

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Lechlade Road,
Highworth, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: LRH17/95

(SU 2001 9377)

Land west of Lechlade Road, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for ALDI Limited

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LRH17/95

April 2018

Summary

Site name: Land at Lechlade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 2001 9377

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th March - 10th April 2018

Project manager: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: LRH17/95

Area of site: c.5.3 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation successfully confirmed the results geophysical survey that in the central area is a 'farmstead' complex of late Iron Age to early Roman date with some peripheral agriculture-related features.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Swindon Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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Land at Lechlade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 17/95c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on and at Lechlade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire (SU 2001 9377) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Taylor Cherrett of Turley, The Pinnacle, 20 Tudor Road, Reading, RG1 1NH on behalf of ALDI Ltd.

Planning permission (S/17/1771/SASM and S/17/1772/SASM) has been sought from Swindon Borough Council to construct a new supermarket complex on a parcel of land west of Lechlade Road, Highworth. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development, fieldwork has been requested in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site and if necessary, inform a mitigation strategy for the project. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. A geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2018) had indicated the presence of anomalies almost certainly of archaeological origin on the site, and trial trenching was requested in order to elucidate their nature, date and significance. This report documents the results of this trenching.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock, Thomas Stewart, Elsie Brooks, Josh Hargreaves, Jamie Williams and Daniel Haddad between 19th March and 10th April 2018 during a time of variable weather conditions which slowed down progress. The site code is LRH17/95. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Swindon Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the northern end of Highworth, on the western side of Lechlade Road and to the north of Blackworth Road. Highworth itself is approximately 5km north-east of Swindon's north-eastern outskirts (Fig. 1). The site is a roughly rectangular parcel of land approximately 445m from east to west and 124m north to south (Fig. 2). The site is an open field currently under pasture, basically level at 81m above Ordnance Datum

(aOD). The underlying geology as seen in trenches and as mapped is Oxford Clay Formation, Mudstone (BGS 1974)

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment for the project (Tabor 2017), briefing notes prepared by the archaeological adviser to Swindon Borough Council as well as a geophysical survey (magnetometry). In summary the site is located in an area of moderate archaeological potential with Roman occupation to the south-east and finds of prehistoric flintwork from other locations nearby. The geophysical survey on the site itself (Beaverstock 2018) clearly showed penannular features, most likely roundhouses, which would indicate prehistoric occupation of the site and linear anomalies, likely ditches, which might be of several phases.

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. The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits of Roman date are present;
- to determine the nature of geophysical anomalies;
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required; and
- to report on the findings of the evaluation.

Twenty-seven trenches were to be dug using a 360-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any feature that might warrant preservation *in situ* or be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds and scanned with a metal detector.

Results

Most trenches were dug as intended with the exception of trench 11 which had to be abandoned after 13m due to flooding. The remaining trenches ranged from 26m to 30m. All trenches were metal detected. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 8) (Pls 1 and 9)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 26.4m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. A pit (3), which was cut by a double ditch (4 and 5) were excavated. The pit (3) measured c.0.42m in diameter and 0.22m deep and was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay (54) and contained 3 fragments of early Roman pottery and a single fragment of animal bone with evidence of butchery. This was cut by ditch (4) which measured c.1m wide and 0.3m deep and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay (55) which contained 3 fragments of early Roman pottery and 5 fragments of animal bone. This was itself cut by ditch (5) which measured 1.58m wide and 0.42m deep and had two fills, a mid greyish brown silty clay primary fill (57) and a mid bluish grey silty clay secondary fill (56), both fills contained a number of fragments of early Roman pottery with fill (56) also containing 5 fragments of animal bone. Both ditches followed a NW - SE alignment consistent with the geophysical anomaly. At the SW end of the trench was unexcavated ditch (27) and ditch (6). Unexcavated ditch (27) appeared to be running in a north-west to south-east and is likely to be the anomaly detected in the geophysics, 2 fragments of early Roman pottery were recovered. Ditch (6) however was aligned E - W and measured 0.65m wide and 0.1m deep and filled with a pale brownish grey silty clay (58) which contained 5 fragments of early Roman pottery.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 8) (Pls 2 and 10)

Trench 4 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 29m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.15 subsoil overlying natural geology. At the far west of the trench was curvilinear gully (109) which appeared to be cut by linear (28). A Cu coin was found in the top of linear (28), but was too degraded for close analysis although its dimensions suggest it is likely to be Roman in date. A curved gully (1) was recorded, it measured 0.69m wide and 0.3m deep and was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay (52) and contained 20 fragments of Iron Age pottery as well as 16 fragments of animal bone with evidence of butchery. A parallel curved gully (29) ran to the west of (1) and together they most likely represent part of the curvilinear seen on the geophysics.

To the west and east of these were linears (23), (28) and (30). Linear (23) was excavated and measured 1.35m wide and 0.08m deep was filled with a light yellowish brown silty clay (78) and contained several rounded iron nails as well as glazed red earthenware and a fragment of glass bottle suggesting this along with linears (28) and (30) may represent furrows as also seen on the geophysics. Cutting through furrow (23) were features (24) and (25). These features were extremely ephemeral and may be the result of later disturbance. A possible post hole (26) was also excavated, it measured 0.52m in diameter and 0.18m deep and was filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay (81). At the far east of the trench two termini were excavated (12) and (108), terminus (12) measured 0.91m wide and 0.34m deep and was filled with a light brownish grey silty clay (67) primary fill containing 6 fragments of late Iron age to early Roman pottery and a mid brownish grey silty clay (66) secondary fill containing 33 fragments of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery as well as 3 fragments of animal bone. Terminus (108) measured 0.42m wide and 0.14m deep and was filled mid greyish brown silty clay (168). These termini most likely form the entrance of a roundhouse.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 8) (Pls 3 and 11)

Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 28.2m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.31m subsoil overlying natural geology. Several features were uncovered including ditch (10) which was aligned SW - NE and measured 0.53m wide and 0.18m deep, it was filled with a light greyish brown silty clay (62) which contained 2 fragments of 1st to 2nd Century pottery. Curvilinear (11) measured 0.99m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled with a light greyish red clay sand (65) slumping layer, a light greyish brown silty clay (64) primary fill and a dark greyish brown secondary fill (63) which contained 35 fragments of Iron Age pottery as well as 10 fragments of animal bone with some evidence of butchery. Pit (13) measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.08m deep and was filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (68). Posthole (14) measured 0.41m in diameter and 0.16m deep and was filled with a mid bluish brown silty clay (69). Several unexcavated ditches and associated pits were recorded in plan including ditches (18), (19), (20), (37) and unexcavated pits (21), (22) and (38).

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 4, 6 and 8) (Pls 4 and 12)

Trench 6 was aligned NW - SE and was 27m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying natural geology. The trench contained intercutting ditches (31) and (32) which measured 0.65m wide, 0.52m deep and c. 0.7m wide and 0.55m deep respectively. Ditch (31) contained a single fill of a dark bluish grey silty clay (86) and 4 fragments of Iron Age pottery. This cut through ditch (32) which

contained a light brownish grey silty clay primary fill (88) which contained 6 fragments of early Roman pottery and a light greyish brown silty clay (87) secondary fill which contained a single fragment of animal bone with evidence of burning. The pottery dating for these suggests the fragments of Iron Age pottery in fill (86) is most likely residual. The ditch (32) then appears to cut pit (33) which was filled with a light brownish grey silty clay (89) and contained 5 fragments of Iron Age pottery. To the south of these a number of features including ditches (34) and (35) as well as pit (35) was recorded in plan.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 4, 6 and 8)

Trench 7 was aligned W - E and was 27.5m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying natural geology. Three linears were recorded including a gully (17) which measured 0.58m wide and 0.11m deep and filled with a light brownish grey silty clay (77). Two parallel ditches, ditch (15) measured 1.58m wide and 0.42m deep and was filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay (75). Ditch (16) measured 1.38m wide and 0.32m deep and was filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (76) which contained a total of 6 fragments of pottery, 3 dating to the Iron Age and 1 dating to the early Roman. It also contained 7 fragments of animal bone.

Trench 8 (Figs 2, 4 and 8)

Trench 8 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 27m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. Contained a single ditch (106) cutting through the alluvial deposits of the palaeochannel.

Trench 9 (Figs 2, 4, 7 and 8)

Trench 9 was aligned W - E and was 26m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. A single ditch (101) was recorded, it measured 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep and was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay (160) which contained 3 fragments of early 2nd century pottery and a single fragment of animal bone.

Trench 14 (Figs 2, 4 and 8)

Trench 14 was aligned SW - NE and was 28.1m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying natural geology. At the far north-eastern end of the trench was unexcavated ditch (107) it measured 1.4m wide and was filled with a light brownish grey silty clay (167), a small Cu pin was recovered from the subsoil in this region of the trench.

Trench 15 (Figs 2, 4, 6 and 8) (Pl. 5)

Trench 15 was aligned NW - SE and was 26.2m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.16m subsoil overlying natural geology. A single ditch (2) was recorded which measured 3.15m wide and 0.45m deep and was filled with a light brownish grey silty clay (53). Alluvial deposits from a possible palaeochannel could be seen from 12.4m, a sondage was dug at 20.3m – 21.6m in order to determine its character and found that the deposit had a depth of 0.4m, a modern field drain was also uncovered within the sondage showing some later activity.

Trench 17 (Figs 2, 5, 7 and 8) (Pl. 6)

Trench 17 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 26.8m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.45m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch (102) was excavated and measured 1.14m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay primary fill (162) with a single fragment of sliced animal bone and a mid brownish grey silty clay (161) secondary fill which contained 12 fragments of early Roman pottery and a single fragment of animal bone. This was parallel to and cut gully (103) which measured c. 0.55m wide and 0.18m deep and was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay (163) which contained 9 fragments of early Roman pottery and a single fragment of animal bone. An unexcavated ditch (104) with an associated pit (105) was recorded in plan, a single fragment of early Roman pottery was recovered from ditch (104)

Trench 18 (Figs 2, 5, 7 and 8)

Trench 18 was aligned NW - SE and was 27.8m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. This trench contained a few features including ditch (44) which measured 1.1m wide and 0.26m deep and was filled with a mid reddish grey silty clay (97) primary fill which contained 2 fragments of Roman pottery and a dark greyish brown silty clay (96) secondary fill. A pit (45) measuring 0.9m in diameter and 0.22m deep and was filled with a light yellowish grey silty clay (98). An unexcavated ditch (49) which measured 1.4m wide and was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay (158).

Trench 19 (Fig. 2 and 8)

Trench 19 was aligned SW - NE and was 27.5m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recorded in this trench, however the edge of the alluvial deposits of a possible palaeochannel could be seen from 7m.

Trench 21 (Figs 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8) (Pls 7 and 14)

Trench 21 was aligned SW - NE and was 28.1m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.08 subsoil overlying natural geology. Several features were excavated including three shallow intercutting pits (46, 47 and 48). Pit (46) measured c. 1.1m in diameter and 0.13m deep and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay (155) which contained 2 fragments of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. Pit (47) measured c. 1.8m in diameter 0.15m deep and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay (156) which contained 2 fragments of early Roman pottery. Pit (48) measured c. 1m in diameter and 0.08m deep and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay (157). Further north-east was series of intercutting features including pit (43) which measured 0.74m in diameter and 0.13m deep and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay (154). This cut through ditch (41) which measured c. 1.4m wide and 0.13m deep and was filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (152). This had an unclear relationship with ditch (42) which measured c. 1.46m wide and 0.16m deep and filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (153). This cut through the top of ditch (40) which measured c. 1.25m wide and 0.76m deep and was filled with a mid bluish grey silty clay primary fill (151). A dark bluish grey silty clay secondary fill (150) a light brownish grey silty clay tertiary fill (99). Fill (151) contained 3 fragments of Iron Age pottery and 4 fragments of burnt animal bone. Whilst fill (150) contained 9 fragments of pottery in total, 3 fragments of shell-tempered Iron Age pottery which are most likely residual and 4 fragments of early Roman pottery as well as 4 fragments of animal bone.

Trench 22 (Figs 2, 5, 6 and 8)

Trench 22 was aligned NW - SE and was 26.9m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. A single ditch was excavated and recorded, the ditch (9) measured 1.92m wide and 0.22m deep and was filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (61). The ditch was aligned NE - SW and appeared to on a similar orientation to the NW - SE ditches in trenches 2, 25 and 23 however a single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered although it is possible that this is intrusive.

Trench 23 (Figs 2, 5 and 8) (Pls 8 and 13)

Trench 23 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 26.5m long and 0.26m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.11m subsoil overlying natural geology. This trench contained unexcavated ditch (100) which was 0.7m wide and filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay (159), this ditch appears to be a continuation of the double ditches seen trenches 2 and 25.

Trench 25 (Figs 2, 5, 6 and 8)

Trench 25 was aligned SW - NE and was 26m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.09m subsoil overlying natural geology. Ditches (7) and (8) appear to be continuations of ditches (3) and (4). Ditch (7) measured c. 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep and was filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (59) and ditch (8) measured c. 0.65m wide and 0.14m deep and was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay (60).

Unfeatured Trenches (Figs 2 and 9)

Trenches 1, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 24, 26 and 27 contained no features of interest, they measured between 26.2 to 30m long (with the exception of 11) and between 0.36 and 0.59m deep overlying a relatively consistent natural geology. All spoilheaps were monitored but no finds were recovered.

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological evaluation undertaken at Highworth resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 194 sherds of pottery weighing 2594g and with an estimated vessel equivalence (EVE) based on rims of 0.57. The assemblage largely dates to the Iron Age and early Roman period accompanied by single sherds of medieval and post-medieval date.

The pottery was recorded using the recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The sorted fabrics were quantified by sherd count and weight by recorded context. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. Rims were additionally coded to form and measured for the diameter and the estimation of rim equivalence (EVE) (cf. Orton *et al.* 1993). The fabrics are coded following the recommendations outlined in PCRG 1997 where letters denote the main inclusions present and where relevant known, named traded Roman wares are cross-referenced to the National Roman fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). The full catalogue of the pottery can be found in Appendix 3.

In terms of condition the material is well preserved with moderately large pieces reflected in an overall average sherd weight of 13.4g. The number of featured sherds, however, is particularly low.

Pottery was recovered from nine trenches and a total of 23 cuts (26 recorded contexts) ranging from single sherds to a maximum of 35 pieces from ring-ditch 11.

Description of Iron Age and Roman pottery

The assemblage comprises a mixture of Iron Age and early Roman wares with a few sherds which could potentially be later Iron Age or early Roman. The earliest material comprises various fossil shell and limestone-tempered handmade wares (SHLI) much of which came from ring ditches 11 and 32. None of this is featured but is likely to date to the mid-late Iron Age. Overall it accounts for 36.6% by count of the whole assemblage. Of similar age are a few handmade medium sandy wares.

Dating to the later Iron Age or early Roman period are various grog-tempered wares (GR) again mainly unfeatured. The greatest concentration of this material is from ditch 12. This ware accounts for a further 25% (count).

In the early Roman period these grog-tempered wares develop into Savernake ware (SAV GT) mainly used to make large jars. Other local wares include a burnished black sandy ware (WILBB) which appears at Cirencester from the Neronian lasting into the early second century and, from the Flavian period into the 2nd century, a grey sandy ware probably made in the North Wiltshire kilns (WILRE). The only recognisable import to the site is a single Dorset black burnished ware jar rim (DOR BB1) from ditch 101, likely to date from the early 2nd century.

The vessel repertoire is exceptionally limited the only featured sherds coming from jars.

Post-Roman

A rim from a medieval jar was recovered from ditch 9 unaccompanied by any other ceramic material. Furrow 23 produced one sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthenware and a fragment of bottle glass.

Summary

The assemblage here is typical of a mid-late Iron Age settlement developing into an early Roman rural settlement. The site appears to have been abandoned by the early 2nd century. With such a moderately small group it is difficult to ascertain whether there is continuity of use. The complete lack of any imports in the assemblage other than the BB1 and a total absence of any finer wares indicate a fairly low status rural site.

Animal Bone by Lizzi Lewins

A small assemblage of animal bone (60 fragments), weighing a total of 1322g, was recovered during the course of the evaluation. The bone was in good condition with little surface abrasion or erosion noted. The bone was classified according to size (large – cattle, horse; medium – sheep/goat, pig, deer) and where possible to species level. Schmid's 1972 text was used to confirm identification when necessary. A full catalogue of the bone can be found in appendix 4, only the identified bone will be discussed here.

Seven identifiable fragments were recovered from gully 1 (52) and consisted of a partial acetabulum and partial long bone shaft fragment classified as a large mammal; a sliced long bone shaft fragment, partial metapodials shaft and rib fragment from a medium mammal and two refitted fragments of horse metatarsal. An unidentifiable fragment was also noted to have been sliced.

Pit 3 (54) contained a sliced long bone fragment classified as medium mammal. Ditch 5 (56) contained a loose molar and premolar from a sheep/goat.

Ring ditch 11 (63) contained a long bone fragment and rib fragment from a large mammal; an unfused metapodial shaft and a fragment of long bone shaft classified as medium mammal which had both been sliced; a right metacarpal from a sheep/goat, unfused at the distal end (no epiphysis present) and three cattle fragments: a loose molar, a partial proximal femur and a left metatarsal.

Ditch 12 (66) contained a cattle left metacarpal (proximal and shaft). Ditch 16 (76) contained a fragment of mandible from a large mammal, a pig canine and a fragment of proximal horse phalange.

A large mammal long bone shaft fragment and a proximal radius fragment were recovered from ditch 40 (150). Ditch 101 (160) contained a right astragalus from a horse. Ditch 102 (161-162) contained two long bone fragments classified as large and medium respectively; the medium fragment had been sliced.

Minimum number of individuals was not calculated due to the lack of identifiable elements. A small number of fragments bore taphonomy associated with butchery in the form of slicing. Overall it is likely that this assemblage represents domestic consumption.

Metal by Lizzi Lewins

A single iron nail (cat no. 1) was recovered from furrow 23 (78). It weighed 11g and was 67mm. The head of the nail was damaged but it is likely to have been a round-headed nail. A single copper pin (cat no. 2) weighing less than 1g was recovered from the subsoil in trench 14. It was 19mm long with a small round head.

A single copper alloy coin (cat no. 3), weighing less than 1g was recovered from linear 28 (83). The coin was badly degraded with no legible legend although the scant silhouette of a head could be made out but not identified. The coin was 1mm thick and measured 15mm in diameter. It is likely to be of Roman date but is otherwise unidentifiable.

Burnt Stone by Lizzi Lewins

A single fragment of burnt stone weighing 1g was recovered from ditch 10 (62).

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint, a spall (piece less than 20x20mm) was recovered from ditch 10 (62).

Macrobotanical Remains by Jo Pine

A total of five bulk soil samples were wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40. No plant macrofossils or charcoal were recovered from the samples which are considered to be sterile.

Fired Clay by Danielle Milbank

A total of 3 fired clay fragments weighing 28g were recovered during the evaluation.

The material was hand collected and examined under x10 magnification. The fabric was slightly soft and friable fine clay with moderate sandy inclusions and occasional small voids, and a pale orange red colour with dark grey areas. The small fragments are abraded and it is not possible to identify them with certainty as daub or other category of clay objects.

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully confirmed the majority of the findings of the geophysical survey but a number of anomalies across the site were not revealed as being of archaeological origin and several archaeological features were revealed with no corresponding geophysical anomalies.

The site contains a number of occupational deposits in the form of penannular ditches and gullies, most likely roundhouses, in the central area with some peripheral features, probably land division relating to agriculture. These deposits mostly date from the Iron Age to Early Roman period but with a number of fragments of later Roman pottery also discovered in peripheral features indicating a later phase of Roman activity.

The range of cut features and the range of artefacts recovered were all fairly standard suggesting they come from a farmstead of typical low to modest status. The state of preservation of the site, with no waterlogged deposits preserving exceptional organic deposits, no stratified deposits other than those within cut features, no obvious specialised or semi-industrial activity areas suggests that this is an ordinary farmstead, of a type which is widespread in this area during the Iron Age to Early Roman period.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	27.9	1.8	0.59	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.59m subsoil; 0.59m+ of light reddish yellow silty clay
2	26.4	1.8	0.5	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Pit 3, Ditches 4, 5, 6 and Unexcavated Ditch 27. [Pls 1, 9]
3	27	1.8	0.46	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay.
4	29	1.8	0.4	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light reddish yellow silty clay. Ditch 1, Gully Terminuses 12, 108, Furrow 23, Post hole 26, features 24, 25, Unexcavated Linears 28, 29, 30 and unexcavated gully 109. [Pls 2, 10]
5	28.2	1.8	0.5	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ of light reddish yellow silty clay. Ditches 10 and 11, Pit 13, Post hole 14, Unexcavated Ditches 18, 19, 20, 37 and Unexcavated Pits 21, 22 and 38. [Pls 3, 11]
6	27	1.8	0.4	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light reddish yellow silty clay. Ditches 31 and 32, Pit 33 and Unexcavated Ditches 34, and 36 and Unexcavated Pit 35. [Pls, 4, 12]
7	27.5	1.8	0.42	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Ditches 15 and 16 and Gully 17
8	27	1.8	0.45	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay at northern end, dark bluish grey (palaeochannel) from 2m. Unexcavated Ditch 106
9	26	1.8	0.45	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Ditch 101
10	27.4	1.8	0.57	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.57m subsoil; 0.57m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
11	13	1.8	0.5	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
12	26.5	1.8	0.45	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
13	26.2	1.8	0.4	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
14	28.1	1.8	0.4	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Unexcavated Ditch 107
15	26.2	1.8	0.35	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay at southern end, dark bluish grey from 8m (palaeochannel) Ditch 2. [Pl. 5]
16	26.7	1.8	0.5	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
17	26.8	1.8	0.45	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Ditch 102, Gully 103, unexcavated Ditch 104, unexcavated Pit 105. [Pl. 6]
18	27.8	1.8	0.4	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Ditch 44, Pit 45, unexcavated Ditch 49
19	27.5	1.8	0.4	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay at north-eastern end, dark bluish grey palaeochannel from 7.5m onwards.
20	28.1	1.8	0.38	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
21	28.1	1.8	0.32	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Pits 43, 46, 47 and 48, Ditches 40, 41 and 42 and unexcavated Pit/terminus 110. [Pls 7, 14]
22	26.9	1.8	0.4	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
23	26.5	1.8	0.26	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Unexcavated Ditch 100. [Pls 8, 13]
24	27.6	1.8	0.45	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
25	26	1.8	0.35	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay. Ditches 7 and 8
26	30	1.8	0.36	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay
27	26.5	1.8	0.4	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ of light greyish yellow silty clay

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

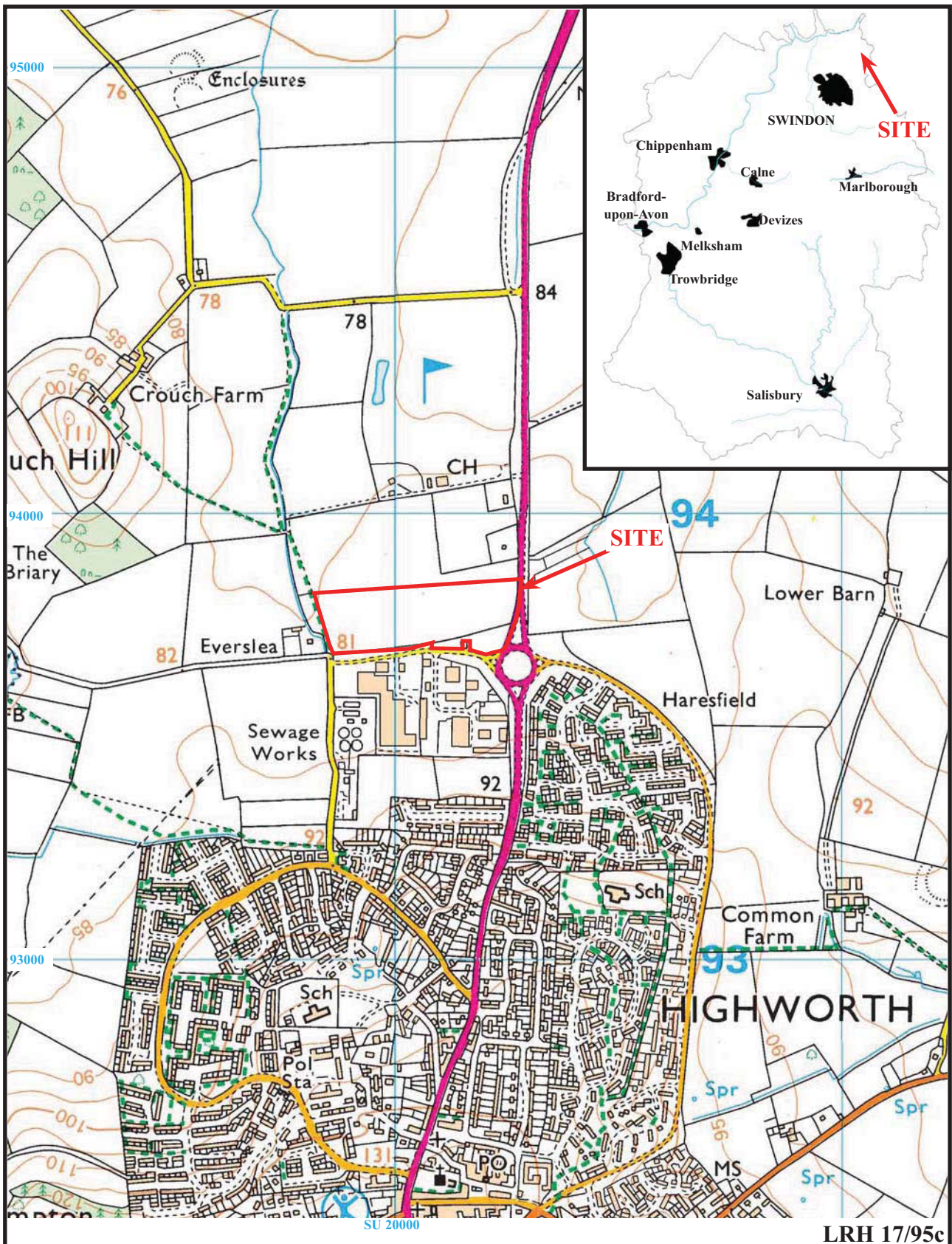
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
4	1	52	Gully	Iron Age	Pottery
15	2	53	Ditch		
2	3	54	Pit	Early Roman	Pottery
2	4	55	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
2	5	56, 57	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
2	6	58	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
25	7	59	Ditch		
25	8	60	Ditch		
22	9	61	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery
5	10	62	Ditch	1st - early 2nd Century	Pottery
5	11	63-5	Ring ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
4	12	66-7	Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
5	13	68	Pit		
5	14	69	Posthole		
7	15	75	Ditch		
7	16	76	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
7	17	77	Gully		
5	18	70	Ditch		
5	19	71	Ditch		
5	20	72	Ditch		
5	21	73	Pit		
5	22	74	Pit		
4	23	78	Furrow	Post Medieval	Pottery, Glass
4	24	79	Posthole		
4	25	80	Posthole		
4	26	81	Posthole		
2	27	82	Ditch (unex)	Early Roman	Pottery
4	28	83	Ditch (unex)		
4	29	84	Ditch (unex)		
4	30	85	Ditch (unex)		
6	31	86	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
6	32	87-8	Ring gully	Early Roman	Pottery
6	33	89	Pit	Iron Age	Pottery
6	34	90	Ditch (unex)		
6	35	91	Pit (unex)		
6	36	92	Ditch (unex)		
5	37	93	Ditch (unex)		
5	38	94	Pit (unex)		
15	39	95	Palaeochannel		
21	40	99, 150-1	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
21	41	152	Ditch		
21	42	153	Ditch		
21	43	154	Pit		
18	44	96-7	Ditch		
18	45	98	Pit		
21	46	155	Pit	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
21	47	156	Pit	Early Roman	Pottery
21	48	157	Pit		
18	49	158	Ditch (unex)		
23	100	159	Ditch (unex)		
9	101	160	Ditch	Early 2nd Century	Pottery
17	102	161-2	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
17	103	163	Gully	Early Roman	Pottery
17	104	164	Ditch (unex)	Early Roman	Pottery
17	105	165	Pit (unex)		
8	106	166	Ditch (unex)		
14	107	167	Ditch (unex)		
4	108	168	Gully Terminus		

APPENDIX 3: Pottery Catalogue

<i>Tr</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>SHLI</i>	<i>SAVGT</i>	<i>GR</i>	<i>WILBB</i>	<i>WILRE</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>Pmed</i>	<i>Tot No</i>	<i>Tot Wt</i>
4	1	52	gully	15	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	20	127
2	3	54	pit	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	47
2	4	55	ditch	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	33
2	5	57	ditch	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	43
2	5	56	ditch	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	198
2	6	58	ditch	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	107
22	9	61	ditch	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	10
5	10	62	ditch	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	84
5	11	63	ring ditch	33	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	35	973
4	12	66	ditch	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	33	130
4	12	67	ditch	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	22
7	16	76	ditch	3	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	68
4	23	78	furrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	20
2	27	82	ditch	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	23
6	31	86	ditch	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	34
6	32	88	ring gully	6	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	11	246
6	33	89	pit	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	19
21	40	150	ditch	3	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	9	89
21	40	151	ditch	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
18	44	97	ditch	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	16
21	46	155	pit	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	14
21	47	156	pit	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	11
9	101	160	ditch	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	17
17	102	161	ditch	-	-	5	3	1	3	-	-	12	83
17	103	163	gully	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	9	80
17	104	164	ditch	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	23
	subsoil	0		-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	72
TOTAL				71	23	49	9	3	36	1	1	194	2594

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of animal bone

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Sheep/ Goat</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Unid</i>	<i>Notes</i>
4	1	52	Gully	16	330	2				2	3	9	Sliced
2	3	54	Pit	1	3						1		Sliced
2	4	55	Ditch	5	31							5	
2	5	56	Ditch	5	18				2			3	
5	11	63	Ring ditch	10	432		3		1	2	2	2	Sliced
4	12	66	Ditch	3	184		1					2	
7	16	76	Ditch	7	63	1		1		1		4	
6	32	87	Ring gully	1	1							1	Burnt
21	40	150	Ditch	4	138					2		2	
21	40	151	Ditch	4	5							4	Burnt
9	101	160	Ditch	1	78	1							
17	102	161	Ditch	1	33					1			
17	102	162	Ditch	1	3						1		Sliced
17	103	163	Gully	1	3							1	



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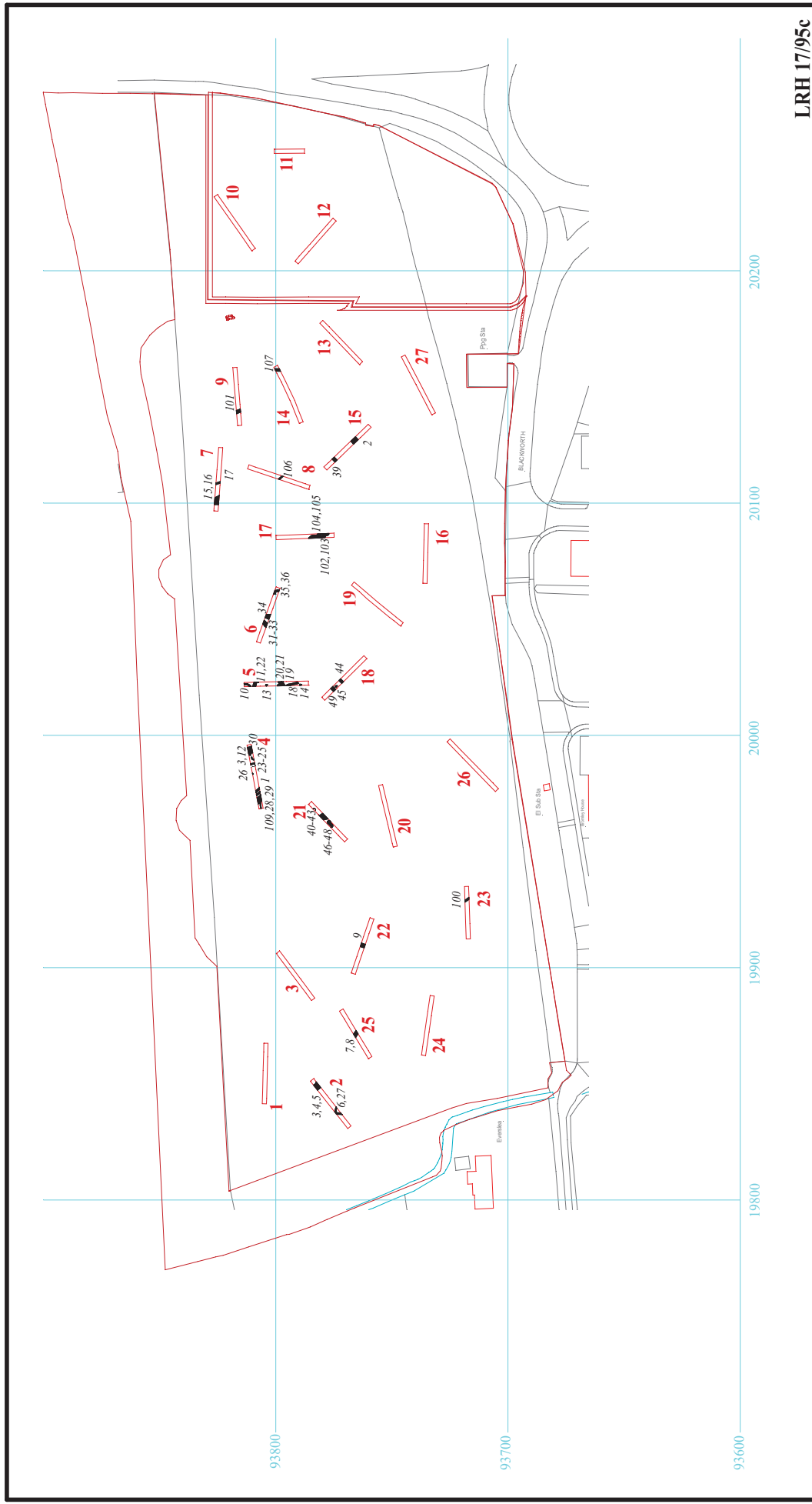
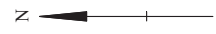
Figure 1. Location of site within Highworth and Wiltshire.

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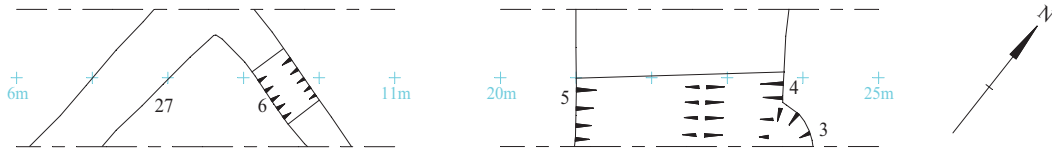
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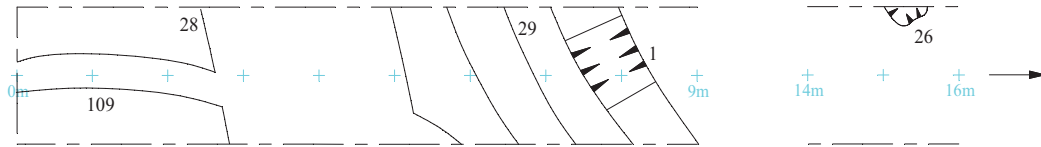
Figure 2. Location of trenches.



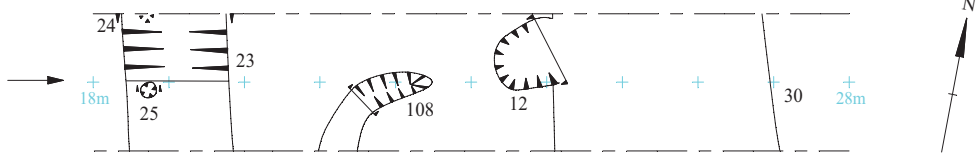
Trench 2



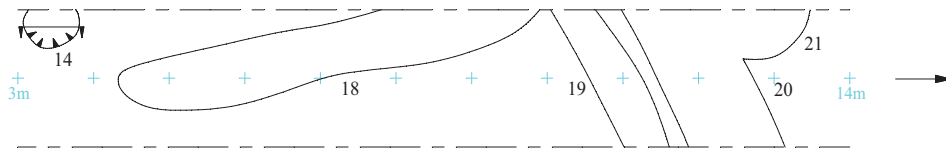
Trench 4



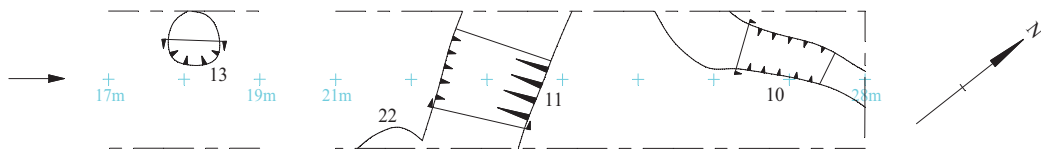
Trench 4 continued



Trench 5



Trench 5 continued



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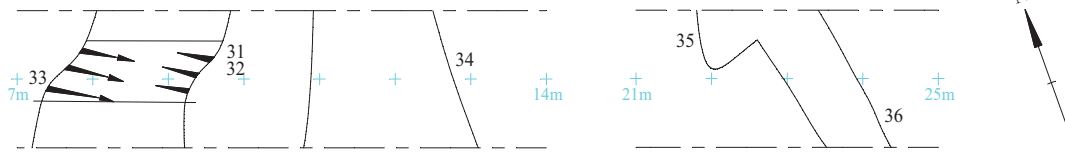
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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.

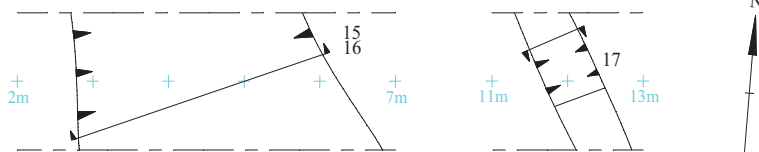


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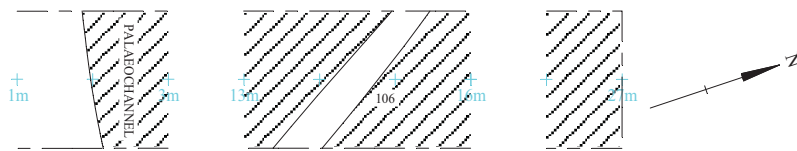
Trench 6



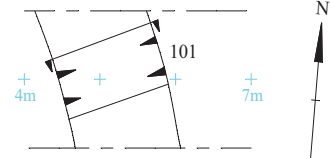
Trench 7



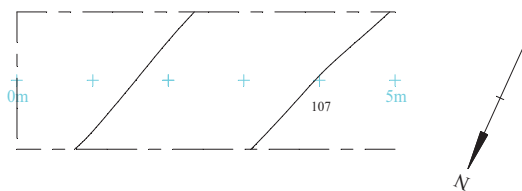
Trench 8



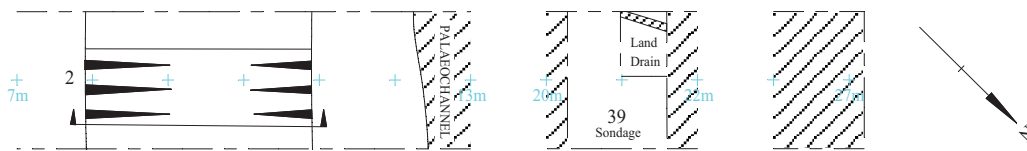
Trench 9



Trench 14



Trench 15



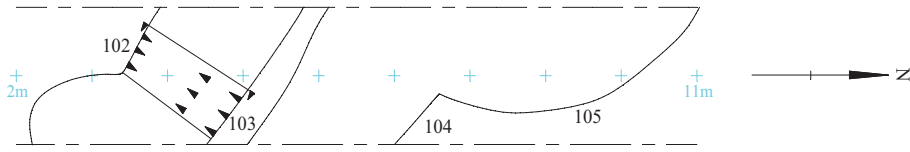
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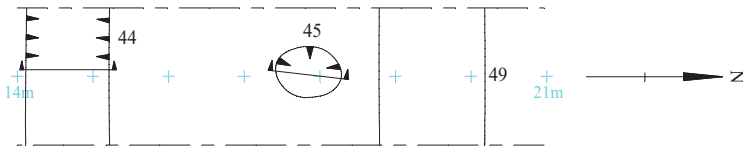
Figure 4. Detail of trenches



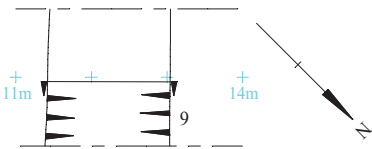
Trench 17



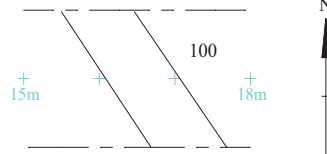
Trench 18



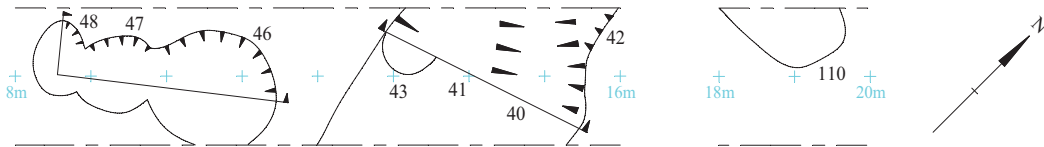
Trench 22



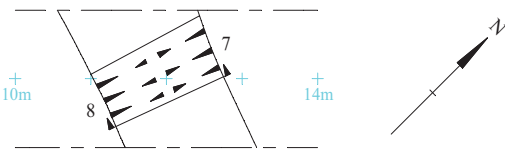
Trench 23



Trench 21



Trench 25

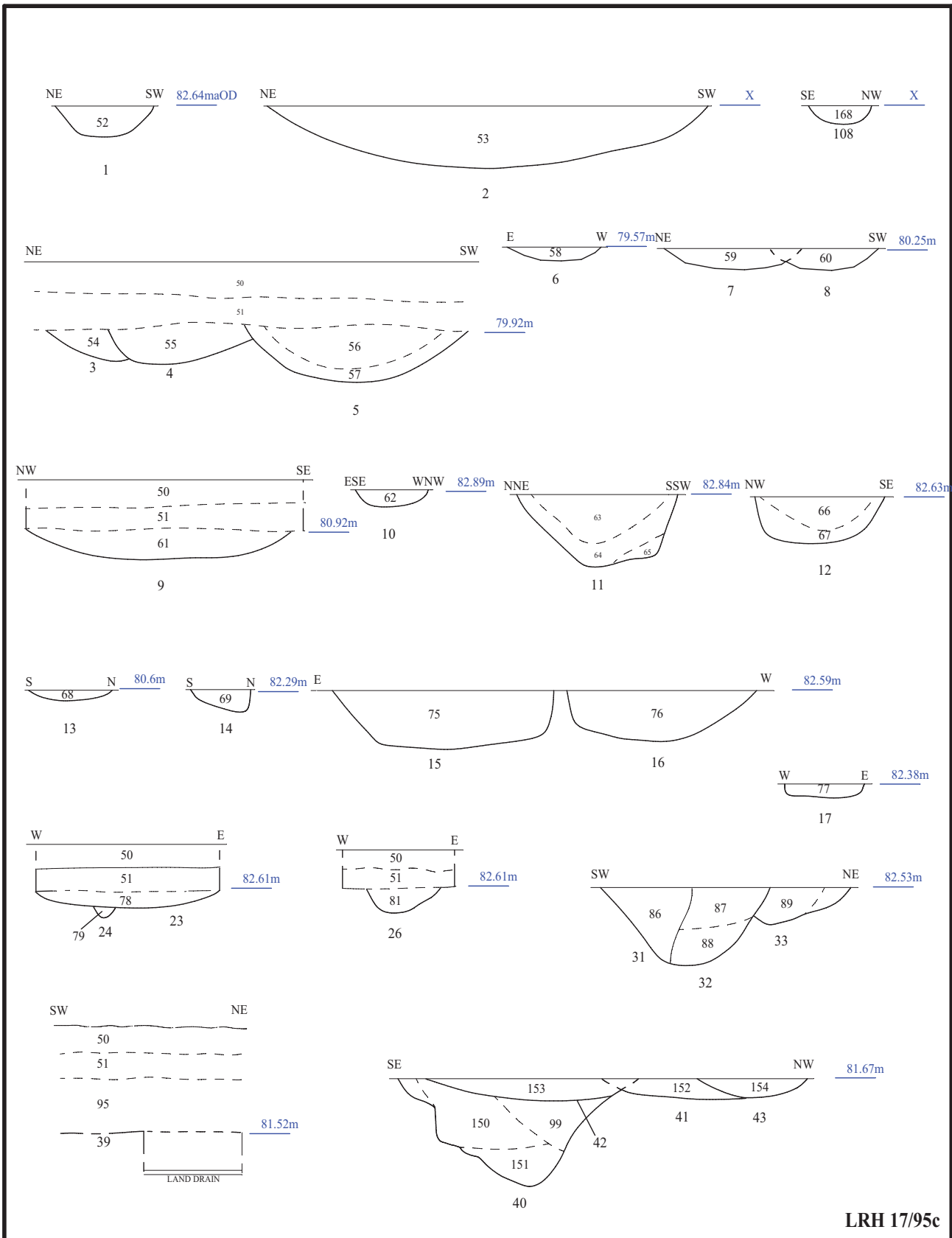


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Figure 5. Detail of trenches.





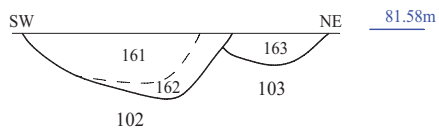
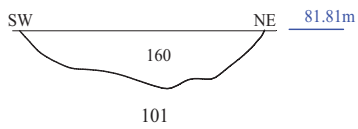
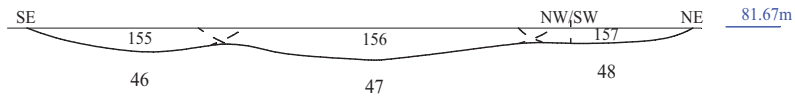
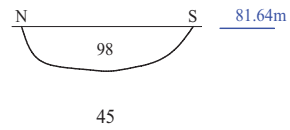
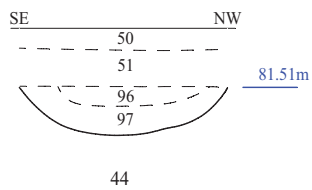
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Figure 6. Sections.



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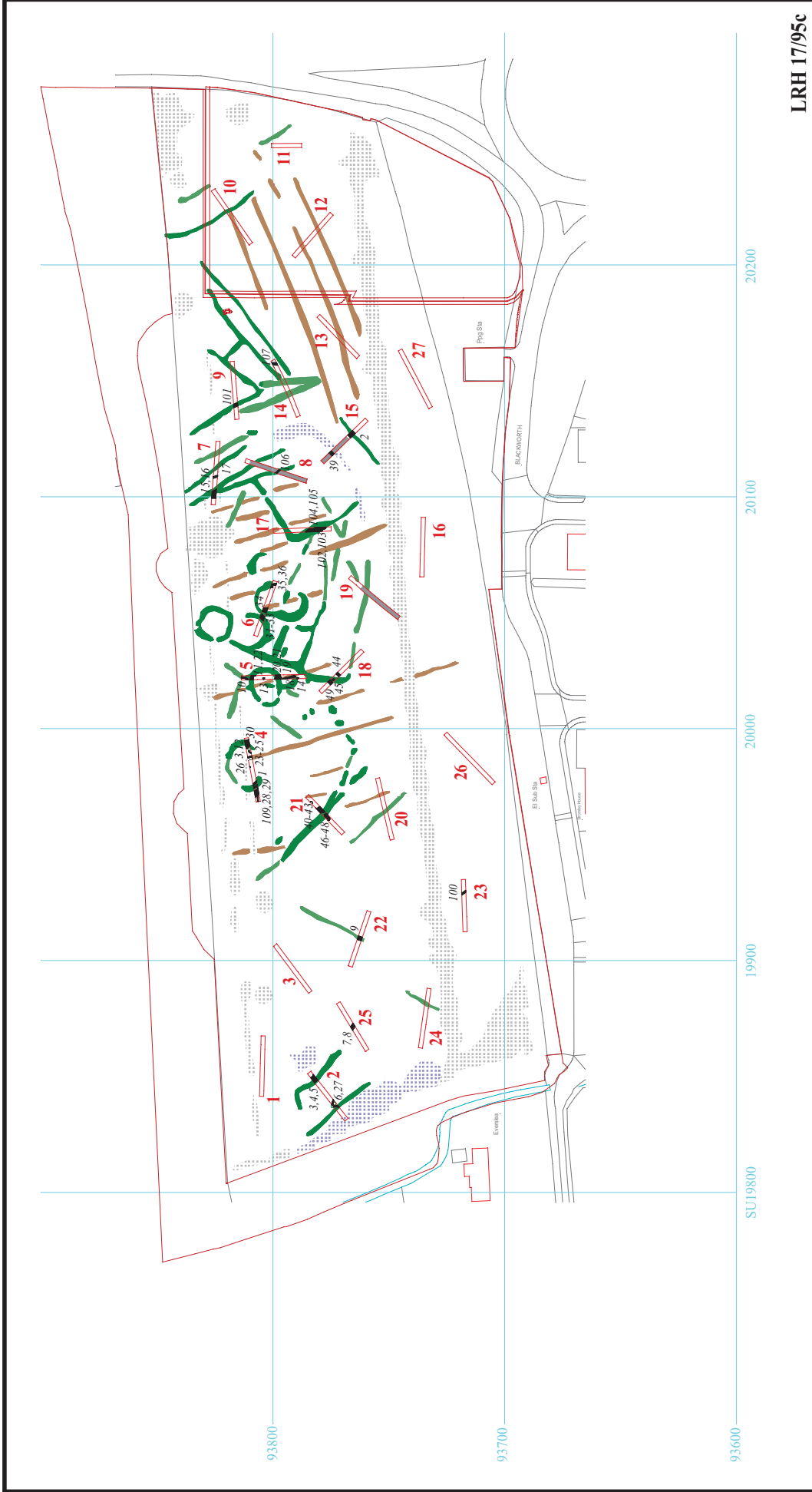
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Figure 7. Section.



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Figure 8. Location of features compared to geophysical anomalies (Beaverstock 2018).



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

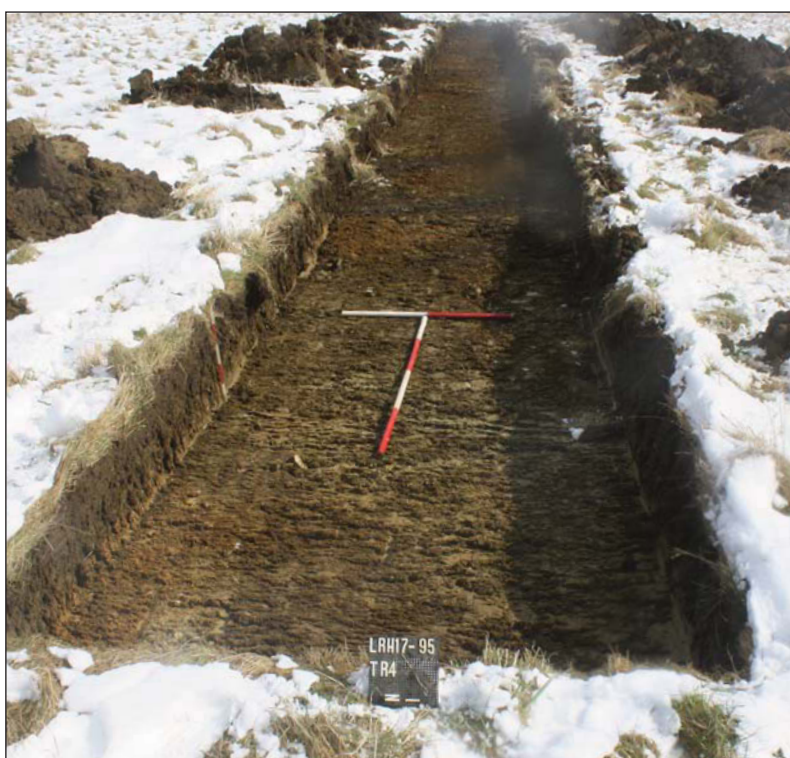


Plate 2. Trench 4 looking east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking north,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m



Plate 4. Trench 6, looking north west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m

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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 15, looking north west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 17, looking north,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m

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Plates 5 and 6.**

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Plate 7. Trench 21, looking north east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 8. Trench 23, looking east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m

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Plates 7 and 8.**

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Plate 9. Trench 2, ditch 3, 4 and 5, looking south east,
Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 10. Trench 4, terminus 12 and cut by ditch 30,
looking east north east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Plates 9 and 10.**

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Plate 11. Trench 5, ring ditch 11, looking east south east,
Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 12. Trench 6, ditch 31, 32 and 33, looking north east,
Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Plates 11 and 12.**

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Plate 13. Trench 23, ditch 9, looking north east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.3m.



Plate 14. Trench 21, ditch 40, 41 and 42 and pit 43,
looking south, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m and 0.3m.

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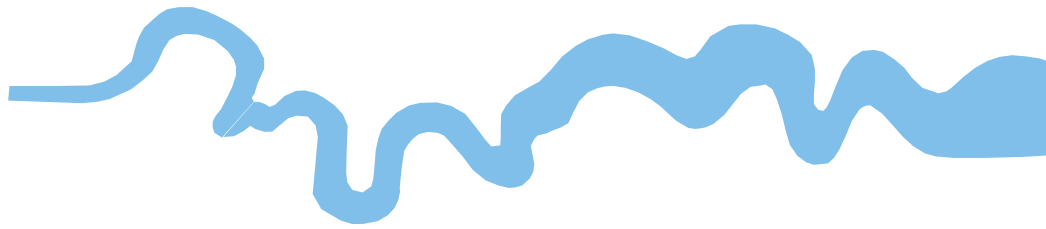
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Plates 13 and 14.**

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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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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