



**Trial Trench Evaluation  
on land west of Banbury Lane  
Kings Sutton  
Northamptonshire  
September 2014**

Report No. 14/195

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>  |   | <b>OASIS No: molanort1-192647</b>            |  |
| Project name  | Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land west of Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire   |  |  |
| Short description<br>(250 words maximum)  | MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land west of Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton prior to proposed development. Eight trenches were excavated. Most features were undated, though pottery recovered from a ditch was possibly dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman. Two ditches were a continuation of ditches associated with Iron Age settlement to the east. An undated ditch is likely to be a boundary aligned north-east to south-west. Most features are associated with an Iron Age settlement that also extends to the east and south of the site. Probable furrows of a former field system survived only in the south-western area of the site. |  |  |
| Project type<br>(eg DBA, evaluation etc)  | Evaluation  |  |  |
| Site status<br>(none, NT, SAM etc)  | None  |  |  |
| Previous work<br>(SMR numbers etc)  | Geophysical survey (APS 2014)   |  |  |
| Current Land use  | Pasture   |  |  |
| Future work<br>(yes, no, unknown)   | Unknown   |  |  |
| Monument type/ period   | Ditches, gullies, pits, postholes. Likely Iron Age  |  |  |
| Significant finds<br>(artefact type and period)   | Worked antler, Iron punch, late Iron Age-early Roman pottery  |  |  |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |   |  |  |
| County  | Northamptonshire  |  |  |
| Site address<br>(including postcode)  | Land west of Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton   |  |  |
| Study area (sq.m or ha)   | c. 1.01ha   |  |  |
| OS Easting & Northing<br>(use grid sq. letter code)                                     | SP 4952 3656  |  |  |
| Height OD   | Approx. 84m aOD   |  |  |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |   |  |  |
| Organisation  | MOLA Northampton  |  |  |
| Project brief originator  | Assistant County Archaeological Advisor NCC   |  |  |
| Project Design originator   | MOLA Northampton  |  |  |
| Director/Supervisor   | Ben Kidd  |  |  |
| Project Manager   | E Muldowney   |  |  |
| Sponsor or funding body   | CgMs Consulting for CALA homes  |  |  |
| <b>PROJECT DATE</b>   |   |  |  |
| Start date/End date   | 08/09/2014 – 10/09/2014   |  |  |
| <b>ARCHIVES</b>   | <b>Location<br/>(Accession no.)</b>   | <b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b> |  |
| Physical  | MOLA Northampton<br>Offices: ENN107572  | Pottery animal bone and other finds          |  |
| Paper   | MOLA Northampton<br>Offices: ENN107572  | Site file                                    |  |
| Digital   | MOLA Northampton<br>Offices: ENN107572  | Mapinfo plans, Word report                   |  |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   |   |  |  |
| Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report) |   |  |  |
| Title   | Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land west of Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire   |  |  |
| Serial title & volume   | 14/195  |  |  |
| Author(s)   | Ben Kidd  |  |  |
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| Date  | 17/10/2014  |  |  |

# Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
- 3 BACKGROUND
  - 3.1 Topography and geology
  - 3.2 Historical and archaeological background
- 4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY
- 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE
  - 5.1 General stratigraphy
  - 5.2 The archaeological features
- 6 THE FINDS
  - 6.1 The pottery by Andy Chapman
  - 6.2 Other finds by Tora Hylton
  - 6.3 The animal bone by Adam Reid
  - 6.4 Environmental evidence by Val Fryer
- 7 DISCUSSION

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Figures

Front cover: General site view, looking north

Back cover: General site view, looking south towards Kings Sutton

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Historic Environment Record (HER) data

Fig 3: The excavated trenches showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

Fig 4: Trench 1

Fig 5: Ditch [109], looking south-west

Fig 6: Trenches 2 and 3 with pit 305

Fig 7: Trench 4 with features [405,407 and 409], and Trench 5

Fig 8: Gully [705] in foreground with recut [713], looking west

Fig 9: Posthole [707] / [715], looking north

Fig 10: Pit [709] and posthole [711], looking east

Fig 11: Trench 7 with pits [711, 709, 714 and 707], and gullies [705] and [713]

Fig 12: Trenches 6 and 8

### Tables

Table 1: Historic Environment Record data, Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton

Table 2: The environmental evidence

## APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation  
on land west of Banbury Lane  
Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire  
September 2014**

**Abstract**

*MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land west of Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton prior to proposed development of the site. Eight trenches were excavated. Most features were undated, though pottery recovered from a ditch is possibly late Iron Age/early Roman. Two ditches were a continuation of ditches associated with Iron Age settlement to the east. An undated ditch is likely to be a boundary aligned north-east to south-west. Most features are associated with an Iron Age settlement extending to the east and south of the site. Probable furrows of a former field system survived only in the south-western area of the site.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In September 2014, MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of CALA Homes, to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land west of Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 4952 3656) (Fig 1).

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) had advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the Development Area (NCC 2014). The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (Chinnock 2014).

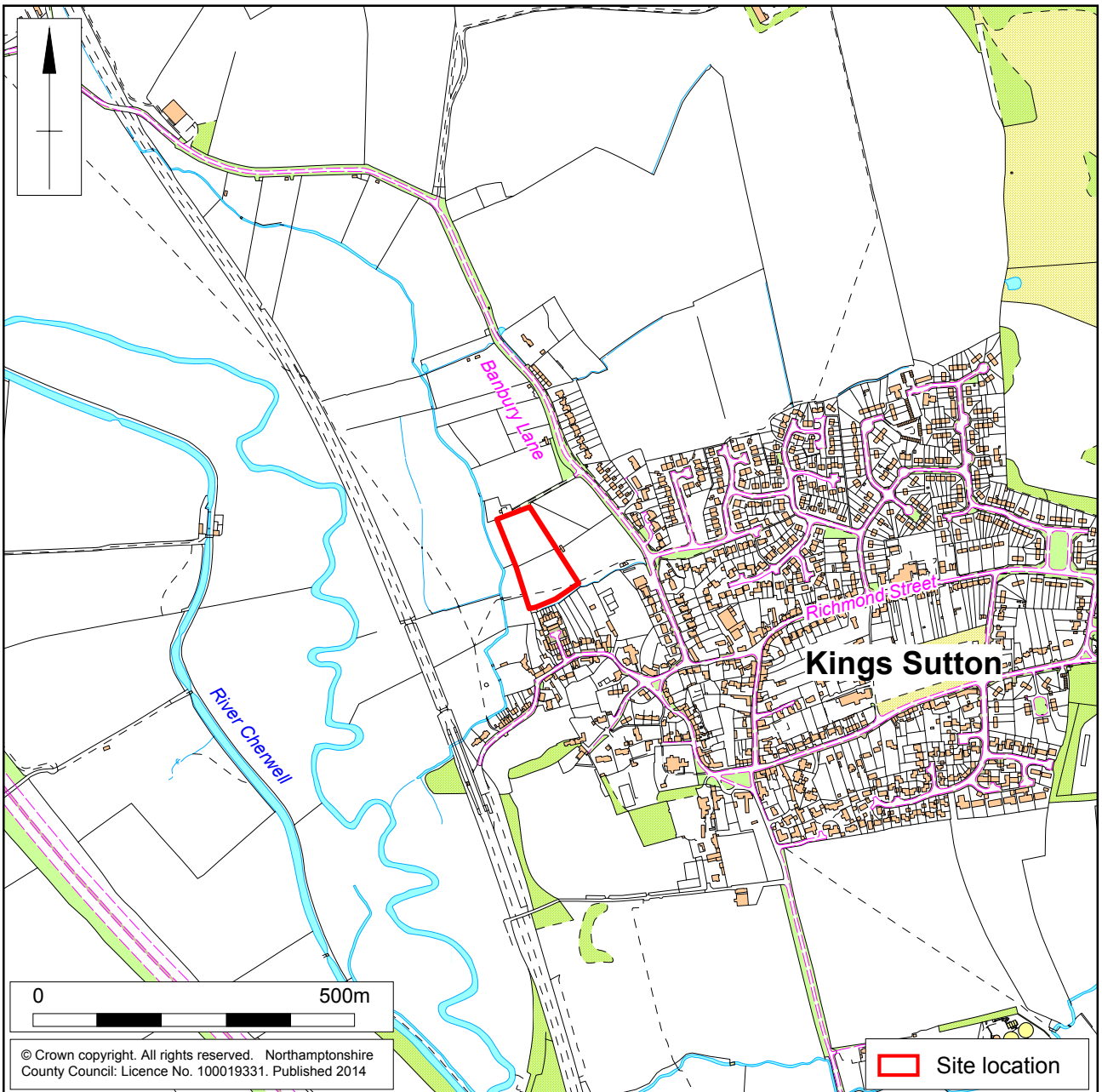
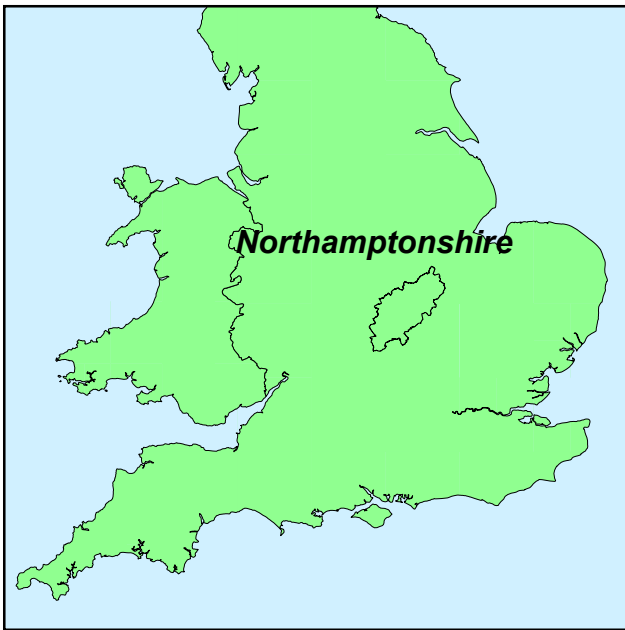
**2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The evaluation of the site was designed to provide information that will allow for the effective targeting of further investigation of the site, if required, prior to or during the early phases of its development.

The following information was required to allow the development of a strategy for further investigation of the site:

- *The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;*
- *The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.*

The evaluation was carried out following IfA guidelines for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008), the MOLA Northampton fieldwork manual (2014) and the East Midlands regional framework (Knight *et al* 2012).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1





### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Topography and geology

The site is c 1.01ha and lies to the west of Banbury Lane on the north-western fringe of the village, approximately 350m to the north-west of the church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The current land use is pasture; it is bounded to the east by new residential housing and to the north, south and west by pasture and grasslands.

Topographically the site comprises a reasonably flat, rectangular parcel of land on the eastern side of the Cherwell Valley, above the floodplain. The site is at a height of approximately 84m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey and lies close to the boundary between outcropping Marlstone of the Middle Lias series, and the Lower Lias sands and clays of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation of Lower Jurassic date exposed by the River Cherwell ([www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).

#### 3.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies within an area of the historic settlement of Kings Sutton. The Historic Environment Record (HER) has been consulted to assess the archaeological potential of the surrounding area (Fig 2, Table 1).

There is no evidence of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic or Bronze Age activity recorded on the Northamptonshire HER within a 1km radius of the site, although flint of a Neolithic and Mesolithic date was found amongst the lithic assemblage from the watching brief at 16-18 Wales street (Hunn 2004) immediately to the south of the site.

Immediately to the east of the site archaeological excavation undertaken by Albion Archaeology examined a settlement of Iron Age date (2013 forthcoming) (HER 9621), whilst to the immediate south of the site, excavation in 2004 provided evidence of Iron Age industrial activity (Hunn 2004).

East of Banbury Lane, to the north-east of the current development area and immediately north of Hampton Drive, further Iron Age activity has been identified which may relate to the Iron Age settlement associated with the current site to the west of Banbury Lane (Clarke 2012).

To the north-west of Kings Sutton a further centre of Iron Age and Roman settlement has been described by the Royal Commission (RCHME 1982). The site lies to the north-east of Twyford Barn Farm in Blacklands field and comprises several circular and rectilinear enclosures and possible stretches of track or road. The field name 'Blacklands' is a further indication of early activity in the area and has been linked in several other places to archaeological activity (Richardson 1996). A number of 19th-century sources describe the discovery of inhumations in rough stone cists, though the location of a cemetery has never been identified (Baker 1822, 703 and Beesley 1841, 33). The site is further investigated in the Extensive Urban Survey for the Roman period in Kings Sutton (Taylor 2002).

The Roman period is presented in Kings Sutton with the suggestion of a Roman settlement close to the site (HER 5) together with a second area of proposed Roman settlement beyond the immediate vicinity of the site (HER 5358).

Kings Sutton is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 where it is referred to as *Sudtone*, where it is thought to have been the centre of a Royal estate. There is no

known evidence of Saxon or early medieval period activity on the site. To the north-east of the site lies a medieval hollow-way running east-west (HER 3). It is likely that the site itself was arable land for much of the medieval/post-medieval period with ridge and furrow earthworks visible immediately to the south of the site (HER 560) and ridge and furrow on the site being recorded in geophysical survey (APS 2013).

*Table 1: Historic Environment Record data, Banbury Lane, Kings Sutton*

| <b>Historic Environment Record<br/>Preferred Reference</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--|--|
| 3/0/1  | Hollow-way medieval road                                     |
| 5  | Romano-British settlement                                    |
| 5358   | Romano-British activity                                      |
| 560  | Ridge and Furrow   |
| 5709/0/1   | Enclosure (cropmark)   |
| 5709/0/6   | Enclosure (cropmark)   |
| 9621   | Iron Age settlement, ditches, roundhouses, ironworking, pits |
| 8998   | Activity, pits, ditches, postholes - undated                 |

## 4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Eight trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 3). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal natural substrate. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to define any features. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence continuing from those allocated during the evaluation. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not retained.

The location of the trenches were surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using Leica VIVA dGPS survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of  $\pm 0.05\text{m}$ . A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and digital images was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (Chinnock 2014).

All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.



Scale 1: 1000

The excavated trenches showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results Fig 3

## 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 5.1 General stratigraphy

The natural substrate was similar across the site. In Trenches 1 to 6 the natural comprised firm, mid red-brown silty clay and degraded sandstone gravels with moderate-frequent small rounded stones and occurred between 0.50m and 0.70m below the present ground surface. The natural in Trenches 7 and 8 comprised firm, mid red-yellow-brown silty clay, degraded sandstone gravels with moderate patches of blue-grey clay c 0.70-90m below the present ground surface. Sondages were excavated at the end of each trench in order to qualify the depth and composition of the natural substrate.

The subsoil was between 0.25m and 0.50m thick and comprised friable, mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.

The topsoil was between 0.10m and 0.20m thick and comprised friable mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and extensive root disturbance throughout.

A full list of the recorded deposits by trench can be found in the Context Inventory (Appendix 1).

### 5.2 The archaeological features

#### *Trench 1*

In Trench 1 there were four ditches (Figs 3 and 4).

Ditch [113] was not excavated as it correlates with a ditch investigated by Albion Archaeology in 2013.

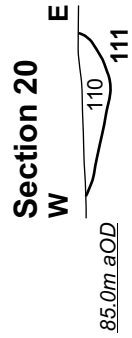
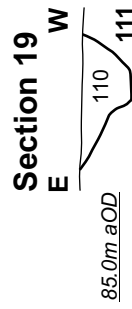
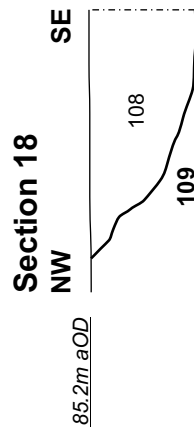
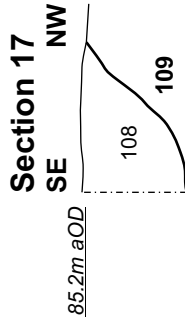
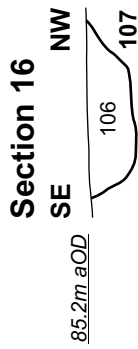
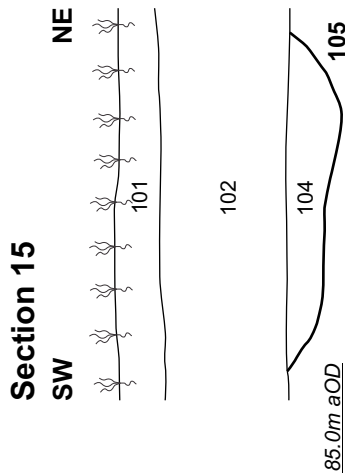
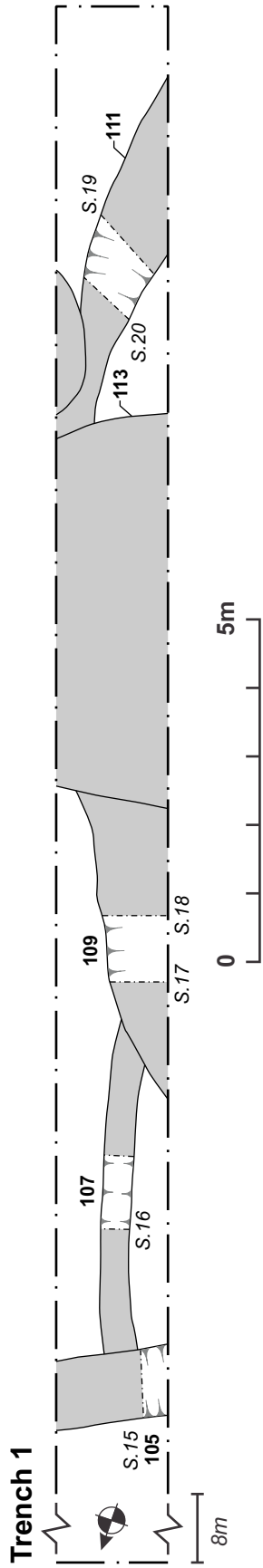
Ditch/gully [107], aligned north-south and slightly curved, was 0.60m wide and 0.16m deep, with a wide U-shaped profile with shallow edges and a flat base. It was cut by ditch [105] to the north and by ditch [109] to the south (Fig 4, section 16)

Ditch [105], aligned east-west, was 1.15m wide and 0.13m deep, with a wide U-shaped profile and a flat base. The fill comprised friable grey silty clay with frequent stones (Fig 4, section 15). A small amount of animal bone and fragments of a single pottery sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman date were recovered from this feature.

Ditch [109] appeared to be curvilinear, though due to the limit of excavation this was difficult to determine (Fig 4, sections 17 and 18; Fig 5). The visible half of the ditch had a U-shaped profile with a fill of friable mid brown silty clay with occasional small stones and a piece of worked antler (SF2). Ditch [109] was cut by [113] and was visible on the north-western edge of ditch [113].

Ditch [111] was curvilinear, 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and irregular base (Fig 4, sections 19 and 20). The fill comprised firm grey-brown silty clay with frequent to dense stone inclusions. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill.

Unexcavated ditch [113], aligned south-east to north-west, was 5.5m wide and cut ditches [109] and [111]. The surface fill was friable mid brown silty clay with occasional small stones. Animal bone was visible, but not collected.







Ditch [109], looking south-west

Fig 5

### ***Trench 2***

In Trench 2 there were two ditches. Ditch [207] was not excavated as it correlated with a ditch to the east investigated by Albion Archaeology (2013 forthcoming) (Figs 3 and 6).

Ditch [205], aligned south-west to north-east, was 2.30m wide by 0.37m deep, with a gentle sloping edge on the north-west side, sloping to a slightly concave base (Fig 6, section 11); the south-eastern edge was truncated by machining. The ditch fill (204) consisted of firm light yellow-brown silty clay with infrequent stones. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

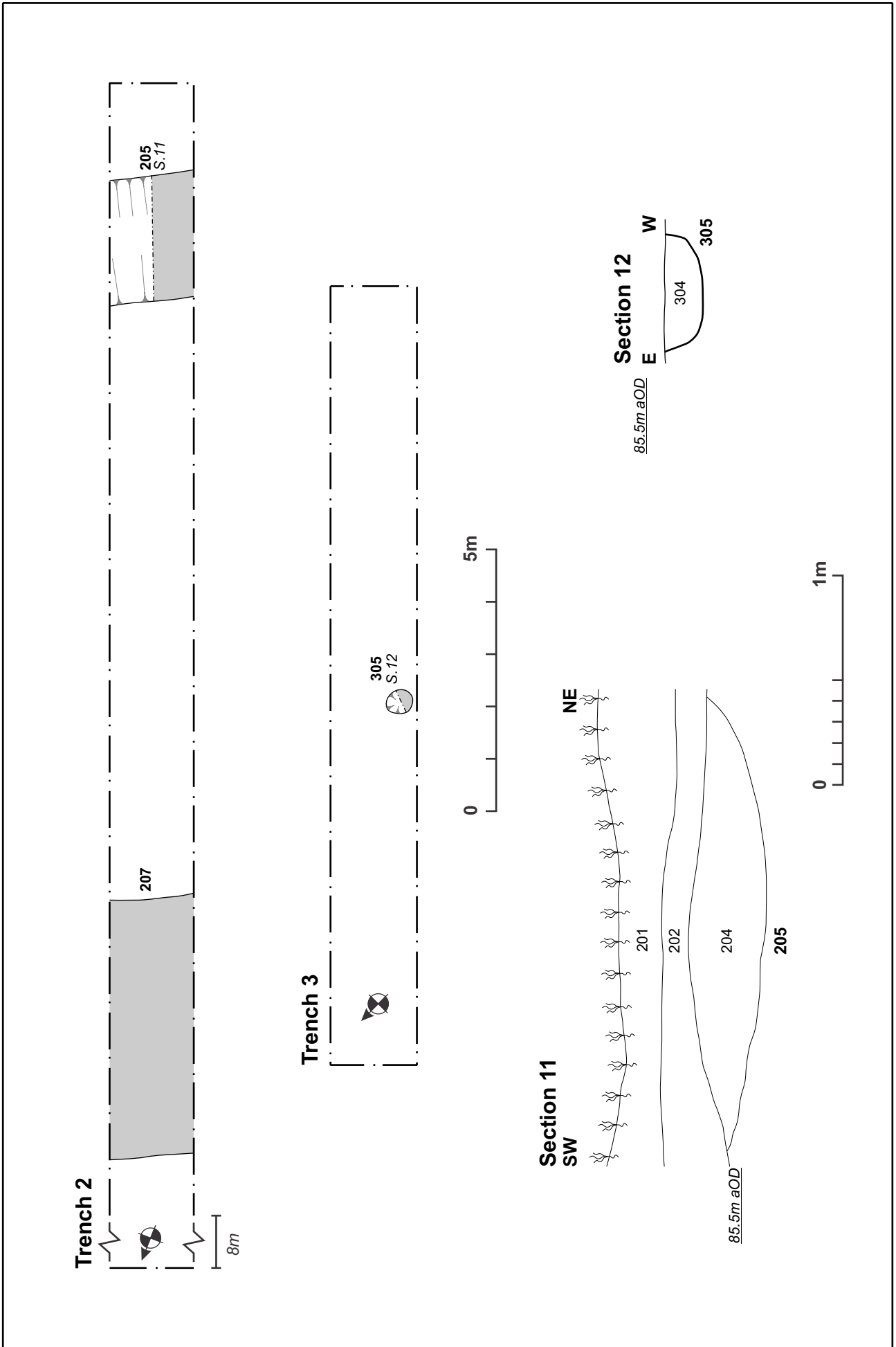
Ditch [207] was approximately 5.0m wide and aligned south-west to north-east. The surface fill was a friable mid grey-brown fill.

### ***Trench 3***

In Trench 3 there was an undated pit (Fig 6, section 12).

Pit [305], 0.56m long, 0.34m wide and 0.19m deep, had a U-shaped profile with steep sides and a flat base. The fill (304) of firm mid brown with yellow mottling silty clay, with infrequent small stones was heavily root disturbed.

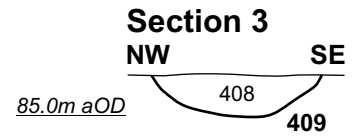
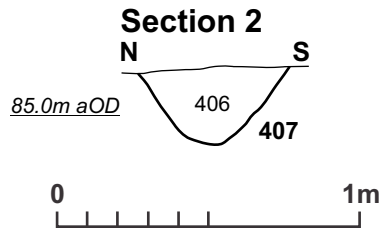
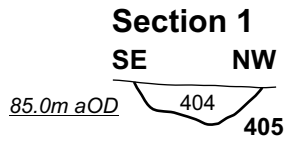
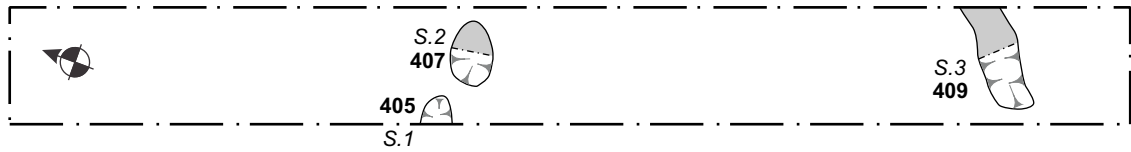




Scale 1:100 & 1:25

Trench 2 and Trench 3 with pit 305 Fig 6

### Trench 4



### Trench 5



**Trench 4**

Trench 4 contained a pit, a gully and a gully terminal or pit (Fig 7, Trench 4). No dateable artefacts were recovered from these features.

Feature [405] was a small pit or gully terminal, 0.43m wide and 0.17m deep (Fig 7, section 1). The fill (404) of friable grey-brown silty sand was root disturbed.

A small pit [407] to the south-east of [405] was 0.50m wide and 0.22m deep with a bowl-shaped profile (Fig 7, section 2). The fill (406) comprised friable grey-brown silty sand with frequent small stones.

Towards the south-eastern end of the trench there was a possible gully [409], 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep, with a wide U-shaped profile and shallow sides, eroded by root disturbance (Fig 7, section 3). The fill (408) comprised friable, grey-brown silty sand with frequent small stones.

**Trench 5**

A large ditch [505], 7.40m wide, was a continuation of ditch [207] in Trench 2 and was not excavated as it had been investigated by Albion Archaeology (2013 forthcoming) (Fig 7). Top fill (504) consisted of a friable mid grey silty clay. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the surface.

**Trench 6**

In Trench 6 three ditches, possibly truncated furrows, were all aligned approximately east-west (Fig 12, Trench 6).

Ditch/furrow [607] was 1.0m wide and 0.06m deep with irregular sides and base (Fig 12, section 8). The fill comprised firm orange-brown silty sand with frequent small-medium stone inclusions. No dateable artefacts were recovered.

Ditch/furrow [609] was 0.70m wide and 0.13m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 12, section 9). The fill comprised friable grey-brown silty sand with occasional stones. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the feature.

A small feature [613], 0.25m long, 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep, with a fill (612) of friable orange-brown silty sand was sealed by ditch/furrow [611] (Fig 12, section 10). Ditch/furrow [611] was 1.30m wide and 0.12m deep (Fig 12, section 10). The fill comprised friable grey-brown silty sand with moderate small stones. No dateable artefacts were recovered.

Linear feature [605] was found, upon investigation, to be a shallow natural hollow.

### **Trench 7**

Trench 7 contained a curving gully, a posthole and a pit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from these features.

Gully [705] was 0.30m wide and 0.06m deep with a fill (704) of firm mid-brown silty clay with infrequent small stones (Fig 11, and section 4). The gully deepened or had been recut at its north-eastern end [713], 0.30m wide, 0.15m deep with a V-shaped profile (Fig 11, section 5 and Fig 8). The fill (712) comprised firm mid-brown silty clay with infrequent small stones. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature.



Gully [705] in foreground with deepening/recut [713], looking west Fig 8

Posthole [715] was 0.15m wide and 0.15m deep, with a fill (713) of firm mid brown-yellow mixed silty clay with infrequent stones (Figs 9 and 11, section 6). It had been cut on its eastern edge by a deeper posthole [707], which was 0.60m long by 0.35m wide and 0.37m deep, with a steep V-shaped profile. The fill (706) was a firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with moderate small stones, some of which could be packing material for the post. A soil sample was taken from this fill, no dateable artefacts were recovered.



Postholes [707]/[715], looking north Fig 9

Towards the north-western end of the trench was a pit [709], which had been cut by a small possible posthole [711] on its north-western edge.

Pit [709] was sub-rectangular, 0.90m long by 0.70m wide and 0.11m deep (Fig 11, section 7 and Fig 10). The fill (708) comprised a mixed mid brown silty clay (possibly re-deposited natural) and what appeared to be hearth waste of charcoal and infrequent burnt red clay inclusions. A soil sample was taken from this fill. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

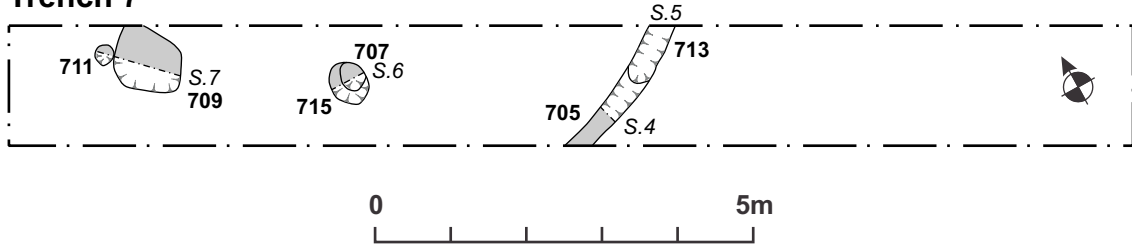
Posthole [711] was circular, 0.23m in diameter and 0.08m deep. It had a shallow U-shaped profile with a slightly concave base (Fig 11, section 7 and Fig 10). Its fill (710) comprised a firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this fill.



Pit [709] and posthole [711], looking east

Fig 10

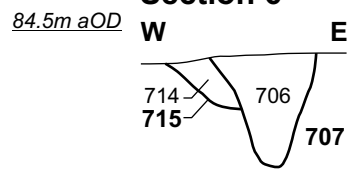
**Trench 7**



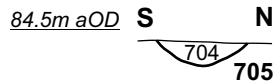
**Section 7**



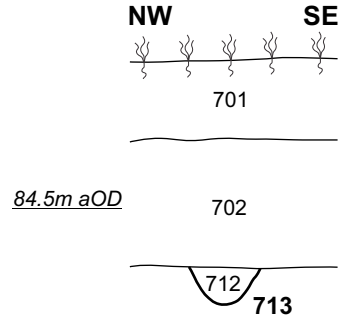
**Section 6**



**Section 4**



**Section 5**



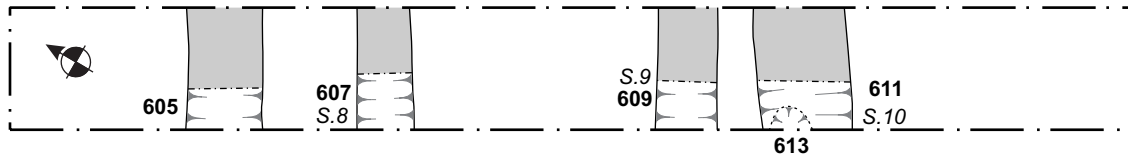
**Trench 8**

An undated gully and undated ditch with later undated recut were uncovered in Trench 8 (Fig 12, Trench 8)

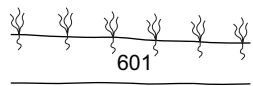
Gully terminal [805] was 0.40m wide and 0.09m deep (Fig 12, section 14). The fill (804) comprised mid-brown-grey silty clay with occasional small stones. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Ditch [811] (Fig 12, section 13), aligned north-east to south-west, was 0.30m deep. The north-western edge was gently sloping to a reasonably flat base. The primary fill (810), 0.10m thick, was a firm mid brown silty clay with rare stones. The middle fill (809), 0.10m thick, was firm light brown silty clay with rare small stones. The upper fill (807), 0.10m thick, comprised a firm mid orange-grey mixed silty clay with occasional small stones. No dateable artefacts were recovered. This ditch had been recut, and the recut [808] was 0.75m wide by 0.30m deep, with a U-shaped profile with shallow sloping sides and a slightly concave base. The fill (806) consisted of a firm, mixed mid grey-brown and orange silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions. No dateable artefacts were recovered.

**Trench 6**

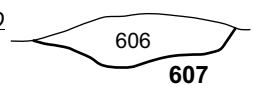


**Section 8**  
SE NW



602

84.5m aOD



**Section 9**

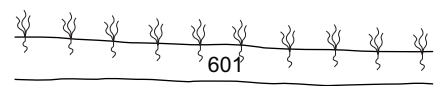
NW SE



84.5m aOD

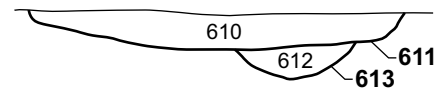
**Section 10**

SW NE

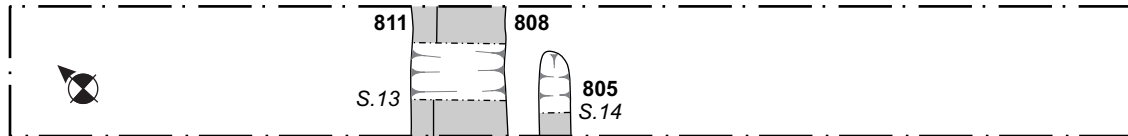


602

84.5m aOD



**Trench 8**



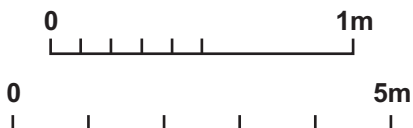
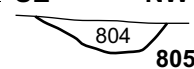
**Section 13**  
SE NW

84.5m aOD



**Section 14**  
SE NW

84.5m aOD





## 6 THE FINDS

### 6.1 The pottery by Andy Chapman

The fill (104) of ditch [105] produced a single fragmented sherd of pottery weighing 6g. The fabric is grey-brown with grey surfaces, containing small pellets of grog and possibly mica. The sherd is thin-walled, at 6mm thick. The sherd may be of late Iron Age/early Roman date, but it is too small and fragmented to be certain.

### 6.2 Other finds by Tora Hylton

The excavations produced two small finds, an antler tine offcut and an iron punch. Both objects attest to different types of manufacture, the former antler working and the latter metalworking.

The antler tine offcut was recovered from fill (108) in Trench 1 ditch [109]. It comprises just the tip of a tine (35mm long) which was sawn off/cut with a knife at the base and the point. There is a deep horizontal saw cut on one side and evidence of knife trimming is represented by a vertical facet near to the point.

The iron punch was recovered from subsoil deposits in Trench 6 [602]. The punch is complete (Length: 90mm) and it has a square-sectioned shank which tapers to a flattened rectangular-sectioned edge and the head is slightly burred.

It is difficult to date either of the objects with any certainty.

### 6.3 The animal bone by Adam Reid

A total of 20g of animal bone was recovered from two different contexts during the course of the evaluation. Three small bone fragments from medium-sized mammals of indeterminate species were recovered from the fill (108) of ditch [109] and a single fragment of sheep radius was collected from fill (204) of ditch [205]. The small assemblage provides only a very limited indication of human-animal interactions at the site but the presence of identifiable bone fragments may indicate the potential for further faunal analysis, should further work take place in the area.

### 6.4 The environmental evidence by Val Fryer

#### ***Introduction and method statement***

Soil samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pits, a posthole and gully fills. Seven were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by MOLAN and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, stem fragments, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

## **Results**

With the exception of sample 7 (pit [709]), which is primarily composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, the assemblages are all small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and extremely limited in composition. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded, along with cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification, but rarely as more than one specimen per assemblage. Abraded cotyledon fragments of indeterminate small legumes (Fabaceae) are noted within the assemblages from samples 6 (posthole [707]) and 7, and sample 3 (gully [409]) includes a single seed of possible medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.) type. Highly comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, with larger fragments also occurring within the assemblages from samples 5 (gully [713]), 6 and 7.

Other remains are exceedingly scarce, although minute fragments of coal (coal 'dust') are present within all but sample 4. However, these are almost certainly intrusive within the feature fills and are most likely to be derived from the use of steam implements on the land during the early modern era. Such contaminants are frequently introduced into features via root disturbance, animal burrows or other forms of bioturbation.

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, occasional shells of terrestrial and freshwater species are noted within four of the assemblages studied. However, as most specimens are extremely well preserved, it is thought most likely that these too are intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken.

## **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

In summary, the recovered assemblages are mostly small and plant macrofossils are generally very scarce. Sample 7 does contain a high density of charcoal/charred wood fragments, but this is not surprising given that the sample is probably hearth debris. It is considered most likely that the remaining assemblages are largely derived from scattered refuse, some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Table 2: Environmental evidence

| Sample No.                       | 1              | 2              | 3              | 4              | 5              | 6              | 7          |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| <b>Context No.</b>               | <b>404</b>     | <b>406</b>     | <b>408</b>     | <b>612</b>     | <b>712</b>     | <b>706</b>     | <b>708</b> |
| <b>Feature No.</b>               | <b>405</b>     | <b>407</b>     | <b>409</b>     | <b>613</b>     | <b>713</b>     | <b>707</b>     | <b>709</b> |
| <b>Feature type</b>              | <b>Gully</b>   | <b>Pit</b>     | <b>Gully</b>   | <b>ph</b>      | <b>Gully</b>   | <b>ph</b>      | <b>Pit</b> |
| <b>Plant macrofossils</b>        |                |                |                |                |                |                |            |
| <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)      | -              | -              | xcf            | -              | -              | x              | -          |
| <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)     | -              | -              | x              | -              | -              | x              | -          |
| Cereal indet. (grains)           | -              | x              | -              | -              | -              | x              | -          |
| Fabaceae indet.                  | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | x              | x          |
| <i>Medicago/Trifolium/</i>       | -              | -              | xcf            | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <i>Lotus</i> sp.                 |                |                |                |                |                |                |            |
| Large Poaceae indet.             | x              | x              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| Charcoal <2mm                    | x              | x              | xx             | x              | xxx            | xxxx           | xxxx       |
| Charcoal >2mm                    | -              | x              | x              | -              | x              | xxxx           | xxxx       |
| Charcoal >5mm                    | -              | -              | x              | -              | -              | xx             | xxxx       |
| Charcoal >10mm                   | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | x          |
| Charred root/stem                | x              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <b>Other remains</b>             |                |                |                |                |                |                |            |
| Black porous 'cokey' material    | x              | -              | -              | x              | x              | -              | -          |
| Black tarry material             | x              |                | -              | -              | -              |                |            |
| Bone                             |                |                | -              | -              | -              | x              | x          |
| Burnt/fired clay                 |                | x              | -              | -              | -              |                |            |
| Small coal frags.                | x              | x              | x              |                | x              | x              | x          |
| Small mammal/<br>amphibian bones | x              | -              | -              | -              |                | x              |            |
| Vitreous material                | -              | -              | -              | -              | x              | -              | -          |
| <b>Mollusc shells</b>            |                |                |                |                |                |                |            |
| <b>Open country</b>              |                |                |                |                |                |                |            |
| <i>Helicella itala</i>           | -              | x              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <i>Pupilla muscorum</i>          | x              | -              | -              | -              | x              | -              | -          |
| <i>Vallonia</i> sp.              | -              | x              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <i>V. pulchella</i>              | xcf            | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>           | -              | x              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <b>Catholic species</b>          |                |                |                |                |                |                |            |
| <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.            | x              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <i>Trichia hispida</i> group     | -              | x              | x              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| Freshwater species               | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <i>Armiger crista</i>            | x              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -          |
| <b>Sample volume (litres)</b>    | <b>10</b>      | <b>20</b>      | <b>20</b>      | <b>10</b>      | <b>20</b>      | <b>20</b>      | <b>30</b>  |
| <b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>   | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>0.3</b> |
| <b>% flot sorted</b>             | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    | <b>50%</b> |

**Key to Table**

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

## 7 DISCUSSION

The evaluation on land west of Banbury Road in Kings Sutton has demonstrated that archaeological remains are present across the development area. The evaluation has also shown that the Iron Age settlement immediately to the east (HER 9621 and Albion Archaeology 2013 forthcoming) and the Iron Age industrial activity immediately to the south (Hunn 2004) do extend into the current evaluation area.

Four linear boundary ditches were recorded continuing into this area in Trenches 1, 2 and 5 (Fig 3).

The southernmost Trench, Trench 1, had the greatest density of features, with the remains of two possible roundhouse ring gullies and two boundary ditches (Fig 3 and 4). A single fragmented sherd of possible late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered from one boundary ditch.

There was also settlement activity in trench 7, comprising a curving gully, possibly a wall or fence construction slot, a posthole and a pit containing dumped hearth debris (Fig 3 and 11). Trench 4 provided further evidence with a gully and two pits/postholes (Fig 3 and 7). Further investigation would be needed to establish the extent of the settlement and any related structures.

Three undated features of similar size and depth were investigated in the south-western area of the site and their alignment correlates with the suggestive presence of furrows, from former ridge and furrow cultivation, found by the geophysical survey (APS 2013). No other evidence of ridge and furrow is visible on the site, suggesting that other areas have been more deeply disturbed by more recent cultivation.

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[www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html)

MOLA

17 October 2014

## APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench No.     | Length, width & alignment |   | Surface height, NW end (aOD) | Depth & height of natural (aOD)         |
|----------------|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 1              | SW-NE<br>1.6m x 30m       |   | 84.88m                       | Approx.<br>0.50m<br>85.32m              |
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Context type</i>       | <i>Description</i>  | <i>Dimensions</i>            | <i>Artefacts/<br/>Samples</i>           |
| 101            | Topsoil                   | Friable grey-brown sandy silt   | 0.15m thick                  | -                                       |
| 102            | Subsoil                   | Friable mid brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.   | 0.25m thick                  | -                                       |
| 103            | Natural                   | Red-brown degraded sandstone/gravel.  | -                            | -                                       |
| 104            | Fill of 105               | Friable grey silty sand clay with frequent <0.05m small stones.   | 1.15m width,<br>0.13m deep   | pottery fragments,<br>animal bone       |
| 105            | Ditch                     | Wide U-shaped linear ditch, E-W alignment   | 1.15m wide,<br>0.13m deep    | -                                       |
| 106            | Fill of [107]             | Solid/compacted grey-brown stone fill.  | 0.60m wide,<br>0.16m deep    | -                                       |
| 107            | Ditch                     | U-shaped linear ditch, N-S alignment.   | 0.60m wide,<br>0.16m deep    | -                                       |
| 108            | Fill of [109]             | Friable mid-brown silty clay with occasional small <0.05m stones.   | 0.50m wide<br>0.08m thick    | Animal bone,<br>1 x worked<br>bone SF 2 |
| 109            | Ditch                     | U-shaped curvilinear ditch. Part excavated. Possibly related to [111], cut by [113], cuts [107] to north. | 0.90m wide,<br>0.31m deep    | -                                       |
| 110            | Fill of [111]             | Firm mid grey-brown silt with frequent small <0.10m stones.   | 0.50m wide,<br>0.15m deep.   | -                                       |
| 111            | Ditch                     | U-shaped shallow curvilinear ditch.   | 0.50m wide,<br>0.15m deep    | -                                       |

| Trench No. | Length, width & alignment |  | Surface height, NW end (aOD) | Depth & height of natural (aOD) |
|------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2          | SE - NW<br>1.6m x 30m     |  | 86.24m                       | 0.50m<br>85.49m                 |
| Context    | Context type              | Description  | Dimensions                   | Artefacts/<br>Samples           |
| 201        | Topsoil                   | Friable grey-brown sandy silt  | 0.10m thick                  | -                               |
| 202        | Subsoil                   | Friable brown silty sand.<br>Occasional small <0.05m stone.                  | 0.30m thick                  | -                               |
| 203        | Natural                   | Red-yellow-brown degraded sandstone gravel natural.                          | -                            | -                               |
| 204        | Fill of [205]             | Firm light yellow-brown silty clay with infrequent small sub angular stones. | 0.37m deep,<br>2.30m wide.   | Animal bone                     |
| 205        | Ditch                     | U-shaped linear ditch with flattish base, NE-SW alignment                    | 0.37m deep,<br>2.30m wide.   | -                               |
| 206        | Fill of [207]             | Friable mid grey-brown fill.<br>Unexcavated.                                 | 5m wide.                     | -                               |
| 207        | Ditch                     | Large ditch. Unexcavated, same as [507].                                     | 5m wide.                     | -                               |

| Trench No. | Length, width & alignment |  | Surface height, NW end (aOD)             | Depth & height of natural (aOD) |
|------------|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 3          | SE-NW<br>1.6 x 15m        |  | 85.90m                                   | 0.65m<br>85.35m                 |
| Context    | Context type              | Description  | Dimensions                               | Artefacts/<br>Samples           |
| 301        | Topsoil                   | Friable grey-brown sandy silt  | 0.15m                                    | -                               |
| 302        | Subsoil                   | Friable mid brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.                      | 0.40m                                    | -                               |
| 303        | Natural                   | Red-brown degraded sandstone/gravel.   | 0.10m visible in places                  | -                               |
| 304        | Fill of [305]             | Firm mid brown-yellow mottling silty clay with infrequent small <0.05m stones. | 0.56m wide,<br>0.19m deep                | -                               |
| 305        | Pit                       | Circular with U-shaped profile and flat base.                                  | 0.34m long,<br>0.56m wide,<br>0.19m deep | -                               |

| Trench No. | Length, width & alignment |  | Surface height, NW end (aOD)              | Depth & height of natural (aOD) |
|------------|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 4          | NW-SE<br>1.6 x 15m        |  | 85.78m                                    | 0.60m<br>85.13m                 |
| Context    | Context type              | Description  | Dimensions                                | Artefacts/<br>Samples           |
| 401        | Topsoil                   | Friable grey-brown sandy silt.   | 0.20m thick                               | -                               |
| 402        | Subsoil                   | Friable mid brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.                          | 0.40m thick                               | -                               |
| 403        | Natural                   | Red-brown degraded sandstone/gravel.   | 0.05-0.10m visible                        | -                               |
| 404        | Fill of [405]             | Friable grey-brown silty sand with frequent small stones and flint gravels.        | 0.40m long,<br>0.43m wide,<br>0.17m deep  | Sample 1                        |
| 405        | Pit/gully terminal        | Sub circular, U-shaped pit or gully terminal with slightly irregular base.         | 0.40m long,<br>0.43m wide,<br>0.17m deep  | -                               |
| 406        | Fill of [407]             | Friable grey-brown silty sand with frequent small <0.05m stones and flint gravels. | 0.84m long,<br>0.50m wide,<br>0.22m deep  | Sample 2                        |
| 407        | Pit                       | Small oval shaped pit, U-shaped profile with flat base.                            | 0.84m long,<br>0.50m wide,<br>0.22m deep  | -                               |
| 408        | Fill of [409]             | Friable grey-brown silty sand with frequent small <0.05m stones and flint gravels. | 1.50m long,<br>0.55m wide,<br>0.15m deep. | Sample 3                        |
| 409        | Gully                     | Curvilinear NE-SW aligned gully with a U-shaped profile and a flat base.           | 1.50m long,<br>0.55m wide,<br>0.15m deep. | -                               |

| Trench No. | Length, width & alignment |   | Surface height, NW end (aOD) | Depth & height of natural (aOD) |
|------------|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5          | SE-NW<br>1.6 x 15m        |   | 85.37m                       | 0.60m<br>84.93m                 |
| Context    | Context type              | Description   | Dimensions                   | Artefacts/<br>Samples           |
| 501        | Topsoil                   | Friable grey-brown sandy silt.                            | 0.15m thick                  | -                               |
| 502        | Subsoil                   | Friable mid brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions. | 0.35m thick                  | -                               |
| 503        | Natural                   | Red-brown degraded sandstone/gravel.                      | 0.05m visible                | -                               |
| 504        | Fill of [505]             | Friable mid grey-brown fill (unexcavated)                 | 7.0m wide                    | -                               |
| 305        | Ditch                     | Large ditch (unexcavated) same as [207]                   | 7.0m wide                    | -                               |



| <b>Trench No.</b> | <b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b> |   | <b>Surface height, NW end (aOD)</b>      | <b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>6</b>          | <b>SE-NW<br/>1.6 x 15m</b>           |   | <b>85.09m</b>                            | <b>0.75m<br/>84.56m</b>                    |
| <b>Context</b>    | <b>Context type</b>                  | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Dimensions</b>                        | <b>Artefacts/<br/>Samples</b>              |
| 601               | Topsoil                              | Friable grey-brown sandy silt.  | 0.15m thick                              | -  |
| 602               | Subsoil                              | Friable mid brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.                                 | 0.50m thick                              | Fe Object<br>SF 1                          |
| 603               | Natural                              | Red-brown degraded sandstone/gravel.  | 0.05m visible                            | -  |
| 604               | Fill of [605]                        | Solid/compacted grey stone fill. Frequent stones <0.10m.                                  | 1.0m wide,<br>0.06m deep                 | -  |
| 605               | Ditch                                | Possible v.shallow ditch with irregular base (possible natural hollow)                    | 1.0m wide,<br>0.06m deep                 | -  |
| 606               | Fill of [607]                        | Firm orange-brown silty sand with frequent stones. Root disturbance throughout.           | 0.70m wide,<br>0.18m deep                | -  |
| 607               | Ditch                                | Linear, E-W aligned, U-shaped ditch with an irregular base.                               | 0.70m wide,<br>0.18m deep                | -  |
| 608               | Fill of [609]                        | Friable grey-brown silty sand with occasional stones <0.08m. Root disturbance throughout. | 0.70m wide,<br>0.13m deep                | -  |
| 609               | Ditch                                | Linear, E-W aligned, U-shaped ditch with a flat base.                                     | 0.70m wide,<br>0.13m deep                | -  |
| 610               | Fill of [611]                        | Friable-firm grey-brown silty stony fill with some burnt ironstone inclusions.            | 1.30m wide,<br>0.12 deep                 | -  |
| 611               | Ditch                                | Linear, E-W aligned, shallow U-shaped ditch with a flat base.                             | 1.30m wide,<br>0.12 deep                 | -  |
| 612               | Fill of [613]                        | Friable orange-brown silty sand.  | 0.25m long,<br>0.45m wide,<br>0.12m deep | Sample 4                                   |
| 613               | Posthole/gully terminal              | Shallow posthole/gully terminal, sealed by (611).   | 0.25m long,<br>0.45m wide,<br>0.12m deep |  |

| <b>Trench No.</b> | <b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b> |  | <b>Surface height, NW end (aOD)</b>       | <b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 7                 | SE-NW<br>1.6 x 15m                   |  | 85.23m                                    | 0.70m<br>84.34m                            |
| <b>Context</b>    | <b>Context type</b>                  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Dimensions</b>                         | <b>Artefacts/Samples</b>                   |
| 701               | Topsoil                              | Friable grey-brown sandy silt.   | 0.20m thick                               | -  |
| 702               | Subsoil                              | Friable mid brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.  | 0.40m thick                               | -  |
| 703               | Natural                              | Red-brown degraded sandstone and clay.   | -   | -  |
| 704               | Fill of [705]                        | Firm mid brown silty clay with infrequent small <0.05m stone inclusions. Infrequent clay inclusions.             | 0.30m wide,<br>0.06m deep                 | -  |
| 705               | Gully                                | Curvilinear shallow U-shaped gully with slightly concave base. Cut by [713]                                      | 0.30m wide,<br>0.06m deep                 | -  |
| 706               | Fill of [707]                        | Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with moderate small-medium <0.10m stone inclusions. Moderate charcoal inclusions. | 0.60m diam,<br>0.50m wide,<br>0.60m deep  | Sample 6                                   |
| 707               | Posthole                             | Circular U-shaped posthole with concave base.  | 0.60m diam,<br>0.60m deep                 | -  |
| 708               | Fill of [709]                        | Firm mixed mid yellow-brown and black. With frequent (85-90%) charcoal inclusions and occasional red burnt clay. | 0.90m long,<br>0.70m wide,<br>0.11m deep  | Sample 7                                   |
| 709               | Pit                                  | Rectangular broad U shape pit with flat base. Cut by [711]   | 0.90m long,<br>0.70m wide,<br>0.11m deep  | -  |
| 710               | Fill of [711]                        | Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions.  | 0.23m diam,<br>0.08m deep.                | -  |
| 711               | Posthole                             | Circular shallow U-shaped posthole. Cuts [709]   | 0.23m diam,<br>0.08m deep.                | -  |
| 712               | Fill of [713]                        | Firm mid brown silt clay with infrequent small stone inclusions.   | 0.6m + long,<br>0.30m wide,<br>0.15m deep | Sample 5                                   |
| 713               | Gully/Posthole                       | Linear U-shaped gully posthole. Cuts [705]   | 0.6m + long,<br>0.30m wide,<br>0.15m deep | -  |
| 714               | Fill of [715]                        | Firm mid brown-yellow mixed silty clay with infrequent small stone inclusions.                                   | 0.08m wide<br>0.15m deep                  | -  |
| 715               | Posthole                             | Circular posthole, cut by later posthole [707]   | 0.08m wide<br>0.15m deep                  | -  |

| <b>Trench No.</b> | <b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b> |  | <b>Surface height, NW end (aOD)</b> | <b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>8</b>          | <b>SE-NW<br/>1.6 x 15m</b>           |  | <b>85.66m</b>                       | <b>0.90m<br/>84.77m</b>                    |
| <b>Context</b>    | <b>Context type</b>                  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Dimensions</b>                   | <b>Artefacts/<br/>Samples</b>              |
| 801               | Topsoil                              | Friable grey-brown sandy silt.   | 0.10m thick                         | -  |
| 802               | Subsoil                              | Friable mid brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.  | 0.50m thick                         | -  |
| 803               | Natural                              | Yellow-red-brown degraded sandstone and clay.  | 0.20m visible in places             | -  |
| 804               | Fill of [805]                        | Firm mid brown-grey silt clay with occasional small stone inclusions.  | 0.40m wide, 0.09m deep              | -  |
| 805               | Possible Gully                       | Linear shallow U-shaped gully with irregular edges. Possible terminal of gully.                                  | 0.40m wide, 0.09m deep              | -  |
| 806               | Fill of [808]                        | Firm mixed mid grey-brown and orange with moderate small stone inclusions.                                       | 0.75m wide, 0.30m deep              | -  |
| 807               | Fill of [811]                        | Firm mid orange-grey mixed silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions                                     | 0.40m wide, 0.10m deep              | -  |
| 808               | Ditch                                | Linear U-shaped gully with sloping edges and a flat base. Recut of ditch [811]                                   | 0.75m wide, 0.30m deep              | -  |
| 809               | Fill of [811]                        | Firm light brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions   | 0.30m wide, 0.10m deep.             | -  |
| 810               | Fill of [811]                        | Firm mid brown silty clay with rare stone inclusions   | 0.35m wide, 0.10m deep              | -  |
| 811               | Ditch                                | Linear possible U-shaped ditch, NW side gentle slope to flattish base, SE side has been cut by later recut [808] | 0.35m wide 0.25m deep               | -  |





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