Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land north of Thetford Norfolk September 2010

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Report 11/25
June 2011

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Thetford North Urban Expansion	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Thetford, Norfolk in September 2010, following on from previous fieldwalking, metal-detecting and geophysical surveys. The work was undertaken on behalf of Pigeon (Thetford) Ltd and The Crown Estate in order to inform an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Thetford North Urban Expansion Draft Masterplan being prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP Two separate areas were evaluated at the west and east of the Masterplan area respectively. The western area comprised twenty-six trenches excavated around the Iron Age and Roman site at Fison's Way (Scheduled Monument NMN 35550). These trenches contained ditches, pits and gullies considered to be contemporary with the monument as well as later post-medieval quarry pits. The eastern area comprised twenty-three trenches which sampled two known ring ditches and fieldwalking scatters of worked flint and prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval pottery. These trenches confirmed the ring ditches as barrows of probable Bronze Age date although no contemporary burials or cremations were recovered. A number of pits dated to the early Bronze Age by their pottery assemblages were identified in the vicinity of the barrow and some of the flint assemblage suggests the presence of earlier activity in these areas. Four early/middle Anglo-Saxon inhumations accompanied by grave goods dating to the late 5th – 6th century had been placed within the southernmost barrow. A cremation burial and a ditch terminal, both also of possible Anglo-Saxon date were identified. Throughout both areas, modern ploughing had led to severe truncation of many features.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	Part of site is a Scheduled Monument NMN 35550	
Previous work	Fieldwalking, metal detecting and geophysical surveys	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age and Roman occupation, Anglo-Saxon burials	
Significant finds	Worked flint, pottery, metalwork	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Norfolk	
Site address	Thetford North Urban Expansion	
Area	330ha	
OS Easting & Northing	586950 285200 and 589400 284600	
Height OD	15m aOD to 50m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Norfolk County Council	
Project Design originator	Wardell Armstrong LLP	
Director/Supervisor	Chris Jones	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes (NA), Helen Martin-Bacon (Wardell Armstrong)	
Sponsor or funding body	The Crown Estates, Pigeon (Thetford) Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	August 2010	
End date	September 2010	
ARCHIVES	**Location**	**Content**
Physical	ENF125275	1 box of pottery, worked flint and animal bone, 2 boxes human skeletal remains, 2 small boxes of metal finds
Paper	ENF125275	2 folders and 19 sheets of sections and plans
Digital	ENF125275	Pdf of report, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at the north of Thetford, Norfolk September 2010	
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Author(s)	Chris Jones, Mark Holmes	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

OF LAND NORTH OF THETFORD, NORFOLK

SEPTEMBER 2010

Abstract

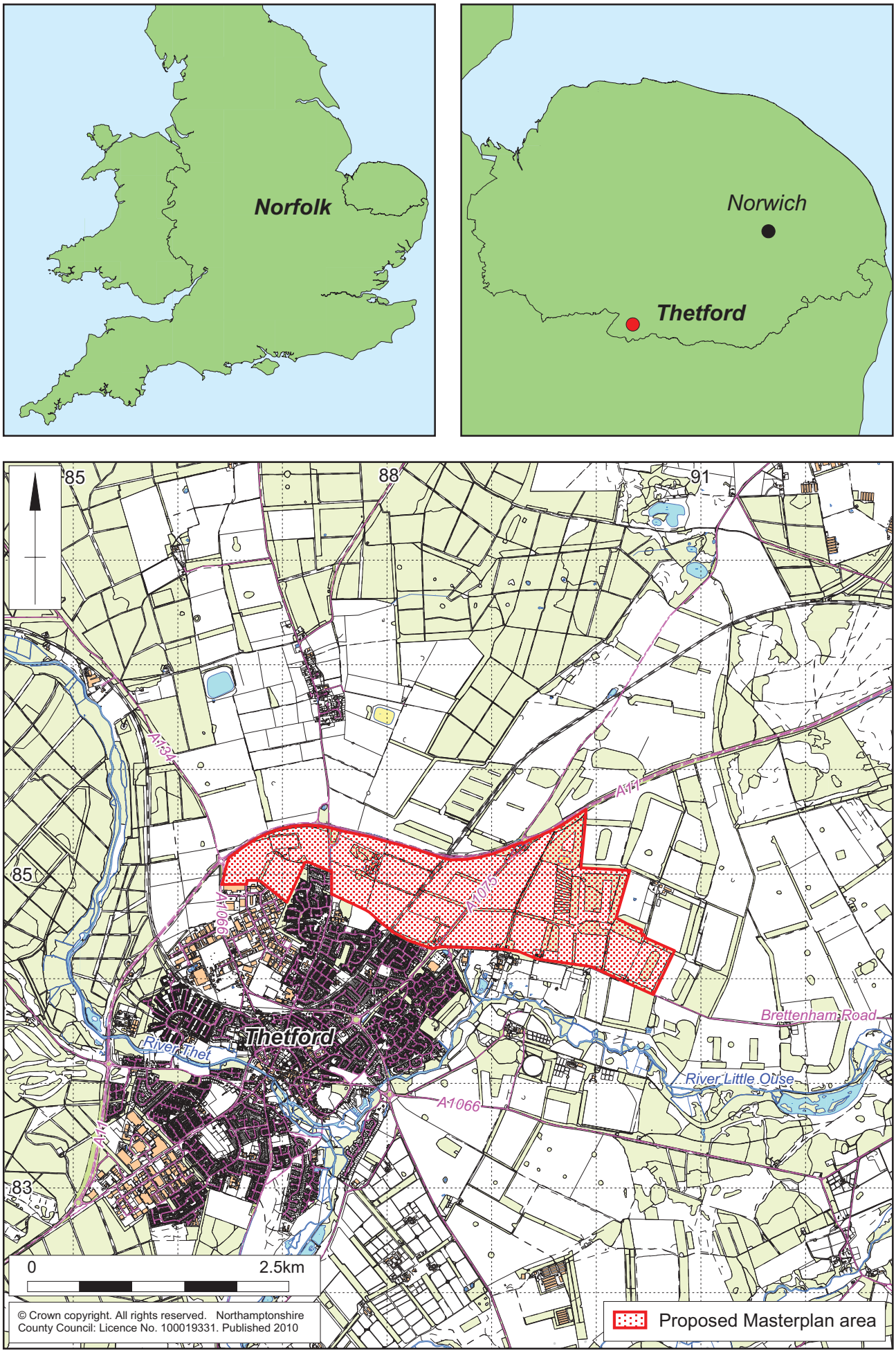
Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Thetford, Norfolk in September 2010, following on from previous fieldwalking, metal-detecting and geophysical surveys. The work was undertaken on behalf of Pigeon (Thetford) Ltd and The Crown Estate in order to inform an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Thetford North Urban Expansion Draft Masterplan being prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP Two separate areas were evaluated at the west and east of the Masterplan area respectively. The western area comprised twenty-six trenches excavated around the Iron Age and Roman site at Fison's Way (Scheduled Monument NMN 35550). These trenches contained ditches, pits and gullies considered to be contemporary with the monument as well as later post-medieval quarry pits. The eastern area comprised twenty-three trenches which sampled two known ring ditches and fieldwalking scatters of worked flint and prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval pottery. These trenches confirmed the ring ditches as barrows of probable Bronze Age date although no contemporary burials or cremations were recovered. A number of pits dated to the early Bronze Age by their pottery assemblages were identified in the vicinity of the barrow and some of the flint assemblage suggests the presence of earlier activity in these areas. Four early/middle Anglo-Saxon inhumations accompanied by grave goods dating to the late 5th – 6th century had been placed within the southernmost barrow. A cremation burial and a ditch terminal, both also of possible Anglo-Saxon date were identified. Throughout both areas, modern ploughing had led to severe truncation of many features.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong LLP acting on behalf of Pigeon Investments Ltd and The Crown Estates to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land to the north of Thetford, Norfolk (Fig 1). The work was designed to inform an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Thetford North Urban Expansion Draft Masterplan. Two separate areas were evaluated at the west and east of the Masterplan area (centred on NGR 586950 285200 and 589400 284600 respectively).

A total of forty-nine trenches (2450m linear, 4900m^2 in area) were excavated across the two areas in September 2010 and formed part of a staged archaeological evaluation of the Masterplan area. Previous stages of work comprised fieldwalking, metal–detecting and geophysical surveys (Holmes *et al* 2010). The trial trench evaluation was designed to test the results from this earlier, non-intrusive stage of work.

The works followed the requirements of a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP (Martin-Bacon 2010) and approved by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.



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Site location Fig 1

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The proposed Masterplan site encompasses approximately 330ha of land immediately to the north of Thetford in the Breckland district of Norfolk. To the north, the area is bounded by the A11 Thetford Bypass and to the west by the A1066 Mundford Road. To the south the site boundary follows the northern extents of Thetford and proceeds eastwards past Kilverstone Hall along the Brettenham Road (Fig 1). The trial trench evaluation examined two separate areas, one at the western end of the Masterplan area and the other at the east (Fig 2: for consistency, field numbers shown on the figure are the same as used in the previous stages of work).

The western evaluation area was centred around Lodge Farm and comprised four arable and one small pasture field. The western end of the area sits on Gallows Hill, which forms the southern end of a larger north-south ridge, at a height of approximately 50m aOD. The land falls away towards the Croxton Road at the east.

The eastern evaluation area lay to the north of Kilverstone Hall and took in four ploughed fields set around and to the east of the Maiden's Walk trackway. The land here sits above the 20m aOD contour and slopes down towards the Little Ouse River at the south.

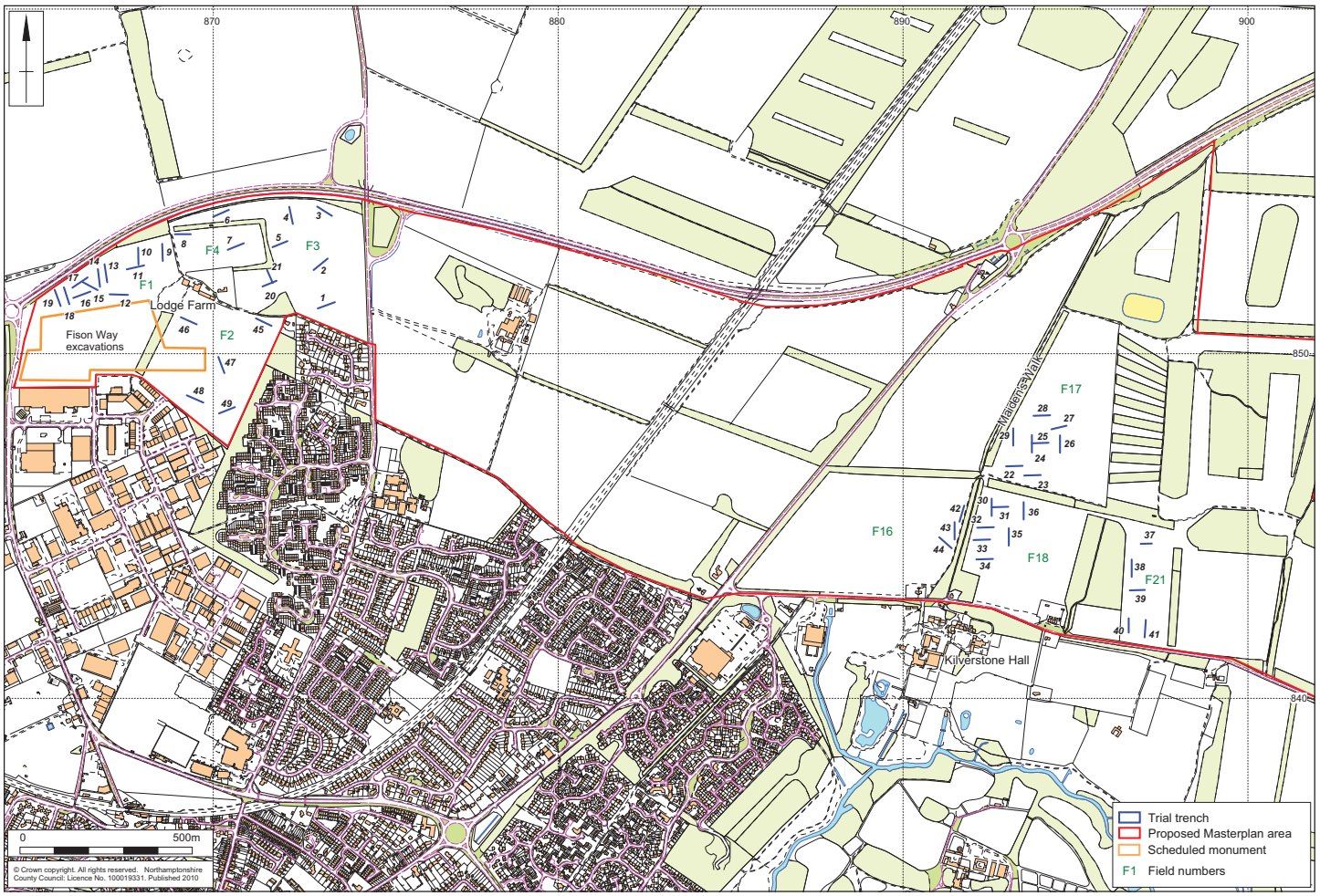
The underlying bedrock geology in both areas is chalk of the Lewes, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver formations, which is covered by outwash glacial sands and gravels of the Lowestoft formation in the western area. The land forms part of the Brecklands with frequent woodland plantations occupying the eastern half of the area, and periglacial patterned ground visible throughout on aerial photographs. The argillic brown sands of the Worlington series form the soils around Lodge Farm whilst at the east the soils are Brown rendzinas of the Newmarket 1 series (SSEW 1983 and 1984).

2.2 Archaeological background

The archaeological and historical background for the wider Masterplan area has been summarised elsewhere by Wardell Armstrong LLP and in the report on the previous stage of non-intrusive evaluation. The following discussion deals only with those elements relevant to the two areas of trial trenching.

The western area is located around the Scheduled Monument of a late Iron Age – early Roman site, excavated in 1980 and interpreted as an Iceni tribal centre. Geophysical survey undertaken by L.P Archaeology in 2007 and Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2010 identified several ditches and possible pits on the periphery of this monument, cropmarks in the vicinity also suggest the possibility of further features lying outside the Scheduled area (Fig 3). In the fields east of the Scheduled Monument, the 2010 geophysical survey identified what was interpreted as modern disturbance. Fieldwalking here produced scatters of worked flint and some Romano-British and later pottery but no concentrations of artefacts that could be considered of archaeological significance.

The eastern area contains two ring ditches, identified as cropmarks by aerial photography (Fig 4). Their presence was confirmed by the previous evaluation's geophysical survey. Fieldwalking and metal detecting in these areas recovered significant quantities of worked flint along with sherds of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery and a Bronze Age awl. The presence of such early material was considered



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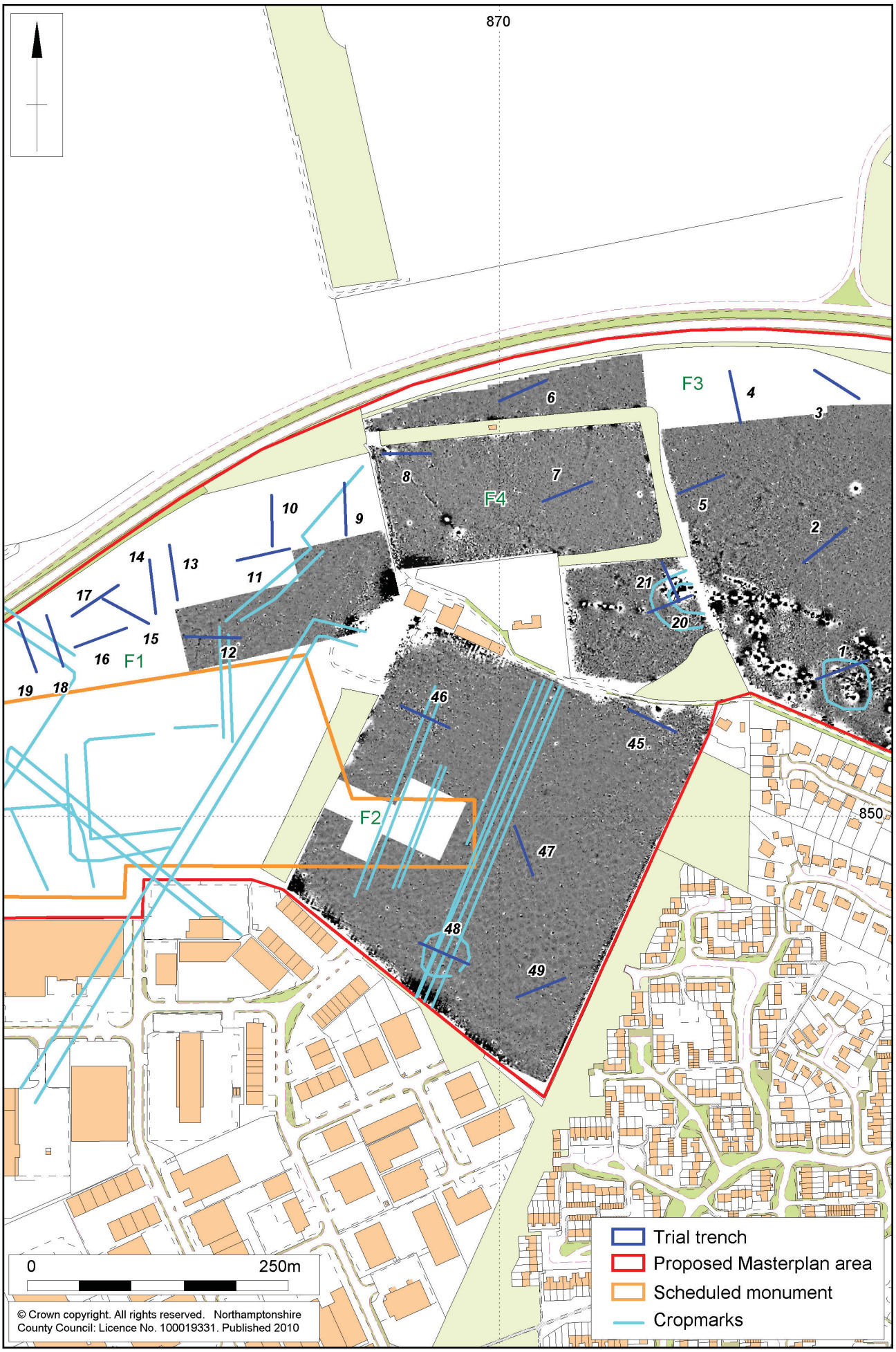
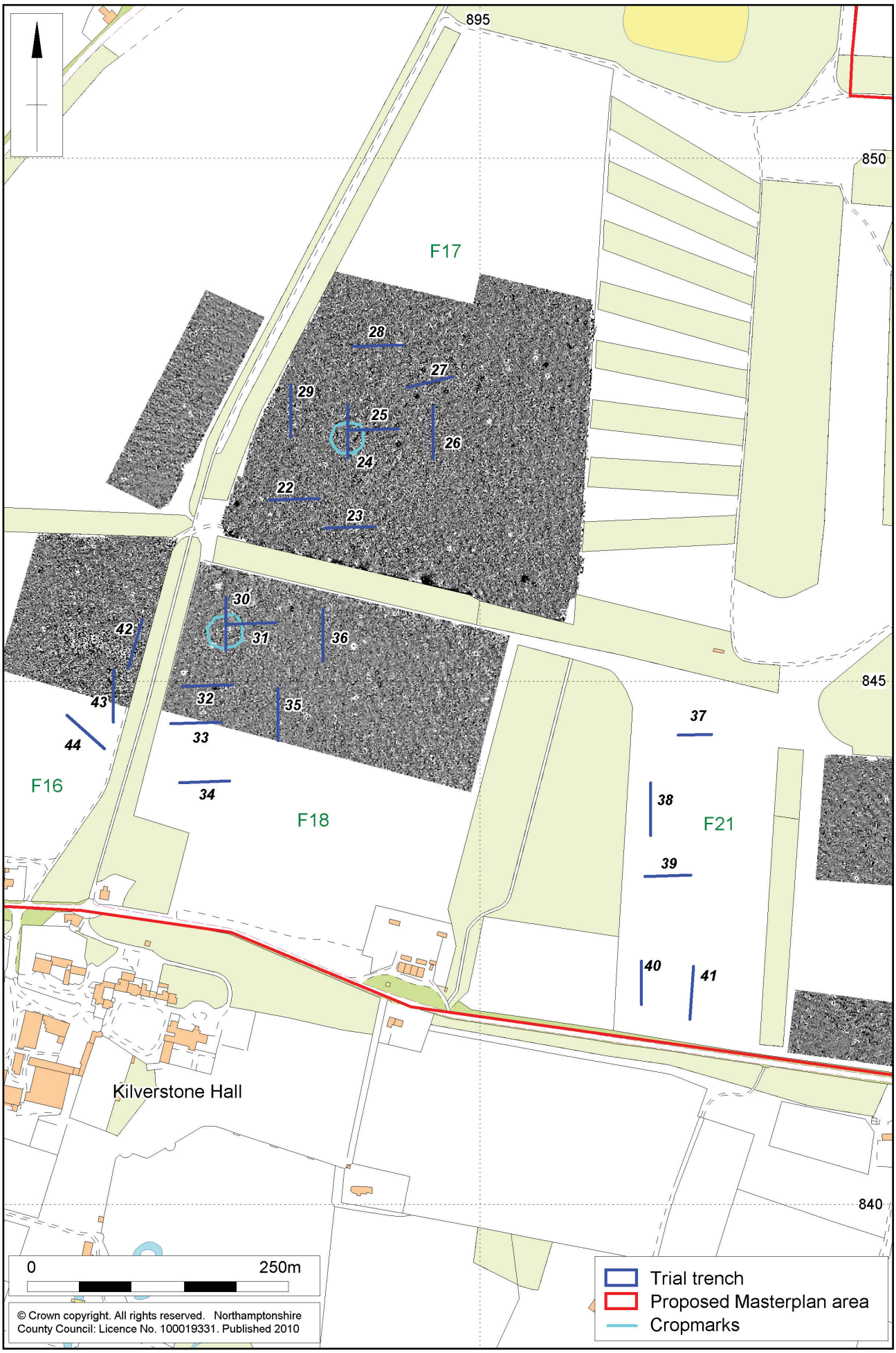
Trench layout Fig 2



Scale 1:5000 Western area, trench layout with geophysical survey and cropmarks Fig 3



Scale 1:5000 Eastern area, trench layout with geophysical survey and cropmarks Fig 4

significant since immediately to the south of the evaluation area is a nationally important site which includes early Neolithic and later prehistoric features and finds (NHER 25763, 34489) (Garrow *et al* 2006). Later pottery, including Romano-British, early/middle Anglo Saxon and medieval sherds was also recovered from the area. The area would have lain within the open fields of the township of Kilverstone. The medieval village of Kilverstone (NHER 5952), now deserted, lay immediately south of the evaluation area close to the site of the present Kilverstone Hall.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The evaluation was focussed on the two areas at the west and east of the Masterplan area since the previous non-intrusive survey had identified these as having the highest potential for significant archaeological remains. It is anticipated that the remainder of the Masterplan area will be evaluated at a later date.

The aims of the trial trench evaluation were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Martin-Bacon 2010). The general aims were:

- 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

The specific aims were:

- 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 in the vicinity of the Iron Age religious complex and east of Maiden`s Walk
- To identify and evaluate any remains present which were not detected by geophysical survey
- To identify any correlation between flint/pottery scatters and potential below ground remains
- To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits
- To identify any correlation between the results of the metal detecting and potential below ground remains

3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA1994, revised 2009) and the *Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists* (IfA1985, revised 2010).

Forty-nine trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. They were all 50m long by 2m wide save for two, Trenches 37 and 40, which had to be shortened to 33m an 40m respectively to avoid standing crop and Trenches 5 and 21 which were shortened to 42m and 47m to avoid a tree covered area. Twenty-six of the trenches were located in the western area and twenty-three at the east. The trenches were set out using Leica System 1200 Survey-grade GPS and positioned in accordance with an agreed trench location plan. Some minor changes were required

in the field in order to avoid cropped areas. All trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. The work was monitored by the Head of Archaeological Planning at Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

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

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given a separate context number and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Descriptions of individual features are detailed in the context inventory (Appendix 1).

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50. Sections of the sequence of deposits in each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and related to Ordnance Datum. Archaeological artefacts were recovered from the surface and excavated deposits. Deposits suitable for environmental assessment were encountered and sampled. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

Where human remains were encountered, these were excavated and lifted at the request of the Head of Archaeological Planning at Norfolk Landscape Archaeology as they were considered to be at risk of disturbance from the current agricultural regime. The human remains were removed under licence from the Ministry of Justice.

The Head of Archaeological Planning at Norfolk Landscape Archaeology also requested the sampling of possible Neolithic pits since it was considered necessary to characterise these features within the context of the evaluation.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.

The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 Western area

Twenty-six trenches (1 to 21 and 45 to 49) were excavated at the western end of the proposed development area. The trenches were positioned in order to examine features identified from aerial photographs, geophysical survey as well as testing ‘blank’ areas (Fig 3).

The general stratigraphical sequence was similar in all trenches. Overlying the natural sand and flint was subsoil, up to 0.12m thick, comprising mid brown sandy clay. The topsoil was grey-brown humic loam, up to 0.30m thick. Few inclusions were noted in either the subsoil or the topsoil. Furrows and modern plough scars were present in many of the trenches, cutting into the natural geology.

The distribution of archaeological features was interspersed with natural features that make up the patterned ground of the area. A selection of these features was tested to confirm their natural origin.

The trial trenching generally confirmed the presence of features identified by the geophysical surveys and cropmarks. However, further features not previously identified by the surveys were also found.

Iron Age and Romano-British pits, ditches and gullies associated with the Scheduled Monument were located in trenches 10-16 in Field 1. Trenches 48 and 49 in Field 2 contained undated ditches, possibly also associated with the Fison Way or the nearby Howlett Way sites. Modern quarry pits were located in Trenches 1, 20 and 21 but these were the only features present in Field 3. Trenches 2 – 6, 9, and 45 - 47 contained no archaeological features.

Overall the concentration of features occurs upslope, at the west of the evaluation area suggesting that Gallows Hill itself was the primary focus for activity.

Field 1 (Fig 5)

A series of ditches, gullies and pits were found within Trenches 10 to 16. Their form and location would suggest that they are associated with the Scheduled site at Fison Way to the south. Dating evidence, in the form of pottery, was only recovered from eight features but the fabric types are from the Iron Age and 1st century AD and as such tie in with the phases of activity identified during the Fisons Way excavations.

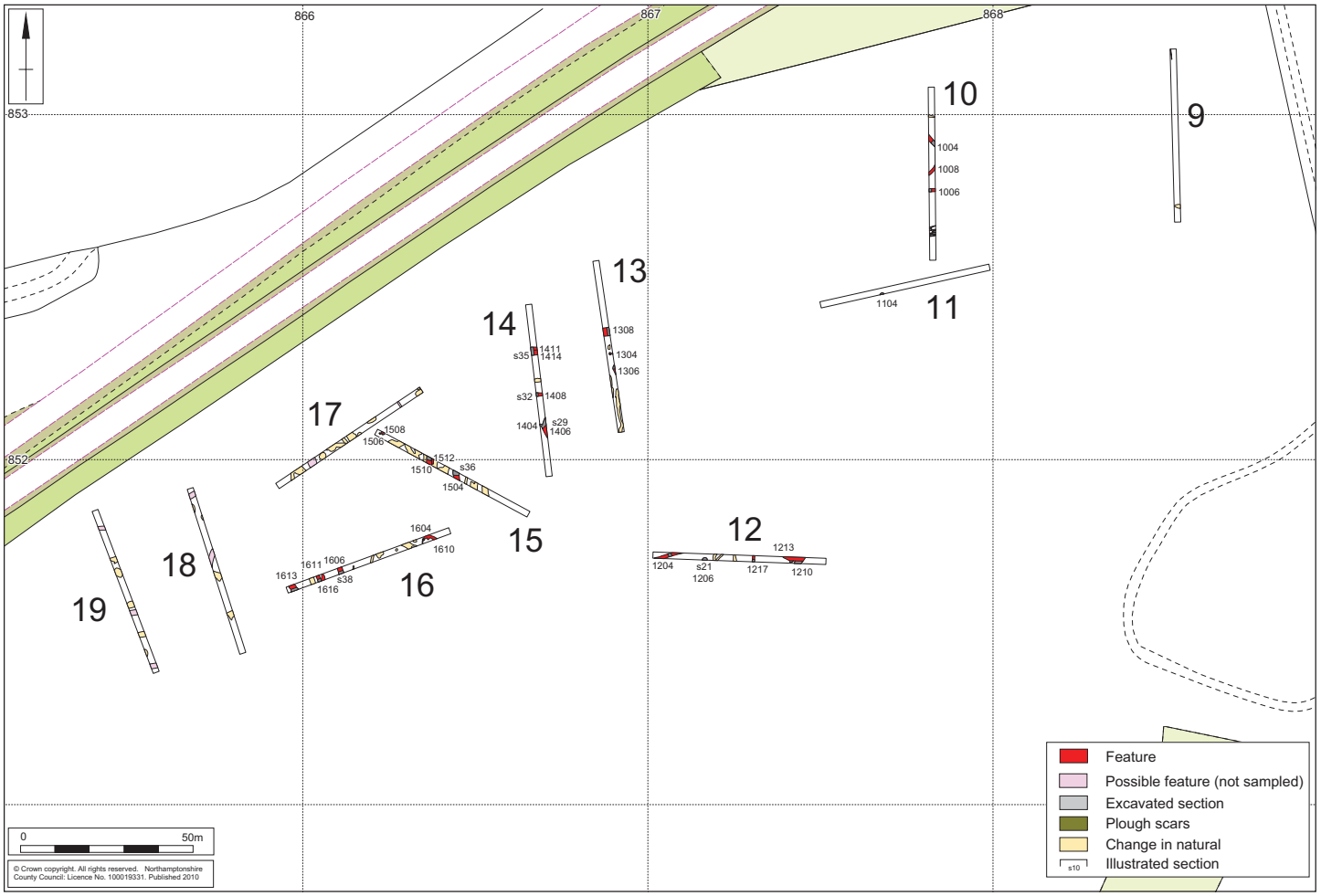
Ditches and gullies
The ditches varied in form and profile but would generally appear to represent boundary ditches and enclosures. Three ditches [1217][1414][1606] had pronounced V-shaped profiles (Figs 6 and 7) with the remainder having more rounded bases (Fig 9).

No overall patterning could be discerned, although the general alignment of features was on a north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west alignment. In Trench 10, ditches [1004] and [1008] may form two sides of a north-west to south-east aligned enclosure, whilst in Trench 14 the possible corner of a similarly aligned feature was also present [1406]. Ditch [1308] may continue into Trench 14 where it was identified as [1411]. This latter feature had been re-cut or replaced by later ditch [1414].

The presence of five narrow possible gullies [1213] [1404] [1408] [1610] and [1616],some flat-based, may suggest that structures are present on site (Fig 10). However, no postholes or stakeholes were identified.

Pits
Six pits were identified, [1104] [1206] [1304] [1306] [1508] and [1604]. The deepest of these, [1206], was 0.57m deep and contained three fills (Fig 11). Samples taken from this produced charcoal and a range of charred cereal grains. A bulk soil sample taken from pit [1104] also produced charcoal, two charred seeds of wheat/barley and a weed seed.

The presence of charcoal, ash-like fills and charred grain would confirm that the features are close by occupation or settlement activity.



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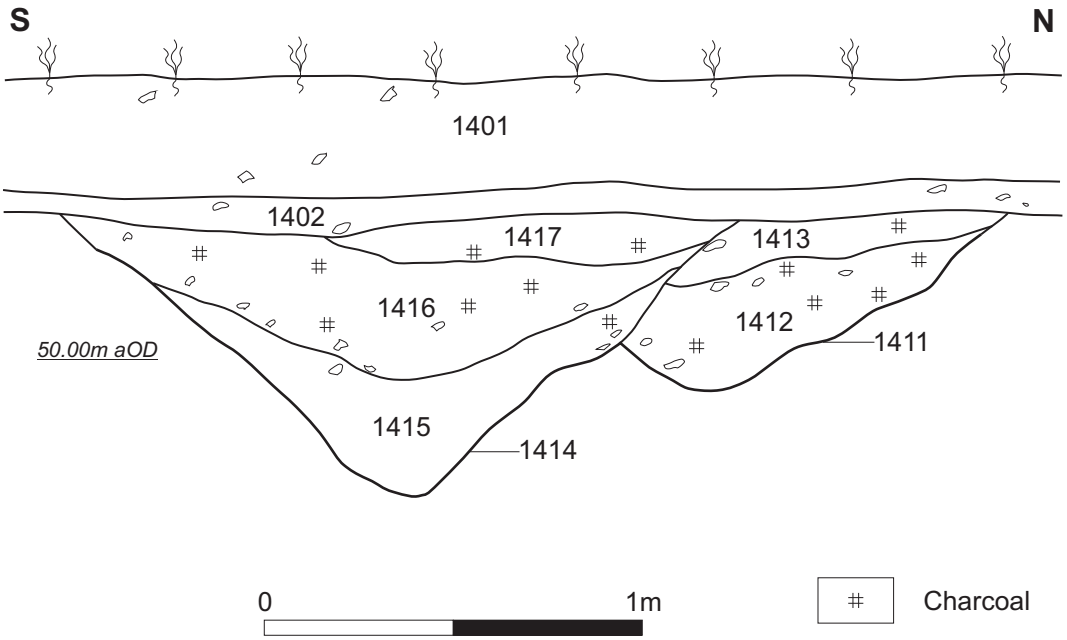
Field 1, Trenches 9 to 19 Fig 5

Trench 14, Section 35



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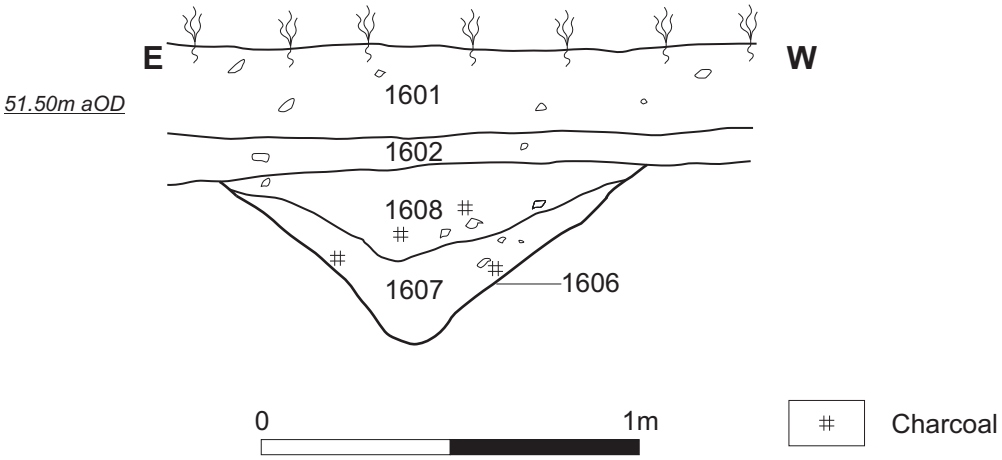
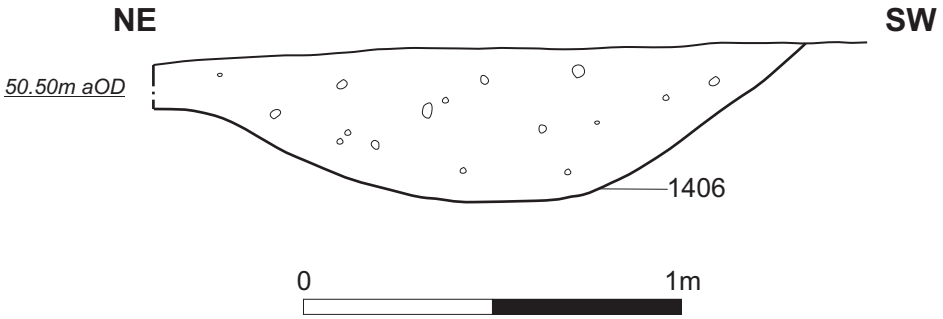
Trench 14, ditches 1414, 1411, section 35 Fig 6

Trench 16, Section 38



Scale 1:20 Trench 16, ditch 1606, section 38 Fig 7

Trench 14, section 29



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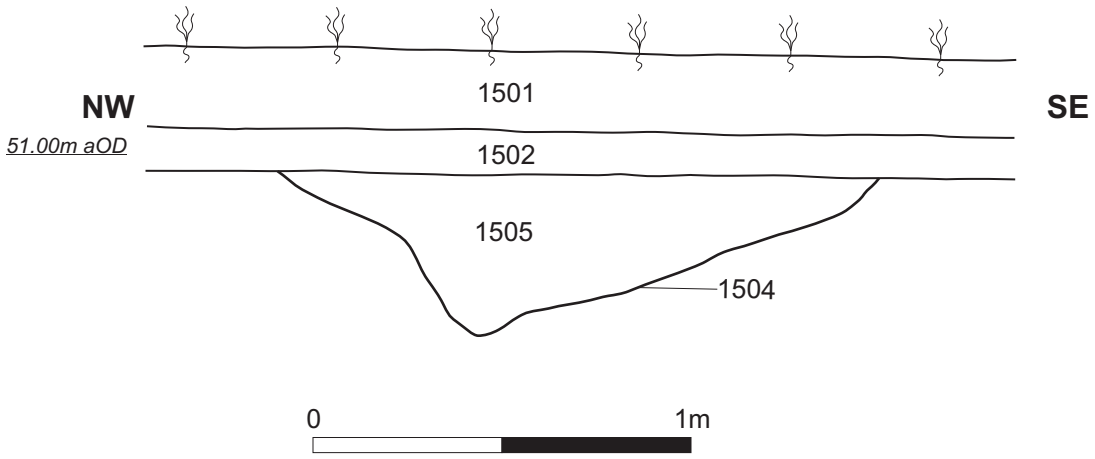
Trench 14, ditch 1406, section 29 Fig 8

Trench 15, Section 36



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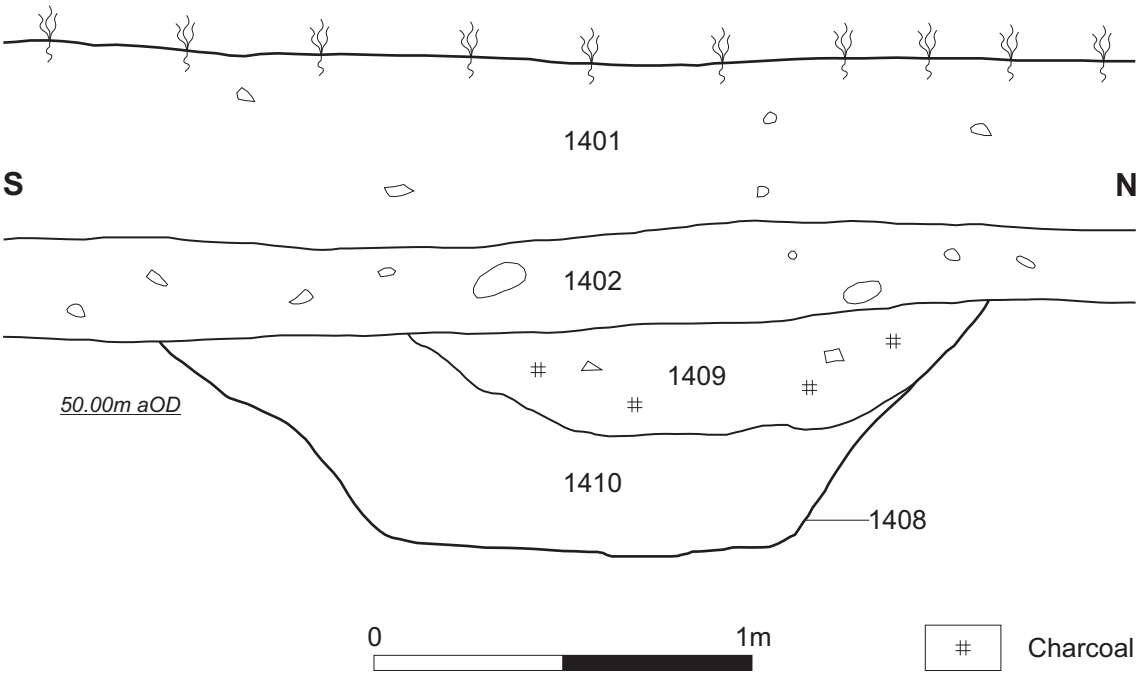
Trench 15, ditch 1504, section 36 Fig 9

Trench 14, Section 32



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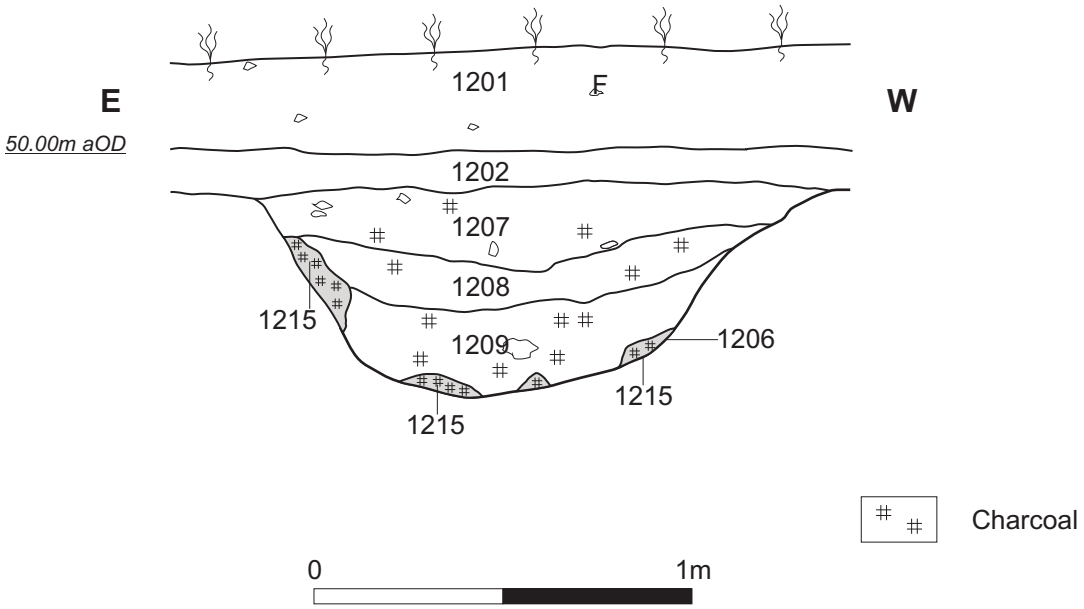
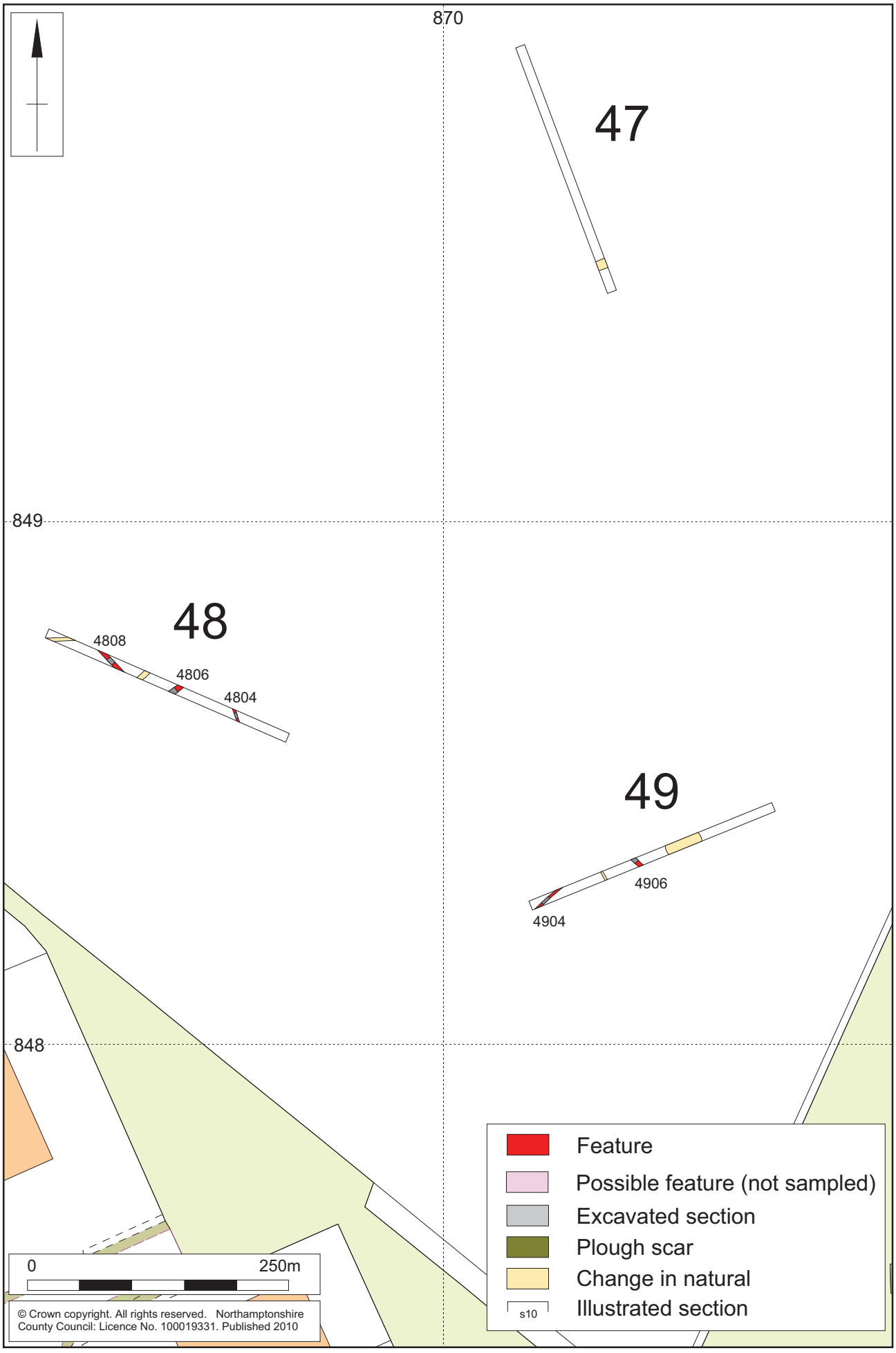
Trench 14, gully 1408, section 32 Fig 10

Trench 12, Section 21



Scale 1:20 Trench 12, pit 1206, section 21 Fig 11



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Field 2, Trenches 47 to 49 Fig 12

Field 2 (Fig 12)

Five trenches were dug in Field 2. Trenches 46 and 48 investigated cropmarks identified from aerial photographs. Trench 45 was positioned across an area of magnetic disturbance whilst Trenches 47 and 49 were placed to sample the remaining area. Trenches 48 and 49 contained ditches whilst the remaining trenches were blank.

The ditches in Field 2 were much shallower than in Field 1. The subsoil was also much less thick, suggesting that the features here may have suffered a greater degree of agricultural attrition (Figs 13 and 14).

Trench 47, looking north-west, showing plough scars in foreground Fig 13

Three ditches were identified in Trench 48 [4804] [4806] and [4808] all on differing alignments. Although they occurred in the same location as the cropmark ditches, none seemed to equate exactly. A further two ditches [4904] and [4906] were present in Trench 49, neither of which had been previously identified through the non-intrusive surveys. No finds were recovered from any of the features. Given that there were no features in Trench 46 which was positioned to sample further linear cropmarks, it is likely that the cropmarks in this field do not represent below ground features.

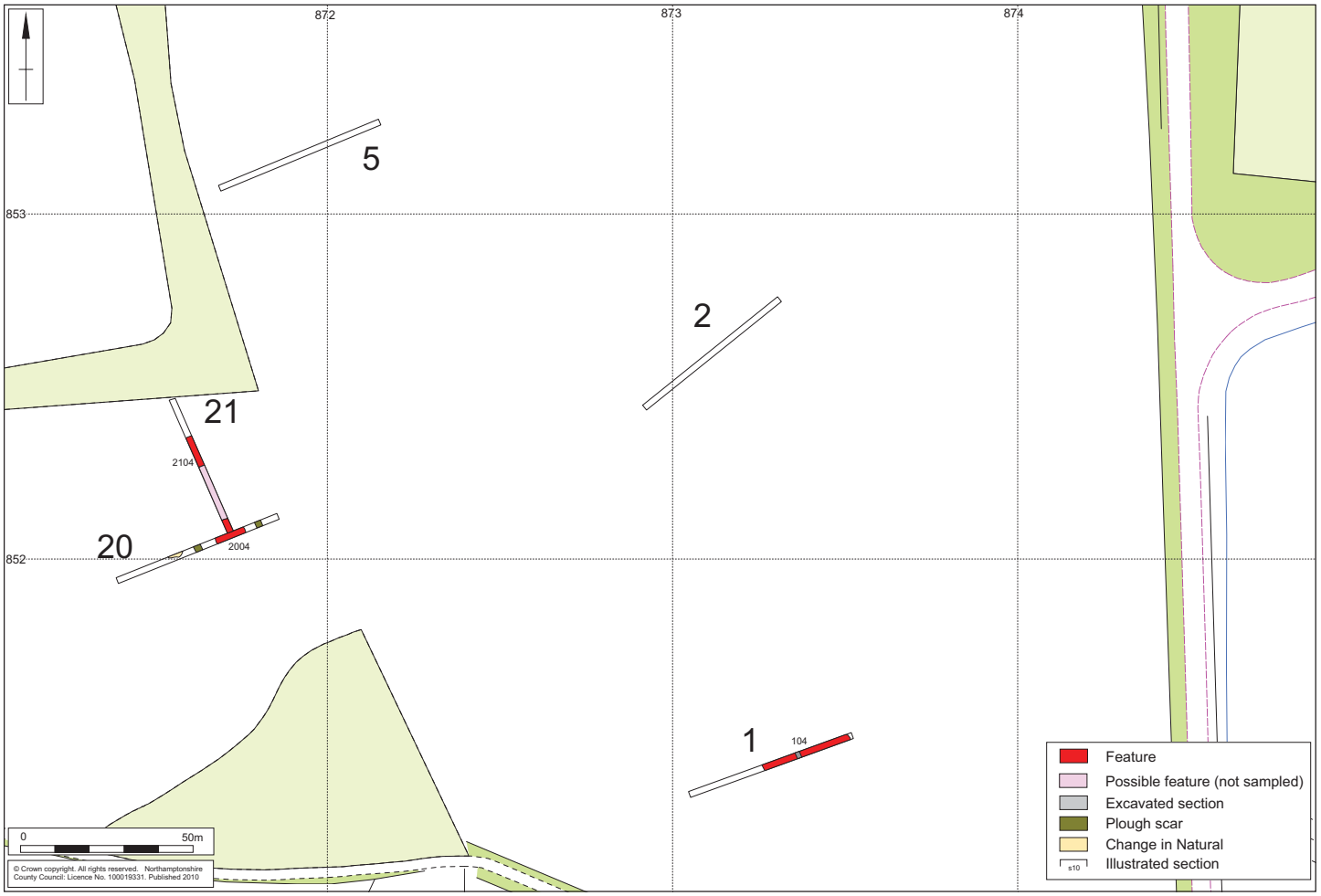
Trench 48, shallow base of ditch [4804], looking south Fig 14

Field 3 (Fig 15)

Trench 1 was excavated across an area of magnetic disturbance revealed by the magnetometer survey in the south of Field 3. Trenches 2 to 6 were dug to sample the remaining area of the field but neither contained any archaeological features. Trenches 20 and 21 were dug across a further area of magnetic disturbance that equated with a large earthwork hollow.

In the eastern half of the Trench 1 was a large quarry pit [104], *c* 30m wide, cut through the subsoil. A slot was excavated across the quarry and it was shown to be *c* 1.60m deep. In its backfill were concrete, brick and tile (Fig 16). Two sherds of 18th-century pottery were also recovered.

Trenches 20 and 21 demonstrated that the hollow was a further quarry [2004] [2104], backfilled with mixed soils and modern detritus.



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Field 3, Trenches 1, 2, 5, 20, 21 Fig 15

Trench 1, quarry pit [104], looking south Fig 16

Field 4 (Fig 17)

Two trenches were dug in Field 4. Trench 8 was placed across a ferrous anomaly and a linear anomaly detected by the geophysical survey in the north-west corner of the field, whilst trench 7 was placed across a possible linear anomaly at the east side of the field.

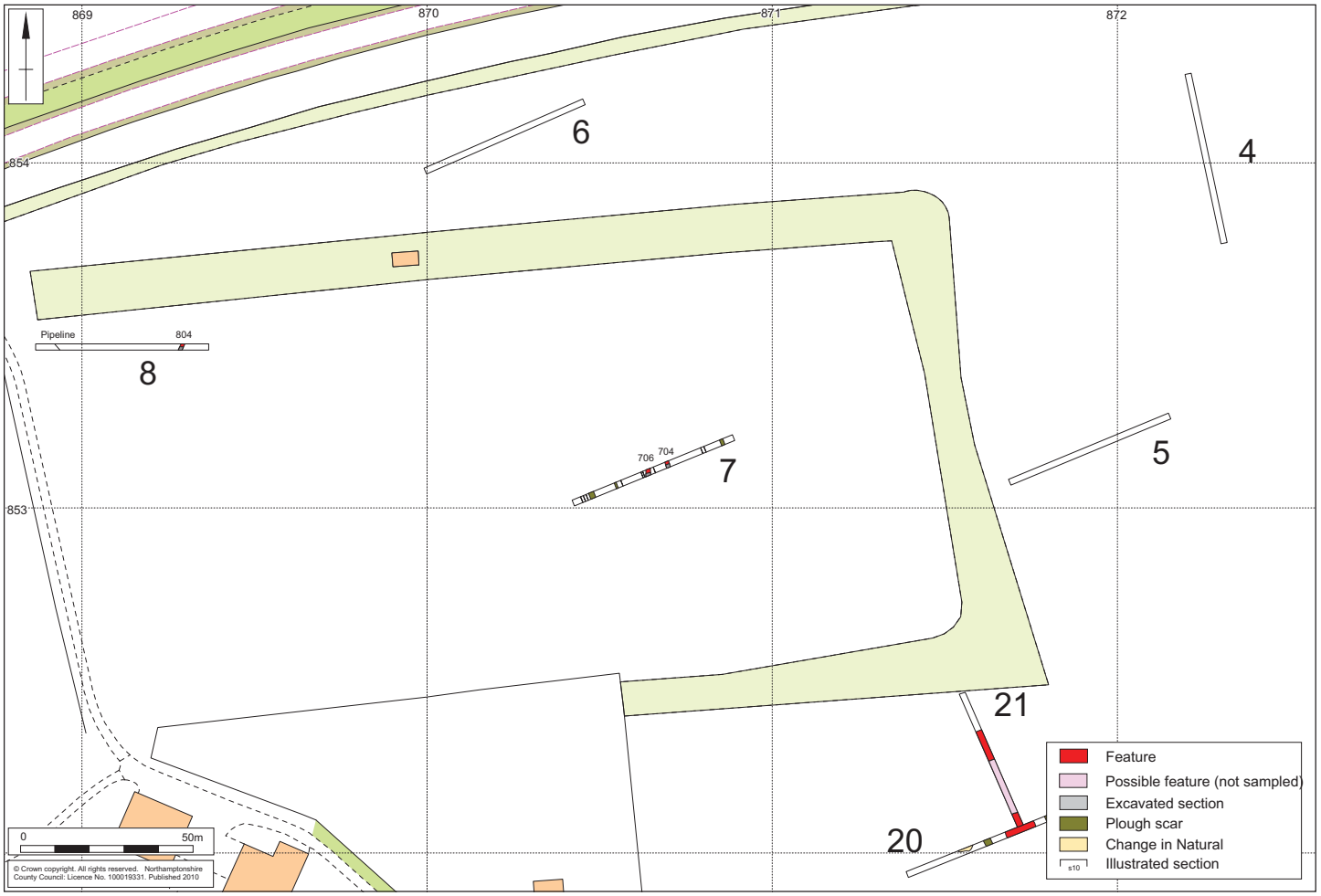
Two undated ditches were found in Trench 7. A V-shaped ditch [704] aligned north to south and a shallower rounded ditch or gully [706] aligned north-west to south-east. Two possible furrows were also present in the field.

A further ditch was located towards the eastern end of Trench 8 [804]. This had a U-shaped profile and was aligned north-east to south-west. The linear anomaly proved to be a modern pipe which ran north-west to south-east across the field.

No dating evidence was recovered from any of the ditches in Field 4 and it is unclear whether these features are associated with the Iron Age and Roman site to the west.

4.2 Eastern area

Twenty-three trenches (22 to 44) were excavated at the eastern end of the development area (Fig 4). Trenches 24 and 25, Field 17 (Fig 18) and 30 and 31, Field 18 (Fig 19) were excavated across the two ring ditches identified by the previous surveys. Trenches 22, 23, 26-29 (in Field 17), 32-36 (in Field 18) and 42-44 (in Field 16) were positioned around the barrows in order to sample the surrounding area. Trenches 37 - 41 were dug in order to sample relatively dense scatters of Romano-British and medieval pottery identified by the fieldwalking survey in Field 21(Fig 20).



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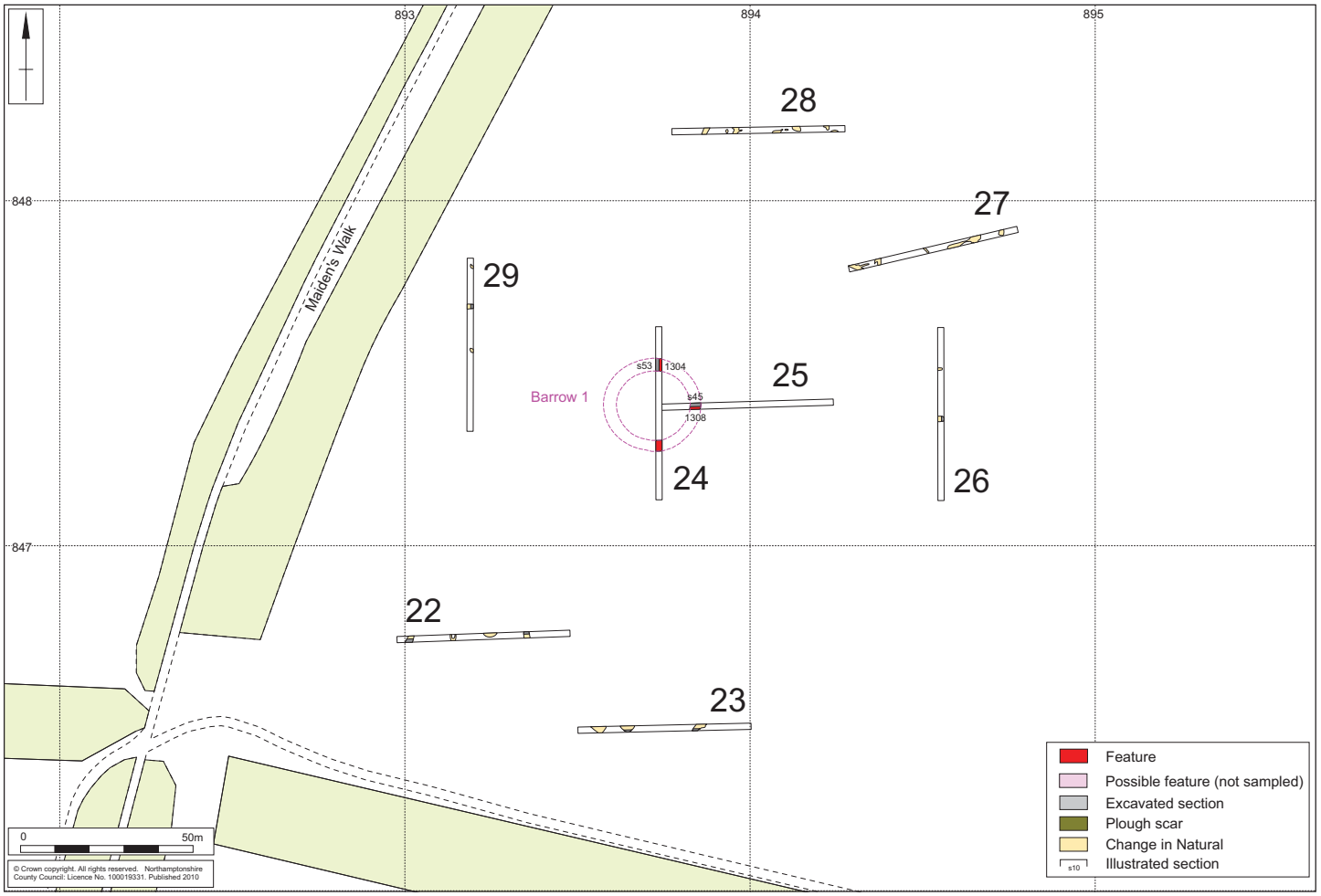
Fields 3 and 4, Trenches 4 - 8, 20, 21 Fig 17



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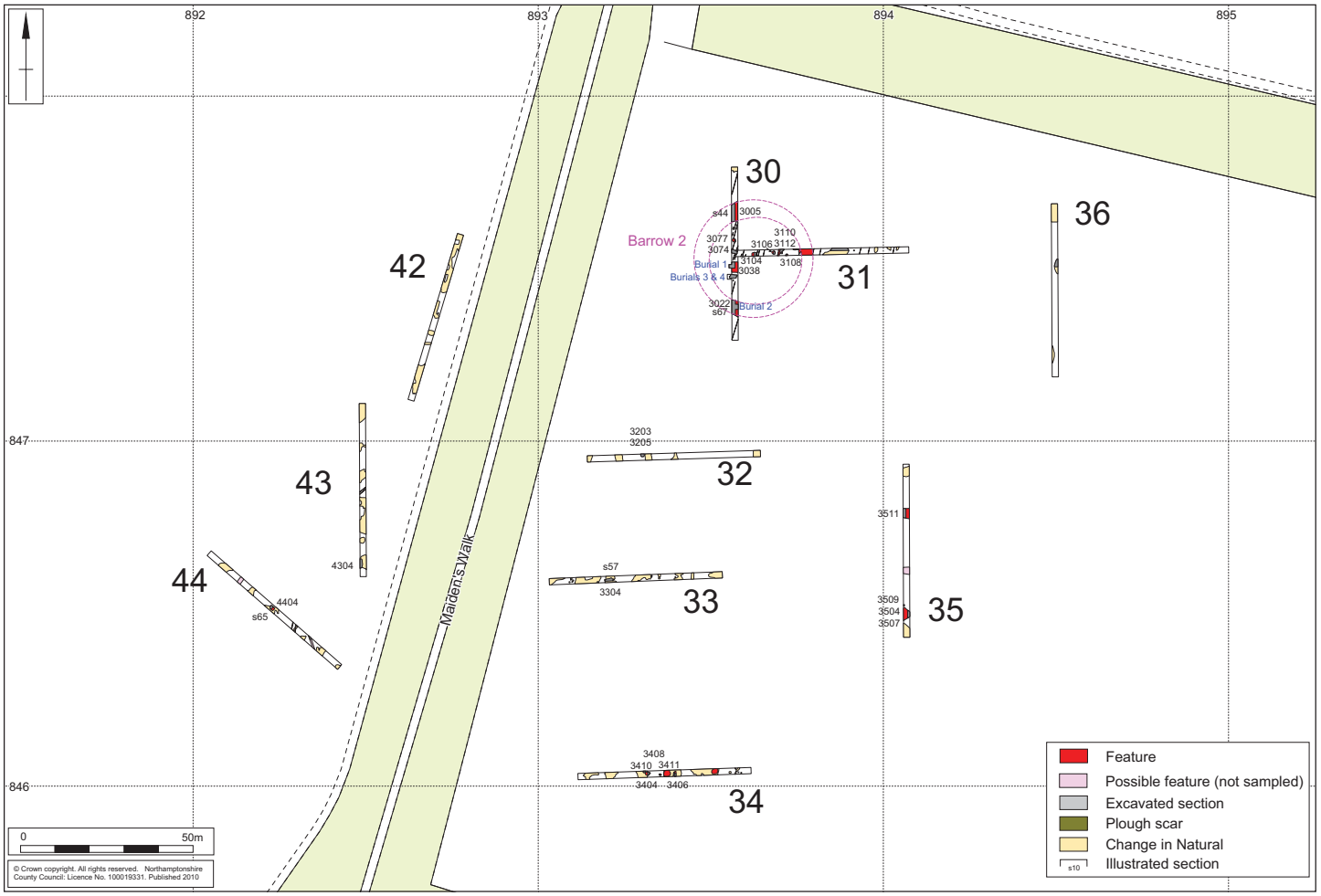
Field 17, Trenches 22 to 29 Fig 18



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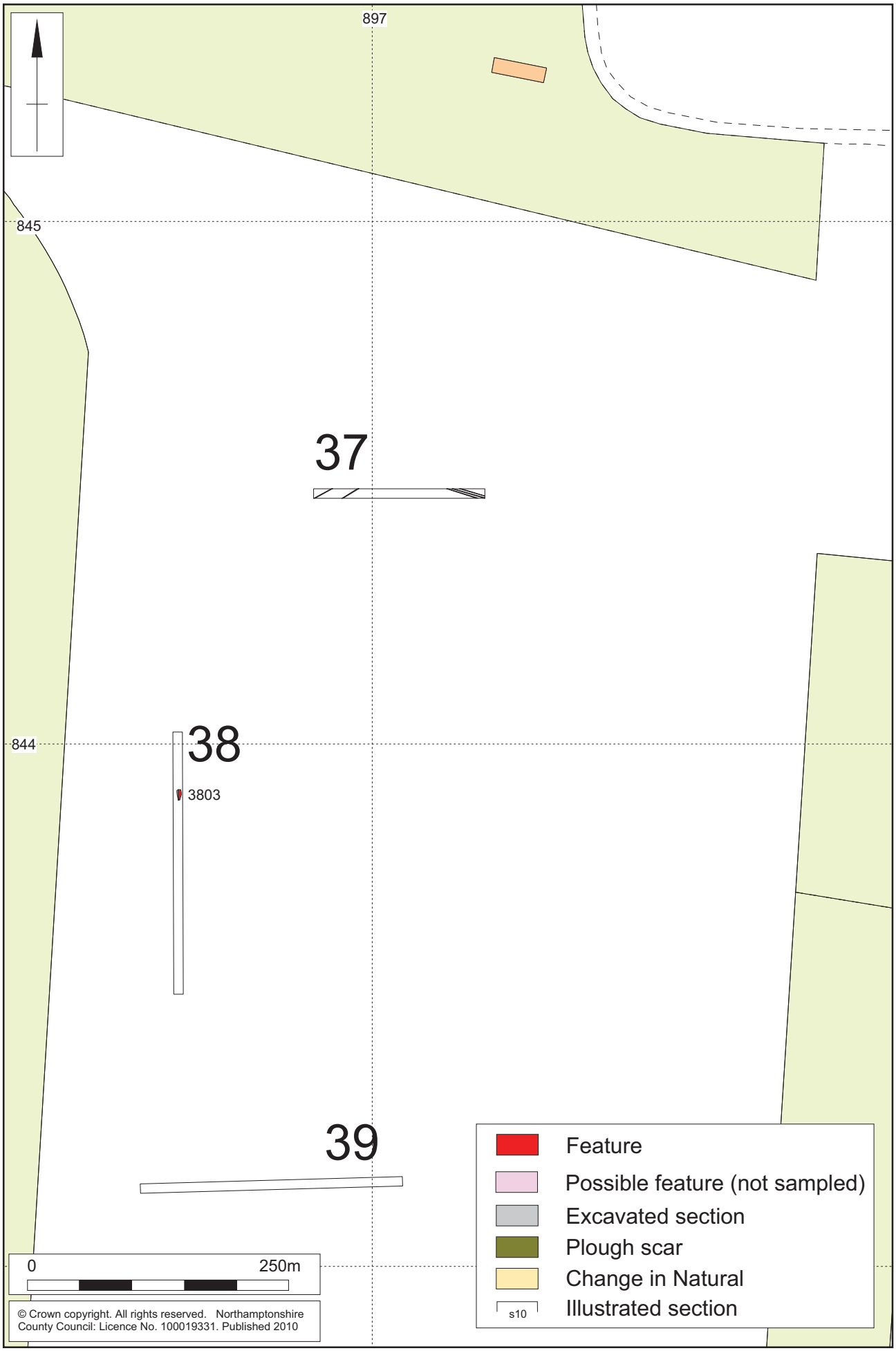
Fields 16 and 18, Trenches 30 to 36 and 42 to 44 Fig 19



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Field 21, Trenches 37 to 39 Fig 20

The general stratigraphic sequence was similar in all trenches. Overlying the natural chalk and flint in most but not all trenches, was subsoil, up to 0.15m thick, comprising mid brown sandy clay, with the intermittent sand fraction dependant upon the underlying natural. In Trench 39 there was a layer of light brown silty sand with flint inclusions, 0.28m deep that underlay the subsoil and may represent a colluvial layer (3904). The topsoil was a grey-brown sandy loam, up to 0.35m thick. Flint inclusions were noted in the subsoil and topsoil. Plough scars to the surface of the natural were present in all trenches.

Trenches 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 42 contained no archaeological features, just superficial deposits which had undergone extensive periglacial modification forming distinctive sedimentary structures. Some of these features were sampled in order to demonstrate that they were indeed natural in origin. In addition a magnetic susceptibility survey was undertaken in order to see if these features could be characterised empirically, however the results were inconclusive (Appendix 3).

The trenching found features from a range of periods, comprising pits of possible late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date, probable Bronze Age round barrows, and burials and features of early/middle Saxon date.

Prehistoric pits and other features

A number of pits and other features were found in Fields 16, 18 and 21 but none in Field 17. The majority of the features have been interpreted as being of late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age date, based upon the presence of pottery and worked flints, although there is also a possibility that some date to the later prehistoric period.

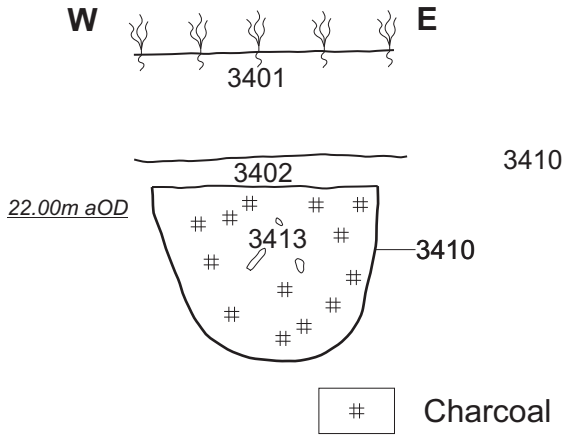
A group of three ovoid and circular pits [3404] [3408] and [3410] (Figs 19, 21 and 22) in Trench 34 contained pottery from the early Bronze Age as well as worked flints. All contained dark, charcoal or ash-stained fills and were steep-sided, between 0.36m and 0.52m deep. Pits [3404] and [3410] both had single fills but [3408] had a thin band of primary silting, possibly indicating that the pit had been open for a while. Soils samples taken from pits [3404] and [3408] produced large amounts of charcoal and charred nutshells.

A much shallower, lenticular feature also occurred in Trench 34 [3406]. This had a similar dark fill and may represent the base of a further pit, although it produced no pottery just a number of worked flints. To the east of these pits were further areas which may represent a series of intercutting pits [3411], which were not excavated.

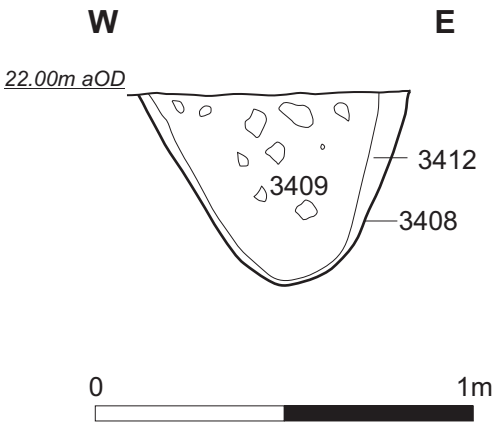
Individual pits also occurred in Trenches 38, 43, 44 [3803] [4304] and [4404]. In Trench 38 pit [3803] had a shallow lenticular plan with a charcoal-rich fill, similar to the pit fills in Trench 34. It produced a number of worked flints. Pit [4404] in Trench 44 contained an example of a serrated flint blade of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic date which might suggest an early component to the general prehistoric activity in the vicinity. Pit [4404] had been cut by a possible posthole [4408] from which a sherd of Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered (Fig 22). Other possible undated linear features occur in Trench 44 [4406] although the presence of bands of natural sands makes interpretation equivocal.

Within the circuit of Barrow 2 were a number of further undated features. Although it is possible that they post date the barrow, being the base of features cut into an upstanding mound, it is perhaps more likely that they represent pre-barrow features. They comprised pits [3077] [3104] [3106] [3108] [3110] and [3112] and possible ditch [3038].

Trench 34, Section 79



Trench 34, Section 78



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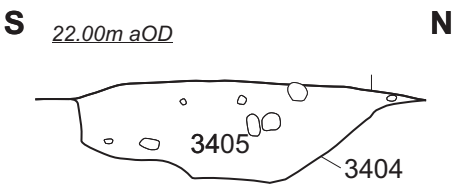
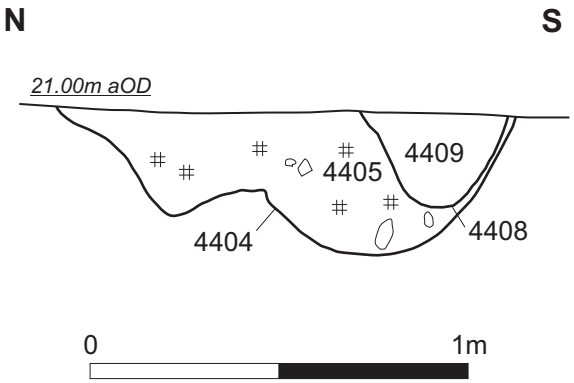
Trench 34, pits 3410, 3412, sections 79 and 78 Fig 21

Trench 34, Section 58



Trench 44, Section 65



Charcoal

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Trenches 34 and 44, pits 3404, 4404, sections 58 and 65 Fig 22

Bronze Age barrows

Two ring ditches were identified in Fields 17 and 18 (Fig 4) and their circuits and interiors sampled with a series of trenches. In both cases excavation showed that the attrition from ploughing was marked. The northernmost ring ditch contained no internal features but the southern ring ditch contained discrete pits which probably pre-date the feature and Anglo-Saxon inhumations which probably post-date it. The ring ditches have been interpreted as Bronze Age round barrows based largely on their form and stratigraphical relationship with the later features. However, no absolute dating evidence was recovered and no evidence of burials or other features associated with its primary use were identified.

Barrow 1

The northern of the two ring ditches, Barrow 1, was located in Trenches 24 and 25. Trench 24 exposed its northern and southern side whilst Trench 25 exposed the eastern. The ring ditch had a projected outer diameter of *c*28m and an inner diameter of *c*21m. The southern circuit of the ditch was not sampled.

A section through its northern side revealed the ditch to be 3.68m wide by 1.08m deep with a broadly U-shaped profile and a complex sequence of silting fills (2405) (2406) (2407) (2408) (2409) and (2410) (Fig 23). The fills were of mid brown to grey-brown sandy loam with flint and chalk inclusions; only the latest fill (2405) contained dating material; two sherds of Roman pottery.

The profile of the eastern side of the ditch had a much narrower base than the northern side, with an almost V-shaped profile. The ditch was also slightly shallower and less deep measuring 3.10m wide by 0.80m deep. A similar sequence of silting was present (2505) (2506) (2507) (2508) (2509) and (2510) (Fig 24). The fills were dark brown sandy loam to light brown-grey sandy silt at the base of the ditch, flint and chalk inclusions were present in all fills but no dating material was recovered.

The fills would appear to represent gradual silting episodes or the ploughing in of mound material since there was no evidence of any mound material being eroded down into the ditches whilst they were open. No burials or other features were located within the ring ditch circuit.

Barrow 2

The southern of the two ring ditches, Barrow 2, was located in Trenches 30 and 31. The northern and southern ditches were sampled in Trench 30 whilst the eastern side was exposed in Trench 30 but not excavated. The barrow appeared to be slightly larger than its northern neighbour with a projected outer diameter of 34.40m and an inner diameter of 27.00m. When the putative circuit of the ring ditch is projected it shows that the trenches may have been placed slightly off centre, to the west.

The northern ditch [3005] was 0.85m deep and 3.60m wide with a broad rounded profile. The fills show a long sequence of silting (3006) (3007) (3008) (3009) and (3010) (Fig 25). The inner edge of the ditch cut through possibly re-deposited natural layers (3003) and (3004) which may betoken the presence of a pre-barrow feature. Pottery retrieved from the uppermost two fills (3006) and (3007) is dated to the Roman period.

The southern ditch was 3.80m wide and 0.78m deep [3022] with rounded profile, similar to the ditch to the north. There was again a long sequence of silting (3023) (3024) (3025) (3026) and (3027) (Fig 26). An Anglo-Saxon Inhumation grave, Burial 2 [3020], had been cut through the infilled ditch.

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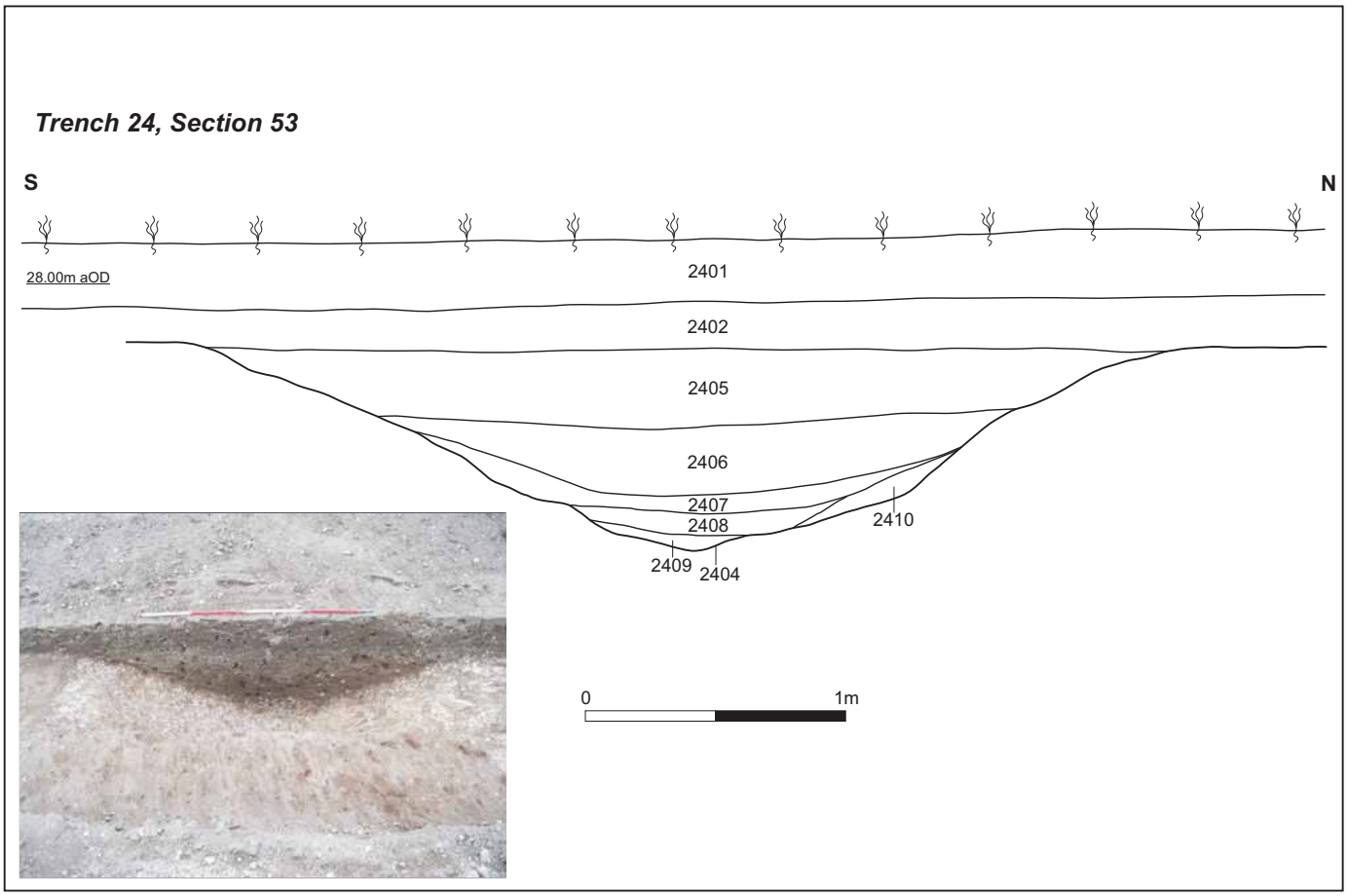

Trech 24, barrow ditch 2404, section 53 Fig 23

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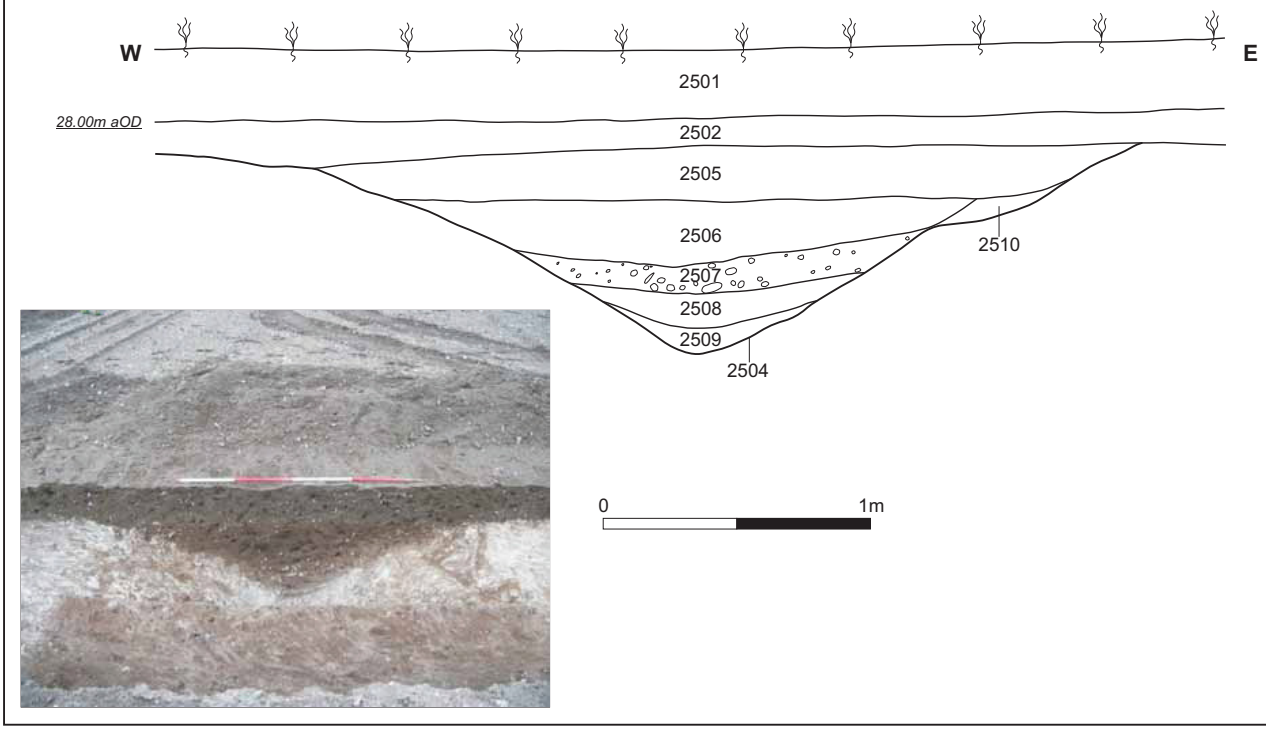
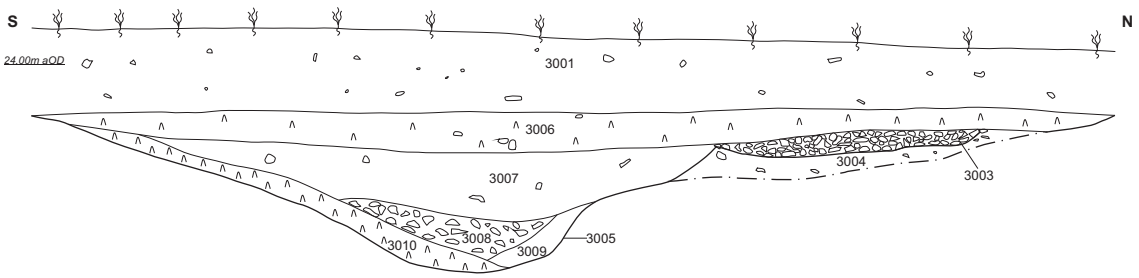


Trench 25, barrow ditch 2504, section 45 Fig 24

Trench 30, Section 44



0 1m

Chalk

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Trench 30, barrow ditch 3005, section 44 Fig 25

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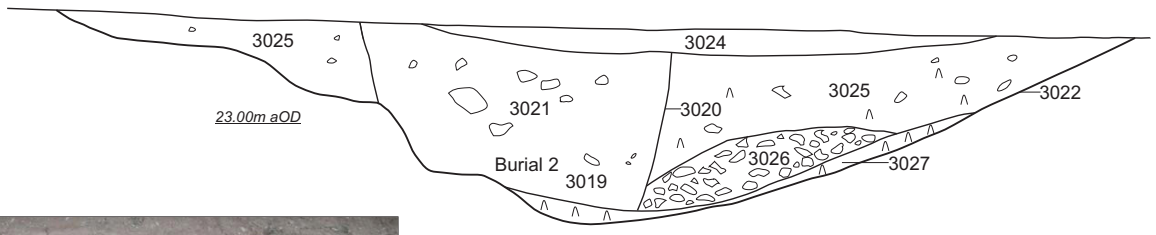
Trench 30, Section 67



Trench 30, barrow ditch 3022, section 67 Fig 26

Unlike Barrow 1, the ditch shows some evidence of slippage from an internal mound and weathering of the exterior edge.

The Anglo-Saxon burials

Four Anglo-Saxon inhumations and a cremation burial were identified at the site. The four burials were all associated with Barrow 2 in Trench 30. Burials 1, 3 and 4 were located within the circuit of the ring ditch and had suffered heavy degradation from ploughing whilst Burial 2 had been dug through into the backfilled southern ditch and was consequently better preserved. The cremation burial was located to the south of the barrow in Trench 32. The inhumations were accompanied by artefacts which suggest a late 5th - 6th century date.

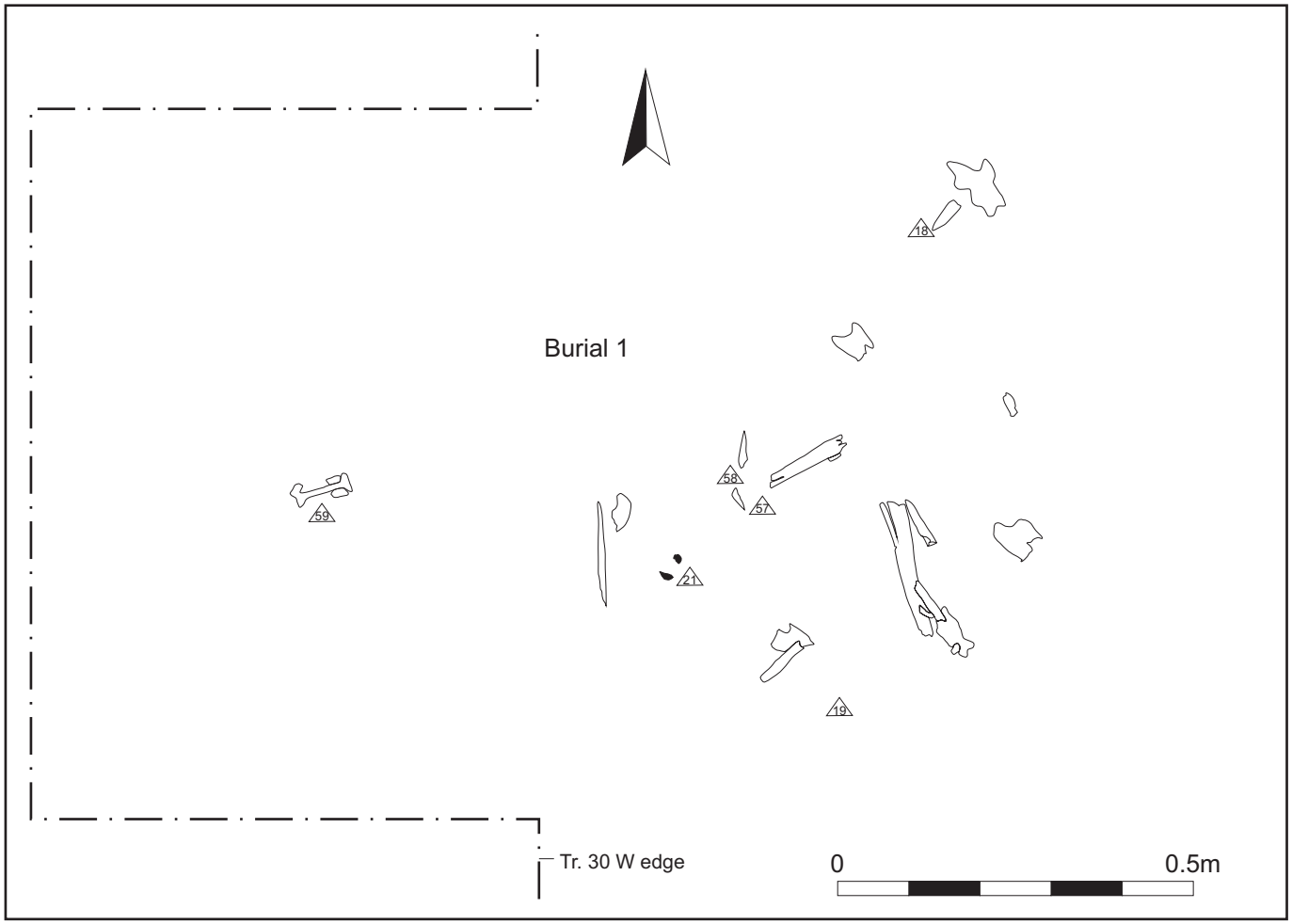
Burial 1 (Fig 27)
Burial 1 [3012] was positioned near the centre of the circular Bronze Age ring ditch, it was in a very poor condition with only fragments of leg and arm bones present, due to its shallow depth and heavy modern ploughing. It would appear to represent the remains of two individuals, since three tibiae were present. The presence of a second individual is perhaps significant given the adjacent double burial 3 and 4. Fifteen finds dating from the 6th century were recovered from the grave fill, including a bronze bracelet, a brooch, a bead and iron objects.

Burial 2 (Fig 28)
Burial 2 [3020], aligned east to west, was sub-rectangular in plan with near vertical sides to a flat base, the articulated skeleton was in good condition, undisturbed by ploughing. The grave cut ring ditch [3022]. The burial was accompanied by two brooches, one knife and two unidentified metal objects dating to the 6th century.

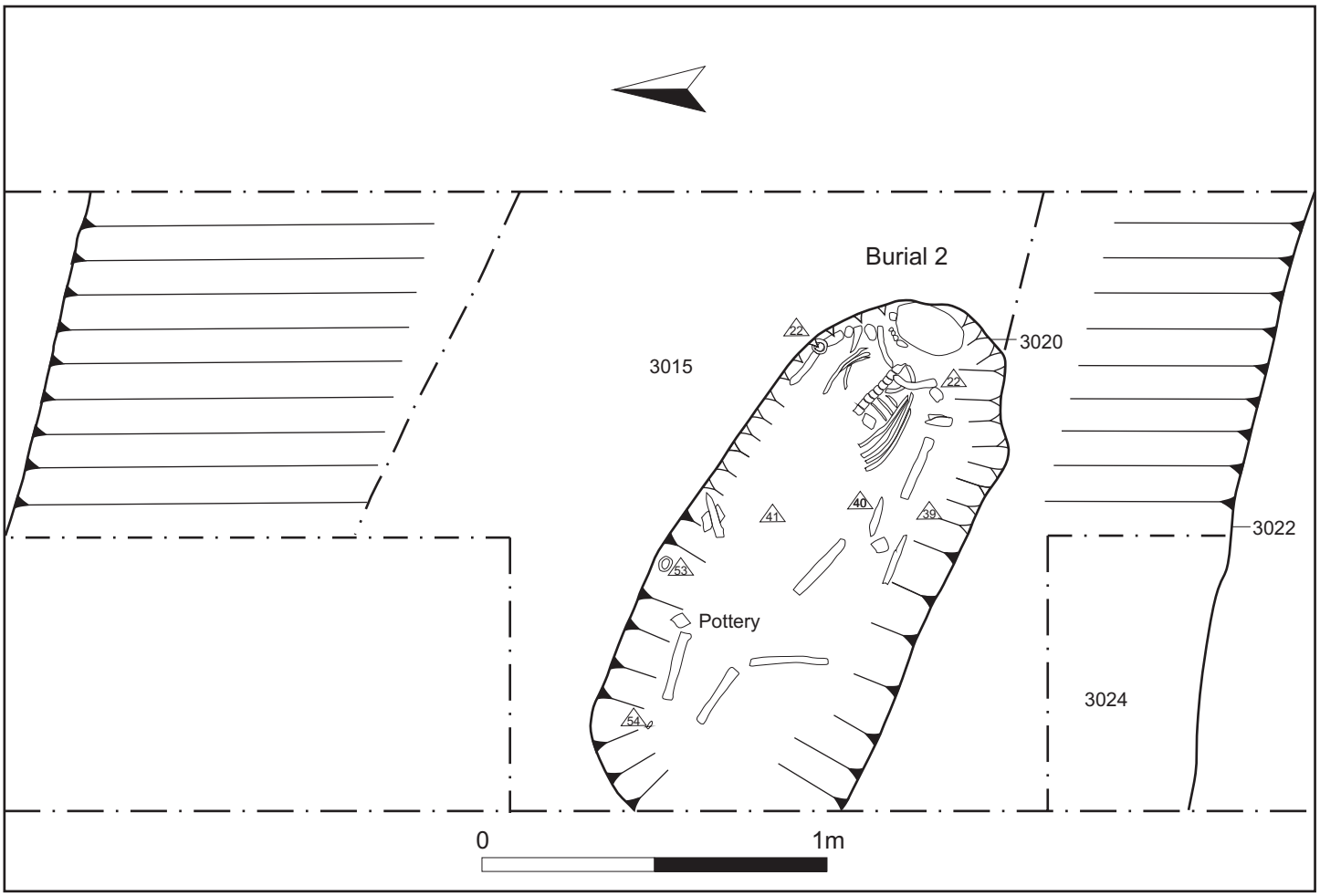
Burials 3 and 4 (Fig 29)
Burial 3 [3040] and Burial 4 [3044] formed a possible double burial which was in poor condition due to agricultural ploughing with only fragments of bone present. The burials one female [3041] one male [3044] were orientated east to west with no clear relationship between the two. The finds scattered across the two burials are of a 6th century date. Burial 4 had fragmented remains of an iron shield boss placed over the abdomen area.

Cremation burial 1
Trench 32 contained the base of a very shallow rectilinear pit [3203] 0.58m wide by 0.08m deep which extended beyond the northern edge of the trench. It contained a mixed fill (3202) of black sand clay with charcoal, burnt flint fragments, burnt bone and two sherds of burnt grass-tempered pottery. A sharp depression in the base of the pit [3205] may represent a possible posthole, although the fill was indistinguishable from that of the pit (3202). Although the pottery has been tentatively identified as Iron Age in date, an unidentified ferrous fitting was also found in the fill of the cremation pit and the presence of Anglo-Saxon burials elsewhere on site may suggest that the cremation belongs to this later period.

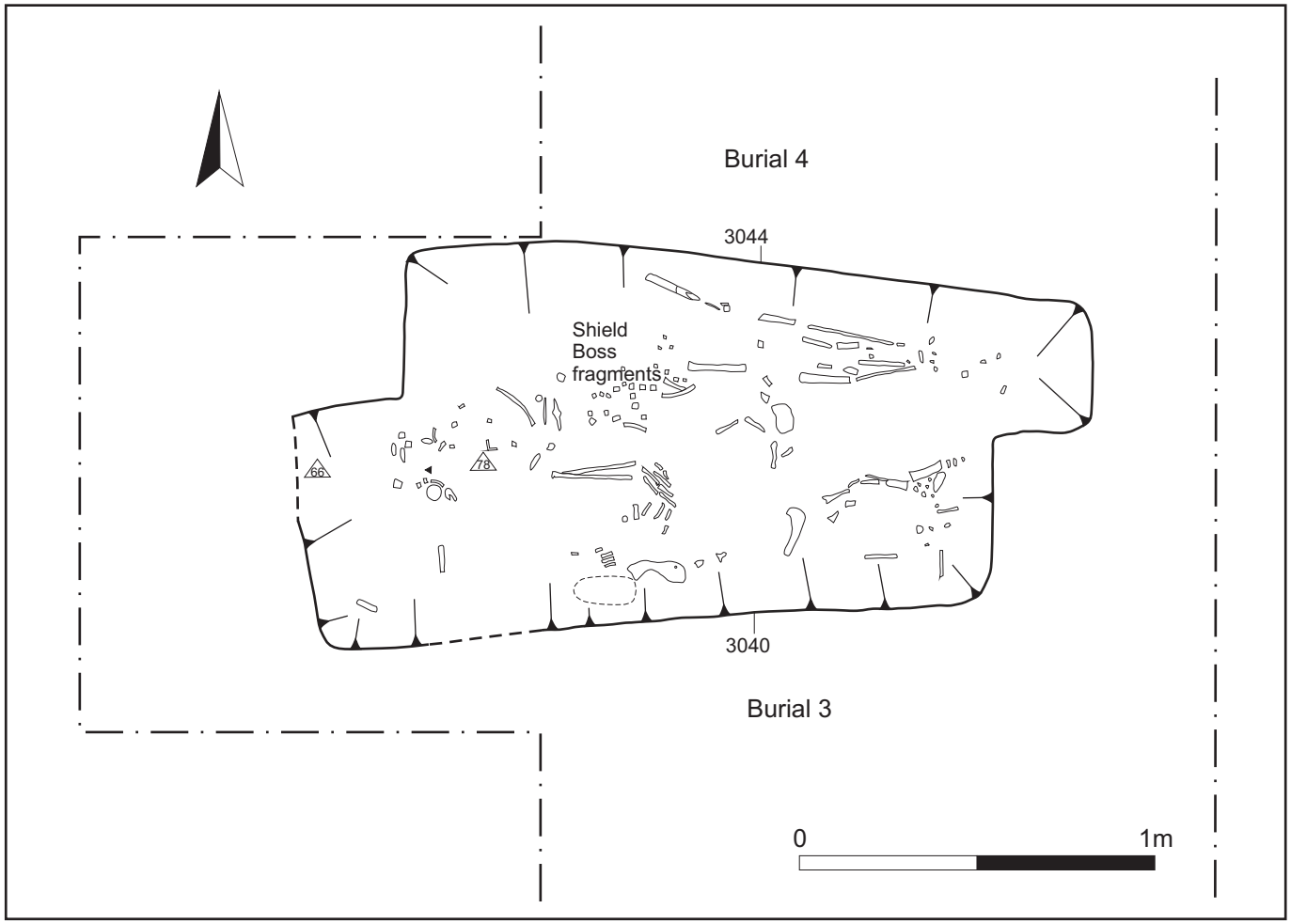
Anglo-Saxon features
The terminal of a north-south aligned ditch was located in Trench 33 [3305]. The fill produced seven sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery which was decorated in a rare style and is potentially contemporary with the burials associated with barrows.



Trench 30, Burial 1 Fig 27



Trench 30, Burial 2 (Photograph shows eastern end of body prior to excavation of western half) Fig 28



Trench 30, Burials 3 and 4 Fig 29

5 THE FINDS

5.1 **The worked flint** by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

In total 71 pieces of worked flint were recovered *in situ* from possible Neolithic and early Bronze Age contexts and as residual finds from Iron Age, subsoil and topsoil contexts. The flint comprised 51 flakes, 13 blades, four cores, two end scrapers, two naturally backed pieces, and one serrated blade (Table 1).

Table 1: Quantification of worked flint

Description	Whole	Fragment	Burnt	Total
Flake	36	10	5	51
Blade	10	3	-	13
Core	3		1	4
Scraper, end	2	-	-	2
Serrated blade	1	-	-	1
Naturally backed pieces	2	-	-	2
Total	**54**	**13**	**6**	**71**

The condition of the assemblage was good. The flints showed varied post-depositional edge damage, displaying small edge spalls to battered and crushed edges, depending on find location. This allowed the recognition of intentional miscellaneous retouch and utilisation. Patination was present on half of the assemblage ranging from a slight mottled white discolouration to a complete white discolouration. Accidental burning of the flint was evident on five flakes and one core in the form of thermal fracturing, crazing, and heavy patination.

The raw material is a vitreous flint of light to dark coloured greys and browns. There is also a small component of a more granular grey 'chert'-like flint. The cortex present on the dorsal surface on approximately two-thirds of the assemblage. The majority of the cortex consists of light to mid brown with a generally smooth, rolled and weathered surface. The raw material was likely to have comprised the terrace and glacio-fluvial deposits, including isolated pieces of the local Brandon flint.

Four cores were recovered, all were flake cores with multiple platforms. Two of them had been worked discoidally. The discoidal core found in pit [4404] also exhibited secondary utilisation as a chopper/cutting tool, which is evident through removals on the edges.

The majority of flints consisted of waste flakes and blades. There were 51 flakes, of which 10 were broken and five burnt, and 13 blades, of which three were broken. There were two flakes with cortical striking platforms and it was not uncommon for flakes to have platforms that are relatively long, broad and flat. There were also a number of squat flakes present in the assemblage. Cortex was frequently present on the dorsal surface.

The retouched tool forms comprised of two end scrapers (Fig 30), a serrated blade (Fig 31), and two naturally backed pieces (Fig 32). The end scrapers had retouch on the convex distal ends and one had some additional retouch on striking platform, probably related to platform preparation. The serrated blade, measuring 70mm long and 22mm wide, had serration on both lateral edges. The serration comprised of regular small removals, possibly worn due to utilisation. Additionally there were two naturally backed pieces, one flake and one blade. Both pieces were utilised, showing through small utilisation scars on one lateral edge.

Flint scraper from fill (3413), early Bronze Age pit [3410] (scale 20mm) Fig 30

Serrated blade from fill (4405), pit [4404] (scale 20mm) Fig 31

Flint blade and knife from fill (3405), early Bronze Age pit [3404] (scale 20mm) Fig 32

Technological characteristics of the assemblage suggest a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date with a small late Mesolithic/early Neolithic component. The serrated blade from pit [4404] is typical of types from the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic. Just over half of the flints were retrieved from five pits that were dated to the early Bronze Age by the presence of Beaker pottery (pits [3404][3408] and [3410]. Also about a third of the flint came from the ditch fills of a Bronze Age barrow (Table 2). The worked flints found from these features are not unusual of this period and are possibly contemporary. No further work is recommended.

Table 2: Catalogue of worked flint

Feature/Fill	Type	Flake	Core	Blade	Tools
1206/1208	Iron Age Pit		1		
1210/1212	Ditch	3			
1213/1214	Gully	1			
1414/1415	Ditch	1			
2204	Layer	1			
2304	Layer	1			
2404/2405	Barrow 1	6		2	
2404/2406	Barrow 1	1		2	
2404/2407	Barrow 1	2		1	
2404/2505	Barrow 1	4			
2404/2508	Barrow 1	1			
3005/3007	Barrow 2	2			
3404/3405	Early Bronze Age Pit	2		1	1 scraper + 2 naturally backed
3406/3407	Pit	6			
3410/3413	Pit	6			1 scraper
3509/3510	Posthole	1			
3605/3604	Hollow	1		2	
3803/3804	Pit	6	1	4	
4304/4305	Pit	1			
4404/4405	Pit	5	2	1	1 serrated blade
TOTAL		**51**	**4**	**13**	**5**

5.2 The Bronze Age pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 21 sherds of pottery, weighing 144g, from at least six vessels of early Bronze Age date was recovered from three pits in Trench 34.

In the fill (3413) of pit [3410], there are several non-joining sherds from a Beaker, probably a late phase, long-necked Beaker dating no earlier than *c*2000BC. It is decorated with incised elongated triangles filled with incised cross-hatching, and fingertip impressions (Figs 33 & 34). From the same pit there is also a single sherd from a vessel decorated with finely-incised cross hatching.

The fills, (3405) and (3409), of pits [3404] and [3408] contain three sherds probably from a single thick-walled rusticated Beaker, in a pale orange-brown fabric containing grog. The vessel had a rim diameter of *c*180mm, and is decorated with rows of deep fingertip impressions alternating with shallower fingertip impressions, set between horizontal raised cordons (Figs 33 & 34). Similar decorative schemes have been seen on other rusticated Beakers from the eastern counties, including Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire (Burrow and Mudd 2010, 64-65, figs 4 & 5).

In addition, the fill (3409) of pit [3408] also contained nine small sherds probably from three separate Beakers. The sherds are small, but the surviving decoration comprises fragments of horizontal panels two filled with incised cross-hatching and one with comb impressions.

Catalogue of Bronze Age pottery

Fill (3413), Pit [3410]
Vessel 1 (Figs 33 & 34)
There are eight non-joining sherds from a Beaker. The body sherds are 5-7mm thick, and pale orange-brown throughout with inclusions of angular flint, 1-5mm in diameter, which often protrude through the decorated surface. While there is insufficient material to reconstruct the profile, the curvature of the sherds suggests that they have come from a late phase, long-necked Beaker. The decoration is all incised. On the neck this comprises elongated triangles, defined by multiple incised lines and filled with incised cross-hatching, set above flattened triangles. The lower body has been decorated with deep fingertip impressions.

Vessel 2
There is a single body sherd, 5-6mm thick, in an orange-brown fabric, containing sparse small flint inclusions, which is decorated with an irregular cross-hatching of fine incised lines.

Fill (3405), Pit [3404]
Vessel 3a (Fig 35)
There is one sherd, 8-11mm thick, in a pale orange-brown fabric containing rounded pellets of orange-brown grog, 1-2mm diameter. It is the same fabric and probably the same vessel, as sherds from pit [3408]. This body sherd is decorated with two lines of fingertip impressions set in a zone, 25mm wide, between raised cordons. Each line comprises deep near vertical fingertip impressions, with adjacent pads of pushed-up clay, alternating with shallower oblique fingertip impressions. Fragments of further lines of fingertip impressions survive above and below the cordons.

Fill (3409), Pit [3408]
Vessel 3b (Figs 35 & 36)
There are two sherds, 8-11mm thick in a pale orange-brown fabric containing rounded pellets of orange-brown grog, 1-2mm diameter. It is the same fabric and probably the same vessel as the sherd from pit [3404]. The rim sherd has a slight internal bevel, and a rim diameter of *c*180mm. Below the rim there is a single line of fingertip impressions set above a raised cordon, with a further row of fingertip impressions below the cordon. The decorative scheme is the same as in the sherd from pit [3404], with deep near vertical impressions, with adjacent pads of pushed-up clay, alternating with shallower oblique impressions. The other sherd is smaller and abraded, but is evidently from the same vessel.

Vessels 4-6
Four small fragments and five slightly larger sherds, weighing 19g, derive from three separate Beakers, which are distinguished by slight differences in decoration, colour and sherd thickness. They are 5-7mm thick, and the colour varies from yellow-brown to light brown and orange-brown, with two having light grey-brown internal surfaces. One vessel preserves the margins of two panels of incised cross hatching, 5mm apart with no border. Another retains part of a panel filled with cross hatching with an incised border, and the third has the margins of two panels, set 12mm apart, each bordered with a combed line and filled with comb-impressions.

The Beaker sherds from Vessel 1 (Scale 20mm) Fig 33

Close-up of Beaker sherd showing flint inclusions and incised decoration Fig 34

Rusticated Beaker sherds, vessels 3a and 3b (Scale 20mm) Fig 35

Close-up of rusticated Beaker rim sherd, showing fingertip decoration Fig 36

5.3 The Iron Age and Roman pottery by Rob Perrin

Only 103 sherds weighing 1128g, giving a relatively low average sherd weight of around 11g, and with a rim eve of less than 1.5, were recovered from 18 contexts in ten trenches. All bar 16 of the sherds are from ditches, pits and a gully lying immediately to the north of the Fison's Way scheduled site at Thetford. Although not entirely clear, the ditches are probably enclosure boundaries and are presumably a continuation of the features found in Gregory's excavations (1991). The remaining pottery derives from a separate site 2.5km to the east and was found in the infilling of barrow ditches or is residual in Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves and a cremation.

Two-thirds of the contexts contain only Iron Age pottery. Many contain only a few sherds and, where there are a greater number of sherds (Gully 1408, Ditch 1504 and Ditch 1606), these are from only one or two vessels. Table 3 shows the pottery assemblage by principal fabric type.

Table 3: Iron Age and Roman pottery assemblage by principal fabric type

Fabric	No	% No	Weight (g)	% Weight	Rim eve
Iron Age	42	41	446	39.5	0.27
Iron Age large quartz	31	30	306	27	
Iron Age vegetable	2	2	2	-	
Roman grey	23	22	174	15.5	0.66
Roman oxidised	1	1	190	17	0.09
Roman oxidised hard	4	4	10	1	0.27
Total	**103**		**1128**		**1.39**

The range of fabrics appears limited. The main fabric for the Iron Age pottery is micaceous, has rounded, small, colourless or dark quartz, is not hard fired and is grey brown to dark brown-black in colour; some of the sherds have a reddish-brown edge to the core. Two other Iron Age fabrics are present, one with noticeable amounts of large angular to sub-angular white quartz and another with signs of vegetable temper. The fabric of most of the Roman pottery is also micaceous and the inclusions appear

similar to that of the main Iron Age fabric. It is possible that the same clay source was used in the manufacture of most of both the Iron Age and Roman pottery, with the main differences in the Roman pottery being that it is harder and greyer in colour; the vessel forms are also different. There are five sherds in oxidised fabrics. One of these is similar to the main Iron Age and Roman fabric and the external surface of the vessel has been burnished. The others are harder fired.

The fabrics can be related to those described in the report on previous excavations at Fison Way (Gregory 1991, 155). The main Iron Age fabric appears similar to fabric group s, that with large white quartz to fabric group g, that with possible vegetable temper to fabric group b and the Roman fabric to group r. It is probable that the Iron Age pottery was locally produced and there is evidence for Roman pottery manufacture at Thetford (Swan 1984, 144). There are other known Roman kilns within a 20 kilometre radius of Thetford at Wattisfield, Lakenheath, West Stow, Market Weston and Pakenham (*ibid* 148), with others a little further afield, such as around Cambridge (*ibid* 134). The burnished oxidised vessel is probably also of local origin but the hard-fired Roman oxidised fabric may be of Colchester or Hadham origin.

The only recognisable Iron Age vessel (Ditch 1606) is a slack-shouldered jar or bowl similar in overall form to other vessels from Thetford (Gregory 1991, fig 140, 3, 19) and from Spong Hill (Gregory 1995, fig 105, 1A1:2 and 5). Two small to medium-sized jars occur in Roman grey ware (Ditch 1504). Both have angular profiles with cordons and grooves and the more complete of the two is also similar to other vessels from Thetford (Gregory 1991, fig 141, 47 and 54; fig 144, 122). The burnished vessel in an oxidised fabric (topsoil 1701) is a large storage jar with a simple curved rim; the form is similar to a vessel from Brettenham, though this is in a reduced fabric (Rollo 2002, fig 54, 1). Another sherd in a reduced fabric from the excavations (Pit 1206) has external combed decoration similar to that on the Brettenham jar. The sherd in the hard-fired Roman oxidised fabric (Barrow ditch 3005) is from a cup-mouthed flagon with external reeding on the rim, similar in form to *Cam* type 365 (*Cam,* type series in Hull 1958).

The pottery in five of the six Roman contexts appears to be 1st century in date; the other may be later Roman. Although the assemblage is very small, when the Iron Age material is included, this dating would match the chronology of the site investigated to the south (Gregory 1991) where three phases were identified – pre AD 43, post conquest to the early AD 60s and a 3rd/4th-century reoccupation.

The potential of the assemblage is very limited, in that it adds little to the information provided by previous, larger excavations on the site and no further analysis is required. It would be worthwhile illustrating some of the vessels.

5.3 The Saxon and later pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 21 sherds with a total weight of 509g. It consisted of fragments of two early Anglo-Saxon vessels, one of which was decorated with stamping, with the rest of the material being post-medieval, and largely recent, date.

The following fabric types were noted:

ESAX
Early Saxon calcareous sandy ware. Hand-built. Moderate sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, most less than 0.5mm, rare calcareous material of the same size, much of it leached out. 6th – 7th century? 7 sherds,173g.

GRE
Glazed Red Earthenwares, mid 16th century +. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. Numerous kiln sites known, such as Fulmodeston (Wade-Martins 1983). 2 sherds, 35g.

NOTTS
Nottingham/Derby Stoneware, late 17th – 19th century. White/grey stoneware with a glossy, chocolate-brown glaze, made in a wide range of utilitarian forms. 1 sherd, 18g.

MOD
Miscellaneous modern wares, late 18th – 21st century. 11 sherds, 283g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 4. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The small early Saxon assemblage consisted of the partially reconstructable fragments of two vessels, both stratified in context [3305]. Both vessels have traces of burnt black residue on the inner surface, as well as possible lime-scaling. One was a small cup or bowl with a rim diameter of 100mm, with the rim *c* 20% complete, with the other being a vessel of slightly unusual, squat form, with stamped decoration (Fig 37). The former is impossible to date other than to within the early/middle Saxon period, as it is a long-lasting vessel type, but the latter is more closely datable. Decorated hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery is almost entirely pre-Christian in date, with the technique falling from use quite early in the 7th century, and stamping was generally confined to the 6th – early 7th century, although stamped vessels, usually, although not always with bossed decoration, are known from the 5th century (Myres 1977).

Anglo-Saxon stamped pottery from ditch [3304] Fig 37

The stamped vessel from here appears quite late. There is a single row of plain annular stamps running around the vessel just about the shoulder, with vertical lines of the same stamp running down the body from this. The fragmentary nature of the vessel makes identification of the overall scheme difficult, but at least one pair of the vertical lines of annular stamps has another across the bottom forming a closed rectangle, which has been randomly filled with the impressions of a different die, a round grid stamp with a central ring-and-dot. It appears that the overall arrangement is of alternate blank and stamp-filled rectangles. There is no evidence of incised lines anywhere on the vessel.

Vessels with decoration such as this, ie geometric arrangements of stamping without any other form of decoration, are rare, and there are few examples in the Myres Corpus. None have the same arrangement as this vessel. (ibid 1977, figs 111 and 330). The complex grid-stamp does not have an exact parallel in the Myres Corpus, although it does have similarities to the impressions of a die used on an urn from Illington in Norfolk, although it has a completely different overall decorative scheme (ibid fig 296, no. 2212).

Myres (ibid 20-21) saw stamped vessels with reduced or absent linear decoration as belonging to the later part of the early Saxon period, ie the mid-6th – earlier 7th centuries. However, more recent work on the decorated urns at the Cleatham cemetery in Lincolnshire noted the presence of an urn with a very similar design to the example from this site (Leahy 2007, fig 46 no. 0382), which was dated to Phase 2 in the relative sequence, but not given an absolute date. The author noted however that vessels with 'free stamping' are known from a number of sites that post-date the Myres Corpus, several of which date to the early-mid sixth century, and one may be as early as the mid-5th century (ibid 99), although none of the vessels have an arrangement similar to this example. It may be worthy of note that one of the vessels discussed by Leahy, from Grave 148 at the Great Chesterford cemetery (*op cit ibid*), occurred in an inhumation which also produced a small-long brooch. It has a different arrangement of stamps and some linear decoration, but is of a similar squat form to the vessel from here. It is entirely possible therefore that this pot may be contemporary with the burials from this site, but given the unusual nature of the decoration, this must remain a tentative conclusion.

Table 4: Saxon and later pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	ESAX		**GRE**		**NOTTS**		**MOD**		
Fill/ [Cut]	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	Date
105/ [104]	-	-	1	30	1	18	-	-	18th century
405 [404]	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	19th century
2005 [2004]	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	194	19th century
2105 [2104]	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	82	19th century
3305 [3304]	7	173	-	-	-	-	-	-	ESAX
3514 [3511	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	17th century?
Total	**7**	**173**	**2**	**35**	**1**	**18**	**11**	**283**	

5.4 The Saxon grave goods By Tora Hylton

Excavations produced a small group of Saxon finds associated with a group of inhumation burials in Trench 30. The range of finds, although small, is not dissimilar to those recovered from other Saxon cemetery sites in the Anglian Region, namely Westgarth Gardens, Suffolk (West 1988) and Morning Thorpe, Norfolk (Green *et al*, 1987). In tandem with the pottery, the small finds recovered suggest a late 5th/6th century date.

In total there are 71 individually and group recorded finds making a total number of 88 individual objects/fragments.

The finds may be quantified by material type as follows:

Table 5: Quantification of finds

MATERIAL	TOTAL
Silver	1
Copper alloy	16
Iron objects	52
Glass	2
Total	71

The finds have been recorded on an access database, together with a description and stratigraphic information. Due to the lack of time between the completion of fieldwork and the production of the report, the finds have not yet been x-rayed. This will be undertaken and completed as soon as possible; once this and any conservation requirements have been completed, the database and the report will be updated. Some of the objects retain patches of mineralised organic remains, these include ferruginous wood deposits on the underside of the shield boss and the tang of a knife, together with possible organic remains (possibly leather) on a belt mount.

The Saxon grave goods

The Saxon artefacts were retrieved from a small inhumation cemetery sited in Trench 30. Four burials were excavated, Burials 1, 3 and 4 were orientated on an east-west alignment, their heads faced west and they had all been badly truncated by ploughing. Burial 2 was aligned north-west to south-east and the head faced north-west the body had been interred within the fill of a Bronze Age ring ditch and had therefore suffered much less damage. Burials 3 and 4 were sited next to each other; therefore soil disturbances make it difficult to be sure which inhumation some of the finds were originally associated with.

There was no evidence in any of the graves to suggest that either of the bodies had been interred in a coffin, therefore it is assumed that the bodies were laid in earth graves and dressed as for life. Three inhumations (1-3) were interred with items which would have formed part of their everyday dress, while one (4) was interred with a shield boss and a fragment of riveted copper alloy sheet, probably a rim repair for a wooden bowl.

Finally, two brooches and three buckle/belt mounts were recovered from topsoil deposits overlying Trench 30, although now unstratified, they probably originated from one or more of the four burials.

Table 6: List of finds recovered from each burial

Burial No	SF No	Small Finds	Comments
1	18	Fe strip	
	19	Glass bead	Norfolk yellow/red bead
	21	Cu sheet	
	57	Fe strip	?buckle tongue
	58	Cu strip	Wrist clasp?
	59	Cu brooch	Small-long brooch
	61	Cu cylinder	
	62	Fe nail	
	63	Fe object	
2	22	Ag fitting	
	39	Fe strip	
	40	Fe knife	
	41	Fe knife	
	53	Cu brooch	Flat annular brooch
	54	Cu cylinder	
	23	Cu brooch	Flat annular brooch
3	66	Glass bead	Wound spiral head – blue
	67	Cu sheet	
	96	Fe sheet fragments/rivets	?fragments from shield boss in Burial 4
	70-72		
	76		
	79		
	86		
	93		
	68		
	78	Cu buckle plate	
4	73-74	Fe sheet fragments/rivets	Shield boss
	80-85		
	87-115		
	77	Cu sheet	?repair of wooden bowl

The finds

With the exception of a copper alloy repair patch, possibly from a wooden bowl, the assemblage comprising a range of dress accessories, which would have formed part of everyday attire and include, brooches, possible wrist clasp, buckle-plate/mounts, beads, and a silver fitting, together with knives and the remains of a shield.

Brooches

Five brooches were recovered, three from inhumations and two from subsoil deposits in the vicinity of the burials. Two brooch types are represented, small-long brooches (x 1) and flat annular brooches (x 4), both types are well known in the Anglian Region and stylistically date to the late 5th/6th centuries.

With the exception of the iron pin, which survives as a mass of ferrous corrosion deposits, the small-long brooch (SF59) is complete (length: 75mm) (Figs 37 and 38). It was recovered from Burial 1 and was in the vicinity of the shoulder. Stylistically the head is similar to Leeds 'cross potent' brooch forms. The arms are rounded (cf Leeds 1945, fig 8, b-d) and there are V-shaped slits/notches at the junction of arms with the body of the head plates rather like the cross-potent derivatives group (cf Ibid 1945, fig 11, d); but unlike the previous example, the rebates in upper corners are not horizontal but oblique, rather like those of the cross-pattee forms (cf ibid, fig 13).

Small-long brooch, SF59 from Burial 1, front view (scale 20mm) Fig 38

Small-long brooch, SF59 from Burial 1, rear view (scale 20mm) Fig 39

The remaining four brooches are examples of the flat annular type. Two brooches were recovered from Burial 2 (SF23, 53), and two from topsoil/subsoil deposits overlying Trench 30 (SF44, 45). Of the brooches from Burial 2, one was located on the upper right arm and the other close to the edge of the grave on the right side of the legs; the latter example may have been displaced during burial. The brooches display similarities but they are not identical. They have both been manufactured with soldered lap joints, rather like an example from Westgarth Gardens, Suffolk (West 1988, fig 61, B). They differ in

size, ranging from 44mm to 48mm across, with ring thicknesses of 8mm and 6mm respectively; one brooch is decorated with a stamped motif and the pin is attached by means of a circular perforation opposite the lap joint (Fig 39) and the other is decorated with transverse grooves and is perforated through the lap joint (Fig 40). Originally they would have been worn as a pair at the shoulders (Lucy 2000, 31).The brooches recovered from topsoil/subsoil are incomplete, but available dimensions suggest that that they measure *c*51 mm and 44mm in diameter. The presence of soil and corrosion deposits make it difficult to determine the presence of ornamentation, but one appears to be decorated with transverse grooves and the other is plain.

Flat annular brooch, SF23, from Burial 2 (scale 20mm) Fig 40

Flat annular brooch, SF53, from Burial 2 (scale 20mm) Fig 41

Wrist clasp

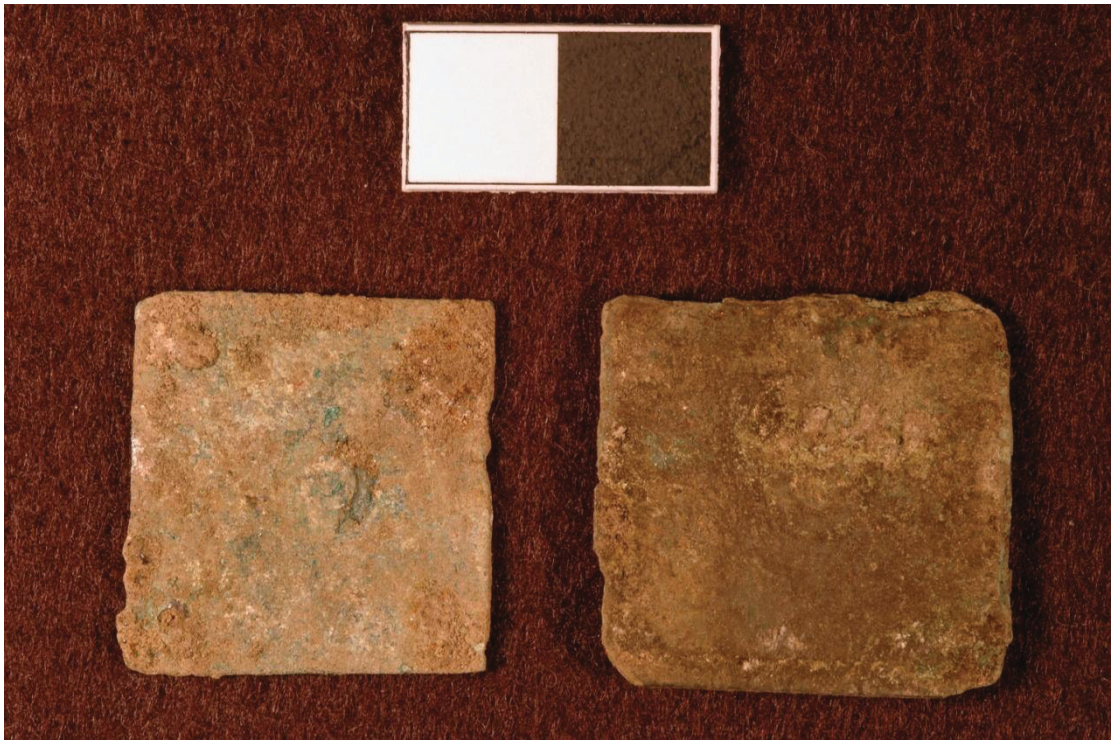
From Burial 1 a small rectangular strip (21 x 5mm) was recovered, but it is difficult to be sure where it was located in relation to the body. The strip is flat-sectioned and decorated with transverse grooves on one side, a common motif on wrist clasps; it would have been applied separately to a piece of bronze sheet. It is not dissimilar to the decorative strips applied to a pair of wrist clasps from Morning Thorpe, Norfolk (Green *et al*, 1987, fig 423, Grave 362 Fiii-Fiv) and Wakerley, Northamptonshire (Adams and Jackson 1990, Grave 70, 5-6) for which a 6th century date has been suggested (Ibid 1990, 155).

Fragment of wrist clasp, SF58, from Burial 1 (scale 10mm) Fig 42

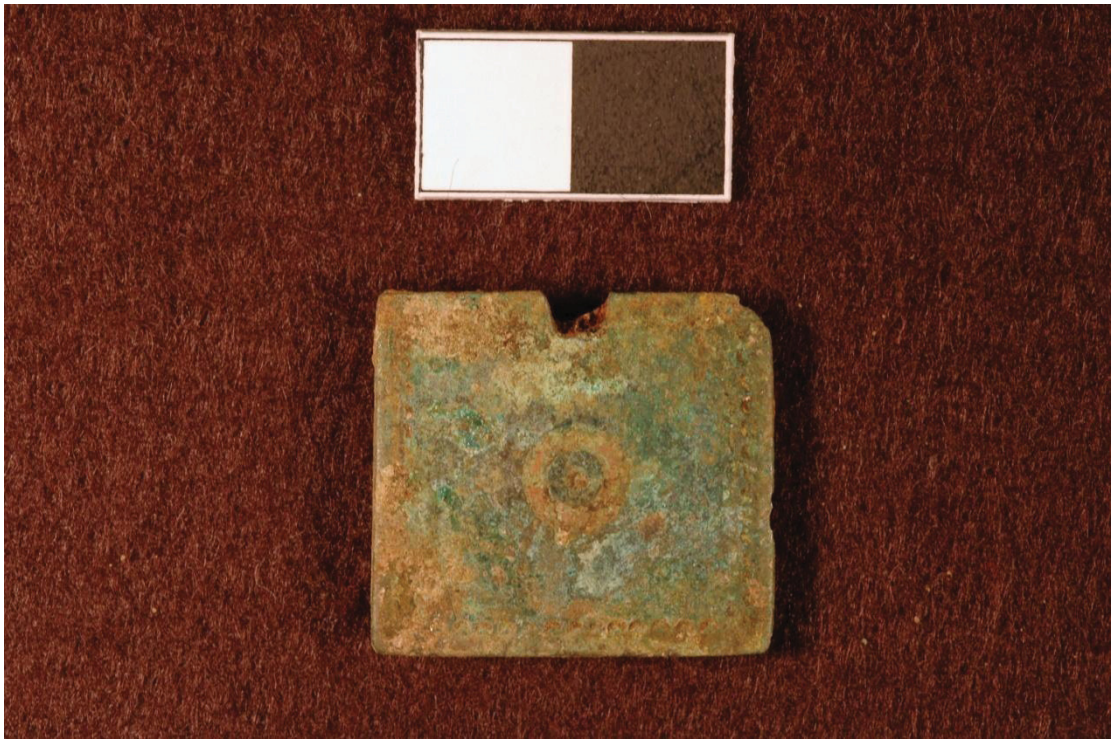
Belt mounts

Three squared belt mounts were recovered from subsoil deposits (SF43, 49), although not located together, it is obvious that they all originated from the same item, they are all decorated with the same motif. The plates vary in size (26 x 24mm, 27 x 27mm, 25 x 25), all four corners are perforated and 2 plates still retain all or nearly all their accompanying rivets and roves. One of the plates has a U-shaped notch on one side, presumably a recess for the pin, as seen on a belt mount from Buckland Cemetery, Dover (Evison 1987, fig 47, 4c). The plates are decorated with an enamelled ring at the centre of the plate and a punched motif in the form of marginally placed semi-circular stamps, rather like that seen on a buckle plate from inhumation 16 at Spong Hill (Hills *et al* 1984, fig 76, 2).

In addition, a plain parallel-sided copper alloy strip (SF78), was recovered from Burial 3. Now damaged, it measures 24 x 9mm and it would have been secured by ferrous metal rivets. It resembles a similar item from inhumation 38 at Spong Hill (1984, fig 92, 1ci).



Belt mounts, SF43 (scale 20mm) Fig 43



Belt mount, SF49 (scale 20mm) Fig 44

Miscellaneous fittings

A copper alloy cylinder (partially flattened) was recovered from Burial 2 (SF54), sited close to the lower right leg. It measures 19mm long and 4mm in diameter, it is manufactured from sheet metal and has been rolled to form a tapered cylinder with an edge to edge seam. It may be a lace chape rather like an example from Morning Thorpe Cemetery (Green *et al* 1987, fig 399, Grave 318, A).

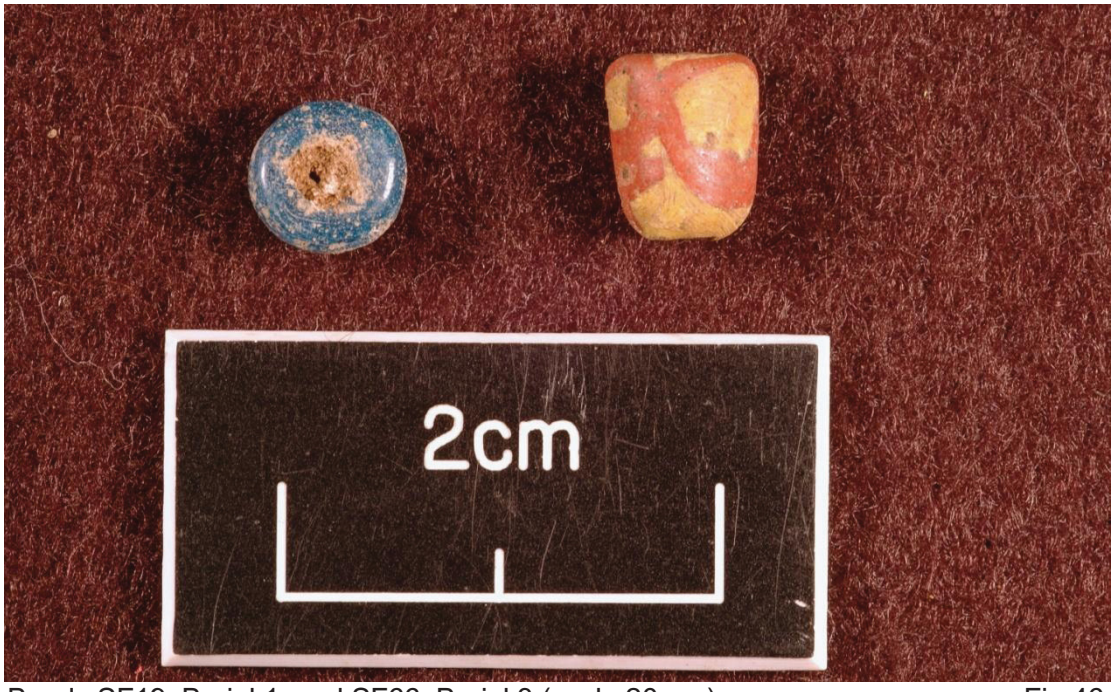
Fitting

A small silver fitting was on the left hand side of Burial 2 (SF22), between the skull and the shoulder. It is manufactured from a single piece of sheet of silver and comprises two incomplete (lower section missing) identical tapered sheets attached by means of an integral ribbed suspension loop.

Silver fitting, SF22, Burial 2 (scale 10mm) Fig 45

Beads

Just two glass beads were recovered, a cylindrical bead with red trail from Burial 1 (SF19), identified as a Norfolk yellow red bead (cf Brugmann, fig 147) and a monochrome wound spiral bead from Burial 3, in blue (SF66).



Beads SF19, Burial 1, and SF66, Burial 3 (scale 20mm) Fig 46

Knives
Two whittle-tang knives were recovered from Burial 2. One knife is complete but broken (SF40), it lay pointing up between the left side of the body and parallel to the inside of the left hand arm, perhaps suggesting that it had been attached to the left forearm, as with inhumations from Buckland, Dover (Evison 1987, 115). The other knife is incomplete (the tang is missing) and it was located close to the hip, perhaps indicating that it had been suspended from the waist (SF41). Both knives have parallel backs and cutting edges which taper to the tip of the blade, and may be paralleled by an example from Thetford (Rogerson and Dallas 1984, fig 124, 75). The blades measure 50-80mm in length, 16mm wide and the back of the blade measures 4mm. A distinctive projection on the cutting edge of SF 41, adjacent to tang indicates that the cutting edge has been heavily sharpened (cf. Rogerson and Dallas 1984, fig 123, 71-72).

Shield boss
The fragmented remains of an iron shield boss was recovered from Burial 4, it appeared to be concentrated over the putative abdomen/pelvis area. In total 46 individual fragments were recovered, in addition a further nine fragments were recovered from Burial 3 which lay close by. A shield boss is made up of the *flange*, the *wall*, the *cone* and the *apex* (cf Dickinson and Härke 1992,1), and all these parts are represented, together with parts of the carination (section in between the wall and the cone) and a possible stud head. The boss is manufactured from sheet metal measuring *c*3mm thick and available dimensions suggest that it would have measured *c*250mm in diameter with the flange measuring 20mm wide. Five flange fragments still retain rivets, these measure *c*9-10 mm in length and all have wood deposits surviving around the shank of the rivet and adhering to the underside of the flange. The apex is low with a flat sub-circular terminal. Although the fragmentary nature of this assemblage makes it difficult to characterise, overall the features suggest that this boss displays similarities to Dickinson and Härke's Types 1 and 2 (1992), this provides a date range of the later 5th and early 6th centuries. Finally there is one rectangular fragment which is perforated and may be part of the shield grip.

Bowl repair
A repair strip for wooden bowl was recovered from Burial 2 lying to the left hand side of the hand (SF77). It comprises a sheet fragment folded in half, the lower edge is convex and it is secured by a single copper alloy rivet in each corner; mineralised organic remains (wood) survive in between the sheets. The curvature of the piece suggests that the bowl would have measured *c*240mm in diameter. Similar items have been recovered from burials at Spong Hill (Hills, 1984, Grave 34, 1a-c) and Westgarth Gardens, Suffolk (West 1988, Grave 49).

Bowl repair, SF57, Burial 2 (scale 20mm) Fig 47

Post-medieval finds
There is a fragment of horse brass recovered from the topsoil in Trench 15 dated to the late 19th/20th centuries.

6 FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 The Animal bone by Karen Deighton

Introduction

A total of 236.5g of animal bone was collected by hand from eight contexts during the course of trial trenching. This material was assessed to establish the taxa present, the level of preservation, the potential contribution to the understanding of the site and to inform on future collection strategies.

Method

Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows, where tooth eruption and wear can be observed (Payne 1973 and Halstead 1985) and juvenile bones (Amorosi 1989). Animal bone from wet sieving (3.4mm and 1mm residues) was also included; sample sizes varied with context but were typically between 10 and 40 litres. Hand collected bones had previously been washed.

Results

Preservation
Fragmentation was heavy and surface abrasion was extremely heavy, only a single cattle molar survived intact. The high level of abrasion obscured any evidence from canid gnawing or butchery. This poor preservation is the result of acid soil conditions. Organic acids in the soil combine with bone minerals putting them into solution (Reitz

and Wing 1999). This mineral leaching leads to the loss of bone surfaces and to the bone becoming brittle. Brittle bone in turn leads to high fragmentation.

Taxa present
The taxa present are summarised in Tables 7 to 9 below

Table 7: Taxa by context (western area)

Cut/fill	Feature	Date	Cattle	L.ung	S.ung	total
404405	furrow		1			**1**
1206/1207	pit	I.A.		1		**1**
1505	ditch		1			**1**
Total			**2**	**1**		**3**

Table 8: Taxa by context (eastern area)

Cut/fill	Feature	Date	Cattle	L.ung	S.ung	total
2406	Barrow ditch			1		**1**
2508	Barrow ditch		1			**1**
3006	Barrow ditch		1			**1**
3078	Pit/grave				1	**1**
3405	pit	B.A.	2			**2**
Total			**4**	**1**	**1**	**6**
Context 2505 produced indeterminate bone fragments only						

Table 9: Bone from sieved samples (eastern area)

Cut/fill	Sample	Feature	Weight	Sheep/goat	Small ungulate	indeterminate
3013	8	Burial	3			+
3409	18	Pit	5		1	+
3042	19	Burial pit	29			+
3046	20	Burial pit	39	2		+
+=present						

Ageing and metrical data
Ageing and metrical data are summarised in Table 10

Table 10: ageing and metrical data available

Taxa	Tooth eruption and wear	Juvenile bone
Cattle	1	1
Sheep/goat	2	

Discussion
Due to the poor preservation little can be said of animal husbandry at the sites or the nature of bone deposition. It can only be stated that cattle and sheep/goat were utilised at the sites. A small amount of identifiable bone was present and some aging data was available, therefore further collection of bone during any subsequent excavations may provide an idea of the range of animals associated with the sites. Assessment has shown a small poorly preserved assemblage that features two common domesticates.

6.2 The charred plant remains by Karen Deighton

Introduction

A total of 19 samples were collected by hand from a range of contexts during the course of excavation. This material was processed and assessed to determine the presence, preservation and nature of any ecofacts and to inform on further sampling strategies.

Method

The samples were processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots and residues were dried. The flots were then sorted with the aid of a stereoscopic microscope (10 x magnifications) and residues were scanned. Any charred plant remains were identified with the aid of the author's small reference collection, Cappers *et al* 2006 and Jacomet 1996 and the SCRI website.

Results

Preservation

Preservation was solely by charring. Fragmentation was low, but surface abrasion was fairly heavy, due to acidic soil conditions. This latter factor adversely affected identification, particularly in the case of cereal grains and pulses.

Taxonomic distribution

The taxonomic distribution is given in Tables 11 & 12:

Table 11: Ecofacts by context (Western area)

Cut/fill	Sample	Feature type	Period	Volume	Charcoal	Cereal indet	Wheat/ barley	Spelt	Barley	Wheat	Pulse	Fat hen	Sheep sorel	Sneedwell	Rumex
1104/1105	1	Pit		40	5000+		2							1	
1206/1209	2	Pit	Iron Age	40	300	17		1	3	9	1	3		1	1
1411/1412	5	Ditch	Roman	40											
1504/1505	3	Ditch	Roman	40	100	4		2	3	3		13	1		
1604/1605	4	Pit		10	100	4						2			
1604/1609	6	Pit		8	1000				2	1	1	46		1	1
1606/1608	7	Ditch	Roman	40											

Table 12: Ecofacts by context (eastern area)

Cut/fill	Sample No	Feature type	Period	Volume	Charcoal	Cereal	Naked barley	Fat hen	Sheep Sorel	Speedwell	Nutshell	Indet
3012/3013	8	Burial1	Saxon	40	20			100				
3020/3021	9	Burial2	Saxon	40	10			18	1			2
3040/3042	19	Burial 3	Saxon	20	sterile			50				
3044/3046	20	Burial 4	Saxon	20	20							
3203/3202	17	Cremation 1		20	100	1		2				
3404/3405	12	Pit	Bronze Age	10	1000+					1	24	
3408/3409	18	Pit	Bronze Age	20	3000+	1	1	2			156	
3511/3513	10	Ditch		20	500							
3511/3515	11	Ditch		20	1000+			3				
3803/3804	16	Pit		10	3000+							
4304/4305	14	Pit		40	50			1		2		
4404/4405	15	Pit		40	20					2	3	

Discussion

The nutshell was hazel nut (*Corylus avellana*) which is not unusual in Neolithic/Bronze age contexts, for example hazelnut was the most common category of charred plant remains recovered from Neolithic pits at Kilverstone (Ballantyne and Roberts 2006). The wild/weed taxa present were typical crop weeds. The majority of samples appear to be background; that is material washed or blown into the features from activities taking place elsewhere. Sample 18 from pit [3408], however, could represent an episode of deliberate burning or cumulative remains from a number of events as could samples 1 and 16.

Ecofacts were recovered from all samples, although they add little to the interpretation of the site, their presence and reasonable level of preservation suggests that further sampling should not be ruled out should any further excavation take place. The fact that well preserved identifiable ecofacts are present indicates that further sampling of suitable phaseable/dateable contexts could result in the recovery of material that could aid the understanding of the site.

Assessment has shown a small range of well preserved ecofacts and indicates that further sampling during the course of any subsequent excavation could be viable. It would be possible to establish which crops grew at the site and maybe to define activity areas and make comparisons with nearby contemporary sites and more regional sites such as Kilverstone (Ballantyne and Roberts 2006, Ballantyne 2006).

7 THE HUMAN REMAINS by Sarah Inskip

The four Saxon inhumations (late 5th – 6th centuries AD) were poorly preserved as a result of the sandy acidic soils, and were also disturbed. Although the remains were largely from four adult individuals, one child was represented by a piece of frontal bone. Comparisons of pathological, metric and non metric data with that obtained from other sites were not possible. From what little remains were present it was possible to see that there was nothing unusual about the burials in terms of the age and sex as well as the burial rites accorded to them. The Saxon cremation deposit appeared to represent a single adult individual but was highly fragmented and incomplete. Pyre temperatures around 600˚C are suggested by the white to grey colouration of the bone fragments.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this report is to present the results of the macroscopic analysis of the bone. This includes age, sex, stature and pathology. The objective of this is to assess how the skeletal material fits within the local and contemporaneous setting. However, it should be borne in mind that statistically viable comparisons to other sites are not possible due to the small sample size and incompleteness of the burials. Furthermore, aggressive local soil conditions have limited the potential to compare neighbouring sites where bone is also poorly preserved. Details of the methods employed are presented in Appendix 2.

Results

Burial 1
Preservation: Poor
Completeness: <25%
Age: Adult
Sex: ?

Burial 1 contained the bones of at least two adults. The remains consisted of three tibiae (two right and one left), a right radius, one fibula, a piece of frontal and a small fragment of proximal humerus. It was not possible to place the individuals to a specific age categories as there was no evidence for age on any of the bones. The extremely poor preservation prevented any observation of pathology whether present or absent.

Burial 2
Preservation: Poor
Completeness: 25 -50 %
Age: Middle - Old
Sex: ?

This individual had substantial dental wear on the anterior teeth and extensive wear on left upper molar one (5+ or greater based on Brothwell (1981)). Caries were present on the lower left molar 2, the upper left canine and upper left premolar 1. Grade 1 calculus was observed on the lower left canine and lower left incisor 2.

There was no evidence for cribra orbitalia on the roof of the orbits. There were no hypoplastic bands on observable teeth. It was not possible to make any observations for osteoarthritis as the joint surfaces were fragmented and eroded.

Burial 3
Preservation: Fair
Completeness: 25 - 50%
Age: Young - Middle
Sex: ?Male

The individual had no dental caries but calculus was present on the surface of all observable teeth except lower left molar 2. Calculus on the upper teeth was largely limited to the buccal surfaces where as the lower teeth were affected on the buccal and lingual surfaces. The severity ranged from grade 1 to 2. There was no evidence of hypoplasia on any of the remaining teeth.

There was no cribra orbitalia in the right orbit of burial 3, the left orbit was unobservable. Osteoarthritis (new bone growth and sclerosis) was observed on the

apophyseal facet of the lumbar vertebrae. The left knee, the left ankle and distal right radius were not affected by osteoarthritis.

Burial 4
Preservation: Fair
Completeness: 50 -75%
Age: Young
Sex: ?Male

Stature: 1.79m (from left ulna)

The only dental pathology was grade 1 calculus on the labial surfaces of lower right incisors 1 and 2. There was no hypoplasia on the dentitions that were available for observation. It was not possible to examine for the presence for cribra orbitalia as no orbital roof remained.
New bone growth has formed on the fibular articulation of the right proximal tibia. Trauma to the joint including muscle and ligament tear can cause subsequent ossification of the soft tissues. Costovertebral osteoarthritis was identified on a right middle rib head (pitting and new bone growth). There was no evidence of osteoarthritis in the right and left wrists, the bones of the hands and the right knee.

A small fragment of juvenile frontal bone was identified in Burial 4. The fragment could not belong to Burial 3 either due to immature nature of the bone. A large fragment of sheep tibia was contained in the remains of Burial 4.

Cremation 1
The total weight of the cremated bone is 106g. The longest fragment is 38.2 mm

Table 13: Sieve section weights for the cremated deposit

Sieve size (mm)	10	5	2	1	<1
Weight (g)	3	63	39	<1	>1
% of cremation	(3%)	(60%)	(36%)	(<1%)	(<1%)

Modern studies demonstrate that a complete cremated adult skeletons should produce in excess of 1kg of bone (Mays 2010:326, McKinley 2000:404) and juveniles around 0.5kg (Trotter and Hixon 1974). This demonstrates that the cremated deposit excavated from Thetford is substantially incomplete. As cremated bone survives well in soil (Mays 2010:321), it seems that some other factor may be responsible for the loss of bone. As a significant amount of disturbance has occurred at the site, it is not possible to comment further on this anomaly.

A third of the material was found in the 2mm or smaller sieve section (see Table 13). This obviously had an impact on the amount of material that was identifiable; the smaller the fragment, the poorer the chances are of identification (McKinley 1997:69). Identified elements included skull vault plates, mandible, a third molar, and many small long bone fragments. When taking into consideration how little bone remains, and that trabecular bone tends to disintegrate after cremation (McKinley 1997), the elemental representation does not arouse concern.

The presence of a fully developed third molar suggests that the individual is adult (over 21 years) (Ubelaker (1978). There was no evidence for sex in this individual. Pathology, whether absent or present was not observable due to the fragmentation and incompleteness.

The bone fragments were white and grey in colour. This indicates that temperatures around and above 600˚C were achieved on the pyre. While not directly

contemporaneous, the Bronze Age cremated deposits at Fison Way were also white in colour (Gregory 1991:174).

Discussion

Prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon activity in and around Thetford is plentiful and subject to at least seven EAA reports. All sites have in common poor survival of inhumed bone. In fact at Fison Way (Gregory 1991), Red Castle Furze (Andrews 1995), Brandon Way (Dallas 1993) and Thetford, North of the River (Andrews and Penn 1999) all stated that osteological analysis was limited due to the aggressive nature of the soil. As such, the poor preservation of the remains here is unsurprising and macroscopic analysis was severely limited. In addition to a common preservation trend, incompleteness and fragmentation also appears to be a frequent occurrence from the sites in and around Thetford. Similar incompleteness was seen at the North of the river excavations (Andrews and Penn 1999) and Illington (Davidson *et al* 1993). This damage from ploughing and other disturbances further prevents collection of stature estimates and inhibits the collection of non-metric data.

The small number of individuals found during the excavations was also seen at many of the other Thetford sites. Two articulated burials and disarticulated material were found in the Thetford, north of the river excavations (Andrews and Penn 1999). Two isolated adult burials and a neonate were excavated at Red Castle Furze (Andrews 1995) while at Brandon Way, five inhumations were identified by Dallas (1993). Four inhumations were found in a large cremation cemetery (N ≈ 104) in Illington (Davidson *et al* 1993, 100).

Regardless of this, from what could be observed, there was nothing unusual about the burials or the individuals contained with in them. Adults of all ages are represented at the site. The dearth of child remains is not surprising considering the aggressive soil conditions. Greater susceptibility to poor soil conditions has been used by Mays (2010, 28) to explain why most cemetery sites lack child remains. The absence of os coxae fragments inhibited the ability to sex the remains and as such only Burials 3 and 4 could have a tentative sex attributed to them. Some of the remains (including the hands) in Burials 3 and 4 have also become mixed.

In terms of the regional and local trends, it should be remembered that the limited numbers of individuals only permits broad comparison. A number of features observed at Thetford are common to the Anglo-Saxon period. First is the presence of multiple inhumations. At Lynford, 7 miles north-west of Thetford, a double burial was found in 1867. Double burials were also found at Great Chesterford in Essex (Evison 1994). Anglo-Saxons often buried their dead on pre-existing burial sites and graves are commonly found on Bronze Age ditches and barrows (Daniell and Thompson 1999, 68) as is the case at Thetford.

Inhumation in East Anglia in the early Anglo-Saxon period is more unusual where cremation tended to be the dominant rite (Williams 2002:55). However, a mixed cemetery (dating between 500 – 600 AD) containing four inhumations can be found at near by Illington, 11km northwest of Thetford (Davidson *et al* 1993:1). Early Saxon child burial and other remains were also found at Brandon Road, Thetford (Atkins and Connor 2010). The discovery of early Saxon burials and inhumations here is therefore not unique to the area. In fact Daniell and Thompson (1999) suggest that 5th–6th century cemeteries typically contain a mixture of burial rites making the small cluster found here at Thetford entirely normal for the region.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The trial trenching evaluation targeted areas of significant potential, as highlighted by the previous non intrusive evaluations, and was successful in characterising known archaeological features and identifying new, previously unrecognised features.

In the western part of the evaluation area, the trenching confirmed that the Iron Age and early Roman features that formed part of the Fisons Way Scheduled Monument continued to the north. Other ditches at the east and south-east may also be related. A large area of magnetic disturbance identified by the previous geophysical survey in Field 3 was demonstrated to relate to post-medieval or modern quarrying activity.

In the eastern part of the evaluation area, the locations of the two ring ditches identified by aerial photography and geophysical survey and interpreted as Bronze Age barrows were confirmed. The barrows were shown to be part of a more extensive prehistoric landscape which included a number of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age pits that produced a range of artefacts and ecofacts. This landscape appears similar to that excavated at Kilverstone 1km to the south-east (Garrow *et al*, 2006).

There was little direct evidence for later prehistoric and Roman activity in the eastern area. The presence of Iron Age pottery in some features may indicate that the barrows remained a focus into this period, although Iron Age and Roman pottery occurs in the upper fills of the barrow ditches, possibly suggesting that the areas were under agriculture.

However, the barrows must have been still visible in the early Anglo-Saxon period when they became a focus for inhumation burials. The monuments may have acted as a centre for wider activity in this period since a ditch and a possible cremation occur immediately to the south.

Overall, the evaluation confimed that the presence of artefacts within the topsoil, recovered by metal detecting and fieldwalking, probably derived from extant below ground features. However, it is clear that it is attrition from ploughing that is bringing such artefacts to the surface. Plough scars were visible in most trenches and the depth of subsoil across both the eastern and western areas was often minimal or non-existent.

The exception to the correlation between fieldwalking artefacts and below ground features occurred in Field 21. Here, relatively extensive pottery scatters did not match any below ground features and it is unclear from where the ploughsoil finds derived unless they simply represent manuring of the site in the Roman and medieval periods.

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Appendix 1: Context list

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1	101	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.30m thick	
	102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.30m thick	
	103	Natural	Gravel with flint		
	104	Quarry pit	Ovoid cut	*c* 30m wide 1.6m deep	
	105	Fill of [104]	Dark grey-brown sandy clay mixed with orange and light grey clays. Frequent gravel inclusions.	1.6m thick	18th century pottery, modern detritus
2	201	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.40m thick	
	202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.09m thick	
	203	Natural	Gravel with flint		
3	301	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.30m thick	
	302	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.10m thick	
	303	Natural	Gravel with flint		
4	401	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.30m thick	
	402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.15m thick	
	403	Natural	Sand with flint		
	404	Furrow	Cut of plough furrow:	3.50m wide	
	405	Fill of [404]	Fill of plough furrow: light brown sandy clay, occasional charcoal flecks		19th century pottery, bone
5	501	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.24m thick	
	502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.19m thick	
	503	Natural	Sand withflint		
	504	Natural	Gravel		
6	601	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.30m thick	
	602	Subsoil	Subsoil: mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.14m thick	
	603	Natural	Natural sand with flint		
7	701	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.23m thick	
	702	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.16m thick	
	703	Natural	Sand with flint		
	704	Ditch	V-shaped, Aligned north-south	1.00m wide 0.62m deep	
	705	Fill of [704]	Light grey-brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.62m thick	

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
	706	Ditch or gully	U-shaped profile with rounded base. Aligned north-west to south-east	1.4m wide 0.40m deep	
	707	Fill	Light grey brown slightly silty sand. Occasional flint inclusions.	0.40m thick	
8	801	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.33m thick	
	802	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.19m thick	
	803	Natural	Sand with flint		
	804	Ditch	U-shaped profile. Aligned north-east to south-west	1.00m wide 0.35m deep	
	805	Fill of [804]	Light grey-brown sandy clay. Occasional flint inclusions	0.35m thick	
9	901	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.33m thick	
	902	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.13m thick	
	903	Natural	Sand with flint		
10	1001	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.31m thick	
	1002	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.19m thick	
	1003	Natural	Sand with flint		
	1004	Ditch	Broad U-shaped ditch aligned north-west to south-east	1.10m wide 0.23m deep	
	1005	Fill of [1004]	Light brown sandy silt, moderate flint inclusions	0.23m deep	
	1006	Ditch	U-shape ditch with rounded base aligned east to west.	1.30m wide 0.46m deep	
	1007	Fill of [1006]	Light brown sandy silt, moderate flint inclusions	0.46m thick	
	1008	Ditch	Ditch aligned north-east to south-west. Unexcavated		
	1009	Fill of [1009]	Fill of 1008. Light brown sandy silt. Unexcavated		
11	1101	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.30m thick	
	1102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.19m thick	
	1103	Natural	Sand with flint		
	1104	Pit	Oval, steep sides with rounded base	0.70m wide 0.24m deep	
	1105	Fill of [1104]	Dark brown black sandy ash clay with charcoal and flint inclusions		Sample 1
12	1201	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.28m thick	
	1202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.16m thick	
	1203	Natural	Sand with flint		

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
	1204	Ditch	Vertical sides with a flat base. Aligned north-east to south-west	0.84m wide 0.50m deep	
	1205	Fill of [1204]	Mid brown silt sand with flint inclusions	0.50m thick	
	1206	Pit	Circular pit, shallow sides and rounded base	1.05m wide 0.57m deep	
	1207	Fill of [1206]	Light brown-grey silty sand. Flint and charcoal inclusions	0.20m thick	Iron Age pottery, bone, bone
	1208	Fill of [1206]	Brown silty sand, flint and charcoal inclusions	0.15m thick	Iron Age pottery, flint
	1209	Fill of [1206]	Dark brown silt sand, flint and charcoal inclusions	0.22m thick	Iron Age pottery, Sample 2
	1210	Ditch	U-shaped profile with flattish base. Aligned north-east to south-west	2.20m wide 0.55m deep	
	1211	Fill of [1210]	Light grey-brown silt sand, occasional flint inclusions	0.15m thick	
	1212	Fill of [1210]	Mid brown silt sand. Charcoal and flint inclusions.	0.40m thick	Flint
	1213	Gully	U-shaped profile with flat base Aligned north-east to south-west.	0.55m wide 0.19m deep	
	1214	Fill [1213]	Mid brown silt sand	0.19m thick	Flint
	1215	Fill of [1206]	Reddish brown clay sand.	0.06m	
	1216	Natural	Same as (1203)		
	1217	Ditch	V-shaped profile. Aligned east-west	0.80m wide 0.38m deep	
	1218	Fill of [1217]	Light brown sandy silt with flint inclusions.	0.38m thick	
13	1301	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.29m thick	
	1302	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.08m thick	
	1303	Natural	Sand with flint		
	1304	Pit	Circular. Uneven sides and rounded base	0.65m diameter 0.15m deep	
	1305	Fill of [1304]	Light brown silt sand occasional flint inclusions	0.15m	
	1306	Pit	Oval shallow sided with flattish base	0.90m wide 0.38m deep	
	1307	Fill of [1306]	Brown silt sand. Occasional flint inclusions	0.38m	Iron Age pottery
	1308	Ditch	Gently sloping sides with a flattish base. Aligned east to west	2.50m wide 0.54m deep	
	1309	Fill of [1308]	Secondary fill of ditch. Light grey-brown silt sand. Moderate flint	0.40m thick	

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			inclusions		
	1310	Fill of [1308]	Primary fill of ditch. Dark grey-brown silt sand. Moderate flint inclusions	0.32m thick	
14	1401	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.30m thick	
	1402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions 0.13m thick		
	1403	Natural	Sand with flint		
	1404	Gully	U-shaped profile. Aligned south-east to north-west	0.70m wide 0.40m deep	
	1405	Fill of [1404]	Mid brown sandy silt	0.40m thick	
	1406	Ditch	Corner of U-shaped ditch with slightly rounded base. Aligned north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east	1.70m wide 0.40m deep	
	1407	Fill of [1406]	Light grey-brown silt sand. Moderate flint inclusions		Iron Age pottery
	1408	Gully	Irregular plan and profile possibly disturbed by root action. Flat base. Aligned east-west	1.10m wide 0.32m deep	
	1409	Fill of [1408]	Secondary fill of gully. Dark brown-grey sand. Occasional flint and charcoal inclusions.	0.15m thick	Iron Age pottery
	1410	Fill of [1408]	Primary fill of gully. Mid grey-brown silt sand. Moderate flint inclusion.	0.26m thick	
	1411	Ditch	U-shaped profile. Southern edge truncated by [1414]. Aligned east to west	0.90m wide 0.74m deep	
	1412	Fill of [1411]	Primary fill of ditch. Light brown-grey silt sand. Moderate flint and charcoal inclusions	0.74m thick	Iron Age pottery, Sample 5
	1413	Fill of [1411]	Secondary fill of ditch. Light brown sand silt. Moderate flint and charcoal inclusions	0.48m thick	
	1414	Ditch	V-shaped ditch. 1.65m wide. 1.1m deep. Aligned east to west		
	1415	Fill of [1414]	Primary fill of ditch. Grey-brown silt sand. Occasional flint and charcoal inclusions.	0.79m thick	Flint
	1416	Fill of [1414]	Secondary fill of ditch. Yellow brown sand. Moderate flint and charcoal inclusions	0.49m deep	
	1417	Fill of [1414]	Tertiary fill of ditch. Brown-grey silt sand.	0.13m	

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			Occasional flint and charcoal inclusions		
15	1501	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.23m thick	
	1502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.18m thick	
	1503	Natural	Sand with flint		
	1504	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch. Aligned north to south.	1.58m wide 0.42m deep	
	1505	Fill of [1504]	Light grey-brown silt sand. Occasional flint inclusions		Roman pottery, bone, Sample 3
	1506	Posthole	Oval posthole. 0.50m long, 0.40m wide, 0.10m deep.		
	1507	Fill of [1506]	Dark grey-brown silt sand. Occasional flint inclusions		
	1508	Pit	Oval pit. 1.10m long, >0.80m wide, 0.16m deep. Flat base		
	1509	Fill 0f [1508]	Dark grey-brown silt sand. Occasional flint inclusions		
	1510	Ditch	Curvilnear ditch with a shallow slightly uneven, rounded profile	1.42m wide 0.32m deep	
	1511	Fill of [1510]	Dark brown silt sand. Occasional flint inclusions	0.32m thick	
	1512	Cut	Linear feature not excavated		
16	1601	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.24m thick	
	1602	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.17m thick	
	1603	Natural	Sand with flint		
	1604	Pit	Circular pit, U-shaped profile with a rounded base.	0.55m diameter 0.18m deep	
	1605	Fill of [1604]	Dark grey-brown sand. Moderate flint inclusions	0.18m thick	Sample 4
	1606	Ditch	V-shaped profile. Aligned north to south	1.10m wide 0.79m deep	
	1607	Fill of [1606]	Primary fill of ditch. Yellowish brown sand. Occasional flint and charcoal inclusions	0.78m thick	
	1608	Fill of [1606]	Dark brown silt sand. Occasional flint and charcoal inclusions	0.54m thick	Iron Age and Roman pottery, Sample 7
	1609	Fill of [1604]	Very dark grey sand. Frequent charcoal.	0.06m	Sample 6
	1610	Cut	Possible gully. Not excavated		
	1611	Ditch	Broad U-shaped profile with shallow sides.	>0.97m wide 0.60m deep	

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			Aligned north to south		
	1612	Fill of [1611]	Grey-brown silt sand	0.60m	
	1613	Ditch	Steep eastern side and shallow western side, Aligned north-west to south-east	2.00m wide 0.55m deep	
	1614	Fill of [1613]	Primary fill of ditch. Dark grey-brown sand silt. Occasional flint inclusions	0.35m thick	Roman pottery
	1615	Fill of [1613]	Secondary fill of ditch. Mid brown sandy clay. Occasional rounded stones.	0.20m thick	
	1616	Cut	Possible gully. Not excavated		
	1617	Fill of [1616]	Not excavated		
17	1701	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.25m thick	Roman pottery
	1702	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.16m thick	
	1703	Natural	Sand with flint		
18	1801	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.20m thick	
	1802	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	
	1803	Natural	Sand with flint		
19	1901	Topsoil	Grey-brown humic loam	0.22m thick	
	1902	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.12m thick	
	1903	Natural	Sand with flint		
20	2001	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.38m thick	
	2002	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.23m thick	
	2003	Natural	Sand with flint		
	2004	Quarry	Unexcavated quarry pit	> 30m wide	
	2005	Fill of [2004]	Fill of 2004		19th century pottery
21	2101	Topsoil	Grey-brown humic loam	0.39m thick	
	2102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.21m thick	
	2103	Natural	Natural: sand/flint		
	2104	Quarry	Same as 2004	> 30m wide	
	2105	Fill [2105]	Fill of 2104		19th century pottery
22	2201	Topsoil	Grey-brown sandy clay	0.26 thick	
	2202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.12m thick	
	2203	Natural	Chalk with sand		
	2204	Natural	Sandy deposit		
23	2301	Topsoil	Grey-brown sandy clay	0.26m thick	
	2302	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.12m thick	
	2303	Natural	Chalk with sand		
	2304	Natural	Sandt		
24	2401	Topsoil	Grey-brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	Flint
	2402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.20m thick	
	2403	Natural	Chalk with sand		
	2404	Barrow ditch	Northern side of Barrow 1. Dish shaped profile with a flattish base.	3.68m wide 1.08m deep	
	2405	Fill of [2404]	Final surviving fill of ditch. Mid orange-brown sandy clay, moderate	0.30m thick	Roman pottery, flint

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			flint and chalk inclusions		
	2406	Fill of [2404]	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Moderate flint and occasional chalk inclusions	0.25m thick	Flint, bone
	2407	Fill of [2404]	Light grey-brown silty sand. Frequent flint and occasional chalk inclusions	0.07m thick	Flint
	2408	Fill of [2404]	Light brown-grey silty sand. Very occasional flint and chalk inclusions	0.08m thick	
	2409	Fill of [2404]	Primary silting of ditch. Light grey silty sand. Moderated chalk inclusions.	0.05m thick	
	2410	Fill of [2404]	Primary silting of ditch. Light brown silty sand. Occasional chalk inclusions	0.08m thick	
25	2501	Topsoil	Grey-brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	
	2502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	
	2503	Natural	Chalk with sand		
	2504	Barrow ditch	Eastern side of Barrow 1. An almost V-shaped profile but with less steep sides and a slightly rounded base.	3.10m wide 0.80m deep	
	2505	Fill of [2504]	Final surviving fill of ditch. Mid orange-brown sandy clay. Occasional flint, very occasional chalk inclusions	0.21m thick	Flint, bone
	2506	Fill of [2504]	Mid grey-brown sandy loam. Moderate flint, very occasional chalk inclusions	0.25m thick	
	2507	Fill of [2504]	Light grey-brown silty sand. Very frequent flint and occasional chalk inclusions.	0.12m thick	
	2508	Fill of [2504]	Light brown-grey silty sand. Occasional flint and chalk inclusions	0.13m thick	Flint, bone
	2509	Fill of [2504]	Light grey silty sand. Occasional chalk inclusions	0.10m thick	
	2510	Fill of [2504]	Primary fill of ditch. Light brown silty sand. Occasional chalk inclusions		
26	2601	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.28m thick	
	2602	Subsoil	Mid brownish-grey sandy loam	0.21m thick	
	2603	Natural	White chalk and flint, mixed with light brown		

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			sand		
27	2701	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.26m thick	
	2702	Subsoil	Mid brownish-grey sandy loam	0.11m thick	
	2703	Natural	White chalk and flint, mixed with light brown sand		
28	2801	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.26m thick	
	2802	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.10m thick	
	2803	Natural	White chalk and flint, mixed with light brown sand		
29	2901	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.26m thick	
	2902	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.11m thick	
	2903	Natural	White chalk, mixed with light brown sand		
30	3001	Topsoil	Grey-brown sandy clay	0.26m thick	
	3002	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.09m thick	
	3003	Natural	Chalk		
	3004	Natural	Sand		
	3005	Barrow ditch	Northern side of Barrow 2. Steep near vertical northern, outer edge, more shallow interior edge. Flat base.	3.6m wide, 0.86m deep	
	3006	Fill of [3005]	Final surviving fill. Mottled orange-brown sand moderate flint and occasional chalk inclusions	0.22m thick	Roman pottery, bone
	3007	Fill of [3005]	Dark brown-grey silty sand. Occasional flint and very occasional chalk inclusions	0.36m thick	Iron Age and Roman pottery, flint
	3008	Fill of [3005]	Grey-brown silty sand with very frequent flint inclusions	0.23m thick	
	3009	Fill of [3005]	Light orange-brown silty sand	0.15m thick	
	3010	Fill of [3005]	Primary fill of ditch. Mottled light brown sand with very frequent chalk	0.17m thick	
	3011		Not allocated		
	3012	Burial 1	Heavily disturbed inhumation comprising a few scattered bones accompanied by dress accessories and other small finds. Possibly aligned east to west. No grave cut was visible		SF 18, 19, 21, 57,58, 59, 61, 62, 63
	3013	Fill of [3012]	Grey-brown silty sand. Frequent flint inclusions		Sample 8
	3014 -		Not allocated		

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
	3018				
	3019	Burial 2	Inhumation. Supine, probably extended but poor bone survival makes interpretation difficult. Skull turned to south. Aligned north-west to south-east with head to the north-west. Accompanied by dress accessories.		SF 22, 39, 40, 41, 53, 54, 23
	3020	Grave cut	Cut for Burial 2. Sub rectangular cut with steep near vertical sides. The base is slightly stepped and slopes to the south	1.75m long 0.60m deep	
	3021	Fill of [3020]	Dark brown mottled with orange silty sand. Moderate flint inclusions	0.60m thick	Iron Age pottery, Sample 9
	3022	Barrow ditch	Southern side of Barrow 2. Bowl shaped cut with uneven sides and base.	3.8m wide 0.78m deep	
	3023	Fill of [3022]	Latest surviving fill of Barrow ditch. Light grey-brown sand with moderate chalk inclusions	0.10m thick	
	3024	Fill of [3022]	Orange-brown sand. Very occasional flint inclusions	0.19m thick	
	3025	Fill of [3022]	Dark brown-grey silty sand. Moderate flint and occasional chalk inclusions	0.38m thick	
	3026	Fill of [3022]	Orange mottled with grey sand with very frequent flint inclusions	0.32m thick	
	3027	Fill of [3022]	Light yellowish brown sand with moderate chalk and occasional flint inclusions	0.12m thick	
	3028 - 3037		Not allocated		
	3038	Possible ditch terminal	East to west aligned ditch. Shallow, bowl shaped profile with flat base.	>1.6m wide 0.65m deep	
	3039	Fill of [3038]	Greyish-brown silty sand. Frequent flint and very occasional flint inclusions	0.65m thick	
	3040	Grave cut	Very shallow grave cut for Burial 3. Aligned east to west. Flat based	1.95m long 0.70m wide 0.05m deep	
	3041	Burial 3	Supine, possibly extended inhumation, aligned east to west with		SF 66-68, 96, 70-72, 76, 78, 79,

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			head to the west. The poor condition of the bones makes further interpretation difficult. Positioned immediately to the south of Burial 4. The relationship between the two graves was not possible to establish. May be a double burial		86, 93
	3042	Fill of [3040]	Mid grey-brown silty sand. Very occasional flint inclusions		Sample 19
	3043		Not allocated		
	3044	Grave cut	Very shallow grave cut for Burial 4. May be the same cut as [3040] but too shallow to establish. Aligned east to west. Flat based.	1.94m long 0.40m wide 0.05m deep	
	3045	Burial 4	Supine, extended inhumation, aligned east to west with head to the west. The poor condition of the bones makes further interpretation difficult. Positioned immediately to the north of Burial 3. The relationship between the two graves was not possible to establish. May be a double burial		SF 73-74, 7780-85, 87-115,
	3046	Fill of [3044]	Mid grey-brown silty sand. Very occasional flint inclusions	0.05m thick	Roman pottery, bone, Sample 20
	3047-3073		Not allocated		
	3074	Possible ditch	Irregular linear feature, possibly a ditch terminal aligned east to west. Has a bowl like profile and a rounded base. Extends beyond eastern trench edge	>1.20m long 1m wide 0.20m deep	
	3075	Fill of [3074]	Primary fill. Grey silty sand. Occasional flint and very occasional chalk inclusions	0.14m thick	
	3076	Fill of [3074]	Secondary fill. Very dark brown, ash stained silty sand. Very occasional charcoal, flint and chalk inclusions	0.06m thick	
	3077	Possible pit	A very shallow pit. Bowl-shaped profile with a rounded base.	0.95m diameter 0.14m deep	

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
	3078	Fill of [3077]	Light grey silty sand. Very occasional chalk and flint inclusions	0.14m thick	Bone
	3079-3097		Not allocated		
31	3101	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.40m thick	
	3102		Not used		
	3103	Natural	Chalk with bands of orange sand		
	3104	Pit	Oval pit, extends beyond southern edge of trench. Aligned north to south. Steep rounded sides merge with uneven base	>1.2m long 1.2m wide 0.20m deep	
	3105	Fill of [3104]	Light grey-brown silty sand. Moderate chalk and very occasional flint inclusions	0.20m thick	
	3106	Pit	Circular pit. Very shallow sides merge with flat base.	1.00m diameter 0.17m deep	
	3107	Fill of [3106]	Dark brown silt sand. Moderate decayed chalk and very occasional flint inclusions	0.17m deep	
	3108	Pit	Oval pit, continues beneath southern edge of trench. Steep U-shaped profile with rounded base	0.60m long >0.45m wide 0.40m deep	
	3109	Fill of [3108]	Dark grey-brown silty sand. Occasional flintand chalk inclusions	0.45m thick	
	3110	Pit	Lenticular shaped pit. Shallow, uneven sides merge with an uneven base. Extends beyond northern edge of trench. Cuts through earlier ditch [3112]	!.35m long >0.40m wide 0.25m deep	
	3111	Fill of [3110]	Secondary fill. Very dark brown mottled with dark grey silty sand. Frequent flint inclusions.	0.25m thick	
	3112	Possible ditch	A very shallow linear cut aligned north-east to south-west across width of trench. Shallow uneven sides slope down to meet an uneven base.	>1.50m long 0.60m wide, 0.10m deep	
	3113	Fill of [3112]	Light grey-brown silty sand. Frequent flecks of decayed chalk and very occasional large flint inclusions	0.10m	

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
	3114	Fill of [3110]	Primary fill. Mid brown silty sand with frequent small chalk and occasional large flint inclusions	0.05m	
32	3201	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand, flecks of chalk, moderate flint		
	3202	Cremation 1, fill of [3203]	Very black charcoal rich sand, occasional burnt flint, decayed natural chalk	> 0.75m long 0.58m wide 0.08m thick	Iron Age pottery, Sample 17
	3203	Cremation	Rectangular, east to west aligned, shallow sloping sides and a very uneven base	> 0.75m long 0.58m wide 0.08m deep	
	3204	Fill of [3205]	Very dark grey sand with frequent charcoal, inclusions and occasional burnt flint	0.40m long 0.25m wide 0.38m thick	
	3205	Posthole?	Oval in plan, north to south aligned, uneven base, vertical on three sides (north, east and west), upper part of the southern side is eroded	0.40m long 0.25m wide 0.38m deep	
	3206	Natural	Creamy brown silty sand with frequent decayed chalk, occasional patches orangey-brown sand with gravel		
33	3301	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy loam with frequent flint fragments	0.30m thick	
	3302	Subsoil	Light grey silty sand	0.15m thick	
	3303	Natural	Grey chalk with bands of orange sand		
	3304	Ditch terminal	North to south aligned, dish shaped profile with gradual sloping sides and a flat base	1.20m wide 0.14m deep	
	3305	Fill of [3304]	Firm dark brown sandy silty loam, isolated fragments of flint	1.20m wide 0.14m deep	Early Saxon pottery
34	3401	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty sand with frequent flint fragments	0.25m thick	
	3402	Subsoil	Firm light brownish-grey sandy silt	0.15m thick	
	3403	Natural	Hard white chalk, bands of orange sand (flint fragments)		
	3404	Pit	Circular, dish shaped profile with uneven flattish base, very steep sides	1m diameter 0.36m deep	
	3405	Fill of [3404]	Friable dark brownish-	1m diameter	Early Bronze

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			black sandy loam with occasional medium angular flint fragments, charcoal flecking	0.36m thick	Age pottery, flint, bone, Sample 12
	3406	Pit	Oval, north-west to south-east aligned, uneven profile (sides and base)	1.15m long 0.60m wide 0.15m deep	
	3407	Fill of [3406]	Mid brown sand, charcoal staining, occasional decayed chalk	1.15m long 0.60m wide 0.15m thick	Flint
	3408	Pit	Oval in plan, west-north-west to east-south-east, U-shaped profile with steep sides and slightly rounded base	0.68m long 0.50m wide 0.52m deep	
	3409	Fill of [3408]	Very dark brownish-black sand with moderate large flint pieces at the top of the fill, fewer pieces lower down	0.68m long 0.50m wide 0.52m thick	Early Bronze Age pottery, bone, Sample 18
	3410	Pit	Circular pit which extended beyond the edge of excavation, steep sides and slightly rounded base	0.70m long >0.50m wide 0.50 deep	
	3411	Layer	Unexcavated. Orangey-brown sand with frequent black mottling, occasional flint pieces		
	3412	Primary fill of [3408]	Greyish-brown clayey sand, moderate decayed chalk inclusions		
	3413	Fill of [3410]	Black silty sand, occasional flint fragments		Early Bronze Age pottery, flint
35	3501	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.26m thick	
	3502	Subsoil	Mid grey sandy loam	0.16m thick	
	3503	Natural	White chalk and flint, mixed with orange sand		
	3504	Pit	Oval? South-west to north-east, bowl shaped profile with flattish base and gradual sloping sides	At least 4m long 3.50m wide 0.58m deep	
	3505	Fill of [3504]	Friable mid brownish-grey sandy loam, rare chalk flecks, few small flint nodules (<100mm)	At least 4m long 3.50m wide 0.36m thick	
	3506	Fill of [3504]	Firm light greyish-brown silty sand, few small flint nodules 9<120mm), few chalk flecks	0.22m thick	
	3507	Pit	Re-cut of [3504]. Oval in	1.70m long	

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			plan, aligned east to west, U-shaped profile	1.50m wide 0.33m deep	
	3508	Fill of [3507]	Hard light brownish-grey silty sand mixed with white chalk. Few small flint nodules (<100mm)	1.70m long 1.50m wide 0.33m thick	
	3509	Posthole	Oval in plan, north to south aligned, rounded base, vertical sides with an eroded upper western edge	0.48m long 0.21m wide 0.38m deep	
	3510	Fill of [3509]	Friable mid brown sandy loam, small flint nodules	0.48m long 0.21m wide 0.38m thick	Flint
	3511	Ditch	East to west aligned, eroded and uneven bowl shaped profile with gradual slopes	4.3m wide 0.87m deep	
	3512	Fill of [3511]	Friable yellowish-brown silty sand, few small flint nodules (<80mm)	2.60m wide 0.33m thick	
	3513	Fill of [3511]	Firm greyish-black sand with ash and charcoal	0.42m wide 0.15m thick	Sample 10
	3514	Fill of [3511]	Firm greyish-brown silty sand, occasional small flint nodules (<140mm)	4.5m wide 0.32m thick	17th century pottery
	3515	Fill of [3511]	Friable dark greyish-black sand, with ash, charcoal and occasional small flint nodules (<100mm)	0.50m wide 0.20m thick	Sample 11
36	3601	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty sandy	0.31m thick	
	3602	Subsoil	Mid grey silty sand	0.12m thick	
	3603	Natural	Chalk with flint and orange sand		
	3604	Fill of [3605]	Light brown sandy loam filling a natural hollow	0.20m thick	Flint
	3605	Hollow	Uneven and irregular natural hollow. Extends beyond southern edge of trench	4.3m long 1.00m wide 0.20m deep	
37	3701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand, frequent flint inclusions	0.40m thick	
	3702	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand	0.15m thick	
	3703	Natural	Orange-brown sand with flint, occasional patches of degraded chalk		
38	3801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.40m thick	
	3802	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand	0.10m thick	
	3803	Pit	Lenticular shaped pit, aligned north to south. Uneven shallow sides merge with a rounded base	2.30m long 0.70m wide 0.16m deep	
	3804	Fill of [3803]	Dark grey silty sand with frequent black charcoal	0.16m thick	Flint, Sample 16

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
			staining. Moderate flint inclusions, some burnt flint		
	3805	Natural	Orange-brown sand with flint		
39	3901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand, frequent flint	0.40m thick	
	3902	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand	0.28m thick	
	3903	Natural	Light creamy brown silty sand with very frequent decayed chalk at west end of trench		
	3904	Possible colluvium	Light brown silty sand with moderate flint inclusions	0.28m thick	
	3905	Natural	Orange gravel. Very frequent flint with occasional patches of decayed chalk. Present at west end of trench beneath (3904)		
40	4001	Topsoil	Grey-brown silty sand, moderate flint inclusions	0.50m thick	
	4002	Natural	Light creamy brown sand with very frequent chalk. Gives way to orange sand at south end of trench		
41	4101	Topsoil	Grey-brown silty sand, moderate flint inclusions	0.40m thick	
	4102	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sand with moderate chalk inclusions. Not present in northern end of trench	0.80m thick	
	4103	Natural	Light creamy brown sand with very frequent chalk		
42	4201	Topsoil	Grey-brown silty sand, moderate flint inclusions	0.38m thick	
	4202	Natural	Chalk		
	4203	Natural	Light orange-brown sand		
43	4301	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.37m thick	
	4302	Natural	White chalk		
	4303	Natural	Orange-brown sand		
	4304	Pit	Possibly oval, north-north-west to south-south-east aligned pit. Bowl shaped profile with flat base and gradual sloping sides	2.40m long 0.56m deep	
	4305	Fill of [4304]	Loose dark brownish-black sandy loam, few medium flint nodules (<150mm)	2.40m long 0.56m thick	Flint Sample 14
44	4401	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam	0.35m thick	
	4402	Natural	White chalk		

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
	4403	Natural	Orange-brown sand		
	4404	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit. Aligned west to west with a double bowl shaped profile and uneven base	1.3m long 1.2m wide 0.38m thick	
	4405	Fill of [4404]	Loose dark brownish-black loamy sand, charcoal, flint nodules chalk flecking	0.38m thick	Flint, Samples 13, 15
	4406	Gully	North-west to south-east aligned, bowl shaped profile with rounded base and gradual sloping sides	0.35m wide 0.11m deep	
	4407	Fill of [4406]	Firm dark orangey-brown silty sand, flint nodules, occasional chalk flecks	0.11m thick	
	4408	Posthole	Circular, rounded base, sloping sides	0.35m diameter 0.25m deep	
	4409	Fill of 4408	Firm grey clay, occasional flint nodules	0.35m diameter 0.25m thick	Iron Age and Roman Pottery
45	4501	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.30m thick	
	4502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.08m thick	
	4503	Natural	Sand with flint		
46	4601	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.25m thick	
	4602	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	
	4603	Natural	Sand with flint		
47	4701	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.32m thick	
	4702	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.12m thick	
	4703	Natural	Sand with flint		
48	4801	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.36m thick	
	4802	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.20m thick	
	4803	Natural	Sand with flint		
	4804	Gully	Shallow sides with a flat base. Aligned north to south	0.60m wide 0.12m deep	
	4805	Fill of [4804]	Light brown silt sand. Very occasional flint inclusions	0.12m thick	
	4806	Ditch	Shallow sided profile with slightly rounded base. Aligned east to west	2.11m wide 0.36m deep.	
	4807	Fill of [4806]	Light grey-brown silt sand. Very occasional flint inclusions	0.36m thick	
	4808	Ditch	U-shaped profile with even sides sloping down to a slightly rounded base. Aligned north to south	0.80m wide 0.19m deep	
	4809	Fill of [4808]	Light brown silt sand		
49	4901	Topsoil	Grey-brown loam	0.27m thick	
	4902	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	
	4903	Natural	Sand with flint		

Trench	Context Number	Type	Brief description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
	4904	Ditch	Very shallow ditch. Flat base. Aligned north-north-east to south-south-west	0.50m wide 0.08m deep.	
	4905	Fill of [4904]	Light grey-brown silt sand. Occasional flint and very occasional charcoal inclusions	0.08m thick	
	4906	Ditch	Steep sided ditch with flat base. Aligned north-west to south-east	0.90m wide 0.50m deep	
	4907	Fill of [4906]	Light grey-brown silt sand. Moderate flint inclusions	0.50m thick	

APPENDIX 2: General osteological methodology by Sara Inskip

The following section presents the methods that were utilised in most of the burials. Features scored in single burials are presented in the relevant section of the results.

The burials were recorded followed the Standard methods in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and guidance provided by Brickley and McKinley (2004). A skeletal inventory was taken for each burial following Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994: Appendix 5).

Preservation and completeness

Preservation was scored according to the amount of cortical bone available for macroscopic analysis (see Table A1). For comparability, equivalent Behrensmeyer (1978) scores are provided in Table A1.

Table A1: Skeletal preservation categories

Preservation	% cortical surfaces remaining	Behrensmeyer (1978) weathering scale
Excellent	≥ 95%	Stage 0
Good	60 – 94%	Stage 1
Fair	<60	Stages 2 – 3
Poor	≤25%	Stages 4 – 5

Overall skeletal completeness was scored following the ranges: >75%, 75 – 50%, <50% - 25% and <25%.

Ageing

Growth, development and degeneration of bones and joints permit age assessment from the human skeleton. As the material from Thetford was all adult, the methods chosen exploit the process of progressive degeneration of bone, joints and teeth. The burials were aged through examination of the pubic symphysis and the auricular surface. These are immobile joints that do not deteriorate with activity and therefore reflect age related degeneration. These methods are as outlined in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and Brickley and McKinley (2004). The enamel and dentine of teeth wear down as they are used. The rate of wear will depend on the diet of the population. As Brothwell suggests that in Britain diet changed very little from the Neolithic to the early medieval period, and it is not possible to calibrate a wear pattern specific to these individuals, Brothwell's (1981) dental ageing method was used to indicate age from the dentition in the Thetford material.

Sexing

The human skeleton is sexually dimorphic (Mays 2010:40). Male and female differences are the result of child bearing in women and greater production of testosterone in men. The two regions that demonstrate greatest sexual dimorphism between human males and females are the os coxae and skull. Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) identify five regions of the skull and four on the pelvis, which demonstrate variation between males and females. The preauricular salcus has been demonstrated to be related to individual size rather than sex (Mays and Cox 2000) and was not included in this report. The remaining regions will be assessed in order to estimate sex in the Thetford material. Attention will also be paid to the overall size and robusticity of the remains.

Pathology

Osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is the most common joint pathology seen in archaeological skeletons (Mays 2010, 186). Degeneration of the articular cartilage in synovial joints results in changes to the underlying bone surface. This includes pitting, sclerosis, eburnation and

new bone growth around the joint margins. Although unanimous consensus regarding the diagnosis of osteoarthritis is not forthcoming, to avoid over estimation of the disease, Rogers and Waldron (1995) have suggested that two or more indicators of the disease should be present on a joint surface prior to diagnosis. Only eburnation, which is pathogonomic for osteoarthritis, can be used as a sole indicator for the disease. As such, where possible, evidence for osteoarthritis will be sought following these guidelines.

Dental pathology
With the absence of modern oral health care, dental pathology is a very common in archaeological populations. As such caries, abscesses, antemortem tooth loss, hypoplasia and calculus were scored following the procedures set out in the Standards of Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994).

Cremation methods

Fragmentation
The material was received washed and dried. Large fragments of extraneous material were removed. The cremated deposit was weighed to the nearest 0.1 g before being passed through 10 mm, 5mm, 2mm and 1mm sieves. Each sieved fraction was then recorded and weighed. The material was then sorted into elemental groups; skull, long bones, axial skeleton and unidentifiable. The largest fragment was measured to the nearest 0.1mm using sliding digital callipers.

Pyre conditions
The colour of cremated bone is indicative of pyre conditions with white bone produced by temperatures in excess of 650 ˚c (Mays 2010, 322) with ample oxygen. Temperatures below this create varying shades of grey, blue and brown fragments. Black bone is produced by poor oxygen levels and temperatures around or below 350˚c (Mays 2010, 322). Variation in pyre conditions across the body may be detected through variation in fragment colour between skeletal elements. As such, the colour of the cremated deposit was recorded as a whole and also by elemental group.

APPENDIX 3: Magnetic susceptibility survey by Adrian Butler

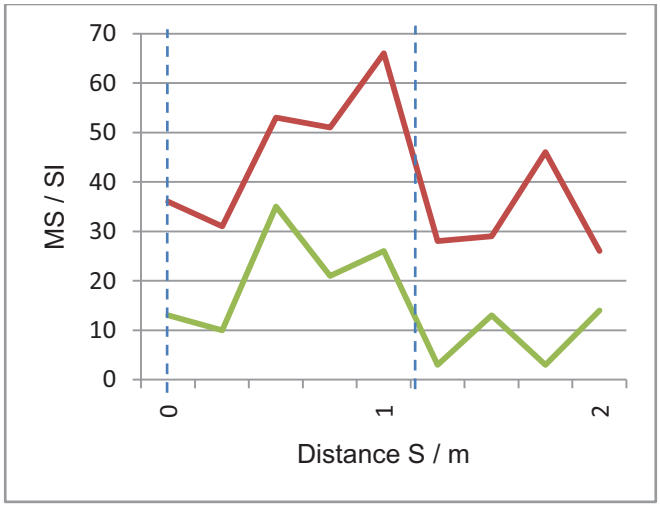
It was proposed that volume-specific magnetic susceptibility (MS) testing be carried out within excavated trenches to ascertain whether a difference between deposits of periglacial and archaeological origin could be characterised empirically. Additionally, examining the ploughsoil above features would indicate whether any magnetic expression exists in that soil environment.

Analysis was carried out utilising a Bartington Instruments MS2D MS meter and field coil. Particular features were targeted and, where possible, readings were taken at regular 0.25m separations along a trench, recording the MS (x 10^{-5} SI) of natural subsoil, feature (if applicable) and topsoil at each point. These have been collated as line charts (1 – 7) showing the variation in MS of topsoil (red) and natural/feature (green), against distance, e.g. South or East, along the trench. The position of features along trenches has been approximated using dashed lines.

Trench 30

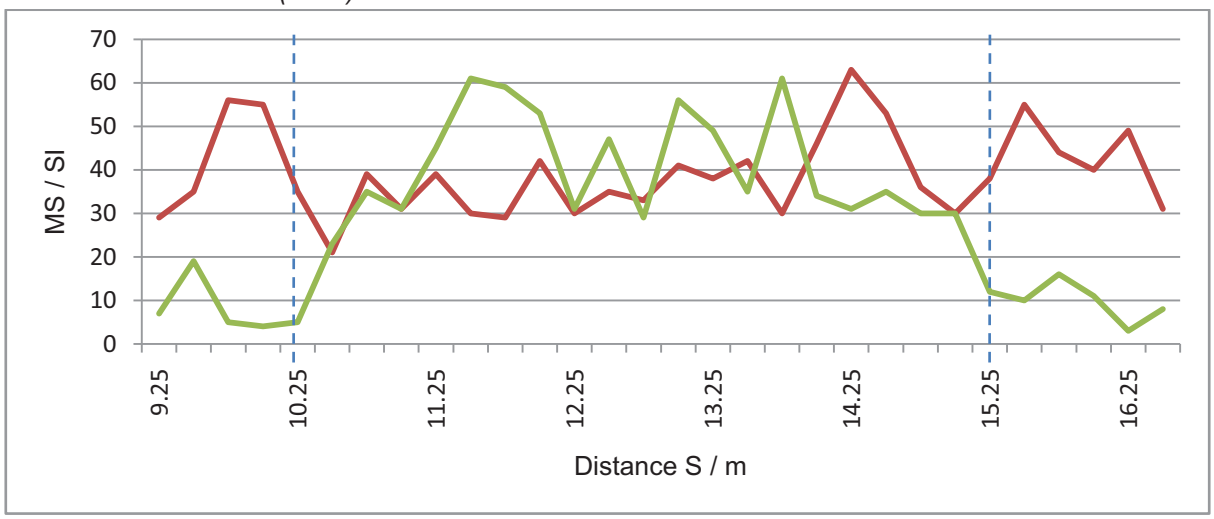
Three features were targeted in this trench, from north to south: a possible periglacial deposit, a ditch (3005) and a putative pit (3077).

Chart 1: MS over periglacial deposit



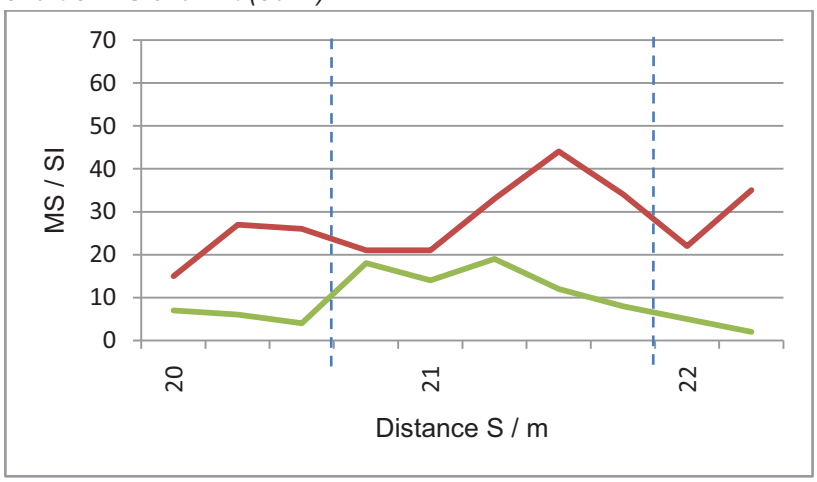
The initial metre at the north end of Trench 30 contained possible a periglacial deposit. This recorded an anomalous susceptibility of up to 35 SI units (mean=23 SI), reflected in the topsoil MS.

Chart 2: MS over Ditch (3005)



South of the geological deposit was ditch (3005), a section of Barrow 2. The MS of the fill reached 61 SI units maximum, with a mean of 39.35 SI. This is compared to an average of 8.8 SI units in the natural subsoil to each side. No particular susceptibility expression appeared in the topsoil data.

Chart 3: MS over Pit (3077)

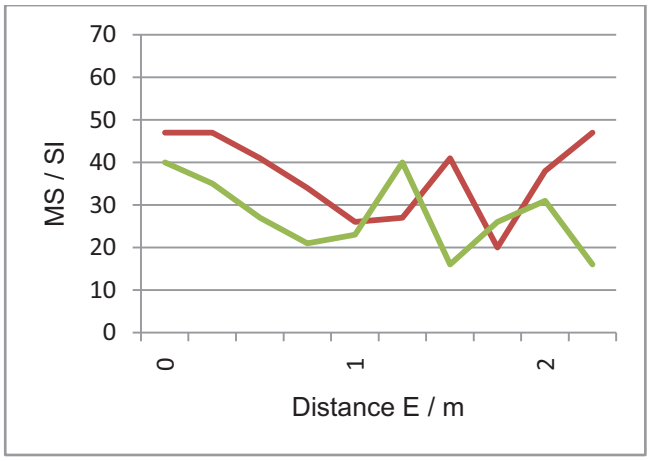


Approximately 21m south along the trench there was located a discrete deposit, at the time questionable as an archaeological feature. The susceptibility averaged 15.75 SI units across the feature, maximum 19 SI. The topsoil showed an enhancement of up to 44 SI to the south of the feature. Considering that excavation proved this as a pit feature (3077), the magnetic enhancement of the fill is barely anomalous to the natural subsoil, less so than the periglacial feature at the north end of the trench.

Trench 34

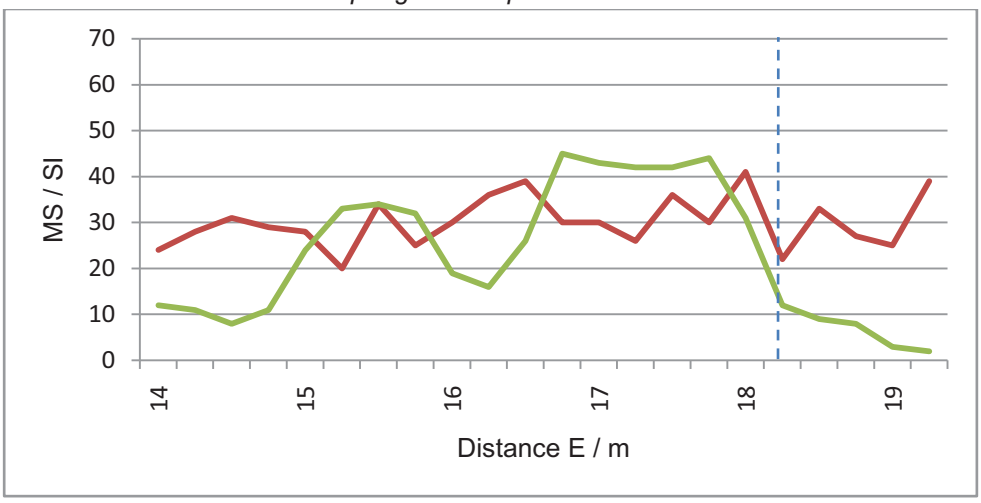
This trench presented a combination of numerous probable periglacial deposits with the addition of several archaeological features interspersed between them. The natural subsoil was, in many places removed to the top of chalk bedrock.

Chart 4: MS at western end Trench 34



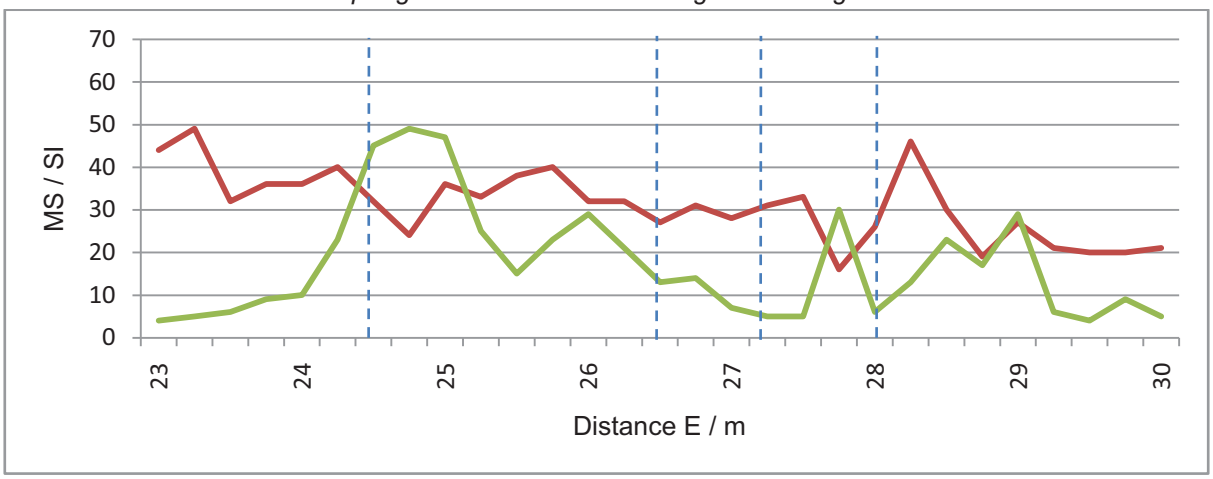
The western end of the trench shows a degree of low level MS variability, apparently unconnected with any obvious features.

Chart 5: MS over subsoil and periglacial deposit



MS levels were found to rise slightly from 14.5m east along the trench, following the exposure chalk rock. This enhancement fell from 45 SI to 2 SI units at *c* 18m where a possible periglacial deposit was covered.

Chart 6: MS over subsoil and periglacial variation containing archaeological features

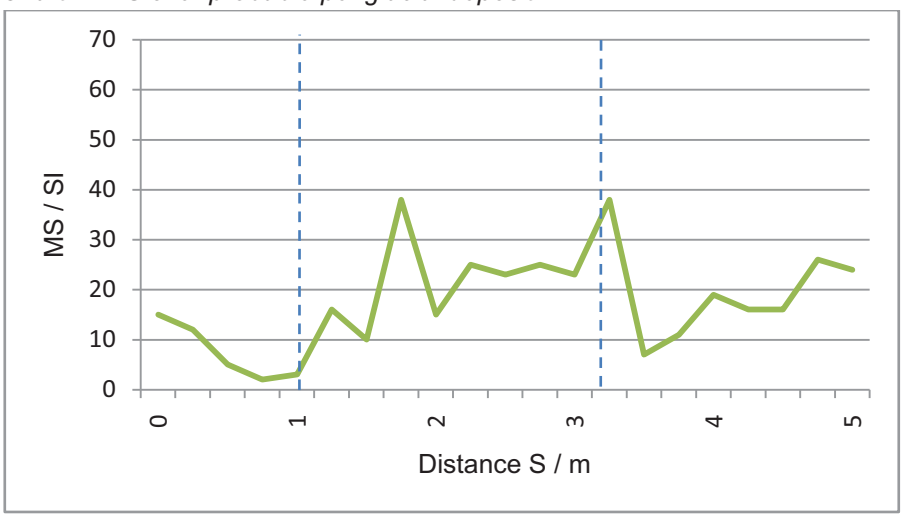


As with further west along the trench, MS values slightly increased from 24m over occasional chalk exposure. However, two archaeological features (3411; 3406) were also covered and enhance values up to 49 SI in one case and 30 SI in the second, although not consistently.

Trench 35

This trench was found to contain several deposits confidently identified as archaeological features. However a feature at the northern end was somewhat questionable.

Chart 7: MS over probable periglacial deposit



MS readings taken across the deposit indicated a slight enhancement in susceptibility, but not of a significant extent above the subsoil so as to suggest an anthropogenic source to the feature fill.

Discussion

Sample MS survey along the trenches was successful in identifying enhancements in susceptibility from both archaeological and suspected periglacial deposits. However the variability within and between these results made MS an inconclusive device for discriminating between features in this instance.

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