

**LAND TO THE WEST OF BEDFORD
ROAD, LOWER STONDON,
BEDFORDSHIRE**

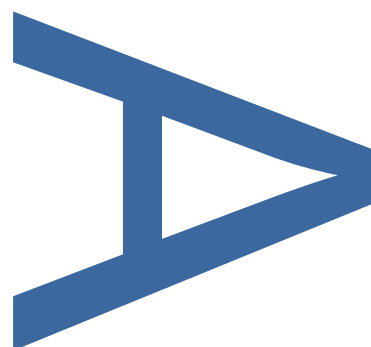
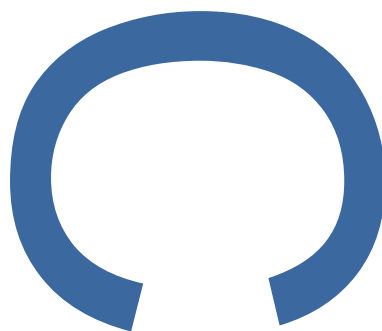
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

REPORT NO: R13988

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
CB/19/01681/OUT**

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

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Written and researched by: Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Project Manager: Christiane Meckseper

Commissioning Client: EDP on behalf of Rainier Developments Ltd.

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Central Office
The Granary Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: cmeckseper@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Rainier Developments Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation at Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, SG16 6EA (NGR: TL 1606 3594). This work was commissioned as part of a condition attached to the planning permission (ref: CB/19/01681/OUT). Work took place on site from the 9th to the 18th of December 2019.

The evaluation identified a concentration of mid-to Late Iron Age features, predominantly ditches and pits, located in the western end of the site. The ditches had previously been identified as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, before being confirmed during the evaluation. These ditches formed a number of small, well-defined north-east to south-west by north-west to south-east aligned rectilinear and circular enclosures; certain of the ditches were of a considerable size and would have functioned as substantial boundary markers.

The features in the west end of site produced moderate finds assemblages, with locally sourced pottery and animal bone forming the bulk of the recovered material. The type and quantity of features and associated artefact assemblages indicate that the enclosures probably relate to direct settlement, with one small ditch possibly relating to a roundhouse ring-ditch. The majority of the finds assemblages were Middle Iron Age in date; The presence of limited quantities of finds of a definitively Late Iron Age date within the artefact assemblages (most notably a 1st-century BC Potin) suggests activity may have continued throughout the Later Iron Age, possibly at a reduced level as the period progressed.

A significant 'drop-off' in archaeological activity was evident away from the western edge of the site, where the previously identified enclosures ceased. Archaeological activity in the central and eastern parts of the site were, other than a single pit, limited to a scatter of smaller ditches and furrows, which were mainly north-east to south-west aligned, similar to the modern field alignment. Although these features did not produce datable finds assemblages, the appearance of the feature fills, their stratigraphic relationships and the presence of field drains in some of the backfilled ditches suggest the features relate to post-medieval to modern drainage and boundary systems.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Rainier Developments Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation on Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, SG16 6EA (NGR: TL 1606 3594, Figure 1, Plate 1).
- 1.2 This work was commissioned as part of a condition attached to the planning permission (ref: CB/19/01681/OUT). This was due to high archaeological potential of the proposed development area (PDA). The work was undertaken in line with National Planning Policy Framework 2019, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Christiane Meckseper of PCA (Meckseper 2019), which had been approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) archaeologist. In addition, it was carried out to the criteria set out in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA 2014b).
- 1.4 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide (HE 2015).
- 1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.6 A total of ten evaluation trenches, comprising nine 50m x 2m trenches and one 35m x 2m trench, totalling 485m linear metres of trenches were excavated and recorded (Figures 2 & 3).
- 1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design

of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited at Luton Museum.

2 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site is located to the north-west of the Central Bedfordshire village of Lower Stondon and immediately to the west of Bedford Road. The site is bordered to the south by Henlow Dog Racetrack, to the north by a farmhouse with an associated pond and to the west and south-west by open arable land. The site itself is currently arable land.

2.2 Geology and Topography

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is Gault Formation mudstone with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation Diamicton (BGS 2019; Website 1). The site has a slight gradient, falling away from west to east from c.55.83m above Ordnance Survey Datum (AOD) to c.52.53m AOD in the east, a fall of 3.3m.
- 2.2.2 The natural deposits were overlain in all the trenches by subsoil (101), a light to mid-brownish-grey silty clay. This deposit was in turn overlain by topsoil (100), a dark brownish-grey clayey silt (Appendix 2).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Meckseper 2019) and the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) (EDP 2019) for the site.

Iron Age (pre-AD43)

- 3.1.2 The remains of a probable Iron Age settlement have been identified through cropmarks (HER 403) and geophysical survey (BCC 2019) within the western end of the site, located on the slightly higher ground at 55m AOD. The remains appeared to be a double ditched circular enclosure adjacent to a rectilinear enclosure which extends to the west outside the limit of the site (Figure 1).
- 3.1.3 Further settlement cropmarks are located a short distance to the south of the site (HER 16792). Archaeological investigations in 2018 confirmed the presence of an Iron Age settlement in this location with some outlying ditches that could relate to agricultural activity. This settlement is distinct from the cropmarks and potential settlement on the development site.
- 3.1.4 Further cropmarks which could relate to prehistoric settlement are located in the wider area around the site, all at an elevation of 55m AOD or above. These are a large sub-circular enclosure (HER 16791) and a rectilinear enclosure (HER402) c. 625m and 330m to the west respectively, and a group of irregular cropmarks (HER16793) c. 400m to the south, which was confirmed by excavation to be an Iron Age enclosure.
- 3.1.5 Several Iron Age coins were found through metal detecting in the fields to the west of the site (HER 18391, 18392 and 18795).

Roman (AD43-410)

- 3.1.6 Similar to the Iron Age period, potential Roman sites have been identified through cropmarks and metal detecting finds within the area. Cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure and two linear features (HEER16790) are located c. 160m to the north. Metal detecting finds of coins, brooches, a bracelet and an axehead (HER 18389, 18392, 18391, 18396, 18795, 18815 and 18798) between 360m and 675m to the west of the site indicate a potentially high-status

settlement nearby. The potential alignment of a Roman Road (HER10480) c.130m to the east of the site has been discounted by the HER due to lack of evidence in archaeological investigations along the route.

Saxon and Medieval (AD410-1485)

3.1.7 The site is located away from any known areas of medieval settlement. The medieval core of the village of Lower Stondon (HER17117) with its Parish Church of All Saints (HER8988) is located c.840m to the south-west of the site. No medieval settlement remains have as yet been identified and the majority of medieval heritage assets are in the form of ridge and furrow agricultural features (HER 20310, 9387, 19583). It is likely that the site itself is located within the agricultural land outside the medieval village.

3.1.8 Medieval artefacts, including coins, buckles, a token, jetton and a mount, have been found through metal detecting to the west of the site, indicating accidental loss and/or spread through manuring.

Post-medieval to modern (AD1485-present)

3.1.9 There are several records for post-medieval metal detected finds to the west of the site. Similar to the medieval material these are chance losses of personal items. The HER also lists extant and demolished buildings, a brickfield, brickworks and several sand pits, fishponds and a toll road within the Henlow area. The greyhound stadium (HER12942) to the immediate south of the site is also listed in the HER.

3.1.10 RAF Henlow itself (HER 9265) was established in 1918 and is still operational. After the war it played a vital role in radio equipment calibration and signals development. Extant WWII Type 22 pillboxes (HER17993, 9294 and 9290) and the sites of demolished pillboxes are located in an arc around the aerodrome.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised ten trial trenches, nine 50m x 2m and one 35m x 2m, totalling 485m linear metres of trenching. These were distributed evenly across the site in order to provide a representative sample of the development area, as well as to target geophysical anomalies.

4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator. Topsoil and other overburden were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits, where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a GEOMAX GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.3.2 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 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All

features and deposits identified during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

- 4.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.
- 4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

- 4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). Where large or significant finds assemblages were present, features were subsequently 100% excavated for finds recovery.
- 4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly spaced slots amounting to 25% of their lengths. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated, and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

- 4.5.1 A total of five bulk samples (generally 20-40 litres in volume) were taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The aim of this sampling was to investigate the past environment and economy of the site, the diet of the ancient inhabitants and the agricultural basis of the settlement. An additional aim of the sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals. These samples were taken from sealed deposits.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	6
Context sheets	105
Plan registers	0
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	33
Trench record sheets	10
Photo register sheets	4
Small finds register sheets	1
Environmental register sheets	1

5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	166
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

5.3 Physical Archive

Pottery	284/1910g
Small Finds	1
Worked Stone	1
Coins	1
Animal bone	147
Environmental bulk samples	4
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	80

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The trenches are described below by period, and within their period heading in numerical order, with technical data tabulated (Appendix 2). Features and deposits are first split into feature type, and then described in numerical cut order. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the topsoil and subsoil, unless otherwise stated.
- 6.1.2 The principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of a concentration of Later Iron Age features, predominantly ditches and pits, located in the western end of the site. The ditches had previously been identified as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, before being confirmed during the evaluation. These ditches formed a number of well-defined, small north-east to south-west by north-west to south-east aligned rectilinear and circular enclosures.
- 6.1.3 The features produced moderately-sized finds assemblages, with locally sourced pottery and animal bone forming the bulk of the recovered material. The type and quantity of features and associated artefact assemblages indicate that the enclosures probably relate to direct settlement. Where features in this area did not produce datable finds assemblages, they were included in the Later Iron Age phase based on their proximity to the datable features, as well as in some cases their similar alignment and the similar appearance of the feature fills.
- 6.1.4 Archaeological activity in the central and eastern parts of the site was limited to smaller ditches, field drains, furrows and a single pit. The ditches were mainly north-east to south-west aligned, similar to the modern field alignment. Although these features did not produce datable finds assemblages, the appearance of the feature fills and in the case of the linear feature their alignment suggest the features relate to post-medieval to Modern drainage and boundary systems.

6.2 Later Iron Age Settlement (Figure 4)

- 6.2.1 Later Iron Age settlement features were revealed in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10

in the western part of the site. The features formed a number of enclosures, most notably a large rectilinear enclosure, as well as potential internal features to these enclosures.

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

- 6.2.2 Trench 1 contained five ditches, which were predominantly aligned approximately north-west to south-east. Four of these ditches formed a part of the same rectangular enclosure, which was visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys. The trench also contained a single pit. Finds assemblages were predominantly Middle Iron Age in date, however one of the recuts of the main enclosure ditch contained a small assemblage of mid-to Late Iron Age pottery, suggesting this enclosure continued in use into this period.
- 6.2.3 Ditch [124] was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.4m wide by 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill (123), a light brownish-grey silty clay which contained a single sherd (13g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as a single fragment of cattle bone. The feature was cut by Pit [122].
- 6.2.4 Ditch [138] (Figure 7, Section 33) was wide and deep, measuring c. 1.45m wide by 0.64m deep. It contained three fills; an upper fill (137), a 0.3m thick mid-to light grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (17 sherds, 48g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as rare charcoal flecks. An environmental sample <1001> was taken from the fill, which contained 36 fragments of animal bone; where identifiable these derived from sheep/goats, rabbits and rodents. The sample also contained carbonised barley seeds, seeds, a large quantity of snail shells and wood charcoal. The features middle fill (136), was a 0.22m thick dark grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (14 sherds, 119g) of mid-to Late Iron Age pottery, as well as a sandstone sharpening stone and four fragments of animal bone, derived from cattle and sheep/goats. The features basal fill (135), was a mid-grey silty clay which contained a single fragment of cattle bone, as well as occasional charcoal flecks. The feature cut Ditch [205] and formed a part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.
- 6.2.5 Ditch [175] (Plate 2, Figure 7, Section 24) was wide and deep, measuring c. 3m

wide by 1.1m deep. It contained four fills; an upper fill (171), a 0.41m thick mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds, a middle fill (172), a 0.2m thick mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (5 sherds, 66g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as a single fragment of sheep/goat bone. The features middle fill (173), was a 0.25m thick light greyish-brown silty clay which contained two fragments of animal bone, derived from cattle and pig. The features basal fill (174), was a 0.25m+ thick light greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds. The feature cut Ditch [179] and formed a part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

6.2.6 Ditch [179] (Plate 2, Figure 7, Section 24) was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.45m wide by 0.25m deep. It contained a single fill (178), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. The feature was cut by Ditch [175] and formed part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

6.2.7 Ditch [205] (Figure 7, Section 33) was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.56m wide by 0.36m deep. It contained a single fill (204), a mid-grey silty clay which contained rare charcoal flecks. The feature was cut by Ditch [138] and formed a part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

6.2.8 Pit [122] was not fully visible in plan (c. 1.6m wide by 0.16m deep), extending beyond the limits of excavation to the west. It contained a single fill (121), a light grey silty clay which contained no finds. The feature cut Ditch [124].

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

6.2.9 Trench 2 contained three ditches, which were predominantly aligned approximately north-east to south-west. Two of these ditches formed a part of the same main rectangular enclosure, which was visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys. The easternmost ditch was also visible on the surveys as an intermittently visible smaller enclosure, parallel to the main rectangular enclosure. The trench also contained a single posthole, which contained a small assemblage of mid-to Late Iron Age pottery and a single 1st-century BC potin

(Plate 12). The presence of a feature of this date within the main rectangular enclosure further suggests it continued in use into this period.

- 6.2.10 Ditch [156] (Figure 7, Section 19) was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.4m wide by 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill (155), a mid-brown silty clay which contained a small assemblage (18 sherds, 60g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as a single fragment of sheep/goat bone. The feature formed a part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.
- 6.2.11 Ditch [195] was wide, measuring 1.7m in width. It contained an upper fill (194), a dark grey silty clay which contained no finds. In agreement with the LPA archaeologist the feature was not excavated, and formed a part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.
- 6.2.12 Ditch [197] was moderately narrow, measuring 0.65m in width. It contained an upper fill (196), a dark grey silty clay which contained no finds. In agreement with the LPA archaeologist the feature was not excavated.
- 6.2.13 Posthole [170] (Plate 3, Figure 7, Section 27) was circular in plan (0.44m wide by 0.15m deep). It contained a single fill (169), a dark brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (20 sherds, 58g) of mid-to Late Iron Age pottery, as well as a single Iron Age Potin (Plates 11 & 12), dating to the mid-1st century BC. The fill also contained four fragments of sheep/goat bone, as well as frequent charcoal flecks. An environmental sample <1003> was taken from the fill, which contained a further seven fragments of animal bone, where identifiable these derived from cattle and sheep/goats. The sample also contained terrestrial and freshwater snail shells, as well as wood charcoal.

Trench 3 (Figures 4 and 5)

- 6.2.14 Trench 3 contained three ditches, which were predominantly aligned approximately north-east to south-west. One of these ditches ([177]) formed part of a ditch line linking into the main rectangular enclosure, which was visible on the cropmark surveys. A further small ditch ([154]) contained a small assemblage of mid-to Late Iron Age pottery, suggesting activity carried on into

this period outside, but close to the main rectangular enclosure, located to the south-west. The remaining ditch was post-medieval to Modern in date.

- 6.2.15 Ditch [154] (Figure 7, Section 18) was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.43m wide by 0.25m deep. It contained a single fill (153), a light brown clay which contained a small assemblage (2 sherds, 17g) of mid-to Late Iron Age pottery, as well as rare charcoal flecks.
- 6.2.16 Ditch [177] (Plate 4, Figure 7, Section 28) was moderately wide and deep, measuring 1.35m wide by 0.6m deep. It contained a single fill (176), a mid-brownish-grey clay which contained a small assemblage (5 sherds, 65g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as six fragments of animal bone, derived from cattle, sheep/goats and a horse. The fill also contained rare charcoal flecks. This ditch was represented by a geophysical anomaly and could represent a continuation of the North-north-west to South-south-east aligned arm of the Late Iron Age enclosure ditch to the south.

Trench 9 (Figure 4)

- 6.2.17 Trench 9 contained five ditches, which were predominantly aligned approximately north-west to south-east. All these ditches formed a part of the same roughly 'D'-shaped enclosure, which was visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.
- 6.2.18 Ditch [160] was moderately wide but shallow, measuring 0.7m wide by 0.2m deep. It contained a single fill (159), a mid-brown clay which contained a single sherd (16g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as a single fragment of sheep/goat bone. The feature formed a part of the outer ring of a roughly 'D'-shaped enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.
- 6.2.19 Ditch [183] (Figure 7, Section 29) was wide and deep, measuring 2.4m wide by 0.76m deep. It contained three fills; an upper fill (180), a 0.19m thick mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds, a middle fill (181), a 0.22m thick mid-to dark brownish-grey silty clay which contained a moderate assemblage (27 sherds, 228g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as four fragments of animal bone, derived from cattle and sheep/goats. The features

basal fill (182), was a mid-greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds. The feature formed a part of the inner ring of a roughly 'D'-shaped enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

6.2.20 Ditch [188] (Figure 7, Section 31) was wide and deep, measuring 2m wide by 0.78m deep. It contained two fills; an upper fill (191), a 0.26m thick dark blackish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (8 sherds, 46g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, and a basal fill (187), a dark black-grey silty clay which contained occasional charcoal flecks. The feature cut Ditch [190] and formed a part of the inner ring of a roughly 'D'-shaped enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

6.2.21 Ditch [190] (Figure 7, Section 31) was wide and deep, measuring 4.02m wide by 0.78m deep. It contained a single fill (189), a mid-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (15 sherds, 379g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as two fragments of cattle bone and occasional charcoal flecks. The feature was cut by Ditch [188] and formed a part of the inner ring of a roughly 'D'-shaped enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

6.2.22 Ditch [192] was moderately wide but shallow, measuring 0.8m wide by 0.25m deep. It contained a single fill (193), a light grey silty clay which contained no finds. The feature formed a part of the outer ring of a roughly 'D'-shaped enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

Trench 10 (Plate 7)

6.2.23 Trench 10 contained four ditches, which were predominantly aligned approximately north-east to south-west. Two of these ditches possibly formed a part of the same rectangular enclosure, which was visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys and one may be a roundhouse ring-ditch. The trench also contained a single possible sunken trackway or 'Holloway', as well as two pits.

6.2.24 Ring-Ditch [106] (Plate 8) was narrow and shallow, measuring 0.42m wide by 0.14m deep. It contained a single fill (105), a dark brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (7 sherds, 16g) of Middle Iron Age pottery and

a single fragment of sheep/goat bone. An environmental sample <1000> was taken from the fill, which contained a further 25 fragments of animal bone; where identifiable these derived from sheep/goats and amphibians, as well as cereal grains, seeds, terrestrial mollusc shells and wood charcoal. Although not fully visible within the trench, the dimensions and appearance in plan of the ditch suggests it may be the ring-ditch of a roundhouse.

- 6.2.25 Ditch [108] (Figure 7, Section 2) was wide and deep, measuring 1.9m wide by 0.62m deep. It contained two fills; an upper fill (107), a 0.1m thick mid-to dark brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (109), a light brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds.
- 6.2.26 Ditch [113] (Plate 9, Figure 7, Section 1) was wide and deep, measuring 1.82m wide by 0.67m deep. It contained three fills; an upper fill (110), a 0.13m thick mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (15 sherds, 18g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, a middle fill (111), a 0.35m thick mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage (7 sherds, 75g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as two fragments of animal bone, derived from cattle and sheep/goats. The features basal fill (112) was a light brownish-grey silty clay which contained two fragments of cattle bone. The feature may have formed a part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.
- 6.2.27 Ditch [146] (Plate 10, Figure 7, Section 14) was wide and deep, measuring 3.7m wide by 1.06m deep. It contained five fills; an upper fill (141), a 0.27m thick mid-grey silty clay which contained a large assemblage (56 sherds, 306g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as seven fragments of animal bone, derived from cattle and sheep/goats. The fill also contained very rare charcoal flecks. An environmental sample <1004> was taken from the fill, which contained a further seven fragments of animal bone; where identifiable these derived from cattle, sheep/goats and rodents. The sample also contained burnt grains, predominantly of wheat and barley, as well as seeds, a single tuber, snail shells, wood charcoal and hazelnut shell. The features middle fill (142), was a 0.21m thick mid-to light grey silty clay which contained a moderate assemblage (31 sherds, 269g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as a single fragment of

sheep/goat bone and rare charcoal flecks. The features middle fill (143), was a 0.15m thick dark grey silty clay which contained a moderate assemblage (25 sherds, 50g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as occasional charcoal flecks, a lower fill (144), a 0.28+m thick light to mid-orangish-brown clay which contained a small assemblage (9 sherds, 60g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, and finally a basal fill (145), a mottled light to mid-orangish-brown silty clay which contained no finds. The feature formed a part of a rectangular enclosure, visible on the cropmark and geophysical surveys.

6.2.28 Possible Holloway [116] (Figure 7, Section 5) was wide and shallow, measuring 2.78m wide by 0.16m deep. It contained two fills; an upper fill (117), a 0.07m thick light-brownish-grey silty clay which contained a single crumb (1g) of Middle Iron Age pottery, as well as a single fragment of sheep/goat bone. The features basal fill (115), was a light brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. This lower fill contained large quantities of small flint pebbles, indicating the base of the feature may have been roughly metalled. The feature may have formed a sunken track or Holloway, running parallel to the ditches of the rectilinear enclosures.

6.2.29 Pit [104] was not fully visible in plan (c. 0.56m wide by 0.09m deep), extending beyond the limits of excavation to the west. It contained a single fill (103), a mid-greyish-brown clay which contained no finds.

6.2.30 Pit [120] was circular in plan (0.92m wide by 0.26m deep). It contained a single fill (119), a light greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds.

6.3 Post-medieval to Modern and Undated Features

6.3.1 A small number of ditches, field drains, furrow and a single pit were revealed in Trenches 3-7. The ditches were generally narrow and shallow and parallel to existing field boundaries. Although these features did not produce datable finds assemblages, the appearance of the feature fills and where applicable their stratigraphic relationships strongly suggest the features most likely relate to post-medieval drainage and boundary systems.

Trench 3 (Figures 4 and 5)

6.3.2 Trench 3 contained three ditches, which were aligned approximately north-east to south-west. One of these ditches continued across the site into Trench 5, where it was excavated as [128] and contained a field drain.

6.3.3 Ditch [199] was wide, measuring 1.7m in width. It contained an upper fill (198), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. In agreement with the LPA archaeologist the feature was not excavated.

Trench 4 (Figure 5)

6.3.4 Trench 4 contained a single ditch, which was aligned approximately north-east to south-west.

6.3.5 Ditch [201] was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.69m wide by 0.2m deep. It contained a single fill (200), a mid-brownish-grey clay which contained no finds.

Trench 5 (Figure 6)

6.3.6 Trench 5 contained four ditches, which were predominantly aligned approximately north-east to south-west. The trench also contained two field drains and a single furrow.

6.3.7 Ditch [128] was moderately wide but shallow, measuring 1m wide by 0.26m deep. It contained a single fill (127), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. The feature cut Field Drain [130]. The feature contained a field drain at its base, which would have been placed in it prior to its backfilling, once the ditch went out of use.

6.3.8 Ditch [148] (Figure 7, Section 15) was narrow and shallow, measuring 0.25m wide by 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill (147), a mid-greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds. The feature was cut by Field Drain [164].

6.3.9 Ditch [162] was narrow and shallow, measuring 0.66m wide by 0.16m deep. It contained a single fill (161), a mid-yellowish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. The feature was cut by Field Drain [164].

6.3.10 Ditch [203] was narrow, measuring 0.45m in width. It contained an upper fill (202), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. In agreement

with the LPA archaeologist the feature was not excavated.

6.3.11 Furrow [126] was wide but shallow, measuring 1.4m wide by 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill (125), a mid-greyish-yellow silty clay which contained no finds.

6.3.12 Field Drain [130] was narrow and shallow, measuring 0.24m wide by 0.22+m deep. It contained a single fill (129), a mottled dark brownish-grey/mid-greyish-yellow silty clay which contained no finds.

6.3.13 Field Drain [164] was narrow and shallow, measuring 0.2m wide by 0.2+m deep. It contained a single fill (129), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds. The feature was cut by Ditch [162].

Trench 6 (Figure 6)

6.3.14 Trench 6 contained three ditches, which were predominantly aligned approximately north-east to south-west. The trench also contained a single furrow.

6.3.15 Ditch [150] was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.55m wide by 0.18m deep. It contained a single fill (149), a light greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds.

6.3.16 Ditch [152] was moderately narrow and shallow, terminating to the south-west and measuring 0.42m wide by 0.09m deep. It contained a single fill (151), a light greyish-brown silty clay which contained no finds.

6.3.17 Ditch [158] (Plate 5, Figure 7, Section 20) was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.66m wide by 0.25m deep. It contained a single fill (157), a light brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds.

6.3.18 Furrow [168] was wide but shallow, measuring 1.1m wide by 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill (167), a mid-greyish-yellow silty clay which contained no finds.

Trench 7 (Figure 5)

6.3.19 Trench 7 contained four ditches, which were predominantly aligned

approximately east-north-east to west-south-west. The trench also contained a single pit.

- 6.3.20 Ditch [132] (Figure 7, Section 12) was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.51m wide by 0.14m deep. It contained a single fill (131), a mid-grey silty sand which contained no finds.
- 6.3.21 Ditch [134] (Figure 7, Section 13) was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.38m wide by 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill (133), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds.
- 6.3.22 Ditch [140] was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring 0.4m wide by 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill (139), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds.
- 6.3.23 Ditch [166] (Figure 7, Section 25) was moderately wide but shallow, measuring 0.92m wide by 0.16m deep. It contained a single fill (165), a mid-brownish-grey silty clay which contained no finds.
- 6.3.24 Pit [185] (Figure 7, Section 30) was not fully visible in plan (c. 1.2m wide by 0.62m deep), extending beyond the limits of excavation to the west. It contained a single fill (184), a dark-blueish-grey clay which contained no finds, as well as frequent charcoal flecks.

6.4 Blank trenches

Trench 8 (Figure 5)

- 6.4.1 Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

7 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Prehistoric Pottery

Alice Lyons

Introduction

- 7.1.1 A total of 284 sherds of mid-to-Late (400BC-AD0) Iron Age pottery, weighing 1910g, was recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Lower Stondon in South Bedfordshire. A minimum of 44 individual vessels were recorded. The pottery is in a fragmentary condition, with an average sherd weight of only 6.7g. This small sherd size indicates that the pottery has been subjected to significant post-depositional abrasion and that none of the pottery was deliberately deposited. The severe abrasion has removed any surface use deposits such as soot or lime-scale residue.
- 7.1.2 Pottery was recovered from features within five of the ten evaluation trenches examined, with the majority of pottery found in the western part of the site where it overlay contemporary settlement and enclosure (Table 1).

Trench	Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
1	Ditch	37	246	12.88
2	Tr 2 Total	38	118	6.18
	Ditch	18	60	
	Posthole	20	58	
3	Ditch	7	82	4.29
9	Ditch	51	669	35.03
10	Tr 10 Total	151	795	41.62
	Ditch	143	778	
	Holloway	1	1	
	Ring-Ditch	7	16	
Total		284	1910	100.00

Table 1: Prehistoric pottery by trench

Methodology

- 7.1.3 The pottery was analysed following the national guidelines (Barclay et. Al. 2016). The total assemblage was studied, and a catalogue was prepared (Appendix 3). The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined based on inclusion types present.

The fabrics were cross-referenced to the Bedfordshire fabric series. Vessel forms (jar, bowl) were also recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. PCA curates the pottery and archive. Thanks to Sarah Percival (Cambridge Archaeology Unit) for confirming the assemblage date.

The Pottery

7.1.4 Five broad pottery fabrics were identified (Table 2).

Fabric Name: abbreviation	Bedfordshire Fabric Code	Form	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Reduced ware with common sand quartz inclusions: RW(Q)	F29	Bowl, jar, storage jar	230	1450	75.92
Reduced ware with common calciferous inclusions: RW(CALC)	F20	Jar, bowl	32	355	18.58
Reduced ware with common shell inclusions: RW(S)	F16	Jar, bowl	17	78	4.08
Oxidised ware with common sand quartz inclusions: OW(Q)	F29	Jar, bowl	3	11	0.58
Reduced ware with common grog inclusions: RW(G)	F06C	Storage jar	2	16	0.84
Total			284	1910	100.00

Table 2: Prehistoric pottery fabrics and forms

7.1.5 The pottery assemblage comprises a limited range of handmade low-fired coarseware fabrics, the majority of which have a quartz-rich (sandy) matrix, consistent with Middle Iron Age production. Other materials present within the clay bodies reflect the local Cretaceous geology with natural inclusions such as flint, weathered chalk and other calcareous inclusions, including fossiliferous shell, also found. Much of the material also retains voids where organic material has burnt-out during the firing process. The fragmentary remains mostly comprise undiagnostic jar/bowl body sherds. The diagnostic vessels comprise slack-shouldered jar fragments, some of which are decorated with an incised scored decorative motif (Webley 2007, 224). Thicker sherds with an internal burnish were also found which demonstrates robust open forms were also in use. All of this material is consistent with local production for utilitarian use.

7.1.6 Later Iron Age pottery was found in smaller quantities and includes a handmade

RW(Q) wide mouthed jar with a 'rippled shoulder' which was introduced into the ceramic repertoire of this region in the 1st century BC (Type B3, Thompson 1982, 116-121), also found were contemporary grog-tempered storage-jar fragments.

Discussion

- 7.1.7 This is a small assemblage of mid-to Late Iron Age coarseware utilitarian pottery, made locally for domestic use. At this time in Bedfordshire it was normal for local products to reflect the immediate geology (Webley 2007, 224) and this was found to be the case here. Moreover, the pottery is very similar to that found on the adjacent development areas, although this material had origins earlier in the Iron Age (Wells 2013; Brown 2017), even so it appears typical of local manufacture and use.

7.2 Worked Stone

Märit Gaimster with stone identification by Kevin Hayward

Introduction

- 7.2.1 A single piece of stone was recovered from an evaluation from the land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stanton, Bedfordshire (2019.68). A review of the stone was undertaken not only to determine geological character and source but also to (if possible) provide a list of spot dates.
- 7.2.2 The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10). As there was no pre-existing Bedfordshire stone reference collection each new fabric was prefixed by BED followed by 1, 2 etc.
- 7.2.3 A sharpening stone of local sandstone was retrieved from fill (136) of Ditch [138], representing the northern side of a rectilinear enclosure in Trench 1. As opposed to a deliberately manufactured hone, this sharpening tool utilises a natural tapering slab of stone, almost certainly from a natural riverbed deposit. This geological source will probably be the nearby/underlying Woburn Sands (Lower Greensand; BED1). On one of the two flat faces is an almost vertical groove, formed by the repeated sharpening of the point of knives or tools. Whether one or both faces were also used to sharpen knife or tool edges, by

laying them flat against the stone, is difficult to ascertain as the stone is naturally smooth all around. The local use of stone for portable utilitarian use is often a feature of prehistoric activity prior to the much larger regional trade networks that characterise Roman rural activity throughout southern and eastern Britain.

- 7.2.4 Context (136); sharpening stone of hard, fine, grey, mica rich calcareous sandstone with a smooth tapering natural tablet form. There is a central 55mm long vertical groove from sharpening the point of knives or tools on one face; length: 110mm, width 38–48mm; thickness 15mm. Spot Date: 500BC-AD400.

7.3 Coins

Märit Gaimster

Introduction

- 7.3.1 An Iron Age coin (SF1) was retrieved from the fill of Posthole [170] in Trench 2 (Plates 11 & 12). The coin is a potin of high-tin copper alloy, representing the first indigenous British coinage starting out in the late second century BC. The Lower Stondon coin belongs to the latest type of this coinage, albeit perhaps early in that sequence, with smaller, thinner and lighter issues (Allen's Class II) as opposed to the larger and heavier Class I. The potin coinage has recently been reclassified by David Holman, with the Lower Stondon issue falling into his Group G. This group dates from the decades around the mid-first century BC (Holman 2016, 11).
- 7.3.2 Context (169)]; SF 1; copper-alloy Flat-Linear Class II potin; close to Holman G1/5-1a (Allen M2); Obverse: linear head left, with neckline, eye ring with small pellet; Reverse: linear bull, exergual line below, with two crescents above; diam. 15mm; weight 1.23 g; good condition with little wear.

Discussion

- 7.3.3 While contemporary with the Belgo-Gallic gold coins that circulated in Britain, potins are ultimately derived from bronze coins minted in Marseilles that feature Apollo on the obverse and a bull on the reverse. Unlike most coins, the potins were not struck from dies but instead cast in strips with individual coins usually retaining stubs of the sprues that originally joined them together. Potins are traditionally associated with Kent and the tribe of Cantii, and a function within

long-distance trade and exchange. They circulated in several areas outside Kent (cf. Haselgrove 1988, fig. 5), and by the later period of use, Group G potins may have been manufactured also north of the Thames (Holman 1916, 39). The discovery of the coin in a small posthole may be significant, and possibly represents a placed deposit.

7.4 Animal Bone

Karen Deighton

Introduction

- 7.4.1 A total of 49 identifiable bones were hand collected from a number of Iron Age ditch fills during the course of excavation. A further 98 bone fragments were collected from the sieved residues of environmental samples (2mm and 10mm mesh).

Methodology

- 7.4.2 Material was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references) and recorded onto an access database.

Bone condition

- 7.4.3 Fragmentation was heavy with 58.6% of bone 25% or less complete, which adversely affected identification. The high level of fragmentation was partially due to heavy handed butchery as chop marks were noted on 50% of bones. Evidence of knife marks was also noted on a single bone. Evidence of canid gnawing was noted on two bones.

Taxa Present

Context	Cut	Feature	Cattle	Cattle size	Sheep/goat	Sh/gt size	Pig	Horse	Total
105	106	Ring ditch			1				1
111	113	ditch		1		1			2
112	113	ditch	2						2
117	116	Holloway				1			1
123	124	ditch		1					1
135	138	ditch		1					1
136	138	ditch		2	2				4

141	146	ditch	1		5	1			7
142	146	ditch		1					1
143	146	ditch	1	3		2			6
144	146	ditch			1				1
155	156	ditch	1		1				2
159	160	ditch			1				1
169	170	posthole			2	2			4
172	175	ditch				1			1
173	175	ditch		1			1		2
176	177	ditch	2	1	1	1		1	6
181	173	ditch	3		1				4
189	190	ditch	1	1					2
Total			11	12	15	9	1	1	49

Table 3: Taxa by context (fragment count)

Context	Sample	Cattle	Cattle size	Sheep/goat	Sheep/goat size	Rabbit	Field mouse	Small rodent	Uni mam	Amph	Total
105	1000			2	1				20	2	25
137	1001			1		1		1	33		36
169	1003		9	1	20						30
141	1004	1		3	1		1	1			7
Total		1	9	7	22	1	1	2	53	2	98

Table 4: animal bone from samples (fragment count)

Key to tables: Sh/gt=sheep/goat, Uni Mam= unidentified mammal, Amph=Amphibian

Discussion

7.4.4 The hand collected assemblage is composed entirely of common domesticates, with roughly equal numbers of cattle/cattle sized fragments and ovicaprid/ovicaprid size fragments. Horse is the only (usually) non-food taxa present and is represented by a maxillary tooth. Although no canid remains were found their presence could be hinted at by the evidence for canid gnawing on a few bones. The field mouse, small rodent and amphibian remains recovered from the sieved residues probably represent wild taxa living on the site. The presence of rabbit could be intrusive it is an introduced species although there is some debate about the timing of introduction. Aging data is extremely sparse although some juvenile cattle bones were present and tooth wear data indicates the presence of mature sheep/goat.

7.5 Plant Microfossils

Kate Turner

Introduction

- 7.5.1 This report summarises the findings of the assessment of four environmental bulk samples taken during an archaeological evaluation on Land West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon. These samples were taken from two ditches, [138] and [146], a posthole, [170], and a ring-ditch, [106].
- 7.5.2 The aim of this assessment is to give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples, determine the environmental potential of these samples and to establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

Methodology

- 7.5.3 Four environmental bulk samples, of between sixteen and twenty-eight 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).
- 7.5.4 The flot (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope at 10x magnification, 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. Macro-botanical identifications were carried out using standard reference catalogues (Jones, Taylor and Ash, 2004; Jacomet, 2006; Cappers, Bekker and Jans, 2012; Neef, Cappers and Bekker, 2012). Nomenclature for economic plants follows Van Zeist (1984) and for other plant taxa follows Stace (1991). Molluscs were identified with reference to Kerney (1999).

- 7.5.5 Material collected from the heavy residues was catalogued and passed on to

the relevant specialists for further assessment. A full account of the sample contents is provided in table 5.

Results

- 7.5.6 Preservation- archaeobotanical remains were preserved in these samples by carbonisation, with wood charcoal, charred seeds and burnt cereal grains recovered in low to high concentrations throughout the sample-set; charcoal was the most commonly recognised ecofact, present in abundance in all of the assessed samples.
- 7.5.7 Sample <1000>, context (105) of Ring-ditch [106]- Sample <1000>, consisting of sixteen litres of sediment, was taken from the fill of a ditch (105), encountered in Trench 10. Wood charcoal was recovered from this deposit, over one-hundred pieces in total, less than thirty of which were determined to be of a suitable size for species to be identified (>4mm in length/width). A small concentration of carbonised cereal grains and weeds were also reported; seeds of common agricultural weeds, including black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), wild grasses (*Poaceae* spp.), docks (*Rumex* spp.) and bedstraw (*Galium* spp.), were recognised, along with grains of wheats and indeterminate cereals, the latter of which were too damaged for species or genus to be established. Chaff was absent. Terrestrial mollusc shell, of the subterranean species *Cecilioides acicula*, was recorded in the flot, in addition to juvenile snails, roots and modern plant material and seeds, all of which may be indicative of post-depositional disturbance.
- 7.5.8 Sample <1001>, context (137) of Ditch [138]- A twenty-four-litre bulk sample, <1001>, was taken from the fill of a ditch [138], uncovered in Trench 1. This sample was found to contain a large quantity of fragmented charcoal, the bulk of which was noted in the smallest sieved fraction, <2mm; between thirty and one-hundred specimens larger specimens, of a size to be identified to species, were also reported. In addition to charcoal, carbonised grains, of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), were found, as were a small number of seeds, all of which were too heavily damaged for species to be recognised. A large quantity of snails was recovered from the flot fraction, with shells of the terrestrial genera *Vallonia* spp., *Vertigo* spp., *Trochulus* spp., *Pupilla* spp., *Ena* spp. and

Cochlicopa spp. noted, in addition to freshwater species, such as Anisus spp.; a significant number of juvenile specimens were also present. Modern seeds, plant material, and roots were recovered from the flots, which may be a sign of bioturbation.

7.5.9 Sample <1003>, context (169) of Posthole [170]-

7.5.10 Sample <1003>, comprised of twenty-eight litres of material, was recovered from the fill of a post-hole [170], encountered in Trench 2. As with the bulk of this sample set, wood-charcoal was frequently observed in this deposit, with a large quantity of remains reported; the bulk of this material was considered to be too small to be identified, and only a relatively small proportion of pieces (30-100) were considered to be of identifiable size. Seeds and cereals were absent in this context, with the exception of a small number of seed coats, the condition of which indicates are likely to be intrusive. Snails were relatively common, with terrestrial shells, largely of species of Vallonia, being recognised, in addition to a minimal number of freshwater examples (Anisus spp.).

7.5.11 Sample <1004>, context (141) of Ditch [146]- Sample <1004>, consisting of twenty-four litres of soil, was taken from the cut of ditch [146], located in Trench 10. Carbonised plant material was abundant in this sample, in the form of a large quantity of wood charcoal, and lesser amounts of burnt seeds and grain. Grains were predominantly of wheats, notably emmer/spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and barley. The seed assemblage was comprised largely of arable weeds, including deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*), wild grasses, black bindweed and bedstraw; a single tuber, likely of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) was also recognised, and several shards of hazelnut-shell. The plant remains in this sample were poorly preserved; more than 50% of seeds and grains were degraded to a degree as to be considered unidentifiable. The snail assemblage contained only terrestrial species, with the bulk of these specimens being of Vallonia and Trochulus. Juvenile shells and broken shells were common. In terms of other material modern plant remains and roots were recovered, which suggest the potential for post-depositional disturbance in this context.

Discussion

- 7.5.12 A small assemblage of carbonised grain was recovered from the Lower Stondon samples, which indicates the possibility that cereal crops including barley and emmer/spelt wheats may have been grown or consumed in the vicinity of the site. However, the overall abundance of such remains is not substantial enough to suggest large-scale activity. Barley and glume-wheats have been cultivated in Britain since the Neolithic (Hillman, 1981), and are commonly found in archaeological deposits across the south-east of England.
- 7.5.13 The weed assemblage largely contained species indicative of cultivated and/or waste ground, including bedstraw, goosefoots and wild grasses. These could be the remains of plants that have been brought in with the cereal harvest and subsequently burnt during the disposal of cereal processing waste, or potentially be from vegetation growing in-situ at the combustion site. A small amount of charred hazelnut shell was recovered from one of the sampled features, which may indicate that nuts may have been consumed on site. A single specimen of oat grass was also recovered, which in keeping with the seed assemblage is often present as a weed in cultivated fields.
- 7.5.14 A proportion of the recovered grains and seeds were significantly fire damaged and could not be identified to species, or in some cases, genus. As some types of plant material, for example the chaff of free-threshing cereals such as barley are thought to survive poorly when burnt at high temperatures (Boardman and Jones, 1990), this is perhaps an indication that the conditions of the combustion environment were not conducive to preservation of some remains. Along with the observed damage this could have resulted in the destruction and thus under-representation of some components, for example cereal chaff.
- 7.5.15 Wood charcoal was common throughout, observed in variable concentrations in all of the assessed features and is likely to constitute the remains small-scale combustion, perhaps for domestic purposes.
- 7.5.16 The mollusc assemblage was broadly suggestive of a moist or wet environment, with some evidence for areas of dry, exposed ground.

7.5.17 With the exception of wood-charcoal, preservation of archaeobotanical remains in the Lower Stondon samples was relatively poor.

Taphonomic Considerations

7.5.18 Roots and apparently intrusive seeds were observed throughout; this could be evidence of bioturbation and the potential for post-depositional reworking of smaller remains should be considered.

Sample Number	1000	1001	1003	1004
Context Number	105	137	169	141
Cut Number	106	138	170	146
Trench No.	10	1	2	10
Context Type	Fill	Fill	Fill	Fill
Feature Type	Ring-Ditch	Ditch	Post-hole	Ditch
Volume of flot (millilitres)	50	50	83	39
Volume of bulk (litres)	16	24	28	24
Method of Processing	F	F	F	F
RETENT				
Charcoal				
Charcoal >4 mm	2	3	3	2
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm	2	1	2	2
Bone				
Animal bone	3	2	3	2
Finds				
Glass		1		
Copper coin			1	
Pottery	1	2	1	1
Building Material				
Burnt stone				
Other Remains				
Hammer-scale	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3
FLOT				
Charcoal				
Charcoal >4 mm	1	1	1	1
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm	1	2	4	3
Charcoal <2 mm	4	4	4	4
Suitable for ID?				

Sample Number		1000	1001	1003	1004
Context Number		105	137	169	141
Cut Number		106	138	170	146
Burnt Seeds		Common Name			
Arrhenatherum elatius var. bulbosum (tuber)	False Oat-grass				1
Atropa belladonna	Deadly nightshade				1
Bromus spp.	Bromes				1
Chenopodium spp.	Goosefoots	1			1
Corylus avellana - nut fragments	Hazel				1
Fallopia convolvulus	Black-bindweed	1			1
Galium spp.	Bedstraws	1			
Plantago spp.	Plantains				1
Poaceae - large caryopses	Grasses	1			1
Poaceae - medium caryopses	Grasses	1			
Rumex spp.	Docks	1			
Trifolium spp.	Clovers	1			
Seeds - unknown			1		1
Fragmented/broken seeds - indeterminate			1		2
Cereals					
GRAINS					
Hordeum vulgare	Barley		1		1
Triticum dicoccum/spelta	Emmer/spelt wheat				1
Triticum spp.	Indeterminate wheats	1			1
Cereal - Broken/distorted		1			2
Intrusive seeds					
Aethusa cynapium	Fool's Parsley				
Betula spp.	Birch		1		
Chenopodium album	Fat-hen		1		
Polygonum spp.	Knotgrasses		1		
Solanum spp.	Nightshades		1		
Indet. seed case			1	1	
Other Plant Macrofossils					
Modern plant material		2	2	1	1
Roots/tubers		3	3	3	3
Terrestrial Molluscs		Habitat			
Aegopinella/Oxychilus spp.	Moist places		1		
Anisus spp.	Various aquatic		2	1	

Sample Number		1000	1001	1003	1004
Context Number		105	137	169	141
Cut Number		106	138	170	146
Carychium spp.	Wet/moist places			1	2
Cecilioides acicula	Subterranean - non native	1			
Cepaea hortensis/nemoralis	Humid, sheltered places			1	
Cochlicopa lubrica/lubricella	Catholic		1		
Ena cf. obscura	Undisturbed, shady places		1		
Lymnaea cf. truncatula	Marshy grassland/shallow ponds		1		
Pupilla muscorum	Dry, exposed, calcareous		1		1
Trochulus hispidus/striolatus	Various		2		3
Vallonia spp.	Various	1	3	3	4
Vertigo spp.	Various		1	1	1
Juveniles - indeterminate		2	4	1	3
Shell fragments - indeterminate			4	3	4
Bone					
Small animal/bird bone		1			
Burnt bone				1	
Bone fragments			1	3	1
Biological Remains					
Insect remains/puparia					1
Industrial Waste					
Coal		1	1		

Table 5: Assessment of environmental samples

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The evaluation identified a concentration of mid-to Late Iron Age features, predominantly ditches and pits, located in the western end of the site. The majority of the ditches had previously been identified as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, before being confirmed during the evaluation. These ditches formed a number of small, well defined north-east to south-west by north-west to south-east aligned rectilinear and circular enclosures; some of the ditches were of a considerable size and would have functioned as substantial boundary markers.
- 8.2 The features in the west end of the site produced moderately-sized finds assemblages, with pottery and animal bone forming the bulk of the recovered material. The type and quantity of features and associated artefact assemblages indicate that the enclosures probably relate to direct settlement, with one small ditch possibly relating to a roundhouse ring-ditch. There were however comparatively few features present within the enclosures, indicating this settlement activity may not have been particularly intensive, or that there may have been a more intensive focus outside the site area. The type of material recovered is indicative of a comparatively low-status settlement with an agricultural focus, with the overwhelming majority of the finds being locally sourced or produced and the animal bone assemblage consisting entirely of common domesticates. The exception to this is a single Potin, found in Trench 2. This object is traditionally associated with long-distance trade and exchange and suggests that the occupants of the settlement did possess the resources and ability to access these wider networks to a certain degree.
- 8.3 The presence of limited quantities of finds of a Late Iron Age date within the artefact assemblages, most notably in a recut of the main rectangular enclosure suggests settlement activity may have continued, possibly at a reduced level into this period.
- 8.4 A significant 'drop-off' in archaeological activity was evident away from the western edge of the site, where the previously identified enclosures ceased. Archaeological activity in the central and eastern parts of the site was limited to

smaller ditches, furrows and a single pit, which were mainly north-east to south-west aligned, similar to the modern field alignment. Although these features did not produce datable finds assemblages, the appearance of the feature fills and where applicable their stratigraphic relationships suggest these features most likely relate to post-medieval to modern drainage and boundary systems.

- 8.5 A discrete, but very similar Iron Age settlement was excavated in an evaluation carried out by Oxford Archaeology, immediately to the south of the site (HER 16792, Boothroyd 2017) (Figure 3). The settlement at this site was assessed as Early to Middle Iron Age in date, and therefore may have been slightly earlier than the current site's settlement. The morphology of the site was similar, being focused around a series of Iron Age settlement enclosure ditches, forming slightly irregular rectilinear enclosures which contained lesser quantities of discrete features. The finds assemblages also have many similarities to the current sites, with relatively abundant assemblages of pottery, animal bone and fragments of rotary quern. As with the current site, the Iron Age archaeology was overlain by sparse agricultural ditches of a later, predominantly post-medieval to modern date.
- 8.6 A possible part of the agricultural hinterland of this settlement has been excavated, south of Station Road (HER 19455, Barker 2013) (Figure 3). At this site a further complex of enclosures was interpreted as having a stock-management function.

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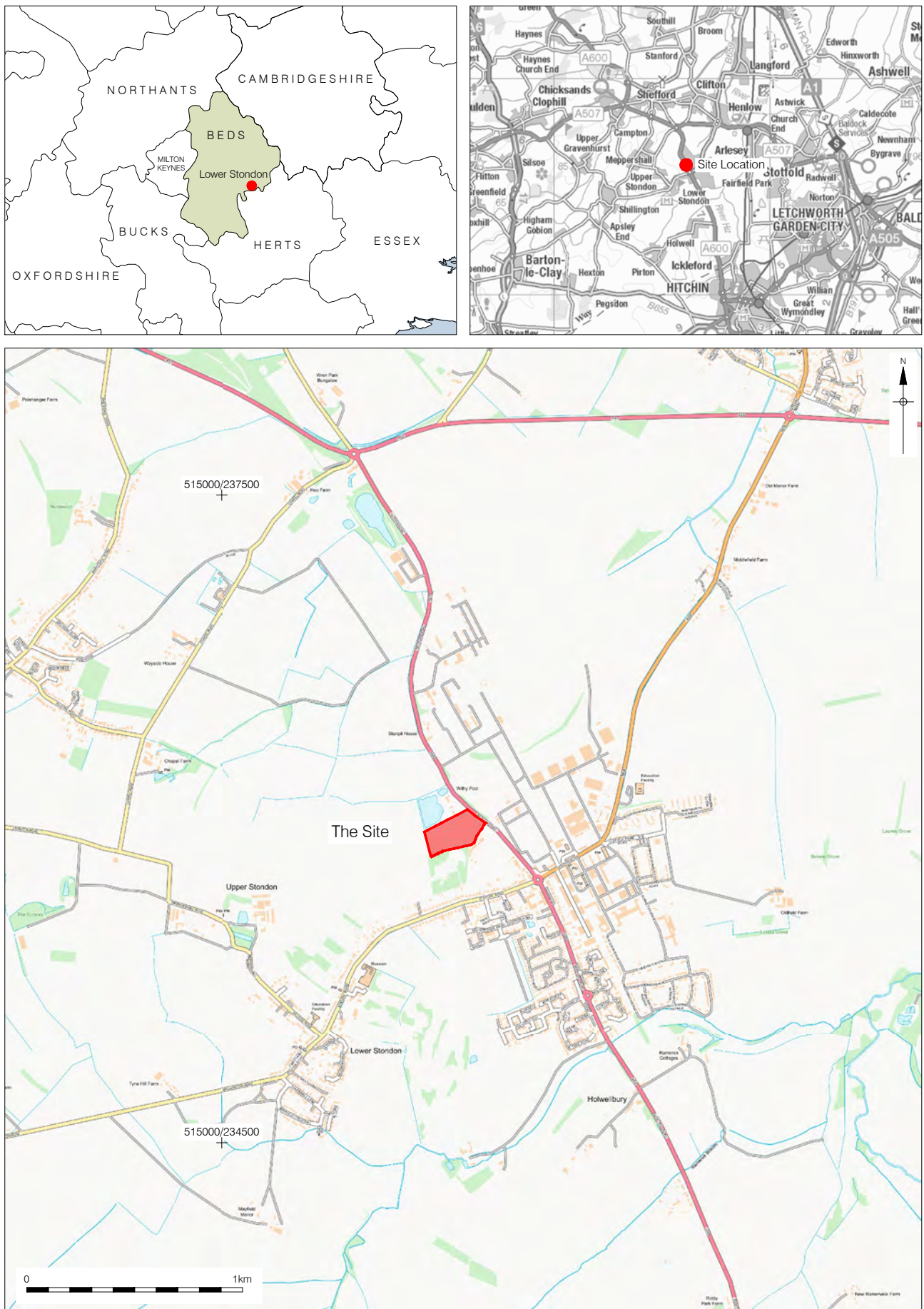
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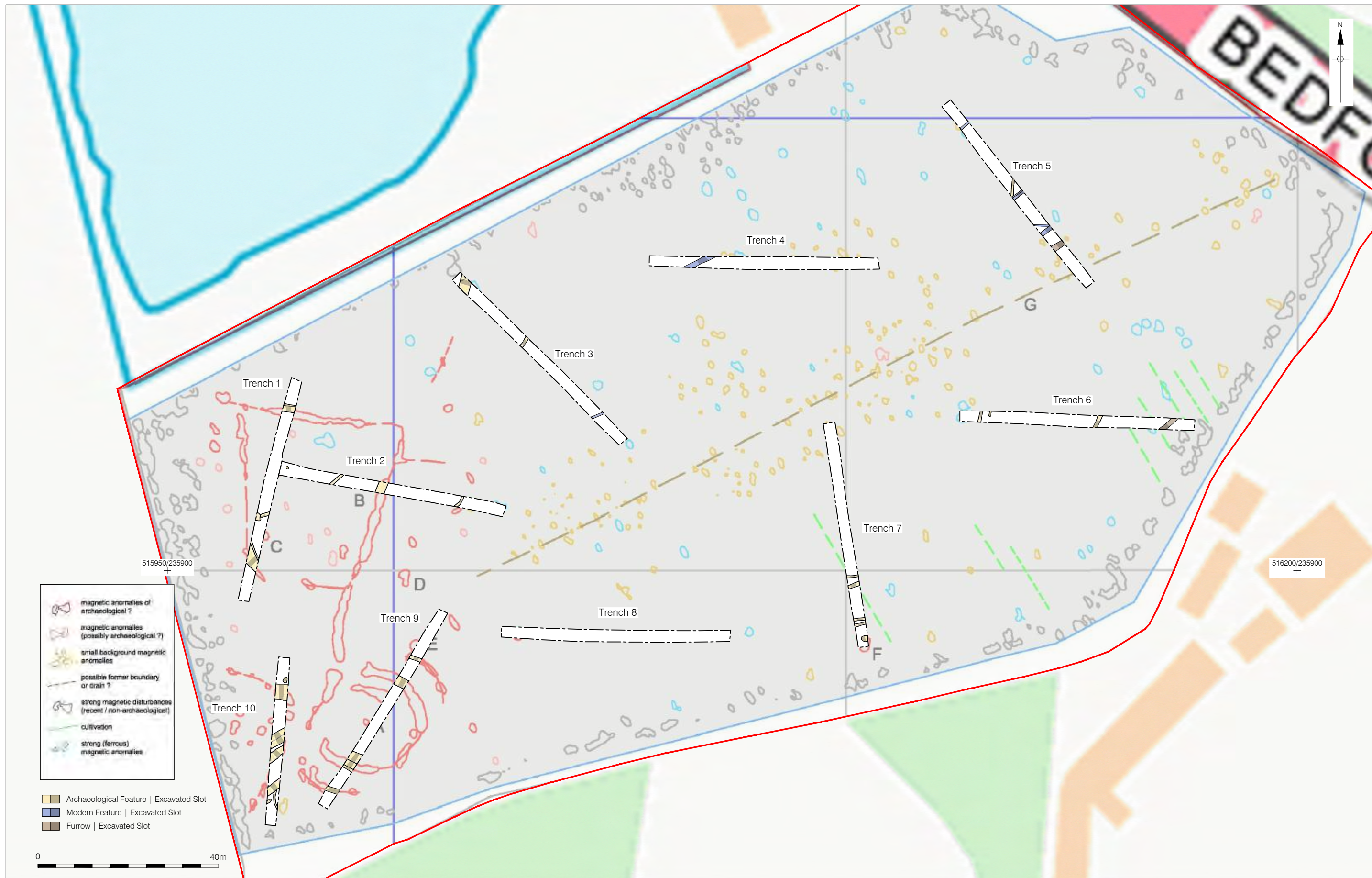
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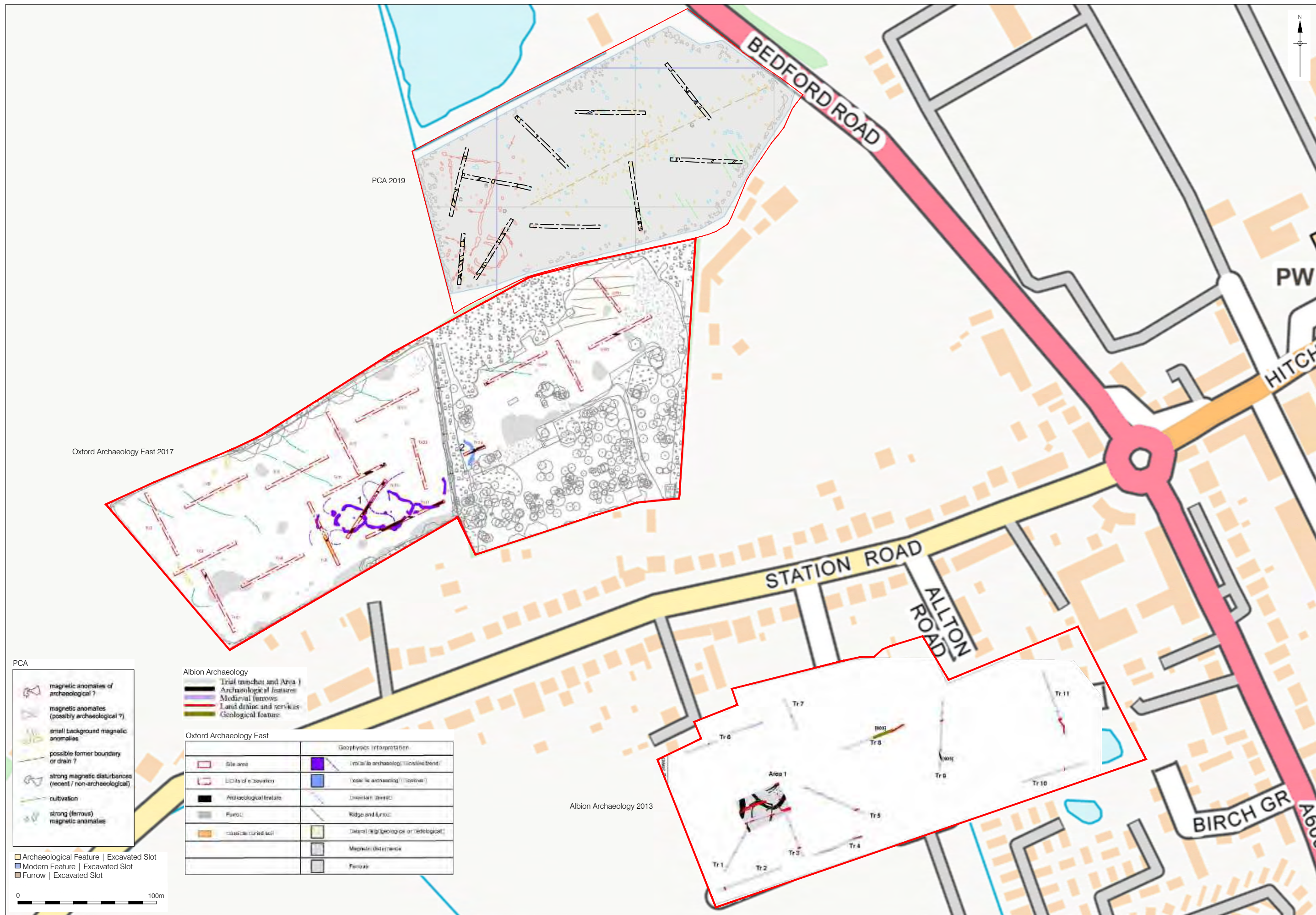
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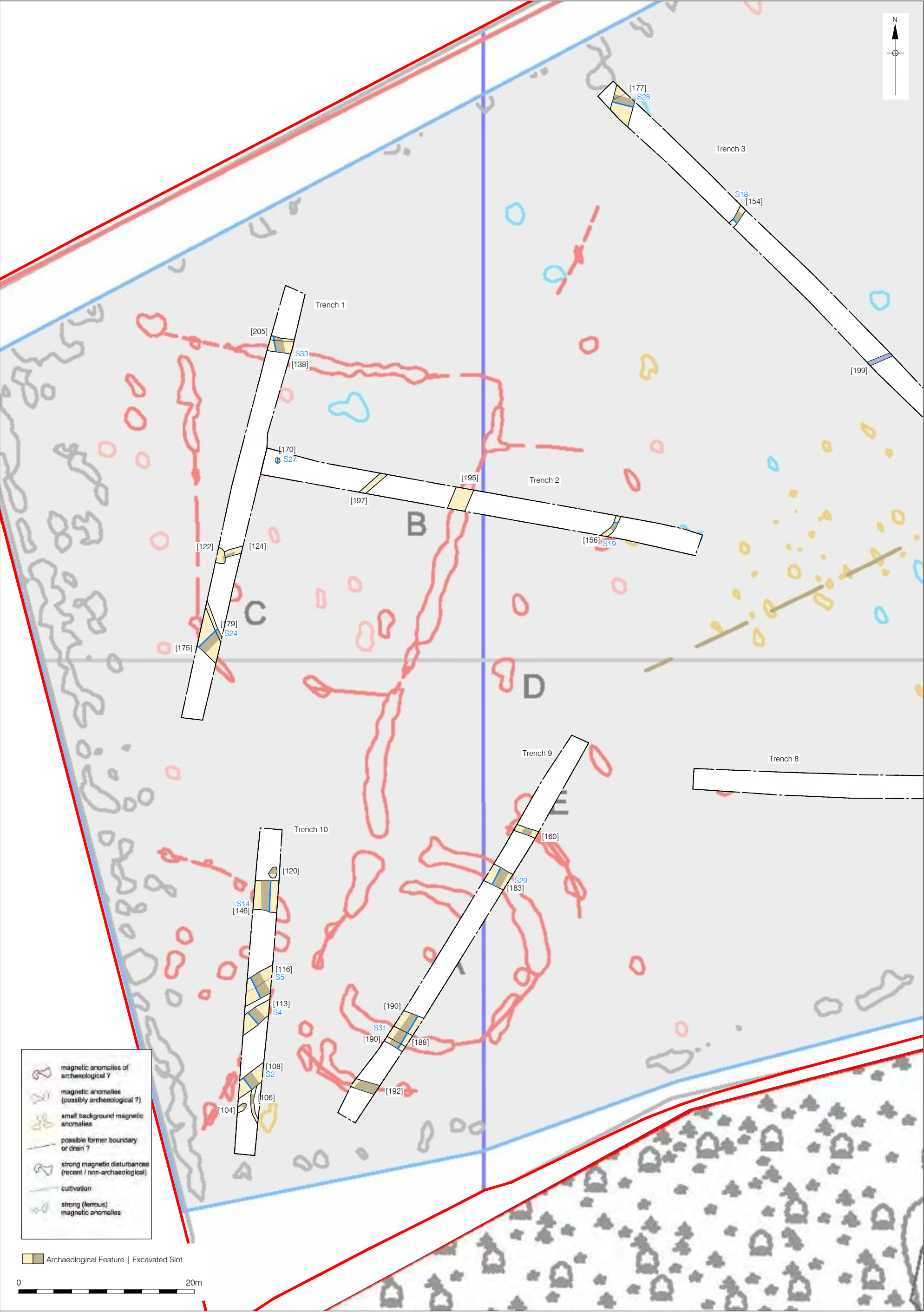
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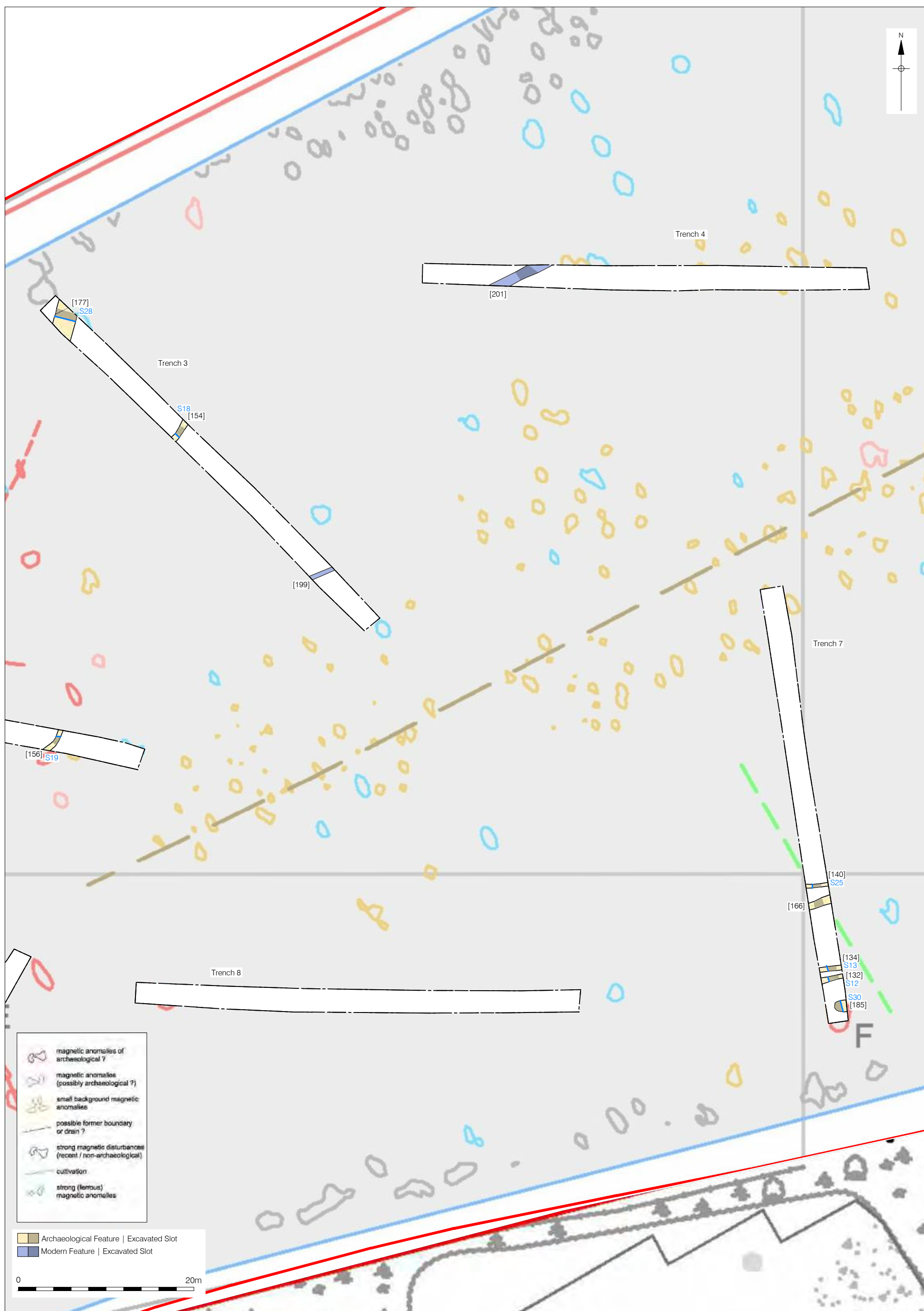


Figure 5
Trenches 3, 4, 7 and 8
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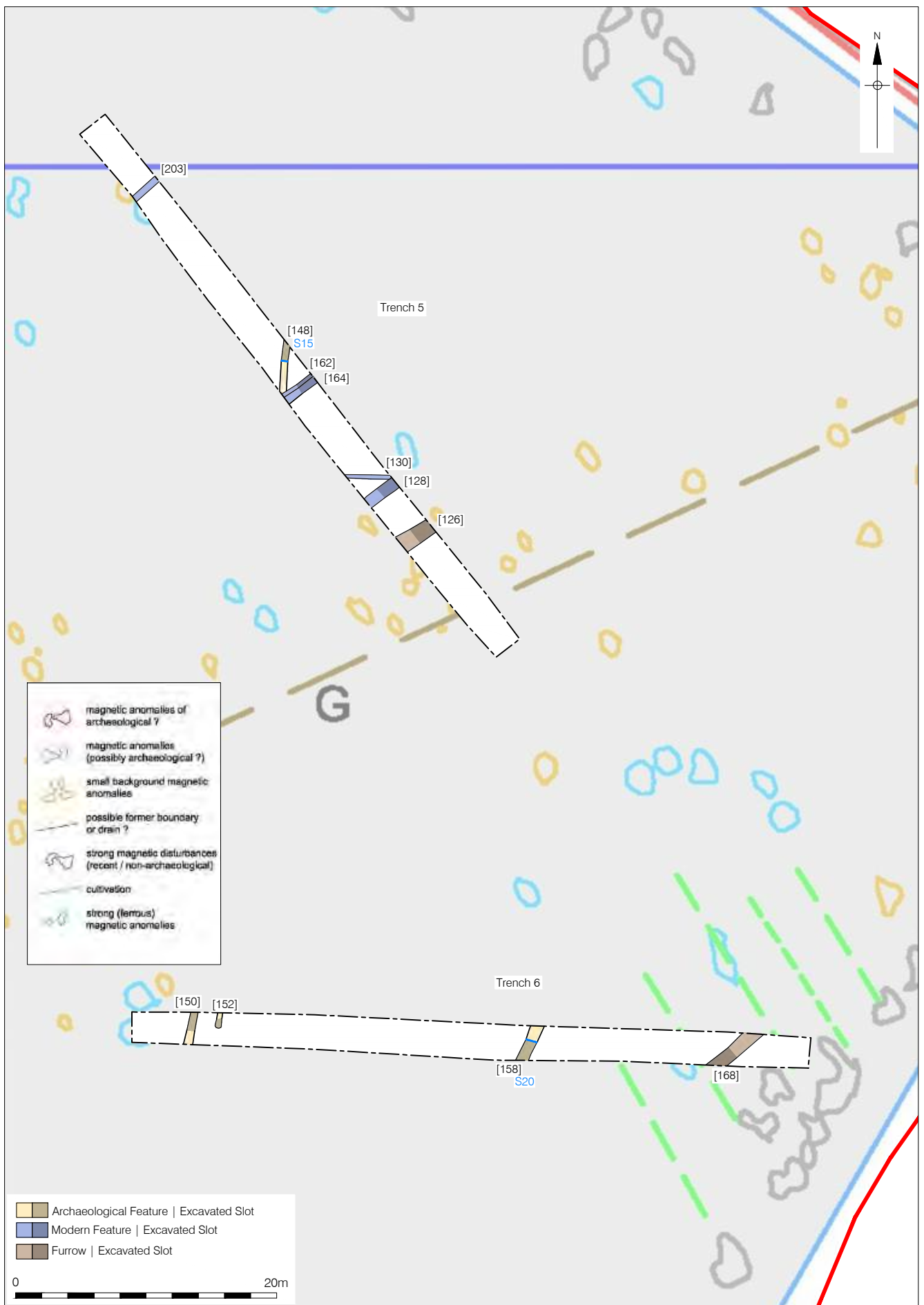
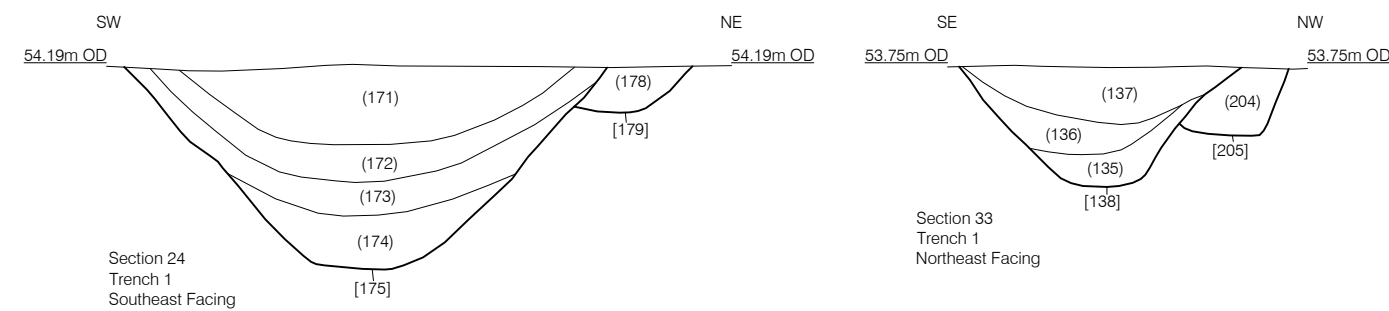
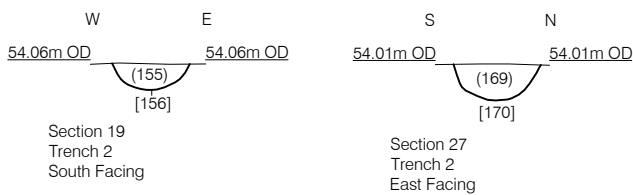


Figure 6
Trenches 5 and 6
1:400 at A4

Trench 1



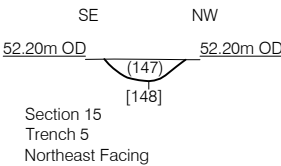
Trench 2



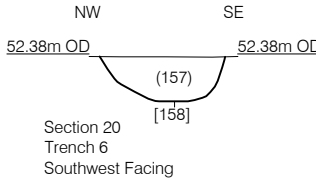
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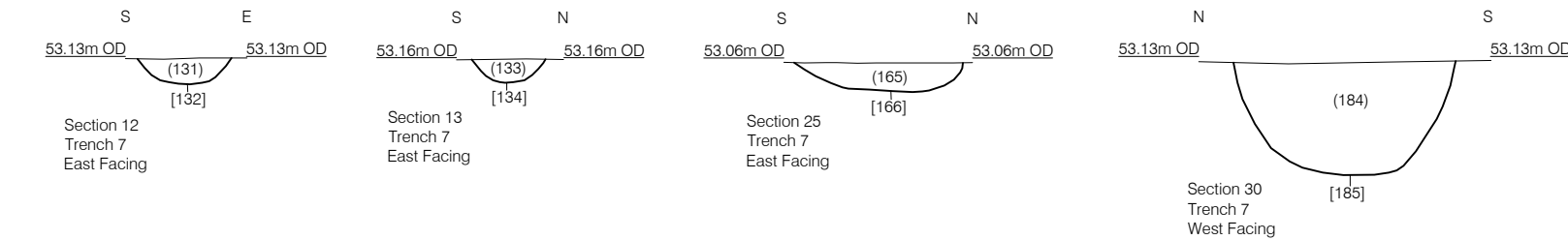
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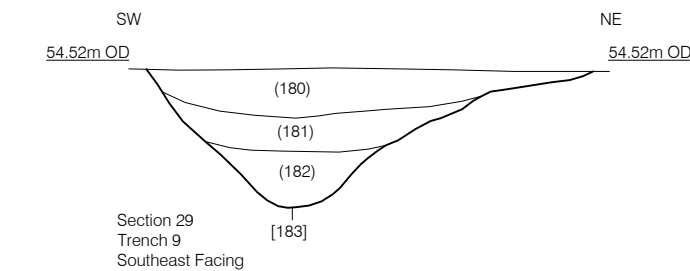
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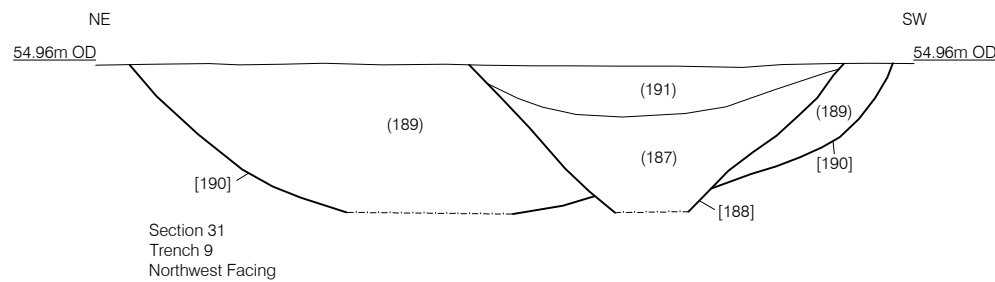
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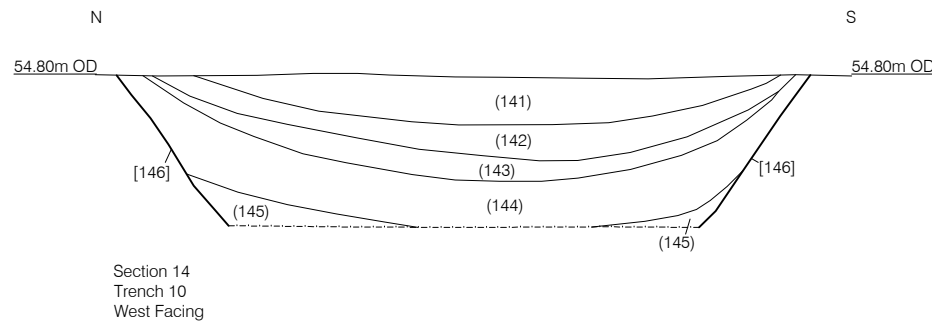
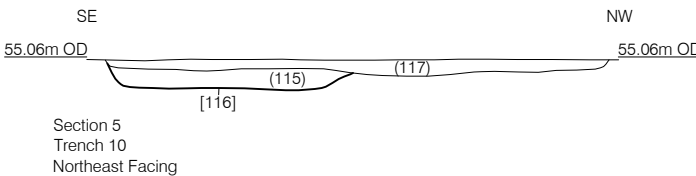
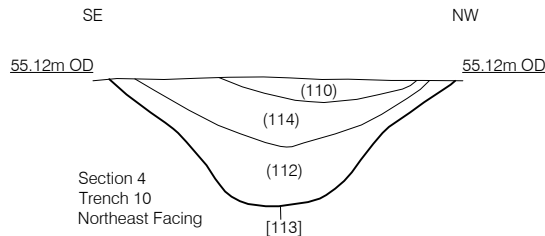
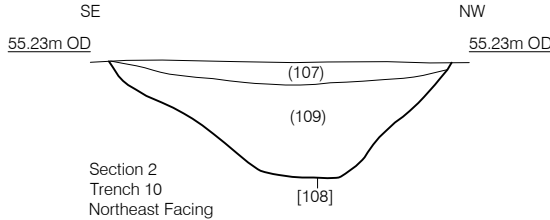
Trench 9



Trench 9



Trench 10



12 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Site, view north



Plate 2: Ditches [175] & [179], Trench 1, view north-west

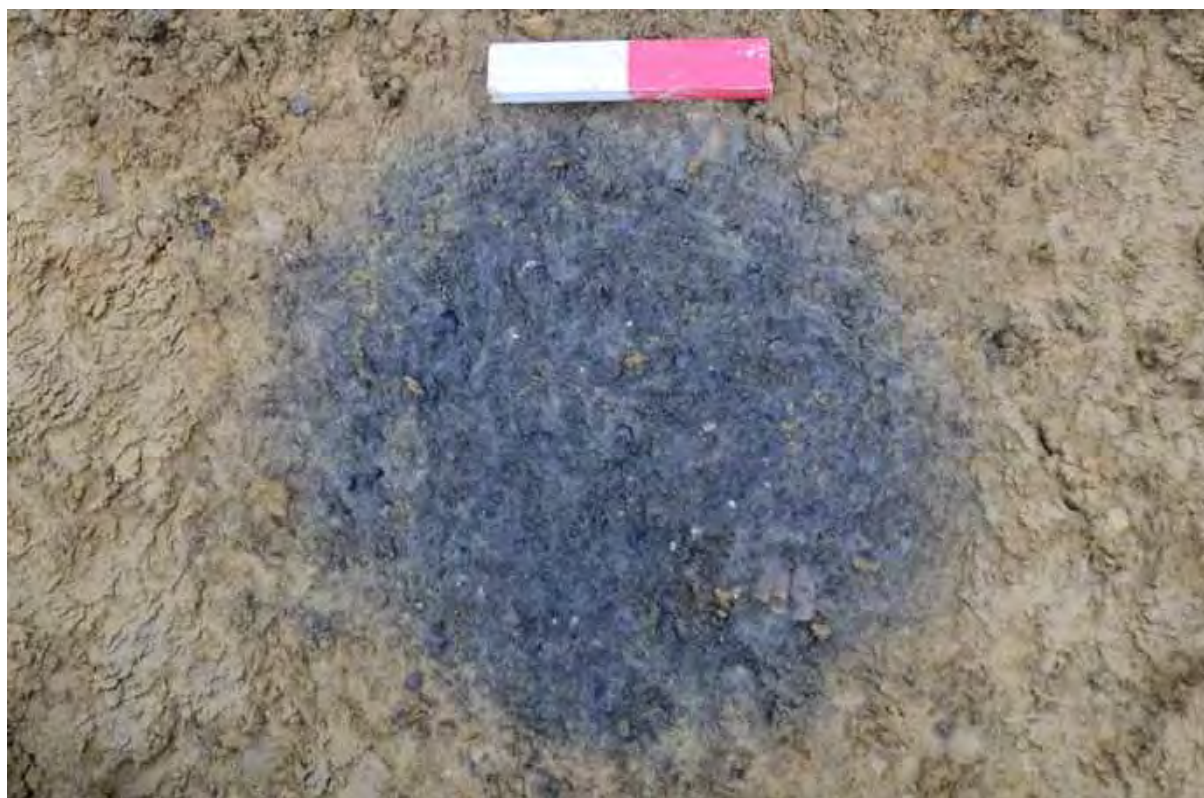


Plate 3: Posthole [170], pre-excitation, Trench 2, view north-east



Plate 4: Ditch [177], Trench 3, view south

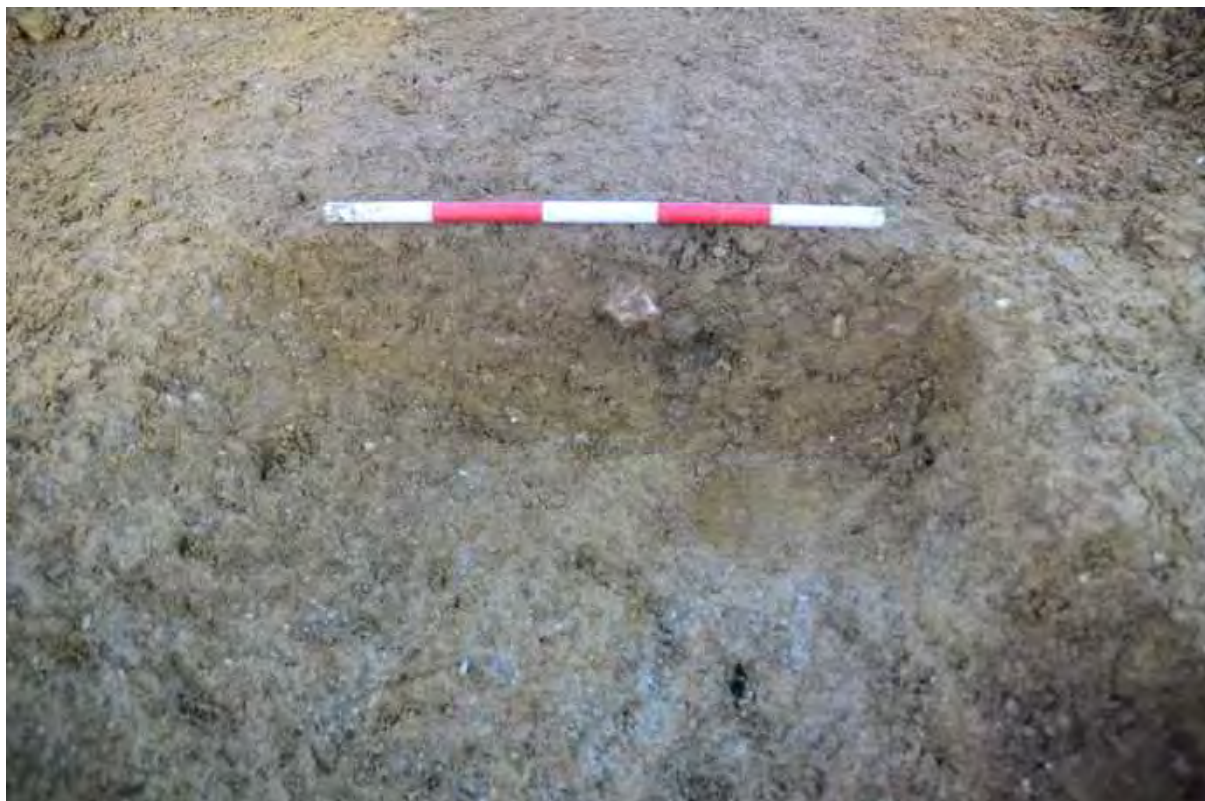


Plate 5: Ditch [158], Trench 6, view south-west



Plate 6: Ditch [132], Trench 7, view west



Plate 7: Trench 10, pre-excavation, view north-north-east, showing internal ring-gully



Plate 8: Ring-gully [106], Trench 10, view north



Plate 9: Ditch [113], Trench 10, view south-west



Plate 10: Ditch [146], Trench 10, view east



Plate 11: SF1 Iron Age Potin



Plate 12: SF1 Iron Age Potin

Trench	1	End 1	End 2
Alignment	NNE-SSW	Topsoil depth (m) 0.24	0.31
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m) 0.48	0.55
Max machine depth (m)	0.59	Natural depth (m OD) 0.49	0.56

Summary of archaeological features

Five ditches, one pit

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
121	122	Fill	Pit	0.7	1.6	0.16	Firm, light grey silty clay
122	122	Cut	Pit	0.7	1.6	0.16	Circular in plan, gentle sides, concave base
123	124	Fill	Ditch	0.8	0.4	0.15	Firm, light brownish-grey silty clay
124	124	Cut	Ditch	0.8	0.4	0.15	Linear in plan, moderate sides, flat base
135	138	Fill	Ditch	1	0.88	0.17	Firm, mid-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal
136	138	Fill	Ditch	1	1.27	0.22	Firm, dark grey silty clay
137	138	Fill	Ditch	1	1.45	0.3	Firm, mid-to light grey silty clay with rare charcoal
138	138	Cut	Ditch	1	1.45	0.64	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base
171	175	Fill	Ditch	1	2	0.41	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay

172	175	Fill	Ditch	1	2.3	0.2	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
173	175	Fill	Ditch	1	2.4	0.2	Firm, mid-greyish-brown
174	175	Fill	Ditch	1	1.4	0.25	Firm, light greyish-brown silty clay
175	175	Cut	Ditch	1	3	1.1	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base
178	179	Fill	Ditch	1	0.45	0.25	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
179	179	Cut	Ditch	1	0.45	0.25	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base
204	205	Fill	Ditch	1	0.56	0.36	Firm, mid-grey silty clay with rare charcoal
205	205	Cut	Ditch	1	0.56	0.36	Linear in plan, steep sides, flat base

Trench	2	End 1	End 2
Alignment	ESE- WNW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.28 0.34
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.37 0.52
Max machine depth (m)	0.5	Natural depth (m OD)	0.38 0.53

Summary of archaeological features

Three ditches, one posthole

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
155	156	Fill	Ditch	1	0.4	0.12	Firm, mid-brown silty clay
156	156	Cut	Ditch	1	0.4	0.12	Linear in plan, gentle sides, flat base
169	170	Fill	Posthole	0.44	0.44	0.15	Friable, dark brownish-grey silty clay with frequent charcoal
170	170	Cut	Posthole	0.44	0.44	0.15	Circular in plan, moderately sides, concave base
194	195	Fill	Ditch	2	1.7	0	Firm, dark grey silty clay, not excavated
195	195	Cut	Ditch	2	1.7	0	Linear in plan, not excavated
196	197	Fill	Ditch	2	0.65	0	Firm, dark grey silty clay, not excavated
197	197	Cut	Ditch	2	0.65	0	Linear in plan, not excavated

Trench	3		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NW-SE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.27	0.3
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.42	0.39
Max machine depth (m)	0.43	Natural depth (m OD)	0.43	0.4

Summary of archaeological features

Three ditches

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
153	154	Fill	Ditch	1	0.43	0.25	Firm, light brown clay with rare charcoal
154	154	Cut	Ditch	1	0.43	0.25	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base
176	177	Fill	Ditch	1.5	1.35	0.6	Firm, mid-brownish-grey clay with rare charcoal
177	177	Cut	Ditch	1.5	1.35	0.6	Linear in plan, steep sides, flat base
198	199	Fill	Ditch	2	0.42	0	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
199	199	Cut	Ditch	2	0.42	0	Linear in plan, not excavated

Trench	4	End 1	End 2
Alignment	E-W	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3 0.28
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.37
Max machine depth (m)	0.39	Natural depth (m OD)	0.38 0.29

Summary of archaeological features

One ditch

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
200	201	Fill	Ditch	1	0.69	0.2	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
201	201	Cut	Ditch	1	0.69	0.2	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base

Trench	5	End 1	End 2
Alignment	NW-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.52
Max machine depth (m)	0.54	Natural depth (m OD)	0.46

Summary of archaeological features

Four ditches, one furrow, two field drains

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
125	126	Fill	Furrow	1	1.4	0.1	Firm, mid-greyish-yellow
126	126	Cut	Furrow	1	1.4	0.1	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base
127	128	Fill	Ditch	1	1	0.26	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
128	128	Cut	Ditch	1	1	0.26	Linear in plan, moderate sides, flat base
129	130	Fill	Field drain	1	0.24	0.22	Firm, mottled dark brownish-grey/mid-greyish-yellow silty clay
130	130	Cut	Field drain	1	0.24	0.22	Linear in plan, steep sides, flat base
147	148	Fill	Ditch	1	0.25	0.1	Firm, mid-greyish-brown
148	148	Cut	Ditch	1	0.25	0.1	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base
161	162	Fill	Ditch	1	0.66	0.16	Firm, mid-yellowish-grey silty clay
162	162	Cut	Ditch	1	0.66	0.16	Linear in plan, moderate sides, flat base

163	164	Fill	Field drain	1	0.2	0.2	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
164	164	Cut	Field drain	1	0.2	0.2	Linear in plan, vertical sides, flat base
202	203	Fill	Ditch	2	0.45	0	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
203	203	Cut	Ditch	2	0.45	0	Linear in plan, not excavated

Trench	6	End 1	End 2
Alignment	E-W	Topsoil depth (m)	0.33
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.4
Max machine depth (m)	0.42	Natural depth (m OD)	0.41
			0.33

Summary of archaeological features

Three ditches, one furrow

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
149	150	Fill	Ditch	1	0.55	0.18	Firm, light greyish-brown silty clay
150	150	Cut	Ditch	1	0.55	0.18	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base
151	152	Fill	Ditch	1	0.42	0.09	Firm, light greyish-brown silty clay
152	152	Cut	Ditch	1	0.42	0.09	Circular in plan, moderate sides, concave base
157	158	Fill	Ditch	1	0.66	0.25	Firm, light brownish-grey silty clay
158	158	Cut	Ditch	1	0.66	0.25	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base
167	168	Fill	Furrow	1	1.1	0.1	Firm, mid-greyish-yellow
168	168	Cut	Furrow	1	1.1	0.1	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base

Trench	7	End 1	End 2
Alignment	NNW-SSE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.26 0.36
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.38 0.49
Max machine depth (m)	0.5	Natural depth (m OD)	0.39 0.5

Summary of archaeological features

Four ditches, one pit

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
131	132	Fill	Ditch	1	0.51	0.14	Firm, mid-grey silty sand
132	132	Cut	Ditch	1	0.51	0.14	Linear in plan, moderate sides, flat base
133	134	Fill	Ditch	1	0.38	0.12	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
134	134	Cut	Ditch	1	0.38	0.12	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base
139	140	Fill	Ditch	1	0.4	0.08	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
140	140	Cut	Ditch	1	0.4	0.08	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base
165	166	Fill	Ditch	1	0.92	0.16	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
166	166	Cut	Ditch	1	0.92	0.16	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base
184	185	Fill	Pit	1	1.2	0.62	Firm, dark blueish-grey clay with frequent charcoal

185	185	Cut	Pit	1	1.2	0.62	Circular in plan, steep sides, concave base
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Trench	8		End 1	End 2
Alignment	E-W	Topsoil depth (m)	0.31	0.33
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.5	0.39
Max machine depth (m)	0.51	Natural depth (m OD)	0.51	0.4

Summary of archaeological features

None

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
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Trench	9	End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3 0.33
Trench length (m)	50	Subsoil depth (m)	0.38 0.51
Max machine depth (m)	0.52	Natural depth (m OD)	0.39 0.52

Summary of archaeological features

Five ditches

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
159	160	Fill	Ditch	1	0.7	0.2	Firm, mid-brown clay
160	160	Cut	Ditch	1	0.7	0.2	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base
180	183	Fill	Ditch	1	2.4	0.19	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
181	183	Fill	Ditch	1	1.2	0.22	Firm, mid-to dark brownish-grey silty clay
182	183	Fill	Ditch	1	0.39	0.23	Firm, mid-greyish-brown
183	183	Cut	Ditch	1	2.4	0.76	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base
187	188	Fill	Ditch	1	1.7	0.51	Firm, dark blackish-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal
188	188	Cut	Ditch	1	2	0.78	Linear in plan, steep to moderate sides, base not reached
189	190	Fill	Ditch	1	4.02	0.78	Firm, mid-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal

190	190	Cut	Ditch	1	4.02	0.78	Linear in plan, gentle sides, base not reached
191	188	Fill	Ditch	1	2	0.26	Firm, dark blackish-grey silty clay
192	192	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.8	0.25	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base
193	192	Fill	Ditch	1.8	0.8	0.25	Firm, light grey silty clay

Trench	10		End 1	End 2
Alignment	N-S	Topsoil depth (m)	0.31	0.33
Trench length (m)	35	Subsoil depth (m)	0.54	0.56
Max machine depth (m)	0.57	Natural depth (m OD)	0.55	0.57

Summary of archaeological features

Four ditches, one holloway, two pits

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
103	104	Fill	Pit	0.55	0.56	0.09	Firm, mid-greyish-brown
104	104	Cut	Pit	0.55	0.56	0.09	Circular in plan, moderate sides, flat base
105	106	Fill	Ring-Ditch	1	0.42	0.14	Firm, dark brownish-grey silty clay
106	106	Cut	Ring-Ditch	1	0.42	0.14	Curvilinear in plan, steep sides, concave base
107	108	Fill	Ditch	1	1.9	0.1	Firm, mid-to dark brownish-grey silty clay
108	108	Cut	Ditch	1	1.9	0.62	Linear in plan, moderate sides, flat base
109	108	Fill	Ditch	1	1.82	0.5	Firm, light brownish-grey silty clay
110	113	Fill	Ditch	1	1.03	0.13	Firm, mid-brownish-grey silty clay
111	113	Fill	Ditch	1	1.53	0.35	Firm mid-brownish-grey silty clay
112	113	Fill	Ditch	1	1.8	0.67	Firm, light brownish-grey silty clay

113	113	Cut	Ditch	1	1.82	0.67	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base
115	116	Fill	Holloway	1	1.2	0.1	Firm, light brownish-grey silty clay
116	116	Cut	Holloway	1	2.78	0.16	Linear in plan, gentle to moderate sides, flat base
117	116	Fill	Holloway	1	2.78	0.07	Firm, light brownish-grey silty clay
119	120	Fill	Pit	1.5	0.92	0.26	Firm, light greyish-brown silty clay
120	120	Cut	Pit	1.5	0.92	0.26	Circular in plan, moderate sides, concave base
141	146	Fill	Ditch	1	3.23	0.27	Firm, mid-grey silty clay with very rare charcoal
142	146	Fill	Ditch	1	3.4	0.21	Firm, mid-to light grey silty clay with rare charcoal
143	146	Fill	Ditch	1	3.43	0.15	Moderate, dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal
144	146	Fill	Ditch	1	3.7	0.28	Firm, light to mid-orangish-brown clay
145	146	Fill	Ditch	1	2.9	1.06	Firm, mottled light to mid-orangish-brown silty clay
146	146	Cut	Ditch	1	3.7	1.06	Linear in plan, steep sides, base not reached

14 APPENDIX 3: PREHISTORIC POTTERY CATALOGUE

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Fabric Family	Dsc	Form	Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Spotdate
141	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	UD	BOWL		7	148	MIA
136	138	1	Ditch	RW(Q)	RUD	JAR	RIPPLED SHOULDER	9	86	LIA
142	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	UB	JAR	S'	24	250	MIA
143	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	RU	JAR	ROLLED	25	50	MIA
144	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	UD	JAR		8	49	MIA
144	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR		1	11	MIA
155	156	2	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR		14	49	MIA
155	156	2	Ditch	RW(Q)	UD	JAR		4	11	MIA
169	170	2	Posthole	RW(Q)	D	JAR		4	6	M/LIA
169	170	2	Posthole	RW(Q)	RUD	JAR	THICK SLIGHTLY EVERTED SQUARED RIM	16	52	M/LIA
181	183	9	Ditch	RW(S)	UB	JAR		1	31	MIA
189	190	9	Ditch	RW(Q)	R	JAR	SMALL SLACK SHOULDERED JAR WITH AN UPRIGHT RIM	1	11	MIA
105	106	10	Ring-Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		5	11	MIA
105	106	10	Ring-Ditch	RW(S)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	4	MIA
105	106	10	Ring-Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	1	MIA
110	113	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		15	18	MIA
111	113	10	Ditch	RW(CALC)	U	JAR/BOWL		6	47	MIA
117	118	10	Holloway	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	1	MIA
123	124	1	Ditch	RW(S)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	13	MIA
136	138	1	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	8	MIA

136	138	1	Ditch	OW(Q)	UB	JAR/BOWL		1	8	M/LIA
137	138	1	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		17	48	MIA
141	146	10	Ditch	RW(S)	U	JAR/BOWL		8	19	MIA
141	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		30	116	MIA
141	146	10	Ditch	OW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		2	3	MIA
141	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		2	15	MIA
141	146	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		7	5	MIA
142	146	10	Ditch	RW(S)	U	JAR/BOWL		6	11	MIA
153	154	3	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		2	17	M/LIA
159	160	9	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	16	MIA
176	175	3	Ditch	RW(CALC)	RU	JAR/BOWL	LARGE OUT-TURNED FLAT RIM	5	65	MIA
181	183	9	Ditch	RW(GROG)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	8	MIA
181	183	9	Ditch	RW(CALC)	UD	JAR/BOWL		17	151	MIA
181	183	9	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		8	38	MIA
189	190	9	Ditch	RW(CALC)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	26	MIA
189	190	9	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		4	104	MIA
189	190	9	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		6	172	MIA
189	190	9	Ditch	RW(CALC)	U	JAR/BOWL		3	66	MIA
191	188	9	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		7	30	MIA
191	188	9	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL		1	16	MIA
172	175	1	Ditch	RW(Q)	UD	JAR/SJAR		5	66	MIA
136	138	1	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	KAR/BOWL		3	17	M/LIA
111	113	10	Ditch	RW(Q)	U	SJAR		1	28	MIA
142	146	10	Ditch	RW(G)	U	SJAR		1	8	MIA

15 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-379472

Project details

Project name Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Rainier Developments Limited to undertake a program of archaeological evaluation at Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, SG16 6EA (NGR: TL 1606 3594). This work was commissioned as part of a condition attached to the planning permission (ref: CB/19/01681/OUT). Work took place on site from the 9th to the 18th of December 2019. The evaluation identified a concentration of mid-to Late Iron Age features, predominantly ditches and pits, located in the western end of the site. The ditches had previously been identified as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, before being confirmed during the evaluation. These ditches formed a number of small, well-defined north-east to south-west by north-west to south-east aligned rectilinear and circular enclosures.

Project dates Start: 09-01-2020 End: 18-01-2020

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference 2019.68 - Sitecode codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type DITCH Modern

Monument type HOLLOWAY Late Iron Age

Monument type DITCH Late Iron Age

Monument type PIT Late Iron Age

Monument type	POSTHOLE Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	WORKED STONE Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	METALWORK Late Iron Age
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE STONDON Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire
Postcode	SG16 6EA
Study area	970 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1606 3594 52.009307311622 -0.308835653817 52 00 33 N 000 18 31 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.39m Max: 0.59m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	PCA Central
Project brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council
Project design originator	PCA Central
Project director/manager	Christiane Meckseper
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Type of Developer	

sponsor/funding
body

Name of
sponsor/funding body EDP on behalf of Rainier Developments Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient Luton Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive
recipient Luton Culture

Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Archive
recipient Luton Culture

Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Media
available "Context sheet","Photograph","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Project
bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Morgan-Shelbourne, L.

Other bibliographic
details R13988

Date 2019

Issuer or publisher PCA Central

Place of issue or
publication Pampisford

Description	<p>Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Rainier Developments Limited to undertake a program of archaeological evaluation at Land to the West of Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, SG16 6EA (NGR: TL 1606 3594). This work was commissioned as part of a condition attached to the planning permission (ref: CB/19/01681/OUT). Work took place on site from the 9th to the 18th of December 2019. The evaluation identified a concentration of Later Iron Age features, predominantly ditches and pits, located in the western half of the site. The ditches had previously been identified as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, before being confirmed during the evaluation. These ditches formed a number of small north-east to south-west by north-west to south-east aligned rectilinear and circular enclosures.</p>		
Entered by	Lawrence	Morgan-Shelbourne	(lmorgan-shelbourne@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	7 January 2020		

PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

THE ROPE WORKS, BROADWOOD VIEW
CHESTER-LE-STREET
DURHAM DH3 3AF
t: 0191 377 1111
e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925
e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370 410
e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01603 863 108
e: norwich@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485 490
e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549
e: winchester@pre-construct.com

