Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service

Bedfordshire County Council

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BCAS

LAND TO THE NORTH OF HOME FARM, LATHBURY, BUCKS.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Document 2000/55
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8th December 2000

Produced for:
GFX Hartigan Ltd
98 High Street
Newport Pagnell
Buckinghamshire, MK16 8EJ

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF HOME FARM,

LATHBURY, BUCKS.

December 2000

Location	Arable fields to the North of Home Farm Lathbury Buckinghamshire
Grid Reference	SP8762 4564
Archaeological Contractor	Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
Client	GFX Hartigan Ltd 98 High Street Newport Pagnell Buckinghamshire MK16 8EJ
Fieldwork	18th September and 17th November 2000

Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

All figures are bound at the back of the report

Appendices

Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by Gary Edmondson (Project Officer), Sally Dicks, Jackie Wells and Pat Kent. The desk-based assessment was produced by Martin Wilson and Gary Edmondson. The field artefact collection was supervised by Rob Edwards and the metal detector survey by James Pixley (Project Supervisors). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Sally Dicks (Project Supervisor) assisted by Kate Bain, Vivian Bray, Caroline Clarke, Pat Kent, Dan Lee, Tracy Preece and Julian Watters (Archaeological Technicians). Environmental samples were processed by Jerry Stone (Archaeological Technician). The artefacts were assessed by Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer). All the animal bone was examined by Pat Kent. The project was under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Project Manager). Joan Lightning produced all the illustrations.

Geophysical surveying was undertaken by GSB Prospection.

Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the landowner Mr Cook and GFX Hartigan for the supply of the mechanical excavator and operator.

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Structure of this report

After the introductory Section 1, this report presents the results of the stages of the non-intrusive survey, comprising desk-based assessment (Section 2), geophysical survey (Section 3) and field artefact collection (Section 4). This is followed by a chronological summary of the results of the trial excavation (Section 5). A synthesis of the results and their significance is presented in Section 6.

Non-Technical Summary

Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service was commissioned by GFX Hartigan Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the land to the north of Home Farm, Lathbury. The work was undertaken in advance of the possible submission of a proposal for mineral extraction. A staged approach to the evaluation was utilised, comprised a desk-based assessment, followed by geophysical survey, field artefact collection and metal detector survey. The information was then collated to devise a trial trenching strategy.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to collect all of the available information on the archaeological potential of the area. Within the proposed extraction area several possible archaeological sites were already listed on the Sites and Monuments Record, identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The forms of these cropmarks suggest prehistoric burial monuments and other enclosures of uncertain date.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection. Initially the whole of the Study Area was scanned to identify areas of magnetic enhancement, which may define areas of human activity. A total of 15 areas of detailed geophysical survey covering six hectares were then designated to investigate a selection of the scanned responses. The detailed survey confirmed the cropmarks, identifying several previously unknown enclosures in the vicinity of the recorded examples. Generally the number of areas of magnetic enhancement declined away from the river. Most of the magnetic anomalies in the south were probably geological in origin, based on the nature of the responses.

Fieldwalking produced dispersed scatters of flint artefacts including several tools. Single sherds of possible Saxon and Roman pottery were recovered. Greater quantities of medieval and later pottery were recovered, though there was no obvious patterning to the distributions. The non-ferrous metal detector survey recovered a variety of objects, the majority of which were either modern or undated. Only medieval or later dateable artefacts were identified, including several medieval coins.

Originally 35 trial trenches were to be excavated, though the very wet weather prevented one of these from being opened. Three contingency trenches were subsequently opened, following consultation with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer. The excavation defined spatially discrete foci of activity within the Study Area. Iron-Age and Roman activity appears to have favoured a riverside location. The presence of a possible Saxon structure suggests that this area may have remained a preferred location for settlement activity in the early medieval period. By the 12th century the church of All Saints' had been constructed, indicating a shift of settlement away from the river to a roadside location. Medieval settlement was identified within the Study Area extended along the Gayhurst Road towards Home Farm. The evaluation uncovered the remains of an iron smelting furnace and associated spread of tap slag. Its location is interesting because of both its isolated location, away from settlement and the apparent lack of easily accessibility to the raw materials needed for iron smelting.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

GFX Hartigan Ltd. commissioned BCAS to undertake an archaeological evaluation. In advance of a possible planning application to Milton Keynes Council for the extraction of sand and gravel, from land to the north of Home Farm, Lathbury, This would form a component of the Environmental Statement, which would be required to accompany any possible planning application.

The work was undertaken in accordance with a *Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Document 2000/44) prepared by BCAS in consultation with Milton Keynes Council's Archaeological Officer, who subsequently accepted the amended Project Design in October 2000.

1.2 Stages of the Evaluation

This report presents the results of all the stages of the archaeological evaluation of the proposed extraction site, undertaken by BCAS. The study comprised a Desk-Based Assessment followed by a phased evaluation comprising Geophysical Survey, Fieldwalking and Metal Detector Survey. The results of these stages were collated in order to devise a strategy of Trial Trenching.

1.3 Site Location and Description

The Study Area is situated to the north of Lathbury village, covering approximately 25.5 hectares within a pronounced loop of the River Great Ouse. This area comprises a large block of land of some 21 hectares between Home Farm and the river within Pound Field, centred on OS grid reference SP 8762 4564. A narrower tract of land within a land parcel known as The Swade, extends from the north-east corner of the main block in a south-easterly direction to the Newport Pagnell to Sherington Road (Figure 1). The results of the evaluation will be discussed with reference to the two land parcels.

Situated on the southern side of the river valley, the topography is undulating, with the ground generally slopes gradually down from c.61m OD in the south-west to 52m OD in the north. A possible dry stream was identified by a distinctive incision in the pattern of the contours, orientated south-north and running immediately to the west of Ash Spinney. The narrower tract of land in the south-east is situated on relatively flat ground at 53m OD, within the river flood plain.

The topsoil is a sandy loam, overlying a sandy clay loam subsoil which is above the gravel terrace. Auger borings indicate that the depth of the gravel below the surface increased dramatically in the narrow linear eastern part of the Study Area. Generally the soil profile above the gravel was c.0.4m thick in Pound Field, though it could increase to 0.7m. In the area of the haul road, situated on the flood plain, the overburden was greater than 1.2m thick in

places. The marked variations in depth of the gravel and dark bands visible on aerial photographs may identify palaeochannels; former courses of the river, which silted up when the river altered course.

At the time of the evaluation the land was under arable cultivation.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The gravel terraces of the River Great Ouse have been a focus of human activity and settlement from the Palaeolithic period to the modern day. In the vicinity of the site, situated in the upper reaches of the river, there are a number of prehistoric sites including several funerary/ ritual monuments. Recently a Bronze Age burial mound was excavated at Gayhurst c.2.2km to the west, (Chapman 1999). There are several possible ring ditches in the area to the south of the proposed haul road listed on the Milton Keynes Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). A cropmark complex **(SMR 991/992)** includes a possible double ditched example. These often appear as distinct annular or penannular cropmarks on aerial photographs, the diameter suggesting that they are the quarry ditches for ploughed-out prehistoric burial mounds, rather than a type of building known as round houses. There is a suggestion that a funerary complex extended across the proposed extraction site, as during gravel extraction in the area to the south-east, a Bronze Age urn containing a burial and a possible skeleton were recovered **(SMR 209/ 210)**.

A number of sites of later date have also been identified in the vicinity. These include a medieval settlement **SMR 1110** situated approximately 400m north-west of the proposed development. The distinctive traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation strips have been identified in the area immediately to the north of Red Brick Cottages.

Within the Study Area there are two known sites listed in Milton Keynes Council's Sites and Monuments Record. Both sites, **SMR 4281** and **SMR 992** comprise a number of cropmarks identified on aerial photographs. Each of these include several enclosures, which may define settlements.

2. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 The Study Area.

In section 2.2.1 of the *Project Design* it was stated that details of all known evidence for archaeological potential within approximately 1.5km from the centre of the site should be collated. A wide data collection area was chosen in order to provide a better indication of the nature of the archaeological landscape.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Work

The only archaeological excavation that has occurred in the vicinity of the Study Area is situated some 400m to the south-west (**SMR 5239**). Investigations of a medieval pottery scatter revealed substantial limestone footings of more than one phase of construction. It was not possible to identify the extent or function of the building.

2.3 SMR Sites

There are more than 40 sites recorded by the Milton Keynes SMR, which are in the vicinity of the Study Area (see Appendix 1 and Figure 2). A summary of the sites by chronological period is provided below in Table 1.

Chronological period	Number of sites
Unknown	5
Prehistoric	6
Romano-British	4
Medieval (site identifying fishing rights)	9 (4)
Post medieval Listed Building	8 7
	43

Table 1 SMR sites listed by chronological period

2.3.1 Sites within the Study Area

Two of the sites **SMR 4281** and part of **SMR 991** are situated within the proposed area of development. Both of these sites comprise enclosures identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs (Figure 3). The two rectilinear enclosures of **SMR 4281** are situated immediately south of Ash Spinney, in the area of the proposed plant. Further east in the area of the proposed haul road, a series of rectilinear enclosures has been identified. The two north-eastern enclosures are within the proposed road corridor, with the larger eastern example extending to the hedge boundary. At least one other enclosure and a possible double ring-ditch in this group are situated in the area immediately to the south of the proposed access route.

2.3.2 Sites in the vicinity of the Study Area

There is a diverse range of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development. These include evidence for Roman, Saxon and medieval occupation in the southern area of Lathbury village (**SMR 435-437, 5229-5232**) situated between 250m and 400m from the development area. The site of a possible 16th century mill (**SMR 3810**) is shown as being situated on the southern boundary of the extraction site. Further to the north-west a deserted medieval settlement (**SMR 1110**) is identified. It is more likely that the ridge and furrow cultivation strips identified on the 1946 aerial photographs, in the area to the north of Red Brick Cottages were associated with Lathbury village rather than **SMR 1110**. Further north, the enclosures of **SMR 420**, identified on aerial photographs, may be a 19th century camp associated with railway construction, including the adjacent abandoned bridge abutment in the trees, rather than another focus of earlier activity.

The majority of the sites in Lathbury village identify Listed Buildings, which are not directly affected by the extraction proposal. These include the church (**SMR 4219**) and the site of a possible chapel (**SMR 986/7**). However, the Grade II Listed Building at Home Farm (**SMR 5416**) is only some 40m from the proposed extraction area.

In the area to the north-east of Home Farm, several more enclosures and possible ring ditches can been identified on aerial photographs (**SMR 991/ 993**); see Figure 3.

Situated on the south bank of the river near Sherington bridge is the site of a medieval water mill and associated mill-pond (**SMR 3929**). The Sherington bridge is a Listed Building, with evidence for earlier bridges dating back to the 13th century (**SMR 483-485**).

2.3.3 Other SMR Sites

At a greater distance from the extraction site in the west, there are further cropmarks (**SMR 492** and **1018**) and a Neolithic axe findspot (**SMR 178**). To the east of the river loop is another windmill site (**SMR 3806/ 3807**) and the site of a possible gallows (**SMR 3931**). There are several references to fishing rights, indicated by 'sites' within the river.

2.4 Aerial Photographs

The images held at the County Sites and Monuments Record, Aylesbury and the Milton Keynes Sites and Monuments Record were consulted.

Year	Flight details	Image numbers	Image type	Location
1946	1066/UK1562 YJUN46 F/202 11541 SQDN	3156, 3157, 3158 4179, 4180, 4181	V	Aylesbury SMR
1947	CPE/UK 1926 Jan.16 '47 F/362/ MULTI (5) 58 SQDN	2260, 2261, 2262, 2263 5257, 5258, 5259, 5260	V	Aylesbury SMR
1970	Precision Survey Ltd 24 April 70	7428,7429	V	Aylesbury SMR
1984	RCHME	342, 343, 346, 354	O	MK

				SMR
1990	Northamptonshire County Council	NCC 8546/005-6 NCC 8646/004 NCC 8745/008 NCC 8746/002	O	MK SMR
1995	Aerofilms Job SC32792 Buckinghamshire	Film AF 95C 395 8782 86, 8812-18, 8841-45	V	MK SMR
	JASAIR	Run 513 line 20 245-248 Run 450 line 7 216-221	V	MK SMR

Table 2 Aerial photographs consulted O – Oblique V- Vertical

All of the images were examined with any possible cropmarks being plotted. Those cropmarks thought to be archaeological were sub-divided into either those of probably or possibly archaeological in origin. These are identified by black and blue lines respectively, on Figure 3. Variations in the geology, including possible former courses of the river were plotted as green lines.

Within the proposed development, three areas of cropmarks were identified, two of which correspond to the known SMR sites. A third possible cropmark site was identified in the area between Red Brick Cottages and Home Farm. The main cluster of cropmark sites is in the north-western half of The Swade, extending from the vicinity of Home Farm to the proposed haul road (**SMR 991-993**).

In Pound Field the only definite cropmarks are situated in the vicinity of Ash Spinney (**SMR 4281**). A plot of possible cropmarks supplied by Oxford Archaeological Associates identified a sub-rectangular feature extending from Red Brick Cottages to Home Farm. This is not identified on the SMR, and the current analysis would suggest that it is of uncertain origin.

Several other cropmarks have been identified in the vicinity of the proposed development including a possible ring-ditch on the low-lying land towards the river (X on Figure 3). Immediately to the north-west of the proposed development, in an area where the gravel is close to the surface, a regular pattern of thin dark bands is probably periglacial rather than archaeological in origin.

2.5 *Historic Map Regression*

All of the available historic maps of the Study Area held by Buckinghamshire County Records Office and the Local Studies Library were examined.

2.5.1 Plan of the Parish of Lathbury in the County of Buckinghamshire $26^{3}/_{4}$" to a mile CRO 244 (Figure 4)

The Diocesan copy of the 1843 Tithe Map is the earliest useful map of the area. This indicates that the two fields that presently form the proposed development area, had each consisted of three land parcels by 1843. The fields had rectangular forms, extending from the Gayhurst Road, towards the river. By this date the ditched drainage pattern near the river had been established, and was to survive with little subsequent modification into the present. Ash Spinney is present, though it is referred to as 'The Plantation'.

The form and extent of the Spinney has remained unchanged. Two isolated rectangular buildings, possibly field barns, are shown within the proposed extraction area. One is situated at the junction of three fields, immediately south-east of 'The Plantation'. The other is in a narrow strip of land 'Parsons Close' which extends northwards from 'Inn Farm' (now known as Home Farm).

2.5.2 The 1885 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to a mile, Sheet 5.

This map indicates some rationalisation of the land parcels in the vicinity of 'Inn Farm', with the narrow field known as 'Parsons Close' having been amalgamated with the field to the west. However, an intermittent line of trees is depicted, defining the location of the old boundary. The isolated building situated within the close has also gone. To the east of 'Inn Farm', the land parcels formerly known as 'The 18 Acres' and 'Dry Close' were amalgamated to form a larger holding. Minor modifications to the field boundary in the vicinity of the possible field barn to the south-east of the spinney are also recorded. To the west of the spinney, the location of an embankment and associated bridge piers for the proposed railway are shown. The map also indicates that most of the field boundaries contain trees.

The current landowner (Mr Cook) cast doubt on the accuracy of the 'Pound' fieldnames, assigned to the large western land parcels, suggesting that they were too large to have served for pounding stray animals. However, the presence of two fields with similar names suggest that the labelling is correct.

2.5.3 The 1900 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 25" to a mile, Sheet V 14

The only alteration to the land divisions in the vicinity of 'Inn Farm' is the creation of allotments to the north-east of the farm. To the north-west of the farm, there is no indication of the intermittent tree-line. A 'spring' is shown, situated close to the river in the north-east corner of the field. In the south-west corner of the same field, Red Brick Cottages and two associated wells are shown within their own land parcel. The spinney is referred to as 'Ash Spinney'.

South of the Gayhurst Road, west of Ash Spinney, a gravel pit is shown with a track leading to the road.

2.5.4 The 1925 Edition Ordnance Survey 25" to a mile, Sheet V 14

Only a small number of minor changes are shown. The dog-leg boundary to the east of Ash Spinney has gone, though the rectangular building remains. A small land parcel was created to the east of the railway embankment, when a short northern boundary orientated east-west was established. The farm is no longer labelled as 'Inn Farm'.

2.5.5 The 1993 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Sheet 1024

Three land parcels are identified within the proposed extraction area, with one north-south boundary extending from the western side of Red Brick Cottages to the eastern edge of Ash Spinney. The rectangular building to the south east

of the spinney is still shown. The other field boundary which survives to the present day, extends roughly northwards from Home Farm.

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 Introduction

BCAS commissioned the specialist sub-contractor GSB Prospection to carry out a geophysical survey of the proposed development site. The survey was carried out in two stages between the 18th and 26th September 2000. A magnetic scan of the entire site, covering approximately 25 hectares, was followed by detailed gradiometer survey of selected areas.

The survey is reported in detail in GSB Prospection's: Geophysical Survey Report 2000/93.

3.2 Scanning

This is a rapid sample survey of the whole area, to identify areas of human activity, which are indicated by areas of increased magnetic enhancement. The scanning located several magnetic anomalies of archaeological potential, which appear to be concentrated along the eastern boundary of the site. These correspond to the cropmark sites. In the rest of the area a lower intensity of magnetic anomalies were detected.

3.3 Detailed Survey

A total of fifteen areas covering 6 hectares were selected for detailed surveying, based on the results of the scanning (Figure 5). The main areas of magnetic enhancement as well as a variety of other responses were targeted.

3.3.1 Pound Field

A total of 11 areas of detailed survey were located in this field. The main concentration of possible archaeological activity was located in Areas 3 and 7.

3.3.1.1 Geophysical Zone 1 Areas 3, 7 and 8 (Figure.6)

The main concentration of geophysical anomalies was located to the north-eastern edge of the field. The linear anomalies identified ditches which delineated a series of possible enclosures, with associated activity.

Area 3, located immediately south of Ash Spinney identified two complete enclosures as well as traces of several more incomplete examples. The two complete enclosures correspond to the cropmarks of **SMR 4281**.

The larger enclosure (**A**) is roughly square 37 by 35m with a break in the ditch located roughly centrally on the south-eastern side, possibly defining an entrance. A second possible entrance was detected near the south-west corner. Several possible pit-like features were identified within the interior. It is not clear if the ditch segments within the interior define a partition within the main enclosure or if they were elements of another, sequential enclosure.

Enclosure **B** is located 10m south-east of Enclosure **A**, having a similar alignment. This has a roughly trapezoidal form measuring 26 by 32m. Breaks in the ditch on the north-west side may define openings, though these may

have been created by later ridge and furrow cultivation. Several pit-like anomalies were identified within the interior of the enclosure.

The area around these enclosures contains traces of other ditches that may define elements of other enclosures. The most clearly defined of these was Enclosure **C**, which comprised traces of the four sides of a possible roughly square enclosure. This was located to the south of Enclosure **B** and would appear to have a contrasting alignment. Within the interior there were a cluster of pit-like anomalies.

Traces of at least two more enclosures were detected to the north-east and north-west of Enclosure **A**. The north-eastern example was parallel to Enclosure **A**, extending into Ash Spinney. It was not possible to define the form or extent of the other possible example.

Area 3 contained a scatter of pit–like anomalies, which decreased in intensity to the limits of the survey area. To the north of the enclosures, an isolated pit-like anomaly **F** produced an enhanced response that would suggest the presence of burnt material. This may indicate small-scale industrial activity. The position of this anomaly corresponds roughly to the position of a field boundary on the 1843 Tithe Map.

Area 7 identified a pattern of perpendicular linear anomalies that may define the corner of another enclosure. This probably continued to the north-west, being detected in northern limit of detailed survey Area 8. It would appear that this defined the southern limit of the enclosures. A dispersed area of pit-like anomalies was identified in the southern part of Area 8. However, it is possible that these isolated anomalies may have been variations within the soils or the underlying geology.

3.3.1.1.1 Other Geophysical Areas in Pound Field

The other survey areas in this field (Area 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11) identified isolated pit-like anomalies, which may be archaeological in origin, though they could be due to natural variations in the soils or geology. Generally, the frequency of these anomalies declined in intensity from the north-east towards the Gayhurst Road in the south-west.

Pound Field contained traces of possible ridge and furrow cultivation, orientated north-north–east to south-south-west, confirming aerial photographic evidence.

Area 9 situated to the east of Red Brick Cottages contained several weak linear anomalies, which may have been archaeological, though their character contrasted with those from Area 3. The anomalies running parallel to the Gayhurst Road are thought to have been the product of recent agricultural activity. These anomalies correspond to the outer of two concentric sub-rectangular cropmarks depicted on a plot provided by

Oxford Archaeological Associates. However, the Milton Keynes SMR does not identify any site at this location.

A linear geophysical anomaly detected in Area 11 orieintated roughly north-east to south-west, probably defines the western boundary of an old land division known as 'Parsons Close'.

3.3.2 The Swade

Four detailed survey areas were located within the proposed haul road, (Areas 12-15) Figure 5.

3.3.2.1 Geophysical Zone 2 Areas 13 and 14 (Figure 7)

A concentration of geophysical anomalies was confined to the two detailed survey areas, situated in the central and north-western part of the proposed haul road. The activity extended approximately 200m north-west to south-east, continuing to the west beyond the limits of the study. These anomalies defined a series of enclosures with evidence for possible internal activity. Pit-like anomalies were identified in the areas between the enclosures. The two main enclosures correspond to the cropmarks visible on aerial photographs (**SMR 991**).

Area 13 contained two concentrations of linear anomalies. In the north-west of the area, a well defined rectilinear Enclosure **G** measured 30 by 22m, with an off-central entrance on the long south-eastern side. There was little evidence of internal activity, with one possible pit-like anomaly of uncertain origin being identified. Two clusters of pit-like anomalies were identified in the vicinity of the enclosure.

In the area close to the present hedged boundary, a second concentration of enhanced anomalies (**H**) was identified. This consisted of a series of intermittent perpendicular linear anomalies, possibly defining the northern part of an enclosure. Immediately to the north was a curvilinear anomaly with a diameter of 10m. The intermittent nature of these anomalies prevents any conclusive interpretation as to the function of this activity. There is a suggestion that the curvilinear feature may be a ring-ditch, defining the ploughed out remains of a burial mound. However, no evidence of a central burial pit was detected. Several clusters of possible pit-like anomalies were situated adjacent to this activity.

Area 14 situated to the south-east of Area 13, identified the continuation of the activity focus. A large sub-rectangular Enclosure **I** measuring 40-50m corresponds to a cropmark visible on aerial photographs (**SMR 991**). There is no definite evidence for an opening, though a weaker area of enhancement in the south-east corner may define the entrance. Within the enclosure weak curvilinear anomalies may define internal activity. Traces of two smaller enclosures (**J** and **K**) were identified in the area to the north-west of Enclosure **I**. Whilst it is possible that all three were associated, the concentration of the curvilinear anomalies near the north-eastern side of Enclosure **I** could define the southern extent of the smaller enclosures. This would indicate a more

complicated sequence of development. Two clusters of weaker anomalies may define activity beyond the enclosures.

The well-defined linear ferrous trend is a known modern service pipe.

3.3.2.1.1 Other Geophysical Areas in The Swade

The other two Areas (12 and 15) contained occasional weak pit-like anomalies. Whilst these may be archaeological in origin, it is also possible that they are the result of either recent disturbance associated with agriculture or variations within the composition of the gravel.

There is no evidence to indicate that alluvium within the proposed haul road adversely affected the results of the geophysical survey, in the ability to detect possible archaeological features.

3.4 Limitations

3.4.1 Pound Field

At the time of the geophysical survey, the crop had been harvested, though the stubble was still standing. There had also been some re-growth of vegetation especially in the south of the field. Although this hindered data collection, it does not appear to have detrimentally affected the quality of the data.

Variations in the depth and nature of the soils and underlying geology may have affected the level of magnetic enhancement. Weak pit-like anomalies especially in the southern part of the field, may have natural rather than archaeological origins.

The regular pattern of enhanced linear anomalies in the area adjacent to Ash Spinney is the result of human activity.

3.4.2 The Swade

Modern activity including ploughing may be responsible for some of the less well defined areas of magnetic enhancement. The weak responses of some of the pit-like anomalies are similar to the background levels of magnetism, which may suggest that they are of natural rather then archaeological origin. In contrast the regular pattern of enhanced magnetism, identified a focus of human activity characterised by a series of enclosures.

4. FIELD ARTEFACT COLLECTION

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of field artefact collection is to systematically recover a collection of artefacts from the surface of land under arable cultivation. Significant clusters of material ploughed up from buried archaeological sites, are likely to be indicative of past human occupation or other activity. A metal detector survey of the same sample area was undertaken during the same period. The results of such a survey can be used in the targeting of investigative techniques.

4.2 Method Statement

All of the proposed development area of c.25 hectares had recently been ploughed in preparation for the fieldwalking. The sandy soils were briefly allowed to weather prior to the collection program commencing. Fieldwalking was undertaken during a period of three days (12th-13th and 16th October) with a team of four people. The weather was dry and bright during the first two days, though rain fell on the last day. The metal detector survey involved two people, and was also completed in the three days.

As well as the weather, ground conditions influenced the visibility of artefacts and therefore the likelihood of material being retrieved by the walker. The best conditions were encountered in the area to the north-west of Red Brick Cottages. Towards Ash Spinney, there was an increase in the quantity of gravel inclusions in the soil, possibly reducing artefact visibility. In the area north of Home Farm, plough furrows were more noticeable, with the quantity of ploughed-in vegetation increasing towards the river. In the haul road area localised flooding and some crop growth reduce visibility to 'moderate'.

It was not practical to align the fieldwalking transects on the National Grid, as this ran obliquely across the fields. Instead the transects were orientated parallel to the north-western limit of the Study Area, which is roughly perpendicular to the Gayhurst Road. The transects to be walked were marked by canes, the co-ordinates of which were calculated using Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS). As the fieldwalkers moved along the transects, any artefacts other then isolated post-medieval or modern artefacts were placed in finds bags. Each bag was secured to its findspot, to have its co-ordinated logged using DGPS and a unique finds number assigned, by a team following behind the walkers. Any useful details such as the extent of artefact concentrations could be recorded on the relevant bag.

The metal detector survey used a similar methodology, though the finds bags had an 'MD' prefix to distinguish the artefacts from any recovered from fieldwalking. The survey was confined to non-ferrous material, as the geophysical survey had indicated the presence of abundant ferrous responses. As the area is under plough, it is likely that much of the iron is relatively modern in date.

4.3 Artefact Assemblage

4.3.1 Introduction

All material considered to be humanly made was retrieved, although debris of an obviously modern nature was ignored as far as possible. The metal detector survey targeted non-ferrous artefacts, with a few iron objects were also collected.

Artefacts were cleaned, weighed, and quantified by artefact type and date. This resulting information was entered into an Access database and used for plotting the survey results as dot-density distributions.

4.3.2 Flint (Figure 8)

Twenty-seven pieces of worked flint, weighing 170g were recovered. Thirteen pieces of unmodified burnt flint (111g) were also identified. The majority of the struck flint comprises debitage (primary flakes and core rejuvenation flakes), and a single flake core. The latter is heavily patinated, although the majority of the assemblage is without patination. Coarse cream cortex remains on many flakes, suggesting that most of the raw material is derived from gravel pebbles. Tools are scarce and comprise a thumbnail scraper, three end-and-side scrapers, a notched flake and a probable transverse arrowhead of chisel type. The latter is likely to be of later Neolithic date. Three flakes display partial retouch. A number of pieces have sustained edge damage characteristic of a plough zone assemblage.

4.3.3 Pottery

A total of 146 datable pottery sherds was recovered, ranging in date from the Roman to post-medieval periods. Diagnostic pottery fabrics were classified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, and are summarised below in chronological order (Table 3). Most sherds are small (average sherd weight 9g), too small to allow the form of the vessel to be identified. With the exception of the post-medieval material, most of the sherds are abraded, indicating they had been present in the ploughsoil for a considerable time.

Fabric Type	Common Name	Sherd : Weight number
Roman *(0.5% total assemblage)*	***c.* AD 43-400**	**1:9**
Type R12B	Nene Valley Colour Coat	
Early-middle Saxon *(0.5% total assemblage)*	***c.* AD 400-850**	**1:7**
Type A16	Coarse quartz	
Medieval *(20% total assemblage)*	***c.* AD 1100-1 500**	**29:232**
Type B07	Shell	
Type C53	Sandy	
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall	
Type C10	Potterspury	
Type E01	Late medieval reduced	
Type E02	Late medieval oxidised	
Type E03	Late medieval smooth	

Post-medieval *(79% total assemblage)*	***c.* AD 1500+**	**115:1189**
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	
Type P02	Coarse glazed red earthenware	
Type P03	Black-glazed earthenware	
Type P12	Cistercian ware	
Type P14	Blackware	
Type P23	Raeren stoneware	
Type P28C	Midland Purple	
Type P33	Tin-glazed ware	
Type P35	English Porcelain	
Type P36A	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	
Type P37	White salt-glazed stoneware	
Type P38	Creamware	

Table 3: Pottery Type Series

4.3.4 Ceramic Building Material

Late medieval / post-medieval

The majority of the ceramic building material (211 fragments, weighing 9.6kg) derives from sand tempered, flat roof tiles of peg type, with smaller quantities of brick. A further 169 fragments (7.4kg) comprise modern brick, pantiles and land drain fragments. Forty-six fragments of modern concrete roof tile (1.3kg) were also collected.

Undiagnostic

Twenty-six brick and tile fragments (325g) were too fragmentary and degraded to be accurately classified.

4.3.5 Glass

The forty-one glass fragments recovered were mainly from post-medieval wine bottles and drinking vessels. A number of modern bottle and window glass fragments were also collected.

4.4 Artefact Distribution

4.4.1 Prehistoric (Figure 8)

Two low density spreads of lithic material were identified in Pound Field. The main scatter occurred in the northern part of the Study Area. A smaller cluster of five artefacts where located in the north-east corner of Pound Field. A number of the findspots broadly correspond with geophysical anomalies within Areas 1, 3, 8, 11 and 12. Single flints were recovered from the vicinity of Enclosure **A** close to Ash Spinney and Enclosure **I**. The assemblage may suggest sporadic activity during the earlier prehistoric period.

4.4.2 Pre-medieval

The single sherd of Roman pottery derives from the vicinity of the perpendicular linear anomalies of Geophysical Area 7, and the early-middle

Saxon sherd from the vicinity of north-south aligned cropmark located in the north-east of Pound Field.

4.4.3 Medieval (Figure 9)

The medieval pottery assemblage comprises a range of fabric types spanning the entire medieval period. The majority of the medieval pottery was recovered from the southern part of Pound Field east of Red Brick Cottages. The northern part of the field had a more dispersed scatter. A cluster of six sherds were recovered from the Swade, near the Sherington Bridge. No metal artefacts of medieval origin were recovered from this area. Although insufficient to pinpoint settlement within the Study Area, the material attests to a prolonged medieval presence in the locality.

4.4.4 Post-medieval

Despite an absence of post-medieval pottery from the eastern area of Pound Field, the fairly dispersed nature of the material suggests random deposition. This distribution is broadly replicated by the large quantities of building material of late/post-medieval date, recovered from all parts of the Study Area (Figure 10). A concentration of building material occurred in the south eastern part of Pound Field in the vicinity of the former land division known as Parson's Close. This may have defined the location of one of the field barns or alternatively a dump of material at the edge of a field. A more diffuse scatter of material was identified in the northern part of Pound Field. As this does not correspond with any structures visible on historic maps, it is assumed the post-medieval material is derived from agricultural practices such as manuring.

The incidence of post-medieval vessel glass was restricted largely two diffuse scatters (Figure 11). One scatter was in the northern part of Pound Field, corresponding to the land parcel known as Far Pound Field. The second scatter was defined in the northern part of The Swade in the former land division known as The 18 Acres.

4.5 Metal Detector Survey

4.5.1 Artefact Assemblage

Artefacts collected during the metal detector survey were weighed, and quantified by artefact type and date. Objects were assigned a Broad Term (e.g. coin, brooch) as defined by the Bedfordshire Artefact Typology. This resulting information was entered into an Access database and used for plotting the survey results as dot-density distributions. Metal objects which were not functionally or chronologically diagnostic or which were modern in date were dispersed after recording.

A total of two hundred artefacts were recorded (Table 4). The majority (65%) comprise undatable or modern items of lead and copper alloy.

The most closely datable items recovered are two silver 'Long Cross' coins. One is a halfgroat from the reign of Edward III (1327-77) and the second a

penny, probably of the same period. Both were recovered from Pound Field, although not in close proximity to each other (Figure 13).

Few of the remaining objects are closely datable beyond a general medieval to post-medieval provenance. These include a range of small agricultural, craft and personal items, such as fragments of metal vessels, trading tokens, rumbler bells, thimbles, buttons, buckles, and strap ends.

Find type	Date range	Quantity	Weight (g)
Ag coin	Late medieval	2	3
Ca lace tag	Late medieval	1	2
Ca strap end	Late / post-medieval	4	21
Ca spur	Late / post-medieval	3	54
Ca bell	Post-medieval	3	23
Ca button	Post-medieval	15	55
Ca buckle	Post-medieval	6	30
Ca thimble	Post-medieval	1	3
Ca vessel	Post-medieval	1	50
Ca chape	Post-medieval	1	11
Ca clasp	Post-medieval	2	3
Ca handle	Post-medieval	2	16
Pb	Post-medieval	10	141
Ca rumbler	Post-medieval	1	24
Fe shoeing	Post-medieval	1	6
Ca trade	Post-medieval	2	3
Ca strap loop	Post-medieval	2	25
Ca coin	Post-medieval-	9	54
Ca keyhole	Post-medieval-	3	13
Cartridge	Modern	2	12
Ca clock key	Modern	2	21
Fe horseshoe	Modern	1	460
Fe buckle	Undated	1	17
Ca ring	Undated	8	18
Ca tack	Undated	4	10
Ca sheet frag	Undated	14	141
Ca strip	Undated	4	20
Ca waste	Undated	1	3
Ca wire	Undated	1	3
Unid ca	Undated	5	26
Fe strip	Undated	2	266
Pb sheet frag	Undated	4	79
Pb waste	Undated	77	2183
Pb weight	Undated	5	129
Total		**200**	**3925**

Ca = Fe = iron Pb = lead

Table 4: Summary of artefacts from the metal detector survey

circulation from the late medieval period onwards. Prior to this, metal was far less available, with a consequential lower rate of loss and probable higher rate of conservation and re-use.

4.5.3 Summary

If the results of the fieldwalking survey are viewed in isolation, they suggest there is little pre-medieval activity within the Study Area. In some instances, field artefact collection appears not to produce a representation of the archaeological remains under the ploughsoil. These results are dependant on a variety of factors, including depth, regularity and duration of ploughing, soil type, nature of rubbish disposal in antiquity and the presence of masking deposits.

5. TRIAL EXCAVATION

5.1 Introduction

The trial trench layout was based on the results of the non-intrusive survey. Originally the trial excavation strategy comprised thirty five trenches, with the majority located in Pound Field. The excavation was undertaken between the 2nd and 17th November 2000.

The very wet weather resulted in the intermittent flooding of the proposed haul road area in The Swade. It was possible to open all but Trench 33 in this area, though excavation was severely hindered due to the high water table.

Close to the Gayhurst Road in Pound Field a further three contingency trenches (36-38) were opened. This was to define the nature and extent of the stone walls associated with medieval pottery that was identified in the southern part of Trench 25.

The Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer: Mr Giggins, visited the site on the 11th November and indicated his satisfaction with the nature and scope of the evaluation. Mr Giggins requested further work in Trench 13, to define the extent of metalworking slag in the vicinity of the possible smelting furnace. Figure 14 shows the location of all of the trial trenches and the approximate extent of the four Archaeological Zones, referred to in the following pages.

5.2 Method Statement

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* have been adhered to. Also those standards outlined in the BCAS *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (1996), the IFA Code of Conduct and English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) were adhered to.

Appendix 2 defines the main objectives of the individual trenches. The main points with regard to the trial excavation methodology were as follows:

- The location of all original trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machining, using Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), which ensured that the centre-line of the trenches were within 20mm of the desired location. This was important for some of the trenches that were targeted on relatively small anomalies identified during the non-intrusive stages of the study.
- The three contingency trenches were located using tapes as their positioning was less crucial. The objective being to determine if any activity was present in a general area.
- All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist and was undertaken using a 360^0 mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

- Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or clean natural deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- If archaeological features were identified during the machining, the trench was planned immediately to avoid problems associated with water inundation.
- The spoil tips and any archaeological features were scanned for artefacts. Artefacts recovered from spoil tips, were assigned to the relevant context number for the trench.
- Recording took place on pro-forma sheets.
- All archaeological deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100.
- Each trench was issued a unique block of recording numbers in a continuous sequence. Therefore feature [104], a furrow, is located in Trench 1, context (413), a fill of a pit, is located in Trench 4, etc.
- The trenches were inspected by the Archaeological Officer, prior to being backfilled.

5.3 Results of the Trial Excavation

5.3.1 **Pound Field** (Figure 14)

A total of thirty trenches including three contingency trenches were opened in this field. Three zones of archaeological activity were identified. Archaeological Zone 1 is situated towards the north-eastern edge of the field and corresponds with Geophysical Zone 1. Archaeological Zone 2 is adjacent to the Gayhurst Road between Red Brick Cottages and Home Farm. A much smaller area, Archaeological Zone 3, is situated to the centre of the field. Evidence of activity ranging in date from the early prehistoric to the post-medieval was identified in this field. The natural strata was gravel, except in part of Trench 10 where an area of fractured limestone was noted.

5.3.1.1 Archaeological Zone 1 (Figure 15)

This zone is situated on a raised gravel area extending approximately 250m north-east to south-west by at least 100m and probably continuing into Ash Spinney. The trenches were located to investigate possible enclosures and pits identified on aerial photographs (**SMR 4281**) and subsequently confirmed by geophysical survey (Geophysical Zone 1). Archaeological deposits were identified in Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 27.

The trenches revealed an area of dense and varied archaeology. Small quantities of residual flint tools were recovered from a number of features suggesting some prehistoric activity in the vicinity. The actual prehistoric features may have been ploughed away.

5.3.1.1.1 Belgic Iron Age

Archaeological evidence for the earliest phase of settlement in Zone 1 was identified in the ditches and pits that correspond to Enclosure **C** where Belgic Iron Age pottery was recovered. The enclosure is approximately 40m by 30m and does not appear to respect the limits of later Roman Enclosures **A**, **B** or **N** suggesting that they are not contemporary and

therefore possibly earlier. Small quantities of Belgic Iron Age pottery were recovered from pit [603] and ditch [608]. The V-shaped ditch at least 0.6m wide and 0.44m deep (Figure 19 section 3) corresponds with the north-west side of Enclosure **C** and ditch [615] may represent a further enclosure. Pit [603] was 2.9m in diameter and 0.9m deep. Several other pits and a ditch parallel to [608] were identified in the same trench. The presence of small quantities of Belgic Iron Age pottery from two features may indicate low intensity occupation rather than residual material in later features.

5.3.1.1.2 Roman

A series of regular enclosures and activity were identified. Roman occupational debris was recovered from ditches corresponding to Enclosures **A** and **L**. Both enclosures appear to respect the limits and entrances of further enclosures (**B**, **L** and **N**), suggesting that they were contemporary.

In the north-east of Zone 1 linear anomalies **L** and **M** were detected, defining the boundaries of one or more enclosures. Both boundaries were located in Trench 4. Ditch [403] corresponded with linear anomaly **L** and ditch [409] corresponded with linear anomaly **M**. Ditch [403] was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep (Figure 19 section 1), with a small quantity of Roman pottery recovered from the fill. Ditches [409] and [403] could form part of the same enclosure or alternatively be an extension to Enclosure **N**. The possibility of an associated structure was suggested by a single post hole with packing [412] 0.69m in diameter and 0.20m deep (Figure 20 photo 1), located adjacent to ditch [409]. A small quantity of Roman pottery and a fragment of burnt bone were recovered from the fill. Both ditch [409] and posthole [412] cut the alluvial deposit, which extended 3m from the eastern end of the trench. Enclosures **L** and **M** make up part of the Roman settlement activity.

Boundary ditches corresponding to Enclosure **A** [506/507, 519] and the southern limit of another possible Enclosure **N** [522] were identified in Trench 5. The southern boundary of Enclosure **A** was defined by ditch [506] which was subsequently recut as ditch [507] (Figure 21 photo 4). Both features contained large quantities of Roman pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone. Fill (503) contained fragments of *imbrex* and *tegula* roofing tile, suggesting the possibility that a building of high status was in the vicinity. Ditch [507] was 2.3m wide and 0.6m deep and the truncated ditch [506] was at least 1.10m wide and 0.7m deep (Figure19 section 2). Within Enclosure **A**, ditch [511/513] and a possible post hole [515] may define associated structural activity. None of the internal features were identified during the geophysical survey. The archaeological data suggests that Enclosure **A** is one of the main focuses of Roman settlement in Zone 1. Ditch [522], which corresponds to the southern side of Enclosure **N**, was at least 1.5m wide continuing to the north of the trench.

5.3.1.1.3 Early-Middle Saxon

Saxon occupational debris was recovered from a pit in Trench 6 and a probable *grubenhauser* c.100m further to the south-east in Trench 8. The *grubenhauser* [805] had a typical rectangular form at least 1.8m long continuing beyond the trench and 2.25m wide, with a posthole situated centrally on the shorter side (Figure 20 photo 2). An area of the basal gravel had been discoloured by contact with fire. This type of feature has been identified on numerous Saxon occupation sites. The building is set into the ground possibly to provide either greater headroom or possibly underfloor storage space. The disuse fills of the feature contained large quantities of Saxon pottery. Pit [610] was 4.5m in diameter and at least 0.87m deep (Figure19 section 4). The upper fill (612) was dark brown silt containing significant quantities of pottery and animal bone as well as charcoal flecks and iron slag. Although the primary use of the pit is uncertain, it was subsequently used for rubbish disposal, suggesting occupation in the vicinity.

The extent of Saxon settlement appears to be limited to the immediate vicinity of these features and possibly extending into the area between them, as surrounding trenches are devoid of archaeological features.

5.3.1.1.4 Post-medieval

A substantial pit [2710] contained post-medieval pottery and possibly a complete animal skeleton. This pit may have been associated with the farm building shown on the 1843 Tithe Map, situated adjacent to the spinney. Originally Trench 27 was opened to examine a possible paleochannel, though no evidence for this was found.

5.3.1.1.5 Undated features

The southern margins of the settlement in Archaeological Zone 1 were investigated in Trenches 7 and 8. Trench 7 contained four undated ditches. In the north two parallel ditches [703] and [706] were at least 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep and may correspond to geophysical linear anomalies. The other two ditches [716] and [724] in the south had a perpendicular alignment to the northern pair. The fills were naturally accumulated with no artefacts being recovered, suggesting that the features were situated to the margins of the settlement. It is not clear if the ditches were associated with the adjacent Belgic Enclosure **C**, though the orientation is similar to that of the Roman enclosures further to the west. A recut ditch in Trench 8 [809/811] probably corresponds to the linear geophysical anomaly, defining part of a possible enclosure.

The poorly preserved lower legs of a probable inhumation burial [728] were identified in Trench 7. The burial was orientated north-west to south-east, with the feet possibly to the south-east. The shallow grave was 0.35m below the present ground level, truncating the upper fill of ditch [724]. The poor preservation of the bones is probably due to the acidity of the surrounding soil. After recording, the bones were left *in-situ* covered by plastic sheeting.

5.3.1.2 Archaeological Zone 2 *(Figure 16)*

Zone 2 is adjacent to the Gayhurst Road between Red Brick Cottages and Home Farm. In this area Trench 25 was opened to investigate a sub-rectangular double cropmark and an area of building debris located during fieldwalking. A possible wall foundation with associated medieval pottery was uncovered. After consultation with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer, three contingency trenches were opened in the vicinity to define the area of medieval settlement. Trenches 36, 37 and 38 were located between 10m and 30m from the hedge adjacent to the Gayhurst Road. The 50m 'standoff' adjacent to Red Brick Cottages was respected, though the visible earthworks and stone spread suggests that activity continued in this direction. The four areas that were defined will be discussed in order from west to east.

5.3.1.2.1 Medieval Building 1

The building located in Trench 36 was at least 20m from the edge of the present road. Surviving structural evidence includes a foundation trench for an external wall [3618], an internal floor surface [3608] and an internal limestone hearth [3603].

The foundation trench for the external wall was truncated by a robber trench [3609] (Figure 19 section 5). The remains of the foundation trench were at least 0.50m wide. The hearth appeared to be rectilinear in form at least 2.10m long 2m wide and 0.25m deep, with one course of limestone surviving. Within the structure were fragments of burnt limestone, burnt cobbles and the fill (3605), that contained a small quantity of early medieval pottery.

The heavily compacted internal floor surface was composed of crushed limestone, gravel and dark brown silt. This layer was at least 5.3m long and 0.05m thick. Early medieval pottery and charred plant seeds were recovered from the deposit.

Associated features
To the west of the building a trackway [3614] orientated roughly north-south, extended from the Gayhurst Road. The exposed section was 2.5m wide and 0.10m deep (Figure 19. section 6). Abraded early medieval pottery and bone fragments were recovered from the fill. The trackway was parallel to the external wall [3618], continuing towards Building 2 in Trench 25. Leading from the building towards the trackway was a shallow gulley [3616], which may have been a soakaway for the building. Further west beyond the track, another spread of limestone rubble was defined adjacent to the present road. This may be the site of another building.

5.3.1.2.2 Medieval Building 2

In Trench 25 wall foundation [2507] was at least 3m long, 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep (Figure 21 photo 3), though its extent had been truncated by later features. The wall foundation was composed of roughly hewn limestone. To the west of the wall foundation the natural interface was at a lower level suggesting the possibility of an internal floor surface(2506) which

contained a large quantity of early medieval pottery and animal bone. A scatter of building material in the topsoil was approximately 10m in diameter and spread northwards from the south-western end of the trench. The form and function of the building is unclear.

The wall was truncated by a pit [2503] and a ditch [2508]. Both of these features contained small quantities of early medieval pottery and limestone fragments.

Associated boundary?
Situated to the north of Building 2 was a large ditch [2510] at least 2.4 m wide. This corresponds to the outer element of the sub-rectangular double cropmark. A concentration of large fragments of limestone were observed in the southern portion of the upper fill (2511). This may suggest either the collapse of an adjacent wall or a convenient place to dump demolition debris. The ditch appears to enclose the area of medieval occupation and may represent the rear boundary to the medieval plot. Geophysical Area 9 identified possible medieval cultivation furrows, orientated north-north-east to south-south-west. The furrows do not appear to extend south of the ditch towards the Gayhurst Road, suggesting a contrasting land-use.

5.3.1.2.3 Medieval Building 3

An L-shaped wall foundation [3703] at least 2.8m long north-south, turning to the west in the south for at least 2m was located in the northern end of Trench 37. The foundation trench was up to 0.3m deep, containing roughly hewn limestone slabs. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the associated fill. A scatter of building material and occupational debris in the topsoil extended approximately 10m from this end of the trench. The layout and extent of the building is unclear, however, it would appear to be located c.20m from the present road. The topsoil in the vicinity of the building contained a large quantity of post-medieval artefacts, suggesting a focus of activity.

5.3.1.2.4 Medieval Wall

Situated on a raised area Trench 38 identified traces of a wall foundation [3806] at least 1.10m long, 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep containing two courses of roughly hewn limestone. The associated fill contained a sherd of early medieval pottery. This may define a boundary wall adjacent to a hollow-way rather than part of a building.

Associated features
Within the raised platform was a ditch [3803] orientated roughly north-south at least 0.98m wide and 0.28m deep. This was roughly perpendicular to the wall. The black silt ditch fill contained occupation debris including charcoal flecks and a small quantity of animal bone.

To the east of the wall, the trench crossed a possible hollow-way [3811], which was visible as a linear depression extending from the present road in

the south. The natural gravel [3802] was slightly compacted in the area of the hollow-way suggesting some wear.

A substantial ditch [3809] 1.9m wide was aligned parallel to and east of the hollow-way. The ditch may represent a boundary for a building plot on the adjacent raised platform.

Within the 'standoff' zone, near Red Brick Cottages, a spread of building debris 20m in diameter was located on the northern area of the platform, 10m from the road. This may suggest that there was a building in the northern area of the platform.

5.3.1.3 Archaeological Zone 3 (Figure 17)

An undated iron smelting furnace [1303/1306] and associated spread of tap slag was identified in the centre of Pound Field approximately 180m north-east of Red Brick Cottages. The fills of the furnace were excavated in order to characterise the feature, though the structure was left *in-situ* and subsequently covered by plastic sheeting. The furnace was constructed from limestone with an area of tap slag still *in-situ*. Above the furnace was a layer of iron working debris [1309] including iron slag, burnt limestone and black silt with large quantities of charcoal. The layer was 0.20m below ground level and extended for 9.2m within Trench 13. No datable finds were recovered from either the furnace or any on the deposits within Trench 13. There was no evidence for an associated structure, to protect the furnace. An undated ditch [1311] a considerable distance to the south of the furnace is unlikely to have been associated.

5.3.2 The Swade

A total of seven of the proposed eight trenches were opened in this field. One dispersed zone of archaeological enclosures was identified to the north-western edge of the field. This area is low-lying and due to the abnormally high water level Trench 33 was impossible to open. All seven trenches were inundated with water soon after opening, making hand excavation impossible. The flooding severely limited the investigation of the archaeology. Only one ditch was partly excavated and finds were recovered from the upper fills of only three features. The natural strata was mostly sand and gravel though an area of limestone was identified in Trench 29.

5.3.2.1 Archaeological Zone 4

Situated close to the meadows in the north-western area of the land parcel, the zone covers an area approximately 240m long by 80m wide. The archaeological activity in Trenches 29, 30 and 31corresponds to Geophysical Zone 2 and to cropmarks of **SMR 991**. All three trenches contained alluvial deposits. The majority of features cut alluvium, however, some were both cutting through and sealed by alluvial deposits, indicating intermittent flooding in the past.

5.3.2.1.1 Enclosure G

The rectilinear enclosure was investigated in Trench 29. A substantial ditch at least 2.5m wide [2911] corresponded with the south-eastern corner of the enclosure. Several upper fills of contrasting colour could be defined in plan, suggesting that the ditch was recut. This ditch was partly excavated and one fragment of bone was recovered from fill (2913). The northern side of the enclosure was defined by ditch [2907] which was at least 1.6m wide. Inside the enclosure ditch [2909] and two small pits [2918] and [2916] were identified, suggesting possible occupation.

To the south-east of Enclosure **G** was an oblique ditch [2914], which corresponds to a geophysical anomaly. This boundary is unlikely to have been associated with the main enclosure.

No datable finds were recovered from the partly excavated enclosure ditch or from the surface of the other feature. It is not clear if the enclosure was used intermittent for low intensity activity or if rubbish was disposed of beyond the enclosed area. The shape and orientation of this enclosure is similar to Enclosure **I,** suggesting that they were contemporary.

In the north end of Trench 29 two parallel ditches [2903] and [2905] were located. Both ditches cut the alluvial deposit that extended 11m into the trench. Ditch [2903] was at least 1.15m wide and ditch [2905] was at least 1m wide. The two ditches are oblique to Enclosure **G,** suggesting that the activity is not associated.

5.3.2.1.2 Enclosure H and Associated Features

Trench 30 was targeted on a cluster of geophysical anomalies including a possible small irregular enclosure (**H**). Four ditches were identified, two of which contained small quantities of early-middle Iron Age pottery. Two large ditches [3004] and [3006] at least 1.4m wide were located in the eastern end of the trench. Both were found to cut an alluvial deposit and to be sealed by another alluvial deposit, which extended 20m from the south-eastern end of the trench. It is possible that the alluvium may have prevented the identification of archaeological features during the geophysical survey. Ditches [3006] and [3008] correspond to elements of a U-shaped geophysical anomaly (**H**), which may define a ring-ditch. To the west there is a cropmark of a double ring ditch (**SMR 992**).

5.3.2.1.3 Enclosure I

The geophysical survey identified a large enclosure with possible associated internal activity including an intermittent curving feature which possible defined a round house. This enclosure was investigated by Trench 31. A substantial ditch [3105] 1.4m wide corresponded with the eastern side of the enclosure. Located within the enclosure was a gulley [3103] at least 0.25m wide, containing a top fill of grey sandy silt. Although located towards the eastern side of the enclosure, this gulley does not correspond to the curvilinear features detected during the geophysical survey.

5.3.2.1.4 Other Trenches containing Archaeological Features

All archaeological features other than medieval cultivation furrows are described.

Trench 2

Two linear cropmarks in the north-western area of Pound Field were investigated in Trench 2. Only one ditch was located and corresponded with the northern cropmark. Ditch [207] was 1.10m wide and 0.56m deep and contained clay tobacco pipe. The ditch may be part of a late medieval or post-medieval field system.

Trench 3

The large geophysical anomaly **F** was found to be tree root disturbance. This undated disturbance corresponds with an early field boundary shown on the 1843 Tithe Map.

Trench 10

Located close to the north-eastern limit of Pound Field, the trench was opened to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly. A pit [1003] and two ditches [1007] and [1009] were located. The unexcavated pit corresponds to an intermittent roughly linear geophysical anomaly. This may have been associated with the removal of a tree. The pit probably defines part of the field boundary shown on the 1843 Tithe Map, which separates 'Half Brook' and 'Parsons Close'. As the ditches are located further to the east, they are unlikely to have been associated with the boundary. It is possible that they were furrows based on the roughly north-east to south-west orientation.

Trench 19

This trench was opened in the south-west area of Pound Field. A shallow gulley [1903] was at least 23m long, 0.6m wide and at least 0.9m deep. The single piece of worked flint recovered from the surface of the fill could be residual.

Trench 20

The possible terminal of an undated ditch or a pit [2003] was identified in this trench.

Trench 21

A possible ditch [2103] was identified in this trench. No dating material was recovered from the surface of the fill.

Trench 34

The possible terminal of an undated ditch or a pit [3404] was identified in this trench.

220

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Dear Mr Giggins,

Land to the north of Lathbury: Summary for publication

Happy New Year

With the application for minerals extraction at Lathbury being refused, I thought that it would be useful to provide the public with a general summary, outlining the results of the evaluation. I have enclosed a copy of the proposed summary for your comment. My intention is to submit it to a local journal - possibly South Midlands Archaeology.

Yours sincerely

G. Edmondson

Gary Edmondson
Project Officer

Land to the north of Lathbury,
Milton Keynes:
Summary Results of the Archaeological Evaluation

Between 2000 and 2002 Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (subsequently renamed Albion Archaeology) was commissioned by GFX Hartigan Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the land to the north of Home Farm, Lathbury. The work was undertaken as part of the submission of an application for mineral extraction. A staged approach to the evaluation was utilised. It comprised a desk-based assessment, followed by geophysical survey, field artefact collection, non-ferrous metal detector survey and trial excavation. The main evaluation was undertaken in 2000, with further stages of fieldwork undertaken in 2001 and 2002 in response to the evolving proposal.

The site is centred on National Grid Reference SP (4/2) 8750 4555 on the gravel terraces of the southern side of the valley of the River Great Ouse. In this area the river defines an elongated loop, with the village of Lathbury located within the interior. The topography of the adjacent land suggests that in this area, the course of the river has changed little over time. The object of the investigation was to determine the archaeological potential of the site, in advance of a submission for mineral extraction. This provided the opportunity to investigate a large segment of the landscape extending away from the River Great Ouse.

A number of known archaeological sites particularly cropmarks, are recorded by the Milton Keynes Sites and Monuments Record in vicinity of the site (Figure 1). A series of cropmarks are visible immediately to the south of the site comprising ring ditches and enclosures. The form of these ring ditches suggests prehistoric burial monuments. Two cropmarks within the site (SMR 991 and SMR 4281), were confirmed by geophysical survey, which provided additional detail of the extent and form of the cropmarks. Generally the number of areas of magnetic enhancement, indicative of human activity, declined away from the river.

Fieldwalking of the majority of the site was undertaken in 2000, with small additional areas investigated in 2001. Dispersed scatters of flint artefacts including several tools were identified. Single sherds of possible Saxon and Roman pottery were recovered from the main area. A single concentration of Roman pottery was identified in 2001, confined to an area towards the river in the north of the site, adjacent to a known cropmark. Greater quantities of medieval and later pottery were recovered, though there was no obvious patterning to the distributions, suggesting that this was the result of manuring of the land. The non-ferrous metal detector survey recovered a variety of objects, the majority of which were either modern or undated. Only medieval or later dateable artefacts were identified.

Approximately 50 trial excavation trenches were opened during the three phases of investigation. These targeted both the possible archaeological remains identified in the non-intrusive stages of the project, as well as investigating those areas apparently devoid of archaeological remains.

The earliest evidence for human activity in the area is provided by the flint artefacts recovered from unstratified deposits and as residual artefacts in later features. These indicate dispersed prehistoric activity. Most of the flint is undiagnostic, though a transverse arrowhead can be typologically dated to the Neolithic period. The majority of the flint used on the site would appear to have been derived from gravel pebbles.

The evaluation defined a total of six spatially discrete foci of activity (Archaeological Zones), with the majority situated in the area near the River Great Ouse (Figure 1). These were generally single period settlement sites, which mainly consisted of ditched enclosures, ranged in date from early - middle Iron Age, through late Iron Age/Roman to early-middle Saxon.

Early-middle Iron Age (*c.*650 - 350BC) Archaeological Zones 4 & 6
The two foci where situated on the lower ground close to the river. In the south, the ditches corresponded to known cropmarks, which are a continuation of SMR 991. The second focus, located some 600m to the north-west, contained pits and ditches. The presence of intercutting ditches and pits containing occupation debris within this area indicates a possible focus of settlement activity, which was utilised for a period of time.

Late Iron Age (*c.*100BC - AD 50)/**Roman** (*c.*AD43 - 400)
Archaeological Zones 1 & 5
Both of these foci correlate to known cropmark sites. The southern site (SMR 4281) occupied an area of relatively high ground, with two series of enclosures possibly separated by trackways. This area would appear to have been a favoured settlement location, with evidence for subsequent Saxon activity.

The second focus of activity would appear to be a continuation of the cropmark enclosures of SMR 420, situated beyond the site on the lower ground close to the river. Prior to this investigation, the dating of the enclosures was a matter of considerable speculation.

Early – Middle Saxon (*c.*AD400 - 850) Archaeological Zone 1
The Saxon remains were confined to the high ground close to the river, within Archaeological Zone 1. The presence of a possible structure (*grubenhaus*), suggests a settlement focus. This overlay an extensive Roman focus, possibly indicating a degree of continuity, though it was possible that the same favourable location was selected following a period of abandonment.

Medieval (*c.*AD1100 - 1500) Archaeological Zone 2
Roadside settlement was identified extending north-westwards along the Gayhurst Road towards Red Brick Cottages, in an area which is beyond the present village. The footings of several buildings and associated surfaces were identified. Evidence suggests that at least some of these buildings continued in use into the post-medieval period. Further to the west, traces of medieval cultivation furrows were identified.

Post-medieval (*c.*AD1500-1700)
Artefactual evidence suggests that at least some of the buildings and associated surfaces of Archaeological Zone 2, close to the Gayhurst Road, continued in use during this period. Further to the north a small ditch of probable post-medieval date

was also revealed. The distribution of contemporary artefacts recovered during fieldwalking is probably the result of manuring of the land.

Undated Furnace Archaeological Zone 3

An isolated and undated iron smelting furnace was also identified. The structure was constructed of limestone.

Summary

It has been possible to examine a relatively large area of agricultural land bounding the river. This has increased the understanding of the utilisation of the riverside landscape over time, adding to the number of sites recorded in the area of the river loop. The available evidence indicates that the area of the loop is a significant archaeological landscape, containing evidence both for settlement and burial monuments from a number of different periods.

In the Iron Age and Roman periods, a riverside location appears to have been favoured for settlement. The presence of a possible Saxon structure suggests that this area may have remained a preferred location for settlement in the early medieval period. However, by the 12th century the church of All Saints' had been constructed, indicating a shift of settlement away from the river to a roadside location. Medieval settlement was identified within the site, extending northwards along the Gayhurst Road beyond the present village. The evaluation uncovered the remains of an iron smelting furnace and associated spread of tap slag. Its location is interesting because of both its isolated location, away from settlement and the apparent lack of easy accessibility to the raw materials needed for iron smelting.

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Albion Archaeology, until deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum (Accession Number 2000.59)

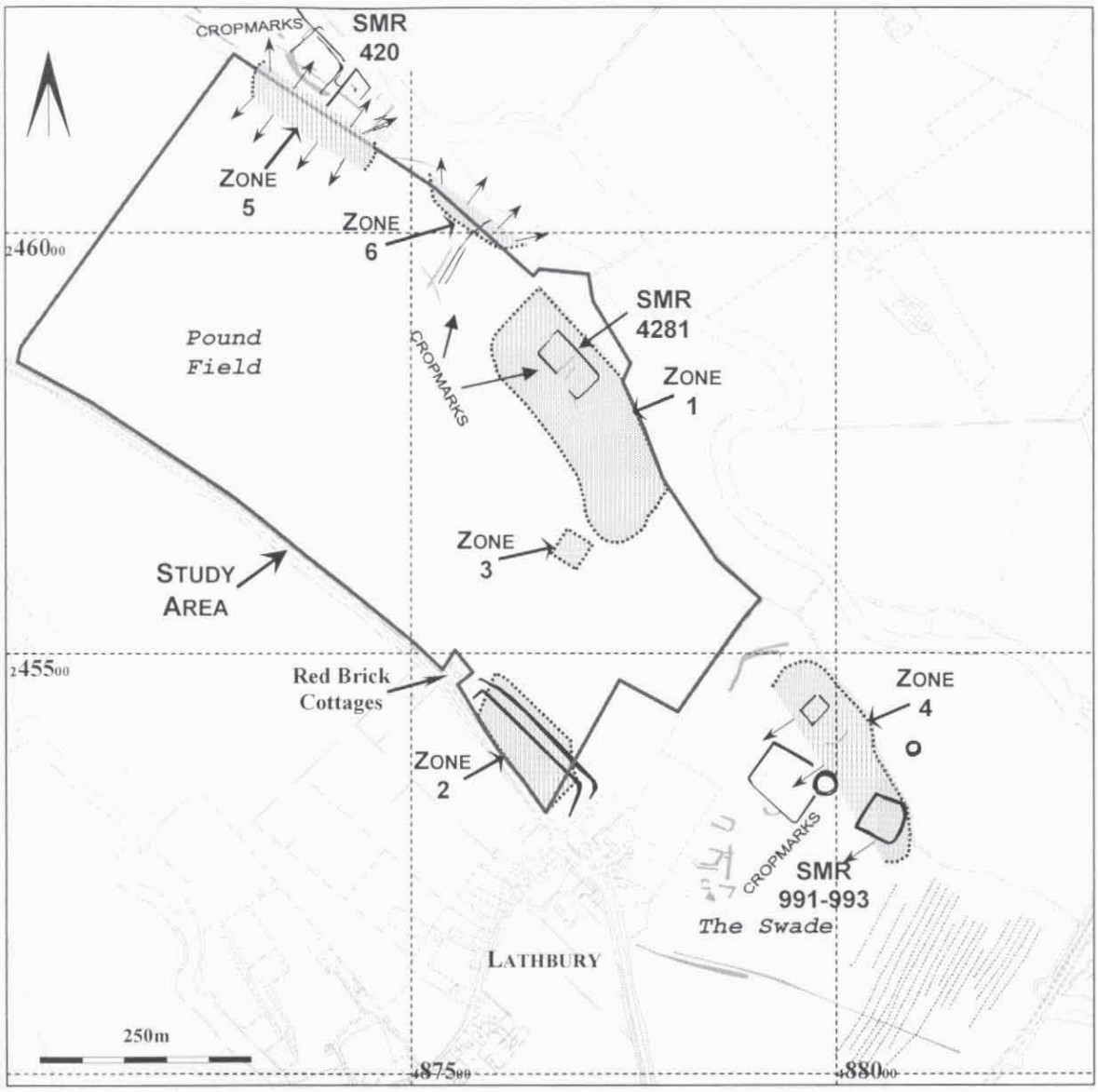

Figure 1: Site location and Archaeological Zones

Mr Gary Edmondson
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John Best
Strategic Director Environment

David Hackforth
Head of Planning

Our Ref: BG/BB/537/2/A/E220
Your Ref: BCAS/HFL661/GE
Reply To: Mr B L Giggins
Direct Line: (01908) 252902

17 January 2001

Dear Mr Edmondson

LAND TO THE NORTH OF HOME FARM, LATHBURY

I have now had the opportunity to go through the report and would confirm that it meets my requirements, apart from the following:

1. Figures 20 and 21 were missing from the report.
2. There is no key to the artefact distribution maps indicating what the variation of circle sizes represents.
3. Isolated headings on pages 28, 30 and 33.
4. Grid references for the coin and worked lithic material would enable them to be put on the Sites and Monuments Record. A schedule of the found coins would also assist.
5. A map showing the areas of possible Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and mediaeval occupation would be useful.

I look forward to receiving your observations on these items in due course. Would you also please provide me with a copy of the geophysics survey report by GSB Prospection.

Yours sincerely

Archaeological Officer

copy: Development Control Manager, fao Ian Prosser

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Lathbury: Finds co-ordinates

Metal Detector Survey

Silver coins

Bag Number	Type	Description	Number	Weight	xcoord	ycoord
595	ag coin	Long Cross penny	1	1	487783 64	24562118
621	ag coin	Long Cross ½ Groat Edward III	1	2	487771	24547860

Copper alloy coins

Bag Number	Type	Description	Number	Weight	xcoord	ycoord
335	ca coin	Coin of George III (1791)	1	12	48754219	24582973
363	ca coin	Obverse illegible/ reverse depicts ?Britannia	1	8	48751933	24564643
374	ca coin	Edward VII penny (1900's)	1	9	48751048	24560202
375	ca coin	Illegible	1	3	48749335	24558216
376	ca coin	Rose farthing Charles I (1625-49)	1	1	48748510	24557577
378	ca coin	Illegible	1	6	48753067	24559558
622	ca coin	Illegible ?Penny	1	7	48779084	24547009
628	ca coin	Illegible	1	3	48787210	24557184
813	ca coin	?George VI penny (1936-52)	1	5	48807397	24524785

Flint Tools

Bag Number	Type		Number	Weight	xcoord	ycoord
5	Flint Tools	Scraper	1	12	48732635	24572536
45	Flint core	core	1	28	48750208	24593482
85	Flint tools	arrowhead	1	6	48738001	24569559
119	Flint Tools	Scraper	1	28	48752884	24581299
216	Flint Tools	Scraper thumbnail	1	3	48754228	24579991
229	Flint Tools	Scraper	1	17	48766915	24588687
250	Flint	Retouched flake	1	4	48750670	24566051
642	Flint	Retouched flake	1	3	48792986	24553501
715	Flint	notched blade	1	3	48807485	24528254

Registered Artefacts

Registered Artefact Number	Description	Context	xcoord	ycoord
RA 1	Copper alloy coin of Constantine	(803)	48774309	24566899
RA 2	Flint scraper	(3000)	48801615	24540699
RA 4	Flint scraper	(500)	48766634	24585160

5.4 Artefact Assemblage

5.4.1 Introduction

The trial excavations produced an artefactual assemblage comprising mainly pottery and animal bone (Table 5). All artefacts collected were processed in accordance with the *Brief* and *Project Design*. The material was scanned to ascertain the nature, condition and where possible, the date range of the artefact types present.

Tr.	Context	Feature	Type	Spotdate	Pottery	CBM	Animal Bone	Other Finds
02	208	207	Ditch	-			1:1	Clay pipe (1g)
04	404	403	Ditch	Roman	4:75		1:12	
	414	412	Structure	Roman	5:54		55:128	Ferrous slag (4g), fired clay (5g)
05	500	500	Topsoil	-				Flint scraper (RA4)
	503	507	Ditch	Roman	47:355	2:123	1:7	Oyster shell (28g)
	504	507	Ditch	Roman	1:6			
	505	506	Ditch	Roman	70:1045		4:205	
	512	513	Ditch	-			2:51	Flint core & flake (20g)
	516	517	Furrow	-			3:4	
	518	519	Ditch	Roman		1:136		
06	600	600	Topsoil	Early-mid Saxon	3:41		7:19	
	607	603	Pit	Belgic Iron Age	1:7			
	609	608	Ditch	Belgic Iron Age	4:46		1:23	Flint blades x2 (4g)
	611	610	Pit	Early-mid Saxon	5:69		7:120	
	612	610	Pit	Early-mid Saxon	11:176		68:430	Flint flake (8g), fired clay (59g) Ferrous slag (119g)
08	803	805	Grubenhauser	Late Roman				Ca coin (RA1)
	804	805	Grubenhauser	Early-mid Saxon	30:444	1:92	116:791	Bone pin (RA2), fired clay (82g)
	806	807	Posthole	-			1:1	
10	1010	1009	Ditch	Post-medieval	1:61			
12	1201	1201	Ext. surface	Early medieval	1:46			
13	1308	1306	Furnace	-			3:2	Ferrous slag (2384g) Fired clay (76g), burnt stone (351g)
	1309	1306	Furnace	-				Ferrous slag (2068g) Fired clay (8g)
14	1400	1400	Topsoil	High medieval	1:29			Flint core, flake and scraper
19	1904	1903	Gulley	-				Flint flake (8g)
25	2500	2500	Topsoil	Early medieval	2:72			
	2504	2503	Pit	Early medieval	1:8			
	2506	2506	Occ. Debris	Early medieval	15:170		14:255	
	2509	2508	Ditch	Early medieval	2:23			
26	2601	2601	Ext. surface	High medieval				Fe ?harness fitting (RA5)
27	2710	2711	Pit	Post-medieval	2:114		5:101	Fe rivetted strip (RA6)
	2712	2721	Pit	Late/post med.		1:222		
29	2913	2911	Ditch	-			2:140	
30	3000	3000	Topsoil	-				Flint scraper (RA3)
	3005	3004	Ditch	Early-mid Iron Age	4:32			
	3007	3006	Ditch	Early-mid Iron Age	1:6			
36	3600	3600	Topsoil	Post-medieval	3:21			
	3605	3603	Hearth	Early medieval	7:88		5:274	Burnt stone (162g)
	3608	3608	Occ. Debris	Early medieval	7:127		32:187	Ferrous slag (1g), fired clay (85g)
	3612	3612	Ext. dump	Early medieval	2:2		4:1	
	3615	3614	Ditch	Early medieval	3:14		26:300	Fe nail (6g), cast fe strip (RA8)
37	3700	3700	Topsoil	Post-medieval	29:209	9:499		Clay pipe (19g), shell (35g)
	3705	3703	Structure	High medieval	2:8			Fe nail (2g)
38	3800	3800	Topsoil	Post-medieval				Fe rake prong (RA7)
	3804	3803	Ditch	-			3:30	
	3807	3806	Structure	Early medieval	1:29			
Totals					265:3377	14:1072	361:3082	

CBM – ceramic building material RA – registered artefact

Table 5: Artefact Assemblage by Trench and Context (sherd number/frag count: wgt in grammes)

5.4.2 Ceramics

5.4.2.1 Pottery

A total of 265 sherds, weighing 3.4kg was recovered. These were examined by context, and thirty-seven fabric types identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by BCAS. Where possible, a correlation with the published Milton Keynes Roman (Marney 1989) and medieval (Mynard 1991) type series has been added, represented by bracketed codes. Fabrics are listed below (Table 6) in approximate chronological order. Quantification was carried out using minimum sherd count and weight.

Fabric Type	Common Name	Comments	Sherd No
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)			
Type F19	Sand & Organic	Undiagnostic	3
Type F30	Sand & calcareous inclusions	flat rim vessel with finger nail decoration	1
Type F14	Fine mixed inclusions	Undiagnostic	1
Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)			
Type F05 (Fabric 45)	Grog & shell	Undiagnostic	1
Type F06B (Fabric 46)	Medium Grog	Undiagnostic	2
Type F06C (Fabric 46)	Coarse Grog	Undiagnostic	3
Type F09 (Fabric 46)	Sand & Grog	Undiagnostic	1
Type F34	Sandy	Platter	2
Roman (AD50-350)			
Type R05A (Fabric 17)	Orange sandy	?dog dish	1
Type R06B (Fabric 3)	Coarse greyware	Undiagnostic	12
Type R06C (Fabric 3)	Fine greyware	Burnished triangular rim bowl, poppyhead beaker, neckless jar, bowl	24
Type R07B (Fabric 9a)	Sandy blackware	Undiagnostic	4
Type R13 (Fabric 1a)	Shelly	Lid-seated jar, jar with undercut rim, Rectangular & triangular rim bowls.	52
Type R03A (Fabric 18g)	Verulamium whiteware	Bowl, jar	3
Type R03B (Fabric 18)	Gritty whiteware	Jar with undercut rim	13
Type R31 (Fabric 18)	Lumpy whiteware	Jar	7
Type R01	Samian ware	Dr33 cup & ?Dr18/31 bowl	6
Type R12B (Fabric 6)	Nene Valley Colour Coat	Undiagnostic	3
Saxon (AD400-850)			
Type A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	Vessels with flat-rounded base, flat angled base, vertical, everted & incurving rims, some oxidised & some burnished. One bears parallel linear decoration	37
Type A18	Fine Quartz	Vessel with incurving rim, one sherd with chevron & single circle stamp	9
Type A24	Oolitic	Undiagnostic	1
Early Medieval (AD1150-1250)			
Type C	Non-specific medieval wares	Reduced sandy with internal white residue	5
Type C05	Sandy (red margins)	strap handle (stabbed), jar	4
Type B05 (MC3)	Harrold/Olney Hyde shelly	Jar with undercut rim	14
Type B07 (MC1)	Shelly	Everted rim jar, external sooting	20
Type C03	Fine sandy	Undiagnostic	2
Type C53	Sandy	Undiagnostic	1
High Medieval (AD1250-1400)			
Type C09 (MS9)	Brill/Boarstall type	Undiagnostic	1
Type C10 (MS6)	Potterspury type	Undiagnostic	3

Type C60	Hertfordshire-type Greyware	Undiagnostic	1
Late Medieval (AD1400-1500)			
Type E01	Reduced ware	Undiagnostic	1
Type E02	Oxidised ware	Undiagnostic	1
Post-Medieval (AD1500-1750)			
Type P	Non-specific post-medieval wares	Undiagnostic	1
Type P01 (PM8)	Fine glazed red earthenware	Undiagnostic	17
Type P03 (PM1)	Black-glazed earthenware	Bowl	2
Type P14	Blackware	Undiagnostic	4
Type P25 (PM29)	Frechen	Mug base & handle	2

NOTE: see Appendix 4 for details of pottery type by context

Table 6: Pottery Type Series

The pottery dates from the early-middle Iron Age to the post-medieval periods, with the majority of the group deriving from the Roman period. The overall condition of the assemblage is good, comprising relatively unabraded, sizeable sherds (average sherd weight 13g), many of which derive from single vessels.

Archaeological Zone 1

Features assigned to Zone 1 yielded a mixed assemblage of 153 sherds (2.0kg), spanning the late Belgic Iron Age, Roman, and early-middle Saxon periods.

Apart from fragments of a platter, there are no diagnostic forms among the Iron Age material. Roman vessels, however, are indicative of a domestic assemblage, comprising tablewares and cooking pots. Roman coarsewares are predominantly represented by shell tempered vessels and local reduced wares. Diagnostic shell tempered forms include jars and bowls comparable to vessels produced at the Lodge Farm kilns in Harrold, which constitute 42% of the Roman assemblage. Regional imports are represented in the earlier period by whiteware vessels from Northamptonshire and the Verulamium region and in the later period by pottery from the Nene Valley. Continental imports comprise a samian ware cup and bowl.

The incidence of late Iron Age vessels is restricted to pit [603] and ditch [608], Trench 6. Roman vessels derive predominantly from features in Trenches 4 and 5, particularly ditch [506] which contained 1.0kg of pottery. The material from this feature comprises unabraded, sizeable sherds (average sherd weight 15g), many from single vessels, suggesting the deliberate dumping of domestic debris. The presence of sherds deriving from one vessel in the fills of sequential ditches [506] and [507] indicate the reworking of material, when the boundary ditch was recut.

Nineteen sherds (286g) of early-middle Saxon pottery were recovered from the fill of pit [610] Trench 6. The majority of sherds are tempered with fine or coarse quartz; a single sherd containing oolitic limestone was also noted. Diagnostic forms comprise jars and bowls with vertical, everted or incurving rims. Base sherds are either flat-rounded or flat-angled. One sherd bears parallel linear decoration, and a second has a chevron and single circle stamp.

A further thirty early-middle Saxon sherds (444g) were recovered from the possible *Grubenhauser* [805] in Trench 8. The latter also contained a small quantity of residual Roman pottery.

Archaeological Zone 2

Features in Zone 2 yielded seventy-four sherds of medieval pottery weighing 771g, the majority associated with occupation debris (2506), Trench 25. The bulk of the assemblage comprises 12th-13th century shell tempered vessels. Some are recognisably products of the Harrold (Beds.) or Olney Hyde (Bucks.) kilns, while the remainder derived from an unknown source. Diagnostic forms comprise lid-seated and everted rim jars, some of which bear sooting, indicating their use in a domestic capacity. Undiagnostic sand tempered vessels of probable local manufacture comprise a small proportion of the early medieval material. Vessels of 13th-15th century date are represented by sherds of Brill/Boarstall and Potterspury type, the latter a regional import from Northamptonshire. A single sherd of Hertfordshire-type greyware was also identified.

Archaeological Zone 4

Only very limited investigation of the features was possible in this area due to the abnormally high water table. The incidence of early-middle Iron Age pottery is restricted to this zone. Ditches [3004] and [3006], Trench 30, yielded five sherds, (38g), deriving from hand-made vessels in quartz and organic/calcareous fabric types. Diagnostic forms are restricted to a flat-rimmed vessel (?bowl) with restricted finger nail decoration.

5.4.2.2 Ceramic Building Material

Fourteen brick and tile fragments weighing 1.1kg were recovered. Roman material recovered from Zone 1 (ditches [507] and [519]) comprises three shell tempered fragments of roof tile (*tegulae* and an *imbrex)*. A further *tegula* or brick fragment of Roman date derived from the Saxon *Grubenhauser* [805] in Trench 8. The majority of ceramic building material was derived from topsoil in Archaeological Zone 2, and comprise sand tempered flat roof tiles of late/post-medieval date.

5.4.3 Non-Ceramics

5.4.3.1 Metalworking residues

Fragments of ferrous slag, vitrified clay lining and miscellaneous fired clay (total weight 4.5kg) were recovered from features of Roman, early-middle Saxon and early medieval date. A small proportion of this material (124g) is not indicative of a particular type of iron working, and may represent the debris from either iron smelting or smithing processes.

Archaeological Zone 3

Extraction of metal from the ore by the smelting process is attested by the presence, in undated furnace [1306], of dense slabs of tap slag, whose well-defined form indicates their flow/removal into a network of cooling channels.

5.4.3.2 Registered Artefacts

Eight registered artefacts were recovered and are summarised below(Table 7).

RA No.	Context	Description	Comments	Date Range
1	803	Copper alloy coin	Constantine II AE3/4. Reverse: GLORIA EXERCITVS, two soldiers standing either side of standards	AD337-340
2	804	Bone pin	Pig fibula dress pin with expanded perforated head	Early-middle Saxon
3	3000	Flint scraper	*See below*	Prehistoric
4	500	Flint scraper	*See below*	Prehistoric
5	2601	Iron ?harness fitting	Lozenge shaped, with suspension loop	Late medieval
6	2711	Iron strip fragment	Rivetted, possible binding strip	Unknown
7	3800	Iron rake prong	Cast, complete	Late C17-18
8	3615	Iron fragment	Cast	Unknown

Table 7: Registered Artefacts

5.4.3.3 Flint

Eleven pieces of worked flint were identified. Most are residual, deriving from topsoil or deposits of Belgic Iron Age and later date. A single flake was the only artefact recovered from gulley [1903] Trench 19, although this does not necessarily indicate a prehistoric date for the feature.

The majority of the struck flint comprises primary flakes and two core fragments. One blade core fragment is heavily patinated. Tools comprise three end-and-side scrapers, one possible reused and a denticulated flake.

5.4.4 Ecofactual Evidence

5.4.4.1 Animal Bone

The majority of the excavated archaeological features contained either low quantities or no animal bone. A total of 361 bone fragments, weighing 3.1kg were recovered from twenty-two archaeological contexts. Those features containing animal bone were spatially clustered with most of the animal bone recovered from Archaeological Zones 1 and 2, (comprising Trenches 4, 5, 6, 8 and Trenches 25, 36, 38 respectively). The trenches in Archaeological Zone 1 investigated an area of enclosures, situated on a gravel rise adjacent to Ash Spinney. Significant quantities of animal bone were recovered from two early-middle Saxon features, one in Trenches 6 and another in Trench 8. A lesser quantity of bone was recovered from the Roman features. The early medieval focus in Archaeological Zone 2 contained another concentration of bone. Generally the majority of the bone was well preserved, though often deliberately fractured.

Taken as a whole the assemblage indicates that the inhabitants exploited a range of species. All the domestic species are present, comprising horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. A significant proportion of these bones displayed primary and/or secondary butchery marks; including the horse bone. Several of the bones from these species were also burnt, in patterns indicating domestic cooking/fires. A portion of the unburnt bone displayed patterns of damage, characteristic of gnawing by dogs.

Exploitation of several wild species was indicated, including a piece of naturally shed antler from Trench 6. The same feature also contained several pieces of bird bone of chicken/duck size, although one shaft fragment was of large goose or swan size bird.

Overall the picture is of domestic/agricultural activity. Preservation of the bone is good, providing the opportunity to examine the exploitation pattern of the riverside setting.

5.4.4.2 Environmental Samples

The sampling strategy focussed on the collection of samples from deposits that showed potential for the recovery of artefacts or ecofacts. Samples were taken from a variety of features in Archaeological Zones 1, 2 and 3 to determine their potential.

To assess the potential a sub-sample of up to 10 litres was selected for wet sieving. Initially the soil was mixed with hydrogen peroxide to assist in the breakdown of the soil aggregates. The flot was collected in a 300 or 500 micron sieve, with the residue being processed through a nest of sieves of larger mesh size.

The samples taken from the vicinity of Medieval Building 1, produced large quantities of charred seed (contexts 3612 and 3611). The samples taken from the layers above the furnace contained large quantities of charcoal and slag (contexts 1308 and 1309). The posthole (414) contained both ecofacts and artefacts indicating occupation activity in the vicinity. The sample taken from a fill of the possible *Grubenhauser* (804) contained burnt bone, charcoal, burnt stones, pottery and animal bone.

Sample Number	Context	Trench (Zone)	Feature	Provisional Dating	Charred Seed	Charcoal	Notes
1	414	4 (1)	Posthole	Roman	✓	✓	Contained burnt bone, fired clay, slag and pottery.
2	804	8 (1)	*Grubenhauser*	Saxon		✓	Contained animal bone, pottery and burnt stone.
3	1308	13 (3)	Furnace	Unknown		✓	Contained animal bone, burnt stone, slag and fired clay.
4	1309	13 (3)	Furnace	Unknown		✓	Contained slag and fired clay.
5	3612	36 (2)	Layer	Medieval	✓	✓	Contained animal bone, snails and pottery.
6	3611	36 (2)	Robber trench	Medieval	✓	✓	Contained animal bone, snails and slag.

Table 8 Summary of Environmental Samples

6. SYNTHESIS

The three non-intrusive stages of the evaluation helped to confirm and refine the understanding of the archaeology and to assist in devising a targeted trenching strategy. Although trial trenching was hindered by severe weather and an abnormally high water table, it has been possible to define the extent and to characterise the archaeological remains. The cropmark sites identified prior to the current evaluation have been confirmed, with their extent being enlarged, as several associated enclosures have been defined. Two previously unknown areas of archaeological activity were also defined within the Study Area. The evaluation indicated that the well drained soil on the river gravels has been a focus of occupation for a considerable period of time.

The earliest activity within the Study Area is attested to by worked flints within the topsoil and as residual artefacts in later features. Two scatters of flint artefacts were identified in Pound Field during fieldwalking, though no definite prehistoric features were identified in the trial trenching. In contrast only three worked flints were recovered from The Swade.

The evaluation defined four Archaeological Zones which range in date from early-middle Iron Age to the medieval period.

6.1 Archaeological Zone 1

The area adjacent to Ash Spinney contained an extensive area of archaeological remains with features ranging in date from Belgic Iron Age to Saxon. Traces of an enclosure system had been identified previously, from aerial photographs (**SMR 4281**). The earliest two phases appear to have been characterised by enclosures with associated activity. The possible Belgic enclosure has a more rectangular form and off-set location compared to the series of Roman enclosures. Pitting and evidence for buildings suggest that they served as a focus for settlement. The Roman pottery recovered from the ditch fills included both local and imported wares, suggesting that it was of relatively high status. It is possible that the small quantities of Roman roofing material indicate the presence of a significant building in the vicinity. Isolated activity comprising a pit and possible *grubenhauser* containing Saxon material were also identified. An undated burial (which was left *in-situ)*, set within an infilled ditch, indicates the possibility of a cemetery associated with the settlement.

This zone produced the highest concentration of artefacts. The animal bone was varied and well preserved, indicating both domestic and wild species were exploited. Although most of the fills of features were sterile, those deposits with evidence of charred material were sampled. Analysis of the samples indicated that there is potential for reconstructing elements of the former economy.

The fieldwalking only found single sherds of both Roman and Saxon pottery, suggesting that the ploughing had not disturbed the artefact rich fills. No Saxon or earlier metalwork was recovered during the detector survey.

This is the most complex area of archaeology, with the possibility that the activity spanned several transitional periods, rather than defining intermittent occupation.

English Heritage in its draft research agenda (1997) identifies several research themes which could be relevant to this zone. These encompass *PC4 Briton into Roman* and *PC5 Empire into Kingdom.*

6.2 *Archaeological Zone 2*

Traces of medieval stone buildings were identified near the Gayhurst Road between Red Brick Cottages and Home Farm. Pottery associated with the demolition material suggests a 12th-14th century date. This would indicate that the settlement has undergone significant changes in extent over time. Animal bone and charred material were recovered, indicating that there is potential for gaining evidence of the economy associated with the settlement.

6.3 *Archaeological Zone 3*

The undated furnace and associated scatter of waste by-products provides evidence of another facet of economy of the area. This activity had been identified in the geophysical survey, which assisted in defining the extent of the zone. The lack of post-medieval artefacts in association with the furnace, which are normally abundant on sites of that period, may suggest that the furnace is of an earlier date.

6.4 *Archaeological Zone 4*

The evaluation confirmed the presence of the enclosures within The Swade, which had been identified on aerial photographs. Archaeological Zone 4 is situated in the flood plain of the River Great Ouse. The investigation of the exposed features was effectively prevented by the very high water table. Only one section was excavated, with a small quantity of early-middle Iron Age pottery being recovered from the surface of two features. It is possible that this zone defines an earlier focus of activity compared to Zone 1, though the limited nature of the investigation prevented establishment of the date range. Cropmarks immediately to the south of the Study Area (**SMR 992**) appears to be a ring ditch, suggesting Bronze Age activity in the vicinity.

6.5 *The Rest of the Study Area*

Little archaeological activity was identified in the rest of the Study Area apart from traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and isolated post-medieval features.

6.6 *Summary*

The excavation defined spatially discrete foci of activity within the Study Area. Iron-Age and Roman occupation appears to have favoured a riverside location. The presence of a possible Saxon structure suggests that this area may have remained a preferred location for settlement in the early medieval period. By the 12th century the church of All Saints' had been constructed, indicating a shift of settlement away from the river to a roadside location. Within the Study Area medieval settlement extended along the Gayhurst Road towards Home Farm was identified. The location of the undated furnace is interesting because of both its isolated location away from settlement and the apparent lack of easy accessibility to the raw materials needed for iron smelting.

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8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Summary of known sites in the vicinity of Lathbury

SMR Number	Location	Description	Easting	Northing
178	Newport Pagnell	Neolithic stone axe, found at the north-east end of the copse.	486780	245130
209 210	Lathbury	Bronze Age collared urn of primary series, that was reported to contain bones. **SMR 210** identifies the pottery vessel, which contained the burial. Although intact when found, the vessel fell to pieces, with only a few fragments surviving. Further bones or a skeleton **SMR 211** found 50 yds from urn.	488230	244490
211	Lathbury	Bones or a skeleton found 50 yards from urn **SMR 209**. No associated artefacts.	488230	244490
420	Lathbury	Two square and one D-shaped enclosure seen on aerial photographs, which formed a row on the bank of River Ouse adjacent to the bridge abutment of the unfinished Newport Pagnell-Olney Railway. These may be fishponds or possibly features associated with construction of the railway. Alternatively they may be another settlement focus similar to SMR 4281.	487400	246180
435 436	Lathbury	Thirty or more skeletons (?female) which were found while digging the foundations of Lathbury House in 1801. Further human remains were uncovered in c.1959. The site is c.20m from present graveyard. Many Roman coins have been discovered in the vicinity of Lathbury House **SMR 436**	487430	244950
437	Lathbury	14-15th century heraldic pendant found in garden of Lathbury House.	487450	244990
483 465 485	Lathbury ; Sherington	The bridge is a Grade II listed building (no. **5/173**). The existing bridge was opened in 1818 and has undergone subsequent repairs. **SMR 484** and **SMR 485** refer to the same site identifying earlier bridges in the 13th and 17th centuries.	488410	245350
486	Lathbury	Flood dyke, runs in a semi-circle from Woad Farm, following course of River Ouse. The dyke is 5. 5ft wide at summit and 3ft high. The early OS 6 inch maps show it continuing to grid reference 8829 4505; though it was subsequently destroyed by quarrying at this point.	488100	244270
492	Newport	Ring ditch visible on aerial photographs.	486860	245370

520 **522** **523**	Newport Pagnell	Two trenches were dug between 1973-6. Trench 2, situated between priory & river, found burial and a group of Romano-British pots. Other finds included limestone tessera in mortar and brick tessarae **SMR 523**. **SMR 522** notes the presence of pre-roman pottery and a piece of shelly tegula. More Roman pottery was found in c.1964. Trench 1, situated to the east of Trench 2, contained late rubbish pits.	488320	244050
521 **524**	Newport Pagnell	A skull & iron knife blade found, in c.1947 (also recorded as **SMR 524**). A further burial and 1st –2nd century pottery was found in 1974.	488320	244050
570 **571**	Newport Pagnell	A Grade II listed building (no. **1/61**) comprising an obelisk and building designed as a burial place. Thomas Hooton erected these in the 18th century. Situated on the traditional site of the burial ground of the ancient conventual church.	488316	244072
576	Newport Pagnell	The west wall of kitchen garden situated to the east of the house, contains fragments of worked stone.	488286	244040
986 **987**	Lathbury	Chapel leased in 1553 by the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, for a free school. This was referred to as the school house in 1699, when it was demolished with the materials being used to repair the vicarage. The site comprises a large mound (approximately 9m in diameter) in the churchyard. There is some confusion with **SMR 987** said to be located on the north side of the church. This may define the site of possibly a plague pit or the chapel site.	487450	245010
991	Lathbury	Varied activity comprising ring ditches, rectangular enclosures and a possible trackway seen on aerial photographs. Other fainter possible features were visible to east of site. The location is approximate.	487850	245300
992	Lathbury	A single ring ditch visible on aerial photographs. This lies in eastern corner of sub-rectangular enclosure and appears to have a double ring ditch on its south side. Two additional ring cropmarks visible within same area.	487950	245360
993	Lathbury	A sub-rectangular enclosure seen on aerial photographs. This has a ring ditch on its eastern corner (refereed to in **SMR 991**?). A further rectangular enclosure and a possible trackway seen on later aerial photographs.	487800	245300
1018	Newport Pagnell	A rectilinear enclosure , which was identified on aerial photographs.	486920	245050

1053	Newport Pagnell; Lathbury	In the 13th century a leper hospital "without the town of Npt Pagnell", was situated on the north side of North Bridge. This was dedicated to St. Margaret or Saints Margaret and Anthony.	487800	244200
1110	Lathbury	Village site.	487000	246000
3800	Newport Pagnell	A scatter of human bone found close to the river. This is though to be a possible cemetery location **SMR 3801**.	486360	245340
3805 **3806** **3807**	Sherington	A windmill known as "sherington mill". The approximate location is shown on a map of 1825, with the adjacent area known as "mill field". No obvious trace of mill mound survives in area indicated, though much disturbance, possibly due to quarrying is noted. **SMR 3806** and **3807** refer to the same site: **SMR 3806**: The site of a windmill indicated by the references to "windmill furlong" and "windmill field", in 1680 and 1706. The old windmill by Blackbird Lane became inaccessible after building of the turnpike road and so was pulled down. A new mill was built west of the road junction in Sherington, soon after the enclosure of 1797.	488300	245600
3810	Lathbury	Post windmill; referred to in the 16th century.	487500	245500
3894	Lathbury	Findspot of Hunsbury type beehive quern.	488500	244300
3929	Sherington	Water mill worth 26s held with Sherington manor in 1086. This was the highest rating for a single domesday mill in the county. A millpond mentioned 1240-1 and "mills" 1260. The location of the site is only approximate, with no trace of a mill surviving.	488300	245400
3931	Sherington	The approximate location of possible gallows site, based on field names of 1171-1228. Water thorn furlong called "wartrou"(from old english "wearg", felon, and "treow", tree) implies that it lay alongside a gallows. This right was not mentioned in later documents.	488500	245500
4030 **4031** **4032**	Lathbury	Lathbury Manor; comprised four hides in Lathbury, being held as two manors pre-1066. However, by 1086 the two were held as one manor by Hugh de Beauchamp. The tenant was William d'Orenge. **SMR 4031** The manor house (Lathbury House) was rebuilt in the 19th century on the site of a mansion. **SMR 4032** Lathbury Park was built in 1801 on the site of 'The Place', which had been erected by Sir William Andrewes in the early 17th century.	487440	244940

4036	Sherington	Site of a limekiln; now built over.	488080	246240
4083	Lathbury ; Newport Pagnell	Site of a 'Toll bar' shown on the1825 map. The toll house, dated to 1810, is a low, oblong single storey building of construction with a low pitched hipped slate roof.	487799	244168
4090 **4091**	Lathbury	Fishery rights belonged to the manor in 1269. References to free fishery in the Ouse occur in the 17-18th century. **SMR 4091** identifies the findspot of limestone fishweights at 488500 245200.	488500	245220
4092 **4093**	Lathbury	Fishery rights belonged to the manor in 1269. References to free fishery in the Ouse occur in the 17-18th century. **SMR 4093** assigned to the same location consisted of a worked piece of limestone, identified as a. probably a medieval fish weight used for a fish trap.	488540	245170
4094 **4095**	Lathbury	Fishery rights in Lathbury belonged to the manor in 1269. References to free fishery in the Ouse occur the 17-18th century. **SMR 4095** assigned to the same location consisted of a worked piece of limestone, identified as a. probably a medieval fish weight used for a fish trap.	488680	244790
4219	Lathbury	All Saints' church consists of nave, two aisles and chancel with west tower. The church has a Norman typanum with considerable later amendments.	487452	244994
4263	Newport Pagnell	Fishery rights for Tickford Priory in a charter granted by Gervase Paganell in 1187.	488300	244100
4281	Lathbury	Aerial photographs show evidence of enclosures in the form of cropmarks, situated adjacent to Ash Spinney. The two enclosures have apparently contrasting roughly square and trapezoidal forms.	487680	245850
5229 **5230** **5231**	Lathbury	A possible occupation site revealed by ploughing. The artefacts include many spanning the late Saxon to medieval period. The material was recovered from an area straddling a substantial bank, which curves towards river. This earthwork was not considered to be a cultivation headland. Other related SMR entries for the site comprise: **SMR 5230** for the pottery including late Saxon shelly wares and medieval glazed sherds. **SMR 5231** identified a coin.	487510	245100

5232	Lathbury	Confined scatter of artefacts including Romano-British and medieval pottery sherds.	487380	245010
5239	Lathbury	Investigation of a pottery scatter by excavation revealed substantial limestone footings of more than one phase. Medieval and later pottery was recovered.	487510	245100
5291	Newport Pagnell	A Grade II listed building built in the 18th century in red and grey brick.	488262	244076
5412	Lathbury	A Grade II listed building comprising 19th century walls surrounding vegetable and fruit garden.	487448	244965
5413	Lathbury	A Grade listed building II. The late 17th century former rectory was refronted in the 18th century.	487580	245140
5414	Lathbury	A Grade II listed building, formerly coaching inn built in early 1830s.	487674	245250
5415	Lathbury	A Grade II listed building comprising stables and hay barn ranges to former inn, now farm buildings. Brick built, dating to the early 1830s.	487700	245233
5416	Lathbury	A Grade II listed building; 18th century farmhouse, with additional wing built in the mid 19th century.	487702	245268

Appendix 2

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED TRIAL TRENCHES AND CONTINGENGY TRENCHES

POUND FIELD

Trench number	Proposed Length (m)	Reason for location
1	40	Located in 'blank' areas in NW corner of site; Possible site for plant
2	50	To examine two possible cropmarks in vicinity of a proposed site for the plant
3	40	To examine geophysical anomaly **F** (Area **3**)
4	50	To examine possibly enclosures and pit **E** identified during geophysical survey
5	50	To examine Enclosure **A** and another to north, identified in geophysical survey, near Ash Spinney.
6	40	To examine Enclosure **C** and possible pitting within interior, identified in geophysical survey
7	40	To examine apparently isolated activity, to margin of settlement focus
8	40	To examine possible enclosure identified during geophysical survey
9	50	To examine possible pitting identified in Geophysical Area **8**
10	40	To examine linear anomaly identified in Geophysical Area **11**
11	40	To examine centre of flint concentration identified during fieldwalking
12	50	To examine 'blank area'
13	40	To examine cluster of possible pitting identified in Geophysical Area **6**
14	40	To examine area of possible pitting identified in Geophysical Area **5**
15	50	To examine flint concentration identified during fieldwalking
16	40	To examine 'blank area'
17	50	To examine vicinity of dispersed flint scatter
18	50	To examine 'blank area' which contained occasional flint artefacts
19	50	To examine 'blank area' which contained occasional flint artefacts
20	50	To examine 'blank area' which contained occasional flint artefacts
21	40	To examine 'blank area' near southern boundary of the Study Area
22	50	To examine 'blank area'
23	50	To examine area of possible linear scatter of medieval pottery
24	40	To examine possible modern geophysical anomalies in Area 9, east of Red Brick Cottages
25	40	Old aerial photography plot shows a sub-rectangular double cropmark between Red Brick Cottages and Home Farm. Area near road contains large stones ?building debris.
26	50	Concentration of ceramic building material --location of post-medieval field barn?
27	40	To examine possible palaeochannel
TOTAL	**1210**	

THE SWADE

Trench number	Proposed Length (m)	Reason for location
28	50	To examine possible pitting in Geophysical Area **12**
29	60	To examine Enclosure **G** and possible pitting in Geophysical Area **13**
30	40	To examine area of Enclosure **H** in Geophysical Area **13**
31	40	To examine Enclosure **I** in Geophysical Area **14**
32	60	To examine possible pitting in Geophysical Area **15**, deep overburden and possible palaeochannels
33	50	To examine a cluster of medieval pottery and deep ?overburden in vicinity
34	50	To examine possible cropmark and medieval pottery scatter
35	50	To examine area near the bridge in the vicinity of a medieval pottery scatter
TOTAL	**400**	

Field	Total length of proposed trial trenching
POUND FIELD	**1210**
THE SWADE	**400**
TOTAL	**1610**

TRENCH 33 WAS NOT OPENED DUE TO THE HIGH WATER TABLE

CONTINGENGY TRENCHES

Trench Number	Proposed Length (m)	Objective
36	25	To investigate an area of medieval activity close to the Gayhurst Road
37	20	To investigate an area of medieval activity close to the Gayhurst Road
38	30	To investigate an area of medieval activity close to the Gayhurst Road

APPENDIX 3

TRENCH SUMMARY

Giggins, Brian

From: Smith, Sasha [slsmith@buckscc.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2000 14:28
To: 'brian giggins'
Subject: new site

Brian,
I have used 799900022 for a Bedfordshire COunty Archaeology Service evaluation, trenching and fieldwalking at Home Farm, Lathbbury site code HFL661 Grid ref. SP8750 4570. Acc no. 2000.59.
I hope that is in order.
Best wishes
Sasha

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8753945983 **Ref. 2:** SP8757745969

Reason for trench: Located in 'blank' area in NW corner of site; Possible site for plant.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
101	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
102	Alluvium	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt . Maximum thickness 0.18m	☑	☐
103	Natural strata	Friable mid red sandy gravel . With patches of firm, mid yellow red gravel	☐	☐
104	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.15m.**	☐	☐
105	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐
106	**Land drain**	**Dimensions: max breadth 0.45m. Modern intrusion**	☐	☐
107	Fill	. Modern intrusion	☐	☐
108	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.5m.**	☐	☐
109	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐
110	**Furrow**	**Straight linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.2m.**	☐	☐
111	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐
112	**Modern Intrusion**	**Rectangular dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max length 2.5m. Cut of test pit**	☐	☐
113	Fill	. Fill of test.	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8757145932 **Ref. 2:** SP8752445913

Reason for trench: To examine two possible cropmarks in vicinity of a proposed site for the plant

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
201	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
202	Natural strata	Friable mid red sandy gravel . Patches of mid orange gravel	☐	☐
203	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 1.2m.**	☐	☐
204	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐
205	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.25m.**	☑	☐
206	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐
207	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.56m.**	☑	☐
208	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand moderate medium stones, occasional small charcoal. Upper ditch fill with bone and clay pipe stem. Charcoal 5mm x 5mm pieces.	☑	☑
209	Primary fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt frequent medium stones. Primary fill of ditch.	☑	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP7860345956 **Ref. 2:** SP8762945925

Reason for trench: To examine geophysical anomaly F (Area 3)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
301	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand frequent small stones, frequent medium stones.	☑	☐
302	Alluvium	Firm mid brown red silty sand occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
303	Natural strata	Firm mid red yellow sandy gravel .	☐	☐
304	**Treethrow**	**Irregular . Forming part of post-medieval field boundary.**	☐	☐
305	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☐	☐
306	**Pit**	**Oval profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.3m.**	☑	☐
307	Fill	Firm mid red silty sand frequent flecks charcoal.	☑	☐
308	**Land drain**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.2m.**	☐	☐
309	Fill	Firm mid red sand frequent large stones.	☐	☐
310	**Land drain**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.2m. Same as [308].**	☐	☐
311	Fill	Firm mid red sand frequent large stones. Rubble.	☐	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8762245875 Ref. 2: SP8765845910

Reason for trench: To examine possible enclosures and geophysical anomaly (E)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
401	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt .	☑	☐
402	Natural strata	Friable mid yellow red sandy gravel . With silty sand matrix.	☐	☐
403	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: near vertical base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.5m.**	☑	☐
404	Fill	Friable mid brown silt frequent small-medium stones.	☑	☑
405	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.58m, max depth 0.15m. Shallow.**	☑	☐
406	Fill	Friable mid red brown silt moderate small-medium stones.	☑	☐
407	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.58m.**	☐	☐
408	Fill	Friable mid red brown silt .	☐	☐
409	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.7m.**	☑	☐
410	Primary fill	Firm mid red brown silt occasional small-medium stones. Primary fill of ditch.	☑	☐
411	Secondary fill	Firm red silt occasional small stones. Secondary fill.	☑	☐
412	**Posthole**	**Sub-circular profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.2m. Cut into alluvium.**	☑	☐
413	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand occasional small stones.	☑	☐
414	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large burnt stones. Occasional pottery and medium sized fragments of burnt bone.	☑	☑
415	Packing	Frequent large stones. Fill of posthole containing limestone packing.	☑	☐
416	Alluvium	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt . Found only in NE part of trench.	☑	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8768845875 Ref. 2: SP8765345838

Reason for trench: To examine Enclosure A and another to north in geophysical survey, near Ash Spinney

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt .	☐	☑
501	Subsoil	Firm dark brown sand . Inclusions of occasional gravel.	☐	☐
502	Natural strata	Firm mid brown sand .	☐	☐
506	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.7m. Cut of ditch.**	☑	☐
505	Fill	Firm mid red brown silt frequent small stones. Fill of ditch.	☐	☑
507	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.3m, max depth 0.6m. Cut of ditch forming part of rectangular enclosure.**	☑	☐
503	Fill	Firm mid red brown silt frequent small stones. Primary fill of ditch.	☑	☑
504	Secondary fill	Firm mid red brown silt frequent small stones. Fill of ditch.	☑	☑
509	**Treethrow**	**Irregular profile: vertical base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.31m, max diameter 0.35m. Cut of treethrow.**	☑	☐
508	Fill	Firm light red brown silt frequent small stones. Fill of treethrow.	☑	☐
511	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.66m, max depth 0.31m, min length 0.66m. Cut of ditch/gulley which terminates in the trench.**	☑	☐
510	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt frequent small stones. Fill of gulley/ditch.	☑	☐
513	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.56m, max depth 0.23m, min length 1.7m. Cut of ditch/gully. Separate segment put through ditch [511].**	☑	☐
512	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt frequent small stones. Fill of ditch.	☑	☑
515	**Posthole**	**Oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.67m, max depth 0.13m, max length 1.28m. Cut of possible posthole, but may be natural.**	☑	☐
514	Fill	Firm dark red brown silt occasional small stones. Fill of possible posthole.	☑	☐
519	**Ditch**	**Linear dimensions: max breadth 2.m. Possible enclosure ditch**	☐	☐
518	Fill	Firm dark red brown silt frequent small stones. Fill of ditch.	☐	☑
522	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.m.**	☐	☐
521	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of ditch	☐	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8767345786 **Ref. 2:** SP8770745764

Reason for trench: To examine Enclosure C and possible pitting within interior, identified in geophysical survey

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy silt frequent medium stones.	☑	☑
601	Subsoil	Firm mid brown red silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
602	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow red sandy gravel .	☐	☐
603	**Pit**	**Circular profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.9m. To be investigated by machine as edges are not clear.**	☑	☐
604	Fill	Loose dark brown sandy silt moderate small stones. Gravel.	☑	☐
605	Fill	Loose yellow brown silty sand frequent small stones. Gravel.	☑	☐
606	Fill	Loose dark brown silty sand frequent medium stones. Fill of pit.	☑	☐
607	Fill	Loose mid red brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones. Fill of pit. Inclusion - piece of pot.	☐	☑
608	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max depth 0.44m, max diameter 0.6m. Contained pot.**	☑	☐
609	Fill	Loose mid red brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large burnt stones. Gravel. Inclusions - pot and bone. Fill of ditch.	☑	☑
610	**Pit**	**Circular profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.87m, max diameter 0.45m.**	☑	☐
611	Fill	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☑
612	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones, moderate flecks charcoal.	☐	☑
613	**Pit**	**Circular dimensions: min diameter 3.8m.**	☐	☐
614	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones, moderate flecks charcoal.	☐	☐
615	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.8m.**	☐	☐
616	Fill	Loose mid red brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large burnt stones. gravel.	☐	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8774845766 **Ref. 2:** SP8774845725

Reason for trench: To examine apparently isolated activity, to margin of settlement focus

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
701	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt .	☑	☐
702	Natural strata	Friable mid yellow red silty gravel . In a silty sand matrix.	☐	☐
703	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.3m. Cut of ditch turns from NE-SW to E-W.**	☑	☐
704	Primary fill	Loose mid red brown silty sand moderate small stones. Occasional patches of yellow sand. Eroded material from ditch sides.	☑	☐
705	Secondary fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones. Disuse fill of ditch.	☑	☐
706	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.25m. Ditch terminal - rounded. Terminates at north east end.**	☑	☐
707	Fill	Compact mid red brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Single undifferentiated fill of ditch terminal.	☑	☐
708	**Posthole**	**Sub-circular profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.35m, max depth 0.17m.**	☑	☐
709	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
710	**Pit**	**Circular profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.13m, max length 0.45m. Part of cut visible in trench. Rounded in plan with gently sloping E side, to 45 degrees concave on the N side and a flat base.**	☑	☐
711	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
712	**Pit**	**Oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.1m, max length 0.7m.**	☑	☐
713	Fill	Compact mid red brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
714	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.28m, max length 1.m.**	☑	☐
715	Fill	Compact mid red brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
716	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.35m, max length 2.5m.**	☑	☐
717	Primary fill	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones. Occasional patches of yellow sand. Natural erosion of ditch sides.	☑	☐
718	Secondary fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones. Disuse filling of ditch.	☑	☐
719	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.11m, max length 0.65m.**	☑	☐
720	Fill	Loose light yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones. Natural erosion of pit sides.	☑	☐
721	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
722	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max depth 0.05m. Feature fades out to NE side. Shallow.**	☑	☐
723	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
724	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.16m. Shallow NE side. Shallow and narrow on W side of trench.**	☑	☐
725	Fill	Loose light yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones. Natural erosion of ditch.	☑	☐
726	Fill	Loose light yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones. Natural erosion of ditch.	☑	☐
727	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
728	**Grave**	**Sub-rectangular NW-SE . Part of sub rectangular cut. Only part excavated - therefore depth unknown.**	☑	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8774845766 **Ref. 2:** SP8774845725

Reason for trench: To examine apparently isolated activity, to margin of settlement focus

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
729	Human skeleton	. Three visible bones - long bones - possibly leg? probably human skeleton - in poor condition - covered over.	☑	☐
730	Fill	Loose mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill has significantly fewer stones than fill of ditch of [724] - backfill of possible grave. Depth unknown as only partly excavated.	☑	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8772945679 **Ref. 2:** SP8776245654

Reason for trench: To examine possible enclosure identified during geophysical survey

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
801	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt frequent small stones, occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
802	Natural strata	Friable mid yellow brown silty gravel .	☐	☐
805	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.25m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.8m. Possible Grubenhauser: saxon structure**	☐	☐
803	Secondary fill	Friable dark brown sandy silt moderate small stones. Disuse fill of possible grubenhauser	☑	☑
804	Primary fill	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand frequent large burnt stones. Primary fill of possible grubenhauser	☑	☑
807	**Posthole**	**Circular profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.38m, max diameter 0.43m.**	☑	☐
806	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of post hole.	☑	☑
809	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.55m.**	☑	☐
808	Fill	Firm mid red brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
811	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.3m, min length 0.9m. Possible ditch**	☑	☐
810	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones. Fill of possible ditch.	☑	☐

Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8781745593 **Ref. 2:** SP8784145638

Reason for trench: To examine possible pitting identified in Geophysical Area 8

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
901	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
902	Natural strata	Firm dark brown red sand . Patches of yellow sandstone and gravel.	☐	☐

Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8783045553 Ref. 2: SP8786445529

Reason for trench: To examine linear anomaly identified in Geophysical Area 11

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones.	☑	☐
1002	Natural strata	Firm mid yellow red sand . Patches of light yellow limestone.	☐	☐
1003	**Pit**	**Irregular dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max length 4.m. Large irregular shaped feature approx. 15m from NW end of trench.**	☐	☐
1004	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt . Upper fill.	☐	☐
1005	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.75m.**	☐	☐
1006	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
1007	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m.**	☐	☐
1008	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt . Upper fill.	☐	☐
1009	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.5m.**	☐	☐
1010	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt . Pot probably post-medieval.	☐	☑

Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8780045535 **Ref. 2:** SP8782345569

Reason for trench: To examine centre of flint concentration identified during fieldwalking

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1101	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1102	Natural strata	Loose mid red brown sand moderate medium stones. Patches of yellow orange gravel.	☐	☐
1103	**Modern Intrusion**	**Linear E-W dimensions: min length 2.5m. Modern field drain.**	☐	☐
1104	Fill	Mid brown yellow sand .	☐	☐

Trench: 12

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8775745514 Ref. 2: SP8775745565

Reason for trench: To examine 'blank area'

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy silt occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
1201	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow red silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☑
1202	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow red sand . Patches of yellow red gravelly sand.	☐	☐

Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8766845594 Ref. 2: SP8769145627

Reason for trench: To examine cluster of possible pitting identified during Geophysical Area 6

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1301	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Sand 10%	☑	☐
1302	Natural strata	Loose dark red brown sandy gravel . Natural silty sand patches.	☐	☐
1303	**Feature**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max length 1.7m. Iron smelting furnace.**	☐	☐
1304	Packing	. Part of the furnace structure.	☐	☐
1305	Packing	Friable dark red brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Part of furnace structure, with evidence for burning.	☐	☐
1306	**Feature**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 0.93m, max length 1.13m. Internal shaping cut of furnace to receive stone lining**	☐	☐
1307	Fill	Dark grey black . Tap slag	☐	☐
1308	Dump material	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt frequent medium burnt stones. Frequent slag fragments	☐	☑
1310	Fill	Friable mid brown red sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal. Burnt area containing slag from furnace.	☑	☐
1309	Dump material	Friable dark red brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal. Contains moderate slag fragments.	☐	☑
1311	**Ditch**	**Linear dimensions: max breadth 0.8m.**	☐	☐
1312	Fill	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐

Trench: 14

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8757045701 Ref. 2: SP8760045674

Reason for trench: To examine area of possible pitting identified in Geophysical Area 5

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☑
1401	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Sand 10%	☑	☐
1402	Natural strata	Loose dark red brown sandy gravel . Silty sand patches.	☐	☐
1403	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.4m. A narrow ditch located in the NW end of trench.**	☐	☐
1404	Fill	Compact light yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☐	☐
1405	**Pit**	**Curving linear dimensions: max breadth 0.7m.**	☐	☐
1406	Fill	Firm light yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☐	☐
1407	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular dimensions: max breadth 0.5m.**	☐	☐
1408	Fill	Firm light yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☐	☐
1409	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.7m.**	☐	☐
1410	Fill	Compact dark brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
1411	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max depth 1.3m.**	☐	☐
1412	Fill	Firm dark brown silty sand .	☐	☐
1413	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.5m.**	☐	☐
1414	Fill	Firm dark brown silty sand .	☐	☐

Trench: 15

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8756545838 **Ref. 2:** SP8753345800

Reason for trench: To examine flint concentration identified during fieldwalking

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1500	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Occasional large limestone fragments.	☑	☐
1501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow red silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1502	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow red sand . Patches of yellow red moderate sized gravel.	☐	☐

Trench: 16

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8747645835 Ref. 2: SP8743645836

Reason for trench: To examine 'blank area'

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1600	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1601	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1602	Natural strata	Loose mid red brown sand . Patches of yellow red moderate sized gravel.	☐	☐

Trench: 17

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8749345782 Ref. 2: SP8753345751

Reason for trench: To examine vicinity of dispersed flint scatter

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1700	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1701	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1702	Natural strata	Loose mid brown red sand . Patches of yellow red gravel.	☐	☐
1703	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.6m.**	☐	☐
1704	Fill	Light pinkish brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
1705	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.6m.**	☐	☐
1706	Fill	Light pinkish brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
1707	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.7m.**	☐	☐
1708	Fill	Light pinkish brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
1709	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.2m. Possible ditch or furrow.**	☐	☐
1710	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☐	☐

Trench: 18

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8744845783 **Ref. 2:** SP8741445745

Reason for trench: To examine area which contained occasional flint artefacts

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1800	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1801	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1802	Natural strata	Loose mid red brown sand . Patchy yellow red gravel.	☐	☐
1803	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 2.m.**	☐	☐
1804	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☐	☐
1805	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.7m. Possible furrow.**	☐	☐
1806	Fill	Mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones.	☐	☐
1807	**Treethrow**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 1.1m. Oval / sub circular - quite irregular shape.**	☐	☐
1808	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☐	☐

Trench: 19

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8735045705 **Ref. 2:** SP8738845672

Reason for trench: To examine area which contained occasional flint artefacts

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1900	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1901	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
1902	Natural strata	Loose mid red brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
1903	**Gulley**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.09m. Shallow.**	☑	☐
1904	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silt . Fill contained 1 piece of struck flint.	☑	☑

Trench: 20

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8571145688 **Ref. 2:** SP8748045649

Reason for trench: To examine area which contained occasional flint artefacts

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2000	Topsoil	Compact mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
2001	Subsoil	Compact mid red brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
2002	Natural strata	Mid brown red gravel . Patches of yellow - red brown sand.	☐	☐
2003	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular dimensions: min length 1.3m. Possible pit or butt end of ditch.**	☐	☐
2004	Fill	Compact mid red brown sandy silt . Possible pit or butt end of ditch.	☐	☐

Trench: 21

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8746045592 Ref. 2: SP8747445554

Reason for trench: To examine 'blank area' near southern boundary of the Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2101	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2102	Natural strata	Loose mid red brown sand moderate medium stones. Yellow-red gravel.	☐	☐
2103	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 2.m.**	☐	☐
2104	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
2105	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 3.m. Possible furrow or ditch.**	☐	☐
2106	Fill	Mid red brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
2107	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.2m.**	☐	☐
2108	Fill	Mid red brown sandy silt .	☐	☐

Trench: 22

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8754645600 **Ref. 2:** SP8754745549

Reason for trench: To examine 'blank area'

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2200	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2201	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2202	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow brown sand . Loose sand with patches of gravel.	☑	☐

Trench: 23

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8764045543 **Ref. 2:** SP8768245514

Reason for trench: To examine area of possible linear scatter of medieval pottery

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2300	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
2301	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐
2302	Natural strata	Loose mid red brown sand . The deposit was variable including patches of yellow gravel	☐	☐
2303	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.9m.**	☐	☐
2304	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of ditch.	☐	☐
2305	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.1m.**	☐	☐
2306	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of ditch.	☐	☐

Trench: 24

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8762145451 Ref. 2: SP8766245448

Reason for trench: To examine possible modern geophysical anomalies in Area 9, east of Red Brick Cottages

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2400	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2401	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2402	Natural strata	Loose mid brown sand . The deposit was variable including patches of yellow orange gravel.	☐	☐

Trench: 25

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8765045363 Ref. 2: SP8766945399

Reason for trench: Old aerial photography plot shows a sub-rectangular double cropmark between Red Brick Cottages and Home Farm. Area near road contains large stones ?building debris.

2500	Topsoil	Compact mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☑
2501	Subsoil	Compact mid red brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☑	☐
2502	Natural strata	Loose mid red brown sand . Gravel with patches of sand, varying from reddish brown to yellow.	☐	☐
2503	**Pit**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.75m. Cut of pit.**	☑	☐
2504	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-large stones.	☑	☑
2506	Internal surface	Loose mid brown silty sand occasional medium stones. Fill of area in and around masonry, inclusions of occasional gravel.	☑	☑
2507	**Foundation trench**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat . Cut of possible building trench, possible shallow soakaway against the wall and associated with the building.**	☑	☐
2505	Wall	. Wall or foundation stones, limestone roughly hewn placed in gradual cut.	☑	☐
2508	**Ditch**	**Linear dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.32m. Cut of small ditch.**	☑	☐
2509	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt . Sole fill of ditch.	☑	☑
2510	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 2.4m. Cut of large ditch.**	☐	☐
2511	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt . Fill of ditch containing inclusions of frequent large fragments of limestone which could be possible building material, seen along the NE facing side of the ditch.	☐	☐
2512	**Pit**	**Sub-circular dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, max length 1.8m.**	☐	☐
2513	Fill	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☐	☐

Trench: 26

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8781445446 **Ref. 2:** SP8776945469

Reason for trench: Concentration of ceramic building material -- location of post medieval field barn?

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2600	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2601	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☑
2602	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow brown sand . The deposit was variable including patches of yellow gravel.	☐	☐

Trench: 27

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8764445821 Ref. 2: SP8767245792

Reason for trench: To examine possible paleochannel

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2701	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
2702	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow brown sand . Patches of dirty yellow, gravel.	☐	☐
2703	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 2.4m. Cut of ditch/gulley which butt ends in the trench.**	☑	☐
2704	Primary fill	Firm mid brown sand occasional medium stones. Primary fill of ditch/gulley.	☑	☐
2705	Secondary fill	Loose mid brown silty sand occasional medium stones. Secondary fill of ditch/gulley.	☑	☐
2706	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.27m. Cut of ditch.**	☑	☐
2707	Fill	Mid red brown sandy silt .	☑	☐
2708	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.25m, max diameter 1.m. Cut of pit.**	☑	☐
2709	Fill	Mid red brown silty sand .	☑	☐
2710	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: near vertical dimensions: min depth 0.6m, min length 2.1m. Cut of pit of which 1 quadrant was excavated which revealed part of an animal burial.**	☑	☐
2711	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal. Fill of pit/animal burial which contained inclusions of small - moderate flint fragments and pebbles.	☑	☑
2713	**Posthole**	**Oval NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.35m, max depth 0.12m, max length 0.48m. Possible shallow posthole.**	☑	☐
2714	Fill	Loose red brown silty sand . Fill of possible posthole with inclusions of moderate small gravel.	☑	☐
2715	**Treethrow**	**Circular profile: stepped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.2m, min length 3.8m.**	☑	☐
2716	Fill	Light grey brown sandy silt . Fill of tree throw with inclusions of frequent gravel and patches of pea grit.	☑	☐
2717	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: min breadth 0.5m.**	☐	☐
2718	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt . Inclusions of moderate gravel and flint.	☐	☐
2719	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: min breadth 0.5m.**	☐	☐
2720	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt . Inclusions of moderate gravel and flint.	☐	☐
2721	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: near vertical dimensions: max depth 0.6m, min diameter 2.1m. Not fully excavated, truncates pit [2710].**	☑	☐
2712	Fill	Loose brown yellow silty sand frequent small stones. Fill of pit.	☑	☑

Trench: 28

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8790645542 Ref. 2: SP8794845512

Reason for trench: To examine possible pitting in Geophysical Area 12

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2800	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
2801	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones.	☑	☐
2802	Alluvium	Firm mid yellow red silty sand .	☐	☐
2803	Natural strata	Firm mid red yellow sand . The deposit was variable including patches of dark yellow gravel.	☐	☐

Trench: 29

Max Dimensions: Length: 60.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8796845406 Ref. 2: SP8798945463

Reason for trench: To examine Enclosure G and possible pitting in Geophysical Area 13

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2900	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
2901	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones.	☑	☐
2902	Natural strata	Plastic light yellow red . Mainly limestone bedrock with patches of light yellow limestone	☐	☐
2903	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: min breadth 1.15m. Cut of possible ditch.**	☐	☐
2904	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt . Upper fill of possible ditch.	☐	☐
2905	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: min breadth 1.m. Cut of possible ditch.**	☐	☐
2906	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt . Upper fill of possible ditch.	☐	☐
2907	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 1.6m. Possibly part of large rectangular enclosure related to [2911].**	☐	☐
2908	Fill	Firm mid red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Upper fill of ditch.	☐	☐
2909	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 0.7m. Possible narrow ditch/gulley.**	☐	☐
2910	Fill	Firm mid red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Upper fill of ditch/gulley.	☐	☐
2911	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 2.5m, min depth 0.5m. Cut of large boundary ditch to rectangular enclosure, only partially excavated due to water.**	☑	☐
2912	Fill	Compact mid red brown silty sand moderate small stones. Fill of ditch.	☑	☐
2913	Fill	Compact mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones. Upper fill of ditch.	☑	☑
2914	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 0.7m. Cut of possible ditch.**	☐	☐
2915	Fill	Mid red brown sandy silt . Upper fill of possible ditch.	☐	☐
2916	**Pit**	**Sub-oval dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max length 1.5m. Cut of possible pit.**	☐	☐
2917	Fill	Mid red brown sandy silt . Fill of possible pit.	☐	☐
2918	**Pit**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max length 0.6m. Possible small pit.**	☐	☐
2919	Fill	Mid red brown silty clay .	☐	☐
2920	Alluvium	Firm light yellow grey sandy silt .	☐	☐

Trench: 30

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8800045414 Ref. 2: SP8803745397

Reason for trench: To examine area of Enclosure H in Geophysical Area 13

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3000	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☑
3001	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones.	☑	☐
3002	Alluvium	Firm mid yellow red silty sand .	☑	☐
3003	Natural strata	Firm mid red yellow sand . Patches of gravel.	☐	☐
3004	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.65m. Cut of possible ring ditch, lying beneath the alluvium with associated ditch [3006].**	☐	☐
3005	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt . Upper fill of ditch.	☐	☑
3006	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.4m. Cut of possible ringditch located below the alluvium, associated with ditch [3004].**	☐	☐
3007	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of ditch.	☐	☑
3008	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 1.1m. Cut of possible ditch.**	☐	☐
3009	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of possible ditch.	☐	☐
3010	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.9m. Cut of possible ditch.**	☐	☐
3011	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of possible ditch.	☐	☐

Trench: 31

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8804445308 Ref. 2: SP8808045288

Reason for trench: To examine Enclosure I in Geophysical Area 14

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3100	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
3101	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow red silty sand occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
3102	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow sand . Firm, yellow, gravel and compact yellow limestone.	☐	☐
3103	**Gulley**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.42m. Cut of possible gulley.**	☐	☐
3104	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal. Fill of gulley.	☐	☐
3105	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.4m. Cut of ditch.**	☐	☐
3106	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt . Fill of ditch.	☐	☐
3107	**Gulley**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.4m. Cut of gulley.**	☐	☐
3108	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silt . Fill of gulley.	☐	☐

Trench: 32

Max Dimensions: Length: 60.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8812945231 Ref. 2: SP8810345177

Reason for trench: To examine possible pitting in Geophysical Area 15, deep overburden and possible paleochannels.

3200	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
3201	Subsoil	Firm mid red silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
3202	Alluvium	Firm mid yellow red sandy silt .	☑	☐
3203	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow sand . Mid yellow, firm gravel, and compact limestone.	☐	☐
3204	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.4m. Cut of ditch which butt ends in trench.**	☐	☐
3205	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt . Fill of ditch.	☐	☐
3206	**Treethrow**	**Irregular dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max length 1.7m.**	☐	☐
3207	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt . Fill of tree throw.	☐	☐
3208	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.3m. Cut of possible ditch/gulley.**	☐	☐
3209	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt . Fill of ditch/gulley.	☐	☐
3210	**Posthole**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m. Cut of posthole.**	☐	☐
3211	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt . Fill of posthole.	☐	☐

Trench:	**33**
Max Dimensions:	**Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**
OS Co-ordinates:	**Ref. 1: SP8817745188 Ref. 2: SP8822345165**
Reason for trench:	**To examine a cluster of medieval pottery and deep ?overburden in vicinity**

NOT OPENED DUE TO FLOODWATER ☐ ☐

Trench: 34

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8816345080 **Ref. 2:** SP8818645125

Reason for trench: To examine possible cropmark and medieval pottery scatter

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3400	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
3401	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
3402	Alluvium	Firm mid yellow red silty sand occasional medium stones.	☑	☐
3403	Natural strata	Loose mid brown yellow sand . firm, yellow brown gravel with dark yellow sand	☐	☐
3404	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min length 1.5m. Cut of ditch which butt ends in trench.**	☐	☐
3405	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt . Upper fill of ditch.	☐	☐
3406	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 1.m. Cut of furrow.**	☐	☐
3407	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand .	☐	☐
3408	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 3.m. Truncated furrow.**	☐	☐
3409	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand .	☐	☐
3410	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: min breadth 1.5m. Cut of furrow.**	☐	☐
3411	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand .	☐	☐

Trench: 35

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8821545111 Ref. 2: SP8825645140

Reason for trench: To examine area near the bridge in the vicinity of a medieval pottery scatter

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3500	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
3501	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones.	☑	☐
3502	Alluvium	Firm mid yellow red silty sand .	☑	☐
3503	Natural strata	Firm mid yellow sand . Patches of dark yellow gravel.	☐	☐
3504	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.4m. Cut of furrow.**	☐	☐
3505	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of furrow.	☐	☐
3506	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.4m.**	☐	☐
3507	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill of furrow.	☐	☐

Trench: 36

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8764445349 Ref. 2: SP8766945349

Reason for trench: Contingency trench to define medieval settlement near Gayhurst road

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3600	Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy silt .	☑	☑
3601	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small stones.	☑	☐
3602	Natural strata	Firm mid red brown silty sand . Reddish patches of gravel.	☐	☐
3603	**Hearth**	**Sub-rectangular profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.71m, min length 0.72m. Foundation cut for base of hearth.**	☑	☐
3604	Hearth	. Base of hearth, single coarse of stone, with cobbles and limestones in the centre which have been heavily burnt.	☑	☐
3605	Fill	Friable dark brown silty sand frequent medium burnt stones, moderate flecks charcoal. Fill inside the hearth, with inclusions of burnt cobbles and limestone fragments.	☑	☑
3606	Hearth	. Stones forming a foundation or possibly from a collapsed stone structure. Has E and NW faces, possibly associated with wall [3604].	☑	☐
3607	Wall	. Stone setting possibly to mark a certain area, a hollow in a stone to the SW may have held a wooden post.	☑	☐
3608	Internal surface	Friable dark brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Occupational layer containing occasional limestone fragments.	☑	☑
3609	**Feature**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.15m, min length 2.25m. Robber trench**	☑	☐
3611	Fill	Firm dark brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Fill of robber cut.	☑	☐
3612	Dump material	Friable mid brown sandy silt . Spread of material from walled structures, burning/destruction period, with inclusions of moderate medium gravel and limestone fragments.	☑	☑
3613	Dump material	. Demolition debris from adjacent wall structures [3610] and [3606], mosy likely from toppling over.	☑	☐
3614	**Feature**	**Linear N-S profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.45m, max depth 0.12m. Cut of possible droveway/trackway.**	☑	☐
3615	Fill	Compact dark brown clay silt frequent medium stones. Fill of trackway with further inclusions of frequent limestone fragments.	☑	☑
3619	Secondary fill	Firm mid brown silty sand occasional medium stones. Fill of trackway.	☑	☐
3616	**Gulley**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, min depth 0.4m, min length 5.35m. Cut of possible drainage channel.**	☑	☐
3617	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Fill of possible drainage channel	☑	☐
3618	**Foundation trench**	**Linear NE-SW profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.04m, min length 2.25m. Cut of foundation trench which has been truncated by robber trench [3609].**	☑	☐
3610	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt . Fill of foundation trench with inclusions of frequent medium sized gravel and limestone fragments.	☑	☐

Trench: 37

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 20.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8762645372 **Ref. 2:** SP8762445392

Reason for trench: Contingency trench to define medieval settlement

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones.	☑	☑
3701	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand moderate medium stones.	☑	☐
3702	Natural strata	Loose mid yellow brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
3703	**Foundation trench**	**Linear dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.63m, min length 2.7m. Cut of L shaped foundation trench on a E-W and N-S alignment.**	☑	☐
3704	Wall	. Masonry from foundation trench, possibly defining the foooting of a wall.	☑	☐
3705	Fill	Loose mid brown sandy silt . Fill of foundation trench, not fully excavated.	☑	☑

Trench: 38

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8762445404 Ref. 2: SP8759645415

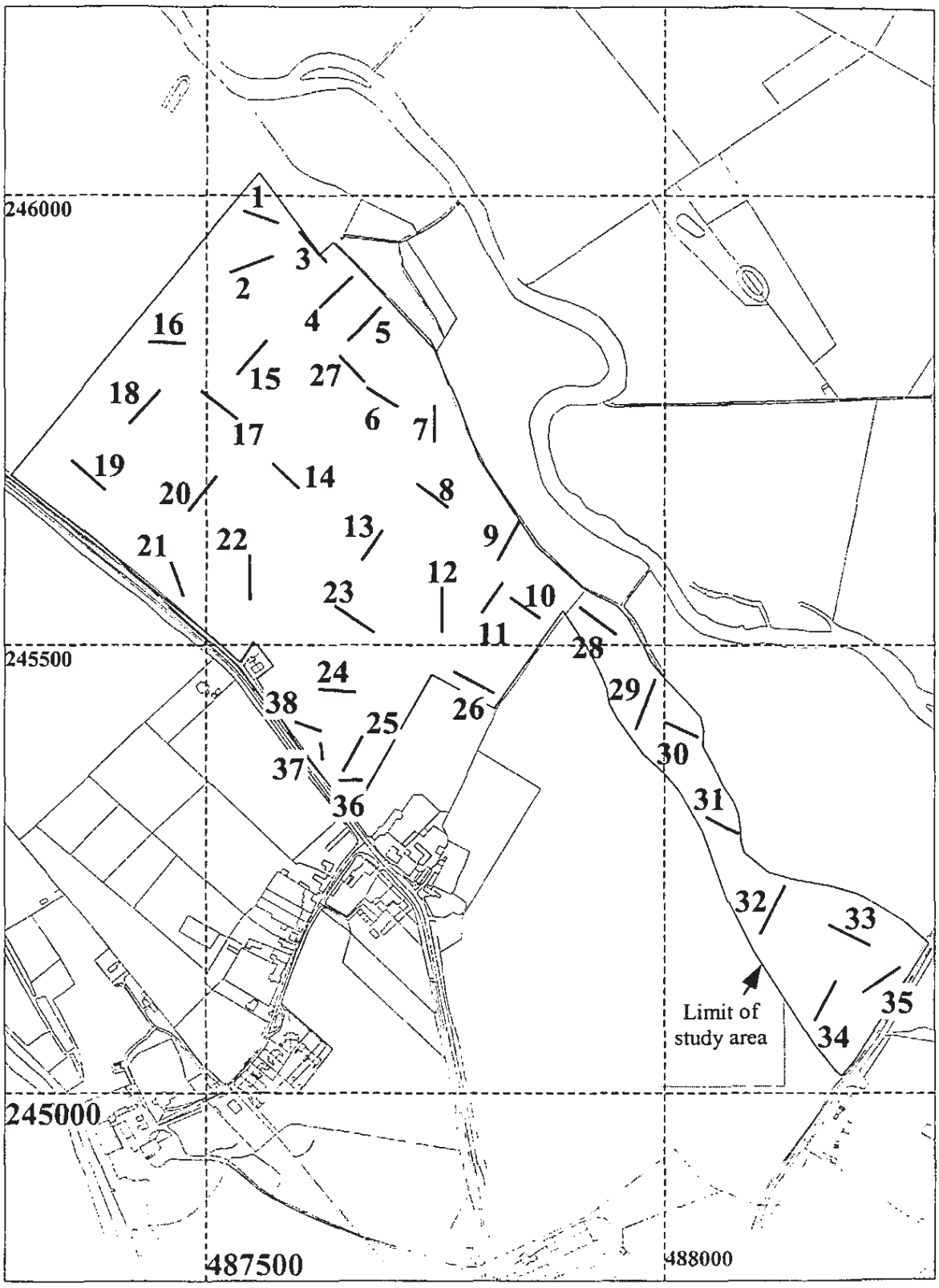
Reason for trench: Contingency trench to define medieval settlement near Gayhurst road

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3800	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt frequent medium stones. Inclusions of moderate large fragments of worked limestone.	☐	☑
3801	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones.	☑	☐
3802	Natural strata	Compact mid red brown sand . Red gravel patches.	☑	☐
3803	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.98m, max depth 0.28m, min length 3.5m. Cut of ditch.**	☑	☐
3804	Fill	Friable dark brown sand frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. Fill of ditch.	☑	☑
3805	Primary fill	Firm mid brown sand frequent small stones. Primary fill of ditch, redeposited natural.	☑	☐
3806	**Foundation trench**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, min length 1.1m. Cut of foundation trench which comes to a butt end.**	☐	☐
3807	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand moderate medium stones. Foundation packing.	☐	☑
3808	Wall	. Roughly hewn limestone masonry.	☐	☐
3809	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.9m. Cut of ditch.**	☐	☐
3810	Fill	Compact mid yellow brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. Fill of ditch.	☐	☐
3811	**Feature**	**Linear NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max breadth 5.6m. Ware hollow of a possible trackway**	☑	☐

APPENDIX 4: POTTERY TYPE BY CONTEXT

Spot Date	Fabric	Common name	Context	Sherd No.	Weight (g)
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)	F19	Sand and Organic	3007	1	6
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)	F19	Sand and Organic	3005	2	5
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)	F30	Sand & Calcareous inclusions	3005	1	24
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)	F14	Fine mixed inclusions	3005	1	3
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F05	Grog and shell	505	1	5
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F06B	Medium Grog	404	1	8
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F06B	Medium Grog	609	1	4
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F06C	Coarse Grog	609	3	42
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F09	Sand and Grog	607	1	7
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F34	Sandy	505	2	41
Roman (AD50-350)	R05A	Orange sandy	404	1	6
Roman (AD50-350)	R06B	Coarse greyware	505	6	58
Roman (AD50-350)	R06B	Coarse greyware	503	6	41
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	503	11	43
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	404	1	6
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	804	1	75
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	503	1	4
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	505	5	52
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	611	1	21
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	505	4	24
Roman (AD50-350)	R07B	Sandy blackware	505	3	12
Roman (AD50-350)	R07B	Sandy blackware	503	1	3
Roman (AD50-350)	R13	Shelly	414	1	3
Roman (AD50-350)	R13	Shelly	414	4	51
Roman (AD50-350)	R13	Shelly	503	15	155
Roman (AD50-350)	R13	Shelly	505	32	623
Roman (AD50-350)	R03A	Verulamium whiteware	503	1	3
Roman (AD50-350)	R03A	Verulamium whiteware	505	1	28
Roman (AD50-350)	R03A	Verulamium whiteware	504	1	6
Roman (AD50-350)	R03B	Gritty whiteware	505	9	125
Roman (AD50-350)	R03B	Gritty whiteware	503	3	21
Roman (AD50-350)	R03B	Gritty whiteware	505	1	2
Roman (AD50-350)	R31	Lumpy whiteware	404	1	55
Roman (AD50-350)	R31	Lumpy whiteware	503	3	38
Roman (AD50-350)	R31	Lumpy whiteware	505	3	66
Roman (AD50-350)	R01	Samian ware	503	6	47
Roman (AD50-350)	R12B	Nene Valley Colour Coat	505	3	9
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	611	2	28
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	600	3	41
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	612	2	68
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	804	1	103
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	804	7	41
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	612	1	14
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	612	5	29
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	612	1	6
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	804	2	26
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	804	3	24
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	804	1	16
Saxon (AD400-850)	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	804	9	104
Saxon (AD400-850)	A18	Fine Quartz	611	1	16
Saxon (AD400-850)	A18	Fine Quartz	804	1	4
Saxon (AD400-850)	A18	Fine Quartz	804	2	48
Saxon (AD400-850)	A18	Fine Quartz	804	3	3
Saxon (AD400-850)	A18	Fine Quartz	612	2	59
Saxon (AD400-850)	A24	Oolitic	611	1	4
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B05	Harrold/Olney Hyde ware	2506	10	108
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B05	Harrold/Olney Hyde ware	1201	1	46
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B05	Harrold/Olney Hyde ware	3608	2	49
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B05	Harrold/Olney Hyde ware	3605	1	13
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	3605	5	73
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	3608	3	53
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	3600	1	12

Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	2500	1	18
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	3700	3	17
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	2506	4	45
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	2509	2	23
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Shelly	2504	1	8
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	C03	Fine sandy	3807	1	29
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	C03	Fine sandy	3605	1	2
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	C53	Sandy (pasty)	3615	1	3
High Medieval (1250-1400)	C09	Brill/Boarstall type	3705	1	3
High Medieval (1250-1400)	C10	Potterspury type	3700	1	4
High Medieval (1250-1400)	C10	Potterspury type	3608	1	9
High Medieval (1250-1400)	C10	Potterspury type	1400	1	29
High Medieval (1250-1400)	C60	Hertfordshire-type Greyware	2506	1	17
Late Medieval (1400-1500)	E01	Reduced ware	3615	1	10
Late Medieval (1400-1500)	E02	Oxidised ware	3700	1	9
Medieval (AD1150-1500)	C	Non-specific medieval wares	3612	2	2
Medieval (AD1150-1500)	C	Non-specific medieval wares	3705	1	5
Medieval (AD1150-1500)	C	Non-specific medieval wares	3700	2	17
Medieval (AD1150-1500)	C05	Sandy (red margins)	3608	1	16
Medieval (AD1150-1500)	C05	Sandy (red margins)	2500	1	54
Medieval (AD1150-1500)	C05	Sandy (red margins)	3700	1	6
Medieval (AD1150-1500)	C05	Sandy (red margins)	3615	1	1
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P	Non-specific post-medieval wares	3700	1	7
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	3600	2	9
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	3700	15	122
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P03	Black-glazed earthenware	3700	1	5
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P03	Black-glazed earthenware	1010	1	61
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P14	Blackware	3700	4	22
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P25	Frechen	2711	2	114



Appendix 5 Location of the trial trenches

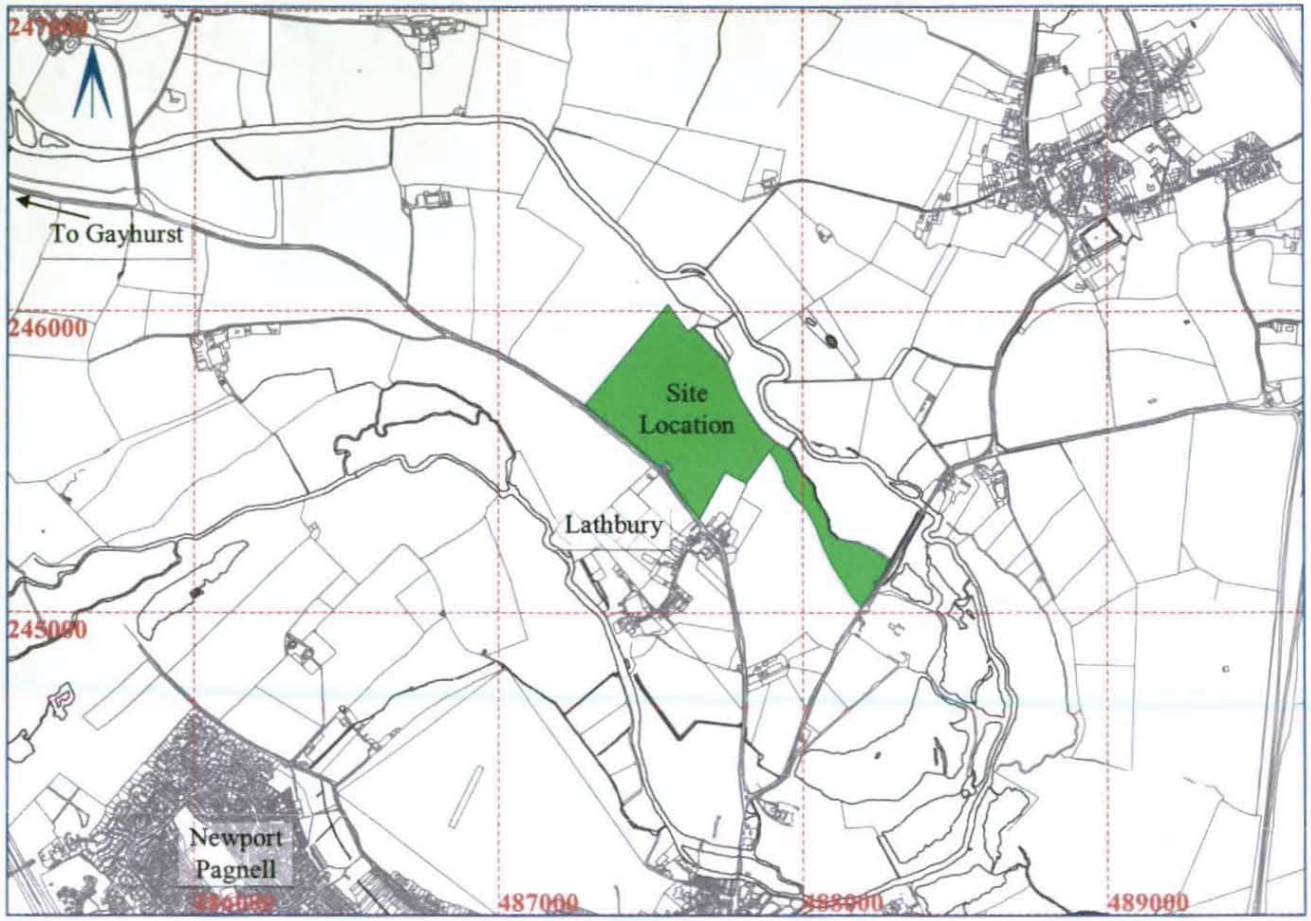


Fig. 1: Site Location Plan.

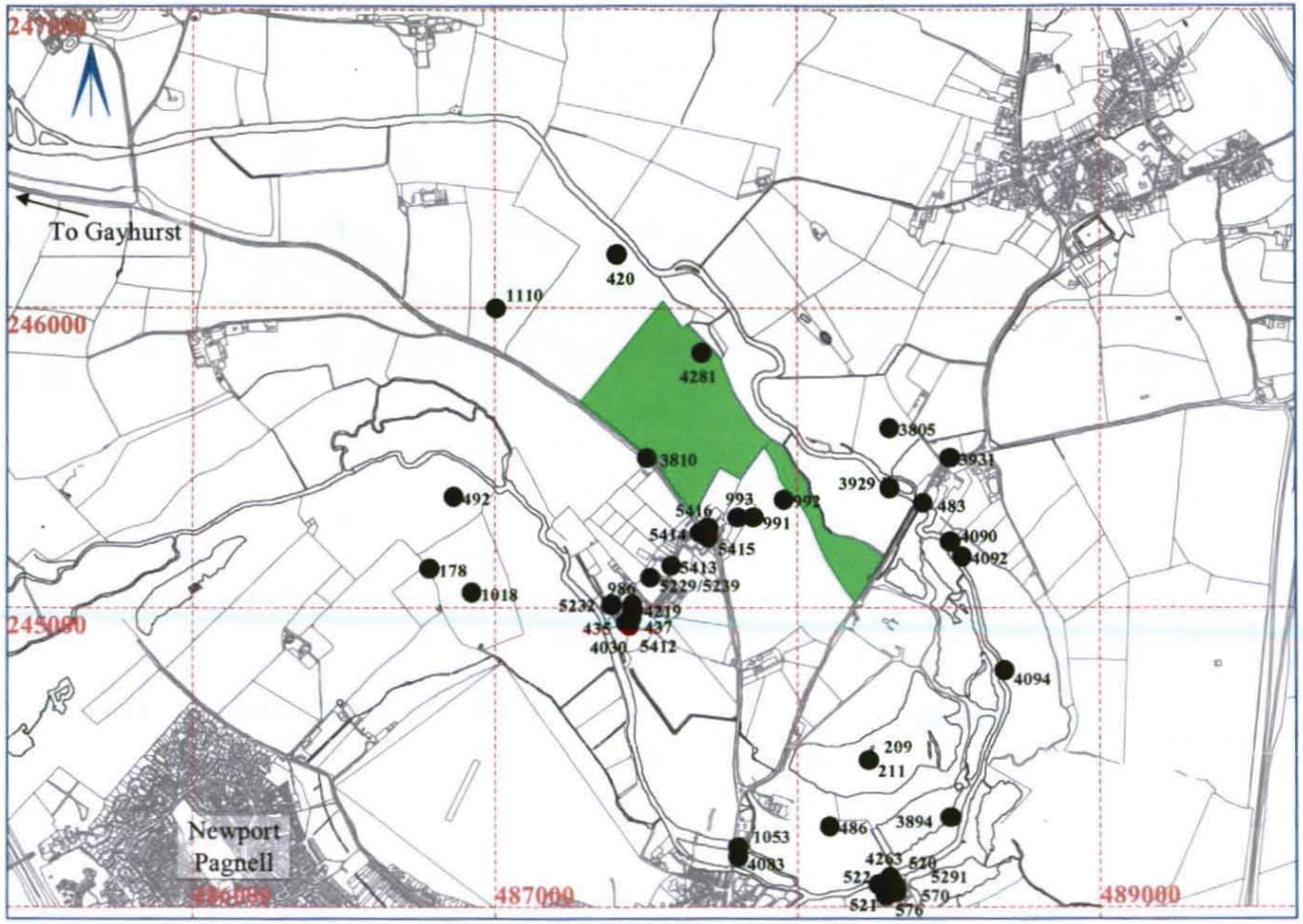


Fig. 2: Location of SMR sites within the vicinity of the Study Area.

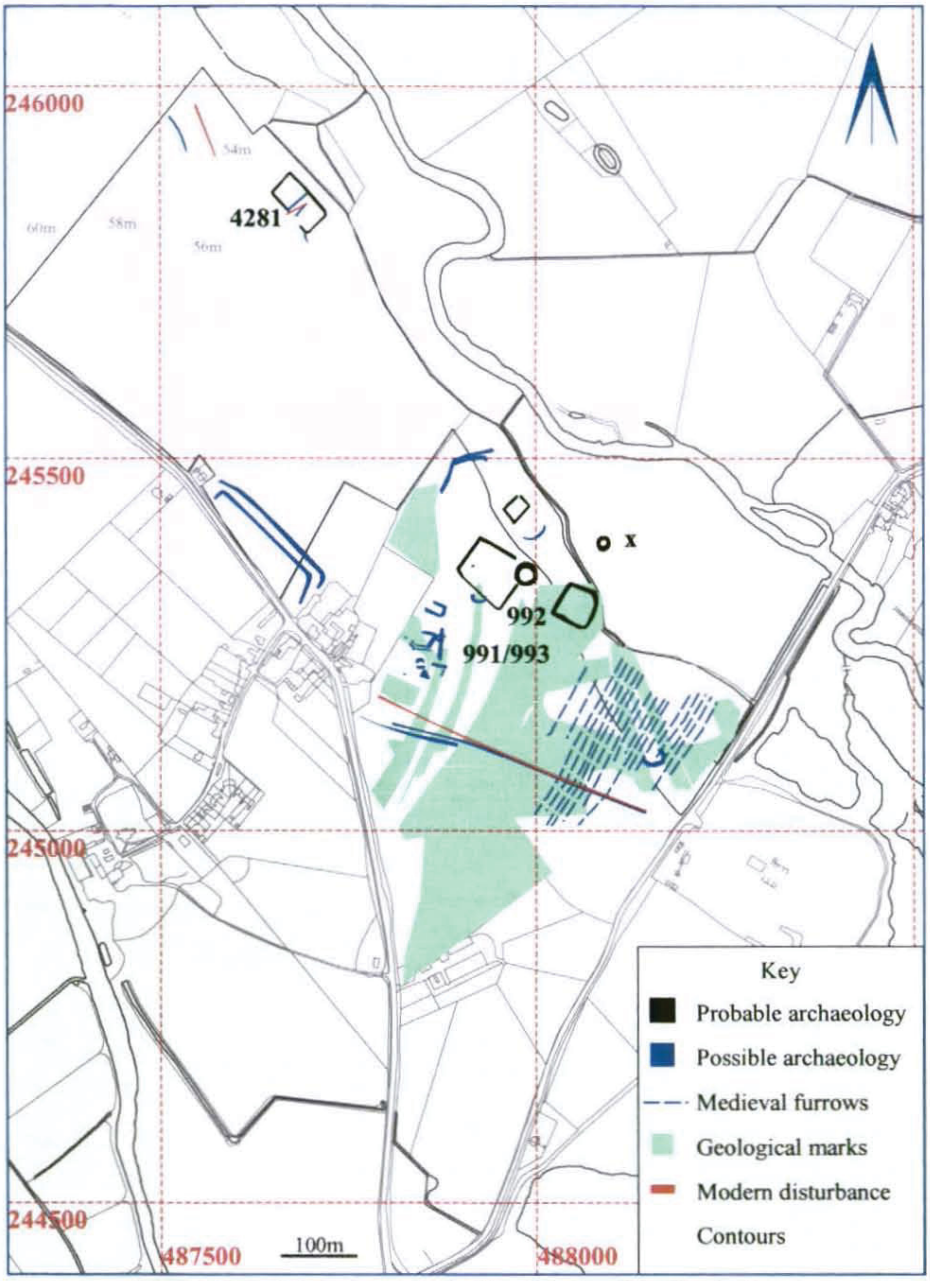


Fig. 3: Plot of the cropmarks in the vicinity of the Study Area.

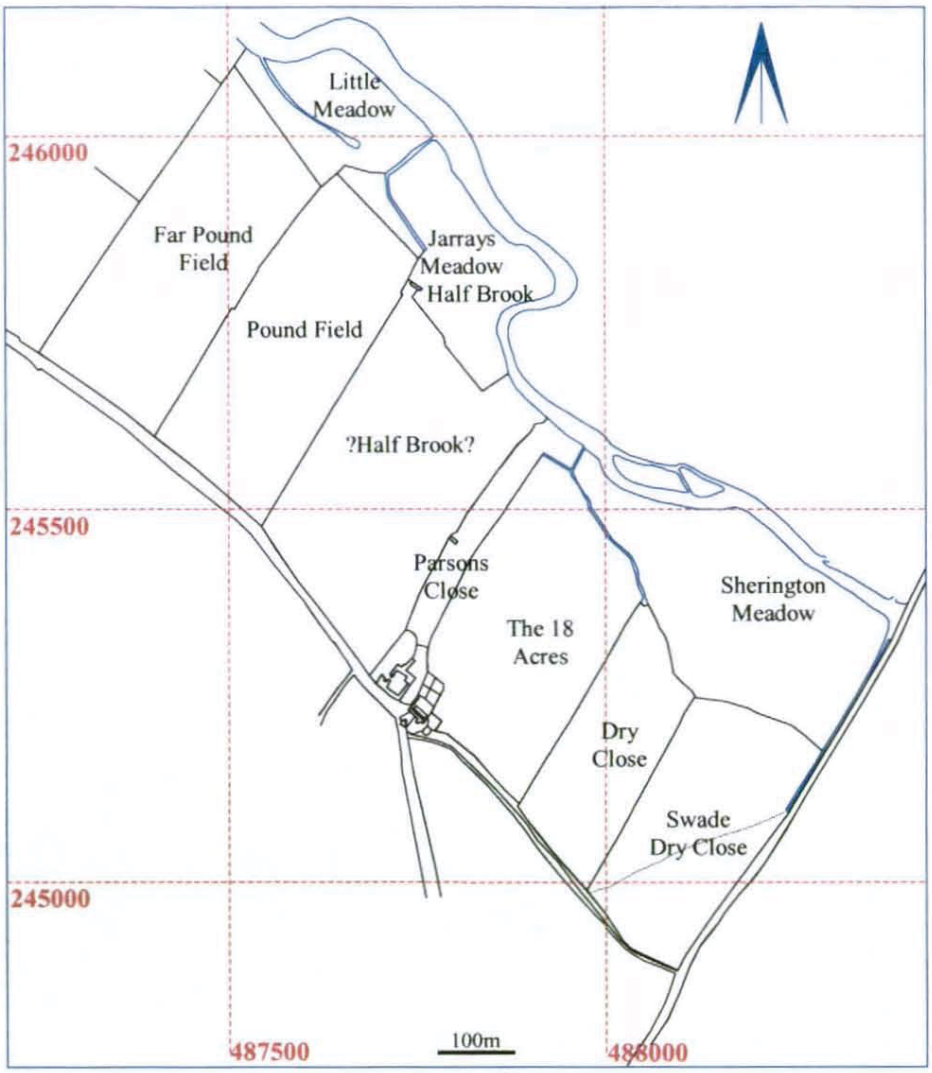


Fig. 4: 1843 Tithe Map.

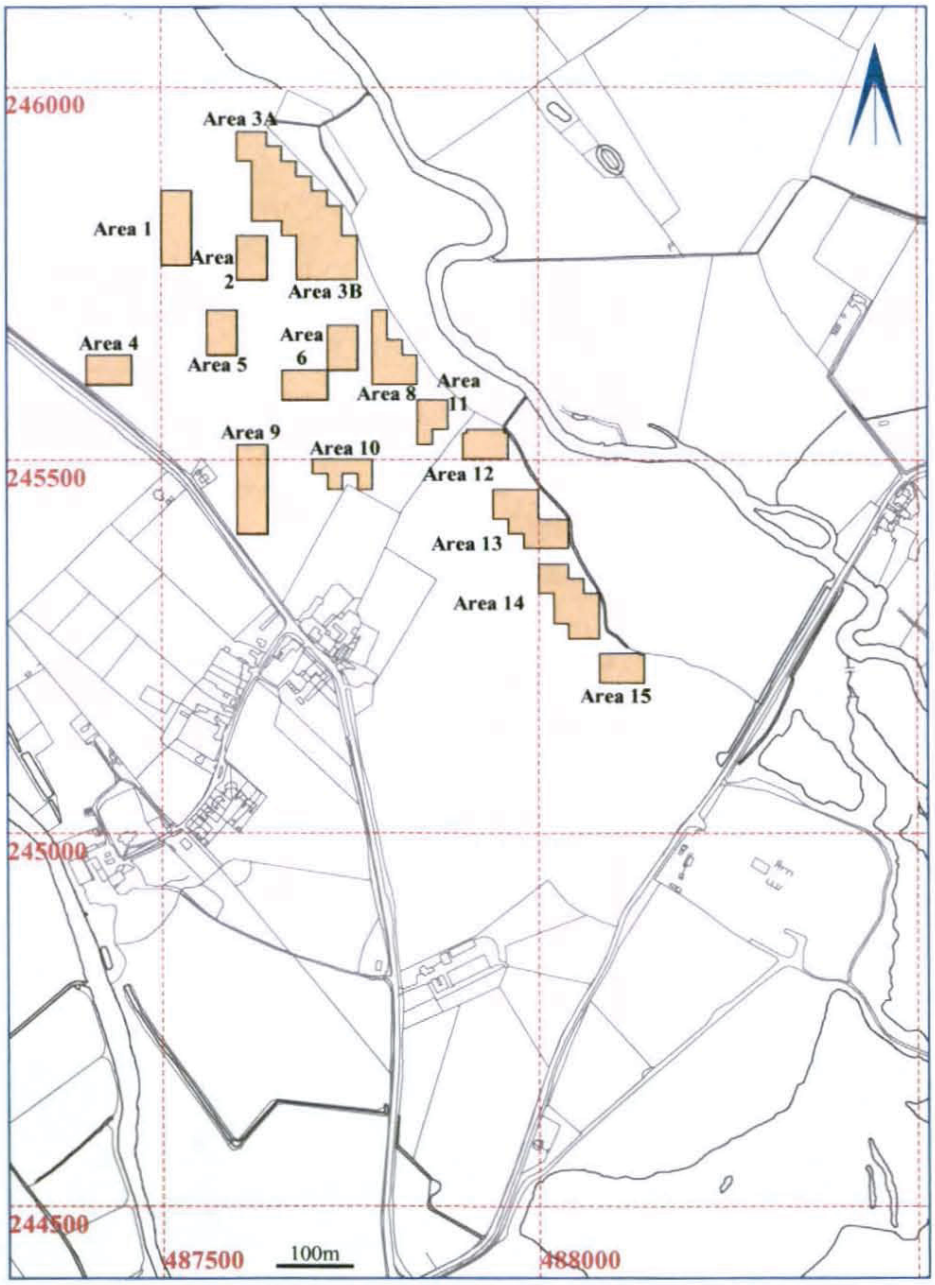


Fig. 5: Location of Detailed Geophysical Survey Areas.

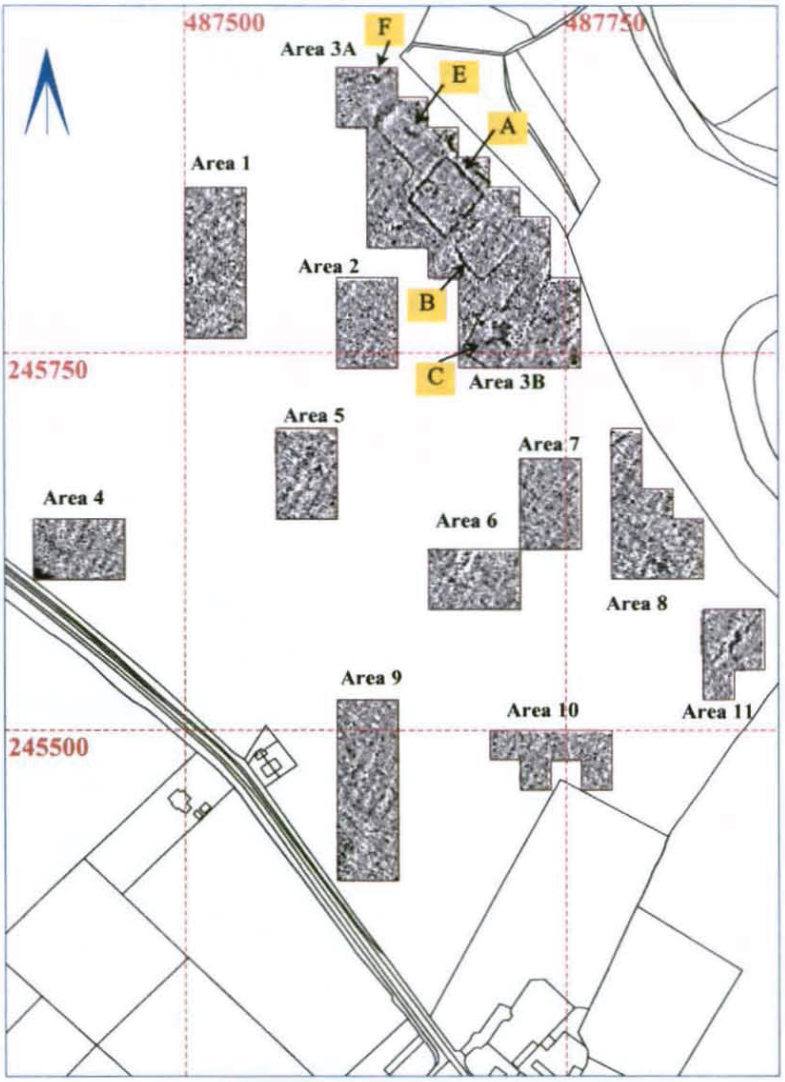


Fig. 6: Pound Field; Geophysical Zone 1, Greyscale plot of Detailed Survey results.

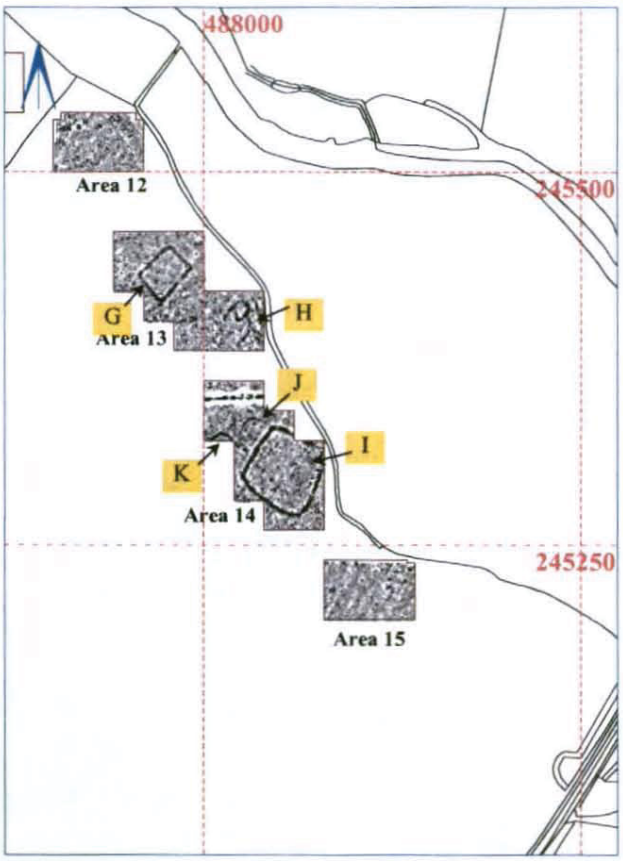


Fig. 7: The Swade; Geophysical Zone 2, Greyscale plot of Detailed Survey results.

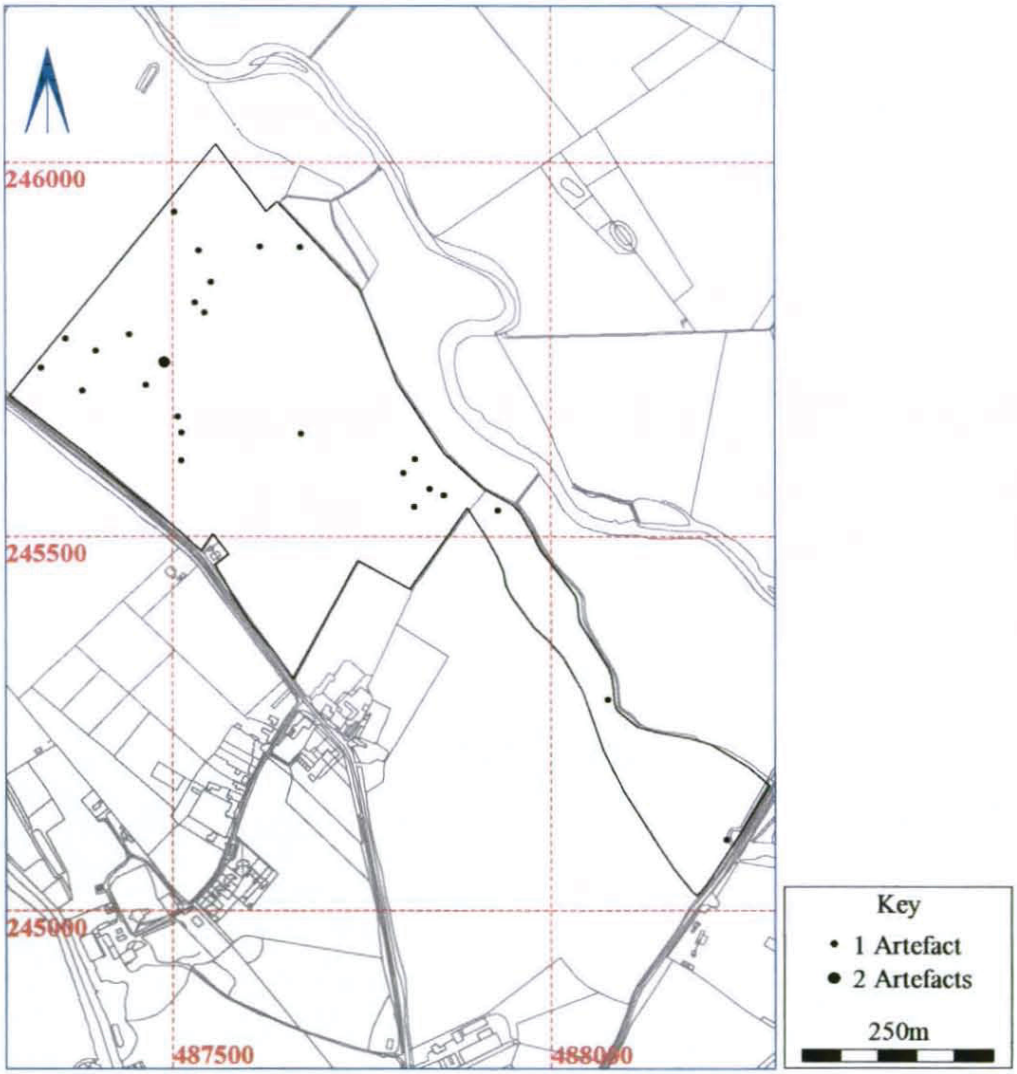


Fig. 8: Field artefact collection; Flint distribution plot.

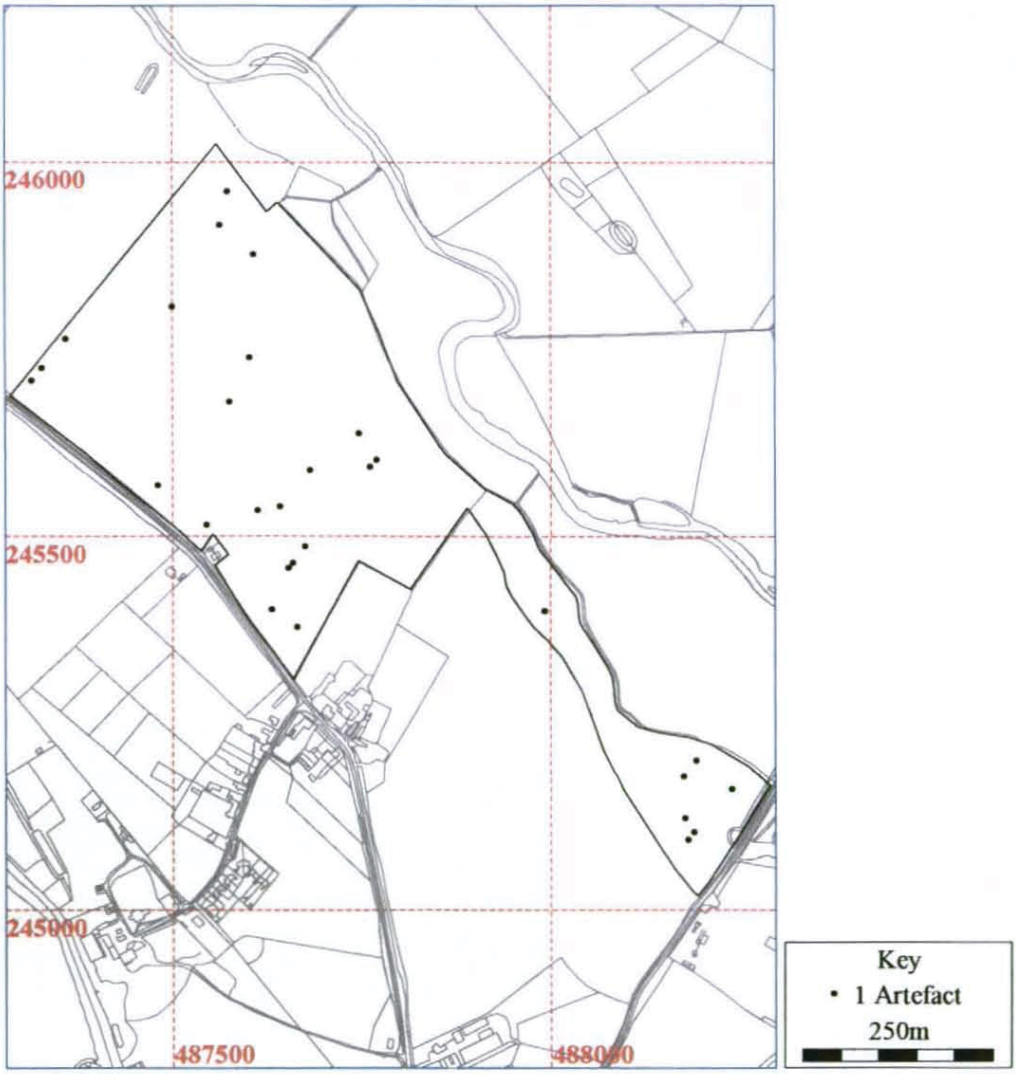


Fig. 9: Field artefact collection; Medieval pottery distribution.

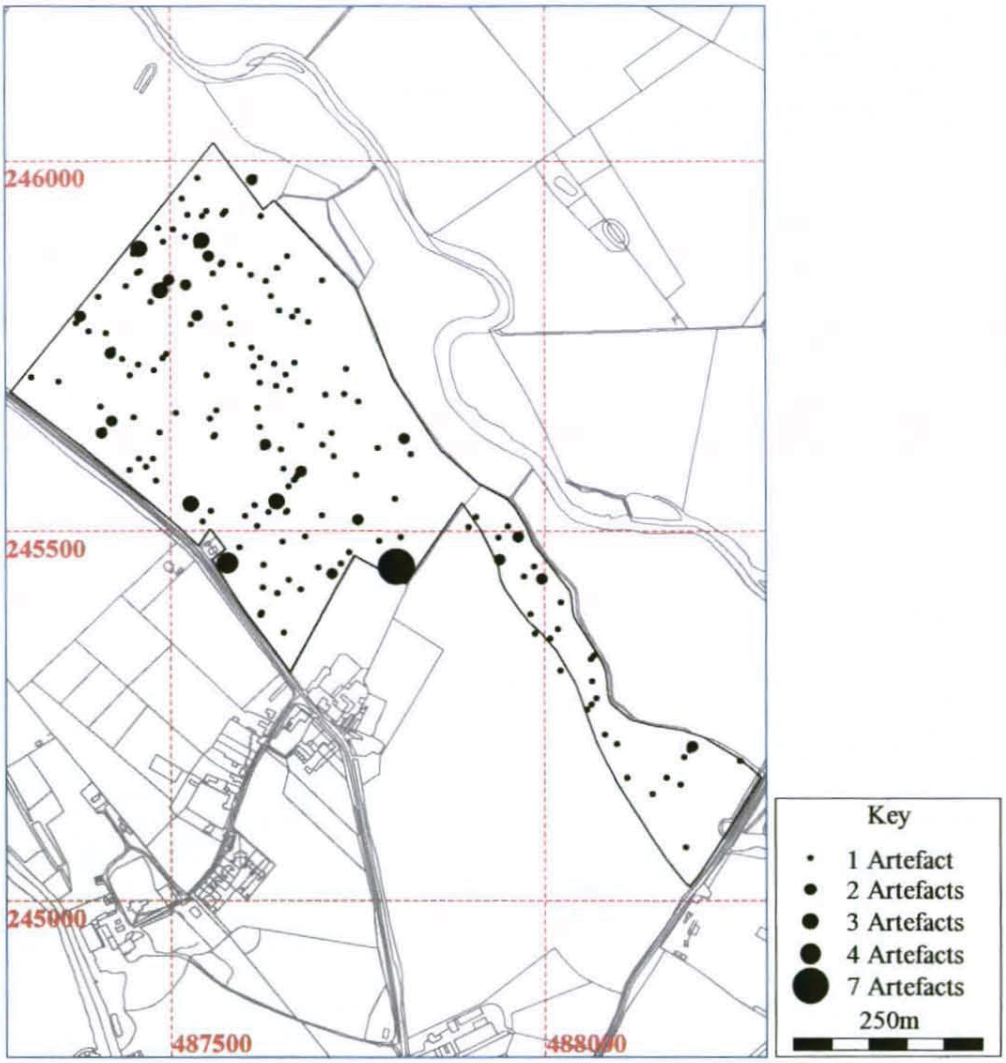


Fig. 10: Field artefact collection; Medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material distribution plot.

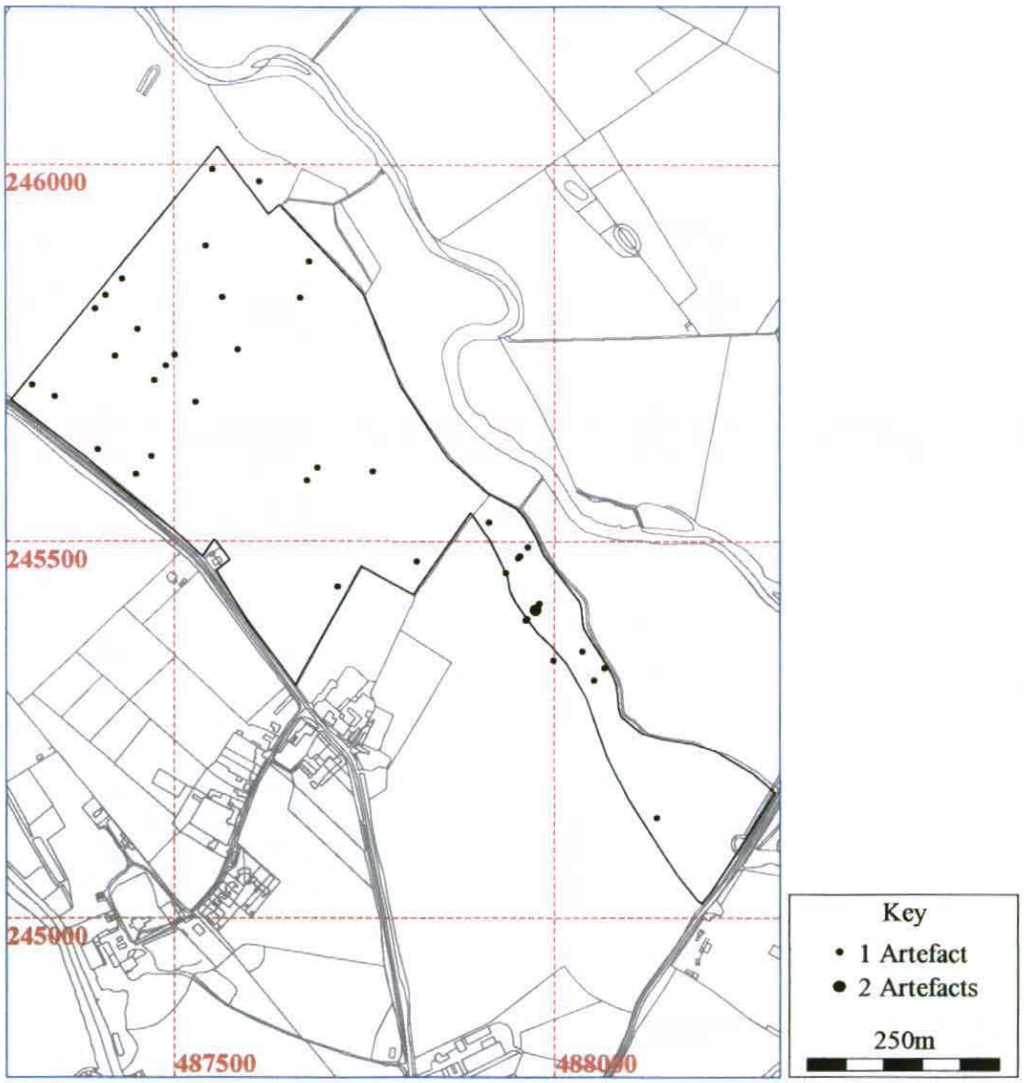


Fig. 11: Field artefact collection; Post-medieval glass.

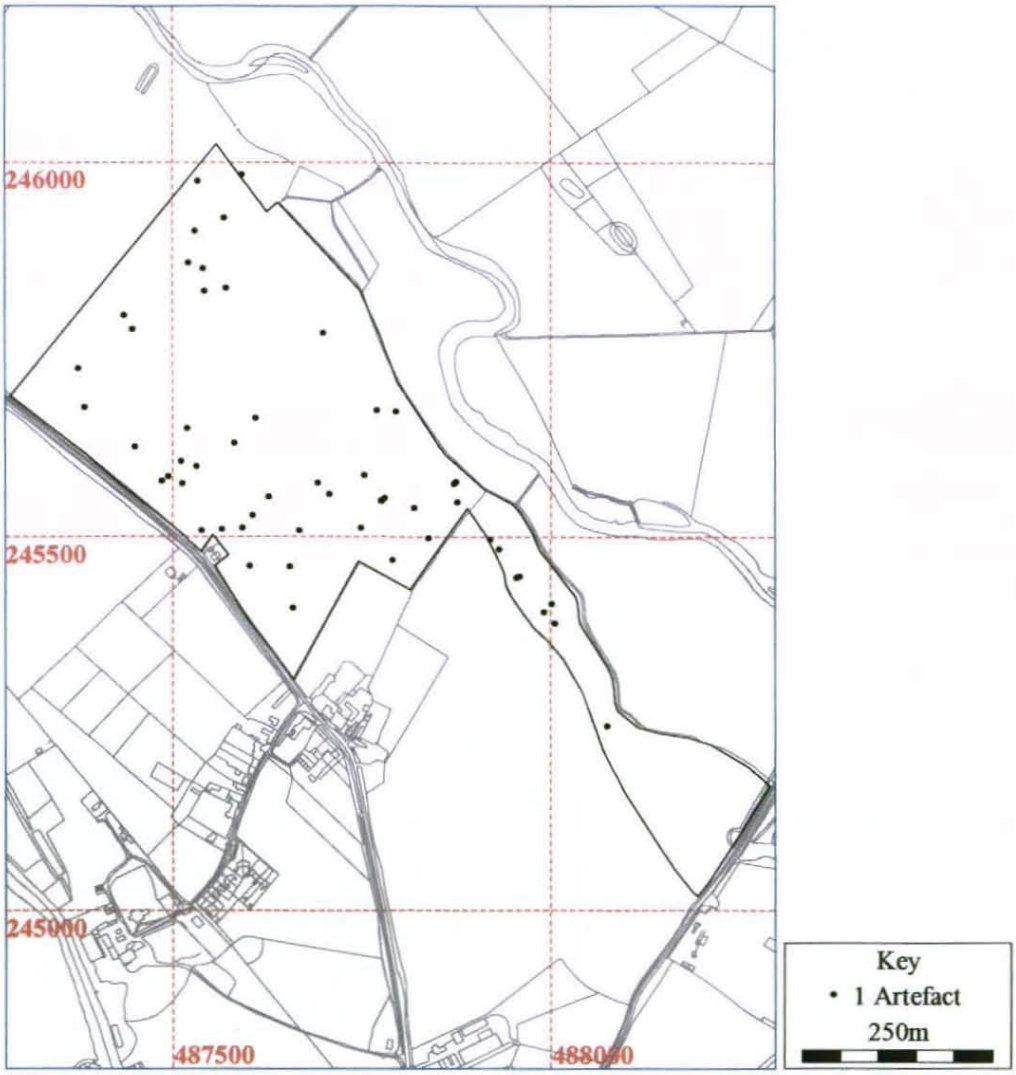


Fig. 12: Metal detecting survey; Copper alloy artefacts distribution plot.

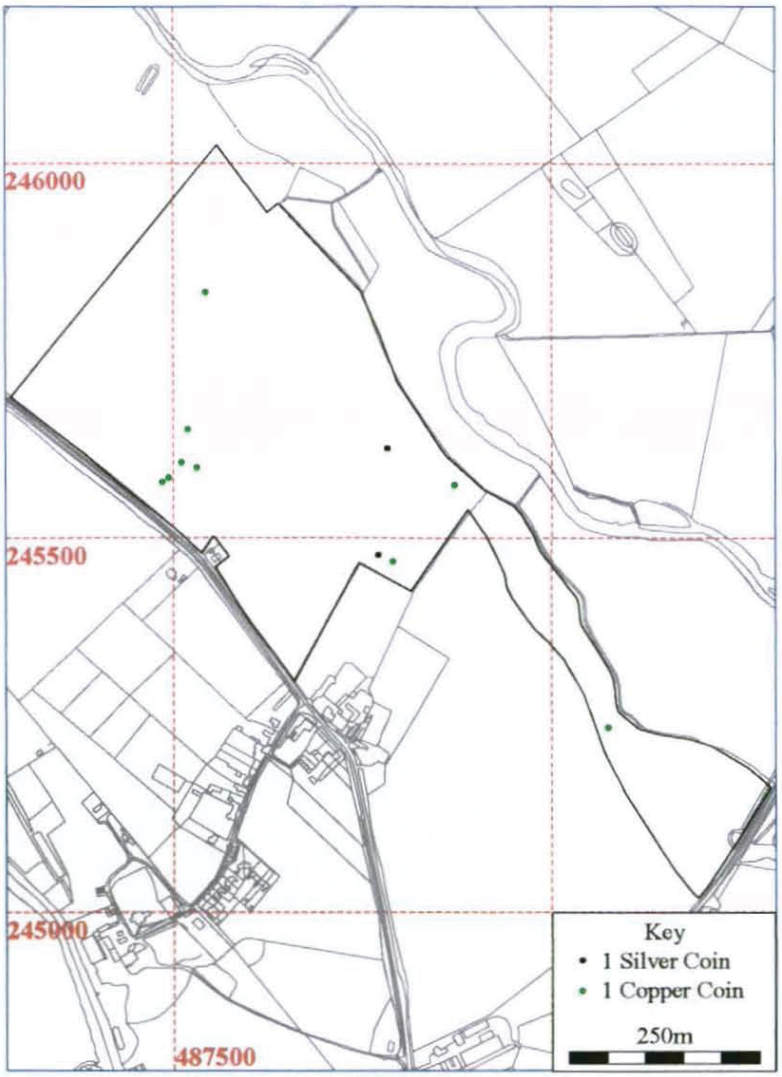


Fig. 13: Metal detecting survey; coins.

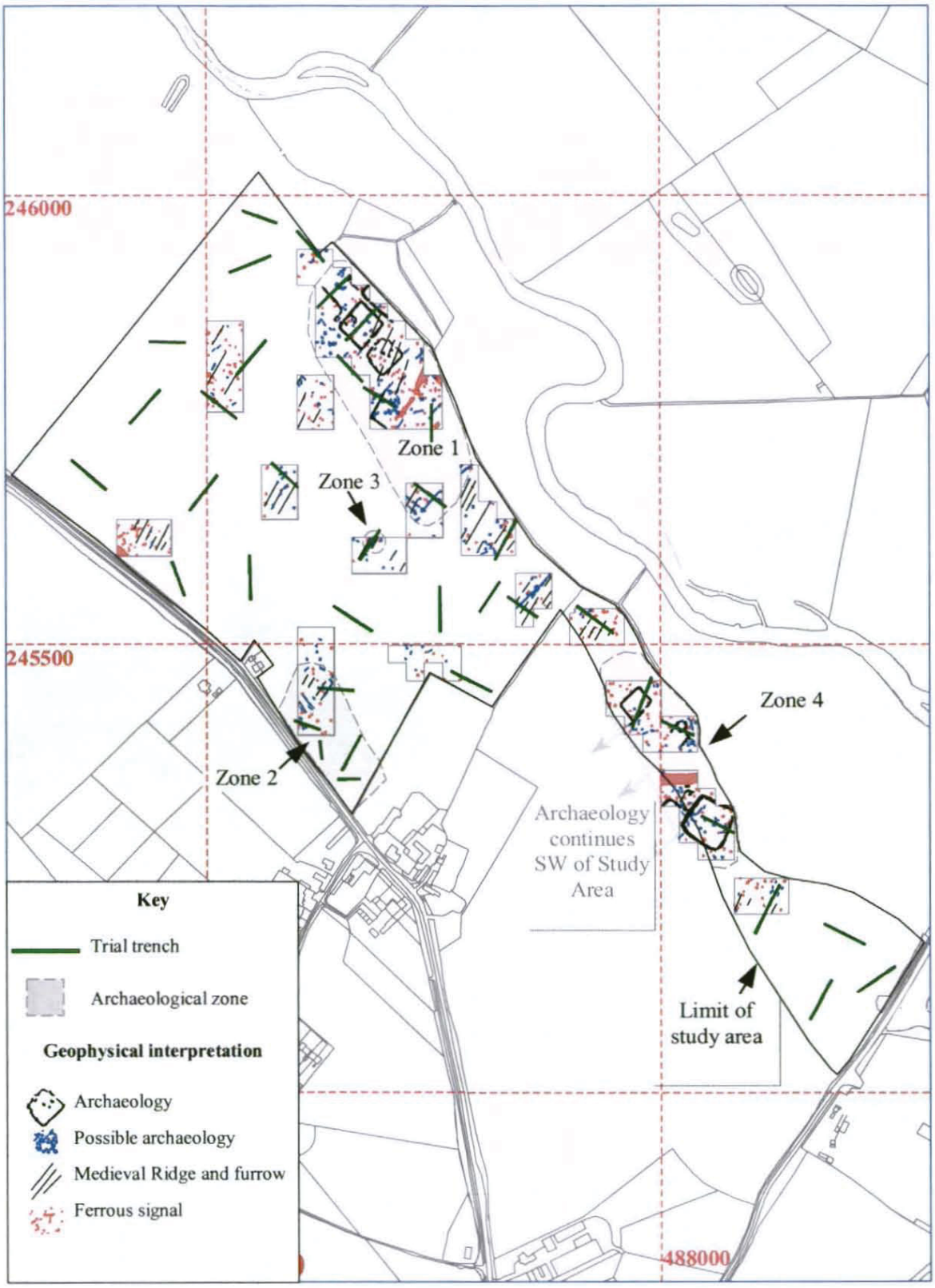


Fig. 14: The Study Area and the four Archaeological Zones, with Geophysical Survey Interpretation.

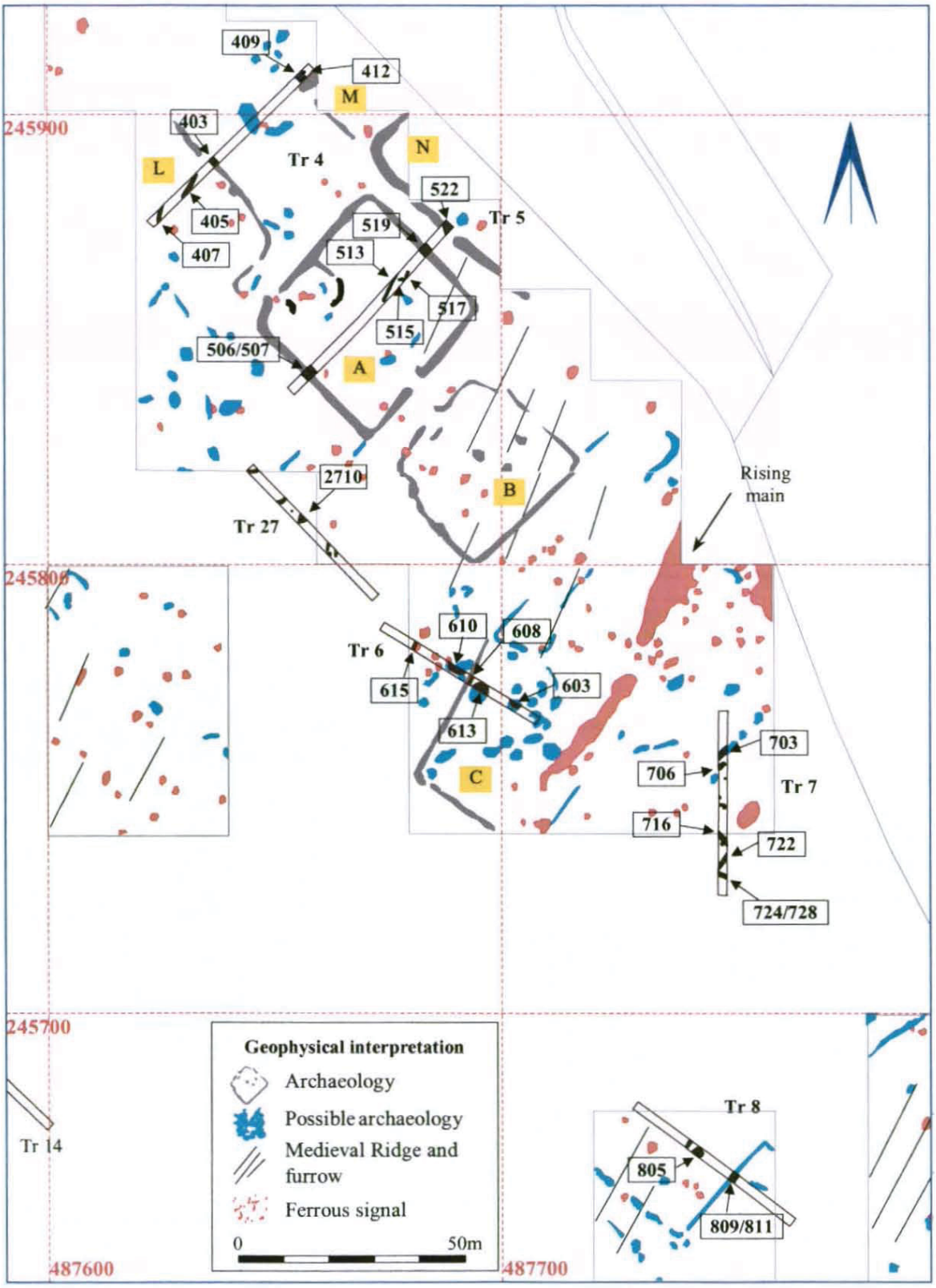


Fig. 15: Features in Archaeological Zone 1.

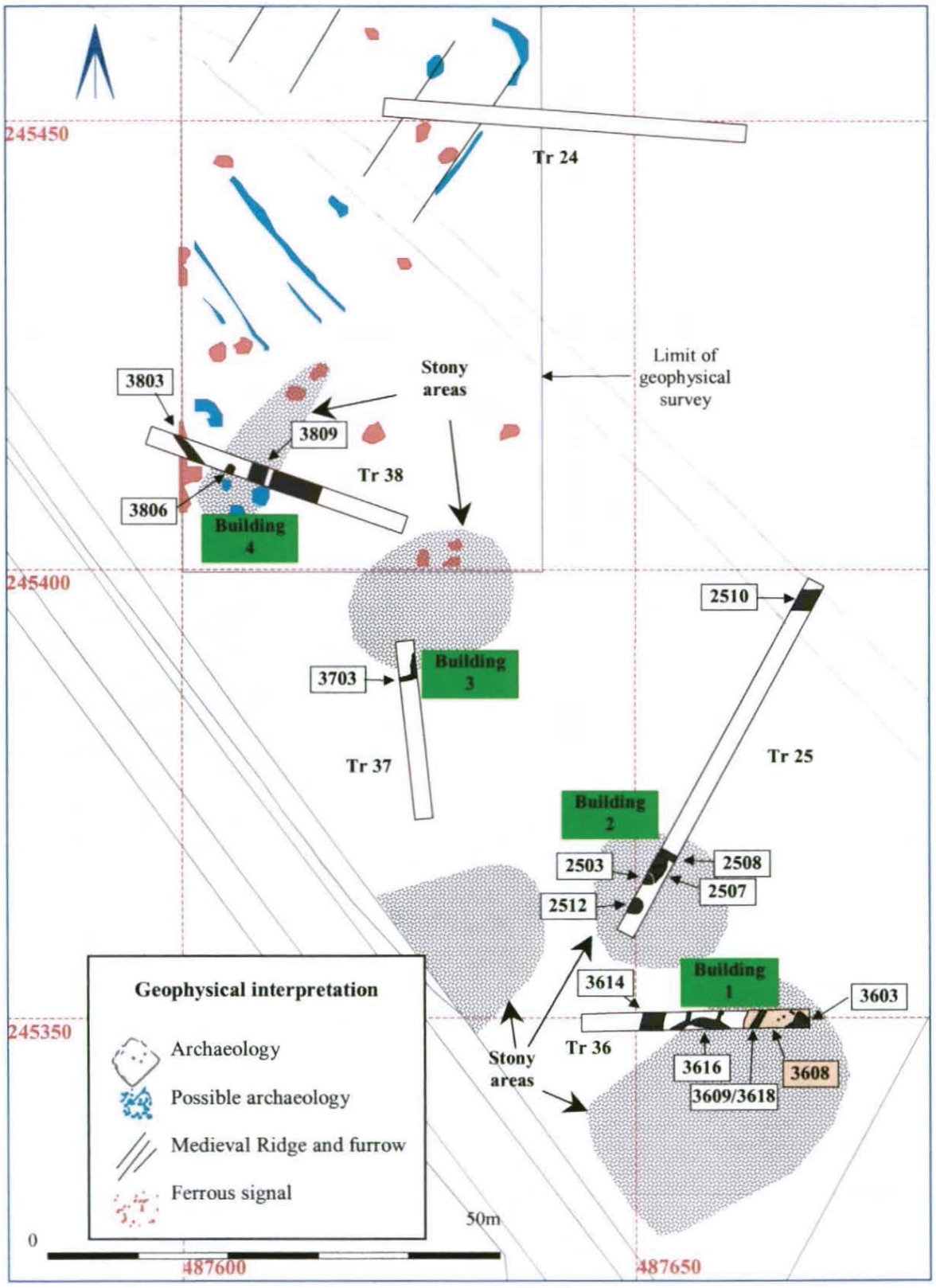


Fig. 16: Features in Archaeological Zone 2.

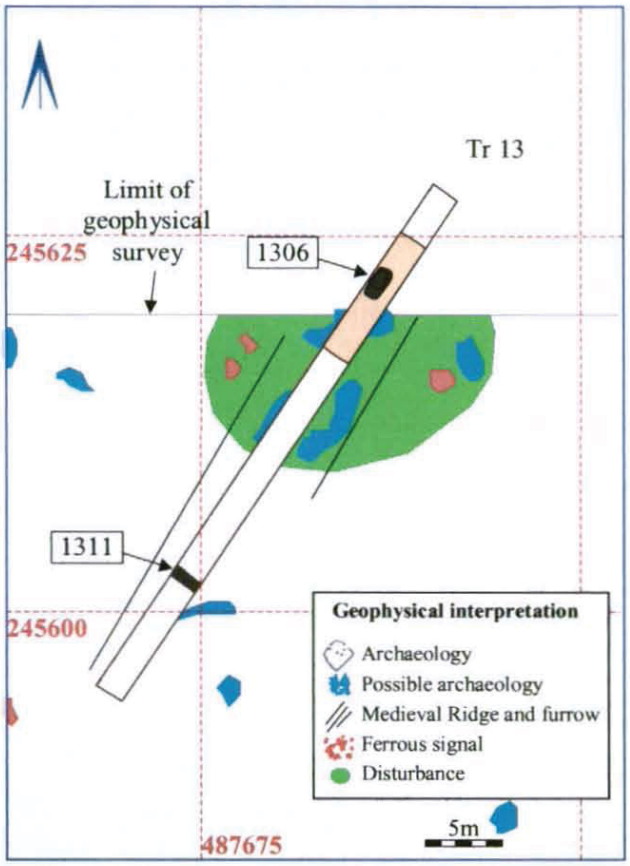


Fig. 17: Features in Archaeological Zone 3.

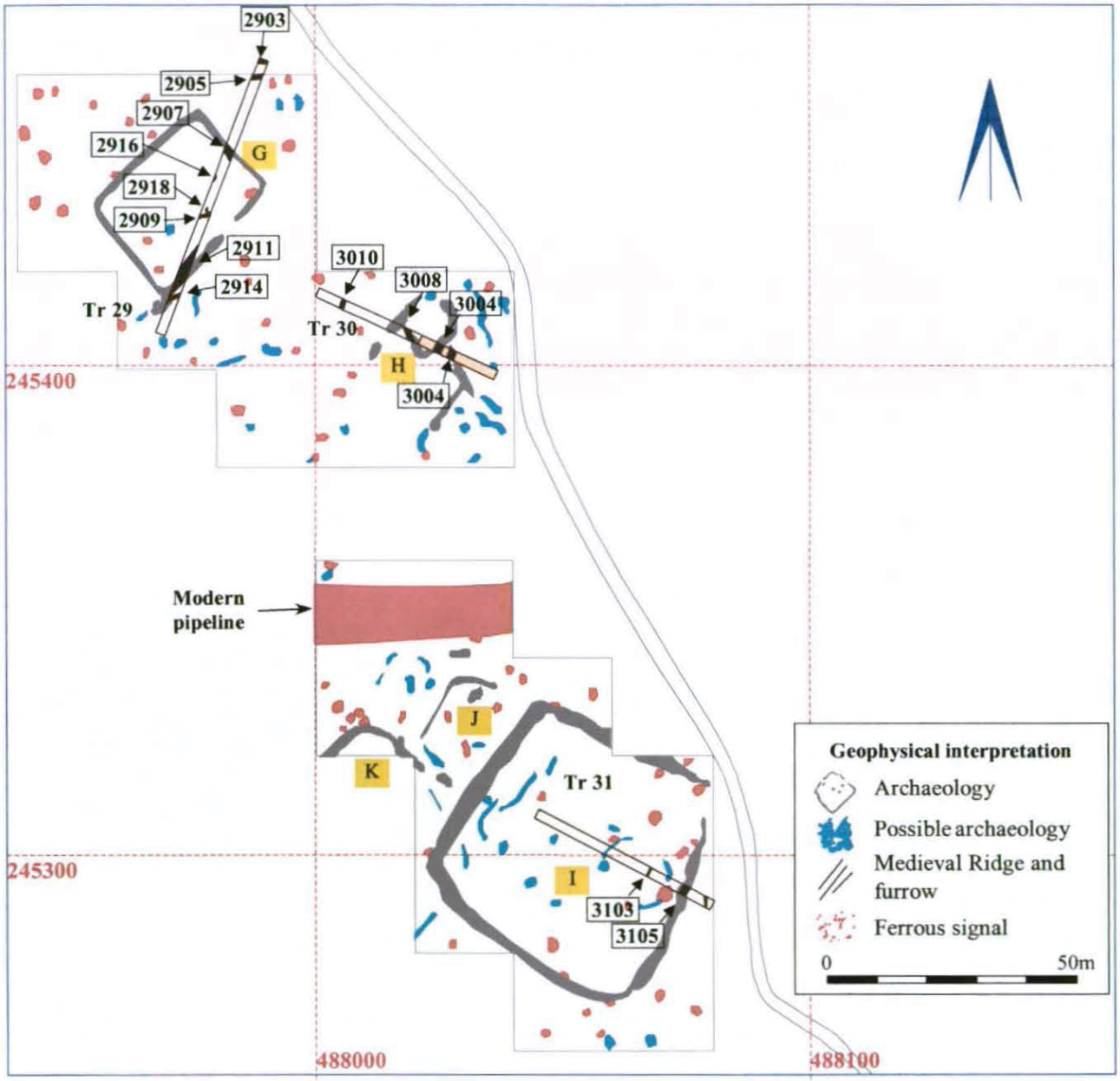


Fig. 18: Features in Archaeological Zone 4.

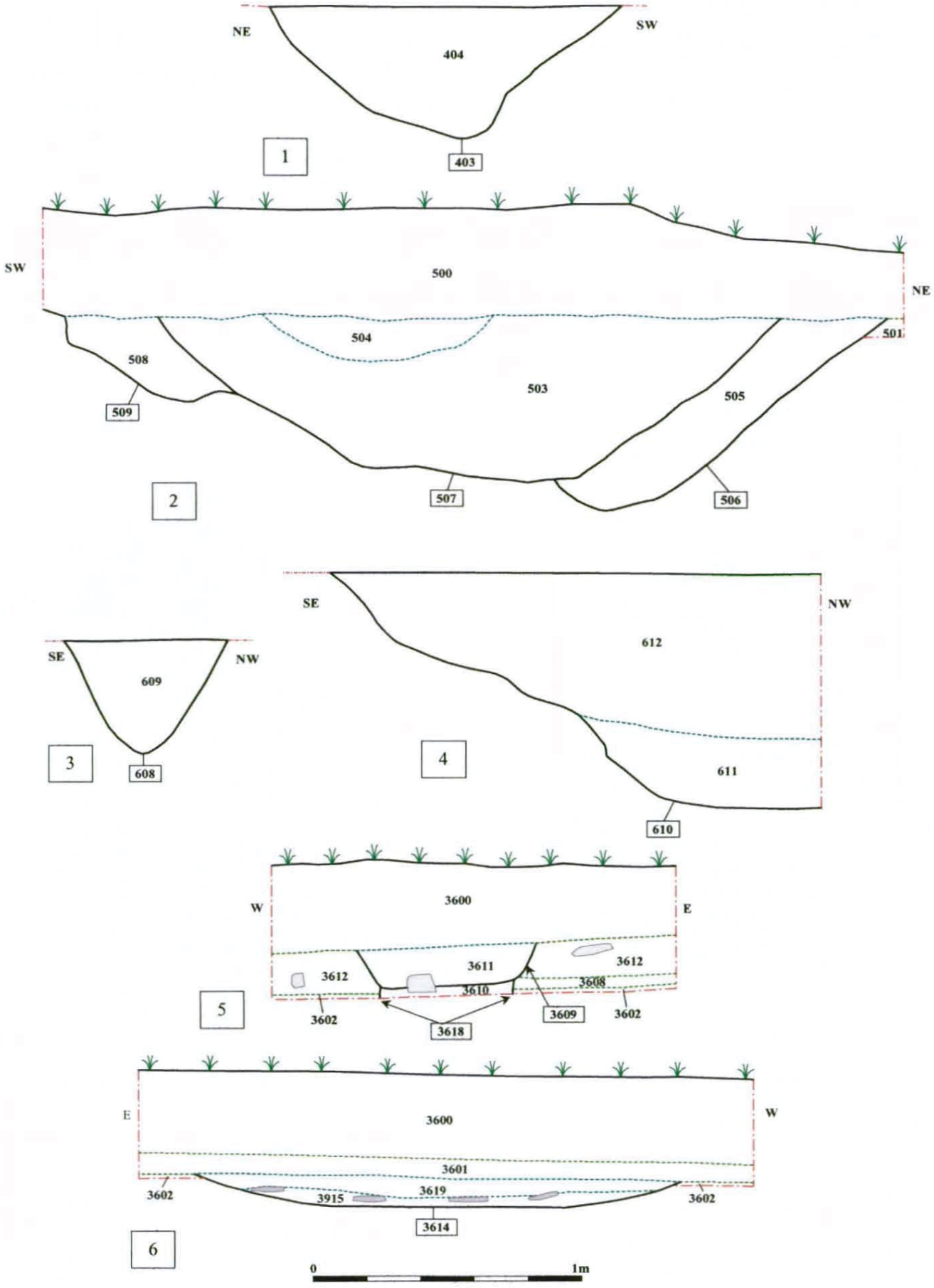


Fig. 19: selected sections.

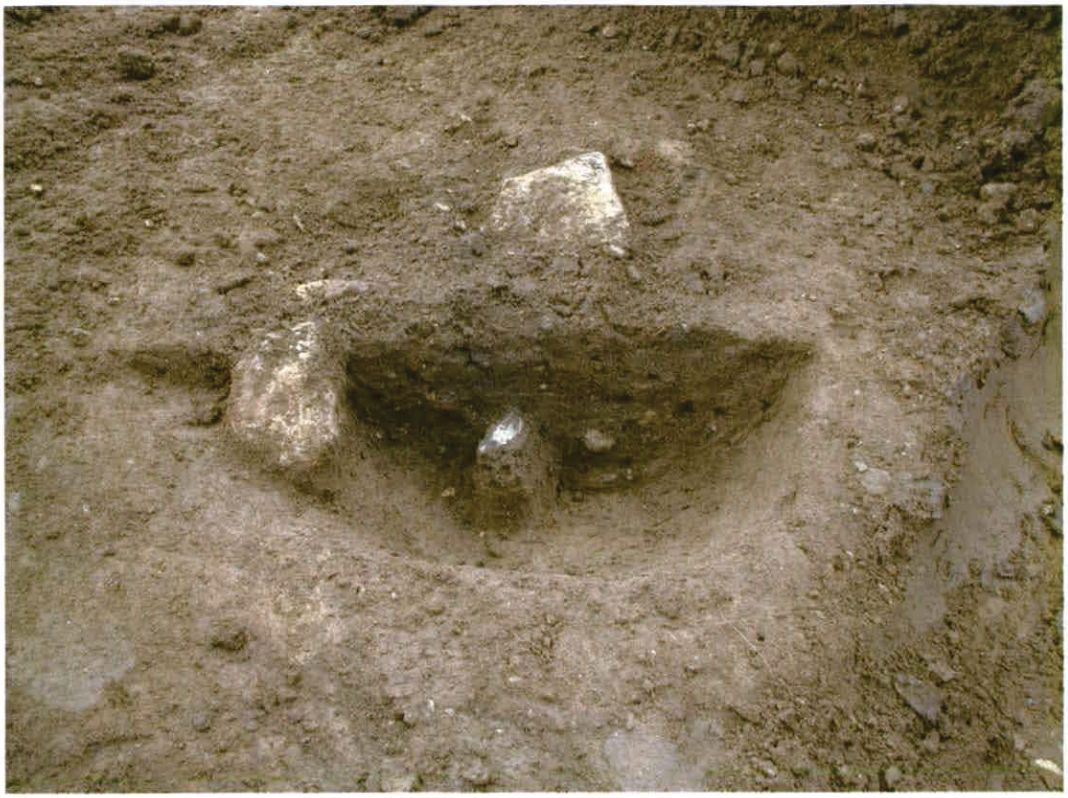


Photo 1: Posthole [412] with limestone packing located at the north-east end of Trench 4.

Photo 2: Possible *Grubenhauser* [805] located in the centre of Trench 8.

Figure 20

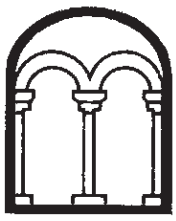
Photo 3: Possible wall foundation [2507]of Medieval Building 2 in Trench 25.

Photo 4: Ditch [506] truncated by ditch [507] in the south-eastern end of Trench 5. Corresponds to Enclosure A.

Photo 5: Iron smelting furnace [1303] located in the north-eastern end of Trench 13

Photo 6: Medieval Building 1and possible internal hearth [3603] in Trench 36.

Figure 22



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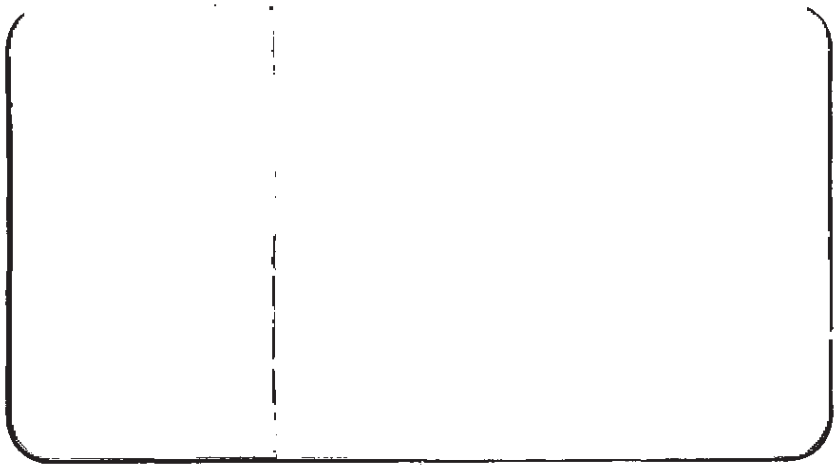
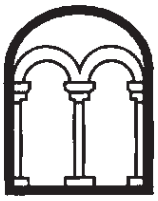


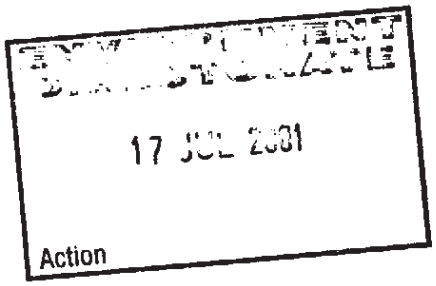


ALBION
Archaeology

LAND TO THE NORTH OF HOME FARM, LATHBURY, MILTON KEYNES.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT



Document 2001/24
Project HFL661

12th June 2001

Produced for:
GFX Hartigan Ltd
98 High Street
Newport Pagnell
MK16 8EJ

SUPPLEMENTARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF HOME FARM,

LATHBURY, MILTON KEYNES.

May 2001

Location	Arable field to the North of Home Farm Lathbury Milton Keynes
Grid Reference	SP8735 4595 (centred around)
Archaeological Contractor	Albion Archaeology Formerly Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
Client	GFX Hartigan Ltd 98 High Street Newport Pagnell MK16 8EJ
Fieldwork	4th to 25th May 2001

Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Appendices

Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the project statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by Gary Edmondson (Project Officer), Andrew Thompson (Project Supervisor), Stephen Thorpe (Archaeological Technician) and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer). Field artefact collection was undertaken by Andrew Thompson and Stephen Thorpe. The trial excavation was undertaken by Stephen Thorpe assisted by Kate Bain. The artefacts were assessed by Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer). The project was under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Project Manager). Joan Lightning produced all the illustrations.

Albion Archaeology would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the landowner Mr Cook and GFX Hartigan for the supply of the mechanical excavator and operator.

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12th June 2001

Structure of this report

After the introductory Section 1, this report presents the results of the stages of the non-intrusive survey, comprising desk-based assessment (Section 2), and field artefact collection (Section 3). This is followed by a chronological summary of the results of the trial excavation (Section 4). A synthesis of the results and their significance is presented in Section 5. All figures are bound to the rear of the report.

Non-Technical Summary

Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) evaluated 25.5 hectares of land to the north of Home Farm in late 2000 (Report 2000/55). This work identified several areas of archaeology, with Archaeological Zone 1, adjacent to Ash Spinney necessitating a change in the layout of the proposed scheme. Albion Archaeology (formerly BCAS) was commissioned by GFX Hartigan Ltd., to undertake a supplementary archaeological evaluation of the land to the north and west of Ash Spinney. The work was undertaken in advance of the possible submission of a proposal for mineral extraction. A staged approach to the evaluation was utilised, to take account of the ground conditions, comprising field artefact collection and trial excavation.

The field artefact collection identified two scatters of artefacts, the first adjacent to the Gayhurst Road, comprised five items ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, scattered over a 100m long area. The second scatter, in the vicinity of the bridge abutment comprised mainly Romano-British pottery sherds, with occasional late medieval sherds. The area of the proposed plant site was excluded from field-walking as recent flooding had resulted in the area being covered in silt.

A total of 8 trial excavation trenches were opened to investigate the pottery scatters, a cropmark and apparently archaeologically 'blank' areas. A variety of pits and ditches were revealed ranging in date from early Iron Age to post-medieval. The trial trenches in the area of the proposed plant site identified early Iron Age features concentrated in a narrow band towards the river. The presence of intercutting ditches and pits containing occupation debris suggests a focus of possible settlement activity, which was in use for a period of time. A second focus of activity was identified, extending from the bridge abutment towards the bend in the existing track. The ditches which contained quantities of both later Iron Age and some Roman pottery, would appear to be a continuation of the cropmark enclosures of SMR 420, situated beyond the Study Area on the lower ground close to the river. Prior to this investigation, the dating of the enclosures was a matter of considerable speculation.

It is essential that the above summary is read in conjunction with the main body of the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

GFX Hartigan Ltd. commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a possible planning application to Milton Keynes Council for the extraction of sand and gravel, from land to the north of Home Farm, Lathbury. This would form a component of the Environmental Statement, which would be required to accompany any possible planning application.

The work was undertaken in accordance with a *Project Statement* prepared by Albion Archaeology in consultation with Milton Keynes Council's Archaeological Officer.

1.2 Stages of the Evaluation

This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation of the revised location of the proposed plant site, undertaken by Albion Archaeology. The study comprised investigation of the proposed new plant site located to the north of Ash Spinney and the associated access route. The majority of the new plant site was situated within the bounds of the original Study Area, though extending beyond it to the east and north. This area had been affected by recent exceptional wet weather, resulting in modern silt being deposited. The majority of the proposed access route would utilise an existing farm track, which would be widened. An extension of this track would have to be constructed, extending from the old railway bridge abutment south-eastwards to the new plant site.

The evaluation comprised systematic field artefact collection to recover artefacts from the surface of the ploughed field followed by trial trenching. The field-walking was confined to the area of the track widening and proposed extension. The recently deposited alluvium prevented field-walking in the area of the plant. To compensate for this additional trial trenching was employed to characterise the archaeological potential of this area.

1.3 Site Location and Description

The Study Area is situated to the north of Ash Spinney, Lathbury, covering approximately 0.6 hectares within a pronounced loop of the River Great Ouse (Fig1). The evaluation area is situated within Pound Field (Fig 2a), centred on OS grid reference SP 8735 4595. This area comprises a block of land of some 0.4 hectares extending north and east of Ash Spinney, for the proposed plant site. The remainder of the evaluation area defined a linear corridor associated with the existing L-shaped farm track which extended from the Gayhurst Road, in a north-easterly direction before turning south-east and extending to the old bridge abutment. At the junction of the Gayhurst Road and the farm track a slight hollow is visible in Pound Field, becoming more pronounced in the adjacent field, beyond the Study Area. The soil is apparently very thin and stony in the area. This may define the infilled remains of a former quarry.

Situated on the southern side of the river valley, the topography is undulating, with the ground generally sloping gradually down from c.61m OD in the south-west to 52m OD in the north. The north-west to south-east segment of the farm track follows the top of a sharp break in slope down to the river flood plain. This possible river terrace declines in height towards the old bridge abutment. Immediately south-west of the present Study Area a possible dry stream was identified by a distinctive incision in the pattern of the contours, orientated south-north and running immediately to the west of Ash Spinney. The natural strata generally comprises fluvial gravels, with a possible area of limestone identified in the vicinity of the junction of the farm track with the Gayhurst Road.

The topsoil is a sandy loam, overlying a sandy gravel subsoil which is above the gravel terrace. The depth of the gravelly natural strata below the present ground level varied considerably from c.0.3 to 1m. On the low ground immediately north and north-west of the Study Area, dark sinuous bands visible on aerial photographs may identify palaeochannels; former courses of the river, which silted up when the river altered course (green areas on Fig 2b).

At the time of the supplementary evaluation the land was under arable cultivation. The crop was only sprouting in the area adjacent to the track, which did not hinder the recovery of artefacts during field-walking.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The gravel terraces of the River Great Ouse have been a focus of human activity and settlement from the Palaeolithic period to the modern day. In the vicinity of the site, situated in the upper reaches of the river, there are a number of prehistoric sites including several funerary/ ritual monuments. These were fully examined in the main evaluation report (BCAS Document 2000/55).

Adjacent to the Study Area on the low-lying land to the north-west of the bridge abutment, there are a series of undated cropmarks **SMR 420**. The infilled ditched boundaries appear as dark bands, which define parts of several enclosures. The eastern linear cropmark crosses the present Study Area (Fig 2b).

2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 The Study Area.

The present evaluation is within the boundary of the desk-based assessment for the main evaluation (BCAS Document 2000/55). Rather than duplicating the contents of that report, only those findings directly relevant to the current work will be covered here.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Work

The initial evaluation examined the southern part of Pound Field and a narrow tract of land within a land parcel known as The Swade. This identified four zones of archaeological remains, ranging in date from later Iron Age/Romano-British, through Saxon to medieval. Adjacent to Ash Spinney, Archaeological Zone 1 contains later Iron Age, Roman and Saxon activity. It was agreed in conjunction with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer that if any mineral extraction was to occur, this zone was to be excluded from the development and preserved *in situ*.

2.3 SMR Sites

The Milton Keynes Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) identifies a cropmark site **SMR 420** situated on the low lying land immediately west of the north-west to south-east arm of the farm track (Fig 2b). The infilled ditches appear as differential crop growth rather than soil marks on the aerial photographs. Elements of at least two rectilinear enclosures of contrasting size can be identified. The larger enclosure measures c.56m north-west to south-east by at least 50m, with a parallel enclosure 12m to the south-east being at least 60m north-east to south-west by 25m. Evidence of remodelling of the larger enclosure would suggest that it was in use for an extended period of time. Other possible ditches (shown as light blue lines on Fig 2b) would appear to have been associated with this activity. Underlying this activity is evidence of possible palaeochannels – former courses of the river which have silted up, which are delimited in green on Fig 2b.

The SMR entry for the cropmarks refers to two square and one D-shaped enclosure. These were interpreted as possible fishponds or features associated with the construction of the Newport Pagnell-Olney Railway. However, the form and spacing is similar to the settlements identified as Archaeological Zones 1 and 4, suggesting that they may be Roman or earlier.

2.4 Aerial Photographs

The aerial photographs define the enclosures of **SMR 420** described in the previous section. A distinct area of differential crop growth is visible in the vicinity of the junction of the farm track with the Gayhurst Road (Fig 2b). This corresponds to a marked depression, which extends into the adjacent field. This appears to correspond to an outcrop of limestone, possibly defining an area of infilled quarrying.

3 FIELD ARTEFACT COLLECTION

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of field artefact collection (field-walking) is to systematically recover a collection of artefacts from the surface of land under arable cultivation. Significant clusters of material ploughed up from buried archaeological sites, are likely to be indicative of past human occupation or other activity. The results of such a survey can be used in the targeting of investigative techniques.

3.2 Method Statement

The field artefact collection was confined to the area adjacent to the existing trackway and its proposed extension to the plant site. The area of the plant site beyond the initial Study Area had been affected by recent flooding and was covered by a deposit of alluvium. Field-walking was not undertaken in this area as the deposit would mask any artefacts. To compensate for the potential loss of data in this area additional trenching was designated.

The method involved walking two transects set 3m and 12m into the field from the existing road, and 10m apart along the course of the proposed new section. Starting 30m north-east of the field gate, beyond an area of modern disturbance, the two transects were walked in c.100m sections. The north-east to south-west segment of the road was covered by three 100m sections and 80m for the northern limit, up to a manure heap. The south-east to north-west portion was commenced 60m south-east of the corner due to the manure heap and continued 100m alongside the existing road and 120m along the course of the proposed new section. All artefacts (apart from definite post-medieval objects) observed within 1m either side of each transect were collected and their location recorded.

Field-walking was undertaken on the 4th May 2001, during a period of dry, bright weather. Conditions for observation of artefacts on the field surface were good. The ground was well-weathered ploughed ground with a crop just spouting.

Due to the quantity of modern ferrous and non-ferrous debris adjacent to the track, a metal detector survey was considered to be unsuitable. The detector survey of the main area had provided little useful information in identifying areas of archaeological remains.

3.3 Artefact Assemblage

3.3.1 Introduction

All material considered to be humanly made was retrieved, although debris of an obviously modern nature was ignored as far as possible. Artefacts were cleaned, weighed, and quantified by artefact type and date. This resulting information was entered into an Access database and used for plotting the survey results as dot-density distributions (Figs 2a, 3 and 4).

3.3.2 Flint

Worked flint comprises two struck flakes, weighing 8g. Both retain traces of cortex, and have sustained edge damage characteristic of a plough zone assemblage.

3.3.3 Pottery

A total of thirteen datable pottery sherds was recovered, ranging in date from the Belgic Iron Age to post-medieval periods. Diagnostic pottery fabrics were classified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, and are summarised below in chronological order (Table 1). Most sherds are small (average sherd weight 9g), too small to allow the form of the vessel to be identified. All sherds are abraded, indicating they had been present in the ploughsoil for a considerable time.

Fabric Type	Common Name	Sherd No : Weight
Late Belgic Iron Age *(15% total assemblage)*	***c.* BC 100-AD 50**	**2:25**
Type F06C	Coarse grog	
Type F09	Grog and Sand	
Roman *(61% total assemblage)*	***c.* AD 43-400**	**8:73**
Type R06B	Coarse greyware	
Type R06C	Fine greyware	
Type R13	Shell	
Type R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	
Medieval *(15% total assemblage)*	***c.* AD 1100-1500**	**2:18**
Type C10	Potterspury	
Post-medieval *(9% total assemblage)*	***c.* AD 1500+**	**1:3**
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	

Table 1: Pottery Type Series

3.4 Artefact Distribution

3.4.1 Introduction

Two scatters of artefacts were recovered (Fig 2a), comprising a low density, mixed assemblage near the Gayhurst Road. A second scatter of material was recovered from the area near the cropmarks of **SMR 420**. This contained a larger number of artefacts, the majority of which were dated to the late Iron Age/ Roman period.

3.4.2 Prehistoric

The two flint artefacts were recovered near junction with Gayhurst Road. They form part of a low density, mixed assemblage, which may be redeposited, in an area affected by later disturbance. The distribution is not considered to be significant.

3.4.3 Pre-medieval

Majority of pottery sherds (10) from both scatters range in date from the Late Iron Age to 4th century AD. Two sherds were recovered from the scatter near the Gayhurst Road, with the majority of pottery sherds being recovered from the area adjacent to the cropmarks of **SMR 420,** in the vicinity of the bridge abutment.

3.4.4 Medieval

Two sherds of medieval pottery where recovered from the area by the bridge abutment. The dispersed distribution of these artefacts suggests that they may be the result of manuring.

3.4.5 Post-medieval

A sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the mixed assemblage, close to the Gayhurst Road.

3.5 Summary

The results of the field-walking survey suggest that late Iron Age to Romano-British activity is focused towards the river, in the vicinity of the cropmark site **SMR 420**. The undated cropmarks enclosures are situated beyond the Study Area, downslope from the existing track. The mixed assemblage of material close to the Gayhurst Road would appear to be the product of recent disturbance.

4 TRIAL EXCAVATION

4.1 Introduction

The trial trench layout utilised the results of the non-intrusive stages of the evaluation. A total of eight trial trenches were opened, numbered 39-46, which continued the numbering sequence of the initial evaluation (Fig 2a). Both of the scatters of artefacts were investigated by trenches as was the linear cropmark, which crossed the Study Area. To compensate for the absence of field-walking data from the proposed plant site, due to the recent deposition of alluvium during flooding, three trenches were opened in this area. The trial excavation was undertaken between 21st and 25th of May 2001.

The Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer: Mr Giggins, visited the site on the 22nd May, to inspect the trenches. Mr Giggins indicated his satisfaction with the nature and scope of the work. During the visit Mr Giggins requested that Trench 41 was lengthened to fully reveal a feature and that Trench 45, was widened to further investigate a recut ditch, prior to backfilling the trenches. The results of the trial trenching are shown in Figs 3-5.

4.2 Method Statement

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* have been adhered to. Also those standards outlined in the BCAS *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (1996), the IFA Code of Conduct and English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) were adhered to.

Appendix 1 defines the main objectives of the individual trenches. The main points with regard to the trial excavation methodology were as follows:

- All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist and was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or clean natural deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- If archaeological features were identified during the machining, the trench was planned immediately to avoid problems associated with water inundation.
- The spoil tips and any archaeological features were scanned for artefacts. Artefacts recovered from spoil tips were assigned to the relevant context number for the trench.
- Recording took place on pro-forma sheets.
- All archaeological deposits were recorded using a unique recording number continuing the sequence of the initial evaluation, starting at 3900.
- Each trench was issued a unique block of recording numbers in a continuous sequence. Therefore feature [3903], a ditch, is located in Trench 39, context (4104), the fill of a ditch, is located in Trench 41, etc.

- The trenches were inspected by the Archaeological Officer, prior to being backfilled.

Numbers in brackets within the text refer to the context numbers issued on site. Within this report contexts numbers referring to cut features are expressed [**], infilling deposits or layers are expressed (**). Appendix 2 provides a summary of all the contexts assigned during the investigation.

4.3 Results of the Trial Excavation

4.3.1 Introduction

The results of the trial excavation will be discussed with reference to the proposed access route and the plant site. The archaeological remains within the access route can be further subdivided into the segment joining the Gayhurst Road and the perpendicular segment, which runs parallel to the river.

4.3.2 The Access Route: Gayhurst Road segment

4.3.2.1 Introduction

Two trenches (39 and 40) were opened adjacent to the north-east to south-west segment of the existing track, (See Appendix 1 and Fig 3). These trenches were to investigate the area where it is proposed to widen the track. The land gradually slopes down from the Gayhurst Road towards the river.

4.3.2.2 Overburden

The ploughsoil (3900, 4000) increased in thickness from c.0.3 to 0.45m towards the river. Below this was a subsoil layer interpreted as possible colluvium (3901, 4001). The colluvium was not present in the south-west part of Trench 39, though it was identified down slope, being 0.1m thick at the northern end of the trench. This deposit increased to 0.3m thick towards the river. Colluvium is unstable material which had eroded downslope. This often occurs when the ground is broken, such as during ploughing. The exposed ground can then easily be eroded, by natural agencies such as wind and water.

4.3.2.3 Archaeological features

A post-medieval ditch and two areas of possible post-medieval quarrying were revealed in the trenches. Following consultation with Mr Giggins it was agreed not to investigate these features. Trench 39 contained a ditch and a quarry. The ditch [3903] was visible immediately below the ploughsoil, oriented roughly north-west to south-east 2.7m wide, with possible evidence of recutting. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill. Quarry [3907] contained brick rubble. The other possible quarry [4002] was less well defined, though no further investigation was possible due to the presence of a land drain.

4.3.2.4 Natural strata

The natural gravel (3902) (4004) varied considerably, with bands of sand being present.

4.3.3 Access Route: River segment

4.3.3.1 Introduction

In the north-west where the existing track turns to run parallel to the river, it is located on the top of a pronounced ridge which slopes away gradually to the south-east, becoming imperceptible in the vicinity of the bridge abutment. On the lower ground towards the river, cropmarks **SMR 420** define a series of enclosures. Three trenches were opened in this area (see Fig 4 and Appendix 1). Trench 41 examined an area where the existing track was to be widened, with Trenches 42 and 43 examining the proposed extension. During the course of the evaluation it became necessary to extend Trench 41 by 2m.

4.3.3.2 Overburden

The ploughsoil was between 0.35 and 0.4m thick, decreasing slightly to the south-east. Below this was distinctive orange brown sandy silty gravel, which is interpreted as colluvium (4101, 4201 and 4301). This was thickest in Trench 41 at 0.6m decreasing in the south-east to 0.2m. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit. This deposit sealed the archaeological features.

4.3.3.3 Archaeological features

Four ditches were revealed in Trenches 41 and 42, with no archaeology being present in Trench 43, east of the bridge abutment. The ditches were all sealed by the colluvium, being at least 0.65m below the present ground level, with the tops of the ditches in Trench 41 being at least 0.8m below ground. The ditches were at least 0.7 to 1.4m wide and between 0.17 and 0.7m deep. The profiles were generally U-shaped to concave (Fig 6 sections 1), though one ditch [4202] had a more V-shaped profile (Fig 6 section 2; Fig 8 photo 4). Ditch [4202] almost certainly corresponds to the linear cropmark visible on aerial photographs. Two ditches [4202] and [4103] contained significant quantities of pottery in their fills. The pottery from [4103] and a lesser quantity from [4105] indicates an Iron Age date, with [4202] containing Roman pottery. The two ditches in Trench 41 would appear to be associated based on their perpendicular alignment. The presence of charcoal and animal bone from several ditch fills would suggest occupation activity occurred in the vicinity.

4.3.3.4 Natural strata

A light to mid red/orange brown sandy gravel.

4.3.4 Plant site

4.3.4.1 Introduction

In the absence of field-walking data, three trenches (44, 45 and 46) were positioned to investigate the archaeological potential of the area. This identified a concentration of features comprising pits and ditches, which appear to be confined to the northern part towards the river.

4.3.4.2 Overburden

The ploughsoil varied from 0.3 to 0.4m thick. This was above a light to mid red brown colluvial deposit (4401, 4501 and 4601) generally 0.3-0.35m thick, which sealed the archaeology.

4.3.4.3 Archaeological features

A concentration of features comprising pits and ditch segments were revealed towards the northern limits of the three trenches. The remainder of the trenches were archaeologically sterile.

4.3.4.3.1 Ditches

Four linear features were identified, with evidence of recutting in Trench 45, suggesting that this served a boundary function (Fig 7 photo 2). This boundary may have continued as [4606] (Fig 7 photo 1) to the south-east. The short slot [4404] may be a continuation of the ditched boundary, based on the alignment. The ditches ranged between c.0.5 and 1.28m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.52m. Generally, the ditches had concave forms (Fig 6 section 5). No artefacts were recovered from the ditch fills, though several contained charcoal flecks.

4.3.4.3.2 Pits

A total of three pits were identified, ranging in size from a substantial possible storage pit [4407] greater than 1m wide and 0.53m deep (Fig 6 section 3; Fig 8 photo 3) to [4506] 1m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig 6 section 4). The second pit in this trench was truncated by the recut boundary ditch, indicating a sequence of activity. Several sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from [4506]. All of the pit fills contained charcoal flecks.

4.3.4.4 Natural strata

The sandy gravel natural was generally c.0.7m below the present ground level.

4.4 Artefact Assemblage

4.4.1 Introduction

The trial excavations produced an artefactual assemblage comprising mainly pottery and animal bone (Table 2). All artefacts collected were processed in accordance with the *Brief* and *Project Design* for the initial evaluation. The material was scanned to ascertain the nature, condition and where possible, the date range of the artefact types present.

Tr.	Context	Feature	Type	Spotdate	Pottery	CBM	Animal Bone	Other Finds
39	3904	3903	Ditch	Post-medieval	1:24	1:20		
41	4104	4103	Ditch	Belgic Iron Age	5:200		1:10	
	4106	4105	Ditch	Belgic Iron Age	2:68			
42	4203	4202	Ditch	Roman	9:128		7:738	
44	4400	4400	Topsoil	-				Flint blade & flake (6g)
	4408	4407	Storage pit	Iron Age	4:3			
45	4507	4506	Pit	Early-middle Iron Age	9:99			Fired clay (20g)
46	4600	4600	Topsoil	-				Flint blade & blade core. (25g)
Totals					**30:522**	**1:20**	**8:748**	

CBM – ceramic building material

Table 2: Artefact Assemblage by Trench and Context (sherd no./frag count:wgt in grammes)

4.4.2 Ceramics

A total of thirty pottery sherds, weighing 522g was recovered. These were examined by context, and ten fabric types identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Where possible, a correlation with the published Milton Keynes Roman (Marney 1989) and post-Roman (Mynard 1991) type series has been added, represented by bracketed codes. Fabrics are listed below (Table 3) in approximate chronological order. Quantification was carried out using minimum sherd count and weight.

Fabric Type	Common Name	Comments	Sherd No
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)			
Type F28	Fine sand	Flat rim vessel	1
Type F03	Grog & sand	Flat rim vessel with finger tip decoration & diagonal combing/scoring on body	6
Type F	Non-specific Iron Age	Undiagnostic miscellaneous shelly	6
Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)			
Type F06C (Fabric 46)	Coarse Grog	Undiagnostic	6
Type F07 (Fabric 1a)	Shell	Undiagnostic	3
Type F09 (Fabric 46)	Sand & Grog	Undiagnostic	1
Roman (AD50-350)			
Type R06C (Fabric 3)	Fine greyware	Undiagnostic	2
Type R13 (Fabric 1a)	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	3
Type R	Non-specific Roman	Undiagnostic	1
Post-Medieval (AD1500-1750)			
Type P01 (PM8)	Fine glazed red earthenware	Undiagnostic	1

NOTE: see Appendix 3 for details of pottery type by context

Table 3: Pottery Type Series

The pottery dates predominantly to the early-middle and Belgic Iron Age, with a small quantity of Roman material. The overall condition of the assemblage is good, comprising relatively unabraded, sizeable sherds (average sherd weight 17g).

The Access Route: Gayhurst Road segment

Ditch [3903] yielded a single undiagnostic sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware (type P01) and a small fragment (20g) of oxidised sand tempered brick or tile, likely to be of similar date.

The Access Route: River segment

Over 53% of the pottery assemblage derived from ditches [4103], [4105] and [4202], which yielded 200g, 68g and 128g respectively. Features [4103] and [4105] contained predominantly grog tempered sherds of Belgic Iron Age date, while [4202] contained a mixed assemblage of Iron Age and early Roman material. Several of the sherds from these features are externally sooted, indicating their use in a domestic capacity. Diagnostic forms are restricted to a shell tempered lid-seated jar (fabric R13).

Plant site

The incidence of early-middle Iron Age pottery is restricted to this area. Pits [4407] and [4506] yielded thirteen sherds, (102g), deriving from hand-made vessels in quartz and grog/quartz fabric types. Diagnostic forms comprise two flat rimmed vessels, one with fingertip decoration along the rim and diagonal scoring/combing on the body.

4.4.3 Non-Ceramics

Four unstratified pieces of worked flint, (two blades, a flake and a blade core), were recovered from Trenches 44 and 46. They are likely to be of mesolithic/early neolithic date, and suggest sporadic activity during the early prehistoric period.

4.4.4 Ecofacts

Eight fragments of animal bone, weighing 748g were recovered, the majority deriving from the fill of ditch [4202]. A single fragment was found in ditch [4103]. Diagnostic pieces comprise scapulae and long bones, some of which display cut marks. The assemblage survives in fair condition, with some surface erosion and post-depositional damage.

5 SYNTHESIS

The evaluation has expanded our knowledge of human activity in the upper Ouse valley. Evidence for this activity ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval. The main focus was situated on the lower land towards the river, with only post-medieval features being identified on the higher ground towards the Gayhurst Road. The evaluation has confirmed the existence of a known cropmark site and identified another area of previously unknown early-middle Iron Age activity. The enclosure system identified by cropmarks would appear to be more extensive than expected, continuing to the north of the track. This continuation is masked by thick overlying deposits up to 1m thick. The early Iron Age activity was located on relatively low lying land adjacent to Ash Spinney. These two discrete areas of activity will be discussed more fully below.

5.1 Belgic Iron Age/Romano-British activity adjacent to cropmark of SMR 420

The ditches in Trenches 41 and 42 would appear to be a continuation of the enclosures seen on the aerial photographs, with the excavated V-shaped ditch [4202] corresponding to the linear cropmark. Dateable artefacts from this ditch indicate that at least some of the enclosures are of Romano-British date. Belgic pottery from the ditches in Trench 41, suggest that the enclosures had an earlier origin. The presence of both pottery and animal bone would suggest human occupation occurred in the vicinity. These features were at least 0.8m below the present ground level. Although masked by colluvium, the cropmarks would appear to be visible as the ditch fills retained moisture resulting in the differential crop growth visible on the aerial photographs. It is possible that the enclosures are similar to those of Archaeological Zone 1 of the initial evaluation, indicating a densely settled landscape in the late Iron Age to Romano-British period.

5.2 Early-middle Iron Age activity in the proposed plant site

The combined results of the initial evaluation results of Trenches 1-3 and the recent work indicate that archaeological remains earlier than the post-medieval are confined to the northern part of the plant site. This would appear to cover an area of approximately 0.12ha, comprising boundaries, with pits containing possible occupation debris. The features were c.0.6m below the present ground level. The location of the activity, situated on the lower ground, is similar to Archaeological Zone 4 identified in the initial evaluation towards Sherrington Bridge.

The post-medieval remains identified in the initial evaluation comprised boundaries that were not considered to be significant by the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1

DETAILS OF THE TRIAL TRENCHES

Trench number	Proposed length (m)	Reason for location
39	30	To investigate low intensity scatter of artefacts
40	30	To investigate 'blank' area
41	30	To investigate area in vicinity of cropmarks **SMR 420**
42	30	To investigate cropmark of **SMR 420** and pottery scatter
43	30	To investigate blank area of proposed extension to access route
44	30	To investigate proposed plant site
45	10	To investigate proposed plant site, near river
46	30	To investigate proposed plant site

APPENDIX 2

TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench: 39

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.3 m. **Max:** 0.55 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8707745915 **Ref. 2:** SP8709746040

Reason for trench: Widening of access route. To investigate low intensity scatter of artefacts.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3900	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small stones.	☑	☐
3901	Colluvium	Loose dark pinkish brown sandy gravel frequent small stones.	☑	☐
3902	Natural strata	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
3903	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 2.7m.**	☐	☐
3904	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones. This deposit was visible immediately below the ploughsoil. Distinctive stone-free band parrallel to northern edge.	☐	☑
3905	**Treethrow**	**Irregular .**	☐	☐
3906	Fill	Compact light pinkish brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
3907	**Quarry**	**Irregular dimensions: max breadth 5.m.**	☐	☐
3908	Fill	Loose light yellow green sandy silt moderate medium ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones. The unfrogged brick fragments were not retained.	☐	☐

Trench: 40

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.6 m. **Max:** 0.6 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8722546112 **Ref. 2:** SP8724246137

Reason for trench: Widening of access route. To investigate blank area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
4000	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones.	☑	☐
4001	Colluvium	Loose mid pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☑	☐
4002	**Quarry**	**Irregular dimensions: max length 11.m.**	☐	☐
4003	Fill	Loose dark pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
4004	Natural strata	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐

Trench: 41

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 32.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 1. m. **Max:** 1. m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8735746177 **Ref. 2:** SP8733046160

Reason for trench: **Widening of access route. To investigate area in vicinity of cropmarks SMR 420. Trench lengthened at request of MK Archaeological Officer.**

4100	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones.	☑	☐
4101	Colluvium	Loose mid pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☑	☐
4102	Natural strata	Compact light pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
4103	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.36m.**	☑	☐
4104	Fill	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☑	☑
4105	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.19m.**	☑	☐
4106	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☑	☑

Trench: 42

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.7 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8745546105 Ref. 2: SP8743046087

Reason for trench: Widening of access route. To investigate cropmark of SMR 420 and pottery scatter.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
4200	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones.	☑	☐
4201	Colluvium	Loose mid pinkish brown sandy silt frequent small stones.	☑	☐
4202	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.6m.**	☑	☐
4203	Fill	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones, occasional large stones.	☑	☑
4204	Natural strata	Compact light red brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
4205	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.1m.**	☑	☐
4206	Fill	Loose mid pinkish brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones.	☑	☐

Trench: 43

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.5 m. **Max:** 0.55 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8721246062 **Ref. 2:** SP8748246050

Reason for trench: To investigate blank area of proposed extension of access route.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
4300	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☑	☐
4301	Colluvium	Loose light red brown sandy gravel .	☑	☐
4302	Natural strata	Compact light red brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐

Trench: 44

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.75 m. **Max:** 0.75 m.

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** SP8753046047 **Ref. 2:** SP8753246015

Reason for trench: To investigate proposed plant site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
4400	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, frequent small stones.	☑	☑
4401	Colluvium	Loose mid red brown sandy silt frequent small stones.	☑	☐
4402	**Natural strata**	**Linear . Originally thought to be a feature, but investigation revealed it to be a variation in the natural**	☐	☐
4403	Natural strata	Firm mid pinkish brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
4404	**Slot**	**Sub-rectangular NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.18m, max length 2.m.**	☑	☐
4405	Fill	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones.	☑	☐
4406	Natural strata	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
4407	**Pit**	**Circular profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.16m, max depth 0.53m.**	☑	☐
4408	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☑	☑

Trench: 45

Max Dimensions: Length: 9.00 m. Width: 3.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.6 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8755046012 Ref. 2: SP8755546007

Reason for trench: To investigate proposed plant site, near river. Trench widened at request of MK Archaeological Officer.

4500	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones.	☑	☐
4501	Colluvium	Loose light red brown sandy gravel .	☑	☐
4502	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.28m, max depth 0.52m.**	☑	☐
4503	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones.	☑	☐
4504	**Pit**	**Circular dimensions: max breadth 1.m.**	☐	☐
4505	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
4506	**Pit**	**Circular profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.2m, max length 1.06m.**	☑	☐
4507	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☑	☑
4508	Natural strata	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐
4509	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.24m, max depth 0.32m, min length 3.5m. Probably continues as [4511]**	☑	☐
4510	Fill	Loose mid pinkish brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones.	☑	☐
4511	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.33m, min length 4.75m. Probable continuation of [4509]**	☐	☐
4512	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones.	☐	☐

Trench: 46

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.6 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8758546010 Ref. 2: SP8760245975

Reason for trench: To investigate proposed plant site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
4600	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small stones.	☑	☑
4601	Colluvium	Loose light red brown sandy gravel .	☑	☐
4602	**Land drain**	**Linear NE-SW .**	☐	☐
4603	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
4604	**Land drain**	**Linear NE-SW .**	☐	☐
4605	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt .	☐	☐
4606	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.26m.**	☑	☐
4607	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones.	☑	☐
4608	Natural strata	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel .	☐	☐

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY TYPE BY CONTEXT

Spotdate	Fabric	Common name	Context	Sherd No.	Weight (g)
Iron Age	F	Non-specific Iron Age	4507	2	11
Iron Age	F	Non-specific Iron Age	4408	4	3
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)	F03	Grog and sand	4507	6	83
Early/Middle Iron Age (650-350BC)	F28	Fine sand	4507	1	5
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F06C	Coarse Grog	4106	2	68
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F07	Shell	4104	2	20
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F09	Sand and Grog	4104	1	5
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F06C	Coarse Grog	4104	2	175
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F07	Shell	4203	1	3
Late Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)	F06C	Coarse Grog	4203	2	24
Roman (AD50-350)	R	Non-specific Roman	4203	1	33
Roman (AD50-350)	R06C	Fine greyware	4203	2	43
Roman (AD50-350)	R13	Shelly	4203	3	25
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P01	Glazed Red Earthenware	3904	1	24

APPENDIX 4: CO-ORDINATES OF ARTEFACTS AND FEATURES

Co-ordinates of artefacts recovered during field-walking

Bag Number	Artefact type	Easting	Northing
904	LIA/ Early Roman pottery	48710600	24593200
908	Flint scraper	48705800	24585600
913	Roman pottery	48706400	24586400
914	Flint flake	48707400	24590400
916	Post Med pottery	48710200	24594200
920	Med pottery	48736100	24614200
921	Roman pottery	48736400	24612000
922	Roman pottery	48742200	24611400
923	Roman pottery	48741800	24610300
924	Roman pottery	48741900	24610200
925	LIA/ Early Roman pottery	48742200	24610000
926	Roman pottery	48744200	24608400
927	Roman pottery	48744200	24608400
928	Roman pottery	48746000	24608300
930	Med pottery	48752000	24603800

Co-ordinates of archaeological features revealed during the evaluation

Feature/s	Description	Easting	Northing
Trench 39	Post med activity (centred at)	48708781	24592441
Trench 41	Ditches	48735500	24616000
Cut [4202]	Roman Ditch	48743400	24610550
Cut [4205]	Ditch	48744200	24608400
Trench 44	Pit and ditch	48753810	24603983
Trench 45	Iron Age activity	48756201	24603124
Cut [4606]	Ditch	48759090	24600230

FIGURES

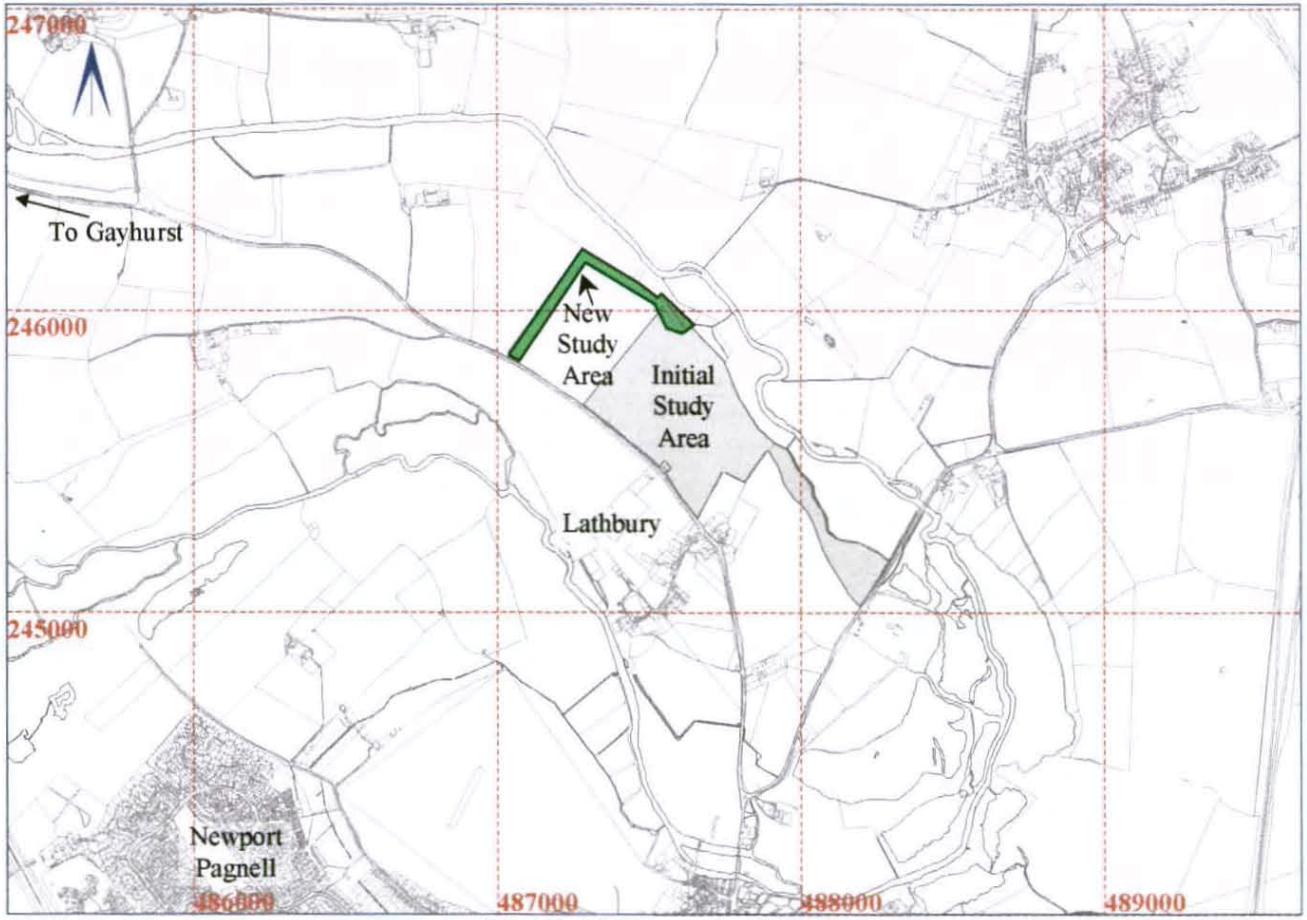


Fig. 1: Site Location Plan.

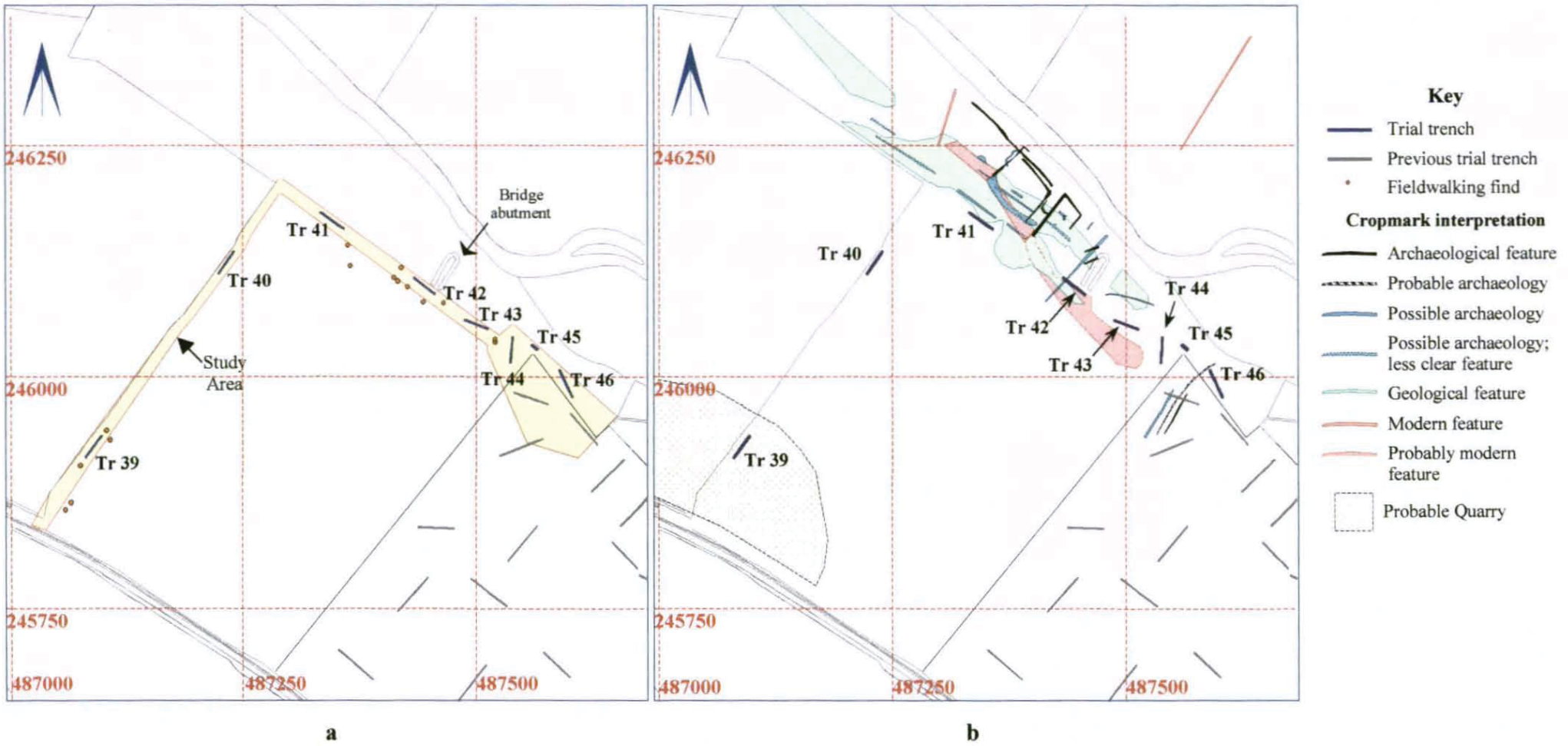


Fig. 2: Location of trenches relative to **a:** field artefact collection and **b:** cropmarks.

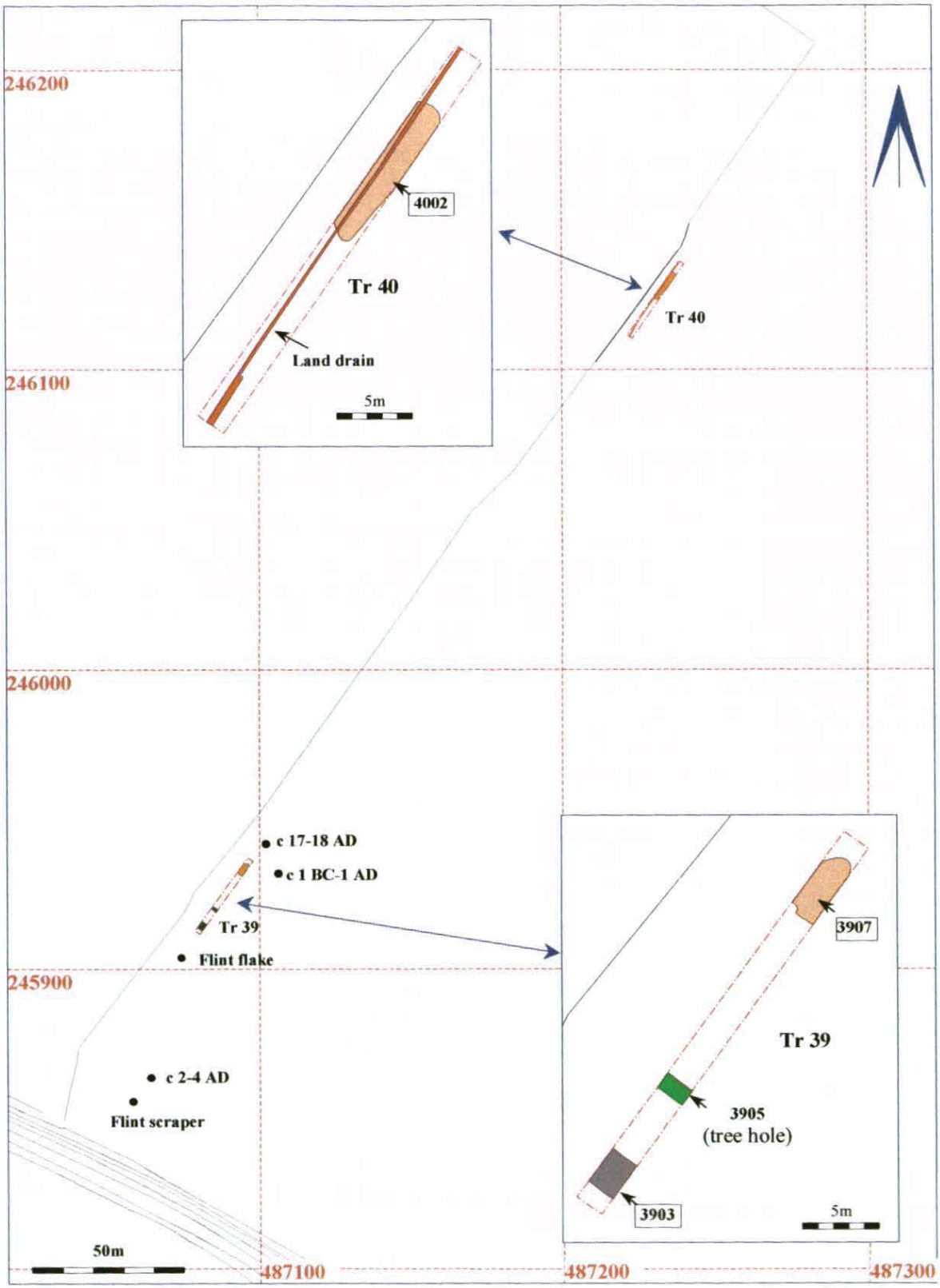


Fig. 3: Archaeological features in Trenches 39 and 40, with field artefact collection.

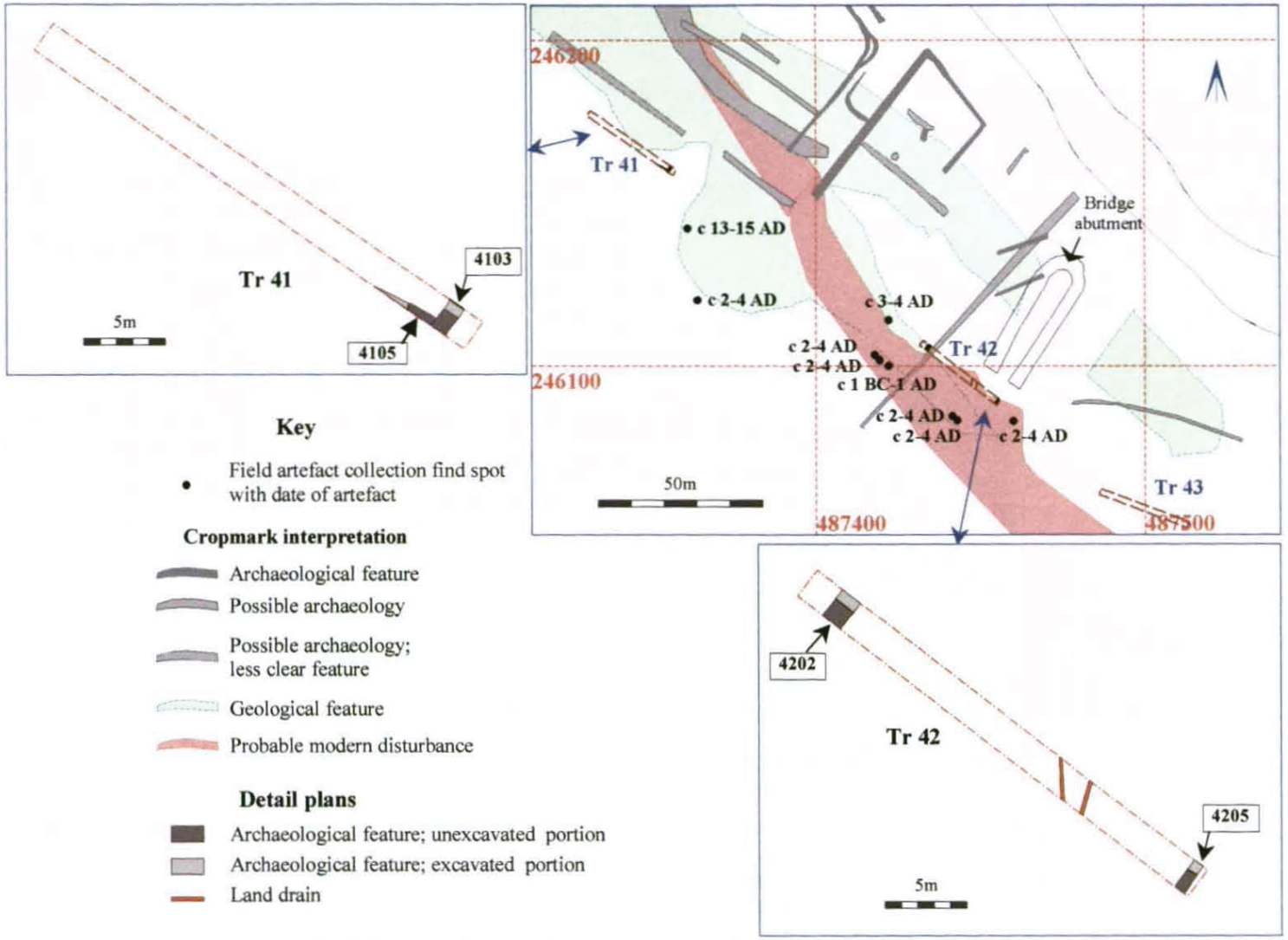


Fig. 4: Archaeological features in Trenches 41 to 43 with cropmarks and field artefact collection.

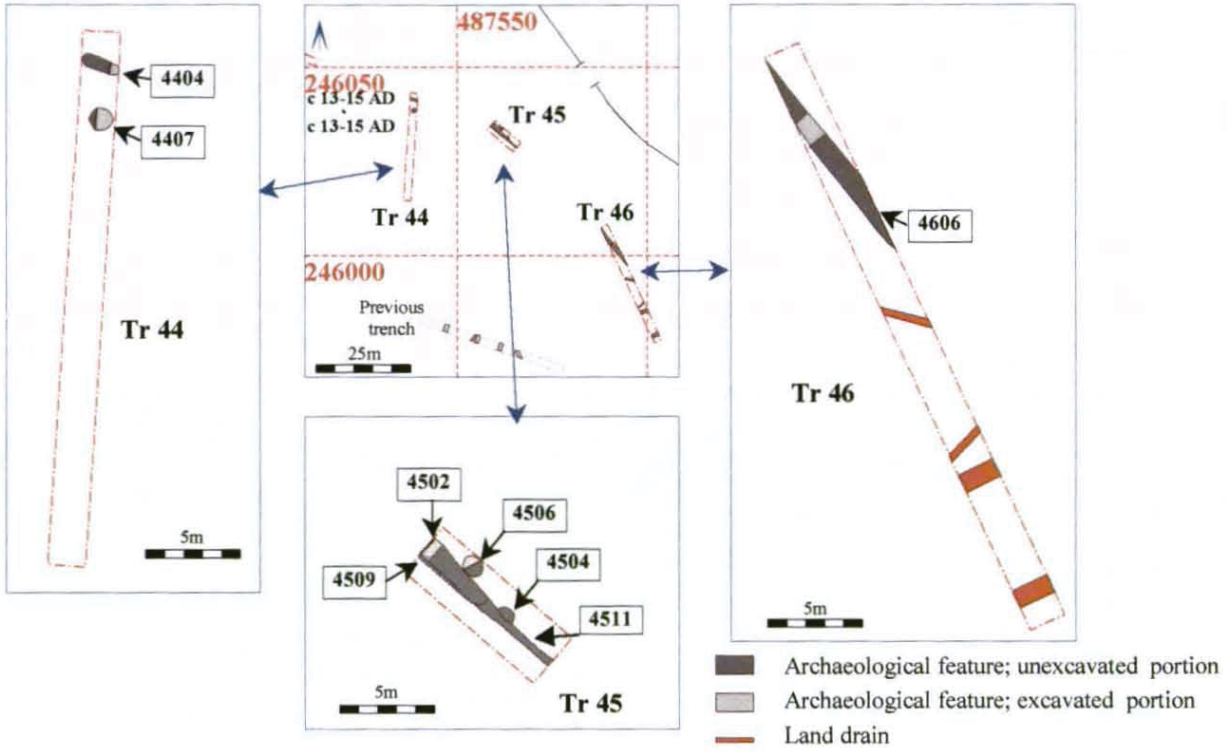


Fig. 5: Archaeological features in Trenches 44-46.

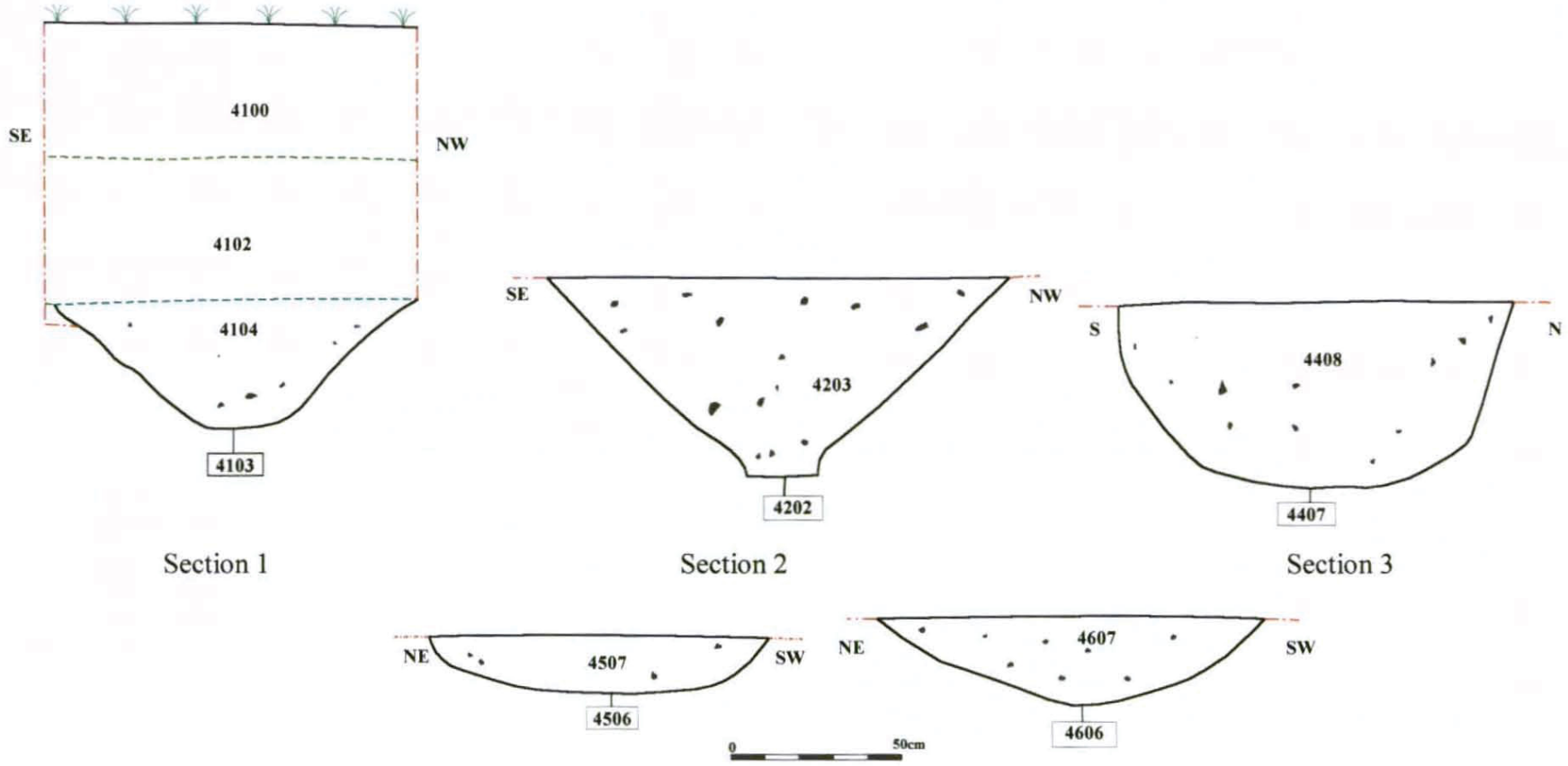
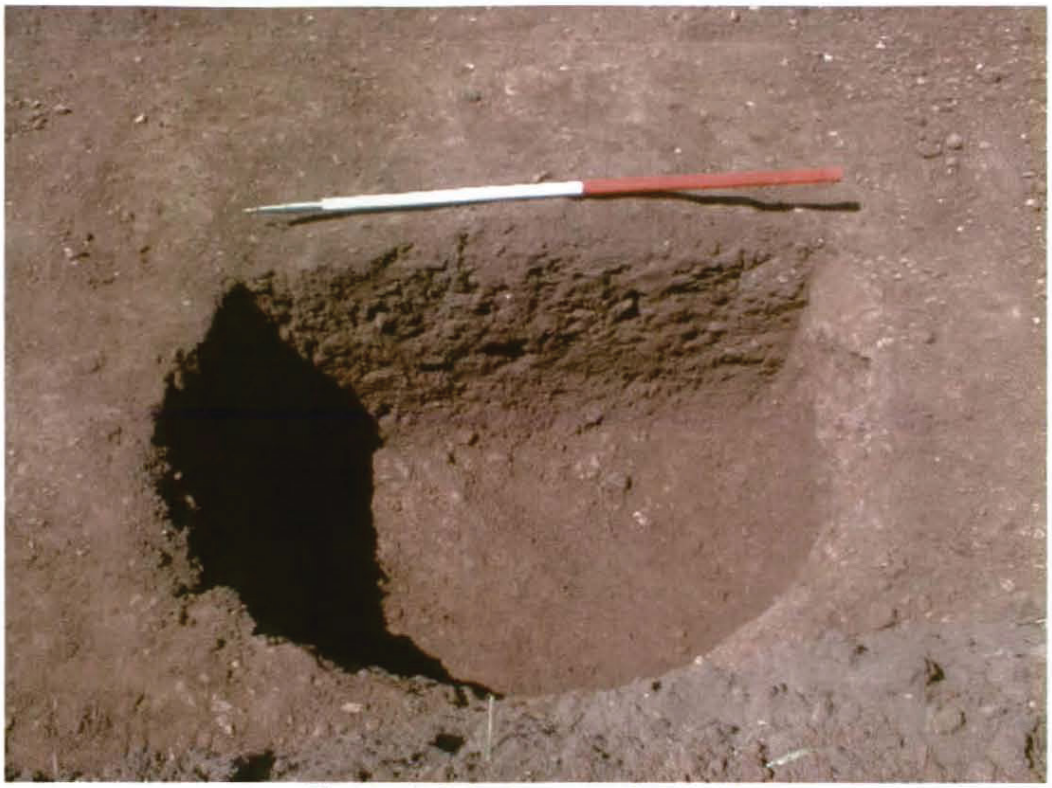


Fig. 6: Selected sections.

Photograph 1: Trench 46 showing ditch [4606]

Photograph 2: Trench 45

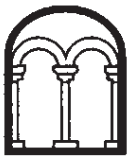
Fig. 7



Photograph 3: Storage pit [4407]

Photograph 4: Roman ditch [4202]

Fig. 8



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