THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land adjacent to 71 Daventry Road, Barby, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Andy Taylor

Site Code: DRW14/221

(SP 5432 6975)

Land adjacent to 71 Daventry Road, Barby, Northamptonshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr H McGowen

by David Platt and Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DRW 14/221

January 2015

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to 71 Daventry Road, Barby, Northamptonshire

Grid reference: SP 5432 6975

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th-6th January 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: DRW 14/221

Area of site: *c.*700 sq m

Summary of results: A ditch and two possible pits of Roman date were revealed along with some pottery of later prehistoric date.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in a Northamptonshire Archive Store in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 22.01.15
	Steve Preston✓ 22.01.15

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Land adjacent to 71 Daventry Road, Barby, Northamptonshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Andy Taylor

Report 14/221b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land adjacent to 71 Daventry Road, Barby, Northamptonshire (SP 5432 6975) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Robert Froud-Williams, of Kemp & Kemp LLP, 1-3 Ock Street, Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, OX14 5AL on behalf of Mr H McGowen.

Planning permission has been sought from Daventry District Council (app DA/2014/0796) for a residential development of up to 12 dwellings. This application required information from a geophysical survey and subsequent field evaluation to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The geophysical survey has been the subject of a separate report (Dawson and Lewins 2014) and this report deals with the trenching.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Lesley-Ann Mather, County Archaeological Adviser with Northamptonshire County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Benedikt Tebitt between the 5th and 6th January 2015 and the site code is DRW 14/221. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Northamptonshire Archive Store in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern margins of Barby, which itself lies *c.*8km north of Daventry (Fig. 1). It is currently an open field and was bounded by number 72 to the north with the Daventry to the west with fields to the south and east (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Middle Lias Silts and Clays (BGS 1990) which were observed across the site, and it lies at a height of *c.*165m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a consultation letter prepared by Ms Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Archaeological Adviser. In summary, the site lies within a landscape containing extensive areas of well preserved ridge and furrow. This extends around the village on the eastern side linking up with the medieval earthworks which survive on the north eastern side of the village. Barby has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). The geophysical survey (Dawson and Lewins 2014) revealed traces of ridge and furrow, and a small number of other anomalies that might represent archaeological features (Fig. 5).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
To determine if any prehistoric occupation or landscape features are present on the site.
To determine if there are later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval deposits present on the site.

It was proposed to dig nine trenches, each 20m in length and 1.60m wide. These were dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief.

Results

Nine trenches were dug measuring between 20m and 21.50m in length and between 0.37m and 0.60m deep (Fig. 3). All were 1.6m wide. Despite the presence of ridge and furrow across the site it was very shallow and did not appear in any of the trench bases. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

This trench was aligned NW–SE and measured 20.80m in length and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.40m of subsoil overlying a yellow brown silty clay natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2)

This trench was NW–SE and measured 20m in length and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of subsoil overlying silty clay natural geology. A pit or treebole was located at 1.50m into which a slot (1) was dug measuring 0.90m wide and 0.27m deep. It had five fills (52-56) with 53 and 56 each producing two sherds of Roman pottery.

Trench 3

This trench was aligned approximately NE–SW and measured 20.20m in length and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying silty clay natural geology.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pls. 3 and 4)

This trench was aligned approximately NW–SE and measured 20.20m in length and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.34m of subsoil overlying silty clay natural geology. A ditch was observed at 11.50m from the north-west end, with either a terminus or pit on one side. A slot was dug to determine a relationship between the two which showed that pit/terminus 2 cut ditch 3. Cut 2 measured 0.56m wide and 0.18 deep but its mid blue grey fill (57) did not produce any finds. Ditch 3 measured 1m wide and 0.17m deep and its light blue grey silty clay fill (58) contained five sherds of pottery; three Late Iron Age sherds and two Roman.

Trench 5

This trench was aligned approximately East-West and measured 20.20m and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.17m deep overlying 0.39m of subsoil above silty clay natural geology.

Trench 6

This trench was aligned approximately East-West and measured 20.20m in length and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.12m deep overlying 0.23m of subsoil above silty clay natural geology.

Trench 7

This trench was aligned approximately NE–SW and measured 20.50m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.17m deep overlying 0.19m of subsoil above silty clay natural geology.

Trench 8

This trench was aligned East-West and measured 20m in length and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil overlying 0.26m of subsoil overlying silty clay natural geology.

Trench 9

This trench was aligned approximately NE–SW and measured 21.50m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying silty clay natural geology.

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of nine small sherds of pottery weighing 73g. The sherds, all unfeatured bodysherds, came from two features. The assemblage is summarized in Appendix 3.

The sherds from feature 1 comprise two fine oxidized wares and two grey wares. The sherds are small and not closely datable other than Roman. The remaining five sherds, all from handmade vessels, came from feature 3 and appear to comprise a mixture of Roman and later prehistoric pieces. Two grog-tempered sherds; one a grey ware, the other a white-ware, are locally made and probably date to the earlier Roman period. Accompanying them is a sherd with a calcined flint temper; one sherd with an oolitic limestone-tempered fabric and one grog-tempered ware. All three appear to be later prehistoric pieces.

This is a very small assemblage; this and the lack of diagnostic sherds, makes it difficult to characterize and date very closely.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A total of three pieces of animal bone weighing 11g were recovered from ditch 3. The bone was well preserved despite a relatively small fragment size (40mm). The pieces were non-descript and could only be identified as originating form a long bone shaft of a large sized animal (e.g. horse or cow). No further information could be retrieved from this very small assemblage of animal bone.

Burnt Flint by Andy Taylor

Two pieces of burnt flint weighing 12g were recovered from ditch 3.

Soil samples

Two soil samples were taken from features 2 and 3 for the recovery of charred plant remains and small artefacts. Sub-samples of 5L each were floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh. This produce no charred plant remains but a few animal bone fragments from ditch 3.

Conclusion

The evaluation identified a small amount of archaeology on the site of Roman date consisting of linear features and a possible pit. The volume of features and finds are considered to be too few to indicate the presence of an occupation site in the immediate vicinity, but do at least indicate some activity in a wider landscape setting. None of the features corresponded to geophysical anomalies.

References

BGS, 1990, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 185, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Dawson, T and Lewins, L, 2014, 'Land adjacent to 71 Daventry Road, Barby, Northamptonshire: a Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)', TVAS unpubl rep 14/221,Reading
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book; a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	20.80	1.60	0.60	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ silty clay natural geology.
2	20.00	1.60	0.46	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ silty clay natural geology. Pit/Treebole 1; **[Pls 1 and 2]**
3	20.20	1.60	0.48	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ silty clay natural geology.
4	20.20	1.60	0.60	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.54m subsoil; 0.54m+ silty clay natural geology. Pit/Terminus 2, Ditch 3; **[Pls 3 and 4]**
5	20.20	1.60	0.60	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ silty clay natural geology.
6	20.20	1.60	0.37	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ silty clay natural geology.
7	20.50	1.60	0.40	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ silty clay natural geology.
8	20.00	1.60	0.46	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ silty clay natural geology.
9	21.50	1.60	0.40	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ silty clay natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
2	1	52-56	Pit/Treebole	Roman	Pottery
4	2	57	Pit/Terminus	Roman or later	Stratigraphy
4	3	58	Ditch	Roman	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Pottery

Cut	*Deposit*	*Preh*	*Roman*	*Tot No*	*Tot Wt*	*Date*
1	53	0	2	2	8	Roman
1	56	0	2	2	12	Roman
3	58	3	2	5	53	Preh/Roman
TOTAL		**3**	**6**	**9**	**73**	

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Animal Bone

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill*	*No.*	*Wt (g)*
4	3	58	3	11

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Burnt Flint

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill*	*No.*	*Wt (g)*
4	3	58	2	12

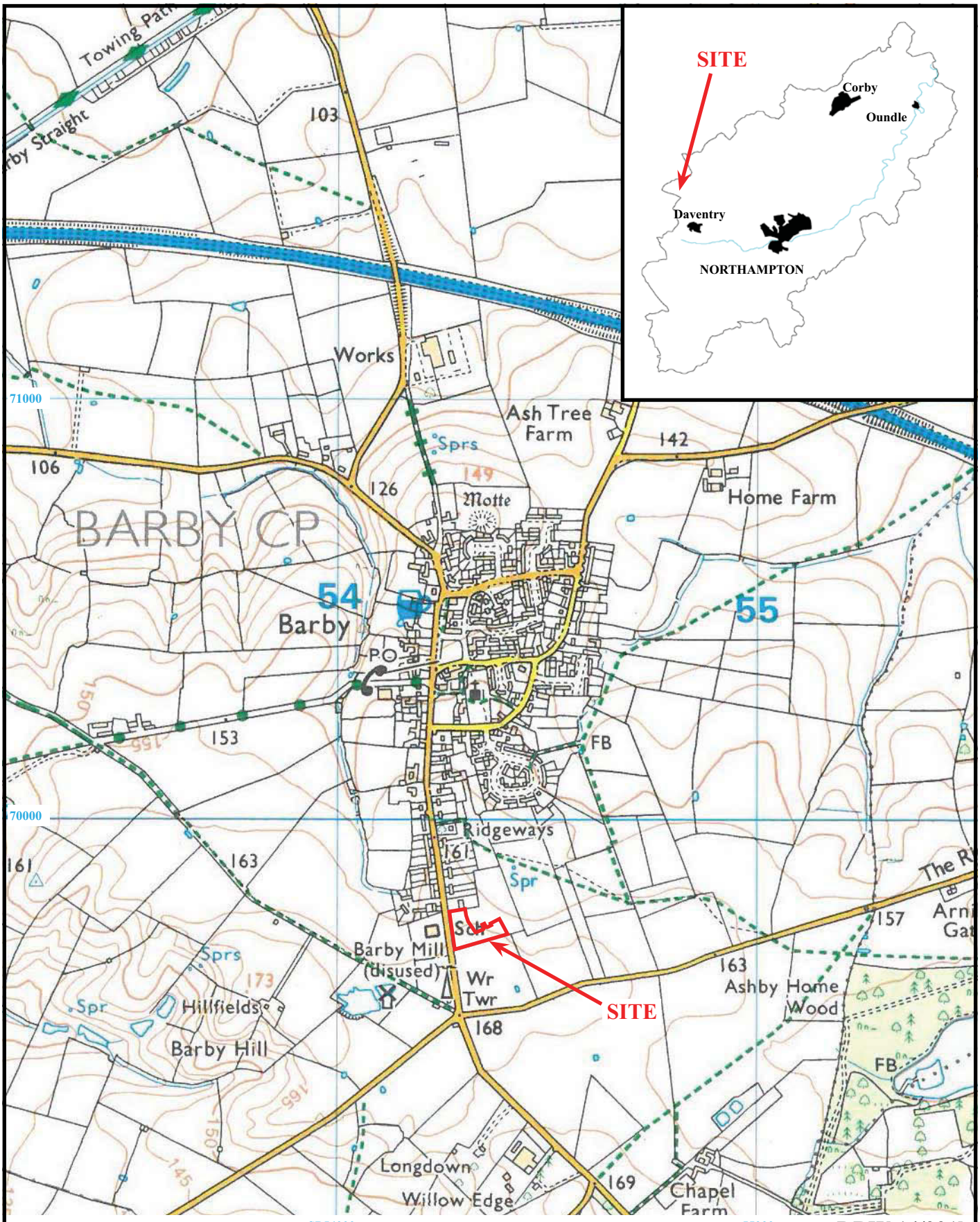

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Figure 1. Location of site within Barby and Northamptonshire.

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.

0 50m

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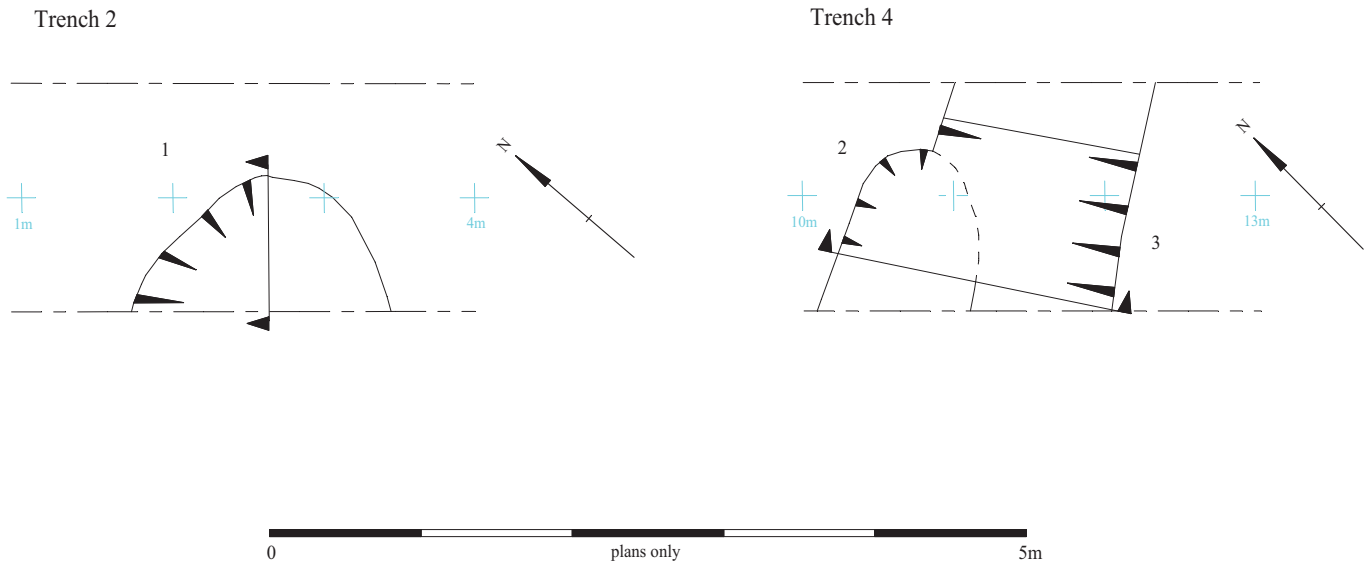

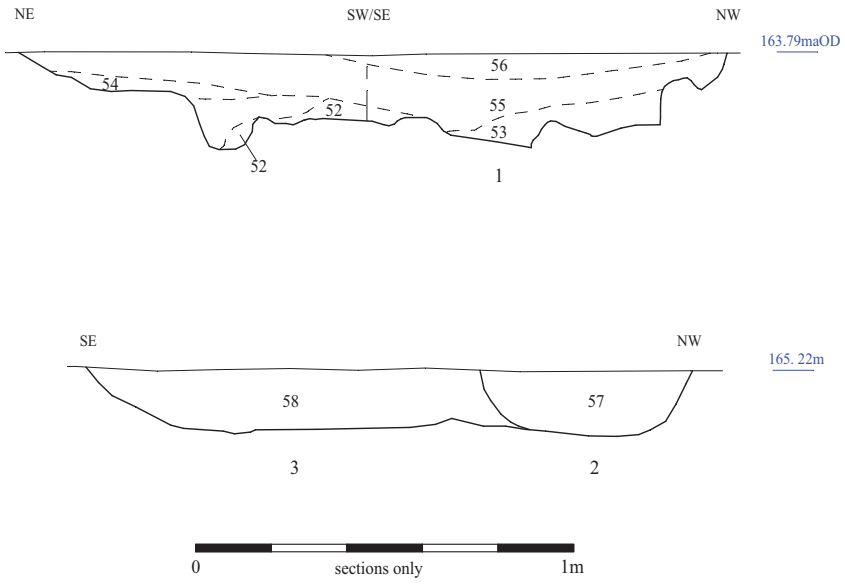

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Figure 3. Detailed plans and sections of Trenches 2 and 4.

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Figure 4. Location of trenches in relation to proposed new development.

0 50m

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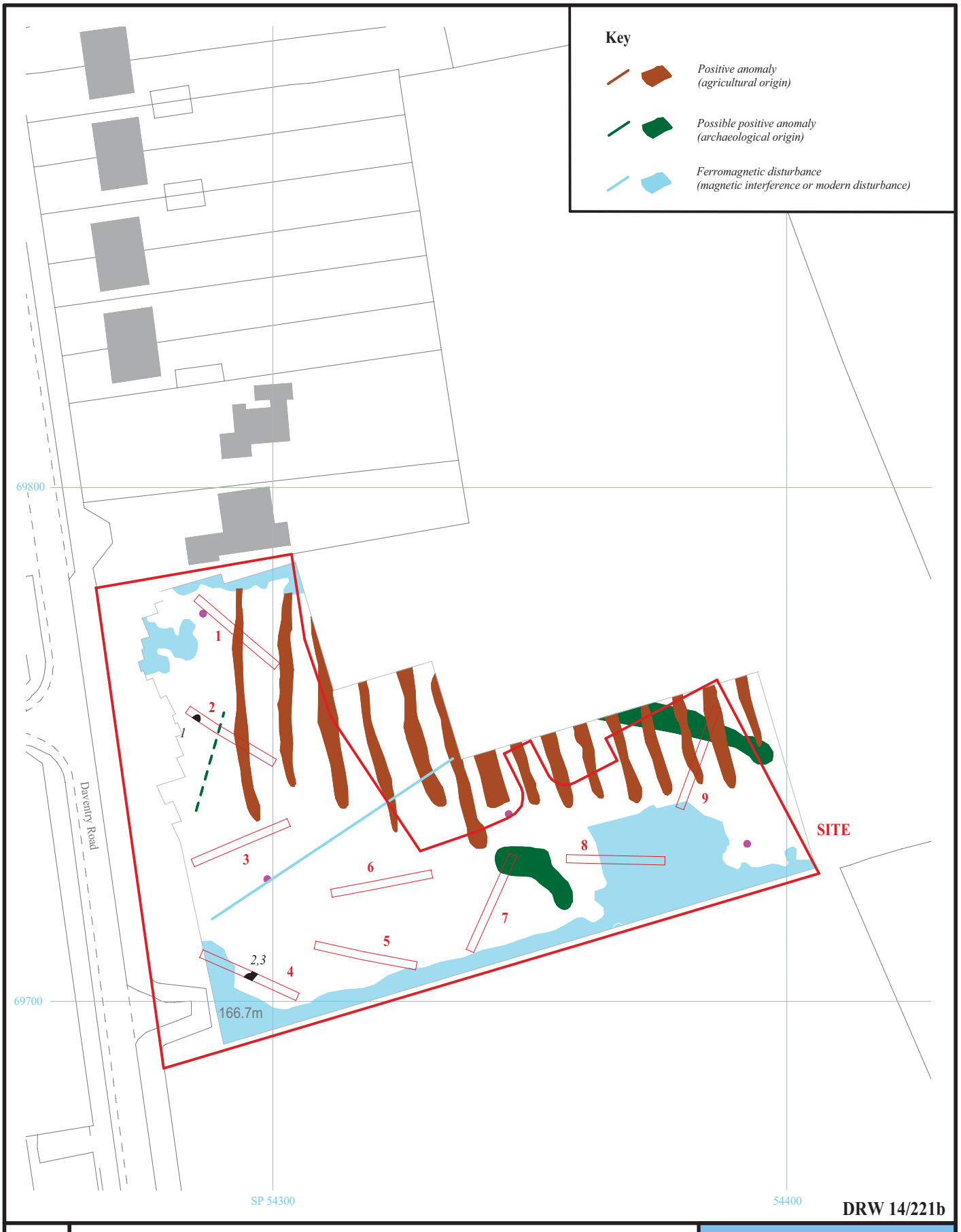

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Figure 5. Location of trenches in relation to geophysical survey.

0 50m

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Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 2, pit 1, looking south west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 4, looking west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 4, pit 3 and ditch 2, looking south west, Scales: 1m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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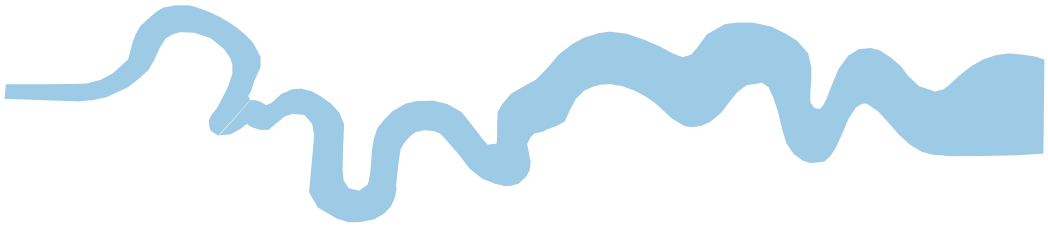
TIME CHART

	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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