

Church Lane Ravenstone Leicestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD EXCAVATION



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1993

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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CONTENTS

	Summary	3
1	Introduction	4
2	Site Location	5
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	6
4	Aims and Methods	8
5	Results	9
6	Pottery <i>Paul Blinkhorn</i>	13
7	Discussion	18
8	Conclusions	19
	Acknowledgements	20
	References	21

TABLES

1	Phase 2 features	9
2	Phase 3 features	10
3	Phase 4 features	11
4	Ceramic Phase Chronology, Occurrence and Defining Wares	15
5	Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the total weight per phase, major fabrics only	15

PHOTOGRAPHS

1	Disturbance to front of site, looking SW	24
2	Access Road, looking north	24
3	Pit 18, looking NE	25
4	Green-glazed roof tile	25
5	Wall 8 in Area B, looking north	26
6	Gullies 41 and 43, looking north	26
7	Gully 32, looking SE	
8	Gully 55, looking SE	
9	Cistern, probably contemporary with the school	27
10	Pipkin from context 5	27
11	Potterhanworth Ware	28
12	Jug from context 4	29

APPENDICES

- A Pottery Catalogue
- B Finds List
- C Oasis Form

FIGURES

- 1 Site Location and Historic Environment Information
- 2 Location of strip, map and record areas
- 3 Area A
- 4 Area B
- 5 Sections A-O
- 6 Sections P-U

SUMMARY

Archaeology Warwickshire carried out an archaeological excavation at Church Lane Ravenstone on behalf of Cameron Homes. Trial trenching had identified a hint of Roman period activity and medieval settlement remains that related to properties along Church Lane.

The excavations revealed a sequence of boundaries at right angles to Church Lane which were probably formally laid out as property boundaries in the 13th century. They continued to be used until at least 1550. Continuity of use following this period is uncertain as the settlement may have shrunk and the land subsumed into pasture. The areas examined were a section across the back plots of at least 4 properties.

A small number of pits were examined although none of them yielded any evidence of function. Pottery from their fills was largely consistent with that found in the boundary features.

The northernmost boundary alignment was re-established by the 19th century. The appearance of the school may account for the open field shown on late 19th-century mapping. The construction of the Victorian school on the frontage of Church Lane had resulted in the removal of any potential archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission was granted by North West Leicestershire District Council for a residential development of 27 dwellings including the demolition / conversion of a former school on land off Church Lane, Ravenstone, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 2AE.
- 1.2 A pre-determination field evaluation carried out by Archaeology Warwickshire (Gethin 2014) had revealed probable property boundaries associated with the original layout of the medieval village and a hint of early Roman activity at the Church Lane end of the site.
- 1.3 A condition of the planning permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Planning Authority.
- 1.4 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake mitigation works including the photographic recording of the Old School and a programme of excavation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample (Archaeology Warwickshire 2015).
- 1.5 The fieldwork was carried out in March 2015 and this report represents the results of that work.
- 1.6 The project will be archived under Leicestershire Museum accession number X.A140.2014.
- 1.7 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for archaeological excavation 2014.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The development site lies on the northern edge of the village of Ravenstone in north-west Leicestershire (Fig 1).

- 2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Tarporley Siltstone Formation or Bromsgrove mudstone formation (BGS 2014).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A probable Bronze Age pit alignment visible on aerial photography from 2006 (including google earth) c.250m north of the site (Leicestershire Historic Environment no. MLE7259) suggests that the area was part of an active landscape in the 1st Millennium BC. The absence of evidence for Roman activity might be taken to suggest that settlement was not static at this time and indeed that the site developed amid heathland is attested by the nearby place names such as Normanton-le-heath.
- 3.2 Nevertheless, the site is within the historic settlement core of Ravenstone (MLE4831), the foundation of which, certainly predates Domesday (1086). *Ravenstrorp* as it is recorded at that time may refer to Hrafn's settlement in a mixture of Old Scandinavian and Old English (Bourne 2003). Domesday records that the parish of Ravenstone was waste and its value had reduced considerably since the conquest. It was divided between William Bonvallet and Nigel of Stafford. There are documents referring to a castle in the 12th century although no evidence has been found for its exact location.
- 3.3 The church of St Michael (MLE12364, National Heritage List for England no 1074380) retains elements of 14th century detail after having been restored in the 19th century.
- 3.4 The Historic Landscape Character Assessment recognises a largely piecemeal enclosure of fields surrounding the village, presumably riven from the heathland in the post-medieval period with the advent of wide-scale liming which improved the fertility of the ground.
- 3.5 Archaeological work in the village includes a watching brief during the laying of a gas pipe at the Church in 1999 although no archaeological remains were recorded (ELE3840). To the north of the village, a fieldwalking survey recovered prehistoric flint and medieval and post-medieval pottery (ELE4161). A desk-based assessment undertaken in 2013 suggested that there was good potential for Iron Age and Roman archaeology to south of the village (ELE8732). This was due to the presence of cropmarks and pottery recovered from fieldwalking.
- 3.6 Ordnance Survey mapping (Old-maps.co.uk) shows that the footpath which runs through the site was in use from at least 1883. A Rope Walk is indicated to the south of the site, but has been incorporated into a housing development by the 1960s. The

southern part of the site may have been an orchard as it is depicted with a number of trees from the First Edition (1883) to the Third Edition (1929).

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function, and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting. Secondary aims include placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.
- 4.3 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.
- 4.4 The local and regional research contexts are provided by *The East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006). The following areas of research were considered relevant for this project:
- The origins of the nucleated village (Medieval Period, p.9)
 - The detailed pattern and evolution of rural settlements (Medieval Period, p.10)
- 4.5 The excavation area (Fig 2) was stripped in three phases: Area A to the rear of the school, Area B to the south-west and Area C the access road and area to the front of the school. No archaeological remains were found in Area C at the front of the school. This appeared to be due to the site having been cleared prior to the construction of the school and modern services crossing the area (Photo 1). Area C to the rear of the school was also devoid of archaeology, although no evidence for truncation was discernible (Photo 2).
- 4.6 The results of the fieldwork have been divided into broad phases of activity based on the pottery recovered.

5 RESULTS

Geological Natural

- 5.1 Geological natural reddish-brown clay (3) was reached at a depth of between 0.25m and 0.6m below the current ground surface (c.148m above Ordnance Datum). It was lower along the street frontage than to the rear of the school, possibly as a result of truncation for the construction of the school rather than a natural slope.

Phase 1 – Roman

- 5.2 Two sherds of abraded Roman pottery were recovered from Pit 306 during the evaluation. These seem likely to have been residual sherds, perhaps deposited on the ground surface as part of a manuring scatter and redeposited with the pit fill.

Phase 2 – Medieval 1250–1300 (Ceramic Phase 3)

- 5.3 This phase includes three pits and a gully in Area A (24, 34, 45 and 26) which yielded a reasonably large assemblage of pottery (Table 1, Phase 2 features). Gully 26 was aligned NW-SE and formed a boundary between properties fronting Church Lane.

Table 1: Phase 2 features

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Width m</i>	<i>Depth m</i>	<i>Length m</i>	<i>Diameter</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Section Drawing no</i>
24	Oval pit, shallow sloping sides and uneven base	1.4	0.1	1.9		25: brown clay loam	pottery x 4	C
26	Gully, moderately steep sides - profile varies from 'v' to 'u'	0.9	0.28			27: greyish brown clay loam, charcoal flecks	pottery x 11	E, F, G
34	Sub-rectangular pit, steep sloping sides, flattish base		0.15	1.8		35: Greyish brown clay loam, red clay lumps and occ. charcoal flecks	pottery x 4	K
45	Sub-rectangular pit, steep sloping sides and slightly rounded base		0.92	2.68		46: Upper fill, dark greyish brown clay loam 0.19m deep 47: Reddish brown clay (redeposited clay), 0.12m deep 48: Dark reddish brown clay loam, frq. Charcoal, 0.63m deep	pottery x 2 pottery x 117	D

5.4 Pottery recovered from the fill of pit 45 included two vessels from the kilns at Potters Marston, Leicestershire. The partially complete jug and jar were un-abraded suggesting that they may have been discarded directly into the pit.

Phase 3 – Medieval 1300–1375 (Ceramic Phase 4)

5.5 This phase includes a boundary gully 36 and three pits and a possible posthole (10, 16, 18, 28, 36, 49; Photo 3). A fragment of green-glazed roof tile, probably manufactured in Chilvers Coton, collected from pit 49 was one of only two fragments of roof tile found during the excavations (Photo 4).

5.6 In Area B, a 3.3m section of 0.95m wide sandstone wall foundation aligned NW-SE alignment survived to two courses high with clay bonding (Photo 5). No associated features were found to indicate that it formed part of a building and several sondages were dug to investigate this (Fig 4). A single sherd of pottery attributed to Ceramic Phase 4 was retrieved from the clay bonding. The wall may have formed a boundary as it corresponds to one shown on the First Edition Ordnance survey map (Fig 2) but the possibility that it was part of a building can't be ruled out.

Table 2: Phase 3 features

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Width m</i>	<i>Depth m</i>	<i>Length m</i>	<i>Diameter</i>	<i>Fills</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Section Drawing no</i>
10	Large pit (also recorded in evaluation)					9: greyish brown silty clay		
16	Sub circular pit, shallow sloping sides and uneven base	0.71	0.03	0.92		17: brown clay loam	pottery x 2	B
18	Sub circular pit, sharp sloping sides and rounded base	1.7	0.56	2.2		19: brown clay loam, 0.25m deep 20: reddish brown clay, 0.11m deep 21: brown silty clay loam, 0.2m deep	pottery x 10	A
28	Sub-rectangular pit, moderately steep sloping sides, flat base	1.5	0.23	2.1		29: Greyish brown silty clay loam	pottery x 1	G
36	NW-SE aligned gully, steep sides and rounded base	0.5	0.2			37: Greyish brown clay loam	pottery x 4	K, L, M
49	Sub rectangular pit, moderately steep sloping sides, flattish base	2	0.65	2.5		50: Upper fill, dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 0.24m deep 51: Dark grey clay loam 0.3m deep 52: Primary fill, sticky	pottery x 13 pottery x 46 pottery x 18	N

							reddish brown clay with pebbles 0.26m deep		
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Phase 4 – Medieval 1370–1550 (Ceramic Phase 5)

5.7 Five boundary gullies in Area A (32, 41, 43, 53 and 57), can be attributed to this phase. Gullies 32, 41 and 43 were aligned with the previous phases NW-SE (Photo 6), whilst 53 and 57 were at right angles to them and suggest a division in the property (Fig 3).

Table 3: Phase 4 features

Feature	Description	Width m	Depth m	Length m	Diameter	Fills	Finds	Section Drawing no
10	Large pit (also recorded in evaluation)					9: greyish brown silty clay	CP5 pottery and Animal bone	
32	NW-SE aligned gully, almost v shaped profile	1.08	0.45			33:Brown clay loam	CP5 pottery x 11	H, I, J
41	N-S aligned gully, steep sides and rounded base	0.76	0.23			42: greyish brown silty clay	CP5 pottery x 5	P, Q
43	N-S aligned gully, steep sides and flattish base	0.3	0.13			44: greyish brown silty clay loam	CP3 pottery x 1	P, Q
53	NE-SW aligned gully steep sloping sides and curved base	0.36	0.28			54:very dark reddish brown clay loam	CP3 pottery x 1	S
57	NE-SW aligned gully v shaped with steep sloping sides	0.3	0.22			58:very dark reddish brown clay loam,	Pottery from evaluation was CP5	

Phase 5 – Post-medieval (Ceramic Phase 7)

5.8 The medieval features were sealed under a greyish brown sandy clay ploughsoil (2, 4, 5) which yielded residual medieval pottery in addition to typical Midlands blackwares which date from the 17th-19th centuries. A small oval pit 14, in Area B, was found to contain pottery belonging to this phase. It was steep sided on the northern edge, 0.44 m deep with a flat base and filled with reddish brown clay (13).

Phase 6 – 19th century onwards (Ceramic Phase MOD)

5.9 Pottery and ceramic building material dating from the 19th century and later was recovered from gullies 38 and 55 which followed the earlier alignments. Residual medieval pottery was found in the grey clay loam fill of gully 55 in the evaluation (fill 311). Gully 38 is depicted on the First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883 (Fig 3, Sections P, R).

- 5.10 A red brick cistern was uncovered to the southwest of the school and was probably contemporary with it (Photo 7).

Undated

- 5.11 An undated gully found in the evaluation (Trench 2, 203) was aligned consistent with the other boundaries but it could not be identified in the excavation area (A).
- 5.12 A possible posthole pit 30, in Area A, and pit 7, in Area B, did not contain any dating evidence. Feature 30 was circular with a diameter of 0.45m and it was 0.11m deep filled with greyish brown silty clay (31). The full extent of pit 7 was not revealed although it was sub-circular, 1.6m x 0.8m and 0.05m deep. The greyish brown silty clay fill contained large stones of undetermined function.

Topsoil

- 5.13 A layer of dark brown silty clay loam topsoil which was 0.2m – 0.3m deep (1) was present across the site.

6 POTTERY Paul Blinkhorn

Analytical Methodology

- 6.1 The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).
- 6.2 The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

The Pottery

- 6.3 The pottery assemblage comprised 560 sherds with a total weight of 8,426g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 3.72. Where possible, it was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

F300: PM: Potters Marston Ware, 1100-1300. 136 sherds, 931g, EVE = 0.55.

F301: CC1: Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware, AD1200-1400. 135 sherds, 1,987g, EVE = 0.94.

F302: CC2: Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware, 1200-1475. 186 sherds, 2210g. EVE = 1.64.

F320: LY1: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware, 1200-1400. 1 sherd, 27g, EVE = 0.

F360: MS Medieval Sandy Ware, 1200-1400. 1 sherd, 21g, EVE = 0.

F403: MP1: Midland Purple Ware, 1370-1600. 20 sherds, 712g, EVE = 0.51.

- F416 EA3: Staffordshire Slipware**, 1650-1780. 1 sherd, 193g.
F425: EA: Post-medieval Red Earthenware, mid 16th century. 1 sherd, 4g.
F426: EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares, late 17th century +. 12 sherds, 652g.
F1000: EA10: Modern Earthenwares, 1800+. 57 sherds, 1377g.

The following wares, not present in the Leicestershire type-series, were also noted:

- F330: Potterhanworth Ware**, 13th – 14th century (Young and Vince 2005). 6 sherds, 228g, EVE = 0.08.
F401: Late Chilvers Coton Ware, late 14th – 16th century (Mayes and Scott 1984, 41). 3 sherds, 30g, EVE = 0.

- 6.4 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 4. Each context-specific assemblage has been given a Ceramic Phase (CP) date (see below), and checked against the stratigraphic matrix and adjusted where necessary. The range of fabric types is, in the main, fairly typical of contemporary sites in the region, although the sherds of Potterhanworth Ware are more common to the east of here, particularly in Lincolnshire (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 255). It is dominated by the products of the Chilvers Coton kilns near Nuneaton (Mayes and Scott 1984), including the Midland Purple Wares. This all indicates that the main period of activity at the site was from the mid 13th – mid/late 15th centuries.

Chronology

- 6.5 Each stratified, context-specific pottery assemblage has been given a ceramic phase ('CP') date based on the range of ware and vessel types present, and adjusted according to the stratigraphic matrix. The chronology, defining wares and the amount of pottery per phase is shown in Table 4. It confirms that there was no activity of note at the site before the mid-13th century, and that activity ended before the mid-16th century, with the bulk of the pottery, the modern wares aside, date to CP3 – CP5. The single sherd of possible 12th century pottery is likely to be from a context lacking later contemporary material. The fairly low mean sherd weight for CP3 groups is due to the presence of two highly-fragmented, partially-complete but un-reconstructable Potters Marston vessels, a jar and a jug, from context 48.

6.6 The sherd of F426 in context 5 is very likely to be intrusive. The deposit also produced a largely complete Midland Purple Ware pipkin (Photo 8) which is unlikely to be later than 15th - 16th century in date (eg. Mayes and Scott 1984, fig. 54), and the pot in question is entirely unabraded, unlike the later sherd, which is very worn.

Table 4: Ceramic Phase Chronology, Occurrence and Defining Wares

Phase	Defining wares	Date	No Sherds	Wt. Sherds	Mean Sherd Wt
CP1	F300	AD1100 - 1200	1	4	4.0g
CP2	F320, F330, F360	AD1200 - 1250	0	0	0g
CP3	F301	AD1250 - 1300	163	1343	8.2g
CP4	F302	AD1300 - 1370	195	3209	16.5g
CP5	F401, F403	AD1370 - 1550	97	1395	14.4g
CP6	F425	AD1550 - 1680	2	11	5.5g
CP7	F416, F426	AD1680 - 1800	34	539	15.9g
MOD	F1000	AD1800+	68	1961	28.8g
		Total	560	8426	15.0g

Pottery Occurrence

6.7 The occurrence of the major fabrics per ceramic phase is shown in Table 5. The pattern is fairly typical of sites in the region, with Potters Marston Ware gradually being replaced by the products of the Chilvers Coton kilns. As noted above, the high proportion of Potters Marston Ware in CP3 is due to the presence of the two partially complete vessels from context 48. Residuality is generally fairly low, indicating that there was little disturbance of earlier strata, other than during CP7, with the small assemblage size suggesting that activity at that time was probably somewhat limited.

Table 5: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the total wt per phase, major fabrics only

Fabric	CP3	CP4	CP5	CP7	MOD
F300	54.9%	3.8%	2.4%	7.4%	0
F320	2.0%	0	0	0	0
F330	6.4%	4.4%	0	0	0
F360	1.6%	0	0	0	0
F301	35.1%	40.9%	8.2%	26.2%	0
F302	-	51.0%	36.2%	14.8%	0
F401	-	-	2.2%	0	0
F403	-	-	48.0%	9.3%	0.2%
F416	-	-	-	36.7%	0
F426	-	-	3.0%*	13.2%	29.6%
F1000	-	-	-	-	70.2%
Total	1343	3209	1359	539	1961

Shaded cells = residual material

* = intrusive

The Assemblages

Ceramic Phase 3, c AD1250 – 1300. 163 sherds, 1343g, EVE = 0.62

- 6.8 Six contexts produced pottery of this date, mainly from pits, other than a single ditch fill (27). The assemblage is dominated by relatively local wares in the form of Potters Marston (54.9% by weight) and Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware (35.1%), along with four sherds of Potterhanworth Ware and single sherds of Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware (from a glazed jug) and Sandy Coarseware. Five rimsherds were noted, two jars and a bowls in F301 and a jar and a jug in F300. This is a fairly typical pattern for the period.

Ceramic Phase 4, c AD1300-1370. 195 sherds, 3,209g, EVE = 2.21.

- 6.9 Twelve contexts produced pottery of this date, mainly from pits and gullies. The assemblage mainly comprised Chilvers Coton "A" (40.9%) and "C" (51.0%) wares, along with 19 small sherds of Potters Marston Ware (118g), and a large sherd of Potterhanworth Ware (118g), from the rim of a bowl (Photo 9). It is typical product of the tradition (eg. McCarthy and Brooks 1988, fig. 148).
- 6.10 Thirteen jars rims were noted (EVE = 1.78), of which two are Potters Marston Ware, six are Chilvers Coton "A" Ware, and five Chilvers Coton "C" Ware. One of the last-named vessels, with an internal orange glaze on the lower body, was nearly complete, other than the base (Photo 10). It is fairly heavily and evenly sooted on the lower part of the outer surface. Five bowl rims were present (EVE = 0.24); three are Chilvers Coton "C" Ware and one each of Chilvers Coton "A" Ware and Potterhanworth Ware. A single jug rim occurred (EVE = 0.19), in Chilvers Coton "A" Ware. Two jug handles in the same fabric were also present.
- 6.11 A fairly large fragment of a green-glazed roof-tile in a fine white fabric with multiple stabbing on the underside also occurred, in context (52). Similar tiles were noted during the excavations at the manufactories at Chilvers Coton (Mayes and Scott 1984, fig. 118). It is most likely of 14th century date.

Ceramic Phase 5, c AD1370-1550. 97 sherds, 1,395g, EVE = 0.81.

- 6.12 Six contexts, mainly gully fills, produced pottery of this date. The assemblage is dominated by Midland Purple Ware (48.0%) and Chilvers Coton "C" Ware (36.2%), along with two sherds of Late Chilvers Coton Ware. The rest of the material is

residual. Of the non-residual material, six rims sherds (four jars, two bowls) were Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware, and the other was from a near-complete handled pipkin in Midland Purple Ware (Photo 8). The pot has a fairly thick, patchy burnt residue on the outer surface. The pipkin is the only 'developed' late medieval vessel from the site, with other forms such as dripping dishes and bung-hole cisterns (eg. Mayes and Scott 1984, fig. 54) being entirely absent. This, and the complete lack of Cistercian Ware (Boyle 2002, Mayes and Scott 1984, 41) other than a single very small sherd from the evaluation excavations (Sawday 2014 table 1), suggests that occupation at the site ended just before or early in the second half of the 15th century, as such pottery is usually fairly common at sites in the region from that time onwards (eg. Woodland 1981).

Ceramic Phase 7, c AD1680-1800. 34 sherds, 539g.

- 6.13 Two contexts produced pottery of this date. It was all contemporary, other than a small sherd of residual Midland Purple Ware. The Staffordshire Slipware consisted of a single vessel, a press-moulded dish or plate with feathered slip decoration, a staple product of the industry. The rest of the assemblage comprised fragments of large bowls or pancheons in Post-medieval Blackware, which is typical of the tradition.

Ceramic Phase MOD, 19th century +. 68 sherds, 1961g.

- 6.14 Two contexts produced pottery of this date. They comprised a typical assemblage of transfer-printed and yellow-glazed white earthenwares and stonewares in a range of utilitarian and tablewares.

7 Discussion

- 7.1 The excavations have identified a series of parallel property boundaries which seem likely to have been formally set out when Church Road was first developed. Pottery recovered from the features suggests a date for their use between 1250 and 1550. The rear of the plots may have been given over to agriculture after that period, although the northernmost boundaries were re-established in the 19th century.
- 7.2 Ravenstone parish was held in divided ownership at Domesday (1086). Both parts were recorded as waste at that time and it may have taken a period for the settlement to be re-established, particularly as much of the land around was either healthland or woodland. Overall the population, settlement density and the amount of recorded agricultural land in the west of Leicestershire was significantly lower than in the east (Holly 2009).
- 7.3 Three phases of medieval activity were identified from the pottery evidence which suggests that some of the boundaries were successive and that the area continued to be redefined over the 300 year span.
- 7.4 The pottery evidence provided relatively secure dating for the archaeological remains as there was little residuality. Two almost complete vessels were recovered. Pottery was mostly local as would be expected and there was no evidence for any industrial activity. Other finds were less abundant and the lack of animal bone is probably indicative of acidic soils. A worn medieval floor tile fragment was recovered from gully 32. Barely any glaze survived and therefore its origin is unknown.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The excavations immediately next to the school, particularly on the Church Lane frontage, have shown that the construction of the school caused a considerable amount of disturbance and that no archaeological remains survived. Evidence for potential Roman muck spreading activity was found in the evaluation but no further features of this date were uncovered. .
- 8.2 The relatively late post-conquest, village planning which was attested here has been found elsewhere in the region and corresponds to a period when small towns were also being formally laid out (East Midlands Framework wiki medieval). The evidence from these rear plot excavations at Church Lane suggests that either the village was being redefined or that there was some settlement expansion in this area. Understanding these developments, by obtaining dating for regular settlement plans, has been identified as a priority for research in the East Midlands region and these results will contribute to that understanding.

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1: Disturbance to front of site, looking SW



2: Access Road, looking north



3: Pit 18, looking north-east



4: Green-Glazed roof tile



5: Wall 8 in Area B, looking north



6: Gullies 41 and 43, looking north



7: Gully 32, looking SE



8: Gully 55, Looking SE



9: Cistern, contemporary with the school



10: Pipkin from context 5



11: Potterhanworth Ware



12: Jug from context 4

	F300		F301		F302		F320		F330		F360		F401		F403		F416		F425		F426		F1000			
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date	
46			2	53																					CP3	
48	97	669	16	195					3	76	1	21													CP3	
50	3	18	5	206	5	90																			CP4	
51	4	38	35	588	6	70			1	4															CP4	
52	3	11	9	411	5	48			1	138															CP4	
54															1	9										CP5
56	1	4																								CP1
Total	136	931	136	2036	186	2210	1	27	6	228	1	21	3	30	20	712	1	198	1	4	12	652	57	1377		

** = intrusive

B List of other finds

Context	Type	Quantity	Comment
9	Animal bone	53	Sheep mostly, although fragmentary, cattle molar
33	Floor Tile	1	Medieval glazed tile, very worn so hardly any glaze survives
50	Iron	1	undiagnostic corroded iron fragment, probably agricultural (not retained)
39A	Glass	3	Modern bottle glass; angostura bitters, Redfern Ashby bottle
39A	Roof tile	1	Post-medieval roof tile

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeol27-361883

Project details

Project name	Church Lane, Ravenstone, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	Archaeology Warwickshire carried out an archaeological excavation at Church Lane Ravenstone on behalf of Cameron Homes. Trial trenching had identified a hint of Roman period activity and medieval settlement remains that related to properties along Church Lane. The excavations revealed a sequence of boundaries at right angles to Church Lane which were probably formally laid out as property boundaries in the 13th century. They continued to be used until at least 1550. Continuity of use following this period is uncertain as the settlement may have shrunk and the land subsumed into pasture. The areas examined were a section across the back plots of at least 4 properties. A small number of pits were examined although none of them yielded any evidence of function. Pottery from their fills was largely consistent with that found in the boundary features. The northernmost boundary alignment was re-established by the 19th century. The appearance of the school may account for the open field shown on late 19th-century mapping. The construction of the Victorian school on the frontage of Church Lane had resulted in the removal of any potential archaeological features.
Project dates	Start: 01-01-2015 End: 01-08-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CR15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	X.A140.2014 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	14/00051/FULM - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE RAVENSTONE WITH

SNIBSTONE Church Lane, Ravenstone

Postcode LE67 2AF

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 4028 1391 52.720998417993 -1.403571645774 52 43 15 N 001 24 12 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology Warwickshire

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Caroline Rann

Project director/manager Caroline Rann

Project supervisor Pete Thompson

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Physical Archive ID X.A140.2014

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Digital Archive ID X.A140.2014

Digital Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Paper Archive ID X.A140.2014

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 1993 CR15 Church Lane Ravenstone

Author(s)/Editor(s) Rann, C.

Other bibliographic details 1993

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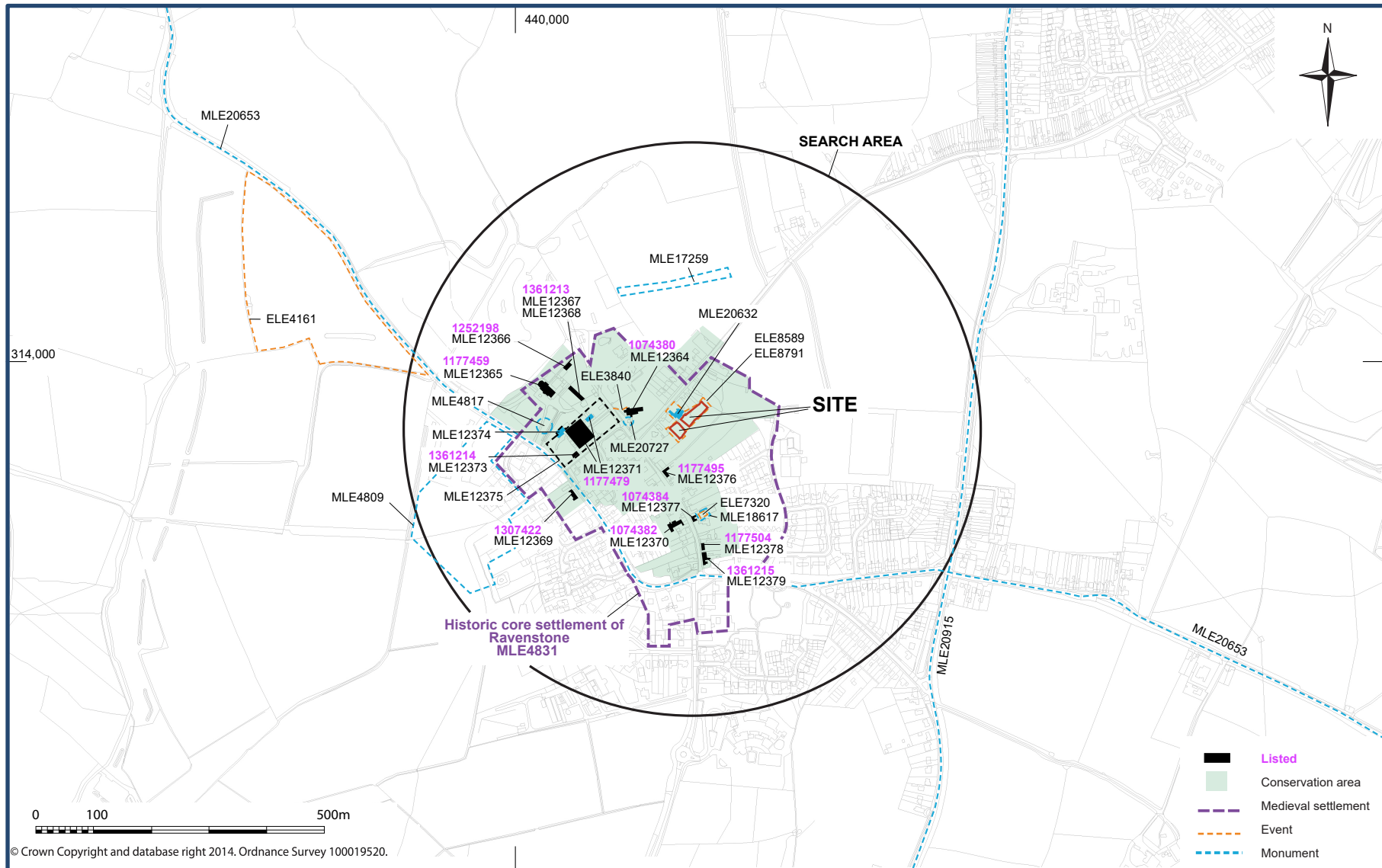


Fig 1: Site location and Historic Environment Information

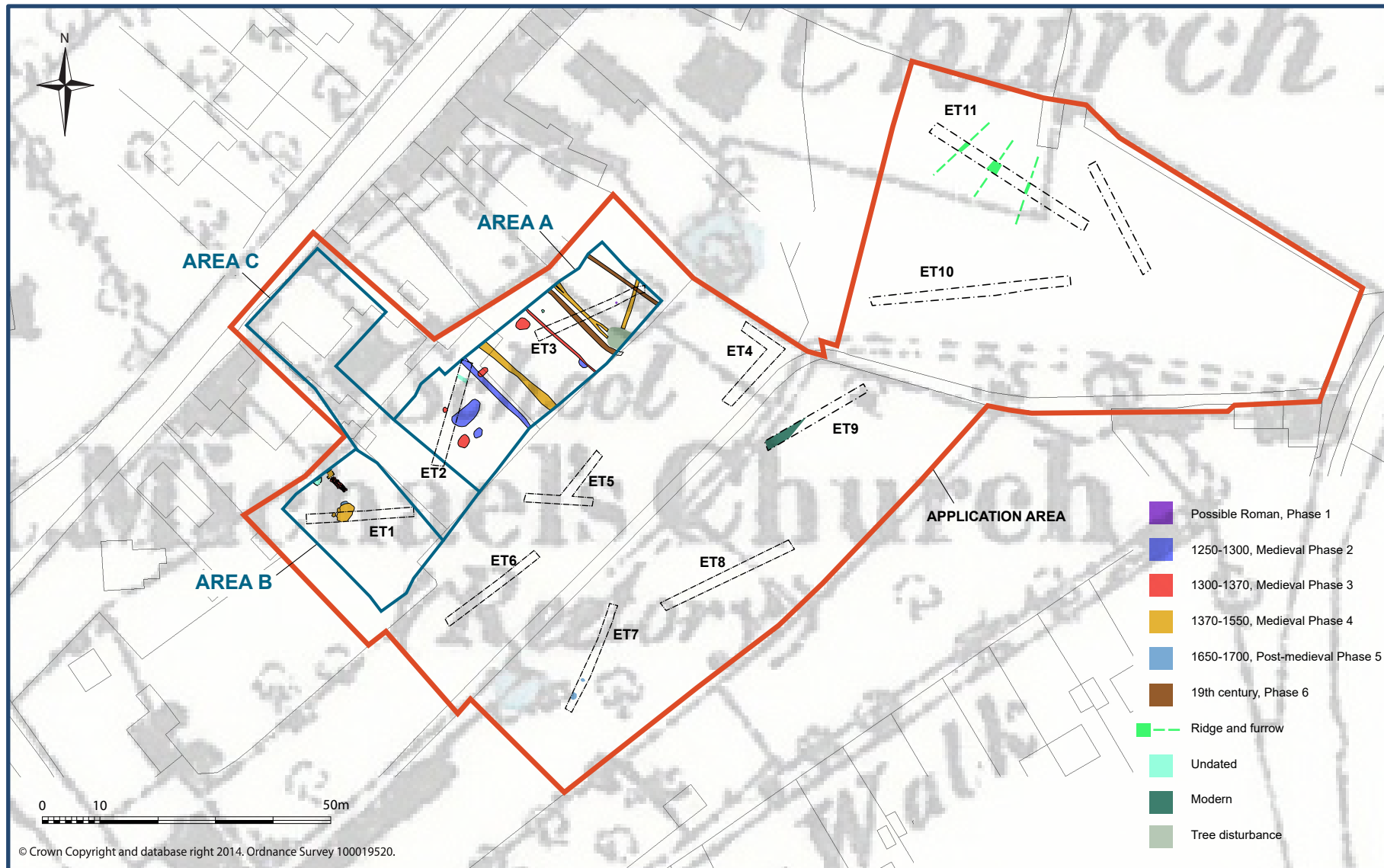
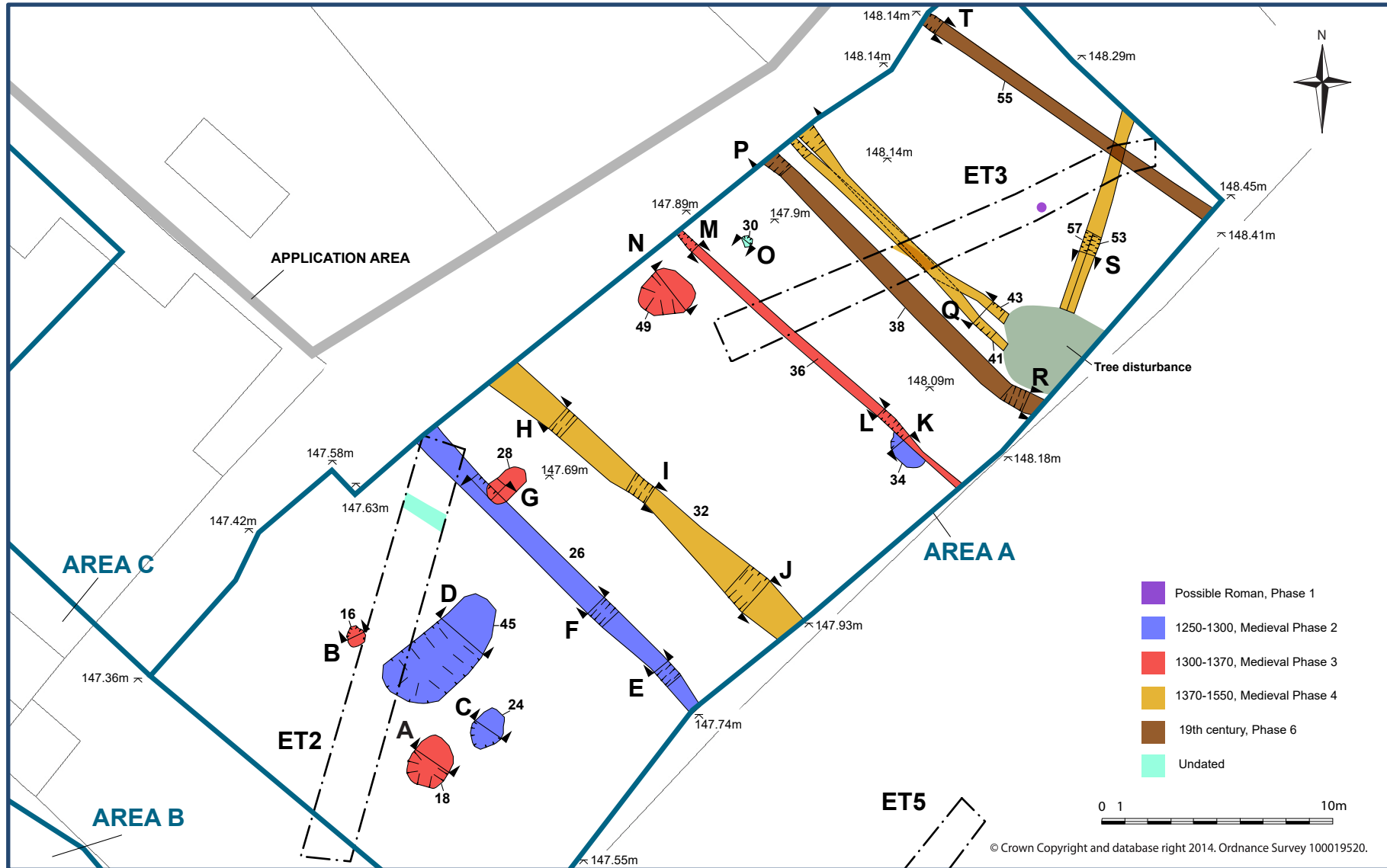


Fig 2: Location of strip, map and record areas A, B and C with 2014 evaluation trenches and detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883



- Possible Roman, Phase 1
- 1250-1300, Medieval Phase 2
- 1300-1370, Medieval Phase 3
- 1370-1550, Medieval Phase 4
- 19th century, Phase 6
- Undated



Fig 3: Area A

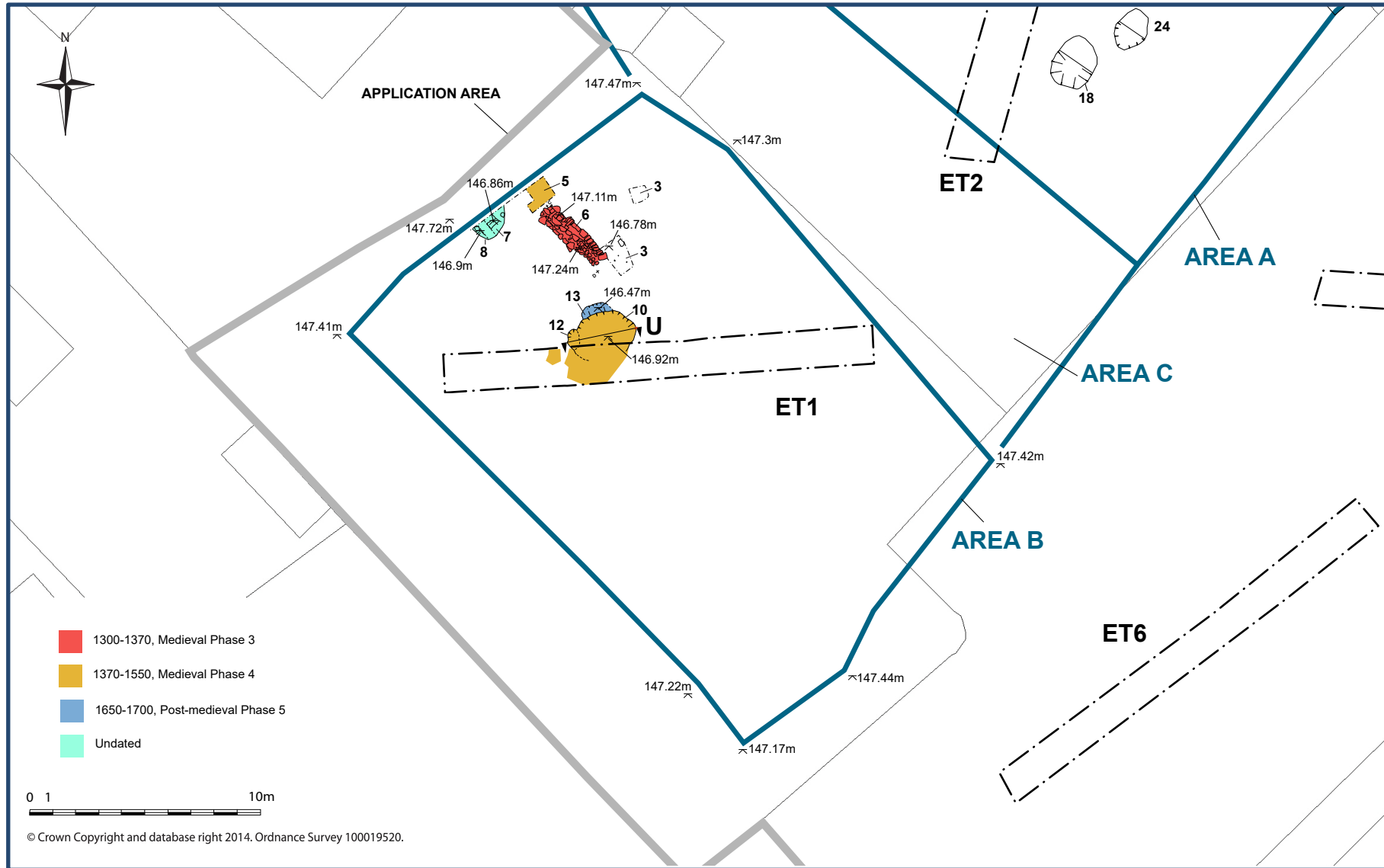


Fig 4: Area B

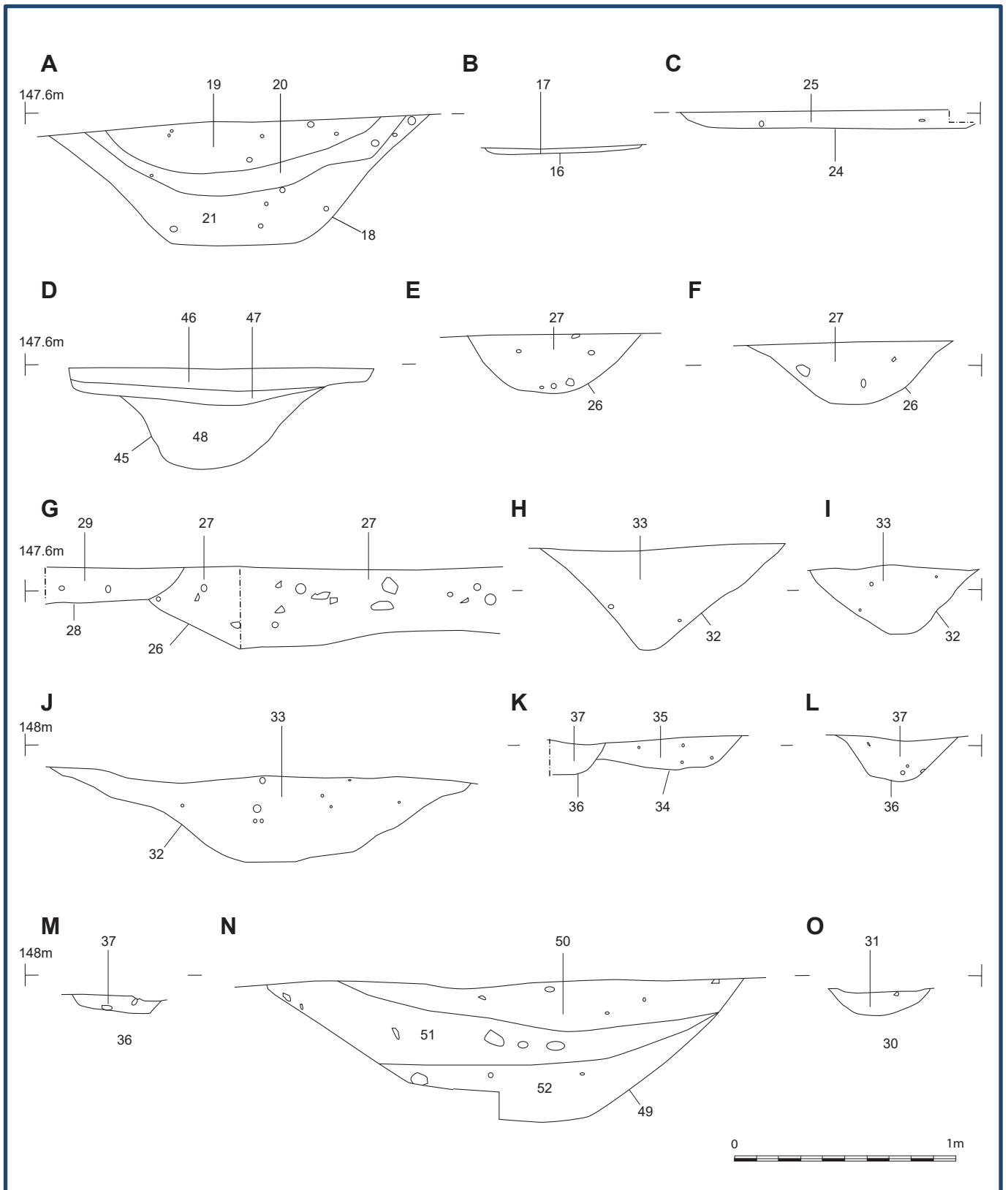


Fig 5: Sections A to O

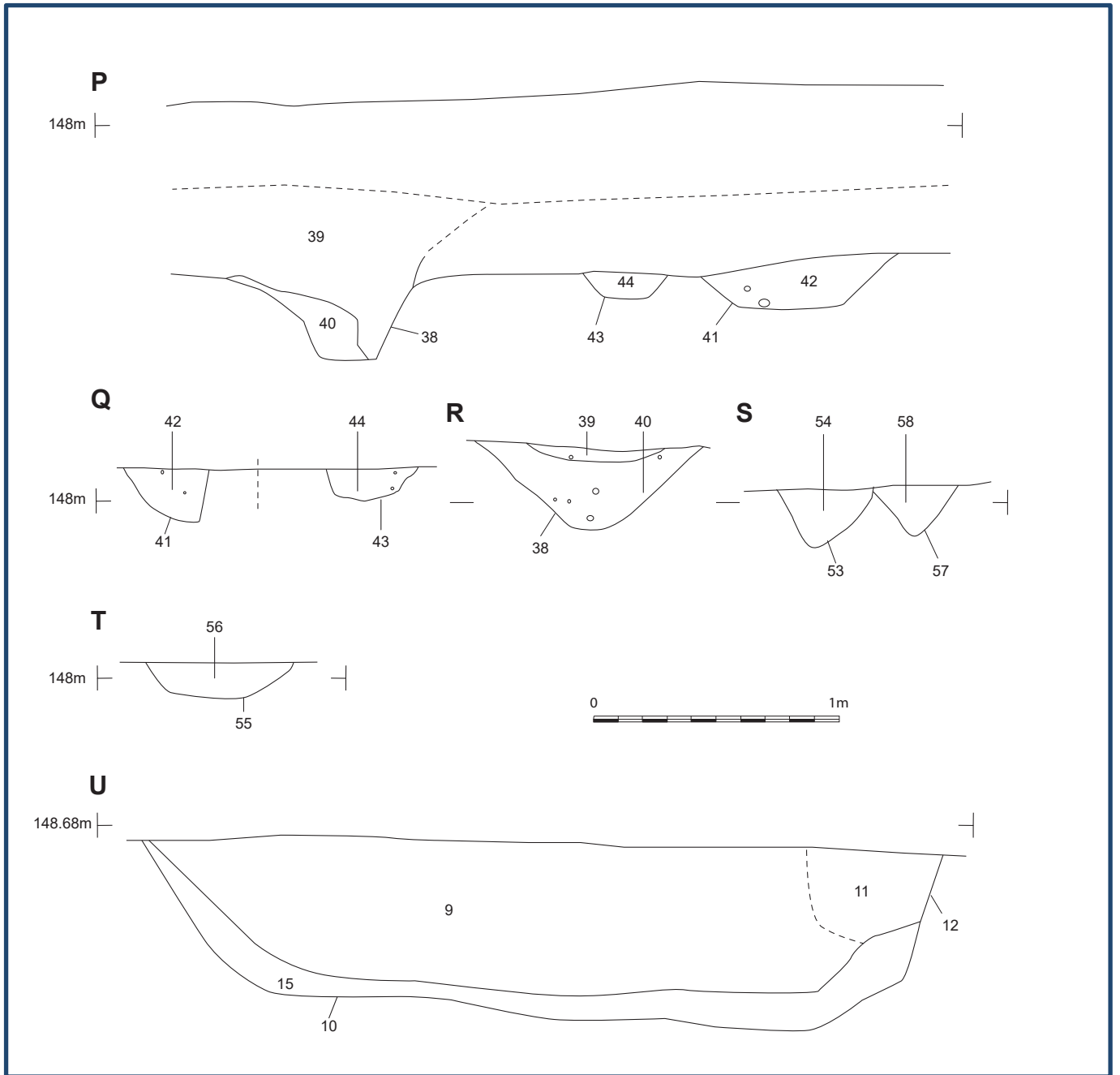


Fig 6: Sections P to U