

Land at Wilburton Cambridgeshire (Mereham New Community)



Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase II) Trenches 15-22 & 24



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Land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (Mereham New Community)

NGR TL 489 730

**Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Resource
Number : ECB 2329**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT PHASE II (TRENCHES 15-22 & 24)

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SUMMARY

In September 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a second phase of field evaluation of land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (centred NGR TL 489 730), on behalf of CgMs Consulting. This completed the evaluation started in July 2006 which was halted due to issues over access. An additional trench (24) was also excavated at the request of Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council. The evaluation trenches were targeted at anomalies revealed by geophysical survey and the whole exercise formed part of a phased programme of evaluation for the site.

The evaluation revealed a possibly late Iron Age farmstead which continued and expanded through to the late Roman period at the west of the development area, as well as prehistoric and middle/late Anglo-Saxon activity

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This report is an *addendum* to *Land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (Mereham New Community)*. *Archaeological Evaluation Report* undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (OA) in 2006 (OA 2007) which contains the background information for the project. Reference may be made to the interim report *Land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (Mereham New Community) interim archaeological evaluation report (phase II)trenches 15-22 & 24 (OA 2007)* This report supersedes the interim report.
- 1.1.2 In September 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a second phase of field evaluation of land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 489 730) on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The development site is c. 300 ha in extent and is bounded to the east by the A10, to the south by the River Great Ouse, to the west by the B1049 and to the north by the A1123 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.3 An outline planning application was submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council for a New Community development in 2005 and this evaluation forms part of the process to establish the archaeological implications of the development.
- 1.1.4 No archaeological brief was issued for the evaluation. A *Specification* for Archaeological Field Evaluation was prepared by Paul Chadwick and Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Multiplex Stanifer and their planning consultants, Barton Willmore (CgMs May 2006). CgMs appointed OA to carry out the evaluation trenching work.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by OA to meet requirements in the *Specification*. A total of twenty-three trenches were proposed in this phase of work. OA carried out a walkover survey of the site prior to work commencing (OA 2006).

1.2 Location and scope of work

- 1.2.1 During September 2007, OA carried out the second phase of field evaluation of land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (centred NGR TL 489 730) on behalf of CgMs Consulting. This consisted of 8 trenches 15-22 and an additional trench 24 excavated at the request of Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council.

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 OA extends its thanks to Mr Chris Attle for access to the land, CgMs Consulting for providing site data and plans. Pete Gann, Mark Woodley and Lee Sparks were supervised on-site by Kate Wheaton of OA. The project was managed by OA's Tim Haines, monitoring was undertaken by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting and Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council.

1.4 Scope of fieldwork

- 1.4.1 The evaluation consisted of eight trenches, (15-22) and an additional trench (24) (Fig 2a and b. The trenches varied in length between 20 and 50 m. Trench 16 was moved 10 m west to avoid a maize covert and trench 20 was moved 10 m north to avoid a paddock fence.

1.5 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 1.5.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 1.5.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson 1992).

1.6 Finds

- 1.6.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

1.7 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 1.7.1 Environmental samples were taken from nine features/deposits in order to analyse the potential for charred remains and smaller artefacts on the site.

2 RESULTS: GENERAL

2.1 Distribution of archaeological deposits

2.1.1 Archaeological features and deposits were observed in all trenches except trench 17. The preservation of features varied with truncation due to ploughing, being more pronounced in trenches 15 and 16.

3 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

3.1 Trench descriptions

Trench 15 - Fig. 3

- 3.1.1 Trench 15 measured 20 m x 2.5 m and was orientated north-east/south-west.
- 3.1.2 A light greyish brown sandy clay natural (1503) was overlain by a dark orange-brown silty sand subsoil (1502). This was overlain by 1501, a dark greyish-brown silty sand ploughsoil.
- 3.1.3 The earliest feature (1505), a shallow north-west to south-east linear 0.8 m wide and 0.2 m deep, contained a single fill (1505) producing prehistoric pottery. The feature was truncated by a ceramic land drain.
- 3.1.4 Feature 1506, a north-east to south-west ditch 1.56 m wide and 0.7 m deep, contained a single dark greyish-blue silty clay fill (1507) which contained pottery of the middle Iron Age and a copper alloy spearhead of Bronze Age date. Ditch 1506 was truncated on its north-east edge by 1508 a shallow ditch 0.54 m wide and 0.25 m deep on a similar alignment which contained a single dark brown silty clay undated fill (1509).
- 3.1.5 A possible ditch terminus (1510) was orientated north-west to south-east and terminated in a bulbous end 1.45 m wide and 0.4 m deep. The feature contained a single mid-brown silty clay fill (1511) which was undated.
- 3.1.6 A further angular feature (1512) extended outside the limits of the trench and was 0.78 m wide and 0.4 m deep. It contained an undated dark grey silty clay fill (1513).
- 3.1.7 Generally features were orientated north-west to south-east and consisted of linears possibly associated with low density prehistoric settlement activity. Correlation with the geophysical plots was poor and significantly more archaeology was observed.

Trench 16 - Fig. 4

- 3.1.8 Trench 16 measured 60 m x 2.5 m and was orientated east-west. The trench was moved 10 m west at Mr Attle's request to avoid a maize covert. Archaeology was confined to the eastern c 20 m of the trench.
- 3.1.9 The natural (1602/1643), a light greyish brown sandy-clay, was overlain by a dark orange-brown silty sand subsoil (1602). This was overlain by 1601, a dark greyish brown silty sand ploughsoil.

- 3.1.10 A north-south aligned ditch (1603), 0.55 m wide and 0.21 m deep, contained a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (1604), from which was recovered pottery of early to late Romano-British date.
- 3.1.11 A similarly orientated cut (1609), 1.88 m wide and 0.84 m deep, contained a single orange-brown silty clay undated fill (1638). Pit 1607, 0.47 m wide and 0.39 m deep, truncated 1609 to the east and contained a black sandy silt fill (1635) which produced early to middle Iron Age pottery. Pit (1607) was truncated by a north-south aligned ditch cut (1608) which contained the greyish brown silty-clay fill (1637) producing pottery of the middle Iron Age. Ditch 1608 was truncated to the east by a north-south aligned linear (1605), 0.74 m wide and 0.42 m deep. This ditch contained two fills, the light yellowish-brown clay primary fill (1634) being overlain by a yellowish-brown silty-clay fill (1606). No dating evidence was recovered from either of these fills. To the west 1608 was truncated by another north-south orientated linear (1636), 0.62 m wide and 0.24 m deep, containing a single orange-brown silty clay undated fill (1610).
- 3.1.12 Another north-south linear (1611), 1.56 m wide and 0.26 m deep, contained a greyish-brown silty clay fill (1612) which yielded late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery.
- 3.1.13 A broad shallow ditch (1613), 2.6 m wide and 0.3 m deep, contained a mid-brown silty clay primary fill (1614) and a dark brownish-grey silty clay secondary fill (1633), the later producing middle Iron Age pottery. Ditch (1613) was truncated at its eastern edge by a parallel ditch (1631), 0.68 m wide and 0.16 m deep. The sole dark brownish grey silty clay fill (1632) contained pottery of early to middle Iron Age date.
- 3.1.14 A north-west to south-east aligned linear (1625/1621), 2.3 m wide and 0.55 m deep contained a single greyish brown silty clay fill (1626) which yielded pottery of late middle Iron Age to late Iron Age date. Ditch (1625/1621) was truncated by pit 1628, 0.6 m across and 0.2 m deep, containing a dark greyish brown silty clay undated fill (1629). Ditch re-cut (?) 1630, 1.85 m wide and 0.41 m deep, truncated the ditch and pit and contained a single dark greyish brown/black silty clay fill (1622) which produced middle Iron Age pottery.
- 3.1.15 A possible cremation vessel (1644) was observed within fill 1642. The vessel was truncated so that only the base remained *in situ*, disintegrated upon lifting. For stratigraphic purposes the possible cremation was given arbitrary cut number (1641) and cut backfill number of 1642. Burnt bone was retrieved from 1642.
- 3.1.16 A ceramic land drain (1615) cut obliquely across the trench truncating several features.
- 3.1.17 To the west of the archaeological features a geological feature (1623) was filled by 1624.
- 3.1.18 This trench contained nineteen features containing pottery dated to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Correlation with the geophysical plot was good although there was significantly more archaeology observed during excavation than was expected. Features were limited to the eastern end of the trench and included mainly north-south orientated ditches. Features were generally shallow, the deepest being 0.6 m

and probably represented significant truncation due to ploughing. A single possible cremation vessel (1644) was truncated so that only its base remained.

Trench 17 - not illustrated

3.1.19 Trench 17 measured 20 m x 2.5 m and was orientated east-west. No features or finds were identified in the trench. Natural sand (1703) was sealed by a layer of orange-brown clay silt subsoil (1702). A thick dark grey-brown clay silt ploughsoil (1701) overlay this.

Trench 18 - Fig. 5

3.1.20 Trench 18 measured 30 m x 2.5 m and was orientated east-west.

3.1.21 The clay sand natural (1803) was overlain by a dark orange-brown clay sand subsoil (1802). This was overlain by a dark greyish-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1801)

3.1.22 North-south aligned ditch 1806, 3.4 m wide and 0.8 m deep, had a smoothed “W” profile and may represent two cuts. However, no differentiation could be made in the fill of this feature which contained a dark greyish-brown clay sand fill (1807) producing pottery of late Bronze Age to Romano-British date. To the east, “V”-shaped ditch 1808, 5 m wide and 0.85 m deep, was seen. The up-cast from this ditch, a dark orange-brown silty-sand (1818), formed a bank to the west between the two ditches. The bank (1818) was overlain by dark orange-brown clay sand undated deposit (1815). Overlying 1815, dark greyish-brown clay sand fill 1809 contained pottery ranging from the late Iron Age to early Romano-British period. Fill 1809 was overlain by light orange-brown sandy clay fill 1816. Fill 1816 was overlain by dark greyish-brown clay sand undated fill 1817.

3.1.23 The two parallel ditches are clearly seen on the geophysical plot. They can be interpreted as a main double ditched enclosure and can both be dated to the early Roman period, although some residual late Bronze Age to late Iron Age pottery was present within the assemblage. The two ditches appear to be separated by a buried soil horizon which was only seen in section. This deposit may have resulted from the up-cast from (1808).

3.1.24 A further north-south aligned curvilinear ditch (1810), 0.6 m wide and 0.32 m deep contained a single dark orange-brown silty sand fill (1811) producing late Iron Age pottery.

3.1.25 A smaller north-south aligned linear (1804), 0.8 m wide, was observed in the western end of trench 18. This can be seen on the geophysical plot, and appears to be part of a smaller rectangular enclosure ditch, which may be provisionally interpreted as Roman as it has similar characteristics to 1806 and 1808.

3.1.26 The two main enclosure ditches dating to the early Roman period can be seen on the geophysical plot. They appear to surround a possible small settlement or farmstead. A smaller enclosure ditch that has remained unexcavated but is on the same alignment to the other two main ditches forms part of a smaller rectangular enclosure and possibly a north-south trackway with the western enclosure ditch (1806). The late Iron Age north-south shallow linear (1810) may be interpreted as a possible sub field boundary.

Trench 19 - Fig. 6

- 3.1.27 Trench 19 measured 30 m x 2 m and was orientated east-west.
- 3.1.28 The natural orange-brown sand (1903) was overlain by a greyish brown sandy clay subsoil (1902), in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1901).
- 3.1.29 Possible pit 1929, 0.25 m wide and 0.21 m deep contained a single orange-brown silty sand undated fill (1930) and was truncated to the east by north-south linear 1926 0.76 m wide and 0.4 m deep. Ditch 1926 contained orange-brown silty sand undated fill (1937). To the east ditch 1950 was 1.52 m wide and 0.7 m deep. This ditch contained fill 1951, an orange-brown silty-sand. This fill was cut by ditch re-cut (1931), 0.7 m wide and 0.56 m deep, containing fill 1932, a greyish-brown silty sand. Ditches 1931 and 1936 were truncated by ditch re-cut 1933, 0.8 m wide and 0.62 m deep, containing undated fill 1934, a dark greyish-brown silty-sand.
- 3.1.30 Due to complications with the site recording finds retrieved from 1932, 1934 and 1937 were allocated numbers 1926 and 1921, which contained pottery of early to middle Iron Age date.
- 3.1.31 The “V”-shaped ditch 1906, 0.6 m wide and 0.22 m deep, contained a dark brown silty sand fill (1907). The shallow “U”-shaped ditch 1908, 1.1 m wide and 0.26 m deep, contained a dark orange-brown silty sand fill (1909) from which produced pottery of middle Iron Age date. The most eastern ditch 1910, 0.48 m wide and 0.21 m deep, contained dark greyish-brown silty-sand fill (1911). The relationships of these features were not revealed through sample excavation.
- 3.1.32 The east-north-east to west-south-west linear 1904, in excess of 1.1 m wide and 0.6 m deep, contained a single greyish brown silty sand fill (1905) which produced middle Iron Age pottery.
- 3.1.33 The parallel north-east to south-west linears 1912, 1.2 m wide and 0.32 m deep, and 1946, 0.9 m wide and 0.19 m deep, contained respectively, light greyish brown silty sand fill (1913) producing Romano-British pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date, and a light greyish-brown silty-sand fill (1947).
- 3.1.34 A north-south ditch terminus or large pit 1922, 1.1m in diameter and 0.18m deep, contained a single dark greyish brown silty-sand fill (1923).
- 3.1.35 The north-south linear 1924, as seen, 0.45 m wide and 0.11 m deep, contained a single light greyish brown silty sand fill (1925).
- 3.1.36 The north-south ditch (1948) 0.45 m wide and 0.26 m deep contained a dark brown silty sand fill (1949).
- 3.1.37 The features within this trench were generally north-south or north-east to south-west linears which often inter-cut. The geophysical plot for this trench indicates that the trench is in the area of curvilinear features more associated with prehistoric settlement activity

than the later more regular Roman settlement form. Initial interpretation indicates that apparently later Roman features cut earlier prehistoric features.

- 3.1.38 Features 1904, 1914, 1920, 1922 and 1924 all seem to correlate with the geophysical plot. (1920) in particular appears to be the large curvilinear feature seen enclosing two rectangular features, the northern most one is represented by 1924.

Trench 20 - Fig. 7

- 3.1.39 Trench 20 measured 30 m x 2.5 m and was orientated north-south. This trench was moved 10 m north to avoid a paddock fence.
- 3.1.40 The natural orange brown sand (2003) was overlain by a greyish brown sandy clay subsoil (2002) which was overlain by a dark greyish brown sandy clay ploughsoil (2001).
- 3.1.41 The earliest feature a shallow pit 2017, 1.42 m in diameter and 0.28 m deep, contained a single dark orange-brown silty sand fill (2018) that produced late Bronze Age to late Iron Age pottery. The pit was truncated by the north-south ditch 2004/2023, 0.85 m wide and 0.34 m deep, which contained a dark greyish brown silty sand (2005/2024) producing mid to late Romano-British pottery. This ditch also cut the east-west linear 2025, 0.86 m wide and 0.15 m deep, which contained a light orange-brown silty sand fill (2026).
- 3.1.42 From fill (2026) one left and one right human femur and fragments of a tibia were recovered. The position of the left femur which was found *in situ*, may indicate that it is an articulated, supine north-south aligned burial truncating ditch (2004/2023), although due to the nature of the deposits it was impossible to see in plan. The alignment of the burial reflects that it is not a Christian.
- 3.1.43 To the south (2004) appears to terminate as it does not extend beyond the later east-west aligned ditch (2006) 2.5 m wide and 0.4 m deep. This ditch contained a dark orange-brown silty-sand primary fill (2019) with no dateable finds and a secondary dark greyish-brown silty-sand fill (2007) which contained pottery of second century Romano-British date.
- 3.1.44 To the southern end of the trench a large spread of very dark greyish-brown sandy-clay (2008) was observed extending for 18 m. The feature was examined by placing slots at either end and hand auguring in three places. Auguring indicated that the deposit was up to 1.2 m deep within the evaluation trench. The southern most slot in the deposit revealed that it comprised inter-cutting rubbish pits dating to the 1st-4th century AD. These were not visible in plan as the individual fills were homogenous. This date concurs with the dating from the fill of the northernmost slot through 2008, which indicated a depth in excess of 0.8 m and a steep edge to the feature.

Trench 21 - Fig. 8

- 3.1.45 Trench 21 measured 30 m x 2 m and was orientated north-south.
- 3.1.46 The natural dark orange brown sand (2103) was overlain by (2102) a dark yellowish brown clay sand, which was overlain by a dark greyish brown sandy clay ploughsoil.

- 3.1.47 Trench 21 contained two features. An east-west orientated ditch (2109), 0.6 m wide and 0.5 m deep, containing single light orange-yellow silty sand fill (2108) that had no dateable finds. Ditch (2109) was truncated on its southern edge by a larger and deeper parallel east-west linear (2104), 3.0 m wide and 1.2 m deep. The primary fill of this ditch, a light greyish-brown silty-sand (2107), and the secondary yellowish-orange silty-sand fill (2106) contained no dateable finds. The light brown silty sand tertiary fill (2105) contained pottery dating from the late Bronze Age and Romano-British periods.
- 3.1.48 The correlation between this feature and the large geophysical anomaly it was targeted at was very good. No further archaeology was observed in this trench. Ditch (2104) appears to form the east-west enclosure ditch that runs along the northern boundary of the site.

Trench 22 - Fig. 9

- 3.1.49 Trench 22 measured 20 m x 2 m and was orientated east-west.
- 3.1.50 The light brown-orange clay sand natural (2202) was overlain by a dark orange-brown clay silt subsoil, in turn overlain by a dark grey-brown clay silt ploughsoil (2201).
- 3.1.51 The natural was cut by five features. At the eastern end a north-south orientated cut, 0.8 m wide and 0.55 m deep (2215), contained a single dark greyish-brown silty clay fill (2214) which contained pottery of middle-late Iron Age date.
- 3.1.52 Further west a series of pits inter-cut. The earliest pit (2213) was 1.2 m wide and 0.24 m deep and contained a dark orange-brown silty-clay fill (2212), which contained no dating evidence. Pit 2213 was truncated by 2204, 3.1 m wide and 0.62 m deep containing a single dark brown-grey clayey-silt fill (2205) from which was recovered late Bronze Age to Romano-British pottery. Pit 2204 was truncated by cut 2211 1.0 m wide and 0.2 m deep. This small pit contained a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (2210) which contained late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age pottery.
- 3.1.53 Fills (2210) and (2212) were cut by modern land-drains.
- 3.1.54 To the west a possible pit or ditch terminus (2209), 1.4 m, wide contained a dark yellowish-brown silty clay fill (2208). This feature was not excavated and no finds were recovered.
- 3.1.55 West of 2209 a feature cut obliquely across the end of the trench. This feature (2206) was at least 1.5 m wide and contained a dark yellowish-brown silty clay fill (2207). Although this feature was not excavated pottery of middle to late Anglo-Saxon was recovered.
- 3.1.56 This trench, the most north-easterly of the two phases of evaluation, contained features containing pottery ranging from the late Bronze Age to late Anglo-Saxon period.
- 3.1.57 The relatively uniform date for the fills may indicate that the material is unlikely to be residual. If this is the case it demonstrates continued activity in this area of the site over an extended period of time. The majority of features in this trench represent pits possibly associated with disposal of domestic waste and may therefore be peripheral to the centre of activity.

3.1.58 Trench 22 was targeted at a geophysical anomaly which correlates well with the inter-cutting pits 2204, 2211, 2213 and 2217. However the geophysical plot under-represents the archaeology observed following machine excavation.

Trench 24 - Fig. 10

3.1.59 Trench 24 measured 20 m x 2 m and was orientated north-south, with a 2.5 m western extension.

3.1.60 The orange silty-sand natural (2403) was overlain by an orange-brown silty sand subsoil (2402) which was overlain by a greyish-brown sandy-silt ploughsoil.

3.1.61 The earliest feature a east-west orientated ditch/gully 2404, 0.6 m wide and 0.24 m deep, contained a dark greyish-brown silty sand fill (2405) producing pottery of the early-middle Iron Age. Feature 2404 was truncated by 2408, a similarly orientated cut 0.6 m wide and 0.24 m deep, which contained a single orange-brown silty clay fill (2409) producing Romano-British pottery.

3.1.62 To the south a probable posthole 2412, 0.7 m in diameter and 0.13 m deep, contained a single dark greyish-brown silty sand fill (2413).

3.1.63 A east-west aligned ditch 2406, 0.74 m wide and 0.3 m deep, contained a brown silty sand fill (2407) which produced Romano-British pottery. To the south a east-west aligned linear 2410, 0.74 m wide and 0.3 m deep, contained a dark greyish brown sandy silt fill (2411).

3.1.64 This “additional” trench was targeted at a geophysical anomaly which gave a high magnetic response and was thought to be either evidence of pottery production or a large metal object. The trench was located by tape measure in relation to trench 20.

3.1.65 The trench produced no evidence for the significant anomaly even though it was extended to the west. It is probable that the high reading is a result of a metallic object which was not located during the evaluation.

3.1.66 Within this trench the features revealed demonstrate that the strong geophysical anomaly hid other features.

4 FINDS

4.1 Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon pottery

By Daniel Stansbie

Introduction and Methodology

4.1.1 A total of 523 sherds, weighing 3467 g, were recovered during the evaluation. This material was rapidly scanned to determine context dates and to assess the character of the

pottery. Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. A note was made of the most diagnostic pottery using OA's later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth ed). Reference was also made to Perrin's report on the Roman pottery from Durobrivae, Water Newton, Cambridgeshire (Perrin 1999) and Braddock and Hill's (1998) report on the Iron Age pottery from Watson's Lane, Little Thetford.

Condition

- 4.1.2 With an average sherd weight of 5 g the pottery was in poor to moderate condition, although, in general, the surfaces of the sherds have survived quite well. Many groups exhibit a lack of chronological integrity, with some groups containing sherds of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date, along with middle and late Iron Age and Roman material.

Description

- 4.1.3 The assemblage is dominated by material of later prehistoric date, with some Roman material and a small amount of Saxon material. Most of the later prehistoric groups contain late Bronze Age to early Iron Age material, which comprises body sherds with fine/moderate or fine flint tempering (F2/F3), including one sherd from the shoulder of a vessel with fingernail impressions. However, the majority of the prehistoric pottery consisted of sandy material (A2 and A3) dating to the middle Iron Age, including several rim sherds from barrel-shaped jars or jar/bowls and a rim sherd from a globular/ovoid bowl. Also present in these fabrics is an S-profile jar/bowl, dating to the late middle to late Iron Age. Supplementing the sandy material and also dating to the middle Iron Age are body sherds in fine/moderate shelly fabrics (S2). Late Iron Age material is less common than early to middle Iron Age pottery and consists exclusively of body sherds in grog-tempered and grog and shell tempered fabrics (E80).
- 4.1.4 The Roman pottery largely comprises locally produced material and dates to the 1st through to the 4th century, with a significant component belonging to the 3rd and 4th centuries. The local wares consist of jars in sandy grey ware (R20), Roman shell-tempered ware (C10) and sandy oxidised ware (O20), along with body sherds of sandy buff ware (W10) and a flat-rimmed bowl with burnished lattice decoration and a cooking jar, both in black-surfaced ware (R50). Regional imports include a form 31 dish in central Gaulish samian ware (S30), a narrow-necked jar in Nene Valley grey ware (R46), Nene Valley grey-slipped grey ware (R47), a narrow necked jar in Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52), body sherds of Hadham oxidised ware (F56) and a sherd of Hadham oxidised mortaria (M40).
- 4.1.5 The Saxon material dates to the mid to late Saxon period and consists of two sherds: one rim sherd from a bowl or jar in a sandy fabric (Z10) and one rim sherd from a jar with a suspension hole, or possibly a raised lug similar in form to mid Saxon Maxey type ware, in a fabric containing large flecks of gold mica and schist (Z10/20).

Potential

4.1.6 The pottery from the evaluation clearly has some potential for further study; although some groups comprised very mixed material and clearly derive from reworked deposits, the majority of groups have relatively restricted date ranges and the pottery is reasonably well preserved with some good diagnostic pieces. This assemblage therefore has the potential to date the site sequence and can provide information about pottery supply to the site. The prehistoric groups are generally small and therefore have little potential to inform on the status or function of the site. The Roman assemblage again comprises relatively small groups, but does not include any material which is inconsistent with a 'basic rural type site' (Evans 2001, 28). The presence of Nene Valley and Much Hadham wares demonstrates that the site was tied in to regional supply networks, and the presence of a single sherd of samian indicates that the site was occupied in the 2nd century, but cannot be used to infer status as such material was fairly ubiquitous during the early and mid Roman period. The Saxon material is too scarce to draw any firm conclusions, beyond the presence of Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site. However, it is worth noting that the nearest likely source for the micaceous fabric (Z10/20) is in Leicestershire (John Cotter pers comm).

4.2 Worked flint and burnt unworked flint

By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Introduction

4.2.1 A total of 57 flints and 100 pieces (390 g) of burnt unworked flint was recovered from the evaluation (Table 1). Worked flint was recovered from 19 contexts (Table 2) and burnt unworked flint was recovered from 14 contexts. The flint assemblage was relatively dispersed with few flints recovered from any single context; the largest total being 11 flints from context 2020. The flint assemblage includes artefacts dating from the Mesolithic and also the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

Methodology

4.2.2 The artefacts were catalogued according to broad artefact/debitage type, general condition noted and dating attempted where possible. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-7; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999, 211-277). Additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Unworked burnt flint was quantified by weight and number. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database and data manipulated in Microsoft Excel.

Table 1: The flint assemblage

CATEGORY TYPE	Total
Flake	37
Blade	3
Bladelet	2
Blade-like	1
Irregular waste	4
Sieved chips 10-4 mm	2
Single platform flake core	2
Keeled non-discoidal flake core	1
Piercer	1
Notch	2
Retouched flake	1
Burin	1
Grand Total	57
Burnt unworked flint No./wt. (g)	100/390g
No. of burnt flints (%)*	2 (3.6%)
No. of broken flints (%)*	15 (27.3%)
No. of retouched flints (%)*	5 (9.1%)
* Percentage excludes chips	

Raw material and condition

4.2.3 The raw material present in the assemblage exhibits both weathered and abraded cortical surfaces. The flint is generally mid to dark brown in colour and of reasonable flaking quality, although occasional thermal fractures were noted. The condition of the flint suggests the raw material was obtained from a secondary gravel source, rather than directly from the chalk or a chalk region.

4.2.4 The condition of the flint assemblage was variable with most artefacts exhibiting slight to moderate post-depositional edge damage. A few artefacts exhibited heavy edge-damage and a few were rolled. The condition of the artefacts indicates they are not derived from *in situ* contexts, but have been redeposited in later archaeological features or soil horizons. The majority of the flints were free from surface cortication, but a few exhibited a light to moderate bluish-white surface cortication. A few flints also exhibited a dark brownish-orange iron-staining.

Storage and curation

4.2.5 The majority of the struck flints are bagged individually; the burnt unworked flint is bagged by context. The flintwork is adequately boxed and bagged for long-term storage and curation.

The assemblage

4.2.6 The assemblage recovered contains elements of two distinct flint-working industries, one of Mesolithic date and the other of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The Mesolithic assemblage consists of a small number of blades, bladelets and retouched artefacts. The retouched artefacts include a dihedral burin with additional edge retouch (1926), two notched blades (1809 and 2020), a broken backed blade (1807). The notch

on one of the blades is located on the proximal right hand side; a position appropriate for snapping using the micro-burin technique, but the blade was not snapped. These artefact may be assigned a broad Mesolithic date. In addition, narrow blades exhibiting the scars of blade removals on the dorsal surface, suggesting they are the product of a blade-based industry, were recovered from contexts 2020 and 2005 (x2).

- 4.2.7 The remaining assemblage is composed of small flakes and relatively thin flakes. A small number of these flakes exhibit platform-edge abrasion, suggesting some care was exercised in reduction. A small keeled core, weighing 8 g, was recovered from context 2214. The core also appears to have been used as a tool, with one edge exhibiting rounding typical of heavy use. In the absence of diagnostic artefacts, it is not possible to accurately date the assemblage, but a later Neolithic to early Bronze Age date is most probable.

Conclusions

- 4.2.8 The evaluation located a small redeposited assemblage of flintwork broadly date to the Mesolithic and the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age. The Mesolithic assemblage may result from brief habitation in the landscape and it possible this activity was concentrated around Trenches 18, 19 and 20. A large assemblage of flint is required to characterise and accurately date this assemblage. It is probably that the majority of the Mesolithic flintwork will be present in the topsoil. The later Neolithic to early Bronze Age indicates a presence in the landscape, but it is not possible to characterise the nature of the activity.

Table 2: The flint assemblage by context.

CATEGORY TYPE	Context																				Grand Total
	164 2	18 07	18 09	19 13	19 26	20 05	20 07	20 08	20 09	20 11	20 13	20 18	20 20	20 24	21 05	21 08	22 05	22 14	22 41		
Flake	1	2	3	3	1	2	2		2	5	1	2	7	3		1	1	1			37
Blade													2		1						3
Bladelet			1			1															2
Blade-like				1																	1
Irregular waste					1								1					1	1		4
Sieved chips 10-4 mm								2													2
Single platform flake core						1				1											2
Keeled non-discoidal flake core																		1			1
Piercer															1						1
Notch			1										1								2
Retouched flake		1																			1
Burin					1																1
Grand Total	1	3	5	4	3	4	2	2	2	6	1	2	11	3	2	1	1	3	1		57

4.3 Metal finds

By Ian Scott

- 4.3.1 The material comprises four objects, two of iron and two of copper alloy. The iron comprises two pieces of a probable spud, a tool used for cleaning ploughs and other agricultural machinery and also as a rudimentary digging tool (Context 1633), and a modern spring steel clip (Context 2000). The copper alloy comprises a small eroded disc, which may have been a coin (Context 2110), and pieces of a small socketed spearhead of Bronze Age date.

Catalogue of objects

- 1 Possible **spud** or **digging stick head**, with flat thick rounded tip, and much reduce remains of two side arms serving as a socket. Probably a spud blade. L: 99 mm. Context 1633, Sfs 3 & 4
- 2 **Clip?** Object formed into a small tubular shape, made from spring steel. Modern. Context 2000, Sample 12
- 3 Small eroded **disc** of cu alloy. Possibly a coin. D: 14 x 12 mm. Context 2110, Sample 5
- 4 Small **socketed spearhead**, much corroded and in at least eight pieces. The two largest pieces represent the most of the socket and much of the blade respectively. The blade has a central mid rib. The other pieces are small Bronze Age. Not more closely dateable. Socket fragment L: 28 mm, D: 13 mm. Blade fragment L: 45 mm, W: 15 mm. Overall L (extant): 74 mm. Context 1507, Sf 6

4.4 Fired Clay

By Cynthia Poole

- 4.4.1 A small quantity of fired clay was recovered from trenches 16, 18 and 20 from seven individual contexts, comprising ditch, pit and possible quarry fills. This amounted to a total of 193 fragments weighing 578 g, of which 172 fragments (121 g) was recovered by sieving (Table 3). The assemblage was in general moderately abraded and had an overall mean fragment weight (MFW) of 3 g. However the sieved material had an MFW less than 1 g, whilst the hand recovered was 22 g, which indicates a better level of preservation. An MFW of less than 10-15 g generally produces little or no diagnostic material.
- 4.4.2 The material has been visually examined with the aid of a x10 hand lens, quantified and categorised and recorded in relation to form and fabric. The material was assigned to fabrics previously established when recording the 2006 material.

Fabrics

- 4.4.3 Fabrics identified in this assemblage were types 2 and 4. The general character of the fabrics suggests rapidly prepared clays, probably deriving from locally available clay sources.
- 4.4.4 Fabric 2 was a laminated silty clay, light yellowish red, buff or grey in colour.
- 4.4.5 Fabric 4 was a grey or reddish yellow sandy laminated clay, containing red ferruginous clay pellets and buff silty clay pellets.

Forms

- 4.4.6 Most fragments of fired clay were undiagnostic, being either amorphous or with a single surface (designated as utilised). One piece with two surfaces forming a plate 30 mm thick from context 2018 is likely to be part of an oven plate, whilst fragments from 1622 and 1807 were identified as possible oven or hearth structure. A single fragment from 2008 with an undulating outer surface and interwoven wattles on the interior surface is interpreted as oven wall.

Discussion

- 4.4.7 The character of the assemblage is indicative of hearths and ovens with some form of superstructure. It is likely to derive from lower temperature activities associated with cooking, baking or crop processing. Though the assemblage contains no dateable forms, the material is consistent with an Iron Age -Roman date and is typical of a small rural settlement or farmstead of this date.

Table 3: Fired clay record

Cntxt	Sample No.	Nos	Wt (g)	MFW	Fab	Form	Description	Comments	TH/Size	Abrasion	Date of Obj
1622		15	204	13.60	2	Utilised	Even flat or slightly convex surface on larger pieces. Smaller fragments broken / amorphous.	All pieces very similar probably derived from same object / structure. Mostly fired to grey or buff with reddish yellow streaks. Probably oven or hearth.	30 mm th+	M-H	IA-RB?
1622	<7>	5	8	1.60	2	Utilised	Mostly amorphous but some pieces with remnants of flat surface.	Fired to orange brown with buff streaks.	>10 mm	M-H	
1622	<7>	163	90	0.55	2	Utilised	Mostly amorphous but some pieces with remnants of flat surface.	Fired to orange brown with buff streaks.	4-10 mm	M-H	
1633	<9>	1	2	2.00	4.3	Unid.	amorphous		c.18 mm	H	
1807		1	27	27.00	2	Utilised	Smooth even flat surface fired/burnt to a pale whitish grey.	Probably oven plate /furniture or hearth floor.	25 mm th	L	IA-RB?
2005	<12>	1	1	1.00	4.3	Unid.	amorphous		c.18 mm	H	
2008		1	92	92.00	4.2 / 4.3	Wall daub	Undulating exterior surface with three interwoven wattle impressions on the interior. Vertical sail : 16 mm diam ; horizontal rods: 11 mm, 19-20 mm diam.	probably oven wall	53 mm th	M	IA-RB?
2011	<11>	2	20	10.00	2	Utilised	Flat even surface on one piece.		30 mm th		
2018		4	134	33.50	2	Oven plate?	Flat plate with two roughly parallel surface, both flat one smoother more regular than the other.		30 mm th	M	IA-RB?

Abbreviations: MFW Mean fragment weight; Unid Unidentified; Abrasion: L - low, M - medium, H - high

4.5 Human Skeletal Remains

By Louise Loe

- 4.5.1 Human skeletal remains, comprising two femora and one tibia, were received for examination. In addition, one small bag of burnt bone was received. All remains were subjected to standard osteological examination. This involved element identification, recording of condition and completeness and any information relating to age, sex, stature, skeletal variation and pathology, as appropriate (Brickley and McKinley 2004).
- 4.5.2 *Unburnt bone (2026)*
- 4.5.3 This includes one right femur, one left femur and one left tibia, from a linear feature cut by a late Roman ditch. All were in a poor condition having undergone considerable post-mortem erosion to the extent that no cortical surfaces had survived. All bones were cracked longitudinally (but none were in pieces) and all were incomplete: the right femur was missing its proximal and distal ends, the left femur was missing its distal end and both proximal and distal ends of the tibia were also missing.
- 4.5.4 The morphological appearance of the bones suggests that they most probably relate to the same individual and are those of an adult. It was not possible to estimate a more precise age for the individual from these bones alone. It may be very tentatively suggested that the remains were those of a male. However, this is based on visual assessment of the incomplete left femoral head which is far from reliable. The incompleteness of the remains has precluded the estimation of stature. No pathology was observed, although considerable information has been lost in this respect owing to the eroded surfaces.
- 4.5.5 *Burnt bone (1642)*
- 4.5.6 Burnt bone, of Early to Middle Iron Age date, was retrieved during the wet sieving of samples that were taken in the field from fill (1642). The samples were recovered in association with the base of vessel (1644) and, as such, may represent the remains of a very truncated urned cremation. An urned cremation of the early to middle Iron Age date would be unusual in this region. It is possible therefore that the limited dating evidence is incorrect.
- 4.5.7 The remains include six fragments (<1g) from the 10-4mm sieve fraction and approximately 10 fragments from the 4-2mm sieve fraction (<1g). All but one fragment were white in colour and therefore fully calcined. One fragment was black/brown in colour indicating slight charring. The small size of the fragments and the absence of any distinct morphological features means that it is impossible to say whether they represent the burnt remains of humans or other animals. Biomolecular analysis would be required to explore this.

4.6 Environmental and economic evidence from nine soil samples

by Rachel Scales

4.6.1 Nine bulk soil samples were collected from secure and well-dated archaeological contexts from Prehistoric and Roman features.

- Bulk soil sampling was carried out in order to establish:
- if charred plant remains (CPR) are present and of interpretable value.
- if CPR are present, do they provide any information/ patterns for the way burnt material was disposed of on site?
- if CPR are present, do they provide information on agricultural activities and/or the site's diet or economy?
- if CPR are present, do they provide information on the surrounding environment?
- the range of finds recovered, and the kinds of organic material which survives.

Method

4.6.2 The volume of soil samples collected for charred plant remains was between 20–40L. Oxford Archaeology Environmental Officers processed these samples using water flotation and the resulting flot (the material which floats) was sieved to 250µm and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) was sieved to 500µm. Sample flots and heavy residues for charred plant remains were dried in a heated room at approximately 30°C. The dried heavy residues were sorted by eye for charred plant remains, along with other ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, charcoal, molluscs, etc) and artefacts.

4.6.3 This evaluation is based largely on samples taken from a series of pit and ditch fills (Appendix 3) believed to be from Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. The author rapidly scanned a portion of the flots for charred plant remains using a low-power binocular microscope at x15 magnification. Identifications were checked by Dr Wendy Smith but were made without comparison to the Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and, therefore, should all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

RESULTS

4.7 *Plant Remains.*

- 4.7.1 Appendix 3 summarises the assessment. Charcoal was present in all nine samples, although, it was typically very small-sized (<2mm) and poorly preserved.
- 4.7.2 In general the charred plant remains (e.g. weed seeds, cereal grains, etc) were very limited. Most flots contained modern plant roots and weed seeds such as goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.). Sample 7 (1622) had some evidence of glume wheats and barley. One possible emmer (*Triticum* cf. *dicocum* Schübl.) glume base was identified. Several grass (POACEAE) seeds were also noted. Sample 10 (2008) contained a small amount of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.) shell in the residue. None of the samples yielded more than 50 identifiable items. It is not possible to reliably comment on the local environment given the small number of identifiable items.
- 4.7.3 The recovery of charred plant remains is so limited that it is difficult to infer any specifics on agricultural activity or practice at Wilburton on the basis of the charred plant remains. However, Sample 7 (1622) does suggest that glume wheat was being utilised on site in the Middle Iron Age.

4.8 *Environmentally recovered finds*

- 4.8.1 The residues in particular contained a range of material though never in large quantities. Animal bone, pottery and burnt flint were represented in most samples, while land snails were present in samples 7, 8 and 9, although in no case were snails very abundant. Cremated bone, burnt clay, pottery, burnt flint and a piece of worked flint were also recovered. Small quantities of charcoal were noted from four of the residues.

Potential

- 4.8.2 The assemblages from the nine samples have only produced a small quantity of charred plant remains (<50 identifiable items) and a limited range of taxa. Van der Veen and Fieller (1982) have strongly argued that assemblages of <100 identifications are unlikely to be of interpretable value; however using these criteria, sites from some periods (e.g. Neolithic) would almost never be reported, and in the case of Wilburton the relative scarcity of published Bronze Age archaeobotanical assemblages in the county makes samples of this date significant even when few seeds are recovered.
- 4.8.3 The Phase 1 evaluation at Wilburton produced evidence of hulled wheat grain and chaff, providing some limited indication that cereal processing took place on the site during the Romano-British period, and the evidence for free threshing wheat in the Roman period was also significant, since it is more often regarded as a post-Roman staple (Griffiths 2006). Unfortunately the phase 2 evaluation samples have not provided additional evidence for this possible early cultivation of free threshing wheat.

Recommendation

- 4.8.4 Although the CPR from these particular samples are limited, they again indicate that charred plant remains are preserved and could be more abundant in other features and samples. Should the site proceed to mitigation, suitable deposits should be sampled in line with Oxford Archaeology Sampling Guidelines (2000) and English Heritage Sampling Guidelines (2002). Any future sampling on this or nearby sites should endeavour to sample a minimum of 40 L of sediment for the recovery of charred plant remains in order to generate assemblages of interpretable value

5 RELIABILITY OF FIELD INVESTIGATION

- 5.1.1 The remaining eight trenches and the additional trench (24) were excavated without any problems.
- 5.1.2 At the time of the evaluation, ground and weather conditions were good: ground water posed a problem during hand-excavation of features in trenches 20 and 21 with features extending below current groundwater level.
- 5.1.3 The problems experienced during machining of trenches during 2006 did not re-occur. A 360⁰ tracked excavator was utilised as the trenches were accessible from a single point. The better suited machine and prevailing weather conditions meant the ground was wetter which facilitated machining, identification and hand-excavation of features.
- 5.1.4 Natural was revealed in all trenches. Whilst features of different periods were present in individual trenches no hill-wash was observed, during this phase of evaluation, unlike the trenches excavated to the west at Mitchell's Farm.
- 5.1.5 The trenching was successful in identifying, characterising and dating the geophysical anomalies. As mentioned previously the geophysical plots under-represented the archaeology that was observed in all trenches, except trench 17 where no archaeology was observed.
- 5.1.6 In general preservation of features was better in the area of trenches 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 24, with less truncation due to ploughing. The evidence from trenches 15 and 16 suggests that truncation in this area is more significant with the base of a possible cremation vessel indicating that ploughing has significantly affected the archaeological resource.

5.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 5.2.1 The recovery of redeposited flints of possible Mesolithic Neolithic or early Bronze Age from features/deposits associated with trenches 18 and 20 hinted at possible brief occupation of this area of higher ground.
- 5.2.2 Within trenches 15 and 16 the emphasis is upon prehistoric, primarily Iron Age activity. These trenches have demonstrated that archaeology is present in areas that the geophysics suggested localised potential.

- 5.2.3 The geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation showed distinct areas of concentrated activity and within trenches excavated near these areas (in this case Trenches 18, 19, 20, 21 and 24), the archaeological horizon was well defined. The majority of the pottery from these trenches dated to the early to late Roman periods (43-410 AD). Prehistoric material was present and may indicate an earlier phase of settlement which became established during the Iron Age and developed into the Romano-British settlement seen clearly in the geophysical plots. The pre-Roman activity is concentrated in trench 19 where the geophysical anomalies are more curvilinear as is normally associated with prehistoric activity.
- 5.2.4 The vessel forms suggest that the activity was primarily associated with a possibly late Iron Age farmstead which continued and expanded during the Roman period.
- 5.2.5 The recovery of Anglo-Saxon pottery in trenches 22 and 20, to the north and south of the farmstead nucleus, indicates that there is Anglo-Saxon activity within the area. This may be associated with a continuation of the late Romano-British farmstead. It is also possible that pottery that has provisionally been dated as Iron Age may on closer inspection prove to be Anglo-Saxon.
- 5.2.6 A limited amount of fired clay retrieved during the evaluation is associated with hearths of probably Iron Age or Romano-British date and reinforces the conclusion that the activity represents rural settlement. Whilst evidence for ridge and furrow is indicated by the geophysical plots, as with the previous phase of evaluation it was not possible to identify these features during the evaluation.

Significance

- 5.2.7 The results from this phase of evaluation provided a good correlation between the geophysical plots and archaeological features observed, although the geophysics plots under-represent the below ground remains across this area of the site. In trenches 15 and 16, which were targeted at possibly prehistoric enclosure ditches, significantly more features were observed than was expected. Upon sample excavation the majority of these features proved to be archaeological.
- 5.2.8 The correlation between the anomalies in trenches 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 24 was very good. Again, though, the geophysical plots under-represented the archaeology that was observed upon excavation of the trenches.
- 5.2.9 Prehistoric activity in the west of this phase of evaluation is deduced from the archaeology present in trenches 15 and 16.
- 5.2.10 In addition there is probably a late Iron Age site in the eastern part of the development area, trenches 18, 19 and 24, which continued in use and expanded during the Roman period. The recovery of Anglo-Saxon pottery in the north and south of this area may indicate that the settlement/farmstead continued to be used through to the middle/late Anglo-Saxon period.
- 5.2.11 Evidence for Bronze Age or early Iron Age settlement is sparse on the Isle of Ely, though significant amounts of Bronze Age metalwork is known (Evans 2001).

5.2.12 Evidence of later Iron Age and Roman settlement adds to the picture of dense settlement from these periods on the Isle of Ely.

5.2.13 The Saxon occupation evidence is more unusual for the area.. The small amount of evidence was unexpected, but may suggest re-use of the site at a later date.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

5.2.14 Context inventory for trenches 1-14 and 23 is contained in the previous report

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth/Thick. (m)	Comment
Trench 15					
	1501	Layer			Ploughsoil
	1502	Layer			Subsoil
	1503	Layer			Natural
	1504	Cut			Ditch
	1505	Fill			Fill of 1504
	1506	Cut	2.35	0.70	Ditch
	1507	Fill			Fill of 1506
	1508	Cut	0.54	0.25	Ditch
	1509	Fill			Fill of 1508
	1510	Cut	1.23	0.30	Ditch
	1511	Fill			Fill of 1510
	1512	Cut	0.78	0.40	Pit
	1513	Fill			Fill of 1512
Trench 16					
	1601	Layer		0.32	Ploughsoil
	1602	Layer			Natural
	1603	Cut	0.55	0.21	Ditch
	1604	Fill			Fill of 1603
	1605	Cut	0.74	0.42	Ditch
	1606	Fill			Fill of 1605
	1607	Cut	0.47	0.39	Pit
	1608	Cut	1.37	0.62	Ditch
	1609	Cut	1.88	0.84	Ditch
	1610	Fill			Fill of 1636
	1611	Cut	1.56	0.26	Ditch
	1612	Fill			Fill of 1611
	1613	Cut	2.6	0.3	Ditch
	1614	Fill			Fill of 1613
	1615	Cut			Land-drain
	1616	Fill			Fill of land-drain
	1617	Cut	0.4		Ditch
	1618	Fill			Fill of 1618
	1619	Cut	2.5		Ditch
	1620	Fill			Fill of 1619
	1621	Cut	1.6	0.24	Pit
	1622	Fill			Fill of 1630
	1623	Cut	0.75		Geological feature
	1624	Fill			Fill of 1623
	1625	Cut	2.3	0.55	Ditch
	1626	Fill			Fill of 1625
	1627	Fill			Fill of 1621 same as 1626
	1628	Cut	0.6	0.20	Pit
	1629	Fill			Fill of 1628
	1630	Cut	1.85	0.41	Pit

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth/Thick. (m)	Comment
	1631	Cut	0.68	0.3	Ditch
	1632	Fill			Fill of 1631
	1633	Fill			Fill of 1613
	1634	Fill			Fill of 1605
	1635	Fill			Fill of 1607
	1636	Cut	0.62	0.24	Ditch
	1637	Fill			Fill of 1608
	1638	Fill			Fill of 1609
	1639	Cut	?	?	Possible Ditch
	1640	Fill			Fill of 1639
	1641	Cut			Cut for cremation urn
	1642	Fill			Backfill of 1641
	1643	Layer			Natural
	1644	Urn			Cremation Urn
Trench 17					
	1701	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil
	1702	Layer		0.25-0.55	Subsoil
	1703	Layer		0.55 +	Natural
Trench 18					
	1801	Layer		0.44	Ploughsoil
	1802	Layer		0.10	Subsoil
	1803	Layer		0.21	Natural
	1804	Cut	0.8	?	Ditch
	1805	Fill			Fill of 1804
	1806	Cut	3.4	0.8	Enclosure ditch
	1807	Fill			Fill of 1806
	1808	Cut	5	0.85	Enclosure ditch
	1809	Fill			Fill of 1808
	1810	Cut	0.6	0.32	Ditch
	1811	Fill			Fill of 1810
	1812	Cut	2.6	0.45	Geological feature
	1813	Fill			Fill of 1812
	1814	Layer			Lower Natural
	1815	Fill			Fill of 1808
	1816	Fill			Fill of 1808
	1817	Fill			Fill of 1808
Trench 19					
	1901	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil
	1902	Layer		0.25	Subsoil
	1903	Layer			Natural
	1904	Cut	1.1	0.6	Ditch
	1905	Fill			Fill of 1904
	1906	Cut	0.6	0.22	Ditch
	1907	Fill			Fill of 1906
	1908	Cut	1.1	0.26	Ditch
	1909	Fill			Fill of 1908
	1910	Cut	0.48	0.21	Ditch
	1911	Fill			Fill of 1910
	1912	Cut	1.20	0.32	Ditch
	1913	Fill			Fill of 1912
	1914	Cut	0.8	0.28	Ditch
	1915	Fill			Fill of 1914
	1916	Cut	0.8		Possible pit
	1917	Fill			Fill of 1916
	1918	Cut	0.64	0.26	Small pit/posthole
	1919	Fill			Fill of 1918
	1920	Cut		0.86	Ditch
	1921	Fill			Fill of 1920
	1922	Cut	1.10	0.18	Pit
	1923	Fill			Fill of 1922

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth/Thick. (m)	Comment
	1924	Cut		0.11	Ditch
	1925	Fill			Fill of 1924
	1926	Fill			Fill of 1935
	1927	Fill			Fill of 1920
	1928	Fill			Fill of 1920
	1929	Cut	0.25	0.21	Pit
	1930	Fill			Fill of 1929
	1931	Cut	0.70	0.56	Ditch
	1932	Fill			Fill of 1931
	1933	Cut	0.80	0.62	Ditch
	1934	Fill			Fill of 1933
	1935	Cut	?	0.68	Pit?
	1936	Cut	0.36	0.26	Pit/gully?
	1937	Fill			Fill of 1936
	1938	Cut			Pit
	1939	Fill			Fill of 1938
	1940	Cut			Pit?
	1941	Fill			Fill of 1940
	1942	Cut	0.46	0.14	Small pit/posthole
	1943	Fill			Fill of 1942
	1944	Cut	0.26	0.18	Pit
	1945	Fill			fill of 1944
	1946	Cut	0.90	0.19	Ditch
	1947	Fill			Fill of 1946
	1948	Cut	0.86	0.26	Ditch
	1949	Fill			Fill of 1948
	1950	Cut			Cut for pi/ditch
	1951	Fill			Fill of 1950
	1952	Cut			Cut for pit
	1953	Fill			Fill of 1952
	1954	Cut			Cut for pit
	1955	Fill			Fill of 1954
Trench 20					
20	2001	Layer		0.26	Ploughsoil
	2002	Layer		0.1	Subsoil
	2003	Layer			Natural
	2004	Cut	0.85	0.34	Ditch
	2005	Fill			Fill of 2004
	2006	Cut	2.50	0.4	Large ditch
	2007	Fill			Fill of 2006
	2008	Fill			Fill of 2009
	2009	Cut	2.50	0.80	Large ditch/pit
	2010	Cut	>2.08	>0.5	Large pit
	2011	Fill			Fill of 2010
	2012	Fill			Fill of 2010
	2013	Fill			Fill of 2027
	2014	Fill			Fill of 2027
	2015	Fill			Fill of 2027
	2016	Fill			Fill of 2030
	2017	Cut	1.42	0.28	Pit
	2018	Fill			Fill of 2017
	2019	Fill			Fill of 2006
	2020	Fill			Fill of 2009
	2021	Fill			Fill of 2009
	2022	Fill			Fill of 2009
	2023	Cut	0.71	0.22	Ditch
	2024	Fill			Fill of 2023
	2025	Cut	0.86	0.15	Ditch
	2026	Fill			Fill of 2025
	2027	Cut	3.0	1.16	Pit?
	2028	Fill			Fill of 2027

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth/Thick. (m)	Comment
	2029	Group			
	2030	Cut	1.34	0.42	Pit
Trench 21					
	2101	Layer		0.36	Ploughsoil
	2102	Layer		0.16	Subsoil
	2103	Layer			Natural
	2104	Cut	1.0	1.20	Ditch
	2105	Fill			Fill of 2104
	2106	Fill			Fill of 2104
	2107	Fill			Fill of 2104
	2108	Fill			Fill of 2109
	2109	Cut	0.50	0.60	Small ditch
	2110	Find			Cu coin?
Trench 22					
	2201	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil
	2202	Layer		0.1	Subsoil
	2203	Layer			Natural
	2204	Cut	3.10	0.62	Pit
	2205	Fill			Fill of 2204
	2206	Cut	0.55	?	Ditch
	2207	Fill			Fill of 2206
	2208	Fill			Fill of 2209
	2209	Cut	1.40	?	Pit?
	2210	Fill			Fill of 2204
	2211	Cut	1.0	0.20	Small pit
	2212	Fill			Fill of 2213
	2213	Cut	1.20	0.24	Small pit
	2214	Fill			Fill of 2215
	2215	Cut	0.8	0.55	Pit /ditch
	2216	Fill			Fill of 2217
	2217	Cut	0.64	0.12	Small pit
Trench 23					
	2300	Layer		0.3	Topsoil
	2301	Layer		0.32	Ploughsoil
	2302	Layer			Natural
	2303	Cut			Ditch
	2304	Fill			Fill of 2303
	2305	Layer		0.22	Layer in hollow
	2306	Layer			Colluvium
	2307	Cut			?feature
	2308	Fill		0.38	Fill of 2307
	2309	Cut	1	0.4	Pit
	2310	Fill		0.4	Fill of 2309
Trench 24					
	2401	Layer		0-0.28	Ploughsoil
	2402	Layer		0.12	Subsoil
	2403	Layer			Natural
	2404	Cut	0.56	0.23	Small ditch
	2405	Fill			Fill of 2404
	2406	Cut	1.28	0.12	Gully
	2407	Fill			Fill of 2406
	2408	Cut	0.64	0.24	Ditch
	2409	Fill			Fill of 2409
	2410	Cut	0.74	0.30	Gully
	2411	Fill			Fill of 2410
	2412	Cut	0.70	0.13	Posthole
	2413	Fill			Fill of 2412

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon pottery

Context	Sherd Count	Weight(g)	Comments	Spot Date
1505	1	2	A3 sandy fabric	PREHIST
1507	5	110	A3 sandy fabric	MIA
1604	10	21	A3 sandy fabric, W20 sandy buff wares	AD43-410
1612	2	8	FA2 flint and sand fabric, fired clay	LBA-EIA??
1622	29	120	A3 sandy fabric, S3 shelly fabric	MIA
1626	24	80	A3 sandy fabric (1 S-profile bowl/jar, 1 flat-rimmed barrel-shaped jar, 1 ovoid bowl)	LMIA-LIA (1st century BC)
1632	11	32	A2 sandy fabric, AM2 sandy and micaceous fabrics	EIA-MIA
1633	13	41	A3 sandy fabric	MIA
1635	7	18	FL2 flint and limestone, A3 sandy	EIA-MIA
1637	6	34	A3 sandy fabric, S2 shelly fabric	MIA
1642	38	41	A3 sandy fabrics	EIA-MIA
1807	22	69	F2 flint-fabric, F3 flint-tempered fabric, S3 shelly fabrics, A3 sandy fabric, R20 sandy grey wares	LBA-Roman
1809	18	83	F3 flint-tempered fabric, S3 shelly fabric, E80 grog-tempered fabric (1 high-shouldered jar)	50BC-AD70
1811	8	29	F2 flint-tempered fabric, A3 sandy fabric, E80 grog and shell-tempered fabric	LIA
1905	4	43	A3 sandy fabric (2 slack-sided jars)	MIA
1909	10	80	F2 flint fabric, S2 shelly fabric, A3 sandy fabric (2 jar/bowls)	MIA
1913	1	5	F2 flint-tempered fabric, R46 Nene valley grey ware (1 narrow-necked jar, 1 bowl with flat rim and burnished lattice), R50 black-surfaced ware, R20 sandy grey ware (1 jar), C10 shelly ware,	AD180-300
1921	46	971	F2 flint-tempered fabric, A3 sandy fabric slack-sided jar/bowls), S2 shelly fabric	MIA
1926	7	21	F4 flint-tempered fabric, F3 flint-tempered fabric, S2 shelly fabric	EIA-MIA

2005	19	94	A3 sandy fabrics, F2 flint-tempered fabric, R20 sandy grey wares, W20 sandy buff wares, R50 black-surfaced ware (1 cooking jar), C10 Roman shell-tempered ware (1 jar), F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, O20 sandy oxidised ware	AD240-410
2007	11	80	C10 Roman shelly fabric, R20 sandy grey ware, W20 sandy buff ware, O20 sandy oxidised ware (1 jar), S30 Central Gaulish samian ware (1 form 33)	AD120-150
2008	28	209	C10 shelly fabric, F3 flint-tempered fabric, S3 Shelly fabric, R20 sandy grey ware, F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware (dish rim or flange), F56 Hadham oxidised ware, M40 Hadham oxidised mortaria,	AD180-410
2009	9	35	F2 flint-tempered fabrics, Z10/Z20 Saxon to medieval sandy and shelly fabrics ?	Saxon - Medieval??
2011	50	225	F2 flint-tempered fabrics, A3 sandy fabrics, E80 grog-tempered fabrics, R47 Nene Valley grey slipped grey ware, R20 sandy grey ware (1 jar), C10 shelly fabric, F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware, R50 sandy black ware, A3 sandy fabric	AD180-410
2013	6	161	R20 sandy grey ware, O20 oxidised ware (1 base, 1 jar), post-medieval	AD 43-410
2016	27	224	C10 Roman shell-tempered ware (1 bowl), A3 sandy fabrics, R20 sandy grey ware, F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware, F56 Hadham oxidised ware,	AD180-410
2018	4	15	F3 flint-tempered fabrics (fingernail impressions on a shoulder sherd), E80 Grog and shell-tempered ware	LBA-LIA
2020	3	32	R50 black-surfaced ware, R20 sandy grey ware, F2 flint-tempered fabric	AD43-410
2024	4	66	A3 sandy fabric	MIA
2105	3	38	F56 Hadham oxidised ware (1 base sherd), A3 sandy fabric	AD43-410
2205	38	216	F4 flint-tempered fabrics, S3 shelly fabric, E80 grog-tempered fabrics, A3 sandy	LBA-Roman

			fabric, O20 oxidised sandy ware	
2207	2	42	Z10/20 gold mica and schist (1 jar with suspension hole), Z10 sandy fabric (bowl/jar)	MSAX-LSAX
2210	26	66	F2 flint-tempered fabrics, A3 sandy fabrics, S3 Shelly fabrics	LBA-MIA
2214	12	62	S3 shell-tempered fabric, F2 flint-tempered fabric	EIA-MIA
2405	5	14	F3 flint-tempered fabric, S3 shelly fabric, A3 sandy fabric,	EIA-MIA
2407	3	11	C10 Roman shelly fabric, O20 sandy oxidised ware, R20 sandy grey ware	AD43-410
2409	11	69	F2 flint-tempered fabrics, E80 grog-tempered ware, O20 sandy oxidised ware (1 jar), C10 shelly fabric	AD43-410

APPENDIX 3 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Period	Sample Volume (L.)	Flot vol. (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other CPR	Animal Bone	Charcoal	Molluscs	Comments on CPR	CPR Potential	Full Analysis
6	2205	Pit	Roman	40	38						++		Modern roots abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	N
7	1622	Pit	MIA	20	10	+	+	++			++	+	Modern roots abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. Weed / wild taxa observed include dock (<i>Rumex spp.</i>), common chick weed (<i>Stellaria medea</i>), small grass (<i>POACEAE</i>) caryopses and oat / brome grass (<i>Avena spp. / Bromus spp.</i>). Some evidence of glume wheats (<i>Triticum sp.</i>) and barley (<i>Hordeum sp.</i>). One possible emmer (<i>Triticum cf. dicoccum</i> Schübl.) glume base was identified. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	N
8	1635	Pit	EIA-MIA	20	50		+	+			++		Modern roots abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. A burr reed seed (<i>Sparganium sp.</i>) and some small rosaceous weeds were noted. A cereal culm node and a cereal/ large grass culm node were identified. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	N
9	1633	Ditch?	MIA	20	5	+		+			++		Modern roots and goosefoot (<i>Chenopodium spp.</i>) seeds abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. Two poorly preserved indeterminate wheat (<i>Triticum sp.</i>) grains were recorded. Small weed seeds such as common chick weed (<i>Stellaria medea</i>) were noted. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	N
10	2008	Pit?	Roman	40	18			+	+		+		Modern roots abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. A small amount of charred hazelnut (<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.) shell was found in the residue. Small weeds such as vetch (<i>Vicia spp.</i>	C	N

												/ Lathyrus spp.) were observed in the flot. EVALUATED AS POOR.		
11	2011	Pit?	Roman	40	60						+	Modern roots abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	N
12	2005	Ditch	Roman	20	55			+			+	Modern roots abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. Small indeterminate weed seeds observed. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	N
13	2210	Pit	Roman ?	20	100						++	Modern roots and goosefoot (<i>Chenopodium spp.</i>) seeds abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	No
14	1642	Pit	EIA-MIA	30	20	+		+			++	Modern roots abundant. A small amount of charcoal was present, but it was mostly small (<2mm) and poorly preserved. A dock (<i>Rumex spp.</i>) seed and one indeterminate wheat (<i>Triticum sp.</i>) grain were observed. EVALUATED AS POOR.	C	No

* In all cases 100% of the flot was assessed.

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APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (Mereham New Community)

Site code: WILBCA 06

Grid reference: TL 489 730

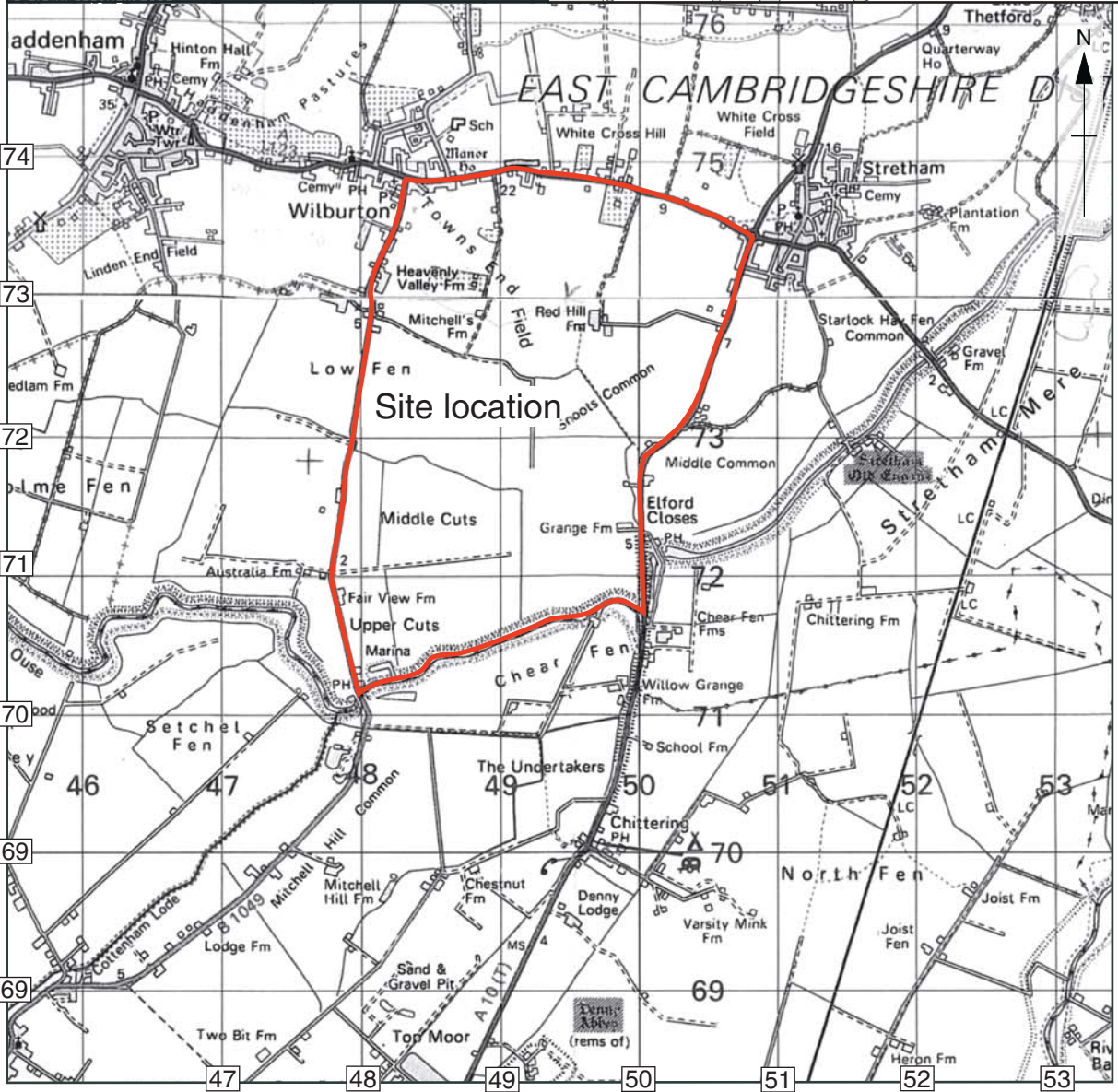
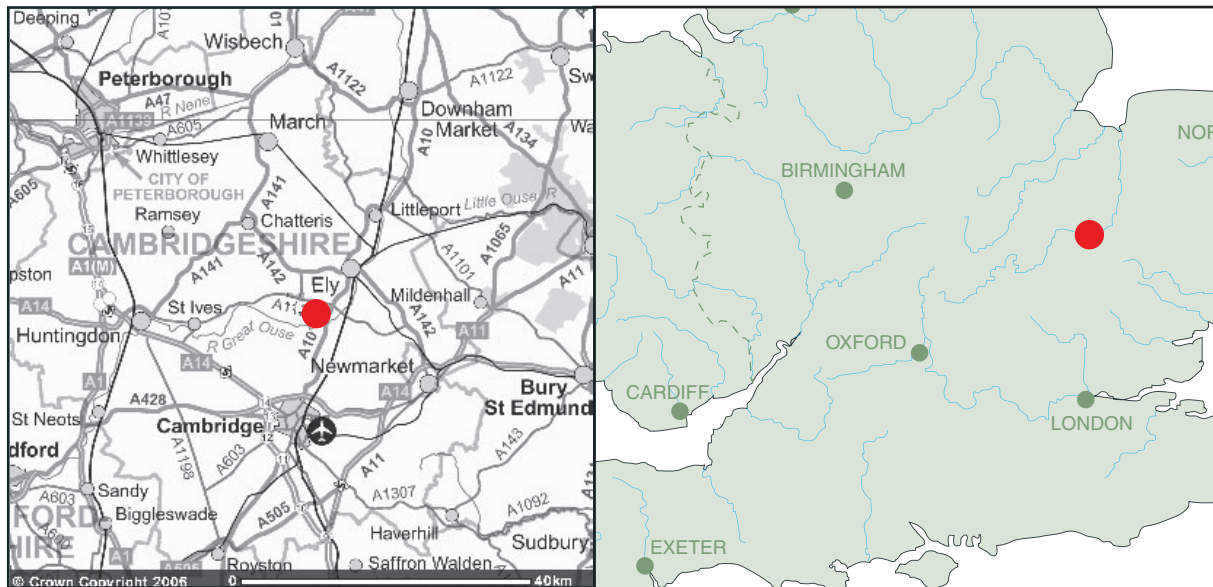
Type of evaluation: Trench evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th-21st September 2007

Area of site: 300 ha.

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed the extent of a Iron Age farmstead in the eastern part of the development area. The site appears to have continued into the Romano-British period, based on ceramic evidence and may have continued in use through to the Anglo-Saxon period. Elsewhere, earlier prehistoric site in the vicinity was evident .

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Museum in due course, under the following **Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Resource Number : ECB 2329**



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2a: Site plan, Trench locations and geophysical survey areas

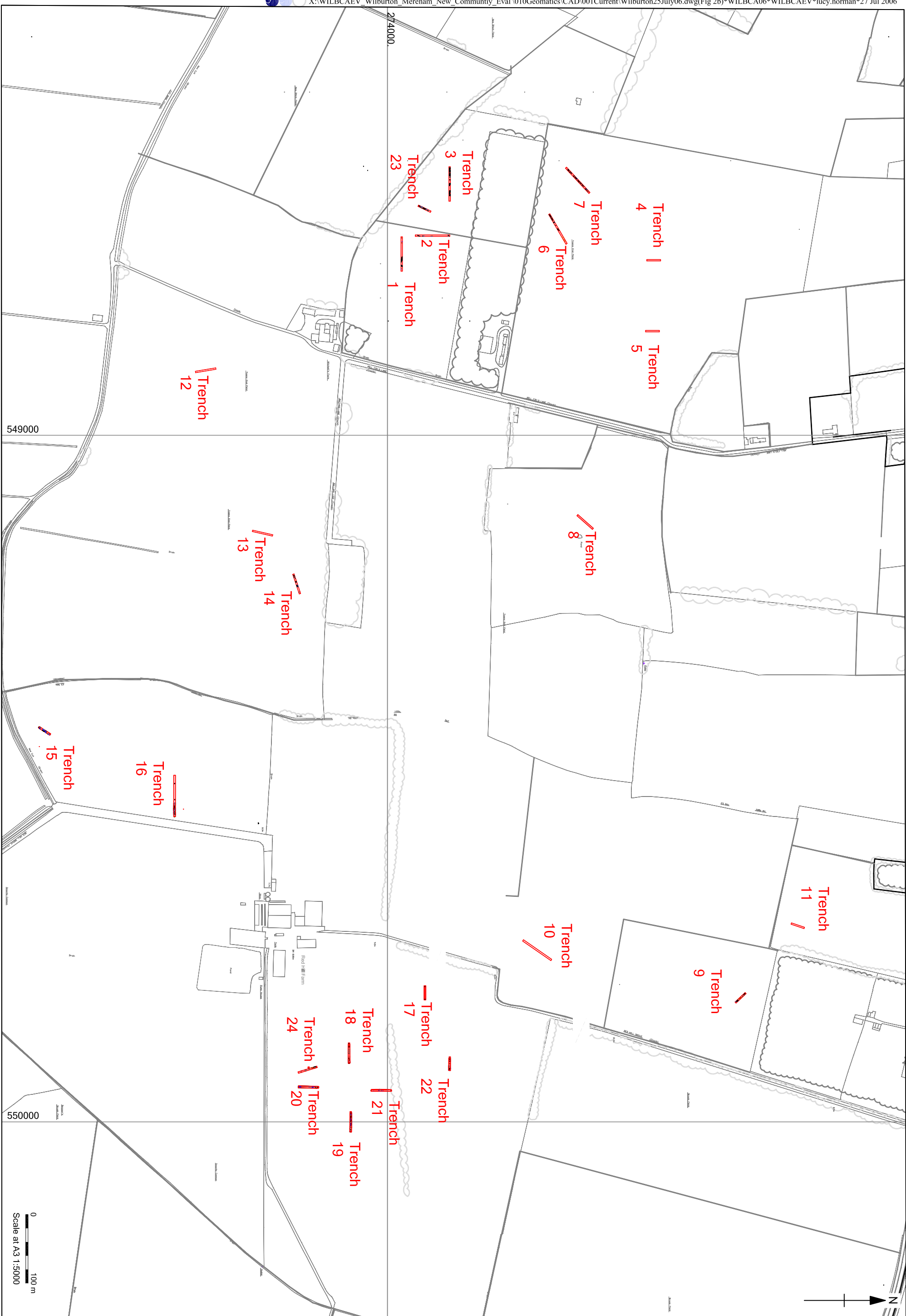


Figure 2b: Trench Locations

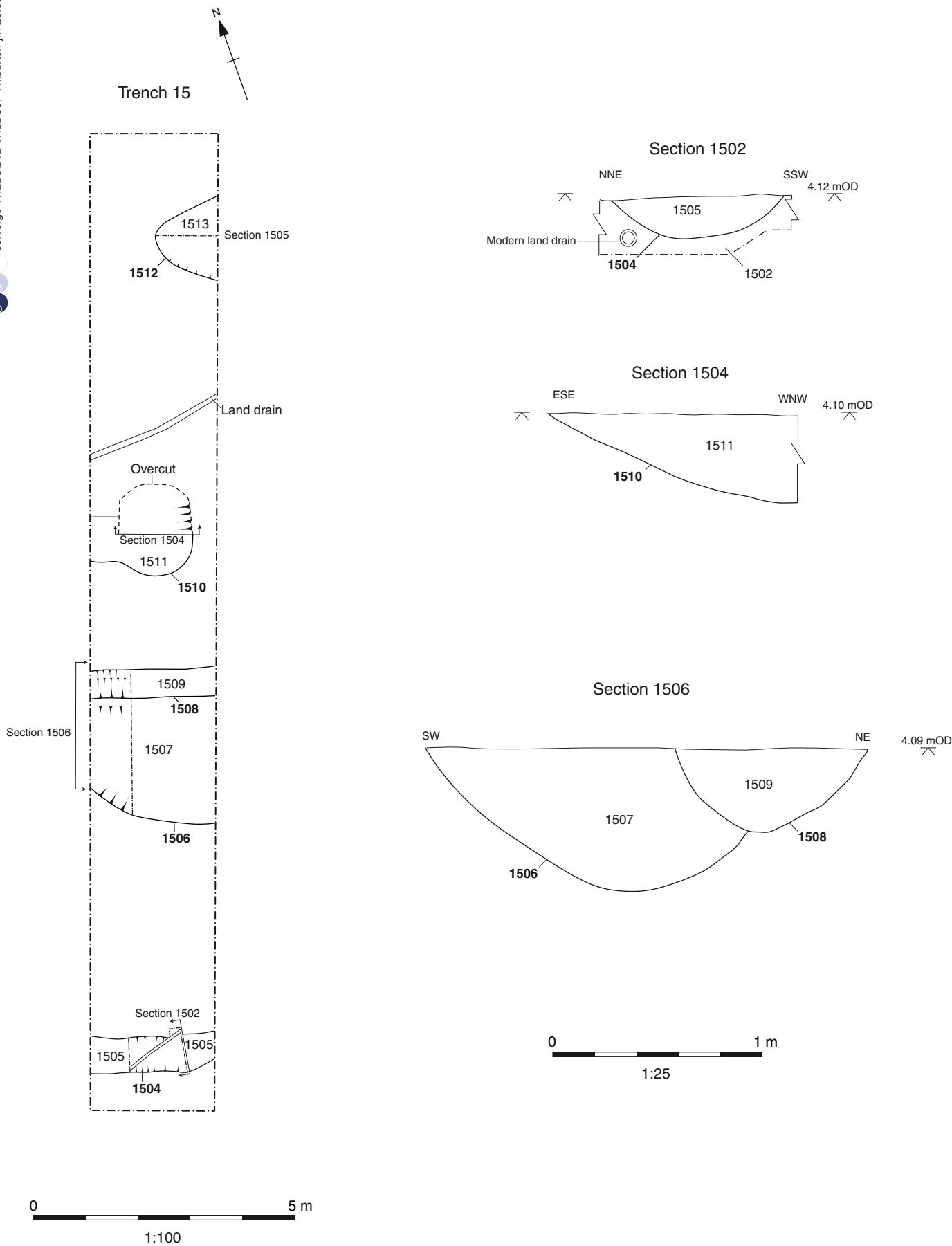
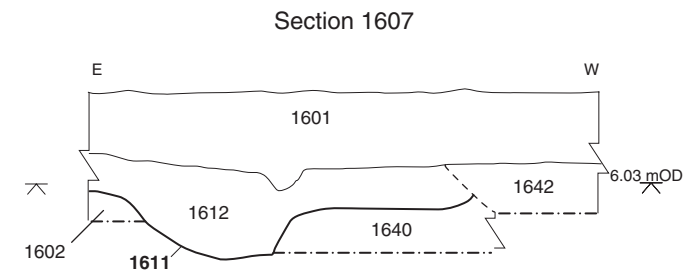
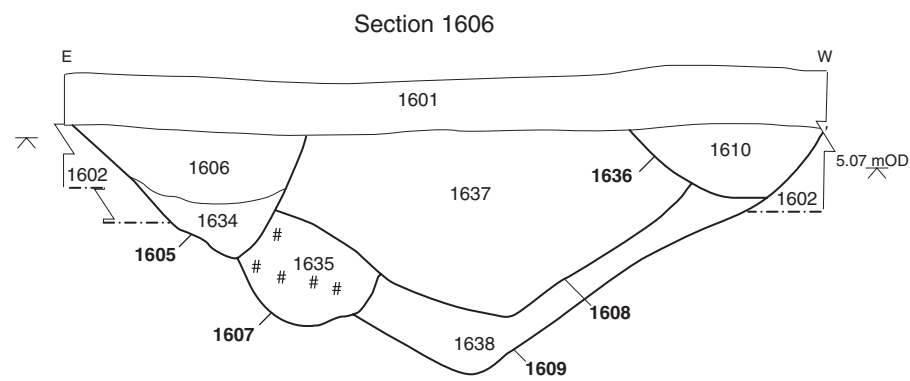
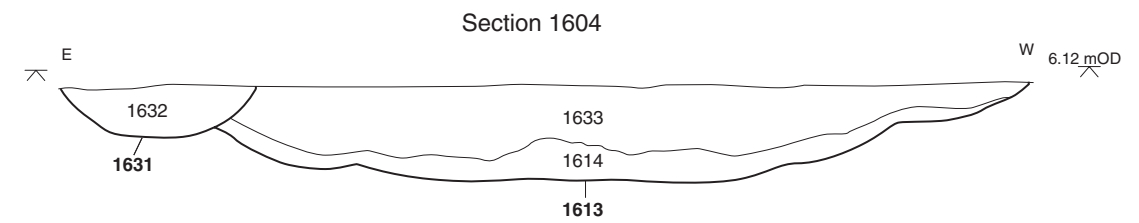
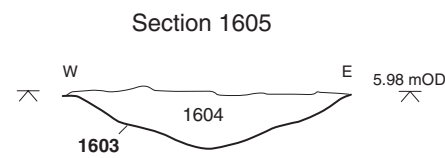
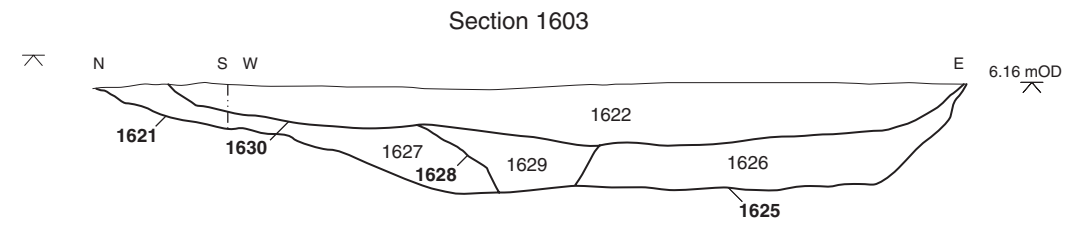
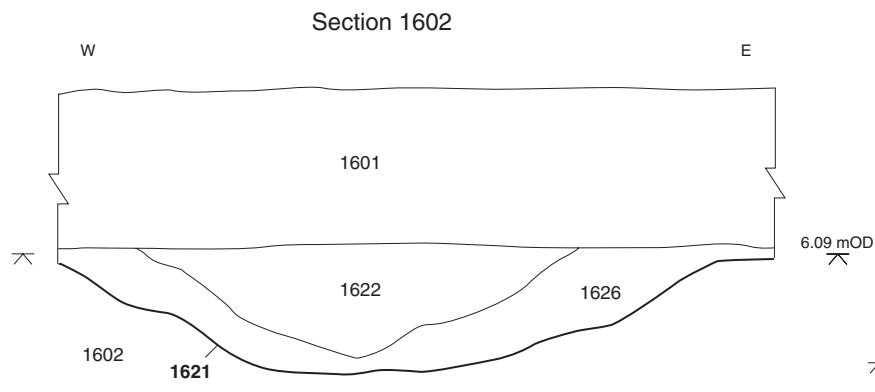
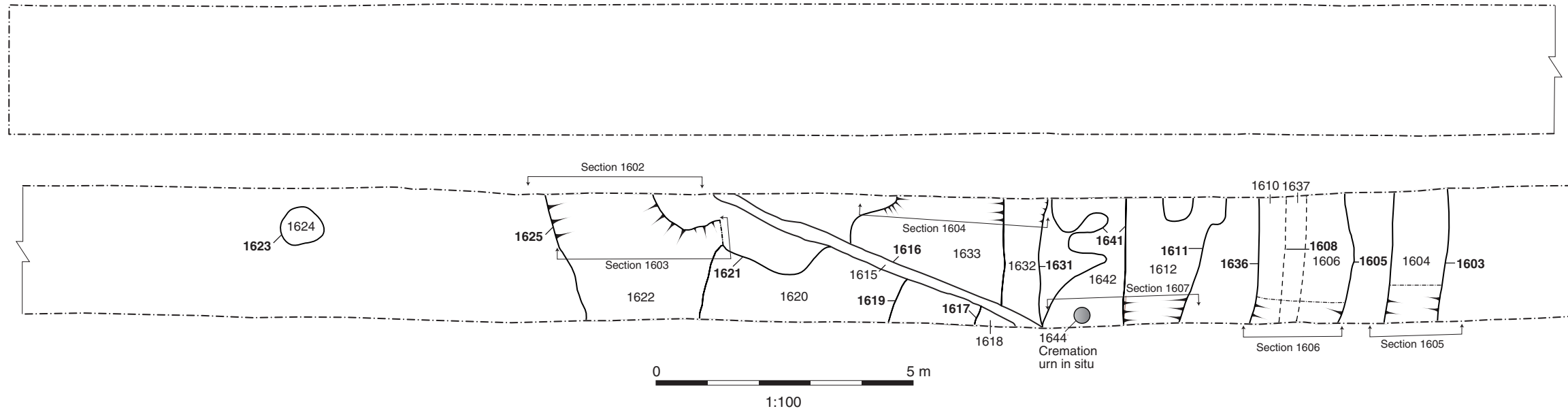


Figure 3: Trench 15, plan and sections



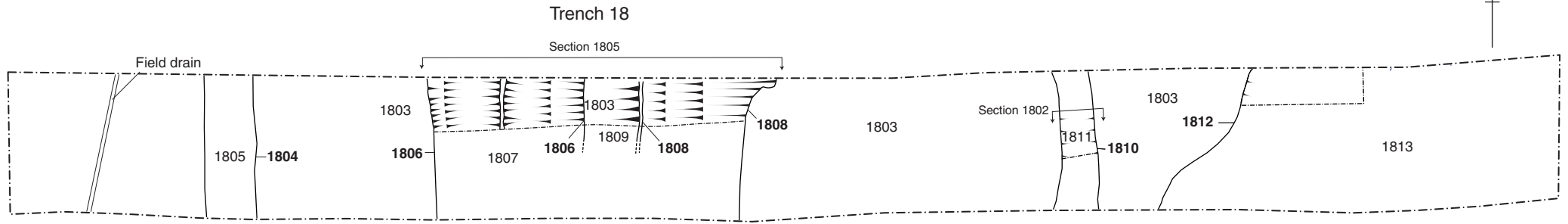
Trench 16



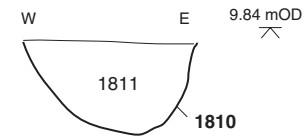
Charcoal



Figure 4: Trench 16, plan and sections



Section 1802



Section 1805

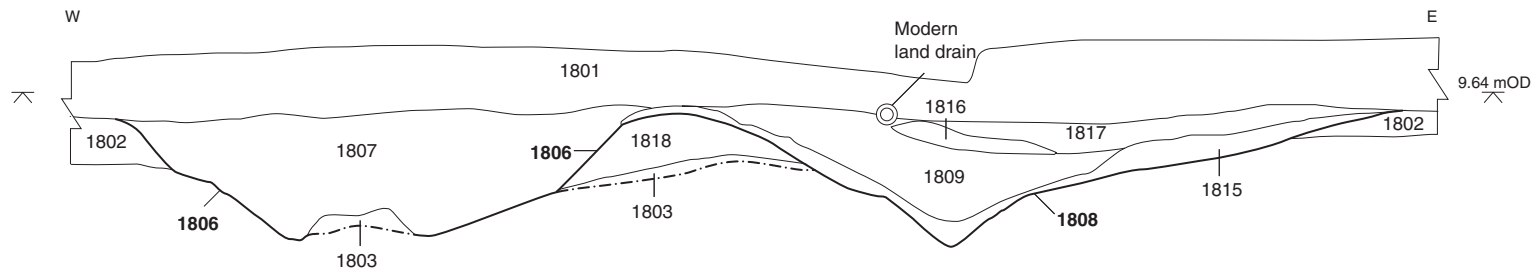
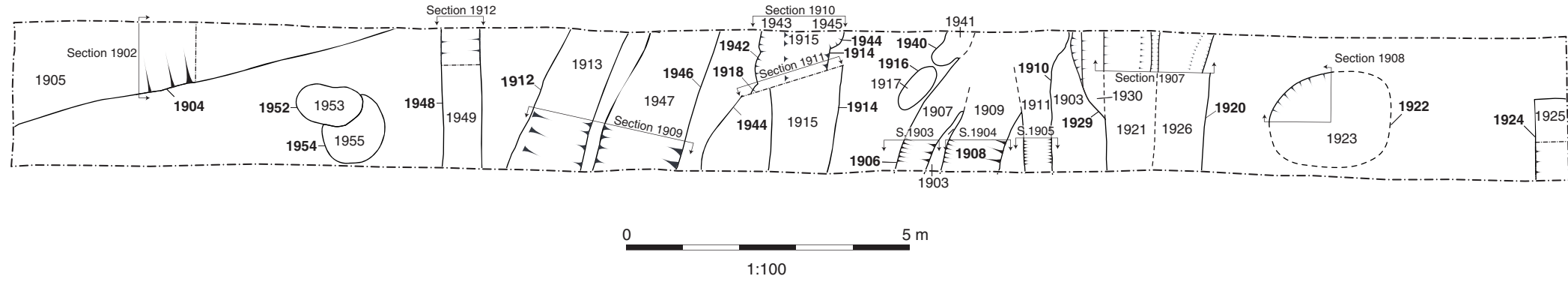
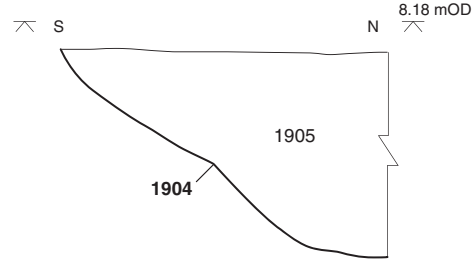


Figure 5: Trench 18, plan and sections

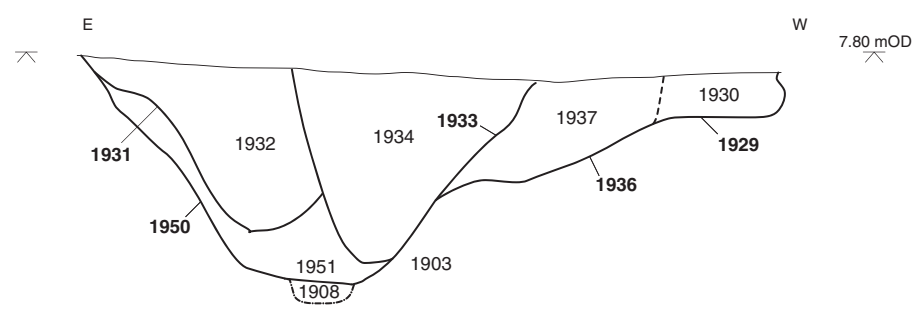
Trench 19



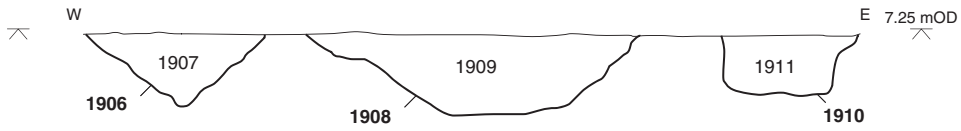
Section 1902



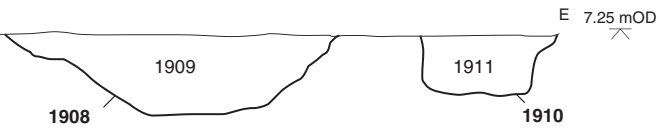
Section 1907



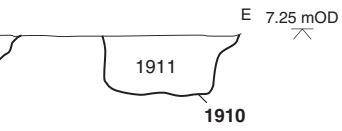
Section 1903



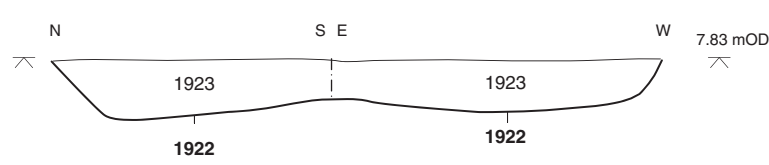
Section 1904



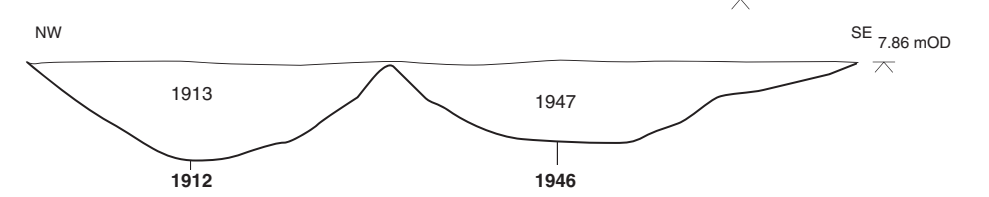
Section 1905



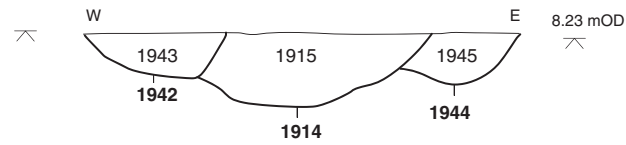
Section 1908



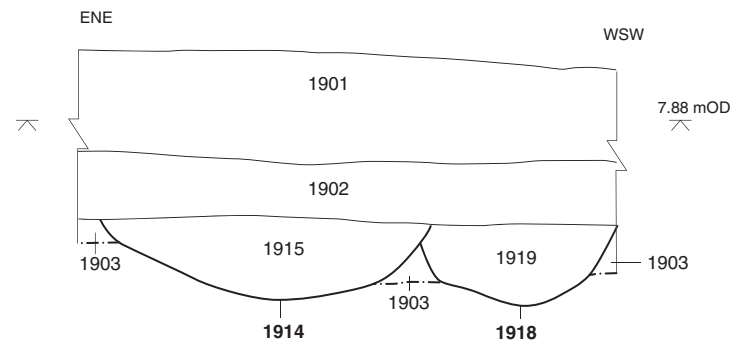
Section 1909



Section 1910



Section 1911



Section 1912

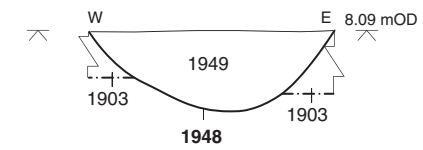


Figure 6: Trench 19, plan and sections

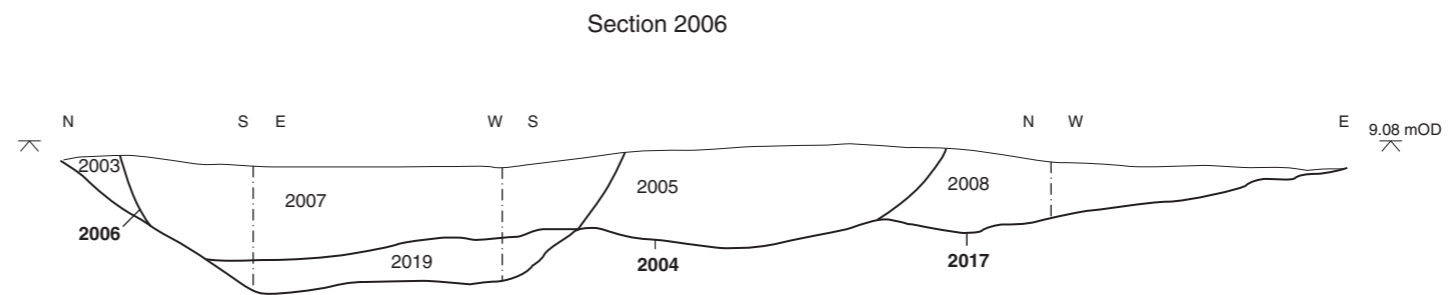
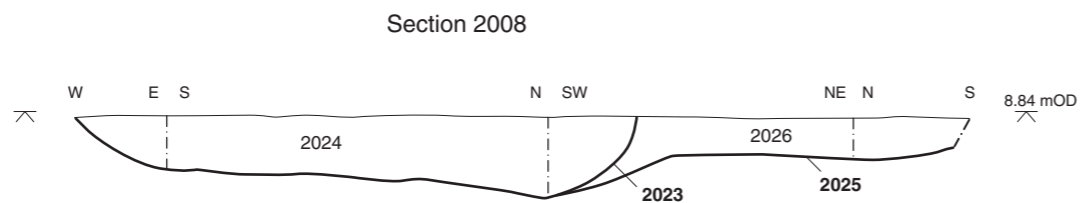
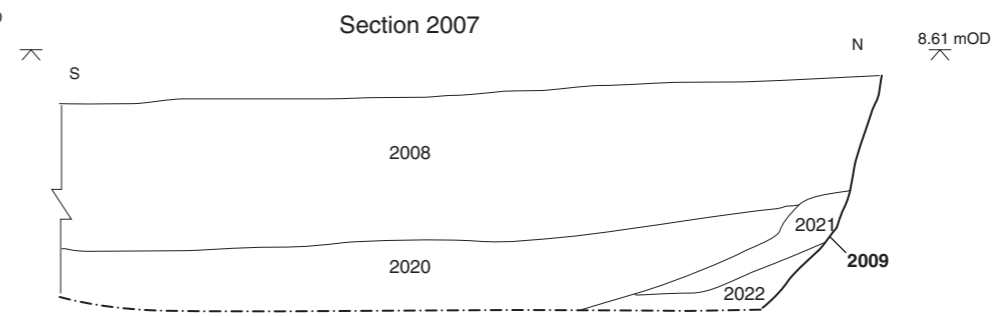
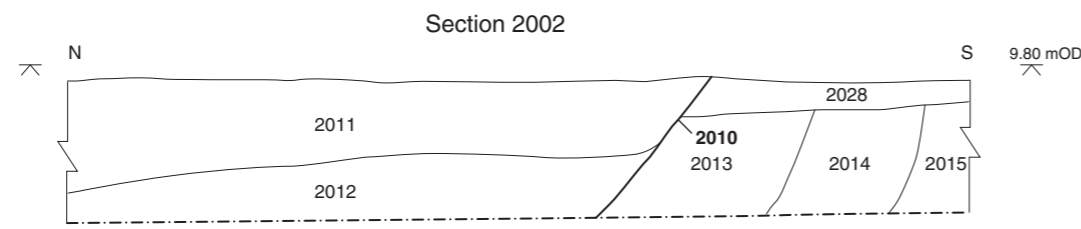
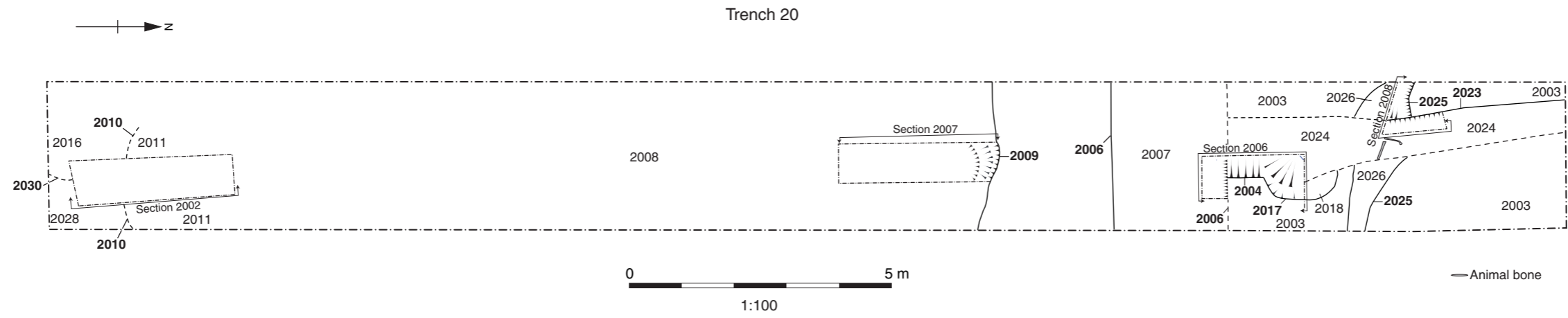


Figure 7: Trench 20, plan and sections

Trench 21

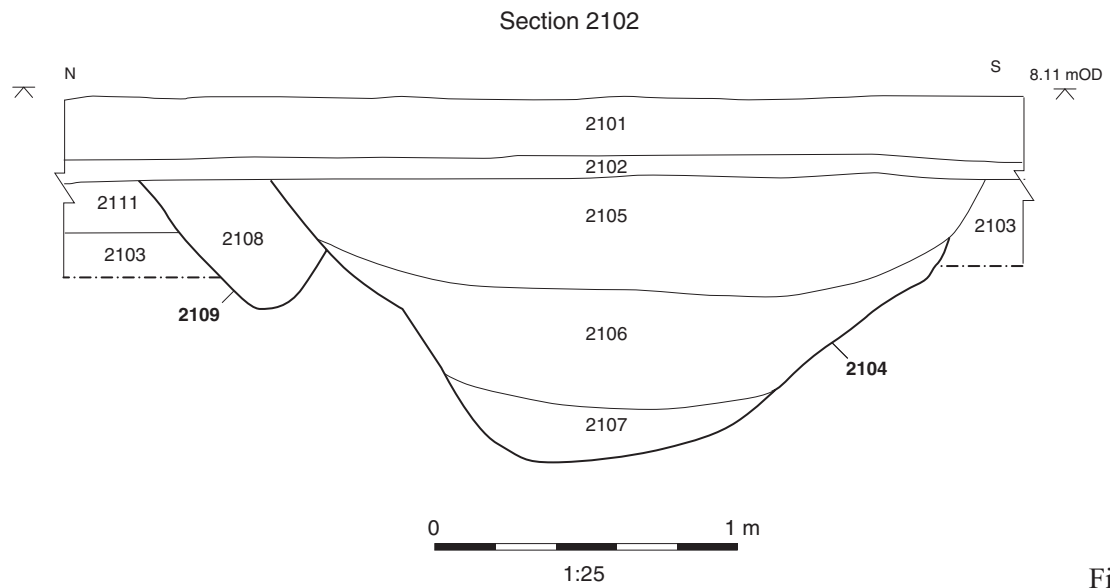
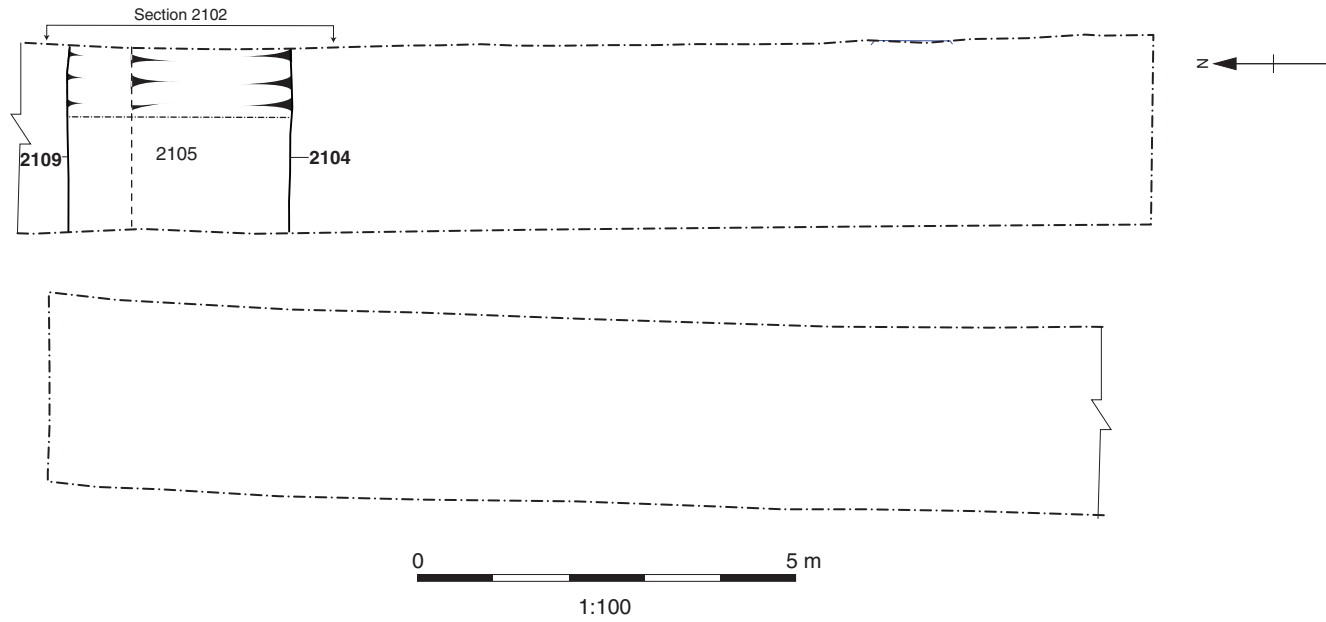


Figure 8: Trench 21, plan and sections

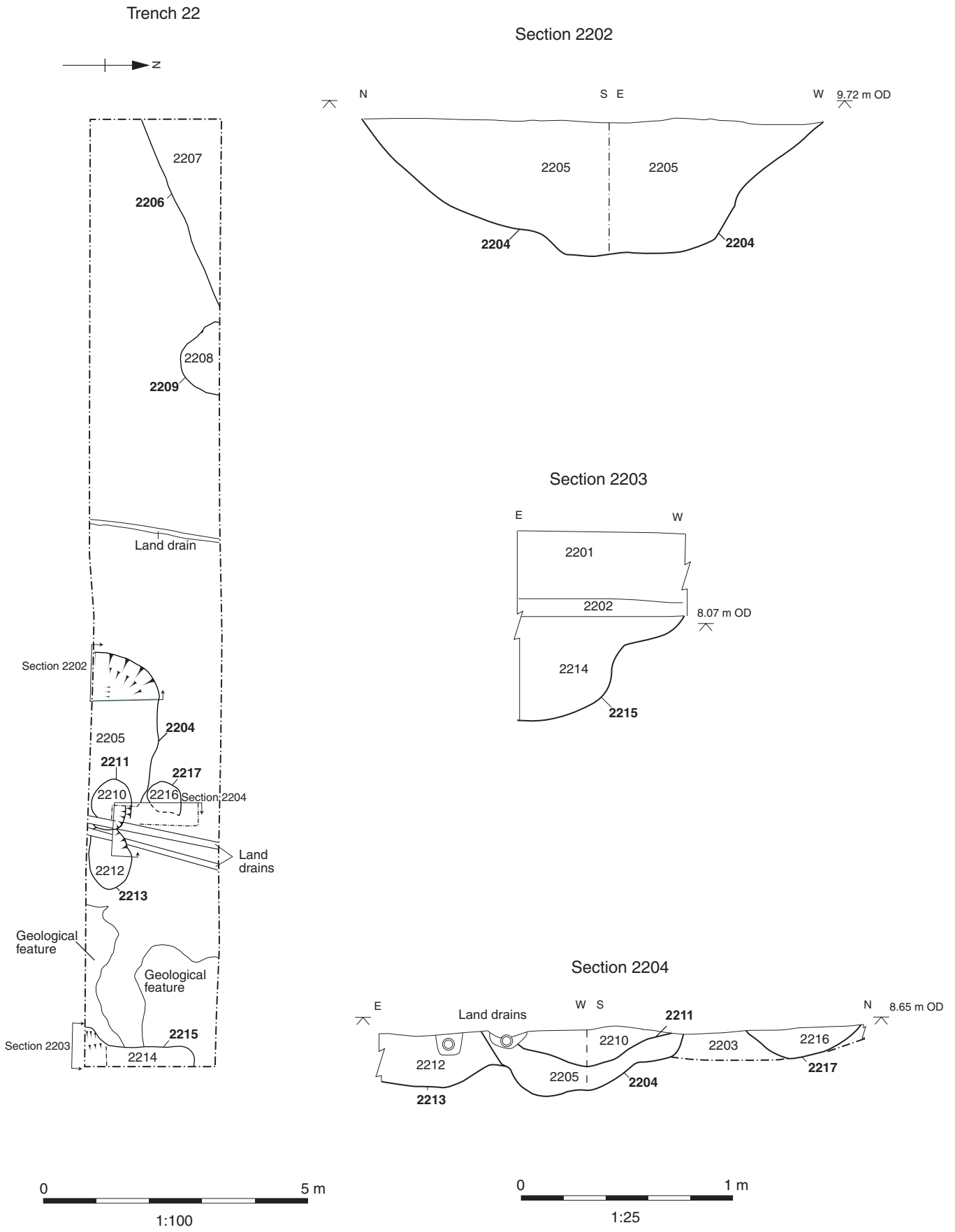


Figure 9: Trench 22, plan and sections

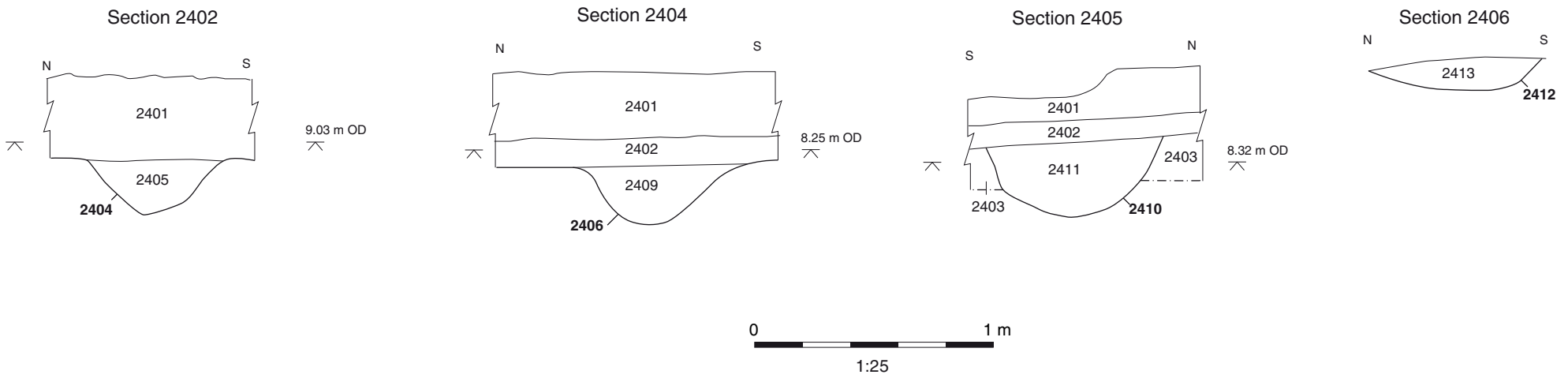
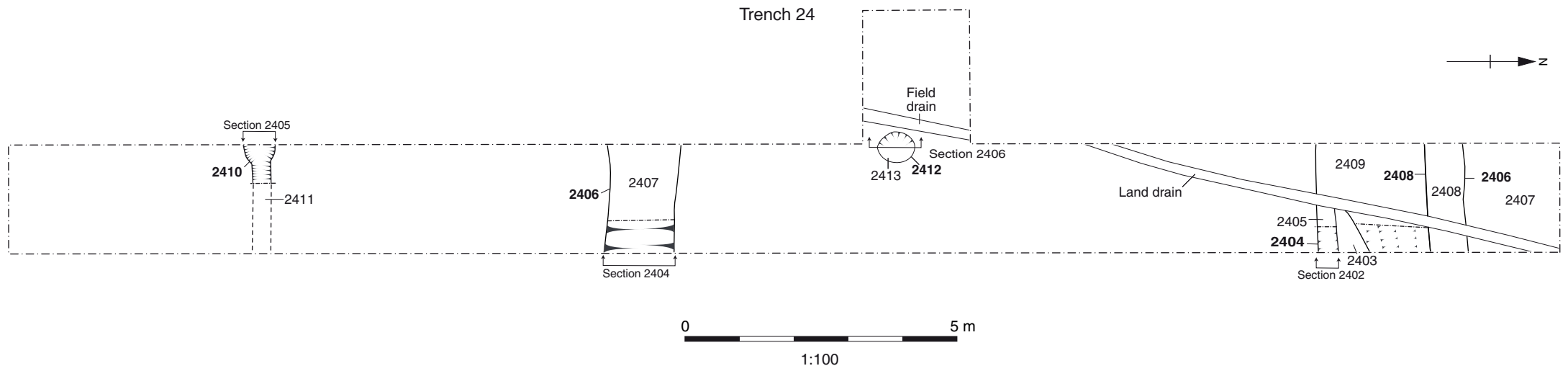


Figure 10: Trench 24, plan and sections



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