
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**SITE AT CREED ROAD, OUNDLE,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 0300 8900	Report No: 3432
District: East Northamptonshire	Site Code: AS1248
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 2760
Signed:	Date: Nov 2009

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 4 METHOD OF WORK**
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**
- 9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**
- 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
- 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	Site at Creed Road, Oundle Northamptonshire		
<p><i>In November 2009 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) on land at Creed Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire (NGR 0300 8900), prior to the proposed residential redevelopment of the site. The latter lies within an identified area of Archaeological Priority defined by Northamptonshire County Council (Foard 1979).</i></p> <p><i>The desk-based assessment (Doyle, 2007) recorded that the site is located immediately beside a small Roman settlement and an adjoining early to middle Saxon cemetery, both of which were revealed during archaeological investigations undertaken in the field to the immediate east (Webster 1999; Maull & Masters 2001). A geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the trial trenching (Stratascan 2009).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed evidence of Romano-British occupation within seven trenches located on the eastern and north-eastern boundary. The features comprise 20 ditches, 11 pits, three gullies, a ring ditch, a posthole and an occupation layer; the majority contained Romano-British finds. The Small Finds assemblage consists of a single glass bead, probably of early Roman date, a Roman copper-alloy coin and nine other copper-alloy objects, including two early Roman brooches. Romano-British fine wares including decorated Gaulish samian ware was also recovered. The post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing regime, recorded in the geophysical survey, was also located and recorded.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	22/10/09 to 27/11/09		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	Y
P. number	P2760	Site code	AS1248
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	Within an area of Archaeological Priority		
Current land use	Agricultural field		
Planned development	Residential development		
Main features (+dates)	Romano-British ditches and pits, post-medieval pits, posthole and ridge and furrow		
Significant finds (+dates)	Romano-British brooches, coin of Augustus, copper alloy needle, a copper alloy bracelet, copper alloy pins, a bead, Romano-British pottery including Samian		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Northamptonshire	East Northamptonshire	Oundle
HER/ SMR for area	Northamptonshire HER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	4.12 hectares		
NGR	TL 0300 8900		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 49-55m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	County Archaeological Advisor Northamptonshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Tim Schofield		
Funded by	Persimmon		
Full title	Site at Creed Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Tim Schofield HND BSc PIFA		
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2009 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) on land at Creed Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire (NGR 0300 8900), prior to the proposed residential redevelopment of the site. The latter lies within an identified area of Archaeological Priority defined by Northamptonshire County Council (Foard 1979).

The desk-based assessment (Doyle, 2007) recorded that the site is located immediately beside a small Roman settlement and an adjoining early to middle Saxon cemetery, both of which were revealed during archaeological investigations undertaken in the field to the immediate east (Webster 1999; Maull & Masters 2001).

A geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the trial trenching (Stratascan 2009).

The evaluation revealed evidence of Romano-British occupation within seven trenches located on the eastern and north-eastern boundary. The features comprise 20 ditches, 11 pits, three gullies, a ring ditch, a posthole and an occupation layer; the majority contained Romano-British finds. The Small Finds assemblage consists of a single glass bead, probably of early Roman date, a Roman copper-alloy coin and nine other copper-alloy objects, including two early Roman brooches. Romano-British fine wares including decorated Gaulish samian ware was also recovered. The post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing regime, recorded in the geophysical survey, was also located and recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November and December 2009, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of a proposed development site on land at Creed Road, Oundle Northamptonshire (NGR 0300 8900) (Figs. 1 -2). The evaluation was commissioned by John Martin & Associates on behalf of Persimmon Homes prior to the proposed residential redevelopment of the site. Modern residential developments lie to the immediate north and north-east of the site. To the immediate east of the site is the recent residential development of Creed and Hillfield Roads. The evaluation consisted of field evaluation (trial trenching (Fig. 2).

1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Doyle 2007) and geophysical survey had been previously undertaken (Stratascan 2009).

1.3 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the County Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (CAA NCC; dated 14/08/09) and a specification compiled by AS. It followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct*, and *Standard and Guidance for*

Archaeological Evaluation (revised 1999). It was also guided by the NCC Historic Environment Team's *Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects in Northamptonshire*.

1.4 The aims of the evaluation were

- to determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features that may be present;
- to provide information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present ;
- to recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions, and
- To identify areas of previous ground disturbance on the site.

Planning policy context

1.5 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.6 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.7 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 TOPOGRAPHY GEOLOGY AND SOILS

2.1 The site at Creed Road is situated upon a slightly sloping relief at an elevation of c. 49 - 55m AOD (Fig. 1). The site slopes noticeably down towards its south-eastern corner, and falls gradually to the south-east onto the upper slope of the Nene River Valley. The River Nene, which surrounds the town of Oundle on three sides, flows south to north, passing the site approximately 1.2km to the south and 1.3km to the east. The solid geology of the surrounding area is underlying Boulder Clay with Jurassic period Inferior Oolite and Upper Lias limestone, Kellaway clays, Cornbrash and Great Oolite clay (BGS 1995).

2.2 The Creed Road site is located on the cusp between two different soil associations; that of the Denchworth and Hanslope associations (SSEW 1981). The eastern section is situated on soils of the Denchworth Association, which are

described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with similar fine loamy over clayey soils. The western section, however, lies upon soils of the Hanslope Association, which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Both soil associations are used in agriculture for winter cereals and winter grassland (*ibid.*).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The information given below is a summary of that presented in the desk-based assessment (Doyle 2007)

3.1 Prehistoric

3.1.1 The areas adjacent to the Nene River Valley have revealed evidence for Early prehistoric activity (McNabb 2006, 21) but these known sites are relatively far from Oundle. No known archaeological remains dating to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic or Bronze Age lie within a 0.5km radius of the site. An undated, but likely prehistoric, isolated inhumation burial excavated in 2001 (Maull & Masters 2001), aligned east to west was found 34m east of the site's eastern boundary. Only 200m to the west aerial photography has indicated the presence of a possible prehistoric field boundary and possible prehistoric enclosures.

3.1.2 The 2001 excavation c. 60m to the immediate east (Maull & Masters 2001) also revealed two postholes and a single large oval-shaped pit, containing 25 sherds of Iron Age pottery. A 1st century single, near complete, ring ditch denoting a round house, and traces of other curvilinear ring ditches, has been identified at the site's eastern boundary, whilst the Iron Age enclosure salvage excavation (*ibid.*) and watching brief (Webster 1999) revealed Iron Age features and 1st - 2nd century pottery. A 1st - 2nd century BC Iron Age settlement has also been revealed 560m to the north-east.

3.2 Romano-British

3.2.1 The nationally important Ashton Roman town lies 1.5km to the east. A small Roman settlement immediately eastwards (Maull & Masters 2001) comprises at least 20 archaeological features dating to the Roman period and extends into the current site. It covers an area approximately 110m in width and 135m in length, with all of the Roman features lying within 100m of the eastern boundary.

3.2.2 A precursory fieldwalking survey of the settlement produced Roman pottery, building material including a piece of tegula and a brooch. Excavations dated the Roman farmstead or larger agglomeration from the late Iron Age to the 4th century AD. Roman features include early 1st century Roman enclosures and boundary ditches, which were re-cut on several occasions, 2nd century structural gullies and an L-shaped foundation slot filled with limestone fragments, as well as mid 2nd century enclosures arranged either side of a driveway aligned east to west and defined by substantial ditches. Additional Roman features included pits, hearths, wells, postholes, gullies, ditches and wall foundations.

3.3 Anglo-Saxon

3.3.1 The present settlement of Oundle was probably established by the 8th century, a possible monastery may also have been founded here by St Wilfred around the same time. However no substantial Saxon features have been found at Oundle and occupation during the middle Saxon period is indicated only by pottery finds. However an early to middle Saxon cemetery has been excavated c. 33m east of the north-eastern boundary. Nine possible 5th -7th century inhumations with grave goods including bone combs, glass beads, a bone amulet and iron knives were recorded.

3.4 Medieval

3.4.1 Medieval features are limited in the area immediately surrounding the site. The manor of Biggin, which lies c. 800m south-west, is listed in the Northamptonshire inventory of ancient woodland (Robinson 1988) and the Grade II* listed Hall has medieval origins (Smalley Law 1922). A watching brief c. 66m to the east revealed a series of truncated plough furrows, aligned north to south and east to west, whilst two areas of surviving medieval ridge and furrow lie 550m west and to the immediate south-west of the site. A medieval manuring scatter of medieval and late medieval pottery was identified 200m east of the site.

3.5 Post-medieval

3.5.1 A large proportion of the extant structures in Oundle, certainly along New Street, North End (now Street) and Chapel End, are listed buildings dating from the later post-medieval period and are probably aligned to the layout of the earlier town (Page 1930; Bridges 1791, 404). Despite the proximity of both Oundle and Biggin manor to the site, post-medieval evidence in the immediate area is limited. Unstratified medieval and post-medieval finds comprising modern charcoal and post medieval pottery and glass from topsoil were revealed 340m to the east, whilst a post-medieval earthwork indicated by poor quality aerial photography lies within Biggin estate.

3.6 Modern

3.6.1 The Conservation and Scheduled Ancient Monument areas within Oundle have prevented excessive urban development with the town's historic core (Taylor *et al* 2002, 8). However many of the extant structures within the vicinity of the site were erected in the late 19th and early 20th century.

3.7 Undated

3.7.1 An undated lake or pond indicated by a very dark humic layer, which contained fragments of rotting wood, was revealed by the archaeological watching brief undertaken 300m to the east of the site's easternmost boundary, close to a single pit of uncertain date. Disarticulated human remains in a shallow burial were found at the base of the subsoil just beyond the north-eastern corner, and beside the early to middle Saxon cemetery. The same area is described as an undated burial site that may extend into the site itself.

4 METHOD OF WORK

4.1 The trial trench evaluation consisted of the excavation of 21 trenches, and the trenches were located to examine the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey (Figs. 2-3). The trench locations also sought to achieve a broad coverage of the development area. Their locations were approved by the County Archaeological Advisor for NCC, and they represented a 3% of the total area. The trenches were all 30.00m x 1.80m in size, and broadly aligned N/S and E/W.

4.2 The trenches were set out using a Leica 805 Total Station (TS). Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated. Thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the topsoil and trenches were scanned by metal detector. The TS was then used to accurately survey the features and trench locations.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: West end, facing south</i> 0.00 = 53.45m AOD	
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, compact, sandy clay with frequent rounded flint stones and platy limestone fragments
0.37m – 0.56m	L1001. Subsoil. Mid orangish brown, compact clayey silt with occasional rounded flint stones
0.56m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. Light orange / yellow, compact silty clay with moderate platy limestone and occasional flint gravel stones

Description: Trench 1 contained two modern land drains, the first aligned east to west and the second orientated north-east to south-west. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: East end, facing south</i> 0.00 = 54.03m AOD	
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.22m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained three post-medieval furrows and two modern land drains aligned north to south. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: East end, facing north</i> 0.00 = 52.96.m AOD	
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.29m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As Above Trench 1

Description: Trench 3 contained three post-medieval furrows and three modern land drains orientated approximately north to south. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 4 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: North end, facing west</i> 0.00 = 53.97m AOD	
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.40m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 4 contained two post-medieval furrows aligned north-west to south-east, a modern land drain, and three tree hollows. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 5 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: East end, facing south</i> 0.00 = 54.80m AOD	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 4 contained two post-medieval furrows and three modern land drains aligned north to south. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 6 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: South-west end, facing north-west</i> 0.00 = 53.21m AOD	
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 5 contained one post-medieval furrow and three modern land drains all orientated north-west to south-east. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 7 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: West end, facing north</i> Site at Creed Road, Oundle Northamptonshire	
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0.00 = 52.32m AOD	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.45m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 7 contained four post-medieval furrows and three modern land drains all orientated north-west to south-east. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 8 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: West end, facing north</i> 0.00 = 52.19m AOD	
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1

Description: Trench 8 contained four post-medieval furrows and three modern land drains all orientated north-west to south-east. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 9 Figs. 2 - 3

<i>Sample section: South end, facing east</i> 0.00 = 53.55m AOD	
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.41m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1

Description: Trench 9 contained Pit F1073 and two modern land drains orientated north-west to south-east.

Pit F1073 was oval in plan (1.26 x 1.20 x 0.38m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1074, was mid yellowish brown, compact silty clay with occasional small rounded flint stones. No finds were present.

Trench 10 Figs. 2 - 3, Plate 6

<i>Sample section: South-east end, facing north-east</i> 0.00 = 53.12m AOD	
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.34m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 10 contained two ditches (F1060 and F1079), one pit (F1081), one tree hollow and two modern land drains.

Ditch F1060 was linear in plan (3.48+ x 1.90 x 0.58m), orientated east to west. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1061, was light yellowish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional large platy limestone fragments and rounded flint stones. It contained Roman pottery (33g) and animal bone (90g). Ditch F1060 cut Ditch F1079 and Pit F1081.

Ditch F1079 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.60 x 0.42m), orientated north to south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1080, was mid orange brown, compact, silty clay with occasional platy limestone fragments and rounded flint stones. No finds were present. Ditch F1079 was cut by Ditch F1060.

Pit F1081 was oval in plan (5.00+ x 2.00+ x 0.72m). Its fill, L1082, was mottled mid orange brown and mid yellowish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones and platy limestone fragments. It contained Roman pottery (8g) and oyster shell fragments (29g).

Trench 11 Figs. 2 & 4

<i>Sample section: East end, facing south</i>	
<i>0.00 = 52.95m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.36m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 11 contained two ditches (F1091, F1066), one post-medieval furrow (F1093), and two modern land drains.

Ditch F1091 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 2.92 x 0.68m), orientated north to south. It had fairly steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1092, was dark brownish grey, loose, silty clay with frequent platy limestone fragments. It contained 4th C pottery (285g) and animal bone (88g). Ditch F1091 was cut by a modern land drain.

Furrow F1093 was linear in plan (1.94+ x 1.72+ x 0.35m), orientated north-east to south-west. Its fill, L1094, was mid yellowish brown, compact, silty clay with frequent large platy limestone fragments. It contained animal bone (288g) and Fe nail fragments (19g).

Ditch F1066 was linear in plan (2.20+ x 2.10 x 0.64m), orientated north to south. It contained two fills that are described from basal to upper in the table below.

Fill	Colour	Composition	Consistence	Inclusions	Finds
L1067	Mid orange brown	Clayey silt	Firm	Occasional small sub-angular flint stones and medium platy limestone fragments	Late 1 st – Early 2 nd C pottery (99g), animal bone (180g), Clay pipe (4g), oyster shell (14g)
L1068	Mid greyish brown	Clayey silt	Firm	Occasional small sub-angular flint stones and medium platy limestone fragments	-

Fills of Ditch F1066 in Trench 11

Trench 12 Figs. 2 and 4, Plate 5

<i>Sample section: East end, facing south</i>

0.00 = 51.87m AOD	
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.37m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 12 contained three ditches (F1053, F1089 and F1086), and four modern land drains.

Ditch F1053 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 3.95 x 0.87m), orientated north to south. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained four fills that are described from basal to upper in the table below. Ditch F1053 cut Ditches F1086 and F1089, and was cut by a modern land drain.

Fill	Colour	Composition	Consistence	Inclusions	Finds
L1085	Mid blue grey	Silty clay	Compact	Occasional charcoal flecks	Late 3 rd – mid 4 th C pottery (96g)
L1084	Mid black / grey	Silty clay	Loose	Occasional charcoal flecks and small flint stones	Roman pottery (59g), Animal bone (144g)
L1083	Mid yellowish brown	Silty clay	Firm	Occasional small flint stones	Early 2 nd – 4 th C pottery (125g), animal bone (32g)
L1054	Dark greyish black	Silty sand	Friable	Moderate large platy limestone fragments	Late 1 st – 2 nd C pottery (95g), animal bone (53g), SF7 Cu alloy brooch, SF11 Cu alloy pin

Fills of Ditch F1053 in Trench 12

Ditch F1089 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 2.70+ x 0.42m), orientated north to south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1090, was dark greyish brown, firm silty clay. It contained Roman pottery (14g) and animal bone (37g). Ditch F1089 was cut by Ditches F1053 and F1086 and a modern land drain.

Ditch F1086 was linear in plan (8.90+ x 1.10+ x 0.70m), orientated east to west. It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained two fills that are described from basal to upper in the table below. Ditch F1086 cut Ditch F1089 and was cut by Ditch F1053 and two modern land drains.

Fill	Colour	Composition	Consistence	Inclusions	Finds
L1088	Light yellowish brown	Silty clay	Compact	Occasional small angular flint stones	-
L1087	Mid yellowish brown	Silty clay	Firm	Occasional charcoal flecks	SF10 (Cu alloy band)

Fills of Ditch F1086 in Trench 11

Trench 13 Figs. 2 and 4

<i>Sample section: North end, facing south</i> 0.00 = 50.70m AOD	
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.36m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 13 contained two post-medieval furrows (F1069 and F1071) and seven modern land drains orientated north-west to south-east.

Furrow F1069 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 1.55 x 0.23m), orientated north to south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1070, was mid-brownish grey, firm silty clay with occasional small angular limestone. It contained residual Late 1st – Early 2nd C pottery (8g). Furrow F1069 was cut by a modern land drain.

Furrow F1071 was linear in plan (2.10 x 1.30 x 0.20m), orientated north to south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1072, was mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay with moderate angular lime stone fragments. It contained post-medieval pottery (58g). Furrow F1071 was cut by three modern land drains.

Trench 14 Figs. 2 and 4, Plate 4

<i>Sample section: South end, facing east</i> 0.00 = 50.87m AOD	
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.40m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 14 contained three ditches (F1047, F1049 and F1057) and three modern land drains orientated north-west to south-east.

Ditch F1047 was linear in plan (3.30 x 1.30 x 0.22m) orientated north-west to south-east. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1048, was mid yellowish brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small angular limestone fragments and moderate charcoal flecks. It contained Early 2nd – early 3rd C pottery (137g) and animal bone (85g). Ditch F1047 was cut by a modern land drain.

Ditch F1049 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 3.80 x 0.68m), orientated west to east. It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained three fills that are described from basal to upper in the table below. Ditch F1049 was cut by two modern land drains.

Fill	Colour	Composition	Consistence	Inclusions	Findings
L1052	Light blue grey	Silty clay	Compact	Frequent platy limestone fragments and pea grit	Roman pottery (13g)
L1051	Mid brownish yellow	Silty clay	Compact	Occasional charcoal flecks	Roman pottery (64g)
L1050	Dark black / grey	Silty clay	Loose	Frequent charcoal flecks, occasional large platy limestone pieces	SF3 (Cu Alloy needle), 2 nd C pottery (101g), animal bone (341g) Clay pipe stem (3g)

Fills of Ditch F1049 in Trench 14

Ditch F1057 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 2.53 x 0.29m), orientated west to east. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1058, was mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate small platy limestone fragments. It contained post-medieval pottery (164g) and animal bone (58g). Ditch F1057 was cut by two modern land drains.

Trench 15 Figs. 2 and 5, Plates 2 and 3

<i>Sample section: North end, facing east</i>	
<i>0.00 = 51.89m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.36 – 0.45m	L1059. Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, compact silty clay.
0.45m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 15 contained a large pit (F1040) and a gully (F1056). The features were overlain by Occupation Layer L1059. Five modern land drains orientated north-west to south-east were also present.

Occupation Layer L1059 overlay the natural (L1002). It comprised mid greyish brown, compact silty clay. It contained post-medieval pottery (159g) and animal bone (36g). Layer L1059 was also present in the southern sector of Trench 17.

Pit F1040 was oval in plan (5.70+ x 2.10+ x 1.68m). It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained five fills that are described from basal to uppermost in the table below.

Fill	Colour	Composition	Consistence	Inclusions	Finds
L1039	Light pinkish grey	Silty clay and sand	Compact	Frequent charcoal flecks	Animal bone (41g)
L1038	Mid orangish yellow	Silty clay and sand	Compact	Frequent charcoal flecks, and large platy limestone	Late 1 st – Early 2 nd C pottery (680g), animal bone (1451g)
L1037	Light brownish grey	Silty clay	Compact	Frequent charcoal flecks, occasional large platy limestone pieces	Mid 1 st - Early 2 nd C pottery (591g), animal bone (414g)
L1036	Mid brownish black	Sandy silt and clay	Loose	Frequent charcoal flecks and occasional platy limestone fragments	SF1 (Cu Alloy brooch, Late 1 st – Early 2 nd C pottery (1285g), animal bone (1144g), slag (380g), Fe nail (20g)
L1035	Mid brownish yellow	Clay	Loose	Occasional charcoal flecks	Roman pottery (10g), animal bone (36g)

Fills of Pit F1040 in Trench 15

Ring Ditch F1056 was curvilinear in plan and was excavated in two segments that are described in the table below. It was cut by five modern land drains.

Segment	Context	Plan	Segment Dimensions	Profile	Fill	Finds
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F1056A	L1055A	Curvi-linear	2.00+ x 0.64 x 0.40m	Steep sides, concave base	Dark blackish brown, compact silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional platy limestone fragments	SF8 (bead), Late 1 st – Early 2 nd C pottery (506g), animal bone (103g) SF8 Bead, Shell (13g)
F1056B	L1055B	Curvi-linear	2.00+ x 0.66 x 0.34m	Steep sides, concave base	Dark blackish brown, compact silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional platy limestone fragments	SF9 Cu Alloy pin, Late 1 st – Early 2 nd C pottery (651g), CBM (239g), animal bone (250g)

Excavated segments of Ring Ditch F1056 in Trench 15

Trench 16 Figs. 2 and 5

<i>Sample section: West end, facing north</i>	
<i>0.00 = 53.04m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.26m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 16 contained three ditches (F1013, F1027 and F1041), and six pits (F1043, F1033, F1045, F1025, F1009 and F1011). Four modern land drains orientated north-west to south-east were also present.

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan (16.80m+ in length) orientated east to west. It was excavated in six segments that are described in the table below. Ditch F1013 was cut by Ditch F1027 and Pits F1009, F1011 and F1033.

Segment	Context	Segment Dimensions	Profile	Fill	Finds
F1013A	L1014A	0.85 x 0.98 x 0.18m	Steep sides, flat base	Mid brownish grey, loose silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones	E 2 nd C pottery (319g)
F1013B	L1014B	1.00+ x 1.10 x 0.26m	Gently sloping sides, concave base	Ditto	E 2 nd – 3 rd C pottery (667g)
F1013C	L1014C	2.96 x 1.10 x 0.30m	Gently sloping sides, concave base	Ditto	-
F1013D	L1014D	0.50 x 1.13 x 0.40m	Steep sides, concave base	Ditto	Roman pottery (30g)
F1013E	L1014E	0.50 x 0.50+ x 0.32m	Steep sides, concave base	Ditto	-
F1013F	L1014F	0.50 x 0.57+ x 0.18m	Steep sides, concave base	Ditto	-

Excavated segments of Ditch F1013 in Trench 16

Ditch F1027 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 1.73 x 0.34m), orientated north to south. It had fairly steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1028, was mid brownish grey, loose,

silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones. It contained late 3rd – 4th C pottery (132g) and animal bone (83g).

Ditch F1041 was linear in plan (6.20+ x 1.76 x 0.39m), orientated north-west to south-east. It had fairly steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1042, was a mid yellowish brown, compact silty clay with occasional small rounded flint stones. It contained post-medieval pottery (169g), and animal bone (7g). Ditch F1041 was cut by a modern land drain.

Pit F1043 was oval in plan (1.16 x 1.10 x 0.16m). It had fairly steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1044, was mid yellowish brown, compact silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones. It contained animal bone (4g)

Pit F1033 was oval in plan (0.76 x 0.76 x 0.23m). It had fairly steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1034, was mid yellowish grey, loose silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones. It contained no finds. Pit F1033 cut Ditch F1013.

Pit F1045 was oval in plan (0.90 x 0.50 x 0.22m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1046, was mid yellowish brown, compact silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones. No finds were present.

Pit F1025 was irregular in plan (1.32 x 0.88 x 0.12m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1026, was mid greyish black, loose silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones. It contained no finds.

Pit F1009 was oval in plan (0.80 x 0.35 x 0.15m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a mid greyish black, loose silty clay with occasional rounded flint stones. It contained late 1st – 2nd C pottery (28g) and animal bone (8g). Pit F1009 was cut by Pit F1011.

Pit F1011 was oval in plan (1.02 x 0.66 x 0.12m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was mid greyish black, loose silty clay with occasional angular flint stones. It contained Roman pottery (4g). Pit F1011 cut Pit F1009.

Trench 17 Figs. 2 and 6, Plate 3

<i>Sample section: South end, facing east</i>	
<i>0.00 = 52.31m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32 – 0.42m	L1059. Subsoil. As above, Trench 15
0.42m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 17 contained three gullies (F1003, F1005 and F1031), four ditches (F1007, F1021, F1015, and F1019), a posthole (F1023), and a pit (F1029). Three modern land drains, two of which were orientated north-west to south-east, and one running perpendicular, were also present.

Occupation Layer L1059 overlay the natural, L1002, in the southern sector of Trench 17. It comprised a mid greyish brown, compact silty clay. It contained post-medieval pottery (159g) and animal bone (36g). Layer L1059 was also present in Trench 15.

Gully F1003 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 0.80 x 0.10m), orientated east to west. It had shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1004, was a light blackish grey, firm, silty clay with occasional small angular flint stones and moderate charcoal flecks. It contained 2nd – 3rd C pottery (503g).

Gully F1005 was linear in plan (2.10 x 0.70 x 0.10m), orientated east to west. It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1006, was light blackish grey, firm silty clay with occasional small platy limestone fragments and frequent charcoal flecks. It contained 2nd – 3rd C pottery (256g).

Gully F1031 was linear in plan (0.70+ x 0.44 x 0.08m), orientated east to west. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1032, was a mid blackish grey, loose, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It contained late 1st – 2nd C pottery (161g), CBM (196g) and animal bone (71g). Gully F1031 was cut by a modern land drain.

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 1.60 x 0.10m), orientated north-west to south-east. It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1008, was a mid blackish grey, firm silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small angular flint stones. It contained Roman pottery (144g), CBM (39g) and animal bone (44g).

Ditch F1021 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 2.70 x 0.42m), orientated east to west. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1022, was a mid greyish black, loose silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and frequent large platy limestone fragments. It contained late 3rd – mid 4th C pottery (756g), animal bone (2112g) and oyster shell (82g).

Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 2.40 x 0.62m), orientated north-west to south-east. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained three fills that are described from basal to uppermost in the table below. Ditch F1015 cut Ditch F1019. It was cut by Posthole F1023.

Fill	Colour	Composition	Consistence	Inclusions	Finds
L1018	Mid bluish grey	Silty clay	Compact	Occasional charcoal flecks	Late 1 st – 2 nd C pottery (49g), animal bone (117g)
L1017	Mid brownish yellow	Clay	Compact	Moderate charcoal flecks	2 nd C pottery (881g), animal bone (181g), shell (19g)
L1016	Dark greyish black	Silty clay	Loose	Frequent charcoal flecks, large platy Oolitic Limestone fragments	2 nd – 3 rd C pottery (275g), animal, bone (230g), SF2 (Cu alloy pin and loop)

Fills of Ditch F1015 in Trench 17

Ditch F1019 was linear in plan (2.10+ x 1.16 x 0.18m), orientated west to east. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a mid brownish grey, firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small angular flint stones. It contained Roman pottery (5g) and oyster shell (13g). Ditch F1019 was cut by Ditch F1015.

Posthole F1023 was oval in plan (0.38 x 0.33 x 0.22m). It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a dark grey, loose silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and fragments. No finds were present. Posthole F1023 was cut Ditch F1015.

Pit F1029 was oval in plan (2.10 x 0.50+ x 0.20m). It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1030, was a mid blackish grey, loose silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It contained late 1st – early 2nd C pottery (296g) and animal bone (162g).

Trench 18 Figs. 2 and 6

<i>Sample section: West end, facing north</i>	
0.00 = 54.15m AOD	
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000. Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 18 contained two post-medieval furrows (F1062 and F1064) and three modern land drains orientated north-west to south-east.

Furrow F1062 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.24 x 0.21m) orientated north to south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1063, was a light yellowish brown, compact silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional rounded flint stones. It contained post-medieval pottery (15g).

Furrow F1064 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 1.06 x 0.20m) orientated north-west to south-east. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1065, was a light yellowish brown, compact silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded flint stones. It contained a fragment of slag (4g). Furrow F1064 was cut by a modern land drain.

Trench 19 Figs. 2 and 6

<i>Sample section: South-west end, facing south-east</i>	
0.00 = 54.32m AOD	
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.44m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1

Description: Trench 19 contained two pits (F1075 and F1077) and four post-medieval furrows orientated north-west to south-east.

Pit F1075 was oval in plan (0.51+ x 0.60 x 0.20m). It had fairly steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1076, was a mid yellowish brown, compact silty clay. Roman pottery (10g) was present.

Pit F1077 was oval in plan (1.12 x 1.10 x 0.15m). It had fairly steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1078, was a mid yellowish brown, compact silty clay. No finds were present.

Trench 20 Figs. 2 and 6

<i>Sample section: East end, facing south</i>

0.00 = 52.84m AOD	
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.24m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1

Description: Trench 20 contained four post-medieval furrows and three modern land drains orientated north-east to south-west. No other features or finds were present.

Trench 21 Figs. 2 and 6

Sample section: East end, facing south	
0.00 = 53.42m AOD	
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Trench 1
0.31 – 0.44m	L1001. Subsoil. As above Trench 1
0.44m+	L1002. Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1

Description: Trench 21 contained one modern land drain aligned north-east to south-west. No other features or finds were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 Modern ploughing and field drains had caused truncation throughout the trenches, although it is not felt that they inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The stratigraphy varied across the site predominantly due to the slope from north-west to south-east. Topsoil L1000 was dark greyish brown, compact sandy clay with frequent rounded flint stones and platy limestone fragments (0.22 - 0.45m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid orangish brown, compact clayey silt with occasional rounded flint stones (0.31 - 0.56m thick with the deepest deposit in Trench 21). Beneath Topsoil L1000 in Trenches 15 and 17 was Layer L1059, a mid greyish brown, compact silty clay (located at a depth of 0.32 - 0.45m). At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was the natural drift geology, L1002, a light orangish yellow, compact silty clay with moderate platy limestone and occasional flint gravel stones (0.22 - 0.56m below the present ground level).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary of the archaeology

8.1.1 Trenches 1 and 21 revealed only modern land drains. Trenches 2 - 8, 13, 18, and 20 revealed post-medieval furrows and modern land drains. Trenches 9 and 19 contained modern land drains and undated/post-medieval pits and furrows.

8.1.2 Romano-British features were present within the north-eastern and eastern sectors of the site, Trenches 10- 12, and 14 - 17, the features are summarised in the table below.

Trench	Feature Type	Context Number
10	2 Ditches	F1060, F1079
	1 Pit	F1081
11	2 Ditches	F1091, F1066
12	3 Ditches	F1086, F1089, F1053
14	3 Ditches	F1047, F1049, F1057
15	Occupation Layer	L1059
	1 Pit	F1040
	1 Ring Ditch	F1056
16	6 Pits	F1011, F1009, F1025, F1045, F1033, F1043
	3 Ditches	F1027, F1013, F1041
17	Occupation Layer	L1059
	3 Gullies	F1003, F1005, F1031
	4 Ditches	F1007, F1021, F1015, F1019
	1 Pit	F1029
	1 Posthole	F1023

Romano-British features

8.1.3 The features were primarily ditches, but pits, gullies, and a ring ditch were also recorded. An occupation layer (L1059) was recorded in Trenches 15 and 17. The features which contained Roman finds, the most common being pottery (Romano-British fine wares including decorated Samian ware) and animal bone. The quantity of finds is relatively large with substantial assemblages from Pit F1040 and Ring Ditch F1056 (Tr. 15), Ditches F1015 and F1021 (Tr. 17) and Ditches F1050 and F1057 (Tr. 14). Small finds include four Romano-British brooches, a coin of Augustus, a copper alloy needle, a copper alloy bracelet, three copper alloy pins and a bead. These Small Finds were present in the features or in the topsoil in the north-eastern and eastern sectors of the site.

8.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

8.2.1 The evaluation clarified the anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey, and there was a good correlation between the results of the two surveys. The charcoal-rich features were most clear on the geophysical survey, for example, Ditch F1015 (Tr. 17) and Pit F1040 (Tr.15). The geophysical survey demonstrated that the magnetometer can be effective on clay geology, a medium that usually produces poor results.

8.2.2 The possible enclosure and parallel ditches recorded by the geophysical survey were targeted in Trenches 11 - 12, 14 and 17. The evaluation revealed ditches of Romano-British date that may form part of an enclosure. The large discrete anomaly and curvilinear feature were investigated in Trench 15, and a large pit and curvilinear ditch of Romano-British date were recorded. Additional linear anomalies examined in the north-eastern and eastern part of the site were Romano-British ditches, gullies and pits.

8.2.3 Parallel linear anomalies, orientated approximately north to south, were located in many of the trenches (Fig. 3). Post-medieval finds were visible on their surface. The features were investigated and they are post-medieval furrows.

8.2.4 The geophysical survey demonstrated that the magnetometer can work on clay geology, a medium that usually produces poor results.

8.3 Interpretation of the site: geology and topography

8.3.1 Romano-British occupation is present on the higher ground overlying a gently sloping relief, which falls away towards the south-eastern corner. The archaeology is 'tightly confined' to the area of Trenches 10-12, 14-16.

8.4 Finds and environmental evidence

8.4.1 The finds assemblage is relatively well preserved and the high volume is indicative of occupation. It is consistently Romano-British. The pottery assemblage spans the Roman period, ranging from the late 1st to 4th centuries AD, with a notable focus on the early 2nd century AD (Pottery Report below). All the Romano-British CBM was contained in features dated by pottery to the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD, probably the early 2nd century AD. The general scarcity of Romano-British CBM in comparison to the quantities of pottery recovered suggests the CBM is not directly related to a structure in the immediate vicinity and that it may have been imported as hardcore (CBM Report below). The Small Finds assemblage consists of a single glass bead, probably of early Roman date, a Roman copper-alloy coin and nine other copper-alloy objects, including two early Roman brooches. Taken as a whole, the assemblage suggests occupation of the site to have spanned most of the Roman period and to have been largely domestic in character (Small Finds Report below). Although quite a sizable animal bone assemblage, the remains from Creed Road offer only limited information due to their poor preservation. Little butchery or metrical data is available, but general ages of the main domesticates could be calculated (Animal Bone report below)

8.5 Preservation of the archaeology

8.5.1 The archaeological features, especially those in Trenches 10 - 11 and 16, were truncated. Modern ploughing has levelled the ridges. Shallow truncated furrows comprise the only evidence of the post-medieval agricultural regime. Layer L1059 has protected the features present in Trenches 15 and 17.

8.6 Research potential

8.6.1 The evaluation revealed Romano-British features clustering in the north-eastern and eastern trenches. In addition to Romano-British features, Iron Age and Saxon features have been recorded close to the site.

8.6.2 The Iron Age research issues for the East Midlands are set out in Willis (in Cooper 2006, 89-136). The issues comprise consideration of chronology (through scientific dating programmes), issues of archaeological visibility, site prospection and landscape exploration, settlement archaeology of the early Iron Age, middle Iron Age and the late Iron Age, issues of settlement and landscape, further research into hillforts and analogous sites, linear monuments and other land divisions, ritual, structured deposition and religion, the agricultural economy, craft industry and exchange, social relations and society in the first millennium BC and issues of conservation, management and the public.

8.6.3. The later Iron Age and Roman research issues are set out by Taylor (in Cooper 2006, 137-159). Research topics centre on issues of chronology, research into the late Iron Age landscape and the strategy and consequences of conquest, issues of urbanism (origins, development, growth and the role of urban centres), issues of communication and new geographies of power, issues of rural settlement, landscape and society, artefact production, exchange and consumption and issues of ritual, religion and identity.

8.6.4 Vince (in Cooper 2006, 161-184) notes Saxon research issues to include further study into the Roman-Saxon transition, the Trent Valley as a cultural boundary, the emergence of a monetary economy in the middle Saxon period, issues of chronology and cultural history, demography, political and social groups, issues of ritual and belief, research into the road network, settlement hierarchy, inland towns and 'central places', issues of industry (such as salt production, lead mining and iron smelting, pottery production and other crafts) and issues of subsistence (agriculture, and animal husbandry, fish consumption and hunting).

8.6.5 The principal research issues for the current site are likely to centre on the potential to clarify the nature of the site in the Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon period (agricultural activity, occupation), and its relationship to the settlement evidence excavated to the east, and the Saxon cemetery to the north-east.

9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will eventually be deposited with the finds from the site, at Northampton museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS 1248: Land Off Creed Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000				Top Soil					SF 5 Cu Brooch Frag (1) 5g SF 6 Roman Coin (1) 8g SF 12 Cu Alloy Brooch (1) 3g
1003	1004		17	Gully Fill	2nd - 3rd C AD	(20) 503g			
1005	1006		17	Gully Fill	2nd - 3rd C AD	(25) 256g			
1007	1008		17	Ditch Fill	Roman	(15) 144g	39	44	
1009	1010		16	Pit Fill	L 1st - 2nd C AD	(3) 28g		8	
1011	1012		16	Pit Fill	Roman	(1) 4g			
1013	1014		16	Ditch Fill	L 1st - 3rd C AD	(4) 99g	194		
	1014	A	16	Ditch Fill	E 2nd C AD	(20) 319g			
	1014	B	16	Ditch Fill	E 2nd - 3rd C AD	(43) 667g			
	1014	D	16	Ditch Fill	Roman	(5) 30g			
1015	1016		17	Ditch Fill	2nd-3rd C AD	(6) 275g		230	SF 2 Roman Pin and Loop Hole (1) 19
	1017		17	Ditch Fill	2nd C AD	(54) 881g		181	Shell (1) 19g
	1018		17	Ditch Fill	L1-2nd C AD	(5) 49g		117	
1019	1020		17	Gully Fill	Roman	(2) 5g			Shell (1) 13g
1021	1022		17	Ditch Fill	L3-M4th C AD	(29) 756g		2112	Shell (7) 82g
1027	1028		16	Ditch Fill	L3-4th C AD	(9) 132g		83	
1029	1030		17	Pit Fill	L1-E2nd C AD	(22) 296g		162	
1031	1032		17	Gully Fill	L1-2nd C AD	(4) 161g	196	71	
1040	1035		15	Pit Fill	Roman	(1) 10g (79) 1285g		36	
	1036		15	Pit Fill	L1-E2nd C AD			1144	SF 1 Roman Brooch (1) 13g Fe Nail (2) 20g Slag (1) 380g
	1037		15	Pit Fill	M1-E2nd C	(29) 591g		414	
	1038		15	Pit Fill	L1-E2nd C AD	(40) 680g		1451	

1040	1039	15	Pit Fill						41	
1041	1042	16	Ditch Fill	Post-Medieval		(10) 169g			7	
1043	1044	16	Pit Fill						4	
1047	1048	14	Ditch Fill	E2-E3rd C AD		(24) 137g			85	
1049	1050	14	Ditch Fill	2nd C AD		(33) 101g			341	SF 3 Needle (1) 7g Clay Pipe St. (1) 3g
	1051	14	Ditch Fill	Roman		(2) 64g				
	1052	14	Ditch Fill	Roman		(5) 13g				
1053	1054	12	Ditch Fill	L1-2nd C AD		(8) 95g			53	SF 7 Cu Brooch (1) 4g SF 11 Cu Alloy Pin (1) 1g
	1083	12	Ditch Fill	E2-4th C AD		(16) 125g			32	
	1084	12	Ditch Fill	Roman		(8) 59g			144	
	1085	10	Ditch Fill	L3-M4th C AD		(10) 96g				
1056	1055	15	Drip Gully	L1-E2nd C AD		(21) 506g			103	SF 8 Bead (1) 1g Shell (1) 13g SF 9 Cu Alloy Pin (1) 8g
		B								
1057	1058	15	Drip Gully	L1-E2nd C AD		(33) 651g	239		250	
1059		14	Ditch Fill	Post-Medieval		(9) 164g			58	
1060	1061	15	Layer	Post-Medieval (1 sherd+Roman)		(12) 159g			36	
1062	1063	10	Ditch Fill	Roman		(3) 33g			90	
1064	1065	18	Gully Fill	Post-Medieval		(1) 15g				
1066	1066	18	Furrow Fill							Fe Frag (1) 4g
1069	1067	11	Ditch Fill	L1-E2nd C AD		(11) 99g			180	Clay Pipe (1) 4g
1071	1070	11	Furrow Fill	L1-E2nd C AD		(2) 8g				
1075	1072	13	Furrow Fill	Post-Medieval		(7) 58g				
1081	1076	19	Pit Fill	Roman		(1) 10g				
1086	1082	10	Pit Fill	Roman		(1) 8g				Shell (1) 29g
1089	1087	11	Ditch Fill							SF 10 Cu Alloy Band (1) 10g
1091	1090	12	Ditch Fill	Roman		(3) 14g			37	
1093	1092	11	Ditch Fill	4th C AD		(10) 285g			88	
	1094	11	Pit Fill						288	Fe Nail (2) 19g

AS 1248: Creed Road, Oundle, Nhants. Sample Concordacne

Concordance of Samples

Sample	Size (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Flot (ml)
1	40	1013 A	1014 A	16	Ditch Fill	40
2	30	1015	1016	17	Ditch Fill	-
3	20	1015	1017	17	Ditch Fill	-
4	20	1015	1018	17	Ditch Fill	5
5	10	1019	1020	17	Gully Fill	20
6	40	1013 B	1014 B	16	Ditch Fill	10
7	20	1029	1030	17	Pit Fill	5
8	10	1013 E	1014 E	16	Ditch Fill	10
9	40	1040	1036	15	Pit Fill	40
10	40	1040	1039	15	Pit Fill	10
11	40	1027	1028	16	Ditch Fill	-
12	40	1013 D	1014 D	16	Ditch Fill	5
13	40	1049	1050	14	Ditch Fill	10
14	20	1049	1052	14	Ditch Fill	-
15	40	1056 A	1055 A	15	Gully Fill	-
16	40	1060	1061	10	Ditch Fill	10
17	40	1066	1067	11	Ditch Fill	10
18	40	1053	1085	12	Ditch Fill	-
19	40	1053	1054	12	Ditch Fill	-
20	40	1091	1092	10	Pit Fill	-

All flots sent to Alexandra Livarda for Analysis

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey

Trial trench excavations recovered a total of 621 sherds (9620g) of Roman pottery. The bulk of the Roman pottery: c.88% of the assemblage by sherd count (c.85% by weight) was attributable to the early Roman period: within the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD, probably within the early 2nd century AD (Table 1). The remaining Roman pottery includes relatively low quantities of late Roman pottery, with sparse residual sherds also present in post-medieval features.

Feature Date	Feature Type	No. of features	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Early Roman (late 1 st to 2 nd century AD, probably early 2 nd C AD)	Ditch F1013	1	72	1115	1.39
	Ditch F1015	1	65	1205	0.80
	Pit F1040	1	149	2566	2.04
	Drip Gully F1056	1	54	1157	0.62
	Other Pits, Ditches and Gullies	15	208	2155	1.25
Late Roman (late 3 rd to mid 4 th century AD)	Ditch F1021	1	29	756	0.15
	Other Pits and Ditches	3	30	521	0.45
Residual Roman pottery	Post-Medieval Features	5	14	145	0.1
<i>Total</i>		28	621	9620	6.8

Table 1: Quantification of Roman Pottery in Feature Groups

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight and R.EVE. Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and assigned a code according to the system developed for National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Samian forms reference Webster (1996). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

Fabric Codes and Descriptions

Imported fine wares

LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28)
LMV SA	Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 30)
LEX SA2	Lezoux samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 32)
CNG GL1	Central Gaulish (white) glazed ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 52)

Regional fine wares

LNV CC1	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118). Oxidised orange fabric with over-fired slip.
LNV CC2	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118). White fabric.
LNV GS	Lower Nene Valley grey-slipped ware. As LNV CC2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118), but with a reduced grey slip
COL CC2	Colchester (late) colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 133)
UNS WS	Fine white-slipped ware. Cream to pale brown surfaces (slip) and a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common fine quartz and black iron ore (both <0.1mm) with occasional clay pellets/grog (0.25-2mm). A soft to moderately hard fabric with smooth surfaces
UNS OX1	Fine oxidised ware. Red orange throughout. Inclusions comprise common fine quartz (0.1-0.25mm) with occasional iron rich grains (<0.5mm). A hard fabric with smooth surfaces
UNS WH1	Fine white ware. White/cream surfaces with either slightly lighter or darker core. Inclusions comprise common fine quartz (<0.1mm), sparse red clay pellets and black iron ore (<0.2mm). A hard fabric with a smooth to slightly abrasive feel.

Coarse wares

UNS CR	Hard cream, grogged ware. White/cream to pale grey surfaces fading to a mid-dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common white to dark grey grog (0.5-2mm), sparse black (and occasionally red) iron rich grains and quartz (both <0.25mm). The surfaces are slightly lumpy with a slightly soapy feel, and the fabric very hard fired.
GRS1	Sandy grey ware. Mid to pale brown grey surfaces with a thick blue-grey core. Inclusions comprise common fine quartz, sparse black iron-rich grains (<0.5mm) and common fine silver mica (especially visible on the surface)
GRS2	Sandy grey ware. Mid to dark grey surfaces with a contrasting grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse to occasional black iron rich grains (0.25-1mm).
GRS3	Sandy grey ware. Dark grey to black surfaces fading to a mid-dark grey core, sometimes with oxidised red/orange margins. Inclusions comprise common, ill sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm with sparse red-brown or grey grog/clay pellets (0.25-2mm)
GRS4	Sandy grey ware. Very dark grey to black surfaces with a slightly contrasting, dark reduced core. Inclusions comprise common-abundant, well sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse to occasional limestone and clay pellets (0.5-2.5mm). A moderately hard fabric with a smooth to slightly abrasive feel.
ROB SH	Romano-British shell-tempered ware. Red-brown surfaces and a thick reduced core. Inclusions comprise common to abundant plate like shell (generally <5mm, occasionally larger)
BB2	Black-burnished ware 2, probably a Colchester product (Tomber & Dore 1998, 131)
UNS OX2	Coarse oxidised ware. Mottled red-orange surfaces fading to a pale oxidised or reduced core. Inclusions comprise common poorly sorted quartz (0.1-0.75mm) and sparse red clay pellets/grog (0.5-2.5mm). A moderately hard fabric with smooth to slightly abrasive surfaces.

Amphorae

BAT AM1	Baetican (early) amphorae 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 84)
BAT AM2	Baetican (late) amphorae 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 85)

Discussion

The Early Roman Pottery

In total 548 sherds (8198g) of Roman pottery were contained in features that could be broadly dated to the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD, but probably date to the early 2nd century AD. Pit F1040 contained the largest concentration of early Roman pottery, accounting for 27.19% of the early Roman pottery by sherd count (31.30% by weight), with substantial concentrations also contained in Ditches F1013, F1015 and Drip Gully F1056 (Table 1). In total these four groups account for 62.04% (73.71%) of the early Roman pottery.

The pottery group from Pit F1040 (L1035, L1036, L1037 and L1038) is closely dated to the early 2nd century AD by the presence of fragments from two LGF SA Form 18 platters, a LMV SA Form 27 cup, two devolved Gallo-Belgic platters in GRS4, a BAT AM1 Dressel 20 amphora and a probable flagon of intrinsic interest in CNG GL1. CNG GL1 has a sparse, widespread distribution across Roman Britain but it is the partially intact decoration on this sherd that distinguishes it as very rare. The single fragment comprises a bulbous body sherd, probably from a flagon, with the partial feet of a moulded panther or cat-like figure in a decorative panel comparable to that found in the schemes of many Central Gaulish samian potters (Stanfield and Simpson 1958). Similar moulded decoration on a CNG GL1 vessel: a rabbit figure has also been recorded at Great Casterton (Corder 1951, 11). The Pit F1040 group also includes everted plain and bead rim jars in ROB SH, GRS2 and GRS3 as well as a 3-rib strap handle from a flagon in UNS WH1 and body sherds of UNS WS1.

Ditch F1013 (L1014 Seg.B) contained a fragmented but complete BB2 bead rim dish with a deep body, chamfered base and burnished lattice decoration on the exterior (Symonds and Wade 1999: Cam 37A/38A), which dates from the early 2nd century AD onwards and accounts for the bulk of the group. The remainder of the group includes the base of a COL CC2 bag-shaped beaker with rough-cast decoration that also dates from the early 2nd century AD, with an UNS CR1 channel rim jar, a ROB SH jar and GRS2 bowl that may date from the late 1st to early 2nd centuries AD.

The group from Ditch F1015 is limited to sherds of the common local coarse wares: UNS CR1, ROB SH, GRS2 and GRS3. Numerous everted rim, plain cordoned jars of 2nd century character are present in the sandy grey wares, but an UNS CR1 neckless jar with a stubby, pointed rim is unlikely to post-date the early 2nd century AD.

The pottery group from Drip Gully F1056 (L1055 Segs. A and B) is largely comprised of sherds of ROB SH, GRS3 and GRS4 with sparse sherds of UNS CR1 and GRS2 and rare sherds of LGF SA and UNS WH1. The LGF SA comprises a body sherd from a Form 37 bowl decorated with (the head of) a dog figure and tree ornament that can be attributed to C. Valerius Albanus of La Graufesenque and dated to c.AD80-100 (SAMIAN.NET: serial no.0005940). The group also includes a GRS4 devolved Gallo-Belgic platter and a GRS3 bowl that probably date to the late 1st to early end centuries AD.

The remaining features that contained sparse to moderate quantities of early Roman (late 1st to 2nd century AD) pottery comprise Pits F1009, F1011, F1029, F1075, Gullies F1003, F1005, F1019, F1031, Ditches F1007, F1047, F1049, F1053, F1060, F1066 and F1089. The bulk of this pottery comprises locally produced coarse wares: ROB SH, GRS2, GRS3, GRS4 and UNS CR1 while rare fragments of other fabrics: LMV SA, LEZ SA2, CNG GL1, COL CC2, LNV CC2, UNS WH1, UNS OX1, GRS1 and BAT AM2 are also present. Jars with either everted or channel rims are a frequent occurrence in the common coarse wares, while a reed-rimmed bowl in GRS4 from Ditch F1047 (L1048) probably dates to the early 2nd century AD. The most notable occurrence in these features is a CNG GL1 beaker in Ditch F1066 (L1070), the second CNG GL1 vessel in the assemblage. The beaker is a cornice rim type that dates to the late 1st century AD. Isolated body sherds of LNV CC2 in Ditches F1049 (L1050) and F1053 (L1054 and L1083) indicate that some of these features may have remained open into the mid 2nd century AD.

The Late Roman Pottery

A total of 30 sherds (521g) of Roman pottery were contained in features that could be assigned a late Roman (late 3rd to 4th century) date. These include a small concentration of sherds in Ditch F1021 (L1022) which includes a LNV CC1 funnel-neck beaker and plain rim dish (Perrin 1999: types 173 and 233/4) that date to the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD, although much of the remainder of this concentration appears to be residual early Roman pottery. Other distinct forms dating to the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD include an LNV CC2 bead and flange rim dish (Perrin 1999: type 256) in Ditch F1027 (L1028), an LNV CC1 necked jar in Ditch F1091 (L1092) and an UNS OX1 funnel-neck beaker in Ditch F1081 (L1085).

Post-Medieval Features

Five features: Ditches F1041, F1057, Layer F1059, Gully F1062 and Furrow F1071 contained a total of 25 sherds (420g) of post-medieval pottery with a further 14 sherds (145g) of residual Roman pottery. The post-medieval pottery comprised non-diagnostic, body sherds of glazed red earthen ware and stone ware dating to the 17th to 19th centuries. The residual Roman pottery is notable for including a fragment of an LEZ SA2 Form 64 beaker with a cornice rim and a trace of the decoration that would have been present below. This vessel dates to early to mid end century AD, and the other residual Roman pottery also appears to be of early Roman (late 1st to 2nd century AD) date.

Conclusions

The assemblage spans the Roman period, ranging from the late 1st to 4th centuries AD, with a notable focus on the early 2nd century AD. Excavation on an adjacent area of land produced an assemblage from a Roman farmstead with a comparable chronological range and similar period of peak deposition in the early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd centuries AD (Timby 2004). There are notable contrasts between the two assemblages, notably a slightly later chronological focus in the previously recorded assemblage resulting in significantly higher quantities of Lower Nene Valley products. Both assemblages include quantities of south and central Gaulish samian ware as well as glazed ware (British or imported) suggesting that the farmstead and any neighbouring settlement was of relatively high status. Significant comparisons could

also be made with contemporary assemblages from Brixworth (Woods 1972), Wakerley (Jackson and Ambrose 1978) and Ashton (Aird and MacRobert nd) and have the potential to yield further results and conclusions than this stage of the project allows. The four groups of early Roman pottery from Pit F1040, Ditches F1013, F1015 and Drip Gully F1056 aptly demonstrate that this assemblage includes well-preserved concentrations of highly diagnostic pottery that merits further analysis and comparison.

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of six fragments (771g) of fragmented and slightly abraded Romano-British CBM. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics classified at x20 magnification and form types classified according to Brodrigg (1987). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Four fragments (475g) of the Romano-British CBM occurred in a sandy, oxidised fabric. This fabric was orange-red to red-brown throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse red/black clay pellets and occasional chalk (0.25-5mm). Fragments of tegulae roof tile in this fabric were contained in Ditches F1007 (L1008), F1013 (L1014 Seg. A) and Drip Gully F1056 (L1055 Seg. B), while a single fragment of box flue tile was contained in Ditch F1060 (L1061). The box flue tile had a diagonal comb mark on its exterior surface, possibly part of a lattice, and was formed using an 8 tooth comb (36mm wide).

Two fragments (196g) occurred in an oxidised, shell-tempered fabric. This fabric has red-brown surfaces fading to a red core with inclusions of common to abundant plate-like shell (0.25-5mm) with occasional quartz and iron rich grains (0.1-0.5mm). The two fragments in Gully F1031 (L1032) comprise cross-joining pieces of a 40mm thick brick, probably a bessalis type brick.

All the Romano-British CBM was contained in features dated by pottery to the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD, probably the early 2nd century AD. The general scarcity of Romano-British CBM in comparison to the quantities of pottery recovered suggests the CBM is not directly related to a structure in the immediate vicinity and that it may have been imported as hardcore. Excavations adjacent to the site recovered similarly low quantities of CBM that included tegulae and box flue tile predominantly in sandy, oxidised fabrics (Hylton *et al* 2004) but did not find any evidence for a building that would have had a tiled roof or hypocaust. It cannot be ruled out that a building with a tiled roof or hypocaust existed elsewhere in the vicinity, but the CBM may have been removed and re-used as has been shown at Ashton (unpublished).

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The Small Finds

by Nina Crummy

Summary

The assemblage consists of ten copper-alloy objects and one glass bead. Most, if not all, are of Roman date.

Condition

The glass bead is in good condition. The copper-alloy objects are also in good condition, some with a good patina and little corrosion, others with a thin coating of copper corrosion products.

The assemblage

The assemblage consists of a single glass bead, probably of early Roman date, a Roman copper-alloy coin and nine other copper-alloy objects, including two early Roman brooches.

The bead (SF 8) is of annular form in blue glass with a white wave. This is a very long-lived type, with examples known from both Roman and early Anglo-Saxon contexts. The Oundle bead, found in association with other Roman objects but none of early Anglo-Saxon date, can be presumed to be Roman.

The coin is an *as* of Domitian, AD 81-96. Conservation may reveal further details of the legend and allow a closer date to be provided by the dates of tribunician power and consulship.

One of the brooches (SF 1) is a Hod Hill type, dating to between *c.* AD 43 and 60/5. The form was introduced into Britain at the time of the conquest and fell out of use in the late Neronian period. Many examples are associated with the Roman army, but they also seem to have been used by the civilian population. The other brooch (SF 7) is of hinged fantail type. It is a very close match for a brooch from Sapperton in Lincolnshire and may well have come from the same mould, implying native manufacture (Mackreth 2009, fig. 3, 10). The foot, with its three ring-and-dots, is also found on a brooch from Thistleton (Hull forthcoming, Type 29B, no. 6625), but the bow on that example is plain apart from an unperforated headloop at the top. The direct associations for SF 7 are therefore few but clearly concentrated on the East Midlands in the valleys of the rivers Nene and Witham. A date contemporary with the Hod Hill brooch is appropriate, as Hull's Type 29 spans the period of transition from the Late pre-Roman Iron Age to the Romano-British period, with hinged examples such as SF 7 placed late rather than early within this date-range.

The other Roman objects cannot be as closely dated, although a hairpin (SF 9) and a needle with a deep groove above and below the eye (SF 3) may both be late Roman. The former is similar to a hairpin from 3rd-4th century context at Colchester (Crummy 1983, 30, fig. 31, 508) and needles with grooved heads tend to derive from late Roman contexts (*ibid.*, 67, Type 3). Both drop-handles derive from topsoil and may therefore be quite modern. The decorative detailing at the centre of the smallest is quite similar to that on a much larger handle from Roman Augst in Switzerland (Riha 2001, Taf. 6, 61), but the condition of its metal seems rather to indicate a late post-medieval or modern date, with the stylistic element belonging to the Classical revival.

Taken as a whole, the assemblage suggests occupation of the site to have spanned most of the Roman period and to have been largely domestic in character.

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The Small Finds, Summary Catalogue

Copper-alloy

SF	Context	Context description	Identification	Conserve	Illustrate	Category	Date
1	1036	Pit Fill	Hod Hill brooch, pin missing	y	y	1	c. AD 43-6
2	1016	Ditch Fill	a) finger-ring b) hairpin shaft fragment	-	y	1	Roman
3	1050	Ditch Fill	needle	-	y	3	(late) Rom
5	1000	Topsoil	drop-handle fragment	-	-	4	Roman or
6	1000	Topsoil	as of Domitian, reverse Minerva?	y	-	-	AD 81-96
7	1054	Ditch Fill	hinged fantail brooch	y	y	1	c. 40-60/5
9	1055	Gully Fill	hairpin	-	y	1	(late) Rom
10	1087	Ditch Fill	strip fragment	-	-	18	-
11	1054	Ditch Fill	pin/needle shaft fragment	-	-	1/3	Roman
12	1000	Topsoil	drop-handle from drawer of small box	-	-	4	?Roman

Glass

SF	Context	Context description	Identification	Conserve	Illustrate	Category	Date
8	1055	Gully Fill	annular blue bead with white wave	-	y	y	Roman/ea Anglo-Sax

Animal Bone

By Mike P Feider

Introduction

The evaluation retrieved 16 fragments (206g) of animal bone. These were scanned to assess the general nature of the assemblage. The latter was recovered from Roman pits and ditches, with nearly half (45.4%) derived from Pit F1040.

Methods

The remains from each context were scanned following MAP2 guidelines (Davis 1992; English Heritage 1991; 2002), with each element identified to species where possible and as unidentified otherwise. Element information was not recorded. The number of fragments and any associated butchery, ageing, taphonomic, and metrical information were recorded in a Microsoft Access database which will accompany the site archive.

Results

Preservation

The remains are in moderate to poor condition, with a high frequency of rootmarking and longitudinal cracking resulting from weathering. Canid gnawing was noted on several bones scattered throughout the assemblage. Most fragments were unidentifiable fragments and very few articular surfaces survived. One calcined bone was noted from C1038.

Species Present

Feature	Context	Cow	S/g	Pig	Dog	Horse	Bird	Deer	Un-Ided	Total
1007 (ditch)	1008	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
1009 (pit)	1010	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1015 (ditch)	1016	2	8	1	0	0	1	0	19	31
	1017	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	13
	1018	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	5
1021 (ditch)	1022	6	1	0	0	0	2	0	38	47
1027 (ditch)	1028	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	11	15
1029 (pit)	1030	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	10
1040 (pit)	1035	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
	1036	7	39	6	0	0	1	0	138	191
	1037	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	25	34
	1038	7	4	1	0	1	0	0	25	38
	1039	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
1041 (ditch)	1042	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
1043 (pit)	1044	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1047 (ditch)	1048	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	18	27
1049 (ditch)	1050	2	8	2	0	0	0	0	36	48
1053 (ditch)	1054	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
	1083	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	7
	1084	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	12	18
1056 (gully)	1055	1	9	4	2	0	0	0	32	48
1057 (ditch)	1058	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
1059 (layer)	1059	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
1060 (ditch)	1061	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	9
1066 (ditch)	1067	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	8
1089 (ditch)	1090	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
1091 (ditch)	1092	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4
1093 (pit)	1094	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4
Total		53	105	17	2	4	4	2	412	599

Table 2: NISP counts by context and species. S/g = sheep/goat.

Most (68.8%) of the assemblage was not identifiable to species, but all five of the normal domesticated species were present, as well as domestic fowl. Sheep/goat was by far the most abundant species, followed by cow and pig. Deer remains suggest at least some use of wild resources. Remains from all areas of the body were present, suggesting the domesticates were slaughtered and consumed on site.

Further Information

Surprisingly little butchery was noted in the assemblage, which is unusual on Roman sites. Only three identifiable fragments had cutmarks, with several more noted on smaller fragments of rib. This may be in part due to the poor surface preservation of many of the bones.

Only 19 fragments survived well enough for any measurements to be taken, as very few articular surfaces survived. Ageing data based on fusion is quite limited for the same reason. Toothwear ageing would provide more information, with 4 cow, 17 sheep/goat, and 5 pig mandibles surviving in good condition.

Summary of Potential

Although quite a sizable assemblage, the remains from Creed Road offer only limited information due to their poor preservation. Little butchery or metrical data is available, but general ages of the main domesticates could be calculated with further study of toothwear data.

The preservation suggests bone survival on the site is quite poor overall, with significant weathering of bone surfaces and root-marking, and further excavations should expect to retrieve assemblages in similar condition.

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Davis, S. 1992 'A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites', English Heritage, AML Report 71/92.

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Charred plant remains

Alexandra Livarda

Introduction

During the evaluation at Creed Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire, environmental sampling was applied for the recovery of plant remains and other organic material.

Sampling and processing methods

Nine samples were collected at the discretion of the archaeologists from various contexts, including ditches, pits and a gully (Table 1). Sample size ranged between 10 and 40 litres, as dictated by the size of the excavated unit. Processing was carried out by staff at Archaeological Solutions, who floated the samples using a 1mm and 0.25mm aperture mesh for the retention of the residues and the flots respectively.

All flots were fully scanned using a stereoscope with magnifications ranging from x7 to x45. The plant remains were recorded by category (cereal grain, wild seeds, tuber and other seeds) and their abundance estimated (+ = <10 items, ++ = 10-50 items, +++ = 50-100 items, ++++ = >100 items) on the basis of the minimum number of characteristic plant parts. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Charcoal fragments and other organic material were also noted, estimating their abundance with the same rating system.

Results

Charred plant material was found in all samples, mainly in the form of charcoal fragments. Yet charcoal fragments were abundant only in sample 9 (L1036), which derived from Pit 1040. This sample was also the richest in terms of charred seeds. In particular, it contained a few badly preserved cereal grains, including a possible barley seed (cf. *Hordeum vulgare* L.), some tuber fragments and a variety of wild seeds,

mainly small grasses (Poaceae) but also brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* spp.) and knotgrasses (*Polygonum* spp.). This assemblage probably represents food processing/refuse material and possibly remnants of plants used as kindling. Sample 10 (L1039) from the same pit was the only other sample that contained wild charred seeds, most of which were identified as small grasses. It also contained a moderate amount of charcoal fragments. A moderate amount of charcoal fragments was further found in sample 4 (L1018) from Ditch F1015.

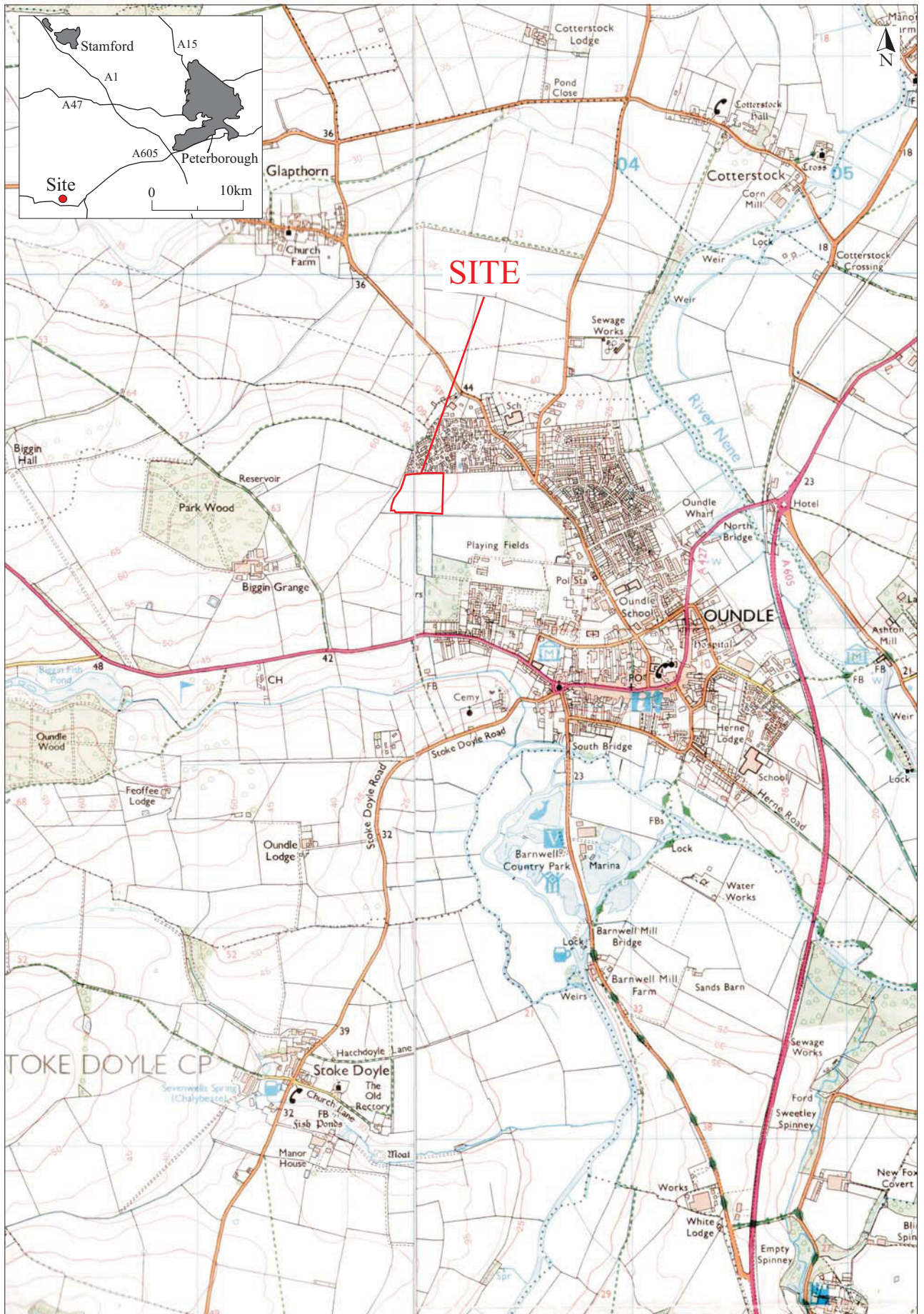
Modern roots and seeds as well as insects were few indicating a low degree of bio-turbation in all samples. Other organic material included a few small mammal bones in sample 9 (L1036) and some snails in six of the samples (4 (L1018), 7 (L1030), 9 (L1036), 13 (L1050), 16 (L1061) and 17 (L1067)).

Conclusion

A low degree of human activity in regard to plant resources was detected at Creed Road. Most samples contained low amounts of charcoal fragments. The exceptions were the two samples from Pit F1040.

Bibliography

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

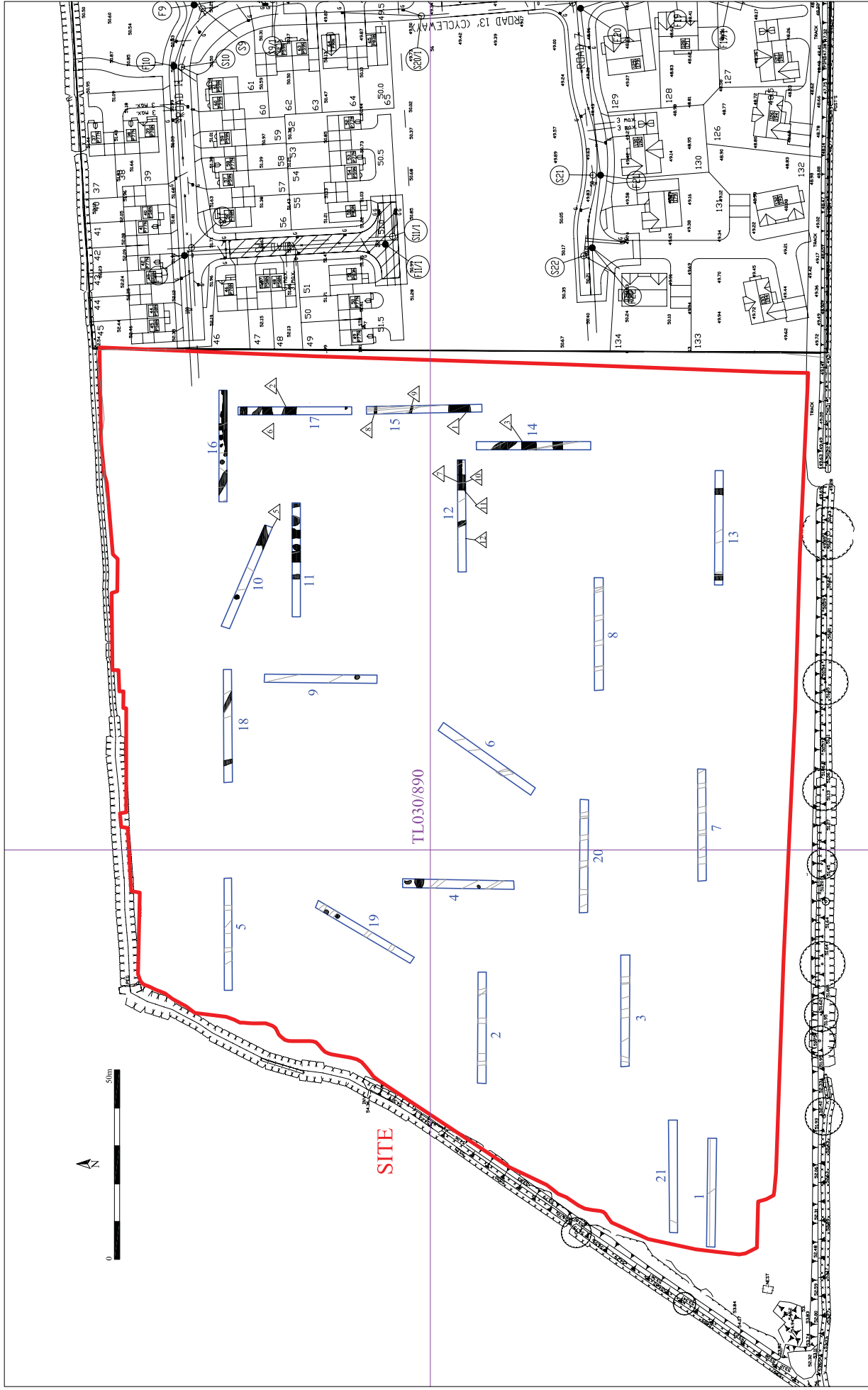


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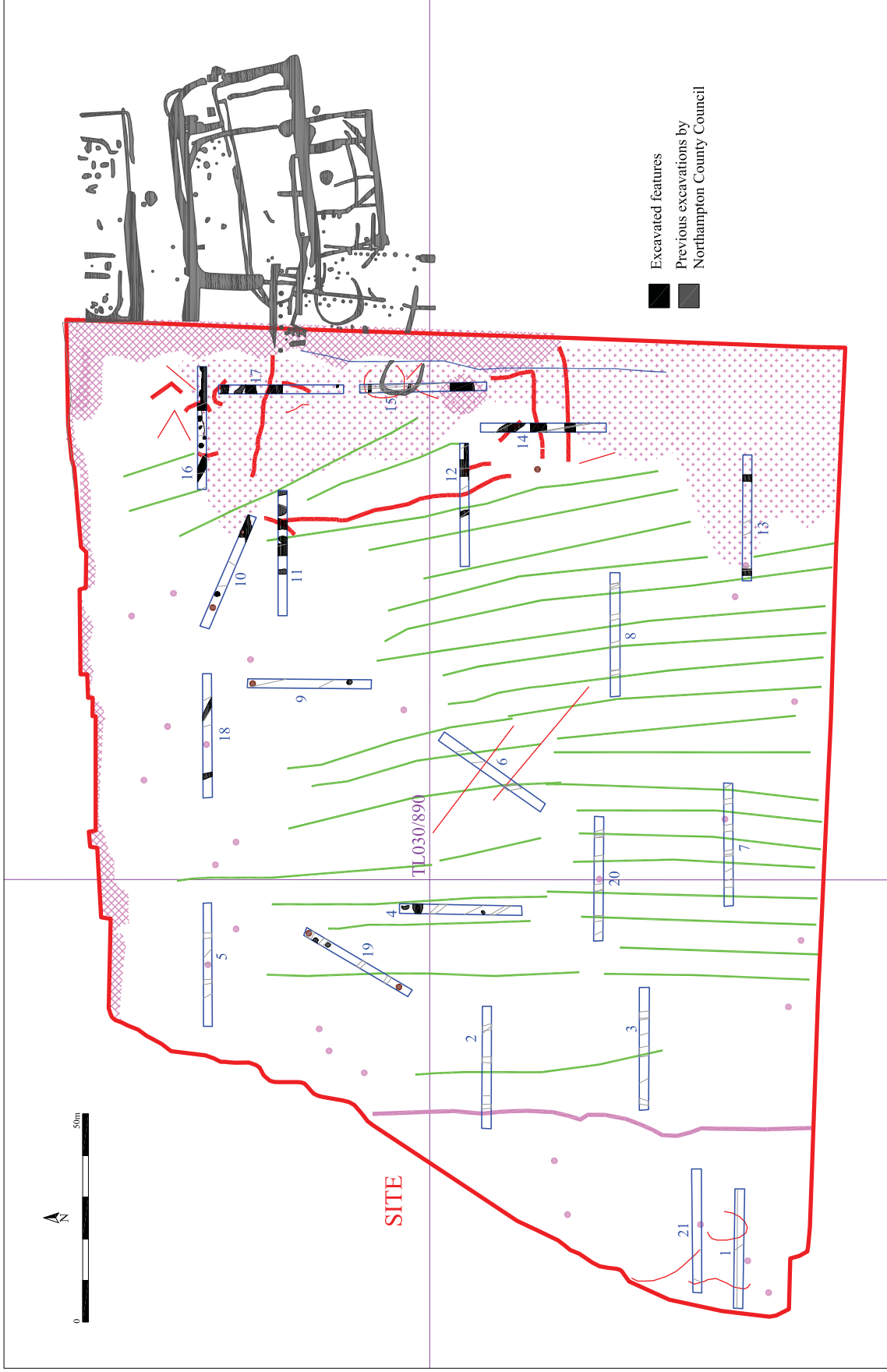
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

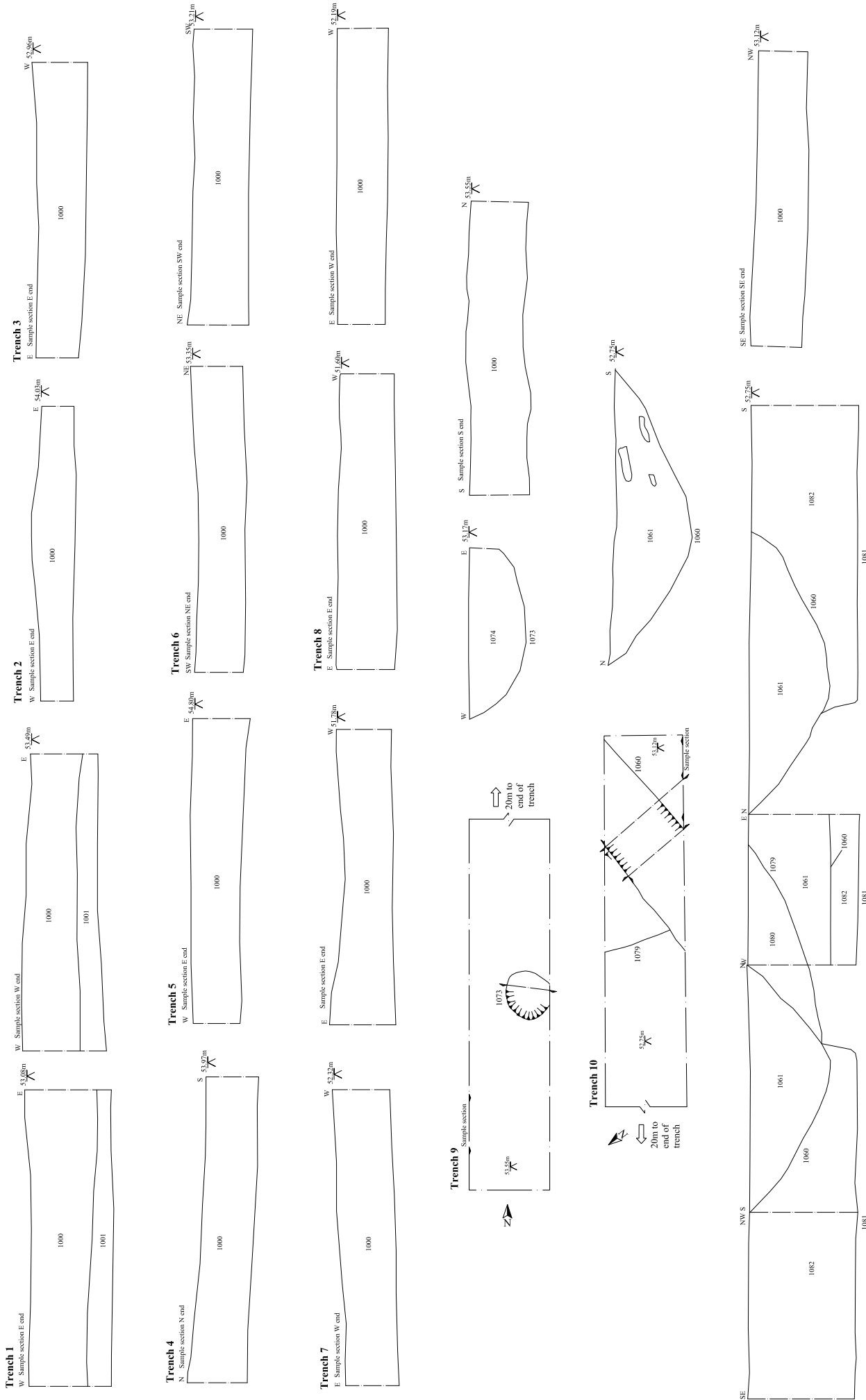
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A3



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Fig. 2.1 Trench location plan with geophysics
 Scale 1:1000 at A3



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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections
Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

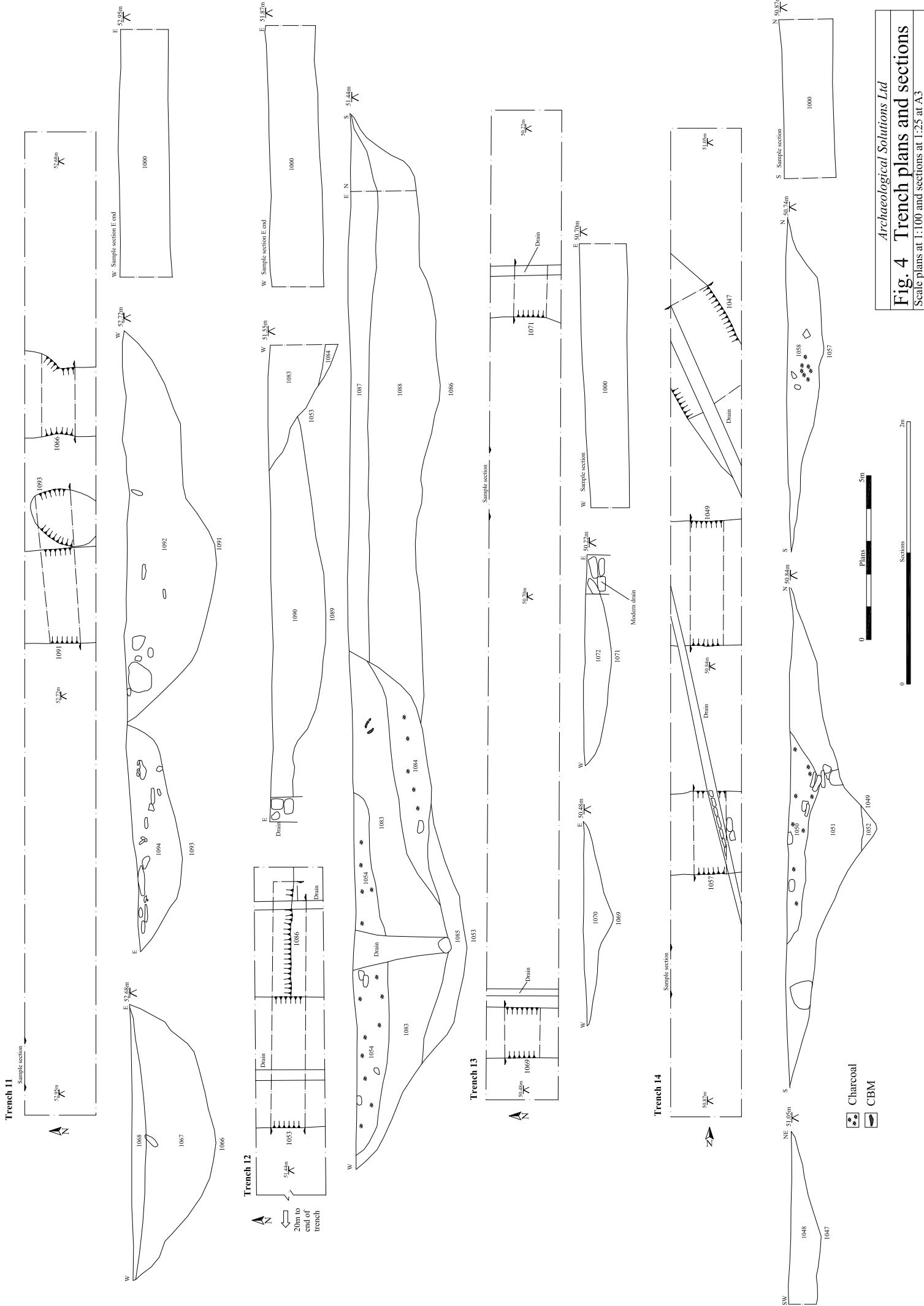
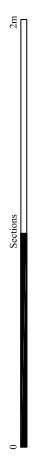


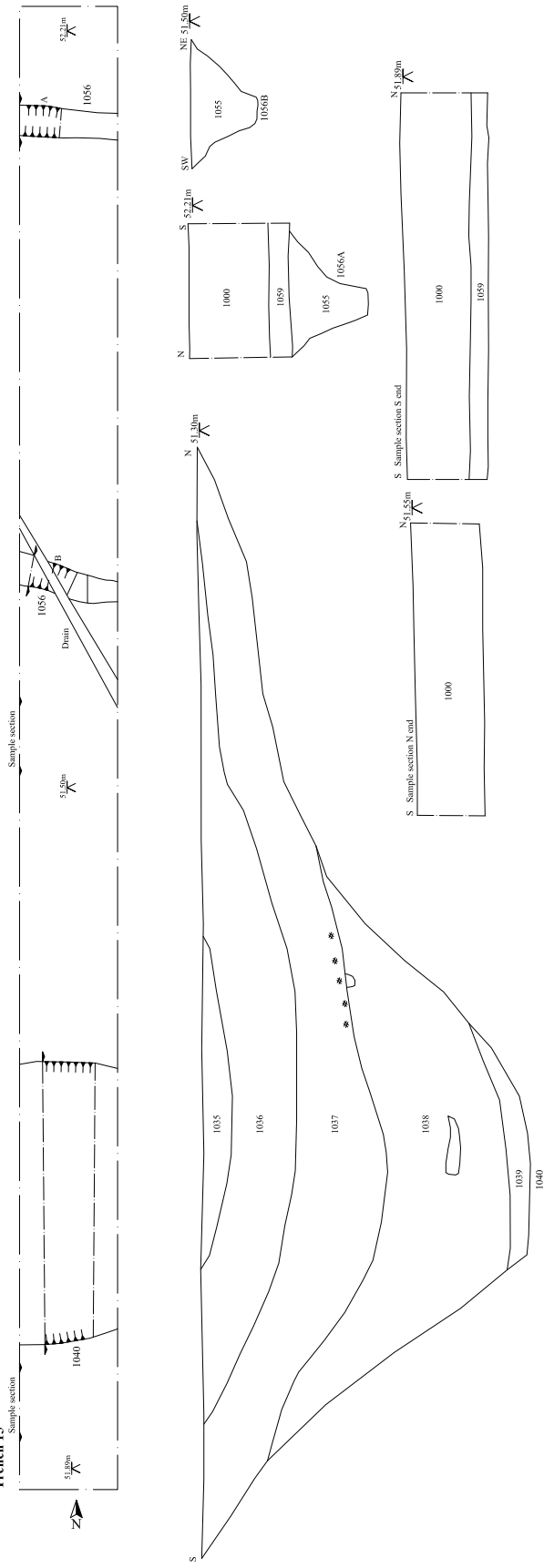
Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

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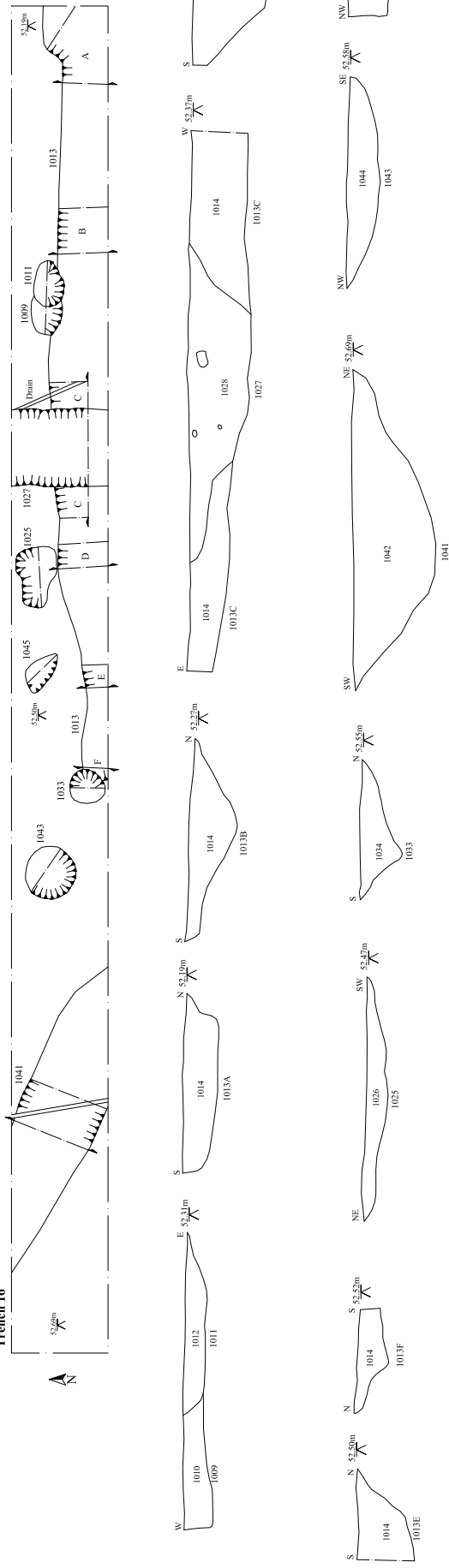


Charcoal
 CBM

Trench 15



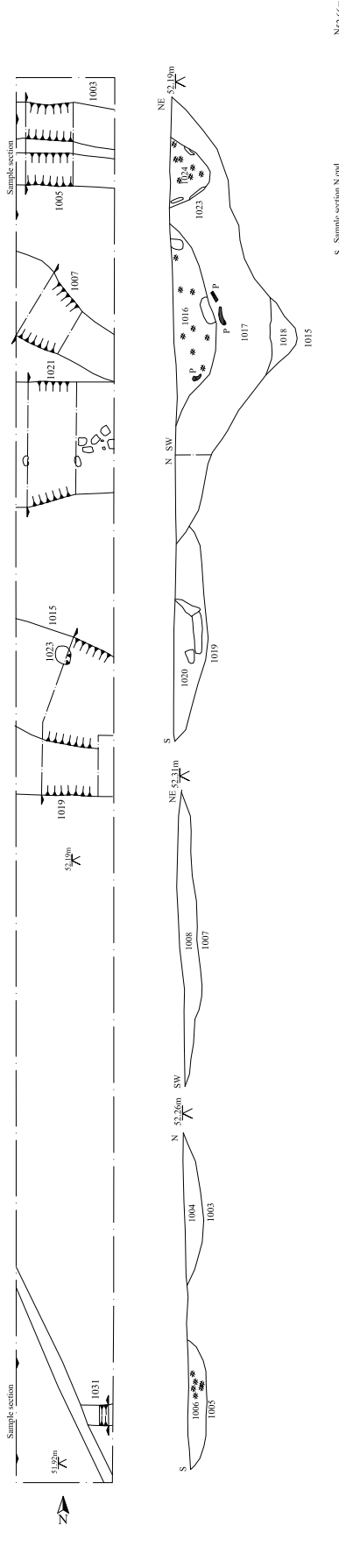
Trench 16



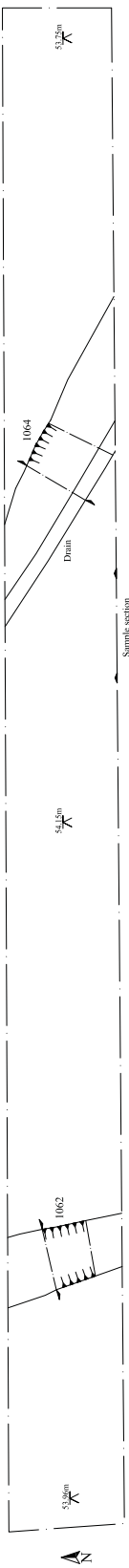
Charcoal

Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

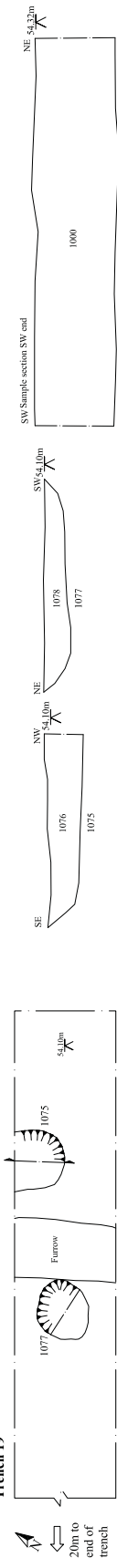
Trench 17



Trench 18



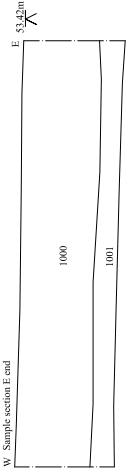
Trench 19



Trench 20



Trench 21



-  Charcoal
-  Bone
-  Pottery

0 5m
Plans

0 2m
Sections

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Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3