

HERITAGE NETWORK

Specialists in Archaeology and the Historic Environment Since 1992



LAND AT HILLFOOT FARM Shefford, Bedfordshire

HN1232

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION***

HERITAGE NETWORK

Registered with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIfA

Land at
HILLFOOT FARM
Shefford, Bedfordshire

Project ref.: HN1232
Accession No.: BEDFM 2015.77
HER Search No.: 15/193

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Warden Developments Ltd & Samuel Beadie (Investments) Ltd

by

Greg Jones, BA MA ACIfA & Mark Sycamore, BA

Report no. 1034

December 2016

© The Heritage Network Ltd

11 FURMSTON COURT, ICKNIELD WAY, LETCHWORTH SG6 1UJ
TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998

This page has been left blank to optimize duplex printing

Contents

	Summary.....	Page i
Section 1	Introduction.....	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork	Page 2
Section 3	Discussion	Page 35
Section 4	Sources Consulted	Page 39
Section 5	Illustrations	following Page 40
Appendix	OASIS summary sheet.....	Page 43

The front cover shows the site, looking north-west

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones, Mark Sycamore, Daniel Phillips, Alison Hudson, Jenny Heinzelmann and Robin Densem. The finds assessment was undertaken by Helen Ashworth and Chris Turner. The bulk samples were processed by Trude Maynard and Angela Bain and the assessment was undertaken by James Rackham, all of the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy. The report text and illustrations were compiled by Greg Jones and Mark Sycamore, and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Nigel Lewis, Warden Developments Ltd, and to Martin Oake and Hannah Firth, Archaeology Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5FS		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Shefford	Parish:	Shefford
Planning reference:	n/a	NGR:	TL 14780 38520
Client name and address:	Samuel Beadie (Arlesey) Ltd & Warden Developments Ltd. c/o Park Farm, Warden Street, Old Warden, Beds. SG18 9LR		
Nature of work:	Rural residential	Current land use:	Cultivated Land
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	Pre-application	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c. 59000m ²	Size of area investigated:	1200m ²
Site code:	HN1232	Museum entry no.:	BEDFM 2015.77
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Field evaluation	Archive recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work:	07/09/2016	Finish of work:	03/10/2016
Related HER nos:	(HER 11766)	Periods represented:	Iron Age, Romano-British, Roman
OASIS UID:	heritage1-227490	Significant finds:	Pottery, metal, tile, animal bone
Monument types:	Ditch, Pit, Posthole, Cremation burial		
Physical archive:	Pottery, Tile		
Previous summaries/reports:	Turner, C. 2015 <i>Land at Bridge Farm, Shefford, Beds. Project Design.</i> Heritage Network, 2015 Davies, R. 2016 <i>Land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire: Geophysical Survey Report.</i> Stratascan Ltd.		

Synopsis:

As part of a programme of archaeological work undertaken in advance of a planning application for residential development on land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching.

A geophysical survey of the site demonstrated a *High* overall archaeological potential for the site, with the possibility of features and deposits of prehistoric to post-medieval date surviving within the development area. This supported the evidence of aerial photographs, which show a trapezoidal enclosure with a smaller curvilinear enclosure attached, and a separate oval enclosure to the south-west.

Sixteen trenches were excavated across the site, twelve of which revealed a total of fifty-seven archaeological features. In consultation with the Historic Environment Team at Central Bedfordshire County Council, it was agreed to limit the detailed investigation to twenty key features that were expected to provide data on the character and date range of the site.

Datable pottery finds were recovered from the fills of fifty of the archaeological features. The pottery evidence from the site has demonstrated that activity on the site started in the late Iron Age and continued into the late 2nd century AD. No evidence for later Roman activity was recovered. The earliest features on the site appear to be located in Trenches 5 and 6 in the centre of the site, and in Trenches 10 and 16 in the north-western quadrant. The evidence suggests a small enclosure, occupied from the mid-1st century BC, with a slightly later expansion of the enclosure to the north-west by the 2nd century. Ditch [1301], in the south-western corner of the site, produced sherds of grog- and organic-tempered wares, which may date either to the late Iron Age (1st century BC) or possibly to the early Saxon period (5th – 7th century AD).

The late Iron Age and Romano-British remains on the site are considered to be of high local and regional archaeological significance.

On the basis of the cumulative results of the evaluation, including both geophysics and trial trenching, the risk that the proposed development might have a negative impact on remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be *High* for the Iron Age and Roman period, and *Low* for all other periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *Warden Developments Ltd & Samuel Beadie (Investments) Ltd*, as part of a programme of archaeological work undertaken in advance of a planning application for residential development on land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire.

1.2 A planning application for the development is intended to be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). On the advice of the Archaeology Team (AT) at CBC, and in line with paragraph 128 of the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), further information regarding the impact of the proposed development on the historic environment has been requested.

1.3 The site is located on the south-western edge of Shefford, to the rear of Queen Elizabeth Close, and currently forms open agricultural land centred on NGR TL 14780 38520. The line of the former Hitchin to Bedford branch railway forms the western limits of the site, and field drains mark the eastern limits. Access from the site will be from Hitchin Road immediately to the north of Hillfoot Farm (Figure 1).

1.4 A geophysical survey, prepared by Stratascan Ltd on behalf of Heritage Network, showed a high level of anomalies that are almost certainly attributable to archaeological activity and include a large trapezoidal enclosure. This had previously been identified from aerial photography and was recorded on the Central Bedfordshire and Luton *Historic Environment Record* (HER11766). Numerous other linear, curvilinear and sub-circular anomalies were also recorded, suggesting multi-phase prehistoric or Roman settlement activity overlain by modern ploughing (Davies 2016).

1.5 The aim of the trial trenching programme has been to confirm and characterise the results of the geophysical survey, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Oake *et al* 2007, Medlycott 2011). It was considered that such investigation had the potential to identify archaeological deposits which might contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of Shefford as a settlement from the prehistoric period onwards.

1.6 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient information about the archaeological potential of the site and the impacts of the proposed development, to allow it to decide what further measures may be required, if any, to mitigate those impacts should the development be permitted to proceed.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located on the south-eastern edge of Shefford, on sloping ground in the valley of the River Ivel, at approximately 50mAOD.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Evesham 3 Association (411c), described as:

Slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying geology consists of *Gault Formation Mudstone*, a Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 100 – 112 million years ago. The overlying superficial deposits consist of *Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton* formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate CIfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.5 The overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate, using a 14-tonne 360-degree tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket.

2.6 Spoil from the machining was scanned for archaeological artefacts both visually and using a metal detector.

2.7 The exposed area was cleaned by hand, and potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.8 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:100. Soil colours are referenced to the Munsell colour system.

2.9 Because of the density of archaeological remains across the northern half of the site, and after consultation with the CBC Archaeology Team, the sampling strategy for the site was reviewed and a number of key features were identified for investigation during the present stage of the project.

RESULTS

2.10 Sixteen trial trenches were excavated across the site. Nine trenches measured 50m in length by 2m in width, and a further seven trenches measured 25m in length by 2m in width representing a 2% sample of the site by area. The trenches were located using survey-grade GPS equipment, referenced to the OS National Grid (Figure 2).

Trench 1

2.11 Trench 1 was located at the south-east corner of the site and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.36m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 1).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.8 – 1.36	Orientation	NE-SW		
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.73	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.35
			Base	47.93				Base	49.05
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil.	>50	>2	0.35				
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil.	>50	>2	0.6				
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.35				

2.12 The stratigraphy in Trench 1 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Figure 2, Plate 1).

2.13 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 1.

Trench 2

2.14 Trench 2 was located at the southern end of the site and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 2).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	1.2	Orientation	NW-SE		
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.29	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.27
			Base	50.11				Base	51.04
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>50	>2	0.38				
Redeposited Subsoil	Layer	7.5YR 4/6 Strong brown, soft silty sandy clay redeposited material from nearby railway cutting	>50	>2	0.5				
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.4				
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.3				

2.15 The stratigraphy in Trench 2 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying a layer of redeposited material from the cutting of the nearby railway line consisting of a strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) soft silty sandy clay. This in turn overlay a subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay, beneath which was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 2 & 3).

2.16 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 2.

Trench 3

2.17 Trench 3 was located near the south-western edge of the site and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 4).

2.18 Recorded Data

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.8	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.63	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	51.17
			Base	49.01			Base	50.54
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>50	>2	0.34			
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.4			
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.24			

2.19 The stratigraphy in Trench 3 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 4).

2.20 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 3.

Trench 4

2.21 Trench 4 was located in the southern part of the site and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.6m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 5).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.6	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.50	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	49.54
			Base	49.96			Base	49.04
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	> 50	>2	0.3			
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.25			
401	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (402).	>1	0.9	unknown			
402	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, slightly sandy silty clay. Fill of [401]. Contained early RB pottery.	>1	0.9	unknown			
403	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (404).	>2	1.3	unknown			
404	fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [403]. No finds.	>2	1.3	unknown			
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.5			

2.22 The stratigraphy in Trench 4 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 5).

2.23 There were two features in Trench 4, a ditch terminus [401] and a probable ditch [403]. Both were aligned roughly north-south, and neither was investigated in the present stage of work. The fill of ditch [401], context (402), contained Romano-British pottery (Figure 3).

2.24 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 4.

Trench 5

2.25 Trench 5 was located to the north-west of Trench 3 and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.6m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 6).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.6	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	48.84	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	49.55
		Base	48.15			Base	48.99
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	> 25	>2	0.4		
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>25	>2	0.2		
501	cut	Cut for cremation burial, sub-circular, mostly truncated by machine. Contained Fill (502).	0.45	0.4	0.05		
502	fill	Fill of cremation burial, contained cremation and backfill. Contained LPRIA pottery sherds.	0.45	0.4	0.05		
503	fill	10YR 2/1 Black soft, silty clay. Fill of [507]. Occ. burnt clay, chalk flecks and freq. charcoal flecks. Contained mid-late 1 st C AD pottery and calcined bone.	2	0.7	0.18		
504	fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [507]. Contained mid-late 1 st C AD pottery.	2	0.4	0.22		
505	fill	10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [507]. Contained LPRIA pottery and calcined bone.	2	0.6	0.16		
506	fill	10YR 4/3 Brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [507]. Contained LPRIA pottery, animal bone, daub, shell and fe object.	2	1	0.26		
507	cut	Linear with moderate sides and a stepped concave base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fills (503)-(506) and (508)-(514).	2	3.5	0.98		
508	fill	10YR 4/1 Dark grey soft, silty clay. Fill of [507]. No finds.	2	0.72	0.18		
509	fill	10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [507]. Contained LPRIA pottery, animal bone, daub and stone.	2	1	0.24		

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	0.6	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.84	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	49.55
			Base	48.15			Base	48.99
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
510	fill	10YR 3/1 Very dark grey soft, silty clay. Fill of [507]. Contained mid – late 1 st C AD pottery, animal bone and daub.	2	1.1	0.2			
511	fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [507]. Contained pottery, daub and a fe object.	2	1.4	0.24			
512	fill	10YR 6/6 Brownish yellow soft, sandy clay. Fill of [507]. Contained mid – late 1 st C AD pottery, animal bone and daub.	2	1.42	0.26			
513	fill	2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey soft, silty clay. Fill of [507]. Contained mid – late 1 st C AD pottery and animal bone.	2	0.6	0.28			
514	fill	10YR 5/2 Greyish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [507]. Contained mid – late 1 st C AD pottery, animal bone, daub, stone and slag.	2	1.14	0.28			
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>25	>2	>0.1			

2.26 The stratigraphy in Trench 5 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying a subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay.

2.27 Cremation burial [501] was located 5.12m from the north-east end of Trench 5. It was sub-circular in shape and measured 0.45m in length by 0.4m in width and survived machining to a depth of 0.05m. The cremation fill contained LPRIA pottery sherds (Figure 3, Plate 9 & 10).

2.28 Ditch [507] (part of enclosure ditch [1700]), was located approximately 7.25m from the south-west end of Trench 5. It measured 3.5m wide, had a depth of more than 0.98m and extended beyond the limits of the trench (Figures 2, 3 & 7, Plates 7 & 8).

2.28.1 Ditch [507] contained eleven fills (Section 7), consisting stratigraphically of an initial silting event (506), followed by some subsidence from the north-east edge (505), followed by a series of dumped deposits (504), (513) and (514). These in turn were followed by another subsidence event (512), this time coming from the south-western edge, and finally more dumped deposits (503), (508), (509), (510) and (511).

2.28.2 A large quantity of finds was recovered from ditch [507], including animal bone, daub and pottery. All of the recovered pottery dates from between the late pre-Roman Iron Age (50BC-AD50) and the early Roman (late 1st century AD). Also found within this feature was a large clay loom weight and an iron billhook. These finds suggest nearby occupation with domestic and agricultural activity taking place.

2.29 Ditch [507] is part of the large enclosure ditch [1700], along with [1103] and [1201]. Ditch [717] may also be part of this enclosure as a later addition. The interpretation of the geophysical survey (Figure 2) suggested that ditch enclosure feature [1700] consisted of a bank and ditch, but this could not be confirmed by the present investigation.

2.30 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 5.

Trench 6

2.31 Trench 6 was located near the centre of the site, immediately north-east of Trench 5, and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 1m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 11).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.5 - 1	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	48.12	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	48.49
		Base	47.55			Base	47.86
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	> 25	>2	0.3		
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>25	>2	0.1		
601	Cut	Linear with steep sides and a flat base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (602).	>2	1.6	0.9		
602	Fill	7.5YR 4/3 Brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [601]. Contained late 1 st century AD pottery (intrusive post-medieval tile also present), animal bone, daub and CBM.	>2	1.6	0.9		
603	Cut	Linear with moderate sides and a concave base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (604).	>2	1.2	0.4		
604	Fill	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown, friable silty clay. Fill of [603].	>2	1.2	0.4		
605	Cut	Linear with steep sides and a flat base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (606).	>1.2	0.3	0.7		
606	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [605]. Contained LPRIA pottery and animal bone.	>1.2	0.3	0.7		
607	Cut	Linear with moderate sides and a concave base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (608) and (609).	>2	0.7	0.9		
608	Fill	5Y 4/2 Olive grey, soft silty clay. Fill of [607]. Contained 2 nd C AD pottery, animal bone, daub and shell.	>2	0.7	0.9		
609	Fill	10YR 6/8 Brownish yellow, soft, slightly sandy silty clay. Fill of [607]. No finds.	>2	0.5	0.1		
610	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (611).	>2	3	unknown		
611	Fill	7.5YR 4/2 Brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [611]. Contained late mid – late 1 st C AD pottery, animal bone, daub and stone.	>2	3	unknown		
612	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (613).	>0.5	0.47	>0.18		
613	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, slightly sandy silty clay. Fill of [612]. No finds.	>0.5	0.47	>0.18		
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>25	>2	>0.1		

2.32 The stratigraphy in Trench 6 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay.

2.33 Trench 6 contained a total of six features, including four linear ditches [601], [603], [607] and [610], one ditch terminus [605] and a curvilinear ditch [612] (Figure 3).

2.34 Linear ditch [601] was located 4.25m from the north-west end of the trench and was oriented approximately east-west. It measured more than 2m in length, 1.6m in width, and 0.9m in depth. It contained a single fill (602) composed of soft brown (7.5YR 4/3) silty clay formed by a gradual build-up of material as the feature went out of use. Mid- to late 1st century pottery was recovered from within the fill (Figures 3 & 7, Plate 12).

2.35 Linear ditch [603] was located 0.5m to the south-east of ditch [601]. It was only seen in section and was oriented approximately east-west. It measured more than 2m in length, 1.2m in width, and 0.4m in depth. It had a single fill (604), consisting of friable yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty clay, formed by a gradual build-up of material as the feature went out of use. No dateable finds were recovered from this feature (Figures 3 & 7).

2.36 Linear ditch [607] was located 7.38m from the south-east of the trench, and was oriented approximately north-south. It measured more than 2m in length, 0.7m in width, and 0.9m in depth. The feature contained two fills, of which (609) appeared to have been formed from a gradual build-up of material as the feature went out of use. No dateable finds were recovered from this fill, but a later fill (608) contained three 2nd century AD pottery sherds (Figures 3 & 7, Plate 14).

2.37 Ditch terminus [605] was located 10m to the south-east end of the trench (Figures 3 & 7, Plates 13 & 14) and was oriented approximately north to south. It measured more than 1m in length, 0.3m in width, and 0.6m in depth. It had a single fill (606), which consisted of soft dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silty clay and contained LPRIA pottery sherds and animal bone.

2.38 Linear ditch [610] was located 1.5m from the south-east end of the trench and measured more than 2m in length, 3m in width, and was of unknown depth. It was oriented approximately north-west to south-east and had a single fill (611), which consisted of soft brown (7.5YR 4/2) silty clay containing mid- late 1st century pottery sherds.

2.39 Curvilinear ditch [612] was located 2m to the north-west of terminus [605] and measured more 1.6m in length, 0.47m in width and 0.18m in depth. It had a single fill (613), composed of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft, slightly sandy silty clay. No dateable finds were recovered from this feature.

2.40 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 6.

Trench 7

2.41 Trench 7 was located near the centre of the site, immediately north-east of Trench 6, and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 15).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.5	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	47.52	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	47.81
		Base	46.93			Base	47.26
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	> 50	>2	0.3		
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.1		

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.5	Orientation	NE-SW		
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.52	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.81
			Base	46.93				Base	47.26
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
701	Cut	Linear with moderate sides and a concave flattish base. Oriented N-S.	>2	1.5	0.45				
702	Fill	10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown silty sandy clay. Fill of [701]. Contained 3 rd C AD pottery and animal bone.	>2	1.5	0.45				
703	Cut	Linear with steep sides and a concave base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (704).	>1.3	1.8	0.7				
704	Fill	7.5YR 3/4 Dark brown friable, silty clay. Fill of [703]. Contained mid – late 1 st C AD pottery and animal bone.	>1.3	1.8	0.7				
705	Cut	Sub-circular post hole with vertical sides and an uneven concave base. Contained Fill (706).	-	0.23	0.21				
706	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [705]. No finds	-	0.23	0.21				
707	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (708).	>2	0.4	unknown				
708	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, slightly sandy silty clay. Fill of [707]. Contained RB pottery.	>2	0.4	unknown				
709	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (710).	>2	2.1	unknown				
710	Fill	10YR 4/3 Brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [709]. Contained animal bone.	>2	2.1	unknown				
711	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (712).	>2	0.37	unknown				
712	Fill	2.5Y 5/6 Light olive brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [711]. No finds.	>2	0.37	unknown				
713	Cut	Terminus or small pit with very steep sides and unknown base. Feature not bottomed. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (714).	>0.4	0.4	unknown				
714	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown friable, silty clay. Fill of [713]. No finds.	>0.4	0.4	unknown				
715	Cut	Curvilinear with unknown sides and base. Contained Fill (716).	>4	0.7	unknown				
716	Fill	10YR 4/4 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [715]. Contained daub and stone.	>4	0.7	unknown				
717	Cut	Large linear enclosure ditch with unknown sides and base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (718).	>2	3.2	unknown				
718	Fill	10YR 4/4 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [717]. No finds.	>2	3.2	unknown				
719	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (720).	>2	0.6	unknown				
720	Fill	2.5Y 6/6 Olive yellow soft, sandy clay. Fill of [719]. No finds.	>2	0.6	unknown				
721	Cut	Terminus or small pit with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (722).	>2	>1	unknown				
722	Fill	2.5Y 6/4 Light yellowish brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [721]. No finds.	>2	>1	unknown				
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.1				

2.42 The stratigraphy in Trench 7 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 15).

2.43 Trench 7 contained a total of twelve features, including five linear ditches, [701], [707], [709], [715] and [717].

2.44 Linear [701] was located 10.8m from the north-east end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length, 2.89m in width and 0.7m in depth. The fill (702) consisted of greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) slightly sandy clay and contained pottery from the 3rd century AD. Linear [707] was unexcavated, but produced Romano-British pottery from the surface of the fill. Linears [709], [715] and [717] were unexcavated and undated (Figures 4 & 8).

2.45 Ditch terminus [703] was located approximately 5m from the south-west end of the trench and measured more than 1.3m in length, 1.8m in width and 0.7m in depth. It was oriented north-west to south-east. The fill (704) consisted of dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) friable, silty clay and contained pottery from the mid-late 1st century AD and animal bone (Figure 4, Plate 16).

2.46 Posthole [705] was located approximately 6.2m from the south-west end of the trench. It was sub-circular in shape with vertical sides and an uneven concave base. The fill (706) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), soft sandy clay. No finds were recovered (Figure 4, Plate 17).

2.47 Ditch [707] was located approximately 6.7m from the south-west end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.4m in width. The fill (708) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft, slightly sandy silty clay and contained Romano-British pottery. This feature was not fully excavated (Figure 4).

2.48 Ditch [709] was located at approximately 9m from the south-west end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 2.1m in width. The fill (710) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/3) soft, slightly sandy silty clay and contained animal bone. This feature was not fully excavated (Figure 4).

2.49 Curvilinear feature [711] was located approximately 12m from the south-west end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.37m in width. The fill (712) consisted of soft, light brown (2.5Y 5/6), sandy clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4).

2.50 Terminus or small pit [713] was located within curvilinear [711]. It measured 0.4m in diameter and had very steep sides. The fill (714) consisted of dark yellowish brown friable, silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4).

2.51 Ditch [715] was located approximately 1.2m to the north-east of [711] and was oriented east-west. It measured more than 4m in length and 0.7m in width. The fill (716) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) soft, silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4).

2.52 Ditch [717] was located approximately 18.5m from the north-west corner of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 3.2m in width. The fill (718) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) soft, silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4).

2.53 Ditch terminus [719] was located approximately 3.5m to the north-east of [717] and was oriented north-south. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.6m in width. The fill (720) consisted of olive yellow (2.5Y 6/6) soft, sandy. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4)

2.54 Ditch terminus [721] was located approximately 7.5m from the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 1m in width. The fill (722) consisted of light yellowish brown (2.5YR 6/4) soft, sandy clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4)

2.55 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 7.

Trench 8

2.56 Trench 8 was located near the centre of the site, between Trenches 4 and 7. It was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.56m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 18).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.56	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.33	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	48.93
			Base	47.78			Base	48.41
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	> 25	>2	0.3			
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>25	>2	0.25			
801	Cut	Linear with steep sides and a concave base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fills (802) and (803).	>2	1.6	0.87			
802	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown friable, silty clay. Fill of [801]. Contained mid – late 1 st C AD pottery, animal bone and daub.	>2	1	0.7			
803	Fill	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [801]. Contained mid – late 1 st C AD pottery (residual LBA/EIA + intrusive post-medieval tile and animal bone.	>2	1.5	0.2			
804	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (805).	>2	2.4	unknown			
805	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [804]. No finds.	>2	2.4	unknown			
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>25	>2	>0.05			

2.57 The stratigraphy in Trench 8 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay.

2.58 Trench 8 contained two linear features, both of which appeared on the geophysical survey as part of the same small enclosure ditch [1701] (Figure 2).

2.59 Ditch [801] was located approximately 5.3m from the south-east of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length, 1.6m in width and 0.87m in depth and contained an upper fill (802), which consisted of friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay with mid-late 1st century pottery, daub and animal bone, and a

lower fill (803), which consisted of soft yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty clay with 1st century pottery and animal bone. The feature also contained residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery and intrusive post-medieval tile (Figures 4 & 8, Plate 19).

2.60 Ditch [804], was located approximately 8.3m to the north-west of [801] and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 2.4m in width. The fill (805) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), soft silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4).

2.61 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 8.

Trench 9

2.62 Trench 9 was located near the eastern edge of the site and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.6m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 20).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.6	Orientation	NW-SE		
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.09	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.47
			Base	46.49				Base	47.07
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>50	>2	0.3				
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.25				
901	Cut	Curvilinear with steep sides and a flattish base. Contained Fill (902).	>8	0.75	0.3				
902	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty sandy clay. Fill of [901]. Contained mid-late 1 st C AD pottery and animal bone.	>8	0.75	0.3				
903	Cut	Possible Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented W-E. Contained Fill (904).	>1	0.6	unknown				
904	Fill	2.5Y 5/4 Light olive brown friable, silty clay. Fill of [903]. No finds.	>1	0.6	unknown				
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.05				

2.63 The stratigraphy in Trench 9 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay.

2.64 Trench 9 contained two features, curvilinear ditch [901] and linear [903] (Figure 4).

2.65 Curvilinear [901] was located approximately 5.6m from the north-west end of the trench and was oriented east-west. It measured more than 8m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.3m in depth. The fill (902) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/2) soft, silty sandy clay and contained mid-late 1st century pottery and animal bone (Figure 4 & Plate 20).

2.66 Ditch [903] was located approximately 11.3m to the south-west of [901] and was oriented east-west. It measured more than 1m in length and 0.6m in width. The fill consisted of light olive brown (5Y 5/4) friable, silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 4).

2.67 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 9.

Trench 10

2.68 Trench 10 was located immediately to the north of Trench 7 and was oriented approximately north to south. It measured 25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 22).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.55	Orientation	N-S		
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top	46.56	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.26
			Base	46.11				Base	46.86
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>25	>2	0.25				
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>25	>2	0.15				
1001	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented W-E. Contained Fill (1002).	>2	1	unknown				
1002	Fill	7.5YR 3/2 Dark brown friable, silty clay. Fill of [1001]. Contained mid-late 1 st C AD pottery and slag.	>2	1	unknown				
1003	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (1004).	>3.5	1	unknown				
1004	Fill	2.5Y 3/3 Dark olive brown soft, slightly sandy silty clay. Fill of [1003]. Contained RB pottery.	>3.5	1	unknown				
1005	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (1006).	>3	0.35	unknown				
1006	Fill	7.5YR 4/6 Strong brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1005]. No finds.	>3	0.35	unknown				
1007	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented W-E. Contained Fill (1008).	>2	0.95	unknown				
1008	Fill	7.5YR 3/3 Dark brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1007]. Contained early to mid 1 st C AD pottery and animal bone.	>2	0.95	unknown				
1009	Cut	Irregular, poorly defined feature with unknown sides and base. Contained Fill (1010). Dimensions are approximate.	1.3	1	unknown				
1010	Fill	7.5YR 6/8 Reddish yellow loose, silty sand. Fill of [1010]. Contained mid-late 1 st C AD pottery.	1.3	1	unknown				
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>25	>2	>0.1				

2.69 The stratigraphy in Trench 10 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 23).

2.70 Trench 10 contained 4 linears and an area of burning.

2.71 Ditch [1001] was located approximately 4.8m from the north-west end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 1m in width. The fill (1002) consisted of dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) friable, silty clay and contained mid-late 1st C AD pottery and slag (Figure 5, Plate 23). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.72 Ditch [1003] was located at the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-south. It measured more than 3.5m long and 1m in width. The fill (1004) consisted of dark

olive brown (2.5Y 3/3) soft, slightly sandy silty clay and contained Romano-British pottery (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.73 Ditch [1005] was located 6.4m from the north-west end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 3m in length and 0.35m in width. The fill (1006) consisted of strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) soft, silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered (Figure 5).

2.74 Ditch [1007] was located to the immediate north-west of [1005] and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.95m in width. The fill (1008) consisted of dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) soft, silty clay and contained early to mid-1st C AD pottery and animal bone (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.75 An area of burning [1009] was located approximately 2.5m from the north-west end of the trench. It measured approximately 1.40m by 1m with irregular, poorly defined edges and consisted of a reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/8) loose, silty sand with mid-late 1st century pottery (recorded as fill (1010)). This feature was not fully excavated (Figure 5, Plate 24).

2.76 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 10.

Trench 11

2.77 Trench 11 was located towards the centre of the site and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.85m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 25).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.85	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.02	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	47.84
			Base	46.31			Base	46.95
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>25	>2	0.3			
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>25	>2	0.45			
1101	Cut	Sub-rounded pit with steep sides and an unknown base. Contained more than one fill, only the upper fill (1102) was excavated.	>3.5	>1.4	>0.7			
1102	Fill	2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey brown friable, silty clay. Fill of [1101]. Contained late 1 st – mid 2 nd century pottery, animal bone, daub and a fe object.	>3.5	>1.4	0.7			
1103	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base, part of the main enclosure ditch. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (1104).	>2	2.5	unknown			
1104	Fill	10YR 3/3 Dark brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1103]. Contained Romano British pottery.	>2	2.5	unknown			
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>25	>2	>0.1			

2.78 The stratigraphy in Trench 11 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay.

2.79 Trench 11 contained two features, a pit [1101] and a linear [1103] (Figure 5).

2.80 Pit [1101] was located 3.3m from the north-west corner of the trench. Running into the north-east baulk, it measured more than 3.5m in length, 1.4m in width and more than 0.7m in depth. The fill (1102) consisted of dark greyish brown (2.5YR 4/1) friable, silty clay and contained late 1st to mid-2nd century pottery, animal bone, daub and an iron object (Figures 5 & 9, Plate 26). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.81 Ditch [1103] was located approximately 4.3m to the south-east of [1101] and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 2.5m in width. The fill (1104) consisted of soft, dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay which contained Romano-British pottery (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.82 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 11.

Trench 12

2.83 Trench 12 was located in the western half of the site, immediately north-west of Trench 5. It was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.6m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 27).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.6	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.24	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	48.13
			Base	47.53			Base	47.70
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>25	>2	0.34			
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>25	>2	0.24			
1201	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Part of main enclosure ditch. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1202).	>2	3.4	unknown			
1202	Fill	10YR 3/3 Dark brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1201]. Contained animal bone.	>2	3.4	unknown			
1203	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1204).	>2.8	0.6	unknown			
1204	Fill	7.5YR 5/8 Strong brown soft, sandy clay. Fill of [1203]. No finds.	>2.8	0.6	unknown			
1205	Cut	Curvilinear with unknown sides and base. Oriented W-E where visible. Contained Fill (1206).	>2	0.35	unknown			
1206	Fill	10YR 3/6 Dark yellowish brown friable, silty clay. Fill of [1205]. No finds.	>2	0.35	unknown			
1207	-	Void	>0.7	Void?	unknown			
1208	-	Void	>0.7	Void?	unknown			
1209	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1210).	>2	0.45	unknown			
1210	Fill	7.5YR 4/3 Brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1209]. Contained mid – late first century pottery.	>2	0.45	unknown			
1211	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (1212).	>2	0.45	unknown			
1212	Fill	10YR 3/4 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1211]. No finds.	>2	0.45	unknown			
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown soft sandy clay natural.	>25	>2	>0.2			

2.84 The stratigraphy in Trench 12 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay.

Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 27).

2.85 Trench 12 contained a total of six features which included one possible post-hole, four linears and one curvilinear (Figure 5).

2.86 Ditch [1201] was located approximately 3.4m from the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 3.4m in width. The fill (1202) consisted of (10YR 3/3) dark brown, soft silty clay, and contained animal bone (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.87 Ditch [1203] was located approximately 11.3m from the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2.8m in length and 0.6m in width. The fill (1204) consisted of strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) soft, sandy clay which contained no finds (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.88 Curvilinear feature [1205] was located approximately 3.9m from the north-east end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length by 0.35m in width. The fill (1206) consisted of (10YR 3/6) dark yellowish brown, friable silty clay, which contained animal bone (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.89 Ditch [1209] was located approximately 3.4m from the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 3.4m in width. The fill (1202) consisted of (10YR 3/3) dark brown, soft silty clay which contained mid – late 1st century pottery (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.90 Ditch [1211] was located approximately 2.6m from the north-east end of the trench and was oriented north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.45m in width. The fill (1212) consisted of (10YR 3/4) dark yellowish brown, soft silty clay. (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered.

2.91 A possible post-hole, located 7.7m from the north-east end of the trench, was not investigated.

2.92 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 12.

Trench 13

2.93 Trench 13 was located at the western edge of the site, close to Trench 12 and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 28).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.55	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	47.79	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	47.85
		Base	47.40			Base	47.28
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>25	>2	0.35		
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>25	>2	0.1		
1301	Cut	Linear with moderate sides and a concave base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fills (1302) and (1303).	>2	1.42	0.54		

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.55	Orientation	NE-SW		
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.79	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.85
			Base	47.40				Base	47.28
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
1302	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown firm, clay. Fill of [1301]. Contained late Iron Age or early Saxon pottery, animal bone, daub and stone.	>2	1.1	0.35				
1303	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1301]. Contained late Iron Age or early Saxon pottery, animal bone, daub and stone.	>2	1.42	0.19				
1304	Cut	Linear with moderate sides and a concave base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fills (1305) and (1306).	>2	1.56	0.5				
1305	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, slightly sandy silty clay. Fill of modern field drain. Contained intrusive LPRIA pottery and stone.	>2	Void?					
1306	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1304]. No finds.	>2	1.56	0.5				
1307	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1308).	>2		unknown				
1308	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1307]. Contained early Romano British pottery.	>2		unknown				
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>25	>2	>0.1				

2.94 The stratigraphy in Trench 13 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 28).

2.95 Trench 13 contained a total of three linear features [1301], [1304] and [1307] (Figures 5 & 9, Plate 28).

2.96 Ditch [1301] was located approximately 2.5m from the north end of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length, 1.42m in width and 0.54m in depth. The lower fill (1302) consisted of (10YR 4/6) dark yellowish brown, firm clay. The upper and later fill (1303) consisted of (10YR 4/2) dark yellowish brown soft, silty clay. Both fills contained late Iron Age or early Saxon pottery, animal bone, daub and stone (Figures 5 & 9, Plate 29).

2.97 Ditch [1304] was located approximately 7.88m from the south end of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length, 1.56m in width and 0.5m in depth. Fill (1306) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft, silty clay and did not contain any finds. However, the feature was cut by a modern field drain and its fill (1305) contained residual LPRIA pottery and stone (Figures 5 & 9, Plate 30).

2.98 Ditch [1307] was located approximately 3.3m from the south end of the trench and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length with an uncertain width. The fill (1308) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft silty clay and contained Romano-British pottery (Figure 5). This feature was not fully excavated.

2.99 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 13.

Trench 14

2.100 Trench 14 was located at the north-west corner of the site and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 31).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	45.49	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	46.75
			Base	44.74			Base	46.35
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>50	>2	0.25			
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.1			
Natural	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.1			

2.101 The stratigraphy in Trench 14 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay (Plate 31).

2.102 The results of the geophysical survey showed three linear features crossing this trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. These linears were not identified during the excavation of this trench but a machine dug sondage, targeted on the location of the southern-most linear, revealed a ceramic field drain.

2.103 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 14.

Trench 15

2.104 Trench 15 was located at the northern edge of the site, between Trenches 14 and 16, and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 32).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.7	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	45.51	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	46.12
			Base	44.73			Base	45.44
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>50	>2	0.34			
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.24			
1501	Cut	Linear with steep sides and a concave base. Oriented W-E. Contained Fill (1502).	>2.63	0.38	0.2			
1502	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1501]. Contained late 1 st C – early 2 nd C pottery, animal bone, daub, a fe object and shell.	>2.63	0.38	0.2			
1503	Cut	Post hole with moderate sides and a concave base. Contained Fill (1504).	-	0.32	0.1			

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.7	Orientation	NE-SW		
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	45.51	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	46.12
			Base	44.73				Base	45.44
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
1504	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1503]. Contained Romano British pottery (and residual LPRIA pottery) and animal bone.	-	0.32	0.1				
1505	Cut	Curvilinear with moderate sides and a concave base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1506).	>2	0.35	0.1				
1506	Fill	2.5Y 3/2 Very dark greyish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1505]. Contained mid-late 1 st century pottery and animal bone.	>2	0.35	0.1				
1507	Cut	Likely natural feature, not recorded Void. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (1508).	0.7	>0.23	unknown				
1508	Fill	Fill of [1507]. Contained mid-late 1 st century pottery with residual LPRIA).	0.7	>0.23	unknown				
1509	Cut	Sub-circular with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1510).	0.6	0.5	unknown				
1510	Fill	10YR 4/3 Brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1509]. No finds.	0.6	0.5	unknown				
1511	Cut	Terminus or small pit with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1512).	>0.5	0.6	unknown				
1512	Fill	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1511]. No finds.	>0.5	0.6	unknown				
1513	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1514).	>2	0.87	unknown				
1514	Fill	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown soft, slightly sandy silty clay. Fill of [1513]. No finds.	>2	0.87	unknown				
1515	Cut	Terminus with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1516).	>1.55	0.8	unknown				
1516	Fill	10YR 3/4 Dark yellowish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1515]. No finds.	>1.55	0.8	unknown				
1517	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented N-S. Contained Fill (1518).	>2	0.7	unknown				
1518	Fill	10YR 3/3 Dark yellowish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1517]. No finds.	>2	0.7	unknown				
1519	Cut	Linear or pit/pits with unknown sides and base. Unknown orientation. Contained Fill (1520).	>2	>1.3	unknown				
1520	Fill	10YR 3/6 Dark yellowish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1519]. No finds.	>2	>1.3	unknown				
1521	Cut	Linear or pit/pits with unknown sides and base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1522).	>2	3.1	unknown				
1522	Fill	7.5YR 3/3 Dark brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1521]. No finds.	>2	3.1	unknown				
Natural	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.2				

2.105 The stratigraphy in Trench 15 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay.

2.106 Trench 15 contained a total of fifteen features, including a posthole, a curvilinear feature, four pits and five linears (Figure 6).

2.107 Ditch [1501] was located approximately 28.7m from the south-west end of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2.63m in length, 0.38m in

width and 0.2m in depth. The fill (1502) consisted of dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) firm, silty clay and contained late 1st century – early 2nd century pottery, animal bone, daub, a iron object and shell (Figure 6 & 10, Plate 33).

2.108 Posthole [1503] was located approximately 8m from the north-east end of the trench. It had a diameter of 0.32m and was 0.2m in depth. The fill (1504) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) firm, silty clay and contained Romano-British pottery, animal bone and residual LPRIA pottery (Figure 6 & 10, Plate 34).

2.109 Curvilinear [1505] was located directly to the south-east of [1503] and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.2m in depth. The fill (1506) consisted of very dark greyish brown (2.5Y 3/2) firm, silty clay, and contained mid-late 1st century pottery and animal bone (Figure 6 & 10, Plate 35).

2.110 A possible natural feature [1507] was located approximately 1.1m from curvilinear [1505]. It measured more than 0.7m in length and 0.23m in width. The fill (1508) contained mid-late 1st century pottery with residual LPRIA pottery. This feature was not fully excavated (Figure 6).

2.111 Pit [1509] was located approximately 5.1m from the north-east end of the trench and measured 0.6m in length and 0.5m in width. The fill (1510) consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) soft, silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.112 Pit [1511] was located approximately 12.5m from the north-east end of the trench and measured more than 0.5m in length and 0.6m in width. The fill (1512) consisted of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) firm silty clay. This feature was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.113 Ditch [1513] was located approximately 13.4m from the south-west end of the trench and was oriented approximately east-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.87m in width. The fill (1514) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft, slightly sandy silty clay. This feature was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.114 Ditch terminus [1515] was located approximately 16.6m from the south-west end of the trench and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured more than 1.55m in length and 0.8m in width. The fill (1506) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) firm, silty clay. This feature was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.115 Ditch [1517] was located approximately 6.15m from the south-west end of the trench and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.7m in width. The fill (1518) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/3) firm, silty clay. This feature was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.116 Pit [1519] was located directly at the south-west end of the trench. It measured more than 2m in length and more than 1.2m in width, running into the baulk. The fill (1520), consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) firm, silty clay. This feature was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.117 Pit [1521] was located approximately 8.9m from the south-west end of the trench. It measured more than 2m in length and 3.1m in width. The fill (1522) consisted of dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) firm, silty clay. This feature was not excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.118 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 15.

Trench 16

2.119 Trench 16 was located at the north-east corner of the site and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 50m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 37).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	0.7	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	45.36	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	46.51
		Base	44.85			Base	46.06
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
Topsoil	Layer	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, soft silty sandy clay topsoil	>50	>2	0.3		
Subsoil	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown, soft sandy clay subsoil	>50	>2	0.2		
1601	Cut	Sub-circular pit with steep sides and a concave base. Contained Fills (1602), (1603) and (1604).	2.7	>0.98	0.52		
1602	Fill	10YR 3/1 Very dark grey friable, silty clay. Fill of [1601]. Contained mid-late 2 nd century pottery, animal bone, daub, slag, fe object and stone.	2.7	>0.98	0.3		
1603	Fill	10YR 6/6 Brownish yellow friable, sandy silty clay. Fill of [1601]. Contained mid-late 2 nd century with residual 1 st century butt beaker pottery and animal bone.	2.7	>0.98	0.14		
1604	Fill	10YR 4/1 Dark grey soft, sandy silty clay. Fill of [1601]. Contained Romano British pottery.	2.3	>0.8	0.18		
1605	Cut	Sub-circular pit with steep sides and a concave base. Contained Fills (1606) and (1607).	0.95	>0.7	0.3		
1606	Fill	10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown soft, silty clay. Fill of [1605]. Contained late 2 nd - early 3 rd century pottery, animal bone, shell and a fe object.	0.95	>0.7	0.15		
1607	Fill	10YR 4/1 Dark grey soft, sandy silty clay. Fill of [1605]. Contained 2 nd to 3 rd century pottery.	0.95	>0.7	0.24		
1608	Cut	Sub-circular pit with moderate sides and a flattish base. Oriented NW-SE. Contained Fill (1609).	1.2	0.9	0.15		
1609	Fill	2.5Y 5/6 Light olive brown friable, sandy clay. Fill of [1608]. Contained Romano British pottery, stone and shell.	1.2	0.9	0.15		
1610	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (1611).	>2	0.4	unknown		
1611	Fill	10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1610]. No finds.	>2	0.4	unknown		
1612	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fill (1613).	>2	1	unknown		
1613	Fill	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1612]. No finds.	>2	1	unknown		
1614	Cut	Linear with unknown sides and base. Oriented NE-SW. Contained Fills (1615) and (1616).	>2	2	unknown		
1615	Fill	10YR 3/4 Dark yellowish brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1614]. Contained Romano British pottery.	>2	1.5	unknown		
1616	Fill	7.5YR 3/2 Dark brown firm, silty clay. Fill of [1614]. Contained late Iron Age pottery.	>2	0.5	unknown		
Natural	Layer	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown, soft sandy clay natural.	>50	>2	>0.3		

2.120 The stratigraphy in Trench 16 comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) soft silty sandy clay, overlying subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) soft sandy clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of very pale brown (10YR 7/4) soft sandy clay.

2.121 Trench 16 contained a total of six features including three pits at the north-west end, [1601], [1605] and [1609], a linear [1610] in the middle and two linears, [1612] and [1614], at the south-east end (Figures 6 & 10).

2.122 Pit [1601] was located approximately 5.9m from the north-west end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, and measured 2.7m in length, more than 0.98m in width (running into the north-east baulk) and 0.52m in depth. It contained three fills (1602), (1603) and (1604). The upper fill (1602) consisted of very dark grey (10YR 3/1) friable, silty clay and contained mid-late 2nd century pottery, animal bone, daub, slag, an iron object and stone. Below this, fill (1603) consisted of brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) friable, sandy silty clay and contained mid-late 2nd century with residual 1st century pottery and animal bone. The earliest fill (1604) consisted of dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, sandy silty clay, and contained Romano-British pottery (Figures 6 & 10, Plate 38).

2.123 Pit [1605] was located approximately 0.5m to the south of [1601]. It was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.95m in length, more than 7m in width and 0.3m in depth. It contained two fills, (1606) and (1607). The upper fill (1606) consisted of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft, silty clay and contained late 2nd - early 3rd century pottery, animal bone, shell and a iron object. The lower fill (1607) consisted of dark grey (10YR 4/1) soft, sandy silty clay and contained 2nd to 3rd century pottery (Figures 6 & 10, Plate 39).

2.124 Pit [1608] was located approximately 1.35m from the south-east end of the trench and measured more than 1.2m in length, 0.5m in width, and 0.15m in depth. Fill (1209) consisted of light olive brown (5Y 5/6) friable, sandy clay and contained Romano-British pottery, stone and shell (Figures 6 & 10, Plate 40).

2.125 Ditch [1610] was located in the approximate middle of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.4m in width. The fill (1611) consisted of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4), firm silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.126 Ditch [1612] was located approximately 9m from the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 0.4m in width. The fill (1613) consisted of strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) firm, silty clay. This feature was not fully excavated and no finds were recovered from the fill (Figure 6).

2.127 Ditch [1614] was located approximately 2.8m from the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured more than 2m in length and 2m in width and contained two fills, (1615) and (1616). The relationship between the two fills is uncertain as the feature was not fully excavated. Fill (1615) consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) firm, silty clay, and contained Romano-British pottery. Fill (1616) consisted of dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) firm, silty clay and contained late Iron Age pottery (Figure 6).

2.128 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 16.

FINDS ASSESSMENT

(Helen Ashworth)

Pottery

2.129 A total of 931 sherds of pottery, weighing 8992g, was recovered from 3 unstratified and 50 stratified contexts during the present project. The condition of the sherds ranged from small abraded fragments to large unabraded pieces in their place of primary deposition. The pottery ranged in date between the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and the 3rd century AD, with the bulk of the assemblage comprising coarsewares dating to the late pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) and the LPRIA/Romano-British transition.

Methodology

2.130 The pottery was recorded using standard pro-forma, which record by fabric, weight (in grammes) number and type of sherd (e.g. rim, plain body etc.) and vessel form, where identified. Individual sherds were examined through a binocular microscope at x10 magnification to determine the nature of the inclusions, any surface treatment or decoration and any other notable characteristics, which were noted on the pottery recording form. The overall condition of the sherds from each context and the estimated date range, based on the forms and fabrics present, were also noted.

Discussion

2.131 Two residual and abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 9g (0.1% of the total assemblage by both count and weight) were recovered from contexts (514) and (802), both dated to the mid – late 1st century AD. No other material of this period was recovered. Its presence indicates activity of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date in the area, though not in the immediate vicinity of the present site.

2.132 Grog-tempered pottery of late Iron Age and early Roman date formed the largest fabric group, comprising 470 sherds, weighing 4136g (50% by count, 46% by weight). Sherds of this fabric were present in the majority of the features containing pottery. The largest group (77 sherds, weighing 655g) was collected from context (502), the fill of cremation [501]. The pottery from this feature dates to the pre-Conquest period and consists of the base of a large storage jar with combed decoration, used as a cinerary urn. Other significant groups include 68 sherds from context (611), the fill of ditch [610] and 33 sherds from (510), one of the fills in the enclosure ditch.

2.133 A group of grog- and organic-tempered sherds, which may either date to the late Iron Age or early Saxon periods, was recovered from the fills of ditch [1301]. This accounted for 83 sherds, weighing 705g (9% by count, 8% by weight).

2.134 Shell-tempered wares represented the second largest fabric group, comprising 199 sherds, weighing 1573g, (24% by count, 17% by weight). This sub-divided into 155 sherds from the kilns at Harrold and 44 sherds from other, unknown, sources.

2.135 Other coarsewares from kiln sites outside the immediate vicinity of the site were recovered. Hadham grey wares accounted for 6% of the assemblage by count and 7% by weight (60 sherds, weighing 615g). These were collected from post-Conquest features. Products from the kilns near Verulamium were also represented, forming 1% of the assemblage by count and 8% by weight. A single mortarium sherd, in Colchester white ware, was also recovered from (1102).

2.136 Fine wares do not appear to have been imported on to the site during the late Iron Age. The largest group of later imported finewares was Samian. Twenty sherds, weighing 525g

(2% by count, 6% by weight), were recovered from 6 contexts, all dated to the late 1st / 2nd century onwards. British fine wares were represented by 2 sherds of Colchester Samian, weighing 15g, recovered from the fills of ditch [1605]; a single sherd of Romano-British glazed ware from context (509); 1 sherd of Nene Valley colour-coat pottery and 2 sherds of Colchester colour-coat pottery.

2.137 Jars represent the largest group of identified forms, particularly in grog-tempered wares. These include a number of rim sherds from plain everted-rim necked jars (Thompson form B1-1) (Thompson 1982, 87). Other grog-tempered jar forms present include the common rilled jar (Thompson form C7-1), barrel jars with bead rims (Thompson form B5-1), jar rims with cordoned necks and a lid-seated rim (Thompson form C5-2).

2.138 The cremation burial was placed in a large storage jar, which is likely to represent the re-use of a broken vessel, although only the base and lower body survived. Part of a pedestal jar base, another form commonly associated with burials, was also recovered from fill (505), suggesting the possibility of a disturbed cemetery in the vicinity. Jars were also present in other fabrics on the site, but fewer diagnostic sherds appear to have survived, suggesting that the greater variety of vessel forms in the Roman period may have decreased the number of jars required on the site. Identified forms include jars with lid seated rims in shell-tempered fabrics and bead-rimmed jars in Hadham grey ware.

2.139 Other forms represented in the assemblage include dishes, beakers, butt beakers, bowls, lids and mortaria. These tend to be present in the later contexts, particularly the pits at the north-western end of Trench 16. The fills of pit [1601] produced part of a flanged bowl, rim sherds from a poppy-head beaker, the base of a Nene Valley colour-coat beaker, part of a mortarium from Verulamium and sherds from 6 Samian dishes or bowls (forms 18, 33, 36 and 38). Pit [1605] produced rims from 2 shallow dishes, a probable flagon base from Verulamium and sherds from 2 Samian form 30 bowls. A complete Samian base, with an illegible stamp, was also recovered.

2.140 Evidence for later re-use of vessels was encountered in the pottery assemblage. This includes the use of a grog-tempered storage jar as a cinerary urn and the later drilling of holes in vessel bases. Two bases with drilled holes were recovered from context (1602) in pit [1601]. The stamped Samian base from pit [1605] appeared to have been deliberately cut down, possibly for re-use as a lid.

Conclusions

2.141 The examination of the pottery has demonstrated that activity on the present site started in the late Iron Age and continued into the early – mid 3rd century AD. No evidence for later Roman activity was recovered during the present investigations.

2.142 The earliest features on the site appear to be located in Trenches 5 and 6 in the centre of the site, and in Trenches 10 and 16 in the north-western quadrant. The evidence suggests a small enclosure, occupied from the mid-1st century BC, with some activity to the north-west. Features assigned to this phase include the cremation burial [501], the lower fills of enclosure ditch [507] a small ditch terminus, [605], ditch [1007] and ditch [1614]. The assemblage from these features consisted of grog-tempered pottery only; no Romanised wares or imported fine wares were collected from their fills. The pottery from the enclosure ditch consisted of larger, unabraded sherds, suggesting they were in their place of primary deposition.

2.143 Grog-tempered wares continued in use into the early Roman period, which is also characterised by the introduction of shell-tempered wares from the Harrold kilns and other sources. Small amounts of grey wares, including unsourced early Roman sandy wares and products from the kiln site at Much Hadham in Hertfordshire, were beginning to appear

during this period. The early Roman assemblage is noticeably lacking in imported wares; very little material from outside the immediate area is represented on the site. The evidence suggests that the late Iron Age enclosure was expanded in the immediate post-Conquest period and occupation on the site continued in the 3rd century AD.

2.144 The presence of a greater variety of fabrics and forms, including imported wares, in contexts dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries, suggests that the status of the occupants may have improved slightly by this period. This may be supported by the evidence for brick-built structures on the site. However, the lack of metal artefacts, such as jewellery and coins, suggests that the improvement in status was not significant.

Recommendations

2.145 Given the density of archaeological features on the site, it is likely that a further stage of fieldwork will be required by the LPA. On this basis, no further work is recommended on the pottery at this stage, but the material from the evaluation should be considered as part of the full assemblage in due course.

Daub

2.146 A total of 207 daub fragments, weighing 2098g, was collected from 18 stratified contexts. The bulk of the assemblage comprises a mixture of small fragments and larger pieces, varying in thickness between 10mm and 35mm.

2.147 The majority of the daub is in a soft pinky-buff clay matrix, tempered with fine sand, quartz pebbles and chalk. Voids, indicating organic inclusions such as straw, were also noted. Some of the pieces showed lines of cream laminations in the sections, indicative of poor mixing of the clay.

2.148 A small number of the fragments were greyish, possibly indicating smoke discolouration. Where the surfaces had survived, these were roughly smoothed. Wattle impressions were also noted on some of the larger pieces, as were finger tip impressions on outer surfaces.

2.149 The largest group, which comprised 99 fragments weighing 630g (48% by count and 30% by weight), was recovered from the two fills of ditch [1301] in the southern half of the site. Pottery of Iron Age or Saxon date was recovered from the fills of this ditch. Although potentially of significantly later date than the rest of the assemblage, which was collected from contexts dated to the late pre-Roman Iron Age or early Romano-British periods, the daub is not noticeably different, indicating that it was made from very local clays. The remainder of the assemblage was recovered in small groups of less than 10 pieces.

2.150 There was no evidence of burning on any of the recovered pieces. The presence of the daub indicates structures in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Recommendations

2.151 Although the presence of the daub indicates structures on, or in the vicinity of, the site, no further significant information is likely to be obtained from further study of this material. On this basis, no further work is proposed on the daub assemblage.

Brick

2.152 Fourteen brick fragments, weighing 440g, were recovered from 4 stratified contexts. The material was only recovered from features encountered in Trenches 5 and 7, in the centre of the site, focused on the ditched enclosure. No complete brick examples were present but two distinct fabrics were noted:

Fabric 1 is in a fine clay matrix, which varies in colour from pale reddish-orange to brownish red. It is tempered with fine sand and occasional larger quartz pebbles and chalk pieces. The fabric is similar to the daub recovered from the site, but is much harder, with smoother surfaces. The similarity suggests that the manufacture of these bricks may have taken place locally.

Fabric 2 is in a red clay matrix, tempered with frequent sand and crushed chalk, with moderate large quartz pebbles and flints. Small voids on the surfaces show where the chalk has leached out.

2.153 Fabric 1 formed the largest group (13 pieces, weighing 370g) and was recovered from contexts (510), (704) and the fills of ditch [507]. These have all been dated to the mid – late 1st century AD and indicate some Romanisation of the settlement on the site. Fabric 2 was recovered from context (702), the fill of ditch [701], which contained pottery of 3rd century AD date.

Recommendations

2.154 Although the presence of the brick pieces indicates structures on, or in the immediate vicinity of, the site, no significant information is likely to be obtained from further study of this material. On this basis, no further work is proposed on the brick assemblage.

Clay Loom Weight

2.155 An almost complete clay loom weight, weighing 2985g, was recovered from context (508), the fill of enclosure ditch section [507] (Plates 42-44). The warp-weighted loom was a simple structure consisting of a bar supported by two poles. The warp threads were tied in bundles to hanging weights, held taut by the weight.

2.156 The loom weight from the present site was probably made in a mould, before being fired. The red clay matrix is tempered with coarse sand and frequent chalk pieces and was undoubtedly made on, or close to, the site. It is triangular in shape and measures approximately 175mm in length, 170mm in width and 75mm in depth. Three holes, measuring approximately 20mm in diameter, run through each corner of the object.

Recommendations

2.157 The presence of the loom weight demonstrates that weaving was carried out on the site, probably on a domestic scale, in the late Iron Age and early Roman period. However, this is only one example and no significant information is likely to be gleaned from further study. On this basis, no further work is proposed on the loom weight.

Stone

2.158 Thirteen pieces of stone, weighing 2445g were collected from 8 stratified contexts. The assemblage includes 3 lumps of burnt flint, weighing 550g, from the fills of ditch [507] and from contexts (509) and (602).

2.159 Part of a flat limestone flag, possibly used as a hearthstone, weighing 1300g, was recovered from context (514) in the enclosure ditch. This may have been hexagonal and was wider on the base than the top, with the sides sloping out by approximately 20mm. The stone was 30mm in depth, while the upper surface measured 170mm by 145mm and the lower surface measured 175mm by 164mm. The upper surface showed signs of burning and smoke discolouration.

2.160 The remainder of the assemblage consists of probable quernstone fragments. Small pieces of broken lava rock were collected from (1002), the fill of ditch [1001], and from (604), the fill of feature [603].

2.161 Fragments of possible burnt millstone grit querns were recovered from (510) and (1303). The larger piece, from (1303) weighed 560g and measured 95mm by 60mm by 40mm. The central hole had a diameter of 40mm.

Recommendations

2.162 Burnt flint is a common find on archaeological sites in this region and may have resulted from crop burning or from use in the hearth. The possible hearth stone and quernstones are incomplete, although their presence gives an indication of domestic activity on the site during its period of use. No further work is proposed on the stone assemblage.

Iron Objects

2.163 Seven iron objects, weighing 234g, were recovered from 6 stratified contexts. Of these, 6 were iron nails recovered from contexts dated to the Roman period. These are common finds from Romano-British sites, but, given the lack of evidence for iron smithing recovered from the bulk soil samples, these may have been brought on to the site from elsewhere.

2.164 A curved artefact, possibly a billhook, was recovered from context (506), the primary fill of the enclosure ditch (Plate 41). The object has a maximum length of 150mm and width of 24mm and varies in depth between 10mm for the blade and 35mm for the shank. The shank appears to be roughly circular in section and measures approximately 90mm in length. It is possible that a rivet, or similar, survives at the base of the shank. The curved blade is c.60mm in length. The amount of corrosion makes it difficult to say whether the blade is broken at the end.

2.165 Billhooks have been in use in Britain since at least the Bronze Age and were used for a variety of purposes, such as pruning, lopping twigs and branches to obtain leaves for winter feed for cattle, and for cutting crops (Piggott 1981). The presence of this tool suggests that agricultural activities were carried in the vicinity of the site in the pre-Roman period.

Recommendations

2.166 All the iron objects should be sent for x-ray, but only the suggested billhook should be submitted to a specialist for closer identification and dating.

Copper Alloy

2.167 One copper alloy artefact, weighing 1g, was recovered from context (802), the fill of ditch [801]. The fill contained pottery of mid – late 1st century AD date.

2.168 The item measures 10mm in length, has a maximum width of 6mm and is approximately 2mm thick. A small circular ‘bead’, with a diameter and height of c2mm, sits on top, offset to one side.

2.169 Not enough of the object survives to make a positive identification, but it may represent either the head of a hob nail or part of a decorative scheme, attached to another material.

Recommendations

2.170 The item should be submitted for conservation in the first place before any decision is made on further analysis and identification.

Marine Shell

2.171 Thirteen pieces of oyster shell, weighing 50g, were recovered from 4 stratified contexts. The remains of no other marine bivalves were present on the site.

2.172 One shell, from context (1609), the fill of ditch [1608], had been pierced, possibly by a naturally occurring microbe or parasite. The hole was irregular in shape with a maximum diameter of 10mm. There was little evidence around the hole to suggest that it was deliberately pierced for human use, such as for wearing as a pendant or as some form of token.

Recommendations

2.173 The assemblage consists largely of shell fragments, with not enough surviving to identify age of the individual oysters. On this basis, no further work is recommended on this material.

Animal Bone

(Chris Turner)

2.174 The animal bone assemblage is fragmentary in nature but broadly in fair condition.

Conclusions

2.175 There are elements representing a diverse range of species across the site, including bovine, pig and sheep/ goat. Some abraded horn core fragments were also recovered.

2.176 Possible evidence of butchery marks were also observed on some of the ribs and long bone fragments.

Recommendations

2.177 Due to the size and diversity of this assemblage it is recommended for further assessment by a suitable specialist. It has the potential to provide further information about livestock practices, industrial activities and domestic consumption on the site.

Environmental Archaeology Assessment

(James Rackham)

Introduction

2.178 Twenty five bulk soil samples were collected for environmental assessment from late Iron Age, Roman and possible early Saxon pits, ditch fills and a posthole (Table 1, Figure 11). Most samples have been spot dated to the early Roman period. All the samples except sample 12 were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment and all but six of these have been processed for this assessment.

Table 1. Bulk environmental samples collected for environmental study

sample no.	context no.	samp. vol (l).	sample weight (kg)	Feature	Spot date
1	503	38	39.5	Enclosure ditch 507	m-l 1 st C AD
2	504	31	39	Fill enclosure ditch 507	m-l 1 st C AD
3	505	29	40	Fill enclosure ditch 507	LPRIA
4	602	40	46	Fill ditch 601	m-l 1 st C AD
5	606	44	53.5	Fill ditch terminus 605	LPRIA
6	608	40	44	Fill ditch 608	2 nd C AD
7	902	40	48	Fill curvilinear 901	m-l 1 st C AD
8	802	40	54	Fill of ditch 801	m-l 1 st C AD

9	803	40	51	Fill ditch 801	m-l 1 st C AD
10	1302	38	40	Fill ditch 1301	LIA/E Saxon?
11	1303	40	42	Fill ditch 1301	LIA/E Saxon?
13	704	40	40	Fill ditch terminus 703	m-l 1 st C AD
14	1504	3	4	Fill posthole 1503	RB
15	1506	?	10	Fill curvilinear 1505	m-l 1 st C AD
16	1502	8.5	10	Fill ditch terminus 1501	L 1 st - e 2 nd C AD
17	1102	30	39	Fill pit 1101	L 1 st - m 2 nd C AD
18	510	Not Processed		Fill enclosure ditch 507	m-l 1 st C AD
19	514	Not Processed		Fill enclosure ditch 507	m-l 1 st C AD
20	506	Not Processed		Fill enclosure ditch 507	LPRIA
21	1602	Not Processed		Fill of pit 1601	m-l 2 nd C AD
22	1603	Not Processed		Fill of pit 1601	m-l 2 nd C AD
23	1606	30	37	Fill pit 1605	L 2 nd - e 3 rd C AD
24	1607	Not Processed		Fill of pit 1605	L 2 nd -3 rd C AD
25	702	29	39	Fill ditch 701	3 rd C AD

Methods

2.179 The bulk soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residues and floats were dried, and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volumes of the flot were measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

2.180 The residues were sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheets and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residues in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residues were then discarded. The floats of each sample were studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheets.

2.181 The floats were then bagged. The floats and finds from the sorted residues constitute the material archive of the sample.

2.182 The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3.

Results

2.183 The samples washed down to a residue of sub-angular and angular sharp flint gravel with occasional pebbles, chalk, limestone, quartz and mudstone with some sediment concretions.

2.184 The archaeological finds include fairly abundant pottery, common animal bone, occasional firecracked flint and firecracked pebbles, and fired earth, with finds of glass and an iron nail in two samples (Table 2). Although all samples produced a magnetic component this was generally composed of ironstone and/or heated ironstone, but flakes of hammerscale were recorded in six samples although never more than three flakes. Small chips of flint were sorted in eight samples but most of these are likely to be natural chips although sample 2, context 504, may include debitage or microlith debris. The fired earth in contexts 503 and 602 includes small brick shaped lumps, possibly structural in origin, while a 13g fragment of cream fabric in context 602 may be brick, tile or amphora. Nearly three kilogrammes of burnt cobbles in context 802 may be cooking or hearth stones. The larger magnetic fractions in contexts 503, 802 and 1303 may also reflect burnt debris or ash.

2.185 The environmental evidence includes animal bone, charred plant remains, charcoal, snail shells and a little bird eggshell (Table 3). There was no waterlogging on the site so the few uncharred seeds present in the flots are almost certainly recent in origin.

2.186 Although animal bone is present in most samples it tends to be fragmented with few identifiable pieces. Sheep/goat occur more frequently than other species, followed by cattle and then pig and dog. The latter in context 608 includes several bones of a large dog, probably from a disturbed burial. One sample, context 902, produced eroded bone but otherwise the bone was in fair condition, with several fragments burnt. A few small vertebrate bones have been recovered including field vole, bank vole, water vole, house mouse and frog/toad, and a single very small fish vertebra. Two samples, contexts 704 and 1606, produced fragments of bird eggshell. These have not been identified but the latter context includes shells of two different thicknesses, perhaps chicken and goose. Fragments of marine oyster shell were recovered from context 1502 but no other samples.

2.187 The charred plant remains are dominated by finds of charred cereal grain, although many grains are too poorly preserved to identify. Preliminary identification records wheat (spelt), barley and oats in the samples, with wheat the most abundant. Very small quantities of charred chaff are present in a number of the samples (Table 3), but contexts 608 and 1303 include larger assemblages of chaff. Charred weed seeds are present throughout in variable numbers, with docks, grasses and small legumes frequent. Two samples have produced fragments of charred Prunus stone, probably from bullace, and one sample has a charred fragment of possible nut kernel, as yet unidentified.

2.188 The charcoal remains in all samples are comminuted, and although identifiable fragments are present none of the assemblage would warrant further study.

2.189 The most abundant environmental evidence is the snails. Almost all samples produced some snails, although density varied considerably (Table 3). The assemblages are predominantly indicative of open grassland habitats with *Vallonia excentrica*, *Vallonia costata*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vertigo pygmaea* in abundance, along with the catholic species *Trichia hispida*. Species favouring woodland or shaded environments are present in smaller numbers, *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Oxychilus alliarus*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Clausilidae*, although this element is more abundant in context 606 and 504, perhaps suggesting that these ditches were hedged. There is evidence for seasonal water in the ditches with abundant shells of aquatic species *Anisus leucostoma* in contexts 504 and 608, a taxon that favours ditches that dry out seasonally (Macan 1977), and shells of *Galba truncatula* a semi-aquatic species found in damp pastures and vegetated ditches.

Discussion

2.190 The frequency of pottery in the samples combined with the relatively clean cereal assemblages and fragmented animal bone suggests that much of the material recovered from the samples derives from domestic contexts. The fragmented character of the animal bone might suggest trampling and secondary deposition, and some of the pottery is eroded.

2.191 The small quantities of fire-cracked flint and pebbles probably derive from hearths, with the dump of burnt cobbles in 802 perhaps reflecting the dumping of hearth material. The charred cereals, large magnetic fractions, fire-cracked stone and consistent presence of burnt bone all suggest that a major proportion of the evidence probably derives from hearth waste. Although most of the charred plant assemblages appear to reflect relatively clean grain one sample has abundant chaff and weed seeds, and a second abundant chaff, suggesting an earlier stage of crop processing.

2.192 There is little evidence so far for iron smithing on the site. The few flakes of hammerscale occur at such low densities that they could easily be contaminants from more recent activity.

2.193 The charred plant remains have the potential to provide information on crop husbandry and processing across the site and the species and ratio of the cereals present will provide data on the range of grains being used at the time and their relative importance, all three cereals identified are typical of late Iron Age and Roman periods in southern England (Greig 1991). The weed assemblages may allow the investigation of other aspects of crop husbandry such as the range of soils that may have been cultivated, sowing times and harvesting methods. The majority of the cereal grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried before storage or milling or as a result of accidents during food preparation/cooking, while the chaff rich assemblages may reflect earlier stage of crop processing.

2.194 The snail assemblages suggest an open grassland environment with possibly some hedged ditches that were seasonally water filled.

Recommendations

2.195 The evaluation samples have indicated the value of sampling for understanding the site economy and environment. The site has the potential to illustrate differences in activity across the site, aspects of the pastoral and arable economies, diet and crop processing, with the potential identification of smithing and its focus if it occurs on site.

2.196 The evaluation samples have produced useful assemblages of snails and charred plant and any further archaeological excavation at the site should continue with a programme of extensive sampling, particularly of well dated deposits, with a bulk sample size of 30 or 40 litres. The animal bone from the samples has the potential to act as a control on the hand collected assemblages but is unlikely to produce a large enough assemblage for detailed study so hand collection and possibly bulk sieving of deposits rich in animal bone should be employed. The evaluation samples have shown little potential for charcoal study, but other features on site may prove more useful.

2.197 Sampling for snails should be restricted to well dated ditch fills and taken in columns through the fills so that changes in the fauna can be recognised through the profile. Samples will need to be at least 10 litres, perhaps 20l, and taken in 10cm units through the ditch fills. If different phases are recognised during excavation ditch sequences should be selected to cover all time periods represented on the site.

Table 2. Land at Hillfoot Farm, Sheffield, Beds – HN1232 - Archaeological finds from the samples

sample	cont	vol in l.	residue vol in ml.	pot no/wt g	fire-cracked flint wt g.	Fire-cracked stone wt g.	Flint no/wt g	magnetic comp. g.	hammer-scale no flakes	Fired earth wt g.	bone wt g.	other
1	503	38	4000	6/28	23	134		40		116	29.2	Fired earth-possible structural
2	504	31	4000	2/3.6			8/0.8	17		23	3.8	Flint-debitage/microlith?
3	505	29	2800	3/4				1.4		8	14.6	
4	602	40	7000	13/25			3/0.2	6.6	3	45	55	Fired earth-possible structural; 13g brick/tile/amphora? Flint-natural?
5	606	44	5000	2/5.5			6/1	1.4		5.8	-	Flint-natural?
6	608	40	2800					0.2			72	Cobble – 420g
7	902	40	2200	3/0.75	16	136	6/0.6	1.6			5.4	Flint – natural?
8	802	40	9700	19/34		2986	10/7.2	20.6	1	1	46.8	Flint – natural?
9	803	40	8000	4/6		50	8/2.2	3.4			14.4	Flint – natural?, slag- small fragment in magnetic
10	1302	38	3400		277			8.4	1	20	17.2	Fe nail x1
11	1303	40	2400	10/28.4	6?	23	6/1.2	28.4	2	18	25	Flint – natural?
13	704	40	1900					0.8			4.4	
14	1504	3	100	3/6	1			1.8			5	
15	1506	?	400	1/1				0.2			2	
16	1502	8.5	400	2/2	196	68		0.6			1.2	
17	1102	30	1500	5/12			10/3.6	9			6.2	Flint – natural?
23	1606	30	1000	19/23.4	30			17.4	1	21.6	23.8	Glass- x 4
25	702	29	9750	1/0.2				4.6	1		0.4	

Table 3: Land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Beds – HN1232 - Environmental finds from the processed samples

sample no.	context. no.	sample. vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	charcoal */<2*	charred grain *	charred caff*	charred seeds*	snails *	comment
1	503	38	13	1/4	3	1	3	2	Charred wheat, barley, oats, chaff, small legumes, docks, grasses; sheep/goat, cattle size; snails – <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Carychium</i> sp.
2	504	31	6	2/3	2	1	2	3	Charred wheat, Barley?, chaff, docks, grasses; indet large mammal bone, field vole, water vole, house mouse; snails - <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> , <i>Ena Montana</i> , <i>Neosvitrea hammonis</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Clausilidae</i>
3	505	29	2	1/3	1		1	2	Charred wheat, small legumes; sheep/goat; snails- <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> , <i>Helicella</i> sp., <i>Hygromia limbata</i> ?
4	602	40	6	1/3	1	1	1	2	Charred wheat, legume; cattle, sheep/goat, rodent, frog/toad; snails – <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i>
5	606	44	6	1/3	1	1	2	4	Charred wheat?, grasses; snails - <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Vallonia pulchella</i> , <i>Clausilidae</i>
6	608	40	10	1/3	2	3	1	5	Charred wheat; partial dog skeleton, cattle; snail s- <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Helix aspersa</i> , <i>Cepeae nemoralis</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.
7	902	40	3	1/3	1		1	1	Indet charred grain; sheep/goat; snails – <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Cecilioides acicula</i>
8	802	40	2	1/2	2	1	2	2	Charred wheat, oat?, legumes; cattle, sheep/goat, vole; snails - <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , .
9	803	40	8	2/3	1	1	1	2	Indet charred grain, <i>Prunus</i> stone fragment; cattle size, sheep size, bank vole, snails - <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>V. pulchella</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i>
10	1302	38	4	2/3	1		1	2	Indet charred grain, small legumes, culm nodes; cattle size, sheep/goat, frog/toad; snail s- <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Vertigo</i> sp., <i>Psidium</i> sp.
11	1303	40	18	4/5	3	2	3	2	Charred wheat, oats, barley, docks, grasses, legumes, culm nodes, <i>Prunus</i> stone fragment; sheep/goat, cattle size, rodent; snails - <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Eucomilus fubvus</i> .
13	704	40	2.5	1/1	1			1	Indet charred grain; sheep/goat; bird eggshell; snails – <i>Vallonia</i> sp.
14	1504	3	1.5	1/2	1	1		2	Indet charred grain; pig, sheep size, rodent, frog/toad; snails - <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Vertigo</i> sp. <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp..
15	1506	?	2	1/2	1	1	1	2	Indet charred grain, legumes; sheep/goat; snails – <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i>

sample no.	context. no.	sample. vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	charcoal */<2*	charred grain *	charred caff*	charred seeds*	snails *	comment
16	1502	8.5	1	-/1		1	1	2	Charred chaff; indet bone, frog/toad; oyster; snails - <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Succinidae</i>
17	1102	30	25	1/4	3	1	2	5	Charred wheat, docks, grasses, culm nodes; cattle size, sheep size, mouse; snails - <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. costata</i> , <i>Galba truncatula</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Oxychilus alliarus</i> , <i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> , <i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> , <i>Cepeae nemoralis</i> , <i>Truncatellina cylindrica Helicella itala</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Carychium</i> sp.
23	1606	30	6	2/3	2	1	1	1	Charred wheat, barley?; small legumes, acorn nut?; sheep size, vole, small fish; bird eggshell - cf chicken and goose; snails - <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>
25	702	29	2.5	1/1		1		1	Indet bone; snails - <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>

* = abundance: 1=1-10, 2=11-50, 3=51-150, 4=151-250, 5=250+

/<2 = abundance >2mm/abundance < 2m

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The name Shefford derived from the Old English ‘sceap ford’ or sheep ford (Shefford Community Pages), presumably referring to a ford on either the River Flit to the north of the village, or the River Hiz to the south.

3.2 In order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the site, the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted. The overview set out below has been drawn from the HER, our own records and other sources. The study area covers a radius of 500m from the centre of the site.

- A test-pitting programme in six locations throughout Shefford has recovered pottery ranging from the Roman period through to the Victorian era (Event 1059).
- The earliest evidence within the study area consists of the discovery of a Neolithic axe at 113 Clifton Road, 470m to the north-east (HER 16009).
- A series of cropmarks, identified through aerial photography, are located within the site boundary (HER 11766). These have been shown to represent a series of irregular enclosures, possibly of Iron Age date: a trapezoidal enclosure with a smaller curvilinear enclosure attached, and a separate oval enclosure to the south-west.
- The field immediately to the west of the present site, on the opposite side of the dismantled railway, was the subject of geophysical survey and evaluation by trial trenching. The work identified prehistoric activity in the eastern part of that field, thought to continue into the present site, in the form of enclosures dating to the middle to late Iron Age, and possible pits. The remnants of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also found (Simmonds, 2012).
- Two Roman roads pass close the site: Viatores 210 follows Hitchin Road c.350m to the east, and Viatores 176 runs along Clifton Road 500m to north.
- There is little evidence for activity between the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. Apart from St Michael’s parish churchyard, which may have its origins in the medieval period, and which lies 620m to the north-west (HER 8961), the only evidence for the medieval period comes from documentary evidence, mainly relating to markets and fairs. A 16th century coin was found c.170m to the north of the site (HER 18709).
- The village is not named in the Domesday Survey of 1086, as it formed part of Campton Manor, later known as Campton-cum-Shefford (Shefford Community Pages). The manor was held by Ralph de Lanquetot from Walter Giffard, and was assessed at 4½ hides and quarter of a virgate (approximately 547 acres), worth 60 shillings. Four households are recorded on the manor, giving an estimated population of between 16 and 20 individuals. There was also a mill, sufficient arable land for 4 plough teams and enough meadow to graze the plough oxen, as well as enough oak or beech woodland to support 40 pigs (Morris 1977).
- A market was granted to Shefford in 1229, which would have brought traders into the town (Shefford Community Pages). Although there is no clear evidence for the market place, a number of inns are located close to the junction of the High Street with Northbridge and Southbridge Streets, suggesting that this became the centre of the market. The market survived into the early 20th century, with its last documented mention in Kelly’s Directory of 1914 (ibid).

- The right to hold a fair was also granted to Shefford in c.1312, to be held on the eve and day of Michaelmas and for the following four days (ibid). The fair is likely to have been held on the same site as the market. In 1713, the right to hold three fairs, for the buying and selling of “flocks, herds and all manner of goods” was granted to Shefford, (Shefford Community Pages).
- Post-medieval pottery sherds have been recovered from three sites within the study area. In every case they have been amongst larger Victorian assemblages. Two sherds were at Hitchin Road, 300m to the north (HER 20045), six sherds were recovered from Clifton Road 550m to the north-east (HER 20047) and four sherds at 67 Clifton Road, 380m to the north (HER 19458).
- A large former clay pit at the junction of Hitchin Road and Clifton Road, shown on an estate map of 1745, lies 350m to the north-east (HER 7640).
- A number of buildings not statutorily listed but deemed to be heritage assets of local importance lie within a 500m radius of the present site. These include The Woolpack, a 19th century Public House on Hitchin Road, 330m to the north (HER 16378); a former brewery dating from the 1860s located on Ivel Road, 400m to the north-west (HER 15338); and the site a former 19th century gasworks, 480m to the north-west (HER 6805)
- The two listed buildings within the study area are both Grade II and part of Clifton Fields School, dating to c.1870 but now converted to domestic accommodation, located on Clifton Road, 440m to the north-east (HER 8167 & 8168).
- The former Hitchin to Bedford railway line forms the western limits of the site (HER 11832)
- More recent buildings include a memorial hall dedicated to the men and women who died or suffered in the Second World War, 170m to the north (HER 17033); the Hoo Hill maze, established in the 1980s on Hitchin Road, 450 to the south-east (HER 18339); and, Shefford Fire Station, opened in 1969 on Ivel Road, a modern replacement for an earlier fire station on Northbridge Street, 415m to the north-west (HER 19827).

Research Design

3.3 The aims of the present investigation were:

- to establish the location, depth, extent, date, character and condition of any heritage assets that are liable to be threatened by the development;
- to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of such assets, and their significance and quality, in relation to statutory guidance and current published regional research;
- to provide sufficient information, regarding the impacts of the proposed development on identified and potential heritage assets, to advise the local planning authority and to ensure that an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such assets by the development could be implemented, should planning consent be granted.

3.4 It was considered that this investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of:

- the origins and development of Shefford from the prehistoric period onwards;

- the origin and development of settlement in the Iron Age and transition into the Roman period;
- the nature of the cropmarks observed within the site boundary;
- the development of medieval field systems and the rural economy.

Collected Data

3.5 The present evaluation revealed fifty-seven features in twelve of the sixteen trial trenches, out of which twenty were fully investigated. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the remaining four trenches.

3.6 Of the fifty-seven features revealed, thirty-four linear features were identified, dating from the LPRIA to the 3rd century AD, five termini dating from the LPRIA to the late 1st century AD, five curvilinear features dating from the mid-late 1st century AD, nine pits dating from the late 1st to the early 3rd century AD, two postholes of Romano-British date, one cremation of LPRIA date, one fired area of mid-late 1st century date, and one natural feature that contained mid-late 1st century pottery (Figure 12).

3.7 Almost all of the features excavated correspond with potential archaeological features identified in the geophysical survey.

3.8 Fifty of the features produced dateable finds ranging in date from the late Iron Age to the late 2nd century AD. One feature contained pottery which could be Saxon in origin.

3.9 The main defining feature on the site is the large enclosure ditch [1700], which was identified on the geophysical survey and in aerial photographs.

3.10 The earliest features on the site are linears [05] and [09], which appear to form the northern and eastern sides of the enclosure [1700] which is late Iron Age in date.

Impact Assessment

3.11 The archaeological fieldwork on the present site exposed a large enclosure ditch [1700], which was the main defining feature on the site. The dated finds recovered from the enclosure range from the LPRIA to the late 1st century.

3.12 The geophysical survey suggested that the main enclosure might have had material banked on either side of the enclosure ditches. However excavation suggests that these traces were actually fills within the ditch itself.

3.13 A cremation burial [501] was revealed in Trench 5 which dated to the LPRIA. This feature was picked up as a small circle on the geophysical survey. Similar circles were recorded beyond the limits of the trenches and it is highly likely that further cremation burials survive in the near vicinity.

3.14 Examination of the pottery has demonstrated that activity on the site started in the late Iron Age and continued into the later 2nd century AD. There then appears to have been a hiatus from the later 2nd century, with activity resuming in the 4th century AD.

3.15 Environmental evidence suggests that the landscape of the site during the late Iron Age and early Roman British periods was open grassland, possibly subdivided by hedged ditches that were seasonally water-filled.

3.16 The Iron Age and Romano-British remains on the site are considered to be of local and regional significance.

3.17 On the basis of the cumulative results of the evaluation, including the geophysics and the trial trenching, the risk that the proposed development might have a negative impact on

remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be *High* for Iron Age and Roman periods and *Low* for all other periods. However it should be noted that not all the features were investigated and a wider date-range might become apparent at a later stage of investigation.

Confidence Rating

3.18 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were good for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. As such the confidence rating for the work may be considered to be *High*.

4 Sources Consulted

- Brown, A. 1994 'A Romano-British Shell-Gritted Pottery and Tile Manufacturing Site at Harrold, Bedfordshire' in *Beds Arch* 21, 19-107
- Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. (CIfA)
- Davies, P. 2008 *Snails. Archaeology and landscape change*. Oxbow Books
- Dobney et al. 1995, *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological evaluations: recommendations concerning the environmental component of archaeological evaluations in England*. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2
- Dept. of Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. (TSO)
- English Heritage 2006 *Management of Field Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. (HBMC)
- English Heritage 2008a *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: Archaeological Excavation* (HBMC)
- English Heritage 2008b *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Second Edition). (HBMC)
- English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (second edition). (HBMC)
- English Heritage 2015 *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning*. (HBMC)
- Evans, J.G. 1972 *Land Snails in archaeology*. London: Seminar Press
- Going, C.J. 1987 *The Mansio and Other Sites in the South-eastern Sector of Caesaromagus: the Roman Pottery. Chelmsford: Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 3.2 / CBA Research Report 62*
- Greig, J, 1991, 'The British Isles, Progress' in *Old World Palaeoethnobotany* (eds W van Zeist, K Wasylkowa and K-E. Behre), Rotterdam, 229-334
- Gurney, D. et al 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. ALGAO (EER)
- Hillelson, D. 2014 *22 & 24 High Street, Shefford, Beds.: Heritage Statement*. Heritage Network report no. 896
- Macan, T.T. 1977 *A Key to the British Fresh- and Brackish-water Gastropods*. Freshwater Biological Association, No. 13.
- Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no.24
- Morris, J. (ed.) 1977 *Domesday Book: Bedfordshire*. Chichester: Phillimore
- Oake, M. Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. & Murphy, P. 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology, Monog. 9
- Perrin, R. & Mackreth, D. 1980 *Roman Pottery from the Nene Valley: A Guide*. Peterborough City Museum Occ. Paper No.2
- Piggott, S. 1981 *The Agrarian History of England and Wales 1:1, Prehistory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.77-78.
- Simmonds, C. 2012. *Archaeological evaluation of land at Bridge Farm, Shefford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire*. Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/82
- Thompson, I. 1982 *Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England, Parts i-iii*. Oxford: BAR British Series (108)
- Tomber, R. & Dore, J. 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection*. London: Museum of London Archaeology Service
- Tyers, P. 1996 *Roman Pottery in Britain*. London: B.T. Batsford
- Webster, P. 1996 *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain. Practical Handbook in Archaeology 13*. York: Council for British Archaeology
- Williams, D. 1973 *Flotation at Siraf*, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202

Websites

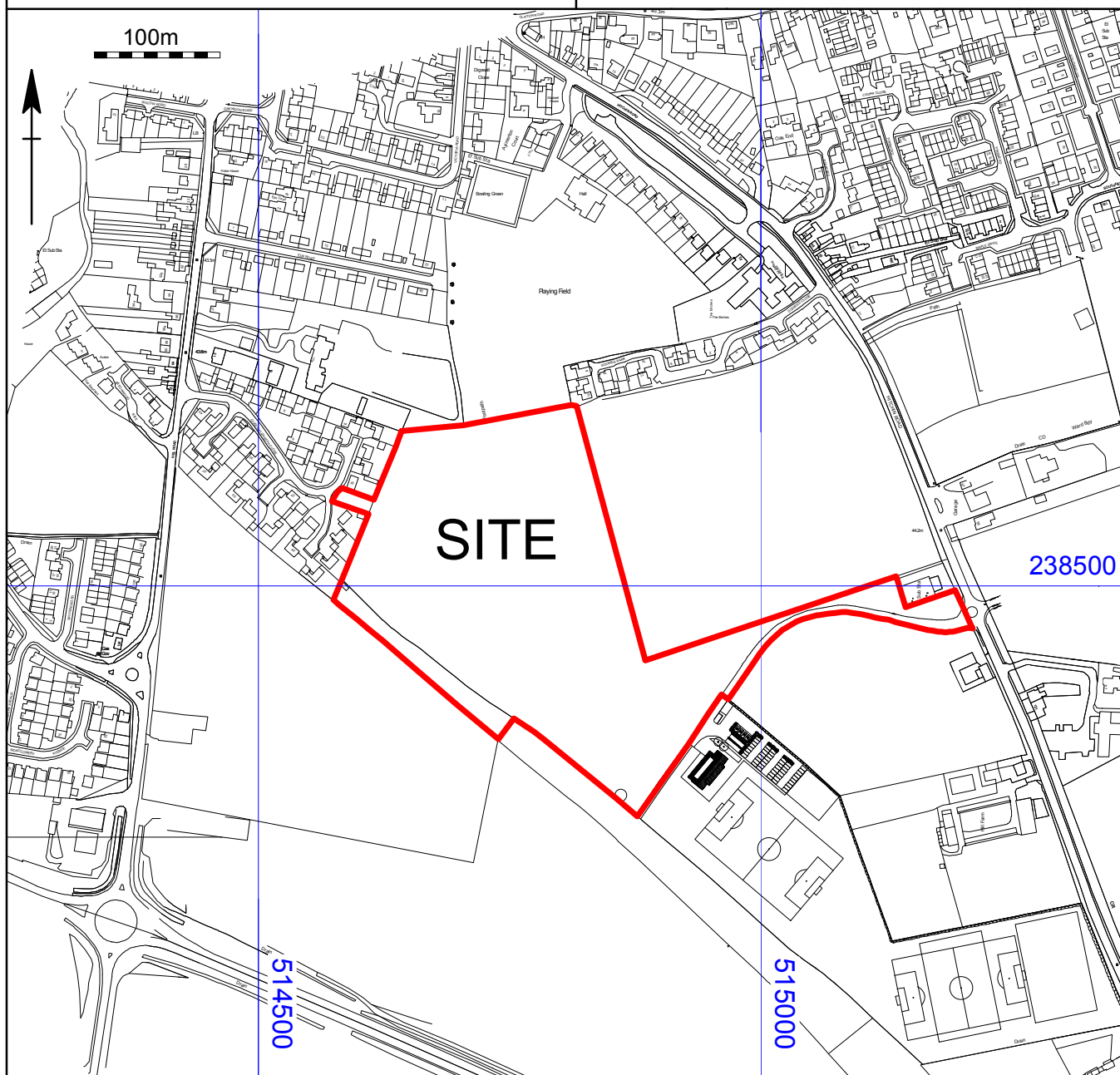
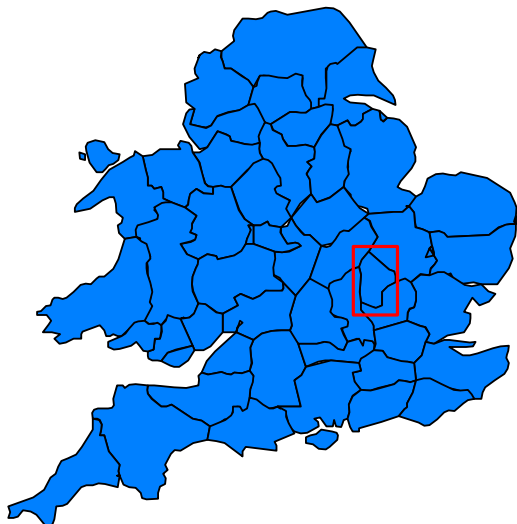
- Archaeology Data Service:
www.ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue
- Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/
- Historic mapping evidence:
www.old-maps.co.uk
- Shefford community archive pages:
www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Shefford

5 Illustrations

Figure 1.....	Site location
Figure 2.....	Trench location overlaid on geophysics
Figure 3.....	Plan: Trenches 4, 5 and 6
Figure 4.....	Plan: Trenches 7, 8 and 9
Figure 5.....	Plan: Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 13
Figure 6.....	Plan: Trenches 15 and 16
Figure 7.....	Sections: [507], [601], [603], [605] and [607]
Figure 8.....	Sections: [701], [703], [705], [801], and [901]
Figure 9.....	Sections: [1101], [1301] and [1304]
Figure 10.....	Sections: [1501], [1503], [1505], [1601], [1604], and [1608]
Figure 11.....	Location of bulk soil samples
Figure 12.....	Phasing of principal features
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking south-east
Plate 2	Trench 2, looking east
Plate 3	Trench 2, indicative section, looking south-west
Plate 4.....	Trench 3, looking north-west
Plate 5	Trench 4, looking south-west
Plate 6	Trench 5, looking south-east
Plate 7.....	Ditch [507], looking north-east
Plate 8.....	Ditch [507], looking north-west
Plate 9.....	Cremation [501] in situ
Plate 10.....	Cremation vessel (502), post excavation
Plate 11.....	Trench 6, looking north-east
Plate 12.....	Ditch [601], looking north-east
Plate 13.....	Ditch terminus [605], looking north
Plate 14.....	Ditches [605] and [607], looking north
Plate 15.....	Trench 7, looking south-west
Plate 16.....	Linear [703], looking north
Plate 17.....	Posthole [705], looking south-east
Plate 18.....	Trench 8, looking north
Plate 19.....	Ditch [801], looking north-east
Plate 20.....	Trench 9, looking south-east
Plate 21.....	Curvilinear [901], looking south-west
Plate 22.....	Trench 10, looking north
Plate 23.....	Trench 10, indicative section, looking east
Plate 24.....	Feature [1009], showing heat affected area, looking west
Plate 25.....	Trench 11, looking north-west
Plate 26.....	Pit [1101], looking north-east

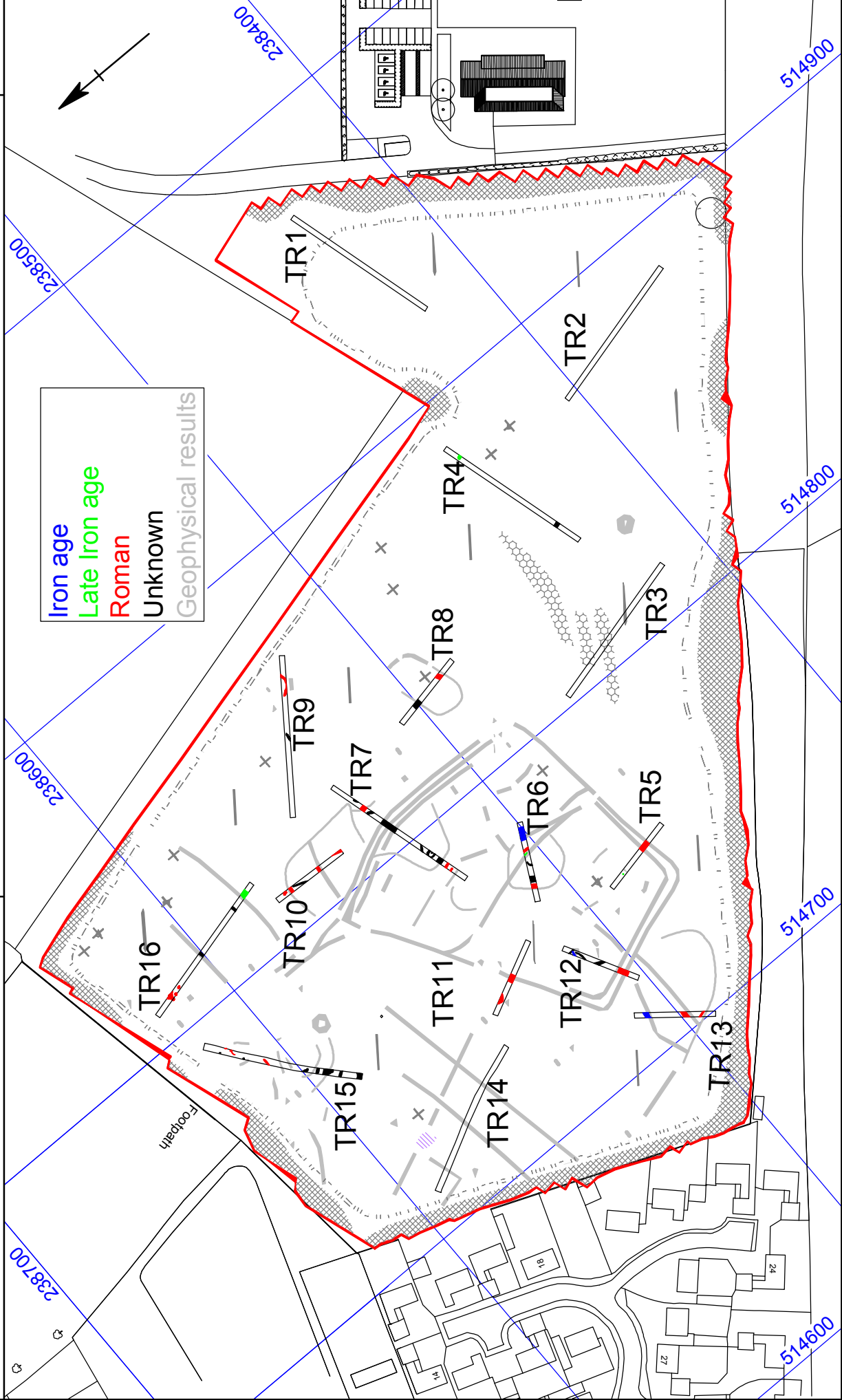
Plate 27 Trench 12, looking north-east
Plate 28 Trench 13, looking north-east
Plate 29 Ditch [1301], looking north-west
Plate 30 Ditch [1303], looking south-east
Plate 31 Trench 14, looking south-east
Plate 32 Trench 15, looking north-east
Plate 33 Linear [1501], looking south-west
Plate 34 Posthole [1503], looking south
Plate 35 Curvilinear [1505], looking south-east
Plate 36 Curvilinear [1505] and Posthole [1503], looking south-east
Plate 37 Trench 16, looking north-west
Plate 38 Pit [1601], looking north-west
Plate 39 Pit [1605], looking north
Plate 40 Pit [1608], looking north-west
Plate 41 Bill hook from Context 506
Plate 42 Loom weight from Context 508
Plate 43 Loom weight from Context 508, side view
Plate 44 Loom weight from Context 508, alternate side view

Page Left Blank

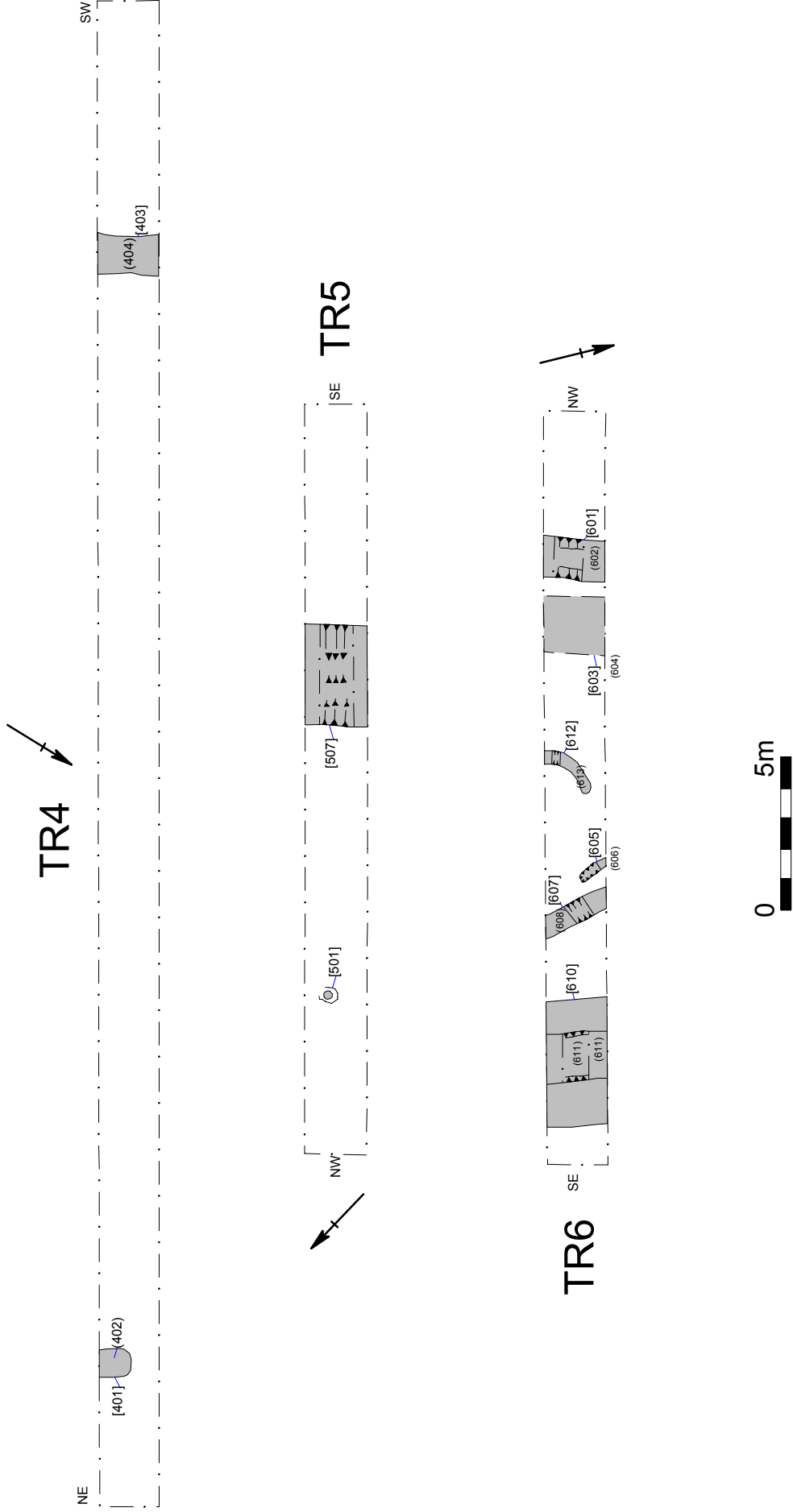


Site Location

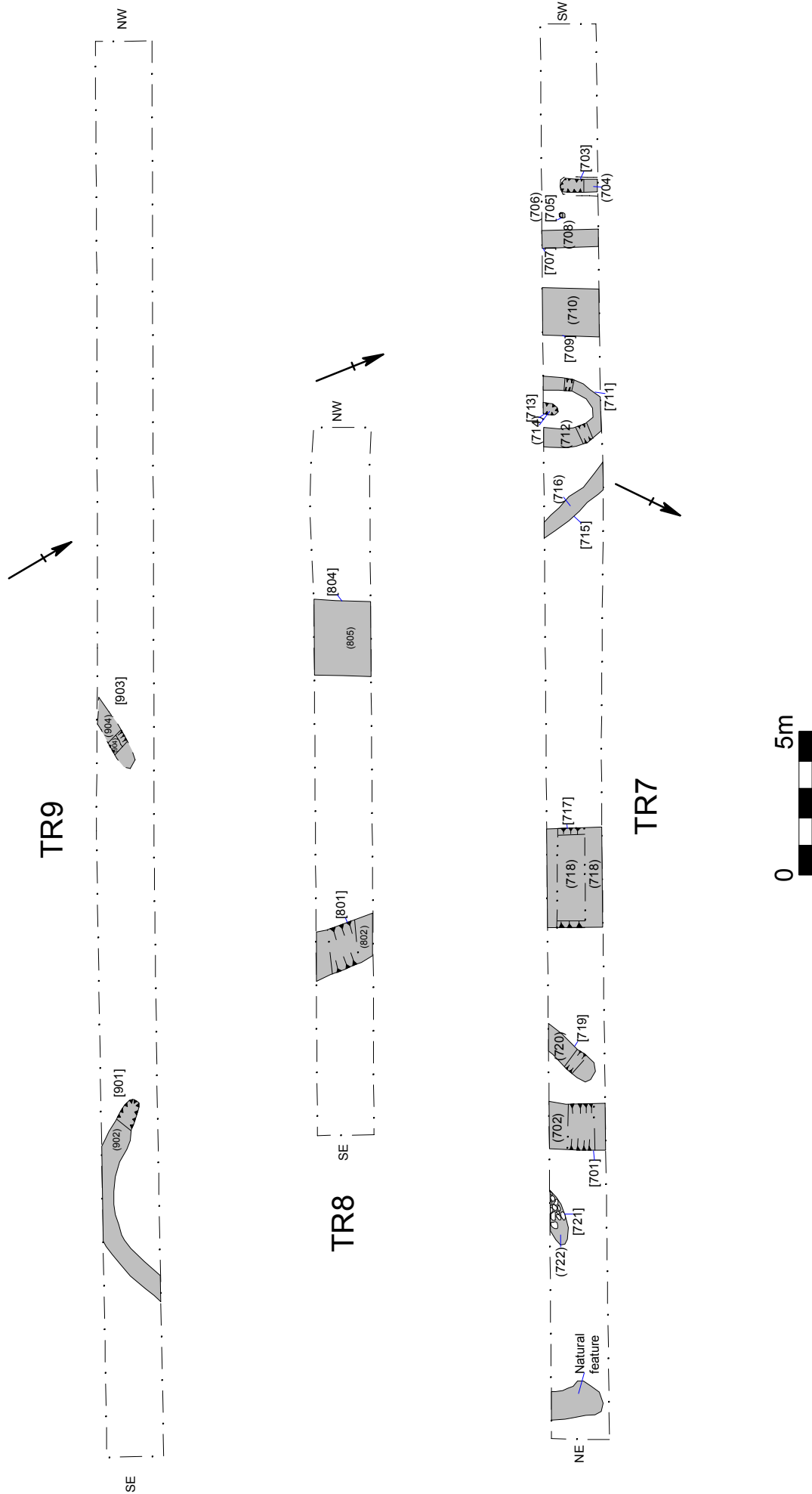
Scale 1:8500



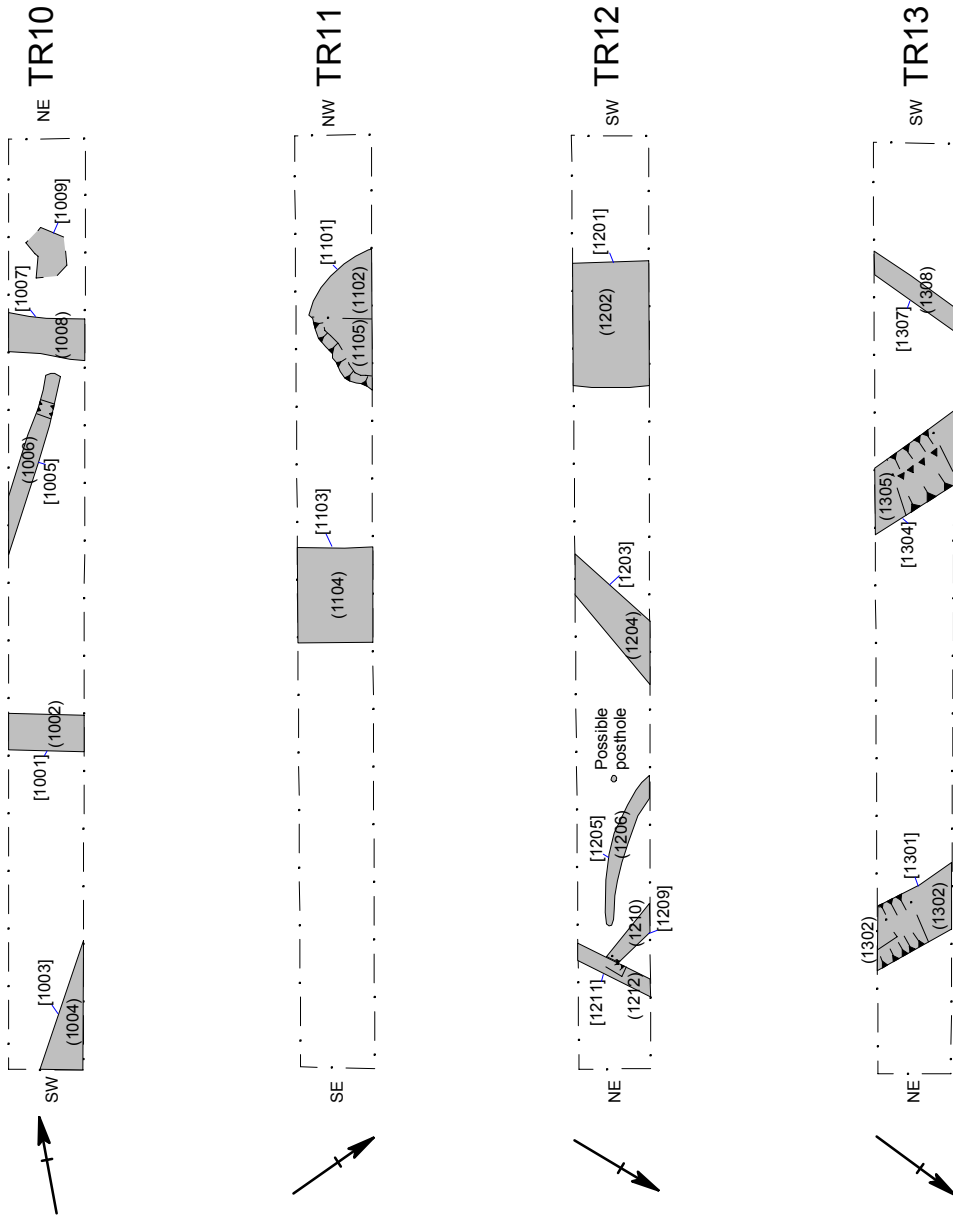
Trench layout with geophysical survey results



Plan: Trenches 4, 5 and 6

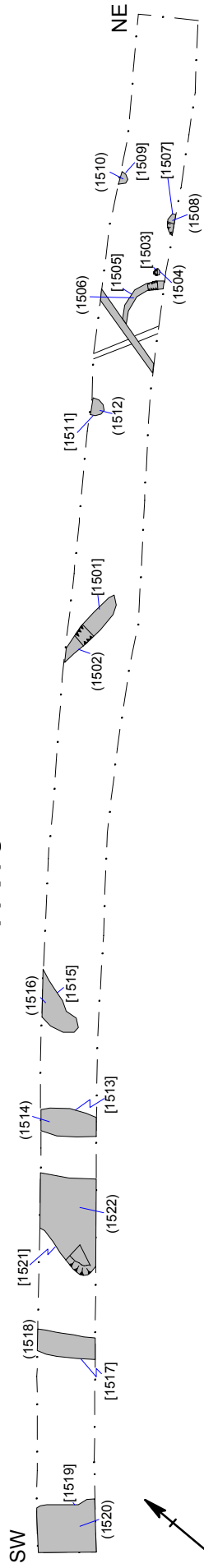


Plan: Trenches 7, 8 and 9

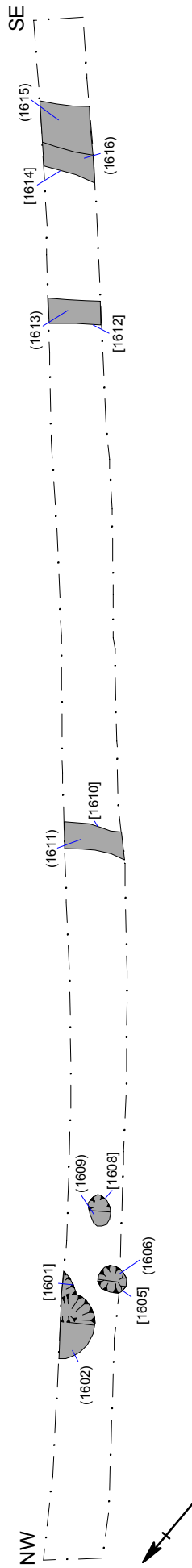


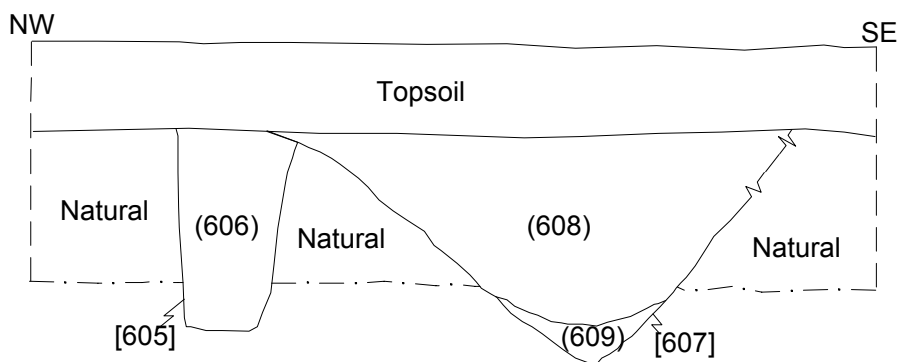
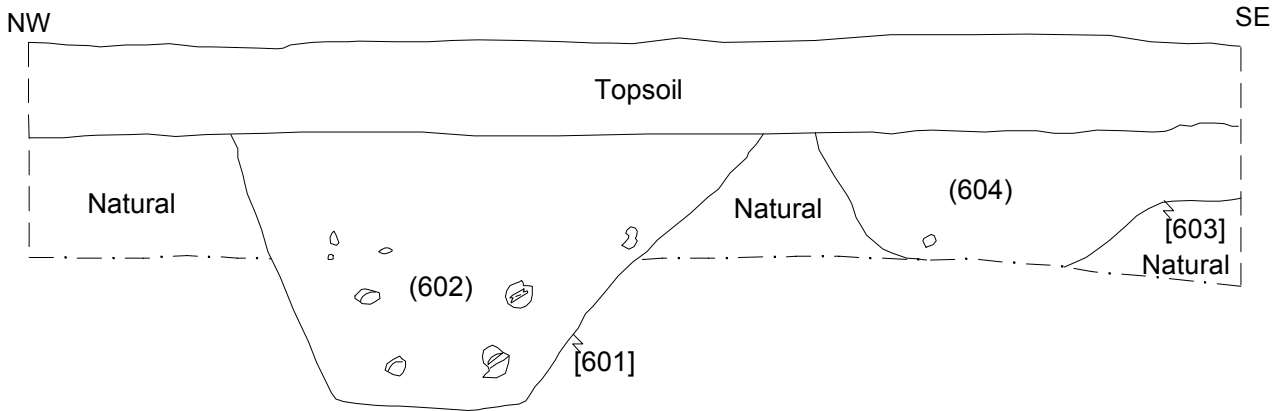
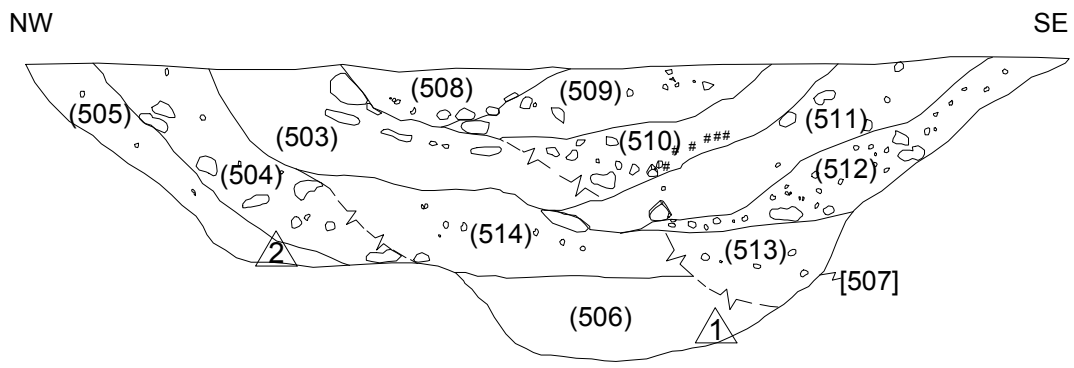
Plan of trenches 10, 11, 12 and 13

TR15



TR16

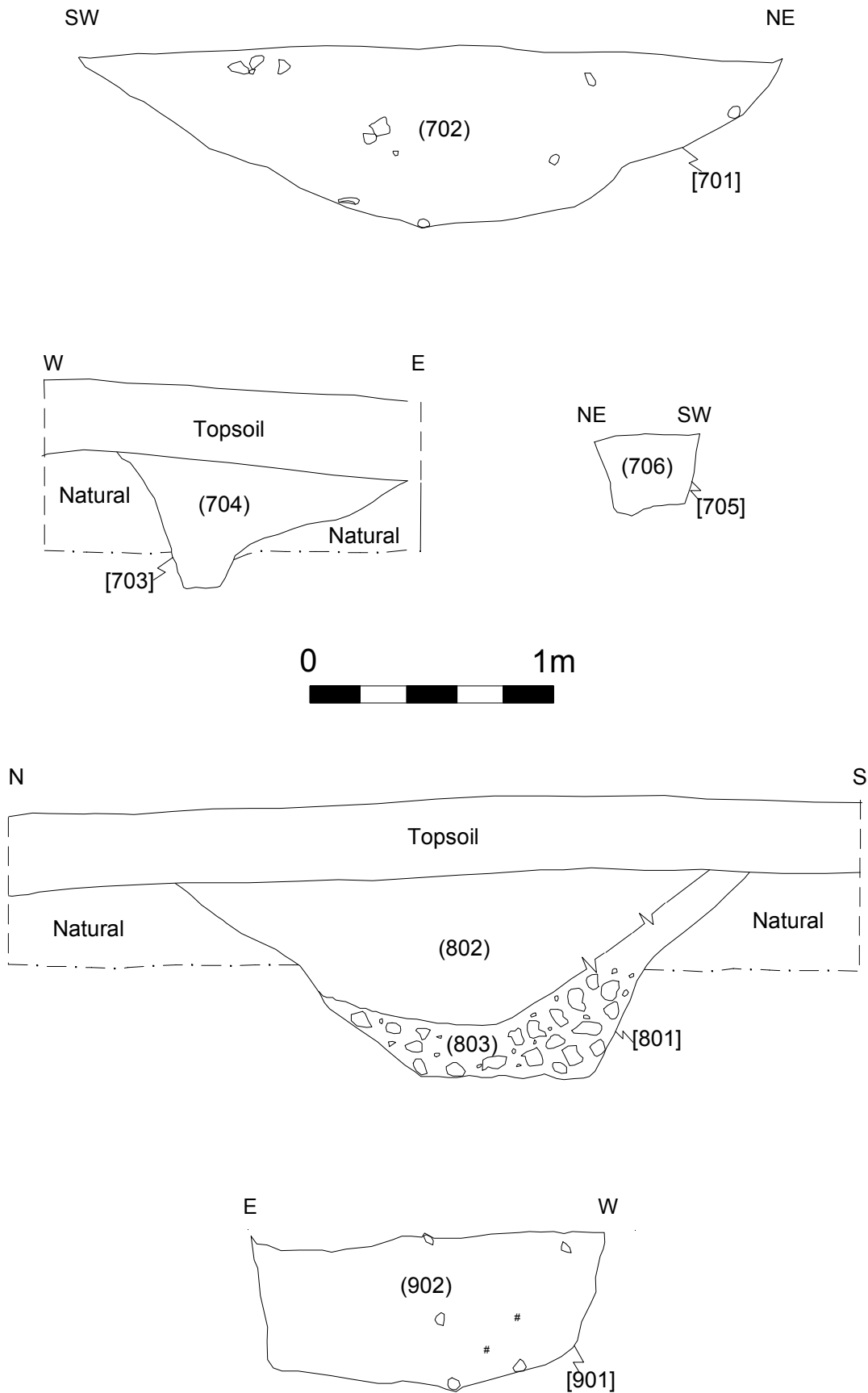




Sections: Features [507], [601], [603], [605] and [607]

Scale 1:25

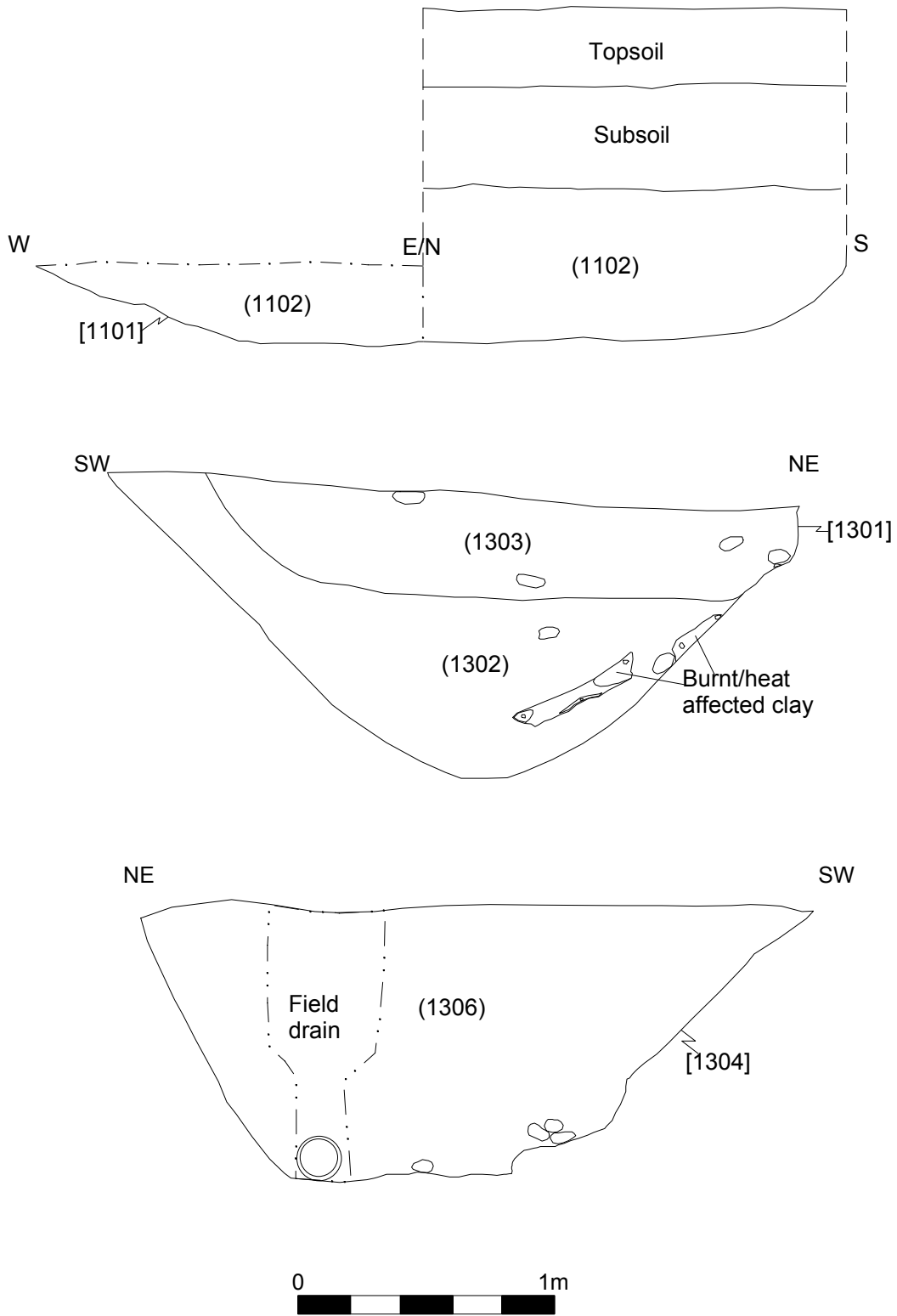
Figure 7



Sections: Features [701], [703], [705], [801] and [901]

Scale 1:25

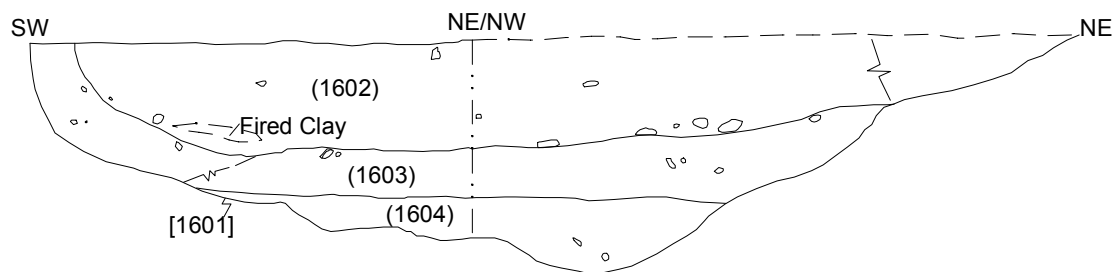
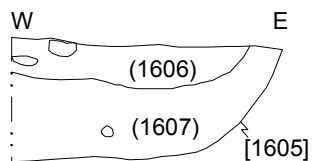
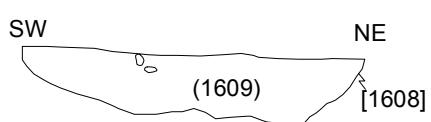
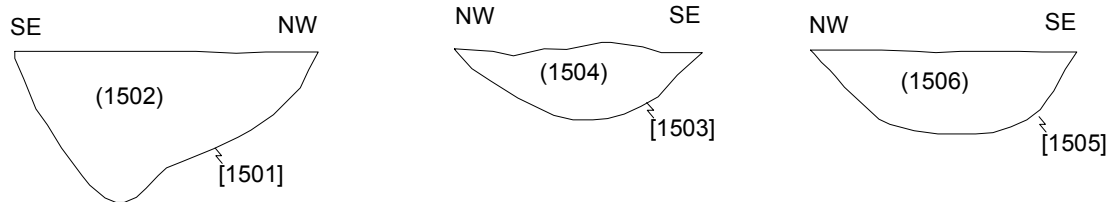
Figure 8



Sections: Features [1101], [1301] and [1304]

Scale 1:25

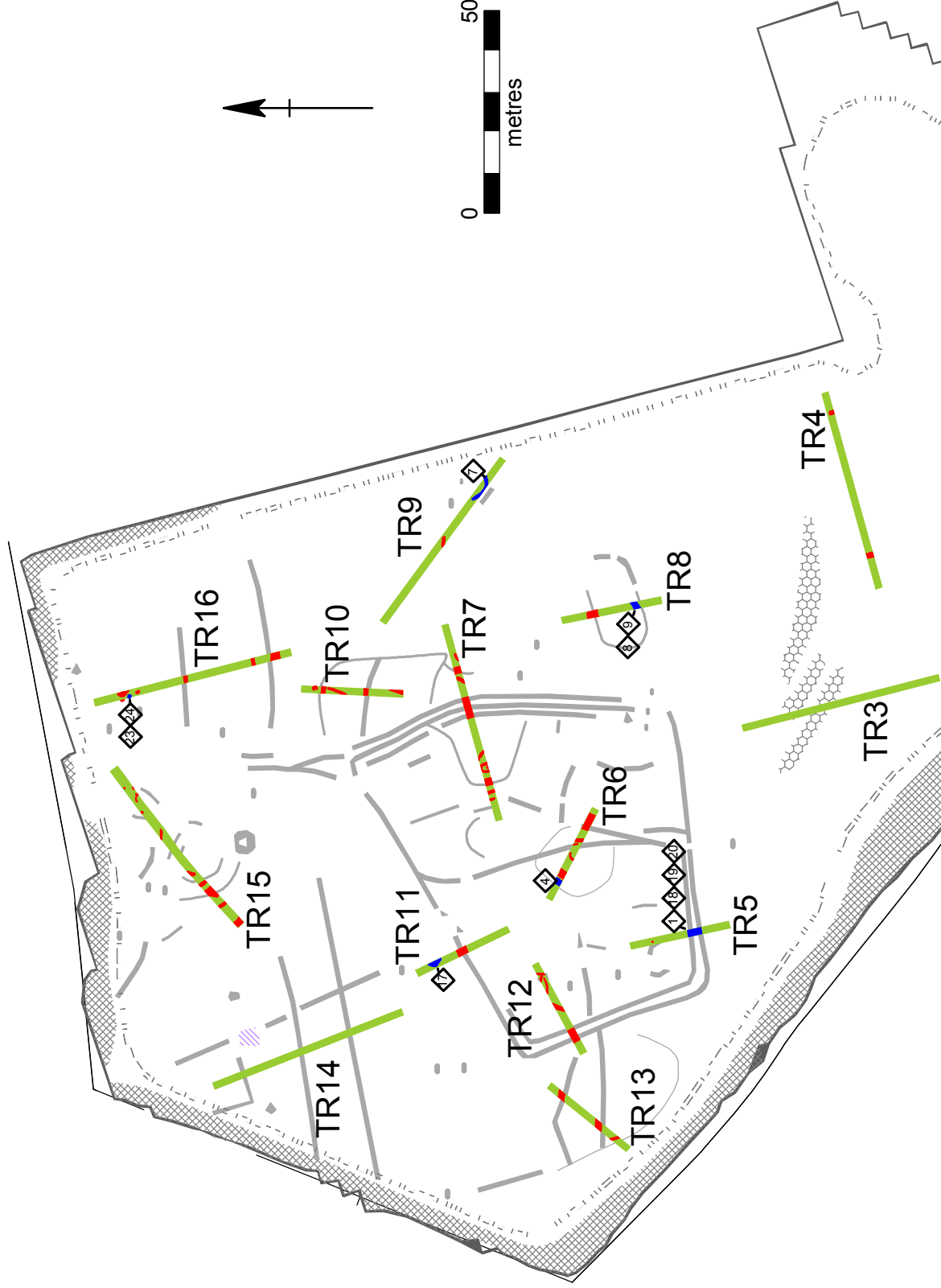
Figure 9



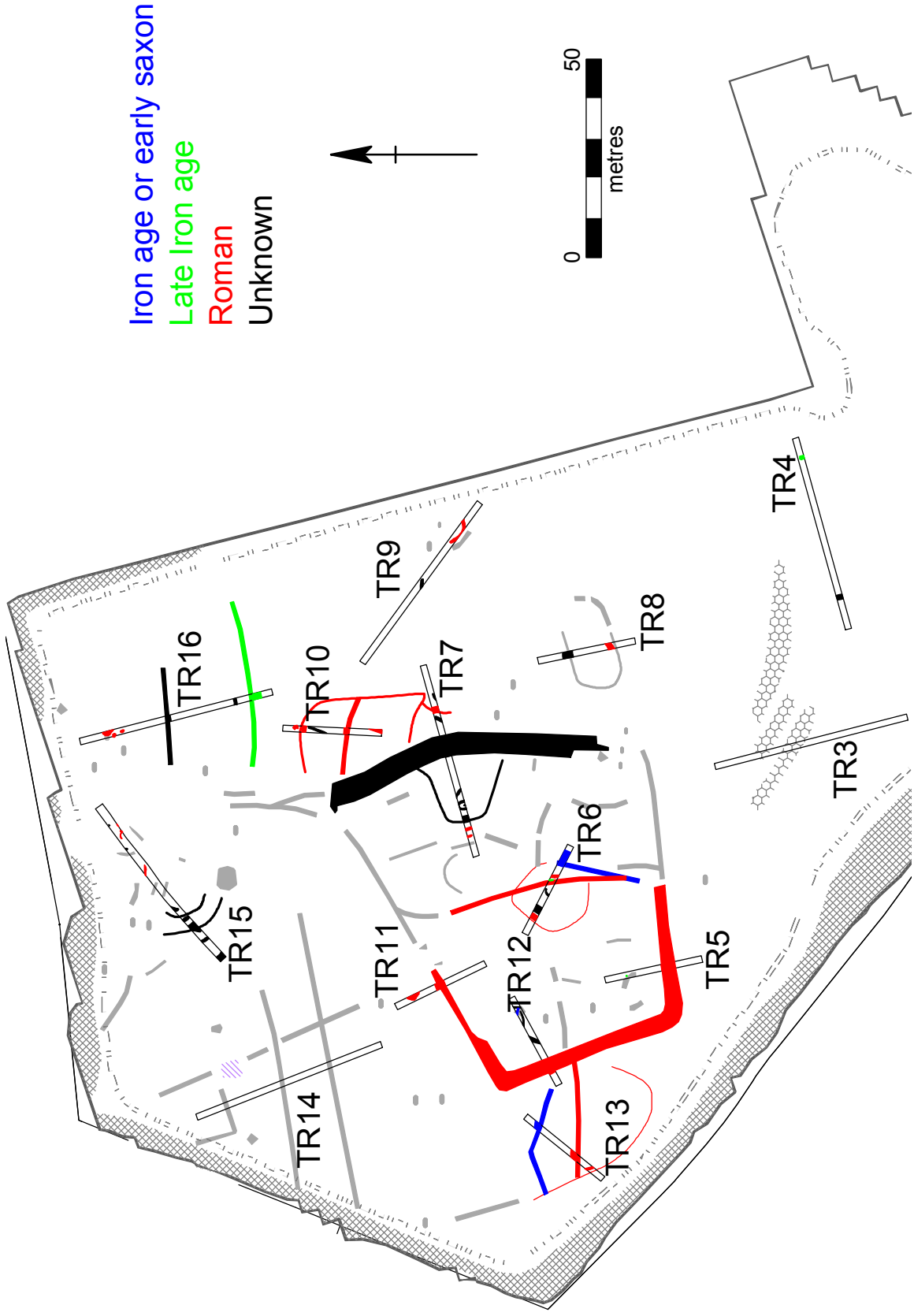
Sections: Features [1501], [1503], [1505], [1601], [1605] and [1608]

Scale 1:20

Figure 10



Location of bulk soil samples



Phasing of principal features



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 3: Trench 2, indicative section, looking south-west



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking north-west



Plate 5: Trench 4, looking south-west



Plate 6: Trench 5, looking south-east



Plate 7: Ditch [507], looking north-east



Plate 8: Ditch [507], looking north-west



Plate 9: Cremation [501], in situ



Plate 10: Cremation vessel, post excavation



Plate 11: Trench 6, looking north-east



Plate 12: Ditch [601], looking north-east



Plate 13: Ditch terminus [605], looking north



Plate 14: Ditches [605] and [607], looking north



Plate 15: Trench 7, looking south-west



Plate 16: Linear [703], looking north



Plate 17: Posthole [705], looking south-east



Plate 18: Trench 8, looking north



Plate 19: Ditch [801], looking north-east



Plate 20: Trench 9, looking south-east



Plate 21: Curvilinear [901], looking south-west



Plate 22: Trench 10, looking north



Plate 23: Trench 10, indicative section, looking east



Plate 24: Feature [1009], showing heat affected area, looking west



Plate 25: Trench 11, looking north-west



Plate 26: Pit [1101], looking north-east



Plate 27: Trench 12, looking north-east



Plate 28: Trench 13, looking north-east



Plate 29: Ditch [1301], looking north-west



Plate 30: Ditch [1303], looking south-east



Plate 31: Trench 14, looking south-east



Plate 32: Trench 15, looking north-east



Plate 33: Linear [1501], looking south-west



Plate 34: Posthole [1503], looking south



Plate 35: Curvilinear [1505], looking south-east



Plate 36: Curvilinear [1505] and Posthole [1503], looking south-east



Plate 37: Trench 16, looking north-west



Plate 38: Pit [1601], looking north-west



Plate 39: Pit [1605], looking north



Plate 40: Pit [1608], looking north-west



Plate 41: Bill hook from Context (506)



Plate 42: Loom weight from Context (508)



Plate 43: Loom weight from Context (508), side view



Plate 44: Loom weight from Context (508), alternate side view

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-227490</i>	
Project details	
Project name	Land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford
Short description of the project	<p>As part of a programme of archaeological work undertaken in advance of a planning application for residential development on land at Hillfoot Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching.</p> <p>A geophysical survey demonstrated a <i>High</i> overall archaeological potential for the site, with the possibility of features and deposits of prehistoric to post-medieval date surviving within the development area. This supported the evidence of aerial photographs, which show a trapezoidal enclosure with a smaller curvilinear enclosure attached, and a separate oval enclosure to the south-west.</p> <p>Sixteen trenches were excavated across the site, twelve of which revealed a total of fifty-seven archaeological features. In consultation with the Historic Environment Team at Central Bedfordshire County Council, it was agreed to limit the detailed investigation to twenty key features that were expected to provide data on the character and date range of the site.</p> <p>Datable pottery finds were recovered from the fills of fifty of the archaeological features. The pottery evidence has demonstrated that activity on the site started in the late Iron Age and continued into the late 2nd century AD. No evidence for later Roman activity was recovered. The earliest features appear to be located in Trenches 5 and 6 in the centre of the site, and in Trenches 10 and 16 in the north-western quadrant. The evidence suggests a small enclosure, occupied from the mid-1st century BC, with a slightly later expansion of the enclosure to the north-west by the 2nd century. Ditch [1301], in the south-western corner of the site, produced sherds of grog- and organic-tempered wares, which may date either to the late Iron Age (1st century BC) or possibly to the early Saxon period (5th – 7th century AD).</p> <p>The late Iron Age and Romano-British remains on the site are considered to be of high local and regional archaeological significance.</p> <p>On the basis of the cumulative results of the evaluation, including both geophysics and trial trenching, the risk that the proposed development might have a negative impact on remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be <i>High</i> for the Iron Age and Roman period, and <i>Low</i> for all other periods.</p>
Project dates	Start: 07-09-2016 End: 03-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes/ Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1232 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	Pottery – LPRIA – 2nd Century

Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE SHEFFORD Hillfoot Farm
Postcode	SG17 5FP
Study area	59000 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TL 14780 38520 LL - 52.032762644779 -0.326613171477 (decimal) LL - 52 01 57 N 000 19 35 W (degrees) Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 40m Max: 43m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council
Project design originator	Chris Turner
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Warden Developments Ltd & Samuel Beadie (Investments) Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Pottery", "Fe", "CBM", "Stone"
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Hillfoot Farm, Shefford: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G & Sycamore, M.
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 1034
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth
Description	Comb-bound A4 document, Green cover, 44 text pages, 12 figures, 44 plates