Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land at Lubenham Hill Market Harborough, Leicestershire October 2011

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QUALITY CONTOL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation of land at Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. October 2010	
Short description	In October 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land at Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The works identified isolated enclosures of possible late Iron Age date. To the north and east of these was a more extensive complex of Romano-British enclosures which were probably in use from the late 1st - 4th centuries AD. There was evidence of internal features within some of the enclosures and the finds were consistent with that of a medium status rural agricultural settlement. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Iron Age and Roman	
Significant finds	Pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough	
Easting Northing	SP SP 7195 8720	
Area (sq m/ha)	5.72hectres	
Height aOD	95-110mAOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (NA)	
Project Manager	Mike Dawson (CgMs) and Mark Holmes (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body		
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	10/10//2011	
End date	17/10/2011	
ARCHIVES	**Location (Accession no.)**	**Contents**
Physical	XA143.2011	Flint, Pottery, animal bone, slag
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological evaluation of Land at Lubenham Hill Market Harborough, Leicestershire October 2011	
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Contents

Figures

Tables

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND AT LUBENHAM HILL, MARKET HARBOROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE OCTOBER 2011

Abstract

In October 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land at Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The works identified isolated enclosures of possible late Iron Age date. To the north and east of these was a more extensive complex of Romano-British enclosures which were probably in use from the late 1st - 4th centuries AD. There was evidence of internal features within some of the enclosures and the finds were consistent with that of a medium status rural agricultural settlement. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

1 INTRODUCTION

In October 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 7195 8720; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of William Linden Homes, and was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the proposed residential development of the land.

The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011). The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

2 BACKGROUND

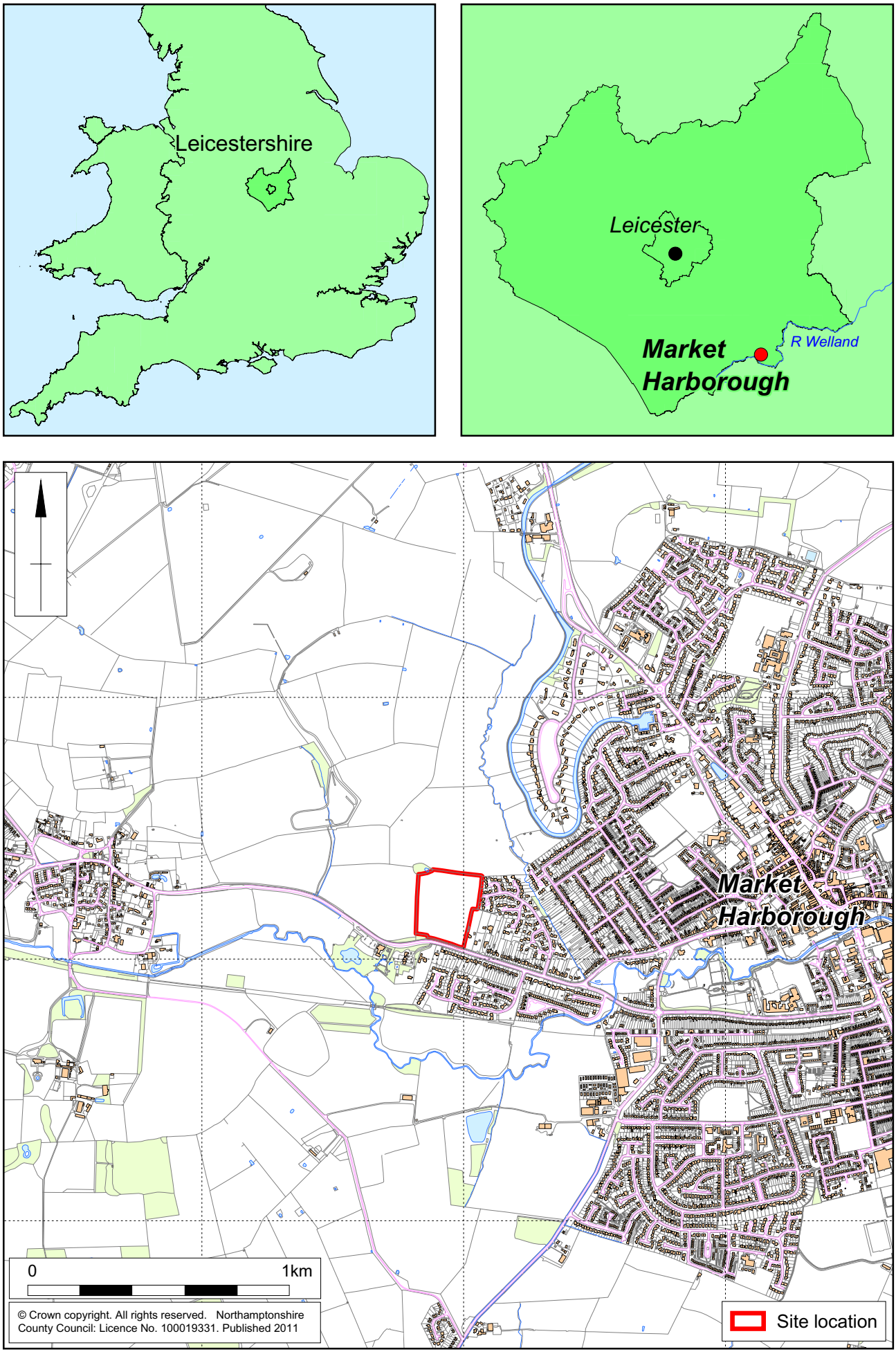
2.1 Location and geology

Location

The site comprises a single arable field, *c* 5.5ha in extent, centred at NGR SP 7195 8720 (Fig 1). It lies on the western side of Market Harborough and is bounded to the south by the A4304 Lubenham Hill road, to the east by a modern housing development and to the north and west by fields. The field boundaries at the north and west also mark the line of the Market Harborough parish boundary. The site occupies the south-eastern flank of Lubenham Hill, a locally prominent feature which attains a maximum elevation of just over 110m aOD.

Geology by Steve Critchley

The site is underlain by rocks belonging to the Dyrham Formation part of the Lias Group of Lower Jurassic age. These consist of a series of marine silty sandy mudstones with thin interbedded ferruginous limestones and sandstones. Pale grey to dark grey, when fresh, the mudstones were seen in exposures to be weathered to stiff light brown clay. Within the upper western portion of the site the solid geology was obscured by an unmapped hilltop remnant of glacial till belonging to the Anglian Stage chalky tills of mid Pleistocene age whilst thick layers of colluvium were noted within the lower eastern portion of the site.



Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The Heritage Assessment (Dawson 2011) ascertained that although no archaeological remains are known from the area itself, a number of discoveries have been made within the general vicinity. On this basis, the site was judged to have "local and perhaps regionally significant archaeological or heritage potential" (Dawson 2001, 17). Evidence for early prehistoric activity within the Market Harborough area is limited, but a number of sites and finds of Iron Age and later date are known, such as Airfield Farm close by (Clarke 2008, 2010). Of most immediate relevance are a Roman coin found immediately to the west of the proposed development area, Roman and Iron Age remains found approximately 500m to the east at Clark Street, and an early Saxon cemetery discovered a similar distance to the north at Hill Crest (Dawson 2011, 11-12). There is no evidence that the proposed development area was used for any purposes other than agriculture during the later Saxon, medieval or post-medieval periods, and it lies well away from the main foci of medieval settlement (Dawson 2011, 12-13).

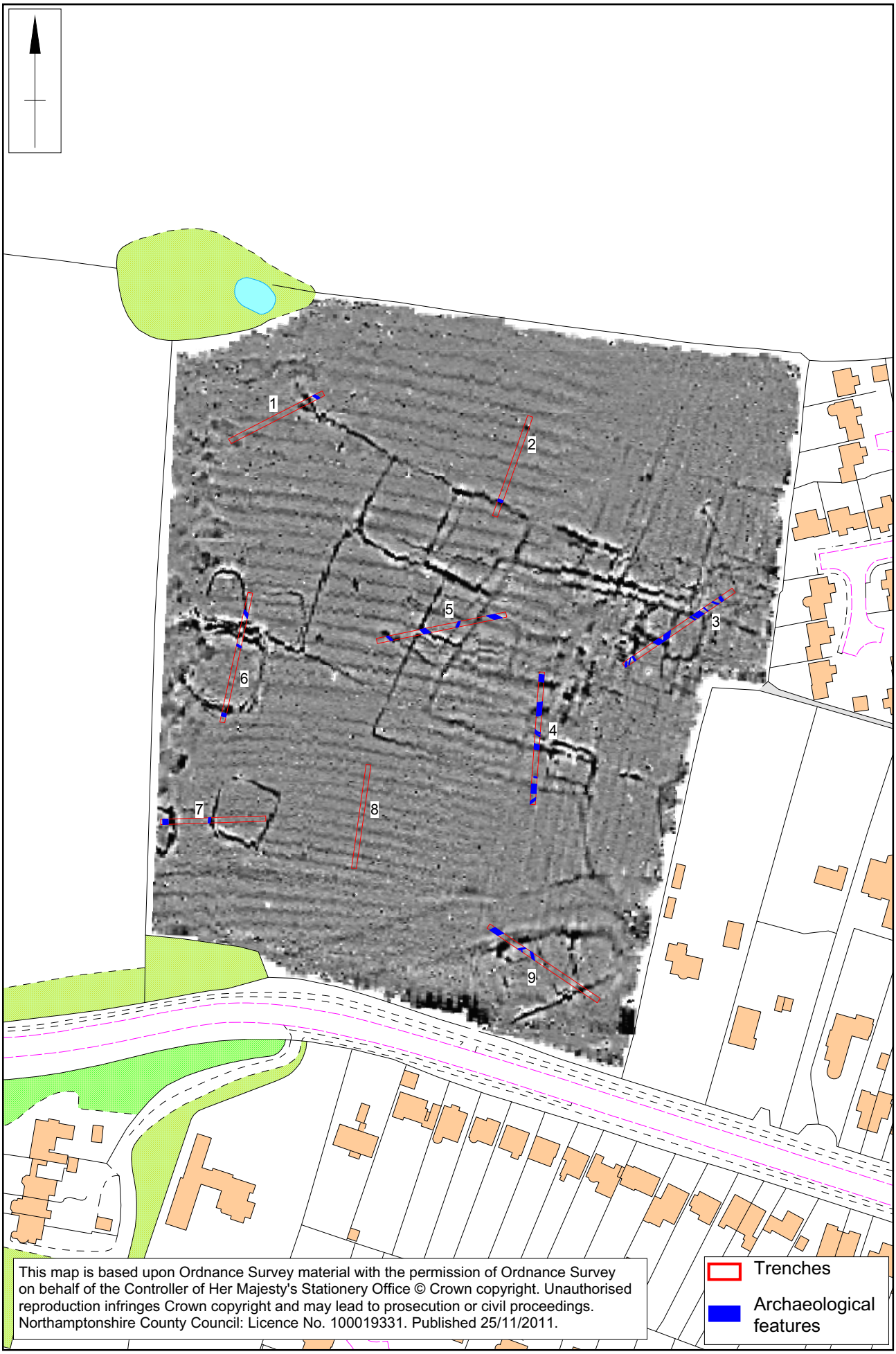
Geophysical survey was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology earlier in 2011 (Walford 2011). The survey located a substantial complex of ditched enclosures, which based upon their form and character constituted an occupation site of Iron Age or Romano-British date. This site extends across the majority of the area surveyed and continues beyond its western, southern and eastern boundaries. The survey results also demonstrated the presence of medieval or later ridge and furrow across the entire survey area and suggest that some relatively small quarry pits may be located along its western boundary.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Nine trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by CgMs Consulting and approved by Theresa Hawtin (Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council) (Fig 2).

Five of the trenches measured 50m long by 2m wide and four were 40m long by 2m wide. The total area excavated was 900m^2. Trenches were positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS.

A 360^o tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:50 or 1:100 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.



Scale 1:2000

Trench location and archaeological features Fig 2

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology was glacial till and clay, which was encountered between 0.2-0.6m below the modern ground surface. This occurred as light-mid orange or brownish-yellow sandy clay with occasional angular to sub-angular pebbles. The subsoil was light grey-brown silty clay and the topsoil was mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt, both soils contained occasional ironstone and flint pebbles.

Archaeological features cut into the natural geology were found in eight of the nine trenches. Only remnant furrows from fudge and furrow were encountered in Trench 8.

4.2 The trial trenches (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

The trial trenches were positioned in order to confirm the findings of the earlier geophysical survey. The survey had identified a complex of conjoined and overlapping, generally rectilinear enclosures that occupied the sloping ground towards the centre of the site. Trenches 1 to 4 were located to sample these features.

Further enclosures were present at the top of the slope towards the western boundary of the site and trenches 6 and 7 sampled these.

Trench 8 sampled an area that appeared devoid of archaeological features, save for ridge and furrow cultivation. Trench 9 was positioned to traverse a number of linear anomalies in the south-east corner of the site.

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix.

Trenches 6 and 7, which contained Iron Age features, are described first.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was 50m long, aligned north to south, and located to sample a transect across geophysical anomalies representing two separate, possibly curvilinear enclosures (Fig 2). Three ditches were found which corresponded with the enclosure boundaries (Fig 4). An area of possible magnetic disturbance between the enclosures did not appear to equate with any below ground features. No pottery was recovered from any of the ditches and their form may suggest that they are possibly prehistoric in date rather than belonging to the Romano-British enclosure system to the east.

Ditch [604]

At the north end of the trench [604] was aligned north to south, 1.34m wide and 0.24m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile. The fill of mid brown-orange silty clay (605), contained animal bone.

Ditch [606]

In the middle of the trench ditch [606], aligned north-west to south-east, formed the northern boundary of a curvilinear enclosure. It measured 0.95m wide and 0.20m deep, with a U-shaped profile, and a fill of mid brown-grey silty clay (607) containing animal

bone. A very large boulder in the upper fill of the ditch was part of the fill, and was not associated with any other features.

Ditch [608]
At the south end of the trench ditch [608], aligned north-west to south-east, formed the southern boundary of a sub-square enclosure. It measured 1.36m wide and 0.30m deep, and had a U-shaped profile with a fill of mid brown-orange silty clay (609). A very large boulder in the upper part of the ditch was not associated with any other features. No finds were recovered.

Trench 7
Trench 7 was 40m long, aligned east to west and located in order to cross geophysical anomalies representing a sub-square enclosure and the eastern edge of another possible enclosure which extended beyond the edge of the surveyed area. Two ditches were found which corresponded with the enclosure boundaries (Figs 2 and 4). No internal features were present. Both ditches produced Iron Age shell gritted ware, suggesting that, as with Trench 6, the features here may pre-date the main Romano-British site.

Ditch [705]
At the west of the trench ditch [705], aligned north to south, formed the eastern boundary to a possible enclosure. It measured 1.99m wide and 0.60m deep, with a broad U-shaped profile (Fig 5, section 9). The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (704) contained Iron Age pottery, including sherds from a bead rim, neckless jar with scored decoration was found along with animal bone.

Ditch [707]
In the centre of the trench ditch [707], aligned north to south, formed the western boundary to a sub-square enclosure. It measured 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep with a V-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (706) contained Iron Age pottery.

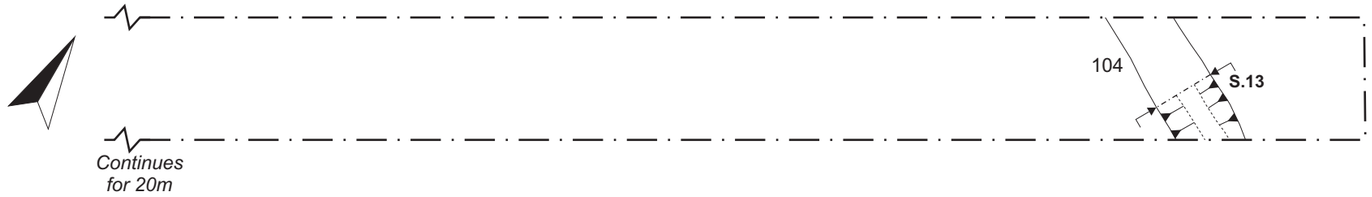
Trench 1
Trench 1 was 40m long, aligned north-east to south-west, and located to target a geophysical anomaly representing a possible enclosure or boundary ditch, as well as an area of possible quarrying. There was a single shallow ditch [104] at the north-east of the trench which equates with the geophysical anomaly (Fig 3). However, there was no direct evidence of quarrying within the trench.

Ditch [104]
A ditch [104], aligned north-west to south-east, 1.17m wide and 0.30m deep, had a U-shaped profile, and a fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (103).

Trench 2
Trench 2, 40m long, was aligned north-east to south-west and was located to target a geophysical anomaly representing the northern side of a sub-square enclosure, as well as an apparently 'blank' area to the north. A ditch towards the south-west end of the trench [205] corresponds to the geophysical anomaly (Fig 3). No further features were present suggesting that the there is a true hiatus to the north of the ditch.

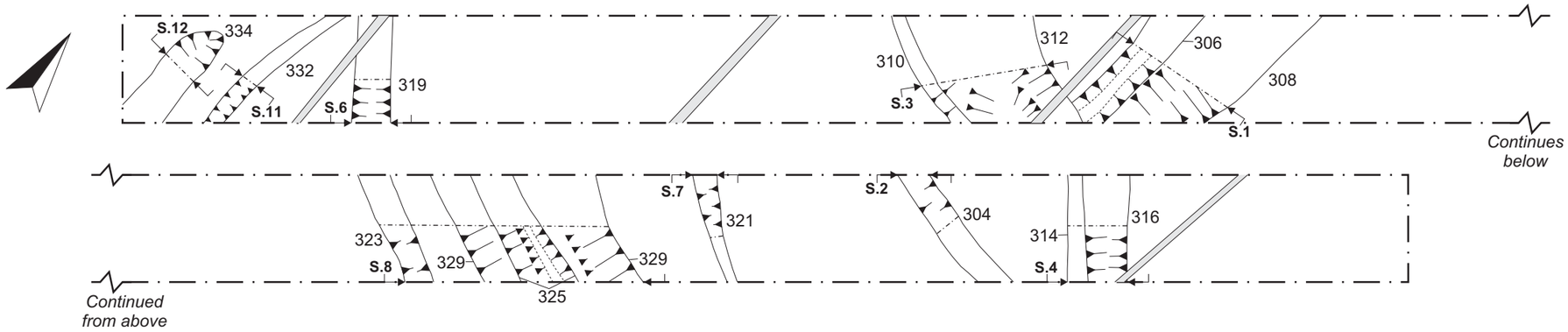
Ditch [205]
A ditch [205], aligned north-west to south-east, 0.96m wide and 0.34m deep, had a U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (204) contained a small amount of Roman greyware pottery which dates the feature to the late 1st – early 2nd centuries AD.

Trench 1

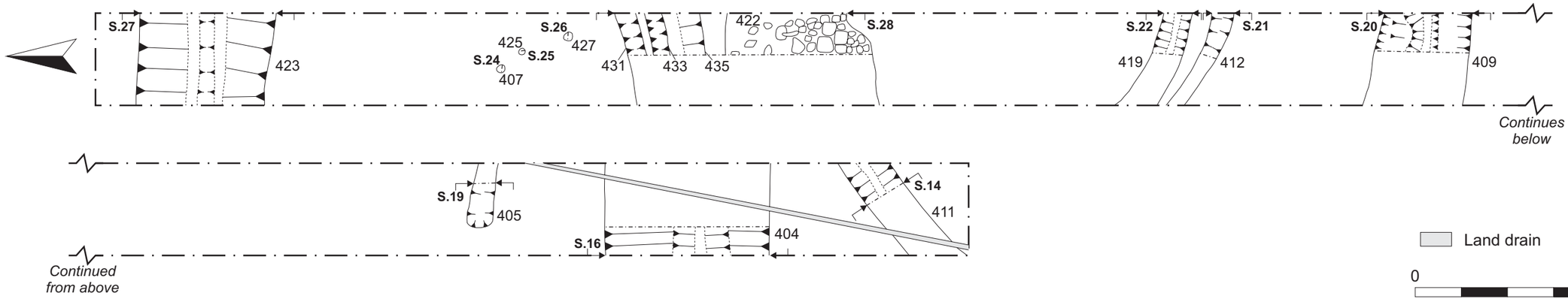


Trench 2

Trench 3



Trench 4

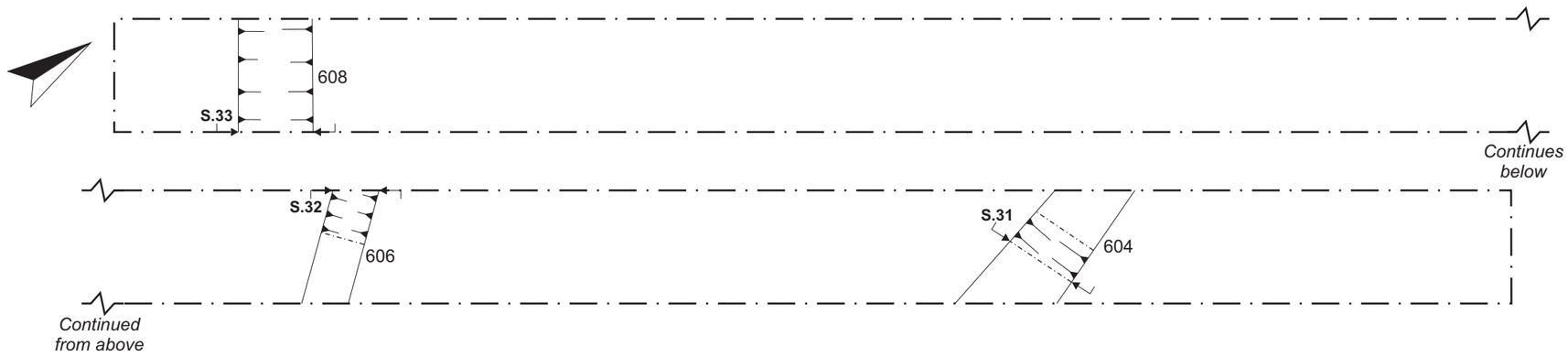


Scale 1:100 (A3)

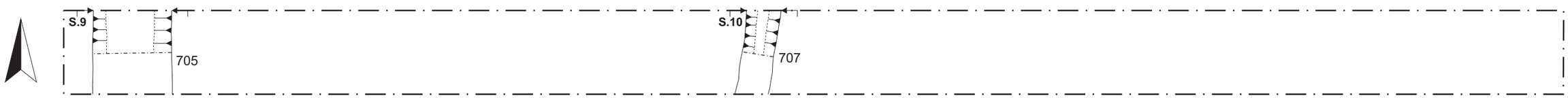
Plans of trenches 1-4 Fig 3

Trench 5

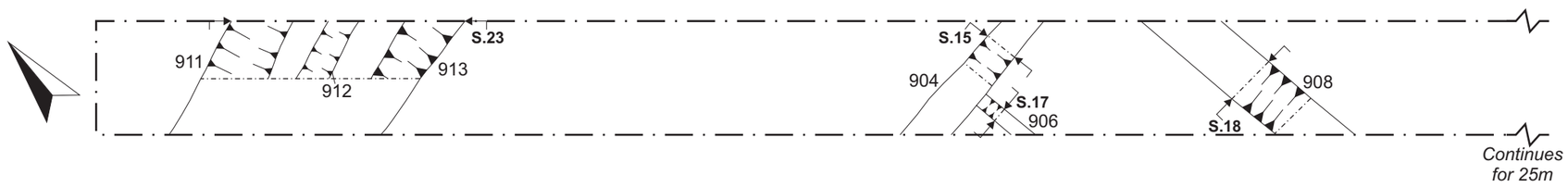
Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 9



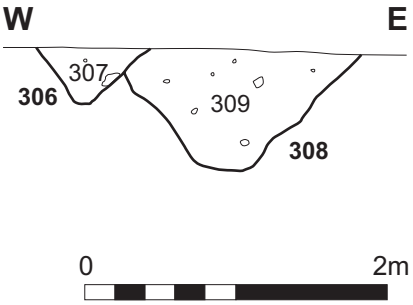
Land drain

0 5m

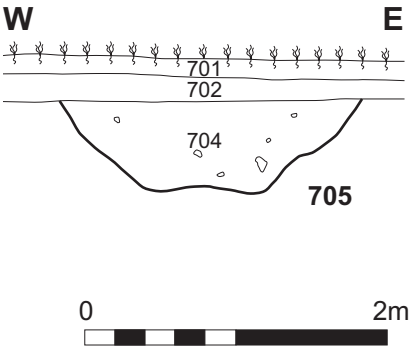
Scale 1:100 (A3)

Plans of trenches 5-7 and 9 Fig 4

Section 1



Section 9



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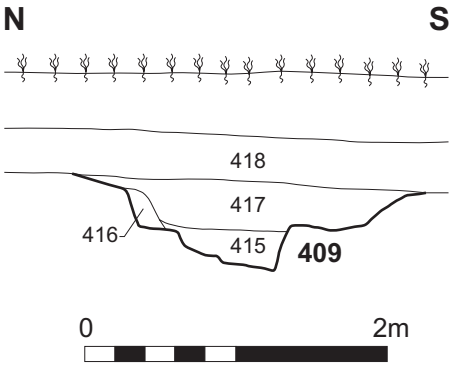

Scale 1:50 (A4)

Sections of features in trenches 3,4 and 7 Fig 5

Trench 3

Trench 3, was 50m long and aligned north-east to south-west and located in order to sample a series of geophysical anomalies possibly representing enclosures and other less defined features (Fig 3). A number of ditches and gullies, several of which had been re-cut, were present throughout the length of the trench demonstrating a relatively intense area of activity. The pottery suggests the majority of this activity occurred in the 1st - 2nd centuries AD, although some features extend into the 3rd and possibly the 4th centuries AD.

Ditch [314] [316]

At the north-east end of the trench was ditch [314], aligned north-west to south-east, 1.19m wide and 0.50m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (315) contained Roman pottery, animal bone and a fragment of a quern. The ditch had been re-cut on its eastern side [316]. The re-cut was 0.90m wide and 0.31m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill of mid grey-brown silty clay (317), containing animal bone, was overlain by mid grey-brown silty clay (318), from which Roman pottery was recovered.

Gully [304]

A gully [304], aligned west to east, 0.61m wide and 0.25m deep, had concave sides merging to a flat base. The fill of mid grey-brown silty clay (305) containing Roman pottery.

Gully [321]

To the west of ditch [304] was a gully [321], aligned north-west to south-east, 0.45m wide and 0.21m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (322) contained Roman pottery, dated to the late 1st century, animal bone and a residual flint flake.

Ditch [329] [325]

Ditch [329] was aligned north-west to south-east, 3.03m wide and 0.63m deep with concave sides merging to a U-shaped drainage gully at its base. The primary fill of light grey-brown silty clay (331) was overlain by dark orange-grey mottled silty clay (330), containing Roman pottery of the 2nd – 3rd century AD and animal bone. A re-cut [325] on an identical alignment, 1.35m wide and 0.81m deep, had a U-shaped profile. The fill of dark orange-brown silty clay (327) contained Roman pottery, also of the 2nd century AD, as well as animal bone. The feature ditch was overlain by an undated lens of burnt clay (326).

Gully [323]

Adjacent to ditch [329] in the centre of the trench was gully [323], aligned north-west to south-east, 0.52m wide and 0.22m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile, and a fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (324). No finds were recovered.

Ditches [306] [308]

A ditch [308], aligned north-east to south-west, 1.60m wide and 0.80m deep, had a V-shaped profile (Fig 5, section 1). The fill of dark brown-grey sillty clay (309) contained Roman pottery and animal bone. The ditch had been cut through on its western side by a later much narrower ditch, on an identical alignment [306]. This measured 0.75m wide and 0.37m deep, had a V-shaped profile and a fill of dark brown-grey silty clay (307).

Ditch [310] [312]

To the east of ditches [308] and [306] and probably cutting through them was a further ditch [310]. It was aligned north-west to south-east and survived to a width of 0.30m having been re-cut on its eastern side [312]. It was 0.80m deep with a U-shaped

profile. The fill of mid grey-orange silty clay (311) contained Roman pottery and animal bone. A re-cut [312] was 2.00m wide and 0.50m deep with a broad U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (313) contained Roman pottery, probably dating to the 3rd or possibly 4th centuries AD, tile and animal bone.

Ditch [319]
To the west of ditch [310] was a ditch [319], aligned north to south, 0.85m wide and 0.34m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (320) contained Roman pottery dated to the 2nd century, animal bone and a flint blade.

Gully [332]
Gully [332], aligned north-east to south-west, was 0.26m wide and 0.19m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile. The fill of mid grey-orange silty clay (333) contained Roman pottery, tile and animal bone.

Ditch [334]
At the west of the trench adjacent to gully [332] and on the same north-west to south-east alignment was the terminal of a ditch [334], 0.62m wide and 0.28m, with a broad U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (335), contained Roman pottery of the 3rd- 4th centuries AD and animal bone.

Trench 4
Trench 4 was 50m long and aligned north to south (Figs 2 and 3). It cut through a medieval plough headland and so was deeper than the other evaluation trenches. It was positioned to target geophysical anomalies representing possible enclosure ditches, their interiors and other undefined features. A series of ditches corresponding to the geophysical anomalies were found. Gullies, postholes, and a compacted stone indicated the presence of structural elements within the enclosed areas. As elsewhere at the site, pottery from the features generally indicated a 1st – 2nd century date for the majority of features, although some 3rd-century material was also present.

Ditch [404]
Near the south end of the trench was a broad ditch [404], aligned east to west, 3.30m wide and 0.71m deep. It had undulating sides leading to a concave base. The fill of dark grey-orange silty clay (414), contained Roman pottery.

Ditch [411]
At the south end of the trench, ditch [411] was aligned north-east to south-west, 0.83m wide and 0.28m deep, with a V-shaped profile, and a fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (410). No finds were recovered.

Gully [405]
The terminal of a gully [405] was north of ditch [404]. It was aligned east to west, 0.51m wide and 0.15m deep, with a shallow concave profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (406) contained Roman pottery.

Ditch [409]
In the centre of the trench was a ditch [409], aligned east to west, 2.30m wide and 0.63m deep, with an undulating sides and flat base (Fig 5, section 20). The primary fill of light grey-brown silty clay (415), was overlain by dark grey-brown silty clay (416). The uppermost fill was mid grey-brown silty clay (417). Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered from all fills.

Gully [412]
Gully [412] was aligned north-east to south-east, 0.54m wide and 0.16m deep, with a fill of dark grey-orange silty clay (413). No finds were recovered.

Gully [419]
Adjacent and parallel to gully [412] was a further gully [419], 0.68m wide and 0.35m deep. The fill of dark grey-orange silty clay (420), contained Roman pottery. The proximity and similarity with gully [412] may indicate that they are associated.

Surface (422)
In the centre of the trench a surface (422), comprising compacted limestone, ironstone, river cobbles and two fragments of millstone, was 4m wide and 0.10m deep. It was sealed by a layer of mid grey-brown silty clay (421), from which residual prehistoric worked flints and Roman pottery dating from the 1st – 3rd centuries AD were recovered.

Ditch [435]
Just north of surface (422) was ditch [435], aligned north-east to south-west, 0.70m wide and 0.24m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (434) contained Roman pottery dating from the 2nd – 3rd centuries AD.

Ditch [433]
Adjacent to ditch [435] was ditch [433], aligned north-east to south-west, 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep, with a shallow V-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (432) contained Roman pottery and an iron nail.

Gully [431]
Parallel to gully [433] was gully [431], 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile, and a fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (430). With ditches [433] and [435], the gully was one of three similar features, immediately adjacent to each other and on the same alignment. The features may also be associated with surface [422] and postholes [407][425] and [427].

Posthole Group [407], [425] and [427]
To the north of gully [431] was a line of three postholes [407], [425] and [427], aligned north-west to south-east, with an average diameter of 0.15m and depth of 0.10m, with fills of mid grey-brown silty clay (408), (426) and (428). The postholes may have been part of a fenceline and may be associated with surface [422].

Layer (421)
A layer of dark grey-brown silty clay, 0.10m thick, was located in the centre of the trench overlying surface (422), gully [431] and ditches [433] and [435]. Two residual flint flakes and a flint blade were recovered along with Roman pottery of the 1st – 3rd centuries AD.

Ditch [423]
At the north of the trench a broad ditch [423] was aligned west to east, 2.80m wide and 0.60m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with grey-brown silty clay (424), containing Roman pottery and tile.

Trench 5
Trench 5 was 50m long, aligned north-east to south-west and was located to sample geophysical anomalies representing enclosure ditches and their interiors (Figs 2 and 4). The two ditches and two gullies found generally corresponded well with the geophysical anomalies. All the ditches had single fills and no evidence of re-cuts. The pottery from the fills was of a late 1st century – 2nd century AD date.

Ditch [512]
At the north-east end of the trench was a ditch [512], aligned north-west to south-east, with a broad U-shaped profile, and a fill of mid grey-brown silty clay (513).

Gully [504]
Towards the centre of the trench gully [504] was aligned north-east to south-west, 0.60m wide and 0.28m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-orange silty clay (505) contained Roman pottery.

Ditch [510]
A broad ditch [501], aligned north-west to south-east, was 2.45m wide and 0.60m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (511) contained Roman pottery.

Gully [506]
At the south-west of the trench was gully [506], aligned north-west to south-east, 0.62m wide and 0.31m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill of dark orange-grey silty clay (507) contained Roman pottery.

Trench 9
Trench 9 was 50m long and aligned north-west to south-east. It was located to target geophysical anomalies representing possible ditches that lay to the south-east of the main Romano-British enclosure system (Figs 2 and 4). A number of ditches were recorded that corresponded with the geophysical plot, although not all the anomalies were represented by below ground features. Only one of the ditches produced dating evidence, which suggested a possible late 1st century AD date for the feature. Several of the ditches contained quantities of burnt stones but the function of the ditches was unclear.

Ditch [911]
At the north-west of the trench, ditch [911] was aligned east to west, 1.60m wide and 0.68m deep, with a V-shaped profile. The fill of mid brown-grey silty clay (914) also filled and overlay adjacent features, gully [912] and ditch [913]. The commonality of fill and alignment would suggest that the three features are associated.

Gully [912]
South-west of ditch [911] was a gully [912], aligned east to west, 0.50m wide and 0.14m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile. The fill of mid brown-grey silty clay (914) was similar to the fills of the adjacent ditches [911] and [913].

Ditch [913]
Adjacent to gully [912] was ditch [913], aligned east to west, 1.20m wide and 0.46m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. The fill of mid brown-grey silty clay (914) was common to adjacent features [911] and 912].

Gully [906]
The terminal of gully [906], aligned north to south, 0.30m wide and 0.05m deep, had a shallow U-shaped profile, and a fill of mid brown-grey silty clay (907). No finds were recovered. The terminal had been cut by ditch [904].

Ditch [904]
Ditch [904], aligned east to west, 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep, had a V-shaped profile. The fill of mid grey-brown silty clay (905) contained two sherds of Roman pottery, possibly of the late 1st century AD, and some animal bone. The ditch cut the terminal of gully [906].

Ditch [908]
South-east of gully [906], ditch [908] was aligned north to south, 1.10m wide and 0.42m, deep with a U-shaped profile. The fill of mid brown grey silty clay (909)

contained animal bone. There were a large number of burnt stones in the base of the ditch.

4.3 Later features

The remains of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing had been detected by the geophysical survey and the remnants of their furrows were present in all trenches although they did not appear to have impacted greatly upon the underyling Roman archaeology.

Ceramic land drains were also found during the excavations in Trenches 3, 4 and 5.

5 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Worked flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

In total six pieces of worked flint were recovered as residual finds from the subsoil, and Roman contexts. The artefacts comprised four flakes, of which two were broken, and two broken blades, summarised in Table 1 below. Post-depositional edge damage was presents on all artefacts consisting of occasional irregular nicks on one or both lateral edges. The raw material was a light to mid grey-brown vitreous flint. The cortex present on the dorsal surfaces of the flakes was light brown and worn. It is likely that the raw material was locally procured gravel flints. One flake has a cortical striking platform.

The worked flint is not directly dateable but the technological characteristics suggest a broadly Neolithic date. No further work is recommended.

Table 1: Summary of worked flint

Fill/cut	SF	Flake/Blade	Portion	Comments
421 layer	7	Flake	Distal	post-depositional edge damage
421 layer	6	Flake	Whole	squat flake
322/321	3	Flake	Distal	post-depositional edge damage
421 layer	8	Blade	Medial	post-depositional edge damage
320/319	2	Blade	Distal	post-depositional edge damage
u/s	4	Flake	Whole	

5.2 The pottery by Rob Perrin

Introduction

The features in the six evaluation trenches from which pottery was recovered comprise ditches, gullies, the subsoil and a layer. The assemblage consists of 350 sherds with a combined weight of 34.5kg, giving an average sherd weight of nearly 10 gms. Table 2 shows the quantities of pottery per trench.

Table 2: Quantities of pottery per trench

Trench	Rim	Body	Base	NoSh	%	Wt (g)	%
Trench 2	2	19	4	25	7.14	236	6.82
Trench 3	12	89	15	116	33.14	1134	32.79
Trench 4	27	123	3	153	43.71	1795	51.91
Trench 5	2	29	1	32	9.14	185	5.35
Trench 7	3	19		22	6.29	104	3.01
Trench 9		2		2	0.57	4	0.12
Total	**46**	**281**	**23**	**350**		**3458**	

The pottery was recorded using simple fabric classifications and form codes. The fabrics are based on principal inclusion or firing technique, together with the identification of some known regional ware types (eg Lower Nene Valley wares) and imported samian ware. No joins between sherds in different contexts were observed.

Fabrics

Table 3 shows that various greywares account for around half of the assemblage. These occur with varying visual characteristics, including a range in colour from light to dark grey and differing core colours; none appeared to have burnished surfaces. These variations are likely, in the main, to reflect varying firing conditions and techniques and may not, therefore, be especially meaningful in terms of date or source.

A number of grogged wares comprise around a further fifth of the assemblage and some of these represent different dates and, possibly, sources. Shell gritted ware, cream ware, oxidised ware and Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware (LNVCC) are the other main fabrics, with small amounts of Black burnished ware (BB1), South (SGS) and Central Gaulish (CGS) samian ware and Mancetter-Hartshill and, probably, *Verulamium* mortaria making up the rest of the assemblage.

It is probable that the most of the grey, grogged and oxidised wares were locally produced. A recent summary of the Roman pottery industry of West-Central Leicestershire (Pollard 2005) records a number of kiln sites in and near Leicester, within a 20 kilometre radius of Market Harborough. Pollard also notes, however, that the industry in Leicester and its hinterland is poorly understood (*ibid*. 153).

There are other known kiln sites within a 20km radius of the site in modern day Northamptonshire, such as Corby and in and around Kettering (Swan 1984, 144-5 and Map 14). Some of the cream wares may also have been produced locally, or could have derived from industries further afield, such as the Lower Nene Valley or *Verulamium*.

Table 3: Pottery assemblage by principal fabric type

Fabric	Rim	Body	Base	NoSh	%	Wt (g)	%
IASG	1	8	1	10	2.86	54	1.56
Grog		13	1	14	4	146	4.22
Hard grog		2		2	0.57	20	0.58
Pink grog	3	20		23	6.57	146	4.22
Hard pink grog		1		1	0.29	42	1.21
Hard cream grog	2	16	1	19	5.43	342	9.89
Grog with shell	2	6		8	2.29	162	4.68
Greys	23	127	17	167	47.71	1746	50.49
Shell	4	14		18	5.14	106	3.07
Cream	1	11		12	3.43	268	7.75
Oxidised	3	18		21	6	88	2.54
LNVCC	3	37		40	11.43	196	5.67
BB1	2	4	2	8	2.29	50	1.45
SGS		1		1	0.29	2	0.06
CGS	2	2		4	1.14	26	0.75
Mancetter-Hartshill		1	1	2	0.57	64	1.85
Total	**46**	**281**	**23**	**350**		**3458**	

Forms

Most of the recognisable vessel forms are jars. The only vessel in Iron Age shell gritted ware (IASG) is a bead rim, neckless jar with scored decoration. All of the vessel forms in the various greywares are jars, barring one curved sided flanged bowl or dish and a dish with a plain rim. Small to medium-sized jars with curved rims are common, together with a number of larger jars with curved rims ending in a distinct bead. Vessels in grogged ware comprise two lid seated jars and a storage jar, while a jar with a curved rim, and another with a triangular rim, occur in shell gritted ware. In BB1, vessels represented are a flanged bowl and a plain rim dish. A plain rim dish also occurs in LNVCC, together with an imitation of a samian ware form 36 and a plain rim, 'hunt cup', beaker. The only vessels occurring in oxidised ware are a carinated jar or bowl with a bead rim and a neck cordon, and a small flanged bowl or dish. The Mancetter-Hartshill sherds are from cream ware mortaria and a spout from another mortarium is probably a product of the industry centered around *Verulamium*. The only recognisable samian ware vessel is a CGS form 31.

Dating

The earliest pottery from the site is late Iron Age shell gritted ware and some of the grogged ware may also be of Iron Age or early Roman date. The pink grogged ware is probably of later 1st century date but the hard cream variety was also produced in the 2nd century. The probable *Verulamium* mortarium is of late 1st to mid 2nd century date while the LNVCC hunt cup and the CGS form 31 are of mid to later 2nd century date. Much of the grey and oxidised wares date to the later 1st or 2nd centuries, but some could belong to the 3rd century. The LNVCC imitation samian ware form 36 has a grey colour coat and is more likely to be of early to mid 3rd century date. The LNVCC plain rim dish, the shell gritted ware jars and the BB1 vessels could belong to the 3rd century but are more likely to date to the 4th century.

Assemblage characteristics

The assemblage is limited in its range of fabrics and forms. The small amounts of regional and continental fine wares, the few mortaria, the absence of amphora, together with the fact that the majority of the recognisable forms are jars, suggest that activities on the site were predominantly utilitarian, with little to suggest anything of a sizeable domestic or higher status nature, apart from, perhaps, in Trench 4.

The assemblage is locally and regionally important in that it derives from a site in an area where there has been little previous investigation; it does not, however, warrant further detailed analysis.

5.3 The worked stone by Andy Chapman

From the fill (315) of ditch [316] in trench 3, there is a fragment (SF1) forming 10% of the circumference of an upper stone from a flat rotary quern typical of the Roman period. It is in sandstone, probably finer than average Millstone Grit. The quern was 450mm in diameter, and the fragment is 24mm thick at the circumference and as little as 20mm thick inside this, indicating that the stone had prolonged use. The concave grinding surface is smooth while the upper surface retains tooled dimples.

Incorporated into a cobble surface (422) in trench 4, there were two fragments (SF9 and SF10) from the same upper millstone, in Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean, characterised by the presence of larger quartz inclusions up to 25mm in diameter (Shaffrey 2006). There is a fragment forming 7% of the circumference, indicating that the stone was 900mm in diameter, and there is a fragment including part of a central eye 200mm in diameter (Fig 6). The stone is 60mm thick at the circumference and 47mm thick at the central eye. The upper surface and the circumference are smooth, while the grinding surface is heavily dimpled but unworn, suggesting that the stone had never been used. It was probably intended for use in an animal-powered mill.

Fragments of millstone from surface (421) (Scale 50mm) Fig 6

5.4 Roman ceramic tile by Pat Chapman

There are just two tile body sherds. One from fill (424) of ditch [423] weighs 229g. It is 25mm thick and made from fine slightly soft pink silty sand with a thin reddish core and occasional inclusions of small grog and tiny grit. The other sherd, from fill (333) of gully [332], is a fragment weighing 15g and made from fine sandy clay fired from orange to black. The larger sherd could be from a floor or a roof tile.

5.5 Animal bone by Lazlo Lichtenstein

A total of 235 animal bone elements and fragments, weighing 2.822kg, from Iron Age and Roman features were analysed. The material was recovered from the fill of an Iron Age ditch (704) ditch [705]; the fills of twelve Roman ditches: (309) ditch [308], (311) ditch [310], (313) ditch [312], (315) ditch [314], (317) ditch [316], (320) ditch [319], (327) ditch [325], (330-331) ditch [328], (335) ditch [334], (415) ditch [409], two Roman gullies: (322) gully [321] and (905) gully [904] and two undated ditches: (605) ditch [604], (607) ditch [606]

The animal bone was identified using Northamptonshire Archaeology's and the author's own vertebrate reference collection, and further guidelines from Schmid (1972), Driesch (1979), Sisson & Grossman (1953) and Feher (1990). Ageing data, tooth eruption and wear were categorised according to Grant (1982) and Hillson (2005) with the identification of *juvenilis* after Amorosi (1989) and Schmid (1972).

The following were recorded for each bone: species, anatomical element, fragmentation, side, fusion, cut- or animal teeth marks and sex (where applicable).

Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (large ungulate size: cattle or horse-sized, small ungulate size: pig or sheep/goat). The presence of large and medium vertebrae and ribs was recorded for each context, although these were not counted.

All teeth and a restricted suite of parts of the postcranial skeleton were recorded and used in counts.

Table 4: Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count (including teeth)

Species/Taxa	Iron Age	%	Roman	%
Equus caballus L. (Linne 1758)	4	19%	1	0.4%
Bos taurus L. (Linne 1758)	7	33%	71	33.2%
Ovicaprid	3	14.2%	24	11.3%
Sus scrofa domesticus B. (Brisson 1762)	1	5%	3	1.4%
Lepus capensis	-	-	1	0.4%
Large ungulate size	1	5%	77	35.9%
Small ungulate size	2	9.5%	22	10.2%
Unidentified	3	14.3%	15	7.2%
Total	**21**		**214**	

Iron Age

The material, 21 NISP (705g) animal bone elements and fragments, was recovered from the fill of a single Iron Age ditch [705]. Eighteen specimens (83.7% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing four mammalian (*Bos*/cattle; *Equus*/horse, *Ovicaprid*/sheep or goat, *Sus*/pig) species (Table 4). The majority of identified bones came from cattle (33%). No avian or fish bones were recovered.

Taphonomy
The bones were generally in good condition, with fragmentation resulting in only 47.6% of the assemblage being less than 50mm in size (Table 5). No complete long bones were recorded due to the proximal and the distal ends being damaged, but where possible some measurements were taken. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded with 50% of the total NISP showing signs of fresh breaks.

Canid gnawing was seen on one horse humerus fragment and two *ovicaprid* metapodium bone fragments. This is an indicator that dogs were present on the site despite none of their bones being recorded in the faunal assemblage from this period.

No evidence for burning, butchery or bone working was observed.

Table 5: Size of animal bone

Size (mm)	Iron Age	%	Roman	%
<20	3	14.3%	38	18.6%
20-50	7	33.3%	121	55.2%
50-100	7	33.3%	26	21.8%
100-150	3	14.3%	3	3%
150-200	1	4.8%	2	1%
Total	**21**	**100%**	**190**	**100%**

Table 6 shows the minimal number of individuals (MNI) for the Iron Age animal bone assemblage

Table 6: Iron Age animal bone, minimum number of individuals

Common name	MNI
Cattle	3
Horse	1
Sheep/Goat	1
Pig	1

Discussion
The state of preservation for bone on the site was generally good, but the amount of material retrieved was below the level anticipated for a site of domestic occupation in this period. However, it can be stated that cattle, horse, sheep and dog were utilised at or near the site.

The assemblage in the Iron Age was very small with only 15 bones identified to species and does not warrant further analysis.

Roman period
The material, 214 NISP (2.117kg) animal bone elements and fragments, was recovered from across the site. The total includes animal bone from undated features in Trench 6 but excludes the material suggested as Iron Age in Trench 7 (see above). A total of 199 specimens (92.8% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing five mammalian (*Bos*/cattle; *Equus*/horse, *Ovicaprid*/sheep or goat, *Sus*/pig, *Lepus capensis*/hare) species (Table 4). The majority of identified bones came from cattle (33.2%). No avian and fish bones were recovered.

Taphonomy
The bones were generally in good condition. The fragmentation was high (Table 5), with the majority (73.8%) being less than 50 mm in size. No complete long bones were recorded because proximal and distal ends were damaged, but some measurements

were recorded, where possible. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded including burnt, gnawed, butchered and recently broken bones.

The dog gnawing was of relatively low frequency. It was seen on a cattle tibia fragment (313), on a horse femur fragment (322) and on a pig mandible fragment.

Only 1% had been affected by butchery. Chopping marks on bones was noted on large ungulate size animal rib fragments (605, 607). No evidence for bone working was observed.

Four fragments of one rib shows evidence for burning (607).

Ageing and sex
Little ageing data was available from the cattle teeth wear and eruption (Table 7).

Toothwear evidence of the severely worn down molars of a cow indicating an adult animal in contexts (331) and (608). An unworn molar indicating a young cow in fill (335) on the site.

Table 7: Roman animal bone, ageing after tooth eruption

Context/feature	Species	Years
331/ ditch 329	sheep/goat	Adultus (TWS g, 12 year)
335 / ditch 334	cattle	Juvenilis (TWS u, 5 year)
605 /ditch604	sheep/goat	Adultus (TWS g, 12 year)

In only one case could the sex be determined: where the size of the sus canine (tusk) indicates that this individual was an adult female (320).

Table 8: Roman animal bone, minimum number of individuals

Common name	MNI
Cattle	2
Horse	1
Sheep/goat	2
Pig	1
Hare	1

Discussion
More animal bone was recovered from Roman contexts than for the Iron Age period. The state of preservation for bone on the site was generally good, but the fragmentation was high. Some bones were broken and fragmented in antiquity signifying a chosen method of disposal.

The assemblage is dominated by cattle 33.2%, followed by lower numbers of sheep/goat 11.3%. The dominance of cattle is not unusual in this period and is comparable to other sites in the region (Deighton 2010). The presence of sheep/goat and pig bones on the site and the evidence of butchery and burning is taken to be the result of domestic waste disposal.

As with the Iron Age material, the presence of canid gnawing on bones is an indicator that dogs were present on the site despite none of their bones being recorded in the faunal assemblage from this period.

Hare was represented by one broken metapodium bone found in fill (607) from ditch [606]. There was no evidence of butchery on this piece.

Potential
The results showed a range of common domesticates with the dominance of cattle and sheep/goat being what would be expected for such an Iron Age and Roman landscape. The level of preservation, identifiability and amount of ageing, sex and metrical data suggest that if further animal remains were collected from suitable contexts during the course of any subsequent excavation they would provide evidence about animal husbandry and thereby contribute to the understanding of the site's economy.

5.6 Charred plant materials by Val Fryer

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch fills within trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7, and four were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by NA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 9. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots, straw, chaff, seeds and arthropod remains were present throughout, forming a major component of all four assemblages.

Results
Cereal grains/chaff and weed seeds were present at a very low density in all four assemblages. Preservation was generally quite poor, with the majority of both the cereal grains and seeds being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring marginally more frequently. Wheat chaff, including a small number of double-keeled spelt (*T. spelta*) glume bases, was also noted. Weed seeds were scarce, with most occurring as single specimens within an assemblage. All were of common segetal weeds including thistle (*Cirsium* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), grasses (Poaceae), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A single spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) fruit was the sole wetland plant macrofossil recorded and a fragment of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) fruit stone was also noted. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Other plant macrofossils included fragments of charred root or stem a small number of indeterminate seeds.

Although some fragments of the black porous and tarry material were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures, others were very hard and brittle and were possible bi-products of the combustion of coal, pieces of which were present throughout. Other remains occurred infrequently, but did include pieces of burnt or fired clay and a vitreous globule.

Table 9: charred plant macrofossils

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Context No.	***204***	***706***	***311***	***424***
Feature No.	**205**	**707**	**310**	**423**
Feature type	***Ditch***	***Ditch***	***Ditch***	***Ditch***
Trench No.	**2**	**7**	**3**	**4**
Cereals				
Avena sp. (grains)	xcf	-	-	-
Hordeum sp. (grain)	x	-	-	-
Triticum sp. (grains)	x	-	x	xcf
(glume bases)	-	-	x	x
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	-	-	x	-
Cereal indet. (grians)	x	x	x	-
Herbs				-
Chenopodiaceae indet.	-	x	-	-
Cirsium sp.	xcf		-	-
Fabaceae indet.	x	x	-	x
Small Poaceae indet.	x	x	-	-
Polygonum aviculare L.	-	x	-	-
Rumex sp.	x	-	-	xcf
Wetland plants				
Eleocharis sp.	-	x	-	-
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
Prunus spinosa L.	-	x	-	-
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xx	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	-	x	-
Charcoal >5mm	xx	-	-	-
Charred root/stem	-	x	-	-
Indet.seeds	x	x	-	x
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	-	-	-
Black tarry material	x	x	-	x
Burnt/fired clay	-	x	x	-
Small coal frags	x	x	xxxx	x
Vitreous material	-	x	-	-
Sample volume (litres)	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.2**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**50%**	**100%**

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens
xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trenching generally confirmed the accuracy of the earlier geophysical survey. Although the site was traversed by medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, the majority of archaeological features had not been greatly affected. The excavations confirmed the presence of Romano-British occupation that can be characterised as a rural agricultural settlement, possibly with an Iron Age antecedent.

Pre-Iron Age

The presence of a small assemblage of worked flints, residual in later features, indicates some Neolithic activity in the vicinity, although no features belonging to this period were positively identified.

Curvilinear enclosures located on the top of the hill, at the western edge of the site, remained undated. Their character, and indeed the lack of dating evidence, differentiated them from many other features on the site and it may be that they represent prehistoric features.

Iron Age

Late Iron Age pottery occurred throughout the site, predominantly as residual material in later contexts. This would indicate that there was a precursor to the Roman settlement. Two isolated rectilinear enclosures, located upslope at the south-west part of the site produced only Iron Age pottery and it is likely that they belong to this period.

Romano-British

The majority of features at the site belonged to the Romano-British period. They constituted a series of enclosures that spanned the period from the 1st - 4th centuries AD. In both character and date range, the site appears to be similar to that excavated just over one kilometre to the north at Airfield Farm (Clarke 2008, 2010).

The majority of enclosures were probably fields or animal enclsoures, however the quantities of domestic pottery would suggest occupation in the vicinity. No definite structures were identified within the enclosures, although the presence of gullies, postholes and a surface suggests that these may be present within some. Alternatively, occupation may be occurring at the west of the site, outside the area of investigation.

Medieval

Subsequent to the Romano-British occupation, no further identified activity occurred at the site until the area was put under the plough in the medieval period.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	**40m x 2.0m NE-SW**	**SP 7185 8728**	**110.06m OD**	**109.76m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
101	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.30m thick	
102	Natural	Mid brown clay with frequent stone inclusions		
103	Fill of [104]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
104	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped, Fill (103)	1.17m wide, 0.30m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	**40m x 2.0m N -S**	**SP 7196 8729**	**102.11m OD**	**101.61m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
201	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.20m thick	
202	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay	0.15-0.30m thick	
203	Natural	Mid yellow-brown clay		
204	Fill of [205]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Pottery
205	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE U-shaped, Fill (204)	0.96m wide, 0.34m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	**50m x 2.0m NE-SW**	**SP 7204 8722**	**97.07m OD**	**96.52m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
301	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.26-0.37m thick	
302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay	0.13-0.18m thick	
303	Natural	Mid yellow-brown clay		
304	Cut of gully	Aligned E-W, Fill (305)	0.61m wide 0.25m deep	
305	Fill of [304]	Mid grey-brown silty clay.		Roman pottery

306	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, V-shaped. Fill (307).Cuts (309)	0.75m wide 0.37m deep	
307	Fill of [306]	Dark grey-brown silty clay.		Roman pottery
308	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, V-shaped. Fill (309)	1.60m wide 0.80m deep	
309	Fill of (308)	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [306]		Roman pottery and animal bone
310	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, U-shaped. Fill (311)	2.30m wide 0.80m deep	
311	Fill of (310)	Mid grey-orange silty clay. Cut by [312]	0.50m wide 0.45m deep	Roman pottery and animal bone
312	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, steep U-shape. Fill (313). Re-cut of ditch [310]	2.0m wide 0.50m deep	
313	Fill of [312]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, tile and animal bone
314	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped, Fill (315)	1.90m wide 0.50m deep	
315	Fill of [314]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.93m wide 0.44m deep	Roman pot, animal bone & quern fragment (SF1)
316	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (317). Re-cut of ditch [314]	0.90m wide 0.31m deep	
317	Fill of (316)	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Animal bone
318	Capping fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay. Overlies (317)		Roman pottery
319	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, U-shaped. Fill (320)	0.85m wide 0.34m deep	
320	Fill of [319]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pot, animal bone & flint (SF2)
321	Cut of gully	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (322)	0.45m wide 0.21m deep	
322	Fill of [321]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pot, animal bone & flint (SF3)
323	Cut of gully	Aligned NW-SE, shallow U-shape. Fill (324)	0.52m wide 0.22m deep	
324	Fill of [323]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		
325	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, steep U-shaped. Fill (326-8). Re-cut of [329]. Cuts (330)	1.35m wide 0.81m deep	

326	Fill of [325]	Burnt clay lens	0.51m wide 0.07m deep	
327	Fill of [325]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	1.35m wide 0.67m deep	Roman pottery & animal bone
328	Fill of [325]	Light grey-brown silty clay	0.68m wide 0.14m deep	Roman pottery
329	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, broad U-shaped. Fill (330-1)	3.30m wide 0.63m deep	
330	Fill of [329]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery & animal bone
331	Fill of [329]	Light grey-brown silty clay. Primary fill		
332	Cut of gully	Aligned NE-SW. Shallow U-shaped. Fill (333)	0.26m wide 0.19m deep	
333	Fill of [332]	Mid grey-orange silty clay		Roman pottery & tile
334	Cut of ditch	Aligned NE-SW, U-shaped. Fill (335)	0.62m wide 0.28m	
335	Fill of [334]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery & animal bone

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
4	**50m x 2.0m N-S**	**SP 7196 8714**	**97.14m OD**	**96.19m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
401	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.25-0.35m thick	
402	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay	0.45-0.60m	
403	Natural	Mid orange-brown clay		
404	Cut of ditch	Aligned E-W. Fill (414)	3.30m wide 0.71m deep	
405	Cut of gully	Aligned E-W. Fill (406)	0.51m wide 0.15m deep	
406	Fill of [405]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pot
407	Cut of stakehole	U-shaped. Fill (408)	0.15m diam 0.13m deep	
408	Fill of [407]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
409	Cut of ditch	Aligned E-W, irregular. Fill 415-7	2.30m wide 0.63m deep	
410	Fill of [411]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		

411	Cut of gully	Aligned NE-SW, V-shaped. Fill (410)	0.83m wide 0.23m deep	
412	Cut of gully	Aligned NW-SE, shallow. Fill (413)	0.54m wide 0.16m deep	
413	Fill of [412]	Dark grey-orange silty clay		
414	Fill of [404]	Dark orange-brown silty clay		Roman pot
415	Fill of [409]	Light grey-brown silty clay	0.86m wide 0.27m deep	Animal bone
416	Fill of [409]	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.29m wide 0.28m deep	
417	Fill of [409]	Mid grey-brown silty clay	2.30mwide 0.32m deep	Roman pot
418	Layer	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
419	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, V-shaped. Fill (420)	0.68m wide 0.35m deep	
420	Fill of [419]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pot & flint (SF5)
421	Layer	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Overlies [430], [432], [434] and (422)	0.10m deep	Roman pot, flint (SF 6-8) querns (SF9-10)
422	Surface	Silty clay containing frequent stones making up a surface. Overlaid by (421)	4.0m wide 0.10-0.20m	
423	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (424)	2.80m wide 0.60m deep	
424	Fill of [423]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery & tile
425	Cut of stakehole	Steep U-shaped. Fill (426)	0.15m diam 0.12m deep	
426	Fill of [425]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
427	Cut of posthole	Steep U-shaped. Fill (428)	0.17m diam 0.07m deep	
428	Fill of [427]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
429	Group of stakeholes	[407], [425] and [427]]		
430	Fill of [431]	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (421)		Roman pottery
431	Cut of gully	Aligned NE-SW, U-shaped. Fill (430)	0.40m wide 0.10m deep	
432	Fill of [433]	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (421). Cut by [435]		Roman pot & Fe nail (SF11)
433	Cut of ditch	Aligned NE-SW, U-shaped. Fill (433)	0.50m wide 0.20m deep	
434	Fill of [435]	Dark grey-brown silty clay.		Roman pot
435	Cut of ditch	Aligned NE-SW, steep U-shaped. Fill (434), Cuts (433)	0.70m wide 0.24m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	**50m x 2.0m NE-SW**	**SP 7190 8721**	**103.02m OD**	**102.49m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
501	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.30m thick	
502	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay	0.12m-0.23m	
503	Natural	Light orange-grey clay		
504	Cut of gully	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (505)	0.60m wide 0.28m deep	
505	Fill of [504]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
506	Cut of gully	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped Fill (507)	0.62m wide 0.31m deep	
507	Fill of [506]	Dark orange-clay silty clay		Roman clay
508	Cut of land drain			
509	Fill of land drain			
510	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (511)	2.45m wide 0.60m deep	
511	Fill of [510]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pot
512	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (513)	3.85m wide 0.36m deep	
513	Fill of [512]	Mid grey-brown silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	**50m x 2.0m N-S**	**SP 7185 8722**	**107.56m OD**	**107.17m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
601	Topsoil	Light grey-brown silty clay	0.07-0.13m thick	
602	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay	0.09-0.26m thick	
603	Natural	Mid orange-brown clay with frequent stone inclusions		
604	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, U-shaped. Fill (605)	1.39m wide 0.24m deep	
605	Fill of [604]	Mid brown-orange silty clay.		Animal bone
606	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (607)	0.95m wide 0.20m deep	

607	Fill of [606]	Mid brown-grey silty clay		Animal bone
608	Cut of ditch	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped. Fill (609)	1.36m wide 0.30m deep	
609	Fill of [608]	Mid brown-orange silty clay		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
7	**40m x 2.0m E-W**	**SP 7182 8714**	**104.57m OD**	**104.12m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
701	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.20-0.25m thick	
702	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay	0.10-0.20m thick	
703	Natural	Mid yellow-brown clay		
704	Fill of [705]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		IA pot & animal bone
705	Cut of ditch	N-S aligned, steep U-shaped. Fill (704)	1.99m wide 0.60m deep	
706	Fill of [707]	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pot Sample 2
707	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, U-shaped. Fill (706)	0.80m wide 0.40m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
8	**40m x 2.0m N-S**	**TL7187 8712**	**98.93m OD**	**98.63m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
801	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.30m thick	
802	Natural	Light yellow-brown clay		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
9	**50m x 2.0m NW-SE**	**SP 7199 8707**	**95.93m OD**	**95.25 m OD**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
901	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.29m thick	
902	Subsoil	Light brown-yellow sandy clay	0.39m thick	
903	Natural	Light orange-brown clay		
904	Cut of gully	Aligned E-W, V-shaped. Fill (904)	0.40m wide 0.20m deep	
905	Fill of [904]	Mid brown-grey silty clay		Roman pot & animal bone
906	Cut of gully	Aligned N-S, U-shaped. Fill (907)	0.30m wide 0.05m deep	
907	Fill of [906]	Mid brown-grey silty clay		
908	Cut of ditch	Aligned N-S, U-shaped. Fill (909)	1.10m wide 0.43m deep	
909	Fill of [908]	Mid brown-grey silty clay		Animal bone
911	Cut of ditch	Aligned E-W, V-shaped. Fill (914)	1.60m wide 0.68m deep	
912	Cut of ditch	Aligned E-W, V-shaped Fill (914)	0.50m wide 0.14m deep	
913	Cut of gully	Aligned E-W, U-shaped. Fill (914)	1.20m wide 0.46m deep	
914	Fill of [911] [912] [913]	Mid brown-grey silty clay	4.70m wide 0.68m deep	

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