Towards the eastern end of the segmented gully system, it was also cut by the Romano-British dated Ditch Groups **8**, **12** and **13**.

6.3.3 Segmented Gully [2088], [2069], [2067], [2047], [2129], [2121]

This arrangement of features ran roughly north to south. The longest, untruncated run was recorded as **[2069]** and **[2088]**. This gully ran from the northern limit of excavation, at intervention **[2088]** (Plates 5 and 6), creating a continuous gully section 9.00m long. Here, the feature survived to a width of 1.00m, and a depth of 0.25m. The next section of the north-south aligned gully, to the south of **[2069]** and **[2088]** was recorded as **[2047]** and **[2067]**. The profile at intervention **[2047]** was moderately steep sided with a concave base, 0.65m wide and 0.13m deep. This was cut at approximately 90 degrees by the later Romano-British ditch **[2045]** which formed the east-west section of Ditch Group **8**. The fill was an easily distinguished grey-orange mottled sandy clay silt, **(2048)**, formed by natural processes

6.3.4 North Northeast to South Southwest aligned gully [2044], [2021]

This feature lay to the immediate north of the terminal end of Ditch Group **13**, running on more or less the same north-south alignment into the northern extent of Area B. The profile shape and fill of this feature is similar to those within the Iron Age dated Segmented gullies included within Phase 2 and as such it has been placed within this Phase on this basis.

6.3.5 Pit [2065]

Pit **[2065]** was an oval-shaped feature measuring 1.95m x 2.70m and 0.30m deep. This had a single mid grey and orange mottled sandy clay silt fill **(2066)**, that contained five pieces Iron Age pottery and 38 fragments of animal bone. This feature lay in a 2.70 wide space between four gully termini (Figure 5). This organisation of space seems deliberate and creates a method of passing between two units along a north-south axis, at a point where four fields appear to come together. In consideration of the profile of the pit, which

had moderate to gradual sloping sides and a concave base (Figure 7), and its location at the junction between the four fields just mentioned, this pit may have functioned as a place where livestock could drink water before being used for refuse once no longer required. The silty character of the fill supports this interpretation.

6.4 Period 3: Romano-British

6.4.1 Area A (contexts **1000-1105**)

This area revealed two parallel ENE-WSW aligned linear features (Ditch Groups **2, 3** and **4**) and the intersection of the southern example with further curvilinear ditches (Ditch Groups **5, 6** and **7**). Excavation showed that the two parallel linears had both been re-cut by Ditch Groups **3** and **5**, all of which had been somewhat anticipated in the geophysical survey (Figures 3 and 4). A small roughly north-south aligned gully was unexpectedly uncovered in Area A (Ditch Group **1**). A second unanticipated set of features seen in Area A, was a sub-oval pit **[1015]** / **[1074]**, containing a deposit with frequent fire-cracked heat affected stones and moderate quantities of charcoal (Plate 1). Extending roughly northwards from this deposit were the 'arms' of two gullies comprising Gully Groups **1, 2** & **3**, which showed at least two re-cuts.

6.4.2 Pit **[1015]**, **[1074]**

Pit **[1015]/[1074]** as mentioned above was oval in shape and located at the south end of Area A. The base of this feature was measured at 33.00m AOD. The single fill of this pit, recorded in two separate points as **(1014)** and **(1073)**, contained carbonised material, burnt stones and fired local natural clay. The stones appeared to be potboilers, fired and dropped into water to heat it. This pit cut Gully Group **3** and was cut by Gully Groups **1** & **2**.

6.4.3 Gully Group **1** **[1017]**, **[1009]**, **[1021]**, **[1061]**, **[1072]**, **[1079]**

Gully Group **1** ran on a north-easterly alignment, from close to the southern boundary of Area A, where it was truncated by modern dated feature **[1104]**. The cut of this feature at its the western end, **[1017]**, was "U"-shaped In profile, 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep. With some small variation in this shape and relative depth throughout the linear group as a whole. Roman-British dated finds came from **(1060)** within intervention **[1061]**. Gully Group **1** continued northwards where it is cut by Furrow (Recorded in separate interventions as **[1019]**, **[1050]**, **[1064]** & **[1085]**) where it becomes much shallower at 0.09m deep. Further to the north this gully, recorded as **[1072]**, was 0.25m deep and at least 0.30m wide where it was cut by the east-west boundary Ditch Group **5**. Across Gully Group **1** the fill was a naturally accumulated greyish brown silty sand deposit.

6.4.4 Gully Group 2 [1099], [1100], [1102]

Gully Group **2** had a slightly different profile to Gully Group **1**. Intervention **[1100]**, had steep sides and a flat base, in contrast the concave profile of Gully Group **1**. The two fills of Gully Groups **1** and **2**, **(1016)** and **(1099)** respectively, were the same in colour (dark greyish brown), composition (sandy silt) and inclusions (heat affected stones and charcoal), suggesting that Gully Group **2** was a recut or maintenance cut for the feature that continued in its original function.

6.4.5 Gully Group 3 [1068], [1070], [1091], [1094]

Gully group **3** also presented in plan as a narrow northeast-southwest aligned linear feature and, underlay pit **[1015/1074]**. The feature ran parallel with Gully Group **1**, being truncated by Gully Group **4** at its most northern extent, near the centre of Area A. There was some variation in the profile shape recorded along the line of this group but sections generally had gently sloping sides and a slightly curved base. The dimensions of the feature varied from 0.24m wide and 0.10m deep at its southern end **[1094]** to 0.33m wide and 0.12m deep at the central pint of the run, where the feature was cut by Furrow (Recorded in separate interventions as **[1019]**, **[1050]**, **(1063)** & **[1085]**). The fill of this feature is recorded as a naturally formed light brownish or mid grey sandy silty fill with occasional clay content recorded in some areas as well as charcoal flecks. There was no dating evidence recovered from Gully Group **3** although stratigraphically it was very early in the sequence.

6.4.6 Gully Group 4 [1066], [1087]

Gully Group **3** was cut by the deeper Gully Group **4** towards the centre of Area A. (Figure 6). The profile **[1087]** had steep sides with a flat base and survived to a width of 0.53m and depth of 0.20m; the fill was **(1086)**, a greyish yellowy brown silty sand. This section of gully runs parallel to the original eastern arm, from a point where it is truncated by the furrow **[1064]** and was the same as **[1066]**, which also had moderate sides, and which was 0.53m wide and 0.27m deep. The fills of **[1066]** were **(1065)**, a greyish yellowy brown sandy silt, 0.21m in thickness, and **(1092)**, a greyish yellowy brown sand, which was only 0.06m deep.

6.4.7 Ditch Group 1 [1033], [1059]

This small and undated Group was encountered at the eastern boundary of area A, where it was truncated by a larger east-west ditch **[1031]**. The two interventions both had steep sides with flat bases, and the fills were of silty sand. There was some variation in the width and depth observed, across the feature: **[1033]** was recorded as being 0.70m wide and 0.14m deep whilst **[1059]** was 0.60m wide and 0.50m deep. The fill of **[1033]**

was **(1032)**, a pale brownish orange to orangey brown primary deposit, formed by natural tumble; the fills of **[1059]** were **(1058)**, a shallow 0.05m deep deposit of a similar sandy tumble, and overlain by **(1057)**, an orangey brown silty sand that was formed by natural silting.

6.4.8 Ditch Group 2 [1035], [1098] and Ditch Group 3 [1004], [1013], [1096]

At the north-end of Area A, two parallel linear features were recorded running roughly east-west. Intervention proved that Ditch Group **3** had truncated Ditch Group **2**. These features were anticipated from the geophysical survey (Figure 3; Plate 2).

Ditch Group **2** had a profile with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was recorded at a maximum width of 0.75m wide and 0.40m deep (Figure 6). It was filled with naturally accumulated deposits of pale to mid grey sandy silt fill **(1034)** and silty clay **(1097)**. One fill, **(1097)** within intervention **[1098]** recovered Romano-British pottery dated pottery sherds, although these could not be closely dated (Appendix 3).

Where Ditch Group **3** ran out of the western baulk, as **[1004]**, the feature had steeply sloping sides (near vertical in the case of the southern side) and a flat base; it was 1.80m wide and 0.50m deep, and filled by **(1005)**, a naturally accumulated pale brown sandy clay. This slot produced Romano-British pottery of two different fabrics, dating the fill to between the middle of the third century AD and the end of the fourth century AD (Appendix 3). Further along the ditch, within intervention **[1096]**, the feature had steep sides and a flat, slightly rounded base and was 2.07m wide and 0.43m deep, with a single fill of naturally formed pale grey silty clay **(1095)**. The final intervention, **[1013]**, revealed steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Here the feature was 1.86m wide and 0.55m deep, with a single pale grey sandy silt fill **(1012)**.

6.4.9 Ditch Group 4 [1040]

The linear feature lay 4.00-5.00m to the south of Ditch Group **3**, running on the same alignment. This feature was truncated by later ditch **[1037]**, and both also produced pottery of the Romano-British period (Figure 4 and 6). Ditch Group **4**, as seen in intervention **[1040]** had a gradually sloping north side and a moderately steep south side, with a flat slightly rounded 0.70m wide base. Overall it was 2.40m wide and 0.48m deep, with two naturally accumulated fills. The first, **(1039)**, was a mottled mid grey and orangey brown silty sand, 0.16m deep and 1.30m wide along the entire base of the ditch, and probably formed by natural tumble and associated rooting; it contained a single Romano-British pot sherd. The second, **(1038)**, was a naturally formed pale greyish brown sandy silt, 0.30m deep and at least 1.30m wide, and contained fragments of burnt daub, consistent with a Romano-British date.

6.4.10 Ditch Group 5 [1037], [1076], [1089], [1027], [1054]

Ditch Group **5** could be traced running from the eastern extend of excavation, where it cut Ditch Group **4** [1040]. From here it curved gradually around in an arc, before eventually running on a north-south alignment into the southern limit of excavation. This group was cut by Ditch Group **6**, a relationship seen in intervention [1027] (Section S10a). The dimensions and fills of this feature were relatively uniform, across its length with steep sides on the western edge of the feature to more gradual side on its eastern side. The ditch measured between 1.10m and 1.50m wide with a maximum depth of 0.42m. Fills were apparently naturally formed silty sand or sandy clay deposits. Pottery of a broadly Romano-British date was recovered from a single dark brown sandy clay deposit, (1036), which sat within [1037].

6.4.11 Ditch Group 6 [1024], [1031], [1052]

Ditch Group **6** was located on the eastern side of Area A, it was recorded on a north-south running alignment where it cut Ditch Group **5** at the southern end of the site. The feature curved around to the east in a sharp almost 90 degree turn where it was again recorded within an intervention as [1031]. Here it cut Ditch Group **1**. On its northern side it was truncated by Ditch Group **7**. Both Ditch Groups **6** and **7** were obscured in plan by layer (1028), within the central area of Area A, meaning the full extent of both of these features could not be defined in plan.

The profile of Ditch Group **6** had steep to vertical sides and a sloping, curved or flat base. Fills were of a grey to orange silty sand or/or clay. A firm mid blueish grey and orangey brown mottled deposit of silty sandy clay and silty sand (1029), within intervention [1031], produced small fragments metal slag, from an environmental sample (Sample 3; Appendix 4).

6.4.12 Ditch Group 7 and Overlaying Layer (1028)

Ditch [1041] (Plate 4) was east-west orientated with both sides stepped with a steep to moderately steep profile dropping down to a sharply defined flat base that was 0.55m wide (at 33.92m AOD). The ditch was 3.25m wide and 0.95m deep, although the northern side was truncated at its top by furrow [1105] to a depth of 34.65m AOD. The primary deposit (1042) was 0.20m deep and was partly waterlogged, naturally accumulated clayey silty sand. This was overlain by (1043), a firmly compacted dark orangey brown silty sand mottled with dark grey and contained lenses of clayey silty sand that appeared moderately organic. Palaeo-environmental sample 4 (See Appendix 4) was taken from this deposit and produced worked leather. This context was 0.42m deep and contained an iron nail and pottery, all of Romano-British date. This was in turn covered by context (1044), a pale blue silty sand mottled with orangey brown, and was itself sealed by layer

(1028); this was 0.30m thick and at least 3.25m wide with dating of mid 3rd to late 4th century being recovered from pottery. This feature was partially truncated as it was by furrow **[1105]**.

6.4.13 Area B (Contexts 2000-2146)

6.4.14 Two roughly 90 degree “L”-shaped features along with likely recuts (Ditch Groups **8**, **9**, **10** and **11**) were recorded within this Area. These were observed to somewhat mirror each other (Figure 5). The southern “L” shaped features (Groups **10** and **11**) were unanticipated based on the geophysical results (See Figure 3). To the east of Groups **8**, **9** and **10**, two parallel north-south ditches (Groups **12** and **13**) were observed to be of similar proportions in plan and ran the full length of the site (c.30.00m). The western most of these (Group **12**) was very close to the north-south courses of the corner ditches, but no relationship could be established.

6.4.15 Ditch Group 8 [2004], [2024], [2032], [2036], [2040], [2045], [2049], [2061]

Ditch Group **8** was an “L”-shaped in plan and located in the northern half of Area B, enclosing about one third of the total area excavated (Figure 5). Whilst the recorded depth and width varied the profile shape was fairly uniform, with a concaved “U”-shaped cut with moderately steep sides which dropped onto a flat base. The dimensions of the feature varied between 1.65m and 0.31m in width and 0.20m and 0.82m in depth, progressively becoming shallower and narrower towards the western baulk. This most likely the result of truncation through ploughing a feature which dipped to the east rather than a true reflection of the original profile. The fill, **(2005)**, within intervention **[2004]**, at western terminal end of Ditch Group **8**, was a firm dark brownish grey sandy silt with gravel-sized stones, formed by natural silting; this deposit is typical of the entire group. Fill, **(2025)**, within **[2024]**, produced Romano-British pottery fragments.

6.4.16 Ditch Group 9 [2026], [2028] and Postholes [2030] and [2042]

Excavation at the apex of the corner of Ditch Group **8** revealed an additional cut (Plate 9) interpreted as a cleaning event/recut undertaken to re-establish the feature during its use. Intervention **[2026]** was 1.75m wide and 0.45m deep and had moderately steep concave sides dropping imperceptibly onto a concave base, the fill of which produced Romano-British pottery, although the pieces could not be closely dated (Appendix 3). Located approximately 2.50m to the west, intervention **[2028]**, was also a steep, concave-profiled ditch, 1.05m wide and 0.40m deep, which presented as a terminating in the centre of the slot with a rounded end.

Two post holes were discovered just before the apex of the north corner ditch, both of which cut the course of Ditch Group **8** (the first phase of the ‘corner’) on its inside edge,

and held deposits similar to the underlying material. **[2042]** was circular with steep sides and a concave base, 0.18m deep and 0.55m in diameter, and truncated (**2025**), a Romano-British dated deposit. The deposit of this feature was particularly stone-rich, suggesting that it may have held an upright which had some stone packing displaced by the removal of the post or that it functioned as a post-pad. **[2030]** was larger at 1.20m in diameter and 0.27m deep, with steep concave sides dropping onto a sharply concaved base, producing a blunt “V” profile. Its single fill (**2031**), was a friable sandy clay silt of mid grey with orangey mottling, produced by natural silting.

6.4.17 Ditch Group 10 [2008], [2119], [2110], [2119], [2133], [2137], [2140], [2141]

The southern “L”-shaped linear feature, recorded as Ditch Group **10**, was slight in comparison to the northern example (Ditch Group **8**) but mirrored it in plan (Figure 5). This was located within the southern half of Area A.

The section profile of Ditch **10** was generally similar to Ditch Group **8**, with a concave U”-shaped cut with steep sides and a flat or rounded base typical across the feature. The dimensions recorded across the interventions within this feature vary between 0.79m to 0.32m in width by 0.14m to 0.19m in depth, again thought to be the result of later truncation in a feature which dipped to the east. The fills were naturally accumulated, consisting of firm to moderately compact grey brown sandy clay or silt.

6.4.18 Ditch Group 11 [2101], [2135], [2128], [2108]

Ditch Group **11** appears to be a recut of the corner section of Ditch Group **10**. It is represented by four interventions along its length, **[2101]**, **[2135]**, **[2128]** & **[2108]**. The section profile of recorded fills of this feature was similar to that seen in Group **10**. Midway along its length at intervention **[2128]**, the feature was truncated along its top western edge by post-hole **[2126]**.

6.4.19 Post Holes [2126] and [2097] and Pit [2115]

Post-hole **[2126]** had a concave profile and was oval in plan, 0.47m wide in section and 0.13m deep, with a single fill (**2125**), of firm brownish grey silty clay with frequent gravel- and pebble-sized angular stones, unlike those seen in the local geology.

[2097] was a circular feature, 0.28m in diameter, with steep sides and a slightly concave base. The feature was infilled by a single fill (**2098**), that comprised a greenish grey, silty sand fill which was root affected. This can be interpreted as a small post-hole or stake-hole and lay 0.35-0.40m from the edge of ditch **[2119]**.

Pit [2115] measured a maximum 1.10m in diameter by 0.41m in depth and lay adjacent to **[2099]** on the ‘inside’ (southwest) of the south corner ditch (Ditch Groups **10** & **11**).

This feature had moderately steep to steep sloping sides with a sharp break onto a well defined flat base. A single mottled grey brown clay fill, **(2116)**, was present with a bluey hue towards the base, indicative of waterlogging, and also held charcoal flecks.

6.4.20 Elongated pit [2099], [2117]

The corner of Ditch Group **11** itself was dominated by an uneven sub-oval pit **[2099]** / **[2117]**, which had a combined length of at least 2m and which truncated the north-south ditch **[2119]** (Ditch Group **11**). Pit **[2099]** also partially truncated the corner of the east-west portion of the corner ditch (Ditch Group **10**), mentioned above.

6.4.21 Ditch Groups 12 [2022], [2034], [2053], [2077], [2106], [2124]

Ditch Group **12** ran the entire length of the site, from North to south on the eastern side of Area B. Within the northern most intervention along this ditch, **[2034]**, at the northern limit of Area B, it had moderately sloping sides which dropped on to a steeply concave base. This produced a somewhat "V"-shaped profile (Plate 8) which measured 1.27m wide by 0.31m in depth, with a single moderately compacted mid brown orange sandy clay fill, **(2035)**. Towards the centre of Area B this profile varied to a more "U"-shape (Intervention **[2077]**; Figure 7) before returning to the more typical "V"-shaped to the south (Plate 12). At the southern end of the linear (intervention **[2106]**) the ditch measured 0.76m in width by 0.20m in depth and was filled by **(2105)**, a friable mid brownish grey silty clay, with occasional charcoal inclusions. There were no finds from this group and the single fill of this linear were formed by natural silting.

6.4.22 Ditch Group 13 [2019], [2075], [2085]

Ditch Group **13** ran parallel to Ditch Group **12** to the west. Much like Ditch Group **12** this linear was "V"-shaped in profile with moderately steep sides dropping on to a narrow flat base, and measuring between 0.82m to 0.90m in width by 0.36m in depth. Pottery was recovered (2nd century Samian ware) from **(2076)**, a loose mid brown-grey silty sandy clay deposit typical of that seen throughout the linears length.

6.5 **Period 4: Medieval and Post-medieval**

6.5.1 All of the features within this phase were plough furrows.

Furrows [1011] and [1046], [1019], [1050], (1063), [1085] and [1007]

The three remaining linear features seen within Area A were agricultural furrows and corresponded to areas of lush standing crop, and were noted on the geophysical survey. All three were orientated east southeast-west northwest, were regularly spaced, and unsurprisingly truncated the earlier features. There were no finds but they directly

underlay the subsoil **(1002)** and are typical of features noted elsewhere in the vicinity. A typical example is Furrow **[1050]** (the same as **[1019]**) which had gradually sloping sides which dropped imperceptibly onto a slightly rounded base. The profile measured 1m in width by up to 0.30m in depth and contained a single greyish brown silty clay, formed by natural silting.

6.5.2 Furrow [2104]

Area B uncovered a single furrow, which followed the line of the southern baulk, and as such the full profile was not seen. However, in plan it measured at least 0.39m wide and was seen to drop to a maximum of 0.44m in depth. The fill **(2103)** comprised a greyish brown deposit, similar to that seen in Area A.

6.6 **Period 5: Modern/20th century**

6.6.1 The above was sealed in Area A by 0.30 to 0.34m of silty sand subsoil **(1002)** which was itself covered by a sandy silt topsoil **(1001)**, both of which were heavily affected by plough action (Figure 6). In Area B the silty clay topsoil **(2001)** was itself up to 0.35m thick, and the silty sand subsoil **(2002)** was seen only episodically across the excavated area, and not at all in the eastern baulk, being 0.15m-0.18m thick where recorded (Figure 7). The combined depth of the overburden in Area B was 0.35-0.60m.

7 PHASED DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Phase 1: Geology

7.1.1 Where the geological substrate was encountered it varied from loose sand of pale yellowish brown-pinkish white to clay of orange to greyish orangey brown with gravel inclusions of rounded stones prevalent in each. The clay-heavy area was dominant in the northwestern quadrant of Area B, and several natural features were exposed and tested there. This record corresponds to the description provided by the British Geological Survey of clay, silt, sand and gravel associated with the sub-aerial head deposits formed over the last three million years.

7.2 Phase 2: An Iron Age field system

7.2.1 Despite being broken into segments the gullies in Area B share both naturally accumulated sandy orangey fills and similar overall dimensions. Additionally, the gully sections are consistently slightly off the cardinal compass points (i.e. WNW-ESE and NNE-SSW), which further points to a single phased and centrally organised provision of space. Some of the gaps between termini are probably due to later plough truncation and are not truly reflective of the earlier field system but, in the northern half of the site at least three appear to be functional, with gaps of between 2m and 3.8m being seen, allowing for north-south as well as east-west movement. Moreover, an intersection of four such termini in the northwest quadrant of the site, taken as a whole may define the corners of four fields.

7.2.2 The large pit [2065] had moderate and gradual sides and may have functioned as a watering hole, servicing stock in this area. This is supported by its silty fill suggestive of colluvium. Pottery from this fill demonstrates an Iron Age date (see Appendix 3), and based on the spatial placement of the gullies described above it is suggested here that this represents a single system with this pit feeding livestock within the four fields. Indeed, every relationship slot with the gullies shows that they are earlier than the more substantial corner ditches and the parallel north-south ditches, which date to the Romano-British period, and show a different organisation of space.

7.2.3 The environmental samples did not produce secure results due to contamination by modern rooting. However, the bones of cattle were recovered from (2066) suggestive of a pastoral landscape in which the pits themselves may have served to collect drinking water.

7.3 Phase 3: the Romano-British landscape

7.3.1 Stratigraphically the earliest feature in Area A was an undated, north-south orientated

ditch at the south-eastern baulk (Ditch Group **1**). This was cut by the curvilinear boundary of Group **6**, which dated broadly to the Romano-British period. The fills of **[1033]** and **[1059]** were largely redeposited geological sands, which may explain why it was not visible on the geophysical survey results.

7.3.2 Two parallel field boundaries, Groups **1** and **3**, lay in the northern half of Area A and defined fields to the north and to the south, respectively. These were anticipated by the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3) and their excavation supported the interpretation of a narrow space that could have been utilised as a drove way. The northern example was re-cut on roughly the same ENE-WSW alignment but deeper and wider. The southern boundary, Group **4** **[1040]**, has a similar profile, and both ditches were dated broadly to the Romano-British period, based on pottery sherd evidence. Ditch **[1040]** was also re-cut but, instead of maintaining the same orientation, this re-cut made a sharp 90 degree turn to the south (see Ditch Group **5**), where it was in turn truncated by a further curvilinear, curving from the east (Ditch Group **6**). **[1031]** was part of Group **6**, this being cut by **[1041]** establishing a relatively complex stratigraphic phasing for such a rural site. This feature re-established the east-west orientation of **[1040]**. It is noteworthy that in combination the two types of pottery from layer **(1028)**, which overlay ditch Groups **6** and **7**, suggested a date between 240-400AD for the deposit (see Appendix 3).

7.3.3 Reference to the geophysical survey (Figure 3) clarified that the line curving to the south from the west appears to be Ditch Group **5**. This ended with a SSW-NNE orientation, forming a roughly north-south drove route, perhaps with Group **1**. The ditch curving in from the east (Group **6**) would seem to be the north-west corner of a curved ditch (with a NW-SE orientation), seen close to the south eastern baulk. This in turn was cut by **[1041]** which was orientated roughly east-west. This feature was initially thought to correspond to the southern field boundary (before the re-cut) but is stratigraphically incompatible with that interpretation, despite having similar fills and profiles to **[1040]**. Looking at the geophysics it is more likely to be the middle of the three linears, seen to the east of Area A. The discrepancy may be explained by the effect of layer **(1028)**, which overlay the above. This interpretation is also supported by the orientation of the flat, square-cut base of **[1041]**, which is out of line with ditch **[1040]**.

7.3.4 The sequence is therefore confirmed to be:

- 1) The southern ESE-WNW field boundary, Group **4** **[1040]** – probably contemporary with Ditch Group **2** and **3** – created in the Romano-British period to control stock movements in an ENE-WSW direction, and to define two fields;
- 2) After two periods of natural silting, a corner was created on the southern boundary (see Group **5**), probably defining a roughly north-south drove with a similar linear that lies

outside the stripped area but was seen via cropmarks and the geophysical survey. A Romano-British date is confirmed here also;

- 3) Following another period of natural silting, this corner was truncated by another corner from the east, Ditch Group **6**, the course of which probably decommissioned the north-south drove, returning its orientation to that described in (1). It is likely that the northwest corner of another field or enclosure was also created by this event, which replaced the role previously performed by Ditch Group **1**. Again, a Romano-British provisional date is suggested by ceramics;
- 4) After this had silted-up, the most substantial ditch on the site, Ditch **7**, conclusively decommissioned the north-south drove, re-establishing a somewhat narrower than previously ENE-WSW drove (see also 1). Romano-British pottery is associated with the fills of this feature, as is an iron nail;
- 5) Layer **(1028)** probably dates to the period 240-400AD, placing the sequence 1-4 between AD50 and 239AD.

7.3.5 The absence of carbonised seeds and weeds in deposit **(1014)** indicates that the burning was not associated with food production (Appendix 4). Rather, the evidence for birch wood and fire cracked stones suggests that some kind of potboiler arrangement was utilised (Appendix 3), and backfilled after use. The stratigraphy showed that this was not a single event but a practice undertaken in this area repeatedly. The burnt deposits intersected with two long narrow gullies – Gully Groups **1** and **3**. The east ‘arm’ is earlier than the oval feature, representing an earlier phase of this activity. On practical grounds, it seems more likely that water was channelled away from the burnt material, by means of the gullies and this is supported by silty deposits throughout, with depreciation in the charcoal content and charcoal staining further away from the oval pit. Moreover, both gully groups were re-cut and often these were deeper and/or wider than the original. This additionally suggests that the activity continued for some time, since trouble seems to have been taken to keep the gullies open and free to drain, at least periodically.

7.3.6 The gullies had already silted-up when the major field boundary corner truncated them, but it is likely that the gullies were functional during an earlier phase of field boundary. Perhaps they drained into the original southern field boundary Ditch Group **4**. In any case, they were not found to the north of the field boundaries. Romano-British pottery was found in two key areas of the gully system and it was probably located in the corner of a field, adjacent to the stock droveways, during the period up to 240AD.

7.3.7 The northern “L”-shaped ditch in Area B (Ditch Group **8**) was investigated through multiple interventions, with the curving corner section also 100% excavated. These demonstrated that the first phase of this linear ran the full course of the excavation area, from north baulk to west baulk. The southern east-west part of this linear was later re-cut **[2026]=[2028]** and this was broader and deeper than the original corner, 5-6m in length

and halting before the corner itself (Ditch Group **9**). The dating is broadly 50-400AD. At least two possible postholes **[2030]** and **[2042]** were also located near the corner and both were positioned on the 'inner' side of the enclosed area, and were demonstrated to be later, partially truncating fills of Ditch Group **8**.

7.3.8 There was no sign of the north-south linear feature, seen in the geophysical survey that, together with Ditch Group **7**, appeared to form part of a square enclosure located within the north western quadrant of Area B (Figure 3). A number of features with clay rich fills were investigated in this area, as well as an excavated transect which tested a possible masking hypothesis (Plate 13), but only natural and geological features were seen.

7.3.9 The southern "L" (Ditch Groups **10** & **11**) the profile was much more modest in its dimensions and this feature was entirely unanticipated by the geophysics. The distinctively moderately steep sloping ditch seen especially clearly as **[2008]** and **[2133]**, which resembles the north corner ditch (Figure 7), appears to have been cut by a rounded "V"-shaped cut, exemplified by **[2131]** and **[2135]** (Plate 14). This has been interpreted as representing a maintenance or cleaning-out event, rather than an isolated feature. Interestingly the profile and rough location of Ditch Group **11**, mirrors that seen in Ditch Group **9** (which overlay Group **8**). Unfortunately, there was no dating for this entire feature, although its formal relationship with the northern ditch suggests that they were likely contemporary.

7.3.10 It may also be significant that the small number of post- and stake-holes are similarly positioned along the course of these two corner ditches close to the corner. Perhaps these potential uprights were attempts to maintain the arrangement of the two corners after some natural silting and growth in foliage had occurred. Similarly, the position of the sub-oval cut **[2099]** may 'firm-up' the corner of the south corner ditch or, alternatively, deliberately fill a 'gap' or causeway, that lay between the locations of **[2119]** and **[2210]** of Group **10**, formerly used for access. In this light it is interesting to note the post- or stake-hole **[2097]**, which lies close by, which may have been practical for a swing gate or to simply draw attention to the access point itself. Whilst these points are mere speculation, they do highlight that a practical space, intensively used, renewed and re-organised through time, can be inferred from the excavated features here.

7.3.11 Pit **[2115]**, had steep sides, a well defined flat base and a single mottled greyish brown fill which had a blueish hue towards the base. This colouration suggested a waterlogged deposit and the feature was well placed to gather water: Perhaps a sump or means to drawing drinking water for animals. The environmental sample recovered snail species that support this interpretation of a body of water, and also included the seeds of wetland species of plant (Appendix 4).

7.3.12 It is evident from the positioning of Ditch Groups **12** and **13** that only one of these two

parallel linears is compatible with the functioning of the two corners of Ditch Groups **8** and **10**. The eastern example is dated to the Romano-British period by pottery and, together with Ditch Groups **8** and **10**, would form a “T”-shaped space, perhaps an intersection of a wider droveway. This interpretation is at least partly consistent with the geophysical survey (Figure 3). Ditch Group **12** is too close to the eastern sides of the corner ditches to form a practical space in this way and, whilst undated, can probably be said to close-off the east-west part of the possible drove and re-affirmed a north-south alignment within the wider animal management within the landscape. The original “T” probably functioned with the eastern north-south linear and connected to the ‘upside-down’ “T”-shaped arrangement that lay near to evaluation trench 13 (CA 2015). A similar sized east-west drove was seen in Area A and an area of such “cell”-like fields with integral routes in between, appears to have characterised the Romano-British rural landscape south of Evesham. Ditch Group **12** may therefore be considered later in Phase 3.

7.3.13 These observations demonstrate three things:

- 1) the western north-south parallel gully in Area B probably closed-off/decommissions the east-west droveway represented by the two corner ditches,
- 2) as indicated by the re-alignments of ditches in Area A, these re-cuts/re-alignments operated on a landscape-scale and may reflect significant changes to the layout of the rural landscape, and
- 3) the Phase 1 gully system is re-affirmed as a totally different, earlier arrangement of space.

7.3.14 In consideration of the likely Romano-British road seen to the south of the site (WHER Reference: **WSM 30625**), it was clear that there was no sign of a surface or any other indications of a metalled surface in Area B. However, both ditches are possible candidates for the drainage ditches that commonly flank Roman roads, particularly given their orientation and landscape position with respect to the wider semi-enclosed landscape seen in the geophysical survey (GSB 2014). Moreover, this interpretation is not incompatible with the view that the eastern ditch may have pre-existed the western example, and functioned with the two corner ditches with an un-surfaced or poorly surfaced road in between, the western linear closing-off access this junction at this point. Only the eastern ditch is dated by finds which suggested a 1st to 2nd century date (see Appendix 3), and it is notable that this date is before that for layer (**1028**) that sealed the sequence of field boundaries in Area A (240-400AD). This allows us to tentatively suggest that some kind of route way, or this part of it, was itself an integral part of the organisation of the wider rural landscape within the development area.

7.3.15 Environmental results in both areas suggested a wet landscape with waterlogged or

marshy ditches (supported by the bones of water vole) and show an absence of evidence for cultivated species (Appendix 4). It is also interesting that the burnt material **(1015)** too, had no cultivated seeds or grains. For example, **(1043)** was a waterlogged fill of Ditch Group 7, and was located just above the current summer water table, contributing to its particular value in palaeo-environmental evidence and finds. In spite of this good preservation, there was no sign of cultivated species. It is likely that the wetland species of plant and snails that are represented simply filled the niche provided by waterlogged at the edges of pasture suitable for cattle, sheep and goats. It is therefore likely that the system of ditches and possible drove ways served a community who reared livestock and lived in the nearby settlement areas. Although small in number, and poorly preserved, the bone fragments recovered during the project do indicate that cattle were present here in both the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

7.4 **Phase 4: Medieval and Post-medieval agriculture**

7.4.1 The subsoil was sporadic across parts of the site but is probably late medieval/post-medieval, as indicated by a piece of post-medieval brick from **(1001)** dating 1600-1900, tile dating 1450-1900 in **(2002)**, and by material recovered from a modern service trench. A near-complete iron pitchfork came from the ploughsoil **(2001)**; two tines and a tang may indicate a medieval date (Appendix 3).

7.4.2 In Area A, three furrows were quickly identified by colour, profile and by a lush growth in the upstanding crop. These were regularly spaced and a good match for those suggested by the geophysics, which suggested that they ran roughly east-west across the entirety of the site. As those in Area A weathered it became clear that a substantial lower fill, very unlike the overlying deposits, was associated with each of these and they were consequently interpreted as indicating either migration of the furrows or different layers of silting. In Area B, the furrow occurred where there was no subsoil.

7.5 **Phase 5: Modern drainage and services**

7.5.1 Few field drains were encountered, and these predominated in Area B, reflecting the free draining character of the underlying sand in Area A. An example in Area A (Plate 3) and another in Area B (Figure 7), were ceramic pipes, typical of the early 20th century, whereas two in Area B consisted of a “V”-shaped cut filled with pebble-sized crushed stones (e.g. **[2063]**), and clearly of later date.

7.5.2 The Area B service trench, **[2038]**, had a pipe at the bottom, 0.60m below the top of the geology, within a square cut with vertical sides. The fill contained pottery and CBM dating from the 17th to 20th centuries, which probably reflects the range of dates for the overlying subsoil and topsoil, as well as a modern date for its construction.

7.6 Summary of Phases 2 and 3

- 7.6.1 The first cultural activity on the site dates to the Iron Age (**Phase 2**), and was located at the north-end of the development (Area B). Here an oval pit was dug, probably to collect water, and had a profile that would have been practical for livestock to drink from. This cut a section of ditch, surviving as a 'gully', that was laid-out with the same orientation as a number of other narrow-based ditches and which was apparently carefully positioned to respect termini of three other similar dug features (Figure 4). It is on this basis that a system of ditches and, consequently fields is proposed. Environmental evidence and animal bones suggest that cattle were a part of this landscape (Appendix 3 and 4).
- 7.6.2 The rather slight field boundaries seen in Area B were succeeded by much larger ditches (**Phase 3**). Key deposits date these features to the Romano-British period (Appendix 3). Together with the geophysical survey, the excavated features supported the hypothesis of earlier studies that a system of substantial fields and droveways characterised the period. The latest phases of field work demonstrated that the droveways were repeatedly re-oriented and boundaries re-worked (Area A), and that ditches were often maintained with re-cuts (both areas). Also in Area A, fires were apparently set to produce hot stones and possible potboilers created, with the waste water deliberately channelled into the nearby field boundary. In Area B, the corners of the two "L"-shaped drove ditches attracted upright posts or stakes in areas that had already been re-cut (Area B). The partial square-shaped enclosed area interpreted by the geophysical survey was proved to be erroneous by interventions in Area B (Figures 3 and 4).
- 7.6.3 Environmental evidence suggested a landscape of open ground, which was probably wet or marshy in some parts but, significantly, no cultivated species of plant were seen. The bones of cattle and sheep/goat were recovered. A metal nail, small pieces of metal slag, worked leather and antler hint that a fully provisioned community lived nearby and worked these fields. Most pottery was local and of broadly Romano-British date (50-400AD) but 2nd century Samian ware sherds and a fragments of a Baetican amphorae (170-300AD) indicate both wider trade and distribution links and the likelihood that key landscape features (Ditch Groups **3** and **13**, respectively) were re-worked in the middle to late Romano-British period. This is a period that can be, on this tentatively basis, linked to the evidence for the road suggested to lie south of the development area.
- 7.6.4 The parallel linear features, seen in the geophysical survey and proposed as the continuation of the postulated Romano-British road, were encountered in Area B as anticipated (Figure 3). Ditch Group **13** (the eastern example) contained fragments of a Samian vessel (170-300AD) in its fill and its positioning means it could have functioned with the two "L"-shaped ditches (Groups **8** and **10**), forming a "T"-shaped intersection of the system of droveways (Figure 5). The possible 2nd century AD date, suggested by the

Samian, can therefore be cautiously extended to these features. Ditch Group **12**, however, was probably not functional with this arrangement of space and may have closed-off access in this, roughly, east-west direction. There were no further structural remains of a road and its status is therefore unclear. It is not unreasonable to claim, however, that Ditch Group **13** may have imposed the dominant north northeast-south southwest route of the postulated road across the site, as part of a mid to late Romano-British reorganisation of the rural landscape. Pottery from Ditch Group **3** and layer **(1028)**, which overlay Group **7**, indicates that major landscape features in Area A continued in their use into the 3rd-4th centuries AD.

8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT DATA AND SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORK

- 8.1 The project fully succeeded in its overall aims, as detailed in Section 3:
- 8.1.1 The project was successful in its general aims. It was possible to ‘determine the character, date, extent and distribution of archaeological deposits as well as their potential significance’ (**RA1.1**); ‘the levels of disturbance to archaeological deposits’ were determined, and derived from medieval and post-medieval ploughing to a depth of 0.30-0.60m (**RA1.2**); ‘site evolution, stratigraphic relationship and phasing of all activities within the investigation area’ were determined (**RA1.3**); ‘a full understanding of all activities and their place within the wider landscape context’ (**RA 1.4**) was achieved; ‘the spatial distribution of different activities and relationships between them’ were characterised (**RA 1.5**) and; it was possible to ‘record the archaeological deposits in such a fashion as to allow for a full understanding and later reinterpretations of the site sequence to be undertaken’ (**RA 1.6**)
- 8.1.2 The project was successful in the investigation of the origin of Prehistoric activity in the development area (**RA2.1**) and contributed towards the understanding the Iron Age period’s landscape use (**RA 2.3**). However, the project found no settlement structures with which to address **RA 2.2**.
- 8.1.3 The project succeeded in its Romano-British research aims by contributing towards our knowledge of ‘the transition between later prehistory and Romano-British usage on the site’ (**RA3.1**), which indicates a possible continuity of pastoral farming. Despite there being no evidence of settlement within the development area, it is likely from the wide variety of finds (leather, metal, antler, continental ceramics) that the activities identified were peripheral to the nearby, off-site settlements (**RA 3.2**). Evidence for the variation of regional identities through time (**RA 3.3**) were only minimally present, perhaps also being somewhat continuous with the late Iron Age in terms of subsistence economy; however, the occurrence of two continental ceramic fabrics (one in each area), suggests the wider contacts and aspirations of members of the nearby community. Variations in land use (**RA 3.4**) were identified in the re-organisation of the landscape in both areas, but most strikingly seen in the re-orientation of the droveways in Area A.
- 8.2 Despite these successes, the significance of the project data and both the finds and the environmental results were limited. In consequence, the findings of the project are only of local interest and do not have potential for further work.
- 8.3 On this basis, the following recommendations are proposed:
- 8.3.1 A short ‘notification’ has already been submitted for publication in *Britannia: a Journal of*

Romano-British and Kindred Studies, a national journal of Roman Britain. It is further recommended that local journals such as *West Midlands Archaeology* be approached to publish a similar 'note' describing the project and an outline of the results.

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- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Ed Oakley at Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Aiden Smyth for his advice and for monitoring the project. The author would like to thank the project team, Theo Fautley, Hayley James, Steve Jones, Ian Mackey, Sean Rice and James Webb, and all the PCA staff who contributed to the Post-excavation. Illustrations were produced by Ray Murphy. Finds assessment was conducted by Karen Deighton, Mårit Gaimster, Kevin Hayward, Eniko Hudak and Chris Jarrett, and the palaeo-environmental assessment was undertaken by Kate Turner. The project was managed by Jonathan Webster, who was also responsible for the quality of the project. The report was proof read and edited by Alex Beeby, who also co-ordinated the post-excavation stage.

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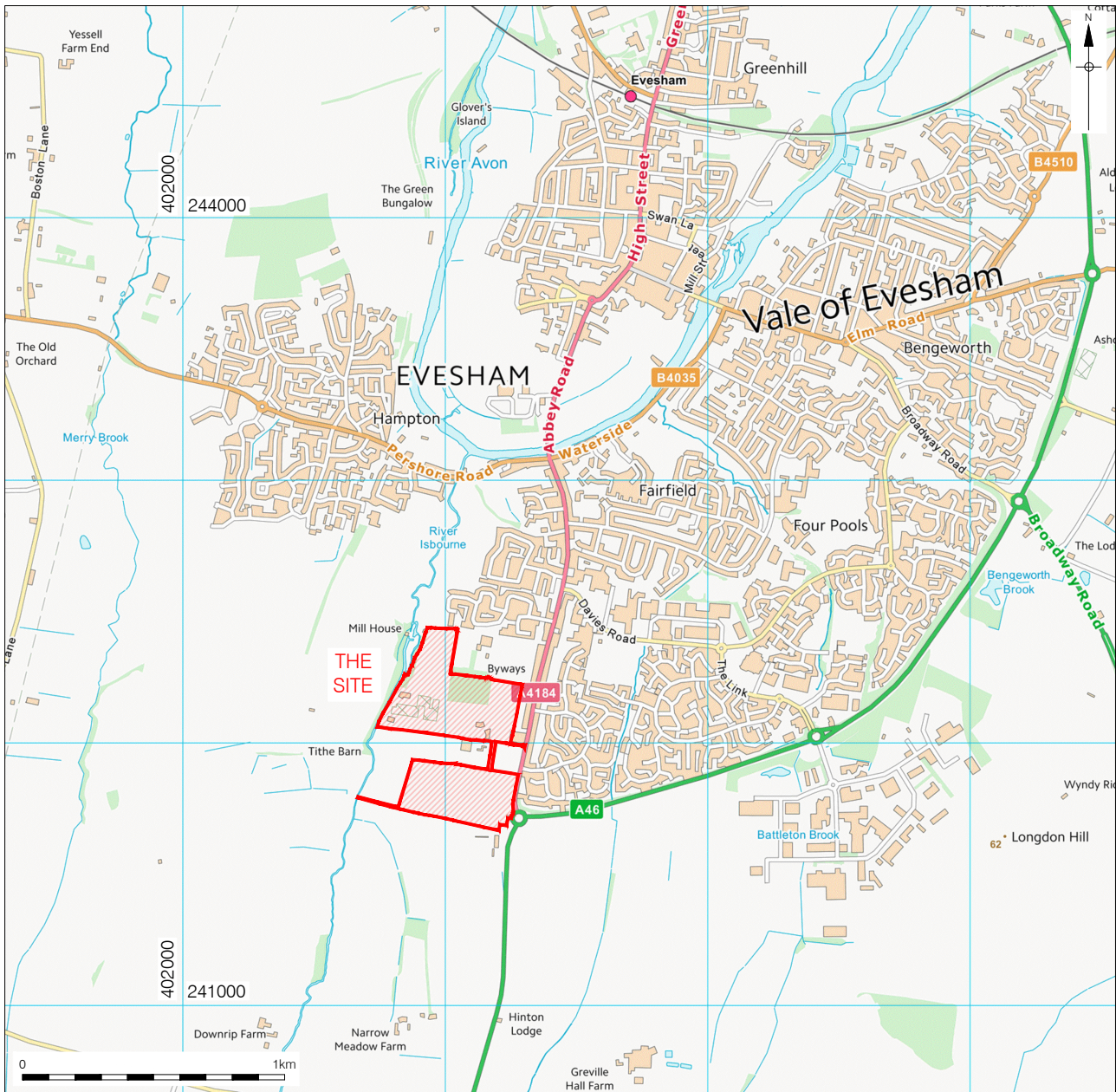
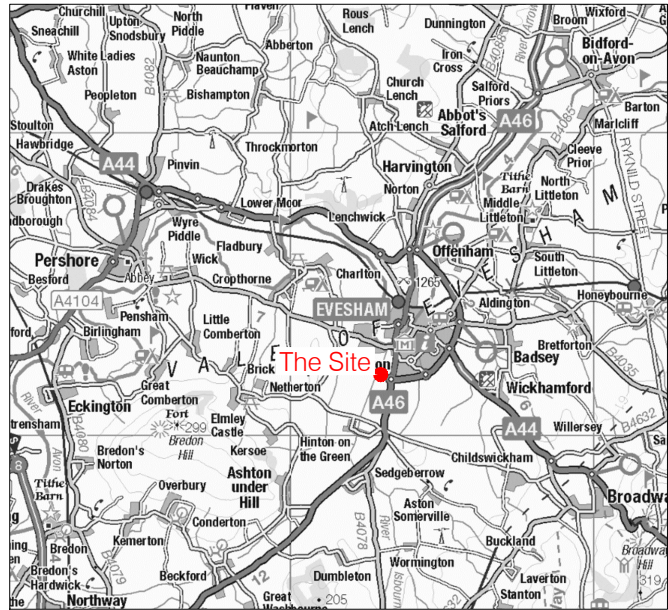
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04/03/19 RM

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 1:250,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

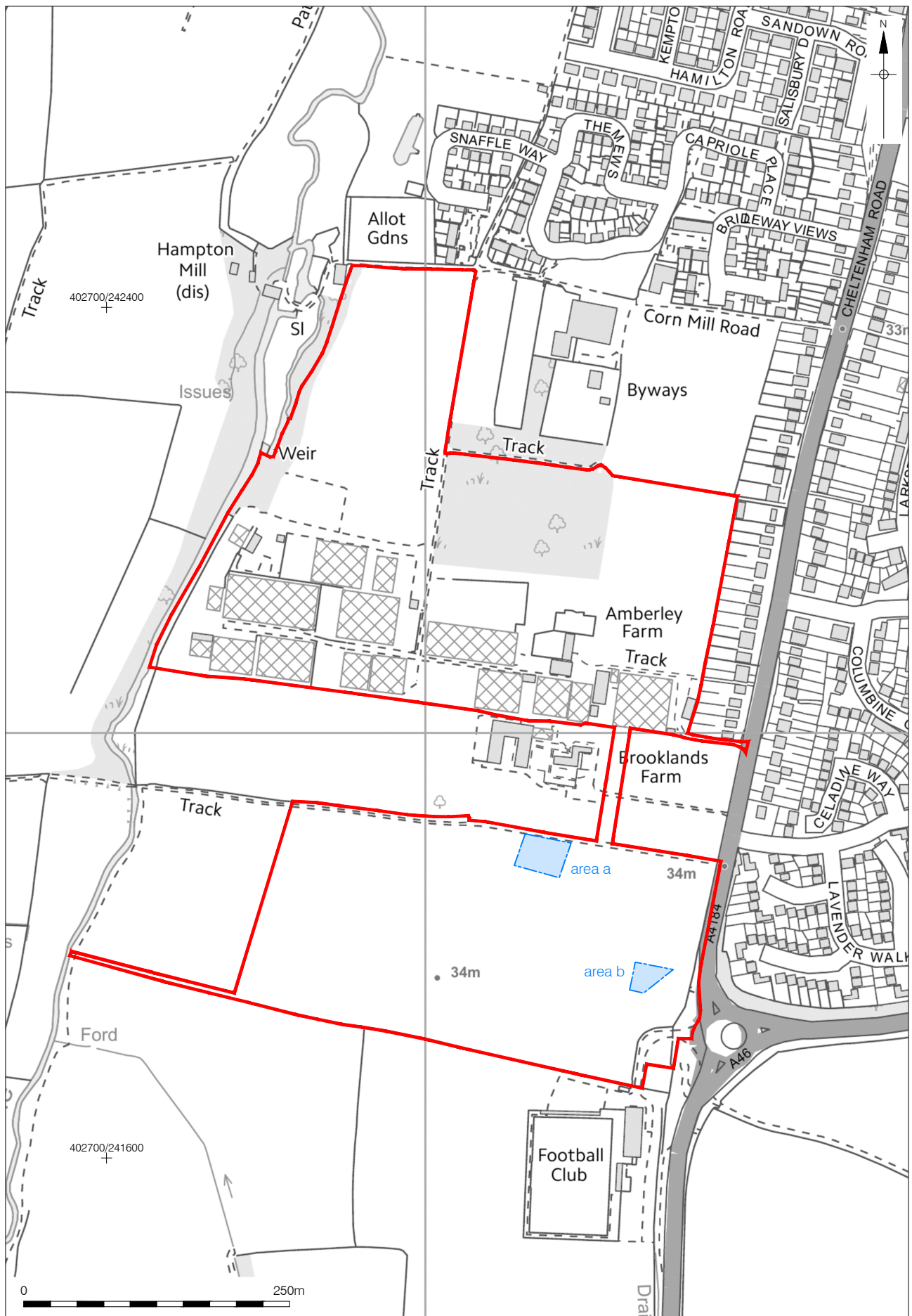
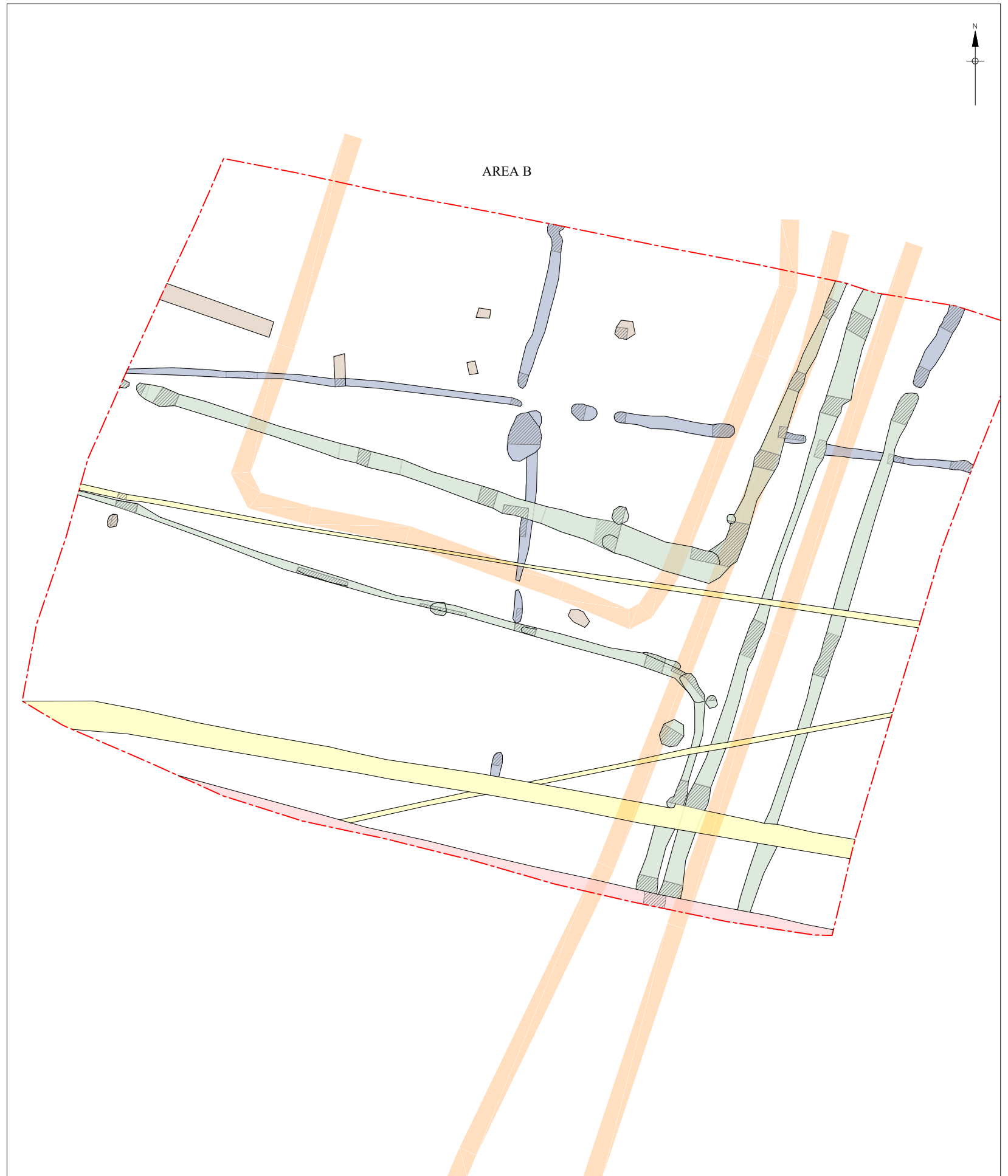
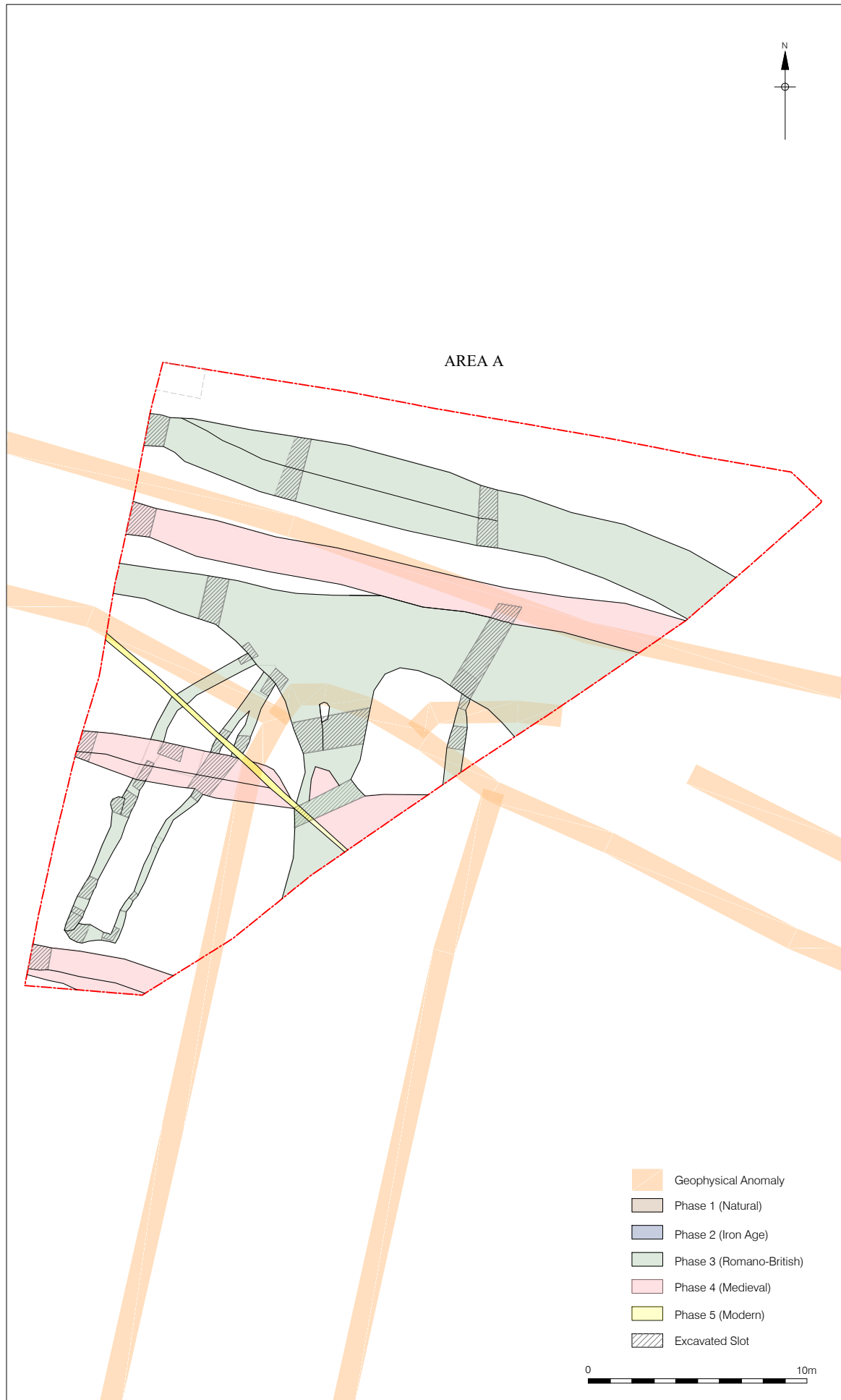
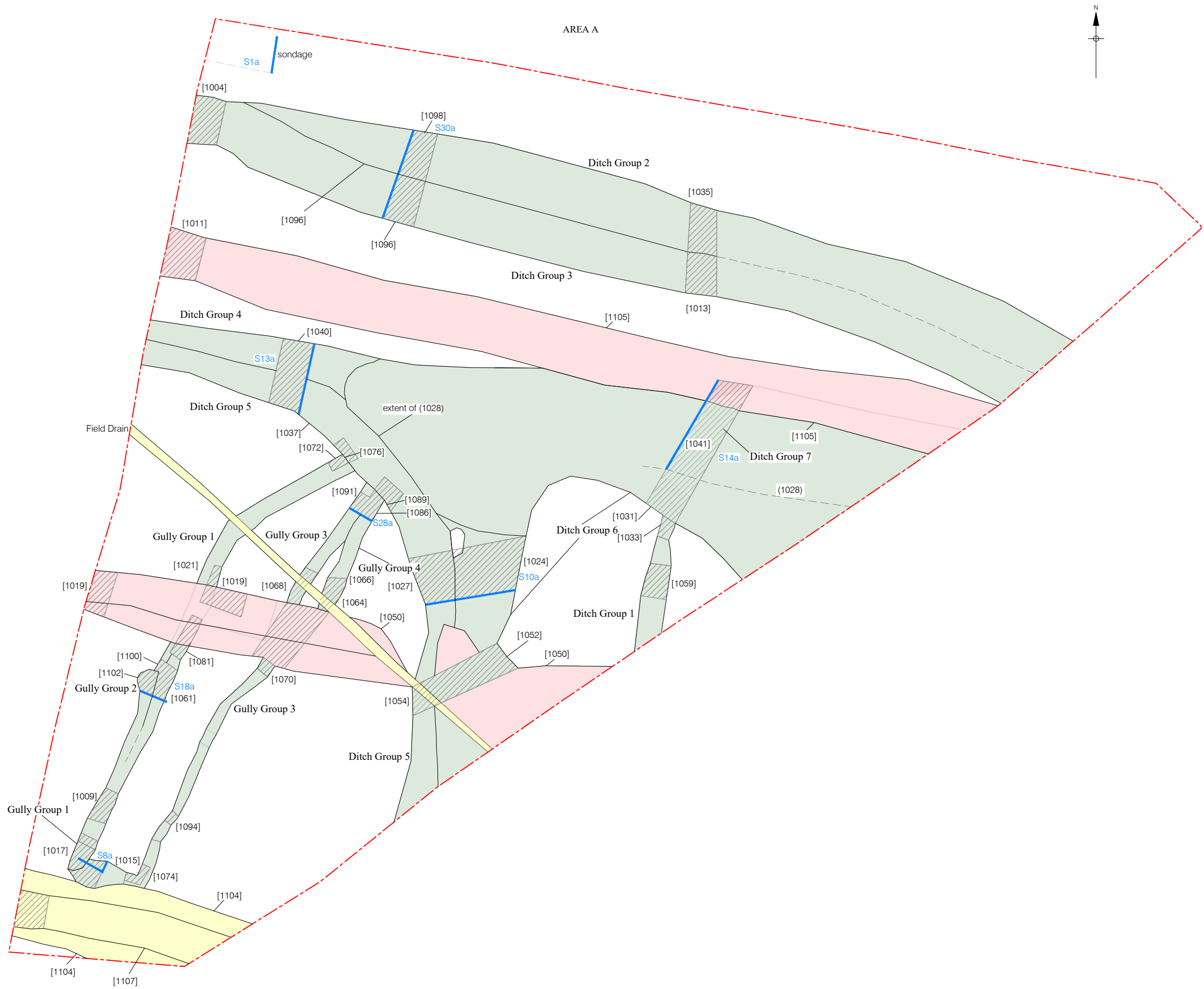


Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
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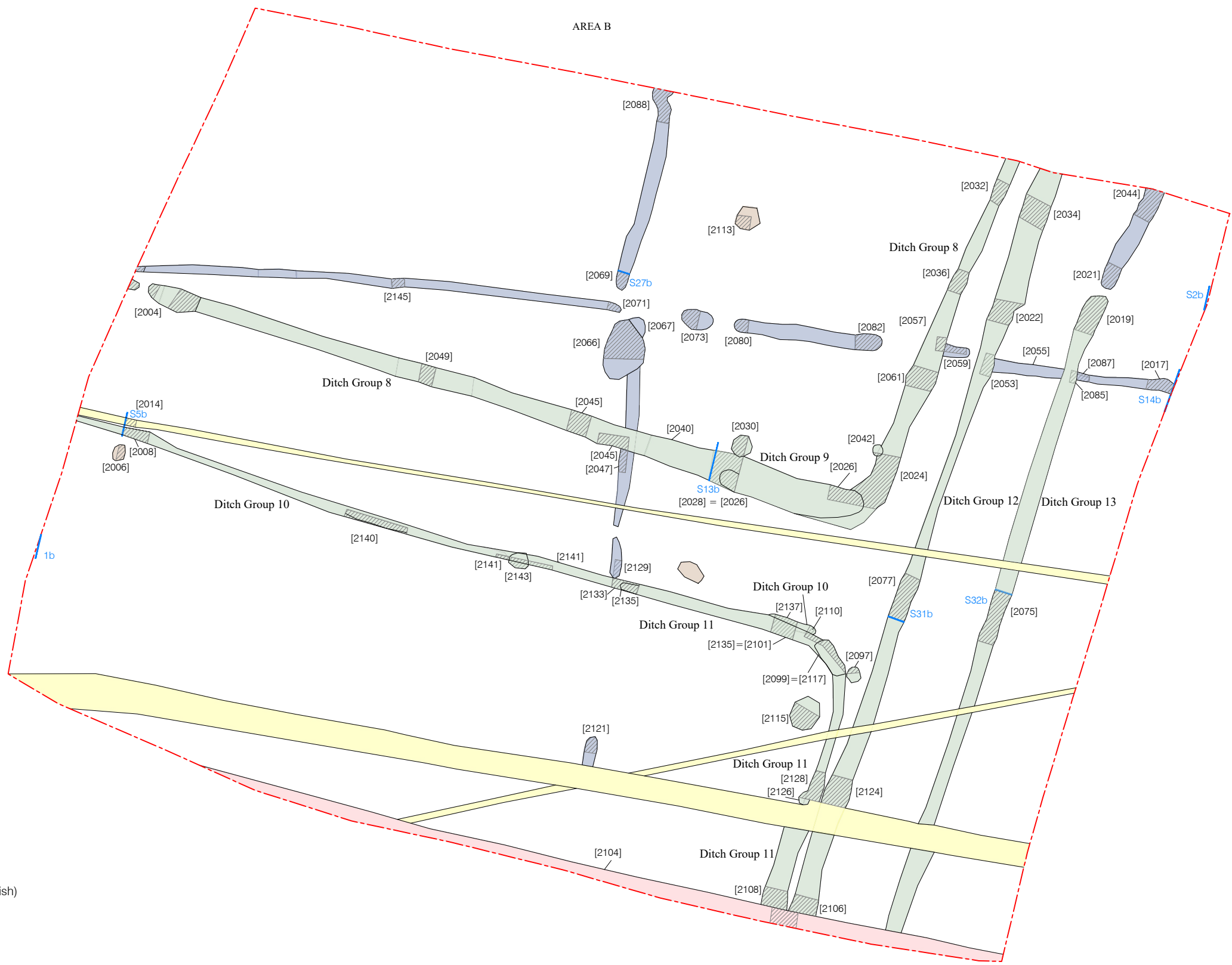




- Phase 3 (Romano-British)
- Phase 4 (Medieval)
- Modern
- Excavated Slot
- Conjecture

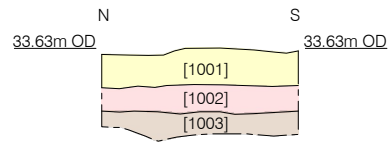


Figure 4
Plan of Area A
1:125 at A3

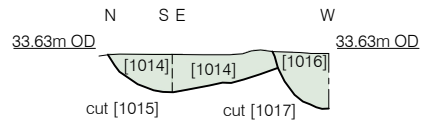


- Phase 1 (Natural)
- Phase 2 (Iron Age)
- Phase 3 (Romano-British)
- Phase 4 (Medieval)
- Phase 5 (Modern)
- Excavated Slot

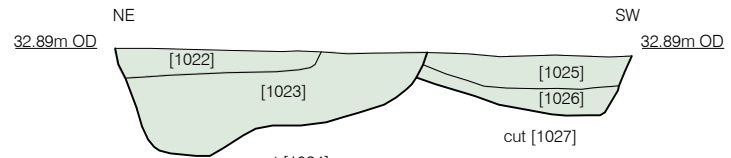
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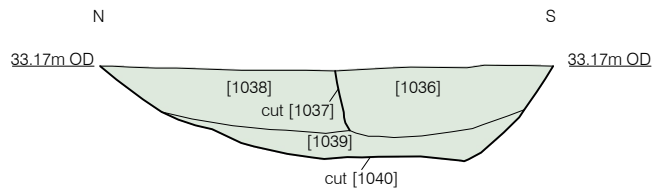
Section 1a
West Facing



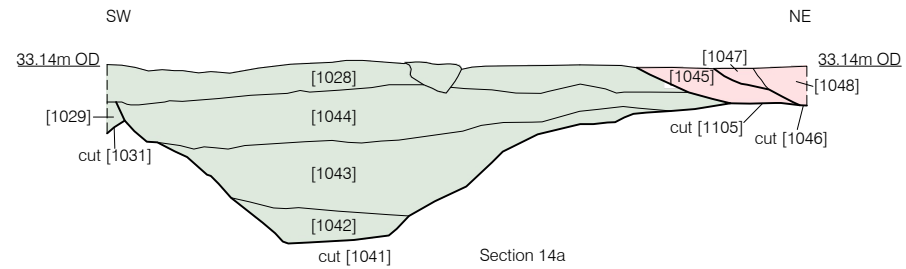
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North and West Facing



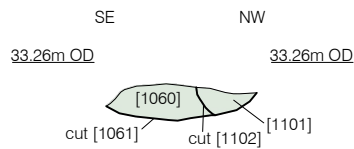
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Northwest Facing



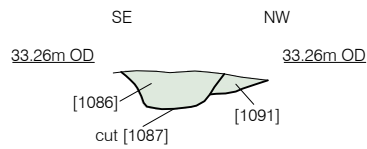
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West Facing



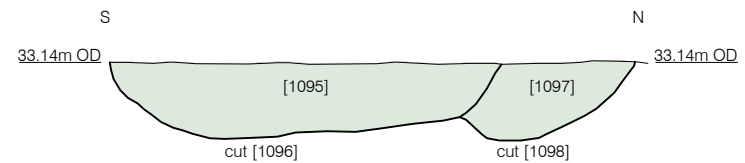
Section 14a
Southeast Facing



Section 18a
Northeast Facing



Section 28a
Northeast Facing



Section 30a
East Facing

- Phase 1 (Natural)
- Phase 3 (Romano-British)
- Phase 4 (Medieval)
- Phase 5 (Modern)



Figure 6
Area A Sections
1:40 at A4

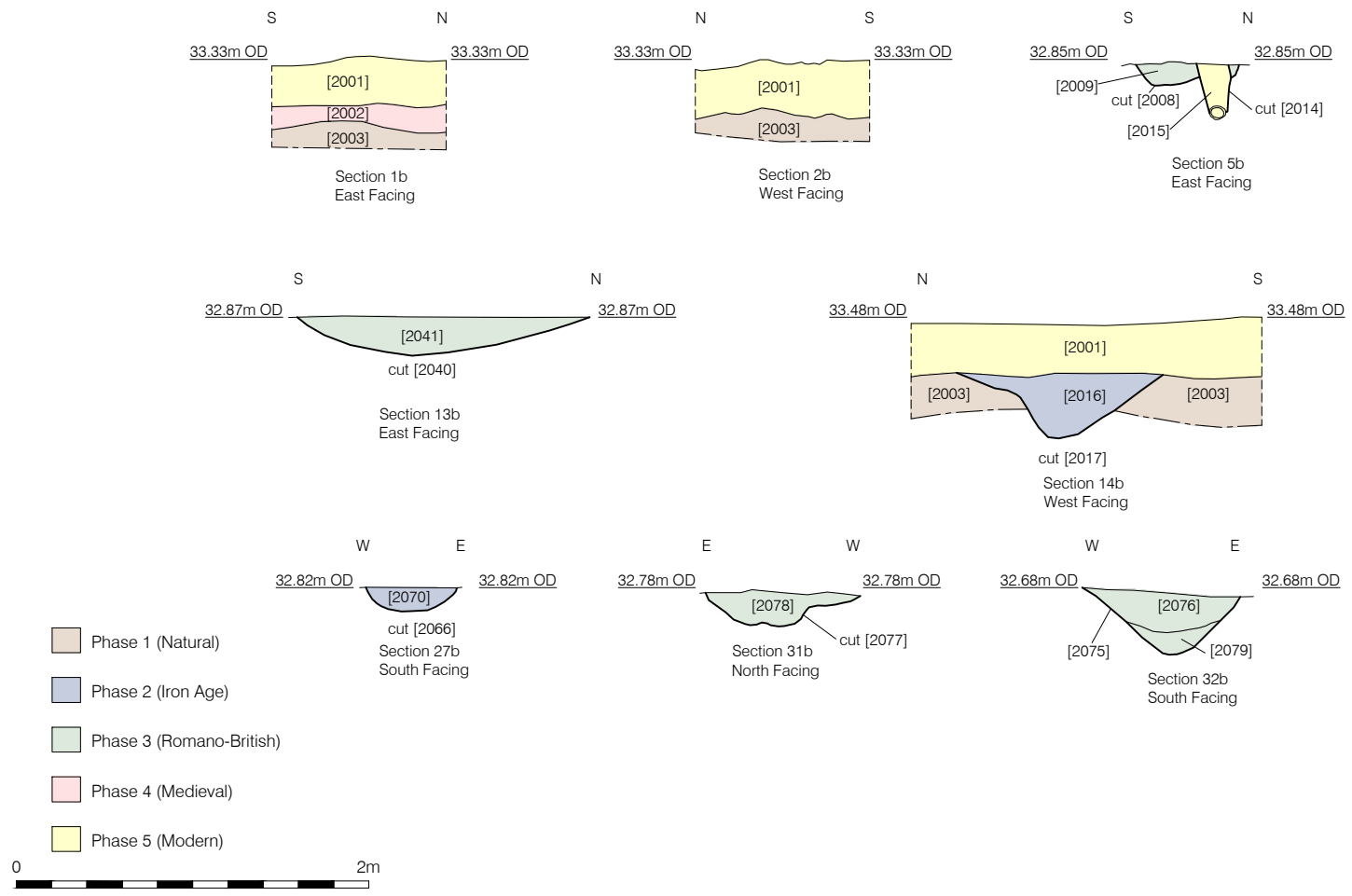


Figure 7
Area B Sections
1:40 at A4

APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1. burnt material (1014) (foreground) and overview shot of Groups 1, 2 and 3. Looking northwest (scale 1m).



Plate 2. intersection of boundary ditches comprising ditch Groups 4-7, in the centre of area A (looking northeast).



Plate 3. North northeast facing section of ditches [1052] (centre) and [1054] (right of scale). (Scale 2m).



Plate 4. Slot through ditch group 7 [1041] (Centre, Looking northeast. Curvilinear ditch [1031] (Ditch Group 5, Right) is partially visible in the foreground, furrow at the top. (Scale 2m).



Plate 5. South facing section of gully [2088]. (Scale 1m).



Plate 6. North facing section of gully [2088] (scale 0.30m)



Plate 7. Overview shot showing the key romano-british features at the centre of Area B, looking northwest.



Plate 8. Southwest facing section of ditches [2032] (Ditch Group 8, Left) and [2034] (Ditch Group 12, Right). (Scale 2m).



Plate 9. Looking west along the line of ditch Group 8, sections through [2024] and [2016] (foreground) and [2040] (background) are visible (scale 1m).



Plate 10. West facing section through ditch [2040] (centre), re-cut [2028] (right) and post-hole [2030] (left). The corner of [2024] can be partially seen at the top. (Scale 2m).



Plate 11. South facing section through ditch [2075]. (scale 1m)



Plate 12. Working shot looking showing finds retrieval from fills located with Ditch Group 12. The south facing section of [2077] is shown in the foreground (scale 2m).

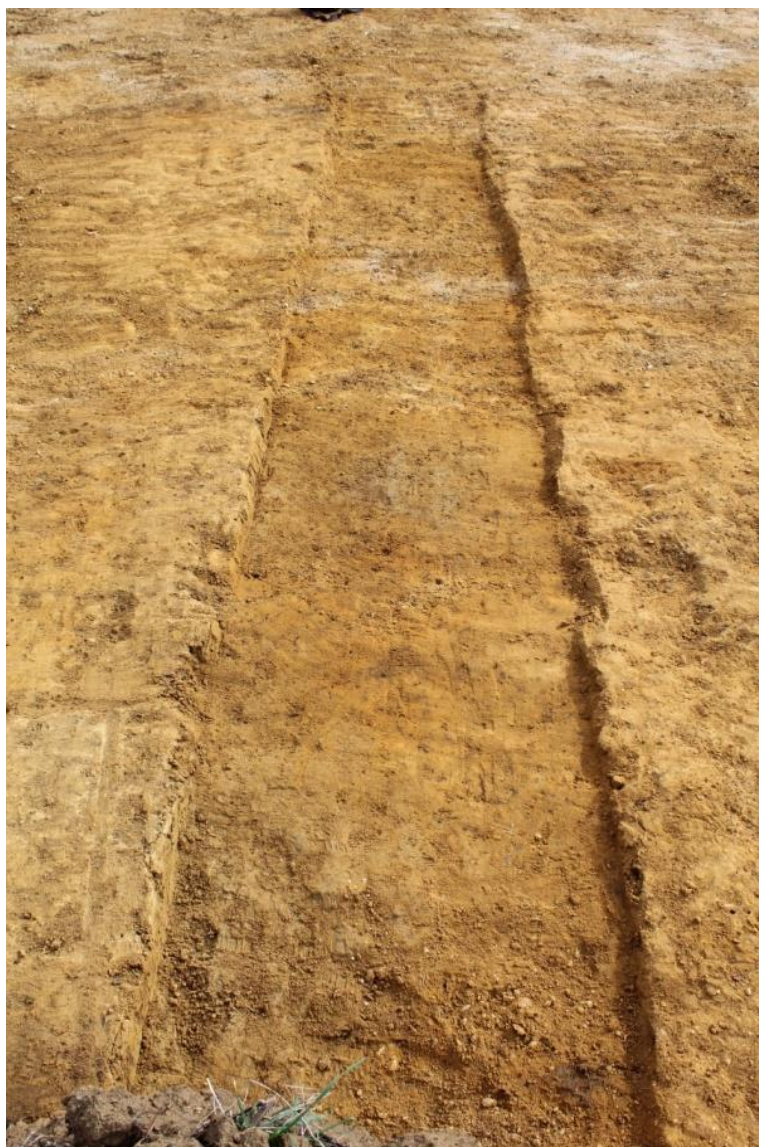


Plate 13. Looking east - an example of geological variation within layer (2114).



Plate 14. West facing section through ditch [2137], and re-cut [2135], Ditch Groups 10 and 11 respectively.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

AREA A

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1001	Topsoil	Hard surface, moderately firm below; dark reddish brown sandy silt; moderate irregular-shaped/-angular stones	0.18m	Disturbed by root action; heavily baked by weather conditions.
1002	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid-yellowish brown sandy silt; unsorted moderate limestone pea grit	0.12-0.15m	Thin layer of subsoil, distributed across the entire site, overlies archaeological features
1003	Natural Substrate	Varied compaction, moderate to loose; light yellowish brown to orange, with white patches, sand; frequent fossils, frequent limestone pea grit and irregular shaped stones	N/a	Geological layer
1004	Cut	Linear, SE side steep, NW moderately steep, flat base, NW-SE orientation; dimensions D = 0.50m, W = 1.80m	0.50m	Field boundary ditch; provisionally Romano-British
1005	Deposit	Friable pale brown sandy clay occasional small angular stones; small pottery sherds	0.50m	Natural sedimentation
1006	Deposit	Moderate mid reddish brown silty sand; no finds	0.20m	Natural sedimentation
1007	Cut	Linear, sharp at the top with moderate sides, moderate break at the base, flat base, NW-SE orientation; dimensions D = 0.20, W = 0.99m	0.20m	Furrow migration, or upper deposit of an agricultural furrow; seen as a lush growth in the crop; cuts (1103)
1008	Deposit	Moderate compaction, dark black-brown silty sand, frequent fire-cracked angular stone pebbles, very occasional charcoal	0.19m	Compaction of stones and charcoal suggest deliberate backfill
1009	Cut	Linear/curvilinear, steep at top, moderate sides, flat to concave base, NE-SW orientation; dimensions D = 0.19m, W = 0.60m, L = 2.0m	0.19m	Drainage gully; same as [1017] and [1061]
1010	Deposit	Loose mid reddish brown (purpleish brown after weathering) silty sand, occasional pea grit, occasional small rounded sub-angular pebbles; no finds	0.16m	Seen to extend over the site on similar alignment to linears interpreted as furrows by previous geophysical survey.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1011	Cut	Linear, moderately steep, slightly concave base, NW-SE orientation, dimensions D = 0.16m, W = 1.48m, L = >10.0m	0.16m	Profile is typical of medieval/post-medieval agricultural furrow
1012	Deposit	Moderately compact pale grey sandy silt, occasional stone fragments and occasional manganese; no finds	0.55m	Fill of [1013]. Sterile of finds and organic material; subsequently proved to be a siltation deposit within a Romano-British ditch
1013	Cut	Linear, SW side steep, NE moderately steeply sloping, sharp break at the base, flat base, NW-SE orientation, dimensions D = 0.55m, W = 1.86m, L = >10.00m	0.55m	This context truncated [1015] in a later slot to the west, although relationship is ambiguous here
1014	Deposit	Loose very dark brown silty sand, frequent heat affected stones, moderate quantity of charcoal, possible contamination at west-end of slot; no finds, sampled	0.20m	Deliberate deposit of burnt material; fill of [1015], cut by gully [1017] and furrow [1104]
1015	Cut	Linear, oval in plan, moderate sides, concave base, E-W orientation, Depth= 0.20m, Length= >5.0m	0.20m	Pit for the disposal of burnt material (1014); same as [1074]
1016	Deposit	Loose dark black-brown sandy silt, occasional charcoal, occasional burnt stone	0.30m	Noticeably fewer inclusions than (1014), indicating direction of drainage/slumping
1017	Cut	Linear, moderate to steep sides, concave base, NE-SW orientation, dimensions D = 0.30m, W =0.29, L = >1.0m	0.30m	Same as [1009]
1018	Deposit	Firm mid-brownish grey sandy clay, moderate sub-angular and rounded stones; no finds	0.19m	Same as (1063) and (1084)
1019	Cut	Linear, moderate-gradual slope to near flat base, NW-SE orientation, Depth= 0.19m, width= 0.50m, Length= 1.0m	0.19m	
1020	Deposit	Firm mid reddish brownish grey silty sand, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small angular and sub-angular pebbles	0.09m	Natural sedimentation
1021	Cut	Linear, near vertical sides, near flat side, NE-SW orientation; dimensions W = 0.51m, L = >0.50m	0.09m	Linear gully, truncated by furrow but probably same as [1009]
1022	Deposit	Moderately compact mid orangey brown, mottled silty clay, rare small stones	0.12m	Natural sedimentation; same as (1028), fill of [1024]
1023	Deposit	Friable mid grey slightly	0.41m	Natural sedimentation; fill of

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		mottled with yellow-brown patches of sand, silty sand with rare small sandstone fragments, rare charcoal flecks		[1024]
1024	Cut	Curvilinear, E side near vertical, W side steep, flat base, slight curve at base, deeper in E extent, N-S orientation, dimensions D = 0.53-0.56m, W = 1.65m, L = at least 2.00m	0.53-0.56m	Same as [1031]. Profile also matches that excavated nearby in the evaluation phase (CA 2014), trench 11, as do fills.
1025	Deposit	Friable pale grey silty sand	0.17m	Natural sedimentation; cut by [1024], fill of [1027]
1026	Deposit	Friable mixed grey-orange silty sand rare small sandstone fragments	0.25m	Natural sedimentation; fill of [1027]
1027	Cut	Curvilinear steep W side, part truncated E side is gradual from 0.15m depth, rounded base; dimensions D = 0.42m, W = 1.10-1.50m, L = >2.0m	0.42m	Boundary ditch, same as [1037] and [1054]; Romano-British
1028	Deposit	Firm pale grey mottled with orange to orangey brown silty sand, moderate pea grit unsorted, occasional round pebbles and gravels	0.22m	Layer of homogenous material that sits on top of the ditches [1031] and [1041]. Probably produced by weathering and natural processes/disturbance from one or more archaeological deposits; 2 pieces of worked stone, sorted to above the fills of [1041]; cut by furrow [1105]
1029	Deposit	Firm mid-blueish grey and orangey brown silt sand clay and silty sand, moderate pea grit unsorted, occasional gravel-sized other stones within the silty sand	0.41m	Water-logged deposit, produced through long term silting; no finds, Romano-British on the basis of pottery within overlying deposits (1028), and (1043)
1030	Deposit	Firm to friable pale grey top orange silty sand, occasional pea grit, one charcoal fleck	0.11m	Primary fill, underlies (1029).
1031	Cut	Curvilinear in plan, sharp at the top, steeply sloping sides with a sharp break at the base, flat base, curing E-W orientation	0.45m	Field boundary ditch or driveway same as [1024]
1032	Deposit	Firm pale brownish orange to orangey brown silty sand occasional pea grit, unsorted, some root affected pockets	0.14m	Primary fill of an undated linear feature; stratigraphically earlier than [1031] and [1041]
1033	Cut	Linear, steep with sharp breaks of slope at the top and base, poorly defined, flat, NNE-SSW orientation,	0.14m	Undated ditch; same as [1059] which is significantly larger and probably a land boundary

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		dimensions D = 0.14m, W = 0.70m, L = >3.50m		
1034	Deposit	Moderately compact pale grey sandy silt, occasional small stones	0.28m	Natural sedimentation; fill of [1035]
1035	Cut	Linear, NW side steep, SE side moderately steep, NW-SE orientation, dimensions D = 0.28m, W = 0.70m, L = >10.00m	0.28m	Field boundary; this context is truncated by the parallel running linear [1013] in a slot to the west, same as [1098]
1036	Deposit	Moderately compact dark brown sandy clay, rare small sandstone fragments	0.35m	Natural sedimentation; containing Romano-British pottery, fill of [1037]
1037	Cut	Linear, N side vertical, S side moderately steeply sloping, dimensions D = 0.35m, W = 1.15m, >10.00m	0.35m	Same as [1027] and [1054], curvilinear boundary ditch
1038	Deposit	Moderately compact pale grayish brown sandy silt, occasional manganese flecks, occasional stone fragments	0.30m	Contained fired clay and possible worked stone; fill of [1040]
1039	Deposit	Friable mixed mid grey, mottled with orangey brown patches, silty sand, rare sandstone fragments	0.16m	Natural sedimentation
1040	Cut	Linear, gradually sloping sides, although S side truncated at top, slightly rounded flat base, E-W to ESE-WNW orientation, dimensions D = 0.48m, W = 2.40m, L = at least 2.00m	0.48m	Field boundary ditch, re-cut but [1037] and probably the same as [1024] to the south east and [1031] to the East, this context is seen in the evaluation phase (CA 2014) in trench 12, where it is interpreted as part of a field system. See also [1004]
1041	Cut	Linear in plan, steeper at S side, steep at top then moderately steep; more gradual at N side, gradual at top, then moderately steep to gradual, sharp break at base, flat base 0.55m wide, E-W to WSW-ENE orientation, dimensions D = 0.95m, W = 3.25m, >2.00m	0.95m	Substantial boundary feature, possibly a re-cut of [1040] but on a slightly different alignment. May correspond to that feature seen in the geophysical survey. Pottery in (1043) suggests Romano-British date.
1042	Deposit	Firm grey to orangey grey silty sand, occasional pea grit-sized gravel, at water table.	0.20m	Sterile, lowest fill of a substantial ditch feature [1041]; undated; formed by natural sedimentation
1043	Deposit	Firm compaction dark orangey brown mottled with or containing lenses of dark grey slightly clayey silt overall with lenses of clayey silty sand that appear more organic, occasional small stones	0.43m	Contained moderate amount of organic material, pot fragments and a fe. Nail; overlies (1042), underlies (1044)

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1044	Deposit	Hard, pale blue mottled with orangey brown silty sand, occasional small stones, moderate pea grit	0.30m	Probably the same as (1043), formed through natural processes and probably seasonally waterlogged; 1 piece of worked stone similar to those in (1028)
1045	Deposit	Hard, mid-brownish orangey brown silty sand, occasional small pebbles and gravels		Fill of an earlier furrow, [1105], underlying [1046]
1046	Cut	Linear, sharp break of slope at the top with moderately sloping sides, imperceptible break of slope at the base. E-W orientation, Dimensions D= 0.22m, W=1.4-1.5m, length >20.0m	0.22	The same as [1019] with a profile that is typical of a Medieval/ Post Medieval Furrow
1047	Deposit	Firm, blueish-grey, silty sand	0.12m	Naturally formed deposit, forming a narrow fringe around the main deposit of a known furrow [1046]
1048	Deposit	Firm, orangey-brown with a blueish grey hue, silty sand with occasional pea grit and evidence of rooting	0.22m	Majority fill of agricultural Furrow [1046]
1049	Deposit	Moderately compact, Pale-mid greyish brown, silty clay with very occasional sandstone fragments	0.3m	Truncated by field drain [1056], Fill of agricultural Furrow [1050]
1050	Cut	Linear, with gradually sloping sides and a shallow, slightly curved base. E-W aligned D=0.3m, Width = 3.6m, length >5m	0.3m	Cut created by ploughing activity; same as [1019] and [1063], and is probably contemporary with furrow cuts [1007] and [1011]
1051	Deposit	Friable, Mid grey with yellow brown mottling, silty-sand with very occasional small-Medium sized limestone fragments	0.37m	Partially truncated by modern land-drain [1056], Natural infilling of [1052] containing a fragment of worked stone potentially used as a Whetstone
1052	Cut	Curvilinear, with steeply sloping sides and slightly convex base. N-S orientation D=0.37m, W=>2.3m, Length =>10m	0.37m	Partially truncated on the SW by Field-drain [1056] and by Furrow [1050] Forms the NE-SW turn of a possible enclosure/ Boundary ditch [1024]

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1053	Deposit	Soft and Friable, mixed grey and orange brown silty sand, with very occasional small sandstone fragments	0.2m	Truncated by field drain [1056] Natural sedimentation of curvilinear feature [1052]= [1024]
1054	Cut	Linear, steeply sloping sides with slight concave base. NW-SE Orientation, Depth =0.2m W= 1.0m, length => 5m	0.2m	NE edge truncated by field drain [1056], construction cut for curvilinear feature [1052] possibly part of Romano-British boundary or enclosure ditch [1027]
1055	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid-brown silty clay, with ceramic pipe in the base	0.3m	Backfill of modern field-drain cut
1056	Cut	Linear, with straight vertical sides, orientated NW-SE, Depth = 0.3m, Width= 0.22m, Length => 5m	0.3m	Construction cut for modern field drain
1057	Deposit	Firm Orangey-brown silty sand, with occasional pea grit and gravel	0.22m	Natural sedimentation may correspond with a deposit in Evaluation Trench 11 (CA 2015)
1058	Deposit	Firm but friable, Mid-orange to silvery grey with occasional dark grey mottling. Silty-sand	0.05m	Similar to the natural geology but somewhat firmer, with pockets of clayey-sand, in all other respects identical to (1032)
1059	Cut	Linear in plan, with a sharp break of slope at the top and steeply sloping sides, with a sharp break of slope at the base, and a flat base. Orientation N-S, Depth= 0.5m, Width= 0.6m	0.5m	Slightly truncated by machine on the W. Field Boundary ditch, corresponding to one of the linear features seen in the geophysical survey, same as [1033], but survives to a much greater depth
1060	Deposit	Moderately compact, dark blackish-brown, sandy silt, with occasional heat affected stones and charcoal	0.75m	Deliberate backfill of Linear [1061] = [1009] which appears to form part of an enclosure. Fill contained pottery, CBM, Charcoal and heat affected stone
1061	Cut	Linear, with moderately sloping sides of the East, which become steeper on the W, with a concave base. Orientation NE-SW, Depth =0.19, Width= 0.75m, Length= 14m	0.19m	Same as [1009] and [1017], linear gully
1062	Void	Void		Void

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1063	Deposit	Moderately compact, Mid purplish-grey brown, sandy silt with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks	0.17m	Fill of modern Furrow [1064]
1064	Cut	Linear with gently sloping sides and irregular base, Orientation NW-SE, Depth=0.29m, Width= 1.60m, Length= >2.0m	0.29m	This context is the latest feature in this area, cutting or truncating a number of gullies [1066], [1068], [1070], [1071] and ditches [1052], [1054]. Regularly spaced with two other likely furrows, so despite differences in depth it is interpreted as a Medieval-Post Medieval agricultural furrow
1065	Deposit	Firm, grayish-yellowish brown with occasional orange mottling, sandy silt with occasional gravel and peagrit	0.27m	Natural sedimentation of [1064] possibly related to [1065], [1015]
1066	Cut	Linear, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Orientation NE-SW, Depth=0.27m, Width=0.53m, length=<2.0m	0.27m	Small gully, probably extensively truncated as feature does not correspond to any features to the south of the field drain [1056] or Furrow [1064], but does run parallel to [1068] towards the boundary ditch
1067	Deposit	Firm, light brownish grey sandy silty clay (20:20:60), very occasional flecks of charcoal	0.09m	Natural sedimentation
1068	Cut	Linear, gradually sloping sides and an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base. Orientation NE-SW, depth= 0.09m, width=0.38m, length=<2.0m	0.09m	Small gully, truncated by [1064], profile suggests this is the same as [1070]
1069	Deposit	Firm mid-grey sandy silt	0.09m	Natural sedimentation, very similar to (1067)
1070	Cut	Linear, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, orientation E-W , Depth= 0.12m, Width=0.33m, length=<2.0m	0.12m	Profile suggests this is the same as [1068], these features probably functioned to channel water to/from the features they appear to link, the dump of burnt material (1014), and boundary ditch [1037]/[1040]

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1071	Deposit	Moderately firm, mid yellowy grayish brown sandy silt, occasional pebbles and charcoal	0.22m	Lower fill of furrow [1064], small possibility that this is an earlier ditch or migrating Furrow
1072	Cut	Linear, with moderately sloping sides and concave base. Orientation NE-SW, Depth =0.25m, width= 0.55m, length=<2.0m	0.25m	Gulley probably the same as [1021] and related to the system of gullies that function with the burnt material (1015) to the south
1073	Deposit	Moderately compacted, dark blackish brown sandy silt, frequent heat affected stones and moderate charcoal	0.12m	Deliberate backfill of Gulley [1074], located in the SE corner of the feature
1074	Cut	Curvilinear, with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Orientated E-W, but curving to the N-S. Depth =0.12m,	0.12m	Corner of curvilinear gulley same as [1015]; cuts (1093), the fill of an earlier gully [1094]
1075	Deposit	Firm greyish brown silty sand with occasional pea-grit	0.25m	Cut by later field boundary, Natural sedimentation of [1072]
1076	Cut	Linear, sharp break of slope at the top with steeply sloping sides , (Not fully excavated) Orientation E-W, curving in a southerly direction, Depth = at least 0.19m, length= 1.4m+	At least 0.19m	Southern side of boundary ditch [1027] = [1037], feature cuts smaller gulley [1072] Likely to be Romano-British in date based on pottery recovered from [1037]
1077	Deposit	Firm but friable, blueish grey silty sand, occasional pea-grit	At least 0.19m	Natural sedimentation of boundary ditch [1076] previously seen as [1027]=[1037]
1078	Deposit	Moderate compaction, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional heat affected stones and charcoal (less common than in southern end of feature)	Approx 0.21m	Deliberate backfill of curvilinear gulley [1079]
1079	Cut	Linear with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Orientation NE-SW, Depth= 0.21m, width= 0.62m, length= 14m	Approx 0.21m	Truncated by machine, forms part of a series of Gullies forming a probable enclosure
1080	Deposit	Moderate compaction, dark brown to black, sandy-silt with occasional charcoal and heat affected stone	Average 0.15m	Natural Sedimentation of [1081] Truncated to the North by [1083], and forms part of an enclosure or series of gullies
1081	Cut	Linear, concave flat base, Orientation N-S, Depth (average)= 0.15m	Average 0.15m	Truncated on the NE side, unexcavated on the SW side, Gulley forming part of an enclosure

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1082	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid brown sandy silt	Average 0.22m	Fill of agricultural Furrow [1083], probably the same as (1084) and representing a migration of the furrow over time
1083	Cut	Linear, with moderately steep sides and a concave flat base. Orientated E-W, Depth = 0.27m, width = 0.72m,	0.27m	Agricultural Furrow, possibly the same as [1085], representing a migration of the Furrow
1084	Deposit	Moderate to loose compaction, Mid-reddish brown, Sandy silt	0.09m	Sterile fill of Medieval- Post medieval agricultural furrow
1085	Cut	Linear with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated E-W, Depth = 0.09m, width=<2m,	0.09m	Probable Migration of [1083] a Medieval to Post Medieval agricultural Furrow
1086	Deposit	Firm compaction, Yellowish grey brown, silty sand with occasional manganese and pea grit	0.20m	Natural sedimentation of Gully [1087]
1087	Cut	Linear, sharp break of slope at the top, with steeply sloping concave sides and a moderate break of slope at the base. Base is concave. Orientation NE-SW, Depth= 0.20m, width= 0.53m, Length=<2.0m	0.20m	Probable re-cut or migration of [1068]=[1091] Seen to the S as [1066],converges on field boundary [1089] and gully [1068] which may connect with the burnt material (1015)
1088	deposit	Firm, blueish- grey silty sand with occasional pea grit	<0.16m	Natural sedimentation of field boundary [1089], Provisionally dated to the Romano-British period based on finds from adjacent slot [1037]
1089	Cut	Linear, with gradual break of slope at the top and steeply sloping sides (Not fully excavated), Orientated E-W, Depth= at least 0.16m, Length=>3.0m	0.16m	Top of the southern extent of a significant boundary ditch, which truncates [1087] and [1091]
1090	deposit	Firm to friable, orangey brown with greyish brown mottling, sandy with occasional pea-grit	0.10m	Natural sedimentation of gully [1091]= [1068]
1091	Cut	Linear, with gradually sloping sides and a moderate break of slope to a flat base. Orientation NE-SW, Depth= 0.10m, width=>0.30m, length=>2.0m	0.10m	Shallow gully, related to two similar features and their re-cuts, which probably originate or function with a dump of burnt material [1015], appears joined to [1068] on the surface sharing fill and profile

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1092	Deposit	Firm to friable, greyish yellow sand with occasional manganese and frequent gravels	0.06	Natural sedimentation of linear gully [1066]
1093	Deposit	Moderate compaction, mid yellow brown sandy silt	0.10m	Natural sedimentation of Linear gully [1094]; cut by [1074]
1094	Cut	Linear with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Orientation N-S, Depth= 0.10m, width= 0.26m length= approx. 10m	0.10m	Linear Gully same as [1074] and [1015], [1009]
1095	Deposit	Moderately compact, pale grey sandy silty clay with occasional small sandstone and limestone fragments and occasional charcoal.	0.43m	Natural sedimentation of [1096], containing one sherd of Romano-British pottery
1096	Cut	Linear with steep sides and a slightly concave base, Orientation NW-SE Depth=0.43m, Width= 2.07m, Length = >5.00m	0.43m	Truncates earlier smaller linear [1035]= [1098], that probably had the same function in the Romano-British period Linear enclosure or boundary ditch, geophysical survey suggests this is a field boundary that defines an ENE-WSW orientated driveway
1097	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid grey silty clay with very occasional limestone fragments and manganese	0.40m	Natural sedimentation of boundary ditch [1096], which is truncated by [1076]= [1004]=[1013]
1098	Cut	Linear with steep sides and slightly concave base. Orientation NW-SE Depth= 0.40, Width = 0.75, Length = >5.00m	0.40	Linear enclosure or boundary truncated by [1096] to the NW
1099	Deposit	Moderate compaction, dark brown- black sandy silt, with occasional heat affected stones and charcoal	0.26m	Deliberate backfill of a Linear gully [1100] which forms part of a system of linear gullies
1100	Cut	Linear with steep sides and a flat base, Orientation N-S, Depth = 0.26m, width = 0.41 (max), Length= Approx 9-10m	0.26m	Linear gully that truncates (1008) & (1003) and forms part of a system of similar gullies, potentially re-cut after [1009] had silted up
1101	Deposit	Moderately compact mid brown-black, sandy silt with very occasional flecks of charcoal	Approx. 0.13m	Deliberate backfill of linear gully [1102]

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1102	Cut	Linear with sharp sides, and a flat base. Orientation N-S Depth= approx. 0.13m, width= 0.34m, length= approx. 9-10m	Approx. 0.13m	Linear Gully, potentially a re-cut of [1061]
1103	Deposit	Moderately compact, yellowy-greyish brown silty sand with moderate angular and sub-angular pebbles	Approx 0.19	Sterile Fill of Medieval to Post- Medieval agricultural furrow; probably the result of furrow migration or an earlier silting event than [1007] & (1006)
1104	Cut	Linear (Not fully excavated) Orientation NW-SE. Width =2.0m, Length= >5.0m		Similar in stratigraphic location and dimensions to at least one excavated feature [1083] and possibly [1046] for this reason it is interpreted as an Earlier Furrow or Migration of a Furrow related to [1007]
1105	Cut	Linear with slightly irregular sides, Sharp break of slope at the top with gradually sloping sides and a gradual break of slope to a flat base. Orientation E-W, Depth= 0.19m, Width= 2.0m, Length <5.0m	0.19	Earlier Furrow, with [1007], [1019] & [1011] representing a migration of this feature

AREA B

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2001	Layer	Firm Brown silty clay, with occasional unsorted stones and humic plant matter	0.22m - 0.33m	Agricultural topsoil, machine stripped under supervision and trowelled over.
2002	Layer	Firm orangey mid brown to yellowish brown silty sand, occasional angular gravel, and yellowish geological inclusions. Poor horizon clarity with (2016) and (2096)	0.15m - 0.18m	Agricultural subsoil, seen at varying depths across the site, although not seen in eastern baulk. Machine stripped under supervision and trowelled over.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2003	Layer	Variable from firm to loose compaction, from clayey to sandy composition. Where clayey colour is orange to greyish orange brown, where sandy is pale yellowish brown to pinkish white. Inclusions include occasional gravels and unsorted rounded stones.	Minimum of 0.16m	Geological substrate, more clayey to North western quadrant of site.
2004	Cut	Linear feature, with East to West orientation. Uneven, shallow sides, and uneven to flat base; W = 0.75m, L = > 10.00m	0.08-0.20m	Part of a Romano British field boundary ditch; same as [2024], [2040], [2045] and [2049]. Terminates at western end of slot
2005	Fill	Firm dark brownish grey sandy silt. Occasional gravel and pebbles towards bottom of the fill, and occasional rooting.	0.08m	Fill of [2004]. Initially interpreted as primary fill of agricultural furrow, later excavation suggests fill of Romano British field boundary, although no dating from this context.
2006	Cut	Sub circular in plan, with uneven sides and an uneven to flat base Diam.= 0.60-0.72m	Maximum of 0.02m	Possible tree bowl or pit, shallow feature with unclear edges and no clear shape. Evidence of bioturbation supports that this may be a natural feature.
2007	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand. Frequent pea gravel and occasional rooting.	Maximum of 0.02m.	Fill of [2006]. Fill of possible tree bowl or pit. Likely to be naturally sedimented, and evidence of bioturbation throughout fill.
2008	Cut	Linear feature, with East to West orientation. Sharp to vertical sides, and concave base; W = 0.60m, L = >10.00m	Maximum of 0.15m	Cut of field boundary ditch
2009	Fill	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, with infrequent stones and occasional rooting.	Maximum of 0.15m	Fill of [2008]. Likely to have been naturally infilled over time, due to similarity of this fill to surrounding substrate.
2010	Void	Void	-	Void
2011	Void	Void	-	Void
2012	Void	Void	-	Void
2013	Void	Void	-	Void

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2014	Cut	Linear feature, with vertical sides and uneven base, with East to West orientation; dimensions D = 0.25m, W = 0.18m, L = >10.00	Minimum of 0.25m	Cut of land drain, which cuts (2009).
2015	Fill	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, with stone and gravel inclusions.	0.28m	Fill of [2014], purposeful backfill of land drain with ceramic pipe.
2016	Fill	Firm greyish yellow brown silty sand, with occasional rounded gravel sized stones, and root affected throughout.	0.37m	Fill of [2017], natural siltation of possible furrow
2017	Cut	Linear feature with East - West orientation. Gradual break of slope at the top of cut, a variation of moderate to gradual break of slope along length of the slot, concave undulating base. Dimensions D = 0.37m, W = 1.12m, >3.00m	0.37m	Broad sloping sides suggests cut of furrow, however cut by possible Romano British linear features; same as [2055] and [2087]. Probably part of an early phase field system
2018	Fill	Firm orangey brown silty sand. Occasional 'chalky' gravel sized unsorted stones, and root affected areas.	0.2m	Fill of [2019]. Naturally formed deposit within the terminus of a North -South oriented linear feature. Undated but thought to be Romano British in date.
2019	Cut	Linear feature with North - South orientation and terminates to the north end of slot. Moderate sides and break of slope with flat base. Dimensions W = 0.90m, L = >2.00m	0.2m	Eastern most portion of two East - West parallel linears features which span most of the excavation area. Profile would suggest possible boundary or drainage function. Probably dug subsequent to [2021]
2020	Fill	Firm orangey brown silty sand. Moderate gravel inclusions.	0.09m	Fill of [2021]. North-North east to South-south west orientated linear terminus, formed via natural siltation.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/ Depth	Discussion
2021	Cut	Linear feature, terminates in plan. Moderately steep sides with a moderate break of slope, to a flat base. North-north east – South-south west orientation. Dimensions W = 0.74m, L = >2.00m	0.09m	Northerly of two termini. The episodic nature of this feature best matches the cornering ditch to the west of this intervention or the gully system – i.e. same as [2017]
2022	Cut	North - South oriented linear feature with concave base. Dimensions W = 1.04m, L = >30.00m	0.27m	Cut of possible field boundary.
2023	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand, infrequent small stones and infrequent shell inclusions.	0.27m	Fill of [2022], boundary ditch or enclosure.
2024	Cut	Linear feature, with gradual sides and concave base, on a North - South orientation. Dimensions W = 1.2m, L >2.50m	Maximum of 0.3m	Cut of enclosure ditch corner; same as [2040]. Re-cut by [2026]=[2028]
2025	Fill	Friable mid orangey grey sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel and stone inclusions.	Maximum of 0.3m	Fill of [2024], small enclosure ditch, filled in via natural sedimentation.
2026	Cut	Linear feature, with east to west orientation. Moderately steep sides and concave base. Dimensions W = 1.75m, L =>2.25m	Maximum of 0.45m	Cut of East - West ditch, re-cut of [2024], forming part of an enclosure system.
2027	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange patches sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel sized stones and larger stones.	0.45m	Fill of [2026], infilled by natural sedimentation.
2028	Cut	Linear feature with steep sides and blunt 'V' shaped base, on an East- West orientation. Dimensions W = 1.05m, L = at least 0.60m	0.4m	Deeper, narrower re-cut of [2040]; same as [2026]

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2029	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange streaks sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel sized stone inclusions.	0.4m	Fill of [2028]
2030	Cut	Circular/sub circular feature with steep sides and concave base, diameter of 1.2m. Cuts the fill of ditch [2040]; diameter = 1.20m	0.27m	Cut of shallow circular pit which cuts fill of East - West orientated ditch.
2031	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange streaks sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel sized stone inclusions.	0.27m	Fill of [2030], shallow pit.
2032	Cut	Linear feature with North - South orientation, with moderate sides and concave base. Dimensions W = 0.82m, L = >2.00m	0.31m	Cut of ditch, Romano British in date based on pottery from associated fill (2033); same as [2024], [2036] and [2042]
2033	Fill	Moderately compacted light-yellow brown sandy gravel.	0.31m	Fill of [2032], likely Romano British based on finds from associated slot (2025)
2034	Cut	Linear feature with North - South orientation. Moderately sloping edges and concave base. Dimensions W = 1.27m, L = >2.00m	0.31m	Cut of ditch, which appears to be terminating to the north. Presumed Romano British, although no dating from this slot.
2035	Fill	Moderately compacted mid brown orange sandy clay. Snail shells within fill, see sample <6>	0.31m	Fill of [2034], boundary ditch.
2036	Cut	Linear feature, steep sides to West, moderate sides to East. North - South orientation. Dimensions W = 0.60m, L = >1.00m	0.21m	Cut of ditch
2037	Fill	Moderately compacted light grey yellow sandy gravel with fossil inclusions.	0.21m	Fill of [2036], boundary ditch. No dating, but Romano British dating from associated fill (2025).

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2038	Fill	Moderately to loosely compacted mid red brown sandy silt, with bands of light blue clay running through out. Very infrequent charcoal and small stone inclusions.	0.70m	Fill of [2039], modern service trench. White fibrous pipe at the bottom of trench, and 2 fragments of modern pottery within fill.
2039	Cut	Linear feature with very steep to vertical sides, which seem to undercut itself towards the bottom of the sides. Base thought to be flat, as seen in sondage, running on an East- West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.70m, L = 49.00m	0.70m	Cut of modern service trench.
2040	Cut	East - West orientated linear, with shallow gentle sides and concave base. Dimensions W = 1.65m, L = >1.25m	0.26m	Original cut of East- West orientated ditch, which is re-cut by [2028] and cut by pit [2030]; same as [2004], [2024], [2045] and [2049]
2041	Fill	Friable mid greyish with orange mottling sandy clay silt. Infrequent gravel sized stones as inclusions.	0.26m	Fill of [2040], original boundary ditch.
2042	Cut	Circular feature, with steep sides, becoming near vertical further down and concave base. Diameter 0.55m	0.18m	Small circular cut, possibly post hole.
2043	Fill	Friable mid yellowish grey sandy clay silt. Frequent stone inclusions and gravel.	0.18m	Fill of [2042], small post hole
2044	Cut	Linear feature, with gradual break of slope at top, moderate to steep at base, with near flat base. North - South orientation. Dimensions W = 1.08m, L = >1.00m	0.26m	Cut for boundary ditch; same as [2021]

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2045	Cut	Linear feature, moderately steep sides and concave base, and East - West orientation. Dimensions W = 1.00m, L >1.35m	Maximum of 0.3m	Continuation of East - West oriented ditch, possibly boundary ditch; same as [2004], [2024], [2040] and [2049]
2046	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt. Inclusions of small gravel sized stones.	0.3m	Fill of [2045], boundary ditch.
2047	Cut	Linear feature with moderately steep side and concave base, on North - South orientation. Dimensions W= 0.65m, >1.40m	0.13m	Cut of small 'U' shaped gully, the fill of which is cut by [2045], East - West ditch. Same as [2067].
2048	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt. Inclusions of small gravel sized stones.	0.12m	Fill of [2047], small 'U' shaped gully.
2049	Cut	Linear feature, with gentle to moderately steep sides and concave base, on an East- West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.80m, L = 1.00m.	0.23m	Cut of ditch, part of boundary ditch; same as [2004], [2024], [2040] and [2045].
2050	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt. Inclusions of small gravel sized stones.	0.23m	Fill of [2049], East - West orientated ditch, formed by natural siltation. Romano British based on dating from associated fill contemporary with this cut
2051	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt, with occasional small pebbles and gravel inclusions	0.21m	Fill of [2044], ditch terminus, formed by natural siltation
2052	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty sandy gravel, with frequent small rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions	0.11m	Primary fill of [2044], boundary ditch

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2053	Cut	Linear feature with sharp sides and concave base, on a North - South orientation. Dimensions W = 1.20m, L = >10.00m	0.3m	Cut of ditch
2054	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions	0.3m	Fill of [2053], boundary ditch
2055	Cut	Linear feature with uneven sides and concave base, on East North East to West South West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.45m, L = >2.00m	0.08m	Cut of narrow, shallow gully; same as [2017] and [2087]. Part of system of intermittent gullies that includes [2055], [2082] and [2067]
2056	Fill	Friable light brown yellow sand, with pebble inclusions, and evidence of occasional rooting	0.08m	Fill of [2055], narrow shallow gully
2057	Cut	Linear feature with moderate sides and a flat base, on a North - South orientation. Dimensions W = 0.44m, L >0.61m	0.21m	Cut of boundary ditch, likely Romano British based on finds in an associated fill.
2058	Fill	Compact dark grey brown sandy clay	0.21m	Fill of [2057], likely Romano British based on finds in associated fill.
2059	Cut	Linear feature with gently sloping sides and flat base, on East - West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.15m, L = >1.18m	0.14m	Cut of narrow, shallow gully. Part of system of intermittent gullies that includes [2055], [2082] and [2087]
2060	Fill	Moderately compact light-yellow brown sandy gravel	0.14m	fill of [2059], gully, likely to be natural infilling after disuse.
2061	Cut	Linear feature with gently sloping sides and concave base, on a North - South orientation. Dimensions W 0.84m, L >2.00m	0.25m	Cut of likely boundary ditch. Provisionally dated to Romano British based on find in associated fill. Same as [2032], [2024] and [2057].

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2062	Fill	Moderately compact mid grey brown sandy clay	0.25m	Fill of [2061], boundary ditch, latterly cut by a land drain. Provisionally dated as Romano British, based on finds in associated fills.
2063	Cut	Linear feature with steep sides and concave base, on a North - South orientation. Dimensions W = 0.24m, L >20.00m	0.21m	U' shaped cut for land drain
2064	Fill	Moderately compact orange brown sandy clay with large stone inclusions	0.21m	Fill of [2063], land drain
2065	Cut	Oval feature with moderate to gently sloped sides and concave base on a North-South orientation. Dimensions W 1.95m, L = >2.70m	0.3m	Oval shaped pit, associated fill containing pottery and animal bone, which cuts North - South linear [2067]. Sides are more gradual to the west side, which may be intentional.
2066	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel and smears of charcoal. See sample <4>	0.3m	Fill of [2065], oval pit. Containing pottery animal bone and charcoal.
2067	Cut	part of linear feature, moderate sides and concave base, North-South orientation. Dimensions W 0.85-0.90m, L> 0.70m	0.17m	terminus of linear feature, which is truncated by pit [2065]; same as [2047]
2068	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt with infrequent gravel and stones	0.17m	Fill of [2067], formed by natural siltation
2069	Cut	Linear feature with moderate sides with concave base on a North-South orientation. Dimensions W = 0.50m, L = >10.00m	0.14m	Cut of boundary feature, possible hedge line, probably contemporary with [2055], [2067], [2071], [2082].

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2070	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel inclusions	0.14m	Fill of [2069], formed by natural siltation
2071	Cut	Linear feature with moderate sides and concave base, on an East-West orientation. Dimensions W 0.35m, L = >0.65m	0.12m	Small East-West linear, forming part of an intermittent line across site, possibly part of a boundary hedge contemporary with [2055], [2067], [2082].
2072	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel.	0.12m	Fill of [2071], linear, formed by natural siltation
2073	Cut	Linear feature, with gently sloped sides and a near flat base, on an East - West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.85m, L >1.50m	0.11m	Cut of linear, which is intermittent across site, possibly part of a boundary hedge. Same as [2145] and [2095]; contemporary with [2055], [2067], [2082].
2074	Fill	Friable mid grey with orange mottling sandy clay silt, with infrequent gravel inclusions	0.11m	Fill of [2073], formed via natural siltation
2075	Cut	Boundary ditch cut Linear feature with a north-south orientation, with moderately steep sides falling to a near flat base. Dimensions W = 0.82m, L = >2.00m	0.31m	A boundary ditch forming an enclosure, part of a larger trackway.
2076	Fill	Loose mid brown grey silty sandy clay. With occ. Pebbles small medium	0.31m	Boundary ditch fill, backfilled from natural siltation; Romano-British pottery found.
2077	Cut	Linear trench, linear with a north to south orientation, moderate slope and a flat base. Dimensions W = 0.89m, L = >30.00m	0.20m	Possible field boundary ditch.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2078	Fill	Firm, Mid Brown Grey silty sand, with occasional chalky gravel inclusions.	0.20m	Fill of boundary ditch, filled by natural siltation.
2079	Fill	Very Loose, Light Orangeish Brown, Silty Sand, Very occ. Gravel and small pebble inclusions.	0.09m	Backfill of ditch [2075] comprised of redeposited natural material.
2080	Cut	Terminus of Linear with steep sides and a flat base and an east to west orientation. Dimensions W = 0.53m, L >1.10m	0.10m	Terminus of small 7.00m ditch, forming part of a larger earlier field boundary system, including [2067], [2055] and [2087].
2081	Fill	Moderate compaction, Mid brown orange colour, Sandy clay	0.10m	Natural siltation fill of linear terminus.
2082	Cut	Terminus cut, with a moderate side and a concave base and an east to west orientation. Dimensions W = 0.45m, L = >1.20m	0.15m	Cut of ditch terminus possibly part of ditch terminus part of boundary ditch system; same as [2080]
2083	Fill	Moderate, Mid brown orange, Sandy clay, flint inclusions.	0.15m	Naturally filled terminus ditch. Possible worked flint found.
2084	Fill	Friable, Mild brownish grey, Sandy clay silt	0.24m	Fill of boundary ditch filled by natural siltation.
2085	Cut	Linear moderately steep sides, base unseen, north to south orientation. Dimensions W = 0.52m, L = 0.26m	0.24m	North- south linear boundary ditch same as [2019] & [2075]
2086	Fill	Friable light-mid brownish grey, sandy silt, occ. Gravel	0.11m	natural siltation fill of ditch
2087	Cut	Linear, moderately steep sides with an irregular base, North east to south west. Dimensions W = 0.22m, L = >2.00m	0.11m	Irregular base could suggest possible tree planting, pre-dates enclosures/boundaries

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2088	Cut	Linear, moderately steep sides, concave base, north to south orientation. Dimensions W = 1.00m max, L = >10.00m	0.25m	North to south linear forms part of the older boundary system; same as [2069], contemporary with [2067], [2071], [2073] and [2080]
2089	Fill	Friable, mid-grey orangey, very sandy clay silt, with frequent gravel and pebbles.	0.25m	Fill of north to south linear result of natural siltation.
2090	Fill	Moderate compaction, Mid blue grey, silty sand inclusions of manganese and angular stones.	0.12m	Fill of natural feature, with frequent rooting, no dating evidence.
2091	Cut	Irregular oval, gentle slope, irregular base.	0.12m	Cut of natural feature or tree bowl.
2092	Cut	Linear, steep sloping sides, uneven and flat, east to west orientation. Dimensions W = 1.26m, L = >0.20m	0.40m	Possible re-cut of [2004]
2093	Fill	Moderate, mid brown, sandy clay, with occasional stone inclusions	0.18m	Naturally infilled deposit within a ditch, an earlier ditch fill possibly truncated by a furrow.
2094	Fill	Moderate, Mid orange/brown	0.35m	Upper fill of possible ditch re-cut of earlier ditch. Filled by natural siltation. Overlies (2096)
2095	Cut	Linear, Moderate and gradual break of slope, with a flat base east west. Dimensions W 0.85m, L = >0.40m	0,38m	Cut of gully, curves slightly and cut by [2092]. Part of an early gully system that includes a number of similar narrow gullies, [2067], [2071] and [2080]. Same as [2073] & [2145]
2096	Fill	Very compact, light yellowish brown, sandy clay.	0.38m	Naturally infilled deposit within a gully. The fill becomes more rectangle shaped, which could be because this could have been a gully for growing bushes, so perhaps the fill was mostly plant material, disturbed heavily by rooting.
2097	Cut	Sub-circular, steep sides, Concave base. Dimensions diameter = 0.25m x 0.28m	0.18m	Small pit, potentially a stakehole/posthole at the corner of a field boundary. No stratigraphic relationship with the linear [2119]

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2098	Fill	Firm, Dark greenish grey, silty sand, occasional rooting and land drain.	0.18m	Possible posthole fill, no dating evidence, no definitive relationship with [2099] or the adjacent gully [2119]
2099	Cut	Linear, uneven shallow slope, concave, N-S linear. Dimensions L = 1.60m, W = 0.25m	0.24m	Ditch cut forming part of corner of enclosure; overlies [2119] and [2101], same as [2117]
2100	Fill	Firm, Dark orangeish brown, silty sandy, occasional gravel sized stones	0.22m	Fill of ditch cut [2099]
2101	Cut	Linear, gradual sides, uneven. Dimensions W = 0.30m, L = >3.00m	0.07m	E-W linear, uneven base, no relationship with pit [2110], uncertain relationship with [2119] but possibly the same. Truncated by [2099]=[2117]; same as [2037]
2102	Fill	Loose, Mid brownish, sand and gravel,	0.007m	Fill of shallow and uneven gully
2103	Fill	Friable, mid greyish brown, clayey silt, occ. small pebbles and gravel, fill of furrow	0.44m	Fill of furrow, similar to those seen in Area A
2104	Cut	Linear, moderate slope, near flat, east to west, cut for linear furrow. Dimensions W >0.39m, L =>10.00m	0.44m	Furrow cut, southern half obscured by southern L.O.E, cut can be seen high in the bulk, underlying (2001)
2105	Fill	Friable/soft, mid brown grey, silty clay.	0.20m	Fill of north-south linear [2106]. Likely deposited after land division was in disuse by natural siltation.
2106	Cut	Linear, sides fall sharply from top, to curved base, with a north to south orientation. Dimensions W 0.76m, L = >2.00m	0.20m	North to south linear cut, likely Romano-British in date based on profile, a boundary ditch. Same as [2124]
2107	Fill	Friable, Mid greyish brown, clayey silt, very occ. Gravel and small pebbles.	0.19m	Fill of linear boundary ditch [2108], likely fell into disuse, and filled up with natural siltation.
2108	Cut	Linear, breaking sharply at top, falling moderately to base, near flat base. With a north to south alignment. Dimensions W = 0.79m, L = >2.00m	0.19m	Forms part of an enclosure in plan and further to this it forms part of a track way across the site. Part of a Romano-British field system/land division. Same as [2128]

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2109	Fill	Soft, blueish light mid-grey, inclusions manganese, gravel and pebbles.	0.11m	Natural clay alluvial deposit composed of decomposed organic material likely truncated above by [2104] [2106]
2110	Cut	Sub circular, sides fall sharply, flat base. Dimensions W = 0.30m, >1.00m	0.20m	Terminus; same as [2137]
2111	Fill	Loose, light orangeish brown, silty sand (20:80), occasional chalky pebbles	0.20m	Fill of linear terminus [2110].
2112	Fill	Firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt (20:80) occasional rooting	0.20m	Fill of ditch formed by natural siltation.
2113	Fill	Greyish blue and yellowish orange, sand, with modern rooting.	0.02m	This context was the natural siltation of a tree bowl, similar to other geological features seen across the area.
2114	Fill	Firm, yellowish grey, clayey sand	0.20m	Natural deposit from rooting.
2115	Cut	Oval, steeply sloping sides with a flat base. Dimensions W = 1.10m, L = 0.82m	0.41m	Possible large posthole, or rubbish pit.
2116	Fill	Very compact, blueish grey brown, clay, charcoal	0.41m	Fill of pit; probably silted up over time
2117	Cut	Linear, shallow sides, SE-NW curving. Dimensions L = 1.35m, W = 0.25m	0.20m	Forms part of curved linear ditch, part of a corner, part of a larger enclosure; same as [2099]
2118	Void	Void	-	Void
2119	Cut	Linear, with a concave base, SSE-NNW. Dimensions L = >1.00m, W = 0.25m	0.18m	Linear Gully, part of field boundary or enclosure ditch forming a corner
2120	Fill	Firm, Dark orangeish brown, silty sandy, occasional gravel sized stones	0.18m	Gully fill

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2121	Cut	Terminus, moderately sloping, concave north to south alignment. Dimensions W = 0.40m, L = >1.00m	0.14m	Cut of terminus, cut by the service trench to the south, forms part of a corner of an enclosure.
2122	Fill	Moderate, Mid orange/brown, sandy gravel,	0.14m	Fill of ditch terminus, no inclusions or data.
2123	Fill	Mid Greyish Brown, Clay silt (30:70), freq. small gravel, contaminated by modern field drain,	0.22m	Fill of boundary ditch, filled by natural siltation, likely same as (2023) (2075)
2124	Cut	Linear, break sharply at top, falling moderately to base, with a near flat base and a north to south alignment. Dimensions W = 1.07m, L = >5.00m	0.22m	Linear boundary ditch cut; same as [2106]
2125	Fill	Firm, mid brownish, silty clay (25:75), very freq. small gravels,	0.13m	Fill of posthole no dating evidence found
2126	Cut	Oval, break sharply at top, falling moderately to a near flat base. Dimensions W = 0.47m	0.13m	Cut of small post-hole or small pit; truncates [2128] at west side
2127	Fill	Friable, Mid brownish, Clay silt (30:70), very occ. Small angular pebbles,	0.14m	Fill of boundary ditch created by natural siltation.
2128	Cut	Linear, break sharply at top falling gradually to base, near flat at bottom, with a north to south alignment. Dimensions W = 0.49m, L = >5.00m	0.14m	Cut for linear ditch, forms part of enclosure corner; same as [2108], possibly same as [2119]
2129	Cut	Linear, moderately sloping, flat, north to south alignment. Dimensions W = 0.95m, L = >0.30m	0.11m	Part of field boundary system cut for linear ditch.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2130	Fill	Moderately compact light grey brown sandy clay, with small stone inclusions	0.11m	Fill of [2129] boundary ditch, infilled via natural siltation
2131	Cut	'V'-shaped Linear feature with steep sides and concave base, on an East-West orientation. Dimensions W 0.47m, L = >2.00m	0.27m	Cut of ditch, overlies [2133], same as [2135]
2132	Fill	Moderately compact mid grey brown sandy clay	0.27m	Fill of [2131], ditch terminus, formed via natural siltation
2133	Cut	Linear feature with moderate sides and flat base, on an East- West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.36m, L = >0.50m	0.15m	Cut of gully which cuts [2129] and underlies [2133]; likely to be part of a boundary related to [2140] & [2141]; same as [2137]
2134	Fill	Moderately compact mid grey brown sandy clay	0.15m	Fill of shallow gully [2133], formed by natural siltation
2135	Cut	Linear feature with steep sides and concave 'V' shaped base, coming to a blunted point, on an East - West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.48m, L = >2.00m	0.34m	Cut of gully, forming part of corner portion of field enclosure; same as [2131]
2136	Fill	Friable mid greenish grey silty sand with infrequent gravel inclusions	0.34m	Fill of [2135], gully, forming part of field boundary
2137	Cut	Linear feature flat base, shallow gradual sides, on an East - West orientation. Dimensions W = >0.38m, L = >2.00m	0.15m	Cut of gully terminus, part of intermittent enclosure; same as [2133]
2138	Fill	Friable mid orangey grey sandy silt, with infrequent stone inclusions	0.15m	Fill of [2137], shallow gully terminus, formed via natural siltation, with some evidence of rooting
2139	Fill	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate frequency of small and gravel sized stone inclusions	0.14m	Fill of [2140], small ditch, likely formed via natural siltation, evidence of rooting

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2140	Cut	Linear feature with sharp top break of slope and moderate towards the base, near 'U' shaped base, on East-West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.32m, L at least 2.00m	0.14m	Cut of small ditch forming part of Romano-British field system; same as [2141]
2141	Cut	Linear feature with gently sloping sides and a concave base, on East-West orientation. Dimensions W 0.40m, L = >2.00m	0.11m	Cut of gully, the fill of which is cut by a pit, possibly forming part of boundary or hedgerow; same as [2140], truncated by pit [2143]
2142	Fill	Moderately compact mid orangey brown sandy clay, gravel inclusions	0.11m	Thin fill of [2141], gully, formed via natural infilling
2143	Cut	Oval feature with steep sides and concave base.	0.27m	Cut of pit, cuts fill of gully [2141], possibly dug to remove tree
2144	Fill	Moderately compact mid orange grey silty clay	0.27m	Fill of pit [2143]; natural infilling.
2145	Cut	Linear feature with moderate sides and flat base on an East-West orientation. Dimensions W = 0.37m, L >2.00m	0.08m	Cut of gully, likely forming part of a hedgerow, serving as a field boundary; ; same as [2008] and [2140]
2146	Fill	Moderately compact mid orange brown sandy clay	0.08m	Fill of gully [2145]

APPENDIX 3: FINDS ASSESSMENT

The Prehistoric and Roman pottery: Eniko Hudak

The archaeological investigations at Cheltenham Road, Evesham, Worcestershire (**WSM 70403**) produced a small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery totalling 37 sherds weighing 0.367 kg. The pottery was fully quantified using the standard measures of sherd count, weight, and Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs). The assemblage was recorded using a combination of custom fabric codes characterizing the fabrics by their main inclusions (Table 3) and where possible the fabric codes of the Worcestershire Ceramics online database.

Context	SC	Wt(g)	EVEs	Spotdates
1002	5	10		AD50-400
1005	3	2		AD240-400
1028	3	34		AD240-400
1036	1	2		AD50-400
1038	1	13		AD50-400
1039	1	4	0.05	AD50-400
1043	1	8		AD50-400
1060	2	155		AD50-400
1095	2	14		AD170-300
1097	1	4		AD50-400
TOTAL	20	246	0.05	
Context	SC	Wt(g)	EVEs	Spotdates
2025	1	17		AD50-400
2027	3	26		AD50-400
2066	6	60		prehistoric?
2076	7	18	0.09	AD70-200
TOTAL	17	121	0.09	

Table 1 – Distribution, quantification, and dating of the prehistoric and Roman assemblage

Pottery was recovered from nine individually numbered contexts and the subsoil from Area A (20 fragments, 0.246 kg) and four individually numbered contexts in Area B (17 sherds, 0.121 kg, Table 1). Individual context assemblages are all small, none exceeding seven sherds. The condition of the material is mixed but sherds are mainly abraded, which is also reflected in the low mean sherd weight of 9.92 g and suggests a degree of redeposition. Only four of the context assemblages could be dated more precisely than to a broad Romano-British date (Table 1). Apart from the small amount of pottery from the subsoil of Phase 5, (1002), and the oval pit in Phase 2, [2065], all of the pottery was retrieved by Phase 3 ditches and gullies across the two areas.

Overall a very restricted range of fabrics is represented in the assemblage. Fabric types spanning the entire Roman period are represented as well as six fragments in a flint-tempered fabric (FLINT) that is likely to be of Iron Age date. The Iron Age dated material came from fill (**2066**) of oval pit [**2065**].

Not surprisingly for the area, the most commonly occurring Roman fabric is Severn Valley oxidised ware (Fabric 12), with a total of ten fragments. However, given their abraded nature and lack of diagnostic sherds, these could not be dated more closely than to the Roman period. Products of the Oxfordshire potteries (Fabric 33.3), dated to AD240-400, are also represented by four fragments in total, including one piece from a mortarium. Pieces came from layer **(1028)** and fill **(1005)** of ditch **[1004]**. A small number of oxidised and reduced sand-tempered wares could not be provenanced (OXID, SAND) but they are most likely to be of local origin. Continental imports are restricted to Samian ware, and Baetican amphorae. The Samian is possibly 2nd century AD in date and from Lezoux (Fabric 43.2); six fragments from a single Dragendorff Type 33 cup were recovered from fill **(2076)**, of boundary ditch **[2075]**, in Area B. Two fragments of Baetican (late) amphorae (Fabric 42.1) also came from **(1095)**, within ditch **[1096]**, in Area A.

Fabric	SC	Wt(g)	EVEs
42.1	2	14	
FLINT	6	60	
43.2	6	6	0.09
MISC	5	10	
33.3	4	19	
OXID	3	163	
SAND	1	13	
12	10	82	0.05
TOTAL	37	367	0.14

Table 2 – Quantification of the site assemblage by Fabric

Worcestershire Fabric	NRFC (Tomber and Dore 1998)	Other	Expansion
12	SVW OX 1	-	Severn Valley Ware Oxidised fabric
33.3	OXF RS	-	Oxfordshire Red Colour-Coated ware
42.1	BAT AM 2	-	Baetican (Late) amphorae 2
43.2	LEZ SA 2	-	Central Gaulish Samian (Lezoux 2nd century)
-	-	MISC	Miscellaneous
-	-	FLINT	Flint-tempered handmade ware (IA)
-	-	OXID	Un sourced oxidised sand-tempered ware
-	-	SAND	Un sourced reduced sand-tempered ware

Table 3 – Fabric code expansions

The small size of the assemblage limits the potential for discussion and its value beyond providing dating and the indication of prehistoric and Romano-British activity on the site. The pottery assemblage is mainly local in origin and there seems to be a chronological divide of the more precisely dated fabrics across the site, with later pottery restricted to Area A and earlier to Area B. Having said that, the abraded and dispersed nature of the assemblage as a whole means this interpretation is rather tentative.

Assessment of Building Material: Dr Kevin Hayward

Introduction and Aims

Sixteen bags of ceramic building material, fired clay and stone were retained from the assessment at Cheltenham Road, Evesham **WSM 70403**.

This small assemblage (54 examples 2568g) was assessed in order to:

- Create an archive catalogue. The database for the stone, fired clay and tile for this site is WSM70403.accdb
- Identify the geological character and source of any worked stone.
- Provide a list of spot dates
- Made recommendations for further study.

Methodology

The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example was this ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

As there was no Worcestershire ceramic building material fabric reference collection housed at PCA each new tile fabric from this site was prefixed by *EVE* followed by 1, 2, 3 etc. thus *EVE1*; *EVE2*.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL 5 examples 215g

A diffuse spread of fired ceramic building materials of Roman and post-medieval date were encountered at the site.

ROMAN 2 examples 89g.

EVE3 Fine Orange - brown fine condensed mica fabric burnt flecks of speckled quartz.

Two small fragments of abraded tile or brick of Roman date were recovered from the fill of gully in Area A (**1060**) and the fill of the modern service trench B.

POST MEDIEVAL 3 examples 126g

BRICK 2 examples 82g

Fragments of modern brick were recovered from the topsoil (**1001**) and subsoil (**1002**) of Area A. Two fabrics recognized.

3038 Coarse purple fabric Fletton Brick Oxford Clay Peterborough

EVE2 Local condensed specked fawn fabric with dark red brown and yellow inclusions flecks

ROOFING MATERIAL 1 example

EVE 1 (1600-1900) Brown-pink fine with grey shell inclusions, red iron oxide white shell debris

A corner of a vitrified post medieval peg tile with a large nail hole was recovered from the subsoil of Area B **(2002)**.

FIRED CLAY 5 examples 73g

3102 a fine yellow fired clay with black organic core (source probably local calcareous liassic mudstones)

Small homogeneous fragments of condensed burnt clay were recovered from the ditch fills of Areas A **(1014)**, **(1038)** and B **(2025)**. They merely represent examples of underlying Liassic mudstone bedrock, subject to heat as with the case of the example from **(1014)** a result of the effects of heat from a pot boiler.

STONE – Petrology 44 examples 2275g

Four rock types were identified from the assemblage. These were all locally acquired from the surrounding bedrock including the Lower Jurassic Liassic mudstones and Middle Jurassic shelly ragstones or in the case of the quartz veined material from riverbed cobbles. Apart from some pot boilers and a lump of White Lias rubblestone which a brown gravel sandy mortar attached, all of the rest merely reflect the underlying and surrounding Jurassic bedrock.

Table summarising the character, source, quantity and probable function of the stone from
 WSM07043

MoL fabric code	Description	Geological Type and source	Use at WSM07043
3120a	Orange Banded shelly oolitic limestone with a fossil sponge	Local Ragstone Middle Jurassic (Bathonian) Bredon Hill Outlier or North part of main Middle Jurassic escarpment	Bedrock fragments from subsoil (1002) Trench A
3120b	Grey crystalline igneous rock with white veined quartz	River cobbles via glacial erratics rock of unknown igneous provenance	Pot boilers Area A phase 3 ditch fills (1014) & (1029)
3120c	Hard cemented light grey fine calcareous mudstone	Liassic cement mudstone Lower Jurassic	Pot boilers Area A phase 3 ditch fill (1029)
3154	Hard fine laminated light grey calcareous mudstone	White Lias Local (Lower Jurassic)	Bedrock blocks of easily split laminated bedrock but not worked e.g. Area B fill (2065) of oval pit. Area A ditch fills (1043) & (1051)

Distribution

Context	Fabric	Material	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date Mortar
1001	3038	Fletton Brick fragment	1	1890	2000	1890	2000	1890-2000	No mortar
1002	3120a; EVE2	Post medieval brick fragment and Middle Jurassic natural	11	1600	1900	1600	1900	1600-1900	No mortar
1014	3102; 3120b; 3120c	Burnt natural clay; Potboilers – cracked burnt pebbles in Liassic cementstone and igneous quartz veined rock	30	1500bc	1600	1500bc	1600	1500bc-1600	No mortar
1029	3120b; 3120c	Natural fragments possibly potboilers	2					Natural	No mortar
1038	3102	Burnt daub	1	1500bc	1600	1500bc	1600	1500bc-1600	No mortar
1043	3154	White Lias natural	1					Natural	No mortar
1051	3154	White Lias natural block not worked	1					1600-1900	No mortar
1060	EVE3	Roman tile fragment	1	50	400	50	400	50-400	No mortar
2002	EVE1	post medieval peg tile	1	1450	1900	1450	1900	1450-1900	No mortar
2025	CASH10	Post medieval brick	1	1450	1800	1450	1800	1500-1800	No mortar
2038	EVE3	Roman tile fragment	1	50	400	50	400	50-400	No mortar
2066	3154	White Lias block with gravel mortar attached	1						50-1600

Recommendations/Potential

A review of this small ceramic building material, burnt clay and stone assemblage from Cheltenham Road, Evesham, shows the material to be largely unremarkable in terms of number and quality of finds present. The material only really serves to provide broad date ranges for the ditch infills in Areas A and

B. Most of the stone is unworked, deriving either from the underlying or surrounding natural Lower Jurassic (Lias) and Middle Jurassic (Bajocian – Bathonian) of the Bredon Hills or northern tip of the Cotswold escarpment. The only object worthy of mention are some pot boilers, the supposed whetstone from Area A (**1051**) was in fact a highly laminated example of White Lias bedrock. Because it splits so easily along the bedding planes it gives the appearance of a smooth worked surface. Because White Lias is a calcite rich rock, it would be entirely unsuitable for the use as a hone. Hones require a fine but much harder quartz rich micaceous sandstone.

The burnt clay is underlying bed rock burnt in areas where pot boiling and related high temperature processes have resulted in the alteration of the underlying bedrock.

Two items of abraded Roman ceramic building material, one each in Areas A and B attest to low level activity at the site, a feature also seen in the Roman Pottery. Perhaps merely serving as manure spread. Post Roman material is restricted to a single peg tile and 19th to 20th century brick from the topsoil and subsoil in Areas A and B. There is an example of Liassic mudstone evidently used as a rubblestone.

No further work required. All material to be discarded.

Post-Roman pottery assessment: Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A total of three sherds of post-Roman pottery (13g) was recovered from the archaeological work and this was found in two contexts and was collected by hand. The pottery consists of small sherds, which was not always possible to assign a vessel shape to. The material is generally not abraded, although it was most likely to have been deposited under tertiary circumstances. The pottery was recorded in a spreadsheet format and was classified according to the Worcestershire Ceramics Online Database (<https://worcestershireceramics.org/>) and quantified by sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight. The pottery is discussed as an index.

Index

Area A - Context (**1000**), unstratified finds

Miscellaneous modern ware (Fabric 101), 19th century onwards, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 3g. form: ?flower pot. Small unglazed body sherd. Very high-fired, orange, soapy fabric with very fine sand and fine angular pale grey/oxidised probable grog.

Area B - Context (**2038**), fill of modern service trench [**2039**], spot date: mid-19th century

Modern china (Fabric 85), 19th-20th century, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 4g. form: ?jug. Moulded vertical loop strap handle with a thumb rest and a mid 19th-century blue floral geometrical transfer-printed design.

Handle from a ?small jug.

Post-medieval red ware (Fabric 78), late 16th-early 19th century, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g. form: unidentified.
Body sherd. Internal brown glaze dating from the late 17th century. ?Open form.

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery is of no significance as it occurs as fragmentary material without any meaning. The pottery does have the potential to date the deposit it was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

Metal finds and leather: Märit Gaimster

Three objects were recovered from the excavations; they are listed in the table below. Two of the finds, a near-complete but heavily corroded iron nail and a fragment of leather, came from Romano-British (Phase 3) Ditch [1041] situated in Area A. The leather fragment is not diagnostic; however, with both flesh and grain sides present, the thinness would suggest it originates from a shoe or pouch or similar, rather than a belt or strap. Alongside these finds, an iron pitchfork with two tines and a tang for hammering into the wooden handle was retrieved from agricultural topsoil Layer (2001) in Area B. Without additional evidence it is difficult to date this object closer. During the medieval period pitchforks appears to have been more frequently tang-hafted than socketed (Goodall 2011, 82). However, two similar pitchforks from Badby in Northamptonshire, both with slightly angled tines, may date from the early modern period or later (*Ibid.*, figs 7.10 F121 and 7.11 F 127).

Significance and recommendations for further work

Metal and small finds potentially provide key elements of domestic material culture and activities related to the investigated site. At Cheltenham Road, only a very small assemblage was recovered. While two of the finds, an iron nail and a leather fragment, were retrieved from a Romano-British context these finds add little to the understanding of the site. A third find, a near-complete iron pitchfork came from ploughsoil; this object may be medieval or early modern in date.

While these finds give only a limited contribution to the understanding of the site, they do form an integral component of the site archive and should, where relevant, be included in any further publication of the excavations. No further work is recommended for the finds at this stage. However, to enable a full identification, and also for archival purposes, it would be useful to x-ray the iron objects.

context	description	pot date	recommendations
1043	Iron nail; near- complete but heavily corroded; slightly curved from extraction; L 58mm+	Roman	x-ray
	Leather; 10 x 15mm fragment only with grain and flesh sides; thickness c 1mm; from sample <4>	Roman	
2001	Iron pitchfork with two tines; hand forged with diamond-section tang and curved tines expanding from centre at an angle; near-complete with part of one tine missing; L 185mm; W (centre) c 90mm; tang L 75mm; tangs curving down slightly from tang	n/a	x-ray

WSM70403: metal and leather

Animal bone: Karen Deighton

Introduction

A total of 78 bone fragments were collected by hand from ditch fills, layers and a field boundary in area A and from a ditch and a pit in area B.

Method

The material was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references).

Preservation

A high frequency of fragmentation and surface erosion was observed. Single bones were often comprised of numerous fragments which resulted in a discrepancy between the number of fragments collected and the numbers recorded for each taxon per context. The poor preservation also adversely affected the identification to taxa, the collection of any aging or metical data and observation of evidence of butchery or evidence of canid gnawing.

The taxa Present

Table: Area A taxa by context

Context	Cut	Feature	Cattle size	Sheep/goat	Water vole	Indeterminate	Total
1023	1024	ditch				2	2
1028		layer		1			1
1043	1041	Field boundary	1		1		1
1053	1052	ditch	1				1
Total			2	1	1	2	5

Table: Area B taxa by context

Context	Cut	Feature	Cattle	Cattle size	Deer	Total
2035	2034	ditch			1	1
2066	2065	pit	4	1		5
Total			4	1	1	6

Little can be gleaned from the bones of the animal economy of the site in the Romano-British period other than to say that cattle and sheep/goat were probably utilised. The presence of deer antler (species unclear) in context **(2035)** could indicate that craft working was taking place, however with only one piece of evidence this assertion is tentative. The vole noted in **(1043)** was possibly a constituent of the local wild fauna which became trapped in the ditch. Material from topsoil **(1002)** was identified as being of geological origin and has been discarded.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended due to the poor preservation of material

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APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

By Kate Turner

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings of the assessment of the environmental remains in eleven bulk soil samples collected during a strip, map and sample of land at Cheltenham Road, Evesham. These samples were taken from the fills of six ditches, three linears and two pits, the context information for which is given in Table 1.

The aim of this assessment is to:

1. Give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples;
2. Determine the environmental potential of these samples;
3. Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

Table 1: Context information for environmental samples, **WSM 70403**

Context No.	Cut No.	Type	Category	Enviro Sample No.	Phasing	Interpretation
1014	1015		Ditch	1	3 - Romano British	
1016	1017		Linear feature	2	3 - Romano British	
1029	1030		Ditch	3	3 - Romano British	
1043	1041		Ditch	4	3 - Romano British	
2005	2004	Fill	Ditch	5B	3 - Romano British	Fill of [2004]. Initially interpreted as primary fill of agricultural furrow, later excavation suggests fill of Romano British field boundary, although no dating from this context.
2018	2019	Fill	Linear feature	3B	3 - Romano British	Fill of [2019]. Naturally formed deposit within the terminus of a North -South oriented linear feature. Undated but thought to be Romano British in date.
2020	2021	Fill	Linear feature	2B	2 – Iron Age	Fill of [2021]. North northeast to South southwest orientated linear terminus, formed via natural siltation.
2035	2034	Fill	Ditch	6B	3 - Romano British	Fill of [2034], boundary ditch.
2054	2053	Fill	Ditch	1B	3 - Romano British	Fill of [2053], boundary ditch
2066	2065	Fill	Pit	4B	2 – Iron Age	Fill of [2065], oval pit. Containing pottery animal bone and charcoal.
2116	2115	Fill	Pit	7B	3 - Romano British	Fill of pit

METHODOLOGY

Eleven environmental bulk samples, of between one and forty litres in volume, were processed using the flotation method; material was collected using a 300 µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1 mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4 mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1-10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly

frequent (11-30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31-100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).

The light residue (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material.

RESULTS

For the purposes of this assessment samples will be discussed by excavation area and preliminary date, in order to determine environmental potential. Cultural material and animal bone collected from the heavy residues has been catalogued and passed to the relevant specialists for further assessment. A full account of the sample contents is given in table 2.

AREA A: DITCHES [1015], [1030] & [1041], LINEAR [1017].

ROMANO-BRITISH

Three ditches thought to be of Romano-British date were sampled for environmental remains; **[1015]**, **[1030]** and **[1041]**. Preservation of ecofacts was variable across this feature grouping.

Ditch [1015] produced the largest density of wood charcoal from this sample set, containing over one-hundred specimens, including a moderate number (30-100 pieces) of a suitable size for species identification (>4 mm in length/width). Carbonised weeds and cereals were absent, with the exception of a low frequency of birch (*Betula* sp.) in the flot, the condition of which is indicative of a modern origin. A small concentration of fragmented plant matter and roots was also recorded, which is suggestive of bioturbation. Shells of burrowing snails were additionally recognised, along with non-contemporary insect remains. Cultural artefacts were limited to a small amount of burnt stone in the heavy fraction.

Ditch [1030] contained relatively few ecofacts, with only a small amount of charcoal recovered, less than fifty small specimens, and under ten of identifiable size. Seeds were recovered in moderate numbers, including examples of bramble (*Rubus* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), birch and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), however the nature of the containing deposit, and the condition of these specimens, suggests that these are likely to be modern intrusive material. The mollusc assemblage was comprised of shells of *Cecilioides acicula*, a subterranean species which, when found in archaeological deposits, is often interpreted as a sign of bioturbation, and a small number of freshwater whorled shells, belonging to *Anisus leucostoma*, which is found in a wide range of aquatic habitats. Roots, modern plant material and insect remains were, again, common. A small amount of stone and slag was recovered from the residue of this sample.

Ditch [1041] was the most environmentally promising of the contexts sampled from area 'A'; this deposit

was shown upon processing to have a moderate organic component, with seeds and plant material being preserved by low levels of waterlogging. A range of wetland taxa were represented including a large concentration of buttercup seeds (*Ranunculus* spp.), with specimens of creeping/bulbous buttercup (*Bulbosus/Repens*) and celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) reported, along with sedges (*Carex* spp.), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), docks and nettles (*Urtica* sp.). These species are largely indicative of wet or damp environments. Degraded plant remains that were too fragmented for species to be recognised were abundant in the flot, along with wood, and a small amount (<30 specimens) of wood charcoal, none of the pieces of which were large enough to be identified. Specimens of the freshwater snail *Anisus leucostoma* were also present in this sample, less than ten shells in total, along with insect remains and ostracods, which are also indicative of wet conditions. Large and small animal bone, and burnt flint, were extracted from the heavy fraction.

UNPHASED

A single environmental bulk sample was collected from an undated linear feature. Environmental preservation was generally poor in this deposit; less than thirty fragments of charcoal were reported, none of which were of identifiable size, and only a small number of weed seeds (buttercup, goosefoot, birch and fumitory) which, based on the quality of preservation, are deemed likely to be modern intrusions. Non-contemporary plant material and roots were also observed, along with shells of burrowing snails and insect remains, all of which are suggestive of post-depositional disturbance.

AREA B:

LINEARS [2019] & [2021], PITS [2065] & [2015], DITCHES [2004] & [2034]

IRON AGE

Linear [2019] produced a moderate concentration of wood charcoal, all of which was too small for species identification, a low frequency of modern seeds and rootlets, and shells of the open ground species *Vallonia* and *Cecilioides acicula*. The majority of this material is likely to be intrusive.

Pit [2065] was poor in archaeobotanical remains; wood charcoal was present in moderate amounts; however, rate of fragmentation was high in this assemblage, and no sizeable specimens were recovered. Seeds of fat-hen, birch, buttercup and nightshade (*Solanum* sp.) were all recorded, however the condition of these remains, and the nature of the deposit, would indicate that they are likely to be modern intrusions. Roots and modern plant matter were also common, along with shells of burrowing snails. Stone and fragmented bone were found in residue, and coal in the flot.

ROMANO-BRITISH

Bulk samples were collected from three ditches, [2004], [2034] and [2053], pit [2115] and a linear feature [2021], all dated to the Romano-British occupation of area 'B'.

Recovery was poor from **Ditch [2004]**, which was found to contain only a low frequency of unidentifiable

charcoal (<4 mm in length/width), a single specimen of fat-hen and a small snail assemblage, comprised largely of shells of *Cepaea hortensis*, which is common to sheltered places, *Trichia* sp., a genus of ecologically catholic snails, indeterminate juveniles and broken shells.

Ditch [2034] was similarly barren, producing less than twenty pieces of fragmented charcoal, along with modern rootlets and snails; an assemblage again dominated by *Cepaea hortensis*, though also containing minimal concentrations of *Anisus leucostoma*, as well as specimens of *Vallonia* and *Vertigo*, both found in areas of open ground. Cultural material was absent in both of the sampled ditches.

Pit [2115] contained a moderate abundance of snail shell, including specimens of *Lymnaea palustris*, which is native to areas of stagnant water, *Succinea* sp., also found in freshwater environments, and *Vertigo pygmaea*, an open ground species. Other remains were relatively sparse; a small amount of charcoal was extracted, some of which was suitable for species identification (<10 pieces), as well as buttercup and fat-hen seeds, ostracods, insect remains and modern rootlets. There is some suggestion of sporadic waterlogging in this deposit.

Linear [2021]. Preservation of archaeobotanical material was poor, with only a small amount of heavily fragmented wood charcoal extracted, intrusive seeds of fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and birch (*Betula* sp.) and modern roots. Shells of *Cecilioides acicula* were also recovered, as well as disarticulated insect remains and puparium. Cultural material was absent.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

A brief assessment of the material collected from Cheltenham Road has shown that, with the exception of features **[1015]** and **[1041]**, preservation of environmental material in these deposits is generally poor, and there is substantial evidence for post-depositional disturbance in the bulk of the sample set.

Due to the apparent waterlogging in Ditch **[1041]**, plant remains were well preserved in this context; an abundance of seeds was recognised, the majority of which were of species common to marshy and wet ground, including buttercups, sedges and docks. Due to the soil condition, a high density of fragmented plant tissue was also recovered, along with wood, some of which was of a suitable size for species to be identified.

Wood charcoal was common throughout, though the concentrations of material observed are not substantial enough to suggest significant firing activity. Feature **[1015]** was the only deposit to yield more than fifty specimens, and also contained a moderate number of sizeable pieces (30-100).

The snail assemblage, containing species of both terrestrial and freshwater origin, suggests fluctuations between wet and dry conditions, with a proportion of remains being considered intrusive (*Cecilioides acicula*).

Evidence of bioturbation, in the form of non-contemporary seeds, roots and insect remains, was recorded to some degree throughout the assemblage, which raises the possibility of post-depositional disturbance among smaller remains in some of the assessed samples.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The recommendations for additional specialist work on the Cheltenham Road assemblage are outlined below. A summary of this assessment should be included in any future publications.

WOOD CHARCOAL

Whilst none of the assessed samples contained a large enough assemblage of viable charcoal to warrant additional specialist analysis prior to publication, features [1015], [1030] and [1041] all contained material of a suitable size for species identification. Radiocarbon dating could be carried on selected specimens, if suitable taxa are present, in order to improve the chronology of the site in areas where cultural material is scarce.

WATERLOGGED REMAINS

Additional specialist analysis could be undertaken on the waterlogged plant remains contained in feature [1041], as this may shed light on the landscape of the site, and the environmental conditions during the Romano-British occupation.

MOLLUSCS

Due to the lack of statistically significant material (>100 specimens per context), no additional analysis is recommended for the molluscan assemblage.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EXCAVATIONS

This assessment has shown that charcoal has the potential to be preserved on this site. Should future interventions be undertaken this should be reflected in the environmental sampling strategy. Bulk samples should, where possible, be collected from well-sealed deposits, with little evidence for post depositional disturbance.

If waterlogged organic deposits are encountered, column samples and accompanying bulks should be taken. The aim being to allow for a chronological reconstruction of the landscape and environment of the site to be undertaken, utilising pollen (if found), plant macrofossils and other remains.

If large amounts of snails are encountered, contiguous bulk samples should be collected from section, of at least one litre every ten centimetres.

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Table 2: Assessment of environmental remains, WSM70403

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	001	002	003	004	005	006	007
Context No.	101 4	101 6	102 9	104 3	205 4	202 0	201 8	206 6	200 5	203 5	211 6
Feature No.	101 5	101 7	103 0	104 1	205 3	202 1	201 9	206 5	200 4	203 4	211 5
Volume of bulk (litres)	23	6	28	28	1	10	27	40	1	10	37
Volume of flot (millilitres)	20	8	10	95	0.1	16	53	28	0.5	6	14
Method of processing	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Heavy Residue											
Charcoal											
Charcoal >4 mm	3		1	1							1
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm	2										
Wood											
Wood >4 mm				1							
Bone											
Large animal				1							
Small animal				1							
Fragments								1			
Terrestrial shells											
	Habitat										
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	Sheltered places								1	2	
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i>	Stagnant water										1
<i>Succinea</i> sp.	Wetlands										1
<i>Trichia</i> sp.	Catholic								1		
Indet. Juveniles										1	
Broken shell					2				1		
Other Material											
Stone			1					1			
Burnt stone	1										
Slag			1								
Burnt flint				1							
Flot Residue											
Charcoal											
Charcoal >4 mm	2										
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm	2	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Charcoal <2 mm	4	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Suitable for	<20	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	001	002	003	004	005	006	007
Context No.	101 4	101 6	102 9	104 3	205 4	202 0	201 8	206 6	200 5	203 5	211 6
Feature No.	101 5	101 7	103 0	104 1	205 3	202 1	201 9	206 5	200 4	203 4	211 5
Volume of bulk (litres)	23	6	28	28	1	10	27	40	1	10	37
Volume of flot (millilitres)	20	8	10	95	0.1	16	53	28	0.5	6	14
Method of processing	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
ID?											
Seeds	Common Name										
<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Wild celery			1							
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	Oraches		1								
<i>Betula</i> sp.	1	1	1			1		1			
<i>Blysmus</i> sp.	Flat-sedges			1							
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	Cabbages			1							
<i>Carex</i> spp.	Sedges		1	3							
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen		1			1	2	3	1		2
<i>Chenopodium</i> spp.	Goosefoots			1	2						
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty spurge			1	1						
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet			1							
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common fumitory		1	1							
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane			1							
<i>Lamium</i> sp.	Dead-nettle			1							
<i>Papaver</i> sp.	Poppies			1							
<i>Persicaria</i> spp.	Knotweeds			1							
<i>Polygonum</i> spp.	Knotgrasses			2							
<i>Potentilla</i> spp.	Cinquefoils			3							
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil			3							
<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.	Buttercups		1	4		1	1				1
<i>Ranunculus repens/acris</i>	Creeping/meadow			3							
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved			1	2		1				
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	Brambles			1	2						
<i>Rumex</i> spp.	Docks			1	3						
<i>Sambucus</i> sp.	Elder			1							
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great burnet			1							
<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>	Wood club-rush			1							
<i>Solanum</i> sp.	Nightshades			1			1				
<i>Stellaria</i> spp.	Stitchworts			2							
<i>Urtica</i> spp.	Nettles			1	3						
Indet. buds				1							
Indet. seed coat				2		1	1				
Indet. thorns				1							
Broken seeds			1								

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	001	002	003	004	005	006	007
Context No.	101 4	101 6	102 9	104 3	205 4	202 0	201 8	206 6	200 5	203 5	211 6
Feature No.	101 5	101 7	103 0	104 1	205 3	202 1	201 9	206 5	200 4	203 4	211 5
Volume of bulk (litres)	23	6	28	28	1	10	27	40	1	10	37
Volume of flot (millilitres)	20	8	10	95	0.1	16	53	28	0.5	6	14
Method of processing	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Unknown				1							
Other plant macrofossils											
Fragmented plant matter	2	2	3	4				3			
Wood				4							
Roots/tubers	2	1	2		1	2	2	3	1	3	3
Molluscs Habitat											
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	Aquatic range		1	1						1	
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	Open ground		2	2	2		1	1	2		1
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i>	Stagnant water										2
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	Dry, exposed areas										1
<i>Trichia</i> sp.	Catholic										2
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	Open ground						1			1	
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	Open ground									1	1
Snail eggs											1
Indet. Juveniles					1		1		1	1	3
Broken shell		1	1			1	1		1	2	2
Other remains											
Insect remains	2	2	3	2		2	1				2
Insect puparium						2					
Insect eggs/worm cases		1	1				2	1			3
Ostracods				1							2
Hammer-scale	1										
Black vitrified material		1					1	2			1
Coal								1			

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-347122

Project details

Project name	Land off Cheltenham Road, Evesham, Worcestershire
Short description of the project	Excavation and recording was undertaken within two separate areas; these areas (A and B) revealed elements of a Romano-British rural landscape, comprising a system of field boundaries and possible stock droeways, which lay on the periphery of a nearby settlement described by earlier investigations (EDP 2015). Evidence from Area A demonstrated that the significant ditch features here were regularly maintained during the period, and it seems likely that the spaces in between the enclosed areas would have been practicable for driving stock from field-to-field. This sequence of intersecting field boundaries also demonstrated that the postulated droeways were twice re-oriented between east-west and north-south aligned spaces during the lifetime of the site. Area B added to this distinctive system of north-south and east-west field boundaries and droves and, additionally, revealed an earlier system of Iron Age gullies on a different alignment that represents a quite dissimilar organization of space within the pre-Conquest rural landscape. Environmental analysis showed species common to wet ground and standing water (both areas) and open ground (Area B) rather than cultivars in the Romano-British period. This evidence, combined with the presence of bones of cattle and sheep or goat, supports the interpretation of a predominantly pastoral landscape of livestock management ditches and fields here during the Romano-British period. Medieval dated plough furrows were also recorded and are evidence of a much later field system in use on the site. The results are of local interest.
Project dates	Start: 09-06-2018 End: 27-03-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	W/15/02761/OU.
Type of project	Recording
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 – Operations to a depth of less than 0.25m
Monument type	None
Methods & techniques	Excavation
Development type	Property development
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Full consent granted

Project location

Country	England
Site location	Land off Cheltenham Road, Evesham, Worcestershire

Postcode	WR11 2LN
Study area	1,915m ²
Site coordinates	SP 0321 4178

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service
Project design originator	Environmental Dimension Partnerships
Project director/manager	J Webster
Project supervisor	R Weaver
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

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