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Land at Clipstone, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Jo Pine

Site Code: LCB10/91

(SP 9500 2700)

Land at Clipstone, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

Draft Report for Sibelco Ltd

by Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LCB10//91

November 2010

Summary

Site name: Land at Clipstone, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

Grid reference: SP 9500 2700

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 11th–25th October 2010

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: Jo Pine

Site code: LCB10/91

Area of site: Whole proposal site *c.*110ha; Evaluated area *c.*35ha

Summary of results: Of the 34 trenches excavated, 20 revealed certain or probable archaeological features, dating mainly from the late Iron Age-early Roman period but with several likely earlier Iron Age and later Bronze Age features also present. The majority of the features and finds came from an area of about *c*. 3ha extent in the north-eastern part of the site, where there is certainly a late Iron Age to early Roman settlement, and probably later Bronze Age occupation. A focus of late prehistoric activity was also recorded in the west; while a continuation of a previously known Late Iron Age-Early Roman settlement was recorded in the far south-west of the site. Other trenches contained medieval or later ridge and furrow earthworks.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Luton Museum in due course, with accession code LTNMG2010:58

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 15.11.10 Steve Preston✓ 15.11.10

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Land at Clipstone, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Jo Pine

Report 10/91

Introduction

This report documents the results of an initial stage of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Clipstone, near Leighton Buzzard, located at NGR SP 9500 2700 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Ltd, 16 South Terrace, Sowerby, Thirsk, YO7 1RH on behalf of Sibelco Ltd. Planning permission is to be sought from Central Bedfordshire Council to extract minerals from a site covering 110.3ha.

As a consequence of the possibility of the presence of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by extraction, a field evaluation has being conducted, in order to inform the planning process, in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The first phase of trenching reported here followed a detailed geophysical survey of the whole proposed site.

The trenching only covered a large *c.*35 ha field known in the project correspondence as 'Field 4'. The whole of the PDA had been either sown or was about to be sown, and due to the poor weather in the summer of 2010 there was no window between harvest and resowing to allow trenching to take place across the whole site. Based upon the interim results of the geophysical survey (Archaeophysica 2010) 'Field 4' was selected as the field with the highest archaeological potential. This field had already been sown and therefore trenches had to be carefully targeted to obtain a cross-section of information. To achieve this trenches were targeted predominantly on geophysical anomalies identified in this specific field, but also at palaeochannels and some blank areas as a control (Figs 2 and 3).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Martin Oake, County Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was managed by Jo Pine who was assisted by Natasha Bennett, Marta Buczek, Tim Dawson, James Early and Alison Meakes. The fieldwork took place between 11th–25th October 2010 and the site code is LCB 10/91. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Luton Museum in due course with accession code LTNMG2010:58.

We are grateful to the landowner, Mr Bruce Dashwood, for his co-operation and interest during the project and to Martin Oake for monitoring the fieldwork. Thanks are also due to Archaeophysica who carried out the geophysical survey and provided interim plots, to Sibelco for funding and Andrew Josephs Ltd who managed the project.

Location, topography and geology

The proposed extraction area lies approximately 1.5km to the north-east of the urban fringe of Leighton Buzzard in a rural area (Fig. 1). The site consists of a number of fields under arable cultivation. The north-western boundary is defined by a stream known as Winterbourne Slade; the south-eastern boundary by the Clipstone Brook, and the others by farmland and roads or tracks (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as predominantly Gault formation (grey mudstone), with bands of river terrace deposits (sand and gravel), glacial sand and gravel deposits and alluvium along the stream courses (BGS 1992) All of these geology types were encountered in the trenches. The site lies on a small hill which rises to a peak near the centre of the site at 108m above Ordnance Datum from the surrounding land which is mostly at around 95m AOD. The site straddles the parish boundary between Hockliffe in the east and Eggington in the west, while the Winterbourne Slade marks the boundary with another parish (Heath and Reach) to the north.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site and its environs has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Josephs 2008). In summary, the site lies adjacent to the shrunken medieval village of Clipstone but mostly within its open fields evidenced by the presence of ridge and furrow. The village is not mentioned in Domesday Book but Hockliffe is (Williams and Martin 2002). A medieval chapel is recorded for the village. A modest range of finds is recorded in the environs of the sites. Two presumed Bronze Age round barrows lie well to the west and several moated manor houses are present in surrounding medieval villages. The modern A5 follows the line of Watling Street Roman road around 1km to the east.

The most significant entry within the county Historic Environment Record is that a part of the site has been subject to field evaluation comprising both geophysical survey and trial trenching in advance of a flood alleviation scheme (AA 2006). This revealed the presence of a settlement complex of late Iron Age/early Roman date with a few artefacts of Bronze Age and late Roman date present. Several undated but probably medieval ditches were found in other evaluation trenches away from the main Roman settlement.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of proposed extraction. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

to establish whether there is evidence/potential for prehistoric and Roman occupation in this area; and

to establish whether there is evidence for medieval settlement in this area.

The first stage of trenching involved a limited number of trenches, targeted at the geophysical anomalies identified, a number placed across the suggested palaeochannels and others to examine blank areas. The trenches were between 5.30m to 29.80m in length and all were 1.8m wide. Care was taken not to excavate through established crop 'tram' lines and thus in some cases the trenches were split into two and had to be moved slightly from their preferred location. All trenches were excavated using a 360^0 type machine fitted with toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. Machine excavation was taken down to the top of the natural geology or the top of the relevant archaeological level. Resulting topsoil and subsoil heaps were examined for archaeological artefacts and scanned with a metal detector. Where features or possible features were present, these areas were hand-cleaned and the archaeological features were sampled to characterize and date them.

Results

In the event 34 trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). The trenches ranged in length from 5.30m to 29.80m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. A full list of features excavated forms Appendix 2.

Trenches without archaeology

Trenches 1, 6, 9, 11, 15, 32 and 33 contained only natural geology, even though three of these (Trenches 9, 15, 33) were targeted over linear geophysical anomalies. Trenches 16, 17, 21, 22 and 30 only contained furrow remains. Trenches 14 and 27 contained modern land drains which correspond with plotted geophysical anomalies. The remaining trenches with potential or certain archaeological features are described in detail below (Fig. 3).

Trenches with archaeological features

Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 9)

This trench was aligned SE-NW, was 12.0m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid brownish red sandy clayey silt subsoil which was *c*.0.30m deep. This in turn overlay light yellowish grey clay. This trench's location had to be moved to the south due to the presence of an established tram line. A ditch (31) was recorded at the far south of the trench on an approximate north-south alignment. It was 0.60m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a mid brown grey silty clay fill (96) which contained nine sherds of pottery of late Iron Age-early Roman date and fragments of ceramic building material. Truncated by or joining this ditch was another linear feature (32), on an east-west alignment. This was 0.45m wide and 0.16m deep. No finds were recovered from its silty clay fill (97).

Trench 3 (Figs 4, 7, 8 and 9)

This trench was aligned NNW–SSE, was 25.80m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid brownish red sandy clayey silt subsoil which was 0.30m deep. This in turn overlay the light yellowish grey clay. This trench was located over a single linear geophysical anomaly. In the event a number of linear features were recorded. At the southern end of the trench a ditch (14) was recorded, 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep on an east-west alignment. Four sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from its mottled grey brown clayey silt fill (71). In the centre of the trench was another ditch (30) again on a east-west alignment. It was 1.70m wide and 0.40m deep and four sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered from its fills (93 and 94). This was truncated or recut (114) on its southern side. The recut ditch was 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep and contained three sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery.

At the northern end of the trench was a shallow pit (6). This was 0.80m by 1.18m and 0.15m deep. It contained a dark brown grey clayey silt (60) from which four sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered. It

was apparently cut by ditch 5, on an approximate east-west alignment. This ditch was at least 1.00m wide and 0.60m deep and contained two fills (58 and 59). These contained six late Iron Age-early Roman pottery sherds, fired clay fragments and animal bone. This was recut by ditch (15) which was shown to be 2.20m wide and 0.59m deep. This contained two fills (72=98 and 99), from the former were recovered two sherds of early Roman pottery and the lower fill contained one sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. This ditch was in turn recut by ditch 112 also on an east-west alignment. This was a shallow redefinition, 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep with no finds.

Trench 4 (Figs 4, 7 and Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned north-south, was 5.60m long and between 0.48m and 0.88m deep (the latter being the depth of a test pit). The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid brownish red sandy clayey silt subsoil which was between 0.18m and 0.30m deep. This in turn overlay the light greyish red clay. A ditch (1) was recorded at the north end of the trench, entering the trench from the east and curving to the north-west. This ditch was 1.24m wide and 0.23m deep and contained a reddish brown sandy silt fill (52) which contained 22 pottery sherds attributed to the early Roman period and animal bone. This feature appeared to correspond to the geophysical anomaly, although slightly to the north of where it was plotted.

Trench 5 (Fig.4, 7 and Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned north-south, was 16.00m long and between 0.50m and 0.70m deep (the latter being the depth of a test pit). The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.29m thick, which overlay a mid brownish red sandy clayey silt subsoil which was 0.20m deep. This in turn overlay the light greyish red clay with occasional gravel. This trench was located over a linear geophysical anomaly and although archaeological features were recorded the geophysical plot could not indicate the complexity of the archaeology.

At the northern end of a trench was recorded a dark area; excavation of which revealed it to comprise a number of intercutting and recut ditches. Ditch 9 was on an east-west axis, was 3.00m wide and 0.65m deep. It contained a firm reddish brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions (65), this contained 39 sherds of pottery of late Iron Age-early Roman date, animal bone and fired clay. This land division appeared to be recut by ditch (7) which was on a similar alignment. This was 3.00m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a dark brown grey clayey silt. (53). Seventy-seven sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered from this fill together with a fragment of burnt bone. This ditch cut the remnants of another feature (113) which was so truncated its form could not be discerned but it was at least 0.40m by 0.65m and 0.20m deep. This was also

truncated, to the north, by another ditch (111). This was at least 1.00m wide and 0.50m deep again appearing to be on an east-west axis. A single sherd of pottery of late Iron Age-early Roman date was recovered from its mid brown grey clayey silt (190). This truncated to the north another linear (ditch 109); this appearing to be on a NE-SW alignment, was at least 1.17m wide and was 0.65m deep. It contained three clayey silt fills (174, 175 and 187). Pottery of early Roman date, including a South Gaulish samian sherd, together with fired clay and animal bone came from both fills (174 and 175).

Trench 7 (Figs 4 and 7 and Pl. 5)

This was aligned NW-SE, was 9.30m long and between 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid greyish red sandy clayey silt subsoil which was *c.* 0.20m deep. This in turn overlay the natural geology, a mid red brown sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions. This trench was targeted over a linear geophysical anomaly in the event it just missed it, due to the presence of a tram line. However a pit or ditch terminal (13) was recorded at the southern end of the trench which had not been revealed by geophysical survey. It was 1.18m in length, 0.60m wide and 27m deep. It contained three fills (67, 68 and 69). Fill 67 contained 18 pottery sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman date and together with brick/tile and fired clay and animal bone, a fragment likely burnt and charred cereal grain. Fill 68 contained fired clay fragments and two fragments of burnt bone and fill (69) only animal bone.

Trench 8 (Figs 4, 7, 8)

This trench was aligned NNW-SSE, was 14.60m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.50m thick, which overlay a mid greyish red sandy clay subsoil which was 0.12m deep. This in turn overlay the light reddish brown clay with occasional gravel. The location of this trench had to be shifted due to the presence of a tram line and appears just to have missed the linear geophysical anomaly previously plotted. However a ditch (21) and its recut (22) were recorded in the southern extreme of the trench on a similar alignment and may indeed represent this anomaly. Ditch (21) was on a approximate north-south axis, was over 1.90m wide and over 0.50m deep and contained two fills (80 and 81). Fill 81 was a light brown grey clayey sand and contained one sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. Above this was fill 80 which was a reddish brown clayey sand and this contained 16 sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery and 30 fragments of animal bone. This ditch had been recut by a ditch (22) on a similar alignment. This recut was much smaller and is likely a redefinition of the already silted ditch. It was 1.10m wide with steeped sides the bottom was not reached due to water ingress but it

was at least 0.50m deep. It contained a brown grey silty clay (82) which contained 23 cattle sized bone fragments, together with three sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery.

Further to the north a gully (10) was excavated, on a NE-SW alignment. It was 0.62m wide and 0.16m deep. It contained a mid reddish grey sandy clay (70) and one piece of undiagnostic iron slag was recovered from it but no datable finds.

Trench 10 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was aligned NNE-SSW, was 22.60m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.38m thick, which overlay a light mottled yellow grey clay. This trench was located over two plotted linear geophysical anomalies. Two parallel ditches (18 and 19) were recorded on an approximate NW–SE axis and appear to correspond to these anomalies. Ditch 18 was 0.38m wide and 0.18m deep, and contained (75) a light brown sandy silt. From this deposit a probable post-medieval tile fragment was recovered together with two iron nails. Ditch 19 was parallel to ditch 18, around 9m north of it, 0.49m wide and 0.10m deep, and contained a light brown sandy silt fill (76). A sherd of middle to late Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit but may have been residual rather than dating the ditch, which seems likely to be associated with ditch 18.

Trench 12 (Figs 5, 8, 9 and Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned east-west, was 19.30m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid reddish brown clay silt subsoil which was *c*. 0.20m deep. This in turn overlay the light reddish brown clay with frequent gravel patches. This trench was excavated over a linear geophysical anomaly and a ditch (20) was recorded at this location on a similar north-south alignment, along with a number of other features. Ditch 20 was 2.00m wide and 0.52m deep and contained three fills (77, 78 and 79). The fills contained pottery dated to the early Roman period. Its relationship with pit/ditch terminus 23 could not be discerned from the section. This latter feature had steep sides and a slightly rounded base and was at least 2.60m by 0.60m and 0.86m deep. It contained two fills (84 and 83). The latter was a dark brown grey silty clay from which came nine sherds of pottery dated to the Iron Age.

At the eastern end of the trench was a shallow pit (25). This was 0.22m deep and contained a greyish brown silty clay fill (87) and was truncated by a land drain. It produced no finds. In the western half of the trench a gully (26) was recorded on NW-SE alignment. It was 0.60m wide and 0.18m deep and contained a greyish brown silty clay fill (88). Another ditch (27) was recorded on a similar alignment. This was 0.90m wide and

0.28m deep and contained a dark greyish brown silty clay (89) from which a single sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery was recovered, together with fragments of animal bone.

Trench 13 (Figs 5, 11 and Pl. 8)

This trench was aligned east-west, was 29.80m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid reddish brown clay silt subsoil 0.20m deep. This in turn overlay the light reddish brown sandy silty clay. This trench was excavated over a number of linear geophysical anomalies. Although the geophysics was successful in locating the presence of archaeology it could not indicate the complexities of the deposits identified, a number of ditches and their likely recuts.

In the centre of the trench a hand excavated slot was dug through a large area of intercutting features. One of the earliest features in the sequence appeared to be a ditch (48), on an approximate east-west alignment. It was at least 1.3m wide and 0.50m deep. It contained a grey silty clay fill (182) from which 26 sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered together with cattle bones. This was truncated by another ditch (49) excavated slightly to the NE. This was shown to be 1.30m wide and 0.60m deep and contained a grey brown silty clay (183) with no finds. To the north this ditch was cut by a gully (102), on a NE-SW axis. This was 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a yellow brown silty clay (184) but no finds.

To the south and stratigraphically later than ditch 49 was a pit or ditch terminus (47). This was 1.00m wide and 0.80m deep and contained a brown grey silty clay fill (181) from which 17 sherds of pottery attributed an early Roman date were recovered together with sheep/goat bones. Its southern edge was cut by a larger pit or ditch terminus (46). This was 2.50m wide and over 0.75m deep and contained four fills (180, 179, 178 and 177). The stratigraphically earliest was fill 180 which was a dark grey clay, from which one sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery was recovered. Above this was fill 179, this was a dark brown grey silty clay and contained 13 sherds of early Roman pottery and fired clay fragments. Above this was fill 178; a mid grey brown silty clay which contained 51 sherds of early Roman pottery, animal bones, brick and tile and fired clay fragments. Sealing this was fill (177) from which 79 sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered, together with a large assemblage of animal bones, again with brick/tile and fired clay fragments. As a lens within this layer was a thin deposit of dark brown silt (92) with charcoal and fragments of burnt animal bone together with the upper half of a large grey ware pottery vessel (86) (Pl. 8). This pit/ditch terminus (47) truncated an another archaeological feature, ditch 45. This was recorded on an approximate north-south alignment was at least 0.80m wide and

0.60m deep. Its fill (176) was a dark brown grey silty clay which yielded a single large sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery.

Approximately 2m to the north of this on an east-west alignment was a ditch, which had been redefined on at least two occasions. The original ditch (105/115) was at least 1.60 m wide and 0.59m deep and contained two fills (63/185 and 186). Fill 186 a mid brown grey silty clay contained eighteen sherds of early Roman pottery and fragments of ceramic building material. Fill 63/185 contained sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery including fragments of a fragmented grog tempered jar and sheep/goat sized bones. This was recut (4) which was 0.55m deep and its fill (62) was a dark blue grey sandy clay from which 42 sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered, together with burnt animal bone and 50 unburnt bone fragments of medium sized animals. This was recut by another ditch (cut 3) which was seen to be 1.10m wide and 0.56m deep. It contained a grey sandy clay (61) from which 88 sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery and animal bone (13 fragments) were recovered; another 20 sherds of similarly dated pottery from a single vessel came from this fill (numbered separately, as 57).

Trench 18 (Figs 5 and 12)

This trench was aligned NE–SW, was 14.20m long and between 0.32 and 0.36m deep, excavated in a 'blank area' according to the geophyscial survey, as was Trench 19. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.28m thick, which overlay a mid grey silty clay subsoil which was 0.02–0.04m deep. This in turn overlay the light reddish brown clayey sand matrix with gravels. A gully (100) was recorded on a NW-SE axis. It was 1.04m wide and narrowed sharply and was 0.30m deep. No finds were retrieved from its light brownish grey sandy silt fill (163).

Trench 19 (Figs 5 and 12)

This trench was aligned NE-SW, was 11.00m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid grey silty clay subsoil which was 0.04m deep. This in turn overlay the light reddish brown clayey sand matrix with gravels. A ditch (101) was recorded on a NW-SE axis. It was 1.57m wide and 0.24m deep. No finds were retrieved from its brownish grey sandy silt fill (164).

Trench 20 (Figs 5, 12, 13 and Pl. 7)

This trench was aligned east-west, was 19.30m long and 0.50m deep and located close to the area previously evaluated during flood relief work where Roman deposits were identified (AA 2006). The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.23m thick, which overlay a mid reddish brown clayey silt subsoil which was 0.20m deep.

This in turn overlay a mid reddish brown silty clay. This trench was located over known geophysical anomalies and these appear to correspond to some of the archaeological deposits identified.

At the far western end of the trench was a ditch (110) on a north-south alignment. It was 1.60m wide and 0.58m deep and contained two fills (171 and 188). Fill (188) was a dark yellowish brown clayey silt. Fill (171) was a blue grey silty clay from which 23 sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered together with animal bone and a clay pipe bowl fragment which may be intrusive. A ditch (slot 103) was recorded on an approximate north-south alignment. It was 1.70m wide, 0.30m deep and contained a fill (166) which was a blue grey clayey silt, which produced 52 sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, and a copper alloy coin.

To the east was a shallow linear (106), on a NE-SW alignment. It was 1.60m wide and 0.17m deep. Its fill (170) contained a post-medieval pottery sherd and it may possibly be a furrow. An extremely shallow pit, 108, was recorded, this being 0.05m deep; just three sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered from its fill (172). A narrow gully (104) was also recorded, this being 0.25m wide and 0.10m deep. It contained a blue grey sandy silt (167) which contained one sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. Another substantial ditch (slot 107) was located at the far east end of the trench. This was 1.60m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a brown grey clayey silt (173) from which six sherds of Iron Age pottery was recovered together with an intact flint flake and an iron blade fragment.

Trench 23 (Figs 5 and 9)

This trench was aligned NW-SE, was 23.00m long and between 0.32m and 0.72m deep (the latter a test pit). The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.25m thick, which overlay a grey silt clay subsoil which was 0.25–0.35m deep. This in turn overlay the light yellowish grey clay with with reddish brown sandy silt patches. This trench was again excavated over linear geophysical anomalies. A gully (29) was excavated in the location of one of the anomalies trench and may indeed be this feature. It was 0.30m wide ad 0.20m deep and contained a light grey silty clay fill(91). A single sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery came from this feature.

A pit or ditch terminus (28) was also excavated in the trench at the northern end and again appears to overlie a geophysical anomaly, however this had been interpreted as a continuous linear feature. The feature was 0.40 m deep and a crumb of undatable pottery was recovered from its light grey silty clay fill (90); a post-medieval tile fragment was recovered from the surface of this feature.

Trench 24 (Figs 6, 9 and Pl. 6)

This trench was aligned NW-SE, was 23.70m long and between 0.43m and 0.88m deep (the latter a test pit). The topsoil was 0.25m thick, overlying a mid reddish brown silt varying from 0.17m (in the NW end) to 0.35m deep (in the SE end), which in turn overlay a mid reddish brown silty clay. This trench, again, was intended to be excavated over the location of geophysical anomalies but again the presence of a tramline meant the trench had to be excavated slightly to the south of the preferred location.

At the far SE of the trench was a pit or ditch terminus (33). It was 1.30m wide and 0.44m deep. It contained three fills 155, 156 and 158. Two sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered from deposit 156, together with animal bone. A thin gully was also recorded (34) on a NE-SW axis was 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep. From its brown grey fill (157) four sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were excavated. At the far NW of the trench a ditch (2) was recorded. This was on a north-south axis but curving slightly and lay just to the south of the plotted geophysical anomaly. It was 0.65m wide and 0.26m deep and contained three fills (54, 55 and 56). The earliest deposited fill 56 was a mid greyish brown silty clay from which five sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered. Fill (55) was a mid grey silty clay and this was stratigraphically earlier than a small dump of ark grey black silty clay (54) which did not extend the whole width of the ditch but was 0.16m by 0.25m and 0.10m deep.

Trench 25 (Figs 6 and 7)

This trench was aligned east-west, was 13.00m long and between 0.62m and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30m thick, which overlay a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil which was 0.30m deep. This in turn overlay a mid brownish red clayey silt. A gully (8) was recorded on a NNW-SSE axis. It was shallow, 0.51m wide and 0.1m deep. Its grey brown sandy silt fill (64) contained a handle fragment which is likely to be post-medieval in date as it was recovered with a clay pipe stem and post-medieval roof tile. This feature had been truncated by a land drain.

Trench 26 (Figs 6 and 7)

This trench was aligned approximately east-west, was 15.00m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30 thick, overlying a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil which was 0.50m deep. This in turn overlay a mid reddish grey clayey silt. This trench was excavated over a linear geophysical anomaly. However, a small posthole (11), 0.13m by 0.20m and 0.12m deep was the only feature identified. It contained a dark reddish brown clayey sand (66).

Trench 28 (Figs 6 and 10)

This trench was aligned NE-SW, was 26.00m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.25m thick, which overlay a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil which was 0.19m deep. This in turn overlay a mid reddish grey silty clay. This was placed over a NW-SE aligned geophysical linear and excavation revealed that a feature did exist at this location. Ditch 40 contained post-medieval tile fragments. It was truncated by a pipe trench, which contained a ceramic land drain (39) which was on this same NW-SE alignment.

Trench 29 (Figs 6 and 11)

This trench was aligned approximately WNW-ESE, was 19.60m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.30 thick, over a grey brown silty clay subsoil, 0.29mm deep, above mid reddish yellow clay. This trench was positioned over a number of linear geophysical anomalies. A number of furrows (42, 43 and 44) were recorded, these not being picked up in this area as geophysical anomalies. Two of these were shown to truncate a ditch (41), which likely corresponds to one of the geophysical plots. This was 0.70m wide and 0.44m deep. It contained a mid brown grey fill (161) from which four sherds of pottery dated to the Iron Age and two intact flint flakes were excavated. Later Bronze Age pottery, a sherd of late Roman pottery, and a broken flint blade were recovered from furrow (42). A sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated *mortarium* (late Roman) was recovered from the spoil heap of this trench.

Trench 31 (Figs 6 and 10)

This trench was aligned approximately NNW-SSE, was 23.80m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy varied; in the southern half of the trench topsoil 0.45m thick lay directly over the mid reddish brown silty clay geological natural. From 12m to the NNW end of the trench, topsoil 0.25m deep overlay a mid reddish brown clayey silt subsoil which was 0.13m deep. This in turn overlay a mid reddish grey clayey silt and at the last 5m of the trench a light brown grey clay. This trench was placed over two parallel geophysical anomalies on a NE-SW axis which were considered as a likely candidate for a trackway. In fact these appear to be two shallow furrows (35 and 36). The former however truncated an earlier ditch (38). This was aligned approximately SW-NE, was 1.00m wide and 0.60m deep, with two fills (153 and 154). Fill (153) was a dark grey silty clay from which a possible Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery sherd was retrieved. Fill 154 was a grey brown sandy silt and contained two sherds of similarly-dated pottery. This ditch truncated an earlier posthole (37). This was 0.40m in diameter and 0.20m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay(152).

Trench 34 (Figs 6 and 8)

This trench was aligned NW-SE, was 26.60m long and 0.54m and 0.70m deep (the latter is where natural was dug into to clarify geology). It was located in a geophysical 'blank' area. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.20m thick, over a mid grey brown clayey subsoil which was between 0.40m and 0.28m deep. This in turn overlay a mid brownish red clayey silt.

A gully (16) was recorded aligned NE-SW, this was 0.38m wide and 0.10m deep. It was filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (73) which contained eleven small sherds of possibly later Bronze Age pottery. A small scoop (17) was also recorded. This was 0.50m by 0.24m and 0.11m deep. It contained a mid greyish brown silty clay (74) from which 20 sherds of probable later Bronze Age pottery were excavated.

Finds

Pottery and other ceramic material by Jane Timby

The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of 1026 sherds of pottery weighing 9 kg accompanied by 106 fragments of ceramic building material and 105 fragments of fired clay. Most of the pottery appears to belong to a single phase of occupation dating to the later Iron Age and early Roman period. In addition there are some earlier later prehistoric sherds, a few later Roman sherds and some post-medieval building material.

Pottery was recovered from eighteen trenches with most groups coming from cut features such as ditches, pits and gullies. Much of the pottery was in good condition with moderately large well-preserved sherds with fresh edges although this was accompanied by more fragmented material resulting in a slightly lower then average overall sherd weight of 8.8g. However, much of the material is low fired and quite friable so some variability in terms of preservation should be expected. There are many examples of multiple sherds from single vessels. The assemblage was briefly scanned and sorted into fabric groups based on the main tempering agents in the clay. The sorted sherds were quantified by sherd count and weight and the resulting data is summarized in Appendix 3 with provisional spot dates. The ceramic building materials and fired clay are summarized in Appendix 4.

?Later Bronze Age

The assemblage contained 38 calcined flint-tempered sherds which are likely to be the earliest ceramic material present. This material was mainly from Trenches 31 and 34. Eleven sherds were recovered from gully 16; 20 from pit 17, and three sherds from ditch 38. Most of the sherds were small bodysherds although the sherds from gully 16 are all from a plain walled-sided, thin-walled vessel probably of later Bronze Age date. Other flint-tempered sherds redeposited in later contexts came from Trench 29 furrow 42; Trench 13 ditch 3 and pit 46.

Later Iron Age – early Roman

The bulk of the assemblage appears to date to the later Iron Age – early Roman period. Three fabric groups dominate, grog-tempered wares accounting for 40% by count, sandy wares for 16.7% and shelly wares for 9.3%.

Most of the vessels are handmade or wheel-turned but there are a few wheel-made wares present as well. The presence of a few more Romanized wares including some wheel-made black sandy wares, and a single very small sherd of South Gaulish samian from ditch 109, would strongly suggest the assemblage spans the conquest period with some features dating to the early Roman period although essentially with wares perpetuating late Iron Age traditions.

The single sherd of samian represents the only import belonging to this phase of occupation.

The shell-tempered tradition in this region starts in the middle Iron Age continuing into the later Iron Age. Other fabrics of similar date featuring in minor amounts include a glauconitic sandy ware and an organic-tempered ware. In nearly all cases the shelly wares featured alongside grog-tempered sherds suggesting all are of late Iron Age to early Roman date. There are also a few sherds of grog and shell-tempered ware.

The assemblage is dominated by jars in particular, large storage jars, some with impressed decoration; lid-seated jars and channel rim jars with slash-decorated rims. There do not appear to be any copies of new imported specialized forms such as platters, cups and beakers seen in the grog-tempered tradition elsewhere in south-east Britain at this time usually associated with the consumption of food and drink and often seen as status indicators. Some of the vessels show evidence of use in the form of sooting or residues.

The rim and neck and shoulder of a large greyware jar (86) were recovered from pit 46 (Trench 13). Although well-broken the vessel shows evidence of multiple holes having been drilled through the vessels walls after firing. Other sherds of this vessel were recovered from layer 177 within the pit. This was the only vessel which showed evidence of modification.

Occupation of this date was associated with features in Trenches 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 20, 23 and 24 showing a concentration of activity in the top north corner of the plot with just Trench 20, located in the southern extreme of the site, falling outside this area. The highest incidence of pottery comes from Trench 13 with 609 sherds, 59% of the total recovered assemblage followed by Trench 5 with 148 sherds (14.4%).

Later Roman

There are a small number of sherds indicative of later Roman activity somewhere in the vicinity. These include a sherd of Midlands pink-grog-tempered ware from ditch 19 (Trench 10); a sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated

mortarium unstratified from Trench 29 and a triangular-rimmed late Roman shelly ware jar from furrow 42 (Trench 29).

Post-Roman

Evidence of post-Roman activity in the area was extremely sparse and mainly only visible from the tile. A handle fragment from ditch 8 (Trench 25) may be medieval or post-medieval (its associated finds suggest the latter) and a post-medieval sherd came from ditch 106 (Trench 20).

Fired clay and ceramic building material

Appendix 4 summarizes the fired clay and ceramic building material from the site with the dating taken from the pottery data where there is an overlap. In total 105 fragments of fired clay were recorded weighing 372.5g, an average overall fragment weight of just 3.5g. Most of the pieces were quite small and amorphous in shape with no indication of original function. None of the pieces appears burnt as might be expected from kiln, oven or furnace lining. The only fired clay piece which could be identified was a fragment from pit 13 (Trench 7) which is probably the top part of a triangular loomweight.

The ceramic building material was also quite fragmentary with an overall average fragment weight of just 8g. Many pieces appear to be brick or tile contemporary with the Roman pottery. Most pieces were quite poorly fired and friable. A distinctive fabric type is a cream poorly wedged fabric which includes a form of thick flat tile. None of the pieces were large enough to allow reconstruction.

Four contexts (ditches 8, 18, 40 and cut 28), produced fragments of well-fired thin flat tile, probably post-medieval roof tile.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A moderate amount of animal bone was recovered from 30 contexts across the evaluated area. A total of 365 fragments were present for analysis, weighing 2633g (Appendix 5). The overall preservation of the remains was poor, as the majority of skeletal elements were highly fragmented. The surface preservation varied between contexts, although many bones displayed some etching of the cortical bone by root activity.

Teeth were the most well preserved skeletal elements that allowed identification. The minimum number of individuals represented in this assemblage was five: two large animals (one horse and one cattle), two medium sized animal (sheep/goats), and one smaller unidentified animal.

Evidence of horse was recovered from ditch 30 (93) and pit 46 (177), a tooth and a left talus, respectively. The cattle individual was largely represented by loose tooth fragments found within several contexts (i.e. 80, 93, 177, 178, 182). Contexts (178) and (182) also contained pieces of cattle horn cores. The two sheep/goats were identified by the duplication of two differing skeletal elements. Ditch slots 27 (89) and 110 (171) both contained a left proximal sheep/goat metacarpals, while ditches 47 (181) and 105 (185) both had left distal tibiae. The small unidentified animal was represented by a single metacarpal in ditch slot 115 (63).

Context 13 (67) contained the only evidence for butchery practices, in the form of five very small linear cut marks on a single unidentified piece of bone. No further information could be derived from this assemblage of animal bone.

Burnt Bone by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of non-human burnt bone was recovered from nine contexts. A total of 42g of highly fragmented burnt bone was present for analysis (Appendix 6). Maximum fragment sizes range between 12mm and 46mm. Although some pieces of bone were relatively large in size, the non-descript nature of the portions of long bones present made identification problematic. The colour of burnt bone varied between contexts, from charred brown to blue-grey and white. Variations in colour reflect the efficiency of the burning process (i.e. the time, temperature and amount of oxygen supplied to the bone), and reflects the degree of oxidation of the organic compounds within bone. The range of colouring within each context possibly suggests these remains were derived from cooking practices. No further information could be retrieved from these burnt remains.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 15 struck flints were recovered from the site (Appendix 7). Eleven of these are flakes, one is a narrow flake (blade) and three are cores. The material appears to have been mostly made on flint available locally in the form of pebbles within glacial deposits and the three small cores are certainly from this source. The flints are quite fresh, which is typical of the clayey contexts from which they were recovered. Just one piece, a broken narrow flake (blade) which is also patinated a blue/white is chronologically distinctive and is likely to be of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. For the other material, only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested. All of the pieces were recovered from features of Iron Age or later date and are residual

Clay pipe

Two fragments of clay pipe were recovered, one piece of stem from ditch 8 (64) and one fragment of bowl from ditch 110 (171); the latter is likely to be intrusive but the former may date the feature.

Slag

One piece of undiagnostic iron slag was recovered from Gully 10 (60). This indicates either iron smelting or smithing. It is dark grey in colour and dense with a matt appearance, this means that it is not the product of the blast furnace process and can be dated to before *c.*1590.

Metal

A small number of metal objects were recovered from this evaluation, of these the majority (Cat. Nos. 1, 2, 3) were iron and comprised two nails from ditch 18 (75) and a fragment of probable knife blade from 107 (173). Also recovered was a small highly corroded copper alloy coin (Cat. No. 4) found in ditch 103(166). Unfortunately the level of corrosion means that no surface detail is visible and the original size cannot be definitely determined however it is likely to be late Iron Age or early Roman in date.

A palaeoenvironmental assessment by Jo Pine

Six samples from late Iron Age-early Roman contexts were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential. The samples were from ditches and a possible pit. The samples had been subjected to standard water flotation and the 'flots' recovered using a 0.25mm mesh. The flots were examined under a hand lens at x10 magnification. A summary of the findings is presented in Appendix 9.

The potential of the material varies. Two samples from pits 13 (67) and 46 (92) contained numerous charred cereal grains together with moderate amounts of >2mm charcoal. Cereal grain was also recovered from ditch 2 (56). The remaining three samples had only tiny amounts of very small charcoal and this suggests the potential for species identification is low.

Conclusions

This evaluation has confirmed that three areas within 'Field 4' have high archaeological potential, which was somewhat expected given the previous evaluation work in the far south-west of the field and the summary interpretation of the geophysical results. There appear to be three foci; one in the north-east of the field, another centred around trenches 29 and 31 to the west and also at the extreme far SW corner of the field where what appears to be a continuation of the occupation site identified by previous evaluation work has been identified.

The main focus of activity noted was that located in the far north-east of field 4 (Figs 3, 14). Geophysical survey had highlighted this as an area of archaeological interest and this has been clarified by targeted trenching. This revealed a high density of features, which are all late-Iron Age-early Roman in date. The pottery assemblage suggests the occupation spans the conquest period with some features dating to the early Roman period. Indeed the deposits recorded suggest a time depth to the occupation with many of the ditches having undergone multiple modifications and recutting. The deposits are well-preserved, concentrated and moderately complex but appear to tail off somewhat to the south-east. They occupy an area of *c.*3ha. The deposits mostly comprise ditches, along with smaller gullies and the occasional pit and posthole. However the quantity of finds, especially the pottery, suggests this is not the outlying fields of a settlement but likely the core of the occupation zone. The late-Iron Age - Roman remains are suggestive of a modest rural settlement rather than a town or villa complex. The transition from the later Iron Age to the early Roman period is one highlighted in regional and national research agendas for further attention both in Bedfordshire and more widely (Armit *et al*. 2000; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Brown *et al*. 2000; English Heritage 2005; James and Millett 2001; Oake *et al*. 2007).

Also of interest is the presence of early prehistoric activity in this area of the field in Trench 34 in a geophysical 'blank area' (Fig. 3). A gully (16) was recorded which contained eleven sherds of ?later Bronze Age pottery together with a small scoop (17) from which 20 sherds of probable later Bronze Age pottery were excavated.

Early activity is also suggested in the region of Trenches 29 and 31. A ditch (38) aligned approximately SW-NE, was recorded in Trench 31. A possible later Bronze Age pottery sherd was retrieved from this feature and it truncated an earlier posthole (37), but the dating of these features, on the basis of single sherd of pottery, must remain tentative.

A ditch (41) was excavated in Trench 29 from which four sherds of pottery dated to the Iron Age and two intact flint flakes were recovered. A later Bronze Age pottery sherd and a broken flint blade were recovered from a furrow in this trench. This hint of earlier activity is somewhat contradicted by the presence of a sherd of

triangular-rimmed late Roman shelly ware jar in the furrow and a sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated *mortarium* recovered from the spoil heap, both hinting at later Roman activity in this part of the site. It is possible the Roman occupation disturbed earlier features here.

The trench at the far south-west of Field 4 (Trench 20) seems to confirm the northwards continuation of the settlement complex of late Iron Age/early Roman date previously identified by evaluation work (AA 2006).

The trenching results overall showed a reasonable degree of correlation with the geophysical survey but also highlighted the limitations of the latter: although the main linear features do seem to have been detected, the geophysical survey did not show the complexity of the archaeology as revealed by the trenching, nor were smaller discrete features (such as gullies, pits and postholes) detected. Nevertheless, the geophysical survey was a reasonable predictor of the main foci of archaeology.

Other than the remains of the ridge and furrow, and modern drains, there is little evidence from the trenching of finds or deposits later than the Roman period; and even the later Roman evidence is very slight.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at south or west end

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	11.5	1.8	0.70	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ grey yellow clay (natural geology)
2	12.0	1.8	SE 0.70; NW 0.55	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ grey yellow clay (natural geology). Ditch 31, gully 32
3	25.8	1.8	SE 0.79; NW 0.60	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.58m subsoil; 0.58m+ grey brown clay with gravel patches (natural geology) Features 5, 6, 14, 15, 30, 112, 114
4	5.6	1.8	S 0.88; N 0.48	S: 0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ grey red clay (natural geology). N: 0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ grey red clay (natural geology), Ditch 1 **[Pl. 3]**
5	16.0	1.8	S 0.70; N 0.50	0m–0.29m topsoil; 0.29m–0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ red brown clay with gravel (natural geology) Ditches 7, 9, 109, 111, 113
6	25.5	1.8	W 0.50; E 0.70	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ red brown clay with gravel, blue grey sandy clay patches (natural geology)
7	9.3	1.8	0.66	0m–0.45m topsoil; 0.45m–0.65m subsoil; 0.65m+ red brown clay with sand, red brown clay with gravel in patches (natural geology). Pit 13 **[Pl. 5]**
8	14.6	1.8	0.63	0m–0.50m topsoil; 0.50m–0.62m subsoil; 0.62m+ red brown clay with gravel patches (natural geology). Ditches/gullies 10, 21, 22
9	23.6	1.8	0.58	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ brown grey gravel and silt (natural geology)
10	22.7	1.8	0.40	0m–0.38m topsoil; 0.38m+ mottled yellow grey clay (natural geology) 18, 19
11	5.3	1.8	0.50	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ patchy brown red silt and gravel (natural geology)
12	19.3	1.8	0.50	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ red clay silt and gravel (natural geology). Features 20, 23, 25, 26, 27. **[Pl. 1]**
13	24.8	1.8	SE 1.00; NW 0.53	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ light brown clay silt (natural geology). Features 3, 4, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 102, 105, 115 **[Pls 4, 8]**
14	24.6	1.8	0.50	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ red brow silty clay (natural geology). Modern ceramic drain 24
15	26.8	1.8	0.56	0m–0.24m topsoil; 0.24m–0.53m subsoil; 0.53m+ red brown clay gravel with blue clay patches (natural geology).
16	27.0	1.8	SE 0.30; NW 0.39	0m–0.13m topsoil; 0.13m–0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ light brown grey clay (natural geology)
17	28.0	1.8	W 0.40; E 0.50	W: 0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ light grey clay with brown and yellow patches, reddish gravel patches (natural geology). E: 0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ light grey clay with brown and yellow patches, reddish gravel patches (natural geology)
18	14.2	1.8	SW 0.36; NE 0.32	0m–0.28m topsoil; 0.28m–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ brown red clay sand with gravel (natural geology). Gully 100
19	10.0	1.8	0.34	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.34m subsoil; 0.34+ red brown clay sand with gravel (natural geology). Ditch 101
20	27.0	1.8	0.46	0m–0.23m topsoil; 0.23m–0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ red brown silty clay (natural geology). Features 103, 104, 106, 107, 108, 110 **[Pl. 7]**
21	28.0	1.8	S 0.50; N 0.44	S: 0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ mottled brown grey clay (natural geology). N: 0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ mottled brown grey clay (natural geology)
22	28.0	1.8	0.45	0m–0.24m topsoil; 0.24m–0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ mottled brown grey clay (natural geology)
23	23.0	1.8	SE 0.72; NW 0.37	0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ light yellow grey clay, red brown sandy patches (natural geology). Features 28, 29
24	23.7	1.8	SE 0.98; NW 0.43	SE: 0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ brown red silty sandy clay (natural geology). Features 2, 24, 33, 34 **[Pl. 6]**
25	13.0	1.8	W 0.62; E 0.72;	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ brown red clay silt (natural geology). Ditch 8
26	15.0	1.8	0.55	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ brown red clay silt (natural geology). Post hole 11
27	25.6	1.8	0.45	0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ red brown silty clay with grey silty clay patches with white gravel (natural geology)
28	26.0	1.8	0.50	0m–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m–0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ brown grey silty clay (natural geology). Features 39, 40
29	19.6	1.8	0.63	0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.59m subsoil; 0.59m+ reddish yellow clay (natural geology). Features 41, 42, 43, 44
30	24.6	1.8	0.50	0m–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ light grey brown clay (natural geology) **[Pl. 2]**
31	23.8	1.8	0.45	SE: 0m–0.45m topsoil; 0.45m+ brown red silty clay (natural geology). NW: 0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m–0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ light brown grey clay (natural geology). Features 35, 36, 37, 38
32	24.0	1.8	0.50	0m–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m–0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ light (brown mottled) grey clay (natural geology)

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
33	25.0	1.8	SE 0.80; NW 0.74	SE: 0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.75m subsoil; 0.75m+ red silty sand (natural geology. NW: 0m–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m–0.65m subsoil; 0.65m+ brown grey clay (natural geology)
34	25.6	1.8	SE 0.70; NW 0.54	SE: 0m–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m–0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ brown red clay silt (natural geology). NW: 0m–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m–0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ brown red clay silt (natural geology) Features 16, 17, 18

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating Evidence*
All		50	Topsoil		
All		51	Subsoil		
3		189	Colluvium	Post-Roman?	Stratigraphy
4	1	52	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
24	2	54–6	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Association
13	3	57, 61	Pit/Ditch?	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
13	4	62	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
3	5	58–9	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
3	6	60	Pit	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Stratigraphy
5	7	53	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
25	8	64	Ditch	Post-medieval	Pottery, clay pipe and tile
5	9	65	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
8	10	70	Gully	-	-
26	11	66	Posthole	-	-
7	13	67–9	Pit	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
3	14	71	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
3	15	72, 98–9	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
34	16	73	Gully	? Bronze Age	Pottery
34	17	74	Pit	? Bronze Age	Pottery
10	18	75	Ditch	Post-medieval	Tile and nails
10	19	76	Ditch	Late Roman?	Pottery
12	20	77–9	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
8	21	80–1	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
8	22	82	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
12	23	83–4	Pit	Iron Age	Pottery
14	24	85	Pipe trench	Modern	
12	25	87	Pit	-	-
12	26	88	Gully	-	-
12	27	89	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
23	28	90	Pit/Ditch terminus	Post-medieval?	Tile fragment (surface find)
23	29	91	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
3	30	93–4	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
2	31	96	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
2	32	97	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Association
24	33	155, 156, 158	Pit	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Stratigraphy
24	34	157	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
31	35	150	Furrow	Post-medieval	
31	36	151	Furrow	Post-medieval	
31	37	152	Posthole	? Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age	Stratigraphy
31	38	153–4	Ditch	? Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age	Pottery
28	39	159	Pipe trench	Modern	
28	40	160	Ditch	Post-medieval	Tile fragments
29	41	161	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
29	42	162	Furrow	Post-med/Medieval	
29	43	168	Furrow	Post-medieval?	
29	44	169	Furrow	Post-medieval?	
13	45	176	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
13	46	86, 92, 177–80	Ditch/Pit	Early Roman	Pottery and Stratigraphy
13	47	181	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery and Stratigraphy
13	48	182	Pit	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
13	49	183	Pit	Late Iron Age-Early Roman or later	Stratigraphy
18	100	163	Gully	-	-
19	101	164	Ditch	-	-
13	102	184	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman or later	Stratigraphy
20	103	166	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
20	104	167	Gully	Early Roman	Pottery
13	105	165, 185–6	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
20	106	170	Ditch?/furrow	Post-medieval	Pottery
20	107	173	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
20	108	172	Pit	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
5	109	174–5, 187	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Stratigraphy
20	110	171, 188	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
5	111	190	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
3	112	191	Ditch	Early Roman or later	Stratigraphy
5	113	192	Feature	Late Iron Age-Early Roman?	Stratigraphy
3	114	95	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Stratigraphy
13	115/105	63	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Stratigraphy

APPENDIX 3: Pottery catalogue by context

Trench	*Cut*	*Context*	*Type*	*Flint*	*Grog*	*Shell*	*Sand*	*samian*	*other*	*Tot No*	*Wt (g)*	*Date*
5			topsoil	–	4	–	–	–	–	4	32	LIA-ERO
13			subsoil	–	4	–	–	–	5	9	11	LIA-ERO
29			spoil	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	5	lC3-C4
4	1	52	ditch	–	15	–	–	–	7	22	227	ERO
24	2	56	ditch	–	5	–	–	–	–	5	17	LIA-ERO
13	3	57	ditch	–	20	–	–	–	–	20	149	LIA-ERO
13	3	61	ditch	1	45	5	19	–	18	88	828	LIA-ERO
13	4	62	ditch	–	18	2	5	–	17	42	320	LIA-ERO
3	5	58	ditch	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	27	LIA-ERO
3	5	59	ditch	–	2	1	1	–	–	4	7	LIA-ERO
3	6	60	pit	–	2	–	–	–	2	4	21	ERO
5	7	53	ditch	–	65	1	5	–	6	77	805	LIA-ERO
25	8	64	ditch	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	24	Med?
5	9	65	ditch	–	13	25	1	–	–	39	142	LIA-ERO
7	13	67	pit	–	11	7	–	–	–	18	99	LIA-ERO
3	14	71	ditch	–	3	–	–	–	1	4	4	ERO
3	15	72	ditch	–	1	–	–	–	1	2	4	ERO
3	15	99	gully	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	13	LIA-ERO
34	16	73	gully	11	–	–	–	–	–	11	20	LBA-EIA?
34	17	74	pit	20	–	–	–	–	–	20	36	LBA-EIA?
10	19	76	ditch	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	6	C2-C4
12	20	77	ditch	–	13	–	3	–	–	16	93	LIA-ERO
12	20	78	ditch	–	3	–	–	–	3	6	45	ERO
12	20	79	ditch	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	11	LIA-ERO
8	21	80	ditch	–	15	–	1	–	–	16	39	LIA-ERO
8	21	81	ditch	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	48	LIA-ERO
8	22	82	ditch	–	2	–	1	–	–	3	36	LIA-ERO
12	23	83	pit	–	–	–	–	–	9	9	32	IA
12	27	89	ditch	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	1	LIA-ERO
23	28	90	pit	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	ND
23	29	91	gully	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	1	LIA-ERO
3	30	93	ditch	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	10	LIA-ERO
3	30	94	ditch	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	2	LIA-ERO
2	31	96	ditch	–	9	–	–	–	–	9	26	LIA-ERO
24	33	156	pit	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	5	LIA-ERO
24	34	157	gully	–	–	–	4	–	–	4	7	LIA-ERO
31	38	153	ditch	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	LBA-EIA?
31	38	154	ditch	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	7	LBA-EIA?
29	41	161	ditch	–	–	4	–	–	–	4	11	IA
29	42	162	furrow	1	–	–	1	–	1	3	7	?Roman
13	45	176	ditch	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	51	LIA-ERO
13	46	86	pit	–	–	–	–	–	54	54	1025	ERO
13	46	177	pit	–	23	6	15	–	35	79	757	ERO
13	46	178	pit	–	31	7	8	1	4	51	560	LIA-ERO
13	46	179	pit	2	–	–	–	–	11	13	474	ERO
13	46	180	pit	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	13	LIA-ERO
13	47	181	ditch	–	9	2	–	–	6	17	345	ERO
13	48	182	pit	–	16	–	3	–	7	26	549	LIA-ERO
20	103	166	ditch	–	–	–	44	–	3	47	356	LIA-ERO
20	103	surf		–	–	–	1	–	4	5	20	LIA-ERO
20	104	167	gully	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	ERO
13	105	165	ditch	–	18	–	–	–	–	18	381	LIA-ERO
13	105	185	ditch	–	18	–	–	–	–	18	67	LIA-ERO
13	105	186	ditch	–	4	4	–	–	–	8	115	ERO
20	106	170	ditch	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	4	PMed
20	107	173	ditch	–	–	–	3	–	3	6	21	IA
20	108	172	pit	–	–	1	1	–	1	3	21	LIA-ERO
5	109	175	ditch	–	1	–	1	–	3	5	21	ERO
5	109	174	ditch	–	2	12	3	1	–	18	114	ERO
5	109	175	ditch	–	2	–	2	–	–	4	13	LIA-ERO
20	110	171	ditch	–	3	8	7	–	5	23	132	LIA-ERO
5	111	190	ditch	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	23	LIA-ERO
3	114	95	ditch	–	2	–	–	–	1	3	11	ERO
13	115	63	ditch	–	29	8	36	–	91	164	810	LIA-ERO
Total				**38**	**413**	**95**	**171**	**2**	**307**	**1026**	**9073**	

APPENDIX 4: Fired and burnt clay catalogue by context

Tr	*Cut*	*Context*	*Type*	*CBM no*	*CBM Wt*	*Fc no*	*Fc Wt*	*Date*
2	31	96	ditch	14	91			LIA-ERO
3	5	59	ditch			3	10	LIA-ERO
4	1	52	ditch	29	105	17	55	ERO
5	7	53	ditch			6	15	LIA-ERO
5	9	65	ditch			1	1	LIA-ERO
5	109	174	ditch			3	13	ERO
5	109	175	ditch			5	26	LIA-ERO
7	13	67	pit	1	8	1	101	LIA-ERO
7	13	68	pit			1	7	LIA-ERO
10	18	75	ditch	1	25	1	<1	Pmed
12	20	77	ditch			1	<1	LIA-ERO
13	3	61	ditch			3	4	LIA-ERO
13	4	62	ditch			7	39	LIA-ERO
13	46	92				14	8	ND
13	46	177	pit	13	62	4	6	ERO
13	46	178	pit			3	5	LIA-ERO
13	46	179	pit			1	3	ERO
13	47	181	ditch	17	163	2	13	ERO
13	105	186	ditch	2	21			ERO
13	115	63	ditch			23	42	LIA-ERO
14	24	85	pipe tr	21	336			ERO
20	103	166				1	1	LIA-ERO
20	110	171	ditch			3	13	LIA-ERO
23	28	90	pit			3	<1	ND
24	33	155	pit			1	2	nd
24	33	156	pit			1	8	LIA-ERO
25	8	64	ditch	2	29			PMed?
28	40	160	ditch	4	22			PMed
23	28	90		2	20			PMed
Total				**104**	**862**	**105**	**372**	

APPENDIX 5: Inventory of animal bone

Trench	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*No. frags*	*Wt (g)*	*Horse*	*Cattle*	*Sheep/goat*	*Large*	*Medium*	*Small*	*Unidentified*
4	1	52	3	6				-	-	3	-
5	7	53	20	120				8	10	-	2
3	5	59	1	2				-	-	-	1
13	3	61	13	33			10	-	-	3	-
13	4	62	50	198				-	50	-	-
13	115	63	37	238			11	10		3	13
5	9	65	11	42				2	8	-	1
7	13	67	2	4				-	-	-	2 (cut marks)
7	13	69	4	2				-	-	-	4
34	16	73	2	2				-	-	-	2
12	20	78	4	52				3	1	-	-
8	21	80	30	408		30		-	-	-	-
8	21	81	2	5				-	-	-	2
8	22	82	23	134				23	-	-	-
12	27	89	20	168			19	1	-	-	-
3	30	93	3	44	1	1		-	-	-	1
2	31	96	3	28				-	3	-	-
24	33	156	5	20				5	-	-	-
28	39	159	25	134				25	-	-	-
29	41	161	1	14				1	-	-	-
29	42	162	1	1				-	-	-	1
20	106	170	1	14				-	1	-	-
20	110	171	10	36			2	-		-	8
5	109	174	3	28				1	2	-	-
5	109	175	2	72		2		-	-	-	-
13	46	177	27	122	1	17		-	9	-	-
13	46	178	20	160		7	13	-	-	-	-
13	47	181	4	68			4	-	-	-	-
13	48	182	29	396		29		-	-	-	-
13	105	185	9	82			9	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX 6: Inventory of burnt bone

Trench	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*No. frags*	*Wt (g)*	*Max Frag Size (mm)*	*Colour*
5	7	53	2	1	12	white
13	3	61	6	5	30	mixture: charred brown, blue, white
13	4	62	13	26	46	mixture: charred brown, blue, white
13	115	63	1	1	27	grey-white
5	9	65	2	2	19	blue-grey
7	13	67	1	2	45	charred brown
7	13	68	2	1	23	grey, white
13	40	92	9	3	12	blue-grey, white
5	109	174	1	1	12	white
Total			37	42	-	-

APPENDIX 7: Catalogue of flint

Trench	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*Intact Flake*	*Broken flake*	*Broken Blade*	*Core*
13	4	62	1			
13	115	63	1(patinated)			1
34	17	74				1
13	40	92	1			
29	41	161	2			
29	42	162	1		1(patinated)	
20	103	166		1		
20	110	171	1			
20	108	172	1			
20	107	173	1			
2		spoil		1		
20		spoil				1

APPENDIX 8: Catalogue of Metalwork

Trench	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*Type*	*Cat No*	*Material*	*object*	*no*	*Wt (g)*
20	107	173	Ditch	1	iron	blade end?	1	84
10	18	75	Ditch	2	iron	nail	1	3
10	18	75	Ditch	3	iron	nail	1	12
20	103	166	Ditch	4	copper alloy	coin	1	2

APPENDIX 9: Catalogue of charred remains

Trench	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*Type*	*Sample No.*	*Wet Seived*	*Remains present*	*Potential*
24	2	54	Ditch	1	10	charcoal <2mm occasional occurrence	Low
24	2	56	Ditch	2	10	*Cereal grain (2)* Charcoal low occurrence; <2mm	Moderate
13	3	61	Ditch	3	115	charcoal <2mm occasional occurrence	Low
7	13	67	Pit/Ditch Terminal	4	10	*Cereal grain (30+)* Charcoal <2mm occasional occurrence	High
31	38	153	Ditch	5	5	charcoal <2mm occasional occurrence	Low
13	46	92	Ditch	6	5	*Cereal grain (10)* Charcoal <2mm occasional occurrence	High

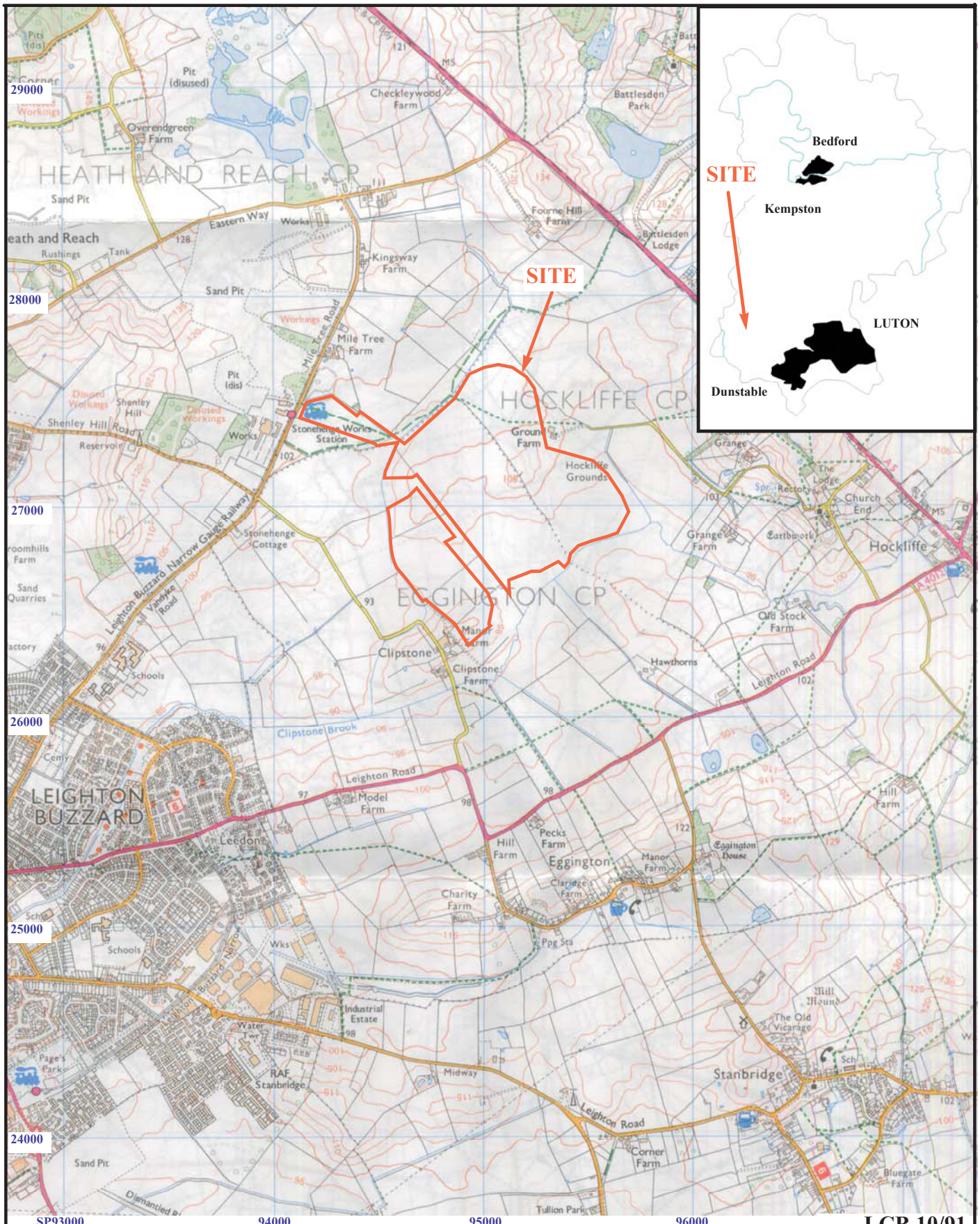

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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Leighton Buzzard and within Bedfordshire.

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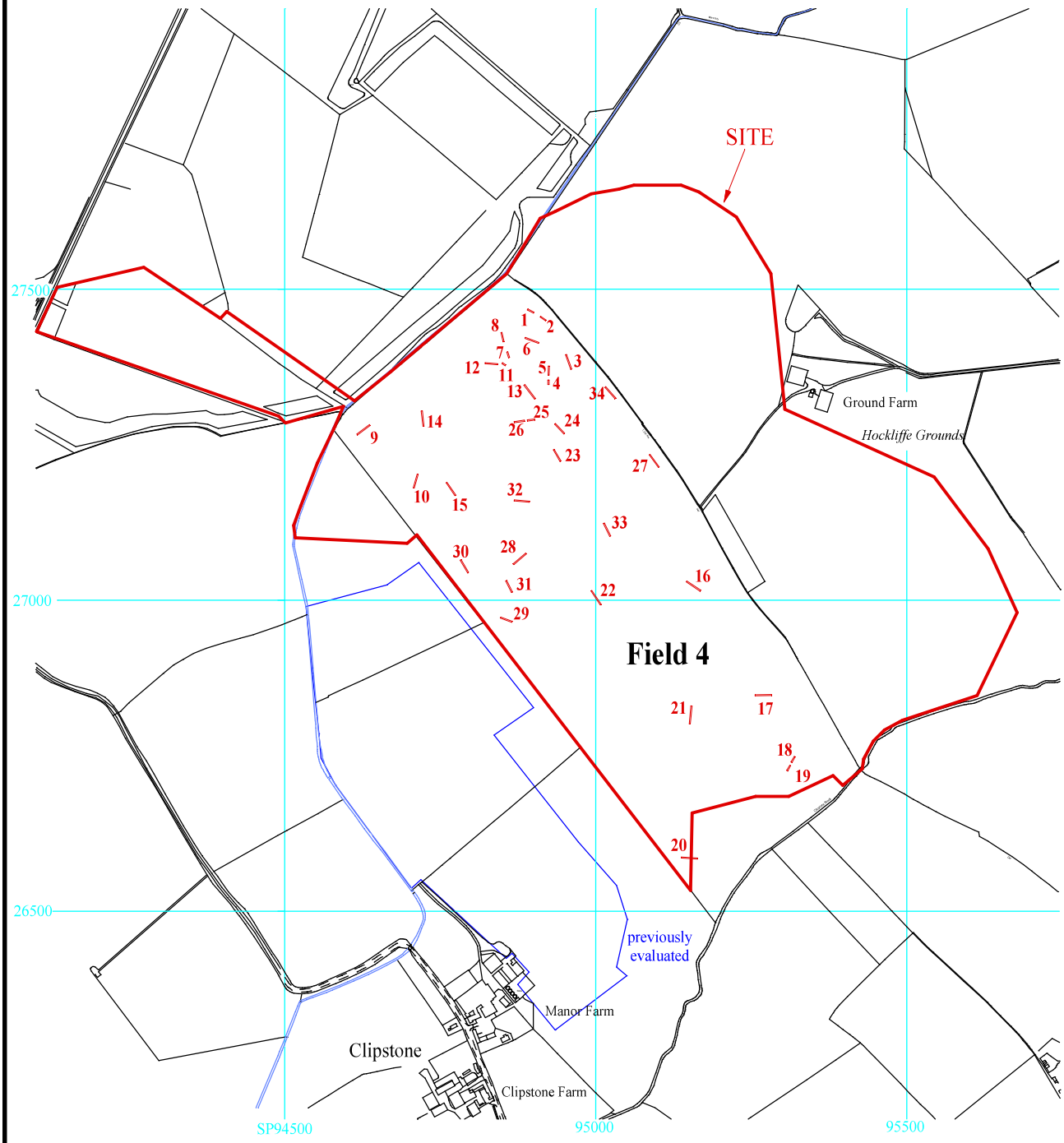

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.

0 500m

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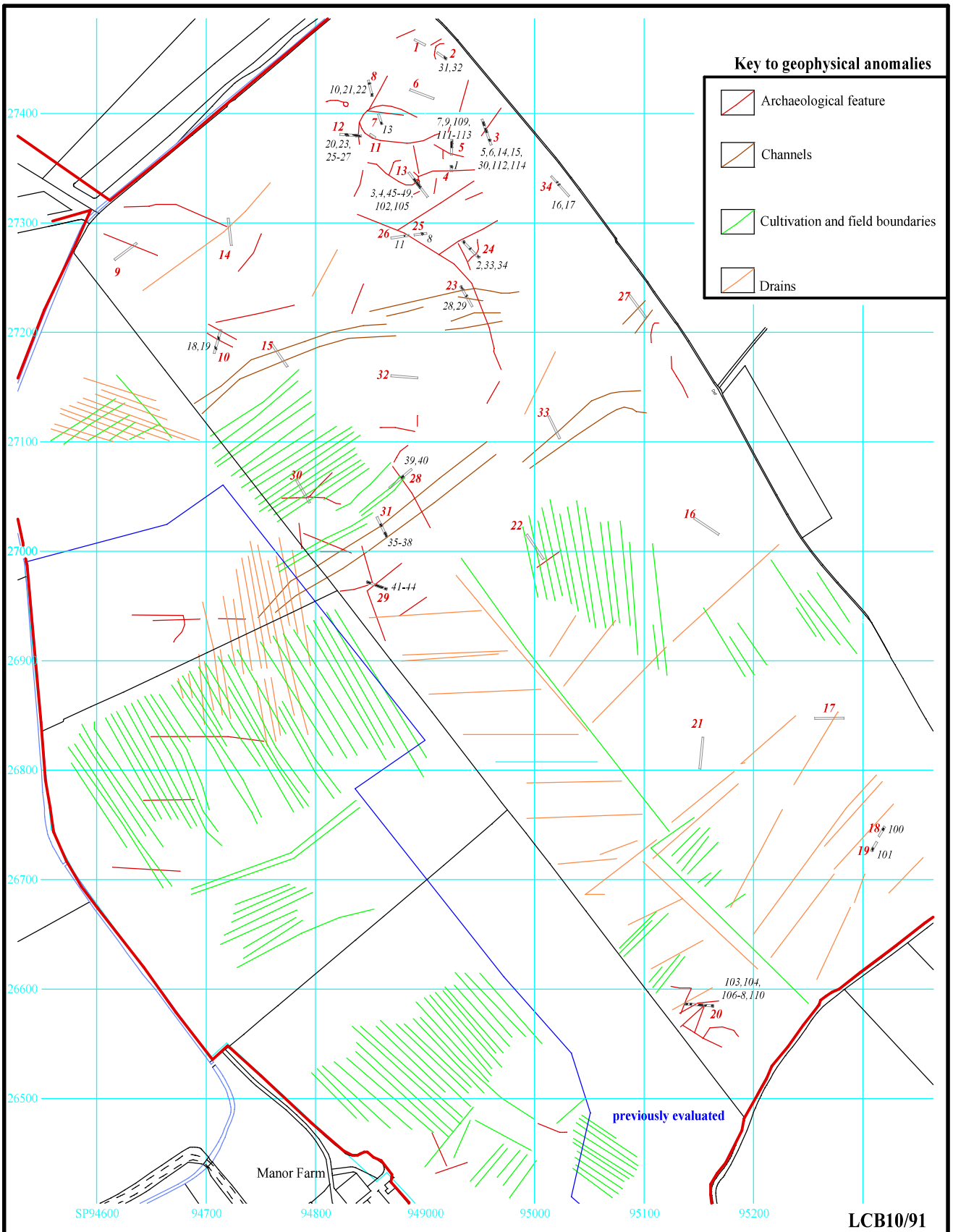

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Figure 3. Geophysical anomalies, and evaluation trenches (numbered in red) showing features (black). Based on interim geophysical results (Archaeophysica 2010)

0 250m

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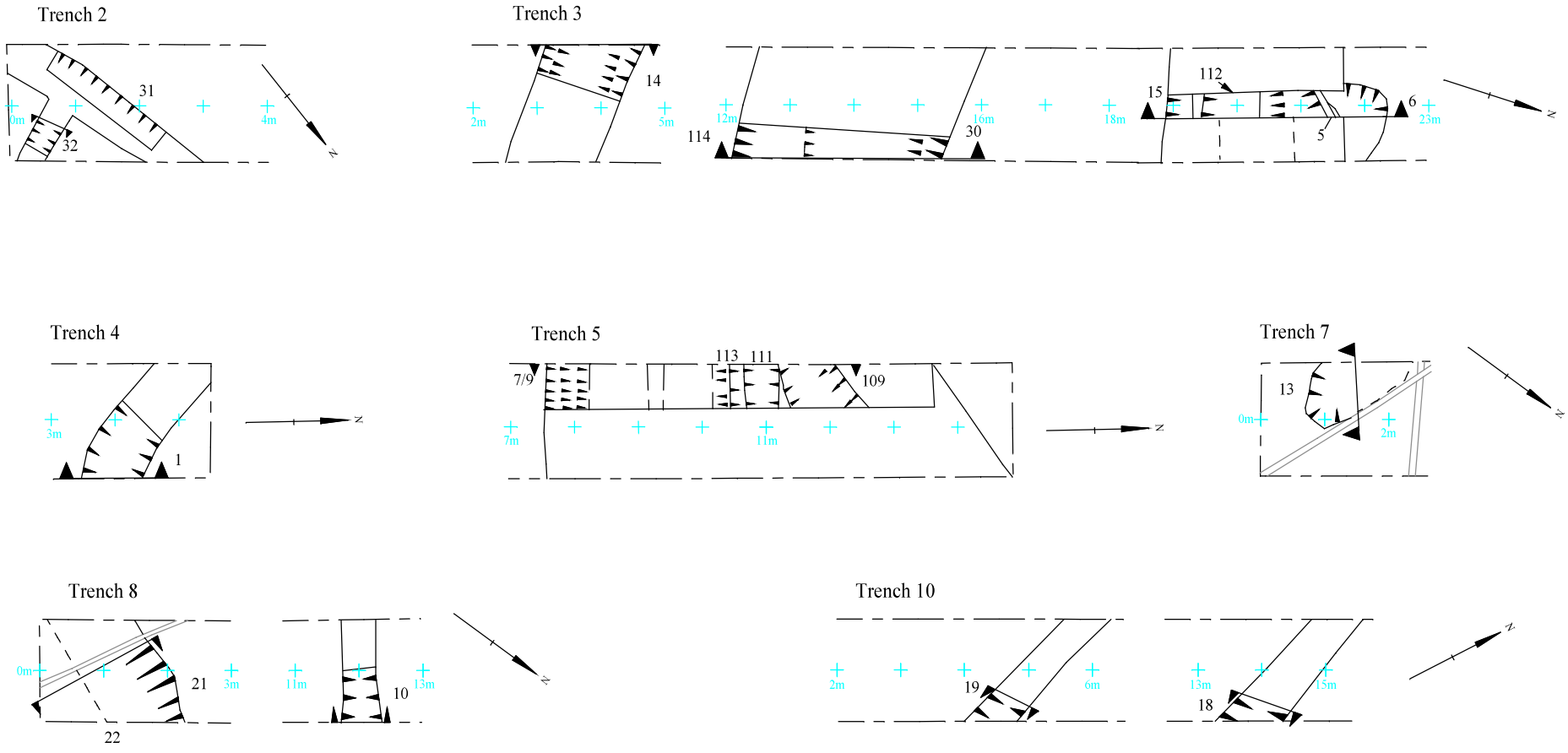

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Figure 4. Plans of trenches.

0 5m

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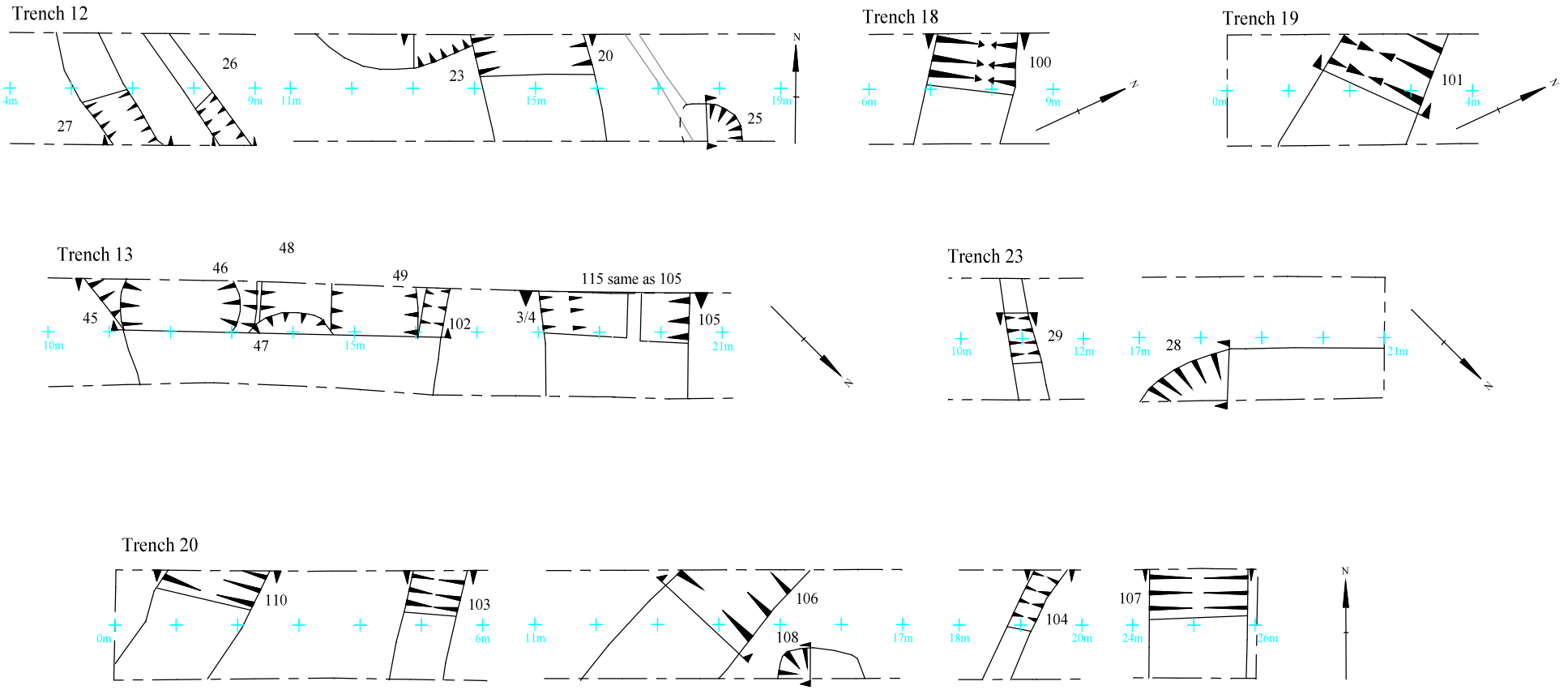

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Figure 5. Plans of trenches.

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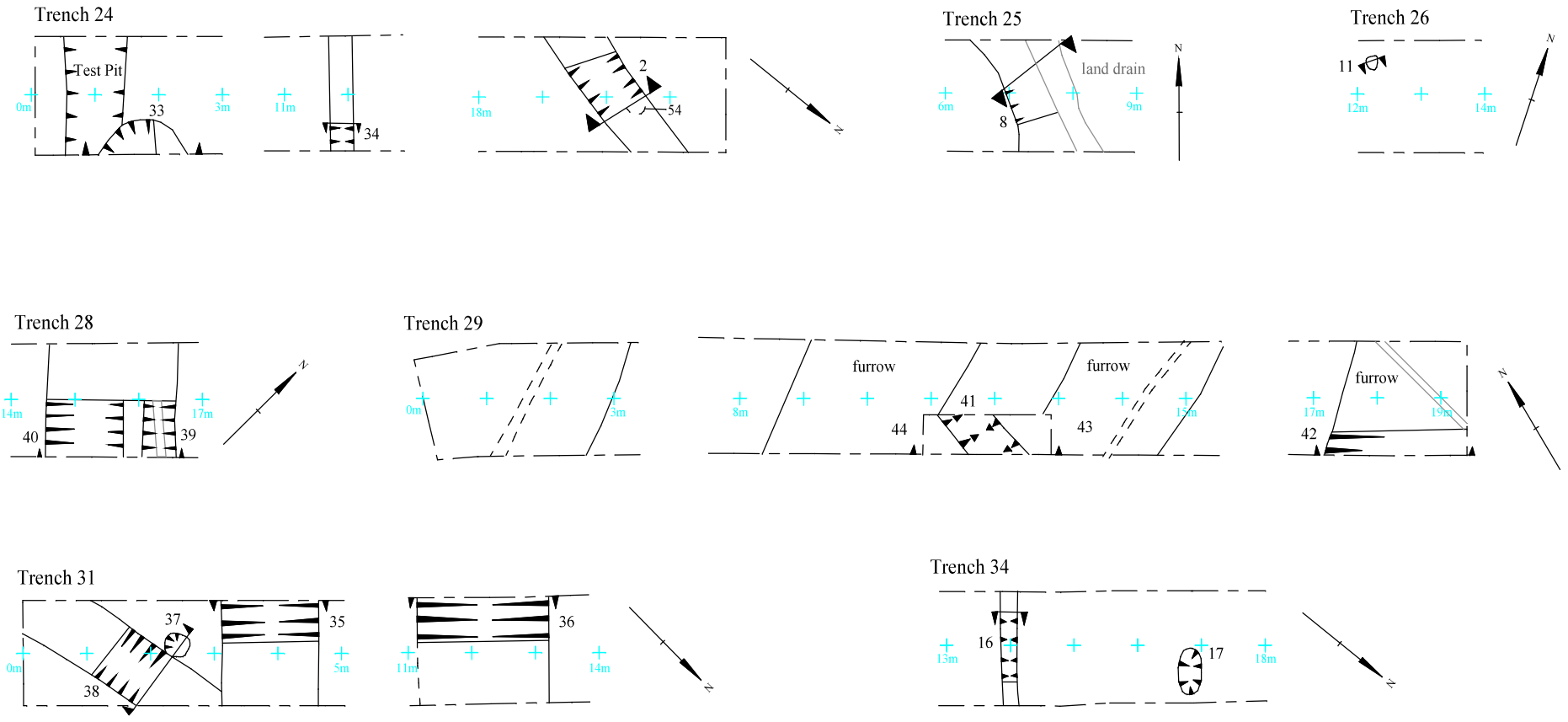

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Figure 6. Plans of trenches.

0 5m

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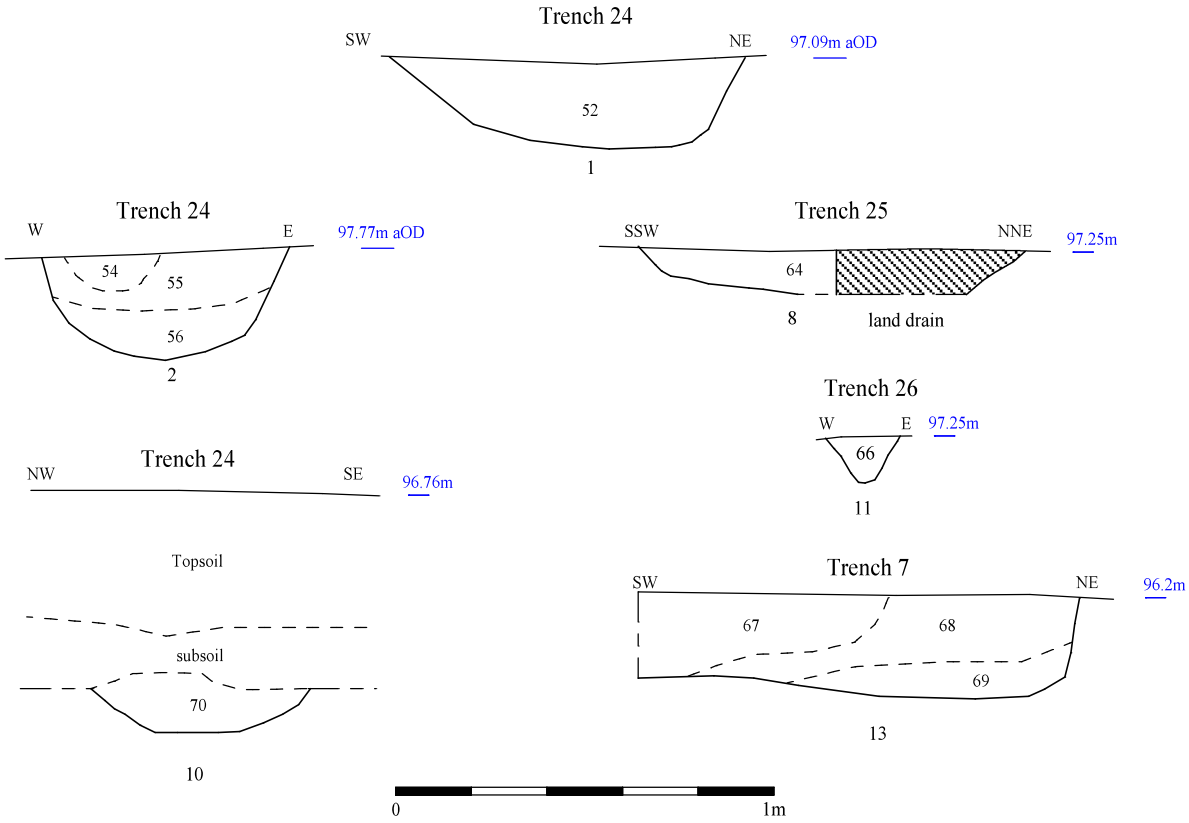

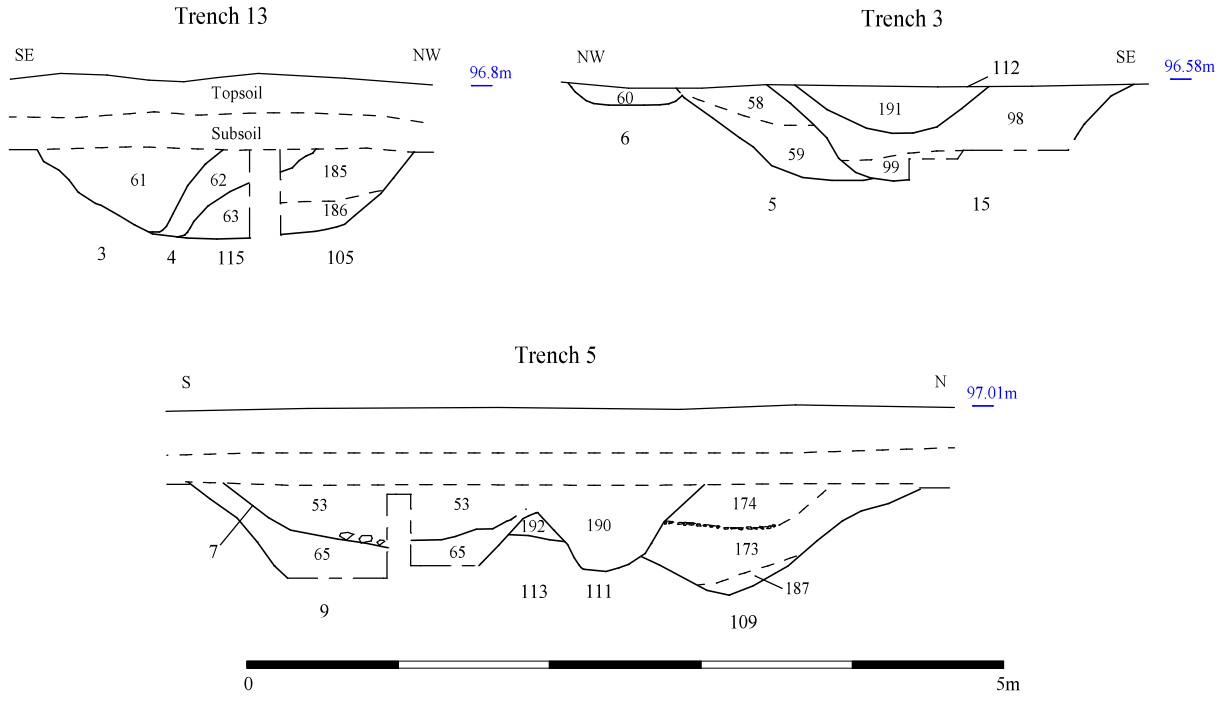

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Figure 7. Sections.

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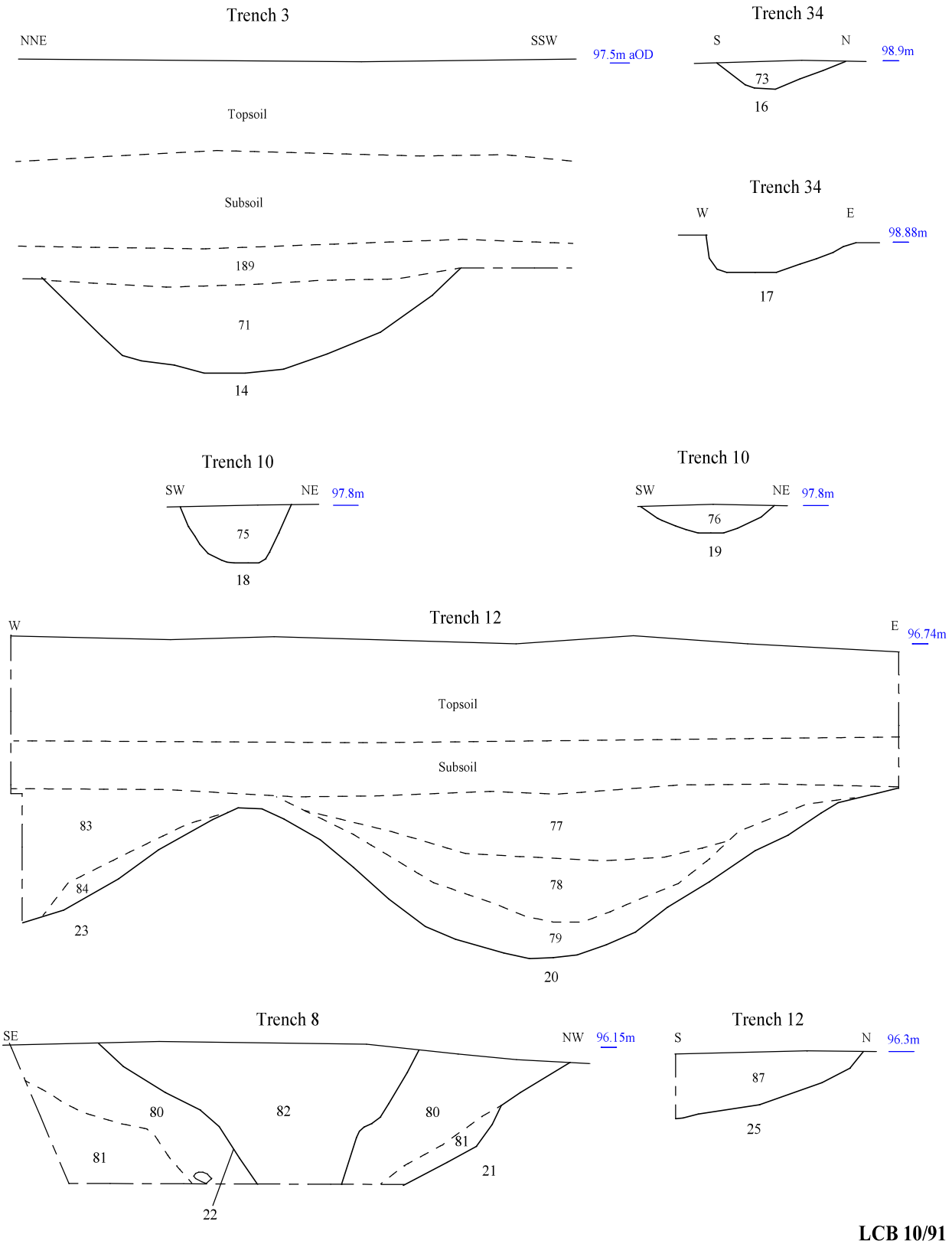

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Figure 8. Sections.

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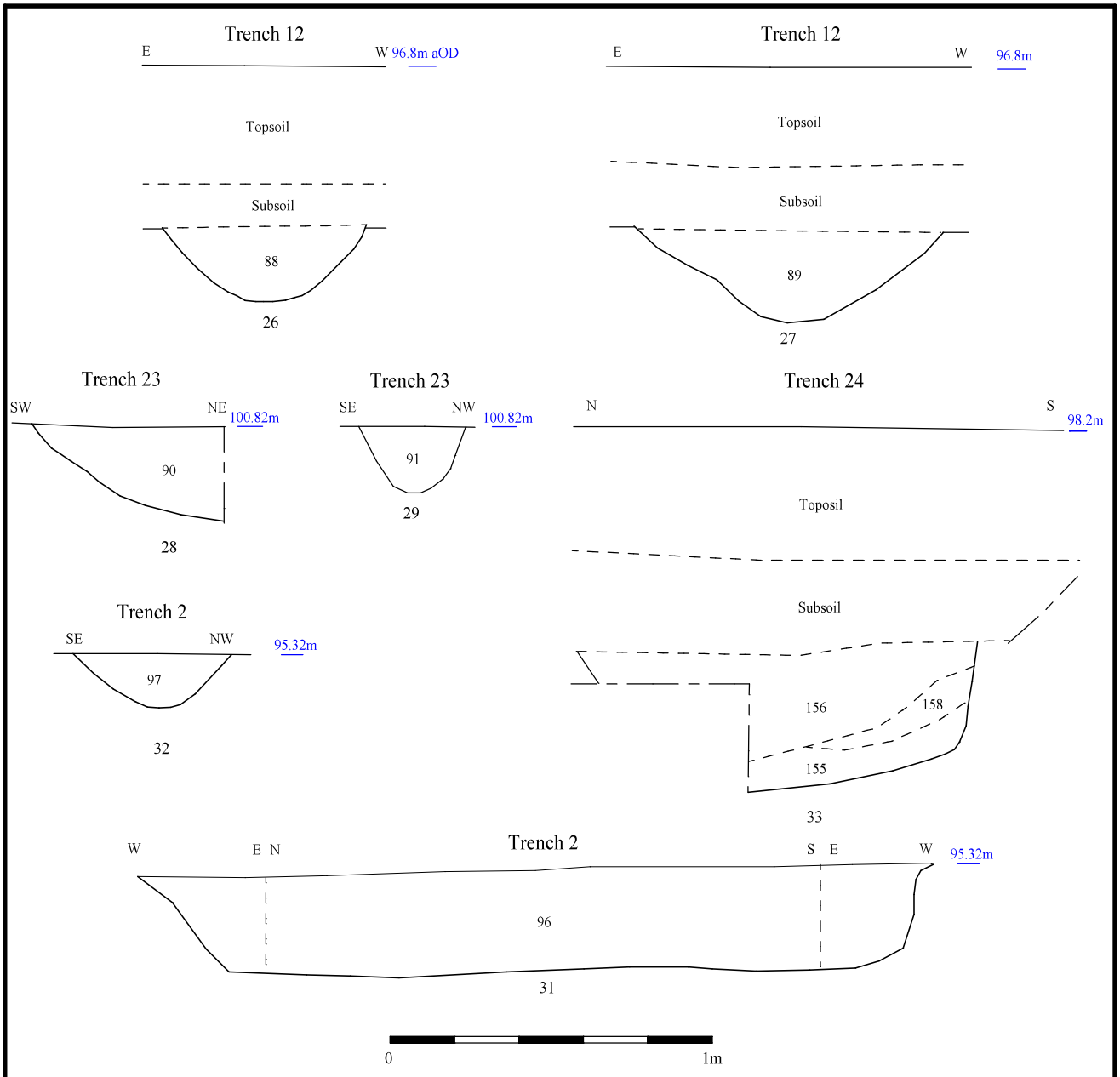

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Figure 9. Sections.

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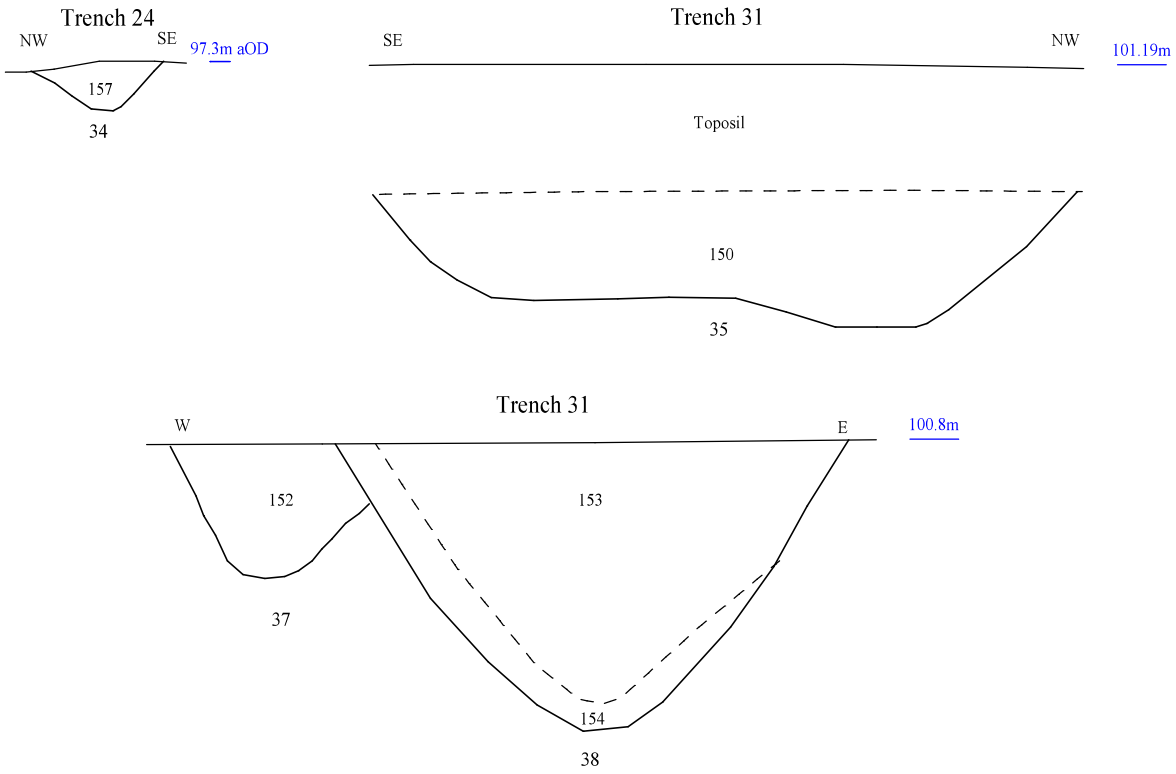

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Figure 10. Sections.

0 1m

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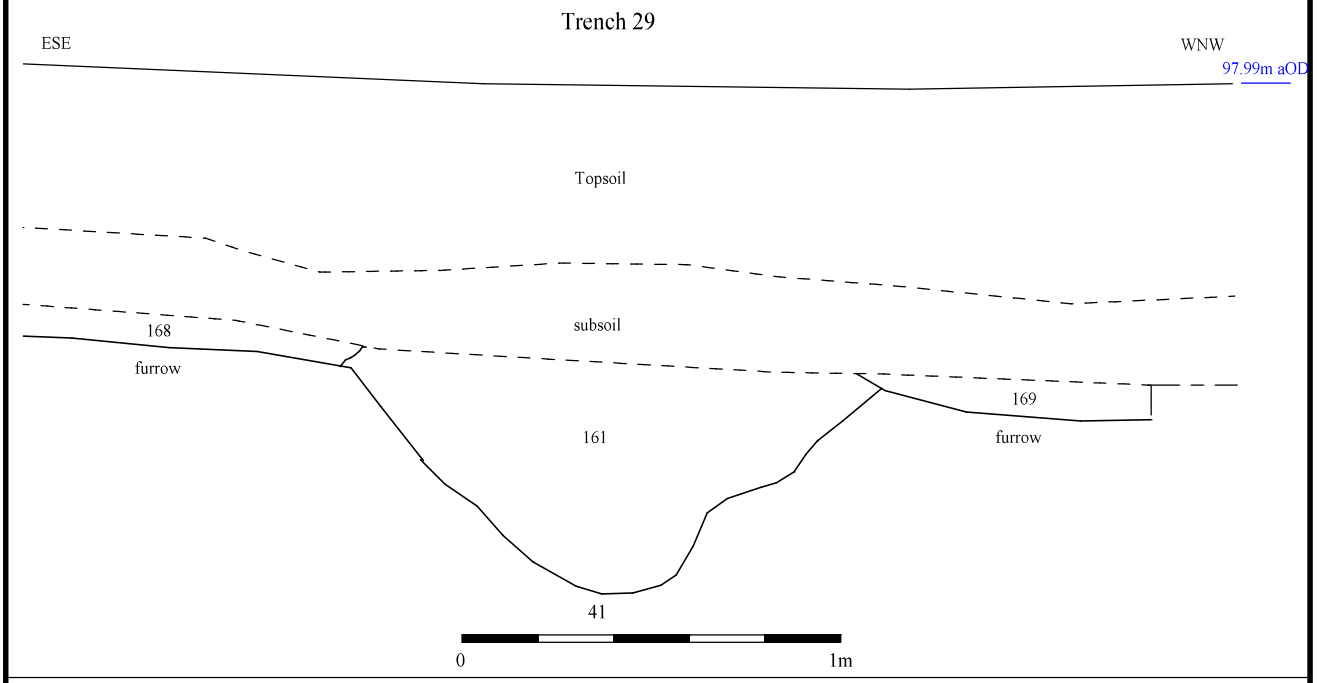

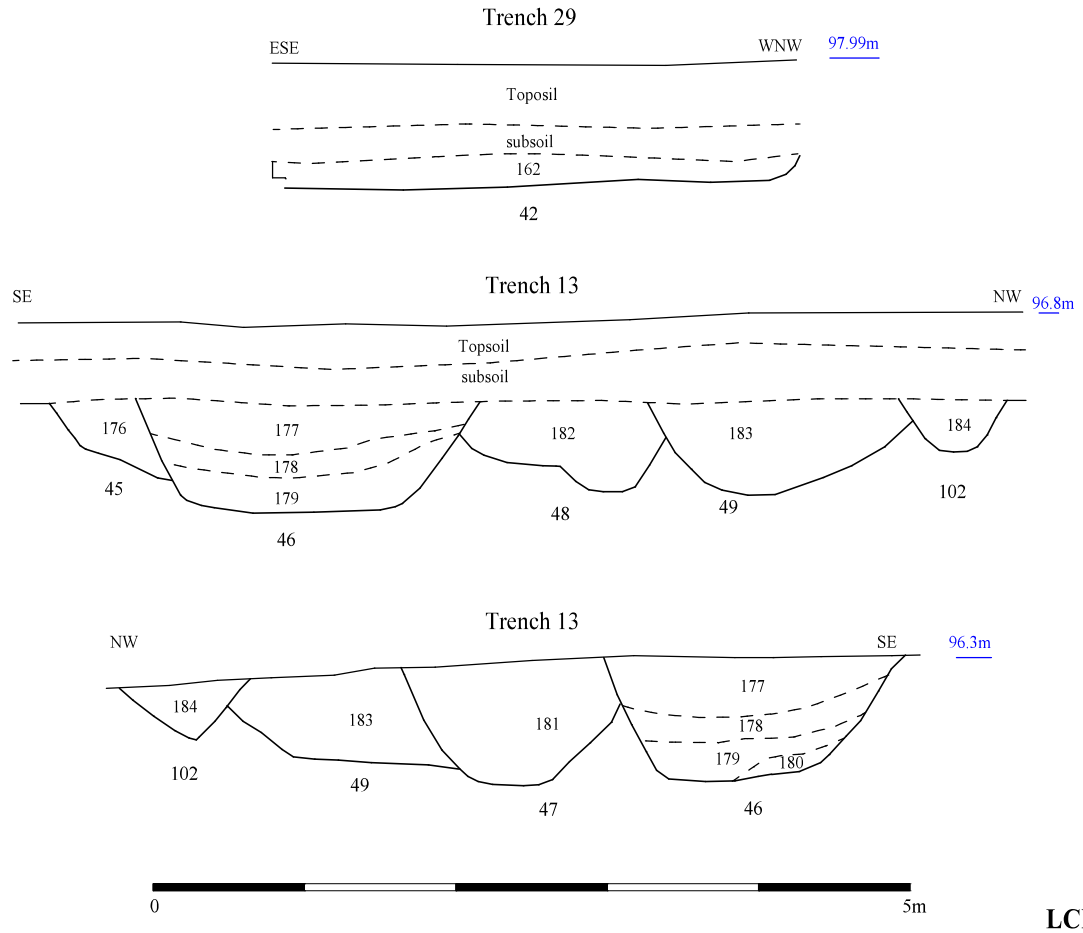

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Figure 11. Sections.

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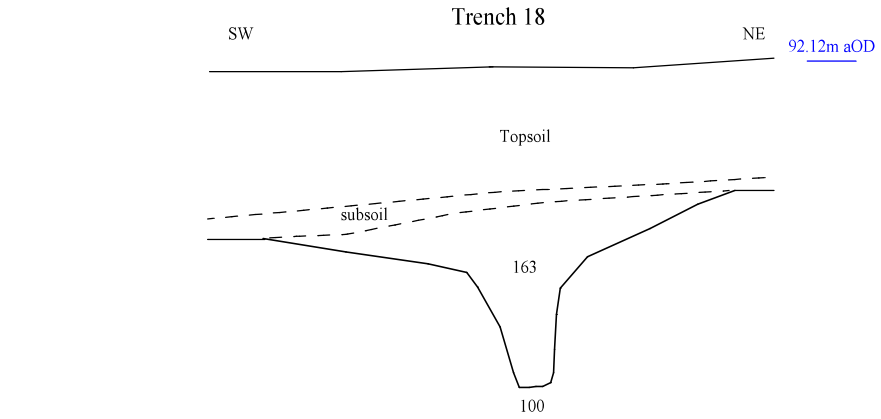

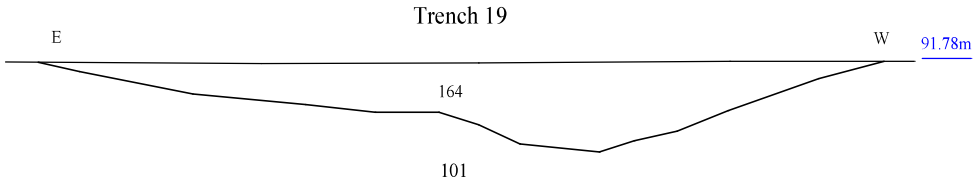

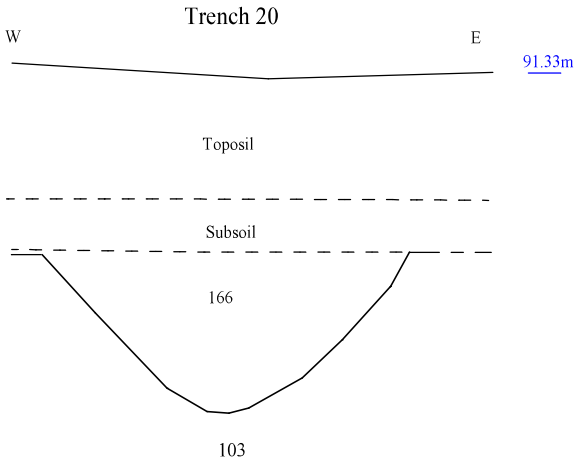

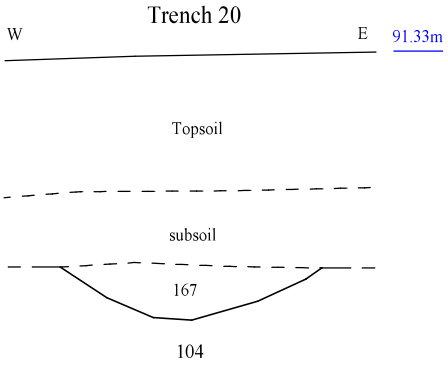

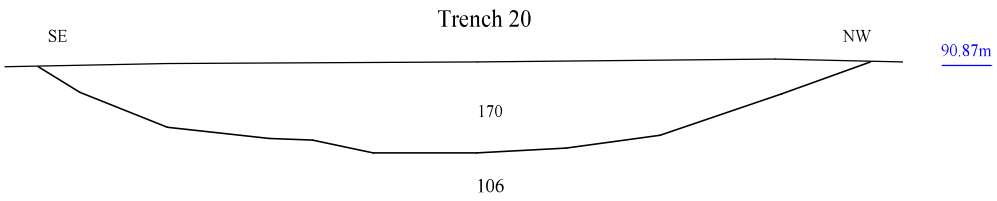

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Figure 12. Sections.

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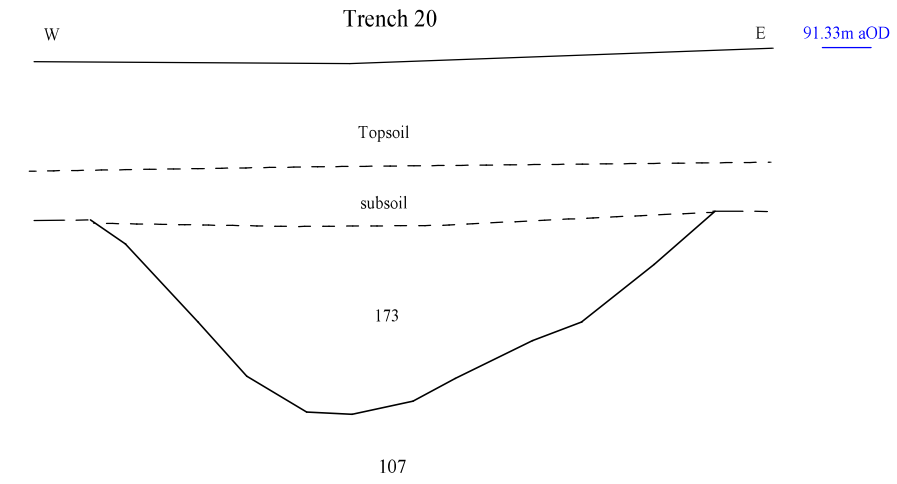

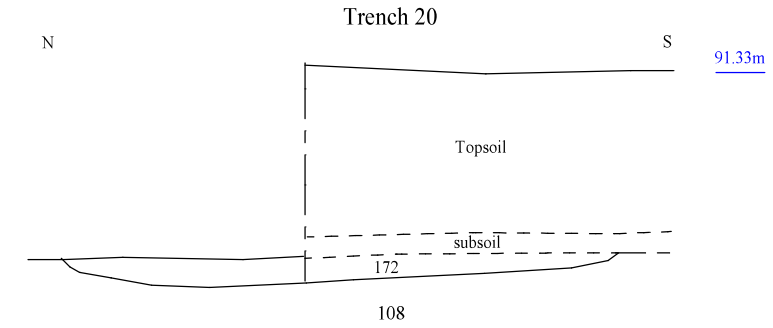

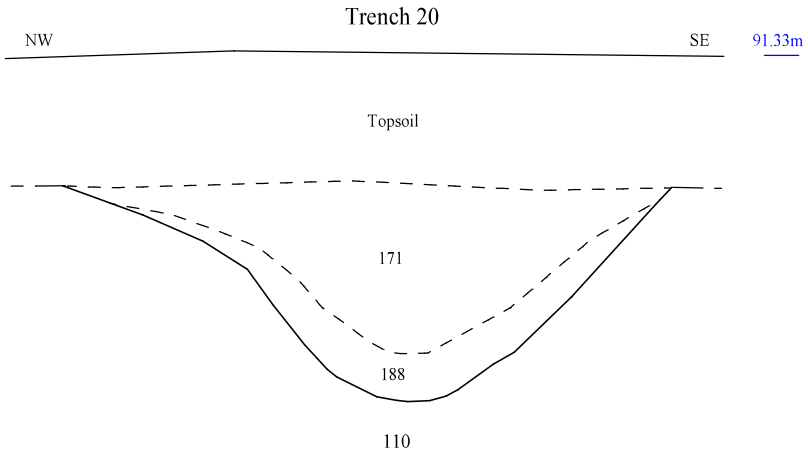

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Figure 13. Sections.

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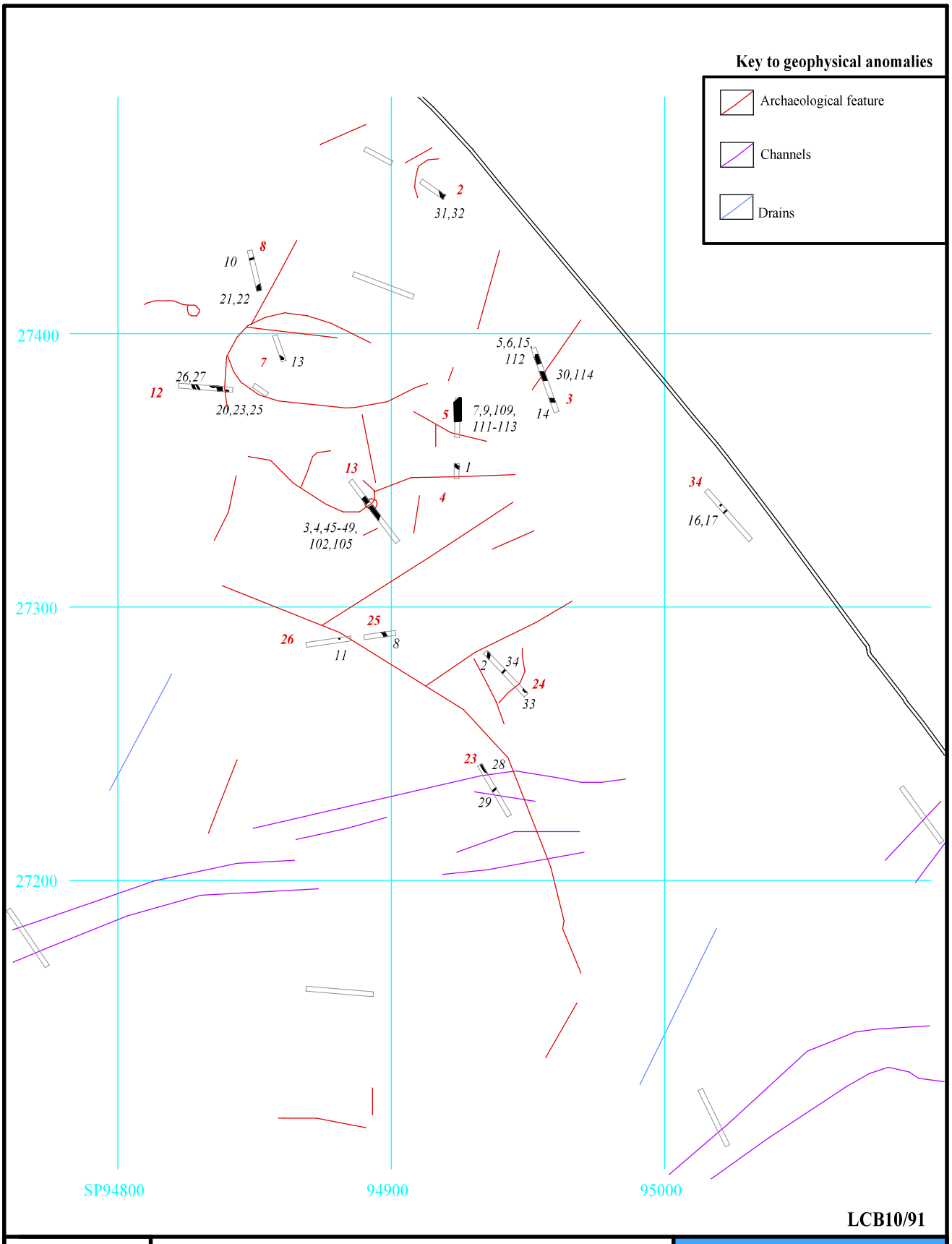

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Figure 14. Detail of Late Iron Age/Roman features in north-east of site.

0 100m

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Plate 1. Trench 12, looking north west, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

Plate 2. Trench 30, looking north, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

LCB 10/91

Land at Clipstone, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 1 and 2

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Plate 3. Trench 4, feature 1, looking north west, scales: 1m (horizontal) and 0.5m (vertical).

Plate 4. Trench 13, features 3 and 4, looking south west, scales: 1m.

Plate 5. Trench 7, feature 13, looking north, scales: 1m (horizontal) and 0.3m (vertical).

Plate 6. Trench 24, feature 33, looking north east, scales: 0.3m (vertical) and 0.1m (horizontal).

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Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 5 and 6

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Plate 7. Trench 20, feature 103, looking north east, scales; 1m (horizontal) and 0.3m (vertical)

Plate 8. Trench 13, crushed pot 86, plan view, scales 0.3m and 0.1m

Land at Clipstone, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 7 and 8.

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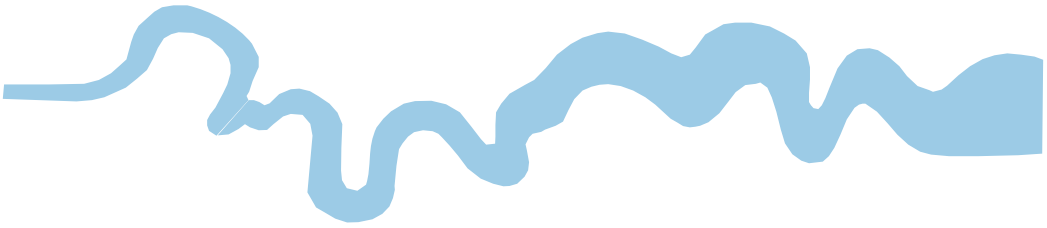
TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
Iron Age	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC



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