

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and
Sample Excavation at Barn Farm,
Weston by Welland, Northamptonshire**

NGR: SP 769913

Richard Huxley



Site Name: Barn Farm, Weston by Welland, Northamptonshire
Grid Ref: SP 769913
Author: Richard Huxley
Client: Mr. C. Parker
Planning Ref. KET/2019/0683
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Cover photo: Stripping of the site facing north-east.

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	Monument Type/Period	Post hole -Roman Post hole -Uncertain Stake hole-Modern Gully-Modern Gully-Medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery-Roman Pottery-Post-medieval Pottery-Medieval CBM-Medieval Flint-Bronze Age Iron-Modern Clay pipe-Post-medieval		
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An Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation at Barn Farm, Weston by Welland, Northamptonshire

Richard Huxley

Summary

The Strip Map and Sample Excavation at Barn Farm, Weston by Welland, Northamptonshire involved the stripping of an area ahead of a new barn. The farm is located at the site of a Roman marching camp and previous work has found the enclosure ditch, stake holes and pits. The stripped area was shallow and heavily disturbed with east to west orientated furrows and north to south orientated plough marks scarring the natural substratum. The furrows contained post-medieval pottery and the topsoil contained a mixture of post-medieval and medieval pottery. Despite the disturbance several features were found in the north-eastern corner and a concentration was found against the western edge. Several intermittently spaced post holes were found in the north-east along with the edge of a pit or gully which contained medieval pottery. The group close to the western edge was heavily disturbed and ploughing had incorporated fragments of clay pipe into the tops of features and natural substratum. Within the group there were also extremely shallow square or rectangular marks which were spaced 0.08-0.18m apart. These could be the shallow remains of stake holes however they had a similar orientation to the plough scars and could be disturbance from agricultural machinery such as a subsoiler. Amongst the truncation two post holes were found to be appropriately spaced and orientated to relate to the marching camp. One of the post holes contained an abraded sherd of mid-1st century pottery which is consistent with the suspected structures identified during previous excavations. Because of the ephemeral nature of the structures at marching camps, the potential mixture of remains and the high level of truncation it is not possible to be certain whether they are associated with the camp. The report will be archived under accession number ENN110027.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (MHCLG 2019) this document forms the report for a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation at Barn Farm, Weston by Welland (Figure 1). It details the programme of archaeological work that was undertaken in November 2020 and follows the strategy of work set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI; Thomas 2020).

The work has been commissioned by Mr C Parker and was undertaken in advance of the proposed development. It is intended to provide an appropriate mitigation strategy to record the heritage assets to be impacted on, based on the brief provided by Northamptonshire County Council. Previous work on the site has confirmed the presence of a Roman military marching camp, the only known example in Northamptonshire and a site of national significance (Harvey 2011, Browning 2012). Planning permission has been obtained for the construction of a steel-framed agricultural building; on a field off an access track and adjacent to existing agricultural buildings on the site KET/2019/0683 (Figure 3, p6).

Site Description, Topography and Geology

Barn Farm is located c5km northeast of Market Harborough, 0.8km west of Weston by Welland, 1km north of Sutton Bassett and 3km south-west of Medbourne (see Figure 1 and

Figure 2). The site is in an elevated position with the land dropping away steeply from 112m OD to 70m OD to the north, south and west towards the River Welland over 0.5km. The development area is relatively flat and consists of a ploughed field adjacent to the farmyard.

The underlying geology is made up of Whitby Mudstone Formation consisting of medium and dark grey fossiliferous mudstone and siltstone. The overlying geology consists of mid Pleistocene Till (Geology of Britain viewer (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/> Accessed 30th April 2012). (Harvey, 2011, Browning, 2012).



Figure 1: Location of the site.

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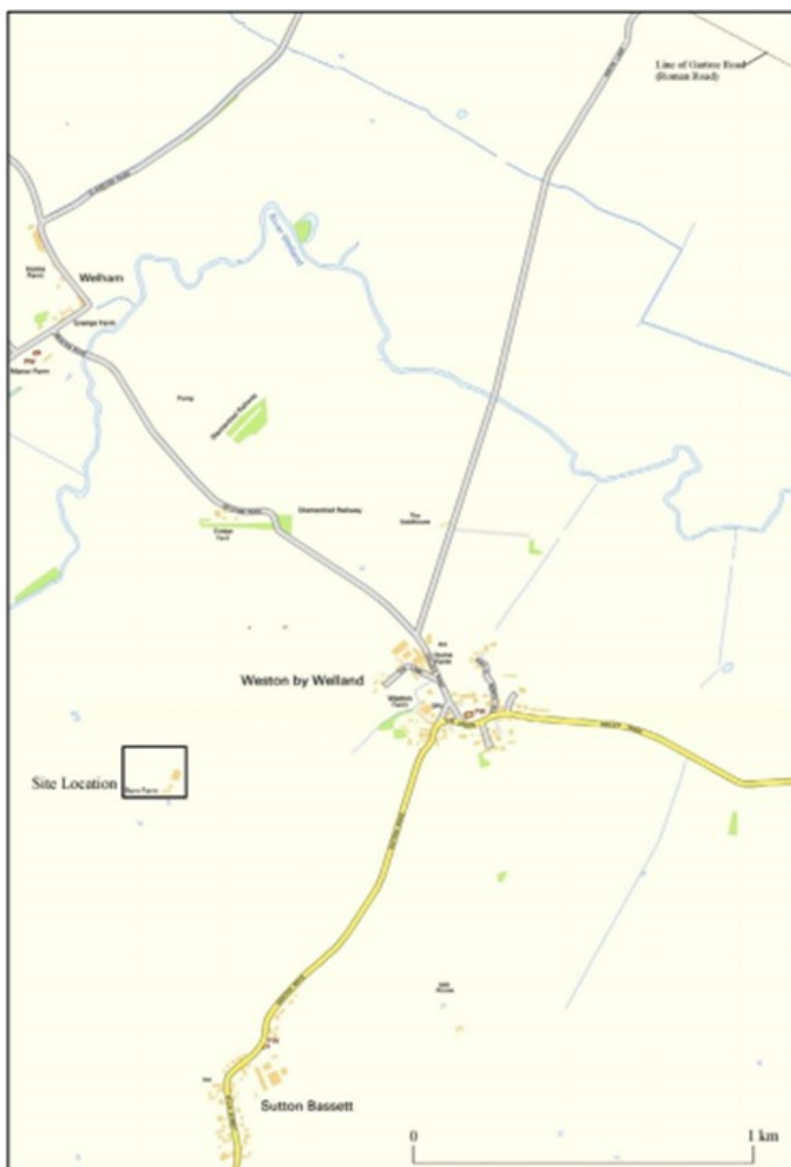


Figure 2: Site Location in relation to Weston by Welland).
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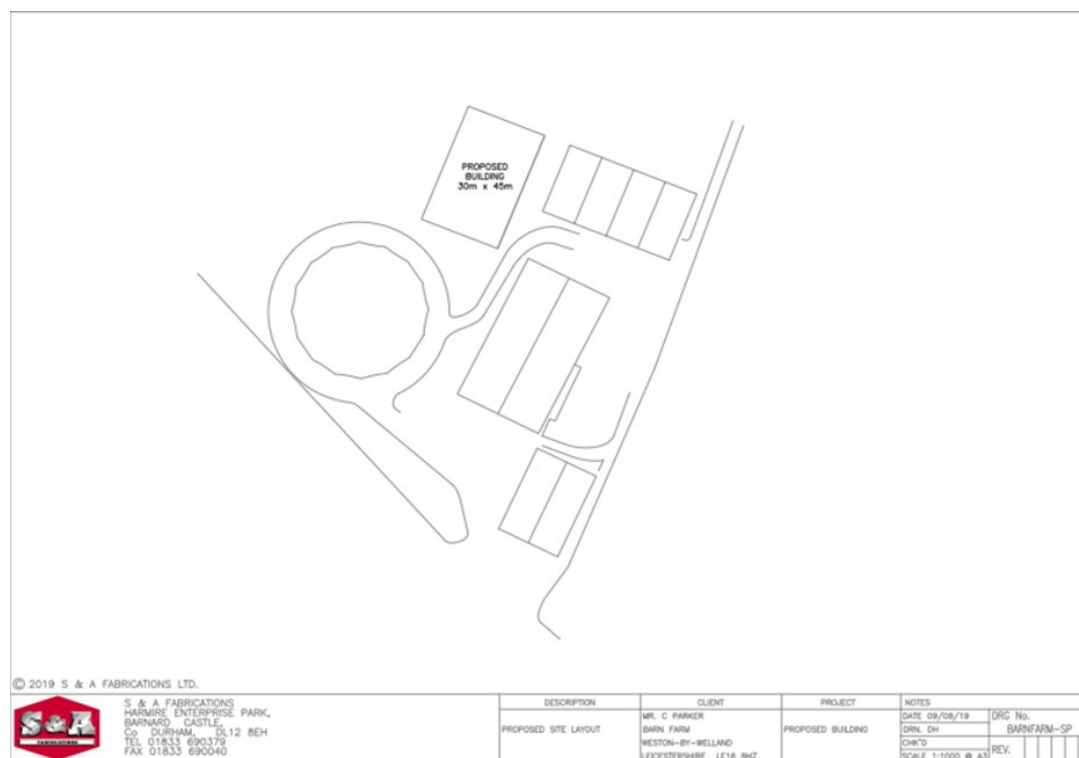


Figure 3: Proposed Site Layout Showing the New Barn.

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Archaeological and Historical Background

The site at Barn Farm has been a subject of archaeological interest since the RCHME aerial reconnaissance programme undertook a selection of aerial photographs of the area during the summer of 1996 which appeared to show a two-sided rectilinear cropmark with a quarter circle corner and possible entrance on its south-east side (Harvey, 2011: 4). This cropmark was spread across three fields and has been interpreted as a possible Roman fort (Harvey, 2011: 4). In addition to this the landscape of the area which is prominent on a hilltop suggests that it is a prime location for archaeological activity and many Iron Age and Roman sites, and artefacts have been found in the surrounding area (Browning, 2012: 2).

The most significant site in the surrounding landscape of Barn Farm is Gartree Road (**MLE2292**) which runs south-east out of Leicester into Northamptonshire through the Roman town Medbourne (**MLE2005**), located c.3km to the north-east of the site (Browning, 2012: 2). In addition to Gartree Road another Roman Road which runs from Ermine Street to King Cliffe in Northamptonshire is likely to continue into Medbourne (**MLE2067**) all of which illustrates Barn Farm's connections with Roman transport routes (Browning, 2012: 2).

In late 1996 two of the fields identified in the RCHME aerial reconnaissance programme were field walked which only found modern brick and pottery dating to the medieval/post-medieval period (Browning, 2012: 3). Further evaluation of the site was undertaken during the construction of a grain store located opposite the possible entranceway, c.40m outside of the cropmark to the south-east which again yielded no deposits relating to Roman activity or any other period and only modern debris was recorded (Browning, 2012: 3; Meek, 1997: 1).

However, recent archaeological work undertaken at Barn Farm has uncovered deposits and features which are believed to relate to a possible Roman Age fort. The presence of a large ‘V’ shaped ditch feature (previously suggested by cropmark evidence and geophysical survey) was confirmed during trial trench evaluation (see Figure 4) (Harvey, 2011). The combination of this and the absence of other associated archaeological activity was thought to indicate evidence of a Roman military marching camp.

In addition to the evaluation a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was performed at Barn Farm in an area close to the current proposed development (Browning, 2012) (see Figure 5). The site produced deposits thought to be related to the Roman military marching camp as well as finding further evidence for Late Iron Age and Roman activity. These features include a pit containing Late Iron Age coins, a probable oven, two gullies, post-holes and several rows of stake-holes (Browning, 2012: 18).

A recent geophysical survey of the site and proposed development area has also identified a possible continuation of the Roman military archaeological activity (see Figure 6). Features including post holes, pits, a possible in-situ burnt feature such as an oven or burned pit and a series of possible stake holes are identified (Falcus, 2020).

The presence of a probable Roman military march camp on the site of Barn Farm is significant as it represents the first confirmed Roman military installation recorded in Northamptonshire. These marching camps were temporary defensive structures created by the Roman army during their invasion of Britain in the 40s AD. This find, being the only known example in Northamptonshire, has been called a site of national significance and although the site is not designated as a Scheduled Monument the planning archaeologist suggests it should be treated as so.

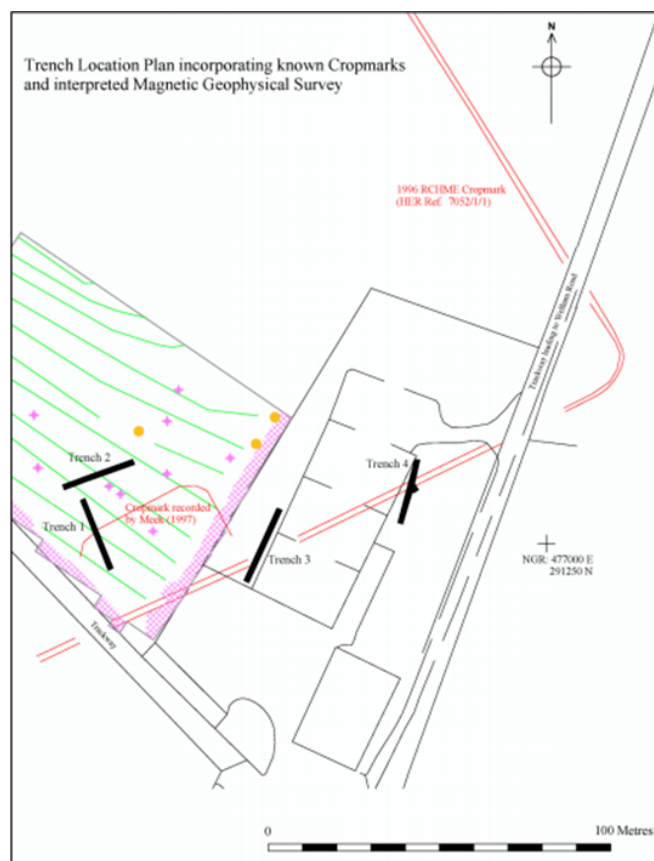


Figure 4: Trench plan incorporating the geophysical survey and cropmarks (Harvey, 2011).

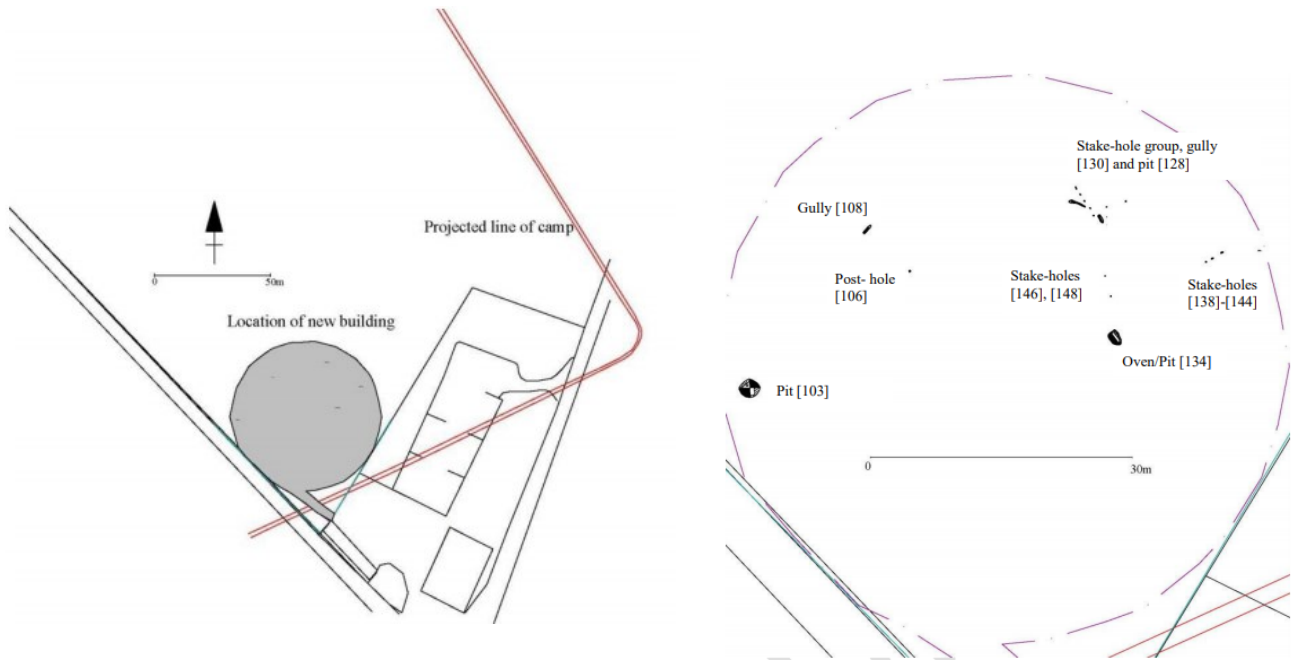


Figure 5: Location of the Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and overview of the site, showing location of features (Browning, 2012)

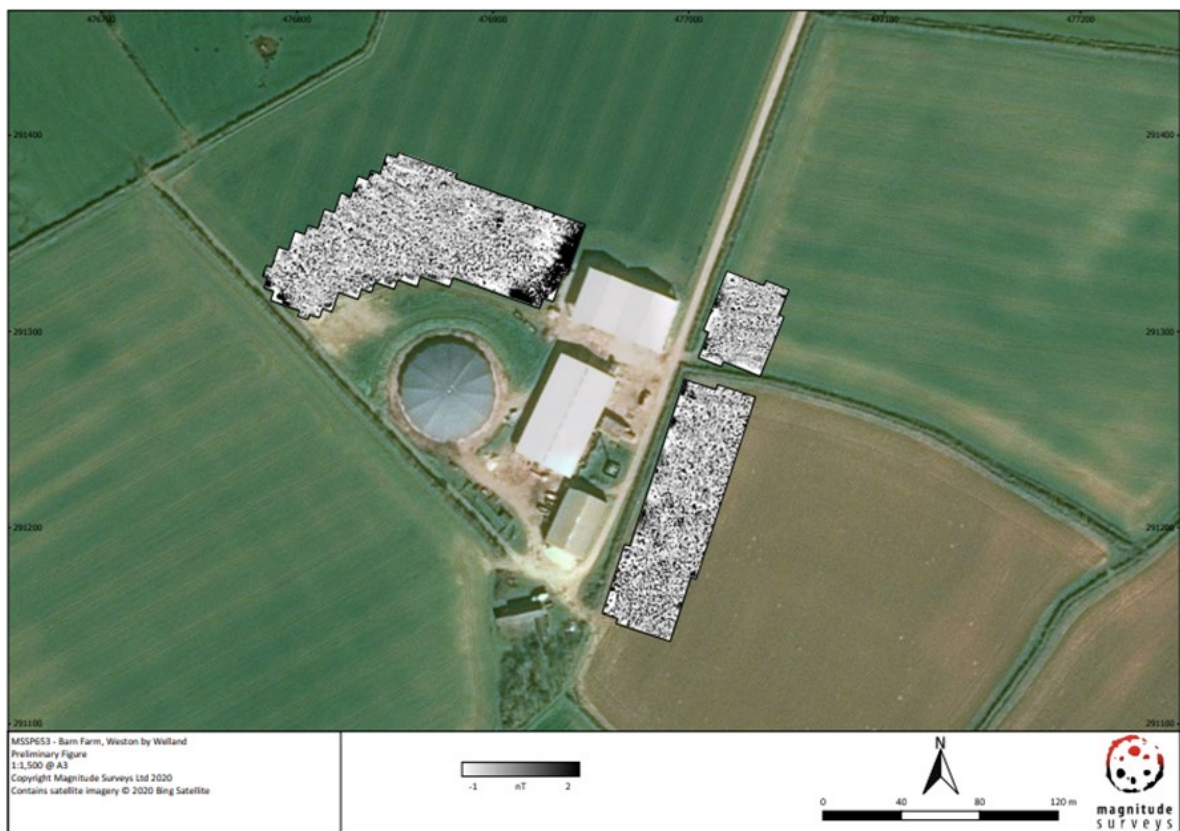


Figure 6: MSSP653 Geophysical Survey of Barn Farm, Weston by Welland. 1:1,500 @ A3 Copyright Magnitude Surveys Ltd 2020 Contains satellite imagery © 2020 Bing Satellite

Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the investigation was to provide evidence to understand the nature, date, function, and character of the archaeological remains at the site in their cultural and environmental setting and to preserve it by record.

The objectives of the excavation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits and provide evidence of the nature and extent of surviving archaeological remains on the site.
- To characterise the extent, date range, character, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record significant archaeological deposits whose future integrity may be compromised by groundworks associated with the proposed construction works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets and establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region and ecofacts to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Research Objectives

Work in the area suggests the potential for further archaeological features associated with the presence of a Roman military marching camp. On this basis it was possible to determine some initial objectives identified within *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13*, (ed. Cooper 2006) and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (ed. Knight et al 2012).

This excavation may contribute to our knowledge of Roman military impacts in Northamptonshire and the UK and potentially give an insight into rural settlement patterns and landscapes within the Roman period. Artefacts found on this site could also provide evidence for the distribution of goods across the landscape.

The excavation results had the potential to contribute to knowledge on Roman military impacts, rural settlements and landscapes. Specific research questions that might be relevant include:

- How far was the military conquest a motor of social and economic change? (Romano-British, 5.2.1)
- Can we define more closely the distribution of early military sites and their periods of use? (Romano-British, 5.2.3)
- How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes? (Romano-British, 5.4.1)
- How did rural settlements relate to each other and to towns and military sites, and how may this have varied regionally and over time? (Romano-British, 5.4.3)
- How may studies of the production, movement and consumption of pottery contribute to understanding of the regional economy? (Romano-British, 5.6.3)

These research aims were identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme and were re-assessed and updated during the fieldwork.

Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Thomas 2020) and was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014a) and adhere to their Code of Conduct (2019). An accession number/site code was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

Prior to machining general photographs of the site were taken. The work consisted of an archaeological soil strip of the development area involving the removal of overburden under supervision by an experienced professional archaeologist. This was to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains and any exposed archaeology was planned and appropriately investigated and recorded.

The archaeologist controlled and supervised the topsoil and overburden stripping to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds which would be disturbed or exposed by groundworks associated with the development. All top and subsoil stripping was undertaken to avoid damaging and obscuring archaeological remains. Ground reduction was initially carried out with a JCB however since the ground conditions were not suitable for its use a larger tracked machine fitted with a flat-bladed bucket was used. The machine did not track over any surfaces until the archaeologist has inspected and cleared the area.

Topsoil was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision. The assessment area was excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appeared worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation. Where structures, features or finds appeared to merit preservation in situ, they were adequately protected from deterioration.

The area was examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample excavated by hand as appropriate in order to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention was paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

All archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in plan and excavated using standard ULAS procedures. All exposed features were investigated (unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist).

Discrete features were half-sectioned as a minimum where possible and if special features or deposits (i.e. burials, structural remains, industrial features such as kilns or hearths) were revealed they will be subject to 100% hand-excavation. A minimum of 10% of each linear feature (ditches and gullies) were excavated, plus all terminals and intersections. All relationships between features or deposits were investigated and recorded.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered and their location and context. The primary photographic record was by digital camera and the photographic record also included overall site and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

The ULAS recording manual was used as a guide for all recording. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.

A site plan was prepared showing the location of the areas examined in relationship to the overall investigation area and OS grid. All principal contexts were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20, or electronically using GPS) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). The relative height of all principal strata and features were recorded. Archaeological feature locations were recorded by an appropriate method and be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered and their location and context. The primary photographic record was by digital camera. The photographic record also included overall site and working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

This record was compiled and checked during the excavation, and all site records and finds were kept securely.

All finds and samples were bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts were recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with CIfA standards (2014b). All identified finds and artefacts were retained, although certain classes of building material were, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Archaeological Advisor.

Results

The topsoil (61) was consistent across the site and measured 0.3-0.5m thick. It was composed of silty clay that was coloured mid to dark brownish grey and frequently contained stones. A few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were found within it. Most of the site did not contain any subsoil however small patches of mid brownish yellow silty clay containing a few small stones were occasionally found. These measured less than 0.15m deep and since they were often close to the southern side of the furrows they could represent the remains of the associated ridges.

The furrows were orientated west north-west to east south-east and measured approximately 1.8m wide and 0.2m deep. They were filled with mid yellowy brown silty clay and occasionally contained fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and plaster. The northernmost furrow (17) contained post-medieval pottery dated 15th-18th century and close to the southern side an iron object (Sf.2) was found. Another possible iron object (Sf.1) was found in a shallow depression [15], however this and another fragment were found to be a naturally formed concretions.

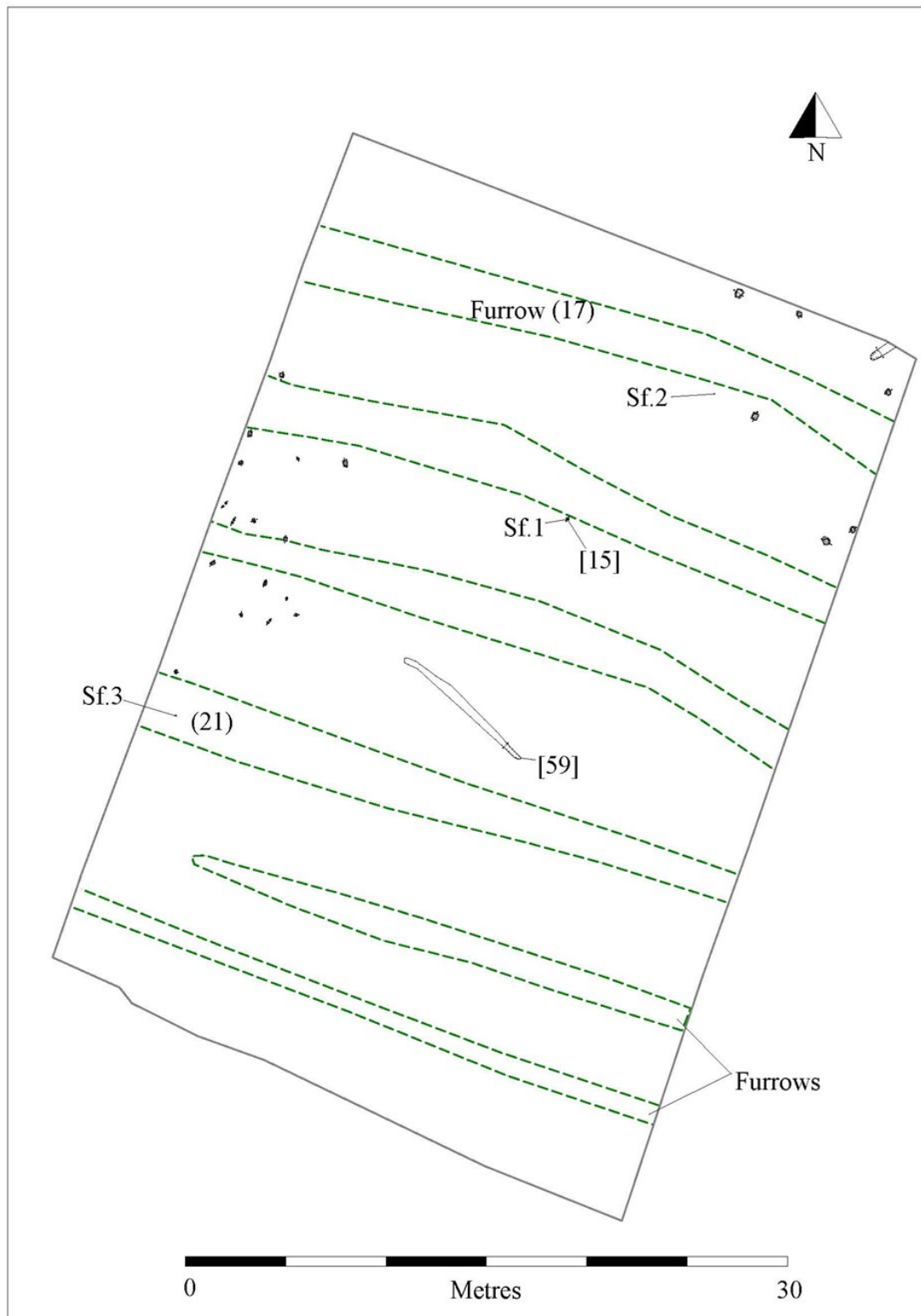


Figure 7: Plan of the site with the furrows and modern gully [59] highlighted.

The natural substratum was consistent across the site and composed of mid brownish yellow silty clay with lenses of orange sand, small fragments of chalk and unworked nodules of flint. Due to the shallowness of the natural it was not only disturbed by the furrows, but recent plough scars that were orientated north north-east to south south-west.



Figure 8: Stripping the shallow topsoil in the south-western corner with disturbance from recent ploughing.

In the centre of the site a shallow modern gully [59] orientated north-west to south-east was found (see Figure 7). It measured 7.5m long, 0.25m wide, 0.02m deep and was filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (60). The feature contained modern fragments of painted wood, a post-medieval tile and a single worked flint.

North-Eastern Features

A group of post holes and a gully were found close to the north-eastern corner of the site. Most of the post holes (contexts [01], [03], [05], [09], [11] and [18]) were found close to the eastern and northern sides of the site. They were either rectangular or sub-oval with straight sides and flat bases and measured 0.22-0.44m long, 0.2-0.34m wide and 0.03-0.08m deep. They were filled with a dark greyish brown coloured clay silt (contexts (02), (04), (06), (10), (12) and (20)) containing a few small stones. Post hole [18] also had a thin layer of mid brownish yellow silty clay (19) in the base.

A shallow gully [07] orientated north-east to south-west was also found in the north-east corner. It measured more than 1.10m long, 0.4m wide, 0.06m deep and had moderately sloping straight sides with a flat base. The gully was filled with dark brownish grey clay silt (08) containing a few small stones and medieval pottery dated 14th-16th century.

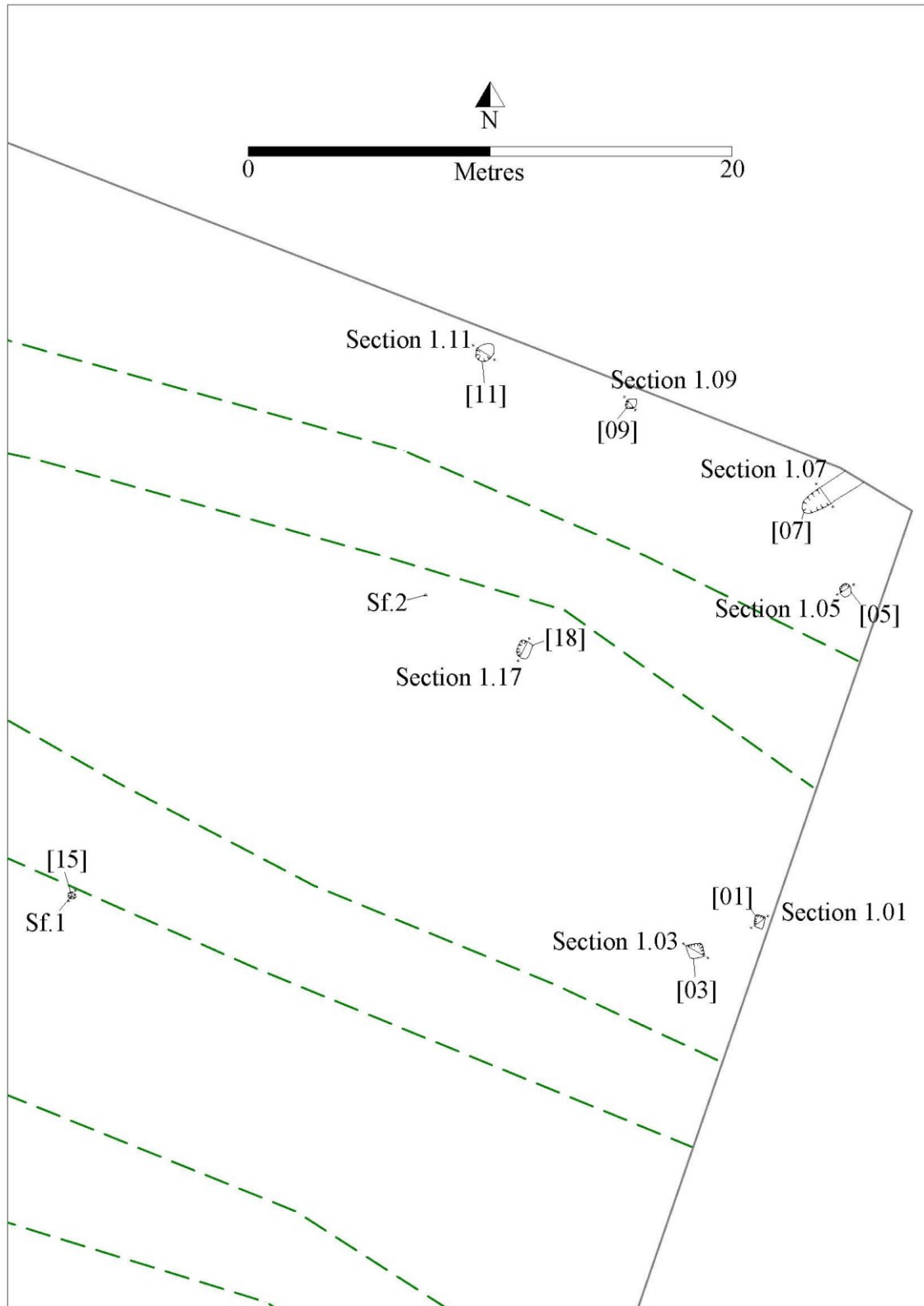


Figure 9: Plan of the features in the north-eastern corner.

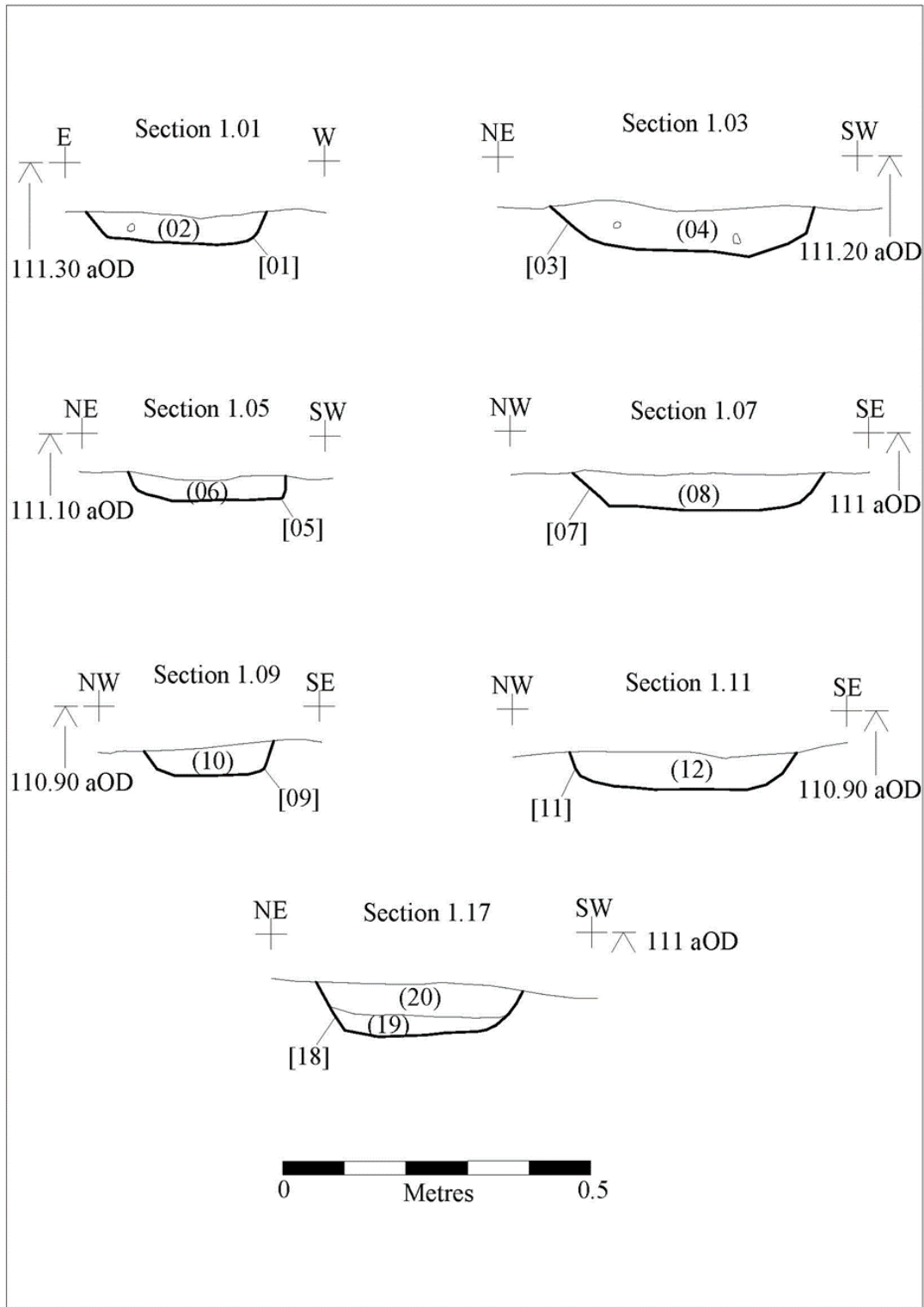


Figure 10: Sections from the north-eastern features.



Figure 11: Post holes [01] and [03] found close to the eastern side of site.

Western Features

A group of shallow post holes and stake holes were found close to the western edge of the site in an area containing numerous plough scars. The post holes (contexts [13], [22], [24], [27], [33], [35], [37], [39], [45], [47] and [49]) were mostly rectangular or sub-rectangular shapes measuring 0.13-0.25m long, 0.1-0.18m wide and 0.02-0.07m deep. The features had steep or moderately sloping straight sides and were filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (contexts (14), (25), (28), (34), (36), (40), (46), (48) and (50)) which occasionally contained flecks of charcoal and a few small stones. Roman pottery dating to the mid-1st century was found in the base of post hole [24] (context (25)) and whilst the cleaning the top of the feature (context (26)) a clay pipe stem was found.

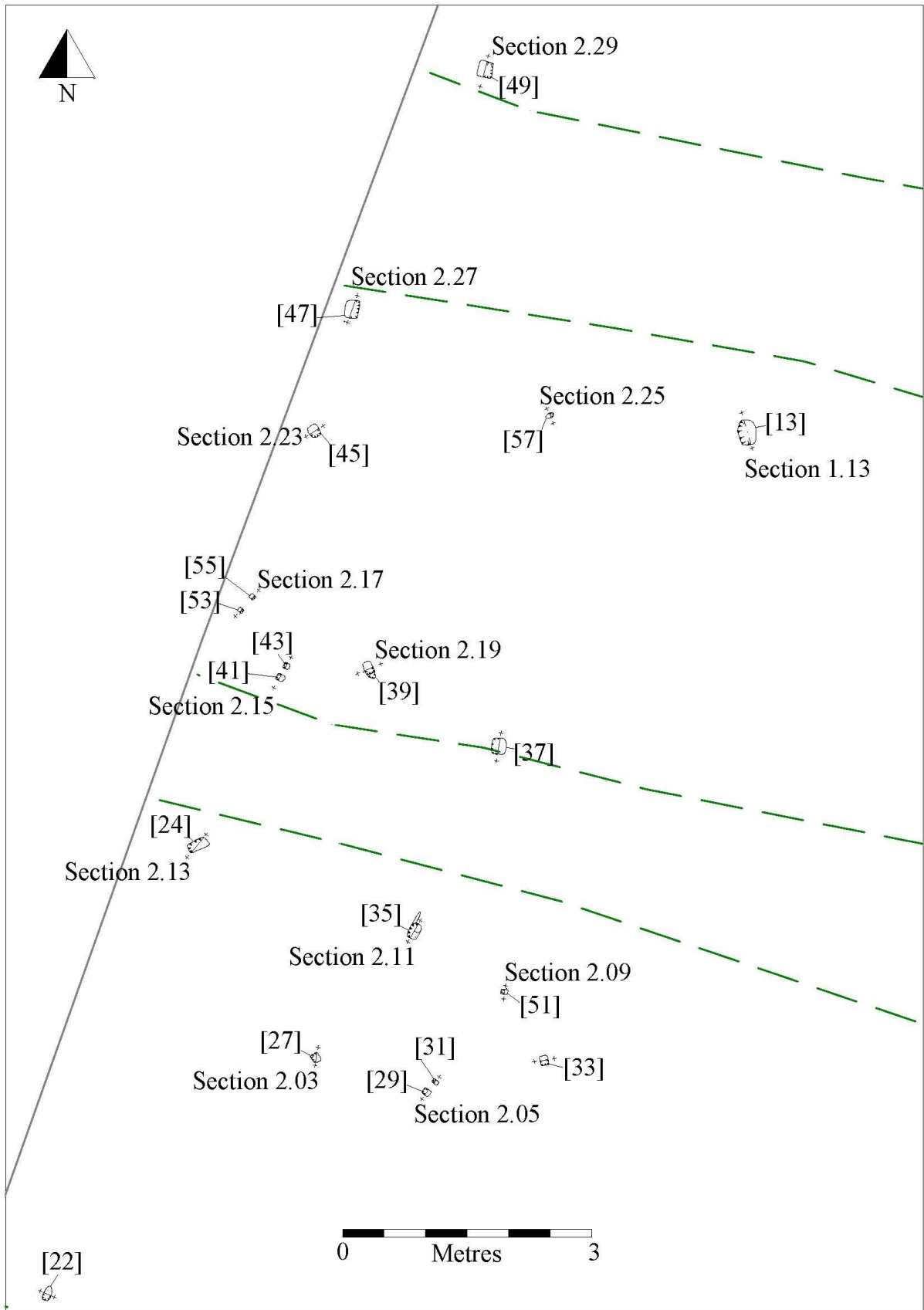


Figure 12: Plan of the western features.

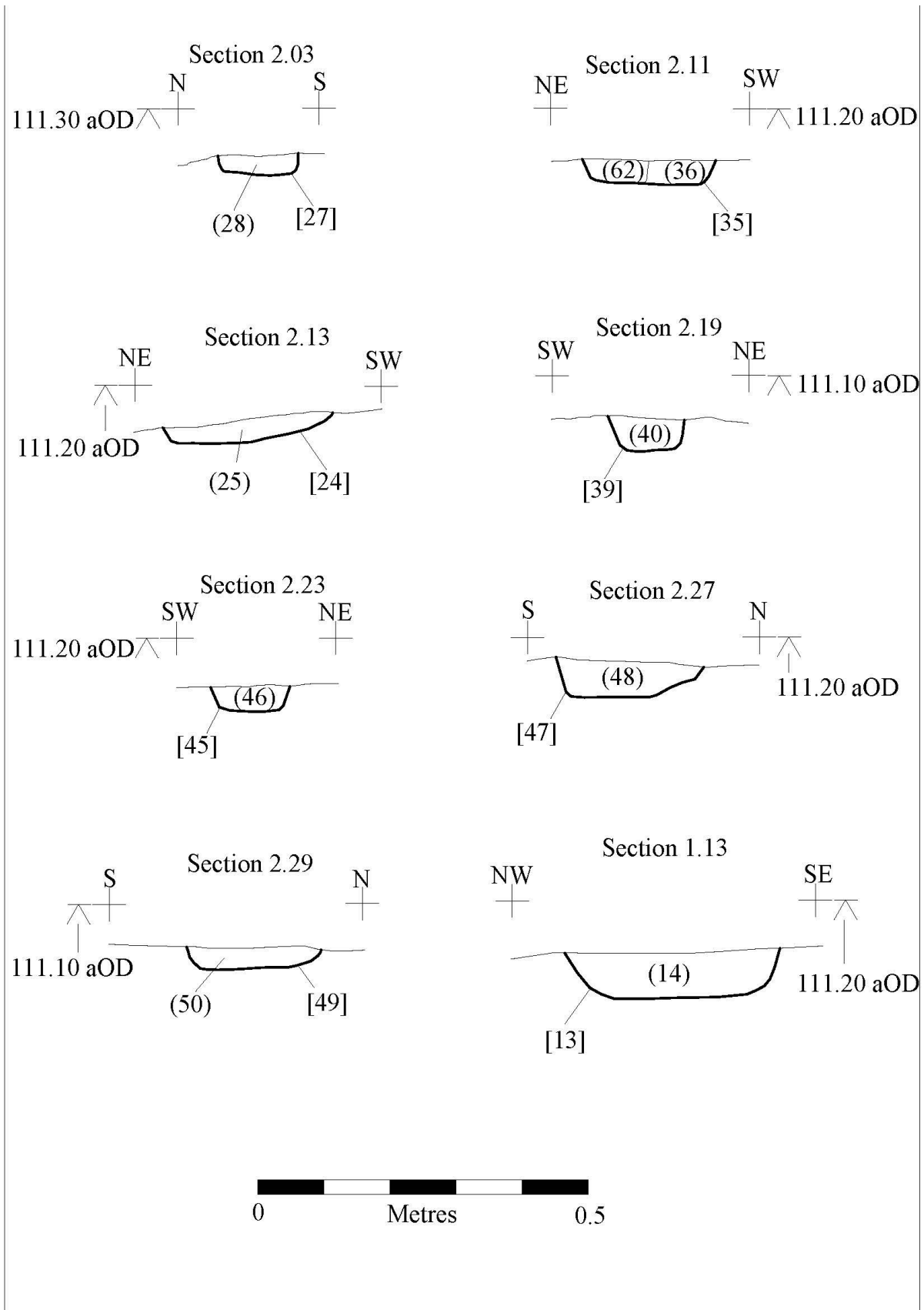


Figure 13: Sections of the post holes within the western features.



Figure 14: Post hole [24] containing Roman pottery in the base of the cut.

Several post holes were filled with slightly different deposits and feature [22] was filled with mid brownish yellow clay (23) containing patches of dark brownish grey silt. The deposit resembled redeposited natural and contained small stones with a clay pipe stem. Post hole [37] was filled with mid brownish grey silty clay which contained patches of redeposited natural clay (38) and post hole [35] contained dark greyish brown silty clay (62) in the northern end of the cut and mid brownish grey silty clay (36) in the southern.

Several very shallow square and rectangular marks (contexts [29], [31], [41], [43], [51], [53], [55], and [57]) were found in the natural substratum. These features measured 60-100mm long, 60-90mm wide and 10-20mm deep and frequently occurred in groups of two spaced 0.08-0.18m apart. The features were orientated north-east to south-west and all had straight vertical sides with flat bases. They were filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (contexts (30), (32), (42), (44), (52), (54), (56) and (58)) which occasionally contained flecks of charcoal and small stones.

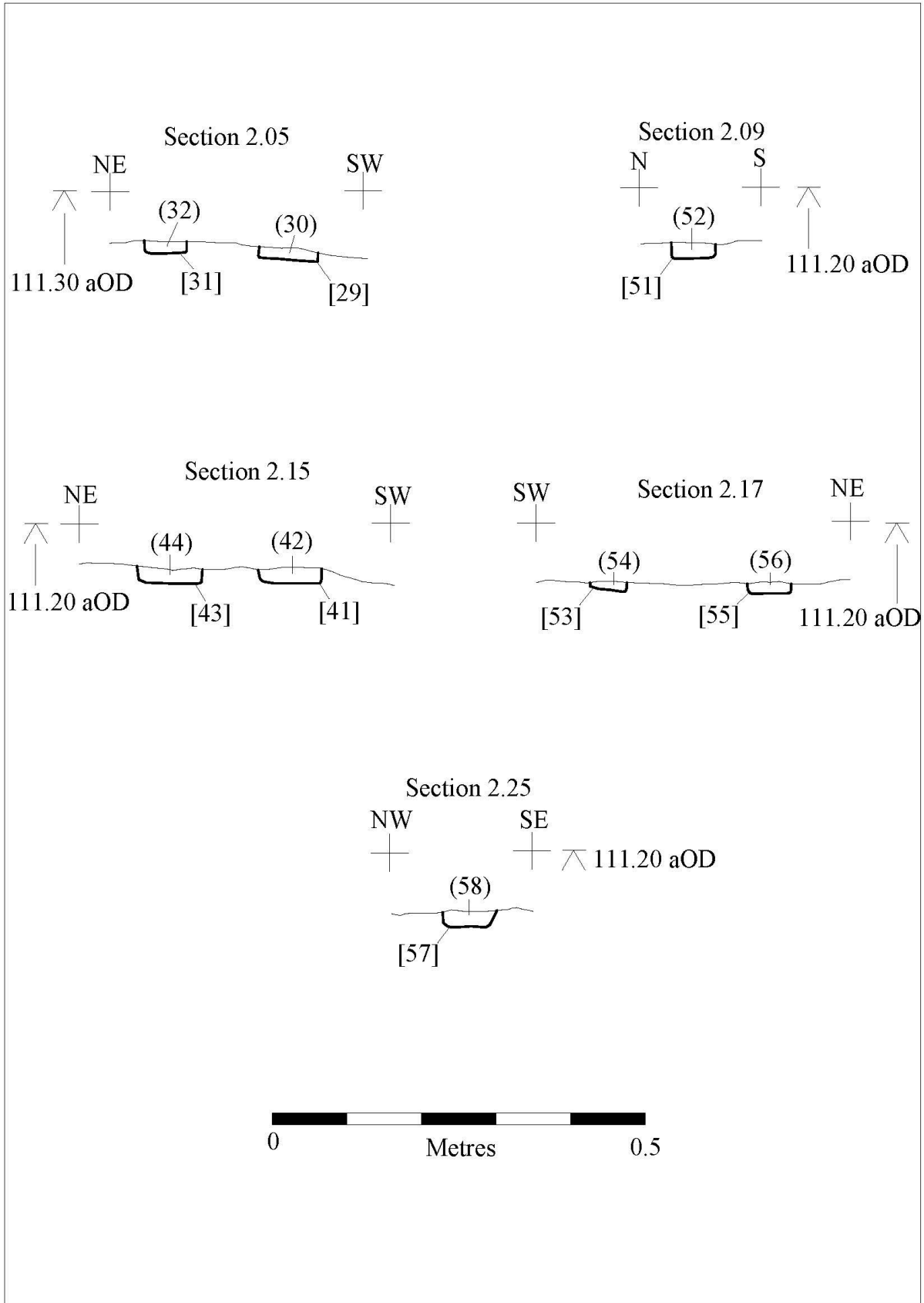


Figure 15: Sections of the shallow rectangular features.



Figure 16: Pre-excavation photo of features [53] and [55].

The pottery and other finds- *Nicholas J. Cooper and Heidi Addison*

Introduction

A small assemblage of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered, alongside two flint flakes, an iron knife, two tobacco pipe stems and a fragment of post-medieval ceramic tile.

Methodology

The pottery was analysed by form and fabric in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016), using the Leicestershire County Museums Roman and post-Roman pottery fabric series (Pollard 1994; Davies and Sawday 1999 with reference to Northamptonshire codes where applicable) and quantified by sherd count and weight (g).

Pottery

The assemblage of six sherds (47g) is catalogued below (Table 1).

Table 1: Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Context	Cut	Fabric	Code	Sherds	Wght	Date
8	7	Midand Purple	MP	1	13	1375-1550
17		Midland Black	MB	1	2	1475-1750

17		Post-med earthenware	EA1	1	15	1500-1750
25	24	Early Roman shelly	CG1A	1	2	Mid-1st-E2nd
61		Stanion-Lyveden	LY1/T2	1	12	1200-1400
61		Midland Black	MB	1	3	1475-1750
Total				6	47	

A single, abraded, bead rim (2g) from an early Roman shell-tempered jar (Leics. Fabric CG1A) dating from the middle of the 1st century AD, was recovered from the base of posthole fill (25) [24]. This was one of a number of postholes in this area of the site, but only this one contained pottery. Whilst it is broadly contemporary with activity relating to the Roman marching camp, it is highly unlikely to have been in use by the Army as they did not typically carry ceramic vessels on campaign. If the features do relate to the marching camp, then the sherd was either in the plough-soil already and got into the base of the fill when the post was erected, or entered the fill after the decay or removal of the wood. The abraded nature of the sherd suggests it had already been weathered in the plough-soil after disposal there, probably as part of the manuring process.

The remaining five sherds of the pottery, of medieval and post-medieval date, were recovered from open field plough furrows or from the topsoil, with one from a feature, and is typical of material accidentally deposited on fields as part of the manuring process during the 13th to 18th century. They include a sherd of medieval Stanion–Lyvedon ware, the rim of a late medieval Midland Purple cistern, two sherds of Midland Blackware, and a post-medieval earthenware pancheon.

Post-medieval ceramic tile

A fragment of post-medieval tile (49g) in an oxidised, sandy fabric was recovered from (60).

Tobacco pipe

Two undiagnostic stem fragments were recovered from (23) and (26) dating between the 17th and 19th centuries.

Prehistoric flint

Two secondary flakes were recovered from (60) and unstratified, indicating flint tool manufacture during the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The example from (48) was natural.

Iron object

Sf2, from a plough furrow, is the iron tang of small bladed implement, probably a knife, with the short broken length of a curving blade emerging from the hilt, where a rivet appears to have held an organic handle in place (broken length 78mm). Too corroded to identify but likely to be modern in date. Two other registered finds were natural concretions of ferruginous (weakly magnetic) material.

Discussion

The results from the excavation show that archaeology was present in the development area with concentrations of features occurring in the north-eastern corner and close to the western edge of site. The features were largely undated however medieval pottery was found in gully [07] and a mixture of prehistoric, medieval and modern material was identified in gully [59]. The features near the western side were truncated by recent ploughing and clay pipe stems were recovered while excavating them. Feature [22] was elongated and whilst it could be a disturbed post hole, the natural rich fill (23) contained clay pipe stem and it could be modern feature. Similarly feature [37] appeared to contain a line of redeposited natural clay down the centre of the fill (38) and could be a modern feature or a disturbed post hole.

The origin of the small square and rectangular marks found close to the western edge of site is unclear however they appear to have a north-east to south-westerly orientation. Whilst they could be the bases of shallow stake holes, the alignment is similar to the plough scars and they could be modern features. A 'subsoiler' was used in this part of the field (C. Parker *pers comm*) and this equipment is used to loosen soil at greater depths than a normal plough. The shanks can be equipped with narrow (25-50mm) chisel shaped tips (Carter and McKyes 2005) and their periodic deepening could create a series of similar small marks in the natural.

Clay pipe stem was also found while cleaning the loose material from the top of post hole [24] (context (26)) however the lower fill (25) did not appear to be disturbed. Roman pottery dating to the mid first century was found in the base of the cut and this could therefore be an ancient post hole that has been disturbed by recent ploughing. Previous work at the site has found shallow features containing similarly abraded fragments of 1st century pottery. One such sherd was recovered from a stake hole which was thought to relate to the temporary structures associated with the Roman marching camp (Browning 2012, 18-19).

The Roman military primarily erected leather tents in their marching camps which each occupied an area of 2.96m² (10 Roman feet) although the individual sizes of the tents appear to have small variations (Driel-Murray 2017). Some of the larger tents required poles on the corners however the majority appear to be erected with two central poles and would sleep 8-10 men (*contubernium*) (<https://legioneromana.altervista.org/content/tents-romancamp?language=en>). The use of such ephemeral structures has a small impact on the ground and because of this the most likely survival would be the two post holes associated with the central supports. The previous excavations have found mid-1st century pottery in the stake holes that were suspected to relate to the marching camp and because of this post hole [24] may also be associated with this activity.

Post hole [27] is located 2.81m to the south-east of [24] and the sizes of the features would allow two posts to be spaced 2.96m apart. The north-west to south-east orientation of these two post holes is also the same as the enclosure ditch to the east. The internal arrangements of a Roman marching camp consists of rows of tents and small streets that were parallel to the outer ditches (<http://www.therthdimension.org/Reactions-Solutions/rthdimensionmain/welcome/ancient-rome-main-page/roman-army/roman-camps/>).

If post holes [24] and [27] were the central support posts to a tent, the structure would be parallel to the surrounding enclosure ditches. This alignment is also apparent with the lines of stake holes found during the previous excavation (see Figure 17).

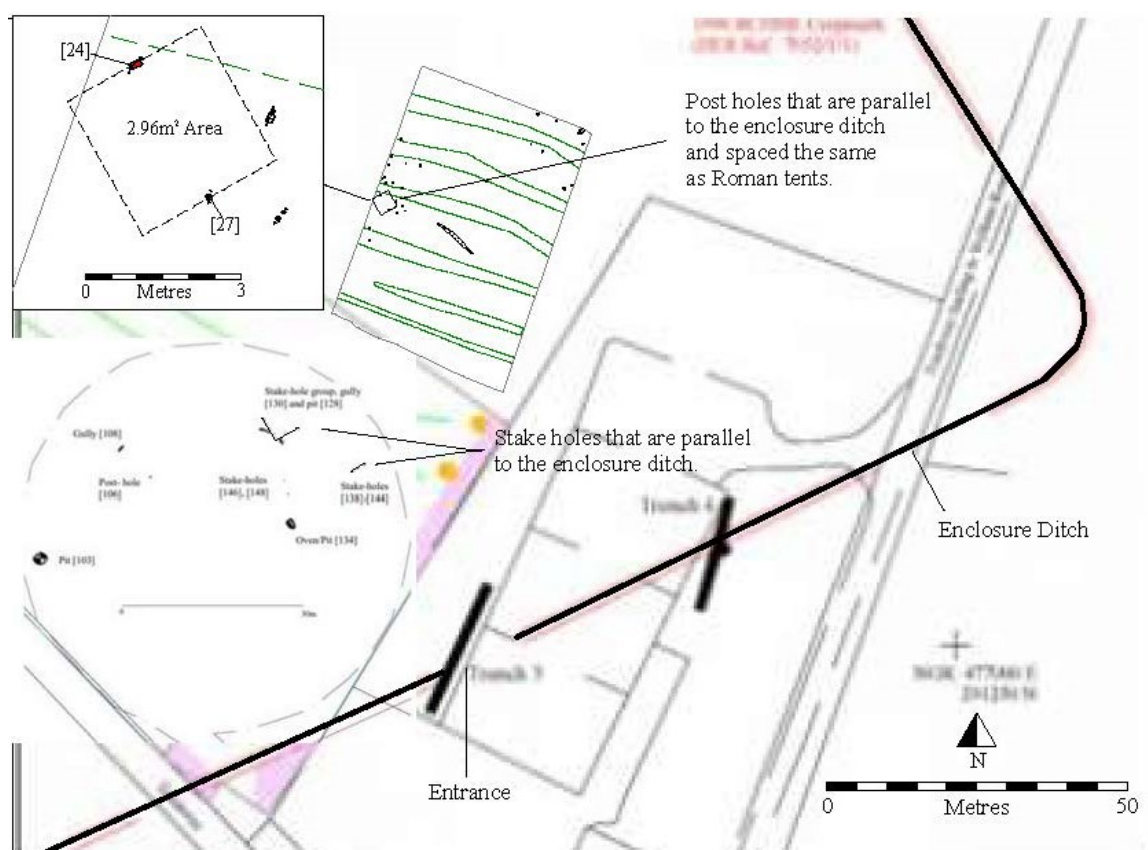


Figure 17: The 2011, 2012 and 2020 excavations highlighting the post and stake holes that are parallel to the surrounding enclosure ditch.

Cooper and Addison (see Pottery and other finds, p21) suggest that it is highly unlikely for ceramic vessels to be associated with the Roman military as they did not typically carry them while on campaign. The abraded pottery is therefore likely to be present in the ground as part of the manuring process. Previous excavations at the site have identified lines of stake holes that might relate to the marching camp and these also contain small fragments of mid-1st century pottery (Browning 2012). Despite the military not usually carrying ceramic vessels on campaign it is still possible for the pottery to be associated with the marching camp as the army may be interacting with the local population while they are there. Browning (2012) suggests there are hints of multi-phases to the site and if it is periodically occupied it could also explain the abraded nature of the sherds.

Conclusion

The features found during the excavation were poorly preserved and the lack of subsoil and shallowness of the topsoil has resulted in a large amount of truncation. The post holes may relate to a variety of time periods and have been disturbed by post-medieval and modern agricultural practices. The most common structures associated with Roman marching camps are tents and these are likely to have little impact on the ground. Because of the ephemeral nature of these structures, the potential mixture of remains and the high level of truncation it is not possible to be certain if any of the features found during the excavation are associated with the camp.

The most likely evidence to survive from a tent would be the two central post holes and the excavation has found two post holes that were spaced and orientated appropriately to relate to

such a structure. The features were shallow, and one contained mid-1st century pottery which is consistent with the suspected structures identified during the previous excavations. Due to the patchy remains it is not possible to verify if any of these features were related to the marching camp however future excavations may yield more evidence. This excavation has helped further the understanding of this nationally important site and Northamptonshire's only known example of a Roman marching camp.

Archive

The site archive consists of:

- X1 unbound copy of this report
- X1 unbound copy of the WSI
- X2 Context index
- X59 Context sheets
- X1 Drawing sheet index
- X1 Drawing Index
- X2 Drawing sheets
- X1 Small Finds Index
- X1 Photograph index
- X3 Digital photograph contact sheetsf

The archive will be held by Northamptonshire County Council under the accession number ENN110027.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in an appropriate local archaeological journal in due course.

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