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LAND AT POLLARDS WAY/ PRIORS HILL, PIRTON, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

HER Enquiry No. 312/14

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NGR: TL 1434 3171	Report No: 4821
District: North Herts	Site Code: AS 1740
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Between March and April 2015, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Pollards Way/ Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire. The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for residential development and was preceded by a geophysical survey, also conducted by AS. *The site occupies a landscape of known archaeological potential. Monuments and finds from the immediate area include a Bronze Age ring ditch and hoard, an extensive Romano-British settlement (including industrial evidence), numerous Anglo-Saxon/ medieval pottery scatters and a 12th century motte-and-bailey castle. The forerunning geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies of potential archaeological origin including a circular enclosure, a possible sub-circular feature and evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.* *In the event the trial trench evaluation identified a number of features, predominantly of Anglo-Saxon date. These included concentrations of postholes within Trenches 1, 2 and 19, a cluster of pits within the central area of Trench 19 and the inhumation burial of an adult male, also in Trench 19. Radiocarbon dating of the human remains produced a calibrated date range of 775-970 cal AD (95.4%) at 95.4% confidence. A discrete pit in Trench 6 contained a cattle burial; radiocarbon dating of the cattle bone produced a calibrated date range of 1384-1341 cal BC (10.7%) and 1308-1127 cal BC (84.7%) at 95.4% confidence. Discrete Anglo-Saxon features were also encountered, as were furrows associated with medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Overall, there was a reasonable correlation between the excavated features and anomalies identified by the forerunning geophysical survey.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*17/03/2015 - 01/04/2015*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*Y*	Site Code	*AS 1740*
P. number	*P6134*	Further work	*TBC*
Type of project	*Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Site status	*None*		
Current land use	*Agriculture*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Anglo-Saxon:* *Grave; ditches; pits; postholes* *Medieval:* *Ridge and furrow*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Prehistoric:* *Struck flint; pottery* *Roman:* *Pottery* *Anglo-Saxon:* *Pottery; human inhumation; animal bone* *Medieval:* *Pottery; animal bone* *Post-medieval:* *Pottery*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Hertfordshire*	*North Herts*	*Pirton*
ER/ SMR for area	*Hertfordshire HER*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*3.12ha*		
NGR	*TL 1434 3171*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c. 80/ 87m*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*HCC Historic Environment Unit*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Kerrie Bull*		
Funded by	*Court Homes Ltd*		
Full title	*Land at Pollards Way / Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Authors	*Bull, K.*		
Report no.	*4821*		
Date (of report)	*23 June 2015 (Revised 17/07/2015)*		

LAND AT POLLARDS WAY/ PRIORS HILL, PIRTON, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

Between March and April 2015, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Pollards Way/ Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire. The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for residential development and was preceded by a geophysical survey, also conducted by AS.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, highlighted as Area of Archaeological Significance 75 on the North Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan. This area encompasses evidence of Romano-British occupation and medieval settlement. Evidence of early Romano-British occupation has been found immediately adjacent to the current site, while the floor of a Roman building was excavated to the south east (HHER[1] 1478). Romano-British pit is known from Pirton School (HHER 17170) along with further Roman finds elsewhere in the village (HHERs 1474, 1475, 1477 and 1480).

Pirton was recorded at Domesday and contains two medieval Scheduled Ancient Monuments: the well-preserved earthworks of a motte and bailey castle and associated settlement (SM13612), and a moated site (SM20648); the current site lies between these monuments. Pirton is believed to have contracted from the 14th century, before expanding once more from the 17th/ 18th centuries.

*The forerunning geophysical survey of the site (*Baker *et al. 2015) identified a number of anomalies which appeared to be of archaeological origin. These included a possible prehistoric ring ditch/ enclosure and associated activity, a possible sub-circular feature and ditch, and evidence of medieval or later ridge and furrow cultivation. Further cut features and a possible trackway were also identified.*

In the event the trial trench evaluation identified a number of features, predominantly of Anglo-Saxon date. However, the earliest material from the site comprises two struck flints of ?Palaeolithic (or later) and Mesolithic date and a single sherd of later prehistoric pottery. Residual Romano-British pottery – possibly introduced via manuring processes or similar – was also recovered.

The Anglo-Saxon features – concentrated on the downward slope in the eastern and southern sectors of the site – included concentrations of postholes within Trenches 1, 2 and 19, a cluster of pits within the central area of Trench 19 and the inhumation burial of an adult male, also in Trench 19. Radiocarbon dating of the human remains produced a calibrated date range of 775-970 cal AD (95.4%) at 95.4% confidence. A discrete pit in Trench 6 contained a cattle burial; radiocarbon dating of the cattle bone produced a calibrated date range of 1384-1341 cal BC (10.7%) and 1308-1127 cal BC (84.7%) at 95.4% confidence. Discrete Anglo-Saxon features were also

[1] Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

encountered, as were furrows associated with medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Overall, there was a reasonable correlation between the excavated features and anomalies identified by the forerunning geophysical survey.

Evidence of the ring ditches/ enclosure ditches identified by the geophysical survey was encountered in Trenches 11 and 12. The features in question were not securely datable, although may have been of prehistoric origin based on their form and prominent location. They occupied the crest of the hill and would have commanded far reaching views across the valley floor to the north-east.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between March and April 2015, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Pollards Way/ Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1434 3171; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Court Homes Ltd and undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for residential development (NHDC Planning Ref. 14/03369/1), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU). The evaluation was preceded by a geophysical survey (Baker *et al.* 2015), also conducted by AS.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with advice issued by Kate Batt (HCC HEU) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 03/02/2015) and approved by HCC HEU. It adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2013),* and relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

Objectives

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation as set out in the specification were:

- to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it was important to establish the presence or absence of any activity associated with the known nearby Romano-British activity and the medieval activity within the village; and

- to provide an adequately detailed…report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental

benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 THE SITE

2.1 The village of Pirton is situated in north Hertfordshire, some 4km to the north-west of Hitchin and 7km west of Letchworth Garden City (Fig. 1). The site comprises a sub-square parcel of agricultural land (3.12ha) on the western side of the village, bounded by the residential streets of Pollards Way and Danefield Road to the east/ south-east (Fig. 2). The modern route of Priors Hill demarcates the site's south-western boundary, beyond which lies Hill Farm. A large grassy bank and hedge line form the north-western site boundary, beyond which lies further agricultural land. A continuation of this bank, now part of a footpath, defines the far north-eastern site boundary. The presence of the bank results in a significant drop in height between the current site and the neighbouring field, to the north-west.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Pirton is situated at the base of a moderately sloping valley, with the base aligned NW-SE along the line of Shillington Road/ Priors Hill/ Hitchin Road. The site is situated at *c*. 80-87m AOD[2], rising gradually to the north-east, with the slope continuing up at a moderate gradient to the north-east and rising steeply to the south-west (Fig. 1). Two springs are located *c*. 250m to the north-west of the site, while small watercourses rise to the north and south-east.

3.2 The site is underlain by a solid geology of Cretaceous Zig Zag Chalk Formation, possibly bordered by Totternhoe Stone Member Chalk Formation to the north-west. The local soils are shallow loamy and lime-rich.

[2] Above Ordnance Datum

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 The chalk landscape surrounding Pirton has provided only sparse evidence for Neolithic activity, including two poorly-located polished flint axes (HHER 1713-14), although four later Neolithic pits recorded *c*. 200m to the east (HHER 9780) suggest activity in this period has yet to be characterised. The landscape appears to have been more heavily exploited in the Bronze Age, with a ring ditch identified *c*. 400m to the south (HHER 6369), close to the location of a hoard including looped and socketed axes (HHER 553). Several other isolated finds of bronze axes have also been recovered by field-walking or metal-detecting in this vicinity (HHERs 554, 1716 and 6341) and represent related activity to the south-west of the modern village. Evidence for Iron Age activity is scarce, but includes possible Iron Age pot bases (i.e. HHER 1476), including a possible vessel from just within the south-eastern edge of the site (HHER 195); however, there is an element of doubt to the identification and dating of this vessel, which may actually relate to the subsequent Saxon development of the village.

Romano-British

4.2 Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site may have been widespread, with an extensive settlement recorded in Dane Field *c*. 500m to the west and extending towards Priors Hill (HHER 6978), including buildings, a kiln and metal-working debris, and potentially continuing into the 6th or 7th centuries. Supplementing this settlement, the floor of an early Romano-British building has been recorded *c*. 300m to the south-east (HHER 1478), while a Romano-British pit and ditch have been recorded immediately adjacent to the northern corner of the site (HHER 18649). Slightly further east, another pit and pottery have been recorded at the Primary School (HHERs 17170 and 1475); further sherds of pottery, a coin and spindlewhorl have been recorded elsewhere in the village (HHERs 1474, 1477 and 1480). The close proximity of evidence for Romano-British settlement contributes, along with the development of the medieval village, to the site being within Area of Archaeological Significance 75 on the North Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan.

Anglo-Saxon/ Medieval

4.3 The potential continuity of settlement from the Romano-British to Anglo-Saxon periods at Dane Field (HHER 6978), is a partial indicator of the settlement pattern at Pirton during the latter. Test-pitting across the village has plotted numerous scatters of Saxon and medieval pottery (HHER 16620) that suggest polyfocal settlement – probably a series of farmsteads rather than contiguous settlement – prior to the construction of the motte-and-bailey castle in the 12th century. Related to at least one such node of Anglo-Saxon settlement is a cemetery in Dane Field *c*. 600m to the west (HHERs 1621 and 197); investigations at Rectory Farm did not reveal a continuation of the cemetary (HHER 9684). However, ditches at Rectory Farm may relate to Anglo-Saxon settlement, a theory supported by the presence of a silver penny of Offa and a probable spearhead close to the south of the site (HHERs 9470 and 1620). Substantial evidence for another node of settlement and possibly the

beginning of the nucleation of Pirton has been recorded *c*. 250m to the east, where a Saxo-Norman cemetery, possible early church and other buildings were recorded (HHERs 9676-7 and 11409). A possible middle Saxon date has also been suggested for the large bank forming the north-western and far north-eastern boundaries of the current site (Batt *pers. comm.*); this interpretation is supported by finds of pottery unearthed by animal burrowing.

4.4 By the time of the Domesday Survey, a thriving manorial estate was held at Pirton by the Archbishop of Canterbury (HHER1487), and in the 12th century the centre of the village was formalised by the construction of a motte and bailey castle at Toot Hill *c*. 200m to the east (HHERs 32 and 12426). St Mary's Church was also constructed in the 12th century (HHER 4315), and substantial medieval remains including earthworks, ditches, pots and possible forerunners to farms have been recorded close to the motte-and-bailey to the east of the site (HHERs 9680, 746, 10549 and 12824). The closest remains are recorded *c*. 150m to the north on Burge End Lane (HHER 13752) and include St Neots ware pottery, indicating that the medieval extent of the village was greater than today. However, the village appears to have shrunk in the 14th century, potentially to no more than five clusters of farmsteads or cottages separated by greens, such as Great Green (HHER 12427). Many of the farmsteads in and around the village may have their origins in this period, including Rectory Farm *c*. 100m to the north-east, which was a moated site (HHER 2221 and 6302), and 15th/ 16th century timber-framed open hall houses *c*. 100m to the north on Shillington Road (HHERs 30146 and 14316). Other farms and houses around Pirton dating to this period include Walnut Tree Farm, Hammond's Farm, Elm Tree Farm and Three Gables (HHERs 15907, 6300, 4513, 16304 and 15903). These farms are frequently surrounded by cropmarks of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation associated with trackways and ditched enclosures, including around Rectory farm to the west of the site (HHERs 4715 and 15956). The location of the site between the nuclei of medieval settlement and the moated site of Rectory Farm contribute to the site being within Area of Archaeological Significance 75 on the North Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan.

Post-Medieval

4.5 The development of farms in and around Pirton continued into the 16th century, including Hill Farm to the south-west of the site (HHER 17683), of which only the house remains. In the early 17th century, numerous buildings were added to the village including a manor house *c*. 150m to the north-east (HER 154), although the bulk were in the shrunken nucleus of Pirton (i.e. HHERs 15905 and 13426), which no longer extended as far as the current site, or to farms to the north of the village (i.e. HHERs 15902 and 6301). Subsequent post-medieval development followed the same pattern with cottages and rubbish pits recorded *c*. 300m to the east (i.e. HHERs 17753 and 10894), with development only approaching the area east of the site in the later 19th century with the construction of Methodist and Baptist Chapels (HHERs 16667 and 17684).

The Geophysical Survey

4.6 A geophysical survey was conducted by AS (Baker *et al.* 2015; Fig. 3A); in summary:

The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies which appear to be of archaeological significance and may cover a range of occupation phases at the site. One large circular enclosure in the SW of the survey area (1) appears to indicate an area of prehistoric activity. The enclosure (1) displayed evidence of features within its interior. A very weak positive response (3) could represent a ditch and is tentatively suggested to be of archaeological origin, as could a further possible sub-circular feature (2), which could be archaeological in origin. Evidence of ridge and furrow (6) and a possible enclosure (7-8) could be of medieval origin, although later activity cannot be ruled out at this stage. The other in-filled cut features (4) and possible track way (5) are of indeterminate origin.

The good quality of the survey data indicates the site's geology was conducive to geophysical survey. However, areas of magnetic disturbance (10-11) may have masked archaeological features in the margins of the survey area.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Twenty trial trenches were excavated across the development area (Figs. 3A and 3B). The trenches were all 1.8m wide and most were 40m long; Trenches 18 and 19 were 9.50m and 57m long, respectively. Trench locations targeted anomalies identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (see above) and also 'blank' areas between anomalies (Fig. 3A. Trench 19 was widened in order to better understand the context of an encountered human inhumation burial.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a 360^{o} mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned and examined for archaeological features and finds. 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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3A-4)

Sample section 1A *0.00 = 75.66m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint
0.26m +	L1001	Natural. Very pale grey, firm, clayey silt with small angular and sub angular flint and sub-rounded chalk

Sample section 1B *0.00 = 78.73m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29m +	L1001	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained two parallel natural channels (F1020 and F1022), Gully F1024, Pit F1004 and Postholes F1006, F1008, F1010, F1012, F1014, F1016 and F1018. Pit F1004 contained animal bone and an iron fragment. Posthole F1018 contained mid 5th to 9th century pottery, while Posthole F1010 yielded CBM.

Trench 1 overlay linear geophysical anomalies Nos. 5 and 8 (Fig. 3A). Number 5, the ?trackway, was not apparent within the trench. However, No. 8 may tentatively equate to Gully F1024.

Postholes F1006, F1008, F1010, F1012, F1014, F1016 and F1018 are tabulated below. All were concentrated in the southern part of Trench 1, and may have related to postholes in Trenches 2 and 19. F1018 contained mid 5th to 9th century pottery (3g), while F1010 yielded CBM (168g).

Feature	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Finds
F1006	Sub-circular in plan (0.26 x 0.29 x 0.07m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1007: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1008	Sub-circular in plan (0.28 x 0.29 x 0.09m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1009: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1010	Sub-circular in plan (0.36 x 0.32 x 0.07m), with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	L1011: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	Cut fill of Posthole F1012	CBM (168g)
F1012	Sub-circular in plan (0.39 x 0.34 x 0.10m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1013: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	Cut by Posthole F1010	None
F1014	Sub-circular in plan (0.30 x 0.31 x 0.08m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1015: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1016	Sub-circular (0.43 x 0.39 x 0.19m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1017: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1018	Sub-circular (0.50 x 0.48 x 0.20m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1019: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	Mid 5th - 9th C pottery (1; 3g)

Natural channel F1020 was linear in plan (3.40+ x 0.35 x 0.23m), orientated north-east/ south-west. It had steep sides and an uneven base. Its fill (L1021) was a compact, orange brown chalky clay with small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. Fill L1021 was cut by Gully F1024.

Natural channel F1022 was linear in plan (3.20+ x 0.20 x 0.16m), orientated north-east/ south-west. It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1023) was compact, orange brown chalky clay with small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. Fill F1023 was cut by Gully F1024.

Gully F1024 was linear in plan (2.30+ x 0.53 x 0.08m), orientated north-west/ south-east. It had shallow gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1025) was a firm, light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. F1024 cut the fills of Natural Channels F1020 and F1022.

Pit F1004 was sub-circular in plan (1.50 x 0.45 x 0.33m) with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1005) was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained animal bone (702g), a small Fe fragment (14g) and egg shell (1g).

Trench 2 (Figs. 3A-4)

Sample section 2A *0.00 = 76.52m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.35m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 2B *0.00 = 77.11m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.40m	L1002	Subsoil. Pale brown grey, firm, clayey silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint
0.40m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Ditches F1056, F1058 and F1060, Gullies F1034 and F1052, Pits F1026, F1028, F1042 and F1054, and Postholes F1030, F1032, F1036, F1038, F1040, F1044, F1046, F1048 and F1050 were recorded in Trench 2. Pit F1054 contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-9th century) pottery, and Ditch F1058 contained 18th-19th century pottery. The remaining features were undated.

Trench 2 examined an area of magnetic disturbance. Numerous features were revealed which had not been previously apparent (Fig. 3A).

Gully F1034 was linear in plan (1.31+ x 0.35 x 0.15m), orientated north-west/ south-east. It had moderately steep sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1035) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. Fill L1035 was cut by Pit F1054.

Gully F1052 was linear in plan (1.12+ x 0.36 x 0.15m), orientated north-west/ south-east. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1053) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1056 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.92 x 0.13m), orientated north-west/ south-east. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1057) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1058 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.00 x 0.11m), orientated north-west/ south-east. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1059) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained 18th-19th century pottery (19g) and CBM (26g).

Ditch F1060 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.17 x 0.14m), orientated north-west/ south-east. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1061) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

The encountered pits are tabulated below. They were sub-circular/ elongated in plan with broadly homogenous mid brown grey chalky clay fills. No finds were present with the exception of Pit F1054 which contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-9th century) pottery and animal bone.

Feature	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Finds
F1026	Elongated in plan (0.96 x 0.29 x 0.10m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave uneven base.	L1027: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1028	Sub-circular in plan (0.48+ x 0.64 x 0.16m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1029: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1042	Elongated in plan (0.75+ x 0.51 x 0.19m), with moderately sloping uneven sides and a concave base.	L1043: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1054	Sub-circular in plan (1.35 x 0.67+ x 0.65m), with steep sides with a concave base.	L1055: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. Contained a small chalk lens mid way down and occasional charcoal flecks.	Cut fill of Gully F1034	Mid 5th- 9th C pottery (1; 1g); animal bone (7g)

The encountered postholes are tabulated below. The majority were sub-circular in plan, of similar dimensions and profiles; with broadly homogenous mid brown grey chalky clay fills. All lacked finds with the exception of F1038 which contained animal bone.

Feature	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Finds
F1030	Sub-circular in plan (0.28 x 0.27 x 0.12m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1031: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1032	Sub-circular in plan (0.22 x 0.22 x 0.14m), with steep sides and a flattish base.	L1033: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1036	Sub-circular in plan (0.25 x 0.30 x 0.16m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1037: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1038	Sub-circular in plan (0.36 x 0.32 x 0.16m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1039: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and occasional charcoal flecks.	NA	Animal bone (56g)
F1040	Sub-circular in plan (0.45 x 0.41 x 0.15m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1041: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1044	Sub-circular in plan (0.24 x 0.19 x 0.11m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1045: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1046	Sub-circular in plan (0.34 x 0.30 x 0.12m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1047: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1048	Sub-circular in plan (0.34 x 0.25 x 0.08m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1049: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1050	Sub-circular in plan (0.42 x 0.36 x 0.10m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1050: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None

Trench 3 (Figs. 3A-B and 5)

Sample section 3A *0.00 = 77.36m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.27 – 0.35m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.35m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 3B *0.00 = 76.77m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Gullies F1087 and F1093, and Pits F1089 and F1091 were recorded in Trench 3. None of the features were datable.

Trenches 3 and 7 were placed to examine geophysical anomalies (No. 4) but did not directly overlie these anomalies (Fig. 3A). Nonetheless archaeological features were present.

Gully F1087 was curvilinear in plan (2.40+ x 0.30 x 0.06m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1088) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Gully F1093 was linear in plan (2.90+ x 0.30 x 0.07m), orientated south-west/ north-east. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1094) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Pit F1089 was sub-circular in plan (1.31+ x 0.96 x 0.20m). It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill (L1090) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained animal bone (5g) and slag (211g).

Pit F1091 was sub-circular in plan (0.86+ x 0.77 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1092) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained animal bone (34g).

Trench 4 (Figs. 3A-B and 5)

Sample section 4A *0.00 = 76.51m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31 – 0.49m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.49m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 4B *0.00 = 77.03m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained Pit F1078 and Ditch F1080. The latter ran parallel to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 3A). Both features contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery. Ditch F1080 also contained a residual sherd of Roman pottery. Sections of Ditch F1080 were also recorded in Trenches 6-8, 10-11 and 18; in no instance was a perfect correlation with the geophysical data noted. A possible beam slot (not numbered) was observed in section.

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan (*c.* 2.00+ x 1.15 x 0.43m), orientated north-east/ south-west. This feature was also recorded in Trenches 6-8, 10-11 and 18, and appeared to run parallel to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (Baker *et al.* 2015; Fig. 3A). It likely represented a boundary ditch, approximately 100m+ in total length. In all of the excavated slots, F1080 displayed moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1081) was a mid brown grey, firm, chalky

clay with occasional, small sub-rounded to sub-angular stone and flint. Within Trench 4 it contained mid 5th-7th century pottery (1; 7g). The excavated slots in Trenches 6, 7, 11 and 18 jointly yielded Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery (7; 43g), CBM (258g), animal bone (543g) and oyster shell (1g). This feature also yielded a residual sherd of Roman pottery.

Pit F1078 was elongated in plan (1.65 x 0.58 x 0.43m) with near vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1079) was a firm, mid to dark brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained mid 5th-7th century pottery (1; 4g).

A possible, square-cut beam slot was observed in section (precise location not recorded). This feature was not visible in plan and was not fully recorded on site. No additional 'structural' features were encountered and the interpretation of this feature as a beam slot remains tentative.

Trench 5 (Figs.3A-B and 5)

Sample section 5A *0.00 = 76.99m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.28 – 0.36m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.36m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 5B *0.00 = 76.41m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.38m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.38m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 5 contained dated Pit F1084.

Trench 5 was positioned to examine a 'blank' area lacking geophysical anomalies (Fig. 3A). A single undated pit (F1084) was encountered.

Pit F1084 was sub-circular in plan (0.67m x 0.62m x 0.28m). It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills. Primary Fill L1085 was a dark brown/ black, firm, silty clay. Uppermost Fill L1086 was a compact, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional, small, sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 6 (Figs. 3A-B and 6)

Sample section 6A *0.00 = 77.63m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.25 – 0.37m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.36m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 6B *0.00 = 77.12m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.38m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.38m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 6 contained Ditch F1080 which ran parallel to an anomaly identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Fig. 3A). A cattle burial (Pit F1105) and three undated pits (F1099, F1101 and F1103) were also present.

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan. This feature is described above (see Trench 4).

Pit F1105 was elongated in plan (1.15+ x 1.30 x 0.39m). It had moderately sloping to steep sides and a concave, uneven base. Its fill (L1106) was a firm, light to mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained an articulated cattle skeleton (6281g; See Cussans (Appendix 2)). Radiocarbon dating of the cattle bone produced a calibrated date range of 1384-1341 cal BC (10.7%) and 1308-1127 cal BC (84.7%) at 95.4% confidence (see Mustchin (Appendix 2)).

The remaining (undated) pits are tabulated below. F1099, F1101 and F1103 all contained homogenous, light grey brown chalky clay fills.

Feature	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Finds
F1099	Sub-circular in plan (0.43+ x 0.72 x 0.13m), with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	L1100: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	N/A	None
F1101	Sub-circular in plan (0.95+ x 1.45 x 0.35m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1102: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	N/A	None
F1103	Sub-circular in plan (1.24+ x 1.72+ x 0.24m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1104: Firm, light grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	N/A	None

Trench 7 (Figs. 3A-B and 6)

Sample section 7A *0.00 = 77.79m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.25m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 7B *0.00 = 77.31m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 7 contained Posthole F1107, Pit F1109, Gully F1111 and Ditch F1080. The latter ran parallel to an anomaly identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Fig. 3A). F1080 and F1107 yielded Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Trenches 3 and 7 were positioned to examine geophysical anomalies (No. 4) but did not directly overlie these anomalies (Fig.3). Nonetheless archaeological features were present.

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan. This feature is described above (see Trench 4).

Gully F1111 was linear in plan (2.80+ x 0.34 x 0.07m) and orientated north-east/ south-west. It had shallow, moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1112) was a firm, mid brown grey, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Pit F1109 was sub-circular in plan (1.20+ x 1.50 x 0.10m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1110) was a firm, light to mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Posthole F1107 was sub-circular in plan (0.57 x 0.27 x 0.52m). It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1108) was a firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained mid 5th-6th century pottery (3; 37g) and animal bone (8g). Posthole F1107 was not found in association with any other postholes but, given its depth, is likely to have had a structural function; other postholes may exist in the near vicinity.

Trench 8 (Figs. 3A and 7)

Sample section 8 *0.00 = 77.31m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.28 – 0.39m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.39m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 8 contained Ditch F1080 ran parallel to an anomaly identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Fig. 3A) and was also recorded in Trenches 4, 6-7, 10-11 and 18. It contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery.

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan. This feature is described above (see Trench 4).

Trench 9 (Figs. 3A and 7)

Sample section 9A *0.00 =79.09 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.33 – 0.55m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.55m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 9B *0.00 = 79.49 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.33m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.33m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 9 contained Pit F1095 and Ditch F1097. Both features were devoid of finds.

Trenches 9 and 14-16 were located to examine geophysical anomalies (No. 6) which were interpreted as possible ridge and furrow (Fig. 3A).

Pit F1095 was sub-circular in plan (0.45+ x 0.40 x 0.24m). It had steep, irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1096) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1097 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.88 x 0.25m), aligned east/ west. It had irregular, moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1098) was a firm, mid red grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints and chalk nodules. It contained no finds. F1097 may have been a cultivation furrow.

Trench 10 (Figs. 3A and 7)

Sample section 10A *0.00 = 79.86m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29 – 0.37m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.36m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 10B *0.00 = 79.01m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Natural Channels F1157, F1159, F1161, F1163 and F1165 were recorded in the southernmost part of Trench 10. The trench also contained Pit F1115, and Ditches F1113 and F1080. The latter ran parallel to an anomaly identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Fig. 3A) and was also recorded in Trenches 4, 6-8, 11 and 18. Its fill (L1081) yielded Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery. The remaining features were undated.

Trench 10 was located to examine geophysical anomalies (Nos. 9 (?palaeochannel) and 7 (a ditch) (Fig.3A)). Ditch F1113 was aligned with anomaly No. 9.

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan. This feature is described above (see Trench 4).

Ditch F1113 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.10 x 0.51m), aligned south-east/ north-west. It had moderately sloping to steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1114) was a firm, mid red grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Pit F1115 was irregular in plan (1.00+ x 0.87 x 0.29m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1116) was a loose, mid orange grey, chalky clay with moderate amounts of small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. The feature was likely of natural origin (possibly a tree hollow).

The natural channels are tabulated below. They were all linear in plan and located in the southern end of Trench 10. The channels ran parallel to one another (aligned north-west/ south-east) and all contained broadly similar deposits of naturally-accumulated coarse, compact chalky clay with sub-angular flints. F1159 contained animal bone.

Feature	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Finds
F1157	Linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.26 x 0.17m), orientated north-west/south-east with steep sides and a concave base.	L1158: Compact, mid orange brown chalky clay with moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular flints.	NA	None
F1159	Linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.72 x 0.10m), orientated north-west/south-east with steep sides and a flattish base.	L1160: Compact, mid orange brown chalky clay with moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular flints.	NA	Animal bone (483g)
F1161	Linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.20 x 0.20m), orientated north-west/south-east with steep sides and a flattish base.	L1162: Compact, mid orange brown chalky clay with moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular flints.	NA	None
F1163	Linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.69 x 0.17m), orientated north-west/south-east with steep sides and a flattish uneven base.	L1164: Compact, mid orange brown chalky clay with moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular flints.	NA	None
F1165	Linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.17 x 0.17m) orientated north-west/south-east with steep sides and a flattish base.	L1166: Compact, mid orange brown chalky clay with moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular flints.	NA	None

Trench 11 (Figs.3A-B and 8)

Sample section 11A *0.00 = 78.83m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 11B *0.00 = 80.23 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 11 contained Ring Ditch F1145; in the northern part of the trench, this feature aligned with the northern circuit of a geophysical anomaly (No. 1; Fig. 3A). Gully F1141, and Ditches F1080, F1139 and F1143 were also present. Ditch F1080 ran parallel to an anomaly identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Fig. 3A) and was also recorded in Trenches 4, 6-8, 10 and 18. It contained Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery. Gully F1141 and Ditch F1139 contained post-medieval CBM. The latter appeared to align with the central circuit of geophysical anomaly No. 1 (Fig. 3A).

Trench 11 was located to examine the possible enclosure (geophysical anomaly No. 1).

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan. This feature is described above (see Trench 4).

Ring Ditch F1145 was aligned with the northern circuit of geophysical anomaly No. 1 (Fig. 3A). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained three fills. Primary Fill L1146 was a firm, slightly leached light brown grey chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. No finds were present. Secondary Fill L1147 was only present in Slot A, and comprised firm, mid to dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained animal bone (199g). Uppermost Fill L1148 was a firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1143 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.84 x 0.14m), aligned east/ west. It was shallow with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1144) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Gully F1141 was linear in plan (2.25+ x 0.36 x 0.10m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1142) was a firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained post-medieval CBM (180g).

Ditch F1139 was curvilinear in plan (2.00+ x 0.71 x 0.16m) orientated east/ west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1140) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained post-medieval CBM (216g). The position of Ditch F1139 appeared to correspond to the central circuit of a curvilinear positive anomaly (No. 1) recorded during the geophysical survey (Fig. 3A).

Trench 12 (Figs. 3A-B and 8)

Sample section 12A *0.00 = 78.67m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 12B *0.00 = 77.74m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.27m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.27m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 12 contained Ring Ditch F1119 which lay just to the north of a curvilinear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Fig. 3A). The southernmost part of F1119 had been re-cut (F1155). It contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-9th century) pottery. Posthole F1137, Ditch/ Furrow F1123 and Plough Scar

F1121 were also recorded. F1123 contained medieval (13th-14th century) pottery, and a residual sherd of Roman pottery.

Trench 12 was located to examine a possible enclosure (geophysical anomaly No. 2; Fig. 3A). Ditch F1119 was found just to the north of this anomaly, while F1121 and F1123 were aligned with the latter but were significantly narrower in plan.

Posthole F1137 was sub-circular in plan (0.51 x 0.40 x 0.16m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1138) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ring Ditch F1119 was curvilinear in plan with a diameter of approximately 2.45m. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1120) comprised firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained mid 5th-9th century pottery (1; 4g) and animal bone (5g). The northern part of F1119 lay immediately north of a curvilinear anomaly (No. 2) identified by the forerunning geophysical survey. The southern section of the ring ditch was re-cut (F1155). The fill of F1155 (L1156) was a firm, leached, light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Plough Scar F1121 was linear in plan (2.4+ x 0.15 x 0.10m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1122) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with sparse small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. F1121 cut the fill of Ditch/ Furrow F1123. These features were aligned with the northern section of geophysical anomaly No. 2 (Fig. 3A) but were significantly narrower in plan.

Ditch/ Furrow F1123 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 0.63 x 0.12m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1124) was a firm, light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained medieval (13th-14th century) pottery (2; 4g). It also contained a residual sherd of Roman pottery. Plough Scar F1121 cut the fill of F1123. These features were aligned with the northern section of geophysical anomaly No. 2 (Fig. 3A) but were significantly narrower in plan.

Trench 13 (Figs. 3A-B and 9)

Sample section 13A *0.00 = 76.91m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.51m	L1003	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.51m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 13B *0.00 = 75.83m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 13 contained undated Postholes F1125 and F1127, and a natural hollow (F1129). All were devoid of finds.

Trench 13 was located to examine geophysical anomaly No. 3 (a possible curvilinear ditch; Fig. 3A). The anomaly was not identified within the excavated trench.

Posthole F1125 was sub-circular in plan (0.27 x 0.26 x 0.10m) with steep, irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1126) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Posthole F1127 was sub-circular in plan (0.26 x 0.29 x 0.12m) with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1128) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

F1129 comprised a large, shallow hollow at the north-eastern end of the trench (8.80 x 2.00+ x 0.07m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1130) was a firm, mid brown grey, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds and is thought to have been a natural feature.

Trench 14 (Figs. 3A-B and 9)

Sample section 14A *0.00 = 77.12m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.33m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1

Sample section 14B *0.00 = 78.69m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Ditches F1149, F1151 and F1153, Gully F1131 and Postholes F1133 and F1135 were recorded in Trench 14. Ditch F1151 contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery.

Trenches 9 and 14-16 were positioned to examine linear geophysical anomalies (No. 6), interpreted as possible ridge and furrow (Fig. 3A). Ditches F1149 and F1151 respected two of the surveyed alignments, while Ditch F1153 ran parallel to a third part of the anomaly, immediately to the north-west.

Ditch F1149 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.39 x 0.09m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1150) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1151 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 2.10 x 0.12m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1152) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained mid 5th-7th century pottery (1; 8g).

Ditch F1153 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.20 x 0.12m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had gently sloping, irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1154) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained no finds.

Gully F1131 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.45 x 0.03m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1132) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Posthole F1133 was sub-circular in plan (0.54 x 0.45 x 0.07m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1134) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Posthole F1135 was sub-circular in plan (0.44 x 0.35 x 0.07m). It had gently sloping, irregular sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1136) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Trench 15 (Figs. 3A-B and 9)

Sample section 15A *0.00 = 74.72m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.34m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.34m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 15B *0.00 = 77.01m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 15 contained undated Posthole F1082, and a build-up of ploughsoil (F1068/ L1069) adjacent to the site's north-western boundary and an extant hedge (also recorded in Trench 16).

Trenches 9 and 14-16 were positioned to examine geophysical anomalies (No. 6), interpreted as possible ridge and furrow (Fig. 3A). Ploughsoil F1068/ L1069 lay a short distance to the north-west of a surveyed alignment.

Built-up Ploughsoil F1068/ L1069 was recorded in the north-western end of the trench (4.0+ x 2.0+ x 0.15m) and is fully described below (see Trench 16).

Posthole F1082 was sub-circular in plan (0.35 x 0.29 x 0.17m) with moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1083) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Trench 16 (Figs. 3A-B and 10)

Sample section 16A *0.00 = 74.71m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.52m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.52m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 16B *0.00 = 76.38m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30 +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 16 contained Posthole F1062, Gully F1064 and Ditch F1066. The latter contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery and a residual sherd of Roman pottery. A build-up of ploughsoil (F1068/ L1069) was encountered in the north-western part of the trench, adjacent to the site's north-western boundary and an extant hedge (also recorded in Trench 15).

Trenches 9 and 14-16 were positioned to examine geophysical anomalies (No. 6), interpreted as possible ridge and furrow (Fig. 3A). Within Trench 16, Ploughsoil F1068/ L1069 corresponded to a surveyed alignment.

Posthole F1062 was sub-circular in plan (0.25 x 0.18 x 0.18m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1063) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Gully F1064 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.33 x 0.06m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had shallow, gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1065) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1066 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.92 x 0.16m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had irregular moderately sloping sides and an irregular/ concave base. Its fill (L1167) was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery (3; 12g) and animal bone (1g). It also contained a residual Roman pottery sherd.

Ploughsoil (F1068/ L1069) was recorded in the north-western end of the trench (5.72+ x 2.0+ x 0.61m). It lay adjacent to the site's north-western boundary and an extant hedge; this parallel build-up of soil may indicate that the existing boundary is of some age. The soil was also visible in Trench 15, to the south-west. L1069 was a firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained medieval (13th-14th century) pottery (14; 92g), CBM (56g) animal bone (181g) and Fe fragments (3; 15g). Within Trench 16, the ploughsoil was aligned with part of geophysical anomaly No. 6 (Fig. 3A).

Trench 17 (Figs. 3A-B and 10)

Sample section 17A *0.00 = 76.12m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.37m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.37m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 17B *0.00 = 76.69 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Four undated postholes (F1070, F1072, F1074 and F1076) were recorded at the north-western end of Trench 17. None contained finds.

Trench 17 was positioned to examine a 'blank' area between surveyed geophysical anomalies (Fig. 3A).

The encountered postholes are tabulated below. They were broadly similar and contained homogenous, sterile mid brown grey, chalky clay fills.

Feature	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Relationships	Finds
F1070	Sub-circular in plan (0.34 x 0.26 x 0.15m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1071: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1072	Sub-circular in plan (0.42 x 0.40 x 0.18m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1073: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1074	Sub-circular in plan (0.36 x 0.32 x 0.10m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	L1075: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None
F1076	Sub-circular in plan (0.4 x 0.37 x 0.17m), with steep sides and a concave base.	L1077: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	None

Trench 18 (Figs 3A-B and 10)

Sample section 18A *0.00 = 78.34m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 18B *0.00 = 78.29 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.18m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 18 revealed a large undated pit, F1117, and a continuation of Ditch F1080. The latter ran parallel to an anomaly identified by the forerunning geophysical survey (Fig. 3A) and was also recorded in Trenches 4, 6-8 and 10-11. It contained Saxon (mid 5th-7th century) pottery. Trench 18 also overlay geophysical anomaly No. 4 (Fig. 3A); excavated Pit F1117 corresponded to the location of this anomaly but was much smaller in plan.

Ditch F1080 was linear in plan. This feature is described above (see Trench 4).

Pit F1117 was irregular in plan (5.3+ x 0.94+ x 0.37m) with irregular, moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1118) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained animal bone (17g) and struck flint (2; 13g). The position of this feature corresponded to the position of a surveyed geophysical anomaly (No. 4; Fig. 3A). F1117 was significantly smaller in plan, however.

Trench 19 (Figs. 3A-B and 11-13)

Sample section 19A *0.00 = 74.80 AOD*		
0.00 – 035m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 19B *0.00 = 77.00 AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 19 overlay geophysical anomalies (Nos. 4, 5 and 8; Fig.3), and was extended to better understand the context of a human inhumation burial encountered within the central part of the trench (F1240; SK1). The surveyed anomalies labelled No. 4 very loosely corresponded to clustered pits within the central, extended part of Trench 19. Anomaly Nos. 5 partly intersected with excavated Ditch F1167 in the northern part of the trench and was on the same alignment.

A large number of inter cutting pits were recorded within Trench 19 (F1226, F1228, F1230, F1236, F1238, F1243, F1250, F1252, F1254), some of which yielded Anglo-Saxon pottery (see below). Anglo-Saxon Grave F1240 formed part of this feature 'cluster' and contained the inhumation burial of an adult male. Nine additional pits (F1169, F1195, F1197, F1200, F1224, F1232, F1234, F1245 and F1257) and five ditches (F1167, F1171, F1173, F1220 and F1222) were also recorded. A pit (F1202) and four postholes (F1214, F1216, F1218 and F1247) were located within the southern end of trench. Pit F1202 contained a comparatively large assemblage (10 sherds) of Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Of the clustered pits, F1197, F1228, F1232, F1234, F1240, F1250 and F1254 all yielded Anglo-Saxon pottery. The larger assemblages were from F1197 (30 sherds), F1228 (6 sherds) and F1234 (5 sherds); Grave F1240 contained nine sherds. The remaining pits within the cluster contained sparse pottery, some of which appears

residual/ intrusive, e.g. Pit F1197 contained a single (residual) sherd of later prehistoric pottery.

Grave F1240 was sub-oval in plan (2.10m x 1.32 x 0.30m+), orientated north-west/ south-east. It had steep sides and a flattish base. It contained three fills. Primary Fill L1249 comprised firm, pale brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, and small chalk nodules. It contained no finds. Secondary Fill L1241 was a compact, coarse mid orange brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. The inhumation burial (SK1) directly overlay this deposit. L1241 contained mid 7th-9th century pottery (9; 23g), animal bone (17g), fired clay (82g) and shell (1g). Uppermost Fill L1242 stratigraphically sealed SK1 and comprised firm, brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds. Grave F1240 cut Pit Fills L1229 (F1228) and L1237 (F1236) and its uppermost fill (L1242) was truncated by Pit F1238.

The skeleton (SK1; see Anderson (Appendix 2)) is that of an adult male. It was found in an extended, supine position – aligned NW-SE along the north-eastern edge of the grave cut – with the arms extended to the sides and the head to the north-west. The skull was facing upwards and slightly to the right. The bones of the right hand lay partially across the proximal right femur (Fig. 13). Radiocarbon dating of the human remains produced a calibrated date range of 775-970 cal AD (95.4%) at 95.4% confidence (see Mustchin (Appendix 2)).

The encountered pits are tabulated below:

Feature	***Plan/ Profile (dimensions)***	***Fill***	***Relationships***	***Finds***
F1169	Sub-circular in plan (2.13+ x 1.16m x 0.08m) with gently sloping sides with an uneven base	L1170: Compact, light brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut by F1171	CBM (6g)
F1195	Sub-circular in plan (0.75+ x 0.95+ x 0.55+m) with moderately sloping to steep sides with a concave base	L1196: Firm, very light grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut by F1197	Mid 5th-9th C pottery (1; 3g)
F1197	Sub-circular in plan (1.98 x 2.18+ x 0.68m), with irregular sides and an irregular base	L1198 (basal): Firm, mid to dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut fill of F1195; cut by F1200	Mid 5th-7th C pottery (21; 62g); animal bone (1g)
		L1199 (upper): Firm, light to mid grey brown mottled chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints		Mid 5th-7th C pottery (9; 71g); animal bone (6g); oyster shell (1g)
F1200	Sub-circular in plan (1.01 x 1.24 x 0.22m), with gently sloping	L1201: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and	Cut F1197	CBM (36g)

	sides and an uneven base	medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints		
F1224	Sub-circular in plan (0.95 x 1.30 x 0.17m), with gently sloping sides and a concave base	L1225: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay	Cut fill of F1173; cut by F1257	Fe fragment (5g); Fe nail (5g); fired clay (21g)
F1226	Sub-circular in plan (2.15 x 2.7 x 0.15+m). Recorded in plan only	L1227: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	Cut fill of F1238	Fired clay (29g)
F1228	Sub-circular in plan (1.02+ x 1.15+ x 0.11m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1229: Firm, mid to dark grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints with very occasional charcoal flecks.	Cut by F1240, F1238 and F1230	6th-7th C pottery (6; 30g)
F1230	Sub-circular in plan (c.4.50 x 4.10+ x 0.32m), with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base	L1231: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut F1250 and F1228; cut by F1238 and F1252	Post-medieval pottery (2; 14g); CBM (11g); animal bone (114g)
F1232	Sub-circular in plan (1.23 x 1.07 x 0.15m), with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base	L1233: Firm, mid to dark brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut by F1234	Mid 5th-9th C pottery (1; 22g)
F1234	Sub-circular in plan (1.10 x 0.96 x 0.21m), with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base	L1235: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints with occasional charcoal flecks	Cut F1232	Mid 5th-7th C (5; 27g); animal bone (18g)
F1236	Sub-circular in plan (0.8+ x 2.95+ x 0.28m+), with moderately sloping sides with a concave base	L1237: Firm, leached pale brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints with occasional charcoal flecks	Cut by F1238 and F1240	Animal bone
F1238	Sub-circular in plan (5.12 x 4.77 x 0.53m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1239: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints with occasional charcoal flecks	Cut F1228, F1230, F1236, F1240 and F1243; cut by F1226	Medieval (13th-15th C pottery (8g); animal bone (277g)
F1243	Sub-circular in plan (1.01 x 1.24 x 0.22m), with steep sides and a concave base	L1244: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut by F1238	-
F1245	Sub-rectangular in plan (1.31 x 0.62 x 0.07m), with moderately sloping sides and a	L1246: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and	NA	-

	concave base	sub-rounded flints		
F1250	Sub-circular in plan (1.38+ x 1.66 x 0.23+m), with steep sides and an uneven base	L1251: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints with occasional charcoal flecks	Cut by F1230	Mid 7th-9th C pottery (11; 111g); animal bone (159g)
F1252	Sub-circular in plan (2.87 x 1.86 x 0.48m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1253: Firm, mid grey brown chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut F1230 and F1250; cut by F1254	15th-16th C pottery (2; 11g); animal bone (8g)
F1254	Sub-circular in plan (2.90 x 2.06 x 0.51m), with moderate - steep sides and a concave base	L1255 (basal): Firm, mid brown grey mottled chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut F1252	Mid 7th-9th C pottery (3; 51g)
		L1256 (upper): Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints		-
F1257	Sub-circular in plan (1.00 x 0.80 x 0.10m), with shallow moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1258: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut F1224	-

The pit and postholes at the southern end of the trench are tabulated below. They were all broadly similar in size, profile and in the composition of their fills. Pit F1202 contained a comparatively large group of Anglo-Saxon (mid 5th-9th century) pottery (10; 123g).

Feature	***Plan/ Profile (dimensions)***	***Fill***	***Relationships***	***Finds***
Pit F1202	Sub-circular in plan (0.50 x 0.45 x 0.22m), with steep sides and a concave base	L1203: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	M 5th-9th C pottery (10; 123g)
F1214	Sub-circular in plan (0.20 x 0.44 x 0.14m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1215: Firm, light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	NA	-
F1216	Sub-circular in plan (0.22 x 0.17 x 0.10m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1217: Firm, light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	-
F1218	Sub-circular in plan (0.26 x 0.22 x 0.13m), with steep sides and a flattish base	L1219: Firm, light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	-
F1247	Sub-circular in plan (0.41 x 0.47 x 0.11m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1248: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	-

The ditches are tabulated below. The ditches were set *c.* 3m apart and were broadly similar in plan and profile. They all contained homogenous fills and all yielded post-medieval pottery. They may, at least in part, represent the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation. Ditch F1167 partially intersected with part of geophysical anomaly No. 5 (Fig. 3A).

Feature	***Plan/ Profile (dimensions)***	***Fill***	***Relationships***	***Finds***
F1167	Linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.98 x 0.11m), orientated north-west/south-east, with gently sloping sides with a concave base	L1068: Compact, light brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	Post-medieval CBM (70g); Fe nail (4g)
F1171	Linear in plan (5.5+ x 1.00 x 0.09m), orientated south-east/north-west, with gentle sloping sides and a concave base	L1172: Compact, light brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut Pit F1169	CBM (32g)
F1173	Linear in plan (17.75+ x 1.14 x 0.09m), orientated south-east/north-west, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	L1174: Compact, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, with occasional charcoal flecks	Cut by Pit F1224	Post-medieval pottery (1; 16g)
F1220	Linear in plan (2.0+ x 2.3 x 0.17m), orientated south-east/north-west, with irregular sides and a flattish base	L1221: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and occasional charcoal flecks	Parallel to F1222.	CBM (36g); Fe nail (4g)
F1222	Linear in plan (2.0+ x 1.01 x 0.13m), orientated south-east/north-west, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1223: Firm, mid brown grey chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Parallel to F1220	6^{th}-7^{th} C pottery (1; 21g); CBM (78g)

Trench 20 (Figs. 3A and 14)

Sample section 20A *0.00 = 77.15m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.33m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.33m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 20B *0.00 = 76.78m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.46m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2
0.46m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 20 contained Gully F1204, Stakehole F1210, six postholes (F1175, F1177, F1179, F1187, F1189 and F1193) and five pits (F1185, F1191, F1206, F1208, F1212). Posthole F1193 and Pit F1185 both contained Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Like Trenches 5 and 17, Trench 20 was located to examine a 'blank' area between geophysical anomalies (Fig. 3A). A relatively large number of archaeological features were recorded in this instance.

Gully F1204 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.56 x 0.16m), aligned north-east/ south-west. It had irregular sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1205) was a compact, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Stakehole F1210 was sub-circular in plan (0.30 x 0.15 x 0.14m). It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill (L1211) was a firm, mid to dark brown grey, chalky clay with very occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

The encountered postholes are tabulated below:

Feature	***Plan/ Profile (dimensions)***	***Fill***	***Relationships***	***Finds***
F1175	Sub-circular in plan (0.52 x 0.46 x 0.32m), with steep sides and a concave base	L1176: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	None
F1177	Sub-circular in plan (0.48 x 0.35 x 0.24m), with moderately sloping to steep sides and a concave base	L1178: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	None
F1179	Sub-circular in plan (0.19 x 0.20 x 0.13m), with steep to vertical sides and a concave base	L1180 (basal): Firm, light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	None
		L1181 (upper): Friable, dark brown black, silty clay with very occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	None
F1187	Sub-circular in plan (0.42 x 0.39 x 0.19m), with steep sides and a concave base	L1188: Firm, mid to light brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut Pit F1185	None
F1189	Sub-circular in plan (0.4 x 0.32 x 0.22m), with steep sides and a concave base	L1190: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	None
F1193	Sub-circular in plan (0.43+ x 0.56+ x 0.32+m), with steep sides and a flattish base	L1194: Firm, light to mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, occasional charcoal flecks	Cut by Pit F1185	Mid 5th-9th C pottery (3; 41g)

The encountered pits are tabulated below:

Feature	*Plan/ Profile (dimensions)*	*Fill*	*Relationships*	*Finds*
F1182	Sub-circular in plan (1.00 x 0.81 x 0.14m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1183 (primary): Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints. L1184 (upper): Firm, brown grey, chalky clay	NA	None
F1185	Sub-circular in plan (1.10 x 0.7 x 0.28m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base	L1186: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut Posthole F1193; cut by Posthole F1187.	Mid 5th-7th C pottery (27; 109g)
F1191	Sub-circular in plan (1.26 x 0.62 x 0.16m), with moderately to steep sloping sides and a concave base	L1192: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	NA	None
F1206	Sub-circular in plan (0.75+ x 0.37+ x 0.42m), with irregular moderately sloping sides and an irregular base	L1207: Firm, mid brown grey, silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut by Pit F1208	None
F1208	Sub-circular in plan (0.88+ x 0.94 x 0.30m), with irregular sides and a concave base	L1209: Firm, mid brown grey, silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints	Cut Pit F1206	None
F1212	Elongated in plan (1.15+ x 0.40+ x 0.07m) with gently sloping sides and a concave base	L1213: Firm, mid brown grey, chalky clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints		None

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, comprising firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint (0.18 – 0.36m thick). This overlay Subsoils L1002 and L1003; the former was not present in all trenches, while the latter was only encountered in the south-western corner of the site. L1002 comprised firm, pale brown grey clayey silt with occasional small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint. This layer was up to 0.23m thick. L1003 comprised firm, mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint (*c.* 0.15m thick).

8.2 The underlying natural geology, L1001, comprised firm, very pale grey chalky clay silt with very occasional patches of small and medium sub-angular, sub-

rounded, and rounded flint (encountered 0.18m to 0.55m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The features recorded in each trench are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Fill(s)	Description	Spot date
1	1004	1005	Pit	-
	1006	1007	Posthole	-
	1008	1009	Posthole	-
	1010	1011	Posthole	Post-medieval
	1012	1013	Posthole	-
	1014	1015	Posthole	-
	1016	1017	Posthole	-
	1018	1019	Posthole	Mid 5th-9th C
	1020	1021	Natural channel	-
	1022	1023	Natural channel	-
	1024	1025	Gully	-
2	1026	1027	Pit	-
	1028	1029	Pit	-
	1030	1031	Posthole	-
	1032	1033	Posthole	-
	1034	1035	Gully	-
	1036	1037	Posthole	-
	1038	1039	Posthole	-
	1040	1041	Posthole	-
	1042	1043	Pit	-
	1044	1045	Posthole	-
	1046	1047	Posthole	-
	1048	1049	Posthole	-
	1050	1051	Posthole	-
	1052	1053	Gully	-
	1054	1055	Pit	Mid 5th-9th C
	1056	1057	Ditch	-
	1058	1059	Ditch	18th-19th C
	1060	1061	Ditch	-
3	1087	1088	Gully	-
	1089	1090	Pit	-
	1091	1092	Pit	-
	1093	1094	Gully	-
4	1080A	1081A	Ditch	Mid 5th-7th C
	1078	1079	Pit	Mid 5th-7th C
5	1084	1085	Pit	-
6	1080C	1081C	Ditch	Mid 5th-7th C
	1099	1100	Pit	-
	1101	1102	Pit	-
	1103	1104	Pit	-
	1105	1106	Cattle burial	-
7	1080B	1081C	Ditch	Post-medieval

	1107	1108	Posthole	Mid 5th-6th C
	1109	1110	Pit	-
	1111	1112	Gully	-
8	1080F	1081F	Ditch	-
9	1095	1096	Pit	-
	1097	1098	Ditch	-
10	1080D	1081D	Ditch	Mid 5th-7th C
	1113	1114	Ditch	-
	1115	1116	Pit	-
	1157	1158	Natural channel	-
	1159	1160	Natural channel	-
	1161	1162	Natural channel	-
	1163	1164	Natural channel	-
	1165	1166	Natural channel	-
11	1080G	1081G	Ditch	-
	1139	1140	Ditch	Post-medieval
	1141	1142	Gully	Post-medieval
	1143	1444	Ditch	-
	1145A,B	1146A,B	Ring Ditch	-
		1147A		-
		1148A and B		-
12	1137		Posthole	-
	1119A,B	1120	Ring Ditch	Mid 5th-9th C
	1121	1122	Plough Scar	-
	1123	1124	Ditch/Plough furrow	13th-14th C
	1155	1156	Ring Ditch Re-cut	-
13	1125	1126	Posthole	-
	1127	1128	Posthole	-
	1129ABC	1130ABC	Natural Hollow	-
14	1131	1132	Gully	-
	1133	1134	Posthole	-
	1135	1136	Posthole	-
	1149	1150	Ditch	-
	1151	1152	Ditch	Mid 5th-7th C
	1153	1154	Ditch	
15	1068B	1069B	Ploughsoil	13th – 14th
	1082	1083	Posthole	-
16	1062	1163	Posthole	-
	1064	1165	Gully	-
	1066	1167	Ditch	Mid 5th-7th C
	1068	1069	Ploughsoil	-
17	1070	1071	Posthole	-
	1072	1073	Posthole	-
	1074	1075	Posthole	-
	1076	1077	Posthole	-
18	1080D	1081D	Ditch	Mid 5th-7th C
	1117	1118	Pit	-
19	1167	1168	Ditch	Post-medieval
	1169	1170	Pit	Post-medieval
	1171	1172	Ditch	Pot-medieval
	1173	1174	Ditch	18th-19th C

	1195	1196	Pit	Mid 5th-9th C
	1197	1198	Pit	Mid 5th-7th C
		1199		Mid 5th-7th C
	1200	1201	Pit	-
	1202	1203	Pit	Mid 5th-9th
	1214	1215	Posthole	-
	1216	1217	Posthole	-
	1218	1219	Posthole	-
	1220	1221	Ditch	Post-medieval
	1222	1223	Ditch	6th-7th C
	1224	1225	Pit	-
	1226	1227	Pit	-
	1228	1229	Pit	7th C
	1230	1231	Pit	17th-18th C
	1232	1233	Pit	Mid 5th-9th C
	1234	1235	Pit	Mid 5th-7th C
	1236	1237	Pit	-
	1238	1239	Pit	13th-15th C
	1240	1249	Grave	Mid 7th-mid 9th C
		1241		-
		1242		-
	1243	1244	Pit	-
	1245	1246	Pit	-
	1247	1248	Posthole	-
	1250	1251	Pit	Mid 7th-mid 9th C
	1252	1253	Pit	15th-16th C
	1254	1255	Pit	Mid 7th-mid 9th C
		1256		-
	1257	1258	Pit	-
20	1175	1176	Posthole	-
	1177	1178	Posthole	-
	1179	1180	Posthole	-
		1181		-
	1185	1186	Pit	Mid 5th-7th C
	1187	1188	Posthole	-
	1189	1190	Posthole	-
	1191	1192	Pit	-
	1193	1194	Posthole	Mid 5th-9th C
	1204	1205	Gully	-
	1206	1207	Pit	-
	1208	1209	Pit	-
	1210	1211	Stakehole	-
	1212	1213	Pit	-

Correlation with the Geophysical Survey Data

9.2 The recorded archaeological features displayed some correlation with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Baker *et al.* 2015). For example, Ploughsoil F1068/ L1069 in the north-western end of Trench 16 corresponded to part of linear geophysical anomaly No. 6, while the northern circuit of anomaly No. 1 corresponded to the position and alignment of Ring Ditch F1145B (Trench 11; Fig. 3A); the southernmost circuit of anomaly No. 1 did not correspond to an excavated

archaeological feature, however. A good correlation between surveyed ridge and furrow (anomaly No. 6) and excavated linear features was also observed in Trench 14. In some instances, however, the correlation was less clear. Ditch F1080, for example, followed the same alignment as geophysical anomaly No. 7 (Fig. 3A), a short distance to the north-west, but in no trench did the ditch intersect with the anomaly. The non-linear anomalies also displayed generally poor correlation with the excavated features. In Trenches 18 and 19, anomaly No. 4 overlapped the positions of excavated features, although not fully or consistently.

9.3 The inconsistent correlation of geophysical and archaeological data may be the result of numerous variables. For example, a feature of magnetic surveying in the UK – around 52^{o}N in the case of the current site – is that anomaly 'peak' values are displaced slightly to the south; the actual error is dependent on feature depth (Bescoby *pers. comm.*). It must also be considered that magnetic responses are not necessarily representative of buried archaeological features. Any error in the recording of trench locations and/ or the planning of archaeological features within trenches might also lead to a poor correlation with surveyed anomalies[3].

The Recorded Archaeology

9.4 The earliest material from the site comprises two pieces of residual struck flint from Pit F1117 (Trench 18). The most recent date that can be applied to either of these is Neolithic, with a Mesolithic date perhaps more likely for the pair and an earlier Palaeolithic date conceivable for one of them. A residual later prehistoric pottery sherd was also found within Pit F1197 (Trench 19). This evidence is indicative of, at least, a low level of prehistoric activity and may be considered to be generally in keeping with the known prehistoric character of the local area. The cattle burial from Pit F1105 (Trench 6) was radiocarbon dated to 1384-1341 cal BC (10.7%) and 1308-1127 cal BC (84.7%) at 95.4% confidence. Although other Bronze Age finds and monuments are recorded in the surrounding landscape (e.g. HHERs 553 and 6369), the middle to late Bronze Age date in this instance may well be anomalous. No other archaeology of this date was encountered by the trial trench evaluation. However, animal burials of this period are well documented (Morris 2011) and further excavation work may assist in placing Pit F1105 and its contents into context.

9.5 The ring-ditches identified during the geophysical survey were examined during the programme of trial trenching (Trenches 11 and 12) and are not securely dated; based on their form and their prominent location – some distance from the larger number of Anglo-Saxon features – they may, potentially, be prehistoric. The larger Ring-Ditch F1145 (Trench 11) contained only animal bone, and the possible internal feature, Ditch F1139, contained post-medieval CBM. Ring-Ditch F1119 (Trench 12) contained a Saxon pottery sherd, and a second ditch within the trench, F1123, contained two sherds of medieval pottery.

[3] As a result of the inconsistent correlation of geophysical and archaeological data in this instance, Archaeological Solutions' guidelines for surveying and recording have been updated

9.6 The ring-ditches were located on the crest of the hill, towards the south-western limits of the site. They would have been prominent features in the landscape, having far reaching views towards the north-east, down into the valley below. A ring-ditch more securely dated to the Bronze Age (HHER 6369) has previously been identified *c*. 400m to the south of the current site. It seems likely that there is a link between the ring-ditches identified at the current site and this previously recorded example. The pottery recovered from F1119 and the siting of other Anglo-Saxon activity in the proximity to these features may be related to commonly observed Anglo-Saxon attitudes to the past. As Semple (1998, 109) has stated, archaeological investigation has revealed a consistent tradition of Anglo-Saxon secondary activity occurring at Bronze Age burial mounds. This may be related to attempts to legitimise claims to the land or to perceived links with the ancestral past.

9.7 Three residual Roman pottery sherds were found with Ditch F1066 (Trench 16), Ditch F1080 and Ditch F1123 (Trench 12), and were likely introduced as a result of manuring activity or similar. Extensive Romano-British activity has been identified in Dane Field *c*. 500m to the west and extending in the direction of Priors Hill (HHER 6978), so the presence of such material in this area is not considered unusual.

9.8 The principal recorded features have been dated as Anglo-Saxon. A concentration of postholes is evident at the southern ends of Trenches 1, 2 and 19. A dense cluster of pits was recorded in the central area of Trench 19. Some of the early pits within the cluster contained medieval (F1238 and F1252) and post-medieval (F1230) pottery, while others (e.g. F1197) are more securely dated as Saxon. Human remains were present within this pit sequence, placed within Grave F1240. The individual represented (SK1) was an older adult male of slightly below average height, with well-developed muscles. The remains displayed evidence of degenerative disease and physical trauma. In conjunction with the circumstances in which the burial appears to have occurred, this physical evidence might indicate a hard-working individual of fairly low status. However, given the complexities of Anglo-Saxon society, this is far from certain. A sample of bone from SK1 was radiocarbon dated and produced a calibrated date range of 775-970 cal AD (95.4%) at 95.4% confidence. The presence of an Anglo-Saxon burial in the proximity the potentially prehistoric ring-ditches (see above) further corresponds with themes associated with Anglo-Saxon attitudes to earlier monuments.

9.9 Discrete Anglo-Saxon features were recorded in Trenches 4 (Pit F1078) and 7 (Posthole F1107). The Saxon features were mostly located on the downward slope of the hill in the eastern and southern sectors of the site (Trenches 1-2, 4-7, 17 and 20). Their location corresponds to archaeology encountered during a nearby building development along the north-eastern site limits, including Iron Age features. The majority of features were only tentatively dated, containing between one and three pot sherds. The larger Anglo-Saxon assemblages were from Trench 19 Pits F1197 (30 sherds), F1250 (11 sherds), F1202 (ten sherds), F1228 (six sherds), F1234 (five sherds); and Grave F1240 (nine sherds). Animal bone was found in association with the pottery.

9.10 There is some evidence to suggest that the large bank forming the north-western and far north-eastern site boundaries – described in Section 2 (above) –

represents a degraded bank and ditch system of middle Saxon date (or an earlier monument that was modified at this time; Batt *pers. comm.*). The evidence includes Saxon pottery unearthed by burrowing animals (*ibid.*). If genuine, the Saxon date of this monument would enhance the archaeological significance of the site.

9.11 Anglo-Saxon activity has previously been identified in and around Pirton. At present, it is considered that the local Saxon landscape was characterised by polyfocal settlement comprising scattered farmsteads. The evidence from the current site may agree with this pattern, although it should be noted that the early nucleation of Pirton is thought to have been focussed around the Saxo-Norman cemetery, possible church, and other structural remains (HHERs 9676-7 and 11409), some 250m to the east. Nonetheless, the identification of middle Saxon activity at the current site – including the radiocarbon dated inhumation burial – is of some significance; such sites are rare within the context of Hertfordshire (Williamson 2010, 165).

9.12 A number of interesting but undated features were also encountered. Ditch F1080 is enigmatic. It loosely corresponded to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (but did not intersect with the latter) and was recorded in Trenches 4, 6-8, 10-11 and 18. In total it contained seven sherds of Anglo-Saxon (mid 5^{th}-7^{th} century) pottery, but it also contained post-medieval CBM. It may be associated with the possible ridge and furrow rather than the Anglo-Saxon settlement features. Its alignment corresponds with the extant north-western field boundary which likely has ancient origins. It is also located along the margins of the high ground demarcating the point at which the ground slopes down towards the south-east. To the north-west, the archaeological features are sparse in comparison to the north-eastern and south-eastern sectors of the site.

9.13 The geophysical survey recorded what was identified as medieval ridge and furrow. Features corresponding to this were identified during the evaluation (e.g. Ditches F1149, F1151 and F1153; Trench 14). These were shallow features but they varied in width and were perhaps spaced too far apart and irregularly to convincingly represent ridge and furrow. Evidence for medieval activity was, however, recorded during the evaluation; pottery of this date was found in Ditch F1123 (Trench 12), Ploughsoil L1068 (Trenches 15 and 16) and Pit F1238 (Trench 19). Pirton developed as a fairly significant settlement, albeit on a local scale, during the medieval period and so the presence of medieval remains within the site is not unexpected. The available evidence suggests that the extent of medieval Pirton was greater than its modern counterpart and significant medieval remains have been recorded within 150m of the current site. This might suggest that the site comprised land directly associated with this activity rather forming part of the common fields and therefore further refuting the suggestion that the ditches in Trench 14 represent ridge and furrow.

9.14 Post-medieval activity was limited although some evidence of this period was present; post-medieval/early modern pottery was contained within Ditch F1058 (Trench 2).

9.15 Numerous undated features were recorded. Many were discrete features located in Trenches 1-2, 4-6, 17 and 20. Given the apparent predominance of Anglo-

Saxon archaeology it is likely that many, if not all, of these were associated with the Anglo-Saxon settlement remains.

10 RESEARCH POTENTIAL

10.1 While artefactual evidence of prehistoric occupation was limited to just a small number of items, the presence of ring-ditches F1145 and F1119 and the proximity of the Bronze Age ring-ditch recorded as HHER 6369 suggests that the site may contain evidence of a prehistoric monumental landscape. If genuine, the middle to late Bronze Age date of the cattle burial from F1105 would significantly add to the potential significance of this landscape. Similar groups of monumental features are known in the wider area, for example between Hitchin and Letchworth Garden City. These groups may combine to form part of a wider Bronze Age landscape in North Herts. Medlycott (2011, 21) identifies a need for further understanding of the development and use of monuments as key elements in understanding the landscape.

10.2 The principal research interest of the site relates to the Anglo-Saxon archaeology. This evidence adds to the existing corpus of information regarding Anglo-Saxon occupation of the Pirton area and additional work has the potential to help further characterise the nature of settlement at this time. Settlement distribution and rural settlements are both identified as important research subjects for the eastern counties (Medlycott 2011, 57-8). This is particularly the case for Hertfordshire, where Anglo-Saxon sites are rare (Williamson 2010, 165). The current site may play an important role in developing current understanding of Saxon settlement in the surrounding area and could, potentially, act as model for understanding the way in which Saxon settlement developed in similar parts of the county.

10.3 Another potentially very interesting aspect of the Saxon archaeology is its relationship to the potentially prehistoric ring-ditches that were recorded. As has previously been stated, there is a noted link between Anglo-Saxon activity of various types and the presence of prehistoric monuments (e.g. Semple 1998). The site may offer the opportunity to further examine such relationships. Aspects of ritual and religion are also identified as important regional research themes for the Anglo-Saxon period (Medlycott 2011, 59).

10.4 In light of the known character and extent of medieval Pirton the relative lack of medieval activity at the site, and the (slim) possibility that some of the feature recorded represent ridge and furrow, is notable in developing the picture of the settlement in this period. Any further archaeological which may be undertaken at the site is also likely to contribute to the development of this picture and will help to characterise the limited medieval evidence that was identified.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at North Hertfordshire Museums. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

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Web-Based Resources

Geology of Britain viewer:
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps
(consulted May 2015)

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot)	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1004	1005		1	Fill of Pit				702	Fe.Frag (1) - 14g Eggshell - 1g
1010	1011		1	Fill of Posthole			168		
1018	1019		1	Fill of Posthole	Mid 5th- 9th	(1) 3g			
1038	1039		2	Fill of Posthole				56	
1054	1055		2	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th- 9th	(1) 1g		7	
1058	1059		2	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th	(2) 19g	26		
1066	1067		16	Fill of Ditch	Mid 5th-7th	(3) 12g		<1	
1068	1069		16	Plough Soil	13th-14th	(14) 92g	58	181	Fe. Frags (3) - 15g
1078	1079		4	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-7th	(1) 4g			
1080	1081	A	4	Fill of Ditch	Mid 5th-7th	(1) 7g			
1080	1081	B	7	Fill of Ditch			8		
1080	1081	C	6	Fill of Ditch	Mid 5th-7th	(4) 25g		<1	
1080	1081	D	18	Fill of Ditch	Mid 5th-7th	(3) 18g	250	<1	
1080	1081	G	11	Fill of Ditch				542	O.Shell (1) - <1g
1089	1090		3	Fill of large Pit				5	Slag - 211g
1091	1092		3	Fill of Pit				34	
1105	1106		6	Fill of Pit				6281	
1107	1108		7	Fill of Posthole	Mid 5th-6th	(3) 37g		8	
1117	1118		18	Fill of Pit				17	Str.Flint (2) - 13g
1119	1120		12	Fill of Ring Ditch	Mid 5th-9th	(1) 4g		5	
1123	1124		12	Fill of Ditch	13th-14th	(2) 4g			
1139	1140		11	Fill of Ditch			216		
1141	1142		11	Fill of Gully			180		
1145	1147	A	11	Fill of Ring Ditch				199	
1151	1152		14	Fill of Ditch	Mid 5th -7th	(1) 8g			
1159	1160		10	Fill of Natural Channel				483	
1167	1168		19	Fill of Ditch			70		Fe.Nail (1) - 4g
1169	1170		19	Fill of Pit			6		
1171	1172		19	Fill of Ditch			32		
1173	1174		19	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th	(1) 16g			
1185	1186		20	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th- 7th	(27) 109g			
1193	1194		20	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-9th	(3) 41g			
1195	1196		19	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-9th	(1) 3g			
1197	1198		19	Lower fill of Pit	Mid 5th-7th	(21) 62g		<1	
1197	1199		19	Upper fill of Pit	Mid 5th-7th	(9) 71g		6	O.Shell (1) - <1g
1202	1203		19	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-9th	(10) 123g			
1220	1221		19	Fill of Ditch			36		Fe.Nail (1) - 4g

1222	1223		19	Fill of Ditch	6-7th	(1) 21g	78		
1224	1225		19	Fill of Pit					Fe.Frag (1) - 5g Fe.Nail (1) - 5g F.Clay (4) - 21g
1226	1227		19	Fill of Pit				2	F.Clay (1) - 29g
1228	1229		19	Fill of Pit	7th	(6) 30g			
1230	1231		19	Fill of Pit	17th-18th	(2) 14g	12	114	
1232	1233		19	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-9th	(1) 22g			
1234	1235		19	Fill of Pit	Mid 5th-7th	(5) 27g		18	
1238	1239		19	Fill of Pit	13th-15th	(2) 8g		277	H.Bone - 29g
1240	1241		19	Primary fill of Grave Pit	Mid 7th-mid 9th	(9) 23g		17	H.Bone (Skel:01) - 3324g F.Clay (1) - 82g Shell - <1g
1250	1251		19	Fill of Pit	Mid 7th-mid 9th	(11) 111g		159	
1252	1253		19	Fill of Pit	15th-16th	(2) 11g		8	
1254	1255		19	Fill of Pit	Mid 7th-mid 9th	(3) 51g			
	U/S		TT19	Surface Find	Mid 5th-9th	(2) 9g	97		
	U/S		TT19	Unstratified	6th-7th	(1) 14g		15	

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint
Andrew Peachey CMIfA

The evaluation recovered two flakes (13g) of struck flint contained in Pit F1117. One flake (11g) is heavily patinated with a blade-like profile and cortex covering the dorsal face, suggesting it may have a Palaeolithic origin, although without any other associated technological traits a Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date cannot be discounted. In contrast the second flake (2g) exhibits moderately-speckled patination and comprises a snapped blade with the small bulb of percussion typical of soft-hammer, indirect percussion; probably the proximal microburin discarded during the process of Mesolithic microlith production

The Pottery
Peter Thompson

Introduction

The evaluation recovered 158 sherds weighing 1.023kg from 28 features and a layer, with three sherds (23g) unstratified. The majority of the assemblage (142 sherds/89.8%) dates to the Saxon period. In addition there was one prehistoric, three Roman, 9 medieval and 3 later post-medieval sherds present (Table 1).

Period	Sherd No.	Weight (g)	Average sherd weight (g)
Prehistoric	1	5	5
Roman	3	12	4
Early to Middle Saxon	142	912	6.2
Medieval	9	56	6.2
Later Post-medieval	3	38	12.6

Table 1: Sherds by period

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope to establish fabric type and characterization, and have been quantified by sherd number, weight and condition per context (see Quantification of Pottery by Feature, below). The recording was carried out in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001 and MPRG 1998). The Early to Middle Saxon pottery fabric codes, along with the single prehistoric sherd, are site specific only and are in mnemonic form based on their main inclusions (Table 2). The remaining 15 sherds have nationally established fabric codes, including ones assigned from the London medieval and post-medieval (MoLAS) list. Form terminologies are based on the MPRG descriptions.

Code	Common name	Date Range	Sherd No.	Weight
Prehistoric				
PQ	Prehistoric quartzite	Late Bronze Age to Iron Age?	1	5
Roman				
GRS	Sandy greyware	Mid 1st to 4th	2	8
LNVCC	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat	Mid 2nd to 4th	1	4
Anglo-Saxon				
SANF	Fine sand	Mid 5th-mid 9th	91	493
SANC	Sand with sparse chalk	Mid 5th-mid 9th	5	36
SANOL	Sand with sparse oolitic limestone	Mid 5th-mid 9th	1	6
SANSH	Sand with sparse fine shell	Mid 5th-mid 9th	1	26
CQ	Crushed quartz	Mid 5th-mid 9th	4	22
CQSF	Crushed quartz with fine sand	Mid 5th-mid 9th	1	11
VCQ	Very coarse quartz/quartzite	Mid 5th-mid 9th	2	23
CQORG	Crushed quartz and organics	Mid 5th-mid 9th	7	39
CQST	Quartz with sandstone	Mid 5th-mid 9th	1	5
SORG	Sand and organics	5th-8th	9	68
ORG	Organic	5th-8th	3	25
MAX	Maxey ware (see Hurst 1976)	Mid 7th-mid 9th	17	158
Medieval				
SHER	South Hertfordshire Greyware (Blackmore and Pierce 2010, 89 and 201)	Late 12th-late 14th	4	24
MSO	Medieval Sandy Orange ware (Cotter 2000, 107)	13th-15th	4	27
LMT	Late medieval transitional (see Jennings 2004, 61)	15th-16th	1	5
Post-medieval				
PMRE	Glazed post-medieval red earthenware (see Baker and Hassall 1979, 224	Late 16th -19th	2	27
ENGS	English stoneware (see Baker and Hassall 1979, 234)	18th-19th	1	11

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by sherd number and weight

The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

Pit F1197 (L1199) contained a sherd of later prehistoric pottery containing coarse angular to sub-angular crushed quartzite. Ditch F1066 (L1067) contained a body sherd of Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat, and single sherds of Roman sandy greyware were recovered from Ditch F1080 (L1081) and Ditch F1123 (L1124) respectively. These sherds were in the main heavily abraded, and all four were residual in later features and are not discussed further.

The Early to Middle Saxon Pottery

There is a diverse range of fabrics present, which is typical of the period and reflects probable generally small-scale and piece meal production. There are four main fabric groups present with the assemblage dominated by fairly fine sand tempered fabrics (SANF), which comprise abundant fine to medium quartz sand (<0.6mm), usually with combinations of rare to sparse inclusions of flint, quartz or quartzite, mica, iron oxide, calcareous and sparse burnt organics. Cores are usually dark grey, and surfaces, grey, brown or sometimes oxidised orange on one or both faces. Several

sherds contain additional inclusions comprising chalk (SANC), oolitic limestone (SANOL), or sparse fine shell (SANSH). The sand tempered fabrics numbered 98 sherds (561g) accounting for 69% of the Early to Middle Saxon sherd number.

The second largest group of 17 sherds (158g) comprising 12% of the Saxon sherd count are shelly wares (MAX (Plate 1)). They have dark grey cores and reddish brown or black surfaces with abundant fossil platelets up to c.10mm across, and closely match the description of Middle Saxon Southern Maxey ware (Blinkhorn 2006, 17). The relatively straight sides to the larger sherds present at Pirton would also fit with Maxey ware. A third group of fabrics numbering 8 sherds (61g) and accounting for 5.6% of the assemblage contains crushed quartz and/or quartzite, sometimes also with sand (CQ, CQSF, VCQ), and in one case crushed sandstone (CQST). The fourth group comprises sherds containing chaff or organic temper, usually also with sand present (ORG (Plate 2), SORG, CQORG). These comprise 20 sherds (137g), making up 14% of the sherd total. However, 7 organic tempered sherds (39g) (CQORG) also contained crushed quartz temper and so could equally belong to the third group.

Discussion

Evidence that some of the pottery may be of an early date is indicated in the presence of a sharply carinated shoulder from Pit F1234 (L1235; Plate 3), and a body sherd from Posthole F1107 (L1108) with dispersed finger nail decoration (Plate 4). This would suggest a date around *circa* mid 5th to 6th centuries. Occupation in the *circa* 6th-7th centuries is suggested by the presence of organic tempered sherds which have been demonstrated at Mucking, Essex, and other sites across the region to have had a marked increase in use at this time (Hamerow 1993, 31). The presence of Maxey ware indicates continuity in the Middle Saxon period *c.*650-850, but there was no pottery datable to the Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman period. The sand and organic tempered sherds are typical of the North Herts, South Cambs and South Beds region, and the sand and organic tempered pottery from Pirton was similar in fabric to a comparable example recovered from Hitchin (Bernie Seddon pers.com). However, the grittier quartz and quartzite tempered fabrics, particularly fabric VCQ, are likely to have been imported from further north around North Cambridgeshire or even beyond, where such fabrics are relatively common.

The Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

Nine medieval sherds were recovered from F1068 (L1069), Ditch F1123 (L1124), Pit F1238 (L1239), and Pit F1252 (L1253), or were intrusive/residual in Ditches F1066 (L1067) and F1058 (L1059). Four sherds comprise South Hertfordshire Greyware containing small amounts of chalk typical of the area (Blackmore and Pierce 2010, 90-3). This includes an expanded cooking pot or jar rim of F1 typology from the London sequence, indicating a date between c.1325 and 1450 (Blackmore and Pierce 2010, 140 and 209). Four sherds are medieval sandy orange wares known as Fabric 21 in Essex. These are sometimes referred to as Colchester type wares, but lack the white quartz for actual Colchester ware (Cotter 2000, 107), and probably derive from another more local location as part of the East Anglian red ware tradition. Feature F1068 (L1069) included a flat topped everted jar rim of Essex form H1 type

with a rim diameter of approximately 18 cm. This would also fit within a 13th to 14th centuries date range. The remaining medieval sherd from Pit F1252 (L1253) is a Late Medieval Transitional body sherd, and so later in date. The post-medieval sherds comprise one each of post-medieval red earthenware from Ditch F1173 (L1174) and Pit F1230 9L1231, and an English stoneware mug or tankard rim from Ditch F1058 (L1059).

Acknowledgement

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Quantification of pottery by feature

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Posthole 1018	1019	1x3g SANF	Mid 5th- 9th	SANF: highly abraded body sherd
Pit 1054	1055	1x1g SANF	Mid 5th- 9th	SANF: highly abraded
Ditch 1058	1059	1x11g ENGS 1x9g MSO	18th-19th	ENGS: mug or tankard rim, lightly to moderately abraded COLC: moderately abraded
Ditch 1066	1067	1x4g LNVCC 1x2g SANF 1x6g SANOL	Mid 5th-7th	LNVCC: heavily abraded body sherd SANF: lightly to moderately abraded body sherd SANOL: moderately abraded body sherd, sparse ooliths
F1068	1069	 2x15g MSO 3x22g SHER 4x17g SANF 2x20g QORG 1x7g SORG 2x8g SANC	13th-14th	N.B. Early Medieval sherds all lightly to moderately abraded MSO: lx1 flat topped externally expanded jar rim c.18cm diam SHER: x1 wheel-finished everted jar rim c.20cm diam. N.B. Anglo-Saxon sherds moderately to heavily abraded, all body sherds
Pit 1078	1079	1x4g QORG	Mid 5th-7th	QORG: moderately to heavily abraded
Ditch 1080	1081	1x7g GRS	Roman	GRS: lightly to moderately abraded body sherd
Ditch 1080	1081 C	2x7g CQ 1x9g VCQ 1x5g CQST	Mid 5th-7th	CQ: moderate to heavy abrasion, sparse organics VCQ: moderate to heavy abrasion QSST: lightly to moderately abraded
Ditch 1080	1081 D	3x7g QORG	Mid 5th-7th	QORG: as QUAR but common chaff temper, heavily abraded
Posthole 1107	1108	1x13g CQ 1x11g CQSM 1x14g VCQ	Mid 5th-6th	CQ and CQSM: moderately abraded body sherds with organics on surfaces but not visible in the core VCQ: Random, dispersed finger nail to the body, moderate abrasion (**Plate 4**)
Ring Ditch 1119	1120	1x4g SANF	Mid 5th-9th	SANF: heavily abraded, also contains sparse shell
Ditch 1123	1124	1x3g MSO 1x1g GRS	13th-14th	COLC: moderately to heavily abraded GRS: heavily abraded
Plough scar 1151	1152	1x8g QORG	Mid 5th -7th	QORG: moderately to heavily abraded
Ditch 1173	1174	1x16g PMRE	18th-19th	PMRE: moderately abraded
Pit 1185	1186	31x113g SANF 2x14g SANF	Mid 5th- 7th	SANF: moderately to heavily abraded, x1 simple rim to shouldered vessel 16cm diam SANF: also sparse shell x1 simple outurned rim
Pit 1193	1194	3x40g SANF	Mid 5th-9th	SANF: moderately abraded
Pit 1195	1196	1x3g SANF	Mid 5th-9th	SANF: moderately to heavily
Pit 1197	1198	10x32g SANF 1x3g SANF 4x7g SORG 1x1g ORG	Mid 5th-7th	SANF: moderately to heavily abraded x1 simple flat topped upright rim, x1 simple outurned rim, SANF: light to moderately abraded; x1 simple upright rim overfired SORG: moderately to heavily abraded ORG: moderately to heavily abraded

		5x19g SANF		SANF: moderately to heavily abraded
Pit 1197	1199	1x5g PQ 7x61g SANF	Mid 5th-7th	PQ: heavily abraded SANF: moderately to heavily abraded. X1 flat base 1cm thick, approx 14cm diam
Pit 1202	1203	9x95g SANF 3x24g SANC 1x26g SANSH	Mid 5th-9th	SANF: moderately abraded, x1 sparse vc quartz, flint and chalk. x1 burnished, x1 decorated with wedge impression, x1 looks quit like Ipswich ware but slightly micaceous surfaces SANC: sparse large rounded or occasionally sub-angular white chalk mainly visible on surfaces, moderately to heavily abraded; x1 flat base SANSH: rounded shoulder sherd
Ditch 1222	1223	1x19g SORG	6th-7th	SORG: moderately to heavily abraded
Pit 1228	1229	2x8g SANF 1x12g ORG 3x10g MAX	7th	SANF: moderately to heavily abraded ORG: heavily abraded (**Plate 2**) MAX: moderately to heavily abraded
Pit 1230	1231	1x11g PMRE 1x3g ORG	17th-18th	PMRE: moderately abraded,, base/body internal brown glaze ORG: heavily abraded
Pit 1232	1233	1x22g SANF	Mid 5th-9th	SANF: moderately to heavily abraded body/base angle
Pit 1234	1235	4x26g SANF	Mid 5th-7th	SANF: lightly to moderately abraded little organics. X1 carinated shoulder, smooth surfaces (**Plate 3**)
Pit 1238	1239	1x2g SHER 1x6g SANF	13th-15th	SHER: moderately abraded SANF: heavily abraded
Pit 1240	1241	3x11g SANF 1x2g CQ 2x7g MAX	Mid 7th-mid 9th	Sherds all moderately to heavily abraded
Pit 1250	1251	11x111g MAX	Mid 7th-mid 9th	MAX: lightly abraded body sherds (**Plate 1**)
Pit 1252	1253	1x6g SANF 1x5g LMT	15th-16th	SANF: moderately abraded LMT: lightly abraded
Pit 1254	1255	2x21g SORG 1x30g MAX	Mid 7th-mid 9th	SORG: moderately to heavily abraded MAX: moderately abraded possibly Maxey Ware body sherd
Unstratified	TT19	2x9g SANF	Mid 5th-9th	SANF: lightly to moderately abraded
Unstratified	TT19	1x14g SORG	6th-7th	SORG: rare to sparse quartz, moderately to heavily abraded

Plates
Photographs by Kathren Henry

1: Pit F1250 MAX (shelly) body sherd

2: Pit F1228 ORG (organics) body sherd

3: Pit F1234 SANF (fine sandy) carinated shoulder

4: Post-hole F1107 VCQ (v. coarse quartz) shoulder with 'finger nail' decoration

The Ceramic Building Materials
Andrew Peachey CMIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 43 fragments (1229g) of post-medieval CBM, in a poorly preserved, highly abraded and fragmented condition. The CBM is predominantly comprised of small fragments of peg tile, although small fragments of brick rubble are also present, and it is highly likely that this material was re-deposited by agricultural processes such as ploughing, manuring or soil improvement.

The CBM occurred in a single locally manufactured fabric that ranged in colour from mid-dark orange to orange-red, with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25, occasionally to 1.5mm), sparse fine mica, sparse black/red iron rich grains (<0.5mm), and occasional flint (1-5mm). The peg tile is *c*.12mm thick with a fine sanded base and faint lengthways striations on the upper surface, characteristic of post-medieval roofing material in the region (and in contrast to coarser medieval antecedents).

A significant proportion: 20 fragments (331g) of the peg tile was recovered from features in Trench 19; sparsely distributed in Ditches F1167, F1171, F1220, F1222, Pits F1169, F1230 and as un-stratified material; while in other trenches, sparsely-distributed small fragments were contained in Ditches F1058, F1139, Gully F1141, Posthole F1010 and Plough Soil F1068. The brick fragments in the assemblage were too fragmentary to preserve any diagnostic dimensions or characteristics but appear to have been manufactured in the same fabric as the peg tile, and included small rubble fragments contained in Ditch F1080 and Gully F1141.

The Slag
Andrew A.S. Newton

Introduction

A total of 211g (1 piece) of slag, originating from a single undated context, was recovered during archaeological work at Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire. The slag was identified on morphological grounds by visual examination.

Results

F1089. L1090. 1 frag. 211g. Mid to dark grey in colour. Mostly dull but with a slight sheen (but not vitrification) across raised surfaces. Very dense material. Granular finish to all surfaces. Apparently broken surfaces display the same finish. Surface morphology is reminiscent of the rippled form typical of tap slag (Crew 1995).

Discussion

The material recovered from Pirton would appear to be a piece of tap slag, broken from a larger piece, and which has undergone a variety of weathering and other taphonomic processes, leading to the uniform granular finish that it displays. This may indicate that this piece of slag was not recovered from its primary depositionary

context and is, therefore, not a reliable indicator that metalworking was being undertaken in the vicinity

Reference

Crew, P. 1995, *Bloomery Iron Smelting Slags and other residues*, Historical Metallurgy Society, Archaeology Data Sheet No. 5

Animal Bone Report
Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

Introduction

A moderate assemblage of approximately 450 hand collected animal bones and a small quantity of sieved material was recovered from trial trench excavations at Pirton. A total of 25 contexts (some divided into segments) yielded animal bone, these were largely pit, posthole and ditch fills (Table 3). Bones derived from Saxon, medieval and undated contexts and are here examined as a single group.

Method

The animal bone assemblage was scanned one context at a time and the results recorded on a bone scan *pro forma*. The *pro forma* took into account observations on bone condition including general preservation, colour, abrasion, fresh breaks and gnawing. Mammal bones were quantified by species where possible or where this was not possible by size category, where large indicates cattle or horse sized, medium is sheep/goat, pig or large dog sized and small mammal is cat or hare sized. The presence of bird, fish and other small fauna could also be noted. For the identified mammal species the dominance of particular body parts was noted as was the presence of butchery, ageable mandibles and teeth, unfused epiphyses, measurable bones and those displaying pathologies. The presence of such features was noted in a semi-quantitative manner (none, few, some, many). Further to this, notes were made on any particular points of interest; where possible, sheep/goat distinctions were made on the basis of horn core morphology.

Results

In the main bone preservation for each context was noted as being poor or very poor, the latter indicating the presence of unidentifiable material only. A small number of contexts were recorded as having ok or good preservation and the majority of identifiable material came from these. Bone had been subject to high levels of abrasion and surface erosion and fresh breakages were fairly common. Canid (dog) gnawing was only noted in two contexts, although may have been missed where surface erosion was particularly severe. A single medium mammal bone was noted as being calcined (burned white) and two large mammal bone (possible antler) fragments were noted as being charred (burnt black).

Approximately one third of the assemblage was identifiable to species with the remainder of the bone being recorded as large, medium or small mammal. Identified

domestic mammal taxa in order of abundance, were cattle, sheep/goat, dog, pig, horse and cat. Red deer was the only wild mammal present and was only represented by antler fragments which may have been from shed or unshed antlers. A single bird bone, probably chicken was also present.

Cattle numbers were augmented by the presence of a largely complete adult cattle burial (L1106, Pit L1105). Aside from this a mix of elements were present, butchered cattle bones were noted only in a single context (L1069) but many butchery marks may have been masked by the high levels of surface erosion noted above. A small quantity of ageable elements was present and no pathological specimens were noted. The only measurable bones came from the cattle burial; others were too fragmented or abraded.

The bones of sheep/goat were dominated by head elements (particularly teeth), with a few other elements also represented. The majority of the sheep/goat remains came from L1005 which contained butchered, ageable, measurable and pathological elements as well as a horn core positively identified as sheep. The pathological bone was a mandible with uneven tooth wear. Further ageable sheep/goat teeth were available from a selection of other contexts.

Dog was only present in a single context and all of the bones likely belong to a single individual. The majority of bones are head elements and include a lower first molar with a large part missing that appears to have been subject to some sort of decay. Pig was represented only by skull fragments and horse by a piece of jaw bone. Cat was represented by a single ulna. Red deer was represented solely by antler fragments and hence the likelihood of deer hunting having been carried out is impossible to tell. The antler fragments present are un-worked.

A small amount of bone was also recovered from sieved samples (Table 4) the majority of which was not identifiable. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig teeth were all present, the latter being identified as a male lower canine; a sheep/goat calcaneus (foot bone) was also present. One burnt fragment was present, a large mammal bone (possible antler) fragment from Sample 43.

Summary and conclusions

A range of domestic mammal taxa are present with wild mammal and bird also represented. Overall there appears to be a dominance of head elements, particularly teeth, likely due to the poor preservation conditions. One particular context of interest is L1239 (Pit F1238) which has the largest range of species present, almost all of which are represented by head elements; this may be as a result of preservation biases but as preservation for this context was noted as good, may also be the result of selective deposition. Full scale excavation is likely to produce a good sized sample of animal bones with ageable and butchered elements that will shed light on aspects of the site economy.

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Cat	Red Deer	Large Mammal	Medium mammal	Small mammal	Bird	Total
1004	1005	1	Fill of Pit	1	31							32		1	65
1038	1039	2	Fill of Posthole	2							10				12
1054	1055	2	Fill of Pit								1				1
1066	1067	16	Fill of Ditch								1				1
1068	1069	16	Fill of Ploughsoil	2											2
1080	1081 B	4	Fill of Ditch								1				1
1080	1081 C	4	Fill of Ditch										1		1
1080	1081 D	4	Fill of Ditch									1			1
1080	1081 G	4	Fill of Ditch	1			1				10				12
1089	1090	3	Fill of large Pit									1			1
1091	1092	3	Fill of Pit							6	1				7
1105	1106	6	Fill of Pit	77							150	1			228
1107	1108	7	Fill of Posthole								4				4
1117	1118	18	Fill of Pit								2	2			4
1119	1120	12	Fill of Ring Ditch								1				1
1145	1147 A	11	Fill of Ring Ditch	2							1	3			6
1197	1198	19	Lower fill of Pit									1			1
1197	1199	19	Upper fill of Pit								1	6			7
1202	1203	19	Fill of Pit								2				2
1226	1227	19	Fill of Pit									1			1
1230	1231	19	Fill of Pit	2	1						9				12
1234	1235	19	Fill of Pit								2	2			4
1238	1239	19	Fill of Pit	8	3	2		11	1		50	5			80
1240	1241	19	Primary fill of Pit								1				1
1250	1251	19	Fill of Pit	2							1				3
1252	1253	19	Fill of Pit								1				1
	U/S	TT19	Unstratified		1						1	1			3
			Total	97	36	2	1	11	1	6	250	56	1	1	462

Table 3: Quantification of hand collected bone by context and segment

Sample	Context	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
1	1005		1			15	16
5	1106				80		80
7	1118		1			2	3
11	1055			1			1
13	1081 A	1			1		2
23	1081 G				1		1
31	1198				1	1	2
33	1186				1		1
42	1241				1		1
43	1249				2		2
		1	2	1	87	18	109

Table 4: Quantification of animal bone remains recovered from sieved samples (flot residues)

Egg Shell Fragments

Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A small number of egg shell fragments (1.031g) were recovered from trial trench excavations at Pirton, all deriving from a single context (L1005, Pit F1004). The largest of the fragments was approximately 25mm in its greatest dimension and all of the fragments appeared relatively shallow in their curvature compared to chicken egg shell. Shell thickness was measured using digital callipers and was found to be in the region of 0.62mm. Sidell (1993) lists three bird species as having egg shells of similar thickness to this, domestic goose (0.525-0.65mm), Mute Swan (0.5-0.6mm) and Gannet (0.55.0.6mm); no other species listed had shells with thicknesses as great as 0.6mm. Examination of the egg shell under a high powered incident light microscope (x400 magnification) indicated that the spacing and size of the mammillae was much greater in the archaeological specimen than in a modern reference chicken egg shell, which ties in well with these larger species. It is felt certain that the egg shell does not belong to chicken and that of the three species named above domestic goose seems the most likely option both in terms of the high measurement for shell thickness and likely availability to the site inhabitants. Any future excavations should put in place a sampling and sieving strategy that is able to capture further shell fragments that may be present.

Reference

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The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

The evaluation at Pollards Way, Pirton, identified numerous archaeological features. Assessment of the potential for palaeoeconomic and palaeoenvironmental investigations has been facilitated through the collection of 42 bulk soil samples. These samples were collected from a range of excavated features, just under half of which can be spot dated to the Anglo-Saxon period. This report presents the results

from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions, before discussing the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 5.

Anglo-Saxon period

A total of 20 samples were assessed from deposits spot dated to the Anglo-Saxon period. Carbonised plant macrofossils were recorded in nine of the samples (45%), predominantly in the form of indeterminate cereal grains, with occasional wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) also present. The low densities of carbonised material in these deposits are indicative of background scatters of charred remains, perhaps in the form of wind-blown debris. This suggests that the excavated features dated to the Anglo-Saxon period were peripheral to any areas of intensive cereal use and processing activities.

Charcoal remains were similarly sparse, presumably representing scattered hearth debris. Shells of terrestrial molluscs were common or abundant, with many taxa representing short to moderate length grassland, including *Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Trichia hispida* group, *Vallonia* sp. and *Vertigo* sp. Most of these are likely to reflect conditions close to or on the sides of the excavated features. There is also evidence for conditions within the features, with *Pomatias elegans* in particular reflecting loose, disturbed sides of recently cut features.

Medieval period

Two samples were assessed from medieval deposits in the form of Plough Soil L1069 and ditch fill L1124 (F1123). A small range of carbonised plant remains were present, mainly from L1069, which included grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type).

Little identifiable charcoal was present, although L1069 contained abundant small (<2mm) fragments. The molluscan assemblage was broadly comparable to that

from the Anglo-Saxon deposits, indicating short to moderate length grassland habitats.

Undated deposits

The largest range of carbonised plant macrofossils came from undated deposits. Material included hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.), peas/ beans (large Fabaceae) and a small number of likely arable weeds (Caryophyllaceae, *Rumex* sp. and large Poaceae). Many of these deposits are likely to relate to the Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation of the site. Pit fill L1005 (F1004) contained a small number of glume wheat (*T. dicoccum/ spelta*) glume bases. Spelt and occasionally emmer wheat remains are well recorded, sometimes in some quantity, from sites of Anglo Saxon (e.g. Murphy 1985; Carruthers 2008; Pelling and Robinson 2000) and even medieval date (Ballantyne 2005) and may represent continued cultivation or re-introduction of more primitive wheat varieties.

Contaminants

A range of modern contaminants were noted in the samples, including rootlets, seeds, burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*), insects and occasional earthworm egg capsules. Although rootlets, molluscs and earthworms can be agents for biological disturbance, moving small items such as charred seeds and grains within the stratigraphic profile, the relatively low density of specimens suggests that such disturbance of the deposits was not extensive.

Conclusions and Statement of Potential

The range of carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal from the sampled deposits was limited for all spot dateable samples. This indicates that most of the features excavated in the trial trenches were peripheral to areas of intensive cereal use and processing. However, the recovery of slightly richer samples from undated deposits suggests that carbonised remains are preserved within the deposits. Should further excavation take place at the site, additional samples of excavated features may allow some more detailed comments to be made about the Anglo-Saxon and medieval diet and economy at Pollards Way. Further recovery of non-cereal taxa may allow more detailed comment regarding crop husbandry and processing activities.

The excellent preservation of terrestrial molluscs means that there is some potential for further investigation of on-site habitats and potential changes over time. This is reliant on the identification of appropriate deposits that represent land surfaces, not just unstable ditch and pit sides. Such deposits would include the upper fills/later silting of large ditches and spreads of material such as surfaces, middens or fragments of buried soil.

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Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
								Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
1	1005	1004	Fill of pit	-	30	20	33.33%	XX	X	HB (XX), Hord germ (X), Trit (XX), Oat (X), E/S GB (X), Culm (X)	XX	Large Fabaceae (XX), Caryophyllaceae (X), *Rumex* sp. (X)	-	X	Diffuse porous	X	*Carychium* sp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	-	X	-	Bone (X), Small mammal bone (X)
2	1067	1066	Fill of ditch	Mid 5th-7th C AD	10	10	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*P. muscorum*, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
3	1069	1068	ploughsoil	13th-14th C AD	40	20	50.00%	XX	-	Hord (X), FTW (X)	-	-	-	-	Abundant small frags	XX	Clausiliidae, *H. itala, P. muscorum*, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	X	X	-	-
4	1086	1084	Fill of pit	-	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Quercus* sp.	XX	Clausiliidae, *Cochlicopa* sp., *T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	XX	XX	-	X	-	-
5	1106	1105	Fill of pit	-	40	30	75.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Abundant small frags	XX	*Carychium* sp., *D. rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp., *P. muscorum*, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	Bone (XX)
6	1081D	1080	Fil of ditch	Mid 5th-7th C AD	20	10	50.00%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*H.itala, P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	XXX	X	X	-	-	-
7	1118	1117	Fill of irregular pit	-	40	20	50.00%	X	-	Hord (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	XX	*Oxychilus* sp., *P. muscorum*, *Vallonia* sp.	XXX	XX	X	-	-	-
8	1108	1107	Fill of posthole	Mid 5th-6th C AD	20	10	50.00%	X	-	NFI (4)	-	-	-	X	Ring porous, Diffuse porous	XX	*H. itala, P. muscorum, Succinea/ Oxyloma* sp., *T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	X	-	-	Amphibian bone (X)

9	1120	1119	Fill of ring ditch	Mid 5th-9th C AD	40	20	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Carychium* sp., Clausiliidae, *Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, Oxychilus* sp., *P. elegans, P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-
10	1039	1038	Fill of posthole	-	10	10	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	XX	*D. rotundatus, Oxychilus* sp., *P. elegans, P. muscorum*	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
11	1055	1054	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-9th C AD	40	20	50.00%	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	X	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous	XX	*Carychium* sp., *Cepea* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *H.itala, Oxychilus* sp., *T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	X	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)
12	1079	1078	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-7th C AD	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	-	-	-	-
13	1081A	1080	Fil of ditch	Mid 5th-7th C AD	20	10	50.00%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-
15	1081F	1080	Fill of ditch	Mid 5th-7th C AD	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *D. rotundatus, H. itala, Oxychilus* sp., *P. elegans, P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	X	-	-
16	1124	1123	Fill of ditch	13th-14th C AD	20	10	50.00%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*D. rotundatus, H. itala, P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	-	-	-	-

17	1120B	1119	Fill of ring ditch	Mid 5th-9th C AD	40	20	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Carychium* sp., *Cepea* sp., Clausiliidae, *H. itala*, *Oxychilus* sp., *T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
18	1147A	1145	Fill of ring ditch	-	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Quercus sp.*, Diffuse porous	XXX	*Carychium* sp., *Cepea* sp., Clausiliidae, *Cochlicopa* sp., *D. rotundatus*, Oxychilus *sp.*, *P. elegans*, *Vallonia* sp., *Vitrea* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
19	1148A	1145	Fill of ring ditch	-	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Quercus* sp.	XXX	*Carychium* sp., Clausiliidae, *Cochlicopa* sp., *D. rotundatus*, *H. itala*, *Oxychilus* sp., *P. elegans*, *P. muscorum*, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	X	X	-
20	1148B	1145	Fill of ring ditch	-	40	20	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *Oxychilus* sp., *P. elegans*, *P. muscorum*, *T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
21	1152	1151	Fill of plough scar	Mid 5th-7th C AD	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Carychium* sp., *H. itala*, *Oxychilus* sp., *P. muscorum*, *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
22	1156	1155	Fill of ring ditch	-	40	20	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	*Cepea* sp., Clausiliidae, *Cochlicopa* sp., *D. rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp., *P. elegans*, *P. muscorum*, *T. hispida* gp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-

23	1081G	1080	Fill of ditch	Mid 5th-7th C AD	40	20	50.00%	X	-	NFI (1)	XX	Large Poaceae (1)	-	X	-	XX	Clausiliidae, *Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-
24	1144	1143	Fill of ditch	-	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, Oxychilus* sp., *P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
25	1142	1141	Fill of ditch	-	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Clausiliidae, *Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, P. elegans, P. muscorum, Oxychilus* sp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	X	-	-	-
26	1168	1167	Fill of ditch	-	20	10	50.00%	X	-	Trit (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*H. itala, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	X	X	-	Indet. Carb (X)
27	1174	1173	Fill of ditch	18th-19th C	30	10	33.33%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*H. itala, Oxychilus* sp., *P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-
28	1180	1179	Fill of posthole	-	10	10	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	*Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
29	1181	1179	Fill of posthole	-	10	10	100.00%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*H. itala, P. elegans, P. pygmaeum, Vertigo* sp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
30	1196	1195	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-9th C AD	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	XX	*P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	X	-
31	1198	1197	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-7th C AD	10	10	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	XX	*H. itala, P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	X	X	-	-	X	-
32	1199	1197	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-7th C AD	20	10	50.00%	X	-	Hord (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*H. itala, P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
33	1186	1185	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-7th C AD	40	10	25.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	X	*P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-

34	1203	1202	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-9th C AD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Oxychilus* sp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-
35	1205	1204	Fill of pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Carychium* sp., *P. muscorum*	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-
36	1178	1177	Fill of posthole	-	20	20	100.00%	X	-	FTW (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*Carychium* sp., *D. rotundatus, H. itala, P. elegans*	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
37	1221	1220	Fill of ditch	-	20	10	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	*T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	-	-	-	-
38	1225	1224	Fill of pit	-	20	10	50.00%	X	-	HB (1), NFI (1)	X	Large Fabaceae (X)	-	X	-	XX	*H. itala, P. muscorum, Vallonia* sp.	XX	XX	X	-	-	-
39	1235	1234	Fill of pit	Mid 5th-7th C AD	20	10	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	Diffuse porous	XX	*D. rotundatus, Oxychilus* sp., *P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp.	XXX	XX	-	-	-	-
40	1242	1240	Fill of grave	Mid 7th-9th C AD	60	30	50.00%	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	-	Abundant small frags	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp.	XX	XXX	X	-	X	-
41	1244	1243	Fill of pit	-	20	20	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, Oxychilus* sp., *P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp.	XXX	XX	X	-	X	-
42	1241	1240	Fill of grave	Mid 7th-9th C AD	40	20	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	*Cochlicopa* sp., *Vallonia* sp.	X	XX	-	-	-	-
43	1249	1240	Fill of grave	Mid 7th-9th C AD	10	10	100.00%	X	-	Trit (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Cochlicopa* sp., *H. itala, P. muscorum, T. hispida* gp., *Vertigo* sp.	XX	XX	X	-	-	-

Table 5: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Pollards Way, Pirton. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (Hordeum sp.); Hord = barley (Hordeum sp.); E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (Triticum dicoccum/ spelta); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (Triticum aestivum/ turgidum); Trit = wheat (Triticum sp.); Oat (Avena sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain), GB = glume base

The Human Skeleton
Sue Anderson

The remains of a single individual (SK1; F1240), were recovered from a grave Anglo-Saxon date. The bones were in good condition but the skull and torso in particular were heavily fragmented and the skeleton was incomplete.

The remains comprised fragments of cranial vault, maxilla and mandible, the complete spine, part of the sternum, numerous small pieces of rib, fragmentary scapulae, both clavicles, both humeri, the right radius and ulna and part of the left ulna, most bones of the right hand, the left fifth metacarpal, a broken and incomplete sacrum, both innominates (missing the anterior part of the pelvis), the bones of the right leg (except the patella, which was present in the grave) and the left femur. No foot bones were present. Missing bones appear to have been lost through plough truncation or animal disturbance.

The bones were of medium size, but robust with prominent muscle markings, suggesting that the individual was male. Tooth wear was heavy, cranial sutures were partially obliterated and there was extensive degenerative joint disease suggesting that he was probably in old age at the time of death.

Some metrical data could be recorded (see Catalogue, below), and an estimate of living stature was calculated from the length of the right femur at 1.683m (5' 6¼"). Cranial and post-cranial non-metric traits were recorded where possible, but nothing unusual was observed.

The dentition was incomplete, as both maxillae had been broken at the rear portions. Thirty-four tooth positions could be assessed for loss and disease. Six teeth had been lost post-mortem (although in two cases they may have been extracted ante-mortem as the alveoli showed signs of partial closure). At least two molars on the left side of the jaw had been lost ante-mortem. Abscesses were present periapically in ten positions, affecting the premolars and molars (Plate 5). Tooth wear was heavy and alveolar resorption was considerable, particularly around the molars where there was pitting and evidence for periodontal disease. As a result of the abscesses in the maxilla, both maxillary sinuses had evidence for sinusitis, with new bone formation and porosity of the floors of the antra.

Degenerative joint disease was widespread, affecting the spine in particular. Grade III osteoarthritis was present in the first and second cervical vertebrae at the odontoid peg of the axis and the corresponding facet of the atlas, and there was grade II osteoarthritis in the bodies of the fifth to seventh cervical vertebrae, the second and third thoracic vertebrae and the third to fifth lumbar vertebrae, as well as in some lower thoracic and lumbar apophyseal joints and joints for the rib heads (generally not assessable higher up the spine). Most of the mid to lower thoracic bodies and lumbar bodies had large osteophytes (Plate 6), especially on the right side, where assessable. In the lower spine, changes to the surfaces of the lumbar vertebral bodies were widespread and appeared inflammatory in nature, possibly indicating a reactive arthritis rather than simply osteoarthritis. Fine new bone

formation and pitting across the surfaces of both sacro-iliac joints suggested that these may also have been affected with an arthritic disease.

Osteophytes were also present on all joints of the right elbow, at the proximal end of the right thumb (MC1), and around the hip joints. The acetabular rims of both hips had patches of grade II osteoarthritis around the superior edges (Plate 7), the left side being more affected than the right, and there was thickened new bone growth around the head of the right femur but not on the left. Grade II osteoarthritis was also present on the lateral end of the right clavicle and on the anterior facet of the right scapula acromion.

Evidence of physical stress was observed in several bones. New bone formation on the surface of the greater trochanter of the left femur, with small, slightly spiky exostoses, may be related to a torn muscle or other injury. There were large or very large Schmorl's nodes (Plate 8) in every assessable vertebral body from the fourth thoracic down to the first sacral segment, suggesting severe stress on the spine. Two ribs, the right third and a mid left, had healed fractures, and the right clavicle had also been fractured, with profuse callus formation on the rear of the bone (Plate 9). Destruction of the distal joint surface of the proximal phalanx in the right index finger (Plate 10) may also have been traumatic in origin; unfortunately the proximal end of the intermediate phalanx had been damaged post-mortem.

Flattening of the right radius tuberosity with sclerotic new bone and osteophyte formation may perhaps have followed trauma to this area.

The neural arches of two lumbar vertebrae (third and fourth) were detached (Plate 11). This may be a congenital or developmental anomaly, but it can also arise through injury. Given the degree of trauma to the spine of this individual, the latter seems more likely. The two separated arches and corresponding parts of the attached facets on both bones were covered in new bone growth with arthritic changes and possibly cyst formation.

In summary, the bones were those of an older adult male of slightly below average height, with well-developed muscles, and evidence of degenerative disease, physical trauma and chronic dental disease.

Radiocarbon Sample

A sample of left fibula shaft (9.7g) was extracted for dating. The sample produced a date range of 775-970 cal AD (95.4%) at 95.4% confidence (See Mustchin, below).

Plates

Photographs by Carleton Van Selman

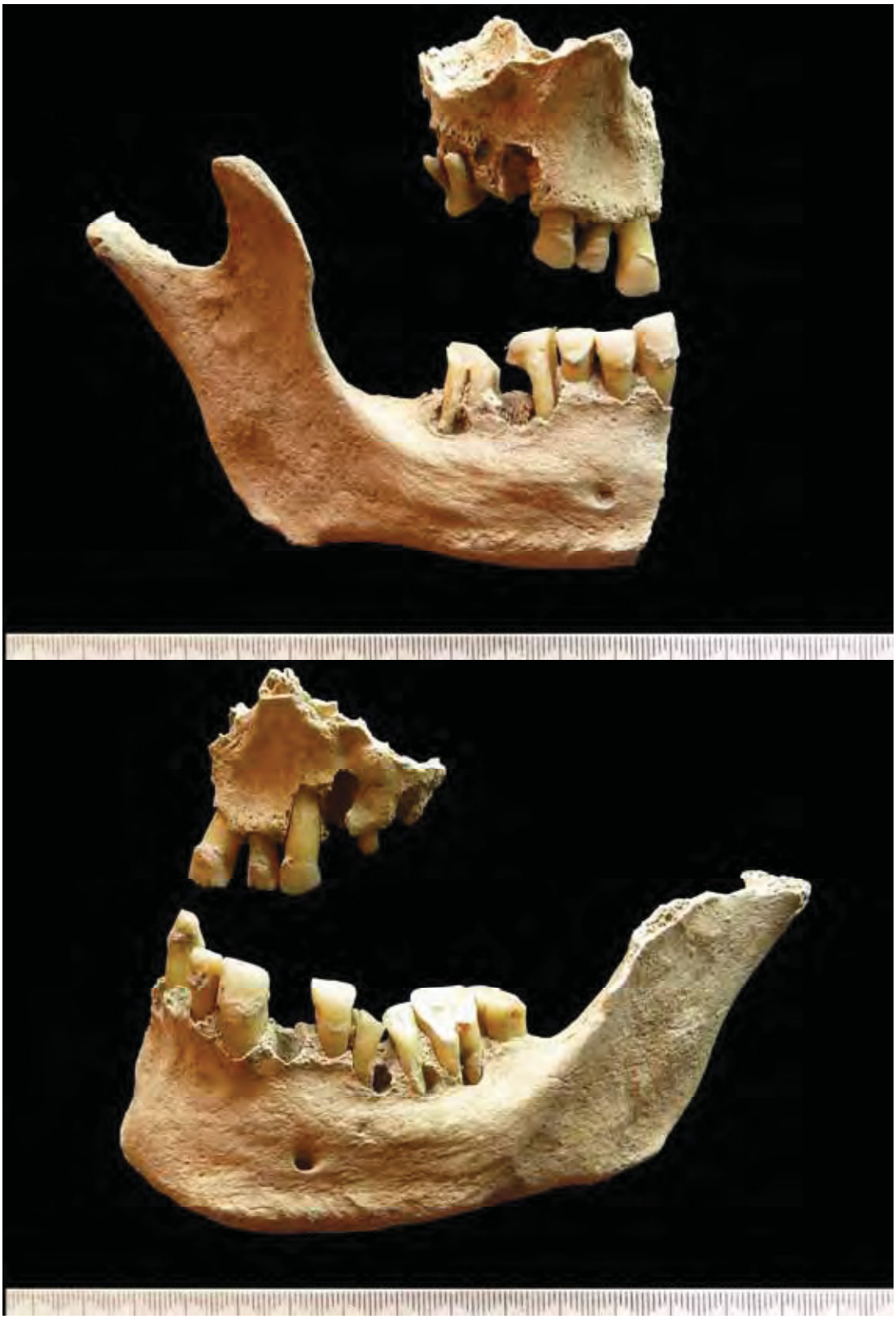

Plate 5: Dental abscesses in the maxilla and mandible (top, right side; bottom, left side)

Plate 6: Osteophytes on the lower spine

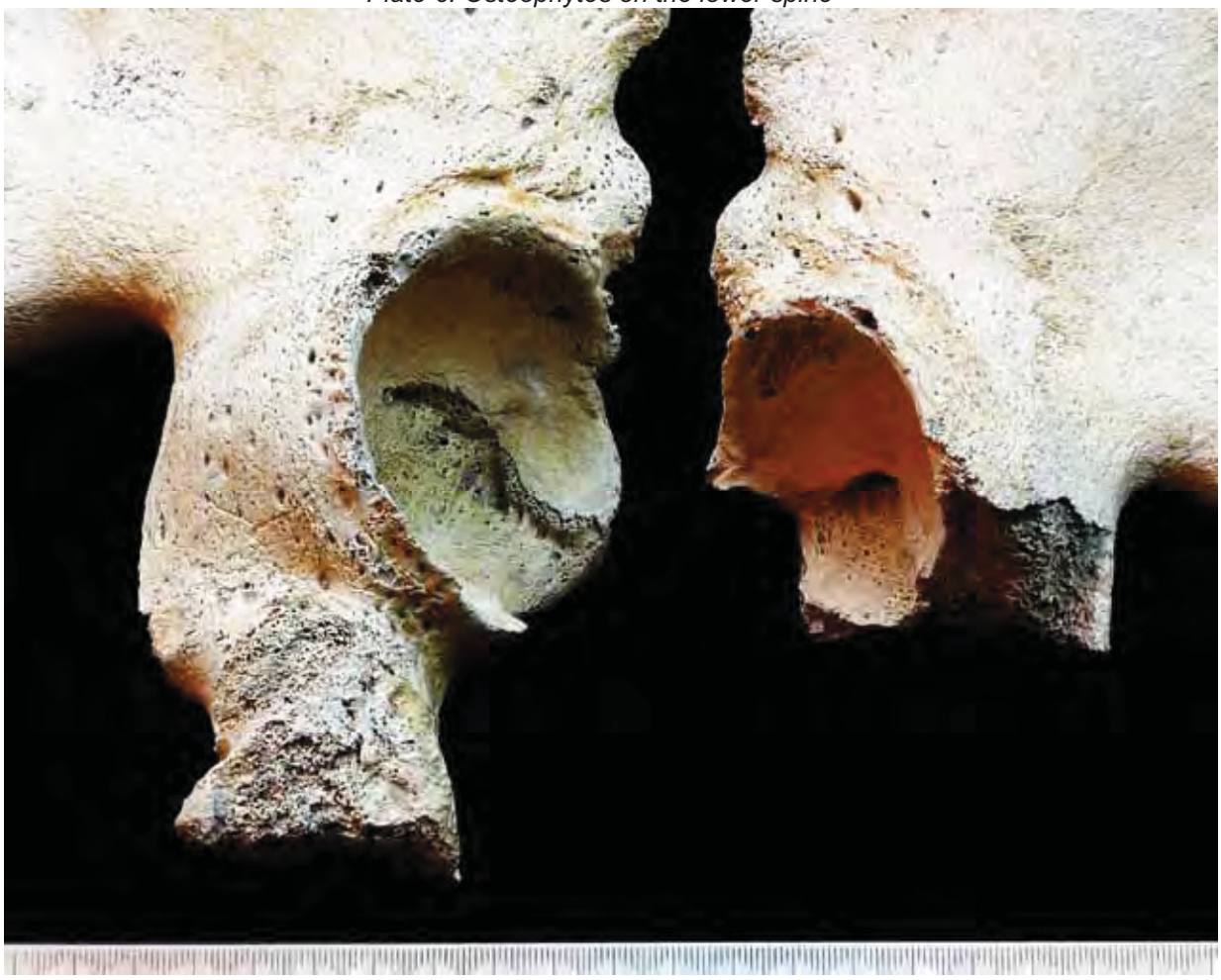

Plate 7: Osteoartritis of the hips (acetabular rims)

Plate 8: Examples of Schmorl's nodes in the thoracic vertebral bodies

Plate 9: Right clavicle showing fracture with profuse callus formation on the posterior surface (top)

Plate 10: Proximal phalanx of right index finger showing destruction of the distal end, distal, palmar and dorsal views

Plate 11: Detached neural arches of the third and fourth lumbar vertebrae (top superior, bottom inferior views)

Catalogue

Methodology

Measurements were taken using the methods described by Brothwell (1981), together with a few from Bass (1971) and Krogman (1978). Sexing and ageing techniques follow Brothwell (1981) and the Workshop of European Anthropologists (WEA 1980), with the exception of adult tooth wear scoring which follows Bouts and Pot (1989). Stature was estimated according to the regression formulae of Trotter and Gleser (Trotter 1970). All systematically scored non-metric traits are listed in Brothwell (1981), and grades of cribra orbitalia and osteoarthritis can also be found there. Pathological conditions were identified with the aid of Ortner and Putschar (1981) and Cotta (1978).

Notes

Methods of age and sex determination are generalised to give an idea of the bones used. Sexing based on the pelvis used more traits than entries might suggest. "DF" stands for discriminant function, a statistical method of determining sex, where +2.0 is very male, -2.0 very female (WEA, 1980).

Teeth are recorded in the form illustrated below:

Maxilla R.	8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 X 7 U L.
Mandible	O 7 6 5 4 - - - / / 3 4 5 6 7 C
	A C

Code	Meaning
1 2 3 etc.	Tooth present in jaw.
X	Tooth lost ante-mortem.
/	Tooth lost post-mortem.
U, u	Tooth unerupted.
O, o	Tooth in process of erupting.
C	Tooth congenitally absent.
- - -	Jaw missing.
A	Abscess present (above/below tooth number).
C	Caries present (above/below tooth number).

Lower case letters a-e and u/o are used for deciduous teeth. Attrition patterns are coded according to the scores suggested by Bouts and Pot (1989, modified version of Brothwell's original tooth wear chart).

A few abbreviations have been used in the catalogue for commonly occurring pathological conditions and anatomical regions. These are as follows:

OA	osteoarthritis		MT	metatarsal
OP	osteophytosis, osteophytes	MC	metacarpal	
C	cervical vertebra		L.	left
T	thoracic vertebr	R.	right	
L	lumbar vertebra			

Any other abbreviations should be self-explanatory, since they are simply shortened forms of bone names or anatomical areas (prox = proximal, etc.).

Articulated Skeleton (SK1)

Male, old adult

Description: Incomplete skeleton, comprising fragments of cranial vault, maxilla and mandible, the complete spine, part of the sternum, numerous small pieces of rib, fragmentary scapulae, both clavicles, both humeri, the right radius and ulna and part of the left ulna, most bones of the right hand, the left fifth metacarpal, a broken and incomplere sacrum, both innominates (missing the anterior part of the pelvis), the bones of the right leg (except the patella, which was present in the grave) and the left femur. No foot bones were present

Condition: Bone is in good condition, but torso fragmented.

Determination of age: Tooth wear considerable, cranial sutures closed and partially obliterated, degeneration.

Determination of sex: Cranium DF +1.4; pelvis DF +2.0; long bones medium but robust.

Stature: 1.683m from femur (5' 6¼")

Cranial index: -

Teeth:

			A	A							A	A	A			
-	X	6	/	/	3	2	1	1	2	3	/	5	/	-	-	
X	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	/	2	3	/	5	6	7	8	
	A	A									A		A	A		
-	-	6	-	-	4	3	4	4+	4	4+	-	7	-	-	-	*Tooth wear:*
-	6-	5+	5	4	3+	4	4	-	4	3+	-	5	7	6-	5	

Dental pathology: Calculus moderate throughout. Considerable alveolar resorption, pitting around molars, periodontal disease. Diastema between upper left incisors. Upper R PM2 and lower L PM1 possibly extracted?

Pathology:

Cribra orbitalia: None.

Degeneration: OAIII C1-2, OAII bodies C5-7, T2-3 and L3-5 vertebrae (poss reactive?), as well as in some lower thoracic and lumbar apophyseal joints and joints for the rib heads (generally not assessable higher up the spine). Most of the mid to lower thoracic bodies and lumbar bodies had large OPs, especially on the right side, where assessable. Fine new bone and pitting across both SIJs.

OPs all joints R elbow, prox R MC1, and around the hip joints. The acetabular rims of both hips had patches of OAII around the superior edges, the left side being more affected than the right, but there was thickened new bone growth around the head of the right femur but not on the left. OAII lateral end R clavicle and anterior facet R scapula acromion.

Schmorl's nodes: T4-L4, S1, large or very large.

Trauma: New bone formation surface of greater trochanter L femur, with small, slightly spiky exostoses.

Two ribs, the right third and a mid left, had healed fractures, and the right clavicle had also been fractured, with profuse callus formation on the rear of the bone.

Destruction of distal joint surface of prox phal R index finger; proximal end of intermediate phal damaged post-mortem.

Detached neural arches of L3 and L4, possibly traumatic? OAII/III on joints.

Infection: Maxillary sinusitis bilaterally due to abscesses.

Misc:

Skeleton Diagram

Bones present coloured black

Cranial Measurements

		01
Cranium		
Max Length	L	
Max Breadth	B	
Max Height	H'	
Basi-nasal Length	LB	
Basi-alveolar Length	GL	
Upper facial Height	G'H	
Bimaxillary Breadth	GB	
Bizygomatic Breadth	J	
Nasal Height	NH'	
Nasal Breadth	NB	
Simotic Chord	SC	
Bi-dacryonic Chord	DC	
Orbital Breadth	O'1	
Orbital Height	O2	
Palatal Length	G'1	
Palatal Breadth	G2	
Min Frontal Breadth	B'	
Biasterionic Breadth	BiastB	106
Foramen Magnum Length	FL	
Foramen Magnum Breadth	FB	
Frontal Arc	S1	
Parietal Arc	S2	
Occipital Arc	S3	
Frontal Chord	S'1	
Parietal Chord	S'2	115
Occipital Chord	S'3	96
Trans-Biporial Arc	B'Q	
Mastoid Process Height	MPH	32
Mandible		
Bicondylar width	W1	
Bigonial breadth	GoGo	101
Foramen mentale breadth	ZZ	46
Symphyseal height	H1	36
Mandibular length	ML	
Bicoronoid breadth	CrCr	
Min ramus breadth R.	RB’	31
Min ramus breadth L.	RB’	30
Coronoid height R.	CrH	79
Coronoid height L.	CrH	
Condylar length R.	CyL	
Condylar length L.	CyL	
Gnathion-gonion length R.	GnGo	85
Gnathion-gonion length L.	GnGo	86

Measurements in mm.

Post-Cranial Measurements

	Sk.		0682
Femur			
Maximum length	FeL1	R	449
		L	
Oblique length	FeL2	R	447
		L	
Head diameter	FeHead	R	49
		L	49
Bicondylar breadth	FeE1	R	
		L	
Min subtrochanteric A-P diameter	FeD1	R	29
		L	30
Max subtrochanteric M-L diameter	FeD2	R	35
		L	37
Minimum shaft diameter (A-P)	FeD3	R	31
		L	31
Maximum shaft diameter (M-L)	FeD4	R	30
		L	31
Meric Index 100(FeD1/FeD2)		R	82.9
		L	81.1
Robusticity Index 100((FeD3+FeD4)/FeD2)		R	13.6
		L	
Tibia			
Maximum Length	TiL1	R	
		L	
Bicondylar Breadth	TiE1	R	
		L	
A-P diameter at nutrient foramen	TiD1	R	35
		L	
M-L diameter at nutrient foramen	TiD2	R	25
		L	
Cnemic Index 100(TiD2/TiD1)		R	71.4
		L	
Fibula			
Maximum Length	FiL1	R	
		L	
Humerus			
Maximum Length	HuL1	R	327
		L	319
Head diameter	HuHead	R	50
		L	48
Epicondylar Breadth	HuE1	R	
		L	68
Radius			
Maximum Length	RaL1	R	248
		L	
Ulna			
Maximum Length	UlL1	R	273
		L	
Calcaneus			
Maximum Length	CaL1	R	
		L	
Clavicle			
Maximum Length	ClL1	R	147
		L	
Sacrum			
Maximum Length			
Maximum Breadth			
S1 Width			
Breadth/Length Index			
S1 Width/Max Breadth Index			
Stature			1683

Measurements in mm.

Cranial Non-Metric Traits

	Sk.	01
Highest nuchal line	R	0
	L	0
Ossicle at lambda/Inca		0
Lambdoid wormian bones	R	0
	L	+
Parietal foramen	R	+
	L	0
Bregmatic bone		0
Metopism		0
Coronal wormian bones	R	+
	L	-
Epipteric bone	R	-
	L	-
Fronto-temporal articulation	R	-
	L	-
Parietal notch bone	R	-
	L	-
Asterionic ossicle	R	-
	L	-
Auditory torus	R	0
	L	-
Huschke's foramen	R	0
	L	-
Post-condylar canal	R	+
	L	-
Double condylar facet	R	0
	L	0
Precondylar tubercle	R	0
	L	0
Double hypoglossal canal	R	0
	L	0
Foramen ovale incomplete	R	-
	L	-
Extra palatine foramen	R	-
	L	-
Palatine torus	R	0
	L	0
Maxillary torus	R	-
	L	-
Zygoma-facial foramen	R	-
	L	-
Supra-orbital foramen complete	R	0
	L	-
Extra infra-orbital foramen	R	-
	L	-
Sagittal wormian		0
Squame parietal ossicle	R	-
	L	-
Multiple mental foramen	R	0
	L	0
Mandibular torus	R	0
	L	0

Post-Cranial Non-Metric Traits

	Sk.	0229
Atlas bridge lateral	R	-
	L	-
Atlas bridge posterior	R	0
	L	0
Atlas double facet	R	0
	L	0
Suprascapular foramen	R	-
	L	0
Detached acromion epiphysis	R	0
	L	0
Sterno-manubrial fusion	R	0
	L	0
Septal aperture of humerus	R	0
	L	0
Epicondylar process of humerus	R	0
	L	0
Sacralisation of L5	R	0
	L	0
Four sacral segments		-
Six sacral segments		-
Acetabular crease	R	0
	L	0
Allen's fossa of femur	R	0
	L	0
Poirier's facet of femur	R	0
	L	0
Plaque formation of femur	R	0
	L	0
Third femoral trochanter	R	0
	L	0
Vastus notch of patella	R	-
	L	-
Calcaneus double facet	R	-
	L	-
Cuboid-navicular articulation	R	-
	L	-

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Radiocarbon Dating Determinations
Antony R.R. Mustchin

Introduction

Two radiocarbon dating samples were submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC; University of Glasgow). The samples comprised a fragment of human bone from Grave F1240 and a fragment of cattle bone from Pit F1105. The availability and suitability of material for scientific dating was determined by Dr Julia Cussans (AS) and Sue Anderson.

Research Questions

A single human inhumation burial was encountered in Trench 19 (Grave F1240) of the trial trench evaluation. This feature formed part of an intercutting cluster of pit-type features, mostly spot dated to the Anglo-Saxon period. The remains (SK1) were hand collected and fully reported (see Anderson, above). After processing and reporting, material suitable for radiocarbon dating was identified and isolated. Proposals for scientific dating were developed following the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU).

A single, undated cattle burial was encountered within Pit F1105. The fill of this feature was devoid of datable finds. The remains were hand collected and reported (see Cussans, above). After processing and reporting, material suitable for radiocarbon dating was identified and isolated. Proposals for scientific dating were developed following the advice of HCC HEU.

Calibrated dates from these burials had the potential to place them into context with datable features and finds, both within the current site and its environs.

Results

The results of the radiocarbon dating programme are presented in Table 6 and Charts 1-2. ^{14}C ages are displayed in conventional years BP (before present (1950)). Calibrated age ranges were determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal4 (Bronk Ramsey 2010)) and IntCal13, the current atmospheric calibration dataset for the northern hemisphere (Reimer *et al.* 2013). Conventional ages and calibrated age ranges were calculated by Dr Elaine Dunbar (SUERC).

Feature	Context	Sample Type	Lab. No. (SUERC-)	Date BP	$\delta^{13}C$ value	Calibrated Date/ Date Range (95.4% Confidence Levels)
1105	1106	Cattle bone	60631 (GU37586)	3007±31	-22.0 ‰	*1384-1341 cal BC (10.7%); 1308-1127 cal BC (84.7%)*
1240	1241	Human bone	60630 (GU37585)	1154±32	-19.9 ‰	*775-970 cal AD (95.4%)*

Table 6: Radiocarbon determinations (calibrated using OxCal4 (Bronk Ramsey 2010)). Key: BP = before present (AD 1950)

For the cattle burial from Pit F1105, a calibrated age range of 1384-1341 cal BC (10.7%) and 1308-1127 cal BC (84.7%) was produced at 95.4% confidence levels for

sample SUERC-60631 (uncalibrated age 3007±31BP). For the human inhumation burial from Grave F1240 (SK1), a calibrated age range of 775-970 cal AD (95.4%) was produced at 95.4% confidence levels for sample SUERC-60630 (uncalibrated age 1154±32BP). The results of the radiocarbon dating programme are cited and discussed within the archaeological narrative and subsequent *Discussion* section (above).

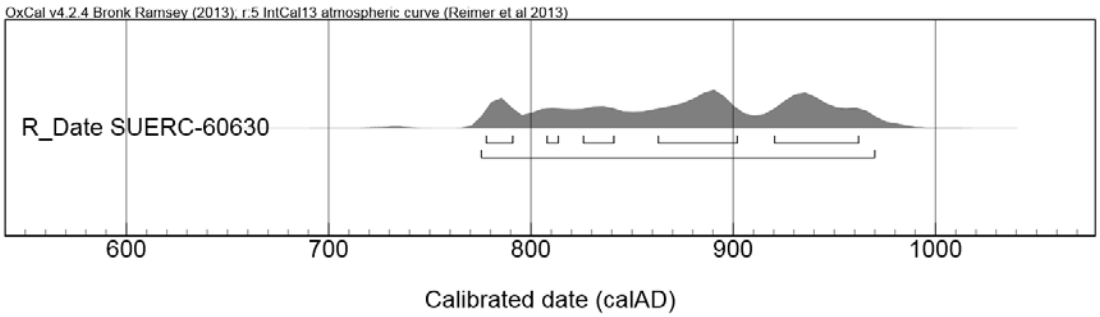

Chart 1: Radiocarbon probability distribution (human burial)

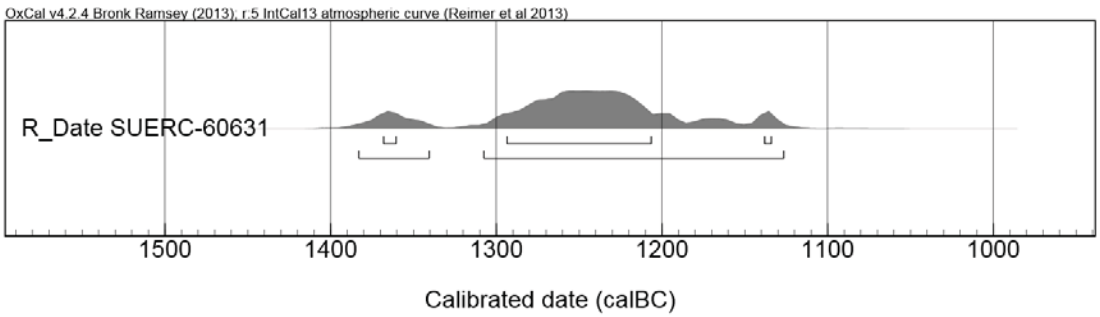

Chart 2: Radiocarbon probability distribution (cattle burial)

References

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Reimer, P. J., Bard, E., Bayliss, A., Beck, J.W., Blackwell, P.G., Bronk Ramsey, C., Grootes, P.M., Guilderson, T.P., Haflidason, H., Hajdas, I., Hatt, C., Heaton, T.J., Hoffmann, D.L., Hogg, A.G., Hughen, K.A., Kaiser, K.F., Kromer, B., Manning, S.W., Niu, M., Reimer, R.W., Richards, D.A., Scott, E.M., Southon, J.R., Staff, R.A., Turney, C.S.M. and van der Plicht, J. 2013
'IntCal13 and Marine13 Radiocarbon Age Calibration Curves 0-50,000 Years cal BP', *Radiocarbon, 55*(4), 1867-87

APPENDIX 3 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	Advice
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	1258
Site drawings A1	None
Site drawings A3	19
Site drawings A4	None
Site photographs b/w	171
Site photographs colour slides	171
Digital Photographs	210

APPENDIX 4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Land at Pollards Way/ Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire
County: North Hertfordshire	**District:** North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Pirton	**Parish:** Pirton
Planning application reference:	NHDC Planning Ref. 14/03369/1
Client name/address/tel:	Court Homes Ltd
Nature of application:	Residential
Present land use:	Agriculture
Size of application area 3.12ha.	**Size of area investigated** c. 1500m^2
NGR (8 figures):	TL 1434 3171
Site Code:	AS1740
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Trial Trench Evaluation
Date of work:	17/03/2015 - 01/04/2015
Location of finds/Curating museum:	North Hertfordshire
Related HER Nos:	**Periods represented:** Prehistoric; Romano-British; Anglo-Saxon; medieval; post-medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	Baker, M., Egan, S. and Summers, J., 2015, *Land at Pollards Way/ Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire. A Geophysical Survey Report,* Archaeological Solutions Ltd Report No. 4800
Summary of fieldwork results:	*Between March and April 2015, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Pollards Way/ Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire. The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for residential development and was preceded by a geophysical survey, also conducted by AS.* *In the event the trial trench evaluation identified a number of features, predominantly of Anglo-Saxon date. These included concentrations of postholes within Trenches 1, 2 and 19, a cluster of pits within the central area of Trench 19 and the inhumation burial of an adult male, also in Trench 19. Radiocarbon dating of the human remains produced a calibrated date range of 775-970 cal AD (95.4%) at 95.4% confidence. A discrete pit in Trench 6 contained a cattle burial; radiocarbon dating of the cattle bone produced a calibrated date range of 1384-1341 cal BC (10.7%) and 1308-1127 cal BC (84.7%) at 95.4% confidence. Discrete Anglo-Saxon features were also encountered, as were furrows associated with medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Overall, there was a reasonable correlation between the excavated features and anomalies identified by the forerunning geophysical survey.*
Author of summary: Kerrie Bull	**Date of Summary:** 23 June 2015

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F1060 in Trench 2 looking east

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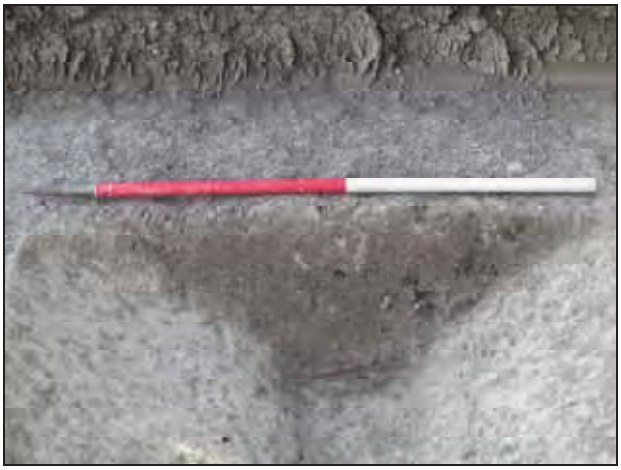
F1062 in Trench 16 looking north

4
F1068B in Trench 15 looking east

5
F1078 in Trench 14 looking north

6
F1080A in Trench 4 looking south-west



7
F1080C in Trench 6 looking south-west

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F1080F in Trench 8 looking south-west

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F1080G in Trench 11 looking north-east

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F1105 mid-excavation in Trench 6 looking south-west

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F1117 in Trench 18 looking south-west

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View of Trench 19 pit cluster looking north

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Post-excavation view of Trench 19 looking south

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Post-excavation view of Trench 20 looking north-west

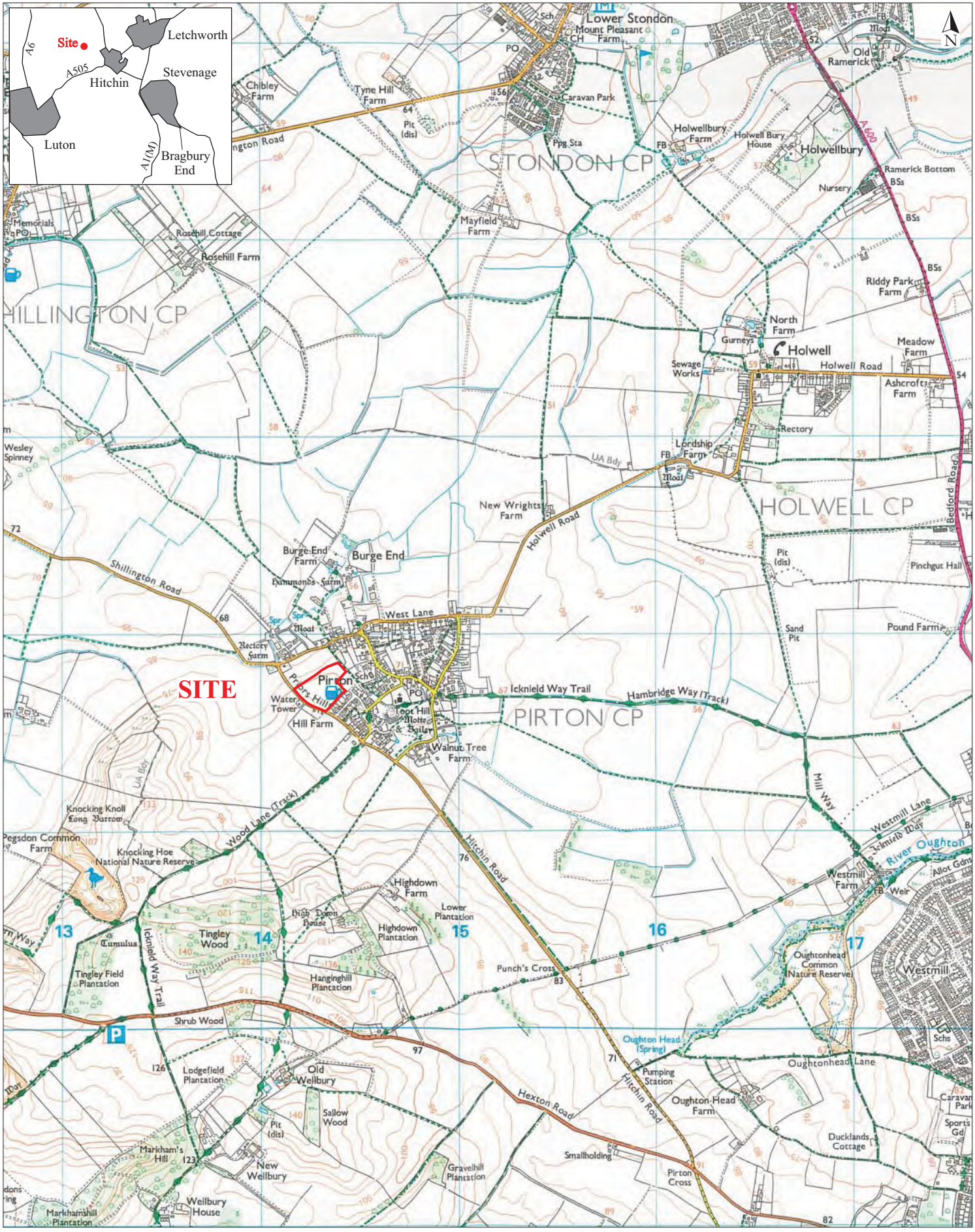

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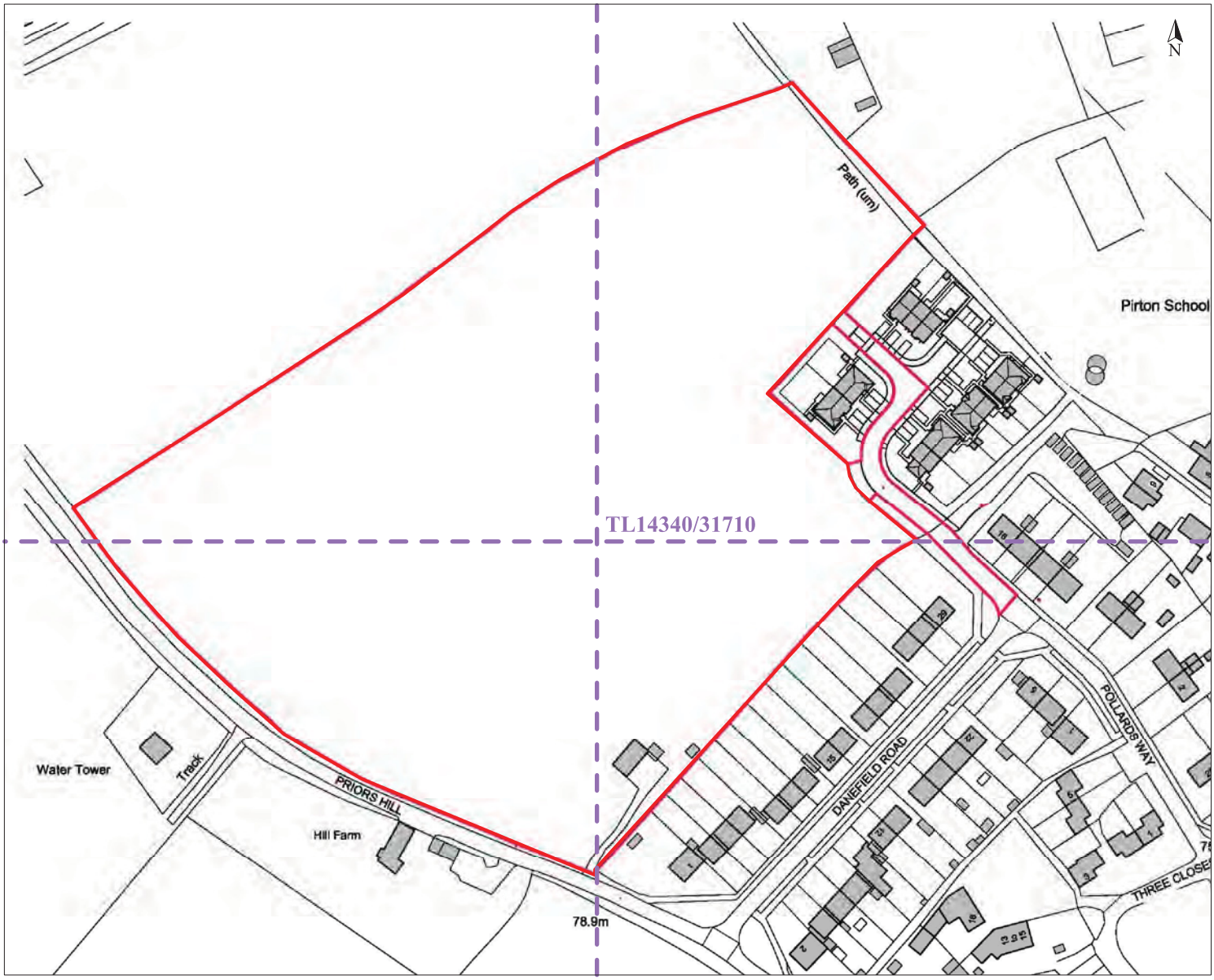
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)



0 1:2000 150m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:2000 at A4

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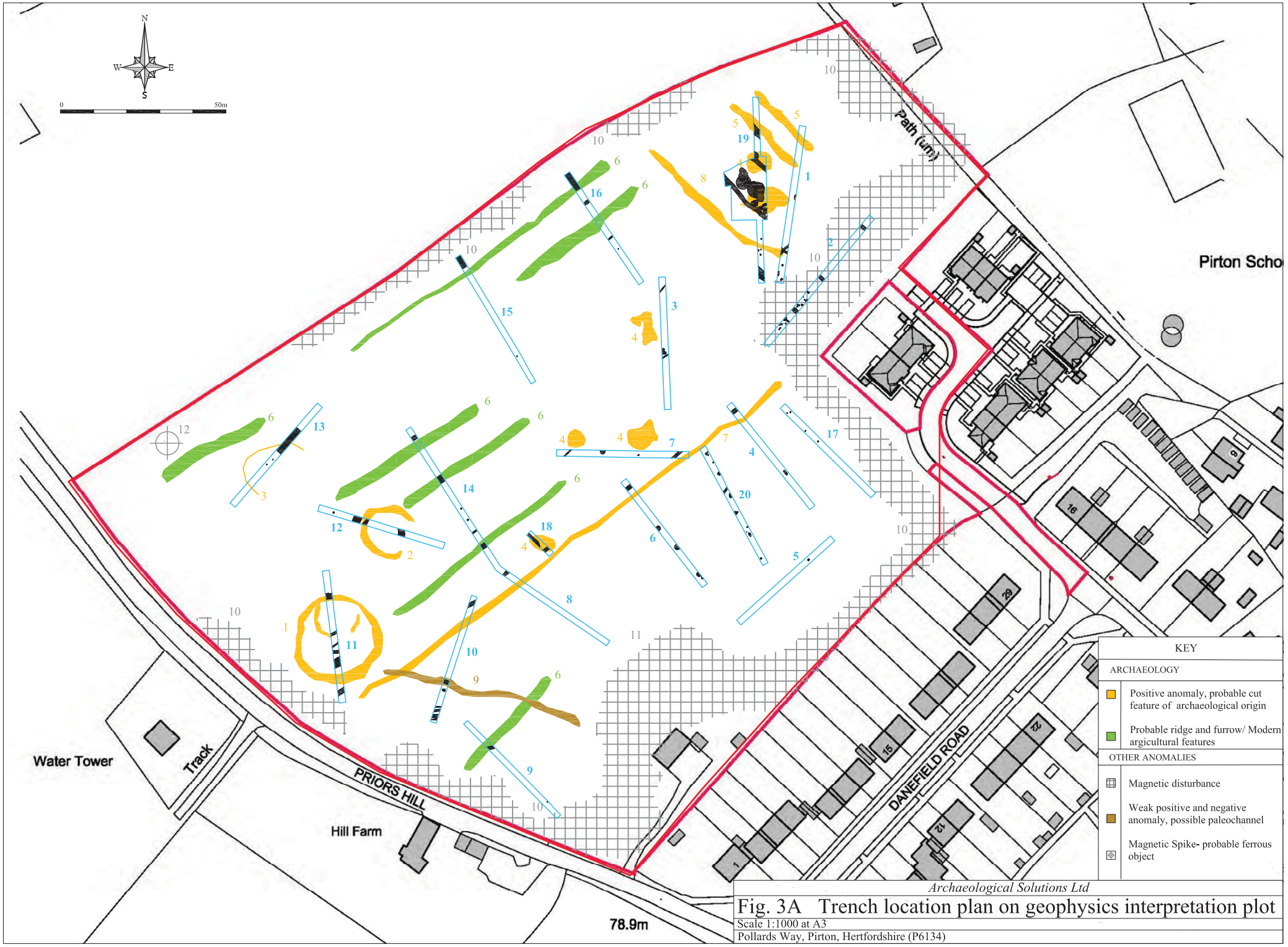

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Fig. 3A Trench location plan on geophysics interpretation plot

Scale 1:1000 at A3

Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)

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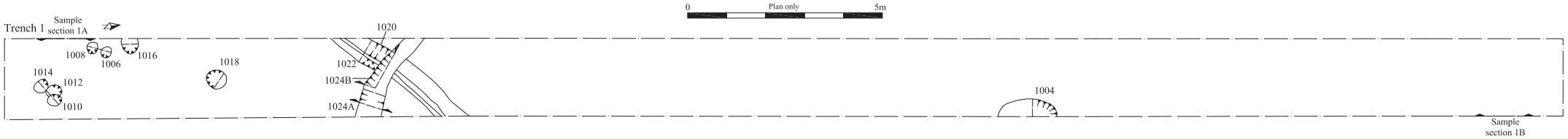
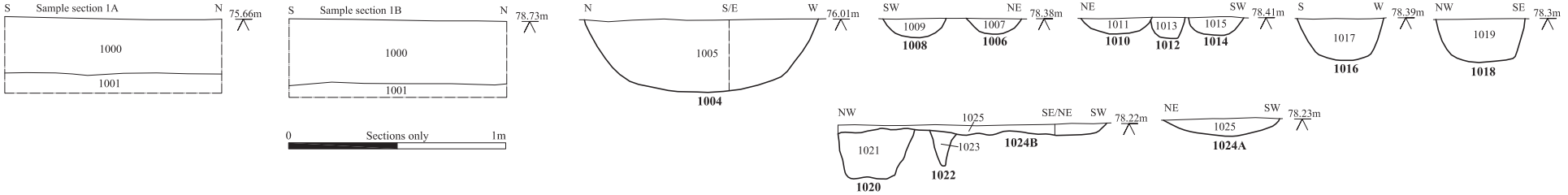
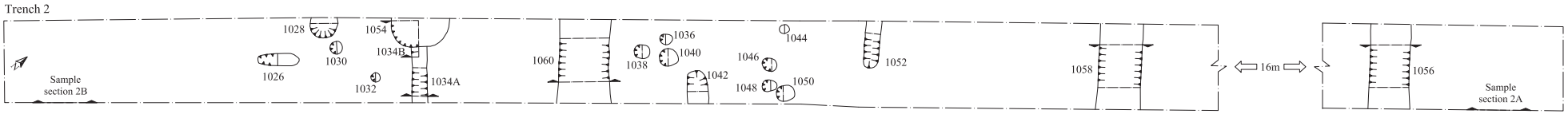
Fig. 3B Trench location plan on development plan

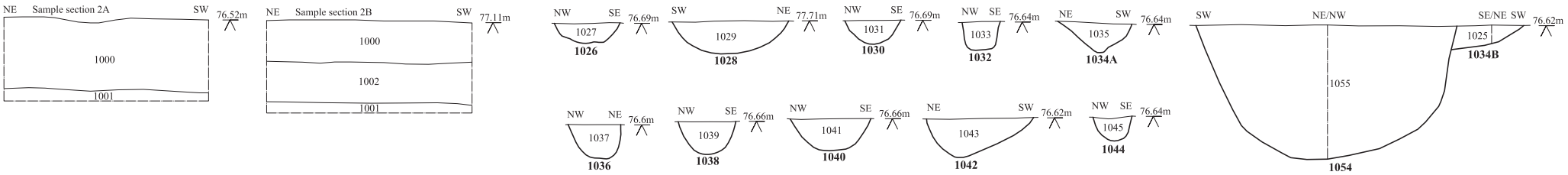
Scale 1:1000 at A3

Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)









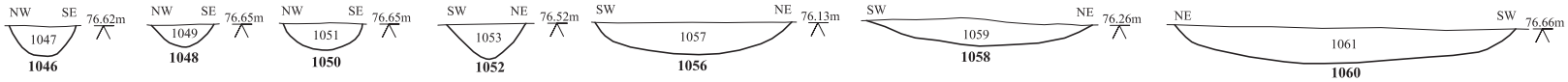


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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)

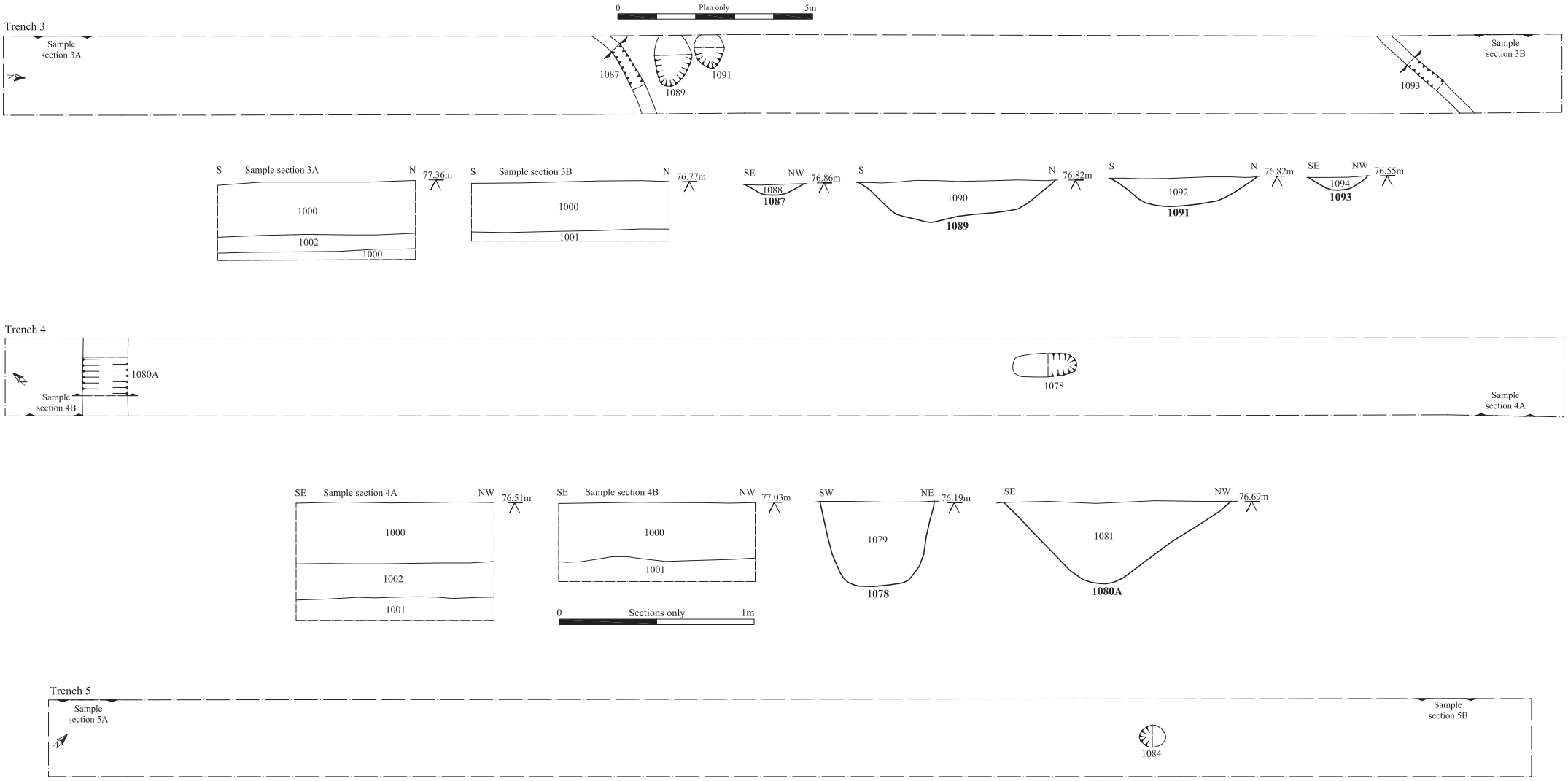

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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
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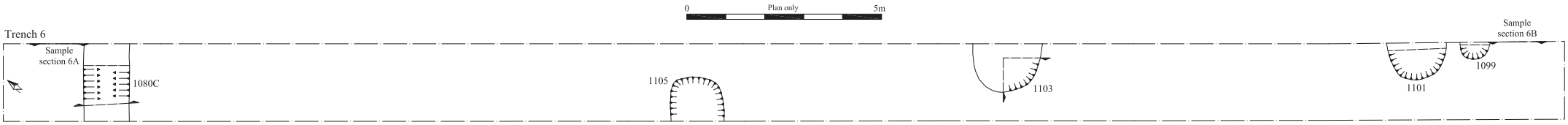

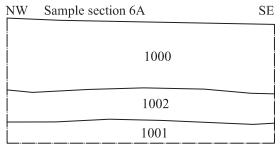

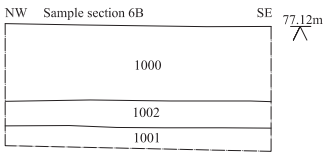

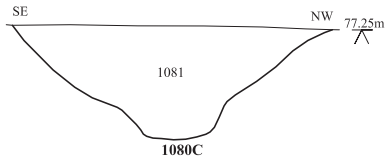

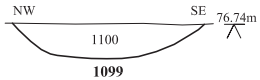

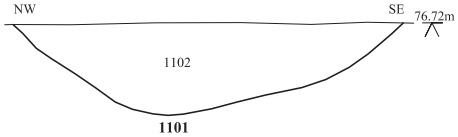

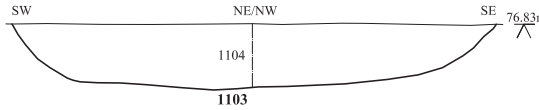

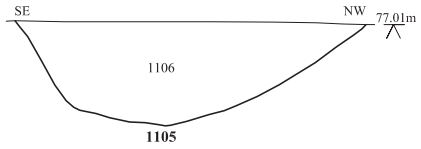

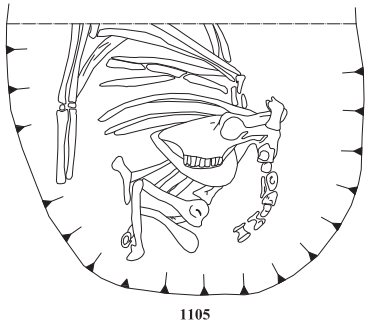

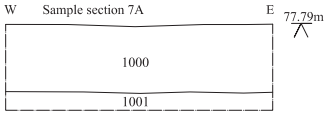

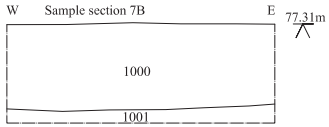

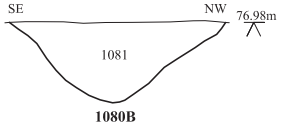

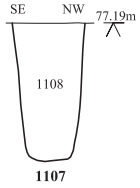

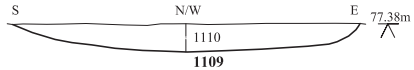

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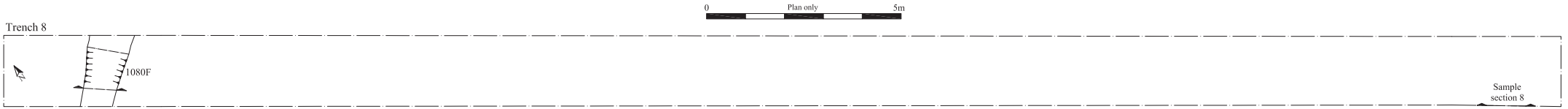
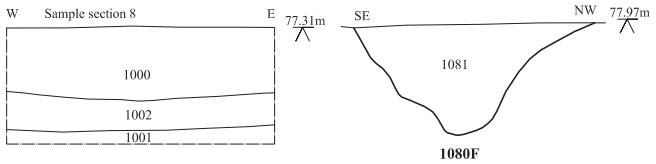
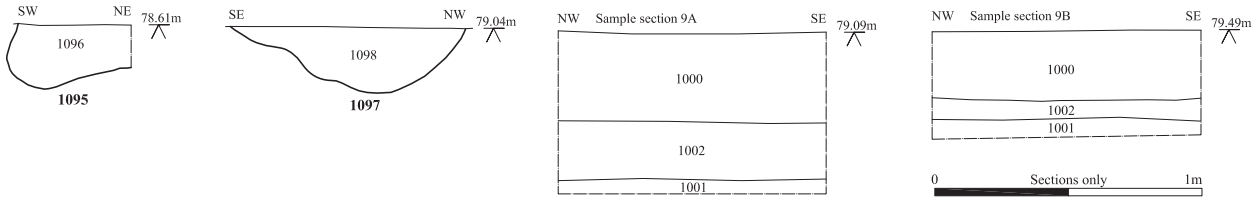
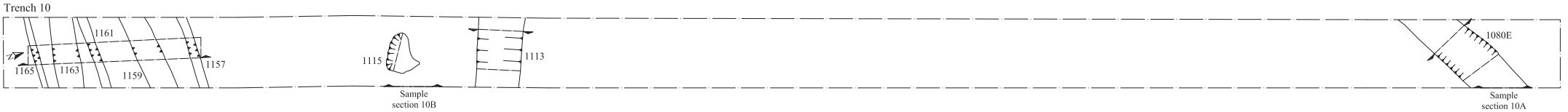
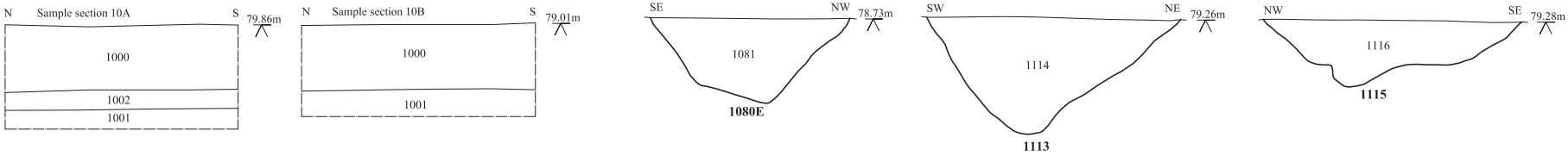
Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)



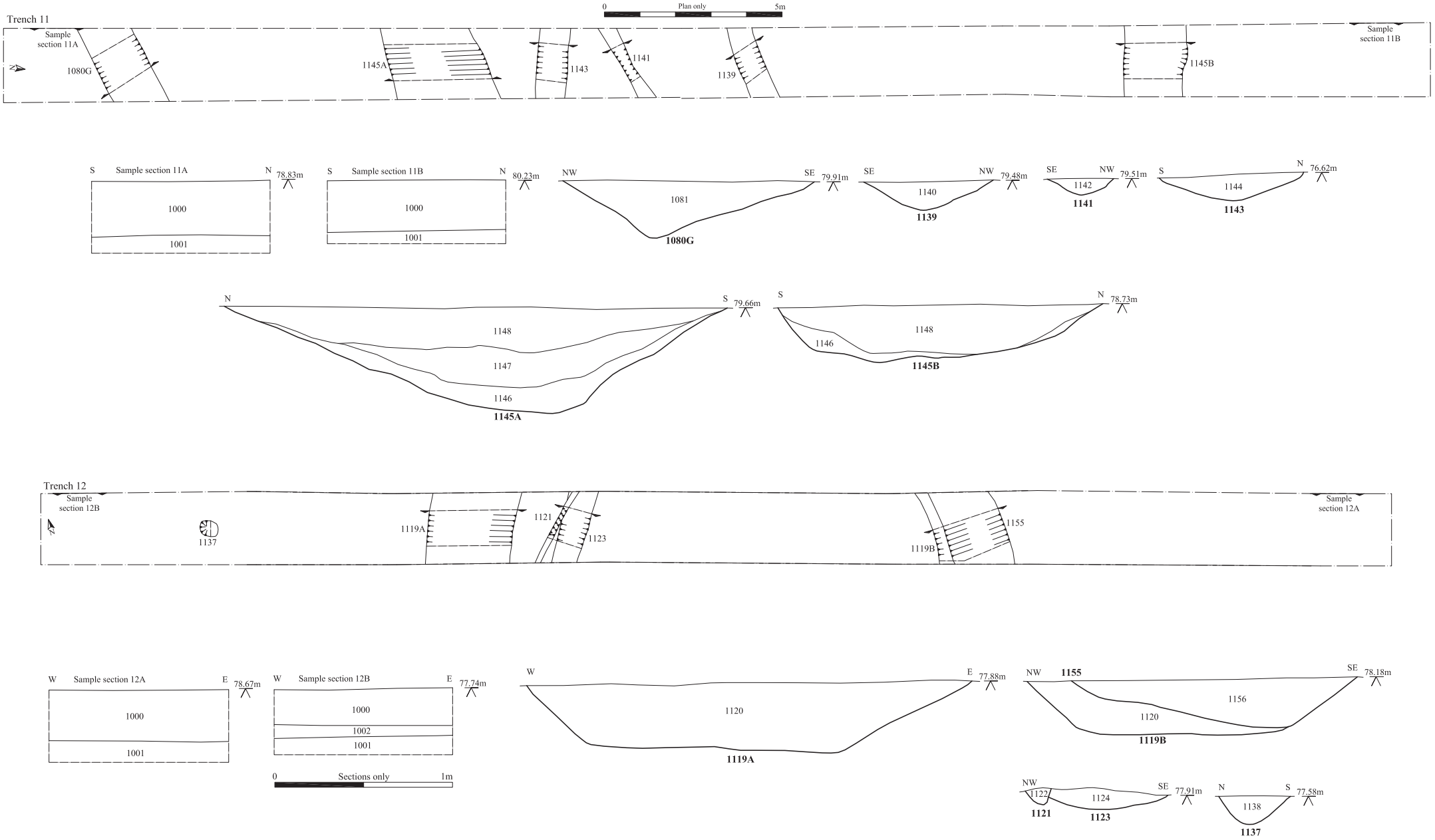








Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)

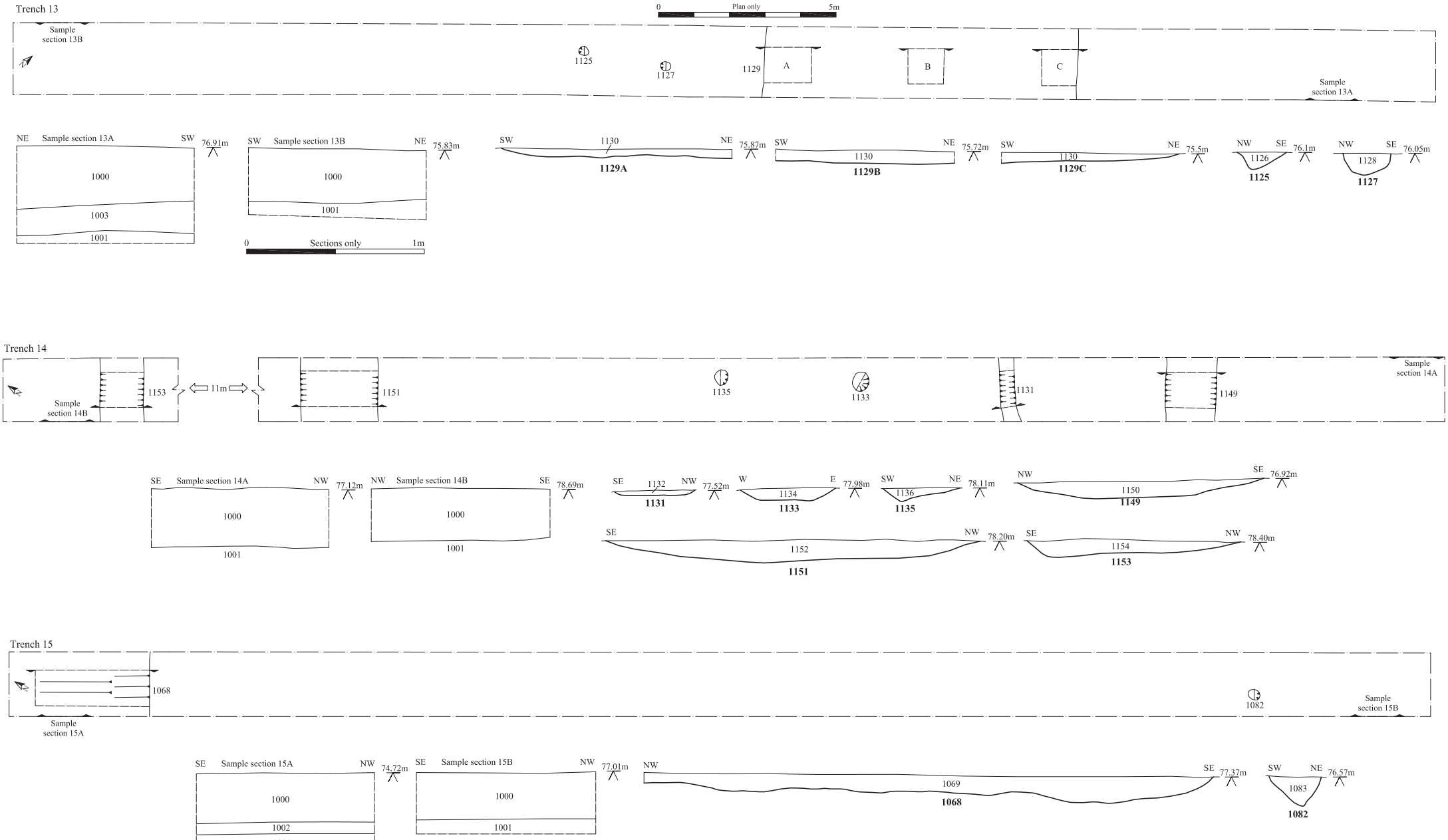


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Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)

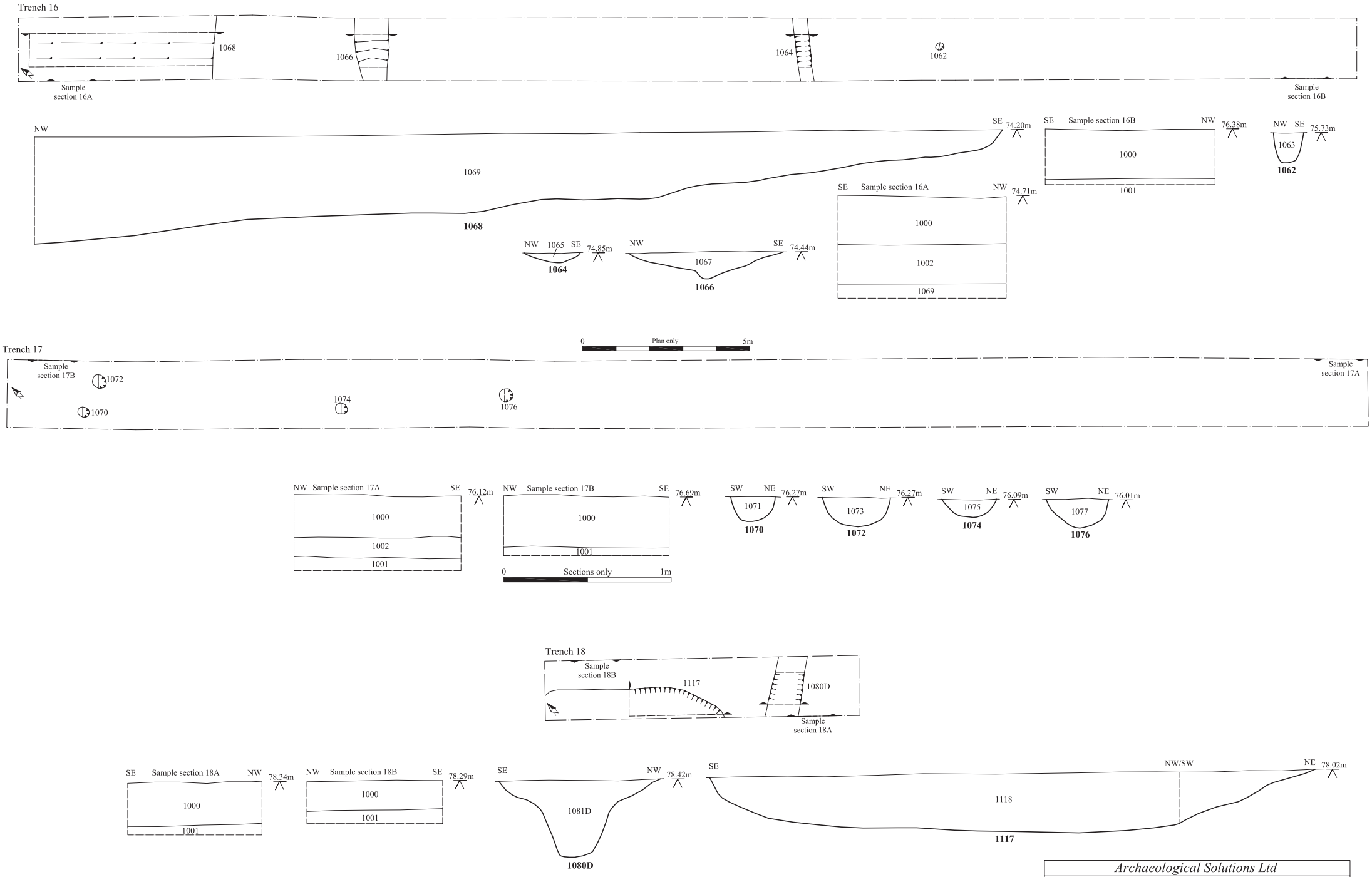

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Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)

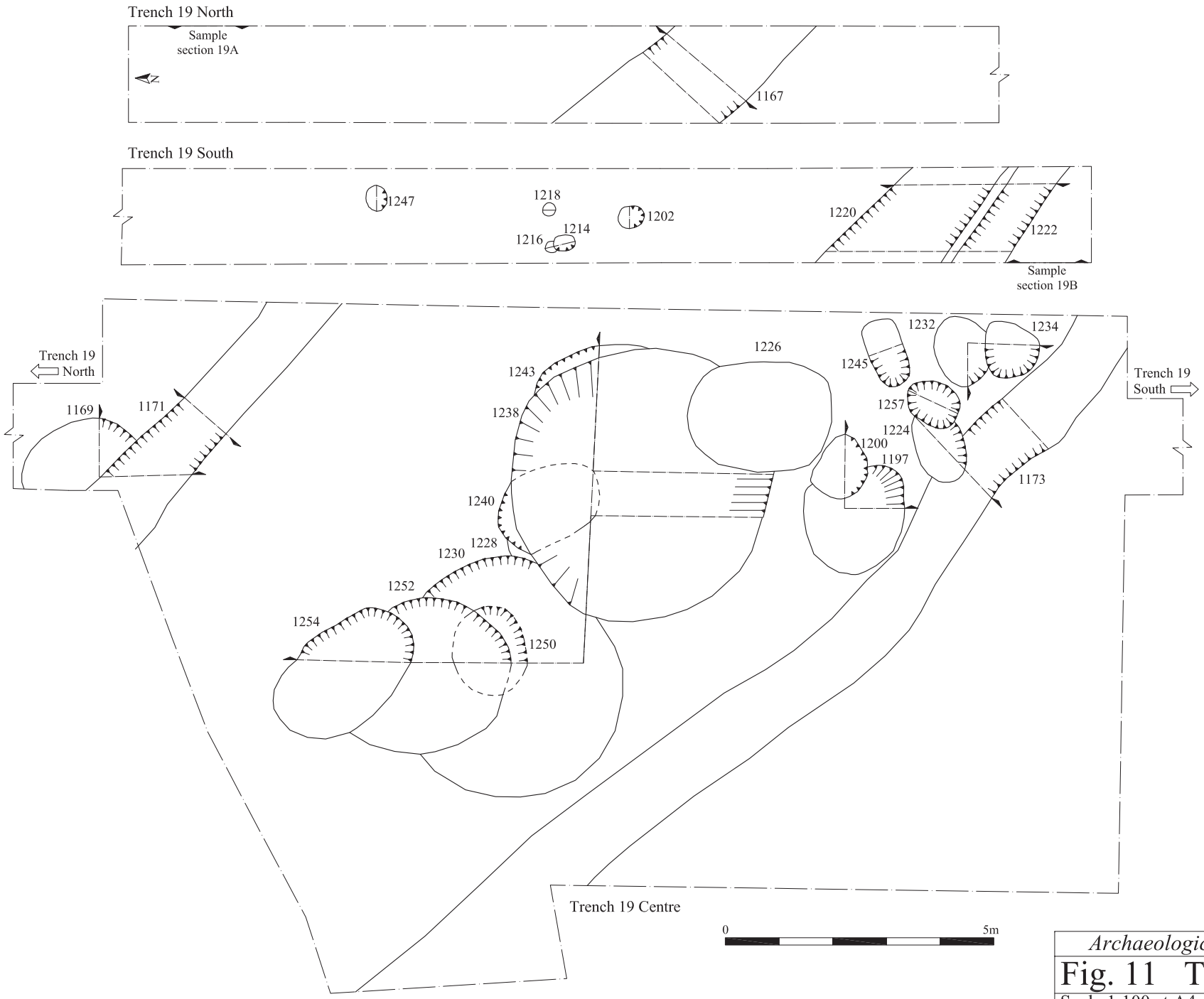

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Fig. 11 Trench 19 Plan

Scale 1:100 at A4

Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)

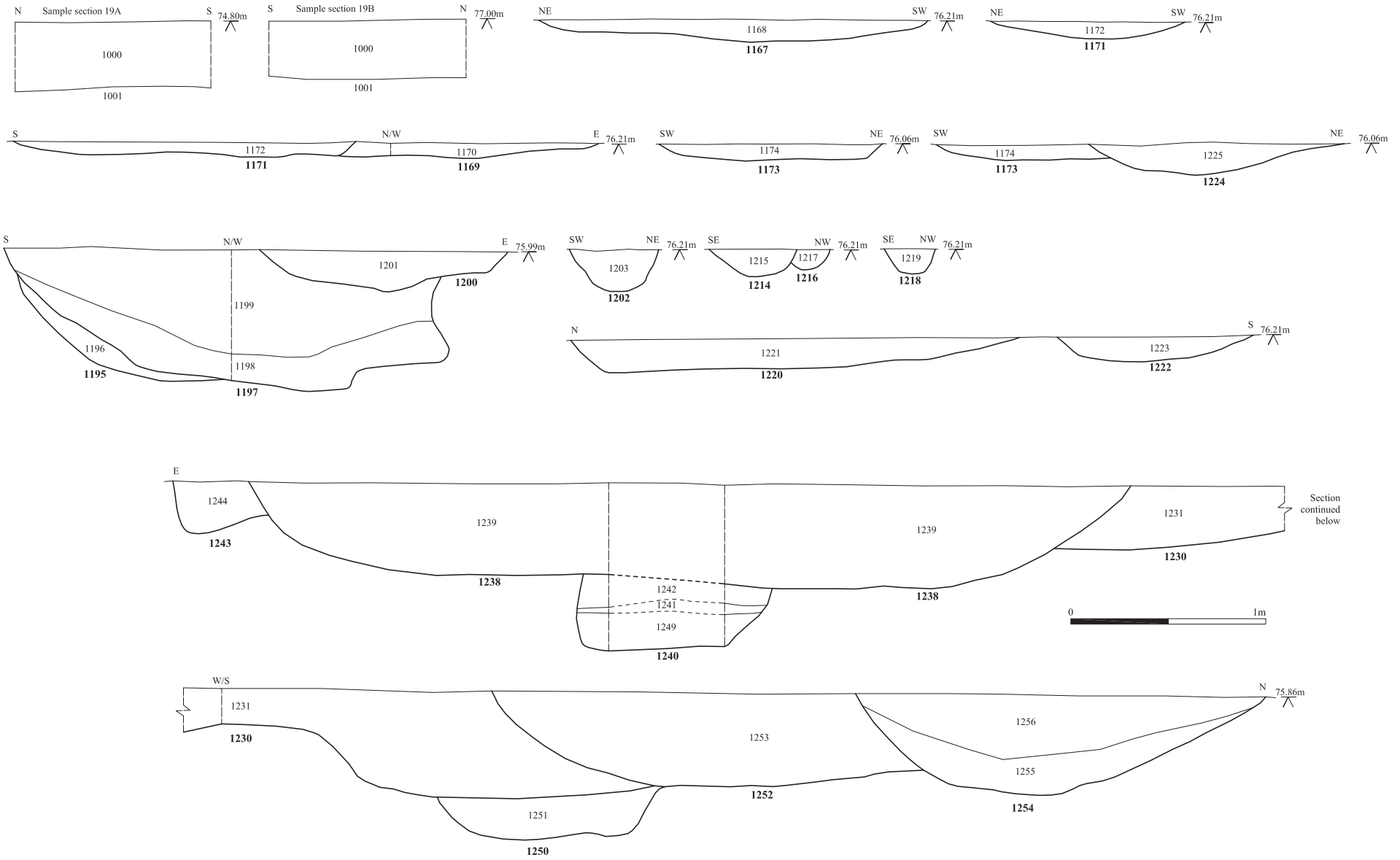

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Fig. 12 Trench 19 sections
1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)

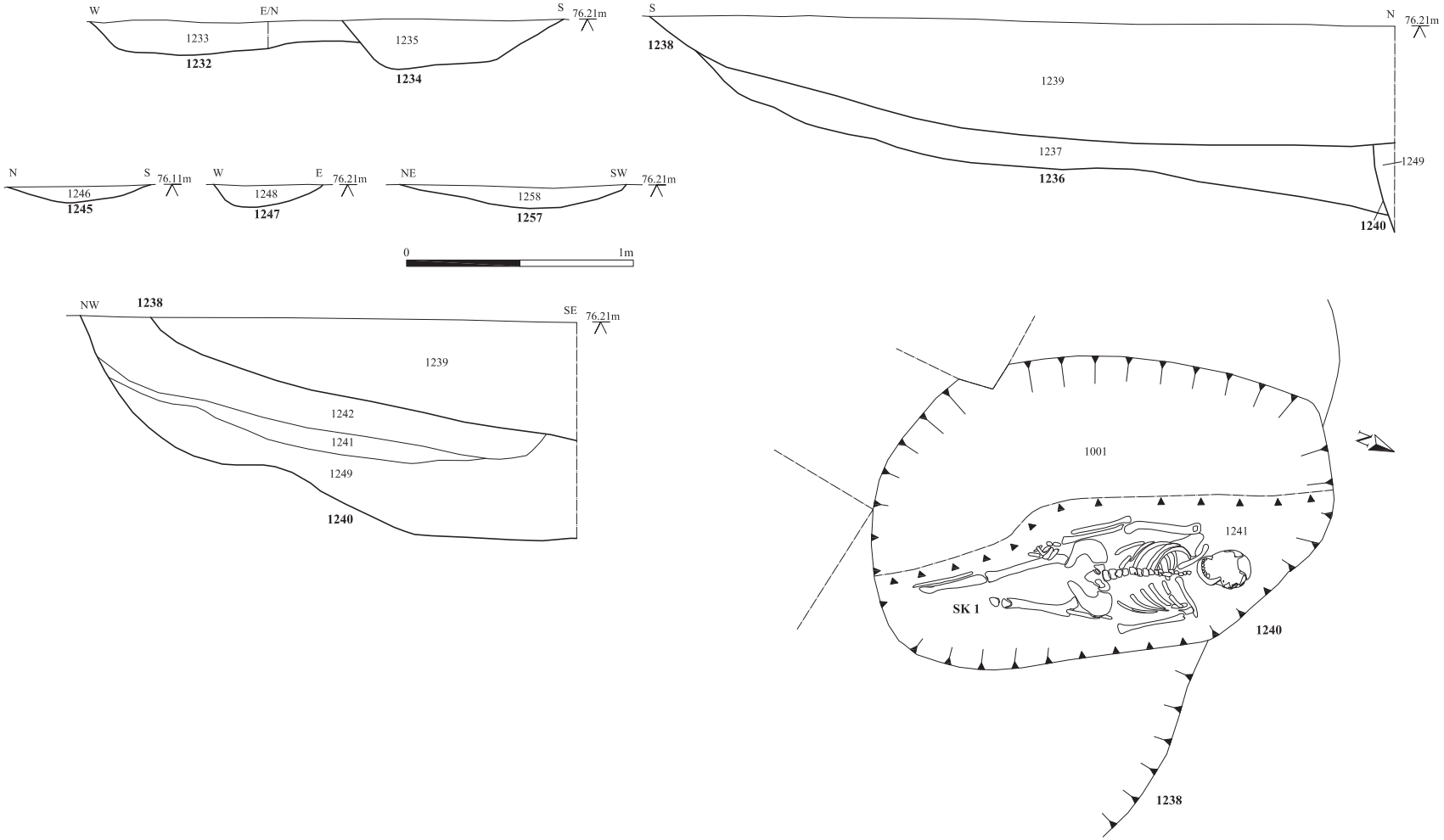

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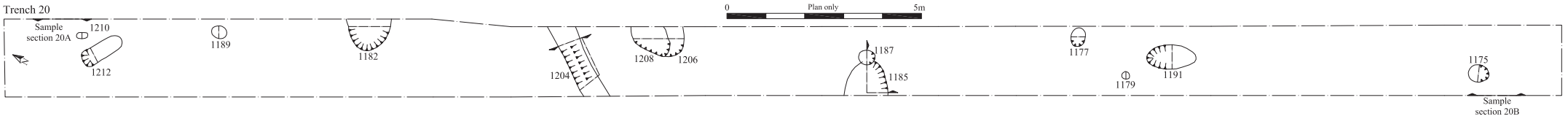
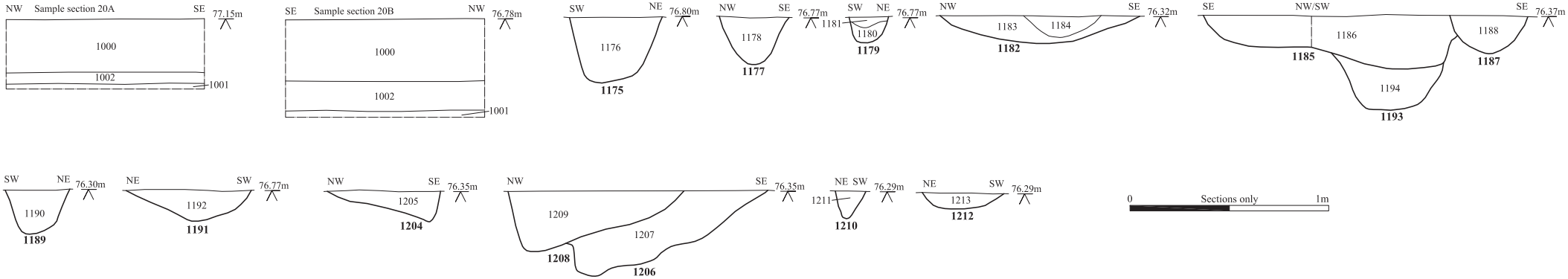
Fig. 13 Continued Trench 19 sections and grave plan
1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)





Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 14 Trench plan and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire (P6134)