



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Foxhills, Brackley North Northamptonshire



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**Northamptonshire
County Council**

**Christopher Jones &
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Report 12/152

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QUALITY CONTROL

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| Checked by | Pat Chapman | | |
| Verified and Approved by | Andy Chapman | | |

OASIS REPORT FORM

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|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| PROJECT DETAILS | | OASIS ID: molanort1-320273 | |
| Project title | Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Foxhills, Brackley North, Northamptonshire, August 2012 | | |
| Short description | Twenty-one trenches were excavated with only eight trenches containing archaeological features. The archaeological features were located on the top of a north-east facing slope in Field 1, and consisted of a group of roundhouse ring ditches, postholes and pits. A single posthole produced Early Iron Age pottery, probably dating no later than the 6th century BC. The majority of the pottery, including the material associated with the roundhouses, is dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age, 4th to 1st centuries BC. A single large pit produced a mixed pottery assemblage dating to the late Pre-Roman Iron Age, indicating that occupation had continued into the early decades of the 1st century AD. The trenches in Fields 2 and 3 contained no archaeological features while the single trench in Field 4 had been disturbed by modern dumping and levelling. | | |
| Project type | Trial trench evaluation | | |
| Site Status | | | |
| Previous work | Geophysical survey | | |
| Current land use | Pasture fields | | |
| Future work | Unknown | | |
| Monument type and period | Iron Age | | |
| Significant finds | Iron Age pottery | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | |
| County | Northamptonshire | | |
| Site address | Foxhills, Brackley North | | |
| Post code | | | |
| OS co-ordinates | NGR SP 5915 3865 | | |
| Area (sq m/ha) | 8ha | | |
| Height aOD | 137m | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) | | |
| Project brief originator | Northamptonshire County Council | | |
| Project Design originator | NA | | |
| Director/Supervisor | Christopher Jones (NA) | | |
| Project Managers | Steve Parry and Andy Chapman (NA) | | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Manor Oak Homes | | |
| PROJECT DATE | | | |
| Start date | 30/07/2012 | | |
| End date | 07/08/2012 | | |
| ARCHIVES | Location (Accession no.) | Contents | |
| Physical | NA store | Pottery | |
| Paper | ENN106122 | Site records (1 small archive box) | |
| Digital | | Client report PDF | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report) | | |
| Title | Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Foxhills, Brackley North, Northamptonshire, August 2012 | | |
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT FOXHILLS, BRACKLEY NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Foxhills, Brackley North, Northamptonshire prior to the proposed development on the site. Twenty-one trenches were excavated with only eight trenches containing archaeological features. The archaeological features were located on the top of a north-east facing slope in Field 1, and consisted of a group of roundhouse ring ditches, postholes and pits. A single posthole produced Early Iron Age pottery, probably dating no later than the 6th century BC. The majority of the pottery, including the material associated with the roundhouses, is dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age, 4th to 1st centuries BC. A single large pit produced a mixed pottery assemblage dating to the late Pre-Roman Iron Age, indicating that occupation had continued into the early decades of the 1st century AD. The trenches in Fields 2 and 3 contained no archaeological features while the single trench in Field 4 had been disturbed by modern dumping and levelling.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Manor Oak Homes to carry out archaeological trial trenching on a proposed development site at Foxhills, at the northern end of Brackley, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 592387; Fig 1).

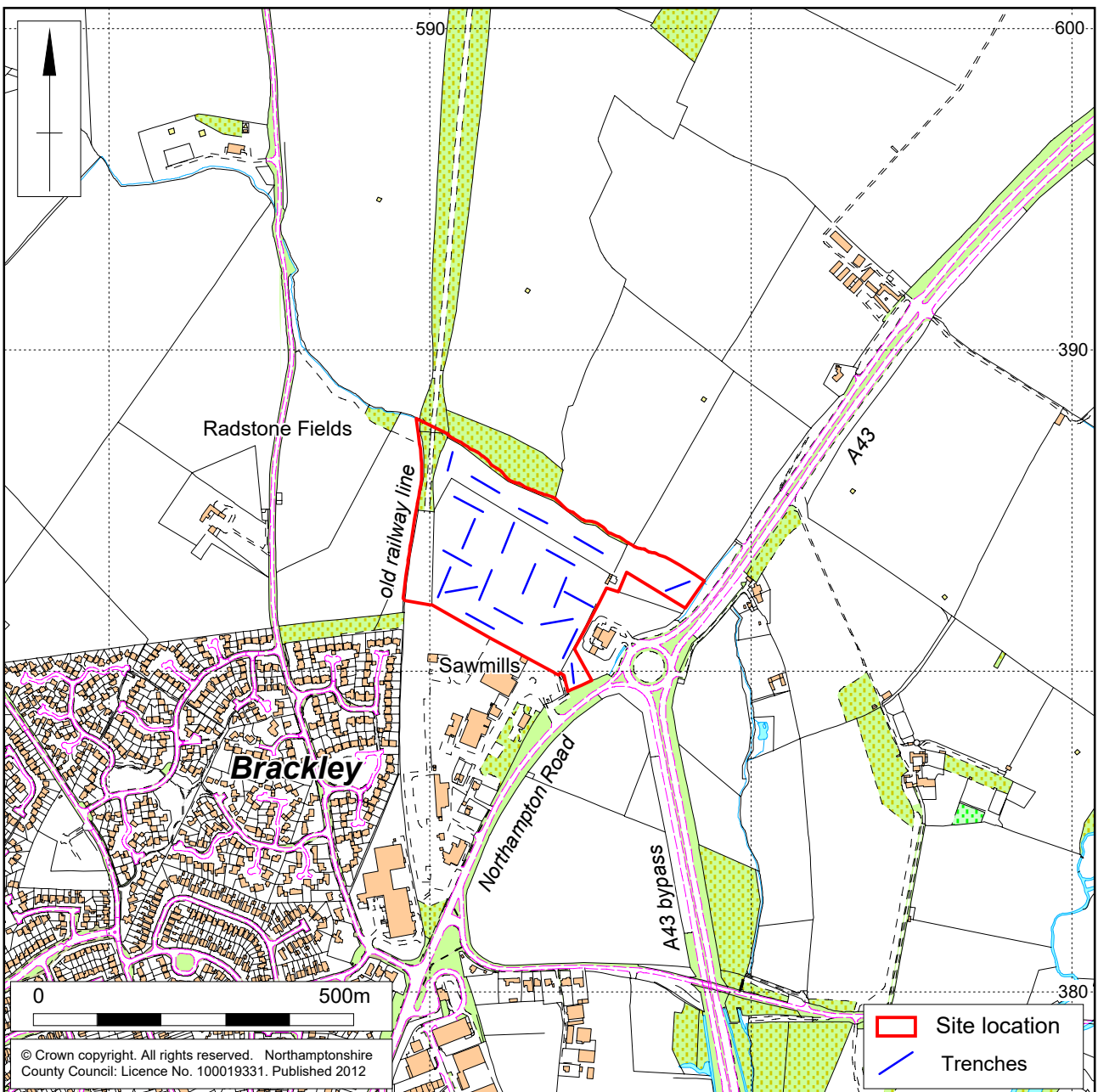
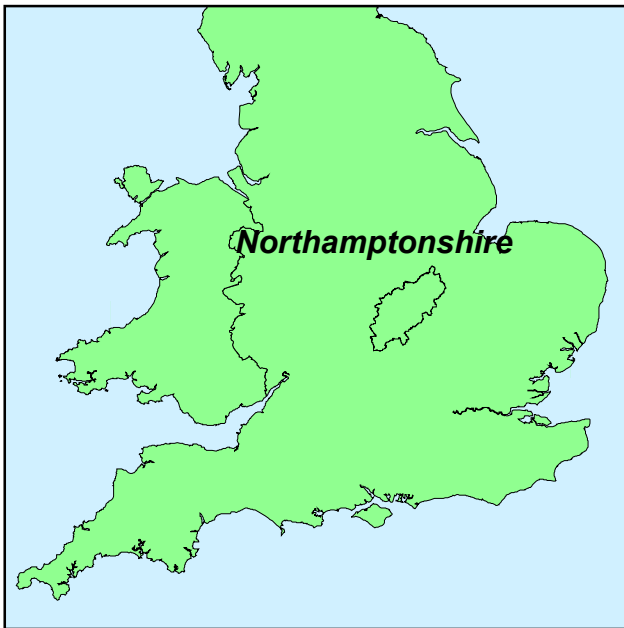
The proposed development site comprises c8ha of land, lying to the west of the A43 and a petrol station, and consists of pasture fields and areas of scrub. The western edge of the site is defined by a former railway line which, under current plans, will be retained as a wildlife corridor.

The works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

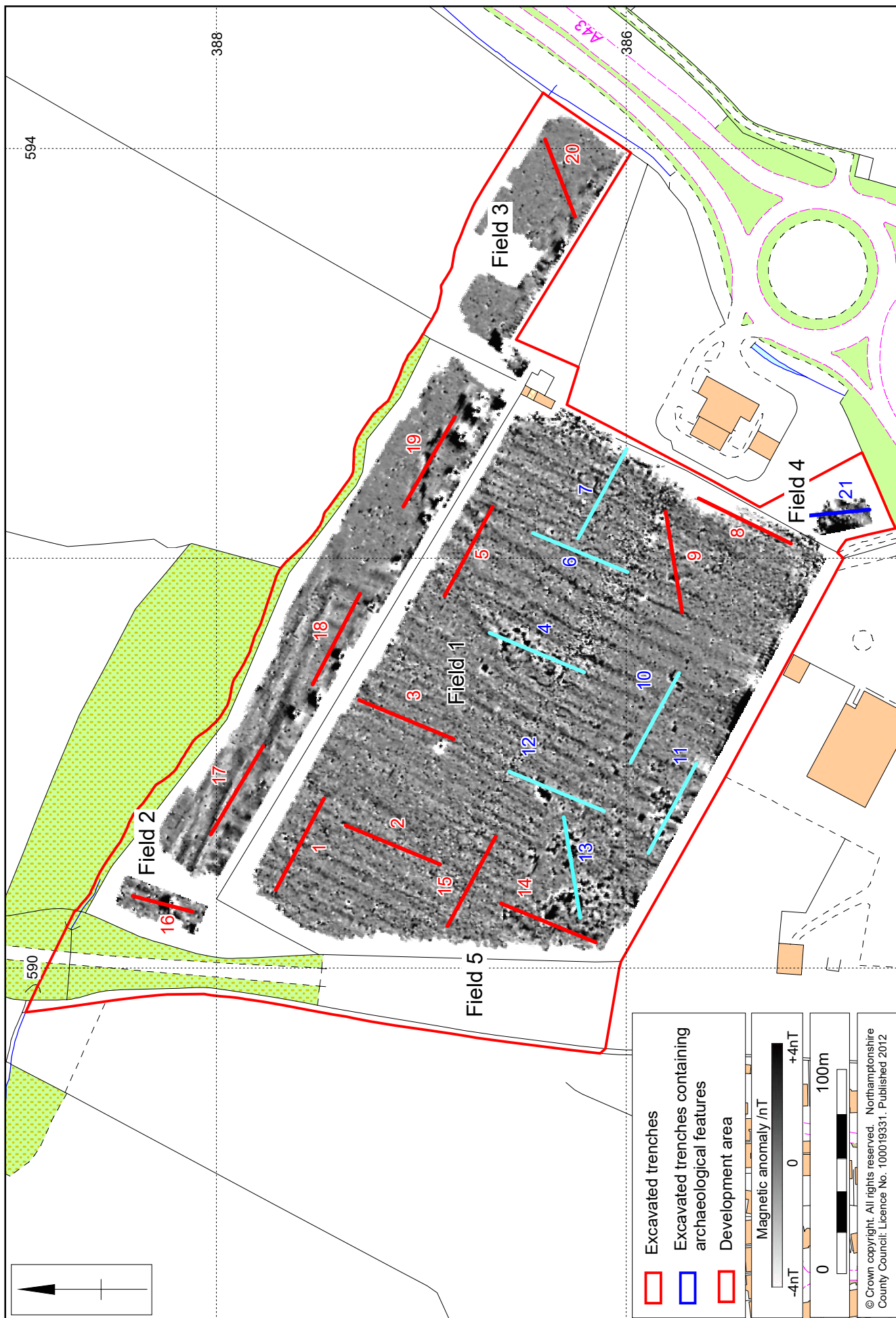
The area is located to the north of Brackley, close to Foxhill Spinney. It is bounded to the east by the A43, to the south by the former Brackley Sawmills and to the north by a small stream. It is divided into four grass fields, Fields 1-4, and a plot of scrub-covered land, Field 5 (Fig 2).

The site occupies a north-facing slope at an elevation of 118-137m aOD (Fig 3), and overlooks a small stream which drains south-eastwards into the River Great Ouse. It is underlain by a sequence of Jurassic strata comprising, from oldest to youngest, the Whitby Formation (mudstone), the Horsehay Sand Formation, the Taynton Limestone Formation, and the White Limestone Formation. The only drift deposit is alluvium, which is present in the base of the stream valley along the northern margin of the site (BGS 2012).



Scale 1:10,000

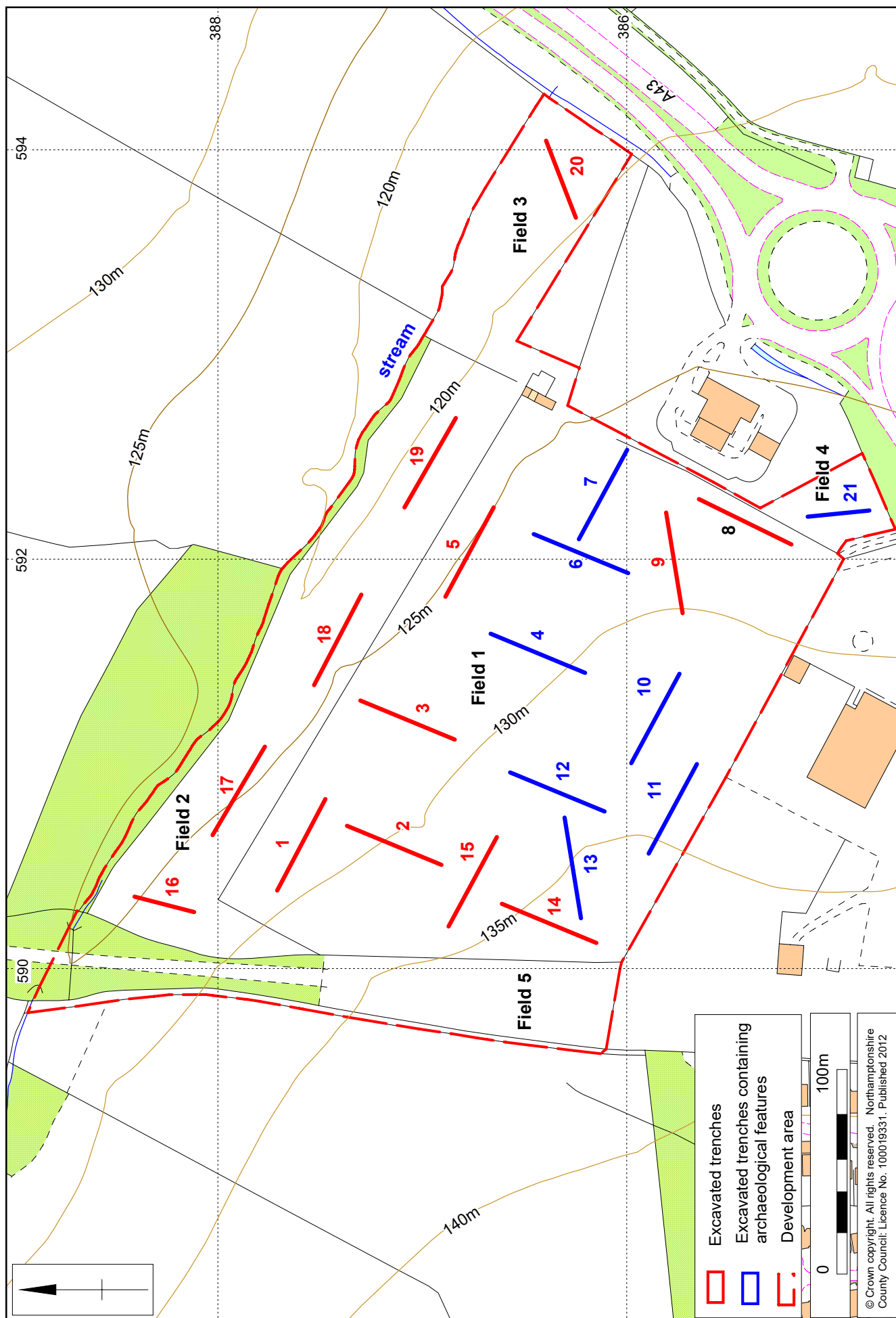
Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2500 (A4)

The geophysical survey results and the excavated trenches

Fig 2



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

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

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

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Desk-based assessments (DBAs) relating to this area have been undertaken by CgMs Consulting (Bennett-Samuels 2006) for Radstone Fields, which included the present application area, and by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2010), focussing upon Brackley Sawmills immediately to the south of the present site.

Prehistoric activity is evidenced by a fragment of a Bronze Age flanged axe or palstave located to the north of the site (HER 7267/0/0). Activity of the later prehistoric date is evidenced by La Tene I and II brooches found during the construction of the Brackley bypass in 1986, approximately 350m south of the proposed development site (HER 5837/0/0).

A number of undated cropmark sites are also known from air photography, which may be late prehistoric or Romano-British in origin. These include enclosures south-east (HER 152) and north-west (HER 1411) of the proposed development site. A small excavation and a watching brief were carried out prior to the construction of the petrol filling station immediately to the south-east (HER 5626, 8260, and 9476). A small cemetery was found comprising six shallow graves with at least nine or ten individuals. The limits of the cemetery are uncertain, and apart from small, probably residual sherds of Iron Age pottery, no dating evidence was found. Pits with some Iron Age pottery were found nearby, and an alignment of stakeholes, two pits and a ditch are also recorded from the vicinity.

Recent evaluation at Radstone Fields has found evidence of a middle Iron Age settlement 500m to the north-west of the present site (OAS 2010). The settlement comprised a series of ring ditch enclosures, most of which exhibited more than one phase. A series of smaller gullies, pits and postholes were also noted. The finds dated almost exclusively to the middle Iron Age, with only slight evidence of an earlier influence. There was no evidence that the settlement persisted into the late Iron Age.

Land at Brackley Sawmills, immediately to the south of the site, has also been subject to archaeological evaluation (Wolfram-Murray 2011). While much of the development area was shown to have only limited potential for the survival of archaeological remains, a series of features possibly dating to the Iron Age period were found in the north-western part of the site. The features included substantial postholes and buried soils.

Approximately 150m north-east of the proposed development site, an inhumation burial and a scatter of Roman pottery were found during ploughing in 1979 (HER

154/0/1). Metal coins, a brooch and pottery were also found during metal detecting in the vicinity in 1992, indicating a possible Romano-British settlement in the locality (HER 154, 154/0/0). Further Roman activity is also attested by a 1st-century brooch and coins during metal detecting in the course of the construction of the Brackley bypass in 1986, south of the application site (HER 5837/0/0). An extensive Roman settlement is known from Brackley's Old Town, approximately 1km to the south (NGR SP 592 372, RCHME 1982, 23). Building to the south during the early 1970s found coins, pottery, roof and flue tiles, tesserae, plaster, a cobbled floor and wall foundations, indicating occupation during the late Roman period.

Brackley was probably founded during the 7th century AD. A planned town was established during the Norman period as a second settlement along the new road from Northampton to Oxford. During the medieval period, the settlement thrived through the wool trade and was granted a Borough Charter in 1260, when it had grown to be the one of the wealthiest towns in Northamptonshire. The site lies within a medieval open field landscape associated with the Old Town, with the system extending northwards from the Old Town as far as the stream forming the northern boundary to the site. Medieval sites relating to the settlement at Brackley are present to the south of the development area, including the two hospitals of St Leonard and St James, and St John. The post-medieval period is denoted by the opening of the Great Central Railway through the Old Town in 1899, which was closed in 1966 (Wolfram-Murray 2011).

The geophysical survey (GSB 2007 and Fisher *et al* 2012) of the present application site indicated the presence of buried archaeological features. The survey highlighted a number of circular features, as well as possible pits (Fig 2). Given that Iron Age features have been found directly to the west and south of the site, it was considered likely that the remains were of a similar date.

5 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008b).

Twenty-one trenches were excavated. Eighteen were 50m long, one was 40m long and two were 30m long (Fig 2). The trenches were positioned to provide a full coverage of the area and also to target the archaeological features identified by geophysical survey. The total length of trenching was 1000m, amounting to approximately 3% of the area available.

Trenches were positioned using Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. 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. The work was carried out under archaeological supervision. The trenches were backfilled, with the topsoil replaced uppermost and lightly compacted.

The machined surface was cleaned by hand sufficiently to identify and establish the extent of archaeological features, if present. Trenches containing archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100. Complex features were planned at scales of 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate.

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

The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The requirements of the Treasure Act (1996) were adhered to.

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. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Excavation Manual* (2011).

Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site, in line with procedures outlined in *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC 1998). Unstratified animal bones and modern material was not collected.

A full photographic record comprising both 35 mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).

All works were conducted in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2008a) and *Code of conduct* (2008b).

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The limestone and sandy clay natural was overlain by a subsoil of light brown sandy clay, up to 0.80m thick. The topsoil was a dark brown-grey clay loam, up to 0.47m thick. Few inclusions were noted in either the subsoil or the topsoil.

Archaeological features were found in Trenches 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 in Field 1 and Trench 21 in Field 4, which lay within the area of archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey. There were no archaeological features in Trenches 1-3, 5, 8, 9 and 14-20 (Fig 2).

Field 1

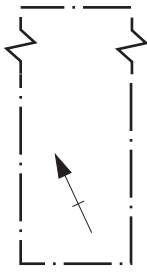
Trenches 4, 6 and 7 lay in the eastern part of Field 1, while Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 13 lay in the western part of the field (Fig 3).

Towards the northern end of Trench 4 there was a linear ditch [409], 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep, with a V-shaped profile and a flat narrow base (Fig 4; 5, S.13 and Fig 10). To the north of ditch [409], a broad feature, 3m wide, [418], was identified as a furrow but as it runs at 90° to the alignment of the field system established by geophysical survey (see Fig 2) it may be a further ditch. A curvilinear ditch [417], 0.96m wide and 0.76m deep, contained a complex sequence of silting at the terminal, with layers (412) and (413) containing quantities of charcoal and some burnt clay, while the upper fill (410) produced a quantity of Iron Age pottery, 605g (Fig 5, S.15 and Fig 11). This ditch may be the terminal of a roundhouse ring ditch. To the immediate north of the ditch there was a shallow gully [405], 0.34m wide and 0.11m deep, which terminated to the south-east (Fig 5, S.14).

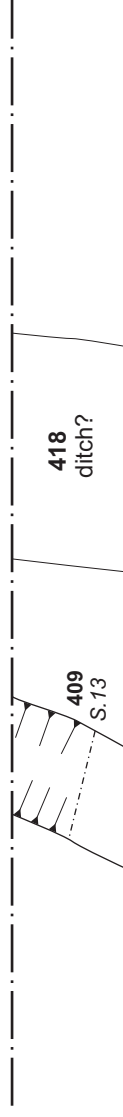
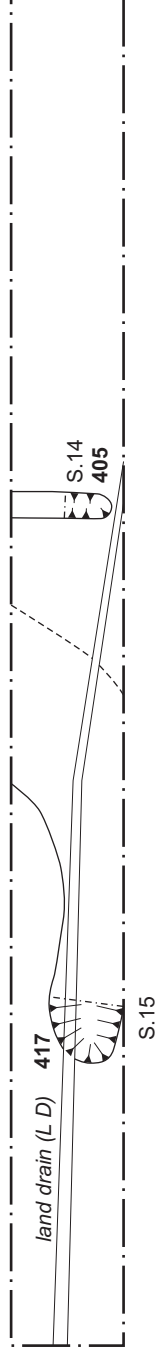
In Trench 6, curvilinear gullies [605] and [607] had similar profiles, 0.55-0.70m wide by 0.16-0.20m deep, with fills of grey-brown silty clay (Fig 4, Fig 5, S.7 & S.8 and Fig 12). They may be the southern and northern arms of a circular ring ditch, 11.5m in diameter, as identified on the geophysical survey (Fig 2). Gullies [609] and [611], lying to the north and south of the possible roundhouse, were more irregular in plan, 0.15-0.20m wide and up to 0.12m deep (Fig 5, S.6 & S.10 and Fig 13).

Towards the eastern end of Trench 7, two postholes [705] and [707], both of similar size and depth, were filled with dark grey silt clay (Figs 4; 5, S.1 & S.2 and 14). Posthole [705] contained four sherds of pottery from a small carinated bowl decorated with impressed zigzag lines, which can be dated to the Early Iron Age. To the east there was an oval pit [714], 0.55m wide and 0.12m deep with a fill of light grey-brown sandy clay (Fig 5, S.9). In the western half of Trench 7 there was a pair of pits or possible ditch terminals, [710], 0.33m deep and 1.20m wide with a U-shaped profile and flat base, and [712], 1.0m wide and 0.29m deep (Fig 5, S.3 & S.4). To the east there was a linear ditch [716], 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 5, S.5 and Fig 15), and a further 7m to the east there may have been a further ditch on a parallel alignment [717], alongside a furrow and tentatively identified as a further furrow in excavation.

Trench 4

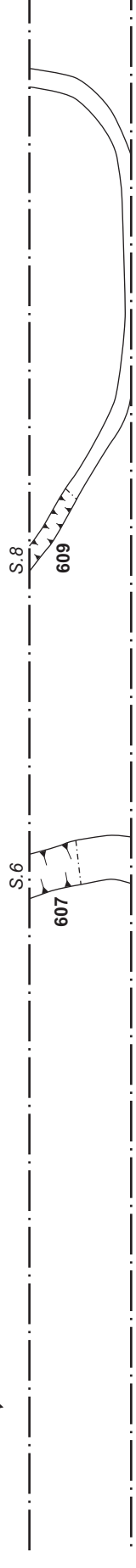
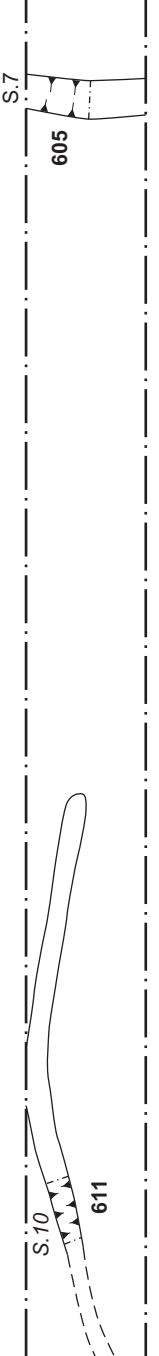
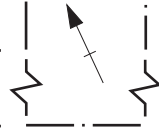


6.1m unexcavated
due to overhead
power cables

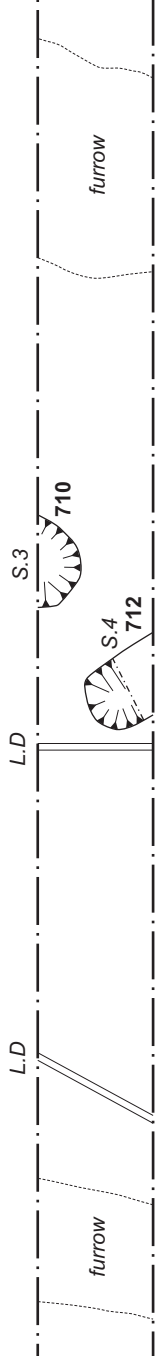
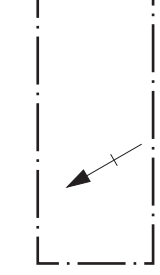


Trench 6

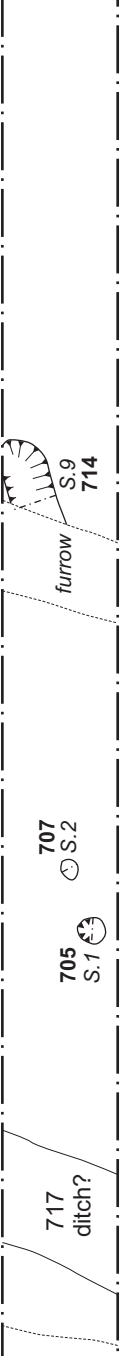
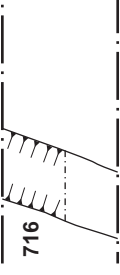
4m



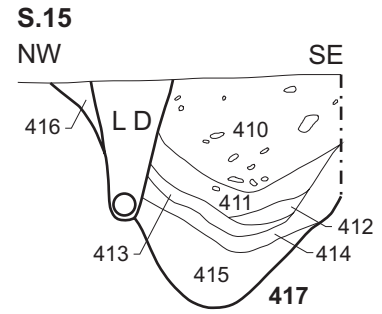
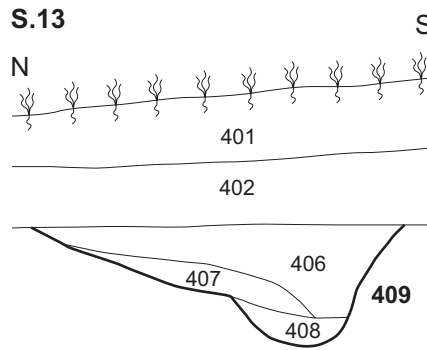
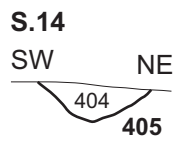
Trench 7



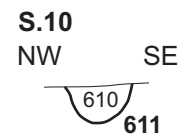
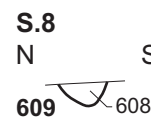
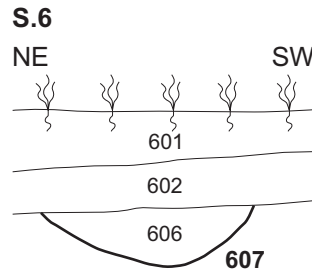
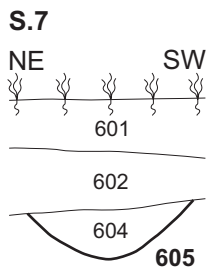
S.5



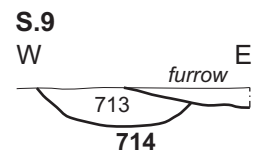
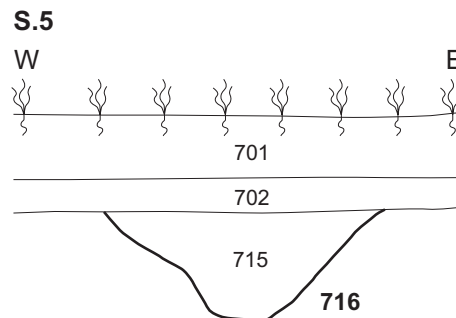
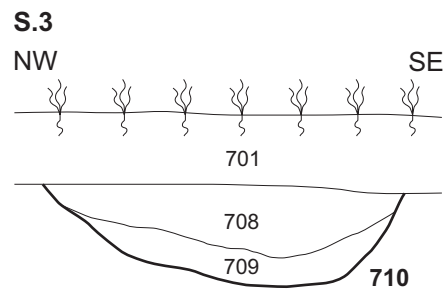
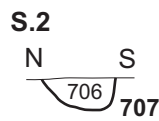
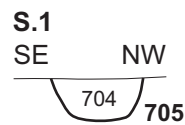
Trench 4



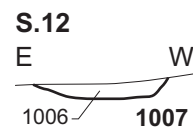
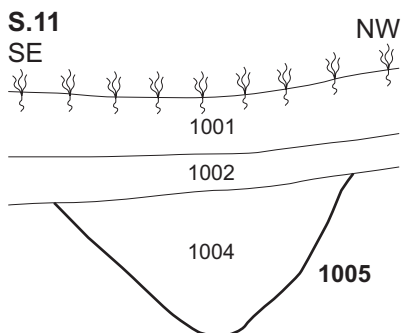
Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 10



At the eastern end of Trench 10 there was a linear ditch [1005], 1.0m wide by 0.80m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 5, S.11; 6 and Fig 16). To the west was a shallow posthole [1007], 0.20m wide and 0.10m deep, with a fill of light grey-brown sand silt clay (1006) (Fig 5, S.12).

In Trench 11, a curvilinear gully [1105], 0.67m wide and 0.27m deep with a V-shaped profile and flat base, is possibly part of the southern arm of a roundhouse ring ditch (Fig 6; 7, S.24 and Fig 17). To the immediate west there was a linear ditch [1109], 1.80m wide and 1.0m deep, aligned north-south, with a U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 7, S.16 and Fig 18). Further west there was a large steep-sided pit [1115], 2.15m wide and 1.0m deep (but not bottomed), with a U-shaped profile and a narrow eroded upper edge (Fig 7, S.22 and Fig 19). The lowest fill excavated (1114) was a soft grey-brown loam containing occupation debris of charcoal, some burnt stone, animal bone and over 600g of Iron Age pottery, the largest assemblage from the site. This group contains sherds from two burnished storage jars dating to the early 1st century AD. The upper fills (1110 and 1111) were also dark grey-brown clayey loams and contained quantities of limestone and smaller amounts of pottery and animal bone.

In Trench 12, two lengths of curvilinear gully, [1215] to the south and [1205] to the north, are probably the southern and northern arms of a roundhouse ring ditch, c 12m in diameter with an entrance on the eastern side (Fig 6). The ditch terminal [1205] was 0.38m wide by 0.12m deep, with the fill containing a small quantity of pottery and animal bone (Fig 7, S.25 and Fig 20). A further length of curvilinear gully [1209], 0.33m wide and 0.12m deep, may be part of another adjacent ring ditch of similar size (Fig 7, S.28 and Fig 21). Posthole [1207] was 0.28m wide by 0.20m deep (Fig 7, S.27 and Fig 21). Towards the northern end of Trench 12 there was a recut pit or ditch terminal [1212/1214] (Fig 6; 7, S.29 and Fig 22). The lower fills (1213 and 1211) contained charcoal and small quantities of pottery and animal bone.

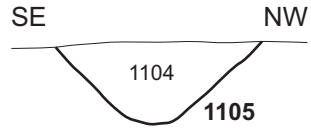
Towards the eastern end of Trench 13 there were three postholes [1305], [1307], and [1311] of similar size and depth, all with fills of grey-brown silt clay, and a shallow gully [1309], 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep (Figs 8 & 9, S.18-S.21). To the west there was a further similar posthole [1320] (Fig 9, S.26). Towards the western end of the trench there was the broad, recut curvilinear ditch [1316/1318], up to 2.4m wide and 0.98m deep, with steep sides and a narrow flat base (Fig 9, S.23 and Fig 23), which appears to enclose a circular area perhaps no more than 6.5m in diameter.

Field 4

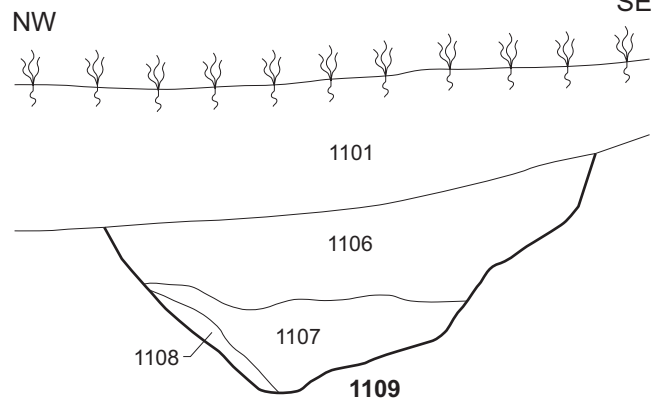
Trench 21 contained two parallel gullies [2105] and [2106] (Fig 8). Gully [2105] was 1.30m wide by 0.22m deep, with a fill of dark grey-brown silt clay (2104) (Fig 9, S.17). The soils were disturbed due to modern activity and the gullies are possibly associated with the field drain system. Gully [2106] was not excavated.

Trench 11

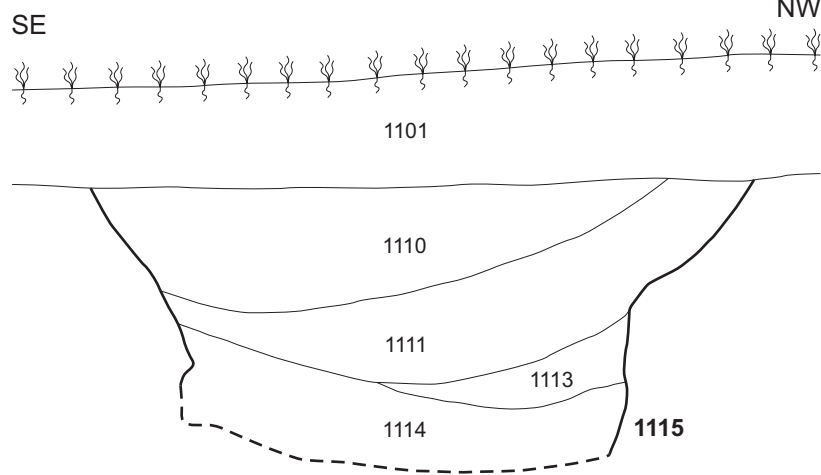
S.24



S.16

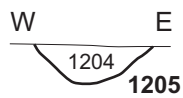


S.22

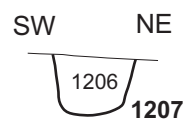


Trench 12

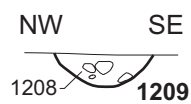
S.25



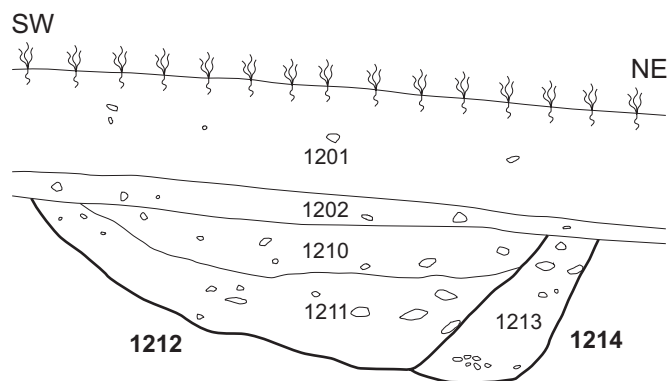
S.27



S.28

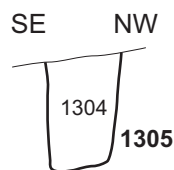


S.29

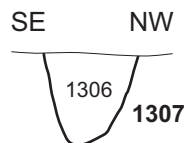


Trench 13

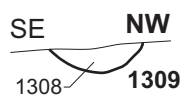
S.18



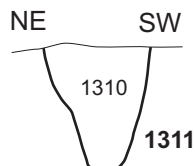
S.19



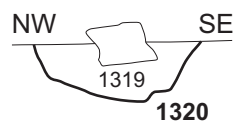
S.20



S.21

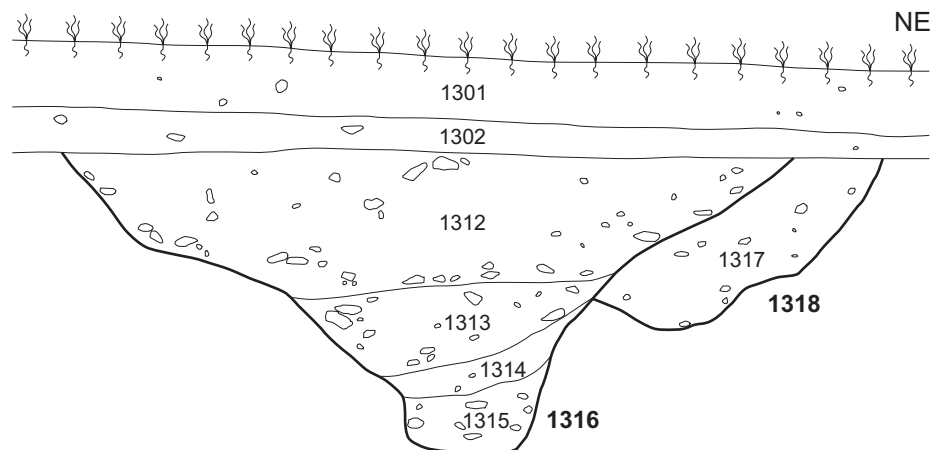


S.26



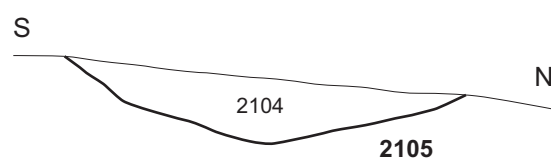
S.23

SW



Trench 21

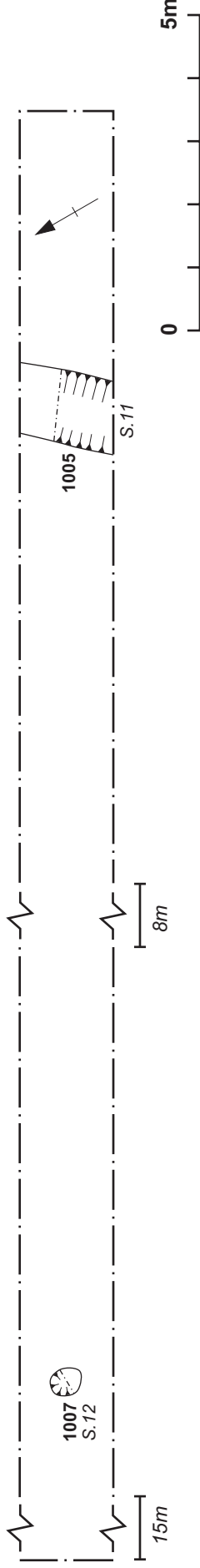
S.17



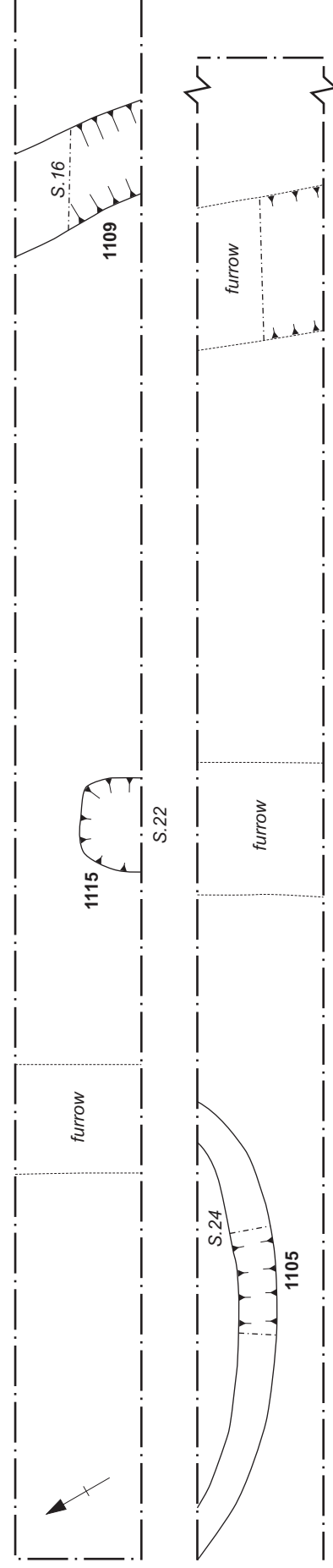
Scale 1:25 (A4)

Sections of features in Trenches 13 and 21 Fig 9

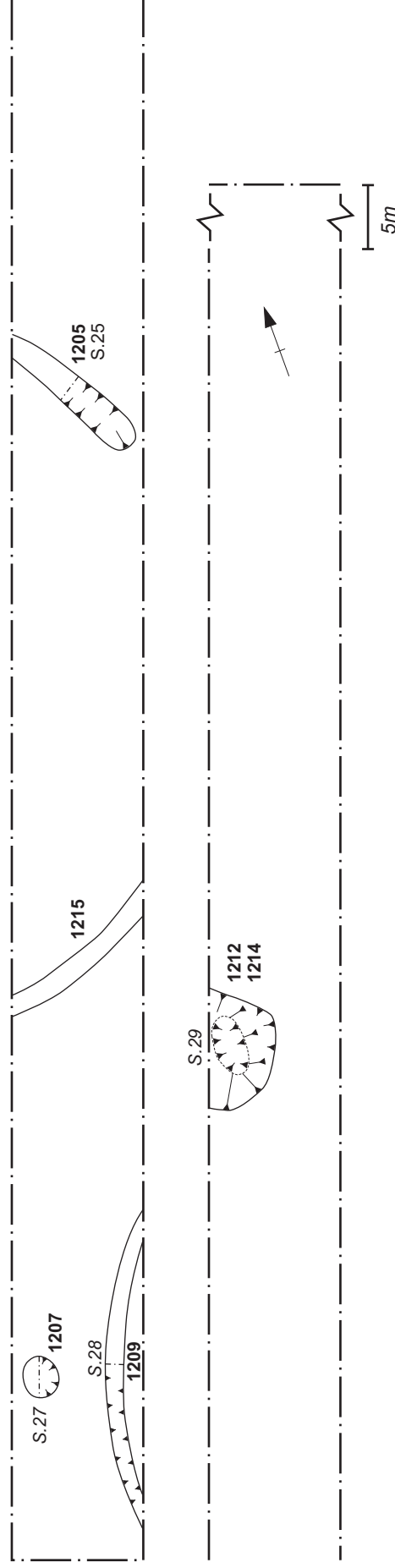
Trench 10



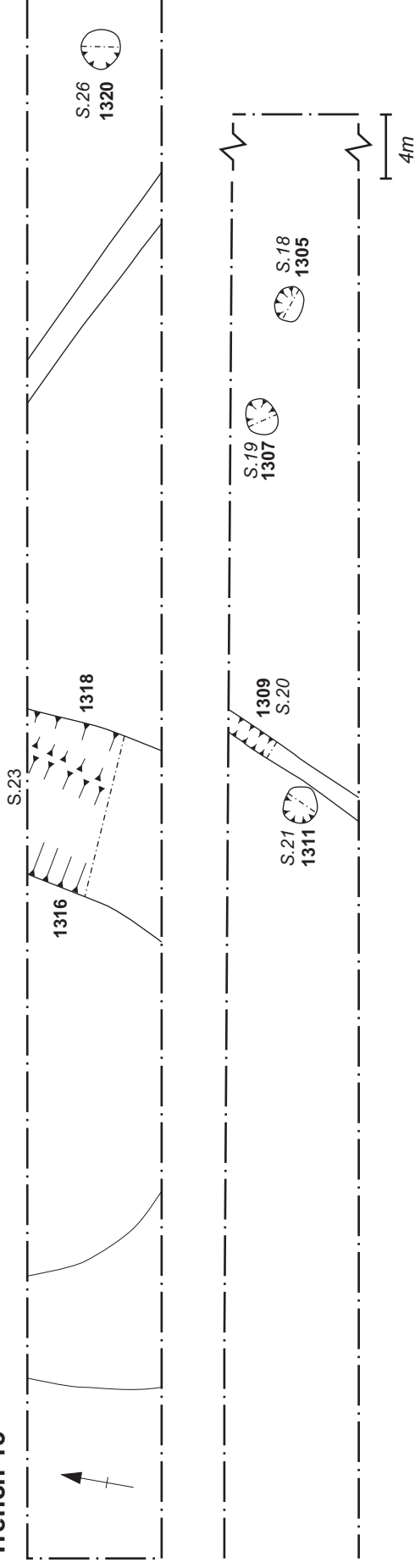
Trench 11



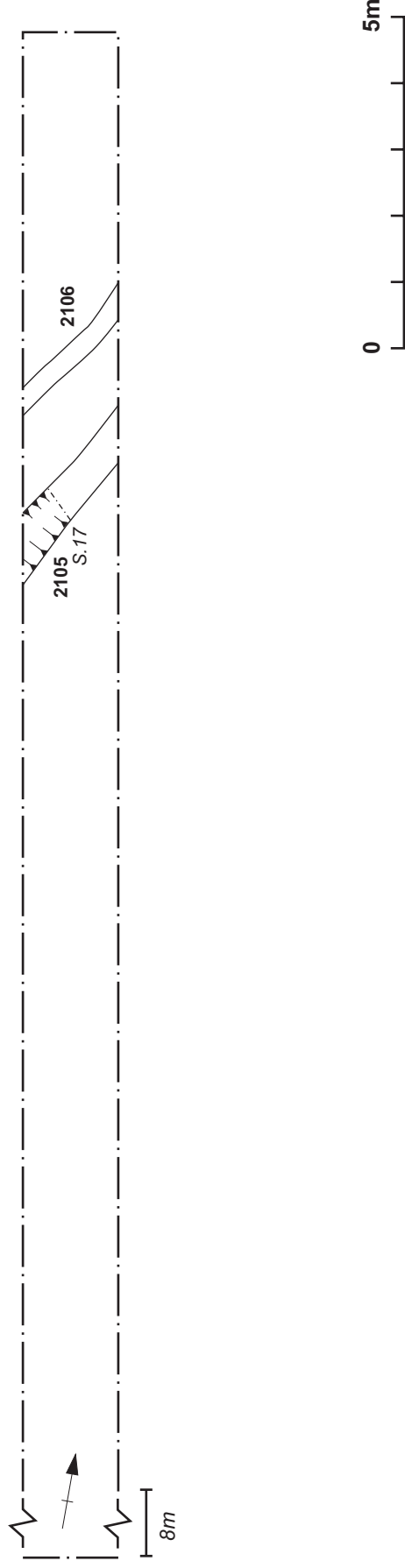
Trench 12



Trench 13



Trench 21





Trench 4, ditch [409] (S.13), looking south-east Fig 10



Trench 4, ditch [417] (S.15), looking north-east Fig 11



Trench 6, ditch [607] (S.6), looking west Fig 12



Trench 6, gully [611] (S.10), looking north Fig 13



Trench 7, postholes [705] and [707], looking east Fig 14



Trench 7, ditch [716] (S.5), looking north Fig 15



Trench 10, ditch [1005] (S.11), looking south-west Fig 16



Trench 11, gully [1105] (S.24), looking east Fig 17



Trench 11, ditch [1109] (S.16), looking south

Fig 18



Trench 11, pit [1115] (S.22), looking south

Fig 19



Trench 12, gully [1205] (S.25), looking north Fig 20



Trench 12, gully [1209] (S.28) and posthole [1207], looking north Fig 21



Trench 12, pit [1212/1214] (S.29) looking west Fig 22



Trench 13, ditch [1316/1318] (S.23) looking north Fig 23

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Worked flint by Andy Chapman

The lower fill (1114) of a late Iron Age pit [1115] contained a single worked flint, an end scraper worked on large thick flake, 42mm long by 34mm wide and 18mm thick. This can be broadly dated to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

7.2 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 321 sherds of hand-built pottery and 13 small pieces of fired clay, weighing a total of 2.83kg, was recovered from the fills of 20 ditches, gullies and pits in Trenches 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 21. The average sherd weight is 8.5g but the smaller context groups tend to comprise small sherds and the average sherd weight has been raised by the larger sherds often from a limited number of vessels that make up the few larger groups, four at a little under 200g and two weighing over 600g (Table 1).

Table 1: Quantification of the Iron Age pottery

| Fill/cut | Sherds | Weight (g) | Shelly (sherds) | Shell & grog (sherds) | Fired clay |
|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 404/405 | 2 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 406/409 | 11 | 49 | 8 | 0 | 3 |
| 408/409 | 10 | 97 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 410/417 | 65 | 606 | 64 | 1 | 0 |
| 415/417 | 2 | 48 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 604/605 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 606/607 | 14 | 47 | 13 | 0 | 1 |
| 610/611 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 704/705 | 4 | 19 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 715/716 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1004/1005 | 20 | 172 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| 1104/1105 | 12 | 71 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 1106/1109 | 19 | 64 | 16 | 0 | 3 |
| 1107/1109 | 10 | 98 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 1110/1115 | 6 | 111 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| 1111/1115 | 3 | 18 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 1114/1115 | 40 | 656 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| 1204/1205 | 7 | 80 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 1206/1207 | 6 | 36 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 1208/1209 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1211/1212 | 26 | 173 | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| 1213/1214 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1312/1316 | 14 | 90 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 1313/1316 | 23 | 173 | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| 1315/1316 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 1317/1318 | 24 | 174 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| 2104/2105 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 334 | 2833 | 319 | 2 | 13 |

Fabrics

The assemblage comprises only fabrics containing crushed shell. The thicker-walled and roughly finished vessels tend to contain dense large shell inclusions, often 5-8mm in diameter, while the thinner-walled and smoothed/burnished vessels usually contain sparse finely crushed shell. Two sherds also contained small rounded pellets of grog.

Form and decoration

The assemblage is dominated by small body sherds providing little indication of form. However, the overall balance appears to be similar to other contemporary sites in comprising a mixture of thinner-walled smaller jars and bowls and large r thick-walled storage jars. Bases are flat and rims are all simple; rounded or flat-topped. The majority of the body sherds are plain but sherds of scored ware came from ring ditch [417] and ditch [1109]. A thick-walled body sherd from pit [1115] contained the scar of a lost handle or lug. Sherds from ditch [409], ring ditch [1105] and pit [1115] had smoothed surfaces, while pit [1212] and ring ditch [1316] contained sherds with burnished surfaces that may suggest a date in the late Iron Age, perhaps the 1st century BC.

Assemblages and site chronology

Early Iron Age

The fill (704) of posthole [705] contained four small sherds from a single small, thin-walled vessel in a black fabric containing sparse finely-crushed shell, with smoothed surfaces. A flat-topped rim sherd has an impressed zigzag pattern along the rim, a pair of vertical zigzag lines on the external face immediately below the rim and two parallel lines of zigzag along the inner face just below the rim (Fig 24 top). There is also a carinated body sherd, with two lines of horizontal impressed zigzag decoration on the concave neck immediately above the carination (Fig 24, bottom). This vessel is characteristic of early Iron Age assemblages, probably no later than the 6th century BC.



Early Iron Age sherds decorated with impressed zigzags,
from posthole [705] (Scale 20mm)

Fig 24

Middle/Late Iron Age

The group from the upper fill (410) of ditch [417] comprises 65 sherds, weighing 606g. Most of this is made up of small sherds up to 11mm thick from a single thick-walled jar with a simple rounded rim, in a fabric containing dense coarse shell with a brown core and inner surface and an orange external surface. In addition there is an everted rim from a vessel containing sparser small shell inclusions and smoothed to burnished surfaces, and part the rim and body of a small high-shouldered jar decorated with light scoring (Fig 25).

This group is probably typical of the majority of the assemblage which can be characterised as dating broadly to the middle/late Iron Age, the 4th to 1st centuries BC. It is difficult to provide a more specific date, but the presence of a few burnished bowls might suggest a focus in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, at least in the vicinity of trenches 12 and 13.



Body and rim of small middle Iron Age scored ware bowl,
from ditch [417] (Scale 20mm) Fig 25

Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (1st century BC-early 1st century AD)

The largest assemblage from the site comprises 40 sherds, weighing 656g, from the lower fill (1114) of a large pit [1115]. This group contains rims from jars in a black fabric with rounded and flattened rims, two with rough surfaces and one from a small shouldered jar with smoothed surfaces. In addition, there are rounded and flattened rim sherds from at least two large, thick-walled storage jars with brown external surfaces that are burnished, and a small vessel with a squared rim and an oxidised external surface (Fig 26). While the more poorly finished vessels could date to the 1st century BC, the burnished and oxidised storage jars belong to the early decades of the 1st century AD.



Rims sherds from burnished storage jars, left and right, and a square-rimmed jar, of the early 1st century AD, from pit [1115] (Scale 20mm) Fig 26

7.3 Metal objects by Tora Hylton

A fragment of an undiagnostic iron strip was recovered from the fill (1106) of pit [1109] in Trench 11. The piece has a rectangular cross-section, 26mm wide by 3mm thick, and appears to be parallel-sided with both terminals now missing; surviving length 30mm. There is a small recess on one of the broken edges, possibly the vestige of a nail hole, suggesting that it may have been part of a binding strip or similar object. A small quantity of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the same fill.

8 THE FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

8.1 The animal bone by Laszlo Lichtenstein

A total of 501 animal bone elements and fragments were collected from a range of features during the excavation, weighing 5.35kg (Table 2). Some 92.4% of the specimens had been hand-collected during the excavation and the remaining 7.6% were recovered from the sieved environmental samples. Following cleaning and drying all fragments of animal bone were analysed and recorded, using standard zoo archaeological methods. This material was analysed to determine the taxa present, state of preservation and its potential to provide evidence on the function and economy of the site.

Method

The animal bone was identified using Northamptonshire Archaeology's and the author's vertebrate reference collection, and further guidelines from Schmid (1972), Driesch (1979), Sisson & Grossman (1953) and Feher (1990). Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat the criteria set out by J. Boessneck (1969) were used to separate the two species. Ageing data and tooth eruption and wear were categorised according to Bull and Payne (1982), Grant (1982), Hillson (2005) with the identification of juvenilis after Amorosi (1989) and Schmid (1972).

All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, anatomical element, fragmentation, side, zone, fusion, cut- or animal teeth marks, age and sex.

Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (large ungulate size: cattle or horse sized, small ungulate size: pig or sheep/goat). Presence of large and medium vertebrae and ribs was recorded for each context.

The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated on the most frequently occurring bone for each species and taking into account left and right sides, as well as epiphyseal fusion and tooth wear stage. For the calculation of the number of identified fragments per species (NISP) all identifiable fragments were counted.

All teeth and a restricted suite of parts of the postcranial skeleton were recorded and used in counts. All fragments were recorded.

Results

Employing standard zoo-archaeological methodological procedures 461 specimens (92% of the total, NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing four mammalian *Equus* (horse), *Bos* (cattle), *Sus* (pig), *Ovicaprid* (sheep/goat) species (Table 2). The majority of bones came from sheep/goat (18.7%) and cattle (16.7%) followed by lower number of horse (11.7%) and pig (6.7%).

Table 2: Animal species by fragment count (including teeth)

| Species (common name) | Number | Percentage |
|--|------------|-------------|
| <i>Equus caballus</i> (horse) | 54 | 11.7% |
| <i>Bos taurus</i> (cow) | 77 | 16.7% |
| <i>Sus scrofa</i> <i>domesticus</i> (pig) | 31 | 6.7% |
| Ovicaprid (sheep/goat) & <i>Capra hircus</i> (goat) | 86 | 18.7% |
| Large ungulate | 157 | 34.1% |
| Small ungulate | 56 | 12.1% |
| Unidentifiable | 40 | |
| Total | 501 | 100% |

Taphonomy

The bones were generally in good condition, but the fragmentation was high (Table 3), with the majority (60.8%) being less than 50 mm in size. The surface abrasion was at low level. Some complete long bones recorded. Measurements were taken according to von den Driessh (1976), using digital callipers. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded including gnawed and recently broken bones. Some bones were smashed in antiquity signifying a chosen method of disposal and many bones showed signs of fresh breaks.

Evidence of butchery was present on 1.5% of the assemblage. Chopping marks were seen on cattle metatarsus and sheep/goat tibia (fill 408, ditch 409), on pig cervical vertebra (fill 1004, gully 1005) and a large ungulate size scapula (fill 1114, pit 1115). Knife marks was noted on bos calcaneus (fill 1315, ditch 1316), bos fused central and forth tarsal bone (fill 1110, pit 1115) and large ungulate size animal long bone diaphysis (fill 406, ditch 409) fragments.

Dog (*Canid*) gnawing was seen on 1.9% of bone, which is a low frequency. Gnawing was noted on cattle, sheep, pig and large ungulate size animal bone fragments.

Evidence for burning was seen on nine bone fragments, which is 1.9%. Evidence for burning was noted on a sheep/goat ulna (fill 1114, pit 1115), a small ungulate size animal fragment of long bone (fill 1211, pit 1212) and on some little bones from the sieved samples. A single bone showed pathological conditions; a cattle calcaneus has signs of exostosis (fill 1315, ditch 1316).

Table 3: Size of the animal bones (excluding teeth)

| Size (mm) | Number | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| <20 | 86 | 18.4 |
| 20-50 | 199 | 42.4 |
| 50-100 | 157 | 33.5 |
| 100-150 | 18 | 3.8 |
| 150-200 | 6 | 1.3 |
| 200-250 | 2 | 0.4 |
| 250-300 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Total | 469 | 100% |

Ageing and sex

Little ageing data was available from cattle, pig and sheep/goat tooth wear evidence (Table 4).

Slightly worn-down cattle premolar and molar indicated a juvenile individual (fill 408, ditch 409). Tooth wear evidence of horse worn-down premolars and molar indicate an adult beast (fill 410, ring ditch 417). A fragment of sheep/goat mandible with premolar and molars, indicate an animal 1-2 years old (fill 1210, pit 1212).

Table 4: Ageing data after teeth eruption

| Fill/cut | Species | Age |
|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 408/409 | Cattle | Juveniles |
| | Sheep/goat | Adults |
| 410/417 | Horse | Adults |
| 1210/1212 | Sheep/goat | Adults TWS D (12-24 months) |

In only one case can the sex of the animal be established; with the size of a sus canine indicating that this individual was an adult male (fill 1210, pit 212).

The horse bones and teeth ere from a mature working animal: measurable horse metacarpus (GL: 205mm). Using Kiesealter's index, estimated shoulder heights c1.28m. This individual was of small/medium height (lower fill 1114, pit 115).

A measurable sheep/goat metacarpus (GL: 112.5mm), gave an estimated shoulder heights of c0.55m (fill 1211, pit 1212).

Table 5: Minimal Number of Individuals (MNI) in the animal bone assemblage

| Common name | MNI |
|---------------|-----|
| Cattle | 2 |
| Horse | 2 |
| Pig | 1 |
| Sheep/Goat | 2 |
| Domestic fowl | 1 |
| Dog | 1 |
| Rodent | 1 |
| Common frog | 1 |

Discussion

The state of preservation for bone on the site was generally good, but the fragmentation was high. Many bones were smashed recently, but 92% of the assemblage could be identified to species. The assemblage is dominated by sheep/goat (18.7%) and cattle (16.7%) followed by a lower number of horse (11.7%). Remains of pig bones were relatively high for an Iron Age assemblage (6.7%). The dominance of sheep/goat and cattle is not unusual for this period (Table 5).

The dog gnawing was of relatively low frequency (1.9% of the total NISP). The presence of gnawing on bones suggests that they were left with access by dogs before being buried. This is an indicator that dogs were present on the site despite none of their bones being recorded in the faunal assemblage.

Evidence for burning was seen on some small bone fragments mostly from the sieved samples (less than 2% of the total NISP), suggesting that this was not a preferred method of disposal.

Conclusion

The range of species present is not unusual for Iron Age contexts. Cattle were the most important species in terms of food value on account of the much greater carcass weight in this period. There are anatomical similarities between sheep and goats, but in this case the ovicaprid remains almost certainly came from sheep.

Horse bones are also common at this period, with some of these coming from pit [1115], which is dated to the early 1st century AD. The horse remains were part of an adult animal, which suggests it was a working animal that had reached maturity.

The species present and their relative proportions appear to be typical for this period. The results showed a range of common domesticates with the dominance of sheep/goat and cattle, lower number of horse and pig being what is expected for an Iron Age landscape.

8.2 Environmental remains

Three soil samples, each of forty litres, were collected from: the fill (406) of ditch [409]; the fill (1104) of ring ditch [1105] and the fill (1114) of pit [1115]. The contexts selected for sampling were all dark soils, containing comminuted and evident smaller fragments of charcoal, as well as pottery and animal bone, and therefore deposits with the highest potential to contain other environmental material.

The soil samples were processed in a modified siraf tank fitted with a 500micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and analysed using a microscope (10x magnification) to establish the presence/absence, nature and preservation of ecofacts.

While all three samples produced small quantities of wood charcoal, no carbonised seeds were present.

The evidence suggests that preservation of charred seeds is generally poor, although this does not exclude the possibility of such remains occurring.

9 CONCLUSION

The evaluation confirmed the geophysical survey in identifying a band of archaeological features extending east-west across the middle of Field 1 (Fig 27, Trenches 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13). The archaeological remains are located on the top of a north-east facing slope.

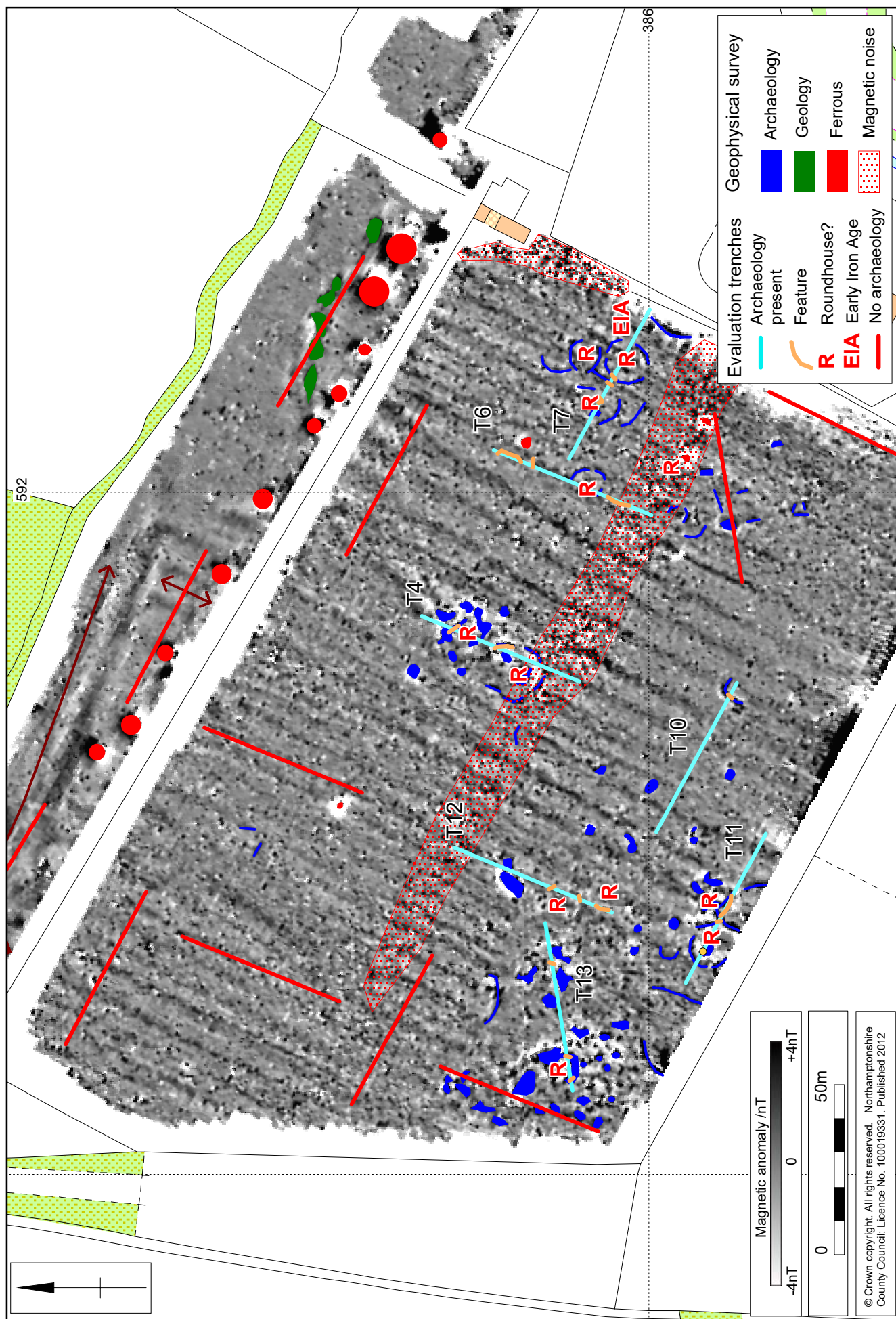
A single posthole in Trench 7 produced a small group of distinctive decorated pottery of the Early Iron Age, and may form part of an early settlement comprising only postholes and pits (Fig 27, T7, EIA).

The majority of the ditches and pits belong to the Middle/Late Iron Age, broadly the 4th to 1st centuries AD. The combination of the survey and evaluation results indicates that many of the curvilinear ditches are likely to be parts of roundhouse ring ditches, with at least twelve present within the survey area (Fig 27, R).

A single large pit in Trench 11 contained a mixed assemblage of Iron Age hand-built vessels and some burnished storage jars dating to the early decades of the 1st century AD. This suggests that at least some occupation or activity continued into the early 1st century AD, although there is no evidence from the evaluation to indicate that the roundhouses were still in use at this time.

Field 2 (Trenches 16 to 19) and Field 3 (Trench 20) contained no archaeological features.

The single trench (21) in Field 4, to the south, produced a pair of parallel gullies, possibly associated with recent field drainage.



Scale 1:1500 (A4)

Interpretative plan showing survey and evaluation results Fig 27

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NW-SE | | Surface height 129.34m aOD | Depth of natural 0.5m |
|-----------------|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 101 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.30m thick | — |
| 102 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.20m thick | — |
| 103 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |

| Trench 2 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m SW-NE | | Surface height 131.60m aOD | Depth of natural 0.5m |
|-----------------|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 201 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.30m thick | — |
| 202 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.20m thick | — |
| 203 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |

| Trench 3 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m SW-NE | | Surface height 129.45m aOD | Depth of natural 0.5m |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 301 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.28m thick | — |
| 302 | Subsoil | Light brown orange sandy clay | 0.20m thick | — |
| 303 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay and grey clay | — | — |

| Trench 4 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NE-SW | | Surface height 129.25m aOD | Depth of natural 0.45m |
|---------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 401 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.27m thick | — |
| 402 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.20m thick | — |
| 403 | Natural | Light orange to red brown sandy clay | — | — |
| 404 | Fill of 405 | Dark grey-brown silt clay. Small limestone fragments | 0.34m wide 0.11m deep | Iron Age pottery |
| 405 | Gully | U-shaped linear. Terminal at SE end | 0.34m wide 0.11m deep | — |
| 406 | Fill of 409 | Dark brown silt clay. Charcoal flecks, limestone fragments | 1.16m wide 0.31m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone. Sample 2 |
| 407 | Fill of 409 | Dark yellow-brown clay | 0.72m wide 0.09m deep | — |
| 408 | Fill of 409 | Dark brown silt clay, limestone fragments | 0.34m wide 0.10m deep | Iron age pottery. Animal bone |
| 409 | Ditch | V-shaped linear boundary/ ring ditch | 1.20m wide 0.40m deep | — |
| 410 | Fill of 417 | Mid-dark brown silt clay, charcoal flecks, burnt limestone | 0.56m wide 0.39m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 411 | Fill of 417 | Mid-mottled light brown clay | 0.60m wide 0.10m deep | — |
| 412 | Fill of 417 | Dark orange-brown silt clay, small stones | 0.27m wide 0.07m deep | — |
| 413 | Fill of 417 | Mid-brown silt clay, burnt clay charcoal | 0.48m wide 0.04m deep | Pottery |
| 414 | Fill of 417 | Mid grey-brown clay | 0.66m wide 0.18m deep | — |
| 415 | Fill of 417 | Brown silt clay | 0.58m wide 0.26m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 416 | Fill of 417 | Mid brown silt clay | 0.13m wide 0.22m deep | — |
| 417 | Ring ditch | Curvilinear, curving to NW. Steep sides to concave base | 0.96m wide 0.76m deep | — |

| Trench 5 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NW-SE | | Surface height 125.15 aOD | Depth of natural 0.8m |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 501 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.35m thick | — |
| 502 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.30m thick | — |
| 503 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay limestone | — | — |
| 504 | Natural | Red-brown silt clay | — | — |
| 505 | Layer | Hill wash | | — |

| Trench 6 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NE-SW | | Surface height 127.70m aOD | Depth of natural 0.46m |
|---------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 601 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.26m thick | — |
| 602 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.20m thick | — |
| 603 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay mixed with brash limestone | — | — |
| 604 | Fill of 605 | Grey-brown clay, charcoal limestone | 0.60m wide 0.19m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 605 | Gully | U-shaped curvilinear ring gully. Same as 607 | 0.60m wide 0.19m deep | — |
| 606 | Fill of 607 | Grey-brown clay charcoal limestone | 0.66m wide 0.21m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 607 | Gully | U-shaped curvilinear ring gully. Same as 605 | 0.66m wide 0.21m deep | — |
| 608 | Fill of 609 | Grey-brown clay charcoal limestone | 0.16m wide 0.10m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 609 | Gully | U-shaped curving ring gully | 0.16m wide 0.10m deep | — |
| 610 | Fill of 611 | Grey-brown clay occ charcoal limestone | 0.21m wide 0.10m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 611 | Gully | U-shaped irregular curvilinear drainage gully | 0.21m wide 0.10m deep | — |

| Trench 7 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NW-SE | | Surface height 126.80m aOD | Depth of natural 0.45m |
|---------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 701 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.34m thick | — |
| 702 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.10m thick | — |
| 703 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay mixed with brash limestone | — | — |
| 704 | Fill of 705 | Dark grey-black clay occasional charcoal | 0.30m wide 0.14m deep | Early Iron Age pottery |
| 705 | Posthole | Circular steep sides to flat base | 0.30m wide 0.14m deep | — |
| 706 | Fill of 707 | Dark grey clay | 0.25m wide 0.11m deep | — |
| 707 | Posthole | Circular steep sides to flat base | 0.25m wide 0.11m deep | — |
| 708 | Fill of 710 | Mid brown silt clay | 1.20m wide 0.24m deep | — |
| 709 | Fill of 710 | Brown-orange silt sandy clay | 1.0m wide 0.12m deep | — |
| 710 | Pit | Semi-circular sloping sides to flat base | 1.20m wide 0.33m deep | — |
| 711 | Fill of 712 | Mid brown clay small stones | 1.0m wide 0.29m deep | — |
| 712 | Ditch | N-S linear U-shaped sloping sides | 1.0m wide 0.29m deep | — |
| 713 | Fill of 714 | Light grey-brown sandy clay | 0.55m wide 0.12m deep | — |
| 714 | Gully | E-W linear sloping sides uneven base | 0.55m wide 0.12m deep | — |
| 715 | Fill of 716 | Dark brown-orange silt clay stone charcoal | 0.80m wide 0.40m deep | Iron Age pottery Animal bone |
| 716 | Ditch | U-shaped N-S linear flat base | 0.80m wide 0.40m deep | — |

| Trench 8 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NE-SW | | Surface height 126.55m aOD | Depth of natural 0.55m |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 801 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.35m thick | — |
| 802 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.20m thick | — |
| 803 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay | — | — |

| Trench 9 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m E-W | | Surface height 130.75m aOD | Depth of natural 0.55m |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 901 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.47m thick | — |
| 902 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.16m thick | — |
| 903 | Layer | Modern disturbance | 0.20m thick | — |
| 904 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay | — | — |

| Trench 10 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m E-W | | Surface height 133.65m aOD | Depth of natural 0.60m |
|----------------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1001 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.47m thick | — |
| 1002 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.11m thick | — |
| 1003 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |
| 1004 | Fill of 1005 | Dark grey-brown silt clay stone charcoal | 1.0m wide 0.80m deep | Iron age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1005 | Ditch | U-shaped N-S linear | 1.0m wide 0.80m deep | — |
| 1006 | Fill of 1007 | Light grey-brown sandy clay | 0.20m wide 0.10m deep | — |
| 1007 | Posthole | Circular shallow sides to flat base | 0.20m wide 0.10m deep | — |

| Trench 11 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m E-W | | Surface height 134.70m aOD | Depth of natural 0.55m |
|------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1101 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.32m thick | — |
| 1102 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.24m thick | — |
| 1103 | Natural | Light grey sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |
| 1104 | Fill of 1105 | Dark grey-brown clay small limestone & charcoal | 0.67m wide 0.27m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone. Sample 3 |
| 1105 | Gully | Curvilinear turns to north V-shaped to flat base | 0.67m wide 0.27m deep | — |
| 1106 | Fill of 1109 | Mid grey-brown silt clay | 1.50m wide 0.23m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1107 | Fill of 1109 | Light grey sandy clay limestone fragments | 1.17m wide 0.32m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1108 | Fill of 1109 | Mid grey-brown clay angular stone | 0.09m wide 0.80m deep | — |
| 1109 | Ditch | U-shaped N-S linear flat base | 1.80m wide 1.0m deep | — |
| 1110 | Fill of 1112 | Dark grey-brown clay loam frequent limestone fragments | 1.87m wide 0.42m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1111 | Fill of 1112 | Dark brown clay lenses occasional charcoal | 1.85m wide 0.34m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1112 | Pit | Sub-division of 1115 | — | — |
| 1113 | Fill of 1115 | Orange sandy clay limestone fragments | 0.78m wide 0.18m deep | — |
| 1114 | Fill of 1115 | Dark grey-brown clay moderate charcoal limestone | 1.45m wide 0.30m deep | Late Iron Age pottery. Animal bone. Sample 1. |
| 1115 | Pit | Sub-rectangular, Steep-sided (not fully excavated) | 1.45m wide >0.95m deep | — |

| Trench 12 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NW-SE | | Surface height 134.55m aOD | Depth of natural 0.45m |
|----------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1201 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.30m thick | — |
| 1202 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.15m thick | — |
| 1203 | Natural | Light grey sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |
| 1204 | Fill of 1205 | Light brown silt clay limestone | 0.38m wide 0.11m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1205 | Gully | N-S linear U-shaped to flat base. Terminal | 0.38m wide 0.11m deep | — |
| 1206 | Fill of 1207 | Dark grey-brown clay small stones limestone | 0.28m wide 0.20m deep | Iron Age pottery |
| 1207 | Posthole | Circular steep sides to flat base | 0.28m wide 0.20m deep | — |
| 1208 | Fill of 1209 | Mid grey-brown clay limestone fragments | 0.33m wide 0.12m deep | Iron Age pottery |
| 1209 | Ditch | Curvilinear NE-SW sloping sides concave base | 0.33m wide 0.12m deep | — |
| 1210 | Fill of 1212 | Dark brown silt clay small limestone fragments | 1.54m wide 0.20m deep | Animal bone |
| 1211 | Fill of 1212 | Mid brown clay small stones | 1.70m wide 0.31m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1212 | Pit | Semi-circular steep sides to narrow flat base | 1.70m wide 0.47m deep | — |
| 1213 | Fill of 1214 | Light brown silt clay limestone | 0.50m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1214 | Ditch | N-S linear steep sides flat base | 0.50m deep | — |

| Trench 13 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m SW-NE | | Surface height 136.35m aOD | Depth of natural 0.50m |
|----------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1301 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.30m deep | — |
| 1302 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.50m deep | — |
| 1303 | Natural | Brash limestone | — | — |
| 1304 | Fill of 1305 | Mid grey-brown clay | 0.20m wide 0.45m deep | — |
| 1305 | Posthole | Circular steep sides rounded base | 0.20m wide 0.45m deep | — |
| 1306 | Fill of 1307 | Grey-brown silt clay | 0.40m wide 0.35m deep | — |
| 1307 | Posthole cut | Circular steep sides rounded base | 0.40m wide 0.35m deep | — |
| 1308 | Fill of 1309 | Dark grey-brown clay limestone | 0.50m wide 0.15m deep | — |
| 1309 | Gully | SW linear shallow sides flat base | 0.50m wide 0.15m deep | — |
| 1310 | Fill of 1311 | Dark grey-brown clay | 0.40m wide 0.50m deep | — |
| 1311 | Posthole cut | Circular steep sides flat base | 0.40m wide 0.50m deep | — |
| 1312 | Fill of 1316 | Dark grey-brown clay limestone fragments | 2.42m wide 0.50m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1313 | Fill of 1316 | Mid brown silt clay small limestone | 1.08m wide 0.30m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1314 | Fill of 1316 | Dark brown clay Limestone charcoal flecks | 0.60m wide 0.11m deep | — |
| 1315 | Fill of 1316 | Mid brown clay Limestone fragments | 0.44m wide 0.23m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1316 | Ditch | Curvilinear turning N-S steep sides flat base. Cuts 1318 | 2.42m wide 0.99m deep | — |
| 1317 | Fill of 1318 | Mid brown silt clay limestone charcoal flecks | 0.58m wide 0.57m deep | Iron Age pottery. Animal bone |
| 1318 | Ditch | Curvilinear N-S. Cut by 1316 | 0.58m wide 0.57m deep | — |
| 1319 | Fill of 1320 | Dark brown clay mid- stone packing | 0.55m wide 0.18m deep | — |
| 1320 | Posthole | Circular steep sides flat base | 0.55m wide 0.18m deep | — |

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|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Trench 14 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m N-S | | Surface height 134.20m aOD | Depth of natural 0.55m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1401 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.40m deep | — |
| 1402 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.15m deep | — |
| 1403 | Natural | Grey sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |

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|------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Trench 15 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NW-SE | | Surface height 133.75m aOD | Depth of natural 0.60m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1501 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.30m deep | — |
| 1502 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.30m deep | — |
| 1503 | Natural | Light orange sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |

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|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Trench 16 | Dimensions 30m x 1.8m SW-NE | | Surface height 127.40m aOD | Depth of natural 0.80m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1601 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.25m deep | — |
| 1602 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.60m deep | — |
| 1603 | Natural | Grey sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |

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|------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Trench 17 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m SE-NW | | Surface height 125.65m aOD | Depth of natural 0.75m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1701 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.30m deep | — |
| 1702 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.45m deep | — |
| 1703 | Natural | Grey sandy clay | — | — |

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|------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Trench 18 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m SE-NW | | Surface height 124.05m aOD | Depth of natural 0.5m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1801 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.30m deep | — |
| 1802 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.20m deep | — |
| 1803 | Natural | Light grey-blue clay | — | — |

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|------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Trench 19 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m NW-SE | | Surface height 120.95m aOD | Depth of natural 0.70m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 1901 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.32m deep | — |
| 1902 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.38m deep | — |
| 1903 | Natural | Grey sandy clay mixed with orange sandy clay | — | — |

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|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Trench 20 | Dimensions 50m x 1.8m SW-NE | | Surface height 119.75m aOD | Depth of natural 0.50m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/Samples |
| 2001 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.25m deep | — |
| 2002 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.30m deep | — |
| 2003 | Natural | Grey sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |

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|-----------------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Trench 21 | Dimensions 30m x 1.8m S-N | | Surface height 125.70m aOD | Depth of natural 0.70m |
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Context type</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Dimensions</i> | <i>Artefacts/Samples</i> |
| 2101 | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown clay loam | 0.27m deep | — |
| 2102 | Subsoil | Light brown-orange sandy clay | 0.20m to 0.80m deep | — |
| 2103 | Natural | Orange sandy clay and brash limestone | — | — |
| 2104 | Fill of 2105 | Dark grey-brown silt clay | 1.30m wide 0.22m deep | — |
| 2105 | Gully | Aligned E-W, U- shaped irregular base | 1.30m wide 0.22m deep | — |



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