

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Winwick Warren Farm, Northamptonshire



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS					
Project name					
	,				
In February 2010, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Entec UK, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment of a proposed wind farm on land at Winwick Warren Farm, Winwick, Northamptonshire. The remains of a probable Roman enclosure ditch, gullies and further ditches were identified. Analysis of the pottery suggests a 1st to 3rd century AD date. Remnants of medieval furrows were also present.					
Project type	Archaeological trial trench ev	aluation			
Site status	None				
Previous work	Geophysical survey				
Current Land use	Arable				
Future work	Unknown				
Monument type/period	Roman enclosure ditches, me	edieval furrows			
Significant finds	Roman and post-medieval po	ottery			
PROJECT LOCATION					
County	Northamptonshire				
Site address	Winwick Warren Farm, Winw	ick			
Study area	c130.8ha				
OS Easting & Northing	Centred on SP 640 746				
Height OD	160mOD - 185mOD				
PROJECT					
CREATORS					
	Organisation Northamptonshire Archaeology				
, ,	Project brief originator Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor				
,	,				
originator					
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby				
Project Manager	Tony Walsh				
	Sponsor or funding E.ON UK Renewables Ltd				
PROJECT DATE					
Start date	15 February 2010				
	23 February 2010				
End date ARCHIVES	Location	Content			
Friysical	Physical Northamptonshire 1 archive box of site documents, archive box of flint, pottery and anin bone				
Paper	Northamptonshire				
Archaeology					
Digital	Digital Northamptonshire 1 CD of digital images, report a				
Archaeology mapping files					
BIBLIOGRAPHY					
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Winwick Warren Farm, Northamptonshire				
Serial title & volume	10/43				
Author(s)	Anne Foard-Colby				
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Back cover: Trench 10 general view, looking south-west

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT WINWICK WARREN FARM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FEBRUARY 2010

Abstract

In February 2010, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Entec UK, for a wind farm, on land at Winwick Warren Farm, Winwick, Northamptonshire. The evaluation found the remains of a probable Roman enclosure ditch together with gullies and further ditches. Analysis of the pottery suggests a 1st to 3rd century AD date. Remnants of medieval furrows were also present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) in February 2010, on land at Winwick Warren Farm, Winwick, Northamptonshire (Fig 1, NGR centred on SP 640 746).

The work was undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a proposed wind farm. The evaluation met the requirements of a written scheme of investigation issued by Entec UK, December 2009 (Entec 2009), acting on behalf of E.ON UK Renewables Ltd.

The purpose of the evaluation was to test the results of the geophysical survey, to determine the importance of any archaeological remains present within the proposed turbine areas and to characterise any related remains. The results were fed into the scheme design in order to inform turbine positioning.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The village of Winwick is approximately 19km to the north-east of Northampton and 19km to the south-west of Market Harborough. The proposed development site ('the site') is situated to the north-east of Winwick village and to the west, north and north-east of Winwick Warren Farm (Fig 1).

The site occupies *c*130.8ha of farmland consisting of arable fields, between *c*165m and 185m AOD, on slopes either side of Yelvertoft Brook, a tributary of the River Avon, which flows west, then south, to the north and west of Winwick Warren Farm.

The underlying geology comprises Upper Lias clay to the north, Boulder Clay to the west of the brook and Northamptonshire sand and gravel on top of the hill to the west (BGS 1989).

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Within the vicinity of the site, and in particular to the north, aerial survey has identified areas of cropmarks indicating prehistoric enclosures and Bronze Age barrows. To the east, Neolithic or Bronze Age activity, has been identified, and to the north-west there are cropmarks on top of Honey Hill (Entec, fig 7.1).

A number of sites within the development area have been identified in the Historic Environment Record. The earthworks of a medieval or post-medieval rabbit warren are situated at Winwick Warren Farm, after which the farm is probably named. Until recently, fields to the east, west and north-west of the farm were recorded has having ridge and furrow earthworks in them.

A geophysical survey was undertaken on the proposed turbine locations prior to the trial trenching (Walford 2009). Substantial archaeological features, comprising ditched enclosures of Iron Age or Romano-British date, were identified in two areas. Ridge and furrow of probable medieval date was also identified.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aims of the trial trenching were:

- to characterise the date, nature and significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures identified;
- to indicate the reliability of the results of the geophysical survey; and
- to feed into the scheme design.

4 METHODOLOGY

A total of fourteen trenches (Trenches 1-14) were excavated, with two trenches in a T-shaped layout in each of the seven locations proposed for the wind turbines. Each trench was 25m long by 2m wide (Fig 2 and cover). They were set out prior to excavation, using Leica System 1200 GPS, and were positioned in accordance with the trench location plans provided by Entec, as approved by Lesley- Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor.

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All overburden was stripped under archaeological supervision, with the topsoil and subsoil stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation complied with the specification prepared by Entec (2009) and recording followed NA Archaeological Fieldwork Manual (2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

Trenches containing archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 1302, Trench 13, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10). Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using both 35mm colour transparency and black and white negative films, supplemented by images taken using a digital camera.

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (Watkinson and Neal 1998). The spoil heaps and features were scanned by eye to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines. The guidelines of the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) have been followed in the preparation of the archive.

A contexts and features summary, giving the depths of archaeological remains or the natural substrate below ground level, is provided in Appendix 1.

The fieldwork was monitored by Lesley-Ann Mather, Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate in Trenches 1-8 was light yellow-brown clay and blue boulder clay. The clay contained moderate to frequent gravel patches. In Trenches 9-14 the natural substrate was a mid orange-brown sand and ironstone with patches of clay.

The subsoil, which was between 0.05m and 0.60m thick, consisted of mid grey and orange-brown silty clay with flint pebbles. The ploughsoil, which was between 0.10m to 0.35m thick, was mid to dark grey-brown clayey loam. The trenches cut through recently ploughed ridge and furrow earthworks, explaining the difference in thickness of the soils covering the natural substrate.

The evaluation recorded six Roman ditches and two gullies in Trenches 10, 11, 13 and 14 (Fig 3). Medieval furrows were encountered in Trenches 10, 11 and 14. No features of archaeological significance were encountered in the remaining trenches.

5.1 Trenches 9 and 10

Trench 9 was oriented north-west to south-east. There were no archaeological features present in the trench; however, a single worked flint flake was recovered from the topsoil (901). The geophysical survey had suggested that the trench was located over a large ditch, apparently forming part of an enclosure, two sides of which fell within the area surveyed (Fig 3).

Trench 10 was orientated north-east to south-west (back cover). At the north-east end of the trench was a large ditch [1009] aligned north-west to south-east, which appears from the geophysical survey to form part of an enclosure, and a ditch [1007] aligned north to south. Within the trench were also two medieval furrows [1005] and [1014], aligned north-west to south-east (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Appendix 1).

The putative enclosure ditch [1009], although not fully excavated due to health and safety reasons, appeared to be V-shaped, was 4.50m wide and more than 0.80m deep (Fig 5, Section 5 and Fig 6). The lower excavated fills comprised re-deposited natural,

sand and gravelly clays (1011) and (1012). On the west side of the ditch re-deposited gravelly clay (1011) was overlain by sandy clay fill (1010) and these two fills may indicate the presence of a bank to the west or the outer edge of the putative enclosure. On the east (or inside of the enclosure ditch) there were at least three distinct gravel lenses in upper sandy clay fill (1008); perhaps indicating a later period of silting /deposition from the inside of the enclosure.

A smaller ditch [1007] cut along the east side of the infilled enclosure ditch, on a slightly more north-south alignment (Fig 5, Section 5 and Fig 6). It was U-shaped, 1.17m wide and 0.36m deep and contained a darker, sandy clay fill (1006).

Two furrows, [1005] and [1014], approximately 10.5m apart were aligned north-west to south-east, 1.05m and 1.30m wide respectively (Fig 4). One furrow [1005] had a shallow U-shape profile and was 0.15m deep. Their fills (1004) and (1013) respectively, contained frequent gravel; the former contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery.

The ditches and furrows correspond to several of the geophysical anomalies identified during the survey (Fig 3).

5.2 Trench 11

Trench 11 was orientated east to west (Figs 2, 3 and 4, Appendix 1). It contained a single medieval furrow [1105], located at the west end of the trench. The furrow was aligned north-east to south-west with a shallow U-shaped profile, 1.00m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained a single fill (1104). There were no finds present.

The furrow corresponds to one of the geophysical anomalies identified during the survey (Fig 3).

5.3 Trench 13

Trench 13 was orientated east to west (Figs 2, 3 and 4, Appendix 1). Within the trench were two parallel ditches [1305] and [1307] and two gullies [1309] and [1311].

The parallel ditches [1305] and [1307] were located at the west end of the trench, aligned north to south, 1.35m apart. The most westerly ditch [1305] had a U-shaped profile, 0.90m wide and 0.34m deep (Fig 5, Section 4). Its dark, silty clay fill (1304), was cut by a U-shaped gully [1309], aligned north-east to south-west, 0.50m wide and 0.21m deep. The dark grey silty fill of the latter (1308) contained a dump of large sandstone cobbles, some with burnt sides.

The eastern of the parallel ditches [1307] was 1.65m wide and not excavated due to very wet ground conditions. Its dark grey, orange mottled, silty clay fill (1306) also contained a dump of large sandstone cobbles, nearly all burnt. A small gully identified in the trench [1311], aligned north-east to south-west and 0.75m wide, was also present in Trench 14 [1417]. The relationship between the larger ditch [1307] and the two small gullies [1309] and [1311] is unclear due to the wet conditions; they may have drained into it or cut it.

These ditches correspond to a number of the geophysical anomalies identified during the survey (Fig 3).

5.4 Trench 14

Trench 14 was orientated north to south (Figs 2, 3 and 9 and Appendix 1). Three ditches of similar size, shape and depth [1407], [1410] and [1415], a gully [1417] and a medieval furrow [1412] were identified within the trench.

At the north end of the trench were two parallel ditches, [1407] and [1410], 0.55m apart and aligned roughly east to west (Fig 5, Section 2, Fig 7). The most northerly ditch [1407] had a V-shaped profile, 1.47m wide and 0.56m deep. The primary sandy clay lower fill (1406) was overlain by grey-brown silty clay (1405). The upper fill was middark brown silty clay (1404) and contained two sherds of Roman Samian pottery and a single cattle (*Bos*) tooth. The other parallel ditch immediately to the south [1410] was also V-shaped, 1.61m wide and 0.58m deep (Fig 5, Section 2 and Fig 7). The primary silty clay fill (1409), which contained a sherd of Roman greyware, was overlain by middark grey-brown silty clay (1408).

Towards the south end of the trench was a third V-shaped ditch [1415], aligned east - west, 1.23m wide and 0.63m deep (Figs 4 and 5, Section 3 and Fig 8). The primary mid grey orange-brown silty clay fill (1414) contained two sherds of haematite and quartz tempered Roman pottery. The upper fill of mid orange-brown silty clay (1413) contained a sherd of grog tempered, oxidized Roman pottery.

At the southern end of the trench was a small gully [1417], which was a continuation of the gully seen in Trench 13 [1311]. It was also aligned north-east to south-west and was 0.62m wide. It appeared to have a V-shaped profile, but was not fully excavated due to ground water flooding the feature.

A medieval furrow [1412] lay towards the north end of the trench and was aligned east to west. It was 1.00m wide and 0.12m deep and its fill (1411) was similar to that of the furrow in Trench 11.

These ditches and furrow correspond to some of the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey (Fig 3).

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The flint by Andy Chapman

A single worked flint was recovered from topsoil (901) of Trench 9. This is a large irregular flake, 50mm long by up to 29mm wide, in grey-brown vitreous flint with a pale brown cortex. On one edge there is retouch along a broad shallow notch. It may be broadly dated to the Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

6.2 The pottery by Ian Meadows

The pottery assemblage comprised ten sherds with a total weight of 259g. It consists of Romano-British material, mostly small, abraded, sherds, along with a single sherd of post-medieval pottery (Table 1).

Table 1: Pottery by context and fabric type

Fill	Description	Date
(1304)	1 sherd of Roman shell tempered storage jar	
(1404)	1 rim sherd, 1 body sherd of Samian pottery	2nd century AD
(1409)	1 rim sherd of local greyware	2nd to 3rd century AD
(1411)	1 rim sherd of local greyware	2nd to 3rd century AD
(1413)	1 sherd of grog tempered, oxidized ware	2nd century AD
(1414)	1 rim sherd, 1 body sherd of Haematite and	2nd century AD
	quartz tempered pottery	
(1414)	1 sherd of grog tempered	1st to mid 2nd century AD
(1004)	1 sherd of unglazed earthenware	16th – 19th century AD
Total	10 sherds	

7 DISCUSSION

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of archaeological features dating to the Roman and post-medieval periods, broadly consistent with the results of the geophysical survey. There are two distinct areas of activity, one at the site of Turbine 5 and the other at the site of Turbine 7.

A large ditch was identified at Turbine 5. This corresponds to an anomaly identified from the geophysical survey, which appeared to represent two sides of an enclosure (the remainder outside the extent of survey). The trenches were positioned in order to sample both sides of the corner of this feature, although the returning ditch was not encountered. Such an enclosure ditch would be expected to date to the Roman period although not pottery was found to confirm this.

The linear features identified in the geophysical survey at Turbine 7 were confirmed by the evaluation trenches. Pottery recovered from these was of 1st – 3rd century AD dates.

The small number of artefacts recovered may indicate either a general low level of activity, consistent with the ditches bounding a working field system, or that these features lie on the periphery of more extensive settlements beyond the trench boundaries. The parallel ditches at Turbine 7 are more likely to be single maintained boundaries, on a common alignment, rather than a single phase of double-ditched boundary. The geophysical survey suggests the arrangement of ditches is likely to be part of a wider landscape of ditched trackways.

Post-medieval remains comprising furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation were present at turbines 5, 6 and 7, which confirmed the findings of the geophysical survey.

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Northamptonshire Archaeology Northamptonshire County Council

9 March 2010 (revised 26th March 2010)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

Trench	Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions	Artefact
				/thickness (m)	type
1	101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown loam with gravel	0.12 - 0.25m thick	
	102	Subsoil	Mid orange grey-brown mottled clayey loam with gravel	0.10 - 0.24m thick	
	103	Natural	Natural mid orange/light yellow and blue clay with gravel		
2	201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown loam with gravel	0.15 - 0.25m thick	
	202	Subsoil	Mid orange grey-brown mottled clayey loam with gravel	0.10 - 0.15m thick	
	203	Natural	Natural mid orange-light yellow and blue clay with gravel		
3	301	Topsoil	Mid-dark brown clay/loam with gravel	0.25 - 0.30m thick	
	302	Subsoil	Mid-dark brown clayey loam with gravel	Intermittent & patchy 0.05m thick	
	303	Natural	Natural mid-dark orange brown ironstone sand with patches of light clay		
4	401	Topsoil	Mid-dark brown clay/loam with gravel	0.20 - 0.30m thick	
	402	Subsoil	Mid-dark brown clayey loam with gravel	0.08 - 0.18m thick	
	403	Natural	Natural mid-dark orange brown ironstone sand with patches of light clay		
5	501	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay loam with gravel	0,10m - 0.25m thick	
	502	Subsoil	Mid-dark orange-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.06m - 0.15m thick	
	503	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown sand and light yellow-orange clay		
6	601	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay loam with gravel	0.20 - 0.30m thick	
	602	Subsoil	Mid-dark orange-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.05m thick	
	603	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown sand and light yellow-orange clay		
7	701	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay loam with gravel, brick & tile frags.	0.25 - 0.34m thick	
	702	Natural	Mid orange-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.10m – 0.20m thick	
	703	Natural	Natural light-mid orange-yellow clay with gravel		
8	801	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown clay loam with gravel, brick & tile frags.	0.20 - 0.24m thick	
	802	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.04 - 0.12m thick	
	803	Natural	Natural light-mid orange-yellow clay with gravel		
9	901	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam with gravel	0.30m – 0.35m thick	Worked flint flake

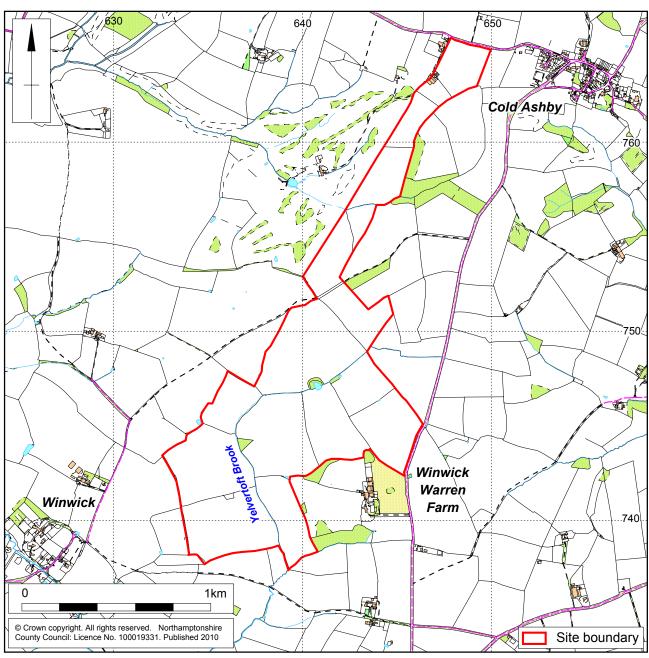
		Туре	Description	Dimensions /thickness	Artefact type
				(m)	
	902	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown ironstone with gravel sand	0.08m thick in small patches	
	903	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown ironstone and sand with gravel		
10	1001	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam with gravel	0.24 - 0.28m thick	
	1002	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown ironstone with gravel sand	0.06 - 0.14m thick	
	1003	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown ironstone and sand with gravel		
	1004	Fill of [1005]	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with frequent gravel	1.05m wide, 0.15m deep	Post-med unglazed earthenware
	1005	Cut	Cut of medieval furrow		
	1006	Fill of [1007]	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional gravel and ironstone	1.17m wide, 0.36m deep	
	1007	Cut	Cut of ditch		
	1008	Fill of [1009]	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of gravel including gravel lenses	4.20m wide, 0.80m deep	
	1009	Cut	Cut of large enclosure ditch		
	1010	Fill of [1009]	Mid-dark orange-brown sandy clay with gravel	Wider than 2.00m, thicker than 0.35m	
	1011	Fill of [1009]	Light-mid orange-grey-brown sandy clay with gravel	0.16m wide, 1.10m thick	
	1012	Fill of [1009]	Pale orange-brown sandy clay with few gravel inclusions	0.18m wide, 1.30m thick	
	1013	Fill of [1014]	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with frequent gravel	1.30m wide	
	1014	Cut	Cut of medieval furrow		
11	1101	Topsoil	gravel	0.15m – 0.25m thick	
	1102	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.12m thick	
	1103	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown clay with ironstone and sand		
	1104	Fill of [1105]	Mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional gravel	1.00m wide, 0.20m deep	
	1105	Cut	Cut of medieval furrow		
12	1201	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey loam with gravel	0.12m – 0.20m thick	
	1202	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.15 - 0.20m thick	
	1203	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown clay with ironstone and sand		
13	1301	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey loam with gravel	0.23 - 0.30m thick	
	1302	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.17 - 0.20m thick	
	1303	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown clay with ironstone and sand		

Tre	ench	Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
		1304	Fill of [1305]	Dark grey, silty clay with occasional gravel and large sandstone fragments	0.90m wide, 0.34m deep	Sherd Roman shell tempered storage jar
		1305	Cut	Cut of ditch		
		1306	Fill of [1307]	Dark grey with orange mottling, silty clay with moderate to frequent gravel and large sandstone fragments, some burnt	1.65m wide	
		1307	Cut	Cut of ditch		
		1308	Fill of [1309]	Dark grey silty clay with some gravel and large sandstone fragments, some burnt	0.50m wide, 0.21m deep	
		1309	Cut	Cut of gully		
		1310	Fill of [1311]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with gravel and some sandstone fragments	0.75m wide	
		1311	Cut	Cut of gully		
14		1401	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey loam with gravel	0.20 - 0.30m thick	
		1402	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clayey loam with gravel	0.18m thick	
		1403	Natural	Natural mid orange-brown clay with ironstone and sand		
		1404	Fill of [1407]	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel	1.47m wide, 0.21m deep	2 sherds Roman Samian ware Bos tooth
		1405	Fill of [1407]	Mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel	1.30m wide 0.17m deep	
		1406	Fill of [1407]	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional gravel		
		1407	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.47m wide 0.56m deep	
		1408	Fill of [1410]	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel	1.60m wide, 0.39m deep	
		1409	Fill of [1410]	Light orange grey-brown mottled silty clay with gravel	1.07m wide, 0.20m deep	1 Sherd of Roman greyware 2nd – 3rd century
		1410	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.61m wide, 0.58m deep	
		1411	Fill of [1412]	Mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent gravel	1.00m wide, 0.12m deep	1 Sherd of Roman greyware 2nd – 3rd century
		1412	Cut	Cut of medieval furrow		
		1413	Fill of [1415]	Mid orange-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions	1.23m wide, 0.43m deep	1 Sherd grog tempered, oxidized ware 2nd century

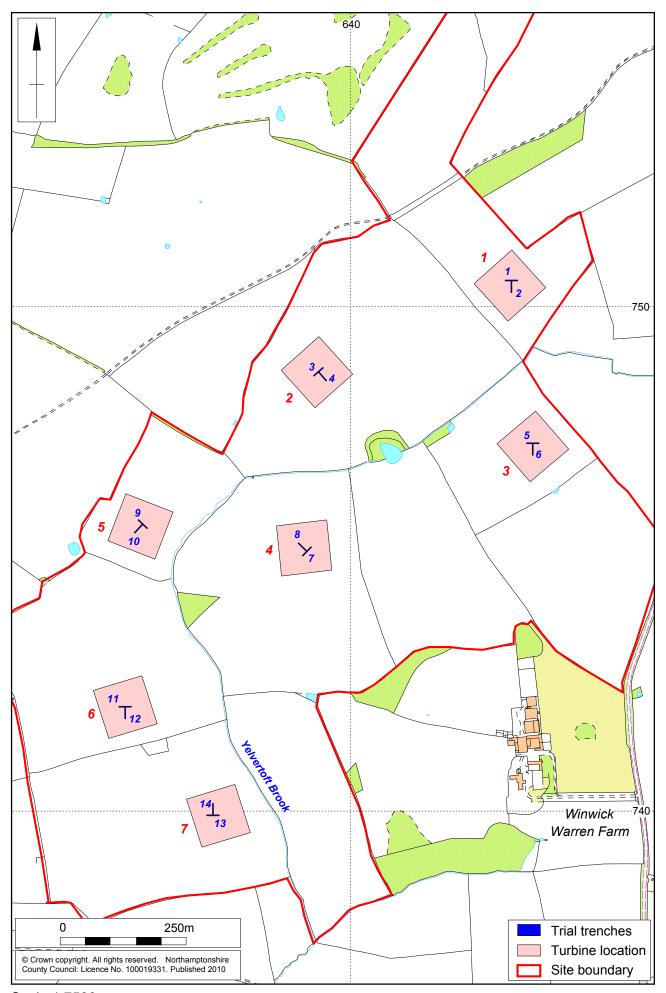
Trench	Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
	1414	Fill of [1415]	Mid grey, orange-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions	· '	2 sherds haematite & quartz tempered 2nd century; 1 sherd grog tempered 1st – mid 2nd century
	1415	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.23m wide, 0.63m deep	
	1416	Fill of [1417]	Mid brown-grey mottled with orange silty clay with gravel and ironstone frags.	0.62m wide	
	1417	Cut	Cut of gully		

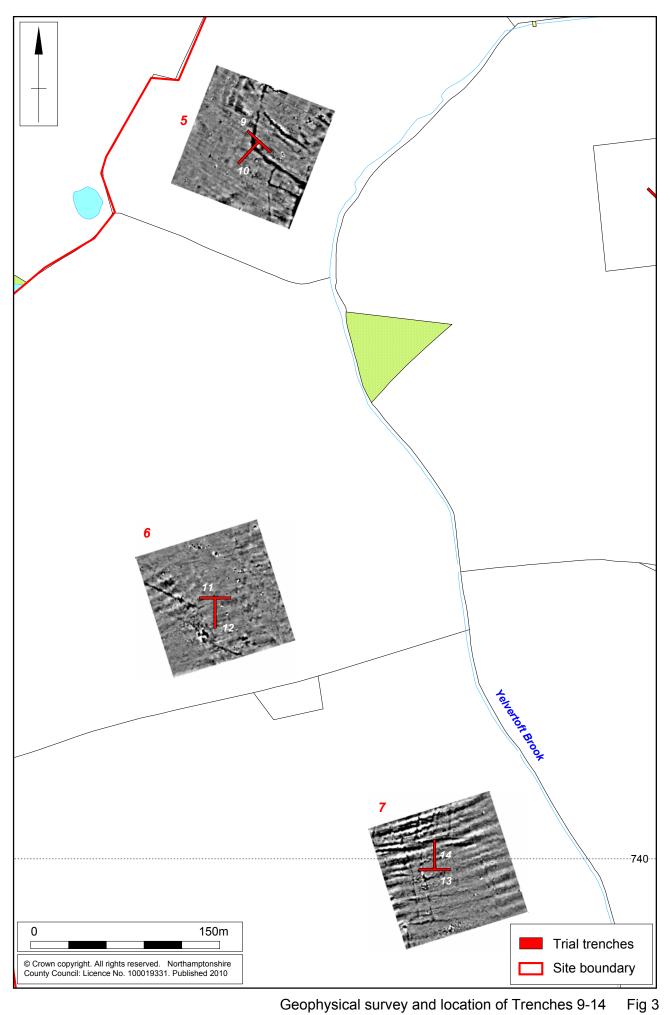




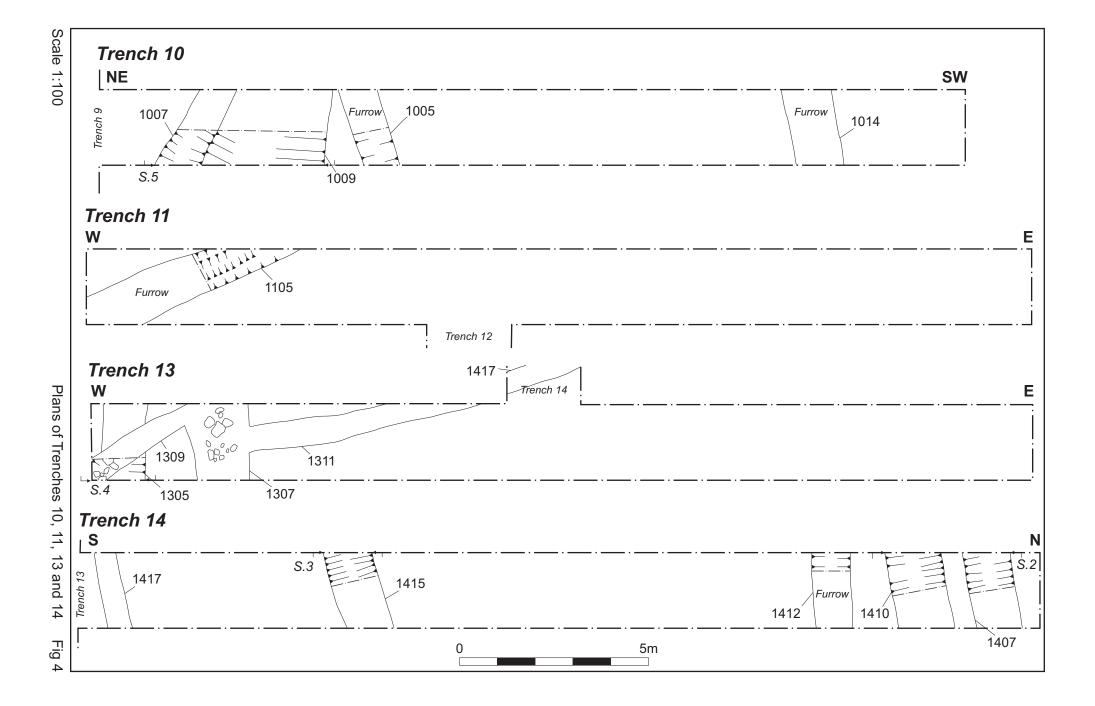


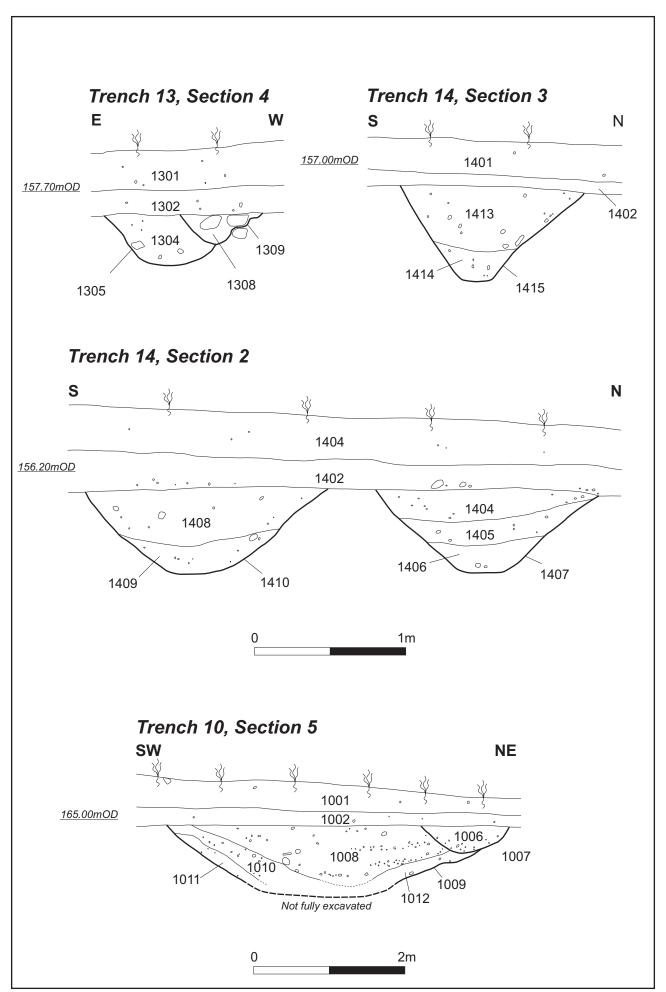
Scale 1:20,000 Site Location Fig 1





Geophysical survey and location of Trenches 9-14





Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 Fig 5



Trench 10, enclosure ditch [1009] and ditch [1007], looking north-west



Trench 14, ditch [1410], section 2, looking west

Fig 7

Fig 6



Trench 14, ditch [1415], section 3, looking west Fig 8



Trench 14, general view, looking south

Fig 9



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