



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation on land at Overstone Leys, Overstone, Northamptonshire Phase 3



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**Northamptonshire
County Council**

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Overstone Leys, Overstone, Northampton	
Short description	<p>In August 2011, a third phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd on land at Overstone Leys, Overstone, Northamptonshire. This follows on from previous geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation. There were the remains of a Romano-British settlement dating to the late 1st to 4th centuries in Field 3 comprising a number of intersecting rectilinear ditched enclosures. Within the settlement were the remains of at least three roundhouses, of which one was stone built and a length of wall that may have been the remains of another building. The artefactual evidence indicates that the settlement was a fairly low-status, rural farmstead. It appears to have been largely confined to the central part of Field 3, with possible field boundaries extending away from it to the west and south. Undated ditched boundaries found in earlier phases of the evaluation may also be remnants of a wider field system. Early/middle Saxon activity was found in Field 4; a deep, flat-bottomed pit may be the remains of a substantial sunken-featured building. A further such feature was found to the north and together they suggest a dispersed or shifting Saxon settlement. Further postholes may be the remains of more substantial timber buildings and a series of undated ditches may have been contemporary.</p>	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Dicks and Chadwick 2009) and Geophysical Survey (Butler 2009)	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type/ period	Roman and Saxon	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Overstone Leys, Northampton	
Study area		
OS Easting & Northing	479649 266070	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	CgMs (Dicks 2010)	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones	
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA) and Sally Dicks (CgMs)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
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End date	02/09/2011	
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Physical	-	None
Paper	OLN11	Evaluation pro forma sheets, context sheets, colour slides, black and white contact prints, digital photographs, plans and section drawing
Digital	OLN11	Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
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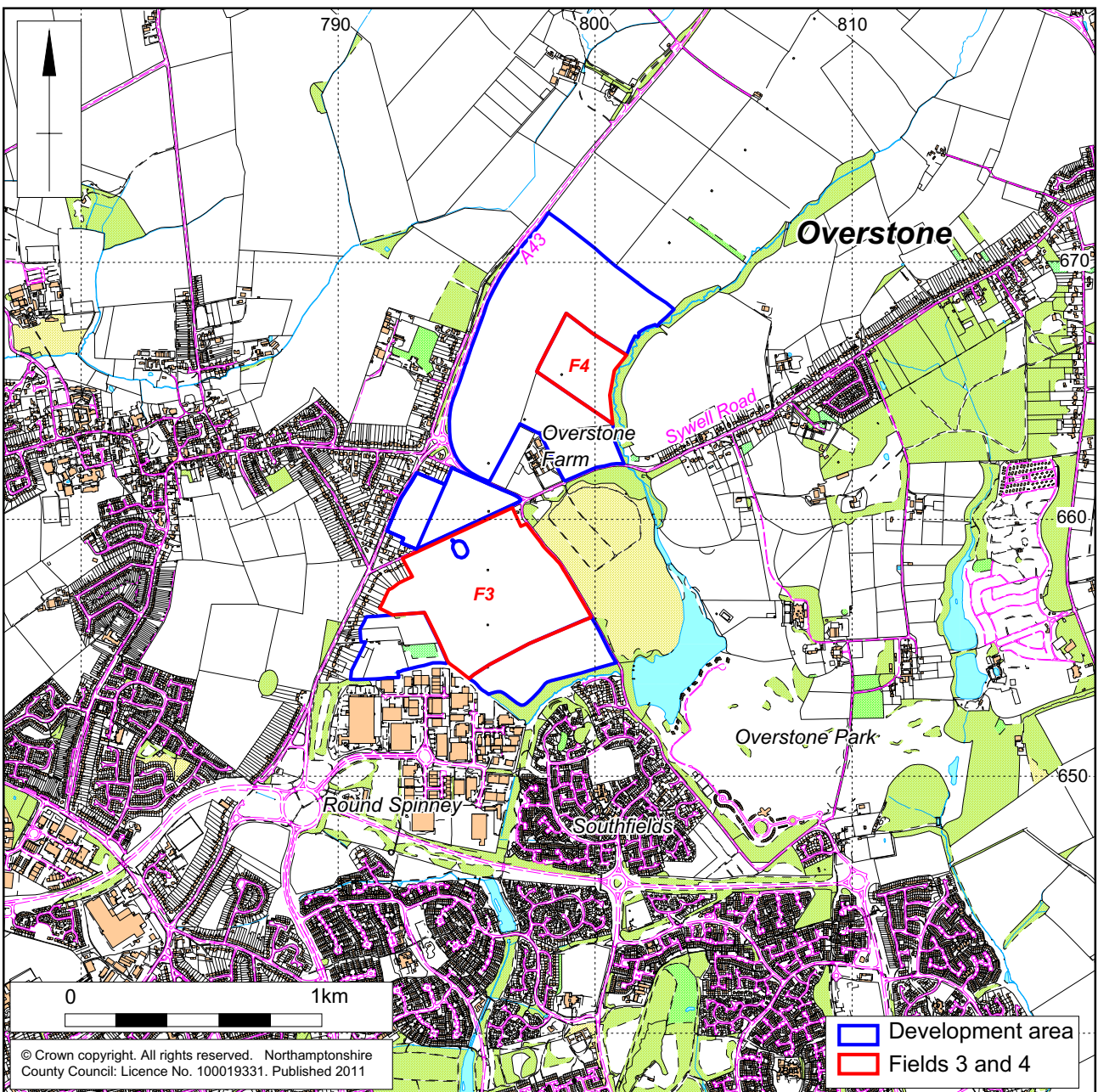
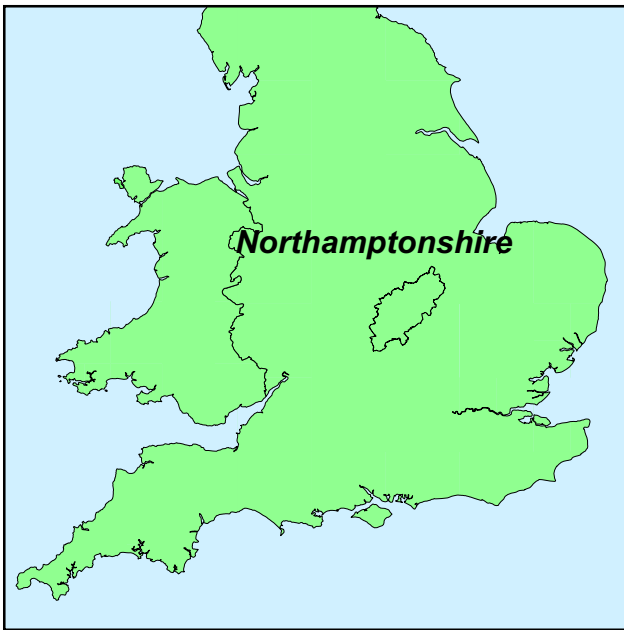
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Scale 1:25,000

Site location Fig 1

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT OVERSTONE LEYS, OVERSTONE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
AUGUST 2011**

Abstract

In August 2011, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd on land at Overstone Leys, Overstone, Northamptonshire. This report provides the results for the third phase of evaluation trenching and comprised sixty-six trenches in Fields 3 and 4. It follows on from previous geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation.

There were the remains of a Romano-British settlement dating to the late 1st to 4th centuries in Field 3 comprising a number of intersecting rectilinear ditched enclosures. Within the settlement were the remains of at least three roundhouses, of which one was stone built and a length of wall that may have been the remains of another building. The artefactual evidence indicates that the settlement was a fairly low-status, rural farmstead. It appears to have been largely confined to the central part of Field 3, with possible field boundaries extending away from it to the west and south. Undated ditched boundaries found in earlier phases of the evaluation may also be remnants of a wider field system.

Early/middle Saxon activity was found in Field 4; a deep pit may be the remains of a substantial sunken-featured building. A further such feature was found to the north and together they suggest a dispersed or shifting Saxon settlement. Further postholes may be the remains of more substantial timber buildings and a series of undated ditches may have been contemporary.

1 INTRODUCTION

Barratt Strategic are preparing an outline application for the construction of residential homes on land at Overstone Leys, Overstone, Northamptonshire (SP 796 660; Fig 1). The programme of archaeological investigation, as outlined in the specification issued by CgMs Consulting involved the excavation of sixty-six trenches across part of the development area (Phase 3 evaluation). Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Barratt Strategic, to undertake the archaeological trial excavation, the results of which are presented in this report.

This tranche of works follows a desk-based assessment (Dicks and Chadwick 2009) and detailed geophysical magnetometer survey (Butler 2009), as well as two previous phases of trial trenching (Jones 2010 and Simmonds 2011).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The entire parcel of land is approximately 109ha in extent, centred on NGR 479649 266070. The phase 3 area encompasses c 36ha in Fields 3 and 4, located in the southern and northern parts of the development area (Figs 1, 2 and 3). The site lies to the north-east of the town of Northampton, near the villages of Moulton and Overstone (Fig 1). It is bounded to the west by the A43 trunk road between Northampton and Kettering and to the east by open fields and the boundary of Overstone Park.



Field 3, looking south-east Fig 2



Field 4, looking north-east Fig 3

2.2 Geology by Steve Critchley

Stratigraphically, the evaluation area is underlain by sediments belonging to the Lower Jurassic Toarcian Stage of the Lias Group and the Middle Jurassic Aalenian and Bajocian Stages of the Inferior Oolite Group.

The oldest rocks belong to the Whitby Mudstones Formation of the Lias Group and outcrop on the eastern extremity of the site in the valley slope of the stream. These beds are overlain by the ferruginous rocks of the Northampton Sand Formation which outcrop over the bulk of the site. Within the many trench exposures these beds were seen to consist of dark reddish brown often rubbly fossiliferous ooid ironstones with subordinate sideritic and calcareous limestones as well as some clay dominated horizons. Between exposures these beds were observed to be highly variable in nature due differential weathering of individual rock units during recent as well as periglacial processes. Localised alteration of the beds by decalcification during weathering for example has produced many iron rich, sandy and clay horizons or limited and variable extent.

The Northampton Sand is in turn overlain in a non-sequence by younger beds belonging to the Rutland Formation and in particular in this area by a locally extensive unit called the Stamford Member. The latter consists of non marine sediments varying from sandy mudstones to pale grey fine to medium grained sandstones. Exposures of these beds here were observed to consist of soft fine grained pale brown silica sands. Within the northern portion of the evaluation area the Stamford Member is mapped as being overlain in part by fluvial sands and gravels of Mid Pleistocene age although limited evidence if any was noted for the presence of these.

It is likely that the silica sands formed by weathering of the Stamford Member have been quarried in the recent past within the evaluation area. This material proved to have value as a refractory material for furnace linings and has been and continues to be quarried extensively within Northamptonshire. It is also possible that the glacial sands and gravels have been quarried in conjunction with the silica sands or as a separate deposit. Unexpectedly deposits similar to the local glacial tills were observed in the areas of putative quarrying, a material which is not mapped here although it is present close by. It is possible that such material excavated elsewhere has been deposited in the voids left by quarrying although to establish this scenario would require further detailed enquiry.

The underlying geology is classed as Northamptonshire Sands and Ironstone, with small areas of Upper Lias Clays and Lower Estuarine Series deposits (BGS 1980 Sheet 185).

2.3 Archaeological background

The outline development area has been examined by desk-based assessment (Dicks and Chadwick 2009) which collated Historic Environment Record (HER) data and cartographic sources. The development area has also been subject to a geophysical survey (Butler 2009; Fig 5). The following archaeological background is taken from both sources. Archaeological records suggest extensive remains from prehistoric times until the post-medieval period.

The earliest known remains are a presumed Neolithic monument adjacent to Overstone Farm, but outside the development area, and a number of ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrows. The possible Neolithic monument comprises a pair of concentric, semi-circular anomalies (Butler 2009). There are a number of recorded instances of prehistoric finds in the HER, including worked flint.

Roman remains have been discovered within the development area and in the immediate vicinity. In the southern part of the development area Roman settlement, dated to the 2nd-4th centuries AD, was identified from pottery, roof tiles, iron slag, and coins. The geophysical survey results also suggested that there was a probable Romano-British settlement within Field 3 (Fig 5). Further south, cropmarks indicate more evidence of settlement. North-east of the survey area a third possible Roman site has been identified. At Thorplands Farm (now Round Spinney) structures dating

from the 2nd century AD were succeeded by 3rd-century AD circular buildings with stone foundations and a courtyard (Hunter and Mynard 1977). At Boothville, 500m south-west of the survey area, a Roman villa has been identified from the discovery of a tessellated pavement, flue tiles, painted plaster and other Roman artefacts.

There is very little recorded evidence for the Anglo-Saxon and post-Conquest periods in the vicinity. At Domesday in 1086, Overstone may have been listed under Sywell.

A Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) lies within the grounds of Overstone Park. The first written records for it date from 1167 but it may have an earlier origin (RCHM 1979). The village was moved to its current location between 1728 (the date of enclosure) and 1775, when Overstone Hall and Park were constructed and the land enclosed.

In the 18th century historic maps show the development area as a number of small-sized fields increasing in size over time. By the time the 1880s Ordnance Survey map was produced, the fields were more regular and rectangular in shape. The modern A43 trunk road is shown as a route way in the 18th century following a similar course to the present.

Overstone Park, although not a Registered Historic Park and Garden, is considered by the Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment as being of historic importance (NCC 2007; Dicks and Chadwick 2009). It defines much of the eastern boundary of the site and comprises landscaped parkland and lakes. The early maps show much of the present parkland as enclosed fields and then from 1810 the parkland is shown abutting the development area.

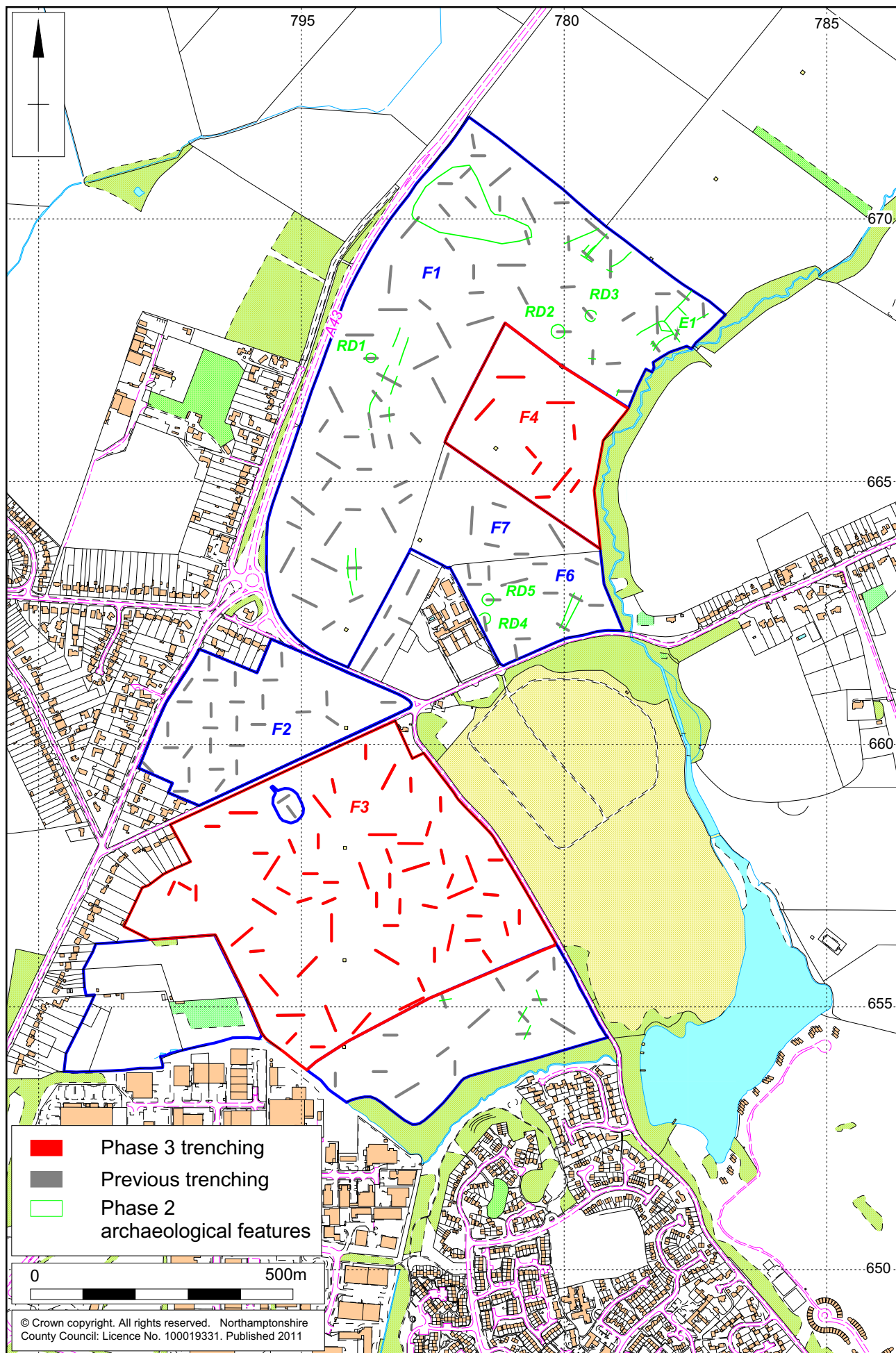
By the 1980s the outer limits of Northampton had begun to encroach on the southern area of the site with the new developments of Round Spinney and Southfields.

Previous phases of evaluation

There have been two previous phases of trial trench evaluation within the development area. Phase 1 investigated a field at the west of the site. The Phase 1 investigations recorded no significant archaeological features; two gullies and a pit were found in one trench, although all were undated (Jones 2010).

The Phase 2 investigations were undertaken in Fields 1, 2, 6, 7 and the southern part of Field 3 (Simmonds 2011). There was a focus of prehistoric activity in the northern part of the development area. An early Bronze Age beaker assemblage and Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint were found in a pit in Field 1. There were also five ring ditches, three in Field 1 and two in Field 6, that, though largely undated, may be the ploughed-out remains of Bronze Age round barrows (Figs 4 and 5).

Probable early Saxon features were also found at the north-eastern corner of Field 1 (Fig 4). A grave outside Ring Ditch 1 in Field 1 contained an iron shield boss amongst other artefacts, suggesting that the grave was a high-status Anglo-Saxon burial dating to the 6th century. There were a number of other graves in the vicinity but they were not dated. East of the graves was a large rectangular pit which lay within an undated enclosure (E1). The pit contained a small assemblage of early/middle Saxon pottery and it is possible the feature was a sunken-featured building (SFB). There were numerous other features scattered across the fields, few with any dating evidence. There were no archaeological features in Field 2.



Scale 1:10,000

Previous trial trenching with principal archaeological features

Fig 4



3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The aims of the archaeological evaluation are specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Dicks 2010).

General aims comprised the following:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.

Site specific aims included the following:

- To clarify the impact of medieval, post-medieval and modern ploughing and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- To clarify the extent, date, character, condition and significance of the linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey;
- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric flint within topsoil and subsoil horizons;
- To determine the presence or absence of late prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman settlement remains;
- To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits;
- To establish the potential for archaeological remains.

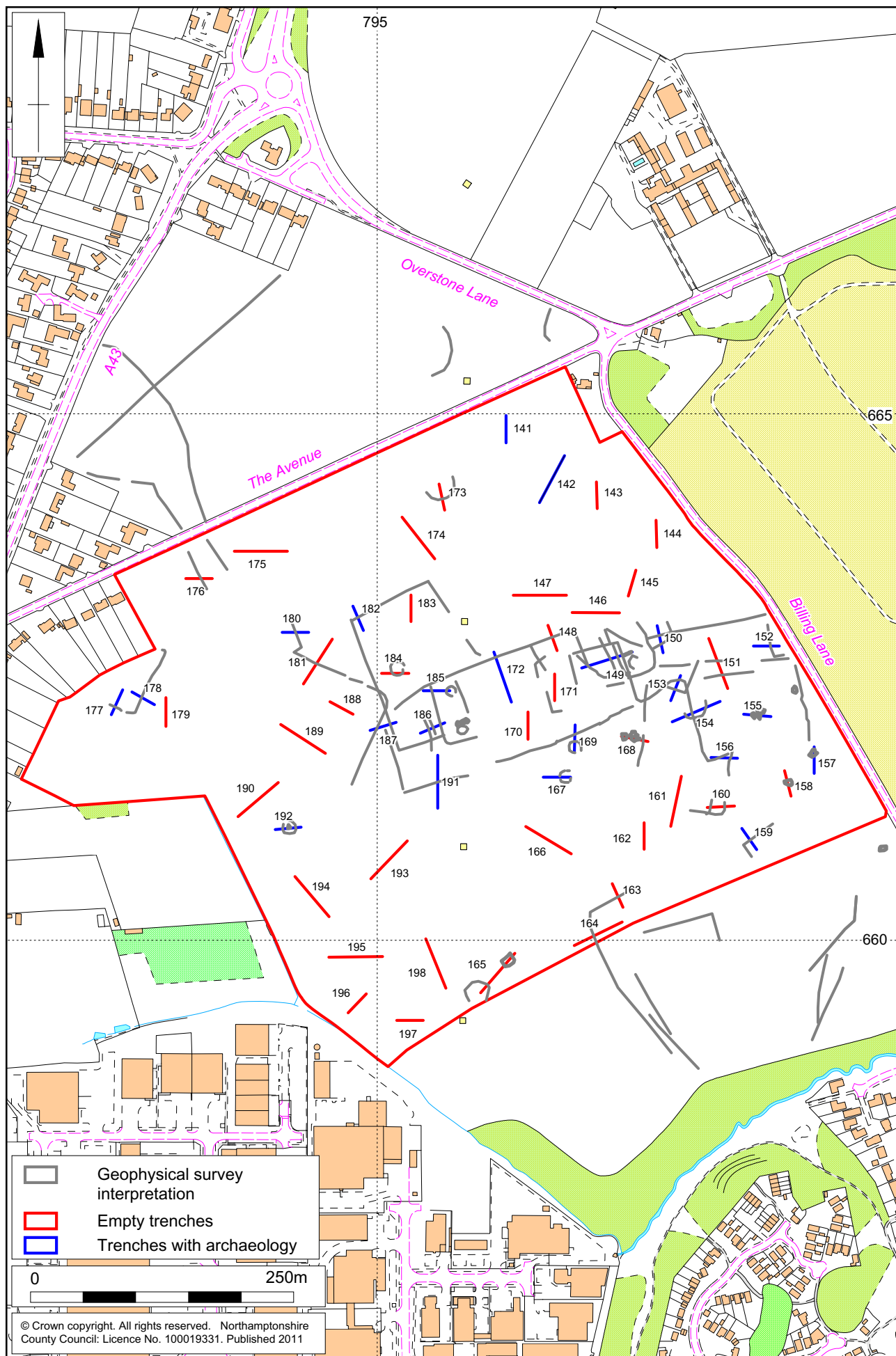
Specific research objectives were to be based on the research frameworks set out in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda* (Cooper 2006).

3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the specification and Written Scheme of Investigation (Dicks 2010 and NA 2010), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, revised). The work was monitored by the County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council

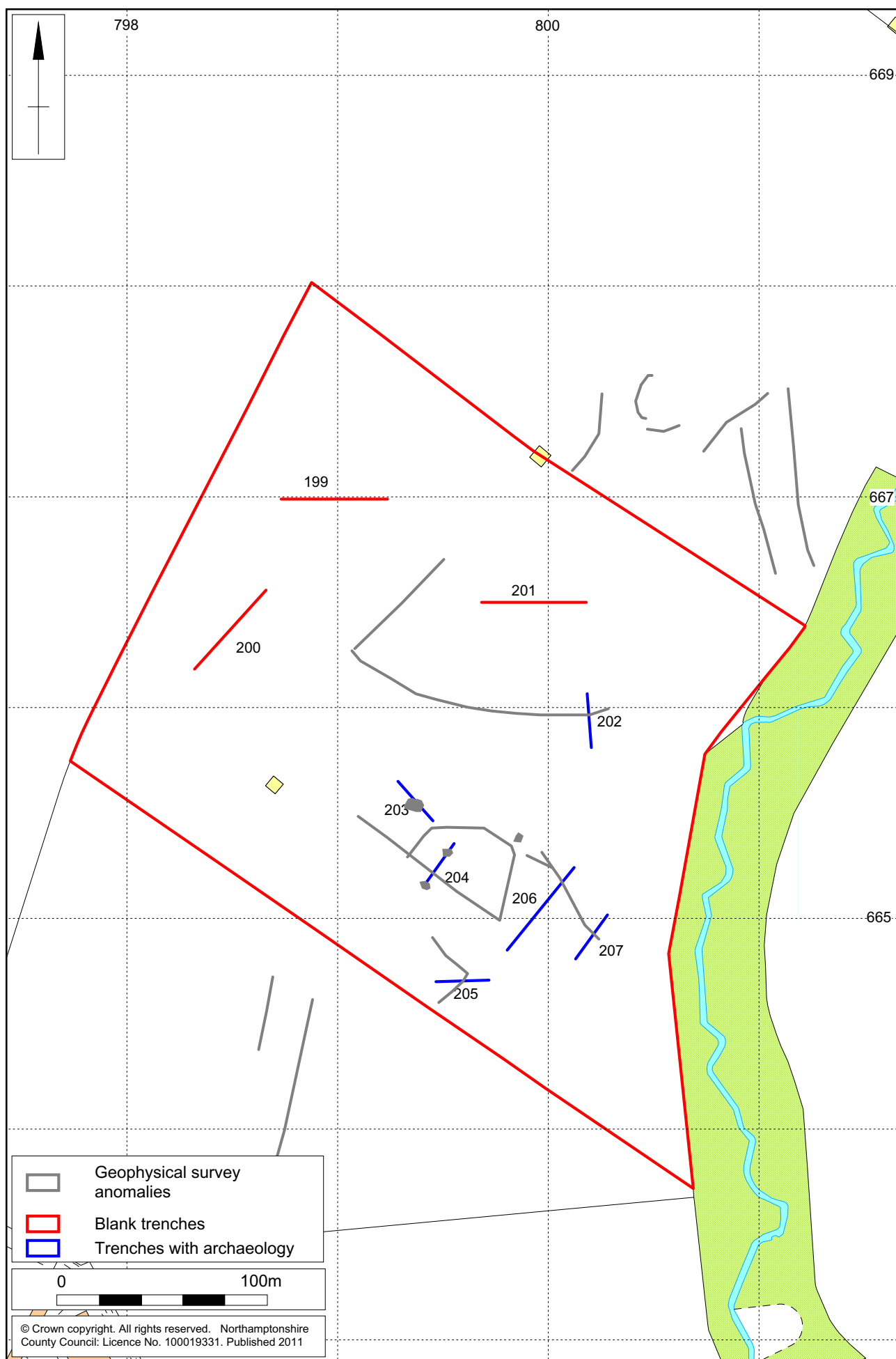
Sixty-six trenches, 42 of which were 25m long by 2m wide and 24 which were 50m by 2m, were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by CgMs Consulting and the County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire. The trenches were positioned in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by means of a Leica System 1200 using real-time corrections (Fig 4). On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal archaeological remains or where absent to the natural. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.



Scale 1:5000

Trench location plan, Field 3 Fig 6



Scale 1:2500

Trench location plan, Field 4 Fig 7

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given a separate context number and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2006). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. Sections of the sequence of deposits in each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and related to Ordnance Datum. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 General comments

The trenches were positioned to provide a full coverage of the development area, and to provide more detailed coverage where the geophysical survey had identified any possible archaeological features. Fifty-seven trenches were excavated in Field three and nine trenches in Field 4 (Figs 6 and 7).

4.2 Romano-British settlement (Field 3)

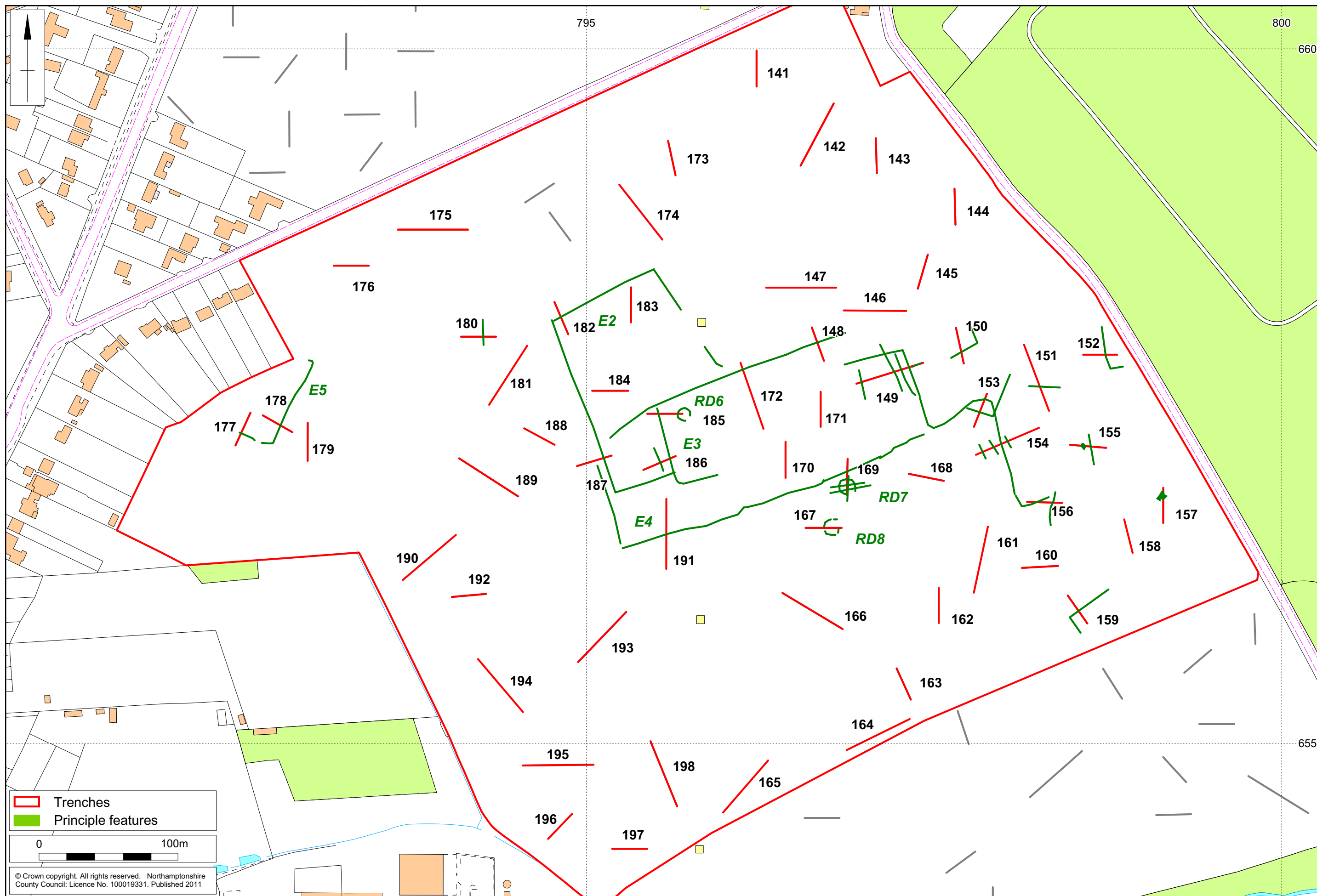
Field 3 comprised c 40ha of arable land in the southern part of the development area. The geophysical survey suggested that there was a settlement, comprising what appeared to be a number of intersecting ditched rectilinear enclosures on more than one alignment, perhaps suggesting a number of phases (Fig 6). Several circular positive anomalies were thought likely to be ring gullies Iron Age or Romano-British roundhouses, with a *negative* circular anomaly possibly a masonry-constructed roundhouse.

The southern part of the field, c 9ha, was evaluated earlier on in the year; this part of the field was located to the south of the main settlement area and a number of possible boundary ditches were found (Simmonds 2011). Although no pottery was found in any of the ditches it is likely that they are contemporary with the settlement to the north and perhaps represent part of an associated field system. There was otherwise little indication that the settlement extended into any of the other fields that are also part of the evaluation.

Trenches 141,142,149-157,159,167,169,172,177,178,180,182,185-187,191 and 192 did not contain any archaeological features (Fig 8). Trenches 141 and 142 contained possible postholes but after excavating a number of the features it was shown that they were natural solution holes.

Enclosure 2 (E2)

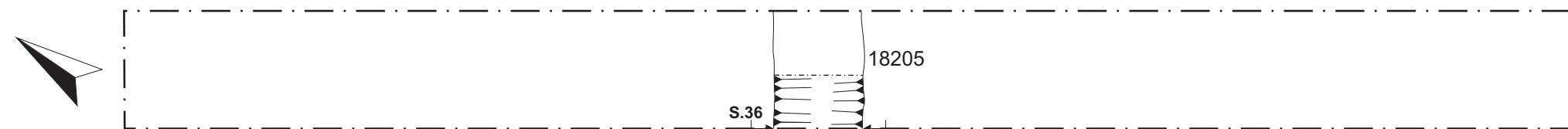
A possible rectilinear enclosure measuring c 135m from north to south and 80m east to west formed one of the central elements of the settlement (Fig 8). The ditch forming the western arm of the enclosure and aligned north-west to south-east was investigated in Trench 187. The ditch was 0.80m wide and 0.35m deep with a narrow U-shaped profile, although there was some doubt as to the depth of the ditch since it appeared to have been excavated over a natural solution hollow.



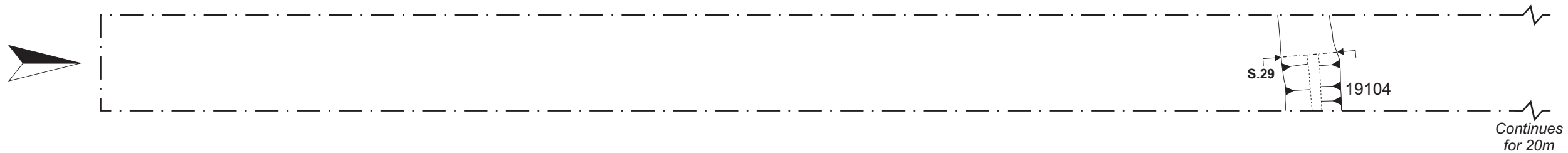
Trench 172

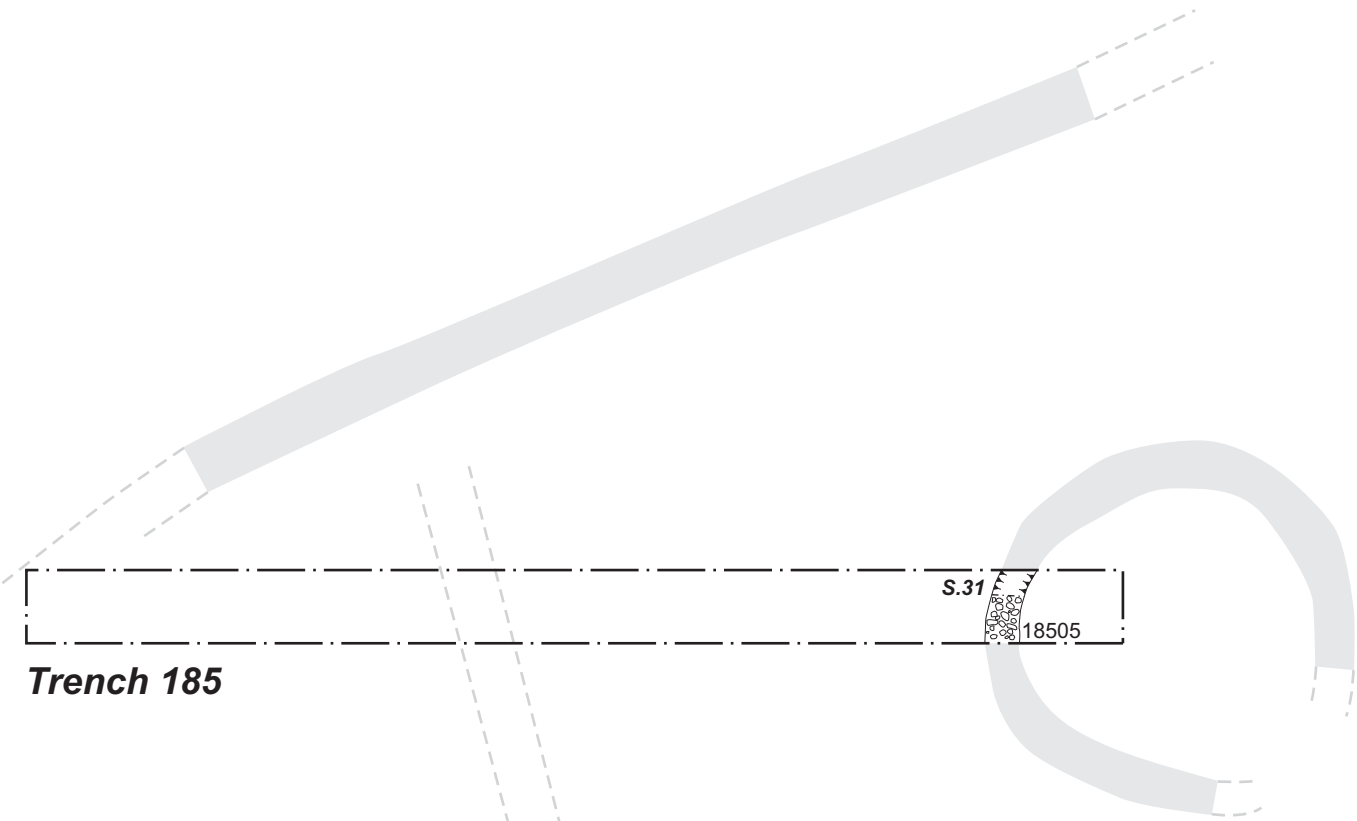


Trench 182



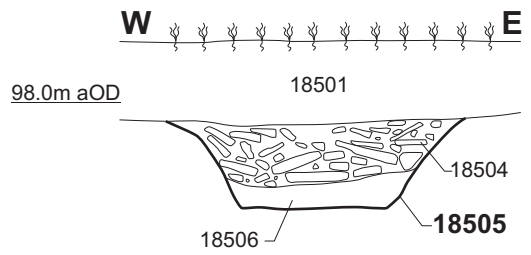
Trench 191



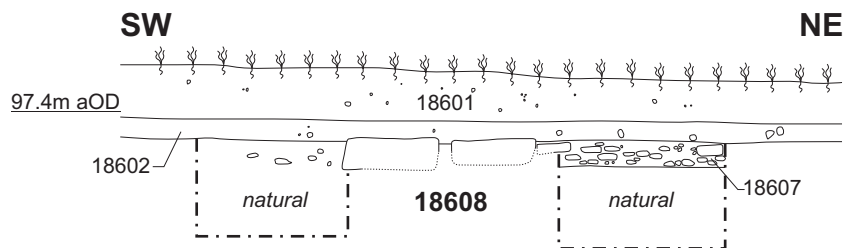


Trench 185

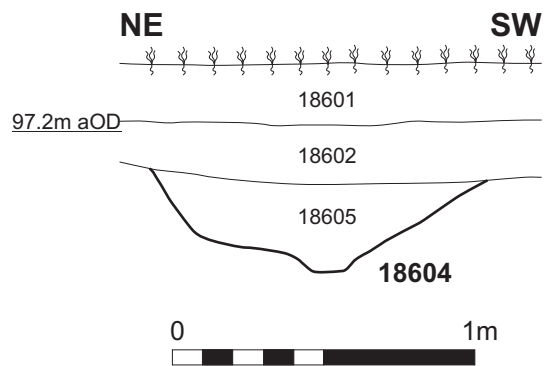
Section 31



Section 38



Section 27



Trench 186

S.38

18606

S.27

18604

Limestone rubble
18607

E3

The northern arm of the enclosure was visible on the geophysical survey for c 80m. In Trench 182 the ditch was 1.46m wide and 0.61m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 9). The fill was mid red-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone and rare charcoal and animal bone. The possible eastern and southern arms were not investigated.

Possible contemporary internal elements included a length of wall [18606] in Trench 186 (Figs 8 and 10, Section 38 and Fig 11). The wall was positioned on a north-west to south-east orientation similar to the enclosure and was located close to its southern edge. It was 2.0m long in the trench extending beyond for an unknown distance, and was 0.75m wide and a single course deep, constructed from large, roughly-faced limestone blocks with a rubble core. There was no visible bonding material other than the orange natural sand. An area of limestone rubble [18607] extended 1.6m north-east of the wall and was up to 0.14m deep. A brooch dating to late 1st/2nd century was found amongst the stones. The layer may be a demolition deposit, remnants of the wall dragged over by ploughing or a rough surface abutting the wall. There was no indication of a masonry structure on the geophysical survey and it is therefore not possible to suggest whether it was part of a boundary or a building. However, the relatively substantial nature of the wall might suggest it was part of a building.



Wall [18606] and rubble layer [18607], looking north-west Fig 11

At what may have been the eastern edge of the enclosure was a possible stone foundation in Trench 185. A curvilinear ditch, [18505], was 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep with vertical sides and a flat base and was aligned north-south within the trench (Figs 8 and 10, Section 31 and Fig 12). The primary fill (18506) of friable light orange sandy clay had a layer of loose limestone (18504) up to 0.20m thick laid over it. The geophysical survey indicated that it forms part of a ring ditch (RD6) 7.90m in diameter and that the rubble layer continues around its entire circuit, possibly forming a rubble foundation for a wall (Fig 10). It is possible, therefore, that this may have been a structure similar to the circular structures found at Thorplands Farm (Williams 1976).

There was no indication of any internal features within the trench, but given that much of the possible wall has been destroyed, it is likely that any floor surfaces have also been truncated.



Ring ditch 6, possible rubble foundation [18505], looking north Fig 12

Enclosure 3 (E3)

There were a number of other ditches on similar alignments, but which may have belonged to different phases. Ditch [18604] in Trench 186 may have bounded a further, smaller enclosure (E3; Figs 8 and 10). It was 1.14m wide and 0.30m deep. The fill (18605) was light brown-orange sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments. The geophysical survey results suggested that this formed the western side of an enclosure. The ditch appeared to extend northwards on the survey, although it was not present in Trench 185. A southern and possible eastern ditch were also identified in the survey but not investigated during the evaluation.

Enclosure 4 (E4)

There was a further possible enclosure (E4), 250m long and 90m wide, on an almost east-west axis (Fig 8). At the north of Enclosure 3 and intersecting Enclosure 2 was a ditch aligned east to west which may have formed its northern arm. The ditch, [17204], in Trench 172 was 1.20m wide and 0.53m long (Fig 9). The irregular, stepped profile of the ditch may have been a result of the ironstone natural. The fill (17205) was compact red-brown sandy clay with no finds, perhaps indicating that it was situated away from settlement when it was open. The ditch was not apparent in Trench 148.

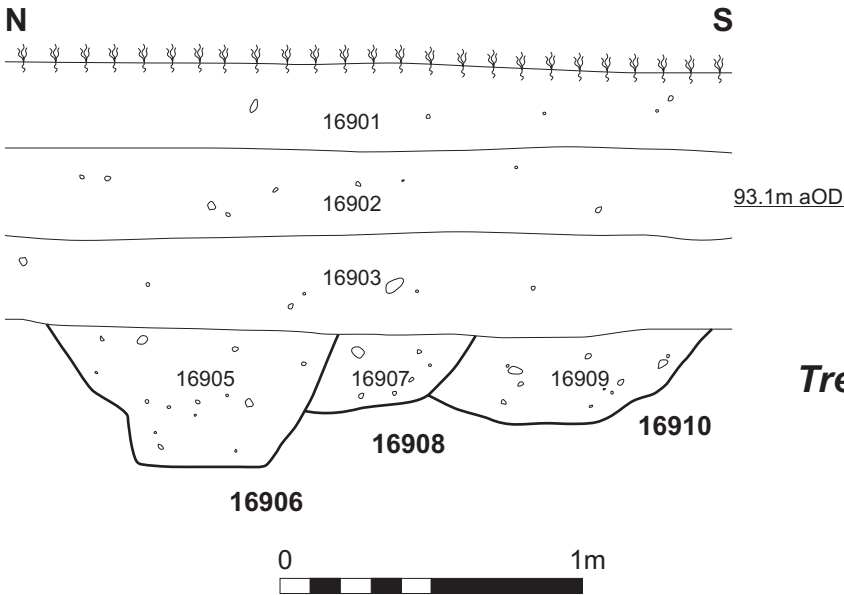
The western arm of enclosure E4 was visible on the geophysical survey but was not present in Trench 187, perhaps suggesting that there was an entrance at this point.

In Trench 191, ditch [19104], aligned east to west, was 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 9). The fill (19105) was friable mid brown silty sand. This ditch may have formed the southern arm of enclosure E4, the continuation of which may have also been visible in Trench 169, although there were several ditches within the trench on a similar east to west alignment.

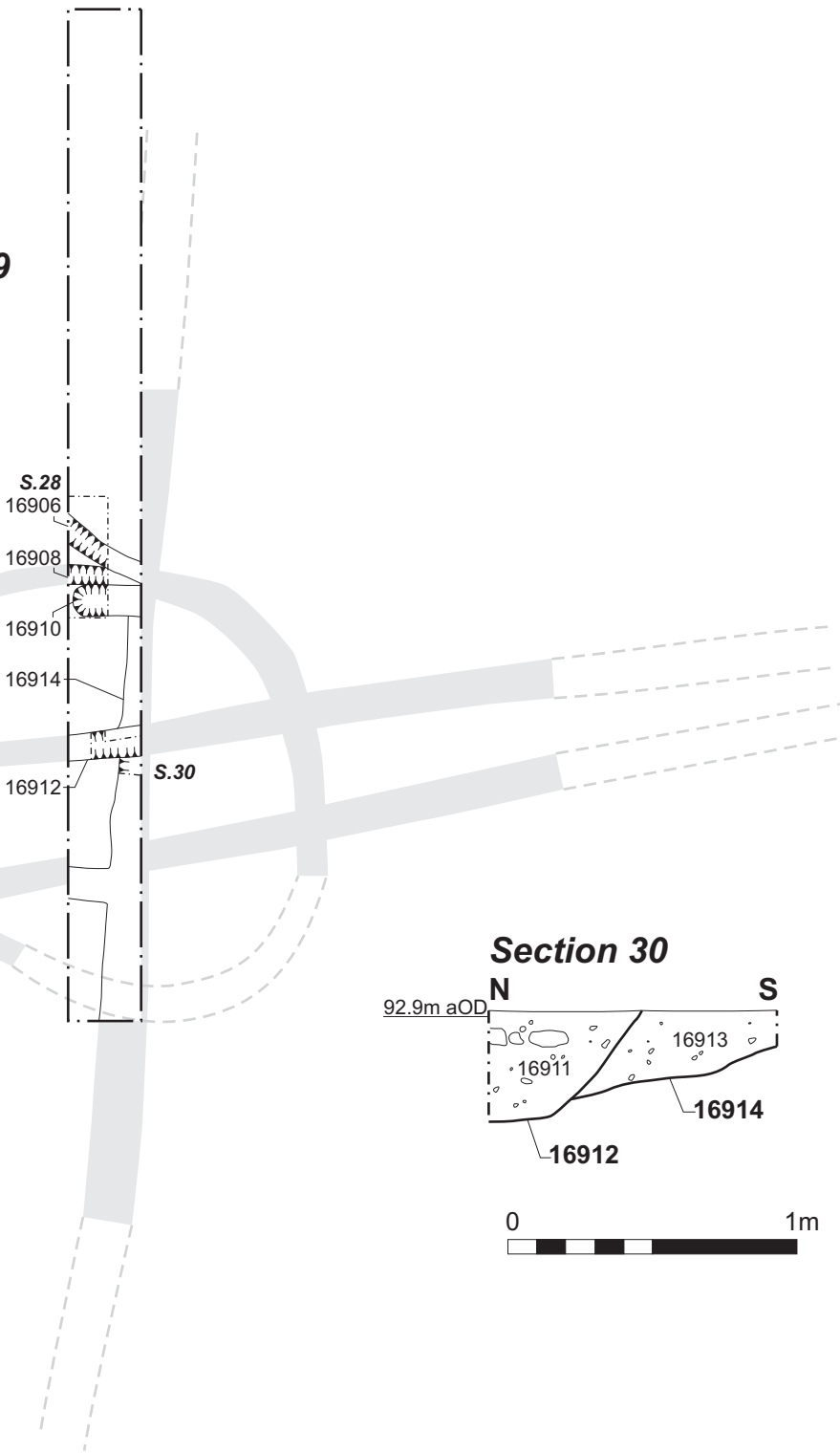
There were at least three phases of activity within Trench 169, of which the earliest was ditch [16914]. It was aligned north to south, at least 0.70m wide and 0.38m deep with fairly steep sides. The base was not observed since it had been truncated by later features. The fill (16913) was friable mid red-brown silty loam with occasional stone and pottery (Fig 13, Section 30).



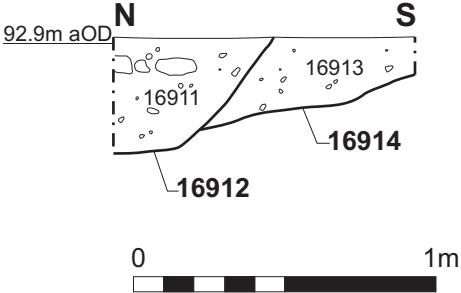
Section 28



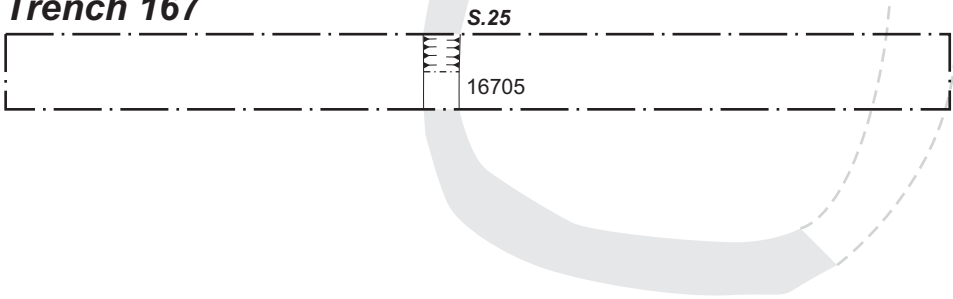
Trench 169



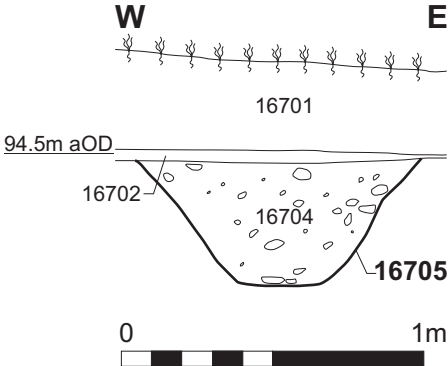
Section 30



Trench 167



Section 25



The later ditches were all aligned east to west. The earliest stratigraphically was [16910]; it was 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 13, Section 28). The fill (16909) was friable mid red-brown silty loam with pottery, part of a flint arrowhead and animal bone. It was truncated on its northern edge by ditch [16908], which was 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep. The fill (16907) was very similar to (16909) and also contained pottery and bone. Truncating this ditch to the north was ditch [16906], which was 0.85m wide and 0.40m deep. The fill (16905) was friable mid grey-brown silty loam with pottery, bone and occasional charcoal.

To the south was a further ditch aligned east to west [16912] which also cut [16914]. It was 0.70m wide and 0.39m deep with a narrow, U-shaped profile. The fill (16911) was mid red-brown silty loam with pottery, bone and a flint flake. A further ditch [16915] lay to south, but was not excavated.

The eastern arm of the enclosure E4 may have been one of the ditches in Trench 149 (see below for descriptions).

The southern roundhouses

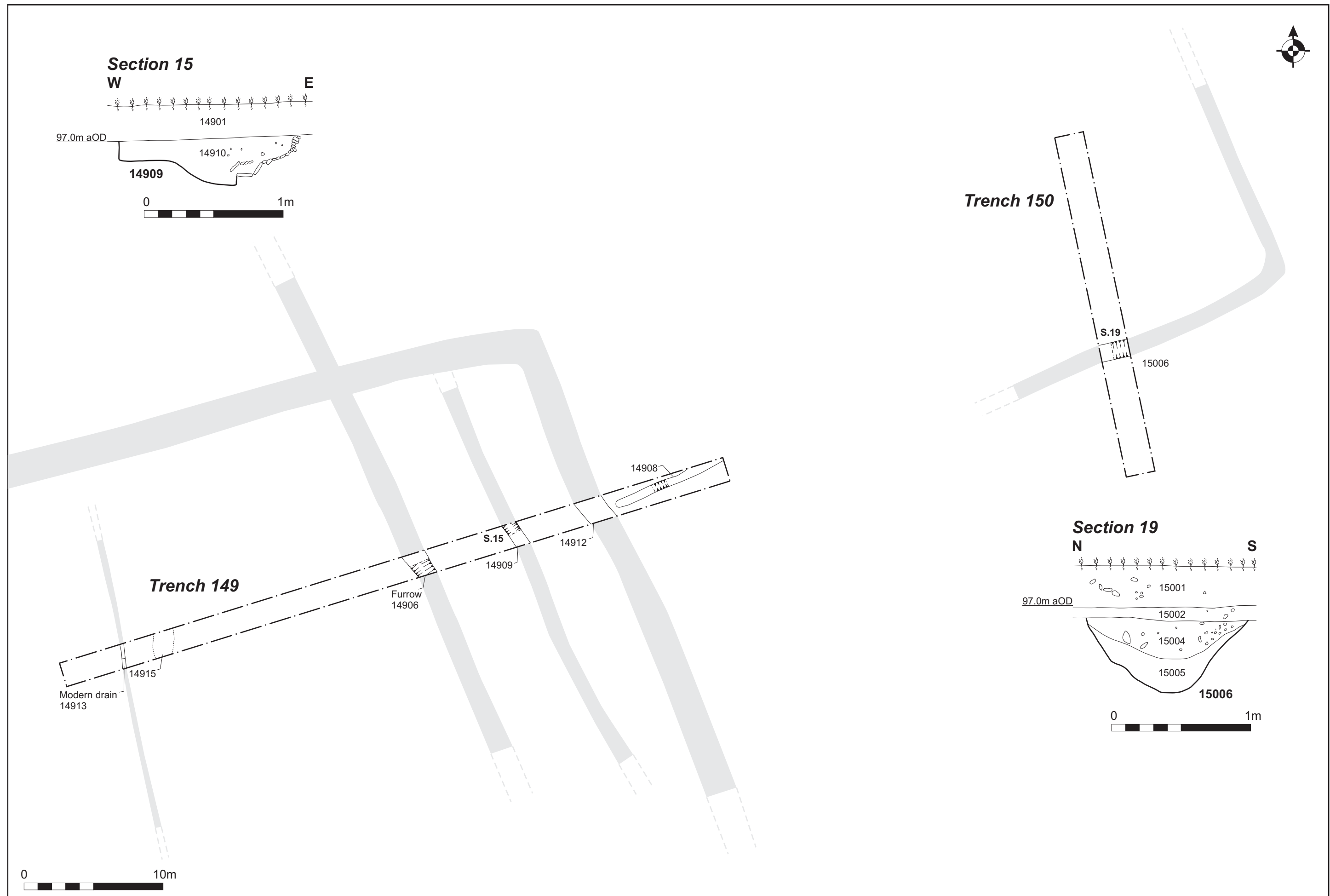
To the south of the main areas of enclosure lay two possible ring ditches, RD7 and RD8. The northern ring ditch, RD7, was c 11m in diameter and was investigated by Trench 169 (Fig 13). Ditches [16908] or [16910] may have been the northern side of the ring ditch, and are described above; the southern side of the ring ditch was not visible within the trench. Some 18m to the south-west lay a further ring ditch, RD8, which was similarly c 11m in diameter. Ditch [16705], aligned north to south, was 0.90m wide and 0.51m deep with a wide U-shaped profile (Fig 13, Section 25 and Fig 14). The firm mid brown-red clay sand fill was very similar to the overlying sub-soil and was devoid of finds. The ditch formed the western side of the ring ditch; the eastern side was not visible in trench and there were no internal features.



Ring ditch 8, ditch [16705], looking north Fig 14

Eastern part of the settlement area

There was another, less well-defined area of settlement to the east, within which there was scant evidence of structural features but a number of ditches that may form enclosures or a boundary system. The results so far are too limited to further refine interpretation.



In Trench 149 there were a number of ditches (although two, [14913] and [14906], were post-medieval or later; Fig 15). Ditch [14909] was 1.25m wide and 0.36m deep with irregular, steeped edges and a flat base (Fig 15, Section 15). The fill (14910) was firm red-brown sandy clay with orange mottling. There was a small amount of Roman greyware in the ditch. At the eastern end of the trench, ditch 14912 was not excavated but was c 2.00m wide. To the north the ditch turned 90° to the west.

A gully [14908] aligned east to west terminated just to the east of ditch 14912, perhaps suggesting that they were contemporary. It was 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep with a shallow concave profile. The fill (14907) was hard light orange-brown silty sand. It is possible that the continuation of this gully was observed in Trench 150 (Fig 8). Ditch [15006] was, however, more substantial, at 1.20m wide and 0.54m deep with steep sides and a narrow, concave base (Fig 15, Section 19). East of the trench the ditch turned 90° to the north.

In Trench 153, ditch [15306] was 1.30m wide and 0.32m deep with fairly steep sides and a flat base (Fig 17, Section 45). The fill (15307) was firm light brown-grey sandy clay with a few sherds of Roman greyware and a single sherd of Lower Nene Valley Colour-Coat. The ditch may have formed the southern arm of a small rectilinear enclosure, of which only two arms were visible on the geophysical survey.

Ditch [15304], at the north of the trench, was 0.96m wide and 0.30m deep with fairly steep sides and a concave base (Figs 16 and 17, Section 14). The fill (15305) was loose light brown-orange sandy clay. The ditch was aligned east-west within the trench but appeared to be part of a possible meandering boundary ditch.



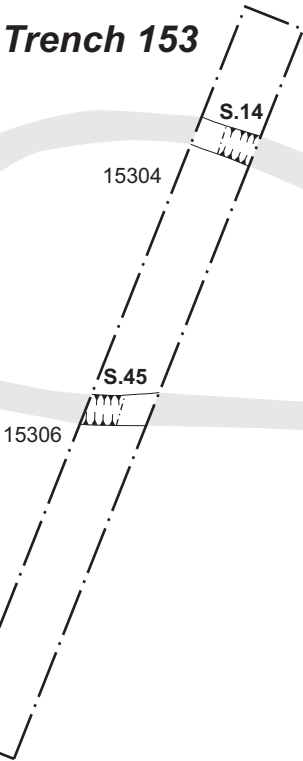
Ditch [15304], looking south-east Fig 16

Ditch [15406] in Trench 154 to the south may have been a continuation of [15304]. It was aligned north-south, 0.60m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a wide flat base (Fig 17, Section 22). The fill (15405) contained a single sherd of greyware. There were a number of other slight features within the trench, although the geophysical results and subsequent excavation suggest that they may be remnant furrows and solution hollows.

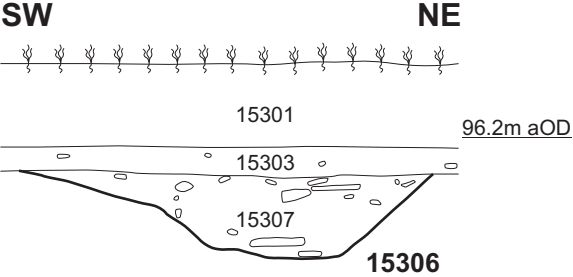
Ditch [15605] may be a further continuation of the meandering boundary ditch. Aligned north-east to south-west the ditch terminated in the trench. It was 0.48m wide and 0.08m deep (Fig 17, Section 44). The red-brown clay sand fill (15606) contained frequent limestone and some bone. A further ditch [15603] at the east of the trench was aligned north-south and was 0.90m wide and 0.45m deep (Fig 17, Section 42). The soft red-brown silty sand contained occasional charcoal but no other finds.



Trench 153

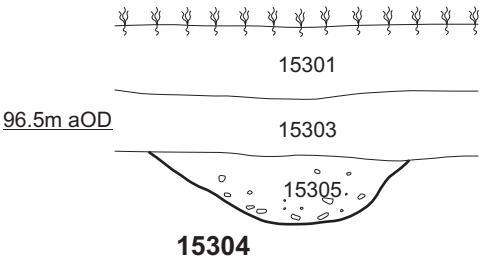


Section 45
SW NE

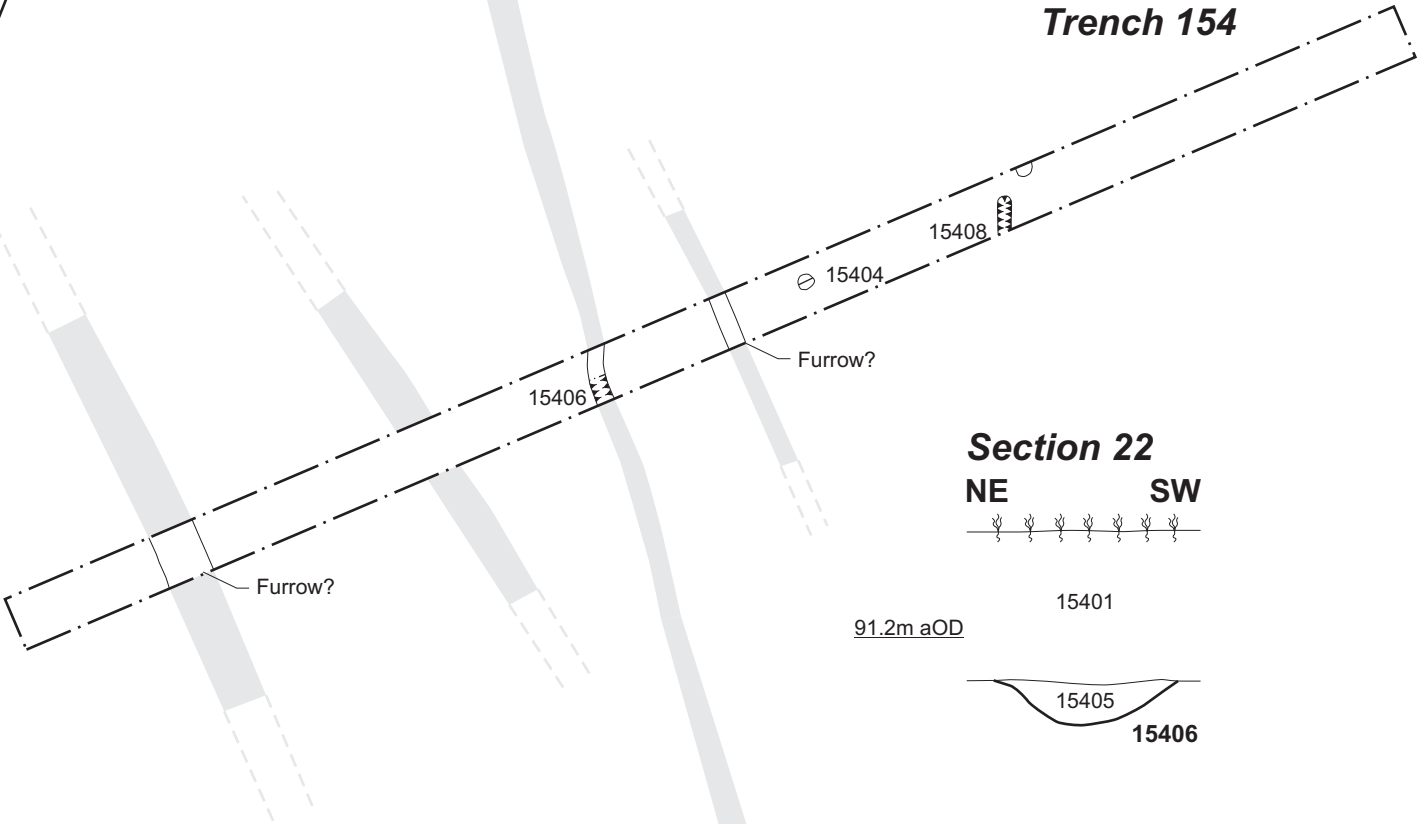


Section 14

NE SW

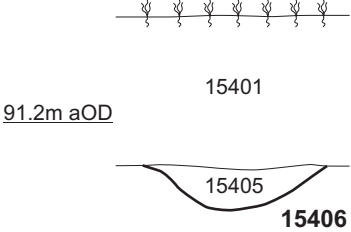


Trench 154



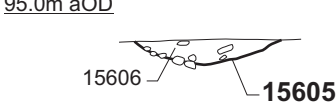
Section 22

NE SW



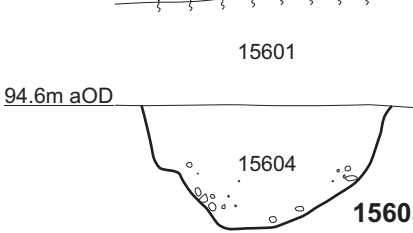
Section 44

SE NW



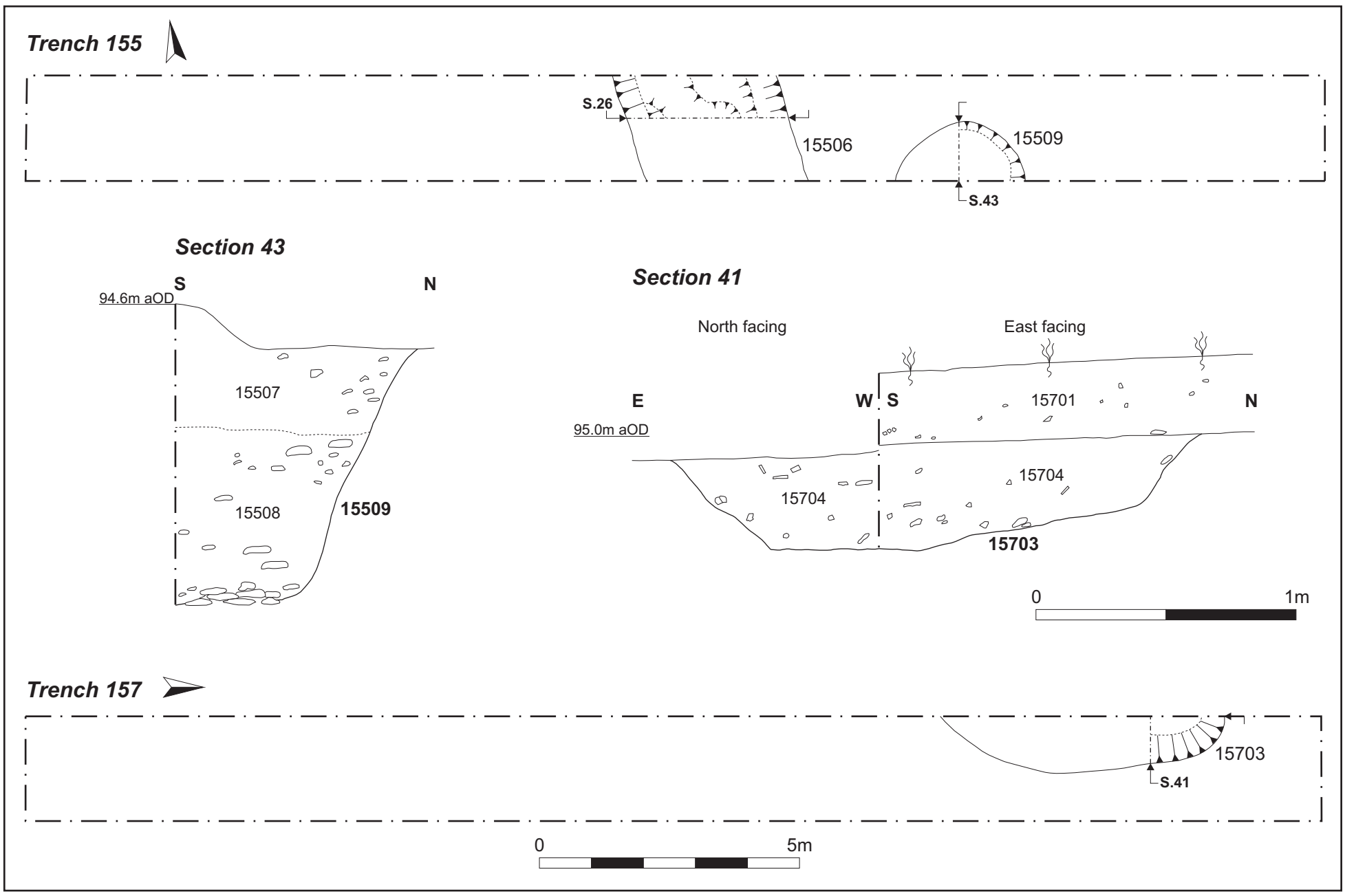
Section 42

E W



Trench 156





In Trench 155, ditch [15506] was aligned north-west to south-east, 3.7m wide and 0.85m deep with asymmetric, shallow sides and a slightly concave base (Figs 8 and 18). The lower fill (15505) of the ditch was concentrated on the western edge and was compact yellow-brown sandy clay with frequent ironstone and limestone. Pottery, a flint core and bone were retrieved. The upper fill (15504) was compact light grey sandy silt with moderate limestone and ironstone, as well as pottery, bone, a coin dating to the 4th century and an iron object.



Ditch [15506], looking north Fig 19

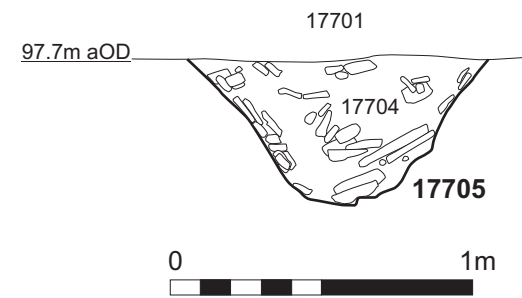
To the west of the ditch was a pit [15509]. It appeared to be oval in plan with steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base (Fig 18, Section 43). The lower fill of the pit (15508) was medium brown-orange sandy clay with infrequent charcoal and burnt ironstone. Pottery and bone were also present. The upper fill of the pit (15507) was firm orange-brown sandy clay with few inclusions. Pottery and bone were also found.

A ditch terminal was found in Trench 151 ([15104]; Fig 17). It was east to west aligned 0.54m wide and 0.15m deep. A single sherd of greyware was found in the fill.

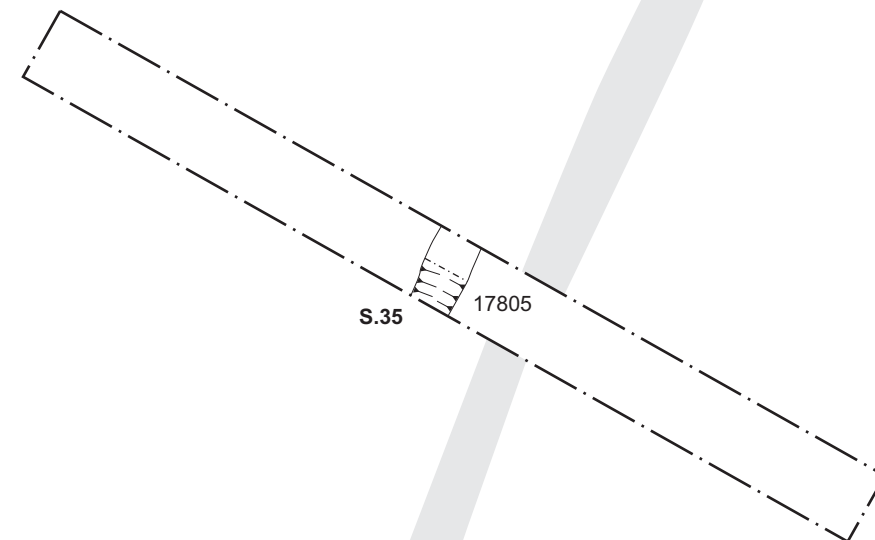
Ditch [15206] in Trench 152 aligned north-south was 2.00m wide and 0.68m deep (Fig 21). It may have formed the western arm of a rectilinear enclosure, although most of it may lie beyond the development area. The sides were fairly shallow with a wide base. Fill (15205), concentrated on the western edge of the ditch, was compact light yellow-brown sandy clay with frequent limestone and occasional pot and bone. The upper fill (15204) was compact brown-grey silty sand with moderate limestone. The largest, most varied assemblage of pottery from the site came from this fill, as well as bone, two nails and part of a bone mount. The finds assemblage may suggest that there was another focus of occupation in this area, most of it likely to be located to the east beyond the development area in Overstone Park.



Section 34
SW NE

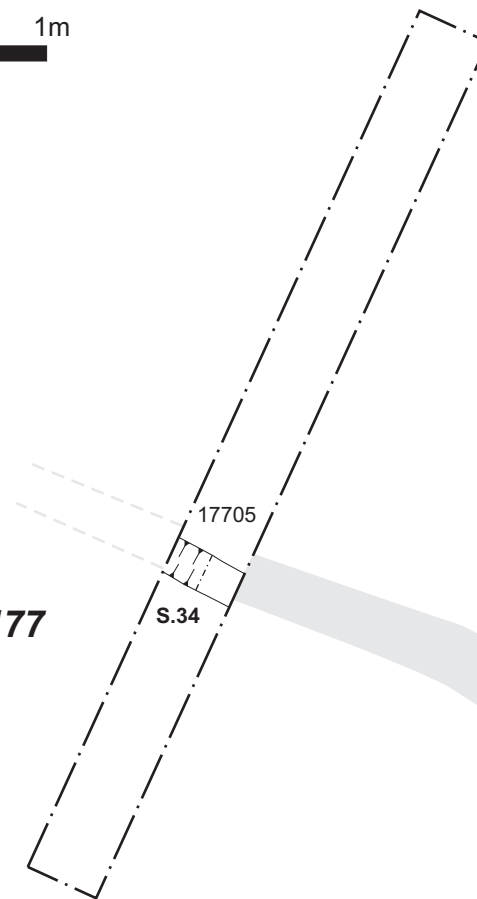


Trench 178

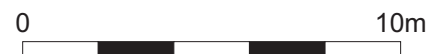


E5

Trench 177



Section 35
SE NW





Ditch [15206], looking north Fig 21

In Trench 157, pit [15703] was at least 1.25m long, 0.80m wide and 0.47m deep although it extended beyond the trench. The edges of the pit were steep and it had a broad flat base. The fill (15704) was firm red-brown clay sand with frequent limestone. A single sherd of greyware was found on the surface of the fill. The pit was cut through the limestone natural and was possibly a quarry pit.

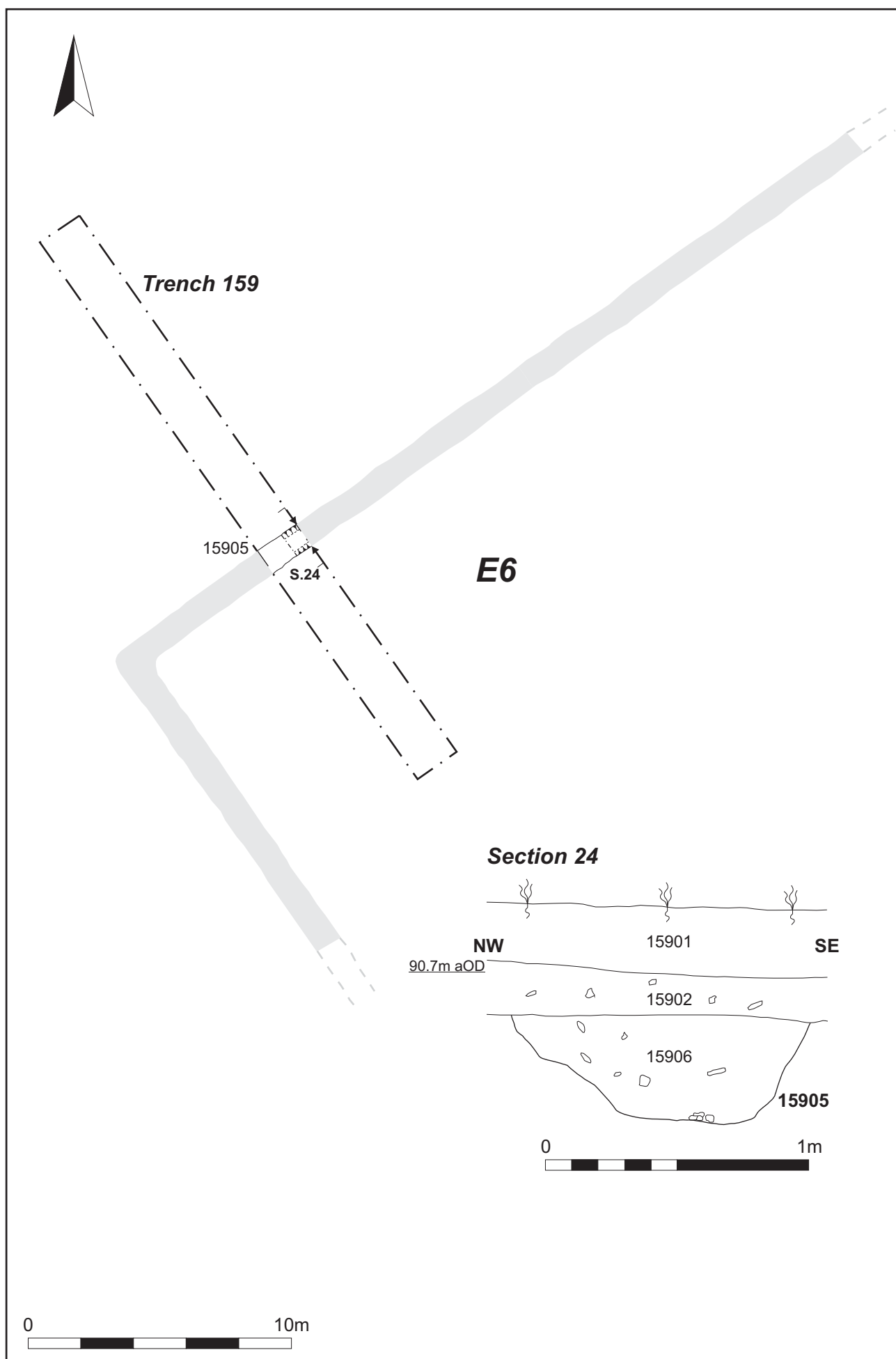
Enclosure 5 (E5)

At the far west of the field was an isolated enclosure orientated on a different axis to the activity to the east. This may suggest it belonged to a different phase of activity. The south-eastern side of the enclosure was defined by a ditch that was nearly 70m long. The ditch, [17805], in Trench 178, was 1.39m wide and 0.54m deep with an irregular v-shaped profile cut into the limestone bedrock (Fig 20, Section 35). The mid brown-orange fill (17804) contained only bone, perhaps suggesting that it was located some distance from settlement. The south-western side of the enclosure was defined by a ditch that appeared to be only 30m long on the geophysical survey. There may have been an entrance midway along the ditch. In Trench 177, ditch [17705] was 1.08m wide and 0.48m deep with an irregular, u-shaped profile (Fig 20, Section 34). The dark red-orange silty clay fill (17704) contained large amounts of limestone, probably derived from the original upcast of the ditch. The lack of material artefacts from the ditches may suggest that this was a stock enclosure situated away from the main areas of settlement.

The north-eastern and -western sides of the enclosure were not visible on the geophysical survey.

Possible enclosure 6 (E6)

At the south-eastern corner of Field 3 was a possible rectangular enclosure, although only two sides of it were visible on the geophysical survey. In Trench 159, ditch [15905], aligned north-east to south-west, was 1.14m wide and 0.42m deep with steep, irregular edges and a flat base (Fig 22, Section 24). The ditch was aligned along the contour of the slope on the boundary between the limestone and clay geologies. The fill (15906) was firm red-brown sandy clay with regular limestone fragments. There were a few small, abraded fragments of Roman greyware pottery and bone. There did not appear to be any continuation of the enclosure in trenches excavated in previous phases to the south.



Scales, plan 1:200, section 1:20

4.3 Anglo-Saxon activity (Field 4)

Field 4 comprised just over c 7ha of arable land in the north-eastern part of the development area. The geophysical survey results had suggested that there were scattered archaeological features in the eastern parts of the field. Archaeological remains were found in the eastern part of the field in Trenches 202-207, broadly conforming to the geophysical survey results. Trenches 199-201 were blank (Fig 7).

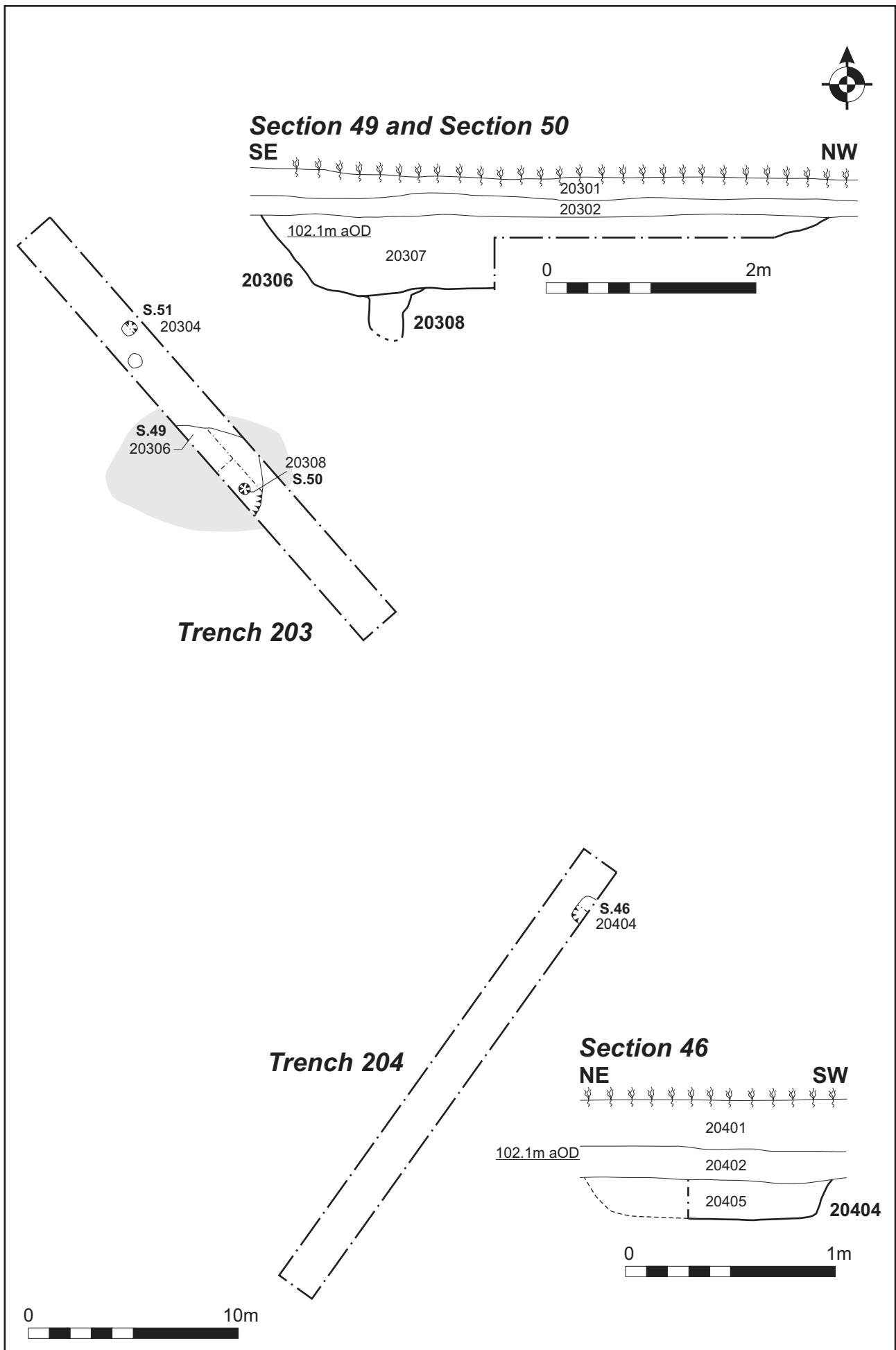
In Trench 202 there was a ditch [20204] aligned east-west, 1.40m wide and 0.40m deep. The southern edge of the ditch was steep, while the north edge had a stepped profile. The fill (20205) was compact light brown-grey sandy clay with few inclusions and no material artefacts. The geophysical survey suggested the ditch was over 130m long and generally aligned east-west although curving gently to the north at both ends. It may be a boundary ditch or part of a larger enclosure.

There were further ditches to the south. In Trench 206 a ditch [20604] aligned north-west to south-east was 0.55m wide and 0.24m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 25, Section 52). The fill (20605) was again hard light brown-grey sandy clay with few inclusions. Two sherds of pottery dated to the Saxon period. The ditch continued into Trench 207, [20704], where it was 0.65m wide and 0.28m deep with a similar profile and fill (20705) (Fig 25, Section 48). There were no finds. The ditch was at least 50m long.

In Trench 205, ditch [20504] aligned north-east to south-west was 1.00m wide and 0.33m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 25, Section 53). The fill (20505) was firm light grey-brown sandy clay with few inclusions. The geophysical survey suggested that north of the trench the ditch turned to the north-west, suggested it formed part of a field boundary or enclosure.

In Trench 203 part of a large sub-circular or sub-square pit [20306] was exposed. The pit was at least 5.80m in diameter and was 0.85-0.90m deep with steep edges and a broad, flat base (Fig 23, Sections 49 and 50, and Fig 24). The fill (20307) was firm grey-brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal, which was more prevalent to the base and occasional flint. Within the fill there was also a large assemblage of Saxon pottery (78 sherds) and animal bone as well as two ferrous objects; an iron spike and a rod fragment. At the base of the feature was a deep posthole [20308], which was 0.40m in diameter and at least 0.42m deep. The fill (20309) was compact mixed yellow, red and grey-brown sandy clays and clays. Up to 50% of the fill in places was composed of charcoal and the nature of the fill suggested it too had been exposed to high temperatures. There were no finds within the posthole. The shape of the feature and the presence of the posthole at the base suggest that it could have had a structural use, although it is rather deeper than is usual for a rural sunken-featured building (SFB). It is possible that the structure had a cellar rather like the SFB's found at Chalk Lane in Northampton, which had very similar dimensions (Williams 1981). The posthole fill may suggest that the structure burnt down; the charcoal representing the remains of the post. There was, however, no other evidence of *in situ* burning within the rest of the feature.

The pit was located 350m to the south of another possible SFB and 240m to the south of a Saxon grave found during the Phase 2 evaluation.

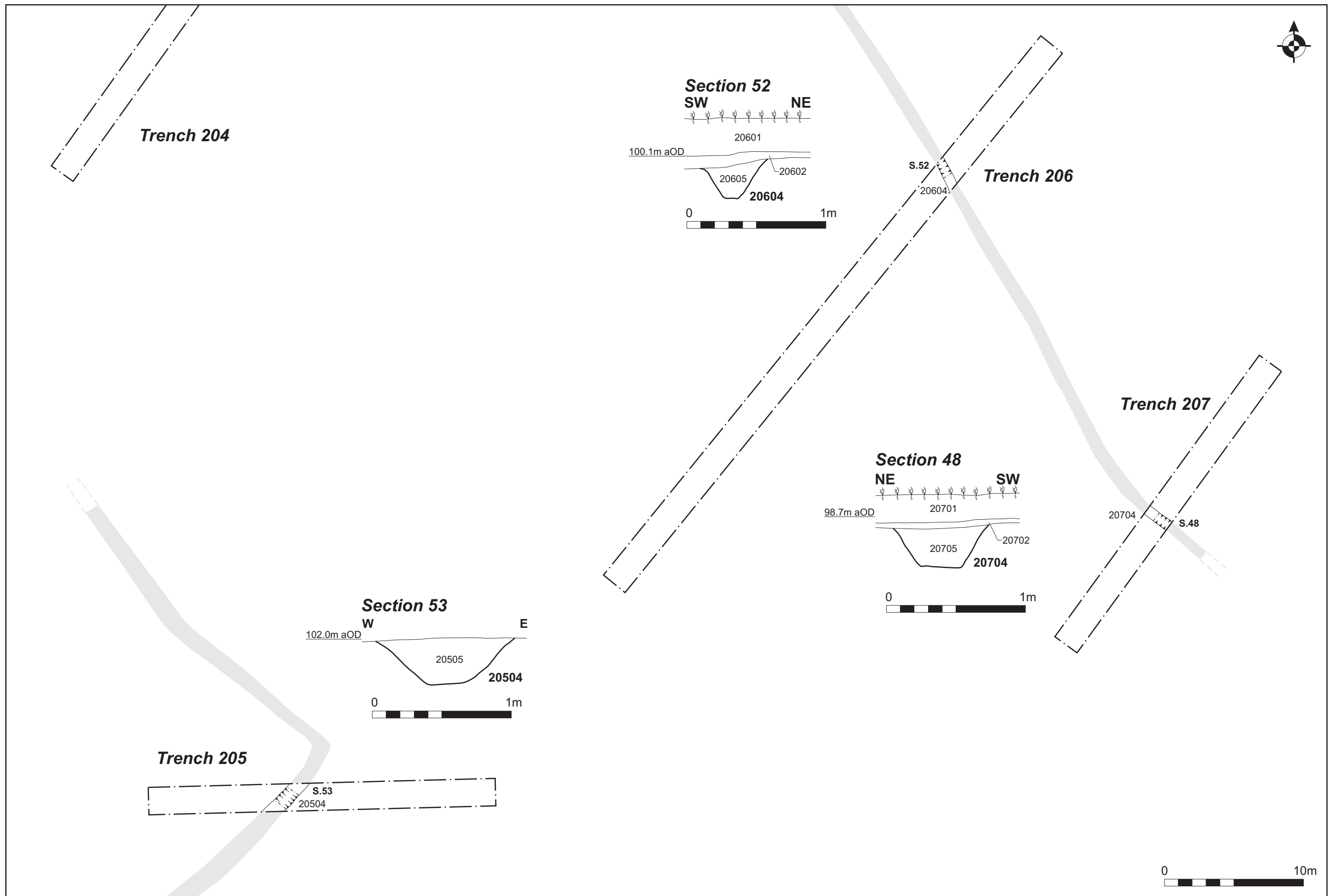




Possible sunken-featured building in Trench 203, looking south-east Fig 24

To the north-west were two further postholes, of which only one was excavated. Posthole [20304] was 0.50m in diameter and 0.53m deep, with vertical sides and a concave base. The fill (20305) was firm grey-brown clay sand with moderate charcoal (including some large pieces) as well as further pottery, flint and bone. The unexcavated posthole lay 0.90m to the south-east.

A further pit [20404] in Trench 204 to the east had steep sides and a broad, flat base and was at least 1.20m long, 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep although only part of it was exposed (Fig 23, Section 46). The fill (20405) was friable light grey sandy clay with few inclusions and a small amount of animal bone.



5 FINDS

5.1 The flint by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Five pieces of worked flint were recovered as residual finds from Roman and Saxon contexts. The assemblage comprises three flakes, one core and one barbed-and-tanged arrowhead.

The condition of the assemblage is good. The flint shows very little post-depositional edge damage in the form of occasional nicks. Patination is present on one of the flakes, the core and the arrowhead. The raw material comprises a good quality light grey and brown coloured vitreous flint. Cortex present on the flakes and core is light to dark brown colour with a generally smooth, rolled and weathered surface. The raw material was likely to have been sourced from local gravel deposits.

There is one single-platform flake core present (Table 1). Three waste flakes, of which two are broken where also recovered. One barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was also found, it was invasively retouched on the dorsal surface with semi-abrupt retouch on ventral surface along the edges. The tang is completely broken off and there is slight damage to the barbs.

The technological characteristics of the assemblage are broadly Neolithic to Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The barbed-and-tanged arrowhead is typical of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

Table 1: Summary of worked flint

Fill/cut	SF	Flake/ Blade	Portion	Tool	Period	Patination	Comments
20307/2 0306		Flake	Whole	-	-	-	
14915	11	Flake	Distal	-	-	-	Edge damage
15204/1 5206	2	Flake	Whole	-	-	medium	Slight post-depositional edge damage
15505/1 5506	5	-	-	Core	Neolithic	slight	Core, half missing through natural fracture
16909/1 6910	8	Flake	Medial	Arrowhead, barbed-and-tanged	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	heavy	Invasive retouch on dorsal surface and semi-abrupt retouch on ventral surface; tang broken off

5.2 The Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

In total, 192 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 2,295g were recovered from 21 individual deposits (See Table 2). With the exception of one sherd from Field 4 (Trench 203), all the pottery was recovered from Field 3 and it was located in a series of features sited at the centre (Trenches 186, 187) and on the eastern side (Trenches 149, 151-155, 157, 159, and 169). The recovered pottery dates from the late 1st century through to the 4th century.

The overall condition of the pottery is good, although some sherds display signs of abrasion and this is reflected in a mean sherd weight of 11.9g. The pottery was scanned by context and quantified by sherd count and weight. The quantified data was recorded on an Access database, together with details of the fabric and form. Where possible the fabrics have been coded according to the National Roman fabric reference codes (Tomber and Dore 1998).

The earliest forms represented are jars with a lid-seating in grog-tempered and shell-gritted fabrics; these were recovered from Trenches 149, 186 and 187, perhaps indicating the location of earliest activity. In tandem with previous excavations at Overstone (Williams 1976), the bulk of the assemblage comprises coarsewares in Greyware fabrics (53.9% by weight). The forms represented include necked and neckless jars and dishes/bowls with plain and flanged rims. Black-burnished type wares include a flanged bowl and a necked jar. Stylistically, the latter is not dissimilar to a necked jar from Milton Keynes, which is decorated with burnished latticing across a matt background and dates to the late 2nd to 4th century (Marney 1994, fig 48, 2).

Finewares sourced from outside the region are represented by sherds from the Lower Nene Valley and Oxfordshire. The former is represented by a funnel necked beaker (cf Howe *et al* 1996, fig 4, 43), and wide mouth jar (ibid 1996, fig 7, 76) in colour coated ware (LNV CC), together with a small undiagnostic fragment decorated with a vestige of a barbotine motif. The latter is represented by a rim fragment from a bowl in white colour-coated ware (OXF WS), representing a Young Type WC3 (1977, fig 38, WC3.1) which dates to c 240-400. Finally there is a single fragment of Mortaria in Oxfordshire red slipped ware (OXF RS). Imported wares are not represented.

Table 2: Quantification of Roman pottery (weight in g)

FABRIC TYPE	Trench/context number													
	14905		14910		14915		15105		15204		15205		15307	
	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)
Grog-tempered ware	3	16	-	-	1	10	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-
Greyware	15	90	4	68	2	3	1	3	42	438	4	21	5	67
Black burnished type ware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Nene Valley CC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	2	7	1	2
Oxfordshire red slipware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
Oxfordshire white slipware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	-
Shell-gritted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	277	-	-	-	-
Misc sandy wares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxidised sandy ware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	15	-	-	-	-
Whiteware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18	106	4	68	1	10	1	3	57	760	6	28	6	69

FABRIC TYPE	Trench/context number													
	15405		15504		15505		15507		15508		15703		15906	
	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)
Grog-tempered ware	-	-	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greyware	1	10	11	138	6	64	7	66	5	11	4	15	3	7
Black burnished type ware	-	-	1	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Nene Valley CC	-	-	1	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxfordshire red slipware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxfordshire white slipware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shell-gritted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Misc sandy wares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxidised sandy ware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whiteware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	10	14	248	6	64	7	66	5	11	4	15	3	7

FABRIC TYPE	Trench/context number													
	16905		16907		16911		16913		18605		18704		20307	
	No/Wt(g)		No/Wt(g)		No/Wt(g)		No/Wt(g)		No/Wt(g)		No/Wt(g)		No/Wt(g)	
Grog-tempered ware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	46	-	-
Greyware	2	7	2	33	10	154	-	-	7	45	-	-	1	1
Black burnished type ware	-	-	-	-	1	245	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Nene Valley CC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxfordshire red slipware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxfordshire white slipware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shell-gritted	2	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	181	-	-	-	-
Misc sandy wares	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	1	22	2	53	-	-
Oxidised sandy ware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whiteware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-
Total	4	29	2	33	11	399	2	11	28	248	11	109	1	1

5.3 The Anglo-Saxon pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprises 82 sherds with a total weight of 789g. It is all early/middle Anglo-Saxon hand-built wares. Where possible, the same fabric codes were used as for the earlier phase of the project (site OLN10; Blinkhorn 2010). The following types are present:

F1: **Quartz and Ironstone.** Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz c 1mm, sub-rounded grey and red ironstone up to 2mm. 10 sherds, 168g.

F3: **Sparse Quartz.** Few visible inclusions except for rare quartz up to 0.5mm and sparse flecks of silver mica. 25 sherds, 149g.

F5: **Calcareous Quartz.** Moderate fine angular quartz up to 0.5mm, sparse to moderate calcareous material up to 1mm. 31 sherds, 327g.

F6: **Granitic.** Sparse to moderate angular lumps of grano-diorite up to 2mm, rare to sparse chaff voids. 16 sherds, 145g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. All the sherds were in good condition, although most appear to be from individual vessels. It seems likely that they are the result of secondary deposition, and most probably originally deposited in middens which were later incorporated into the backfill of the features. Certainly, non-joining sherds from a single vessel in fabric F1 occurred in both the post-hole (20305) and the pit (20307).

Most of the fabrics are likely to have been made locally, given the geology of the area and the range of fabric types, although the granitic fabric F6 is likely to be from a more distant source, either the Charnwood Forest area of Leicestershire, or the St Neots region of Cambridgeshire.

Discussion

The assemblage appears typical of the early/middle Anglo-Saxon period (c AD450-850), and the sherds were all undecorated. The dating of hand-built pottery of the period is almost entirely reliant on the presence of decorated sherds, although it seems that the Anglo-Saxons generally abandoned such practice around the beginning of the 7th century (Myres 1977, 1). However, it cannot be assumed that an assemblage which produces only plain sherds is of 7th century date. Decorated hand-built pottery only usually comprises around 3 – 4% of domestic assemblages, as was the case at settlement sites such as West Stow, Suffolk (West 1985) and Mucking, Essex (Hamerow 1993). Thus, a fairly small assemblage of plain pottery such as this one cannot be said with certainty to be dated to the 7th century or later, and has to be given a broad period date of the 5th – 9th century.

The range of fabrics is similar to that from OLN10, although chaff-tempered and coarse quartz tempered fabrics F2 and F4 were absent. The granitic fabric F6 did not occur at OLN10, and the three fabrics from this site which were present there were very much minor wares. This may have chronological significance, especially given the mobile nature of early/middle Saxon settlement, although it may simply be due to the vagaries of archaeological sampling, and the relatively small size of the assemblage. It is worthy of note however that the composition of this assemblage is very similar to that from Chalk Lane Northampton, where 11% of the early/middle Saxon pottery was granitic, and just two sherds with chaff temper were noted, from a total assemblage of 1,269 sherds (Gryspeardt 1981, 108-9)

Here, a total of eight rimsherds were present, all from pit 20307, three of which were fairly large. All were from closed jar forms. A small number of sherds had smooth, burnished outer surfaces, but otherwise the assemblage comprised entirely undecorated bodysherds.

Table 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fabric	F1		F3		F5		F6		Date
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
20305	1	25	-	-	1	4	2	30	E/MS
20307	9	143	25	149	30	323	14	115	E/MS
Total	10	168	25	149	31	327	16	145	

5.4 Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman

This material all came from the fill (14914) of a gully [14913]. Five sherds of roof pantiles, 15mm thick and weighing 410g, are made from hard fine clay with occasional small calcareous and ironstone inclusions.

A plain unfrogged almost complete brick, 230x113x60mm (9x4½x2¾ inches), half of a brick measuring 113x60mm, and a small fragment are handmade from slightly reddish-brown clay with occasional large inclusions. The half brick in particular has been overfired to grey on one surface with a blackened stretcher. There is also a small fragment from a slightly better quality brick.

These few items probably come from nearby farm buildings.

5.5 The other finds by Tora Hylton

There are seven other finds, five from Field 3 and two from Field 4. The finds from Field 3 were recovered from deposits in Trenches 152, 155 and 186 and they comprise a copper alloy brooch, an iron latch-lifter, a bone mount, two nails and an undiagnostic fragment.

The brooch was recovered from layer 18607 (Trench 186). It is an example of a Colchester Derivative type brooch with a hinged pin; typologically it may be paralleled by Mackreth's Type 6, a group of brooches predominantly recovered from an area stretching from Norfolk to Leicester (Mackreth 2011). The brooch is decorated with a triangle at the head of the bow and a fantail foot ornamented with three ring and dot motifs (cf Fig 58, 11560), and dates to the late 1st /2nd centuries.

The latch-lifter was located in subsoil deposits overlying Trench 186. It is incomplete, the handle is damaged and part of the stem is missing. The handle has a rectangular cross-section and terminates in a loop and the stem has a flat rectangular cross-section with curved profile and stylistically it is not dissimilar to a small group of latch-lifters recovered from Borough Hill, near Daventry (Manning 1985, plate 39, 14-16). Latch-lifters are a type of key which were used in Britain from the late Iron Age and throughout the Roman period (ibid 1985, 88).

Two incomplete hand forged nails were recovered from fill (15204) of ditch 15206 (Trench 152), together with a bone mount. The heads of the nails survive, permitting comparison with Mannings Type series (1985, fig 32). One has a flat sub-circular head, (Type 1b), ensuring that the head of the nail would have been flush with the surface of the wood, such nails may have been used to secure light structural fittings. The other nail has a T-shaped head (Type 3), a form which would have protruded above the level of the wood and may have had any number of applications.

The possible bone mount, also from fill (15204) is incomplete, one corner is missing. Originally it would have been triangular in shape and measure c 33 x 30. The upper surface is decorated with a single incised ring and dot motif. The centre of the dot is pierced, presumably for attachment.

Finally an undiagnostic rod fragment, possibly a nail shank, was recovered from fill 15504 of ditch 15506 (Trench 155).

Field 4 produced an iron spike and an undiagnostic rod fragment, both objects were recovered from (20307) the fill of the possible SFB (Trench 203). One is a square-sectioned iron spike which tapers towards the terminal to form a circular sectioned point. It measures 94mm in length and may be an awl or similar object.

Roman coin by Ian Meadows

A copper alloy AE3 17.5mm diameter of Constantius. The partial obverse legend would have read FLIVLCONSTIVSNOBC although on this example the legend extends beyond the edge of the flan. The reverse type is a GLORIA EXERCITVS 2 soldiers with 2 standards with a mintmark of TRP in the exergue and a wreath between the 2 standards indicating it was produced at Trier between 330-335. (Hill and Kent 1978 no 74). Both struck faces are on the same alignment.

6 FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

6.1 The animal bone by Karen Deighton

A total of 7.2kg of animal bone was hand recovered from the excavation. This material was scanned to establish the species present and state of preservation and to assess the potential for future work and to inform on further collection strategies if necessary.

Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows where eruption and wear could be examined (Halstead (1985) for cattle, Payne (1973) for ovicaprid and Silver (1969) for dog) and bones where the state of epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969) could be determined. Hand collected bones had previously been washed.

Roman features

Material from Field 3 was particularly heavily fragmented and largely the result of old breaks although fresh breaks were noted on material from several contexts (Table 4). Bone surfaces were in a poor condition possibly due to the nature of the soil. The poor preservation is reflected in the low density of identifiable elements per feature (3.4). Evidence for butchery, both knife marks and chopping, was noted on three elements, all from contexts in Field 3. More butchery evidence could have been obscured by the poor preservation of bone encountered in Field 3. Canid gnawing was present on eight elements suggesting the presence of dogs or foxes at site.

Anglo-Saxon features

Material from Field 4 showed better preservation (which is consistent with the preservation of material from previous work at Overstone (Deighton 2010)) with moderate fragmentation and reasonable bone surface condition, fresh breaks were still present. Again this higher level of preservation is reflected in a greater density of identifiable elements per feature (11.8) and fewer contexts with indeterminate material only (Fig 5).

Evidence for canid gnawing appeared to be evenly disturbed across trenches in both fields although with such a small amount of data this statement is tentative. Unlike the previous Overstone Leys assemblage no evidence of burning was noted.

Species present/Taxonomic distribution

Table 4: Identifiable bones by context - Roman contexts (Field 3)

Cut/fill	Type	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Rabbit	Large ungulate	Small ungulate	Total
14908/ 14907	Ditch	2			1					3
14913/ 14914	Gully	1						1		2
15206/ 15204	Ditch	6	5	4			1	3	1	20
15206/ 15205	Ditch							1		1
15303	Subsoil	2								2
15506/ 15504	Ditch	3	1	1	1			1		7
15509/ 15507	Pit	2								2
15509/ 15508	Pit		1					1	1	3
15605/ 15606	Gully terminus	1								1
15905/ 15906	Ditch								2	2
16906/ 16905	Ditch							1		1
16908/ 16907	Ditch	1								1
16908	Ditch	1								1
16912/ 16911	Ditch							1		1
17805/ 17804	Gully	3	1							4
18205/ 18204	Ditch		3			1			1	5
18706/ 18704	Ditch				1					1
Total		22	11	5	3	1	1	9	5	57

Contexts (14915, 15307 and 15505) produced indeterminate bone fragments only

Table 5: Identified Bone by context- Anglo Saxon Features (Field 4)

Cut/fill	Type	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Bird	Large ungulate	Small ungulate	Total
20304/ 20305	Posthole	3	1					1	1	6
20306/ 20307	Pit	14	6	9	1	1	1	3	8	43
20404/ 20405	Pit	3		1						4
20504/ 20505	Ditch	3	1		1					5
20604/ 20605	Ditch	1								1
Total		24	8	10	2	1	1	4	9	59

Context 18607 produced indeterminate bone fragments only.

A single upper valve of a marine oyster (*M.edulis*) was recovered from context 15204 the secondary fill of ditch (15206).

Ageing and metrical data

Table 6: Number of ageable and measurable bones by taxa

Taxon	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog
Epiphyseal fusion	10	5	6	1	1
Tooth eruption and wear	1	1			1
Juvenile		1			
Measurable (number of bones)	7(3)	4(1)		3(1)	

A pathology was noted from pit context (20307), where a misshapen ovicaprid proximal radial articulation was noted.

Discussion

All bones are from common domesticates and, with the exception of dog and oyster the same range of taxa is present as in previous work. Evidence for butchery and the prevalence of limb bones suggest the origin of the assemblage to be kitchen waste with the material either dumped into ditches and pits following consumption or swept in sporadically during cleaning activities, however this conclusion is tentative due to the small amount of data available. A small concentration of bone was noted from pit [20308] which possibly hints at the pit's specific use for waste disposal. The presence of marine oyster could indicate coastal trade, however, with so little evidence this is inconclusive.

The level of identification possible and the range of taxa present suggests if further work were undertaken at the site animal bone should be retained from dateable/phaseable contexts. The analysis of faunal remains could provide information on the animal economy at the site and temporal comparisons may be possible. The investigation of the variable preservation noted above could also be valuable. The material could be combined with the assemblages from previous work at the site (Deighton 2010).

6.2 The charred plant remains by Val Fryer

Eleven samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken and were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 7. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) for the plant macrofossils and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. With the exception of two mineral replaced seeds, all plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and arthropod remains were present throughout.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereal grains and chaff were present at a very low density within all eleven assemblages. Preservation was moderately good, although some grains were puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp), barley (*Hordeum* sp) and wheat (*Triticum* sp) grains were recorded along with a number of other grains which were either too fragmentary or too poorly preserved for close identification. Spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases were recorded within the assemblages from ditches [16912] (sample 2), [15204] (sample 4) and [15506] (sample 5). Somewhat unusually, weed seeds were almost entirely absent, with only two specimens of indeterminate mineral replaced thistle type (Asteraceae) seeds being recorded.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although only the post-hole/pit assemblages contained high densities of material. Other plant macrofossils were extremely scarce, although possible pieces of heather (Ericaceae) stem were noted within the assemblages from samples 1 (ditch [18205]) and 3 (ditch [16910]).

Small mollusc assemblages were noted within two of the ditch samples (samples 2 and 3), with occasional specimens being recorded elsewhere. Although some specimens were well preserved, retaining surface structures and coloration, others

were abraded and some were heavily encrusted with mineral concretions. Three of Evans (1972) ecological groups of terrestrial snails were represented (namely woodland/shade loving species, open country species and catholic species) and sample 2 also contained a small number of shells of freshwater obligate species. Assuming that at least some of the shells were contemporary with the contexts from which the samples were taken, it would appear that ditches [16910] and [16912] were probably situated within an area of open, short-turfed grassland, although the features themselves were partially shaded and damp or seasonally wet at their bases.

Other remains were very scarce. The fragments of black porous material were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Bone fragments were recorded, although most were very heavily abraded. Small pieces of coal were also recorded, although most were probably intrusive within the contexts from which the samples were taken.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the eight plant macrofossil assemblages from the trenches in Field 3 (samples 1 – 8) are all small and very limited in composition, being largely composed of occasional cereal grains, chaff elements and charcoal fragments. As all are from ditch fills, this is, perhaps, not surprising, as many of these features appear to have been peripheral to any main focus of domestic/agricultural activity. It is, therefore, most likely that the few remains recorded are principally derived from scattered detritus, which was accidentally incorporated within the ditch fills. As indicated above, the mollusc assemblages suggest that the two ditches recorded within Trench 169 were originally situated within a grassland area, although the features themselves were probably partially shaded and may have been damp or seasonally water filled.

The two postholes and the pit within Trench 203 (Field 4: samples 9-11) are both believed to be Saxon. The similarity between the plant macrofossil assemblages would appear to confirm that they are contemporary, with the recovered plant remains possibly having a common source. However, as the assemblages are small (<0.1 litres in volume), primary deposition within the features is probably not indicated. All three assemblages contain high densities of charcoal/charred wood (including a number of larger fragments) along with cereals and bone fragments, and two samples also contain mineral concretions (including some possible faecal material) and mineral replaced seeds. It would, therefore, appear most likely that all three assemblages are derived from low densities of domestic refuse or midden waste, which accumulated within the feature fills.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Table 7: Charred Plant remains

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Context No.	18204	16911	16909	15204	15504	14910	18605	15906	20309	20305	20307
Feature No.	18205	16912	16910	15206	15506	14909	18604	15905	20308	20304	20306
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	ph	ph	Pit
Trench No.	182	169	169	152	155	149	186	159	203	203	203
Field No.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	A/S	A/S	A/S
Cereals											
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)		xcf									
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x							xcf	x	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x	xcf							x
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)		x		x	x						
Cereal indet. (grains)	xcffg	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Herbs											
Asteraceae indet.										xm	xm
Other plant macrofossils											
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	x	xxx	xx	x	x	x	xxxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	x	x		x		xxx	xx	xx
Charcoal >5mm									x	x	x
Charcoal >10mm									x		
Charred root/stem	x	x	x			x			x	x	x
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xcf		xcf								
Mollusc shells											
Woodland/shade loving species											
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>			x								
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.		x									
<i>Carychium</i> sp.			x								
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>		x									
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>		x	x								
<i>Ena</i> sp.		x	x								
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.		xx	x					x			

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Context No.	18204	16911	16909	15204	15504	14910	18605	15906	20309	20305	20307
Feature No.	18205	16912	16910	15206	15506	14909	18604	15905	20308	20304	20306
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	ph	ph	Pit
Trench No.	182	169	169	152	155	149	186	159	203	203	203
Field No.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	A/S	A/S	A/S
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.		x									
<i>Carychium</i> sp.			x								
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>		x									
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>		x	x								
<i>Ena</i> sp.		x	x								
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.		xx	x					x			
<i>Zonitidae</i> indet.	x	xx	x					x			
Open country species											
<i>Helicella itala</i>		x					x				
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>		x	x				x				x
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	x	x	x	x							x
<i>V. costata</i>		xx	xx				x	x			
Catholic species											
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.		x									
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.		xx	x								
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>		x	x								
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	x	xxxx	xxx	x		x	x	x			x
Marsh/freshwater obligate species											
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>		x	x								
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.		xcf	x								
<i>L. truncatula</i>		x									
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.		x									
<i>Succinea</i> sp.		x									
Other remains											
Black porous 'cokey' material		x	x	x	x			x		x	x

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Context No.	18204	16911	16909	15204	15504	14910	18605	15906	20309	20305	20307
Feature No.	18205	16912	16910	15206	15506	14909	18604	15905	20308	20304	20306
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	ph	ph	Pit
Trench No.	182	169	169	152	155	149	186	159	203	203	203
Field No.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Date	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	Roman	A/S	A/S	A/S
Black tarry material					x						
Bone		x		x			x		x	x	x
Burnt/fired clay									x		x
Burnt stone frags.	x				x						
Mineralised concretions		xxxx								xx	xxx
Small coal frags.	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x
Vitreous material				x						x	
Sample volume (litres)	25ss	28ss	28ss	30ss	30ss	30ss	25ss	25ss	16ss	20	28ss
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 cf = compare fg = fragment m = mineral replaced ss = sub-sample A/S = Anglo Saxon

7 DISCUSSION

There was no evidence of prehistoric activity within Fields 3 or 4, although a few pieces of worked flint were found as residual artefacts in later features.

The remains of a small, rural Romano-British settlement are present in Field 3 and appear to be largely confined to within this field. The settlement dates from the late 1st through to the 4th centuries, indicating that it was occupied for much of the Roman period; there is no evidence for preceding Iron Age occupation. Possible field boundaries extend away from the main area of settlement to the west and south within Field 3. Undated ditched boundaries found in earlier phases of the evaluation may also be remnants of a wider contemporary field system.

Artefactual evidence suggests that the settlement is likely to be relatively low-status, probably a rural farmstead, comprising enclosures used for occupation as well as stock control. The settlement morphology appears to be fairly typical for rural settlements of this date in Northamptonshire, which were generally composed of agglomerated groups of ditched enclosures of largely rectilinear form (Taylor and Flitcroft 2004). The possible stone-built roundhouse is again typical of domestic architecture in the central-southern part of the county where the construction material of roundhouses gradually changed from wood to stone during the Roman period (*ibid*, 65).

To the north the Anglo-Saxon activity identified within the Phase 2 trial trenching appears to extend into Field 4. The remains of two possible sunken-featured buildings, as well as a few postholes which may indicate the presence of more substantial timber buildings, have been observed during the evaluation suggesting the presence of a dispersed or shifting early/middle Saxon settlement. Sunken-featured buildings are usually fairly humble ancillary structures used for craft activities; but the size of the feature in Trench 203 may indicate that it was a more substantial structure, similar to examples excavated at Chalk Lane, Northampton (Williams 1981). The settlement activity observed in Fields 1 and 4 may be related to the burials which were located close to a ring ditch also in Field 1.

Some of the features identified as being of archaeological origin in the geophysical survey have been proved to be of geological origin; this is perhaps not surprising given the variability of the local geology. However, the veracity of much of the geophysical survey interpretation has been proved by the evaluation.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
141	25m x 1.8m N-S	479621/ 265985	100. 5m aOD	0.26m, 100.24m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14101	Topsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand	0.22-0.37m thick	—
14102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay sand	0.04-0.07m thick	—
14103	Natural	Mid red-brown sand, ironstone patches	—	—
14104	Cut of posthole Fill 14105	Sub-circular, vertical sides, flat base	0.31m diam, 0.20m deep	—
14105	Fill Posthole [14104]	Firm red-brown sandy clay	0.20m thick	—
14106	Cut of posthole Fill 14107	Sub-circular, vertical sides, flat base	0.21m diam, 0.23m deep	—
14107	Fill Posthole [14106]	Firm red-brown sandy clay	0.23m thick	—
14108	Cut of posthole Fill 14109	Sub-circular, steep sides, flat base	0.48m diam, 0.23m deep	—
14109	Fill Posthole 14108	Firm red-brown sandy clay	0.23m thick	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
142	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	4796661/ 265938	99.7m aOD	0.58m, 99.12m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14201	Topsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand	0.18-0.28m thick	—
14202	Subsoil	Mid red-brown sand	0.10-0.40m thick	—
14203	Natural	Loose white limestone and sand with red-orange sand	—	—
14204	Fill Posthole [14205]	Dark orange-brown silty sand	0.26m thick	—
14205	Cut of posthole Fill 14204	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.26m diam, 0.18m deep	—
14206	Fill Posthole [14207]	Dark orange-brown silty sand	0.11m thick	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
142	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	4796661/ 265938	99.7m aOD	0.58m, 99.12m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14207	Cut of posthole Fill 14206	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.15m diam, 0.11m deep	—
14208	Fill Posthole 14209	Dark orange-brown silty sand	0.18m thick	—
14209	Cut of posthole Fill 14208	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.30m diam, 0.18m deep	—
14210	Fill Posthole 14211	Dark orange-brown silty sand	0.11m thick	—
14211	Cut of posthole Fill 14210	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.20m diam, 0.11m deep	—
14212	Fill Posthole 14213	Dark orange-brown silty sand	0.39m thick	—
14213	Cut of posthole Fill 14212	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.50m diam, 0.39m deep	—
14214	Fill Posthole 14215	Mid orange-brown silty sand	0.12m thick	—
14215	Cut of posthole Fill 14214	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.24m diam, 0.12m deep	—
14216	Fill Posthole 14217	Mid orange-brown silty sand	0.10m thick	—
14217	Cut of posthole Fill 14216	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.15m diam, 0.10m deep	—
14218	Fill Posthole 14219	Mid orange-brown silty sand	0.13m thick	—
14219	Cut of posthole Fill 14218	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.20m diam, 0.13m deep	—
14220	Fill Posthole 14221	Mid orange-brown silty sand	0.15m thick	—
14221	Cut of posthole Fill 14220	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.16m diam, 0.15m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
142	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	4796661/ 265938	99.7m aOD	0.58m, 99.12m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14222	Fill Posthole 14223	Mid orange-brown silty sand	0.26m thick	—
14223	Cut of posthole Fill 14222	Circular, steep sides, flat base (natural solution hollow)	0.27m diam, 0.26m deep	—
14224	Fill Posthole 14225	Mid red-orange-brown silty sand	0.22m thick	—
14225	Cut of posthole Fill 14224	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.30m diam, 0.22m deep	—
14226	Fill Posthole 14227	Mid red-orange-brown silty sand	0.26m thick	—
14227	Cut of posthole Fill 14226	Circular, steep sides, concave base (natural solution hollow)	0.25m diam, 0.26m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
143	25m x 1.8m N-S	479708/ 265922	99.3 m aOD	0.56m, 98.74m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14301	Topsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand	0.28-0.32m thick	—
14302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sand	0.19-0.30m thick	—
14303	Natural	Mid red-brown sand, ironstone patches	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
144	25m x 1.8m N-S	479764/ 265885	99.10m aOD	0.70m, 98.40m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14401	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand	0.30-0.34m thick	—
14402	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sand	0.20-0.40m thick	—
14403	Natural	Mid orange sand, ironstone patches	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
145	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	479742/ 265839	98.00m aOD	0.35m, 97.65m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
14501	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown clay sand	0.25-0.30m thick	—
14502	Subsoil	Mid orange sand	0.05-0.10m thick	—
14503	Natural	Ironstone with orange sand in fractures	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
146	50m x 1.8m E-W	4796828/ 265827	97.40m aOD	0.29m, 97.11m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
14601	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown clay sand	0.24-0.29m thick	—
14602	Subsoil	Dark red-brown sand, not present at east	0.04-0.05m thick	—
14603	Natural	Limestone	—	—
14604	Natural	Ironstone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
147	50m x 1.8m E-W	479654/ 265922	97.90m aOD	0.39m, 97.51m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
14701	Topsoil	Dark red-brown silty sand	0.23-0.27m thick	—
14702	Subsoil	Mid brown-red sand	0.06-0.15m thick	—
14703	Natural	Ironstone and sand	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
148	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479671/ 265787	96.60m aOD	0.35m, 96.25m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
14801	Topsoil	Dark red-brown clay sand	0.238-0.26m thick	—
14802	Subsoil	Mid red-brown clay sand	0.04-0.15m thick	—
14803	Natural	Ironstone and sand with manganese flecks	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
149	25m x 1.8m E-W	479693/ 265757	97.00m aOD	0.56m, 96.44m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14901	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown clay sand	0.23-0.28m thick	—
14902	Subsoil	Dark red-brown clay sand (not present in much of trench)	0.04m thick	—
14903	Natural	Ironstone at NE end	—	—
14904	Natural	Mottled dark orange and grey clay and limestone brash	—	—
14905	Fill Furrow [14906]	Hard light orange-brown silty sand	—	—
14906	Cut of furrow Fill 14905	North-east to south-west aligned, shallow sides, wide, flat base	1.50m wide 0.07m deep	—
14907	Fill Ditch [14908]	Hard light orange-brown silty sand, rare limestone	—	Bone
14908	Cut of ditch Fill 14907	North to south aligned, fairly steep sides and concave base	0.40m wide 0.10m deep	—
14909	Cut of ditch Fill 14910	North-west to south-east aligned, stepped, irregular edges and uneven base (limestone bedrock)	1.25m wide 0.36m deep	—
14910	Fill Ditch [14909]	Firm red-brown sandy clay with orange-yellow mottling. Moderate limestone and pebbles	—	Pottery; Sample <6>
14911	Fill Ditch [14912]	Fill not excavated	—	—
14912	Cut of ditch Fill 14911	East-west aligned. Ditch not excavated	—	—
14913	Cut of gully Fill 14914	North to south aligned, steep edges and flat base	0.27m wide 0.18m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
149	25m x 1.8m E-W	479693/ 265757	97.00m aOD	0.56m, 96.44m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
14914	Fill Gully [14913]	Loose to compact mid red-brown silty sand, large quantities of brick, tile and limestone. Frequent bone in lower part of fill	—	Brick/tile and bone
14915	Deposit	Fill of a natural depression; firm mid grey-brown silty sand	At least 2.00m long, 1.3m wide 0.15m deep	Pottery, flint and bone

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
150	25m x 1.8m N-S	479769/ 26578	97.70m aOD	0.30m, 97.40m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
15001	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown clay sand	0.18-0.26m thick	—
15002	Subsoil	Mid red-brown clay sand	0.04-0.05m thick	—
15003	Natural	Ironstone and sand	—	—
15004	Upper fill Ditch [15006]	Compact mid brown-red silty sand, moderate ironstone, rare charcoal	1.20m wide 0.30m deep	—
15005	Primary fill Ditch [15006]	Compact light grey-brown sand, rare small stones and charcoal	0.90m wide 0.24m deep	—
15006	Cut of ditch Fills 15004 and 15005	East to west aligned, fairly steep sloping sides, narrow flat base	1.20m wide 0.54m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
151	50m x 1.8m N-S	479823/ 265761	97.70m aOD	0.29m, 97.41m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
15101	Topsoil	Dark red-brown clay sand	0.24-0.29m thick	—
15102	Subsoil	Dark orange-brown sandy clay	0.03m thick	—
15103	Natural	Ironstone and sands, mixed	—	—
15104	Cut of ditch Fill 15105	Curvilinear, south side irregular (limestone bedrock), north side steep, flat base. Terminal of gully	0.54m wide 0.15m deep	—
15105	Fill Gully [15104]	Firm red-brown sandy clay with orange mottling, moderate limestone	—	Pottery

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
152	25m x 1.8m E-W	479869/ 265779	97.70m aOD	0.33m, 97.37m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
15201	Topsoil	Dark red-brown clay sand	0.23-0.25m thick	—
15202	Subsoil	Dark orange-red clay sand	0.08-0.10m thick	—
15203	Natural	Ironstone and sands	—	—
15204	Upper fill Ditch [15206]	Compact brown-grey silty sand, moderate limestone and charcoal	2.00m wide 0.30m deep	Pottery, flint and bone; Small Finds 2,3 and 4; Sample <4>
15205	Primary fill Ditch [15206]	Compact light yellow-brown sandy clay, very frequent limestone	0.90m wide 0.25m deep	Pottery and bone
15206	Cut of ditch Fills 15204 and 15205	North-west to south-east aligned, fairly steep sides and flat base	2.00m wide 0.68m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
153	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	479783/ 265739	97.10m aOD	0.40m, 96.70m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
15301	Topsoil	Dark yellow-brown clay sand	0.20-0.30m thick	—
15302	Natural	Limestone	—	—
15303	Subsoil	Orange/brown sandy clay with ironstone fragments	0.10m thick	—
15304	Cut of ditch Fill 15305	East to west aligned, steep sides and flat base	0.96m wide 0.30m deep	—
15305	Fill Ditch [15304]	Loose light brown-orange sandy clay, frequent limestone fragments	—	Bone
15306	Cut of ditch Fill 15307	North-west to south-east aligned, steep sides and flat base	1.30m wide 0.32m deep	—
15307	Fill Ditch [15306]	Firm light brown-grey sandy clay, occasional limestone	—	Pottery

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
154	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479802/ 265717	96.80m aOD	0.29m, 96.51m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
15401	Topsoil	Dark yellow-brown clay sand, few small limestone and ironstone	0.26-0.29m thick	—
15402	Natural	Predominantly limestone with pockets of ironstone	—	—
15403	Fill Posthole [15404]	Hard light orange-brown silty sand, rare stone	—	—
15404	Cut of posthole Fill 15403	Sub-circular, shallow edges and rounded base	0.55m wide 0.18m deep	—
15405	Fill Ring ditch [15406]	Hard light brown-orange silty sand, rare ironstone	—	Pottery
15406	Cut of ring ditch Fill 15405	Aligned SW-NE fairly steep sides, slightly concave base	0.60m wide 0.14m deep	—
15407	Fill	Hard light brown-	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
154	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479802/ 265717	96.80m aOD	0.29m, 96.51m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
	Ditch terminus [15408]	orange silty sand, moderate limestone		
15408	Cut of ditch terminus Fill 15407	South-west to north-east aligned, steep sides and flat base	0.50m wide and 0.20m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
155	25m x 1.8m E-W	479861/ 265713	96.90m aOD	0.50m, 96.40m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
15501	Topsoil	Dark red-brown clay sand, few angular stones	0.22-0.30m thick	—
15502	Subsoil	Firm dark orange-red clay sand	0.05-0.20m thick	—
15503	Natural	Limestone and sand; patches of ironstone	—	—
15504	Upper fill Ditch [15506]	Hard light grey sandy silt, moderate stone	3.7m wide and 0.40m deep	Pottery, bone and small finds 1 and 6; Sample <5>
15505	Primary fill Ditch [15506]	Compact yellow-brown sandy clay, frequent stone	1.3m wide and 0.22m deep	Pottery, flint and bone, small find 5
15506	Cut of ditch Fills 15504 and 15505	North-west to south-east aligned, shallow sides and slightly concave base	3.7m wide and 0.85m deep	—
15507	Upper fill Pit [15509]	Firm orange-brown sandy clay, frequent stone	0.31m deep	Pottery and bone
15508	Primary fill Pit [15509]	Fairly firm, mid orange-brown sandy clay, frequent stone, rare charcoal	0.69m deep	Pottery and bone
15509	Cut of pit Fills 15507 and 15508	Oval, almost vertical sides, uneven base	1.00m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
156	25m x 1.8m E-W	479830/ 265673	95.20m aOD	0.29m, 94.91m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
15601	Topsoil	Loose dark orange-brown sandy silt	0.21-0.29m thick	—
15602	Natural	Mid orange yellow limestone and mid red-brown sand	—	—
15603	Cut of ditch Fill 15604	North to south aligned, irregular edges and base due to limestone bedrock	0.90m wide and 0.45m deep	—
15604	Fill Ditch [15603]	Soft red-brown silty sand, rare charcoal	—	—
15605	Cut of gully terminus Fill 15606	South-west to north-east aligned, shallow, uneven edges, concave base	0.48m diam, 0.08m deep	—
15606	Fill Gully terminus [15605]	Firm red-brown clay sand, frequent limestone	—	Bone

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
157	25m x 1.8m N-S	479914/ 265671	95.30m aOD	0.30m, 95.00m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
15701	Topsoil	Loose dark orange-brown silty loam	0.27-0.28m thick	—
15702	Natural	Mixed light orange-yellow ironstone and limestone and mid red-brown sand	—	—
15703	Cut of pit Fill 15704	Sub-circular? Shallow-steep edges, flat base	1.25m long, 0.80m wide and 0.47m deep	—
15704	Fill Pit [15703]	Firm red-brown clay sand, frequent ironstone and limestone	—	Pottery

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
158	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479890/ 265648	93.80m aOD	0.40m, 93.40m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
15801	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam	0.26-0.29m thick	—
15802	Subsoil	Dark red-orange sandy silt (only at south end of trench)	0.14m thick	—
15803	Natural	Mid orange-yellow limestone and ironstone in mid red-brown sand	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
159	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479853/ 265596	91.10m aOD	0.53m, 90.57m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
15901	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty clay	0.28m thick	—
15902	Subsoil	Mid red-brown sandy clay	0.06-0.25m thick	—
15903	Natural	North half of trench-light orange-yellow limestone	—	—
15904	Natural	Dark orange-red clay	—	—
15905	Cut of ditch Fill 15906	North-east to south-west aligned, irregular edges and flat base	1.14m wide and 0.42m deep	—
15906	Fill Ditch [15905]	Firm red-brown sandy clay, frequent limestone	—	Pottery and bone; Sample <8>

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
160	25m x 1.8m E-W	479826/ 265626	93.40m aOD	0.27m, 93.13m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16001	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.21-0.27m thick	—
16002	Natural	Light orange yellow limestone and dark yellow orange ironstone in mid red-brown sand	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
161	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479783/ 265631	93.70m aOD	0.42m, 93.28m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16101	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam	0.22-0.30m thick	—
16102	Subsoil	Light red-orange occasional stone	0.05-0.12m thick	—
16103	Natural	Light orange-yellow limestone and ironstone and mid red-brown sand	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
162	25m x 1.8m N-S	479753/ 265598	91.70m aOD	0.26m, 91.44m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16201	Topsoil	Dark red-brown silty loam, rare stones	0.23-0.26m thick	—
16202	Natural	Light orange-yellow limestone and mid red-brown sand	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
163	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479728/ 265541	87.40m aOD	0.66m, 86.74m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16301	Topsoil	Dark red-brown silty loam, rare stones	0.23-0.33m thick	—
16302	Subsoil	Dark red-orange silt	0.22-0.33m thick	—
16303	Natural	Light green-blue clay	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
164	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479710/ 265506	86.50m aOD	0.48m, 86.02m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16401	Topsoil	Dark yellow-brown sandy clay, ironstone fragments rare	0.26-0.28m thick	—
16402	Subsoil	Firm dark yellow-brown sandy clay	0.02-0.20m thick	—
16403	Natural	Mixed dark orange sandy clays with pockets of ironstone	—	—
16404	Natural	Firm grey mottled orange clays	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
165	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479614/ 265469	88.70m aOD	0.42m, 88.28m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16501	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam, frequent stones	0.23-0.34m thick	—
16502	Natural	Dark orange sand and light yellow orange limestone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
166	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	479662/ 265595	92.20m aOD	0.48m, 91.72m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16601	Topsoil	Dark red-brown silty loam, frequent stones	0.25-0.33m thick	—
16602	Subsoil	Light orange brown sandy loam, frequent stones (not present at north-west)	0.14-0.15m thick	—
16603	Natural	Dark red-brown clay sand, frequent limestone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
167	25m x 1.8m E-W	479670/ 265654	94.20m aOD	0.56m, 93.64m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16701	Topsoil	Loose, mid brown silty sand, occasional stone	0.20-0.25m thick	—
16702	Subsoil	Firm mid red-brown clay sand, occasional stones (not present at east of trench)	0.10-0.40m thick	—
16703	Natural	Light brown-yellow sand and limestone	—	—
16704	Fill Ditch [16705]	Firm mid red-brown clay sand, occasional stone. Sterile, possibly filled with colluvium	—	—
16705	Cut of ditch Fill 16704	North to south aligned, fairly steep sides and flat base	0.90m wide and 0.51m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
168	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479744/ 265691	95.00m aOD	0.38m, 94.62m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16801	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam, rare stones	0.20-0.37m thick	—
16802	Natural	Mix of dark orange-yellow limestone and dark orange-red sands	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
169	25m x 1.8m N-S	479687/ 265691	93.80m aOD	0.62m, 93.18m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
16901	Topsoil	Dark red-brown clay sand, rare small ironstone fragments	0.26-0.33m thick	—
16902	Subsoil	Friable orange-brown clay sand	0.22-0.36m thick	—
16903	Natural	Friable, firm mid red sand	—	—
16904	Natural	White-grey mottled red sand	—	—
16905	Fill Ditch [16906]	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay sand	—	Pottery, bone
16906	Cut of ditch Fill 16905	North-west to south-east aligned, steep sides and flat base	0.85m wide and 0.40m deep	—
16907	Fill Ditch [16908]	Friable mid red-brown silty clay sand, occasional stone and charcoal	—	Pottery, bone
16908	Cut of ditch Fill 16907	East to west aligned, fairly steep sides, flat base	0.50m wide and 0.25m deep	—
16909	Fill Ditch terminal [16910]	Friable mid red-brown silty clay sand, occasional small stones and charcoal	—	Pottery, flint arrowhead (SF 8), bone; Sample <3>
16910	Cut of ditch Fill 16909	East to west aligned, steep sides and flat base	0.90m wide and 0.30m deep	—
16911	Fill Ditch [16912]	Friable dark red-brown silty clay sand, rare charcoal and stone	—	Pottery, bone, flint (SF10); Sample <2>
16912	Cut of ditch Fill 16911	East to west aligned, steep sides and flat base	0.70m wide and 0.39m deep	—
16913	Fill Ditch [16914]	Friable dark red-brown silty clay sand, occasional stone and charcoal	—	Pottery
16914	Cut of ditch Fill 16913	North-east to south-west aligned, steep sides, base not exposed	At least 0.70m wide and 0.38m deep	—
16915	Ditch unexcavated	Unexcavated	0.90m wide	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
170	25m x 1.8m N-S	479642/ 265703	95.80m aOD	0.28m, 95.52m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
17001	Topsoil	Dark yellow-brown clay sand	0.20-0.28m thick	—
17002	Natural	Ironstone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
171	25m x 1.8m N-S	479667/ 265740	95.40m aOD	0.50m, 94.90m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
17101	Topsoil	Dark red-brown clay sand	0.26-0.32m thick	—
17102	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay sand (not present in centre of trench)	0.15-0.24m thick	—
17103	Natural	Ironstone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
172	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	479618/ 265750	97.60m aOD	0.37m, 97.23m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
17201	Topsoil	Loose dark red-brown clay sands, rare ironstone	0.26-0.28m thick	—
17202	Subsoil	Dark red-orange clay sand (only present at south end of trench)	0.11m thick	—
17203	Natural	Northampton sands and ironstone	—	—
17204	Cut of ditch Fill 17205	East to west aligned, irregular sides and concave base	1.20m wide and 0.53m deep	—
17205	Fill Ditch [17204]	Compact red-brown sandy clay, regular limestone and pebbles	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
173	25m x 1.8m N-S	479561/ 265920	100.00m aOD	0.32m, 99.68m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
17301	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, frequent stone	0.31-0.35m thick	—
17302	Natural	Light yellow limestone with patches of mid orange-brown silt. Geological features in trench may account for the geophysical results	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
174	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	479539/ 265882	99.70m aOD	0.30m, 99.40m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
17401	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, occasional stone	0.268-0.30m thick	—
17402	Natural	Mid yellow-orange sand, ironstone patches	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
175	50m x 1.8m E-W	479389/ 265869	98.80m aOD	0.57m, 98.23m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
17501	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, occasional stones	0.23-0.28m thick	—
17502	Subsoil	Mid red-orange silt	0.25-0.29m thick	—
17503	Natural	Dark orange sandy clay, ironstone and limestone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
176	25m x 1.8m E-W	479331/ 265843	97.90m aOD	0.35m, 97.55m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
17601	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, occasional stone	0.22-0.26m thick	—
17602	Subsoil	Mid red-orange silt	0.09-0.11m thick	—
17603	Natural	Light yellow limestone and yellow sand with patches of ironstone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
177	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	479252/ 265725	97.10m aOD	0.31m, 96.79m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
17701	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, occasional stone	0.24-0.31m thick	—
17702	Natural	Yellow limestone and yellow sand mixed	—	—
17703	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
17704	Fill Gully [17705]	Firm dark red-orange silty clay, 60% limestone	—	Bone
17705	Cut of gully Fill 17704	North-west to south-east aligned, U-shaped but irregular because of limestone bedrock	1.08m wide and 0.48m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
178	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479278/ 265729	97.80m aOD	0.27m, 97.53m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
17801	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, occasional stone	0.23-0.27m thick	—
17802	Natural	Light yellow limestone and light orange clay	—	—
17803	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
17804	Fill Gully [17804]	Firm mid brown-orange silt, occasional stone	—	Bone
17805	Cut of gully Fill 17804	North-east to south-west aligned, V-shaped but not regular as cut into limestone bedrock	1.39m wide and 0.54m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
179	25m x 1.8m N-S	479299/ 265716	95.80m aOD	0.29m, 95.51m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
17901	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, occasional stone	0.23-0.29m thick	—
17902	Natural	Yellow-orange limestone and orange sand, occasional ironstone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
180	25m x 1.8m E-W	479422/ 265792	97.70m aOD	0.30m, 97.40m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18001	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam, occasional stones	0.22-0.26m thick	—
18002	Subsoil	Mid red-orange silt, frequent stones (not present in west half of trench)	0.02-0.08m thick	—
18003	Natural	Light yellow limestone and mid yellow sand	—	—
18004	Cut of gully Fill 18005	North to south aligned, steep sides and flat base	0.71m wide and 0.22m deep	—
18005	Fill Gully [18004]	Friable mid red-brown clay silt, rare stone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
181	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479444/ 265765	98.20m aOD	0.28m, 97.92m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18101	Topsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand, rare stone	0.24-0.28m thick	—
18102	Subsoil	None visible	—	—
18103	Natural	Loose, light yellow-white sand and limestone becoming ironstone at SW	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
182	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479481/ 265806	99.40m aOD	0.42m, 98.98m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18201	Topsoil	Dark red-brown silty sand	0.23-0.30m thick	—
18202	Subsoil	Dark orange-red sand	0.10-0.12m thick	—
18203	Natural	Red sands with patches of limestone and ironstone	—	—
18204	Fill Ditch [18205]	Firm mid red-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone pieces, rare charcoal	—	Bone; Sample <1>
18205	Cut of ditch Fill 18204	North-east to south-west aligned, steep sides and flat base	1.46m wide and 0.61m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
183	25m x 1.8m N-S	479531/ 265816	99.50m aOD	0.44m, 99.06m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18301	Topsoil	Dark yellow-brown clay sand	0.18-0.34m thick	—
18302	Subsoil	Firm brown-yellow clay sand	0.05-0.10m thick	—
18303	Natural	Orange-yellow sands and ironstone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
184	25m x 1.8m E-W	479517/ 265753	98.60m aOD	0.40m, 98.20m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18401	Topsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand, rare stone	0.20-0.25m thick	—
18402	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay sand, moderate ironstone	0.07-0.19m thick	—
18403	Natural	Mid orange ironstone and sand	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
185	25m x 1.8m E-W	479556/ 265736	98.10m aOD	0.36m, 97.74m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18501	Topsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand, rare stone	0.19-0.27m thick	—
18502	Subsoil	Mid brown-red clay sand, rare stone	0.07-0.09m thick	—
18503	Natural	Mid orange sand, occasional patches of limestone, moderate ironstone	—	—
18504	Layer/fill Ditch [18505]	Loose limestone fragments in top of ditch cut. Possible rubble wall foundation	0.80m wide 0.20m deep	—
18505	Cut of ditch Fills 18504 and 18506	Curvilinear, near vertical sides, flat base	0.80m wide 0.30m deep	—
18506	Primary fill Ditch 18505	Friable light orange sandy clay, rare limestone	0.54m wide 0.10m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
186	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	479552/ 265701	97.40m aOD	0.35m, 97.05m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18601	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand, rare stone	0.22-0.24m thick	—
18602	Subsoil	Mid red-brown sand, occasional limestone	0.07-0.11m thick	—
18603	Natural	Mid orange sand with moderate limestone	—	—
18604	Cut of ditch Fill 18605	North-west to south-east aligned, shallow to steep sides and flat base	1.14m wide 0.30m deep	—
18605	Fill Ditch [18604]	Friable light brown-orange sandy clay, frequent limestone	—	Pottery; Sample <7>
18606	Wall	Limestone wall, roughly faced blocks,	0.75m wide 0.09m deep	—
18607	Layer	Limestone rubble with friable mid orange sand, possibly pulled from wall by plough	At least 2.00m long, 1.6m wide 0.14m deep	Bone and SF9

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
187	25m x 1.8m E-W	479505/ 265703	97.30m aOD	0.40m, 96.10m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18701	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand, rare stone	0.25-0.28m thick	—
18702	Subsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand, rare inclusions	0.07-0.12m thick	—
18703	Natural	Light yellow sand and limestone with red-orange sand patches	—	—
18704	Fill Ditch [18705]	Friable mid brown silty sand, moderate limestone, rare charcoal	—	Pottery and bone
18705	Cut of ditch Fill 18704	North to south, steep sides, concave base	0.80m wide and 0.35m deep	—
18706	Fill Ditch [18707]	Friable mid yellow-brown silty sand, occasional limestone, rare charcoal; cut by ditch [18705]	—	—
18707	Cut of ditch Fill 18706	North-east to south-west aligned, north side convex, undercut, south side steep, uneven base	0.30m wide and 0.40m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
188	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479466/ 265720	97.60m aOD	0.43m, 97.17m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18801	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand, rare stone	0.24-0.28m thick	—
18802	Subsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand	0.16-0.17m thick	—
18803	Natural	Mid orange clay sand with occasional limestone inclusions	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
189	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	479429/ 265691	96.00m aOD	0.40m, 95.60m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
18901	Topsoil	Mid orange-brown silty loam, frequent stones	0.25-0.32m thick	—
18902	Natural	Mixed-light yellow limestone with red sand to NW; mid orange sandy silt and ironstone to SE	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
190	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479387/ 265633	91.40m aOD	0.73m, 90.67m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
19001	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand	0.28-0.31m thick	—
19002	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty sand (not present at NE end of trench)	0.39-0.42m thick	—
19003	Natural	Mid orange ironstone sand and clay with blue clay with limestone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
191	50m x 1.8m N-S	479557/ 265650	96.20m aOD	0.27m, 95.93m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
19101	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand	0.18-0.20m thick	—
19102	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty sand	0.05-0.09m	—
19103	Natural	Mid red-brown clay sand, limestone patches	—	—
19104	Cut of ditch Fill 19105	East to west aligned, U-shaped profile, wide, undulating base	1.5m wide 0.35m deep	—
19105	Fill Ditch [19104]	Friable mid brown silty sand, moderate limestone more common to base	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
192	25m x 1.8m N-S	479415/ 265605	91.50m aOD	0.60m, 90.90m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
19201	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand, rare small stones	0.228-0.24m thick	—
19202	Subsoil	Mid red-brown clay sand, moderate ironstone	0.06-0.38m thick	—
19203	Natural	Mid red-orange clay sand, ironstone	—	—
19204	Cut of gully Fill 19205	North-east to south-west aligned, steep sides and flat base	0.26m wide 0.50m deep	—
19205	Fill Gully [19204]	Firm light brown-orange sandy clay, occasional limestone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
193	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479511/ 265576	93.60m aOD	0.27m, 93.33m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
19301	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand, rare small stones	0.15-0.25m thick	—
19302	Subsoil	Mid brown ironstone sand, only present at north-east end of trench	0.11m thick	—
19303	Natural	Mid orange sand with frequent limestone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
194	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	479437/ 265541	89.00m aOD	0.80m, 88.20m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
19401	Topsoil	Mid red-brown silty loam	0.20-0.25m thick	—
19402	Subsoil	Dark orange brown silty loam, rare stone	0.17-0.55m thick	—
19403	Natural	North half of trench light orange yellow limestone and red sands; south half of trench dark orange red clay	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
195	50m x 1.8m E-W	479480/ 265484	87.20m aOD	0.36m, 86.84m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
19501	Topsoil	Dark red-brown silty loam	0.19-0.20m thick	—
19502	Subsoil	Light orange-red silty loam	0.16-0.17m thick	—
19503	Natural	Mixed dark yellow limestone and red-orange sand.	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
196	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	479481/ 265440	83.60m aOD	1.01m, 82.59m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
19601	Topsoil	Dark red-brown silty loam, very rare stones	0.26-0.29m thick	—
19602	Subsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam; colluvial?	0.50-0.75m	—
19603	Natural	Dark red clay with patches of green-blue clay	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
197	25m x 1.8m E-W	479530/ 265423	83.60m aOD	0.84m, 82.76m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
19701	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam, very rare stones	0.17-0.22m thick	—
19702	Subsoil	Light orange-brown silt	0.19-0.65m thick	—
19703	Natural	Light yellow clay with brown mottling at west	—	—
19704	Natural	Dark orange limestone mixed with red sand at east	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
198	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	479555/ 265478	89.10m aOD	0.28m, 88.82m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
19801	Topsoil	Dark orange-brown silty loam, frequent stones	0.25-0.28m thick	—
19802	Natural	Dark brown-yellow limestone mixed with red sand	—	—

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
199	50m x 1.8m E-W	47989/ 266698	103.00m aOD	0.48m, 102.52m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
19901	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam	0.15-0.26m thick	—
19902	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay, very occasional stones	0.07-0.30m thick	—
19903	Natural	Red-brown sandy clay, limestone at west end of trench	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
200	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479848/ 266636	102.60m aOD	0.49m, 102.11m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20001	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam	0.198-0.30m thick	—
20002	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sand clay	0.10-0.22m thick	—
200103	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay with yellow bands of limestone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
201	50m x 1.8m E-W	479993/ 266650	100.00m aOD	0.60m, 99.40m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam, rare small stones	0.25-0.30m thick	—
20102	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.05-0.30m thick	—
20103	Natural	Orange sandy clay with limestone and ironstone	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
202	25m x 1.8m N-S	480019/ 266594	98.70m aOD	0.50m, 98.20m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20201	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam, rare stones	0.25-0.30m thick	—
20202	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.05-0.25m thick	—
20203	Natural	Orange sandy clay and ironstone fragments	—	—
20204	Cut of ditch Fill 20205	Linear ditch, east-west aligned. South side steep, north side shallow, vertical towards base. Flat base	1.40m wide and 0.40m deep	—
20205	Fill Ditch [20204]	Hard light brown-grey sandy clay, rare limestone inclusions	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
203	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479937/ 266555	102.60m aOD	0.56m, 102.04m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20301	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam	0.14-0.29m thick	—
20302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy clay	0.16-0.36m thick	—
20303	Natural	Yellow-orange sandy clay	—	—
20304	Cut of posthole Fill 20305	Sub-circular, U-shaped, vertical sides	0.50m diam, 0.53m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
203	25m x 1.8m NW-SE	479937/ 266555	102.60m aOD	0.56m, 102.04m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20305	Fill Posthole [20304]	Firm grey-brown clay sand, moderate charcoal, rare flint	—	Saxon pottery (5th-9th century), flint, bone; Sample <10>
20306	Cut of pit Fill 20307	Sub-circular, steep sides, becoming almost vertical at base, flat base. Probable large rubbish pit	5.80m diam, 0.90m deep	
20307	Fill Pit [20306]	Firm grey-brown clay sand, moderate charcoal (more towards base)	—	Saxon pottery (5th to 9th century), bone, flint, two ferrous objects; Sample <11>
20308	Cut of posthole Fill 20309	Circular, vertical sides; truncated by pit [20306]	0.40m diam, at least 0.42m deep	—
20309	Fill Posthole [20308]	Compact mixed yellow, red, grey-brown poorly sorted clays, sandy clay. Frequent charcoal, some burnt sand	—	Sample <9>

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
204	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	479947/ 266525	102.40m aOD	0.52m, 101.88m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20401	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam, rare stones	0.18-0.26m thick	—
20402	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay sand	0.19-0.30m thick	—
20403	Natural	Mottled orange-brown and yellow clay sand and limestone	—	—
20404	Cut of pit Fill 20405	Sub-circular, very steep sides, flat base	1.20m diam, 0.20m deep	—
20405	Fill Pit [20404]	Loose light grey sandy clay, rare ironstone	—	Bone

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
205	25m x 1.8m E-W	479959/ 266470	101.50m aOD	0.35m, 101.15m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20501	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam, rare stone	0.20-0.25m thick	—
20502	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.10m thick	—
20503	Natural	Mixed ironstone and sandy deposits	—	—
20504	Cut of ditch Fill 20506	North-east to south-west aligned, wide U-shape profile	1.00m wide 0.33m deep	—
20505	Fill Ditch [20505]	Firm light grey-brown sandy clay, frequent flint and ironstone	—	Bone

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
206	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	479997/ 266505	100.10m aOD	0.40m, 99.70m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20601	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam, rare stones	0.20-0.30m thick	—
20602	Subsoil	Orange-brown clay sand with flint fragments	0.07-0.10m thick	—
20603	Natural	Ironstone mixed with orange sandy clay	—	—
20604	Cut of ditch Fill 20605	North-west to south-east aligned, very steep sides and flat base	0.55m wide 0.24m deep	—
20605	Fill Ditch [20604]	Hard light brown-grey sandy clay, frequent flint	—	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
207	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	480020/ 266491	99.00m aOD	0.40m, 98.60 m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
20701	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam, rare stones	0.30m thick	—
20702	Subsoil	Orange-brown clay sand, rare limestone	0.05-0.10m thick	—
20703	Natural	Limestone with sand deposits	—	—
20704	Cut of ditch Fill 20705	North-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, flat base	0.65m wide 0.28m deep	—
20705	Fill Ditch [20704]	Hard light brown sandy clay, frequent limestone fragments	—	—