LAND TO THE EAST OF STATION ROAD
LONG BUCKBY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was commissioned by Mr Charles Jackson on behalf of The Grandfield Partnership. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council.

The fieldwork was managed by Ben Barker (Project Officer) and undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton (Project Supervisor), assisted by Adrian Woolmer (Assistant Supervisor), Gary Manning and Juha-Matti Vourinen (Archaeological Technicians). The samples were processed by Adam Williams and Slawomir Utrata. This report has been prepared by Kathy Pilkinton, Adrian Woolmer, Ben Barker, Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and Gary Edmondson (Project Manager). The figures were produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology would like to thank Mr Jackson for the commission and the assistance of both Mr Jackson and Jess Durant during implementation of the project.

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Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims of the project. Section 2 describes the trial trenching methodology and Section 3 summarises the results. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains trench summary information and detailed contextual data, with a finds summary in Appendix 2.

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

AAA	Assistant Archaeological Advisor for NCC
HER	Historic Environment Record
I*f*A	Institute for Archaeologists
NCC	Northamptonshire County Council
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Non-Technical Summary

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Jackson on behalf of The Grandfield Partnership, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in relation to planning application (DA/2012/0138) for development of land to the east of Station Road, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire. The proposed development area (PDA) is centred on grid ref 462530 266750 and has an approximate area of 7.5ha. At the time of the fieldwork it was under arable cultivation.

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council has identified that the PDA is potentially archaeologically sensitive and would benefit from evaluation. A brief was issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, setting out the programme of work required to deal with the archaeological potential of the site (NCC 2012a). The AAA also issued a brief for the archaeological field evaluation (NCC 2012b), which comprised geophysical survey and trial trenching.

Situated at the southern edge of the village, to the east of Station Road, the site extends down a SW-facing slope to the railway station. The northern margin of the site near the top of the slope lies at c. 133m OD, with the ground sloping to c. 115m OD near the railway line. At least two wide, elongated depressions were present towards the centre of the slope in the eastern part of the site.

The geophysical survey was undertaken in 2012 by Allen Archaeology Limited. It revealed a series of anomalies mainly located in the central and upper parts of the slope. Albion Archaeology formulated the Written Scheme of Investigation and trial trench strategy which comprised 10 trenches. The trenches targeted geophysical anomalies as well as areas apparently devoid of possible archaeological features. The central part of the southern margin of the area was not investigated as there was an indication that a series of ferrous responses may have been associated with possible World War 2 ordnance, although there is no firm evidence of this.

The trial trenching was undertaken between 25th May and 1st June 2012. The results revealed considerable contrasts across the site. The main concentration of archaeological features was located in Trenches 6 and 7, near the top of the slope in the central part of the PDA. As well as ditches, pits and a masonry structure, an extensive dumped deposit occupied the base of the western elongated depression. Residual flintwork as well as sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery hint at earlier activity in the vicinity. The main focus of activity was in the Roman period with several phases being identified. In this area there was good correlation with the geophysical anomalies, elsewhere the correlation was poorer, possibly due to the variations in the geological strata. A small numbers of features were revealed in the south-eastern part of the PDA — Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 with a further two features beyond this area in Trenches 8 and 10. These features were less securely dated with occasional abraded Roman pottery sherds being recovered.

Traces of medieval cultivation furrows survived intermittently across the PDA, with traces of the subsequent, enclosed post-medieval field pattern also being identified.

In summary, the evaluation revealed a concentration of Roman features, focussed on the upper slope in the central part of the site. These heritage assets have the potential to provide an insight into the form and nature of Roman, and possibly earlier, utilisation of the higher ground, providing an indication of the economy and material culture of the settlement. This has local significance as well as the potential to address regional research themes relating to the form and development of settlements and associated activity in this period.

Traces of the medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape are defined by a small number of cultivation furrows and boundaries respectively, which extend intermittently across the area. These have limited archaeological value and are of local significance only.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Jackson on behalf of The Grandfield Partnership, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in relation to a planning application (DA/2012/0138) for development of land to the east of Station Road, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire. The proposed development area (PDA) is centred on grid ref SP (4)62530 (2)66750 and covers approximately 7.5ha.

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) has identified that the PDA is potentially archaeologically sensitive and would benefit from evaluation. A brief was issued by the AAA, setting out the programme of work required to deal with the archaeological potential of the site (NCC 2012a). The AAA also issued a brief for archaeological field evaluation (NCC 2012b), which comprised geophysical survey and trial trenching.

1.2 Site Location and Description

Long Buckby is situated approximately 15km north-west of Northampton, in the administrative district of Daventry. The PDA is located at the southern edge of the village, extending down a SW-facing slope to the railway station (Figure 1). The northern margin of the site near the top of the slope lies at *c*. 133m OD, with the ground sloping to *c*. 115m OD near the railway line. At least two wide, elongated depressions were present towards the centre of the slope in the eastern part of the site (Figure 4).

Sheet 185 of the British Geological Survey (solid and drift) indicates a series of geological deposits exposed across the PDA, with glacial till occupying the higher ground towards the northern margin of the site. Towards the centre of the slope a band of glacial sand and gravel is exposed with Upper Lias deposits composed of mudstone with thin banding of limestone and shale towards the base (BGS 1980).

At time of trial trenching the land was under a well established cereal crop.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) to characterise the archaeological potential of the area was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Limited (2012a). This identified a limited number of medieval and earlier heritage assets within 1km of the centre of the site. The results are summarised here.

The assessment revealed limited evidence for prehistoric activity, with a scatter of flint flakes 300m south of the PDA.

During an evaluation of the ringwork castle site, some 500m to the north of the PDA, a small assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered.

Further afield, beyond the limits of the DBA some 2km to the SW of the PDA, a geophysical survey and evaluation undertaken in the 2000 at Ryehill Farm revealed geophysical anomalies characteristic of enclosures, which were thought to date from the late Iron Age and Roman periods. Roman finds have been recovered from Lodge Lane at Cotton End some 1.4km to the NE of the PDA. A cobbled surface as well as hearths, a pit and posthole have been revealed. Associated finds include Roman pottery as well as a fragment of kiln bar and fired clay, interpreted as part of kiln superstructure (RCHME 1981 131).

The settlement of Long Buckby appears to have emerged in the Anglo-Saxon period, and following the Norman Conquest of 1066 a castle — the Long Buckby Ringwork — was constructed.

The later medieval core of Long Buckby surrounds a market place which was laid out in the 13th century. At that time, the PDA would appear to have been part of an open field, with traces of the sinuous earthworks, characteristic of ridge and furrow cultivation surviving until recent times, i.e. until the advent of modern ploughing.

The majority of the identified heritage assets consist of post-medieval buildings, many of which are listed. These mainly date to the 18th and 19th centuries, being related to the growth of the woollen industry and then subsequently the shoe industry.

There is no record of any archaeological sites or artefacts from the PDA itself.

A geophysical survey was undertaken earlier this year (Allen Archaeology Limited 2012b), revealing a series of anomalies mainly located in the central and upper parts of the slope (Figure 2). The positive linear anomalies (solid black on figure) were identified in the northern part of the PDA, and may defined ditches, though wider anomalies may be pits. A series of fainter anomalies were detected which may be ditches (black pecked lines), whilst a series of cultivation furrows were defined (blue pecked lines). Services were detected towards the western and SE margins of the PDA (dark blue lines on Figure 2). An extensive area of possible disturbance was identified at the southern margin of the PDA, adjacent to the railway line (solid blue area). The survey also detected a number of strong ferrous or highly fired material responses (yellow circles) scattered across the area, though a series of four including [7]-[9] form a roughly linear alignment.

Albion Archaeology formulated the Written Scheme of Investigation and trial trench strategy which comprised 10 trenches. The trenches targeted geophysical anomalies as well as areas apparently devoid of possible archaeological features. The central part of the southern margin of the area was not investigated as there was an indication that the series of ferrous responses [7]-[9] may have been associated with possible World War 2 ordnance, although there is no firm evidence of this. The strategy and document were approved by the (AAA) prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

1.4 Historical Maps

A number of maps of the area were studied as part of the DBA, capturing the change from the strips of the medieval open field to the enclosure of the land. The Tithe Map of 1765 indicates that the PDA is in a land parcel known as 'Hoborow Field'; part of an open field that was enclosed and subdivided into a series of smaller land parcels. The map shows that the course of what is now Station Road has changed little.

1885 first edition Ordnance Survey map

The map shows elements of four land parcels within the PDA, with associated trees forming parts of the boundaries (Figure 3). The station, built in the 1830s, and Station Road are shown. An irregular series of depressions are shown a short distance north of the station. It is not clear if these are old quarries or a geological feature; though normally old workings are labelled on the first edition maps. These locations would appear to correlate with the series of ferrous responses identified in the geophysical survey and may have been associated with possible World War 2 ordnance, although there is no firm evidence of this.

1.5 Project Objectives

The general objectives of the investigation were to:

- determine the location, nature, date and extent of any archaeological remains;
- determine the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered, to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable archaeological implication of the proposed development to be assessed;
- determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present;
- assess the impact of previous land-use on the site;
- produce a site archive for future deposition with an appropriate museum, and to provide information for accession to the Northamptonshire HER;
- enter the information on OASIS.

The specific objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the origin and nature of the geophysical anomalies;
- if areas devoid of geophysical anomalies were genuinely blank.

This information will be used to assess the impact of the proposed development on any identified heritage assets, and assist in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy, if required.

The currently limited knowledge of the archaeological potential of the vicinity of the site hindered the formulation of more detailed site-specific research aims at this stage of the investigation.

2. TRIAL TRENCHING METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was undertaken between 25th May and 1st June 2012 in a period of generally dry conditions. The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket and operated by an experienced driver under the supervision of an archaeologist. The deposits were removed down to either the top of possible archaeological remains, undisturbed geological strata or to a maximum safe working depth of 1.2m, whichever was encountered first.

The deposits and any potential remains were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.*

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IfA's *Code of Conduct (2010);*
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2008);*
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (2001);
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991);
- English Heritage' Environmental Archaeology (second edition 2011).

The site was visited by the AAA on 30th May 2012. Once the investigation had been completed, the trenches were backfilled with the consent of the AAA.

The project archive will be deposited in Northamptonshire, once an approved repository is available.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The PDA was investigated by ten, 50m-long trenches (Figure 4). Trench 6 was excavated in an 'L'- shape in order to target specific geophysical anomalies.

The results of the investigation are summarised below. More detailed information on the deposits revealed in the trenches and finds can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Strata

The depth and nature of the overburden varied significantly across the site due to variations in the topography. The ploughsoil was 0.3–0.5m thick and consisted mostly of a friable mid brownish grey clayey silt. Subsoil, which generally varied from light to mid grey brown, was present in most trenches other than 2 and 7. This may be due to the locations, with Trench 7 situated near the top of the slope whilst Trench 2 was on relatively high ground adjacent to the eastern elongated depression. Thick colluvial deposits were revealed in the trenches located within the elongated depressions, notably Trenches 3 and 4 (brown deposits on Figure 4). The deposits consisted of mid yellowish brown clayey, which machine sondages indicated were up to *c.* 0.9m thick.

There was considerable variation in the undisturbed geological strata across the PDA, with each trench often containing several types of strata. The deposits ranged from gravels — mostly orange brown sandy gravel, though chalk gravel patches were also present — to light brown grey sandy silt and bluish grey silty clay.

3.3 Archaeological Remains

The trenches contained a total of 45 archaeological features (Table 1), principally ditches, but also pits, a masonry structure, furrows and areas of modern disturbance. The distribution of these features is summarised below in Table 1. Figure 4 provides an overview of the area, showing the locations of the features. The finds assemblage comprised mainly pottery, with small quantities of ceramic building material, metal objects, worked flint and animal bone (Appendix 2). The majority of the assemblage is datable to the Roman period; with the remainder comprising prehistoric flintwork and early-middle Iron Age pottery.

Trench	Ditch/ boundary	Pit	Wall/ masonry	Furrow	Other	Total
1	2			2		**4**
2				3		**3**
3				2		**2**
4	1			1	Buried topsoil	**3**
5	1					**1**
6	9	2	1		Dump of material in elongated depression	**13**
7	3			2		**5**
8	1					**1**

Trench	Ditch/ boundary	Pit	Wall/ masonry	Furrow	Other	Total
9				9		**9**
10	1			3		**4**
TOTAL	**18**	**2**	**1**	**22**	**2**	**45**

Table 1: Summary of archaeological features by Trench and Area
Green trenches - Core Area Grey trenches - SE Area

The majority of the significant archaeological features were located within Trenches 6 and 7 — the 'Core Area'. Four Trenches (1, 3, 4 and 5) contain a small number of features, defined as the 'SE Area'. Isolated features, possibly ditches, were identified in Trenches 8 and 10 beyond these areas.

In the following summary, Figure 4 provides a general overview of the distribution of features, with Figures 5 and 7 providing more detailed plans and associated sections of the Core Area and SE Area respectively. Figures 6 and 8 contain supporting images. All archaeological features are displayed as black on the figures, unless they are either modern (shown in red) or furrows (shown in blue). A small number of possible archaeological features, which on investigation were found not to be of human origin, are shown in green. The results for the Core Area are, where possible, discussed chronologically from earliest to latest. Due to the small number of features in the other areas, these are discussed by trench. Medieval and later activity, which is more extensive, is summarised for the whole PDA.

3.3.1 Core Area

The main concentration of archaeologically significant features were found within Trenches 6 and 7 (Figure 5 and Table 1), with ditches being the main feature type.

Prehistoric

Evidence for pre-Roman activity comprises residual material recovered from later features. A damaged secondary flint flake was recovered from the fill of ditch [609]. Two residual sherds of early Iron Age pottery were recovered from ditch [609] and pit [617]. Both features were dated to the Roman period by later finds.

The presence of pre-Roman finds within this area hints at early activity on the site, though no contemporary features or deposits were identified. The location of Trenches 6 and 7 at the top of the slope suggests that the finds are unlikely to have travelled far, through the process of the downslope movement of soil.

Roman

A variety of features were identified, which will be discussed by type:–

Trackway

Two roughly parallel NNE-SSW aligned ditches [702] and [704] were identified towards the NW end of Trench 7. The western ditch [702] was more substantial at 1.62m wide and 0.42m deep with a concave profile (Figure 5: section 1). The ditches were approximately 3.5m apart and roughly correlate with geophysical anomalies (grey lines on Figure 5). The fill of ditch [702] contained 82g of early Roman pottery and fragments of an iron knife or shears (RA1). A small and fragmentary assemblage of animal bone weighing 52g was also recovered, including

a cattle molar. An ecofact sample <1> from the western ditch contained occasional charred cereal grains with limited analytical potential.

It is thought that these ditches may define a Roman trackway. They correspond with geophysical anomaly [12] on Figure 2 (Allen Archaeology 2012b) which was traced for *c*. 70m (Figure 5).

Ditches

This area contained another 10 ditches (Table 1). The third ditch in Trench 7 [706] was less substantial (Figure 5: section 2), with a contrasting alignment, which suggests that it was not associated with the trackway. Although undated, the fill was similar to the dated ditches, suggesting that it was of a similar period.

Of the nine ditches in Trench 6, six contain Roman pottery. Of the three undated ditches, two are earlier forms of a re-cut Roman boundary, whilst the third is one of a series of dated ditches with a common alignment.

Ditches [627], [629] and [631] were a series of parallel NW-SE aligned linear features that were located in the southern 'arm' of the 'L'-shaped trench. They were spaced 3.6–7m apart, centre to centre (Figure 5) and were less than 1.15m wide and 0.4m deep with concave profiles (Figure 5: sections 3, 4 and Figure 6: image 1). Small quantities of early Roman pottery were recovered from the northern and southern ditches, [627] and [631]. Ditch [625], aligned NW-SE, was located *c.* 4m to the north of [627] and is likely to be contemporary — 7g of early Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of its fill. The purpose of these relatively closely spaced ditches, which extend across the slope, is uncertain. No similar features were identified in adjacent trenches and most were not detected by geophysical survey.

Whilst ditch [627] roughly correlates to geophysical anomaly [11] (Figure 5), it is possible that the southern ditch [631] matches the approximate location and alignment of a post-medieval field boundary shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). However, it is not clear that this post-medieval boundary was defined by a ditch (see section 3.3.3 below).

A further five ditches were identified in the eastern arm of Trench 6, with a sequence of three ditches [613/615/ 619] and shallower gully [621] redefining a NNW-SSE boundary (Figure 5: section 5). Over 300g of Roman pottery and 43g of animal bone were recovered from the relatively dark fills of the later two ditches in the sequence. The quantity of pottery suggests activity in the vicinity, although as Table 3 indicates, there are fabrics common to both ditches, suggesting a degree of reworking of the material.

Further east, ditch [609]/[611] was aligned NW-SE. It was 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and produced 386g of pottery. This included several large fragments from a Roman greyware neckless jar and the handle of a white ware flagon, probably a regional import from Oxfordshire (Figure 6: image 2). A small shale or coal gaming counter (Registered Artefact RA1) was also recovered. An ecofact sample <4> contained sparse charcoal and charred seeds with small fragments of bone and burnt

bone being present. The quantities have low analytical potential. These features were not identified by the geophysical survey.

Pits
Two possible pits were identified, though they could be ditch terminals. Pit [617] contained a small assemblage of early Roman pottery and was situated within the sequence of re-cut NNW-SSE ditches, whilst [623] was isolated further to the east (Figure 5).

Masonry structure
Aligned NNE-SSW, pitched stones (605) were generally linear in form, *c*. 0.5m wide, though increasing to 1.2m to the north (Figure 6: images 3 - 5). These stones are tentatively interpreted as a wall footing rather than a surface. Where this crossed ditch [609]/[611] the stones were more extensive, reaching 1.2m wide, possibly to provide a stable base. The lack of stone in the overlying deposits may suggest that, if the pitched stones were a wall footing, the upper courses had been robbed (Figure 5: section 6). Although undated, the form and arrangement of the stones may suggest a Roman date. No associated masonry structures or robber trenches either parallel or perpendicular were identified, suggesting that it was isolated.

Extensive dump
The large western elongated depression [607] was at least 18.5m wide and contained an extensive dump of dark material (Figure 4/5 and Figure 5: image 3). A small assemblage of Roman pottery as well as fragments of ceramic building material (Roman *tegula* roof tile) and animal bone were recovered from the deposit. Sample <2> contained a moderate quantity of small charcoal fragments as well as occasional charred cereal grains. Other material included fired clay, burnt and unburnt bone and fuel ash slag. The mixed nature of the deposit suggests an extensive dump of material derived from several activities including rakings from a fire/oven.

3.3.2 SE Area

Situated in the vicinity of the elongated eastern depression (Figure 4), this area contains evidence for less intense activity (Table 1). Four ditches were identified. Also present were colluvial deposits, buried topsoil and a small number of medieval cultivation furrows (Figure 7). These features will be discussed by trench.

Trench 1
A re-cut ditch [107] and [105/110] was identified towards the eastern end of the trench (Figure 7: sections 1 and 2). The eastern ditch had an asymmetrical profile which may suggest that more than one ditch was present. Within this feature was a linear band of slabby stones (114), *c*. 0.2m wide, with the regular form suggesting deliberate placement rather than tumble (Figure 7: section 2). The narrow width is unlikely to indicate a wall footing, whilst the stones are too large to be an effective drain or soakaway. A small sherd of late Iron Age pottery weighing 8g was recovered from the fill. This is too small to provide reliable dating for the feature.

Further west, another two linears [112] aligned roughly N-S were identified. Based on the alignment they would appear to be furrows, characteristic of medieval arable cultivation. The eastern example would appear to correlate with a boundary shown

on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map, suggesting that the line of this furrow was subsequently utilised for subdividing the open field.

Trenches 3 and 4

These trenches were targeted on a series of geophysical anomalies in the area of the eastern elongated depression (Figure 4). Initial machining revealed furrows truncating an extensive colluvial deposit which filled the depression (Figure 5: brown areas). Approximately 100g of Roman pottery was recovered from the colluvium in Trench 3. In Trench 4 at a depth of *c.* 1.2m below the ground surface was a dark band defining a buried topsoil (408) — (Figure 8: image 1). The machine sondage also revealed a deeper linear band of material which is tentatively identified as a ditch [407]. Sample <3> from the fill (403) contained a reasonable assemblage of charred cereal, with *c*. 30 grains being recovered. Surface features on the grains are fresh and defined (Figure 8: image 2), suggesting that they have not been subject to extensive soil movement or reworking of deposits. This possible ditch roughly correlates with one of the angular geophysical anomalies, [13] on Figure 2, suggesting that the boundaries in the eastern elongated depression are sealed by material which has collected in the depression. These may have been detected through the extensive overburden by geophysical survey because of the enhanced soil signature.

Trench 5

A large ditch, aligned E-W, was at least 4m wide and 0.75m deep, with a deeper basal slot (Figure 7: section 3). A series of deposits were defined, with several intermediate fills containing slabby stones up to 0.24m across, slumping down the western side. As these stones were not derived from material exposed in the edge of the ditch, they may indicate the presence of a stone structure in the vicinity. Small quantities of Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered. The ploughsoil contained a fragment of *tegula* roof tile, which may support the idea of a structure in the vicinity.

The geophysical survey detected an anomaly (Figure 7 - grey pecked line), though it is not clear if this is the ditch or the large modern ceramic land drain that cut the ditch.

3.3.3 Remainder of the PDA

Two trenches contained archaeological features –

Trench 8

A linear feature [805] aligned roughly N-S was identified towards the NE limit of the trench (Figure 5). The feature had well defined edges and a steep concave profile, 1m wide and 0.4m deep. This was originally thought to be a variation in the geological strata; however, no similar features were identified in the area, whilst the regular profile of the feature and the cross slope alignment may suggest it is man-made. This feature correlates to a curvilinear geophysical anomaly (Figure 5: grey pecked line). No finds were recovered from the mid brown grey silty gravel fill.

The overburden was markedly thicker at the southern end of trench. This appears to correlate to a geophysical anomaly extending across the slope and a boundary shown

on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map. This may indicate that a feature other than a ditch defined this boundary. This feature, perhaps a hedge, appears to have stopped the downslope movement of soil, resulting in a thickening of the overburden.

Trench 10
A relatively narrow ditch [805] was aligned NW-SE (Figure 4). It had a concave profile, 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep, and was filled with a mid brown grey clay silt.

3.3.4 Medieval and later cultivation

The trenches revealed a series of wide shallow features, interpreted as furrows (light blue features on Figures 4, 5 and 7). There are characteristic of medieval arable cultivation and define elements of one of the open fields of the village. These were generally aligned NNE-SSW in the western part of the PDA, changing to a NNW-SSE alignment further to the east, following the slope of the ground. The continuation of these features would appear to have been lost to later ploughing. In the western part of the PDA there is a good correlation with the results of the geophysical survey (blue pecked lines on Figure 2).

Residual Roman pottery was recovered from the fills of several cultivation furrows in Trench 3. No contemporary finds were recovered.

3.3.5 Post-medieval – modern activity

No contemporary finds were recovered, though several large diameter ceramic land drains were identified, particularly towards the lower part of the slope. There were few features which could be correlated with boundaries associated with the partition of the former open field. The thicker overburden at the southern end of Trench 8 may correlate to a boundary shown on First edition OS map (Figure 3). Whilst it is possible that the continuation of this boundary to the east correlates to ditch [631], near the SW limit of Trench 6, it is possible that the boundary was not defined by a ditch. There is an indication that the SE furrow in Trench 7 was subsequently used as a boundary to define part of the subdivision of the former open field.

3.4 Summary

The evaluation has indicated considerable variation in the nature and distribution of archaeological features across the PDA. The main concentration of features is in the Core Area towards the top of the slope in Trenches 6 and 7. This is the most significant area of heritage assets, containing Roman ditches on several alignments indicating several phases of activity, comprising enclosures with an adjacent trackway. Associated features include pits, a masonry structure and an extensive dump of material in an adjacent hollow. There was a good correlation with geophysical anomalies, though more features were identified in the trial trenching.

A variety of finds were recovered including pottery, animal bone and a small number of non-ceramic artefacts, suggestive of a settlement rather than a series of agricultural enclosures. A small amount of residual pre-Roman finds indicate potential earlier utilisation of the higher ground, though no contemporary features were identified during the evaluation. The small quantity of ecofacts indicates limited potential to reveal aspects of the diet/economy and environment of the settlement. This area has local significance as well as potential to address regional

research themes relating to the form and development of settlements and associated activity in this period.

A second area of lower density archaeological features was revealed further downslope to the south-east. This appears to extend across an extensive elongated depression. The correlation of features with geophysical anomalies was less strong in this area, with a suggestion that the features were buried below deposits accumulating in the depression. The low intensity of features and associated artefacts suggests a peripheral area, dating to the late Iron Age/Roman period. These heritage assets have limited potential to address research themes relating to form of settlement and aspects of economy.

Traces of the medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape are defined by a small number of cultivation furrows and boundaries respectively, which extend intermittently across the area. These have very limited archaeological value and are only of local significance.

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5. APPENDIX 1 -TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62743: Northing: 66469)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62695: Northing: 66585)*

Reason: To investigate possible geophysical anomaly close to the railway

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**Ploughsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small stones 0.3m thick.**	☑	☐
101	**Subsoil**	**Friable light grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones 0.2m thick.**	☑	☐
102	**Natural**	**Compact light brown grey silty clay**	☐	☐
103	**Natural**	**Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent medium stones**	☐	☐
105	**Ditch**	**Curving linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.2m, max length 1.m Same as [110]**	☑	☐
106	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
107	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.75m Cut by [110].**	☑	☐
108	Lower fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.13m thick. Deposit contains a small amount of pottery.	☑	☑
109	Upper fill	Compact light grey brown silty clay 0.3m thick.	☑	☐
114	Stone structure	Frequent large stones Narrow linear band of stones, with a number set vertically.	☑	☐
110	**Ditch**	**Curving linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.15m, max length 1.m Cuts [107]. Same as [105].**	☑	☐
111	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit contains an iron nail.	☑	☑
112	**Furrow**	**Linear NNE-SSW dimensions: max breadth 1.05m, max length 2.1m Two features which appear to be furrows rather than ditches based on their alignment and form.**	☐	☐
113	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62770: Northing: 66685)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62725: Northing: 66662)*

Reason: General coverage - eastern part of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Ploughsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones 0.38m thick.**	☑	☐
201	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange brown silty clay frequent small-large chalk Towards centre of trench natural was a firm, mid to dark bluish grey, silty clay**	☐	☐
202	**Furrow**	**Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.45m, max depth 0.14m, max length 3.m Three examples identified.**	☑	☐
203	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62711: Northing: 66685)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62665: Northing: 66702)*

Reason: To investigate a series of linear geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Ploughsoil	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones 0.32m thick.	☑	☐
301	Subsoil	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones 0.34m thick.	☑	☐
302	Natural	Compact mid grey brown clay gravel Deposit only encountered at SE end of trench.	☐	☐
303	Colluvium	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.12m thick. Deposit contains a sherd of pottery.	☑	☑
304	Colluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick. Deposit contains a sherd of pottery. Same as (306). Part of (307).	☑	☑
305	Colluvium	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones At least 0.46m thick - deposit only partially excavated in machine segment.	☑	☐
306	Colluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick. Deposit contains a fragment of fired clay. Same as (304). Part of (307).	☑	☑
307	Colluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick. Consists of (304) and (306).	☑	☐
308	Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.06m, max length 2.2m Traces of two examples identified.	☑	☐
309	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
310	Colluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.12m thick.	☑	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1.07 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62689: Northing: 66643)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62666: Northing: 66688)*

Reason: To investigate linear geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	**Ploughsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.37m thick.**	☑	☐
401	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.32m thick.**	☑	☐
402	**Colluvium**	**Firm mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones At least 0.46m thick. Deposit excavated in machine segment only.**	☑	☐
404	**Natural**	**Firm light grey yellow silty clay moderate small-medium chalk, occasional small-medium stones Deposit became a firm, mid to light bluish grey, silty clay with mid orangish brown silty patches towards SSE end of trench.**	☐	☐
405	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, max depth 0.07m, max length 2.1m Single example identified.**	☑	☐
406	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	☐	☐
407	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.3m, min length 2.m**	☑	☐
403	Fill	Firm dark blue grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones At least 0.3m thick. The dark deposit slopes merged into (408). Deposit only encountered in machine segment. Sample <3>.	☑	☐
408	**Buried topsoil**	**Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Deposit only encountered in machine segment.**	☑	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.35 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62617: Northing: 66719)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62616: Northing: 66668)*

Reason: To investigate linear geophysical anomaly

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	**Ploughsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey clay silt Up to 0.27m thick. Deposit contains CBM (tegula roof tile).**	☑	☑
501	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid grey brown clay silt Up to 0.11m thick.**	☑	☐
502	**Natural**	**Compact mid orange brown sandy gravel Deposit also included mid bluish grey, silty clay patches**	☐	☐
503	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: Assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 4.18m, max depth 0.75m, max length 1.m Asymmetric profile comprising near vertical lower southern edge, whilst northern edge of feature was stepped.**	☑	☐
504	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt Up to 0.21m thick.	☑	☐
505	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty gravel Up to 0.14m thick. Deposit contained small quantities of pottery and animal bone as well as lenses of redeposited natural.	☑	☑
506	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay Up to 0.12m thick. Deposit contained area of large stones, clustered close to the northern edge.	☑	☐
507	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt Up to 0.35m thick. Concentration of large stones adjacent to northern edge.	☑	☐
508	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt Up to 0.27m thick. Deposit contained clay lenses.	☑	☐
509	Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay Up to 0.10m thick.	☑	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62617: Northing: 66753)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62624: Northing: 66772)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62623: Northing: 66772)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62649: Northing: 66760)*

Reason: To investigate geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
601	**Ploughsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.6m thick.**	☑	☐
602	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.4m thick.**	☑	☐
603	**Natural**	**Compact mid red brown silty gravel**	☐	☐
604	**Foundation trench**	**Linear NNE-SSW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.3m, max length 2.m Cuts fill of ditch [609].**	☑	☐
605	Wall	Consisted of pitched limestone slabs up to 0.3m across, with lesser quantities of flint and ironstone fragments.	☑	☐
606	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
607	**Feature**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max depth 0.2m, max length 12.85m Extensive elongated depression - only NW extent of feature revealed within trench. Feature appeared to slope gradually to SE. This is thought to be a natural depression rather than a quarry. Not clear if it is the remains of an old watercourse (palaeochannel).**	☑	☐
608	Fill	Loose dark brown grey clay gravel Up to 0.2m thick. The deposit contained small quantities of pottery, CBM (tegula - roof tile) and animal bone. Sample <2>.	☑	☑
609	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max diameter 0.3m, max length 1.2m Same as [611]. Cut by [604]**	☑	☐
610	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay frequent small stones Up to 0.3m thick. The deposit contained a relatively large assemblage of pottery, a worked flint and a Registered Artefact (RA2) a possible gaming counter of shale/coal.	☑	☑
611	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.m Same as [609]**	☑	☐
612	Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay frequent small stones Up to 0.3m thick. Sample <4>.	☑	☑
613	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.5m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
614	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.5m thick. The deposit contained a moderate assemblage of material comprising pottery and animal bone (skull fragments).	☑	☑
615	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.57m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
616	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.57m thick. The deposit contained a small assemblage of pottery.	☑	☑
617	**Pit**	**Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.26m, min length 1.5m Possible ditch terminus as feature only partially visible in trench.**	☑	☐
618	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones Up to 0.26m thick. The deposit contained a small assemblage of pottery.	☑	☑
619	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.37m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
620	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones Up to 0.37m thick.	☑	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.9 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 62617: Northing: 66753)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62624: Northing: 66772)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62623: Northing: 66772)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62649: Northing: 66760)*

Reason: **To investigate geophysical anomalies**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
621	**Gulley**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.2m, min length 0.3m**	☑	☐
622	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones Up to 0.2m thick.	☑	☐
623	**Pit**	**Oval sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.36m, min length 0.65m Partially visible within trench.**	☑	☐
624	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones Up to 0.36m thick.	☑	☐
625	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max length 3.7m Partially visible in trench.**	☐	☐
626	Fill	Friable mid blue grey silty clay A sherd of pottery was recovered from the surface of the deposit.	☐	☑
627	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.m**	☑	☐
628	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit contained a small quantity of pottery.	☑	☑
629	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.2m, max length 1.m**	☑	☐
630	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick.	☑	☐
631	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.4m, max length 1.m**	☑	☐
632	Fill	Friable light brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.4m thick. Deposit contained a small quantity of pottery	☑	☑

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.43 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 62639: Northing: 66816)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62595: Northing: 66839)*

Reason: **To investigate linear geophysical anomalies**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	**Ploughsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones 0.42m thick.**	☑	☐
701	**Natural**	**Compact mid brown orange sandy gravel**	☐	☐
702	**Ditch**	**Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.62m, max depth 0.42m, max length 2.m**	☑	☐
703	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Small assemblages of pottery and animal bone and a Registered Artefact (RA1) were recovered. Sample <1>.	☑	☑
704	**Ditch**	**Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.91m, max depth 0.27m, max length 2.m**	☑	☐
705	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
706	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.35m, max depth 0.11m, max length 3.2m**	☑	☐
707	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
708	**Furrow**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, max depth 0.06m, max length 2.2m Traces of at least two furrows identified.**	☑	☐
709	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62558: Northing: 66836)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62514: Northing: 66813)*

Reason: To investigate linear geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.6m thick.	☑	☐
801	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.35m thick.	☑	☐
802	Natural	Compact light brown grey silty clay Context number also refers to a friable, mid brownish orange, silty clay with moderate medium stones	☐	☐
805	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.4m, max length 1.m Possible ditch with regular profile, though may be a variation in the geological strata.	☑	☐
806	Fill	Loose mid brown grey silty gravel	☑	☐

Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.69 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 62445: Northing: 66798)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62485: Northing: 66767)*

Reason: **To investigate area of ridge and furrow cultivation**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
901	**Ploughsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.35m thick.**	☑	☐
902	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.1m thick.**	☑	☐
903	**Natural**	**Compact light grey brown clay gravel**	☐	☐
904	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.1m, max length 2.m Traces of eight furrows.**	☐	☐
905	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Contains a sherd of pottery.	☐	☑
906	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.3m, max length 2.m Single furrow - excavated.**	☑	☐
907	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62560: Northing: 66711)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 62510: Northing: 66718)*

Reason: General coverage - central part of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	**Ploughsoil**	**Friable mid grey black clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.35m thick.**	☑	☐
1001	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones 0.05m thick.**	☑	☐
1002	**Natural**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay frequent medium-large stones**	☐	☐
1003	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max length 2.m Traces of at least 3 furrows identified.**	☐	☐
1004	Fill	Hard light brown grey silty clay	☐	☐
1005	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.25m, max length 1.m**	☑	☐
1006	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate medium-large stones	☑	☐

6. APPENDIX 2 - FINDS SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, the majority deriving from features in the Core Area, particularly Trench 6. Small quantities of ceramic roof tile, fired clay, animal bone and non-ceramic artefacts were also recovered. The material was examined to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range (Table 2). No finds were recovered from Trenches 2, 4, 8, or 10.

Area	Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
Core Area	**6**	607	Feature	608	Early Roman	Pottery (24g); ceramic roof tile (191g); animal bone (31g)
		609	Ditch	610	Roman	Pottery (386g); worked flint (5g); shale gaming counter (RA2) (5g)
		613	Ditch	614	Early Roman	Pottery (143g); animal bone (43g)
		615	Ditch	616	Early Roman	Pottery (175g)
		617	Pit	618	Early Roman	Pottery (55g)
		625	Ditch	626	Early Roman	Pottery (7g)
		627	Ditch	628	Early Roman	Pottery (4g)
		631	Ditch	632	Early Roman	Pottery (36g)
	7	702	Ditch	703	Early Roman	Pottery (82g); iron shears/knife blade and tang; (RA1); animal bone (52g)
SE Area	**1**	107	Ditch	108	Late Iron Age	Pottery (8g)
		110	Ditch	111	Undated	Iron timber nail x 1
	3	303	Colluvium	303	Early Roman	Pottery (9g)
		304	Colluvium	304	Early Roman	Pottery 94g)
		306	Colluvium	306	Undated	Fired clay (4g)
	5	500	Ploughsoil	500	Early Roman	Ceramic roof tile (177g)
		503	Ditch	505	Early Roman	Pottery (41g); animal bone (11g)
Rest	**9**	904	Furrow	905	Early Roman	Pottery (6g)

Table 2: Finds Summary by Area and Trench

6.2 Pottery

Sixty-three pottery sherds, weighing 980g, were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is generally fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 15g, and survives in variable condition; ranging from highly to moderately abraded. Thirteen fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology (Table 3). Bracketed codes refer to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber and Dore 1998).

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Iron Age			
F29	Coarse sand / sandstone	**2**	(610):1; (618):1
F05	Grog and shell	**1**	(108):1
Roman			
R05A	Oxidised sandy	**2**	(616):1, (905):1
R06A	Nene Valley grey ware	**5**	(614):4, (616):1
R06B	Coarse grey ware	**8**	(608):2, (614):6
R06C	Fine grey ware	**33**	(303):1, (608):2, (610):19, (614):4, (616):1, (618):2, (626):1, (632):1, (703):2
R06D	Micaceous grey ware	**2**	(614):1; (616):1

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
R06H	White-slipped grey ware	**2**	(614):1, (616):1
R09A (PNK GT)	Pink grogged ware	**3**	(614):1, (628):2
R09B (PNK GT)	Pink grogged ware with shell	**2**	(505):2
R10A	Gritty buff ware	**1**	(616):1
R11A (OXF WH)	Oxfordshire white ware	**1**	(610):1
R13	Shell	**1**	(304):1

Table 3: Pottery type series

Two hand-made, sand-tempered, early Iron Age body sherds (40g), one with diagonal incised decoration on the shoulder, occurred as residual finds in ditch [609] and pit [617]. An undiagnostic grog- and shell-tempered sherd (8g) datable to the late Iron Age was the sole find from ditch [107] in the SE Area of the PDA. The remainder of the pottery is datable to the Roman period, and comprises mainly 2nd- to early 3rd-century wares, representative of low status rural activity. Due to its small size of the pottery assemblage is discussed as a whole.

The assemblage is primarily local in character, and is dominated by coarse ware vessels in reduced sandy fabrics of uncertain source. Tentative evidence for pottery production in the vicinity of Long Buckby has been recorded, comprising a kiln bar fragment and fired clay from Cotton End (Mason 2006, 37; RCHME 1981, 131). These wares are supplemented by unsourced buff/oxidised wares (4 sherds), pink grog-tempered ware (5 sherds); and single sherds of shelly ware and Oxfordshire white ware. Continental imports/specialised wares in the form of samian or amphorae are absent from the assemblage.

Thirty-eight individual vessels are represented, the majority deriving from ditch [609] in the Core Area. Diagnostic forms are scarce, and comprise single examples of everted and bead rim jars, a cordoned jar, poppy head beaker, flagon, a possible storage vessel, and a neckless jar. The latter is represented by eleven sherds (256g) and has a rim diameter of 140mm. The exterior base is spalled, although this may have occurred during use, rather than during manufacture, as the vessel has sooted exterior surfaces. Single examples of combed, black- and white-slipped, and barbotine decoration occur.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

The deposits within the elongated depression [607] yielded two abraded pieces of Roman *tegula* (flanged roof tile), weighing 191g, one in a sand-, and one in a shell-tempered fabric type. An unstratified shelly *tegula* fragment (177g) was recovered from Trench 5 ploughsoil in the SE Area of the PDA. These tiles range in thickness from 18–20mm. The surface of one fragment has a finger-impressed semi-circle, characteristic of the type. An amorphous, sand-tempered fired clay fragment (4g) was recovered from colluvial deposit (306).

6.4 Non-Ceramic Artefacts

Within the Core Area, ditch [702] yielded five iron fragments, representing a partial rounded rectangular tang and blade from either a large knife or shears. A small bun-shaped shale or coal gaming(?) counter (diameter 25mm), with a flattish base and slightly rounded top was recovered from ditch [609]. Although neither object is closely datable, both are likely, given their context, to be of Roman date.

Ditch [609] also contained a damaged, residual secondary flint flake. Patination on part of one lateral edge suggests the reuse of previously struck flint.

Undated ditch [110] in the SE Area of the PDA contained an incomplete iron timber nail, with a narrow, flat rectangular head and a partial rectangular sectioned shank.

6.5 Animal Bone

Ditches [613], [702] and the fill of the elongated depression [607] from the Core Area and [503] from the SE Area yielded 25 animal bone fragments, weighing 137g. Individual pieces are small, with an average weight of 5g, and generally abraded. The fragmentary condition of the material means, that with the exception of a single cattle molar (Trench 7), most are undiagnostic of species. Identifiable bone elements are large / medium mammal limb bones, scapula, and skull fragments, and a single piece of rib. The latter has multiple cut marks across one surface.

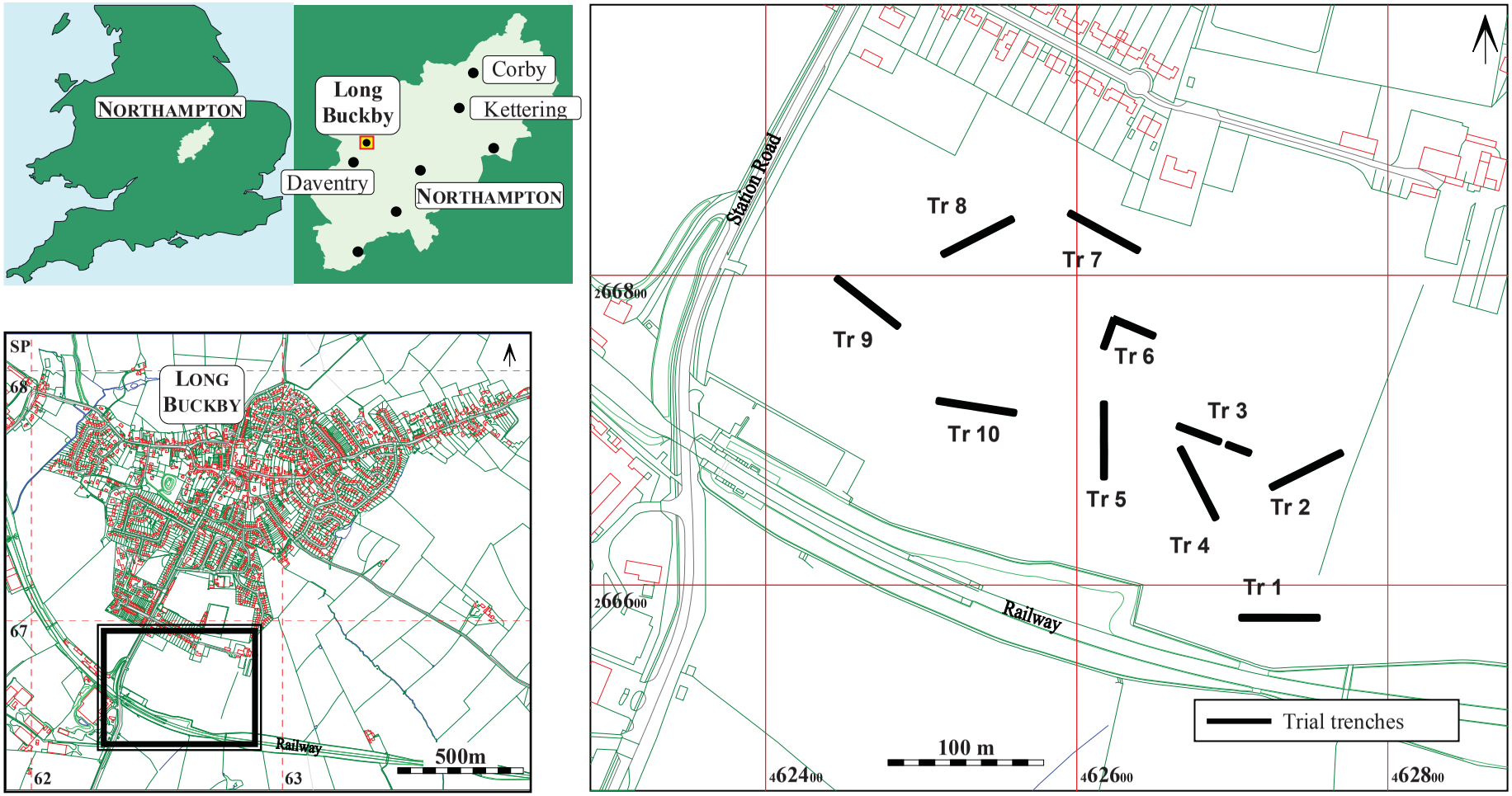
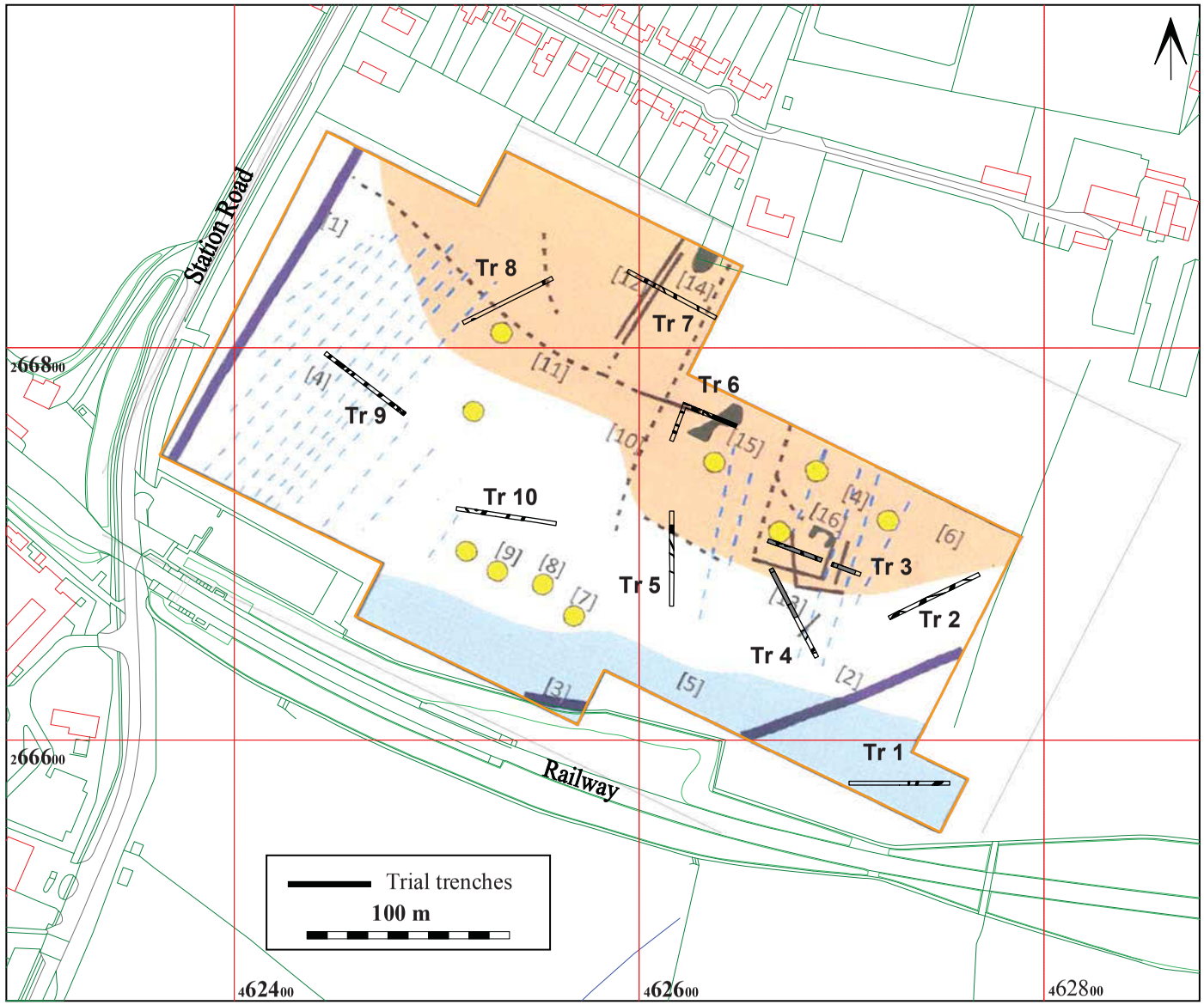


Figure 1: Site location map and trench plan



Positive magnetic anomaly

Dipolar linear anomaly

Concentrated area of dipolar responses.
Possibly relating to railway construction

Examples of individual dipolar responses.
Indicative of ferrous or highly fired material. Smaller responses omitted for clarity

Linear anomaly
(related to ridge and furrow)

Amorphous area of varying magnetic response

Figure 2: Geophysics survey – interpretation plot with trial trenches

Geophysics image from Allen Archaeology fig. 3

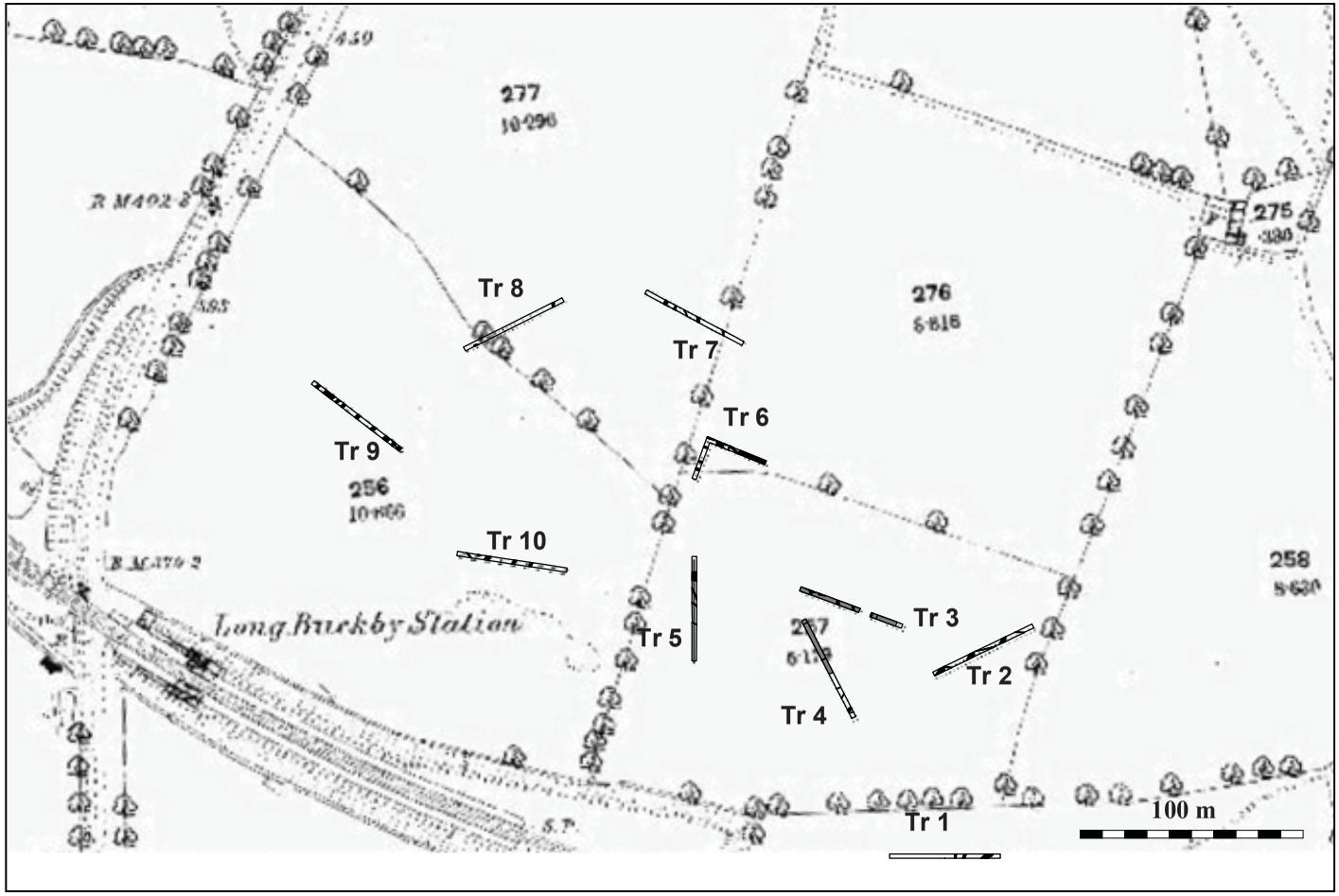


Figure 3: 1885 First edition Ordnance Survey map with trial trenches

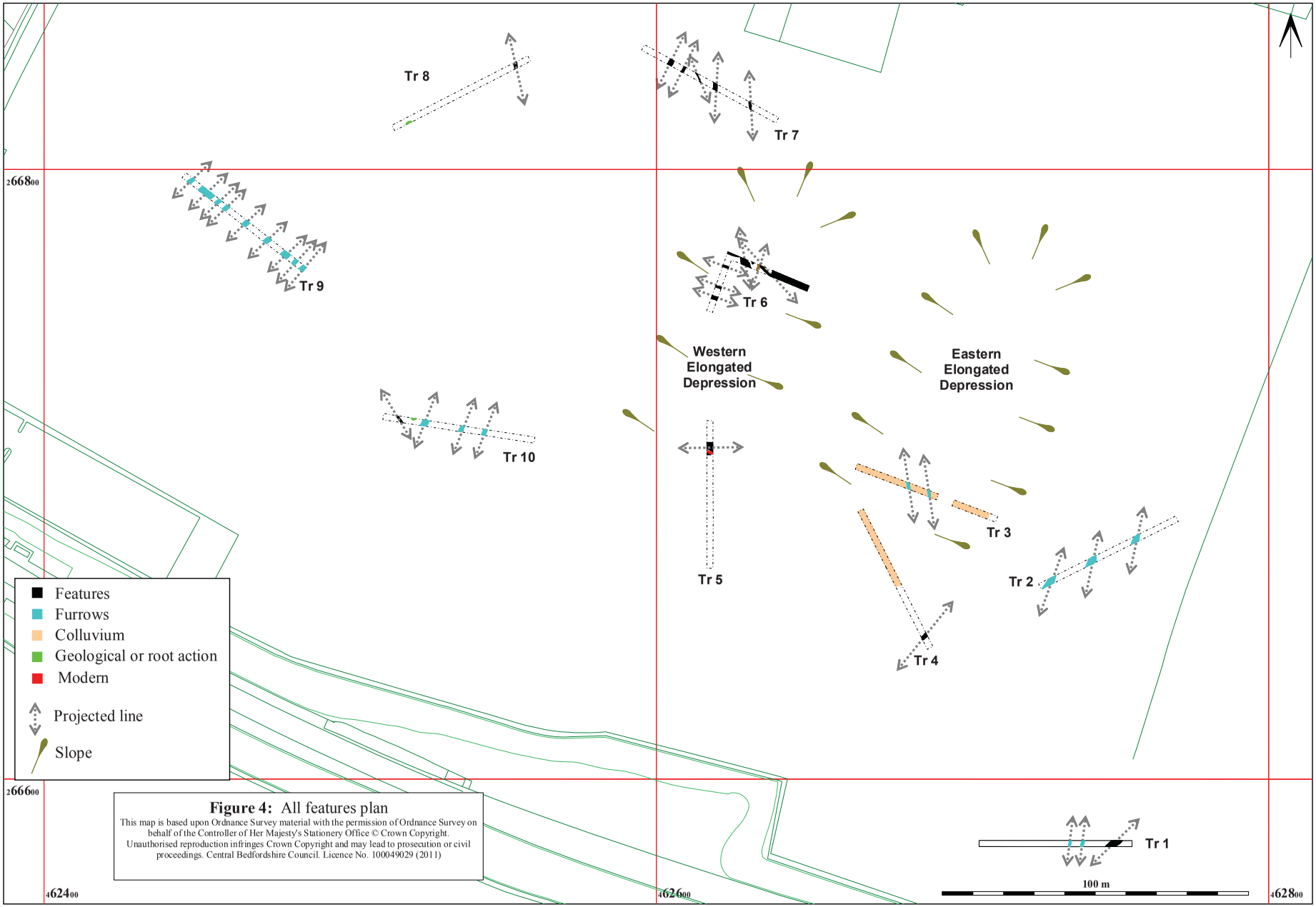
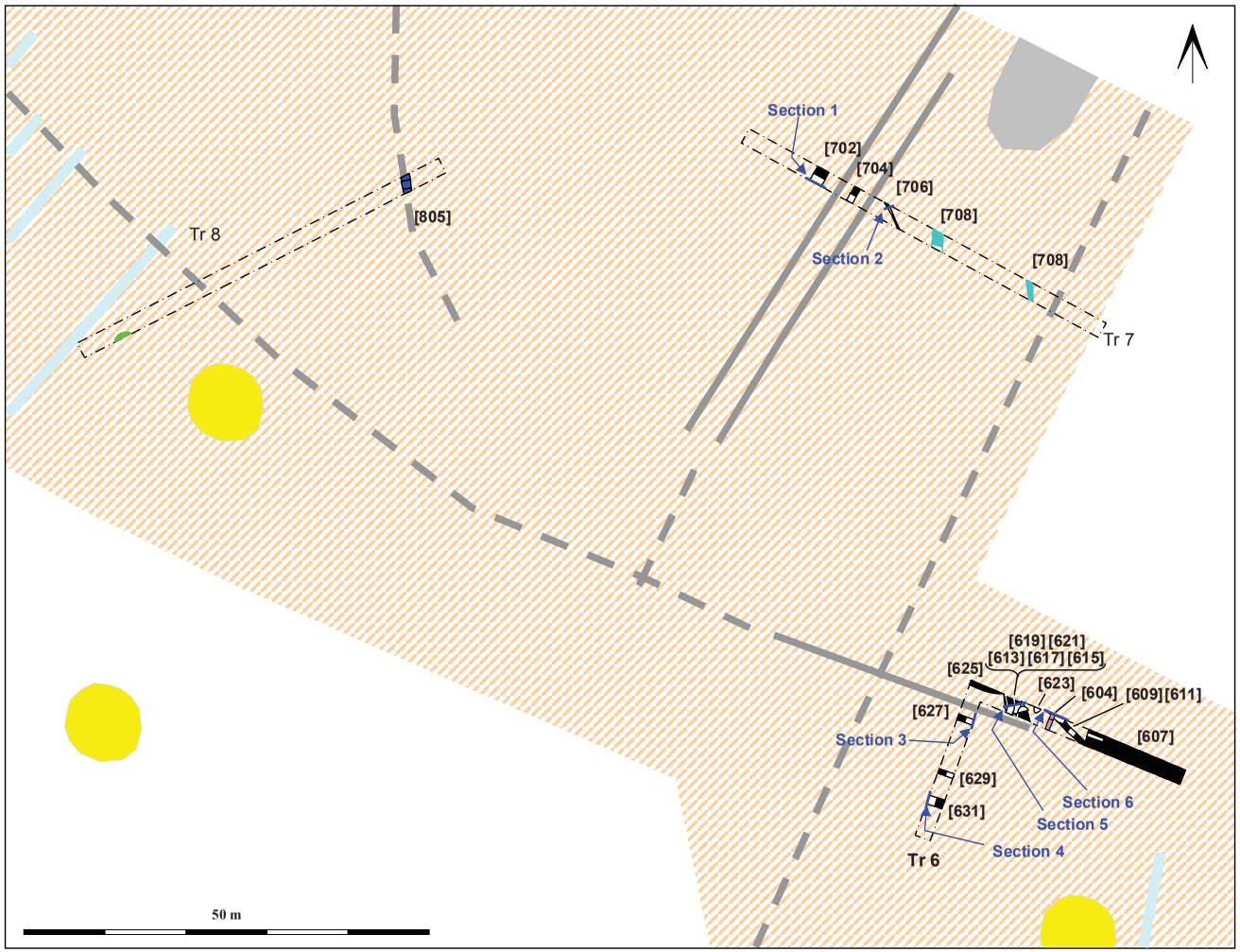


Figure 4: All features plan



Key to trenches

- Archaeological features (unexcavated)
- Archaeological features (excavated segment)
- Furrows
- Root action
- Area of amorphous geophysical response

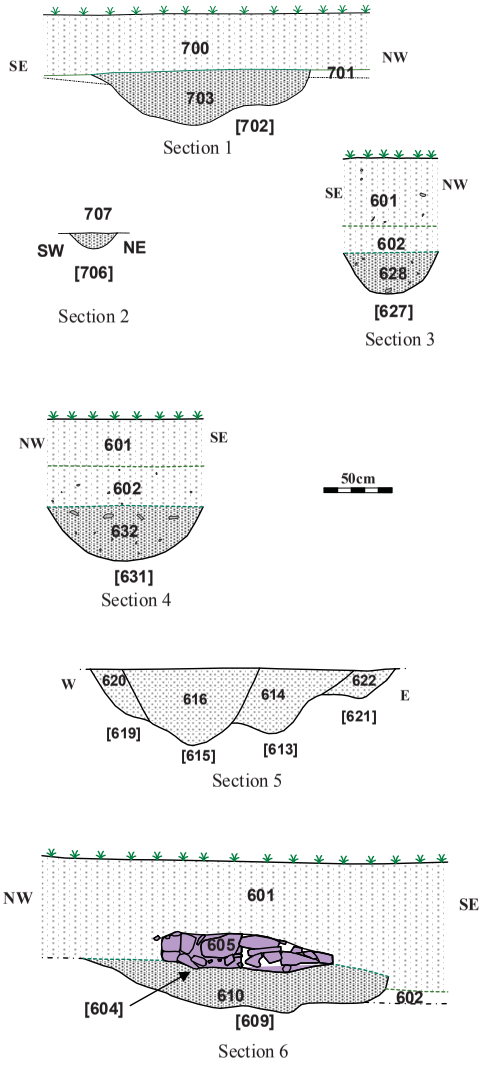


Figure 5: Core Area - Trenches 6 and 7 with Trench 8, geophysical interpretation plot and selected sections

Image 1: General view of NNE-SSW arm of Trench 6 showing closely spaced ditches [627], [629] and [631] – [625] being masked by the adjacent baulk. Trench 4 is just visible at the base of the slope. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

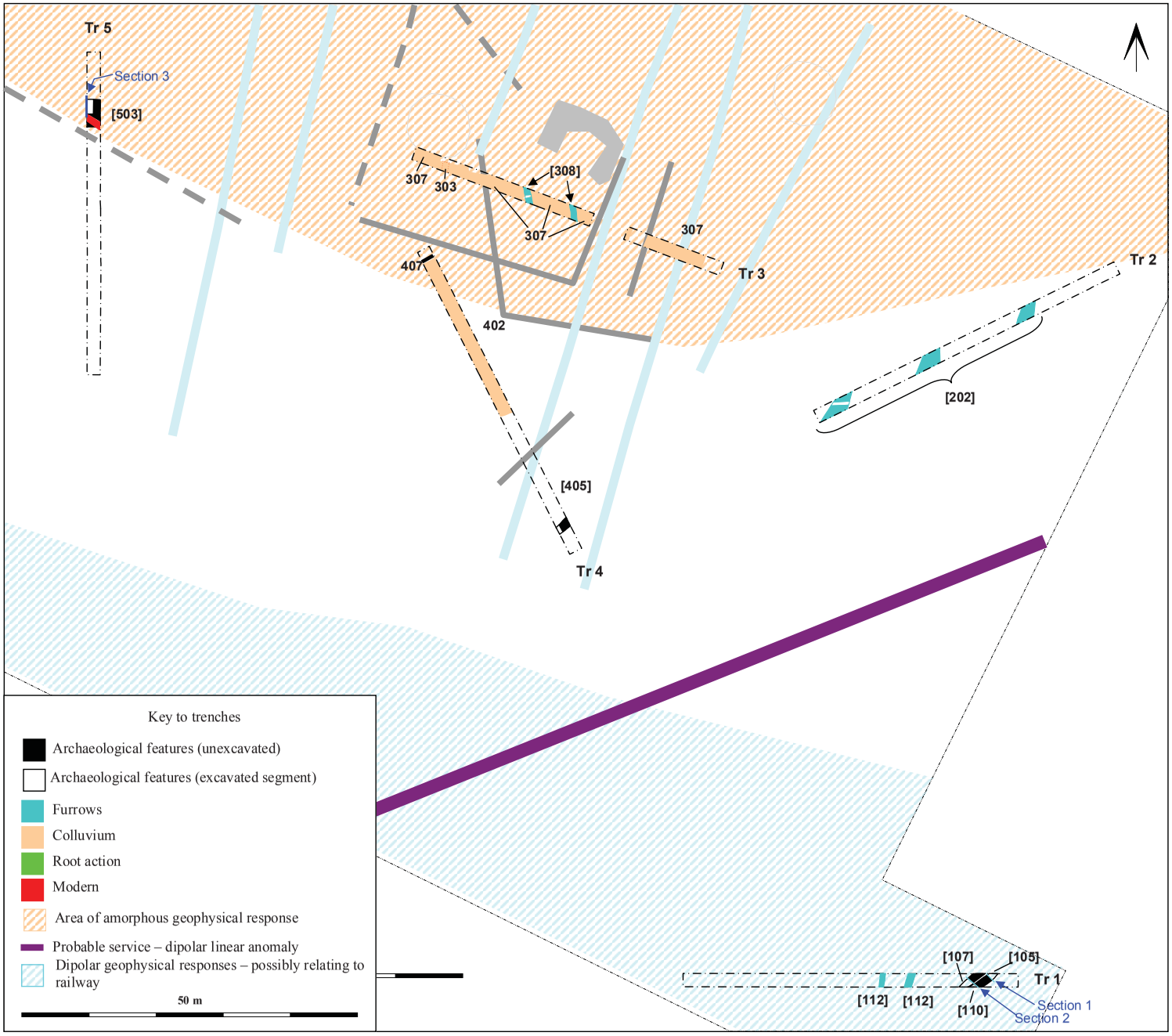
Image 2: Selection of pottery recovered from the ditch [609/611] which continued beneath the masonry structure (605).

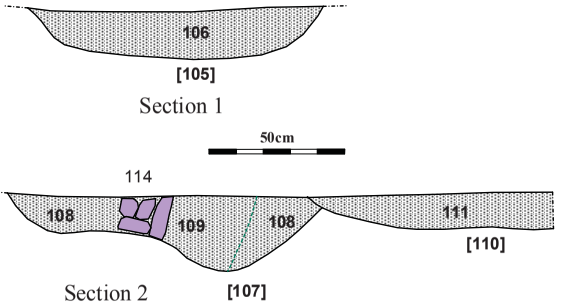
Image 3 Trench 6 during early stages of investigation looking to NW. The dark fill of an elongated depression [607] is visible in the foreground, with ditch [609/611] in the middle distance and masonry structure (605) at the top of slope. Another large dark area, visible beyond the archaeologist, was found to be a series of ditches aligned NW-SE [613], [615], [619], [621] and possible pit [617].

Image 4: View of masonry structure (605) prior to investigation showing wider element to north. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Image 5: Detail of pitched stones forming the masonry structure (605).

Figure 6: Core Area: Trench 6 - Selected images 1-5





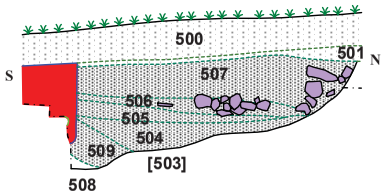


Figure 7: SE Area: Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 with geophysical interpretation plot and selected sections

Image 1: Machine cut sondage at NW end of Trench 4 revealing thick overburden and colluvium sealing buried topsoil (408) – thin dark band. Linear dark band of material on right hand side of the base of sondage is a possible ditch [407]. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Image 2: Detail of carbonised cereal grains recovered from ecofact sample <3> taken from the fill of possible ditch [407]. Grains are relatively well preserved with surface detail clearly visible, indicating limited abrasion due to soil movement. Grains are up to 4mm long.

Figure 8: SE Area: Selected images 1 and 2