Northamptonshire Archaeology

Geophysical survey and trial trench excavations on land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane Ampthill, Bedfordshire

Northamptonshire Archaeology
2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk

Northamptonshire County Council

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Jim Brown

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STAFF

Project Manager	Jim Brown BSc PGDip MIfA
Fieldwork	Jim Brown, Myk Riley, Daniel Riley FDSc Peter Townend MA & Elizabeth Harris BSc
Text	Jim Brown
Metal detecting	Gordon Stone (Ampthill & District Local History & Archaeological Society)
Illustrations	Richard Watts & Jim Brown
Prehistoric pottery	Andy Chapman BSc MIfA FSA
Medieval & post-medieval pottery	Iain Soden BA MIfA
Ceramic building materials	Pat Chapman BA CMS AIfA
Slag	Andy Chapman
Roman pottery & metal finds	Tora Hylton
Animal bone	Karen Deighton MSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Anthony Maull		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

***OASIS* REPORT FORM**

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Geophysical survey and trial trench excavations on land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, Ampthill, Bedfordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Geophysical survey and trial trench excavation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Connolly Homes and Denison Investments on land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, Ampthill, Bedfordshire. A solitary Iron Age pit was found that contained burnt stone and parts of two or three pottery vessels. There were two possible postholes adjacent with no finds. The base of a post-medieval brick-built kiln or furnace was discovered. It contained large quantities of fuel ash slag. Of similar date to the kiln was a wide distribution of small post-medieval enclosures, many of which appear on early maps. The enclosures are thought to have been for horticulture or allotments and the kiln may have produced lime, which was used as a fertiliser.	
Project type	Trial excavations	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Rough ground and arable	
Future work	No	
Monument / period	Iron Age pit and post-medieval remains	
Significant finds	Pottery, brick, industrial residues & metal finds	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, Ampthill, Bedfordshire	
Study area	14.3 ha	
OS location	TL 0360 3680	
Height OD	*c*66-70m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council	
Project design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor	Connolly Homes & Denison Investments	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	September 2010	
End date	September 2010	
ARCHIVES	**Location (Accession no)**	**Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)**
Physical	BEDFM 2010.55	Pottery, brick, industrial residues & metal finds
Paper		Site excavation record, permatrace drawings, photographic record & background documentation
Digital		Final report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	Geophysical survey and trial trench excavations on land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, Ampthill, Bedfordshire	
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GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATIONS ON LAND BETWEEN FLITWICK ROAD AND ABBEY LANE, AMPTHILL BEDFORDSHIRE

November 2010

Non-technical summary

Geophysical survey and trial trench excavation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Connolly Homes and Denison Investments on land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, Ampthill, Bedfordshire.

A solitary Iron Age pit was found that contained burnt stone and parts of two or three pottery vessels. There were two possible postholes adjacent with no finds. This is peripheral to contemporary activity, west of Flitwick Road, and is probably an isolated group with low probability of further evidence in the immediate vicinity.

There was no surviving evidence of medieval pillow mounds to support the place name evidence for the breeding of rabbits. Medieval finds were scarce and represent casual losses. Ampthill Warren would appear to have been unenclosed and could have simply been open rough ground in which rabbits were allowed to proliferate.

The base of a post-medieval brick-built kiln or furnace was discovered. It contained large quantities of fuel ash slag. Of similar date to the kiln was a wide distribution of small post-medieval enclosures, many of which appear on early maps. The enclosures are thought to have been for horticulture or allotments and the kiln may have produced lime for fertiliser. The features represent the earliest period of land enclosure for Ampthill Warren, which is historically documented and well understood within its period context. Further excavation would be unlikely to yield more information about post-medieval agricultural practice in the town.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) undertook geophysical survey and trial trench excavation on land at land between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, Ampthill, Bedfordshire for Connolly Homes and Denison Investments (centred on NGR TL 0360 3680; Fig 1). The work was conducted to support an outline planning proposal for residential development that is being prepared by Hives Planning and Woods Hardwick, comprising 410 dwellings, with a connection through the site between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane. The whole site encompasses 16.5ha area of arable and pasture land, between Flitwick Road and Redbourne School in the west and Abbey Lane in the north-east. Of this area, 14.3ha have been the subject of geophysical survey and trial trench excavation while the remaining 2.2ha was inaccessible due to mature woodland.

Fieldwork comprised successive geophysical survey followed by trial trench excavation in Fields 1-3. Owing to issues of land access and weather constraints on harvest time the survey and trial excavation of each field was conducted separately, although in practise this fell within the space of four weeks. Before each stage of fieldwork was conducted a specification was produced and agreed with the Central Bedfordshire Archaeologists, who also monitored the progress of the work (Butler 2010; Simmonds & Maull 2010a; 2010b). Bedford Museum has issued an accession number (BEDFM 2010.55). Deposition will take place at the conclusion of the project.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

A desk-based assessment was undertaken that incorporated a visit to the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), and collation of historic maps, to gather relevant information relating to archaeological sites in the surrounding area (Meckseper 2010; Fig 1). The desk-based assessment identified sites of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. The only record of sites within the area was the tentative, projected line of a Roman Road (HER485), identified in the Viatores survey. However, this road line, along with many of the other roads identified in the Viatores survey is viewed with scepticism and may not be present.

Undated

Linear cropmarks and circular features are present *c*600m south of the site (HER9078). The cropmark of a possible trackway lies immediately south of the A507 (NMR966158). This may connect the aforementioned features with the extensive trackways, rectangular enclosures and circular features around Ruxox Farm, *c*1.4km to the south-east (NMR360043, 966151, 966162). They are likely to be part of Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains.

Prehistoric

Flint tools were recovered east of Ruxox Farm (HER2771, not illustrated), along with Bronze Age pottery (HER15848) and Iron Age artefacts.

There were no exclusively prehistoric references identified in the appraisal. A note of Belgic style pottery occurs in reference to a kiln site near Dolittle Farm (HER6743). The reference may not be entirely accurate as Belgic pottery kilns continuing into the Roman period would be extremely unusual.

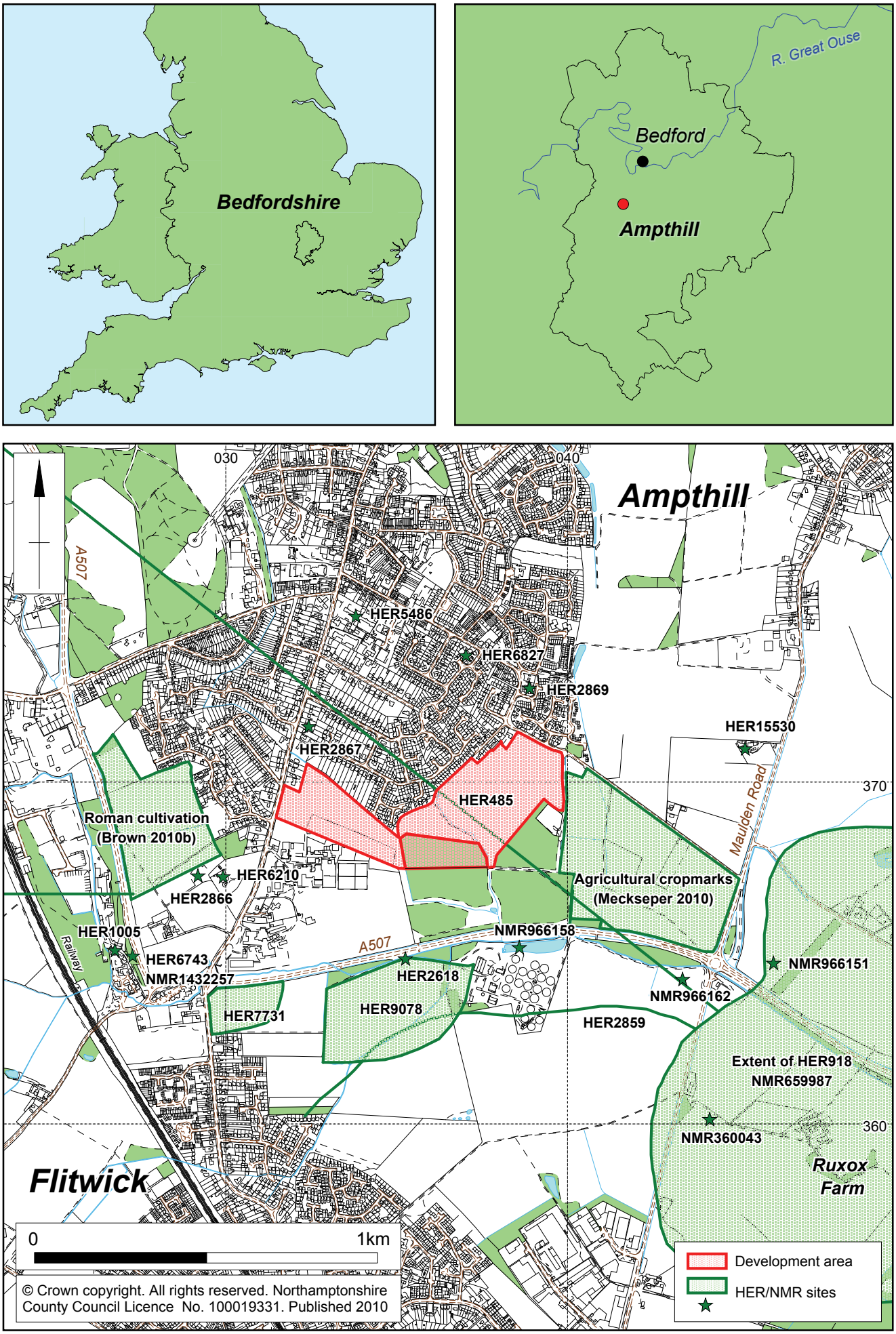
Roman

As mentioned above, a Roman road may have passed through the site and was identified during the *Viatores* study in 1964 (HER485, *Viatores* 170b). Most such projected road alignments have since been discredited, including this example (Simco 1984).

Extensive Roman occupation was recorded at Ruxox Farm (HER918, NMR659987). Coinage and other artefacts dated the settlement from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD (Simco 1984), corroborated by more recent work that uncovered a small inhumation cemetery and metalworking evidence (Clark and Jackman 1992). Finds from Ruxox were substantial in quantity and included unusual items such as jewellery, clay votive figurines and objects of wealth indicative of a possible temple or high status settlement, such as a villa.

A pottery kiln group was recorded to the south-west of the site (HER6743, NMR1432257). They were discovered in 1982 by local archaeologists during the construction of Ampthill bypass but have not been published. There were three definite kilns and traces of two possible kilns, which may have been part of a larger group in the vicinity (Fadden pers comm).

Recent excavations to the west of the site have uncovered cultivation evidence for a possible vineyard or similar plantation-style cash crop, which covered the slopes of a small stream tributary valley (Brown 2010b).



Scale 1:15,000 Site location and Historic Environment Record data Fig 1

Saxon

There were no Saxon remains identified by desk-based assessment, the HER data contained no references for this period (Meckseper 2010).

Medieval

The historic medieval core of Ampthill is situated to the north of the application area. The town has its origins in the 12th to 13th centuries and was granted its market charter in 1219 from Henry III, confirming what by then would have already been a thriving economic centre.

Initially the town was surrounded by heath, marginal land used for rough grazing. Some of this land was enclosed within a deer park, Ampthill Park, which lies on the opposite side of town, *c*1.7km to the north-west. This was the focus of a late medieval estate and palatial residence, Ampthill Castle (Brown 2010a). The castle and its grounds were owned by the Crown estate in the reign of Henry VIII and it was occupied for a short period by Katherine of Aragon during their divorce.

The south side of town was also bounded by marginal heathland and the application area lies within this region. From the 15th century the heathland was referred to as Ampthill Warren (Meckseper 2010). The name, Ampthill Warren, suggests the ground was possibly used for breeding rabbits (BCC 1996). Cropmarks within that location may support the hypothesis that pillow mounds were raised.

A medieval moated grange belonging to Dunstable Priory was located close to Ruxox Farm (HER919, not illustrated) and was probably the source of much of the medieval pottery in the surrounding area (HER2763, not illustrated).

Post-medieval

The area around Ampthill was enclosed from 1808 by Act of Parliament. Ordnance Survey maps subsequent to this show that the application area comprised rectangular shaped fields.

A 17th-century farmhouse was located at Relley Farm (HER15530), east of the town, which was largely rebuilt during the 19th-century.

Doolittle Mill, a former watermill, laid south-west of the site along a small brook (HER1005). To the south another mill lay on the banks of the main tributary running down towards the River Flit (HER2618). This latter mill stood 1793-1886, its remains were demolished when the bypass was built.

A former clay pit lay west of the site (HER2866). Two further clay extraction pits were located north of the site (HER2867, 2869). The pits were abandoned by 1901 and they may have served Grange Tile Works on Flitwick Road which formerly occupied the land now used by Redbourne Upper School and Community College.

A place-name reference is recorded to the south-west from Jeffrey's Map of Bedfordshire, 1725, for How Green (HER7731). This may be a field name for lush pasture or it may refer to a lost village green, although no known settlement is recorded nearby. The Russell estate map of 1773 indicates the presence of a house; the drawing includes an image two storeys high with pitched roof and central doorway.

There is a road recorded on the 1808 enclosure map, parallel to the Flit tributary and south of the sewage farm (HER2859). The road was called "ridgeway" and may suggest a route of some antiquity.

Ampthill Grange or Grange Farm is situated west of the site (HER6210). The name has been present since the 16th century, although the present farmhouse is of mid-19th-century build in neo-Tudor style with modern accretions. Other important 19th-century buildings in Ampthill include the Union Workhouse on Dunstable Street built in 1835 (HER5486) and the foundry on Oliver Street (HER6827).

2.2 Topography and geology

The application area is located on the south-eastern edge of the town of Ampthill (Fig 2). The whole site encompasses 16.5ha area of arable and pasture land, between Flitwick Road and Redbourne School in the west and Abbey Lane in the north-east. Small pens are set aside for sheep and pigs, immediately to the north of the school and within the development area. There is an area of mature woodland to the south, within the site, covering 2.2ha that is the edge of a much larger wooded area. The Ampthill domestic waste recycling centre and its access road bounds the east of the site from arable fields on its opposite side.

The underlying drift geology of the site comprises Ampthill Clay and Lower Greensand with gravel patches, with the clay lying towards the base of the tributary valley (BGS 2001). The soils are of Evesham 3 association which tend to be more calcareous clayey and are subject to waterlogging (LAT 1983).

3 EVALUATION STRATEGY

3.1 Objectives

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the project were to determine:

- the location, extent and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- and to assess their integrity and state of preservation where found.

The project seeks to address the research aims laid out in the Bedfordshire and regional research frameworks for the eastern counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Oake *et al* 2007*).*

Specific themes derived from the Research Frameworks were to:

- contribute to the understanding of landscape development, settlement patterns and continuity in the later Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods (Oake *et al* 2007, 10-11)
- and to seek evidence of activity in the late Iron Age to Roman transition period (Medleycott and Brown 2008, 46).

3.2 Methodology

Geophysical survey

The survey was conducted with Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array, vertical component fluxgate gradiometers (Bartington and Chapman 2003). These are standard instruments for archaeological survey and can resolve magnetic variations as slight as 0.1 nanotesla (nT).

Each field was divided into contiguous, whole and partial, 30m by 30m grid squares. These were set out manually by tape measure and optical square, and were tied to the Ordnance Survey grid by GPS Leica System 1200. The instruments were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along each traverse, giving a total of 3600 measurements per grid.

The data was processed using Geoplot 3.00u software. Striping, occasionally caused by slight mismatches in sensor balance, was removed using the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function (ZMT) and destaggering of the data was performed as necessary.

Trial trench excavation

There were fifty-nine archaeological trial trenches, 50m long by 2m wide, which were excavated within the proposed development area. The locations were recorded in relation to the Ordnance Survey using Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment, Leica 1200 series, operated using SMARTNET real-time corrections. The GPS is capable of operating to a 3D tolerance of ± 0.05m when suitable satellite coverage is available.

The topsoil and subsoil was removed under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. Archaeological deposits were cleaned and examined sufficiently to characterise, record and date their nature and extent. A collection of artefacts was retained for analysis.

Digital photographs were taken, supplemented with 35mm monochrome negatives, and colour transparencies for archive purposes. The photographic record is accompanied by *pro forma* trial trench record sheets that contain detailed information on the archaeological deposits encountered. All photographs and paper archive records have been compiled in accordance with recognised museum practise (Walker 1990, IfA 2008).

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Registered Organisation (RAO48). All work was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 1991; 2002; 2009).

The potential for viable palaeo-environmental samples was discussed on site with the attendant monitoring officers and, given the general lack of suitable deposits, it was agreed that no additional sampling would be required at this time.

4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

The processed data is presented in this report in the form of a greyscale plot (scale +4nT to -4nT, black to white). This has been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base map (Fig 2). Interpretative notes are shown overlain onto the data (Fig 3).

Interpretation

Field 1 is crossed by a gas main. There are several large areas of disturbance which are possibly the result of scattered fired debris such as brick rubble. These contain occasional ferrous anomalies. An area concentrated within a possible rectangle in the north-west of the field provided readings that suggest a dense concentration of brick; this was subsequently investigated in Trench 9, pit [904]. One ditch is evident and is depicted on the 1808 enclosure map (Fig 9)

Within Field 2 there is less evidence of disturbance and it provides a more consistent level of magnetic readings. Two possible ditches lie towards the northern field boundary, but it is uncertain from the survey how far they may extend.

Field 3 is crossed by gas, sewerage and an unknown service line. In the northern part of the field an area of rough ground produced high magnetic variations consistent with demolition rubble, possibly clearance from the former farm. Scattered throughout the field were other ferrous anomalies. Towards the south minor magnetic variations suggest geological changes between sand and gravel; this was confirmed by trial excavations. In the west corner of the field is a large anomaly consistent with ferrous metal or, possibly, substantial heating. This feature was investigated in Trench 32 and kiln [3210] was discovered, and subsequently excavated. Towards the centre of the field are potential ditches, Trenches 37 and 46 investigated the alignment of this and a post-medieval ditch [3706/4613] was discovered. In the south of the site further ditches match with the 1808 enclosure map as part of allotments (Fig 9). These boundaries were investigated in Trenches 24, 25, 26, 38, 39 and 40; they confirmed the post-medieval enclosure arrangement with that of the map evidence.

The geological conditions make it difficult to determine the full extent of the ditch systems and potential enclosures, perhaps because fill material is very similar to the natural substrate or that features have suffered substantial plough damage.

Ampthill

Field 1

Field 2

Field 3

Abbey Lane

Flitwick Road

Recycling Centre

Redbourne Upper School and Community College

040

370

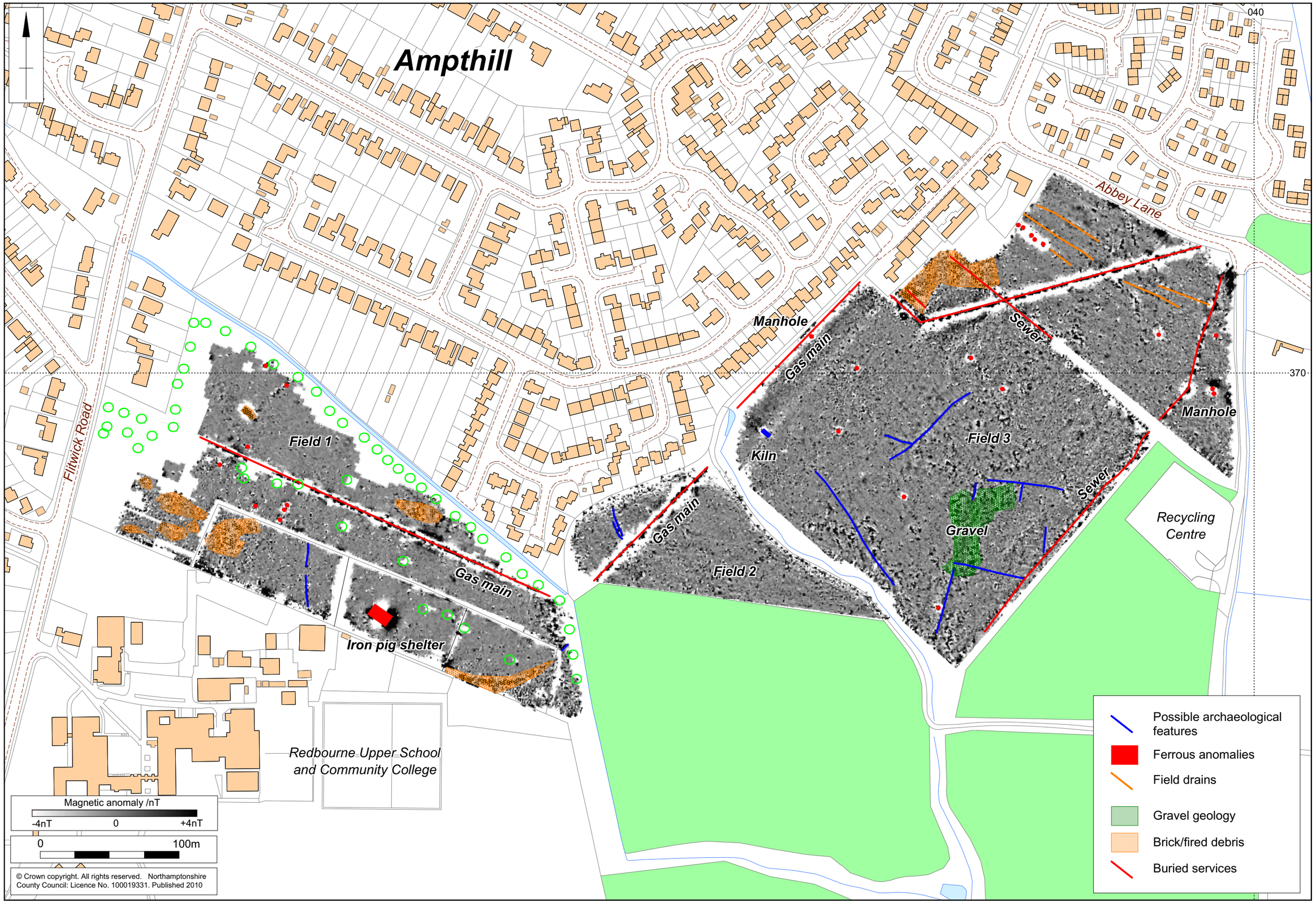
Magnetic anomaly /nT

-4nT 0 +4nT

0 100m

Scale 1:2500

Geophysical survey results Fig 2



Scale 1:2500

Geophysical survey interpretation Fig 3

Ampthill

Abbey Lane

Flitwick Road

Field 1

Field 2

Field 3

Recycling Centre

Woodland within application area

Redbourne Upper School and Community College

040

370

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

0 100m

Application area

Archaeological trial trenches

Scale 1:2500

Trench location plan Fig 4

Ampthill

040

370

Abbey Lane

Flitwick Road

458

461

460

463

17

B

E

D

GF

HG

A

E

F

B

C

H

D

A

C

Pit 904

Pit 1105

Pit 305

Freehold allotments to John Morris

LAMMAS GROUND
Freehold allotment to John Morris

Kiln 3210

Allotment to William Exton

Cultivation scars

Recycling Centre

Pond 2405

Ditch 1706

Blakk Water

Redbourne Upper School and Community College

0 100m

1889 Ordnance Survey

1808 Enclosure map

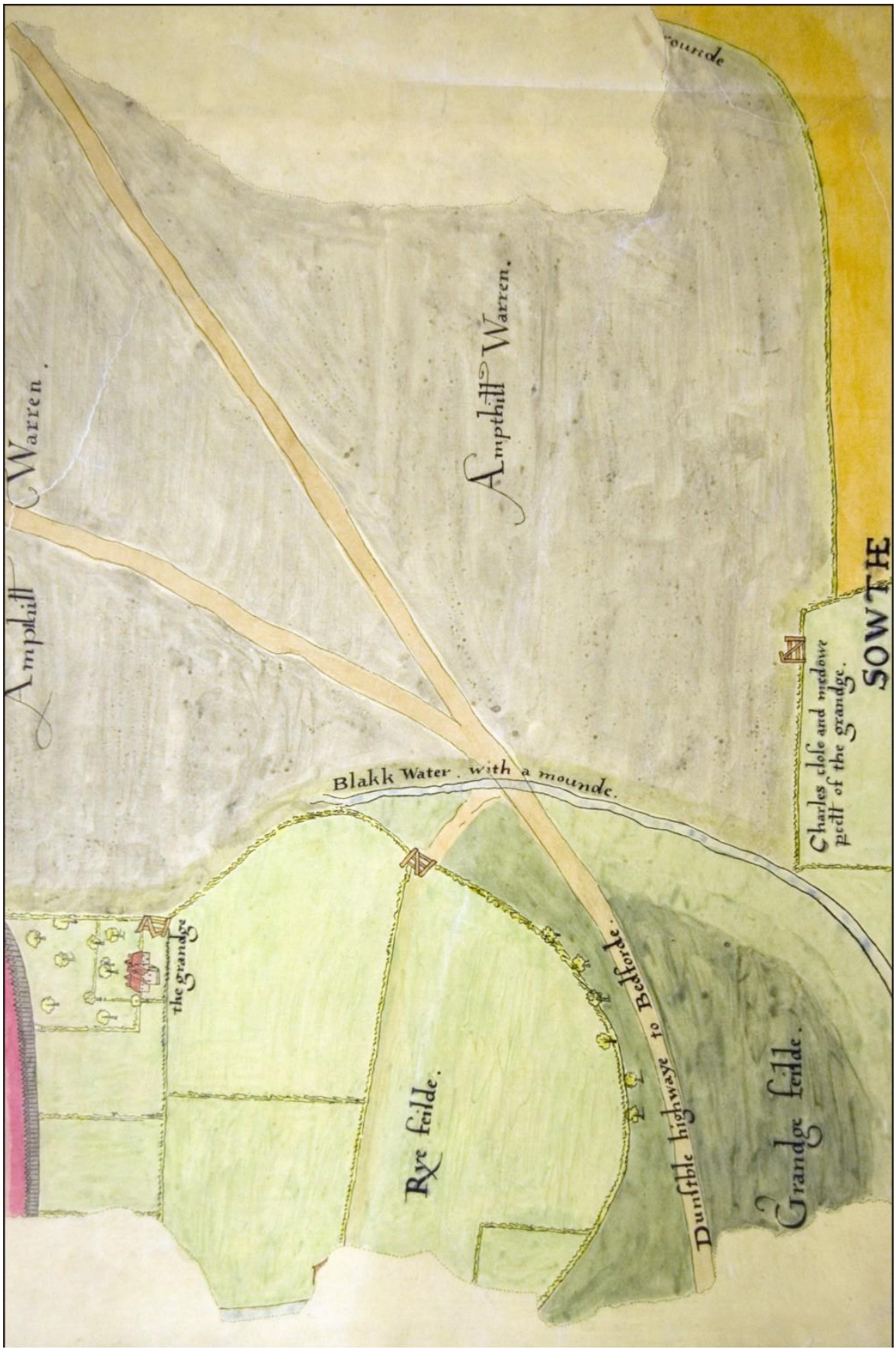
1580 pre-enclosure map

Unmapped boundaries

Other unmapped features

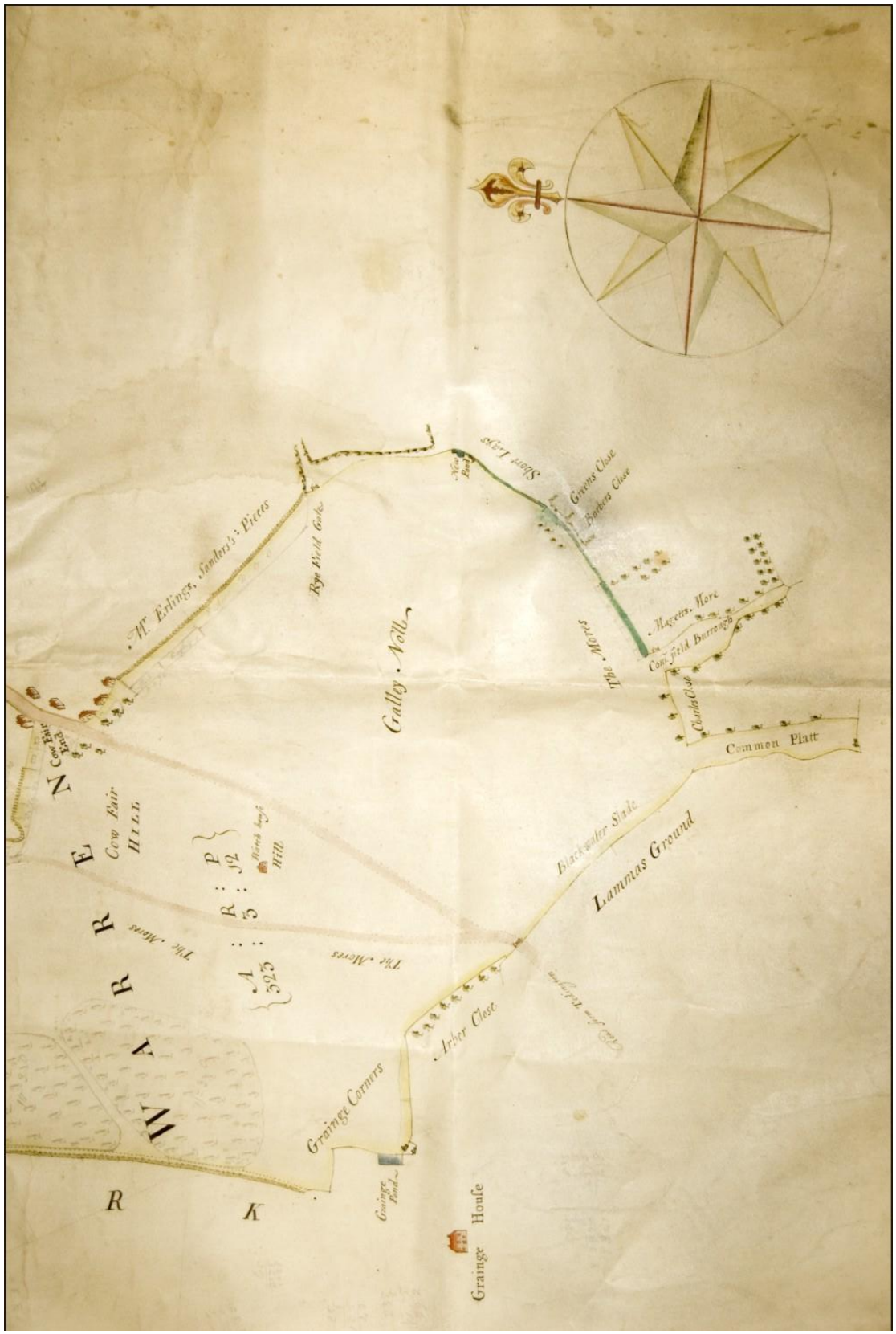
Scale 1:2500

Historical map and trench interpretation Fig 5



1580 Pre-enclosure map of Ampthill (BLARS X1/77) Fig 6

By kind permission of the Duke of Bedford and the trustees of the Bedford Estates



1743 Russell estate map (BLARS R1/1) Fig 7

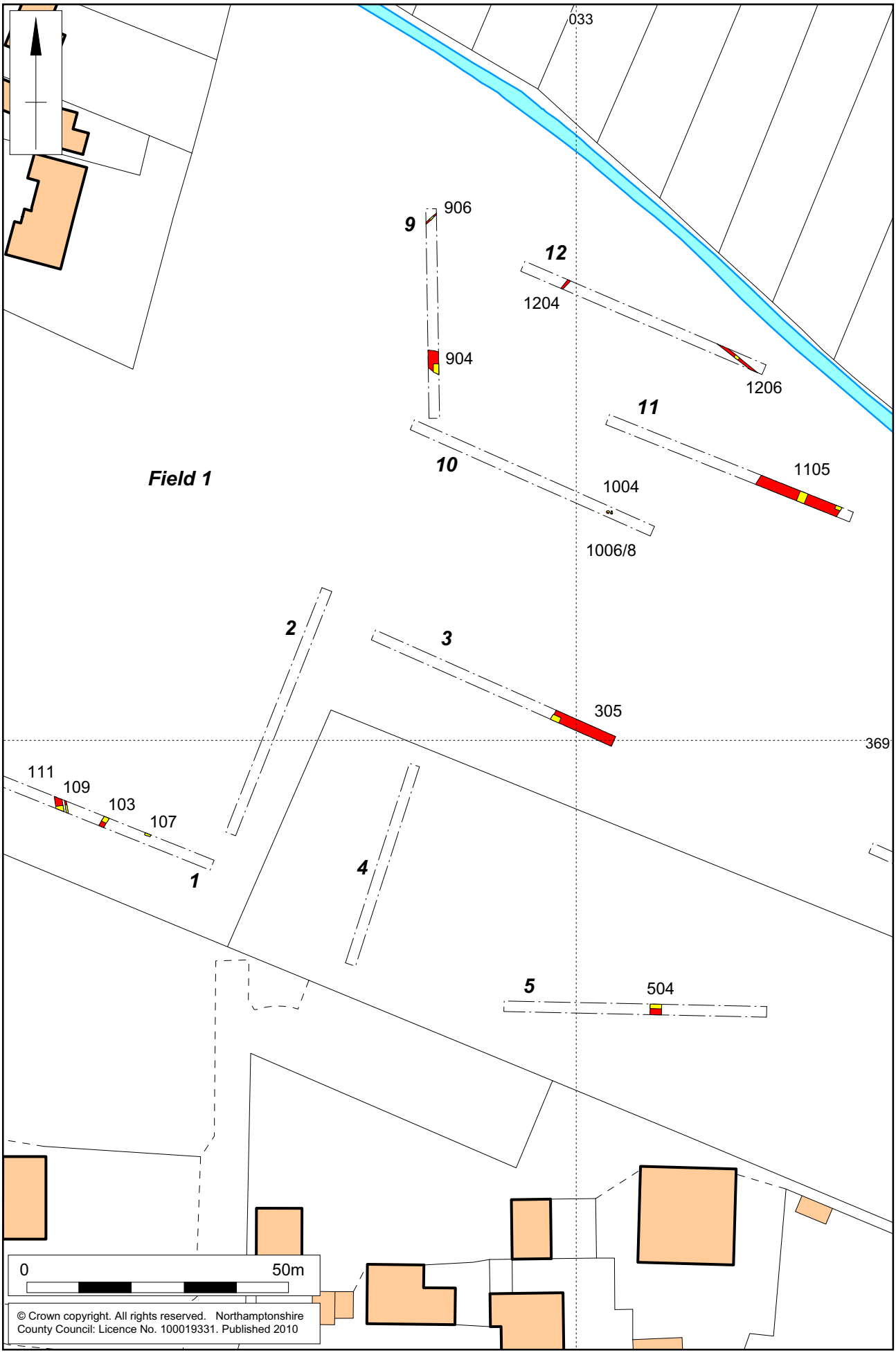
By kind permission of the Duke of Bedford and the trustees of the Bedford Estates

1773 Russell estate map (BLARS R1/3) Fig 8

By kind permission of the Duke of Bedford and the trustees of the Bedford Estates

1808 Enclosure map of Ampthill (BLARS MA95/1-2) Fig 9

By kind permission of the Duke of Bedford and the trustees of the Bedford Estates



Scale 1:1000

Features in Field 1 Fig 10

5 TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATION

An inventory of contexts is provided in the appendix of this document with their general descriptions (Table 4). Please refer to the Figure 4 trench layout for the field numbers and Figure 5 for the interpretation relating to the historic map evidence. The following comprises a non-technical summary of the tabulated data in the appendix with specific reference to historic maps (Figs 6-9).

5.1 Field 1 (Trenches 1-16)

A total of sixteen trenches were excavated in Field 1, nine of the trenches contained features other than field drains (Fig 10). The field is mapped on the 1808 Enclosure map as part of an area called 'Lammas Ground' belonging to John Morris (Fig 9). A curiosity of the name is that 'Lammas' is a festival day, traditionally 1st August, associated with harvest time. The west end of the site formed a smaller allotment held in the same name.

There was no evident subsoil layer within this field, the reason for this not known. It may be related with activity at the former Grange Tile Works which stood at the southern end of the site of Redbourne Upper School and Community College in the neighbouring field or it could be associated with deep soil rotovation, common for horticultural crops such as potatoes. Topsoil in Field 1 was fairly consistent comprising loose greyish-brown silty loam, 0.30m thick, covered in grass at the surface.

Trench 1

Ditch [103] crossed the trench on a north-south alignment. It is the boundary upon the 1808 Enclosure map, dividing the area of 'Lammas Ground' from the smaller allotment fronting Flitwick Road (Fig 9).

The other features were undated. A gully [109] and ditch [111] were aligned north-west to south-east, lying side by side in the west portion of the trench. There was also a rectangular shaped pit [107] in the east portion of the trench.

Trench 3

A large post-medieval pit [305] occupied a 12.5m length at the east end of the trench. It was excavated to a depth of 1.3m without finding the base. The steep sloping sides were stepped as they descended and four dumps of fill were recorded that comprised different coloured clay and sandy clay. Given its size and profile the pit may have been for clay quarry extraction. It is dated by Midland Black pottery, *c*1600-1650, to the 17th-century.

Trench 5

A shallow iron pan-stained deposit [504] lay across the trench from north to south. The deposit matches a variation depicted by geophysical survey (Figs 2-3). It is also depicted upon the 1808 Enclosure map as part of the wider drainage network crossing 'Lammas Ground' (Fig 9).

Trench 8

The trench contained a layer of dark brownish-grey sandy clay (804), on a more or less north-east to south-west alignment, which contained occasional modern brick and moderate stones. The remnants of a minor brick wall [803] were laid, using LBC PHORPRES brick, towards one edge of the deposit. The London Brick Company was producing and using these bricks from the late 19th century until *c*1974. PHORPRES refers to the four pressings of the clay in the mould, prior to firing. The 1927 Ordnance

Survey depicts a farm track crossing this part of the field on the same alignment (Meckseper 2010, fig 7).

Trench 9

A substantial pit [904] was identified on the geophysical survey because it was packed with crushed soft red brick, which gives a high magnetic reading (Figs 2-3 and 10). The pit was 2.0m wide by 0.5m deep with vertical sides and a flat base, making it about the same size and shape as a machine bucket. The purpose of the hard core fill was not evident, but is of modern origin.

At the north end of the trench an undated linear feature [906] lay on a north-east to south-west alignment. Its uneven sides, shallow irregular base and lack of defining cut was largely characterised by root hollows, perhaps the base of a former hedge line. It did not match with any mapped historic boundaries.

Iron Age pit [1004] and possible postholes, looking south Fig 11

Trench 10

A discrete circular round bowl-shaped pit [1004] produced forty-eight sherds of pottery, weighing 428g (Figs 10-11). The pit was 100% excavated. The pottery is of broadly middle Iron Age date, from two or three vessels, of the 4th to 1st centuries BC. The pit was the only positively identified prehistoric feature on the site.

Immediately adjacent to the pit were two shallow scoops or possible postholes, [1006] and [1008], which contained similar friable reddish-brown sandy clay fill to that of the Iron Age pit, whilst these were undated they may be the remains of postholes contemporary with the pit.

Trench 11

The whole 19m at the east end of this trench was filled by dark deposits which lay within a depression visible at the surface prior to excavation (Fig 10). Although no datable finds were recovered, the depression appeared likely to be post-medieval at earliest and may

be a quarry, or other large depression, [1105], given its size and depth. It was relatively shallow at 1.25m deep and the soft orange-brown and dark brown silty sandy loam fills (1103/4) were similar to topsoil in texture, and were cut by land drains. These are most likely the result of deliberate infill and with minimal evidence for sedimentation it would seem this feature was open for a brief period.

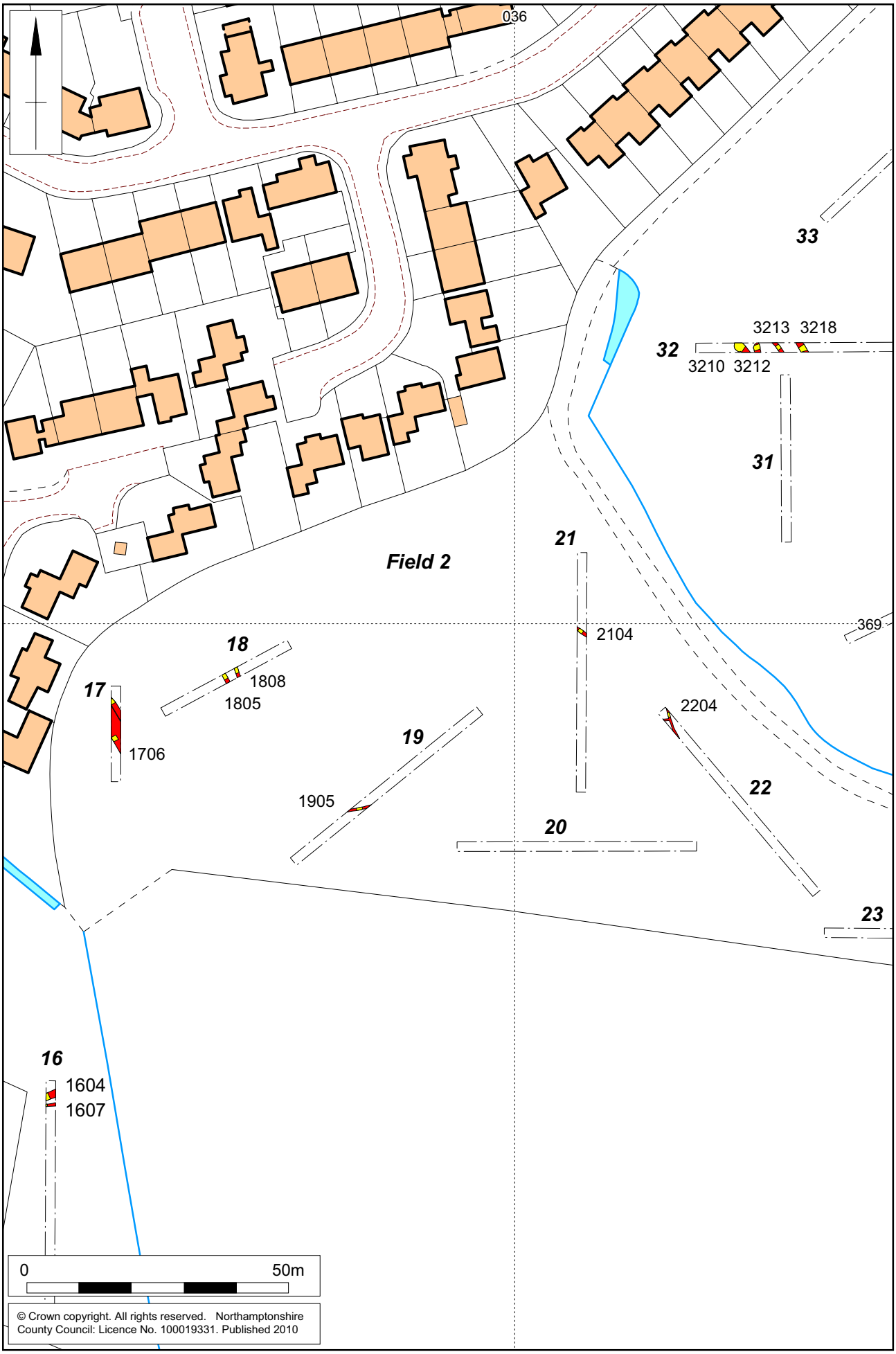
Trench 12

The west end of the trench was crossed by a brick drain [1204], which was a late post-medieval drainage feature, silted up and disused.

At the east end of the trench, ditch [1206] laid upon a north-west to south-east alignment. Whilst it is undated, the ditch was parallel to the north boundary of the site and could represent its earlier alignment.

Trench 16

Two ditches, [1604] and [1607], on north-east to south-west alignments crossed the north end of the trench (Figs 5-12). They were probably recuts of the same boundary. Whilst no continuation of these ditches was observed in Trench 8, they do have the correct location and orientation for a boundary that appears upon the 1889 Ordnance Survey and was later replaced by a farm track on the 1927 Ordnance survey (Meckseper 2010, figs 5 and 7). Ditch [1607] produced modern underglaze transfer printed earthenware.



Scale 1:1000

Features in Field 2 Fig 12

5.2 Field 2 (Trenches 17-23)

Seven trenches were excavated in Field 2, five of these contained features other than field drains (Fig 12). The whole field lay within tithe apportionment number 17 on the 1808 Enclosure map and was crossed by 'Drain No. 7', Trench 17 (Fig 9).

The subsoil comprised loose mid-brown sandy loam, 0.10-0.22m thick throughout the field. The topsoil was consistently loose dark greyish-brown silty loam, 0.30-0.40m thick, with stubble at the surface.

Trench 17

Ditch [1706] was a substantial feature, 4.0m wide by 0.57m deep, that crossed the west end of the field on a north-west to south-east alignment (Figs 5 & 12). This ditch is recorded on the historic maps and is a former stream called 'Blakk Water' (1580, Fig 6), 'Blackwater Slade' (1743-1773, Figs 7-8) and 'Drain No.7' (1808, Fig 9). It was identified by the desk-based assessment (Meckseper 2010, 13-14).

Trench 18

Two undated ditches, [1805] and [1808], crossed the trench on a north-south alignment (Fig 12). They were faintly visible on the geophysical survey plots (Figs 2-3) but did not cross Trench 19. They followed the natural topographical slope of the valley and were parallel to the stream in Trench 17.

Trench 19

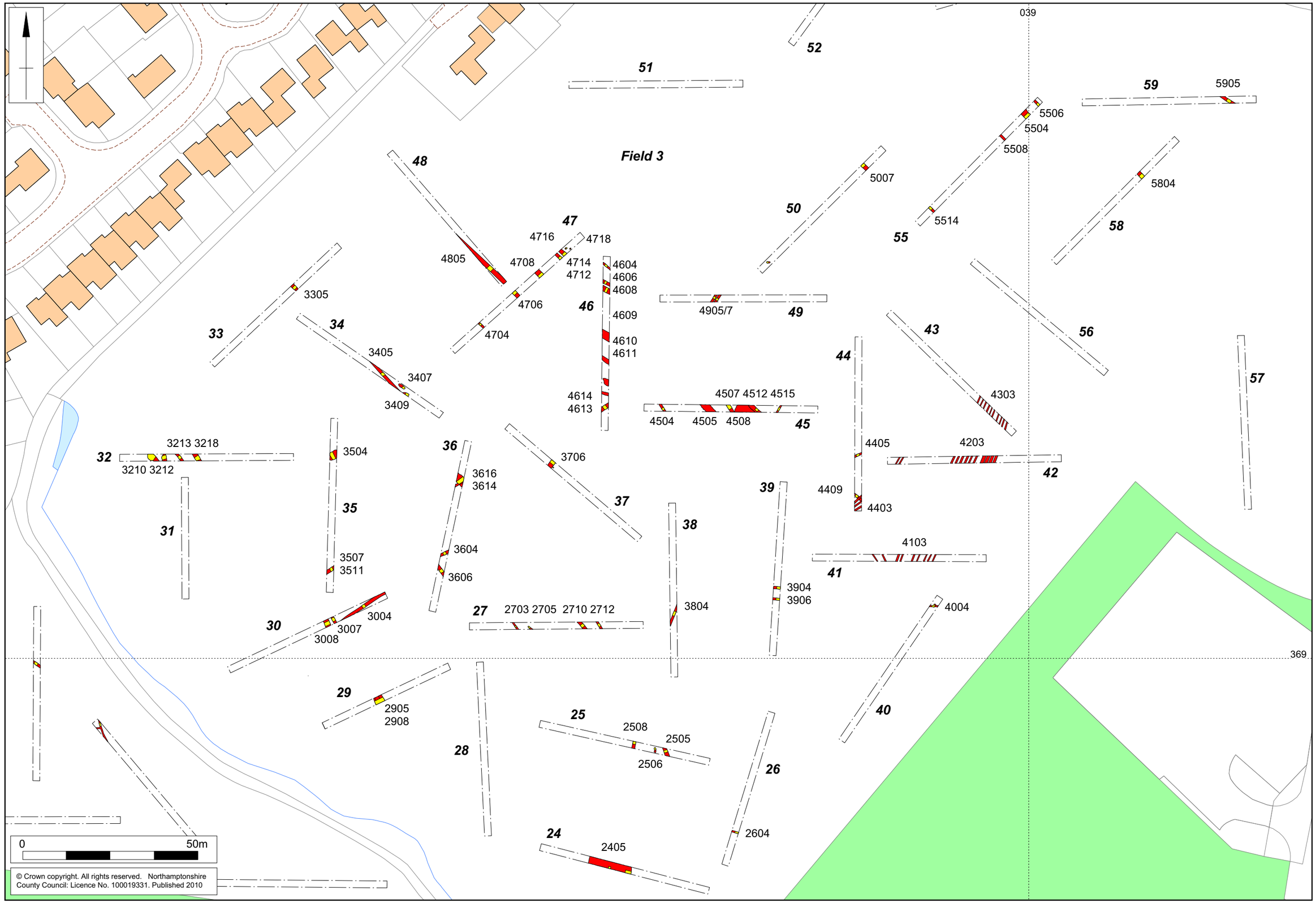
A shallow soil mark [1905] crossed the trench on a roughly east-west alignment. Upon investigation the feature possessed no definable cut and comprised entirely of uneven root hollows. It produced post-medieval unglazed earthenware, and was probably the line of a former hedge that does not appear on early maps. It may be related to features in Trench 22.

Trench 21

Ditch [2104] was on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 12). It is undated and its further extent is not known.

Trench 22

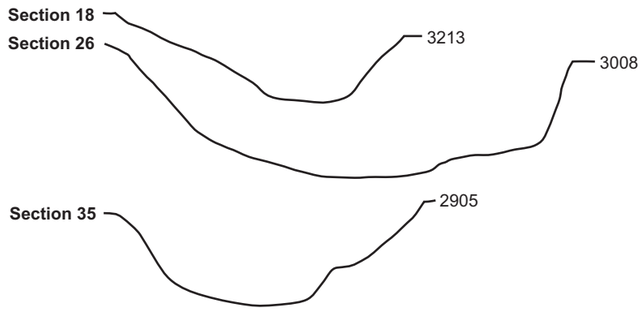
Shallow soil marks at the north-west end of the trench were investigated and appeared to derive from root hollows [2204]. These were similar to those in Trench 19, on the whole shallow, leaving dimples in the natural surface with no perceptible cut. The soil mark formed a T-junction in plan with one north-south alignment abutted by a feature from the west, possibly the hedge line extending from Trench 19. The soil mark did not survive in Trench 21.



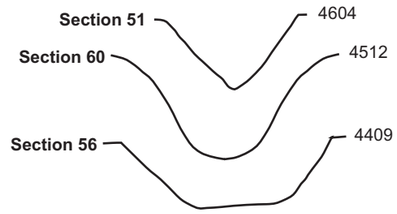
Scale 1:1000

Features in Field 3 Fig 13

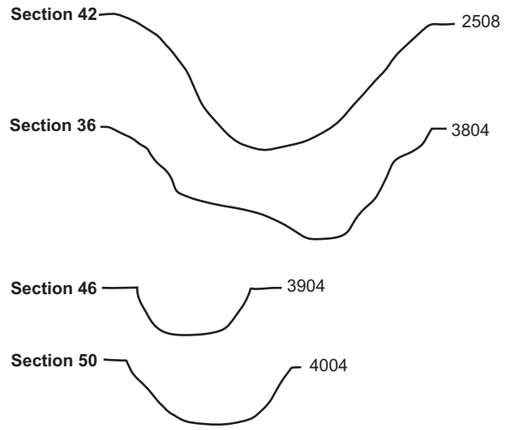
Ditch A



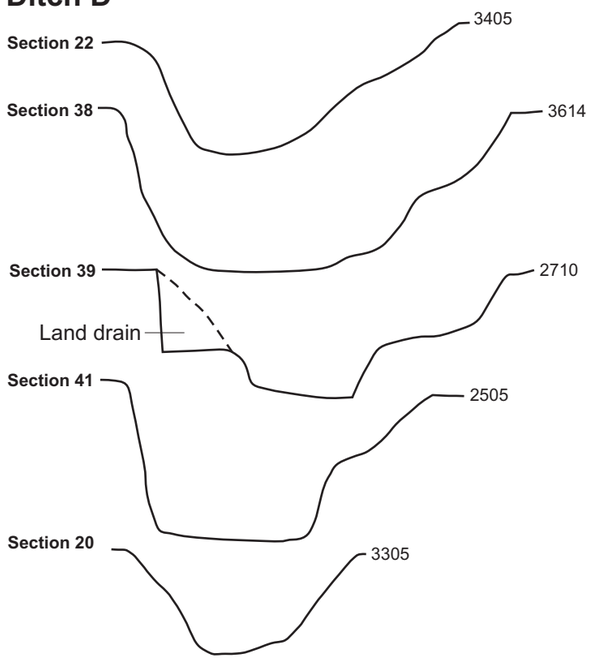
Ditch B



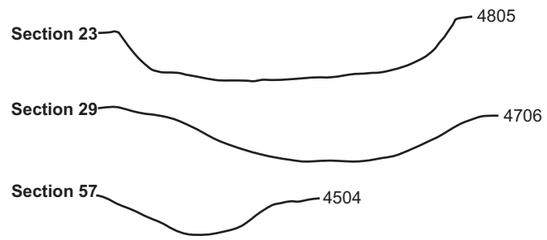
Ditch C



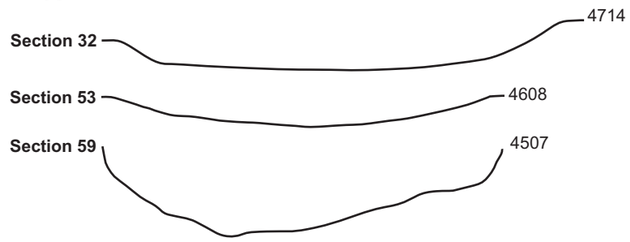
Ditch D



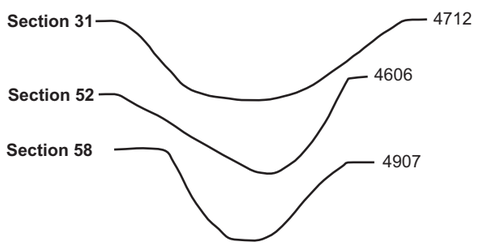
Ditch E



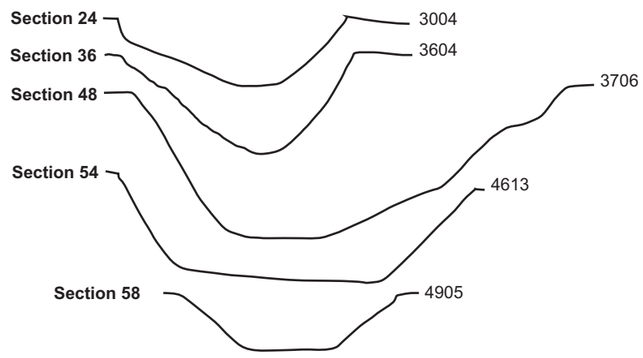
Ditch F



Ditch G



Ditch H



Scale 1:20

Comparison of ditch profiles Fig 14

5.3 Field 3 (Trenches 24-59)

There were thirty-six trenches excavated in Field 3, twenty-eight of these contained features other than field drains (Fig 13). Many of these features are undated, since they did not contain finds. However, the overall character and arrangement of the features reflects the late post-medieval fields depicted upon the 1808 Enclosure map (Fig 9). The majority of ditches are aligned north-west to south-east, following the principal axis of these enclosures and have some comparison in profile, although somewhat subject to truncation (Figs 5, 13-14). Fill comparisons may be seen in the context index which are often similar (Table 4). Ditches tend to include realignments of the same boundaries and they all follow the topographical slope of the hillside down to the south-east. Smaller gullies may represent minor unmapped subdivisions assisting drainage within these enclosures, whilst shallow scored soil marks in the surface of the substrate that were observed in Trenches 41-44 are likely to be close-set cultivation furrows of a kind associated with market gardening in the region. Three of the enclosures mapped in 1808 are labelled as 'allotments' and belonged to William Exton (Fig 9). Four other enclosures are referenced to the tithe apportionment document, numbers 458, 460, 461 and 463.

In addition to the late post-medieval agricultural evidence, there was a kiln [3210], which was partially excavated in Trench 32 (Figs 15-17). The kiln showed quite clearly as an anomaly on the geophysical survey plots (Figs 2-3). Fuel ash slag from within the kiln pit suggests that it was not associated with metalworking. No example of its product was recovered but, given its context, it may have processed lime for use as a fertiliser. Lime kilns are mapped to the south-west of the development on Flitwick Road by the 1889 Ordnance Survey (Meckseper 2010, fig 5).

The subsoil comprised loose mid-brown sandy loam, 0.10-0.15m thick throughout the field. The topsoil was consistently loose dark greyish-brown silty loam, 0.25-0.34m thick, with stubble at the surface.

Trench 24

The middle of the trench contained a spread, 12.6m wide, of firm mid orangey-brown sandy clay (2403) overlying mottled mid bluish-grey sandy clay (2404). These deposits filled a 0.52m deep depression with very shallow sloping sides that may be a former pond, [2405], of unknown date.

Trench 25

Two ditches crossed the trench. Ditch [2505] was aligned north-west to south-east and was probably the continuation of a single ditch (D) which was also excavated in Trenches 33, 34, 36 and 27 (Figs 5, 13-14). It divided the tithe apportionment 463 on the 1808 Enclosure map into two approximately equal parts and is probably an earlier unmapped boundary within that arrangement (Fig 9). Ditch [2508] was aligned north-east to south-west and was probably the continuation of a ditch (C) also observed in Trenches 38, 39 and 40 (Figs 5, 13-14). It matches with the boundary depicted upon the 1808 Enclosure map between allotments belonging to William Exton and the area of tithe apportionment 463.

Between the two ditches was a small patch of burning (2506), little more than a thin spread deposit of unknown provenance.

Trench 26

A single ditch, [2604], on a north-west to south-east alignment. It corresponds to a partition boundary between two of William Exton's allotments shown on the 1808 Enclosure map (Fig 9).

Trench 27

There were three shallow ditches, little more than gullies, [2703], [2705] and [2712], together with a more substantial ditch [2710], all of them on parallel north-west to south-east alignments (Fig 13). Like many of the minor features in this field, the gullies share the topographically derived drainage alignment of the historically mapped field boundaries and seem to be related to them. Ditch [2710] was part of the same ditch line (D) mentioned above in Trench 25, ditch [2505] (Figs 5, 13-14).

Trench 29

There were two ditches together both aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 13). Ditch [2905] cut the earlier ditch, [2908]. Both ditches (A) were also observed in Trenches 30 and 32, but this is the only occasion where they had a physical relationship (Figs 5, 13-14). Ditch [2905] is likely to be a recut and partial realignment of the same boundary. The boundary is depicted upon the 1808 Enclosure map dividing the allotment of William Exton that was by the stream from tithe apportionment 463 (Figs 5 and 9).

Trench 30

The trench contained three ditches, two of which, [3007] and [3008], were the continuation of ditches (A) noted in Trench 29, above (Figs 5, 13-14). The other ditch, [3004], was unlike any of the other boundaries observed in Field 3 in that it lay perpendicular to the dominant alignment. This ditch (H), which was aligned north-east to south-west, was also observed in Trenches 36, 37, 46 and 49 (Figs 5, 13-14). It appeared to have a slight curve over distance. The ditch is undated and is not shown on any historic maps. At no point did it have a physical relationship with boundaries that do appear.

Trench 32

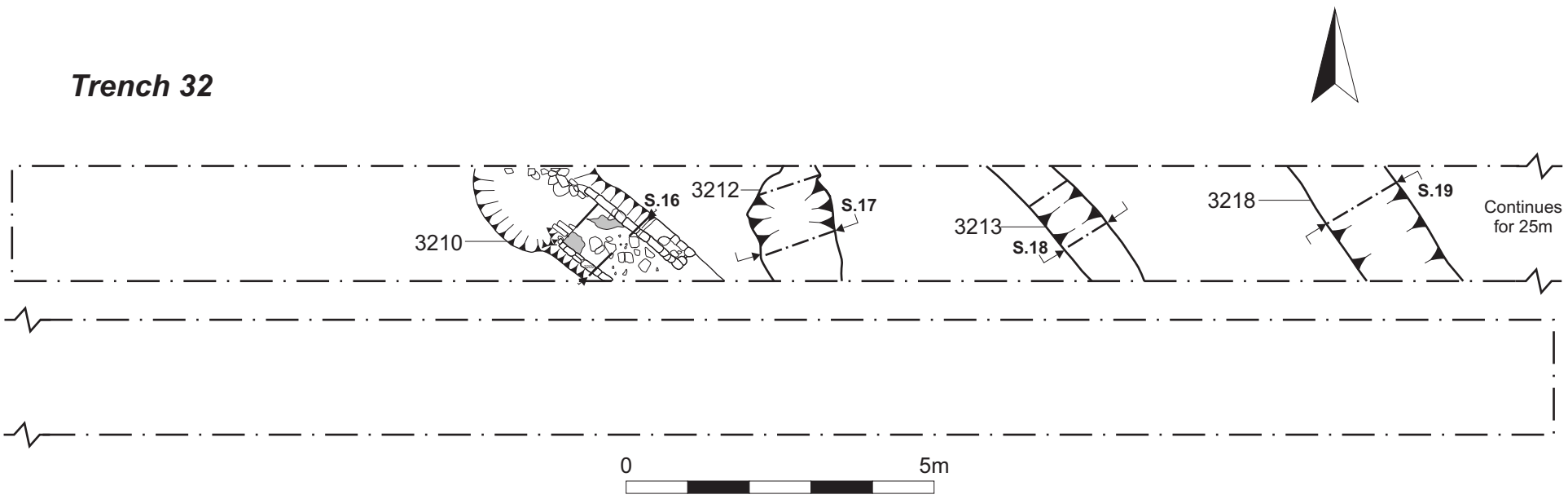
There were two ditches, a pit and a kiln within the trench (Fig 13). Ditches [3213] and [3218] were the north-west end of an alignment (A) previously noted in Trenches 29 and 30, above (Figs 5, 13-14). On the west side of this boundary, kiln [3210] and pit [3212] lay adjacent to each other.

The kiln was cut into the natural sand on a north-west to south-east alignment, parallel to the boundary ditches. It was rectangular, with a bulbous north-west end which was probably the product of demolition, perhaps as a result of breaking out the product after firing (Figs 15-16). There was no conclusive evidence of what the product was, it certainly was not for metalworking, and the current theory is the kiln produced lime for use as a fertiliser. The brick is handmade and post-medieval, but not easily datable.

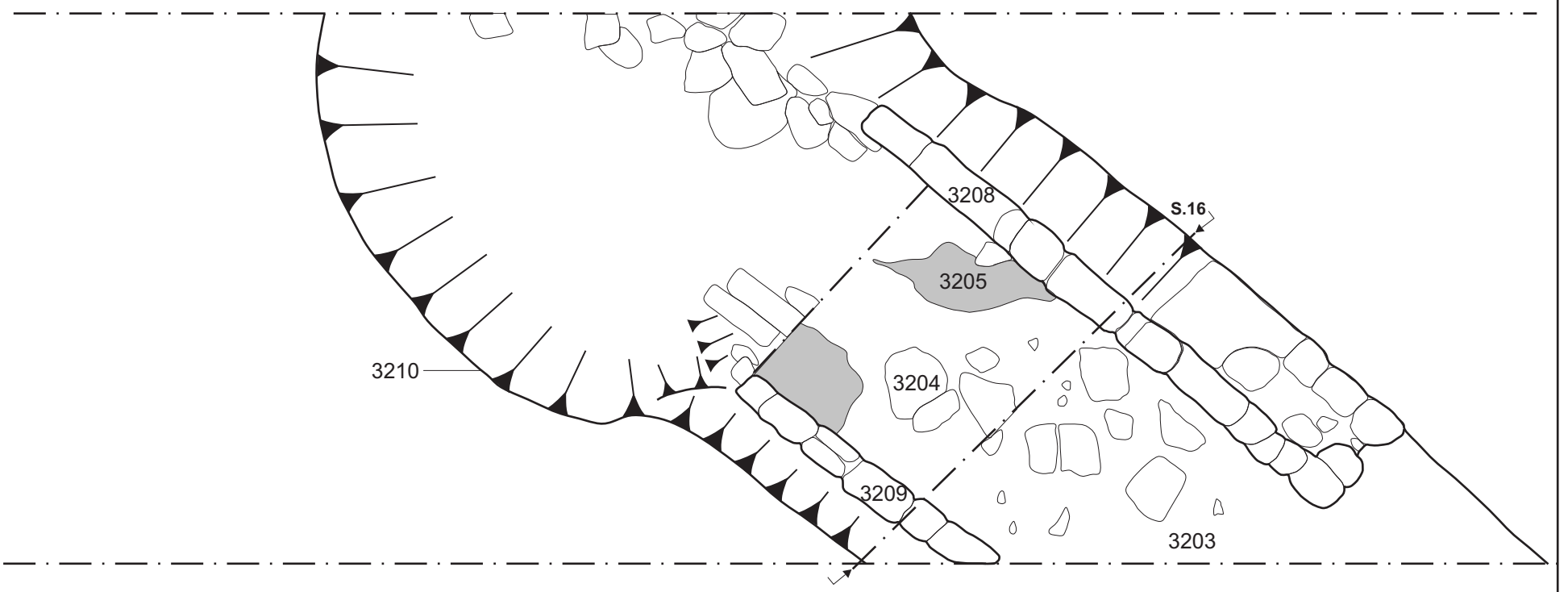
The sides of the pit were lined with brick, (3208) and (3209), one course thick and up to six courses deep, providing a raking pit for debris and waste by-products. The surviving raking pit was 2.0m long by 0.8m wide by 0.62m deep (Fig 15, Section 16). At the base of this lay a thin layer of loose black charcoal and ash (3207), 20mm thick, which was directly overlain by loose mid-brown sand, containing brick fragments from demolition (3206). On top of this lay a dump of solid greyish-green fuel ash slag (3205), which rather than being deposited *in situ*, had been thrown into the pit as part of the demolition fill (Fig 17). Above this were layers of sandy silt and brick rubble, (3204) and (3203), which filled the top of the kiln pit.

Pit [3212] lay on the eastern side of the kiln, it was substantial, 1.34m wide by 0.58m deep. Its natural sand sides were soft and prone to collapse, so the pit as a whole highly irregular in shape with uneven sides. It contained a small assemblage of bottle glass.

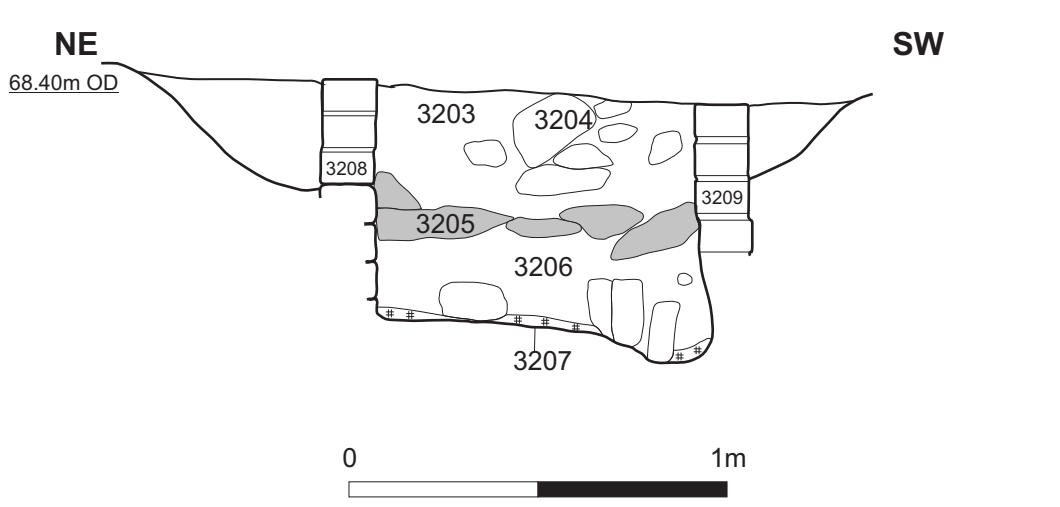
Trench 32



Detail of Kiln 3210, Trench 32



Section 16, Trench 32



fuel ash slag

Charcoal

Scale 1:100 &1:20

Trench 32, Kiln 3210 Fig 15

Kiln [3210], looking south-east Fig 16

Kiln [3210], view of cross-section looking south-east Fig 17

Trench 33

There was a single ditch, [3305], on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 13). This is part of the same boundary (D) noted in Trench 25, ditch [2505], above (Figs 5, 13-14).

Trench 34

The trench contained a single ditch, [3405], on a north-west to south-east alignment, which is part of the boundary (D) noted in Trench 25, ditch [2505], above (Figs 5, 13-14). In addition, two burned out root hollows were investigated, [3407] and [3409], which seem to have lain in close association with the boundary. It would seem that the boundary may have been substantial enough to have been colonised with vegetation and this had been removed when the ditch was filled in.

Trench 35

At the north end of the trench was a burned out root stump [3504] (Fig 13). The burning was spread within a shallow uneven bowl, with occasional deep hollows.

Toward the south end of the trench was an undated ditch, [3507], on a north-east to south-west alignment, parallel to ditch [3004] in Trench 30. The ditch had been in existence long enough to warrant a recut, [3511], and was also observed in Trench 36, below but did not extend into Trenches 37 or 46.

Trench 36

There were three ditches and one very shallow furrow-like feature within the trench (Fig 13). Ditch [3614] forms part of the north-west to south-east boundary noted in Trench 25, ditch [2505], above. Ditch [3616] cuts across the top of this on a perpendicular alignment and is therefore later, it is the continuation of the ditch (D) noted in Trench 35, above (Figs 5, 13-14). No recut was evident at this point. The other ditch (H), [3604], was the continuation of ditch [3004] in Trench 30 (Figs 5, 13-14).

The two parallel ditches [3604] and [3616] lay *c*14m apart, which coincides with other similarly aligned features in Fields 1 and 2 (Trenches 8, 16, 19 and 22). However, they are not mapped by the 1927 Ordnance Survey and no subdivision is depicted by the 1889 Ordnance Survey (Meckseper 2010, figs 5 and 7). The features seem therefore to be post-medieval but where they lie in the chronology of the site is somewhat unclear. They seem to be post-1808, but probably pre-1889.

Trench 37

Ditch [3706], on a north-east to south-west alignment (H), was the extension of ditches [3004] and [3604], noted above (Figs 5, 13-14). It cut through a gully, [3704], which respected the parallel pattern of the more prominent north-west to south-east boundaries on the 1808 Enclosure map.

Trench 38

A single ditch [3804] on a north-east to south-west alignment (C) was part of ditch [2508], noted in Trench 25 above (Figs 5, 13-14).

Trench 39

Two ditches, [3904] and [3906], lay adjacent to each other on parallel east-west alignments (Figs 5, 13-14). The ditches match with the north side of one of William Exton's allotments on the 1808 Enclosure map (Fig 9) and are part of the same ditch line (C) noted in Trench 25, ditch [2508], above, where it had turned eastward. The ditches are likely to represent recuts of the same boundary, shifted by a small margin of 0.5m.

Trench 40

A single ditch, [4004], crossed the north end of the trench on an east-west alignment (C) (Figs 5, 13-14). It is the continuation of the post-medieval enclosure boundary mentioned above in Trenches 25, 38, and 39. The ditch produced a sherd of plain white earthenware.

Trenches 41-44

Trench 44 had a ditch, [4409], aligned north-west to south-east (B), which may relate to one of the 1808 Enclosure map boundaries (Figs 5, 13-14). The feature was also noted in Trenches 45, 46 and 47. It was cut by cultivation soil marks at its surface, described below (Figs 5 and 13).

Trenches 41-44 exhibited a pattern of cultivation soil marks of a similar nature that formed a group within this part of the field, [4103/4203/4303/4403]. All of the soil marks except two were on a north-east to south-west alignment, parallel to each other, and between 1.0-1.5m apart. There were thirty-four soil marks in total, each one little more than 40mm deep with no perceptible cut profile. They were exclusively within the bounds of the 1808 tithe apportionment number 461. The most logical explanation is that they represent the base of trenching beds for horticultural crops.

A gully, [4405], in Trench 44 lay parallel with the cultivation soil marks on a north-east to south-west alignment. Whilst it is undated it is probably associated with them as it was particularly shallow and was not observed in any other trenches.

Trench 45

The trench contained a spread of reddish-brown sandy loam (4508) that was cut by two prominent north-west to south-east orientated ditches, [4507] and [4512] (Fig 13). The sandy loam that lay between them, perhaps the remnant of a former bank, produced a sherd of glazed red earthenware (CTS fabric PO1). Ditch [4512] on its north-east side was the continuation of the ditch [4409], noted in Trench 44 above (B), and produced one sherd of post-medieval unglazed earthenware. A sherd of Tudor Green type pottery (CTS fabric C16) was found in a field drain cutting the ditch. Ditch [4507], on its south-east side was not observed to extend into Trenches 39 or 41, but was part of an alignment (F) present in Trenches 46, 47 and 48 (Figs 5, 13-14). The ditches marked the division between tithe apportionments 461 and 463 on the 1808 Enclosure map (Fig 9). They appear to have been redefined on a number of occasions producing several parallel ditches in those trenches all within the space of *c*16m of each other. A possible truncated ditch, [4505], may have been an earlier alignment of the boundary, also present in Trenches 46 and 47.

In addition there were two gullies. Gully [4504] lay on a north-west to south-east alignment within tithe apportionment 463 and was probably the truncated end of a ditch (E) present in Trenches 46, 47, and 48 (Figs 5, 13-14). Gully [4515] lay perpendicular to it within tithe apportionment 461 matches up with the cultivation soil marks in Trenches 41-44.

Trench 46

There were eight features within this trench, most of which are likely to be the remnants of ditches, some of them quite badly truncated by ploughing (Fig 13). One ditch, [4613], was on a north-east to south-west alignment and formed part of a boundary extending across the field, noted in Trench 30, ditch [3004], above.

The remaining ditches all lay parallel on the same north-west to south-east alignment. These ditches were the continuation of the remodelled boundary noted in Trench 45,

above. Ditch [4610] was probably the continuation of gully [4505]. Ditch [4609] was probably the continuation of ditch [4507], and ditches [4604], [4606] and [4608] seemed to be three recut variations on ditch [4512]. All of these features continued into Trench 47. Ditch [4604] produced one sherd of English Stoneware. In addition there were two other remnant features, at the southern end of the trench; [4611], which did not seem to relate to features in other trenches and may simply be a small spread, and ditch [4614] which may be the continuation of ditch [4704] in Trench 47.

Trench 47

The trench contained five ditches, mostly truncated, and two postholes (Fig 13). They were all continuations of the features noted above in Trenches 46 and 45 (Figs 5, 13-14). Ditch [4704] is probably the continuation of ditch [4614]. Ditch [4706] appeared to be the continuation of ditch [4610], ditch E. Ditch [4708] matched the alignment of ditch [4610], and ditches [4712] and [4714] paired up with ditches [4606] and [4608].

The two postholes, [4716] and [4718], lay on the north-east side of ditch [4714] at the north-east end of the trench. Both had very definite sub-rectangular shapes in plan, and posthole [4718] had clear vertical sides and contained stone packing. Its companion posthole was less well defined.

Trench 48

A single ditch, [4805], aligned north-west to south-east (E), almost along the trench, was the continuation of ditches [4706] and [4610] in Trenches 46 and 47 (Figs 5, 13-14).

Trench 49

The trench contained two smaller parallel ditches, [4905] and [4907], adjacent to each other on a north-east to south-west alignment (Fig 13). They are aligned with the boundary (H) noted in Trench 30, ditch [3004], above and may be recuts or may indicate a change in alignment for one of the ditches (G) in Trenches 46-47 (Figs 5, 13-14).

Trench 50

Ditch [5007] lay on a north-west to south-east alignment and continued through Trench 55 (Figs 5 and 13). The ditch was shown on the 1808 Enclosure map as the boundary between tithe allotments 460 and 461 (Fig 9). It produced a residual sherd of medieval sandy ware (CTS fabric CO-type).

Trench 55

Three ditches lay on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 13). Ditch [5506] lay at the north-east end of the trench and its continuation was also found in Trench 58. The ditch appears on the 1808 Enclosure map as the boundary between tithe apportionments 458 and 460 (Figs 5 and 9). Similarly ditch [5514] is also the continuation of a post-medieval enclosure ditch [5007], noted in Trench 50, above. A cultivation soil mark [5508] was observed on the same alignment where it cut through a burned out root hollow [5510].

Ditch [5504] was definitely of recent origin, as it clearly cut the subsoil (5502) and contained large sherds of English Stoneware from a single vessel, for storing and transporting ale, cider and other liquors, dated *c*1890-1930. The ditch continuation elsewhere was not observed and it was probably a recut of ditch [5506] that had deviated from its original course by 3.0m.

Trench 58

The trench contained a single ditch, [5804], aligned north-west to south-east which was the continuation of ditch [5506] in Trench 55, above (Fig 13).

Trench 59

An undated ditch, [5905], lay on a north-west to south-east alignment at the eastern end of the trench (Fig 13). Its continuation was not observed in any other trenches and it does not match up with any historical maps. The ditch stood out against the other ditches excavated on the site because the fill was so very different. It was noticeably stonier in its upper fill than any other features and the sandy clay was distinctly lighter and more heavily leached than anything dated to the post-medieval enclosures.

6 FINDS

6.1 Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

The fill (1003) of pit [1004] contained 48 sherds, weighing 428g, probably from two or three hand-built vessels dating to the Iron Age. All are in a sandy fabric containing rounded quartz grains, typically less than 1mm diameter.

There is a coarse ware vessel, comprising plain body sherds 8-10mm thick, with a grey-brown core and dark orange-brown surfaces. The sandy fabric contains some larger quartz and other mineral inclusions, 1-3mm diameter, and both surfaces are rough and pitted from the loss of some of this larger mineral component. The single rim sherd shows a high shoulder with a short, 25mm high, deeply concave neck. The vessel has a broad flat-topped rim, 13mm wide, which is thickened externally, exaggerating the depth of the neck.

Sherds from an Iron Age burnished bowl (Scale 20mm) Fig 18

The second vessel is a small bowl in a finer thin-walled sandy fabric, 5-7mm thick. It has a grey-brown core and inner surface and a dark brown outer surface that is burnished (Fig 18). There is a single base sherd, 9mm thick, which is flat internally with a slightly concave base, and *c*70-80mm diameter. The rim sherds show a high shoulder and short concave neck, 21mm high and only 4mm thick, below a flat-topped rim, 7mm wide, which is slightly thickened externally. It has a rim diameter of *c*100mm. There is the suggestion of shallow fingertip impressions on the shoulder. A single rim sherd is eroded and has either lost its burnishing or is from a third vessel.

Given the small size of this group, from only two partially represented plain bowls, it is difficult to suggest a date more specific than broadly middle Iron Age, 4th to 1st centuries BC. This small group is comparable to larger assemblages from the county, such as that from Salford, Bedfordshire (Slowikowski 2005, 95-115) and also from the Milton Keynes area, Buckinghamshire, where sandy fabrics also tend to dominate the middle Iron Age assemblages (eg Chapman 2010).

6.2 Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

An exceedingly abraded Mortaria rim sherd, weighing 19g, was recovered from ditch [4612] in Trench 42. The fabric is hard, granular with abundant quartz inclusions and it is rough to touch. It displays similarities to the fabrics produced in the Verulamium region, VER WH (Tomber and Dore 1998).

6.3 Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Iain Soden

A total of sixteen sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from twelve contexts in eight types, and weighing in total 1,763g. The types were related to the Bedfordshire County Type Series (Baker *et al* 1979).

Table 1: Medieval and post-medieval pottery sherd count and weight (g) by type and context

Type/context	303	1606	1903	4003	4508	4511	4513	4603	5006	5203	5503	Total
Medieval sandy ware (CO-type)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/6	-	-	**1/6**
Tudor Green type (C16)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/2	-	-	-	-	**1/2**
Glazed red earthenware (PO1)	-	-	-	-	1/67	-	-	-	-	1/23	-	**2/90**
Midland Black	1/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1/15**
English stoneware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/15	-	-	6/1609	**7/1624**
Unglazed earthenware	-	-	1/2	-	-	1/4	-	-	-	-	-	**2/6**
Plain white earthenware	-	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1/5**
Underglaze transfer printed earthenware	-	1/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1/15**
Total	**1/15**	**1/15**	**1/2**	**1/5**	**1/67**	**1/4**	**1/2**	**1/15**	**1/6**	**1/23**	**6/1609**	**16/1763**

The single sherd of medieval sandy ware is a non-diagnostic body sherd, much abraded by the elements. Further understanding is not possible.

Of the remainder, the Midland Black sherd is part of a base, probably from a Tyg, an upright tankard dating from *c*1600-1650. The large sherds of English Stoneware, from ditch [5504], derive from a single vessel for storing and transporting ale, cider and other liquors. It was most popular around the time of the First World War, but might date anywhere in the period *c*1890-1930.

None of the material in this small assemblage is of intrinsic interest and is useful for dating only. It is comprised of mainly industrially-made late post-medieval to modern fabric types (eleven of sixteen sherds). It may be considered for discard.

6.4 Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman

Roof tile

This is an assemblage of 21 small sherds of flat unglazed roof tile, weighing 1325g, giving an average sherd weight of 63g (Table 2). They are typically 12-14mm thick, with one being 11mm and a few others 15-18mm thick. Only one sherd, from a land drain in Trench 52, has another measurable dimension, it is 160mm wide (6¼ inches), a standard measurement. Two other sherds have remnant pegholes, the one from fill (303) in pit [305], is 14mm in diameter, while another sherd from the subsoil in Trench 52 is oval *c*15mm x 17mm. The sherd from the land drain in Trench 7 has a slight curve, possibly from a valley or hip tile. One odd sherd, from Trench 52 appears to have a flange, but it is not a mathematical tile.

Table 2: Quantification of ceramic tile

Context / feature	No	Weight (g)	Thickness (mm)	Description
303 / pit 305	2	73	13	sandy orange-brown
			13	sandy red-brown, 1 peghole 14mm diameter
704 / land drain	2	168	15	sandy orange, slight curve
			12	finer sandy orange
1603 / gully 1604	1	30	12	dark red
1606 / ditch 1607	1	54	15	overfired grey
3903 / ditch 3904	1	34	18	coarse orange-red
3905 / ditch 3906	2	172	14	fine sandy orange-brown
			15	coarse orange
4003 / ditch 4004	1	10	13	fine orange
4508 / layer	1	28	14	coarse sandy orange
4511 / ditch 4512	1	60	16	fine pale brown
4715 / ?posthole 4716	1	118	14	finer sand streaked red & yellow lime mortar
5202 / subsoil	1	80	14	sandy orange, oval peghole *c*15x17mm
5204 / land drain	4	358	13	bottom 160mm wide (6¼ inches) coarse sandy red-brown;
			11	coarse sandy orange sand
			12	coarse sandy orange grey core
			15	thick fine pale orange with flange?
5503 / ditch 5504	3	140	13	coarse sandy dark orange
Totals	**21**	**1325**		

The fabric is hard, generally coarse but sometimes finer sandy clay, fired to orange through to dark red, one sherd overfired to grey-black, sometimes with a grey or black core, with inclusions of grog, gravel, ironstone and possibly stone,. There are two sherds made from a fine light brown to buff clay, one with the possible flange, and one which is streaked red and yellow with remnants of white lime mortar on one surface.

These tiles are similar to those reported on from Ampthill Castle (Chapman 2010) and would be of the same date range, late medieval to post-medieval.

Brick

An assemblage of sixteen bricks or fragments, weighing 14.9kg, comprises a sample of three complete and six incomplete or fragmentary bricks from kiln [3210], and eight other incomplete bricks or fragments from six contexts (Table 3).

Table 3: Quantification of brick

Context/feature	No	Wt (g)	Dimensions (mm), (inches)	Description
3208 / kiln 3210	9	2622	230 x 115 x 60 9 x 4½ x 2⅜	complete, dark red-brown, cindery
		2534	230 x 100 x 63 9 x 4 x 2½	complete, red-brown to black vitrified stretcher
		1550	190+ x 113 x 48 7½ +x 4½ x 1¾	incomplete, reddish-brown
		2026	220 x 100 x 58 8⅝ x 4 x 2¼	complete but broken, red-brown cindery, vitrified stretcher
		1091	- x 100 x 60 - x 4 x 2⅜	red-brown, cindery vitrified stretcher
		1156	- 100 x 60 - x 4 x 2⅜	red-brown, cindery vitrified stretcher
		845	- 100 x 60 - x 4 x 2⅜	red-brown, cindery some vitrification on header
		735	- x – x 60 - x – x 2⅜	two joining, red-brown cindery vitrified stretcher
		342	- x – x 60 - x – x 2⅜	hard grey overfired vitrified bright green
303 / pit 305	3	274	- x – x 35 - x – x 1⅜	two overfired fragments; one pinkish-brown, smooth surface
3903 / ditch 3904	1	916	150+ x 105 x 40 5⅞+ x 4⅛ x 1½	incomplete, yellow with grey core, sandy, smooth surface
3905 / ditch 3906	1	66	n/a	red-brown cindery fragment
4508 / layer	1	666	- x 115 x 50 - x 4½ x 2	hard, coarse sandy red-brown vitrified stretcher
4612 / ditch 4613	1	105	n/a	red-brown cindery fragment
4715 / ?posthole 4716	1	30	n/a	red-brown cindery fragment
Totals	**16**	**14958**		

The bricks from kiln [3210] are generally very similar in size and appearance. They are all red-brown, cindery to the touch, friable and most have been extensively vitrified to a greenish glassy consistency on one surface, indicating exposure to extensive or intensive heating. The vitrification usually occurs on a stretcher, with one example of a header, suggesting that the bricks were probably laid in a stretcher bond when the kiln was being constructed. Their dimensions are typically 230mm by 100-115mm by 60mm (9 by 4-4½ by 2⅜ inches), except for one incomplete example, which is 48mm thick, thinner than the rest and not vitrified. One incomplete brick retained some bonding material, 12mm thick, on one surface. The material is sandy and friable, maybe as a result of kiln use.

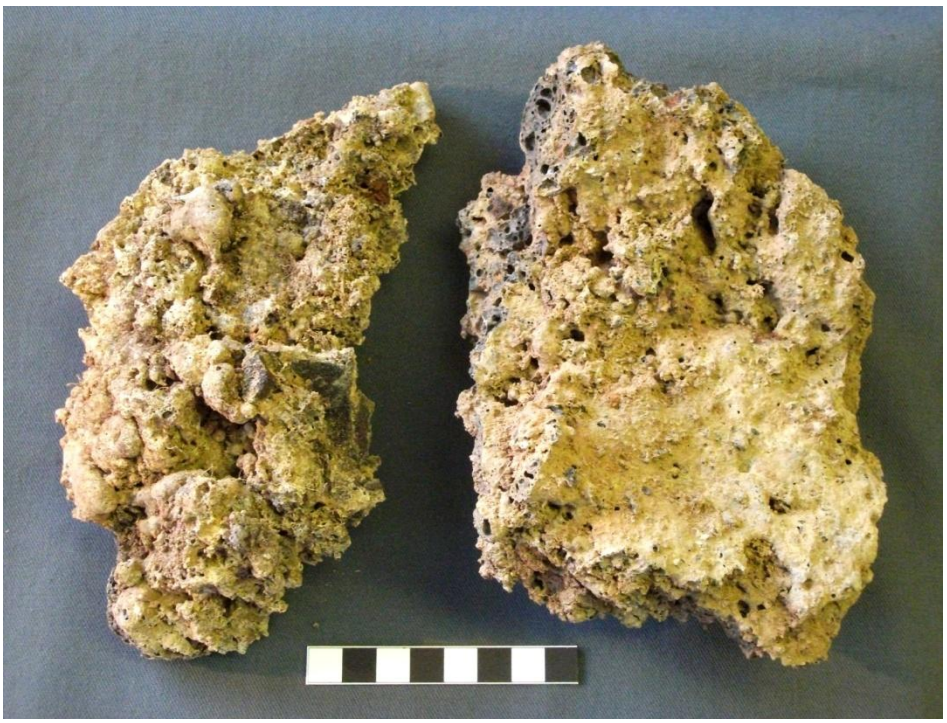
Of the remaining eight bricks six, mainly small fragments, are made from the coarse sandy red-brown fabric and overfired, one with remnant vitrification on a stretcher. The remaining two bricks are thin, more akin to thick floor tiles and both have one smooth surface, suggesting a possible use as flooring. The yellow brick, from (3903) is similar in size and colour to those made from the mid-17th century onwards, usually used in flooring and could have been made from Gault clays, a local tradition where these clays are available, particularly in the south and east of the country, where clays low in iron content are mixed with chalk to keep them pale (Brunskill 1990; Harley 1974; Baker and Hassall 1979).

Mortar

There is one small fragment of mortar from a possible posthole [4716]. It is 13mm thick at the edge where it has been pointed, it is white, weathered to cream, probably lime.

6.5 Fuel ash slag by Andy Chapman

The fill (3205) of a post-medieval brick-lined kiln [3210] contained several large lumps of highly vesicular fuel ash slag, each 150-400m long, with a total weight of 6.4kg. The fuel ash slag comprises small vesicular globules which are bound together, sometimes quite loosely, to form the larger masses. The surfaces are light brown, and the interior of the masses are grey in broken sections. Within each lump the presumed underside is convoluted (Fig 19, left) and the upper surface is smoother (Fig 19, right). Within the lumps there are some small pieces of soft and friable burnt sand, pink to dark grey in colour. There is no indication of any fuel, such as charcoal, coke or coal, within the masses, so it appears to be the product of indirect heating.



Fuel ash slag from the brick-lined kiln (Scale 10mm intervals) Fig 19

6.6 Metal finds by Tora Hylton

The excavations produced nine post-medieval finds. With the exception of an amorphous fragment of molten copper alloy recovered from the fill of pit [3212] in Trench

32, all the finds were recovered from topsoil deposits overlying Trenches 32, 42 and 45-47. The finds are mainly represented by small portable items which may have been casually lost; those worthy of note include three World War One military badges, a watch winder, and a George II shilling dated *c*1819. The badges are represented by a British Bedfordshire Regiment badge; a rectangular open worked badge with 'BEDFORD' in capital letters, which would have been worn on an epaulette; and a collar badge in the form of a bugle. The bugle was a common motif on Light Infantry badges, like those of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Regiment.

Finds catalogue

SF 1 Badge, copper alloy. Stamped badge, WW1 British Bedfordshire Regiment surmounted by a crown in a white field surrounded by rococo C-scrolls. Regiment badge consists of a Maltese Cross surrounded by rays; at the centre there is a deer surrounded by the motto "Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense" and Bedfordshire scroll beneath. Vestige of hinged fitting on underside. The regiment was in existence from 1881-1919. Dimensions: 33mm by 31mm, context 3201

SF2 Amorphous molten fragment of copper alloy. Dimensions: 30mm by 20mm by 4mm, context 3211

SF 3 Disc, copper alloy. Flat disc with centrally placed impressed circular motif on the upper surface; vestige of a shank protrudes from the underside. Diameter: 34mm, context 4501

SF 4 Watch winder, copper alloy. Context 4501

SF 5 Fragment of metal plate with vestige of perforation. Nature of object difficult to determine. Dimensions: 25mm by 18.5mm, context 4501

SF 7 ?Badge, copper alloy. Open worked rectangular shoulder flash with 'BEDFORD' in capital letters. World War One Bedfordshire Regiment shoulder flash worn on epaulette. Context 3201

SF 12 Shield shaped plaque with letter "M & Co" on upper surface. Context 4201

SF 13 Badge, copper alloy. Made from pressed sheet metal in the form of a bugle (cord missing). Stylistically resembles motif generally seen on Light Infantry badges. Similar to that seen on the collar badge of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Regiment. Context 4601

SF 15 George III shilling. Obverse: Laureate head (date not legible) Reverse: Shield in Garter. Context 4701

7 SYNTHESIS

Although a fairly large number of features were investigated within the application area, there was very little evidence predating the later part of the post-medieval period. A single pit in Field 1 produced a small assemblage of middle Iron Age pottery, and aside from two undated possible postholes adjacent, it appears to have existed in isolation. The feature would seem to represent cooking or heating activities peripheral to Iron Age settlement beyond the bounds of the application area, west of Flitwick Road. The feature was 100% excavated and further remains in its immediate vicinity would seem unlikely. It is of significance as a contribution to other local finds, particularly the small discrete pottery assemblage, but alone has limited application.

The majority of features present within the trenches have a distinct correlation with the early maps. Meagre quantities of finds of relatively late date suggest that the fields have never been a focus of settlement, and that the principal agricultural use of the site has been since its enclosure. The earliest datable ditch was found in Field 2, mapped in 1580, as the former 'Blakk Water' stream. However, during this period the larger part of the land encompassed by the study area was heathland called 'Ampthill Warren' and is thought to have been named in association with the breeding of rabbits (BCC 1996). Whilst it would be normal to find pillow mounds on such sites, artificial rabbit warrens, it has been suggested the naturally undulating topography of the heathland and the sandy nature of the ground would have meant such features were unnecessary (Meckseper 2010, 10). No such features were identified, corroborating this opinion, and the few medieval finds are likely to have been casual losses.

In the period 1743-1773 the land had been enclosed, dividing it into strip fields, several of which were perpetuated into the 19th century on the 1808 enclosure map. Amongst these were 'Greens Close' and 'Barbers Close' in the north-east of the application area, and this period of enclosure accounts for the earlier of the ditches present within the trial trenches. The area to the south-west of 'Blackwater Slade' (formerly Blakk Water) was 'Lammas Ground' and on its north-east it was called 'Galley Nole'. Other fields such as 'The More' and 'Maggot's Moor' show that the ground was still rough heathland, and probably somewhat marshy, which may account for the extensive 19th-century drainage mapped by the 1808 enclosure map. The larger streams, including ditch [1706] (formerly Blackwater Slade), were annotated as drains using numbers, this one being 'Drain No.6'. The accompanying book of tithe apportionments includes detailed description of the drainage ditches so that they may continue to be 'cleansed, scoured and maintained' for the good of the town. The sand pit to the north of the site (HER2867) and the 'marl' or clay pit to the north-east (HER2869) are also shown (Fig 1).

Many of the excavated ditches are from boundaries between tithe apportionments shown on the 1808 enclosure map, particularly in Field 3. In Trenches 41-44 features were ephemeral and likely to have been the product of cultivation by planting vegetables in close set rows. The discovery of a post-medieval kiln in the west corner of that field, perhaps for producing lime, would seem appropriate to the distinctly horticultural nature of the features, and would have been a useful fertiliser.

By the period of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map in 1889, each of the fields had been consolidated and all of these minor allotment subdivisions had become redundant. Most of the drains were also redundant, and ditch [1706] (Drain No.6) was filled in. The only additional development to be mapped was the length of ditch in Trench 16, which was subsequently replaced by a farm track by 1927 and observed in Trench 8.

On the whole excavated features matched well with historical cartographic documentation and the range of features and finds were of a type and quantity that would be expected for post-medieval agricultural practises. A general lack of earlier period archaeology, despite the discovery of a single Iron Age pit, would indicate that the overall potential of the site to produce archaeological remains of national/regional significance is likely to be low. The potential of archaeological remains of local significance may be considered low to moderate. Much of this latter information is likely to belong to the post-medieval agricultural rural economy of the town and survives in the historical documentary sources. Further excavation would be unlikely to yield greater understanding of post-medieval agricultural practice in the town and is already reflected in the rural history of the region.

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APPENDIX – CONTEXT INDEX

The index omits most land drains, except where they had a stratagraphic relationship with other features and were recorded in section.

Table 4: Context index

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
Trench 1					
101	topsoil	loose greyish-brown silty loam with frequent root intrusions, grass cover at the surface		0.29	surface
102	fill	mottled reddish-brown and orange clayey sand with infrequent worm castes and occasional small pebbles <30mm		0.20	fills 103
103	ditch	shallow sloping sides, narrow v-shaped base	0.90	0.20	cuts 114
104	fill	light brown sandy clay		0.12	fills 105
105	root hollow	shallow sloping sides, irregular rounded bohl with runners, individual bush/tree	0.36	0.12	cuts 114
106	fill	mixed light yellowish-orange and brown sandy clay loam, moderate pebbles <20mm		0.40	fills 107
107	pit	roughly rectangular, steep sloping sides, flat base	1.00	0.40	cuts 114
108	fill	mottled mid greyish-orange sand, occasional worm castes and root intrusions, few pebbles <25mm		0.19	fills 109
109	gully	sharp 45° sloping sides with narrow rounded base, aligned next to and parallel to ditch 111	0.25	0.19	cuts 114
110	fill	similar to 108, merges at surface spread		0.30	fills 111
111	ditch	shallow sloping sides at 30°, uneven rounded base	1.00	0.30	cuts 114
114	natural	yellow sand			
Trench 2					
201	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
202	natural	yellow sand			
Trench 3					
301	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
302	natural	sandy clay with patches of blue clay			
303	fill	firm brownish sandy clay with occasional pebbles <10mm		0.30	fills 305 overlies 304
304	fill	firm light greyish-brown clay, few stones <25mm		0.38	fills 305 overlies 306
305	pit	edge of large pit, sharp 70-85° upper edge, slightly curving slope, stepped at 1.0m depth, steep slope continued, base not reached		1.30 +	cuts 302
306	fill	firm plastic greyish-blue clay		0.20	fills 305 overlies 307
307	fill	firm orange-brown sandy clay mixed with dark brown clayey loam		0.42	lowest fill of 305 exposed
Trench 4					
401	topsoil	same as 101		0.37	surface
402	natural	yellow sand with clay patches			
Trench 5					
501	topsoil	same as 101		0.29	surface
502	natural	yellowish-orange sandy clay			
503	fill	mottled orangey-brown sand with frequent iron pan		0.09	fills 504 overlies 502
504	ditch	gently sloped and curving sides with a broad flattish base, barely perceptible	1.6	0.09	cuts 502
Trench 6					
601	topsoil	same as 101		0.32	surface
602	natural	yellowish-orange sandy clay			
Trench 7					
701	topsoil	same as 101		0.32	surface
702	natural	yellowish-orange sandy clay			
Trench 8					
801	topsoil	same as 101		0.29	surface
802	natural	orange-brown sandy clay			
803	modern wall	base course, unbonded, two courses wide, one course deep, LBC Phorpres brick		0.12	overlies 804
804	layer	firm mid to dark brownish-grey sandy clay with moderate stones <60mm, contains modern brick		0.35	overlies 802
Trench 9					
901	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
902	natural	orange-brown sand			
903	fill	friable loose soft red crush brick dust with chunks		0.53	fills 904

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
		of brick <120mm and occasional degraded quarter-bricks, none whole			
904	modern pit	roughly rectangular pit, near vertical sides, broad flat base, possibly machine excavated	2.00	0.53	cuts 902
905	fill	soft greyish-brown sandy loam		0.08	fills 906
906	hedge base	uneven sides, shallow irregular base, no defining cut, root hollows	0.30	0.08	cuts 902
Trench 10					
1001	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
1002	natural	yellowish-brown sand with orange-brown clay patches			
1003	fill	friable reddish-brown sandy clay loam, occasional charcoal flecks, several large rounded burnt stones <150mm (possible pot boilers), large amount of iron age pottery		0.25	fills 1004
1004	iron age pit	rounded pit, 0.70m by 0.52m, steep sloping sides with rounded base, two possible postholes adjacent, 1006 & 1008	0.52	0.25	cuts 1002
1005	fill	friable reddish-brown sandy clay with few possible charcoal flacks		0.15	fills 1006
1006	?posthole	steep sides, slightly concave, narrow rounded base, uneven and not wholly convincing	0.30	0.15	cuts 1002
1007	fill	friable reddish-brown sandy clay		0.07	fills 1008
1008	?posthole	rounded sides, somewhat shallow , barely perceptible	0.20	0.07	cuts 1002
Trench 11					
1101	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
1102	natural	yellow sand			
1103	fill	soft orange-brown to dark brown silty sandy loam		0.34	fills 1105 overlies 1104
1104	fill	soft brown silty sand and greyish-brown silty clay		0.91	fills 1105
1105	?pond	either natural sinkhole in sand or large feature with shallow, gradually sloping edge, steadily drops towards centre, broad flattish base	16.0	1.25	cuts 1102
Trench 12					
1201	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
1202	natural	yellowish-brown sand with clay patches			
1203	fill	reddish-brown full bricks lining sides of cut with brick capping, 220x110x63mm size		0.15	fills 1204
1204	brick drain	vertical sides, flat base	0.33	0.15	cuts 1202
1205	fill	light grey silty sand with orange-brown patches, few stones <10mm		0.23	fills 1206
1206	ditch	fairly steep sloping sides with a rounded base, some disturbances along the sides	0.53	0.23	cuts 1202
Trench 13					
1301	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
1302	natural	soft reddish-brown and yellowish-brown sand			
Trench 14					
1401	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
1402	natural	soft yellowish-brown sand			
Trench 15					
1501	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
1502	natural	orange-brown sand with clay patches			
Trench 16					
1601	topsoil	same as 101		0.30	surface
1602	natural	orange-brown sand with clay patches			
1603	fill	soft orange-brown silty sand with few pebbles <15mm		0.28	fills 1604
1604	ditch	sharp sloping rounded sides, flat uneven base	0.58	0.28	cuts 1602
1605	fill	soft dark brown sandy loam with few stones <10mm		0.28	fills 1607 overlies 1606
1606	fill	firm mottled orange-brown sandy clay with yellowish-brown patches, occasional stones <10mm, root disturbance evident		0.59	fills 1607
1607	ditch	steep straight sides, almost vertical, slightly eroded undercutting side	1.65	0.87	cuts 1602
Trench 17					
1701	topsoil	loose dark greyish-brown silty loam, straw stubble at surface		0.36	surface
1702	subsoil	loose mid brown sandy loam		0.15	below 1701
1703	natural	orange sand			

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
1704	fill	firm mid brown sandy clay		0.37	fills 1707 overlies 1705
1705	fill	dark greyish-brown sandy clay, lots of root disturbance		0.20	fills 1706
1706	ditch	SW shoulder, steep sloping sides, slight break of slope at 0.33m, flattish base	*c*4.00	0.57	cuts 1703
1707	fill	same as 1704		0.28	fills 1709 overlies 1708
1708	fill	same as 1705		0.10	fills 1709
1709	ditch	NE shoulder, roughly symmetrical profile with 1706, cut by field drain	*c*4.00	0.38	cuts 1703
Trench 18					
1801	topsoil	same as 1701		0.38	surface
1802	subsoil	same as 1702		0.22	below 1801
1803	fill	loose mid brown sandy silt, moderate ironstone shale <20mm		0.17	fills 1805 overlies 1804
1804	fill	firm mid greyish-brown sandy clay, frequent gravel <30mm		0.06	fills 1805
1805	ditch	shallow concave sloping sides, rounded base	0.75	0.23	cuts 1809
1806	fill	similar to 1803		0.12	fills 1808 overlies 1807
1807	fill	loose mid greyish-brown sandy gravel, pebbles are <30mm		0.19	fills 1808
1808	ditch	sharp v-shaped cut with narrow flat base	0.70	0.31	cuts 1809
1809	natural	yellowish-orange sand			
Trench 19					
1901	topsoil	same as 1701		0.30	surface
1902	subsoil	same as 1702		0.10	below 1901
1903	natural	yellowish-orange sand			
1904	fill	loose light orange-brown sandy clay		0.10	fills 1905
1905	root hollows	extremely uneven natural surface, riddled with small hollows, aligned E-W, possible hedgerow	1.20	0.10	cuts 1903
Trench 20					
2001	topsoil	same as 1701		0.25	surface
2002	subsoil	same as 1702		0.19	below 2001
2003	natural	yellowish-orange sand			
Trench 21					
2101	topsoil	same as 1701		0.40	surface
2102	subsoil	same as 1702		0.10	below 2101
2103	fill	dark greyish brown sandy loam		0.24	fills 2104
2104	ditch	sharp rounded sloping sides and broad flat base	0.85	0.24	cuts 2105
2105	natural	orange sand			
Trench 22					
2201	topsoil	same as 1701		0.30	surface
2202	subsoil	same as 1702		0.18	below 2201
2203	fill	loose light greyish-brown sandy clay		0.10	fills 2204
2204	root hollows	imperceptible cut, base is uneven and contains many small hollows, same alignment as 1905, possible hedgerow, meets with T-junction	0.50	0.10	cuts 2205
2205	natural	orange sand			
Trench 23					
2301	topsoil	same as 1701		0.32	surface
2302	subsoil	same as 1702		0.12	below 2301
2303	natural	orange sand with orange-grey clay patches			
Trench 24					
2401	topsoil	loose dark greyish-brown sandy loam with occasional stones <30mm, straw stubble at surface		0.28	surface
2402	subsoil	friable mid orangey-brown sandy loam, occasional stones <20mm		0.15	below 2401
2403	fill	firm mid orangey-brown sandy clay with grey mottling, occasional stones <20mm		0.19	fills 2405 overlies 2404
2404	fill	firm mid bluish-grey sandy clay with orange mottles and grit		0.33	fills 2405
2405	?pond	very gradual shallow sloping edge towards broad flat base	12.6	0.52	cuts 2406
2406	natural	orange brown clayey sand			
Trench 25					
2501	topsoil	same as 2401		0.27	surface
2502	subsoil	same as 2402		0.14	below 2501
2503	fill	friable mid greyish-brown and yellow clayey sand, moderate gravel <20mm		0.30	fills 2505 overlies 2504

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
2504	fill	friable mid greyish-blue and orange mottled sandy clay		0.22	fills 2505
2505	ditch	sharp steep sloping sides with a slight step on one side, broad flat base	0.97	0.52	cuts 2509
2506	burning	shallow patch of dark bluish-black silty clay loam		0.04	overlies 2509
2507	fill	loose mid greyish-brown silty sand with few stones <10mm		0.45	fills 2508
2508	ditch	symmetrical 50° sloping sides with a slightly uneven flattish base	1.00	0.45	cuts 2509
2509	natural	orange sand with bluish-grey clay patches			
Trench 26					
2601	topsoil	same as 2401		0.27	surface
2602	subsoil	same as 2402		0.18	below 2601
2603	fill	loose rich dark brown sandy loam with small root intrusions, moderate stones <10mm		0.32	fills 2604
2604	ditch	asymmetrical uneven gradually sloping rounded sides towards broad flattish base	0.98	0.32	cuts 2602
2605	natural	yellow sand with gravel patches			
Trench 27					
2701	topsoil	same as 2401		0.30	surface
2702	fill	friable mid orangey-brown sandy loam		0.15	fills 2703
2703	gully	shallow v-shaped cut, imperceptible sides	0.50	0.15	cuts 2713
2704	fill	similar to 2702 and parallel		0.10	fills 2705
2705	gully	similar to 2703 but is not continuous, gradually fades out	0.45	0.10	cuts 2713
2706	fill	firm mid brown sandy loam with patches of clean yellow sand, few charcoal flecks, red ceramic drain pipe		0.38	fills 2707
2707	land drain	near vertical sides and flat base truncates edge of ditch 2710	0.37	0.38	cuts 2708
2708	fill	firm mid grey sandy silt with slight yellow mottling		0.35	fills 2710 overlies 2709
2709	fill	firm light grey sand with some clean yellow sand slump towards base		0.13	fills 2710
2710	ditch	steep sloping side with sharp break at 0.18m depth creating a step, drops sharply again to a flat base	1.30	0.48	cuts 2713
2711	fill	firm mid brown sandy loam with light grey mottling		0.20	fills 2712
2712	gully	steep sides at an angle, narrow flattish base	0.50	0.20	cuts 2713
2713	natural	yellow sand			
2714	subsoil	same as 2402		0.11	below 2701
Trench 28					
2801	topsoil	same as 2401		0.25	surface
2802	subsoil	same as 2402		0.14	below 2801
2803	natural	yellowish-orange sandy clay			
Trench 29					
2901	topsoil	same as 2401		0.25	surface
2902	subsoil	same as 2402		0.10	below 2901
2903	fill	firm mid brown clayey sand with orange mottling		0.25	fills 2905 overlies 2904
2904	fill	firm mid greyish-blue silty clay		0.10	fills 2905
2905	ditch	gradual sloping, slightly curved sides, towards a flattish base	0.95	0.35	cuts 2909
2906	fill	firm mid brown sandy clay with few ironstone fragments <30mm		0.60	fills 2908 overlies 2907
2907	fill	firm dark yellowish-grey clay		0.20	fills 2908
2908	ditch	steeply angled, slightly uneven slope, meets in a narrow flat base	1.20	0.80	cuts 2909
2909	natural	orange-brown clayey sand			
Trench 30					
3001	topsoil	same as 2401		0.25	surface
3002	subsoil	same as 2402		0.05	below 3001
3003	fill	loose mid brown clayey sand, few pebbles <30mm		0.20	fills 3004
3004	ditch	roughly symmetrical V-shaped ditch with slightly irregular base	0.75	0.20	cuts 3011
3005	fill	firm mid brown sandy clay with orange mottling, few charcoal flecks		0.30	fills 3007 overlies 3006
3006	fill	firm mid greyish-blue silty clay		0.05	fills 3007
3007	ditch	gradual sloping sides, asymmetrical with narrow rounded base	0.85	0.35	cuts 3011
3008	ditch	steep asymmetrical sloping sides, sharp break of slope, broad flattish base	1.40	0.40	cuts 3011
3009	fill	firm mid brown sandy clay with moderate stones <60mm		0.29	fills 3008 overlies 3010

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
3010	fill	soft dark grey wet sandy clay		0.11	fills 3008
3011	natural	orange-brown clayey sand			
Trench 31					
3101	topsoil	same as 2401		0.25	surface
3102	subsoil	same as 2402		0.12	below 3101
3103	natural	yellow sand with patches of deep red iron pan			
Trench 32					
3201	topsoil	same as 2401		0.28	surface
3202	subsoil	same as 2402		0.11	below 3201
3203	fill	loose mid brown sandy silt with frequent brick fragments <90mm		1.25	fills 3210 overlies 3204
3204	fill	rubble layer of broken and partially collapsed brick		0.15	fills 3210 overlies 3205
3205	fill	solid greyish-green ash slag deposit		0.05	fills 3210 overlies 3206 abuts 3208 & 3209
3206	fill	loose mid brown sand with frequent brick fragments and partial bricks <110mm		0.20	fills 3210 overlies 3207 abuts 3208 & 3209
3207	fill	loose black charcoal and ash deposit		0.02	fills 3210 overlies 3222 abuts 3208 & 3209
3208	brick wall	red brick slag pit wall on NE side, six courses deep and one course wide, unbonded stretcher	0.10	0.41	abuts sides of 3210
3209	brick wall	same as 3208 on SW side of ash slag pit, except four courses only	0.10	0.34	abuts sides of 3210
3210	Kiln pit	construction pit, rectangular wall of ash slag pit retains only upper edge, bulbous NW end probably caused by robbing, perhaps as part of the kiln demolition as no separate cut observed, context reference also used as feature number for post-medieval 'kiln' or 'furnace'	1.50	1.40	cuts 3222
3211	fill	loose dark brown sand with few red and black flecks from fired clay and charcoal, occasional fragmented ironstone <10mm		0.58	fills 3212
3212	pit	steep sided pit with flattish base, sides are ragged, undercut and irregular with signs of collapse, probable borrow pit	1.34	0.58	cuts 3222
3213	ditch	shallow sloping sides curve gradually into a rounded base	0.80	0.30	cuts 3222
3214	fill	loose dark greyish-brown sandy loam with clods of dark sandy loam, moderate stones <30mm		0.18	fills 3213 overlies 3215
3215	fill	loose redeposited orange brown sand		0.10	fills 3213 overlies 3215
3216	fill	firm grey clay		0.02	fills 3213
3217	fill	loose redeposited light greyish-white sand		0.15	fills 3218
3218	ditch	sharp steep sides with sudden break of slope to meet a broad flat base	1.45	0.54	cuts 3222
3219	fill	loose dark grey sandy loam with occasional grit		0.25	fills 3218 overlies 3220
3220	fill	friable dark brownish-yellow gritty sand with moderate stones <25mm		0.10	fills 3218 overlies 3221
3221	fill	firm dark grey sandy loam with moderate pebbles <20mm		0.04	fills 3218 overlies 3217
3222	natural	white sand with patches of deep red iron pan			
Trench 33					
3301	topsoil	same as 2401		0.30	surface
3302	subsoil	same as 2402		0.10	below 3301
3303	fill	firm dark brown mottled with orange sandy loam		0.30	fills 3305 overlies 3304
3304	fill	dark brown sandy loam with lighter sandy patches		0.15	fills 3305
3305	ditch	asymmetrical sharp sloping sides, some evident erosion, rounded base	1.00	0.45	cuts 3306
3306	natural	orange-grey sand			
Trench 34					
3401	topsoil	same as 2401		0.25	surface
3402	subsoil	same as 2402		0.13	below 3401
3403	fill	firm dark reddish-brown sandy loam		0.25	fills 3405 overlies 3404
3404	fill	dark brown sandy loam with lighter sandy patches		0.15	fills 3405

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
3405	ditch	steep sloping sides with sharp change of slope towards a fairly broad flattish base channel	1.10	0.40	cuts 3410
3406	fill	dark blackish-brown silty clay		0.10	fills 3407
3407	root hollows	irregular and uneven root bowl with undulating base and runners, distinctive root pattern	0.55	0.10	cuts 3410
3408	fill	similar to 3406		0.10	fills 3409
3409	root hollows	similar to 3407, uneven rounded bohl with root hollows projecting in random fashion	0.60	0.10	cuts 3410
3410	natural				
Trench 35					
3501	topsoil	same as 2401		0.25	surface
3502	subsoil	same as 2402		0.12	below 3501
3503	fill	loose dark blackish-brown sandy loam with frequent charcoal flecks and lumps <30mm		0.20	fills 3504
3504	root hollows	broad shallow indentation with uneven base and occasional deep hollows	1.50	0.20	cuts 3513
3505	fill	mottled mixed orange and grey sand with a pale cream ceramic pipe at the base		0.15	fills 3506
3506	land drain	vertical sides with a narrow flat base	0.40	0.15	cuts 3508
3507	ditch	sharp steep sloping sides with a rounded base	0.80	0.40	cuts 3513
3508	fill	firm mottled orange sandy-loam with occasional stones <40mm		0.15	fills 3511 overlies 3509
3509	fill	dark greyish-brown sandy loam		0.05	fills 3511 overlies 3512
3510	fill	friable mottled orange and grey sandy loam with moderate stones <10mm		0.15	fills 3507
3511	ditch recut	sharp sloping sides recut ditch 3507 with a narrow vertical sided channel in the base	0.80	0.35	cuts 3510
3512	fill	dark grey silty clay with few small stones <10mm		0.05	fills 3511
3513	natural	orange-brown sand			
Trench 36					
3601	topsoil	same as 2401		0.20	surface
3602	subsoil	same as 2402		0.08	below 3601
3603	fill	loose brownish-orange sandy loam with few charcoal flecks		0.23	fills 3604 overlies 3611
3604	ditch	steep sloping sides with a narrow rounded base	0.75	0.33	cuts 3610
3605	fill	soft mid brownish-oranges silty sand with orange and grey mottling		0.10	fills 3606
3606	?furrow	extremely shallow slightly concave linear depression in natural	1.00	0.10	cuts 3610
3607	land drain	vertical cut with ceramic pipe at base	0.35	0.18	cuts 3610
3608	fill	dark orange brown sandy loam with moderate red flecks and occasional flint pebbles <40mm		0.09	fills 3614 overlies 3609
3609	fill	soft dark brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks and root intrusions		0.20	fills 3614 overlies 3612
3610	natural	greyish-orange sand			
3611	fill	friable light bluish-grey silty sand with orange mottling		0.10	fills 3604
3612	fill	firm dark blackish-grey sandy clay with large roots intruding		0.18	fills 3609 overlies 3613
3613	fill	loose light grey silty sand, mottled orange, root intrusions		0.05	fills 3609
3614	ditch	sharp steep sides, asymmetrical, slope rapidly down towards a broad flat base	1.25	0.52	cuts 3610
3615	fill	friable mid brown sandy loam with orange mottling and few charcoal and red flecks		0.30	fills 3617 overlies 3616
3616	fill	firm brownish-grey sandy clay with orange mottling		0.17	fills 3617
3617	ditch	steep sides with a slight step halfway, then a sharp drop into a narrow flattish channel	0.88	0.47	cuts 3608
Trench 37					
3701	topsoil	same as 2401		0.20	surface
3702	subsoil	same as 2402		0.05	below 3701
3703	fill	firm mid brown and yellow mottled sandy loam		0.10	fill 3704
3704	gully	shallow gently sloping sides that meet in a narrow rounded base	0.40	0.10	cuts 3707
3705	fill	similar to 3703, some slumping towards base		0.47	fills 3706
3706	ditch	steep side sloping rapidly towards a broad flat base, opposite side is less steep and slightly uneven	1.38	0.47	?cuts 3703
3707	natural	yellow sand			
Trench 38					
3801	topsoil	same as 2401		0.22	surface
3802	subsoil	same as 2402		0.19	below 3801

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
3803	fill	firm mid greyish-brown silty sand with few stones <10mm		0.45	fills 3804
3804	ditch	asymmetrical steep sloping sides with a narrow flattish base	1.12	0.38	cuts 3805
3805	natural	orange sand with bluish-grey clay patches			
Trench 39					
3901	topsoil	same as 2401		0.23	surface
3902	subsoil	same as 2402		0.12	below 3901
3903	fill	soft dark orange-brown sandy loam with occasional stones <15mm		0.15	fills 3904
3904	ditch	steep curving sides with a rapid break of slope, narrow flat base	0.36	0.15	cuts 3907
3905	fill	firm mid brown sandy loam with few stones <40mm		0.35	fills 3906
3906	ditch	sharp curving sides, gradual rounded profile meets with uneven rounded base	0.95	0.35	cuts 3907
3907	natural	yellowish-orange sand			
Trench 40					
4001	topsoil	same as 2401		0.26	surface
4002	subsoil	same as 2402		0.11	below 4001
4003	fill	friable orange-brown sandy loam with occasional gravel <30mm		0.22	fills 4004
4004	ditch	sharp sloping sides with rapid break of slope to a flat base	0.54	0.22	cuts 4005
4005	natural	orange sand and gravel			
Trench 41					
4101	topsoil	same as 2401		0.29	surface
4102	subsoil	same as 2402		0.14	below 4101
4103	group	narrow furrows 200-400mm wide, often less than 40mm deep, little more than soil marks, dark brown sandy loam, nine in total, the majority are SE-NW, two are SW-NE, all closely bunched together between 1.0-1.5m apart	0.2-0.4	*c*0.04	cuts 4104
4104	natural	orange sand			
Trench 42					
4201	topsoil	same as 2401		0.29	surface
4202	subsoil	same as 2402		0.18	below 4201
4203	group	narrow furrows, similar to 4103, twelve in total, NE-SW orientation	0.2-0.4	*c*0.04	cuts 4204
4204	natural	yellowish-orange sand			
Trench 43					
4301	topsoil	same as 2401		0.30	surface
4302	subsoil	same as 2402		0.10	below 4301
4303	group	narrow furrows, similar to 4103, ten in total, NE-SW orientation	0.2-0.4	*c*0.04	cuts 4304
4304	natural	yellow sand and gravel			
Trench 44					
4401	topsoil	same as 2401		0.30	surface
4402	subsoil	same as 2402		0.19	below 4401
4403	group	narrow furrows, similar to 4103, three in total, NE-SW orientation	0.2-0.4	*c*0.04	cuts 4404
4404	fill	firm mid dark brown sandy loam with infrequent stones <20mm		0.15	fills 4405
4405	gully	shallow gully with uneven sides, rounded edges and uneven rounded base	0.53	0.15	cuts 4406
4406	natural	yellowish-orange sand			
4407	fill	mid brown sandy loam with orange-grey mottling and clayey base, some root intrusions		0.22	fills 4409
4409	ditch	symmetrical uniform 45° sloping sides with a rapid change to a broad flat base	0.66	0.22	cuts 4406
Trench 45					
4501	topsoil	same as 2401		0.38	surface
4502	subsoil	same as 2402		0.16	below 4501
4503	fill	friable reddish brown sandy loam		0.12	fills 4504
4504	?gully	extremely shallow sloping sides curve gently into a narrow rounded base	0.55	0.12	cuts 4516
4505	?truncated ditch	firm mid orange-brown sandy loam, few charcoal flecks, heavy root disturbance, no perceivable cut		0.12	overlies 4516
4506	fill	friable orange-brown sandy loam, occasional ironstone fragments <10mm		0.30	fills 4507
4507	?ditch	uneven but steep sloping sides, gradual change towards a broad uneven base	1.30	0.30	cuts 4516

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
4508	layer	spread of dark reddish-brown sandy loam between 4507 and 4512		0.25	overlies 4516
4509	field drain	vertical cut containing red ceramic sectional pipe	0.40	0.35	cuts 4508
4510	field drain	similar to 4509	0.35	0.24	cuts 4516
4511	fill	friable mid brown sandy loam with moderate small stones <10mm		0.48	fills 4512
4512	ditch	gradual sloping side at top, somewhat eroded, drops sharply at a steep angle, with gentle break of slope towards flat base	1.40	0.48	cuts 4508
4513	field drain	similar to 4509	0.28	0.35	cuts 4516
4514	fill	friable mid brown sandy loam with moderate stones <30mm		0.18	
4515	gully	sharp rounded sides curve gradually into a rounded base	0.43	0.18	
4516	natural	orange sand and gravel			
Trench 46					
4601	topsoil	same as 2401		0.29	surface
4602	subsoil	same as 2402		0.16	below 4601
4603	fill	firm yellowish-brown sandy loam with grey mottling		0.26	fills 4604
4604	gully	V-shaped with pointed base	0.42	0.26	cuts 4616
4605	fill	firm dark orange brown sandy loam with occasional stones <35mm		0.28	fills 4606
4606	ditch	asymmetrical sloping sides, one is steep, the other much more gradual, they meet in a pointed base	0.73	0.28	cuts 4616
4607	fill	friable mid brown sandy loam with yellowish sandy patches		0.10	fills 4608
4608	?truncated ditch	broad shallow gently rounded depression	1.25	0.10	cuts 4616
4609	?truncated ditch	similar to 4607/4608	2.30	0.14	overlies 4616
4610	?truncated ditch	similar to 4607/4608	1.50	0.11	overlies 4616
4611	?truncated ditch	similar to 4607/4608	1.30	0.08	overlies 4616
4612	fill	firm reddish-brown sandy loam with grey mottling, occasional pebbles <20mm		0.33	fills 4613
4613	ditch	uniform symmetrical 45° sloping side with rapid change to a broad flat base	1.36	0.33	cuts 4616
4614	?truncated ditch	similar to 4607/4608	1.00	0.12	overlies 4616
4616	natural	orange sand and gravel			
Trench 47					
4701	topsoil	same as 2401		0.30	surface
4702	subsoil	same as 2402		0.14	below 4701
4703	fill	firm dark brown sandy loam with orange mottling		0.18	fills 4704
4704	ditch	asymmetrical sides, one side has a gradual curving slope, the other is quite steep, they meet in a narrow pointed base	0.60	0.18	cuts 4719
4705	fill	firm mid brown sandy loam with reddish mottling, few charcoal flecks		0.16	fills 4706
4706	?truncated ditch	broad shallow profile, gently sloping sides curve gradually into a broad flat base	1.18	0.16	cuts 4719
4707	fill	firm mid brown sandy loam with orange mottling		0.14	fills 4708
4708	?truncated ditch	similar to 4706, broader and the base is somewhat uneven	1.62	0.14	cuts 4719
4709	field drain	vertical cut with red ceramic sectional pipe at base	0.32	0.26	cuts 4707
4710	fill	firm mottled orange-brown sandy loam		0.09	fills 4712 overlies 4711
4711	fill	firm dark grey sandy clay with orange-brown mottling towards base		0.16	fills 4712
4712	ditch	steep sloping sides with gentle break of slope at top and bottom, curve towards a flat base	0.94	0.25	cuts 4719
4713	fill	loose mid brown sandy loam with orange mottling		0.13	fills 4714
4714	?truncated ditch	broad shallow profile, sharp side with rapid break of slope, large flat base	1.44	0.13	cuts 4719
4715	fill	firm dark brown sandy loam, moderate large stone packing <120mm		0.12	fills 4716
4716	?posthole	asymmetrical sides, fairly steep, uneven rounded base	0.44	0.12	cuts 4719
4717	fill	loose mid brown sandy loam with grey and yellow mottled sandy patches, few large stones <100mm		0.24	fills 4718
4718	posthole	steep vertical sides, rapid change towards a rounded base	0.30	0.24	cuts 4719

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
4719	natural	yellow sand			
Trench 48					
4801	topsoil	same as 2401		0.25	surface
4802	subsoil	same as 2402		0.10	below 4801
4803	fill	firm mid brown sandy loam mottled with orange sandy patches		0.11	fills 4805 overlies 4804
4804	fill	soft greyish-orange sandy loam		0.05	fills 4805
4805	ditch	fairly steep sides with swift curve into a broad flat base	1.10	0.16	cuts 4806
4806	natural	yellow sand			
Trench 49					
4901	topsoil	same as 2401		0.28	surface
4902	subsoil	same as 2402		0.14	below 4901
4903	root hollow	shallow uneven disturbance with no definable surface shape, cut or decent edges, occasional runners, filled with dark blackish-brown sandy loam	0.78	0.12	cuts 4908
4904	fill	firm mid brown sandy loam with orange and grey mottling		0.18	fills 4905
4905	ditch	steep uniform 45° sloping sides, sharp change to a flat base	0.70	0.18	cuts 4908
4906	fill	firm dark brown sandy loam with yellow mottled sand patches		0.28	fills 4907
4907	ditch	steep, slightly curved sides drop rapidly towards a narrow flat base	0.60	0.28	cuts 4908
4908	natural	yellow-orange sandy with clay patches			
Trench 50					
5001	topsoil	same as 2401		0.24	surface
5002	subsoil	same as 2402		0.22	below 5001
5003	root hollow	short irregular, slightly curved feature, undercut at that edge by 0.30m with deep hollow at one end beyond the extent of practical excavation. filled with dark bluish-black silty sand	0.40	0.14	cuts 5008
5004	land drain	vertical cut with red ceramic sectional pipe	0.35	0.45	cuts 5008
5005	sewer main	live gravity sewer	0.60	0.90	cuts 5008
5006	fill	soft light reddish-brown sandy loam with occasional gravel <20mm		0.25	fills 5007
5007	ditch	broad concave profile, gently sloping sides curve into broad rounded base	0.42	0.25	cuts 5008
5008	natural	reddish-orange sand			
Trench 51					
5101	topsoil	same as 2401		0.30	surface
5102	subsoil	same as 2402		0.15	below 5101
5103	natural	orange sand with grey patches			
Trench 52					
5201	topsoil	same as 2401		0.35	surface
5202	subsoil	same as 2402		0.10	below 5201
5203	natural	orange sand with grey patches			
Trench 53					
5301	topsoil	same as 2401		0.32	surface
5302	subsoil	same as 2402		0.11	below 5301
5303	natural	reddish-orange sand with grey patches			
Trench 54					
5401	topsoil	same as 2401		0.35	surface
5402	subsoil	same as 2402		0.10	below 5401
5403	natural	yellow sand and gravel			
Trench 55					
5501	topsoil	same as 2401		0.31	surface
5502	subsoil	same as 2402		0.18	below 5501
5503	fill	soft orange-brown to grey sandy loam with moderate pebbles <50mm		0.53	fills 5504
5504	ditch	shallow sloping sides at upper edge drop away sharply after lip and then curve gradually into a broad flat base	2.04	0.53	cuts 5502
5505	fill	firm mottled dark orange-brown and bluish-grey sandy clay, few pebbles <80mm sorted towards top		0.35	fills 5506
5506	ditch	sharp sloping sides drop rapidly, quickly curving into a narrow flat base	0.72	0.35	cuts 5515
5507	fill	soft light orange-brown clayey sand with moderate stones <50mm		0.05	fills 5508

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Thickness or depth (m)	Strata
5508	?furrow	shallow soil mark with imperceptible sides, barely scratches surface	0.53	0.05	cuts 5515
5509	fill	firm dark blackish-brown and russet-brown sandy clay with occasional gravel <15mm		0.16	fills 5510
5510	root hollow	linear root disturbance with ragged edges, random hollows and generally uneven unpredictable base	0.58	0.16	cuts 5515
5511	fill	mottled orange and yellow sand		0.55	fills 5112
5112	land drain	vertical sides and flat base, no pipe	0.40	0.55	cuts 5515
5513	fill	firm deep russet-orange and brown clayey sand and gravel with frequent iron pan, stained greyish-blue towards base		0.50	fills 5514
5514	ditch	gradually sloping sides, eroded at the top, gentle slope with sudden break into narrow rounded base	1.20	0.50	cuts 5515
5515	natural	orange sand			
Trench 56					
5601	topsoil	same as 2401		0.22	surface
5602	subsoil	same as 2402		0.18	below 5601
5603	natural	reddish-orange sand and gravel			
Trench 57					
5701	topsoil	same as 2401		0.33	surface
5702	subsoil	same as 2402		0.22	below 5701
5703	natural	orange-yellow sand with iron pan			
Trench 58					
5801	topsoil	same as 2401		0.23	surface
5802	subsoil	same as 2402		0.22	below 5801
5803	fill	friable dark orange-brown sandy loam with moderate gravel <50mm		0.30	fills 5804
5804	ditch	sharp sloping sides have rapid change towards broad, somewhat uneven, flat base	1.18	0.30	cuts 5805
5805	natural	yellowish-orange sand with iron pan			
Trench 59					
5901	topsoil	same as 2401		0.34	surface
5902	subsoil	same as 2402		0.21	below 5901
5903	fill	firm light greyish-brown sandy clay with frequent pebble gravel <30mm		0.33	fills 5905 overlies 5904
5904	fill	firm light bluish-grey sandy clay with few pebbles <40mm		0.12	fills 5905
5905	ditch	steep, slightly uneven sloping sides with rapid change towards flat base	1.40	0.45	cuts 5906
5906	natural	reddish-orange sand and gravel			

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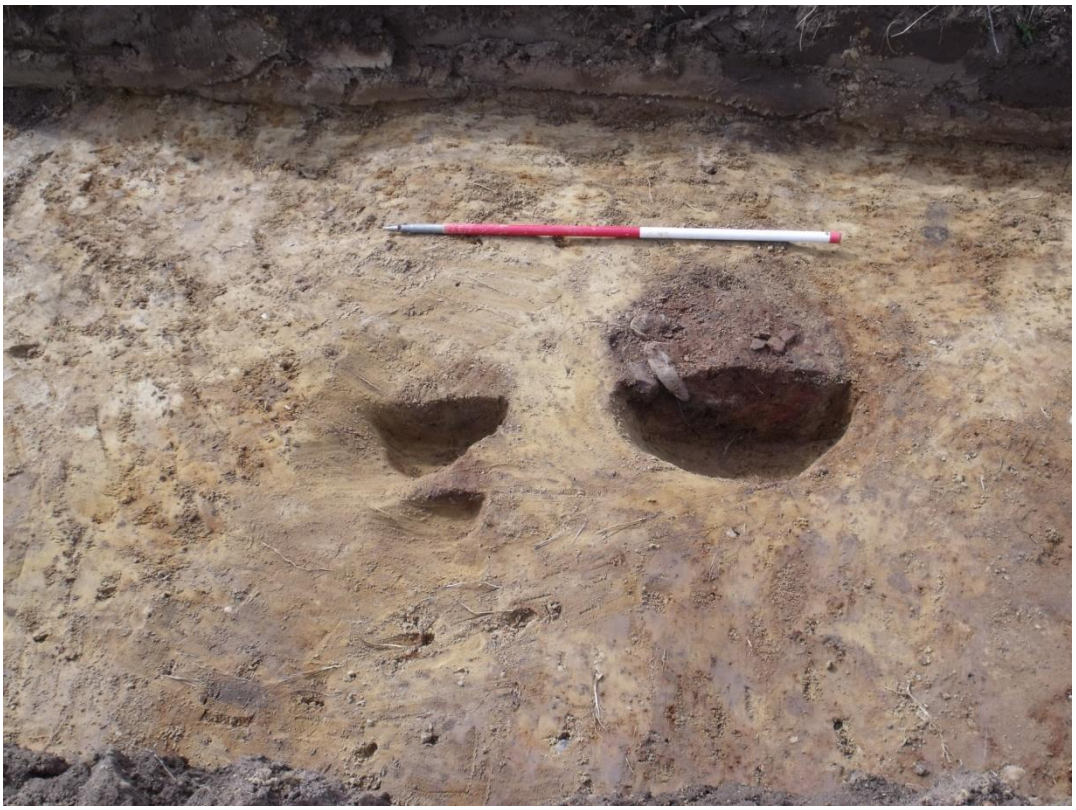

Northamptonshire Archaeology
2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk