JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

SECOND PHASE EVALUATION &

MITIGATION OF ACCESS ROAD.

LAND AT STANTON HARCOURT AIRFIELD,

MAIN ROAD, STANTON HARCOURT, OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 41460 05370

NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT PREPARED BY Alessandro Guaggenti & Stephanie N. Duensing

ILLUSTRATION BY Alessandro Guaggenti & Autumn Robson

EDITED BY John Moore

AUTHORISED BY John Moore

FIELDWORK 15th – 23rd October 2018

REPORT ISSUED 18th November 2018

ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Pasture Farmhouse
Boarstall
Aylesbury
HP18 9UR

Tel: 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

JMHS Project No: 4017
OASIS No: johnmoor1-333316
Site Code: SHMR 18
Archive Location: The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to Oxfordshire County Museum Service with the accession number 2018.114.

CONTENTS

FIGURES AND PLATES

TABLES

Summary
John Moore Heritage Services carried out a second phase evaluation and a strip, map and sample (SMS) at Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 41460 05370). The evaluation phase trenches targeted areas where cropmarks had been seen from aerial photos taken in the early 20th century, as well as more recent results of a geophysical survey. Evidence of features corresponding to all cropmarks seen in the photographs were encountered, surviving modern agricultural use and building on the area. Two ring ditches found in Trenches 14 and 18, possibly mark the earliest phases of activity. Other trenches exposed evidence for two enclosures seen across four trenches with five linear ditches, two shallow pits, one posthole and one gully. All ditches and features date to the earlier part of the Romano-British period, and generally corresponded with geophysical anomalies and the aerial photographs.

The strip map and sample area to the south-east of the site along the route of the proposed access road recorded evidence for four phases of use, all within the late prehistoric to Roman period

1 INTRODUCTION

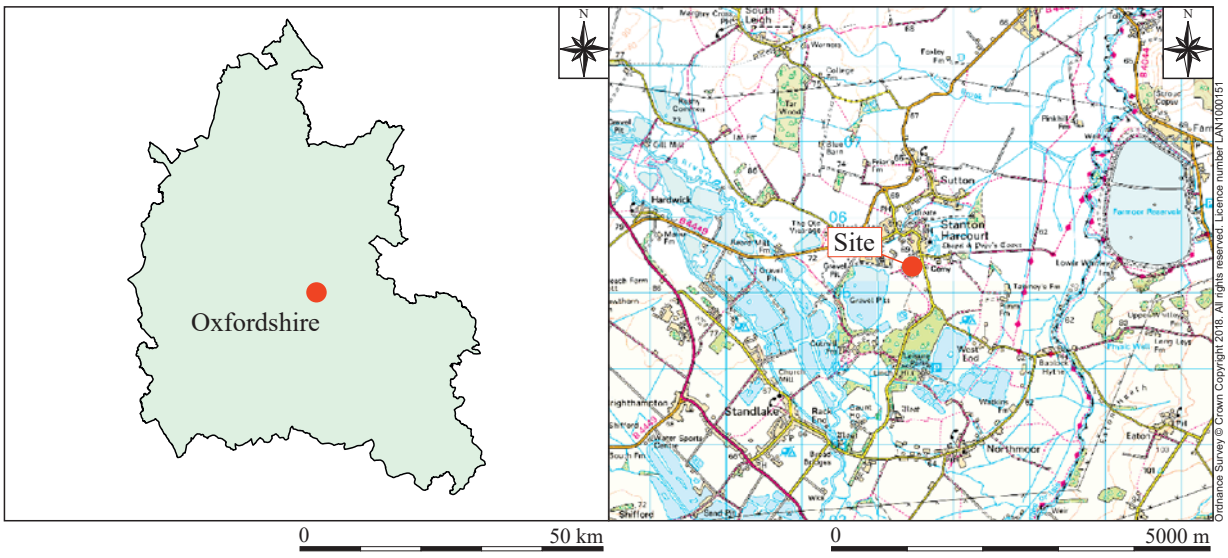
1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at the site of the Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 41460 05370). The site itself is flat, situated at approximately 70m aOD. The solid geology of the study site comprises a Jurassic mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation (undifferentiated at this location). Superficial geology is recorded as Quaternary sand and gravel of the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member. This material overlies the whole of the site (British Geological Survey online viewer). The soil covering the study site is described as 'freely draining lime-rich loamy soil' (Soilscape 5 on the LandIS online database).

1.2 Planning Background

Planning consent is anticipated following a detailed planning application for the redevelopment of the site for housing and associated landscaping and infrastructure (18/01611/FUL). Two draft planning conditions relate to archaeology as follows:

> a) The applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall be responsible for organising and implementing an archaeological investigation, to be undertaken prior to development commencing. The investigation shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason - To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012).
>
> b) Prior to the commencement of the development and following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 1, a staged programme of archaeological investigation shall be carried out by the



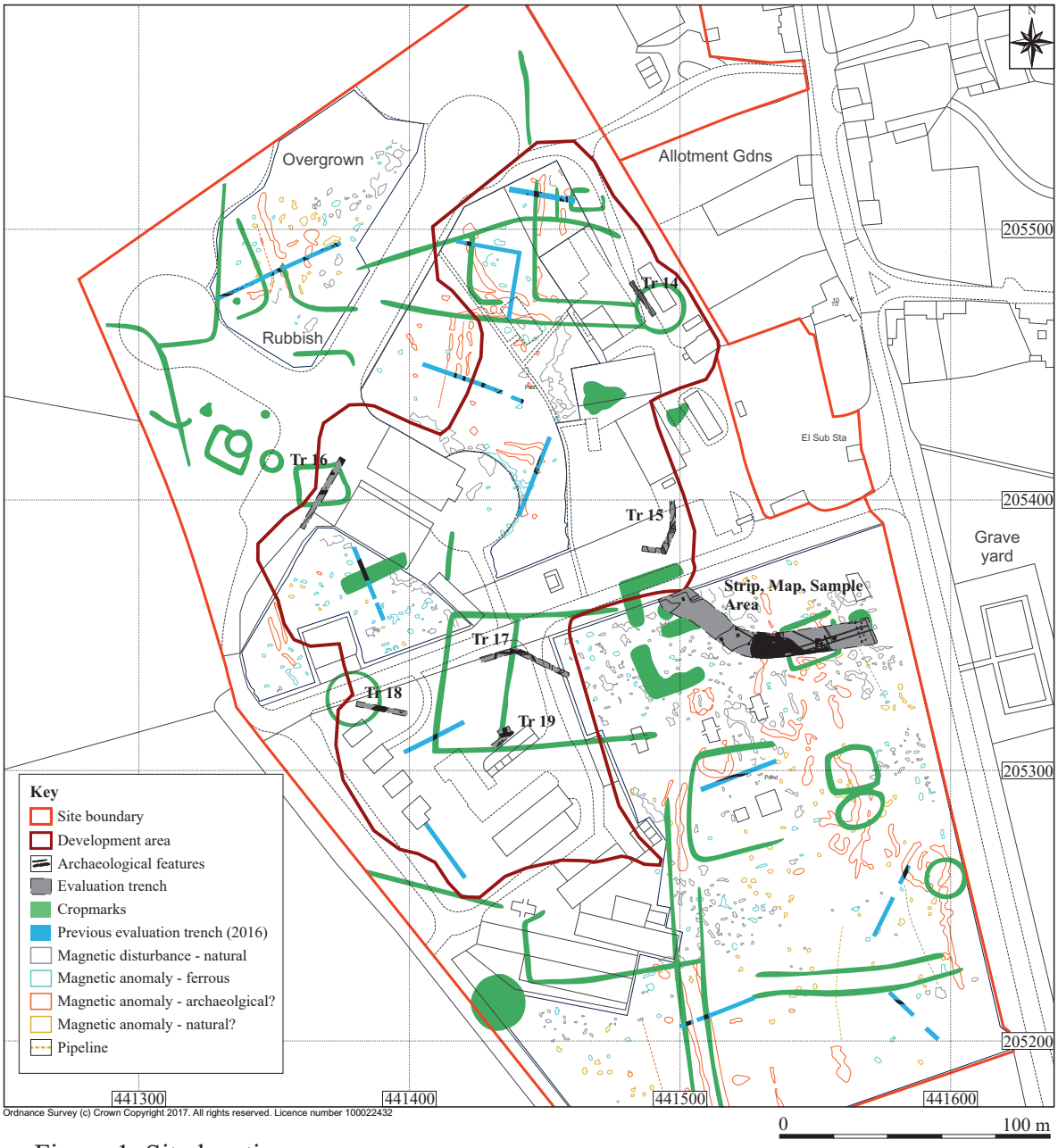


Figure 1: Site location

commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Reason - To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012).

The site was previously granted outline planning consent (16/01054/OUT), and conditions 11 and 12 of this consent are the same as the draft conditions for the detailed application as given above.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site had previously been the subject of a geophysical survey and archaeological trial trench evaluation. These investigations identified anomalies and features shown to be related to Romano-British occupation. In addition, cropmarks seen on aerial photographs have been plotted across the study area as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme (NMP).

A preliminary phase of archaeological investigations were undertaken to support the outline application. The work to date has comprised:

- Archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015), which identified cropmarks visible on historic aerial photographs which were interpreted as evidence of Prehistoric and Roman settlement. The conclusion was that there was a high potential for recovery of archaeological remains dating to these periods within the site, and that these remains might be of possible regional significance. Former agricultural use, and the construction of the airfield and subsequent industrial buildings were identified as the main agents of destruction of belowground archaeology, and it was recognised that here has been much disturbance of the site.
- A detailed magnetometry survey which was able to confirm that some of the cropmarks survived as below-ground archaeological features, and identified new magnetic anomalies that might be of archaeological origin.
- Archaeological evaluation consisting of 13 trial trenches located to sample cropmarks and geophysical anomalies thought to be of archaeological origin (Oxford Archaeology 2016). The results were interpreted as ‘a comprehensive system of drove roads and field boundary ditches dating to the earlier part of the Roman period, which generally corresponded with geophysical anomalies and the aerial photographs. A potential focus of occupation/settlement was identified in the north-west corner of the evaluated area, with the southern parts of the site considered to be more agricultural in nature. Some evidence for earlier Prehistoric activity was noted.

As outlined above in the description of previous work on the site, the site has a high potential for the presence of Prehistoric and Roman remains. In the surrounding area, a considerable number of field investigations have demonstrated intense settlement across a wide extent of the Thames gravels from the Neolithic to the Iron Age. This is reflected by the presence of cropmarks within the site which have been sampled to provide Prehistoric and Roman dating evidence.

While the site has been investigated to some extent, following the completion of the previous archaeological evaluation, a second stage of evaluation was considered necessary to further investigate features that were partially investigated or unable to be at the time of the first evaluation.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of this archaeological mitigation strategy as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2018) were as follows:

- To mitigate the effect of development on any surviving buried archaeological remains within the site through initial stage trial trenching and where appropriate, the implementation of any further archaeological investigation and recording, analysis of the excavated data, publication of the results, and deposition of an ordered project archive with an appropriate local museum for its long-term curation.
- To inform the development and implementation of local, regional and national research agendas with specific reference to The Solent-Thames Research Framework, Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014).

In particular, the specific aims of Stages 1 and 2 works are as follows:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered;
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and
- To provide sufficient data to allow an understanding of the impact of the proposed development upon any remains present.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed between CGMS and Hugh Coddington, the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

Trial trenching comprised the excavation of six trenches. The trenches were placed so as to target anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and cropmarks that were unable to be evaluated at the pre-determination stage. Trench locations agreed with the LPA Archaeological Advisor were adhered to as best as was practicable. Some

minor adjustments were needed to avoid live electrical lines or to prevent limits to access of buildings in use. The final trench dimensions were as follows:

- Trench 14 - 15m x 1.6m
- Trench 15 – 30.6m x 2m
- Trench 16 – 29.8m x 1.8m
- Trench 17 – 36.1m x 1.8m
- Trench 18 – 19.2m x 1.8m
- Trench 19 – 9.3m x4.4m

In addition, the route of the new proposed site access road was recorded by stripping the topsoil along its extent, and mapping and sampling all archaeologically significant features encountered

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the surveying in with GPS all areas excavated and the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figures 2-4)

Second Phase Evaluation

4.1 Trench 14 (Figure 2)
Trench 14 was located on a NW-SE alignment, along a current gravel trackway similarly aligned. The trench was shorted by 5m to avoid a live electric cable on the SE end. The trench had been placed to attempt to establish whether the cropmarks indicating the possible presence of a ring ditch could be substantiated. Due to the number of services running through the area, the natural, (14/22), was only encountered at the base of a hand dug intervention under these services. It was comprised of natural terraced river gravel, compact, light yellowish brown which quickly became loose after exposed to trample. It appeared as high up as 0.84m below the current ground surface of the road and extended to a depth of 0.26m onward.

Cutting the natural was the remains of a linear ditch 14/21 running NE-SW (Fig. 2 S14.04, Plate 1-3). It had a total depth of 0.84m, was >0.92m wide and >1.17m long. This ditch was filled by three deposits, the earliest was fill (14/20), a firm, mid brownish red sandy silt 0.2m thick. Above this was fill (14/19) a compact, mid reddish brown sandy silt 0.3m thick. Finally, the latest fill surviving in the ditch was (14/18), a firm, mid dark brown sandy clay with stones throughout, 0.42m thick, This latest deposit contained three sherds of pottery dating to the early Roman period.

The upper fill of the ditch was truncated by the three modern services, cut 14/14 and fill (14/15), a NW-SE aligned trench for sewage utility. The fill of sewage pipe (14/15) was then truncated by cut 14/12 and fill (14/13) for a water pipe. This fill of the water pipe was then truncated by a (now dead) electric cable trench, cut 14/05 and fill (14/06), as well as a fill of a builder's trench for a retaining wall (14/17). Additionally, the cut for the earliest road, 14/04, also appears to truncate the fill (14/18).

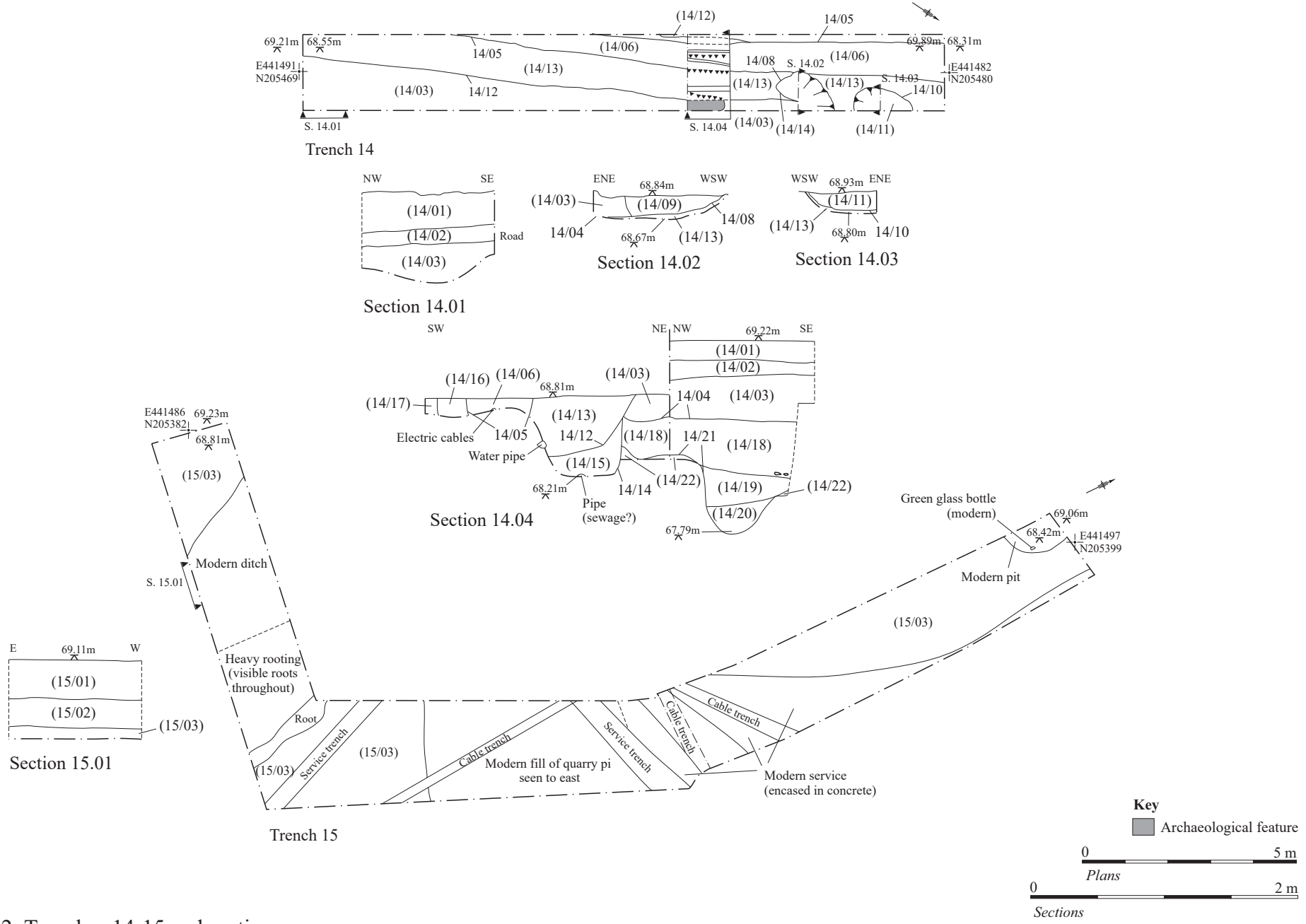


Figure 2: Trenches 14-15 and sections

In the fill of the water pipe (14/13) there were two irregular ovaloid pit-like cuts, 14/08, and 14/10, which were formed from shrub or hedge rooting alongside of the track. The track itself was composed of at least three different layers showing the maintenance and upkeep of reuse over time. The earliest layer of the road was (14/03), a mid to dark brown clay silt 0.13m thick, presumed to run the entire length and width of the extant road. This deposit contained late Iron Age or early Roman pottery. Above this was a deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay with flint pebbles (14/02) throughout 0.1m thick and also presumed to correspond with the visible surface of the road. Contemporary with this was a layer of topsoil and turf (14/07) from the verge next to the road/trackway. It was of mid grey brown, sandy silty loam 0.25m thick, extending across an area roughly 1.5m x 8m. Finally, there was the current surface of the trackway, a light yellowish brown 0.3m thick gravel deposit which extended across the full length of the road, roughly 80m x 3m on a NW-SE alignment.

Plate 1. Trench 14 general shot pre-excavation, view NW.

Plate 2. Section 14.04, of ditch 14/21. View facing NW.

Plate 3. Section 14.04, of ditch 14/21. View facing NNE.

4.2 Trench 15 (Figure 2)
Trench 15 was blank of all archaeology but showed heavy truncation by modern services as well as drainage measures.

4.3 Trench 16 (Figure 3)
Trench 16 was orientated NE-SW along the line of one of the concrete taxi-ways of the pre-existing airfield. The trench was located in this position to test the possibility

of the continued existence of an enclosure identified as a cropmark in an aerial survey prior to the construction of the airfield.

The lowest identified deposit was natural yellow brown gravels (16/03). This was observed throughout the trench. Cutting into the natural were three, presumably contemporary features. The most significant feature was enclosure ditches 16/06 and 16/10, observed in the central, and northern portions of the trench respectively. Cut 16/06 was orientated E-W, running across the width of the trench. It measured 1.7m wide, >2.2m in length, and 0.66m in depth. It exhibited a gradual break of slope from the top, concave sides, and a sharp break of slope onto a flat base. The lower fill of this ditch was (16/16). This was composed of a friable, mid reddish brown, sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions up to 0.4m thick. Overlying this was the uppermost fill (16/07), a deposit of firm, mid reddish brown, clayey silt loam, containing small stone inclusions throughout. This fill measured up to 0.36m in thickness and contained 21 sherds of pottery, all dating to the early Roman period.

Plate 4. Trench 16, general shot. View facing SW.

Ditch 16/10 was the same as ditch 16/06, demonstrating the return of the enclosure ditch to the north. This was linear in shape, orientated N-S, and terminating on its northern side (presumably for an entrance). It had a sharp break of slope from the top, slightly concave sides, and a gradual break of slope on to a concave base. This ditch cut measured >2.2m in width, >2.2m in length, with a depth of 0.88m. It contained three fills, the lowest fill being (16/11). This was a friable, mid yellow brown, clayey sand, with frequent gravel inclusions. Fill (16/11) was 0.14m in thickness. Overlying this was (16/12), a friable, mid reddish brown, sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions, measuring 0.62m in thickness, and containing four sherds of early Roman pottery. The uppermost fill was (16/13), a firm mid reddish brown, silty clay, with infrequent small stone inclusions. This was 0.16m in thickness and contained 11 sherds of early Roman pottery.

Within the area defined by the enclosure ditch were one possible ditch terminus16/04 and a pit 16/08, both cut into the natural gravels (16/03). The possible ditch terminus 16/04 (?to form an offset entrance although much shallower than 16/10) continued beyond the north-western limit of excavation. This had a near pointed end, orientated NW-SE, with a sharp break of slope from the top, sharp-vertical sides, and a moderate break of slope onto a concave base. Cut 16/04 contained a single fill (16/05), which consisted of a firm, mid reddish brown, silty clay loam with fine to medium sized pebble inclusions.

Plate 5. Section 16.05, enclosure ditch 16/05. View facing ESE.

Plate 6. Section 16.07, enclosure ditch 16/10. View facing NE.

Plate 7. Section 16.02, possible ditch terminus 16/04. View facing WSW.

Pit 16/08 was located 0.5m north of ditch 16/06. It too was cut in to the natural gravels (03), and was oval in shape, orientated NE-SE, with a moderate break of slope from the top, concave sides, and a moderate break of slope on to a concave base. It measured 0.52m in width, 0.71m in length and 0.19m in depth. This was filled by a single fill (16/09) which consisted of a mid reddish brown, sandy clay loam, with infrequent inclusions of small, rounded stones.

Plate 8. Section 16.03, pit 16/08. View facing SW.

Overlying theses archaeological features was a layer of made ground (16/14), consisting of a friable, light-mid yellow, sandy gravel, measuring 0.21m in thickness, >2.2m in width, and >26.8m in length, continuing beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation. Directly overlying this was the light grey concrete surface (16/15), measuring >2.2m in width, >26.8m in length, and 0.2m in thickness. Towards the southern end of the trench a layer of B-horizon (16/02) was intact beside the concrete surface. This was composed of a light brown yellow, silty-sand loam with frequent gravel inclusions. It measured >1.8m in width, >4.2m in length and 0.15m in thickness. Overlying this was a layer of topsoil (16/01). This was a soft, dark brown, silty-sand loam, measuring >1.8m in width, >4.2m in length, and 0.15m in thickness.

4.4 Trench 17 (Figure 3)

Trench 17 was originally planned to be located on a NW-SE orientation, in order to test the potential archaeology relating to cropmarks identified in an aerial survey undertaken prior to the construction of the airfield. However, the trench's position was moved to avoid a pheasant enclosure with a concrete floor, which obstructed the area. The new location of the trench was positioned to sample the identified cropmark, and adhere as close as possible to the trench position as per the WSI.

The lowest deposit identified was (17/03), the natural geology, comprising a firm, mid brown yellow, sandy gravel. This measured >35.6m in length, >1.8m in width, and >0.08m in thickness.

Plate 9. Trench 17, general shot. View facing SE.

Plate 10. Trench 17, general shot. View facing SW.

The earliest archaeological feature was a shallow U-shaped gully 17/07, 17/11, 17/14, 17/18, observed in four interventions. The shape of the feature in plan, its profiles and relating fills suggest this to be a single feature. Different context numbers were assigned within different interventions for two reasons: One being to record changes to profile and fills along the course of the ditch, and secondly due to the fact that the returns of the ditch often occurred beyond the limits of the trench and therefore presented no observable physical relationship. Cut 17/14, was seen at the western-most edge of the feature. The cut was linear in shape, orientated SSW-NNE, with a return evident to the north-east. It had a moderate break of slope from the top of the feature, with concave sides, and a gradual break of slope to a concave base, measuring 0.58m in width, >1m in length and 0.12m in depth. Cut 17/14 contained a single fill (17/15), comprised of a firm, mid reddish-brown, sandy clay. Cut 17/07 was linear in plan, orientated E-W, with a moderate break of slope from the top of the feature, concave sides, and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It measured 0.54m in width, >0.9m in length, and 0.18m in depth. Cut 17/07 contained a single fill, (17/08), which was a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy clay. Cut 17/11 was recorded to the east of 17/07, at the point where the feature is cut by a north-south ditch 17/09. Cut 17/11 demonstrated the same properties as 17/07, and measured 0.19m in depth, 0.54m in width and >5.4m in length, continuing beyond the eastern limit of excavation before

presumably returning south at the point of cut 17/19. Cut 17/19 was orientated NNW-SSE. It had gradual break of slope from the top, concave sides, with a gradual break of slope to a slightly concave base. It measured 0.6m in width, >1m in length and 0.06m in depth. It is possible that it terminated in the trench, but judging by the increasing shallowness of the feature at this point, it is more likely that it has been truncated over time due to land-use.

Plate 11. Section 17.02, ditch 17.07. View facing east.

Plate 12. Section 17.03, enclosure ditch 17/09 truncating ditch 17/11. View facing south.

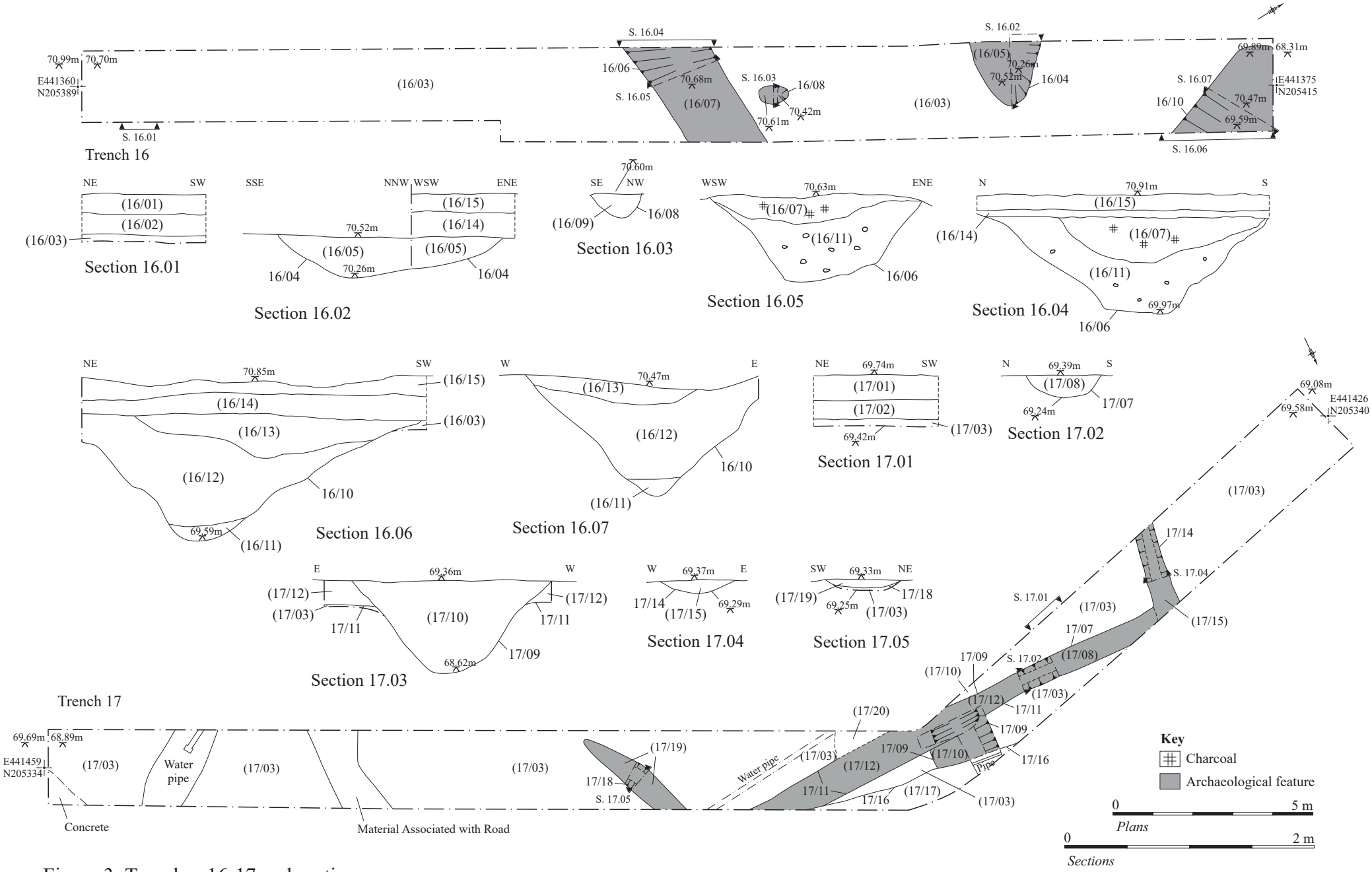


Figure 3: Trenches 16-17 and sections

Cutting (17/12), roughly in the centre of the U-shaped ditch, was ditch 17/09. This is a linear ditch, orientated N-S, and matching with the previously identified cropmark. It had a sharp break of slope at the top, and a moderate break of slope onto a concave base, measuring 1.6m in width, >1m in length and 0.74m in depth. It contained a single fill (17/10) which was composed of a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy clay. To the north, this ditch was cut by a modern service trench 17/16, associated with the airfield.

Overlying the archaeological features was a layer of friable, mid orange brown, clayey silt, identified as a B-horizon, measuring 0.15m in thickness. Stratified above this was a friable, mid-dark brown clayey silt topsoil measuring 0.26m in thickness.

Cutting through the topsoil, to the area east of ditch 17/18, was cut 17/20. This was a construction cut for the road. It measured 3.3m in width, >1.8m in length and 0.29m in depth. Contained within it was a layer of made ground (17/04) measuring 0.2m in thickness, and overlying that, the tarmac for the road (17/05), which measured 0.09m in thickness.

4.5 Trench 18 (Figure 4)
Trench 18 was located in an area which was densely populated by trees, so much so that it was not possible to open the trench until the trees had been cut down. Once this had taken place, the south-east end of the trench had to be moved north by ca.1.9m in order to avoid remaining tree stumps. The trench had been located in this position in order to establish the existence of a possible ring ditch identified from aerial images prior to the construction of the airfield.

The lowest deposit encountered was the underlying geology, composed of a friable-hard, light yellowish brown gravel. This was observed throughout the trench.

Plate 13. Trench 18, general shot. View facing west.

Cut into the natural was the only archaeological feature 18/04, which was the cut of a ring ditch. This matched the location of the cropmark previously identified in the area. The point at which the ring-ditch was observed in the trench was orientated NE-SW. It had a moderate break of slope from the top, concave sides, with a sharper slope towards the base. Due to the depth of the feature, the disturbed, loose upper fills and narrowness of the slot, the feature was not fully excavated. The ditch measured 4.65m wide, >1.9m in length and >1.02m in depth. The lowest fill identified was (18/19), a soft, mid brown, sandy silt with no inclusions >0.1m in thickness, but evidence of disturbance from fairly significant rooting. Overlying this was fill (18/18), made up of a compact mid brown sandy silt, with coarse pebble inclusions 0.06m in thickness. Above this was (18/16), composed of a solid, mid brown, sandy silt, with inclusions of coarse pebbles 0.24m in thickness. This deposit appears to have accumulated from the exterior, south-eastern side of the ring ditch. Further up the side of the ditch cut 18/04, another fill (18/13) had begun to accumulate. This was a compacted, yellow, sandy gravel 0.11m in thickness. It is likely to represent eroded bank material deposited from the exterior of the ring ditch, similar to a later deposit (18/12). Similarly, the next fill (18/14), also demonstrates deposition from the same direction as that of (18/16) and (18/13), over both of which (18/14) is stratified. It comprised a firm, mid brown, sandy silt with small pebble inclusions 0.28m in thickness.

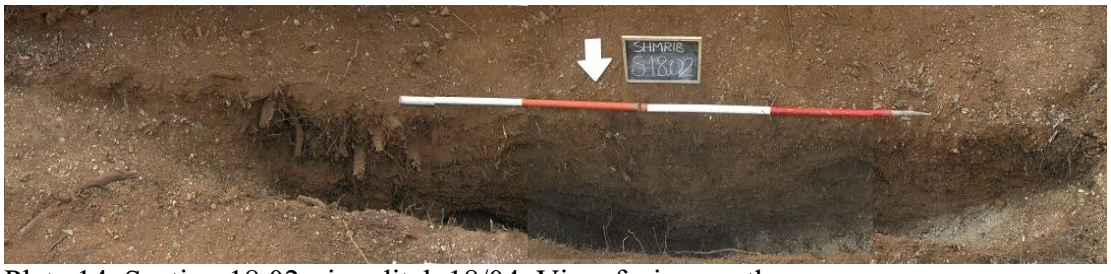


Plate 14. Section 18.02, ring ditch 18/04. View facing south.

Contemporary with the accumulation of deposit (18/14) is (18/17), a solid, mid brown, sandy silt, with inclusions of medium sized pebbles. This was deposited from the interior of the ditch and measured 0.26m in thickness. The overlying deposit (18/15), was also deposited from the interior of the ring ditch, and was composed of a firm mid, brown, sandy silt with stone inclusions 0.48m in thickness. Towards the exterior, the south-east edge of the ditch was fill (18/11). This was a solid, orange brown, sandy silt 0.1m in thickness. The next fill (18/05) was a compacted mid orange brown, sandy silt with gravel inclusions >0.42m in thickness. It was heavily disturbed by significant rooting. This fill contained one sherd of late Iron Age or possibly early Roman pottery. Fills (18/10) and (18/20) represent areas of heavy and concentrated disturbance from rooting.

Overlying the upper fills of the ring ditch was a mid brown, sandy load, B-horizon (18/02) measuring 0.3m in thickness. Overlying this was a soft, dark blackish brown sandy loam deposit of topsoil (18/01) measuring 0.2m in thickness.

4.6 Trench 19 (Figure 4)
Trench 19 was a contingency trench added to establish the junction of the enclosure ditch found in Trench 17 and in the first phase evaluation's Trench 8. Natural was a mid brown yellow sandy gravel with small stones throughout (19/03), and was across the entire area of 4.4m x 9.3m which was stripped.

Cutting this was ditch 19/04, the N-S aligned section of the enclosure. It was 0.67m thick, 1.6m wide and >5.05m in length. This was the same as 17/09, from Trench 17. It was filled by a single fill (19/05), a firm, mid reddish brown sandy clay, with small stones throughout. The cut of the E-W aligned ditch 19/06, which had the same moderate breaks of slope and concave base as its perpendicular counterpart 19/04. This cut was 0.67m thick, 1.85m wide and >2m long. It also has a single fill (19/07), a firm, mid-reddish brown, sandy clay, with small gravel. These were both linear ditches and the fills were virtually indistinguishable. There was no cut, indicating that they were contemporary.

Above these linear ditch fills was a mid yellow brown sandy silt loam, with occasional small stones (19/02), 0.18m thick B-horizon. Over that was (19/01) a soft, mid grey brown sandy silt loam, stones small 0.16m thick topsoil.

Plate 15. Trench 19. Section 19.02, enclosure ditches 19/04 and 19/06. View facing east.

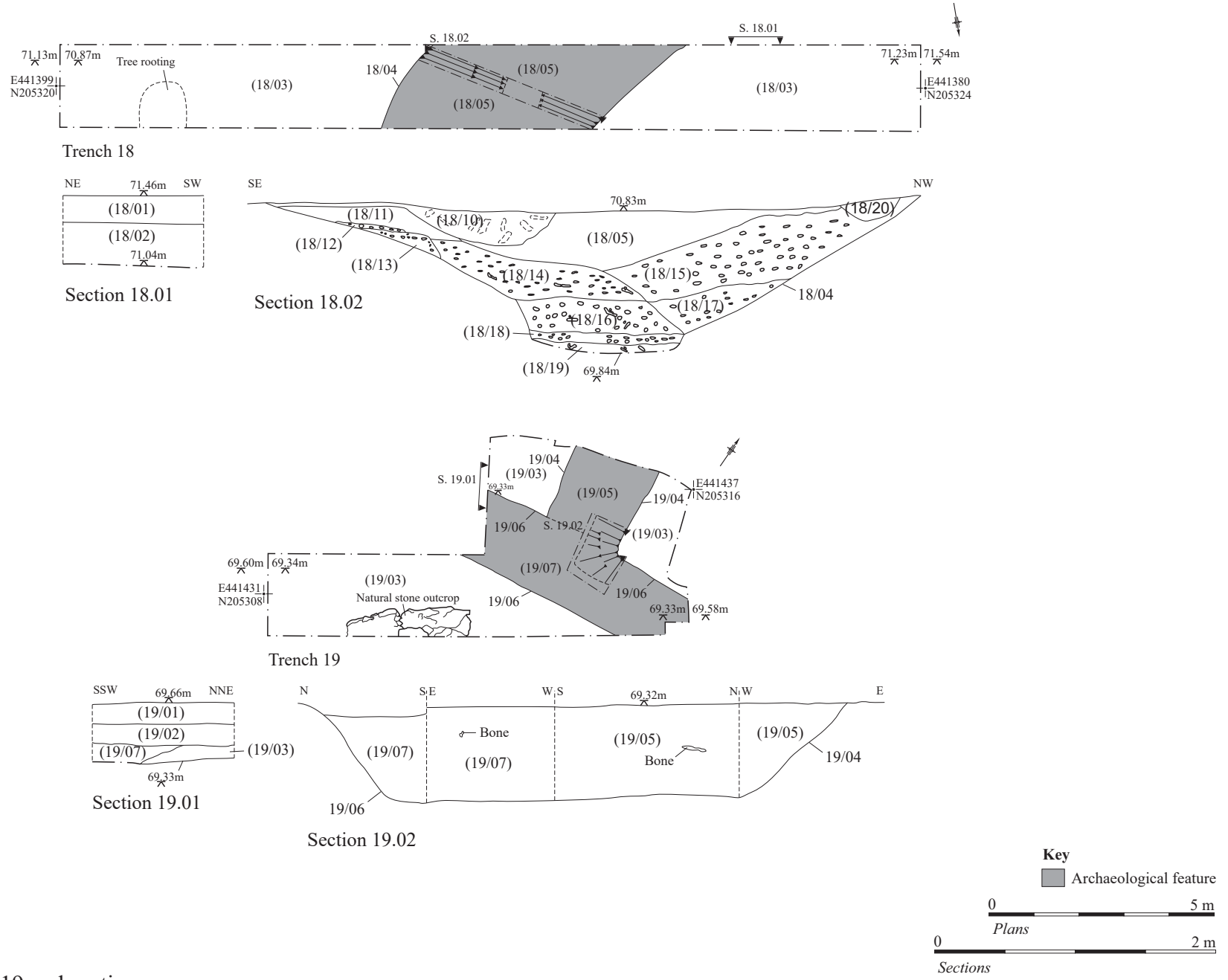


Figure 4: Trenches 18-19 and sections

4.7 Mitigation of Site Access Road – Strip, Map Sample (SMS) (Figures 5-6)

The proposed new access road is located in the east of the site, adjoining the current tarmacked track to the north, and the main road leading to Stanton Harcourt to the east. This area was subject to a strip, map and sample (SMS) investigation, as outlined in the written scheme of investigation.

The site comprises a series of enclosures and pits demonstrating Late Iron Age and Early Roman activity in the area. Modern quarrying and a series of modern postholes representing field boundaries truncate the area to the east, whereas to the west of the site there is significant truncation from structures and services associated with the Airfield.

Work within the area demarcated for the proposed access road identified four key phases of activity.

Phase 1
The initial phase is represented by a north-south orientated ditch 88, and its re-cut 90. This was only seen in section 14 (Fig. 6) located on the northern limit of excavation, in the central area of the site. This ditch roughly aligns with a cropmark previously identified in aerial photographs. Ditch 88 had slightly concave sides, and a gradual slope to a flat base. This cut measured 1.56m in width, >0.5m in length and 0.14m in depth. It contained a single fill (89), which consisted of a firm, mid-reddish brown clayey silt, with moderate inclusions of small stones. Ditch 90, was very similar in profile to 99, with a gradual break of slope from the top, slightly concave sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 3.04m in width, >0.5m in width and 0.46m in depth, and contained a single fill (91), which was a firm, mid brownish red clayey silt containing frequent inclusions of small-medium sized stones.

The ditches 21=13 and 40=45 are considered to be part of the same enclosure along with ditches 88 and 90 as seen as a cropmark feature. The ditch 21-13 extended beyond the southern limit of excavation and then returns into the area to the east, at which point it terminated.

The ditches 21=13 and 40=59 exhibited a sharp break of slope from the top, moderate-sharp sides, and a moderate break of slope to a concave base. They measured a minimum of 1.4m wide and a maximum of 1.62m wide. The NW-SE aligned total length observed was 12.4m and the NE-SW aligned total length observed was 2.5m (both extending out of the excavation area). The respective projected lengths would be >19.5m (NW-SW) and 9m (NE-SW). Cut 40 was located at the ditch's terminus and contained more fills than seen elsewhere along this ditches length. The lowest fill was (41), a friable, mid yellow brown, silty sand gravel, exemplifying erosion of the sides of the feature, measuring a maximum of 0.38m in thickness. Above this was fill (42), a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt, containing infrequent small stone inclusion, and measuring a maximum of 0.24m in thickness. Overlying this was a third fill (43) which relates to its equivalent fills (14) and (22), seen in other interventions along the length of the feature. They were composed of a firm, mid reddish brown, clayey sand measuring between 0.28m and 0.48m in thickness. Fills (14), (22) and (43) all contained Late Iron Age pottery. Stratified above fill (43) was the final fill (44), this is part of the same phase of deposition as fills (27), (69), (60) seen elsewhere along the length of the ditch. All of these fills

were firm in compaction, and mid-reddish brown in colour, although they all vary slightly in composition. Fills (27), (44), (60) and (69) were, respectively, comprised of a clayey-sand, sandy-silt, clayey-silt, sand sandy silt gravel, and measure between 0.24m and 0.4m in thickness.

A large circular pit 57 located tom the east this ditch, was seen to the north east of the ditch terminus 40, and may possibly relate to this phase, although no material was recovered from the feature and it had no physical relationship to other datable features. It had a sharp gentle break of slope from the top, concave sides, a gentle break of slope on to a flat-slightly convex base, and measured 1.75m in length, 1.5m in width, and 0.14m in depth. It contained a single fill 58, consisting of a compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt.

Phase 2
A second phase of activity is identified through the appearance of a depressed area or possible hollow 79, which cuts through the N-S aligned ditch 90. This large spread was investigated through the excavation of two machine cut sections through the feature, on agreement with the Hugh Coddington, the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority. The presence of a hollow is not a-typical for this area during this period, as other examples have been identified at nearby sites such as Gravelly Guy (Allen, 2004, 184-197), and Vicarage Field (Thomas, 1955, 10).

Cut 79 was the earliest phase of the hollow, and had moderate-sharp sides, with a sharp break to a slightly concave-flat base. The lower fills (80) and (81) were suggestive of initial erosion of the sides of the feature, whereas the thicker, upper fill (82), is suggestive of a slower natural deposition process (Fig. 6, S.20. The lowest fill was fill (80) which consisted of a friable, mid yellow gravel, measuring 0.1m in thickness. Above this was fill (81), a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy clay gravel, and measured 0.04m in thickness. The final fill of cut 79 was (82), which was very similar in composition to fill (81), comprising a friable, mid yellow gravel.

Hollow 79 exhibited a re-cut 74, this latter cut respected the form, and demonstrated a similar deposition sequence, to its predecessor (Fig. 6, S.19 & S.20). It had gentle-moderate concave sides, with a gentle break of slope on to a slightly concave base. The lowest fill contained within this cut was (75), a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy clay measuring 0.03m in thickness. Overlying this was fill (76), a friable, mid yellow, gravel, measuring 0.13m in thickness. The third fill was fill (77), also a mid reddish brown sandy clay, measuring 0.02m in thickness. The uppermost fill was (78), a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy clay, with frequent stone inclusions, measuring 0.66m in thickness. No datable material was found associated with these features.

It seems to be at this point in time, in which another curvilinear ditch 35=16 appeared on the inside edge of ditch 21=13=40=59. Ditch 35=16 had a sharp break of slope from the top, sharp-straight sides, with a moderate break of slope on to a concave base, measuring 8.5m in length, 1.4m in width, and between 0.8m to 0.82m in depth. The first phase of infilling was identified in two contemporary fills: (17) and (36). Fill (17) was contained within cut 16 and comprised a friable light brown yellow, sandy gravel. Fill (36) overlay cut 35, and was a compacted, mid dark brown, clayey silt, containing moderate small stone inclusions. The second episode of infilling of ditch 35=16 is represented by fills (18) and (27). Both are comprised of a firm, mid reddish

brown, clayey sand, measuring between 0.54 and 0.27m in thickness. No material was found in these deposits.
Pits 04 and 06 were north of the end of ditch 38, and judging from finds from the later pit 04, would be contemporary. Pit 06 was oval in shape, with moderate break of slope from the top, concave sides, and a shallow break of slope on to a concave base. This pit measured 1.97m in length, 0.76m in width, 0.33m in depth and contained a single fill 07. Fill 07 was a compact, mid reddish brown, clayey silt containing frequent, small stone inclusions. Pit 06 was cut on its northern edge by pit 04, which was oval in shape, with a moderate break of slope at the top, concave sides, with a moderate break of slope on to a concave base. It measured 2m in length, 0.82m in width and 0.19m in depth. It too contained a single fill, 06, which was a compact, mid reddish brown, clayey silt with frequent small stones. This fill contained 19 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery.

Phase 3
The third phase of activity sees a series of four successive, curvilinear ditches 31, 33=25, 67=23=85, 29=86, cut into, the edge of the hollow 74 (Fig. 6, S.01, S.02, S.19, S.20). Three of these ditches delimit a roughly square area and align with possible archaeological features identified in the magnetometry results undertaken in relation to the first phase evaluation, which suggests an opening to the south. Examples of other similar enclosures, also exhibiting similar phases of development have been observed at Linch Corner to the south (Grimes, 1944, 49, fig.21), and Gravelly Guy (Allen, 2004, 164-169).

Ditch 31 and ditch 29=86, were the earliest of this series of ditches. Ditch 31 had a sharp break of slope from the top, vertical-sharp sides, a sharp break of slope to a flat base, and measured >10m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.3m in depth. It contained a single fill (32), which consisted of a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt. Ditch 29=86, was seen to directly cut the hollow 74, and had a sharp break of slope, moderate-sharp sides, a gradual break of slope on to a concave base, and measured >24.10m in length, 1.2m in width and a maximum of 0.6m in depth. The next ditch to appear in this sequence was ditch 67=23=85, following the same alignment as ditch 29=86. This had a sharp break of slope from the top, sharp sides, and a sharp to moderate break of slope on to a concave base. It measured 20m in length, 0.5m in width and a maximum of 0.5 in depth. At the point of section 03 it was seen to contain two fills, the lowest of which was (24), and was not seen elsewhere along the line of this ditch. Fill (24) was a firm, mid yellow brown, clayey sand, with inclusions of small rounded stone observed throughout the fill. It had a maximum thickness of 0.2m. Overlying this was fill (28) which was contemporary with fills (68) and (15) seen in other interventions dug along the length of this ditch. These comprised a firm, mid reddish brown, clayey sand with inclusions of small rounded stones. Fill (68) was slightly different in composition to the other two, as it was identified as being comprised of a sandy silt rather than a clayey sand. They ranged in thickness from 0.3m to 0.36m. Four Late Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered from fill (15). The last of these ditches was ditch 33=25 which was the outermost of the ditches that followed the edge of hollow 74. This had a gradual break of slope from the top, with gradual concave sides, a moderate break of slope on to a concave base, and measured >54.5m in length, 1.8m in width and 0.4m in depth. It contained the fills (34) and (26) which were the same. They comprised a firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt in (34), and silty sand in (26).

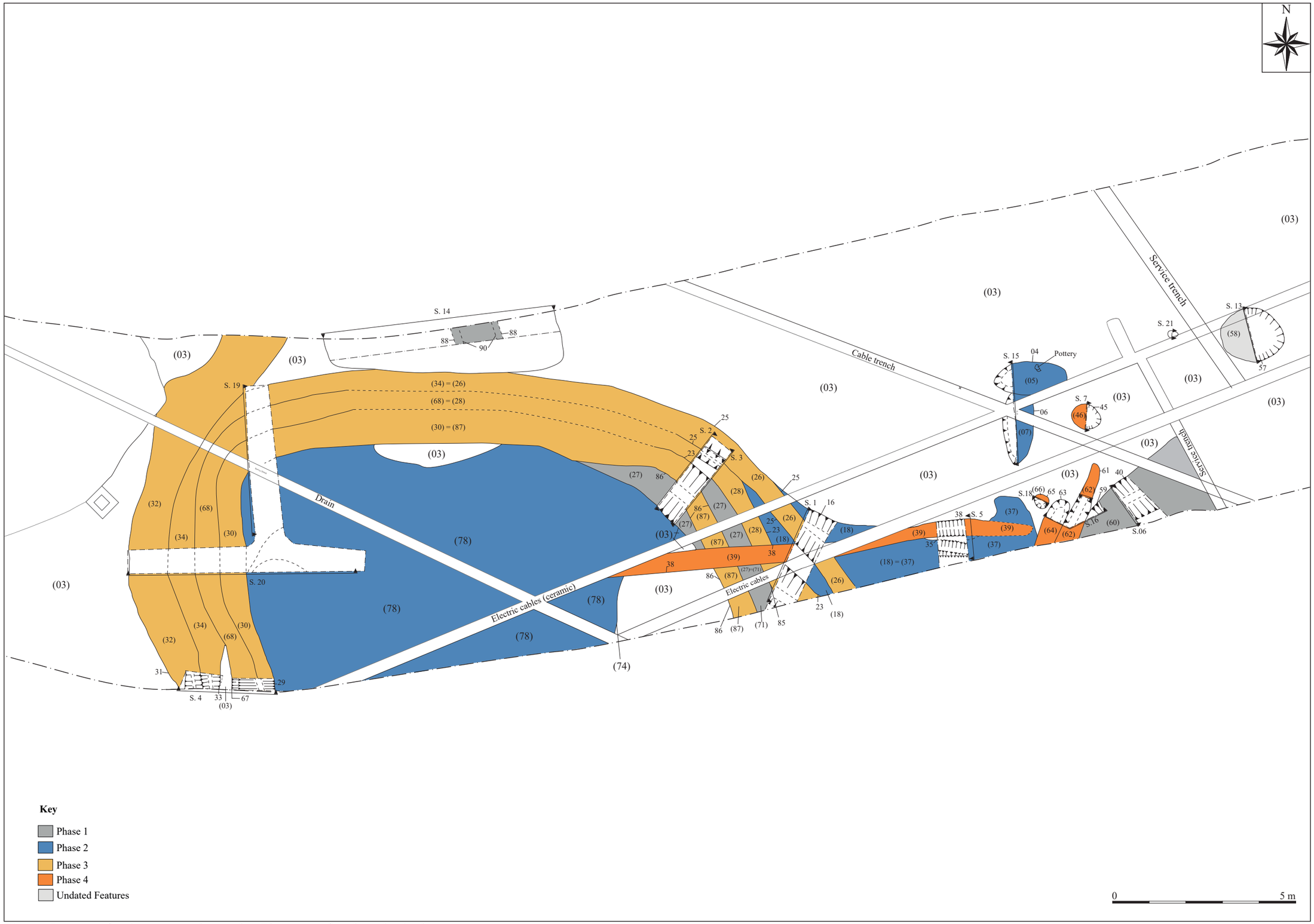


Figure 5: Area of strip, map and sample. Close-up of archaeological area

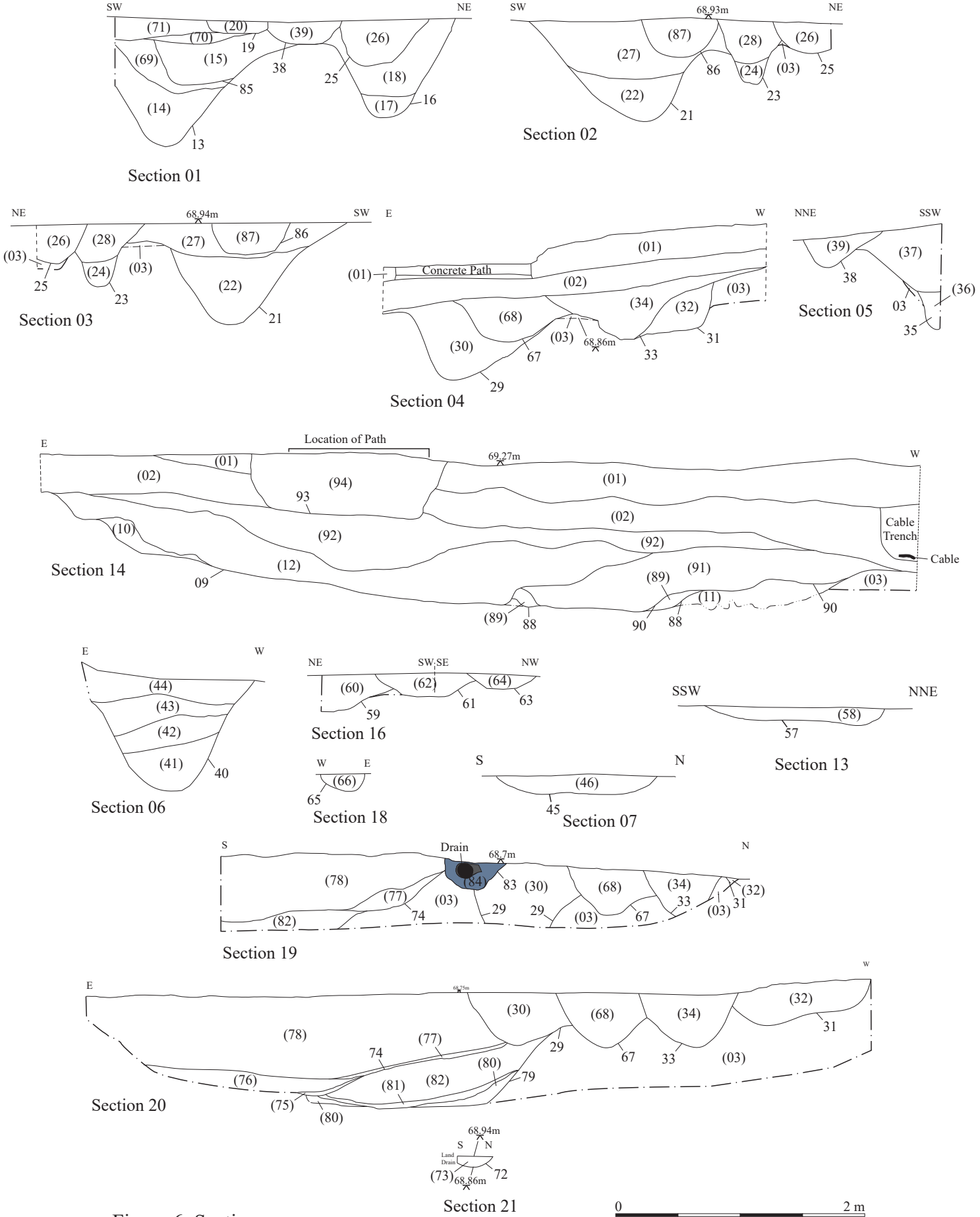


Figure 6: Sections

Plate 16. Phase 3 ditches curvature, S.01 in the foreground. View facing west.

Plate 17. Phase 3 ditches truncating Phase 2 hollow, S.20 in the foreground. View facing WSW.

Phase 4
The final phase witnesses the creation of a linear, E-W orientated ditch 38, cutting through the previous hollow and curvilinear ditch of phase 2, and the enclosure ditches of phase 3. Its western extent could not be identified on the surface west of the extent shown on Figure 5. Ditch 38 was linear in shape, with a sharp break of slope from the top, concave sides, a gradual break of slope on to a concave base, and measured >24.2m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.23m in depth. It contained a single fill (39), which was a compacted, mid dark brown, clayey silt with frequent small stone inclusions. Ditch 38 terminates just before a series of two NNE-SSW orientated ditches were seen, the earliest of which was 61, later cut on its western side by 63. These terminated just north of the southern limit of excavation. Ditch 61, was linear in plan, with a sharp break of slope from the top, moderate concave sides, a moderate break of slope on to a concave base, and measured >2.2m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth. It contained a single fill (62), which was a compacted, mid brown, sandy silt with moderately common small stone inclusions and contained on sherd of pottery dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. Ditch 63 truncated (62) and was >1.38m in length, 0.54m in width and 0.11m at the deepest point seen (Fig. 6, S.16). It contained a single fill (64), which was a compacted, mid brown, sandy silt with moderately common small stone inclusions; no finds recovered. Pit 45 was located approximately 1m to the north of these two ditch termini; it was 0.8m in length and 0.7m in width and was only preserved to a maximum depth of 0.08m (Fig. 6, S.07). It had a single fill, (46) which was a compacted, mid brown, clayey silt with abundant small stone or gravel inclusions and three sherds of pottery all dating to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. Lastly, posthole 65 was located immediately to the west of the terminus of ditch 63, and was subcircular in plan, 0.4m by 0.38m in diameter, and 0.15m in depth (Fig. 6, S.18). It contained one fill (66) which was friable mid grey brown sandy silt with small stone inclusion and no finds.

Overall, the archaeological investigation in this area has confirmed the presence of some of the cropmarks and some of the magnetometry results, along with further, previously unidentified features. Furthermore, the investigation in this area has identified a series of features representing changing land-use over the course of the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. These findings are in-keeping with the results obtained from Trenches 16, 17 and 19 of the evaluation.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery *by Jane Timby*

Introduction
The archaeological evaluation and excavation resulted in the recovery of 93 sherds of pottery weighing c 1.57 kg. In addition there is one small piece of post-medieval ceramic building material. Most of the assemblage dates to the later Iron Age and/ or early Roman period accompanied by a single medieval sherd.

The evaluation produced pottery from trenches 14, 16 and 18 amounting to some 44 sherds whilst the remaining 49 sherds came from 11 defined contexts revealed during excavation of features identified in the area stripped in advance of the proposed access road. The assemblage is in moderately good condition in terms of sherds size with large pieces, several joining from the same vessels. This is reflected in overall

average sherd weight of 16.9 g. Surface preservation was less good in that the surfaces and sherd breaks were stained or patinated disguising surface finish in many cases.

For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to determine the form and fabrics and the likely date of the pieces. The fabrics were coded using letters to denote the main inclusions following recommendations outlined in PCRG 1997 (see Table 2). These were quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. Rims were additionally coded to general form and measured for the diameter and the percentage present (estimated vessel equivalence) (Orton et al. 1993). Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. The resulting data is shown in Table 1.

Later Iron Age- early Roman period
Wares dating to the later prehistoric period and /or early Roman period account for all the recovered assemblage with two exceptions. Despite being a small group, there is quite a diversity of fabrics present dominated by grog-tempered vessels.

The presence of a fine sandy burnt whiteware, possibly an imported piece, and some wheel-made early Oxfordshire grey sandy wares and handmade grey grog-tempered wares suggest that at least some of the contexts date to the early Roman period. As these occur alongside some of the handmade wares more typical of the later Iron Age it is difficult to determine with such a small group whether it is all dates to the second half of the 1st century or whether it spans the pre and post-conquest period. Several sherds of handmade Savernake-type ware came from 16/07 are probably early post-conquest in date. Groups containing just handmade pre-Roman wares are provisionally dated as Late Iron Age (LIA) on the Excel spread sheet.

In terms of forms most of the rims come from necked jars or bowls. There is a single beaded rim jar from 16/07 and a grog-tempered pedestalled base from, context (05).

Later wares
A single very small sherd of medieval date was recovered from context (50). The fabric is sandy ware with sparse flint. One small fragment of post-medieval roofing tile was recovered from context (11).

Table 1. Ceramics by forms and fabrics, quantified by sherd count and weight per context.

Context	Fabric	Form	Wt	No	Rim	Diam	Eve	Comment	Date
5	GR	Base & body	274	15	0	0	0	Ext burn; 3=1 base	LIA
5	GRLI		61	1	0	0	0		LIA
5	CA		12	2	0	0	0		LIA
5	GR	Pedestal base	66	1	0	0	0	3=1 base	LIA
5	GR	Necked jar/bowl	20	0	1	16	16		LIA
11	PMCBM		9	1	0	0	0		PM
14	LI2		12	1	0	0	0		LIA
15	GR	Necked jar	23	3	1	14	8		LIA
22	GR		5	1	0	0	0		LIA
37	GR	Necked cordoned jar	121	12	2	18	12	x1 bone present	LIA

43	GR		52	1	0	0	0	Ext burn	LIA
43	LI2		15	2	0	0	0		LIA
46	GRLI		34	1	0	0	0	Ext burn	LIA
46	GR	Base	5	1	0	0	0		LIA
46	CA	Necked jar	4	0	1	0	3		LIA
50	MEDSAFL		0.5	1	0	0	0		MED
62	GYGR		7	1	0	0	0	Ext burn, hm	LIA-ERO
71	GR		1	1	0	0	0		LIA
Sub-total			**721.5**	**45**	**5**		**39**		
14/03	LI1	Expanded rim jar	69	0	1	20	20		LIA
14/03	GR		14	2	0	0	0	Ext burn	LIA
14/18	GYSY		24	1	0	0	0		ERO
14/18	LI1		37	1	0	0	0	5=1 join	ERO
14/18	GR		9	1	0	0	0		ERO
16/05	GYFSY		4	1	0	0	0		ERO
16/07	SAVGT-TYPE		223	9	0	0	0		ERO
16/07	NOGWH?		11	1	0	0	0		ERO
16/07	GYSY1		30	3	0	0	0	Wheel-made	ERO
16/07	CA		66	2	0	0	0	2=1 join	ERO
16/07	GYSY2		20	1	0	0	0		ERO
16/07	SALI		0.5	1	0	0	0		ERO
16/07	GRLI	Beaded rim jar	15	0	1	12	10		ERO
16/07	GR	Necked jar	8	0	1	15	10		ERO
16/07	BWSY	Necked jar	5	0	1	12	5		ERO
16/07	GYFSY	Jar	7	0	1	0	5		ERO
16/12	GYGR	Base	37	1	0	0	0		ERO
16/12	LI1		39	3	0	0	0		ERO
16/13	GYGR		152	8	0	0	0		ERO
16/13	GYSY		22	2	0	0	0		ERO
16/13	LI1		41	1	0	0	0		ERO
18/05	GRSA	Base	22	1	0	0	0		LIA
Sub-total			**855.5**	**39**	**5**		**50**		

Potential and further work

The later Iron Age material recovered from this recent work at Stanton Harcourt is very typical of that previously documented from the immediate area by Grimes (1943) and Green et al. (2004) from Gravelly Guy although over the years the general location has also produced considerable quantities of earlier and middle Iron Age pottery along with earlier prehistoric material (Hamlin 1964). In general terms the assemblage does not add any new information to the much larger assemblage already published from Gravelly Guy (Green et al. 2004). If further work is to be undertaken the assemblage could be briefly described and approximately six pieces illustrated to

characterise the group. In terms of archive it is recommended that the complete LIA-ERO assemblage is retained.

Table 2: Fabric codes

Fabric	Description
BWSY	black medium-coarse sandy; hm
CA	fine, sparse calcareous inclusions
GR	grog-tempered
GRLI	grog-tempered with sparse, fine limestone
GRSA	grog-tempered with sparse rounded quartz sand >0.5 mm
GYFSY	fine grey sandy
GYGR	grey grog-tempered
GYSY1	grey sandy ware- darker surfaces; wm
GYSY2	grey granular sandy
LI1	coarse worn, rounded limestone - lumpy texture
LI2	oolitic limestone
MEDSAFL	medieval sandy with sparse flint
NOGWH?	North Gaulish or local fine whiteware
PMCBM	post-medieval ceramic building material
SALI	sandy with sparse limestone
SAVGT-TYPE	Savernake type grey grog-tempered ware

5.2 Faunal Remains

Marine Shell
A single marine shell, weighing 7.4g, was collected from context (18/05). The item was positively identified as a valve of *unio*, a type freshwater mussel.
It is not recommended to retain the mussel shell due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

Animal Bone
85 fragments of animal bone, of a combined weight of 953.4g, were hand-recovered from 13 different features.
The state of preservation of the material varied from fair to mediocre; particularly, the items recovered from context (18/05) were found to be extremely fragmented. Severe fragmentation was observed across the entire assemblage; the only complete items being the cow phalanx found in deposit (05) and the sheep/goat phalanx from deposit (37). Conjoining fragments, originated by breakage occurred after the collection of the material, were recorded for only 3 of the items.

Table 3: Animal bone occurrence by feature, context and type

Feature	Context	Identification	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Marks	Comments
Ditch 14/21	14/18	Pig	Mandible with P3-P4, M1	1	20		
		Small Mammal	Rib	1	5.4		
			Cortex	1	0.9		
Ditch 16/06	16/07	Cow	Molar	1	23.4		
		?Cow	Distal femur epiphysis	1	33.7		
		?Sheep/Goat	Mandibular hinge	1	17.9		
		Small Mammal	Mandible	1	11.3		
			Long bone cortex	1	6		
		Mammal	Cortex	1	6.3		
			?Femur	1	27.8		
Ditch 16/10	16/13	Sheep/Goat	Proximal tibia	1	13.9		
		Large Mammal	Tibia diaphysis	1	55.7	?Chop	
			?Rib cortex	1	16.8	Chop	
		Small Mammal	Scapula	1	13.1		
			Long bone cortex	1	10		
Ditch 18/04	18/05	Mammal	Cancellous bone	14	20.1		Poorly preserved
Ditch 19/04	19/05	Mammal	Cortex	2	7.9		
			Undetermined	1	9.6		
Pit 04	05	Sheep/Goat	Cranium with horn core	1	51.8		
			Mandible with P1-P3, M1-M3				
			Premolar	1	6.4		
			Pelvis	1	28.6		
		Pig	Maxilla with M1-M2	1	23		
		Cow	First phalanx	1	11		Complete
		Small Mammal	Cortex	1	3.7		
		Mammal	Undetermined	1	3.3		
Ditch 13	14	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpus	2	55.4		Conjoining. Unfused
		Cow	Distal metacarpus/metatarsus	1	25.8		
		Small Mammal	?Ulna	1	17.9		
	15	Cow	Proximal metatarsus	2	79.8		Conjoining
			Distal metacarpus/metatarsus	2	60.3		
		Large Mammal	Long bone diaphysis	2	27.7		Conjoining
			?Rib	1	11.6		
Ditch 16	17	Large Mammal	Long bone cortex	1	24.4		
Ditch 23	24	?Deer	Metatarsus	1	7.7		
Ditch 35	37	?Sheep/Goat	Second phalanx	1	0.7		Complete. Partially burnt
		Small Mammal	Cortex	1	1.1		
			?Cranium	5	37.7		
			?Pelvis	12	78		
		Mammal	Undetermined	8	5		
Pit 40	43	Small Mammal	Calcaneous	1	30.4	?Chop	
		Mammal	Undetermined	1	7.5		
	44	Small Mammal	Long bone cortex	1	2.2		
Ditch 45	46	Small Mammal	?Pelvis	1	23.4		
Gully 61	62	Small Mammal	?Mandible cortex	1	1		?Mental foramen

Only 20 of the remains, representing over 23% of the assemblage, were identified on the basis of the observation of *Genus*-specific characteristics; of the remaining items, 30 were attributed to 'small mammal' (usually comprising sheep/goat, pig, roe deer) and 6 to 'large mammal' (cattle and horse) of undetermined species (O'Connor 2003), exclusively on the basis of the size range of the fragments; these represented 35% and 7% of the collection, respectively.

Due to the variable sizes and robustness of animal bones taphonomic factors favour preservation of certain species, resulting in the under-representation of other, smaller animals (Kasumally 2002).

Among the identified *taxa*, sheep/goat was the most represented, with 9 items; 8 of the fragments were identified as cow, while pig was represented by 2 examples. A single item was tentatively assigned to deer.

Overall, small mammals, including identified taxa as well as undetermined species, represented 49.4% of the assemblage; only 16% belonged to large mammals, comprising cow and unidentified examples. The remaining 35% of the material was too fragmented to be assigned to either of the size-based groups.

Possible butchering evidence, restricted to chop marks, was recorded only on 3 of the bone fragments; however, the fragmentary state of the material might have led to an underrepresentation of the butchering activities.

5.3 Fired Clay

A small quantity of burnt material was recovered from deposit (42). The material, weighing 8.7g in total, was tentatively identified as fired clay.

5.4 Lithics

A very limited assemblage of 4 flint fragments, of a combined weight of 14.2g, was hand-recovered from three different contexts.

Deposit (62) contained one flint fragment, weighing 2g and measuring 35mm in length. The item was severely scorched, resulting in white discolouration, and was tentatively identified as an incomplete blade.
One additional fragment of possible worked flint, weighing 1.8g and measuring 29mm in length, was found in deposit (16/12). Part of the cortex as well as ripples were observed, although it was not clear if the fractures was caused by percussion or natural processes.

Two fragments of unworked, burnt flint, of a combined weight of 10.4g, was collected from two contexts, deposits (37) and (42).
Exposure to high temperatures gives burnt flint the typically cracked, angular surface, and white/grey discolouration. Although not datable *per se*, burnt flint is commonly found in prehistoric contexts. In this period, waste chips and redundant tools were probably disposed of in camp fires or purposely used to transfer heat to water for cooking.

The unworked, burnt flint fragment is not recommended for retention, due to its extremely low potential for further analysis.

5.5 Metalwork

A single, severely corroded metal artefact was recovered from deposit (16/07). The object positively identified as an iron nail, weighted 3.5g and was preserved to a maximum length of 35mm. It showed a rectangular cross-section and a flat disc head, and its point was not preserved; the object was tentatively dated to the Post-Medieval period.
The iron nail was not retained due to its poor state of preservation, and low potential for further analysis.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Evaluation Trenches

The evaluation confirmed that the cropmark anomalies identified from aerial photographs were of archaeological interest. In targeting these features the evaluation has been able to clarify the level of inaccuracy in relation to where precisely these features had been plotted during the aerial survey, as had also been noticed in the first stage evaluation (Sims 2016). Furthermore, previously unknown archaeological features related to the cropmarks were identified in the course of this stage of archaeological works.

Ring Ditches
The areas which contained the highest potential for early activity may well be demonstrated by the existence of two ring ditches 14/21 and 18/04, in Trenches 14 and 18 respectively. Although being heavily truncated by later modern services, ditch 14/21 did provide datable material (Early Roman) although in its upper fill. In addition to providing dating from the latest fill within the feature (Late Iron or Early Roman), ditch 18/04 provided a fuller picture of depositional history due to its higher level of preservation. This showed that the fills of the ditch largely conform to a depositional pattern seen in the area (Hamlin 1964), with the lower layers comprising increased gravel and sand inclusions, which is suggestive of slow weathering of the bank material. The accumulation of these deposits, fairly equally, from both the both edges of the ring ditch are likely evidence for the presence of both interior and exterior banks.

Enclosure Ditches
Later activity is ascribed to 1st century Roman activity, which was also identified across the site. A series of ditches in Trenches 16, 17 and 19 positively identified the location of enclosures which had previously been seen in aerial photographs. Within Trench 16, traces of activity within an enclosure, delimited by ditches 16/06 and 16/10, was evident through the identification of a pit and possible ditch terminus. It is interesting to note that no features were located outside of this enclosure.

Trench 17 demonstrated that there were multiple phases of enclosures respecting the same orientation. The earlier of the two enclosures was hitherto unknown, as it had not been identified in either the magnetometry results or as a cropmark. The later ditch 17/09 was also positively identified in Trench 19, where it met a contemporary, perpendicular, E-W ditch 19/06. According to the plan of the cropmark, this ditch should join to ditch 8/03, which was identified in the first stage evaluation; however there is a noticeable difference in the deposition sequence within these ditches.

The results show that there is a wide dispersion of ceremonial and livestock/ agricultural activity which is not dissimilar to the results seen at other, nearby sites (e.g. Allen 2004: 161-215; Thomas 1955: 1-28; Beaverstock 2017).

6.2 Mitigation of Site Access Road – Strip, Map Sample (SMS)

The area stripped in advance of the proposed site access road to the south-east of the site revealed evidence for four phases of use, all dated within the late prehistoric to Roman period. The archaeology survives predominately in the way of negative features, demonstrating the area was in use for a similar purpose for some time, possibly a few generations. The minor shifts to the footprint of the enclosures and the apparent repurposing of other features indicates a continuity of use by the community. The evidence from this phase of archaeological work indicates that this was an area of livestock/agricultural use, which is congruent with evidence seen at other sites in the surrounding area.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adams, B. J. and Crabtree, P. J. (2008). Comparative Skeletal Anatomy. A Photographic Atlas for Medical Examiners, Coroners, Forensic Anthropologists, and Archaeologists. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ

Allen, T. (2004). "Chapter 4: Late Iron Age and Early Roman Occupation" in G. Lambrick and T. Allen (eds.) *Gravelly Guy Stanton Harcourt Oxfordshire: The development of a Prehistoric and Romano-British Community*, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscape Monograph No 21, 161-215.

Aultman, J., Galle, J. (2014). DAACS Cataloging Manual: Faunal (http://www.daacs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/faunal1.pdf accessed 24/07/2015)

Beaverstock, K. (2017). Land at Butts Piece, Blackditch, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire – Archaeological Evaluation Report. Unpublished report, Thames Valley Archaeological Service.

CgMs 2015 Stanton Harcourt Airfield. Desk based assessment. Unpublished client document

CgMs 2018 Site of Former Airfield, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work. Unpublished client document

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation.*

Green, S, Booth, P, and Allen, T, 2004, Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, in G. Lambrick and T. Allen, *Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire. The development of a prehistoric and Romano-British community*, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscape Monograph No 21, 303-334.

Grimes, W. F. (1944). Excavations at Stanton Harcourt, Oxon, 1940. *Oxoniensia,* Vol. 8-9, 19-63.

Hamlin, A. and Case, H. (1964). Excavations of Ring ditches and Other Sites at Stanton Harcourt, 1963. *Oxoniensia* Vol. 28, 1-52.

Hamlin, A, (1966). Early Iron Age sites at Stanton Harcourt. *Oxoniensia* Vol. 31, 21-21.

Kausmally, T., and Western, A. G., (2002). Excavation of Faunal Skeletal Remains from Archaeological Sites. BAJR Practical Guide 4.

O'Connor, T P (2003). The Analysis of Urban Animal Bone Assemblages: A Handbook for the Archaeologists. The Archaeology of York Vol. 19, Principles and Methods.

Orton, C., Tyers, P. and Vince, A. (1993). *Pottery in archaeology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Oxford Archaeology 2016 Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report. Unpublished client document

PCRG, (1997). The study of later prehistoric pottery: general policies and guidelines for publication, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Occasional papers nos 1 and 2 (revised).

Seetah K, (2009). The importance of cut placement and implement signatures to butchery interpretation (http://www2.arch.cam.ac.uk/~ks354/conferences.html accessed 17/07/2015)

Sims, M. (2016). Stanton Harcourt Airfield, Oxfordshire – Archaeological Evaluation Report. Unpublished report, Oxford Archaeology, OA ref 6438.

Thomas, N. (1955). Excavations at Vicarage Field, Stanton Harcourt, 1951. *Oxoniensia,* Vol. 20, 1-28.

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 14								
14/01	Deposit	Light yellowish brown	0.3m	>1.3m	>15m		Trackway	
14/02	Deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay with flint pebbles throughout	0.1m	>1.3m	>15m		Trackway	
14/03	Deposit	Mid to dark brown clay silt	0.13	>1.3m	>15m	Pottery	Trackway	LIA/ERO
14/04	Cut	Parallel to trackway, NW-SE	0.32	>0.5m	>15m		Cut of road	
14/05	Cut	Parallel to brick retaining wall for concrete hard standing	0.1m	0.5m	>1m		Cut for modern electric	
14/06	Fill	Mid orangish brown, sandy gravel	0.1m	0.5m	>1m		Likely redeposited natural within utility trench fill	
14/07	Layer	Mid grey brown, sandy silty loam	0.25m	1.5m	>8m		Topsoil and grass from the verge next to the road/trackway (14/01).	
14/08	Cut	Sub-circular (ovaloid)	0.16m	>0.7m	1.6m		Cut from shrub rooting	
14/09	Fill	Mid greyish brown, with mid yellowish mottling	0.16m	>0.7m	1.6m		Fill of 14/08, root disturbance	
14/10	Cut	Sub-circular (ovaloid)	0.14m	>0.5m	1.7m		Cut from shrub rooting	
14/11	Fill	Mid greyish brown, with mid yellowish mottling	0.14m	>0.5m	1.7m		Fill of 14/10, root disturbance	
14/12	Cut	Linear, utility trench	>0.43m	>1m	>0.75m		Cut for water service	
14/13	Fill	Mid yellowish brown	>0.43m	>1m	>0.75m		Fill for 14/12	
14/14	Cut	Linear, NW-SE	>0.41m	>1m	>0.5m		Trench for sewage utility	
14/15	Fill	Compact mid brownish gray sandy clay gravel	>0.41m	>1m	>0.5m		Fill of 14/14, sewage pipe trench	
14/16	Fill	Compact mid brownish gray sandy clay gravel	>0.14m	0.22m	>1m		Likely fill for water pipe (same as	
14/17	Fill	Light yellowish brown sandy gravel	>0.11m	0.09m	>1m		Fill, redeposited natural (likely w/in cut for retaining wall)	
14/18	Fill	Firm, mid dark brown sandy clay stones	0.42m	>0.95m	>0.35m	Pottery	Latest fill in ditch 14/21	ERO
14/19	Fill	Compact, mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.3m	>0.64m	>0.35m		Middle fill in ditch 14/21	
14/20	Fill	Firm, mid brownish red sandy silt	0.2m	>0.5m	>0.35m		Earliest fill in ditch 14/21	
14/21	Cut	Linear running NE-SW	0.84m	>0.92m	>0.35m		Ditch, underlying trackway and modern services	
14/22	Layer	Compact (quickly becomes loose after exposed to trample) light yellowish brown sandy gravel	>0.04m	>0.92m	>35m		Natural river terraced gravels, only encountered at the base of the ditch slot, underlies all the services	

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 15								
15/01	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty sandy loam	0.3m	>1.8m	>20m		Topsoil	
15/02	Deposit	Mid brown clayey sand with gravels	0.2m	>1.8m	>20m		Subsoil with heavy rooting throughout	
15/03	Deposit	Mid yellowish brown gravels	>0.07m	>1.8m	>20m		Natural river terraced gravels, only encountered in SW, the rest of the trench was badly root disturbed	
Trench 16								
16/01	Deposit	Dark brown silty sandy loam	0.15m	>1.8m	>4.2m		Topsoil	
16/02	Deposit	Light brown yellowish silty sandy loam with gravel including (50%)	0.15m	>1.8m	>4.2m		Subsoil	
16/03	Deposit	Yellowish brown gravels	>0.1m	>2.2m	>30m		Natural	
16/04	Cut	Moderate slope, concave base	0.32m	1.7 m	>1.6m		Possible ditch terminus	
16/05	Fill	Firm silty clay loam, mid reddish brown, fine to medium pebbles (< 5%)	0.32m	1.7m	>1.6m	Pottery	Fill of 16/04	ERO
16/06	Cut	Linear ditch, enclosure	0.66m	1.7m	>2.2m		Cut of Ditch	
16/07	Fill	Mid reddish brown, clayey silt loam, firm with small stones infrequently throughout	0.36m	1.65m	>2.2m	Pottery	Fill of ditch 16/06	ERO
16/08	Cut	Moderate slope, concave base	0.18m	0.42m	0.7m		Cut of Posthole	
16/09	Fill	Soft sandy clay loam, fine to medium pebbles (20%)	0.18m	0.42m	0.7m		Fill of posthole 16/08	
16/10	Cut	Linear ditch, enclosure	0.88m	>2.2m	>2.2m		Cut of Ditch	
16/11	Fill	Friable mid yellowish brown clayey sand, frequent gravel	0.14m	0.43m	>2.2m		Lowest fill of 16/10, no finds	
16/12	Fill	Friable mid reddish brown, sandy clay, frequent gravel	0.62m	>1.8m	>2.2m	Pottery	Middle fill of 16/10	ERO
16/13	Fill	Firm, mid to dark reddish brown, silty clay, infrequent small stones	0.16m	1.36m	>2.2m	Pottery and bone	Upper fill of 16/10	ERO
16/14	Deposit	Light yellowish brown sandy gravel	0.21m	>2.2m	>26.8m		Made ground under concrete	20th C.
16/15	Deposit	Light grey, concrete	0.2m	>2.2m	>26.8m		Concrete surface	20th C.
16/16	Fill	Friable mid reddish brown, sandy clay, frequent gravel	0.4m	2.24m	>2.2m		Lowest fill of ditch cut 16/06, no finds	

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date

Trench 17								
17/01	Deposit	Mid-dark brown clay silt, friable	0.26m				Topsoil	
17/02	Deposit	Mid-orangey brown silty clay friable	0.15m				Subsoil	
17/03	Deposit	Mid-brownish yellow sandy gravels	>0.08m	>1.8m	>35.6m		Natural	
17/04	Deposit	Compact, dark blackish grey, mod tarmac	0.08m	3.6m	>1.8m		Tarmac deposit	
17/05	Deposit	Mid-light yellowish brown silty sand, friable	0.21m	3.6m	>1.8m		Made up ground (levelling for tarmac)	
17/06	Cut	Builder's cut for brick foundation, vertical sides	0.32m	>0.4m	>1.8m		Cut for wall **17/13**	
17/07	Cut	Linear, E-W orientation, same as 17/11	0.18m	0.54m	>0.9m		Cut for gully, same as 17/11	
17/08	Fill	Mid-reddish brown sandy clay, firm, same as (17/12)	0.18m	0.54m	>0.9m		Fill of gully 17/07, same as (17/12)	
17/09	Cut	Linear, N-S orientation	0.74m	1.6m	>1m		Cut of ditch, truncates gully 17/11	
17/10	Fill	Mid-reddish brown sandy clay, firm	0.74m	1.6m	>1m		Fill of ditch 17/09	
17/11	Cut	Linear, E-W orientation, same as 17/07	0.19m	0.54m	>5.4m		Cut of gully	
17/12	Fill	Mid-reddish brown sandy clay, firm, same as (17/08)	0.19m	0.54m	>0.9m		Fill of gully 17/11, same as (17/08)	
17/13	Structure	Masonry wall/foundation	0.32m	0.55m	>1.8m		Masonry for modern wall/foundation	
17/14	Cut	Linear, SSW-NNE orientation	0.12m	0.58m	>1m		Cut of gully	
17/15	Fill	Firm, mid-reddish brown sandy clay	0.12m	0.58m	>1m		Fill of gully 17/14	
17/16	Cut	Linear, truncates ditch fill (17/10)	x	x	x		Cut of service trench, truncated (17/10)	
17/17	Fill	Mid-reddish greyish brown sandy clay, firm	x	x	x		Fill of service trench 17/16	
17/18	Cut	Linear, NW-SE orientation, terminus	0.06m	0.6m	>1m		Cut of gully, terminus	
17/19	Fill	Mid-reddish brown sandy clay, firm	0.06m	0.6m	>1m		Fill of gully 17/18	

Trench 18								
18/01	Deposit	Dark blackish brown sandy loam, soft	0.2m				Topsoil	
18/02	Deposit	Mid brown sandy loam	0.3m				Subsoil	
18/03	Deposit	Light yellowish brown, gravels, friable to hard	-				Natural	
18/04	Cut	Linear, E-W orientation	>1.02m	4.65m	>1.9m		Cut of ditch	
18/05	Fill	Mid orange brown, sand silt with gravels; compacted with heavy rooting	0.42m	4.65m	>1.9m	Pottery	Upper fill of ditch 18/04	LIA
18/06	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	
18/07	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**	**Width**	**Length**	**Finds**	**Interpretation**	**Date**

18/08	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	
18/09	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	
18/10	Fill	Friable sandy silt, mid brown, with heavy rooting	0.22m	1.95m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/11	Fill	Solid, orange brown sandy silt	0.1m	0.92m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/12	Fill	Layer of compacted pebbles, medium size	0.04m	0.5m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/13	Fill	Compacted, yellow, sandy gravel	0.11m	0.58m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/14	Fill	Solid, mid brown sandy silt very compacted with sub rounded pebbles	0.28m	1.08m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/15	Fill	Mid brown, sandy silt with medium sub rounded pebbles, very firm	0.48m	2.26m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/16	Fill	Solid mid brown, sandy silt with inclusions of coarse pebbles	0.24m	0.98m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/17	Fill	Mid brown, solid sandy silt with inclusions of solid medium pebbles and light patches of redeposited natural throughout	0.26m	1.02m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/18	Fill	Compact mid brown sandy silt with coarse pebbles and yellow sand	0.06m	1.04m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/19	Fill	Soft, mid brown sandy silt, no inclusions, heavy rooting	>0.1m	1.08m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	
18/20	Fill	Soft, mix of mid brown sandy silt with coarse pebbles and yellow sand	0.14m	0.42m	>0.5m		Fill of ditch 18/04	

Trench 19								
19/01	Deposit	Soft, mid grey brown sandy silt loam, stones small	0.16m	>4.4m	>9.3m		Topsoil	
19/02	Deposit	Mid yellow brown sandy silt loam, stones small	0.18m	>4.4m	>9.3m		Subsoil	
19/03	Deposit	Mid brown yellow sandy gravel stones	>0.1m	>4.4m	>9.3m		Natural	
19/04	Cut	Linear ditch, N-S aligned, same as 17/09	0.67m	1.6m	>5.05m		Cut of N-S ditch	
19/05	Fill	Firm, mid reddish brown sandy clay, small stones	0.67m	1.6m	>5.05m		Fill of ditch 19/04, same as 19/07	
19/06	Cut	Linear ditch, E-W aligned, moderate breaks, concave base	0.67m	1.85	>2m		Cut of E-W ditch	
19/07	Fill	Firm, mid-reddish brown, sandy clay, stones small	0.67m	1.85	>2m		Fill of ditch 19/06, same as 19/05	