

SEVS/02



NEW EASTERN VILLAGES — PHASE 1

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by Ainscough Strategic Land Ltd

December 2015

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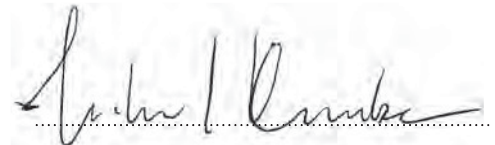
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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE	1
1.2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
3	METHOD	2
4	RESULTS	2
4.1	FIELD 1	2
	Stratigraphic sequence	2
	Prehistoric	4
	Roman	4
	Undated	7
	Modern	7
4.2	FIELD 2	7
	Stratigraphic sequence	7
	Roman	9
	Undated	9
	Modern	9
	Blank trenches	9
4.3	FIELD 3	9
	Stratigraphic sequence	9
	Roman	9
	Undated	10
	Modern	10
	Blank trenches	12
4.4	FIELD 4	12
	Stratigraphic sequence	12
	Modern	12
	Blank trenches	12
4.5	FIELD 5	12
	Stratigraphic sequence	12
	Undated	12
	Modern	12
4.6	FIELD 6	13
	Stratigraphic sequence	13
	Modern and blank trenches	13
4.7	FIELD 7	13
	Stratigraphic sequence	13
	Undated features	13
	Modern	13
	Blank trenches	13

5	DISCUSSION	13
5.1	PREHISTORIC/IRON AGE	14
5.2	ROMANO-BRITISH	14
5.3	UNDATED FEATURES	14
5.4	PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL	14
5.5	TRENCHES CONTAINING NO EVIDENCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY	14
6	CONCLUSION	14
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
8	APPENDICES	16
	APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER	16
	APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT	25
	Prehistoric pottery	25
	Romano-British pottery	25
	Post-medieval pottery	25
	Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	25
	Ironwork and ironworking	25
	Discussion and potential	26
	Appendix 2.1 Finds catalogue	27
	APPENDIX 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	29
	Introduction	29
	Method	29
	Results	29
	Discussion	29
	References	29
	Appendix 3.1 Retent sample results	30
	Appendix 3.2 Flot sample results	30
	Appendix 3.3 Waterlogged sample results	30
	APPENDIX 4 FAUNAL REMAINS ASSESSMENT	31
	Introduction	31
	Methodology	31
	Species present	31
	Condition	31
	Discussion	31
	References	31
	Appendix 4.1 Animal bone catalogue	32



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1	IX
Site location	
ILLUS 2	3
Field 1	
ILLUS 3	4
Detail of features within Trench 12	
ILLUS 4	5
General view of Trench 12. E-W ditch [1217] with pit [1223] in the foreground and pit [1225] in the background. Facing NW, 2x1m scales	
ILLUS 5	5
SE facing section through features [1217] and [1223]	
ILLUS 6	6
Partially exposed grave [1214], facing SE	
ILLUS 7	7
NW facing section through ditch [1306]	
ILLUS 8	7
S facing section through ditch [1503]	
ILLUS 9	8
Field 2	
ILLUS 10	10
Detail of features within Trench 18	
ILLUS 11	10
N facing section through ditch [1815]	
ILLUS 12	11
Field 3	
ILLUS 13	12
S facing section through ditch [0103]	
ILLUS 14	13
N facing section through channel [0704]	

NEW EASTERN VILLAGES – PHASE 1

Archaeological Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd in July 2014 on land at Lotmead Farm, Swindon, Wiltshire. A total of 41 trenches were excavated in seven areas (Fields 1–7).

Evidence for Romano-British activity was identified within the southern part of the site (Fields 1–3). Undated features were identified in the north-west (Field 5) and the north-east (Field 7) of the site. No archaeologically significant finds or features were identified within the northern (Field 6) and the eastern part of the site (Field 4).

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) acting on behalf of Ainscough Strategic Land to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Lotmead Farm, Swindon, Wiltshire. The evaluation is connected to a group of planning applications referred to as the New Eastern Villages, and the proposed development area subject to this report covers the Phase 1 Application for 200 homes in the southwest part of the scheme.

The trenches were located to target the results of a geophysical survey and to provide even coverage of the site, and were drawn up by EDP and agreed by the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook the field evaluation between 7th July and 24th July 2014.

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The site is situated near Wanborough to the east of Swindon, immediately to the east of the A419 and covers an area of approximately 13.60 hectares centred on NGR SU 19872 85275. To the immediate south of the proposed development area lies the site of the former Roman town

The site is occupied by pasture on mainly level ground. The development area is enclosed on the south by the present Wanborough Road, to the west by a small stream, and the farm and farmland to the north and east.

The underlying solid geology within the site comprises mudstone and sedimentary bedrock of the Ampthill Clay Formation, formed during the Jurassic period, 151–161 million years ago (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>). The superficial deposits recorded for the site comprise alluvial deposits lying within current and former watercourses.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A number of heritage assets have been identified close to the site. The site lies to the north east of the scheduled area of the Roman town of Durocornovium which covers at least 25ha in pockets around Covingham, Lotmead and Nythe Farms to the north of Wanborough.

The proposed development area was subject to a desk-based assessment by EDP (forthcoming). The Wiltshire HER list only a small number of finds within the current survey area. These include find spots of sherds of Roman pottery on the southern edge (HERSU28NW309) and another (HERSU28NW310) to the north of the site. A Roman coin (HERSU28NW311) was also located to the north of the site.

Ordnance Survey mapping from 1880 onwards has shown that there has been very little variation of the field layout from that time to the present day. The site has been used for agricultural purposes from at least the mid-19th century, with some evidence on site for former ridge and furrow cultivation.

The evaluation followed a geophysical survey, undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd (Sabin and Donaldson 2014). Within



the proposed development area the previous work showed the presence of archaeological features almost certainly related to the nearby scheduled Roman town of Durocornovium; plus a number of other fainter anomalies that may be archaeological in origin.

No previous archaeological excavations have been carried out within the proposed development area.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site, with special regard taken as to the nature and extent of the nearby scheduled Roman town;
- to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;
- to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
- to assess the impact of previous land use on the site To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- to produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Wiltshire HER.

The results of the evaluation will enable reasoned and informed recommendations to be made to the local planning authority and a suitable mitigation strategy for the proposed development to be formulated.

3 METHOD

Work was undertaken in accordance with the written scheme of investigation approved by the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (Kimber 2014).

41 archaeological trial trenches comprising 26 x 50m and 15 x 25m and standard machine bucket width of 2.13m were excavated across the proposed development area. The majority of the trenches were positioned to investigate anomalies noted from the geophysical survey.

A number of trench positions were altered to take into account local ground conditions and the presence of overhead power cables in Field 1. All other trenches were positioned to achieve the greatest possible coverage of the site.

The total number of trenches excavated can be summarised as follows:

Field	Proposed no. of trenches	Actual no. of trenches	Summary
1	6	6	Trenches 12, 13 and 14 were altered/shortened due to the presence of an overhead power cable. Trench 12 was also widened to allow for further investigation of the archaeological features

Field	Proposed no. of trenches	Actual no. of trenches	Summary
2	5	5	No changes to proposed trench positions
3	5	5	No changes to proposed trench positions. Trench 18 was 'boxed out' to the north to provide a clear relationship between two ditches
4	6	6	No changes to proposed trench positions
5	3	3	No changes to proposed trench positions
6	3	3	No changes to proposed trench positions
7	13	13	Trench 07 was rotated from north-south to an east-west orientation due to the presence of overhead cables

Trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a 25 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Machine excavation terminated at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered.

All trenches were planned using a Trimble differential GPS system. A record sheet was completed for each trench, even where no deposits of archaeological significance were present. Identified archaeological features were subject to hand excavation, carried out to a sufficient degree to meet the objectives of the evaluation.

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Sections of archaeological features were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Hand drawn plans of certain archaeological features were also undertaken. A photographic record, utilising black and white negative film, supplemented by high resolution digital data capture, was maintained during the course of the fieldwork.

4 RESULTS

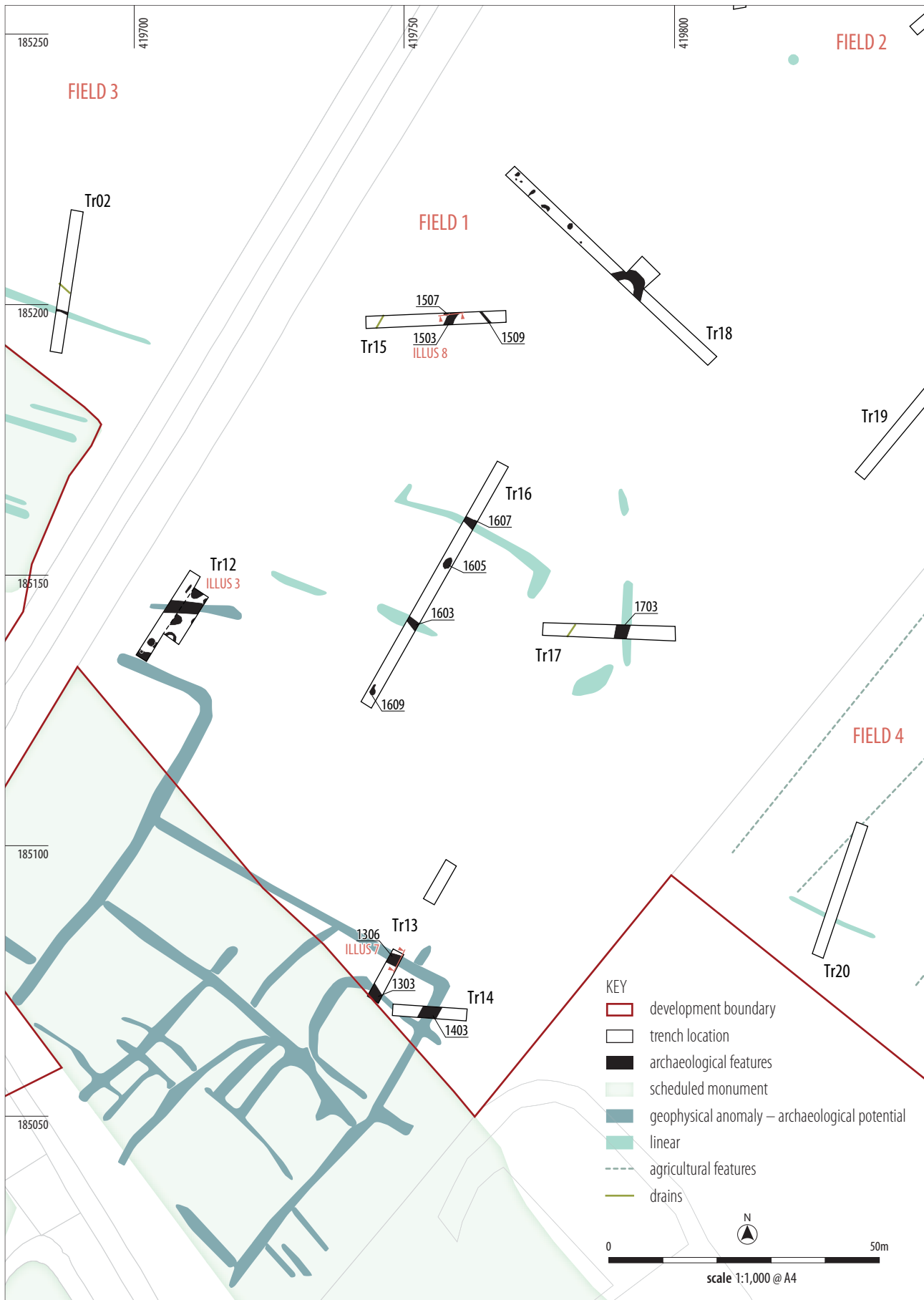
Full trench descriptions are given in Appendix 1. The following results section summarises the archaeological resource observed across the proposed development area and identifies the features of archaeological importance.

4.1 FIELD 1

This field was located just to the east of the farm access road entrance, and was located to the central south of the proposed development area. Six trenches were excavated. The soil profile was broadly consistent across the area.

Stratigraphic sequence

The field is level pasture and the soil profile consisted of a grassed topsoil of a dark brown silt clay, varying between 0.18-0.28m deep, sealing a subsoil of grey brown silt clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions between 0.12m – 0.34m deep. As with all of the areas the geological deposits varied considerably from orange brown stony clay to yellow brown and grey blue clay silt.



ILLUS 2
Field 1



ILLUS 3

Detail of features within Trench 12

The majority of the trenches within this field were located to investigate anomalies noted on the geophysics plot.

Prehistoric

Trench 16

Fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fills (1604) and (1608) of two ditches [1603] & [1607] that formed a possible enclosure as noted on the geophysics plot. The pottery dated from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. However, a single fragment of Romano-British pottery was also recovered from (1608), suggesting that this earlier material is likely to be residual.

Trench 17

A small number of pottery fragments dating to the middle–late Bronze Age were recovered from both fills (1704) and (1705) from a north-south aligned ditch [1705]. This feature contained no other dating material, however it appeared to align with a ditch of similar dimensions and from in Trench 18. Material recovered from the ditch in Trench 18 [1815] could be dated to the Roman period (see below). If these ditches are contemporary than it would suggest that the Bronze Age material here could be residual.

Roman

Trench 12

A number of features were investigated within this trench that can clearly be given a Romano-British date. Running across the centre

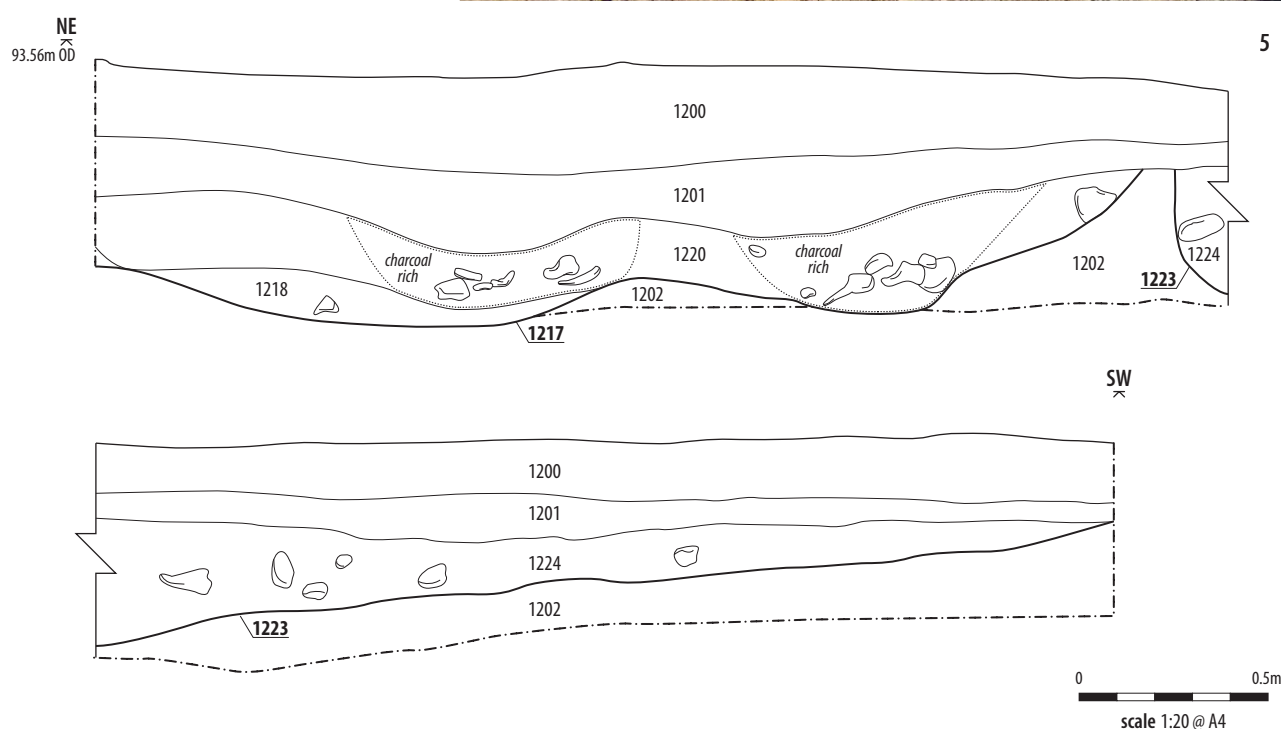
ILLUS 4

General view of Trench 12. E-W ditch [1217] with pit [1223] in the foreground and pit [1225] in the background. Facing NW, 2x1m scales



ILLUS 5

SE facing section through features [1217] and [1223]



of the trench, on an east-west alignment, was a 2.68m wide, and 0.36m deep ditch [1217/1227]. This ditch contained a large quantity of material dating to the early Roman period. There was also a large quantity of animal bone present, and the nature of the fill of this feature, a dark, humic, charcoal rich deposit (1228) and (1229) was indicative of midden material. A total of 5.33m of this feature was exposed in plan, and two sections were excavated within its exposed area.

In the south of the trench, other features of Roman date were also recorded. Two shallow linear ditches [1203] and [1207] ran east-west across the trench. Both contained Romano-British pottery. Ditch [1203] was heavily truncated by a later circular pit [1205]. This pit was filled by two deposits (1207) and (1208) which both contained animal bone and early-mid 2nd century pottery fragments. The pit appeared to be a rubbish pit. The other shallow ditch [1207] was only partially exposed, as it was at the very southern edge of the trench. This ditch contained a single fill (1205) but no dateable material was recovered. However, the nature of the deposit was

almost identical to that which filled ditch [1203]. Cut into the fill (1205) of this ditch was a later, small, circular feature [1212]. This cut (0.52m diameter x 0.10m deep) was filled by a dark deposit (1213) with occasional charcoal, though the edges were quite diffuse and may just represent a different fill within the earlier ditch.

A large, but shallow (1.80m diameter x 0.11m deep) irregular sub-circular pit cut [1223] was filled with a dark humic fill (1224), similar to that within the nearby ditch [1217]. The fill contained quantities of pottery fragments, dating to the early-mid 2nd century, along with animal bone. The pit appeared to have been a domestic rubbish pit. A similar pit was also noted in the north of the trench. This second pit [1225] was roughly ovoid in plan (1.90m x 1.62m) and was relatively shallow (0.17m deep). This pit also contained further early-mid 2nd century pottery and animal bone.

Also in this vicinity was an unusual curvilinear ditch feature [1221], though this too, was only partially exposed within the trench. This ditch/gully was 0.81m wide and 0.17m deep and filled by a dark silt



ILLUS 6

Partially exposed grave [1214], facing SE

A larger, more substantial ditch crossed the trench in a roughly east-west orientation. This ditch [1306] corresponded with the ditch on the geophysics which appears to mark the northern boundary to the Roman settlement. This ditch was up to 2.50m wide and 0.60m deep and was filled with four deposits (1307), (1308), (1309) and (1310). The primary deposit (1307) consisted of re-deposited natural and provided no dateable material. The main fill (1310) of the ditch contained building material in the form of a box-flue tile, iron objects and pottery dating to the early-mid 2nd century. This ditch extended into Trench 14 [1403].

Trench 14

Located close to the east of Trench 13, this trench also investigated a large linear ditch that extended from Trench 13 and could be seen on the geophysics plot. Here this ditch appeared to consist of an earlier ditch [1410] which had been heavily truncated by a later re-cut [1403], however this later re-cut wasn't exceptionally clear and it is possible that this was a single feature, with various diffuse fills within. The earlier feature, possibly an earlier ditch, was only visible on the western side and was roughly only 0.25m deep. This feature contained two fills, (1406) and (1408). Neither of these fills contained any dateable material.

The possible later, larger cut [1410], was 3.50m wide and 0.66m deep containing fills (1404), (1405), (1407) and (1409) and was aligned roughly north-south. The only the upper fill (1409) contained any artefacts, and these consisted of pottery that could only be dated to a broad Roman date. This ditch is clearly visible on the geophysics plot as being a continuation of ditch [1306], which forms the northern edge of the Roman settlement.

Trench 15

A single large ditch [1503] measuring 2.40m wide and 0.55m deep was aligned south-west to north-east. This ditch may relate to ditch [1815] in Trench 18 to the north. However neither of these ditches appeared on the geophysics plot. Here, ditch [1503] contained one single fill (1504) which contained a single human skull (1511). The skull appeared within the section and was recorded but left in-situ. There was no sign of a separate grave or other pit cut which contained the skull.

This ditch was cut into the fill of a wide, irregular cut [1505]. This feature wasn't fully exposed within the trench, though the fill (1506) was very similar to the surrounding natural geology, and the irregular nature of the sides and base suggest that this feature was an earlier tree throw.

On the western side of the ditch [1503] was a small circular cut [1507] truncated the ditch's upper fill. This possible pit measured roughly 0.80m in diameter and 0.25m deep and contained a single deposit (1508), though no dateable material was recovered and this feature may have originated through a natural process.

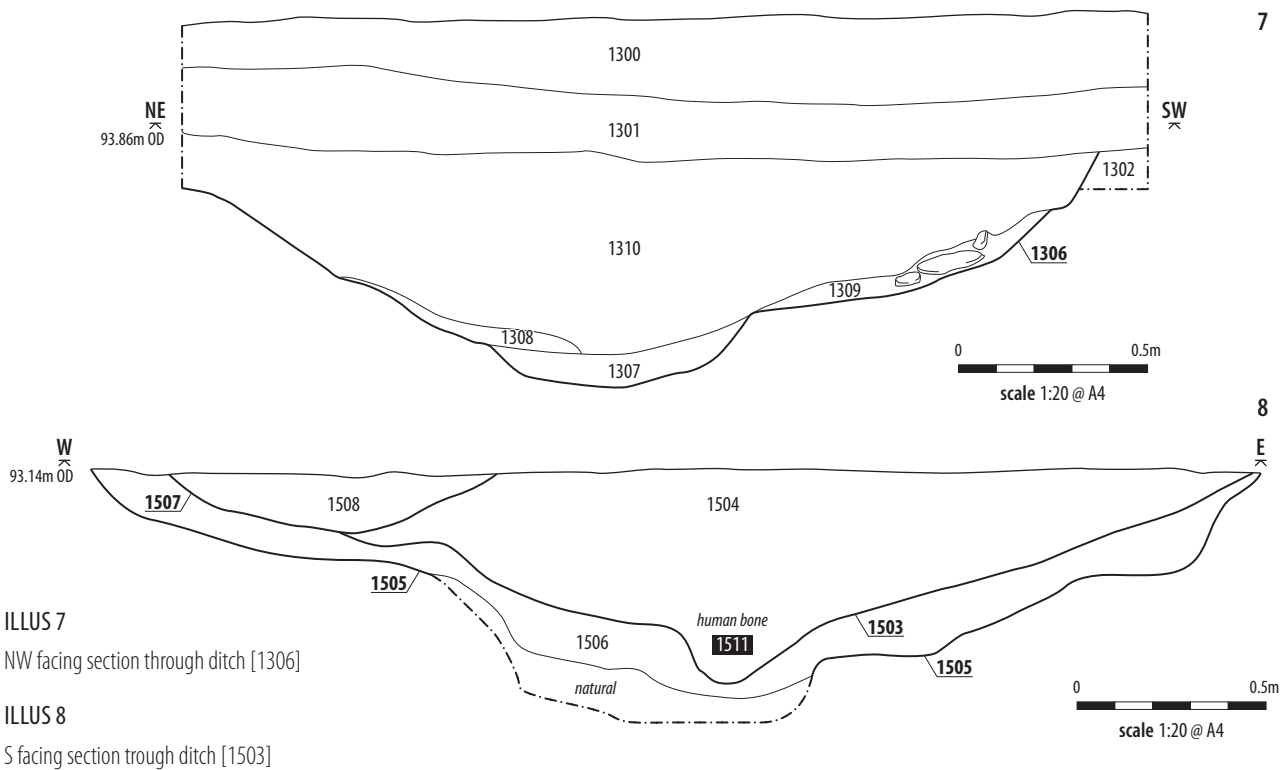
clay (1222) which contained more early-mid 2nd century pottery. The form and nature of this feature remained unclear, though prolific root disturbance was evident.

Further features were noted within the trench that were also of an early-mid 2nd century date, these included two diffuse features [1230] and [1234] to the east of the trench that were both truncated by the wide east-west linear [1217]. Their full extent was not revealed, therefore their full form and function remained unknown though the fill (1235) of feature [1234] did contain human bone fragments.

To the north of the trench was a single isolated grave cut [1214]. The grave was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.81m long x 0.40m wide. Human bone (1215) was visible on the surface of the grave fill (1216), and to the north-east of the grave the lower legs of the individual could be seen. A number of iron hobnails could also be noted. Although the grave remained unexcavated it could be observed that the burial was placed in an extended supine position, with the head at the south-west end, and the legs slightly flexed to the east. Pottery from the upper part of the grave fill could be dated to the early-mid 2nd century. The burial was fully recorded as exposed, and then protected and re-buried in situ.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was excavated to ascertain the nature of at least two ditches that could be seen clearly on the geophysics plot, these ditches appeared to be connected to the sub-divisions of the Roman town system directly to the south. Here the trench clearly exposed both these ditches. To the immediate south of the trench, and only partially exposed was a northwest to southeast aligned gully [1303]. This gully appeared on the geophysics as part of an internal curvilinear enclosure. The gully was at least 1.40m wide and 0.52m deep. It contained two fills. The lower deposit (1304) contained Roman pottery of an early-mid 2nd century date along with building rubble. The upper fill (1305) contained pottery of an indeterminate Roman date along with stony rubble. The ditch appeared to have been in-filled with demolition/abandonment material.



At the eastern end of this trench was a small gully [1509] aligned north-west to south-east. A single fill (1510) within this ditch contained a fragment of undiagnostic Roman pottery.

Trench 16

A north-south aligned 50m long trench. Located in the centre of this field, Trench 16 was targeted on a rectilinear enclosure identified on the geophysics plot. This trench investigated both the northern and the southern ditches of the enclosure. On the southern side, an east-west ditch [1603] measured 1.80m wide and was 0.36m deep. The profile of this ditch varied to the other ditches in this field, in that it was formed by near vertical sides and a flat base, as opposed to the common V-shaped ditches. The cut contained a single fill (1604) which could be dated to the middle Iron Age based on pottery recovered. At the north of this trench, a parallel east-west aligned ditch [1607] appeared to mark the northern extent of this enclosure. This feature had a different profile, here the ditch was a shallow U-shape, though the fill (1608) was similar to (1604). Dateable material from (1608) consisted of both middle-late Bronze Age material and a Romano-British pottery sherd. The presence of this later Roman pottery would suggest that this ditch, along with the associated ditch [1603], date to the Roman period and the earlier Iron Age pottery is residual.

Trench 17

To the eastern side of this field, this trench targeted a faint north-west to south-east aligned linear feature that could be seen on the geophysics. Upon investigation, a ditch was exposed. The cut [1703] for this ditch measured 2.62m wide and 0.66m deep. The ditch contained two fills (1704) and (1705) which were similar to the fills in ditch [1815] in Trench 18. This, and the direction on which this ditch was aligned suggests the two are likely to be the same feature. This ditch was dated

too the Bronze Age period through the presence of finds (see above), but its similarity to ditch [1815] may suggest that it is of Roman date.

Undated

Within Trench 16 two discrete and irregular features were investigated [1605] and [1609], these were clearly identified as either tree throws or variations in the natural geology and were not of archaeological origin.

Modern

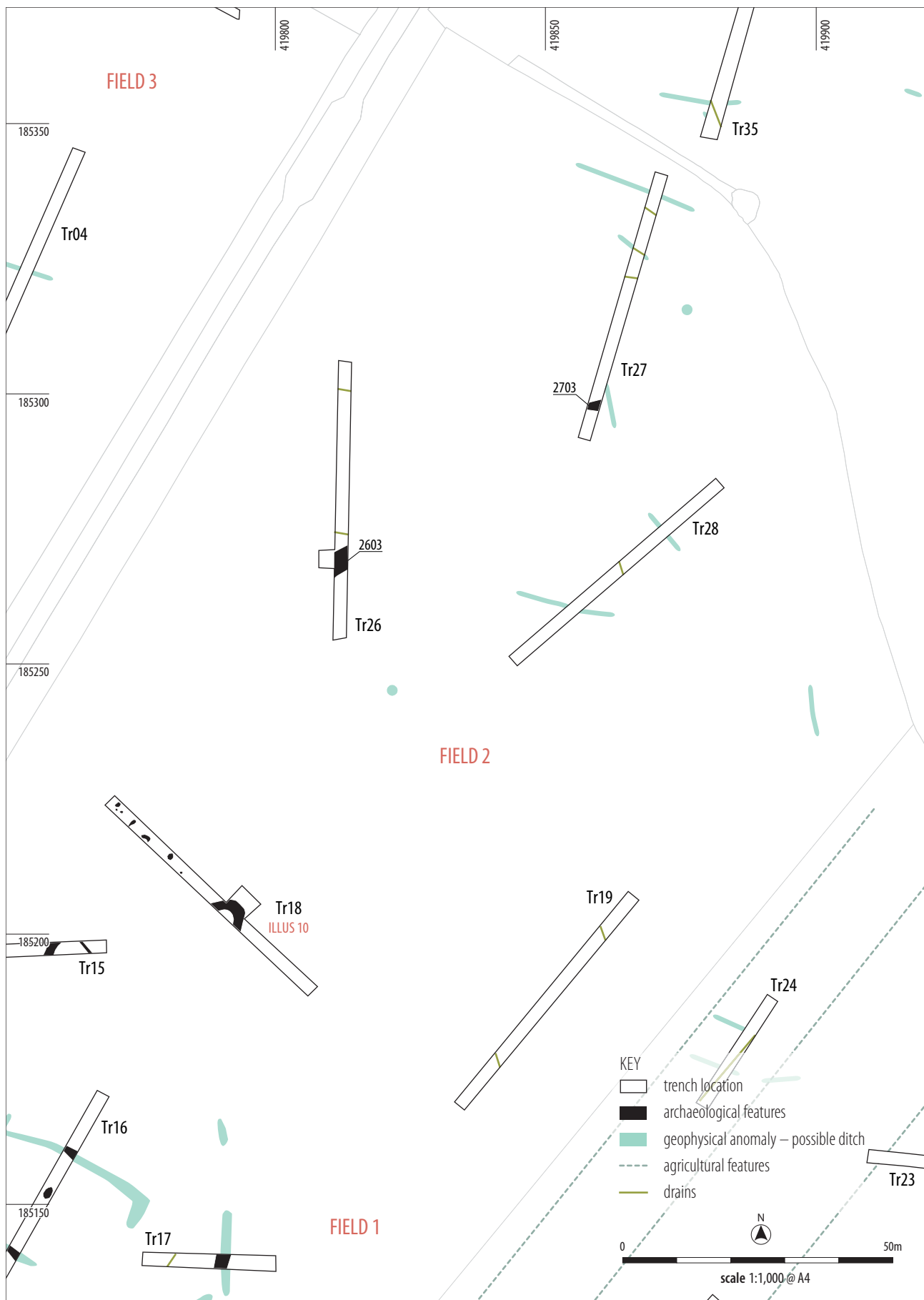
Field drains were noted in Trenches 15 and 17.

4.2 FIELD 2

This field was located just to the east of the farm access road, and was located to the centre of the proposed development area. Five trenches were excavated. The soil profile was broadly consistent across the area.

Stratigraphic sequence

The field is level pasture and the soil profile was similar to the other areas with the topsoil being a dark brown silt clay, varying between 0.20–0.30m deep, sealing a subsoil of grey brown silt clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions between 0.20–0.25m deep. As with all of the areas the geological deposits varied considerably from orange brown stony clay to yellow brown and grey blue clay silt.



ILLUS 9

Field 2

Roman

Trench 18

Located to the south of Field 2, this trench contained a number of features; some of which could be dated to the Roman period. To the centre of the trench two linear ditches were observed during the initial machine excavation of the trench. As these ditches would have converged just to the north of the trench, the trench was extended slightly to the north so that the relationship of the ditches could be fully exposed. The ditches appeared to be contemporary and formed one single feature [1815]. The ditch was aligned north-south and then turned sharply through c.100° to the west and then ran in an east-west direction. The ditch was 1.75m wide, extending to 2.50m wide as it turned and up to 0.63m deep. The sides were regular, but the base undulated.

The ditch cut contained three separate fills (1803/1808/1813, 1804/1809/1814, 1827). The lower fill (1827) consisted of light grey brown clay and appeared to be re-deposited geological material, possibly forming soon after the ditch was dug. Fill (1814) was also very similar to the natural geology, but contained very slight flecks of charcoal. The upper fill (1813) was darker grey brown clay and contained animal bone. The upper fill of the ditch was truncated by a later circular feature [1807], 0.35m diameter and 0.33m deep. This feature had vertical sides and a flat base and may be a later pit/post-hole, though it was interpreted on site as likely root disturbance. Datable material from the ditch consisted of a broad Roman date from the lower fill (1809) and a late date of the 4th century from the upper fill (1803).

To the west of the ditch [1815] were a number of smaller discrete features. These mainly consisted of shallow irregular sub-circular cuts [1812], [1819], [1823], [1821], [1825] and [1828]. All of these features contained similar light brown sterile slit clay. All were irregular in shape and have been interpreted as likely tree throws/root disturbance. However some [1812], [1819] and [1821], contained dateable material, predominantly from the late 1st–early 2nd century.

Trench 26

To the southern end of this trench a single linear feature was noted. This shallow, but wide ditch 4.30m x 0.30m was aligned roughly NE-SW. The base of the ditch was very irregular. Although dateable material was recovered from with the single fill (2604) the feature may have represented a natural anomaly, such as a tree throw, due to the irregular nature of the cut.

Undated

Trench 18

Also within this trench was a small ditch/gully [1816] located to the west of the large Roman ditch [1815]. This smaller ditch (0.64m wide, 0.30m deep) appeared to terminate within the trench. The gully was aligned north-south and was potentially noted on the geophysics plot. However no dateable material was recovered.

Trench 27

To the southern end of this trench was a shallow linear feature [2703]. Initially this was considered to be a continuation of feature

[2604], though on investigation the feature in this trench appeared to potentially be a natural feature, or variation within the underlying geology. There was no indication of archaeological features associated with the geophysical anomalies recorded crossing this trench.

Modern

Field drains were noted in Trenches 19, 26, 27 and 28.

Blank trenches

Trenches 19 and 28 were blank. There was no indication of archaeological features associated with the geophysical anomalies recorded crossing Trench 28.

4.3 FIELD 3

Stratigraphic sequence

This level pasture field was located just to the north of the scheduled Roman town, and was located to the south-west of the proposed development area. Five trenches were excavated. The soil profile was broadly consistent across the area.

The soil profile was similar to the other areas with the topsoil being a dark brown silt clay, varying between 0.20–0.30m deep, sealing a subsoil of grey brown silt clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions between 0.20m–0.25m deep. As with all of the areas the geological deposits varied considerably from orange brown stony clay to yellow brown and grey blue clay silt.

Roman

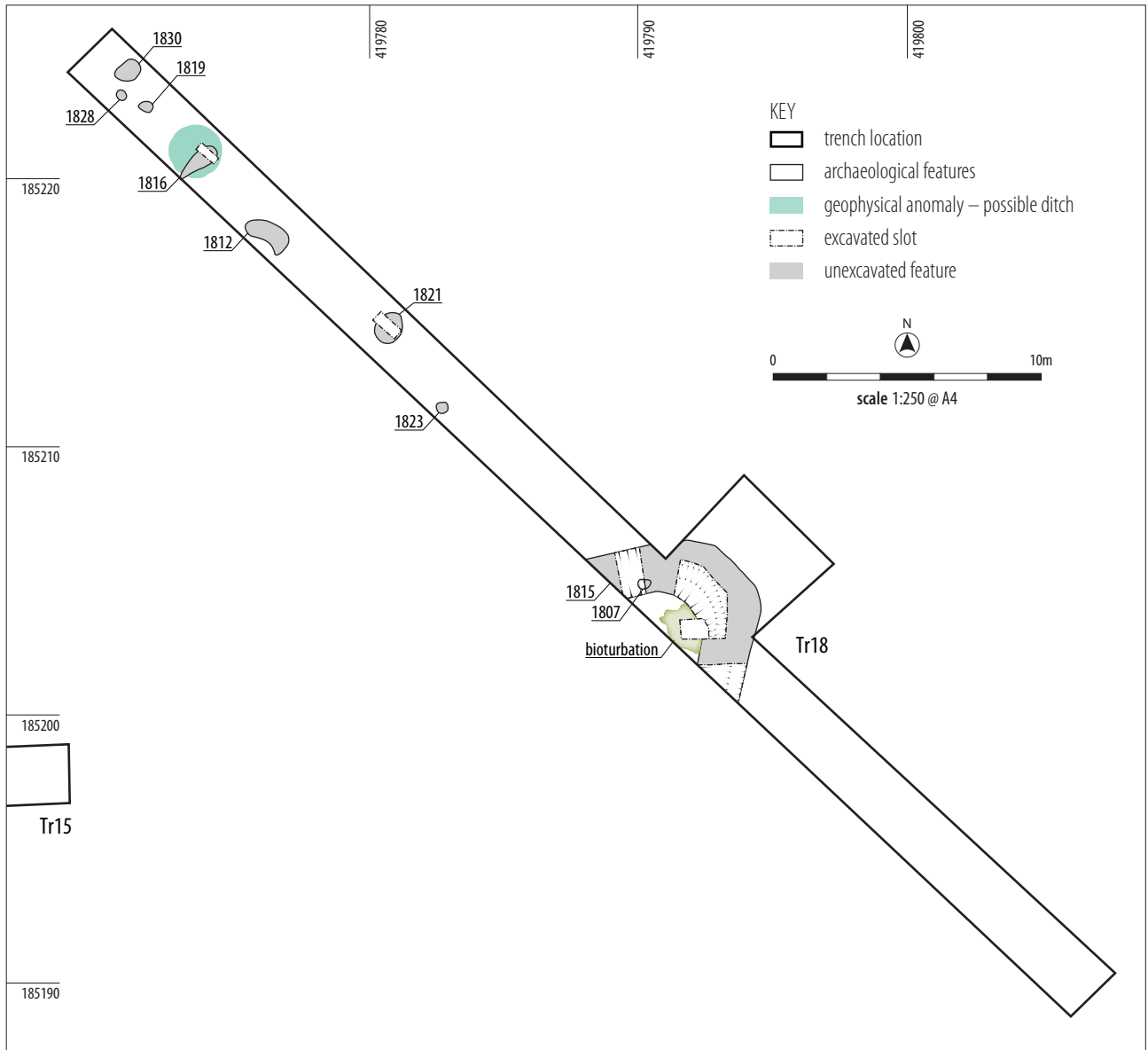
Trench 01

In this trench a linear feature was observed running on a north-south alignment. The feature [103] was 21.60m wide and 0.53m deep. It contained two fills. The upper fill (0105) consisted of a dark blue grey clay fill, and the lower fill (0104) being a mottled orange brown clay. Both fills contained animal bone and shell fragments. This ditch could be observed on the geophysical plot, and is likely to be contemporary with the linear feature [0203] noted in Trench 2 (see below).

Also within this trench, two possible circular pits were noted, however, neither of them were fully exposed, both continued under the trench edges. To the northern side of the trench, feature [0106] measured 1.18m diameter and 0.11m deep. It contained a single fill of mid yellow clay. A single sherd of 2nd century Roman pottery was recovered. To the southern side of the trench a similar feature measuring 0.78m diameter and 0.12m deep also contained Roman pottery of a similar date.

Trench 2

Towards the southern end of the trench was an east-west aligned ditch [0203]. This ditch measured 1.15m wide and 0.24m deep. The ditch contained a single fill (0204) which consisted of red grey silt clay. Animal bone and pottery dating to the 2nd century was recovered from this fill. This ditch appeared on the geophysical plot



ILLUS 10

Detail of features within Trench 18

ILLUS 11

N facing section through ditch [1815]

and is likely to be contemporary with ditch [0103] seen in Trench 01 to the west.

Undated

Trench 05

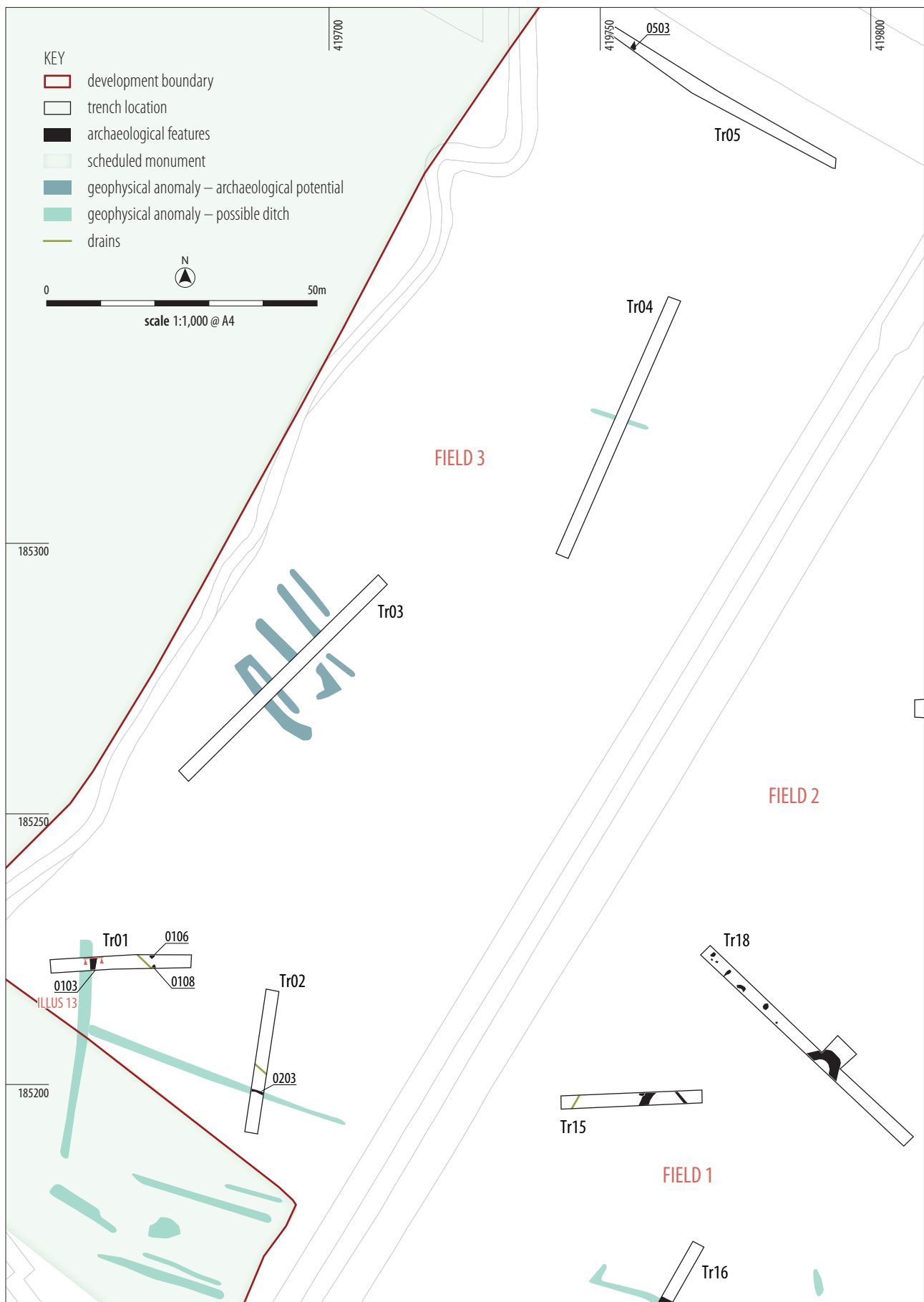
To the far eastern end of this trench, the eastern edge of the former watercourse was observed. Here the palaeochannel was only partially exposed, though its orientation was established, running in a north-south direction. The channel was only excavated to a depth of 1m due to safety and practical constraints. However, this channel also appeared within Trench 07 (Field 5), to the north, where it was investigated in greater detail.



Modern

Trench 03

A well-defined geophysical anomaly was noted towards the centre of this trench. Upon investigation it became clear that this was as a result of modern material. The material was high in the topsoil and



ILLUS 12
Field 3

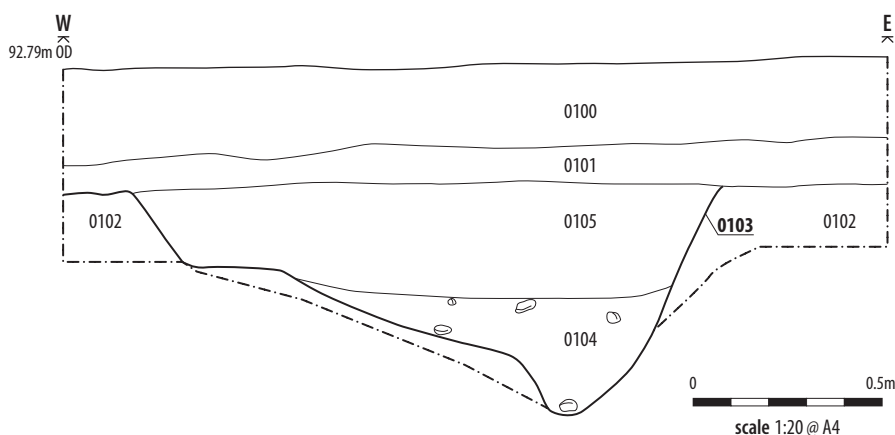


ILLUS 13

S facing section trough ditch [0103]

consisted of stones and crushed brick fragments. The area here is prone to becoming very wet, and this stone had been placed as a way of consolidating the ground.

Field drains were noted in Trenches 01 and 02.



Blank trenches

Trench 04

No evidence for human activity of archaeological significance was observed within this trench. There was no indication of archaeological features associated with the geophysical anomaly recorded crossing this trench.

4.4 FIELD 4

Stratigraphic sequence

A total of six trenches were excavated in this field located to the east of the site. The field is level pasture and the soil profile was similar to the other areas with the topsoil being a dark brown silt clay, varying between 0.30–0.32m deep, sealing a subsoil of greyish brown silt clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions (0.10–0.12m deep). As with all of the areas the geological deposits varied considerably from orange brown stony clay to yellow brown and grey blue clay silt.

Modern

Trench 25

Towards the centre of this trench, a partially exposed pit [2504] was noted, associated with a geophysical anomaly. The pit, roughly 2.20m diameter, was not excavated because a considerable amount of 19th/20th century material was observed within the loose grey silt fill (2503). These included metal farm machinery parts, willow ware pottery and broken ceramic field drains.

Field drains were noted in Trenches 20, 22–24.

Blank trenches

Trenches 20–24 were blank. There was no indication of archaeological features associated with the geophysical anomaly recorded crossing these trenches. The anomalies marked as agricultural activity may represent the tracks of mole drains.

4.5 FIELD 5

Stratigraphic sequence

A total of three trenches were excavated in this large field towards the northern extent of the proposed development area. The field is pasture, sloping gently to the west, down to a small stream marking the western edge of the proposed development area. The soil profile was similar to the other areas with the topsoil being a dark brown silt clay, varying between 0.20–0.35m deep, sealing a subsoil of greyish brown silt clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions (0.15–0.20m deep). As with all of the areas the geological deposits varied considerably from orange brown stony clay to yellow brown and grey blue clay silt.

Undated

Trench 07

To the lower, western side of this trench was a large, roughly north-south aligned palaeochannel. This channel was visible on the geophysics plot. The original trench was orientated on a north-south alignment, but this was altered to an east-west alignment due to the presence of an overhead power cable. The full extent of the channel was unclear, only the eastern side was exposed.

The channel [0704] was at least 2.70m deep and contained a single fill (0703) of fine grey blue alluvial clays. The channel was investigated through the excavation of two machine dug slots. These were not entered due to health and safety constraints. However, measurements were able to be taken and organic material was recovered from the base of the deposit. This channel extended along the western side of the development area, and was also partially exposed in the western end of Trench 05 to the south.

Modern

Trench 07

Above the undated palaeochannel [0705] was a layer of modern material (0705). This material consisted of stone, brick, tile and other 19th–20th century waste. This context only existed in the lower, western end of the trench and was lain directly over the top of the palaeochannel.

ILLUS 14

N facing section through channel [0704]

Field drains were noted in Trenches 07 and 08. There was no indication of archaeological features associated with the geophysical anomalies recorded crossing these trenches.

4.6 FIELD 6

Stratigraphic sequence

A total of three trenches were excavated in this field. The field is pasture and the ground slopes gently to the south. The soil profile was similar to the other areas with the topsoil being a dark brown silt clay, varying between 0.20–0.25m deep, sealing a subsoil of greyish brown silt clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions (0.15–0.24m deep). As with all of the areas the geological deposits varied considerably from orange brown stony clay to yellow brown and grey blue clay silt.

Modern and blank trenches

Field drains were noted in Trenches 09 and 10. There was no indication of archaeological features associated with the geophysical anomalies recorded crossing these trenches.

Trench 11 was blank. There was no indication of archaeological features associated with the geophysical anomalies recorded crossing this trench.

4.7 FIELD 7

Stratigraphic sequence

A total of 13 trenches were excavated in this field. The field is level pasture and the soil profile was similar to the other areas with the topsoil being a dark brown silt clay, varying between 0.12–0.34m deep, sealing a subsoil of greyish brown silt clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions (0.10–0.16m deep). As with all of the areas the geological deposits varied considerably from orange brown stony clay to yellow brown and grey blue clay silt.

Undated features

Trench 36

An east-west orientated gully [3903] (measuring 0.86m in width and 0.20m in depth) was observed in the centre of the trench. The fill [3904] comprised a dark grey/brown silt clay and was very similar in composition to the natural geology. Animal bone was recovered from the base of this ditch, which was not picked up by the geophysical survey.



Trench 38

An irregular circular feature [3803] (measuring 1m x 0.61m and 0.06m deep) was observed within the far south-eastern end of the trench. The fill comprised of a shallow (0.05m) clay deposit. No dating evidence was recovered.

Modern

Field drains were noted in Trenches 29–31, 33, 35–37, 39–41.

Blank trenches

Trenches 29–35, 37, 39–41.

Trench 33 was excavated to target a geophysical anomaly that appeared to be archaeological in nature; however this was seen to be a variation in the underlying geology. In general none of the geophysical anomalies within this field were associated with archaeological features.

5 DISCUSSION

The majority of the archaeological evidence observed within the trenches tallied with the geophysical survey, which proved proficient in detecting features filled with waste from the nearby Romano-British settlement. However the large ditch noted within Trenches 15 and 18 is clearly of a substantial size, but was not detected by the geophysics. A second linear feature in Trench 36 was also not detected. This suggests that the fill characteristics of these features are not amenable to detection by gradiometry, and may indicate a date before or after the main phase of Roman activity on the site.

Many of the geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as being potential linear features were not in fact associated with real archaeological features. This suggests that the natural geology has certain properties that can lead to a 'false positive' interpretation of a set of geophysical results.



5.1 PREHISTORIC/IRON AGE

The only feature within which solely prehistoric pottery was found was ditch [1703] in Trench 17. However, it seems possible that this feature relates either to the enclosure in Trench 16 (in which both prehistoric and Romano-British pottery was found), or to the linear feature in Trench 18 (in which only Romano-British pottery was found. Therefore whilst background prehistoric activity in the area seems certain, the trial trenching has not located any features of definite prehistoric date.

5.2 ROMANO-BRITISH

Securely dated Romano-British features are mainly confined to the southern and western side of the development area. This is the area of the site that is closest to the known Roman town, and activity here would appear to be connected with dispersed occupation extending northwards. This activity is primarily noted within Trenches 01, 02 and 12–18, with a possible extension of activity to the north in Trenches 26 and 27. The dating of the majority of these features dated to the early part of the Roman period and main occupation for the Roman town.

The majority of the features that could be dated to the Roman period consisted of field/boundary ditches, as to be expected on the fringes and marginal areas around a substantial settlement area. The exceptions to this are Trenches 12, 13 and 14, where more occupational activity was noted. This included a greater concentration of features and of material culture, probably relating to the presence of waste-heaps along the edge of the town. The recovery of tile and box-flue fragments provide evidence for the demolition and clearance of Romano-British buildings and indicates that there is a higher level of archaeological complexity within the adjacent scheduled area.

Also in Trench 12 the presence of a burial was observed. This may just be an isolated burial, but a cemetery would not be unusual on the edge of a settlement site. The presence of a human skull within the nearby ditch [1503] in Trench 15 may also indicate the possibility of a cemetery site.

There is no evidence of any substantial activity extending northwards. This is likely to be due to the nature of the landscape. Even in the present day, with extensive drainage, the farmland is prone to constant, heavy flooding in winter, and rapid parching during the summer months. This is likely to have been the same, if not worse during the Roman period, rendering this large swathe of land un-workable.

5.3 UNDATED FEATURES

A number of small discreet features were noted across the site. Those features noted towards the southern extent of the site, close to the Roman town may relate to dispersed Roman activity. However, the irregular nature of some of these features and lack of artefacts within them may indicate that they were solely non-archaeological in origin.

5.4 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL

The results from the sample processing indicate the deeper palaeochannels within the site contain good conditions for the preservation of organic materials. This material could be used for scientific dating of the channel sequences if securely provenanced (e.g. from short-lived species that would have grown within or close to the channel banks).

5.5 TRENCHES CONTAINING NO EVIDENCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

The area to the north and east of the site (Fields 4, 5 and 7) was almost wholly devoid of any archaeological features. The likely reason for this is the ground conditions, rather than later truncation. The topography is very flat, low lying and the underlying soils here are very poor and slow draining and would therefore not have been prime land for either farming or settlement.

6 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has succeeded in establishing the location, date and significance of archaeological remains within the site. The work succeeded in identifying a feature of archaeological significance in Trench 18 that was not detected by the geophysical survey, suggesting that the trenching strategy was suitable for identifying previously unknown archaeological features. The combined results of the geophysics and trenching therefore allow a good level of confidence for making decisions about the effects of the proposed development upon archaeological remains.

Archaeological activity is concentrated in the south and west of the development area and has been dated to the early part of the Romano-British period. The Roman archaeology relates to the peripheral activity associated with the Roman town of Durocornovium on to which this site borders. It does not appear to extend significantly farther than the south-western edge of Field 2.

The recovery of reasonably large quantities of artefacts and animal bone from the topsoil and subsoil horizon in Trench 12 is an indication of ongoing disturbance of archaeological levels by agricultural activity. This, and the evidence for burials at a relatively shallow depth in the same trench, suggests that archaeological remains in this area are potentially more sensitive to harm than elsewhere on the site.

To the west of the site is a large palaeochannel, though at present this is undated, this has shown that there is potential for the survival of environmental remains, both here, and in the other channels that cross the land to the north of this development site.

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

TR01	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	25	2.13	0.56

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0100	Topsoil — mid brown grey silt clay. Slightly stony with sub-rounded small sized stones	0.21
0101	Subsoil — light brown silt clay with many rounded small-medium stones	0.17
0102	Natural — mixed mid brown/light grey blue/orange brown silt clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones	—
0103	Cut of linear running N-S, filled by (0104) and (0105). W edge stepped and E side steep, V-shaped base. Possibly contemporary with [0203] in Trench 02. Dim: 1.60x0.61m	—
0104	Lower fill of linear [0103]. Mid orange grey mottled silt clay with occasional small stone inclusions	0.31
0105	Upper fill of linear [0103]. Dark blue grey silt clay, with very occasional small stones	0.30
0106	Partially exposed circular (?) pit cut. Filled by (0107). Gradual gentle sides to flat base. Dim: 1.18x0.76x0.11m	—
0107	Single fill of pit [0106]. Mid yellow grey compact clay with very occasional small sub-rounded stones	0.11
0108	Partially exposed circular (?) pit cut. Filled by (0109). Gradual gentle sides to flat base. Dim: 0.78x0.57x0.12m	—
0109	Single fill of pit [0108]. Mid brown grey compact clay with no inclusions	0.12

Trench description

A single linear feature which was visible on the geophysical plot and two possible pits, though both extended under the edges of the trench

TR02	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N-S	25	2.13	0.56

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0200	Topsoil — same as Trench 01	0.29
0201	Subsoil — same as Trench 01	0.24
0202	Natural — same as Trench 01	—
0203	Cut of linear running E-W. Filled by (0204). Gentle concave sides and base. Possibly contemporary with [0103] in Trench 01. Dim: 1.15x0.24m	—
0204	Single fill of linear [0203]. Mid red brown silt clay. No inclusions	0.24

Trench description

Single linear feature visible on geophysics plot

TR03	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NE-SW	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0300	Topsoil — same as Trench 01	0.14
0301	Modern hardcore deposit. Consists of stones and broken brick fragments. Located just below the present ground surface	0.08
0302	Natural — same as Trench 01	—
0303	Subsoil — same as Trench 01	0.15

Trench description

Hardcore deposit was present in same location as a large positive response from the geophysics. No archaeological features present

TR04	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	50	2.13	0.48

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0400	Topsoil — same as Trench 01	0.22
0401	Subsoil — same as Trench 01	0.34
0402	Natural — same as Trench 01	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR05	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNW-SSE	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0500	Topsoil — same as Trench 01	0.21
0501	Subsoil — same as Trench 01	0.17
0502	Natural — same as Trench 01	—
0503	Cut for curvilinear palaeochannel, aligned roughly N-S. Filled by (0504) and (0505). Only partially excavated, not bottomed. Likely continuation of large channel (0704) seen in Trench 07. Only visible in the western end of this trench	—
0504	Lower fill of [0503]. Fine blue grey slits. No inclusions	Not excavated
0505	Upper fill of [0503]. Modern mid brown silt clay deposit. Contains modern glass fragments	0.48

Trench description

Only the channel visible to the west of the trench

TR06	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	25	2.13	0.60

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0600	Topsoil – m brown grey silt clay. Slightly stony with sub-rounded small sized stones	0.35
0601	Subsoil – light brown silt clay with frequent rounded small–medium stones	0.25
0602	Natural – mixed mid brown/light grey blue/orange brown silt clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones	–

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR07	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	50	2.13	0.90

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0700	Topsoil – same as Trench 06	0.35
0701	Subsoil – same as Trench 06	0.20
0702	Natural – same as Trench 06	–
0703	Lower fill of [0704]. Fine blue grey clay. Organics present towards the base of the deposit	2.65
0704	Cut for palaeochannel running roughly N-S. Filled by (0703) and (0704). 2.70m deep. Base only partially exposed	–
0705	Upper fill of [0704]. Mid-dark brown silt clay. Frequent stones and modern brick/tile fragments	0.25

Trench description

Only the channel visible to the west of the trench. Depth of trench ascertained via machine dug interventions. Samples recovered from the lower reaches

TR08	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N-S	50	2.13	0.56

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0800	Topsoil – same as Trench 06	0.20
0801	Subsoil – same as Trench 06	0.25
0802	Natural – same as Trench 06	–

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR09	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N-S	50	2.13	0.45

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
0900	Topsoil – same as Trench 06	0.25
0901	Subsoil – same as Trench 06	0.15
0902	Natural – same as Trench 06	–

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR10	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N-S	50	2.13	0.48

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
1000	Topsoil – same as Trench 06	0.20
1001	Subsoil – same as Trench 06	0.19
1002	Natural – same as Trench 06	–

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR11	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	25.6	2.13	0.65

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
1100	Topsoil – same as Trench 06	0.23
1101	Subsoil – same as Trench 06	0.24
1102	Natural – same as Trench 06	–

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR12	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	17.10	5.33	0.60

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
1200	Topsoil – m brown grey silt clay. Slightly stony with sub-rounded small sized stones	0.20
1201	Subsoil – light blue brown silt clay with frequent rounded small–medium stones	0.12
1202	Natural – mixed mid brown/light grey blue/orange brown silt clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones	–
1203	Cut of possible linear running E-W. Filled by (1204). Moderate sides to level base. Heavily truncated by pit [1205]. Terminates within trench. Dim: 1.55x0.33m	–
1204	Single fill of [1203]. Mid brown firm silt clay with rare small stones and charcoal flecks	0.33
1205	Cut of circular pit. Filled by (1206), (1207) and (1208). Steep sides to shallow concave base. Dim: 1.55x0.29m	–



TR12	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	17.10	5.33	0.60
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1206	Primary fill of [1205]. Mid orange grey firm silt clay. Occasional charcoal flecks	0.03		
1207	Lower fill of [1205]. Mid orange brown plastic silt clay. Occasional small stones, charcoal and CBM fragments	0.06		
1208	Upper fill of [1205]. Dark brown grey plastic silt clay. Occasional small stones, charcoal and CBM fragments	0.23		
1209	Cut of slight linear running E-W. Filled by (1210) and (1211). Very shallow, gradual sides to slight concave base. Terminates within the trench. Dim: 1.05x0.20m	—		
1210	Lower fill of [1209]. Light orange brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks and CBM fragments	0.13		
1211	Upper fill of [1209]. Mid grey brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks and CBM fragments	0.07		
1212	Possible circular cut. Filled by (1213). Slight concave edges and base. Cuts upper fill (1211) of [2109]. Dim: 0.52x0.10m	—		
1213	Fill of [1212]. Mid-dark grey brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Very similar to (1211)	0.10		
1214	Grave cut. Filled by (1215) and (1216). Elongated cut aligned NE-SW. Contains human inhumation. Not excavated. Dim: 1.81x0.40m	—		
1215	Human burial within grave [1214]. Not excavated, only partially exposed, left in-situ. Extended, flexed burial with head at the SW end. Evidence of hob-nails at the NE end	Unknown		
1216	Fill of grave [1214]. Not fully excavated. Dark grey brown firm silt clay with shell, charcoal and CBM fragments	Unknown		
1217	Cut of shallow linear running E-W. Filled by (1218) and (1220). Gentle concave sides leading to shallow, irregular base. Same as [1227] and [1232]. Dim: 2.70x0.30m	—		
1218	Lower fill of [1217]. Light brown firm silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks and CBM fragments. Same as (1228)	0.10		
1219	VOID	—		
1220	Upper fill of [1217]. Very dark blue grey firm silt clay with frequent large stones, charcoal flecks and CBM fragments. Same as (1229) and (1233)	0.30		
1221	Cut for partially exposed curvilinear (?) feature. Filled by (1222). Dim: 0.81x0.17m	—		
1222	Single fill of feature [1221]. Mid grey brown firm silt clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	0.17		
1223	Wide, shallow, circular/ovoid pit cut. Filled by (1224). Gentle concave sides to irregular level base. Dim: 2.50x1.80x1.11m	—		
1224	Single fill of pit cut [1223]. Mid brown grey firm sandy clay with frequent pottery fragments	0.11		
1225	Cut for partially exposed sub-ovoid (?) pit. Filled by (1226). Gentle, shallow concave sides to shallow, level base. Dim: 1.90x1.62x0.17m	—		

TR12	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	17.10	5.33	0.60
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1226	Single fill of pit [1225]. Light brown grey firm silt clay with very occasional small sub-rounded stones	0.17		
1227	Cut of shallow linear running E-W. Filled by (1288) and (1229). Gentle concave sides leading to shallow, irregular base. Same as [1217] and [1232]. Dim: 2.78x0.36m	—		
1228	Lower fill of [1217]. Light brown silt firm clay with occasional charcoal flecks and CBM fragments. Same as (1218)	0.10		
1229	Upper fill of [1217]. Very dark blue grey firm silt clay with frequent large stones, charcoal flecks and CBM fragments. Same as (1220) and (1233)	0.36		
1230	Possible pit cut. Only very partially exposed. Filled by (1231). Possibly circular, base and sides not fully exposed. Cut by linear [1232]. Dim: unknown	—		
1231	Single fill of pit (?) [1230]. Dark blue grey coarse sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular stones	Unknown		
1232	Same as [1217] and [1227]. Filled by (1233)	—		
1233	Upper fill of [1232]. Very dark blue grey firm silt clay with frequent large stones, charcoal flecks and CBM fragments. Same as (1220) and (1229)	Unknown		
1234	Possible pit cut. Only very partially exposed. Filled by (1235). Possibly circular, base and sides not fully exposed. Cut by linear [1232]. Dim: unknown, depth 0.20m	—		
1235	Single fill of pit (?) [1234]. Dark blue grey firm silt clay with occasional med-large sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	0.20		

Trench description

Trench length reduced to the south due to the presence of overhead power cables. The trench was widened to establish extent/direction of archaeological features. Numerous features of RB date, including a single human burial. The main E-W linear [1217] appeared on the geophysics as a slight anomaly

TR13	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	8.5 + 10	2.13	0.35
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1300	Topsoil — same as Trench 12	0.24		
1301	Subsoil — same as Trench 12	0.14		
1302	Natural — same as Trench 12	—		
1303	Cut of partially linear running NW-SE. Filled by (1304) and (1305). Only the northern side of this ditch was excavated. Steep sides to a shallow concave base. Dim: 1.40+x0.52m	—		
1304	Lower fill of [1303]. Mottled light orange grey firm silt clay with occasional small stones and CBM fragments. Deposit also contains a lens of dark silt clay and frequent stones	0.41m		
1305	Upper fill of [1303]. Dark brown firm friable silt clay with frequent medium stones, CBM and charcoal flecks	0.27		

TR13	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	8.5 + 10	2.13	0.35
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1306	Cut of linear running NW-SE. Filled by (1307), (1308), and (1309) and (1310). Shallow concave sides to a stepped concave base. Continues into Trench 14 to the east [1403]. Dim: 2.05x0.60m	—		
1307	Primary fill of [1306]. Mid brown grey firm silt clay. Rare CBM and charcoal flecks. Same as (1404)	0.10		
1308	Fill of [1306]. Mid orange brown firm silt clay with rare charcoal flecks. Possibly the same as (1309)	0.05		
1309	Fill of [1306]. Mid orange brown firm silt clay with rare charcoal flecks. Possibly the same as (1308)	0.08		
1310	Main fill of [1306]. Dark brown grey firm silt clay with frequent charcoal flecks, CBM and pottery fragments. Same as (1409)	0.50		

Trench description

Trench split into 2 sections due to the presence of overhead power cables. Both features located in the southern section. Both ditches here were noted on the geophysical plot

TR14	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	13.7	2.13	0.38
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1400	Topsoil – same as Trench 12	0.18		
1401	Subsoil – same as Trench 12	0.27		
1402	Natural – same as Trench 12	—		
1403	Cut of linear running NE-SW. Filled by (1404), (1405), and (1407) and (1409). Shallow concave sides to a stepped concave base. Continues into Trench 13 to the west [1306]. Dim: 2.05x0.60m	—		
1404	Primary fill of [1403]. Light brown grey firm silt clay. Same as (1307)	0.17		
1405	Fill of [1403]. Light grey brown firm silt clay	0.36		
1406	Fill of [1410]. Mid brown grey compact coarse sandy clay	0.12		
1407	Fill of [1403]. Dark blue grey firm clay	0.45		
1408	Fill of [1410]. Mid brown grey compact silt clay	0.30		
1409	Main fill of [1403]. Dark brown grey firm silt clay with frequent charcoal flecks, CBM and pottery fragments. Same as (1310)	—		
1410	Cut for unclear feature, only seen in section. Filled by (1406) and (1408). Moderate concave sides to flat base. Truncated on the west by [1403]. Dim: 1.04x0.30m	—		

Trench description

Trench length reduced to the north due to the presence of overhead power cables. The ditch [1403] appeared on the geophysics plot, and contained pottery

TR15	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	25	2.13	0.60
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1500	Topsoil – same as Trench 12	0.21		
1501	Subsoil – same as Trench 12	0.32		
1502	Natural – same as Trench 12	—		
1503	Cut of linear ditch running roughly N-S. Filled by (1504). Wide concave sides with a V-shaped base. Dim: 2.4x0.55m	—		
1504	Single fill of ditch [1503]. Dark blue grey firm clay with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded medium sized stones. Towards base of deposit was a human skull (1511)	0.55		
1505	Wide irregular cut. Extends beyond confines of the trench. Cut by ditch [1503]. Steep irregular sides and irregular concave base. Filled by (1506). Possible tree throw. Dim: 3.1x0.60m	—		
1506	Single mixed fill of feature [1505]. Light orange brown loose clay sand with occasional sub-angular stones	0.60		
1507	Cut of irregular feature. Not visible in plan. Shallow irregular concave sides and base. Cuts deposit (1504). Filled by (1508). Possible tree throw. Dim: 0.85x0.35m	—		
1508	Fill of [1507]. Mid grey brown firm sandy clay with very occasional small sub-rounded stones	0.35		
1509	Cut of linear gully running NW-SE. Filled by (1510). Steep sides to concave base. Dim: 0.4x0.21m	—		
1510	Single fill of gully [1509]. Mid brown grey compact sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular stones	0.21		
1511	Human skull visible within section through ditch [1503]. Skull is located within deposit (1504) but with no obvious sign of a later cut. No other bone was visible, but the skull was left in situ	—		

Trench description

The large ditch [1503] did not appear on the geophysics plot. It may also extend into Trench 18 to the north

TR16	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	50	2.13	0.64
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1600	Topsoil – same as Trench 12	0.28		
1601	Subsoil – same as Trench 12	0.30		
1602	Natural – same as Trench 12	—		
1603	Cut for linear running roughly E-W. Filled by (1604). Steep, slightly convex side to the south, and vertical edge to the north. Flat, regular base. Dim: 1.80x0.36m	—		
1604	Single fill of ditch [1603]. Mid brown grey firm clay with no inclusions	0.36		
1605	Cut for sub-circular feature towards centre of the trench. Filled by (1606). Very shallow with gently sloping sides to flat base. Possible tree throw/bioturbation/variation in the underlying natural. Dim: 2.43x1.31x0.17m	—		
1606	Fill of [1604]. Mid orange grey firm silt clay, very sterile	0.17		



TR16	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	50	2.13	0.64

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
1607	Cut for linear running roughly E-W. Filled by (1608). Moderate concave sides and base. Dim: 1.20x0.27m	—
1608	Single fill of ditch [1607]. Mid orange grey firm silt clay with occasional small sub-angular stones.	0.27
1609	Cut for irregular feature. Filled by (1610). Gentle irregular concave sides and base. Possible tree throw. Dim: 1.46x0.10m	—
1610	Fill of [1609]. Mid grey brown firm silt clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. Very sterile	0.10

Trench description

The two ditches [1603] and [1607] appeared on the geophysics plot and are probably contemporary, forming a rectilinear enclosure

TR17	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	25	2.13	0.54

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
1700	Topsoil — same as Trench 12	0.28
1701	Subsoil — same as Trench 12	0.34
1702	Natural — same as Trench 12	—
1703	Cut of linear ditch running NW-SE. Filled by (1704) and (1705). Wide concave cut with moderate sides and shallow base. Dim: 2.62x0.66m	—
1704	Lower fill of ditch [1703]. Mid orange brown plastic clay. No inclusions	0.29
1705	Upper fill of ditch [1703]. Mid brown grey firm clay with no inclusions	0.52

Trench description

Single ditch present. Did not appear on the geophysics plot. May extend into Trench 18 to the north

TR18	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	50	2.13	0.45

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
1800	Topsoil — same as Trench 12	0.30
1801	Subsoil — same as Trench 12	0.10
1802	Natural — same as Trench 12	—
1803	Upper fill of ditch cut [1805]. Mid grey brown silt clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and very rare charcoal flecks. Same as (1808) and (1813)	0.25
1804	Lower fill of ditch cut [1805]. Light grey brown silt clay. Very rare charcoal flecks. Same as (1809) and (1814)	0.38
1805	Cut of ditch. Filled by (1808) and (1809). Same as [1815]	—
1806	Single fill of small cut [1807]. Mottled mid grey brown silt clay with no inclusions	0.29

TR18	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	50	2.13	0.45

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
1807	Cut of small circular feature. Filled by (1806). Steep sides to gradual concave base. Possible small pit, but likely to be tree rooting. Cuts into upper fill (1808) of ditch [1815]. Dim: 0.55x0.33x0.29m	—
1808	Upper fill of ditch cut [1810]. Mid grey brown silt clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and very rare charcoal flecks. Same as (1803) and (1813)	0.26
1809	Lower fill of ditch cut [1810]. Light grey brown silt clay. Very rare charcoal flecks. Same as (1804) and (1814)	0.29
1810	Cut of ditch. Filled by (1803). Same as [1815]	—
1811	Single fill of [1812]. Light brown grey clay. No inclusions	0.13
1812	Cut of irregular ovoid feature. Filled by (1811). Shallow feature with gentle irregular sides and base. Possible tree throw. Dim: 1.60x1.40x0.13m	—
1813	Upper fill of ditch cut [1815]. Mid grey brown silt clay with occasional small sub-angular stones and very rare charcoal flecks. Same as (1803) and (1808)	0.46
1814	Lower fill of ditch cut [1805]. Light grey brown silt clay. Very rare charcoal flecks. Same as (1804) and (1809)	0.26
1815	Cut of large ditch, aligned N-S and turns to E-W. Filled by (1813), (1814) and (1827). Steep, slightly concave sides, with stepped 'U' shaped base. Same as [1805] and [1810]. Dim: 1.70m wide, extending to 2.25m wide as it turns and between 0.30-0.62m deep	—
1816	Cut of linear/elongated pit running NE-SW. Filled by (1817) and (1818). Steep sides and V-shaped base. Dim: 0.64x0.30m	—
1817	Lower fill of feature [1816]. Light orange grey firm silt clay. Rare medium stones, gravels and charcoal flecks	0.10
1818	Upper fill of feature [1816]. Mid grey brown firm silt clay. Occasional small stones, charcoal flecks and CBM	0.20
1819	Cut of irregular ovoid feature. Filled by (1820). Shallow feature with gentle irregular sides and base. Possible tree throw. Dim: 1.30x0.87x0.20m	—
1820	Single fill of [1819]. Mid brown grey clay. Rare small stones and charcoal flecks	0.20
1821	Cut of irregular sub-circular feature. Filled by (1822). Shallow feature with gentle irregular sides and base. Possible tree throw. Dim: 1.42x0.83x0.15m	—
1822	Single fill of [1821]. Mid brown grey clay. Rare small stones	0.15
1823	Cut of irregular sub-circular feature. Filled by (1824). Shallow feature with gentle irregular sides and base. Possible tree throw. Dim: 0.63x0.54x0.06m	—
1824	Single fill of [1823]. Mid grey brown clay. No inclusions	0.06
1825	Cut of irregular sub-circular feature. Filled by (1826). Shallow feature with gentle irregular sides and base. Possible tree throw. Dim: 1.43x0.96x0.06m	—
1826	Single fill of [1823]. Light grey brown firm clay. No inclusions	0.06

TR18	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	50	2.13	0.45
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1827	Primary fill of ditch [1815]. Light brown grey clay. No inclusions. Re-deposited natural	0.08		
1828	Cut of irregular sub-circular feature. Filled by (1829). Shallow feature with gentle irregular sides and base. Possible tree throw. Dim: 0.4x0.38x0.04m	—		
1829	Single fill of [1823]. Mid brown grey firm clay. No inclusions	0.04		
1830	Irregular spread of material. Non archaeological	0.02		

Trench description

Trench extended to 5.63m in centre of the trench to establish the full nature of ditch [1815]. Trench contained ditch as it turned, appears to extend into trenches 15 and 17. The ditch was not visible on the geophysics plot. A number of other features were noted, some appear to be archaeological and others as the result of bioturbation

TR19	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NE-SW	50	2.13	0.45
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
1900	Topsoil – same as Trench 12	0.30		
1901	Subsoil – same as Trench 12	0.13		
1902	Natural – same as Trench 12	—		

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR20	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	25.20	2.13	0.50
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
2000	Topsoil – m brown grey loose silt clay. Slightly stony with sub-rounded small sized stones	0.32		
2001	Subsoil – light grey brown silt clay with frequent rounded small–medium stones	0.12		
2002	Natural– Natural – mixed mid brown/light grey blue/orange brown silt clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones	—		

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR21	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNW-SSE	25	2.13	0.40
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
2100	Topsoil – same as Trench 20	0.30		
2101	Subsoil – same as Trench 20	0.10		
2102	Natural – same as Trench 20	—		

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR22	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	50	2.13	0.42
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
2200	Topsoil – same as Trench 20	0.31		
2201	Subsoil – same as Trench 20	0.11		
2202	Natural – same as Trench 20	—		

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR23	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	50	2.13	0.45
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
2300	Topsoil – same as Trench 20	0.30		
2301	Subsoil – same as Trench 20	0.11		
2302	Natural – same as Trench 20	—		

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR24	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NE-SW	24.80	2.13	0.45
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
2400	Topsoil – same as Trench 20	0.31		
2401	Subsoil – same as Trench 20	0.10		
2402	Natural – same as Trench 20	—		

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR25	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	25	2.13	0.45
Context	Description	Thickness (m)		
2500	Topsoil – same as Trench 20	c. 0.30		
2501	Subsoil – same as Trench 20	c. 0.10		
2502	Natural – same as Trench 20	—		
2503	Fill of cut [2504] modern pit. Ovoid in plan, not excavated. The loose nature of the fill and modern artefacts within indicate a modern deposit. Dim 3.20m	Un-excavated		
2504	Cut of pit-filled by (2503)	—		

Trench description

No archaeological features present



TR26	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N-S	50	2.13	0.50

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
2600	Topsoil — same as Trench 12	c. 0.25
2601	Subsoil — same as Trench 12	c. 0.25
2602	Natural — same as Trench 12	—
2603	Cut of shallow linear running NE-SW. Filled by (2604). Irregular concave sides and base. Dim: 4.30x0.30m	—
2604	Single fill of irregular linear [2603]. Dark grey compact silt clay with occasional small sub-angular stones	0.30

Trench description

Single NE-SW aligned linear, possibly extends into Trench 27 to the north. This feature did not appear on the geophysics plot

TR27	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N-S	50	2.13	0.42

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
2700	Topsoil — same as Trench 12	0.20
2701	Subsoil — same as Trench 12	0.22
2702	Natural — same as Trench 12	—
2703	Possible extension of linear [2603] as seen in Trench 26 to the south. Though on investigation, appeared wholly natural	0.25

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR28	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NE-SW	50	2.13	0.48

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
2800	Topsoil — same as Trench 12	0.27
2801	Subsoil — same as Trench 12	0.18
2802	Natural — same as Trench 12	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR29	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
2900	Topsoil — m brown grey loose silt clay. Slightly stony with sub-rounded small sized stones	0.30
2901	Subsoil — light grey brown silt clay with frequent rounded small-medium stones	0.10
2902	Natural — Natural — mixed mid brown/light grey blue/orange brown silt clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR30	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N-S	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3000	Topsoil — same as Trench 29	0.30
3001	Subsoil — same as Trench 29	0.10
3002	Natural — same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR31	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	50.70	2.13	0.45

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3100	Topsoil — same as Trench 29	0.34
3101	Subsoil — same as Trench 29	0.12
3102	Natural — same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR32	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	25	2.13	0.48

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3200	Topsoil — same as Trench 29	0.23
3201	Natural — same as Trench 29	0.10
3202	Cut for NW-SE linear. 4m wide, 0.33m deep	—

TR33	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SW	25	2.13	0.48

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3300	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.20
3301	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.12
3302	Natural – same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR34	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	50	2.13	0.47

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3400	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.19
3401	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.13
3402	Natural – same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR35	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3500	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.30
3501	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.10
3502	Natural – same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR36	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNW-SSW	50	2.13	0.44

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3600	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.12
3601	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.06
3602	Natural – same as Trench 29	—
3603	Cut of linear ditch running E-W. Filled by (3604). Gentle concave sides to flat base. Dim: 0.86x0.20m	—
3604	Single fill of linear [3603]. Dark grey brown silt firm clay, occasional charcoal flecks	0.20

Trench description

Single ditch

TR37	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	50	2.13	0.43

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3700	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.16
3701	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.06
3702	Natural – same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR38	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SE	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3800	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.30
3801	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.10
3802	Natural – same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR39	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NE-SW	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
3900	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.20
3901	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.10
3902	Natural – same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

TR40	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW-SW	50	2.13	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
4000	Topsoil – same as Trench 29	0.23
4001	Subsoil – same as Trench 29	0.05
4002	Natural – same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present



TR41	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	50	2.13	0.48

Context	Description	Thickness (m)
4100	Topsoil — same as Trench 29	0.20
4101	Subsoil — same as Trench 29	0.16
4102	Natural — same as Trench 29	—

Trench description

No archaeological features present

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

MARK CORNEY AND JULIE FRANKLIN

The finds assemblage included 636 sherds (5.964kg) of pottery, 28 sherds of ceramic building material, 30 iron finds and a small quantity of ironworking waste. Most of the finds were of Roman date, with a small collection of prehistoric pottery and a handful of modern finds. The pottery is mostly small abraded sherds, with an average sherd weight of 9.4g, suggesting some disturbance before deposition.

TABLE 1

Quantification of finds by trench (quantified by sherd count unless otherwise stated)

TR	Pottery (PH)	Pottery (Rom)	Pottery (PM)	CBM (Rom)	Iron	Industrial waste
01	—	3	—	—	—	—
02	—	1	—	—	—	—
07	—	—	—	—	1 horseshoe	—
12	—	550	2	21	26	1g
13	—	32	—	6	3	—
14	—	1	—	1	—	—
15	—	2	—	—	—	<0.5g
16	9	1	—	—	—	—
17	7	—	—	—	—	—
18	—	9	—	—	—	—
24	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—
26	—	15	—	—	—	—
36	—	2	—	—	—	—
Total	16	618	2	28	30	1g

Prehistoric pottery

Sixteen sherds of handmade prehistoric pottery were present. The earliest of these were a group of sherds (1608, 1704, 1705) in a thick, burnt flint tempered fabric typical of Deverel-Rimbury and post Deverel-Rimbury vessels of middle to later Bronze Age date (Barrett 1980). Two of the sherds (1608) feature an applied horizontal cord on with fingernail impressed decoration.

There was also a single rim sherd (1604) typical of a middle Iron Age 'saucepan pot', probably of 3rd to 2nd century BC date.

Romano-British pottery

There were 618 sherds (5.781kg) of Roman pottery. The pottery has been identified by fabric type with reference to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Imports are rare, there being just six sherds of Samian Ware and one burnt sherd from a Spanish Dressel 20 olive oil amphora. The coarse wares are dominated by local products including grey sandy fabrics from the Swindon – North Wiltshire area and Savernake Wares from the Marlborough area; all of earlier Roman date. There are only three sherds of South East Dorset Black Burnished Ware.

Where forms are identifiable, jars dominate followed by bowls/dishes and flagons. Mortaria are rare, being present in only two contexts.

Only two late Roman sherds were noted: a BBI drop flange bowl dating no earlier than c250AD (2604); and small body sherd from a New Forest Colour Coat closed form of 4th century date (1803). The great rarity of later Romano-British types strongly suggests that the majority of the undiagnostic body sherds are of earlier Roman date.

The Roman sherds were spread over a number of trenches (**Table 1**) but were very much concentrated in Trench 12, from which 89% of the Roman sherds derived. The largest context assemblages came from contexts (1224) and (1229) and from surface contexts above them (1200) and (1201).

Post-medieval pottery

There are two sherds of post-medieval pottery from (1200). Both are of 18th to early 19th century date.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

A total of 28 sherds of CBM, weighing 1.784kg were found. The majority of the assemblage comprises relatively small and abraded fragments with an average sherd weight of 64g.

The assemblage is dominated by small unidentifiable fragments although the fabrics of these pieces are consistent with local Romano-British products recorded from kiln sites in north Wiltshire (Stone 1983). Identifiable types comprise roofing tiles (tegulae), box-flue tile (tubuli) and thicker fragments probably from floor tile/bricks (pedales) or hypocaust bricks (pilae).

Two pieces of floor tile or brick (1201) are in a distinctive fabric with large burnt limestone inclusions and voids from organic material. This fabric has been identified at a production centre near Minety (Stone 1983).

Ironwork and ironworking

There were 30 iron objects recovered. Few are diagnostic of date but most are associated with Roman pottery and are characteristic of Roman iron assemblages. The most common finds are nails and hobnails, with a few additional fragmentary possible tools, fittings or part of a vessel.

A complete horseshoe (0703) is clearly of modern date. It has a toe clip, which dates it to the mid-19th century or later (Hume 1976, 239). The size of the shoe suggests a cart or plough horse.

A very small quantity of magnetic residue recovered from sample retents (1229), (1504) is probably related to the Roman occupation. It



suggests metalworking, probably smithing, was being undertaken in the vicinity, though the very small quantity indicates not the direct vicinity of the excavated trenches.

Discussion and potential

The middle to late Bronze Age and middle Iron Age pottery in Trenches 16 and 17 is of note although the lack of rim sherds in the Bronze Age fabrics precludes a more specific identification. No diagnostic late Iron Age forms or fabrics are present suggesting a hiatus in activity between the 2nd century BC and the early Roman period.

The majority of the Roman assemblage fits comfortably into a later 1st to late 2nd century date bracket and all of the noted forms and fabrics are consistent with those previously recorded within the adjacent Roman town (Anderson et al. 2001). The general rarity of BBI products, which appear locally in increasing numbers from c.150AD onwards, may point to closing date nearer to the mid-2nd century. The rarity of imports suggests activity of low status with restricted access to luxury goods.

The ceramic building material is a very small assemblage and the general condition of the pieces suggest casual introduction to the site rather than evidence for a nearby structure. All the pieces are of local manufacture and the known production sites in the region are 2nd century AD in date; this is consistent with the date of the pottery assemblage.

The ironwork is in keeping with Roman iron assemblages and contains nothing remarkable. The ironworking remains are too meagre to indicate ironworking in the immediate vicinity of the site.

The modern finds are few and indicate a low level, probably agricultural, use of the land.

The potential of the finds assemblage is low. The prehistoric and Roman assemblages are relatively small and indistinct, with few notable characteristics. The modern assemblage is not significant. If the site were to be published, however, a short report on the finds assemblage should be included as it helps to both date and characterise the activity at the site.

Appendix 2.1 Finds catalogue

TR	Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot date	Period
01	0101	1	6	Pottery (Rom)	—	CG Drag. 31 or 18/31	2nd century	Rom
01	0107	1	8	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherd	RB	Rom
01	0109	1	9	Pottery (Rom)	—	CG Drag. 31 or 18/31	2nd century	Rom
02	0204	1	12	Pottery (Rom)	—	BBI jar	2nd century	Rom
07	0703	1	860	Iron	Horseshoe	Large horseshoe, remains of toe clip	m.19th – present	Mod
12	1200	2	24	Pottery (PM)	—	Post-med glazed sherds	18th – e.19th	Mod
12	1200	8	540	CBM	Tile/Brick	1 tegula (roof tile); 1 floor tile/brick; indeterminate fragments	RB	Rom
12	1200	61	737	Pottery (Rom)	—	Sav. jars; N Wilts grey wares	Late 1st – mid 2nd century	Rom
12	1201	1	12	Iron	Nail/Rod	L-shaped square sectioned rod, possibly a thick clenched nail shaft, or some other fitting	—	—
12	1201	12	804	CBM	Tile/Brick	4 floor tile/brick; indeterminate fragments	RB	Rom
12	1201	138	1311	Pottery (Rom)	—	SG Drag. 27; Sav. jars; N Wilts grey wares. Wilts oxidised flagon; Dressel 20 amphora	Late 1st – early 2nd century	Rom
12	1207	1	1	Iron	Nail	Shaft	—	—
12	1207	4	32	Pottery (Rom)	—	CG Drag. 33; grey ware body sherds	2nd century	Rom
12	1208	1	131	CBM	Tile/Brick	Indeterminate fragment	RB	Rom
12	1208	14	83	Pottery (Rom)	—	Cordoned jar; flat-rim bowl	Mid – late 2nd century	Rom
12	1216	1	0	Iron	Nail	Small shaft	—	—
12	1216	11	81	Pottery (Rom)	—	N Wilts grey wares, everted rims.	Early – mid 2nd century	Rom
12	1218	3	65	Pottery (Rom)	—	Sav. jars; N Wilts grey wares.	Late 1st – early 2nd century	Rom
12	1220	8	287	Pottery (Rom)	—	Sav. jar; bead-rim jar; N Wilts grey wares	Late 1st – early 2nd century	Rom
12	1222	7	28	Pottery (Rom)	—	Grey ware beaker	Late 1st – early 2nd century	Rom
12	1224	1	6	Iron	Object	Flat plate, C-shaped	—	—
12	1224	1	2	Iron	Nail	Shaft	—	—
12	1224	66	457	Pottery (Rom)	—	Cordoned jar	Late 1st – early 2nd century	Rom
12	1226	1	9	Iron	Object	Shaft with flat round end, key?	—	—
12	1226	9	42	Pottery (Rom)	—	Grey ware everted rim	Early – mid 2nd century	Rom
12	1229	—	1	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	—	—	—
12	1229	1	11	Iron	Nail	—	—	—
12	1229	1	3	Iron	Object	Round object with two prongs at either side of edge	—	—
12	1229	3	3	Iron	Hobnails	—	—	—
12	1229	7	6	Iron	Hobnails	—	—	—
12	1229	8	31	Iron	Nails	—	—	—
12	1229	30	58	Pottery (Rom)	—	Various small grey and oxidised sherds	—	Rom
12	1229	168	1804	Pottery (Rom)	—	CG Drag. 18/31; cordoned jars; Wilts oxidised flagon; mortarium; Sav. jars.	Early – mid 2nd century	Rom
12	1231	1	10	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherd	RB	Rom
12	1233	3	38	Pottery (Rom)	—	SG Drag. 27; BBI flat-rim bowl	Mid – late 2nd century	Rom
12	1235	27	159	Pottery (Rom)	—	Cornice rim beaker; N Wilts grey wares	Early – mid 2nd century	Rom



TR	Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot date	Period
13	1300	1	16	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherd	RB	Rom
13	1300	3	241	CBM	Tile/Brick	1 tegula (roof tile); 1 box-flue tile; indeterminate fragment	RB	Rom
13	1304	1	22	CBM	Tile/Brick	Indeterminate fragment	RB	Rom
13	1304	5	31	Pottery (Rom)	—	Grey ware everted rim	Early — mid 2nd century	Rom
13	1305	1	11	Iron	Nail	—	—	—
13	1305	1	7	CBM	Tile/Brick	Indeterminate fragment	RB	Rom
13	1305	4	12	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherds	RB	Rom
13	1310	1	13	Iron	Nail	—	—	—
13	1310	1	14	Iron	Plate	Plate with curving edge, possible a vessel rim?	—	—
13	1310	1	11	CBM	Tile	1 box-flue tile	RB	Rom
13	1310	22	226	Pottery (Rom)	—	Flagon; plain rim dish; BBI rim	Early — mid 2nd century	Rom
14	1400	1	28	CBM	Tile	1 box-flue tile	RB	Rom
14	1409	1	2	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherd	RB	Rom
15	1504	—	0	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	—	—	—
15	1510	2	18	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherds	RB	Rom
16	1604	1	7	Pottery (PH)	—	Handmade ?saucepan pot rim	MIA	IA
16	1608	1	10	Pottery (Rom)	—	Small RB body sherd	RB	Rom
16	1608	8	100	Pottery (PH)	—	Handmade burnt flint tempered body sherds, 2 with raised cordon and finger nail impressed decoration	MBA—LBA	BA
17	1704	2	20	Pottery (PH)	—	Burnt flint tempered body sherds	MBA—LBA	BA
17	1705	5	32	Pottery (PH)	—	Burnt flint tempered body sherds	MBA—LBA	BA
18	1800	1	81	Pottery (Rom)	—	Sav. jar	Late 1st — early 2nd century	Rom
18	1803	1	2	Pottery (Rom)	—	NFCC body sherd	4th century	Rom
18	1809	1	1	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherd	RB	Rom
18	1811	1	14	Pottery (Rom)	—	Wilts oxidised flagon	Late 1st — early 2nd century	Rom
18	1818	2	20	Pottery (Rom)	—	Grey ware jar	Late 1st — early 2nd century	Rom
18	1820	1	2	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherd	RB	Rom
18	1822	2	10	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherds	RB	Rom
24	2400	1	9	Pottery (Rom)	—	Grey ware everted rim	2nd century	Rom
25	2501	1	5	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherd	RB	Rom
26	2604	15	87	Pottery (Rom)	—	BBI drop flange bowl; body sherds	c250+	Rom
36	3604	2	8	Pottery (Rom)	—	Undiagnostic body sherds	RB	Rom

Abbreviations: BBI = South East Dorset Black Burnished Ware; CG = Central Gaulish Samian Ware; Drag = Dragendorff type number (Samian Ware); NFCC = New Forest Colour Coated; Sav = Savernake Ware; SG = South Gaulish Samian Ware

APPENDIX 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

LAURA BAILEY AND TIM HOLDEN

Introduction

Three samples recovered during an evaluation at Lotmead farm, Swindon Eastern Villages, were received for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The samples were taken from the fill (1504) of ditch [1503], the upper fill (1229) of linear [1227] and the fill (0703) of palaeochannel [0704]. The aims of the assessment were to assess the environmental potential of the deposits. The environmental remains are quantified in Appendix 3.1 and 3.2. Animal bone recovered from the samples is discussed as the subject of a separate report.

Method

Two of the samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. A 500ml sub-sample taken from the waterlogged deposit from the palaeochannel was sieved through meshes of 4mm, 1mm and 500µm in order to remove any plant macrofossils. All samples were scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006).

Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Appendix 3.1 (Retent samples) and Appendix 3.2 (Flot samples) and Appendix 3.3 (Waterlogged sample). Material suitable for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating is shown in the tables.

Plant remains

Several plant remains, preserved through waterlogging, were recovered from the fill (0703) of palaeochannel [0704].

A single blackthorn/sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stone was recovered from the ditch fill. Several weed 'seeds' including elder (*Sambucus nigra*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and sedges (*Carex* sp.) were present together with woody stem fragments, moss and small branches. Waterlogged wood, identified as hazel (*Corylus avellana*), and of a suitable size for radiocarbon dating was recovered from this deposit. The weed 'seeds' from this sample are typical of agricultural fields and nitrogen-rich disturbed ground.

Only modern roots and seeds were recovered from deposits (1504 and 1229).

Wood charcoal

A small amount of heavily fragmented charcoal was present in contexts (1504 and 1229).

Shell

Marine shell including oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) were recovered from the retents of the fill (1229) of Ditch [1227].

A small number of terrestrial snail shell was also recovered from the fill (1504) of ditch [1503]. However, given the modern roots and seeds recovered, they are likely to be modern.

Bone

Animal bone was recovered from the retents of sample 15, from the fill (1229) of Ditch [1227]. The bone was very heavily fragmented but sheep teeth were present.

Context (1235) produced a partial human skull, comprising most of frontal bone and part of the left parietal of a male. The bone was unusually thick, but this did not appear to be the result of a pathological process. Many old breaks were present in the bones, suggesting that it was already fragmentary when deposited in the context and may represent a disturbed burial from an earlier era, rather than an individual contemporary with the feature.

Other remains

Finds including pottery and iron nails recovered from the fill (1229) of Ditch [1227] are discussed as the subject of a separate report.

Discussion

Assessment of the waterlogged deposit (0703) recovered from the palaeochannel shows that the palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposit is very good. Although the environmental remains were neither abundant nor diverse, the presence of such well-preserved vegetation matter suggests that microfossils such as pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs (fungal spores) may also be preserved. Suitable material for AMS dating was recovered from the palaeochannel.

Few environmental remains were recovered from deposit (1504). The highly fragmented animal bone, mussel and oyster shell present in the fill (1229) of ditch [1227] together with pottery is suggestive of domestic waste. The presence of mussel and oyster shell on site may be indicative of trade or status, given that the site is located inland.

References

- Cappers, RTJ, Bekker, RM & Jans, JEA 2006 *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*, Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library, Groningen.
- Clapham, AR, Tutin, TG & Warberg, EE 1962 *Flora of the British Isles*.



Appendix 3.1 Retent sample results

Context	Sample	Feature	Sample vol (l)	Ceramic	Metal	Unburnt bone	Shell	Material available for AMS Dating	Comments
				Pottery	Fe object	Mammal	Marine		
1504	09	Fill of ditch [1503]	10	—	—	—	—	—	Sterile
1229	15	Fill of ditch [1227]	—	+++	+	++	+++	Bone	Also contains terrestrial snail shell. Mammal bone is heavily fragmented but contains sheep teeth

Key: + = rare (0–5), ++ = occasional (6–15), +++ = common (16–50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)
NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

Appendix 3.2 Flot sample results

Context	Sample	Feature	Total flot vol (ml)	Charcoal		Material available for AMS	Comments
				Qty	Max size (mm)		
1229	15	Fill of ditch [1227]	20	+	1	No	Contains modern roots and seeds
1504	09	Fill of ditch [1503]	15	+	1	No	Contains modern roots and seeds and two small terrestrial snail shells

Key: + = rare (1–5), ++ = occasional (6–15), +++ = common (16–50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)
NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

Appendix 3.3 Waterlogged sample results

Context	Sample	Sample vol (ml)	<i>Prunus Spinosa</i>	<i>Carex</i> sp.	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	<i>Stellaria media</i>	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Moss leaves and stems	Wood fragments
0703	01	500	+	+	+	+	+	+	+++

Key: + = rare (1–5), ++ = occasional (6–15), +++ = common (16–50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)
NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

APPENDIX 4 FAUNAL REMAINS ASSESSMENT

LAURA BAILEY

Introduction

Animal bone was recovered by hand-excavation from 28 contexts and from the retents of one sample. The majority of material was recovered from ditch fill. This assessment is concerned mainly with the hand-excavated material, as few well-preserved identifiable fragments were recovered from the sieved component. Results of the assessment are provided in Appendix 4.1.

Methodology

The aims of the assessment were to provide a basic quantification of the available data and to characterize the assemblage as far as possible.

Identifiable fragments were recorded, together with the preservation and any signs of modification of the bone in order to assess the quality, quantity and potential of the assemblage. Where possible fragments were identified to species level using Schmid 1972.

Species present

Species noted were principally domestic mammals, with cattle, sheep/goat and horse present. Cattle bone appeared to be the most numerous. Pig bones were infrequent, and only positively identified in two contexts (0105 and 1229), the upper fill of linear feature [0103] and fill of linear feature [1217] respectively. Elements of dog were also present in context (1235), the fill of pit [1234], which dates to the early to mid-2nd Century AD. Comparatively large amounts of bone were recovered from the subsoil (1201), the fill (1310) of linear feature [1306] and fill (1409) of linear feature [1403]. Bone recovered from subsoil deposit [1201] included fragments of cow vertebrae and long bone, sheep molar, distal humerus and tibia fragments and horse proximal metatarsal. Fine cut marks were visible on the bones. Pottery recovered from the deposit provides a Roman date for the deposit.

Fragments of cow distal femur and shaft, calcaneus, carpals and proximal metatarsal were present in the fill (1310) of linear feature [1306], which also dates to the Roman period.

Elements of cow including distal metacarpal and vertebrae fragments, together with horse proximal metacarpal were present in the fill (1409) of linear feature [1403], which dates to the Romano-British period.

Condition

A brief description of the bone condition is given in Appendix 4.1.

Generally the hand collected bone was in poor condition and heavily abraded and battered in many cases. Whole bones were rare but complete articular ends were present and would permit the retrieval of metrical data and provide anatomical measurement as well as information on age at death, butchery and pathology. Bone

recovered from the retents of both samples was heavily fragmented.

The surface condition was relatively poor. However butchery marks (knife cuts and chop marks) were visible on some of the bones. Many of the bones were medially and longitudinally split, possibly for marrow extraction.

Discussion

The assemblage offers some insight into site economy, indicating that the main domestic species, cattle, sheep/goat and pig and horse were present. However, it is possible that the bone recovered from the sub-soil may have been imported to site from elsewhere and dumped as a result of manuring. Given the small amount of material recovered and its heavily fragmented nature, it is unlikely that any meaningful statistical analyses could be undertaken and little more could be said regarding relative abundance of species or temporal change due to the small size of the assemblage. However, if the site were to be published, a short report on the animal bone assemblage should be included as it provides some low level information on site economy.

References

Schmid, E 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists*, Amsterdam.



Appendix 4.1 Animal bone catalogue

Context	Sample	Weight (g)	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Condition	Comments
0104	22	130	+	—	—	—	—	Poor	Large mammal — heavily fragmented bone. Cow — proximal metacarpal
0105	28	12	—	—	+	—	—	Fair	Pig canine. Small IM — small fragments
0204	30	4	—	+	—	—	—	Good	Sheep teeth
1201	17	246	+	+	—	+	—	Fair	Cow bone includes vertebrae (axis) fragments and long bone fragments. Sheep molar, distal humerus and tibia fragment — fine cut marks visible. Horse/ pony proximal metatarsal (two bags)
1207	3	57	+	—	—	—	—	—	Heavily fragmented humerus
1208	4	715	+	—	—	+	—	Fair	Includes heavily worn horse teeth, cow teeth, astragalus, mandible and long bone fragments. Fine cut and chop marks visible
1220	16	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	IM — small mammal? Heavily fragmented
1226	19	13	—	—	—	—	—	Poor	Large mammal — heavily fragmented bone
1229	18	52	—	+	+	—	—	Fair	Includes pig molars, sheep molar. Heavily fragmented long bone and vertebra fragments. IM — large mammal rib fragment
1235	20	72	—	—	—	—	+	Good	Dog — mandible, vertebra fragments and teeth. Surface condition good. Large IM fragment
1304	29	11	—	—	—	—	—	Poor	IM — bone fragment
1305	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	Poor	Rib fragment — large mammal — cow/ horse
1310	2	1150	+	—	—	+	—	Good	Includes cow distal femur and shaft fragment, calcaneum, carpals and proximal metatarsal. Also contains a fragment of burnt bone
1407	24	94	—	—	—	+	—	Good	Includes horse — intermediate phalange. Long bone fragments vertically split
1408	21	173	+	—	—	—	—	Fair	Includes cow pelvis fragment
1409	27	466	—	+	—	+	—	Fair	Includes cow distal metacarpal, heavily fragmented vertebrae, horse proximal metacarpal, molar. Contains fragmented long bone and rib fragments
1604	26	390	—	—	—	+	—	Fair	Includes horse molars, heavily worn. Also contains heavily fragmented ribs and long bone fragments
1606	—	43	+	—	—	—	—	Good	Cow teeth
1608	10	50	+	—	—	—	—	Poor	Cow tooth and long bone fragments
1704	1	37	—	—	—	—	—	Poor	Large mammal — small fragments
1705	12	96	—	—	—	—	—	Poor	Heavily fragmented bone — large mammal
1803	5	22	+	—	—	—	—	Good	Cow premolar
1804	6	5	—	+	—	—	—	Fair	Metatarsal fragment
1808	7	26	+	—	—	—	—	Poor	Heavily fragmented tooth and small fragments of bone
1809	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	Poor	IM — small fragments
1814	14	18	—	—	—	—	—	Poor	IM — long bone fragments
1813	13	310	+	+	—	—	—	Poor	Bone heavily fragmented, includes cow scapula fragment. IM — large mammal rib and long bone fragments. Sheep/goat metatarsal and phalanges

IM = indeterminate mammal; + = species present



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