Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Trial Trenching at Clay Hill,Ringmer, East Sussex

NGR TQ 45926 14714
Project No. 2803
Site Code: CHR 07
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Abstract

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Clay Hill, Ringmer, East Sussex. The work was undertaken between 19th November and 18th December and was commissioned by Jacobs on behalf of South East Water. Forty-five trenches were excavated, each 30m long, totalling some 1350 metres of trenching across seven fields. The trenches were laid out either to target geophysical anomalies or in a regular pattern to sample across the area. This trial trenching is part of a wider archaeological programme comprising a desk-based assessment, walk over survey, surface artefact collection survey and geophysical survey, as part of a feasibility study of the site.

The underlying natural of Weald clay was encountered between the heights of 16.59m OD in the south of the site (Trench 2, field R32) and 7.48m OD in the north (Trench 33, field D1). The topography was of gently undulating arable and pastoral farmland bisected by the Clay Hill stream.

The earliest identifiable activity on the site proved to be of Late Iron Age date and comprised a shallow ditch (trench 43, field D3) possibly the east side of an enclosure, initially identified by the geophysical survey, aligned north-east to south-west measuring approximately 50m by 25m. The eastern ditch of the possible enclosure was also identified in Trenches 40 and 42. A single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered from pit [33/003] in field D1. The other trenches in field D1 (trenches 31 to 39) identified a series of undated features including several large linear features.

Roman activity was concentrated in fields R4, R46 and R47 on the north side of Clay Hill stream valley. Few datable cut features were identified but an apparent demolition horizon of Ceramic Building Material in Trench 21 suggests the possibility of a Roman building or tile kiln in the immediate vicinity, probably on the level terrace at the top of the Clay Hill stream valley.

A number of small pits and postholes, dating from the late 12th to the 13th century, were identified in Trenches 2 and 4 in field R32 immediately north of Clay Hill Mount. The presence of features solely of this date does inevitably lead to the conclusion that the earthwork was in active use, if not constructed during this period. However, neither the trenches nor the initial geophysical survey could shed any light on the true nature and function of the mount.

The results of the fieldwork were notable in failing to produce any evidence of activity dating to the pre-Iron Age, Saxon and post-medieval periods.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of South East Water, to undertake archaeological trial trenching of land at Clay Hill, Ringmer, East Sussex (centred NGR TQ 45926 14714) as part of a feasibility study into the siting of a reservoir (Fig 1).

1.2 The feasibility study is in an area of agricultural land to the north of Ringmer and to the east of Barcombe Mills (Fig. 1). According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50000 map of the area (Sheet 319, *Lewes*) the underlying geology at the site is predominantly Weald Clay, with some Head Deposits and Alluvium to the north and west.

1.3 Following discussions by Jacobs with East Sussex County Council (Lewes District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), it was decided that it would be prudent to instigate a programme of archaeological surveys comprising of desk-based study, walk over, surface collection of artefacts, geophysical survey and trial trenching at the site as part of the feasibility study of the site which could provide supporting documentation should a planning application be brought forward. A specification for the trial trenching was prepared by Jacobs and agreed with East Sussex County Archaeologist.

1.4 The general aims of the trial trenching are to obtain information which will contribute to an understanding of the archaeological potential of the area and enable the need for, nature and scope of any mitigation to be determined.

1.5 More specific aims and objectives are as follows:

- To identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in the specification.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- To determine (as far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the deposits or features identified.
- Establish any ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- To disseminate the results through deposition of an ordered archive at the Barbican House museum (Lewes), the deposition of a detailed report at the Sites and Monuments Record, and publication at a level of detail appropriate to the significance of the results.

1.6 The works were designed to identify potential archaeological remains within the footprint of the reservoir and its associated pipelines, and to enable the need for, nature and scope of any mitigation measures to be determined.

1.7 This current report provides the results of the archaeological trial trenching part of the project.

1.8 The fieldwork was undertaken by Giles Dawkes between 19th November and 18th December 2007 with on site assistance provided by David Honess, Sarah Porteus, Lianne Peyre, Michelle Statton, and Ashley Jillett. The project

was managed by Jon Sygrave and Louise Rayner (post-excavation).

1.9 The trenches were located with a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) before excavation and each trench had a separate TBM.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 A full account of the historical and archaeological background can be found in the Desk-based Assessment (Jacobs 2007).

2.1.2 Twelve cultural heritage sites were identified within a 1500m radius of the centre point of the proposed reservoir (NGR TQ 459 147). These comprised: 1 Scheduled Monument, 5 Listed Buildings and 6 cultural heritage sites; the HER also identified two fieldwork events (these are references to an archaeological excavation and an archaeological watching brief).

2.1.3 Of the sites, only three were located within or directly adjacent to the proposed reservoir, these were a medieval motte SM no. 12777, a possible Bronze Age barrow HER no. MES4514 and a watching brief on geotechnical investigations HER no. EES 14296. Event EES99074 was an excavation undertaken on the motte site in the 1920's followed by work in 2003. A further four sites were located within approximately 400m of the edge of the reservoir, these comprise: Clayhill House Grade II Listed Building (HER no. MES1906), Lower Clayhill Grade II Listed Building (LB no.416564), Upper Clayhill Farm Grade II Listed Building (LB no. 416565), and a barn at Upper Clayhill Farm Grade II Listed Building (LB no.416566).

2.2 Palaeolithic 450,000-10,000BC

2.2.1 The Sussex Coastal Plain contains a series of raised beach deposits which are of international importance for the study of early man. However, there is potential for remains of this period to be located elsewhere in the county and in recent years in East Sussex a Palaeolithic worked stone and flakes have been found at Culvers Mead near Barcombe and an almost complete hand-axe was excavated in a palaeochannel under the Roman villa at Barcombe about 1km to the south. It is considered that these finds indicate the potential of the gravels of the Ouse Valley and it's tributaries to contain valuable Palaeolithic deposits.

2.3 Mesolithic (10,000 – 4,000BC)

2.3.1 The Mesolithic is characterised by the end of the Ice Age and an ensuing change in climate. It is a period when woodland developed. By the end of the Mesolithic, agriculture was beginning to replace the long established practice of hunting-fishing and gathering. There are no known sites of Mesolithic material in the immediate area but sites of this period are difficult to locate and identify. The valley of the Ouse may have some potential for the discovery of sites of this period

2.4 Neolithic (4,000-2,500 BC) and Early Bronze Age (2,500-1,000BC)

2.4.1 The Neolithic period is represented by the appearance of pottery and the beginnings of agriculture. This period is characterised by the domestication of livestock and crops, along with a focus on community and the very beginnings of settlements. People during this time continued to hunt animals and gather wild food as they moved across the landscape. In Sussex the Neolithic is characterised by causewayed enclosures, of which Offham is the closest, long barrows, the closest being on the hills above Malling and flint

mines. The majority of the identified sites are along the South Downs.

2.4.2 The Bronze Age period is represented by the appearance of large organised barrow and field systems in the middle Bronze Age and the emergence of nucleated and seasonal settlements in the mid to late parts of this period. There is a notable movement away from the communal burial structures in the earlier periods to the appearance of individual burial. The majority of the barrow cemeteries and the few Bronze Age settlements are on the South Downs. Excavations at the waterlogged site of Shinewater Marsh identified a large wooden platform and a trackway, along with a number of bronze items, including axes and a sickle.

2.4.3 There is a record of a single possible round barrow in the study area, although the HER notes that no evidence of the tumulus could be identified.

2.4.4 The watching brief on the geotechnical investigation identified a scatter fire-cracked flints in the vicinity of TP4, these flints may be indicative of prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age activity. The surface artefact collection survey identified concentrations of fire-cracked flint in field D1 and two flint arrowheads of Neolithic date (Margetts 2007, 3).

2.5 First Millennium BC

2.5.1 This period covers what is generally regarded as the late Bronze Age and the Iron Age and it has been suggested that central and east Sussex are relatively underpopulated, despite the development of the hillfort at Caburn, albeit on an earlier settlement site. It has been suggested that during the Iron Age settlements in east Sussex move off the downlands and into the river valleys and the sites are masked by colluvial deposits. There are no known Iron Age sites on the immediate area of the site on the clays on east side of the Ouse but three circular roundhouses of late Iron Age or Early Roman date have been recorded under the Roman villa at Barcombe.

2.6 Roman/Roman (AD 43 – 450)

2.6.1 Cross channel trade between the Roman Empire and the Sussex coast developed in the 100 years before the Roman conquest. The development of the Roman palace at Fishbourne is a clear indication of the importance of the Sussex coast perhaps both before and after the invasion. There is some evidence from both Fishbourne and Chichester of pre-conquest activities. Road communication was established in the Roman period and included the Greensand Way which runs east from the mansion at Pulborough to link with north south routes from London to Hassocks and Brighton and London to Lewes. The Greensand Way and the London Lewes road intersect to the north of Barcombe and the road runs down the Ouse Valley. The Greensand Way extends eastwards to Arlington and Pevensey, and is likely to reach the Ouse valley near Ringmer or Malling. In the Ouse Valley is the site of a Roman villa, the eastern most one of three just south of Greensand Way between Hassock and the Ouse Valley. The villa seems to have its origin in the Late Iron Age or early Roman period and started with timber built circular houses of typical indigenous styles. This is followed by the construction of rectangular building with masonry foundations which in turn was replaced by a more elaborate masonry structure in the middle of the 3rd Century AD. The site was abandoned about 300 AD perhaps as a consequence of being

vulnerable to coastal raids extending up the Ouse. Looking to the north iron production was an important activity in the Weald.

2.6.2 Excavations immediately south of the Clay Hill earthwork has recovered material described as Roman brick and tile. In addition the surface artefact collection survey identified a discrete area of Roman tile at the junction of fields R4, R7 and R46 (Margetts 2007, 6).

2.7 Saxon, Norman and Medieval (AD 450 – 1540)

2.7.1 The Saxon period saw a decline in population and in agriculture. There is some suggestion of activity in the Saxon period in the villa at Barcombe. In the 10th Century Lewes was created as a Burghal Hidage fort, one of a series of forts forming a defensive line against Viking raids. Lewes was also the home of Lewes Priory founded in the late 11th century and of Lewes Friary established about 150 years later on the banks of the River Ouse. The town and its religious houses would have had considerable influence on the surrounding area. Soon after the Norman Conquest, Sussex was divided into four administrative units known as Rapes, one of which was centred on Lewes. Lewes Castle was on of eleven sites fortified by 1100, another may have been the castle site at Clay Hill although there is some debate about whether it was constructed in the 11th century. Pottery from the recent excavations was largely undiagnostic and may date from mid 11th to mid 12th century. Equally there is some debate as to whether the earthwork is a castle or a structure such as a hunting lodge. However a structure of that date seems more likely to be a castle. Ringmer, mentioned in Domesday Book, was part of the manor off South Malling granted to Christ Church, Canterbury in 838. Plashett Park is first mentioned in 1285 and is one of a series of Parks in Ringmer which continue into the post medieval period and include Bentley Park, Mote Park and Broyles Park. The Ringmer area is known as an area for ceramic production.

2.8 Post-medieval (AD 1540 - 1799)

2.8.1 There are six Listed Buildings, all Grade II around the edge of the proposed site. These are sites technically of national importance, however, in some cases it can be argued that this category of building is actually of regional importance. The buildings date to the 17-18th centuries.

2.8.2 The post-medieval landscape was one of scattered farms and houses with relatively large areas of the parks being fenced and let as farms. This is essentially the landscape visible today.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Forty-five trial trenches were excavated in seven fields located in the western half of the proposed development area (Figure 2). Some trenches were positioned to investigate anomalies identified during the geophysical survey in fields R4, R32 and D3. Trench 18 was located across the discrete area of Roman tile identified during the surface artefact collection programme. The remainder of the trenches were located evenly across the portions of the fields being evaluated.

3.2 The trenches were accurately located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) tying them in directly with the grid used for the geophysical survey and ensuring anomalies are accurately targeted. On occasion trenches were slightly relocated to avoid obstacles, such as hedges, or areas of great crested newt habitat identified by the ecologist prior to the trial trenching. Where appropriate, destructive searches for Great Crested Newts and other reptiles were completed by Jacobs ecologists in accordance with a licence from Natural England.

3.3 The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were cut by 13 ton and 8 ton 360° tracked excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets.

3.4 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit, whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts. Subtle differences in the natural were drawn as they may represent possible prehistoric features which are difficult to identify in trial trenching.

3.5 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the agreed specification of the works using pro-forma context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.

3.6 A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

3.7 Environmental samples were taken where appropriate and in the amount and regularity specified in the agreed specification of the works.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Field R32 (Figure 3)

Trenches 1 to 10 were located across the field, which was under pasture, immediately north of Clay Hill Mount, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This earthwork is currently believed to be a motte although there is some uncertainty over this interpretation. An area of geophysical survey was undertaken in the area directly north of Clay Hill Mount, measuring 120m by 90m.

Trench 2 was located over a discrete positive anomaly with a negative response, possibly a ferrous object. Trench 4 was partially located over an area of magnetic disturbance, caused possibly by ferrous debris.

4.1.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m
1/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology, comprising stiff yellow brown clay with occasional manganese/mineral flecking (1/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 15.31m OD at the south-east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 14.95m OD to the north-west.

Above was a layer of plough soil of dark brown clay silt (1/001). The presence throughout the layer of occasional inclusions of shotgun cartridges and clay pigeon fragments indicated that, although the field was presently pasture, it had been ploughed relatively recently.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.1.2 Trench 2 (Figures 3 & 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
2/002	Fill	Pit fill	0.60m	0.45m	0.20m
2/003	Cut	Pit cut	0.60m	0.45m	0.20m
2/004	Fill	Pit fill	1.78m	1.31m	0.31m
2/005	Cut	Pit cut	1.78m	1.31m	0.31m
2/006	Fill	Ditch fill	+2.16m	0.82m	0.29m
2/007	Cut	Ditch cut	+2.16m	0.82m	0.29m
2/008	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow clay (2/008) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 16.59m OD at the south-west end of the trench, sloping down to 15.57m OD

at the north-east.

Two pits and a small ditch were seen to be cut into the surface of this natural geology.

Subcircular pit [2/003] had concave sides and base and was filled with stiff clean mottled grey and yellow clay (2002) with occasional rooting. Irregular pit [2/005] had concave sides and a flat base and was filled with stiff mottled brown and yellow clay (2/004) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking. Small ditch [2/007] was aligned south-west to north-east with an irregular stepped profile and a concave base. The fill was stiff mottled brown and yellow clay (2/006) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking.

No ferrous objects were identified but the discrete positive anomaly identified in the geophysical survey was approximately in the location of pit [2/005].

4.1.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
3/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (3/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 14.57m OD at the south-west end of the trench, sloping down to 13.88m OD at the north-east.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.1.4 Trench 4 (Figures 3 & 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
4/002	Fill	Pit fill	0.64m	0.31m	0.16m
4/003	Cut	Pit cut	0.64m	0.31m	0.16m
4/004	Fill	Pit fill	1.72m	0.70m	0.13m
4/005	Fill	Pit fill	1.72m	0.78m	0.04m
4/006	Cut	Pit cut	1.72m	0.78m	0.17m
4/007	Fill	Pit fill	1.38m	0.59m	0.09m
4/008	Cut	Pit cut	1.38m	0.59m	0.09m
4/009	Fill	Posthole fill	0.15m	0.13m	0.15m
4/010	Cut	Posthole cut	0.15m	0.13m	0.15m
4/011	Fill	Posthole fill	0.24m	0.25m	0.11m
4/012	Cut	Posthole cut	0.24m	0.25m	0.11m
4/013	Fill	Stakehole fill	0.10m	0.07m	0.08m
4/014	Cut	Stakehole cut	0.10m	0.07m	0.08m
4/015	Fill	Pit fill	0.50m	0.18m	0.10m
4/016	Cut	Pit cut	0.50m	0.18m	0.10m
4/017	Fill	Pit fill	7.32m	Tr.	0.11m
4/018	Cut	Pit cut	7.32m	Tr.	0.11m

4/019	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (4/019) was encountered at a maximum height of 16.01m OD at the north-west end of the trench, sloping down to 15.90m OD at the south-east.

A series of archaeological features were recorded cutting into the natural. These comprised of five pits, two postholes and a stakehole.

Large irregular pit [4/018] was probably a tree-throw and had shallow concave sides and base and was filled with dark brown clay silt (4/017) with frequent gravel and occasional fragments of plastic.

Irregular pit [4/003] had concave to undercut sides and a flat base. The fill was stiff mottled yellow and brown clay (4/002) with occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks and moderate gravel with finds of pottery sherds dating from the late 12th to mid 13th century. Subcircular pit [4/016] had concave sides and base, and was filled with stiff mottled yellow and brown clay (4/015) with occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks. Finds of pottery sherds dating to the 13th century were recovered from this fill.

Subcircular posthole [4/012] had steep sides and a rounded base. The fill was stiff grey clay (4/011) with occasional chalk fragments and charcoal flecks. To the north was subcircular posthole [4/010] with near vertical sides and a rounded base. The fill was stiff grey clay (4/009) with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecking. A find of a horseshoe nail dating from between the 11th and 14th centuries and pottery sherds dating to the 13th century was recovered from this fill. Stakehole [4/014] had near vertical sides and a tapered base and was filled with stiff grey clay (4/013) with occasional chalk fragments and charcoal flecking.

Pit [4/006] had a concave sides and base, and was filled with primary fill (4/005) of mottled yellow and brown clay with moderate manganese/mineral flecking with finds of pottery sherds dating from the late 12th to mid 13th century. Above was secondary fill (4/004) of loose mottled grey and brown silt clay with occasional pebbles. An archaeological finds tag, marked with '820' inside a triangle, was recovered from this fill, indicating that this upper fill had been previous archaeologically excavated. The tag had been punctured by a rusty nail and the number in a triangle either refers to the cut number of the pit (common in Continental recording systems) or the location of a registered find from the pit (used in the Museum of London Archaeological Service recording system). A similar oval pit was recorded to the north. Pit [4/008] cut posthole fill (4/009) and had irregular sides and was filled with loose mottled grey and brown silt clay (4/007) with occasional pebbles and finds of pottery sherds dating from the 13th century. The loose fill strongly suggests this feature had also been previously archaeologically excavated.

These features appear to have been previously excavated by Sussex Archaeological Society, located in Trench C of an excavation with the site code CH 98 (Jacobs 2007, 105).

With regard to the geophysical survey, no ferrous debris was recovered

although it is notable that the area of magnetic disturbance identified was in the north-west end of the trench where the majority of the cut features were located.

4.1.5 Trench 5 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
5/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (5/002) with patches of stiff grey blue clay was encountered at a maximum height of 14.20m OD at the north-west end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 13.98m OD at the south-east.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.1.6 Trench 6 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
6/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (6/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 15.37m OD at the north-east end of the trench and sloping down gradually to 14.69m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.1.7 Trench 7 (Figure 3)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
7/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (7/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 14.47m OD in the south-west end of the trench sloping down gradually to 13.77m OD in the north-east.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.1.8 Trench 8 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
8/002	Deposit	Natural clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of yellow brown clay (8/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 15.94m OD in the north-west end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 15.89m OD in the south-east.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.1.9 Trench 9 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
9/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
9/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff mottled yellow and brown clay (9/002) with patches of stiff blue clay was encountered at a maximum height of 14.66m OD in the south-east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 13.89m OD in the north-west.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.1.10 Trench 10 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
10/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
10/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (10/002) was encountered between 15.13m OD and 15.19m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.2 Field R4 (Figure 4)

Trenches 11 to 19 were located in an arable field sown with oats. Trenches 14, 15, 16 and 18 had to be split to avoid the tractor trackways through the crops. Trench 18 was located over a concentration of Roman Ceramic Building Material (CBM) identified during field-walking. This trench had to be slightly re-aligned to the north to avoid a hedgerow. Geophysical survey had been undertaken in an area measuring 90m by 90m and relatively few anomalies were identified. Trenches 17 and 18 were located across areas of strong magnetic disturbance caused possibly by ferrous debris. Trench

18 was also located over a discrete positive anomaly in its south western corner.

4.2.1 Trench 11 (Figures 4 & 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
11/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
11/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
11/003	Cut	Pit cut	0.95m	0.90m	0.10m
11/004	Fill	Pit fill	0.95m	0.90m	0.10m
11/005	Cut	Pit cut	0.33m	0.30m	0.05m
11/006	Fill	Pit fill	0.33m	0.30m	0.05m
11/007	Cut	Pit cut	1.10m	0.82m	0.12m
11/008	Fill	Pit fill	1.10m	0.82m	0.12m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (11/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 11.03m OD at the north-east end of the trench, and sloping down to 9.23m OD at the south-west.

Two pits and a posthole were observed, cut into the natural. From the south-west these were subcircular pit [11/003] with concave sides and a flat base, which was filled with stiff mottled yellow and brown silt clay (11/004). Subcircular posthole [11/005] with steep sides and tapered base, and filled with firm dark brown clay silt (11/006). Subcircular pit [11/007] with concave sides and a flat base was filled with stiff brown silt clay (11/008).

4.2.2 Trench 12 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
12/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.44m
12/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (12/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 11.95m OD at the north-east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 11.33m OD to the south-west.

No archaeological features observed.

4.2.3 Trench 13 (Figures 4 & 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
13/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m

13/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
13/003	Cut	Field drain cut	2.66m	0.37m	+0.28m
13/004	Fill	Field drain fill	2.66m	0.37m	+0.28m
13/005	Cut	Posthole cut	0.17m	N/A	0.08m
13/006	Fill	Posthole fill	0.17m	N/A	0.08m
13/007	Cut	Posthole cut	0.24m	N/A	0.06m
13/008	Fill	Posthole fill	0.24m	N/A	0.06m
13/009	Cut	Posthole cut	0.21m	N/A	0.06m
13/010	Fill	Posthole fill	0.21m	N/A	0.06m
13/011	Cut	Posthole cut	0.25m	N/A	0.06m
13/012	Fill	Posthole fill	0.25m	N/A	0.06m
13/013	Cut	Posthole cut	0.14m	N/A	0.03m
13/014	Fill	Posthole fill	0.14m	N/A	0.03m

Summary

Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (13/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between 12.30m OD and 12.49m OD.

A group of five postholes were recorded cut into the natural, in a semi-circle aligned north-east to south-west for approximately 1.5m. The upper extent of the features had probably been removed by ploughing and the shallow profiles of the bases suggest the posts had been physically removed, rather than decaying *in situ*. No finds were recovered from the fills.

The postholes were, from the north-west, subcircular posthole [13/005] had steep sides and a tapered base. The fill was firm brown clay silt (13/006) with moderate burnt clay and frequent charcoal flecking. Subcircular posthole [13/007] with shallow concave sides and base, was filled with brown clay silt (13/008) with moderate burnt clay and moderate charcoal flecking. Subcircular posthole [13/009] with shallow concave sides and a flat base, was filled with brown clay silt (13/010) with moderate burnt clay and frequent charcoal flecking. Subcircular posthole [13/011] with near vertical sides and a flat base, was filled with brown clay silt (13/012) with moderate burnt clay flecking. Subcircular posthole [13/013] with shallow concave sides and base, was filled with brown clay silt (13/014) with moderate burnt clay and frequent charcoal flecking.

Probable field drain [13/003] was aligned north-south and filled with stiff mottled yellow brown and blue clay (13/004). The cut was very regular and had been almost certainly undertaken by a machine excavator. The feature was not fully excavated.

4.2.4 Trench 14 (Figures 4 & 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
14/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
14/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
14/003	Cut	Pit cut	0.80m	N/A	0.08m
14/004	Fill	Pit fill	0.80m	N/A	0.08m
14/005	Cut	Ditch cut	+2m	1.18m	0.49m
14/006	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	1.18m	0.49m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (14/002) with sporadic patches of dense concentrations of manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 10.49m OD and 11.21m OD.

Two archaeological features were observed cutting the natural. No finds were recovered from the fills.

Subcircular pit [14/003] was only partially seen and had concave sides and a flat base. The fill was dark brown gravel silt (14/004) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking. Ditch [14/005] was aligned north-east to south-west and had concave sides and a flat base. The fill was dark brown gravel silt (14/006) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking.

4.2.5 Trench 15 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
15/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m
15/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (15/002) with sporadic patches of dense concentrations of manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 11.69m OD and 12.17m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.2.6 Trench 16 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
16/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
16/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (16/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 12.32m OD and 12.53m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.2.7 Trench 17 (Figures 4 & 8)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
17/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m

17/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
17/003	Layer	Alluvium	5.20m	Tr.	+0.24m
17/004	Cut	Pit cut	0.74m	0.41m	0.19m
17/005	Fill	Pit fill	0.74m	0.41m	0.19m
17/006	Cut	Gully cut	+2m	0.74m	0.16m
17/007	Fill	Gully fill	+2m	0.74m	0.16m
17/008	Cut	Field drain cut	+2m	0.26m	N/A
17/009	fill	Field drain fill	+2m	0.26m	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (17/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 11.60m OD in the north-east end of the trench and sloped down to 9.50m OD in the south-west.

Overlying the natural at the south-west end of the trench, down the slope nearest Clay Hill stream, was a layer of stiff mottled blue and red brown alluvium (17/003). The alluvium was at least 0.24m thick and was not fully excavated.

Three features were identified cut into the natural, a pit, a gully and a field drain.

Oval pit [17/004] had stepped sides and a concave base. The fill was firm orange brown clay silt (17/005) with finds of Roman CBM, probably dating to the late 1st/2nd century AD. A notable find was an unusual combed box-flue tile fragment. Gully [17/006] was aligned north-west to south-east with concave sides and a flat base. The fill was brown clay silt (17/007) with moderate manganese/mineral flecking and finds of Roman CBM fragments.

Probable field drain [17/008] was aligned north-west to south-east and filled with stiff mottled yellow brown and blue clay (17/009). The cut was very regular and had been almost certainly undertaken by a machine excavator. The feature was not excavated.

No ferrous debris was recovered to account for the magnetic disturbance recorded in the geophysical survey, although it was noted that the area of magnetic disturbance identified roughly coincided with probable field drain [17/008].

4.2.8 Trench 18 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
18/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
18/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (18/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 12.60m OD in the north-east end of the trench and sloped down to 12.40m OD in the south-west.

No archaeological features were identified despite the area of strong magnetic disturbance and discrete positive anomaly shown on the geophysical survey.

4.2.9 Trench 19 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
19/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
19/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (19/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 12.71m OD and 13.00m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

With regard to the geophysical survey, no ferrous debris was recovered or features recorded in regard to the area of magnetic disturbance identified during the geophysical survey.

4.3 Fields R7, R46 & R47 (Figure 4)

Trenches 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 30 were located in an arable field on the level ground to the north of Clay Hill stream. Trenches 22, 27 and 28 had to be split to avoid the tractor trackways through the crops.

Fields R46 and R47 were under pasture and sloped from the north to the edge of Clay Hill stream in the south. Trenches 20, 21 and 23 were located in R46 in the west and trenches 26 and 29 in R47 to the east. These two pasture fields were the only areas evaluated which had not been obviously ploughed with an identifiable sequence of natural clay, subsoil and topsoil. No geophysical survey was undertaken in these fields and the trenches were located evenly throughout the area.

Further to the results described below, Casper Johnson (ESCC) requested that a further phase of geophysical survey (Resistivity) was carried out in the vicinity of Trenches 20, 21, 22 and 24. The survey showed concentrations of *positive area anomalies* in the south and north but none of these coincided with features excavated during the evaluation or suggested the presence of a substantial structure.

4.3.1 Trench 20 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
20/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m

20/003	Layer	Alluvium	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
The natural geology was not identified in this trench. The earliest deposit was stiff mottled blue and red brown alluvium (20/003) identified between the heights of 9.05m OD and 9.24m OD. The alluvium was not excavated but excavation elsewhere (see trench 23) showed that this deposit was over 1.9m thick.

Overlying alluvium (20/003) was mottled grey and brown clay silt (20/002) with moderate manganese/mineral flecking and a find of Roman CBM fragments. Overlying the subsoil (20/002) was topsoil (20/001).

No archaeological features were observed cut into the alluvium or subsoil.

4.3.2 Trench 21 (Figures 4 & 8)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.0m
21/003	Fill	Pit fill	0.98m	0.62m	0.11m
21/004	Cut	Pit cut	0.98m	0.62m	0.11m
21/005	Fill	Pit fill	0.88m	0.56m	0.10m
21/006	Cut	Pit cut	0.88m	0.56m	0.10m
21/007	Fill	Pit fill	0.72m	0.41m	0.06m
21/008	Cut	Pit cut	0.72m	0.41m	0.06m
21/009	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (21/009) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 12.30m OD and 12.22m OD.

Three shallow subcircular pits were cut into the natural. From the south-west these were, pit [21/004] with shallow concave sides and a flat base. The fill was firm grey brown clay silt (21/003) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking and finds of Late Iron Age pottery sherds. Pit [21/006] with shallow concave sides and a flat base, was filled with firm light grey brown clay silt (21/005) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking. Pit [21/008] with shallow sides and a flat base, was filled with light grey brown clay silt (21/007) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking.

The pits were sealed by stiff mottled yellow and brown silt clay subsoil (21/002) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking. Significant quantities of Roman CBM, probably dating to the 2nd century AD including an unusual tegula with a combed band and possible tile kiln wasters were recovered from this layer. A Late Iron Age pottery sherd was also found. The separation of the finds into 2m² areas identified a larger concentration towards the north-east end of the trench. The survival of relatively large fragments of roof-tile in the subsoil indicates that this layer had not suffered significant plough damage. The finds from this trench appear to represent a

horizon of demolition material, and with the addition of the results of the field-walking, strongly suggest that a Roman building was located in the near vicinity of trench 21, on the level terrace immediately north of Clay Hill stream.

4.3.3 Trench 22 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
22/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m
22/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (21/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 13.11m OD and 13.14m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.3.4 Trench 23 (Figures 4 & 8)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
23/001	Layer	Top soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
23/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
23/003	Layer	Alluvium	25m	Tr.	0.40m
23/004	Layer	Alluvium	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.10m
23/005	Layer	Alluvium	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.13m
23/006	Layer	Alluvium	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.12m
23/007	Layer	Alluvium	Test Pit	Test Pit	+0.60m
23/008	Deposit	Natural	5m	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (23/008) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was only exposed for 5m in the north-east of the trench at a maximum height of 10.02m OD sloping down to 9.59m OD to the south-west.

In the rest of the trench the natural was overlain by a substantial sequence of alluvial layers. No archaeological features were seen cut into the top of or within these alluvial layers. Due to the amount of standing water in the trench, the alluvium was evaluated by a separate machine-dug test pit immediately next to the south-west end of trench, measuring 1.5m by 1.5m and dug to a depth of 1.69m below ground level or 7.72m OD. The bottom of the alluvial sequence or the natural geology was not reached. The alluvium was column sampled and recorded by Dr Matt Pope, Archaeology South-East geoarchaeologist.

The lowest alluvium recorded was mottled blue and red brown clay (23/007) with inclusions of fragments of wooden twigs and small branches.

Radiocarbon analysis of an oak wood sample from these produced a measurement of 1080±40 BP (Beta – 240026; Cal AD 890 – 1020).

Above was mottled blue and red brown clay (23/006) with Fe staining, mottled blue and red brown clay (23/005), and mottled blue and red brown clay (23/004) with occasional organic traces. The uppermost alluvium was mottled blue and red brown clay (23/003) and this layer was also seen throughout the majority of the adjacent trench.

Overlying the alluvium was stiff mottled yellow and brown silt clay subsoil (23/002) with a find of a Roman CBM fragment.

4.3.5 Trench 24 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
24/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
24/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (24/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 12.95m OD and 12.79m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.3.6 Trench 25 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
25/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
25/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (25/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 13.33m OD in the north-east end of the trench, sloping down to 12.83m OD in the south-west.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.3.7 Trench 26 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13m
26/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m
26/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (26/003) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 9.98m OD and 10.18m OD.

Overlying the natural was stiff mottled yellow and brown silt clay subsoil (26/002) with a find of a Roman tegula CBM fragment.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.3.8 Trench 27 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
27/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
27/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (27/002) with patches of dense manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 12.62m OD and 12.31m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.3.9 Trench 28 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
28/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
28/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (28/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 12.95m OD and 12.79m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.3.10 Trench 29 (Figures 4 & 8)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
29/003	Layer	Alluvium	7.50m	Tr.	+0.45m
29/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (29/004) with occasional

manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 12.05m OD in the north-east end of the trench, sloping down steeply to 10.36m OD in the south-west.

The natural was seen throughout the majority of the trench, with alluvium layer (29/003) overlying the natural in the south-west end, closest to the Clay Hill stream. Alluvium (29/003) was stiff mottled blue and red brown clay and was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.45m below ground level or 9.91m OD. The bottom of the alluvium or the natural was not reached. A find of a Roman CBM fragment, possibly a tile waster was recovered from within the alluvium, near the base of the excavated sondage.

Overlying the alluvium was stiff mottled yellow and brown silt clay subsoil (29/002) with finds of Roman CBM fragments.

4.3.11 Trench 30 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
30/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.29m
30/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (30/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 13.90m OD in the north-east end of the trench, sloping down to 13.59m OD in the south-west.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.4 Field D1 (Figure 5)

Trenches 31 to 39 were located in an arable field sown with oats. Trenches 33, 34, 36, and 38 had to be moved or split to either to avoid the overhead power cables or the tractor trackways through the crops. The trenches were located to investigate various anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

4.4.1 Trench 31 (Figures 5 & 8)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
31/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.48m
31/002	Void				
31/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
31/004	Cut	Ditch	+2m	1.50m	0.27m
31/005	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	1.50m	0.27m
31/006	Cut	Ditch	+2m	1.45m	0.28m
31/007	Fill	Ditch Fill	+2m	1.45m	0.28m
31/008	Cut	Ditch	+2m	1.1m	0.30m
31/009	Fill	Ditch Fill	+2m	1.1m	0.30m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (31/003) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking and patches of light brown clay was encountered between the heights of 8.89m OD and 9.39m OD.

Three small, apparently parallel ditches were recorded cut into the natural, aligned north to south. From the west, ditch [31/006] had steep irregular sides and a sloping base. The fill was firm mottled orange and brown clay silt (31/007) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking and occasional pebbles. Ditch [31/004] had steep concave sides and a flat base. The fill was orange brown clay silt (31/005) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking and occasional pebbles. Ditch [31/008] had irregular stepped sides and a concave base. The fill was orange yellow clay silt [31/009] with occasional pebbles.

These features were not identified by the geophysical survey.

4.4.2 Trench 32 (Figure 5)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
32/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
32/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (32/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 8.97m OD and 9.34m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.4.3 Trench 33 (Figures 5 & 9)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
33/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
33/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
33/003	Cut	Pit	1.6m	1.38m	0.32m
33/004	Fill	Pit fill	1.6m	1.38m	0.32m
33/005	Cut	Pit	0.24m	1m	N/A
33/006	Fill	Pit fill	0.24m	1m	N/A
33/007	Cut	Pit	1.12m	1.62m	N/A
33/008	Fill	Pit fill	1.12m	1.62m	N/A
33/009	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	6.70m	0.62m
33/010	Cut	Ditch	+2m	6.70m	0.62m
33/011	Cut	Ditch	+2m	1.94m	0.60m
33/012	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	1.94m	0.60m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (33/002) with occasional

manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at a maximum height of 8.11m OD in the north-east end of the trench, sloping down steeply to 7.48m OD in the south-west.

A series of archaeological features comprising of three pits and two ditches were recorded, cut into the natural.

From the north-east end of the trench these were: pit [33/003] with concave sides and base, filled by firm dark brown silt clay (33/004) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking and a find of a Late Iron Age pottery sherd. Pit [33/005] was apparently subcircular and was not excavated. The fill was firm dark brown silt clay (33/006) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking. Pit [33/007] was also apparently subcircular and was not excavated. The fill was firm dark brown silt clay (33/008) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking.

Ditch [33/011] was aligned east to west with steep regular sides and a concave base. This ditch was not identified by the geophysical survey.

Large ditch [33/010] had gradual sloping sides and a flat base. The fill was dark orange brown silt clay (33/009) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking and moderate pebble inclusions. This feature was apparently identified by the geophysical survey and represents a large linear negative feature, approximately 98m long and 8m wide, aligned north-west to south-east.

4.4.4 Trench 34 (Figures 5 & 9)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
34/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.58m
34/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
34/003	Cut	Ditch	+2m	6.5m	0.38m
34/004	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	2.6m	0.30m
34/005	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	2.8m	0.38m
34/006	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	2.14m	0.32m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (34/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 8.05m OD and 7.55m OD.

A large negative feature [34/003], apparently a ditch, was recorded in the south-east end of the trench. The ditch had a shallow gradual side and a flat base. The primary fill was firm brown silt clay (34/004) with occasional gravel. Above was firm blue grey silt clay (34/005) and light yellow brown silt clay (34/006) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking.

Ditch [34/003] was apparently identified by the geophysical survey and represents a large linear negative feature, approximately 68m long and 5m wide, aligned north-west to south-east, parallel to and immediately southwest of ditch [33/010].

The small linear feature identified in the geophysical survey aligned northeast-southwest was not observed.

4.4.5 Trench 35 (Figure 5)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
35/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
35/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (35/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 8.68m OD and 9.02m OD.

No archaeological features were observed and it is of note that the two large north-east to south-west aligned anomalies identified in the geophysical survey were not observed.

4.4.6 Trench 36 (Figures 5 & 9)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
36/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
36/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
36/003	Cut	Pit cut	1.3m	1.25m	0.14m
36/004	Fill	Pit fill	1.3m	1.25m	0.14m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (35/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 10.99m OD and 10.89m OD.

Subcircular pit [36/003] had shallow irregular sides and a stepped base. The fill was brown yellow clay silt (36/004) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking.

4.4.7 Trench 37 (Figure 5)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
37/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m
37/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (37/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 8.93m OD and 9.19m OD.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.4.8 Trench 38 (Figures 5 & 10)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
38/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
38/002	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	13m	0.52m
38/003	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	5m	0.24m
38/004	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	9.5m	0.48m
38/005	Cut	Ditch cut	+2m	18.50m	0.62m
38/006	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (38/006) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 8.76m OD and 8.26m OD.

Ditch [38/005] was aligned north-west to south-east with shallow gradual sides. The primary fill was stiff mottled grey and brown clay (38/004). Above was stiff brown clay (38/003) and stiff grey clay with brown mottling (38/002).

This feature was apparently identified by the geophysical survey as two separate parallel ditches with a smaller linear in between. However, although the trench was separated into two parts to avoid a tractor trackway with the ditch apparent in both parts, this ditch did appear to be a single very large feature, some 18.5m wide.

4.4.9 Trench 39 (Figures 5 & 10)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
39/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m
39/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
39/003	Cut	Ditch cut	+2m	0.99m	0.70m
39/004	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	0.99m	0.70m
39/005	Cut	Pit cut	0.84m	0.78m	0.10m
39/006	Cut	Pit cut	0.95m	0.40m	0.20m
39/007	Fill	Pit fill	0.84m	0.78m	0.10m
39/008	Fill	Pit fill	0.95m	0.40m	0.20m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (39/002) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking was encountered between the heights of 9.14m OD and 9.56m OD.

Ditch [39/003] was aligned north-east to south-west with near vertical sides and a concave base. The fill was firm light brown grey clay (39/004) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey but with a larger width of approximately 2.5m.

In addition, two pits were recorded to the south-east. Subcircular pit [39/005] had steep sides and a flat base and was filled with yellow brown silt clay (39/008). Subrectangular pit [39/006] had steep sides and a flat base and was filled with yellow brown silt clay (39/007).

4.5 Field D3 (Figure 6)

Trenches 40 to 45 were located in a pasture field sloping from north to south. The trenches were located to investigate various anomalies identified by geophysical survey.

4.5.1 Trench 40 (Figure 10)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
40/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
40/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
40/003	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	1.15m	0.32m
40/004	Cut	Ditch cut	+2m	1.15m	0.32m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (40/002) was encountered between the heights of 11m OD and 10.80m OD.

A single feature was recorded within this trench at the south-west end. Small ditch [40/004] was aligned north-east to south-west with a shallow irregular sides and a concave base. The ditch fill was orange brown clay (40/003) with occasional manganese/mineral flecking.

The other anomalies shown on the geophysical survey were either not identified in the trench or found to be natural.

4.5.2 Trench 41 (Figure 10)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
41/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.41m
41/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
41/003	Cut	Ditch cut	+2m	2.38m	0.12m
41/004	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	2.38m	0.12m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (40/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 9.88m OD sloping down to 8.66m OD at the south-east end.

A single feature at the north-east end of the trench was identified both by the geophysical survey and by excavation. Small ditch [41/003] was aligned north-east to south-west with shallow irregular sides and a flat base. The ditch fill was orange brown clay silt (41/004) with finds of Late Iron Age

pottery sherds.

The other anomalies shown on the geophysical survey were not identified in the trench.

4.5.3 Trench 42 (Figure 10)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
42/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
42/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
42/003	Cut	Ditch cut	+6.75m	2m	0.07m
42/004	Fill	Ditch fill	+6.75m	2m	0.07m
42/005	Cut	Ditch cut	+2m	1.08m	0.22m
42/006	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	1.08m	0.22m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (42/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 8.72m OD sloping down to 8.53m OD at the north-west end.

Two features were identified in the trench and correspond approximately with geophysical survey results.

In the north-west end of the trench was small ditch [42/005] aligned north to south with concave sides and base. The fill was orange brown clay silt (42/006). In the south-east end, small ditch [42/003] was aligned north-east to south-west with shallow irregular sides. The ditch fill was orange brown silt clay (42/004).

4.5.4 Trench 43 (Figure 11)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
43/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.43m
43/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
43/003	Cut	Pit cut	6.1m	1.6m	0.14m
43/004	Fill	Pit fill	6.1m	1.6m	0.14m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (43/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 8.82m OD sloping down to 8.05m OD at the south-east end. At the south-eastern end of the trench the natural clay was gleyed probably as a result of local puddling from the surrounding slopes.

The trench was reduced from 30m to 18m in length in order to avoid disturbing potential great crested newt habitat at the south-east end. This trench was located to investigate a circular anomaly, some 25m in diameter, identified by the geophysical survey, but this was not possible due to the reduction in length.

A possible large pit [43/003] was the only feature identified. The pit had

indistinct edges with shallow sides and an undulating base. The fill was firm dark brown clay silt (43/004).

This feature was not identified by the geophysical survey and may well be not archaeological but rather a natural geological anomaly.

4.5.5 Trench 44 (Figure 11)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
44/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
44/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
44/003	Fill	Pit fill	0.98m	0.63m	0.06m
44/004	Cut	Pit cut	0.98m	0.63m	0.06m
44/005	Fill	Pit fill	3.10m	1.17m	0.08m
44/006	Cut	Pit cut	3.10m	1.17m	0.08m
44/007	Fill	Pit fill	3.00m	1.52m	0.24m
44/008	Cut	Pit cut	3.00m	1.52m	0.24m
44/009	Deposit	Red clay	1.95m	0.38m	0.04m
44/010	Fill	Pit fill	+3.40m	1.72m	0.07m
44/011	Cut	Pit cut	+3.40m	1.72m	0.07m

Summary
Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (44/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 10.94m OD sloping down to 10.45m OD at the south-west end.

Four negative features were identified in the trench. From the south-west was irregular pit [44/004] with shallow sides and a flat base. The fill was firm yellow brown clay silt (44/003). Irregular pit [44/006] had shallow concave sides and a flat base. The fill was stiff orange brown clay (44/005) with moderate manganese/mineral flecking.

A small subcircular spread of firm red clay (44/009) mottled occasionally with light brown, and probably a result of heat-affection was recorded directly overlying the natural.

Pit [44/010] was aligned north to south with shallow gradual sides and an uneven base. The fill was firm yellow brown clay silt (44/011).

Pits [44/010] and [44/008] do appear to have been identified by the geophysical survey, abet slightly smaller than expected when excavated. The other features do not appear to have been recognised.

4.5.6 Trench 45 (Figure 11)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
45/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
45/002	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	1.38m	0.22m
45/003	Cut	Ditch cut	+2m	2.10m	0.62m
45/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

45/005	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	2.10m	0.51m
45/006	Fill	Ditch fill	+2m	2.10m	0.12m

Summary

Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (45/004) was encountered at 8.43m OD.

At the south-west end of the trench, ditch [45/003] was recorded aligned north-west to south-east. The sides were near vertical with a flat base. The primary fill was orange grown silt clay (45/005) with very frequent manganese/mineral flecking. Above was mottled light and dark brown clay silt (45/006) and brown clay silt (45/002) with moderate manganese flecking.

This feature was identified by the geophysical survey and appears to be a slightly curved linear feature, approximately 10m long.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A moderately-sized assemblage was recovered comprising predominately Ceramic Bulilding Material and pottery alongside a range of other material. The quantitication of bulk finds by context is shown in Table 1.

Cxt	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	FCF	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	Spot Date
4/002	1	8											mid C12th – mid C13th
4/005	7	62					1	16					late C12th – mid C13th
4/007	2	4											C13th
4/009	1	<2									1	6	C13th
4/015	2	4											
17/005			25	4906									
17/007			2	94									
20/002			7	658									
21/002			24	1060									
21/002			25	638									
21/002			27	5310			1	8					
21/002			18	1522									
21/002			15	1708									
21/002	4		45	826									AD10-70
21/002			13	70									
21/002			32	666									
21/002			13	1228									
21/002			9	430									
21/002	4		45	826									
21/002			13	700									
21/002			3	674									
21/002			13	1228									
21/002			9	430									
21/002			18	996									
21/003	1	10							1	292			100BC-70AD
23/007													
26/002			1	254									
29/003			32	666									
33/004	1	<2	1	<2									100BC-70AD
41/004	9	60			2	16							100BC-70AD

Table 1: Quantification of bulk finds by trench/context

5.2 Late Iron Age/Early Roman Pottery
Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A small amount of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered from

the evaluation, totalling 11 sherds, weighing 82g. Most are in a grog-tempered fabric similar to East Sussex Ware (Green 1980). One example in particular, from context [41/004] has a very similar profile to the classic 'eyebrow' decorated jar produced in the region; it appears to be undecorated although the surfaces are heavily abraded. The only other form in this ware is a thin-walled necked vessel (probably a bowl) from context [21/002]. In the same context was a short-necked jar in a coarse quartz fabric which is very hard-fired for prehistoric pottery but is not quite a Romanised greyware. Such native-tradition pottery could be dated anywhere between c.100BC and 70AD although the latter fabric is probably indicative of a date around the conquest rather than much earlier.

5.3 The Post Roman Pottery
Luke Barber

5.3.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of medieval pottery all of which falls within a mid/late 12th- to 13th- century date range. The earliest consists of a number of small, but unabraded, sherds from medium-fired cooking pot tempered with moderate fine multicoloured flint to 0.5mm and occasional shell (Trench 4, contexts [2] and [5]). These are likely to be of mid/late 12th- to mid 13th- century date and correlate with the main fabric excavated at the 'motte' site by the Sussex Archaeological Society in the 1990s. The remaining five sherds (Trench 4, contexts [7], [9] and [15]) are all very small and slightly abraded. These are medium sand tempered with occasional flint inclusions to 1mm and can be placed in the 13th- century.

5.4 Fired clay
Trista Clifford

5.4.1 Two fragments of fired clay were recovered from [21/002]. Both are amorphous lumps undiagnostic of form. Both are in CBM fabric 3a: abundant fine to medium quartz and moderate iron-rich clay inclusions and organic voids. One of the fragments is vitrified (see CBM report).

5.5 Iron
Trista Clifford

5.5.1 A single 'fiddle key' horseshoe nail was recovered from [4/009] in corroded condition. This type of nail has a date range of use between the 11th and 14th centuries (Clark 1995, 86) and most probably represents a casual loss.

5.6 Stone
Trista Clifford

5.6.1 Stone was collected from one context, [21/003] which produced a piece of unworked fine grained Wealden sandstone.

5.7 Worked Flint
Lucy Allott

5.7.1 Context [41/004] produced two struck flints; an end struck flake with semi abrupt retouch at the distal end and a broken flake. Both have relatively fresh surfaces and were on black flint with white/grey cortex.

5.8 Roman Ceramic Building Material
Susan Pringle

5.8.1 The Romano-British ceramic building material recovered totalled 263 fragments weighing 21.614 kg. The majority of the material was from Trench 21, with smaller quantities from features in Trench 17, and probable residual material from Trenches 20, 26 and 29. The condition of some of the material is very abraded. This could indicate that the tile was fired at too low a temperature and that soil conditions have caused the fabrics to decay further. Only three tile fabrics were identified, all of which seem to reflect a similar geology. Broadly, roofing and flue tiles occur in fabric 1, the finest of the group, while bricks tend to be in slightly coarser fabric 2. Vitrified and/or completely reduced roofing tiles, brick and daub account for 17% (by count) of the assemblage (from Trenches 21 and 29).

5.8.2 Of the identifiable fragments, 67 (55%) are bricks, 28 (23%) are imbrices, 23 (19%) tegulae and 4 (3%) box flues. There are also 124 fragments of undiagnostic tile, most of which is probably tegula and brick flakes. A very unusual find is a large fragment of tegula recovered from 21/002 which has part of a diagonal combed band running from the top left corner of the tile. Other combed sherds in the same context suggest that more than one such tile is represented. Comb-decorated tegulae are rarely found in Roman Britain and appear to have been made in the 2nd century AD or later. Further dating information is provided by the presence of a combed box-flue tile in 17/05. Combed keying is uncommon on flue tiles before the late 1st century AD, although the relatively shallow depth of the tile suggests that it is of 1st rather than 2nd century manufacture. A tegula fragment in 21/002 has a lower cutaway form that has a suggested date range of c. 120-260 AD; another tegula from 17/05 has a blind nail-hole near one end which also suggests a 2nd century or later date.

5.8.3 The features of the assemblage that are of greatest potential interest are:

i. the quantity of vitrified material which suggests association with a furnace or kiln, supported by the evidence of under-fired ceramic building material and possible tile wasters from 21/002 and 29/003;

ii. the range of tile types recovered which could indicate proximity to a roofed Roman building and a hypocaust heating system;

iii. the unusual combed tegulae which suggest that the building in which they were used may have had some special status.

Trench	No. of fragments	Weight (grams)	Material recovered	Date range
17	28	4986	Brick, roof tile (imbrex, tegula), box flue	Roman: late 1st/2nd century AD?
20	5	652	Abraded brick and tile (tegula?)	Roman
21	204	15066	Brick, roof tile (imbrex, tegula); some vitrified tile and daub	Roman, 2nd century AD?
26	1	254	Tegula	Roman
29	25	656	Imbrex, tegula – kiln waster?	Roman
Total	263	21614		

Table 2: CBM assemblage by trench

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES
Lucy Allott

6.1 Bulk Samples

6.1.1 Twelve samples were taken to aid recovery of environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macro botanicals, bone and shell during archaeological work at Clay Hill Reservoir. The samples were taken from several pit, posthole and linear contexts revealed in trenches 4, 13, 14, 17, 21, 38, 40 and 41.

6.1.2 The samples were processed using tank flotation, the flots and residues were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and allowed to air dry prior to sorting. Residues were passed through a series of stacked sieves and sorted for environmental and archaeological remains (Table 3). The flots were scanned for environmental remains using a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-40 (Table4).

6.1.3 Many of the samples were dominated by uncharred vegetation consisting of small roots and seeds which suggests a degree of modern disturbance, probably through natural rooting. On the whole environmental remains were sparse within the samples. Bulk sampling has confirmed the presence of small quantities of wood charcoal and occasional charred weed seeds

6.1.4 Sample <1002> was taken from a posthole fill, context [13/08], and produced a significant quantity of well preserved wood charcoal in the flot and residue. Charred *Rubus* sp. (bramble) and *Chenopodium* sp. (fat hen) seeds were also noted (albeit in small quantities) in this sample. They are likely to represent incidental inclusions with the wood at the point of charring. Several other samples contained wood charcoal the majority of which is <4mm and therefore not suitable for identification. Although small amounts of charcoal were noted in the medieval pit fills the archaeological residues and the flots from all periods were surprisingly small and unproductive.

6.1.5 Sampling has demonstrated that environmental remains are present at this site in small quantities. With the exception of sample <1002> the flots and residues do not hold any potential for further work. Although there is sufficient charcoal from sample <1002> to be identified, analysis is not warranted at this stage as the information gained from this single sample would be limited. It is suggested therefore that the sample is retained and incorporated with any further work that is undertaken at this site.

Sample Number	Context	Spot date	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Other
1001	[17/05]		20	**	2			cbm/283g
1002	[13/08]		3	**	12	**	63	
1003	[4/002]	12-13	10	**	2			pottery/2g
1004	[4/015]	13	20	**	2	*	1	pottery/6g, cbm/2g
1005	[38/003]		10					
1006	[21/003]	100bc-70ad	10					
1007	[21/005]		10			*	2	
1008	[21/002]		30	*	6	*	4	lithics/8g, cbm/11g
1009	[14/006]		10					
1010	[41/004]	100bc-70ad	30	*	1	*	2	
1011	[40/003]		30					
1012	[39/007]		10					

Table 3 Residue Quantification (* 0-10, ** 11-50, ***50-250, ****>250) and weight in grams

Sample Number	Context	Volume (ml)	Uncharred %	weed seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charred weed seeds
1001	[17/05]	5	80	**		*	* cf. Gramineae frags
1002	[13/08]	50	<5	*	**	****	* *Rubus* sp. & *Chenopodium* sp.
1003	[4/002]	50	80	***		**	* cf. *Brassica* sp.
1004	[4/015]	10	80	**			*
1005	[38/003]	<5	80	**			* small and indet.
1006	[21/003]	30	90	*			
1007	[21/005]	30	95	*			
1008	[21/002]	60	95	*			
1009	[14/006]	<2	<2	*			** cf. *Brassica* sp.
1010	[41/004]	50	95	*		*	*
1011	[40/003]	50	90	*		***	*
1012	[39/007]	30	90	*			* cf. *Brassica* sp.

Table 4: Flot Quantification (* 0-10, ** 11-50, ***50-250, ****>250)

6.2 AMS Sample
Lucy Allott

Sample no. CHR0723007OAK

6.2.1 A single piece of round wood (of approximately 30mm diameter) was sampled from context [23/007], the lowest exposed alluvium deposit within Trench 23. This deposit was described as, 'mottled blue and red brown clay with inclusions of fragments of wood twigs and branches' and lies within an alluvium sequence that is of local palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological interest (Pope pers. comm.).

6.2.2 Due to the location of these deposits within the valley bottom it is anticipated that a deep sequence of deposits may have accumulated and that these will provide detail on the fluvial history and palaeoenvironmental conditions of the area (Pope pers. comm.). A geotechnical borehole will be used to explore these deposits further and assuming datable material is recovered for earlier deposits, this sequence should provide an excellent local reference point for future archaeological, environmental and sedimentological projects in the area. To help establish the potential of the sequence the wood specimen collected during the evaluation was submitted for dating.

6.2.3 The wood was uncharred but had preserved due to the relatively wet and anaerobic conditions of the alluvium. Once offsite it was sectioned and identified as oak wood (*Quercus* sp.), using a transmitted light microscope and reference material at UCL. Oak is generally considered problematic for dating if considerable quantities of heartwood are present however sufficient bark and the underlying sapwood were present on this specimen and these were removed and submitted to Beta-analytic for AMS dating.

6.2.4 Details of the radiocarbon date for the alluvium deposit [23/007] are given in Table 5 quoted in accordance with the international standard, Trondheim convention (Stuiver & Kra 1986), and are given as conventional radiocarbon ages (Stuiver & Polach 1977). 2 Sigma calibrated dates, obtained using IntCal04 (Reimer *et al.* 2004), are also given at the 95% confidence level.

Lab Code	Context	Material/ pre-treatment	Analysis Method	Conventional Radiocarbon age (BP)	Delta C13	2 Sigma calibrated date (95% confidence)
Beta - 240026	23/007	Wood/ acid/alkali/acid	AMS	1080±40	-25.39o/oo	Cal AD 890 - 1020 (Cal BP 1060 - 930

Table 5: AMS date for oak wood specimen from context 23/007

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 The programme of trenching has clearly demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains across the study area. The results of this investigation do permit some useful, if general observations to be made regarding the nature and date of past activity on the site and the extent to which the fieldwork can be seen to have fulfilled the original aims of investigation as set out in the specification of the works.

7.1.2 The results of the geophysical survey, on the whole, were borne out by the trial trenching. The areas of magnetic disturbance often equated, to a greater or lesser degree, to archaeological features, the best example being trench 4. The majority of discrete positive anomalies identified in fields D1 and D3 were found to be identifiable archaeological cut features. Generally smaller features, such as individual pits and postholes seen in the trenches had not been identified by the geophysical survey and occasionally geophysical anomalies were not identified in the trenches, such as in trenches 24 and 35.

7.2 Late Iron Age

7.2.1 Small amounts of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from features in fields D1, D3 and R46. It may be of significance that all three fields were located close to Clay Hill stream. The finds were from pit [21/004] in Field R46 in the vicinity of a Roman building demolition horizon and from enclosure ditch [41/003] in field D3 and from pit [33/003] in D1.

7.2.2 Pottery recovered from small ditch [41/003] in trench 41 dated to the Late Iron Age. The ditch was identified by the geophysical survey and can be followed as an interrupted linear anomaly to form a sub-rectangular enclosed area aligned south-west to north-east and measuring some 50m by 25m (Figure 6). This linear anomaly was also identified in trenches 40 and 42, as [40/004], [42/003] and [42/005]. All these features were shallow ditches filled with similar orange brown clay silts.

7.2.3 The five undated shallow pits and a ditch found in the three trenches to the east of this presumed enclosure, trenches 43, 44 and 45, may well be of a similar Late Iron Age date. A similar Late Iron Age enclosure which included evidence of iron-working was excavated at Ringmer hang-glider club (Casper Johnson *pers.comm.*).

7.2.4 The dating of the numerous features in field D1 is problematic. The only find was the Late Iron Age pottery sherd from pit [33/003]. Many of the fills of the cut features were similar to the fill of pit [33/003] and these, in all likelihood, are probably of a contemporary date. However the origins and function of the very large linear cut features identified in D1 by both the trial trenching and geophysical survey are not clear. They do not appear to form an enclosure but rather were isolated entities apparently respecting the position of each other. These could be of Late Iron Age date, but equally they may be a result of medieval/post-medieval clay extraction for the Ringmer pottery industry located some 3kms to the south along the adjacent road.

7.3 Roman

7.3.1 Features of Roman date were not well represented across the study area, with only a pit and gully located in trench 17 containing Roman CBM. In addition, no features or finds were recovered from trench 18, located across the area identified by the surface artefact collection survey as a discrete area of Roman tile finds.

7.3.2 However, a significant amount, some 15kgs, of Roman CBM, was recovered from the subsoil of trench 21, located on the southern edge of the area of the field-walking concentration of Roman CBM finds.

7.3.3 The quantity of material suggests that there may have been a Roman building in the vicinity. No structural evidence for a building, such as stone wall foundations, postholes or sill-beam slots, was found in any of the trenches. If there was a building it may have been close to trench 21 on the level ground above the break of the valley slope, overlooking the Clay Hill stream.

7.3.4 A further programme of geo-physical survey (Resistivity) was carried out after the evaluation to determine if any substantial structures (buildings or kilns etc) were present close to the trenches containing the concentration of Roman CBM. The survey showed concentrations of *positive area anomalies* in the south and north but none of these coincided with features excavated during the evaluation or suggested the presence of a substantial structure.

7.3.5 The range of CBM finds, including box-flue tiles as well as brick, tegula and imbrex could indicate a roofed building with a hypocaust heating system. In addition, the presence of unusual combed tile fragments possibly indicate the building had some special status (See Roman CBM finds report).

7.3.6 Alternatively, the CBM may have originated from a nearby tile kiln with an amount of the assemblage being under-fired and the recovery of possible tile wasters. Similarly, a dense scatter of tile fragments was found in the vicinity of a kiln found at Great Cansiron Farm, Hartfield, Sussex (de la Bédoyère, 1991, 226). A kiln would also explain the strong magnetic disturbance identified by the geophysical survey to the west of trench 21.

7.3.7 The three undated shallow pits, a small ditch and a semi-circle of five postholes, identified in trenches 11, 13 and 14 in field R4, may also be of a similar Roman date.

7.3.8 The recovery of Roman CBM from the alluvium in trench 29 is also significant. The deposition of an alluvial sequence immediately down slope from the site of a Roman building would act as a potential preservation trap for stratified environmental remains.

7.4 Medieval

7.4.1 A spread of small negative archaeological features, dating from the late 12th to the 13th century were identified in trenches 2 and 4 in field R32 immediately north of Clay Hill Mount. These were in the area of a previous archaeological excavation by the Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) and two of the pits recorded in trench 4, [4/006] and [4/008], had at least been previously partially excavated. The late 12th to the 13th century date range

was similar to the date of the features excavated by the SAS.

7.4.2 Not all of the features in trench 4 contained finds and these are presumed to be of a similar date. Similarly, the undated features recorded in trench 2 may well be medieval.

7.4.3 The presence of solely late 12th to the 13th century features immediately north of the Clay Hill Mount does inevitably lead to the conclusion that the earthwork was in active use, if not constructed during this period. However, neither the trenches nor the geophysical survey could shed any light on the true nature and function of the mount. The mount is presumed to be a medieval defensive earthwork, either a motte or ringwork, and the results do not disprove this hypothesis as both of these monuments were still being constructed during the late 12th and 13th centuries.

7.4.4 Nevertheless, the postholes recorded could relate to timber buildings located immediately outside the ditch and these would usually be enclosed by a bailey earthwork and ditch. However no evidence of a bailey was found and the presence of a building or structure immediately adjacent to a small defensive earthwork is unusual as it provides cover for assailants. In addition, the location of a defensive earthwork at the bottom of a hill is not common or logical.

7.4.5 No features could be ascribed with any certainty to the use of the land as a deer park, such as a pale.

7.4.6 The radiocarbon date of Cal AD 890 - 1020 obtained from oak wood in the lowest alluvium layer recorded (23/007) in trench 23 indicates that this sequence was forming during the medieval period. The base of this sequence was not reached.

7.5 Post-Medieval

7.5.1 No features or finds of certain post-medieval date were found. However, this should not be regarded as a true absence of activity of this date.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Casper Johnson of East Sussex County Council, Pete Fasham and Adam Brossler of Jacobs, and Mark and Kieran of Plashett Farm is greatly acknowledged.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CHR 07					
Identification Name and Address	Clay Hill Reservoir Ringmer					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 45926 14714					
Geology	Predominantly Weald Clay with some Head Deposits and alluvium to the north and west.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2803					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green✓ Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. Nov/Dec 07	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	South East Water, Jacobs consultants					
Project Manager	John Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED ✓	PM	Other Modern		

100 Word Summary.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the site of the proposed Clay Hill reservoir, Ringmer, East Sussex. Forty-five 30m long trenches were excavated, totalling some 1350 metres of trenching, in 7 fields. The earliest identifiable activity on the site was a Late Iron Age enclosure, initially identified by the geophysical survey, aligned north-east to south-west measuring approximately 50m by 25m. Roman activity was concentrated on the north side of Clay Hill stream valley. An apparent demolition horizon of CBM in trench 21 strongly suggests the location of a Roman building or tile kiln in the immediate vicinity. North of Clay Hill Mount, a presumed motte, a series of pits and postholes were recorded, dating from the late 12th to 13th centuries.

OASIS ID: archaeol6-38444

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Clayhill, Ringmer, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Clay Hill, Ringmer, East Sussex. The work was commissioned by Jacobs on behalf of South East Water. Forty-five trenches were excavated, each 30m long, totalling some 1350 metres of trenching across seven fields. The earliest identifiable activity on the site proved to be of Late Iron Age date and comprised a shallow ditch (trench 43, field D3) possibly the east side of an enclosure, initially identified by the geophysical survey, aligned north-east to south-west measuring approximately 50m by 25m. The eastern ditch of the possible enclosure was also identified in Trenches 40 and 42. A single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered from pit [33/003] in field D1. The other trenches in field D1 (trenches 31 to 39) identified a series of undated features including several large linear features. Roman activity was concentrated in fields R4, R46 and R47 on the north side of Clay Hill stream valley. Few datable cut features were identified but an apparent demolition horizon of CBM in Trench 21 strongly suggests the location of a Roman building or tile kiln in the immediate vicinity, probably on the level terrace at the top of the Clay Hill stream valley. A number of small pits and postholes, dating from the late 12th to the 13th century, were identified in Trenches 2 and 4 in field R32 immediately north of Clay Hill Mount.
Project dates	Start: 19-11-2007 End: 18-12-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2803 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHR07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	ENCLOSED FIELD SYSTEM Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Roman

Monument type	GULLY Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES RINGMER Clayhill
Postcode	BN8 5SJ
Study area	2700.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 45926 14714 50.9128464593 0.07602569846940 50 54 46 N 000 04 33 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Jacobs UK Limited
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project	Jon Sygrave

director/manager	
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	South East Water

Project archives

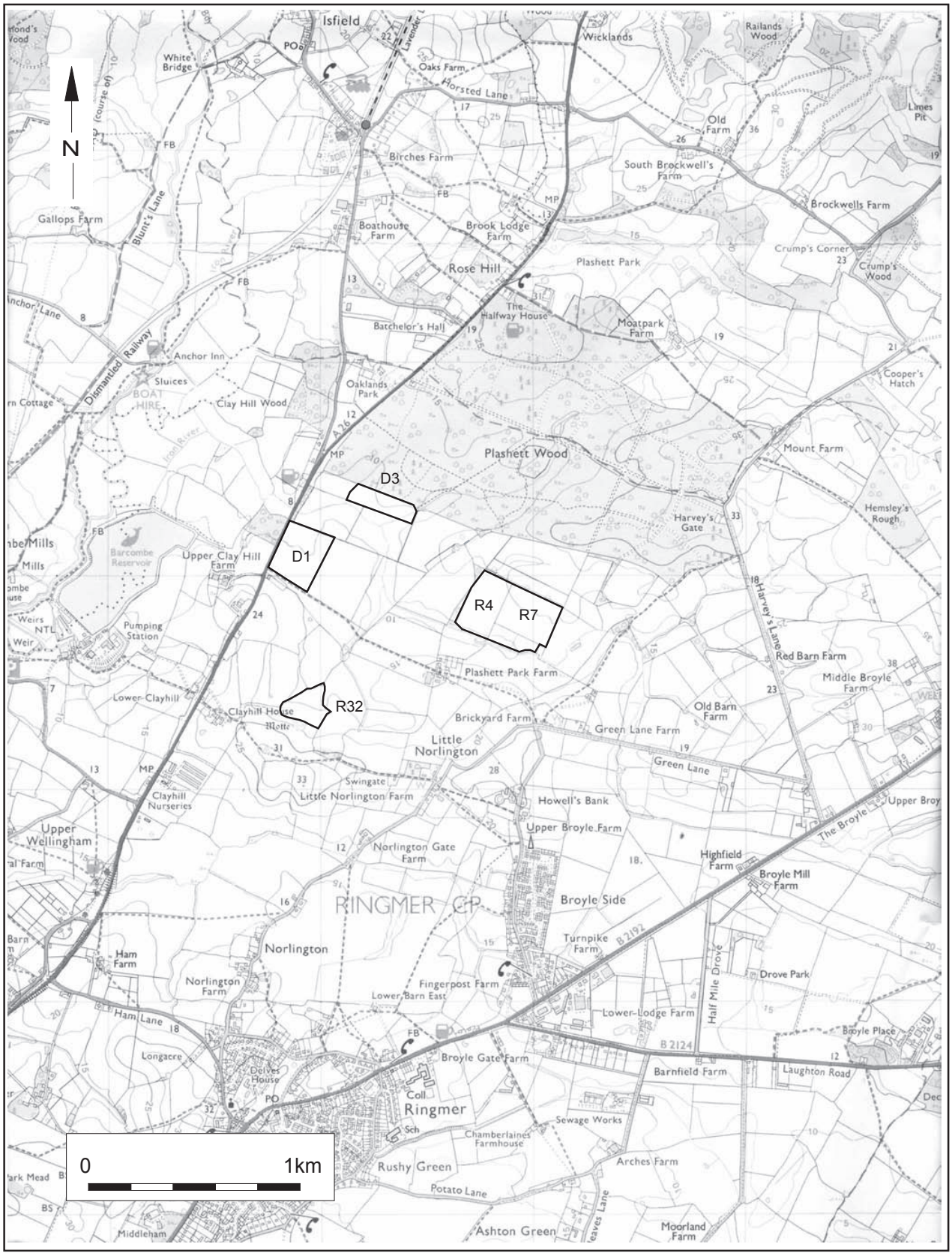
Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Map','Photograph','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

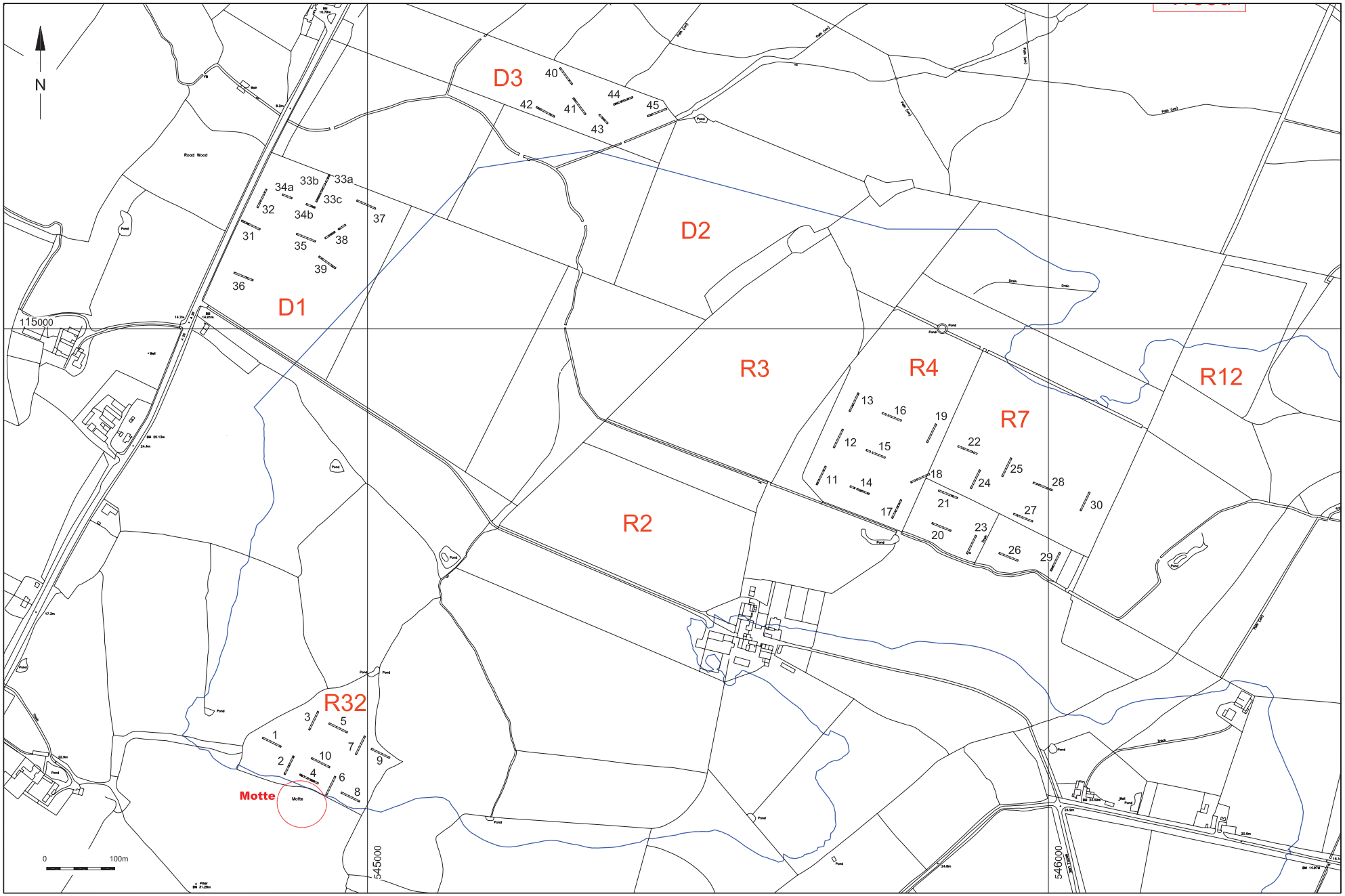
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation at Clayhill, Ringer
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dawkes, G

Other bibliographic details	2007140
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Standard ASE client report, A4 soft cover with logo

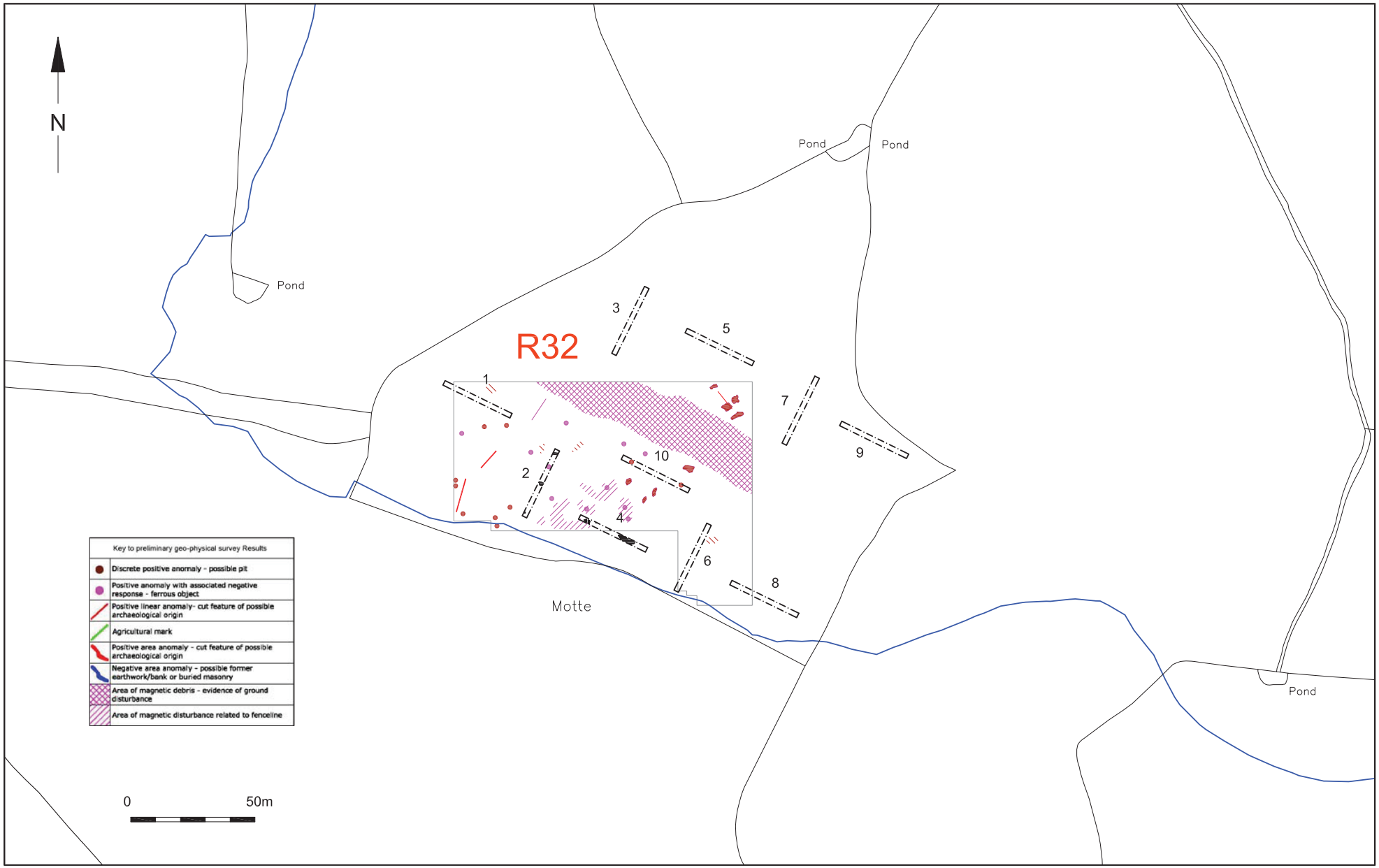
Entered by	Louise Rayner (louise.rayner@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	25 February 2008



© **Archaeology South-East**		Clayhill Reservoir Evaluation	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 2803	Feb 2008	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Clayhill Reservoir Evaluation	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 2803	Feb 2008	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by: JLR		



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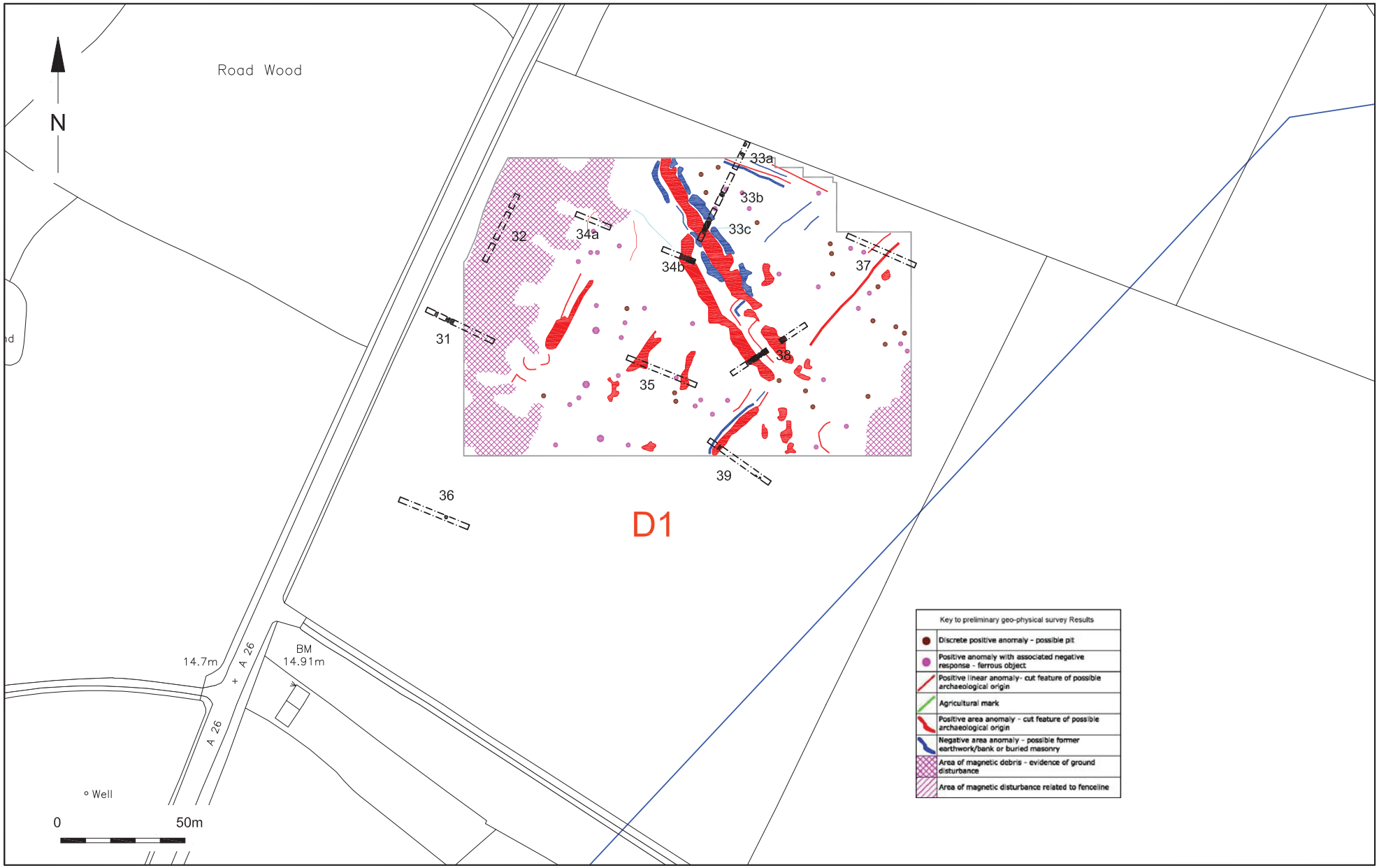
Project Ref: 2803	Feb 2008	Location of trenches in field R32	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by: JLR		

© Archaeology South-East		Clayhill Reservoir Evaluation	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 2803	Feb 2008	Location of trenches in field R4, R7, R46 and R47	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by: JLR		



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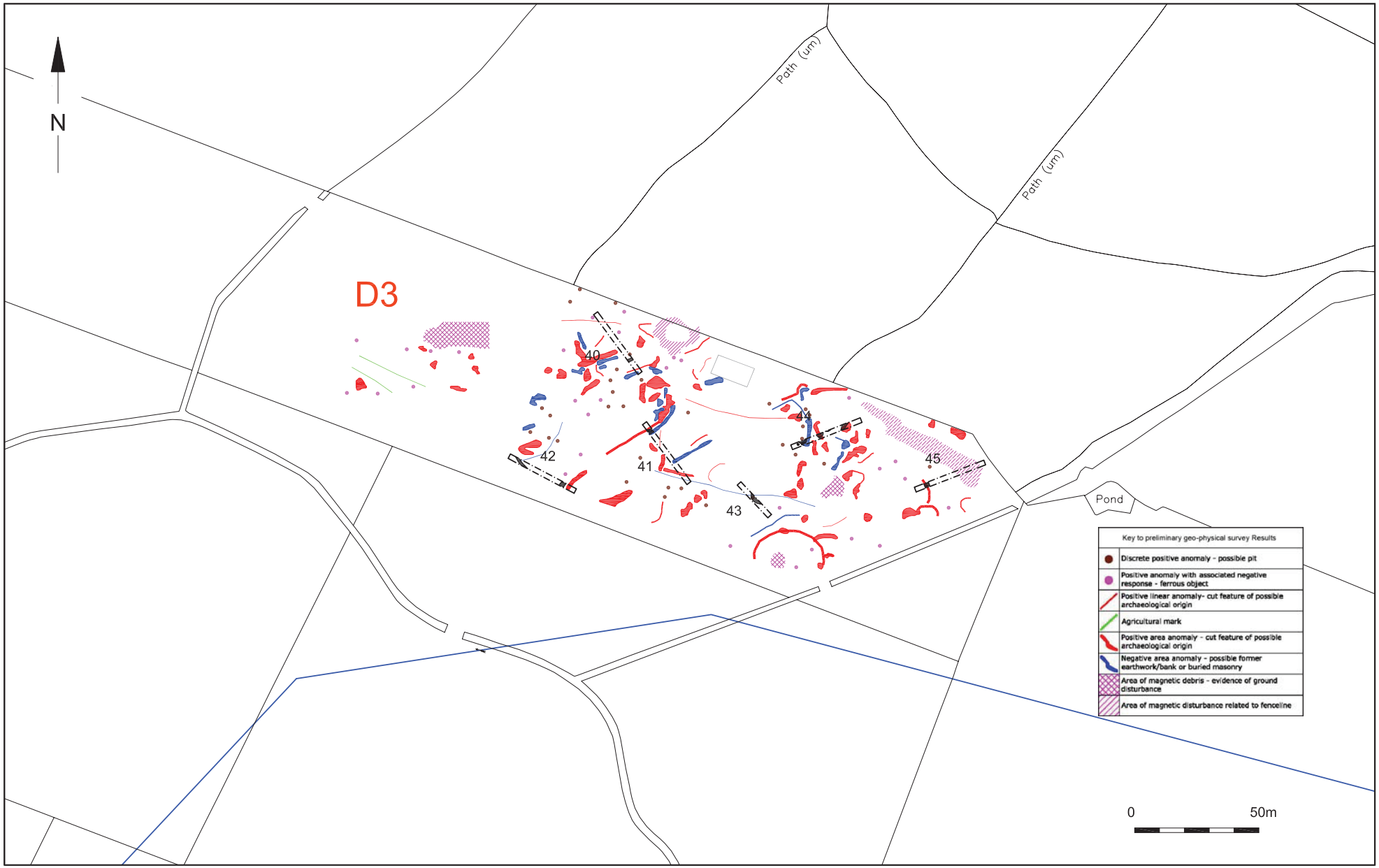
Project Ref: 2803	Feb 2008	Location of trenches in field D1	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by: JLR		



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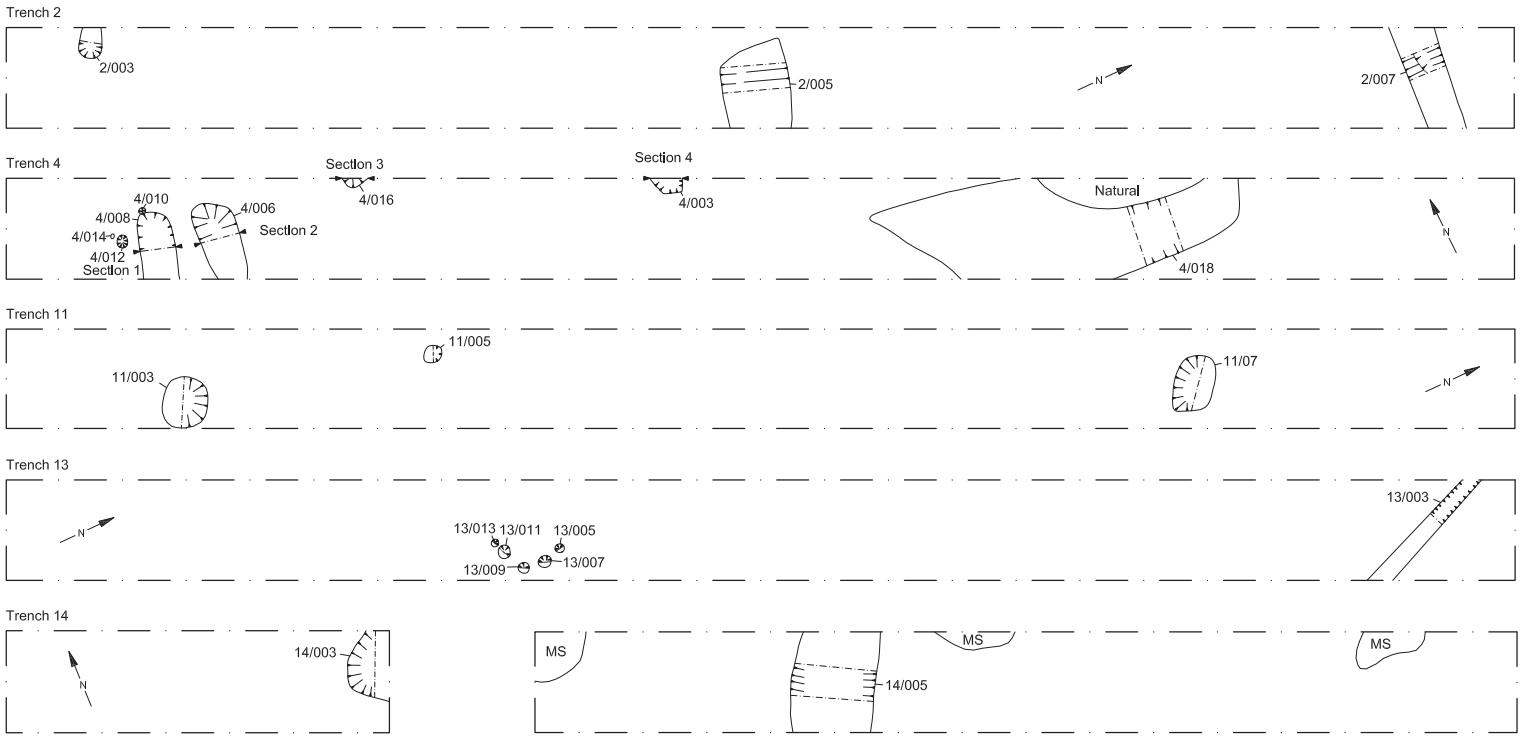
Project Ref: 2803	Feb 2008	Location of trenches in field D3	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by: JLR		



MS - Manganese staining

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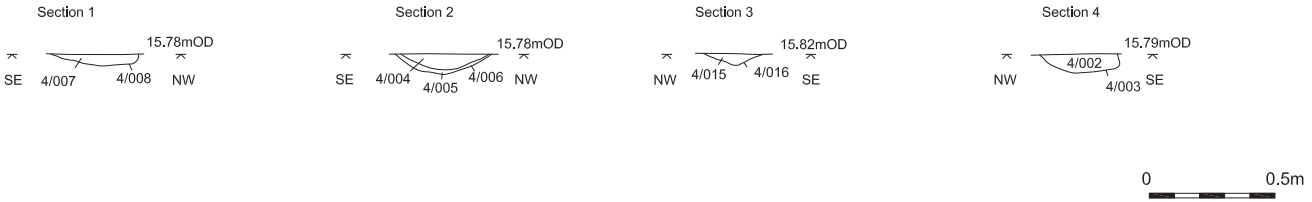

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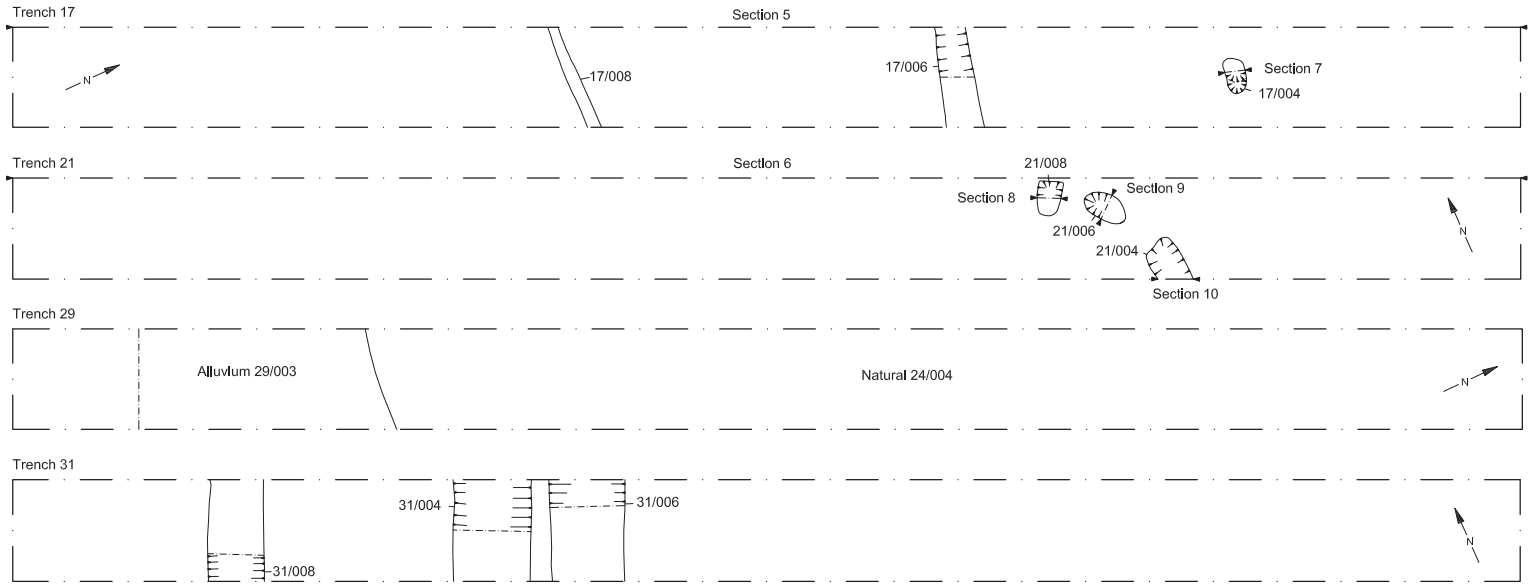
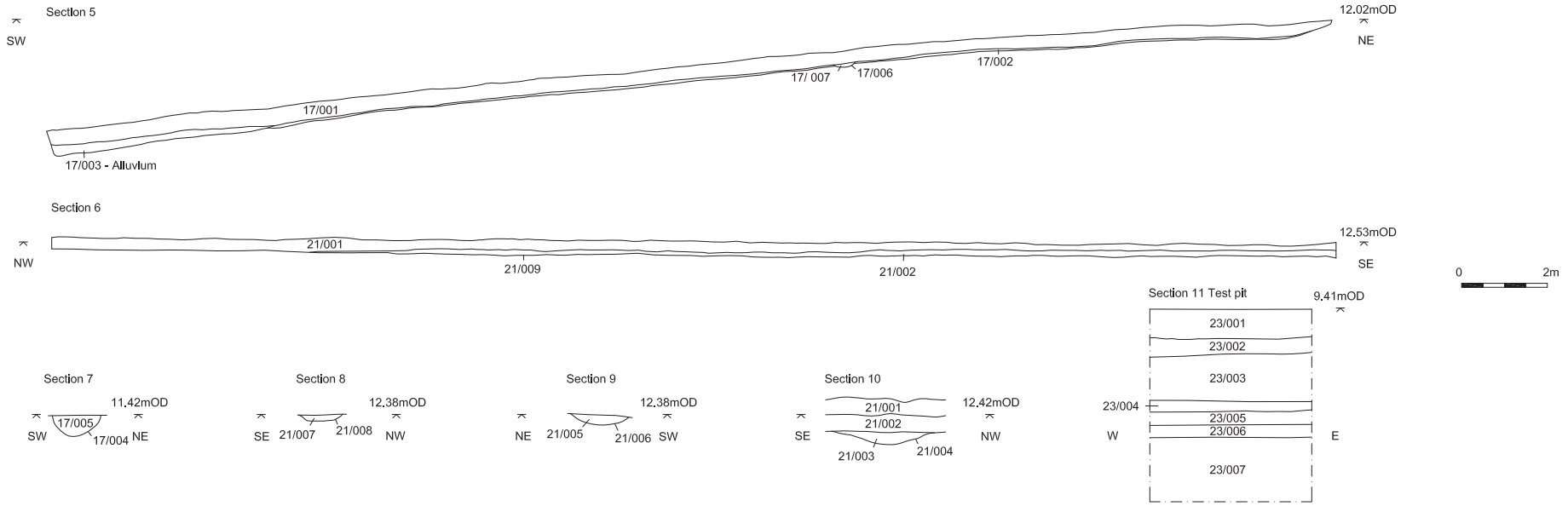
Project Ref: 2803	Jan 2008	Trenches 2, 4, 11, 13 and 14: Plans and sections	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by:PW /JR		





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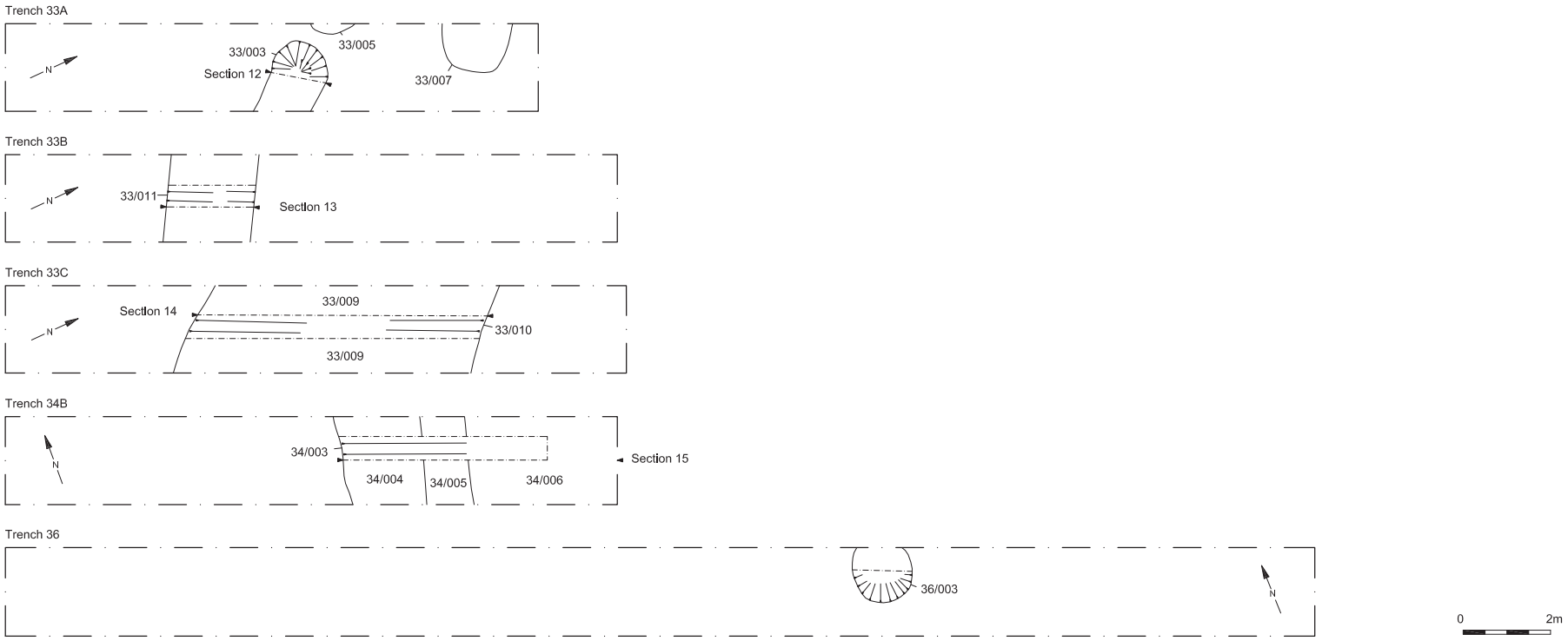
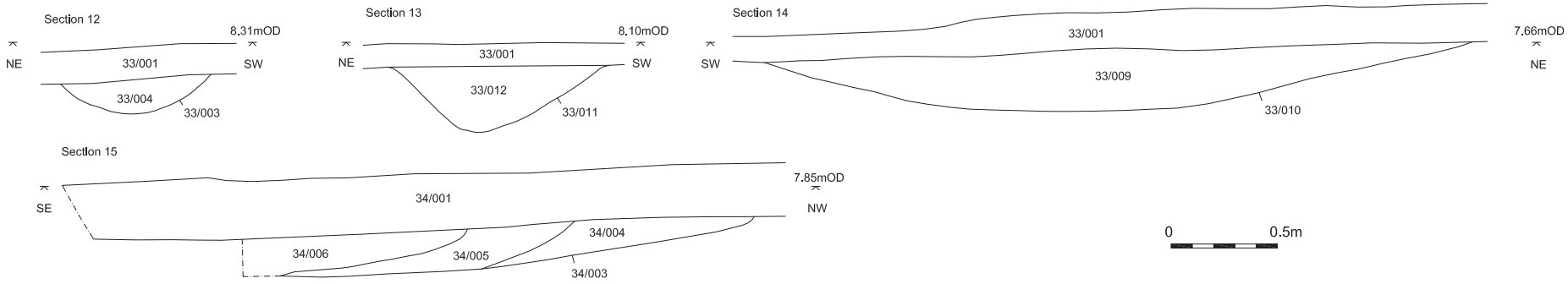
Project Ref: 2803	Jan 2008	Trenches 17, 21, 29 and 31: Plans and sections	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by:PW /JR		





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Project Ref: 2803	Jan 2008	Trenches 33, 34 and 36: Plans and sections	
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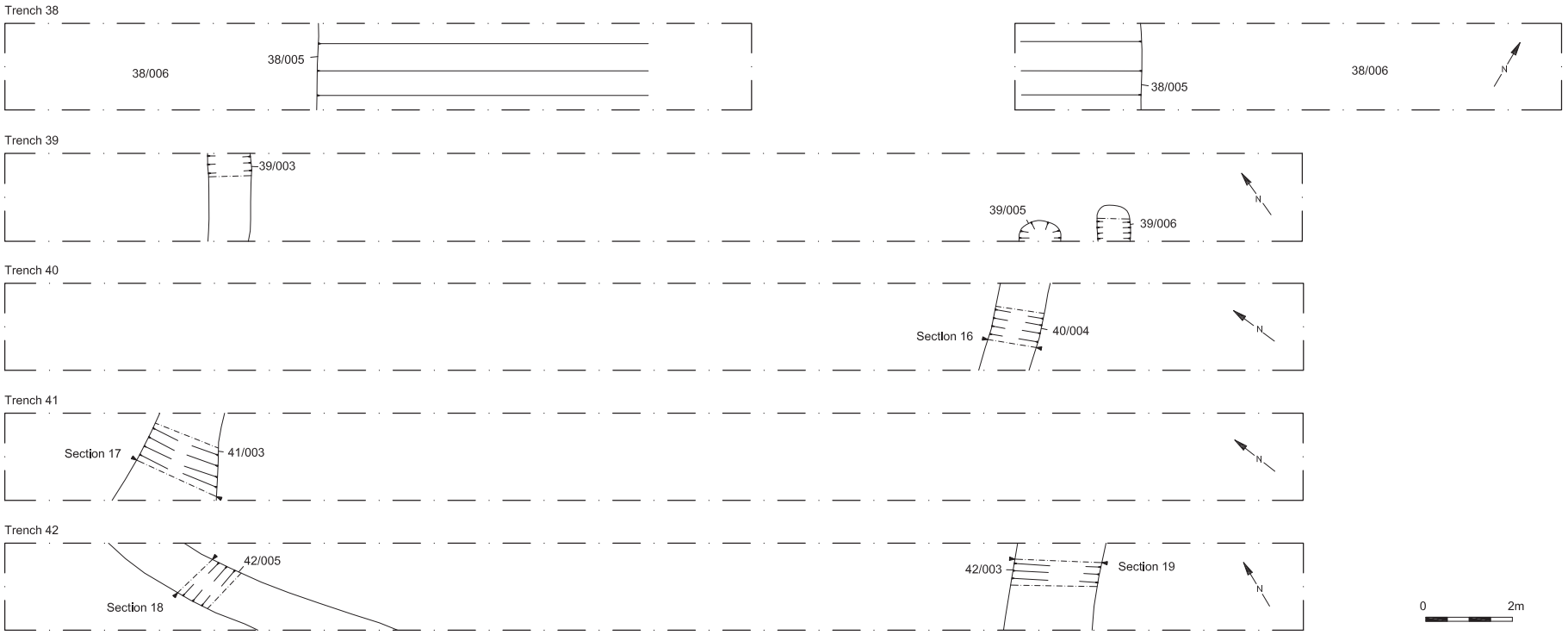

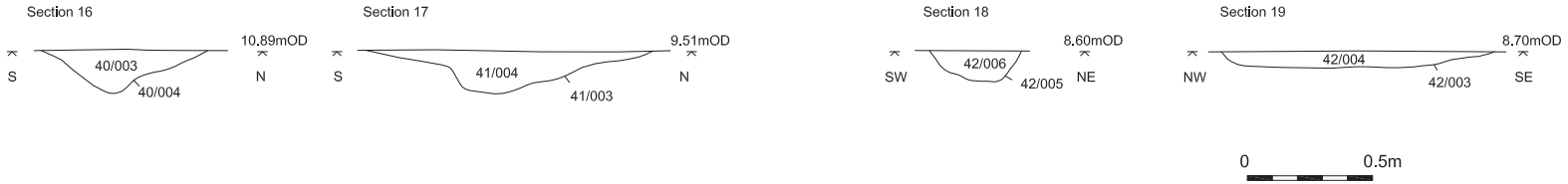

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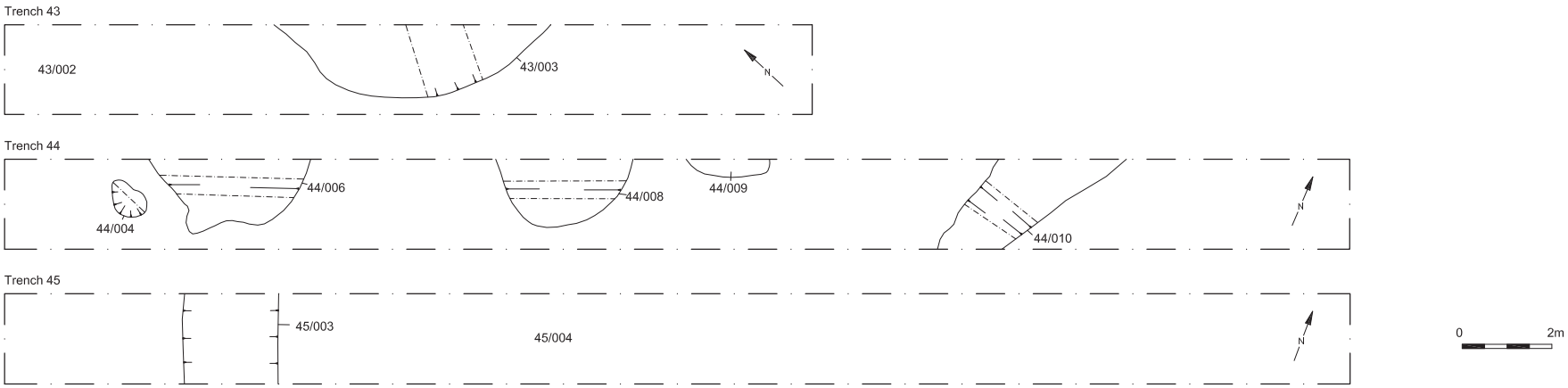
Project Ref: 2803	Jan 2008	Trenches 38-42: Plans and sections	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by:PW /JR		



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Project Ref: 2803	Jan 2008	Trenches 43-45: Plans	
Report Ref: 2007140	Drawn by:PW /JR		

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