Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Graze Hill Bedford, Bedfordshire April – May 2019

Report No. 19/63

Author: Paul Sharrock

Illustrator: Carla Ardis

Project Manager: Paul Thompson
Site Code: BEDFM 2019.42
NGR: TL 05888 53666

MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ 01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Graze Hill Bedford, Bedfordshire April – May 2019

Accession number: BEDFM 2019.42

Report No. 19/63

Project Manager: Paul Thompson

Quality control and sign off**:**

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	27/06/2019	C Chinnock	C Finn	P Thompson	Draft for client review
2	25/07/2019	P Thompson	C Finn	R Atkins	Draft for review following comments

Author: Paul Sharrock

Illustrator: Carla Ardis

Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager:	Paul Thompson HND BA AMA PCIfA
Text:	Paul Sharrock BA MA
Fieldwork:	Paul Sharrock
	Adam Douthwaite BA MA
	Paige Savage BA
	Rob Pearce MA
	Gareth Carmichel BA
	Anna Rojek BA
	Olwyn Moyne BA MSc
	Simon Williams MSc
Flint	Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc PhD
Pottery:	Paul Blinkhorn B Tech
Glass:	Claire Finn BA MA PhD
Ceramic building material:	Rob Atkins BSocSc DipArch MCIfA
Other finds:	Tora Hylton
Animal Bone:	Sander Aerts BA MA
Environmental Analysis:	Sander Aerts
Illustrations:	Carla Ardis MA PhD

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS No: molanort1-357310**	
Project title	Graze Hill, Bedford	
MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out a trial trench evaluation on land at Graze Hill, Bedford, Bedfordshire, in advance of residential development. Thirty-three trenches were excavated. Archaeological remains included one possible Iron Age ditch, a Saxon pit, several medieval ditches and 19th-century brick kiln. In addition, three ditches and a pit of unidentified date were recorded. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation on the site was limited to only surviving in a couple of places. Due to the presence of a steep hill in the east and stream in the west the low ground has accumulated build-up of both alluvium and colluvium on the low ground.		
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Perry 2018)	
Current land use	Agriculture	
Development type	Housing	
Future work	Not known	
Monument type/period	Iron Age ditch, Saxon pit, medieval ditches and pits, post-med brick works	
Significant finds	Pottery, bricks, tile, glass	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Graze Hill, Bedford, Bedfordshire	
OS coordinates	TL 05888 53666	
Area (sq m/ha)	*c*18ha	
Height aOD	*c*40m - *c*65m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA	
Project Brief originator	Bedford Borough Senior Archaeologist	
Project Design originator	BSA Heritage	
Project Director/ Manager	Paul Thompson	
Project Supervisor	Paul Sharrock	
Sponsor or funding body	Rosconn Strategic Land	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date (dd-mm-yyyy)	29-04-2019	
End date (dd-mm-yyyy)	30-05-2019	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Bedford Museums BEDFM 2019.42	Pottery
Digital		report, photographs, survey data
Paper		site records, plans, sections
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Unpublished MOLA grey literature report	
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Graze Hill Bedford, Bedfordshire, April – May 2019	
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Report 19/63	
Author(s)	Paul Sharrock	
Page numbers	42	

Contents

Figures

Tables

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Graze Hill Bedford, Bedfordshire April – May 2019

ABSTRACT

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out a trial trench evaluation on land at Graze Hill, Bedford, Bedfordshire, in advance of residential development. Thirty-three trenches were excavated. Archaeological remains included one possible Iron Age ditch, a Saxon pit, several medieval ditches and a 19th-century brick kiln. In addition, three ditches and a pit of unidentified date were recorded. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation on the site was limited to only surviving in a couple of places. Due to the presence of a steep hill in the east and stream in the west the low ground has accumulated build-up of both alluvium and colluvium on the low ground.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Rosconn Strategic Land for archaeological evaluation on land at Graze Hill, Bedford (NGR TL 05888 53666, Fig 1). The archaeological work was carried out in advance of the proposed development of this land.

The evaluation requirement was outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2019) and was carried out in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

The archaeological works was undertaken in compliance with the instruction from the Bedford Borough Senior Archaeologist.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The development area is situated less than 80m to the north of Brickhill, Bedford. The site itself is rhomboid or diamond in shape. The eastern boundary is formed by Graze Hill (road), to the north and south is farmland and on the west is a housing estate. The site comprised three fields, divided by field boundaries composed of infrequent trees and hedgerows to the south and east. There is no site boundary to the north. The site is bounded by a small stream on its west side.

The total area of the site was *c*18ha. It rises from *c*40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-west corner to *c*65m aOD along the eastern border. The land was steeply sloping in the east, but levels out where the field lies closer to a watercourse in the west. A public right of way runs north-south alongside this watercourse with a footbridge giving pedestrian access.

The geology of the majority of the site is mapped as Peterborough Member – Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic Period (164-166 million years ago), in an environment dominated by shallow seas, with superficial deposits of Oadby member – Diamicton, formed in the Quaternary Period (up to 2 million years ago). These are glacigenic depositions (BGS 2019).

The overlying soils belong to the Hanslope Association: slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, and some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils (SSEW 1983). These soils were determined as lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage on the Soilscapes map (LandIS 2019).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The historical background has been extracted from the *Heritage Statement on Land at Graze Hill, Bedford* (Stephenson 2019). No designated heritage assets lie within or close to the site. The below text quotes numbers from the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (HER).

Prehistoric

The earliest find within 1km of the site and recorded on the HER is a Mesolithic flint core (HER 15884) recovered north-west of the site. A possible Mesolithic or Neolithic flint flake is also recorded (HER 15885) found immediately west of the site from fieldwalking. Further Neolithic flints have been found through fieldwalking in a field north-west of the site (HER 15907) but may be a duplicate of HER 15884. Bronze Age flints and medieval pottery were also recovered from this field. Neolithic or Bronze Age worked flints were also recovered from fieldwalking 500m east of the site (HER 15880). A Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead is recorded north of the site at Highfield Farm (HER 15997).

The HER records (15882 and 15908) a Neolithic flint being found during fieldwalking on the site however these records may be duplicates and refer to the same object.

Half a kilometre south-east of the site lies Mowsbury Hillfort (Scheduled Monument Number 1015588, HER 332), an Iron Age hillfort which was later re-used as a medieval moated site. Sample excavation took place in 1971 and 1972, and pottery found on the ramparts indicated an early Iron Age date.

A water pipeline route from 2008 (Stephenson 2019) confirmed an Iron Age date for cropmark features previously noted on aerial photographs almost a kilometre north-west of the site.

Late Iron Age and Roman

Two further areas of cropmarks suggestive of Iron Age or Roman rural settlement have been identified *c*100m (HER 16638) and 900m north (HER 21896) of the site.

Evaluation and excavation west of the site on land at North Brickhill, ahead of development in 2004, identified several phases of archaeology, from Iron Age through to early medieval (Edmondson 2008). Some of the areas were preserved *in situ*. However, investigated areas indicated early to middle Iron Age ditched enclosures as well as un-enclosed settlement activity. This work also revealed late Iron Age to Roman enclosure system and associated settlement evidence including a roundhouse. A later Roman field system including a drove way and an early medieval sunken floor building, pits and cremation burials were also excavated.

The line of a Roman road is thought to run immediately south and east of the site (HER 485). Actual road fabric has been found elsewhere, although the precise alignment is not known.

To the south-west of the site, fieldwalking has identified a concentration of Roman pottery and a single coin associated with dark soil; interpreted as a possible settlement site (HER 15879). The water pipeline north-east of the site also identified an area of Roman settlement (Stephenson 2019).

Medieval

As mentioned above Mowsbury Hillfort, half a kilometre south-east of the site was used as a moated site including two small fish ponds which lie within the hillfort ramparts. The medieval site has been identified with the Manor of Morinsbury, mentioned in various documents prior to 1465. The field containing the earthworks was called 'Morsebury' owned by the Goswick family in the 16th century. Another possible medieval moated site (HER 93) lies at Graze Hill Farm to the north of the site. Only a single arm of this feature now survives as a visible earthwork.

Post-medieval

The closest designated heritage asset is the 17th-century Grade II Listed Cleat Hill Farm house which lies *c*200m south east of the site (HER 3562). To the north of the site, at Graze Hill, lie three further Grade II Listed farmhouses of 16th and 17th century dates. Graze Hill House (HER 4288) lies 700m north of the site: Graze Hill Farm house lies to the north of Graze Hill House (HER 4289): Highfield House (HER 4287) lies to the west.

A Victorian brickworks (HER 3014) is present on the site also appearing on historic mapping lying in the centre of the site. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map dated 1902 shows one large and two small structures. Operation began in the 1880s and finished by 1917. On the Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1927 the brickworks are marked as disused. A site walkover (Stephenson 2019) in March showed "*no evidence whatsoever of the brickworks other than brick fragments in the area close to where it is marked on historic maps*".

A further 19th-century brickworks (HER 2521) lies 200m south-east of the site. Further Victorian brickyards are recorded further north of the site but are not detailed further due to their distance not informing the sites archaeological background.

The HER records other post-medieval features within the 1km study area surrounding the site including ancient woodland, a small formal garden, a rifle range and parkland located to the west.

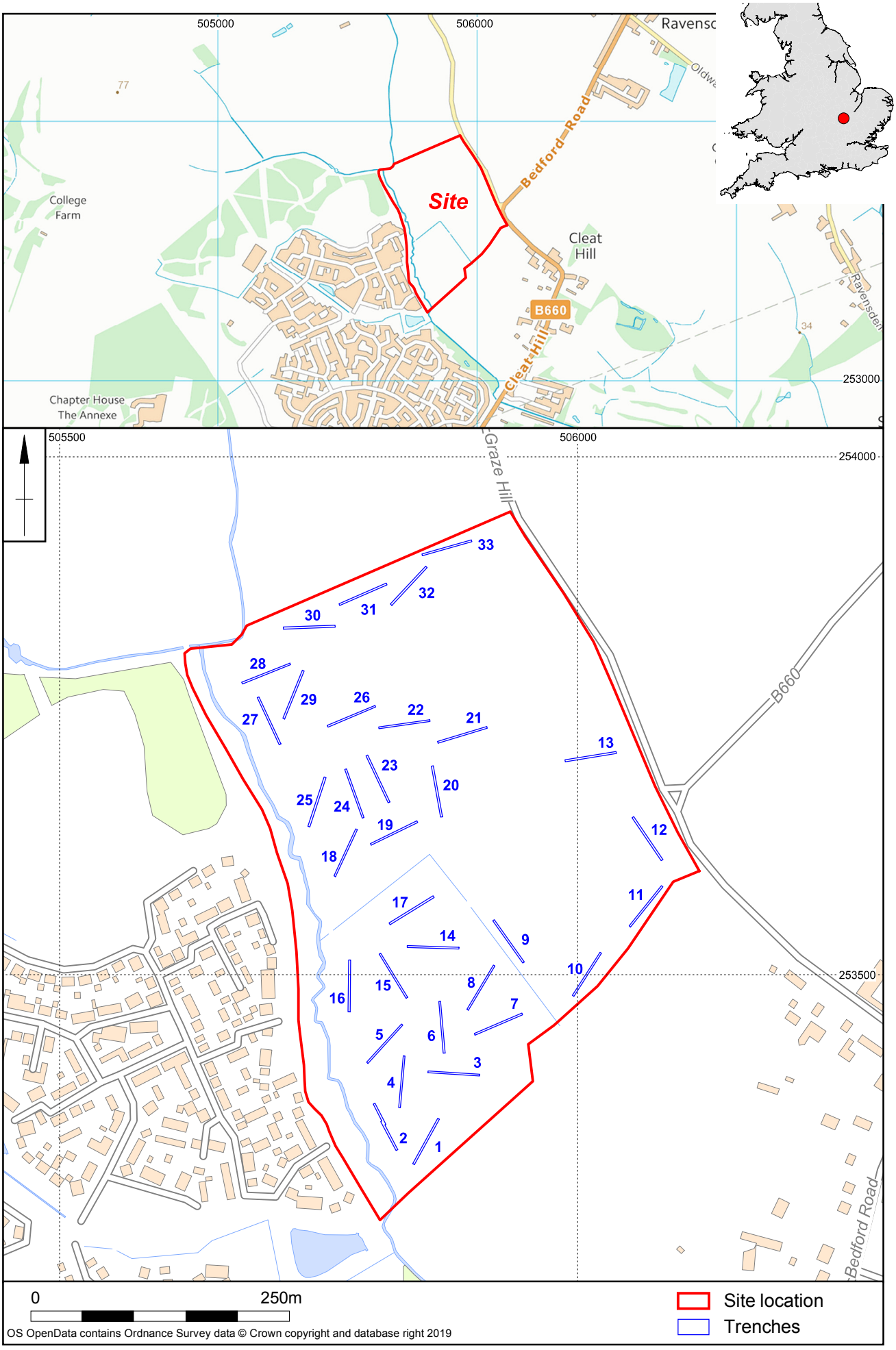
Previous geophysical survey

A geophysical magnetometer survey of the entire site was undertaken by SUMO in December 2018 (SUMO 2018). Disturbance within the centre of the site was interpreted as being due to the remains of the brickworks marked on historic mapping (Stephenson 2019).

A small number of responses were encountered that could potentially indicate the presence of earlier archaeological linear features, but these were obscured by magnetic disturbance present throughout the data set. This might have been due to the spreading of green waste which could have masked weaker responses. Other responses were interpreted as geological in nature or caused by fencing around the site or ferrous debris in the topsoil. Three linear responses correspond with field boundaries visible on 19th-century maps, while other linear anomalies are uncertain in nature.

The remains of former Victorian Brickworks (see above) were also visible on the ground surface, although no individual structures could be distinguished (Perry 2018).

BEDFM 2019 42



Scale 1:5000

Site and trenches location Fig 1

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project aims

The main objective of the trial trench evaluation was to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation specifically aimed to examine:

- the date, nature, significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within Bedfordshire;
- the potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions, including the presence/absence of palaeosols, palaeochannels, and old land surface soils/deposits, the character of deposits and their contents within negative features, and site formation processes generally;
- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains, and;
- any future excavation and/or mitigation strategy.

Following identification of the linear anomalies from the magnetometer survey, trenches were positioned to target areas of proposed archaeology, including trenches 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 16, 21, 23 and 24. Additional trenches were laid out to systematically target superficially blank areas and test their character.

3.2 Research framework

The results of the evaluation have the potential to contribute to national and regional research frameworks, as laid out in documents by Oake *et al* 2007, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003 and Medlycott 2011). Specific research objectives, and the way in which these were addressed by the evaluation, will be discussed further below in report section 7. Based on the historical and archaeological background of the surrounding area (see report section 2.2 above) the following research objectives were highlighted:

- The Iron Age to Roman transition, as well as rural settlement and its relation to cropmark evidence (cropmarks HER 16638 and HER 21896);
- Roman rural settlements and landscapes, and their relation to possible infrastructure (Roman road HER 485).;
- Medieval filed systems and enclosures (moated sites HER 332 and HER 93);
- Post-medieval to modern field systems and enclosures;
- Study of the post-medieval and modern industrial material culture (brickworks HER 3014 and HER 2521).

4 METHODOLOGY

The works were carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (MOLA 2019), as well as with national standards given by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014b), as well as the Historic England guidance document *MoRPHE* (HE 2015).

The easternmost side of the fields were not subject to archaeological trenching because of a proposed country park (details unknown) and further archaeological evaluation may be required in future phases.

A 1.65% sample of the 18ha development area was subjected to trial trench evaluation. This comprised 33 trenches, each 50m long and 1.8m wide (Fig 2). Trenches were positioned to provide a sample across the site in areas affected by the development and additionally targeting geophysical anomalies as agreed with the Bedford Borough Archaeologist. As the area subject to development was under crop, plant and MOLA team movement across the site was kept to a minimum during the archaeological evaluation work.

The trenches were accurately measured in using Leica Viva Survey Grade RTK GNSS using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of ± 0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. Machine excavation was undertaken under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. The trenches were excavated by machine fitted with a toothless bucket a minimum of 1.8m wide, to reveal archaeological remains or, where these are absent, undisturbed natural horizons. Alongside the character of deposits, particular attention was paid to the presence of palaeochannels, site formation processes and the presence or absence of palaeosols, especially where they may explain the anomalies seen on the geophysical survey.

Colluvial and alluvial deposits were removed by machine were necessary. However, excavation did proceed beyond safe working depths in Trenches 7, 8, 15, 21, 22 and 24 in order to clarify archaeological / natural geological horizon. These trenches were fenced off and no one was permitted within the deep trench areas. All other trenches did not exceed one metre in depth to maintain safe working depth. Once deep trenches had been viewed and agreed by the Senior Archaeological Officer (Planning) for Bedford Borough Council, backfilling proceeded to minimise any risks.

The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features unless it was certain that there were no archaeological remains present. All archaeological features were investigated unless otherwise agreed. Discrete features were half sectioned, and slots excavated through linear features were a minimum of 1m in width. The integrity of the archaeological record was maintained. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of the evaluation were fully recorded, and all paperwork and plans displayed the Accession Number for the site (**BEDFM 2019.42**). Recording followed standard fieldwork procedures (MOLA 2014). All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Archaeological features were plotted on trench plans at a scale of 1:50. Buildings, other significant remains or areas of complex stratigraphy were planned in greater detail at 1:20 or 1:10 scale as appropriate. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. All levels are related to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record was maintained by high resolution digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels. Overall shots of the site were taken prior to excavation and

after backfilling. Overall shots of each trench were taken together with detailed shots of individual features and feature groups as appropriate. All photographs, except general site shots or specific shots for publication have included a north arrow and suitable photographic scale.

Finds were collected from the individual deposits and appropriately packed and stored in stable conditions by context. Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (CIfA 2014c; Watkinson and Neal 1998). No unstratified animal bones or modern material was collected. Material that comprised a large quantity of a standard product (e.g. brick or tile) were retained as a sub-sample representing its typical composition.

Human remains were not encountered during the evaluation.

Two environmental samples were taken for analysis from suitable contexts (2505) and (1710) which were both deposits containing charcoal, following the guidance for sampling as outlined by Historic England (Campbell *et al* 2011; HE 2015), AEA (1995), Dobney *et al* (1992), and Murphy and Wiltshire (1994). The volume of both samples was 40 litres.

The field data has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

5 EXCAVATION RESULTS

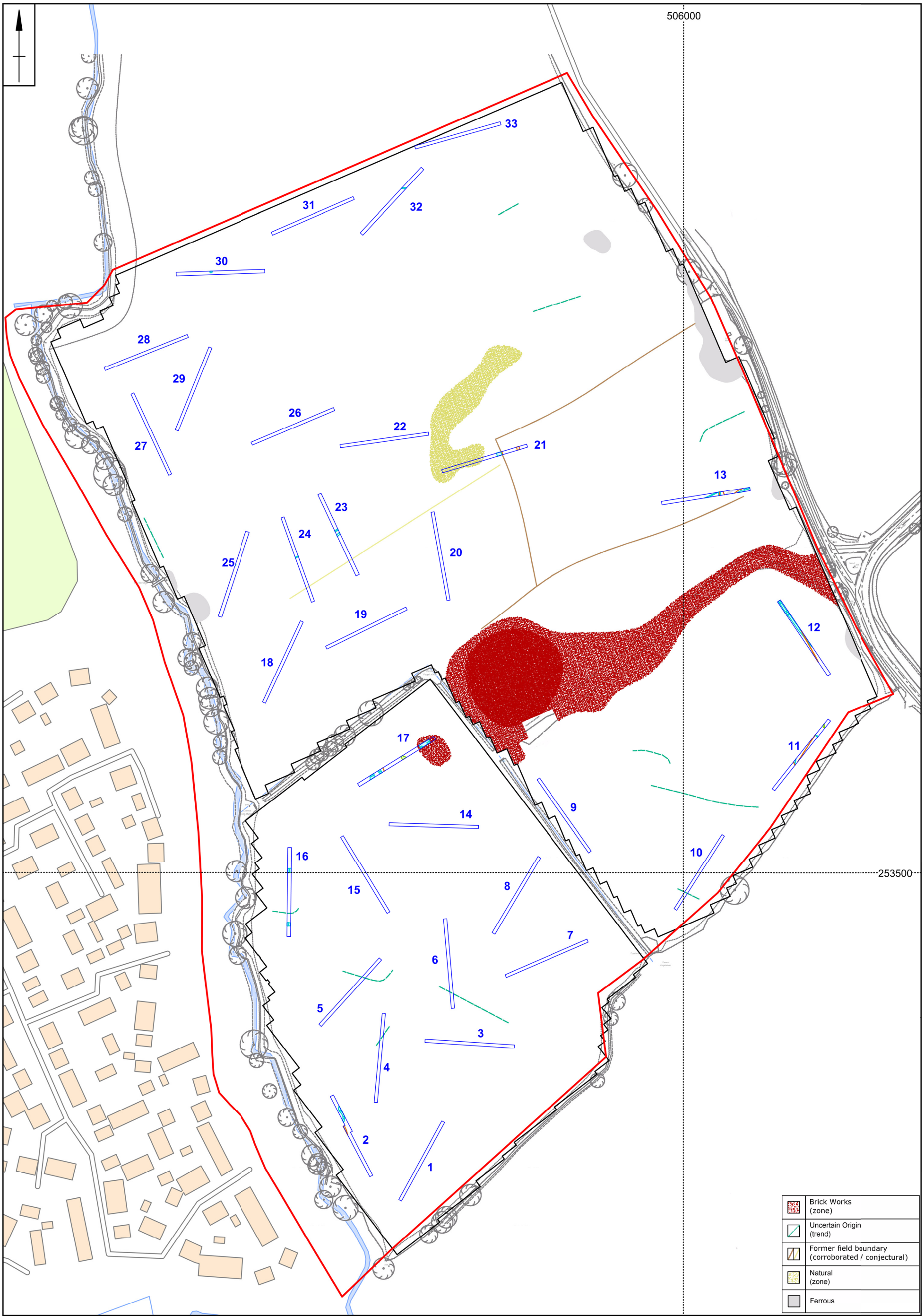
5.1 General stratigraphy

Stratigraphy varied considerably across the site with thinner layers of topsoil and subsoil located at the top of the hill with natural comprising yellow clay with a large quantity of chalk (Fig 4). More substantial subsoil and colluvial layers overlying a natural of orange-red sands and brown silty clays were encountered at the bottom of the hill. The area closest to the stream along the western edge of the site (Trenches 1,2,4,5 and 24) also shows a thin layer of alluvium (Fig 2 and 3) above yellow-grey clay natural for Trench 24 and a gravel natural for the rest indicating the area in the past had been subjected to frequent flooding.

East-facing section of Trench 2 showing topsoil, subsoil and colluvium Fig 2

West-facing section of Trench 24 showing topsoil, subsoil and alluvium Fig 3

Trench 13 located at the highest point on site, looking west Fig 4



Scale 1:2000 (A3)

All features plan and geophysical interpretation Fig 5

5.2 Neolithic

In Trench 30 a sub-circular pit [3005] was noted measuring 1.10m in diameter with steep sides (Fig 16). A complete depth was not able to be determined due to the depth of the trench. However, the pit was at least 0.37m deep. The fill, (3004) was a friable mid grey brown silty clay with rare stones and charcoal. A single flint blade was recovered with only slight depositional edge damage with its characteristics indicating a possible early Neolithic date (See section 6.1).

5.3 Iron Age

A single ditch [1709] located within Trench 17 was tentatively dated to the Iron Age based on the pottery found, although due to the poor condition of the fabric this date could not be determined with any certainty (Figs 6, 14; Fig 11, Section 10). The small linear ditch was aligned north-west to south-east measuring 2.32m wide and 0.52m deep with wide U-shaped profile and a concave base. The ditch contained three deposits with the pottery coming from the middle one. No other features of an Iron Age date were recovered from the site.

Trench 17, ditch [1709], looking north-east Fig 6

5.4 Early medieval

Saxon activity on the site was limited with only a single small pit [1211] being identified. It was located within Trench 12 at the easternmost edge on the high ground at the top of the hill (Fig 13). The pit was circular in shape with a diameter of 0.90m and a depth of 0.38m with moderately sloping sides and concave base (Fig 11, Section 9). Its single fill (1210) contained six sherds of Maxey Ware pottery (mid 7th-mid 9th century).

5.5 Medieval

The majority of the archaeology found on the Graze Hill site can be dated to the medieval period. Most of the activity focused at the top of the hill within Trenches 12 and 13 (Fig 13). Within Trench 12, ditch [1205] was present on a north-west to south-east alignment. This measured 0.70m wide and only 0.05m deep with shallow sides and concave base. Within its single fill (1204) a single pottery sherd was found dated to the 11th century. Two slightly later ditches, aligned north-east to south-west,

appeared to cut ditch [1205] although due to its shallow depth this relationship cannot be determined with any certainty. The dating evidence for one of the later ditches [1207] comprised two pottery shards dated to the 12th century, which would support this interpretation. Ditch [1207] measured 0.81m wide and 0.44m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base, with two 12th-century pottery sherds, including a bowl rim being recovered from its single fill (1206). Ditch [1209] measured 0.48m wide and 0.10m deep with moderate sloping sides and a flat/irregular base. Within Trench 13 a single north-south aligned ditch [1305] was found measuring 1.34m wide and 0.22m deep with sloping sides and concave base. Its single fill (1304) contained one sherd of 12th-century pottery (Fig 7). This ditch was then truncated by modern drainage.

Further evidence of medieval activity was found within Trench 25 where a small sub-circular pit or ditch terminus [2506] was located along its north-western edge (Fig 15, Fig 11, Section 17). This measured 2.06m wide and 0.43m deep with gentle sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill contained eleven sherds of pottery dated to the 12th century, including three rims from a jar, a bowl and a pitcher (2505). A small linear ditch [3204], aligned east-west, was found within Trench 32 (Fig 16). This measured 0.70m wide and 0.18m deep with sloping sides and a concave base and contained a single sherd of 11th-century pottery in fill (3203). One medieval pottery sherd was also found within the colluvial build up in Trench 15, (1503), although no features were present.

Trench 13, medieval ditch [1305], looking north Fig 7

5.6 Post-medieval

The remains of a 19th-century brick kiln, part of the larger brick works, was excavated within Trench 17. This revealed a circular feature with a diameter of 6.75m which corresponded with both the geophysical anomaly (Fig 2) and the presence of the structure on Bedfordshire Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1901 (Old Maps 2019). Excavation revealed sections of the brick kiln walls, floor and subsurface. Finds recovered included iron nails, glass, metal fragments and a large quantity of bricks,

likely related to the collapse of the structure but some may relate to the process of brick production (Fig 8, 9 and 14).

Trench 17, 19th-century brick kiln, looking south-west Fig 8

Trench 17, 19th-century brick kiln, looking south-east Fig 9

Furrows

Few remains of furrows were identified on the site, although they have been noted as having survived within Trench 13 ([1309] and [1313]) and 16 ([1605] and [1607]) on a north-east to south-west alignment. The furrows were around 2.20m wide and 0.06m in depth (Fig 10) although no finds were recovered with which to date them.

Trench 16, furrow [1605], looking south-west Fig 10

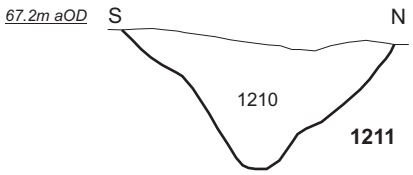
5.7 Modern

A number of former field boundaries were found during the evaluation, and these correspond with boundaries marked on the earliest Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the area from 1883 (Old Maps 2019). A former field boundary was seen in Trench 21, ditch [2106] located on a north-west to south-east alignment measuring 0.40m deep and 2.38m wide with sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (2105) contained four sherds of modern pottery. Another ditch, containing modern material, was found within Trench 13 [1311] on a similar north-east to south-west alignment and only a few meters to the north of the same boundary ditch after it turns (Figs 5, 13). This measured 0.75m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately sloping sides leading to a concave base and contained a modern pottery sherd and glass bottle. Another linear ditch appears within Trenches 23 [2307] and 24 [2406] which, while containing no dating evidence, has been cut from the topsoil. This was located on a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep with shallow U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 15).

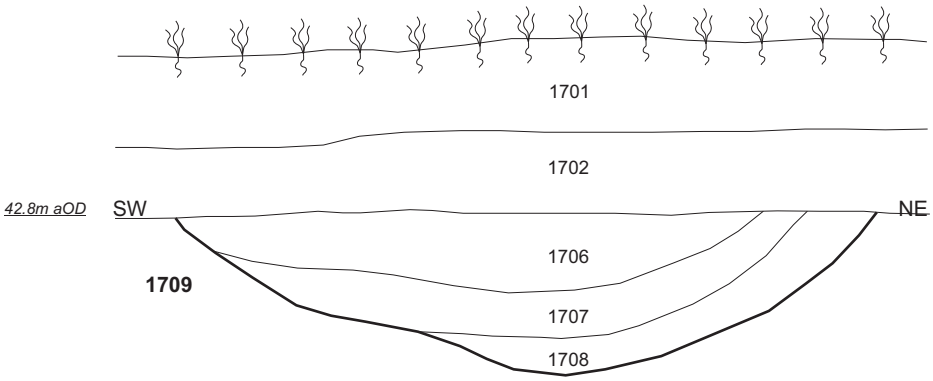
5.8 Undated features

Many of the features on site did not contain evidence with which to date them, although given the general character of the site it is likely that they relate to medieval activity. Within Trench 2 beneath the layer of alluvium was a slightly irregular ditch [206] on a north-to south alignment (Fig 12). The ditch, while containing no finds was distinctive enough to suggest that it was archaeological in nature rather than a natural depression with moderate sides and concave base measuring 0.77m wide and 0.30m deep. A second possible ditch was noted within Trench 17 on a north-east to south-west alignment [1705] (Figs 5 and 14). This measured 1.25m wide and 0.33m deep with moderate sides and an irregular base. An undated ditch was also located within Trench 23, 1.20m to the north-west of the modern ditch [2307]. This measured 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep with shallow U-shaped sides and a concave base.

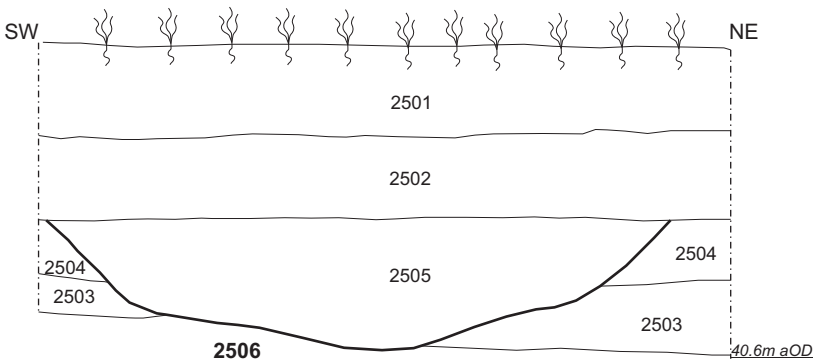
Section 9

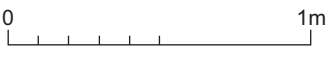


Section 10



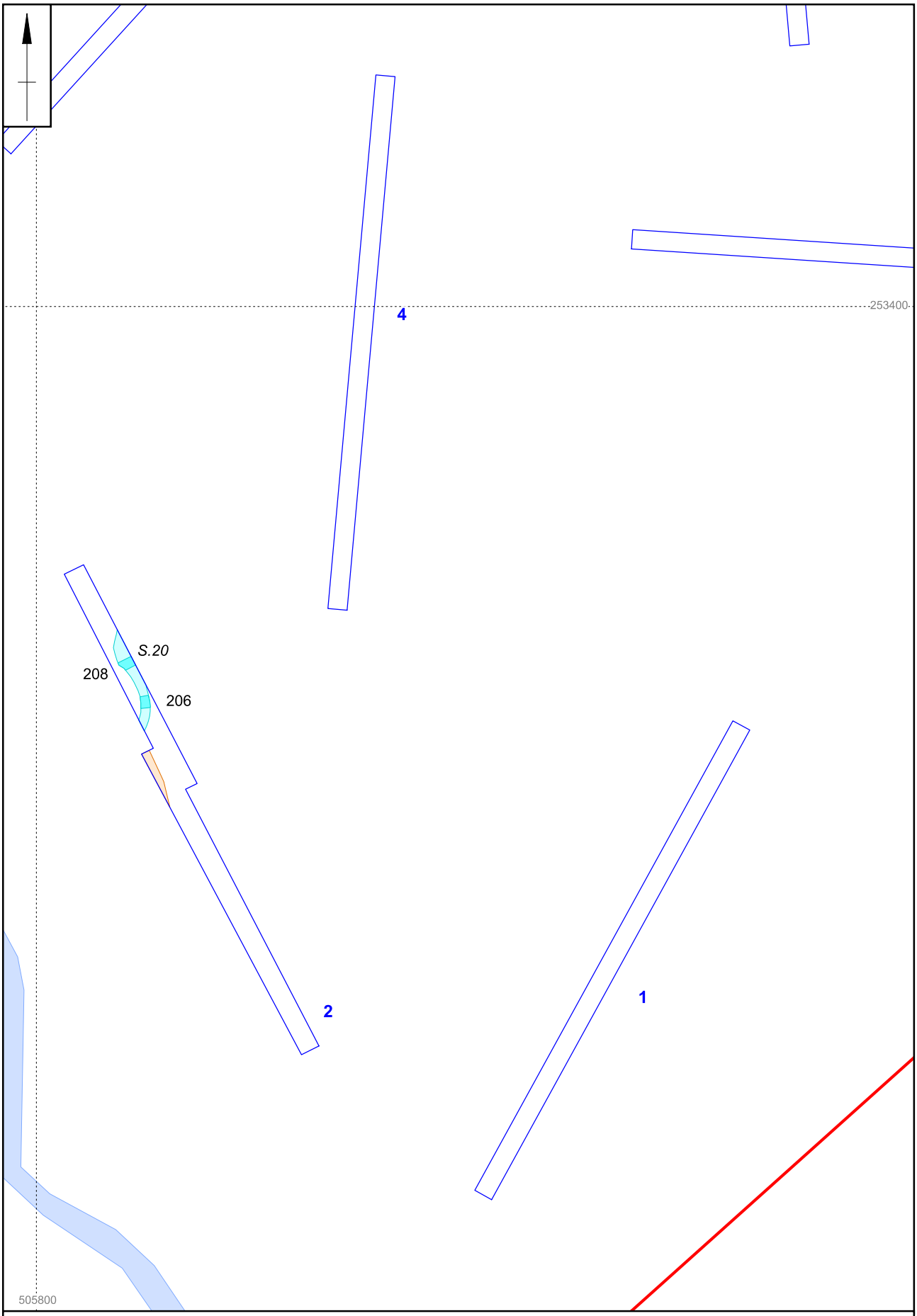
Section 17





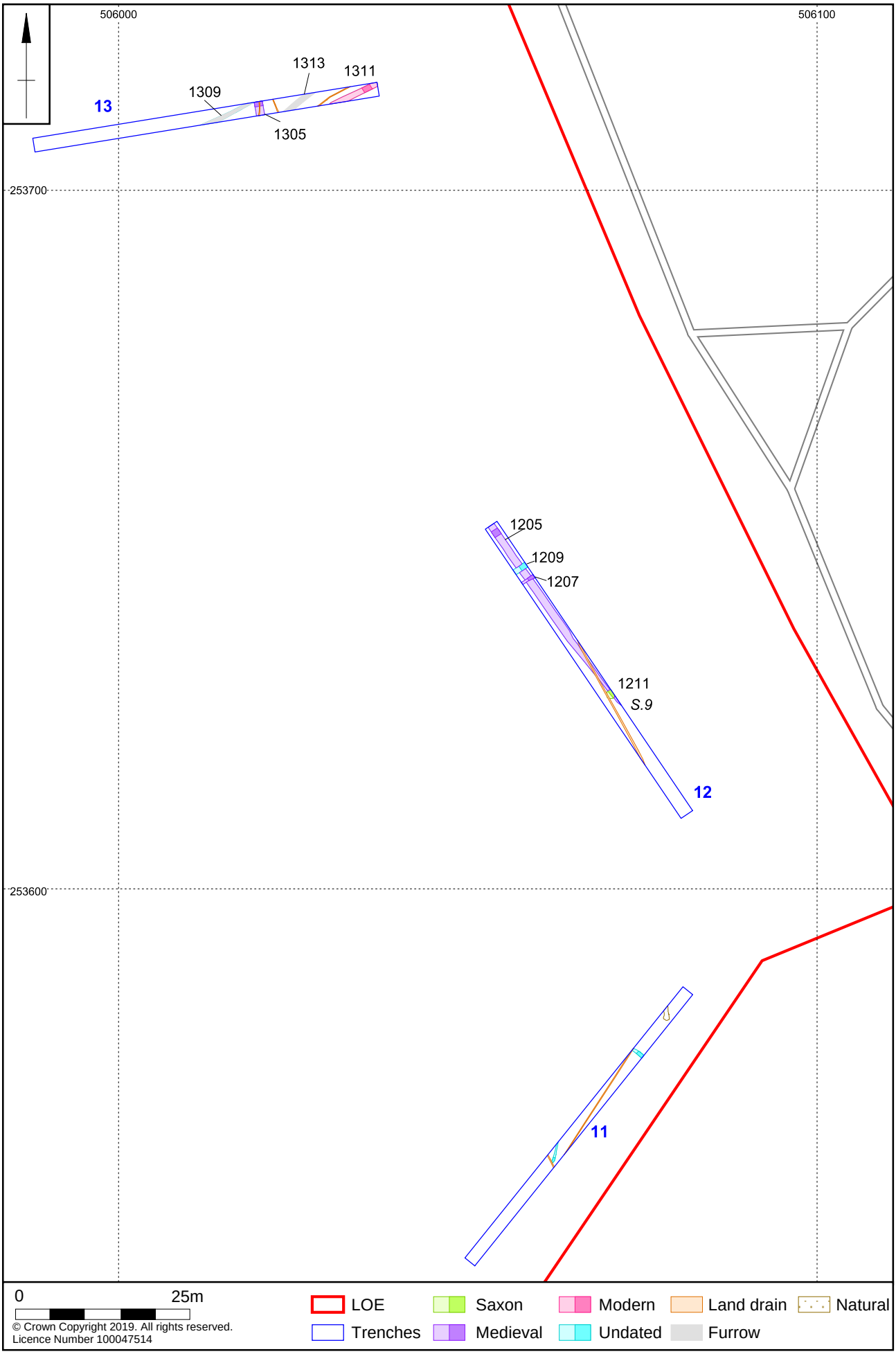
Scale 1:25

Sections 9, 10 and 17 Fig 11



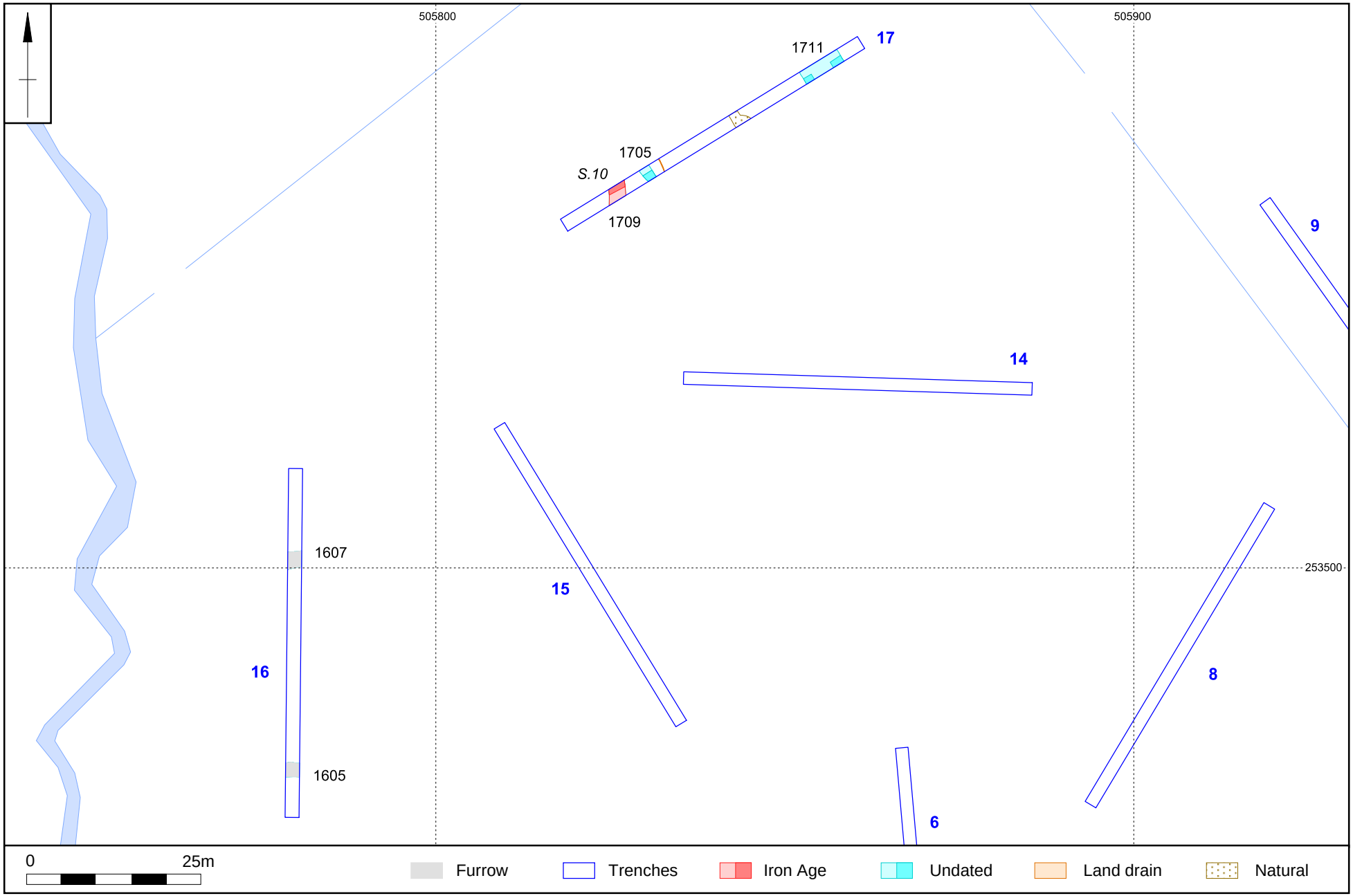
Scale 1: 500

Trenches 1, 2 and 4 Fig 12



Scale 1: 750

Trenches 11, 12 and 13 Fig 13

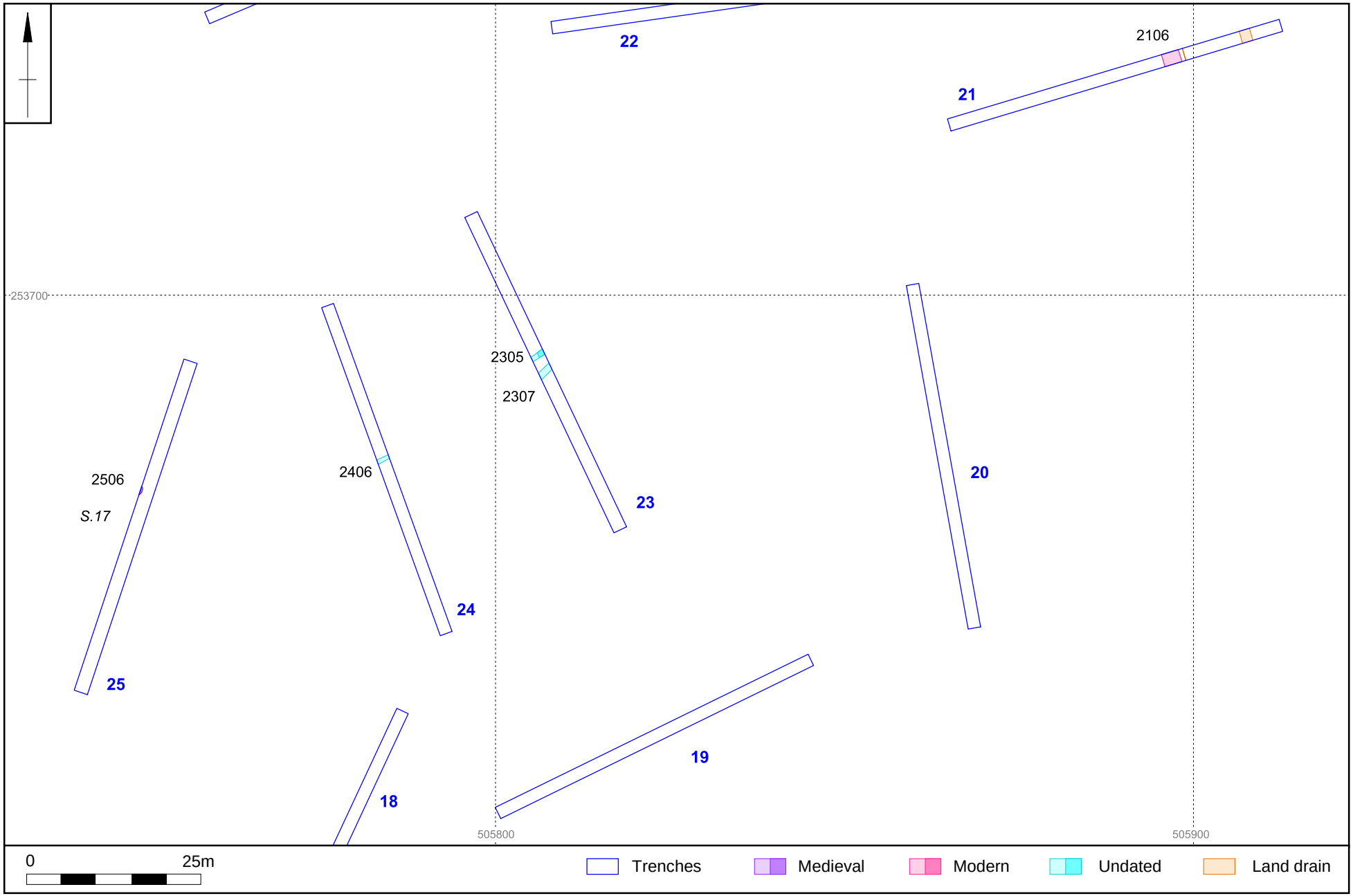


Scale 1:750 (A4)

Trenches 14, 15, 16 and 17 Fig 14

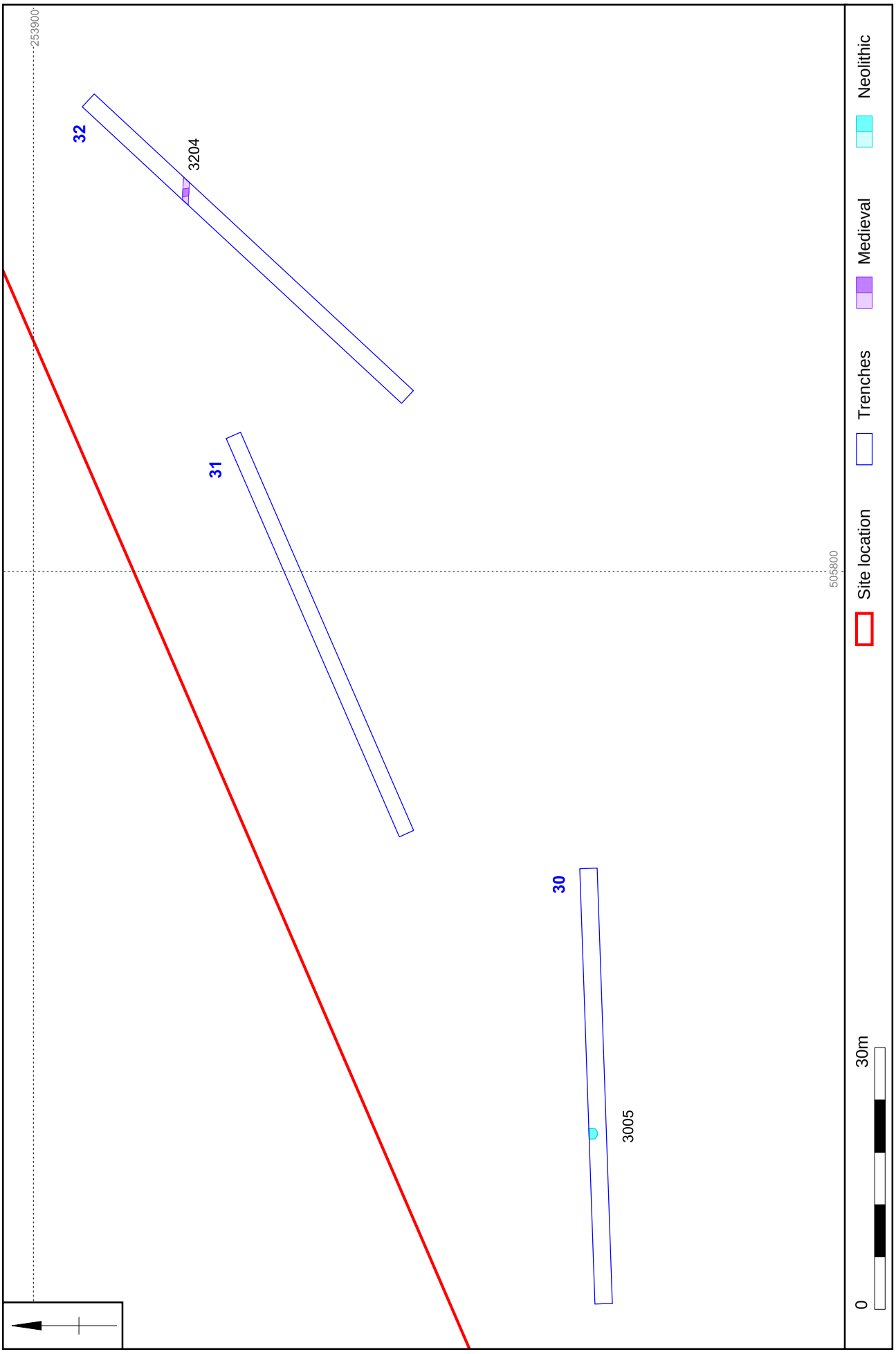
BEDFM 2019 42

Scale 1:750 (A4)



Trenches 21, 23, 24 and 25 Fig 15

BEDFM 2019 42



Scale 1:600 (A4)

Trenches 30, 31 and 32 Fig 16

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

One piece of worked flint was recovered from fill (3004) of pit [3005].

The soft hammer-struck blade measures 54mm long and 19mm wide and weighs 7.5g. The raw material is a dark brown-grey vitreous flint with a light brown cortex. The blade has a slight blue-white discolouration of the surface. The condition is good with slight post-depositional edge damage consisting of the occasional nick to the edge.

The characteristics of the worked flint indicate a possibly early Neolithic date. No further work is required.

6.2 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 39 sherds with a total weight of 666g. It consisted of middle Saxon, Saxo-Norman, medieval and modern material, along with some possible prehistoric sherds. It was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (e.g. Baker and Hassall 1979), as follows:

A11: **Maxey Ware**, mid-7th – mid 9th century. six sherds, 105g.

B01A: **T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware**, AD1000-1200. 10 sherds, 66g.

B07: **Medieval Shelly Ware**, AD1100-1400. six sherds, 83g.

C10: **Potterspury Ware**, mid-13th – 15th century. 1 sherd, 7g.

C12: **Stamford Ware**, AD900-1200. one sherd, 31g.

P48: **English Stoneware**, AD1750+. one sherd, 328g.

P56: **Mass-produced White Earthenware**, 19th – 20th century. sherds, g. seven sherds, 23g.

In addition, seven sherds (23g) of possible Iron Age pottery were noted. They are in extremely poor condition, being abraded, with all the calcareous inclusions leached out. They have been given this identification mostly because the post-Roman Shelly Wares are in far better condition, with their inclusions intact and are harder-fired. The identification should be regarded as tentative. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. The assemblage mostly consists of plain bodysherds, although a jar rim in B01A, a bowl rim in B07 and a pitcher rim in C12 all occurred in context (2505). Another bowl rim in B07 occurred in context (1206). The single sherd of P48 was a complete ink bottle of 19th or early 20th-century date

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	IA		A11		B01A		C10		C12		B07		P48		P56		
Context	**Number**	**Weight**	**Number**	**Weight**	**Number**	**Weight**	**Number**	**Weight**	**Number**	**Weight**	**Number**	**Weight**	**Number**	**Weight**	**Number**	**Weight**	**Date**
U/S Tr 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	-	-	2	17	U/S
402	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	MOD
1204	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11thC
1206	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16	-	-	-	-	12thC
1210	-	-	6	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	MSAX
1304	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	12thC
1310	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	328	-	-	MOD
1503	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M13thC
1707	7	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	IA??
2105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	MOD
2505	-	-	-	-	8	55	-	-	1	31	2	35	-	-	-	-	12thC
3203	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11thC
Total	**7**	**23**	**6**	**105**	**10**	**66**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**31**	**6**	**83**	**1**	**328**	**7**	**23**	**-**

6.3 The glass by Claire Finn

Eight glass artefacts, totalling 474g, were recovered from Graze Hill. Seven fragments of glass came from the fill of the brick structure (1710). The seven fragments together weighed 56.4g. One piece came from a modern olive glass wine bottle. The other six shards were colourless and were all body sherds from a variety of modern bottles. Two pieces had remnants of embossing but nothing diagnostic could be determined.

From modern ditch [1311] (1310), a complete bottle was recovered. This weighed 418g and was 218mm tall. The bottle, which was of colourless glass with a faint corn tint, was machine made in a cup-bottom mould and finished with a crown lip. The base of the bottle is marked with an emblem of two Rs back to back, and an 'S' and '4797', the batch number. The heel of the bottle is embossed with the company name TRING RODWELLS LTD. This refers to the brewery and later mineral water manufacturer in Tring, which operated out of premises at Akeman Street under the name *Batchelor and Rodwell* from about 1894-1898, before later becoming just *Rodwell's* (Brewery History 2018). The company ceased brewing 1923. This bottle probably dates from the first decade of the 20th century.

The material can be discarded.

6.4 Ceramic building material (CBM) by Rob Atkins

A single roof tile fragment (49.8g) from context (3203) is probably late medieval to early post-medieval in date.

Five very small undiagnostic fragments (16g) of fired clay or brick were found in context (2405). All CBM material can be discarded.

Brick sample (1713). Four-part bricks were recovered:

1) A near complete brick weighing (2840g) is in a light orange sandy fabric fully oxidised. It measures 9" (225mm) by 4¼" (110mm) by 2½" (65mm). There are marks from excess clay being removed from the top of the brick whilst in a mould. Near vertical arises. Well made. Lime mortar attached. 18th to mid-19th century.
2) A brick fragment (920g) in a bright orange to red sand fabric fully oxidised. Some small flint inclusions up to 12mm long. Some very small internal voids. 2½" (65mm) thick. Late 17th to early 19th century.
3) A brick fragment (1269g) which has a thin orange surface but reduced grey interior. Some very small internal voids. 4" (105mm) width and 2¾" (70mm) thick. Near vertical arises, fairly well made. 18th to mid-19th century.
4) About half of a modern machine-made Fletton-type brick (1536g). Late 19th to 20th century.

The material can be discarded.

6.5 Other finds by Tora Hylton

In total four Roman and post-medieval small finds were recovered during fieldwork at Graze Hill, Bedford. The earliest datable find is a Roman seal box lid <S2>, it was recovered from topsoil deposits in the vicinity of Trench 21. The seal box lid is damaged and the upper surface displays signs of excessive erosion, making it difficult to clarify the decoration. The lid is round with a D-shaped cross-section and it represents Crummy's Type 2 (1987, 103), a style that dates from *c*AD100-300. Although barely perceptible, the decoration appears to take the form of a concentric motif comprising small crescent-shaped recesses. Seal boxes are currently thought to

be security items relating to trade, having been attached to satchels and bags (Andrews 2012).

Two iron nails and a forged bar <S3> were recovered from a deposit associated with a brick structure [1710]. The nails are complete and measure up to 108mm in length; one has a sub-circular head and the other a flat-head no wider than the shank. Both represent types that would have been used with wood; they would have been hammered in to the timber so that the head was flush with the surface. They are post-medieval/modern in date. The forged bar comprises a rectangular-sectioned shank, one end is slightly tapered and the other is forged at right-angles, it possibly represents part of a wall-hook or angle-tie.

Small Finds Catalogue

SF 2 Seal-box lid, copper alloy. Incomplete, damaged and base missing. Cast lid, round in form with a D-shaped in cross-section; damaged hinge fitting protrudes from one side. The top of the lid is decorated with a concentric motif of small crescent-shaped recesses surrounded by a marginal groove. The reverse of the lid is flat and undecorated. Diameter: 25.5mm H: 6.07mm Length: *c*32.6mm, Unstratified.

SF3 Forged bar and nails x 2, iron.

i) Bar, iron. Incomplete, rectangular-sectioned shank, one end is tapered and the other is forged at right-angles. L: 124mm

ii) Complete nail with incomplete sub-circular head and square-sectioned shank tapered to a point. L: 56mm, Context 1710

iii) Complete nail with no distinct head, tapered rectangular-sectioned shank. L:108mm Context 1710

6.6 Environmental analysis by Sander Aerts

Two environmental soil samples were processed and analysed at MOLA Northampton to assess the palaeo-environmental assemblage. The remains were retrieved via bulk flotation, identifications were aided by a binocular microscope with a maximum magnification of 40X.

Table 2: Summary of paleoenvironmental material

Sample	**1**	**2**	
Fill	**2505**	**1710**	
Cereal crops	-	-	
Triticum aestivum type	xx	-	
Grain indet.	xx	-	
Other plants	-	-	
Chenopodium album	X	-	
Persicaria sp.	X	-	
Large Poaceae	X	-	
Charcoal	-	-	
<2 mm	xxx	xxxx	
2-5 mm	xxx	xxxx	
5-10 mm	xxx	xxx	
10> mm	xx	xxx	*Key: X=1-3, XX=4-20, XXX=21-50, XXXX=50+*

Identifications have been summarised in Table 2. Pit fill (2505) produced a small assemblage comprising bread wheat type carbonised grains (Triticum aestsivum type) and a number of grains that were too distorted due to combustion for identification. These were associated with goosefoot seeds (Chenopodium album), a knotweed seed (Persicaria sp.) and large grass seeds (Poaceae). Ditch fill (1710) did not contain grains or seeds. Charcoal fragments were present in both fills.

No further work is required on this assemblage.

6.7 **Animal bone** by Sander Aerts

Trial trenching at Graze Hill produced a small assemblage of animal bone comprising 53 fragments. The animal bone was recorded using the NISP method (number of identified specimens), where identifications was attempted on all remains with diagnostic features. Unidentifiable animals remains were attributed to the categories of large mammal (cattle-sized), medium mammal (sheep-sized), small mammal (cat-sized and smaller), or unidentifiable mammal. Identifications per fill are given in Table 3.

The animal bone is poorly preserved, heavily fragmented and abraded. One cattle tooth fragment could be identified from fill (1206), as well as a cattle carpal/tarsal from fill (1304). Sheep/goat remains were retrieved from both environmental samples; one tooth fragment was present in fill (1710) and a pelvic fragment with cut marks from (2505). Commensals were present in the form of rodents and small mammal fragments that are most likely associated. The remainder of the assemblage was too fragmented for identification.

No further work is required on this assemblage.

*Table 3. NISP per context. Fill numbers with * indicate remains retrieved via sampling*

Fill	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Rodent	LM	MM	SM	UM
207	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1206	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
1210	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
1304	1	-	-	7	-	-	-
1704	-	-	-	3	-	-	4
1710*	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
2505*	-	1	3	-	3	10	9

7 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation within the proposed development area identified a number of remains dating potentially as early as the Neolithic through to the modern period.

The site was generally shown to have poor correlation with the geophysical survey results. The survey was able to locate both the modern field boundary ditches and the brick kiln remains; however, the other archaeological remains were visible through the survey. The ability of the survey to detect archaeological remains may have been hindered by the presence of both alluvium and colluvium at the base of the hill, and near the stream in the south western half of the site, with trenches being 1.03m deep in places. A number of short linear anomalies were highlighted within the geophysical survey; however, none corresponded with archaeological features within the trenches.

Prehistoric evidence was tentative and limited only to two possible features; a pit [3005] containing a single early Neolithic blade and an Iron Age ditch [1709]. Likewise, a single small pit [1211] containing early medieval pottery is the only feature dated to the Saxon period. Iron Age and Saxon activity however has been noted to the west of the site during the 2004 excavation (Stephenson 2019; Edmondson 2008) which may explain the small presence of material of this date on the site. A Roman seal-box lid was also found within the topsoil of Trench 21 although no Roman features were recorded within the area.

The bulk of the archaeological evidence comprised medieval ditches and a pit. Other than a cluster of features at the top of the hill towards the eastern boundary of the site, the activity is sparse and spread evenly across the site. A number of undated ditches found across the site and likely relate to this same period.

The partial excavation of the 19th-century brick kiln in Trench 17 within the centre of the area matches the cartographic evidence for site use (depicted on the 1901 Bedfordshire OS map). Former modern and post-medieval boundary ditches have also been identified, correlating with mapping from 1883 (Bedfordshire Ordnance Survey).

In relation to the specific research objectives set out at the beginning of the report (section 3.2) very little can be inferred from the prehistoric remains other than the presence of the Iron Age ditch. This likely formed part of a wider system related to the known cropmarks and settlement activity in the wider area. No Roman features were discovered so it is not possible discuss the Iron Age/Roman transition and the sites relation to know Roman field systems and infrastructure (Edmondson 2008 and HER 485). However, the Roman seal-box lid discovered in the topsoil of Trench 21 may have originated from the surrounding activity, becoming unstratified through later land use.

The remaining linear features on site likely form part of medieval and post-medieval field systems, based on the sparse layout and lack of related features. Finds dating to the medieval period were found in features found in Trenches 12 and 13, suggesting that activity was concentrated at this higher elevation. The limited amount of animal bone, indicating cattle, and pottery found ditches [1207] and [1305] may signify that the site sits away from settlement or other concentrated activity, although pottery was freshly broken, and settlement may lie nearby. A concentration of medieval remains was located alongside the watercourse at the sites western edge where the land flattens off at the base of the hill and this may reflect occupation (Trench 25).

Studies of central Bedfordshire during the medieval period suggest the presence of many dispersed settlements, which were loosely clustered, such as small hamlets and ‘ends’ as well as single farmsteads (Oake et al 2007). The presence of the nearby medieval moated sites of Mowsbury Hillfort, half a kilometre south-east and Graze Hill Farm (HER 93) to the north may also be linked with the activities being carried out on

or within the vicinity of the site as medieval moated sites are often associated with the creation of new farm land during 12th and 13th centuries (Oake et al 2007). The furrows on site point to arable cultivation of the land, although there are examples elsewhere in the area of ridge and furrow having succeeded earlier medieval activity (for example Broughton OAS Area 3, Milton Keynes (Atkins *et al* 2014)). Brown and Glazebrook (2000: 24) highlight the need for further study of medieval rural settlement patterns looking in particular at size, status and function. Due to the limited remains recovered within the study area indicating the likelihood of a peripheral role, it is unlikely to be possible to address this research aim further, although Trench 25 might prove a fruitful location for further work.

The late 19th-century brick kiln found in Trench 17 corresponded with a large anomaly and area of burning identified during the geophysical survey. The 'brick works' first shown in this location on the Ordnance Survey historic map of 1901 must have been constructed sometime after 1888 at which point the area was marked as empty field. The mapping indicates that the brick works comprised at least one kiln, a large pit and a T-shaped structure all sited to the north of an access track leading to Graze Hill. The sinuous route of track was also highlighted by geophysical readings (see Fig 5). The archaeological remains support the presence of structures on the site, and finds included a sample of brick, glass fragments, an iron bar and nails. The structure and clay pit lay to the north and north-east of the trenches, but Trench 17 intersected with the mapped kiln location.

The brick kiln remains on the present site are almost certainly related to a larger area of brick works sited about 400m away, to the south-east of Cleathill Farm. These earlier kilns are depicted on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of 1883, at which point at least two kilns and a number of rectangular structures are depicted in a sunken area labelled *Brick Field.* Both areas of brickworks are marked as *disused* by the 1926 Ordnance Survey map, although they are both still demarcated on maps until 1960 at which point the area around the larger brick works on Cleat Hill has become developed into several house plots.

The excavation of the brick kiln contributes to the research agenda section (Oake 2007) for the post-medieval and modern period, which proposes the study of the post-medieval and modern industrial material culture. Oake points out that brick making was a major industry in Bedfordshire yet 'little is known about the earlier phases of its development' and 'the impact it had on the landscape and buildings'. Some previous thematic studies have examined the resource of brick kilns in Bedfordshire (i.e. Cox 1979) but are now rather out of date.

Several farms on large estates had their own brick kilns also producing tiles and land drains for local use. This site clearly demonstrates that brick making was embedded in the rural or agricultural economy, possibly as a seasonal additional income. Oake (2007) points out that 'Locating and excavating some of the earlier sites is an important task that has yet to be tackled.'

As well as commenting on the structure of the kiln itself and possible products sampled from the surrounding brick debris, the presence of brick kilns also provide an insight into the development and growth of towns in the area, as described by Checkland: "The building trade were active in all areas of expansion, it is often possible to correlate regional burst of industrial growth with new housing. Moreover, the output of builders represented a very high proportion of new capital" (Checkland 1979, 165).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

AEA 1995 Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England, *Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology*, **2**, Association for Environmental Archaeology

Andrews, C, 2012 *Roman Seal-Boxes in Britain*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, **567**, Archaeopress

Atkins, R, Popescu, E, Rees, G and Stansbie, D 2014 *Broughton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire* Oxford Archaeology Monograph No.**22**.

Baker, E and Hassall, E, 1979 *The Pottery* in D Baker, E Baker, J Hassall and A Simco *Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977* Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal **13**, 147 - 239

BGS 2019, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, British Geological Survey, available at http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html, accessed 05/04/2019

Brewery History 2018, *William Rodwell,* available online at http://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=William_Rodwell, last accessed June 2019

Brown, N and Glazebrook, J, 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2 research agenda and strategy* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **8**

Campbell, G, Moffett, L, and Straker, V, 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition), Historic England

Checkland, S, 1979 *The rise of industrial society in England 1815-85,* Longman

CIfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014c *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Cox, A 1979 *Brickmaking: A History and Gazeteer (Survey of Bedfordshire),* Bedfordshire County Council

Crummy, N, 1983 *Roman Small Finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report, **2**

Dobney, K, Hall, A, Kenward, H, and Milles, A, 1992 A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology*, Circaea* **9/1**

Edmondson, G, 2008 *Land at North Brickhill, Bedford, Bedfordshire: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design,* Albion Archaeology, **2008/14**

Gurney, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **14**

HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*, Historic England

LandIS 2019, *Soilscapes Map*, Land Information System operated by Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute, available at http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/, accessed 05/04/2019

Medleycott M 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers, **24**

MHCLG 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual,* MOLA Northampton

MOLA 2019 *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Graze Hill, Bedford, Bedfordshire April 2019,* MOLA Northampton

Murphy, P L, and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994 *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*, English Heritage

Oake, M, Luke, M, Dawson, M, Edgeworth, M, Murphy, P, 2007 *Research and archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy,* Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph, **9**

Old Maps 2019, *Britain's most comprehensive historical map archive,* available at https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/506068/253293/12/100478 (Last accessed 24.06.2019)

Perry, J, 2018 *Land at Graze Hill, Bedford* SUMO report no: **14026**

SSEW 1983 *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 4, Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales

Stephenson, B, 2019 *Land at Graze Hill, Bedford Heritage Statement,* BSA Heritage

SUMO 2018 *Geophysical survey report for land at Graze Hill, Bedford,* Sumo survey report, **14026**

Watkinson, D, and Neal, V, 2001 *First Aid for Finds,* United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

MOLA

May 2019

Revised August 2019

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
1	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**40.82m**	**0.82m deep & 40.00m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
101	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.45m deep	
102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occ stones	0.42m deep	
103	Natural	Mid yellow / blue clay with patches of orange sandy gravel	-	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
2	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**41.07m**	**0.91m deep & 40.16m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
201	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam	0.27m deep	
202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occ stones	0.47m deep	
203	Natural	Mix of yellow / orange clay and gravel	-	
204	Layer (alluvium)	Dark grey silty clay alluvium build up caused due to proximity to nearby stream.	0.17m deep	
205	Fill of 206	Mid-dark grey brown silty clay with rare stones becoming more frequent towards the base. Likely silted up over time.	0.30m deep 0.77m wide	
206	Cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch on broadly north to south alignment with moderate sides and a concave base. Possible used for drainage.	0.30m deep 0.77m wide	
207	Fill of 208	Mid-dark grey brown silty clay with rare stones becoming more frequent towards the base. Likely silted up over time. Same as 205.	0.25m deep 1.26+m wide	
208	Cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch on broadly north to south alignment. Same as 206. Only partial profile but ditch appears to widen with similar moderate side but a wider flatter base.	0.25m deep 1.26m wide	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
3	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**42.14m**	**0.68m deep & 41.46m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
301	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam	0.35m deep	
302	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.13m deep	
303	Natural	Mix of yellow / orange clay and gravel	-	
304	Layer (alluvium)	Dark grey silty clay alluvium build up caused due to proximity to nearby stream.	0.20m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
4	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**41.66m**	**1.03m deep & 40.63m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
401	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam	0.35m deep	
402	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.33m deep	Modern pottery
403	Natural	Mix of yellow / orange gravel	-	
404	Layer (alluvium)	Dark grey silty clay alluvium build up caused due to proximity to nearby stream.	0.18m deep	
405	Layer (alluvium)	Second layer of alluvium, yellow brown silty clay	0.17m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
5	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**41.93m**	**0.75m deep 41.18m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
501	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.45m deep	
502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occ stones	0.10m deep	
503	Natural	Mix of yellow / orange clay and gravel	-	
504	Layer (alluvium)	Dark grey silty clay alluvium build up caused due to proximity to nearby stream.	0.20m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
6	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**42.71**	**0.85m deep & 41.86m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam	0.25m deep	
602	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay	0.60m deep	
603	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	-	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
7	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**44.64m**	**0.70m deep & 43.94m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam	0.25m deep	
702	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay	0.25m deep	
703	Natural	Orange / red sand	-	
704	Layer (colluvium)	Mid red/orange sandy silt located at the south-eastern most point of the trench	0.20m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
8	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**45.24**	**0.50m deep & 44.74m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam	0.25m deep	
802	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay	0.15m deep	
803	Natural	Orange / red sand	-	
804	Layer (colluvium)	Mid red/orange sandy silt located at the south-eastern most point of the trench	0.10m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
9	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**49.51m**	**0.42m deep & 49.09m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam	0.27m deep	
902	Subsoil	Mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.15m deep	
903	Natural	Mid yellow silty clay with patches of gravel and grey clay	-	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
10	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**54.30m**	**0.30m deep, (1.30m deep at SE end) & 54.00m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1001	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.20m deep	
1002	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.10m deep	
1003	Natural	Mid yellow brown clay	-	
1004	Layer (colluvium)	Mid red/orange sandy silt located at the south-eastern most point of the trench	1.00m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
11	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**64.49m**	**0.33m deep 64.16m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1101	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.23m deep	
1102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.10m deep	
1103	Natural	Yellow / brown silty clay	-	
1104	Fill of 1105	Friable mid brown silty clay with rare small stones charcoal flecks and chalk. Clear boundaries	0.18m deep 0.44m wide	
1105	Cut of ditch	Linear (SE-NW), moderate sides concave base	0.18m deep 0.44m wide	
1106	Fill of 1107	Friable mid brown silty clay with rare small stones, charcoal and chalk. Clear boundaries	0.20m deep 0.27m wide	
1107	Cut of ditch	Curvilinear N-S at section with steep sides, V shaped and cut by land drain. Possible plough scar as its turning before end of field.	0.20m deep 0.27m wide	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
12	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**67.13m**	**0.45m deep & 66.68m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1201	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.30m deep	

1202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.15m deep	
1203	Natural	Mid yellow brown clay	-	
1204	Fill of 1205	Mid yellow brown clay with dark grey silty clay mix. Common chalk	0.05m deep 0.70m wide	Pottery (11thC), CBM
1205	Cut of ditch	Linear (NW-SE) shallow sides, concave/irregular base	0.05m deep 0.70m wide	
1206	Fill of 1207	Mid grey yellow brown silty clay with common chalk	0.10m deep 0.48m wide	Pottery (12thC), A Bone
1207	Cut of ditch	Linear (NE-SW), mod sloping sides, flat / irregular base	0.10m deep 0.48m wide	
1208	Fill of 1209	Mid-dark brown grey silty clay with small pebbles and moderate chalk, some charcoal	0.44m deep 0.81m wide	
1209	Cut of ditch	Linear (E-W) near vertical sides, concave base	0.44m deep 0.81m wide	
1210	Fill of 1211	Mid dark brown grey silty clay with small pebbles, chalk and freq charcoal	0.38m deep 0.90m wide	Pottery (mid 7th – mid 9th century)
1211	Cut of pit	Suboval, near vertical sides, concave base. Cut by modern ditch and land drain	0.38m deep 0.90m wide	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
13	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**66.12m**	**0.56m deep & 65.56m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1301	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.33m deep	
1302	Subsoil	Light beige-brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions	0.23m deep	
1303	Natural	Mid yellow brown clay	-	
1304	Fill of 1305	Mid grey compact silty clay with moderate chalk, rare flint	0.22m deep 1.34m wide	Pottery (12thC)
1305	Cut of ditch	Linear NNE-SSW with sloping sides to concave base. Cut by land drain	0.22m deep 1.34m wide	
1306	Fill of 1307	Mid brown with red mottling, compact silty clay with infrequent chalk and small sub-angular stone	0.16m deep 0.98m deep	
1307	Cut of ditch	Oval, shallow sloping sides with concave base, cut by ditch 1305 and land drain	0.16m deep 0.98m deep	
1308	Fill of 1309	Mid brown compact clay with common chalk, infrequent pebbles.	0.15m deep 0.48m wide	
1309	Cut of furrow	Linear NE-SW, near vertical shallow sides with concave base	0.15m deep 0.48m wide	
1310	Fill of 1311	Modern ditch fill, dark black grey silty clay.	0.20m deep 0.75m wide	Modern pottery

1311	Cut of ditch	Modern ditch on similar alignment to furrows and parallel to old field boundary located a couple meters to the south	0.20m deep 0.75m wide	
1312	Fill of 1313	Mid brown compact clay with common chalk, infrequent pebbles.	0.60m wide	
1313	Cut of furrow	Linear NE-SW, not excavated	0.60m wide	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
14	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**44.37m**	**0.73m deep & 43.64m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1401	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
1402	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.30m deep	
1403	Natural	Yellow, orange and grey clay, orange sandy clay and orange gravel	-	
1404	Layer (Colluvium)	Deeper at the western end	0.18m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
15	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**42.74m**	**1.00m deep & 41.74m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1501	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
1502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay occ flint and pebbles	0.30m deep	
1503	Layer (colluvium)	Compact mid-dark brownish grey silty clay with occasion flint and manganese. Base of hill wash darker and finer	0.45m deep	Pottery (13thC)
1504	Natural	Mid orange silty gravel and patches of clay, very freq gravel and stones	-	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
16	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**42.23m**	**0.48m deep & 41.75m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1601	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.28m deep	

1602	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, occ stones and gravel with CBM and chalk	0.20m deep	
1603	Natural	Mid orange silty gravel and patches of clay, very freq gravel and stones	-	
1604	Fill of 1605	Mid brown grey silty clay occ flint, pebbles and chalk	0.15m deep 2.00m wide	
1605	Cut of furrow	Probable linear (NE-SW) with shallow wide U shaped and flat/uneven base. Most likely a furrow similar to 1607	0.15m deep 2.00m wide	
1606	Fill of 1606	Mid brown grey silty clay with occ flint pebbles and chalk	0.06m deep 2.20m wide	
1607	Cut of furrow	Linear furrow NE-SW, shallow with flattish base	0.06m deep 2.20m wide	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
17	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**44.17m**	**0.70m deep & 43.47m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1701	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.30m deep	
1702	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occ stones	0.40m deep	
1703	Natural	Mid orange brown sand and orangey white / yellow gravel plus blue clay	-	
1704	Fill of 1705	Friable, dark grey brown silty clay with freq small stones and flint, rare charcoal	0.33m deep 1.25m wide	
1705	Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW, moderate sides and irregular base	0.33m deep 1.25m wide	
1706	Fill of 1709	Upper fill. Light brown silty clay with occ charcoal and pebbles	0.26m deep 1.92m wide	
1707	Fill of 1709	Friable dark grey silty clay, moderate charcoal	0.22m deep 1.88m wide	Pottery (IA?)
1708	Fill of 1709	Lower fill, mid brown grey clay, occ charcoal	0.20m deep 1.40m wide	
1709	Cut of ditch	Linear NW-SE, wide U shaped profile concave to flat base	0.52m deep 2.32m wide	
1710	Fill of 1711	Mid to dark brown grey silty clay with common chalk, moderate charcoal and frequent brick demolition fragments	0.42m deep 2.00m wide	Brick
1711	Cut of pit	Unknown shape, geo shows large sub-oval feature but only partially visible in trench. Has irregular sides to brick lined base	0.42m deep 2.00m wide	
1712	Fill of kiln	Brick demolition fragments and brick surface of kiln structure	0.12m deep 0.80m wide	Brick
1713	Kiln	In-situ brickwork forming lowest courses of outer walls of the	0.12m deep 0.80m wide	

		kiln chamber and floor of chamber above another chamber (presumably firing chamber) seen through break in brickwork. Iron bars cross the brickwork of the floor		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
18	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**43.22m**	**0.40m deep & 42.82m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1801	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.40m deep	
1802	Natural	Mix of yellow / orange clay and gravel	-	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
19	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**45.21m**	**0.35m deep & 44.86**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1901	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
1902	Subsoil	Orange brown silty sand	0.10m deep	
1903	Natural	Orange / red sand at SE end and yellow brown clay in the NW	-	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
20	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**49.48m**	**0.30m deep & 49.18m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2001	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.30m deep	
2002	Natural	Mid brown yellow clay	-	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
21	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**53.38m**	**0.86m deep & 52.52m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2101	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.33m deep	
2102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.19m deep	

2103	Natural		-	
2104	Layer (colluvium)	Mid grey brown silty clay, occ stones and flint	0.34m deep	
2105	Fill of 2106	Mid grey brown with occ small stones, charcoal	0.40m deep 2.38m wide	Modern pottery
2106	Cut of ditch	Linear NW-SE with sloping sides to flattish base. Cut on eastern side by drain. Matches with old field boundary on geophysical survey	0.40m deep 2.38m wide	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
22	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**49.25m**	**0.50m deep & 48.75m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2201	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.28m deep	
2202	Subsoil	Mid reddish orange brown clayey silt with moderate stones and chalk	0.30m deep	
2203	Natural	Mid brown clay with freq chalk	-	
2204	Layer (colluvium)	Present in the north-east. Light to mid mixed greyish brown with frequent amounts of chalk flecks	0.30m deep	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
23	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**46.97m**	**0.93m deep & 43.03m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2301	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.36m deep	
2302	Subsoil	Mid brown clayey silt, moderate chalk	0.55m deep	
2303	Natural	Light brown with frequent chalk and gravels	-	
2304	Fill of 2305	Mid grey brown silty clay with infrequent chalk	0.20m deep 0.95m wide	
2305	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch (NE-SW) with shallow U sides and concave base	0.20m deep 0.95m wide	
2306	Fill of 2307	Dark grey silty clay with moderate	0.40m deep 1.10m wide	
2307	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch (NE-SW) shallow U shaped sides concave base	0.40m deep 1.10m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
24	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**45.65m**	**0.88m deep & 44.77m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2401	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
2402	Subsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam	0.15m deep	
2403	Layer (alluvium)	Dark grey silty clay alluvium build up caused due to proximity to nearby stream.	0.48m deep	
2404	Natural	Yellow blue clay in NW, orange silty sand in SE	0.19m deep 0.62m wide	
2405	Fill of 2405	Dark grey silty clay with occ stones	0.46m deep 0.80m wide	
2406	Cut of 2406	Linear NE-SW U shaped with steep side sand concave base	0.46m deep 0.80m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
25	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**43.70m**	**0.77m deep & 42.93m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2501	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.27m deep	
2502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occ stones	0.30m deep	
2503	Natural		-	
2504	Layer (alluvium)	Dark grey silty clay alluvium build up caused due to proximity to nearby stream.	0.20m deep	
2505	Fill of 2506	Mid to dark brown grey friable silty clay with occ chalk	0.43m deep 2.06m wide	Pottery (12thC)
2506	Cut of pit	Sub-circular, gentle sloping sides to flat base	0.43m deep 2.06m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
26	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**47.18m**	**0.35m deep & 46.83m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2601	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
2602	Subsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	0.10m deep	
2603	Natural	Yellow brown clay	-	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
27	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**44.52m**	**0.98m+ deep & <43.54m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2701	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.28m deep	
2702	Layer (alluvium)	Yellow brown silty clay	0.70m+ deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
28	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**45.18m**	**1.00m+ deep & <44.18m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2801	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.30m deep	
2802	Layer (alluvium)	Yellow brown silty clay	0.70m+ deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
29	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**45.18m**	**1.00m+ deep & <44.18m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2901	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.30m deep	
2902	Layer (alluvium)	Yellow brown silty clay	0.70m+ deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
30	**50m x 1.8m E-W**		**46.79m**	**0.80m deep & 45.99m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
3001	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.22m deep	
3002	Natural	Mid brown yellow clay	-	
3003	Subsoil	Fir mid brown silty clay with small stones	0.58m deep	
3004	Fill of 3005	Friable mid grey brown silty clay with rare stones and charcoal	0.37m+ deep 1.10m dia	Flint
3005	Cut of pit	Sub-circular pit or ditch terminus (N-S if ditch). Base not found as below safe working depth.	0.37m+ deep 1.10m dia	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
31	**50m x 1.8m NE-NW**		**50.45m**	**0.25m deep & 50.20m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
3101	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
3102	Natural	Yellow brown clay	-	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
32	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**55.29m**	**0.25m deep & 55.04m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
3201	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
3202	Natural	Varying bans from NE-SW Brown chalky clay, red clay, yellow chalky clay, yellow blue clay.	-	
3203	Fill of 3204	Light grey brown friable sandy clay, common chalk	0.18m deep 0.70m wide	Pottery (11thC), Tile
3204	Cut of gully	Linear E-W, sloping sides to concave base	0.18m deep 0.70m wide	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height (aOD)**	**Depth & height of natural**
33	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**58.50m**	**0.25m deep & 58.25m**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
3301	Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty loam with occ stones	0.25m deep	
3302	Natural	Yellow brown clay	-	

MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk