

ESBF/01



LAND TO THE SOUTH-EAST OF EARL SHILTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by AMEC

X.A149.2013

November 2013

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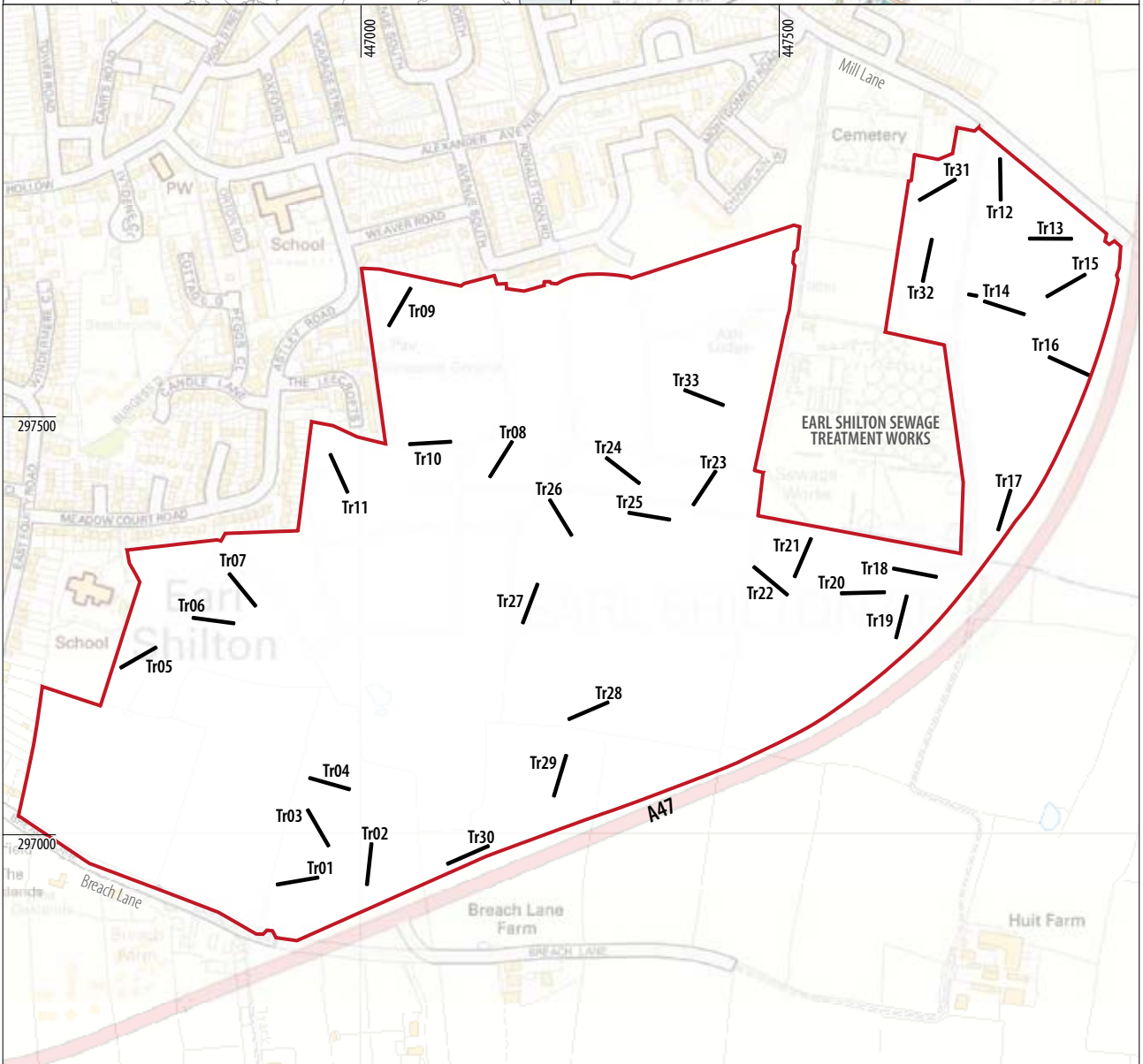
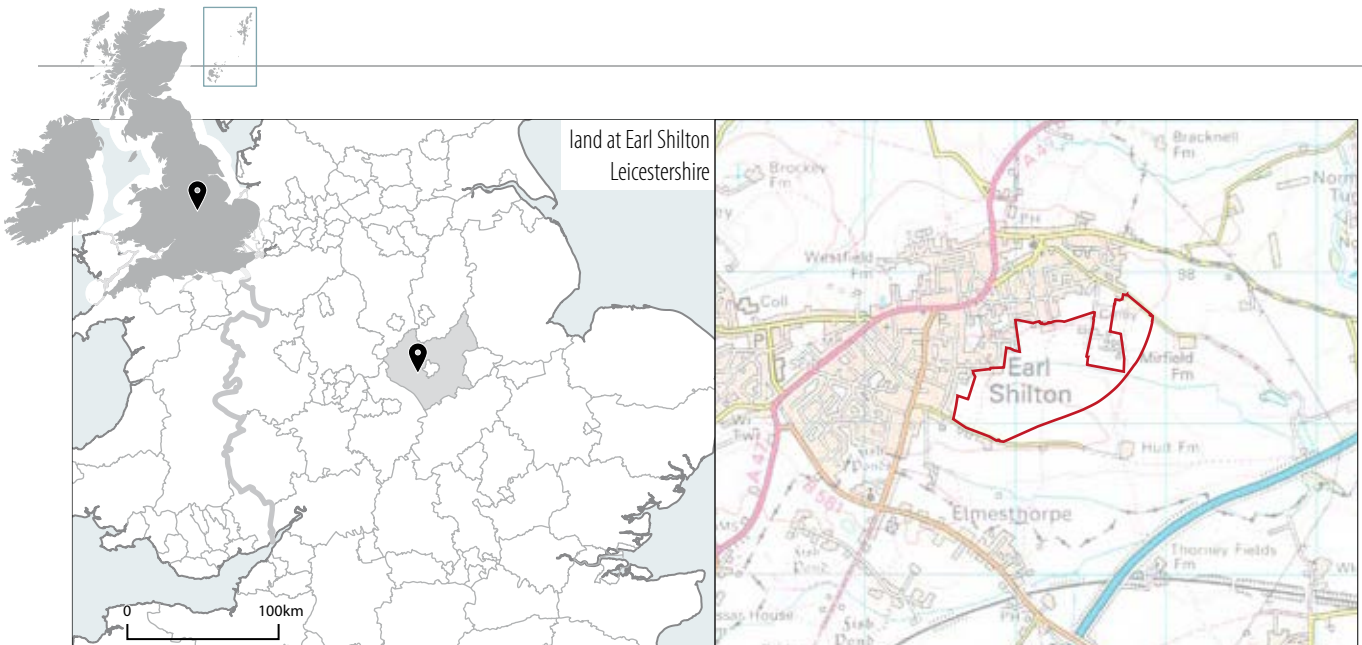
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Illus 1

Site location

LAND TO THE SOUTH-EAST OF EARL SHILTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology conducted an evaluation at a proposed development site of land to the south-east of Earl Shilton, Leicestershire in order to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site. The work was commissioned by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited. A total of thirty-three trenches were excavated over the Development Area (DA).

This revealed archaeological remains from several periods. The quality of remains varied by period and we have formulated the view that the highest quality and most significant remains date to the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. The majority of these remains are located in the north-eastern part of the DA and take the form of ditches, pits and a cremation. Such remains are indicative of occupation within the DA. This activity may extend beyond its boundaries.

There were other, less datable but probably prehistoric remains spread across the DA. These may be best characterized as peripheral to, but possibly related to the occupation at HA1/2. Remains from other periods were of a less significant nature and not representative of occupation being land boundaries and/or field systems (HA3–7).

Trial trenching results, when compared to the geophysical survey (NA 2012), show mixed results over the DA. Some of the geophysical survey anomalies have been shown to represent archaeological features, such as in Trenches 08, 14 and 16, but a considerable number of the potential features identified were not found in any form and a number of ditches were not identified, particularly around the area of Trenches 02, 04 and 30. This indicates that geophysical survey was only partially successful at identifying archaeological remains within the DA; possibly as a result of differential response to variations in geology and depth of overburden.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning background

A development is being proposed to construct 1,341 dwellings on 6.5ha of land to the south-east of Earl Shilton. This land is henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA).

An historic environment assessment was carried out by AMEC as part of a wider Environmental Statement (AMEC 2012, Chapter 9). This assessment included the results of a geophysical survey of the site (NA 2012).

Consultation is ongoing between AMEC and the Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, who require that a programme of archaeological evaluation be extended to include a trial trenching exercise to be undertaken in advance of the determination of planning permission.

A written scheme of investigation for the evaluation was prepared by AMEC (2013). Headland Archaeology were commissioned to

carry out this evaluation and prepare a report (this document) on the results.

1.2 Site location and geology

The DA comprises an irregular block of land, extending from Breach Lane in the south to Mill Lane in the north, bounded by the A47 Clickers Way to the south-east and residential properties to the northwest. The site is centred on SP 47313 97251 and lies at a height of between 90m AOD and 105m AOD.

The south and eastern areas of the DA are mainly under arable crop, the remaining areas are wild grass fields. The geology of the area is mudstones and siltstones belonging to the Edwalton Member of the Mercia Mudstone Group. This is largely concealed by glacial drifts, consisting of various gravel, sand and till deposits (www.bgs.ac.uk 2013).

1.3 Archaeological background

A heritage assessment was carried out by AMEC (2012, chapter 9). This identified potential for land use in the DA from

the Mesolithic through to the present. 16 designated heritage assets (2 scheduled monuments and 14 listed buildings) and 76 Historic Environment Records (HER) representing non-designated heritage assets were noted.

Two distinct ridges characterise the landscape around Earl Shilton, one to the north of the modern settlement and the second to the south-west. On the northern ridge settlement began in the medieval period and has continued to form the core of modern Earl Shilton. The second ridge extends from this and is marked by the medieval settlement of Elmesthorpe (HER MLE70). The lower lying area between these two ridges was in the medieval and post-medieval periods used as agricultural land associated with the occupation at Earl Shilton. Geophysical survey results support this interpretation.

Prehistoric activity in the area around the DA was focussed on these two ridges. Bronze Age ritual/funerary monuments (HER MLE9771) are found towards the eastern limit of the northern ridge. During the Iron Age settlement and land division features (HER 16734) are identified in this area showing some evidence for continued activity. Fieldwork undertaken nearby by Northamptonshire archaeology (NA 2012) has identified further prehistoric activity.

To the north of Mill Lane an Iron Age enclosure and a field system of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date were identified during an evaluation. The footings of a medieval windmill were also uncovered; this had been previously mis-identified as a prehistoric henge (Morris 2010).

Immediately to the east the construction of Clickers Way facilitated open area excavation which revealed two Bronze Age ring ditches and an Iron Age pit alignment (Jarvis 2008). Additional evaluation work was undertaken on the line of Clickers Way (Jarvis 2008) and targeted evaluations based on diffuse scatters of prehistoric flint and medieval pottery produced no significant archaeological features. The sparse archaeology is confirmed by the evaluations at land south of Breach Farm (Hyam 2008) and north of Tom Eatough Court (Morris 2006).

The majority of the land within the DA is outside the identified concentrations of later prehistoric activity which were focused on the ridges; and on the periphery of the settlement areas of Earl Shilton and Elmesthorpe in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The land in close proximity to the ridges represents the greatest potential for in-situ archaeological remains to be uncovered should they have survived modern ploughing.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and objectives

The aims of the evaluation were:

- Test the accuracy of the geophysical survey results;
- Confirm the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains;

- Gain information on any buried archaeological remains which may be present;
- Determine the archaeological potential of the areas sufficiently to set the scope for further archaeological mitigation.

In addition to these general aims, it was hoped the results of the evaluation would provide an opportunity to address the following objectives:

- Provide a sufficient spread to sufficiently sample the anomalies identified as a result of the previous geophysical survey and survey the site as a whole;
- Identify and investigate the presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of known, suspected and as yet unknown archaeological features/deposits which may be present on the site;
- Provide sufficient information within the report to enable the formulation of a suitable mitigation strategy and appropriate management of the archaeological resource, which is to be affected by the proposed development.

2.2 Methodology

The fieldwork took place between 16th September and 4th October 2013. A total of thirty-three trenches at 1.8m wide were excavated. The trenches were laid out in order to test geophysical survey anomalies and blank areas within the DA. Trenches 09, 10 and 11 were all moved at the request of Leicestershire County Council and this was approved by the PA. Trench 14 was moved because of a water pipe, an additional extension to this was dug at the request of the PA to investigate geophysical anomalies.

A 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator and a JCB, both equipped with a toothless bucket were used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments or archaeological deposits were encountered.

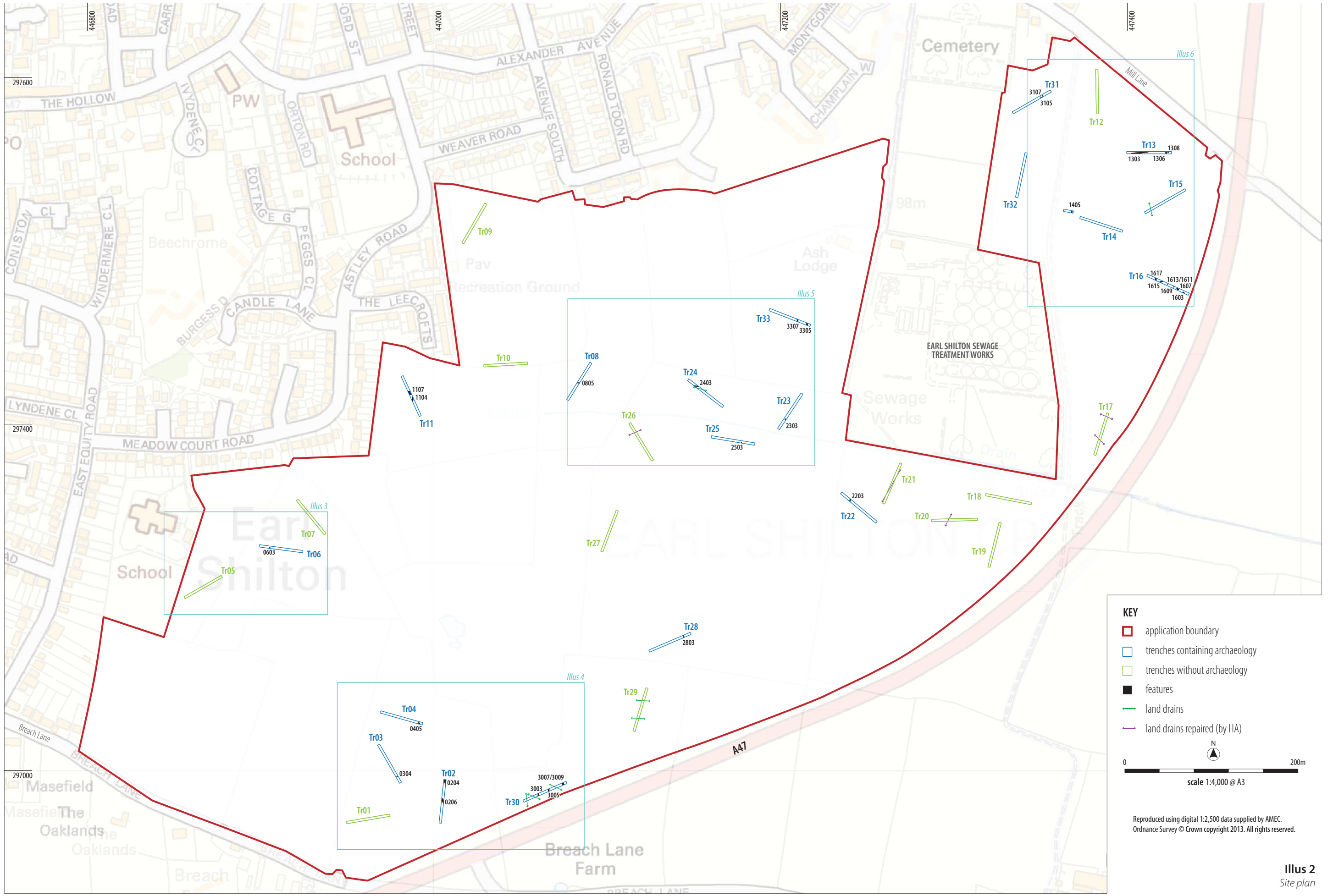
Further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified features was investigated by hand and all features were recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

2.3 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a differential GPS.

A full photographic record comprising colour slide and black and white print photographs was taken, supplemented with digital photography. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.



KEY

- application boundary
- trenches containing archaeology
- trenches without archaeology
- features
- land drains
- land drains repaired (by HA)

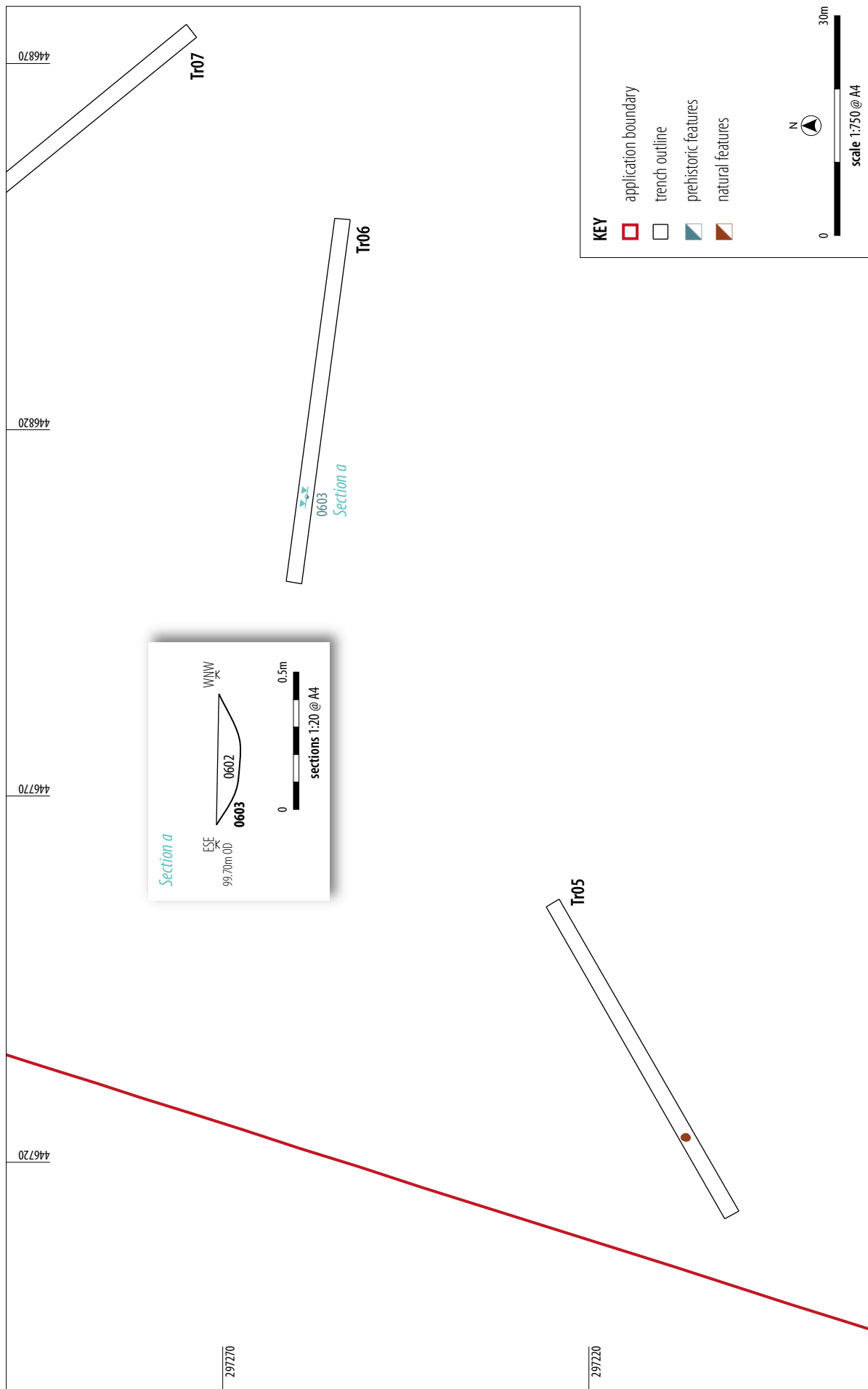
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Illus 2
Site plan



Illus 3
Trench details

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length and depth are presented in Appendix 1.1. Technical details of individual contexts are presented in Appendix 1.2. Contexts are numbered by trench number: i.e. Trench 01 [0101], Trench 02 [0201]. Cut features are shown as [0101] whilst their fills are expressed as (0102) for example.

In general overburden was between 0.5–0.6m in depth; to the north-west this was up to 1m in depth. The topsoil only varied slightly in depth across the site (0.18–0.3m) whereas the subsoil varied to a greater extent (0.1–0.75m). A colluvium (1903)/(2003) deposit (0.2–0.3m) was recorded in Trenches 19 and 20. The underlying geology varied across the site, predominantly clay based in the western and central areas of the DA with some sand natural to the east.

While nearly half of the trenches were archaeologically sterile, the evaluation revealed evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern activity. There was notable evidence for modern truncation resulting from agricultural ploughing and disturbance caused by land drains.

3.2 Prehistoric

No datable artefacts were present in any of the features described in this section. These are interpreted as pits of likely prehistoric origin based upon their morphology, deposit character (the presence/absence of datable artefacts not being the only way of dating such features) and proximity to dated features. Such features are harder to pick up in trial trenching due to their discrete and relatively small character and may be (a less significant element) of the landscape surrounding the remains described in the Bronze/Iron Age sections below. It is in case that is worthy of consideration that we include them here.

Two isolated shallow pits were uncovered in the south-west of the DA. Pit [0305] (Trench 03) was 0.75m in diameter and 0.07m deep and filled (0304) with a dark charcoal fill, indicating nearby occupation (e.g. domestic fires). 19 lithic artefacts of prehistoric tradition (section 4.3.5) were recovered. Pit [0603], 0.5m in diameter and 0.08m deep contained no datable artefactual material.

Trench 14 contained a single ditch [1405] on NNE-SSW alignment (**Illus 6**) with a gently curving profile to a depth of 0.19m, the full width of the feature was not able to be revealed due to a water main limiting the excavation. No datable artefactual material was recovered.

Two ditches were uncovered in Trench 16 (**Illus 6**). Ditch [1615], orientated NE-SW and ditch [1617], orientated NW-SE are both of similar size and shallow profile, up to 0.17m deep. Both contained a light brown grey sandy silt deposit which was very similar to the natural.

Pit [1603] was 0.65m in diameter and 0.12m deep contained fill (1602), a light reddish brown silty sand. No datable artefactual material was recovered.

Trench 25 (**Illus 5**) revealed an isolated posthole [2504], 0.3m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Some undiagnostic daub was recovered from fill (2504) a dark brown sandy deposit with small stone inclusions.

Two small circular features were investigated at the east end of Trench 13 (**Illus 6**). Both have been affected by bioturbation, with [1306] likely to be a tree bowl. Pit [1308] presented a more regular shape to the sides and base. Both features were filled by a mid red brown sand with occasional stone deposits. This was very similar to the natural geology.

3.3 Bronze Age

Cremation urn (1611) was exposed in sub-square cut [1613] (**Illus 6** and **7**). Human bone was uncovered in the base of the pot, some of which would be suitable for AMS dating (section 6.3). Ploughing had damaged the top of the vessel so that none of the rim survived and without any decoration accurate dating of the pot is not possible. The shape and form of the vessel would suggest a date in the middle to late Bronze Age. Environmental samples of the cremation fill (1610) indicate that oak was used as the wood for the pyre.

3.4 Iron Age

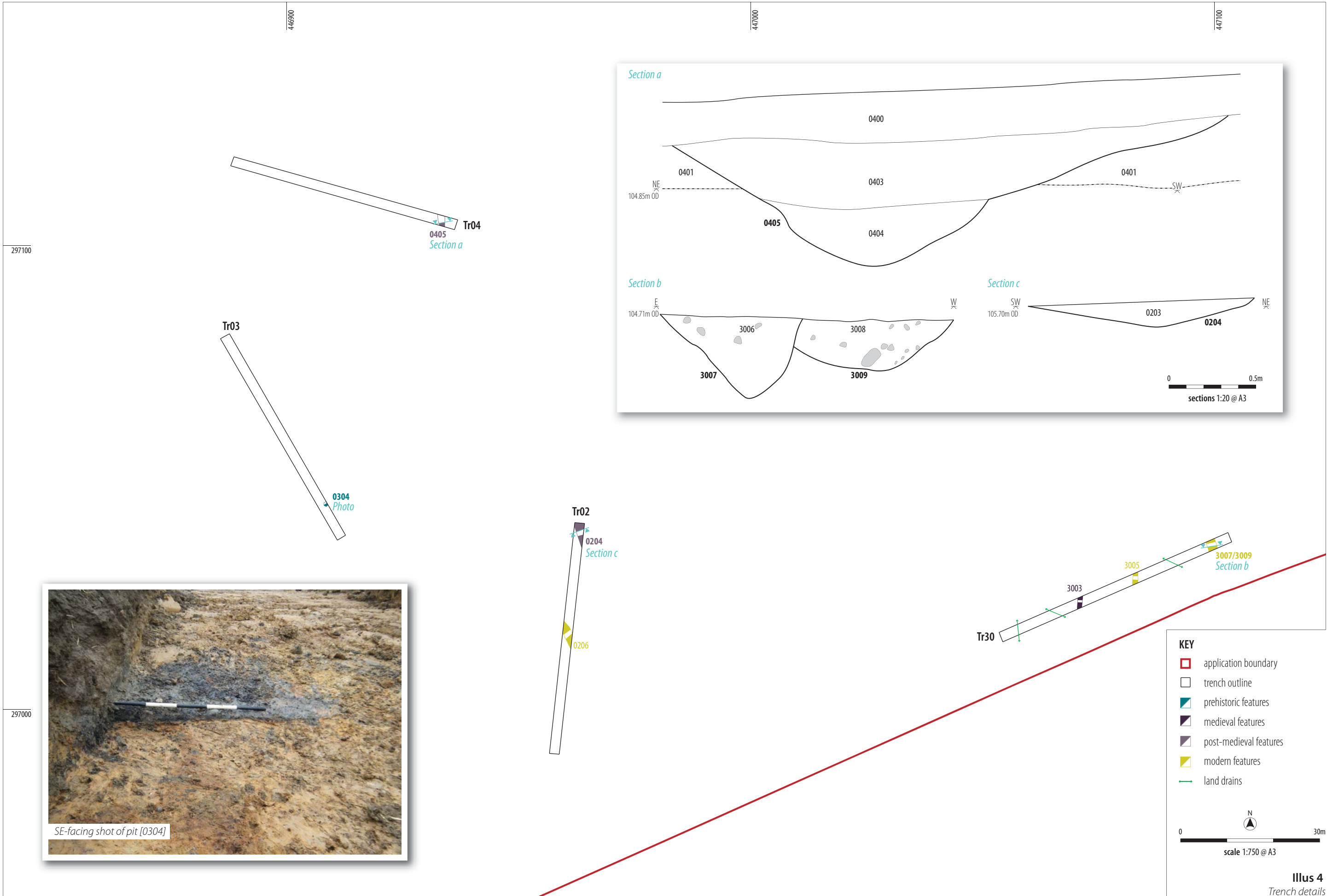
Gully [1609], on a NW-SE alignment terminates in Trench 16 (**Illus 6**). Forty sherds of pottery were recovered from the environmental sample taken from fill (1608). Two different fabric types were recovered which date to the early Iron Age, although one fabric may have begun use in the Bronze Age (section 4). Charcoal inclusions were evident in (1608) which was disturbed by rooting at the upper levels.

The excavation of Pit [1607] revealed a small assemblage (11 sherds) of pottery from (1605), a dark sandy silt fill which contained burnt material and charcoal, the pottery is dated to the early Iron Age period. The remaining two fills of [1607], (1604) and (1606), both a mid reddish brown silty sand are very similar to the natural geology, suggest they are solely a disturbed natural deposit whereas (1605) represents human activity within [1607].

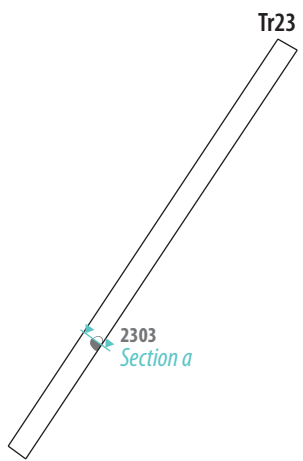
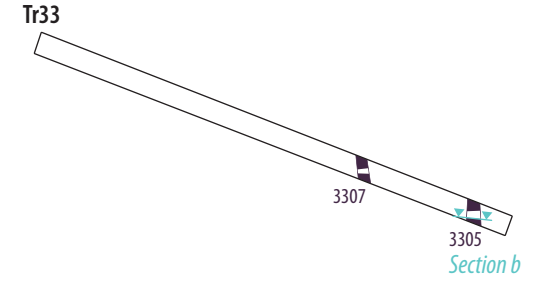
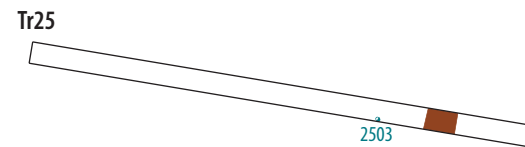
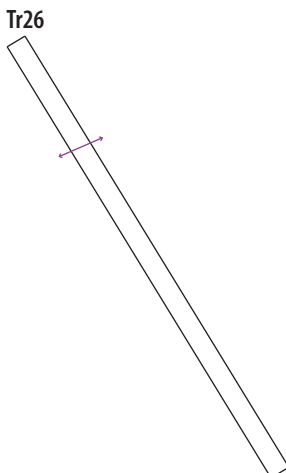
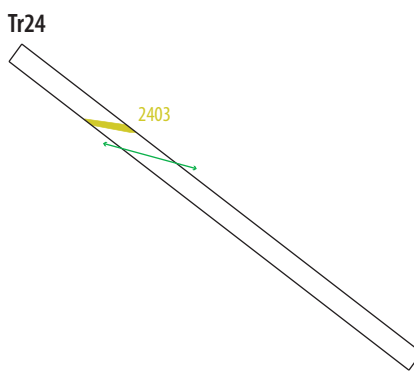
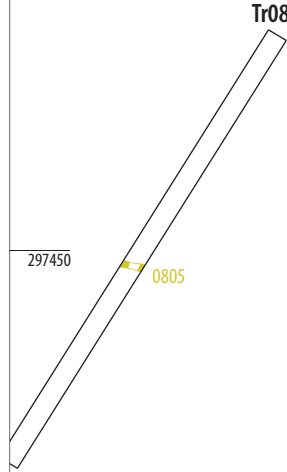
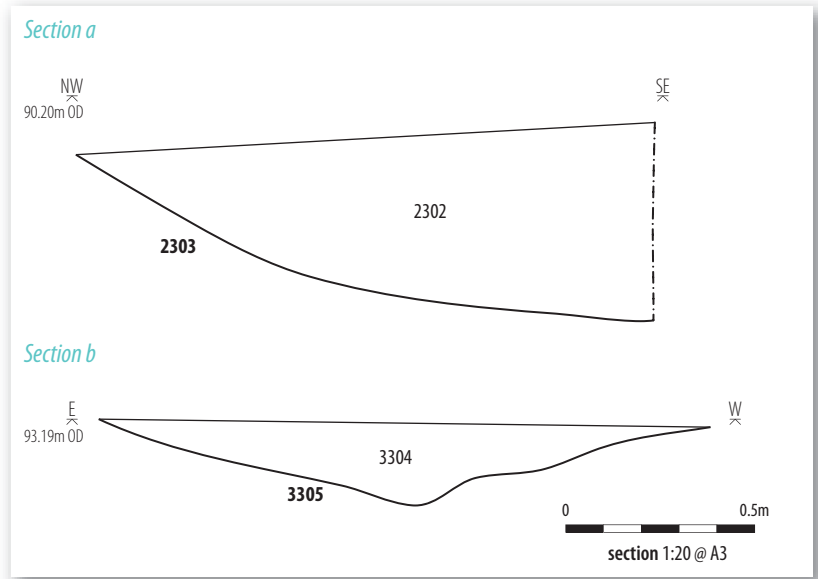
A single shallow boundary ditch [1303] ran on an ENE-WSW alignment through Trench 13 (**Illus 6**). Two abraded sherds of greyware (Roman) were found in the fill (1304) which was a naturally accumulating deposit. Such a small quantity of pottery, of an abraded nature, does not represent reliable dating material and it is entirely possible this ditch dates to an earlier period becoming infilled when out of use.

3.5 Medieval

Trenches 22, 28, 30 and 33 revealed furrows on an N-S alignment. Furrows [2203], [2803], [2805] and [3003] were 0.8–1m in width and 0.09–0.01m in depth and devoid of finds. A fragment of clay pipe was recovered from furrow [3305] which along with [3307] survived to a greater width and depth, 1.5m wide and 0.25m in depth. Where multiple furrows were uncovered all were located and a percentage dug to confirm their nature.



Illus 4
 Trench details

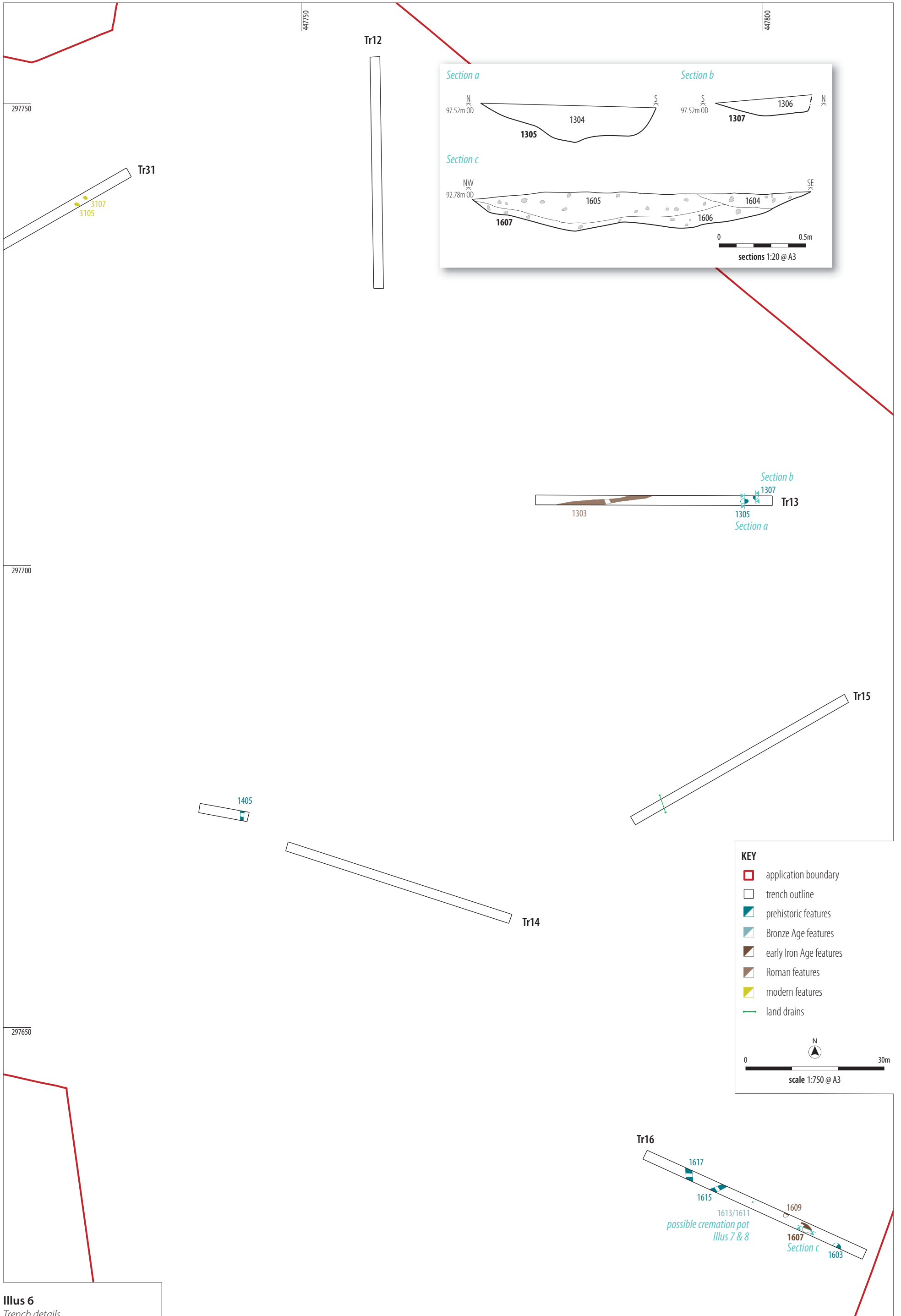


KEY

- trench outline
- ▣ prehistoric features
- ▣ medieval features
- ▣ modern features
- ▣ natural features
- ▣ undated features
- land drains
- land drains repaired (by HA)

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Illus 5
Trench details



Illus 6
Trench details

3.6 Post-medieval

A boundary ditch [0405], aligned NW-SE (**Illus 4**), cut from the top of the subsoil, contained in lower fill (0404) a fragment of hand made brick which is of medieval to post-medieval date. Upper fill (0403) was very similar to the natural in its makeup, (light brown yellow clayey sand) and quite diffuse. Ditch [0204], aligned NW-SE, may well be a continuation of ditch [0405] although shallower (0.15m deep) its upper levels of truncation from subsoil may have been missed.

3.7 Modern

Four animal burials were discovered in Trenches 31 and 32. Two burials, [3105] and [3107] (**Illus 6**) were tested to confirm the date of the burials and bone was collected to allow species identification of the burials, which indicated bone from a large ungulate and deer (**Table 4**).

A stone construction soak away on an E-W alignment was discovered in Trenches 08 and 24 (**Illus 5**). Angular and sub-angular lava tuff stone measuring upto 0.45x0.2x0.1m formed a linear channel 0.5m wide. Plough disturbance, especially in Trench 24, may have distorted the original construction. The edges of the construction cut [2403] and [0805] are lined with stones laid vertically and the centre of the channel is now filled with a rubble fill. In some areas larger flat stones are lying flat on the top of the structure suggesting that there might have been a cap to prevent the loose stone core from filling up with soil. One sherd of white china pottery was recovered from fill (2404).

A concentration of ditches of modern date were located in the south-west of the DA. Three ditches in Trench 30 are all on the same N-S alignment. Ditch [3005], a U shaped boundary ditch, contained ceramic, tile and other CBM in the fill (3006). Directly to the east two intercutting boundary ditches [3007] and [3009] also produced finds of a modern date in fills (3006) and (3008) (**Illus 4**).

Ditch [0206], a U shaped boundary ditch on a NW-SE alignment was filled by a single fill (0205) which contained CBM, animal bone and glass finds (**Illus 4**).

3.8 Undated

Trench 11 revealed ditch [1104] on a NW-SE alignment, 0.95m in width with a shallow profile to a depth of 0.22m. Directly to the east, a spread of burnt material (1107) up to 0.1m deep produced no finds. The original topsoil (1105) and subsoil (1106) levels have been sealed by a modern leveling deposit (1102) which contained brick and concrete rubble, and a new topsoil layer (1101). This relates to levelling of the playing field where the trench was located.

A single pit [2303] was uncovered in Trench 23 (**Illus 5**). The fill (2404) was characterized by a concentration of burnt stone which was interpreted as a dumping event; no evidence of burning in situ was revealed supporting this interpretation. [2303] is potentially cut from the level of the subsoil (2301) but due to the thin nature of the topsoil (2300), 0.2m, modern ploughing has disturbed the true interface.

3.9 Description of the significance of the Heritage Assets

The regional research frameworks are produced by Cooper et al 2006 the aims of which are to survey and evaluate our current understanding of the region's historic environment. There is the potential for further evidence of Bronze Age activity, especially in regards to the cremation (1611) (HA1). Further work has the potential to uncover more cremations which will increase the knowledge on the '*gradual change in burial practice away from the use of barrows in favour of flat cremation cemeteries*' from the Middle Bronze Age into the Late Bronze Age where it is noted that the current typologies for flat cremation cemeteries '*may be over-simplistic*'.

Pottery recovered from (1608), East Midlands Scored Ware (section 4.3.2), points towards an early Iron Age date for this feature, however this pottery does have its roots in the later Bronze Age period. The late Bronze Age – early Iron Age transition period is noted for:

- Generally dating indicators are infrequent and '*weak*';
- Settlements attributable to the period are not numerous;
- Plainware pottery styles predominate and are not chronologically specific.

Some of the sherds from (1608) have the potential to provide material for C14 dating which would add to the limited knowledge of this period where the '*lack of chronological resolution means that it is often difficult or impossible to assign archaeological evidence as either late Bronze Age or early Iron Age*'.

Although the trial trenching only revealed moderate archaeological evidence for past activity of any date the results contribute to our general understanding of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity in the region.

A summary of the significant heritage assets identified by the trial trenching is set out in **Table 1** below.

Table 1

Heritage Assets recorded during intrusive evaluation

Description of HA	Trench	Feature	Significance of HA (low, medium, high) and of local, regional, national, international interest
HA1 – BA activity	16	[1613]	Moderate significance of regional interest
HA2 – EIA activity	16	[1607], [1609], [1303]	Moderate significance of regional interest
HA3 – possible prehistoric features	03, 06, 13, 14, 16, 25	[0304], [0603], [1306], [1308], [1405], [1603], [1615], [1617], [2503]	Low significance of local interest
HA4 – medieval features	22, 28, 30, 33	[2203], [2803], [2805], [3003], [3307]	Low significance of local interest
HA5 – post-medieval features	02, 04	[0405], [0206]	Low significance of local interest
HA6 – modern features	02, 04, 08, 24, 30, 31, 32	[0204], [0405], [0805], [2403], [3005], [3007], [3009], [3305], [3105], [3107], [3203], [3205]	Low significance of local interest
HA7 – undated features	11, 23	[1104], (1107), [2303]	Low significance of local interest

4 FINDS

By Julie Lochrie

4.1 Introduction

This report identifies, quantifies and interprets hand collected and wet sieved finds from the trial trenching at Earl Shilton, Leicestershire by Headland Archaeology. A summary of the assemblage is shown in **Table 2** and the full catalogue is included in the appendix.

The finds indicated three areas of activity; in the north-east, south-east and centre of the site. The clearest distribution pattern is the focus of Iron Age and Roman activity within the north-eastern area.

Table 2

Summary of the finds assemblage by phase and group, quantified by number of finds

Trench	Feature	Context	Pottery	Lithics	BCM	Glass	Date
2	Ditch 206	205	–	–	762g	21	Modern
3	Pit 304	303	–	19	9g	–	Prehistoric
4	Ditch 405	404	–	–	612g	–	Medieval to post-medieval
8	Ditch 805	803	–	–	21g	–	Post-medieval to modern
13	Ditch 1303	1302	2	–	–	–	Roman
16	Pit 1607	1605	11	–	–	–	Iron Age
16	Terminus 1609	1608	40	4	9g	–	Earlier Iron Age
16	Cremation Pit 1611	1610	65	2	–	–	Bronze Age
24	Soakway 2403	2404	1	–	–	–	Modern
25	Posthole 2503	2504	–	–	137g	–	–
30	Ditch 3005	3006	–	–	262g	–	Post-medieval to modern
30	Ditch 3007	3010	1	–	–	2	Modern
Total			120	25	1692g	23	

4.2 Methodology

The finds assessed includes those collected by hand in the field and any collected by wet sieving. Wet-sieved finds were retrieved by flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. The remaining material was sorted, scanned with a magnet and any material of archaeological significance removed.

The finds have undergone visual examination and, where appropriate, microscopic examination (x10, x20 or x60). All finds have been catalogued on an Access database using visual and metric recording.

The Cremation Urn was strengthened and lifted in the field then excavated under laboratory conditions in Edinburgh by Headland Archaeology's prehistoric finds specialist, Julie Lochrie. The urn was excavated in two spits. The first spit covered a depth of 70mm, this fill was silty, mottled with clay and disturbed by extensive worm and root movement. This upper fill only had occasional flecks of burnt bone around the interior walls of the vessel. The second spit, 70–100mm, marked the beginnings of the cremated bone deposit. Larger pieces of bone were removed and bagged separately whilst the remaining material was retained for further processing. The deposits from each spits underwent wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation tank for retrieval of all artefactual and ecofactual remains.

4.3 Results

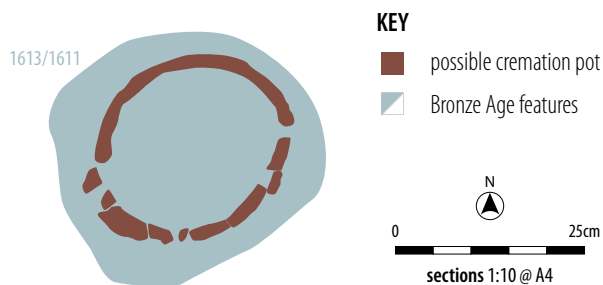
4.3.1 Pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised 120 sherds with a total weight of 24414g. These cover the following periods, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman. The pottery assemblage is summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3

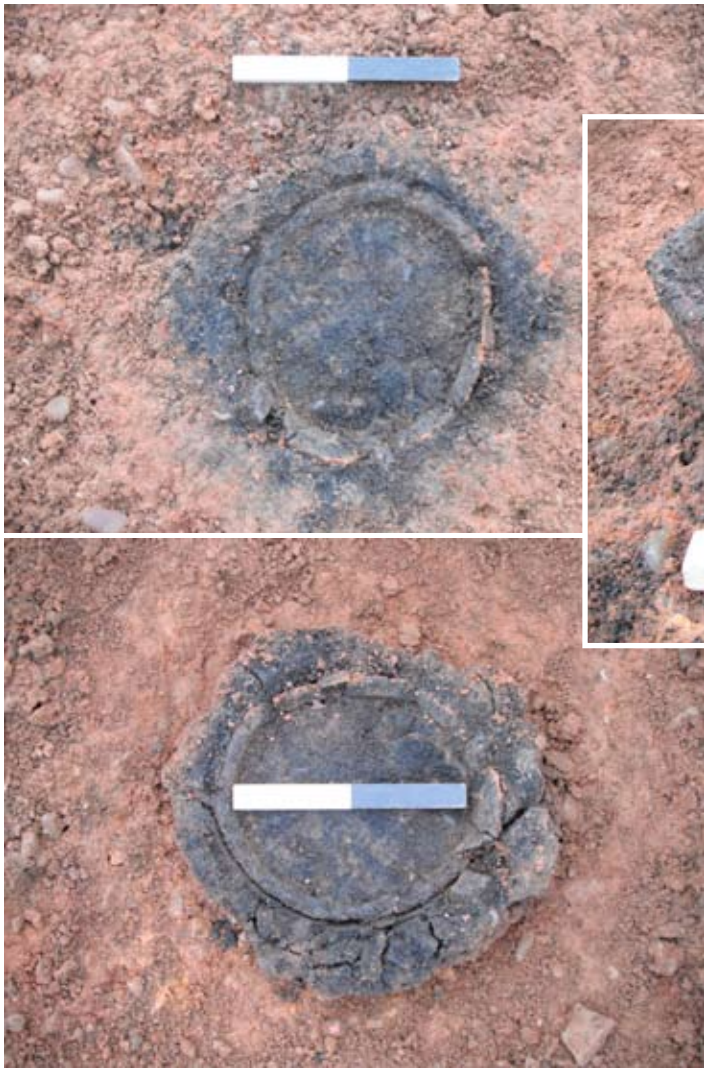
Summary of the pottery assemblage

Trench	Feature	Context	Sherds	Weight	Fabric code	Fabric	Dating
13	Ditch 1303	1304	2	2	Reduced greyware	GW5	Roman
16	Pit 1607	1605	11	121	Quartz sand tempered	Q1	Iron Age
16	Terminus 1609	1608	22	33	Quartz sand tempered	Q1	Earlier Iron Age
16	Terminus 1609	1608	18	116	Granite	R1	Iron Age
16	Cremation 1611	1610	1	1	Whiteware	EA8	Modern
16	Cremation 1611	1610	64	2139	Quartz sand tempered	Q1	Bronze Age
24	Soakway 2403	2404	1	7	Whiteware	EA8	Modern
30	Ditch 3005	3006	1	22	Redware	EA6	Modern



Illus 7

Detailed plan of possible cremation urn [1611]



Illus 8

Close-up of possible Cremation Urn [1611]

Modern

Other than a small chip of whiteware, discovered in the upper fill of the Cremation Urn, the modern pottery was found in Trenches 24 and 30 respectively.

4.3.2 Lithics

The lithics recovered were very small in number and from only three features, in Trenches 03 and 16. The lithics are not chronologically diagnostic but appear in apparently prehistoric contexts. In the case of Trench 03, they were retrieved from small pit or posthole [0304] and in the case of Trench 16 from the Bronze Age Cremation Urn (1611) and Gully [1609].

Bronze Age to earlier Iron Age

Trench 16 included the majority of the pottery found on site, all of which was prehistoric, dating between the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The Cremation Urn from (1611) had been severely truncated with only the lower fifth portion remaining, to a height of 100mm. The urn would have been bucket or barrel-shaped with a flat base which has a marked concavity to the exterior and convex interior. The lack of upper vessel form inhibits precise dating, it could date from any point in the Bronze Age although is more likely to date from the middle to later Bronze Age.

East Midlands Scored Ware was retrieved from Terminus [1609] which points towards an Iron Age date for this feature, however this pottery does have its roots in the later Bronze Age (Marsden 1998). This may suggest some continuity between the Bronze Age and Iron Age activity focused in this area. The quartz and sand tempered sherds from Gully [1609] have organic encrustations to the interior which would provide material for C14 dating, should the project continue to an analysis phase.

Roman

The Roman pottery includes two conjoining, much abraded sherds of greyware from ditch 1303, Trench 13.

4.3.3 Ceramic Building Materials (CBM)

The ceramic building material comprises 1657g of hard fired brick and tile and 155g of soft, abraded daub.

The daub was found spread across the site, in three Trenches 03, 16 and 25. The daub from Trench 03 and 16 could be prehistoric in date due to its association with prehistoric lithics and pottery. The hard fired ceramic buildings materials (e.g. brick and tile) were all found in the south-west or the centre of the site, in Trenches 02, 04, 08, 30.

4.3.4 Glass

The glass discovered during the trial trenching is all modern bottle glass and discovered in the south west of the site, Trench 02 and 30.

4.4 Statement of potential

The current size of the assemblage does not support further work beyond assessment stage; however should the site reveal further archaeological remains during mitigation the assemblage should be reconsidered.

5 FAUNAL

By Laura Bailey

5.1 Introduction

The animal bone assemblage comprised 130 hand-recovered specimens. The entire assemblage was recovered from five groups (see **Table 1**), taken from features including fills of boundary ditches, furrows and animal burials. A summary of the assemblage is shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4

Phases of activity identified on site and the proportion of the assemblage

Context	Weight (g)	Total no. of fragments (TNF)	% of total no.
205	144	13	10
3104	286	17	13.08
3202	108.2	24	18.46
3204	93.6	13	10
3106	546	63	48.46
Total	1177.8	130	100

5.2 Methodology

The aims of the assessment were to provide a basic quantification of the available data, to characterise the assemblage as far as possible and to help identify the potential of the data-set to benefit from further analysis.

Numbers of 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. However, where bone was very fragmented and not possible to identify it was marked as indeterminate (**Table 5**).

Three principle techniques were used, where possible, to estimate the age at which animals were slaughtered. Bones were considered agreeable if the state of epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969) could be ascertained or if mandibles had one or more molar teeth present (Grant 1982, Payne 1973).

Table 5

Summary of animal bone assemblage

Context	Weight (g)	Total no. of fragments	Large ungulate	Deer
205	144	13	13	–
3104	286	17	17	–
3202	108.2	24	–	24
3204	93.6	13	–	13
3106	546	63	–	63
Total	1177.8	130	30	100

5.3 Results

The assemblage comprised 130 bone fragments, recovered from six contexts, weighing 1177.8g in total (**Table 5**). The majority of the bone was well preserved with good surface preservation. Fragmentation was moderate throughout the assemblage and modern breaks were apparent.

Bone was collected for species identification from [3104, 3202 and 3204]. These pit fills were interpreted as animal burials and identified as large ungulates and deer. The excavators noted the presence of hair attached to some of the bone suggesting that the burials were of recent origin. The assemblage was dominated by deer bone, the majority of which was recovered from [3106]. The bone from this context comprised several long bone fragments, unfused epiphyses, astragali, phalanges and several skull fragments. A phalange recovered from this context still had hair attached confirms that the bone is of fairly recent origin. The bias towards skull and long bone fragments and lack of other bones suggests that the torso may have been removed from site.

Fragments of long bone belonging to large ungulate were recovered from the fill of (0205), a post-medieval ditch.

5.3.1 Summary

The animal bone assemblage all appears to be of relatively recent origin. The animal bone all appears to belong to large ungulate and deer. There is a clear bias in body-parts in [3306] with skull and long bone fragments dominating the assemblage, suggesting that the better cuts of meat were removed and taken elsewhere.

5.3.2 Statement of potential

Due to the recent origin of the animal bone no further work is recommended.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

By Laura Bailey & Tim Holden

6.1 Introduction

This report presents the results of an assessment of samples taken during the course of evaluation at Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. Six samples ranging in volume from 10 to 20 litres were processed for environmental assessment. The samples were taken from various features including a burnt spread, the fills of a pit, ditch and cut for a Cremation Urn. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any palaeoenvironmental remains in the samples and to assess the potential of the material for any indication of the function of the features. The environmental remains are quantified in **Tables 6 and 7**.

6.2 Method

The samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot)

was collected in a 250µm 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. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed. All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006).

6.3 Results

Results of the assessment are presented in **Table 6** (retent samples) and **Table 7** (flot samples), bone recovered from excavation of the Cremation Urn is quantified in **Table 3**.

6.4 Statement of potential

Material suitable for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating is shown in the tables.

Table 6

Retent sample results

Context	Sample	Feature	Sample vol (l)	Burnt bone	Charcoal		Material available for AMS dating	Comments
					Qty	Max size (cm)		
303	1	Fill of Pit [304]	10	–	++++	2.2	Charcoal+	Charcoal oak
1103	2	Fill of Ditch [1104]	20	–	+	0.5	–	–
1107	3	Burnt spread	20	–	–	–	–	Sterile
1612	5	Fill of cut [1613] for Cremation Urn	20	–	++	1.5	Charcoal+	Charcoal oak
1608	6	Fill of Terminus [1609]	20	–	–	–	–	–
2502	7	Fill of Posthole [2503]	10	+	+	0.1	–	Charcoal not retained
1610	–	Fill from urn from cleaning	0.5	+	+	1.0	Charcoal +	Cremation sample. Retent retained
1610	–	Fill from urn – 0–70mm	0.5	+++	+++	1.3	Charcoal +, Burnt Bone +	Cremation sample. Retent retained
1610	–	Fill of urn – 70–100 mm	0.5	+++	++	1.2	Burnt Bone ++, Charcoal +	Cremation sample. Retent retained

Key: + = rare (0–5), ++ = occasional (6–15), +++ = common (15–50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

6.4.1 Wood charcoal

Wood charcoal was present in varying quantities in the flots and retents of four of the seven bulk samples taken from the fill (0303) of Pit [0304], fill (1103) of Ditch [1104], fill (1612) of cut for Cremation Urn and the fill (2502) of Posthole [2503]. Charcoal was also present in the flots of all three samples taken from the fill (1610) of Cremation Urn [1611]. Where possible, charcoal was identified, as oak or non-oak. In this instance all of the charcoal recovered was categorised as oak. Oak charcoal was frequently used in cremations (Grogan 2007, Bailey 2010) and was the preferred species due to its excellent fuel purposes and high calorific value. Charcoal of a suitable size for AMS dating was recovered from three (0303, 1612 and 1610) of the samples.

6.4.2 Cereal grain

A single, poorly preserved, bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) grain was recovered from the fill (1608) of Gully [1609].

6.4.3 Other plant remains

A heather (*Calluna* sp) florette was present in the fill (0303) of pit [0304]. Single corn spurry (*Spergula arvensis*) seeds were present in the

Table 7

Flotation sample results

Context	Sample	Feature	Total flot vol (ml)	Cereal grain	Wheat grain	Other plant remains	Charcoal qty	Charcoal max size (cm)	Material available for AMS dating	Comments
303	1	Fill of Pit [304]	100	–	–	<i>Calluna florette</i> +	++++	1.4	Charcoal ++	Oak charcoal, also contains modern roots + and uncharred seeds +
1103	2	Fill of Ditch [1104]	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	Modern roots
1107	3	Burnt spread	5	–	–	Small legume +	+	<0.1	–	–
1612	5	Fill of cut [1613] for Cremation Urn	5	–	–	<i>Spergula arvensis</i> +	+	<0.1	–	–
1608	6	Fill of Terminus [1609]	25	+	+	<i>Spergula arvensis</i> +, <i>Gallaeopsis tetrahet</i> +	+	<0.1	–	Contained a single bread wheat grain

Context	Sample	Feature	Total flint vol (ml)	Cereal grain	Wheat grain	Other plant remains	Charcoal qty	Charcoal max size (cm)	Material available for AMS dating	Comments
2502	7	Fill of Posthole [2503]	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	Modern roots
1610	Cleaning	Fill of Cremation Urn [1611]	10	–	–	–	+++	0.2	–	Oak charcoal
1610	0-70mm	Fill of Cremation Urn [1611]	10	–	–	–	++	0.5	–	Oak charcoal
1610	70-100mm	Fill of Cremation Urn [1611]	5	–	–	–	++	–	–	Modern roots +

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

Table 8

Quantification of bone from the fill of Cremation Urn

Context	Description	Sample depths (mm)	Weight (g)	Material available for AMS dating
1610	Bone	0–70	1.9	No
1610	Bone fragments	70–100	28.2	Yes
1610	Bone fragments	Fill of pot – cleaning	<0.1	No

fill (1612) of the cut [1613] for the Cremation Urn and the fill (1608) of Gully [1609]. A single common hemp nettle (*Galaeopsis tetrahit*) was also recovered from the fill (1608) of Gully [1609]. Small legumes were recovered from burnt spread [1107].

6.5 Other remains

Bone recovered from the fill (1610) of the Cremation Urn was quantified and is presented in **Table 8**. The methodology for the excavation of the vessel fill will be detailed elsewhere but it was basically sampled in spits the largest amount of bone recovered was from the base of the vessel 70–100mm. Bone of a size suitable for AMS dating was also recovered from this deposit.

Hand recovered animal bone will be discussed as the subject of a separate animal bone report.

6.6 Discussion

The presence of the heather florettes, albeit in very small quantities, together with oak charcoal suggests the local presence of both oak woodland and acid heath. The dominance of oak charcoal in the assemblage suggests either that it was deliberately selected for use as fuel wood, particularly for cremation, or that it was the only locally available species. The plant macrofossil evidence was very limited and comprised common weeds of cultivation, corn spurry and hemp nettle, and small legume species which grow in a variety of locations. It is likely that a single cereal grain was incidentally incorporated into fill (1608) of Terminus [1609] by mechanisms such as wind blow and therefore does not relate to the original function of the feature.

Overall the sparse palaeoenvironmental assemblage offers little information on *'the introduction, character or development*

of agricultural practises' highlighted in the Archaeology of the East Midlands Research Agenda (Cooper 2006). However, the charcoal recovered from the cremation might offer some insight in to *'the study of how different landscapes were exploited from the fifth to second millennium BC'* (Cooper 2006). The presence of oak within the cremation suggests that oak grew locally and could have been deliberately selected as the preferred fuel wood for cremations.

7 CONCLUSION

The trial trenching evaluation revealed archaeological remains from several periods. The quality of remains varied by period and we have formulated the view that the highest quality and most significant remains date to the Bronze Age (HA1) and Early Iron Age (HA2). The majority of these remains are located in the north-eastern part of the DA (Trenches 13 and 16) and take the form of ditches, pits and a cremation. Such remains are indicative of occupation within the DA. This activity may extend beyond its boundaries.

There were other, less datable but probably prehistoric remains spread across the DA. These may be best characterized as peripheral to, but possibly related to the occupation at HA1/2. Remains from other periods were of a less significant nature and are representative of land boundaries and/or field systems (HA3–7).

Trial trenching results, when compared to the geophysical survey (NA 2012), show mixed results over the DA. Some of the geophysical survey anomalies have been shown to represent archaeological features, such as in Trenches 08, 14 and 16, but a considerable number of the potential features identified were not found in any form and a number of ditches were not identified, particularly around the area of Trenches 02, 04 and 30. This indicates that geophysical survey was only partially successful at identifying archaeological remains within the DA; possibly as a result of differential response to variations in geology and depth of overburden.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

Trench	Orientation	Description	Length (m)	Depth of overburden (m)	Max depth (m)
01	E-W	Topsoil, 0.3m, of dark greyish brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. Underlain by subsoil, 0.25m of light brown yellow clayey sand with very occasional small stone inclusions. Overlying natural of speckly red brown / brown orange clayey sand with occasional flint inclusions.	50	0.55	0.55
02	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.25m of dark greyish brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. Underlain by subsoil, 0.2m of light brown yellow clayey sand with very occasional small stone inclusions. Overlying natural of speckly red brown / brown orange clayey sand with occasional flint inclusions.	50	0.45	0.45
03	N-S	Topsoil, 0.25m of dark greyish brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. Underlain by subsoil, 0.2m of light brown yellow clayey sand with very occasional small stone inclusions. Overlying natural of speckly red brown / brown orange clayey sand with occasional flint inclusions.	50	0.45	0.45
04	NW-SE	Topsoil, 0.2m of dark greyish brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m of light brown yellow clayey sand with very occasional small stone inclusions. Overlying natural of speckly red brown / brown orange clayey sand with occasional flint inclusions.	50	0.5	0.55
05	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.2m, mid orange grey, sandy silt, loose, with occasional small stones and frequent root disturbance. Underlain by subsoil, 0.25m, light orange grey, silty sand, loose, with occasional root disturbance. Overlying natural of yellow orange sand with occasional brown clay areas.	50	0.45	0.45
06	E-W	Topsoil, 0.3m, light brown grey, loose, sandy silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.1m, light yellow/orange brown, moderately compact clayey sand with occasional small stone inclusions. Overlying natural of dark red brown clay with sand and gravel patches.	50	0.4	0.4
07	NE-SE	Topsoil, 0.3m, light brown grey, loose, sandy silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.2m, light yellow/orange brown, moderately compact clayey sand. Overlying natural of dark red brown clay with sand and gravel patches.	50	0.5	0.55
08	E-W	Topsoil, 0.18m, dark orange brown clay silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.27m, compact orange grey sandy clay. Overlying natural of light grey pink firm clay and light yellow grey sandy clay.	50	0.45	0.5
09	E-W	Topsoil, 0.15m, dark orange brown friable silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.4m, orange grey silty sand with occasional small stones. Overlying natural of orange red sandy compact clay.	50	0.55	0.82
10	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.15m, dark orange brown friable silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.75m, orange grey silty sand with occasional small stones. Overlying natural of orange red sandy clay with occasional stones.	50	0.9	1
11	E-W	Topsoil, 0.15m, grey brown sandy silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.4m, orange grey silty sand with occasional small stones and brick rubble. Underlain by buried topsoil, 0.12m. Underlain by buried subsoil, 0.2m, orange brown clayey sand with occasional small stones. Overlying natural of orange sandy clay.	50	0.97	0.98
12	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.27m, grey brown sandy silt with occasional stones and frequent root disturbance. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m, orange brown sand with small stones. Overlying natural of orange red clay with patches of light yellow orange sand and occasional small stones.	50	0.57	0.58
13	NW-SE	Topsoil, 0.3m, dark grey brown loose sandy silt, with occasional small stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.2m, orange brown sand with occasional small stones. Overlying natural of brown orange clay with occasional stones.	50	0.5	1
14	NW-SE	Topsoil, 0.25m, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.45m, orange brown fine sand with occasional stones. Overlying natural of red grey sandy clay, with occasional stones.	50	0.7	0.85
15	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.2m, grey brown sandy silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m, orange brown sand. Overlying natural of red orange sandy clay.	50	0.5	0.55
16	NW-SE	Topsoil, 0.2m, dark grey brown sandy silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m, brown orange sand. Overlying natural of red orange sandy clay.	50	0.5	0.6
17	N-S	Topsoil, 0.2m, brown sandy silt with stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m, orange brown sand with occasional small stones. Overlying natural of red orange sandy clay.	50	0.5	0.55
18	E-W	Topsoil, 0.3m, mid grey brown clayey sand. Underlain by subsoil, 0.15m, brown yellow clayey sand. Overlying natural of grey and red clays with sandy gravel patches.	50	0.45	0.5

Trench	Orientation	Description	Length (m)	Depth of overburden (m)	Max depth (m)
19	N-S	Topsoil, 0.25m, grey brown clayey sand. Underlain by plough soil, 0.15m, light brown yellow clayey sand. Underlain by colluvium, 0.3m, light brown yellow clayey sand with frequent small stones. Overlying natural of sandy clay.	50	0.7	0.7
20	E-W	Topsoil, 0.3m, grey brown clayey sand. Underlain by plough soil, 0.15m, light brown yellow clayey sand. Underlain by colluvium, 0.2m, light brown yellow clayey sand with frequent small stones. Overlying natural of sandy clay.	50	0.6	0.7
21	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.2m, brown clayey sand. Underlain by subsoil, 0.4m, brown orange sand. Overlying natural of red orange sandy clay.	50	0.6	0.7
22	NW-SE	Topsoil, 0.25m, grey brown clayey sand with small stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.4m, orange brown sand. Overlying natural of sandy clay.	50	0.65	0.75
23	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.2m, brown clayey sand. Underlain by subsoil, 0.4m, orange brown sand. Overlying natural of orange clays.	50	0.6	0.7
24	E-W	Topsoil, 0.2m, mid grey brown clayey sand with occasional small stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m, mid blue grey silty sand. Overlying natural of clay with gravel patches.	50	0.5	0.55
25	E-W	Topsoil, 0.25m, grey brown clayey sand. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m, grey silty sand. Overlying natural of gravelly clay.	50	0.55	0.55
26	NW-SE	Topsoil, 0.25m, grey brown clayey sand. Underlain by subsoil, 0.45m, brown sand. Overlying natural of clayey silt.	50	0.7	0.75
27	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.25m, light brown grey loose sandy silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.3m, light brown clayey sand. Overlying natural of mixed clays.	50	0.55	0.7
28	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.2m, mid brown grey loose clayey silt with occasional stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.1m, light brown grey silty clay. Overlying natural of light cream brown silty clay.	50	0.3	0.35
29	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.3m, light grey brown loose sandy silt. Underlain by subsoil, 0.2m, grey brown silty clay. Overlying natural of clayey sand.	50	0.5	0.55
30	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.2m, dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.1m, light grey brown silty clay. Overlying natural of silty clay.	50	0.3	0.35
31	NE-SW	Topsoil, 0.2m, dark brown grey silty sand with occasional small stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.35m, light grey brown loose silty sand with frequent small stones. Overlying natural of light cream brown silty sand.	50	0.55	0.6
32	N-S	Topsoil, 0.3m, dark brown sandy silt with moderately frequent stones. Underlain by subsoil, 0.25m, brown orange silty sand with frequent stones. Overlying natural of silty clay.	50	0.55	0.6
33	SE-NW	Topsoil, 0.12m, light grey brown sandy silt. Underlain by modern levelling deposit, 0.4m, redeposited natural clay (dark red brown silty clay) with modern brick rubble. Underlain by subsoil, 0.2m, light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Overlying natural of red brown clay.	50	0.72	0.75

Appendix 1.2 Context register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details	Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
0100	01	Topsoil	See trench register	0206	02	Cut for ditch	Linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderately steep sides curving into a shallow base. L2.2m+W1.5m D0.67m
0101	01	Subsoil	See trench register				
0102	01	Natural	See trench register	0300	03	Topsoil	See trench register
0200	02	Topsoil	See trench register	0301	03	Subsoil	See trench register
0201	02	Subsoil	See trench register	0302	03	Natural	See trench register
0202	02	Natural	See trench register	0303	03	Fill of Pit [0304]	Dark grey black clay, firm compaction with frequent charcoal flecks. Deposit of burnt material, sampled
0203	02	Fill of Ditch [0204]	Light grey brown, sandy silt, loose, occasional small cobble inclusions	0304	03	Cut for pit	Sub-circular pit, steep sided, very shallow concave base. L0.75W0.7 D0.2
0204	02	Cut for ditch	Linear ditch, N-S aligned shallow concave profile. L2.5m+W1.2m D0.11m, undated	0400	04	Topsoil	See trench register
0205	02	Fill of Ditch [0206]	Mid orange brown sandy silt, moderately compact with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions	0401	04	Subsoil	See trench register
				0402	04	Natural	See trench register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
0403	04	Upper fill of Ditch [0405]	Light brown yellow clayey sand with very occasional small stone inclusions
0404	04	lower fill of Ditch [0405]	Mid orange brown, silty sand of moderate compaction with moderate small to medium sized sub-rounded stone inclusions
0405	04	Cut for ditch	Linear ditch, N-S aligned, moderate sloping sides and base, cut from subsoil level. L1.8+W3.1 D0.71
0500	05	Topsoil	See trench register
0501	05	Subsoil	See trench register
0502	05	Natural	See trench register
0503	05	Cut for natural feature	Irregular shape in plan with irregular sides with a concave base
0504	05	Fill of natural Feature [0503]	Mid orange brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks, and root disturbance
0600	06	Topsoil	See trench register
0601	06	Subsoil	See trench register
0602	06	Natural	See trench register
0603	06	Cut for pit	Circular with gently sloping sides and a shallow concave base. L0.45m, W0.5m, D0.08m
0604	06	Fill of Pit [0603]	Mid grey brown silty sand, loose, frequent small gravel inclusions
0700	07	Topsoil	See trench register
0701	07	Subsoil	See trench register
0702	07	Natural	See trench register
0800	08	Topsoil	See trench register
0801	08	Subsoil	See trench register
0802	08	Natural	See trench register
0803	08	Upper fill of Ditch [0805]	Moderately compact orange grey sandy clay and grey pink clay.
0804	08	Lower fill of Ditch [0805]	Stones within base of ditch. Roughly hewn granite slabs with occasional flat sides. Single course visible with larger stones in middle and smaller slabs abutting the sides.
0805	08	Cut for ditch	Linear ditch, N-S aligned relatively steep sides and flat base. L1.8+, W0.7, D0.25.
0900	09	Topsoil	See trench register
0901	09	Subsoil	See trench register
0902	09	Natural	See trench register
0903	09	Cut for ditch	Linear, NE-SW aligned, with regular sides and uneven base. L1.5, W1.3, D0.27
0904	09	Fill of Ditch [0903]	Fine light orange grey sand, with occasional small stones
1000	10	Topsoil	See trench register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
1001	10	Subsoil	See trench register
1002	10	Natural	See trench register
1101	11	Topsoil	See trench register
1102	11	Subsoil	See trench register
1103	11	Fill of Ditch [1104]	Soft orange grey silty clay, with occasional small stones, charcoal flecks, and CBM flecks.
1104	11	Cut for ditch	Linear, NW-SE aligned, with irregular sides and concave base. L1+, W0.95, D0.3.
1105	11	Buried topsoil	Grey brown sandy silt.
1106	11	Buried subsoil	Mid orange brown clayey sand, with occasional small stones.
1107	11	Burnt spread	Soft mid orange grey silty clay deposit, with occasional small stones, CBM flecks, and charcoal lumps. Shallow spread, covering an area of 6m E-W by 1m N-S, 0.1m in depth.
1108	11	Natural	See trench register
1200	12	Topsoil	See trench register
1201	12	Subsoil	See trench register
1202	12	Natural	See trench register
1300	13	Topsoil	See trench register
1301	13	Subsoil	See trench register
1302	13	Natural	See trench register
1303	13	Cut for ditch	Curvilinear, broadly aligned E-W, with irregular sides and concave base. L1+, W1.4, D0.25.
1304	13	Fill of Ditch [1303]	Compact brown orange sandy-silt, with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.
1305	13	Cut of pit	Circular with irregular sides and uneven base. 1m diameter; 0.23m depth.
1306	13	Fill of Pit [1305]	Mid red brown sand, with 20% large stones.
1307	13	Cut of pit	Circular with gently sloping sides and rounded base. L0.54, W0.54, D0.1
1308	13	Fill of Pit [1307]	Loose red brown sand, with frequent stones.
1400	14	Topsoil	See trench register
1401	14	Subsoil	See trench register
1402	14	Natural	See trench register
1403	14	Natural	See trench register
1404	14	Fill of Ditch [1405]	Compact red brown silty sand with small stones.
1405	14	Cut for ditch	Linear with gently sloping sides and rounded base. L1.8, W0.9, D0.19.
1500	15	Topsoil	See trench register
1501	15	Subsoil	See trench register
1502	15	Natural	See trench register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
1600	16	Topsoil	See trench register
1601	16	Subsoil	See trench register
1602	16	Fill of Pit [1603]	Loose red brown silty sand with frequent small stones.
1603	16	Cut for pit	Sub-circular with gently sloping sides and rounded base. 0.65m in diameter X 0.12m in depth.
1604	16	Upper fill of Pit [1607]	Loose red brown silty sand with moderately frequent small stones and occasional charcoal.
1605	16	Main fill of Pit [1607]	Soft red brown sandy silt with moderately frequent small stones and charcoal. Possible in situ burning.
1606	16	Lowest fill of Pit [1607]	Loose red brown silty sand with moderately frequent small stones and occasional charcoal.
1607	16	Cut for pit	Irregular with irregular sides and uneven base. W1.95, D0.22.
1608	16	Fill of Gully [1609]	Soft brown grey sandy silt with frequent small stones and occasional charcoal.
1609	16	Cut for ditch terminus	Linear, NE-SW aligned, with steep sides and rounded base. W0.55, D0.24. Terminus of small linear feature.
1610	16	Fill of Pit [1611]	Loose black clayey silt.
1611	16	Cut for pit	Circular. L0.21m, W0.24m.
1612	16	Fill of cut [1613]	Loose black clay silt with occasional small stones.
1613	16	Cremation cut	Sub-square with steep sides and flat base. L0.28, W0.25, D0.15
1614	16	Fill of Ditch [1615]	Soft light brown grey sandy silt with moderately frequent large stones.
1615	16	Cut of ditch	Linear, E-W aligned, with gently sloping sides and rounded base. W1.3, D0.17.
1616	16	Fill of Ditch [1617]	Soft brown grey sandy silt, with moderately frequent stones.
1617	16	Cut for ditch	Linear, N-S aligned, with gently sloping sides and rounded base. W1.3, D0.13.
1618	16	Natural	See trench register
1700	17	Topsoil	See trench register
1701	17	Subsoil	See trench register
1702	17	Natural	See trench register
1800	18	Topsoil	See trench register
1801	18	Subsoil	See trench register
1802	18	Natural	See trench register
1900	19	Topsoil	See trench register
1901	19	Ploughsoil	See trench register
1902	19	Colluvium	See trench register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
1903	19	Natural	See trench register
2000	20	Topsoil	See trench register
2001	20	Subsoil	See trench register
2002	20	Natural	See trench register
2003	20	Colluvium	See trench register
2100	21	Topsoil	See trench register
2101	21	Subsoil	See trench register
2102	21	Natural	See trench register
2200	22	Topsoil	See trench register
2201	22	Subsoil	See trench register
2202	22	Fill of cut [2203]	Soft sandy silt with moderately frequent stones.
2203	22	Linear cut	Linear, N-S aligned, with gently sloping sides and rounded base. W0.8, D0.09.
2204	22	Natural	See trench register
2300	23	Topsoil	See trench register
2301	23	Subsoil	See trench register
2302	23	Natural	See trench register
2303	23	Cut for pit	Sub-circular, with steep sides and rounded slightly uneven base. 0.95m in diameter X 0.3m in depth.
2304	23	Fill of Pit [2303]	Soft blue brown clay, with frequent large stones and dark organic rich burning fill and hot charcoal material.
2400	24	Topsoil	See trench register
2401	24	Subsoil	See trench register
2402	24	Natural	See trench register
2403	24	Cut for drain	Linear, E-W aligned. Unexcavated. L4.1+, W0.5.
2404	24	Fill of Drain [2403]	Compact orange brown silty clay, with small pebbles.
2500	25	Topsoil	See trench register
2501	25	Subsoil	See trench register
2502	25	Natural	See trench register
2503	25	Cut for posthole	Circular with steep sides and a rounded base. L0.28, W0.3, D0.14.
2504	24	Fill of Posthole [2503]	Soft dark blue brown sandy deposit, with frequent medium stones.
2600	26	Topsoil	See trench register
2601	26	Subsoil	See trench register
2602	26	Natural	See trench register
2700	27	Topsoil	See trench register
2701	27	Subsoil	See trench register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
2702	27	Natural	See trench register
2800	28	Topsoil	See trench register
2801	28	Subsoil	See trench register
2802	28	Natural	See trench register
2803	28	Cut for furrow	Linear, NW-SE aligned, with gently sloping sides and flat base. L1.8+, W0.6, D0.09.
2804	28	Fill of Furrow [2805]	Not excavated. Orange brown clayey silt.
2805	28	Cut for furrow	Linear, NW-SE aligned. Not excavated.
2806	28	Fill of Furrow [2803]	Friable orange brown clayey silt, with occasional stones.
2900	29	Topsoil	See trench register
2901	29	Subsoil	See trench register
2902	29	Natural	See trench register
3000	30	Topsoil	See trench register
3001	30	Subsoil	See trench register
3002	30	Natural	See trench register
3003	30	Cut for furrow	Linear, N-S aligned, with gradually sloping sides and slightly rounded base. L2+, W1.05, D0.1.
3004	30	Fill of Furrow [3003]	Firm orange brown clayey sandy silt, with moderately frequent small stones.
3005	30	Cut of ditch	Linear, N-S aligned, with gradually sloping sides and rounded base. L2.1+, W1.3, D0.3.
3006	30	Fill of Ditch [3005]	Firm orange brown clayey silt, with moderately frequent stones.
3007	30	Ditch cut	Linear, N-S, steep sided, rounded base, sharp break of slope. L1.8m+ W0.9m D0.45m
3008	30	Fill of Ditch [3009]	Mid orangey brown silty clay, stiff compaction, 20% small sub-rounded stone inclusions. L1.8m+ W0.9m D0.3m
3009	30	Ditch cut	Linear, N-S, steep sides, rounded base, sharp break of slope. L1.8m+, W0.9m D0.3m.
3010	30	Fill of Ditch [3007]	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, 15% small sub-rounded stone inclusions, loose. L1.8m+ W0.9m D0.45m
3100	31	Topsoil	See trench register
3101	31	Subsoil	See trench register
3102	31	Natural	See trench register
3104	31	Fill of cut [3105]	Loose light brown grey silty sand.
3105	31	Animal burial cut	Rectangular, with steep sides and flat base. L1, W0.45, D0.15.
3106	31	Fill of cut [3107]	Loose light brown grey silty sand.
3107	31	Animal burial cut	Oval-shaped, with gradually sloping sides and rounded base. L0.9, W0.6, D0.12.
3200	32	Topsoil	See trench register

Context	Trench	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
3201	32	Subsoil	See trench register
3202	32	Fill of cut [3203]	Loose light brown grey silty sand.
3203	32	Animal burial cut	Circular, with gradually sloping sides and rounded base.
3204	32	Fill of cut [3205]	Loose light brown grey silty sand.
3205	32	Animal burial cut	Circular, with gradually sloping sides and rounded base.
3206	32	Natural	See trench register
3300	33	Topsoil	See trench register
3301	33	Modern levelling deposit	See trench register
3302	33	Subsoil	See trench register
3303	33	Natural	See trench register
3304	33	Fill of Furrow [3305]	Compact red brown silty sand, with relatively frequent medium stones.
3305	33	Cut for furrow	Linear, N-S aligned, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base. L1.8+, W1.5, D0.25.
3306	33	Fill of Furrow [3307]	Compact red brown silty sand, with relatively frequent medium stones.
3307	33	Cut for furrow	Linear, N-S aligned, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base. L1.8+, W1.5, D0.05.

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Frame	Colour	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
	1/36	2/25	5683	—	ID Shot
ESBF13-001	1/35	2/26	5684	SE	General shot Trench 04
ESBF13-002	1/34	2/27	5685	NE	SW facing section of ditch [405]
ESBF13-003	—	—	5686	SW	NE facing section of ditch [405]
ESBF13-004	1/33	2/28	5687	S	General shot Trench 03
ESBF13-005	1/32	2/29	5688	W	General shot Trench 01
ESBF13-006	1/31	2/30	5689	NE	General shot Trench 02
ESBF13-007	—	—	5690	S	North facing section of [0304]
ESBF13-008	—	—	5691	S	Plan shot of Pit [0304]
ESBF13-009	—	—	5692	E	General shot Trench 08
ESBF13-010	1/30	2/31	5693	N	South facing section of (0805)
ESBF13-011	—	—	5694	Overhead	Overhead shot of (0805) showing in situ stones
ESBF13-012	—	—	5695	S	North facing section of (0805) in trench
ESBF13-013	—	—	5696	NW	General shot Trench 07

Frame	Colour	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description	Frame	Colour	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
ESBF13-014	—	—	5697	NW	General shot Trench 07	ESBF13-045	—	—	2018	NE	General shot of Trench 12 fully opened
ESBF13-015	1/28	2/32	5698	N	Pit [0603]	ESBF13-046	—	—	2019	NE	Southwest facing baulk section Trench 13
ESBF13-016	—	—	5699	N	Pit [0603]	ESBF13-047	—	—	2020	SE	Northwest facing section of Ditch [1303]
ESBF13-017	1/27	2/33	5700	E	General shot Trench 06	ESBF13-048	—	—	2021	SE	Northwest facing baulk section Trench 12
ESBF13-018	—	—	5702	NE	General shot Trench 05	ESBF13-049	—	—	2022	NE	Southwest facing baulk section Trench 14
ESBF13-019	—	—	5703	NE	Tree bowl [0503]	ESBF13-050	—	—	2023	SE	General shot Trench 14
ESBF13-020	—	—	5704	S	Tree bowl [0503] in north facing section	ESBF13-051	—	—	2024	E	West facing section through tree bowl [1306]
ESBF13-021	—	—	5705	E	West facing section of Pit [0304] and baulk section	ESBF13-052	3/1	4/35	—	N/A	ID shot
ESBF13-022	1/26	2/34	5706	SE	Ditch [0204]	ESBF13-053	—	—	2025	SW	General shot Trench 15
ESBF13-023	—	—	5707	SE	Ditch [0204]	ESBF13-054	—	—	2026	SW	Modern disturbance in Trench 15
ESBF13-024	—	—	5708	SE	Ditch [0204]	ESBF13-055	—	—	2027	N/A	Repaired water main
ESBF13-025	1/25	2/35	5709	N	South facing section of Ditch [0206]	ESBF13-056	—	—	2028	N/A	Repaired water main
ESBF13-026	—	—	5710	NE	General shot of Ditch [0206]	ESBF13-057	—	—	2029	NE	Cremation pot pre-exc general shot
ESBF13-027	1/24	2/36	5711	N	South facing section of Ditch [0206] – fully excavated	ESBF13-058	—	—	2030	NE	Cremation pot pre-exc general shot
ESBF13-028	—	—	2001	W	General shot of Trench 09	ESBF13-059	—	—	2031	NW	General shot Trench 16
ESBF13-029	—	—	2002	S	North facing section of natural Feature [0903]	ESBF13-060	—	—	2032	SE	Northwest facing section through Pit [1603]
ESBF13-030	—	—	2003	E	General shot of [0903]	ESBF13-061	—	—	2033	NE	Southwest facing section through Pit [1607]
ESBF13-031	—	—	2004	SW	General shot of Trench 10	ESBF13-062	—	—	2034	SE	Pit [1607]
ESBF13-032	—	—	2005	SE	Northwest facing section of Ditch [1104]	ESBF13-063	—	—	2035	NE	Southwest facing section through Gully [1609]
ESBF13-033	—	—	2006	E	General shot of Ditch [1104]	ESBF13-064	—	—	2036	NE	Southwest facing section through Pit [1607]
ESBF13-034	—	—	2007	W	General shot of Trench 11	ESBF13-065	—	—	2037	N	General shot Trench 17
ESBF13-035	—	—	2008	NE	General shot of burnt spread (1107)	ESBF13-066	—	—	2038	W	General shot Trench 18
ESBF13-036	—	—	2009	N	South facing section of (1107) part 1	ESBF13-067	—	—	2039	S	General shot Trench 19
ESBF13-037	—	—	2010	N	South facing section of (1107) part 2	ESBF13-068	—	—	2040	E	General shot Trench 20
ESBF13-038	—	—	2011	N	South facing section of (1107) part 3	ESBF13-069	—	—	2041	E	General shot Trench 25
ESBF13-039	—	—	2012	N/A	Trench 11 backfilled	ESBF13-070	—	—	2042	NE	General shot Trench 23
ESBF13-040	—	—	2013	N/A	Trench 10 backfilled	ESBF13-071	—	—	2043	SE	General shot Trench 24
ESBF13-041	—	—	2014	N/A	Trench 9 backfilled	ESBF13-072	—	—	2044	NE	General shot Trench 21
ESBF13-042	—	—	2015	N/A	Council warning sign	ESBF13-073	—	—	2045	S	General shot Trench 22
ESBF13-043	—	—	2016	SW	General shot of Trench 12 mid exc	ESBF13-074	—	—	2046	S	North facing section through Furrow [2203]
ESBF13-044	—	—	2017	SE	General shot of Trench 13						

Frame	Colour	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
ESBF13-075	—	—	2047	N	Pre-exc of soak away in Trench 24
ESBF13-076	—	—	2048	NW	Pre-exc of soak away in Trench 24
ESBF13-077	—	—	2049	S	North facing section through Furrow [2803]
ESBF13-078	3/3	4/33	2050	Overhead	Pre-excavation shots of Cremation Pot (1611)
ESBF13-079	3/4	4/32	2051	Overhead	Pre-excavation shots of Cremation Pot (1611)
ESBF13-080	—	—	2052	Overhead	Pre-excavation shots of Cremation Pot (1611)
ESBF13-081	—	—	2053	Overhead	Pre-excavation shots of Cremation Pot (1611)
ESBF13-082	—	—	2054	Overhead	Pre-excavation shots of Cremation Pot (1611)
ESBF13-083	—	—	2055	Overhead	Shots of geo-rectification points for (1611)
ESBF13-084	—	—	2056	Overhead	Shots of geo-rectification points for (1611)
ESBF13-085	—	—	2057	Overhead	Shots of geo-rectification points for (1611)
ESBF13-086	—	—	2058	Overhead	Shots of geo-rectification points for (1611)
ESBF13-087	—	—	2059	Various	Mid-excavation working shots of Pot (1611) excavation
ESBF13-088	—	—	2060	Various	Mid-excavation working shots of Pot (1611) excavation
ESBF13-089	—	—	2061	Various	Mid-excavation working shots of Pot (1611) excavation
ESBF13-090	—	—	2062	Various	Mid-excavation working shots of Pot (1611) excavation
ESBF13-091	—	—	2063	Various	Mid-excavation working shots of Pot (1611) excavation
ESBF13-092	—	—	2064	Various	Mid-excavation working shots of Pot (1611) excavation
ESBF13-093	—	—	2065	Various	Mid-excavation working shots of Pot (1611) excavation
ESBF13-094	—	—	2066	N/A	Pot (1611) excavated
ESBF13-095	—	—	2067	NE	Southwest facing section through Ditch [1405]
ESBF13-096	—	—	2068	NW	Southwest facing section through Pit [1308]
ESBF13-097	—	—	2069	S	North facing section through Furrow [3305]
ESBF13-098	—	—	2070	S	North facing section through furrow [3305]

Frame	Colour	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
ESBF13-099	—	—	2071	SE	General shot Trench 33
ESBF13-100	—	—	2072	S	North facing section Furrow [3307]
ESBF13-101	—	—	2073	S	North facing section Furrow [3307]
ESBF13-102	—	—	2074	NE	Animal burial [3107] pre-excavation
ESBF13-103	—	—	2075	NE	Animal burial [3107] pre-excavation
ESBF13-104	—	—	2076	NE	Animal burial [3105] pre-excavation
ESBF13-105	—	—	2077	NE	Animal burial [3105] pre-excavation
ESBF13-106	—	—	2078	NE	Animal burial [3107] post-excavation
ESBF13-107	—	—	2079	NE	Animal burial [3105] post-excavation
ESBF13-108	—	—	2080	SW	General shot Trench 31
ESBF13-109	—	—	2081	W	East facing section through Ditch [1615]
ESBF13-110	—	—	2082	W	East facing section through Ditch [1615]
ESBF13-111	—	—	2083	S	North facing section through Ditch [1617]
ESBF13-112	—	—	2084	S	North facing section through Ditch [1617]
ESBF13-113	—	—	2085	SW	General shot Trench 28
ESBF13-114	—	—	2086	NE	General shot Trench 27
ESBF13-115	—	—	2087	NW	General shot Trench 26
ESBF13-116	—	—	2088	NW	Soak away (2403)
ESBF13-117	—	—	2089	N	Soak away (2403)
ESBF13-118	—	—	2090	S	Soak away (2403)
ESBF13-119	—	—	2091	S	Soak away (2403)
ESBF13-120	—	—	2092	S	Soak away (2403)
ESBF13-121	—	—	2093	N	South facing section through paleochannel (2504)
ESBF13-122	—	—	2094	N	South facing section through paleochannel (2504)
ESBF13-123	—	—	2095	N	South facing section through paleochannel (2504)
ESBF13-124	3/5	4/31	2096	S	General shot Trench 32
ESBF13-125	—	—	2097	W	Animal burial [3203]
ESBF13-126	—	—	2098	SE	Animal burial [3205]
ESBF13-127	—	—	2099	NE	Animal burial [3205]

Frame	Colour	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
ESBF13-128	—	—	2100	SE	Animal burial [3205]
ESBF13-129	—	—	2101	E	Slot through natural spread
ESBF13-130	—	—	2102	NE	General shot Trench 29
ESBF13-131	—	—	2103	S	North facing section of Furrow [3003]
ESBF13-132	—	4/30	2104	N	South facing section of Ditch [3005]

Appendix 1.4 Sample register

Sample	Context	Description
1	303	Burning and charcoally deposit in pit
2	1103	Ditch fill with charcoal inclusions
3	1107	Dump of burnt material in a spread
4	1610	Fill of Cremation Pot (1611)
5	1612	Fill of Cremation Pot cut [1613]
6	1608	Fill of gullies
7	2502	Dark organic fill of posthole

Appendix 1.5 Drawing register

Drawing	Section	Description
1	1:10	Southwest facing section of Ditch [405]
2	1:10	Pit [1607]
3	1:10	Ditches [3007] and [3009]

Appendix 2 Finds catalogue

Trench	Feature	Context	Sample	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Fabric	Fabric code	Period
02	Ditch 0206	205	–	21	153	Glass	Bottle	Sherds of green bottle glass	–	–	Modern
02	Ditch 0206	205	–	8	762	CBM	–	Fragments of a red, hard fired ceramic building material; one fragment indicates a squared edge, possibly brick? There are several shallow impressions on the surface; one shows to crossing lines and the other shows hand or animal print	–	–	–
03	Pit 0304	303	1	19	11	Lithics	Debitage	Small flakes and chips, many are burnt fragments	–	–	PH
03	Pit 0304	303	1	1	9	CBM	Daub	Small amorphous lump of fired ceramic	–	–	–
04	Ditch 0405	404	–	1	612	CBM	Brick	Hand made brick, soft red fabric, abraded. W: 119;Th:47	–	–	Medi–PM
08	Ditch 0805	803	–	1	21	CBM	Tile	Small sherd of probable pan tile, one rough, one smooth face. Th: 16	–	–	PM–Mod
13	Ditch 1303	1304	–	2	11	Pottery (Rom)	Greyware	Wheel thrown body sherd with a soft, abraded, reduced fabric	Reduced	REDUC	Roman
16	Tree bowl 1607	1605	–	11	121	Pottery (PH)	Quartz sand tempered	Very gently curving body sherds	Quartz sand tempered	QS	IA
16	Gully 1609	1608	6	3	4	Lithics	Debitage	Flint flakes and one chip	–	–	PH
16	Gully 1609	1608	6	22	33	Pottery (PH)	?East Midlands Scored Ware	Much abraded fragments, one grass marked body sherds, base sherd and an upright, gently squared rim	Quartz Sand Tempered	–	IA
16	Gully 1609	1608	–	18	116	Pottery (PH)	East Midlands Scored Ware	Gently curving body sherds	Granite	G	Earlier IA
16	Gully 1609	1608	6	7	9	CBM	Daub	Small rounded, abraded pieces of orange fired clay	–	–	–
16	Urned Cremation Pit 1611	1610	–	2	1	Lithics	Debitage	0–70mm, two flint chips, one burnt	–	–	PH
16	Urned Cremation Pit 1611	1610	–	1	1	Pottery (Mod)	Whiteware	0–70mm, Small chip of modern whiteware	Whiteware	–	Modern
16	Urned Cremation Pit 1611	1610	–	30	5	Pottery (PH)	Cremation Urn	70–100mm, small fragments of Cremation Urn	Quartz Sand Tempered	QS	BA
16	Urned Cremation Pit 1611	1610	–	10	2	Pottery (PH)	Cremation Urn	0–70mm, small fragments of Cremation Urn	Quartz Sand Tempered	QS	BA
16	Urned Cremation Pit 1611	1610	–	24	2132	Pottery (PH)	Cremation Urn	Flat Based Urn	Quartz Sand Tempered	QS	BA
24	Soakway 2403	2404	–	1	7	Pottery (Mod)	Whiteware	Small sherd of modern whiteware	Whiteware	–	Modern
25	Pit 2503	2504	7	48	137	CBM	Daub	Small soft abraded lumps	–	–	–
30	Ditch 3005	3006	–	2	262	CBM	Tile	Two sherds of tile red, hard fired tile, one rough, and one smooth face. Probable pantile. Th:16–18	–	–	PM–Mod
30	Ditch 3007	3010	–	1	2	Glass	Bottle	Sherds of green bottle glass	–	–	Modern
30	Ditch 3007	3010	–	1	22	Pottery (Mod)	Glazed Redware	Body sherd	Redware	–	Modern



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