

## PETERBOROUGH SOLAR PARKS, NEWBOROUGH FARMS

Archaeological Test Pitting



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## PETERBOROUGH SOLAR PARKS, NEWBOROUGH FARMS

## **Archaeological Test Pitting**

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## PETERBOROUGH SOLAR PARKS, NEWBOROUGH FARMS

## **Archaeological Test Pitting**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM to undertake an archaeological test pitting and auger survey in advance of a Solar Park development on land at Morris Fen (NGR: 528432 306531), Americas Farm (NGR: 523583 300422) and Newborough Farms (NGR: 523694 306422) – hereafter the 'Site'.

A geophysical survey (PSI 2012) commissioned by AECOM revealed anomalies within the Site, and as such, following consultation with Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS) proposed a programme of archaeological test pitting and augering.

This report focuses on the test pitting carried out at the Newborough Farms Site, which comprised the excavation of 137 test pits targeted over geophysical anomalies and to test 'blank' areas. Two of the pits could not be excavated due to health and safety considerations as they were situated below overhead power lines.

A total of 43 test pits contained no features at all. Most of these were located in the southern half of the Site.

Nineteen of the pits contained evidence of modern farming methods, including land drainage, modern marl trenches (see main report text), hedge lines, burning and burnt hedges.

Twenty three of the pits contained bioturbatory (tree disturbance) and geological features such as paleochannels and mixed peat and clay formations. The paleochannels, which correlated well with the geophysical survey results, were very shallow, with irregular edges and bases. Some of the geophysical anomalies were not detected archaeologically; this was probably due to the shallow nature of the features.

Significant archaeological features were revealed in 50 of the test pits. These were predominantly located in the north, eastern and central portion of the Site. Elsewhere, six Palaeolithic flints were discovered on the surface of the topsoil and their locations were recorded. The remains appeared to be concentrated on the higher, better draining portion of the Site, overlying a natural spur of geology called the March Gravels.

The archaeological activity can be broadly dated to four periods; Palaeolithic, late prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval with undated features forming the majority.

Five Palaeolithic flints recovered from the surface of the topsoil were located at the margins of an underlying spur of the March Gravels. It is likely that the material was brought to the surface by repeated ploughing. Four of the flints were in a heavily rolled and patinated condition, indicating that they and the underlying gravels which they were recovered from had been transported to their current location from elsewhere. A probable Levellois flake had travelled much less. Data from the environmental and auger survey suggest that the movement of the gravels was in a fluvial environment.

The prehistoric features were predominantly in the form of sixteen curvilinear gullies. The dating of one of the gullies in Test Pit 16 was brought into question by a post-medieval artefact (pot) recovered from the fill. Forming two broad groupings, the northern gullies were located at the



margins of the underlying gravel spur, forming a wide arc from the north, southwards and to the northeast in a sparsely populated group. A group of six features were more closely concentrated, located at the very southern tip of the gravel spur. From the available evidence it was unclear whether the features represented small Bronze Age funerary (barrow) monuments or gullies surrounding hut circles. The extrapolated diameters of the majority of these features fell well within the acceptable range of both hut circles and smaller Bronze Age barrows. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills of the features. At least two of the features truncated earlier domestic features, indicating at least four dwellings. The close grouping of the southern cluster and the narrow, shallow proportions of most of the features would suggest that they were likely to have represented hut circles.

The Romano-British features were concentrated within a 235m² area in the north-eastern part of the Site, above a high point on the gravel spur. The evidence consisted of a series of small ditches and gullies on a predominantly north-south/east-west axis suggesting organisation of space in small enclosures. Three postholes within the Site were indicative of post built structures within the enclosures and inter-cutting features suggests that this patterning was not static over time. The pottery evidence from the fills of the features dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD indicating that the occupation may have been over a relatively short time scale. Two refuse pits were also revealed; one filled with predominantly cattle animal bones and one with a high proportion of charred cereal remains, ceramics and a Colchester type brooch. The type of pottery, coupled with refuse pits and postholes within small enclosures is indicative of continual settlement on the Site. The environmental and animal bone evidence indicate that the occupants practiced a predominantly pastoral economy, with cattle as the mainstay, with evidence of cereal production and processing and the utilization of other local wild resources.

Four of the test pits revealed ditch and ditch junctions dating to the post-medieval period. The clay pipe and pottery was of a late 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The evidence was suggestive of land division boundaries which probably served as drainage channels.

The remaining archaeological evidence was predominantly in the form of undated ditches, with at least two pits and an isolated burnt posthole. It was possible to interpret at least two of the ditches as relating to separate enclosures; however, the wide spacing of other features, taken together with the results of the geophysical survey suggest that the majority of ditches lay in a palimpsest of features which could not be confidently associated as contemporary with the available evidence.

The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed. It is currently held by Wessex Archaeology under the project code **101910** and will be transferred to the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery Museum under an accession number to be issued in due course.



## PETERBOROUGH SOLAR PARKS, NEWBOROUGH FARMS

## **Archaeological Test Pitting**

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## PETERBOROUGH SOLAR PARKS, NEWBOROUGH FARMS

## **Archaeological Test Pitting**

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological test pitting and auger survey in advance of a Solar Park development on land at Morris Fen (NGR: 528432 306531), Americas Farm (NGR: 523583 300422) and Newborough Farms (NGR: 523694 306422).
- 1.1.2 A geophysical survey (PSI2012) commissioned by AECOM revealed anomalies within the Site (**Appendix 2**), and as such, following consultation with Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS) a programme of archaeological test pitting and augering was proposed.
- 1.1.3 This report focuses on the test pitting carried out at Newborough Farms area (hereafter 'the Site'), which comprised the excavation of 137 test pits targeted over geophysical anomalies and to test 'blank' areas (**Figure 1**). The work at Americas Farm (Wessex Archaeology 2013c), the augering (Wessex Archaeology 2014) and Morris Fen will be dealt with in separate reports.
- 1.1.4 A Method Statement (Wessex Archaeology 2013a) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI: Wessex Archaeology 2013b) were produced detailing how the archaeological evaluation would be carried out. The WSI was prepared in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (2010), and was submitted to and approved by AECOM and PCCAS.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The land at Newborough Farms is situated 7.6km northeast of Peterborough and 5km northwest of Thorney (**Figure 1**). The Site covers an area of 208ha. The Site is bounded to the south by Bukehorn Road (B1443), to the west by Peterborough Road (A1073), to the north by the drain Old Pepper Lake and to the east by Highland Drain. The land is made up of open farmland at a height of 3-4m aOD.
- 1.2.2 The superficial geology of the area is a mixture of Quaternary period clay and silt tidal flat deposits formed up to three million years ago in an environment previously dominated by shorelines with sediments deposited in beaches and barrier islands. The Site is partially covered, to the east, by the Quaternary period March Gravels Member (sand and gravel) which were formed up to two million years ago. The March Gravels (Figure 2) were formed in shoreline environments with sediments deposited in beaches and barrier islands <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a> (however, see Section 5.2.3 below). Later river terrace deposits in the form of sand and gravels with peat was also likely.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology is of the Kellaways Formation and overlying Oxford Clay Formation consisting of mudstone, siltstone and Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock



formed in the Jurassic period in an environment previously dominated by shallow seas. <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a>.

#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is summarised from the Brief provided by PCCAS (2013).

#### 2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Newborough Fen has three scheduled Bronze Age Barrows within a 1km radius of the Site, with undesignated Bronze Age barrows visible on aerial photographs within the boundaries of the proposed development. The Site also contains Neolithic tidal roddons (sand/silt filled creeks) and parts of the Bronze Age and Roman fen edge.

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the project are to:
  - gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;
  - provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;
  - inform a strategy form the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
  - mitigate potential threats;
  - inform proposals for further archaeological investigations within the ongoing programme of works;
  - define the sequence and character of activity at the Site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
  - interpret the archaeology of the Site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 137 test pits (**Figure 1**) measuring 5m by 5m, which were targeted on geophysical anomalies and blank areas (**Appendix 2**). The test pits were located by means of a RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid (within 0.1m).

#### 3.3 Machine excavation

3.3.1 Topsoil or overburden was removed using tracked mechanical excavators fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of suitably experienced archaeologists. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the natural geology and level of the upper archaeological horizon.



#### 3.4 Hand excavation

3.4.1 All test pits were hand-cleaned (if necessary) to clarify the extent of any revealed archaeological remains. Natural features were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity.

#### 3.5 Monitoring

3.5.1 No backfilling took place until AECOM and PCCAS were satisfied that the excavation had been carried out to an appropriate standard.

#### 3.6 Recording

- 3.6.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within 'blank' test pits).
- 3.6.2 All test pits were located in relation to the OS grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. All drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 3.6.3 The spot height of all principal features and levels was calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations were annotated with spot heights as appropriate.
- 3.6.4 Photographs were taken of all archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images (at least 10 megapixels) supplemented the photographic record.

#### 3.7 Specialist strategies

#### Artefact

- 3.7.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (UKIC 2001; MGC 1991; English Heritage 2005 and 2006), except where these are superseded by statements made below.
- 3.7.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the Curator.
- 3.7.3 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 1998). Ironwork from stratified contexts will be x-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. Other conservation needs will be assessed by Wessex Archaeology's Conservator.
- 3.7.4 Animal bone recovered by hand during excavation will be processed as part of the finds assemblage. Animal bone recovered from bulk samples will also be retained for analysis.
- 3.7.5 All artefacts were recorded by context, with summary listing of artefacts by category to provide simple quantification. Artefacts will be analysed and reported by specialists.



#### Environmental

- 3.7.6 The development of an appropriate sampling strategy depended upon the survival and condition of the deposits identified. In general terms, the following strategies were followed.
- 3.7.7 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate *well-sealed* and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

#### Other

3.7.8 Other samples were taken, as appropriate, in consultation with Wessex Archaeology specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor (e.g. soil micromorphology, monolith samples). Given the types of deposits revealed (peat/ alluvial sediments) this comprised targeted monolith and bulk sampling through key sedimentary sequences. Samples were taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of 137 test pits were originally planned (**Figure 1**), targeted on geophysical anomalies (PSI 2012) and to test geophysically "quiet" areas, to assess the archaeological potential of the Site.
- 4.1.2 Two of the test pits (**85** and **96**) could not excavated due to health and safety considerations, being located too close to overhead electricity cables.
- 4.1.3 The results from the evaluation can be split into four main categories for the purpose of this report. These are:
  - Test pits with no features;
  - Test pits with modern agricultural evidence;
  - Test pits with natural paleochannels;
  - Test pits with significant archaeological remains.

#### 4.2 Test pits with no features

- 4.2.1 A total of 43 test pits contained no features of any description. These were 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 27, 31 -33, 36, 39, 40, 41, 46, 52, 55, 64, 68, 69, 77, 78, 83, 95, 103, 107, 112, 114, 115, 117, 119, 122, 126 131, 133, 134, 136 and 137 (Figure 1).
- 4.2.2 Sondages were excavated in the blank **Test Pits 19** and **133**. The sondage in **Test Pit 19** was excavated to a depth of 1.8m to provide a detailed environmental sample (**Section 6.6**) from the underlying Oxford Clay natural through the March Gravels and subsoil to the base of the topsoil horizon. A monolith soil sample was taken from the same test pit, confirming that the top of the natural Oxford Clay deposit was at a depth of 0.99m below



ground level (BLG) and that the upper 0.44m of the bedrock had been disturbed by cryoturbation. A short drier period was indicated by a 0.1m thick deposit of thin layers of aeolian sand which underlay the March Gravel deposits. Undiagnostic, possibly marine, shells were found in this deposit which was formed in a shoreline environment with sediments deposited in beaches and barrier islands

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html.

#### 4.3 Test pits with modern agricultural evidence

- 4.3.1 A total of 19 pits contained evidence of modern agricultural practises (**Figure 1**) including; land drainage, marl trenches, burning, plough activity and hedge lines.
- 4.3.2 **Test Pit 5** (**Figure 1**) contained a 0.4m deep, vertical cut (**504**) which was noted at the extreme north of both east and west sections. The cut extended beyond the southern limit of excavation (LOE) and probably related to modern machine trenching activity. **Test Pit 4**, 40m south of this test pit, was also heavily disturbed below the topsoil to a depth of 0.85m. The 0.48m thick layer of highly mixed and patchy orange and brown sand and silt **402** is noteworthy due to its close proximity to the Romano-British settlement (**Figures 2**, **3** and **4**) (see **4.6.20** below). No artefacts were recovered from these test pits.
- 4.3.3 Land drains were uncovered in **Test Pits 42**, **80**, and **89**. **Test Pit 98** contained a ceramic land drain with evidence of closely packed plough scars.
- 4.3.4 Marl trenches were uncovered in **Test Pits 45**, **71**, **73**, **76**, **82**, **125** and **132** (**Figure 1**). The marl trenches were obviously machine cut with squared ends, straight vertical sides with some evidence of toothed buckets (**Test Pit 132**, **Plate 1**). The marl trenches were a product of farmers digging deeply into the underlying clay to incorporate clay into the topsoil to mitigate against wind erosion of the topsoil. The marl trenches were immediately backfilled after clay extraction and the excavations were all filled by material similar to the overlying topsoil. A single sherd of Staffordshire-type marbled slipware (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century) (**Section 5.3**) recovered from marl trench **13204** (fill **13206**) confirms a recent date for the features; however, this material may have been intrusive from the backfilling of surrounding topsoil material.
- 4.3.5 Two test pits (88 and 91) revealed substantial burning episodes (Plate 2). Test Pits 88 and 91 appeared to be hedge lines that had been removed by burning. Other hedge lines were uncovered in Test Pits 35, 84 and 90 (Figure 1). The archaeological evidence showed very gradual and irregular edges leading to shallow irregular bases. Only Test Pit 35 contained any artefacts and this pot dated to the post-medieval period (Section 5.3).
- 4.3.6 **Test Pit 56** (**Figure 1**) revealed a wide, shallow hollow way **5608** filled by a yellow-grey clay **5607** containing modern ceramic building material (CBM) (**Section 5.3**). The hollow way was visible in the landscape as a very shallow valley leading between two drains and an earthen bridge spanning the western waterway. The feature was visible on the geophysical survey (**Appendix 2**, **page ARC\_1026\_373\_34**). The modern feature was truncated to the north by a later possible hedge line that had been removed by burning and the features were interpreted as a recent hedged track way/field division.



#### 4.4 Test pits with natural features/paleochannels

- 4.4.1 A total of 23 test pits revealed geological features of note. The features include highly disturbed natural, paleochannels, mixed peat and clay layering, peat, bioturbatory disturbance and hollows.
- 4.4.2 Evidence of paleochannels was revealed in **Test Pits 38**, **51**, **60**, **65**, **79**, **81**, **87**, **93**, **108**, **109**, **113**, **118**, **120**, **121**, **123** and **124** and a peat filled hollow was recorded in **Test Pit 135** (**Figure 1**). Many of the channels initially appeared as straight edged ditches in plan; however, on examination the features were very shallow (*c*. 0.05-0.15m) with shallow irregular edges and bases (**Plate 3**). The majority of the more obvious paleochannels depicted on the geophysical survey (PSI 2012) occurred in the southern half of the Site (**Appendix 2**). A small number of these were picked up in the test pits (i.e. **121** and **123**); however, many of the features were not picked up archaeologically. This was probably due to the very shallow nature of the anomalies and it is suggested here that the features were geophysically visible due to the peaty nature of the fill within the surrounding topsoil, which may also indicate a degree of relative modernity to the features. Some features interpreted as probable archaeology (PSI 2012) were found to be peat filled paleochannels on excavation (i.e. **Test Pits 38**, **81**, **93** and **113**).
- 4.4.3 Four test pits (61, 62, 66 and 72) contained peat formations. Test Pit 62 contained a 0.24m thick layer of peat (6202) which probably continued towards Test Pit 61 where the deposit had become interdigitated with clay depositions (Plate 4). Similar peat and sand striations were recorded in Test Pit 72 and irregular shallow peat deposits were noted in Test Pit 66.
- 4.4.4 Bioturbation in the form of tree disturbance was recorded in the northern quarter of **Test Pit 92** and shallow patches of rootlets in were observed in **Test Pit 116** which overlay a potential paleochannel fragment. **Test Pit 92** was located over a suspected curvilinear feature (**Appendix 2, page ARC\_1026\_373\_16**) which was not visible on excavation. Two substantial hollows revealed in **Test Pits 3** and **18** possibly relate to tree bowls; however, due to their close proximity to settlement they have been included in the discussions below.

#### 4.5 Palaeolithic flints

- 4.5.1 A total of five Palaeolithic flint tools (**Section 5.5**) were recovered from the top of the topsoil surface. The location of the flints was concentrated over the underlying spur of March Gravels which entered the Site from the northeastern corner, sweeping towards the centre (**Figure 2**).
- 4.5.2 It was likely that the flints were brought to the surface by the action of repeated ploughing, working the material up from the March Gravels to the surface.
- 4.5.3 The rolled and stained condition of four of the flints suggests that they, and the gravels, have been transported to their current location from a different, unknown, source. A single, possibly Levellois, flake was in a much sharper condition, suggesting a more local origin (**Section 5.2.2**).



- 4.6 Test pits with significant archaeological remains
- 4.6.1 A total of 50 test pits (1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 34, 37, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 63, 67, 70, 74, 75, 86?, 94, 97, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 110 and 111) revealed archaeological remains.
- 4.6.2 The evidence fits into three broad categories of curvilinear features, straight boundary ditches/gullies and discreet pits and posts associated with settlement.

#### Curvilinear features

- 4.6.3 A total of 16 curvilinear features were revealed across the Site. The curvilinears appear to be arranged in two main clusters. The first is a wide arched arrangement which correlates fairly well with the outer margins of a spur of the underlying March Gravels, extending from the north-central edge of the Site, southwards and to the east and northeast (**Figure 2 Test Pits 48**, **57**, **54**, **75**, **43**, **34**, **17**, **16**, **23** and **14**).
- 4.6.4 The extrapolated diameter of the features (**Figures 5**, **6 and 7**) varies from the smaller end **57** (6.4m dia. x 0.15m deep), **75** (7.9m dia. x 0.17m deep) to average prehistoric house size **54** (9.88m dia. x 0.15m deep), **48** (10.3m dia. x 0.18m deep), **17** (10.4m dia. x 0.15m deep), **14** (13m dia. x 0.3m deep) and up to the larger end **43** (17.7m dia. x 0.1m deep) and **34** (20.23m dia. x 0.1m deep). A partial curvilinear **1605** was revealed in **Test Pit 16**, cut by later ditch **1603** (**section 4.6.16**). With an extrapolated diameter of 7.7m it measured 0.1m deep. **Test Pit 23** revealed a curvilinear feature **2305** which was heavily truncated by a later ditch (**2303**) and a modern land drain (**Figure 4**). The estimated diameter of the gully was 9.65m and the depth was 0.08m. All of the features were very shallow on average (c. 0.15m), apart from **4303** which had survived to a depth of 0.3m. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fills apart from a single sherd of glazed coarse redware pottery (**Section 5.3**) recovered from fill **1404** in **Test Pit 14**. The pottery, which may have been intrusive to the deposit; however, suggests that the curvilinear may be a feature of more modern date.
- 4.6.5 It may be possible to postulate some groupings on apparent closeness; however, the 208m between **Test Pit 54** and **57**, and the 84m between **57** and **48** would seem to suggest that, if no other hitherto undetected circular features were extant, then any settlement or monumental display was fairly sparse.
- 4.6.6 A second, more obvious close cluster of six curvilinear features was located at the very southern end of the March Gravel spur which entered the Site from the northeast corner (Figure 2). The cluster of features were revealed in Test Pits 97,100, 101, 102, and two in Test Pit 111 (Figures 6 and 7).
- 4.6.7 The extrapolated diameters of the medium sized features were; 12.9m dia. x 0.1m deep (101), 14.9m dia. x 0.1m deep (100),13m dia. x 0.15m deep (11103), 17.7m dia. x 0.15m deep (11105). The larger features measured; 22.6m dia. x 0.1m deep (102) and 23m dia. x 0.06m deep (97). The features were very ephemeral in plan (Plate 5) and shallow (c. 0.1m) and had presumably suffered a high degree of plough damage, as evidenced in Test Pit 98.
- 4.6.8 A number of geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as curvilinear and possible curvilinear features were not revealed in the test pits. The test pits located over these geophysical anomalies were 31, 36, 37, 38, 25, 58, 55, 53, 74, 78, 79, 81, 84 and 92. Several of the test pits did reveal archaeological features, but not the expected curvilinears. A north-south aligned linear terminus was revealed in **Test Pit 53**. A curvilinear ditch was revealed in **Test Pit 37**: however, at an extrapolated diameter of



57.5m this was too large for a hut circle and larger than the geophysical anomaly. Paleochannels were revealed in **Test Pits 38**, **79**, and **81** and a ditch terminus recorded in section was revealed in **Test Pit 74**. **Test Pit 85** was not excavated due to an overhead electric cable. Irregular bioturbation was recorded in **Test Pit 92** and substantial plough damage was noted in **Test Pit 98**. It is possible that the features were undetected due to the shallow, ephemeral nature of the archaeology, particularly in the centre of the Site, and the level of plough damage observed in that location.

4.6.9 From the available evidence it is unclear at this stage whether the curvilinears related to Bronze Age funerary monuments or prehistoric hut circle gullies (See **Section 7.2.3** – **7.2.7** below); however, at least three of the curvilinears (**1704**, **11103**, **11105**), were confidently interpreted as hut circles.

#### Undated ditches/gullies

- 4.6.10 A total of 21 test pits revealed ditches and gullies which contained no dating evidence (10, 13, 16, 26, 30, 37, 47, 49, 50, 51, 53, 59, 63, 70, 71, 86, 94, 110, 104, 105 and 106 Figure 2).
- 4.6.11 Due to its proximity to the Romano-British period features, **Test Pit 10** probably relates to the settlement and this test pit will be discussed in section **4.5.20** below.
- 4.6.12 A preliminary assessment of the features in this category has been taken to see if any correlation with the geophysical survey results (see **Appendix 2**) could be established, and if any possible relationships could be found between the archaeology revealed in other surrounding test pits.
- 4.6.13 The evidence for ditches and gullies appear to cluster in three main areas (Site northeast, Site north-central and Site southeast **Figure 2**).
- In the northwest corner of the Site, the evidence correlated well with the geophysical 4.6.14 survey results (PSI 2012). Test Pit 30 revealed five shallow (0.1m) interconnecting beam slots, which appeared to form part of a building with separate bays (Figure 10). The function of the undated features is unclear; however, the geophysical results (Appendix 2. "D" on page ARC 1026 373\_42) suggest that they form part of a slightly wider network of features. Test Pit 16 revealed the termini of two ditches 1603 and 1604 which formed a right angle (Figure 9). The fill of ditch 1603 (1606) contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery (Section 5.3). Although the ditches were of differing depths (0.16 to 0.24 respectively) it was thought that the two ditches may have formed the open corner of an enclosure; however, with no dating evidence available from ditch 1604, this remains conjecture at this stage. The southeast-northwest aligned ditch in **Test Pit 26** (Figure 10) had a high proportion of charcoal and burnt clay in the fill (Section 6.2.7) contained no anthropogenic material. The geophysical survey results (Appendix 2, page ARC 1026 373 40, page ARC 1026 373 42) suggest that the features did not intersect in the wider landscape setting.
- 4.6.15 A second apparent concentration of features was revealed, running southwards from the north-central part of the Site (Figure 2). Test Pits 49, 50, 51 and 59 revealed ditches that matched the geophysical anomalies very well, particularly Test Pit 59 (Figure 11) which targeted two bisecting ditches in Field 35 (Appendix 2, page ARC\_1026\_373\_34). The five ditches were separated and with non-aligning orientations; assessing these in a wider landscape context would be difficult apart from the suggestion that the north-south aligned ditches 4903 and 5903/6 may have some function in both separating and containing the circular features 5703 and 4803. Similarly, Test Pits 53 and 70 both contained north-



- south aligned ditches separated by a parallel distance of 38m (Figures 2, 11 and 12). The relatively close (at 78.5m) east-west aligned ditch 7103 is perpendicular to the pairing; however, the geophysical results (Appendix 2, page ARC\_1026\_373\_28) show a linear ditch from Field 26 to 27 running northwest-southeast and the results from the test pits do not match this anomaly. The test pitting revealed two perpendicular ditches (Test Pit 70) and an east-west ditch in Test Pit 71 (Figure 12).
- A number of features appear to be fairly isolated. Test Pit 63 (Figure 2) revealed an undated east-west aligned ditch 6303 measuring 1.5m wide x .4m deep immediately south of an irregular shallow paleochannel 6305 (Figure 11). The terminus 7404 uncovered in the west facing section of **Test Pit 74** (Figure 6) could be a ditch terminus related to the nearby circular gully 7503 or part of the curvilinear noted on the geophysics (Appendix 2, page ARC 1026 373 28). The location of Test Pit 37 (Figure 10) was targeted on a small circular geophysical anomaly; however, the extrapolated 58.3m diameter was much too large for a hut and unlikely for a barrow. The feature (3703) was interpreted as a slightly curving field boundary which may have a wider contextual relationship to the curvilinear in Test Pit 34 (Figure 2); however at a distance of 88.5m and the lack of geophysical relationship, this would be difficult to confirm. Similar apparently isolated features were the western ditch termini of east-west aligned ditches in Test Pits 13 and 94 and a single north-northeast to south-southwest ditch 10603 (Figure 13), which appeared to match exactly with a geophysical anomaly at the far southeast corner of the Site in Field 3 (Appendix 2, page ARC\_1026\_373\_08). A single north-south aligned ditch 11003=11007) was revealed in Test Pit 110 (Figure 13) cutting through an earlier irregular paleochannel 11005. The ditch had very straight, almost vertical edges and a flat base (Plate 6) and was initially interpreted as a probable marl trench. The feature; however, clearly corresponded with a large strong positive geophysical anomaly (Appendix 2, page ARC 1026 373 14 and ARC 1026 373 10) that extended from the north-eastern corner of Field 14, sweeping to the east and terminating in Field 15. The feature probably formed a modern, possibly machine cut, drainage channel.
- 4.6.17 A single southwest-northeast aligned ditch **8603** measuring 1.4m wide was recorded in **Test Pit 86** (**Figure 12**). The ditch was very shallow (0.25m) for a feature of this width and the geophysical results (**Appendix 2**, **page ARC\_1026\_373\_24**) show the same (potentially archaeological) feature extending into **Test Pit 87** where the feature had become irregularly edged with a shallow (0.19mm) irregular base, reminiscent of a hedge line. Evidence of burning in the fill **8704** suggests that the hedge was removed by fire (see **4.3.5** above).
- 4.6.18 Two test pits (**104** and **105**) at the southeastern end of the Site (**Figures 12** and **13**) revealed two ditches **10403** and **10503** measuring 0.95m and 0.8m wide respectively. The features were very shallow (>0.2m) but with straight, clear edges and bases (**Plate 7**). The two features correlated with a large anomaly interpreted as a probable paleochannel (**Appendix 2**, **page ARC\_1026\_373\_10**) but were interpreted archaeologically as drainage ditches.

#### Discreet pits and posts

4.6.19 Six test pits revealed discreet archaeological features in the form of pits and posts. Large pit-like features were revealed in **Test Pits 3**, **9**, **18**, **22** and a small 1.35m diameter pit **6703** was found in isolation in **Test Pit 67** (**Figure 12**). Pit **6703** was very shallow (>0.12m) with an irregular oval shape and irregular base which may be bioturbatory rather than anthropogenic. The pits in **Test Pits 3**, **9** and **22** may have formed part of the Roman period settlement and are discussed more fully below. A small burnt *in-situ* post **2104** in **Test Pit 21** (**Plate 8**) was also found in isolation but probably formed part of a larger post built structure.



#### Roman settlement

- 4.6.20 Eleven test pits contained remains associated with a Romano-British period settlement (1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23 and 44). The test pits were all located within a 235m² area with the major concentration of features in **Test Pits 1** 10 within a 115m² area. Artefacts dating to this period (**Section 5.2**) were recovered from features in **Test Pits 1**, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 44 were indicative of settlement refuse. **Test Pits 6**, 10, 22 and 23 did not contain any datable artefacts but are mentioned here due to their proximity to the settlement and their probable association.
- 4.6.21 The clearest concentration of settlement evidence was demonstrated by the complex series of nine ditches, five gullies, three pits and three posts in **Test Pits 1**, **2**, **6**, **7**, **8**, **9**, **10** and **22** with a large tree bowl in revealed in **Test Pit 3**. Three outlying ditches were revealed in **Test Pits 23** and **44**.

#### Ditches and gullies

- 4.6.22 Although some of the test pits were fairly widely spaced (**Figures 2**, **3** and **4**), it has been possible to discern some structure to the form of the settlement pattern. There is a definite trend for north-south (**105**, **107**, **210**/6, **603**, **1003**, **4405**) and east-west (**205**, **714**, **811**, **2303**, **4403**) orientations in the ditches with a single southeastern ditch terminus (**703**). The pattern indicated that a wider interconnected network of ditches existed outside the test pit limits in the near vicinity. None of the ditches were particularly large; measuring on average 0.85m wide and 0.3m deep. Two ditch termini revealed in **Test Pit 1** may have formed a 1.9 wide entrance to an enclosure.
- 4.6.23 Beyond the immediate concentration of features, **Test Pit 23** (**Figure 4**) revealed an east-west aligned ditch (**2303**) measuring 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep. The fill **2304** contained no artefactual evidence; however, it did truncate an earlier partial curvilinear ditch **2305**. Located 130m to the south of the main concentration of features, **Test Pit 44** revealed two ditches **4403** and **4405** forming a T-shape (**Figure 3**). Excavation revealed that the later, 0.42m deep, east-west aligned ditch **4403** truncated the top of the much shallower (0.2m) north-south aligned ditch **4405**. Pottery recovered from the earlier ditch fill **4406**, indicated a similar date range to the material from **Test Pits 1-10**, suggesting a contemporary association.
- 4.6.24 The smaller gullies revealed within the Roman period test pits were all straight linears, measuring on average 0.35m wide by 0.2m deep. As with the ditches, the gullies appeared to conform to the north-south (203, 208 and 807) and east-west (803 and 805) trend. This would imply that the features may have formed an integral part of the pattern across the Site.
- 4.6.25 It has also been possible to establish a deep stratigraphy to the intercutting features in **Test Pits 2** and **8**. This indicated quite a complex sequence of settlement re-development. However, the dating evidence from the pottery (**Section 5.2.7**) indicated a potentially short period of occupation, ranging from *c.*98AD to 138AD(+) suggesting rapid changes over a fairly short time scale. In **Test Pit 2** (**Figure 3**) the east-west ditch **205** truncated the earlier north-south ditch **210**/6 and both ditches were subsequently truncated by later gullies **203** and **208**. Similarly, in **Test Pit 8**, a southern gully terminus **807** was truncated by two east-west aligned linears **809** and **811**.
- 4.6.26 The evidence would suggest that the larger ditches and smaller gullies formed divisions and subdivisions within a larger settlement area and the deep stratigraphy observed in **Test Pits 2** and **8** indicate that the arrangement was fluid and open to change over time.



#### Discreet features (pits, posts and tree)

- Three pits within the area were revealed. Pit 2204 (Figure 10) contained no artefactual 4.6.27 dating evidence and was located to the east of the main feature concentration of Romano-British features (Figure 2) and has been included here due to its proximity to the settlement. The function of the pit remains unclear. Two pits (708 and 903) were located within the main concentration of features (Figure 2). Within the busiest archaeological area pit 708 (Figure 3) measured 1.2m diameter by 0.7m deep. Slightly undercut, the feature contained a high concentration of Romano-British period charred plant remains (Section 6.2.3), ceramic artefacts (Section 5.2), a possible oven plate (Section 5.3.2) and a Colchester-type brooch (Section 5.6.1). The much larger pit 903, measuring 3.7m in diameter by 0.85m deep (Figure 9), to the north of the main feature concentration contained a high proportion of animal bone which was undisturbed after deposition (Section 5.7). No datable artefacts were recovered from the pit; however, the environmental sample (Section 6.2.6) did recover a small quantity of cereal remains indicative of a Romano-British date. The pits were likely to be refuse pits indicating that the settlement occupiers practiced a separation of refuse types. The predominance of cattle is indicative of a local pastoral economy based on cattle farming (Section 5.7.7).
- 4.6.28 Three very shallow postholes (212, 606 and 712) located around the feature group (Figure 3) strongly indicated that structures (probably domestic) lay within the ditch and gully pattern.
- 4.6.29 **Test Pit 3** revealed a substantial hollow **304** measuring 4.2m x 3.4m x 0.7m deep. The fills **305** and **306** contained artefacts contemporary to the Romano-British settlement (**Section 5.2**) and the articulated lower right forelimb of a small horse (pony) (**Section 5.7.5**). Excavations revealed that the sides of the feature were variably sloped, leading to a highly irregular base which was much deeper in the middle. The lower gravel fill **305** was pitted by tree root hollows (**Plate 9**) filled by a grey silty clay **306**. The feature was interpreted as a large tree bowl.

#### Post-medieval evidence

- 4.6.30 Six test pits revealed evidence of post-medieval activity, not necessarily modern in its dating.
- 4.6.31 A single squared pit **103** in **Test Pit 1** (**Figure 3**) contained a high proportion of post-medieval pottery and glass bottles and jars (**Section 5**).
- 4.6.32 Test Pit 29 contained three intersecting ditches (2903, 2904 and 2905; Figure 8). Excavation revealed that no discernable difference between the fill types or cuts could be seen in section. The features represent a contemporary intersection of ditch boundaries; Clay pipe, and post medieval pottery (Section 5.3) recovered from ditch 2903 (fill 2907) confirm a relatively modern date for the feature. Similarly, Test Pit 28 revealed intersecting ditches (2804 and 2806) (Figure 10) with no discernable difference between the fills. Post-medieval pottery (Section 5.3) was recovered from fill 2805 in ditch 2804 indicated contemporaneity with the features in Trench 29. It is clear from the geophysical survey (Appendix 2, page ARC\_1026\_373\_05) that the features in both test pits may be related and the features probably formed part of fairly recent post-medieval land divisions. A single Mesolithic or Early Neolithic snapped flint blade was also recovered from fill 2805. It was heavily plough damaged and patinated (Section 5.2.5) and was probably residual within the fill given the post-medieval pottery recovered from the same feature.
- 4.6.33 **Test Pit 47** revealed a single 1.6m wide by 0.48m deep ditch **4703** aligned north to south (**Figures 2** and **10**). The fill **4704** contained animal bone and a well preserved iron sickle of probable post-medieval date (**Section 5.6.2**). The feature probably formed part of a



- more recent field system in of a localised area of open, relatively long grassland with some moving water within the ditch (**Section 6.5.5**).
- 4.6.34 **Test Pit 99** (**Figure 8**) revealed part of a northeast-southwest aligned ditch **9904** which contained a sherd of post-medieval (**Section 5**) pottery in fill **9905**. The ditch probably formed part of an earlier field boundary/drainage system.

#### 5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 An assemblage of moderate size was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from contexts in 19 of the test pits excavated. The assemblage is dominated by pottery and animal bone, with other material types restricted to just a few items. The assemblage is largely of Romano-British date, with a small post-medieval component.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**. The finds are discussed by material type below.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

	Animal	Flint			
Context	Bone	(No.)	Metal (No.)	Pottery	Other Finds
104		` ,	, ,	13/708	7 glass
106	3/310			14/2300	
209				5/192	
305	12/822			5/310	
704	23/186			111/3828	1 glass
707	15/220			5/166	
709	16/360		1 Cu	73/2363	
710	12/522			10/628	
711				4/300	
715	4/30				
808				13/748	
810	2/42			45/1508	
TR 8 U/S				10/182	
904	17/3220				
1404				1/42	
1606	3/56			1/40	
1705	2/1			1/4	
TR 22 U/S				1/2	
2805		1		1/50	
2907	23/308			2/124	5 clay pipe; 1 CBM
3504				1/30	
4401		2			
4404	2/270			1/70	
4704	4/82		1 Fe		
5304					1 fired clay
5608					4 CBM
9905				1/18	
13206				1/2	
U/S		11	1 Fe; 1 Pb	1/86	



١	TOTAL	138/6429	14	2 Fe; 1 Pb; 1 Cu	320/13701	
				-, -,		

CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron

#### 5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage (317 sherds) was sorted into fabrics and quantified by sherd count and weight per context. As an additional measure, vessels identifiable to form (mostly rim and base sherds) were recorded for each context by fabric. The pottery data was entered onto an Excel spreadsheet.

#### Romano-British

5.2.2 The Roman-British pottery assemblage comprises 300 sherds weighing 12635 grammes and 54 vessels were identified. The pottery derives from 16 contexts in 8 test pits (**Table 2**). In addition, just over a kilogram of post medieval pottery was recovered from seven test pits, though only one of these (**Test Pit 1**) also contained Roman pottery. **Test Pit 17** has a fragment of what appears to be daub. Most of the pottery and 43 of the vessels identified came from **Test Pits 7** and **8**. The condition of the pottery is generally good with few signs of abrasion. The average sherd weight is 42g.

Table 2: Roman pottery quantification by test pit

Test Pit	NoSh	%	Wgt	%	Forms
TP1	15	5	2316	18.3	6
TP2	5	1.7	192	1,5	2
TP3	5	1.7	310	2.5	2
TP7	203	67.7	7285	57.7	28
TP8	68	22.7	2438	19.3	15
TP17	1		4		
TP22	1		2		1
TP44	1		70		
US	1		18		
Total	300		12635		54

#### **Fabrics**

5.2.3 **Table 3** shows the fabrics or fabric groups. The only grog-tempered pottery is a hard cream ware. The shell-gritted ware varies in colour, mainly reddish brown or brown, though a few sherds are in a hard grey ware, perhaps over-fired or burnt. There is, however, a distinctive dark brown to black coloured shell gritted ware which has fairly sparse small shell inclusions. There are three broad categories of grey ware – one where the grey colour is consistent throughout, another which has grey or dark grey surfaces and a pale, almost white, core and a third which has darker grey surfaces and a lighter coloured or oxidised core or core edge.

Table 3: Roman pottery breakdown by fabric groups

Fabric	No. Sherds	%	Wt. (g)	%
Grog-tempered ware	6	2	332	2.6
Shelly wares	91	30.3	4747	37.6
Shelly ware (Bourne-Greetham)	6	2	898	7.1
Greywares	97	32.3	2248	17.8
LowerNeneValley greywares	45	15	2380	18.8
Dark greywares	8	2.7	672	5.3
Buff wares	3	1	82	0.6
Cream wares etc	32	10.7	1134	9



Fabric	No. Sherds	%	Wt. (g)	%
Reddish brown wares	5	1.7	54	0.4
Roughcast wares	2	0.7	12	
South Gaulish samian (SGS)	5	1.7	76	0.6
Total	300		12635	

5.2.4 The grey wares are quartz gritted. The amount of quartz is generally consistent and the grains are small in size and vary in colour from white and grey to multi-coloured. Some sherds with a coarser texture have more quartz grains. The ware which has grey or dark grey surfaces and a pale core has far less quartz grains. The buff sherds have multi-coloured quartz grains and have a coarse texture. The cream wares have a fabric similar to that which has grey or dark grey surfaces and a pale core. The roughcast ware sherds have a pale core and a brown colour coat. The only imported continental ware comprises sherds in South (SGS) samian ware.

#### Sources

5.2.5 The ware with grey or dark grey surfaces and a pale core is Lower Nene Valley Grey ware (LNVGW) and some of the other grey and cream wares are also likely to be products of the Lower Nene Valley industry (Perrin 1996, 116-18; 1999, 78-87, 108-12). The remaining quartz-gritted grey wares may be local products from kiln sites other than those associated with the Lower Nene Valley industry (Perrin 1996, 120-21), or perhaps from further afield, such as those around Cambridge, including Horningsea (Evans 1991; 2003; Hull and Pullinger 1999, 142). Vessels in the dark brown shell gritted ware which has fairly sparse small shell inclusions were manufactured at Bourne in Lincolnshire and Greetham in Rutland (Bolton 1968). The fabric of the buff ware is similar to that of the Verulamium industry, but pottery made at Godmanchester (Evans 2003) and at an unknown source or sources in the Upper Nene valley also has a similar fabric. The hard cream grog ware is also from an unknown source or sources in the Upper Nene valley. The roughcast ware beaker is either a Lower Nene Valley or Cologne product while the SGS vessels will have been produced at La Graufesenque.

#### Forms

5.2.6 Some 54 vessels were identified and **Table 4** shows their occurrence by fabric.

Table 4: Roman vessel form by fabric

Fabric	J	В	D	B/D	F	BKR	Total
Grog-tempered ware	1						1
Shelly wares	14		3				17
Shelly ware (Bourne-Greetham)	3						3
Greywares	15						15
Lower Nene Valley greywares	5		1	1			7
Dark greywares	1	1					2
Buff wares	1						1
Cream wares etc	1				2		3
Roughcast wares						1	1
South Gaulish samian (SGS)			3	1			4
Total	41	1	4	2	2	1	54

5.2.7 Jars account for almost three-quarters of the vessels and occur in a range of sizes including storage jars. Most of the jars have simple curved rims but everted and bead rims are also represented. Decoration mainly comprises neck, shoulder or girth grooves and/or



cordons but, among the grey ware jars, one vessel has burnished vertical chevrons on its neck, another has incised diagonal cuts on its shoulder while a third has a wide band of incised 'stabbed' or notched decoration around its girth. The grog ware jar has a narrow mouth. The dark grey ware bowl is an imitation of a samian form 37 and has incised decoration comparable to that found on 'London' ware vessels (*cf.* Perrin 1980). A dish in probable LNVGW has a plain rim with a groove and a chamfered base. The three dishes in shell-gritted ware have curved, inturned and lid-seated rims, respectively. The SGS dishes comprise forms 18, 36 and 36 or Curle 15. The only flagon which has an extant rim is a pinched-neck type.

#### Date

5.2.8 The range of fabrics and forms are suggestive of a late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>th</sup> century AD date range, perhaps Trajanic –Hadrianic.

#### Assemblage and occupation characteristics

5.2.9 The high average sherd weight of 42g is a result of the occurrence of one almost complete pot and several other vessels represented by large fragments. These suggest that the vessels were probably largely intact when they were deposited in the features from which they were recovered. The preponderance of jars together with the absence of amphorae and mortaria suggests fairly basic, utilitarian activity, though the bowls and dishes, the flagon and the beaker, do, however, suggest a domestic element, albeit rather limited. The lack of imports indicates that trade in ceramics was essentially locally orientated.

#### 5.3 Post-medieval

5.3.1 There are 20 post-medieval sherds. The majority comprise coarse redwares, all glazed, which are only broadly dated. These sherds came from ring gully **1403** (presumably intrusive in this context), ditch **1603**, **2804**, **2903** and **9904**, and hedgeline **3503**. A small sherd of Staffordshire-type marbled slipware (17th/18th century) came from cut **13204**, and a small group of modern wares (refined whitewares and feldspathic-glazed stoneware) from pit **103**.

#### 5.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and fired clay

- 5.4.1 One fragment of CBM from ditch **2903**, and four from ditch **5607**, are of post-medieval date and comprise brick fragments.
- 5.4.2 Six fragments of fired clay from Romano-British pit **708** have flat surfaces, and one piece has a chamfered edge. Their function is uncertain, although they could represent fragments of oven plate. A single small fragment from ditch **5303** is of unknown date and function.

#### 5.5 Worked flint

5.5.1 The fieldwork at the site produced a small assemblage of worked flints. The largest component comprised eight pieces from unstratified contexts and individual artefacts from ditch 2804 and topsoil context 4401 which were likely to be of mixed Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date. These include three small flake cores, a broken core, two broken flakes, a flake and a fragment of a retouched flake. Apart from one patinated piece all artefacts are unpatinated. The cores are all made from good quality flint that has clearly originated from the local gravel. This small assemblage may be from a range of post-glacial dates, although certain technological characteristics, principally platform preparation and core control suggest that some of the pieces, at least, are no later than the early Bronze Age.



- 5.5.2 However the most significant discoveries comprised five pieces of Palaeolithic date. All but one of these pieces was in a rolled and stained condition and was clearly derived from a source some distance from their point of discovery. This component included a broken fragment of a hand axe and a double side scraper. The remaining flake was in a sharp condition and had not been carried far from its original location. This flake could also be from the manufacture of a hand axe but could also be a by-product of prepared core (Levallois) technology.
- 5.5.3 The discovery of this Palaeolithic material is of interest. The area is mapped as March Gravels which were considered to be of littoral or marine origin (Keen *et al.* 1990) although this interpretation has been questioned in favour of them being fluvial deposits (Boreham *et al.* 2010). The date remains uncertain; the most recent studies attributing a date of Marine Isotope Stage (MSI) 9 (337 thousand years ago (kya) Bridgland *et al.* 1991) or MIS 7 (243 kya Langford *et al.* 2004).
- 5.5.4 The English Rivers Palaeolithic Survey (Wessex Archaeology 1996) recorded no Palaeolithic material from this area of the Nene Valley, which makes their recovery significant. Discoveries are nevertheless plentiful from areas mapped as Terraces 1 and 2 with material also shown from Terrace 3 in the area of Peterborough. The discovery of worked flints from Hill Farm supports the idea that the material was derived from a terrestrial source, related to the Nene valley gravels, but provides little additional information as to their deposition. The majority of these pieces are heavily rolled and are unquestionably reworked. The flake in a sharp condition remains the most interesting piece although in isolation is of limited value. It is quite probable that it was derived from a prepared core technology (Levallois). However this technology is understood to have appeared in Britain in MIS 9 and remained present into MIS 7, so may well have occurred in a little-derived state in the March Gravels at Hill Farm.
- 5.5.5 Context **2805** produced the proximal end of a snapped blade that has developed a white surface patina. Edge damage, which probably results from constant attrition in the plough soil, is present on all edges, which includes removal of the butt. This piece is probably of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.
- 5.5.6 Context **4401** (topsoil) contained an end scraper made on a flake and a piece of natural flint. The scraper was finished with direct retouch around the distal end and is likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

#### 5.6 Glass

- 5.6.1 Approximately one quarter of a Romano-British glass bead was recovered from ditch **703**. It is a translucent, slightly irregular annular bead in a greenish glass, of a type with a lengthy currency through the Romano-British period (Guido 1978, 66).
- 5.6.2 In addition, a small group of modern (19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> century) bottles and jars came from ditch **103**.

#### 5.7 Metalwork

- 5.7.1 The metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and lead. The single copper alloy object is an early Romano-British Colchester-type brooch, in abraded condition but complete. It was found in pit **708**.
- 5.7.2 Of the two iron objects, only was found in a stratified context this is part of a sickle blade from ditch **4703**, probably post-medieval. A modern peg was found unstratified.



5.7.3 The lead object comprises a small waste fragment, also found unstratified.

#### 5.8 Animal bone

5.8.1 The assemblage comprises 138 fragments (or 6.429kg) of animal bone; however once conjoins are taken into account this falls to just 102 fragments (**Table 5**). Bone was recovered from 14 separate Romano-British contexts located in 10 different test pits (**Test Pits 1**, **3**, **7-9**, **16-17**, **29**, **44** and **47**). A further 98 fragments (or 169g) of animal bone were retrieved from sample residues (not included in **Table 5**).

Table 5: Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	NISP
cattle	29
sheep/goat	9
pig	3
horse	9
cat	2
bird	1
Total identified	51
Total unidentified	149
Overall total	200

#### Methods

5.8.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and the following information recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a database and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

#### Results

- 5.8.3 Bone preservation across the Site is good to fair, and most fragments have intact cortical surfaces that show little sign of physical weathering. This indicates that soil conditions are favourable for the preservation of bone and that once deposited, bones remained largely undisturbed. The sieved bone assemblage is more fragmented than the hand-recovered assemblage.
- 5.8.4 Half of the fragments recovered from the Site are identifiable to species and skeletal element (**Table 6**). Cattle bones are common amongst the identified fragments and include both cranial and post-cranial elements. Several near complete cattle bone were recovered from pit **903**. The bones include a tibia, pelvis, two radii and three humeri, all from adult animals. All other identified species are represented by less than ten fragments each, they include, in order of relative abundance, sheep/goat, horse, pig and cat. The cat bones are from a juvenile animal and a few of the horse bones are complete and provide withers (or shoulder) height estimates of between 12 and 14.1 hands (i.e. ponies).
- 5.8.5 A small number of articulating units were identified during post-excavation. These include the cattle forelimb bones from context **904** and the juvenile cat bones mentioned above, but also the lower right forelimb of a horse from tree throw **304**.
- 5.8.6 Information relating to age, biometry and butchery is quite scarce (**Table 6**), and this limits the potential of the assemblage for further more detailed study.



Table 6: Animal bone: type and quantity of detailed information available for further more detailed study

Type of information	N
Age - Epiphyseal fusion	20
Age - mandible 2+ teeth	3
Biometric	7
Butchery	1

#### **Conclusions**

5.8.7 A small but well preserved assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the Site during the normal course of hand-excavation. Most of the identified remains belong to livestock species in particular cattle, although some horse and cat were also identified. Despite the small size of the assemblage it is at least possible to suggest that the local pastoral economy during the Romano-British period was primarily based on cattle-farming, especially since this fits with general trends from other sites in the area that produced larger and more informative assemblages of animal bone. For example Haddon near Peterborough (Baxter 2003) where cattle bones account for between 51%-66% (by phase) of all bones from livestock species.

#### **6** ENVIRONMENTAL

#### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A total of eight bulk samples were taken from a range of features of various dates within seven of the test pits to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can provide an indication of the significance of the environmental material and may assist in determining the likely importance of the archaeological site as a whole.
- 6.1.2 These samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal and break down into the following phase groups:

Table 7: Sample Provenance Summary

Phase	Test pit	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Romano-British	1	1	32	Ditch
	7	2	34	Ditch, Pit
Post-medieval	29	1	28	Ditch
Undated	9	1	30	Pit
	26	1	17	Ditch
	47	1	40	Ditch
	62	1	40	Layer
Totals		8	221	

- 6.1.3 A sub-sample was taken from the sample from **Test Pit 62** and was processed for the recovery of waterlogged remains.
- 6.1.4 A monolith was taken through the sedimentary sequence observed in **Test Pit 19**.



#### 6.2 Charred plant remains

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, the residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 5: Table 10**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.
- 6.2.2 The flots were generally large with relatively low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. The charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 6.2.3 High numbers of charred plant remains were recovered from pit **708** and ditch **703** of Romano-British date in **Test Pit 7**. The cereal remains included barley (*Hordeumvulgare*) grain fragments and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticumdicoccum/spelta*), grain, glume base and spikelet fork fragments. Some of the glume base fragments were identifiable as being those of spelt (*Triticumspelta*), while a few appeared to be more like those of emmer (*Triticumdicoccum*). The large weed seed assemblages included seeds of celtic bean (*Viciafaba*), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus*sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), runch (*Raphanusraphanistrum*), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). Other charred remains included shell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylusavellana*), buds, tuber fragments and fruit/parenchyma fragments. The small quantity of mineralised material included seeds of docks.
- 6.2.4 A smaller assemblage was recorded from Romano-British ditch **105** in **Test Pit 1**. The results were similar to those observed in the samples from **Test Pit 7**. The weed seeds included a seed of black bindweed (*Fallopiaconvolvus*).
- 6.2.5 The sample from the post-medieval ditch **2904** in **Test Pit 29** contained a few cereal remains and a high number of weed seeds. The small number of cereal remains included fragments of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and rachis fragments of barley. The weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass, bedstraw, field madder (*Sherardiaarvensis*), bur-reed (*Sparganium* sp.), goosefoot, sedge, orache (*Atriplex* sp.), persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.), stitchwort (*Stellaria* sp.), campion (*Silene* sp.) and buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.).
- 6.2.6 The weed seed assemblage observed in the sample from the undated pit **903** in **Test Pit 9** included seeds of goosefoot, sedge, rye-grass/fescue and docks. There were also possible stem/root fragments of heather (*Erica* sp.). The cereal remains within the sample may be indicative of a Romano-British or earlier date for the feature, but were only present in a small quantity.
- 6.2.7 A relatively high number of charred remains were recorded in the sample from the undated ditch **2603** in **Test Pit 26**. These included seeds of bur-reed, sedge, docks and goosefoot, and tuber and stem fragments.
- 6.2.8 The samples from the Romano-British features in **Test Pits 7** and **1** are indicative of crop processing and general settlement waste. The weed seeds are mainly those indicative of grassland, field margins and arable environments. There may be an indication of the exploitation of a number of different environments during the Romano-British period with the presence of runch, a species which is often found on sandier soils, sedge and spike-



- rush, typical of wetter ground and hazelnut shells, indicative of scrub/hedgerow environments.
- 6.2.9 Cereal remains of hulled wheat, both spelt and emmer, and barley have been recorded from Romano-British deposits on other sites in the area (Murphy 1997), such as at Maxey (Green 1985), Cambourne (Wright *et al* 2009), Little Thetford Ely (Stevens 1996) and along Ermine Street (Monckton 1998).

#### 6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Appendix 5: Table 10. Large quantities of wood charcoal fragments greater than 4mm were retrieved from Romano-British ditch 105 in Test Pit 1 and pit 708 and ditch 703 in Test Pit 7. There were also moderate quantities observed in the samples from post-medieval ditch 2904 in Test Pit 29 and undated peat layer 6202 in Test Pit 62. The wood charcoal pieces include fragments of round and mature wood.

#### 6.4 Waterlogged plant remains

6.4.1 A sub-sample of one litre was taken from the bulk sample from the humified peaty layer 6202 in Test Pit 62 and was processed for the recovery of waterlogged remains. Laboratory flotation was undertaken with the flot retained on a 0.25mm mesh and the residue on a 0.5mm mesh. The residue and flot were stored in sealed containers with water (rather than Industrial methylated spirits in case material is required for dating). The larger fraction (>5.6mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded. The flot was visually inspected under a x10 to x40 stereo-binocular microscope to determine if waterlogged material occurred. Preliminary identifications of dominant taxa, was conducted and is presented in the table below.

Table 8: Waterloaged Material

- rabic of trateriogged material				
Test Pit	Tr 62			
Feature Type	Layer			
Context	6202			
Sample	109			
Volume	1 litre			
Flot size	450 ml			
Polygonum sp.	+			
Fallopia convolvus	+			
Rubussp.	+			
Carex sp.	+			
Root/stem frags	+			
Wood frags	+			

Key: + = present in low levels

6.4.2 Low numbers of waterlogged weed seeds were observed in the waterlogged sample from the undated layer **6202**. These included seeds of knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp.), black bindweed, bramble (*Rubus*sp) and sedge. This assemblage may be indicative of a localised area of scrub with damp grass.

#### 6.5 Land and aquatic molluscs

6.5.1 Molluscs were observed in four of the eight bulk samples, generally in low numbers. The flots (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a  $\times$  10 -  $\times$  40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences



- according to Kerney (1999). The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape.
- 6.5.2 The small number of snails observed in the sample from the Romano-British ditch **105** in **Test Pit 1** included shells of *Cepaea* sp. and *Trochulushispidus*, land snails of the intermediate group, together with those of the aquatic species *Lymnaea* sp. and *Bithynia* sp. This small assemblage may be indicative of some localised moving water within the ditch with grassland nearby.
- The sample from Romano-British pit **708** in **Test Pit 7** contained low numbers of molluscs. These shells included those of the intermediate species *Trochulushispidus*, the shadeloving species *Merdigeraobscura* and *Clausiliabidentata*, the moving-water species *Valvatacristata* and the amphibious species *Anisusleucostoma*. This small assemblage may possible show the presence of areas of grassland and woodland/scrub or hedgerows in the vicinity of the pit, with occasional areas of flooding.
- 6.5.4 The small assemblage recovered from the post-medieval ditch **2904** in **Test Pit 29** included a few shells of the intermediate species *Trochulushispidus* and the open country species *Vallonia* sp.
- 6.5.5 A high number of shells were retrieved from the undated ditch **4703** in **Test Pit 47**. These included the open country species *Vallonia* spp. and *Vertigo* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulushispidus*, *Cepaea* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Vitrinapellucida*, the shade-loving species *Carychium* sp. and *Oxychiluscellarius*, and the moving-water species *Bithynia* sp. and *Lymnaea sp.*. This assemblage may be indicative of a localised area of open relatively long grassland in the vicinity of the ditch, with some moving water within it.

#### 6.6 Sediments

- 6.6.1 One monolith (101) was taken from a sequence exposed in **Test Pit 19**, in order to clarify the formation processes represented, and to assess the archaeological and/ or palaeo-environmental potential of the deposits present.
- 6.6.2 The monolith was cleaned prior to recording and standard descriptions used, (following Hodgson 1997) including Munsell colour, texture, structure and nature of boundaries, as given below in **Appendix 4: Table 9.**
- 6.6.3 The sequence as a whole shows the Oxford clay geology to have been deformed and involuted by cryoturbative processes during the Pleistocene. These involutions were subsequently infilled by fine sand, and then overlain by coarser sand with gravel. The sequence is overlain by the modern soil profile.

#### Aeolian (cover) sand

6.6.4 The cryoturbative involution feature is seen to be filled with fine, well sorted sand, which is likely to represent wind-blown (Aeolian) cover sand material, also of Pleistocene date.

#### March Gravels

- 6.6.5 This infilled cryoturbative feature was overlain by a moderately well sorted coarse sand with small gravel. This layer also contained mollusc shell fragments which were very well worn but overall were suggestive of marine origin due to the thickness of the shells. This, and the level above OD, suggests that this layer is likely to represent March Gravels.
- 6.6.6 The March Gravels form a series of ridges or low islands above the Flandrian sediments of the Fens. They cover an area in excess of 50km square, in a band about 10km wide



- north to south, which extends from Peterborough in the west to Manea in the east. The sediments were laid down in brackish water conditions and a temperate environment during a late Pleistocene temperate stage.
- 6.6.7 However, it is possible that the material may represent March Gravels which have been eroded locally and subsequently redeposited by fluvial activity in the late Pleistocene or early Holocene.

#### **Conclusions**

6.6.8 The sequence is of Pleistocene date, and no artefacts are associated with the sampled deposits.

#### 6.7 Small animal and fish bones

During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal and fish bones were noted, and recorded (**Appendix 5: Table 10**), in a number of the flots. The fish bones included vertebrae and scales and were observed in the samples from Romano-British pit **708** and ditch **703** in **Test Pit 7**.

#### 6.8 Further potential

#### Charred plant remains

6.8.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages from Romano-British pit **708** and ditch **703** in **Test Pit 7** has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement, the local environment, and local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques.

#### Wood charcoal

6.8.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal would provide information on the species composition, and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site and how this changed over time.

#### Waterlogged plant remains

- 6.8.3 Further analysis of the waterlogged plant remains from the peat layer has the potential to provide some information on the nature of the local landscape. This is of limited value while the peat layer is undated.
- 6.8.4 A sequence of samples from a representative section in this area taken from a core as part of the geoarchaeological auger survey of the area (Wessex Archaeology forthcoming) is likely to provide a better interpretation of the local environment and wider landscape and how this changed over time rather than this individual spot sample.

#### Land and aquatic molluscs

6.8.5 Further analysis of the mollusc assemblage from ditch **4703** in **Test Pit 47** has the potential to help define the nature of the local landscape in the vicinity of the ditch and of the aquatic environment. This is of limited value as it is a single sample from an undated feature.

#### 6.9 Aims and methods - Environmental

#### Charred plant remains

6.9.1 It is proposed that the charred plant assemblages from Romano-British pit **708** and ditch **703** in **Test Pit 7** should be considered for analysis if any further work on the Site is carried out.



- 6.9.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils would be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification would be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They would be quantified and the results tabulated.
- 6.9.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in **Appendix 5: Table 10**.

#### Wood charcoal

6.9.4 No further work is proposed on the wood charcoal from these samples at this stage.

#### Waterlogged plant remains

6.9.5 No further work is proposed on this sample.

#### Land and aquatic molluscs

6.9.6 No further work is proposed on these samples.

#### **Sediments**

6.9.7 No further work is proposed.

#### 6.10 Recommendations for Future Sampling

- 6.10.1 Samples should be taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and wood charcoal where permitting from phased features, especially any arising and related to settlement activities and/or structures. Features that are specifically related to burning activities, such as cremations, should also be sampled. Generally samples should be taken covering as wider range of feature types, and phases as possible. Where available deposits permit, sample size should be of 30 to 40 litres from individual, secure contexts.
- 6.10.2 Samples should be taken for the recovery of waterlogged remains from waterlogged deposits associated with archaeological activities, such as waterlogged ditches and waterholes. Sequences of two litre contiguous samples, generally at 10 cm intervals but respecting context boundaries, should be taken with accompanying monoliths from these features. In addition bulk samples should also be taken from the main waterlogged deposits within these sequences.
- 6.10.3 Mollusc preservation is patchy on the site. It appears to be particularly good in the area around **Test Pit 47**. Columns of snail samples should be taken through a selection of any suitable phased deep features, such as enclosure ditches or palaeo-channels, to provide information on the nature of the local landscape and aquatic environments.

#### 7 DISCUSSION

#### 7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 137 test pits targeted on geophysical anomalies from the results of a geophysical survey previously undertaken on the Site (PSI 2012). Two of the test pits were not excavated due to health and safety considerations.



- 7.1.2 The underlying natural geology across the Site varied from clayey, sand/gravels towards the north-eastern corner of the Site to variably mottled grey/orange-yellow gleyed silty clays to the west and south. The expected peat formations were only evident as a very thin (c. 0.4m maximum) layer in a small pocket at the northwestern corner of the Site. The interface between the overlying topsoil and the natural was sharp and some evidence of ploughing, hedge burning, burning and marl trenching was evident from the agricultural activity taking place on Site.
- 7.1.3 43 of the test pits were archaeologically blank, with 42 test pits containing evidence of natural and geological activity in the form of shallow paleochannels and modern farming disturbance in the form of marl test pits, hedge lines and burning.
- 7.1.4 5 Palaeolithic flints were recovered from the surface of the topsoil, located over the spur of March gravels at the north-eastern corner of the Site.
- 7.1.5 Elsewhere, prehistoric, Romano-British settlement and post-medieval land boundary evidence was revealed at the north, central and northeastern part of the Site. The evidence was located predominantly on a higher ridge of the Site, over an underlying spur of relatively free draining natural (March) gravel.

#### 7.2 Conclusions

#### Palaeolithic flints

7.2.1 The 5 Palaeolithic flints that were recovered from the surface of the topsoil were probably brought to the surface by the action of repeated ploughing from the underlying gravel deposit. The location of the flints correlated with the underlying geological deposit noted as "March Gravels Member - Sand And Gravel"

(http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html.).

- 7.2.2 The deposit is listed as a superficial deposit formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary period in a local environment previously dominated by shorelines with sediments deposited in beaches and barrier islands. Recent work (Bridgland et al. 1991, Langford et al. 2004) has attributed dates from 337 to 243 kya to the formation of the deposit. The environmental evidence uncovered marine shells but cautioned that the deposit may have been subsequently redeposited locally by fluvial activity in the late Pleistocene or early Holocene. Indications from the auger survey (Wessex Archaeology 2014) also indicated possible deposition of the gravels in a marine or littoral environment together with the addition of material that was fluvial in origin.
- 7.2.3 It was apparent from the assessment that four of the flints were rolled and patinated to such a degree that they must have been transported to their current location from a different source within the gravels. The potential Levellois flake was much sharper suggesting it had not been transported as far and was therefore more locally sourced.
- 7.2.4 Given the relative paucity of Palaeolithic material in the country the retrieval of five flints from above this gravel spur may be of national significance. It is likely that the underlying gravel spur contain more of these artefacts. From the available evidence, it seems likely that the gravels containing the flints is not an *in-situ* formation rather being a littoral deposit, fluvially deposited from elsewhere locally.

#### Prehistoric curvilinear features

7.2.5 From the available evidence it is unclear at this stage whether the curvilinear features related to Bronze Age funerary monuments (barrows) or prehistoric hut circle gullies. The



majority of the features fall within the acceptable range of hut circles (5 - 15m diameter) and the smaller end of the barrow size (3 - 15m diameter). There was no evidence of postholes or human remains associated with the gullies but both may have been lost through ploughing.

- 7.2.6 Two of the test pits indicated that the features may have related to domestic structures. In **Test Pit 17** it was revealed that the circular gully **1704** cut through an earlier area of heat affected soil **1706**, interpreted as a hearth (**Plate 10**). It was felt that any internal cremation area sometimes associated with barrows would have taken place on the former ground surface and that this would have left less trace than a domestic hearth which may have been buried deeper within the former land surface. A fragment of daub (**Section 5.2.2**) recovered from the fill also suggests that the feature may have related to a post-built, wattle and daub house structure.
- 7.2.7 A second indication of domestic structure was revealed in **Test Pit 111** where two features **11103** and **11105** crossed each other, indicating an earlier and later relationship (which could not be established from the available shallow fill evidence) (**Figure 7**). It was considered less likely that a later barrow would have cut through the remains of an earlier such feature, if it was at all visible at the time.
- 7.2.8 It is also possible that some of the features could have related to the ditches around barrow monuments. The features do appear to be located around the marginal edges of the March Gravels on the ridge of higher ground. This higher, liminal area between the land and water would have formed an significant location for the deposition of the dead. The Site also lies to the immediate east of the Borough Fen Barrowfield (Prior 1991).
- 7.2.9 Only one of the features **1403** contained an artefact dating to post medieval period, which may counter the interpretation of the feature as a hut circle or barrow. Any future dating evidence relating to the features would be essential in resolving the question of functional interpretation beyond doubt. Any expansion of the areas around the features to; excavate and recover dating evidence, find domestic structure evidence such as hearths and postholes coupled with research into the surrounding Bronze and Iron Age activity in the locality will help to resolve this issue.

#### **Ditches**

7.2.10 The majority of these features appear to be unrelated within the wider landscape setting. It seems likely that the features represent smaller pockets of occupation, drainage and land division/use in a wider (probably partially wet) environment. The majority of these features lacked any dating evidence with which to relate them to each other. Where these could be related by dating (in Test Pits 16, 28, 29, 35, 56, pp and 132) the evidence suggests that they date to the post-medieval and modern period. However, it is possible that where the ditches appear close to probable prehistoric features, that they may be of similar date range. It seems likely that the ditches form a wide palimpsest of features covering the latter part of the prehistoric period through to modern times.

#### Romano-British settlement

7.2.11 The Romano-British features were concentrated within a 250m² area in the north-eastern part of the Site, above the gravel spur. The evidence consisted of a series of small ditches and gullies on a predominantly north-south/east-west axis suggesting organisation of space in small enclosures. Three postholes within the Site were indicative of post built structures within the enclosures. Two refuse pits were also revealed; one filled with animal bones and one with a high proportion of ceramics and a brooch. The type of pottery, coupled with refuse pits and postholes within small enclosures is indicative of continual settlement on the Site.



- 7.2.12 The possibility that the larger ditches and smaller gullies may point to subdivisions within the larger settlement and the deep stratigraphy observed in **Test Pits 2** and **8** indicate that the arrangement was fluid and open to change. The artefactual evidence suggests that the settlement was occupied during the late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> century (Trajanic/Hadrianic c.98AD to 138 AD) period, indicating that this may have occurred over a fairly short time period. A closer analysis of the artefacts recovered from the fills will help to further refine the phasing of chronological sequences.
- 7.2.13 The data on the whole are suggestive of a settlement set within a localised grassland, with moving water nearby. The Site economy appears to involve a predominant reliance on cattle with cereal production and the exploitation of a number of different environmental resources.

#### 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

#### 8.1 Museum

8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under a relevant the accession code. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

#### 8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared

#### 8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

#### 8.4 Security copy

In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



#### 9 REFERENCES

#### 9.1 Bibliography

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#### 10 APPENDICES

## 10.1 Appendix 1:Context checklist

Context	Туре	Description
No		
101	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay, sparse angular flint.
102	Natural	Light brown with orange hue sandy silt. Frequent Coarse gravel
103	Modern	Modern ditch approx. 4m long.
	Feature	
104	Deliberate	Sandy silt fill with modern glass and pottery recovered.
	backfill	
105	Ditch	North-South Romano-British ditch.
106	Secondary fill	Mid Brown Silty clay with high proportion of Romano-British pottery
		and one whole Saxon pot. Object <101>.
107	Ditch	Terminus of ditch caught in trench section. Appears to be associated
		with [105].
108	Tertiary	Fill of ditch Ploughed in topsoil,
	deposit	
201	Topsoil	Dark Brown silty clay.
202	Subsoil	Orange brown clay loam
203	Gully	Linear gully NE - SW cutting [205]
204	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown clay-silt Clear horizon no finds.
205	Ditch	East - West ditch, cut by [203] & [208]
206	Secondary fill	Light brown clay silt. No finds Clear Horizon.
207	Natural	Light orange brown, clay loam.
208	Gully	NE - SW Romano - British linear cutting [205] & [210].
209	Secondary fill	Dark brown clay silt with single fragment of Romano - British pottery.
		Clear horizon
210	Ditch	NE - SW ditch cut by [208]
211	Secondary fill	Mid greyish Brown clay silt with no finds, clear horizon.
212	Posthole	Circular shallow cut.
213	Secondary fill	Light mottled brown silt clay. No finds, clear horizon.
214	Ditch	East - West ditch same as [205]
215	Secondary fill	Light mottled brown silt clay. No finds, clear horizon.
216	Ditch	NE-SW linear ditch same as [210]
217	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown with orange hue clay silt fill of ditch. No finds, clear
		horizon.
301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty- clay
302	Subsoil	Orangey brown clay silt.
303	Natural	Sandy coarse gravel yellowish red.
304	Tree throw	Tree Bowl with 2 fills pottery and bone from fills.
305	Secondary fill	Lower reddish brown sandy - clay fill of tree bowl. Containing single
200	Canada Cu	fragment of Saxon pottery and numerous animal bone fragments.
306	Secondary fill	Grey silt-clay upper fill. Containing frequent pottery and animal bone.
401	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay.
402	Subsoil	Patchy light orange brown sand-silt
403	Natural	Light yellowish orange coarse sand.
501	Topsoil	Light grey brown silt clay.
502	Subsoil	Light orange brown sand-silt



Context	Туре	Description
No		
503	Natural	Gravel with Mid orange brown sand matrix
504	Modern Feature	Modern machine cut.
505	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of machine cut.
601	topsoil	Light grey brown silt clay.
602	Subsoil	Light orange brown silty clay.
603	Ditch	NE - SW linear ditch. Single fill
604	Secondary fill	Mid brown silt sand fill of ditch. No finds clear horizon
605	Natural	Orange clay
606	Posthole	Shallow post hole with single fill.
607	Secondary fill	Dark brown silty clay, inclusions of burnt clay. No finds, clear horizon,
701	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt loam.
702	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
703	Ditch	Terminus of ditch or could be pit in W edge of trench. Four fills.
704	Secondary fill	Dark greyish brown clay loam. Pottery present.
705	Secondary fill	Light orange brown loamy sand. Slumping from edges.
706	Secondary fill	Mid orangey brown sandy clay. Formed by erosion of sides.
707	Secondary fill	Dark greyish brown clay loam large quantities of pottery and sparse animal bone.
708	Pit	Sub circular refuse pit. With three fills containing Roman pottery and a Roman Brooch.
709	Deliberate backfill	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam. Animal bone and Roman pot present.
710	Deliberate backfill	Light grey silt loam, with ash and charcoal and roman pottery and animal bone.
711	Primary fill	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Initial fill in pit mixed with disturbed natural from the base.
712	Pit	Sub circular pit of unknown function. Unknown relationship with [708].
713	Secondary fill	Mid orange brown sandy silt loam. No finds.
714	Pit	Pit partially out of east edge of trench. Single fill with animal bone, possible midden pit.
715	Secondary fill	Dark brownish grey sandy silt loam. Some animal bone.
801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
802	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
803	Ditch	Linear ditch cut running East - West. Single fill
804	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silt sand. No finds. Diffuse horizon.
805	Gully	Shallow East - West linear Parallel with [803]
806	Secondary fill	Mid orange brown silt clay. No finds, clear horizon.
807	Ditch	Romano - British North South Linear cut by [809] and [811]. Shallow with single fill.
808	Deliberate backfill	Mid brown sandy clay. Frequent Romano-British pottery. Clear Horizon.
809	Ditch	Romano British, East - West linear cutting [808]
810	Deliberate backfill	Dark Greyish Brown Silt-Clay. Abundant Romano British pottery.
811	Ditch	North South linear, very shallow. Single fill Cutting [807]
	1	



Context No	Туре	Description
812	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. No finds.
901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt loam.
902	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
903	Pit	Probable midden pit containing two fills.
904	Secondary fill	Greyish brown silt clay. Lower fill of pit containing large quantities of
		unarticulated animal bone
905	Deliberate	Mid dark brown silt clay. Probable closing event containing charcoal
	backfill	and burnt material.
1001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
1002	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1003	Gully	North - South Linear. Single shallow fill.
1004	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silt clay.
1101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay
1102	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay
1202	Natural	Orange sandy clay.
1301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
1302	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1303	Ditch	Terminus of ditch with single fill.
1304	Secondary fill	Dark Brown silt clay. No finds clear horizon.
1401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
1402	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1403	Ring Gully	Ring ditch with extrapolated diameter of 10.44m. Possible roundhouse or barrow.
1404	Secondary fill	Mid grey sandy silt. With single sherd of glazed pottery.
1501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
1502	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
1602	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1603	Ditch	Curvilinear terminus Running East - West cutting [1605]
1604	Ditch	Linear terminus with single fill.
1605	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch cut by [1603]
1606	Secondary fill	Mid brown silty sand. No finds, diffuse horizon
1607	Secondary fill	Dark brown silty clay. No finds, clear horizon
1608	Secondary fill	Mid brown silty clay. No finds, clear horizon
1701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
1702	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1703	Primary fill	Mid orange sandy clay. Burnt natural within hearth.
1704	Gully	Curvilinear gully running ENE to North. Probable Roundhouse.
1705	Secondary fill	Black silty clay containing animal bone and burnt clay.
1706	Hearth	Sub circular cut containing burnt natural within a circular gully
		delineating a Round house.
1801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
1802	Natural	Mid yellow brown coarse sand and gravel.
1803	Tree throw	Large tree throw initially thought to be a pit. No archaeological remains



Context No	Туре	Description
1804	Secondary fill	Mid grey brown loam with no finds. Clear horizon.
1901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam.
1902	Subsoil	Light yellow orange silty sand.
1903	Subsoil	Layered gravel with sand matrix.
1904	Subsoil	Fine layered sand.
1905	Subsoil	Dark grey with yellow streaks clay. Oxford clays.
1906	Subsoil	Light brown soft sand.
1907	Natural	Oxford clay. Dark grey clay
2001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam.
2002	Natural	Yellow brown sandy clay.
2101	topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam.
2102	Subsoil	Dark brown silty clay loam.
2103	Natural	Light yellow brown clay
2104	Posthole	Circular Post hole with fills suggesting the post was burnt in situ
2105	Post	Black silty sand. Ashy deposit in posthole. Remains of burnt post.
2106	Tertiary deposit	Orangey red silty sand heat affected fill.
2107	Deliberate backfill	Greenish yellow clay. Packing around post.
2108	Deliberate backfill	Dark reddish grey clay silt. Post packing in Southern half of post hole.
2109	Primary fill	Mid reddish grey clay silt. Lower fill in post hole below post.
2201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
2202	Subsoil	Interface layer of gravely sand.
2203	Natural	mid yellow brown - light yellow marbled sand.
2204	Pit	Sub circular pit of unknown origin and date.
2205	Primary fill	Dark greyish brown sandy silt. No finds, clear horizon.
2206	Secondary fill	Pale grey clay. Possibly sealing pit. No finds, clear horizon.
2301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
2302	Natural	Light yellow sandy clay
2303	Ditch	East - West linear with single fill. Possible field boundary
2304	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. No finds.
2305	Gully	North - south small shallow curvi linear possible ringditch.
2306	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty sand, no finds, diffuse horizons.
2401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.
2402	Subsoil	Dark brown sandy silt.
2403	Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy silt clay.
2501	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
2502	Natural	Orange sandy silt.
2601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
2602	Natural	Mid yellow coarse sandy silt with blue clay patches.
2603	Ditch	SE-NW linear.
2604	Secondary fill	Mid grey brown clay loam with charcoal and burnt clay.
2701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
2702	Natural	Light yellow coarse sandy silt with blue clay patches.
2801	topsoil	Dark brown silty loam



Context No	Туре	Description
2802	Subsoil	Dark brown silty loam
2803	Natural	Dark yellow brown sandy silt.
2804	Ditch	West - North curvilinear with flat base. Cut by [2806]
2805	Secondary fill	Dark brown grey hued, silty sand. Single pot sherd and single flint.
2806	Ditch	NW - SE Linear with flat bottom cutting [2804].
2807	Secondary fill	Dark brown grey hued, silty sandy silt. No finds diffuse horizon with (2805).
2901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt.
2902	Natural	Mid yellow silt.
2903	Ditch	Post med field drain running E-W with contemporary tributary ditches
		2904 and 2905 adjoining from the north and east.
2904	Cut	N-S ditch joining 2904 and 2905
2905	Cut	E-W ditch joining 2903 and 2904
2906	Secondary fill	Yellow brown clay loam, main fill of [2903]
2907	Deliberate	Mid brown yellow silty loam with post med artefacts; bone, pipe and
	backfill	pottery. Purposeful rubbish deposition in ditch.
2908	Secondary fill	Mid brown clay loam, in base of ditch. No finds.
2909	Natural	Gravel.
3001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
3002	Natural	Yellow silty clay.
3003	Beam slot	North - South linear. Alongside three other beam slots.
3004	Beam slot	North - South linear. Alongside three other beam slots.
3005	Beam slot	East west linear. cutting three other beam slots.
3006	Beam slot	North - South linear. Alongside three other beam slots. Probable continuation of [3004]
3007	Secondary fill	Dark brown grey hued, silty clay. No finds.
3008	Secondary fill	Dark brown grey hued, silty clay. No finds.
3009	Fill	Dark brown grey hued, silty clay. No finds.
3010	Fill	Dark brown grey hued, silty clay. No finds.
3101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
3102	Natural	Mid yellow silt with yellow clay patches.
3201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
3202	Natural	Mid yellow silt with yellow clay patches.
3301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
3302	Natural	Mid yellow silt with yellow clay patches.
3401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay.
3402	Natural	Orange-yellow mottled clay
3403	Gully	North - South Linear
3404	Secondary fill	Dark brown silty clay, no finds, clear horizon.
3501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam.
3502	Natural	Light yellow clay.
3503	Natural Feature	North - South linear possible burnt out hedge line.
3504	Tertiary deposit	Dark burnt remains in hedge line. Post medieval pottery.
3505	Natural Feature	North south irregular linear. Possible hedge line.



Context	Туре	Description
No		
3506	Tertiary deposit	Burnt remains of hedge line or possible burnt peat.
3507	Cut	Void
3508	Fill	Void
3601	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam
3602	Natural	Mid yellow sandy silt.
3701	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay.
3701	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay.
3702	Natural	Orange yellow mottled clay
3704	Ditch	NW - SE large curvilinear ditch. 55.25m extrapolated diameter.
3704	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. With patches of redeposited natural. No
	·	finds.
3801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
3802	Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy silt and darker bluer clay.
3803	Bioturbation	Area of bioturbation originally believed to be an archaeological feature.
3804	Bioturbation	Area of bioturbation originally believed to be an archaeological
		feature.
3901	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay.
3902	Natural	Orange silty clay.
4001	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay.
4002	Natural	Orange silty clay.
4101	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay
4102	Natural	Yellowish orange sandy clay.
4201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
4202	Natural	Orange and blue, sandy clay.
4203	Modern Feature	Modern machine cut.
4204	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of modern machine cut
4205	Modern Feature	Modern drain cut.
4206	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of modern drain cut.
4207	Modern Feature	Modern drain cut.
4208	Deliberate	Backfill of modern drain cut.
7200	backfill	Backini oi illouetti utain cut.
4301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
4302	Natural	Mid grey brown sandy clay.
4302	Gully	North - South Curvilinear
4304	Secondary fill	Mid greyish Brown clay silt. Alluvial and colluvium deposition. No finds.
4305	Modern	Modern drain cut.
	Feature	
4306	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of modern drain cut.
4401	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown loam



Context No	Туре	Description
4402	Natural	Mid yellowish orange silty clay
4403	Ditch	NW - SE linear cutting ditch [4405]
4404	Secondary fill	Mid brown silty clay. No finds, clear horizon.
4405	Ditch	Shallow linear running North - South. Cut by [4403]
4406	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt. Containing Romano British pot base and
	,	animal bone. Clear horizon.
4501	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown loam
4502	Natural	Yellowy orange sandy clay.
4601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.
4602	Subsoil	Mid orange brown, mixed topsoil and natural probably by ploughing.
4603	Natural	Yellow orange sand and gravel.
4701	Topsoil	Dark yellowish grey loam.
4702	Natural	Orange sandy clay
4703	Ditch	North - South linear. Probable medieval field boundary.
4704	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay formed by silting. Containing animal
	,	bone, shell and an iron sickle. <108>
4801	Topsoil	Dark yellowish grey loam
4802	Natural	Orange sandy clay
4803	Gully	North - South curvilinear gully
4804	Secondary fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with clay and peat element.
4901	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown loam
4902	Natural	Mid orange sandy clay with patches of grey clay.
4903	Gully	Shallow, Curvilinear running SW to NE. Probably drainage
4904	Secondary fill	Black silty clay. Silting of gully.
5001	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown loam
5002	Natural	Orange sandy clay
5003	Ditch	North - South Curvilinear ditch turning nearly 90 degrees at edge of trench.
5004	Secondary fill	Light brown with reddish hue silt clay. No finds and clear horizon.
5101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
5102	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay.
5103	Ditch	SE to NW Linear.
5104	Secondary fill	Dark brown silt. No finds.
5201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
5202	Natural	Light brown sandy clay.
5301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown loam
5302	Natural	Orange yellow mottled clay sand
5303	Ditch	Terminus of shallow ditch.
5304	Secondary fill	Black silty clay, silting of ditch containing burnt/fired clay and one very small pot sherd.
5401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
5402	Natural	Mottled orange/grey sandy clay.
5403	Gully	East - West Curvilinear,
5404	Secondary fill	Dark brown silty clay. No finds, clear horizon.
5501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
5502	Natural	Light brown clay.



Context No	Туре	Description
5601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
5602	Subsoil	Dark brown silty interface between topsoil and natural.
5603	Natural	Mid brown silt. West side.
5604	Natural	Light brown clay. East side.
5605	Ditch	East - West modern linear Cutting [5607]
5606	Secondary fill	Mid orangey brown silty sand. With burnt clay throughout.
5607	Ditch	Modern linear feature cut by [5605]
		,
5608	Secondary fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Containing modern CBM. Clear horizon.
5701	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown silty clay.
5702	Natural	Greyish yellow-orange clay
5703	Gully	Ring gully. Roughly half of extent found within trench. Possible small roundhouse 6m - 7m diameter
5704	Secondary fill	Light greyish brown silt clay. No finds.
5801	Topsoil	yellow brown loam
5802	Natural	Orange yellow mottled sandy clay
5803	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch.
5804	Secondary fill	Fill of ditch.
5901	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown silty clay.
5902	Natural	Yellow/grey and orange mottled clay.
5903	Ditch	SSW - NNE linear. Heavily waterlogged. Cut by [5906]
5904	Secondary fill	Light yellow grey sandy clay. Underlying (5905).
5905	Tertiary	Burning event overlying (5904).
	deposit	
5906	Ditch	North - South linear. Cutting [5903].
5907	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish brown clay silt. No finds.
6001	Topsoil	Dark brown silt.
6002	Natural	Light brown clay
6101	Topsoil	Dark yellow brown silty clay.
6102	Natural	Greyish yellow orange clay
6103	Natural	Peat with clay bands.
6104	Natural	Orange grey mottled clay.
	-	
6201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
6202	Subsoil	Peaty organic soil.
6203	Natural	Very light brown clay.
6301	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown clay silt.
6302	Natural	Orange clay sand.
6303	Modern	East - West Curvilinear modern drain.
6204	Feature	Post has stabilist and
6304	Deliberate	Dark brownish black peat.
	backfill	
6305	Modern	Modern drain
	Feature	
6306	Deliberate	Mid blue black peat.
	backfill	
6401	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown silty clay.
6402	Natural	Grey & orange mottled clay.
6501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam



Context	Туре	Description
No 6502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty loam and clay.
6503	Natural	Mid brown sandy clay
6504	Paleochannel	East - West Paleochannel
6505	Secondary fill	Dark brown fill of Paleochannel
6601	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown silty clay.
6602	Natural	Grey orange mottled clay
6603	Natural	Peat deposit.
6701	Topsoil	Dark brown silt
6702	Natural	Light brown silty clay.
6703	Pit	Small irregular post hole/pit.
6704	Secondary fill	Dark brown silty clay. No finds.
6801	topsoil	Mid-dark yellow grey silty clay.
6802	Natural	Grey and yellow mottled clay.
6901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
6902	Natural	Light brown clay.
7001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt.
7002	Natural	Mid yellow and light grey silt with some clay
7003	Ditch	East - West linear probably drainage ditch.
7004	Secondary fill	Dark grey brown sandy silt. No finds.
7005	Ditch	NE - SW linear. Only small proportion visible in trench.
7006	Secondary fill	Dark blueish black silt. Natural silting. No finds.
7101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt.
7102	Natural	Mixed yellow and grey silt and clay.
7103	Ditch	Linear Marling trench
7104	Secondary fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay.
7201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam
7202	Natural	Light brown sand
7203	Natural	Striations of peat.
7204	Natural	Striations of yellow sand and gravel mixed with grey blue clay.
7301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown loam.
7302	Natural	Orange yellow mottled clay
7303	Natural	Shallow water channel.
	Feature	
7304	Secondary fill	Gradual silting forming dark greyish brown sandy silt.
7305	Ditch	Linear Marling trench
7306	Backfill	Dark brown sandy silt backfill.
7401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay
7402	Natural	Light brown grey sandy clay.
7403	Ditch	East - West linear.
7404	Secondary fill	Dark brown silt. No finds.
7501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt
7502	Natural	Mid brownish yellow silt with blue clay.
7503	Ring Gully	South - North curvilinear part of ring ditch.
7504	Secondary fill	Dark reddish brown sandy clay silt
7601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt.
7602	Natural	Dark yellow silt.



No7603DitchMarling ditch - Modern7604DitchMarling ditch - Modern7605DitchMarling ditch - Modern7606Secondary fillLoamy dark grey fill7607Secondary fillLoamy dark grey fill7608Secondary fillLoamy dark grey fill7701TopsoilDark grey brown clay silt.7702NaturalMixed yellow and blue silty clay7801TopsoilDark grey brown silt clay.7802NaturalLight grey brown clay.7901TopsoilDark brown clay silt7902NaturalLight brown and grey clay.7903NaturalNorth - South line of bioturbation.8001TopsoilDark grey brown silt8001TopsoilDark grey brown silt8002NaturalMixed dark grey yellow and blue laminated clay8101TopsoilDark grey brown clay silt.8102NaturalMixed grey blue and yellow laminated clay.	
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8101 Topsoil Dark grey brown clay silt.	
, , , , ,	
8102 Natural Mixed grey blue and yellow laminated clay.	
O204 Tanasil Daylanawa alawailt	
8201 Topsoil Dark brown clay silt	
8202 Natural Light brown silty clay	
8203 Modern Modern machine cut Feature	
8204 Deliberate Backfill of machine cut backfill	
8205 Modern Modern machine cut. Feature	
8206 Deliberate Backfill of machine cut. backfill	
8301 Topsoil Dark grey silt	
8302 Natural Mixed grey blue and yellow laminated clay.	
8401 Topsoil Dark grey brown clay silt.	
8402 Natural Yellow and blue laminated silty clay	
8403 Natural Natural irregular terminus, probably part of hedge line.	
Feature	
8404 Bioturbation Bioturbation and with burnt element. Remains of hedge line.	
8601 Topsoil Dark brown clay silt.	<del></del>
8602 Natural Light brown with greyish hue clay	_
8603 Ditch SW - NE Linear	
8604 Secondary fill Mid grey brown clay silt. Upper fill of ditch.	
8605 Secondary fill Light grey silty clay. Lower fill of ditch.	
8701 Topsoil Dark brown clay silt.	
8702 Natural Light brown sandy clay	
8703 Paleochannel Natural paleochannel NE - SW.	
8704 Secondary fill Mixed clay and sand deposits.	
8801 Topsoil Dark brown clay silt.	
8802 Natural Light brown clay.	



Context	Туре	Description
No	NI. I	Land by a black of a substitute of the state
8803	Natural Feature	Large burnt deposit probably from burnt vegetation.
8901	Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt.
8902	Natural	Light brown clay.
9001	Topsoil	Mid brown clay silt.
9002	Natural	Mixed grey blue and yellow laminated silty clay.
9003	Natural	Linear feature probable hedge line
	Feature	
9004	Secondary fill	Fill of hedge line.
9101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
9102	Natural	Mid yellowish brown silt and gravel
9103	Plough Scar	Plough disturbance/scar
9104	Secondary fill	Fill of plough scar including burnt material.
9201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
9202	Natural	Mid yellowish grey silty clay
9301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt.
9302	Natural	Laminated blue and yellow clay.
9303	Paleochannel	Shallow paleochannel
9304	Secondary fill	Fill in paleochannel
9401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
9402	Natural	Laminated blue and yellow clay.
9403	Ditch	East - West shallow linear terminus. Possible boundary ditch
9404	Secondary fill	Dark brown clay silt. No finds.
9501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
9502	Natural	Laminated blue and yellow clay.
9701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
9702	Natural	Laminated grey, blue and yellow clay.
9703	Gully	SW - NE curvilinear gully probably representing a Round house.
9704	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, No finds. Clear horizon.
9705	Gully	North - South curvilinear gully. Very shallow.
9706	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silt clay.
9801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
9802	Natural	Laminated grey, blue and yellow clay.
9803	Plough Scar	On investigation this appears to be a series of plough scars not a
		curvilinear feature.
9804	Secondary fill	Brown silty loam. No finds.
9805	Modern Feature	Land Drain
9806	Deliberate backfill	Backfill of land drain.
9901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
9902	Natural	Laminated grey, blue and yellow clay.
9903	Bioturbation	shrubbery root disturbance
9904	Ditch	NE - SW linear. Post med ditch.
9905	Secondary fill	Mid brown silty loam with charcoal and Post med pot.
10001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.



Context No	Туре	Description
10002	Natural	Light brown sand clay.
10003	Gully	Curvilinear possibly representing a round house.
10004	Secondary fill	Dark reddish brown loam
10005	Ditch	Slightly ephemeral linear East of [10003]
10006	Secondary fill	Fill of ditch.
10101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.
10102	Natural	Mid brown sandy clay with bands of blue clay.
10103	Gully	NW - SE curvilinear with terminus possibly for round house.
10104	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. No finds. Clear horizon
10201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.
10202	Natural	Light brown sandy clay banded with very light brown sand.
10203	Gully	East - West curvilinear with terminus.
10204	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. No finds. Clear horizon
10301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
10302	Natural	Blue clay
10303	Natural	Peat and organic material.
10304	Natural	White and blue clay.
10401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
10402	Natural	Light brownish yellow and grey laminated sand and clay.
10403	Ditch	East west linear relatively shallow.
10404	Deliberate	Dark - Brown with yellowish hue clay silt. Backfill of shallow ditch with
	backfill	patches of redeposited natural.
10501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
10502	Natural	Light yellowish orange sandy clay
10503	Ditch	East - West linear probably used for drainage.
10504	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey sandy clay. No finds.
10601	Topsoil	dark greyish brown clay silt
10602	Natural	Dark greyish blue clay
10603	Modern	NE - SW linear probable plough disturbance.
	Feature	
10604	Tertiary	Mid greyish brown clay silt similar to topsoil (10601). Ploughed in top
	deposit	soil.
10605	Secondary fill	Mid greyish blue sandy clay. Disturbed natural and sandy silt.
10701	Topsoil	Dark yellow brown clay silt.
10702	Natural	Grey brown silty clay
10801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.
10802	Natural	Light brown sandy clay
10803	Natural	area of bioturbation
	Feature	
10804	Bioturbation	area of bioturbation
10901	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay
10902	Fill	Light brown silt clay
10903	Tree throw	Shrub bowl
10904	Secondary fill	loose fill of shrub bowl
11001	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay.
11002	Natural	light brown silty clay



Context No	Туре	Description
11003	Ditch	North - South linear. Boundary ditch.
11004	Secondary fill	Dark greyish black clay silt. Alluvial and Colluvium deposition
11005	Channel	East - West Linear natural water channel cutting into ditch [11003]
11006	Secondary fill	Dark blackish brown sandy silt. Natural silting of channel
11007	Ditch	North - South Boundary ditch same as [11003]
11008	Secondary fill	Dark greyish black clay silt.
11101	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown silty clay
11102	Natural	Orange grey mottled clay
11103	Gully	East - South curvilinear gully.
11104	Secondary fill	Mid brown fill of gully. No finds.
11105	Gully	West - South curvilinear gully.
11106	Secondary fill	Mid brown fill of gully. No finds
11201	Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay
11202	Natural	Orange grey mottled clay
11301	Topsoil	Mid brown grey silt clay
11302	Natural	Thin peat in hollows and depressions.
11303	Natural	Orange grey mottled clay
11401	Topsoil	Dark brown Silty clay
11402	Natural	Mid - light brown sandy silt clay
11501	Topsoil	Dark brown clay.
11502	Natural	Mid brown clay
11503	Natural	Bush rooting
	Feature	
11504	Bioturbation	Bush rooting
11601	Topsoil	Mid yellowish grey silty clay
11602	Natural	Greyish yellowish silty clay.
11701	Topsoil	Mid yellowish grey silty clay
11702	Secondary fill	Orangey grey mottled clay
11801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.
11802	Natural	Light brown marbled sand clay
11901	Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay
11902	Natural	Yellow, greyish mottled clay sand
12001	Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay
12002	Natural	Brown grey mottled clay
12101	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay
12102	Natural	Light brown silt clay
12201	Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt.
12202	Natural	Mid grey blue clay.
12301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
12302	Natural	Mid grey blue silty clay
12401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.
12402	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay silt
12403	Natural	Mid yellow silty clay.
12501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt
12502	Natural	Mixed yellow and blue silty clay
12503	Modern	Marl trenching



Context No	Туре	Description
	Feature	
12504	Modern	Marl trenching
	Feature	
12505	Modern	Marl trenching
	Feature	
12506	Modern	Marl trenching
	Feature	
12507	Modern	Marl trenching
	Feature	
12508	Deliberate	Backfill of marl trench
	backfill	
12509	Deliberate	Backfill of marl trench
	backfill	
12510	Deliberate	Backfill of marl trench
	backfill	
12511	Deliberate	Backfill of marl trench
	backfill	
12512	Deliberate	Backfill of marl trench
	backfill	
12601	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay. Rare stone inclusions
12602	Natural	Light brown silty sand clay.
12701	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay. Rare stone inclusions
12702	Natural	Light grey brown clay
12801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
12802	Natural	Mid yellow sandy silty clay.
12901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
12902	Natural	Mid grey blue silty clay.
13001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
13002	Natural	Light grey brown clay
13101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
13102	Natural	Light brown sand.
13201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
13202	Natural	Light greyish yellow sandy clay.
13203	Natural	Area of bioturbation.
	Feature	
13204	Marl trench	Modern machine cut.
13205	Marl trench	Modern machine cut.
13206	Marl trench	Dark brown peaty silt
	backfill	
13207	Marl trench	Dark brown peaty silt
	backfill	F 7
13208	Bioturbation	Dark brown Clay silt
13301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
13302	Natural	Light greyish yellow sand
13401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
13402	Natural	Mixed mid bluey grey and greyish yellow silty clay.
13501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil.
-5501	1003011	Dank Bicy brown suriay day sitt topsoil.



Context	Туре	Description
No		
13502	Natural	Light greyish yellow.
13601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.
13602	Paleochannel	Dark brown fine silt
13603	Natural	Mixed yellow - brown sand and clay patches.
13701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.
13702	Natural	Light to mid brown clay



# 10.2 Appendix 2: Geophysical survey interpretations



# 10.3 Appendix 3:OASIS form



## 10.4 Appendix 4:Table 9: Sediment descriptions of Monolith 101

Location:		TR19	Mono:	101	Comments: 1019 Monolith 101	10 Peterborough Test Pitting			
Level (top):			Drg:	-					
D	epth	Context	Samples	Sediment de	escription	Interpretation			
Mono	mOD								
0.00- 0.28		(1902)		loamy sand moderate f	rk yellowish brown d. Crumbly with ine rootlets and pores. Stone free. ary.		Subsoil		
0.28- 0.38		(1903)		coarse sand <1.5cm. Mod with fragmen Examined microscope too worn t However, the fragments	yellowish brown with small gravel derately well sorted its of mollusc shell. under the fragments are to be diagnostic. Thickness of the suggests the f marine species.		Probable March gravels (Sandy gravels, possibly fluvially redeposited in late Pleistocene/early Holocene)		
0.38- 0.54		(1903)		sand with a Moderately was small amour <2.5cm. Look above althour ecorded as in the field.	rong brown coarse small grit <3mm. well sorted with a nt of small gravel ks very different to gh they have been the same context Again with worn f mollusc shell as boundary		Sandy gravels, possibly late Pleistocene/early ene)		
0.54- 0.64		(1904)		fine well sorte fell out of the field and was same materia but any stru	ownish yellow very ed sand. This layer ne monolith in the seplaced with the al from the section ucture or layering arp boundary.		Cover sands.		
0.64- 0.99		(1905)		3/1 very da clay. Yellow mottling thro Fe stained fi some fine refine pores. and some nodules.	ish brown diffuse bughout. Common ine root voids with oots visible, 0.2% Rare gravel <1cm	(Oxford clay) disturbed	Sequence disturbed by cryoturbation		



Locatio		TR19	Mono:	101	Comments: 101910 Peterborough Test Pitting Monolith 101				
Level (top):			Drg:	-					
De	epth	Context	Samples	Sediment de	escription	Interpretation			
Mono	mOD								
0.99- 1.08		(1906)			yellowish brown I. Fairly similar to one free. Sharp	Cryoturbation	Sequence disturbed by cryoturbation		
1.08- 1.35		(1907)		stiff clay. diffuse mo Massive, slig to moderate	ry dark grey fairly Yellowish brown ttling throughout. htly plastic. Sparse Fe stained fine 1% fine pores.	Oxford Clay.	Geology		



#### 10.5 Appendix 5: Table 10: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

_			Vol	Flot	Roots			Cereal	Charred		Charcoal		Analysis
Feature	Context	Sample	(L)	size	%	Grain	Chaff	Notes	Other	Notes for Table	> 4/2mm	Other	7 thaiyolo
	Romano-British The Control of the Co												
Test pit 1	- Ditch								T				
												Moll-t	
								Barley +				(C),	
								hulled		Vicia/Lathyrus,		Moll-f	
								wheat		Carex, Eleocharis,		(C),	
***	106	102	32	425	20	С	-	grain frags	Α	Rumex, Fallopia	25/60 ml	Sab (A)	
Test pit 7	7 – Pit												
								Barley +					
								hulled		Viciafaba,			
								wheat		Vicia/Lathyrus,			
								grain		Corylusavellanashell		Moll-t	
								frags,		frag, Avena/Bromus,		(C),	
								spikelet		fruit frags, Carex,		Moll-f	
								forks +		Eleocharis, Rumex,		(C),	
								glume		Raphanus,		Sab/f	
								frags,		Lolium/Festuca,		(A),	
								some spelt		Galium,		Min.	
708	710	104	18	250	10	A*	Α	+ ?emmer	A**	Chenopodium, buds	80/60 ml	matter	Р
Test pit 7	7 - Ditch												
								Hulled		Viciafaba,			
								wheat		Corylusavellana			
								grain		shell			
								frags,		frag, Vicia/Lathyrus,			
								glume		Chenopodium,			
								base frags		Carex, Eleocharis,			
								inc.		Rumex, tuber		Sab/f	
703	704	105	16	250	15	Α	С	?emmer	Α		25/40 ml	(A)	Р

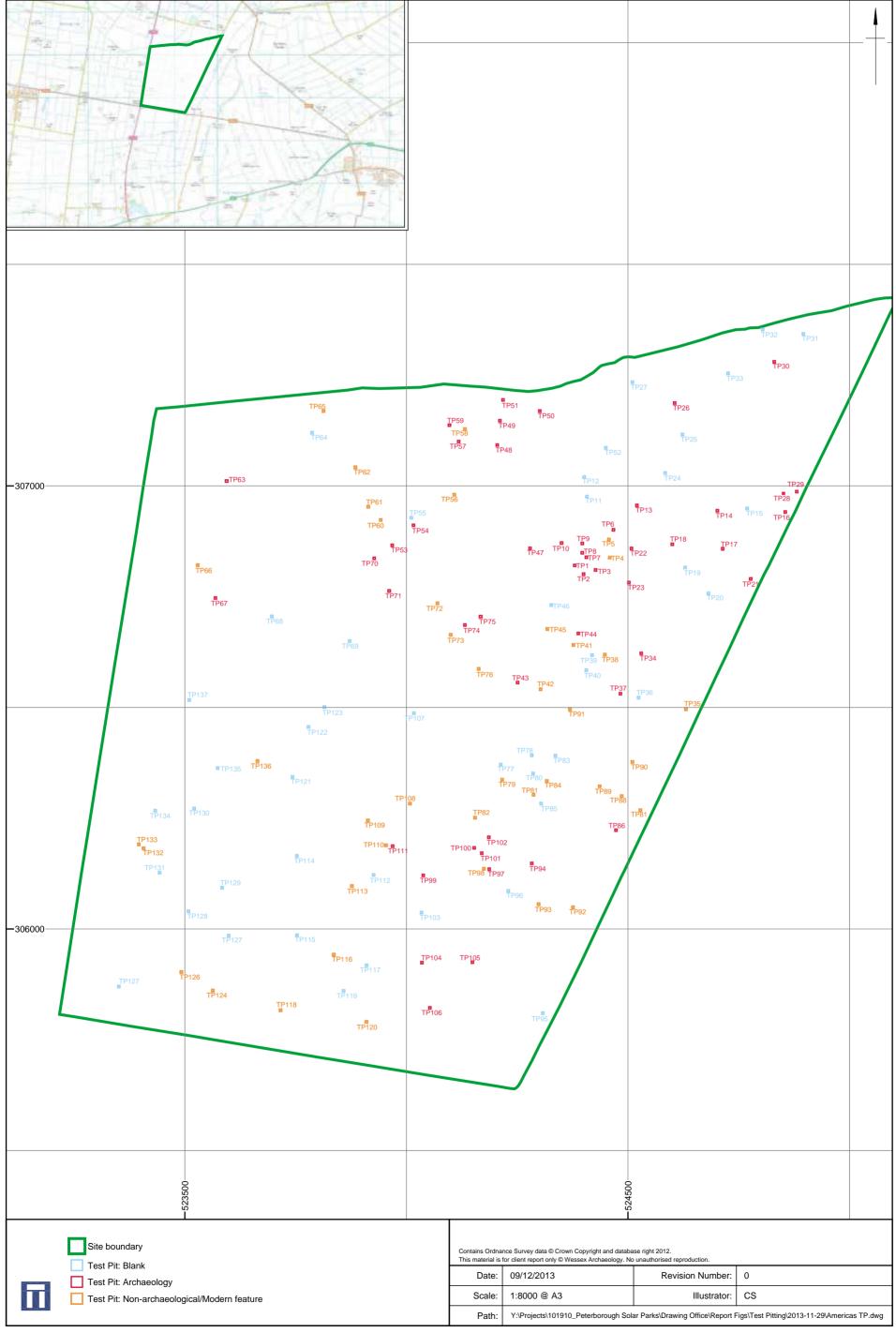


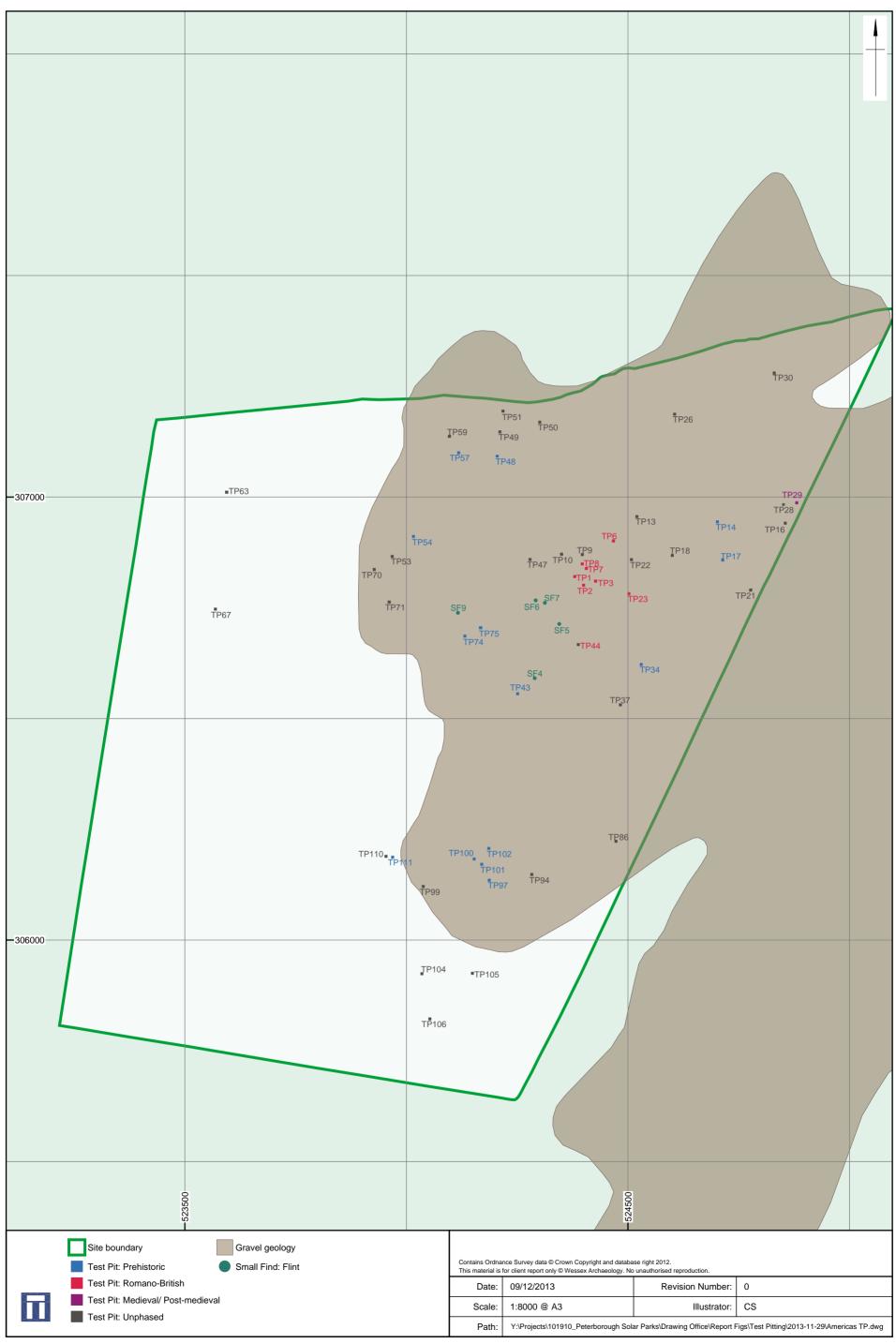
			Vol	Flot	Roots			Cereal	Charred		Charcoal		Analysis
Feature	Context	Sample	(L)	size	%	Grain	Chaff	Notes	Other	Notes for Table	> 4/2mm	Other	7 tharyon
Post-med													
Test pit 2	29 - Ditch			ı	1		1	1				Т	1
2904 Undated	2907	107	28	300	10	С	В	Wheat grain frags, rachis frags	A*	Avena/Bromus, Galium, Sherardia, Sparganium, Chenopodium, Carex,Atriplex, Persicaria, Stellaria, Silene, Ranunculus, stem/root frags	10/15 ml	Sab (C), Moll-t (C)	
Test pit 9													
903	905	103	30	275	35	С	-	Barley + hulled wheat grain frags	A	Chenopodium, Lolium/Festuca, Carex, Rumex, stems inc. ?heather	2/5 ml	Sab (C)	
Test pit 2	26 - Ditch												
2603	2604	106	17	250	15	-	-	-	A	Tuber, Sparganium, Rumex, Carex, Chenopodium, stems	5/5 ml	-	
Test pit 4	17 - Ditch			1	1		ı	1	T	ı	T	T	
4703	4704	108	40	80	15	-	-	_	_	_	1/1 ml	Sab (C), Moll-t (A**), Moll-f (A)	
Test pit 6	62 - Peat la	ayer											
	6202	109	40	2000	n/a	-	_	-	-	(uncharred seeds	15/20 ml	wood	

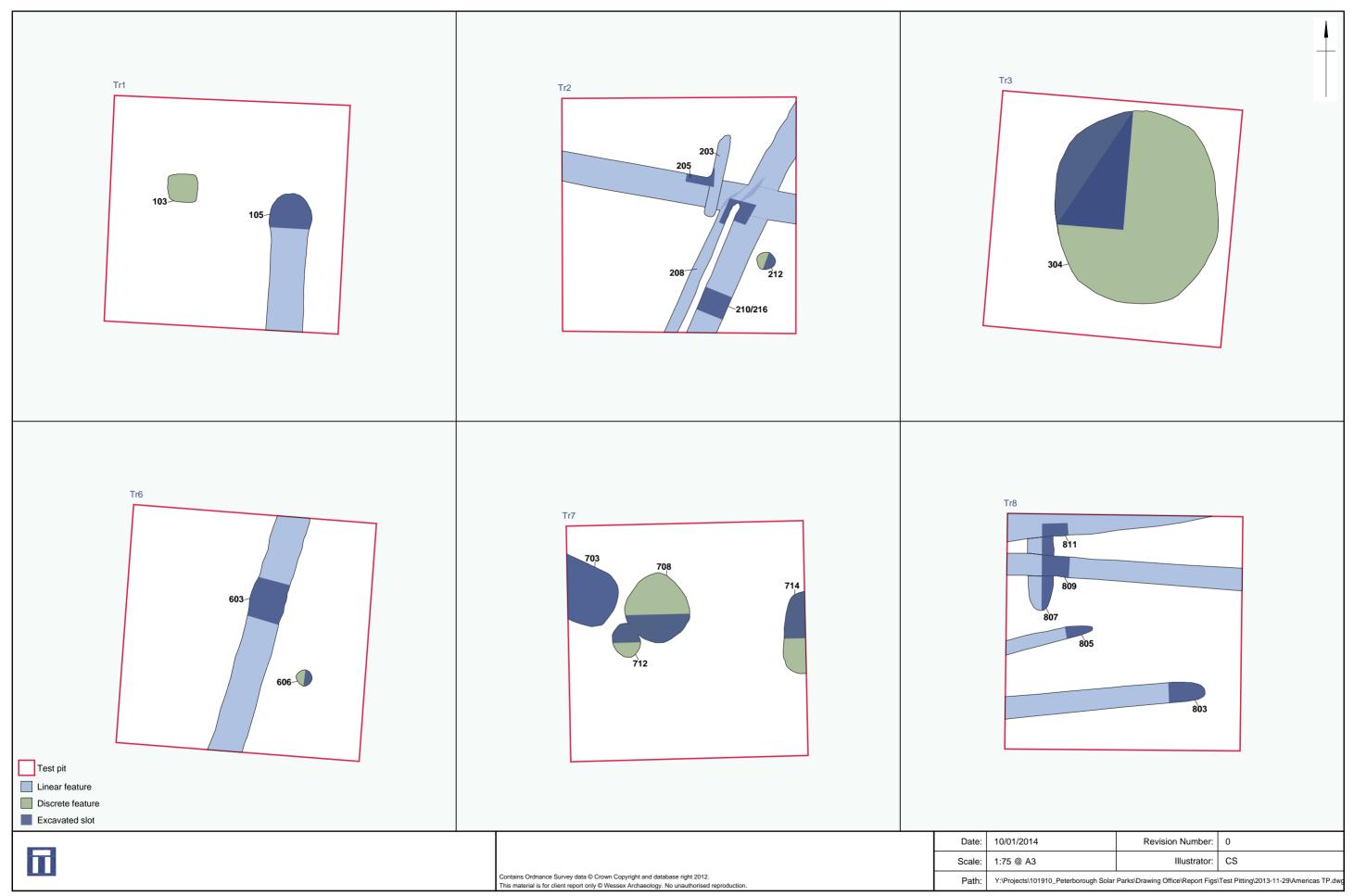


Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
										include <i>Fallopia</i> , <i>Polygonum</i> , <i>Carex</i> , <i>Rubus</i> )		frags	

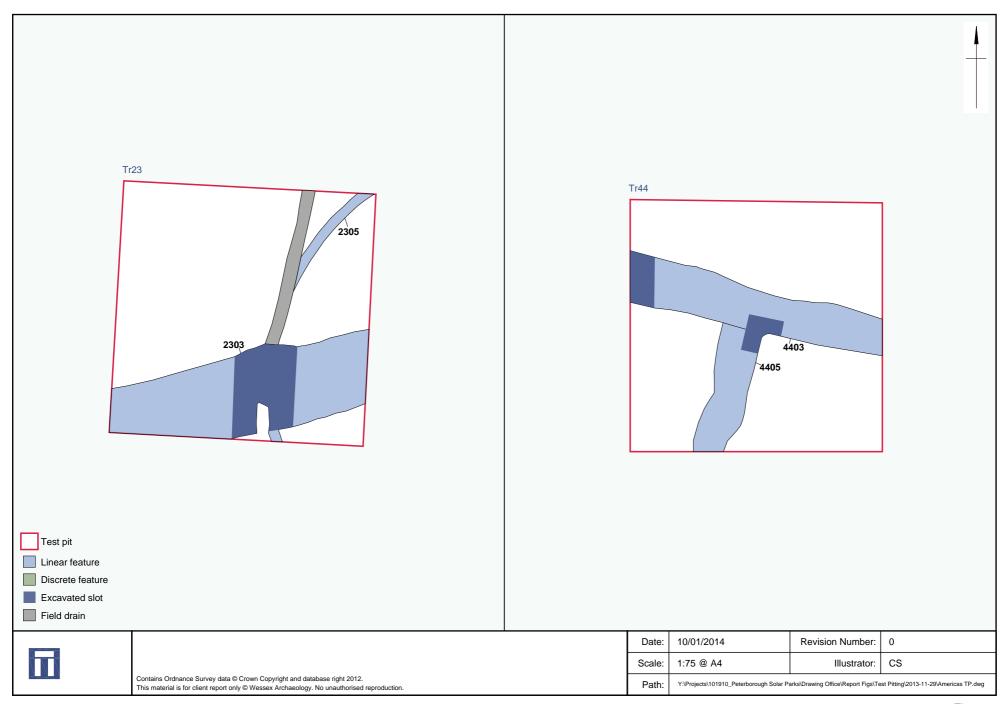
Key:  $A^{***}$  = exceptional,  $A^{**}$  = 100+,  $A^{*}$  = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs; Analysis: P = plant,

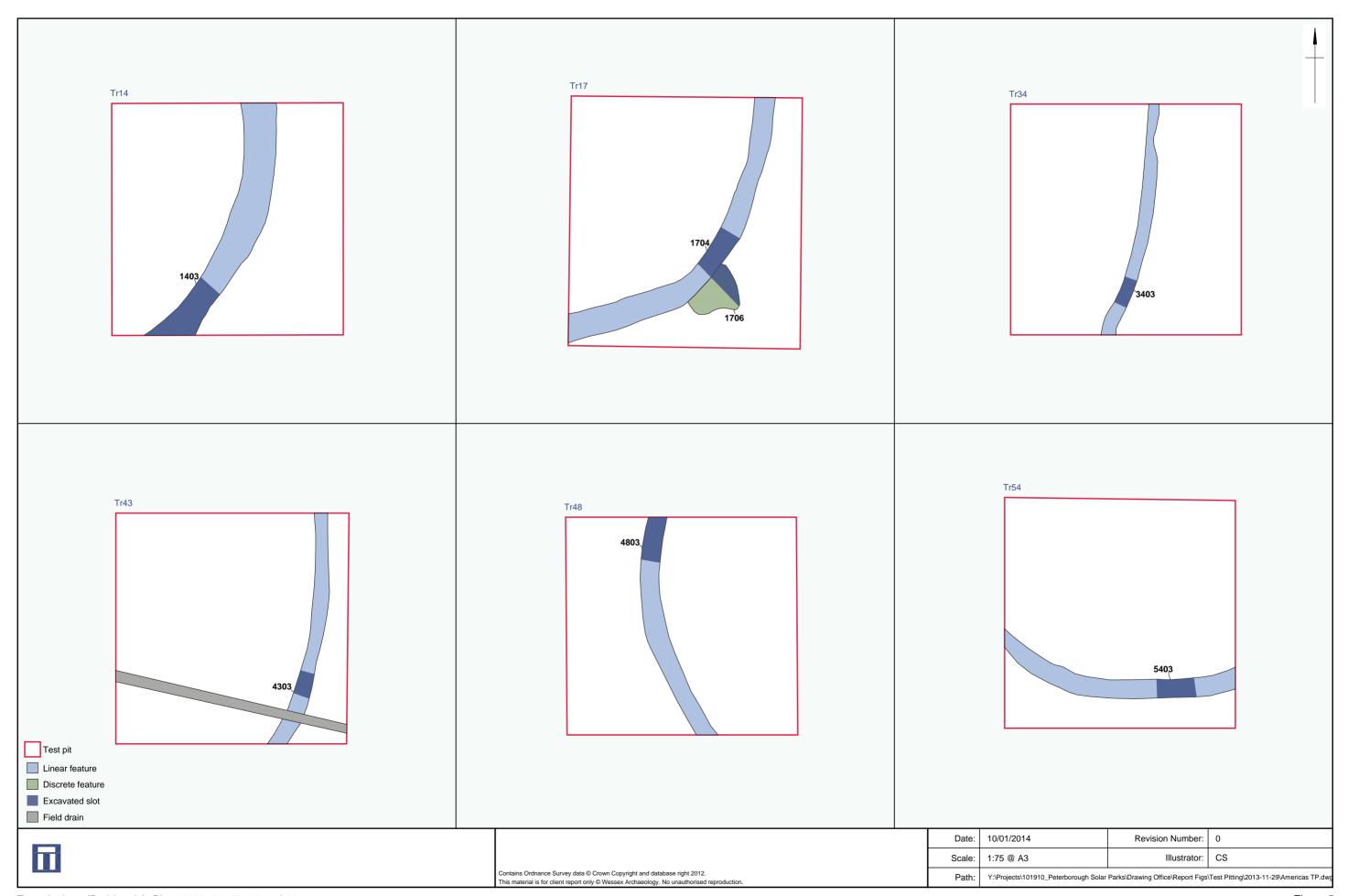


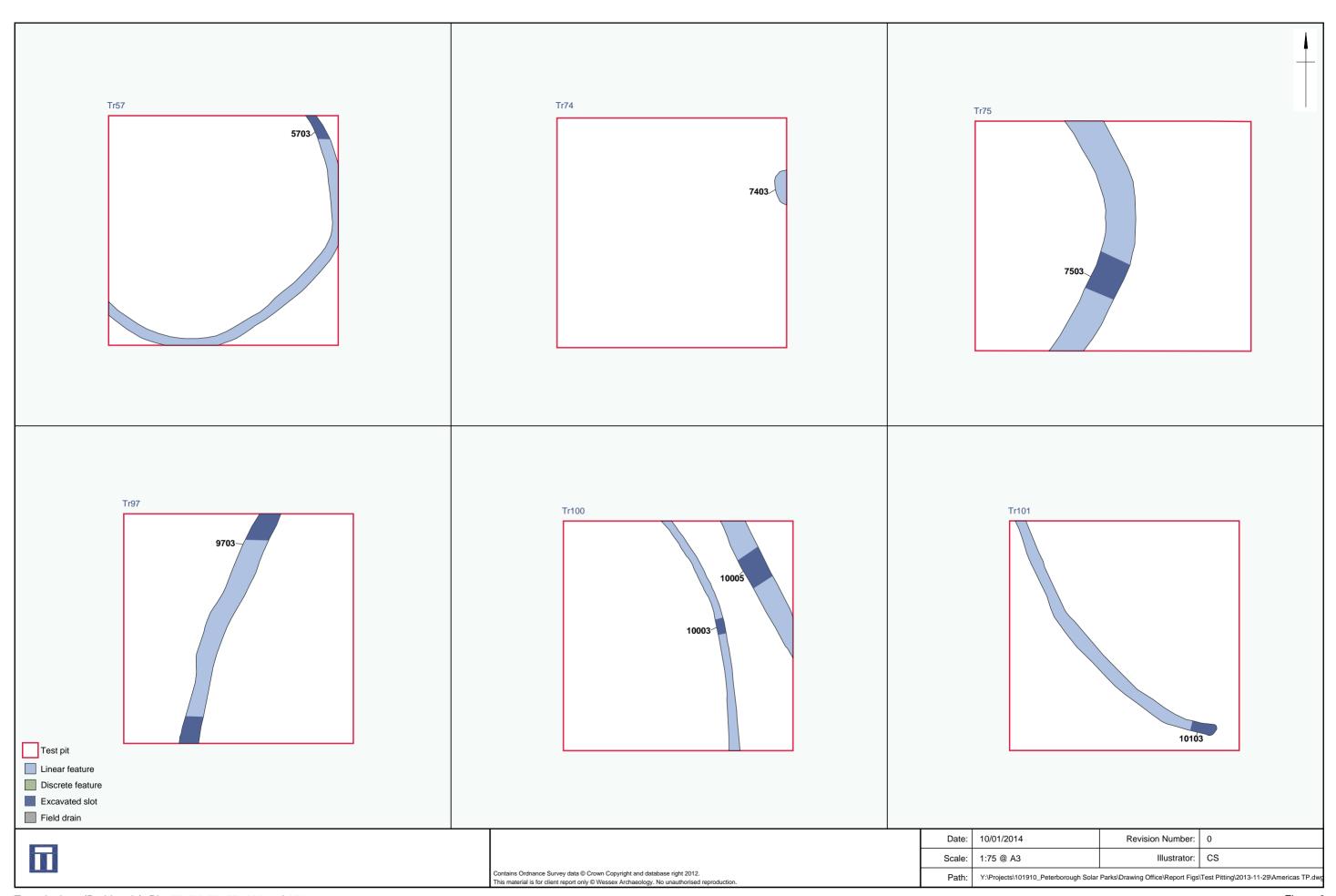


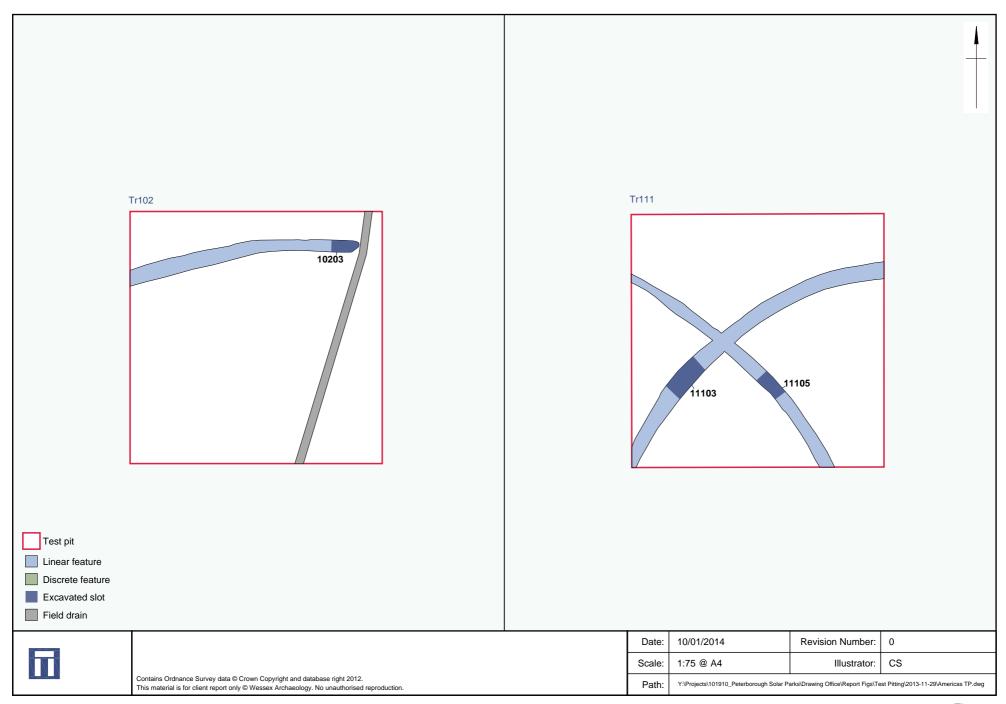


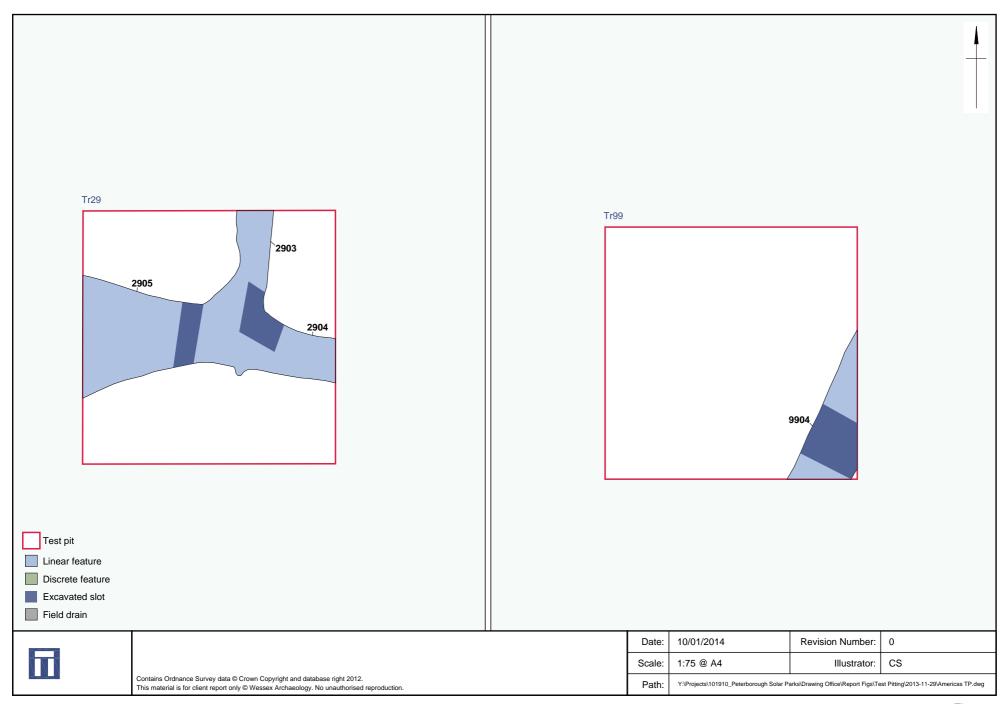
Test pit plans (Romano-British): Pits 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8

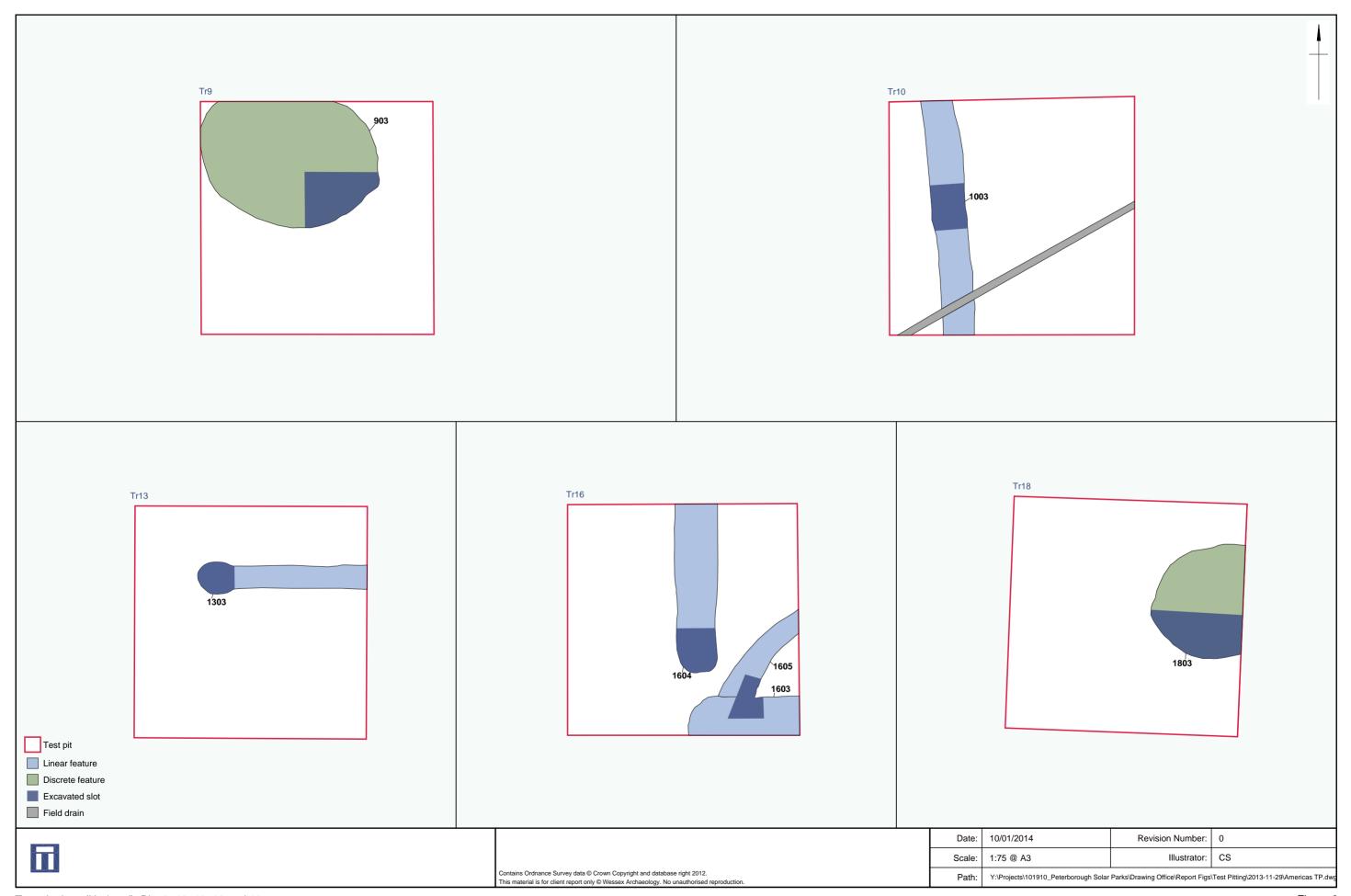


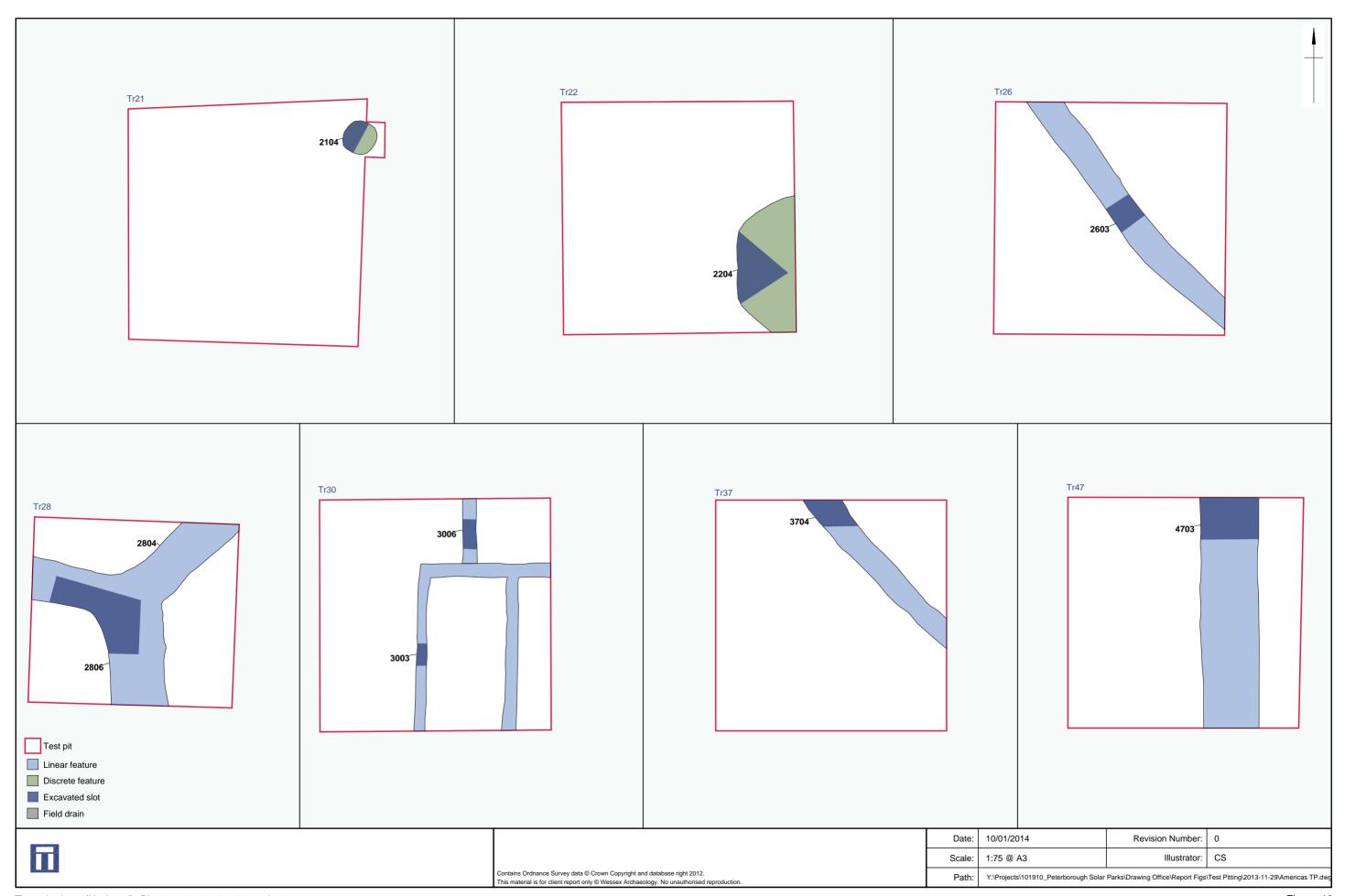




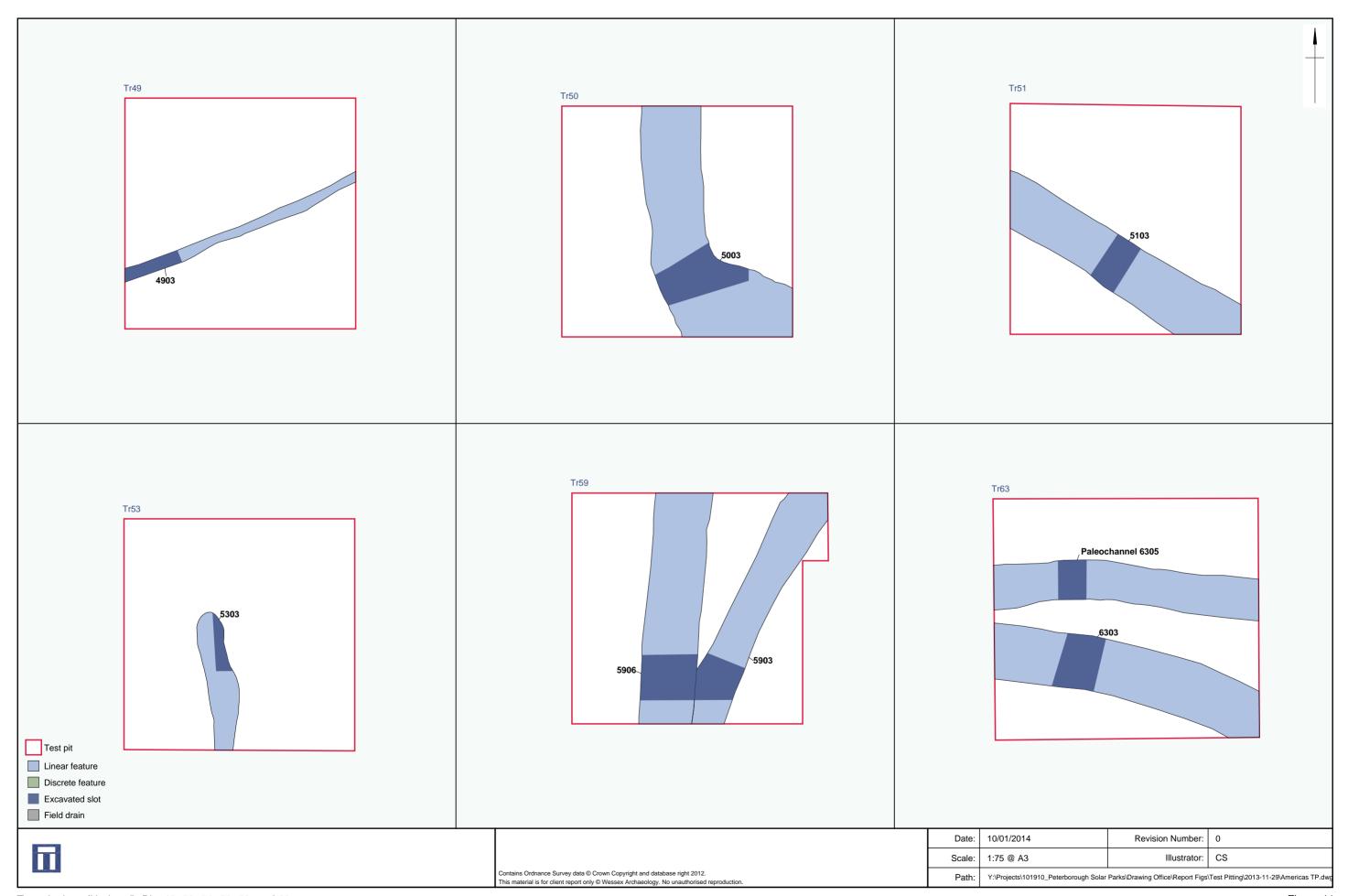


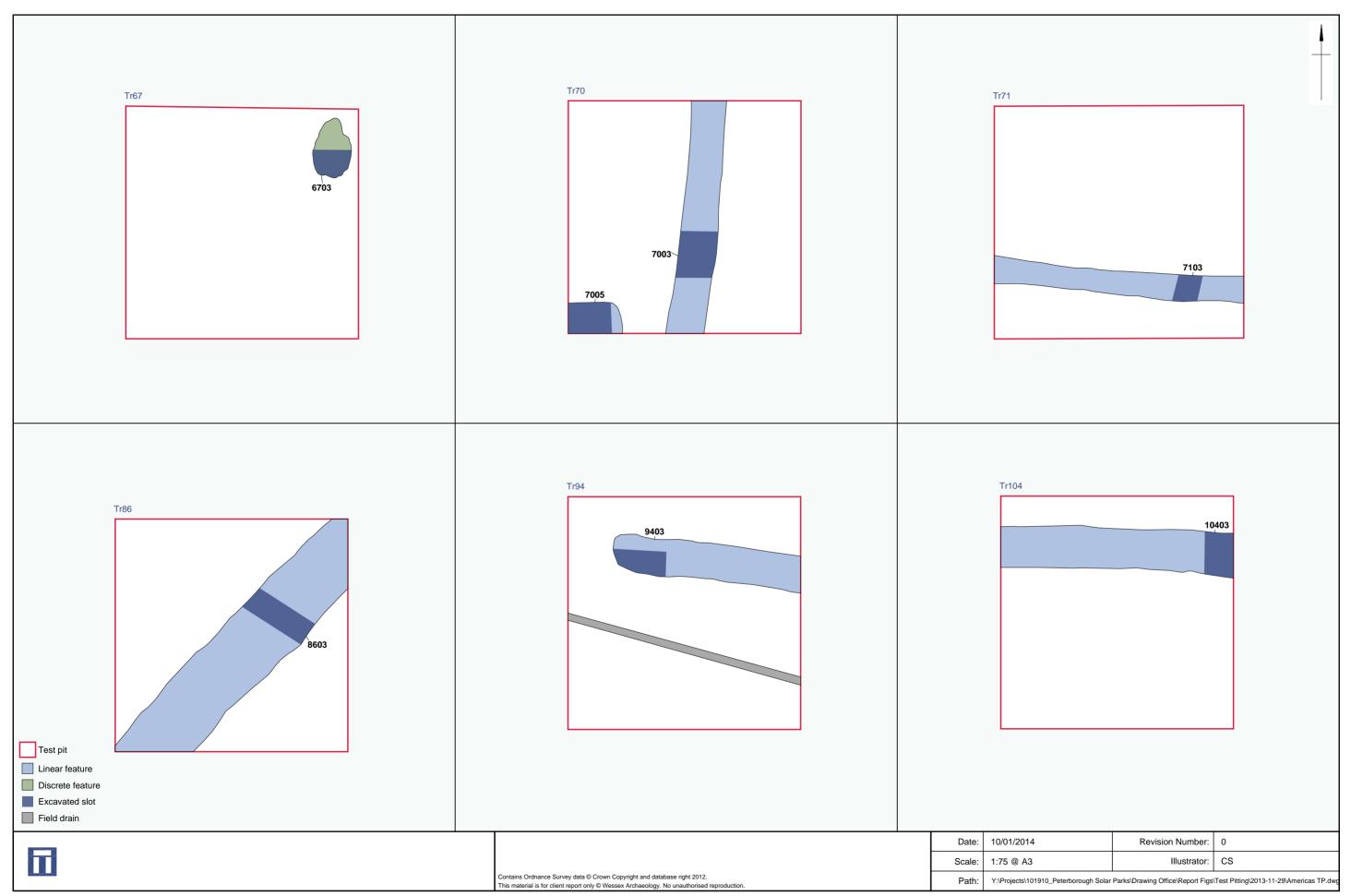






Test pit plans (Undated): Pits 21, 22, 26, 28, 30 and 47





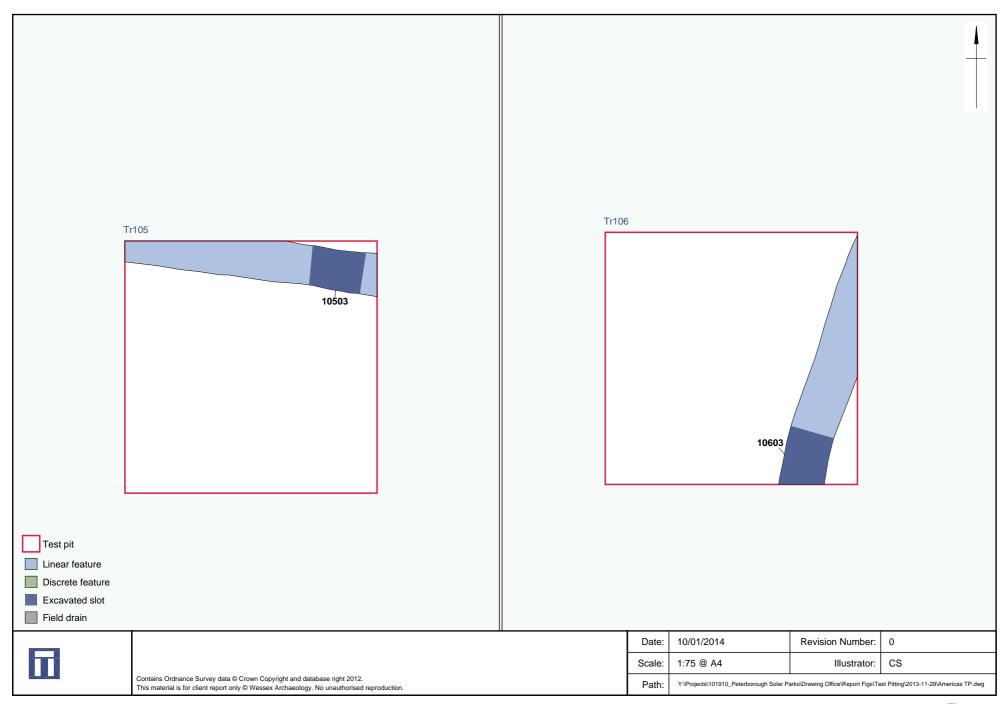




Plate 1: Marl trenches in Test Pit 132



Plate 2: Burning in Test Pit 88

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	Scale:	not to scale	Illustrator:	CS
	Path:	Y:\Projects\101910_Peterborough Solar Parks\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Test Pitting\2013-11-29\Newborough plates.cdr		



Plate 3: Shallow paleochannel in Test Pit 60



Plate 4: Interdigitating peat and clay Test Pit 61

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Plate 5: Ephemeral curvilinear 10103 prior to excavation



Plate 6: Straight sided ditch 11003 with shallow paleochannel 11005

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Plate 7: Ditch 10503 in Test Pit 105



Plate 8: Burnt post 2104

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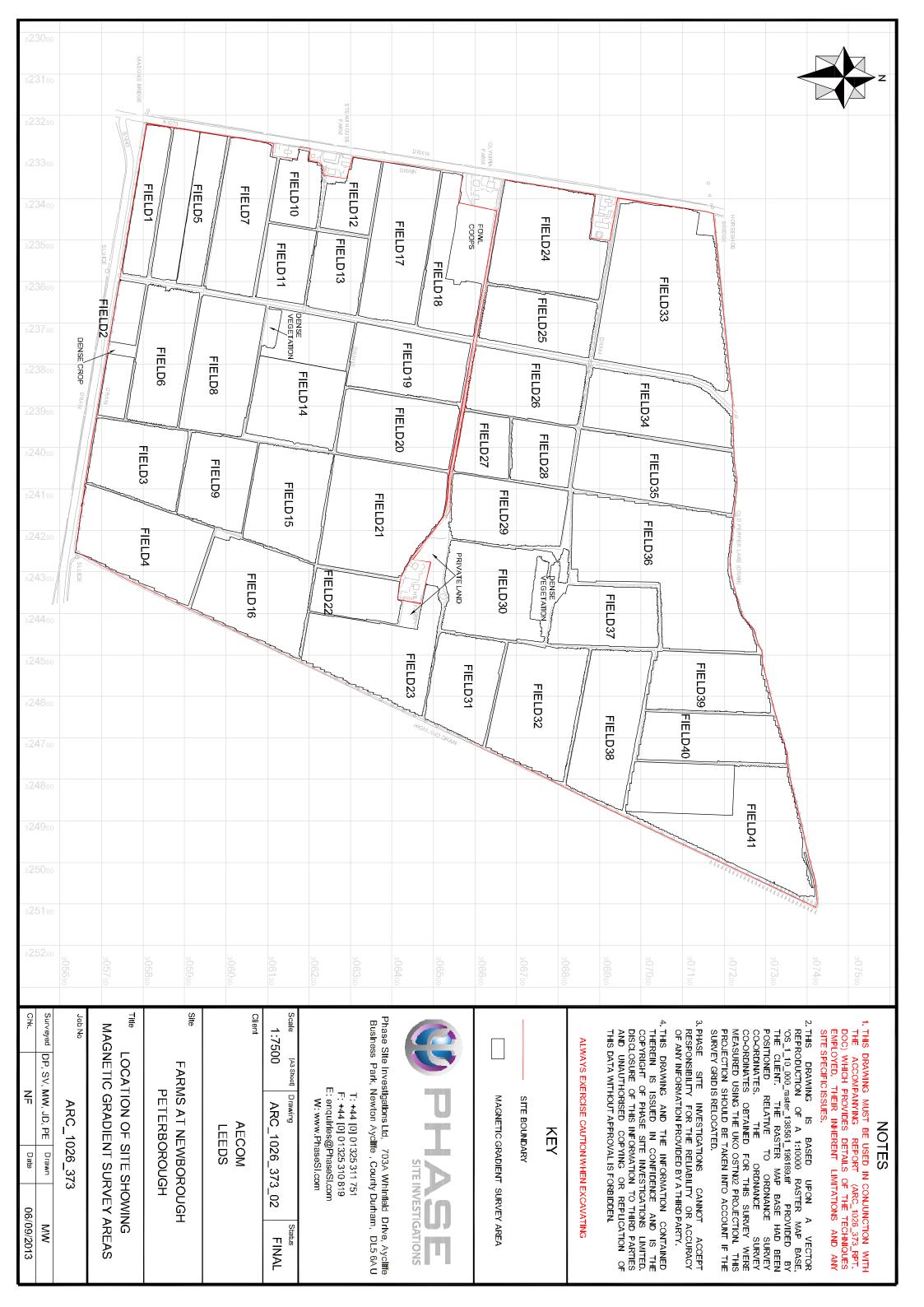


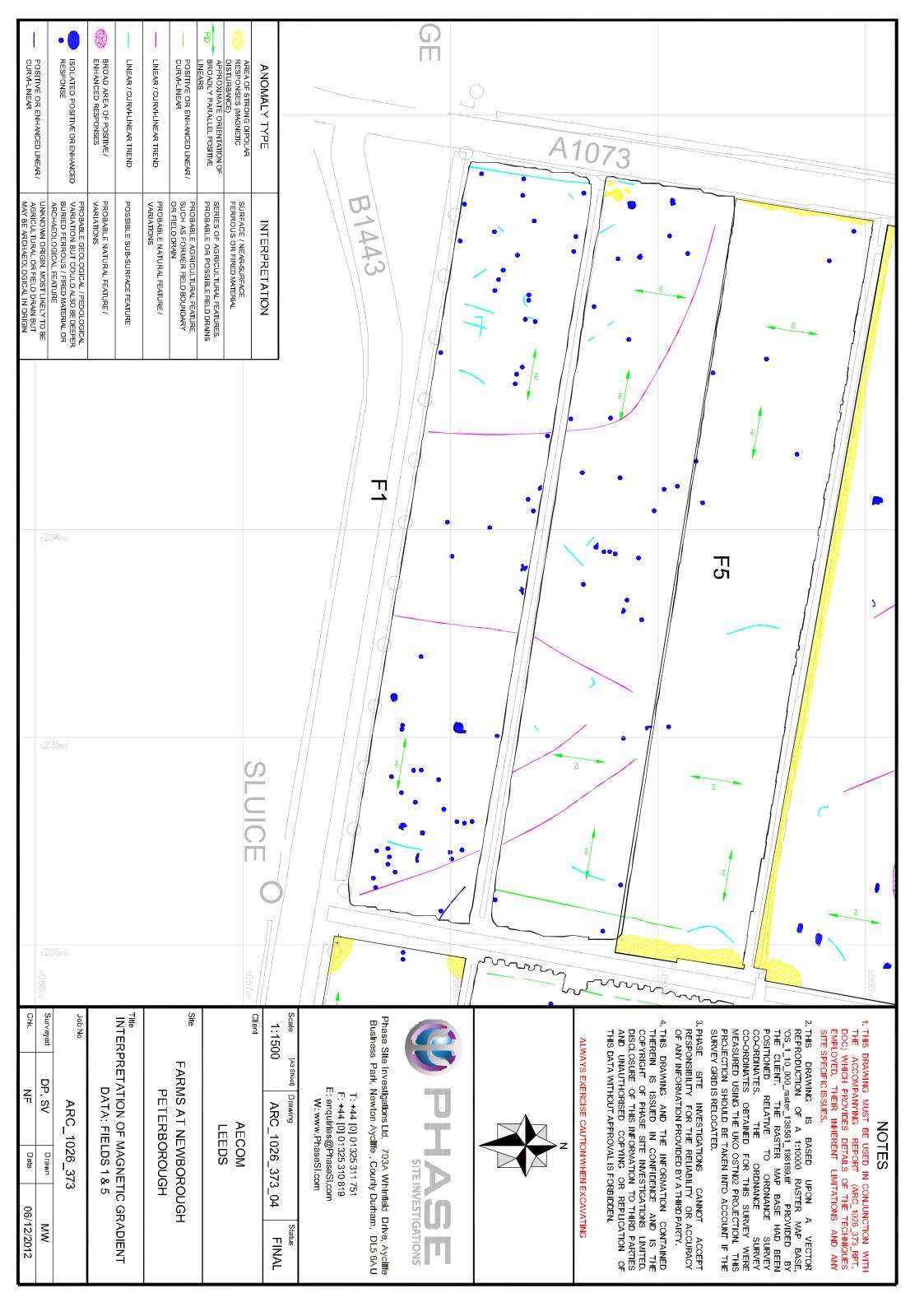
Plate 9: Test Pit 3, tree root evidence in tree bowl 304

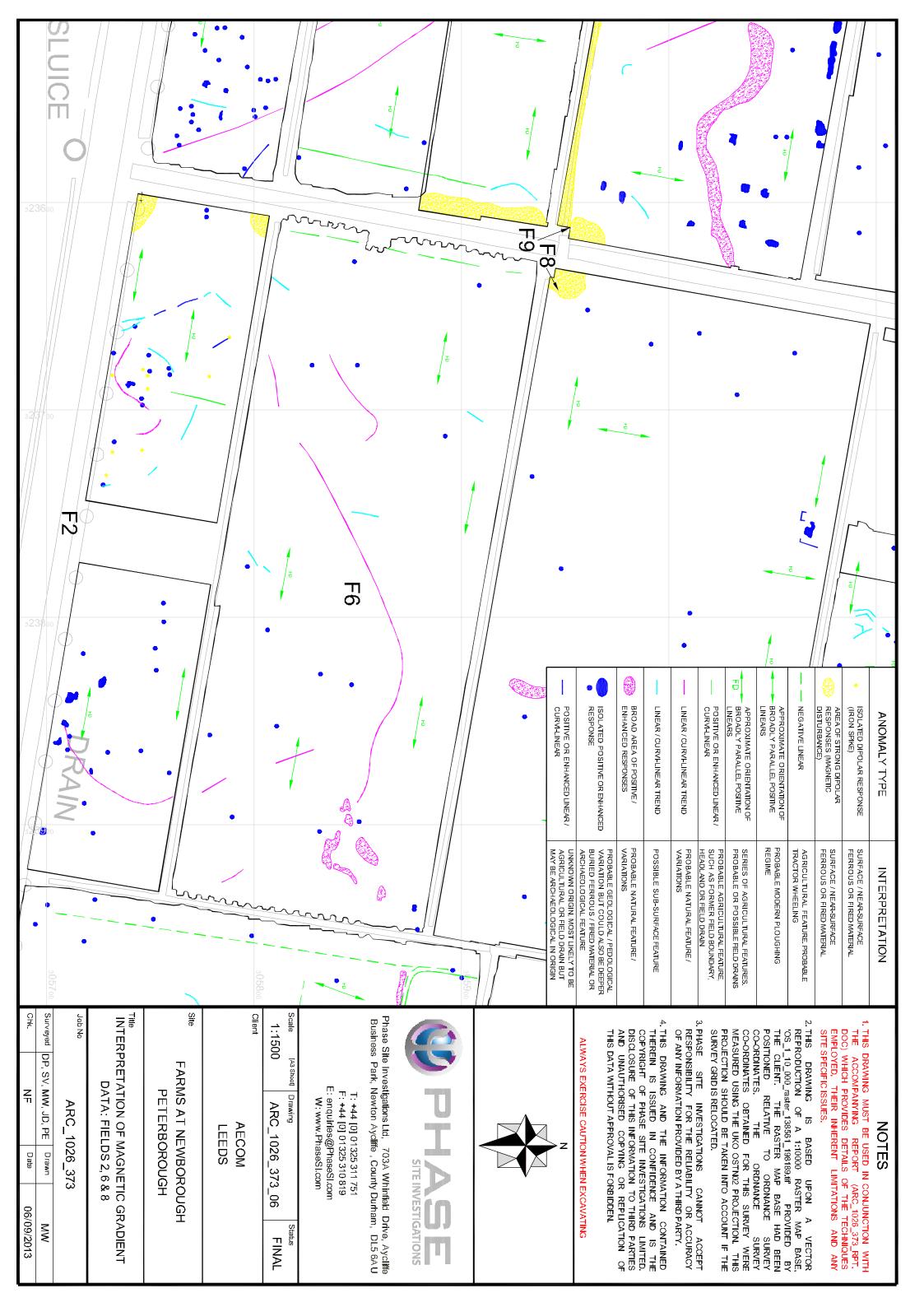


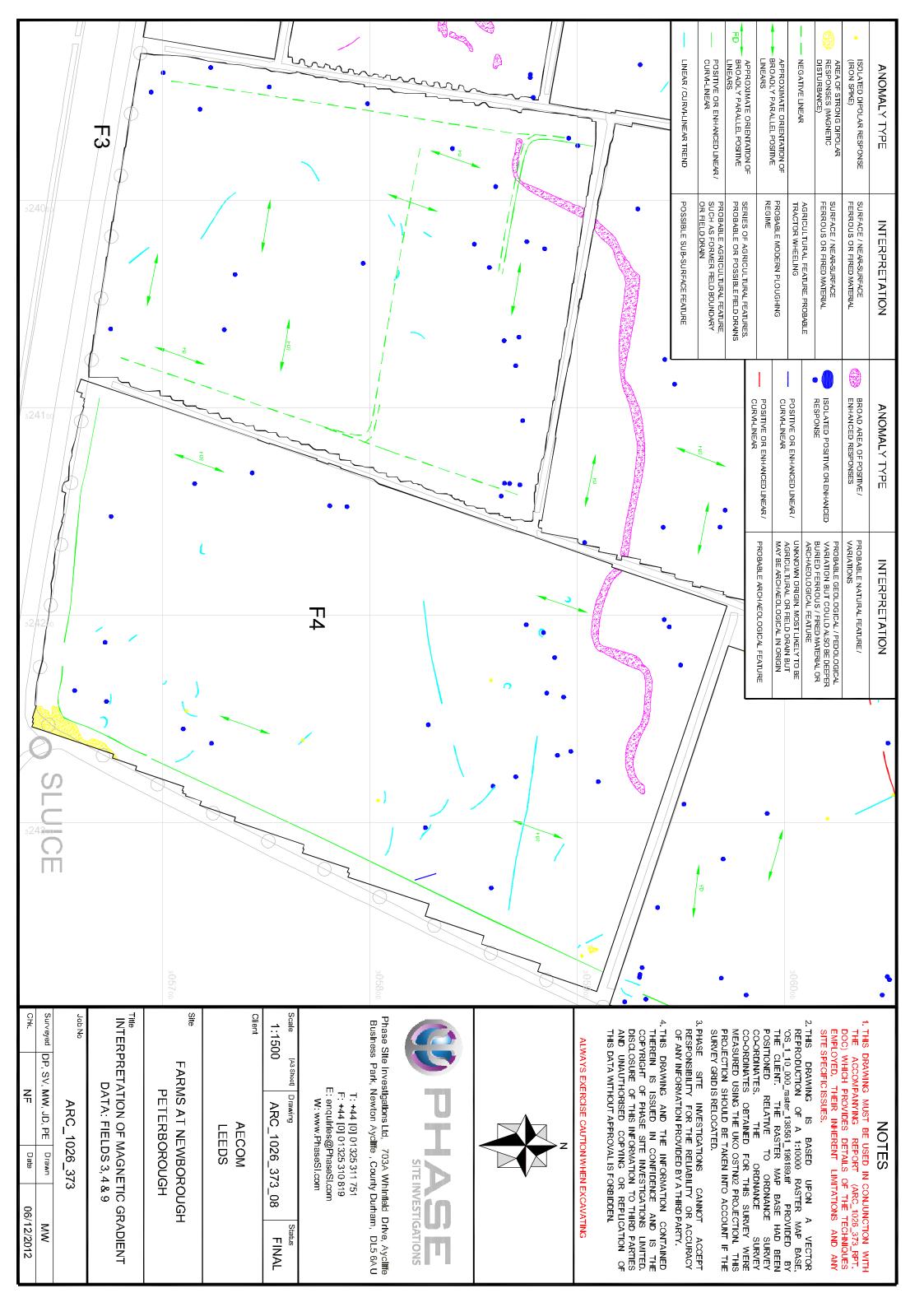
Plate 10: Gully 1704 truncating hearth 1706 in Test Pit 17

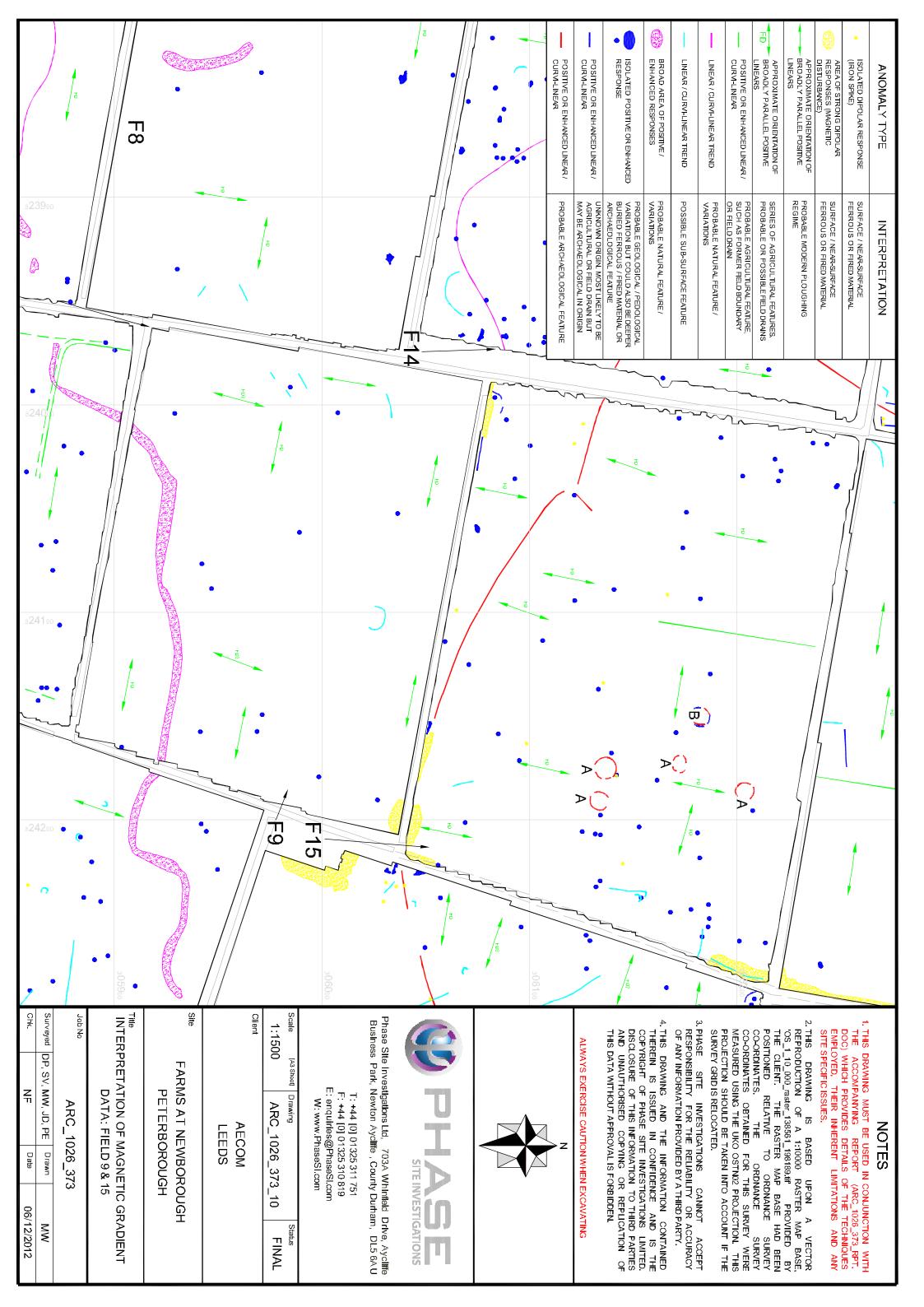
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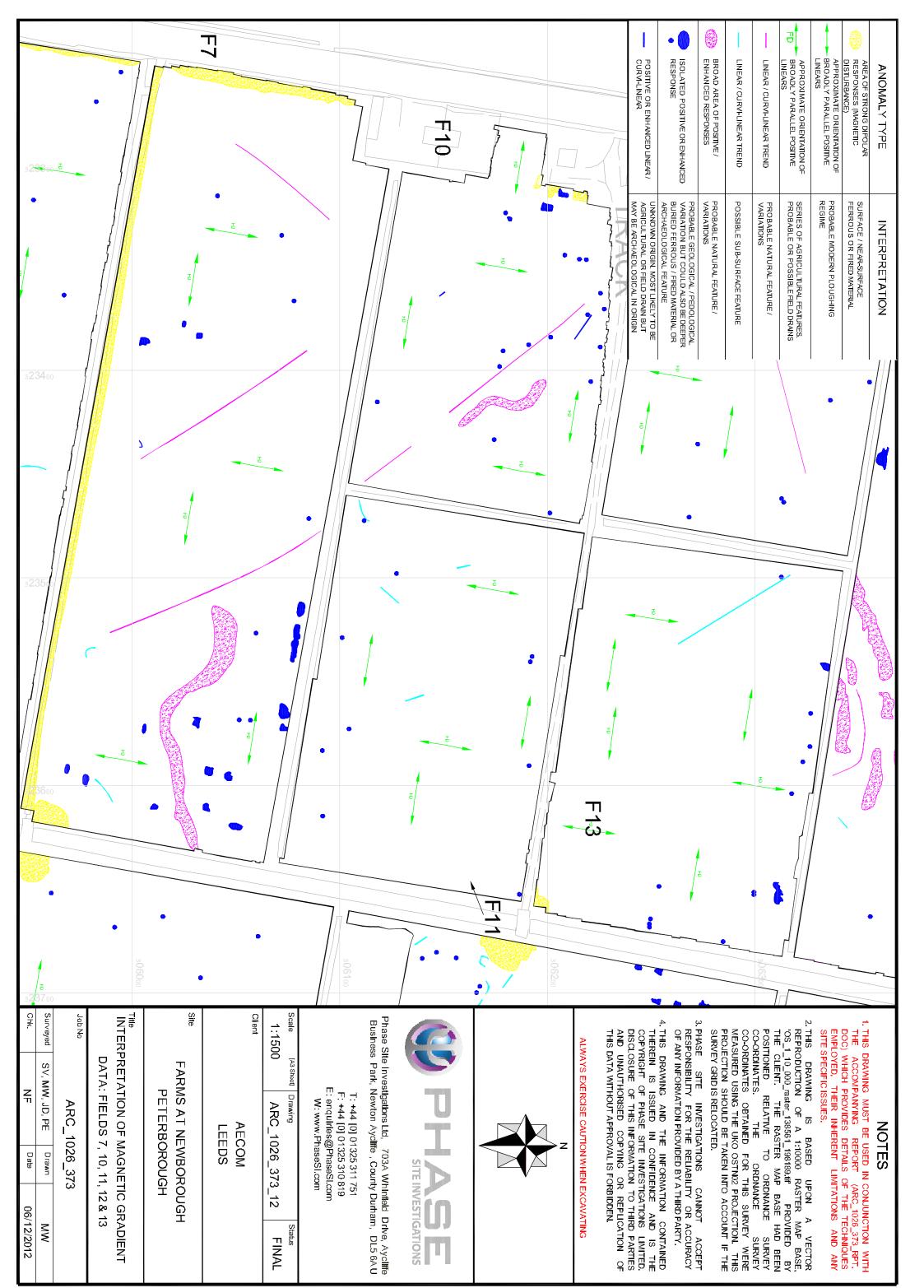


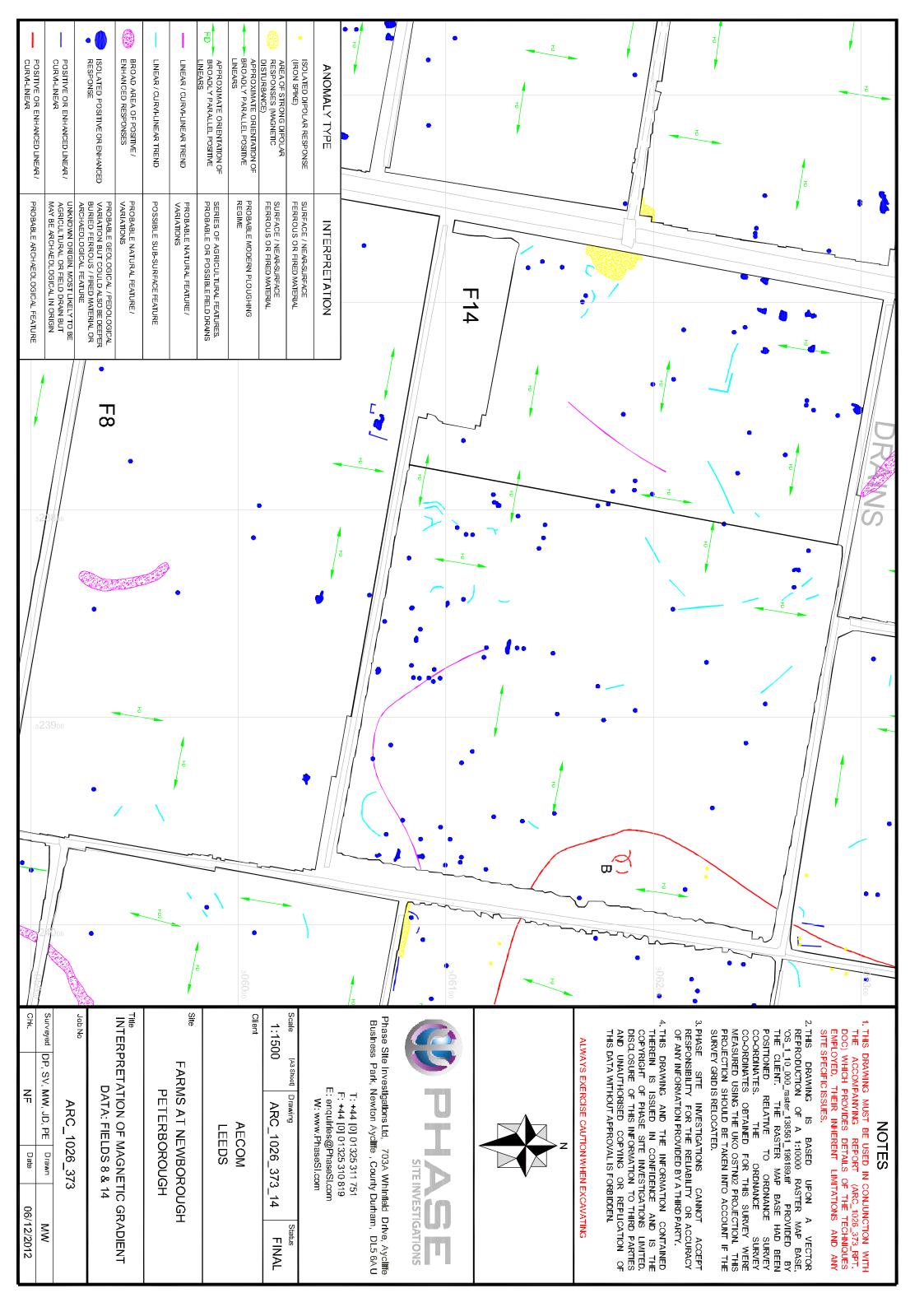


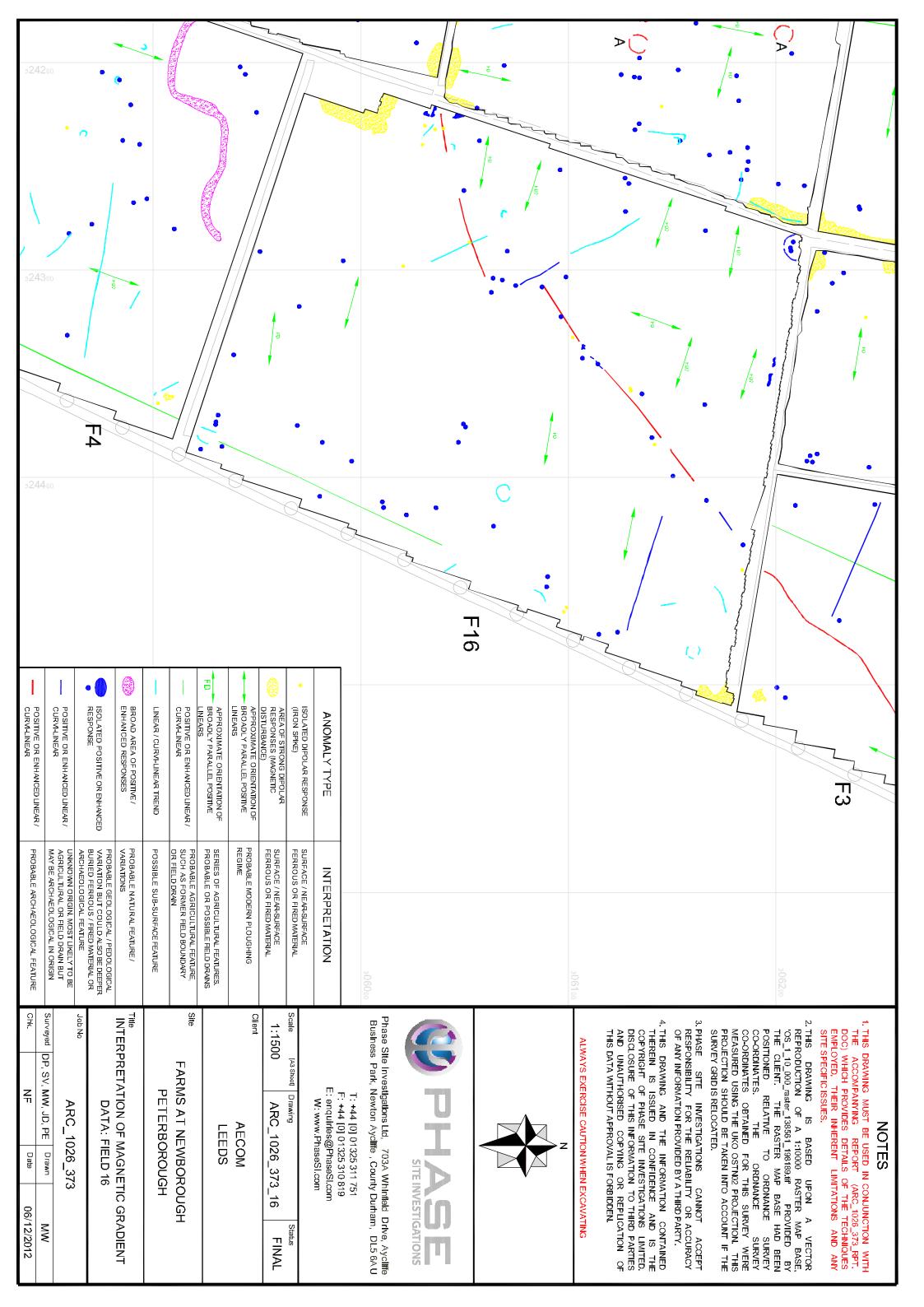


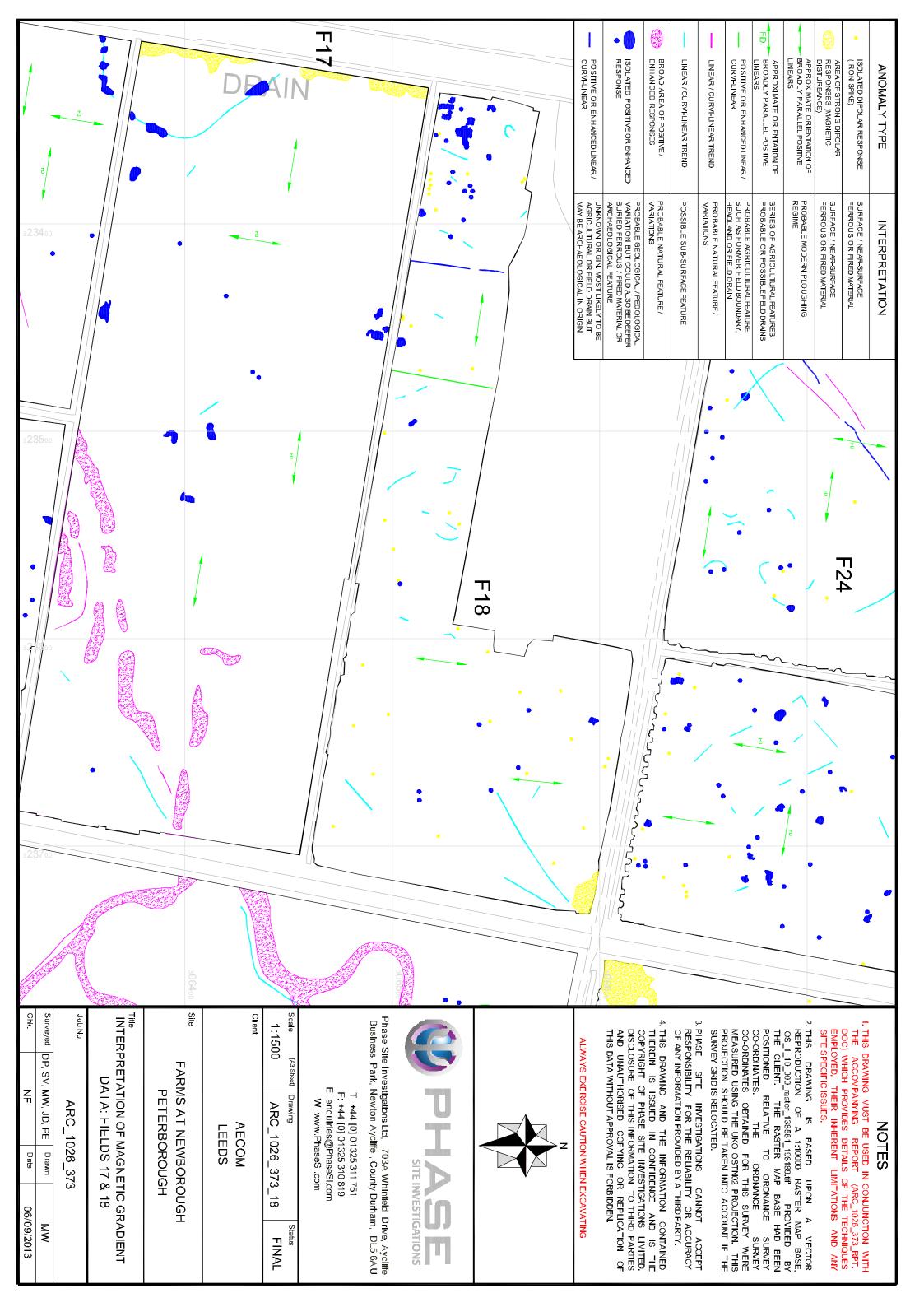


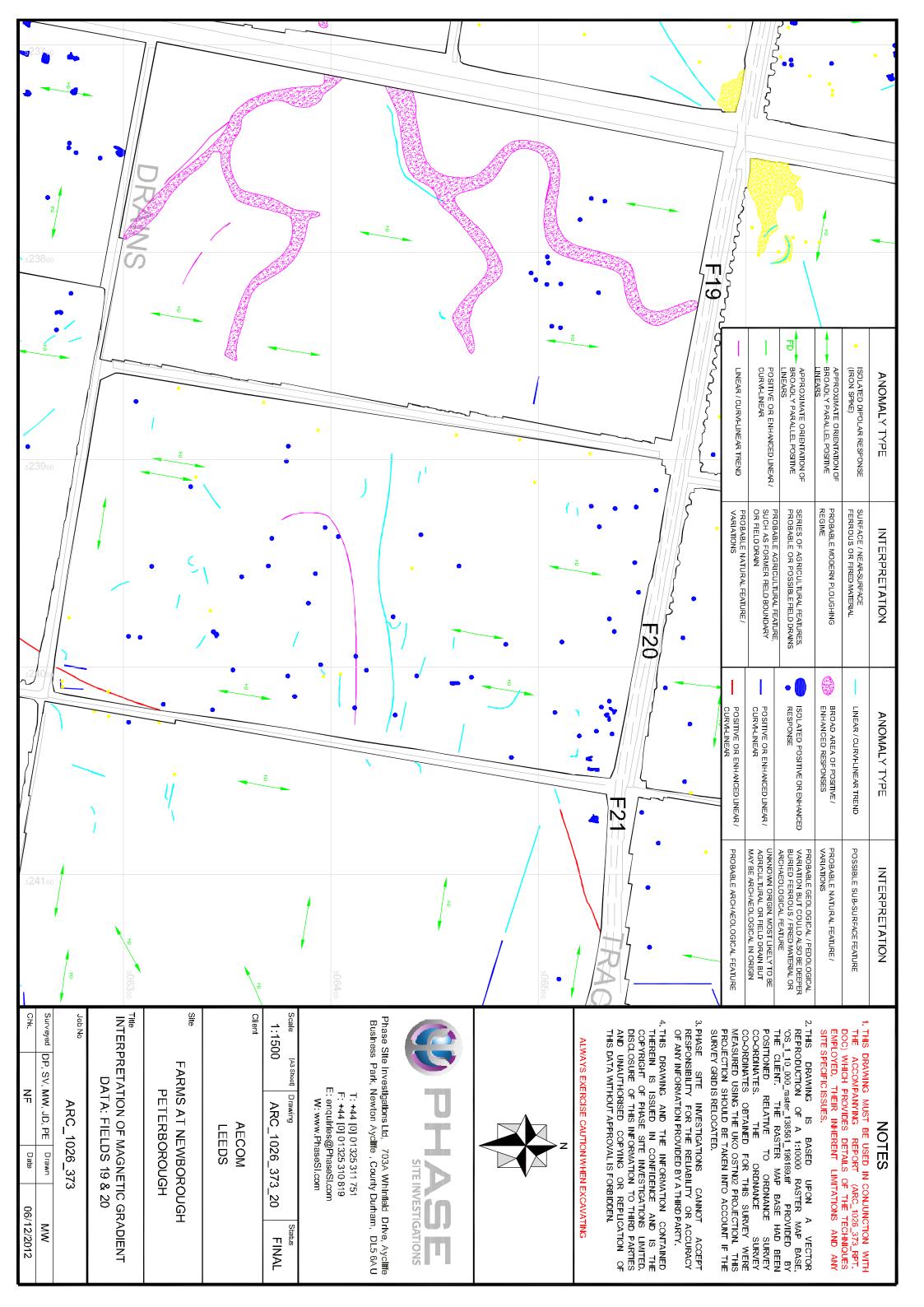


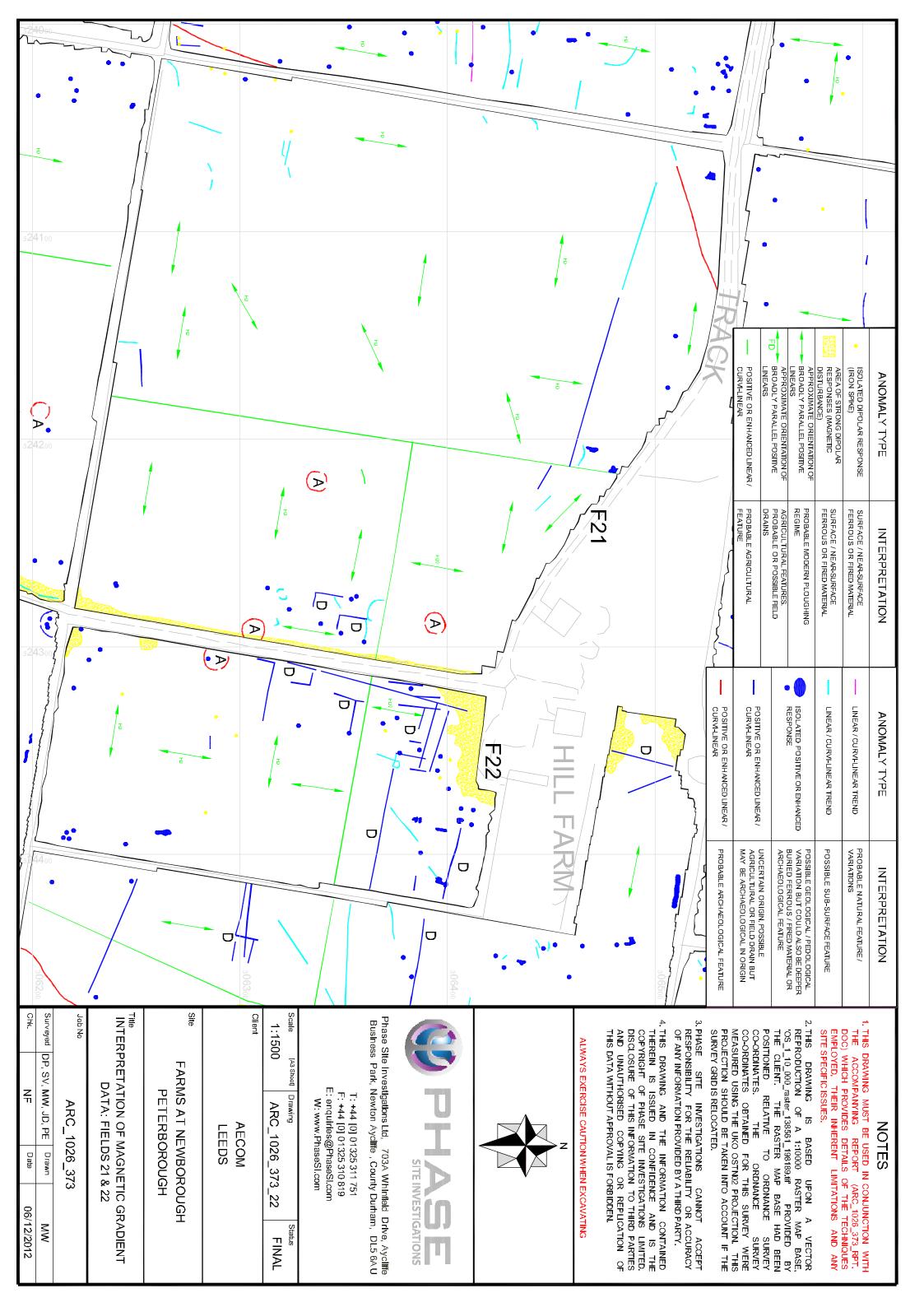


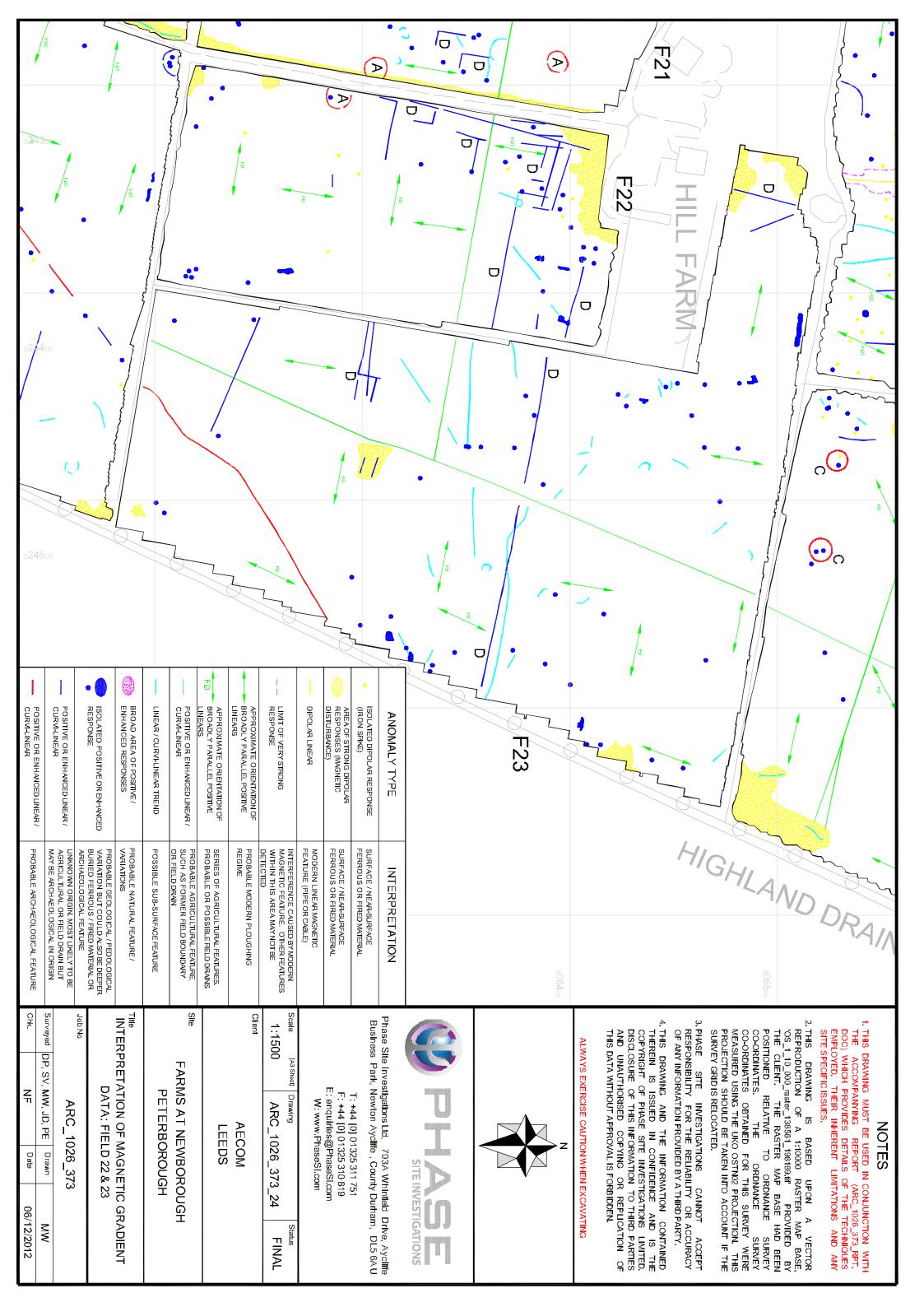


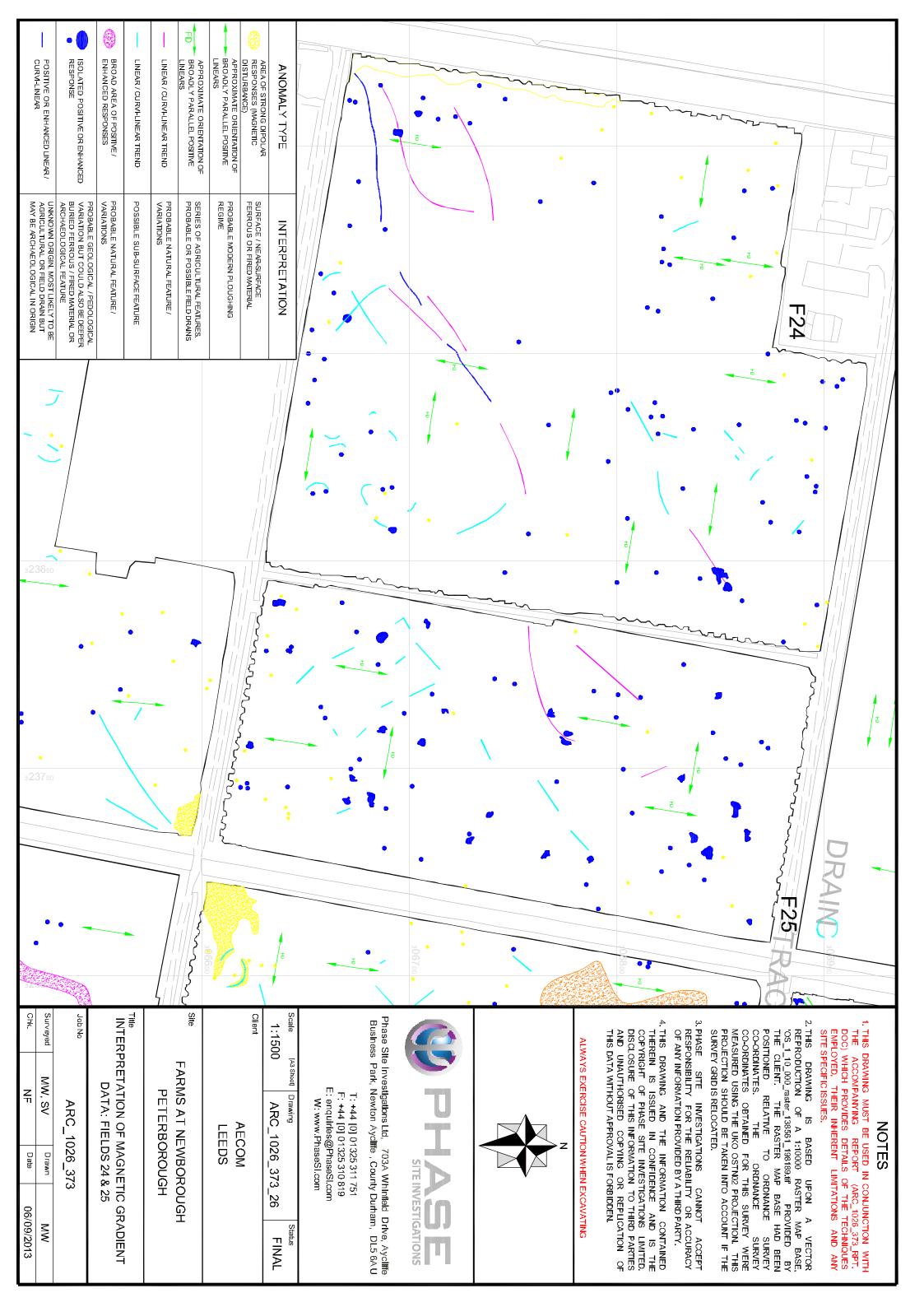


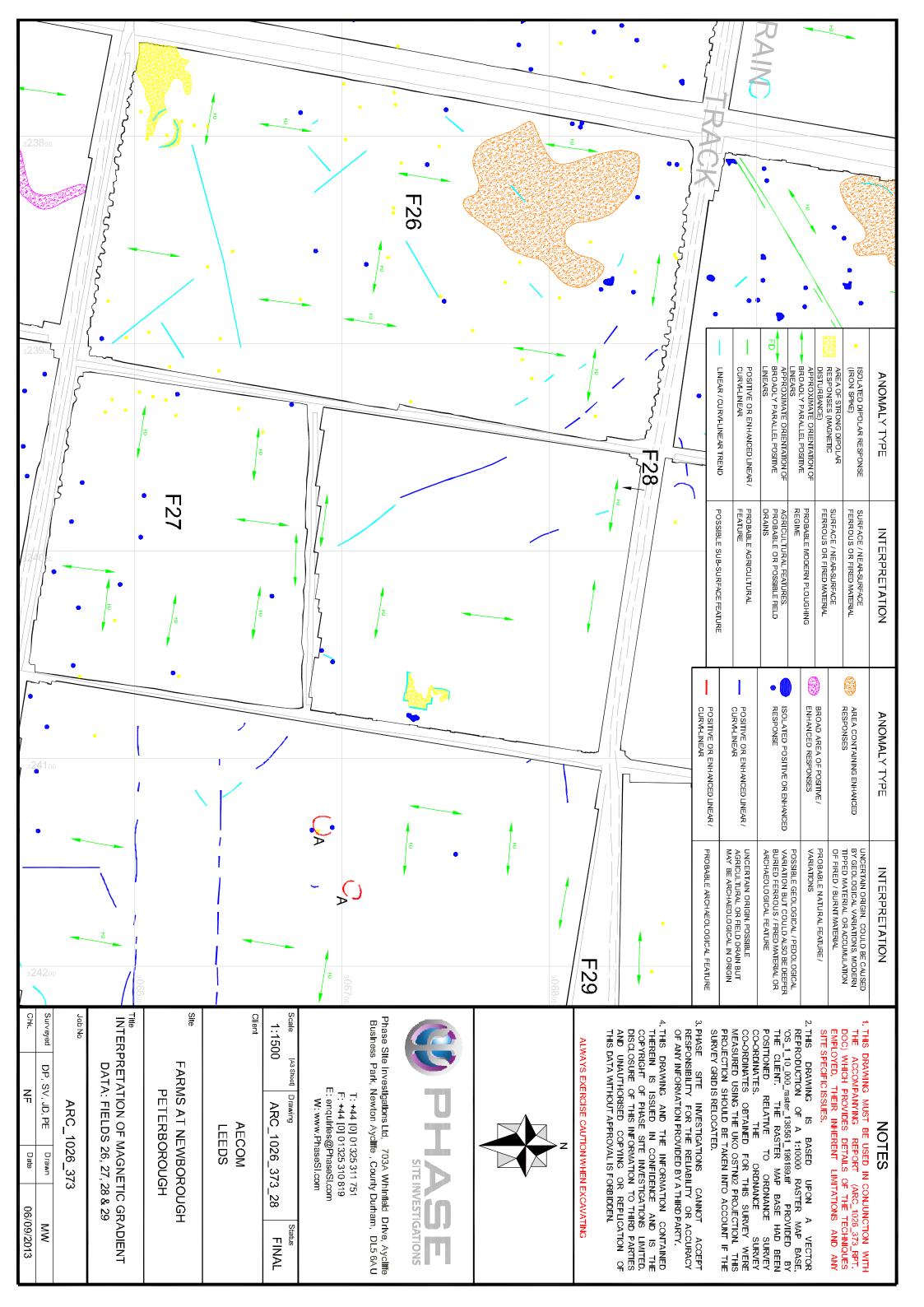


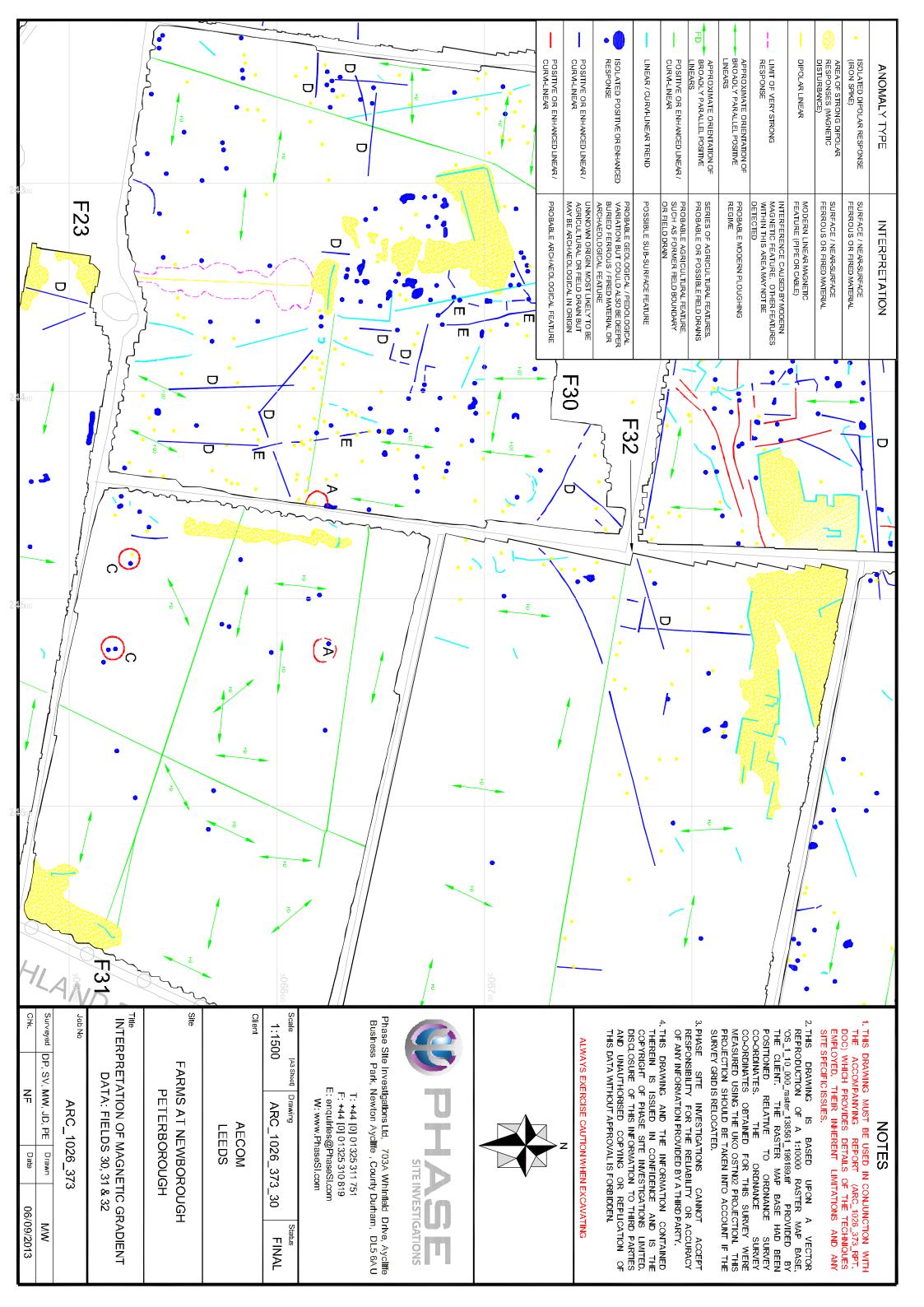


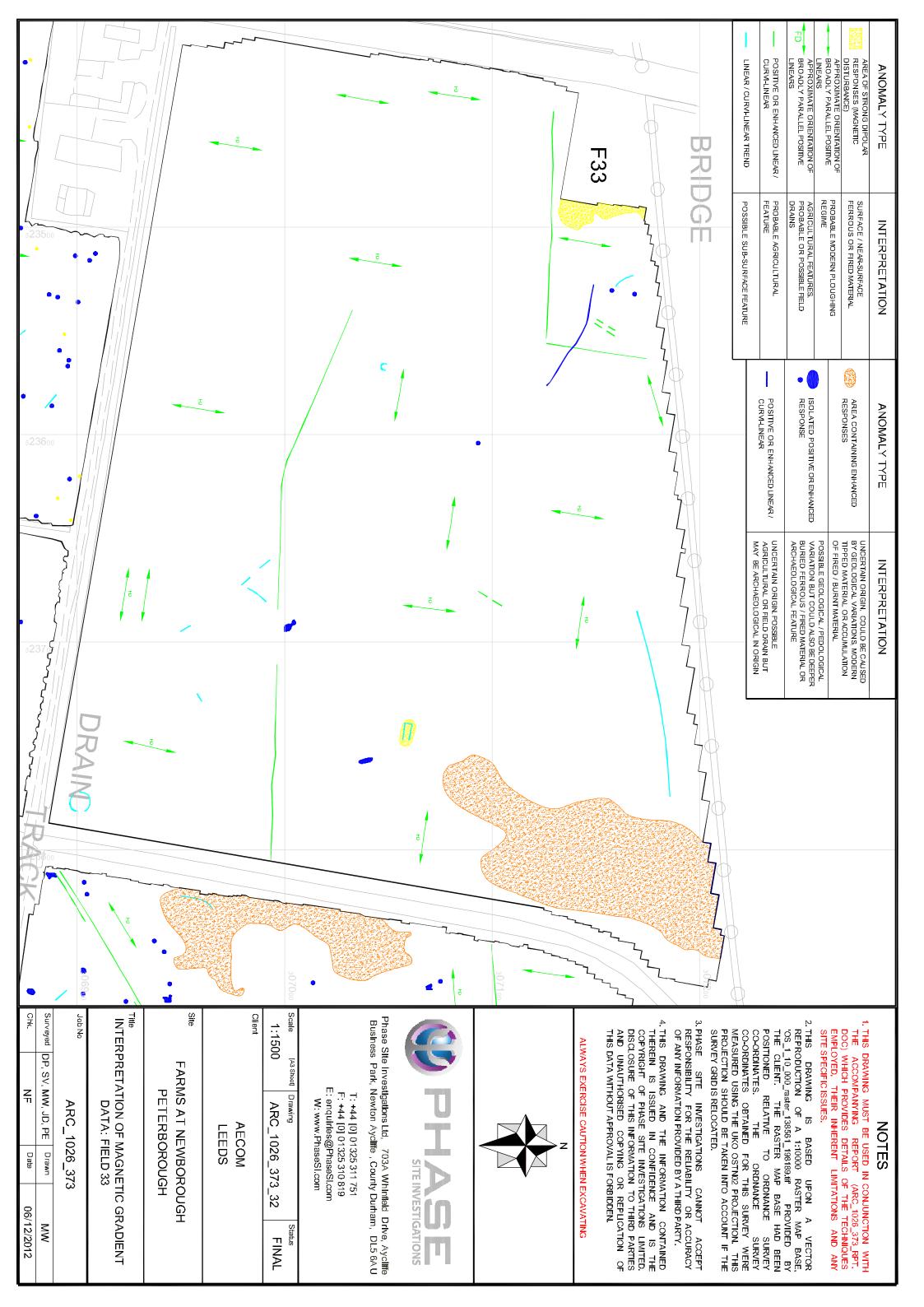


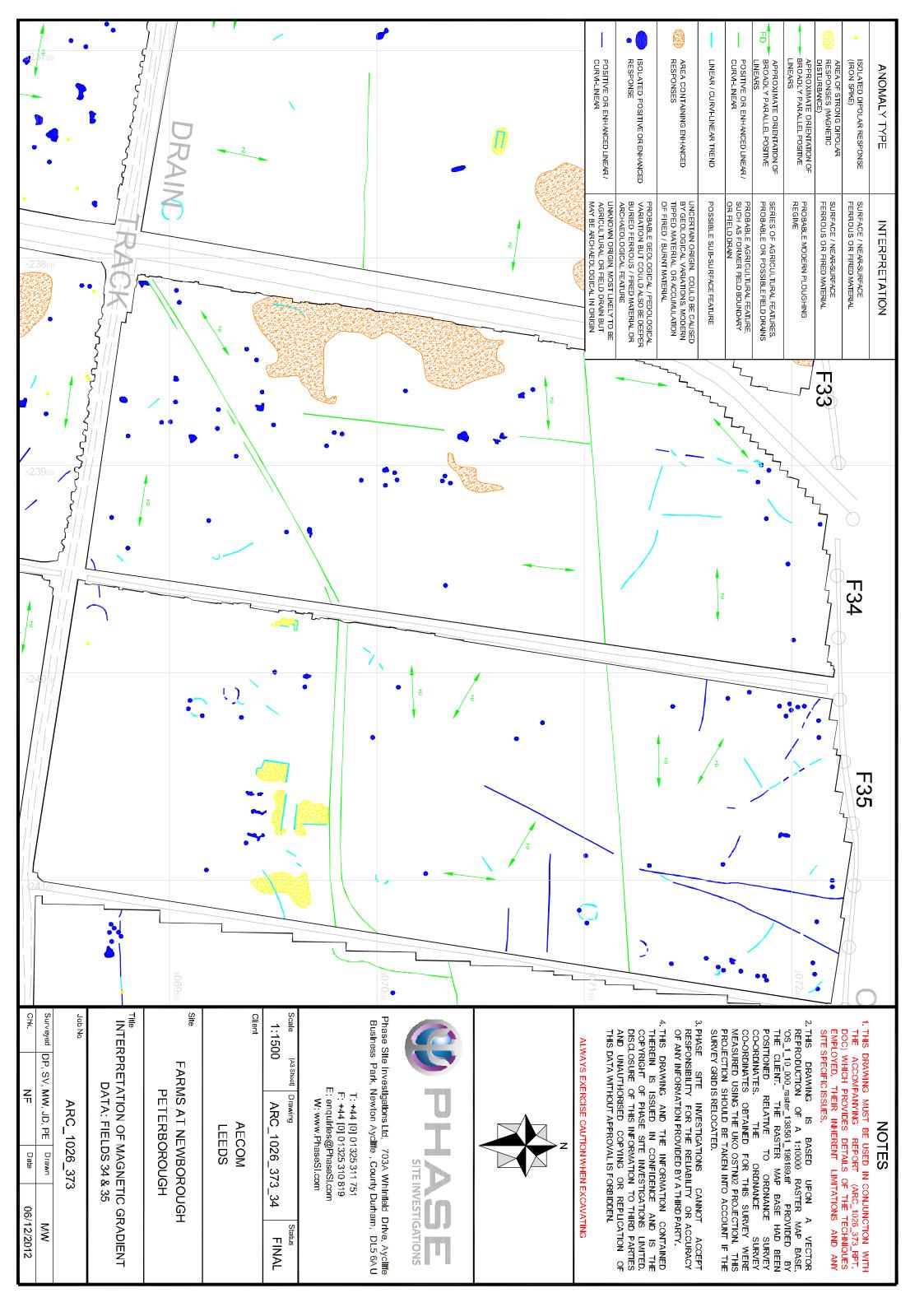


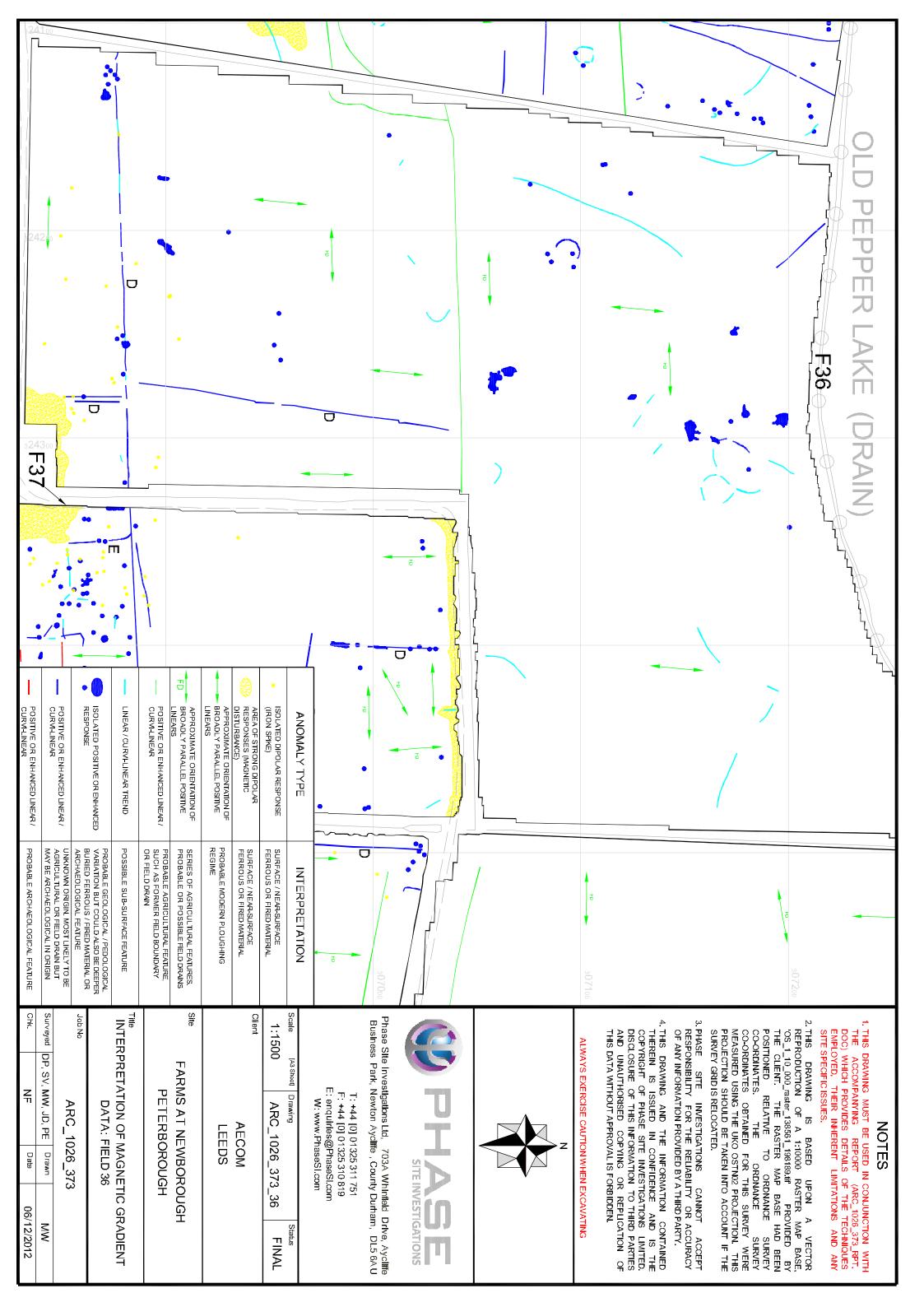


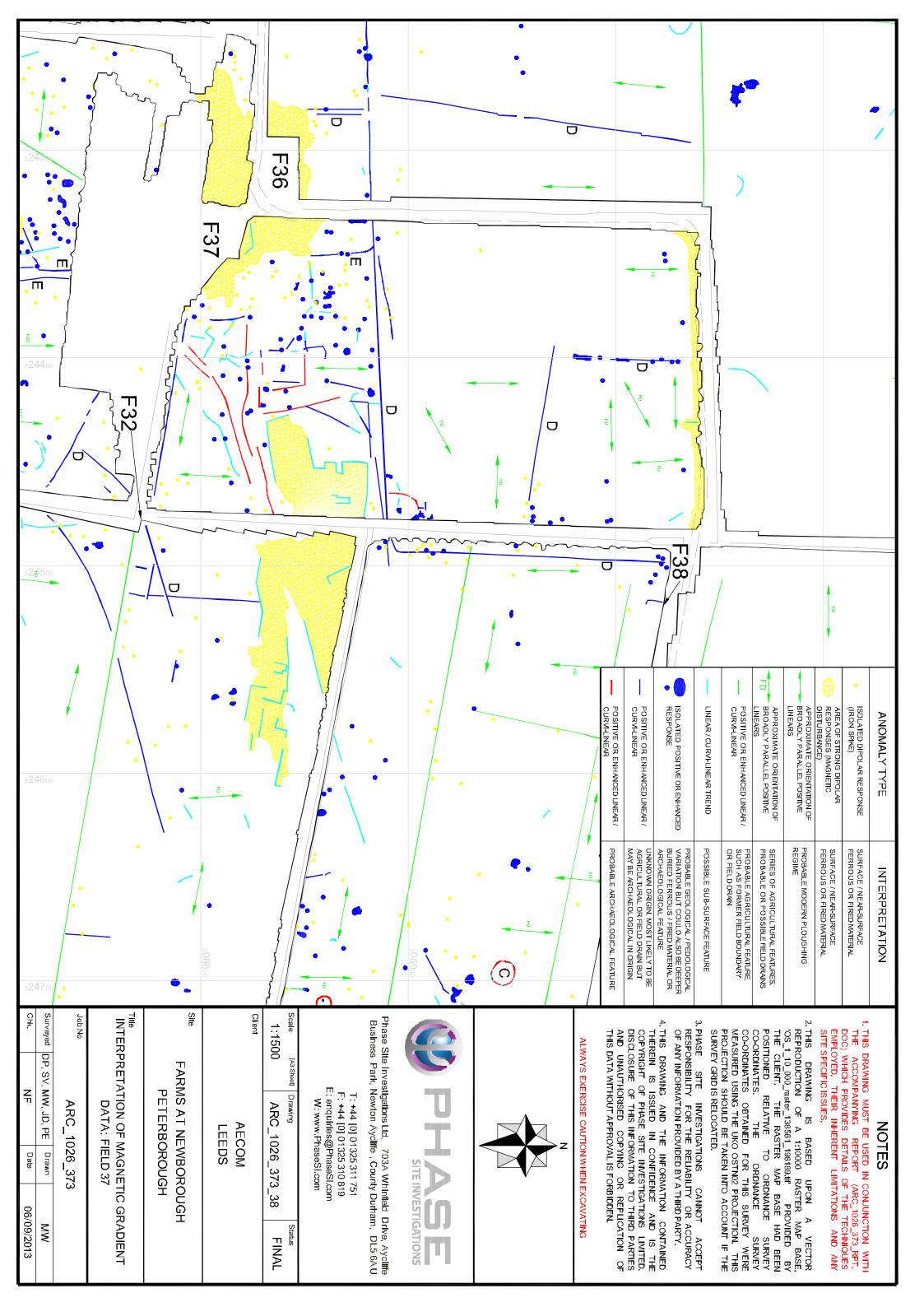


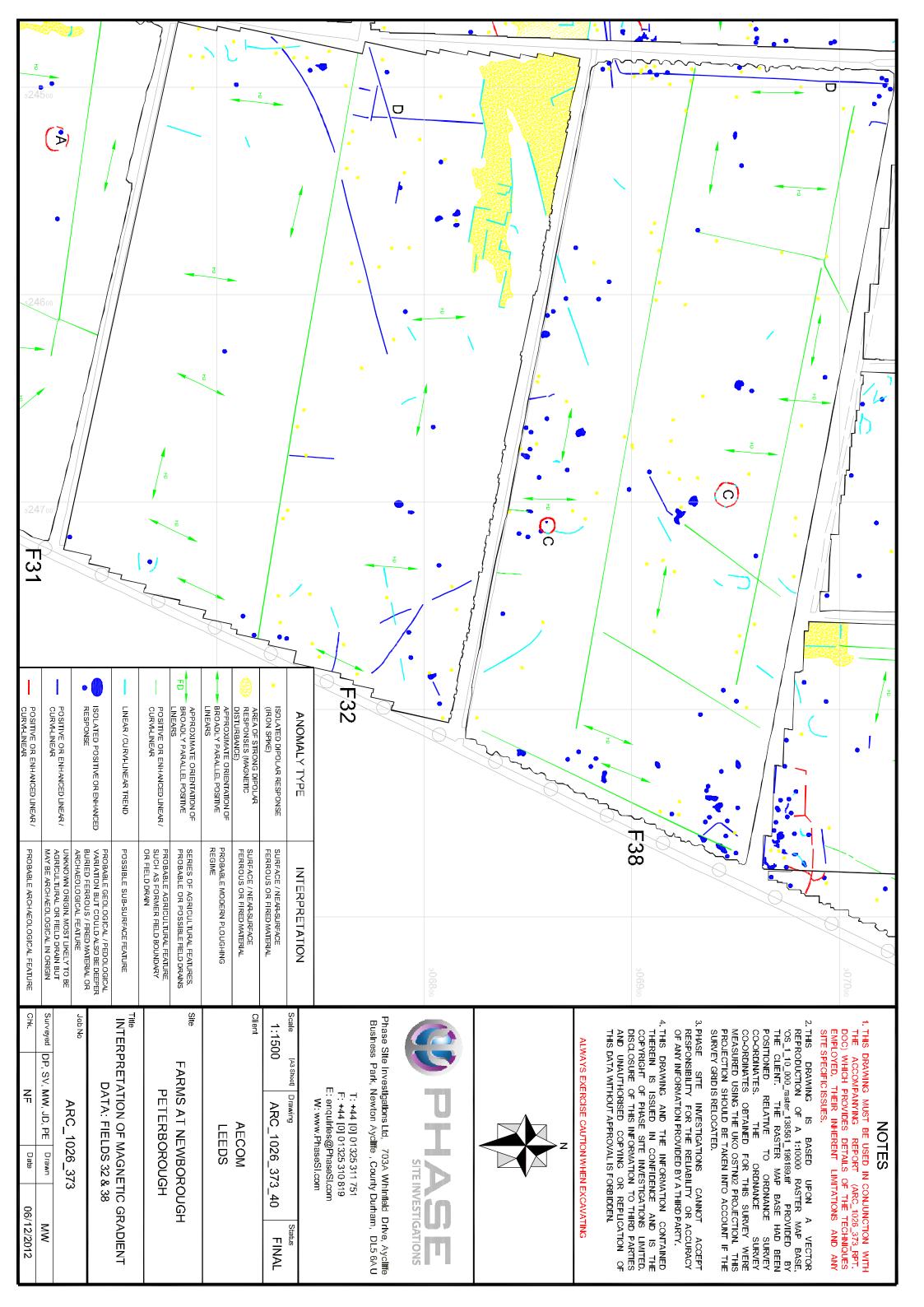


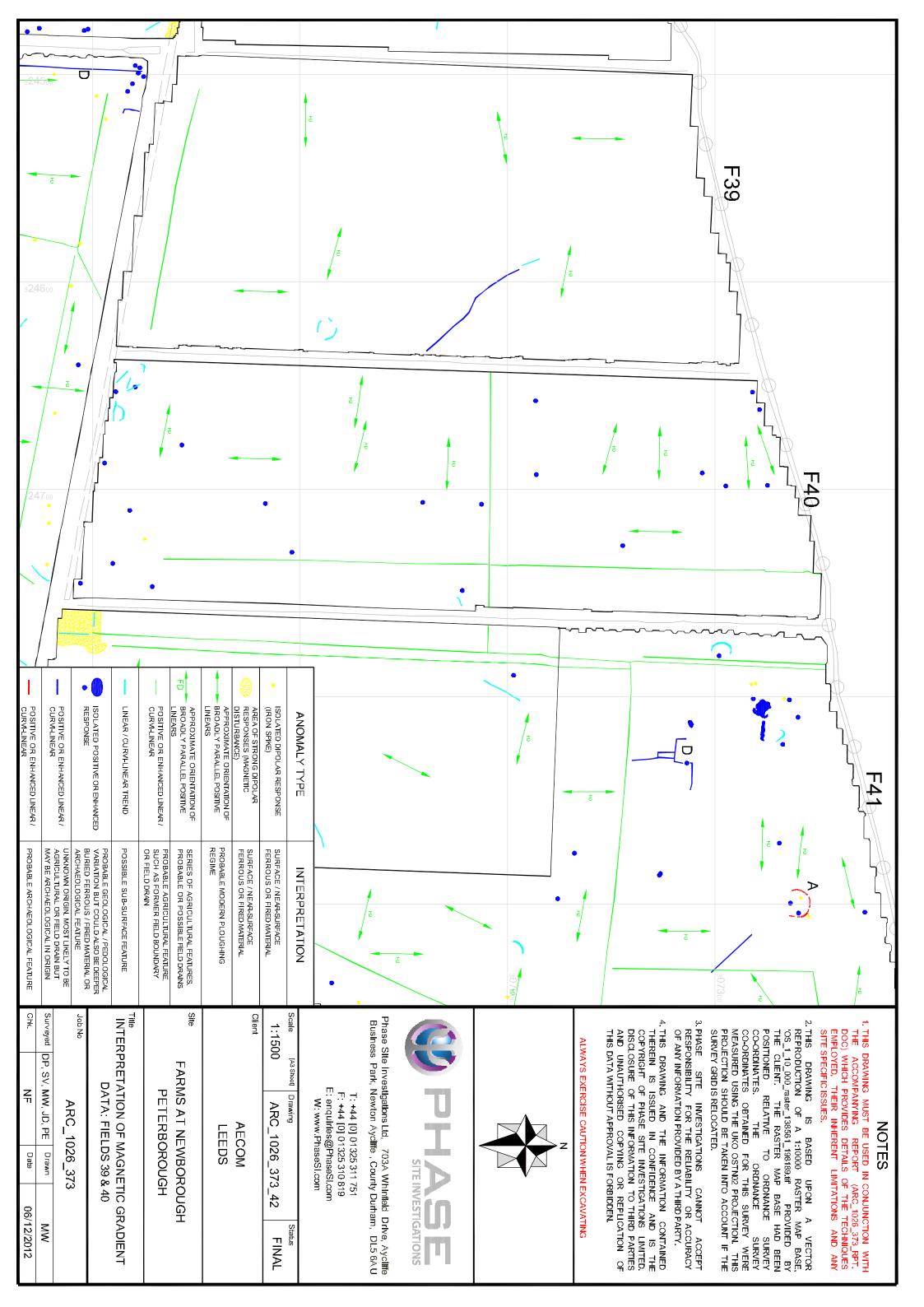


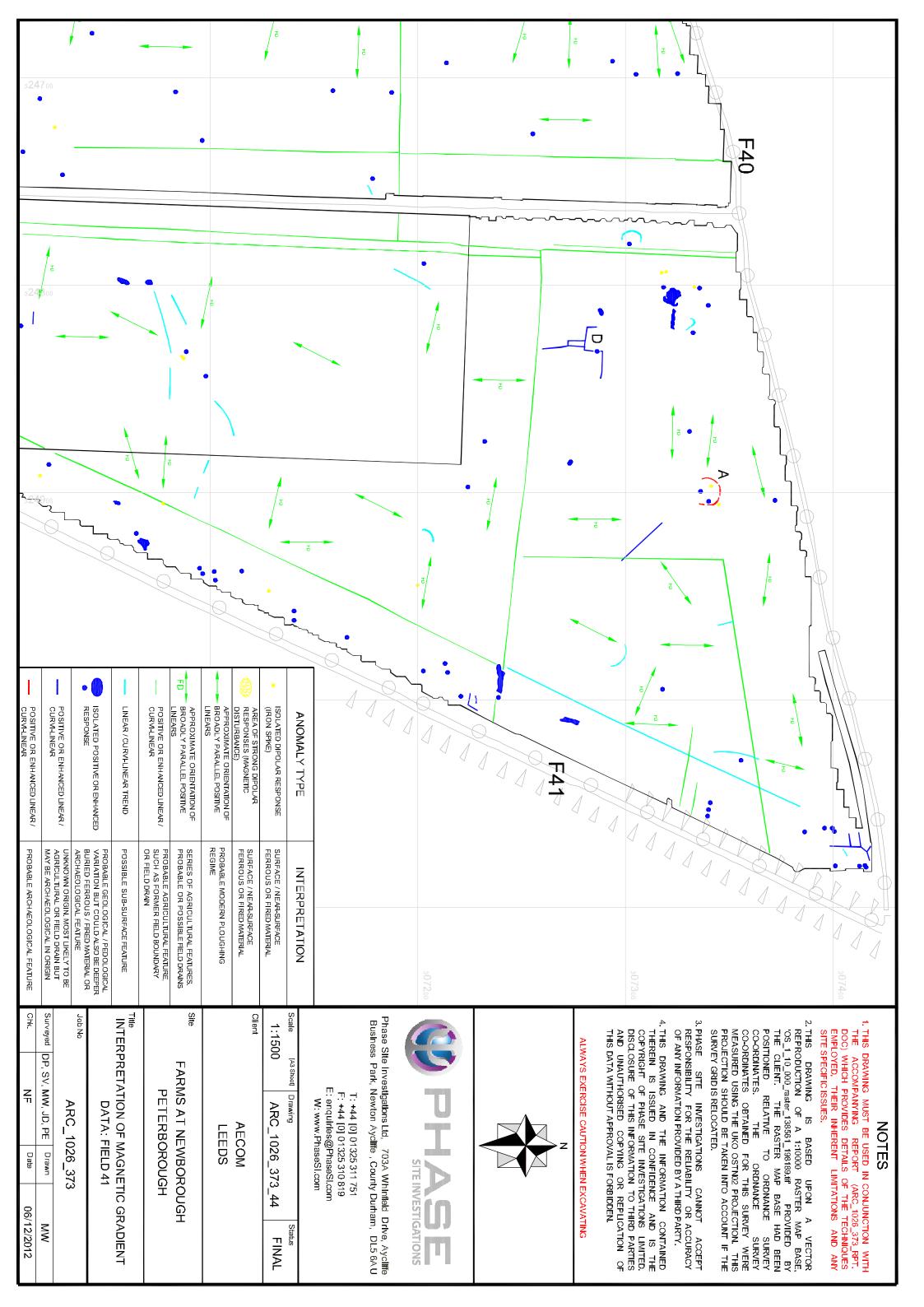












## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

## OASIS ID: wessexar1-168609

Project details

Project name Peterborough Solar Farm Project

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by

AECOM to undertake an archaeological test pitting

and auger survey in advance of a Solar Park

development on land at Morris Fen (NGR: 528432 306531), Americas Farm (NGR: 523583 300422) and Newborough Farms (NGR: 523694 306422). The

Short description of the project

significant archaeological remains appeared to be concentrated in four broad areas at Newborough Farms, relating to different periods and activities (Prehistoric-Roman and Post-Medieval). The evidence fits into three broad categories of curvilinear features, straight boundary ditches/gullies and discreet pits and posts associated with settlement. America Farm produced no remains of significant archaeological

value.

Project dates Start: 21-10-2014 End: 30-11-2014

Previous/future

work

Yes / Yes

Any associated

project reference

101910 - Sitecode

codes

Any associated

project reference

53723 - HER event no.

codes

Any associated

project reference

53724 - HER event no.

codes

Any associated

project reference

53725 - HER event no.

codes

Any associated PAMAj/12/00140 - Planning Application No.

project reference

codes

Any associated

project reference

codes

PAMAJ/12/00139 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than

0.25m

Monument type DITCHES Post Medieval

Monument type DITCHES Late Prehistoric

Monument type DITCHES Roman

Monument type PITS Roman

Monument type POST HOLES Roman

Monument type CURVILINEARS Late Prehistoric

Monument type DITCHES Uncertain

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Roman

Significant Finds FLINT TOOLS Lower Palaeolithic

Significant Finds BROOCH Roman

Significant Finds GLASS BEAD Roman

Significant Finds CLAY PIPE Post Medieval

Methods &

techniques

"Targeted Trenches", "Test Pits"

Development type Solar park

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the

planning process

Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH

Site location NEWBOROUGH Peterborough Solar Farms on land

at America Farm, Morris Fen and Newborough

Postcode PE6 7RA

Study area 351.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TF 520353 305828 52.8508904933 0.258059000962

52 51 03 N 000 15 29 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 1.00m Max: 4.00m

**Project creators** 

Name of

Organisation

Wessex Archaeology

Project brief

originator

AECOM

Project design

originator

Wessex Archaeology

**Project** 

director/manager

R. O'Neill

Project supervisor Neil Dransfield

Type of

sponsor/funding

**Energy Consultant** 

body

Name of

sponsor/funding

**AECOM** 

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

recipient

Peterborough Museum

**Physical Contents** 

"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"

Contents

Peterborough Museum

Digital Archive

recipient

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media

"Database", "Images raster / digital

available

photography", "Spreadsheets"

Paper Archive

recipient

Peterborough Museum

**Paper Contents** 

"none"

Paper Media

"Context

available

sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

**Project** 

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Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

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**Project** 

bibliography 2

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Archaeological Test Pitting Report.

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Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

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