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**LAND AT DERNFORD FARM, SAWSTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Daniel Eddisford BA Iain Williamson BA AIFA Kate Doyle BA Leonora O'Brien MA AIFA	
NGR: TL 4690 5110	Report No. 1741
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Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 1397
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Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk Web: www.arch-sol.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

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SUMMARY

During November & December 2004, AS carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4690 5110). The site has been subject to earlier phases of archaeological desk-based assessment, fieldwalking and geophysical survey.

The fieldwalking and metal detector survey programme in late 2003 revealed a general scatter of struck flint across the site, with no apparent concentrations. The struck flint comprises notched flakes, blades and scrapers, and includes a pyramid micro blade core of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date and a partially polished, flaked chert axe of Neolithic date. Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered from the northern half of the site, in addition to a Romano-British sherd. The former may be regarded as a potentially significant scatter when coupled with the reference to cropmarks of possible enclosures recorded on the HER close by to the west (Grant & Weston 2004).

The geophysical survey was undertaken in December 2003. The survey consisted of magnetic susceptibility used as a reconnaissance technique with detailed magnetometry subsequently targeting two areas identified as having enhanced susceptibility. Detailed magnetometry revealed anomalies that may be of archaeological origin in the south of the site. The nature of these anomalies was thought to be related to enclosures or settlement (Stratascan 2003).

The sparse distribution of struck flint is reflected by the trial trench evaluation, but the geophysical anomalies identified during the geophysical survey were not substantially apparent during the trial trenching, although Areas 1 and 2 did contain a few archaeological features. Trial trenching suggested that the focus of archaeological features was in the north-western sector of the site. Isolated trenches also contained archaeological features. Sparse residual Mesolithic/Neolithic struck flint was recovered from the excavated features, but the earliest cut feature was an early Iron Age hearth (F1036 Trench 50). Although some undated features may belong to this early phase, the majority of features were mid to late Iron Age/early Romano-British linear ditches on NE/SW axes, perhaps co-axial to the course of the river Cam/Granta to the west; discrete pits and postholes were also recorded. Although no structural evidence was recorded in the evaluation, finds and environmental assemblages suggest a settlement within or in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Some features contained Late Iron Age pottery which may extend into the early Roman period. The question of continuity from the late Iron Age to the Romano-British period is one of considerable importance, as the evaluation has identified an Iron Age precursor to previously-identified local Roman occupation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During November & December 2004, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS – formerly HAT) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4690 5110) (Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by RJD Limited as part of requirement of the local planning authority (based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office (CCC CAO; now Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA)). It is proposed to construct an agricultural reservoir on the site. The evaluation followed a previous programme of archaeological desk-based assessment, fieldwalking (Grant & Weston 2004) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003).

1.2 The project was conducted according to a brief issued by CCC CAO (dated 11/8/04) and a specification prepared by AS (dated 18/8/04), and conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (revised 1999) and document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal aims of the project were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the development of the site.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is roughly polygonal, measuring c.750m north-south and 625m east-west (Fig.1). It is bounded on its western side by an existing railway line, whilst on the northern side it is defined by the course of the disused Great Eastern line, which until 1967 ran between Great Shelford and Haverhill (Heritage Environment Record 6326). The river Cam/Granta flows roughly parallel to the modern railway line at a distance of 50 - 225m from the western edge of site. Along the south-eastern edge is a minor metalled road, which connects Bridge End Cottage on the A1301 and Dernford Farm. Access to the site is obtained from the road.

2.2 The land lies at c.20m AOD, sloping downwards to the north and west, towards the Cam/Granta and its tributary, the Granta stream, just beyond the edges of the site. The site is shown as featureless on the modern OS 1:25,000 map, and comprises a single agricultural field. No structures are upstanding within the site, though the central part of the site has been used as a game cover.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Geology, soils and topography

3.1.1 The underlying solid geology is Chalk, but in the river valleys of the Cam and its tributaries it is obscured by Valley Gravels, which are overlaid by fluvial alluvium close to the rivers (Marr 1938).

3.1.2 The soils belong to the Milton association (SSEW 1983) across most of the site. These are described as deep permeable calcareous fine loamy soils, variably affected by groundwater. Over the extreme western and northern edges of the site (those areas lowest-lying and nearest to the rivers) the soils belong to the Thames association (SSEW 1983). These are associated with river alluvium, and are stoneless, mainly calcareous soils, affected by groundwater.

3.1.3 The river Cam or Granta lies between 100-200 m to the west of the site, and the site partially occupies the first gravel terrace. A tributary course of the Granta lies close to the northern boundary. The streams converge to the north west of the site.

3.2 The archaeology and history of the assessment area and its environs

3.2.1 The environs of the study area exhibit evidence for activity from the Mesolithic period onwards, with substantial occupation from the Iron Age onwards. The historical and archaeological background to the project is discussed in detail in the previous project report (Grant & Weston 2004).

Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

3.2.2 Evidence for the Mesolithic is sparse, as indeed it is in much of Cambridgeshire. The scale and extent of Neolithic activity on the chalklands and associated areas of southern Cambridgeshire has yet to be satisfactorily established (Pollard in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, section 7). Settlement tended to avoid the thickly wooded heavy clay soils, the known areas of activity tending to concentrate on the lighter soils, particularly those on the river gravels (Taylor 1977). There is a dense cluster of early Neolithic sites and axe finds around Heathfields (Duxford) to the south west, with a less dense distribution of material along the Cam/Granta valley.

3.2.3 Evidence for activity during the Bronze Age in the region is considerably greater, with a major swathe of settlement and burial landscapes running southwest / northeast along the chalk hills of south Cambridgeshire (Last in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000). Settlements are once again noticeably concentrated on the river gravels of the Cam, though recent investigations point to a wider exploitation of the landscape. Taylor (1998, 81) depicts a series of circular features south of the Granta and immediately east of the site. These are labelled as 'Bronze Age burials', but do not appear in the accompanying

text or in the HER. Possible Bronze Age barrows depicted as cropmarks are noted in the accompanying Air Photographic Assessment, to the south and east of the site.

Iron Age

3.2.4 During the Iron Age, settlement in south Cambridgeshire continued to favour the river valleys, though recent investigations have recorded expansion onto more marginal areas. The majority of the evidence relates to the middle and late Iron Age (c.300 BC – AD 43). Comparatively few sites of the early Iron Age (c. 800 BC – 300 BC) are known and still fewer have been excavated, and thus this period is poorly understood (Hill in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000).

3.2.5 The site lies less than 3 km to the south west of the hillfort at Wandlebury, one of the most prominent Iron Age sites in Cambridgeshire (Hartley 1958; Taylor 1976a; 1976b; French & Gdaniec 1996; Pattison & Oswald 1995). Wandlebury hillfort is set within an earlier monumental landscape (Hinman & Malim 1999) and perhaps associated with a network of ‘central places’ or lowland hillforts at Arbury (Evans 1991) and the War Ditches, Cherry Hinton (McKenny Hughes 1898-1903; Lethbridge 1939; White 1963-1964). A further large hillfort with multivallate defences is located only c. 1.25 km south of Dernford Farm at Borough Hill, adjacent to the Cam/Granta (HER 9742). An evaluation and watching brief (Bray & Leith 1993; Bray & Way 1997) revealed little but a magnetometer survey of three areas identified internal and external features (Weston 2000).

During the Iron Age, settlement in south Cambridgeshire favoured the river valleys, with extensive activity recorded along the valleys of the Cam/Rhee, Cam/Granta and Granta (Malim 1998, fig. 1), although recent investigations have recorded expansion onto more marginal areas. Iron Age settlements have been excavated on the Cam/Granta at Hauxton (Hughes 1891; Hatton 2000; Kenney 2001a) and on the Granta at Bourn Bridge, Pampisford (Evans 1994; Pollard 1995) and Linton (Fell 1953; Taylor, Malim & Evans 1995) and there is a further Iron Age settlement at Rectory Farm, Great Shelford, c.1.5 km north-east of the site. Iron Age sites near the Rhee include settlements at Foxton (Fox 1924), Barrington (Malim 1998), Harston (O’Brien 2004), Haslingfield (Miller & Miller 1982) and at the confluence of the Rhee and Granta, at Trumpington (Davidson & Curtis 1973), with a farmstead and further extensive Iron Age activity in the vicinity of Addenbrooke’s Hospital (Cra’ster 1969; Evans in prep).

Roman

3.2.6 There is considerable evidence for continuity of both settlement and communications from the Late Iron Age to Roman times. The site lies between two important Roman urban centres, c. 8km from the town of Cambridge (*Durolipons*) to the north, and a similar distance from the fort and small town of Great Chesterford to the south (Browne 1977), with a substantial villa near Ickleton (HER 4153). Roman activity is apparent immediately adjacent to the study area. At Dernford Farm, a scatter of Roman pottery has been recorded on the site of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement (HER

4704a), and a Roman shackle or padlock was found at Sawston Bridge (HER 4677). Several cropmarks of rectangular enclosures are recorded in the vicinity, and these may relate to Roman agricultural activity (e.g. HER 8347; 8348; 8907). Cropmarks of linear ditches – perhaps part of an enclosure and possibly Roman – lie within the western part of the study area, close to the modern railway (HER 8354). None of these features has yet been dated by archaeological investigation.

Anglo-Saxon

3.2.7 The earliest Saxon settlement in Cambridgeshire can largely be traced by the distribution of pagan cemeteries. Over 100 early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are known in Cambridgeshire, many dating to the 6th century AD (Taylor, in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 25). There is evidence for early Saxon activity in the vicinity of the present study area. In 1816 a high-status early Anglo-Saxon burial was discovered c.1 km south-east of the site at Huckeridge Hill on the site of the modern sewage works (Clarke 1817; Fox 1923, 259-60; HER 4537). The objects found with the skeleton included an iron sword and shield boss, and bronze vessels and jewellery. Other pagan burials were found in the 1920s on the west side of the Cam/Granta, c.750m distant near Shelford (HER 4803). Subsequent excavations failed to relocate the burials, and the size of this cemetery remains unclear.

3.2.8 Late Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area is also known. A charter of AD 956 refers to a settlement around the site of modern day Dernford Farm (HER 4704), probably the successor of the Roman settlement in this area, although no cropmarks are evident. Further afield are architectural fragments in the churches at Whittlesford and Stapleford, which, also of late Saxon date (Taylor 1997, 109; HER 4730a).

Medieval to modern

3.2.9 The site lies within the northern part of the parish of Sawston, although it is rather closer to the village of Stapleford than to Sawston itself. The settlement around Dernford Farm (HER 4704) is not listed in Domesday, but does appear in documents from 1170 onwards. Dernford manor house, recorded in 1279, burnt down at some point prior to 1580, at which date the site was apparently vacant. Dernford Farm was built on this site before 1662: the present farmhouse represents a subsequent rebuilding during the 19th century. Despite the undoubted activity around Dernford Manor, there is little known archaeology that reflects this occupation. The only recognised medieval earthworks in the parish (for example the ridge and furrow agricultural earthworks HER 11271) all lie at some distance from the site.

3.2.10 Evidence from historic maps indicates that the site has been open (almost certainly agricultural) land at least since the 19th century. The landscape was significantly altered during the mid-19th century by the construction of two railway lines. The first of these was the London to Cambridge line, built in 1845. This route continues in use, and runs roughly north-south along an embankment just beyond the western edge of the site. The branch line between Shelford and Haverhill was built in 1865 (HER 6326). It was

closed in 1967, and the tracks had been removed by 1972. Its course defines the northern edge of site, at this point following the boundary between the parishes of Sawston and Stapleford.

3.3 Discussion

3.3.1 The site lies in a landscape of great antiquity, and also one of considerable continuity. The river valley was a prime choice for settlement from the Neolithic period, and this pattern is reiterated through to historic times. Routes of communication also continued use, prehistoric trackways such as Icknield Way and Ashwell Street persisting as principal arteries during the Roman and Saxon periods, and indeed since. Taylor (1998) suggests that the minor road forming the eastern boundary of the site may have been one the early routes of the Icknield Way, and thus may have attracted features such as Bronze Age burial mounds along its course, though this is not reflected on the HER.

3.3.2 In the locality of the site, the present evidence suggests significant known occupation of the general area beginning perhaps during the middle and late Iron Age, although stray Neolithic finds hint at earlier activity, as yet uncharacterised. The site, lying as it does immediately north of the historic medieval manor of Dernford, has a potential for archaeology, with a scatter of pottery sherds of Roman date in the immediate vicinity. A research priority for any future archaeological work could be to seek to establish the nature of any Roman occupation, the possibility of which is suggested by the scatter of pottery, and perhaps by the cropmark enclosure (HER 8354) in the western part of the site. The question of continuity is one of considerable importance, particularly to establish whether or not there was any Iron Age predecessor to this Roman occupation. The possibility of continuity from Roman to Saxon times is also of interest: burials in the vicinity of the site suggest a pagan Saxon presence; occupation sites of this date are often only detected during excavations of multi-period sites. Important research issues may be to establish whether occupation of the site was unbroken from Roman to medieval times, or whether settlement was re-established during the later Saxon period on a site that had long been abandoned. The importance of any potential archaeological remains at Dernford Farm is not fully understood, other than through suggestions of early settlement in documentary sources and finds of Roman pottery on the site.

3.3.3 Modern ploughing is likely to have damaged or removed any shallow archaeological deposits. However, given the possibility that the most low-lying fringes of the land have been subjected to periodic flooding from both the Cam/Granta and the Granta, it is possible features may survive at greater depths on the periphery of the site. The distribution of the known archaeological finds suggests that features, if present, are perhaps most likely to be concentrated in the southern part of the site, and on the western margins around cropmark HER 8354, though it is possible that evidence of further periods may be present in the southern part of the site associated with the site of Dernford Farm to the south.

4 PREVIOUS PHASES OF INVESTIGATION

4.1 Prior to the current phase of the project, two earlier phases of on-site investigation followed the completion of the desk-based assessment. These comprised a programme of fieldwalking carried out by AS (Grant & Weston 2004) and a geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan (Stratascan 2003), both undertaken in December 2003.

4.2 A programme of systematic metal detecting was carried out in tandem with the fieldwalking survey, utilising the same survey grid. The fieldwalking survey revealed a quantity of struck flints across the site, though no discernible clusters were clearly identifiable. Sparse burnt flints were also recovered from the site. No significant pre-modern metal items were recovered from the site. Prehistoric pottery sherds were also recovered from the ploughsoil, confined to the northern half of the site. The sherds are likely of Iron Age date. A single Romano-British sherd was also recovered from the site. Sparse miscellaneous finds were recovered, comprising clay pipe fragments and building material.

4.3 The report on the geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan revealed anomalies of probable archaeological origin on part of the site (Stratascan 2003 and Grant & Weston 2004). Geophysical survey consisted of magnetic susceptibility used as a reconnaissance technique with detailed magnetometry targeted on two areas of enhanced susceptibility. The detailed magnetometer survey revealed anomalies of probable archaeological origin towards the southern corner of the site, possibly related to enclosures or settlement (Stratascan 2003). The two areas targeted by geophysical survey are shown on Fig. 2. Area 1 (in the southern part of the site) revealed broad linear and curvilinear anomalies that may relate to archaeological features. Other anomalies may relate to the presence of pits. Ferrous objects in the topsoil and also the line of modern plough marks was also identified on the site. Area 2 also revealed fewer anomalies that may relate to archaeological remains or an agricultural/geological origin. Evidence of modern ploughing was also encountered in this part of the site. The geophysical survey report concluded that the full extent of anomalies in Area 1 is at present unknown, and may extend beyond the confines of Area 1.

4.4 The aerial photographic assessment (Air Photo Services UK 2000) recorded a very tenuous feature at TL 467509, possibly the ditched enclosure recorded close by as HER 8354), probably the remains of modern field boundaries and an area of possible former quarrying activity towards the south western corner of the site, suggesting previous ground disturbance in this area. The quarrying of the site is not believed to have been extensive.

5 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

5.1 100 trial trenches were mechanically excavated (Fig.2). They provided a 5% sample of the site, and targeted anomalies revealed by previous surveys. Some of the

trenches were relocated slightly in order to avoid practical obstacles such as overhead cables (Trenches 4, 10 & 21). Trench numbers 42, 47, 66 and 80 were not used.

5.2 The trenches were mechanically excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. They commonly measured 40m x 2m. Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5.3 By agreement with CCC CAO, areas of deeper subsoil/buried ploughsoil in a number of the trenches were subsequently removed by machine, in order to further characterise the presence of archaeological features, and a number of trenches were extended in order to record the alignment of ditches recorded in adjacent trenches.

6 RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 18.70m AOD		
0.00m – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam with occasional flint
0.28m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 2 Fig. 3		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 18.78m AOD		
0.00m – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description: Trench 2 contained two ditches and two pits. Finds from Ditch F1041 and Pit F1045 suggest an Iron Age date for the features.

Ditch F1041 (dimensions: 2.72m length x 1.42m width x 0.46m depth) had steep sides giving way to a concave base. It was cut by Pit F1043. Its fill, L1042, was a mid grey brown sand with frequent flint. It contained struck flint (2g) and Iron Age pottery (25g).

Pit F1043 (dimensions: 1.08m length x 0.51m width x 0.34m depth) was oval with steep sides giving way to a rounded base. It was cut into the top of Ditch F1041. Its fill, L1044, was a dark red brown sandy silt with large patches of grey silt and occasional flint. The fill did not contain any finds, but soil Sample 2 (L1044) yielded quantities of charcoal.

Pit F1045 (dimensions: 0.91m length x 0.74m width x 0.12m depth) was oval with moderately sloping sides giving way to a flattish base. Its fill, L1046, was a dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint. It contained Iron Age pottery (12g).

Ditch F1075 (dimensions: 2.18m length x 0.87m width x 0.32m depth) was steep-sided with a flat base. Its fill, L1076, was a mid yellow/brown sand with frequent flint. The fill did not contain any finds.

Trench 3 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 18.00m AOD		
0.00m – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.46m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 4

Description Trench 4 was not cut because of the presence of overhead power cables

Trench 5 Fig. 3 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.75m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 5 contained five ditches, all orientated NE/SW.

Ditch F1005 (dimensions: 1.00m length x 2.41m width x 0.80m depth) was orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides giving way to a flat base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid brown sandy silt with frequent flint and moderate chalk pieces. No finds were present.

Ditch F1017 (dimensions: 1.65m length x 0.61m width x 0.30m depth) had steep sides giving way to a flat base. Its fill, L1018, was a mid brown silty sand with occasional flint and chalk. It contained animal bone (72g).

Ditch F1086 (dimensions: 2.60m length x 1.03m width x 0.39m depth) was slightly curved. It had steep sides giving way to a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1087, was a dark brown sandy silt with moderate flint. No finds were present. Ditch F1086 cut Ditch F1081.

Ditch F1083 (dimensions: 2.60m length x 1.00m width x 0.47m depth) was slightly curved. It had steep sides which gave way to a concave base. Its basal fill, L1084, was

patchy. It comprised a mid grey silty chalk with frequent flint. L1084 contained animal bone (19g) and Iron Age pottery (10g). The principal fill, L1085, was a dark brown sandy silt with moderate flint and occasional chalk. L1085 contained no finds. Ditch F1083 cut Ditch F1081.

Ditch F1081 (dimensions: 2.60m length x 2.61m width x 0.36m depth) was also slightly curved. It had gently sloping sides giving way to a flattish base. Its fill, L1082, was a mid yellow brown sandy silt with moderate flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1081 was cut by Ditches F1083 and F1086.

Trench 6 Fig. 3		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.02m AOD		
0.00m – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.26 m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 6 contained a pit, a gully and two ditches.

Pit F1104 (dimensions: 1.12m length x 1.10m width x 0.22m depth) was sub-circular with a steep N side and a less steep S side, and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1106, was a grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. The upper fill, L1105, was a mid brown sand with occasional flint. It contained animal bone (4g).

Gully F1109 (dimensions: 2.00m length x 1.20m width x 0.09m depth) was linear with gently sloping sides which gave way to a flat base. Its fill, L1110, was a mid grey brown sand with occasional flint. The fill did not contain any finds, and the feature is possibly natural.

Ditch F1091 (dimensions: 2.20m length x 1.21m width x 0.33m depth) was linear with gently sloping sides which gave way to a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1092, was a dark brown silty chalk with occasional flint. It contained animal bone (86g). The upper fill, L1093, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint. It contained Late Iron Age – Roman pottery (2g) and animal bone (34g). This fill was very similar to the upper fill of Ditch F1094 (L1096). Ditch F1091 was cut by Ditch F1094. Both ditches were similar to Tr 5 Ditches F1017, F1081, F1083 and F1086.

Ditch F1094 (dimensions: 2.20m length x 1.41m width x 0.46m depth) was linear with moderately sloping sides giving way to a narrow rounded base. Its basal fill, L1095, was a dark brown silty chalk with occasional flint. It contained no finds. The upper and principal fill, L1096, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint. It contained Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery (87g) and animal bone (80g). Ditch F1094 cut Ditch F1091.

Trench 7 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.54m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.32m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 8 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.45m AOD		
0.00m – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.27m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 9 Fig. 4 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 18.90m AOD		
0.00m – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.46m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 9 revealed a layer, which contained animal bone.

Layer L1097 (dimensions: 11.50m + length x 2.10m + width x 0.20m depth) was a mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel. A box section was excavated, and the large deposit continued beyond the northern edge of the trench. It contained animal bone (2g).

Unstratified Late Iron Age to Roman pottery (197g) and animal bone (3g) was found within the trench.

Trench 10

Description Trench 10 was not cut because of the presence of overhead power cables

Trench 11 Fig. 4 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.45m AOD		
0.00m – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.38m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 11 contained nine pits, two gullies and a post hole.

Pit F1025 (dimensions: 0.87m length x 0.79m width x 0.52m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides which gave way to a flattish base. It was adjacent to Pit F1027, and cut by Post Hole F1029. Its fill, L1026, was a mid grey sandy silt with occasional flint and moderate chalk pieces. It contained animal bone (5g), struck flint (4g) and Iron Age pottery (23g). Sample 6 yielded sparse burnt grain and charcoal.

Pit F1027 (dimensions: 1.38m length x 1.58m width x 0.17m depth) was sub-circular with moderately sloping sides which gave way to a flattish base. It was cut by Post Hole F1029. Its fill, L1028, was a mid/ dark brown sandy silt with moderate flint. It contained animal bone (1466g) and Iron Age pottery (65g).

Post Hole F1029 (dimensions: 0.26m length x 0.28m width x 0.07m depth) was sub-circular with gently sloping sides which gave way to a rounded base. It cut Pits F1025 and F1027. Its fill, L1030, was a mid grey brown sandy silt which did not contain any finds.

Gully F1107 (dimensions: 2.12m length x 0.55m width x 0.10m depth) was linear with gently sloping sides which gave way to a rounded base. Its fill, L1108, was a yellow brown sand with moderate flint. It contained ?Iron Age pottery (11g).

Gully F1102 (dimensions 2.29m length x 0.98m width x 0.40m depth) was linear with steep irregular sides which gave way to a narrow base. Its fill, L1103, was a mid grey sand with moderate flint. It contained struck flint (27g); Sample 4 yielded charcoal, sparse indeterminate burnt seeds and a fragment of animal bone.

Pit F1015 (dimensions: 1.95m length x 1.35m width x 0.16m depth) was sub-circular with gently sloping sides which gave way to a flat base. Its fill, L1016, was a dark brown sandy silt with moderate flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1021 (dimensions: 1.34m length x 2.02m width x 0.21m depth) was sub-circular with steep, straight sides giving way to a flat base. It truncated Pit F1019 and was truncated by Pit F1023. Its fill, L1022, was a mid grey sandy silt. The fill contained animal bone (355g), and Iron Age pottery (19g).

Pit F1023 (dimensions: 1.24m length x 0.80m width x 0.19m depth) was oval with steep sides giving way to a flat base. It truncated Pit F1021. Its fill, L1024, was a dark brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of flint and chalk. The fill contained animal bone (42g) and mid to late Iron Age pottery (34g).

Pit F1019 (dimensions: 1.28m length x 0.54m width x 0.17m depth) was oval with gently sloping sides giving way to a flattish base. It was truncated by Pit F1021. Its fill, L1020, was a mid brown sandy silt with occasional flint and chalk. No finds were present.

Pit F1012 (dimensions: 0.91m length x 1.80m width x 0.42m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides which gave way to a flat base. Its lower fill, L1013, was a light grey sandy silt with moderate chalk and flint. It contained no finds, although Sample 7 yielded

sparse burnt grain and weed seed, a sedge fruit, and vitrified material. The upper fill L1014, was a mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint and chalk which yielded no finds.

Pit F1009 (dimensions: 0.82m length x 1.62m width x 0.41m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides giving way to a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1010, was a mid grey silt with occasional chalk and flint. No finds were present. The upper fill L1011 was a mid brown sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained animal bone (135g) and burnt bone (2g).

Pit F1007 (dimensions: 0.90m length x 1.20m width x 0.21m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides giving way to a flat base. Its fill, L1008, was a dark brown sandy silt with moderate flint. Although it contained no finds, Sample 8 yielded sparse burnt cereal grain and weed seeds, charcoal and further sedge, suggesting a damp environment in the vicinity, or the import of rushes from the riverside.

Trench 12 Fig. 5		
E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.30m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 12 contained four pits and two ditches.

Pit F1070 (dimensions: 1.17m length x 1.01m width x 0.24m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides giving way to a flat base. Its fill, L1071, was a reddish grey silt with moderate flint. It contained animal bone (67g).

Ditch F1068 (dimensions: 2.71m length x 1.20m width x 0.24m depth) was linear with irregular sides giving way to an irregular base. Its fill, L1069, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and flint. This fill was distinct from the majority of features on site being very stony. It contained Late Iron Age – Roman pottery (84g) and animal bone (18g).

Pit F1031 (dimensions: 1.44m length x 1.32m width x 1.12m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides giving way to a flattish base. It was cut by Pit F1034. Its lower fill, L1032, was a mid brown sandy silt. It contained no finds, through Sample 9 yielded sparse charred cereal grains and charcoal. The upper fill, L1033, was a grey sandy chalk, which contained animal bone (35g), pottery mid – late Iron Age pottery (40g) and burnt bone (3g).

Pit F1034 (dimensions: 1.44m length x 0.31m width x 1.12m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides giving way to a flat base. It cut Pit F1031. Its fill, L1035, was an orange silt which contained animal bone (14g) and struck flint (27g).

Ditch F1134 was aligned NE/SW. It was steep-sided and V-shaped, some 1.93m wide and 0.55m deep. Its fill, L1135, was a mid orange/brown sandy silt. It contained animal bone (7g).

Pit F1072 (dimensions: 2.48m length x 1.38m width x 0.15m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides giving way to a flat base. Its fill, L1073, was a mid orange/ red grey silt with moderate flint. It contained animal bone (36g) and possibly mid – late Iron Age pottery (20g).

Trench 13 NW/SE orientation, 0.00 = 21.70m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 14 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.90m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 15 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.85m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 16 Fig.5 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.30m AOD		
0.00m – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.38m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 16 contained an undated ditch.

Ditch F1100 (dimensions: 2.21m length x 0.70m width x 0.31m depth) was linear with steep sides giving way to a rounded base. Its fill, L1101, was a light red brown sand. It contained no finds.

Trench 17 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.12m AOD		
0.00m – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.36m +	L1003/1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 18 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.35m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 19 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 19.97m AOD		
0.00m – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.30m – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt
0.46m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 20 Fig. 5 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.30m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt
0.41m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 20 contained two ?ditches, possibly natural features. It also contained two layers, one above the other.

?Ditch F1077 (dimensions: 2.18m length x 2.30m width x 0.46m depth) was linear with irregular sides giving way to an irregular base. It extended across the northern end of Trench 20. It was not an entirely convincing archaeological feature, although it was truncated by Ditch F1079. Its fill, L1078, was a mid yellow brown silty sand with frequent flint. It contained no finds and was likely natural

Ditch F1079 (dimensions: 1.39m length x 1.09m width x 0.33m depth) was linear with moderately sloping sides giving way to a rounded base. It was not an entirely convincing archaeological feature, although it apparently cut Ditch F1077. Its fill, L1080, was a mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flint. It contained no finds.

Layer 1039 (dimensions: 2.70m length x 0.42m width x 0.36m depth) was a mid brown sandy silt. It lay above a similar layer, L1040, but did not have any definable shape. It yielded no finds. Layer 1040 was a yellow brown sandy silt deposit which contained no finds; a test slot excavated through deposits 1039 and 1040 indicated that L1040 was c. 0.30m deep, and lay above the natural orange sand (L1004) (Fig. 5).

Trench 21

Description Trench 21 was not cut because of the presence of overhead power cables

Trench 22 Fig.6 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.30m AOD		
0.00m – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.36m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 22 contained a pit, a re-cut ditch and 2 possible stakeholes

Pit F1047 (dimensions: 1.95m length x 1.60m width x 0.44m depth) was large and sub-circular with irregular vertical sides giving way to a flat base. Its lower fill, L1048, was a mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional flint. It contained animal bone (5g), and Iron Age pottery (6g). The upper principal fill, L1049, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with sparse flint. It contained animal bone (211g), mid to late Iron Age pottery (105g) and struck flint (10g).

Ditch F1121 was some 1m wide and 0.54m deep, aligned NW/SE, with moderately steep sides and an irregular base. Its upper fill, L1123, was a light orange brown silty loam with occasional flint pebbles. It contained Late Iron Age – Roman pottery (282g), animal bone (51g) and a coin (SF1, 2g); the soil sample, Sample 5, yielded charred cereal grains (including spelt glume bases), weed seeds, sedge and spike-rush fruits, charcoal, and a wide range of mollusca, suggesting that the ditch was situated in a largely open area, although the feature itself was probably partially shaded, and was almost certainly either seasonally damp or semi-permanently water-filled. Basal fill L1122 was a mixed dark grey/orange sandy silt with sparse flint. It contained Late Iron Age to Roman pottery (497g), CBM fragments (83g), and animal bone (55g).

The ditch appeared to have a shallow re-cut (F1128), some 1.68m wide and 0.32m deep, with steep sides and flattish base. Its fill, L1129, was a mid orange brown sandy loam with sparse flint. It contained Late Iron Age to Roman pottery (1629g), animal bone (384g) and struck flint (2g).

Two possible stake holes, F1124 & F1126, cut the upper fill of Ditch F1121. Both were c.0.25m in diameter and up to 0.08m deep, with U-shaped profiles. Their fills were a

dark greyish brown sandy silt. L1125, the fill of Post Hole F1124, contained Late Iron Age pottery (81g) and animal bone (39g).

Trench 23 Fig. 6		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.25m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 23 contained a pit and Layer L1099

Layer 1099 (= L1038) (dimensions: 40m + length x 2.00m + width x 0.22m depth) was a dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate flint. It was a substantial layer which extended across Trench 23. A box section was excavated. It contained animal bone (292g), burnt bone (13g) and struck flint (2g). No archaeological features lay below L1099. L1099 (= L1038) was directly comparable to Tr 34 L1098 (below)

Modern pit F1130 cut L1099. F1130 was steep sided with an irregular base, and was relatively large, being c. 0.70-0.80m in diameter and 0.49m deep. Its fill was a mid brown silty sand with occasional flint nodules (L1131) which yielded animal bone (122g). Sample 10 contained sparse cereal grain including oat and barley, weed seeds and charcoal.

Trench 24		
E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.72m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1003/ L1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 25		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.93m AOD		
0.00m – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.35m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 26		
E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.73m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 27 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.42m AOD		
0.00m – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.24m +	L1003/ L1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 28 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.35m AOD		
0.00m – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.39m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 29 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.08m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 30 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.15m AOD		
0.00m – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.30m – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt
0.38m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 31 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 19.60m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m+	L1004	Natural. Sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 32 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 17.48m AOD		
0.00m – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.48 m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 33 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 17.28m AOD		
0.00m – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.45 m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 34 Fig. 6 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.25m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.32m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 34 contained Layer L1098.

Layer L1098 (dimensions: 4.21m + length x 2.10m + width x 0.27m depth) was an orange brown sandy silt. It was an irregularly and extended across Trench 34. It was the same layer as Tr 23 L1099 (= L1138). A box section was excavated. It contained no finds.

Trench 35 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.03m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 36 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.38m AOD		
0.00m – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.20m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 37 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.76m AOD		
0.00m – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.37m +	L1003/ L1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 38 Fig. 7 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.67m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34 m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 38 contained an undated pit.

Pit F1060 (dimensions: 1.28m length x 0.93m width x 0.31m depth) was oval with gently sloping sides giving way to a rounded base. Its fill, L1061, was an orange / dark brown sandy silt with frequent flint. It contained no finds.

Trench 39 Fig. 7 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.50m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m – 0.62m	L1038	Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint.
0.62 m +	L1003/ L1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description: Trench 39 contained a pit

Pit F1058 (dimensions: 0.90m length x 0.85m width x 0.51m depth) was sub-circular with steep sides giving way to a concave base. The lower fill L1074 was a dark brown silt with occasional chalk flecks. It contained animal bone (9g), flint (54g) and daub (43g); Sample 3 contained charcoal, sparse burnt cereal grains and weed seeds, and sparse burnt open country mollusc shells. Its upper fill, L1059, was a dark brown silty loam with occasional chalk. Its contained Iron Age pottery (18g), animal bone (20g), CBM fragments (96g), flint (22g) and burnt bone (1g).

Trench 40 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.42m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam

0.32m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint
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Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 41 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.92m AOD		
0.00m – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.29m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 42		
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Number not used

Trench 43 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.23m AOD		
0.00m – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.38m +	L1002/ L1004	Natural. White chalk and sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 44 Fig. 7 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.10m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34 m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 44 contained four undated ditches.

Ditch F1113 (dimensions: 2.25m length x 1.71m width x 0.30m depth) was linear with irregular sides and a flattish base. It truncated Ditch F1111. Its fill, L1114, was a light brown silty sand with frequent flint. No finds were present.

Ditch F1111 (dimensions: 2.25m length x 1.48m width x 0.46m depth) was linear with irregular sides giving way to a narrow base. It was truncated by Ditch F1113. Its fill, L1112, was a mid beige grey silty sand with frequent flint. No finds were present.

Ditch F1115 (dimensions: 2.25m length x 0.79m width x 0.18m depth) was linear with moderately sloping sides giving way to a flat base. It was parallel to Ditches F1111 and F1113. Its fill, L1116, was a mid green brown silty sand with frequent flint. No finds were present.

Ditch F1117 (dimensions: 2.25m length x 6.23m width x 0.30m depth) was linear with irregular sides and an irregular base. It likely represents a natural feature. Its fill, L1118, was a mid red brown sand with moderate flint. L1118 was almost identical to the natural sand. No finds were present.

Trench 45 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.19m AOD		
0.00m – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.36m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk with occasional gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 46 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.32m AOD		
0.00m – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.43m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 47		
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Number not used

Trench 48 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 18.75m AOD		
0.00m – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.29m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 49 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.35m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 50 Fig. 8 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.30m AOD		
0.00m – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.30m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 50 contained a hearth which yielded Iron Age pottery, a redeposited Neolithic blade and charred probable kindling waste.

Hearth F1036 (dimensions: 0.80m length x 0.46m width x 0.36m depth) was circular with irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1037, was a dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint and chalk. It contained a relatively large quantity of early Iron Age pottery (24 sherds; 495g) and struck flint (5g), a ?redeposited Neolithic long blade with serrated edges. Sample 1 (L1037) yielded burnt chaff and weed seeds – this cereal processing waste was probably used as kindling or fuel (see Fryer in this report).

Trench 51 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.53m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.32m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 52 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.48m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.32m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 53 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.43m AOD		
0.00m – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.33m +	L1003/ L1004	Natural sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 54 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.57m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 55 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.35m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m – 0.60m	L1038	Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint.
0.60m+	L1004	Natural. Sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 56 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.05m AOD		
0.00m – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.23m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 57 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 17.80m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 58 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 19.50m AOD		
0.00m – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.29m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 59 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.95m AOD		
0.00m – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.36m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 60 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.23m AOD		
0.00m – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.35m +	L1003/ L1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 61 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.45m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 62 Fig. 8 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.85m AOD		
0.00m – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.21m – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt.
0.34m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description: Trench 62 contained an Iron Age gully

Gully F1056 (dimensions: 2.30m length x 0.55m width x 0.04m depth) was linear with steep sides giving way to a flattish base. Its fill, L1057, was a mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint. It contained Iron Age pottery (16g), animal bone (2g) and struck flint (1g).

Trench 63 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.75m AOD		
0.00m – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.42m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 64 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.28m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.32m +	L1002/ L1004	Natural. Sand and chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 65 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.98m AOD		
0.00m – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.38m +	L1002/ L1004	Natural. White chalk and sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 66

Number not used

Trench 67 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 18.12m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 68 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.59m AOD		
0.00m – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.40m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 69		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.15m AOD		
N end		
0.00m – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.37m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel
S end		
0.00m – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.46m – 0.76m	L1038	Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint
0.76m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 70		
E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.80m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 71		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 22.14m AOD		
0.00m – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.24m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 72		
E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.93m AOD		
0.00m – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.38m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 73		
N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.68m AOD		
0.00m – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.41m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 74 Fig. 8 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 17.83m AOD		
0.00m – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.22m – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt
0.48 m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel

Description: Trench 74 contained a ditch with modern finds, and two undated pits

Ditch F1050 (dimensions: 2.30m length x 2.42m width x 0.41m depth) had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1051, was a mid orange grey silty sand with moderate flint. It contained CBM fragments (57g), struck flint (10g), slag (5g), daub (11g), animal bone (<1g) and barbed wire (99g), indicating that it was a modern feature.

Pit F1052 (dimensions: 0.65m length x 0.66m width x 0.11m depth) was sub-circular with irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1053, was a mid brown sandy silt with occasional chalk. It contained no finds.

Pit F1054 (dimensions: 0.51m length x 0.44m width x 0.41m depth) was sub-circular with steep giving way to a flat base. Its fill, L1055, was a dark brown sandy silt with occasional chalk. It contained no finds.

Trench 75 NW/SE orientation, 0.00 = 19.00m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1004	Natural sand: an orange sand with moderate flint inclusions

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 76 Fig. 8 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.00m AOD		
0.00m – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.45 m +	L1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description: Trench 76 contained a pit with late Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

Pit F1119 (dimensions: 1.87m length x 5.19m width x 0.24m depth) was sub-circular with moderately sloping sides giving way to rounded base. F1119 was similar to Tr 90 Pit F1066 (below); both were sub-circular, large, shallow and flat based. The fill of F1119, L1120, was a mid brown silty sand with moderate flint. It contained late Iron Age pottery (67g) and animal bone (136g).

Trench 77 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.30m AOD		
0.00m – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.29m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 78 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 22.05m AOD		
0.00m – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.37m +	L1003/ L1004	Natural. Sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 79 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 22.30m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt
0.46m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 80		
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Number not used

Trench 81 NE/SW orientation, 0.00 = 17.50m AOD		
0.00m – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.42m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 82 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 19.97m AOD		
0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam

0.25m – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt
0.49m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 83 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.10m AOD		
0.00m – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.39m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 84 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.80m AOD		
0.00m – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.29m +	L1004	Natural. Sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 85 NE/SW orientation, 0.00 = 21.13m AOD		
0.00m – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.34m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 86 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.92m AOD		
0.00m – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.41m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 87 NE/SW orientation, 0.00 = 21.81m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.32m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 88 NE/SW orientation, 0.00 = 20.83m AOD		
0.00m – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.31m +	L1002/ L1004	Natural. Chalk and sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 89 NW/SE orientation, 0.00 = 20.37m AOD		
0.00m – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.40 m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 90 Fig. 9 NW/SE orientation, 0.00 = 19.12m AOD		
0.00m – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.35m – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt
0.68 m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 90 contained ditches and a pit.

Ditch F1064 (dimensions: 5.00m + length x 0.80m width x 0.37m depth) was linear, slightly arcing feature with steep sides giving way to a narrow base, on an approximate NNW/SSE axis. It was truncated by Ditch F1062. Its fill, L1065, was a very dark brown silty soil with occasional chalk and flint. It contained animal bone (49g), and late Iron Age to 1st century pottery (68g).

Ditch F1136 may have been a continuation of curvilinear ditch F1064, however their profiles were dissimilar. It was traced for a length of some 16m, was 1.26m+ wide and 0.24m deep. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1137, was a light orange/brown sandy silt with moderate flint pebbles. No finds were present.

Ditch F1062 (dimensions: 4.00m + length x 1.40m width x 0.80m depth) was linear, orientated NE/SW, cutting across earlier Ditch F1064 at a right angle. It had irregular shallow sides which gave way to an undulating base. It cut Ditch F1064. Its fill, L1063, was a mid / dark brown silt with occasional chalk and flint. It contained Iron Age pottery (16g).

Pit F1066 (dimensions: 4.85m length x 1.71m width x 0.17m depth) was sub-circular with moderately sloping sides which gave way to a flat base. Its fill, L1067, was a dark brown silty clay with frequent flint. It contained animal bone (59g) and slag (9g; probably residual).

Trench 91 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 19.07m AOD		
0.00m – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.40m +	L1002	Natural. White chalk

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 92 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.12m AOD		
0.00m – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.45m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel found in patches across the site

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 93 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.96m AOD		
0.00m – 0.47m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.47m +	L1003	Natural. Yellow gravel found in patches across the site

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 94 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 21.01m AOD		
0.00m – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.39m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 95 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 21.22m AOD		
0.00m – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.32m +	L1003/	Natural. Sand and gravel

	L1004	
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Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 96 Fig. 9 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.28m AOD		
0.00m – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.46m – 0.65m	L1038	Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint
0.65m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand and gravel

Description: Trench 96 contained a layer

Layer L1090 (dimensions: 3.90m + length x 2.20m + width x 0.30m depth) was a mid brown sandy silt with moderate flint. A box section was excavated. L1090 was similar to L1038, recorded in section. L1090 contained Iron Age pottery (14g) and animal bone (180g).

Trench 97 Fig. 9 NE/SW orientation, 0.00 = 21.10m AOD		
0.00m – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brown loam
0.40m +	L1004	Natural. Orange sand with moderate flint

Description: Trench 97 contained an undated ditch

Ditch F1088 (dimensions: 2.30m + length x 1.09m width x 0.24m depth) was linear and orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides giving way to a concave, slightly irregular base. Its fill, L1089, was a mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional flint. It did not contain any finds.

Trench 98 NE/SW orientation, 0.00 = 20.62m AOD		
0.00m – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil
0.20m+	L1004	Natural. Sand and sparse gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 99 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 19.80m AOD		
0.00m – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil
0.20m+	L1004	Natural. Sand and occasional gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 100 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.10m AOD		
0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil
0.25m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 101 NW/SE orientation, 0.00 = 20.82m AOD		
0.00m – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil
0.20m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 102 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 20.16m AOD		
0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil
0.25m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 103 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 19.26m AOD		
0.00m – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil
0.20m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 104 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.90m AOD		
0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil
0.25m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand and occasional flint gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 105 E/W orientation, 0.00 = 19.96m AOD		
0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil
0.25m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 106 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 18.97m AOD		
0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil
0.25m+	L1004	Natural. Orange sand and gravel

Description No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 107 Fig. 9 N/S orientation, 0.00 = 20.06m AOD		
0.00m – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil
0.20m+	L1004	Natural. Sand and patches of chalk

Description: Trench 107 contained a large shallow ?ditch

Ditch F1139 (dimensions: 2.00m + length x 2.00m + width x 0.10m depth) was wide and shallow, with irregular sides giving way to a flat base. Its fill, L1140, was a dark brown sandy loam with moderate flint. It contained three sherds of Iron Age pottery, probably all from the same vessel.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors affected the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the evaluation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Between 200-300mm of topsoil (L1000) lay above natural geological deposits of mixed and variable sand and gravel (L1003, L1004) and chalk deposits (L1002).

8.2 Subsoil was only present in a small proportion of trenches. This was a mid brown clay silt (L1001) in Trenches 74, 82, 90 and a mid grey sandy silt (L1038) in Trenches 39, 55, 69, 96). It was generally c. 200mm thick where present. Most of these areas of subsoil correspond to lower-lying areas to the north (Trench 90), west (Trench 96) and

south (Trenches 69, 74, 82) of the 20m contour, although two deposits of subsoil L1038 were present in trenches on the slightly higher ground (Trenches 39 and 55). The of subsoil in trenches in the vicinity of the concentration of features in the northwest, (evaluation) and the possible anomalies in the south (geophysical survey) may have protected archaeological deposits from later ploughing.

8.3 Rather amorphous deposits of sandy silt up to 0.36m deep were recorded in three trenches in the northwest of the site (Trenches 23, 34, 96), with a deeper pair of layers in the east of the site (Trench 20). Some yielded sparse finds, including animal bone and Iron Age pottery. The origins and function of these deposits is not clear - they seem too thick and silty for floor surfaces, and there was no recorded evidence of associated trampling or structural features; all lie above the flood plain and are therefore unlikely to be patchy alluvial deposits. There is no stratigraphic evidence of any buried soils and they could be interpreted as occupation horizons containing domestic waste or levelling-up deposits.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The evaluation yielded a residual assemblage of Mesolithic/Neolithic struck flint, and early Iron Age, middle to late Iron Age, and late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. The earliest feature was an early Iron Age hearth. The majority of features were linear Iron Age ditches, located in the north west of the site. These features appeared to be co-axial to the course of the Granta. The results of the evaluation did not tally with the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003), which suggested a concentration of features in the south and centre of the site, rather than in the north west.

9.2 Little modern disturbance was apparent. Two modern features comprised a pit (Trench 23 F1130) and a wide ditch (Trench 74 F1050), which lay approximately parallel to the southwestern edge of the site. Trench 23 tallies with an area of possible modern boundaries and quarrying noted in the south west of the site in the aerial photographic assessment (see 4.4 above). The majority of the trial trenches (78%) did not contain any archaeological features. Of those that did, 11% contained a single feature or layer, and 10% contained three or more features or layers.

9.3 The principal area of the site with trenches which contained archaeological features was in the north-western sector of the site (Trenches 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 22, 23, 96 & 107). One trench in the north east of the site (Trench 90) also contained a concentration of features (Ditches F1062, F1064, F1136, Pit F1066). Several isolated trenches away from the north western group contained archaeological features (Tr 16 Ditch F1100; Tr 20 ?Ditches F1077, F1079, Layer L1039; Tr 38 Pit F1060; Tr 39 Pit F1058; Tr 44 Ditches F1111, F1113, F1115, F1117; Tr 50 Pit F1036; Tr 62 Gully F1056; Tr 74 Ditch F1050 Pits F1052, F1054; Tr 76 Pit F1119; Tr 97 Ditch F1088).

9.4 Archaeological features, principally middle and late Iron Age to early Romano-British linear ditches and pits, were concentrated in the northwest of the site (Table 1).

Feature type	Trench	Feature
Ditches/gullies	2	F1041, F1075
	5	F1005, F1017, F1081, F1083, F1086
	6	F1091, F1094, F1109
	11	F1102, F1107
	12	F1068, F1134
	22	F1121, F1128
Pits	2	F1045
	6	F1104
	11	F1007, F1009, F1012, F1015, F1019, F1021, F1023, F1025, F1027
	12	F1031, F1034, F1070, F1072
	22	F1047
Post holes/ stake holes	2	F1043
	11	F1029
	22	F1124, F1126
Layers	9	L1097
	23	L1099 (=L1138)
	96	L1090

Table 1 Summary of principal features in the northwest of the site

9.5 The archaeological features most frequently contained mid to late Iron Age pottery (Thompson in this report), although Hearth F1036 (Trench 50) contained a relatively large assemblage of early Iron Age pottery, indicating an earlier phase of activity. Some features contained Late Iron Age pottery which may extend into the Roman period (Tr 34 Layer 1038, Tr 90 Ditch F1064, Tr 12 Ditch F1068; Tr 6 Ditches F1091 & F1094, and Tr 22 Ditch 1121). Four features contained assemblages with over 20 sherds – the early Iron Age Hearth (Trench 50 F1036) and a series of late Iron Age to early Roman linear ditches in the west (Trench 22 F1121 & F1128) and northeast (Trench 90 F1064) of the site.

9.6 A very small assemblage of struck flint was recovered (McDonald in this report). The fieldwalking (Grant & Weston 2004) recorded a sparse distribution of flint with no evident concentrations, and the evaluation revealed similar evidence. Few contexts contained more than one flint. Notable finds comprise a residual long blade with serrated edges from Hearth F1036 (Trench 50), and a snapped scraper from Pit F1034 (Trench 12).

9.7 A relatively small animal bone assemblage was recovered (Phillips in this report), and preservation of the bone varies between contexts. Cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse were identified in the assemblage, cattle in the highest numbers, and the young ages of the cattle and the sheep/goat mandible suggest that breeding and birthing of this species was occurring on site. Chopped, cut and smashed bones were evidence of butchery. The latter includes bones discarded after skinning and carcass separation, tentatively

suggesting that these processes occurred on site. The burnt bone fragments may also relate to cooking of the meat.

9.8 Residue from the environmental samples (Fryer in this report) included poor to moderately well preserved charred plant macrofossils, charcoal and some molluscan remains, as well as black 'cokey' material and siliceous globules, probably from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Cereals include oat, barley and wheat grains, and very occasional spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases from both early and late Iron Age to early Roman contexts. Cereal processing waste was probably as kindling or fuel for the early Iron Age hearth (F1136). Sedge and spike-rush remains were recovered from features in Trenches 11 and 22, located in the west of the site, closest to the floodplain, perhaps reflecting the increased cultivation of marginal damp grassland areas during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Ditch 1121 (Trench 22) contained dumped cereal processing waste and mollusc shells which indicated that the ditch was situated in a largely open area, although the feature itself was probably partially shaded, and was almost certainly either seasonally damp or semi-permanently water-filled.

9.9 Two fragments of slag were recovered from undated pit F1066 (Trench 90), although it contained no evidence for *in situ* burning, and the slag is probably residual in this context. An abraded coin (SF1) was found in late Iron Age to early Roman Ditch F1121 (Trench 22).

9.10 The fieldwalking survey (Grant & Weston 2004) recovered struck flints across the site, though no discernible clusters were clearly identifiable. This sparse distribution is reflected by the trial trench evaluation as some struck flint was recovered from the excavated features, though small in number. During the field walking prehistoric pottery sherds, likely of Iron Age date, were also recovered from the ploughsoil, confined to the northern half of the site. A single Romano-British sherd was also recovered from the ploughsoil. The trial trench evaluation broadly reflects the results of the fieldwalking with the greatest density of Iron Age features recorded in the northwest of the site.

9.11 The geophysical survey (Stratascan 2003) revealed anomalies of possible archaeological origin in the southern and central parts of the site (Fig. 2). Area 1 (southern part of the site) revealed broad linear and curvilinear anomalies that may relate to archaeological features. Other anomalies may relate to the presence of pits. Area 2 (centre of the site) revealed fewer anomalies that may relate to archaeological remains. Both areas contained linear anomalies on a NE/SW axis, related to ploughing.

9.12 It is interesting to note that in Area 1, the linear features with coaxial returns, resembling enclosures, are on the same NW/SE and NE/SW axes as most of the linear features excavated in the trial trenches. A penannular possible cut feature, measuring c. 30m in diameter, passed through the area of Trenches 69 and 97, but was not present. The only possibly corollary, was relatively narrow, undated ditch F1088 (Trench 97). In the east of Area A, a 'C' shaped anomaly was investigated by trenches 78, 85 and 86, but no cut features were identified. A group of discrete anomalies was investigated in Trench

76, which only contained a single large late Iron Age to early Roman pit (F1119). Further curvilinear anomalies were noted in the west of Area A, but no corresponding features were noted in the evaluation trenches in the vicinity (Trenches 58, 59, 60, 67, 68, 75).

9.13 In Area 2, geophysical anomalies principally comprised linear anomalies and ferrous objects. The only trench in this area to contain any features was Trench 16, which contained a single undated ditch (F1100) on a NNE/SSW axis. The only anomaly that this might correspond to is the linear agricultural marks, but the morphology of this feature is not that of a plough-scar, and no corresponding plough-scars were found elsewhere on the site.

9.14 Both of the geophysical survey areas put forward as areas archaeological potential did not correspond to the findings of the evaluation, which suggested that the majority of archaeological features were located in the northwest and northeast of the site. However, the combination of information from the geophysical survey and evaluation suggests linear and curvilinear features in the northwest and southwest of the site, close to the Granta floodplain, with further settlement near the stream to the north east, by the present Sawston Bridge.

9.15 The fieldwalking survey (Grant & Weston 2004) and present evaluation at Dernford Farm yielded a small redeposited struck flint assemblage of possible Mesolithic/Neolithic date, probably indicating camping or occupation of the gravelly river margins. There is a dense cluster of early Neolithic sites and axe finds around Heathfields (Duxford) to the south west (McFadyen 1999a, *ibid* 1999b), with a less dense distribution of material along the Cam/Granta valley, perhaps indicating regular and intensive landscape exploitation rather than opportunistic collection of raw materials. However, in the later Neolithic and Bronze Age, more casual use of flint cobbles collected from the river gravels is attested at sites such as Hinxton Quarry (Mortimer & Evans 1996).

9.16 The earliest cut feature dated to the early Iron Age. This hearth was the only securely-dated early Iron Age feature, and yielded a relatively large quantity of pottery. It is possible that undated features, or some features which yielded undiagnostic wheel-made pottery, may also date to this period. Comparatively few sites of the early Iron Age (c. 800 BC – 300 BC) are known and still fewer have been excavated (Hill in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000).

9.17 The majority of the evidence from Dernford Farm dates to the middle and late Iron Age (c.300 BC – AD 43), comprising numerous ?coaxial linear ditches on NE/SW and NW/SE axes in the northwest of the site, possibly providing drainage or forming the boundaries of fields or paddocks running down to the floodplain and the river Granta to the west. The evaluation did not recover any structural evidence for settlement, although the geophysical survey did record curvilinear anomalies, perhaps small enough to be interpreted as roundhouse drip-gullies, and further possible penannular and rectilinear paddocks in the south of the site. This middle to late Iron Age field system (and possibly,

settlement) lay within a densely-occupied landscape of small settlements, spaced at relatively regular intervals along the fertile river valleys (see Sections 3.2.4 & 3.2.5), and lies only 3km south west of Wandlebury Hillfort and c. 1.5km north of Borough Hill hillfort.

9.18 In the late Iron Age and Roman periods, the area was characterised by farmsteads, small settlements, villa estates and their agricultural field systems, again, located in the river valleys (Malim 1994; Taylor 1997; Malim 1998). South of Dernford Farm, a scatter of Roman pottery has been recorded on the site of a later settlement (HER 4704a); a possible villa site is located further east, near the Granta, north of North Farm (EHNMR 371643). Several cropmarks of rectangular enclosures are recorded in Sawston village to the south east and in the vicinity of Dernford Farm (e.g. HER 8347; 8348; 8907). Those linear cropmarks noted in the western part of the site (HER 8354) may correspond to the features excavated in the north western evaluation trenches.

9.19 The evaluation at Dernford Farm has identified previously-unknown Iron Age remains close to the probable Roman occupation site (HER 4704a), pointing to a probable native precursor to Roman settlement. However, the site appears to display little of the direct continuity between the Iron Age and Roman periods seen elsewhere in the area, with pottery probably dating to between c. 50 BC and the end of the 1st century AD, but no distinctively Roman material such as samian or grey wares. This may indicate a short-lived, non-Romanised 'native' settlement, or perhaps a shifting core of settlement and field system layout, or may merely reflect discard patterns or detachment from the settlement core.

9.20 The evaluation indicates that the site at Dernford Farm contains residual early prehistoric remains, and early, middle to late Iron Age and late Iron Age to early Roman remains, principally linear ditches. These were probably part of field systems and/or paddocks running down to the floodplain of the Granta to the west. Although the evaluation did not yield any firm structural evidence (though pits, postholes and stakeholes were present), the finds assemblages indicate a settlement in the immediate vicinity or on the site itself. The geophysical survey suggested that activity, possibly including settlement remains, was concentrated in the south of the site, although the evaluation found the main concentration of archaeological features in the northwest of the site.

9.21 The findings of the evaluation contribute to the growing body of knowledge regarding the chronological sequence, layout and distribution of Iron Age settlements and field systems in the Cam, Rhee and Granta valleys. Regional research agendas (Bryant 2000) prioritise research into ceramic assemblages, the development of the agrarian economy (particularly with regard to field systems) and further analysis of development of social organisation and settlement form/function in the early and middle Iron Age. This is an important factor on this site, where pottery suggests limited early Iron Age activity followed by more extensive activity in the later Iron Age. Another issue is the interaction between the nearby possible hillfort poles or 'central places' and the farming settlements scattered along the valleys. Investigation of the processes of

economic and social change during the late Iron Age and Romano-British transition are a key research agenda relevant to this site, which indicates pre-Roman settlement at Sawston, but suggests a break or settlement shift in this transitional period.

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Pottery from Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (AS 754)

By Peter Thompson MA

The evaluation recovered 280 sherds weighing 4.505 kg, of which 257 weighing 3.770 kg were stratified. The pottery is in mixed condition. The average sherd size is 16g although the majority of sherds are relatively undiagnostic being small and fragmented, some with abraded surfaces. However, some larger sherds were recovered in quite good condition, allowing indication of profiles.

Fabrics are very mixed and have been simplified into their main inclusions shown in the Table 2 below. Flint tempering accounted for over two thirds of the stratified fabrics (69.2%), the other inclusions comprise organics such as chaff or grass (9.4%), grog (9.7%), sand (8.6%) and shell or calcareous (1.9%) and quartz (1.2%). However, if the entire sherd assemblage including the unstratified sherds is examined (see Table below) the sand tempered sherds become slightly more numerous than the organic tempered wares. Some of the flint tempered sherds also contain variable amounts of organic tempering while three sherds from context L1140, probably all from the same vessel, comprising abundant crushed angular quartz also contained a little organic temper.

Fabric Type (based on main inclusion)	Quantity (stratified) By sherd count and weight	Quantity (unstratified) By sherd count and weight	Quantity (total) By sherd count and weight	Percentage of sherd total
Flint	178 x 2.771 kg	5 x 0.334 kg	183 x 3.105 kg	65.3
Sand	22 x 0.234 kg	14 x 0.279 kg	36 x 0.513 kg	12.9
Organic	24 x 0.296 kg	4 x 0.122 kg	28 x 0.418 kg	10.0
Grog	25 x 0.263 kg		25 x 0.263 kg	8.9
Shell	5 x 0.074 kg		5 x 0.074 kg	1.8
Quartz	3 x 0.132 kg		3 x 0.132 kg	1.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>257 x 3.770 kg</i>	<i>23 x 0.735 kg</i>	<i>280 x 4.505 kg</i>	

Table 2 Quantification of the main inclusions by sherd number and weight

The presence of wheel-made wares shows that a significant amount of the assemblage is of Late Iron Age or possibly Roman date, this is discussed later. Ascertaining the longevity of the site, or when the first period of occupation occurred is more problematic.

It is the presence of angular forms, plain burnished bowls indicating a fine ware component, and elaborate decoration including; finger tip motifs to rim and shoulder, panels of incised and impressed decoration and applied cordons and lugs, that are the diagnostic features for the Early Iron Age (Percival 2001, 176-7). Much of the Dernford Farm assemblage is too fragmented to accurately reveal profiles although one carinated vessel from a hearth, F1036, with an almost 'situla' profile and simple fairly upright rim is almost certainly Early Iron Age. All 24 sherds from that context contained abundant coarse flint temper and included a simple flattened everted rim, two or three flat bases showing finger marks where they were slightly pinched out, and a body sherd with a pre-firing hole made presumably to fit an attachment for hanging. However, Dernford Farm

lies only 5km south-west of Wandlebury Hillfort which provides the type name for the Chinnor-Wandlebury Early Iron Age regional style (Cunliffe 1991) characterised by carinated and decorated bowls and pedestal foot-rings and the general absence of carinated sherds other than that from hearth F1036 and the distinct lack of Early Iron Age decoration within the Dernford Farm assemblage suggest that the majority of the pottery is of later date. While there is a general lack of diagnostic features a flat topped weak shouldered profile came from Pit F1031 which is indicative of the Middle to Late Iron Age.

However, a number of contexts are clearly of Late Iron Age and possibly Roman date containing wheel-made pottery. The adoption of wheel-thrown pottery in Cambridgeshire is not fully understood, at Wardy Hill, Coveney (Evans 2003) 80% of a large assemblage dating to the first half of the 1st century BC was made up of handmade forms but wheel-made forms were also present indicating they were both being made at the same time. At Hinxton, also in Cambridgeshire wheel-made forms were being made in the 1st century BC for burial urns while handmade forms were made for domestic use. This suggests the adoption of wheel-made pottery was not a uniform process (Bryant 1997, 26). Some of the Dernford Farm pottery can be classed as 'Belgic' type but it is probably not true Belgic Ware as it lacks grog tempering, although some handmade grog tempered sherds were present on site. Ditch 1068 contained a black burnished rim sherd with a neck cordon, possibly to a pedestal jar, while other wheel-made wares, mainly of sand and/or flint temper, came from Features F1038, F1091, F1094, F1119, F1121, F1124 and F1128. Another unstratified base sherd of this kind contained a crude hole, approximately 3cm in diameter made after firing indicating a change in function for use of the pot. As at Wardy Hill, hand made pottery continued to be made parallel to the wheel-made vessels, although it is not clear if the latter were imported or made locally. Ditch 1068 also contained a sherd of scratched or scored ware comprising apparently random scratches probably made when the pot was leather hard. This decoration originates in the Middle Iron Age but continued in use into the Roman period. A number of vessels also contain a similar usually horizontal but sometimes vertical comb decoration.

Context 1064 contained a handmade inturned almost beaded rim to a neckless jar or bowl. It was one of only two or three sherds from the assemblage to contain a profuse platy shell temper and its association with other sherds of late appearance including grog temper suggest a Late Iron Age date. It is not clear how far the latest contexts might extend into the Roman period, but there is a lack of 'classic' Roman sherds such as samian or grey wares suggesting the site is not likely to be later than the end of the 1st century AD.

It is likely most of the pottery can be dated between circa 50 BC and the 1st century AD although contexts containing undiagnostic handmade pottery could conceivably be earlier although sites in Cambridgeshire show that hand and wheel-made pottery were both being made into the Roman period. However, Hearth F1036 contained an assemblage made entirely of common flint tempered pottery including a carinated rim and body sherd suggesting it to be of the Early Iron Age.

Catalogue of pottery

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comments
-	1000	Topsoil	1x54g F2 3x77g F3	LIA-Roman	W/m 'Belgic' rim with double cordon. Polished beige sides, possibly a little grog and voids on outside surface. Thick sherds, 1.3cm across. Wheel-finished? Includes some large mineral and chalk. Comb decorated
1021	1022	Pit	1x19g F1	Iron Age	
1023	1024	Pit	2x33g F3	Mid-Late Iron Age	1x thickened, slightly out-turned rim to probable globular vessel
1025	1026	Pit	1x3g F1 1x20g F3	Iron Age	
1027	1028	Pit	8x65g F1	Iron Age	
1031	1033	Pit	4x40g F3	Mid-Late Iron Age	Flat topped, very weak shouldered sherd with some internal burnishing
1036	1037	Hearth?	24x490g F1	Early Iron Age	1x carinated <i>situla</i> profile, simple rim. 1x simple almost bevelled everted rim. 2/3 flat pinched out bases, some finger marks. 1x sherd with 1cm across hole made from outside before firing.
-	1038	Layer	1x37g F1 1x8g F2	Late Iron Age/ Roman	Rare very coarse flint, cordon, w/m Grey core, orange surfaces
1041	1042	Ditch	5x24g F1	Iron Age	
1045	1046	Pit	1x13g F1	Iron Age	Burnished surface.
1047	1048	Pit	1x6g F2	Iron Age	burnished/polished
1047	1049		1x15g F1 4x11g F2 6x77g F3	Mid-Late Iron Age	Simple out-turned rim probably to shouldered or globular vessel. 2x burnished/polished including a large, chunky upper body sherd
1056	1057	Ditch	1x13g F1 1x3g F5	Iron Age	
1058	1059	Pit	3x17g F1 1x2g F2	Iron Age	
1062	1063	Ditch	1x5g F2 1x11g F5	Iron Age	Rounded, worn, could be daub Thick, 1.5cm across, Base?
1064	1065	Ditch	1x3g F1 3x7g F2 1x12g F3 5x25g F4 1x29g F5	Late Iron Age - 1 st century AD?	Simple everted rim to shouldered vessel. Inturned rim, flattened, slightly pinched out, almost beaded.
1068	1069	Ditch	1x2g F1 1x59g F2 4x22g F3	Late Iron Age/ Roman	Wheel-made. Black burnished neck cordon, probably curves to a pedestal base. Sparse rounded chalk. 1 sherd random scored ware, another 2 horizontal grooves.

1072	1073	Pit	1x20g F3	Mid-Late Iron Age?	
1083	1084	Ditch	1x9g F1	Iron Age	Abraded
1090	-	Layer	1x2g F1 2x11g F2	Iron Age	
1091	1093	Ditch (Upper fill)	1x3g F5	Late Iron Age/Roman	Wheel-made
1094	1096	Ditch (Upper fill)	1x24g F2 2x61g F3	Late Iron Age/Early Roman	W/M. Profuse sub-rounded quartz sand. Sandwich effect, grey core, light brown margins. Flat base. Thick, 1 cm across
1107	1108	Gully	4x11g F1	Iron Age?	Some sand
1119	1120	Pit	3x17g F2 3x50g F4	Late Iron Age	Flat base with concentric groove deco to sides and base. Pot possibly wheel-finished 1x Fairly upright polished rim with sooting inside F4=Well-made, looks almost wheel-made
1121	1122	Ditch	30x400g F1 2x14g F2 5x29g F4	Late Iron Age/Roman	F1=wheel-made shouldered vessel with burnished, everted, rounded rim. Concentric grooves down shoulder 3x24g orange burnished, everted thickened rim, F1=2x burnished, rest smoothed 7x concentric groove decorated, 1x double groove or cordon on very curving body sherd, 2x flat base. 2/3 oxidised F2=Thin, fine pale grey fabric with brown surfaces. External cream slip F4=Conjoining, brown burnished surface
1121	1123		14x252g F1 1x6 F3		F1=base sherd with spaced concentric grooves including on base wheel-made, 1x profuse grove deco, 1 x smoothed almost burnished 4x thin w/m fine fabrics almost burnished. 1x everted almost squared rim to bowl? 1x vertical score deco with probable cordon either side, 1 x groove cordon deco. Rest thicker 1 x concentric groove deco, 1 x fine comb deco, 1 x crude cordon, at least 3 w-made, 1 x rolled out rim F3=handmade 1x21 B.mat?
1124	1125	Post-hole	1x13g F1 1x66g F2	Late Iron Age	Everted rim, thin sherd almost burnished w/m. Score deco, horizontal, hand made

1128	1129	Pit	79x1.383g F1 12x153g F4 3x25g F3 1x26g F5		F1=1x flat base with spaced concentric circles including base1x flat base groove above to fine cup or jar, 3x everted shouldered jar rims, 2 burnished necks, 2 with horizontal scoring, 1x burnished neck and shoulder cordon with vertical scoring below 1 x cordon to large vessel, 1x flat base to coarse jar, 2x rolled out rim, 1x out-turned rim, 2x burnished 1x horizontal scoring with wavy line deco, 4x horizontal scoring, 1 x vertical scoring, 1 x scoring 1x flat base with spaced concentric grooves including on base, 1 burnished with double groove deco, sooting F1=1x flat base, 1x scoring, 1x burnished shoulder cordon with vertical scoring below, 1 curving shoulder profile with possible cordon F3 1x cordon,1x comb deco, 1x some shell & flint F4=2x slightly out-turned rim with cordon, 2x everted simple rims to rounded shoulders, 1 burnished F5=Base 1x62g brick?
1139	1140	Ditch	3x132g F6	Iron Age	Probably all same vessel, dark grey fabric spotted with quartz and darker grey chaff flecks. Quite a curving shoulder? Profile, but not carinated
Unstratified			5x334g F1 13x225g F2 1x45g F3		F1= all one vessel with concentric grooves including base. Probably intentional hole nearly 3cm across in base. Wheel-made, dark grey with oxidised margins Probably same W/T Belgic vessel as context 1000. Sooting to base Smoothed outside surface Wheel-made, 2x3g conjoining rim sherd, oxidised throughout, polished outside Out-turned rim with burnished cordon w/m 1cm thick, polished outside

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Struck Flint from Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (AS 754)

By Tom McDonald MIFA

A very small assemblage of struck flint was recovered during the evaluation. The field walking recorded a sparse distribution of flint with no evident concentrations, and the evaluation revealed similar evidence. Few contexts contained more than one flint. With such a small assemblage few trends can be established and the flint may not even be contemporary.

The flint is most often grey/dark grey. It is frequently sharp, and not patinated. Pebble flint was utilised (Tr 39 F1058 L1074). Sparse burnt flint was found during the field walking and one context contained burnt flint (Tr 39 F1058 L1059). Blades occur almost in equal number to flakes, and a long blade with serrated edges is from Tr 50 hearth F1036 L1037. The latter possibly dates to the Neolithic period. A snapped scraper was found within Tr 12 F1034 L1035. The 'assemblage' is comparable to that recovered during fieldwalking with blades being prominent, and a possible Mesolithic/Neolithic date may be assigned.

Catalogue of struck flint

1000

Flake. Secondary. Dark grey, not patinated. Not sharp, edge retouch

Tr 2 F1041 L1042

2 Blades. Slightly cortical. Dark grey, not patinated. Sharp, snapped, not retouched.

Tr 5 U/S

Flake. Tertiary. Dark grey, not patinated. Not sharp, not retouched.

Tr 11 F1025 L1026

Flake. Tertiary. Grey, not patinated. Not sharp, not retouched.

Tr 12 F1034 L1035

Flake. Secondary. Grey, not patinated. Not sharp. Snapped scraper with shallow scale flaking

Tr 23 L1099

Flake. Secondary. Dark grey, not patinated. Sharp, not retouched.

Tr 39 F1058 L1059

4 flakes. Tertiary. Dark grey, not patinated. Sharp, not retouched. Partially burnt

Tr 39 F1058 L1074

?Lump with removals. Tertiary. Grey, not patinated. Not sharp, not retouched.
Pebble flint

Tr 50 F1036 L1037

Blade. Slightly cortical. Dark grey, not patinated. Sharp, snapped, serrated.

Tr 62 F1056 L1057

Flake. Tertiary. Grey, not patinated. Not sharp, not retouched.

Animal Bone from Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (AS 754)

By Carina Phillips BA MA

Introduction

A relatively small animal bone assemblage of 337 fragments was recovered from the evaluation at Dernford Farm, Sawston. Twenty seven contexts contained animal bone. Preservation of the bone varies between contexts. The majority of the assemblage is moderately preserved, however some bones exhibit extreme surface erosion and concretion has occurred on a small proportion. The erosion is likely to have hindered the survival of small bones, particularly bird and fish remains.

Results

Species	NISP	Chopped	Cut	Smashed	Burnt	Gnawed
Cattle	43	3	2	3	0	1
Sheep/goat	29	0	0	0	2	1
Pig	7	0	0	0	0	0
Horse	4	0	0	0	0	0
Large ungulate sized	69	1	2	9	2	0
Small ungulate sized	66	0	1	1	3	1
Small mammal sized	1	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentifiable bird	1	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentifiable	117	2	1	0	8	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>5</i>

Table 3 Number of Identified Specimens/Fragments (NISP) and count of butchered, burnt and gnawed fragments per species

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse were identified in the assemblage, cattle in the highest numbers (Table 3). Three mandibles were sufficiently complete to produce age estimates based on tooth wear and eruption (following Grant 1975 and Hambleton 1999). These were the mandibles of an 8-18 month old, an 'adult' cattle, and the mandible from a 0-2 month old sheep/goat. The young ages of the cattle and the sheep/goat mandible suggest that breeding and birthing of this species was occurring on site.

Chopped, cut and smashed bones were evidence of butchery. Smashed bone is the most frequent form of butchery (smashing the bone with a blunt object is usually carried out to access the bone marrow). The chop marks and some of the cut marks have occurred during the dismemberment of the carcass. Some of the cut marks suggest that skinning also occurred. The butchery evidence includes bones discarded after skinning and carcass separation, tentatively suggesting that these processes occurred on site. The

burnt bone fragments may also relate to cooking of the meat. The gnawed carnivore bone indicates that some of the assemblage was available to dogs/foxes.

Potential

The analysis of the assemblage from the evaluation suggests that future excavation would produce a moderately sized assemblage, of variable preservation. The number of bones exhibiting butchery evidence was higher than expected, especially considering the poor preservation of some of bone. If a similar proportion of the excavated assemblage exhibits butchery it will provide significant evidence of butchery practices. A larger assemblage may also contribute to the number of ageable elements which could indicate the kill-off pattern for the domestic species and consequently indicate the utilisation of these species. In conclusion if further excavation occurs the animal bone has the potential to contribute to the understanding of animal husbandry in the Iron Age period.

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Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (AS 754)

By Val Fryer BA MIFA FSA (Scot)

Introduction and methods

Ten samples for the extraction and analysis of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from a hearth, pits, and ditches of probable Iron Age/Roman date (Table 4).

Sample	Feature type	Date	Trench	Feature	Context
1	Hearth	EIA	Tr 50	1036	1037
2	Pit	U	Tr 2	1043	1044
3	Pit	IA	Tr 39	1058	1074
4	Ditch	U	Tr 11	1102	1103
5	Ditch	LIA-ERo	Tr 22	1121	1123
6	Pit	M-LIA	Tr 11	1025	1026
7	Pit	U	Tr 11	1012	1013
8	Pit	U	Tr 11	1007	1008
9	Pit	M-LIA	Tr 12	1031	1032
10	Pit	Modern	Tr 34	1130	1131

Table 4 Catalogue of bulk samples from the evaluation.

The samples were bulk floated by Archaeological Solutions, and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were sorted under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 5. Identifications were made by comparison with modern reference specimens. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred.

Results

Plant macrofossils are present at varying densities in all ten assemblages. Preservation is poor to moderate, with a high density of the grains being puffed and distorted, possibly as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena sp.*), barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and wheat (*Triticum sp.*) grains are recorded from samples 1, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10, and the assemblages from samples 1 and 5 also contain a small number of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases. Weed seeds are rare, although common segetal species including brome (*Bromus sp.*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus sp.*) are recorded. The single fruits of sedge (*Carex sp.*) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis sp.*) noted in Samples 5, 7 and 8 may be indicative of the increased cultivation of marginal damp grassland areas which is known to have occurred during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Charcoal fragments are present throughout.

Although mollusc shells are recorded from all but Sample 3, most retain delicate surface structures and pigmentation, and are possibly modern in origin. However, Sample 5 contains burnt specimens from all four of Evans (1972) ecological groups of terrestrial taxa, as well as a limited number of freshwater species.

Other materials are rare, with both the fragments of black ‘cokey’ material and the siliceous globules probably being residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures.

Summary of evidence

Although very small, the assemblage from Sample 1 is almost certainly derived from fuel utilised during the final use of hearth F1036 L1037. The presence of chaff and weed seeds may indicate that cereal processing waste was used as either kindling or fuel, and certainly contemporary parallels exist for this practise from other sites in eastern England.

Cereals, chaff and weed seeds are again present within the assemblages from Samples 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10. However, in these instances it would appear most likely that the material is derived from small quantities of charred refuse which were either deliberately dumped (for example within the fill of ditch F1121, Sample 5) or accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. The composition of the mollusc assemblage within Sample 5 would appear to indicate that the ditch was situated in a largely open area, although the feature itself was probably partially shaded, and was almost certainly either seasonally damp or semi-permanently water-filled. The presence of burnt shells is a little puzzling, although they may be indicative of limited in situ burning within the ditch.

Insufficient material is present within the remaining four assemblages to enable any conclusive interpretation of the contexts from which the samples were taken.

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Sample No.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Context No.		Hearth 1037	Pit 1044	Pit 1074	Ditch 1103	Ditch 1123	Pit 1026	Pit 1013	Pit 1008	Pit 1032	Pit 1131
Cereals	Common name										
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)	Oat										xcf
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	Barley	x				xcf			xcf	x	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	Wheat	x				xx		x		x	
(glume bases)		x									
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	Spelt wheat	x				x					
Cereal indet. (grains)		x		x		xx	x	xx	x	x	x
Herbs											
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	Brome					x		x	x		
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	Fat hen	x									
Chenopodiaceae indet.				x					x		
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.	Corn gromwell			x		x					
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.	Medick/clover/trefoil										xcf
Small Poaceae indet.	Grass	x				x			x		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	Knotgrass							x	x	x	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock					xcf			xcf	x	x
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	Vetch/vetchling					x					xcf
Wetland plants											
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedge					x		x	xcf		
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	Spike-rush					x					
Other plant macrofossils											
Charcoal <2mm		xx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm		x	xxx	x		x			x	xx	xx
Charred root/rhizome/stem		x					x	x			
Indet.seeds		x			x	x	x	x			x

Sample No.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Context No.		Hearth 1037	Pit 1044	Pit 1074	Ditch 1103	Ditch 1123	Pit 1026	Pit 1013	Pit 1008	Pit 1032	Pit 1131
Molluscs											
Woodland/shade loving species											
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.						xb					
<i>Carychium</i> sp.						xb					
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>						xb					
Zonitidae indet.						xb					
Open country species											
<i>Helicella itala</i>				xb							
Helicidae indet.						xb					
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.						xb					
<i>V. pulchella</i>						xb					
Catholic species											
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group						xb					
Marsh/freshwater slum species											
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.						xb					
<i>V. angustior</i>						xb					
<i>V. pygmaea</i>						xcfb					
Freshwater obligate species											
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.						xb					
<i>L. truncatula</i>						xb					
Other materials											
Black porous 'cokey' material		x		x		xx	x		x	x	
Bone					x						
Siliceous globules				x							
Vitrified material								x			
Sample volume (litres)											
Volume of flot (litres)		<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

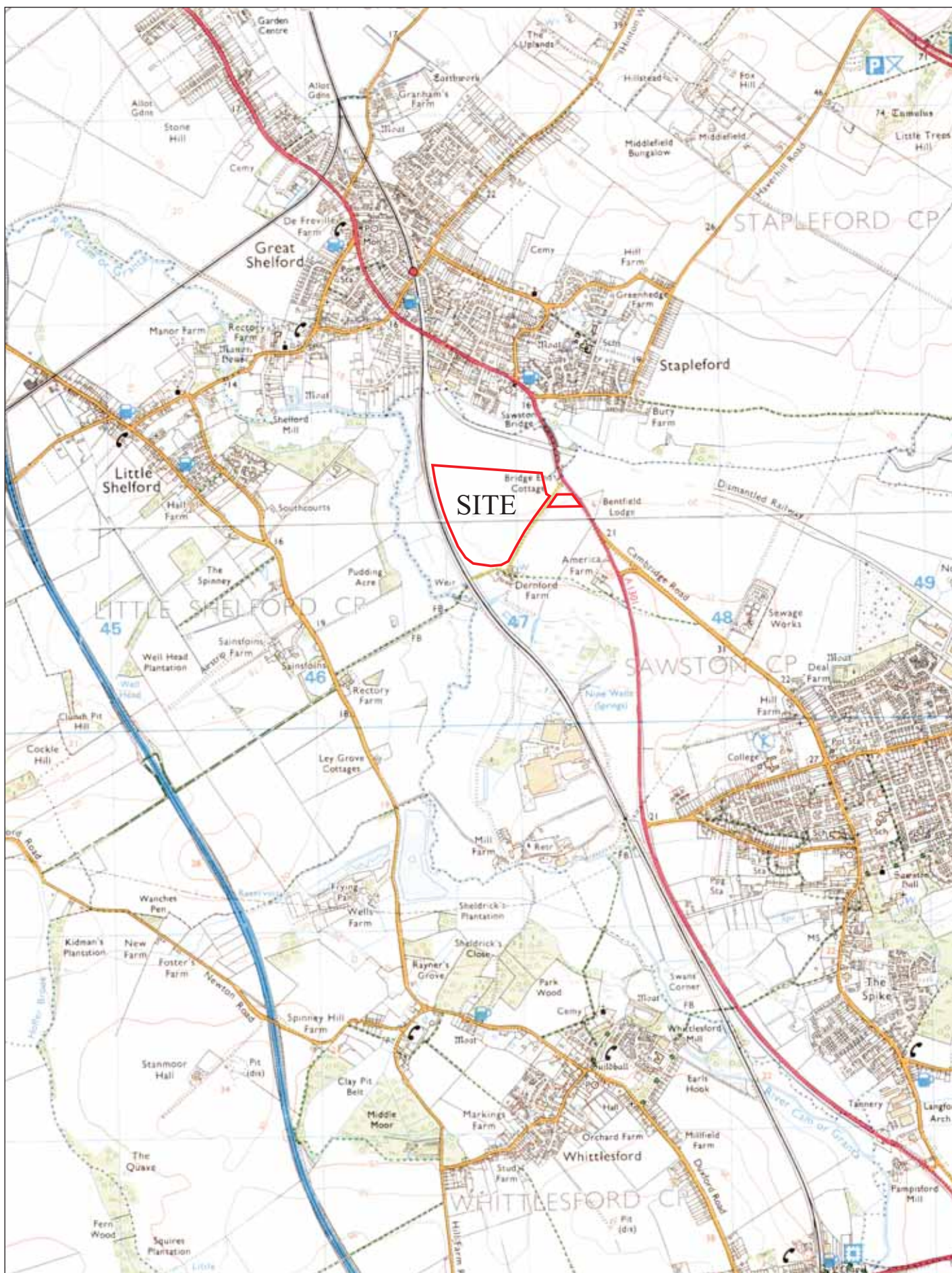
x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens b = burnt

Table 5 Catalogue of plant macrofossils and other material from the samples

Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambs (AS 754)**Concordance of finds by feature**

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000			Topsoil	Mid-late Iron Age	(4), 132g			Flint (1), 24g
1009	1011	11	Upper Fill of Pit				135	Burnt Bone (2), 2g
1017	1018	5	Fill of Ditch				72	Stone (1), 170g
1021	1022	11	Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(1), 19g		355	Stone (1), 3g
1023	1024	11	Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(2), 34g		42	
1025	1026	11	Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(2), 23g		5	Sample 6 Flint (1), 4g
1027	1028	11	Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(8), 65g		1466	
1031	1033	12	Lower Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(5), 40g		35	Sample 9 Burnt Bone (1), 3g
1034	1035	12	Fill of Pit				14	Flint (1), 27g
1036	1037	50	Fill of Possible Hearth	Early Iron Age	(23), 495g			Sample 1 Flint (1), 5g
-	1038	34	Layer	Late Iron Age/Roman	(2), 45g			
1041	1042	2	Fill of Ditch	Iron Age	(8), 25g			Flint (2), 2g
1045	1046	2	Fill of Pit	Iron Age	(1), 12g			
1047	1048	22	Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(1), 6g		5	
1047	1049	22	Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(11), 105g		211	Struck Flint (4), 10g
1050	1051	74	Fill of Ditch	Modern		57	<1	Struck Flint (1), 10g Slag (1), 5g Daub (1), 11g Barbed Wire (10), 99g
1056	1057	62	Fill of Gully/Ditch	Mid-late Iron Age	(2), 16g		2	Flint (1), 1g
1058	1059	39	Fill of Pit	Iron Age	(4), 18g	96	20	Sample 3 Flint (4), 22g Burnt Bone (1), <1g
	1074					43	9	Flint (1), 54g
1062	1063	90	Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age/Early Roman+	(2), 16g			
1064	1065	90	Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age/Early Roman	(21), 68g		49	Flint (1), 6g
1066	1067	90	Fill of Pit				59	Slag (2), 9g
1068	1069	12	Fill of Ditch	Mid-late Iron Age	(6), 84g		18	
1070	1071	12	Fill of Pit				67	

1072	1073	12	Fill of Pit	Mid-late Iron Age	(1), 20g		36	
1083	1084	5	Base Fill of Ditch	Iron Age	(1), 10g		19	
-	1090	96	Layer	Iron Age	(3), 14g		180	
1091	1092	6	Lower Fill of Ditch				86	
	1093		Upper Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age/Roman	(1), 2g		34	
1094	1096	6	Upper Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age/Early Roman	(3), 87g		80	
-	1097	9	Layer				2	
-	1099	23	Layer				292	Burnt Bone (13), 13g Flint (1), 2g
1102	1103	11	Fill of Ditch					Sample 4 Struck Flint (7), 27g
1104	1105	6	Upper Fill of Pit				4	
1107	1108	11	Fill of Gully	Iron Age?	(4), 11g			
1119	1120	76	Fill of Pit	Late Iron Age	(6), 67g		136	
1121	1122	22	Lower Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age/Roman	(42), 497g	83	55	
1121	1123		Upper Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age/early Roman	(17), 282g		51	Sample 5 SF1: Coin (1), 1g
1124	1125	22	Fill of Post-Hole	Late Iron Age	(2), 81g		39	
1128	1129	22	Fill of Ditch	Late Iron Age/early Roman	(93), 1629g		384	Struck Flint (1), 2g
1130	1131	34	Fill of Pit	Modern			122	Sample 10
1134	1135	12	Fill of Ditch				7	
1139	1140	107	Fill of Ditch	Iron Age	(3) 132g		7	
U/S		9			(9), 197g		3	
		5	Large Ditch	Mid-late Iron Age	(2), 54g		100	
		5	Ditches				45	
		5	(1085)/(1087)		(3), 12g		38	Burnt Bone (1), 1g Shell (2), 4g Flint (1), 9g Struck Flint (4), 15g
		5			(1), 22g			
		4	Prehistoric Feature			52		
				Late Iron Age/early Roman	(5), 326g		148	

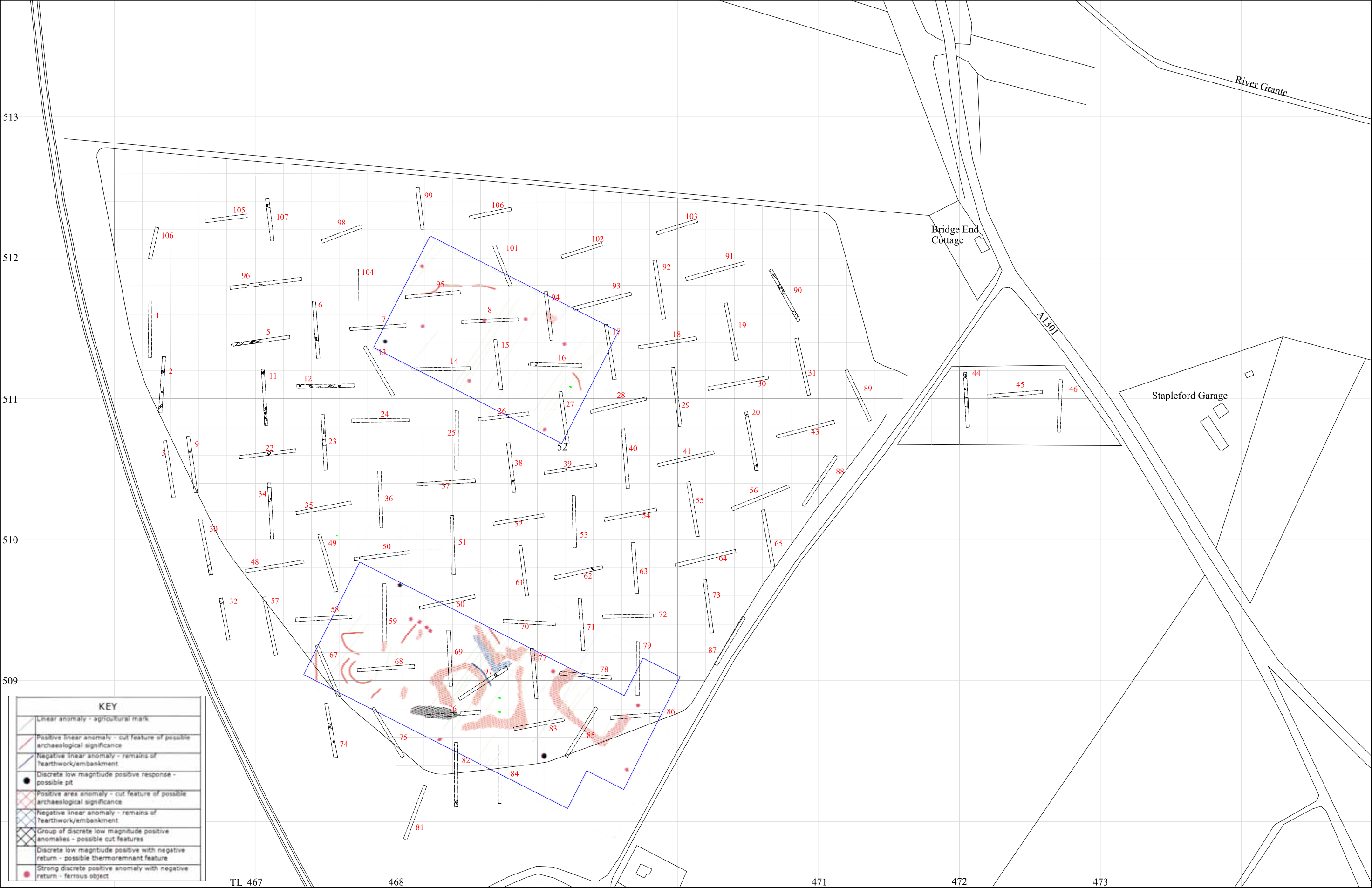


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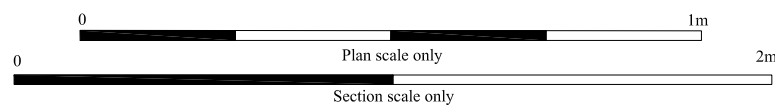
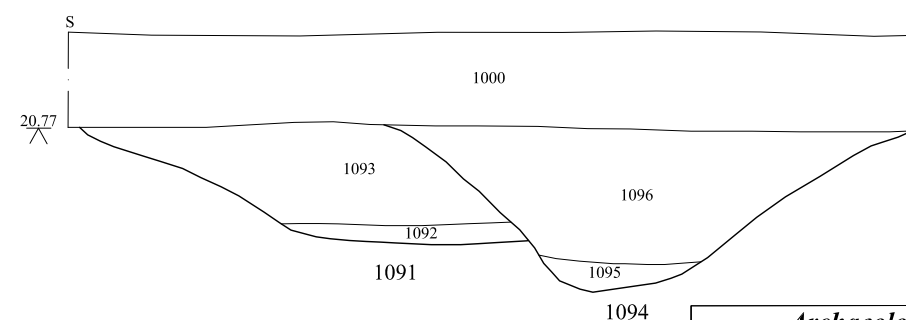
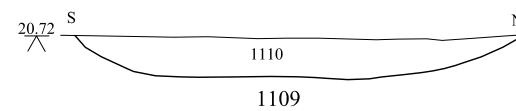
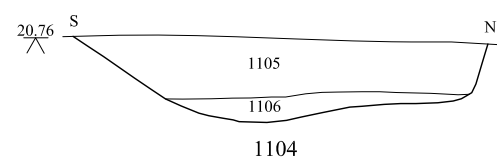
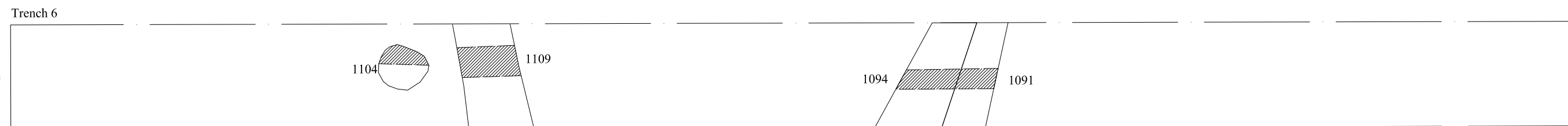
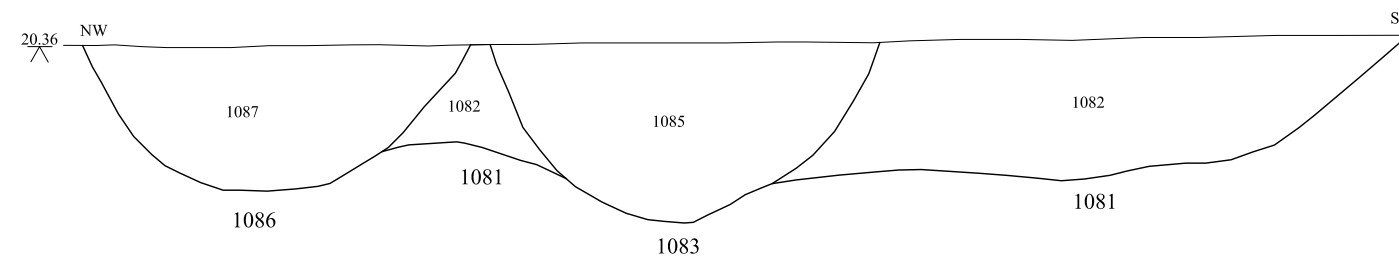
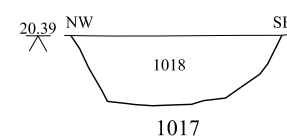
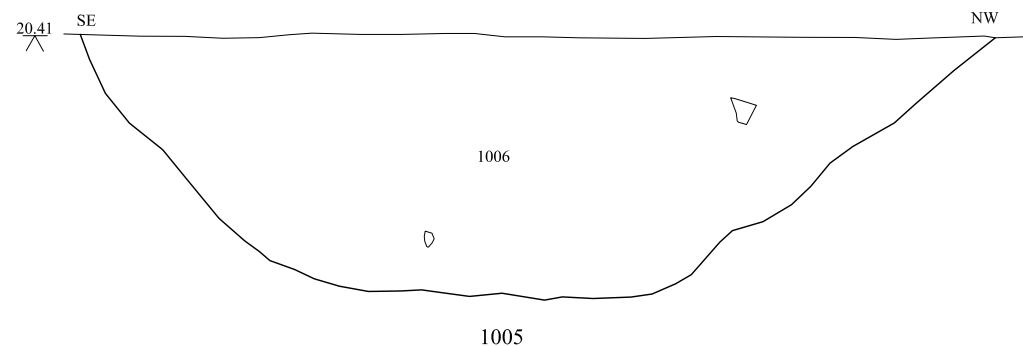
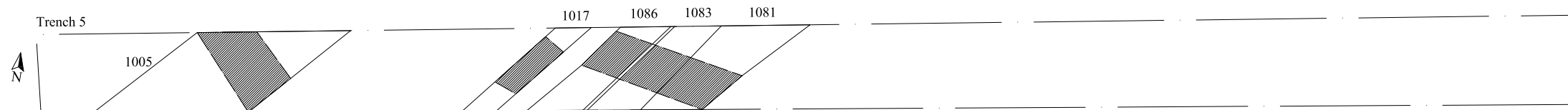
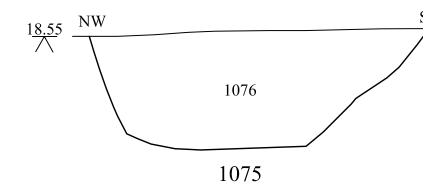
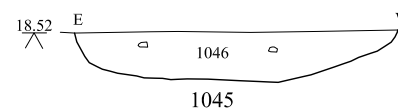
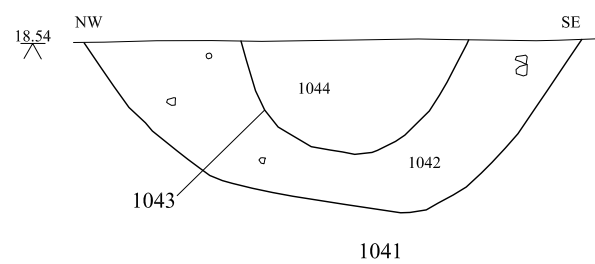
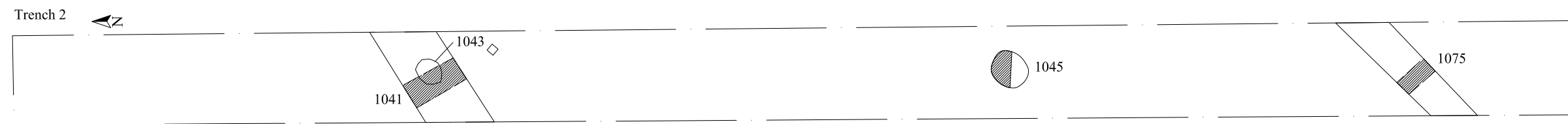
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Fig. 1 Site Location plan

Scale: 1:25000



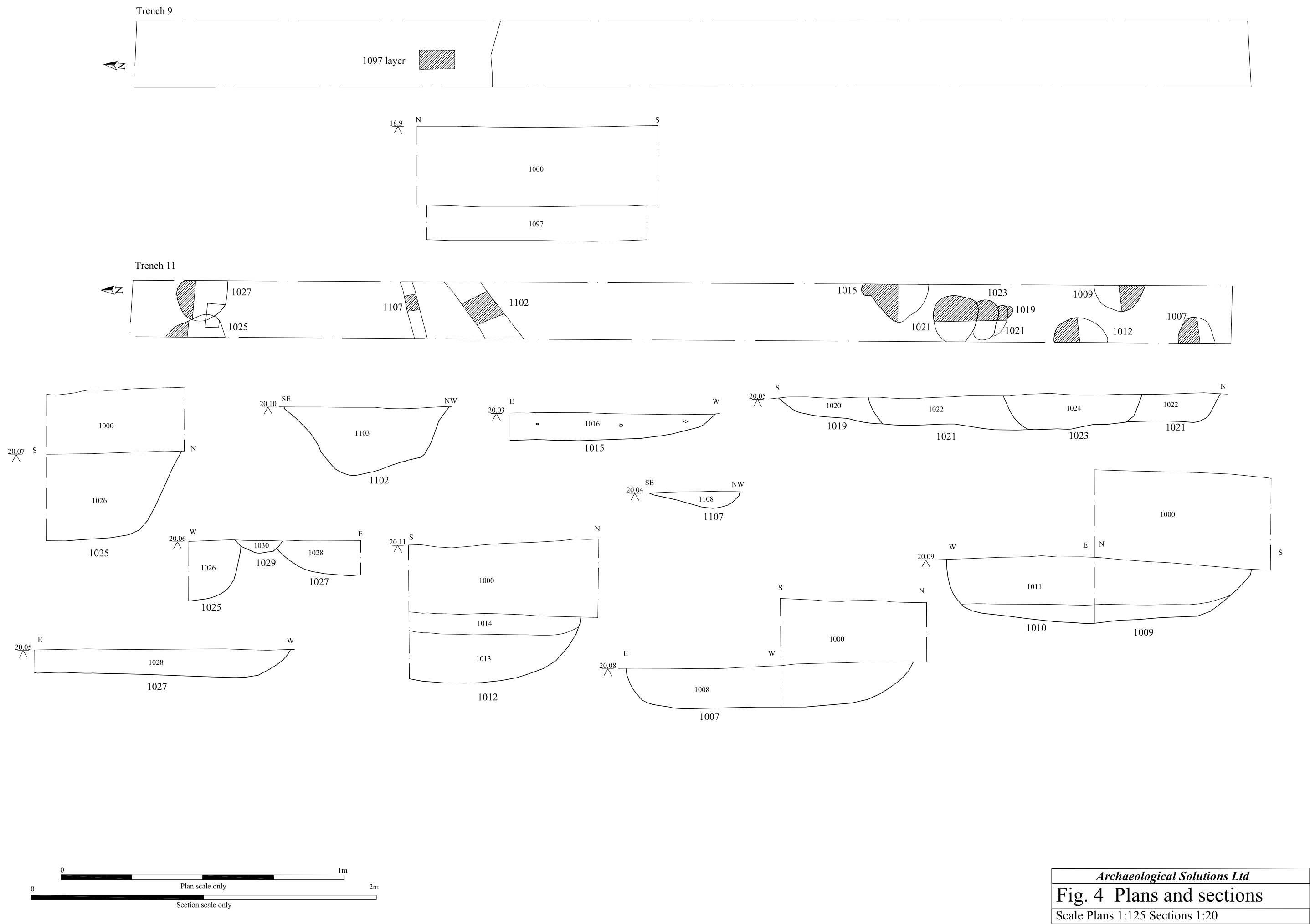
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan.
Scale 1:2500



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Fig. 3 Plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:125 Sections 1:20

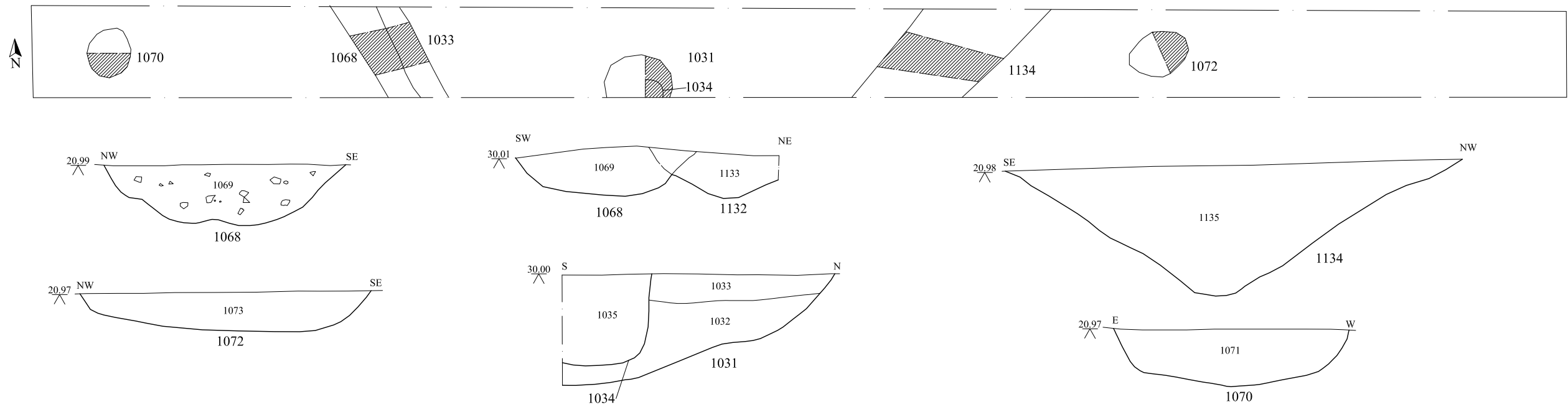


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Fig. 4 Plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:125 Sections 1:20

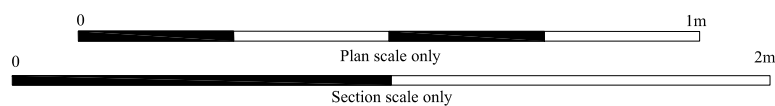
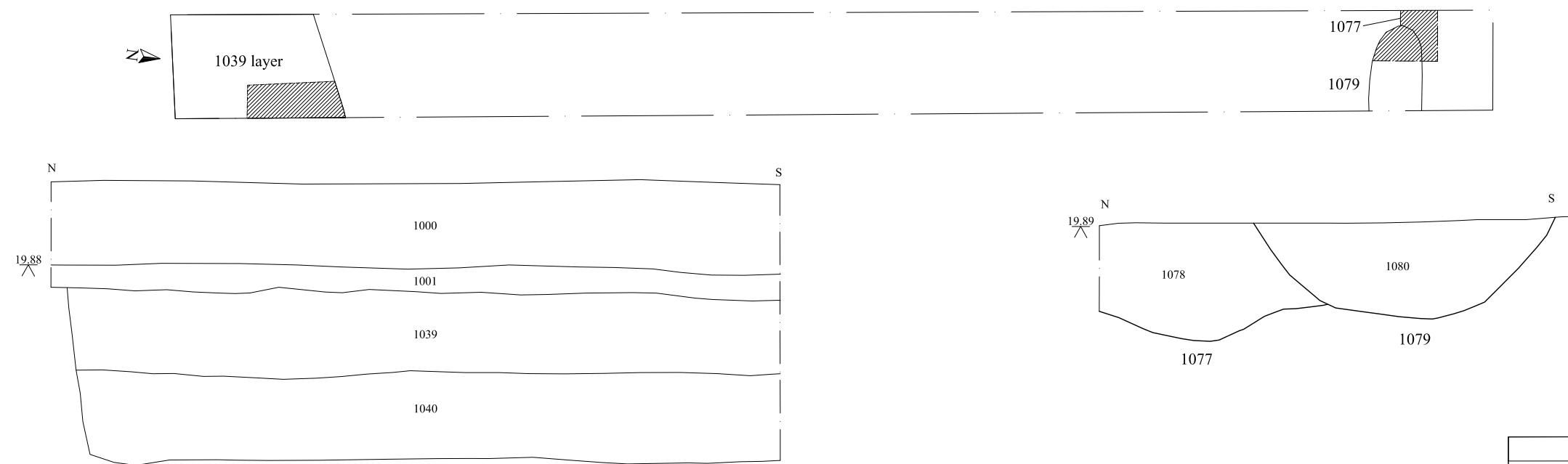
Trench 12

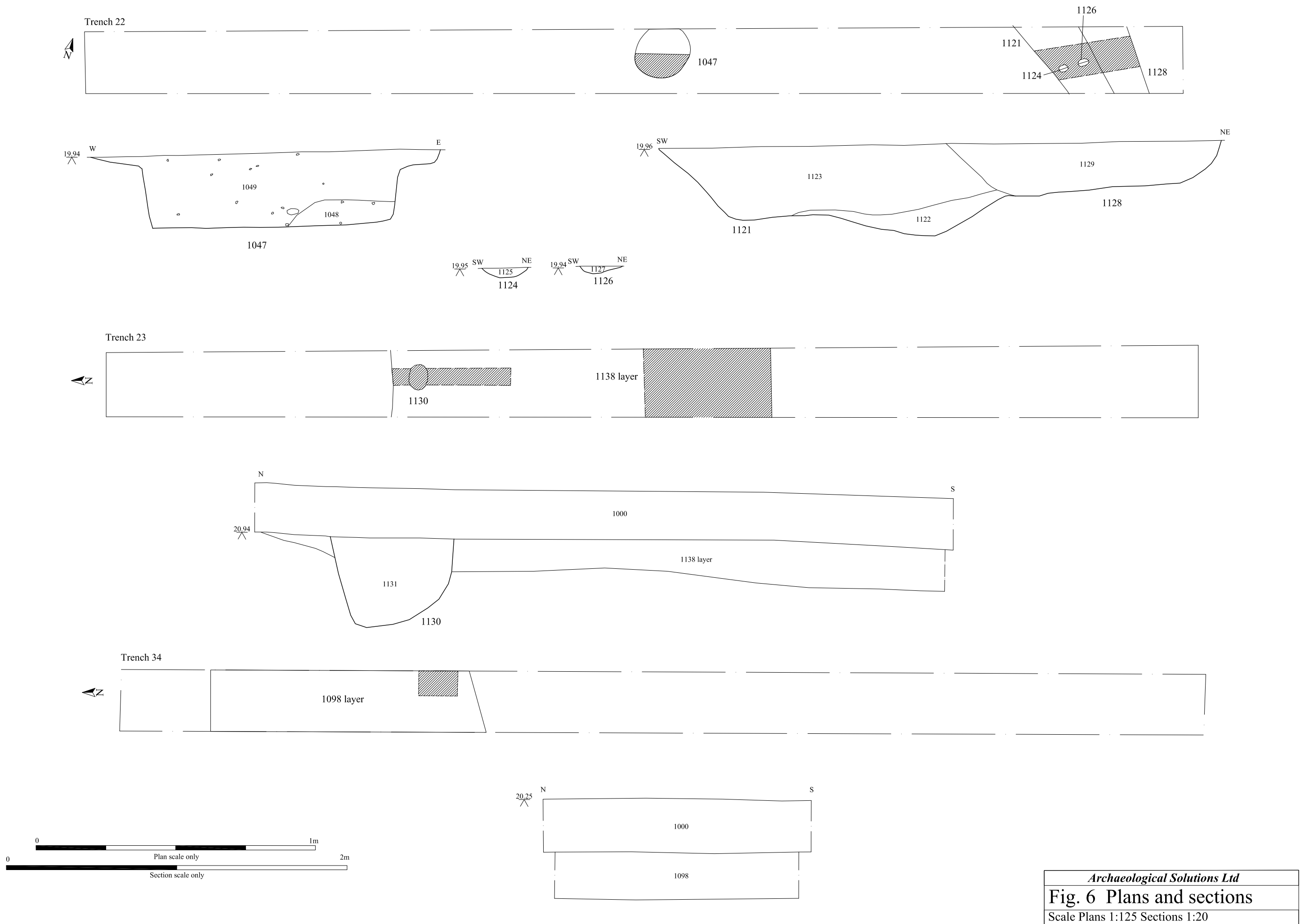


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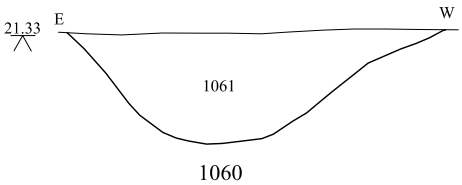
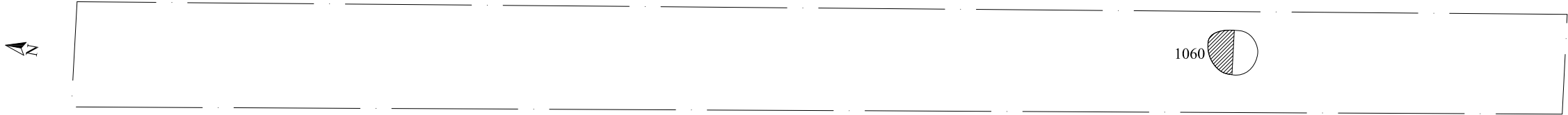


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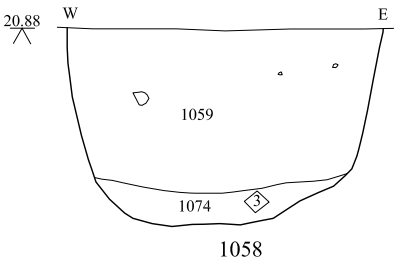




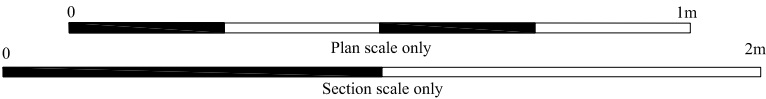
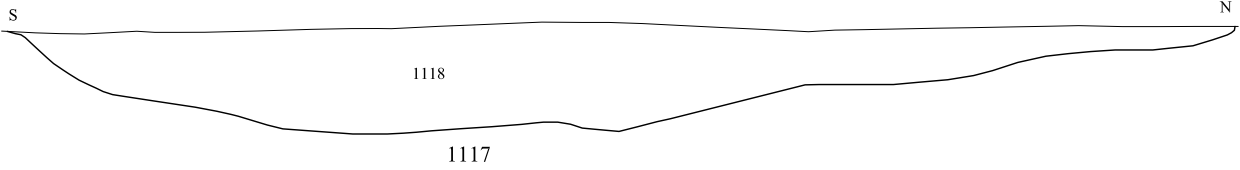
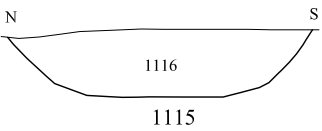
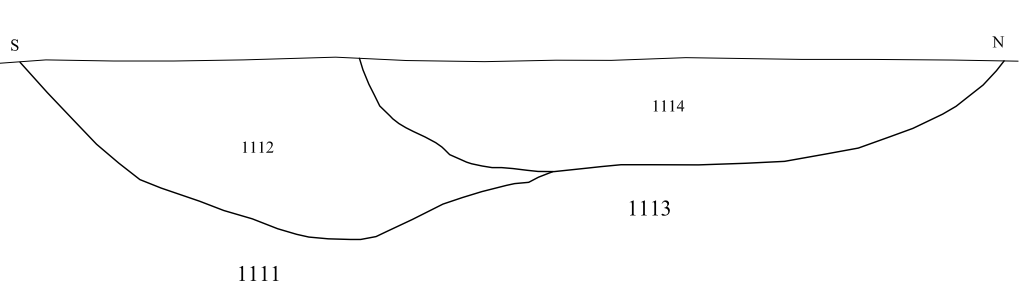
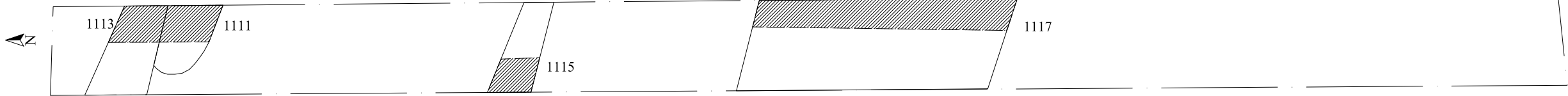
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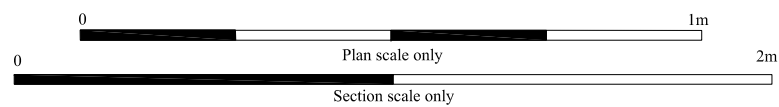
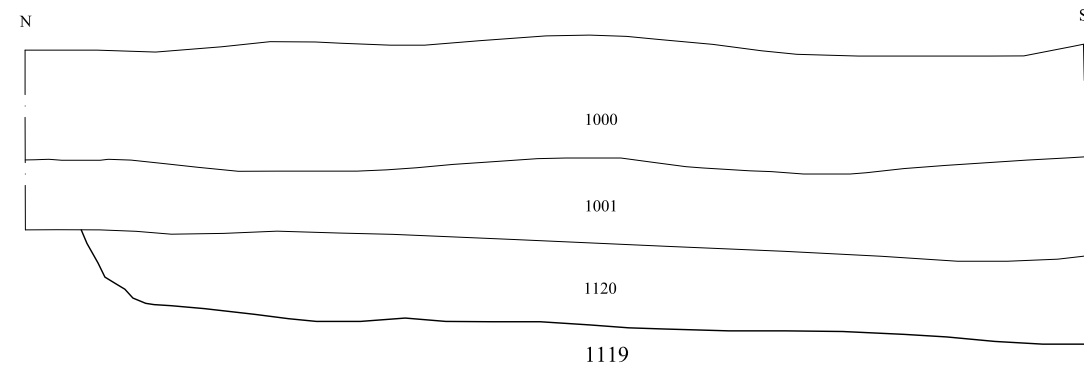
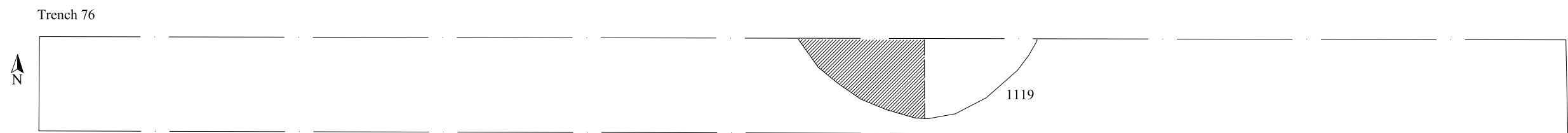
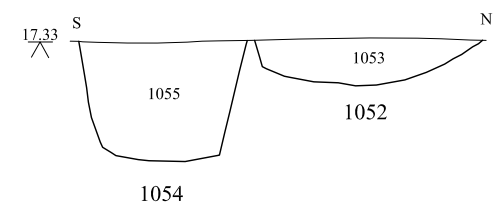
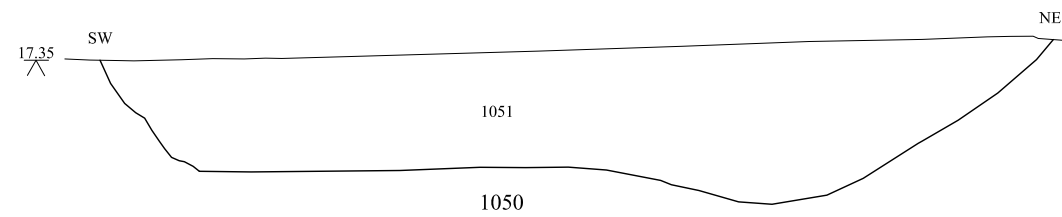
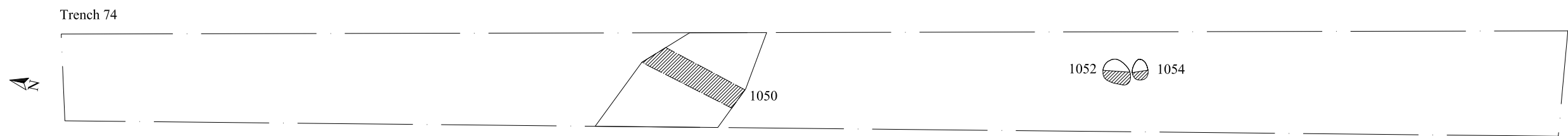
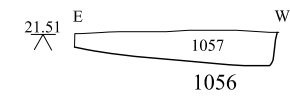
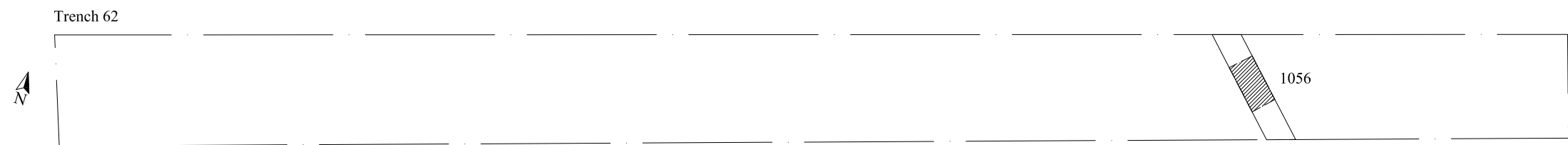
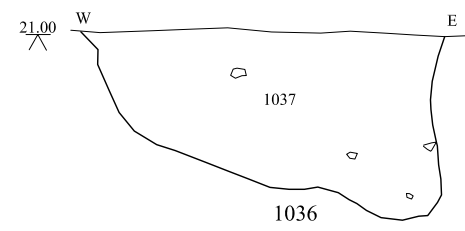
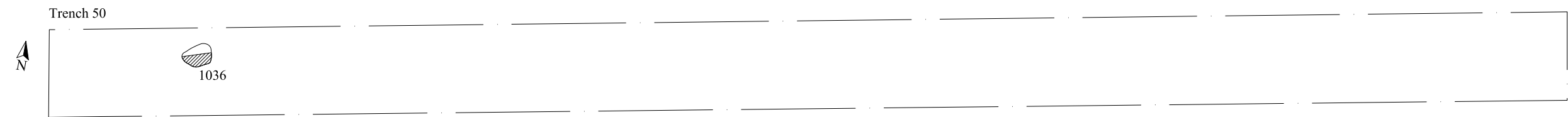
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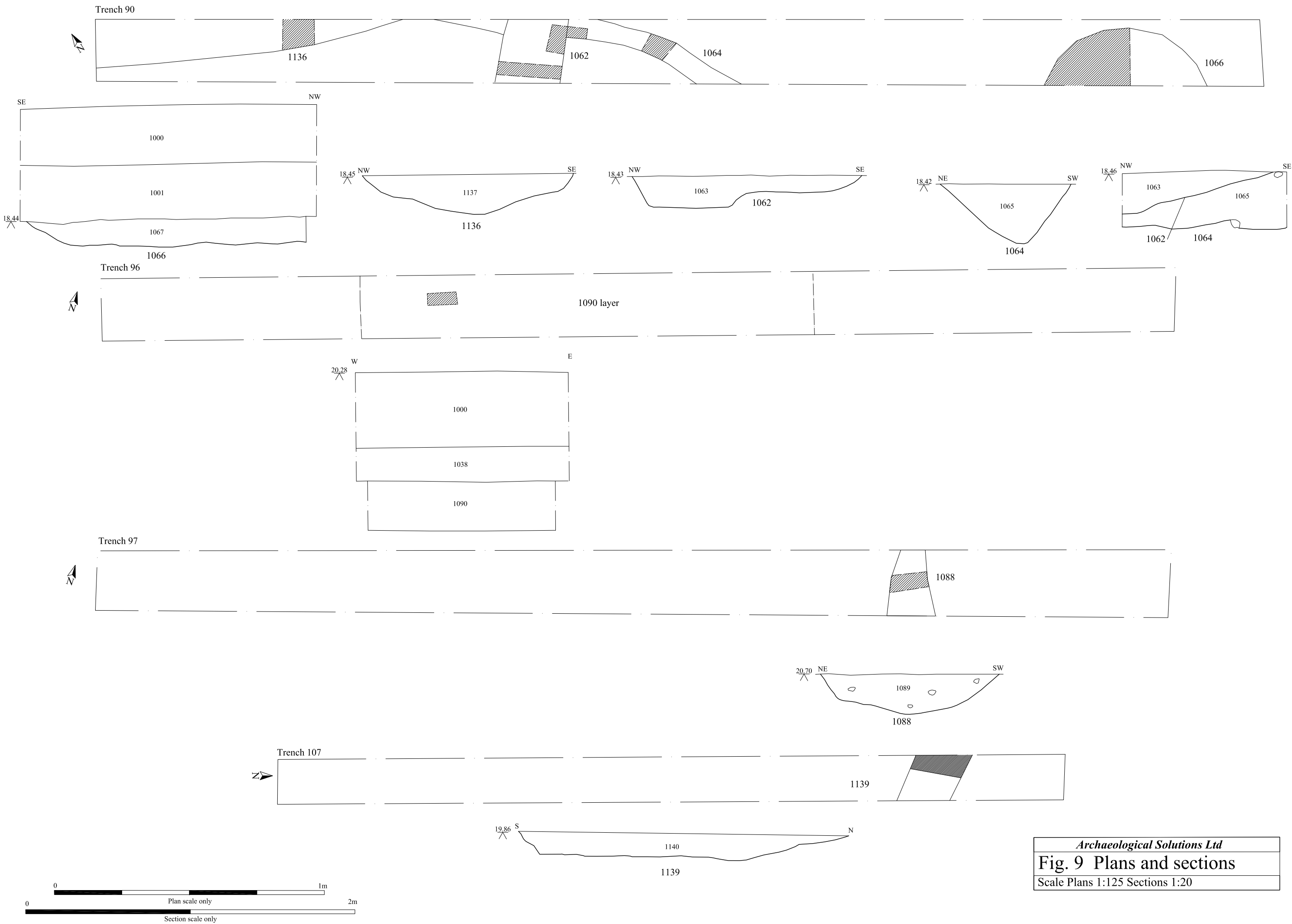
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Fig. 7 Plans and sections
Scale Plans 1:125 Sections 1:20



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Fig. 8 Plans and sections
 Scale Plans 1:125 Sections 1:20



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Fig. 9 Plans and sections
Scale Plans 1:125 Sections 1:20