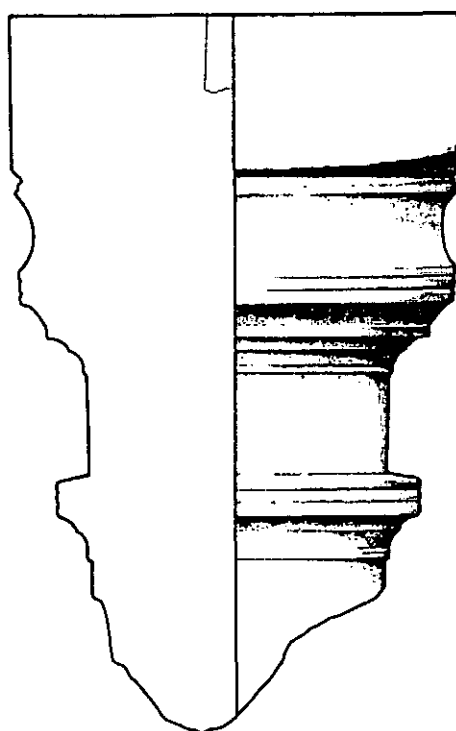


Duchy of Lancaster

Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR SP 9557 6925



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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a two-stage field evaluation for the Duchy of Lancaster on land south-west of Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire between 2nd-17th October 2000. Magnetometer survey of c 4.5 ha of the suggested Roman settlement extent to the west of the evaluation area added considerable detail to previous investigations. This defined ditched areas, or land plots, adjacent to a road/trackway aligned north-east to south-west along the top of the valley slope. Targeted evaluation trenching of the features identified within the geophysical survey, supplemented by a 1% percent sample of the 'blank' areas, demonstrated that good evidence for occupation survives within the area of the Roman settlement. In situ pitched limestone surfaces, representing structural or yard surfaces, were encountered within the ditched area defined in the northern portion of Area G.

The geophysical survey also identified and located a previously-noted ring ditch. A single targeted trench (5) located across the northern side of the monument demonstrated this to be a two-phase feature. Flints from the excavated fills of the ditch were not closely dated, but unstratified material from this and adjacent trenches was mostly of Neolithic character.

A substantial limestone structure, likely to be a crop drying or malting oven, was located in Trench 3. No dateable material was found in association with this feature although a medieval or early post-medieval date seem most likely based upon its construction and morphology. A good charred assemblage of cultivated and processed grains was sampled from the basal fill of the feature.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a two-stage field evaluation on land north of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire on behalf of the Duchy of Lancaster (Figure 1), following outline planning permission for residential and school development. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OAU and agreed with Northamptonshire Heritage prior to the commencement of the evaluation. The WSI was prepared in the light of the proposed evaluation and mitigation strategy in advance of the development of Phases 3, 4 and 5 as set out in the Higham Ferrers Development Master Plan (OAU 1998). These proposals were further clarified and developed in the document entitled *Proposed Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy for Works Associated with the Construction of Houses in Phase 3, School in Phase 4 and Access Road from North End to the School* (OAU 2000b).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The evaluation area is situated on arable land to the immediate south-west of Kings Meadow Lane and north of Higham Ferrers modern town limits. A total area of 4.05ha was evaluated within a larger 10.1ha field. The geology of the site is Northamptonshire Sands and Ironstone with the Upper Estuarine Series Silts and Clays to the extreme eastern part of the site, at 48-60m above OD. The site is situated mainly on a large arable field (just after harvest at the time of the fieldwork), but Trenches 1 and 2 were located in a small currently overgrown field previously used as a paddock.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 The area at the northern end of Higham Ferrers is known to be rich in archaeological remains dating from prehistoric to the post-medieval period (Figure 2). Excavations have previously been undertaken by OAU on Iron Age and Saxon sites to the north-east prior to the construction of housing as part of the same development project (OAU 1994; 1996a; 1996b). Of particular interest for this evaluation is a large Roman settlement in the north part of the field. This has been identified by aerial photography, fieldwalking surface scatters, geophysical survey, and evaluation trenching carried out by the Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit between April 1989 and October 1990, as part of a larger investigation of the Duchy of Lancaster development area (NAU 1991). A watching brief was undertaken in March 2000 at the site of the derelict sewage works (area H) immediately north of the north-west part of the current evaluation area. While this exercise found no evidence of the Roman settlement, it should be noted that the test pits monitored were all located in areas which had been disturbed by the construction of tanks and sludge beds for the sewage works (OAU 2000a).
- 1.3.2 A posthole building with *in situ* surfaces was discovered in an evaluation trench (NAU Trench 5) in the north-west part of the site, whilst a limestone Doric capital was discovered in a similar location suggesting that a substantial Roman stone building may be present in the immediate vicinity (Figure 2). Cropmarks, evaluation trenches and a geophysical survey of part of this area suggest a series of buildings and enclosures located along a road or trackway defined by ditches aligned north-east to south-west through the scatter area. Remains of further Roman buildings and two skeletons were recorded in an area approximately 200m south-west of Area G, during the construction of the gas pipeline in 1967 (NAU 1991).
- 1.3.3 Some prehistoric activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the site, and a ring ditch had previously been identified within the site by aerial photography. However, previous attempts to locate this by trial trenching failed (NAU 1991), although a sunken feature of late medieval date was discovered by this evaluation in NAU Trench 8 (Figure 2). A localised flint scatter located to the north-west of the Saxon enclosure was encompassed within part of the 1995 OAU excavation (Figure 2). Limited excavation revealed two pits containing pottery and flints dating from the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (OAU 1996a). Given the proximity of the extensive prehistoric funerary landscape covered by the Raunds Area Project (RAP) along the Nene Valley, and the research potential of associated occupation along the valley sides, any remains of this date may be of significance.
- 1.3.4 Of particular importance is the extensive early-late Saxon settlement in the field to the north-east of the evaluation area. The settlement was partially excavated by the OAU in October-December 1995 and proved to be a high-status site of national importance (OAU 1996a), consisting of a large oval enclosure and associated settlement. The extensive evaluation trenching of this settlement (NAU 1991; OAU 1994) and subsequent trenching during the 1995 excavations suggests that there was no settlement located within the enclosure, and the focus of settlement was located around the outskirts of the enclosure to the south and west. The only archaeological deposits contemporary with or post-dating the enclosure identified around its eastern side were located in the extreme south-eastern corner of the field. Here the early-middle Saxon enclosure ditch was overlain by late Saxon and medieval occupation (OAU 1996b). The pottery scatters associated with this settlement extend right up to the field boundary at Kings

Meadow Lane, raising the possibility that Saxon features may extend south of the Lane, into the current evaluation area.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1 Areas E and F

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the housing area E and access road area F.

2.1.2 To locate and define the ring ditch identified from aerial photographs and geophysical survey, but not encountered in the NAU evaluation Trench 7 (NAU 1991).

2.1.3 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.

2.2 Area G

2.2.1 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, and quality of the Roman settlement in this area and the remains of the building identified by the NAU trial Trench 5 (NAU 1991). Also to establish the presence/absence of a stone building suggested by the limestone capital discovered in this area.

2.3 Area I

2.3.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and specifically if the Roman settlement extends into the area south-east of the limit suggested by the surface pottery scatter.

2.3.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 A magnetometer survey covering some 4.5ha centred on the previously known Roman settlement was undertaken by the Bartlett-Clark consultancy in advance of the main evaluation. This work is reported upon separately (Bartlett 2000) but the main results are presented on Figure 3. Apart from providing definition of the Roman settlement the principal result of the geophysical survey was confirmation of the location of a hitherto elusive ring ditch in the south-eastern part of the site.

3.1.2 The evaluation consisted of 17 trenches of varying lengths, all 1.6m wide (Figure 3). The overburden was removed under archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, and the topsoil and subsoil were kept separate.

3.1.3 The trench locations were decided on the basis of the geophysical survey results (Figure 3), and were set out in the field by use of total station survey equipment.

3.1.4 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 at 1:50 and, where excavated, their sections drawn at a scale 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* (ed. D. Wilkinson, 1992).

- 3.1.5 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.
- 3.1.6 The spoil and the features uncovered in the trenches were scanned by a metal detector, and all metal objects were retrieved. Spoil was also scanned by eye, and any other finds identified were collected.
- 3.1.7 Archaeological deposits of particular palaeo-environmental interest were sampled.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and Ground Conditions

- 4.1.1 The site is located on sloping ground, with all except two trenches (1 and 2) on an arable field, and the topsoil was a silty loam. Due to heavy rainfall during the fieldwork period, some of the trenches flooded, and a pump was required to remove the water.

4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

- 4.2.1 The trenches in area G contained extensive Roman remains, and some of these features extended into the trenches in the north-western part of area F. However, the remainder of area F was lacking in features. The trenches in area I contained no archaeological features. The trenches in area E contained a range of features, including the ring ditch, a stone structure probably of medieval date, and a Roman ditch.

5 RESULTS:

5.1 Description of Deposits

Area E (Trenches 1 to 5)

- 5.1.1 **Trenches 1 and 2:** Trenches 1 and 2 (Figure 4) both contained a dark grey clay loam topsoil (101) and (201) respectively. In Trench 1 this overlay a dark brown clay loam subsoil (102) which varied in thickness from 0.12m at the north end of the trench to 0.36m at the south end. This layer overlay the orange-brown natural ironstone geology (103).
- 5.1.2 **Trench 1:** A linear ditch (106) 2.58m wide and 1.16m deep crossed the trench towards the south end. The upper fill of this ditch was a friable light grey clay loam (104) up to 0.88m thick, which overlay a primary fill of tenacious dark grey clay silt (105) up to 0.3m thick (Figure 4).
- 5.1.3 **Trench 2:** In Trench 2 the topsoil overlay a mid brown colluvial layer of clay silt (202), which varied in thickness from 0.3m at the eastern (uphill) end of the trench, to 0.5m further downhill. This deposit overlay another colluvial layer (203), a 0.65m thick layer of orange brown sandy clay. These layers overlay the orange-brown natural clay (204). The colluvial layers were cut at the western end of the trench by a small stream palaeochannel (212).
- 5.1.4 The upper fill of the palaeochannel was a modern light brown stony clay deposit (205), with a maximum thickness of 0.4m at the west end of the trench. This overlay a friable 0.12m thick layer of light grey silty sand (206), which in turn overlay a tenacious dark grey silty clay layer (207), 0.36m thick. The dark colour of this layer suggests that it may mark the level of an old topsoil. This dark layer overlay a 0.35m thick layer of tenacious light grey clay (208), which in turn overlay a 0.2m thick layer of tenacious yellow brown silty clay (209), most probably a result of natural erosion of the edges of the channel. This layer overlay a tenacious light brown silty clay layer (210), which was 0.2m thick, and at the base of the channel. This layer overlay a 0.12m thick deposit of tenacious dark grey clay (211), which was present slightly further east of the base of the channel (Figure 4).
- 5.1.5 **Trenches 3, 4, and 5:** Trenches 3, 4, and 5 revealed a modern ploughsoil (301), (401) and (501) respectively, overlying a somewhat disturbed layer of frost shattered natural (302), (402) and (502), which in turn overlay the clean natural ironstone (303), (403), and (503).
- 5.1.6 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 contained no archaeological features.
- 5.1.7 **Trench 3:** Towards the south end of Trench 3 there was an undated ditch (318) (1.8m wide and 0.8m deep), aligned approximately east-west and containing two friable grey-brown fills (316) and (317). This feature could be a continuation of a linear ditch running on this alignment, revealed in the geophysical survey area approximately 50m further to the west (Figure 4).
- 5.1.8 Near the north end of Trench 3 was a fairly substantial stone built structure (304), which was within a construction cut (308). This feature consisted of an almost square chamber constructed from roughly coursed limestone blocks, surviving up to 0.84m deep. A pair of parallel walls (312) and (313) extended from this chamber as a passage to the north-east, for a distance of 4.5m, and

then culminated in a dark spread (314). The interior dimensions of the square chamber were 2m by 2m, whereas the internal width of the passage was between 0.5m and 0.9m (Figure 4).

- 5.1.9 All the limestone courses were clay bonded, and were fire reddened on their inner faces. The inner face of the square chamber also showed the remains of a daub-type lining. The square chamber contained a fire-damaged partial stone slab floor (310), which was overlaid by a thin deposit containing charred grain (307). The main fills of this structure (305) and (306) consisted of sandy silts containing large fragments of burnt daub retaining impressions of wattle rods. These most probably represent demolition deposits from the superstructure.
- 5.1.10 **Trench 5:** Two segments (both containing a re-cut) of the previously-suspected ring ditch were exposed, (510) re-cut as (507), and (516) re-cut as (514); as well as a linear ditch (512) to the east of the ring ditch (Figure 5). All the features cut through the weathered natural layer (502).
- 5.1.11 The primary cuts of the ring ditch were 0.65-0.75m deep and survived to a maximum width of c 0.85m. The re-cut ditch (507 and 514) was from 0.78-1m deep and typically 1.1-1.2m wide. The ring ditch fills (504)-(506), and (508), were light or mid brown clay silts, while the remainder (509), (513), (515), (517), and (518) were light or mid brown sandy silts. Four flints were collected from the primary ditch fill (509).
- 5.1.12 The linear ditch (512) was located at the east end of the trench, and was up to 1m wide and 0.4m deep, with a single mid brown sandy silt fill (511).

Areas F and I (Trenches 6 to 13)

- 5.1.13 **Trenches 6, 12 and 13:** No archaeological remains were found in Trenches 6, 12 and 13. These trenches contained a modern ploughsoil, (601), (1201) and (1301) respectively, which directly overlay modern landfill deposits (602), (1202) and (1302) respectively. In each trench a sondage was machined through these landfill deposits, to a depth of 2m in Trenches 6 and 13 and 1.5m in Trench 12. The bottom of these deposits was not reached in any of the trenches but excavation was halted at these depths owing to the problems of machining through such unstable deposits.
- 5.1.14 **Trenches 7, 8 and 10:** No archaeological remains were found in Trenches 7, 8 and 10. These trenches contained a modern ploughsoil, (701), (801) and (1001) respectively, which in each case overlay a layer of colluvium (702), (802) and (1002) respectively. In Trench 8 a second layer of colluvium was identified (803). These colluvial layers overlay the natural clay geology, numbered as (703), (804) and (1003) respectively.
- 5.1.15 **Trench 9:** In Trench 9 the ploughsoil (901) overlay a tenacious brown clay loam subsoil (902) up to 0.2m thick, which in turn overlay the natural orange-brown clay (903). A linear Roman ditch (906) up to 1.4m wide and 0.66m deep crossed the trench towards its centre (Figure 5). This feature is most probably a continuation of the ditch revealed by the geophysical survey further to the north-west, and excavated in Trenches 15 and 17. The upper fill of this ditch was a red-brown sandy silt (904) up to 0.5m thick, and the primary fill (905) was a light brown sandy silt with a maximum thickness of 0.18m.
- 5.1.16 **Trench 11:** The ploughsoil in Trench 11 (1101) overlay an old ploughsoil of mid yellow brown clay silt (1105), between 0.2m and 0.4m thick, which in turn overlay the natural orange brown

ironstone geology (1106). Approximately half the length of the trench was cut obliquely by a large modern drain (1111), which was filled by a mixed deposit (1102) containing very recent construction debris (Figure 6). A linear Roman ditch (1103) aligned approximately north-west to south-east was revealed near the north-east end of the trench. This ditch appeared to cut the subsoil (1105), was 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep, and corresponds to a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey. The upper fill of the ditch was a mid brown clay silt (1107) up to 0.6m thick, which overlay a primary fill of light yellow brown clay silt (1108), which was up to 0.18m thick. A second linear ditch (1104) crossed the trench near to its south-west end, on the same alignment as (1103), and corresponds to a linear anomaly detected by the geophysical survey. This ditch was 1.2m wide, 0.5m deep, and appeared to cut the subsoil, while itself being partly truncated by the modern drain (1111). It is likely to be Roman because of its position and orientation, although no dating evidence was recovered from it. The upper fill of this feature was a 0.65m thick mid grey brown clay silt (1109), which overlay a fairly similar 0.2m thick primary fill (1110).

Area G (Trenches 14 to 17)

- 5.1.17 **Trenches 14 to 17:** Trenches 14 to 17 contained the same ploughsoil as encountered in Trenches 3 to 13, but numbered as (1401), (1501), (1601) and (1701) respectively, overlying a 0.4m to 0.5m thick stony yellow brown silty clay layer (1402), (1502), (1602), and (1702). Retrospectively it was clear that this represented a layer of weathered natural ironstone as all the negative features cut through this layer, and it overlay the yellow brown solid natural geology (1403), (1503), (1603) and (1703).
- 5.1.18 **Trench 14:** Near the south-east end of the trench a linear Roman ditch (1405) was identified aligned north-east to south-west (Figure 6). This ditch was 1.3m wide and 0.52m deep, and contained a single fill of mid grey brown clay silt (1404). Approximately 2.5m further north-west along the trench was a sequence of three more Roman ditches on the same alignment as (1405). The latest of these was (1407) which was 1.35m wide and 0.36m deep, and contained a single light brown fill of clay silt (1406). On its south-east side this ditch cut a 1.5m wide, 0.96m deep ditch (1410), which had a 'V'-shaped profile and two light brown silty fills (1408) and (1409). In turn this feature truncated a third ditch (1413) to the south-east. This earliest ditch had a flat base and almost vertical sides, and was 0.8m wide and 0.7m deep. This contained a stony red brown upper fill of clay silt (1411), and a light yellow brown lower fill of sandy silt (1412).
- 5.1.19 Approximately two thirds of the way north-west along the trench, an undated linear ditch (1416) crossed it obliquely (Figure 6). This feature was 1m wide and 0.8m deep, with a steep sided profile, and contained a light grey brown clay silt upper fill (1414), and a similar coloured lower fill of silty sand (1415). The section visible in the north edge of the trench shows that this ditch cuts another ditch (1420) to the north-west. This ditch was 1.2m wide, 0.8m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and was aligned north-east to south-west, the same as (1405), (1407), (1410), and (1413). Ditch (1420) contained a single light yellow brown fill of sandy silt (1419), and although this produced no finds, the ditch is likely to be of Roman date. On its north-west side ditch (1420) cut another undated linear feature (1422) on the same alignment, which was 1m wide and 0.7m deep, with a single light yellow brown sandy silt fill (1421). Ditch (1422) also appeared to be cut on its north west side by yet another linear ditch on the

same alignment (1418), this also producing no dating evidence. This feature was 1.8m wide and 0.78m deep, with a single fill of light red brown sandy silt (1417).

- 5.1.20 Near the north-west end of the trench another north-east to south-west aligned linear feature was revealed (1426), again containing no dating evidence. The cut had a flat base and near vertical sides, and was 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. Being immediately beneath the ploughsoil, a fill of roughly hewn limestone blocks (1423) became disturbed by the machining of this area, and so its relationship with the other fills was not clear. This stony fill was clearly visible in the south-west facing section, where it had the appearance of a wall foundation, whereas the north-east facing section showed two different sandy silt fills (1424) and (1425), suggesting that the feature is a ditch. This feature produced no dating evidence, and its precise nature is unclear.
- 5.1.21 A pitched limestone surface (1427) was identified immediately below the ploughsoil (1401) over a 2.5m length of the trench (Figure 6). Loose stones were present over a slightly larger area than this, and probably represent a more patchy survival due to plough damage. The single course of stones was set onto layer (1402), and projected up into (1401), so that the removal of the ploughsoil by the machine resulted in the displacement of this surface, which was therefore recorded in section only. The relationship between this surface and feature (1426) is unclear. The surface extended no further south-east than ditch (1418), although it was not clear whether the surface was bounded by ditch (1418), or whether it was cut by the ditch.
- 5.1.22 **Trench 15:** At the north-east end of the trench there was a surface constructed of a single course of densely packed roughly hewn limestone (1504), immediately beneath the ploughsoil, and slightly plough damaged (Figure 7). A number of large pottery fragments were retrieved from the ploughsoil immediately above this surface, along with two pieces of ironwork, probably of structural origin. This surface extended 2.8m from the end of the trench, and then ended abruptly. Its distinct edge curved around to the north-east somewhat as well, giving a slightly rounded shape in plan. The surface produced a Roman coin, and sealed a dark feature (1506) visible extending from under the curved edge of the stones. While (1504) looks like a floor surface, it is possible that it merely consolidated this backfilled feature beneath. Because it extended underneath the stone surface, feature (1504) was not excavated, but part of its upper fill (1505) was visible as a friable dark brown sandy silt.
- 5.1.23 Towards the south-west end of the trench a north-west to south-east aligned linear ditch of Roman date was uncovered (1510). This feature cut through layer (1502), and had a 'V'-shaped profile, with a width of 1.6m and a depth of 0.88m (Figure 7). This feature corresponds to a strong linear anomaly detected by the geophysical survey (Figure 3), and the same ditch (1707) was encountered in Trench 17 (Figure 7). Ditch (906) revealed in Trench 9 is also likely to have been a continuation of this feature, although the fills of (1510) and (1707) have a very different character from those of (906). The uppermost fill of this ditch was a friable mid brown sandy silt (1507), with a maximum thickness of 0.24m. This deposit overlay a slightly darker sandy silt (1508), which contained occasional lenses of small limestone chips, and was 0.34m thick. In turn this layer overlay a fill of light greenish brown sandy silt (1509), up to 0.36m thick.
- 5.1.24 This trench also contained three features which were possibly shallow pits, but which may not be archaeological, all cutting (1502) and producing no finds (Figure 7). Feature (1512) was

0.7m by 0.4m and 0.42m deep, and contained a single fill of red-grey sandy silt (1511). Feature (1514) was 1.5m by 0.8m and 0.58m deep, and cut feature (1517). It contained an upper fill of mid brown sandy silt (1513) and a lower fill of red brown sandy silt (1515). Feature (1517) was only seen in section, and was 1m across and 0.35m deep, with a single mid brown fill of sandy silt (1516).

- 5.1.25 **Trench 16:** Near the north-west end of the trench there was a north-east to south-west aligned linear ditch of Roman date (1606). This feature had a maximum width of 1.92m and a depth of 0.53m, and cut through (1602). The upper fill of this ditch was a brown clay silt up to 0.42m thick (1604), and this overlay a similar but darker primary fill (1605), which was up to 0.24m in depth. It is most likely that this is the south-eastern trackway ditch revealed by the geophysical survey (Figure 3), however no recognisable remains of a road surface were identified to the north-west of this ditch.
- 5.1.26 Approximately two thirds of the way along the trench from the north-west end, a modern drain (1608) crossed the trench at an oblique angle. Three north-east to south-west aligned linear ditches were identified in the edge of the trench (Figure 7). Ditch (1610) was 1.72m wide and 0.44m deep, with a single dark brown clay silt fill (1609). Ditch (1612) was 0.9m wide and 0.42m deep, with a single orange brown clay silt fill (1611). Ditch (1614) was 1.22m wide and 0.46m deep, with a single orange brown clay silt fill (1613). All three of these ditches are of uncertain date, and cut layer (1602).
- 5.1.27 **Trench 17:** Trench 17 contained a mid grey brown ploughsoil (1701), which overlay a 0.4m to 0.6m thick deposit of yellow brown silty clay (1702), which is probably a layer of weathered natural clay. This layer was cut by the archaeological features, and overlay the clean red brown natural clay (1703). Near the south-west end of the trench, a north-west to south-east aligned linear Roman ditch was identified (1707) (Figure 7). This is the same ditch as (1510) in Trench 15, and can be seen on the geophysical survey results (Figure 3). Ditch (910) in Trench 9 is also likely to have been a continuation of this feature. Ditch (1707) was 2.5m wide and 1.2m deep, and contained three fills. The upper fill was a friable mid brown sandy silt (1704) up to 0.4m thick, which overlay a 0.6m thick dark grey sandy silt (1705), which overlay the lowest fill (1706), a light brown silty clay. This ditch cut a possible pit (1709), which was at least 0.6m by 0.4, and 0.6m deep, and which contained a single light brown silty clay fill (1708).
- 5.1.28 A north-east to south-west aligned linear ditch (1711) was seen in the south-east section running longitudinally along the trench. A part of the trench was extended in the south-easterly direction, in order to expose the other edge of this feature (Figure 7). This ditch was 1.4m wide (although it had been truncated on its north-east side), and 0.45m deep, and contained a single mid grey brown sandy silt fill (1710). This feature was only visible in the edge of the trench until a little north-east of (1707), so it was not possible to determine a relationship between the two ditches. Ditch (1711) was not detected by the geophysical survey (Figure 3).

6 FINDS

6.1 Pottery

by Paul Booth

6.1.1 Some 158 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 3219g, were recovered in the evaluation, together with a single small sherd (3g), probably of medieval date, from context 202. The Roman pottery was concentrated in Trenches 15 and 17, which together produced almost 94% of the material (by both sherd count and weight). The pottery was scanned quite rapidly. The material from each context was quantified by sherd count and weight in terms of broad fabric groupings, using the codes set out in the OAU Roman pottery recording system, and vessel types were also noted in terms of major classes. The pottery was generally in quite good condition - the surfaces of sherds were relatively unabraded and the average sherd weight (over 20g) was high.

6.1.2 The assemblage was dominated by sand-tempered and shell-tempered coarse wares, most of which were presumably of relatively local origin. Central Gaulish samian ware was the only fabric certainly derived from outside the region. The source of a single sherd of mica-dusted ware (the tapering rim of a straight-sided dish) is uncertain. Other fine wares, mortaria and white wares were all Nene Valley products.

The principal Roman fabric groupings identified were:

- S30. Central Gaulish samian ware. 6 sherds, 29g.
- F30. Mica dusted ware (source uncertain). 1 sherd, 33g.
- F52. Nene Valley colour-coated ware. 16 sherds, 497g.
- M24. Nene Valley mortaria. 2 sherds, 184g
- W. White wares (probably all Nene Valley). 5 sherds, 139g.
- R. Sand-tempered reduced coarse wares. 73 sherds, 1490g.
- B30. Black-burnished type fabrics (wheel-thrown). 2 sherds, 15g.
- C10. Shell-tempered wares. 53 sherds, 831g.

6.1.3 Few individual context groups were large enough to contain a significant number of chronologically diagnostic vessel forms (only 5 groups contained more than 10 sherds and only one of these had over 25 sherds). The larger groups were, however, all assignable to a late 3rd-4th century date range and it is likely that many of the smaller groups also fall within this range. Late Roman vessel forms identified include hook rimmed jars in fabric C10, and bead and flanged bowls in reduced coarse wares. Nene Valley colour-coated ware forms include Howe, Perrin and Mackreth (1980) types ?76, 81, ?82, 83 and 87, all of late 3rd-4th or 4th century date. Earlier Nene Valley forms may have been present but were not certainly identified. One of two mortarium sherds (fabric M24) was, however, a hooked rim form of 2nd century date. The samian ware sherds were also of this date, though Central Gaulish material of Antonine date often circulated into the late Roman period.

6.1.4 Overall the pottery suggests a relatively low level of activity in the 2nd century with much more intensive use and discard of ceramics in the late Roman period. The evidence is, however, confined largely to Trenches 15 and 17 and may not be representative of the Roman settlement as a whole. The pottery sources drawn on by the settlement were for the most part either

predictable (such as Central Gaulish samian ware) or largely local/regional (the various Nene Valley products). The material does not suggest a particularly high status settlement, but again the small sample may not be particularly representative. The physical quality of the material certainly indicates the potential of the site to produce good groups of pottery for analysis.

6.2 Animal Bone

by Bethan Charles

- 6.2.1 A total of 102 fragments of bone were recovered by hand from the site. Some of these fragments were re-assembled reducing the fragment count to 94. Most of the bones came from Roman deposits (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of bones according to phase, context and species.

Phase	Context	Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	D.Goose	D.Fowl	Unidentified	Total
?Roman	104	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	7
?Med.	306	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	9
Roman	1404	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Roman	1501	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Roman	1504	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	9
Roman	1508	0	0	23	0	0	0	19	42
Roman	1509	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Roman	1604	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	13
Roman	1705	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	5
Roman	1706	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	5
Total		5	4	32	3	1	1	48	94

Animal Bone Assessment Methodology

- 6.2.2 A thorough assessment of the bone was conducted through the use of a simple recording sheet. This enabled a quick calculation of totals to be made along with a rough estimation of the number of individuals in each context and in total. All fragments of bone were recorded including elements from the vertebral centrum, ribs, long bone shafts and teeth.
- 6.2.3 For the Caprine sub-family an attempt was made to separate the sheep and goat bones, using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel and Frisch (1986). The similarity of sheep and goat bones often causes difficulty in identification; however, since there were no positive identifications of goat from the fragments assessed in detail, all caprine bones are listed as sheep.
- 6.2.4 The ageing of the animals was based on tooth eruption and wear as well as the epiphyseal fusion rates of the long bones. Silver's (1969) tables were used to give timing of epiphyseal closure for cattle, sheep and pigs. Sheep's tooth eruption and wear was measured using a combination of Payne's (1973) and Grant's (1982) tables.

Condition of animal bone

- 6.2.5 The majority of the bone was in very good condition and particularly the bone recovered from contexts 104 and 306. One fragment of bone from context 306 was burnt and three fragments of bone from the Roman deposits had signs of carnivore gnaw marks, most likely from dogs. Nine fragments of bone from the Roman deposits had butchery marks, mostly knife and chop marks on the sheep long bones.

Results of animal bone assessment

- 6.2.6 The small number of bones recovered from the site do not permit a clear understanding of the economy of the site beyond the presence of particular species. Sheep, cattle and horse bones were recovered from the Roman deposits with sheep bones being the most common within the assemblage.
- 6.2.7 The remains of a foetal pig, including a humerus and two metacarpal bones in very good condition, were recovered from context 306. The only bird bones from the site were found in context 104 and included part of a domestic goose humerus with knife marks around the proximal articulation and part of a domestic fowl tarso-metatarsus.
- 6.2.8 The good condition and preservation of the bone indicates that further excavations would help provide more detailed information regarding the economy and status of the site.

6.3 Struck Flint

by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

- 6.3.1 A total of 28 flints were recovered from the evaluation. The material was recovered from seven contexts in several trenches, although concentrated (21 pieces) in Trenches 1-5. The presence of a flake from a polished implement and blade cores, would suggest a Neolithic date for the flintwork recovered.

Raw Material and Condition

- 6.3.2 The raw material used was primarily a locally available gravel flint, of variable quality and colour. Several thermal fractures were visible on the cores and flakes in the assemblage. A flake from a polished implement and a blade core were of a light grey flint, with large grey cherty inclusions. This raw material is most probably directly from a source on the chalk.
- 6.3.3 The condition of the flint from the site was variable. The majority of the flints from the site exhibited post-depositional damage, especially those derived from the topsoil. However, several flints, including those from the primary ring ditch fill 509, were in a fresh condition. The majority of the flint was uncorticated, although several pieces, including two blades, were heavily corticated.

The Assemblage

- 6.3.4 The assemblage from the site contains a mixture of blades and flake, which were struck using a mixture of hard and soft hammer percussion. Three cores were present, two blade cores and a fragment of a flake core. All the cores exhibited platform abrasion. A unidirectional crested blade and a face and edge rejuvenation flake were also recovered. These artefacts and traits are all suggestive of an assemblage broadly Neolithic in date. The assemblage is shown in Table 2.
- 6.3.5 The retouched material in the assemblage consists of a flake from a polished implement and two end scrapers. The flake from a polished implement, from ditch fill 104, exhibits a curving ground surface on the distal right hand side. On the left hand side of the flake a small area of slight abrupt edge retouch is present. This artefact is Neolithic in date. The end scrapers differed greatly; one was manufactured on a blade with low angle retouch, whilst the other is

more typical being manufactured on a flake with a slightly curving, abruptly retouched, distal edge.

Table 2: The flint by category type

Category Type	Total
Flake	14
Blade	3
Blade-like	1
Irregular waste	1
Chip	1
Rejuvenation flake core face/edge	1
Rejuvenation flake other	1
Flake from ground implement	1
Core single platform blade core	1
Other blade core	1
Unclassifiable/fragmentary core	1
End scraper	2
Grand Total	28

Discussion

- 6.3.6 The majority of the material in this assemblage, judged on both typological and technological grounds, would appear to date from the Neolithic. Two of the blades and the unidirectional crested blade are suggestive of a later Mesolithic/Early Neolithic element to the assemblage. The limited size of the assemblage excludes more accurate dating of the flintwork. The concentration of this Neolithic flintwork in the region of a ring ditch is suggestive of activity on the site prior to the construction of the earthwork.

6.4 Small Finds

- 6.4.1 A Barbarous Radiate coin dated c 270-295 was recovered from the top of the limestone surface (1504) in Trench 15.
- 6.4.2 A very corroded coin possibly of 4th century date was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 14 (1401) by metal detector.
- 6.4.3 A very thin and flat coin-like object with an irregular sub-hexagonal shape, 16-17 mm in size, was collected from the surface of the ploughsoil in Trench 9 (901).
- 6.4.4 A corroded iron strip 110mm in length was recovered by metal detector from the ploughsoil (1501) in Trench 15, above the limestone surface (1504). Although it is possibly a blade, this is most likely to be of structural use. Four other iron objects were also retrieved by metal detector from this ploughsoil, two of which are probably nail fragments, with the other two likely to be structural remains.
- 6.4.5 An iron bar 220mm in length and approximately 5mm by 5mm in cross section, with a slightly tapering end was recovered from the top of the limestone surface (1504) in Trench 15. This object is likely to be of structural use.
- 6.4.6 Two iron nails were collected from (1508), the fill of Roman linear ditch (1510), and another two from (1705), the fill of (1707), the same ditch but in Trench 17.

6.5 Other finds

- 6.5.1 Three small fragments of slag were recovered from context (1504). Two fragments of clay pipe were collected from the ploughsoil of Trenches 14 and 15, contexts (1401) and (1501) respectively. A single oyster shell was retrieved from ditch fill (1508), and three small fragments of fired clay were recovered from (1509), another fill of the same Roman ditch (1510). Nine fragments of ceramic building material, including shell tempered *imbrex*, were collected from Roman trackway ditch fill (1604).

6.6 Charred plant remains and charcoal

By Dana Challinor

- 6.6.1 A single soil sample of 8 litres (context 307) was taken for the recovery of charred plant remains from the basal fill of a crop dryer or malting oven of unknown date encountered in Trench 3. The sample was processed using a simple wash-over technique and the resultant flot was dried and 20% was scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification.
- 6.6.2 The flot was extremely large in size, producing several thousand cereal grains. The assemblage was very well preserved and dominated by *Hordeum* sp. (barley), although smaller quantities of free-threshing *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and *Avena* sp. were present. The majority of the grain appeared to have germinated, which may indicate malting, although full analysis is required to confirm this observation. No chaff or weed seeds were visible in any quantity. A small amount of wood charcoal was present; *Alnus/Corylus* type (alder/hazel) was most common, although other taxa were noted.
- 6.6.3 It is clear from this sample there is good preservation of charred material at this site, although in the absence of more widespread sampling, the understanding of its potential is limited. Certainly, further sampling at this site would be worthwhile and it is recommended that this sample, if dated, merits full analysis.

7 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

7.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 7.1.1 All the trenches except for 1 and 2 were under cultivation, and therefore it was expected that any archaeological remains encountered might be plough damaged. However, despite the location of the features immediately beneath a relatively thin ploughsoil (generally between 0.2m and 0.4m thick), their preservation was surprisingly good. Although the limestone surfaces (1427) and (1504), and possible wall (1423), had suffered some plough damage, they were still relatively well preserved. However, after machining Trench 14 it became apparent that the stony nature of these features, and the fact that they were overlain directly by the ploughsoil, meant that attempting to machine off the topsoil resulted in the displacement of the stones. To avoid this, only part of the topsoil was removed where stones were visible at the north-east end of Trench 15, and the remainder of the overburden was removed by hand.
- 7.1.2 While most of the features in Trenches 15, 16 and 17 produced good assemblages of datable Roman finds, those in Trenches 9, 11 and 14 produced far fewer datable artefacts. However, on the basis of those finds which were retrieved from the archaeological features in these trenches, and the fact that the features share the same alignments as the more securely dated ones, it is very likely that the features located in Trenches 9, 11 and 14-17 were all of Roman date. Possible exceptions are ditches (1610), (1612) and (1614) which contained no pottery at all, and may not be Roman.
- 7.1.3 The linear ditch in Trench 1 (106) contained only a single sherd of Roman pottery. It is possible that this find was redeposited, and that the feature was in fact of a later date.

7.2 Overall Interpretation

Summary of results

- 7.2.1 A scatter of flintwork, concentrated in the south-east corner of the site, suggests low level activity, perhaps principally of Neolithic date, here. The only certain prehistoric feature located in the evaluation was the ring ditch examined in Trench 5. This feature had been previously identified on an aerial photograph, although an earlier attempt to locate it by trenching failed (NAU 1991). The recent geophysical survey allowed the position of the feature to be plotted with greater accuracy, so that Trench 5 succeeded in uncovering a portion of the ring ditch north-east of its centre. By re-plotting the location of NAU Trenches 7 and 8 (see Figure 3) in the light of the geophysical survey, it appears that NAU Trench 7 passed through the centre of the ring ditch, but should have encountered a section of the ditch at the north end of the trench. Despite the thin ploughsoil cover, the filled-in ring ditch (which had been re-cut at least once), was preserved up to a maximum depth of c 1m. Although this feature cut through a layer of weathered ironstone natural (502) beneath the ploughsoil (501), there was no evidence of a buried soil layer. The four flint fragments recovered from the primary fill of the ring ditch (509) were not closely dated, though the character of the flintwork from this general area of the site was predominantly Neolithic, suggesting activity prior to the construction of the ring ditch. The pieces from (509) might have been residual, or possibly represent an early date for the first phase of the ring ditch.

- 7.2.2 The Roman settlement in Area G showed up well in the results of the geophysical survey, though this only really identified ditches and (to a lesser extent) pits, with little indication of other types of feature. The survey results complement previous evidence and demonstrate that the settlement is laid out largely in relation to the road running along the valley side. A number of small, well-defined enclosures set almost 100m from the road line indicate, however, that the settlement plan does not consist entirely of plots aligned directly upon the road itself. The evaluation trenches demonstrated that despite the relatively shallow overburden, the Roman remains were in fact well-preserved. The presence of stone surfaces and possible wall foundations shows that there is also a good chance that structural remains are preserved in this area. The best-dated features were of later 3rd to 4th century date, though some earlier material was present. The relative scarcity of such material might suggest, however, that Area G is primarily occupied by late Roman features, representing expansion of the settlement at its north-east margin in that period.
- 7.2.3 In Trench 3 there was an unexpected discovery of a stone structure, most probably a crop drying oven. Although this feature produced no dating evidence, the previous discovery relatively nearby of a structure of 14th to 15th century date (NAU 1991), suggests that this crop drier may too be medieval, and morphologically it does not appear to be Roman. Not only was the structure itself particularly well preserved, but an environmental soil sample (taken from the charcoal layer found on the floor of this structure) showed that large quantities of charred grain (principally barley) were also exceptionally well preserved within this feature.

Significance

- 7.2.4 The presence of a well preserved ring ditch is itself of significance, and there is the possibility that prehistoric features and burials associated with it may also be preserved. Furthermore the discovery by fieldwalking of a small density of Saxon pottery in this area (NAU 1991), raises the possibility that there may also be preserved secondary burials associated with this feature.
- 7.2.5 The presence of a large area of a well-preserved Roman settlement is of great significance for the understanding of the landscape and economy of the area during this period. This sort of settlement is of a type otherwise not represented in this area, and determining its function and relationship to the Roman town at Irchester, and the nearby villas at Stanwick and Redlands Farm would be of great value.
- 7.2.6 The discovery of a well preserved yet previously unknown structure (304) in Trench 3 suggests that there may be remains of other associated agricultural buildings in the vicinity. If the structure is medieval, then the presence nearby (NAU 1991) of the remains of at least one other agricultural building of this date lends support to this. There may therefore be a more extensive concentration of hitherto unknown agricultural structures in this area. The quantity and degree of preservation of the charred grain recovered from within structure (304) is high, and suggests that further investigation could shed more light on the precise function of the structure.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench (dimensions)</i>	<i>Ctxt. No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1 (1.6m x 30m)							
	101	Layer		0.2-0.56	Turf and topsoil		
	102	Layer		0.12-0.36	Ploughsoil		
	103	Layer			Natural Ironstone		
	104	Fill		0.88	Upper fill of ditch	Pot (1), bone, flint (2), CBM	?Modern
	105	Fill		0.3	Primary fill of ditch		
	106	Cut	2.58	1.16	Linear ditch		
2 (1.6m x 30m)							
	201	Layer		0.1-0.15	Turf and topsoil		
	202	Layer		0.3-0.5	Colluvium	Pot (1)	?Medieval
	203	Layer		0.65	Colluvium	Flint (3), burnt flint	
	204	Layer			Natural clay		
	205	Layer		0.4	Palaeochannel fill		Modern
	206	Layer		0.12	Palaeochannel fill		Modern
	207	Layer		0.36	Palaeochannel fill		
	208	Layer		0.35	Palaeochannel fill		
	209	Layer		0.2	Palaeochannel fill		
	210	Layer		0.2	Palaeochannel fill		
	211	Layer		0.12	Palaeochannel fill		
	212	Cut		0.8	Palaeochannel		
3 (1.6m x 30m)							
	301	Layer		0.2-0.4	Topsoil	Flint (7)	
	302	Layer		0.3-0.4	Stony Natural		
	303	Layer			Clay Natural		
	304	Structure			Stone Structure		
	305	Fill		0.5	Fill of 304	Burnt clay	
	306	Fill		0.6	Fill of 304	Burnt clay, bone	
	307	Fill		0.05	Charcoal fill of 304		
	308	Cut	3 by 2.7		Construction cut		
	309	Stones			Stone lining		
	310	Stones	0.8 by 0.35	0.04	Stone floor		
	311	Structure			Stone Structure		
	312	Wall			Stone wall		
	313	Wall			Stone wall		
	314	Fill	0.9 by 1.6		Fill of structure		
	315	Cut			Construction cut		
	316	Fill		0.46	? Ditch fill		
	317	Fill		0.36	? Ditch fill		
	318	Cut	1.8	0.82	? Ditch		
4 (1.6m x 30m)							
	401	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
	402	Layer		0.42	Colluvium		
	403	Layer			Natural Ironstone		
5 (1.6m x 30m)							
	501	Layer		0.25	Topsoil	Flint (5)	

<i>Trench (dimensions)</i>	<i>Ctxt. No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	502	Layer		0.35-0.4	Frost-shattered natural		
	503	Layer			Natural Ironstone		
	504	Fill		0.35	Fill of 507		
	505	Fill		0.25	Fill of 507		
	506	Fill		0.5	Fill of 507		
	507	Cut	1.2	1.05	Ditch		
	508	Fill		0.4	Fill of 510		
	509	Fill		0.52	Fill of 510	Flint (4)	
	510	Cut	1	0.8	Ditch		
	511	Fill		0.4	Fill of 512		
	512	Cut	1	0.4	Ditch		
	513	Fill		0.35	Fill of 514		
	514	Cut	1.2	0.74	Ditch		
	515	Fill		0.65	Fill of 516		
	516	Cut	1.2	0.65	Ditch		
	517	Fill		0.5	Fill of 514		
	518	Fill		0.15	Fill of 514		
6 (1.6m x 10m)							
	601	Layer		0.2-0.4	Topsoil		
	602	Layer		> 2	Modern landfill		Modern
7 (1.6m x 10m)							
	701	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
	702	Layer		0.32	Colluvium		
	703	Layer			Clay Natural		
8 (1.6m x 10m)							
	801	Layer		0.2-0.4	Topsoil		
	802	Layer		0.2	Colluvium		
	803	Layer		0.4	Colluvium		
	804	Layer			Clay Natural		
9 (1.6m x 10m)							
	901	Layer		0.33	Topsoil		
	902	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
	903	Layer			Clay Natural		
	904	Fill		0.5	Fill of 906	Pot (1)	Roman
	905	Fill		0.18	Fill of 906		
	906	Cut		0.66	Ditch		
10 (1.6m x 10m)							
	1001	Layer		0.3-0.4	Topsoil		
	1002	Layer		0.25-0.4	Colluvium		
	1003	Layer			Clay/Ironstone Natural		
11 (1.6m x 25m)							
	1101	Layer		0.25-0.4	Topsoil		
	1102	Fill			Drain fill		Modern
	1103	Cut		0.5	Ditch		Roman
	1104	Cut		0.5	Ditch		?Roman
	1105	Layer		0.2-0.4	Colluvium		
	1106	Layer			Clay Natural		
	1107	Fill		0.6	Fill of 1103	Pot (1)	Roman
	1108	Fill		0.18	Fill of 1103	Flint (1)	Roman
	1109	Fill		0.65	Fill of 1104		?Roman
	1110	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1104		?Roman

<i>Trench (dimensions)</i>	<i>Ctxt. No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	1111	Cut			Drain cut		Modern
12 (1.6m x 20m)							
	1201	Layer		0.2-0.4	Topsoil		
	1202	Layer		>1.5	Modern landfill		
13 (1.6m x 20m)							
	1301	Layer		0.2-0.4	Topsoil		
	1302	Layer		>2	Modern landfill		
14 (1.6m x 30m)							
	1401	Layer		0.28	Topsoil	Pot (3), flint (2), clay pipe	
	1402	Layer		0.4-0.5	Frost-shattered natural		
	1403	Layer			Natural Ironstone		
	1404	Fill		0.5	Fill of 1505	Pot (1), bone	
	1405	Cut		0.52	Ditch		
	1406	Fill		0.33	Fill of 1507		
	1407	Cut		0.36	Ditch		
	1408	Fill		0.55	Fill of 1410		
	1409	Fill		0.42	Fill of 1410		
	1410	Cut		0.96	Ditch		
	1411	Fill		0.58	Fill of 1413		
	1412	Fill		0.5	Fill of 1413		
	1413	Cut		0.7	Ditch		
	1414	Fill		0.42	Fill of 1416		
	1415	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1416		
	1416	Cut		0.8	Ditch		
	1417	Fill		0.78	Fill of 1418		
	1418	Cut		0.78	Ditch		
	1419	Fill		0.8	Fill of 1420		
	1420	Cut		0.8	Ditch		
	1421	Fill		0.65	Fill of 1422		
	1422	Cut		0.7	Ditch		
	1423	Fill		0.36	Fill of 1426		
	1424	Fill		0.34	Fill of 1426		
	1425	Fill		0.15	Fill of 1426		
	1426	Cut		0.4	Ditch		
	1427	Layer		0.05	Stone surface		
15 (1.6m x 20m)							
	1501	Layer		0.3-0.35	Topsoil	Pot (12), bone. CBM	
	1502	Layer		0.38	Frost-shattered natural		
	1503	Layer			Natural Ironstone		
	1504	Layer		0.04	Stone surface	Pot (24), bone, coin, nails	Roman
	1505	Fill			Fill of 1506		
	1506	Cut	2.2		Ditch		
	1507	Fill		0.24	Fill of 1510	Pot (1)	Roman
	1508	Fill		0.34	Fill of 1510	Pot (60), bone, shell	Roman
	1509	Fill		0.36	Fill of 1510	Pot (9), bone	Roman
	1510	Cut	1.6	0.88	Ditch		Roman
	1511	Fill		0.42	Fill of 1512		
	1512	Cut	0.7 by 0.4	0.42	?Pit		
	1513	Fill		0.35	Fill of 1514		

<i>Trench (dimensions)</i>	<i>Ctxt. No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	1514	Cut	1.5 by 0.8	0.58	?Pit		
	1515	Fill		0.27	Fill of 1514		
	1516	Fill		0.35	Fill of 1517		
	1517	Cut	1	0.35	?Pit		
16 (1.6m x 30m)							
	1601	Layer		0.37	Topsoil	Pot (1), flint (4)	
	1602	Layer		0.37	Frost-shattered natural		
	1603	Layer			Natural Ironstone		
	1604	Fill		0.42	Fill of 1606	Pot (2), bone, CBM	Roman
	1605	Fill		0.24	Fill of 1606		
	1606	Cut	1.9	0.64	Trackway ditch		Roman
	1607	Fill		0.7	Fill of 1608		?Modern
	1608	Cut			?Drain		?Modern
	1609	Fill		0.44	Fill of 1610	Flint	
	1610	Cut	1.72	0.44	Ditch		
	1611	Fill		0.42	Fill of 1612		
	1612	Cut	0.9	0.42	Ditch		
	1613	Fill		0.46	Fill of 1614		
	1614	Cut	1.22	0.46	Ditch		
17 (1.6m x 30m)							
	1701	Layer		0.3-0.35	Topsoil	Pot (16)	
	1702	Layer		0.4-0.6	Weathered natural		
	1703	Layer			Clay Natural		
	1704	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1707		
	1705	Fill		0.6	Fill of 1707	Pot (7), bone	Roman
	1706	Fill		0.6	Fill of 1707	Pot (12), bone	Roman
	1707	Cut	2.5	1.2	Ditch		Roman
	1708	Fill		0.6	Fill of 1709		
	1709	Cut	0.6 by 0.4	0.6	Feature		
	1710	Fill		0.45	Fill of 1711	Pot (7)	Roman
	1711	Cut	1.4	0.45	Ditch		Roman

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Higham Ferrers, Kings Meadow Lane

Site code: HFKML 00

Grid reference: SP 9550 6935

Type of evaluation: Nine 30m trenches, three 20m trenches, and five 10m trenches

Date and duration of project: October 2000 (11 days over a 3 week period)

Area of site: 4.05 ha

Summary of results: Prehistoric ring ditch, ?medieval crop drier, and Roman roadside settlement (north-eastern extent).

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at:

Oxford Archaeological Unit

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford

OX2 0ES



Figure 1: Site location

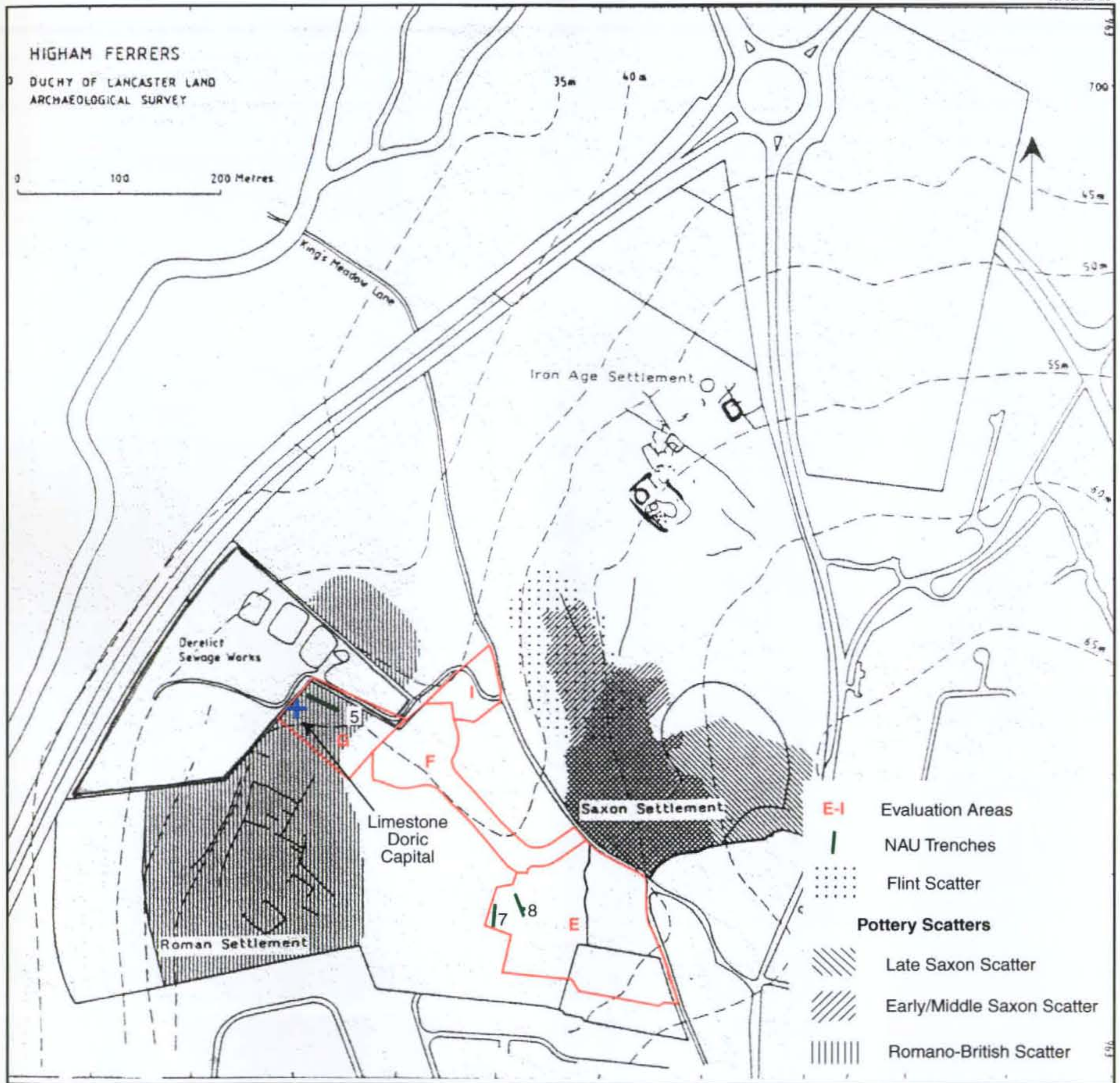
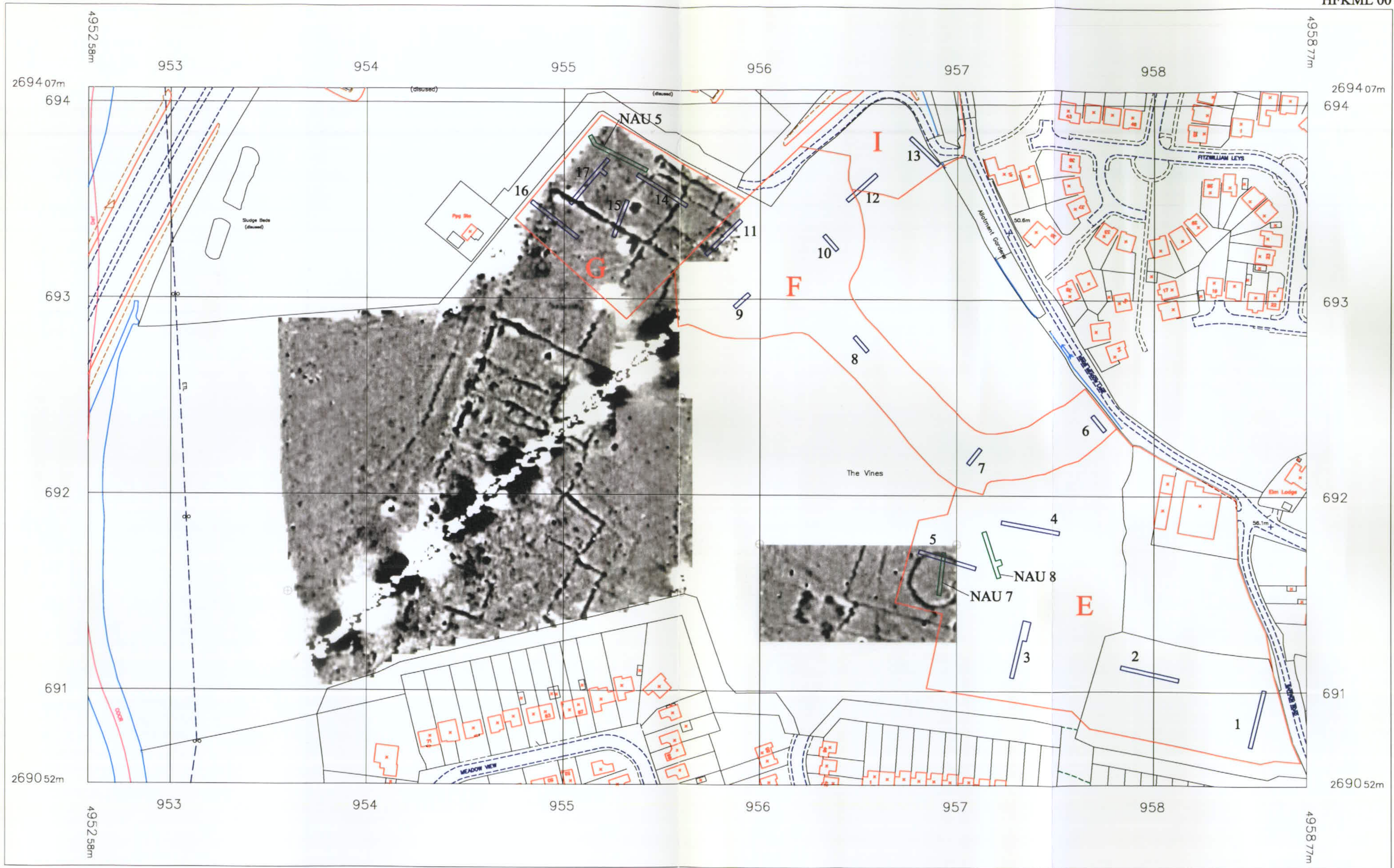


Figure 2: Evaluation Areas, Cropmarks, and Fieldwalking scatters (after NAU 1991).



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Figure 3: Evaluation Trench locations, showing Geophysical Survey results

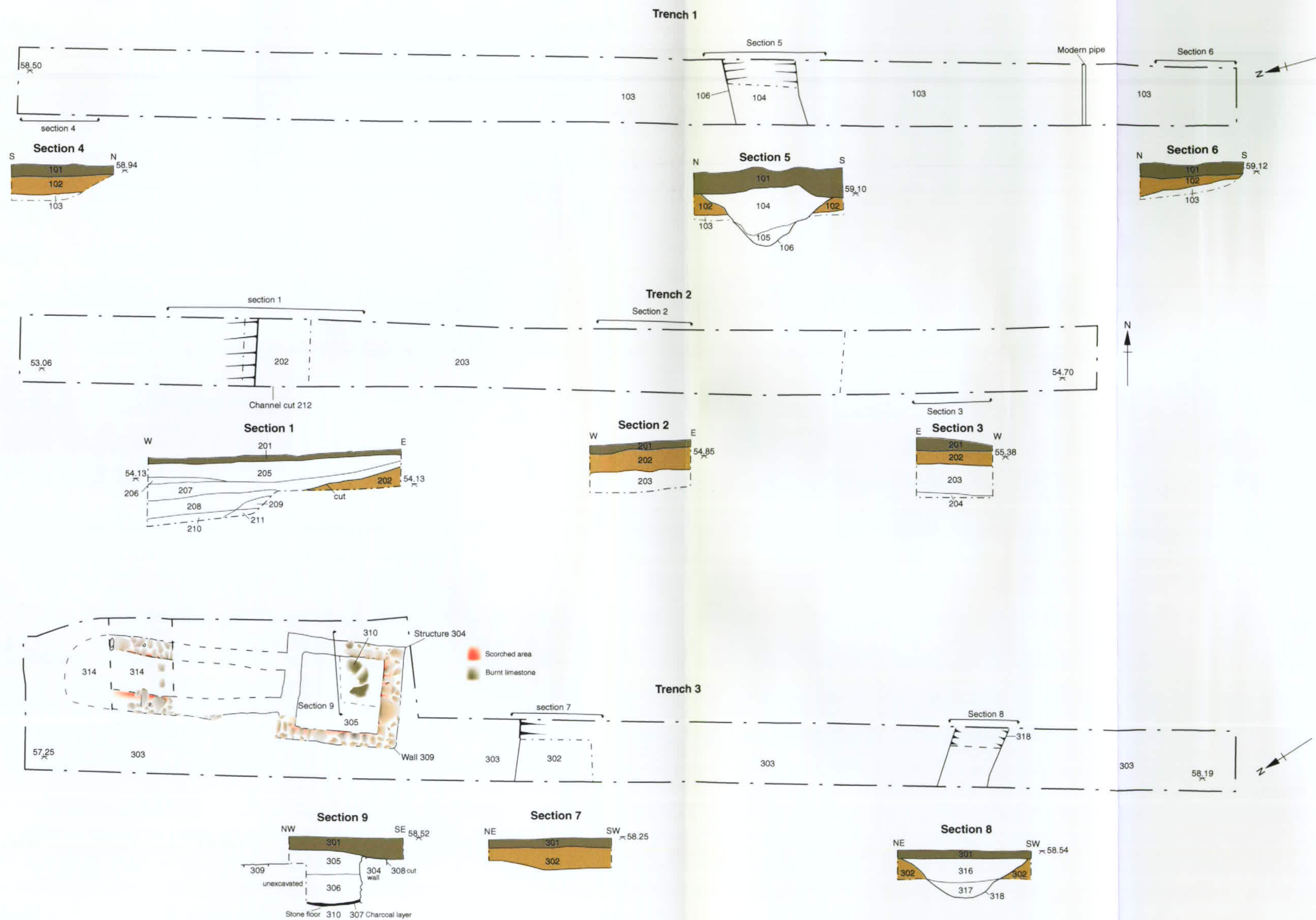


Figure 4: Higham Ferrers, Trench plans (1:100) and sections (1:80)

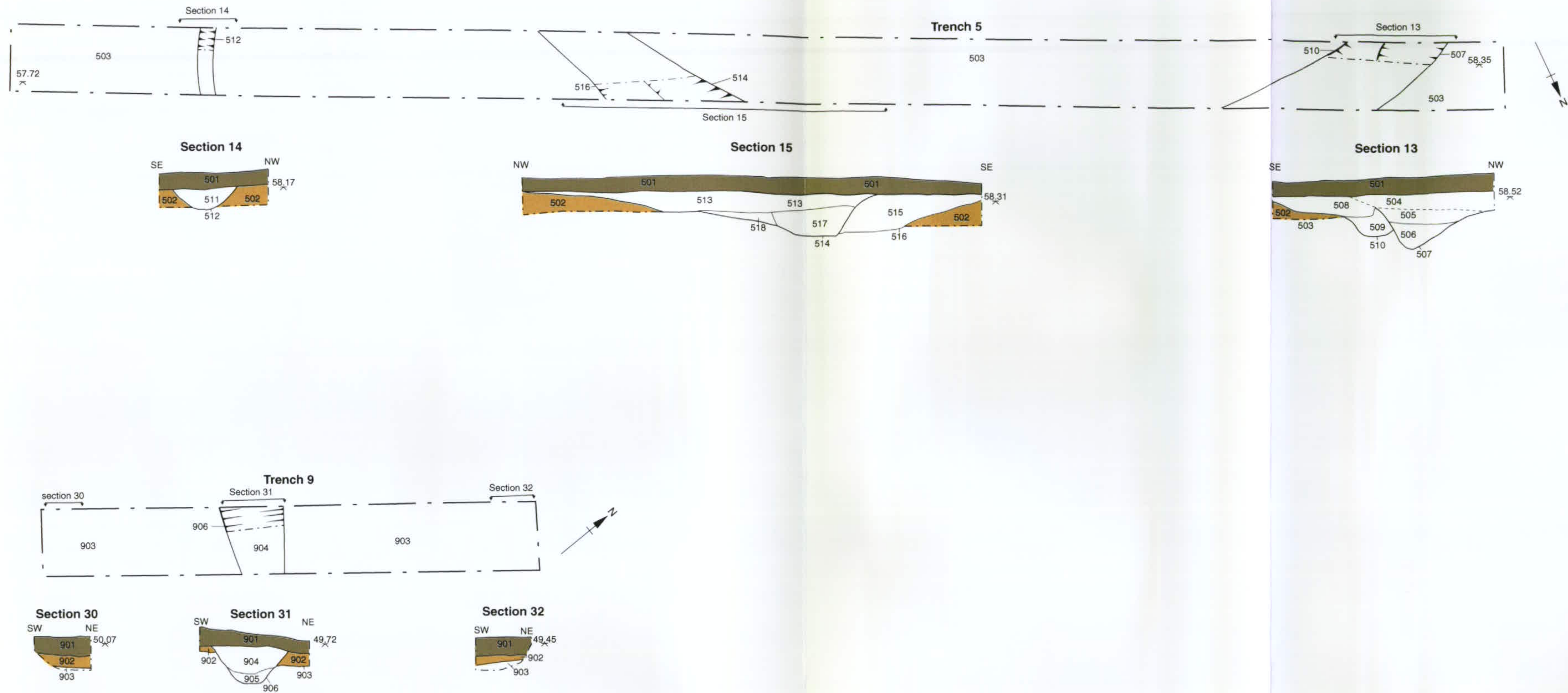


Figure 5: Higham Ferrers, Trench plans (1:100) and sections (1:80)

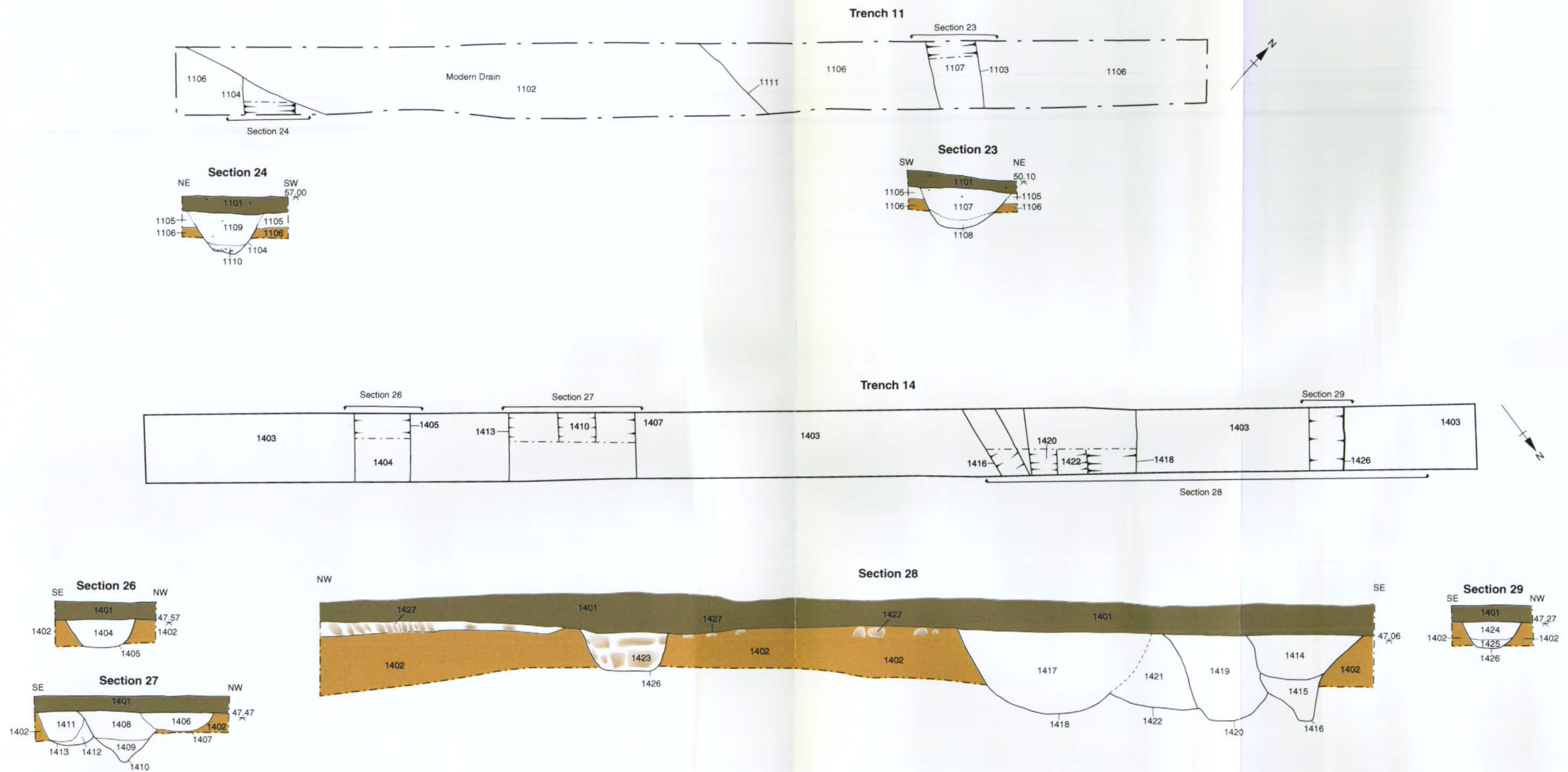


Figure 6: Higham Ferrers, Trench plans (1:100) and sections (1:80) section 28 (1:40)

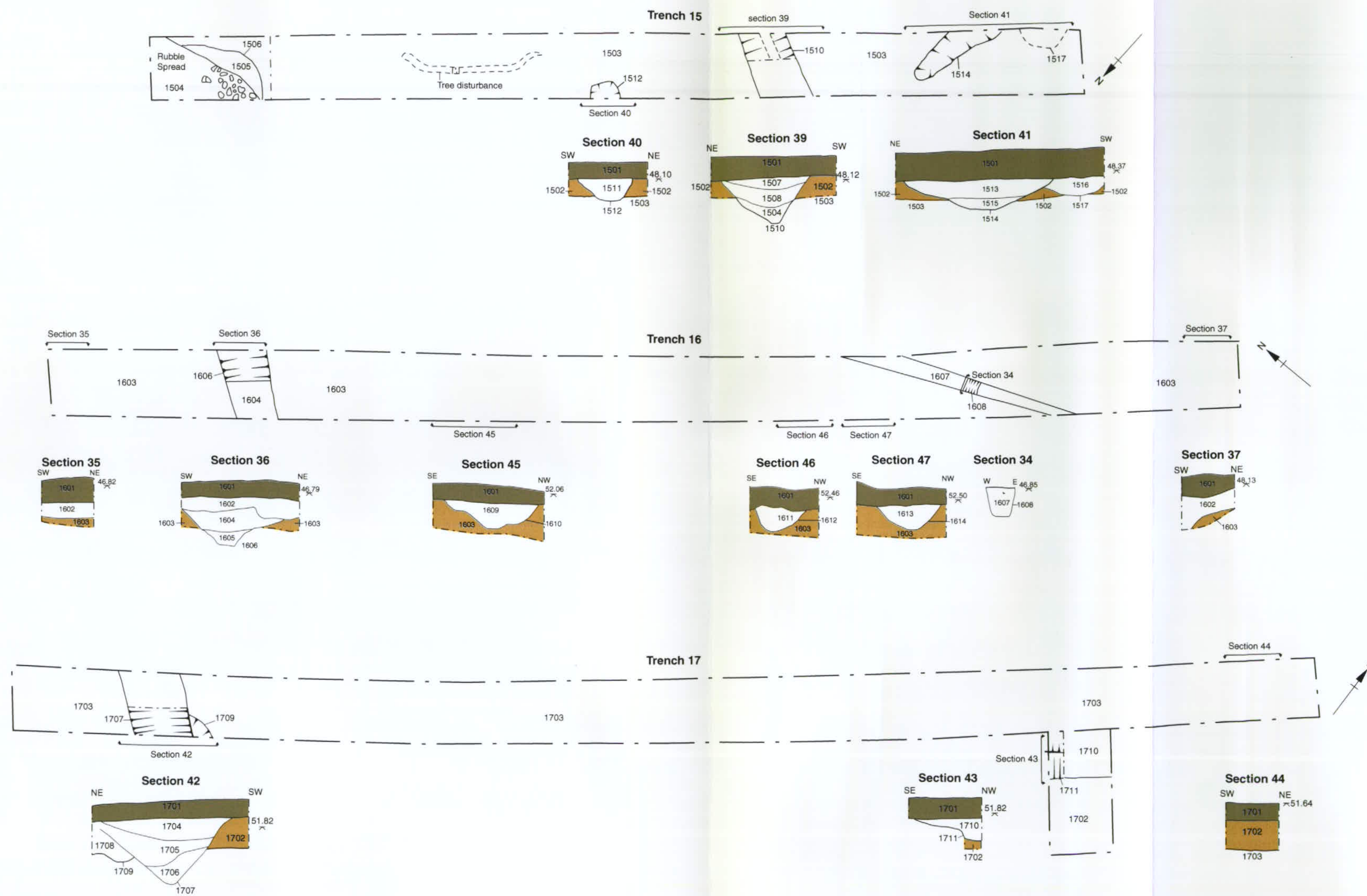


Figure7: Higham Ferrers, Trench plans (1:100) and sections (1:80)

Author Lacey M.

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