Archaeological geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of the A45 Northampton to Daventry Link Road Northamptonshire 2013-2014

Report No. 14/5

Author: Jim Brown

Illustrators: Jim Brown, James Ladocha and John Walford

Project Manager: Jim Brown
Site Code: WFB13
NGR: between SP 6721 5947 and SP 6207 6008

MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8 BN tel. 01604 700493
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk

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2					

Author: Jim Brown

Illustrators: Jim Brown, James Ladocha and John Walford

MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager	Jim Brown BSc PGDip MIfA
Fieldwork	John Walford BSc MSc, Christopher Jones Simon Markus BA, James Ladocha BA Amy Sinclair BA, Olly Dindol BSc Rob Bailey BA, Thomas Coates BA PGDip Adam Meadows BSc, Amy Talbot BA Anne Foard-Colby Cert Ed, Ben Kidd BA Christopher Pennell BA, Garreth Davey BA Laura Cogley BA, Peter Haynes, Rob Smith and Tim Sharman BA
Text	Jim Brown
Geophysical survey data analysis	John Walford
Illustration	Jim Brown, John Walford and James Ladocha
Worked flint	Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc PhD
Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
Iron Age pottery	Andy Chapman BSc MIfA FSA
Roman pottery	Rob Perrin BA MLitt PGCE MIfA FSA
Medieval pottery	Paul Blinkhorn BTech
Building materials	Pat Chapman BA CMS AIfA
Clay tobacco-pipe and iron nails	Tora Hylton
Faunal remains	Philip Armitage BSc MSc PhD
Seeds and plant remains	Val Fryer BA MIfA
Geoarchaeology	Graham Spurr (MOLA London Office)

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**molanort1 - 172927**	
Project name	Archaeological geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of the A45 Northampton to Daventry Link Road, Northamptonshire, 2013-2014	
Investigations combining both geophysical survey and trial trench excavation, confirmed the presence of substantial archaeological remains along the proposed route of the A45 Northampton to Daventry Link Road, Northamptonshire. The archaeological remains were limited in extent and confined to focal areas of activity. A scatter of worked flint was confirmed to the north-west of Colinshill Farm, Flore, in close proximity to two large groups of geophysical anomalies, each 60m long by 30m wide, which trial trench excavation has demonstrated to be of Neolithic origin. The principal ditches that were investigated appeared to be the flanking ditches belonging to two long barrows, although medieval ploughing seems to have removed all remains of the mounds. A rectangular enclosure was investigated to the west of the railway, north-east of Globe Farm, Dodford, and dates to within the middle Iron Age. Finds within the enclosure were limited in quantity which, together with seed and plant remains, indicated that the enclosure had an agricultural rather than domestic function. Ordnance Survey maps indicate 19th-century quarries in close proximity. Roman activity was found to the north of Upper Heyford, close to the road to Glassthorpe. Boundary features and pits produced finds that were probably associated with a settlement site, the larger part of which was lost during construction of the M1 motorway. Much of the land in the vicinity has been subjected to quarrying. The line of the late medieval road between Flore and Dodford was confirmed to the north-west of Flore Hill Farm, Flore. Two roadside ditches were investigated, and a deposit synonymous with the former greenway was identified between them. Whilst this was stony, there was no evidence for a metalled surface and it has been heavily damaged by modern ploughing.		
Project type	geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation	
Site status	none	
Previous work	archaeological desk-based assessment (Brown 2013a)	
Current Land use	agricultural, mixed pasture and arable	
Future work	possible open area excavations and watching brief	
Monument type/period	Neolithic, middle Iron Age, Roman and late medieval/post-medieval	
Significant finds	pottery, animal bone, seeds, worked flint, building materials	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Upper Heyford to Dodford	
Study area	*c*6km long road corridor	
OS Easting and Northing	between SP 6721 5947 and SP 6207 6008	
Height OD	*c*75-120m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project brief originators	Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council Planning	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, (Northamptonshire Archaeology) MOLA	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones, John Walford & Simon Markus, (Northamptonshire Archaeology) MOLA	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, (Northamptonshire Archaeology) MOLA	
Sponsor or funding body	Northamptonshire County Council	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	September 2013	
End date	January 2014	
ARCHIVES	**Location**	**Content**
Physical	MOLA Northampton store	pottery, animal bone, seeds, worked flint, building materials
Paper		Background documentation, research notes, site trench record, context record, photographic record, supporting registers etc
Digital		Client report PDF, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation of the A45 Northampton to Daventry Link Road, Northamptonshire, 2013-2014	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION OF THE A45 NORTHAMPTON TO DAVENTRY LINK ROAD NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 2013-2014

Abstract

Investigations combining both geophysical survey and trial trench excavation, confirmed the presence of substantial archaeological remains along the proposed route of the A45 Northampton to Daventry Link Road, Northamptonshire. The archaeological remains were limited in extent and confined to focal areas of activity.

A scatter of worked flint was confirmed to the north-west of Colinshill Farm, Flore, in close proximity to two large groups of geophysical anomalies, each 60m long by 30m wide, which trial trench excavation has demonstrated to be of Neolithic origin. The principal ditches that were investigated appeared to be the flanking ditches belonging to two long barrows, although medieval ploughing seems to have removed all remains of the mounds.

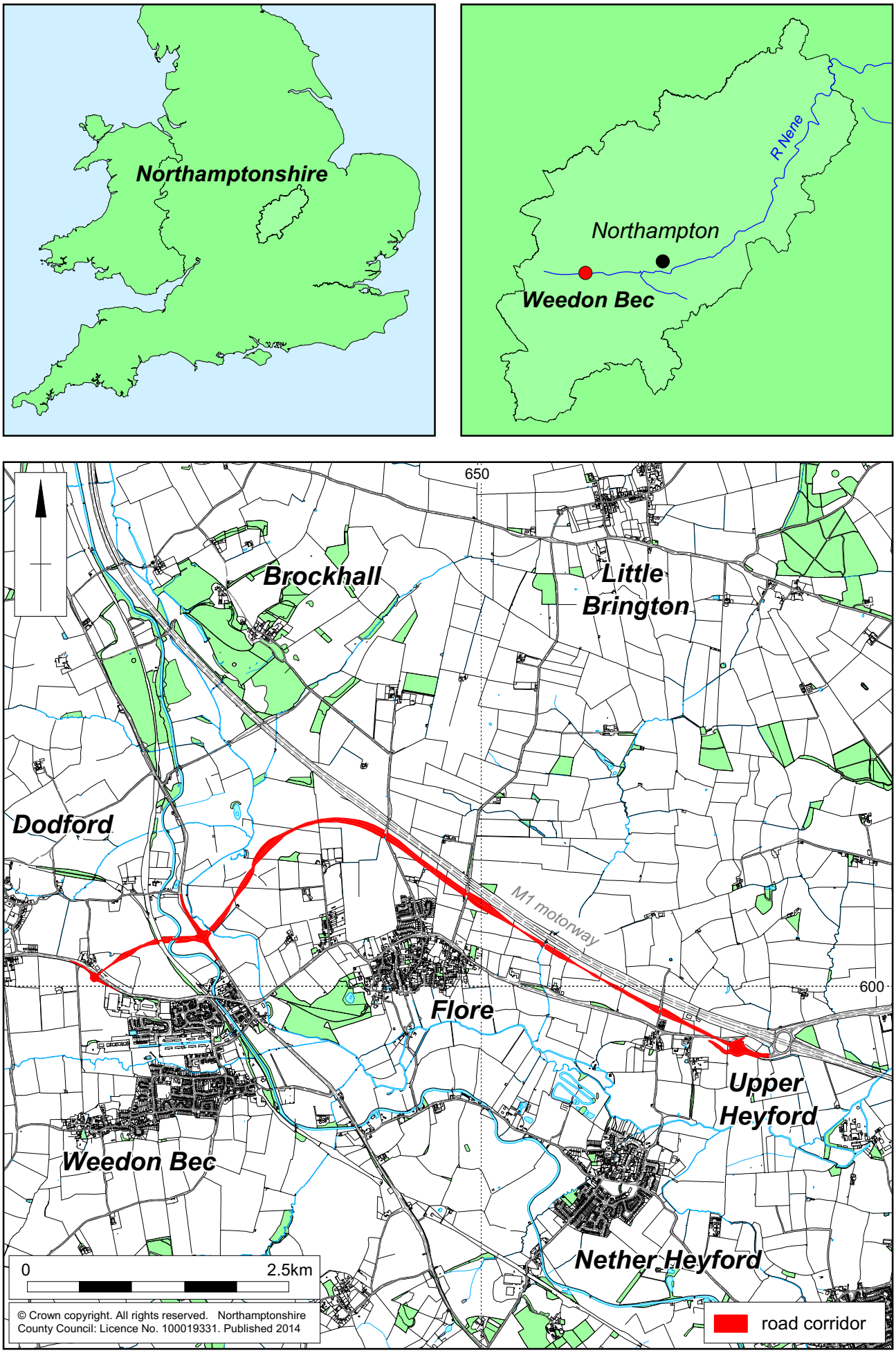
A rectangular enclosure was investigated to the west of the railway, north-east of Globe Farm, Dodford, and dates to within the middle Iron Age. Finds within the enclosure were limited in quantity which, together with seed and plant remains, indicated that the enclosure had an agricultural rather than domestic function. Ordnance Survey maps indicate 19th-century quarries in close proximity.

Roman activity was found to the north of Upper Heyford, close to the road to Glassthorpe. Boundary features and pits produced finds that were probably associated with a settlement site, the larger part of which was lost during construction of the M1 motorway. Much of the land in the vicinity has been subjected to quarrying.

The line of the late medieval road between Flore and Dodford was confirmed to the north-west of Flore Hill Farm, Flore. Two roadside ditches were investigated, and a deposit synonymous with the former greenway was identified between them. Whilst this was stony, there was no evidence for a metalled surface and it has been heavily damaged by modern ploughing.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (now part of MOLA) was commissioned by MGWSP Highways, on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey along the whole road corridor easement and cuttings of the proposed revised Northern Option 6 route of the A45 Northampton to Daventry Link Road (between NGR SP 6721 5947 and SP 6207 6008; Fig 1). The geophysical survey was followed immediately by targeted trial trench excavations, conducted in liaison with the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Planning Advisor, which comprised *c*2.4% sample of the proposed route. The evaluated areas did not include land which may be subject to later flood alleviation works, but included the anticipated extent of all major structures.



Scale 1:40,000 Route of the revised Northern Option 6 road corridor Fig 1

The road corridor is *c*6km long and combines areas of cutting with areas of embankment. The route passes through the parishes of Upper Heyford, Flore and Dodford. The southern embankment at the new A5 junction extends into the parish of Weedon Bec. Geophysical survey has covered all areas where survey was possible, excluding areas that were heavily overgrown and impassable. Trial trench excavations targeted anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and areas where no clear anomalies were observed. Limited areas of heavy modern overburden at the former Ace Cafe site beside the A45, west of Weedon Bec, and on land north of the A45, adjacent to the M1 Junction 16 were excluded.

The archaeological evaluation was required to assess the potential for archaeological remains which may be threatened by the proposed development and follows on from an archaeological desk-based assessment, prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology for MGWSP Highways (Brown 2013a). All work was undertaken in compliance with the archaeological policies of Northamptonshire County Council Planning. No formal brief was issued, but the Archaeological Planning Advisor was consulted and engaged in discussion throughout the course of the project from its inception to establish the requirements and acceptability of the proposed investigations, and to monitor the course of the works. A method statement for geophysical survey and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by NCC Planning prior to archaeological works commencing (Brown 2013b-c).

In addition to the geophysical survey and trial trench excavations, NCC Planning also required that archaeological attendance was maintained during geotechnical exploration of the development, along the whole of the route. This work was conducted in a manner consistent with a programme of observation, investigation and recording; to meet the standard expectations of the authority. Consultation between archaeologists and geotechnical management was undertaken to avoid impact on archaeological features identified by the forerunning geophysical survey.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at the request of MGWSP Highways and is intended to provide sufficient information to determine the scope of further archaeological works required to provide adequate mitigation in line with paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) to record and understand significant heritage assets before they are lost (DCLG 2012).

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation, which has now become part of MOLA. All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (1991; 2006; 2008a-b; 2011) and the appropriate standards and guidance for geophysical surveys, watching briefs and archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008a-c; 2011).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) has been undertaken for the road corridor development taking into account all Historic Environment Records, find spots, aerial photographs and historic maps that may identify archaeological sites within 0.5km of the development (Brown 2013a).

The DBA suggested that potential sites might extend within the development in the following areas (Brown 2013a, fig 18):

- Mesolithic and Neolithic exploitation of the spring lines, north-west of Flore;
- Neolithic funerary activity and other prehistoric features in the vicinity of possible long barrows, to the south of Broamenthill Spinney;
- Romano-British settlement to the north of Upper Heyford;
- Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation along more than two-thirds of the route to the north of Weedon Bec, Flore and Upper Heyford;
- Late medieval to early post-medieval evidence for the road and bridge between Dodford and Flore.

These potential sites were not a finite quantification and it was advised by NCC Planning that geophysical survey would be an appropriate prospection method to determine whether there was a correlation between the historic documentary record and potential magnetic anomalies along the route.

The NCC Archaeological Planning Advisor agreed that the data could be presented to the client and NCC Planning with a rapid turnaround in order to enable discussion and preparation for the scheme of trial trench excavation. Trial trench excavations followed on from the completion of the geophysical survey without an interim period of reporting, but in consultation with NCC Planning, so that results were discussed prior to intrusive fieldwork.

The results of the geophysical survey confirmed the presence of magnetic anomalies consistent with those expected from archaeological sites of interest in the following areas:

- Chainage 400-580 (Dodford); a rectangular enclosure with internal pit-like features, cut by a possible 19th-century quarry tramway.
- Chainage 300-320 (Flore); a roadside ditch belonging to the late medieval road between Dodford and Flore.
- Chainage 900-1200 (Flore); dispersed archaeological features consistent with possible scattered pits, gullies and ditches.
- Chainage 1200-1450 (Flore); two large anomalies, each 60m long by 30m wide, consistent with the aerial photographic evidence suggested by the HER as possible Neolithic long barrows.
- Chainage 4250-4350 (Upper Heyford); possible ditches and gullies consistent with Romano-British settlement noted during motorway construction to the north of Upper Heyford and in the footprint of the proposed bridge.

Elsewhere there were isolated points of possible magnetic disturbance which were subject to trial trench excavation to verify their nature. It is recognised that geophysical survey is not without limitations and a representative portion of the areas which did not appear to contain archaeology were also investigated to verify an absence of features.

2.2 Topography and geology

The road corridor crosses two tributaries of the Upper Nene Valley, through an area of undulating Northamptonshire wold (Figs 1-2). The route begins in the east at the M1 Junction 16 in the parish of Upper Heyford at *c*75m above Ordnance Datum, immediately east of Upper Heyford village. The route passes north of the village, across the Nene Valley slope, where the ground rises gradually until it reaches a tributary valley to the north of Hollandstone Farm on the east side of Flore. The tributary flows south to join the River Nene to the north of Nether Heyford and is crossed by the road corridor. The land then rises sharply onto a plateau to the north of Flore at *c*105m above Ordnance Datum. The route crosses this plateau to the north-west until it turns abruptly south-west, south of Broamenthill Spinney. At this point the route passes across slope to make the easiest descent of an otherwise steep valley side that crosses Watling Street, the Grand Union Canal and the London to Birmingham main line railway at *c*80m above Ordnance Datum. The ground then rises on the opposite valley side to join the Northampton to Daventry main road (A45) to the south-east of Globe Farm, to the west of Weedon Bec, at *c*120m above Ordnance Datum.

The land through which the road corridor will pass includes arable, pasture and water meadow. Many of the fields on the north side of Flore comprise small paddocks for horses.

The geology of the valley sides comprises a sequence of Upper, Middle and Lower Lias Clay (BGS 2001). Northampton Sand with Ironstone, Inferior Oolite Limestone and outcrops of cornbrash and clay may also be expected. The soils of the valley bottom are of the Fladbury 1 association, comprising stoneless clayey soils that form over river alluvium and are prone to waterlogging (LAT 1983, 813b). The valley sides are covered by soils of the Oxpasture association, which are fine loamy clay soils with slowly permeable subsoil and seasonal waterlogging (LAT 1983, 572h). These soils form over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay. The soils at the top of the plateau, north of Flore, are likely to be of the Denchworth association, which comprise seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with some finer loamy clays and calcareous inclusions which are prone to landslips (LAT 1983, 712b).

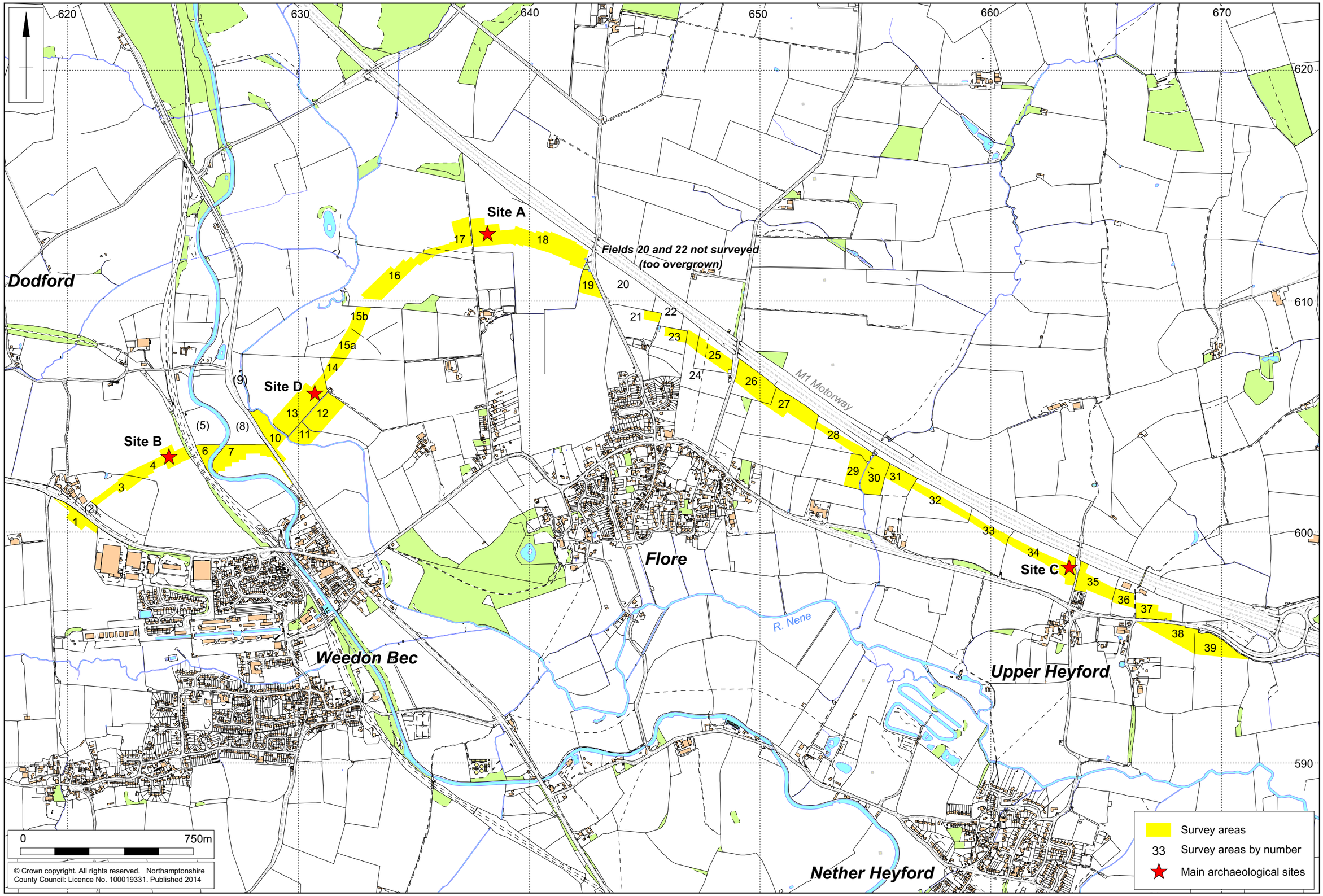
3 FIELDWORK STRATEGY

3.1 Objectives

To investigate the archaeological potential, prior to the present fieldwork there was insufficient information to establish the possible impact of development or for the formation of an appropriate mitigation strategy.

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development, and to understand this within its cultural and environmental setting, specifically to:

- to establish the location, extent, nature, function, character and date of any archaeological remains;
- to recover artefacts to assist in the assessment of the development and to provide information to expand the archaeological data within the region;
- and to recover palaeo-environmental remains where they were encountered.



Scale 1:15,000

Overview of the geophysical survey Fig 2

The evaluation has been carried out according to the objectives suggested by the published research priorities set out for the East Midlands (EH 1997; Cooper 2006; Knight *et al* 2012).

3.2 Methodology

Geophysical surveys

The geophysical phase of the evaluation was undertaken from 30 September to 18 October 2013, and comprised a detailed magnetometer survey of the proposed road corridor and the extent of proposed site compounds, bridge abutments and other ancillary features. Approximately 35ha were surveyed in total (Fig 2). An area of 2ha to the north of Flore was too overgrown to be surveyed, and there were some lesser breaks in the survey coverage due to roads, cover crops, and other obstructions.

The survey was conducted with Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array, vertical component fluxgate gradiometers (Bartington and Chapman 2003). These are standard instruments for archaeological survey and can resolve magnetic variations as slight as 0.1 nanoTesla (nT). The fieldwork methods conformed to guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeologists (EH 2008b; IfA 2011).

A survey grid of 30m squares was established within each of the fields to be surveyed, and the baseline of each grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by measurement with a Leica Systems 1200 dGPS. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid square, collecting data along 1.0m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per square.

Although the survey area broadly corresponded to the proposed road corridor, there were two locations where it was expanded to investigate specific archaeological features; the long barrow cropmarks north of Flore (Site A) and an enclosure discovered north of Weedon Bec (Site B).

The majority of the survey data was processed with Geoplot 3.00v software. Striping was removed using the 'zero mean traverse' function (zmt), and de-staggering of the data was performed as necessary. In a few cases, where the use of zmt would have removed genuine anomalies coinciding with the traverse direction, an alternative, spread-sheet based, de-striping routine was employed.

The processed survey data is presented in this report as grey-tone plots at a scale of +/- 4nT black/white. These have been scaled, rotated and re-sampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping. Plots of the raw survey data are presented for each followed by an interpretative overlay (Figs 3-18).

Trial trench excavations

Ninety-three trenches were excavated in the locations agreed with the NCC Archaeological Planning Advisor using survey grade GPS (Leica System 1200) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m (Figs 19-21). The majority of trenches were 50m long by 1.8m wide (one machine bucket width), distributed fairly evenly and comprising *c*2.4% of the overall area of development impact. Trenches in the valley bottom, beside the river and canal, which were prone to flooding were 25m long by 1.8m wide, in order to facilitate swift excavation and reinstatement.

Topsoil deposits were removed to the surface of the archaeological horizon by a tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating

under archaeological direction. Movement of machinery was conducted in such a manner as to avoid impact on the archaeology.

Each trench was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation were fully recorded. The recording followed the standard NA context recording system with trench record sheets using unique context numbers for each feature or deposit, cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs using digital and 35mm monochrome film (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* record sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Archaeological features were drawn on permatrace at scale 1:50 and related to the Ordnance Survey. Sections of sampled features were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate, and all levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights were measured in each trench using the Leica 1200 GPS and a dumpy level. Representative samples of all exposed archaeological features were excavated, using sections of 1.0m width or 50% of whole for pits and postholes. Artefacts were collected by hand and from sieved samples. Spoil and the surface of archaeological features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The field data has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

Environmental samples were collected from dated and sealed contexts comprising a total 280 litres of bulk soil, 40 litres per context where possible, or the entire excavated portion in smaller features such as pits, postholes or hearths. Samples were collected and stored in sealable buckets from securely stratified deposits with minimal risk of contamination (EH 2002). All samples were processed at Northamptonshire Archaeology by specialist staff using the flotation technique to retrieve seed, charcoal and other remains. The resultant residues were hand sorted to retrieve bones and other finds prior to analysis.

Observation, investigation and recording during geotechnical test pits

The geotechnical investigations were conducted concurrently with archaeological trial trench works. Two methods were employed by the geotechnical teams: boreholes and test pits. The location of the test pits are shown on the trial trench plans (Figs 19-21). An archaeologist was attendant for all test pits during the removal of surface deposits to the top of the natural geological substrate, boreholes were not monitored. A full archaeological record was maintained comprising daily watching brief logs on *pro-forma* records sheets, a photographic register and a checklist of any associated finds. The thickness of topsoil, subsoil and any other deposits were recorded using unique context numbers for each test pit. All recording was conducted in a manner consistent with the trial trench methodology above; no deposits were encountered that warranted environmental sampling.

4 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS by John Walford

The survey identified four principal archaeological sites (Fig 2; Table 1), and mapped extensive traces of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow. Many non-archaeological features were also detected. The four sites are discussed individually below, and other features are discussed in a thematic way. It should be noted that all chainages given in the table and elsewhere are approximate, and that the accompanying figures should be used to determine more accurate locations and extents for the features detected.

Table 1: Principal archaeological sites identified by geophysical survey

Site	Description	Field	Chainages
A	Neolithic long barrows and associated features	17-18	1200-1450 (Flore)
B	late Iron Age enclosure and a later hollow-way	4	400-580 (Dodford)
C	Roman and undated ditches	34-35	4250-4350 (U Heyford)
D	late medieval and post-medieval road	13	300-320 (Flore)

4.1 Neolithic long barrows and associated features

Two Neolithic long barrows and some other ditches of unknown date were located north of Flore (Figs 9-10). The barrows are completely plough-levelled, but their side ditches survive below ground and have been detected as long, U-shaped positive anomalies aligned approximately east to west. The south-eastern barrow measures *c*60m long by 25m wide, it is open to the east and has a squarish western terminal. The north-western barrow measures *c*70m long by 20m wide and has a rounded eastern end. Its western end is open and is wider than the rest of the barrow due to a pronounced flaring of the side ditches.

Both long barrows are crossed by parallel linear anomalies of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and this demonstrates that the barrows had been levelled well before 1779, when the open fields of Flore were enclosed. However, the flared end of the north-western barrow lies at a headland between two fields of ridge and furrow, and this may indicate that an earthwork survived well enough to serve as a landmark when the open fields were first laid out.

To the south-west of the barrows the survey has detected a positive linear anomaly aligned north to south, and a further, weaker anomaly lying at right angles to it. These appear to define the corner of a ditched enclosure. Further west there are other linear anomalies which cannot be securely interpreted but perhaps also represent ditches. Also, closer to the barrows, there are a large number of small and irregular positive anomalies. The majority of these are likely to have a geological origin, but it is possible that some could indicate small pits or burnt features of prehistoric date.

4.2 Late Iron Age enclosure and a later hollow-way

This site is located to the north-east of Globe Farm, Dodford (Figs 3-4). The main element is a sub-rectangular enclosure ditch, *c*50m long by 40m wide, which was detected as a broad positive anomaly with a slight negative halo. Two breaks in the circuit of this ditch, to the north and the south-west, appear to represent entrances whilst wider breaks probably indicate truncation by a later hollow-way. Within the enclosure there are two irregular clusters of positive anomalies. These cannot be interpreted in detail, but probably represent a combination of pits, hearths, structural remains and similar occupation features.

A positive linear anomaly extending northwards from the north-eastern corner of the enclosure probably represents a length of ditch. Two other linear anomalies are present to the south of the enclosure, and form the corner of a neighbouring enclosure.

An area of weak and amorphous anomalies lying to the south of the enclosure coincides with a large hollow in the field surface, and is likely to indicate a 20th-century quarry pit. A further hollow lies to the north-east of the enclosure, slightly outside of the survey area. The broad positive anomaly which cuts through the enclosure passes close to both these hollows, and probably represents a hollow-way contemporary with the quarrying, perhaps for a quarry railway that linked to the main line.

4.3 Roman and undated ditches

A fragmentary group of ditches lay south of a Roman pottery find spot discovered during the construction of the adjacent M1 motorway, north of Upper Heyford (Brown 2013). The ditches are represented by a series of positive magnetic anomalies of linear and curvilinear form located north of Upper Heyford (Figs 15-16). Too small an area has been surveyed to provide a clear sense of the site's layout, but the anomalies perhaps suggest a group of small enclosures lying alongside a trackway.

Slightly to the south-east of the main ditch group, at chainage 4350, a weakly positive linear anomaly has been detected. This represents a ditch aligned from south-west to north-east. It is not clear whether it is associated with the other ditches, but it seems unlikely to be a recent feature as it does not conform to the alignment of either the medieval ridge and furrow or the modern field boundaries.

Immediately south of the main ditch complex there is an elongated zone of diffuse magnetic anomalies which coincides with a hollow in the field surface. This represents a former gravel pit, which has perhaps truncated the southern edge of the Roman ditch group. A series of similar anomalies, also representing gravel pits, are present to the north-west in the same field.

4.4 Medieval and later cultivation

Parallel, slightly curving, linear anomalies representing medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow were detected widely across the survey area. In two places, Fields 17 and 24 (chainages 1250 and 2400, Flore; Figs 9-10 and 11-12), there are superimposed sets of anomalies on perpendicular alignments. This demonstrates that certain furlongs were re-oriented at some time during the open field system.

Whilst the majority of the ridge and furrow has been levelled by later ploughing, there are some areas of surviving earthworks in the pasture fields to the north and east of Flore. In these areas there is a good correspondence between the earthworks and the detected anomalies.

In Field 36 (chainage 4550, Upper Heyford; Figs 15-16), the ridge and furrow anomalies are partly overlain by narrow bands of magnetic disturbance. Aerial photographic evidence (Google Earth coverage dated 05/2009) shows these to coincide with modern deposits of construction spoil used to infill and level the furrows.

4.5 Late medieval and post-medieval road

The remains of a former road were located between Flore Bridge, beside the A5 Watling Street, and Flore Hill Farm (Figs 5-6). One distinct positive linear anomaly was detected on the line of this road. A much shorter positive anomaly, lying parallel with the first, may represent part of the other side ditch. Slightly to the east, in the corner of the adjacent field, there are two parallel weakly negative linear anomalies which may also relate to the road, showing their continuation.

To the south-west of the road ditch, a large positive anomaly of slightly elongated oval form was detected. Although not entirely convincing as an archaeological feature, it may be a pit or other large disturbance. Two other positive anomalies in the same general area are of uncertain significance but perhaps also indicate archaeological features.

4.6 Dispersed undated linear anomalies

At various points along the road corridor, the survey has detected isolated linear anomalies which may represent ditches of archaeological interest. Instances occur in Fields 15b, 16, 17 around chainages 670, 990, 1100 (Flore) (Figs 7-8) and in Fields 32, 37 and 38 around chainages 3600, 4650 and 4750 (Upper Heyford) (Figs 13-18). Some of these, such as those in Fields 15b and 38 are aligned with features in the modern landscape, and perhaps represent former field boundaries of relatively recent date. There are no particular grounds on which to date the other anomalies.

In Field 25 (chainage 2500, Flore; Figs 11-12), there is a set of parallel linear anomalies, aligned approximately north to south. They are on the opposite alignment to the ridge and furrow which occurs in the same field, and they occupy only a restricted area. Their significance is unclear, whether they are an earlier plough alignment or geological in origin.

4.7 Other anomalies

Modern trackways

The survey data contains two ‘noisy’ linear anomalies which arise from the hardcore surfaces of modern tracks. One occurs along the north-eastern edge of Field 1 (chainage 20, Weedon Bec; Figs 3-4), and the other along the northern edge of Fields 30 and 31 (chainage 3400, Upper Heyford; Figs 13-14). Also in Field 31 there is a narrow, negative linear anomaly, aligned roughly north to south, which coincides with the line of a track terraced into the natural slope.

Pipelines and drains

The survey results indicate several modern pipelines, each represented by a very intense linear anomaly with a pronounced halo to either side. The anomalies are of two forms, some being positive with a negative halo, and others exhibiting an alternating magnetic polarity.

Pipeline anomalies cross the road corridor in Fields 3 and 4 (chainages 300 and 530, Dodford; Figs 3-4), Fields 15 and 16 (chainages 720 and 880, Flore; Figs 7-8) and Fields 35, 37 and 38 (chainages 4510 and 4700, Upper Heyford; Figs 15-16). A metal pipeline also follows the northern edge of the corridor through Fields 21 to 28 (particularly evident from chainages 2100 to 2900, Flore; Figs 11-12). The anomaly in Field 16 is particularly broad and appears to have a double core, suggesting that two pipes run side by side. It is likely that a further pipeline runs alongside the A45 to the

south of Globe Farm, Dodford, giving rise to the alternating magnetic halo evident at the edge of Field 1.

In Field 7 (chainage 730, Dodford; Figs 3-6) there is a weak linear anomaly of alternating polarity which is diagnostic of a field drain. The anomaly lies down slope of a very wet piece of ground, which was too soft and boggy to be surveyed.

Ferrous anomalies and halos

A large number of ferrous anomalies are scattered across the survey area. They can be recognised by their bipolar character (usually positive with a negative halo) and by their magnetic intensity. Most are insignificant, probably indicating no more than pieces of agricultural scrap (eg horseshoes, plough fittings) within the soil, although where concentrations occur, as in the south of Field 11 (chainage 100, Flore; Figs 5-6), this can indicate pits or hollows backfilled with modern rubbish.

The ferrous halos which occur in places around the edges of the fields are similarly insignificant. Most will have been caused by adjacent fences or other modern features such as gates, water troughs and parked vehicles. The halo at the northern edge of Field 6 (chainage 650, Dodford; Figs 5-6) arises from the iron hulks of two old canal barges which are beached in the adjacent field.

Miscellaneous magnetic disturbance

There are a few miscellaneous, poorly diagnostic anomalies which cannot be interpreted with confidence but may be indicative of various forms of disturbed ground. Examples include an elongated positive anomaly at the southern end of Field 11 (chainage 100, Flore; Figs 5-6), which perhaps represents an old river meander, a cluster of unusual anomalies on the site of an old motorcross track in Field 30 (chainage 3350 Upper Heyford; Figs 13-14) and an irregular positive anomaly which coincides with a dark patch of burnt topsoil in Field 38 (chainage 4850, Upper Heyford Fig 16-17). There are also large areas of magnetically ‘noisy’ data from Fields 1 and 39 (chainages 0, Weedon Bec, and 5000, Upper Heyford; Figs 3-4 and 17-18), which indicate areas where there are significant scatters of hardcore and ferrous scrap within the topsoil.

Natural anomalies

Many irregular positive anomalies have been detected along the proposed road corridor, with particular concentrations to the north-east of Globe Farm, Dodford (Figs 3-4), and on the floodplain to the west of Flore Hill Farm, Flore (Figs 5-6). Such anomalies are natural, either through changes in the geological substrate or hydrological changes of the stream such that they are not amenable to detailed interpretation.

620

Globe Farm

Site B

Grand Union Canal

Railway

Boggy

(5)

(8)

6

7

4

3

(2)

1

A45 Daventry Road

Overgrown

600

Areas of development impact

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainages 0 to 700 (Dodford) Fig 3

620

Site B

Globe Farm

Railway

Grand Union Canal

(5)

(8)

Boggy

6

7

4

3

(2)

1

A45 Daventry Road

Overgrown

600

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Archaeology
Ridge and furrow
Quarry pit
Modern trackway
Drain
Pipeline
Ferrous object
Ferrous halo
Geology
Disturbed ground

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainages 0 to 700 (Dodford) Fig 4

630

605

15a

14

Site D

(9)

13

12

11

10

(5)

(8)

Overgrown

A5 Watling Street

6

Railway

Boggy

7

Grand Union Canal

Areas of development impact

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainages 600 (Dodford) to 500 (Flore) Fig 5

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainages 600 (Dodford) to 500 (Flore) Fig 6

635

610

17

16

15b

15a

Cover crop

Hobhill Spinney

Collinshill Farm

Areas of development impact

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainages 500 to 1300 (Flore) Fig 7

635

610

17

16

15b

15a

Cover crop

Hobhill Spinney

Collinshill Farm

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Archaeology
Ridge and furrow
Quarry pit
Modern trackway
Drain
Pipeline
Ferrous object
Ferrous halo
Geology
Disturbed ground

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainages 500 to 1300 (Flore) Fig 8

640

M1 motorway

Site A

17

18

19

20

21

Pet cemetery

Overgrown

610

Brockhall Road

Collinshill Farm

Areas of development impact

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainages 1200 to 2200 (Flore) Fig 9

640

M1 motorway

Site A

17

18

19

20

21

Pet cemetery

Overgrown

Brockhall Road

610

Collinshill Farm

Archaeology
Ridge and furrow
Quarry pit
Modern trackway
Drain
Pipeline
Ferrous object
Ferrous halo
Geology
Disturbed ground

Magnetic anomaly /nT
-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainage 1200 to 2200 (Flore) Fig 10

650

610

20

Overgrown

21

22

Overgrown

23

24

25

M1 motorway

26

27

28

Bringtion Road

Flore

Areas of development impact

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-4nT 0 +4nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainages 2100 to 3000 (Flore) Fig 11

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainage 2100 to 3000 (Flore) Fig 12

660

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

M1 motorway

Hollandstone Farm

600

A45 Northampton Road

Areas of development impact

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainages 3000 to 4000 (Upper Heyford) Fig 13

660

27

28

29

31

32

33

M1 motorway

Hollandstone Farm

A45 Northampton Road

600

Archaeology
Ridge and furrow
Quarry pit
Modern trackway
Drain
Pipeline
Ferrous object
Ferrous halo
Geology
Disturbed ground

Magnetic anomaly /nT
-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainages 3000 to 4000 (Upper Heyford) Fig 14

665

600

33

34

Site C

M1 motorway

A45 Northampton Road

35

36

37

38

39

Upper Heyford

Areas of development impact

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-4nT 0 +4nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainages 4000 to 4600 (Upper Heyford) Fig 15

665

600

33

34

Site C

M1 motorway

35

36

37

38

39

Upper Heyford

Archaeology
Ridge and furrow
Quarry pit
Modern trackway
Drain
Pipeline
Ferrous object
Ferrous halo
Geology
Disturbed ground

Magnetic anomaly /nT
-4nT 0 +4nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainages 4000 to 4600 (Upper Heyford) Fig 16

670

M1 motorway

36

37

A45 Northampton Road

38

39

M1
Junction 16

Upper Heyford

594

Areas of development impact

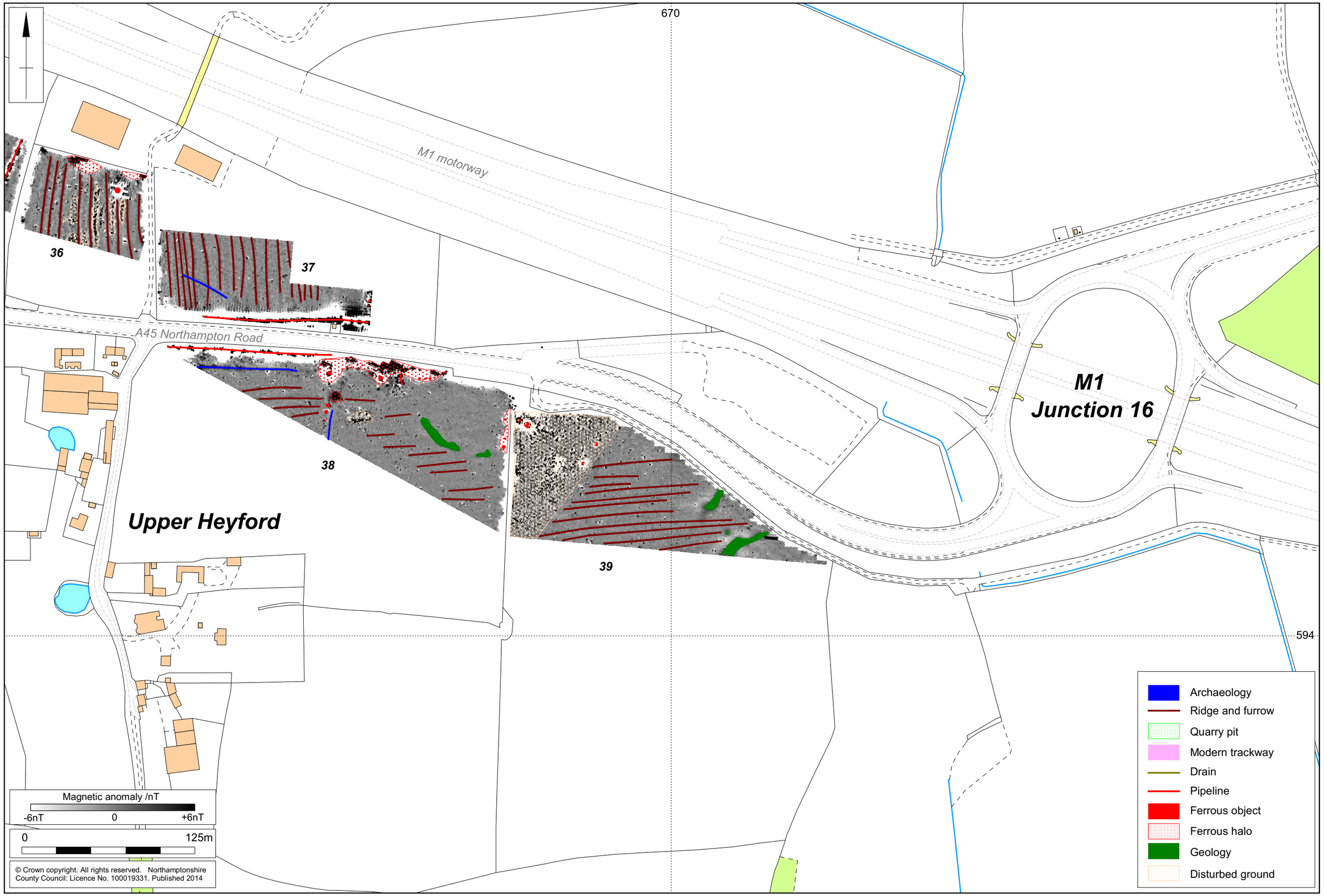
Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 125m

Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey results, Chainage 4520 to 5000 (Upper Heyford) Fig 17



Scale 1:2,500

Magnetometer survey interpretation, Chainages 4520 to 5000 (Upper Heyford) Fig 18

620

630

610

Dodford

late medieval road

late Iron Age enclosure

Railway

Grand Union Canal

A5 Watling Street

A45 Northampton Road

Flore Hill Farm

Globe Farm

Weedon Bec

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93

0 250m

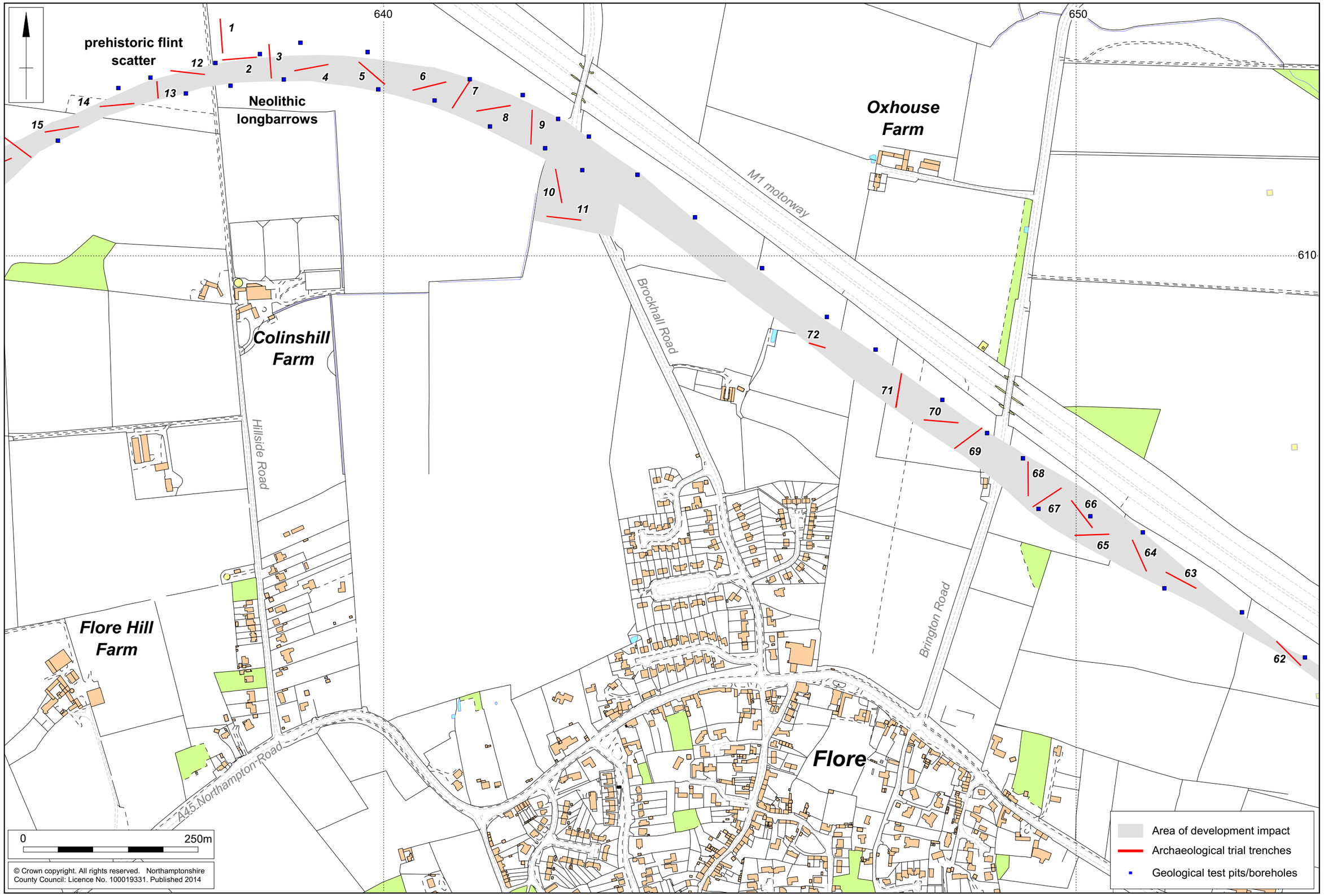
Area of development impact

Archaeological trial trenches

Geological test pits/boreholes

Scale 1:5,000

Archaeological trial trench layout (Dodford to Flore) Fig 19



Scale 1:5,000

Archaeological trial trench layout (Flore) Fig 20

660

670

600

61

60

59

58

57

56

54

55

53

52

51

50

49

48

47

46

45

44

42

43

41

40

39

38

37

36

35

34

33

32

31

30

Hollandstone Farm

Roman and undated ditches

Upper Heyford

A45 Northampton Road

M1 motorway

R. Nene

0 250m

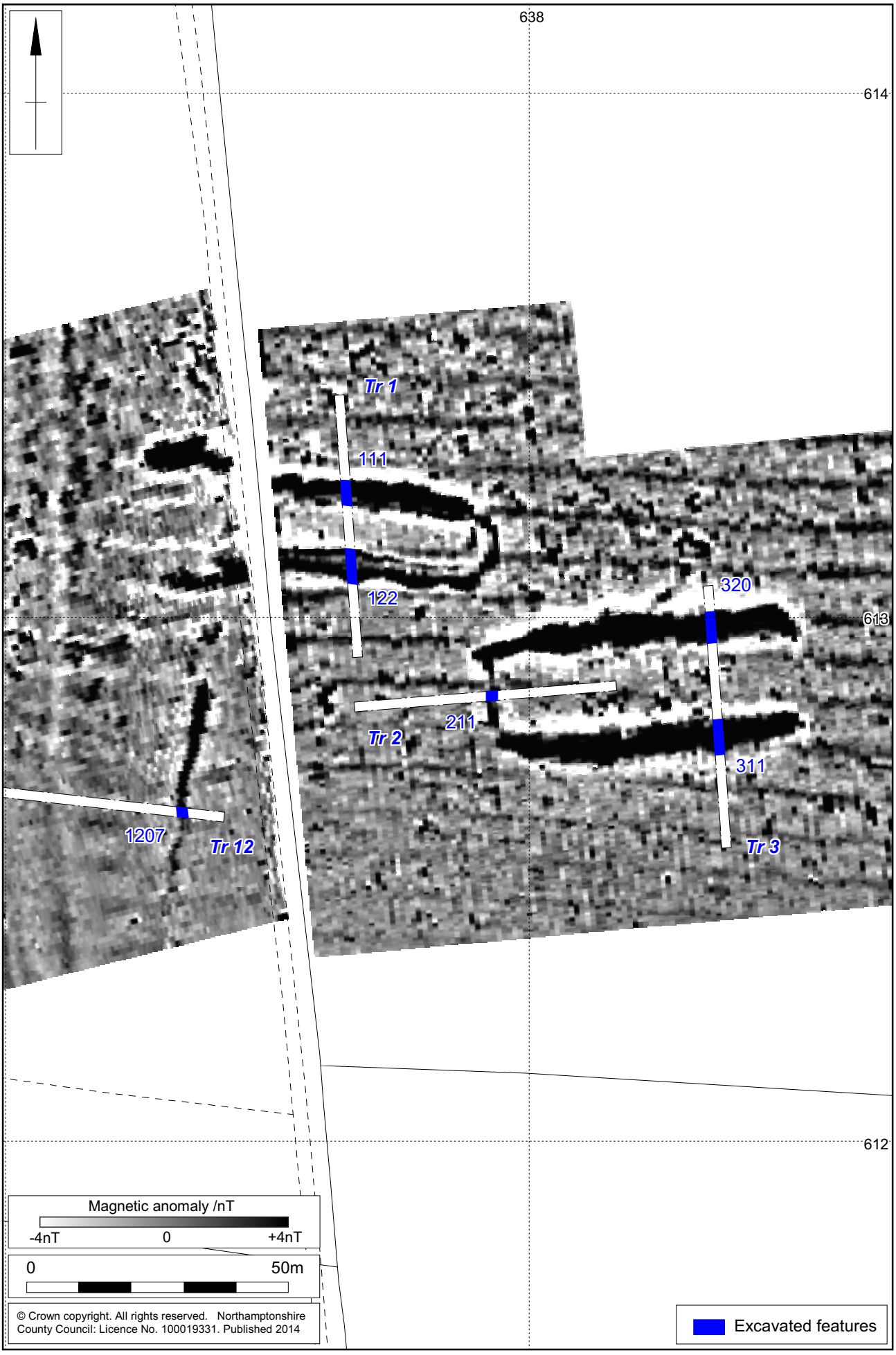
Area of development impact

Archaeological trial trenches

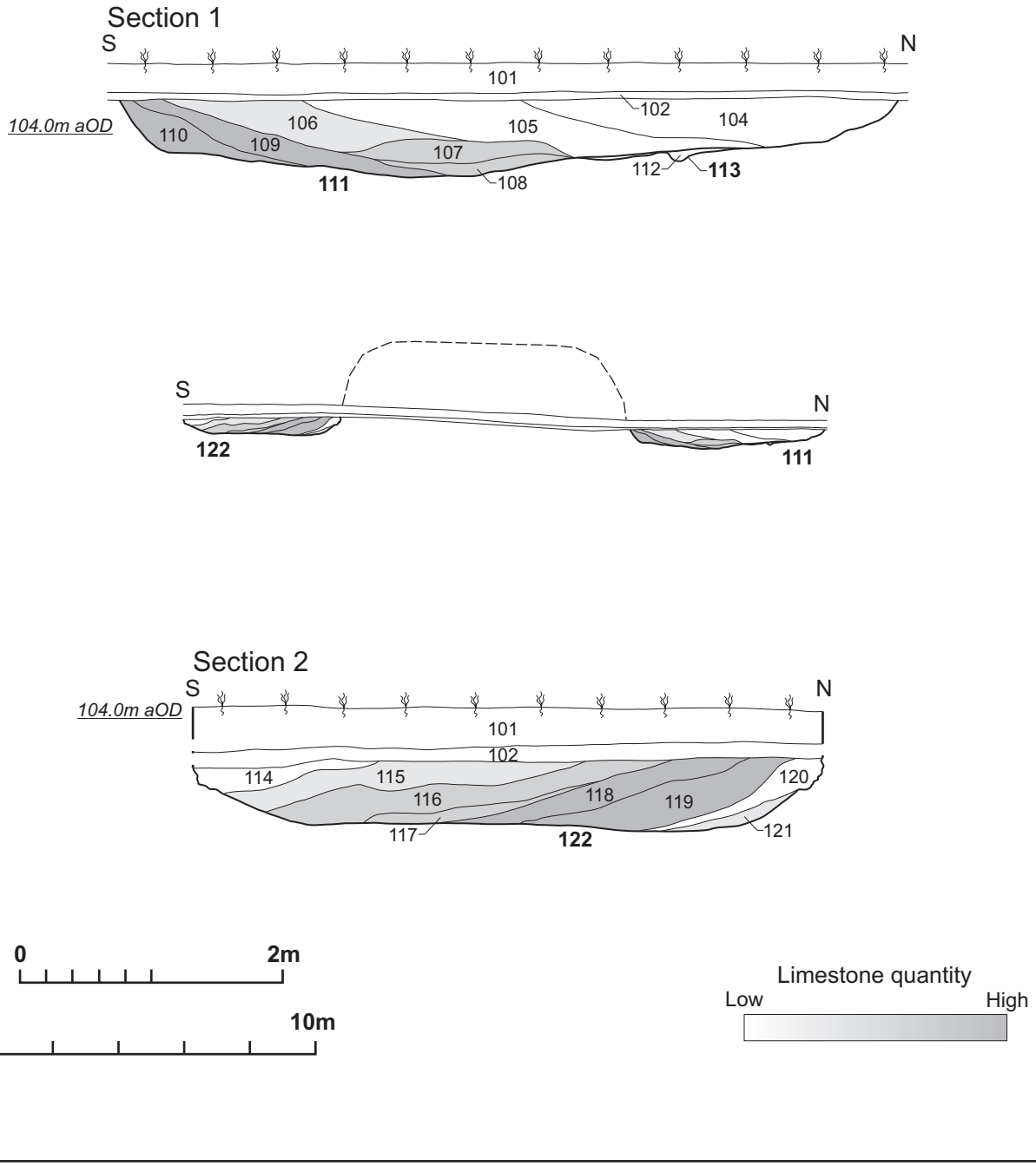
Geological test pits/boreholes

Scale 1:5,000

Archaeological trial trench layout (Flore to Upper Heyford) Fig 21



Scale 1:1,000 Trenches 1-3 and 12, Neolithic long barrows, Chainages 1200-1450 (Flore) Fig 22


Section 1
S
N
101
104.0m aOD
102
104
106
105
110
109
107
112
113
111
108
S
N
122
111
Section 2
S
N
104.0m aOD
101
102
114
115
120
116
118
119
117
121
122
0
2m
0
10m
Limestone quantity
Low
High

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Along much of the proposed road corridor and its associated works there was a general absence of archaeological features. These trenches were recorded by photographic record and the trench log sheets recorded the thickness of topsoil and subsoil deposits, together with the nature of the natural geological substrate horizon. This data is included within the context inventory (see Appendix). The overall trench layout is depicted in Figures 19-21. The information that follows focuses upon groups of trenches where archaeological features were investigated, which may be of further interest, and which tie in with sites identified during the desk-based assessment (Brown 2013a).

5.1 Prehistoric flint scatter, chainages 1200-1450 (Flore)

Topsoil, subsoil and excavated deposits from features (where present) within trenches 1-18 were sampled and examined for worked flint artefacts that may elucidate further on the character, date, nature and extent of the prehistoric flint scatter recorded by the Historic Environment Record (HER 912). Flint scatters are not always associated with sub-surface features, and artefacts are often scattered over wide areas within the surface deposits by later agricultural activities. The HER records an approximate find location for flints and should not be considered absolute in its accuracy.

Initially spoil at either end of trenches 1-18 was sieved, although owing to wet weather the soil became thick and would not pass through the sieve, so this method was subsequently modified to fieldwalking the spoil heaps for finds.

Wolframm-Murray's analysis of the worked flint assemblage provides a broad Neolithic date with a substantial late Mesolithic to early Neolithic component, based on technological characteristics. The majority of worked flint was recovered from the Neolithic long barrow ditch fills, or from the topsoil and subsoil in their vicinity, trenches 1-3 (Fig 20). Fewer flints were recovered beyond this extent, indicating that whilst the flint scatter exists over a wider area, its focus is principally upon the site of the long barrows and not, as the HER suggested, located to their west side. The earlier component also suggests that the long barrows themselves were not the first episode of land use on the site, and that it was already a significant location prior to their construction.

5.2 Neolithic long barrows, Chainages 1200-1450 (Flore)

Features were examined in trenches 1-3, north of Flore, which are thought to relate to two probable Neolithic long barrows with the south-eastern barrow facing east and the north-western barrow facing west (Fig 22; HER7070). The geophysical survey suggested the long barrows are in the range of 22-30m wide by 62-67m long. Although the north-western long barrow is outside the bounds of the proposed road corridor, the NCC Archaeological Planning Advisor required that both were examined for comparative purposes. Neither long barrow is visible from the surface, no earthworks survive. Plough truncation from the medieval period onwards has swept away all surface evidence for the mounds.

Topographic and geological context

The long barrows are located upon a broad plateau at *c*105m above Ordnance Datum that overlooks the Upper Nene Valley to the south and the tributary valley that joins it from the north-west. From the plateau the main view is north-west across the tributary valley towards Dodford Hill, but the greater extent of the Upper Nene cannot be seen

over the brow of the plateau to the south and east. However, the long barrows may be viewed clearly from all of the surrounding high points of land; Brockhall to the north, Waydale Hill to the north-east, Glassthorpe Hill to the east, Flore Hill to the south-east, Hobhill to the south-west and Dodford Hill to the west. The long barrows therefore lie within a natural topographical amphitheatre, assuming hills sufficiently clear of trees to allow a clear line of sight.

The plateau itself is located immediately north-east of the confluence point between the River Nene and one of its tributaries. The geology at this point comprises predominantly Inferior Oolitic Limestone, which varies between white, greyish-brown, orange-brown and pinkish-red rock according to the proportion of iron and other salts present as mineral concentrations. The strong magnetic responses from geophysical survey are attributed to the iron content of the stone and the anomalies for the long barrow ditches are particularly strong because the stone that has been quarried from them, and mounded up to create the long barrows, has now been scattered widely across the field by subsequent ploughing.

Ditch 111, trench 1, looking north-west Fig 24

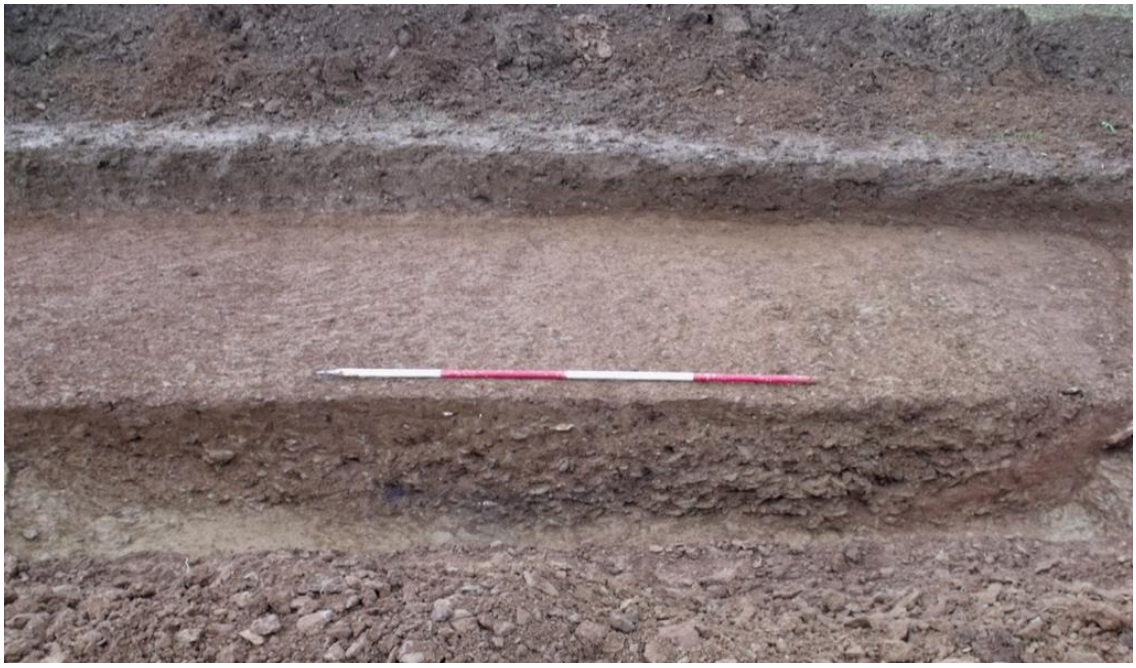
Trench 1

Trench 1 exposed the parallel side ditches of the north-western long barrow. The ditch on the northern side, 111, was 5.9m wide and 0.58m deep with steep uneven sides and a broad flattish base, interrupted by a small hollow (Figs 23-24, S1). Pinkish-grey silty clay mound material lay against the inner (southern) side of the long barrow ditch, 110-106. These early deposits contained high quantities of limestone as large flat slabs, up to 280mm in size, and also with dense concentrations of shattered smaller

pieces throughout. A total 120+ sherds (508g) of pottery from fill 109 is early Neolithic in date, and is consistent in date with an assemblage of fifty worked flints from fill 108 above it. Later deposits became mixed with increasing quantities of soft reddish brown-silty clay loam soils, 105-104, whilst the stone content decreased rapidly in both the size of particles and their frequency towards the top of the ditch. The latest fill, 104, produced seven sherds (24g) of Bronze Age pottery, indicating the extended duration before which the ditches were completely filled.

On the southern side of the long barrow mound, ditch 122 was 4.78m wide by 0.47m deep, parallel to ditch 111 (Figs 23 and 25, S2). The distance between the ditches, the footprint of the mound at this point, was 8.8m. There was a similar sequence of deposits in the northern ditch. The ditch had fairly steep uneven sides and a broad flattish base. A comparable sequence of fills lay on the inside (northern) edge of the ditch, where pinkish-grey silty clay and limestone slabs, up to 300mm in size, had been deposited in the ditch, 121-116. A minor difference occurred in that the initial deposits were largely reddish-brown silty clay, 121-120. These deposits were devoid of artefacts and contained no seeds. The fills were then followed by deposits with high quantities of limestone, much as that in ditch 111. No finds were recovered from these earlier deposits, but as the frequency of limestone became less and deposits became mixed with increasing quantities of soft reddish-brown-silty clay loam soils, 115-114, worked flint and animal bone was also found.

A depositional event occurred in both ditch 111 and 122 late in the sequence of the limestone rich deposits and before the later loamy fills began accumulating. A thin darker bluish-grey band of silty sandy loam was observed, fills 108 and 117, which was the result of the discolouration produced by charcoal. Samples taken on the north side of the long barrow, fill 109, contained a few charred wheat grains alongside the early Neolithic pottery.



Ditch 122, trench 1, looking west Fig 25

Trench 2

The west end of the southern of the two long barrows was examined in Trench 2. Ditch 211 was aligned north-south and was 3.40m wide by 0.44m deep (Figs 23 and 26, S3). The sides were fairly steep, if slightly uneven, and it had a flattish base. The initial fill, 210, was largely dark reddish-brown silty clay with some larger stones. This was followed by flat limestone fragments, up to 180mm in size, mixed with the silty clay, 209 and 205, which had been deposited within the ditch from the east. The west side of the ditch had a thin layer of yellow sandy clay, 206, at the base. Above these deposits were varying shades of mid reddish-brown silty clay, 208-207 and 204, with very little stone. A small group of three sherds (49g) of pottery from fill 204 dates from the Bronze Age indicating that the depositional sequence is consistent with the other long barrow features.

Ditch 211, trench 2, looking south Fig 26

Trench 3

The parallel side ditches of the southern long barrow were both examined. The ditch on the northern side, 320, lay west to east, with an overall width of 8.8m and a depth of 1.32m (Figs 27-28, S10). The sides were steep and fairly even, with a sharp break of slope onto a broad flat base. Limestone slabs, up to 320mmin size, had slipped or fallen into the inside (southern) edge of the ditch together with large quantities of smaller shattered limestone, 319-316. A small group of 27+ body sherds (83g) from fill 317 were from early Neolithic Carinated Bowl pottery, although two accompanying sherds (13g) of Impressed Ware bowl pottery are middle Neolithic in date. This fill also produced a piece of animal bone sharpened into a cutting/scraping implement. Soil samples from this deposit contained charcoal, but no charred seed grains. Above these deposits, fill 315 marked a distinct change in colouration, although the overall silty clay matrix varied only in the proportions of stone and the particle size, which decreased towards the top of the ditch fill sequence. The deposits below fill 315 were generally reddish-brown, made darker by the moisture in the soil, but fill 315 took on a slightly more orange hue (Fig 28). Although not the same as the stark contrast from pinkish-grey to bright reddish-brown seen in the fill of the ditches in trench 1, the boundary is likely to be synonymous with changes in the local soil environment. The soils above this boundary probably accumulated much more slowly after plant

colonisation of the long barrow mound, and the date of the material from the later fills is consistent with this hypothesis.

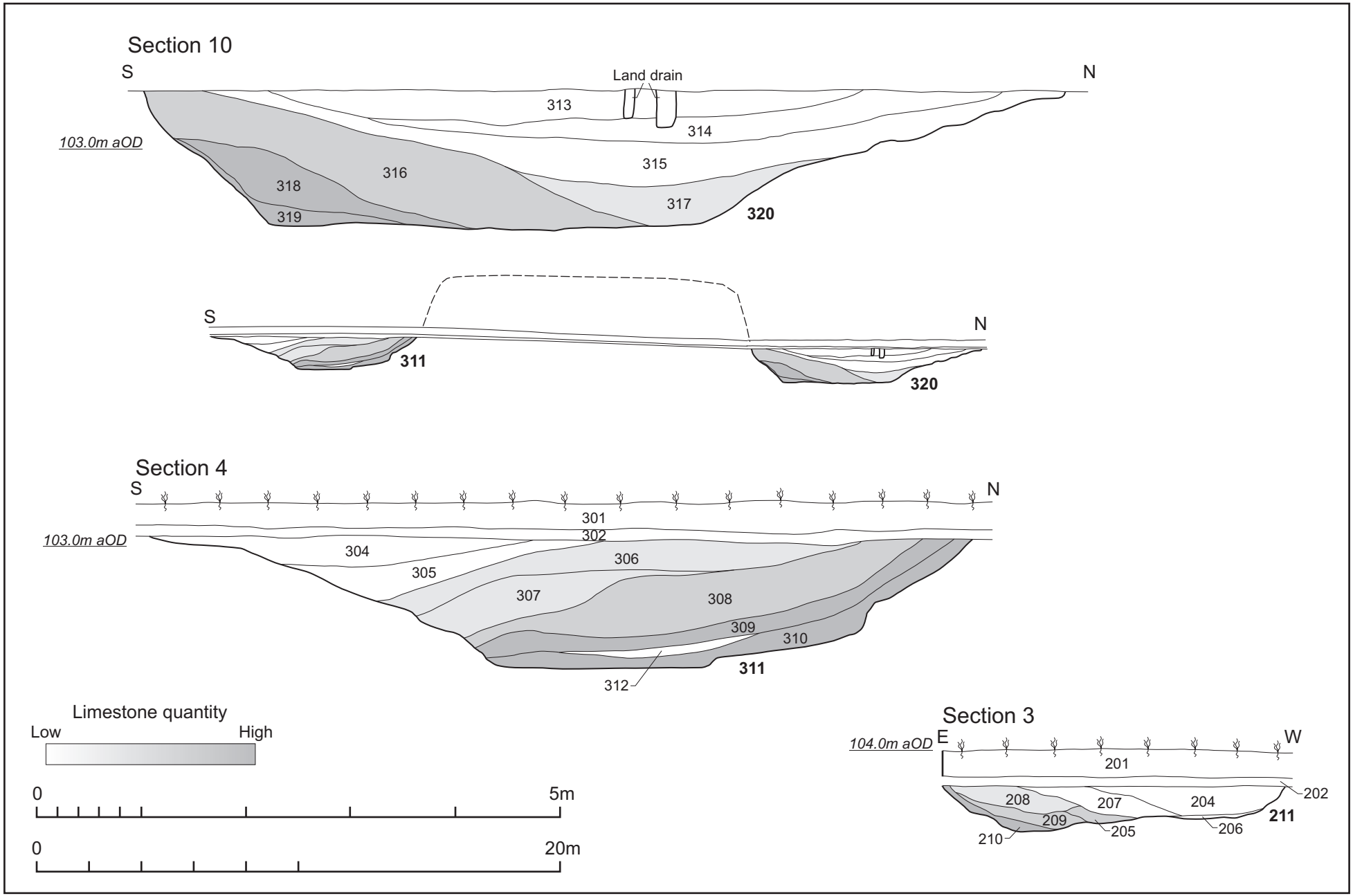
Animal bone from fill 315 included a cattle humerus that was of a size proportional to an auroch, a species of wild ox that became extinct before the end of the Bronze Age. Five worked flints from the upper fills, 315-313, included blades and scrapers mainly as residual artefacts. Two sherds of possible early Bronze Age pottery (6g) were found in the uppermost fill, 313.

The distance between the north ditch, 320, and the ditch on the southern side of the long barrow, ditch 311, was 12.8m. Ditch 311 was 7.80m wide and 1.22m deep (Figs 27 and 29, S4). The sides were steep, but somewhat uneven, with a sharp break of slope onto a broad flat base. Large flat limestone slabs and fragmented pieces, up to 300mm in size, were mixed with silty clay and deposited against the inside (northern) edge of the ditch, 310-308. Soil samples from the thin band of greyish-brown clayey silt near the base, fill 312, contained a few barley and wheat grains. There are eight sherds (22g) of pottery from fill 308, slightly higher up in the ditch, which are middle Neolithic in date. As with the other ditches there was a gradual change in the proportions of stone and the particle size, which were smaller towards the top of the fill sequence. The deposits above fill 308 were generally more reddish-brown, rather than reddish-grey-brown or orange and generally more silty (Fig 29). The evidence from datable artefacts for the duration and extent of deposition is less obvious, as fewer artefacts were found, but the overall sequence marked by changes in soil texture and inclusions was consistent with those observed elsewhere amongst the long barrow features. One of the later fills, 306, produced a piece of red deer antler.

Trench 12

A single ditch, 1207, aligned north-east to south-west, that was 1.88m wide by 0.69m deep, and is likely to be over 40m long (Figs 22-23, S3 and Fig 30). The full width of the ditch was not exposed within the trench since an agricultural tramway crossed the trench at this point and could not be extended. The sides of the ditch were steep, with a rapid break of slope into a slightly uneven rounded base. The fill sequence was closely comparable to that observed in the long barrow ditches, with the basal fills containing large quantities of limestone, which decreased in size and frequency towards the top of the ditch, fills 1206-1204. There was no evidence for bank material sliding into the ditch or a collapsed dry stone wall on the west side, but since the east side was not visible, this may still be the origin of the limestone. The stone may otherwise have been deposited by more deliberate infilling with surface material, which would make the ditch much later in date than the truncation of the long barrows, given the most obvious source of the limestone would be from the levelling of the long barrows. Ditch 1207 therefore remains largely undated. Only worked flint flakes were recovered, rather than the more closely datable pottery, but the geophysical data tends to suggest that the ditch is associated with the long barrows on the basis of its proximity, alignment and extent (Figs 9-10).

Scale 1:50 & 1:200



Neolithic long barrow Fig 27

Ditch 320, trench 3, looking south-east Fig 28

Ditch 311, trench 3, looking south-west Fig 29

Ditch 1207, trench 12, looking south-west Fig 30

Discussion

Deposition of limestone in the long barrow ditches occurred either because the mounds were unconsolidated, allowing some stone to tumble from the sides with relative ease, or were the result of collapsed dry stone walling. A steep-sided revetment or mound could have suffered a large-scale collapse or may even have been slighted at the end of the monument's period of use. It is likely that the later deposits were laid down much more slowly as grasses and herbaceous plants colonised the mound. Soils began to form above the tumbled stone that were periodically washed into the ditch. Changes to the nature of the soil may also be attributed to changing environmental conditions in the vicinity. As time progressed the larger stones had already settled and were anchored below the soil, and a mat of surface vegetation prevented further slippage. Some larger deposits of material may be the result of deliberate partial levelling, particularly later in the deposit sequence. Although the frequency was very low, the occurrence of charred seeds alongside the large (for this period) pottery assemblage, seems to fall immediately after the major limestone deposition, either through collapse or levelling, and before plant colonisation.

The broad distribution of megalithic long mounds and passage tombs within England is reflected by the geological availability of suitable stone. Long barrows are more commonly found in Cornwall, Devon, Herefordshire, Wiltshire, Derbyshire and across the Cotswolds, with fewer examples scattered elsewhere. The broad category of megalithic Chamber Tomb, defined by English Heritage, covers a wide range of different forms, many of which differ by regional character (EH 2011b). The long barrows at Flore are best reflected by the Cotswold-Severn type monuments; long trapezoidal mounds with a distinctive entrance at the wider end, and with the mound containing one or more passages with occasional side chambers. However, it is likely evidence of internal passages and chambers at Flore have been ploughed away. The Flore long barrows are also similar in size to typical examples of the type such as Windmill Tump, Rodmarton, Gloucestershire, which is 60m long by 20m wide and stands 2m high.

Both Windmill Tump and Belas Knap in Gloucestershire are examples of long barrows, each with a wide dry stone wall reveted entrance fascade at the front (widest) end that splays either side of the entrance, forming horns that wrap around at the sides. The west end of the north-western Flore long barrow may have been very similar and it is suggested that the area defined by the arms of the fascade represents an important focus for ceremonial activity, raising the importance, significance and sensitivity of any surviving archaeological deposits within their vicinity (EH 2011b, 3). Other long barrows of this type, such as Waylands Smithy, in Oxfordshire, had a straight dry-stone wall fascade without the horns. The two long barrows at Flore did not necessarily have to be identical and the south-eastern Flore long barrow entrance, probably at the east end, did not splay outwards like its neighbour.

At Windmill Tump, Belas Knap and Hazleton (also Gloucestershire), these long barrow fascades flanked a false passage entrance. The real entrances to the chambers within the long barrow were accessed from the sides of the mound at intervals along its length. Given the loss of the mounds, it is unlikely that evidence survives that could help determine if this was also the case at Flore. However, the large deposits of limestone within the flanking quarry ditches are similar to the example that was fully excavated at Hazleton. Here the whole of the long barrow was reveted, not just at the front fascade like at Windmill Tump and Belas Knap, but along the full length of both sides and the opposite end. At Hazleton topsoil from the surface of the flanking quarry ditches was mounded in two lines at the base of the long barrow mound and substantial quarried stones were cast between these and over them to form the majority of the construction. This could then be added to if the long barrow required extension. It is likely that the examples at Flore were built using the same kind of method, although loss of the mounds to ploughing means that this cannot be substantiated, the extent and distribution of collapsed revetment walls suggests that these extended around the whole of the monument.

Radiocarbon dates from Hazleton indicated that the first bones were entombed immediately prior to cal 3650BC for a short period until roughly cal 3620BC; at Waylands Smithy the mound was raised over an earlier monument cal 3430BC; whilst at West Kennet in Wiltshire the chamber burials were entombed between cal 3670-3635BC and tomb was closed 10-30 years later. In all cases the burial period for the tombs was within the span of one generation, although the overall period of their use as landscape monuments stretches thousands of years. The funerary activity tends to fall in the middle to latter part of the fourth millennium BC (EH 2011b, 4). Their period of use is broadly contemporary with the occupation of causewayed enclosure camps like those known at Briar Hill and at Dallington Grange, in Northampton.

Other potential, but unconfirmed, Cotswold-Severn type long barrows in Northamptonshire are at Stowe-Nine-Churches and on the high ground north of Harpole. All of these are in the Northamptonshire wold, whilst further downstream a single earthen long barrow is known, which was excavated at Redlands Farm, Stanwick, as part of a much larger complex of monuments. The principal conclusion to date is that the long barrows at Flore belong to a Neolithic regional and cultural tradition that has greater similarity with south-west Britain and is in contrast to a differing culture found in the East of England with which the archaeology of the Middle and Lower Nene Valley are more closely associated (Chapman 2008).

5.3 Late Iron Age enclosure, Chainages 400-580 (Dodford)

A rectangular enclosure was investigated by trenches 86-89 within the parish of Dodford, north of Weedon Bec (Figs 19 and 31). The enclosure had not been previously identified by the HER or other documentary sources. Geophysical results indicate that the enclosure is roughly 50m long by 40m wide and is not isolated, further less prominent features appear to extend on either side, to the north and south, but not to the east or west. An entrance may lie on the north side, roughly 3m wide. The inside of the enclosure appears to contain pits, and one of these was investigated in trench 89, pit 8906. The enclosure is bisected on a north-west to south-east alignment by a later feature which is thought to have been a small quarry railway.

Topographic and geological context

The enclosure and any adjoining enclosures on its north and south sides extend across an east facing slope at *c*95-100m above Ordnance Datum, overlooking a tributary to the River Nene that flows south of Whilton Locks to Weedon Bec. The enclosure is positioned atop a slight spur in the valley side, overlooking a dry undulation in the valley side to the south which drains water during wetter periods.

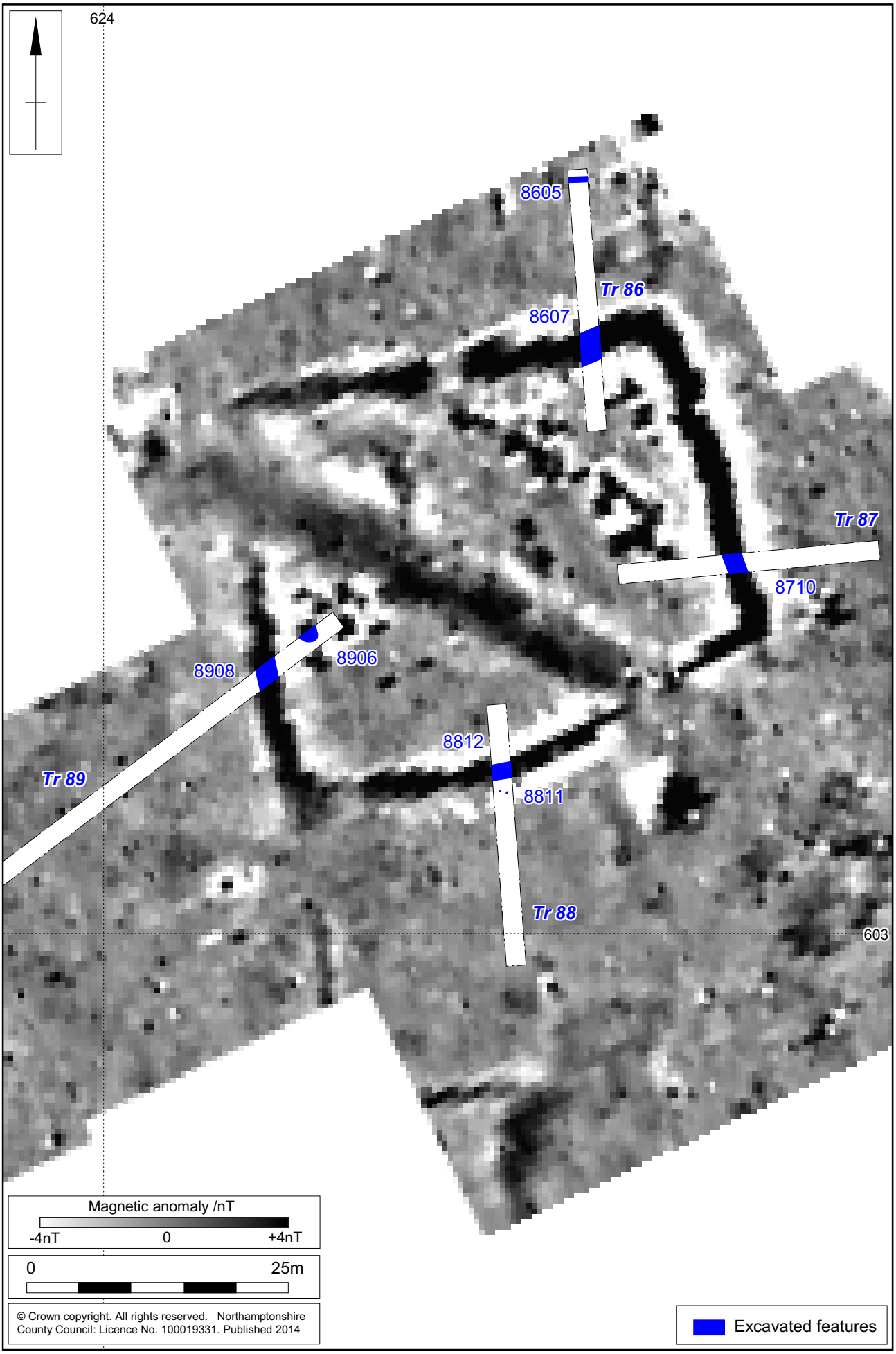
The geology at this point is largely sand and gravel of glacial origin, which varies between yellowish-orange coarse sand, orange sandy clay with gravel, and coarse orange gravel. The glacial deposit forms a gravel terrace on top of the Upper and Middle Lias Clay elsewhere along the valley sides. The sand and gravel was quarried in the early to mid-20th century according to the Ordnance Survey maps of 1926-1971.

Trenches 86-89

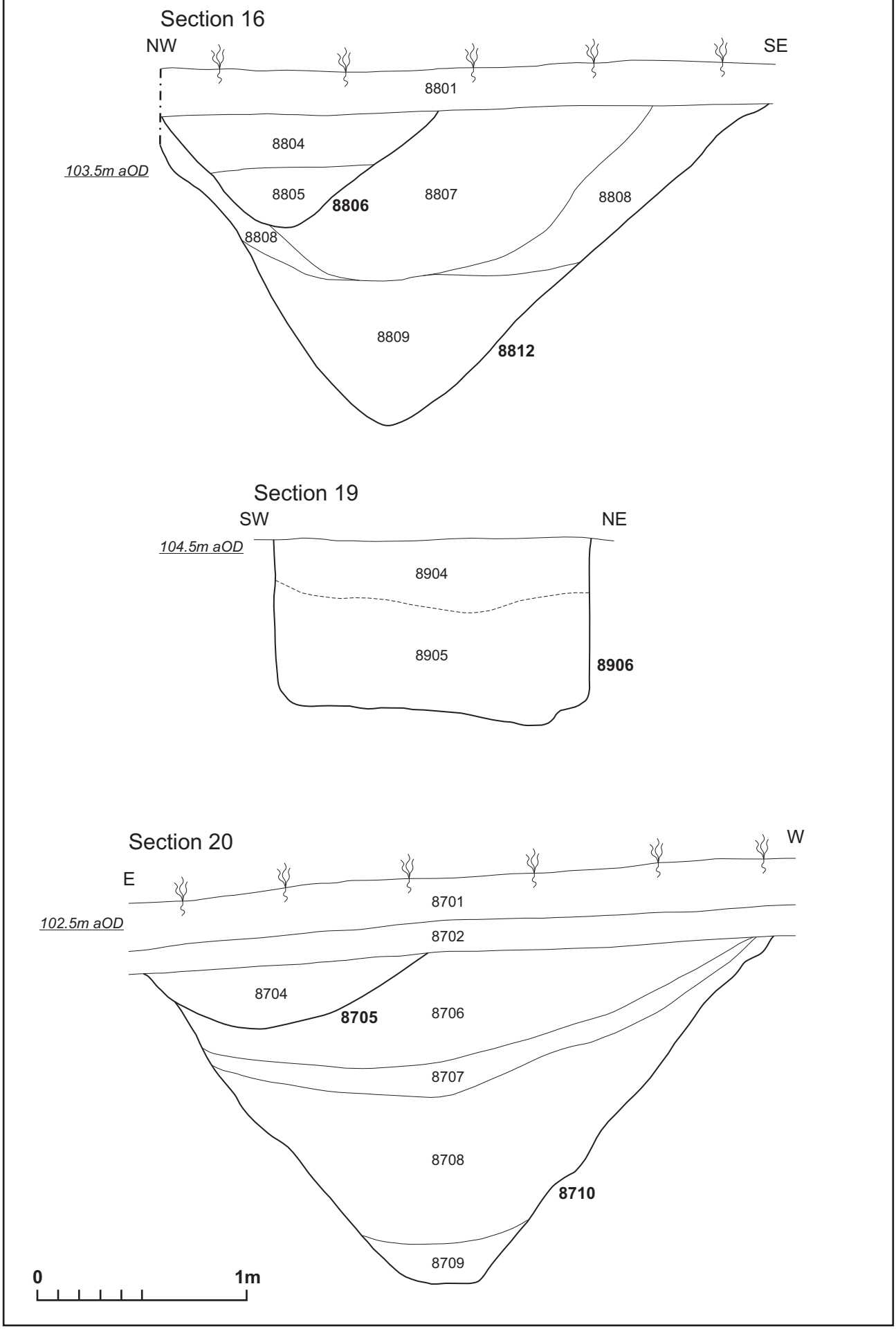
All four trenches, 86-89, confirmed the presence of a substantial ditch on each side of the enclosure. The ditch was excavated within two of the four trenches, and both ditch sections show a steep and well formed regular V-shaped cut with a narrow, largely uneroded, base (Figs 32-33, S16 and S20). The base of the ditch contained primary silting, lighter in colour and more clayey in consistency, whilst later accumulations of silty clay material were successively darker, stained to a darker greyish-brown by greater quantities of charred material, and with a higher loamy component, which may indicate periodic dumping of waste. The uppermost fills of the enclosure ditch seem to have been cut by less substantial ditches, perhaps indicating incorporation of the enclosure into a wider distribution of fields systems after its disuse. Whether its function was purely agricultural or if it included domestic activity is not currently clear.

Finds were rather low in quantity; ditch 8710 produced a total of four sherds (13g) of late Iron Age pottery, ditch 8812 produced nine sherds (239g), and there was only one sherd (17g) from ditch recut 8806. The animal bone included cattle, sheep/goat and pig remains, however, whilst in good condition, they were also generally low in quantity. The charred seed remains were, however, much more revealing. Ditch 8812 contained sparse quantities of oats, barley and wheat derived from cereal processing and storage waste together with the weed seeds typically found amongst late Iron Age crops. The material from ditch 8710 also contained cereals, although far fewer were present.

Pit 8906 was oval in plan, 1.52m wide by 1.05m deep, with vertical sides and a broad flat base (Figs 32 and 34, S19). The fills were fairly gravelly, containing both animal bone and pottery, and do not seem to have been derived from its use, but were filled rapidly in a single event. A small quantity of cereal was present, and although there was no evidence for a clay lining on the pit, the possibility remains that an important function of the enclosure may have been for grain storage purposes, given the large number of pits indicated by geophysical anomalies.



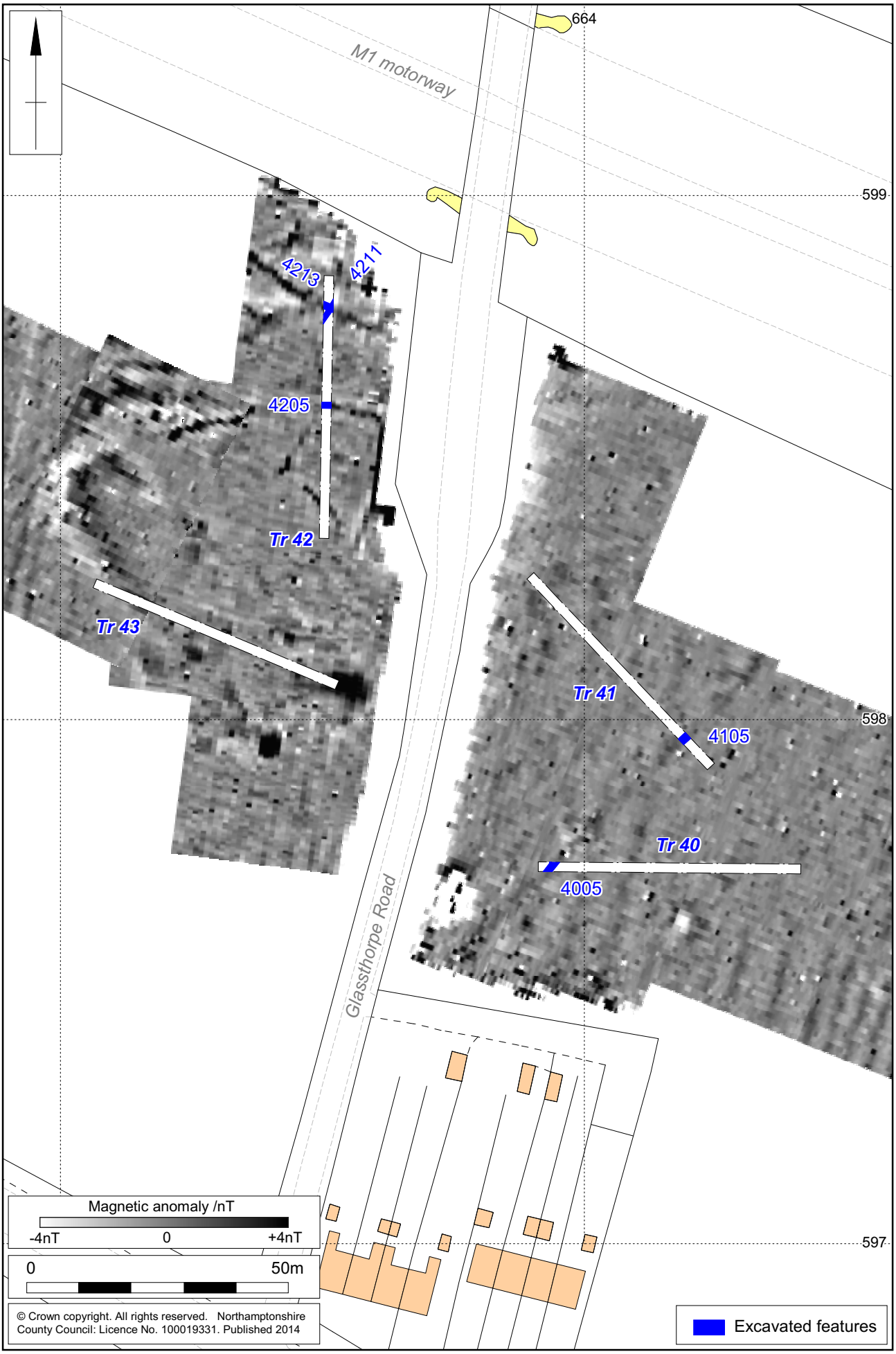
Scale 1:500 Trenches 86-89, late Iron Age enclosure, Chainages 400-580 (Dodford) Fig 31



Scale 1:25 Late Iron Age enclosure Fig 32

Ditch 8710, trench 87, looking south-east Fig 33

Pit 8906, trench 89, looking north-west Fig 34



Scale 1:1,000 Trenches 40-43, Roman settlement, Chainages 4250-4350 (Upper Heyford) Fig 35

Two small postholes were found on the south side of the enclosure ditch, 8812. Neither posthole was more substantial than 60mm deep, and given the lack of truncation for this site the postholes are more likely to represent soil marks and indentations left behind by fencing than any more substantial structures.

Ditch 8605, which crossed the north end of trench 86 on a west to east alignment had a similar V-shaped profile, but contained a fragment of clay tobacco-pipe stem with a bore of 5/16th of an inch, which suggests a date in the late 18th to 19th century. The first edition Ordnance Survey maps indicate that a disused field boundary passes to the north of the enclosure on the same alignment.

5.4 Roman settlement, Chainages 4250-4350 (Upper Heyford)

Two ditches were identified in trench 42, to the north of Upper Heyford, which produced 14 sherds (111g) of Roman pottery and two sherds (84g) of Roman tile. The ditches were identified by geophysical survey slightly to the south of a Roman site recorded at the time of the M1 motorway construction (Figs 21 and 35; HER828). The HER describes the location as Roman settlement with a pottery assemblage comprised of greywares and 4th-century Nene Valley Colour-coated wares, which were recovered in 1963. The present remains lie on its periphery.

Topographic and geological context

The site lies upon a gentle south facing slope at *c*85-90m above Ordnance Datum, overlooking the River Nene to the south of Upper Heyford. The ground is fairly level and flattens out slightly towards the village, which sits upon a spur of the valley side commanding views along the River Nene to the east and west.

The geology at this point is Upper and Middle Lias Clay, which is predominantly light bluish-grey, stained orange-brown and reddish-brown where iron salts are included within the matrix. Elsewhere along the valley sides terraces of sand and gravel have been deposited on top of the clay by the retreating glaciers, which has led to extensive quarrying in the early to mid-20th century.

Trenches 41-42

The excavated and geophysical evidence suggests that the extent of these remains within the present development area is likely to be limited, since the area to the south of trench 42 has been heavily quarried and the ditches investigated by trench 42 do not appear in the geophysical survey results to the east of the Glassthorpe Road.

Both ditches 4205 and 4211 had V-shaped sloping sides and narrow bases, which are common amongst Roman drainage systems (Fig 36). The ditches contained greyish-brown fills materials that were high in clayey silt, and seem likely to have accumulated gradually over an extended period of time. There were no indications of dumping and the few finds are likely to have been casual losses or material from manuring scatters washed into the features.

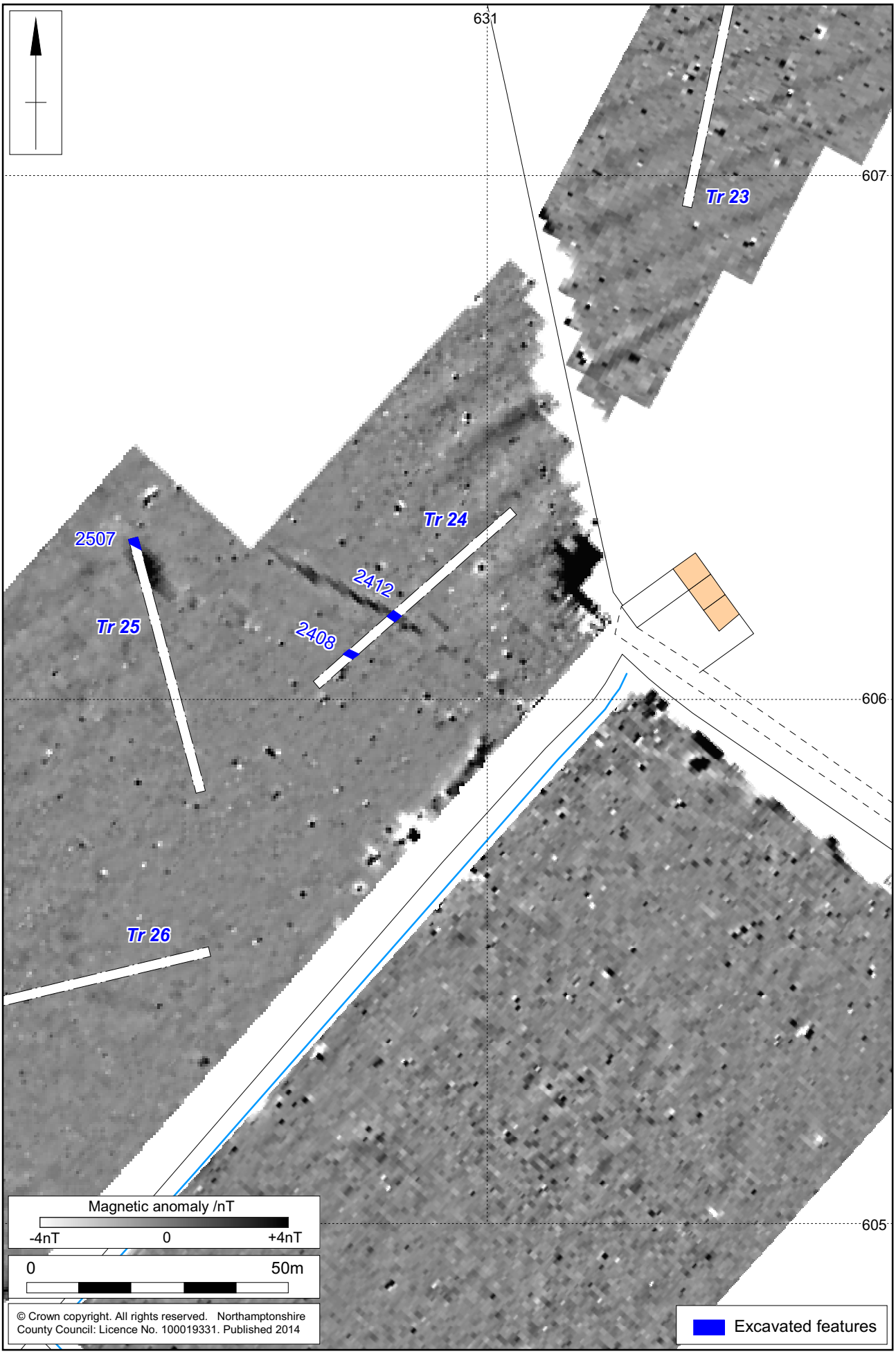
Ditch 4211 was cut by a slightly later Roman ditch, 4213, which was on the same alignment as post-medieval stone drain 4207. The Roman ditch, 4213, appears to have had a steep-sided rounded profile and was filled by light orange-brown sandy clay. The stone drain had a vertical cut that had caused minimal disturbance to the features, leaving relationships clear in section.

A single linear ditch, 4105, lay east of Glassthorpe Road and was aligned south-west to north-east (Fig 37). The profile was unlike the Roman ditches in trench 42, having

straight sides and a broad flat base. The fill material was also lighter orange-brown instead of greyish-brown and contained sandy clay gravel instead of clayey silt and silty clay. No datable finds were recovered and the ditch does not correlate with any of the boundaries located using historical maps.

Ditch 4211, cut by stone drain 4207, trench 42, looking south Fig 36

Ditch 4105, trench 41, looking north-east Fig 37



Scale 1:1,000 Trenches 23-26, late medieval road, Chainages 300-320 (Flore) Fig 38

5.5 Late medieval road, Chainages 300-320 (Flore)

Map evidence that was examined during desk-based assessment of the proposed road corridor identified a lost back lane that once linked Dodford to Flore (Brown 2013a). The road is first mapped by the Knightley estate in 1742, but is thought to have been a green lane that may have late medieval origins. The roadside ditches were identified by geophysical survey as discontinuous positive and negative magnetic anomalies (Fig 38). It is noticeable that the road also marks the western limit of the ridge and furrow.

Topographic and geological context

The road crosses a tributary to the River Nene from Dodford parish, close to the A5 Watling Street, to the north of Weedon Bec. The road is aligned north-west to south-east across a west facing slope at *c*80-85m above Ordnance Datum, and then climbs the south-west side of Flore Hill towards the village.

The geology at this point is largely river terrace gravel, which varies between yellowish-orange coarse sand, orange sandy clay with gravel, and coarse orange gravel. The gravel is overlain by thin spreads of alluvium beside the tributary river channel.

Trench 24

Both parallel roadside ditches were identified in trench 24 (Fig 19), aligned north-west to south-east, to either side of a buried soil layer, 2413 (Fig 39). The road was little more than a trackway, occasionally firmed up with dumps of stone. Layer 2413 was only present between the ditches, and below the subsoil, created by rutting and movement of traffic. The soil comprised mid reddish-brown silty clay with moderate gravel and fragmented stone. The ditches on either side were similar, steep-sided V-shaped ditches with slightly rounded bases, and contained a sequence of orange-brown and greyish-brown silty clay fills that had accumulated gradually. An aerial photograph from 1949 indicates that the roadside probably had hedgerow trees before they were grubbed out, which will have created pit-like features along its course (Fig 40).

Roadside ditches 2408, 2412 and layer 2413, trench 24, looking north Fig 39

Watling Street, looking south, 26/6/49 (Cambridge University CU74) Fig 40

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Worked flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

In total, 135 pieces of worked flint were recovered *in situ* from features and as residual finds from the topsoil or subsoil. The assemblage comprises 88 flakes, 32 blades, six cores, one hammerstone fragment, and eight retouched tool forms comprising three scrapers, one microlith, one serrated blade, and three undefined tool forms (Table 2).

Raw material and condition

The majority of the raw material comprises vitreous flints ranging from light to dark grey and brown colours. There is also a smaller proportion of granular flint, usually a grey colour. The quality of the raw material is good to moderate. Flaws and inclusions in the raw material affect the quality of the flint, thermal flaws are not uncommon. The flint has a thin, weathered or abraded cortex usually a light to dark brown colour. The bulk of the material has cortex present on the dorsal surfaces. The raw material is most likely to be derived from local river gravels.

The condition of the worked flint is good with artefacts showing post-depositional edge damage consisting of occasional to moderate amounts of nicks to the edges. Post-depositional damage is more severe on the unstratified surface finds, occasional crushing of the edges can be observed. Patination is present on ¾ of the assemblage; the majority has a thick white discolouration of the surface of the flint. The remainder display varying degrees of a light grey-blue to white discolouration. Burnt worked flint was noted, probably accidental in nature, all but one were retrieved from features. These flints display thermal fracturing and crazing, pot lids and discoloured cortex.

Table 2: Summary of worked flint

Trench		1				2	
Context		101	102	108	116	202	204
	whole	5	1	12	-	3	1
flake	broken	3	1	15	-	-	-
	burnt	-	-	9	-	-	-
	whole	1	-	6	-	-	1
blade	broken	3	1	2	1	-	-
	burnt	-	1	3	-	-	-
core		2	-	-	-	1	-
misc retouch		1	-	1	-	-	-
microlith		-	-	-	-	-	-
scraper		-	-	1	-	-	-
serrated blade		-	-	1	-	-	-
hammerstone		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		**15**	**4**	**50**	**1**	**4**	**2**

Trench		3					
Context		301	306	308	309	313	314	315
	whole	-	-	14	-	-	-	-
flake	broken	4	-	8	2	-	-	-
	burnt	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
	whole	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
blade	broken	-	2	-	-	2	1	1
	burnt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
core		1	-	1	1	-	-	-
misc retouch		-	1	-	-	-	-	-
microlith		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
scraper		-	-	1	-	-	-	1
serrated blade		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
hammerstone		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		**7**	**4**	**27**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**2**

Trench		12		14	17	41	45	89		Total
Context		1201	1206	1401	1701	4104	4501	8904	8905	
	whole	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	38
flake	broken	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	38
	burnt	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
	whole	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	15
blade	broken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
	burnt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
core		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
misc retouch		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
microlith		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
scraper		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
serrated blade		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
hammerstone		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total		**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**135**

Assemblage composition

Cores

Six cores and core fragments were recovered, five of which were blade/bladelet cores, and one a flake core. Three of the blade/bladelet cores have single, prepared striking platforms and are cylindrical in section. A fifth bladelet core, a fragment, has opposing striking platforms. There is one flake core with multiple striking platforms.

Debitage

The assemblage is dominated by un-retouched waste flakes and blades. This comprises 88 flakes, of which 38 are broken and 12 burnt; and 32 blades, of which 13 are broken and four burnt. There are also soft hammer struck blades, often patinated. A portion of the worked flint has been fragmented, post-deposition. Possible utilisation appears on two blades and one flake, but post-depositional edge damage obscures the majority of examples.

Tools

Eight retouched tool forms are present, comprising three scrapers, one microlith, one serrated blade, and three undefined tool forms. The two end scrapers and one end/side scraper were manufactured on flakes and a natural flake with the retouch consisting of semi-abrupt to abrupt retouch on the distal ends and/or lateral edges.

One microlith fragment was recovered with one lateral edge retouched. Additionally there is one bi-facially, invasively worked implement, and it is not possible to discern with certainty its intended function. The other two miscellaneous retouched implements have varying amounts of retouch on the edges.

Discussion

The technological characteristics of the assemblage indicate principally a Neolithic date with a substantial late Mesolithic to early Neolithic component. The five bladelet cores, the microlith fragment, the bladelets and the end scraper are all indicative of the Mesolithic and the early Neolithic. The presence of bladelets and soft hammer struck flakes and blades are also typical of the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic. However, the high percentage of flakes to blades is more typical of a Neolithic assemblage along with cortical striking platforms. The sixth multiplatform core is late Neolithic to early Bronze Age in date.

The majority of flint was recovered from the Neolithic long barrow ditch fills or from the topsoil and subsoil in their vicinity. A third of the assemblage was recovered from the lower silting, fill 108 of ditch 111. Beside the waste flakes and blades it comprises a microlith fragment, bladelets, and a serrated blade. Fills 308 and 309 from ditch 311 and fills 314 and 315 from ditch 320 contained bladelet cores and scrapers. All these fills represent gradual accumulations within the ditches whilst open. The late Mesolithic to early Neolithic components of the assemblage was incorporated during this time.

Another large component of the flint assemblage was collected from the subsoil and topsoil around the long barrows. In comparison to the worked flint from their ditches, the surface finds had a far lower late Mesolithic to early Neolithic component and comprised the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age flake core. A smaller component of the flint assemblage was recovered from trenches 12, 14 and 17, to the west of the long barrows and to the south of known prehistoric flint scatters.

There were two locations of Neolithic and late Neolithic to early Bronze Age flints. Two flints were located in the topsoil of trenches 41 and 45 by an area of Roman and undated ditches. Another two flakes were recovered from pit 8906 within an area of a late Iron Age enclosure.

The presence of a Mesolithic and late Mesolithic to early Neolithic component on Neolithic sites is not uncommon, it represents a continuation of use in the same locale. For example the Neolithic enclosure at Briar Hill, Northamptonshire, has a Mesolithic component suggesting that the site continued to be attractive (Bamford 1985).

6.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery by Alex Gibson

A total of 710g of pottery from the ditches of the long barrows in trenches 1-3 was laid out in good daylight and examined using a x10 hand lens. The ceramics were arranged into fabric groups by context. Two main fabric groups were identified. Fabric 1 was hard, well fired and contained abundant crushed shell inclusions many of which were visible on both surfaces, as well as in the fractures, and reached up to 10mm across. Fabric 2 was darker and contained finely crushed grog giving the sherds a smooth texture.

The fabric groups were then subdivided into sherd groups. These probably equate to individual vessels and can be equated to the Minimum Number of Individuals. In the absence of conjoining sherds and given the similarity of fabric, it is recognised that each sherd group may represent a number of different but similar vessels. Equally, given the variability of fabric coarseness and thickness commonly found in hand-mixed clays and hand-built pots, it remains a possibility that a number of sherd groups may be from a single pot. Some conjoining sherds were noted within some sherd groups.

Catalogue

Fabric 1

A hard, well-fired fabric containing abundant crushed shell inclusions reaching up to 10mm across and often erupting through the sherd surfaces.

Fabric 2

A well-fired fabric containing finely crushed grog inclusions and having a smooth 'soapy' texture.

Table 3: Catalogue of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery

Early Neolithic
Sherd Group 1*   9 sherds, 36g, fill 109, ditch 111, fabric 1   Rim sherds in a hard well fired fabric generally black throughout though some outer surfaces show the brown patches. The rim is smooth and rounded with a slight outer lip. The sherds are too small to accurately estimate the diameter of the vessel.
Sherd Group 2*   2 sherds, 18g, fill 109, ditch 111, fabric 1   Rim sherd similar to Sherd Group 1 but with a more pronounced outer lip. The fabric is identical to Sherd Group 1 but with some larger shell inclusions visible. The inner surface is grey; the outer surface is brown and the core black. The fabric averages 8mm thick. There are traces of a shoulder *c.*18mm below the rim suggesting a bipartite vessel with a short neck. A second sherd with a similarly defined shoulder but lacking the rim may possibly also belong to this sherd group. The sherds are too small to accurately estimate the diameter of the vessel.
Sherd Group 3*   1 sherd, 12g, fill 109, ditch 111, fabric 1   Rim sherd similar to Sherd Groups 1 and 2 but with a slightly more flattened top and a slightly smoother outer surface. The outer surface is grey-brown, the inner grey and the fabric black. The fabric averages 8mm thick. Some diagonal grooves on the outer surface may be a form of decoration, but their irregularity suggests that they are more likely to be accidental and a result of surface finishing. The sherds are too small to accurately estimate the diameter of the vessel.
108+ sherds, 442g, fill 109, ditch 111, fabric 1   There is a further quantity of featureless body sherds in fabric 1, generally brown in surface colour, which may belong to any of the sherd groups above.

Sherd Group 4
27+ sherds, 83g, fill 317, ditch 320, fabric 1
Quantity of featureless body sherds that may well belong to Carinated Bowl.

Middle Neolithic

Sherd Group 5*
2 sherds, 13g, fill 317, ditch 320, fabric 1
A rim sherd and a body sherd from an Impressed Ware bowl. The rim has a slightly expanded top and a slight internal lip giving a slightly hooked appearance. The sherd is small and abraded and no decoration can be detected with certainty though there are some slight circular pits on the outer surface near the base of the rim. An internal surface irregularity on the inside may possibly part of a fingernail impression. The body sherd averages 9mm thick and is decorated with close-set fingernail impressions.

Sherd Group 6*
6 sherds, 17g, fill 308, ditch 311, fabric 1
Abraded sherds with brown surfaces and a black core. One rim sherd is flat topped and T-sectioned. The fabric at the base of the rim is 10mm thick. It is undecorated but may be paralleled in Impressed Ware assemblages.

Sherd Group 7*
2 sherds, 5g, fill 308, ditch 311, fabric 1
Hard and well-fired sherds in a black fabric. The edges are abraded. The larger of the two sherds has traces of a concave neck and shoulder. The fabric at the shoulder averages 8mm thick but thins to 6mm at the top of the neck. The neck is decorated with traces of two diagonal lines of twisted cord impressions. The cord has been loosely wrapped but seems to have been of a hard material.

Bronze Age

Sherd Group 8*
3 sherds, 5g, fill 104, ditch 111, fabric 2
Abraded sherds in a hard fabric, dark brown in colour. The largest sherd has converging lines of round toothed-comb impressions suggesting a chevron motif. The raised nature of the sherd at the point of the chevron suggests either a shoulder or the base of a collar and the sherd may well come from a small Collared Urn or even Food Vessel. No sherds preserve both surfaces.

Sherd Group 9
3 sherds, 18g, fill 104, ditch 111, fabric 2
Abraded sherds with brown or dark brown outer surface and black inner surface and core. The fabric averages 9mm thick. The largest sherd has groups of three parallel fine striations. These may be intentional and decorative or possibly the result of finishing. Possibly Bronze Age.

Sherd Group 10
1 sherds, 1g, fill 104, ditch 111, fabric 2
Abraded possible rim sherd in a slightly sandy-textured but grog-filled fabric. If a rim, it is simple and rounded, but it may also possibly be a ‘false rim’ resulting from coil building. Possibly Bronze Age.

Sherd Group 11
3+ sherds, 49g, fill 204, ditch 211, fabric 2
Three abraded but conjoining sherds with grey-brown interior, black interior and core. The fabric averages 11mm thick. A slight but distinct shoulder runs across the largest sherd. Possibly the lower neck and shoulder of an undecorated tripartite Collared Urn. The fabric is in keeping with Collared Urn.

Undiagnostic Material

Sherd Group 12
2 sherds, 1g, fill 306, ditch 311, fabric 2
Brown surfaces and a black core. Undecorated. The fabric averages 6mm thick. Possibly Beaker but the sherds are too small and lacking in diagnostic features to be certain.

Sherd Group 13
2 sherds, 6g, fill 313, ditch 320, fabric 2
Two conjoining sherds that seem to come from the concave neck of a vessel. The outer surface is brown, the inner surface and core are dark grey. The fabric averages 10mm thick. Possibly Early Bronze Age based on fabric.

Sherd Group 14
1 sherd, 1g, fill 309, ditch 311, fabric 2
Small sherd 5mm thick. Undecorated. Possibly Beaker based on fabric.

Sherd Group 15
1 sherd, 3g, fill 317, ditch 320, fabric 2
Small abraded sherd with grey-brown surfaces and grey core. Undecorated. Possibly Late Neolithic or Bronze Age based on fabric.

Sherd Groups marked * are illustrated in Figure 41
Sherd counts marked + indicate that there are small crumbs in addition to discrete sherds

Discussion

This small fragmentary assemblage seems to represent deposits that have accumulated over about two millennia from the earlier Neolithic to the Bronze Age. The early Neolithic assemblage comprises at least four vessels based on rim sherds: the body sherds in identical fabric may belong to any of the rims. The vessels do not appear to have the graceful forms of early classic Carinated Bowls such as that from the Padholme Road site, Fengate, Cambridgeshire (Pryor 1974), but rather the thickened rims, upright forms and narrow necks suggest Plain Bowls or Modified Carinated Bowls which is current in the south of England from *c*3855-3730 cal BC (68% probability) to 3555-3210 cal BC (68% probability) (Whittle *et al* 2011, 762). Undecorated thickened rims are, however, also present within classic Mildenhall assemblages and Mildenhall ware can now be seen to start *c*3730-3665 cal BC (68% probability) and end *c*3450-3355 cal BC (68% probability), therefore having considerable overlap with Modified Carinated Bowls (Healey, in Hills & Lucy 2013).

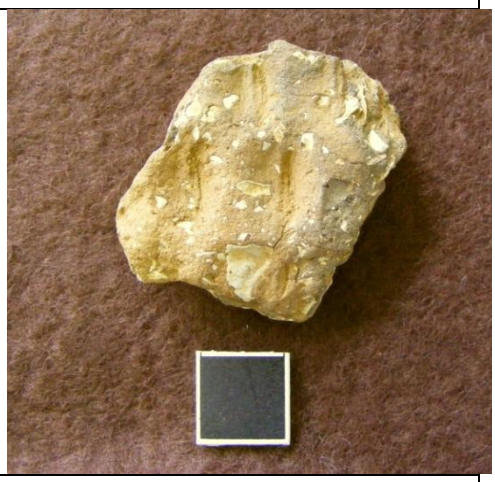
Grendon Quarry, Site C, Northamptonshire, has produced a comparable assemblage, although the ceramics from Grendon tend to be more open (Gibson & McCormick 1985). There are also, however, some thickened rims including some externally lipped forms similar to Sherd Groups 1-3 in the present assemblage. The dates from Grendon used oak charcoal and may suffer from the old wood effect, however, the main date range of *c*3800-3400 BC is consistent with the ceramic types identified here. An outlying date in the first quarter of the third millennium BC is clearly too young.

The rim forms of Sherd Groups 1-3 are also locally paralleled amongst the undecorated element of the Mildenhall assemblage from both the Etton and Briar Hill Causewayed enclosures where some of the narrow necks, noted in the present assemblage may also be found (Pryor 1998: Bamford 1985). These vessels share the shell-filled fabric of the present assemblage though in the case of Briar Hill, many of the inclusions have leached out leaving a pitted, ‘corky’ fabric.

Early Neolithic, Sherd Group 1,
rounded rim, slight outer lip

Early Neolithic, Sherd Group 2,
rounded rim, outer lip & shoulder

Early Neolithic, Sherd Group 3,
rounded rim, slightly flattened top



Middle Neolithic, Sherd Group 5,
close-set fingernail impressions

Middle Neolithic,
Sherd Group 6
Flat-topped, T-shaped rim

Middle Neolithic,
Sherd Group 7
Twisted cord imprssions

Bronze Age,
Sherd Group 8,
Tooth-comb, chevron motif

Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery (Sherd Groups 1-3, 5-8) (Scale 10mm) Fig 41

The ceramics identified here as middle Neolithic may actually also belong to the Mildenhall style since the rim forms of Sherd Groups 5-6 can be matched in both Mildenhall and Impressed (Peterborough) ware assemblages, however, the body sherd of Sherd Group 5 is certainly Impressed ware and given the association of the body sherd and the rim (the rim is admittedly more abraded) the two may be from the same vessel. If, however, the tentative identification of small pits on the rim of Sherd Group 5 is correct, then this sherd may be ascribed to a different vessel, as this has better parallels in the Mildenhall tradition than in Impressed ware assemblages. A rim sherd from Etton, for example, has three rows of such impressions on the top of the rim, but the rim profile lacks the internal definition of the present vessel (Pryor 1998, fig 199, M394). Given the irregularity of profiles common in hand-built pottery there need not be too much emphasis put on this observation.

The body sherd of Sherd Group 5 with its well-defined and closely spaced fingertip impressions can be paralleled amongst the earliest finds of Impressed ware from the type site at Peterborough (Wyman Abbott and Smith 1910).

The whipped cord impressions in the neck of Sherd Group 7 make the identification of this sherd as Impressed ware less dubious. Once again local parallels may be found at Etton (Pryor 1998, 198, E3; PR1 & 5) on vessels identified as Ebbsfleet (E) and probably Mortlake (PR) sub-styles within the Impressed ware tradition. A similar neck sherd from Barholm with loose whipped cord diagonal lines may also date to the Mortlake phase of the Impressed ware tradition (Simpson 1993, fig 1245).

In the case of Sherd Group 8, the use of a point-toothed comb has been noted by Longworth (1984, 8) on Collared urns and is a recognised definitive trait of the Secondary Series, South-Eastern style (*ibid*, 35). Unfortunately too little of Sherd Group 8 survives to permit meaningful comparison but it would appear that the decoration has been towards the base of a sharply angled neck or collar, judging by the curvature of the sherd, and is arranged in a triangular motif. Longworth illustrates a small vessel with a sharply defined collar from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (1984, Pl131b), although on this vessel the combed lines are mainly in vertical rows with horizontal borders. Two Collared urns from pit deposits at the Newark Road Site, Fengate, are also decorated with circular-toothed comb impressions (Pryor 1980, 99). One (#26) has multiple chevron motif, as is envisaged for the present vessel while the other (#27), found more or less complete, is decorated with a conjoined lozenge motif. Both the Newark Road vessels are late in the Collared urn sequence, defined by Longworth (1984) or Burgess (1986) as dating to the first or second quarters of the 2nd Millennium BC. The other sherds identified as Collared urn sherds would also fit this date range. However, in the absence of formal and decorative elements the identifications were made on the basis of fabric alone and this can be unreliable when dealing with Neolithic and Bronze Age ceramics.

6.3 Late Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

Features in trenches 87-98 produced a small assemblage of pottery, 20 sherds weighing 279g, which can be dated to the late Iron Age (1st century BC). The average sherd weight is 14.0g, which is high for an Iron Age site in Northamptonshire and reflects the quality of the assemblage, which includes a small primary group, well fired and in fabrics often containing either sparse finely-crushed shell or sand.

Table 4: Quantification of Iron Age pottery

Fill / feature	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comment
8706 / ditch 8710	4	13	small sherds, 2 sandy, 2 burnished (included bead rim). Late Iron Age
8805 / ditch recut 8806	1	17	fine shell, black, burnished, curvilinear decoration. Late Iron Age
8807 / ditch 8811	9	239	body sherds (thick), 1 burnished 1 thin, chamfered rim, Late Iron Age
8904 / pit 8906	5	5	small sherds/crumbs
8905 / pit 8906	1	5	shelly fabric
Total	**20**	**279**	**Average sherd weight 14.0g**

There are four fabrics represented: frequent coarse shell inclusions, sparse fine shell inclusions, sandy with fine rounded quartz, and a single sherd has sparse calcareous inclusions.

The largest group comes from the fill 8807 of ditch 8811. It comprises five plain body sherds, 8-10mm thick, in fabrics containing quantities of coarse crushed shell, which probably come from the typical jar forms of the middle to late Iron Age. In addition, there are two body sherds of similar thickness, but in a sandy fabric containing fine rounded quartz, dark grey throughout and with smoothed/burnished external surfaces, which is typically of late Iron Age globular bowls, dating to the 1st century BC. There is a single rim, in a sandy fabric, which has come from a small thin-walled vessel, 5mm thick, with an upright rim with an internal chamfer, completely different to the rest of the group. There is also an exceptional thick body sherd, 16mm thick, in a fabric containing sparse calcareous inclusions, in an oxidised fabric, red throughout, but with a black, sooted internal surface. This sherd seems most likely to have come from a large thick-walled jar of a form also typical of the late Iron Age, but spanning both the 1st century BC and the early 1st century AD.

Late Iron Age decorated sherd from fill 8805, ditch 8806, trench 88 Fig 42

The single sherd from fill 8805 of ditch 8806 contains sparse finely-crushed shell, and is black throughout, with a burnished external surface (Fig 42). It is decorated with a

deeply-incised linear groove, with a rounded profile, that runs around the circumference of the vessel, with part of a second parallel groove along the broken edge of the sherd. This sherd has probably come from a globular bowl with curvilinear decoration in the tradition of the late Iron Age Hunsbury bowls (Gibson and Woods 1997, 189, fig 140).

The four small sherds from fill 8706 of ditch 8710 includes two in shelly fabrics, and thin-walled body sherd with a burnished surface and a small fragment from a bead rim from a burnished bowl of the late Iron Age. The fills 8904 and 8905 of ditch 8906 produced a few small sherds and abraded crumbs/sherds of shelly fabrics.

Chronology

While the assemblage is small, the presence of a sherd from a decorated Hunsbury bowl and further sherds from burnished bowls in grey-black fabrics with burnished surfaces leave no doubt that the assemblage dates to the late Iron Age, and probably specifically the 1st century BC. There is a single sherd from a thick-walled storage jar of the type current through both the 1st centuries BC and AD, but there are no other forms likely to run into the 1st century AD.

6.4 Fired clay by Pat Chapman

Three small lumps from fill 8706 of ditch 8710 and one from fill 8809 of ditch 8812, together weigh 31g. They are all angular, irregularly-shaped and made from hard sandy orange-brown clay with frequent small calcareous and ironstone inclusions. Because of their small size it is not possible to decide if these are brick fragments or just random pieces of fired clay.

6.5 Roman pottery by Rob Perrin

A small assemblage of 14 sherds, weighing 111g, was recovered. Three fabrics are represented (Table 5). All of the pottery is from trench 42.

Table 5: Roman pottery fabrics

Fabric	Count	Weight (g)
Grog	1	6
Greyware	11	97
Light red	2	8
Total	**14**	**111**

Only one rim sherd is present, which is from a large bead-rim jar in a dark grey fabric with a pale core edge; the surfaces may have been slipped. Another dark grey fabric (2 sherds) has a grey/reddish-yellow sandwich core and is slightly reminiscent of Black burnished ware. The other greyware sherds have surfaces and cores of varying colours. A number of local kiln or other pottery production sites are known to the east of Weedon, including Duston, Hardingstone and Rothersthorpe (Swan 1984, map 14; 145). It is also close to the route of Watling Street Roman road, so would presumably have been well placed to receive goods from further afield. Most of the pottery would fit a 2nd century date, with the grog tempered sherd perhaps being earlier.

6.6 Roman tile by Pat Chapman

Two tile sherds, 18mm thick and weighing 84g, come from fill 4209 of ditch 4211. They are both made in a shelly fabric, one orange-brown with a black core, the other black

with a dull red core. A small fragment, weighing 7g, from the same context is made of silty grog-tempered orange-brown clay, which might be from a tile of Roman date or a fragment of fired clay.

6.7 Medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised four sherds weighing 21g. It was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F329 Potterspury ware (AD1250-1600), 2 sherds, 13g
F330 Shelly coarseware (AD1100-1400), 1 sherd, 1g
F401 Late medieval oxidized ware (*c*1450-1550), 1 sherd, 7g

Table 6: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of pottery sherds

Context	Trench	F330 Shelly coarseware		F329 Potterspury ware		F401 late medieval oxidized ware		Date
		No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt(g)	
4402 subsoil	44	1	1	-	-	-	-	12th century
4501 topsoil	45	-	-	1	1	1	7	mid-15th century
6101 topsoil	61	-	-	1	12	-	-	mid-13th century
Total		**1**	**1**	**2**	**13**	**1**	**7**	

Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. All of the fabrics are typical finds from sites in the local region.

6.8 Medieval and post-medieval tile by Pat Chapman

Three small sherds of probable medieval or post-medieval flat roof tile, weighing 25g, come from fill 2409 of ditch 2412. They are made from hard sandy orange-brown clay with buff streaks and occasional small inclusions of ironstone. This type of tile was used over a long period of time and is only broadly datable.

6.9 Iron nails by Tora Hylton

Two iron nails were recovered from trench 42; an incomplete nail with no discernible head but with a tapered square-sectioned shank, 33mm long, from fill 4204 of ditch 4205; and an undiagnostic fragment with one terminal missing that is slightly tapered with a rectangular cross-section, 44mm long, from fill 4209 of ditch 4211.

6.10 Clay tobacco-pipes by Tora Hylton

There are two fragments of clay tobacco-pipe comprising an abraded pipe bowl from subsoil deposits in trench 24 and a stem fragment from fill 8604 of ditch 8605.

The pipe bowl typologically represents Moore's Type 8 (1980), which is equivalent to Oswald's Type G8 (1975, ff 37), a form which dates to *c*1680-1710. The bowl is long with a straight front and a flat foot. The foot retains a vestige of the maker's mark in relief on the base. The letter C is evident but it is not possible to determine what the

other initial may have been, since part of the base of the foot is missing. The stem fragment has a small bore (5/16ths) suggesting a late 18th to 19th century date.

7 THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

7.1 Faunal remains by Philip Armitage

This report presents the results of an analysis of a small assemblage of animal bones recovered from the ditch fills of two Neolithic long barrows, ditch and pit fills associated with a late Iron Age rectangular enclosure, and the fill of a Roman ditch. Both hand-collected bone and those from the residues of sieved samples were submitted for analysis.

The hand-collected bone from the combined deposits totalled 102 specimens of which 87 (78.4%) are identified to species and anatomy; representing four mammalian and one bird species: cattle *Bos* (domestic) and *Bos primigenius* auroch (wild ox); sheep *Ovis* (domestic); pig *Sus* (domestic); and rook *Corvus frugilegus* (Table 7).

Although the bulk of the sieved material comprises highly fragmented, unidentifiable bone the samples also yielded bone elements of cattle (2), sheep/goat (3) and micro-faunal specimens comprising a small wild bird tarsometatarsus and a femur of a house mouse, *Mus* (domesticus). No bones of fish, amphibian or reptile are present.

Table 7: Summary counts of the identified animal bone elements/fragments

Period/species	auroch	cattle	sheep/ goat	pig	red deer	house mouse	rook	wild bird	Totals
Neolithic long barrow ditch fills	1	23	3	5	1	-	-	1	34
Late Iron Age ditch & pit fills	-	16	19	3	-	1	1	-	40
Roman ditch fill	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Totals	**1**	**52**	**22**	**8**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**87**

Methodology

Species/taxon and anatomical determinations were carried out using the author's modern comparative collections and with reference to standard published osteological/zooarchaeological works (Schmid 1972; Getty 1975). Identification of the *Bos primigenius* humerus from fill 315 of long barrow ditch 320 is based on its large size, which falls within the range documented for aurochs from other comparative prehistoric sites (Table 8). Wherever possible, sheep and goat bones or teeth were differentiated following Boessneck *et al* (1964) and Payne (1985). Although no positive identifications of goat were made and all elements with diagnostic features proved to be sheep, it remains a possibility that there may have been a few unrecognised goats among the broken elements. All ovicaprid material in this report is therefore referenced as sheep/goat, except where specific mention is made to positively identified sheep elements. Using modern comparative bird skeletal material and with reference to the criteria of Tomek and Bocheński (2000, 40-43) the *Corvid* ulna from fill 8604 of late Iron Age enclosure ditch recut 8705 was identified as that of a rook. There is also a complete tarsometatarsal bone (GL = 19.4mm) of a small wild bird, from fill 312 of long barrow ditch 311. This specimen is yet to be identified to species. Summary data of the anatomical distributions for the cattle, sheep/goat and pigs by period are presented in Tables 5-7. Microsoft Excel spreadsheets showing the complete sets of recorded anatomies for each of the species by context are held in the site archive.

Measurements (in mm) were taken on selected elements using a Draper dial calliper (graduated 0.02 mm); following the system of von den Driesch (1976).

Table 8: Size of the Bos humerus from fill 315 in comparison with wild and domestic cattle from other British Prehistoric sites

Site	Period	Distal width of Humerus Bd (mm)
Weedon Flore, Northants	? Neolithic	93.6
Durrington Walls, Wilts (Harcourt 1971)	Neolithic	65 to 87 mm (N = 66) domestic 90 to 102 mm (N = 3) aurochs
Charterhouse Warren Farm, Mendip (Everton 1975)	Bronze Age	106 male auroch
Runnymeade Bridge, Surrey (Done 1980)	Later Bronze Age	50 to 72 mm (N = 9) domestic

Preservation and modification of the bone

The bones from the long barrow ditches are generally in poor to fair condition, with many exhibiting the effects of leaching/erosion/abrasion and breakage owing to brittleness. Some have root etchings and others are slightly iron stained. In contrast, bones from the late Iron Age deposits are generally reasonably well preserved but still include fragmented material. The better preserved bone came from Roman ditch 4211.

Table 9 summarises the evidence for butchery. In addition to the bones documented there is a cattle jawbone from fill 308 of long barrow ditch 312 that exhibits a series of shallow, V-shaped cutting marks on the upper edge of the ramus above the mental foramen. The nature of this modification is unclear. There is also a small piece of cattle long bone shaft from fill 317 of long barrow ditch 320, measuring 27.1mm long by 23.9mm wide by 3.1mm thick, with a sharp, straight edge that suggests it had been fashioned as a scraper or knife.

Table 9: Evidence of butchery

Neolithic long barrow ditch	
308 fill of ditch 312	1 cattle long bone shaft/spiral fractured (marrow extraction)
308 fill of ditch 312	1 sheep/goat long bone shaft/spiral fractured (marrow extraction)
317 fill of ditch 320	3 cattle long bone shafts/spiral fractured (marrow extraction)
Late Iron Age enclosure ditch	
8809 fill of ditch 8812	1 cattle scapula/ knife cut marks on neck and glenoid
8809 fill of ditch 8812	1 cattle long bone shaft/spiral fractured (marrow extraction)
8809 fill of ditch 8812	1 sheep scapula/blade perforated by small circular hole
Roman ditch	
4209 fill of ditch 4211	2 chopped cattle bones: 1 thoracic vertebra & 1 scarum

Table 10: Anatomical distributions of the cattle

Body part/period	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	late Iron Age	Roman
skull	-	1	-
maxilla	-	1	-
mandible	3	4	-
upper cheekteeth	2	3	-
lower cheekteeth	5	-	-
thoracic	-	-	2
lumbar	-	-	2

Body part/period	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	late Iron Age	Roman
sacrum	-	-	1
rib	1	1	8
scapula	-	1	-
humerus	2	-	-
radius	1	-	-
metacarpus	-	1	-
metatarsus	1	-	-
phalanx II	1	-	-
long bone shaft frag.	7	4	-
Totals	**23**	**16**	**13**

Table 11: Anatomical distributions of sheep/goats

Body part/period	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	late Iron Age	Roman
mandible	-	2	-
hyoid	-	1	-
rib	-	4	-
scapula	-	1	-
humerus	-	1	-
ulna	-	1	-
tibia	-	2	-
astragalus	1	-	-
metatarsus	1	1	-
long bone shaft frag.	1	6	-
Totals	**3**	**19**	**0**

Table 12: Anatomical distributions of pigs

Body part/period	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	late Iron Age	Roman
maxilla	1	-	-
mandible	1	1	-
lower cheekteeth	2	-	-
radius	1	2	-
Totals	**5**	**3**	**0**

Descriptions of the species/bone elements identified

Auroch

A wild ox is represented by the distal part of a left humerus (distal epiphysis fused) recovered from fill 315 of long barrow ditch 320. Measurements (mm): Bd distal width = 93.6; BT greatest width of the trochlea = 87.2

Domestic cattle

Using eruption and wear patterns in the lower cheek teeth (Simonds 1854; Bond & O'Connor 1999, 346), the two late Iron Age cattle jawbones are aged as follows:

Table 13: Aging of late Iron Age domestic cattle

Context	Deposit	Wear stage	Suggested age
8703	fill of ditch 8705	immature	*c*15 months
8809	fill of ditch 8812	immature	*c*15 months

Stature in one of the late Iron Age cattle, fill 8809 of ditch 8812, is determined from the greatest length measurement (GL = 173.0mm) taken on its metacarpal bone and has a withers height of 1.04 m (Fock (1966; von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974). Applying

Howard's (1963) index (Bd/GLx100) this animal was female (index: 50.5/173.0mm x 100 = 29.2).

The associated bone group of cattle thoracic vertebrae (2) and lumbar vertebrae (2) from Roman ditch 4211, all have unfused cranial and caudal epiphyseal plates, indicating they are from a sub-adult ox aged less than five years at time of slaughter (Silver 1971: 285).

Sheep

In appearance the sheep from both the long barrow and enclosure deposits were clearly small sized, gracile-limbed animals, probably resembling modern Soay sheep. This observation is illustrated with reference to an astragalus from fill 316 of long barrow ditch 320 which has a greatest length of 26.4mm; comparable to the mean value (26.6mm) documented for male and castrate Soay sheep (Clutton-Brock *et al* 1990, 53). A jawbone from fill 8809 of late Iron Age ditch 8812 was from an animal aged at 6-12 months at time of death (Payne 1973).

Pigs

Using eruption and wear patterns in the lower cheek teeth (Simonds 1854) one of the late Iron Age pigs represented by a jawbone from fill 8809 of ditch 8812 is aged at *c*18 months at time of death. The proximal width (Bp = 30.8mm) of a pig radius from fill 309 of long barrow ditch 311 falls within the size range for domestic pigs (Bp 24-32mm) documented by Clason (1967, 63) and may be compared against the data for the Neolithic pigs from Durrington Walls, Wiltshire, range 24.3-37.1mm, mean 29.4mm, n = 190 (Albarella and Payne 2005).

Red deer

An eroded/abraded section of antler came from fill 306 of long barrow ditch 311. Comparing this with a modern 4th-head antler indicates it is probably from the upper part of an antler beam, above the trez tine, of a similar aged animal. Without the pedicle it is not possible to establish whether this antler came from a hunted animal or was collected as a naturally shed antler. Both ends of the section are broken and it is not possible to say how it had been removed from the beam but it seems it had been bored through lengthwise, perhaps for use as a tool handle.

House mouse

An immature mouse is represented by a left femur, both epiphyses unfused/detached, from fill 8807 of late Iron Age ditch 8812.

Summary

Although it would be unwise to draw too many conclusions from such a small assemblage, it seems the animal bone evidence is indicative of the disposal of waste from local slaughtering, butchering and consumption of the cattle, sheep and pigs. Numerically and in the meat contribution to the local diet, cattle fulfilled a predominate role, with sheep and pigs of only minor importance.

On the question of dating the long barrow deposits, the presence of at least one auroch would support a Neolithic or at the latest, a Bronze Age time frame: the auroch became extinct in Britain during the Bronze Age (Legge 2010, 34).

7.2 Seeds and plant remains by Val Fryer

Samples were retrieved from Neolithic long barrow ditches and a late Iron Age enclosure ditch to assess the presence or absence of potential plant macrofossil assemblages. The samples were bulk floated by NA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 14. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and arthropod remains were also recorded.

Results

Cereal grains, chaff and seeds of common weeds were present at a low density within all but two of the assemblages. Preservation was moderately good, although some grains were severely puffed and distorted (probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures) and some seeds were very fragmentary. The chaff elements were generally abraded, possibly indicating that they had been exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to inclusion within the feature fills.

Barley and wheat grains were noted along with a number of cereals which were too poorly preserved for close identification. Chaff was absent within the Neolithic ditch assemblages, but the late Iron Age samples included a barley rachis node, spelt wheat glume bases and an oat awn fragment.

Seeds of common segetal weeds/grassland herbs were only recorded within the late Iron Age assemblages. Taxa noted included brome, fat hen, small legumes, goosegrass and grasses. Sample 5 also included a single possible spike-rush nutlet. Highly comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, and other plant macrofossils included pieces of charred root/stem and an indeterminate culm node.

Other remains were scarce. The fragments of black porous material were all possible residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Small abraded splinters of bone were noted within two of the late Iron Age assemblages along with a single small pellet of burnt or fired clay. Fragments of coal and small bones were also recorded, but it was considered most likely that these were intrusive within the feature fills.

Table 14: Plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
Context No.	**312**	**120**	**109**	**317**	**8807**	**8905**	**8706**
Feature type	**Ditch 311**	**Ditch 122**	**Ditch 111**	**Ditch 320**	**Ditch 8812**	**Pit 8906**	**Ditch 8710**
Date	**Neo**	**Neo**	**Neo**	**Neo**	**LIA**	**LIA**	**LIA**
Cereals							
Oats, *Avena* sp. (awn frag.)	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Barley, *Hordeum* sp. (grains)	x	-	-	-	x	-	x
(rachis node)	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Wheat, *Triticum* sp. (grains)	x	-	x	-	x	-	-
(glume bases)	-	-	-	-	-	x	x
(spikelet base)	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
(rachis internode)	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Spelt wheat*, T. Spelta* L. (glume bases)	-	-	-	-	x	x	-
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	-	-	-	x	x	-
(detached embryo)	-	-	-	-	x	-	-

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context No.	312	120	109	317	8807	8905	8706
Feature type	Ditch 311	Ditch 122	Ditch 111	Ditch 320	Ditch 8812	Pit 8906	Ditch 8710
Date	Neo	Neo	Neo	Neo	LIA	LIA	LIA
Herbs							
Brome, *Bromus* sp.	-	-	-	-	xxfg	x	-
Fat hen, *Chenopodium album* L.	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Chenopodiaceae indeterminate	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Small legumes, Fabaceae indet.	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Galium sp.	-	-	-	-	-	xfg	-
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	xcf	-
Small grasses	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Large grasses	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Polygonaceae indeterminate	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Wetland plants							
Spike-rush, *Eleocharis* sp.	-	-	-	-	xcf	-	-
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	x	x	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	xxx	xx	x	x
Charcoal >5mm	x	-	-	xx	x	x	-
Charred root/stem	x	-	-	-	x	x	x
Indet.culm node	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Indet.seeds	-	-	-	x	x	x	x
Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	-	x	x	x
Bone splinters	-	-	-	-	x	-	x
Burnt/fired clay	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Small coal fragments	-	-	x	-	x	x	-
Small bones	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Mollusc shells							
Woodland/shade loving species							
Carychium sp.	x	-	-	x	-	x	-
Discus rotundatus	x	x	x	x	-	-	-
Oxychilus sp.	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
Punctum pygmaeum	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
Vitrea sp.	x	-	x	-	-	-	-
Zonitidae indet.	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Open country species							
Vallonia sp.	xx	x	-	-	-	x	-
V. costata	x	x	-	x	-	x	-
V. pulchella	xcf	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vertigo pygmaea	x	x	x	x	-	x	-
Catholic species							
Cochlicopa sp.	x	-	-	-	-	x	-
Nesovitrea hammonis	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trichia hispida group	x	x	x	-	x	-	-
Marsh/freshwater slum species							
Lymnaea sp.	x	-	-	-	-	x	-
Pisidium sp.	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Succinea sp.	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Sample volume (litres)	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

x = 1-10 specimens, xx = 11-50 specimens, xxx = 51-100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens
fg = fragment, cf = compare, Neo = Neolithic , LIA = Late Iron Age

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, shells of terrestrial and marsh/freshwater snails were noted within all except sample 7. Most were bleached, abraded and fragmentary, but it was unclear whether any were contemporary with the excavated features, or whether they were introduced via post-depositional bioturbation.

Conclusions

In summary, the four assemblages from the Neolithic ditch fills are very small and sparse, which is, perhaps, not surprising given their context. Cereals and charcoal fragments are recorded, but it is likely that all were accidental inclusions within the ditch fills. The mollusc assemblages appear to indicate that whilst the long barrow was probably situated within an area of open, short-turfed grassland, the ditches were intermittently shaded or overgrown, with accumulations of damp leaf litter at their bases. However, it is thought most likely that these latter conditions prevailed long after the barrow was constructed.

Although relatively sparse, the late Iron Age assemblages all appear to be derived from low densities of cereal processing/storage waste and/or midden detritus. Primary deposition is not indicated, and it is far more likely that the material is indicative of wind-dispersed detritus, which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. It is currently unclear whether any of these remains are suggestive of nearby agricultural activity, or whether they are derived from processing waste which was imported to the site for use as tinder/kindling or fuel within domestic or light 'industrial' contexts. Mollusc shells are scarce within these assemblages, although it would appear that sample 6 may represent a unique, damp microhabitat suitable for a limited range of marsh/freshwater slum mollusc species.

As none of the current assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

7.3 Geoarchaeology by Graham Spurr

A geoarchaeological site visit was undertaken to assess the nature and potential of the deposits within the ditches exposed by trenches 1 and 3. The trench sections were examined and their characteristics recorded.

From the four sections through the ditches associated with potential Neolithic long barrows, section 4 in trench 3 was selected as representative of the site as a whole (Fig 27, S4). This section was approximately 1.20m in depth and revealed the following sedimentary sequence (from the base upward):

Unit A, fill 310: *c*300mm compact 10YR5/6 yellowish-brown almost horizontal limestone fragments, clast supported, with occasional snails, occasional fragments of pottery and rare flint pebbles and carbonaceous material. Bone is also present (seen in other sections) as was a rare fragment of antler.

Unit B, fills 309-305: *c*850mm firm, 2.5YR3/4 dark reddish-brown, clayey silt with moderately frequent (although lessening with height) heavily weathered fragments of limestone and rare flint pebbles. Poorly sorted.

Unit C, fills 304-301: *c*600mm firm, 2.5YR3/4 dark reddish-brown, clayey silt with rare, heavily weathered fragments of limestone and flint pebbles. Moderately well sorted.

Interpretation & recommendations

Unit A, 310, is the primary fill of the ditch and consists of fragmented limestone cut from the bedrock. The fragments of limestone were almost horizontal but exhibited a slight tilt upward to the south. The limestone fragments were presumably used to create the burial mound but, being unstable, had collapsed into the ditch. This context offers the best potential for dating as it includes pottery fragments, bone and, most importantly, antler fragments (found in other sections). Furthermore, the presence of snails in this context represents the best opportunity for palaeoenvironmental analysis in terms of changes in the local landscape and vegetation environment.

Unit B, 308-306, was defined by the dark reddish-brown nature of the clayey silt. The colour derives from the iron rich geology (and therefore sediments) of the locality, oxidising over time. The ditch filled with finer particles, although the poorly sorted nature of the limestone fragments tends to indicate further collapse of the mound lessened over time. It is possible that the ditch was being maintained and cleaned out periodically although the burial mound by this stage was probably more stable and vegetated. The limestone fragments were probably heavily weathered through exposure to the elements but also suffered in the context of the waterlogged, impermeable conditions of the ditch. The paucity of cultural or environmental material in these contexts makes closer analysis and a detailed understanding of their accumulation much more difficult to interpret. In light of this, it is recommended that soil micro-morphological samples be taken during any further excavation selectively throughout this sedimentary unit to help in understanding the processes involved during deposition (and post-deposition) such as possible hiatuses in accumulation, digenesis and weathering. Should further excavation go ahead this sampling process needs to be applied spatially at intervals along the ditch.

Unit C is much the same as unit B, although seemingly disturbed toward the top by medieval and modern ploughing together with bioturbation, given the moderate sorting. As with unit B, this material seemed largely devoid of artefacts and environmental indicators. As such, soil micro-morphological sampling is recommended but only up to the contact point of the plough layers.

Conclusions

The potential long barrow ditches offer considerable opportunity in terms of artefactual and palaeoenvironmental research material, particularly within the initial fills of the ditches. As a consequence, it is advised further bulk sampling of this material should be undertaken across the site during mitigation, together with mollusc samples, and to accompany soil micro-morphological analysis at selected locations across the site during a wider-scale excavation.

8 SUMMARY

Archaeological remains have been clearly identified at four main locations along the proposed road corridor, all of which lie within zones of impact either for the principal road corridor, cuttings, embankments or associated hydrological and structural works.

Archaeological sites along the road corridor

The prehistoric flint scatter identified by the desk-based assessment and recorded by the HER (Brown 2013a; HER912), is focused upon the site of two Neolithic long barrows. The flint scatter drops off rapidly in frequency as the distance from the monument site increases.

The Neolithic long barrows are both badly damaged by ploughing since the medieval open fields were established. Nothing now remains of the stone mounds, and it is doubtful if the burial chambers remain, although this has not been tested. The surviving ditches are substantial, denoting the scale of the former monuments. All of the ditches contain artefactual and ecofactual remains of significant interest which would contribute to both regional and national research agendas for the Neolithic period. At the very least the inclusion of the information from the trial trench evaluation within the publication of any subsequent archaeological works would be of benefit to future research and would benefit from selected radiocarbon dating to corroborate dates from charred material with that of the pottery.

The late Iron Age enclosure and its associated features are limited in extent and appear to be part of a wider network of features that extend to the north and south of the proposed road corridor. There seems to be little evidence that such features extend to the east or west, along the road corridor. The ditches are well preserved, substantial and contain low concentrations of artefacts with fairly good ecofactual potential. The possibility that the site may be include a grain storage function, raises the level of its potential significance and this would make it a valuable asset for addressing regional research priorities pertaining to agricultural processes, produce and farming methods employed in late Iron Age Britain. There seems to be no evidence for Roman influences upon the site from the present work and it is probable that the enclosure was abandoned before the late 1st century AD.

Roman activity to the north of Upper Heyford appears to be limited in extent and what has not already been destroyed by quarrying is likely to comprise peripheral enclosures to the south of a former settlement site, destroyed by the M1 motorway works in 1963. The value of this archaeological resource has been greatly diminished by these combined destructive events, and given the lack of information retrieved to present, any further investigations would greatly increase the archaeological data for Roman activity within the parish.

The lost lane between Dodford and Flore was mapped in 1742, and landscape features still remained in 1949. The buried remains of the road have been subject to heavy ploughing since then, removing the hedgerows, banks and the upper road surface horizon, a process that will continue. The earliest date of this landscape feature is not known, a late medieval origin is suspected but unconfirmed.

Proposed changes to the road alignment near the Neolithic long barrows

In order to minimise the impact on the Neolithic long barrows it has been proposed to shift the extent of the road corridor and cutting slightly toward the south so that the road will no long cross directly through the monuments, Option 7 (Fig 43). However, in order to facilitate the public right of way on the bridle path, it is necessary to create a suitable bridle crossing which will still have an impact on both sides of the road corridor, although over a much smaller area. The northern extent of the bridle crossing includes potential prehistoric features investigated in trench 12 and almost reaches one of the long barrows at its northern tip. The southern extent of both the bridle crossing and realigned road corridor has not been surveyed, however, the general distribution of geophysical anomalies and excavated features along the previous Option 6 alignment suggested that the archaeology is likely to be close to the long barrows and limited in extent.

635

640

M1 motorway

Neolithic long barrows

1

2

3

4

5

6

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

bridleway crossing

Hobhill Spinney

Colinshill Farm

610

Trial trenches

Extent of development

Magnetic anomaly /nT

-6nT 0 +6nT

0 100m

Scale 1:2,000

Proposed Option 7 realignment, Chainages 900 to 1500 (Flore) Fig 43

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APPENDIX – CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.28m - 0.38m	SF 17-31 worked flint
102	subsoil	light yellow silty clay, with 2% small-medium ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.04m – 0.14m	SF 32-35 worked flint
103	natural	light yellow silty clay with 75% ferruginous limestone.	--	--
104	fill	dark red-brown silty clay with 1% small-medium gravels, and 1% charcoal flecks	D: 0.38m W: 2.85m	prehistoric pottery, SF2 worked flint
105	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 1% medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks	D: 0.31m W: 3.47m	--
106	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 15% medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.34m W: 2.22m	--
107	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 50% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.18m W: 1.75m	animal bone
108	fill	mid grey-brown silty clay with 1% medium gravels, and 10% charcoal flecks/lumps.	D: 0.10m W: 1.50m	SF 3-9 worked flint
109	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 50% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 2% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.20m W: 2.35m	prehistoric pottery, SF 1 worked flint, sample 3
110	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 30% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.30m W: 1.40m	--
111	cut	steeply sloped sides with a broad flat base, aligned E-W	D: 0.58m W: 5.90m	--
112	fill	mid grey-brown silty clay with 1% small-medium gravels, and 1%charcoal flecks.	D: 0.06m W: 1.10m	--
113	cut	sub-circular hollow at the base of ditch with poorly defined edges	D: 0.08m W: 0.14m	--
114	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 5% small-large ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.18m W: 1.42m	--
115	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 10% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.22m W: 2.74m	--
116	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 20% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.30m W: 3.08m	animal bone, SFs 10-12 worked flint
117	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with 20% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 10% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.08m W: 1.78m	--

118	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 70% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 5% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.20m W: 2.35m	--
119	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 50% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.32m W: 2.10m	--
120	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 2% medium-large ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.25m W: 1.38m	sample 2
121	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with 20% small-large ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.10m W: 1.10m	--
122	cut	steep sided ditch with a broad uneven base, aligned E-W	D: 0.47m W: 4.78m	--

Trench 2 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.28m – 0.35m	--
202	subsoil	light yellow silty clay, with 2% small-medium ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.04m-0.08m	SFs 36-39 worked flint
203	natural	light yellow silty clay with 75% ferruginous limestone.	--	--
204	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 1% small gravels, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.27m W:1.85m	prehistoric pottery, worked flint
205	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 15% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.10m W:0.70m	--
206	fill	light yellow sandy clay, with <1% gravels, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.05m W:0.93m	--
207	fill	mid brown red silty clay, with 1% small gravels, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.24m W:1.55m	--
208	fill	mid orange-brown red silty clay, with 1% small gravels, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.22m W:1.22m	--
209	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 50% small-medium ferruginous limestone.	D:0.18m W:1.25m	--
210	fill	dark red-brown silty clay, with 5% small gravels, 10% small-medium ferruginous limestone and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.12m W:1.08m	--
211	cut	steep sided ditch, with a broad flattish base, aligned N-S	D:0.44m W:3.40m	--

Trench 3 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.28m-0.33m	SFs 40-49 worked flint
302	subsoil	light yellow silty clay, with 2% small-medium ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.03m-0.06m	--
303	natural	light yellow silty clay with 75% ferruginous limestone.	--	--
304	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 1% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.30m W: 3.64m	--
305	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 25% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.32m W: 3.00m	--
306	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 10% small-medium ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.34m W:4.60m	animal bone, SF 63 worked flint
307	fill	mid red-orange silty clay, with 5% small-medium ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.40m W: 2.80m	--
308	fill	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 10% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.56m W: 4.40m	prehistoric pottery, animal bone, SFs 64, 66-67 worked flint
309	fill	light red-brown clayey silt, with 60% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.20m W: 4.72m	SF 65 worked flint
310	fill	mid yellow-brown silty clay, with 75% small-large ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.24m W: 4.60m	--
311	cut	steep-sided ditch, with a broad flat base, aligned E-W	D: 1.22m W: 7.80m	--
312	fill	mid grey-brown clayey silt, with 5% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.20m W: 1.18m	sample 1
313	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 2% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.34m W: 5.60m	prehistoric pottery, animal bone, SFs 77-78 worked flint
314	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 25% small-medium ferruginous limestone.	D:0.26m W:4.80m	animal bone, SF 76 worked flint
315	fill	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 5% small ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.40m W:6.40m	animal bone, SFs 73-75 worked flint
316	fill	mid red-brown silty clay, with 5% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.70m W:4.80m	animal bone, SFs 70-71 worked flint

317	fill	dark red-brown silty clay, with 2% small ferruginous limestone, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.40m W:3.00m	prehistoric pottery, animal bone, worked flint, sample 4
318	fill	mid yellow-brown sandy clay, with 60% small-large ferruginous limestone.	D:0.52m W:2.90m	SF 72 worked flint
319	fill	dark brown-red silty clay, with 1% small gravels, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.18m W:2.22m	--
320	cut	steep-sided ditch with broad flat base, north side steeper than south, aligned E-W	D:1.32m W:8.80m	--

Trench 4	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.26m-0.27m	--
402	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.05m-0.08m	--
403	natural	mixed dark orange sandy clay with 15% ferruginous limestone, and light yellow-brown sandy clay with 10% ferruginous limestone.	--	--

Trench 5	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.28m-0.30m	--
502	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.06m-0.10m	--
503	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with <1% gravels, and dark orange-brown sandy clay with 30% ferruginous limestone.	--	--

Trench 6 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.28m-0.29m	--
602	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.04m-0.07m	--
603	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with 1% small gravels, and dark red-brown sandy clay with 2% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 7	50m x 1.8m			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
701	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.26m-0.28m	--
702	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.07m-0.13m	--
703	natural	mixed mid grey-brown silty clay with 1% small gravels, and dark brown-red sandy clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 8	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.27m-0.28m	--
802	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.10m-0.14m	--
803	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with 1% small gravels, and dark orange-brown sandy clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 9	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.22m-0.25m	--
902	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.10m-0.25m	--
903	natural	mixed light yellow-orange sandy clay with 1% small gravels, dark orange sandy clay with 1% small gravels, and light blue-grey silty clay with <1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 10	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.23m-0.28m	--
1002	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.14m-0.21m	--
1003	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with 2% ferruginous limestone, and dark blue-grey sandy clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 11 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.26m-0.30m	--
1102	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.08m-0.11m	--
1103	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with 2% ferruginous limestone, and dark blue-grey sandy clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 12	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.30m	SFs 52-55 worked flint
1202	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.12m-0.13m	--
1203	natural	mixed mid red-brown sandy clay with 15% ferruginous limestone, and light yellow-brown sandy clay with 10% ferruginous limestone.	--	--
1204	fill	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 2% small ferruginous limestone.	D: 0.25m W: 1.88m	--
1205	fill	light orange-brown silty clay with 5% small-medium ferruginous limestone, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.18m W: 1.30m	--
1206	fill	dark red-brown silty clay, with 15% small-large ferruginous limestone, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.29m W: 1.18m	SFs 68-69 worked flint
1207	cut	steep sloping sides with an uneven rounded base, east edge not fully exposed, aligned N-S	D: 0.69m W: 1.88m	--

Trench 13	**20m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.28m-0.30m	SF 56 worked flint
1302	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D: 0.09m-0.12m	--
1303	natural	mid orange-brown sandy clay , with 2% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 14	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.24m-0.26m	SFs 57-58 worked flint
1402	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 3% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D:0.12m-0.14m	--
1403	natural	mixed mid red-orange sandy clay with 25% ferruginous limestone, and light yellow-brown sandy clay with <1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 15	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.24m-0.26m	--
1502	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% ferruginous limestone and gravels.	D:0.11m-0.13m	SF 59 worked flint
1503	natural	mixed dark orange-brown sandy clay with 25% ferruginous limestone, and light yellow-brown sandy clay with <1% small gravels.	--	--
1504	fill	mid grey-brown silty clay with 3% small-medium gravels and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.12m W:0.65m	--
1505	fill	mid yellow-brown silty clay, with 2% small gravels.	D:0.12m W:0.46m	--
1506	cut	linear U-shaped gully with a concave base, aligned N-S	D: 0.23m W: 0.65m	--

Trench 16	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.24m	--
1602	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D:0.06m-0.07m	--
1603	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with 1% small gravels, and mid orange sandy clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 17	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1701	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.24m-0.26m	SFs 60-62 worked flint
1702	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D:0.08m-0.12m	--
1703	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with <1% small gravels, and mid orange sandy clay with 2% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 18	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.25m-0.27m	--
1802	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D: 0.08m-0.13m	--
1803	natural	light yellow-brown sandy clay with 2% small gravels	--	--

Trench 19	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
1901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.18m-0.30m	--
1902	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D: 0.15m-0.20m	--
1903	natural	mid yellow-brown silty clay with 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 20	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.27m-0.28m	--
2002	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D: 0.08m-0.09m	--
2003	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with 5% small-medium gravels, and mid orange sandy clay with 3% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 21	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.20m	--
2102	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D: 0.05m-0.07m	--
2103	natural	mid orange sandy clay with 10% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 22	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.23m	--
2202	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 2% gravels.	D: 0.05m-0.07m	--
2203	natural	mid orange sandy clay with 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 23	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.21m-0.24m	--
2302	subsoil	mid red-brown silty clay, with 5% gravels.	D:0.09m-0.19m	--
2303	natural	light yellow-brown sandy clay with 5% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 24 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.30m-0.41m	--
2402	subsoil	mid orange-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D: 0.05m-0.11m	--
2403	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with 1% small gravels, and mid red-brown sandy clay with 2% small-medium gravels.	--	--
2404	fill	mid orange-brown silty clay with 3% small gravels.	D:0.20m W;2.04m	--
2405	fill	mid grey clayey silt with <1% small gravels and charcoal flecks.	D:0.27m W:2.28m	--
2406	fill	mid orange-brown silty clay with 2% small gravels, and <1% snail shells and charcoal flecks.	D:0.35m W:1.78m	--
2407	fill	mid yellow-grey silty clay with 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.06m W:0.90m	--
2408	cut	steep sloping, slightly irregular sides, broad uneven base, aligned NW-SE	D:0.80m W:2.28m	--
2409	fill	dark grey-brown silty clay with <1% small gravels and charcoal flecks.	D:0.24m W:1.28m	post-medieval roof tile
2410	fill	mid red-brown silty clay with <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.17m W:1.00m	--
2411	fill	mid brown silty clay, with 1% small gravels and charcoal flecks.	D:0.10m W:0.46m	--
2412	cut	linear V-shaped ditch with a narrow, flat base, aligned NW-SE	D:0.50m W:1.28m	--
2413	layer	mid red-brown silty clay with <1% small gravels between ditches 2408 and 2412	D:0.25m W:7.00m	--

Trench 25 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.26m-0.30m	--
2502	subsoil	light brown silty clay, with 20% gravels.	D:0.09m-0.14m	--
2503	natural	mixed light yellow-brown sandy clay with <1% small gravels, and mid orange sandy clay with 2% small-medium gravels.	--	--
2504	fill	mid orange-brown sandy clay with 15% small-medium gravels.	D:0.14m W:1.58m	--
2505	fill	dark grey-brown silty loam with <1% small gravels and charcoal flecks.	D:0.17m W:1.80m	--
2506	fill	mid brown-orange sandy clay with <1% small gravels and charcoal flecks.	D:0.20m W:1.62m	--
2507	cut	not fully exposed, pit/ditch with gradual sloping south-east edge. base not exposed.	D:0.52m W:1.80m	--

Trench 26	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.27m	--
2602	subsoil	light yellow-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D: 0.07m-0.13m	--
2603	natural	light red-brown sandy clay with 10% medium-large cobbles and 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 27	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2701	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.27m-0.30m	--
2702	subsoil	light yellow-brown silty clay, with 10% gravels.	D:0.12m-0.30m	--
2703	natural	light red-yellow silty clay, with 5% gravels in patches.	--	--

Trench 28	**20m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.27m-0.29m	--
2802	subsoil	light yellow-brown silty clay, with <1% gravels.	D:0.14m-0.23m	--
2803	natural	light yellow-brown sandy clay with <1% small gravels..	--	--

Trench 29	**20m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
2901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.30m-0.37m	--
2902	subsoil	light grey-brown silty clay, with 1% gravels.	D:0.12m-0.16m	--
2903	natural	light yellow-brown sandy clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 30	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.24m-0.25m	--
3002	subsoil	mid orange-brown clayey sand, with 3% small-medium gravels.	D:0.15m-0.18m	--
3003	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 31	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.27m-0.28m	--
3102	subsoil	mid orange-brown clayey sand, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.14m-0.17m	--
3103	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 3% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 32	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.26m-0.27m	--
3202	subsoil	mid orange-brown clayey sand, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.04m-0.09m	--
3203	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 3% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 33	50m x 1.8m			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.29m-0.30m	--
3302	natural	mid brown-orange sandy clay with 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 34	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.27m-0.28m	--
3402	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 1% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 35 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.27m-0.28m	--
3502	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 2% small-medium gravels.	--	--
3503	modern disturbance	dark grey-blue silty clay and mid brown-orange clayey sand, with 5% extra large ironstone slabs, 5% extra large ironstone lumps, and 2% small-large gravels.	D: 1.33m W: 15.00m	--

Trench 36	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.27m	--
3602	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 2% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 37	50m x 1.8m			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3701	topsoil	dark grey-brown clay loam, with 5% small gravels.	D:0.30m	--
3702	natural	light grey-orange, with 5% small-medium gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 38	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3801	topsoil	dark grey-brown clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.30m	--
3802	subsoil	light brown sandy clay.	D:0.15m-0.30m	--
3803	natural	mixed light grey and light orange clays	--	--

Trench 39	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
3901	topsoil	dark grey-brown clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
3902	subsoil	light brown clay.	D:0.15m-0.20m	--
3903	natural	mid orange sandy clay.	--	--

Trench 40	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4001	topsoil	dark grey-brown clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.30m	--
4002	subsoil	light brown clay with <1% small gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
4003	natural	mid orange sandy clay.	--	--
4004	fill	light grey-brown silty clay with 5% small-medium gravels and flint more abundant at base.	D:1.50m W:1.90m	--
4005	cut	steep sloping sides, broad sloped base, aligned N-S	D:1.50m W:1.90m	--

Trench 41	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.20m-0.25m	--
4102	subsoil	light brown clay.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
4103	natural	mid orange sandy clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--
4104	fill	light grey-brown silty clay with 5% small-medium gravels and flint more abundant at base.	D:1.50m W:1.90m	worked flint
4105	cut	steep sloping sides, broad sloped base, aligned N-S	D:1.50m W:1.90m	--

Trench 42 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.14m-0.24m	--
4202	subsoil	mid brown-grey clay.	D:0.20m-0.28m	--
4203	natural	mid orange-brown sandy clay with 2% flint and gravels.	--	--
4204	fill	mid brown-grey silty clay with 2% gravels and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.48m W:1.15m	SF 79 iron nail
4205	cut	linear V-shaped ditch with slightly concave base, aligned E-W	D:0.48m W:1.15m	--
4206	fill	light grey-brown clayey silt with patches of green-yellow clay.	D:0.54m W:0.47m	--
4207	drain	roughly hewn ironstone slabs, irregular coursing, bonded with clay.	D:0.16m W:0.41m	--
4208	cut	vertical edged cut for drain, flat base, aligned E-W	D:0.45m W:0.30m	--
4209	fill	mid grey-brown silty clay with 1% burned stone and charcoal flecks.	D:0.57m W:1.28m	Roman pottery, animal bone, SF 80 iron nail, Roman tile
4210	fill	light brown-grey clay, with 2% small-medium gravels and charcoal flecks.	D:0.19m W:0.62m	--
4211	cut	wide V-shaped ditch with narrow base, aligned NE-SW	D:0.66m W:1.00m	--
4212	fill	light brown-grey clay with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.22m W:0.55m	--
4213	cut	steep sided ditch with rounded base, aligned E-W	D:0.66m W:1.00m	--

Trench 43	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.30m	--
4302	subsoil	light brown clay.	D:0.25m-0.30m	--
4303	layer	light brown-grey clay with 5% small-medium gravels. only present at south-east end of trench.	D:0.80m	--
4304	natural	mid orange sand with 20% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 44	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.30m-0.35m	--
4402	subsoil	light brown clay	D:0.15m-0.30m	medieval pottery
4403	natural	light grey clay	--	--

Trench 45	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.30m	medieval pottery
4502	subsoil	light brown clay, not present on west end of trench.	D:0.20m	--
4503	natural	mid orange sandy clay with 3% small-medium gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 46	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.30m	--
4602	subsoil	light brown clay	D:0.15m-0.20m	--
4603	natural	mid orange sandy clay with 3% small gravels and flint	--	--

Trench 47	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4701	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.30m	--
4702	subsoil	light grey sandy clay, only present at south-east end of trench (base of slope).	D:0.15m	--
4703	natural	mid orange sand with 20% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 48	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.30m	--
4802	subsoil	light orange-brown clay.	D:.0.10-0.15m	--
4803	natural	light grey clay with 1% small-medium gravels and flint	--	--

Trench 49	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
4901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
4902	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m	--
4903	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 50	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
5002	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m	--
5003	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 51	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.30m	--
5102	subsoil	light brown-grey clay.	D:0.10m	--
5103	natural	light orange-grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 52	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
5202	subsoil	light orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m-0.20m	--
5203	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 53	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
5302	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m-0.15m	--
5303	natural	light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 54	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.30m	--
5402	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m-0.15m	--
5403	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 55	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
5502	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m	--
5503	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 56	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m	--
5602	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m-0.15m	--
5603	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 57	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5701	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.30m	--
5702	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m-0.15m	--
5703	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 58	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
5802	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.15m	--
5803	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 59	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
5901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
5902	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m-0.15m	--
5903	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 60	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m	--
6002	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.15m-0.20m	--
6003	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 61	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m	--
6102	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
6103	natural	light grey clay with 1% small gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 62	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam.	D:0.20m	--
6202	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.15m-0.20m	--
6203	natural	light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 63	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.30m-0.35m	--
6302	natural	mid orange-brown silty clay with 2% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 64	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.24m—0.30m	--
6402	subsoil	mid yellow-brown silty clay, with 1% small-medium gravels. only present on north-west side of trench.	D:0.12m-0.20m	--
6403	natural	mixed mid brown-yellow silty clay with 3-15% ferruginous limestone (increasing to south east), and light grey blue silty clay.	--	--

Trench 65	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.29m	--
6503	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 1% small-medium gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 66	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.26m	--
6603	natural	mid brown-orange clayey sand with 1% small-medium gravels and flint.	--	--

Trench 67	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6701	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.23m-0.25m	--
6703	natural	mixed mid brown-yellow silty clay and light grey blue silty clay.	--	--

Trench 68	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D: 0.20m-0.25m	--
6802	subsoil	light brown clay with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.10m	--
6803	natural	light grey-orange clay with 1% small gravels.	--	--

Trench 69	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
6901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.30m	--
6902	subsoil	mid orange-brown clayey sand, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m	--
6903	natural	mixed mid red-brown silty clay with 50% ferruginous, and light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 70	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
7001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20-0.30m	--
7002	subsoil	mid orange-brown clayey sand, with 1% small-medium gravels. only present on east end of trench.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
7003	natural	mixed mid red-brown silty clay with 50% ferruginous, and light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 71	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
7101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m	--
7102	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay, with 3% small-medium gravels.	D:0.15m-0.20m	--
7103	natural	mixed mid orange-brown silty clay with 50% ferruginous, and light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 72	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
7201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
7202	subsoil	mid orange-grey clay, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.10m-0.15m	--
7203	natural	light grey clay.	--	--

Trenches 73-77 were not excavated in the fields south of the proposed road corridor at Flore Hill Farm and are not included in this report

Trench 78	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
7801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.30m	--
7802	subsoil	mid orange-brown sandy-clay.	D:0.10m-0.20m	--
7803	natural	mid grey silty sand.	--	--

Trench 79	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
7901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.30m	--
7902	subsoil	mid orange sandy clay.	D:0.15m-0.20m	--
7903	natural	mid grey silty clay with 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 80	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.30m	--
8002	subsoil	mid orange sandy clay.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
8003	natural	mid grey silty clay with 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 81	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
8102	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m	--
8103	natural	light grey clay	--	--

Trench 82	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam.	D:0.20m	--
8202	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.10m	--
8203	natural	light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 83	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.25m	--
8302	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m-0.15m	--
8303	natural	light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 84	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8401	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam.	D:0.20m	--
8402	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m	--
8403	natural	light grey clay with 1% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 85	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8501	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m	--
8502	subsoil	mid orange-brown clay.	D:0.10m	--
8503	natural	light grey clay with 1% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 86	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8601	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.21m-0.24m	--
8602	subsoil	mid red-brown clayey sand, with 3% small-medium gravels.	D:0.09m-0.10m	--
8603	natural	light yellow-brown clayey sand with 3% small-medium gravels.	--	--
8604	fill	dark grey-brown silty clay loam with 1% small-medium gravels and flint.	D: 0.62m W: 0.45m	animal bone, clay tobacco-pipe
8605	cut	linear V-shaped ditch with concave base, aligned N-S	D: 0.62m W: 0.45m	
8606	fill	dark brown-grey silty sandy clay with 2% small-large gravels and 1% charcoal flecks.	not excavated	--
8607	cut	enclosure ditch, part of 8710	not excavated	--

Trench 87	**25m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8701	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.17m-0.18m	--
8702	subsoil	mid red-brown clayey sand, with 3% small-medium gravels.	D:0.07m-0.10m	--
8703	natural	light yellow-brown clayey sand with 3% small-medium gravels.	--	--
8704	fill	dark brown-grey silty sandy clay with 5% small-medium gravels and <1% charcoal flecks.	D: 0.30m W:1.35m	--
8705	cut	shallow rounded gully cut into ditch 8710, aligned N-S	D:0.30m W:1.35m	--
8706	fill	dark grey-brown silty sandy clay, with 5% small-medium gravels and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.53m W:2.75m	Iron Age pottery, animal bone, sample 7
8707	fill	mid grey brown silty clay with 2% small gravels and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.16m W:2.65m	--
8708	fill	dark grey-brown sandy silty clay with 5% small-medium gravels and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.70m W:2.69m	--
8709	fill	dark brown-grey silty sandy clay with 2% small-large gravels and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.20m W:0.78m	--
8710	cut	linear V-shaped ditch with a narrow, flat base, aligned N-S	D:1.60m W:2.98m	--

Trench 88	25m x 1.8m			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8801	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.22m	--
8802	subsoil	mid yellow-brown clayey sand, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.04m-0.07m	--
8803	natural	light yellow-grey clayey silt with 1% small-medium gravels.	--	--
8804	fill	mid yellow-brown clayey silt with 10% small-medium gravels.	D:0.26m W:1.32m	--
8805	fill	dark brown-grey clayey silt with 3% small-medium ironstone and gravels, and <1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.28m W:0.76m	Iron Age pottery
8806	cut	linear V-shaped ditch with rounded base cut into ditch 8812, aligned NW-SE	D:0.54m W:1.32mm	--
8807	fill	mid green-grey sandy clay with 5% small-medium gravels and flint.	D:0.70m W:1.30m	Iron Age pottery, animal bone, sample 5
8808	fill	light grey-brown silty clay with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.60m W:0.20m	--
8809	fill	dark brown-grey silty clay with 10% small-medium gravels, and 2% charcoal flecks.	D:0.60m W:1.00m	fired clay
8810	fill	mid brown-grey silty clay, with 2% small-medium gravels, and 1% charcoal flecks.	D:0.06m W:0.26m	--
8811	cut	circular posthole with U-shaped profile and flat base.	D:0.06m W:0.26m	--
8812	cut	linear V-shaped ditch with concave base, aligned E-W	D:1.55m W:2.55m	--

Trench 89 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
8901	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.30m	--
8902	subsoil	mid yellow-brown clayey sand, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.10m-0.18m	--
8903	natural	light yellow-grey clayey silt with 1% small-medium gravels.	--	--
8904	fill	light yellow-brown silty sand with 8% small-large gravels.	D:0.37m W:1.52m	Iron Age pottery, animal bone
8905	fill	dark grey-brown silty clayey sand with 8% small-large gravels.	D:0.52m W:1.52m	Iron Age pottery, animal bone, sample 6
8906	cut	square shaped pit, with near vertical edges and a flat base.	D:1.05m W:1.52m	--
8907	fill	dark brown-grey silty clay with 10% small-medium gravels, and 2% charcoal flecks.	not excavated	Iron Age pottery
8908	cut	enclosure ditch, part of 8812	not excavated	--

Trench 90	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
9001	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.22m-0.24m	--
9002	subsoil	mid yellow-brown clayey sand, with 1% small-medium gravels.	D:0.06m-0.26m	--
9003	natural	light yellow-grey clayey silt with 1% small-medium gravels.	--	--

Trench 91	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
9101	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.25m-0.30m	--
9102	natural	mixed mid orange sandy clay with 10% small-medium gravels, and light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 92	**50m x 1.8m**			
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
9201	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 2% small-medium gravels.	D:0.20m-0.35m	--
9202	natural	mixed mid orange sandy clay with 10% small-medium gravels, and light grey clay.	--	--

Trench 93 50m x 1.8m				
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Finds/Samples**
9301	topsoil	dark grey-brown silty clay loam, with 5% small-medium gravels.	D:0.30m	--
9302	natural	mid grey-orange clay with 5% small-medium gravels.	--	--

MOLA

MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk