Archaeological evaluation at Reading Road Cholsey, Oxfordshire February 2016

Report No. 16/127

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Illustrator: Olly Dindol

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Accession No: OXCMS 2016.10
NGR: SU 5942 8626

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Quality control and sign off**:**

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	21/07/2016	P Chapman	Jim Brown	Steve Parry	Draft for client review
2					

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS No: molanort1- 257695**	
Project title	Archaeological excavation on land Reading Road, Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire February 2016	
MOLA Northampton carried out a trial trench evaluation at Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire in February 2016. The earliest activity was the presence of four and possibly up to six Neolithic pits. Four pits, in three separate locations, were noted for the recovery of a quantity of Neolithic pottery, worked flint and flint debitage. Two of these pits also contained some hazel nutshells, calcined animal bone fragments and occasional cereal grains. Part of a middle/late Iron Age field system, a few Roman features but also some undated features lay at the far western and south-western part of the development area. There were curvilinear, linear ditches including a probable trackway. The latter may have led from a postulated villa some 100m to the south of the development area. In the central and eastern areas there was a possible feature dated by a single Iron Age pottery sherd. A few undated features were uncovered in this part of the site but the large majority of trenches contained no archaeological remains. It is possible that some of the undated features in the development area may relate to medieval or later field boundaries.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site status	none	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Richardson 2015); to the south-west of the site archaeological evaluation (Hood 2015); geophysical survey on land off Celsea Place, Cholsey.	
Current land use	Unused open field	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type/period	Iron Age/Romano-British	
Significant finds	Neolithic pits with pottery and worked flint; Iron Age and Roman pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Oxfordshire	
Site address	Reading Road, Cholsey	
Study area	22.6ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SU 5942 8626	
Height OD	52m to 56m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton	
Director/Supervisor	Kamil Orzechowski, MOLA	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, MOLA	
Sponsor or funding body	J T Leavesley Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	February 2016	
End date		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical	OXCMS 2016.10 MOLA Northampton Archive Store	Pottery, animal bone
Paper		Site records; Context sheets, registers photographs; plans and sections
Digital		Survey data; reports; digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire, February 2016	
Serial title & volume	16/127	
Author(s)	Stephen Morris	
Page numbers	69 pages	
Date	July 2016	

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Archaeological evaluation at Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

February 2016

Abstract

MOLA Northampton carried out a trial trench evaluation at Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire in February 2016. A total of 94 trenches were excavated within the proposed development, omitting the south-eastern corner of the site which had been quarried in the 19th century. Archaeological features were observed in 33 of the trenches, of which fourteen generated datable evidence.

The earliest activity was the presence of four and possibly up to six Neolithic pits. Four pits, in three separate locations, were noted for the recovery of a quantity of Neolithic pottery, worked flint included debitage. Two of these pits also contained some hazel nutshell fragments, calcined animal bone fragments and occasional cereal grains.

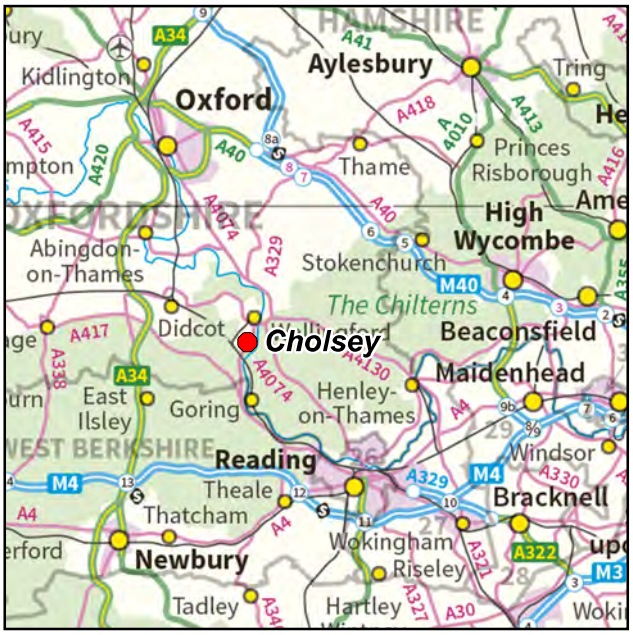
Part of a middle/late Iron Age field system, a few Roman features but also some undated features lay at the far western and south-western part of the development area. There were curvilinear and linear ditches including a probable trackway in this part of the site. The latter may have led from a postulated villa some 100m to the south of the development area. In the central and eastern areas there was a possible feature dated by a single Iron Age pottery sherd. A few undated features were uncovered in this part of the site but the large majority of trenches contained no archaeological remains. It is possible that some of the undated features in the development area may relate to medieval or later field boundaries.

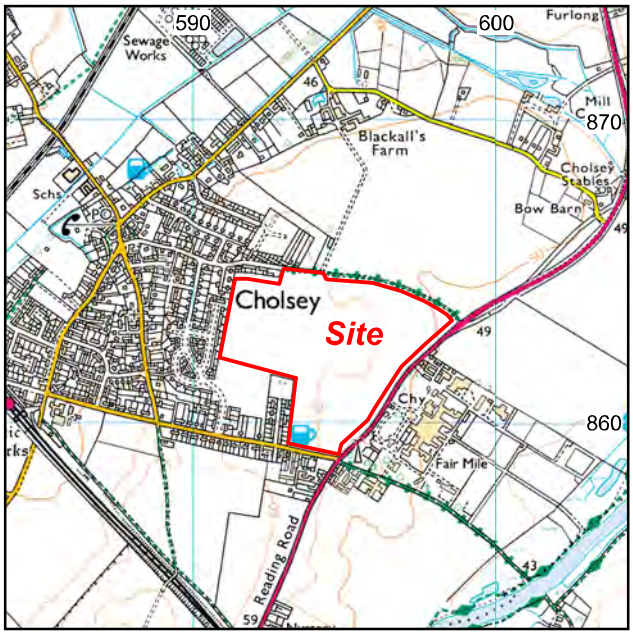
There were very few Iron Age and Roman artefacts and ecofacts recovered suggesting the development area was some distance from domestic occupation in these periods. These comprised 33 Iron Age and 34 Roman pottery sherds, eight Roman roof tile fragments and 140 fragments of hand collected animal bone.

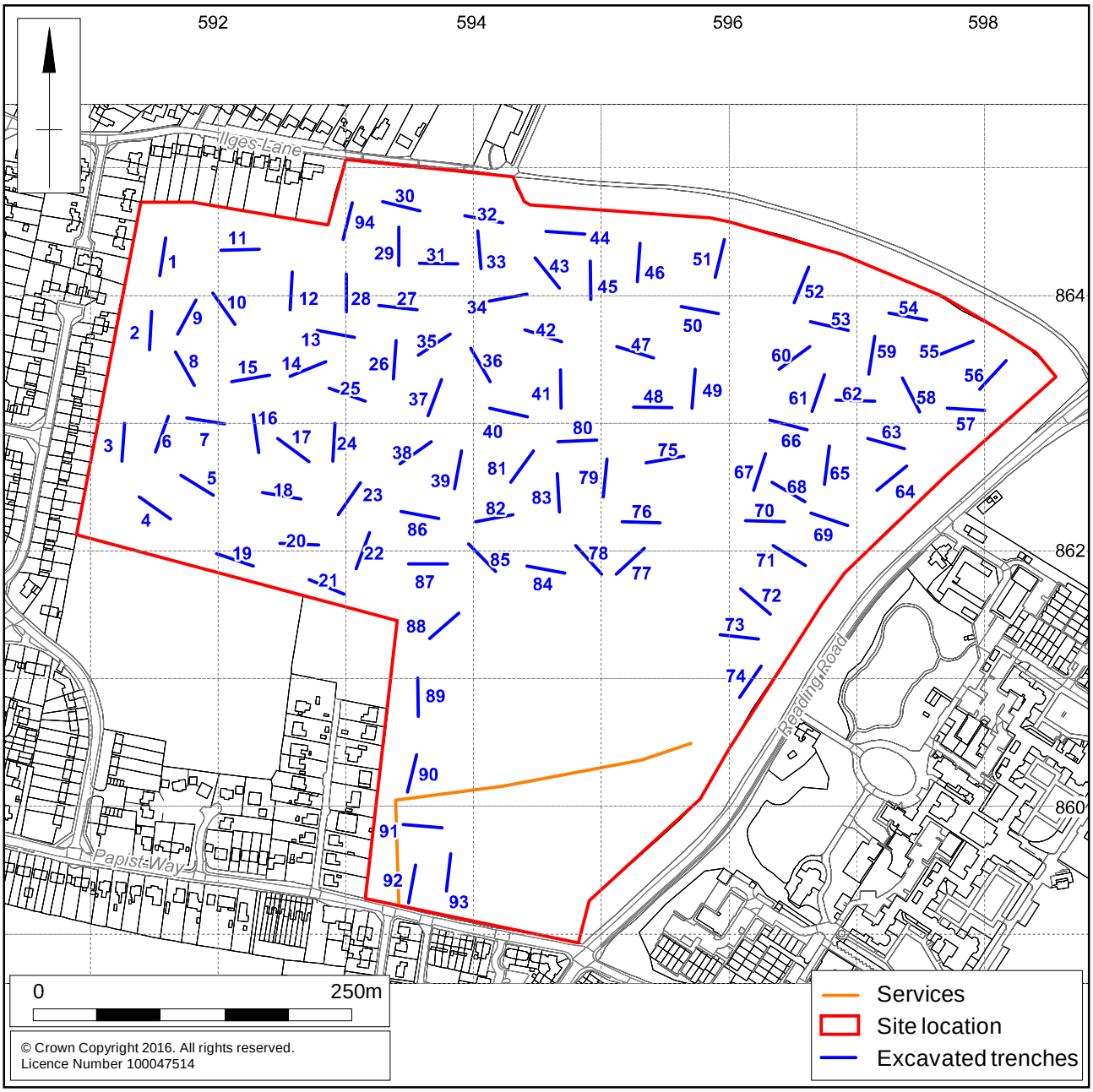
1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by J T Leavesley to carry out an archaeological evaluation through a scheme of trial trenching on a proposed development site at Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire (SU 5942 8626; Fig 1). The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation (OCC 2015), issued by Oxfordshire County Council and have conformed to the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

The programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation conformed with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b) and the professional *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2016) for an archaeological evaluation. The WSI was issued in consultation with Oxford County Council (OCC).







Scale 1:5000 Site location and excavated trenches Fig 1

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Cholsey is located at the north end of the Goring Gap at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, with the Reading Road (A329) and the River Thames to east. The proposed development is located on the eastern side of Cholsey (Fig 1). The site is bounded by a strip plantation adjacent to the Reading Road to the east. The northern boundary is also bordered by a strip plantation, with arable fields beyond, while a housing estate forms the western boundary. A pasture field and a small residential area including part of Papist Way lie to the south. The site comprises a *c.* 22.6ha area of former agricultural farmland.

The site lies on a gentle east facing slope at a height between *c.* 56m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west corner of the site (Trench 1), and *c.* 52m aOD on the east side of the site (Trench 74). The southern area of the site had been formerly used as a quarry during the 19th century.

2.2 Geology

The solid geology comprises geological units of the Upper Cretaceous formation and has been mapped as West Malbury Marly Chalk on the western side of the site whereas superficial deposits across the centre are formed of Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel and to the north-eastern side are made of Northmor Sand and Gravel (BGS 2015). The overlaying soils on the site are of the Sutton 2 association comprising well drained fine and coarse loamy soils over gravel with calcareous matrix (LAT 1983, 571v; BGS 2015).

2.3 Archaeological background

Prehistoric

Two prehistoric finds were present within a 1km area of the site, a Palaeolithic ovate handaxe was recovered from the southern area of the site within the area of quarrying (HER241843), and another flint implement recorded to the north of the site.

A number of cropmarks in the area indicate Bronze Age activity within the Cholsey area, surrounding the development site. Immediately to the north of the site are two Bronze Age barrows (HER237459; 1201144), to the south-west of the site is a further possible Bronze Age round barrow and a possible ring ditch (HER1066121; 1374757). A Bronze Age crouched burial (HER237468) has also been recorded, which was uncovered in the 1940s, *c.* 133m to the south-west of the site.

A Bronze Age site has been found beside the River Thames at Whitecross Farm in the north-east of the parish and the pre-Roman road, the, Icknield Way crosses the River Thames at Cholsey.

Roman

The site lies 250m to the east of the Roman road from Dorchester and Silchester; features relating to the road have been recorded to the west of the site. Roman inhumations burials (HER241804) were recorded 500m to the north of the site.

Adjacent to the south-west of the site are part of a Roman building that may be a farm or proto-villa, identified during an archaeological trial trench evaluation (Hood 2015). (See below, previous archaeological investigation)

Saxon

The village itself was originally founded on an island, *Ceol's Isle,* in marshy ground close to the Thames. There is evidence that the House of Wessex Royal family owned land in Cholsey in the 6th and 7th centuries. At this time the town was home to a Saint Wilgyth who was venerated locally in the Middle Ages.

To the south-west are the remaining earthworks of a Benedictine royal nunnery, Cholsey Abbey (HER237518), was founded in the village in 986 by Queen Dowager Ælfthryth on land given by her son, King Ethelred the Unready. The nunnery is thought to have been destroyed by invading Danes in 1006 when they camped in Cholsey after setting nearby Wallingford ablaze. However, Saxon masonry still survives in the Church of England parish church of St Mary. Most of this flint and stone church was built in the 12th century.

Medieval

Earthworks are also present to the north-west of the village, which are believed to be a pair of medieval moats (HER1066125).

In the 13th-century a tithe barn was built in the village. It was, at the time, the largest aisled building in the world, being 51 feet (16 m) high, 54 feet (16 m) wide and over 300 feet (91 m) long. It was demolished in 1815.

Post-medieval and modern

Fair Mile Hospital, a former lunatic asylum, originally opened near Cholsey in 1870 and closed in 2003. Its Victorian buildings were converted to housing between 2011 and 2014, whilst portions of the site were given over to newly built accommodation.

The south-east end of the development was subject to quarrying from the 1890s as shown on the 1st edition Ordnance survey map.

2.4 Previous archaeological investigation

Two previous archaeological investigations were undertaken on the proposed development area and on adjacent land to the south-west of the site. A geophysical survey was conducted on the site to assess the cultural heritage impact of the proposed development (Richardson 2015; Figs 2 and 3), and directly to the south-west of the site Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation (Hood 2015), which was supplemented by a geophysical survey undertaken by AB Heritage, on land off Celsea Place, Cholsey.

The geophysical survey identified a number of archaeological anomalies. These were interpreted as number of enclosures or field boundaries, which appear to be an extension of Roman settlement immediately south of the survey area, however, it is possible that they could have a later medieval origin. There is possibly evidence of a number of phases of activity in this area. Some of these anomalies present in the western part and across the south-west by north-east axis of site may be an extension of the probable Roman ditches which were the subject of the archaeological evaluation to the south-west of the site (Hood 2015) (Fig 3).

A probable prehistoric enclosure has also been detected in the east of the area, although this was obscured by the survey boundary. A number of possible archaeological anomalies can be seen across the site, although these could equally relate to a post-medieval gravel pit or be natural in origin.

A probable Roman villa,*c.* 100m to the south of the development area, was found by an archaeological trial trench and geophysical survey (Fig 4; Hood 2015). It seems to have been a relatively substantial Roman building. The building appeared to be rectangular in plan, aligned north-west to south-east. The building remains comprised multiple external and internal walls and at least one floor surface, as well as substantial rubble deposits and other associated features, such as ditches, as well as pits, postholes and other cut features. Finds includes significant amounts of box flue tile within the area of the building, which suggest the presence of a hypocaust heating system, as well as the presence of *tegula, imbrex,* painted wall plaster fragments. A Roman stylus was a find of some interest that was recovered from within the building structure.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the project are to provide further information on the following:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the proposed development site;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the proposed development site.

The project will address research aims and make reference to the *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment,* as appropriate (Hey and Hind 2014). If applicable, reference will be made to the national research framework, as set out by English Heritage (now Historic England; EH 1997).

4 METHODOLOGY

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was sited to investigate the archaeological potential on land off the Reading Road and to corroborate possible archaeology features identified in the geophysical survey (Fig 2) and random representation of the rest of proposed development site. A total of 94 trenches, each 30m long and 1.5m wide, were excavated, excluding the quarried area and a buried service aligned north-south, this equated to a 2% sample of the total area, *c.* 22.6ha. Trenches were excavated in the locations shown in the WSI and approved by the OCC Planning Archaeologist.

Trenches were positioned using Leica VIVA Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of ± 0.05m. The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. This work was carried out under archaeological supervision. Once the evaluation was completed and the results reviewed by Planning Archaeologist, the trenches were backfilled, with the topsoil replaced uppermost and lightly compacted.

The machined surfaces were cleaned by hand sufficiently to identify and establish the

extent of archaeological features that where present. Trenches containing archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50. Complex features were planned at scales of between 1:20 to 1:10.

Archaeological features were excavated by hand in order to achieve the objectives listed above. Sections excavated through linear features were at least 1.0m wide, pits and postholes were half-sectioned.

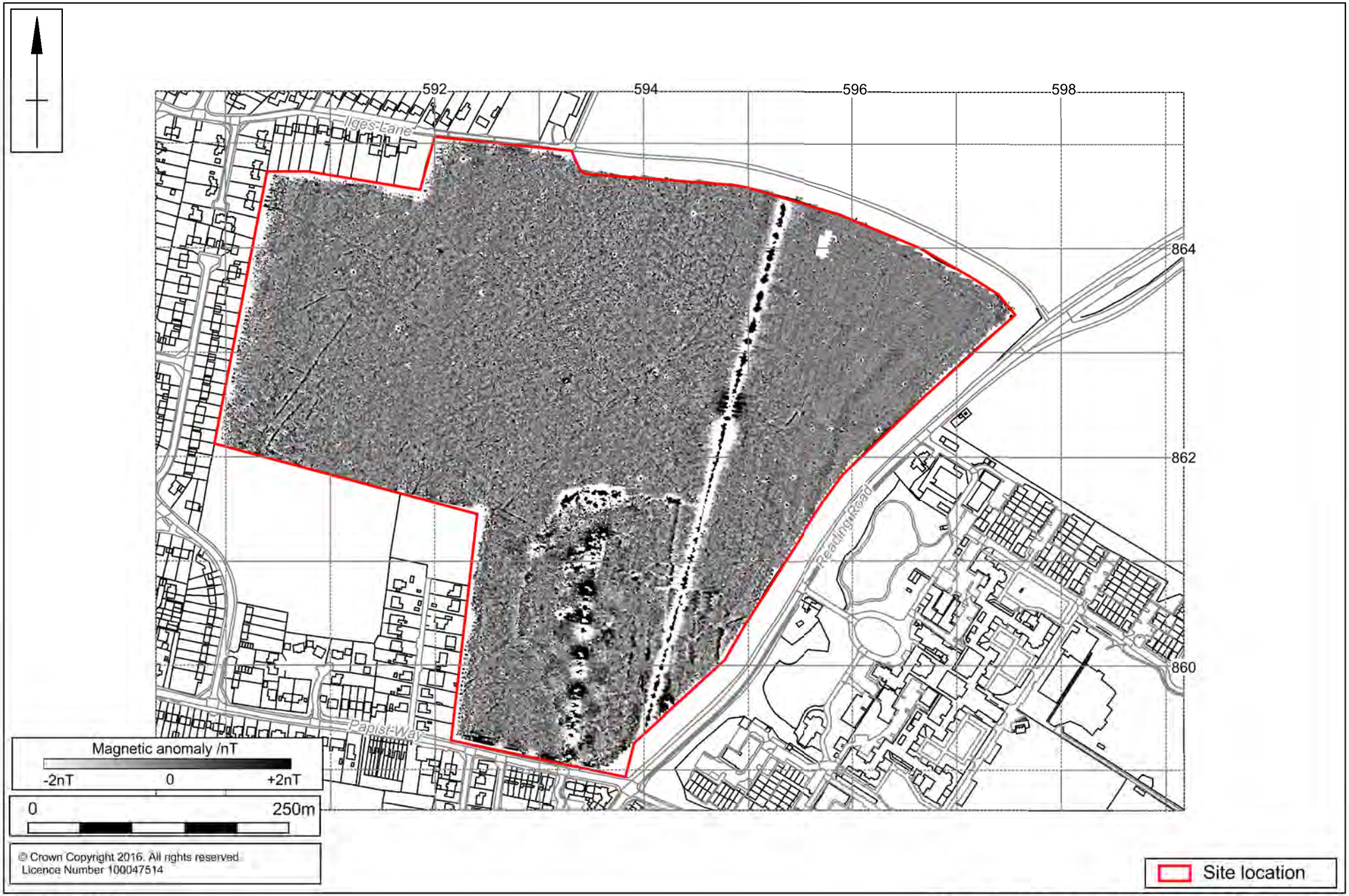
The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification was recorded on pro-forma sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature. The recording followed the standard MOLA context recording system with trench record sheets using unique context numbers for each feature or deposit, cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs using digital and 35mm monochrome film (MOLA 2014).

Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and from sieved samples receiving appropriate care, in line with procedures outlined in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 2001). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected.

Animal bone was scanned to determine the species present, the state of preservation, to identify evidence for butchery and to assess the potential for further analysis in accordance with current best practise (EH 2014).

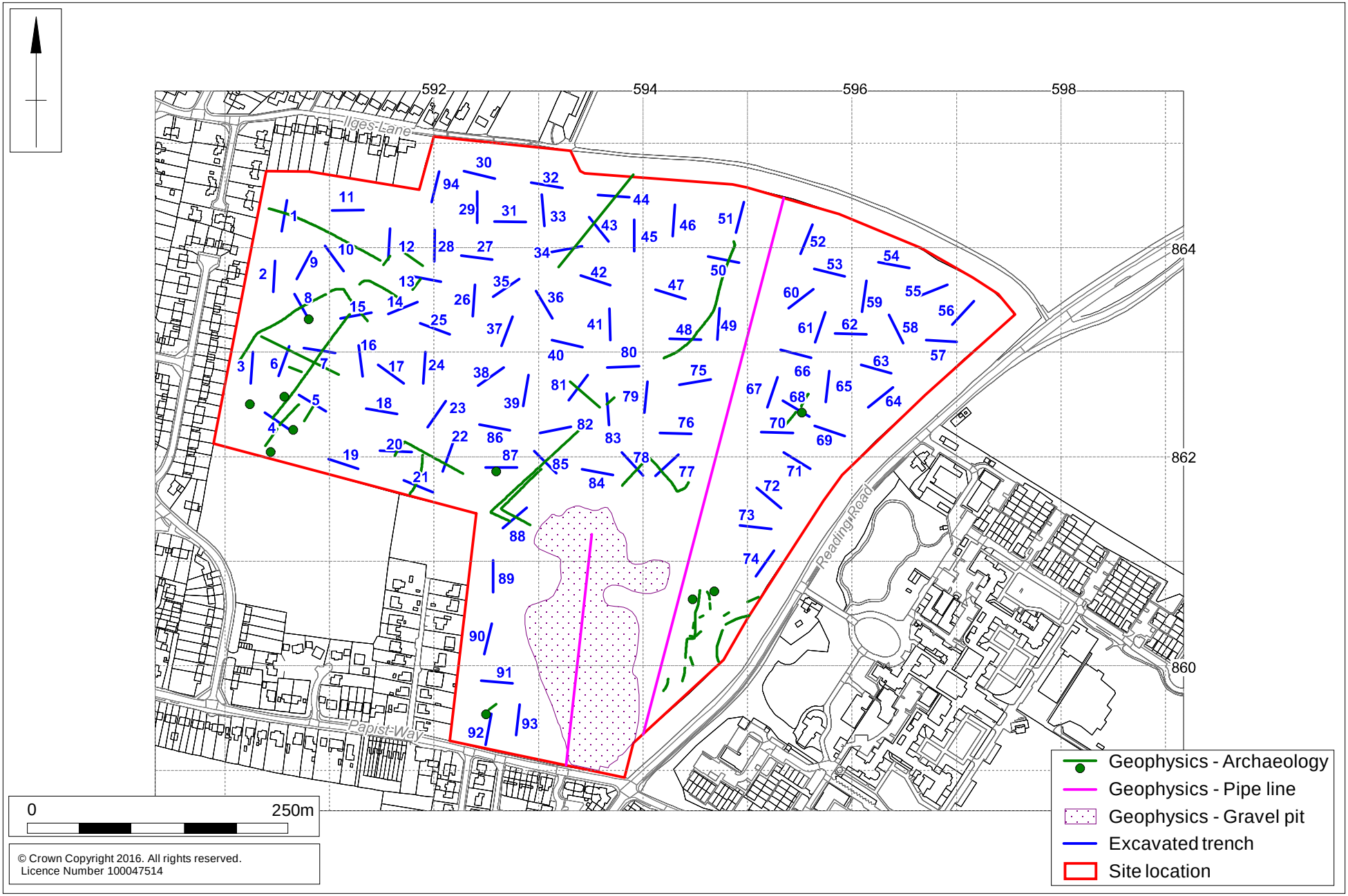
Samples have been taken for environmental analysis from all suitable contexts following the guidance for sampling (Campbell *et al* 2015). Bulk environmental soil samples were taken from appropriately/securely dated sealed archaeological features or deposits for plant-macro fossils, small animal bones and small artefacts. The samples related to individual contexts and were taken in quantities of 40 litres or 100% of the features fill, whichever was less.

No finds coming under the definition of ‘treasure’ as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 were found and no burials were encountered during the evaluation. Spoil and the surface of archaeological features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.



Scale 1:5000

Geophysics survey (Stratascan 2015) Fig 2



Scale 1:5000

Trench plan with geophysics interpretation Fig 3

5 SITE CHRONOLOGY

Archaeological activity dating to the Neolithic and to the Iron Age and Roman periods was recorded across the development area from the combined evidence of the trial trench evaluation by MOLA Northampton in February 2016 and the geophysical survey results (Richardson 2015). This was supplemented by the data from the evaluation and geophysical survey (Hood 2015) undertaken adjacent to the south side of the development site, on land off Celsea Place, Cholsey, (SU 9175 6112) (Figs 2, 3 and 4).

There were four or possibly up to six small Neolithic pits found. Four were noted for the recovery of a significant quantity of Neolithic pottery and quantities of both worked flint and flint debitage. None of the Neolithic pits were shown as geophysical anomalies. In contrast in most cases the linear geophysical anomalies clearly match with the appropriate linear ditches or gullies located and excavated in the trenches, although it is noticeable that some of the excavated ditches diverge slightly from the geophysical results.

There is a concentration of both features and artefacts within the far western side of the development area, which suggests that there was activity in this location. Very few linear or curvilinear features were dated. The evidence implies the development area was within field system(s) some distance from settlement in both the Iron Age and Roman periods. The lack of dating is an issue as it is uncertain when the postulated field systems started (probably in the middle or late Iron Age period) and any phasing or sub-phasing is therefore not applicable. Even if fully excavated, it is likely that phasing the site would be difficult. This is further seen as most of the dated features contained one or two pottery sherds which themselves were in the main not closely dated. Furthermore there is a worry that some of these small sherds were residual. There were also sparse features with little in the way of intercutting, which will mean there will also be a problem of dating by stratigraphic relationships. Other difficulties in understanding site chronology include that some of the features may have been medieval or later field boundaries.

Only two features contained Roman pottery sherds and a further one Roman roof tile fragment. This lack of Roman material from a limited number of features will not significantly help in the understanding of the postulated Roman villa, some 100m to the south, and any related field systems. It does however show that Roman occupation did not continue within the development area.

Scale 1:2000

Pit 106
Pit 108
Pit 304
Pit 306
Pit 1803
Pit 5003
Trackway
Service pipeline
2015 Evaluation
Villa
19th century gravel pit
0
100m

Trench with features located
Geophysical anomalies
Iron Age
Neolithic pit

Phasing and projected features

Fig 4

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

A total 94 evaluation trenches were excavated covering the potential development area, avoiding the 19th century quarry and the buried service pipe. Archaeological features were observed in 33 of the trenches, (Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 28, 34, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 68, 77, 78, 81, 83, 85, 88, 89, 90, 93) of which fourteen generated datable evidence. A full description of all stratigraphic contexts of the excavated features and deposits are available in the Appendix.

Where stratigraphic relationships were discernible, archaeological features were sealed beneath the subsoil, although, where no subsoil was present, they were situated directly beneath the former plough soil. Preservation conditions were largely dependent upon whether features were situated directly beneath the former plough soil and had, therefore, been exposed to plough damage.

6.1 Natural

The majority of the trenches across the site revealed natural superficial deposits, which comprised firm mid orange-brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium rounded gravel and sub-angular stone and flint. This deposit covered the trenches on the western side and probably relates to the Northmor Sand and Gravel recorded by BGS (2015).

The Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel was identified as dark reddish-brown sandy silt/silty sand with areas of occasional to frequent well sorted gravel or patches of gravel, including some small to medium angular flint. It was located mainly across the central area, but extending into the east side of the site, where it merges with patches of the Northmor Sand and Gravel, also located to the east.

The Upper Cretaceous formation of West Malbury Marly Chalk was identified as a small light greyish-white chalky-marl natural, with patches of brownish silt in Trenches 54 and 55, positioned in the north-east corner of the site. The natural substrates were present at an average depth of 0.47m below the modern ground surface.

6.2 Neolithic pits

There were four Neolithic pits, two together and two located in different areas of the development areas. Pits [106] and [108] were within Trench 1 in the north-west corner of the site, one in Trench 18 [1804] *c.* 300m south-east of Trench 1 and pit [5003] in Trench 50 close to the north edge of the site, about 600m east (Figs 4, 24, 30 and 32). All four pits produced a substantial amount of Neolithic pottery and worked flint. The pits contained a total of 109 Neolithic pottery sherds between them and in particular the pottery from pit [106] was dated to the early to middle Neolithic (Figs 16-20). In addition there were two further possible Neolithic pits in Trench 3 [304 and 306], but unlike the other four pits only small quantities of worked flint was found in pit [304].

The pits [106], [108], [1804] and [5003] collectively produced over a thousand worked flint. Although a substantial part of the assemblage was flint waste, there was a quantity of discarded incomplete and broken flint tools and implements that included utilised blades/flakes, scrapers and an arrowhead fragment (Figs 12-15). Pit [5003] contained only debitage material. The bulk of the debitage was recovered during the environmental sample processing.

Adjacent circular pits [106] and [108] were 0.70m apart east to west, close to the middle of Trench 1 and with both extending beyond the edge of the trench. They were *c.* 0.55m

in diameter and between 0.15m to 0.20m deep (Fig 24). Their fills (105)/[106] and (107)/[107] were also similar, composed of dark greyish-black sandy silt, with few to moderate gravel and natural flint inclusions. Pits [106] and [108] contained 52 and 15 sherds of Neolithic pottery (see Chapman, Section 7.2 including Figs 16 & 17), with 162 and 595 pieces of worked flint in each respectively (see Wolframm-Murray, Section 7.2 including Figs 12 and 13). The fill (107) of pit [108] also contained 16 calcined animal bone fragments (see Reid Section 8.2), charred hazel nutshell, with charcoal/charred wood fragments and occasional cereal grains (see Fryer, Section 8.1).

Pit [1804] lay approximately in the middle of Trench 18 and was slightly oval in plan, 0.08m by 0.07m and 0.30m deep, with fairly steep sloping sides and a flat base (Figs 5 & 30). A single backfill deposit (1803) comprised a dark black brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. It contained 32 sherds of Neolithic pottery (Figs 18 & 19), 292 pieces of flint (Fig 14), hazel nutshell fragments, 243 calcined animal bone fragments, charcoal/charred wood fragments and occasional cereal grains.

Pit [5003] was also close to the middle of Trench 50, was 0.6m in diameter and 0.3m deep (Fig 32, section 43). It was filled with a firm dark blackish brown sandy silt with small and medium sized stones. It contained 30 sherds of Neolithic pottery (Figs 20 & 21) and 35 pieces of flint (Fig 15).

Trench 18, pit [1804], looking west Fig 5

Pits [304 and 306] lay adjacent to each other at the south end of the trench, with pit [306] mostly beyond the edge of excavation (Fig 25). They both appeared to be circular in shape, pit [304] 0.50m in diameter and [306] at least a similar size. Both were also shallow rounded features, no more than 0.10m deep, suggesting only the base of the features have survived agricultural damage. Their respective fills (303)/[304] and (305)[[306] were also similar dark greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent dark mottling, with few small to medium pebbles/gravel and natural flint chips. Fill [303] contained a small quantity of worked flint and no other finds.

6.3 Iron Age field systems, probable Roman remains and undated features

Iron Age and Roman activity mostly consisted of ditches, presumably part of a field system, some distance away from occupation (a probable Roman villa lay 100m to the south of the development area (Fig 4; Hood 2015)). A total of 45 ditches (includes the same ditch excavated in different trenches), six pits and four postholes were examined. The ditches found in the trial trenching mostly corresponded with the features recorded in

the geophysics survey (Figs 2 and 3). Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds as well as the animal bone were all found in sparse quantities area in features from only 10 trenches, all but one located at the far western and south-western extent of the development area (see below). Well over half the excavated ditch slots, all the pits and three of the postholes were undated. It is possible/probable that some of the undated features post-date the Iron Age and Roman periods and may relate to medieval or later field boundaries.

Iron Age pottery comprised up to 33 small sherds (354g) and these came from eight ditches, each located in a different trench (5, 12, 13, 15, 20, 78, 90 and 93; Table 5). Twenty seven of these sherds were recovered in just three of these trenches (20, 90 and 93) all located at the southern and south-western boundaries of the development area. Thirty four Roman pottery sherds came from two features within two trenches (4 and 6). There was a concentration of sherds recovered from one ditch in Trench 4 located adjacent to the southern boundary. Ceramic Building Material (CBM) were found within two features in Trench 4. Animal bone was only found within features from six trenches (4, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 20) with a concentration of material from within Trench 4.

The features recovered were found in four separate parts of the site (western, south-western, central and eastern areas). Only in the former two areas were there dated artefacts found.

Western area (features within Trenches 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 and 28)

Twenty-seven features were found in 15 trenches within the western extent of the development area (Figs 4 and 36). Two-thirds were undated, but six were dated to the Iron Age and three to the Roman periods. Five trenches (2, 9, 11, 17 and 19) had only Neolithic features or had no archaeological remains. In this part of the site the geophysical survey has identified anomalies which were identified as probable archaeological features representing enclosures and field boundaries (Richardson 2015; Figs 3, 4 and 36). These anomalies were all found within the trial excavation except possibly the one recorded in Trench 1 (see below). In addition there were further features found which were not seen by the geophysical survey.

Iron Age

Six features [504, 1508, 1304, 1215 and *2006* and its recut 2004] contained Iron Age pottery and these were located in five trenches in the western area (Trenches 5, 15, 12, 13 and 20). Five of these had been identified as linear/curvilinear features in the geophysical survey (Figs 3, 4 and 36).

Ditch [504]

In Trench 5, ditch [504] was recorded in the geophysical survey as a ditch aligned north-east to south-west for a *c.* 20m distance. It was a steep-sided V-shaped ditch, up to 0.95m wide and at least 0.50m deep with a slightly rounded base (Fig 25). The fill (503), a mid blackish-brown sandy silt included moderate small to medium rounded gravel/stone and flint and was sealed by subsoil (501). The fill contained a single sherd of probable Iron Age pottery.

Ditches [1508 and 804]

Trench 15, *c.* 100m to the north of Trench 5. Ditch [1508] was identified in the geophysical survey as a curvilinear ditch. It was aligned north-west to south-east in Trench 15 where it continued for *c* .40m before turning *c*. 90° in a south-westerly direction through Trench 8 where it was excavated [804] before stopping directly to the west of Trench 3. In Trench 15 it was 0.94m wide and 0.16m deep, filled by firm, mid greyish-brown silty clay (1507), with a moderate number of small to medium flint and

occasional charcoal flecks (Fig 29). This fill contained a single rim sherd of Iron Age pottery. Ditch [804] was a large, broad U-shaped ditch [804] between 1.65m to 1.85m wide and *c.* 0.50m deep. Fill (803) was mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent rounded gravel and natural flint but no artefacts (Fig 27).

Ditch [1304]
Trench 13 was 60m to the north of Trench 15. It contained a single ditch [1304] at the north-west end of the trench aligned north-east to south-west. A ditch was shown at this location for less than 15m in the geophysical survey. It had a U-shaped profile, was 0.45m wide and 0.20m deep, filled with dark brownish grey silty sand with gravel, including two sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery (Fig 27).

Ditch [1215]
Ditch [1215] in Trench 12 was aligned north-east to south-west. It was not recorded in the geophysical survey. Ditch [1215] had a broad V-shaped profile *c.* 1.37m wide and 0.5m deep, filled with a firm dark greyish-brown sandy silt (1214) that contained a moderate number of small to medium gravel and flint, including a single sherd of Iron Age pottery (Fig 6). Fragments of cattle and sheep bone were also recovered, suggesting the presence of a pastoral landscape as well as a fragment of roe deer that were mainly woodland species.

Trench 12, ditch [1215], looking north-east Fig 6

Ditch [2006], recut [2004] and ditch [2203]
Trench 20 contained an Iron Age ditch and recut [2006 and 2004]. The trench was located 100m to the east of Trench 5 near the site's southern boundary. The ditches were identified in the geophysical survey as a curvilinear anomaly. They were aligned north-east to south-west in Trench 20, continuing 20m to the north before turning south-eastwards for 85m through Trench 22 before stopping (Figs 30 and 31). It is uncertain whether this ditch was found in Trench 22. The only ditch [2203] in this trench was on the right alignment but was *c.* 4m to the south of the feature recorded in the geophysical survey.

Ditch [2006] was probably a steep-sided V-shaped cut with a flat base at least 0.40m

wide and 0.30m deep, but heavily truncated on its south side by recut [2004], a similar V-shaped ditch, with equal depth and 0.80m wide (Fig 30). Their respective fills (2003)/[2004] and (2005)/[2006] were also similar loose orange-brown sand, with fill (2003) noted for its frequent gravel and pebble inclusions. Fill (2003) included nine sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery and some animal bone. Possible Neolithic waste flint work was also recovered from the fill. Ditch [2203] had a V-shaped profile, becoming more U-shaped towards the north-west, 0.70m wide and a 27m deep (Fig 31). The fill (2202) was mid greyish brown sandy silt with small stone/ flint and occasional charcoal flecks, but no other finds. An environmental sample (10) from fill 2003 produced some cereal grains.

Roman

Three features [404, 406 and 606] within the western area contained Roman artefacts (pottery and CBM) in two Trenches (4 and 6). These were the only features with definite Roman material from the evaluation.

Pit or ditch [404] and posthole [406]
Pit or ditch [404] and posthole [406] lay at the south-east end of Trench 4. Posthole [406] had been truncated by pit or ditch [404], leaving only the rounded remains of the base. It was oval in plan, 0.43m long by 0.34m wide and 0.15m deep, with a U-shaped profile and a concave base (Fig 25). The fill, (405), was friable dark brown silty clay with frequent small to large sub-rounded stones, suggesting possible packing material, including the occasional charcoal fleck. A single fragment of Roman roof tile was recovered from the fill.

Probable pit or ditch [404] had an irregular oval shape and shallow rounded profile, 1.28m wide by 0.16m deep and was at least 1.80m long, extending beyond the north-east edge of excavation. It is possible the feature could be a ditch terminal, but no related anomaly could be identified on the geophysical survey. Fill [403] comprised friable dark grey-brown silty clay (403), with frequent small rounded gravel and flint. What distinguished this feature was the large quantity of Roman waste debris recovered from the feature, including Roman pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), metal working material and animal bone. Some possible residual Neolithic waste flint was also recovered, including a flint core.The large quantity of Roman pottery (31 sherds) of mainly high status pottery collected from the pit, included Oxfordshire fine red ware from imitation samian ware vessels and two large sherds of Oxfordshire white ware from a mortarium, all dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Seven roof tile sherds from the fill comprised six probably *tegula* sherds and one *imbrex* sherd (Fig 22). One sherd of interest was possibly from a finial (Fig 23). Several fragments of ferrous slag, including a fragmented smithing hearth bottom were also recovered. A small quantity of fuel ash slag, charcoal and coke like material were also was found within soil sample (4). The pit fill also contained the largest quantity of animal bone retrieved from the site that included cattle, sheep and pig remains. Material from the environmental sampling produced some cereal grains.

Ditch [606]
A single ditch [606] in Trench 6 contained Roman artefacts. This ditch had a narrow V-shaped profile, 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep, filled with dark greyish-brown sandy silt (605), with frequent number of small to medium rounded stone/gravel and flint chips (Fig 26). The fill contained three Roman possible 4th-century AD Dorset black burnished ware pottery sherds and some cattle bone.

Undated

Eighteen features [104, 408, 410, 412, 604, 704, 1004, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1404, 1504, 1506, 1510, 2104, 2106 and 2804] within the western area contained undated features from 10 trenches.

Possible trackway and pit [410]
Within Trenches 4, 7 and 15 there was a possible trackway which was recorded in the geophysical survey and it can be traced to *c.* 60m north-west of the postulated villa to the south of the development area (Fig 4). The track was aligned north-east to south-west and was defined by parallel linear ditches in Trench 4 [408] and ditch [412] lying 9m to the north-west. Both had gentle sloping sides and a flatish base. Ditch [408] was up to 1.30m wide and 0.34m deep (Fig 25). Its fill (407) was dark brown silty clay, with frequent rounded gravel and flint, and few larger pieces and occasional charcoal flecks. It also contained a few fragments of animal bone. Ditch [412] was 0.75m wide and between 0.27m and 0.32m deep, intercutting with pit [410] on it east side (Figs 7 & 25). The fill (411) was dark brown silty clay, with frequent small and large rounded gravel and flint and no finds. The fills of ditch [412] and pit [410] were very similar so the relationship was undetermined.

Circular pit [410], was partly beyond the edge of the excavation. It had a U-shaped profile, *c.* 0.85m in diameter and 0.35m deep, with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base (Fig 25). The fill [409] was friable dark brown silty clay with some rounded gravel, occasional pebble/cobble and flecks of charcoal, but no finds.

Trench 4, ditch [412] left, inter-cutting with pit [410] right, looking north-east Fig 7

The western ditch of the trackway in Trench 7 [704] was broad, shallow cut, with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. It was 1.10m wide and 0.20m deep, with dark greyish sandy silt fill (703), including the occasional small to medium gravel and flint flecks (Fig 26). No artefacts were retrieved. Ditch [1510] had a similar broad, shallow profile, 0.73m to 0.87m wide and up to 0.20m deep (Fig 29). The fill (1509) was mid greyish-brown silty clay containing small to medium gravel and flint and the occasional charcoal fleck.

Ditch [604]
In the far northern part of Trench 6, *c.* 20m to the west of Trench 7, was an undated ditch

[604]. It was identified in the geophysical survey as a linear ditch over a 95m distance aligned perpendicular to and crossing through the postulated trackway. It was a broad feature that was 1.60m wide and 0.50m deep, with gently sloping, uneven sides and a wide flat base 0.60m wide (Figs 8 and 26) . The fill (603) was friable, mid greyish-brown sandy silt, with a moderate number of small to medium rounded stone/gravel and flint chips.

Trench 6, ditch [604], looking north-west Fig 8

Ditch 1004

Approximately 100m to the north of ditch [604] was Trench 10. Within this trench was a single undated ditch [1004] at the southernmost end. It was a small, curvilinear gully recorded for *c.* 7.5m within the trench, turning from a westerly alignment at the south edge of the trench, to the south-east alignment at the east of the trench. Ditch [1004] was 0.46m wide by 0.13m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig 27). The fill (1003) comprised a friable mid greyish-brown silty sand

Ditch [104]

Ditch [104], at the far north-western extent of the site was aligned north-west to south-east. It had a broad, shallow rounded cut, 1.10m wide by 0.18m deep (Fig 24). Within the ditch was a firm dark grey-brown sandy silt fill (103), with a few small to medium stone/gravel and flint chips. A geophysical anomaly was identified some 10m to the south on the same alignment as ditch [104] for over 120m. No ditch was found in Trench 1 at this postulated point.

Ditch [1207], pit [1213] and postholes [1209 and 1211]

Trench 12 lay 100m to the east of Trench 1 In addition to Iron Age ditch [1215], there were five undated features which comprised a ditch [1207], two possible pits [1205 and 1213] and two postholes [1209 and 1211].

Stratgraphically the earliest of the features in the sequence were possibly either the two deep postholes [1209 and 1211] or pit [1213] as all truncated by the ditch [1207].

Posthole [1209] was the most heavily truncated, and lay below the base of the ditch leaving only a shallow oval base (Fig 28). It had near vertical sides and a flattish base, and was 0.30m long by 0.20m wide and 0.15m deep, but lay *c.* 0.6m below the top of the ditch. It contained a friable mid grey-brown sandy silty fill, (1208), with small to medium stone and flint inclusions. The other posthole, [1211], was *c.* 0.60m in diameter by 0.60m deep, with steep to near vertical sides with a concave base and a fill (1210) that was similar to (1208) (Fig 28).

Adjacent to the postholes there was an irregularly-shaped pit [1213]. Its shape and size was unclear as it extended beyond the east and west sides of the trench, but it had a fairly linear east to west edge. The sides were steeply sloping to an uneven base containing deeper hollows, lying between 0.30m to 0.45m deep (Fig 28). The fill (1212) was mid greyish-brown sandy silt, with a moderate amount of small to medium rounded stone and chalk chips, but no other finds were retrieved.

Ditch [1207] appeared to be aligned east to west in plan, but the profile suggested it was turning approximately to the south-east. It had a broad U-shaped profile, *c.* 1.85m wide and between 0.40m to 0.60m deep, with a firm mid grey-brown sandy silt fill (1206), including occasional small rounded stone and chalk chips (Fig 28).

Ditch [1207] was in turn truncated by large circular pit [1205]. It had a broad rounded profile *c.* 1.00m wide and between 0.33m and 0.40m deep. It encompassed a lower fill (1204), 0.21m thick, of friable dark grey-brown silty sand with few small to medium rounded stone, chalk chips and charcoal flecks/patches. The upper fill, (1203) was composed of friable light grey-brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusion, up to 0.12m thick (Fig 28).

Ditch [2804]
Trench 28 lay directly to the north-east of Trench 12. Ditch [2804] was aligned north-west to south-east at the northern end of Trench 28 (Fig 31). It was a shallow U-shaped ditch, 0.66m wide and 0.15m deep. The fill (2803) was a firm mid orange-brown sandy silt, with pockets of gravel.

Curvilinear ditch [1404]
Directly to the south-east of Trench 12 was Trench 14. Within the trench was a single ditch [1404], which was also identified in the geophysical survey as a curvilinear geophysical anomaly aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 4). It was recorded for a *c.* 60m distance before turning to the south-west and stopping after *c.* 10m. Ditch [1404] had a V-shaped profile 0.56m wide by 0.24m deep (Fig 29). The ditch was filled with firm dark greyish-brown sand (1403), with a moderate amount of stone/gravel.

Ditch [1504] and pit [1506]
Trench 15 lay to the south-west of Trench 14. An Iron Age ditch [1508] within the centre of the trench has been reported on above. Two undated features were also recorded in the trench. Ditch [1504] lay *c.* 6m to the north of ditch [1508] at the east end of Trench 15. It had a shallow, slightly V-shaped cut *c.* 0.70m wide and was up to 0.25m deep (Fig 29). The fill (1503) was a mid greyish-brown silty clay containing small to medium gravel and flint and the occasional charcoal fleck. Close to the south side of ditch [1504] was sub-circular pit [1506], *c.* 0.60m in diameter and 0.32m deep (Fig 29). It had an asymmetrical profile, with a small rounded base in the west side of the feature, creating a steep sloping west side and gentler sloping east side. The fill (1505) was mid greyish-brown silty clay (1505), with a moderate number of small to medium flint pieces and occasional charcoal flecks.

Ditches [2106 and 2104]
Ditches [2106 and 2104] were located at the north-western end of Trench 21 on the southern boundary of the development area. The ditches may have been part of a postulated enclosure recorded directly to the south of the site (AB Heritage in Hood 2015). Ditch [2106] was aligned north to south and had a fairly square terminal within the trench. It had a V-shaped profile and a narrow flat base (Fig 30). It was 0.77m wide close to the terminal, increasing slightly to 0.80m wide and was up to 0.32m deep. The fill (2105) was dark blackish-brown sandy silt, containing a moderate number of small to large rounded gravel and irregular-shaped stone, but no finds. Adjacent to the east side of ditch [2106] was ditch [2104] that could be traced as a curvilinear geophysical anomaly, *c.* 40m long, turning from the south-west to the north. Ditch [2104] was a very broad U-shaped ditch, 2.00m wide and 0.42m deep, with gently sloping sides and flattish base (Fig 30). Fill (2103) was mid orange-brown sandy silt, with moderate number of small to large gravel and pebble inclusions but no artefacts.

South-western area (features within Trenches 89, 90 and 93)

The south-western extent of the site comprised five trenches (89-93) with Iron Age archaeological features in Trenches 90 and 93 and two undated features in Trench 89 (Figs 4 and 37). Two Trenches 91 and 92 contained no features in this area. A 19th century gravel pit removed archaeological deposits to the east of these trenches. No geophysical anomalies were recorded in this part of the development area.

Iron Age
Two Iron Age ditches [9003 and 9303] were found each were the only feature uncovered in their trench.

Ditch [9003]
Trench 90 lay 180m east of the postulated villa (Fig. 4). Ditch [9003] was in the centre of the trench aligned north-west to south-east although possibly slightly curving to the south. It was a shallow slightly irregular concave feature, 0.88m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig 35). Its fill (9002) was dark brownish-grey, silty sand with a moderate number of small to medium rounded stone/gravel, flint chips and charcoal fleck. Six probable Iron Age pottery sherds were found as well as possible residual Neolithic flint.

Ditch [9303]
Trench 93, close to the south-western edge of the site, contained a small ditch [9303], aligned north-west to south-east, with a U-shaped profile, 0.60m to 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig 35). The ditch fill (9302) was mid greyish-brown sandy silt, with a moderate number of small to medium rounded stone/gravel, a moderate number of small to medium rounded stone/gravel and flint chips. Within the fill were 12 Iron Age pottery sherds.

Undated
An undated ditch and a pit lay within Trench 89.

Ditch [8904] and pit [8906]
Trench 89, located directly north of Trench 90, contained a small ditch terminal [8904], aligned north-west to south-east, with the terminal facing north-west towards the east. The terminal was rounded, with a slightly V-shaped profile, 0.52m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig 35). Fill (8903) was firm, mid greyish-brown sandy silt, with a moderate number of small rounded stone/gravel and flint. A small oval pit [8906], *c.* 2m north of ditch terminal [8904], was 1.20m wide, with a shallow rounded profile, 0.14m deep (Fig 35). The pit fill (8905) was firm mid greyish-brown sandy silt, containing occasional small to medium stone/gravel and flint.

Central area (features within Trenches 34, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50 77, 78, 81, 83, 85 & 88)

In the large (*c.* 300m by 240m) centre area of the development area, features were found in 11 Trenches (34, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50 77, 78, 83, 85 and 88). Five linear or curvilinear anomalies were recorded in the geophysical survey, but only one feature in this part of the site was dated by a single Iron Age pottery sherd (Figs 4 and 38). Twenty-seven trenches in this area had no features.

Iron Age

A curvilinear ditch found in Trenches 77 and 78 possibly dated to the Iron Age period. This ditch was recorded in the geophysical survey over a 100m distance (Figs 3, 4 and 38). It entered Trench 78 (ditch [7804]) aligned north-east to south-west, turning perpendicular to the east on a north-west to south-east alignment through Trench 77 (ditch [7703]) and then after this trench turning to its formier alignment before stopping. Ditch [7804] was located at the south-east end of Trench 78, had a broad U-shaped profile, was 0.88m wide and 0.22m deep (Fig 33). Its fill (7803) was loose dark greyish-brown sand from which a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was retrieved. Ditch [7703] was a fairly large irregular U-shaped ditch, 1m wide and 0.38m deep, with a mixed mid orange-brown and dark grey sandy silt, containing frequent medium to large stone/gravel and flint inclusions (Fig 33).

Undated

Fifteen features [3403, 4303, 4403, 4405, 4803, 4805, 4903, 5006, 8103, 8303, 8504, 8506, 8803, 8805 and 8807] were recorded within the central area and these were found in 10 trenches.

Trenches 85 and 88

Trenches 85 and 88 had been placed to examine two roughly parallel curvilinear ditches identified in the geophysical survey (Figs 3 and 4). Both ditches were recorded starting directly to the west of an area lost to the 19th-century quarrying. The 'outer' ditch was *c.* 140m long, it was aligned north-west to south-east from the quarry area at Trench 88 ditch [8805], before later turning perpendicular to the north-east through Trench 85 (ditch [8504] and later stopping. The 'inner' ditch was recorded in Trench 88 [8807], but stopped directly to the south of Trench 85.

The outer ditch [8504 and 8805] had different profiles with the former being broad U-shaped whilst the latter asymmetrical V-shaped (Figs 34 and 35). Their size were also different at 0.6m and 1.25m wide and 0.2m and 0.43m deep respectively. Their single fills varied from (8503), which was a dark greyish sandy silt, with frequent rounded gravel and natural flint, whilst (8805) was mid greyish-brown silty clay, with very frequents small to large stones. The inner ditch [8807] had a similar asymmetrical profile as ditch [8805], with almost equal dimensions of 1.4m wide, but slightly shallower depth of 0.37m, and a comparable fill (8806) (Fig 35)

Ditch [8506] lay directly to the west of 'outer' ditch [8504], was aligned roughly east to west with moderate sides and a flat base. Its fill (8505) was a dark brown sand with some stones. Approximately 2m to the south side of ditch [8805] a small oval pit [8803] was located. It had V-shaped profile up to 0.85m in diameter and was 0.37m deep (Fig 35). The fill (8802) was mid greyish-brown silty clay, with a moderate number of small to large rounded stone/gravel and flint and occasional charcoal flecks.

Ditch [8103]

Trench 81 lay 60m to the north of Trench 85. The trench had been located over a 40m long linear geophysical alignerd north-west to south-east (Fig 4). Ditch [8103] had a large V-shaped profile, 1.35m wide and 0.67m deep (Figs 9 & 34). The ditch contained a friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt fill (8102), with frequent small to large stones and

gravel.

Trench 81, ditch [8103], looking south-east Fig 9

Ditch [8303]
Trench 83 was directly to the south-east of Trench 83. Within the northern part of the trench lay a V-shaped ditch [8303] aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.68m wide and 0.28m deep, with a narrow rounded base (Fig 34). The fill (8302) was friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt, with frequent small to large stone and gravel.

Ditches [3403, 4303 and 4403] and posthole [4405]
A geophysical anomaly was recorded for just over 100m aligned north-east to south-west at the northern extent of the development area (Figs 3 and 4). Three trenches were located over this anomaly [3403, 4303 and 4403] was found in all. It had a general V-shaped profile, but it varied steepness as well as iin depth and width in each trench. Ditch [3403], was 1.04m wide by 0.68m deep with steep sloping sides and a wide flattish base (Figs 11 & 31). It was filled with loose dark orange brown sand, with the occasional stone inclusion.

Trench 34, ditch [3403], looking north-east Fig 10

Ditch [4303] was a broad, shallower and gentler sloping V-shaped cut, 1.30m wide by 0.30m deep (Fig 31). It was filled with firm mid orange-brown sandy silt, containing a few small stones and flint. Ditch [4403] had a steep sloping V-shaped profile 0.98m wide by 0.52m deep (Fig 31). It was filled with a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (4402), with frequent small to large gravel/stone including a few pieces of presumably residual possible Neolithic worked flint.

Adjacent *c.* 1.0m south-east to the ditch [4403] was an undated posthole [4405]. It was shallow, *c.* 0.45m in diameter and 0.12m deep with a flattish base (Fig 31). Its fill (4404) was a mid greyish brown sandy silt with clay.

Curvilinear ditch [4805 and 5006] and ditch [4803]
A curvilinear ditch [4805 and 5006] was excavated in Trenches 48 and 50. This ditch was recorded in the geophysical survey over a 130m distance (Figs 3 and 4). It was aligned north-east to south-west when it entered Trench 48 (ditch [4805]), curving to roughly north to south at ditch [5006]. The profile changedin Trench 50 where it was a large U-shaped ditch [5006], and was at least 1.55m wide and up to 0.90m deep, with a broad flat base (Fig 32). The primary fill (5005) was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt, containing a large quantity of gravel and flint, with the material generally tipping from the west side. Upper fill (5004) formed the bulk of the ditch content, at least 0.60m thick, composed of mid orange-brown sandy silt, with a frequent amount of small to medium gravel and stone. Ditch [4805], was 1.05m wide, with a gentle concave east sloping side, up to 0.45m deep (Figs 11 and 32). It may have had a recut but this was not recorded at excavation. The fill (4804) was dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with frequent medium-sized cobbles, pebbles and flint, but no artefacts were recovered.

Aligned north-west to south-east, ditch [4803], *c.* 6m to the west of ditch [4805], was up to 0.75m wide and 0.20m deep, with steep moderately steep sloping sides and a broad flat base (Fig 32). The fill (4802) was dark brown sandy silt, including the occasional small rounded pebble/gravel, but no finds.

Trench 48, ditch [4805], looking south-west Fig 11

Ditch [4903]
Trench 49 was adjacent to the north-east of Trench 48. Within the middle of the trench, ditch [4903] was aligned north-west to south-east. It had a shallow rounded cut, 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with dark orange-brown sandy silt (4902), with a moderate number of small to medium stones/gravel and flint (Fig 32).
8.

Eastern extent (features within Trench 68)

In the far eastern part of the site undated features were found only in Trench 68. A single geophysical anomaly was recorded in this part of the site within Trench 68 (Figs 4 and 39). The other 21 trenches in this location had no features.

The geophysical anomaly was aligned north-east to south-west and it was traced for 40m. In this trench, less than 10m to the west of the anomaly were four inter-cutting ditches [6805, 6807, 6908 and 6811]. They were all aligned north-east to south-west. The initial ditch [6811] was at least 1.00m wide and 0.66m deep with steep sloping sides and rounded base. This ditch was partly truncated either side by ditch recuts [6807] and [6809] to the south and north respectively, but the sequence is not known. Ditch [6807] was a broad V-shape, 1.80m and 0.60m deep, with moderately steep sloping sides and concave base. Ditch [6809] was a much smaller U-shaped cut, *c.* 0.80m wide and *c.* 0.30m deep, cut on its north side by ditch [6805]. The final re-cut [6805] was similar in size and form as ditch [6809] (Fig 33).

All the ditches had a similar a fill (6810)/[6811], (6808)/[6809], (6806)/[6807] and (6804)/[6805] of mid greyish-brown, sandy silt, including small to medium gravel/stone and flint. All the ditches were sealed by a broad shallow infill (6803) no more than 0.10m deep that was also similar to the ditch fills (Fig 33

6.6 Subsoil

A subsoil was only identified in two areas, with the main area in the trenches to the west

side of the site (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28). It was composed of light greyish-brown sandy silt, including occasional small rounded gravel and natural flint, between 0.03m to 0.36m deep.

The mid to dark orange-brown sandy silt subsoil, containing few well sorted and patches of gravel/stone and angular flint, formed a meandering deposit from the east sides of the development area to intermittent deposit across the south part of the central area of the site (Trenches 52, 53, 59, 62, 78. 85, 89) The depth of the deposit lay between 0.08m to 0.24m.

There was only vague impression that the subsoil was inclined to decrease in its depth to the south-east, but overall it appeared to form an undulating layer. It is interesting to note that the occurrence of the subsoil corresponded almost entirely with location of the underlying natural Northmor Sand and Gravel deposit sand not the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel.

6.7 Topsoil

The topsoil was a former cultivated farm soil that was consistent throughout the trial trenching. It was composed of a firm mid greyish sandy silt, with mainly a few small angular stones and flints, with a slight variable depth of 0.22m to 0.38m.

From the topsoil (1900) in Trench 19 a fragment of a lava rotary quern was recovered.

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Worked flint *by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray*

Introduction

This report represents an assessment of the lithic material recovered during the evaluation. There are 61 pieces of worked flint, additionally 1090 pieces of debitage, weighing 971.6g, was recovered during the environmental sample processing. The finds from the pits were largely contemporary with the Neolithic pottery, otherwise the finds were residual from Roman features.

The assemblages from the pits are individually summarised in Table 1 and the remainder of the assemblage recovered as residual finds from the later assemblages is summarised in Table 2.

Method

Each hand collected object was macroscopically assessed and recorded onto an MS Access spreadsheet by type, condition, possible raw material and tool form.

The material collected from the samples were passed through sieves and grouped as <4mm, between 4mm and 10mm, and larger than 10mm. The tools were individually catalogued as above; the remainder were weighed and counted.

Raw material and condition

The condition of the artefacts was variable with post-depositional damage consisting of nicks and crushing of the edges. The damage was heavier where the artefact was residual in the feature. Patination was present on flint that had been accidently burnt, this was notable as a partial or complete white discoloration of the surface. Some artefacts collected from the pits were accidently burnt, which was visible as pot-lidding, thermal fracturing.

The raw quality of raw material was moderate. The raw material was a variegated flint ranging in colours from light greys and browns to dark greys and browns, it also could range in texture from vitreous to granular. The cortex ranged from light to mid brown, occasionally white or dark brown. The cortex was thin and worn and occasionally also thick and chalky. The raw material had characteristics of flint collected from local river gravel deposits from River Thames a short distance to the east. Also some of the flint was collected from the South Wessex Downs to the west and the Chilterns to the east, which have clay-with-flint deposits above chalk that contain flint nodules.

Assemblage composition

The worked flint comprised 61 pieces of hand excavated worked flint that included 17 flakes, nine blades, one core fragment, 27 scrapers, five serrated blades, one arrowhead fragment, and one hammerstone fragment. Additionally 1090 pieces of debitage (971.6g) was recovered during the environmental sample processing.

Table 1: Flint: assemblage composition in the Neolithic pits

Fill / cut		105/106	107/108	1803/1804	5002/5003	Total
Waste flake/blade		2/2	-/-	1/2	-/-	3/4
Utilised flake/blade		-/-	1/-	-/2	-/-	1/2
Core frag.		-	-	-	-	-
Scraper		5	19	3	-	27
Arrowhead frag.		-	-	1	-	1
Serrated blade		-	3	2	-	5
Hammerstone frag.		-	1	-	-	1
Debitage	**<4mm**	0.4/7	0.6/15	0.7/12	-/-	1.7/34
Weight (g)	**4-10mm**	33.9/130	95.4/465	51.8/183	2.5/12	183.6/790
/ pieces	**>10mm**	29.5/16	263.7/91	350.7/86	55.4/17	699.3/210
	Burnt	-	14.6	-	14.0/6	
	Total	63.8/153	359.7/571	402.5/281	71.9/35	897.9/1040
Totals individual/debitage		**9/153**	**24/571**	**11/281**	**-/35**	

Pit [106]

Flint recovered from fill (105), pit [106]
a) to e) scrapers; f) waste blade; g) waste flake; h) <4mm debitage; i) 4-10mm debitage; j) >10mm debitage; k) burnt worked flint fragments (scale 50mm) Fig 12

The assemblage of fill (105) in pit [106], comprised nine pieces of worked flint and a further 153 pieces (63.8g) of debitage (h-k), which was recovered during the environmental sample processing (Fig 12). Two waste flakes (f) and blades (g) were hand excavated. Five scrapers encompassed one end scraper, two end and side scrapers, and two were too fragmented to ascertain the scraper type. The scrapers (a-e) were manufactured on flakes through abrupt retouch on the concave distal ends and on two occasions also on one lateral edge. One of the scraper fragments appears to have been manufactured on a core fragment (e).

Pit [108]

Flint recovered from fill (107), pit [108]
a) to s) scrapers; t) utilised flake; u) possible hammer stone; v) to x) serrated blades; y) <4mm debitage,;z) 4-10mm debitage; aa) >10mm debitage; ab) worked burnt flint fragments

(scale 50mm) Fig 13

The largest assemblage was from fill (107) in pit [108], comprising one utilised flaked, 19 scrapers, three serrated blades, one possible hammerstone fragment and 571 pieces (359.7) of debitage (y-aa) recovered during the environmental sample processing (Fig 13).

One flake showed signs of utilisation through small nicks and wear in the form of gloss near the distal end (t). Three serrated blades (v-x) were also present in the assemblage. Two of the blades are more opportunistic in character with regular small removals down one lateral edge. The third serrated blade (x) is on a blade with only the medial section present, this also has small regular removals down one lateral edge but with the other lateral edge backed.

The 19 scrapers included seven end scrapers, two end and side scrapers, and the remaining ten scrapers were too fragmented or unfinished to ascertain the scraper type. One scraper was manufactured on an elongated flake (g); however, the majority of the scrapers were manufactured on flakes through abrupt retouch on the concave distal end and lateral edges. The bulk of the scrapers are broken or unfinished. For example the retouch has stepped termination, part of the scraper broke off during manufacture, or only preliminary retouch has been carried out and cortex remains amongst the retouch on the intended working edge.

Pit [1804]

Flint recovered from fill (1803), pit [1804]
a) to c) scrapers; d) arrowhead fragment; e) serrated flake; f) serrated blade;
g) to j) waste and utilised blades; k) burnt worked flint fragments; l) <4mm debitage;
m) 4-10mm debitage, n) >10mm debitage (scale 50mm) Fig 14

The assemblage from fill (1803) in pit [1804] comprised one waste flake and two blades, two utilised blades, three scrapers, two serrated blades, one arrowhead fragment, and 281 pieces (402.5g) of debitage (l-n) recovered during the environmental sampling process (Fig 14).

The two utilised blades display small scars along one lateral edge through utilisation; one of the blades has also sickle gloss. One serrated flake (e) and one serrated blade (f) have small regular removals along one lateral edge, on one occasion this is a curved edge (e). The arrowhead fragment (d) is manufactured through bi-facial invasive retouch. The arrowhead is unfinished, which is notable with its uneven edges and the bulge on one surface.

Three scrapers were recovered from this pit and comprised one end scraper, one disc scraper and one unidentifiable scraper type, all are manufactured through abrupt retouch. The end scraper is manufactured on an elongated primary flake (a), the disc scraper (b) is retouched around ¾ of the circumference of a relatively thick flake. The final scraper is manufactured on a natural flake (c).

The assemblage of fill (5002) in pit [5003] was solely retrieved through the processing of the environmental samples (Fig 15). It comprises 35 pieces (71.9g) of debitage, 12 pieces (2.5g) fell into the 4-10mm range (b), 17 pieces (55.4g) into the 10mm or larger range (a), and six pieces (14.0g) were worked burnt flint fragments (b).

Pit [5003]

Flint recovered from pit fill (5002), pit [5003]
a) >10mm debitage; b) 4-10mm debitage; c) worked burnt flint (scale 50mm Fig 15

Residual finds from later features
One core fragment was recovered from fill (303) feature [304]. The fragment indicated it that flakes had been removed. Also nine waste flakes were recovered during the excavation, a further 32 pieces (xg) of debitage was recovered during the processing of the environmental samples (Table 2).

Table 2: Flint assemblage composition in the remaining features

Context/feature	303/304	403/404	2003/ 2004	4402/ 4403	9002/ 9003	9302/ 9303	Total
Waste flake/blade	-/-	-/-	8/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	9/-
Utilised flake/blade	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Core frag.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Scraper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arrowhead frag.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Serrated blade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hammerstone frag.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debitage >4mm Wt(g)/ pieces	3.1/4	2.1/3	/6	-/-	2.2/6	5.1/13	/32
Total (individual/debitage)	**-/4**	**1/3**	**8/6**	**1/-**	**-/6**	**-/13**	**10/32**

Discussion

One core fragment was found in ditch [404], in pit [1804] a possible core fragment was re-worked into a scraper. Otherwise no cores were recovered during the evaluation. A

possibility is that cores were worked in such a way that fragments remain or are worked into scrapers.

The assemblage is dominated by debitage, the majority are flakes. The exception is the assemblage from fill (5002), pit [5003], which had a comparatively high proportion of blades. However, these blades were more opportunistic in nature than deliberate. One flake and two blades showed signs of utilisation, these came from the pits were this had not been obscured by post-depositional edge damage. The majority of the flakes produced showed signs of hard hammer utilisation.

In total 33 retouched tool forms were recovered from fills (105), (107) and (1803), which included 27 scrapers, the majority from fill (107), five serrated blades/flakes and one arrowhead fragment (Table 1). The 27 scrapers included nine end scrapers, four end and sided scrapers, and one possible disc scraper. The remaining 13 scrapers were too fragmented to determine scraper type. The scrapers were manufactured on a variety of flakes, two were elongated flakes, one core fragment, one was a natural flake, and a few were relatively thick. In the majority of cases the implements have cortex remaining on the dorsal surfaces.

The serrated blades are largely manufactured on opportunistic blades or flake and have been utilised. Serrated blades are typical of the earlier Neolithic, but are generally manufactured on deliberately produced blades as typical of the early Neolithic. There is only one serrated blade fragment from pit [108] that has been manufactured on such a blade. The other potentially datable implement is an arrowhead that is however broken in such a manner that type can't be established with certainty.

The four pit fills (105), (107), (1803) and (5002) have produced a relatively large quantity of scrapers, of interest is that the tools appear to have not been finished or are broken and therefore discarded. This is alongside utilised flakes and blades, serrated blades and flake, an unfinished arrowhead, and a relatively large quantity of knapping by-products. There are also burnt worked and natural flints found alongside a relatively large quantity of pottery sherds. The artefact composition suggests refuse from a domestic setting with a range of processing activities. The scrapers indicate hide processing in the vicinity, the unfinished scrapers would have damaged the hide if utilised.

The technological characteristics suggest a broadly Neolithic date. The lithic assemblage was found with undecorated Neolithic pot, one sherd is probably Abingdon ware dating to the early to middle Neolithic. The flakes, blades and scrapers characteristics are ambiguous and have characteristics belonging typically to the early Neolithic and to the late Neolithic. The most diagnostic tool, the serrated implements, are early Neolithic but may be problematic as discussed. The arrowhead is too fragmented to determine type and thus date. The close vicinity and raw material quality may result in an expedient technology.

Further work

The Solent Thames research framework research agenda for the Neolithic and early Bronze Age (Bradley 2010) includes questions in the areas of chronology and settlement. The document suggests the '*full analysis of well-dated lithic assemblages to aid with dating of surface finds from field survey*' and '*establishing the extent and character of settlement away from monument complexes, especially in areas where early settlement has traditionally been thought to be thin*'.

To investigate these points, further quantitative (metric and non-metric) analysis of the debitage and tools in these four pits and additional assemblages could be undertaken. Such analysis can be compared to similar sites of the same date range, such as St. Helen's Avenue, Benson (Pine and Ford 2003). Further investigation of utilisation and retouch among the debitage and tools could also be carried out as some pieces have already been identified. Also the knapping by-products can be indicative of tools not

deposited in these pits, eg axe manufacturing flakes. In summary the analysis of reduction sequence could indicate raw material exploitation, tool manufacture and activities carried out on or in the vicinity of the site.

The radiocarbon dating of these pits could further pinpoint the date of the assemblage and aid in the production of a typology for the scrapes, serrated implements and general knapping technology. This may aid in the characterisation of settlements, activities, and the exploitation of the wider environment during a particular period of time – the early, middle or late Neolithic. The dating of these pits may also indicate if the area was returned to repeatedly (Bradley 2010).

If any further excavation is undertaken at the site, investigation of any Neolithic pits should aim to maximise artefact collection. During the analysis of the assemblage the difference in recovery rate between hand excavated assemblages and those produced after the environmental samples had been processed was notable. It is recommended that any brief/written scheme of investigation should address this issue.

Burnt flint

During the environmental sampling process natural burnt flint was collected. From seven samples a total of 294.4g were recovered, catalogued in Table 3. Samples 2, 3 and 5 were associated with the Neolithic pits, the other samples came Iron Age and Roman features. The flint is in itself not datable.

Table 3: Recovered natural burnt flint

Fill / cut	Wt (g)	Sample
107 / 108 pit	157.7	Sample 2
403 / 404 pit or ditch	9.3	Sample 4
105 / 106 pit	148.7	Sample 3
5002 / 5003 pit	3.1	Sample 5
303 / 304 pit	165.0	Sample 1
9002 / 9003 ditch	86.6	Sample 8
9302 / 9303 ditch	19.7	Sample 7

7.2 The prehistoric pottery *by Andy Chapman*

The Neolithic pits

Four pits produced a total of 109 sherds of pottery, weighing 1420g, at an average sherd weight of 13.0g, in fabrics containing large angular flint or quartz and in forms that are likely to date to the Neolithic period (Table 4).

Three pits [106] and [108] in Trench 1 and [1804] in Trench 18 produced substantial quantities of both worked flint and flint debitage as well as pottery, while pit [5003] in Trench 50 produced a group of contemporary pottery. In addition, pits [108] and [1804] also contained small quantities of calcined bone, 3g and 35g respectively, and charred hazel nutshell fragments.

The pottery from pits [106] and [108] is all in fabrics containing a medium to high density of large irregular pieces of flint or quartz, from 1mm to 7mm, with the larger inclusions often protruding through the surface. The sherds have grey cores and most often grey surfaces, although a few have mottled grey-brown surfaces, most often the external surface.

Table 4: Quantification of prehistoric pottery from pits

Fill/cut	sherds	Weight (g)	Ave sherd (g)
105/106	52 (+crumbs)	440	8.5
107/108	15	215	14.3
1803/1804	32	510	15.9
5002/5003	30 (+ crumbs)	255	25.5
Total	**119**	**1285**	13.0

The material from pit [106] is dominated by plain body sherds, but there are also rim sherds from three vessels: a thickened rounded rim, an everted rounded rim and an everted flat-topped rim (Fig 16, left to right). There is also a bodysherd with an elongated horizontal lug (Fig 17), the feature that is particularly diagnostic in suggesting that the assemblage dates to Neolithic period, probably Abingdon ware belonging to the decorated-bowl tradition of the early to middle Neolithic (Gibson and Woods 1997, 81-82). The material from pit [108] all comprises plain body sherds.

Rim sherds from pit [106] (Scale 10mm) Fig 16

Body sherd with horizontal lug from pit [106] (Scale 10mm) Fig 17

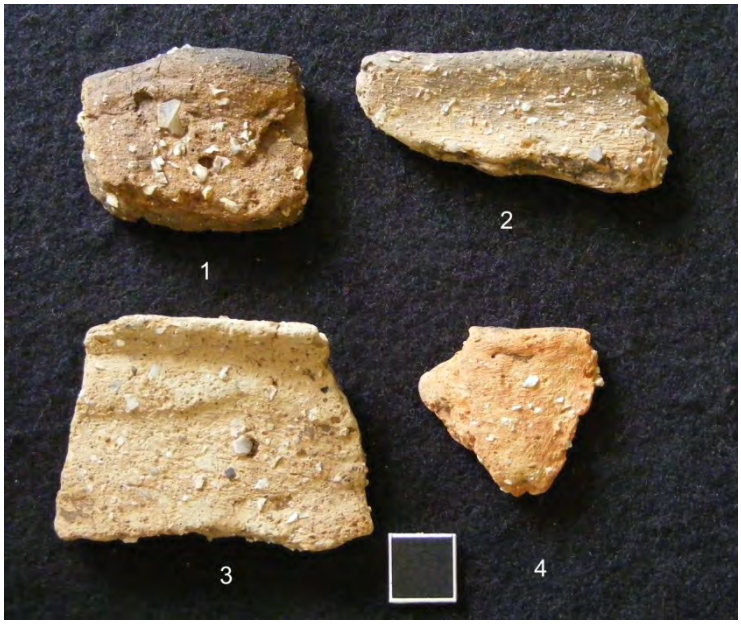
The largest group comes from the fill (1803) of pit [1804]. This comprises large plain body sherds from four or five vessels. All contain angular flint, with one vessel containing particular large fragments, up to 12mm long, while another is in a sandy fabric containing smaller and sparser flint and also quartz, up to 3mm across. The surfaces are typically grey to grey-brown, but there are three sherds from a vessel with oxidised, orange surfaces. There are rim sherds from a closed bowl with broad flat-topped rim, 250mm diameter (Fig 18). There is also a small sherd from an exceptionally thin-walled vessel, 4mm thick, with a bead rim (Fig 19).

Flat-topped rim sherds from pit [1804] (Scale 10mm) Fig 18

Rim sherd from a small thin-walled vessel from pit [1804] (Scale 10mm) Fig 19

The group from pit [5003], which did not contain a significant flint assemblage, is slightly more varied in appearance although still dominated by fabrics containing large pieces of shell and quartz, and may be of a different date. There is an everted rim from an open bowl, *c.*250mm in diameter, which would fit within the Abingdon ware tradition (Fig 20). There are also rim sherds from another four rims (Fig 21) comprising: 1) an upright rounded rim, 2) a slightly everted rim, 3) a thin everted rim from a vessel containing flint and quartz with a light grey inner surface and 4) a pale cream external surface and a thin-walled vessel a simple rounded rim containing flint and small pellets of red grog, with red-pink surfaces.

Everted rim from an open bowl from pit [5003] (Scale 10mm) Fig 20



Other rim sherds from pit [5003] (Scale 10mm) Fig 21

Pottery from ditches

The fills of eight ditches all in separate trenches produced only sherds containing greater of lesser quantities of angular flint (Table 5). A total of 33 sherds weighing 354g, have an average sherd weight of 10.7g.

Five of the ditches produced only one or two small sherds. The single sherd from ditch [504] contains finely crushed flint and has smoothed surfaces, quite unlike the material from the Neolithic pits. There are thin-walled sherds in a similar fabric from ditch [1508] including an upright rounded rim, and a larger group in ditch [2004], includes an upright flat-topped rim and body sherds from a thin-walled vessel and a sherd from a thicker-walled vessel. The presence of neckless vessels with upright rounded and flat-topped rims would be consistent with a later middle to late Iron Age date.

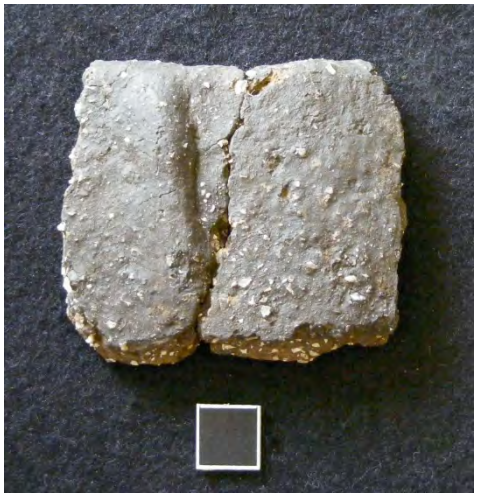
Table 5: Quantification of prehistoric pottery from ditches

Fill/cut	sherds	Weight (g)	Comments/ date
503/504	1	15	Sparse small flint, Iron Age
1214/1215	1	3	Abraded lump, large flint
1303/1304	2	10	Brown surface, sandy Iron Age/RB
1507/1508	1	6	Upright rounded rim, medium flint. Iron Age
2003/2004	9	75	Upright flat-topped rim, Medium flint. Iron Age
7803/7804	1	30	Coarse flint, flat base. Iron Age?
9002/9003	6	90	Coarse flint, plain body. Iron Age?
9302/9303	12	125	Coarse flint, upright rim, applied strip. Iron Age or earlier
Total	**33**	**354**	

The only groups that differ from this are a group of body sherds from ditch [9003] in a fabric containing dense flint, typically 1-4mm across, with this thicker-walled vessel, 10mm thick, possibly a storage jar.

This leaves a single anomalous group from ditch [9303] which includes an upright rounded rim in a fabric containing dense flint, including pieces measuring 3-5mm, with a vertical applied strip, 40mm long by 11mm wide, immediately below the rim, an

uncommon feature to find on an Iron Age vessel, leaving its date uncertain (Fig 22).



Vertical applied strip below simple rounded rim from ditch [9303]
(Scale 10mm) Fig 22

7.3 The Roman pottery *by Rob Perrin*

The Roman pottery was sorted by fabric based on inclusions and appearance (Table 6) and forms were identified based mainly on rims (Table 7). Regionally-traded wares are coded according to the National Roman Fabric reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Table 6: Quantification of Roman pottery by fabric type

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	Rim EVE
Buff, grey core	2	33	-
Grey	4	57	0.08
Grey, oxidised core	8	246	0.12
Shell	6	129	-
OXFRS	9	519	0.16
OXFWW	2	77	0.08
DORBB1	3	100	
Total	**34**	**1161**	**0.44**

OXFRS = Oxfordshire fine red ware; OXFWW=Oxfordshire white ware
DORBB1= Dorset black-burnished ware 1

Ditch (606) contained only Dorset black burnished ware (DORBB1) and pit or ditch (404) contained the rest of the Roman pottery. This suggests that the occupation divides into two periods which were discrete and separate, though the sample is, of course, small.

The quality of the Roman pottery in Trench 4 suggests that it was derived from activity of higher status than simple agricultural or domestic, perhaps associated with the Roman building which was located in the excavations to the south of the site (Hood 2015).

Table 7: Roman pottery from pit or ditches [404 and 606]

Ctxt	Fabric	Rim	Body	Base	No Sh	Wgt	Rim%	Form(s)
403	Shell		6		6	129		J
	Grey	1			1	40	8	JBR
	Grey		3		3	17		
	Grey, oxidised core	1	1		2	23		J
	Grey, oxidised core	1			1	28	12	DPR
	Grey, oxidised core		1	1	2	90		BKR?
	Grey, oxidised core		2	1	3	105		J?
	Buff, grey core		1	1	2	33		F?
	OXFWW		1		1	5		J?
	OXFWW	1			1	72	8	MBFL
	OXFRS	2	3	4	9	519	16	B38; Bx3
605	BB1		3		3	100		J
	Total	**6**	**21**	**7**	**34**	**1161**	**44**	

There are two reduced grey wares with one having an oxidised core. A long-necked, bead-rim jar with a burnished surface occurs in the former, while vessels in the latter comprise a small jar, a pedestal base, possibly from a beaker, and a curved-sided dish. This has an interesting external decoration formed by horizontal cordons being cut through by vertical grooves, leaving narrow rectangular shapes. The small jar is hard fired, resulting in a slightly metallic tinge to the surface. Two sherds from a possible flagon based occur in a buff ware with a grey core; the base is rather narrow so the vessel may be a beaker. The shell-gritted ware sherds have external rilling and are probably from a jar.

The regionally-traded wares comprise three sherds from a jar in a fabric which appears similar to Dorset black-burnished ware (DORBB1), though the inside of the vessel is a lighter grey colour than is usual.

Most of the Oxfordshire fine red ware (OXFRS) sherds are from imitation samian ware vessels of form Drag. 31 (Young 1977, C45 or C46) and 38 (Young 1977, C51) and one sherd has white painted decoration. The largest of the two Oxfordshire white ware (OXFWW) sherds is from a mortarium (probably Young 1977, M21) and the other is a sherd with external rilling.

The OXFRS and OXFWW forms are later 3rd to 4th century AD in date but it is difficult to date the other wares more closely than 2nd to 3rd century AD. The DORBB1 might also be 4th century AD in date.

7.4 Metalworking debris *by Andy Chapman*

From the fill (403) of pit or ditch [404] there are several fragments of ferrous slag, including three joining pieces which suggest that all the fragments are from a single fragmented smithing hearth bottom probably originally *c.*120mm in diameter. This indicates that some iron smithing was carried out on the site. There is also a small quantity of fuel ash slag, weighing 2g, recovered from a soil sample.

There is a single flake of probably hammer scale from the fill (403) of pit or ditch [404].

7.5 Roman ceramic roof tile *by Pat Chapman*

There are eight roof tile sherds, weighing 2160g, seven from fill (403) in pit or ditch [404] and one from fill (405) in posthole [406]. They comprise four *tegula* sherds and one *imbrex* sherd with two body sherds that most likely come from *tegulae*. One sherd, from fill (403), is unusual, possibly from a finial.

Six sherds are made from very fine sandy orange clay fabric with very rare angular flint 10mm long and rare tiny flint, one tile has a broad medium grey core. One sherd is more sandy. The possible finial sherd is made with rougher hard red-brown clay with a black core and occasional angular flint and gravel inclusions up to 5mm.

Three *tegula* sherds are 20mm thick with the flanges rising to 20-30mm above the body and tapering to 15-20mm thick. The largest sherd has a double groove at the base of the flange. The other *tegula* sherd is very battered and abraded with all the surfaces gone except for a trace in the groove. The *imbrex* is 15mm thick with a surviving length of 225mm (Fig 23, left).

The possible finial sherd is 17mm thick, somewhat roughly-made, with a diameter of *c.* 300mm and bent at 140º. One side has a very shallow ridge running horizontally, the inner surface appears to have been smoothed diagonally, there is a slit 20mm long and 5mm wide set into the body at an angle (Fig 23, right). This sherd could be from what is known variously as a chimney/finial/louver, described as tapering cylinders curving into a pointed top, the body being pierced by rows of vents (Lowther 1976, McComish 2015). Some of the 54 finial fragments found at Piddington Roman villa in Northamptonshire are angular, not dissimilar to this sherd, and dated mainly to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD (Ward 1999, 26-40, figs 11-13, plates 2-5). Alternatively, the sherd could be from a hood attached to a *tegula* tile for light or ventilation, like an inverted pot (Brodribb 1987, 20-21).

Tegula and imbrex roof tile, left Possible finial sherd, right Fig 23

The presence of a substantial Roman building in the vicinity, as recorded in the nearby evaluation at Cholsey Place (Hood 2015), provides the origin of the roof tile.

7.6 The quern *by Andy Chapman*

From topsoil context (1900) there is an irregular slab of lava, 125mm long by 105mm wide and 33mm thick, with one face still roughly smooth while the other is undulating. This is a fragment from a rotary quern in lava imported from the Eifel region of Germany. Querns and millstones in lava were being imported into England from the Roman period

onward, being particularly common throughout the 1st millennium AD in Roman and Saxon contexts, with usage declining after the Norman invasion.

8 FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains *by Val Fryer*

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, and although plant macrofossils were generally scarce, four assemblages from pit and ditch fills were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by MOLAN with the flots being 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 8. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, stem fragments, seeds and arthropod remains were abundant throughout.

Results

Cereal grains, including specimens of oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), are present at a low density within all four assemblages. Preservation is generally poor, with many of the grains being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at extremely high temperatures. It is noted that the oats within sample 4 are very small, possibly indicating that they are either immature specimens or grains from tertiary spikelets. Chaff is all but absent; however, sample 4, from Roman pit or ditch [404], does include a single spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base and sample 10, from a ditch [2004] containing prehistoric pottery, includes an indeterminate glumed wheat spikelet base.

Weed seeds, including a large grass (Poaceae) fruit, a possible small legume (Fabaceae) and a very poorly preserved specimen of medick/cover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.) type, are exceedingly scarce, with all occurring as single specimens within an assemblage. Small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell occur at moderate to high densities within the assemblages from pit [108] (sample 2) and pit [1804] (sample 6). Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, with those from sample 2 being particularly comminuted, worn and abraded. Other charred plant macrofossils are all but absent.

Small pieces of black porous material are present within all four assemblages, and it is thought most likely that all are derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains including cereal grains. Other remains are exceedingly scarce, although the assemblage from sample 4 does include a single fragment of ferrous hammer scale. A low density of industrial material was also noted at the Celsea Place excavation (ibid.).

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, a small number of shells of common terrestrial snails are present within all four assemblages. However, as most are relatively well preserved, it is thought most likely that all are intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the two assemblages of Neolithic date from pits [108] and pit [1804] are largely typical of material derived from small deposits such as domestic/midden refuse,

with both containing moderate to high densities of hazel nutshells along with charcoal/charred wood fragments and occasional cereal grains. The condition of the material within sample 2 would appear to indicate that the material had been exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to incorporation within the pit fill. Ditch [2004] also contained Iron Age pottery, and the recovered plant macrofossil assemblage is typical of features of later prehistoric or Roman date. The paucity of material within Roman pit or ditch [404] is a little unusual, but it is assumed that the remains are derived from scattered refuse which was accidentally included within the ditch fill.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density or variety of materials for quantification (ie 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site. It is the opinion of the author that the hazel nutshell fragments from pit [108] and pit [1804] are suitable for dating purposes if required. The material from sample 6 has already been separated and placed in individual glass vials, and the fragments from sample 2 will be similarly sorted.

Table 8: Plant macrofossils

Sample No.	**2**	**4**	**6**	**10**
Fill / cut	**107/108**	**403/404**	**1803/1804**	**2003/2004**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit or ditch**	**Pit**	**Ditch**
Trench No.	**1**	**4**	**18**	**20**
Date	**Neolithic**	**Roman**	**Neolithic**	**Iron Age**
Cereals				
Avena sp. (grains)	-	x	-	-
Hordeum sp. (grains)	-	xcf	x	xcf
Triticum sp. (grains)	x	x	x	xcf
(spikelet base)	-	-	-	x
T. spelta L. (glume base)	-	x	-	-
Cereal indet. (grains)	xfg	xfg	x	x
Herbs				
Fabaceae indet.	-	-	xcf	-
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.	-	xcf	-	-
Large Poaceae indet.	-	-	-	x
Rumex/Carex sp.	-	-	-	x
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
Corylus avellana L.	xxx	-	xxxx	-
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	xxxx	x
Charcoal >5mm	x	-	xxx	-
Charcoal >10mm	-	-	xx	-
Charred root/stem	-	-	x	-
Indet.fruit stone frag/seed	x	x	-	-
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material	-	-	-	x
Burnt stone	-	-	x	-

Sample No.	**2**	**4**	**6**	**10**
Fill / cut	**107/108**	**403/404**	**1803/1804**	**2003/2004**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit or ditch**	**Pit**	**Ditch**
Trench No.	**1**	**4**	**18**	**20**
Date	**Neolithic**	**Roman**	**Neolithic**	**Iron Age**
Ferrous hammer scale	-	x	-	-
Mollusc shells				
Woodland/shade loving species				
Carychium sp.	x	-	-	-
Open country species				
Helicella itala	-	x	x	x
Vallonia costata	x	x	-	-
Vertigo pygmaea	x	-	-	-
Catholic species				
Trichia hispida group	x	x	-	-
Other				
Limacid plate	-	x	-	-
Sample volume (litres)				
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

8.2 The animal bone *by Adam Reid*

Introduction

A total of 140 fragments of animal bone were hand-collected from seven different contexts during the course of excavation and a further 269 bone fragments were recovered via wet-sieving from four environmental samples. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and to inform on the potential for further work.

All material was washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. The state of preservation of each bone fragment was rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is equivalent to excellent preservation and 5 very poor (Lyman 1994). Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA reference collection and Hillson (1992). Due to the anatomical similarities between the two species, all ovicaprid specimens were grouped as sheep/goat, unless possible to differentiate between the two using Boessneck *et al* (1964) and Payne's (1985) criteria. Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including large mammal (cattle, horse), medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig, large dog), and small mammal (small dog, cat, rabbit).

Preservation

The general state of preservation of the material was poor for hand-collected specimens and very poor for material recovered from wet-sieved samples (Table 9). The material was highly fragmented and demonstrated evidence of weathering and surface abrasion, which would suggest that some specimens may have remained exposed, or partially exposed, for some time prior to burial.

Table 9: Animal bone; quality of preservation (numbers in brackets denote material from environmental samples)

State of preservation	1 Excellent	2 Good	3 Moderate	4 Poor	5 Very Poor
No. of specimens	-	-	8 (1)	132 (24)	0 (244)

Identification and quantification

The fragmented nature of the assemblage made identifications difficult and a presentation of the results can be seen below (Table 10). Positive identifications were made for 33 specimens; 24% of the hand-collected assemblage. All identified taxa derive from domestic food bearing animals, with the exception of a single roe deer fragment recovered from fill (1214) of pit [1215]. The majority of the hand-collected material (84%) was recovered from fill (403) of pit or ditch [404] which is thought to date to the Roman period (see above). Three microfaunal rib fragments were also recovered from the environmental sample that was taken from pit or ditch [404]. No fish or bird specimens were noted in the assemblage.

Table 10: Animal bone; the identified taxa (numbers in brackets denote material from environmental samples)

Fill / cut	Cattle *Bos*	Sheep/ goat Ovicaprid	Pig *Sus*	Roe Deer *Capraeolus*	V. Small Mammal	Med Mam	Large Mam	Indet.	Total
107/ pit 108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (16)	**0 (16)**
403/ pit or ditch 404	18	7	2	-	0 (3)	8 (1)	36	46 (5)	**117 (9)**
407/ ditch 408	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	**4**
411/ ditch 412	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1**
605/ ditch 606	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	**2**
1206/ ditch 1207	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	**9**
1214/ ditch 1215	1	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	**6**
1303/ ditch 1304	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	**1**
1803/ pit 1804	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (243)	**0 (243)**
2003/ ditch 2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 (1)	**0 (1)**
Total	**21**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**0 (3)**	**11 (1)**	**50**	**46 (265)**	**140 (269)**

Taphonomy

Only one specimen showed clear evidence of butchery activity. This was a cattle humerus fragment recovered from the fill of pit or ditch [404] with a clear lateral chopmark on its midshaft.

No hand-collected specimens demonstrated evidence of burning. In contrast to this, 96% of the material collected via wet-sieving was burnt, including all 243 fragments of bone that were recovered from Neolithic pit [804].

None of the specimens appear to have been gnawed by carnivores.

Conclusions

The small nature of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any firm conclusions, other than to say that the main domestic taxa were utilised at the site. The vast majority of the material appears to derive from domestic waste, with no suggestions of industrial activity. The presence of roe deer may indicate that small scale hunting activity took place near the site during the Roman period. The presence of well-preserved identifiable material from several of the excavated features indicates the possibility for future faunal analysis, should any further mitigation work take place.

9 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evidence shows that archaeological remains were only uncovered in a minority of the site. The first evidence is for some short stay occupation in the Neolithic period. The next datable activity was in the middle/late or even late Iron Age (and presumably Roman) when there was a field system in one part of the site with related occupation some distance from the development area. Definite later activity is only attested by a large 19th century quarry pit in the south-eastern part of the site.

Neolithic activity

The significant Neolithic flint assemblages and associated pottery finds in four pits makes this site of some interest and well-dated lithic assemblages are a research priority for the Solent Thames region (Bradley 2010 and quoted by Wolframm-Murray, see Section 7.1).

Though there would seem to be fairly limited number of Neolithic features, the dispersed pattern of the trenching has only randomly exposed such relatively small and discrete features. The geophysical survey also did not identify their locations, which means that the whereabouts of other pits of this date is uncertain. The evaluation has shown that even a representative sample of the features will provide a substantial quantity of data on occupation and activity in the area. The residual flint finds from the later features (Iron Age and Roman), suggest that this occupation/activity had been fairly widespread.

These four features, in three different locations in the development area, indicate separate presumably short stay occupation. Significant flint processing took place in these locations, probably based on a ready local source of natural flint which, if not easily attained from the superficial deposits across the site, but taken directly from the flint deposits within chalk strata the in the nearby Chiltern hills, which are known to have been mined since prehistoric times (see Wolframm-Murray, Section 7.1).

The evidence from the recovery of only a few dispersed small pits which also contained a moderate collection of Neolithic pottery, hazel nutshells, some charred cereal seeds and calcined animal bone, collectively imply short stay settlements within the site. It is uncertain if crops had also been grown in the development area or whether the cereals had been brought to the site. The nuts and animal remains were probably the remains of foraged food and hunted/cooked meat, and these were being consumed on site close to where the flint working was undertaken. The exact nature and length of the various occupations are therefore uncertain, whether for hunting and flint knapping or other temporary or seasonal reasons. It is noticeable that no Mesolithic or Bronze Age flint work was recovered, suggesting that such occupation was restricted to the Neolithic period.

Iron Age and Roman activity

Middle/late or late Iron Age activity was found in the far western and south-western parts of the site and these are likely to denote the remains of field systems. The geophysical survey has recorded a relative concentration of features in this location. Nine features have been attributed to the Iron Age as opposed to three Roman, possibly suggesting that most of the features in this area were of the former period. Only 33 Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered, and most of these were near the southern boundary suggest that occupation lay beyond the site in this direction. It is perhaps significant that a possible Iron Age enclosure overlapped the southern edge of the development area and was partially examined when the land to the south was evaluated last year (Hood 2015). It is likely that the postulated Roman villa found 100m to the south of the site identified in this evaluation had an Iron Age precursor.

The three dated Roman features were also near the same southern boundary, and the 34 pottery sherds takes in the whole Roman period (early to late) signifying the villa and its precursors were collectively occupied over a long period of time. A number of the undated features in the far western parts of the site are likely to date to the Iron Age and/or Roman period including a probable trackway.

The majority of the development area (central and eastern areas) had few features and only one was tentatively dated as Iron Age from a single small pottery sherd. Most of the trenches in this area had no archaeological remains. The few undated features in this area may even relate to former medieval or later field boundaries. The 19th century quarry in the south-eastern side of the development area was probably the last major activity within the site and it would have removed any archaeological remains in this location.

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MOLA Northampton
July 2016

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Only trenches with archaeological deposits have been tabulated

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
1	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & orientation***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
100	Topsoil	Mid grey- black sandy clay with frequent small stones	0.25m-37m thick	-
101	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.26m-0.30m thick	-
102	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
103	Fill of 104	Dark grey brown sandy silt mixed with small stone flint	1.10m wide 0.18m deep	-
104	Ditch	Linear in plan, steep-gradual sided U-shape slightly concave sides and flat base	1.10m wide 0.18m deep	-
105	Fill of 106	Dark grey black sandy silt, small rounded stone	0.50 wide 0.15m deep	Pottery, flint sample 3
106	Pit	Circular, U-shaped with slightly concave steep sides and flat base	0.50m wide 0.15m deep	-
107	Fill of pit 108	Dark grey brown sandy silt small stones and flint	0.50m wide 0.20m deep	Pottery, flint sample 2. SF 1
108	Pit	Circular U-shaped asymmetrical with steep E side straight and gradual straight W side and flat base	0.50m wide 0.20m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
3	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
300	Topsoil	Mid grey- black sandy clay with frequent small stones	0.30m thick	-
301	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.03m-0.20m thick	-
302	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
303	Fill of 304	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.50m wide 0.07m deep	Sample 1 flint
304	Pit	Circular sloping gradual sides to flat base	0.50m wide 0.07m deep	-
305	Fill of 306	Dark grey brown sandy silt moderate stone flint	0.60m wide 0.10m deep	-
306	Pit	Circular with sloping sides to flat base	0.60m wide 0.10m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
4	**30m x 1.5m NE-SW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
400	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.35m thick	-
401	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.05m-0.26m thick	-
402	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
403	Fill of 404	Dark blackish brown silt clay frequent flint	1.28m wide 0.16m deep	Pottery, bone, tile Sample 4
404	Pit or ditch	Linear NE-SW U-shaped gradual straight sides with concave top in places and a gently concave base	1.28 wide 0.16M deep	-
405	Fill of 406	Dark blackish brown silt clay frequent flint large stones	0.34m wide 0.15m deep	Tile
406	Posthole	Oval NW-SE near vertical sides to concave base	0.34m wide 0.15m deep	-
407	Fill of 408	Dark blackish brown silt clay frequent flint	1.20m wide 0.34m deep	Bone
408	Ditch	Linear NE-SW irregular asymmetrical V-shaped steeper side SE both sides straight but slightly concave at top	1.20m wide 0.34m deep	-
409	Fill of 410	Dark blackish brown silt clay frequent small flint charcoal throughout indiscernible from 411	0.65m wide 0.32m deep	-
410	Pit	Semi-circle U-shaped steep- gradual concave sides and concave base cuts or is cut by 412	0.65m wide 0.32m deep	-
411	Fill of 412	Dark blackish brown silt clay frequent small flint indiscernible from 409	0.56m wide 0.32m deep	Bone
412	Ditch	Linear NE-SW U-shaped steep slightly uneven straight side remaining and concave base could cut or be cut by 410	0.56m wide 0.32m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
5	**30m x 1.50m SE-NW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
500	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.27m – 0.33m thick	-
501	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.10m-0.44m thick	-
502	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
503	Fill of 504	Mid blackish brown sandy silt moderate small and medium sub-rounded stones and flints	0.90m wide 0.50m deep	Pottery
504	Ditch	Linear SE-NW V-shaped straight steep sides and narrow base concave	0.90m wide 0.50m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
6	**30m x 1.50m SW-NE**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
600	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.23m-0.30m thick	-
601	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.13m-0.23m thick	-
602	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange brown occasional small irregular stones and gravel of small to medium stones and fragments of flint	-	-
603	Fill of 604	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt moderate stone flint	1.60m wide 0.50m deep	-
604	Ditch	Linear NW-SE U-shaped irregular sides gradual flat base	1.60m wide 0.50m deep	-
605	Fill of 606	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt frequent irregular and rounded stone and flint	0.70m wide 0.35m deep	Pottery, bone
606	Ditch	Linear NW-SE V-shaped steep straight sides and narrow concave base	0.70m wide 0.36m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
7	**30m x 1.5m E-W**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
700	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.26m deep	-
701	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.15m deep	-
702	Natural	Firm sandy silt gravel fragments of flint	-	-
703	Fill of 704	Firm dark greyish black sandy silt occasional small to medium stone	1.10m wide 0.20m deep	-
704	Ditch	Linear gradual sides E side straight and W side flat step to narrow concave base	1.10m wide 0.20m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
8	**30m x 1.50m SE-NW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
800	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.30m thick	-
801	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.03m-0.14m thick	-
802	Natural	Firm sandy silt gravel fragments of flint	-	-
803	Fill of 804	Mid grey brown sandy silt frequent flint	1.65m wide 0.50m deep	-
804	Ditch	Linear NE-SW U-shaped concave steep- gradual sides with concave base	1.65m wide 0.50m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
10	**30m x 1.5m NW-SE**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1000	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.28m-0.32m thick	-
1001	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.42m – 0.44m thick	-
1002	Natural	Firm sandy silt gravel fragments of flint	-	-
1003	Fill of 1004	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional stone flint and charcoal flecks	0.45m wide 0.13m deep	-
1004	Gully	Linear SE-NW V-shaped steep straight sides concave base	0.45m wide 0.13m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
12	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1200	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.25m – 0.34m thick	-
1201	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.35m – 0.41m thick	-
1202	Natural	Firm sandy silt gravel fragments of flint	-	-
1203	Fill of 1205	Light grey brown sandy silt moderate stone chalk	1m wide 0.10m deep	-
1204	Fill of 1205	Dark grey brown stone and chalk	1m wide 0.20m deep	-
1205	Pit	Shape in plan and full profile unclear U-shaped gradual concave sides and concave gradual base.	1m wide 0.30m deep	-
1206	Fill of 1207	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional stone	1.6m wide 0.40m deep	-
1207	Ditch	Linear direction unclear u shape gradual to steep concave sides and concave gradual base. Full profile is unclear	1.6m wide 0.40m deep	-
1208	Fill of 1209	Mid grey brown sandy silt small stone flint	0.30m wide 0.30m deep	-
1209	Posthole	Circular steep near vertical straight sides and flat sloping base	0.30m wide 0.30m deep	-
1210	Fill of 1211	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasion small stones	0.30m wide 0.60m deep	-
1211	Posthole	Circular/oval V-shaped steep straight sides and concave base	0.30m wide 0.60m deep	-
1212	Fill of 1213	Mid grey brown sandy silt moderate stone	1m wide 0.30m deep	-
1213	Pit	Irregular shape irregular steep sides varying depth irregular base flat and concave equally	1m wide 0.30m deep	-
1214	Fill of 1215	Dark grey brown firm sandy silt frequent small stone and flint	1.37m wide 0.5m deep	Pottery bone
1215	Ditch	Linear SW-NE V-shaped	1.37m wide 0.5m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
13	**30m x 1.5m E-W**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1300	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.29m – 0.31m thick	-
1301	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.49m – 0.51m thick	-
1302	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
1303	Fill of 1304	Dark grey brown sandy silt frequent stone	0.45m wide 0.2m deep	Pottery
1304	Ditch	Linear steep straight sides to concave base	0.45m wide 0.2m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
14	**30m x 1.5m NE-SW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1400	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.28m - 0.32m thick	-
1401	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.36m – 0.49m thick	-
1402	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
1403	Fill of 1404	Dark grey brown firm sand moderate stone	0.56m wide 0.25m deep	-
1404	Ditch	Linear E-W V-shaped steep straight sides concave base	0.45m wide 0.2m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
15	**30m x 1.5m E-W**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1500	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.31m - 0.41m thick	-
1501	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.45m – 0.52m thick	-
1502	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
1503	Fill of 1504	Mid grey brown silt clay small flint charcoal	0.67m wide 0.22m deep	-
1504	Ditch	Linear NW-SE V-shaped asymmetrical steep straight sides narrow concave base	0.67m wide 0.22m deep	-
1505	Fill of 1506	Mid grey brown silt clay small flint charcoal	0.60m wide 0.30m deep	-
1506	Pit	Circular U- shaped asymmetrical slightly concave sides concave base	0.60m wide 0.30m deep	-
1507	Fill of 1508	Mid grey brown silt clay small flint charcoal	0.94m wide 0.15m deep	Pottery
1508	Ditch	Linear NW-SE U-shaped gradual slightly concave sides flat base	0.94m wide 0.15m deep	-
1509	Fill of 1510	Mid grey brown silt clay small flint charcoal	0.87m wide 0.20m deep	-
1510	Ditch	Linear NE-SW U-shaped gradual concave sides gradual concave base	0.87m wide 0.20m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
18	**30m x 1.5m NW-SE**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1800	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.28m - 0.31m thick	-
1801	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.35m – 0.41m thick	-
1802	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
1803	Fill of 1804	Dark black brown sandy silt occasional small stone	0.70m wide 0.30m deep	Pottery flint Sample 6
1804	Pit	Circular U-shaped steep straight sides flat base	0.70m wide 0.30m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
20	**30m x 1.5m E-W**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2000	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.29m - 0.33m thick	-
2001	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.37m – 0.56m thick	-
2002	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
2003	Fill of 2004	Mid orange brown loose sand frequent pebbles	1m wide 0.30m deep	Pottery flint Sample 9
2004	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V-shaped steep straight sides flat narrow base	1m wide 0.30m deep	-
2005	Fill of 2006	Light orange brown loose sand	0.25m wide 0.29m deep	-
2006	Ditch	Linear NE-SW U-shaped steep straight sides slightly concave base	0.25m wide 0.29m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
21	**30m x 1.5m NW-SE**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2100	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.29m thick	-
2101	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.35m thick	-
2102	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
2103	Fill of 2104	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate stone	2.30m wide 0.40m deep	-
2104	Ditch	Linear E-W V-shaped gradual straight sides concave gradual base	2.30m wide 0.40m deep	-
2105	Fill of 2106	Firm dark black brown sandy silt moderate stone	0.80m wide 0.30m deep	-
2106	Ditch	Linear, V-shaped. Terminus steep straight sides flat narrow base	0.80m wide 0.30m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
22	**30m x 1.5m NE-SW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2200	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.28m – 0.38m thick	-
2201	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
2202	Fill of 2203	Mid grey brown sandy silt small flint occasional charcoal	0.7m wide 0.27m deep	-
2203	Ditch	Linear SE-NW V-shaped. Steep straight sides slightly convex narrow concave base	0.7m wide 0.27m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
28	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2800	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.24m thick	-
2801	Subsoil	Dark brown grey sandy silt occasional flint	0.38m – 0.43m thick	-
2802	Natural	Mid orange brown silt sand with pockets of gravel	-	-
2803	Fill 2804	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional stone	0.70m wide 0.20m deep	-
2804	Ditch	Linear E-W U-shaped gradual concave sides concave base	0.70m wide 0.20m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
34	**30m x 1.5m E-W**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
3400	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.36m thick	-
3401	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
3402	Fill of 3403	Dark orange brown loose sand occasional stone	1.03m wide 0.68m deep	-
3403	Ditch	Linear N-S vertical straight sides flat base	1.03m wide 0.68m deep	

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
43	**30m x 1.5m SE-NW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
4300	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.29m – 0.36m thick	-
4301	Natural	Dark reddish brown sandy silt with packets of gravel	-	-
4302	Fill of 4303	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt contained moderate small irregular stones and flecks of flints	1.3m wide 0.3m deep	-
4303	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V-shaped steep straight sides mostly flat base	1.3m wide 0.3m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
44	**30m x 1.5m W-E**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
4400	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.29m – 0.32m thick	-
4401	Natural	Dark reddish brown sandy silt with packets of gravel	-	-
4402	Fill of 4403	Friable sandy silt with clay mid greyish brown frequent small to large flint round - angular	0.95m wide 0.52m deep	-
4403	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V-shaped steep straight sided flat bottom	0.95m wide 0.52m deep	-
4404	Fill of 4405	Friable sandy silt with clay mid greyish brown frequent small to medium flint	0.41m wide 0.13m deep	-
4405	Posthole	Circular irregular U-shape sharper angle N-W side more curving on S-E side angled flat bottom	0.41m wide 0.13m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
48	**30m x 1.5m W-E**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
4800	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.31m – 0.34m	-
4801	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
4802	Fill of 4803	Firm dark blackish brown sandy silt occasional small rounded stones	0.7m wide 0.3m deep	-
4803	Ditch	Linear V-shaped steep straight sides flat base	0.7m wide 0.3m deep	-
4804	Fill of 4805	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt frequent large and medium stones and flints	1m wide 0.45m deep	-
4805	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V-shaped asymmetrical steep side SE irregular concave NW side concave narrow base	1m wide 0.45m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
49	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
4900	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.28m – 0.33m thick	-
4901	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
4902	Fill of 4903	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt moderate amount of small and medium stones rounded and irregular flecks of flint	0.6m wide 0.15m deep	-
4903	Ditch	Linear NW-SE U-shaped gradual concave sides concave base	0.6m wide 0.15m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
50	**30m x 1.5m E-W**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
5000	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.34m – 0.35m thick	-
5001	Natural	Dark reddish brown sandy silt mixed with gravel and pockets of gravel	-	-
5002	Fill of 5003	Firm dark blackish brown sandy silt moderate small and medium rounded and irregular stones	0.6m wide 0.2m deep	Flint Pottery Sample 5
5003	Pit	Circular U-shaped gradual to steep concave sides concave base	0.6m wide 0.2m deep	-
5004	Fill 0f 5006	Firm mid orangeish brown sandy silt contained a lot of medium rounded stones	1.5m wide 0.6m deep	-
5005	Fill of 5006	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt contained a huge amount of stones and flints	0.6m wide 0.3m deep	-
5006	Ditch	Linear N-S V-shaped steep slightly concave sides flat base	1.5m wide 0.9m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
68	**30m x 1.5m NW-SE**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
6800	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.26m – 0.29m thick	-
6801	Natural	Dark reddish silty sand with frequent gravel well sorted	-	-
6802	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.24m thick	-
6803	Layer?	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt small and medium stones regular and irregular	3.5m wide 0.1m deep	-
6804	Fill of 6805	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt small and medium regular and irregular stones and flints	0.8m wide 0.3m deep	-
6805	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V-shaped steep concave sides concave base	0.8m wide 0.3m deep	-
6806	Fill of 6807	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt small and medium stones and flints	1.7m wide 0.6m deep	-
6807	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V-shaped gradual to steep straight sides concave base	1.7m wide 0.6m deep	-
6808	Fill of 6809	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt small and medium stones and flints	0.8m wide 0.3m deep	-
6809	Ditch	Linear NE-SW U-shaped steep straight sides concave base Cut by 6805 and cuts 6811	0.8m wide 0.3m deep	-
6810	Fill of 6811	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt small and medium stones and flints	1m wide 0.8m deep	-
6811	Ditch	Linear NE-SW V-shaped asymmetrical steep slightly concave sides concave base cut by 6807 and 6809	1m wide 0.8m deep	

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
77	**30m x 1.5m NE-SW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
7700	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.29m – 0.38m thick	-
7701	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
7702	Fill of 7703	Firm mid orange brown with grey shade frequent medium and large rounded and sub-rounded stones and flints	1m wide 0.4m deep	-
7703	Ditch	Linear NW-SE V-shaped steep straight sides NE sloping flat base	1m wide 0.4m deep	

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
78	**30m x 1.5m NW-SE**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
7800	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.3m – 0.32m thick	-
7801	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.4m – 0.46m thick	-
7802	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
7803	Fill of 7804	Dark brownish grey loose sand with abundant stone	0.88m wide 0.21m deep	Pottery
7804	Ditch	Linear NE-SW gradual straight sides concave base	0.88m wide 0.21m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
81	**30m x 1.5m NE-SW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
8100	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.32m – 0.33m thick	-
8101	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
8102	Fill of 8103	Friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt frequent small to large stones throughout slightly merging boundaries	1.32m wide 0.67m deep	-
8103	Ditch	Linear SE-NW V-shaped steep straight sided concave base	1.32m wide 0.67m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
83	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
8300	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.28m – 0.31m thick	-
8301	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
8302	Fill of 8303	Friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt frequent small to large stones throughout slightly merging boundaries	0.67m wide 0.28m deep	-
8303	Ditch	Linear SW-NE V-shaped steep straight sided concave base	0.67m wide 0.28m deep	

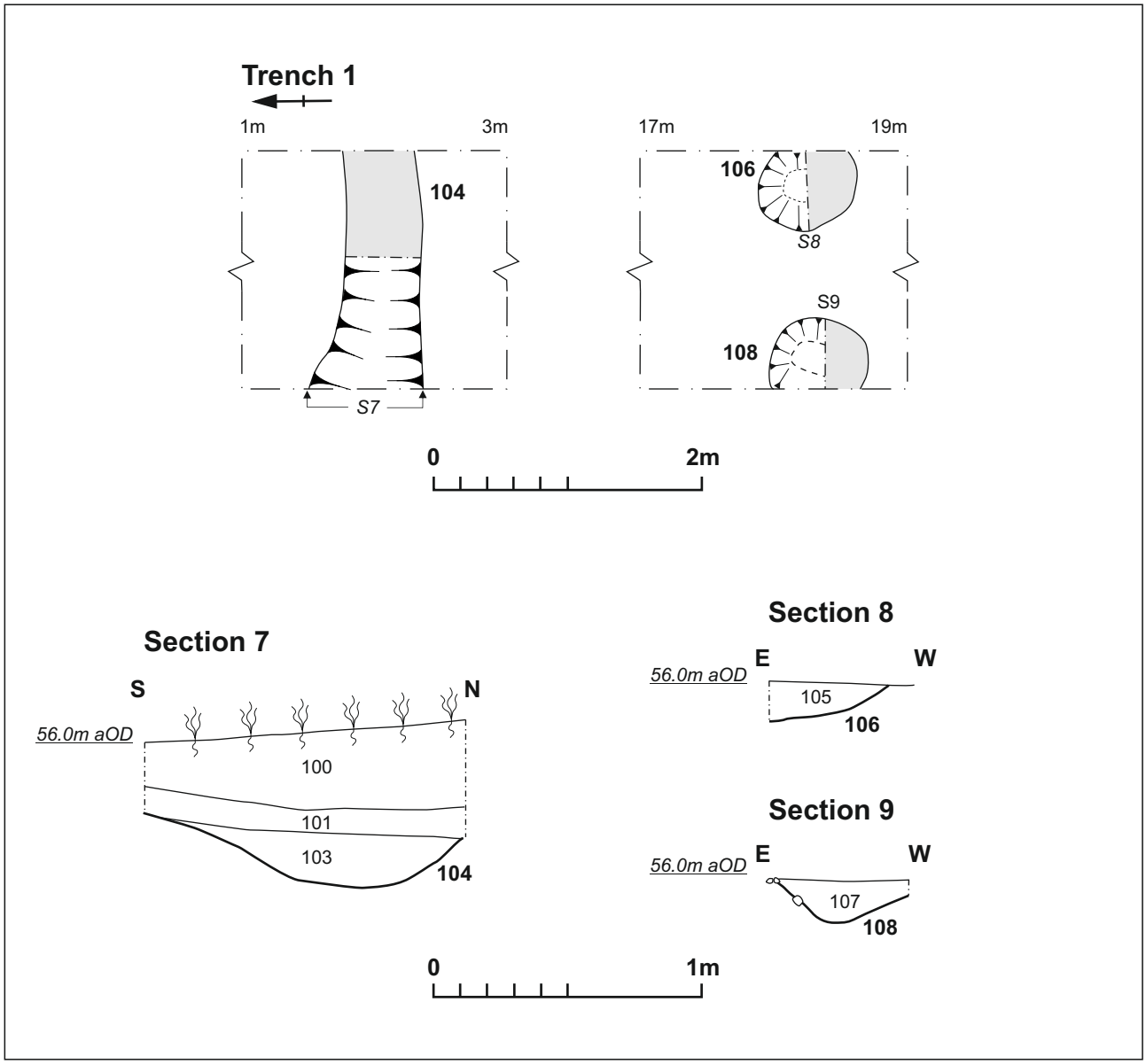
Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
85	**30m x 1.5m NW-SE**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
8500	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.25m – 0.3m thick	-
8501	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.48m – 0.49m thick	-
8502	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
8503	Fill of 8504	Dark greyish brown silty sand very stony friable	0.6m wide 0.2m deep	-
8504	Ditch	Linear NE-SW gradual to steep straight sides concave base	0.6m wide 0.2m deep	-
8505	Fill of 8506	Dark brown sand moderate stones loose	0.9m wide 0.18m deep	-
8506	Ditch	Moderate steep sides with overall flat base	0.9m wide 0.18m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
88	**30m x 1.5m NE-SW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
8800	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.3m – 0.34m thick	-
8801	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
8802	Fill of 8803	Mid greyish brown silty clay moderate small to large rounded stones throughout occasional charcoal flecks merges	0.9m wide 0.33m deep	-
8803	Pit	Oval E-W V-shaped steep straight sides concave base	0.9m wide 0.33m deep	-
8804	Fill of 8805	Mid greyish brown silty clay very frequent small to large stones throughout occasional charcoal flecks small merging boundary	1.25m wide 0.43m deep	-
8805	Ditch	Linear ENE – WSW irregular V-shaped steeper on NNE side more gradual on SSW side meeting at deepest point two thirds to NNE side concave base	1.25m wide 0.43m deep	-
8806	Fill of 8807	Mid greyish brown silty clay very frequent small to large stones throughout occasional charcoal flecks small merging boundary	1.4m wide 0.37m deep	-
8807	Ditch	Linear ENE – WSW irregular V-shaped steeper on NNE side more gradual on SSW side also irregular meeting at deepest point two thirds to NNE side concave base	1.4m wide 0.37m deep	-

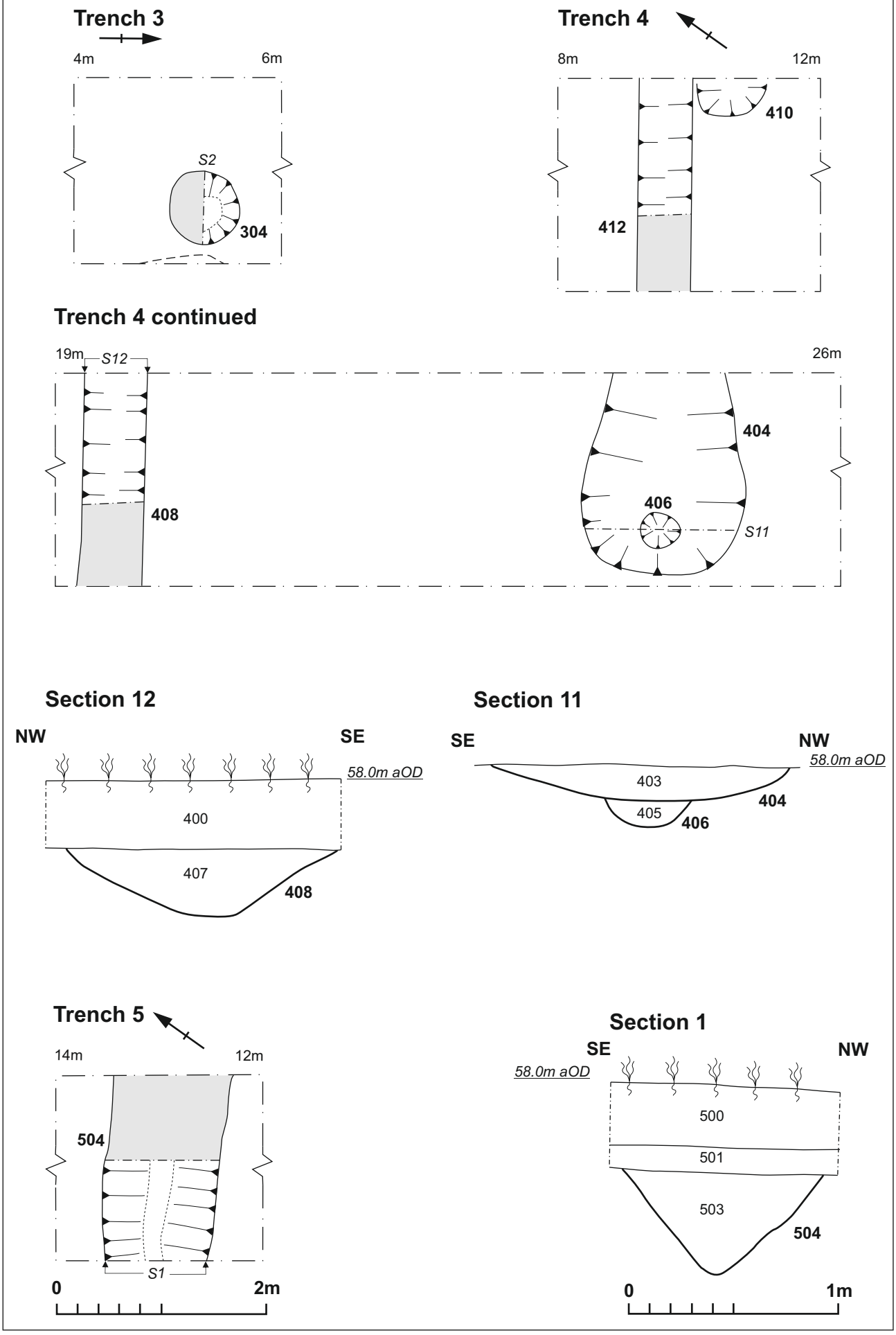
Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
89	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
8900	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.29m – 0.33m thick	-
8901	Subsoil	Firm light -brown sandy clay with occasional small stones	0.45m thick South end	-
8902	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
8903	Fill of 8904	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt moderate medium and small rounded and irregular stones and flints boundary's merging	0.5m wide 0.2m deep	-
8904	Ditch	Probably terminus U-shaped steep straight sides concave base	0.5m wide 0.2m deep	-
8905	Fill of 8906	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt occasional small and medium regular and irregular stones and flints	0.5m wide 0.15m deep	-
8906	Pit	Circular gradual slightly concave sides concave base	0.5m wide 0.15m deep	-

Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
90	**30m x 1.5m N-S**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
9000	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.32m thick	-
9001	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
9002	Fill of 9003	Friable dark brownish grey silty sand moderate small and medium angular flint and frequent small to medium rounded pebbles occasional charcoal	0.8m wide 0.2m deep	Pottery Flint Sample 8
9003	Ditch	Curvilinear NW-SE asymmetrical SW side straight steep NE side gradually sloping to flat base sloping to SW	0.8m wide 0.2m deep	-

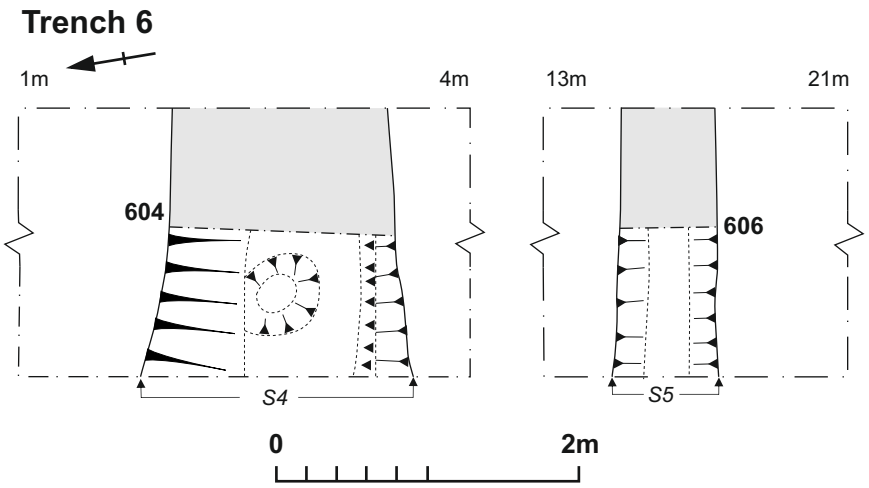
Trench No.	**Length, width & alignment**			
93	**30m x 1.5m NE-SW**			
Context	***Context type***	***Description & alignment***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
9300	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black sandy silt occasional stone flint	0.26m – 0.34m thick	-
9301	Natural	Firm sandy silt mid orange-brown and gravels	-	-
9302	Fill of 9303	Firm mid greyish brown/ plain sandy silt moderate small and medium angular and rounded stones and flints merging	0.6m wide 0.3m deep	Pottery Sample 7
9303	Ditch	Linear N-S U-shaped steep straight sides concave base	0.6m wide 0.3m deep	-

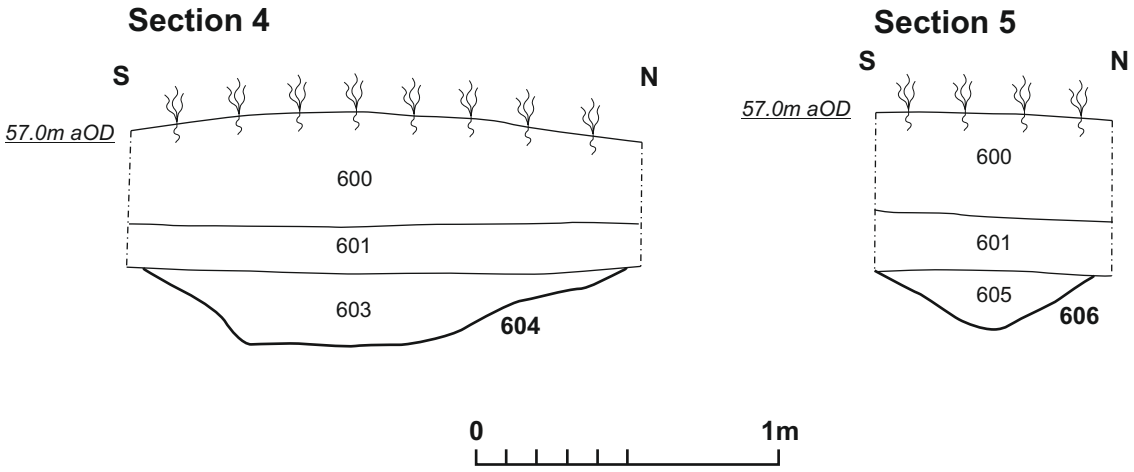


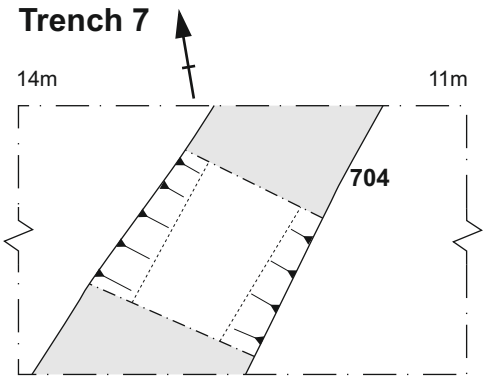
Scale 1:50 (plan) 1:25 (sections) Trench 1, plan and sections Fig 24



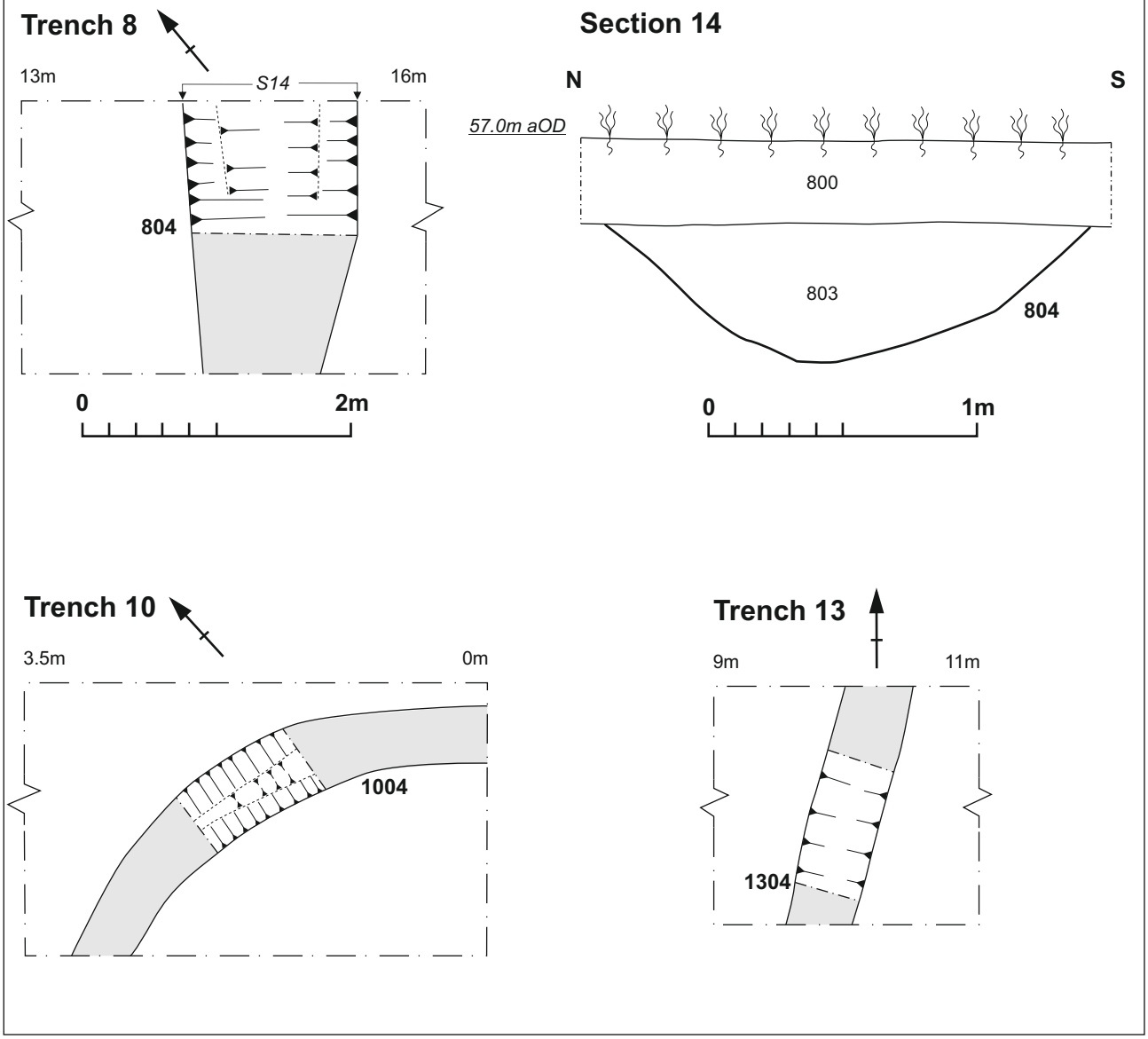
Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 3, 4 and 5, plans and sections Fig 25



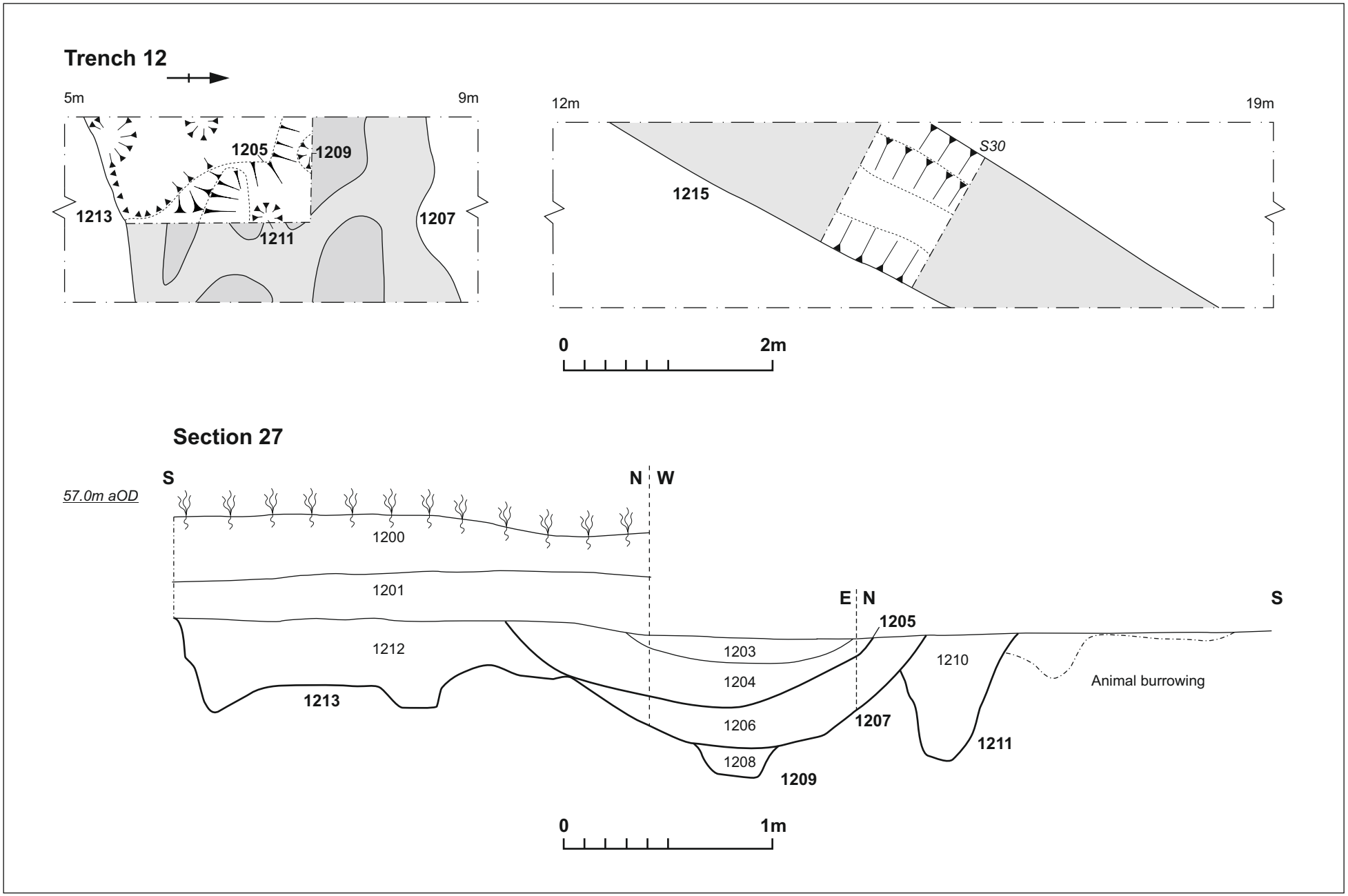




Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 6 and 7, plans and sections Fig 26

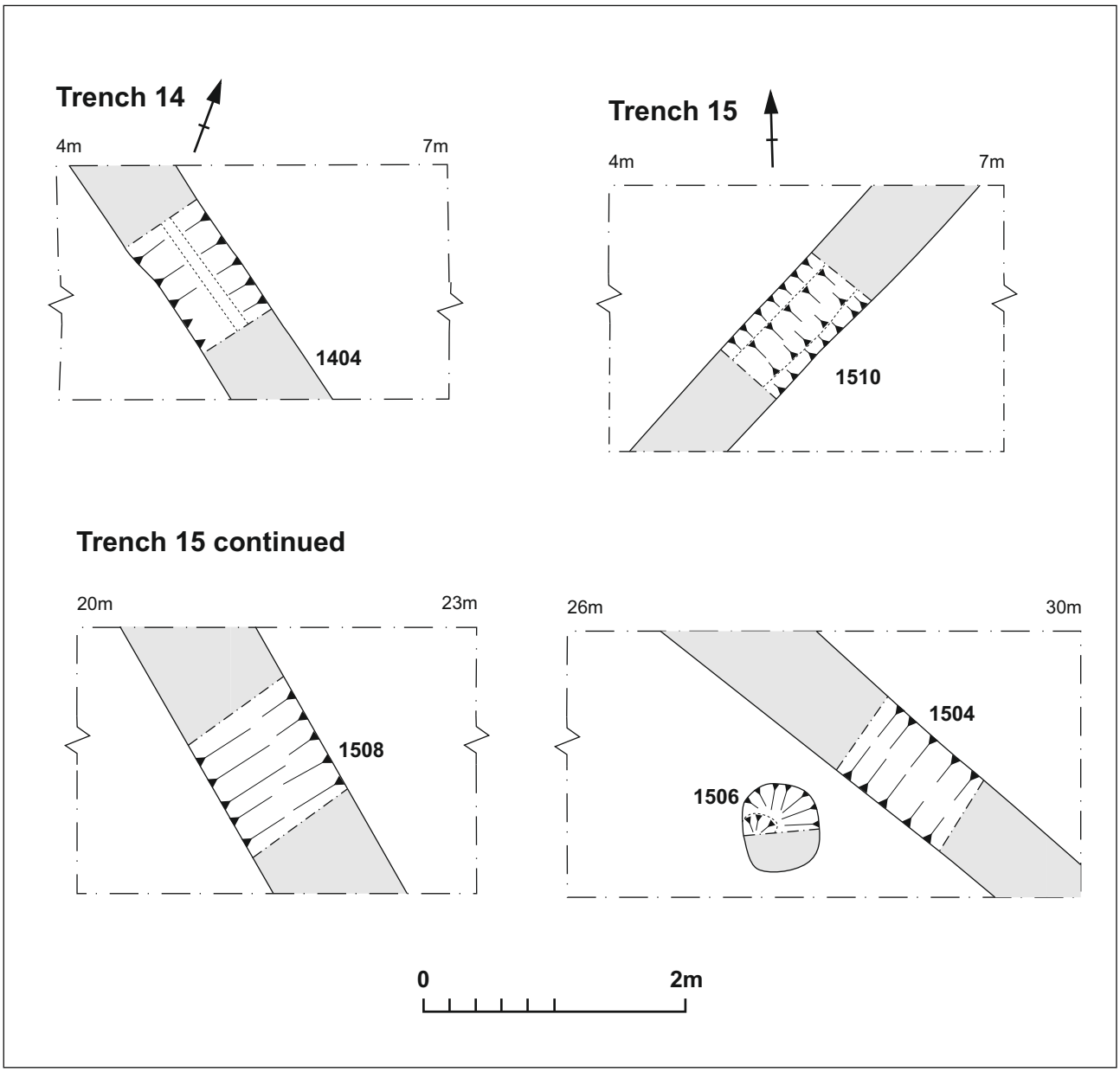


Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 8, 10 and 13, plans and sections Fig 27



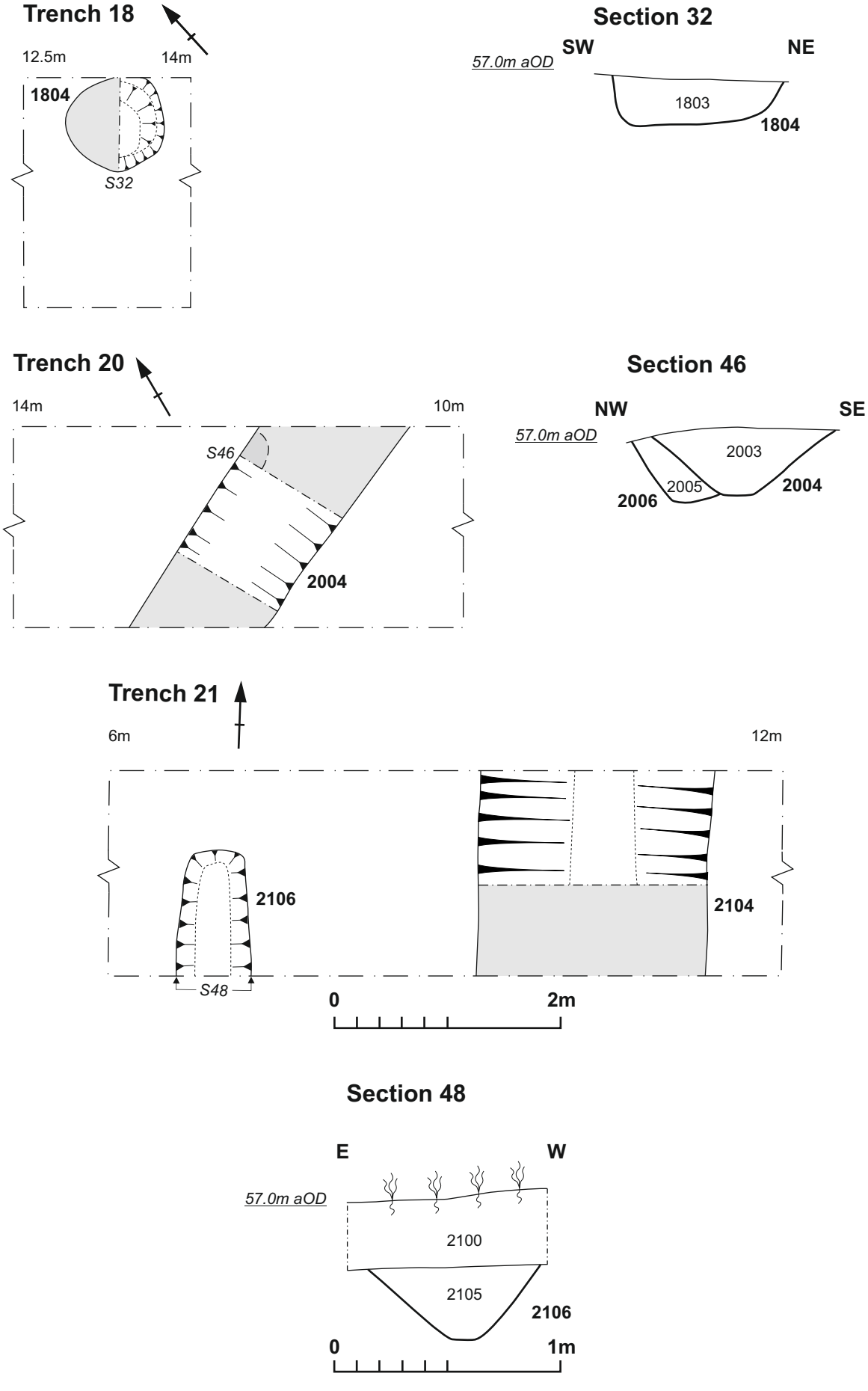
Scale 1:50 (plan) 1:25 (section)

Trench 12, plan and section Fig 28

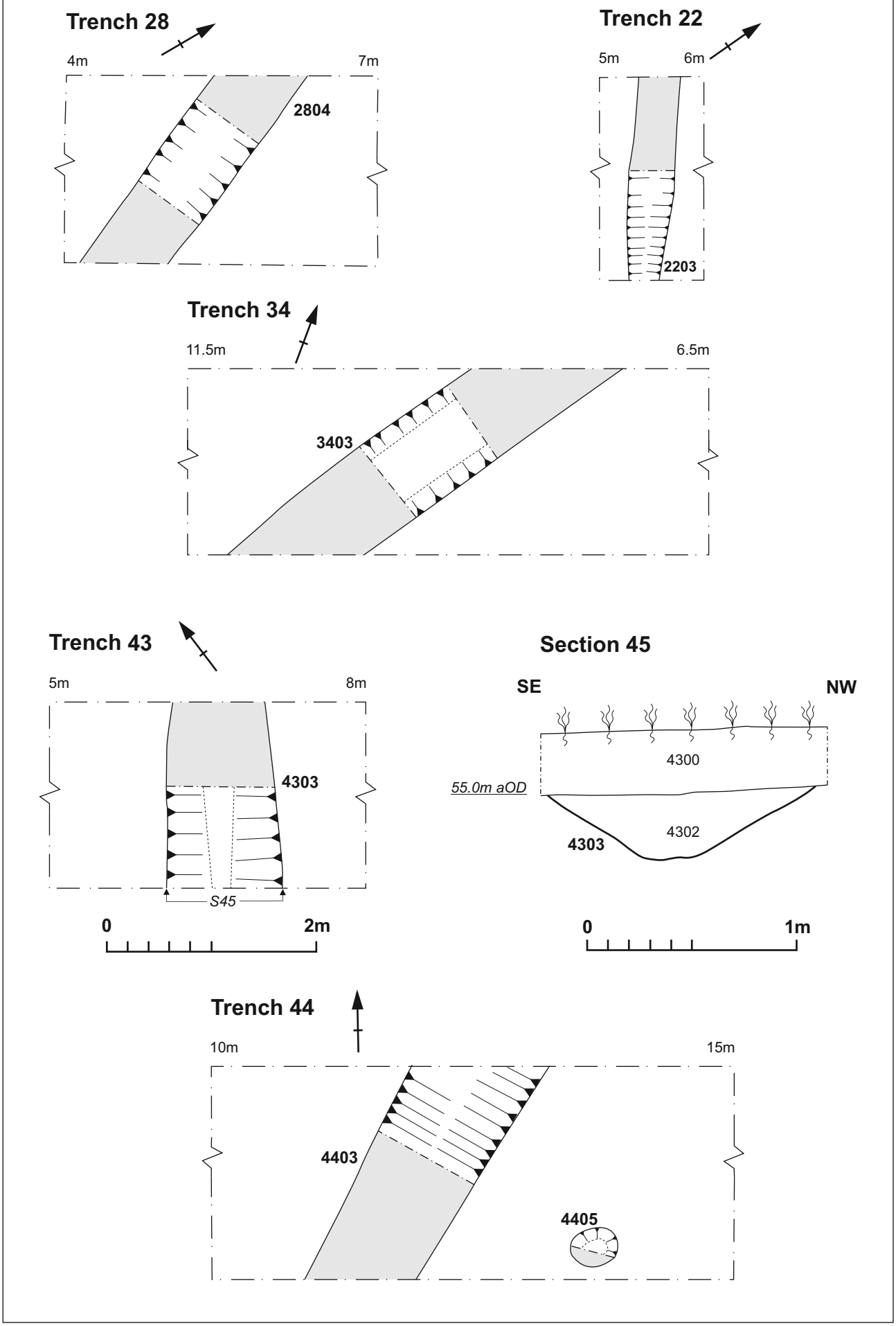


Scale 1:50

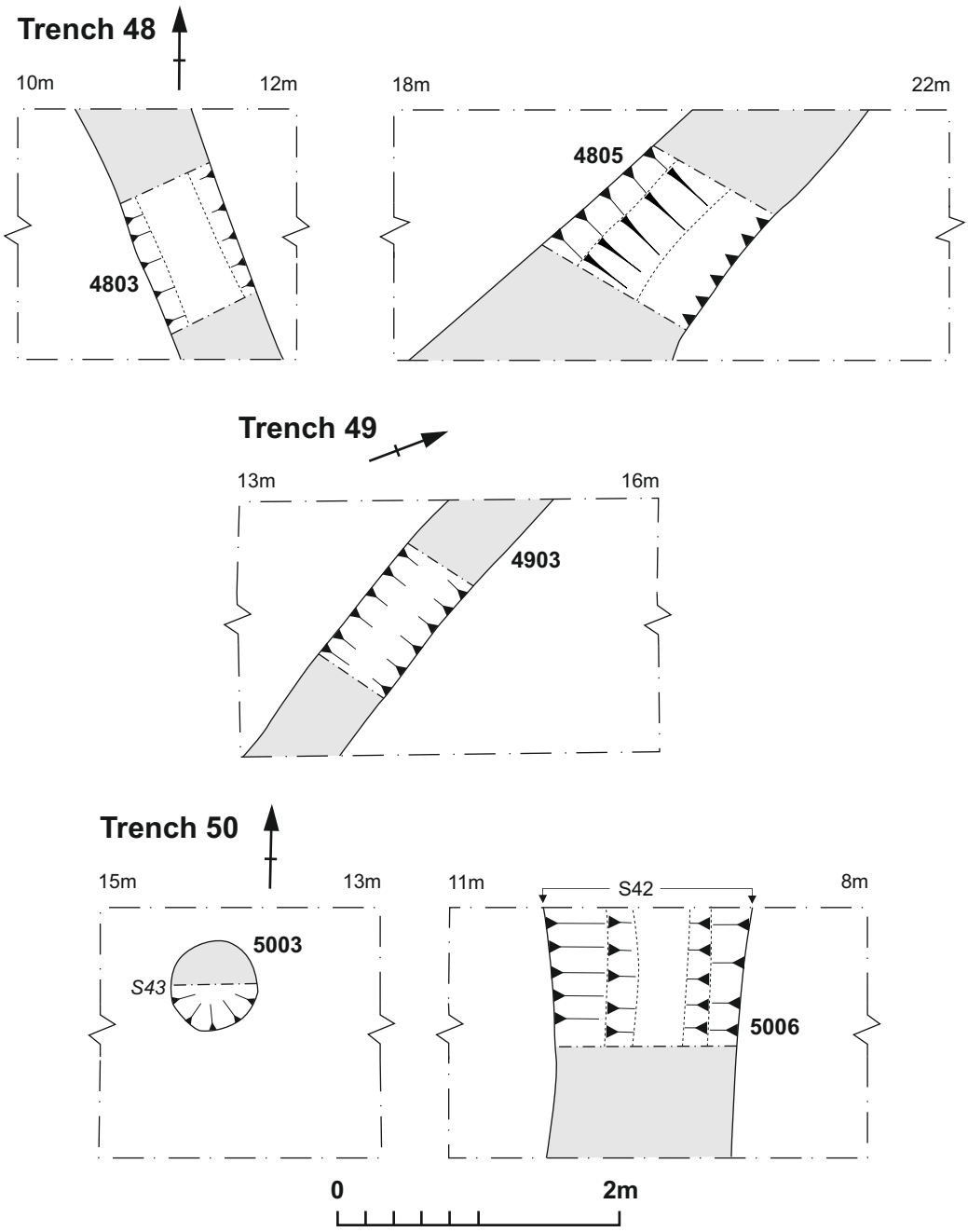
Trenches 14 and 15, plans Fig 29



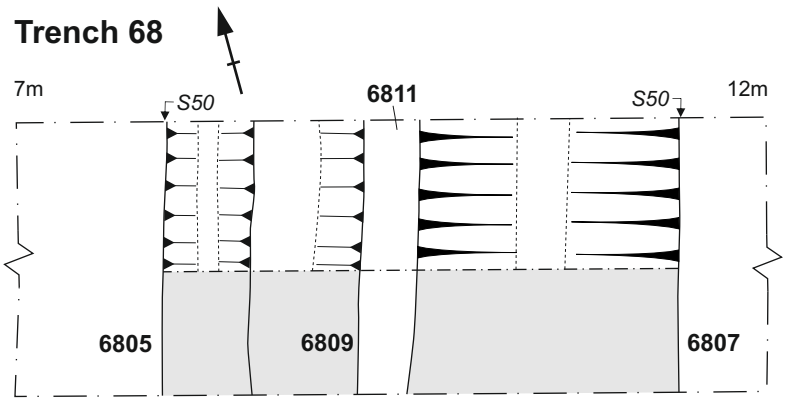
Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 18, 20 and 21, plans and sections Fig 30

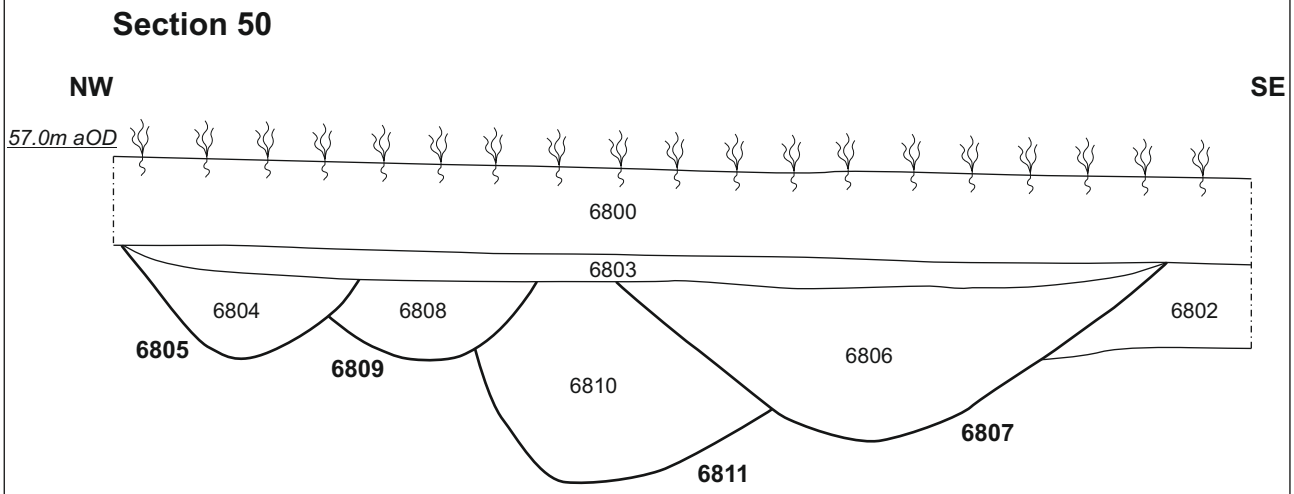


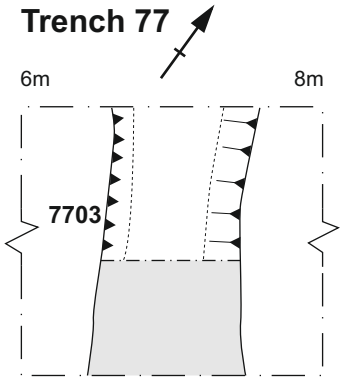
Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 22, 28, 34, 43 & 44, plans and sections Fig 31

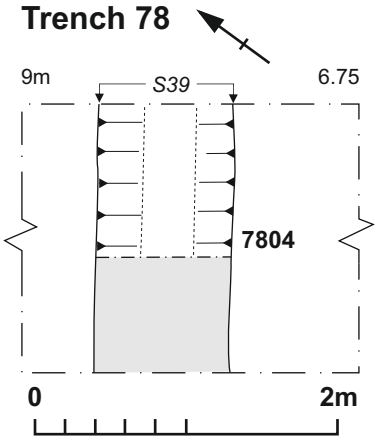


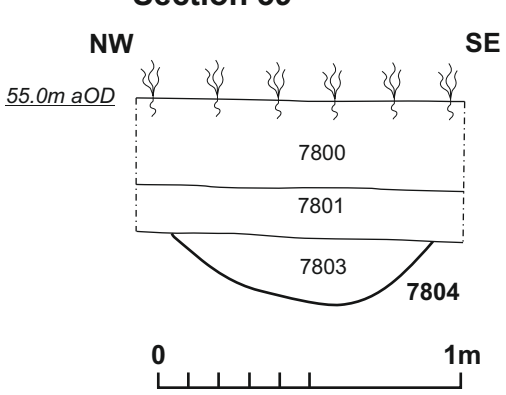
Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 48-50, plans and sections Fig 32



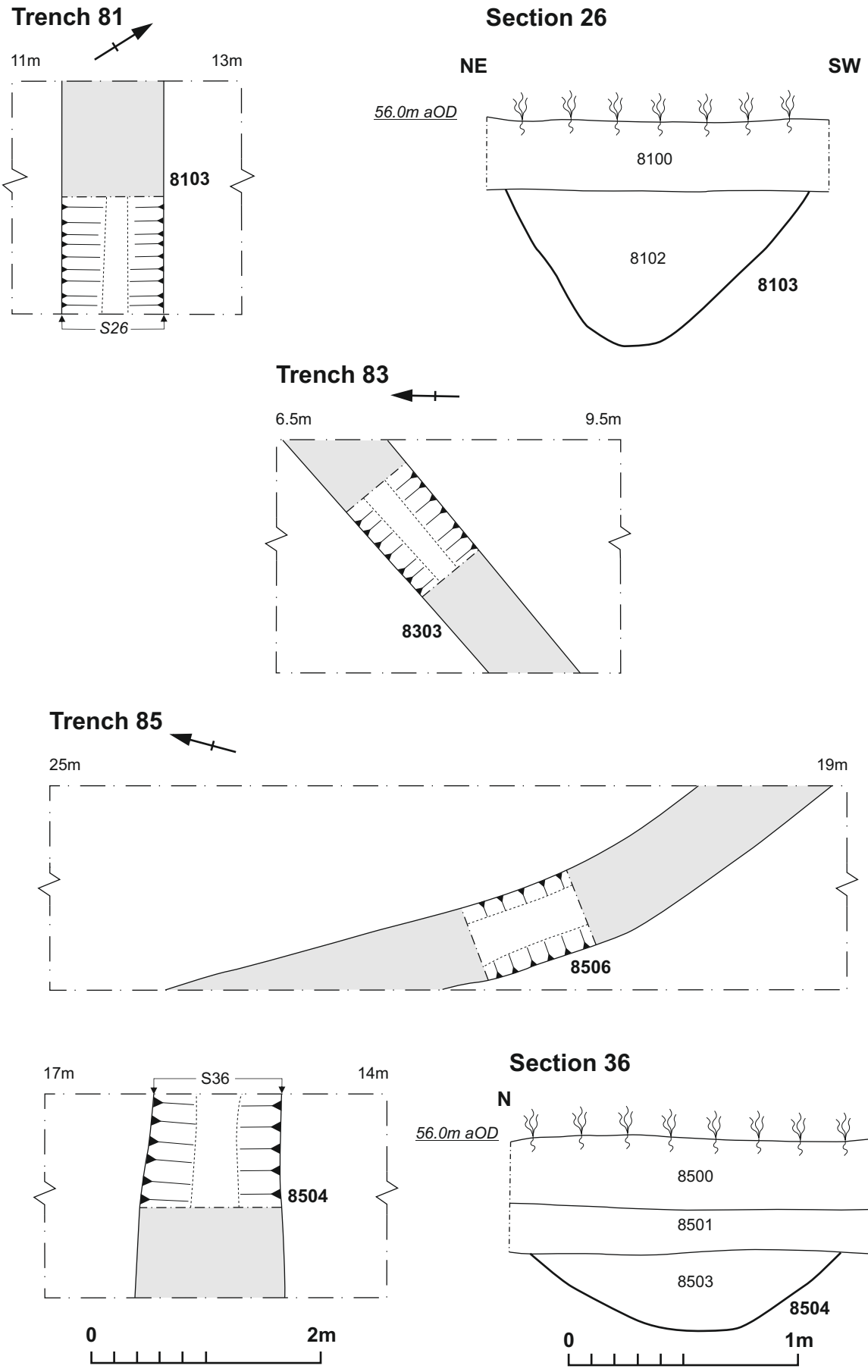




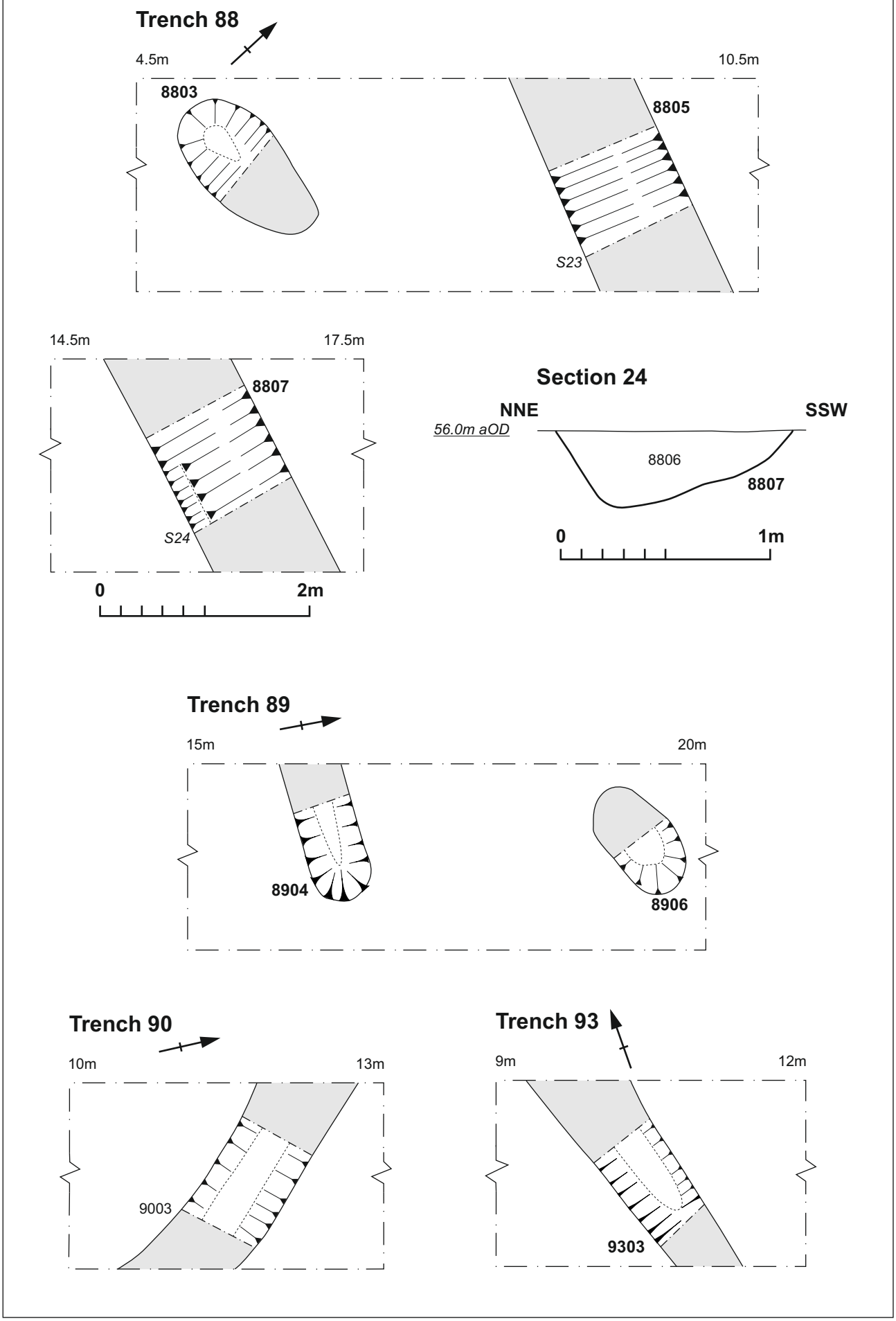




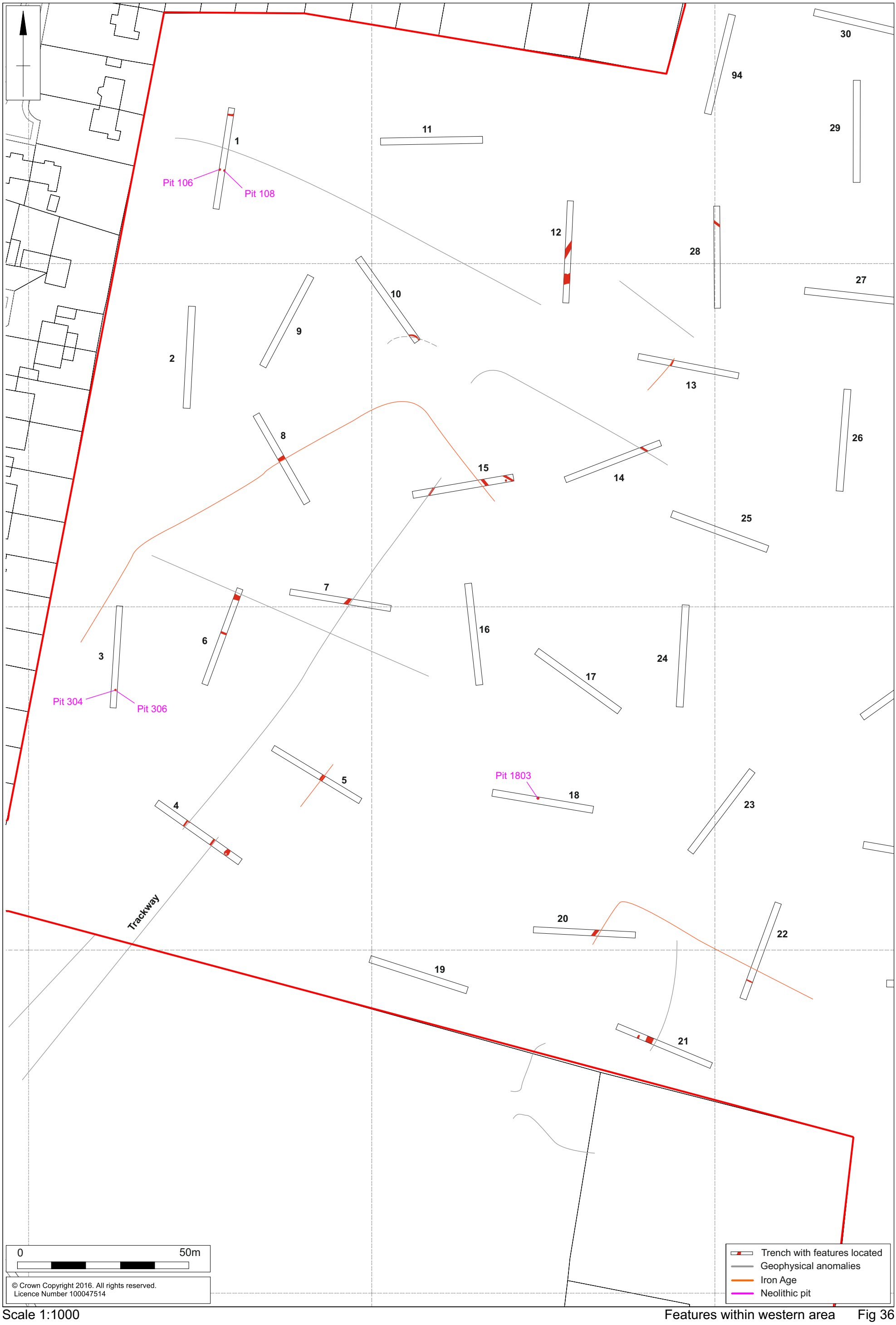
Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 68, 77 and 78, plans and sections Fig 33



Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 81, 83 and 85, plans and sections Fig 34

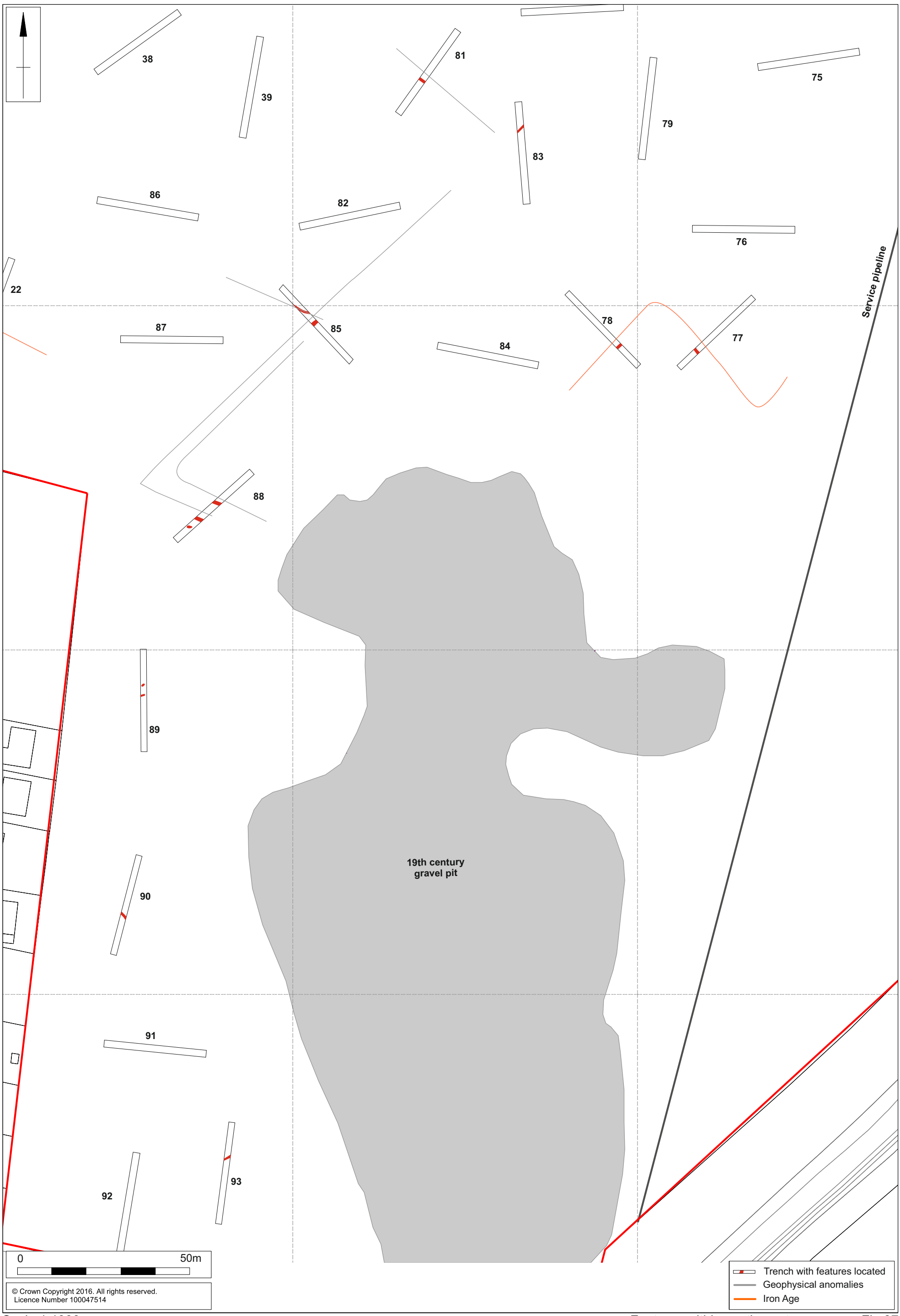


Scale 1:50 (plans) 1:25 (sections) Trenches 88-90 and 93, plans and sections Fig 35



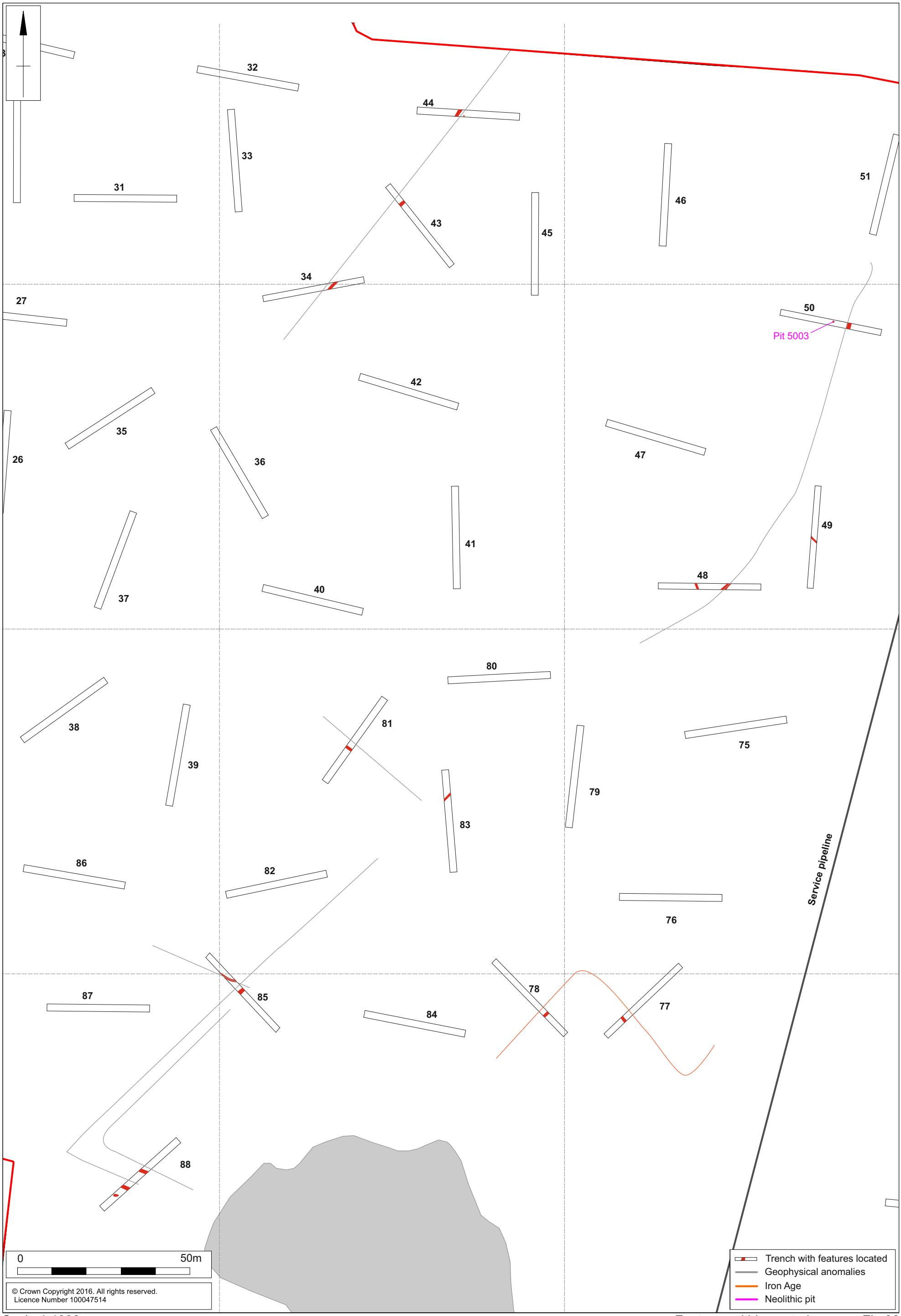
Scale 1:1000

Features within western area Fig 36



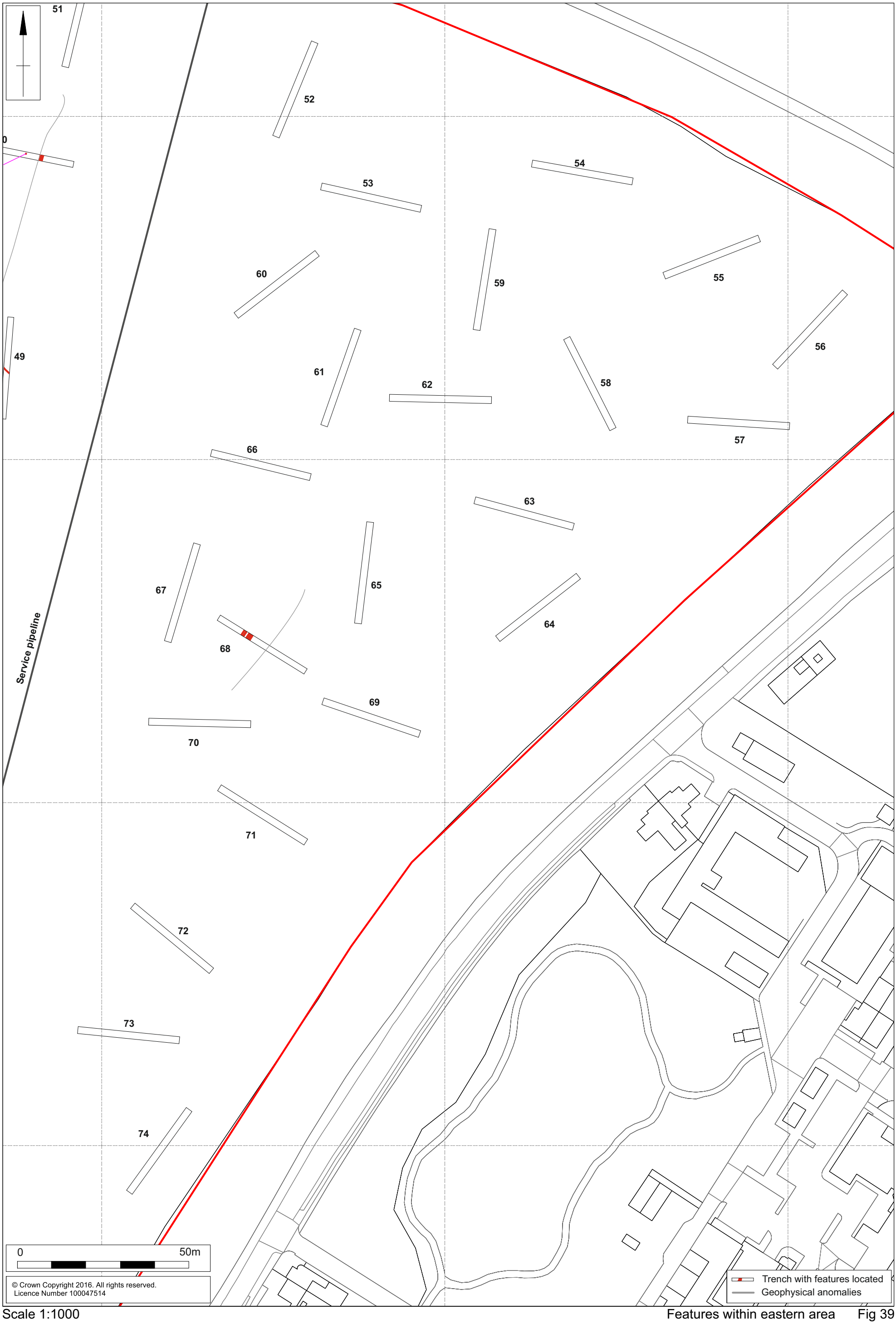
Scale 1:1000

Features within south-western area Fig 37



Scale 1:1000

Features within central area Fig 38



Scale 1:1000

Features within eastern area Fig 39

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