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# The Upper Thames Major Resource Development



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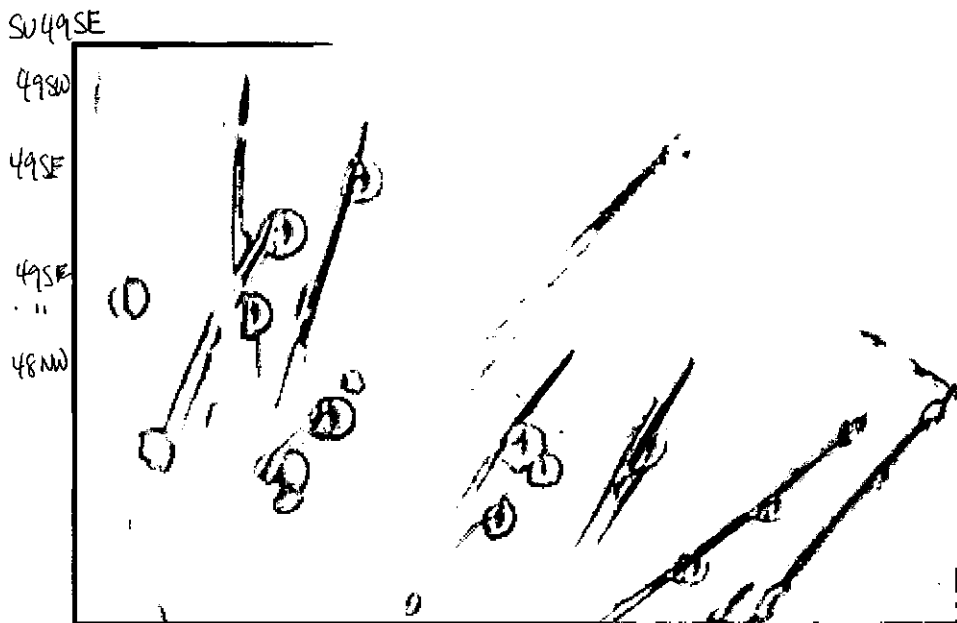
## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Additional survey for Baseline Assessment

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# The Upper Thames Major Resource Development

**Prepared by Oxford Archaeology  
on behalf of Cascade Consulting  
and Land Use Consultants**

Working in partnership



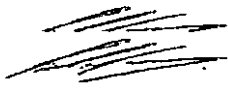
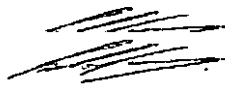
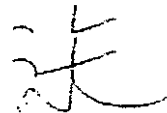
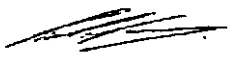

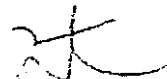



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Thames Water (TW), in common with other water companies in the south east of England, is predicting significant difficulties in being able to supply sufficient water to customers over the next 25 years. TW's predictions are consistent with the findings of a recent study by the Water Resources in the South East (WRSE) Group, headed by the Environment Agency<sup>1</sup>, which indicated potential shortages over much of the south east by 2025.

The demand for water is forecast to increase over the next 25 years due to a number of factors including the following:

- **Population growth** – the South East is unique in that it has a high immigration rate, both from elsewhere in the UK and overseas, which increases the need for housing and for both domestic and commercial water supply. It is estimated that the population of TW's supply area will increase by approximately 1.3 million by 2029/30<sup>2</sup>.
- **Social changes** – more divorces and separations mean that families are tending to live in two houses rather than altogether in one, and this means that the same number of people potentially use two washing machines and two dishwashers, and thus use more water overall. With the ageing population there are also more elderly people living on their own, while young and middle-aged people are also increasingly choosing to live alone. These changing lifestyle factors all tend to result in greater use of water.
- **Climate change** – longer, hotter summers means that people use more water both for bathing and for watering the garden, filling swimming pools etc while commercial uses also increase, e.g. for air conditioning offices and IT systems.

Consistent with the water industry adopted twin track approach to dealing with this issue, TW is implementing measures to reduce the demand for water whilst also making provision to develop new resources, which in light of the long lead times, particularly for major resource development, require early planning.

The types of demand management measures being implemented by TW

<sup>1</sup> Water Resources in the South East (WRSE) Report on the latest South East Plan housing provision and distribution, April 2006

<sup>2</sup> Thames Water Utilities Ltd, Water Resources Plan, April 2004



include encouraging customers to use water more efficiently; increasing the number of domestic customers whose water supply is metered; and reducing leakage from the water supply network.

Leakage is a particular problem in London, where ageing Victorian water pipes suffer from the corrosion and fracturing in the London Clay. TW is continuing its ongoing programme of “find and fix” repairs and has instigated a major programme to replace large sections of water main with new pipe work. It is intended to upgrade or replace around 1200 miles of water mains over by 2010. Further reductions in leakage will be made beyond that point, consistent with the economic level of leakage determined by Ofwat, but because of the diminishing returns on leakage control, it is unlikely that the amount of water saved will be as great as in the five year period from 2005 – 2010. Based on TW’s current understanding of the costs and benefits of leakage reduction, there will therefore be less potential for savings from this option in the longer term.

While water efficiency, metering and leakage control will reduce the forecast demand for water, there is still predicted to be a significant imbalance (deficit) between the reduced demand and the amount of water that is available from TW’s existing and committed water supply schemes.

Therefore the company has been undertaking further more detailed planning, engineering and environmental studies on potential resource developments. Studies to date have identified a large storage reservoir sited in the Upper Thames catchment to the south west of Abingdon as a preferred element of the company’s long term water resource programme<sup>3</sup>.

The conclusions of this work, including the site selection analysis, have been recently re-evaluated by TW as part of the Upper Thames Major Resource Development (UTMRD) study. Stage 1 of the UTMRD study has confirmed the need for a reservoir as part of a package of measures needed to both save and supply water in order to meet future demand<sup>4</sup>. Consultation was commenced in autumn 2006 on the findings of these studies. Further investigations into a reservoir near Abingdon are subsequently being progressed in Stage 2 of the study, and this report forms one output from that work.

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<sup>3</sup> Thames Water Utilities Limited, Water Resources Plan (2004 Periodic Review), April 2004

<sup>4</sup> Thames Water Utilities Limited, UTMRD Stage 1 Needs and Alternatives Report, September 2006

## 1.2 THE PREFERRED OPTION

The preferred option is to construct a raw water reservoir to supply the London water resource zone through river regulation and the Swindon and Oxfordshire (SWOX) water resource zone through direct supply. The preferred location for this reservoir is a site south west of Abingdon. The components of this project are:

- A fully bunded reservoir
- A water transfer system comprising:
  - Intake and outfall structures on the River Thames
  - A water transfer tunnel and shafts
  - A pumping station
  - Reservoir inlet and outlet works
- A direct water supply system for SWOX comprising:
  - A water treatment works to treat the stored water from the reservoir
  - A pipeline to connect the water to the SWOX supply system
  - A plant to treat the wastewater arising from the water treatment works before it is discharged to the River Thames
  - An Auxiliary drawdown system
- Access work comprising:
  - The diversion of the East Hanney – Steventon road
  - A site access road from Marcham Road (A415) to the north east corner of the site
  - New railway sidings off the London – Bristol main line to the east of Steventon
  - Diversion of water courses and creation of flood compensation areas
- Environmental enhancement works comprising:
  - Identification of a re-aligned route for the former Wilts & Berks Canal around the perimeter of the reservoir, and the protection of that route



- Landscaping, planting and ecological enhancements to integrate the reservoir into the local landscape
- Internal access roads, bridleways and footpaths
- Recreational facilities, the extent of which is not yet defined.

Aspects such as the nature and extent of conservation, access and recreational facilities, together with further environmental and mitigation measures for the scheme, are to be identified as part of the design development and environmental impact assessment process. This will be carried out in consultation with stakeholders and local communities, the programme for which is set out in Thames Water's Statement of Community and Stakeholder Involvement<sup>5</sup>.

### 1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

One of the first stages of environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the collation of baseline information; Oxford Archaeology have produced a report (E2-Rp Archaeological Review and Baseline Update February 2006 V 2.0) setting out the current status of archaeological understanding in relation to this and identifying areas where further information would be of value. The report and its findings have been discussed with and approved by Paul Smith and Hugh Coddington (County Archaeologist and Deputy County Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council). In addition an archaeological summary of works related to the scheme was forwarded to Chris Welch the Regional English Heritage Inspector. This included; a global project status statement from Thames Water, an archaeological works summary, a gazetteer of archaeological sites and illustrative figure, references for further reports (there are now some 120 reports containing archaeological data) and E2-Rp Archaeological WSI Additional Survey June 2006 V1.2. Although receipt of the data was acknowledged no further comments have been forthcoming from English Heritage.

This report details the results of additional baseline survey assessments identified within E2-Rp Archaeological Review and Baseline Update February 2006 V 2. The methodology for this phase of survey was set out in E2-Rp Archaeological WSI Additional Survey June 2006 V1.2 and E2-Rp Archaeological WSI Geophysical Survey Interim Statement October 2006 1.1 Both documents were submitted to and approved by Hugh Coddington at Oxford County Council. This report does not fully repeat the archaeological

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<sup>5</sup> Thames Water Utilities Limited, Statement of Community and Stakeholder Involvement.



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and historical background, geographical and topological descriptions or methodologies contained in reports E2-Rp Archaeological Review and Baseline Update February 2006 V 2.0, E2-Rp Archaeological WSI Additional Survey June 2006 V1.2 and E2-Rp Archaeological WSI Geophysical Survey Interim Statement October 2006 1.1 and so should be read in conjunction with those documents.

#### 1.4 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

The structure of this report is as follows:

- **Archaeological introduction** – this chapter sets out the scope of work carried out.
- **Programme of work** – this chapter explains the methodologies employed during the investigation works.
- **Results** – the results chapter objectively details the data retrieved from observations in the field, without interpretative inference.
- **Finds** – the finds chapter summarises specialist reports on retrieved artefacts, ecofacts and observed sedimentary units.
- **Discussion** – the discussion chapter draws conclusions from the results and finds information and highlights additions to the archaeological understanding of the main study area.
- **Appendices** – the appendices contain detailed bibliographical references and full specialist reports on artefacts and ecofacts.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 SCOPE OF WORK

From September to November 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological investigation in the study area for the proposed reservoir (Figure 1). The work comprised monitoring of geotechnical works, geophysical survey and trench investigation.

## 3 PROGRAMME OF WORK

### 3.1 TRENCH EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The trench investigation consisted of 53 trenches each measuring 50 m x 1.8 m (Figure 2). Table 3.1 provides the location of trenching and geophysical survey and includes a brief background to the site specific investigation area as well as the aims of the investigation. References to relevant figures are also provided.

**Table 3.1: Trenching and geophysical survey information**

Works area designation	Investigation	Previous Land Plot Designation <sup>a</sup>	Land plot TWUL	Comments/brief background <sup>b</sup>	Aim of Investigation
Site 412 (Figures 3, 4, 5)	5 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	113/302	58/59	Plots 113/302 are in the north east quarter of TWUL land plots 58/59.  Previous trenching to south (Site 404) and east (Site 406) revealed middle/late iron age activity around a circular enclosure, although the main cropmark evidence appears to be early Romano-British	Due to access constraints during the previous survey the north eastern extent of the cropmark Site 412 was not characterised by trench investigation. This survey was carried out in order to complete that investigation.
Site 413 (Figures 8, 9, 10)	5 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	306/1604	28/29/31/32	One hectare of detailed gradiometry survey has been carried out in Plot 306, in addition cropmarks indicate a double-ditched trackway of uncertain date	Due to access constraints during the previous survey the cropmarks have not been characterised by trench investigation. This survey was carried out in order to complete that investigation.
Site 414 (Figures 8, 11, 12)	5 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	305/306	29/26	5.64 ha of gradiometry survey was carried out in Plot 305, the site contains possible extension of double-ditched trackway seen in Site 412, as well as complex linear	Due to access constraints during the previous survey the cropmarks and geophysical results have not been characterised by trench investigation. This

<sup>a</sup> The previous land plot designation refers to land plot identifiers used in all archaeological documentation. Land Plot TWUL refers to land plot designations defined by TWUL plan 7LTC-E2-60005-EX, supplied to OA on 20/06/2006.  
<sup>b</sup> From Abingdon Reservoir Proposal, Baseline Report: Archaeology, Volumes 1 and 2. Report Ref. WA/36511.17/FINAL (unpublished client report)



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Works area designation	Investigation	Previous Land Plot Designation <sup>a</sup>	Land plot TWUL	Comments/brief background <sup>a</sup>	Aim of Investigation
				rectilinear and curvilinear crop marks .	survey was carried out in order to complete that investigation.
Site 418 (Figures 13 )	5ha geophysical survey followed by two trenches - 50 x 1.8m, based on the geophysical survey results	211	120	A weak geophysical anomaly from 0.88 ha gradiometry survey trial transect appeared to show a rectilinear enclosure. Some Roman pottery was recovered from fieldwalking	A small area of geophysical survey was carried out previously. This investigation expanded the survey and led to trench investigation on the basis of the results.
Site 419 (Figures 3, 6, 7)	5 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	1501	60	Fieldwalking finds and 5.68 ha of gradiometry carried out in Plot 1501 appear to show a rectilinear enclosure with internal features and further rectilinear anomalies. The finds indicate Romano-British occupation with the possibility of underlying Iron Age activity.	Due to access constraints during the previous survey the fieldwalking, cropmark and geophysical results have not been characterised by trench investigation. This survey was carried out in order to complete that investigation.
Site 420 (Figures 14, 15, 16)	5 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	111	22	Cropmarks on this site indicate a sub-rectangular enclosure with two ditches extending from eastern side of enclosure. The enclosure is suspected to be Iron-Age in date .	Due to access constraints during the previous survey the cropmark features have not been characterised by trench investigation. This survey was carried out in order to complete that investigation.
Plot 204 (Figure 18)	12 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	204	117	No evidence of archaeological remains was revealed by non-intrusive surveys .	Trench investigation was carried out in order to test the reliability of the results of the non-intrusive investigations which have shown no evidence of archaeological remains.
Plot 216 (Figure 19 )	12 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	216	109	No evidence of archaeological remains was revealed by non-intrusive surveys .	Trench investigation was carried out in order to test the reliability of the results of the non-intrusive investigations which have shown no evidence of archaeological remains.
Plot 1402 (Figure 14, 17)	2 Trenches-50 x 1.8 m	1402	66/67	A 4 ha magnetic susceptibility survey carried out in this area revealed no positive results. However monitoring of a geotechnical investigation <sup>b</sup> revealed a Middle Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age ditch.	Trench investigation was carried out in order to inform on the presence and extent of any Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age archaeological remains.

### 3.2 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Site 418 (Table 3.1) had previously been investigated by field-walking (which revealed a scatter of Romano-British finds) and two gradiometry transects carried out by GSB Prospection in 1997 (GSB Report Survey No. 97/63 - Contract TWUL C-12). The gradiometry survey revealed possible pits

<sup>a</sup> Test Pit 329, E2-Rp Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Works April 2006 2.0



(although it was suggested that some of these may be unexploded ordnance) and a weak linear anomaly which suggested part of an enclosure.

A 5.5 ha magnetometry survey was carried out on 26-27th September by Bartlett-Clark Geophysical Ltd in order to clarify and expand the results of the initial survey on Site 418 and inform the location of investigation trenches. A grey-scale plot of the survey and summary results have been produced (Figure 13) and the results are provided in Section 4. Two trenches were excavated in response to the geophysical survey results.

### **3.3 TRIAL PIT AND BORE-HOLE MONITORING**

A total of twelve geotechnical investigation test pits and two bore-holes were monitored in September 2006 (Figure 20). The monitoring was a continuation of works reported in E2-Rp Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Works April 2006 2.0 and comprised test pits and bore-holes that could not be carried out in the initial programme of work due to land access restrictions. The results of the monitoring are presented below (Section 4).

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## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 LINEAR FEATURES

Linear features relating to medieval – post medieval ridge and furrow farming were found throughout the evaluation, as well as possible trackways and the strip farming field divisions associated with agricultural use of the land during these periods. Ridge and furrow undulations were also often visible on the surface of the fields. An attempt has been made throughout the field evaluation to identify and group features of this type through the interpretation of common alignments (where possible in relation to visible surface undulations) and in relation to on site visual interpretation of common fill types. This was undertaken in order to highlight features relating to other activities or phases which may have a localised (rather than landscape) or rarity significance.

### 4.2 SITE 412

#### 4.2.1 Summary

The investigation at Site 412 consisted of five 50 m trenches placed to target linear crop mark features (Figures 3 and 4).

Mere Dyke defines the northern boundary of the field, with the East Hanney - Steventon road running along the southern boundary. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The field is generally flat with a slight rise to the northeast. The remains of ridge and furrow are evident as undulations in the topography.

The geology consists of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

#### 4.2.2 Trench Descriptions

Trenches associated with Site 412 are illustrated in Figure 5.

##### ***Trench 412.01 (aligned north-south)***

Pale grey degraded chalk natural (context 4120113) was encountered at a depth of 0.53 m (60.1 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Two ditches (possible field boundaries) were excavated, one furrow and a modern(?) erosion hollow was identified. No artefacts were retrieved from this trench.

**Table 4.1: Trench table of contexts (412.01)**

Trench	Cxst no	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
412.01	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.18	Subsoil - lower ploughsoil. Only present in southern half of trench	-	Undated
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Undated
	3	Cut	4.0		N-S ditch or livestock erosion hollow, cuts subsoil 01 and may be modern	-	Modern?
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med
	5	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	6	Fill		0.26	Fill of 8	-	Undated
	7	Fill		0.4	Fill of 8	-	Undated
	8	Cut	0.7	0.4	NW-SE ditch	-	Undated
	9	Fill		0.3	Fill of 10	-	Undated
	10	Cut	0.5		E-W ditch, Field boundary ditch? Aligns with recorded cropmark	-	Undated
	11	Fill		0.2	Fill of 12	-	Undated
	12	Cut	0.5		Re-cut of 10	-	Undated
	13	natural			Pale grey degraded chalk natural	-	Pre-Holocene

**Trench 412.02 (aligned northeast-southwest)**

The natural geology (context 4120212) consisted of pale grey clay with chalk fragments; this was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m (59.97 m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench contained two ditches, one plough furrow and a possible pit/root hole. Ditch cut 4120211 corresponded to a recorded cropmark. No artefacts were retrieved from this trench.

**Table 4.2: Trench table of contexts (412.02)**

Trench	Cxst no	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
412.02	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil-lower ploughsoil	-	Undated
	2	Cut	0.9		Root disturbance/possible pit?	-	Undated
	3	Fill		0.1	Fill of 5	-	Undated
	4	Fill		0.1	Fill of 5	-	Med-post med
	5	Cut	1.1		Furrow	-	Med-post med
	6	Fill	0.2		Fill of 7	-	Med-post med
	7	Cut	0.65		NW-SE ditch/Furrow	-	Med-post med
	8	Fill		0.4	Fill of 2	-	Undated
	9	Fill		0.44	Fill of 11	-	Undated

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Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	10	Cut			Root disturbance	-	Undated
	11	Cut	3.6		NE-SW ditch	-	Undated
	12	natural			Grey sandy clay and chalk	-	Pre-Holocene

### Trench 412.03 (aligned east-west)

The natural geology (context 4120322), a mixture of degraded chalk and pale grey sandy clay, was encountered at a depth of 0.46 m (59.1 m OD) below existing ground level. The trench contained ten features; all but one aligned north-south. Two of the north-south ditches were excavated and found to be characteristic of ridge and furrow features. The remaining ditches on this alignment were not excavated as they were also typical of furrow features or contemporary field division ditches. Ditch cut 13 was aligned northeast-southwest, it was 0.7 m wide and 0.11 m deep. This feature produced a small amount of pot, bone and daub. The pot was small and abraded and tentatively dated as Bronze Age.

Table 4.3: Trench table of contexts (412.03)

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
412.03	0	Layer		0.23	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.28	Subsoil-Lower ploughsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Med-post med
	3	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Med-post med
	5	Cut	0.4		N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	6	Fill		0.1	Fill of 7	-	Med-post med
	7	Cut	0.3		N-S ditch	-	Med-post med
	8	Fill			Fill of 9	-	Med-post med
	9	Cut			N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	10	Fill			Fill of 11	-	Med-post med
	11	Cut			N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	12	Fill		0.11	Fill of 13	pot, bone, daub	Prehistoric?
	13	Cut	0.7		NW-SE linear	-	Prehistoric?
	14	Fill			Fill of 15	-	Med-post med
	15	Cut			N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	16	Fill			Fill of 17	-	Med-post med
	17	Cut	0.4		N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post

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Trench	Cxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
							med
	18	Fill		0.05	Fill of 19	-	Med-post med
	19	Cut	1.35		N-S Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	20	Fill			Fill of 21	-	Med-post med
	21	Cut	0.28		N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	22	natural			Mixed chalk and silt	-	Pre-Holocene

### Trench 412.04 (aligned northwest-southeast)

The pale grey chalky natural geology (context 4120402) was encountered at a depth of 0.43 m (59.1 m OD) below existing ground level. The trench contained seven linear features; all aligned approximately northwest-southeast, and two discrete features. Three of the linear features were excavated; only one of which (Ditch 13) contained datable artefacts. Ditch 13 had a more distinct profile. It measured 1.5 m in width and was 0.43 m deep, with steep (60°) sides and flat base filled with light brown silt clay. A small sherd of pre-historic pot and a corroded metal disc (possibly a coin, but corroded and unidentifiable) was recovered. One of the discrete features (04) was excavated. This was 1.2 m in diameter, 0.4 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The unexcavated features were characteristic of medieval – post medieval ridge and furrow and field division features.

Table 4.4: Trench table of contexts (412.04)

Trench	Cxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
412.04	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Mid grey chalky gravel	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill		0.4	Fill of 4	-	Undated
	4	Cut	1.2 x 0.9		Possible Pit?	-	Undated
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Undated
	6	Cut	0.5		Pit/tree hole? unexcavated	-	Undated
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-post med
	8	Cut	1.05		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-post med
	10	Cut	1.4		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	11	Fill		0.15	upper Fill of 13	pot, coin (?)	Prehistoric?
	12	Fill		0.3	primary Fill of 13	-	Undated
	13	Cut	1.5		N-S ditch.	-	Undated

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Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	14	Fill			Fill of 15	-	Med-post med
	15	Cut	2.5		N-S Furrow.	-	Med-post med
	16	Fill		0.24	Fill of 17.	-	Undated
	17	Cut	0.45		N-S gully	-	Undated
	18	Fill		0.21	Fill of 19	-	Med-post med
	19	Cut	1.8		N-S Furrow	-	Med-post med
	20	Fill			Fill of 21	-	Med-post med
	21	Cut	1.6		Furrow.	-	Med-post med
	22	Fill			Fill of 23	-	Med-post med
	23	Cut	2.1		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med

### Trench 412.05 (aligned north-south)

The natural geology, a pale grey chalk (context 4120510) was encountered at a depth of 0.43 m (59.05 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Three linear features were identified in this trench, one of which was excavated. The excavated ditch (o8) contained a modern land drain. No artefacts were retrieved from the trench.

Table 4.5: Trench table of contexts (412.05)

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
412.05	0	Layer		0.35	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.24	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Undated
	3	Cut			N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Undated
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Undated
	5	Cut			Ditch. unexcavated.	-	Undated
	6	Fill			Fill of 7	-	Undated
	7	Cut			Ditch unexcavated	-	Undated
	8	Cut	0.7		NW-SE ditch	-	Undated
	9	Fill		0.56	NE-SW ditch with field drain.	-	Undated
	10	natural			Pale grey chalk	-	Pre-Holocene

## 4.3 SITE 413

### 4.3.1 Summary

The investigation at Site 413 consisted of five 50 m trenches placed to target linear crop mark features (Figures 8 and 9).

The East Hanney – Steventon road defines the northern boundary of the field, with the London – Bristol main line railway running along the southern boundary. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The field is generally flat with a gentle slope to the south.

The geology consists of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

#### 4.3.2 Trench Descriptions

Trenches associated with Site 413 are illustrated in Figure 10.

##### **Trench 413.01 (aligned northwest-southeast)**

The natural geology (context 4130114) was a pale grey degraded chalk, encountered at a depth of 0.46 m (63.5 m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench contained five linear features; three aligned east-west, two north-south. The features aligned east-west were consistent with medieval – post medieval furrows and not excavated. One of the east-west ditches (13) was a substantial ditch (2.4 m wide and 0.9 m deep) with a sequence of four fills. A sherd of Roman coarse tempered pottery (R90) was retrieved from the primary fill. The final fill was dark grey, slightly organic clay that appeared to have been formed in waterlogged conditions. The second ditch on an east-west alignment was 08, it was 0.6 m wide (not excavated).

**Table 4.6: Trench table of contexts (413.01)**

Trench	Cxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
413.01	0	Layer		0.35	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-post med?
	2	Cut	1.0		E-W ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	3	Fill		0.25	Fill of 4	-	Med-post med?
	4	Cut	1.5		E-W ditch	-	Med-post med?
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	cbm	Med-post med
	6	Cut	1.0		Furrow. unexcavated	cbm	Med-post med
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Roman?
	8	Cut	0.60		NE-SW gully. unexcavated	-	Roman?
	9	Fill		0.5	Fill of 13	-	Roman?
	10	Fill		0.43	Fill of 13	-	Roman?
	11	Fill		0.3	Fill of 13	-	Roman?
	12	Fill		0.08	Fill of 13	Pot	Roman?
	13	Fill	1.6	0.9	NE-SW ditch	-	Roman?
	14	natural			Pale brown chalky clay	-	Pre-Holocene



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**Trench 413.02 (aligned north-south)**

Natural geology (context 4130202) was encountered at a depth of 0.44 m (61.98 m OD) below the existing ground surface, and consisted of a pale grey degraded chalk. This trench contained eight linear features generally on an east-west alignment. Six were interpreted as furrows (four excavated, two unexcavated) with an average width of 2.5 m and depth of 0.3 m the most northern of the two remaining features was ditch cut 10. This was a substantial ditch with a distinct profile and a sequence of three fills. It was 1.6 m wide, 0.5 m deep with almost vertical sides and a flat base. The second ditch (14) was 5 m to the south of Ditch 10. This had a similar profile and dimensions to Ditch 10 (1.5 m wide, 0.5 m deep), but only one fill, pale grey silt clay. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature. These parallel ditches (10 and 14) may be drainage ditches forming a track-way and probably represent the mapped linear crop mark features. Ditch 14 is located over the mapped position of the southern trackway crop mark. Ditch 10 is within 2m of the mapped location of the northern trackway crop mark.

**Table 4.7: Trench table of contexts (413.02)**

Trench	Cxrt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Find	Date
413.02	0	Layer		0.23	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Grey clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill		0.3	Fill of 4	-	Med-post med?
	4	Cut	1.6		E-W ditch	-	Med-post med?
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	Post med pottery	Post-medieval
	6	Cut	2.4		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Post-medieval
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-post med?
	8	Cut	1.9		E-W Furrow?	-	Med-post med?
	9	Fill		0.3	Upper Fill of 10	-	Med-post med?
	10	Cut	1.6		E-W ditch	-	Med-post med?
	11	Fill		0.3	Fill of 12	Post med pottery, cbm	Post-medieval
	12	Cut	5		E-W Furrow	-	Med-post med?
	13	Fill		0.5	Fill of 14	-	Med-post med?
	14	Cut	1.56		E-W ditch	-	Med-post med?
	15	Fill			Fill of 16	-	Med-post med?
	16	Cut	2.2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	17	Fill			Fill of 18	-	Med-post med?

Trench	Cxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	18	Cut	2.5		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	19	Fill		0.15	Fill of 10	-	Med-post med?
	20	Fill		0.12	Fill of 10	-	Med-post med?

### **Trench 413.03 (aligned north-south)**

The natural geology in this trench (context 4130311) was a degraded chalk with deposits of grey clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.43 m (62.72 OD) below the existing ground surface. One furrow and two ditches were identified in this trench. The furrow (not excavated) was located at the northern end, was over 4 m wide, on an E-W alignment. A ditch (04) aligned northeast-southwest was investigated. This was 0.8 m wide and 0.26 m deep, no finds were recovered but its character was typical of medieval – post medieval field boundaries. The final ditch, located at the southern end of the trench, was unexcavated. This was just 0.6 m wide and typical in character to a field drain.

**Table 4.8: Trench table of contexts (413.03)**

Trench	Cxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
413.03	0	Layer		0.4	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-post med?
	2	Cut	0.50		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	3	Fill		0.26	Fill of 4	-	Med-post med?
	4	Cut	0.3		Ditch.	-	Med-post med?
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Modern
	6	Cut	0.25		Land drain	-	Modern
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Undated
	8	Cut			Pit or terminus. unexcavated	-	Undated
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Undated
	10	Cut	0.40		NE-SW linear unexcavated	-	Undated
	11	Natural			Clayey-chalk	-	Pre-Holocene

### **Trench 413.04 (aligned northwest-southeast)**

The natural geology in this trench (context 4130415) was a pale grey degraded chalk, encountered at a depth of 0.4 m (62.16 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench contained two furrows and three ditches all aligned north-south. The most substantial feature was ditch cut 10; this was

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1.25 m wide, 0.65 m deep. It had a distinct profile, with 50° sides and a V shaped base. It contained two fills of mid grey brown silt clay; the primary fill appeared to have been derived from the south-east, perhaps derived from an eroding bank. Although no dating evidence was recovered, its character it was not typical of medieval – post medieval agricultural features. The second ditch (02) was located at the southeast end of the trench. This was a shallow gully (0.5 m wide, 0.24 m deep) aligned north-south. No dating evidence was recovered, but it was on a similar alignment to the medieval – post medieval features. The final ditch was feature cut 12; this was not excavated as it was of a typical character and alignment as the medieval – post-medieval agricultural features.

**Table 4.9: Trench table of contexts (413.04)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick* (m)	Comment	Find	Date
413.04	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill		0.24	Fill of 2	-	Med-post med?
	2	Cut	0.5		N-S ditch.	-	Med-post med?
	3	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Post medieval
	4	Drain			Ceramic field drain, fill of 5	-	Post medieval
	5	Cut			Field drain cut	-	Post medieval
	6	Fill		0.1	Fill of 7	-	Med-post med?
	7	Cut	2.5		Furrow?	-	Med-post med?
	8	Fill		0.4	Fill of 10	-	Undated
	9	Fill		0.6	Fill of 10	-	Undated
	10	Cut	1.25		NE-SW ditch	-	Undated
	11	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Med-post med?
	12	Cut	0.65		N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	13	Fill			Fill of 14	-	Med-post med?
	14	Cut	2.2		Furrow? unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	15	natural			Pale grey degraded chalk	-	Pre-Holocene

**Trench 413.05 (aligned northeast-southwest)**

Natural geology (context 4130508) was a pale grey degraded chalk with patches of grey silty sand; this was encountered at a depth of 0.41 m (62.11 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench contained three adjacent, parallel ditches, aligned north-south. The northernmost ditch (07) was 1.8 m wide and just 0.18 m deep. The next ditch was 0.4 m to the south; this was 1.8 m wide, 0.18 m deep. The final ditch to the south was 1 m wide and 0.18 m

deep. All the ditches contained similar fills of mid brownish grey silt clay. These undated ditches roughly correspond with the southern axis of an L-shaped crop mark that appears to form two sides of a square enclosure.

**Table 4.10: Trench table of contexts (413.05)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick* (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
413.05	0	Layer		0.4	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill		0.28	Fill of 2	-	Undated
	2	Cut	1		N-S linear	-	Undated
	3	Fill		0.16	Fill of 4	-	Undated
	4	Cut	1.3		N-S ditch	-	Undated
	5	Cut			Field drain	-	Modern
	6	Fill			Fill of 7	-	Undated
	7	Cut	1.9		Ditch.	-	Undated
	8	Natural			Pale grey degraded chalk	-	Pre-Holocene

#### 4.4 SITE 414

##### 4.4.1 Summary

The investigation at site 414 consisted of five 50 m trenches; placed to target linear crop mark features (Figures 8 and 11).

The East Hanney – Steventon road defines the northern boundary of the field, with the London – Bristol main line railway running along the southern boundary. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The field is generally flat with a gentle slope to the south.

The geology consists of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

##### 4.4.2 Trench Descriptions

Trenches associated with Site 414 are illustrated in Figure 12.

##### ***Trench 414.01 (aligned northwest-southeast)***

Natural geology (context 4140115) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m (64.53 m OD) below the existing ground surface, and consisted of pale grey degraded chalk. This trench contained four linear features, one furrow and two pits. Two features were excavated, the remainder dated by character, alignment or surface finds as medieval – post medieval agricultural land use. The earliest feature was a shallow pit (context 17). This was 0.5 m deep with a visible diameter of 0.75 m. the upper portion of the pit was truncated by a ditch (cut

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04) which was aligned east-west. The ditch was 0.6 m wide and 0.7 m deep. Neither feature produced any dating evidence.

**Table 4.11: Trench table of contexts (414.01)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
414.01	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-post med
	2	Cut	1.0		E-W Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med
	3	Fill		0.32	Fill of 4	-	Med-post med?
	4	Cut	0.6		E-W ditch	-	Med-post med?
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Med-post med?
	6	Cut	2.0		E-W ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-post med?
	8	Cut	3.0		N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-post med?
	10	Cut	0.40		N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	11	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Med-post med?
	12	Cut	0.55		NE-SW ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	13	Fill			Fill of 14	-	Undated
	14	Cut	2.3		Pit? cut unexcavated.	-	Undated
	15	natural			Pale grey chalky silt	-	Pre-Holocene
	16	Fill		0.4	Fill of 17	-	Undated
	17	Cut	0.75		Pit.	-	Undated

**Trench 414.02 (aligned north,northeast-south,southwest)**

The archaeological horizon (context 4140210) was encountered at a depth of 0.52 m (63.59 m OD) below the existing ground level, and consisted of a pale blue grey alluvial clay which graded to a dark brown sandy silt at the north end of the trench. Two ditches, a burnt out tree hole and a furrow were identified in this trench. The burnt out tree hole (01) was filled with a distinctive red and yellow scorched silt, filling an irregular cut, 0.9 m wide and 0.65 m deep. Two parallel ditches (14 and 16), located at the northern end of the trench, corresponded with crop marks. Both were aligned east-west. The northernmost was Ditch 14; this was 1.1 m wide and 0.5 m deep, and filled with light grey sandy silt which produced a small amount of animal bone. Directly adjacent, and parallel to Ditch 14, was a shallow ditch (16), this was 0.9 m wide and just 0.12 m deep; this contained the fragments of two horse mandibles. A ditch (03, unexcavated) aligned east-west was located

roughly in the centre of the trench. This was 1.85 m wide and filled with brown silt clay. The furrow (unexcavated) was aligned north-south and 2 m wide.

**Table 4.12: Trench table of contexts (414.02)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
414.02	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Cut	0.9		Burnt out tree hole	-	Undated
	2	Fill		0.4	Burnt Fill of 1	-	Undated
	3	Cut			Ditch. unexcavated.	-	Undated
	4	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Undated
	5	Cut	2.0		N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Undated
	6	Fill			Fill of 5.	-	Undated
	7	void				-	-
	8	Layer			Pale grey brown silt.	-	Undated
	9	void				-	-
	10	Layer	0.24		Alluvial deposit	-	Undated
	11	Fill		0.3	Burnt Fill of 1	-	Undated
	12	Layer			Alluvial deposit?	-	Undated
	13	Fill		0.5	Fill of 14	Bone	Undated
	14	Cut	1.1		NE-SW ditch	-	Undated
	15	Fill		0.12	Fill of 16	-	Undated
	16	Cut	0.9		NW-SE ditch	-	Undated
	17	natural			Chalk	-	Pre-Holocene
	18	natural			Reddish brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene?

***Trench 414.03 (aligned northeast-southwest)***

The natural geology (context 4140314) a compact degraded chalk was encountered at a depth of 0.41 m (63.4 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench identified seven linear features aligned north-south and one aligned northwest-southeast. The ditch (06) aligned northwest-southeast, and corresponding to a crop mark was investigated at the south western end of the trench. This had a width of 1.5 m and was 0.7 m deep, with a distinctive steep sided, flat-based profile. It contained two fills. The primary fill was compact grey clay, 0.3 m thick, overlain by a distinct very dark grey organic clay producing five sherds of shell-tempered Early Iron Age pottery (AS4). The remainder of the features were furrows aligned north-south (average width 2.3 m) one containing a land drain.

**Table 4.13: Trench table of contexts (414.03)**

Trench	Cxst no	Type	Width (m)	Thick: (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
414.03	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-post med?
	2	Cut	1.8		N-S linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Modern
	4	Cut	1.1		field drain	-	Modern
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	Pot, bone	Prehistoric ?
	6	Cut	1.5		NE-SW ditch	-	Prehistoric ?
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-post med?
	8	Cut	2.5		N-S linear	-	Med-post med?
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-post med?
	10	Cut	3		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	11	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Med-post med?
	12	Cut	1.3		N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	13	Fill		0.3	Primary Fill of 6	-	Prehistoric ?
	14	natural			Pale grey chalky silt	-	Pre-Holocene

**Trench 414.04 (aligned northwest-southeast)**

The natural geology (context 4140415) was encountered at a depth of 0.31 m (63.31 m OD) below the existing ground surface, and consisted of a pale green sandy silt. Five linear features and a possible ditch terminus were identified in this trench. Three features were unexcavated as their alignment and character suggested a medieval – post-medieval agricultural function. One feature was partly excavated but abandoned after a land drain was revealed. A ditch terminus or pit (10) was excavated. This was 0.6 m wide and just 0.06 m deep, with irregular sides and base, perhaps suggesting tree disturbance. A probable hedge boundary (aligned east-west) was located at the northern end of the trench. This had steep irregular, root disturbed, sides and base. It was 0.86 m wide, 0.26 m deep and filled with mid brown clay. No dating evidence was recovered from the trench.

**Table 4.14: Trench table of contexts (414.04)**

Trench	Cxst no	Type	Width (m)	Thick: (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
414.04	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.24	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Cut	0.86		Hedge boundary	-	Med-post med?

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	3	Fill		0.34	Fill of 2	-	Med-post med?
	4	Cut	1.75		Land drain	-	Modern
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Modern
	6	Cut			Land drain. unexcavated	-	Modern
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Modern
	8	Cut			Land drain. unexcavated	-	Modern
	9	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Undated
	10	Cut	0.5		Ditch terminus?	-	Undated
	11	Fill		0.06	Fill of 10	-	Undated
	12	Cut			Land drain	-	Modern
	13	void				-	-
	14	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Modern
	15	natural			Mid brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene ?

#### **Trench 414.05 (aligned northwest-southeast)**

Natural geology (a pale grey degraded chalk, context 4140519) was encountered at a depth of 0.4-m (61.52-m OD) below the existing ground surface. Three linear features and four furrows were identified in this trench. The most northerly feature (02, not excavated) was aligned east-west, 0.55 m wide, and filled with a mid grey brown silt clay. The alignment and character of the fill suggested a medieval – post medieval date. A ditch (07), 2.5 m to the south of Ditch 02 and roughly corresponding to a crop mark was investigated. This was 1.2 m wide, 0.5 m deep, with a U shaped profile and filled with greenish grey silt clay. No dating evidence was recovered but a furrow truncated it. This perhaps suggests the feature pre-dates medieval – post medieval land use. The only feature on a north-south alignment was a shallow ditch (13). This was 1 m wide and 0.2 m deep and filled with greenish grey silt clay. No dating evidence was recovered but the edges of this feature were root disturbed perhaps indicating a hedge line.

**Table 4.15: Trench table of contexts (414.05)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
414.05	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-post med?
	2	Cut	0.50		E-W linear. unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	3	Fill		0.24	Fill of 5	-	Med-post med?
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Med-post med?
	5	Cut	1.8		E-W Furrow.	-	Med-post med?



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Trench	Ctst no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	6	Fill		0.5	Fill of 7	-	Undated
	7	Cut	1.2		NE-SW ditch	-	Undated
	8	Fill		0.25	Fill of 9	-	Med-post med?
	9	Cut	0.8		E-W ditch	-	Med-post med?
	10	Fill		0.1	Fill of 11	-	Modern
	11	Cut	0.7		Root disturbance	-	Modern
	12	Fill		0.2	Fill of 13	-	Med-post med?
	13	Cut	0.4		Shallow ditch	-	Med-post med?
	14	Subsoil			Early ploughsoil in southern part of trench	-	Undated
	15	Fill			Fill of 16	-	Med-post med?
	16	Cut	1.2		E-W linear unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	17	Fill			Fill of 18	-	Med-post med?
	18	Cut	1.3		E-W linear unexcavated	-	Med-post med?
	19	Natural			Pale degraded chalk	-	Pre-Holocene

## 4.5 SITE 418

### 4.5.1 Summary

The investigation at site 418 consisted of two 50 m trenches placed to target potential geophysical anomalies.

The east of the site is defined by the former Wilts and Berks canal. A farmer's track defines the northern limits of the field, and hedges to the west and east. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The field is generally flat with a gentle slope to the south.

The geology consists of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

No archaeological features were identified in site 418.

### 4.5.2 Geophysical Survey

Additional geophysical survey on Site 418 failed to clarify the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site. A weak linear anomaly originally recorded was not identified (although this may well be due to almost truncation by a decade of ploughing since the original survey).

It was therefore proposed that two 50 m trenches should be carried out in the survey area. One to investigate the previous location of the linear anomaly recorded in 1997 and a second to investigate the dense grouping of discrete

anomalies in the south west corner of the site (Figure 13). This proposal (OA2006b) was submitted to and approved by Hugh Coddington on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

#### **4.5.3 Trench Descriptions**

##### ***Trench 418.01 (aligned north-south)***

Natural mid brown clay was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (56.68 m OD). No archaeological features were identified.

##### ***Trench 418.02 (aligned north-south)***

Natural mid brown clay was encountered at a depth of 0.31 m (56.3 m OD). No archaeological features were identified.

#### **4.6 SITE 419**

##### **4.6.1 Summary**

The investigation at Site 419 consisted of five 50 m trenches (Figure 6). Two trenches (419.03, 419.05) targeted geophysical anomalies in the northeast corner of the field. The remaining three trenches were placed in a spatial pattern to best cover the remainder of the site.

Mere Dyke defines the northern boundary of the field, with the East Hanney – Steventon road running along the southern boundary. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The field is generally flat with a slight rise to the northeast. The remains of ridge and furrow are evident as undulations in the topography.

The geology consists of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

##### **4.6.2 Trench Descriptions**

Trenches associated with Site 419 are illustrated in Figure 7.

##### ***Trench 419.01 (Aligned north-south)***

Natural geology, a pale brownish grey clay (context 4190113) was encountered at a depth of 0.53 m (59.07 m OD) below the existing ground level. Five linear features were identified in this trench; four of which were furrows (two containing land drains) and one a shallow gully. The gully (06), was aligned east-west and measured 0.5 m in width, and was just 0.15 m deep. It was filled with pale grey clay. No dating evidence was recovered from the trench.

Table 4.16: Trench table of contexts (419.01)

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
419.01	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Modern
	2	Cut			Land drain	-	Modern
	3	Fill		0.45	NW-SE ditch/furrow	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	1.6		NW-SE ditch/furrow	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill		0.3	Fill of 6	-	Undated
	6	Cut	0.6		E-W ditch	-	Undated
	7	Fill		0.2	Fill of 8	bone	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	2.3		Furrow.	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	1		NE-SW ditch/furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Med-Post med
	12	Cut	2		NE-SW ditch/furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	13	natural			Pale brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	14	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	-	Undated

**Trench 419.02 (aligned northeast-southwest)**

The natural geology (context 4190202) was encountered at a depth of 0.31 m (59.33 m OD) below the existing ground surface, and consisted of pale grey chalky gravel. The trench contained seven linear features, all generally aligned northeast-southwest. All of the features were characteristic of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use. Two furrows (04 and 12) were excavated, both roughly 4 m wide, and between 0.18 m and 0.2 m deep. One of the furrows produced an abraded sherd of Roman pottery, almost certainly re-deposited; post medieval pottery was retrieved from the surface of a second unexcavated furrow. A ditch (06) with irregular ill-defined edges was also excavated. This was 0.7 m wide and 0.17 m deep and probably a plough scar.

Table 4.17: Trench table of contexts (419.02)

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
419.02	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Chalky gravel	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	Post medieval Pottery	Post-med
	4	Cut	4		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Post-med



Trench	Cast no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Find	Date
	5	Fill		0.17	Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut	0.7		N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	4.5		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	1.6		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill			Fill of 12	Roman Pottery (redeposited)	Med-Post med
	12	Cut	4.5		Furrow.	-	Med-Post med
	13	Fill			Fill of 14	-	Med-Post med
	14	Cut	1.1		Furrow/ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

### **Trench 419.03 (aligned north-south)**

A distinct archaeological horizon was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m (58.26 m OD) below the existing ground surface. It was difficult to be confident of the natural in this trench as very little was exposed. This trench contained a complex sequence of Roman features and a dark ashy deposit, apparently derived from industrial activity. As the features were difficult to define in plan and a significant quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from the surface and from the dark layer it was decided to limit excavation to two slots. One placed to characterise the dark spread; the other was placed through a linear feature.

The section placed through the dark spread (O2) revealed a deposit of grey brown clay (O5) dated from the early 2nd, mid 3rd centuries. This appeared to be cut by a ditch (O4), aligned north-south. It was not clear whether the deposit (O5) represented the lower fill of Ditch 4, or fill of another feature. As the nature of this deposit could not be understood within the confines of a trench, it was decided to limit the depth of excavation to 0.6 m in case the evaluation destroyed evidence that could be more appropriately addressed in open area excavation. Ditch O4 was aligned north-south, it was 0.7 m wide, 0.3 m deep and filled with a pale grey clay silt (O3). This deposit produced a significant quantity of roman pottery (mid 2nd-late 4th centuries). It was sealed by up to 0.25 m of dark grey/black clay silt (O2), with frequent charcoal flecks and ashy in nature. This produced 40 sherds of Roman pottery, dated early-mid 4th centuries, as well as 22 nails, ceramic building material (CBM) (predominantly tegula and imbrex) and limestone fragments.

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The second excavated section was placed 6 m to the south of Ditch 4 to further define its nature. Again the ambiguous clay (05) was encountered but not excavated within this section. A linear feature (Cut 09) aligned north-south was partly exposed; this probably represented the same ditch (04) identified to the north. A width of 1.3 m of Cut 09 was exposed; it was 0.36 m deep and contained three distinct fills. The primary fill (08) consisted of a soft, dark brown/black ashy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions. A loose, pale grey lens with lumps of compacted ash (initially thought to be plaster) overlay this. The final fill of Cut 09 consisted of a soft, dark grey/black ashy silt (06), 0.26 m thick. This deposit produced a significant quantity of CBM and pottery dated mid 3rd-late 4th centuries. The remainder of the trench contained perhaps up to ten ill defined, inter-cutting features, all producing significant quantities of surface finds broadly dated to the Roman period, but with an emphasis on the mid 3rd to late 4th centuries.

Table 4.18: Trench table of contexts (419.03)

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick: (m)	Comment	FindS	Date
419.03	0	Layer		0.31	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer			Ploughsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill/Layer		0.25	Dark spread Filling gully 4	pot, bone	Roman
	3	Fill		0.13	Fill of 4	pot, bone, cbm	Roman
	4	Cut	0.9	0.32	N-S gully	-	Roman?
	5	Layer		0.5	Undefined Layer	-	Roman?
	6	Fill		0.26	Black ashy Fill of 9	pot, bone, cbm	Roman
	7	Fill		0.06	Dump of plaster Filling 9	plaster	Roman
	8	Fill		0.04	Burnt Fill of 9	-	Roman?
	9	Cut	0.65	0.36	NW-SE linear	-	Roman
	10	Fill			Unexcavated deposit	pot	Roman
	11	Fill	1.15		Unexcavated deposit	pot	Roman
	12	Fill	1 x 0.65		Unexcavated Fill of pit	pot	Roman
	13	Fill			Fill of linear features un-exc	pot	Roman
	14	Fill	2.3 x 0.9		Unexcavated feature Fill	pot	Roman
	15	deposit			Unexcavated feature Fill	pot	Roman
	16	Fill	1.5		Unexcavated ditch Fill	pot	Roman
	17	Fill	2.2		Unexcavated feature Fill	pot	Roman
	18	Layer	8		Light grey brown silty clay	pot	Roman
	19	Fill	0.6		Unexcavated feature Fill	pot	Roman
	20	natural			Pale grey chalky natural	-	Pre-Holocene
	21	Layer		0.16	Subsoil	-	Undated

**Trench 419.04 (aligned east,southeast-west, northwest )**

The natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.38 m (58.88 m OD) below the existing ground surface, and consisted of a pale grey degraded chalk. This trench contained thirteen linear features all roughly aligned north-south. A possible pre-historic ditch (Cut 06) was excavated towards the eastern end of the trench. This feature has been tentatively dated by the presence of just a few pieces of fire cracked flint. It was 0.85 m wide, 0.25 m deep, and filled with pale grey silt clay (05). The most substantial feature (26) was partly exposed at the western end of the trench. Only 2 m of this feature was visible within the trench, which appeared to represent only half of its width. It was 1.2 m deep and contained three distinct fills (25, 24 and 23), of dark brown and dark grey brown clay silt. No dating evidence was recovered from the primary fill (25). The upper fills (24 and 23 respectively) produced 52 sherds of Roman pottery broadly dating from the mid 3rd-late 4th centuries. The remaining features in this trench were characteristic of medieval – post medieval furrows, although some Roman pottery was recovered from these features, they only consisted of one or two, small abraded sherds, almost certainly residual.

**Table 4.19: Trench table of contexts (419.04)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick.(m)	Comment	Finds	Date
419.04	0	Layer		0.4	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Cut	1.8	0.18	Furrow	-	Med-Post med
	2	Fill		0.18	Fill of 1	cbm	Med-Post med
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	0.50		NW-SE ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill		0.26	Fill of 6	burnt stone	Pre-hist?
	6	Cut	0.85	0.26	N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Pre-hist?
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	0.70		NW-SE ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	3.7		N-S Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Med-Post med
	12	Cut	1.4		N-S Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	13	Fill			Fill of 14	-	Med-Post med
	14	Cut	0.50		N-S Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	15	Fill		0.26	Fill of 16	cbm	Med-Post med
	16	Cut	1.6	0.26	Furrow.	-	Med-Post

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Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
							med
	17	Fill			Fill of 18	-	Med-Post med
	18	Cut	0.70		N-S ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	19	Fill			Fill of 20	-	Med-Post med
	20	Cut	1.0		N-S Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	21	Fill			Fill of 22	-	Med-Post med
	22	Cut	1.5		N-S Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	23	Fill		0.48	Fill of 26	pot, bone cbm	Roman
	24	Fill		0.4	Dark Fill of 26	pot, bone cbm	Roman
	25	Fill		0.34	Fill of 26	bone, cbm	Roman
	26	Cut	2	1.2	Deep N-S boundary ditch	-	Roman
	27	Natural			natural geology		Pre- Holocene ?

#### Trench 419.05 (aligned north-south)

Natural geology (context 4190507) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 (59.18 OD) below the existing ground surface. It consisted of pale grey chalky silt with flint. Two features were identified within the trench; both aligned north-east, south-west. The earliest feature (Cut 05) was up to 15 wide, 0.42 m deep with gently sloping sides, containing two fills (06 and 04). The base fill (06) consisted of a very compact, light grey clay (0.08 m thick), with 60% chalk and 30% flint inclusions. This deposit was difficult to differentiate from the natural but produced a small quantity of animal bone. The upper part of this feature was filled by 0.3 m of mid brownish clay (04); a sherd of coarse-ware pottery broadly dated as Roman was recovered from this deposit. The width, profile, and compact nature of the base fill, is suggestive of a sunken track-way. The second feature (03) truncated the south edge of Cut05, or possibly, represented a slightly different fill within it. This was 1.7 wide, 0.3 m deep, filled with pale grey clay silt (02). Seven fragments of human bone were recovered, all relating to the left shoulder and arm of an adult human.

Table 4.20: Trench table of contexts (419.05)

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
419.05	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.17	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill		0.2	Fill of 3	bone	Roman
	3	Cut	2		NE-SW ditch	-	Roman
	4	Fill		0.3	Fill of 5	pot	Roman

Trench	Cxst no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	5	Cut	0.8		possible sunken trackway	-	Roman
	6	Fill		0.14	Fill of 5	bone	Roman
	7	Natural				-	Pre-Holocene

## 4.7 SITE 420

### 4.7.1 Summary

The investigation at Site 420 consisted of five 50-m trenches placed to target crop mark features (Figure 14).

The south of the site is defined by the London – Bristol main line railway. The East Hanney – Steventon road defines the northern limit; well-established hedges define the eastern and western extent of this site. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The field is generally flat with a slight rise to the northeast. The geology consists of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

### 4.7.2 Trench Descriptions

Trenches associated with Site 420 are illustrated in Figure 16.

#### ***Trench 420.01 (aligned northeast-southwest)***

Natural geology (context 4200102) was encountered at a depth of 0.32-m (63.99-m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench identified five linear features and one furrow, none containing any dating evidence, and all characteristic of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use. Three of the linear features (03, 04 and 14) were aligned east-west. These had an average width of 1 m and depth of 0.3 m, and are almost certainly the remains of furrows. Two parallel features (06 and 08) were aligned north-south. These were 5 m apart with almost identical U shaped profiles, fills and dimensions (0.5 m wide, 0.2 m deep). These could possibly represent the remains of ditches defining a track. One feature (10) was on a northwest-southeast alignment; possibly representing the crop mark (allowing for a 7 m plotting error) was situated in the centre of the trench. This was 1.3-m wide, 0.3 m deep, filled with pale grey brown clay.



**Table 4.21: Trench table of contexts (420.01)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick: (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
420.01	1	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	2	natural			Chalky clay	-	Pre-Holocene ?
	3	Fill		0.35	Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	0.6		E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill		0.2	Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut	0.45	0.2	N-S gully	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill		0.24	Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	0.45	0.24	N-S gully	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill		0.4	Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	1.3	0.4	NW-SE ditch	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Med-Post med
	12	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	13	Fill		0.2	Fill of 14	-	Med-Post med
	14	Cut	0.65	0.2	E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med

**Trench 420.02 (aligned north-south)**

Natural clay (context 4200202) was encountered at a depth of 0.29-m (63.79-m OD) below the existing ground surface. Two ditches and three furrows were identified; no dating evidence was recovered from any of the features, all were characteristic of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use. The ditches were both located at the southern end, aligned east-west. These ditches (10 and 12) were just 0.4 m apart. Both had almost identical shallow U shaped profiles and dimensions (0.8 m wide, 0.3 m deep), with similar fills of light brown clay. The furrows (not excavated) were all aligned north-west, south-east, with an average width of 1.5 m.

**Table 4.22: Trench table of contexts (420.02)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick: (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
420.02	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.3	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Pale grey silty clay	-	Pre-Holocene ?
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut			NW-SE Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut			Furrow unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill		0.3	Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	1.5	0.3	E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill		0.3	Fill of 12	-	Med-Post med
	12	Cut	1.6		E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med

### Trench 420.03 (aligned north-south)

The natural geology - greenish grey clay (context 4200302) was encountered at a depth of 0.32-m (62.18-m OD). This trench identified three furrows and five linear features. One feature (Ditch cut 11) may correspond to a mapped crop mark (allowing for a 6 m plotting error). This ditch was 1.1 m wide, 0.6 m deep, aligned northwest, southeast and contained two distinct fills (09 and 10), of light and mid grey clay. Two gullies (15 and 17) were the only features with a stratigraphic relationship. The earliest (17) was aligned northwest-southeast. This had a distinctive profile, with steep almost vertical sides and flat base (0.5 m wide, 0.3 m deep). This was truncated by a feature linear (15) with similar dimensions 90.5 m wide, 0.22 m deep) but with a more typical U shaped profile. These features were filled with light grey and mid brown clay, respectively. The three furrows (not excavated) were aligned east-west, with an average width of 1.7 m.

Table 4.23: Trench table of contexts (420.03)

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
420.03	0	Layer		0.26	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Pale grey chalky gravel	-	Pre-Holocene ?
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	1.8		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill		0.3	Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut	0.6	0.3	E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill			Fill of 12	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

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Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	9	Fill		0.5	Fill of 11	-	Med-Post med
	10	Fill		0.15	Fill of 11	-	Med-Post med
	11	Cut	1.1	0.6	E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med
	12	Fill			Fill of 13	--	Med-Post med
	13	Cut	1.5		Possible ditch terminus. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	14	Fill		0.15	Fill of 15	-	Med-Post med
	15	Cut	0.45	0.15	E-W gully	-	Med-Post med
	16	Fill		0.35	Fill of 17	-	Undated
	17	Cut	0.6	0.35	NE-SW ditch	-	Undated
	18	Fill			Fill of 19	-	Med-Post med
	19	Cut	2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	20	Fill			Fill of 21	-	Med-Post med
	21	Cut	0.8		E-W ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

#### Trench 420.04 (aligned northwest-southeast)

Natural geology (chalky gravel, context 4200422) was encountered at a depth of 0.34 m (64.48 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench contained five furrows and five linear features, all on an east-west alignment. Two features (cuts 07 and 09) had a stratigraphic relationship. The earliest was Cut 07; this was 0.7 m wide, 0.32 m deep, with shallow sides and an irregular flat base. It was truncated to the southeast by Cut 09; this had a width of 0.75 m and was 0.28 m deep. They were filled with light brownish (07) and mid grey (09) clay. No dating evidence was recovered, but they probably represented a field boundary and its reestablishment. Three further features (03, 05 and 11) were excavated within this trench. These were very similar in character, with an average width of 0.56 m and depth of 0.16 m. they all contained mid grey brown clay fills. No finds were retrieved from the trench.

Table 4.24: Trench table of contexts (420.04)

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
420.04	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.15	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill		0.18	Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut	0.6		E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill		0.2	Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	5	Cut	0.6		E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med
	6	Fill		0.38	Fill of 7	-	Med-Post med
	7	Cut	0.7		E-W ditch	-	Med-Post med
	8	Fill		0.38	Fill of 9	-	Med-Post med
	9	Cut	0.6	0.3	E-W ditch re-Cut	-	Med-Post med
	10	Fill		0.1	Fill of 11	-	Med-Post med
	11	Cut	0.5		NW-SE ditch	-	Med-Post med
	12	Fill			Fill of 13	-	Med-Post med
	13	Cut	3		E-W Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	14	Fill			Fill of 15	-	Med-Post med
	15	Cut	2.4		E-W Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	16	Fill			Fill of 17	-	Med-Post med
	17	Cut	2.5		E-W Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	18	Fill			Fill of 19	-	Med-Post med
	19	Cut	2.7		E-W Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	20	Fill			Fill of 21	-	Med-Post med
	21	Cut	3.3		E-W Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	22	natural			pale grey chalky gravel	-	Pre-holocene?

### Trench 420.05 (aligned northeast-southwest)

The natural geology (pale grey clay with chalk gravel - context 4200501) was encountered at a depth of 0.38-m (61.56-m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench contained five furrows and one hedge line, all on the same alignment (east-west). The furrows (not excavated) had an average width of 2.7 m. No other features were identified.

Table 4.25: Trench table of contexts (420.05)

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
420.05	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	natural			pale grey chalky gravel	-	Pre-Holocene
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut	2.2		NW-SE Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med
	5	Cut	1.2		NW-SE Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

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Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	6	Fill			Fill of 7	-	Med-Post med
	7	Cut	0.9		Hedge line	-	Med-Post med
	8	Fill			Fill of 9	-	Med-Post med
	9	Cut	1.5		NW-SE Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	10	Fill			Fill of 11	-	Med-Post med
	11	Cut	2		NW-SE Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

## 4.8 PLOT 204

### 4.8.1 Summary

The investigation at Plot 204 consisted of twelve 50 m trenches aligned north-south or east-west (Figure 18).

The west of the site is defined by the former Wilts and Berks canal. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The field is generally flat with a slight rise to the northeast. The geology consists of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

### 4.8.2 Trench Descriptions

#### *Trench 204.01 (aligned east-west)*

Natural clay (context 2040104) was encountered at a depth of 0.47 m (54.83 m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench contained a single ditch (aligned east-west), 1 m wide and 0.3 m deep. No finds were recovered but it was characteristic of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use.

Table 4.26: Trench table of contexts (204.01)

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.01	0	Layer		0.23	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill		0.33	Fill of 03	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut	2.5		Filled by 02	-	Med-Post med
	4	natural			Grey brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene ?

**Trench 204.02 (aligned east-west)**

Natural clay (context 2040204) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (54.7 m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench contained a single feature (aligned northwest-southeast), 3 m wide and characteristic of a furrow.

**Table 4.27: Trench table of contexts (204.02)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.02	0	Layer		0.2	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill			Fill of 03	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut	3.2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	4	natural			Red brown clay	-	Pre-holocene?

**Trench 204.03 (aligned north-south)**

The natural geology (pale grey chalky gravel - context 2040302) was encountered at a depth of 0.31-m (54.68-m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench contained four furrows (not excavated) all aligned east-west, with an average width of 2.1 m. A ditch (aligned northeast-southwest) was excavated; this feature was 0.8 m wide and 0.36 m deep. No finds were recovered but its character suggested a medieval – post medieval date.

**Table 4.28: Trench table of contexts (204.03)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.03	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.15	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Grey chalky gravel	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	2.8		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut	1.4		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill		0.35	Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	0.95		N-S ditch	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	4.25		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill		0.22	Fill of 12	-	Med-Post med
	12	Cut	0.95		Natural feature?	-	Med-Post med

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Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	13	Fill			Fill of 14	-	Med-Post med
	14	Cut	1.5		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

#### **Trench 204.04 (aligned north-south)**

Natural clay (context 2040402) was encountered at a depth of 0.35 m (54.65 m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench contained three furrows (not excavated) aligned east-west, with an average width of 2.4 m.

**Table 4.29: Trench table of contexts (204.04)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.04	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Grey brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill			Fill of	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	1.6		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut	2.7		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	3		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

#### **Trench 204.05 (aligned east-west)**

Natural clay (context 2040502 and 2040503) was encountered at a depth of 0.45m (55.28 m OD) below the existing ground surface. No archaeological features were identified.

**Table 4.30: Trench table of contexts (204.05)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.05	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Brown sandy clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	natural			Blue grey clay	-	Pre-Holocene

### Trench 204.06 (aligned east-west)

The natural, brown clay with patches of chalk (context 2040603) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (54.73 m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench contained one ditch (aligned north, northeast-south, southwest), 0.6 m wide and 0.4 m deep. No finds were recovered but its character suggested a medieval – post medieval date.

Table 4.31: Trench table of contexts (204.06)

Trench	Cxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.06	0	Layer		0.32	Ploughsoil	--	Modern
	1	Fill		0.4	Fill of 2	-	Med-Post med
	2	Cut	0.8		NNE-SSW ditch	-	Med-Post med
	3	natural			Mid orange brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene

### Trench 204.07 (aligned east-west)

Natural clay (context 2040703) was encountered at a depth of 0.45 m (44.01 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Three furrows (not excavated) aligned northwest-southeast were identified. Three ditches were also identified; these were all aligned northeast-southwest. The eastern most ditch (Cut 14) was 2.8-m wide and 0.28 m deep. This feature did not produce any finds but its character was typical of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use. The second ditch (Cut 10) was roughly located in the centre of the trench. This was 1 m wide and just 0.12 m deep. No finds were recovered, and again the feature was typical in character to medieval – post medieval features. The third feature identified in this trench was located towards the western end. This feature was not excavated. It was 2 m wide and typical in character to medieval – post medieval features.

Table 4.32: Trench table of contexts (204.07)

Trench	Cxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.07	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Mid blue grey clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med



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Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	1		NW-SE ditch	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill		0.1	Fill of 12	-	Med-Post med
	12	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	13	Fill		0.35	Fill of 14	-	Med-Post med
	14	Cut	2.85		NE-SW boundary ditch	-	Med-Post med
	15	Cut			geological feature	-	Pre-Holocene

### Trench 204.08 (aligned north-south)

Natural clay (context 2040806) was encountered at a depth of 0.3-m (55.05-m OD) below the existing ground surface. Only two features were identified, both on an east-west alignment. A ditch (Cut 3) partially exposed at the western end of the trench was just 0.1 m deep and did not produce any dating evidence. The second ditch (Cut 5) was roughly located in the centre of the trench and was not excavated. Both were typical of medieval – post medieval features.

Table 4.33: Trench table of contexts (204.08)

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.08	0	Layer		0.14	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.24	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill		0.2	Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut			NE-SW ditch	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med
	5	Cut			Ditch	-	Med-Post med
	6	natural			grey brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene

### Trench 204.09 (aligned north-south)

The natural geology in this trench (context 2040901) was pale grey silty clay with chalky gravel, encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (54.92 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Three furrows (not excavated) were identified, all were aligned east-west, and post medieval pottery and CBM was recovered from the surface of these features. One north-south ditch (Cut 9) was located

at the southern end of the trench; this was 0.95 m wide and 0.21 m deep. One sherd of Roman pottery was retrieved from this feature.

**Table 4.34: Trench table of contexts (204.09)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.09	0	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	natural			Mid grey chalky gravel	-	Pre-Holocene
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut		2.2	Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill		0.2	Fill of 5	Post med pot cbm	Med-Post med
	5	Cut	2.1		Furrow.	-	Med-Post med
	6	Fill		0.2	Fill of 7	Roman pot (residual) and CBM	Med-Post med
	7	Cut	2.8		Furrow	-	Med-Post med
	8	Fill		0.21	Fill of 9	Roman pot	Roman??
	9	Cut	0.95		N-S ditch	-	Roman??

***Trench 204.10 (aligned north-south)***

This trench contained a very mixed natural of yellow brown and grey clays with patches of chalk (context 2041002). This was encountered at a depth of 0.32-m (54.2-m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench revealed four furrows, all aligned east-west, and with an average width of 3.3 m. the northernmost of the furrows was excavated to confirm interpretation.

**Table 4.35: Trench table of contexts (204.10)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.10	0	Layer		0.22	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Yellow brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill		0.26	Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	2.8		Furrow?	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill		0.28	Fill of 6	Post med pottery	Post medieval
	6	Cut			Furrow.	cbm	Post medieval
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	cbm	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	2		Furrow. unexcavated	cbm	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	Post med pottery and cbm	Post medieval

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Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	10	Cut	2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Post medieval

### ***Trench 204.11 (aligned north-south)***

The natural geology (context 2041102) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m (54.29 m OD), below the existing ground surface and was a grey brown silty clay. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

**Table 4.36: Trench table of contexts (204.11)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.11	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.15	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Mid brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene

### ***Trench 204.12 (aligned east-west)***

Natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (54.39 m OD) below the existing ground surface, and consisted of a grey brown silty clay (context 2041206). Only two features were identified within this trench (Cuts 3 and 5). Both were aligned north, northeast-south, southwest. Post medieval pottery was retrieved from the surface of cut 5, a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery was retrieved from subsoil 2041201.

**Table 4.37: Trench table of contexts (204.12)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
204.12	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	Roman pottery	Undated/ Post Roman
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut	0.3		NE-SW ditch. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	Post medieval pottery	Post medieval
	5	Cut	0.2		NE-SW linear. unexcavated	-	Post medieval
	6	natural			grey brown clay	-	Pre-Holocene

## 4.9 PLOT 216

### 4.9.1 Summary

The investigation in Plot 216 consisted of twelve 50 m trenches on a north-south or east-west alignment (Figure 19).

The site is bounded by hedgerows. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The enclosure and tithe award maps show a rectangular enclosure existed in the north east corner. This is still evident as slight undulations in the topography. The field is generally flat with a slight rise to the north-west. The geology consisted of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits.

### 4.9.2 Trench Descriptions

#### *Trench 216.01 (aligned east-west)*

The natural geology (context 2160106) was pale grey chalky gravel with patches of clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m (55.55 m OD) below the existing ground surface. One furrow was identified, this was aligned north-south and 4 m wide (not excavated). A ditch (Cut 4) aligned northeast-southwest was excavated, this was 0.5 m wide, 0.08 m deep. This feature did not produce any dating evidence but was characteristic of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use.

**Table 4.38: Trench table of contexts (216.01)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick* (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.01	0	Layer		0.2	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Cut	4.5		Furrow	-	Med-Post med?
	3	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-Post med?
	4	Cut	0.45		NW-SE ditch	-	Med-Post med?
	5	Fill		0.07	Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med?
	6	natural			yellow grey clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	7	Fill			Furrow?	-	Med-Post med?

#### *Trench 216.02 (aligned north-south)*

Natural geology (context 2160202) was encountered at a depth of 0.37 m below the existing ground surface, and was pale brown clay with occasional chalky

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patches. Four east-west aligned furrows (not excavated) were identified, with an average width of 2.4 m.

**Table 4.39: Trench table of contexts (216.02)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.02	0	Layer		0.22	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.15	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Mid brown clay, chalky gravel	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med?
	4	Cut	1.5		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med?
	5	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med?
	6	Cut	1.4		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med?
	7	Fill			Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med?
	8	Cut	1.5		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med?
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med?
	10	Cut	1.4		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med?

**Trench 216.03 (aligned east-west)**

Natural geology (context 2160302) was encountered at depth of 0.42 m (56.21 m OD) below the existing ground surface, consisting of a mid brown silt clay. The trench was placed through a distinct bank aligned north-south, which corresponded with a distinct kink in the hedge boundary to the north and probably represents a former field boundary or headland.

**Table 4.40: Trench table of contexts (216.03)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.03	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil		Modern
	1	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		Undated
	2	natural			Mid brown clay, chalky gravel		Pre-Holocene
	3	deposit		0.3	Possible headland		Med-Post med?

**Trench 216.04 (aligned north-south)**

The natural geology in this trench (context 2160402) was pale grey chalky clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.55 m (55.89 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench identified three ditches, two shallow pits and a posthole. The southernmost ditch (Cut 04) was aligned east-west. This

was 0.5 m wide and 0.12 m deep. No finds were recovered. Five 5 m north of Cut 4, was a relatively substantial ditch (Cut 06), aligned northeast-southwest. This measured 1.3 m in width and 0.6 m in depth. No dating evidence was recovered but the feature was typical of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use. The third ditch (Cut 10) was located towards the northern end of the trench. This was on a similar alignment (northeast-southwest) as Cut 06, and also of a similar character. This ditch was 0.55-m wide and 0.1 m deep, no finds were recovered. The posthole was located two metres north of Cut 10, and was well defined with vertical sides. Its diameter was 0.45 m, and depth 0.33 m. The northernmost of the pits was 14, which was 0.8 m wide and 0.2 m deep. The second possible pit (Cut 08) was roughly in the centre of the trench, this was 1.1 metres wide, 0.1 metres deep and suggested by the excavator to most likely be a natural feature.

**Table 4.41: Trench table of contexts (216.04)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.04	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.3	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Grey chalky clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill		0.12	Fill of 4	-	Undated
	4	Cut	0.5		E-W ditch	-	Undated
	5	Fill		0.6	Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med?
	6	Cut	1.3		NE-SW ditch/Furrow?	-	Med-Post med?
	7	Fill		0.1	Fill of 8	-	Undated
	8	Cut	1.1		Natural feature/pit??	-	Undated
	9	Fill		0.1	Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med?
	10	Cut	0.55		NE-SW ditch/Furrow?	-	Med-Post med?
	11	Fill		0.33	Fill of 12	-	Undated
	12	Cut	0.45	0.33	Post hole	-	Undated
	13	Fill		0.2	Fill of 14	-	Undated
	14	Cut	0.8 x 0.3	0.2	Pit	-	Undated

**Trench 216.05 (aligned north-south)**

The natural geology (context 2160512) was encountered at a depth of 0.5 m (54.91 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This was pale orange, grey clay with frequent gravel inclusions. Three furrows (aligned northwest-southeast) were identified. These were not excavated but had an average width of 2.8 m. Two ditches were also identified. The northernmost ditch (Cut 05) was aligned northwest-southeast. This was 1.1 m wide, 0.25 m deep and interpreted as a medieval – post medieval drainage ditch. The second

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ditch (Cut 11) was located to the south end of the trench and aligned northeast-southwest. This measured 1.15 m in width and was 0.2 m deep. No finds were recovered. The feature was interpreted as a medieval – post medieval drainage ditch.

**Table 4.42: Trench table of contexts (216.05)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.05	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.2	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med?
	3	Cut	3		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med?
	4	Fill		0.21	Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med?
	5	Cut	0.95		NE-SW ditch/Furrow?	-	Med-Post med?
	6	Fill			Fill of 7	-	Med-Post med?
	7	Cut	2.5		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med?
	8	Fill			Fill of 9	-	Med-Post med?
	9	Cut	3.9		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med?
	10	Fill		0.25	Fill of 11	-	Med-Post med?
	11	Cut	1.15		NW-SE ditch	-	Med-Post med?
	12	natural			Grey chalky clay	-	Pre-Holocene

**Trench 216.06 (aligned east-west)**

Natural clay (context 2160608) was encountered at a depth of 0.22-m (55.3 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench identified just three furrows (not excavated) aligned northeast-southwest, with an average width of 2 m.

**Table 4.43: Trench table of contexts (216.06)**

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick? (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.06	1	Layer		0.22	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	2	Cut	2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	3	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	2.2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut			Tree disturbance	-	Undated
	7	Fill		0.3	Fill of 6	-	Undated
	8	natural			Grey sandy silt and chalk	-	Pre-Holocene

### Trench 216.07 (aligned east-west)

The natural geology (context 2160702), a pale grey brown clay was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (56.67 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Five furrows (not excavated) aligned north-south were identified, these had an average width of 1.1 m. A small pit or tree disturbance (12) was investigated towards the western end of the trench. It was 1 m wide and 0.33 m deep, its profile was irregular suggesting tree disturbance, but a quantity of bone was recovered in its upper fill.

Table 4.44: Trench table of contexts (216.07)

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.07	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.08	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	natural			Mid grey chalky clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	3	Fill		0.3	Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	1.4		Furrow	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill		0.2	Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut	1.1		Furrow	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill		0.1	Fill of 8	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut	1.8		Furrow	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	11	Fill		0.33	Fill of 12	Bone	Undated
	12	Cut			Pit/tree disturbance	-	Undated
	13	Fill			Fill of 14	-	Med-Post med
	14	Cut	2		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med

### Trench 216.08 (aligned north-south)

Natural geology (context 2160808), a pale grey clay, was encountered at a depth of 0.52 m (57.71 m OD) below the existing ground surface. One furrow (not excavated) was identified, aligned north-south and 1 m wide. Two ditches were investigated, both were aligned northeast-southwest. The southernmost ditch (Cut 03) had a distinct profile, with steep sides and a flat base. This was 0.95 m wide and 0.53 m deep. No finds were recovered. The second ditch (Cut 05) was 3 m to the north of 03, and parallel to it. This was a similar width (0.8 m) to 3 but only 0.18 m deep. No finds were recovered and both features were typical of medieval – post medieval agricultural land use.



**Table 4.45: Trench table of contexts (216.08)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick* (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.08	0	Layer		0.22	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.3	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill		0.53	Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut	0.95		NE-SW ditch	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill		0.18	Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med
	5	Cut	0.8		NE-SW ditch	-	Med-Post med
	6	Fill		0.4	Fill of 7	-	Med-Post med
	7	Cut	1.2		Furrow	-	Med-Post med
	8	natural			Grey chalky clay	-	Pre-Holocene

**Trench 216.09 (aligned north-south)**

Natural geology (context 2160911), pale greenish grey silt clay with gravel, was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (55.71 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Two furrows (not excavated), about 2.7 m wide and aligned northeast-southwest were identified. Two ditches were investigated. The northernmost ditch (Cut 07) was aligned northwest-southeast, this was 1.05 m wide and 0.2 m deep. The second ditch (Cut 10) was located towards the southern end of the trench and aligned northwest-southeast. This was 1 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Neither ditch produced any dating evidence; both were characteristic of medieval – post medieval land use.

**Table 4.46: Trench table of contexts (216.09)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick* (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.09	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut	3.75		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med
	5	Cut	2.5		Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	6	Fill		0.1	Fill of 7	-	Med-Post med
	7	Cut	1.12		NW-SE ditch	-	Med-Post med
	8	Fill		0.2	Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	9	Fill			Fill of 10	-	Med-Post med
	10	Cut	1.05		NW-SE ditch	-	Med-Post med

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	11	natural			Greenish grey clay	-	Pre-Holocene

### **Trench 216.10 (aligned east-west)**

The natural geology (context 2161008), pale brown silt clay, was encountered at a depth of 0.35 m (55.71 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Only three furrows (not excavated) were identified, these had an average width of 3.8 m and were aligned north-south.

**Table 4.47: Trench table of contexts (216.10)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.10	0	Layer		0.2	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.15	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Cut	2.6		Furrow, unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	3	Fill			Fill of 2	-	Med-Post med
	4	Cut	3.75		Furrow, unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	5	Fill			Fill of 4	-	Med-Post med
	6	Cut	3.25		Furrow, unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	7	Fill			Fill of 6	-	Med-Post med
	8	natural			Grey silty gravel	-	Pre-Holocene

### **Trench 216.11 (aligned east-west)**

The natural geology (context 2161103) was pale grey chalky clay, encountered at a depth of 0.83 m (56.37 m OD) below the existing ground surface. A number of linear features were investigated and one furrow was identified. All the features were sealed by two former ploughsoils. The southernmost ditch (Cut 04) was aligned northwest-southeast, 0.62 m wide and 0.3 m deep. A small, abraded sherd of unidentified pottery was retrieved from this feature. Three meters to the west was a ditch (Cut 7) parallel to Cut 5, and truncated by a furrow. This ditch was 0.5-m wide, 0.1 m deep. These features could be interpreted as a track-way, and are on a distinctly different alignment to the typical post medieval features identified in this trench. Just north of Cut 07, was Ditch Cut 09; this was on a typical post-medieval, east-west alignment. It was 1.1-m wide, 0.3 m deep. No finds were recovered. The next ditch to the east was Cut 11, this was on an east-west alignment, and it was 1.1 m wide and just 0.1 m deep. No finds were recovered and it was interpreted as the base of

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a furrow.

**Table 4.48: Trench table of contexts (216.11)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick: (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.11	0	Layer		0.23	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.3	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Layer		0.3	Old Ploughsoil, headland	-	Undated
	3	natural			Grey chalky clay	-	Pre-Holocene
	4	Fill		0.3	Fill of 5	Pottery, Unid	Undated
	5	Cut	0.62		NW-SE ditch	-	Undated
	6	Fill		0.1	Fill of 7	-	Undated
	7	Cut	0.5		NW-SE ditch	-	Undated
	8	Fill		0.3	Fill of 9	-	Med-Post med
	9	Cut	1.1		N-S ditch	-	Med-Post med
	10	Fill		0.1	Fill of 11	-	Med-Post med
	11	Cut	0.75		N-S ditch/plough Furrow?	-	Med-Post med
	12	Fill		0.1	Fill of 13	-	Med-Post med
	13	Cut	0.75		N-S linear	-	Med-Post med
	14	Fill		0.1	Fill of 15	-	Med-Post med
	15	Cut	0.75		N-S linear	-	Med-Post med
	16	Fill		0.1	Fill of 17	-	Med-Post med
	17	Cut	0.75		N-S linear	-	Med-Post med
	18	Fill		0.35	Fill of 19	-	Med-Post med
	19	Cut	0.65		N-S linear	-	Med-Post med

**Trench 216.12 (aligned north-south)**

The natural geology (context 2161209), greenish-grey clay, was encountered at a depth of 0.35 m (55.71 m OD) below the existing ground surface. Only two furrows (not excavated) and two modern drainage ditches were identified.

**Table 4.49: Trench table of contexts (216.12)**

Trench	Ctxt no	Type	Width (m)	Thick: (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
216.12	0	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil	-	Modern
	1	Layer		0.1	Subsoil	-	Undated
	2	Fill			Fill of 3	-	Med-Post med
	3	Cut			Furrow. unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	4	Fill			Fill of 5	-	Med-Post med

Trench	Ext no	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	5	Cut			Mod drainage ditch	-	Modern
	6	Fill			Fill of 7	-	Med-Post med
	7	Cut			Furrow, unexcavated	-	Med-Post med
	8	Cut			Mod drainage ditch	-	Modern
	9	natural			Greenish grey clay	-	Pre-Holocene

## 4.10 PLOT 1402

### 4.10.1 Summary

The investigation at Plot 1402 consisted of two 50 m trenches on an north, northwest-south, southeast alignment (Figure 14).

The Hanney road defines the southern extent of the site. Well-established hedge-lines form the north, east and western limits. The historical use of this field has been identified as arable, as is its current use. The remains of ridge and furrow are evident as undulations in the topography. The field is generally flat with a slight rise to the north-west. The geology consisted of Gault and Kimmeridge clay with localised chalk deposits in the northernmost trench. Mid brown sandy silt was identified to the south.

### 4.10.2 Trench Descriptions

Trenches associated with Plot 1402 are illustrated in Figure 17.

#### ***Trench 1402.01 (aligned north, northwest-south, southeast)***

The natural geology (mottled grey and brown clay, context 14020106) was encountered at a depth of 0.27 m (61.37 m OD) below the existing ground surface. The trench revealed a small pit and a wide linear feature. The pit (Cut 02) had a diameter of 0.8 m, and was 0.1 m deep. It was filled with dark brown silt clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature produced sixteen small abraded sherds of possible late Bronze Age pottery; a few small pieces of fragmented animal bone and burnt unworked flint. A wide shallow feature (04) was identified ten metres to the north of the pit. It appeared to be linear (roughly north-south) but it was difficult to be confident of this as its edges were ill defined. This feature was 2.4 m wide, 0.22 m deep and filled with a mottled mid brown grey silt clay, similar to the natural geology. This feature may represent a hollow-way.

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### ***Trench 1402.02 (Aligned north-south)***

The natural geology (mid brown silty-sand, context 14020209) was encountered at a depth of 0.34 m (61.02 m OD) below the existing ground surface. This trench was placed through a medieval or post medieval headland (visible only on the surface) and identified one feature, a curving gully (Cut 04). This feature extended from the section for 1.4 m before terminating. This was a clearly defined (though insubstantial) feature with a U shaped profile (0.3 m wide and 0.16 m deep). Its fill was mid brown silty sand with occasional sandstone. Although no dating evidence was recovered it was reminiscent of a drip gully for a pre-historic roundhouse.

#### **4.11 TRIAL PITS AND BOREHOLES**

A total of twelve test pits and two boreholes were monitored in September 2006 (Figure 20). No archaeological features were identified within boreholes: BH359, BH384, and test pits: TP322, TP324, TP344, TP392, TP392A, B, C, D, E and F. Archaeological features were identified within two test pits: 326 and 392G.

##### ***Test Pit 326***

Prior to the full excavation of the test pit the modern topsoil and 0.18 m of subsoil was machined from an area 8.5 m x 3.5 m. This revealed a well defined ditch (11059) aligned east-west. This extended from the east section and extended for 3.5 m before terminating. Two sections were excavated through this feature, one investigating the terminus. This feature was 0.9 m wide, 0.24 m deep and filled with a mid grey silt clay. No dating evidence was recovered but its character suggested a post medieval date.

##### ***Test Pit 392G***

Prior to the full excavation of the test pit the modern topsoil and 0.18 m of subsoil was machined from an area 8.5 m x 3.5 m. This revealed a ditch (11057) aligned north, northeast-south, southwest. This had a smooth U shaped profile and measured, 1.1 m wide, 0.38 m deep. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt. Five fragments of animal bone were recovered: a vertebra of large mammal (cattle or horse), a scapula of medium mammal (sheep/goat or pig). No dating evidence was recovered but its character suggested a post medieval date.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 ARTEFACTS

#### 5.1.1 Pottery

A full pottery report including methodology and tables is included in Appendix 3.

#### *Site 204*

The assemblage from site 204 comprises 8 sherds weighing 38 g. This material is largely post medieval in date, although one sherd of sandy oxidised ware (O20) and the base of a jar in North Wiltshire sandy grey ware (R35) are also present.

#### *Site 206*

Pottery recovered from site 206 comprises 3 sherds weighing 17 g. These include a single sherd of sandy oxidised ware (O20) of Roman date, a sherd of flint and grog-tempered material (AF3) of prehistoric date, and an undated sherd of oxidised pottery.

#### *Site 412*

Pottery from site 412 consists of 6 sherds, weighing 64 g. This material is all prehistoric in date and consists of five sherds of moderate/coarse flint-tempered material (FG4) dating to the late Bronze Age, along with a single sherd of moderate flint-tempered material (AF3) of broadly prehistoric date.

#### *Site 413*

The pottery from site 413 comprises three sherds of Roman and post medieval date, weighing 32 g. These consist of a single sherd of grog-tempered storage jar fabric (R90), dating broadly to the Roman period and two sherds of post medieval pottery.

#### *Site 414*

Five sherds of shelly fabric (AS4), weighing 32 g and dating to the early Iron Age, were recovered from site 414.

#### *Site 419*

The assemblage from site 419 comprises 350 sherds, weighing 5402 g and is

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dominated by material of middle and late Roman date, with an emphasis on the later Roman period. Although there are two groups of early Roman date containing residual late Iron Age material, including a jar/beaker, a bead-rimmed jar and an everted-rimmed jar in medium sandy fabric (E30) and a bead rimmed jar in grog-tempered ware (E80). Early Roman pottery is also present in small quantities and comprises medium-mouthed jars in sandy grey ware (R20) and medium sandy grey ware (R30). Middle and later Roman pottery largely comprises medium sandy grey wares (R30), in which wide mouthed jars dominate. Oxfordshire colour coated wares (F51), including Oxfordshire colour-coated mortaria and variants of Oxfordshire white wares, including coarse and fine white ware (W22, W12), white ware mortaria (M22), burnt white ware (W23) and parchment ware (W11) also make up a substantial proportion of the assemblage. Vessels in these fabrics include dishes, flanged bowls, narrow necked jars, mortaria and bowls. One dish or bowl base in Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (F51) with a potter's stamp (no 32, Young 1977,178) is also present. The late Roman assemblage includes a substantial component of Dorset black-burnished wares, with vessels comprising plain rimmed dishes, flanged rimmed dishes and a cooking jar, along with several body sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52). A residual samian component is also notable within the late Roman assemblage, with vessels including form 37 bowls, form 18/31 dishes and a form 45 mortaria in central Gaulish samian. Also present are jars in sandy grey ware (R20), storage jars in shelly fabrics (C10), a jar in Savernake ware (R95) and a range of locally produced fabrics which make up a small proportion of the assemblage.

### **Plot 1402**

Material from plot 1402 comprises 16 sherds, weighing 32 g. This includes sherds of coarse/moderate flint-tempered fabric (AF4) and sandy/glauconitic fabric (AB3), of late Bronze Age date.

### **Discussion**

The pottery from sites 204, 206, 412, 413, 414 and plot 1402 consists of small numbers of sherds in poor condition and has little potential for further study. The presence of stray sherds of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age material, along with some sherds of broadly later prehistoric date indicates no more than some kind of presence during these periods. Similarly sherds of post medieval material indicate low level activity of some kind. However, the assemblage from site 419 is more substantial. The pottery is well preserved



and there are some large groups with datable and diagnostic material. Such material has the potential to date the site sequence and can provide information about pottery supply to the site. The two groups of early Roman pottery indicate a limited settlement of a low status kind, given the dominance of grey ware jars. However, the presence of residual samian in later groups, perhaps suggests a slightly more extensive occupation with more wide ranging contacts. The middle and later Roman pottery forms the largest part of the assemblage, suggesting that the settlement expanded in this period. The middle and later Roman groups are still dominated by grey ware jars, but there is also a substantial component of dishes and mortaria, including vessels in Oxfordshire wares. This indicates a higher status settlement, which fits the suggestion that there may have been a villa on the site. The presence of Dorset black-burnished wares, Nene Valley colour-coated wares and some Savernake wares indicates wide ranging trading contacts.

#### **5.1.2 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay**

A full CBM and Fired clay report including methodology and tables is included in Appendix 4.

The quantity of post-Roman material is small and suggests any structural activity during the later medieval and post medieval periods across the sites was negligible. The quantities of Roman building material which are almost entirely derived from Site 419 however are significant and suggest the presence of Roman buildings on or close to the site. The assemblage is dominated by roofing tile (c. 80% of the Roman tile) with tegulae and imbrices occurring in almost equal numbers. This suggests these were actually being used for roofing. Though other forms only occur in small quantities, the occurrence of box and wall tile indicates the construction of cavity walling implying the presence of a hypocaust and a heated room or suite of rooms. If the wall tile has been correctly identified it could suggest an early-mid Roman date, with a refurbishment bringing the box tile later in the Roman period. Though only a single tessera was found it suggests a tessellated floor is likely to have existed in the building. The variety of material suggests a building of moderately high status, which would be consistent with a villa, and one which is likely to have an associated bath suite. The tessera is of size that would be used for a plain tessellated floor or for a border around a more elaborate mosaic. In the absence of any small tesserae it is likely that only plain floors were present, which perhaps suggest a more modest villa establishment rather than one at the top end of the luxury villa market.



### 5.1.3 Metal Finds

A full metal finds report including tables is included in Appendix 5.

There are 31 metal objects retrieved from the evaluation, comprising 29 iron pieces and 2 possible copper alloy coins. The coins (contexts 4120411 & 4190423, Sites 412 and 419) are both worn and encrusted with corrosion products and consequently illegible. The piece from context 4190423, is oval in shape and may not be a coin.

The iron is dominated by structural pieces, namely 22 nails (largely from Site 419) or part nails, and a split spike loop (ctxt 4190302). (The piece of rod from context 2041202 is possibly a piece of modern concrete reinforcing bar.) The biggest groups of nails come from contexts 4190300 and 4190302 from Site 419.

Other finds include a piece of an heel iron (context 4190300) and a probable horseshoe nail (context 4130503).

The heel iron and horseshoe nail are the only objects that are broadly dateable. The heel iron is late post medieval to modern in date, and the horseshoe nail late medieval to post medieval in date.

### 5.1.4 Flint

Just one piece of worked flint (context 4200408) and one fragment (4 g) of burnt unworked flint (context 4190502) were recovered from the evaluation. The flake is irregular and possibly naturally struck. Dating is not possible.

## 5.2 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

### 5.2.1 Human Bone

A full metal finds report including tables is included in Appendix 6.

Seven fragments of human bone were recovered from the fill (4190502) of an undated ditch (4190503) within Site 419, together with a quantity of animal bone. The remains are dated to the Roman period by association with an adjacent dated feature (4190505) and their stratigraphic location below a buried ploughsoil underlying the modern ploughsoil. The fragments comprised most of the left shaft and medial epicondyle of an adult humerus, the proximal left ulna, including the olecranon and a small section of proximal shaft, and a fragment of left scapula including the superior margin of the glenoid fossa.

The fragments appear to form part of the left arm of a single adult individual.

It was recovered within a small intervention in undated ditch 4190503, which included only a small area of the ditch fill, and did not extend across the breadth of the feature. Although there was no on site recognition of the state of articulation of these skeletal elements, it is very possible that the archaeological intervention disturbed the left upper arm and shoulder of an articulated burial within the ditch, the rest of the skeleton lying beyond the excavated area. Alternatively, these bones may represent either an articulated left arm, or disarticulated bone, possibly from a previously disturbed burial.

### 5.2.2 Animal bone

A full metal finds report including tables is included in Appendix 7.

A total of 407 refitted animal bone fragments were recovered from this site. All but 22 bone fragments were retrieved from Site 419. The animal bones were recovered through hand collection during excavation and from wet sieved bulk samples (processed using 500 µm residue mesh and 250 µm flot mesh) 47% of the assessed bones derive from hand-retrieved contexts, and 53% from sieved contexts. Most of the bones from the sieved contexts were rather small (1.2% of the total weight) and mainly unidentifiable to species.

The majority of the bones were in a good condition. Eight bones were burnt, and only three bones displayed gnaw marks. The bone assemblage seems to be household refuse.

A predominance of cattle and sheep/goat in the assemblage is the usual trend in most archaeological deposits, regardless of time period. The relative high number of horse bones in relation to the three main domesticates - cattle, sheep/goat and pig - is unusual, but as the assemblage is small, it is not advised to draw too far-reaching interpretations of this.

Butchering marks were found on two bones. Horizontal cut-marks were found proximally on a pig metacarpal, suggesting disarticulation. Cut-marks indicative of filleting occurred on a rib from a large mammal.

Pathologies occurred on a cattle metacarpal. It displayed large exostoses and woven bone growth on the entire shaft. Pathological bone growth was also found within the marrow cavity. These pathological conditions suggest a severe active infection.

### 5.2.3 Charred Plant Remains

A full charred plant remains report including tables is included in Appendix 8.

Two samples were taken during the evaluation for the recovery of charred plant remains from a ditch fill on Site 419. The volume of sample 1 (context number - 4190306) was 40 litres and sample 2 (context number 4190308) - about 10 litres. While context 4190308 was devoid of datable finds, the fill is likely to be of a similar period to context 4190306 which has been dated to the later Roman period.

The flots assessed varied in size, flot volume from sample 1 was 35ml, while the flot from sample 2 was 60ml. The quantity of charred plant material was low and the preservation was moderate to poor in sample 1. A few examples of grain were recorded, some identified as spelt (*Triticum spelta*). Other taxa recorded in sample 1 were: *Avena/Bromus* (oats/brome grass), *Rumex* sp. (docks), *Vicia* sp./*Lathyrus* sp. (vetches) and *Atriplex* sp. (orache), *Lithospermum arvense* (field gromwell), *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (scentless mayweed).

Plant material in sample 2 was abundant and the preservation varied from good to poor. The flot was rich in charred cereal grain consisting largely of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and possibly occasional other cereal species unidentified due to poor preservation. A large amount of spelt chaff was recorded. A small quantity of charred weed seeds was also present in the flot, including seeds from *Bromus* sp. (brome), *Agrostemma githago* (corncockle), and *Poa* sp. (meadow grass). Sample 2 also contained quantities of a white ashy material of uncertain origin.

Finds from the residues comprised animal bone, hammerscale, iron and small quantities of marine shell. All residue finds will be added to the finds compendium.

## 6 SUMMARY SITE RESULTS

### 6.1 SITE 412

The results of evaluation on Site 412 indicate that the mapped crop marks on this site largely relate to medieval - post medieval agricultural management features such as ridge and furrow (still visible as undulations in the field) trackway ditches, small field division ditches and drainage ditches.

Elements of earlier (prehistoric?) field system features are implied by the retrieval of some abraded prehistoric pottery and occasional linear features at notably different alignments to the majority of the features. The sparse finds and lack of structural or activity features does not suggest intensive occupation of the site in any period.

## 6.2 SITE 413

Similarly to Site 412 the results of evaluation on Site 413 indicate that many of the mapped crop marks on this site relate to medieval - post medieval agricultural management features such as ridge and furrow (still visible as undulations in the field), trackway ditches, small field division ditches and drainage ditches.

Elements of earlier (Roman?) linear features are implied by the retrieval of some Roman coarse ware and occasional linear features at notably different alignments to the majority of the features. The sparse finds and general lack of structural or activity features does not suggest intensive occupation of the site in any period, and may indicate a succession of field systems with potentially early origins. No finds were retrieved from a possible ditched enclosure to the north of the site and this remains undated.

## 6.3 SITE 414

The majority of features revealed on this site were furrow and field boundaries dating to the medieval-post medieval period.

A possible early Iron Age ditch was identified in Trench 414.03, this was aligned north-west, south-east and corresponded to a mapped crop mark. This suggests the presence of field systems pre-dating the ubiquitous medieval-post medieval arrangements.

## 6.4 SITE 418

No archaeological remains were found within Site 418. It is therefore likely that anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey relate to silt forming in hollows in the natural geology.

## 6.5 SITE 419

Dense Roman occupation features were revealed in Trench 419.03. The combination of crop marks, pottery, building material (including roofing tegula and imbrices as well as box and flue tiles implying the presence of a hypocaust

system) all suggest the presence of a villa building. The wide, shallow feature in trench 419.05 has been tentatively interpreted as a hollow-way, and the recovery of a possibly articulated human arm from this feature should be noted. The remaining trenches revealed medieval- post medieval furrows and a number of undated linear features. This suggests that the area of the villa structure is approximately defined by the mapped crop-marks. It is reasonable to expect that ancillary structures and livestock enclosures will exist near to the villa and these would then give way to larger field system features and possibly associated trackways in radial proximity to the main structure.

## 6.6 SITE 420

All of the features revealed within this site appeared to be associated with medieval-post-medieval agricultural land use.

## 6.7 PLOT 204

The majority of the features revealed within this site appeared to be associated with medieval-post-medieval agricultural land use. A single ditch in Trench 204.09 contained a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery and may indicate the presence of field system features pre-dating the medieval -post medieval period.

## 6.8 PLOT 216

The majority of the features revealed in Plot 216 appear to be associated with medieval-post-medieval land use. Two undated pits and an undated posthole in Trench 216.04 as well as an undated trackway in trench 216.11 may indicate earlier activity.

## 6.9 PLOT 1402

Trench 1402.01 identified a pit and a feature tentatively interpreted as a hollow-way, both possibly dating to the late Bronze Age period. Trench 1402.02 identified an undated, curving feature, suggestive of a pre-historic roundhouse drip gully.

# 7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

## 7.1 EVIDENCE OF OCCUPATION SITES

Evidence of occupation was revealed in Site 419 where the mapped crop marks represent a probable villa site, and potentially (though less clearly) at Site 1402 where a late Bronze Age pit and a possible drip gully suggest



prehistoric settlement.

## 7.2 EVIDENCE OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The majority of features recorded at all sites (with the exception of Sites 419 and 1402) appear to relate to medieval and post medieval land management (furrows, drainage ditches, trackways etc). However it is important to note that the recorded cropmarks on the south eastern and eastern side of the study area show a distinct northeast-southwest trend indicative of an extensive co-axial field system and land management respecting the orientation of the Cow Common Brook. It is reasonable to suggest this landscape orientation has a prehistoric origin which has then evolved to the present land layout. At some point this orientation has shifted to the approximately north-south orientation now visible. A dramatic change in agricultural land use such as post-medieval enclosure may be the catalyst for this change, although earlier events such as Roman occupation and the change of land use following the plagues of the 14th century could also be factors. While this is not a question that can be addressed by this evaluation it is pertinent to note that each site is likely to contain elements of prehistoric – post medieval land use features and this has been indicated by the presence of occasional finds of Roman and prehistoric pottery and anomalous orientated features at each site.

It should also be noted that the majority of features confidently classified in this report as medieval - post medieval land use have not previously been visible as crop marks. This is particularly evident in Plots 216 and 204 where many features of this classification were recorded but no cropmarks have been evident. This could suggest that features of this period are generally shallower or their fills are less organic in nature than earlier features.



## APPENDIX 1 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	<b>Upper Thames Major Resource Development</b>
<b>Site code:</b>	<b>SUTMRD06</b>
<b>National Grid Ref:</b>	SU 447 930
<b>Type of Investigation:</b>	Geophysical Survey, Trench Investigation and Test Pit Watching Brief
<b>Date and duration of project:</b>	2 months (19/09/05 - 25/11/05)
<b>Area of site:</b>	32 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Summary of results:</b>	The evaluation revealed the presence of a probable Roman villa at Site 419, possible prehistoric occupation at Site 1402 and evidence of landscape management from the prehistoric to the post medieval period at all sites.
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the accession number OXCMS:2005.143





## APPENDIX 3 POTTERY

*By Daniel Stansbie*

### Introduction and Methodology

A total of 391 sherds, weighing 5617 g, were recovered during the evaluation. This material was rapidly scanned to determine context-group dates and to assess the character of the pottery. Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. A note was made of the most diagnostic pottery using OA's later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth, unpubl.). Reference was also made to Young's report on the Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region (Young, 1977).

### Condition

With an average sherd weight of 14.3 g the condition of the assemblage is generally good and surfaces are well preserved. Residuality is difficult to assess without full recording. However, with the exception of a handful of contexts, most groups appear to have a high degree of chronological integrity.

### Description

#### *Site 204*

The assemblage from Site 204 comprises 8 sherds weighing 38 g. This material is largely post-medieval in date, although one sherd of sandy oxidised ware (O20) and the base of a jar in North Wiltshire sandy grey ware (R35) are also present.

#### *Site 206*

Pottery recovered from site 206 comprises 3 sherds weighing 17 g. These include a single sherd of sandy oxidised ware (O20) of Roman date, a sherd of flint and grog-tempered material (AF3) of prehistoric date, and an undated sherd of oxidised pottery.

#### *Site 412*

Pottery from site 412 consists of 6 sherds, weighing 64 g. This material is all prehistoric in date and consists of five sherds of moderate/coarse flint-tempered material (FG4) dating to the late Bronze Age, along with a single sherd of moderate flint-tempered material (AF3) of broadly prehistoric date.

#### Site 413

The pottery from site 413 comprises three sherds of Roman and post-medieval date, weighing 32 g. These consist of a single sherd of grog-tempered storage jar fabric (R90), dating broadly to the Roman period, and two sherds of post-medieval pottery.

#### Site 414

Five sherds of shelly fabric (AS4), weighing 32 g and dating to the early Iron Age, were recovered from site 414.

#### Site 419

The assemblage from site 419 comprises 350 sherds, weighing 5402 g and is dominated by material of middle and late Roman date, with an emphasis on the later Roman period. Although there are two groups of early Roman date containing residual late Iron Age material, including a jar/beaker, a bead-rimmed jar and an everted-rimmed jar in medium sandy fabric (E30) and a bead rimmed jar in grog-tempered ware (E80). Early Roman pottery is also present in small quantities and comprises medium-mouthed jars in sandy grey ware (R20) and medium sandy grey ware (R30). Middle and later Roman pottery largely comprises medium sandy grey wares (R30), in which wide mouthed jars dominate. Oxfordshire colour coated wares (F51), including Oxfordshire colour-coated mortaria and variants of Oxfordshire white wares, including coarse and fine white ware (W22, W12), white ware mortaria (M22), burnt white ware (W23) and parchment ware (W11) also make up a substantial proportion of the assemblage. Vessels in these fabrics include dishes, flanged bowls, narrow necked jars, mortaria and bowls. One dish or bowl base in Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (F51) with a potter's stamp (no. 32, Young 1977, 178) is also present. The late Roman assemblage includes a substantial component of Dorset black-burnished wares; with vessels comprising plain rimmed dishes, flanged rimmed dishes and a cooking jar, along with several body sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52). A residual samian component is also notable within the late Roman assemblage, with vessels including form 37 bowls, form 18/31 dishes and a form 45 mortaria in central Gaulish samian. Also present are jars in sandy grey ware (R20), storage jars in shelly fabrics (C10), a jar in Savernake ware (R95) and a



range of locally produced fabrics which make up a small proportion of the assemblage.

#### *Plot 1402*

Material from plot 1402 comprises 16 sherds, weighing 32 g. This includes sherds of coarse/moderate flint-tempered fabric (AF4) and sandy/glaucanitic fabric (AB3), of late Bronze Age date.

### **Discussion**

The pottery from sites 204, 206, 412, 413, 414 and plot 1402 consists of small numbers of sherds in poor condition and has little potential for further study. The presence of stray sherds of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age material, along with some sherds of broadly later prehistoric date indicates no more than some kind of presence during these periods. Similarly sherds of post-medieval material indicate low level activity of some kind. However, the assemblage from site 419 is more substantial. The pottery is well preserved and there are some large groups, with datable and diagnostic material. Such material has the potential to date the site sequence and can inform about pottery supply to the site. The two groups of early Roman pottery indicate a limited settlement of a low status kind, given the dominance of grey ware jars. However, the presence of residual samian in later groups, perhaps suggests a slightly more extensive occupation with more wide ranging contacts. The middle and later Roman pottery forms the largest part of the assemblage, suggesting that the settlement expanded in this period. The middle and later Roman groups are still dominated by grey ware jars, but there is also a substantial component of dishes and mortaria, including vessels in Oxfordshire wares. This indicates a higher status settlement, which fits the suggestion that there may have been a villa on the site. The presence of Dorset black-burnished wares, Nene Valley colour-coated wares and some Savernake wares indicates wide ranging trading contacts.

Table A3.1: Pottery

Ctx	Sherd no.	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
<b>Site 204</b>				
2040904	1	6	post-medieval	PMED
2040906	1	1	O20 sandy oxidised ware	ROM
2040908	1	12	R35 North Wiltshire sandy grey ware, 1 base sherd	ROM
2041005	1	2	post-medieval	PMED
2041009	1	2	post-medieval	PMED
2041201	1	1	O20 sandy oxidised ware	ROM
2041204	2	14	post-medieval	PMED
<b>Site 216</b>				
2161104	1	1	oxidised ware	?
2161206	2	16	AF3 flint-tempered fabric, O20 sandy oxidised ware	PREHIS T/ROM
<b>Site 412</b>				
4120312	5	58	FG4 flint-tempered fabric	LBA?
4120411	1	6	AF3 flint-tempered fabric	PREHIS T
<b>Site 413</b>				
4130112	1	26	R90 coarse-tempered ware	ROM
4130205	1	2	post-med	PMED
4130211	1	4	post-med	PMED
<b>Site 414</b>				
4140305	5	32	AS4 shell-tempered fabric	EIA
<b>Site 419</b>				
4190203	1	14	post-med	PMED
4190211	1	32	R20 sandy grey ware	ROM
4190300	100	1822	R30 medium grey ware (2 wide-mouthed jars with rolled rims), R50 sandy black-surfaced ware (3 necked jars with rolled rims), R20 sandy grey ware (1 jar), C10 shelly fabric, B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (1 flanged dish), R90 coarse-tempered fabrics, S30 central Gaulish samian (1form 37), F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 beaker/flanged dish; 1 C45 dish burnt; 2 C45s; 1 C49 dish; 1 beaker base; 1 C51 flanged dish; 1 other burnt body sherd), 1 base sherd with makers stamp (Young no 32, from Cowley) M41 Oxfordshire colour-coated mortarium (1 C97), W23 Oxfordshire burnt white ware (1 BW2.1 narrow-necked jar)	LC3-LC4
4190302	40	884	R20 sandy grey ware (1 wide-mouthed jar, 1 plain rimmed dish), R30 medium grey ware (1 everted rimmed jar, 1 rolled rim jar), R90 storage jar fabric (1 storage jar), C10 shelly fabric (1 narrow-necked jar), B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (2 plain-rimmed dishes; 1 cooking jar; 3 flanged	EC4-MC4

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Cix	Sherd no.	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
			dishes,) O14 fine micaceous fabric, S30 central Gaulish samian ware (1 form 45), F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 C44 dish; 1 C68 bowl; 1 Young C51 flanged bowl; 1 base sherd with internal rouletting) , M41 Oxfordshire colour-coated mortaria, M22 Oxfordshire white ware mortaria (1 flange) W12 Oxfordshire fine white ware (2 W33 jars), F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware,	
4190303	21	422	R30 medium grey ware (1 wide-mouthed jar), C10 shelly fabrics (1 storage jar), R20 sandy grey ware, B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (1 plain-rimmed dish), R90 coarse-tempered fabric, O14 very micaceous fabric	MC2-LC4
4190305	36	472	R90 coarse-tempered fabrics, R30 medium grey ware (1 medium-mouthed jar), W22 Oxfordshire sandy white ware (1 W44)	EC2-MC3
4190306	12	100	R30 medium grey ware, W11 Oxfordshire parchment ware, B11 Dorset black-burnished ware, F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware	MC3-LC4
4190308	37	44	R30 medium grey ware, F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, C10 shelly fabric, fired clay	MC3-LC4
4190310	2	16	R30 medium grey ware, E30 medium sandy fabric	ROM
4190311	10	170	E30 medium sandy fabric(1 bead-rimmed jar, 1 necked/everted rimmed jar); E80 grog-tempered ware (1 bead-rimmed jar); R30 medium grey ware (1 jar)	LC1
4190312	6	68	R20 sandy grey ware (with sparse flint inclusions)	RO
4190313	18	314	R90 coarse-tempered fabrics, R20 sandy grey ware, R30 medium grey ware, E80 grog-tempered ware (1 bead-rimmed jar), F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 bowl/dish)	MC3-LC4
4190314	16	196	R95 Savernake ware (1 jar), R29 quartzite-tempered fabric, E30 (1 bead rimmed jar), R30 medium grey ware (two hook rimmed jars), O20 sandy oxidised ware, F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 C45)	LC3-LC4
4190315	16	186	E80 grog-tempered ware, W23 Oxfordshire burnt white ware, R20 sandy grey ware (1 jar), R30 medium grey ware, F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware	MC3-LC4
4190316	15	116	R20 sandy grey ware (2 necked/everted-rimmed jars); E30 medium sandy fabric (jar/beaker)	LC1-EC2
4190317	4	18	R90 coarse-tempered ware, R30 medium grey ware, F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware, O10 fine oxidised ware	LC2-LC4

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Ctx	Sherd no.	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
4190318	6	42	R20 sandy grey ware; R30 medium grey ware (1 jar); F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 C45)	LC3-LC4
4190319	1	4	F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware with white painted decoration	MC3-LC4
4190402	1	4	post-medieval	PMED
4190411	1	6	W22 Oxfordshire sandy white ware	EC2-LC4
4190415	2	14	F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 dish)	MC3-LC4
4190419	2	10	R20 sandy grey ware, O20 sandy oxidised ware	ROM
4190421	3	10	E80 grog-tempered ware, post-medieval	PMED
4190423	29	276	R30 medium grey ware (1 wide-mouthed jar), O14 very micaceous fabric, C10 shelly fabrics, B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (1 plain rimmed dish), F51 (1 C51; 1 C45; part of a flange), S30 central Gaulish samian, burnt, F52 Nene-valley colour-coated ware (body sherd from a folded beaker)	LC3-LC4
4190424	22	182	C10 shelly fabric, R90 coarse-tempered ware, E80 grog-tempered ware, R30 medium grey ware (1 hook-rimmed jar), B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (1 flanged dish), F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, Q21 Oxfordshire white-slipped, M22 Oxfordshire white ware mortaria (M17)	MC3-EC4
4190504	1	56	R90 coarse-tempered fabric	ROM
<b>Plot 1402</b>				
14020102	16	32	AF4 Flint-tempered fabric, AB3 sand and Glauconite-tempered	LBA

\* C = century, E = early, M = middle; L= late

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## APPENDIX 4 CBM AND FIRED CLAY

By Cynthia Poole

### Introduction

Ceramic building material and fired clay was recovered from 30 contexts and fired clay from five contexts. The assemblages have been visually examined and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. Fabrics have not been characterised, though differences were noted in passing.

The majority of the building material was Roman in date, though some post-medieval fragments may also be present in small quantity. The fired clay is likely to be contemporary. Quantities are summarised in the Table A4.1. The overall mean fragment weight (MFW) was 72 g.

### Roman Building Material

No complete objects were recovered and the only measurable dimension was thickness, though in a few cases width could also be estimated. The Roman material amounted to 114 fragments weighing 9312 g. Fragment size varied from a few grams to a maximum of nearly 600 g, with a MFW of 82 g.

### Forms

#### *Tegula*

A variety of tegulae types were present ranging in thickness from 15–28 mm. Flange types were predominantly rectangular type A and B with variants A1 and A3 most common, with fewer rounded examples of type D and E. Cut-aways were poorly represented, but both lower and upper varieties were present. Several flanges were uncommonly thin and tall with an external height of 48-55 mm and widths of 10-20 mm. Single and double finger grooves were sometimes visible along the basal angle of the flange.

#### *Imbrex*

The majority of fragments appeared to derive from forms with a more triangular profile, though some of more rounded semi-circular cross-section were present. Wall thickness ranged from 12-16 mm and widths were estimated at c. 120-160 mm and heights at 70-80 mm. Weathering on the uncovered surface of one of the tegulae also suggests a width of c. 150 mm for

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the covering imbrex.

#### *Box flue*

Two fragments of box tile were found, measuring 13 and 20 mm in thickness. One width was almost complete and is estimated to be c 130 mm. Both tiles had a combed surface for keying. Both sets of combing had used a coarse toothed comb, one with 8 teeth measuring 50 mm wide and the other 5 toothed measuring 28 mm wide. One had a single curved band of combing and the other two crossed bands running diagonally from the corners with the intervening triangular gaps filled in with short lengths of combing. Remnants of mortar and some sooting were present on the surfaces.

#### *Wall tile*

A single example of plain tile measuring 20-23 mm thick has been tentatively identified as a wall tile. The two joining fragments have smooth undulating surfaces. Little of the original sanded rough base survived after being cut flat leaving fine striations over cut surface and very small area of original turf-impressed surface. The upper surface had been knife trimmed alongside the edge. The feature that suggested it was a wall tile was a shallow groove 6 mm wide x 16 mm long in the top angle possibly a result of the T-shaped iron clamp which would have held it in position.

#### *Brick*

Two brick fragments were tentatively identified, measuring 28-30 mm and 35-38 mm thick, but this is too thin to definitely categorize them as bricks and they could be derived from other forms. The thinner could possibly be a fragment of ridge tile.

#### *Tessera*

A single rectangular fragment of tile appeared to be deliberately shaped to form a tessera, though no worn surface was apparent. It measured 26 x 19 x 19 mm.

#### *Flat*

This includes all non-diagnostic fragments. Their general characteristics and thickness suggest the majority are likely to be fragments of tegula and imbrex.

#### *Fired Clay*

A small quantity of fire clay was recovered. One small fragment appeared to be the edge of a disc or tray with a slightly raised lip. This form is usually



found in late Iron Age or Roman contexts and is probably some form of oven furniture. The other pieces are undiagnostic and inherently undateable. They appear to be fragments of oven wall or lining and are likely to be contemporary with the Roman activity.

### **Medieval – Post-medieval Building Material**

A total of seven fragments weighing 542 g were identified as probably post-medieval material, a combination of flat roofing tile and small broken fragments of brick.

The roof tile measured 10-15 mm thick. One slightly rougher fragment measured 15-16 mm thick and was pierced by a circular peg hole c. 14-15 mm diameter. This piece looked earlier than the other material and may have been medieval or early post-medieval compared to the remainder, which is probably all 18th-19th century.

### **Discussion**

The quantities of post-Roman material were small and suggest any structural activity during the later Medieval and post-medieval periods across the sites was negligible. The quantities of Roman building material derived from Site 419 however are more significant and suggest the presence of Roman buildings on or close to the site. The assemblage is dominated by roofing tile (c. 80% of the Roman tile) with tegulae and imbrices occurring in almost equal numbers. This suggests these were actually being used for roofing. Though other forms only occur in small quantities, the occurrence of box and wall tile indicates the construction of cavity walling implying the presence of a hypocaust and a heated room or suite of rooms. If the wall tile has been correctly identified it could suggest an early-mid Roman date, with a refurbishment bringing the box tile later in the Roman period. Though only a single tessera was found it suggests a tessellated floor is likely to have existed in the building. The variety of material suggests a building of moderately high status, which would be consistent with a villa, and one which is likely to have an associated bath suite. The tessera is of size that would be used for a plain tessellated floor or for a border around a more elaborate mosaic. In the absence of any small tesserae it is likely that only plain floors were present, which perhaps suggest a more modest villa establishment rather than one at the top end of the luxury villa market.

Table A4.1: CBM and Fired Clay

Forms	Nos	Wt	Comments
Tegula	22	3648	All material from Site 419
Imbrex	21	1897	All material from Site 419
Box	2	300	All material from Site 419
Wall tile	2	520	All material from Site 419
Brick	2	342	All material from Site 419
Tessera	1	14	All material from Site 419
RB: flat	46	2364	All material from Site 419. Most of the flat fragments are likely to be from tegulae or imbrices.
Fired Clay	17	69	Includes a small fragment of flanged disc and oven hearth lining from Site 419
<b>Total: Roman</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>9154</b>	
Roof: flat	3	162	Post-medieval (?) although from Site 419
Roof: peg	1	226	Site 419, possibly medieval (?)
PM: Brick	3	154	
<b>Total: post-Roman</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>542</b>	
Unidentified	37	507	Includes both R-B & PM
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>10203</b>	

## APPENDIX 5 METAL FINDS

By Ian Scott

There are 31 metal objects, comprising 29 iron pieces and 2 possible copper alloy coins (Tables A5.1 and A5.2). The coins (contexts 4120411 & 4190423) are both worn and encrusted with corrosion products and consequently illegible. The piece from context 4190423 is oval in shape and may not be a coin.

The iron is dominated by structural pieces, namely 22 nails (largely from Site 419) or part nails, and a split spike loop (ctxt 4190302). The piece of rod from context 2041202 is possibly a piece of modern concrete reinforcing bar. The biggest groups of nails come from contexts 4190300 and 4190302 from Site 419.

Other finds include a piece of an heel iron (ctxt 4190300) and a probable horseshoe nail (ctxt 4130503).

The heel iron and horseshoe nail are the only objects that are broadly dateable. The heel iron is late post-medieval to modern in date, and the horseshoe nail late medieval to post-medieval in date.

**Table A5.1: Summary Quantification of Metal finds by Context and Type**

Context	Identity								Totals
	coin	heel iron	horseshoe nail	split spike loop	nails	rod	plate	strip	
2041202						1			1
4120411	1								1
4130217			1						1
4130406					1				1
4130503					2				2
4190300		1			7		1	1	10
4190302				1	4				5
4190306					1				1
4190315					2				2
4190318					1				1
4190400					3		1		4
4190423	1								1
4190424					1				1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>



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Table A5.2: All Metal Finds

Site No	Context	SF No	Count	Fragt Count	L (mm)	W (mm)	X-ray ref	Function	Sub-function	Identity	Comments	material
<b>Site 204</b>												
204	2041202		1	1	215			Misc		bar	bar or rod of circular section, hooked at each end. Reinforcing bar?	fe
<b>Site 412</b>												
412	4120411	13	1	1		20		Coin		coin	small coin, incomplete and illegible.	ca
<b>Site 413</b>												
413	4130217		1	1				Transport	Horse	horseshoe nail	horseshoe nail tapering rectangular section head and thin rectangular section stem.	fe
413	4130406		1	1	67			Nail		nail	nail with small head and tapering stem, complete.	fe
413	4130503		2	3				Nail		nails	Type 1 nail, almost complete (x 2 frags) and short head and stem fragment.	fe
<b>Site 419</b>												
419	4190300		1	1				Nail		nail	stem fragment	fe
419	4190300		1	1	54	54		Misc		plate	trapezoid plate fragment, bent and perhaps broken at narrow edge. Dense. No visible nail holes.	fe
419	4190300		1	1	90			Nail		nail	nail stem, complete? Square section. Small head or head missing.	fe
419	4190300		1	1				Nail		nail	nail head a stem fragment. Flat circular head, encrusted.	fe



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Site No	Context	SF No	Count	Fragt Count	L (mm)	W (mm)	X-ray ref	Function	Sub-function	Identity	Comments	material
419	4190300		1	1	115			Nail		nail	tapering nail or spike with slightly expanded head. Tapering rectangular section stem	fe
419	4190300		1	1	53			Personal		heel iron	heel iron fragment, with two nails	fe
419	4190300		2	2				Nail		nails	Type 1, incomplete and bent	fe
419	4190300	11	1	1	54			Nail		nail	small head, almost complete. Tapering square section stem	fe
419	4190302	2	1	1	105	43		Structural		split spike loop	Split spike loop. Solid	fe
419	4190302	6	1	1	46			Nail		nail	Type 1, almost complete	fe
419	4190302	9	1	1				Nail		nail	Type 1, head and stem fragment, with stem bent at a right angle	fe
419	4190300	10	1	1	57			Query		strip	strip, slightly curved in cross section especially in middle. No nail holes visible	fe
419	4190302	7	1	1				Nail		nail	Type 1, incomplete	fe
419	4190302	8	1	1	62			Nail		nail	Type 1, complete	fe
419	4190306	12	1	1				Nail		nail	Type 1, complete, stem bent into a approx hook	fe
419	4190315	3	1	1	90			Nail		nail	Type 1, complete	fe
419	4190315	5	1	1	129			Nail		nail	nail with tapering square section stem, and small head, or spike. Complete.	fe
419	4190318		1	1	36			Nail		nail	possible nail or horseshoe nail. Small rectangular section stem and small flat head.	fe
419	4190400		1	1				Nail		nail	Type 1, head and stem fragment	fe



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Site No	Context	SF No	Count	Fragt Count	L (mm)	W (mm)	X-ray ref	Function	Sub-function	Identity	Comments	material
419	4190400		1	1				Nail		nail	Type 1, incomplete with bent stem. Encrusted.	fe
419	4190400		1	1				Nail		nail	Nail with small expanded head, and square section stem, incomplete	fe
419	4190400		1	1	51	50		Query		plate	plate fragment of irregular outline with spiked extension on one edge.	fe
419	4190424		1	1				Nail		nail	nail stem fragment	fe
419	4190423	1	1	1		17	14	Coin		coin	possible small coin, eroded and encrusted - illegible. Oval, possibly not a coin.	ca
	Total		31	32								

## APPENDIX 6 HUMAN BONE

By Ceridwen Boston

### Introduction

Seven fragments of human bone were recovered from the fill (4190502) of an undated ditch (4190503), together with a quantity of animal bone. The fragments comprised most of the left shaft and medial epicondyle of an adult humerus, the proximal left ulna, including the olecranon and a small section of proximal shaft, and a fragment of left scapula including the superior margin of the glenoid fossa.

### Results

Bone condition was fair although the cortex had suffered slight chemical leaching and modern damage and fragmentation, possibly during machining and/or excavation.

Complete fusion of all epiphyses indicated an age greater than 19 years (Schwartz 1995). The bones were very gracile, suggesting an individual of slight build. Although gracility has sometimes been used to estimate female sex (Chamberlain 1994, 11), there were insufficient bony landmarks present from which to measure. In addition, both male and female skeletons from prehistoric and Roman contexts in the region typically display gracile build, and hence, it would be inappropriate to use this method in this instance.

Despite its gracility, the deltoid tuberosity of the humerus was nevertheless clearly defined, as was the area of tendon attachment of the *Latisimus dorsi*, *Teres major* and *Pectoralis major* muscles. Slight lipping of the superior margin of the glenoid fossa of the scapula indicated slight degenerative changes to the shoulder joint. These findings are consistent with frequent, probably strenuous use of the arms, involving the shoulder joint.

The joint surface of the olecranon of the ulna showed no pathological changes. The proximal ulnar shaft, however, does display pathology with the development of pseudo-facet on the antero-lateral aspect, in the region of close anatomical approximation of the radial tuberosity of the radius. The 'facet' was gently concave in profile, and ovoid in shape measuring 26.1 mm x 10.4 mm. Lipping was clearly seen on its lateral aspect. Although there was some taphonomic damage, bone of the 'facet' was smooth and dense. The aetiology behind the development of this lesion is unclear, but its close

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proximity to the radial tuberosity suggests that it may have developed in response to enlargement or damage to that feature, either through trauma to the bone itself, or through severe soft tissue damage of the *Bicep* muscle, which inserts at this point. A second more extreme possibility is distal dislocation of the radial head, which resulted in the formation of a pseudo-joint on the ulnar shaft. Such dislocation is more common in childhood (Lumley *et al.* 1980, 211). Unfortunately, the radius was not present.

### Archaeological significance

The human bone appeared to comprise part of the left arm of a single adult individual. It was recovered within a small intervention in undated ditch 4190503, which included only a small area of the ditch fill, and did not extend across the breadth of the feature. Although there was no on site recognition of the state of articulation of these skeletal elements, it is very possible that the archaeological intervention disturbed the left upper arm and shoulder of an articulated burial within the ditch, the rest of the skeleton lying beyond the excavated area. Alternatively, these bones may represent either an articulated left arm, or disarticulated bone, possibly from a previously disturbed burial.

Both articulated body parts and disarticulated bones are frequently found within Iron Age contexts, and are thought to represent a secondary burial rite (Whimster 1981). Complete inhumations within ditches is a well recognised practice in the Iron Age (Whimster 1981) and Roman periods (Philpott 1991), and occasionally also in the Anglo-Saxon period. Local examples include a late Iron Age adult male within the oppidum ditch at West St Helen's Street, Abingdon (Brady *et al.* in press), and Roman burials from Hill Farm, Little Wittenham (Allen *et al.* in prep.) and Northfields Farm, Long Wittenham (Gray 1978). A recently discovered Anglo-Saxon ditch burial was a decapitated adult male from Aves ditch, Middleton Stoney, Oxon. (Sauer 2006). Archaeological evaluation of this area suggests surrounding features are predominantly Roman in date, and hence, it is probable that the human bone also dates to this period.

### Recommendations

As it is very possible that the left arm bones are part of an inhumation still *in situ* within the ditch, it is recommended that the intervention is revisited in the excavation phase of the project in order to record and recover the rest of the skeleton.

No further osteological analysis is indicated for the human remains described





above. If further excavation does reveal that it comprises part of a more complete skeleton, these bones should be analysed in the context of the rest of the skeleton.

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APPENDIX 7 ANIMAL BONE

By Lena Strid

**Methodology and Results**

A total of 407 refitted animal bone fragments were recovered from this site (Table A7.1). All but 22 bone fragments were retrieved from Site 419 (Table A7.3). The animal bones were recovered through hand collection during excavation and from wet sieved bulk samples (processed using 500 µm residue mesh and 250 µm flot mesh). 47% of the assessed bones derive from hand-retrieved contexts, and 53% from sieved contexts. Most of the bones from the sieved contexts were rather small (1.2% of the total weight) and mainly unidentifiable to species.

The majority of the bones were in a good condition (Lyman, 1994:355 for definitions) (Table 7.1). Eight bones were burnt, and only three bones displayed gnaw marks. The bone assemblage seems to be household refuse.

The predominance of cattle and sheep/goat in the assemblage (Table A7.2) is the usual trend in most archaeological deposits, regardless of time period. The relative high number of horse bones in relation to the three main domesticates - cattle, sheep/goat and pig - is unusual, but as the assemblage is small, it is not advised to draw too far-reaching interpretations of this.

Butchering marks were found on two bones. Horizontal cut-marks were found on proximally on a pig metacarpal, suggesting disarticulation. Cut-marks indicative of filleting occurred on a rib from a large mammal.

Pathologies occurred on a cattle metacarpal. It displayed large exostoses and woven bone growth on the entire shaft. Pathological bone growth was also found within the marrow cavity. These pathological conditions suggest a severe active infection.

**Table A7.1: Preservation level for bones**

	<b>N</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
SUMTRD 06	407		70.3%	29.0%	0.7%		



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Table Bone assemblage

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Dog	Domestic fowl	Goose	Indet. bird	Eel	Indet. fish	Micro-fauna	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.
Skull	2			1	2	1								4	
Mandible	2	1							1						
Loose teeth		2		3	6										
Atlas					1								1		
Vertebra										1		1		10	
Rib													6	20	
Sacrum	1														
Scapula						1								1	
Humerus		2			1										
Radius		3						1							
Ulna						1		1							
Metacarpal	2	3	1	1											
Carpometacarpus								1							
Carpal bone	1														
Pelvis	1					1								1	
Femur							1								
Tibia		4				1									
Calcaneus															
Metatarsal		2													
Phalanx 1	2			1											
Phalanx 3	2				1										
Longbone													10	18	
Indeterminate															268
TOTAL	13	17	1	6	11	5	1	3	1	1	8	1	17	54	268
Weight (g)	1710	141	15	42	847	89	3	15	2	0	0	0	51	947	884

Table A7.3: Number of bones and weight per context

Context	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
<b>Plot 1402</b>			
14020102	Sheep/goat	2	14
	Medium mammal	2	
	Indeterminate	3	
<b>Site 414</b>			
4140305	Medium mammal	3	66
	Large mammal	4	
	Indeterminate	8	
<b>Site 419</b>			
4190107	Indeterminate	1	1
4190203	Large mammal	1	6
4190300	Cattle	2	346
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Pig	1	
	Horse	1	
	Medium mammal	1	
	Large mammal	3	
	Indeterminate	3	
4190302	Cattle	2	313
	Sheep/goat	1	
	Pig	2	
	Dog	1	
	Medium mammal	2	
	Large mammal	7	
4190305	Horse	1	211
	Dog	3	
4190306	Cattle	1	293
	Sheep/goat	1	
	Indeterminate fish	3	
	Microfauna	1	
	Medium mammal	2	
	Large mammal	2	
4190308	Pig	1	23
	Eel	1	
	Indeterminate fish	5	
	Medium mammal	1	
	Indeterminate	149	
4190311	Sheep/goat	4	25
4190313	Sheep	1	384
	Sheep/goat	1	
	Horse	6	
	Large mammal	5	
	Indeterminate	1	
4190314	Sheep/goat	2	98
	Pig	1	
	Large mammal	2	



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Context	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
4190315	Cattle	1	47
	Medium mammal	1	
	Large mammal	1	
4190423	Cattle	4	545
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Pig	1	
	Horse	1	
	Dog	1	
	Goose	3	
	Medium mammal	2	
	Large mammal	14	
	Indeterminate	29	
4190424	Cattle	3	1319
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Horse	1	
	Domestic fowl	1	
	Indeterminate bird	1	
	Large mammal	4	
4190425	Large mammal	1	28
4190502	Large mammal	10	104
	Indeterminate	2	
4190506	Horse	1	247
	Medium mammal	3	
	Indeterminate	16	

### Bibliography

Lyman, R.L. (1996) Vertebrate taphonomy. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

## APPENDIX 8 CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

By Kateryzna Pinska and Wendy Smith

### Methodology

Two samples were taken during the evaluation for the recovery of charred plant remains from a ditch fill. The volume of sample 1 (context 4190306) was 40 litres and sample 2 (context 4190308.) about 10 litres. While sample 2 was devoid of datable finds, the fill is likely to be of a similar period to sample 1 which has been dated to the later Roman period. Both samples were processed by mechanical flotation in a modified Siraf-type machine, with the flots collected on a 0.25 mm mesh. After air-drying the flots were scanned for material under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification.

### Results (See Table)

The flots assessed varied in size, flot volume from sample 1 was 35ml, while flot from sample 2 was 60ml. The quantity of charred plant material was low and the preservation was moderate to poor in sample 1. A few examples of grain were recorded, some identified as spelt (*Triticum spelta*). Other taxa recorded in sample 1 were: *Avena/Bromus* (oats/brome grass), *Rumex* sp. (docks), *Vicia* sp./*Lathyrus* sp. (vetches), *Atriplex* sp. (orache), *Lithospermum arvense* (field gromwell), and *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (scentless mayweed).

Plant material in sample 2 was abundant and the preservation varied from good to poor. The flot was rich in charred cereal grain consisting largely of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and possibly occasional other cereal species unidentified due to poor preservation. A large amount of spelt chaff was recorded. A small quantity of charred weed seeds was also present in the flot, including seeds from *Bromus* sp. (brome), *Agrostemma githago* (corncockle), *Poa* sp (meadow grass). Sample 2 also contained quantities of a white ashy material of uncertain origin.

Finds from the residues comprised animal bone, hammerscale, iron and small quantities of marine shell. All residue finds will be added to the finds compendium.

### Discussion

The two ditch samples contained a range of charred material, with cereals



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typical of Roman deposits. Charred seed and bone preservation was good, and snails were also preserved. Future sampling at the site should follow standard guidelines (Oxford Archaeology 2000 and English Heritage 2002) and should incorporate a strategy for snail recovery from deep and datable features with deposits indicative of natural silting.

### **References**

English Heritage (2002) Environmental Archaeology, a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.

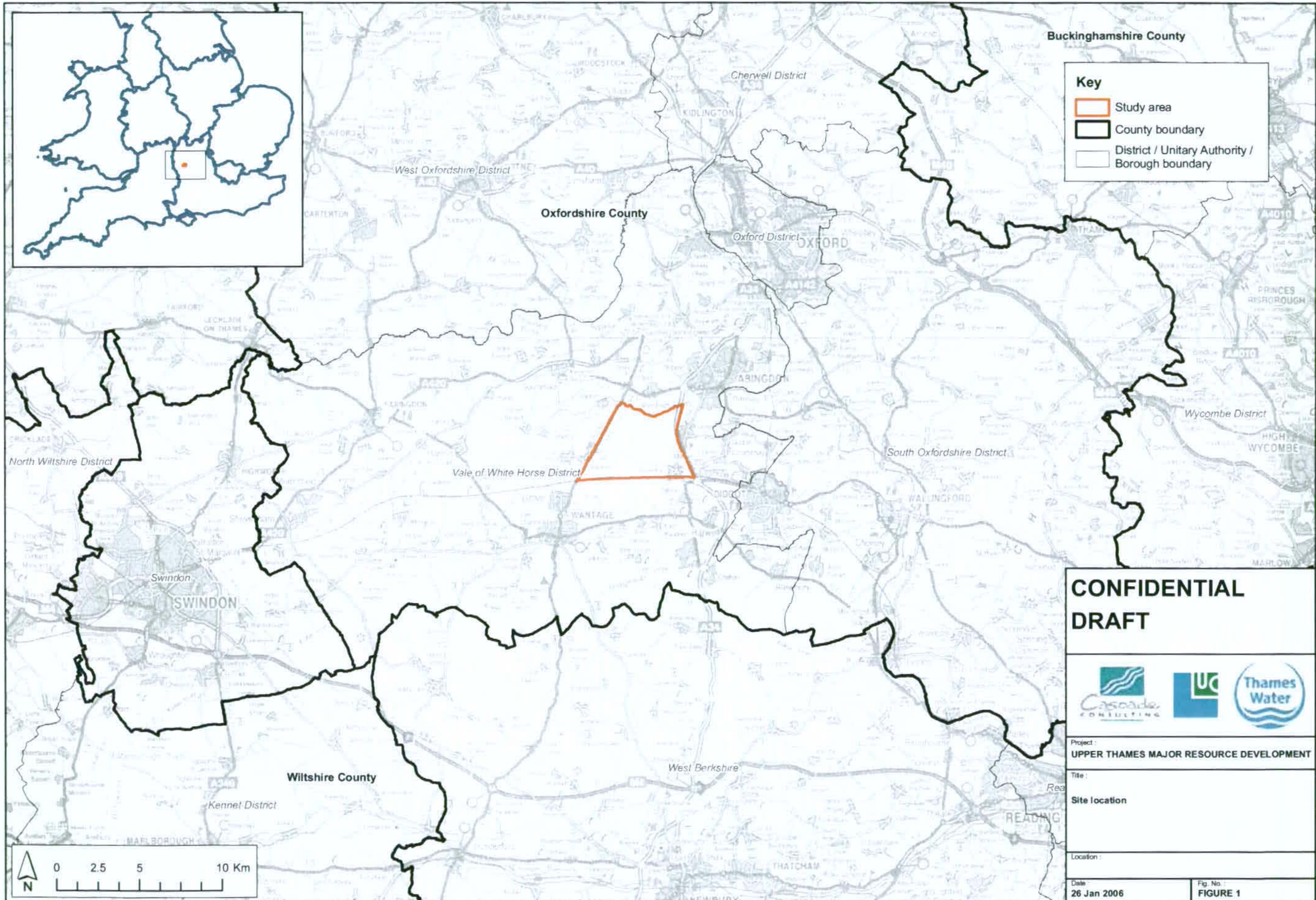
Oxford Archaeology (2000) Oxford Archaeology Environmental Sampling Guidelines. Internal Document.

Table A8.1: The results of the assessment of samples of charred plant remains.

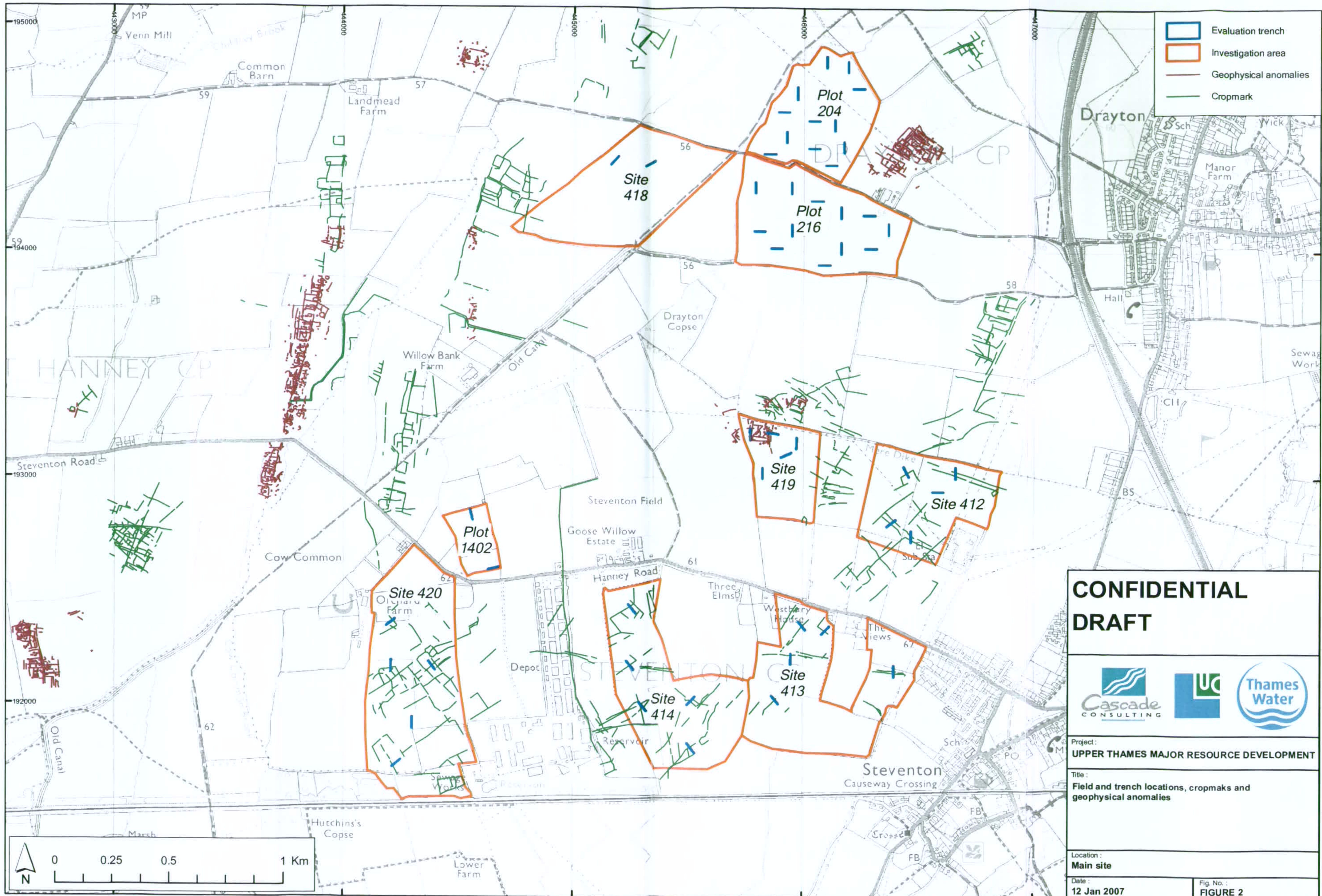
Sample no.	Context no.	Type of context	Period	Charcoal identification		Grain		Other Charred Remains		Notes
				Quantity	Identification	Quantity	Identification	Quantity	Identification	
1	4190306	Ditch	Mid 3rd- Late 4th century AD	++	Mainly <2mm	++	Spelt wheat Triticum spelta	+++	Bromus/Avena sp. Poa sp. + Vicia/Lathyrus sp. Atriplex Sp Lithospermum arvense	Rumex sp. + probably modern Insect larvae and elytra + Snails +++ Straw and grass frags
1001	1125	Ditch	undated			+++	Spelt wheat Triticum spelta (some germinated). Also spelt chaff	++	Bromus sp. Agrostemma githago, Tripleurospermum inodorum, Poaceae	White vitrified ash of uncertain origin

+ = present (up to 5 items), ++ = frequent (5-25), +++ = common (25-100), ++++ = abundant (>100)









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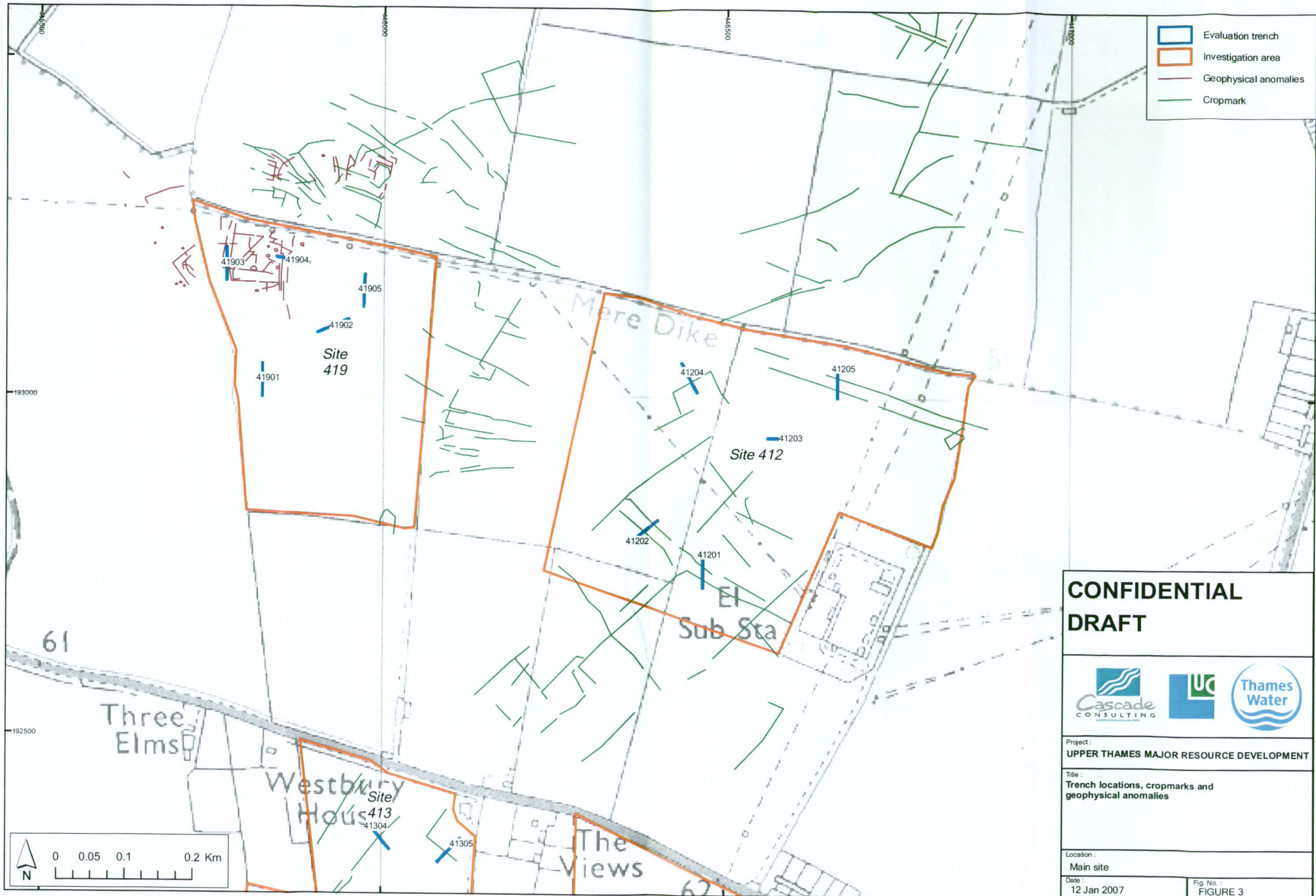
Title: **Field and trench locations, cropmarks and geophysical anomalies**

Location: **Main site**

Date: **12 Jan 2007**

Fig. No.: **FIGURE 2**





- Evaluation trench
- Investigation area
- Geophysical anomalies
- Cropmark

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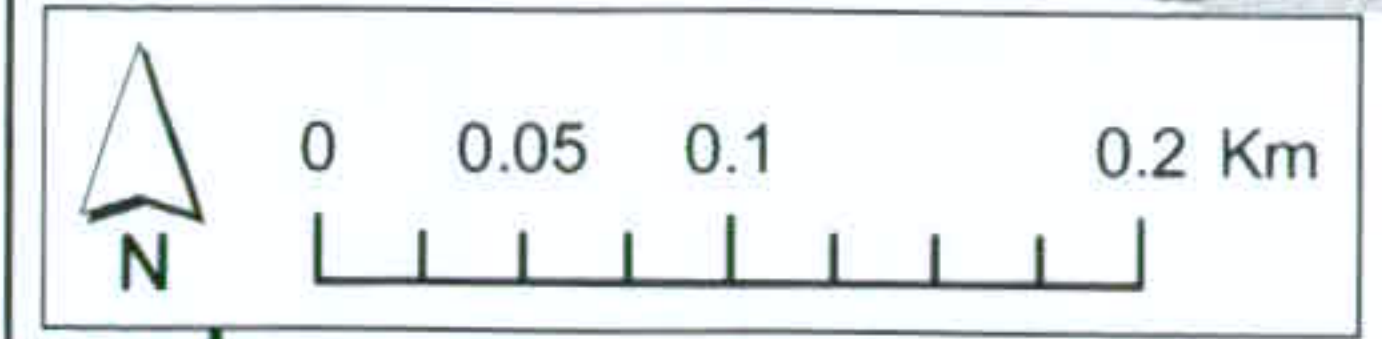
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**UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

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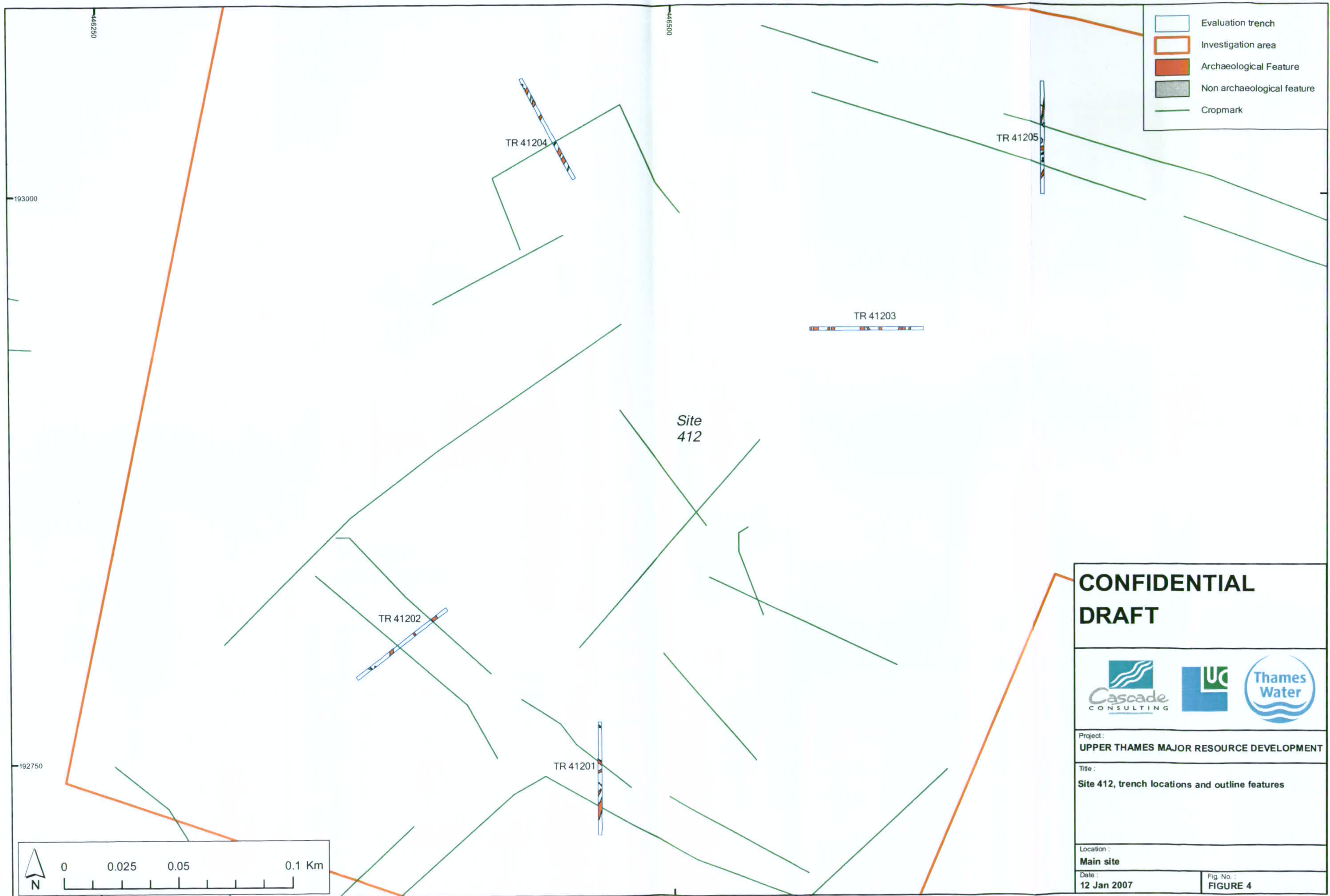
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**Main site**

Date:  
**12 Jan 2007**

Fig. No.:  
**FIGURE 3**







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Project :  
**UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Title :  
**Site 412, trench locations and outline features**

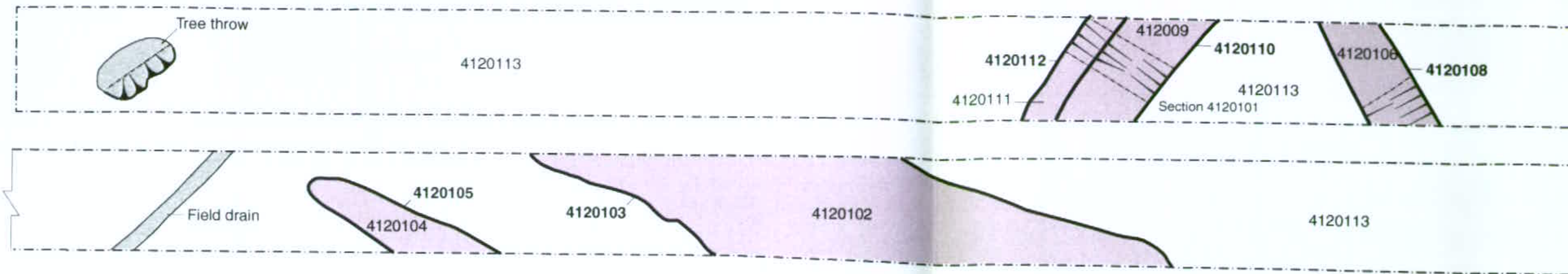
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**Main site**

Date :  
**12 Jan 2007**

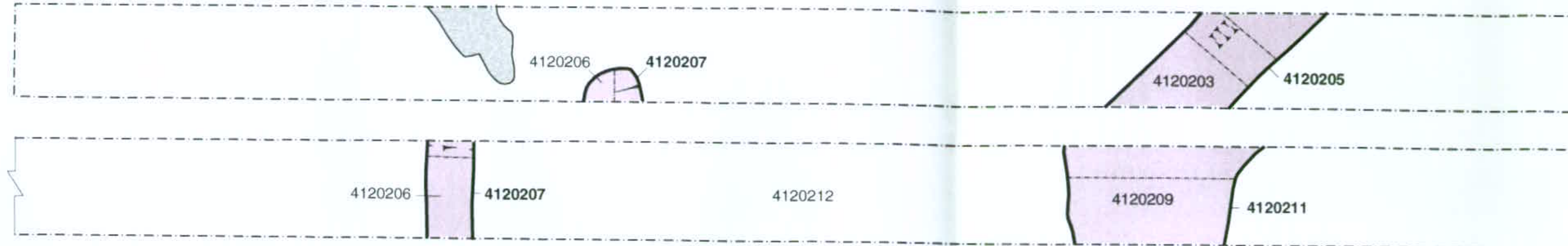
Fig. No. :  
**FIGURE 4**



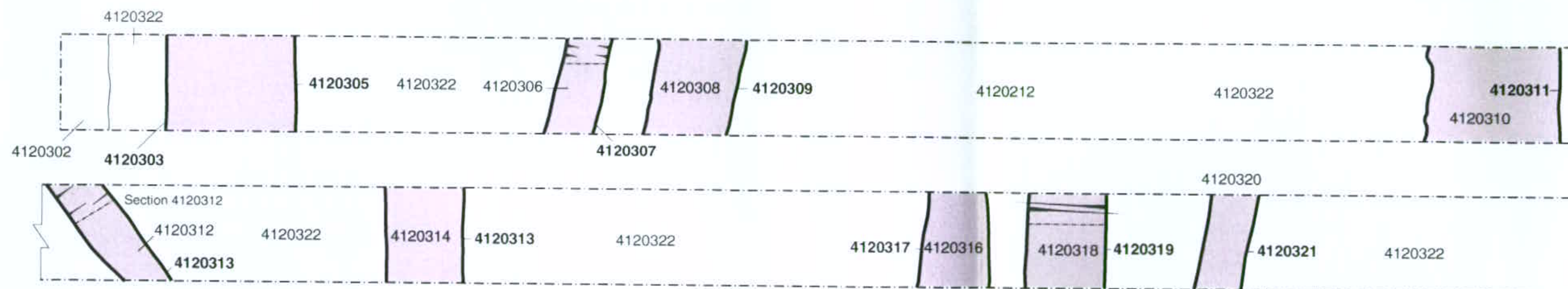
Trench 412.01



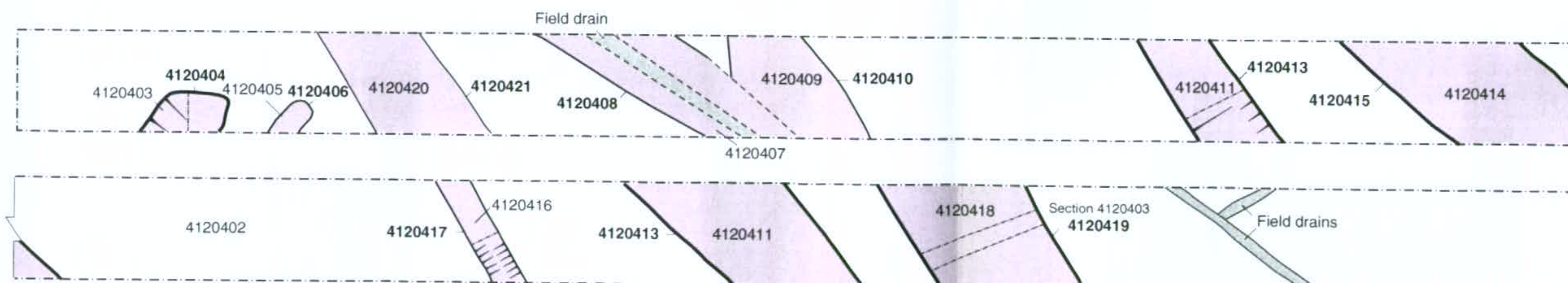
Trench 412.02



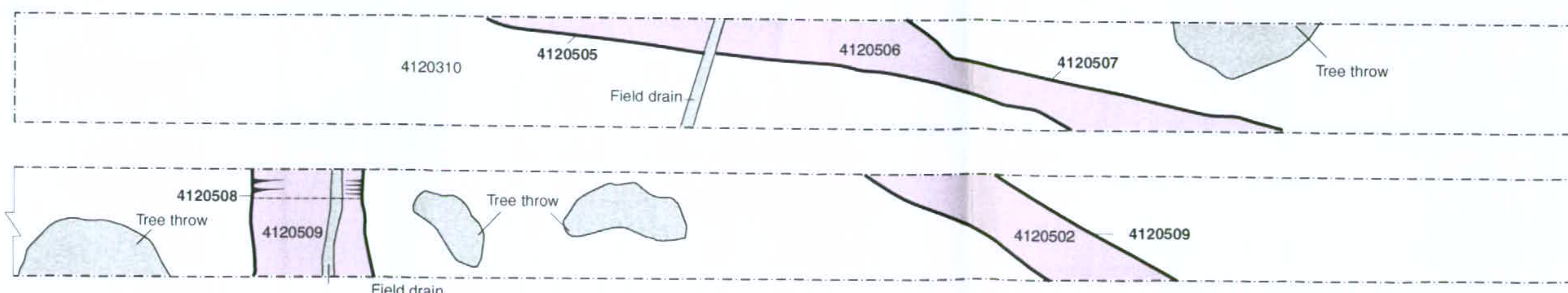
Trench 412.03



Trench 412.04



Trench 412.05



Key

- Archaeological features
- Non - archaeological features



Project:  
**UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Title: **UPPER THAMES RESERVOIR**

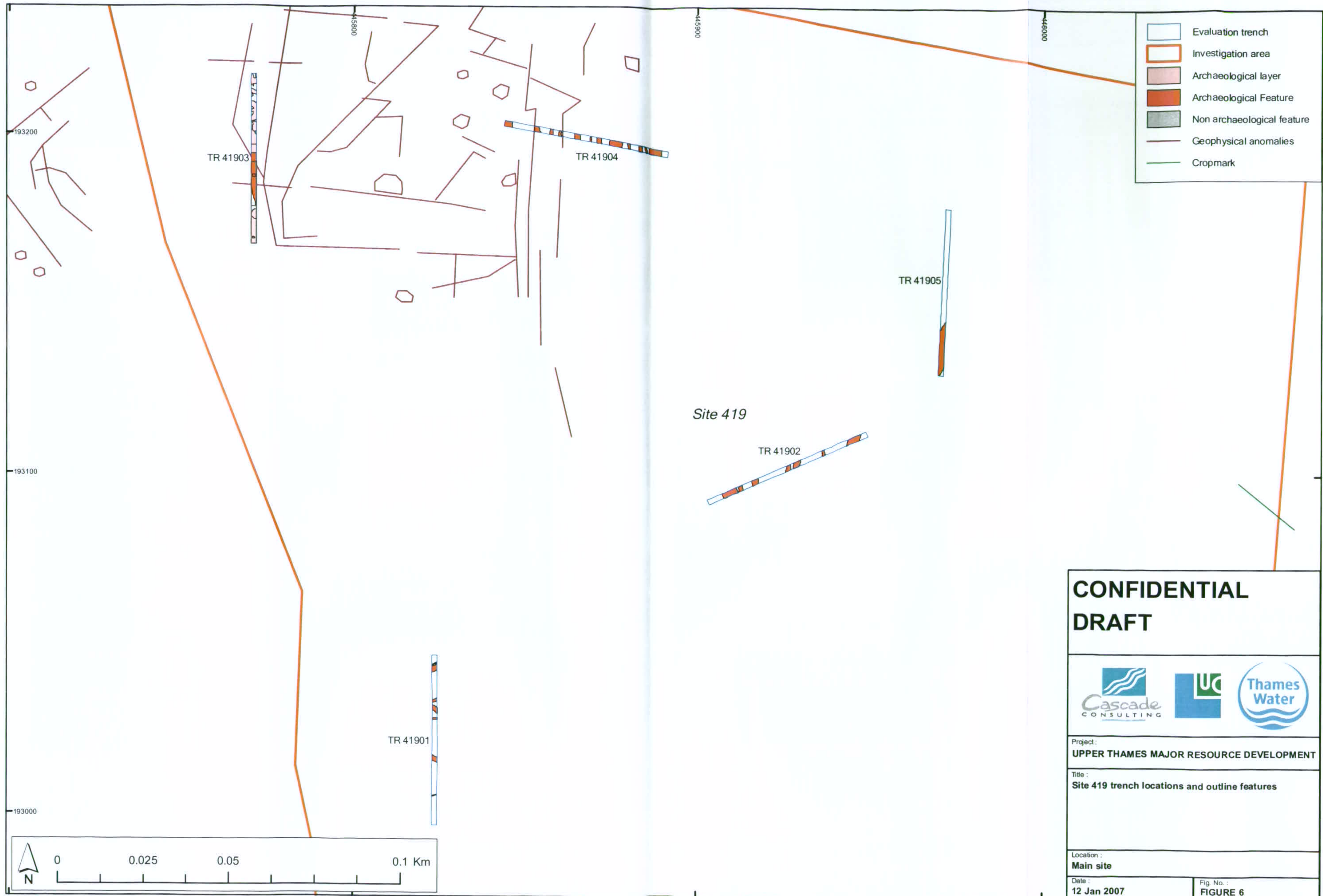
**Figure 5: Site 412, Trenches 412.01-5 detailed plans**

Location: Servergo/oaupubs1\_Rib2\SUTMRD-06\UTMRDEV\  
Upper Thames Major Resource Development\jm\*18.12.06


Date:  
**11 01 2007**

Fig. No.:  
**Figure 5**





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Project :  
**UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

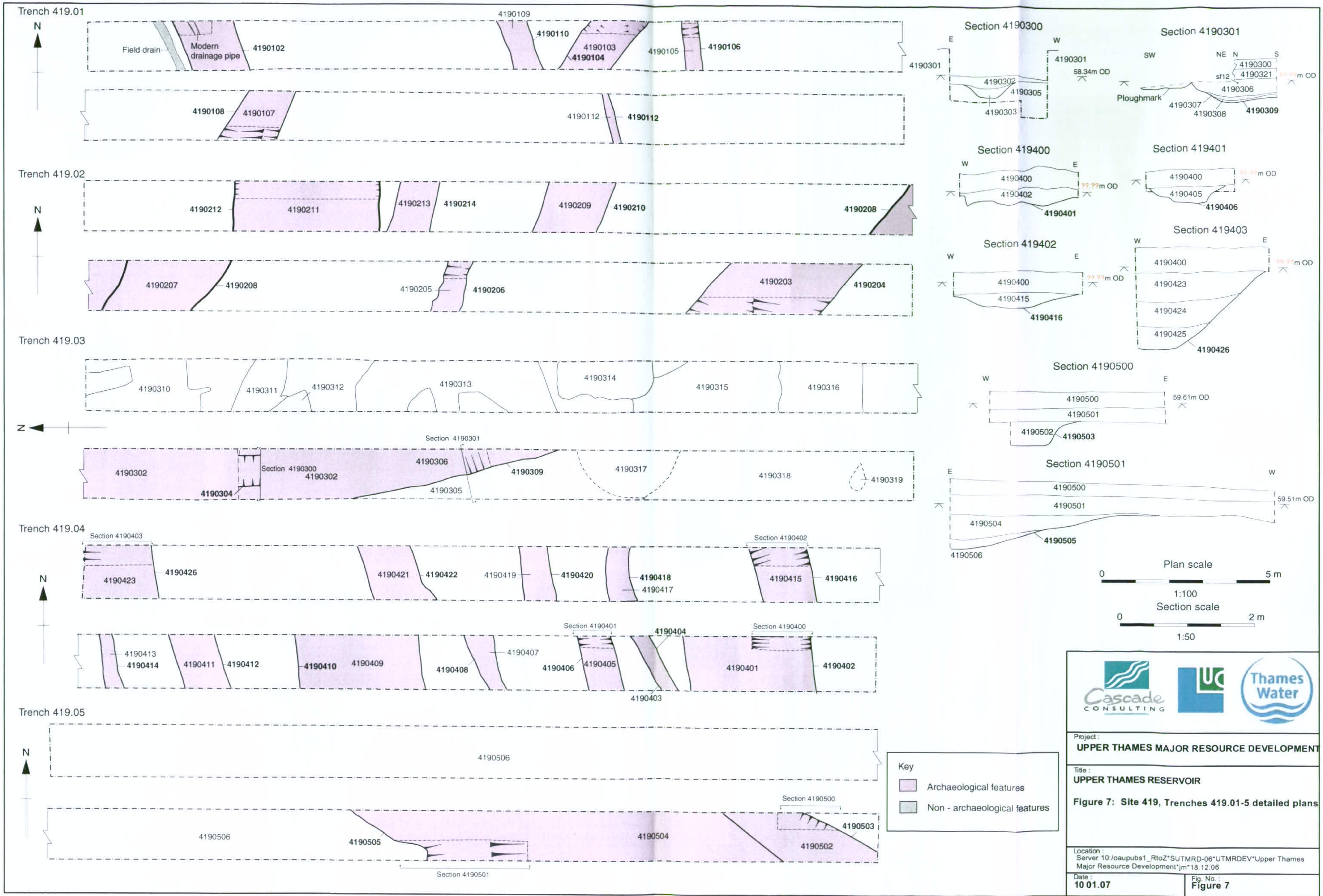
Title :  
**Site 419 trench locations and outline features**

Location :  
**Main site**

Date :  
**12 Jan 2007**

Fig. No. :  
**FIGURE 6**





**Project:**  
 UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**Title:**  
 UPPER THAMES RESERVOIR

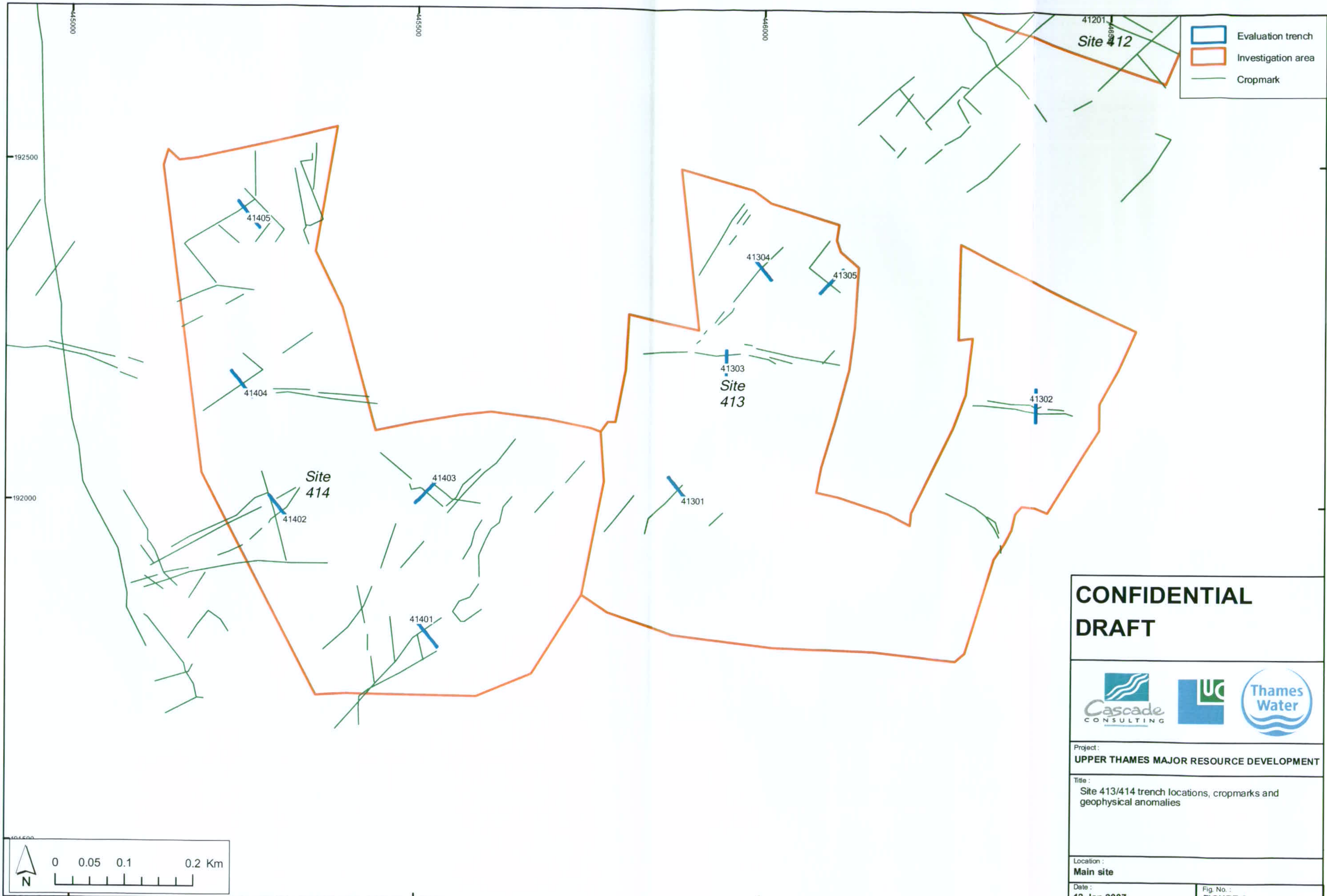
**Figure 7: Site 419, Trenches 419.01-5 detailed plans**

**Location:**  
 Server 10:/oaupubs1\_RtoZ\SUTMRD-06\UTMRDEV\Upper Thames Major Resource Development\jm\*18.12.06




**Date:** 10 01.07

**Fig. No.:** Figure 7





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Project:  
**UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

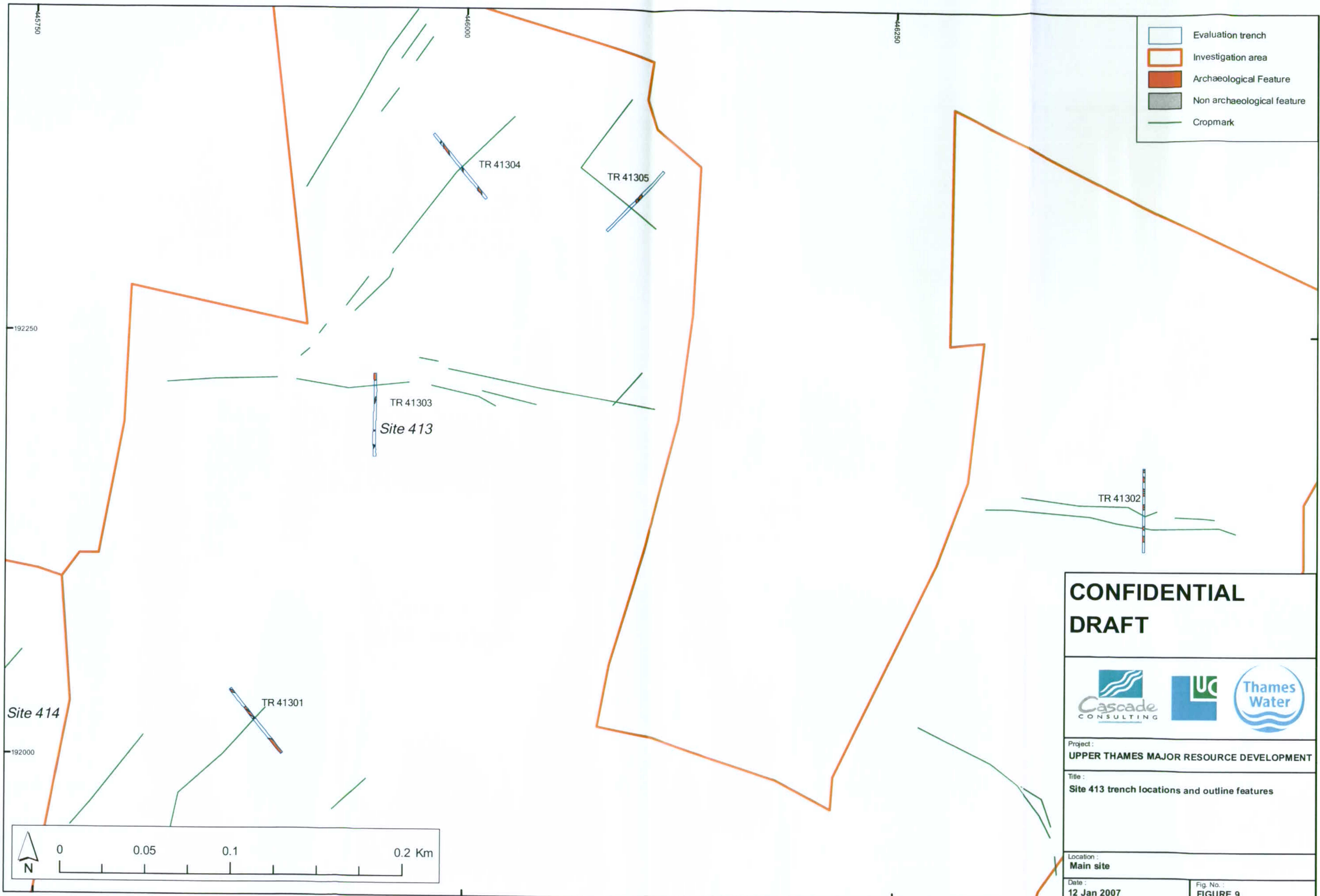
Title:  
Site 413/414 trench locations, cropmarks and geophysical anomalies

Location:  
**Main site**

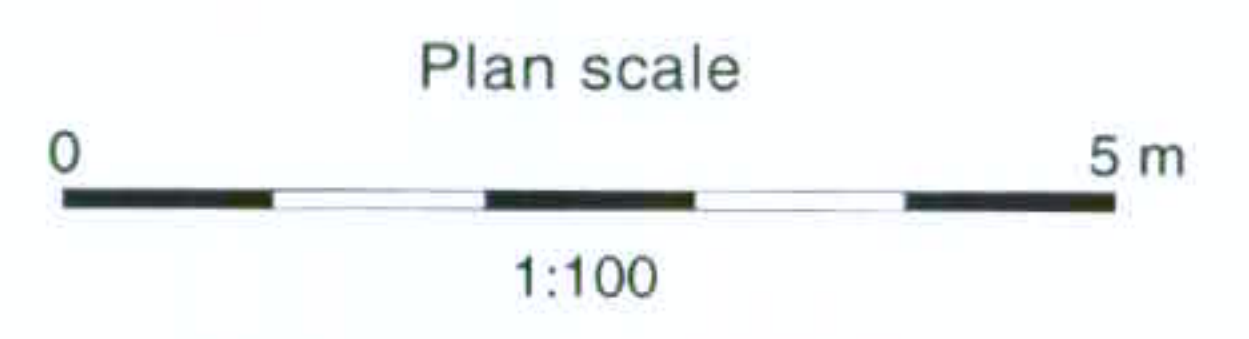
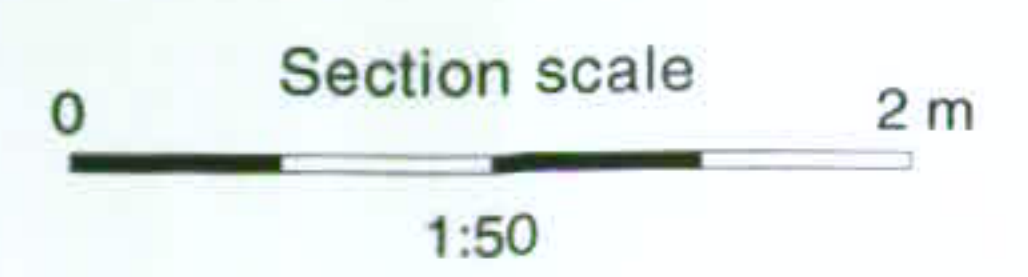
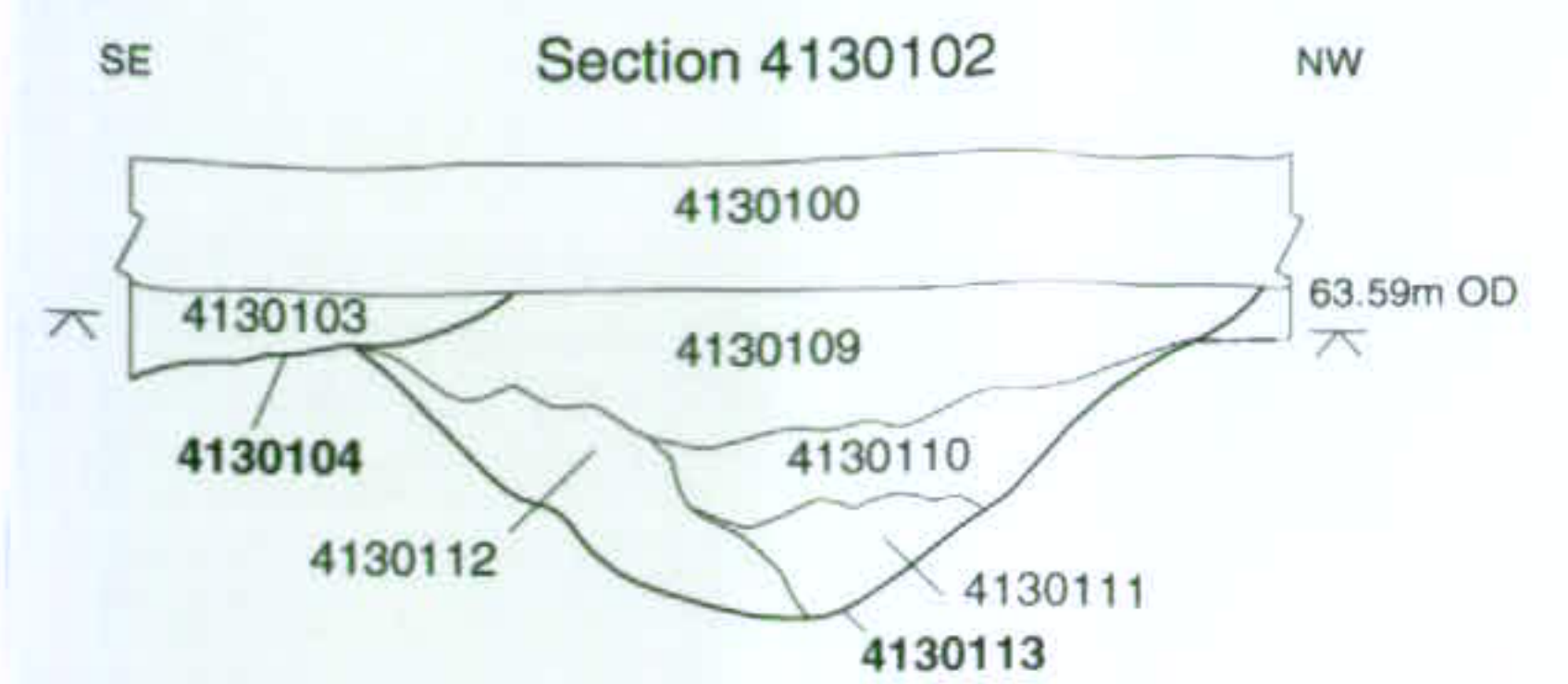
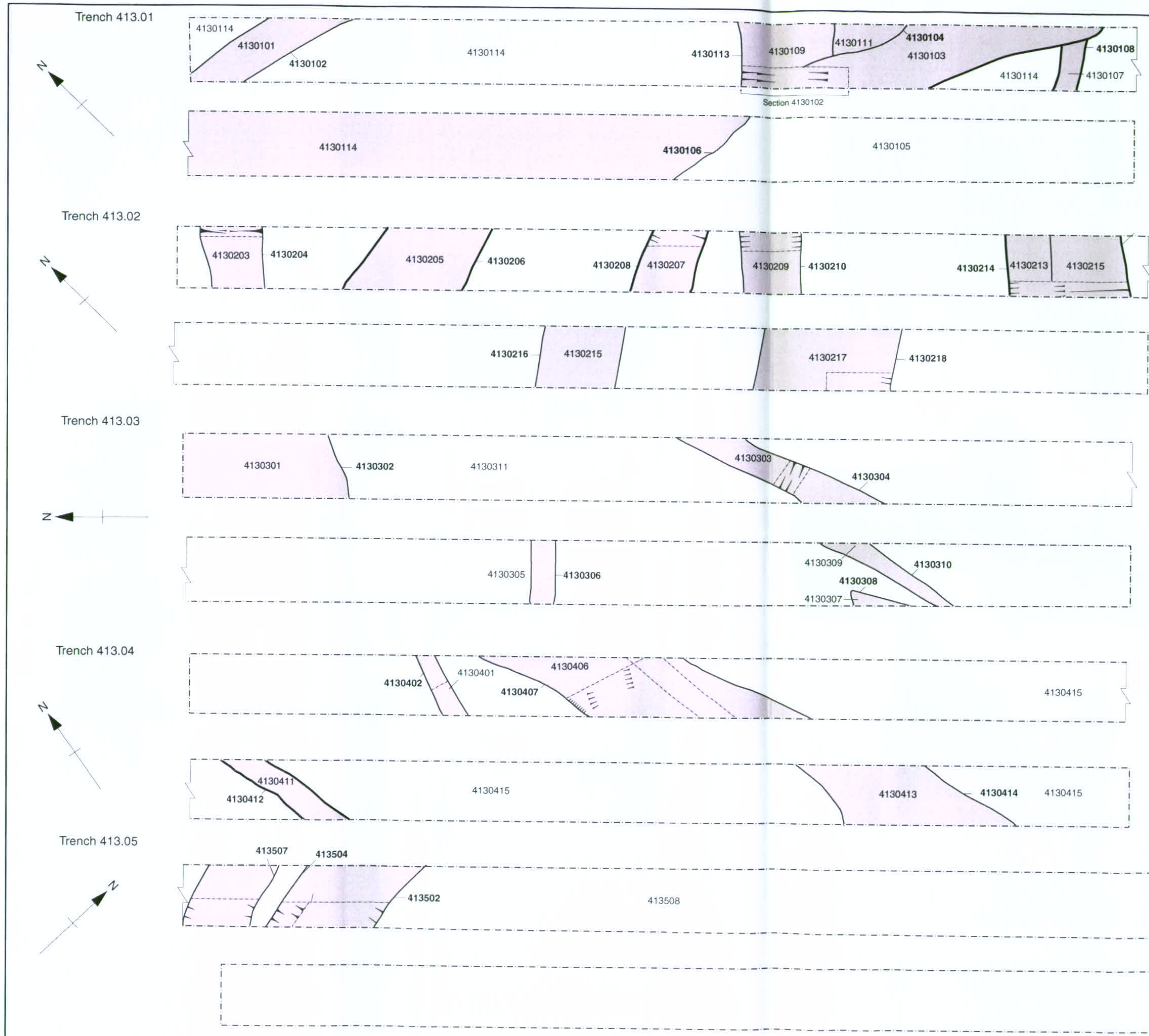
Date:  
**12 Jan 2007**

Fig. No.:  
**FIGURE 8**









Key	
	Archaeological features
	Non - archaeological features



Project : **UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Title : **UPPER THAMES RESERVOIR**

**Figure 10: Site 413, Trenches 413.01-5 detailed plans**

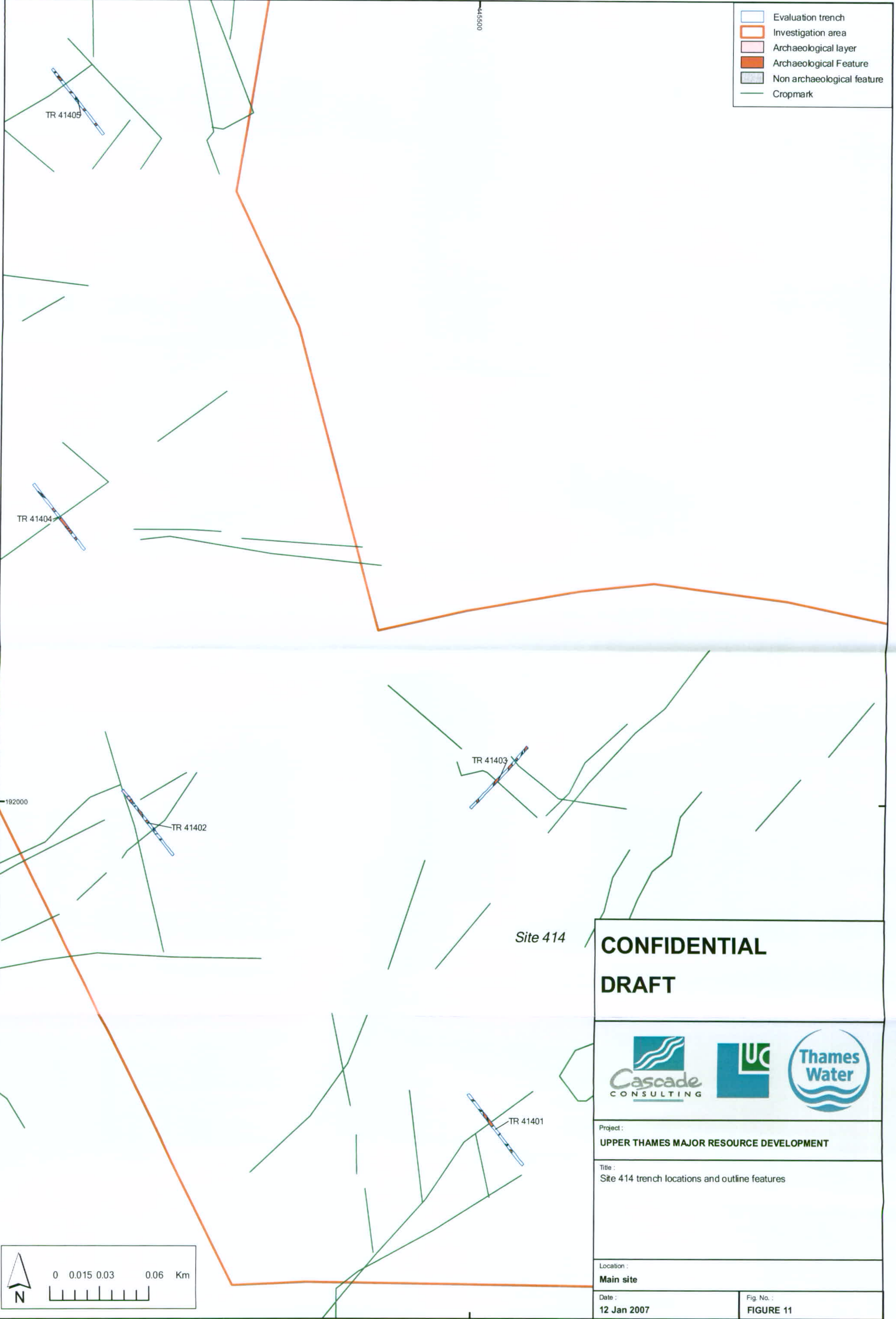
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Date : **10 1 2007**

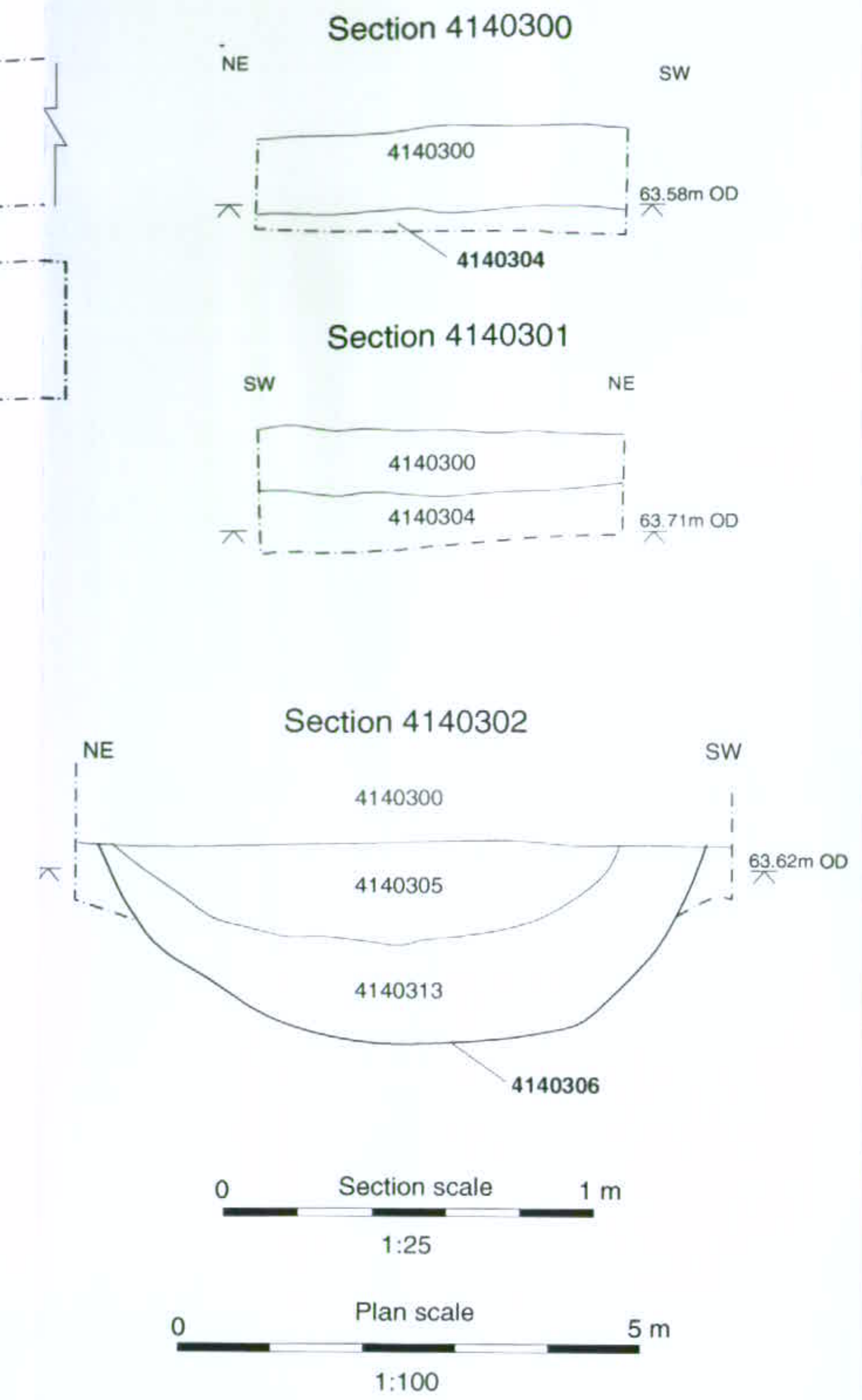
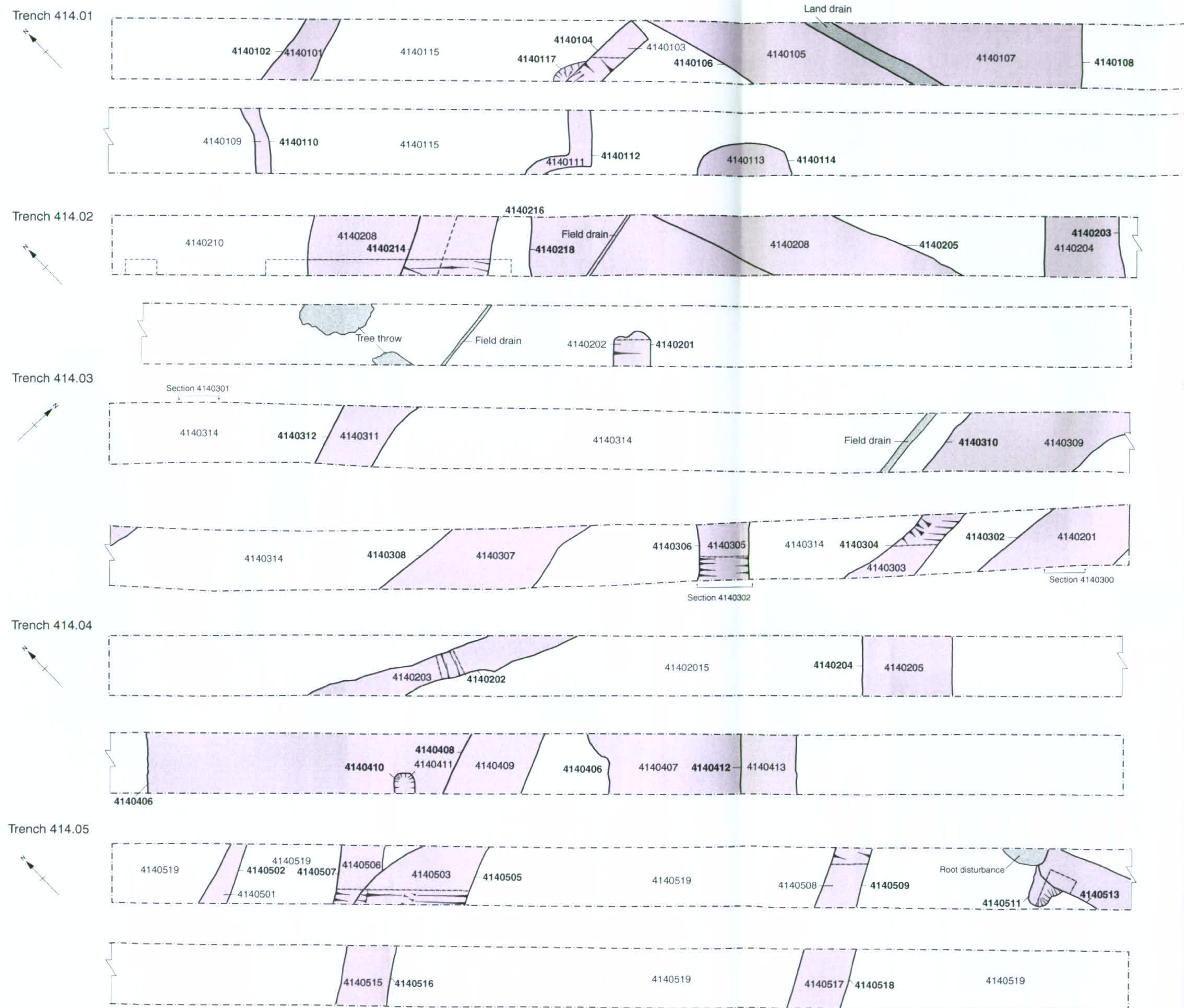
Fig. No. : **FIGURE 10**



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**Key**

- Archaeological features
- Non - archaeological features

**Project:**  
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**Title:**  
UPPER THAMES RESERVOIR

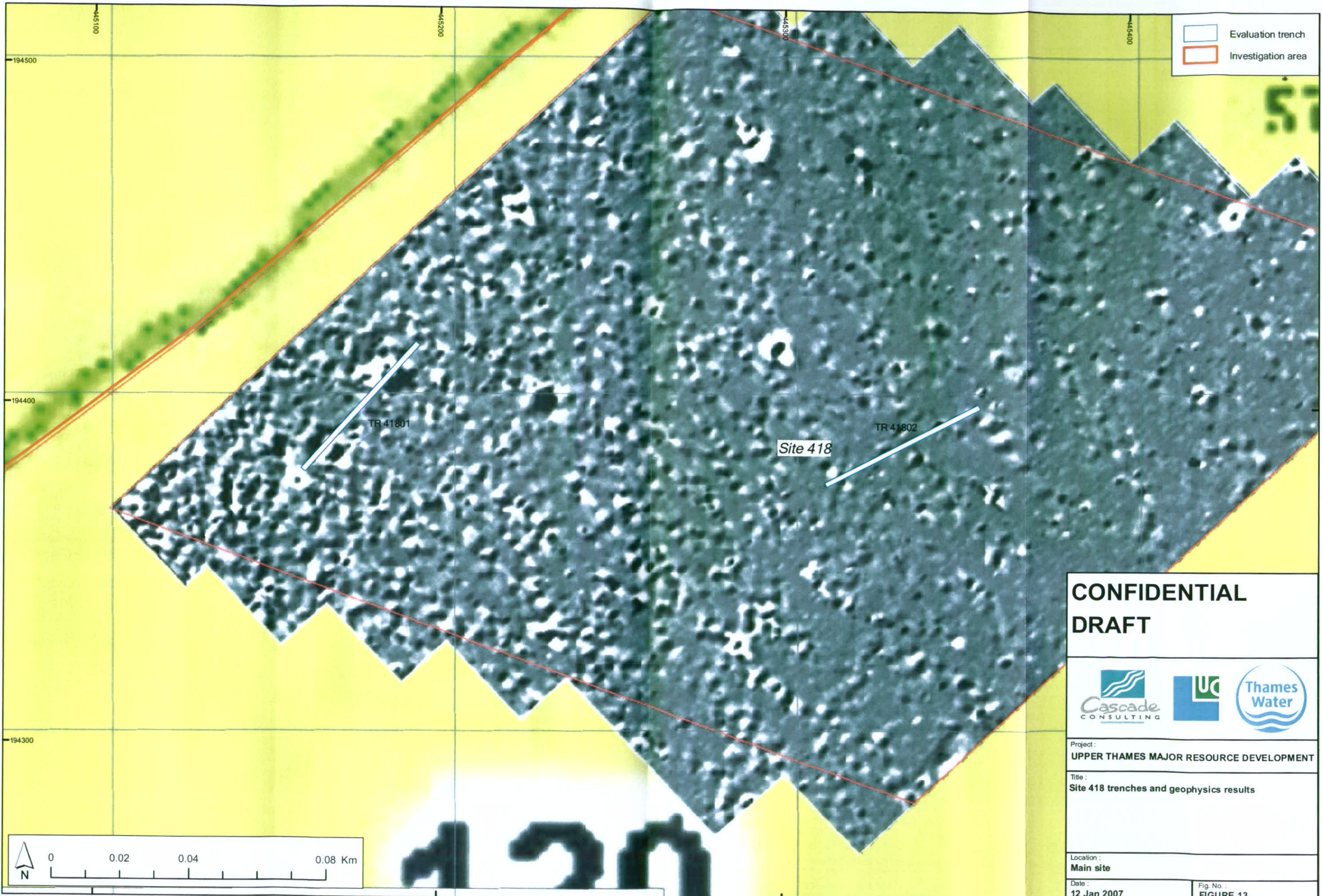
**Figure 12: Site 414, Trenches 414.01-5 detailed plans**

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**Location:**  
Server 10:/osupubs1\_RtoZ\SUTMRD-06\UTMRDEV\Upper Thames Major Resource Development\jm\*18.12.06

**Date:** 11 01 2007      **Fig. No.:** Figure 12





Evaluation trench  
 Investigation area

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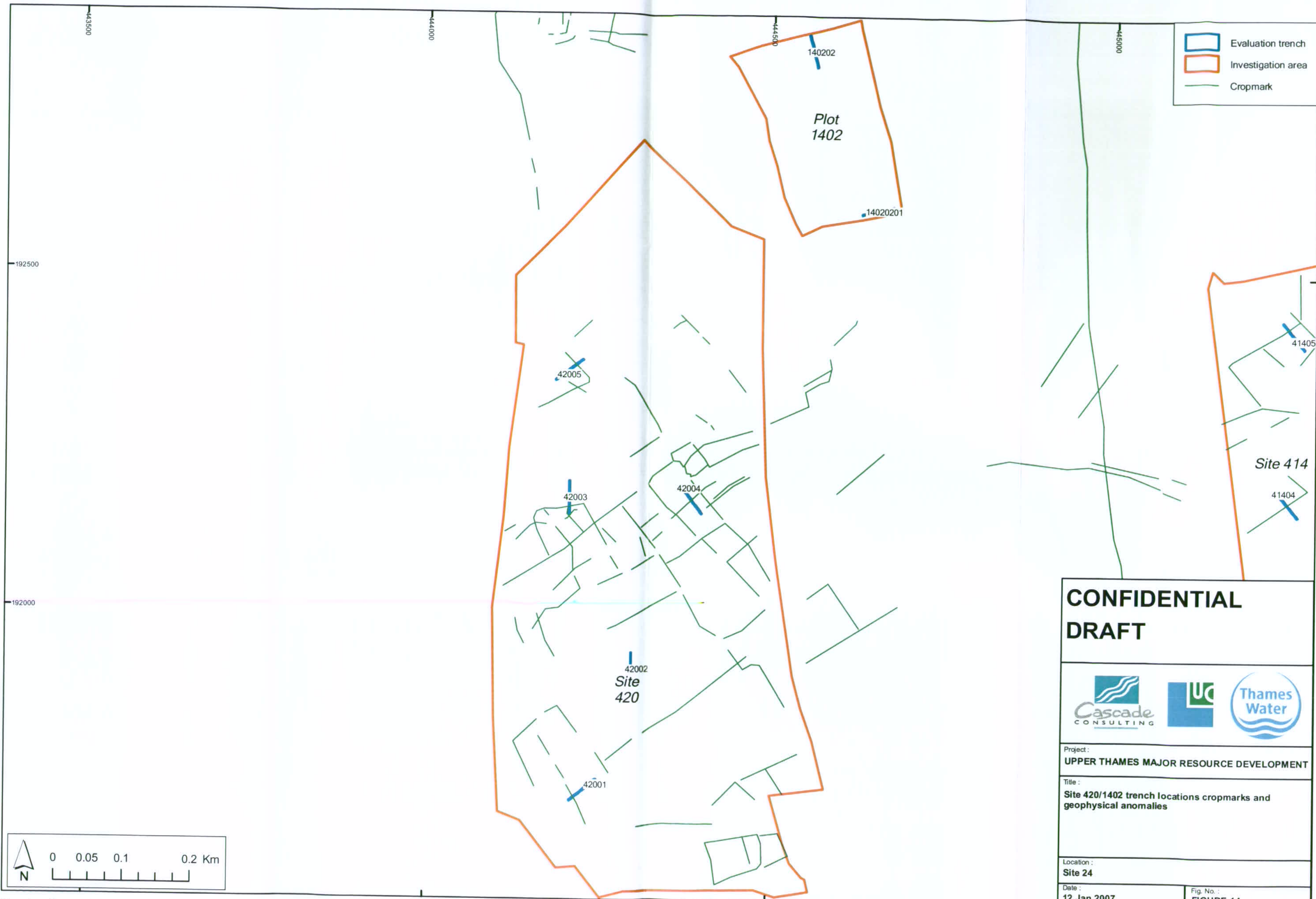
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**Site 418 trenches and geophysics results**

Location :  
**Main site**

Date :  
**12 Jan 2007**

Fig. No. :  
**FIGURE 13**





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Project:  
**UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Title:  
**Site 420/1402 trench locations cropmarks and geophysical anomalies**

Location:  
**Site 24**

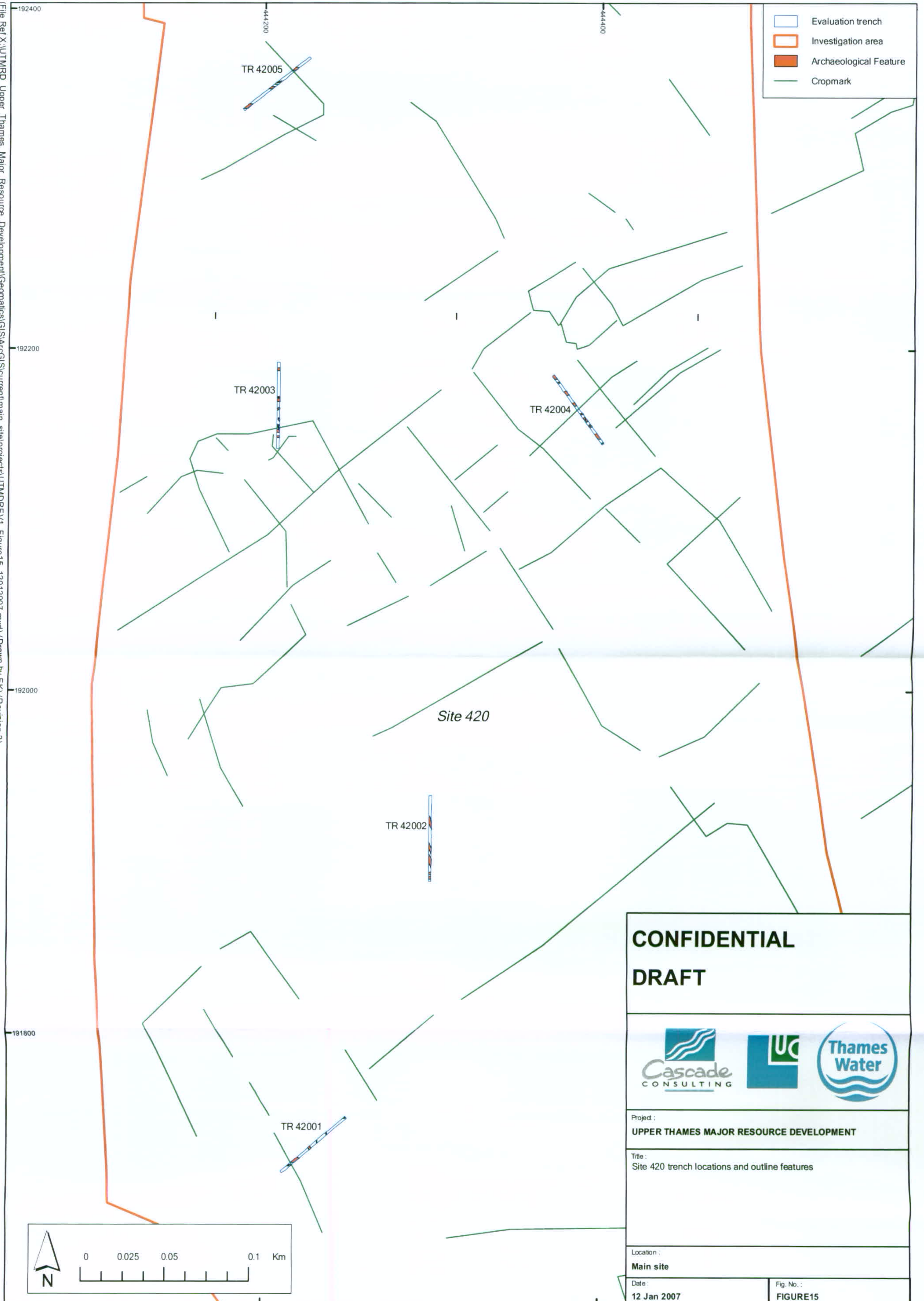
Date:  
**12 Jan 2007**

Fig. No.:  
**FIGURE 14**

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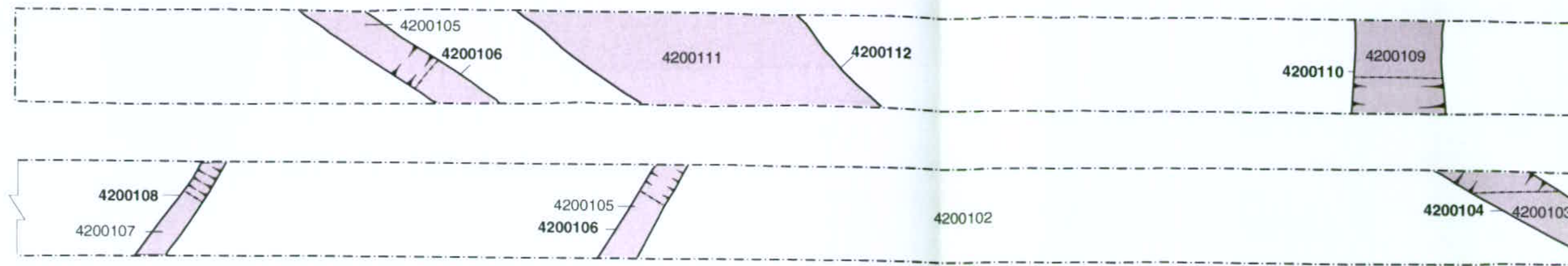


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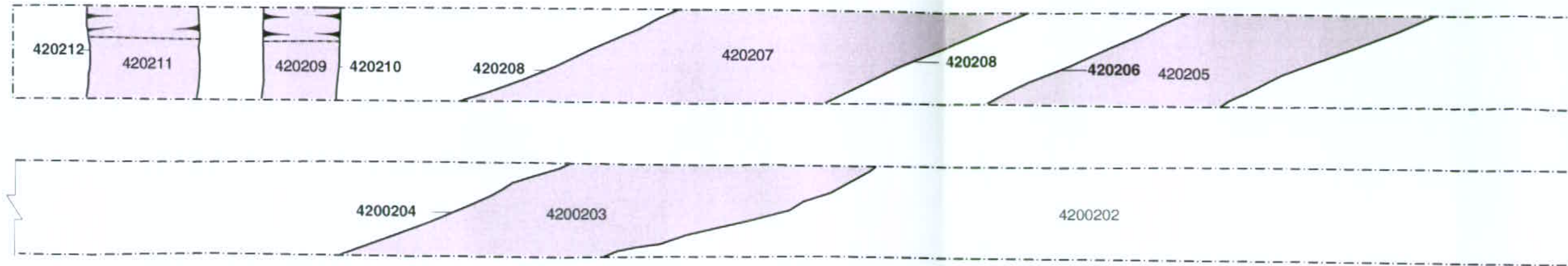




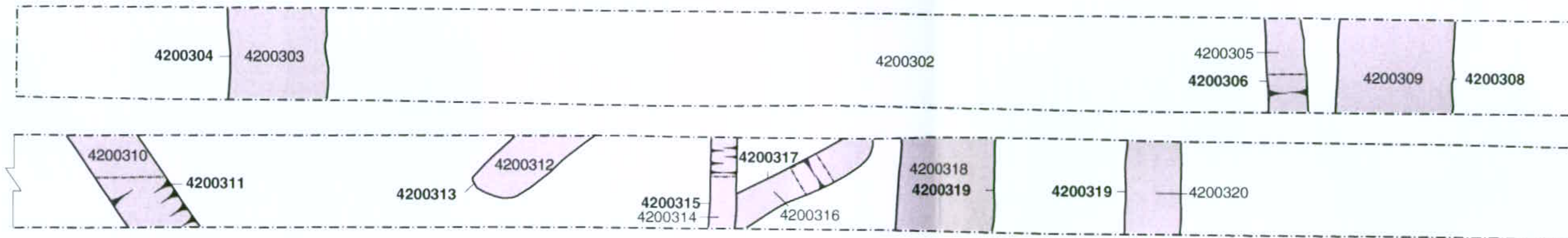
Trench 420.01



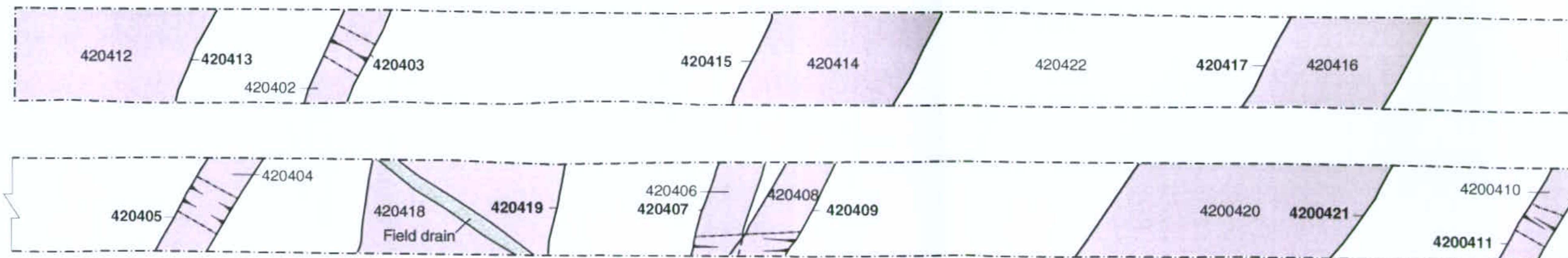
Trench 420.02



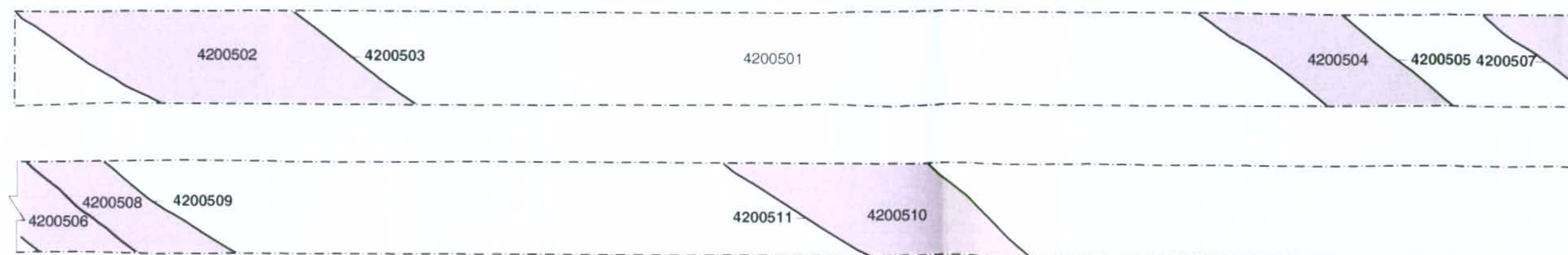
Trench 420.03



Trench 420.04



Trench 420.05



Key

- Archaeological features
- Non - archaeological features



Project :  
**UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Title : **UPPER THAMES RESERVOIR**

**Figure 16: Site 420, Trenches 420.01-5 detailed plans**

Location : Servergo\oapubs1\_RtoZ\SUTMRD-06\UTMRDEV\Upper Thames Major Resource Development\m\*18.12.06

Date :  
**11 01 2007**

Fig. No. :  
**Figure 16**





Trench 1402.01



Trench 1402.02



Key

-  Archaeological features
-  Non - archaeological features



Project: <b>UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Title: <b>UPPER THAMES RESERVOIR</b>	
Figure 17: Site 1402, Trenches 1402.01-2 detailed plans	
Location: Server 10:\oapubs1_RtoZ\SUTMRD-06\UTMRDEV\Upper Thames Major Resource Development\jm*18 12 06	
Date: <b>11 01 2007</b>	Fig No.: <b>Figure 17</b>



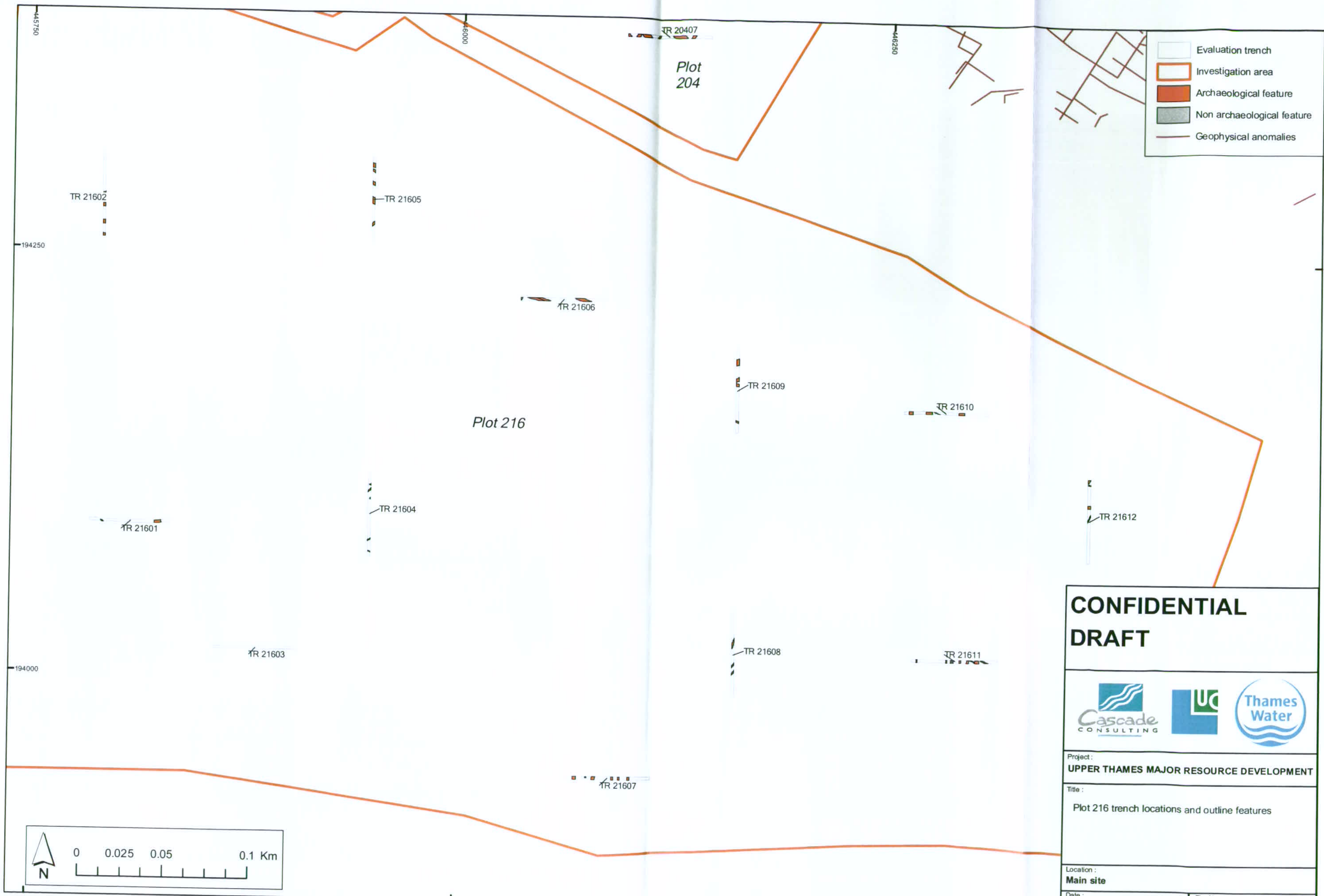


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Project: <b>UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Title: Plot 204 trench locations and outline features	
Location: <b>Main site</b>	
Date: <b>12 Jan 2007</b>	Fig. No.: <b>FIGURE 18</b>





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Project:  
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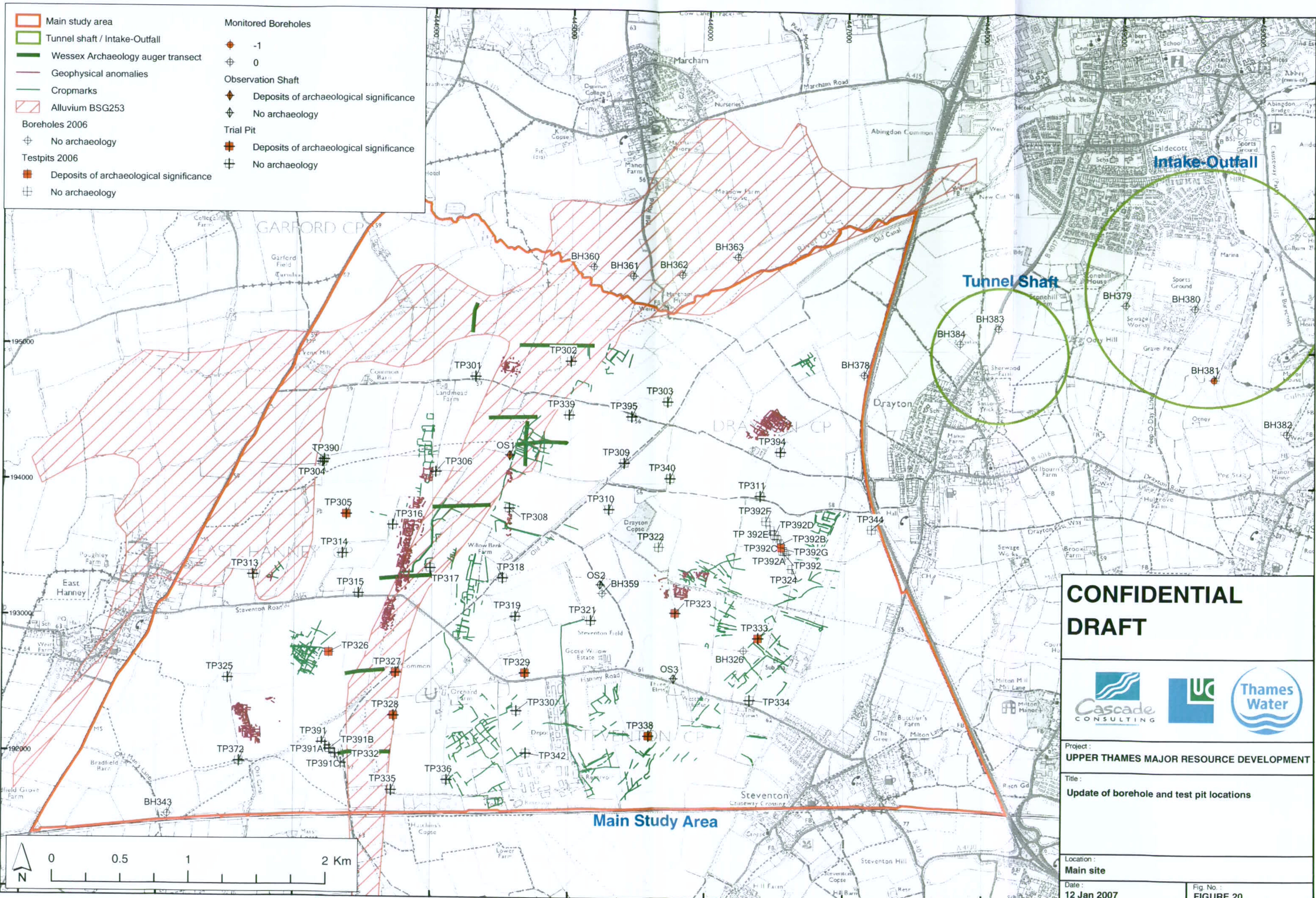
Title:  
Plot 216 trench locations and outline features

Location:  
**Main site**

Date:  
**12 Jan 2007**

Fig. No. :  
**FIGURE 19**





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Cascade CONSULTING UC Thames Water

Project: **UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Title: **Update of borehole and test pit locations**

Location: **Main site**

Date: **12 Jan 2007** Fig. No.: **FIGURE 20**





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### 5.2.3 Charred Plant Remains

A full charred plant remains report including tables is included in Appendix 8.

Two samples were taken during the evaluation for the recovery of charred plant remains from a ditch fill on Site 419. The volume of sample 1 (context number - 4190306) was 40 litres and sample 2 (context number 4190308) - about 10 litres. While context 4190308 was devoid of datable finds, the fill is likely to be of a similar period to context 4190306 which has been dated to the later Roman period.

The flots assessed varied in size, flot volume from sample 1 was 35ml, while the flot from sample 2 was 60ml. The quantity of charred plant material was low and the preservation was moderate to poor in sample 1. A few examples of grain were recorded, some identified as spelt (*Triticum spelta*). Other taxa recorded in sample 1 were: *Avena/Bromus* (oats/brome grass), *Rumex* sp. (docks), *Vicia* sp./*Lathyrus* sp. (vetches) and *Atriplex* sp. (orache), *Lithospermum arvense* (field gromwell), *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (scentless mayweed).

Plant material in sample 2 was abundant and the preservation varied from good to poor. The flot was rich in charred cereal grain consisting largely of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and possibly occasional other cereal species unidentified due to poor preservation. A large amount of spelt chaff was recorded. A small quantity of charred weed seeds was also present in the flot, including seeds from *Bromus* sp. (brome), *Agrostemma githago* (corncockle), and *Poa* sp. (meadow grass). Sample 2 also contained quantities of a white ashy material of uncertain origin.

Finds from the residues comprised animal bone, hammerscale, iron and small quantities of marine shell. All residue finds will be added to the finds compendium.

## 6 SUMMARY SITE RESULTS

✓ 6.1 SITE 412 <sup>SU465 928</sup> <sup>PNW26413</sup> <sup>BOX 2888</sup>

The results of evaluation on Site 412 indicate that the mapped crop marks on this site largely relate to medieval - post medieval agricultural management features such as ridge and furrow (still visible as undulations in the field) trackway ditches, small field division ditches and drainage ditches.



Elements of earlier (prehistoric?) field system features are implied by the retrieval of some abraded prehistoric pottery and occasional linear features at notably different alignments to the majority of the features. The sparse finds and lack of structural or activity features does not suggest intensive occupation of the site in any period.

**6.2 SITE 413** SU459 923 PRN 26414 EOX 2890

Similarly to Site 412 the results of evaluation on Site 413 indicate that many of the mapped crop marks on this site relate to medieval - post medieval agricultural management features such as ridge and furrow (still visible as undulations in the field), trackway ditches, small field division ditches and drainage ditches.

Elements of earlier (Roman?) linear features are implied by the retrieval of some Roman coarse ware and occasional linear features at notably different alignments to the majority of the features. The sparse finds and general lack of structural or activity features does not suggest intensive occupation of the site in any period, and may indicate a succession of field systems with potentially early origins. No finds were retrieved from a possible ditched enclosure to the north of the site and this remains undated.

**6.3 SITE 414** SU455920 PRN 26422 EOX 2911

The majority of features revealed on this site were furrow and field boundaries dating to the medieval-post medieval period.

A possible early Iron Age ditch was identified in Trench 414.03, this was aligned north-west, south-east and corresponded to a mapped crop mark. This suggests the presence of field systems pre-dating the ubiquitous medieval-post medieval arrangements.

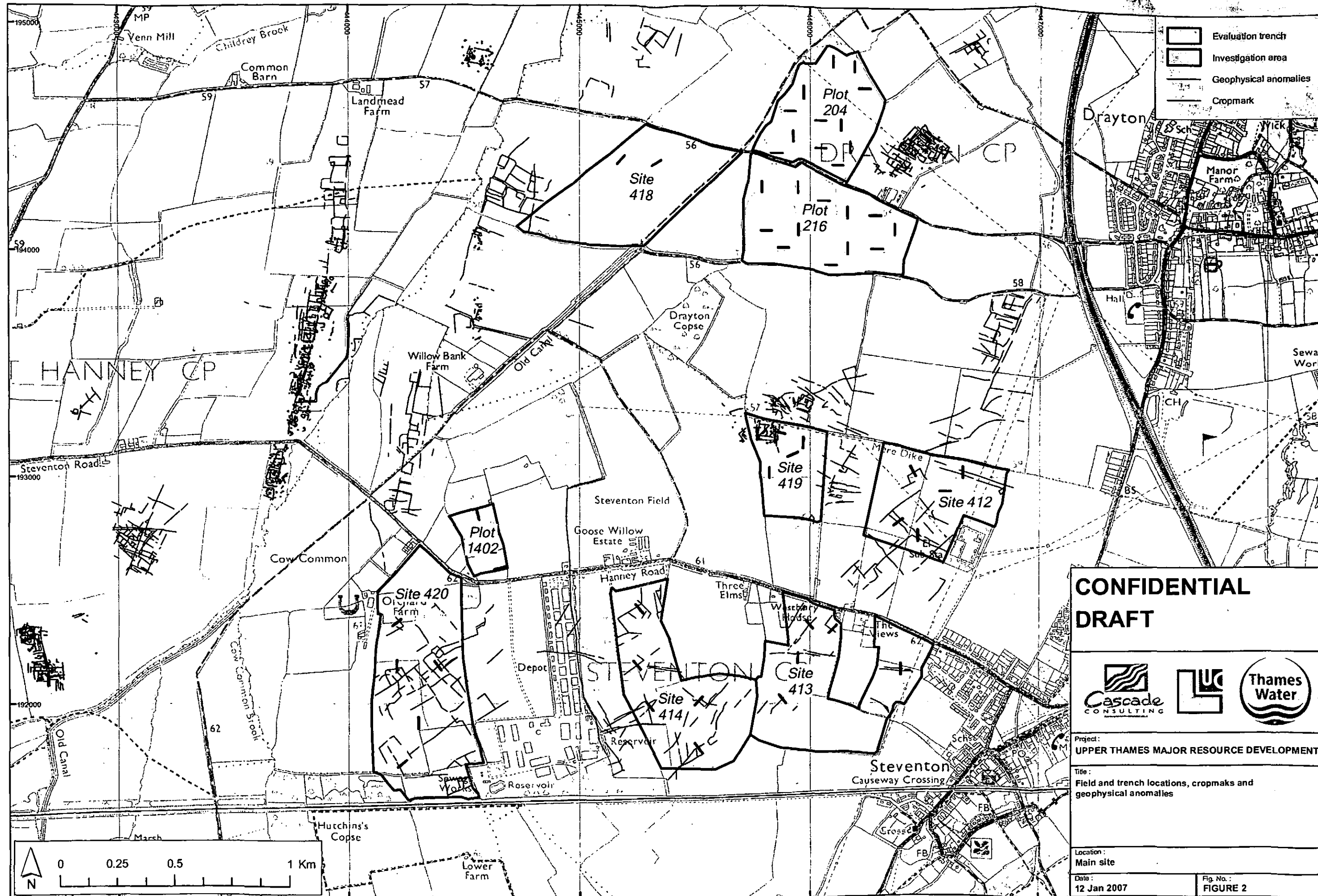
✓ **6.4 SITE 418** SU453944 EOX 2815

No archaeological remains were found within Site 418. It is therefore likely that anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey relate to silt forming in hollows in the natural geology.




✓ **6.5 SITE 419** SU458931 EOX 2880 PRN 26410

Dense Roman occupation features were revealed in Trench 419.03. The combination of crop marks, pottery, building material (including roofing tegula and imbrices as well as box and flue tiles implying the presence of a hypocaust

Handwritten note: Add EOX 2880 to map



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Project: UPPER THAMES MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
 Title: Field and trench locations, cropmarks and geophysical anomalies  
 Location: Main site  
 Date: 12 Jan 2007  
 Fig. No.: FIGURE 2



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system) all suggest the presence of a villa building. The wide, shallow feature in trench 419.05 has been tentatively interpreted as a hollow-way, and the recovery of a possibly articulated human arm from this feature should be noted. The remaining trenches revealed medieval- post medieval furrows and a number of undated linear features. This suggests that the area of the villa structure is approximately defined by the mapped crop-marks. It is reasonable to expect that ancillary structures and livestock enclosures will exist near to the villa and these would then give way to larger field system features and possibly associated trackways in radial proximity to the main structure.

## 6.6 SITE 420

All of the features revealed within this site appeared to be associated with medieval-post-medieval agricultural land use.

## 6.7 PLOT 204 SU 460 946 EOX 2817

The majority of the features revealed within this site appeared to be associated with medieval-post-medieval agricultural land use. A single ditch in Trench 204.09 contained a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery and may indicate the presence of field system features pre-dating the medieval -post medieval period.

## 6.8 PLOT 216 SU 460 941 EOX 2816 PRN 26412

The majority of the features revealed in Plot 216 appear to be associated with medieval-post-medieval land use. Two undated pits and an undated posthole in Trench 216.04 as well as an undated trackway in trench 216.11 may indicate earlier activity.

## 6.9 PLOT 1402 EOX 2887 PRN 26411

Trench 1402.01 identified a pit and a feature tentatively interpreted as a hollow-way, both possibly dating to the late Bronze Age period. Trench 1402.02 identified an undated, curving feature, suggestive of a pre-historic roundhouse drip gully.

# 7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

## 7.1 EVIDENCE OF OCCUPATION SITES

Evidence of occupation was revealed in Site 419 where the mapped crop marks represent a probable villa site, and potentially (though less clearly) at Site 1402 where a late Bronze Age pit and a possible drip gully suggest