Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation on land at College Road North, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

Accession number:AYBCM.2011.223

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Report 11/225

November 2011

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Aston Clinton, College Road	
Short description	In September 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Prospect Archaeology for ARLA Foods on land at Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. A late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, dating from the early/mid 1st century AD to the 4th century, occupied an area of c1.5ha at the south-east of the site. The settlement comprised a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures, as well as structural remains, pits and an inhumation burial. A further small focus of activity lay to the north-east. Possibly defining the eastern boundary of the settlement was a broad feature that may be a palaeochannel, although its course was not visible on the geophysical survey. A sinuous, low bank sealed the palaeochannel and may demarcate the parish boundary, although the date of its construction is unknown. Further to the north the parish boundary appeared to be marked by a broad, shallow ditch, also undated.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Heritage assessment (Prospect Archaeology 2010) and Geophysical Survey (Clements and Smith 2011)	
Current Land use	Arable and pasture	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type/ period	Iron Age and Roman	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Buckinghamshire	
Site address	College Road, Aston Clinton	
Study area	55 ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 877 135	
Height OD	85m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Prospect Archaeology	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Adam Yates	
Sponsor or funding body	Prospect Archaeology	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	09/2011	
End date	10/2011	
ARCHIVES	**Location**	**Content**
Physical	-	None
Paper	AYBCM.2011.223	Evaluation pro forma sheets, context sheets, colour slides, black and white contact prints, digital photographs, plans and section drawing
Digital	AYBCM.2011.223	Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land at College Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire	
Serial title & volume	11/225	
Author(s)	Charlotte Walker and Ant Maull	
Page numbers	48	
Date	November 2011	

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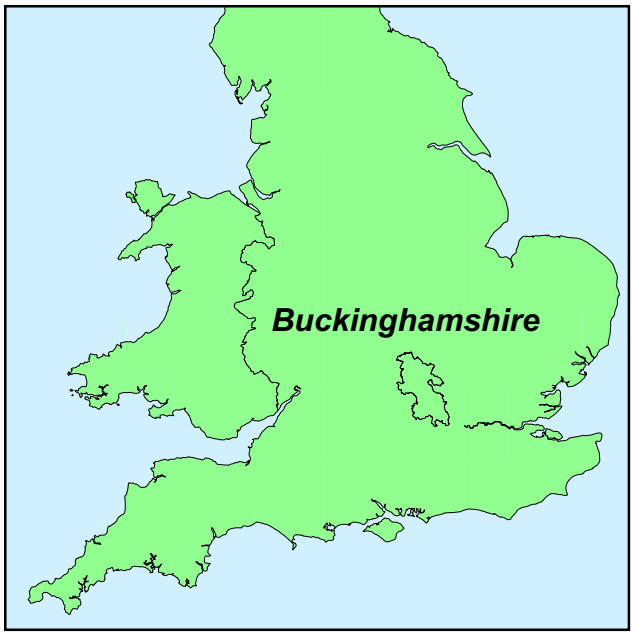

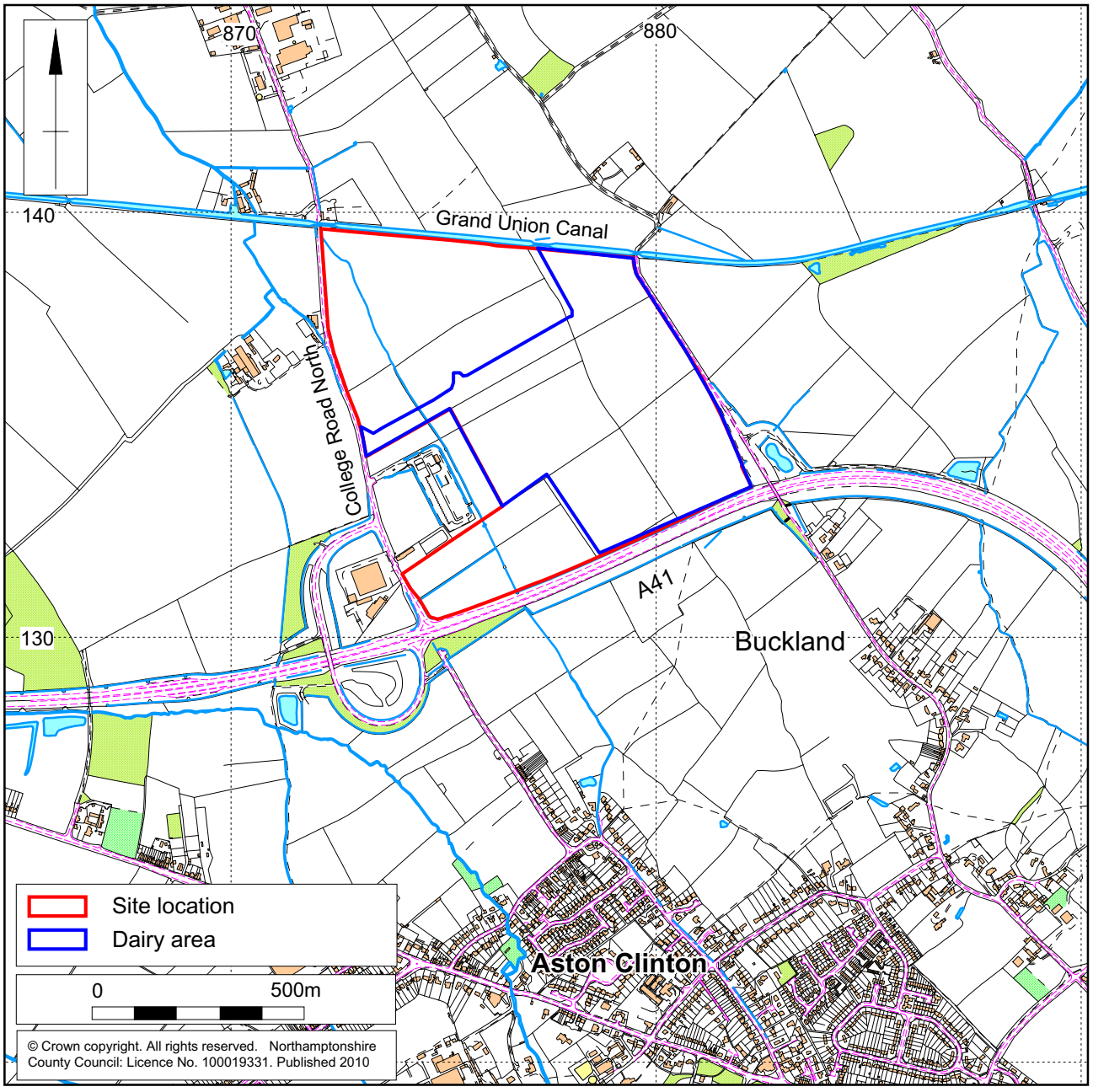

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Site Location Fig 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT COLLEGE ROAD, ASTON CLINTON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OCTOBER 2011

Abstract

In September 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Prospect Archaeology for ARLA Foods on land at Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. The development area, comprising 55ha of land to the north of Aston Clinton, has been subject to a desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey.

A late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, dating from the early/mid 1st century AD to the 4th century, occupied an area of c1.5ha at the south-east of the site. The settlement comprised a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures, as well as structural remains, pits and an inhumation burial. A further small focus of activity lay to the north-east. Possibly defining the eastern boundary of the settlement was a broad feature that may be a palaeochannel, although its course was not visible on the geophysical survey.

A sinuous, low bank sealed the palaeochannel and may demarcate the parish boundary, although the date of its construction is unknown. Further to the north the parish boundary appeared to be marked by a broad, shallow ditch, also undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology, on behalf of ARLA Foods, to undertake archaeological trial trench evaluation to inform a planning application on land at College Lane North, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. (NGR SP 877 135, Fig 1). Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, as the archaeological advisors to Aylesbury Vale District Council, advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to establish the presence or absence or archaeological remains and to inform decisions regarding the potential impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; DCLG 2010).

The programme of archaeological investigation, as outlined in the specification issued by Prospect Archaeology, involved the excavation of 79 trenches across the development area, the results of which are presented in this report.

This tranche of works follows a Heritage Assessment (Prospect Archaeology 2010) and detailed geophysical magnetometer survey (Clements and Smith 2011). Both studies identified areas of archaeological potential within the development area.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The site comprises *c*55ha of pasture fields on level ground and is located to the north of the village of Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire (centred on SP 877 135). It is bounded to the south by the Aston Clinton bypass (A41), to the north by the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal, to the west by College Road North and to the east by the Buckland field road.

The majority of the site is in the civil parish of Aston Clinton; however, the two eastern fields are in the civil parish of Buckland. The evaluation area consists of fields which were under a mixture of pasture and arable agriculture at the time of evaluation. The site lies at approximately 85m aOD and is generally flat.

2.2 **Geology** by Steve Critchley

The evaluation area is underlain by a series of fossiliferous marine sediments belonging to the Lower Cretaceous Gault Formation. These are dark grey to blue-grey clays or mudstones when fresh, weathering to mottled light grey stiff clays with abundant calcareous nodules. Exposures observed from trench to trench were highly variable due to differential weathering and decalcification as well as limited modification by periglacial ground ice processes. A number of thin and locally extensive fine sandy horizons rich in phosphatic nodules were observed in some trenches.

To the south-west of the Roman occupation area an extensive accumulation of periglacial Head was noted mantling the slope at this point under a localised colluvium layer. Head deposits are the product of local periglacial ground ice processes, active during the late Pleistocene, and have produced the structureless deposit of yellow brown sand and silts with entrained clasts of flint and other lithologies observed on site. Such material forms at low slope angles, the south-east facing slope at this point being ideal for the accumulation of the gelifluction material formed during seasonal freeze thaw action in waterlogged soils overlying permafrost. The term Head is now a rather outdated one less relevant in current studies of near surface geological processes, particularly those associated with periglacial erosion and deposition, and may better be described as a solifluction deposit.

2.3 Archaeological background

The outline development area has been examined by Heritage Assessment (Prospect Archaeology 2010) which collated Historic Environment Record (HER) data and cartographic sources. The development area has also been subject to a geophysical survey (Clements and Smith 2010). The following archaeological background is taken from both sources.

Fieldwalking within the site in advance of the construction of the Aston Clinton bypass collected a total of 17 prehistoric worked flints. These included a tranchet axe dated to the Mesolithic period (Prospect Archaeology 2010).

Excavation at The Woodlands Roundabout, 2km to the east, in advance of the construction of the Aston Clinton Bypass found evidence of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age activity, including pits and postholes (RPS 2005). A four-post structure may have been an excarnation platform. The area was abandoned by the middle Iron Age.

About 1.4km to the west of the site, excavation at the Lower Icknield Way site, also carried out in advance of the Aston Clinton Bypass, found a number of Bronze Age cremations. An early Iron Age enclosure was thought to be for stock-holding purposes since a large animal bone assemblage was recovered from all features of this period.

The enclosure straddled the putative course of the Lower Icknield Way, suggesting it was not in use during this period.

There was a series of late Iron Age/early Romano-British enclosures, orientated north-east to south-west, flanking a trackway. The trackway may have been created during the late Iron Age, although there was some evidence it could have had early Iron Age origins. The site remained broadly unchanged until the middle Roman period, suggesting a continuity of settlement. The settlement appears to have been occupied until the 4th century and finds from later features suggest the presence of a Romanised building in the vicinity, possibly to the west of the site.

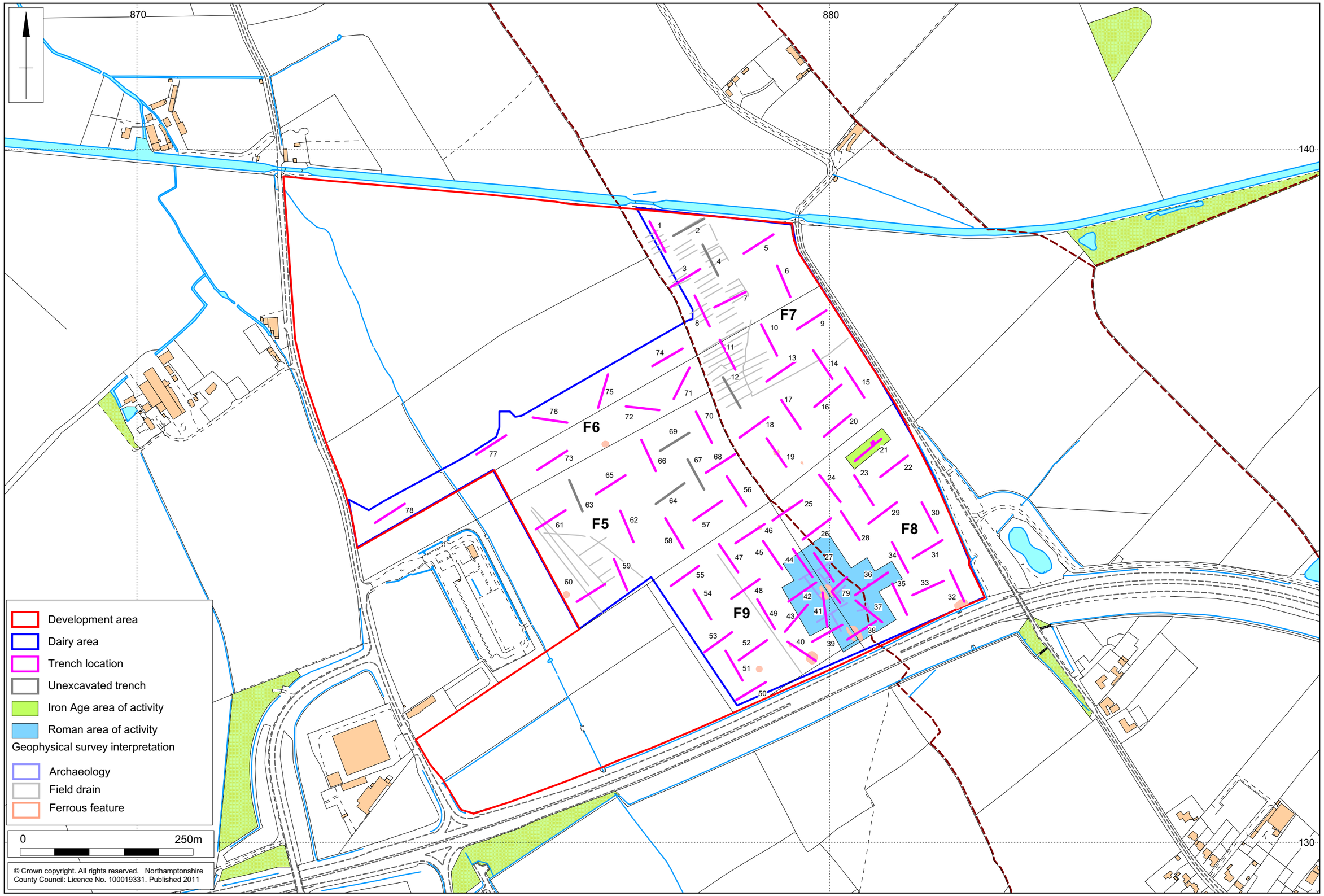
A possible system of bi-axial trackways across Buckinghamshire and surrounding counties has been identified by Bull (1993). He posits a possible Iron Age date for their creation and suggests that the Lower Icknield Way may have formed the spine from which these trackways extend. The course of many of these trackways appears to have been fossilised by later roads and parish boundaries. The evidence for continuity of boundaries from the Iron Age may be of some importance, since a parish boundary runs through the site and, as with Lower Icknield Way, could have pre-medieval origins.

The course of the Roman road of Akeman Street follows the current A41. It was identified during the Woodland Roundabout excavations (RPS 2005). A series of quarry pits, found mainly on the southern side of the road, were evidence of the continued maintenance and repair of the road throughout the Roman period.

Within the south-western corner of the site, fieldwalking undertaken in 1991 collected a few sherds of Roman pottery but it was not thought sufficient to suggest a settlement or other intensive Roman activity was taking place in this part of the site. The geophysical survey identified a probable archaeological site, of uncertain date, straddling the boundary between two fields in the southern part of the site, Fields 8 and 9 (Fig 2). It comprised a small group of ditches which defined parts of several rectilinear plots or enclosures. The previous discovery of Roman pottery to the west could support an interpretation of these enclosures as a Romano-British field system

Ridge and furrow cultivation systems, of medieval or later date were visible on aerial photographs confirming that the site lay within the medieval open fields and was mainly under arable cultivation. Ridge-and-furrow was detected in two fields during the geophysical survey. Historic maps show that the site has been largely undeveloped with the exception of small field buildings through the post-medieval period. The Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal was constructed to the north of the site in the early 19th century. The parish boundary is aligned north-west to south-east through the centre of the site.

There is a growing body of evidence for settlement in the area from the Bronze Age onwards and the potential within this site has not yet been fully assessed. Geophysical survey and fieldwalking in advance of the construction of the Aston Clinton bypass did not identify any archaeological potential in this area but it was limited in its scope and the central and northern parts of the site were untested.



Scale 1:5000 (A3)

Trench Plan, showing geophysical survey results Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The aims of the archaeological evaluation are specified in the Project Design (NA 2011).

Trial trench evaluation is designed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area. Specifically this will be through the listed aims and objectives, which are as follows:

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the Project Design (NA 2011), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, revised 2010). The work was monitored by the County Archaeological Advisor to Buckinghamshire County Council

Seventy-nine trenches were envisaged, although seven were omitted following discussion with the Archaeological Officer to Buckinghamshire County Council. All the trenches were 50m long and 2m wide and were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. The proposed trench layout specifically targeted geophysical anomalies, while also allowing for a representative coverage of the remainder of the application site. On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.

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

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.

The trenches containing features were planned at a scale of 1:00. Sections of the sequence of deposits in each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and related to Ordnance Datum. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

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

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General comments

Prior to the evaluation, the excavation of a total of seventy-nine trenches was planned. The layout of the trenches specifically targeted geophysical anomalies and allowed for a representative coverage of the remainder of the development area (Fig 2).

As excavation progressed it became clear that a trend of east-north-east to west-south-west anomalies observed in the geophysical survey results were modern land drains. It was decided, in consultation with the Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council and Prospect Archaeology, that six trenches located to investigate similar anomalies need not be excavated (Trenches 2 and 4 in Field 7 and Trenches 63, 64, 67 and 69 in Field 5; Fig 2). Initially, Trench 12 was to be rotated and placed through an entrance in the hedged boundary between Fields 5 and 7 to further investigate the parish boundary. It was later agreed not to excavate this trench, due to problems with access.

Trenches 1, 5-11,13-20 in Field 7; Trenches 22-24, 26 28-35 in Field 8; Trenches 40, 45-55 in Field 9; Trenches 56-62, 65, 66 and 70 in Field 5 and Trenches 71-78 in Field 6were blank.

Although a ridge and furrow trend had been indicated in the geophysical survey, no furrows were observed during the evaluation, perhaps suggesting that the remnants of the furrows existed only in the topsoil, and truncation to underlying deposits was minimal.

The fill of the many of the features in the Romano-British settlement was firm grey-brown silty clay or similar. Many of the soils were also gleyed, demonstrated by orange mottling, indicating that they were subject to intermittent waterlogging.

Scale 1:1000 (A3)

880

881

136

135

134

133

Small pit cut by ditch or pit

T21

T25

Former parish boundary

Probable modern feature

T26

T44

Burial

T27

Roman Layer

T36

Possible palaeochannel

T79

T42

T41

Roman Layer - masking underlying features

T37

T43

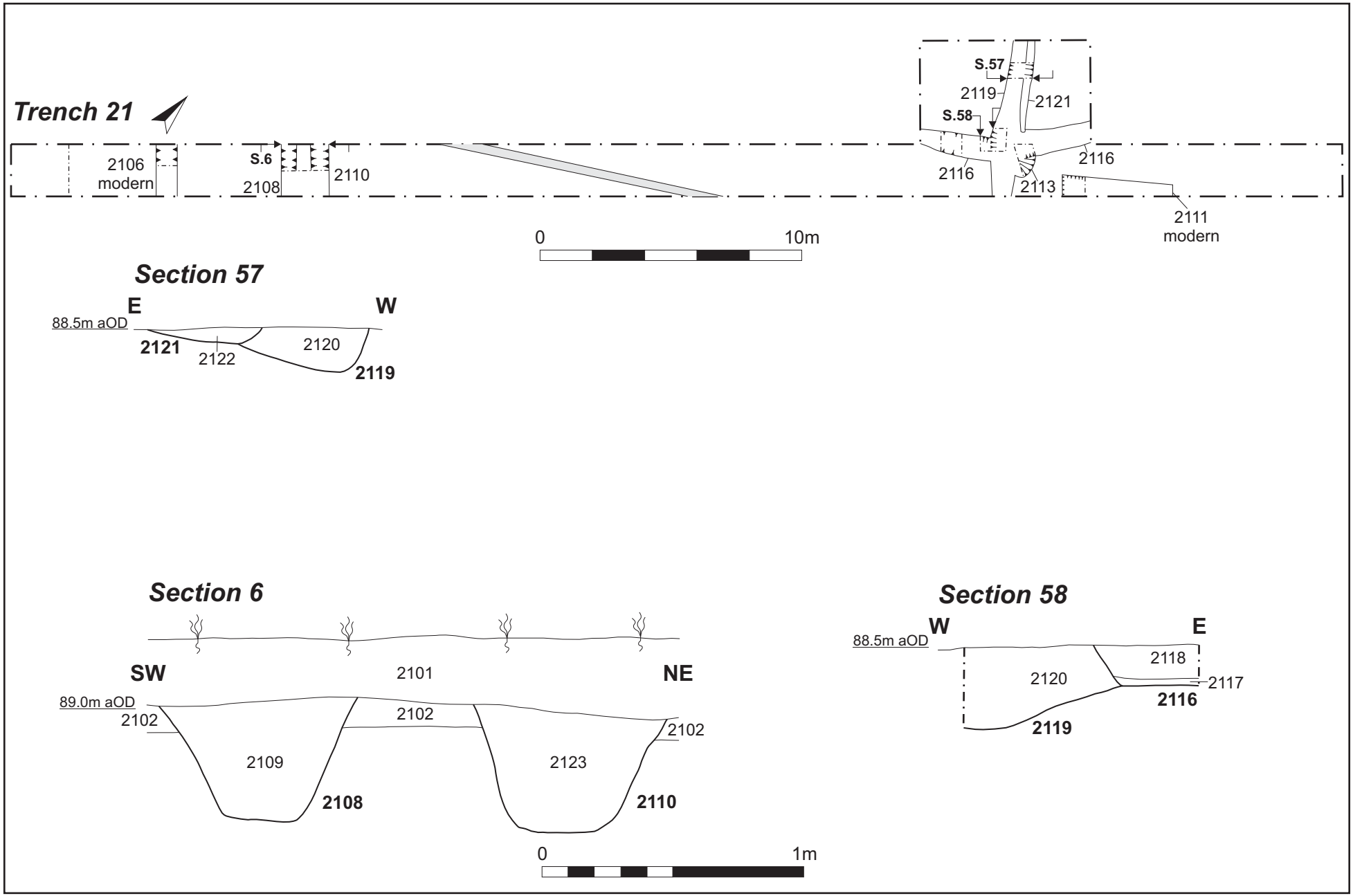
T38

T39

Geophysical survey anomaly
Iron Age feature
Iron Age/Romano-British transition
Romano-British
Roman layer
Bank
Modern feature

0 50m

Principal archaeological features Fig 3



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Iron Age ditches and gullies in trench 21 Fig 4

4.2 The Iron Age/Romano-British settlement

Iron Age

The earliest features found on site were focussed around Trench 21. There was a pit [2113] in Trench 21 which had largely been truncated by later ditches (Fig 4). It was at least 0.50m in diameter and 0.20m deep. While the lower fill (2114) contained only occasional charcoal flecks, the upper fill (2115), a brown-grey clay silty clay, containing a number of sherds of late Iron Age pottery as well as animal bone.

Curvilinear ditch [2116] described a broad arc and had a wide U-shaped profile, with a grey-brown silty clay primary fill (2117) and a heavier orange-brown clay upper fill (2118) that contained animal bone (Fig 4, Section 58). If circular, it would have enclosed an area of about 18m and may be the remains of an eaves-drip gully surrounding a roundhouse. Truncating both features was a ditch aligned north-east to south-west [2119]. It had steep sides and a flat base. The grey-brown silty clay fill (2120) had orange mottling. No finds were recovered from this ditch. The ditch was undated and therefore may be part of the later settlement, especially since it has a similar alignment to many of the later ditches.

There were two parallel gullies at the west of the trench ([2108 and 2110], Fig 4, Section 6). They were both aligned north-west to south-east and 0.55-0.58m wide and 0.34m deep with U-shaped profiles. There were no finds in either of them.

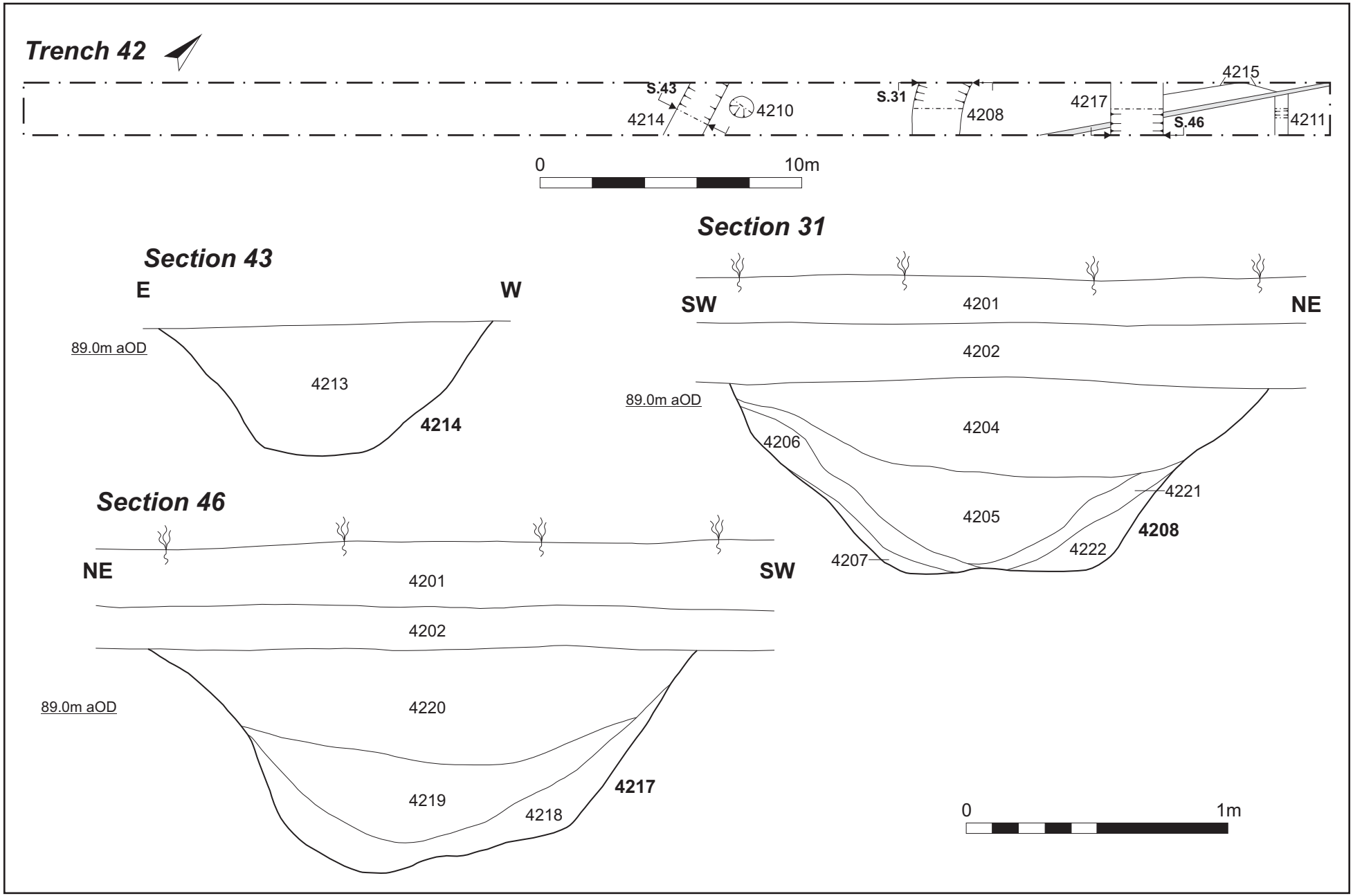
There was no further evidence of activity in any of the surrounding trenches, indicating that it was confined to the area around Trench 21 or that the ditches were the widely spaced elements of a field system.

Late Iron Age / Romano-British settlement

A discrete settlement was found in the central southern part of Fields 8 and 9. It comprised a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures within which were a number of possible structural features, pits and a grave (Fig 3). The settlement appeared to extend over an area of *c* 1.5ha; the northern boundary of the settlement probably lay within Trench 44, the western in Trenches 42 and 43 and the eastern in Trench 36. Extensive modern disturbance related to substantial services and the construction of the A41 meant the southern boundary was not defined, although the absence of any Roman features or artefacts found during the construction of the bypass tends to suggest that it didn't extend much further south than Trench 38. The most concentrated areas of activity appeared to be in Field 8. A layer of dark silty clay containing Roman pottery overlaid the remains of the settlement in Trenches 27 and 37; a series of test-pits were dug through the layer at regular intervals in order to characterise the deposit and to confirm the presence/absence of archaeology beneath it.

Iron Age origins

The earliest elements of this part of the settlement, which seems to have its origins in the late Iron Age, appear to have been concentrated within a defined area including Trenches 27, 42, 43, 44 and 79. A shallow enclosure ditch at the western extent of the settlement was observed in Trenches 42 and 43. The ditch was aligned almost north to south, at a variance to many of the ditches and suggesting that it is from a different phase. In Trench 42, ditch [4214] was 1.25m wide and 0.47m deep with fairly steep sides and a flat base (Fig 5, Section 43). The fill (4213) was mid-dark grey-brown silty clay containing pottery dating to the late 1st century BC to the mid-1st century AD and animal bone. Adjacent to the eastern edge of the ditch was a small pit [4210], which was 0.70m in diameter and 0.30m deep. The fill (4209) was similar to that of the ditch and also contained pottery of a similar date and bone. Ditch [4305] was 0.74m wide and 0.24m deep also with fairly steep sides and a flat base (Fig 6). The fill (4304) was mottled yellow-brown clay containing similar pottery and a few fragments of floor tile. There were no archaeological features to the west of either of these ditches.



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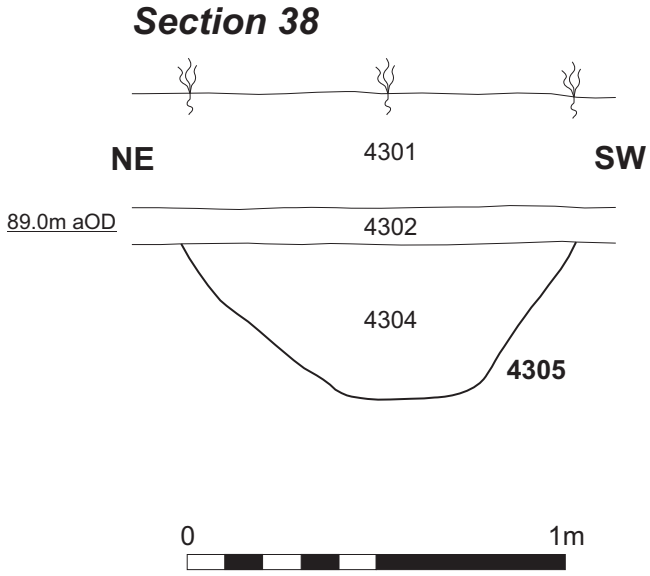
Late Iron Age ditches in trench 42 Fig 5

Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:20 (sections)



Trench 43 Fig 6

A further, more substantial ditch to the east, [4208], was 1.70m wide and 0.70m deep (Fig 5, Section 31). It was aligned north-west to south-east and appeared to be turning to the north-east just beyond the northern edge of the trench. The primary fill (4207) consisted of mottled clay and the secondary fill (4206) was mid grey silty clay containing pottery and bone. Overlying it was fill (4205) and the uppermost fill (4204), both of which contained pottery and bone. Pottery from the fills dated to between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD.

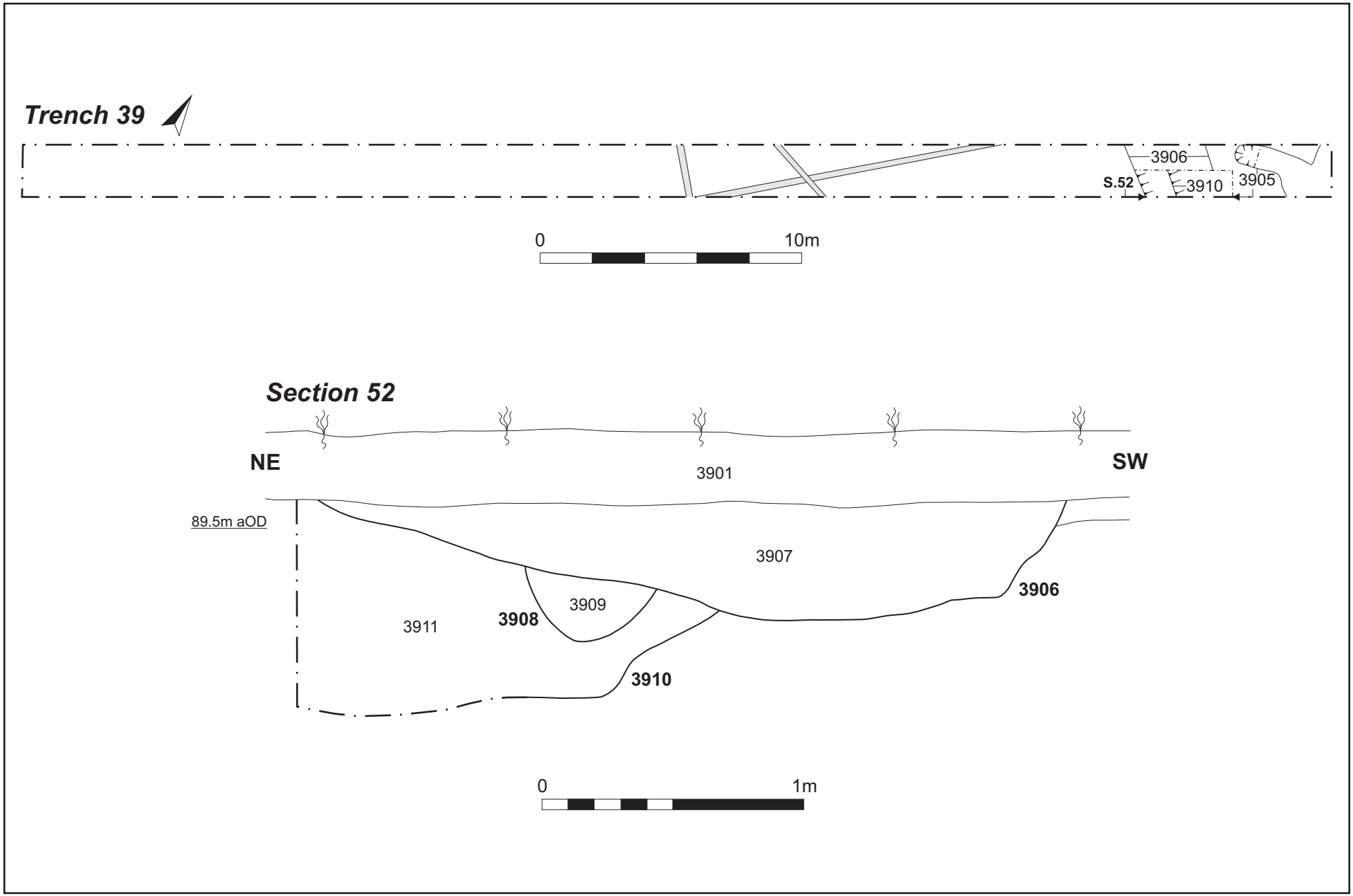
The northern arm of a possible enclosure may have been present in Trench 44. The ditch [4404] was 1.42m wide and 0.55m deep. The brown-grey silty clay fill (4405) contained large quantities of pottery dating to the late 1st century BC to the mid-1st century AD, possibly pre-conquest. The ditch may have continued into Trench 27 as ditch [2717], which is described below, the fills containing pre- and post-conquest pottery.

Other early elements of the settlement may include a possible curvilinear ditch at the south of Trench 27, [2727], which was 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep with fairly steep sides and a concave base. Within Trench 79 were two small gullies at right angles to each other [7912 and 7914]. They were between 0.21-0.32m wide and 0.10m deep and at least 2.20m long and may have been beam-slots for a structure. Pottery from the fills dated from the 1st century BC to the mid-2nd century AD, indicating that the feature was present in the earlier phases of the settlement.

Expansion of the settlement (Mid-2nd century)

The settlement expanded during the mid-2nd century, and, from the artefact assemblage, seems to have had a thriving economy. This phase of settlement appeared to be defined by a series of rectilinear enclosures aligned north-west to south-east, which were at least 140m long and 100m wide. However, because the geophysical survey results were not well-defined the relationship between ditches in different trenches remains somewhat ambiguous at this stage. Some of the enclosure ditches, particularly those that may have defined the outer edges of the settlement, were substantial.

A possible ditch at the eastern end of Trench 39 had been re-cut a number of times, although the earliest feature was not fully defined and may have been a large pit rather than a ditch (Fig 7, Section 52 and Fig 8). The feature [3910] was at least 1.60m deep and probably extended eastwards to at least the end of the trench (*c* 6.0m). However, the mid blue-grey clay fill (3911) was composed of large amounts of re-deposited orange-yellow natural clays, making it difficult to distinguish its extent within the trench. Large amounts of pottery dating to the mid/late 1st century were recovered. Cutting this feature was a gully, [3908], aligned north-west to south-east and at least 0.47m wide and 0.25m deep. The dark grey-black clay silt (3909) had an organic component as well as orange-yellow mottling. The latest feature was a wide, shallow ditch [3906] also aligned north-west to south-west and 2.86m wide and 0.46m deep. The fill (3907) was dark blue-grey silty clay and contained pottery from the 3rd-4th centuries. The range of pottery recovered from these features suggests that the ditch was an important settlement boundary maintained throughout the period of occupation. A large deposit of grain from the fill of this ditch was almost certainly derived from cereal processing/storage waste.



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Roman pit and ditches, trench 39 Fig 7

Ditches [3906] and [3908] and ditch/pit [3910] Fig 8

To the east was a further possible gully [3905], which cut the upper fill of feature [3910].

Further ditches found in Trench 41 may have been a continuation of the ditch group observed in Trench 39. A substantial ditch [4106] in Trench 41 was aligned north-west to south-east, was at least 1.10m wide and 0.50m deep (Fig 9, Section 47). While the primary fill (4105) was relatively sterile, the upper fill (4104) contained pottery and bone. It cut a shallow gully [4108] aligned north-east to south-west and at least 0.65m wide and 0.14m deep.

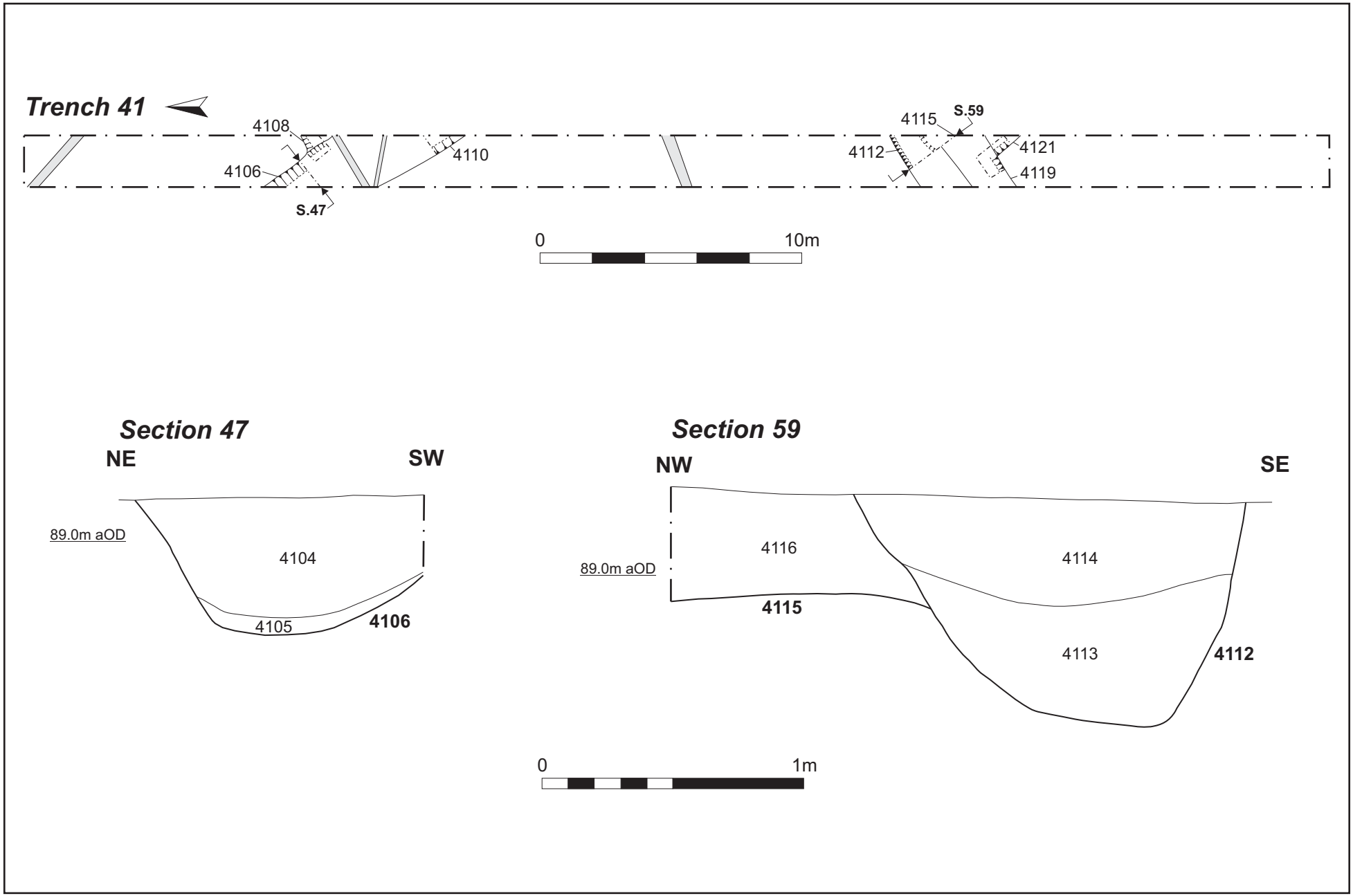
At the southern end of the trench the earliest feature was a gully [4121] aligned north-east to south-west. It was cut by a possible shallow ditch [4115] aligned north-east to south-west and 1.50m wide and 0.40m deep (Fig 9). The fill (4116) contained no finds. The latest feature was ditch [4112], which was also aligned north-east to south-west and 1.50m wide and 0.93m deep (Fig 9, Section 59). The lower fill (4113) was light grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling and the upper fill was mid grey-brown silty clay (4114). While both fills contained pottery and bone, the upper fill also contained a nail.

The continuation of the main enclosure ditch aligned north-west to south-east may have been visible in Trench 42 to the north as ditch [4217] which was 2.10m wide and 0.90m deep (Fig 5, Section 46). The primary fill (4218) was sterile light yellow-grey silty clay with orange mottling; the secondary fill (4219) was darker grey silty clay. The upper fill (4220) was mid grey silty clay with more evidence of settlement activity, including charcoal, pottery and bone.

In Trench 44 to the north, the features were generally aligned east to west, indicating that this area represented the northern part of the settlement (Fig 10, Section 27). The northernmost ditch [4406] was 1.55m wide and 0.64m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The mid grey-brown silty clay fill (4407) contained occasional pottery and bone.

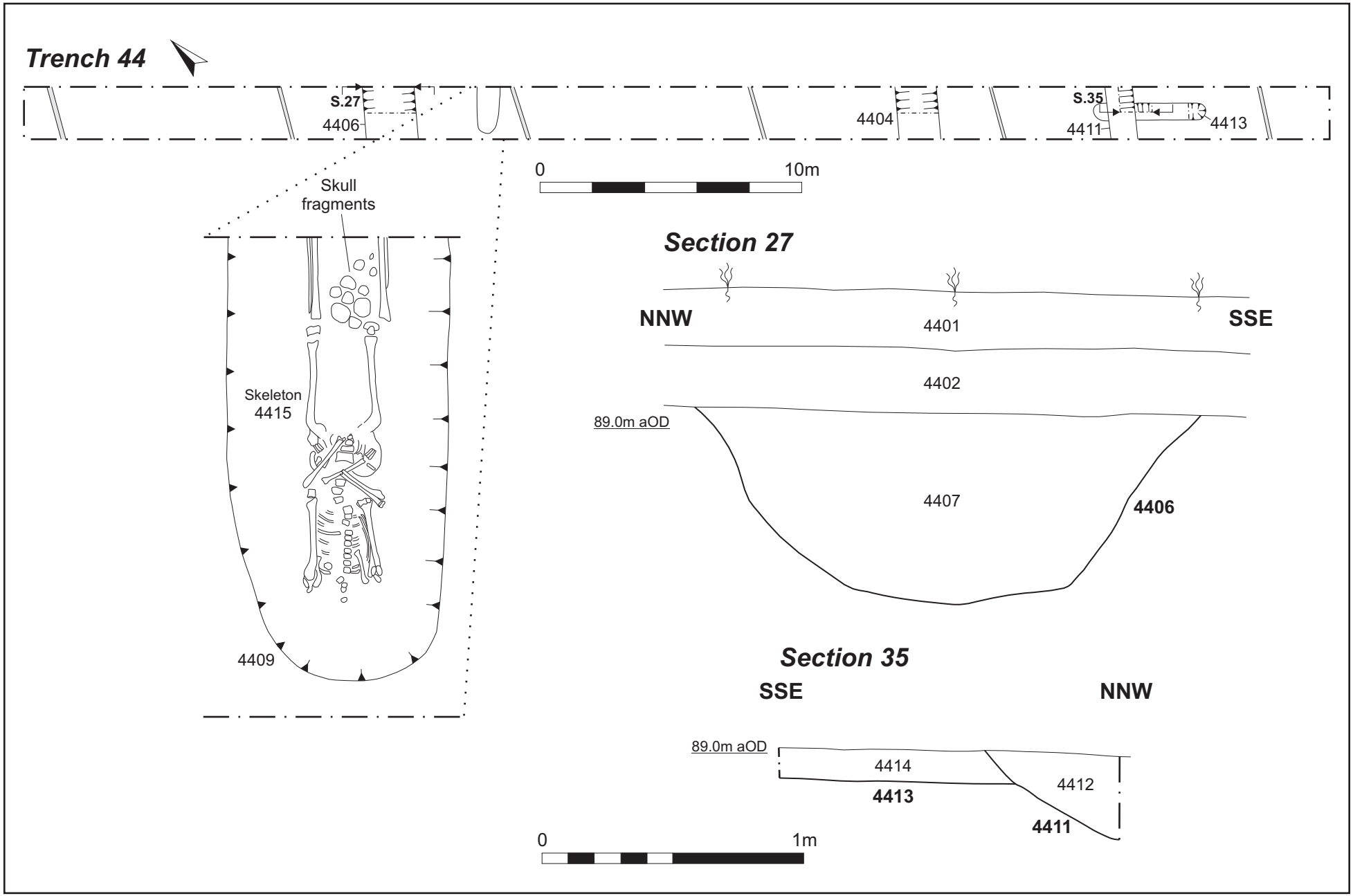
Some 2.30m to the south of the ditch, and on the very northern edge of the settlement, was a grave, also aligned east to west. The cut was at least 1.70m long, 0.84m wide and 0.32m deep (Fig 10 and 11). The foot end of the grave extended beyond the trench edge to the east. The body was in an extended, supine position and had been decapitated, with the skull placed between the lower legs of the skeleton. The skull was extensively damaged. The individual appears to be a juvenile since some of the epiphyses were not fully fused. The skeleton was cleaned but not lifted.

Decapitated burials appear to be a mainly late Roman phenomenon, beginning in the late 3rd century with many of the examples dated to the 4th century (Philpott 1992). Placing the skull in the region of the knees, legs or feet appears to be the most common practise with burials of this sort. The majority of decapitations occur in rural situations.



Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:20 (sections)

Roman ditch, trench 41 Fig 9



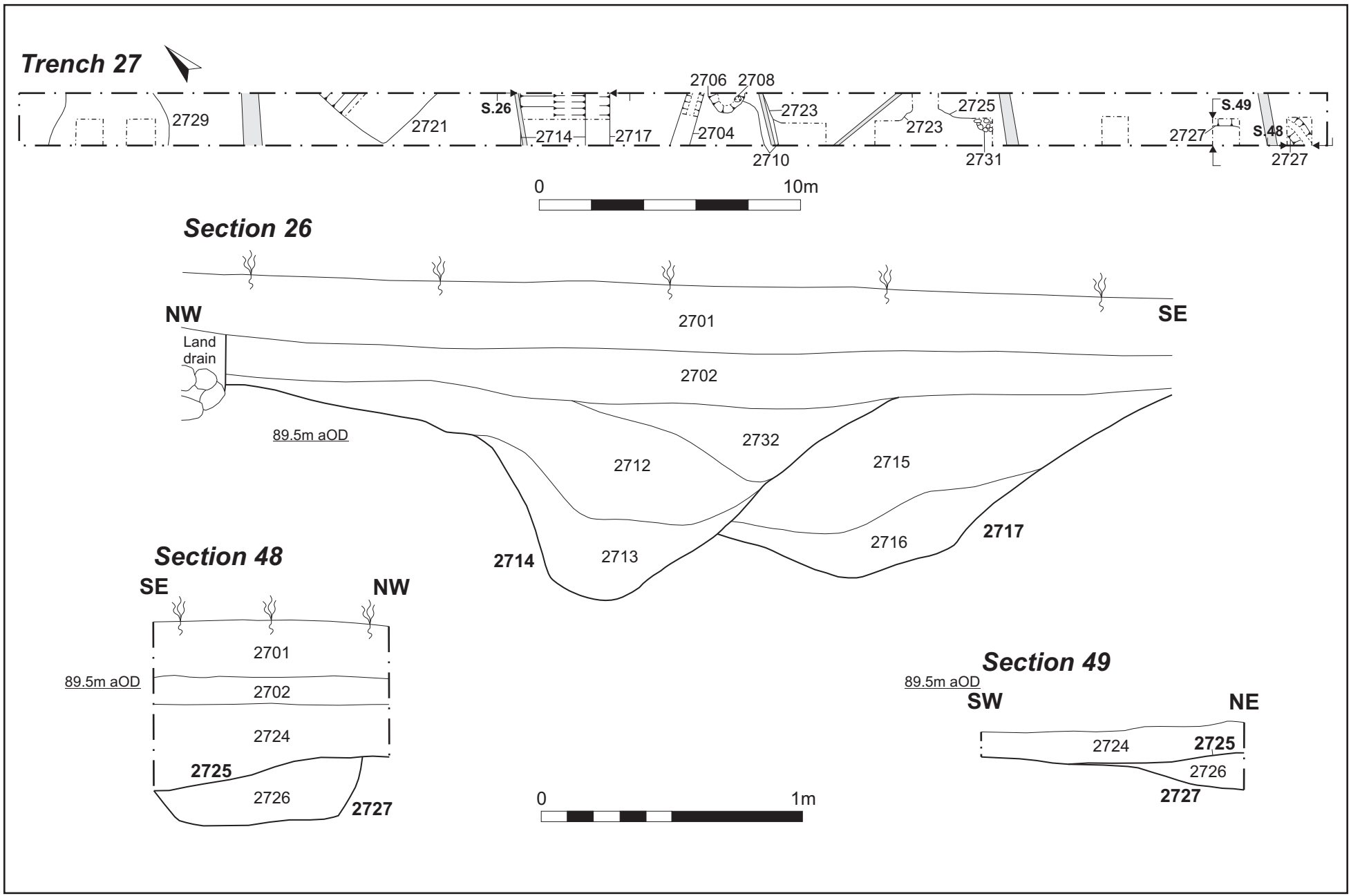
Scale 1:200 (trench plan) & 1:20 (plan & sections) Ditches and burial [4415], trench 44 Fig 10

The decapitated inhumation burial Fig 11

There were two perpendicular gullies at the southern end of the trench. Gully [4413] was aligned north-west to south-east and was 2.50m long, 0.54m wide and 0.12m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. On a north-east to south-west alignment gully [4411], cut gully [4413] and was 0.50m wide and 0.38m deep, with a more V-shaped profile (Fig 10, Section 35). It is possible that the two features had a structural function, possibly beam slots.

There was a large feature in Trench 27 which was at least 4.50m wide and 1.50m deep with irregular, diffuse edges. It was considered likely that this feature was either a palaeochannel, possibly a continuation of that in Trench 36, or had a geological origin (possibly a frost fracture). The southern edge of a later ditch [2717] followed the same edge as the feature (Fig 12, Section 26). This ditch was at least 1.5m wide and 0.69m deep with shallow edges and a concave base and had originated in the earliest phase of the settlement. The primary fill (2716) comprised brown-grey silty clay with yellow mottling and the upper fill (2715) was loose brown silty clay. The ditch fills contained pottery dating from the 1st century. The northern edge of the ditch was truncated by ditch [2714], which was 2.60m wide and 0.75m deep. The southern edge of the ditch was relatively steep, while the upper part of the northern edge was shallower; perhaps suggesting that it had been eroded. The fills of the ditch were asymmetrical, having entered the ditch predominantly from the northern edge. This may indicate that there was a bank to the north that had slowly eroded into the ditch. Pottery from the fill dated to the 3rd-4th centuries indicating that the boundary it defined was a long-lived landscape feature, having persisted for the entire span of the settlement.

A shallow gully [2704] may have formed an internal division within an enclosure (Fig 12). It was 0.72m wide and 0.31m deep with a V-shaped profile. The fill (2705) contained pottery, bone and tile. The gully was cut by a pit or the terminal of a ditch [2706] which was 1.40m wide and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a flat base. At the base of the feature was a posthole [2708] which was 0.19m in diameter and 0.50m deep. There was a further, stone-lined posthole [2731] to the south (Figs 12 and 13). Although not excavated the posthole was clearly large and probably supported a substantial post, more likely for a building than a fence.



Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:20 (sections)

Roman ditches, trench 27 Fig 12

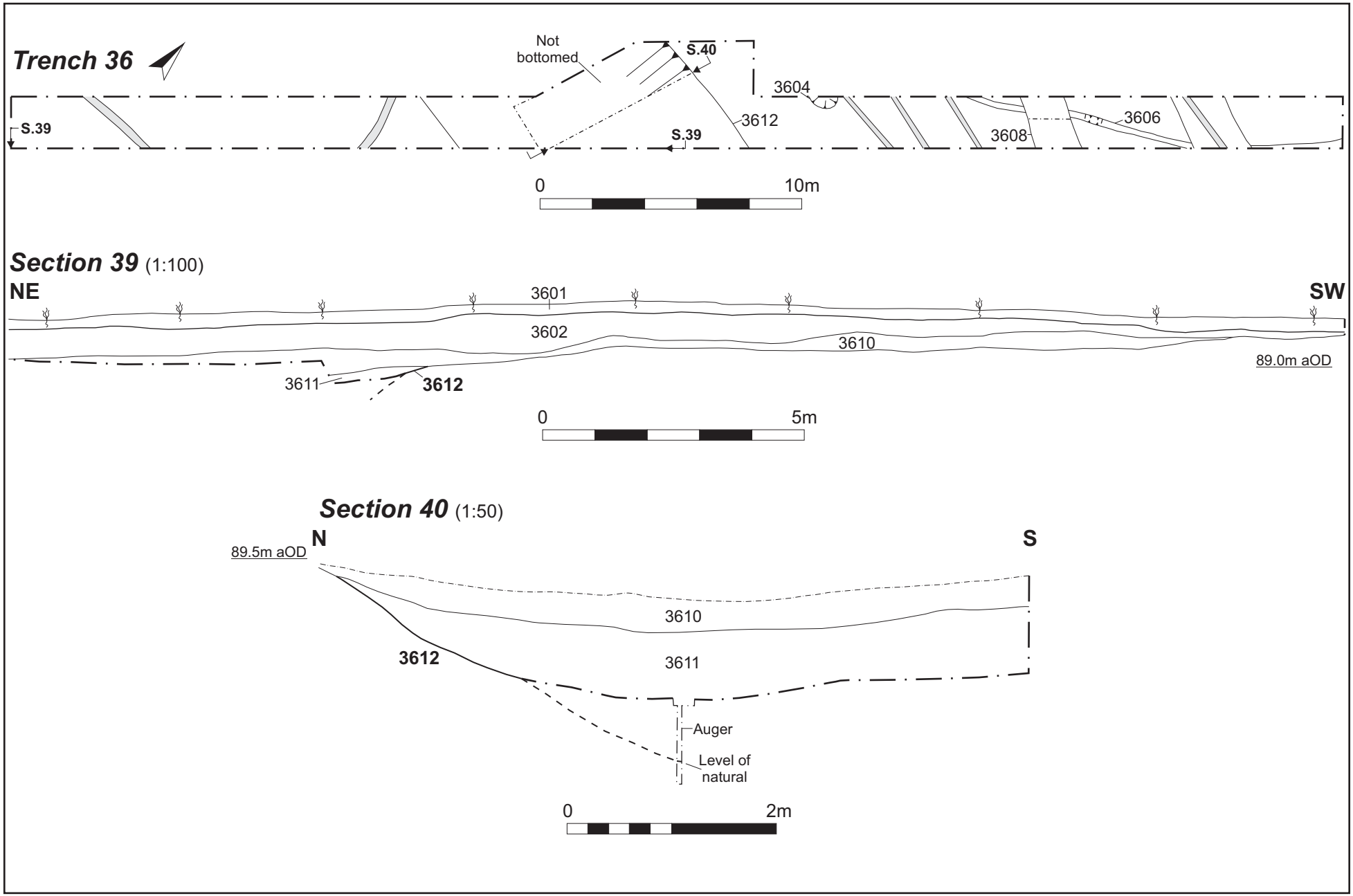
Stone-lined posthole in Trench 27 Fig 13

There was a broad, undated feature in Trench 36 which was over 10.0m wide and 1.70m deep with shallow edges ([3612], Fig 14, Sections 39 and 40). Although it was only partially excavated the base of the feature was reached by auger. The fills were mottled silty clays indicating that it had been waterlogged and silted up gradually. There was no evidence of organic material within the fills. Its size makes it likely to be a palaeochannel rather than a man-made feature. Pottery from the lowest excavated fills of the feature dated to the late 1st century AD, indicating that it was open during this period and possibly even demarcating the eastern boundary of the settlement. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery from the layer of slumped material may suggest that a slight earthwork still existed into this period.

Beyond the probable palaeochannel to the east was a pit [3604] which was 1.12m long, 0.41m wide and 0.26m deep and a narrow, undated gully [3606] which was north-east to south-west aligned. It was cut by ditch [3608] which was north-west to south-east aligned and 1.77m wide and 0.33m deep. It was also undated.

There appeared to be a fairly dense concentration of features in Trench 37, but because they were only observed in small test-pits cut through layer [3705], little can be said of their function (Fig 15). All the features dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries and were concentrated in the central part of the trench. Ditch [3707] was at least 1.00m wide and 0.52m deep and aligned north-east to south-west with a fairly steep eastern edge and a flat base (Fig 15, Section 45). It may represent a broad curvilinear anomaly observed on the geophysical survey (Fig 3). Further south was a possible ditch [3709] aligned north-west to south-east, although no edges were observed in the test-pit. Feature [3711] may have been a curvilinear gully which was 0.54m wide and 0.25m deep. There were two features at the south. The earliest, feature [3713], was at least 0.60m wide and 0,40m deep. It was cut by feature [3715] which was at least 0.44m wide and 0.49m deep.

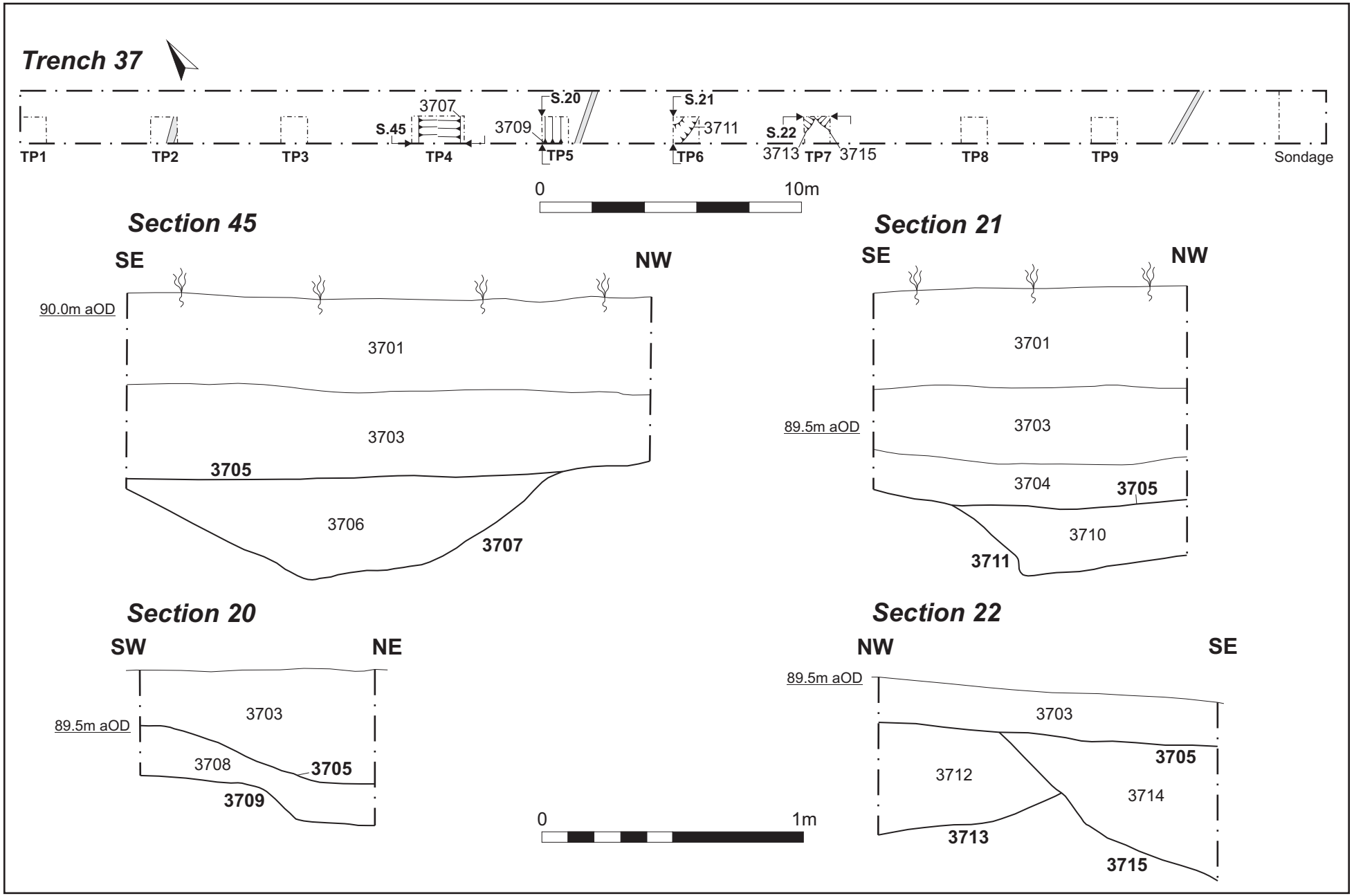
Trench 38 was located in an area that had been extensively disturbed by modern activity, during the construction of the A41 road to the south, a pipeline and other works (Fig 16). Nevertheless, there were a few features at the western end of the trench. Ditch [3804] was 1.20m wide and 0.34m deep and aligned north-west to south-east. It terminated within the trench. There were few artefacts in the fill, especially compared to Trench 37 to the north. Pottery dated to the mid-1st to mid-2nd centuries. Ditch [3810] at the south of the trench was 1.15m wide and 0.34m deep, also aligned north-west to south-east and terminating within the trench (Fig 16, Section 34). Small amounts of tile and bone were present in the fill. A small pit lay between the two ditches [3807]. It was 0.70m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Pottery from the fill dated to the early Roman period.



Scale 1:200 (plan), 1:100 & 1:50

Palaeochannel, trench 36 Fig 14

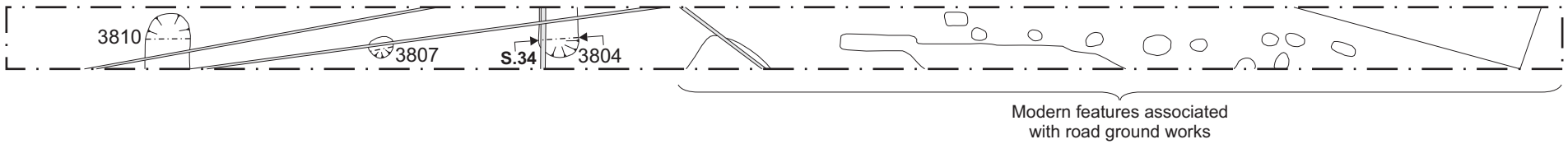
Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:20 (sections)

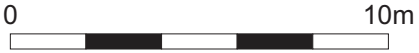


Trench 37 Fig 15

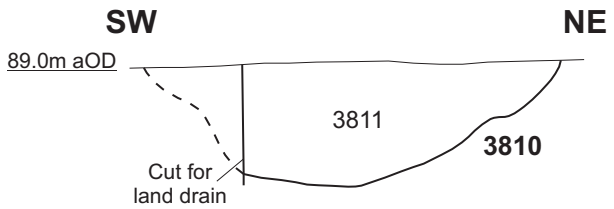
Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:20 (sections)

Trench 38





Section 34



Trench 38 Fig 16

Trench 79, which was L-shaped, was the only trench that investigated the central part of the settlement. Two parallel gullies aligned north-west to south-east were situated 1.3m apart. Gully [7906] was 0.83m wide and 0.52m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 18, Section 11). The fill (7907) was composed of dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and pottery dating to the mid-1st to early-2nd century AD. Gully [7904] was 0.74m wide and 0.44m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. Pottery from the fill dated to the 3rd or 4th centuries indicating the gullies were not contemporary. A further gully [7908] to the south was north-east to south-west aligned and was 0.92m wide and 0.46m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 18, Section 120. The fill was similar to that in gully [7906] and it also contained pottery dating to the mid-1st to early-2nd century; this suggests that the ditches were open at the same time and may have been part of a smaller sub-division of the main enclosure. There was a shallow pit/ditch terminal [7910] which was at least 1.05m long, 0.52m wide and 0.42m deep.

Possible palaeochannel in Trench 36, looking east Fig 17

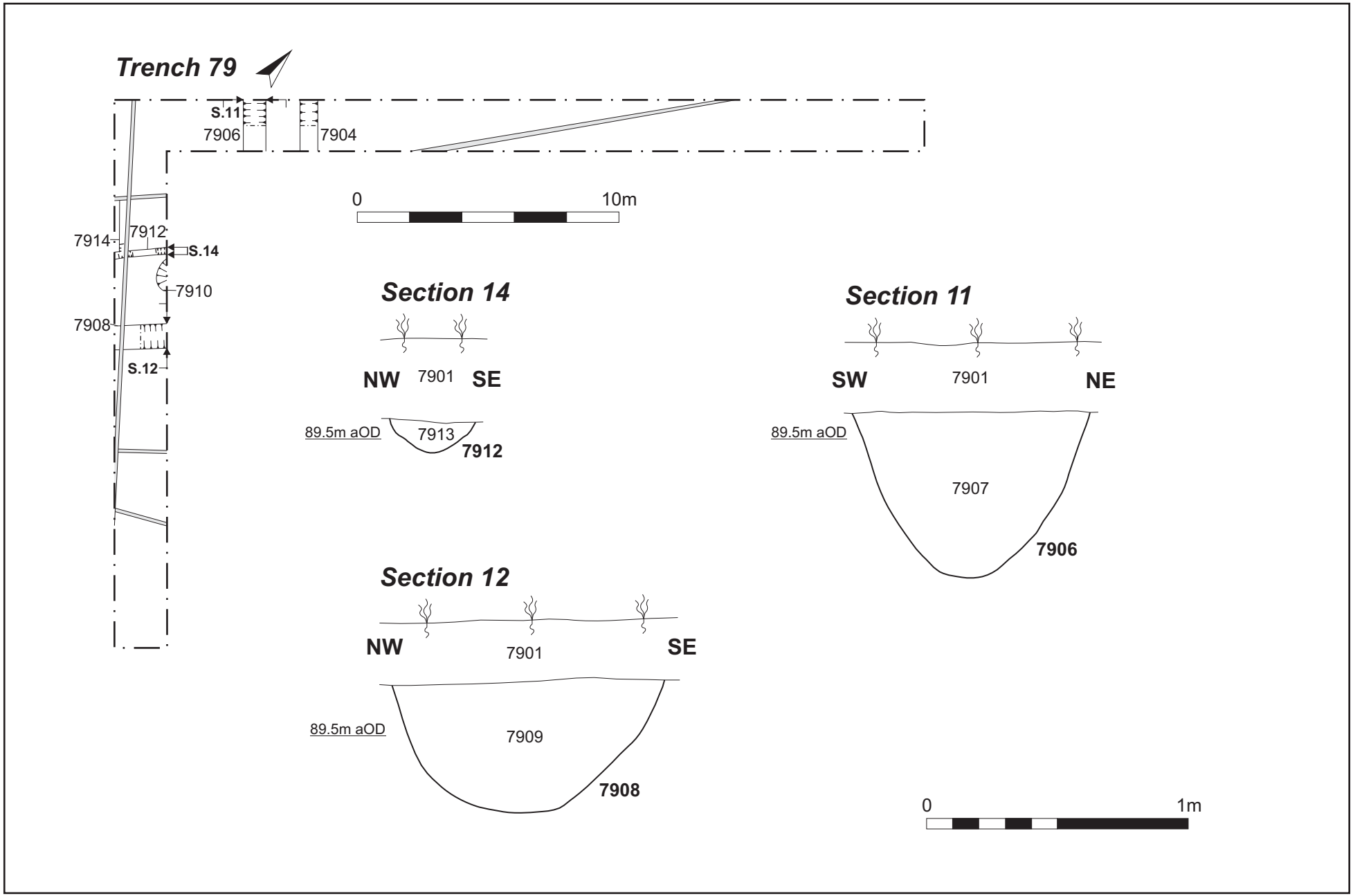
Layers of dark brown-black silty clay containing frequent charcoal and pottery overlaid many of the Roman settlement features in Trenches 27 and 37 in particular. There was a similar layer in Trench 36 that appeared to have slumped into the palaeochannel. The layers seem to represent the final abandonment of the settlement and may be a buried soil. It seemed to occur in areas with slight dips in the natural geology. In Trench 27 it was concentrated in the southern half of the trench, although there was a small area at the north of the trench, and it was between 0.22-0.29m thick. The area to the north was at least 5.00m long, 2.28m wide and 0.45m deep with steep, though uneven, edges and a flat base. The fill (2720) was firm dark brown-grey clay.

In Trench 37, the layer [3705] was between 0.20-0.48m thick and was located at the northern end of the trench, sealing all the archaeological features. There were large amounts of pottery within the layers, dating from all periods of the settlement, up to the early-mid 4th century.

4.3 The boundary ditch and bank

Overlying the palaeochannel in Trench 36, but on a different alignment, was a broad, low bank (Fig 14, Section 39 and Fig 19). The bank was about 15.70m wide and formed an earthwork up to 0.50m high. The bank material (3602) was composed of brown-grey silty clay with frequent chalk and stone.

At this stage it is not clear whether there was any relationship between the bank and the palaeochannel. The bank was visible on the ground surface entering Field 8 from the south aligned north to south before turning 90° westwards. It disappeared at the boundary between Fields 8 and 9, perhaps suggesting that it had been ploughed out in Field 9 or ran beneath the current field boundary. At both the north and south ends the remains of the bank were more diffuse and disturbed; only in the area of Trench 36 was it a clear earthwork. The course of the bank mirrors the sinuous course of the parish boundary in this part of the field, suggesting it once demarcated this boundary.



Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:20 (sections)

Trench 79 Fig 18

Trench 37, looking south-west.
The bank is visible in the far side of the trench Fig 19

To the north a broad, shallow ditch was excavated in Trenches 3, 25 and 68. It was aligned along the current field and parish boundary, appearing to demarcate the latter. In Trench 25, in which the full profile was excavated, it was 6.90m wide and 0.40m deep (Fig 20, Section 29).

No dating evidence was recovered from either the bank or the ditch, although the bank has been shown to be later than the palaeochannel, which itself contained Romano-British pottery.

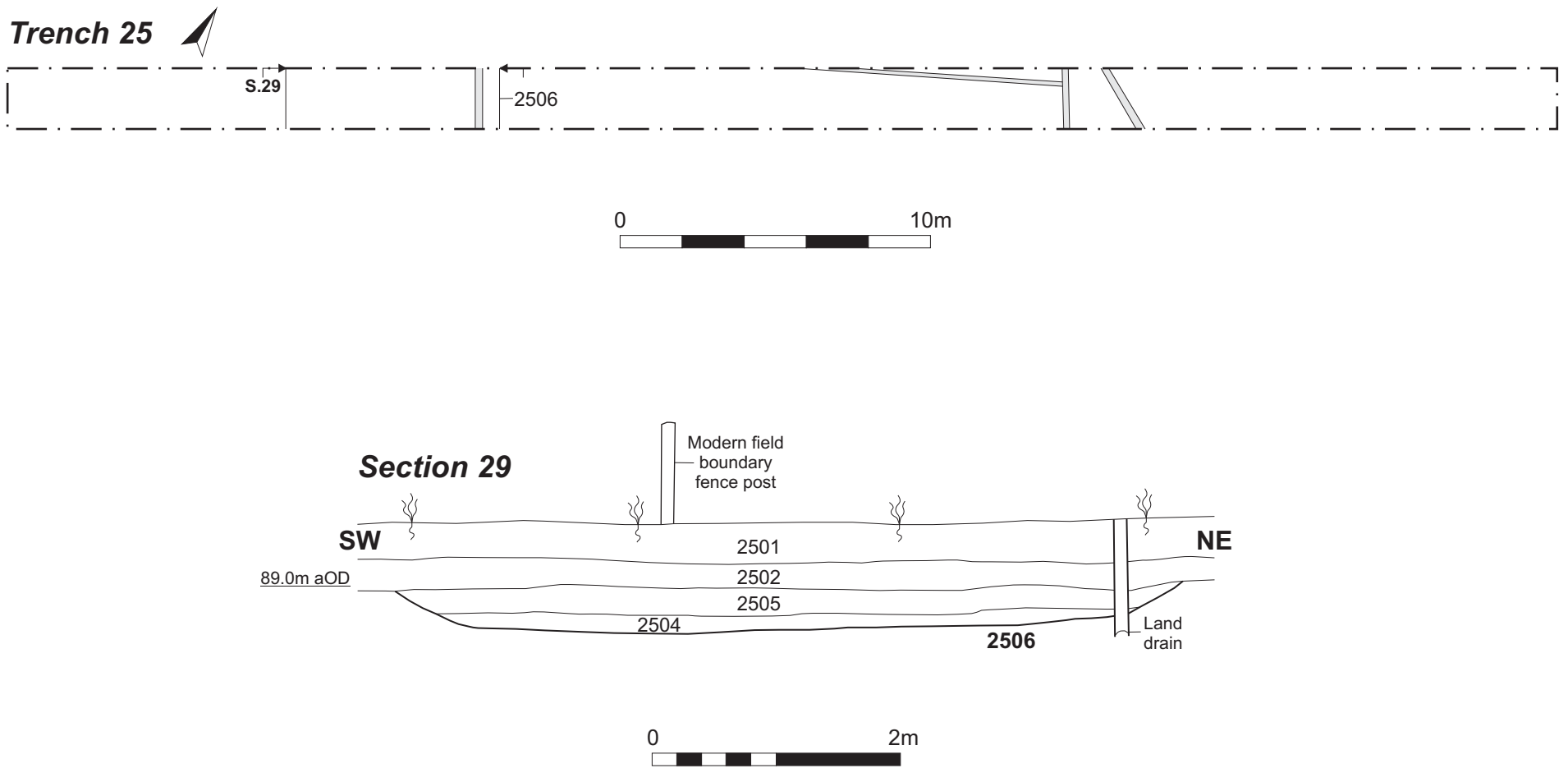
5 QUANTIFICATION OF THE SITE ARCHIVE

Site records
Plans: 14
Sections: 60
Trial trench log sheets: 72
Contexts: 150 on individual pro-forma record sheets
Supporting records: 16 on individual pro-forma record sheets
Colour slides: 5 films
Black and white: 5 films
Digital: 172 images

Finds
Pottery: 10,629g
Ceramic tile: 5462g
Brick and fired clay: 432g
Small finds: 9
Worked flint: 2

Environmental samples
Bulk soil samples: 6

Fig 20



Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:50 (section)

The possible boundary ditch, trench 25 Fig 20

6 THE FINDS

6.1 **The pottery** by Jeremy Evans and Philip Mills with a contribution on the samian by Gwladys Monteil

Around 1,131 sherds, of pottery with a minimum number of rims (MNR) of 112 were presented for examination from the site. Twenty-one of these sherds were samian ware, including 7 rimsherds. Thirteen sherds were of Class Z, of medieval or post-medieval date. The fabric classes and codes used follow those set out in Booth *et al* 2001. The main type wares are listed below (Table 1).

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by fabric

Fabrics	Definition	No %	MNR %	Main ware types	No%	MNR%
A11	BAT AM	0.1%	0.0%	A	0.1%	
B01	DOR BB1	0.1%	0.9%	B	0.1%	0.9%
C11	HAR SH	0.8%	1.8%	C	3.9%	5.4%
C13	Handmade Shell	3.1%	3.6%			
E00	'Belgic' grog tempered	0.3%		E	32.6%	22.5%
E10	Handmade oxidised	5.3%	2.7%			
E110	Handmade reduced sand	0.1%				
E120	Handmade oxidised organics	0.2%				
E130	Handmade, reduced, organics	0.1%				
E20	Wheelmade reduced	11.4%	12.6%			
E200	Wheelmade oxidised	0.7%	0.9%			
E210	Wheelmade, oxidised, organics	11.1%				
E220	Wheelmade, oxidised, limestone	0.1%	0.9%			
E86	Early pink grog tempered	3.4%	5.4%			
F00	Colour coated	0.8%	0.0%	F	4.2%	6.3%
F51	OXF RS	2.3%	5.4%			
F52	LNV RS	1.1%	0.9%			
G00	Handmade Gritty	0.4%		G	0.4%	
M00	Mortaria	0.1%	0.9%	M	0.4%	0.9%
M22	OXF WH	0.3%				
O00	Oxidised	5.2%	9.9%	O	6.5%	11.7%
O10	Sandy oxidised	0.2%				
O40	Possible Severn Valley Ware fine oxidised	0.1%				
O81	PNK GT	1.1%	1.8%			
P20	Grog and sand	0.4%		P	1.6%	
P30	Coarse sand	0.4%				
P40	Shell; organics	0.1%				
P50	Flint tempered	0.8%				
Q00	White slipped	0.1%		Q	0.1%	
R00	Greyware	24.1%	27.0%	R	25.5%	34.2%
R10	Sandy Greyware	0.5%	3.6%			
R30	OXF RE	0.1%	0.9%			
R37	OXF RE	0.7%	2.7%			
R91	Hand Made reduced grog tempered	15.4%	7.2%			
S00	Samian	1.9%	6.3%	S	1.9%	6.3%
W00	White ware	1.5%	1.8%	W	6.4%	4.5%
W12	OXF WH	1.9%				
W21	VER WH	3.0%	2.7%			
Z20	Med	0.2%		Z	1.1%	
Z30	Post Med	1.0%				
N		***1131***	***111***			

Dating

Table 2 shows the date distribution by MNR for all the vessels with a given date range of less than 200 years. It implies a late Iron Age component, with deposition rising in the early first century AD, peaking around AD 70. There is a decline in deposition reaching a nadir in the early 2nd century, with a following peak in the mid 2nd century. There is a crash in the earlier 3rd century with some recovery in the later 3rd to fourth centuries.

Table 3 shows the date distribution of the samian vessels by number of sherds (Nosh). This shows a strong late 1st century AD beginning, with a virtual hiatus in the early 2nd century, followed by rising levels in the Hadrianic-early Antonine period and a mid-late Antonine peak followed by a low early 3rd century supply. This is pretty typical of the samian supply to a basic level rural site and the factors involved are not site specific. As usual samian does not reach the site before the Flavian period despite the strong earlier first century activity.

Table 2: Date distribution plot for Aston Clinton (by MNR) for vessels with a date range of less than 200 years

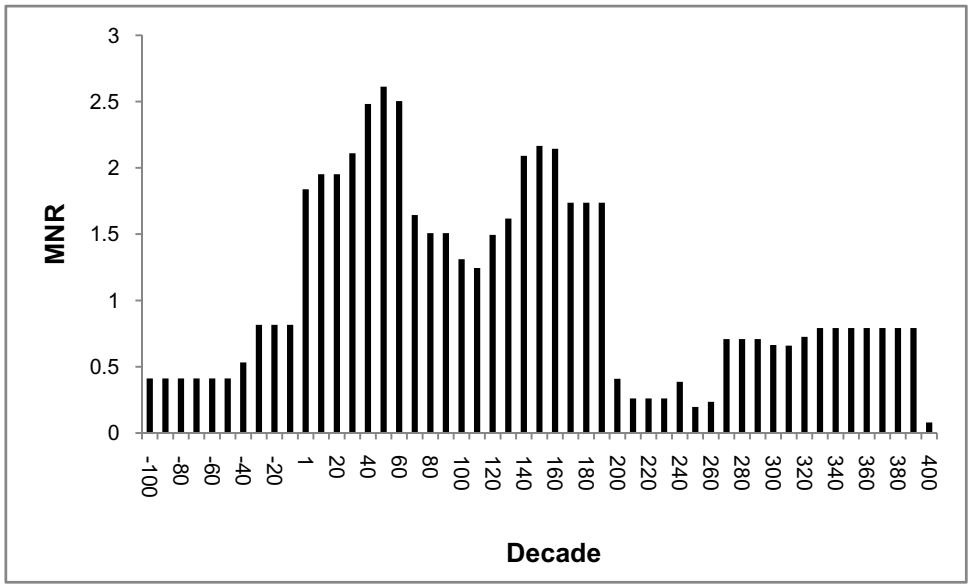
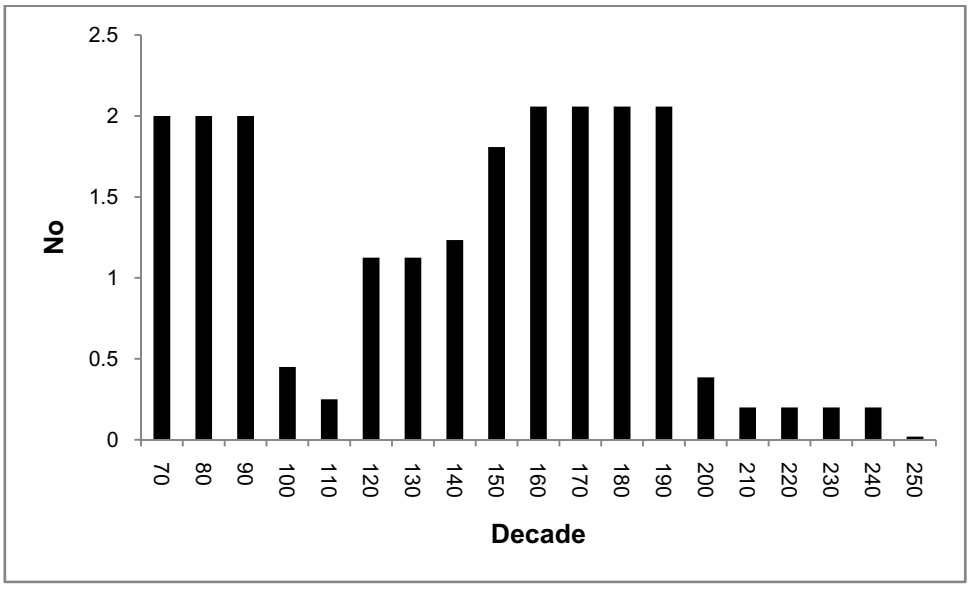


Table 3: Date distribution plot for the Aston Clinton samian ware (by Nosh)



The earliest material is represented by the Iron Age tradition, Class P sherds, of which some 18 sherds were recovered. Five sherds in a flint tempered fabric were from pit [2113] with a pre-Roman date, and a sherd in a fabric with shell and organic temper was from fill (2712) of ditch [2714], given an AD 43-70 spot date. The rest of the Class P was present residually in Trenches 37, 41 and 44.

Class E, early grog tempered 'Belgic' wares were present in both wheelmade and handmade forms, and have a date range of *c*1st century BC - *c* 70 AD. They appear as contemporary pottery in [2714], including a jar with a beaded rim, ditch [2717], including a necked jar rim in ditch fill (2716), ditch [2727] , gully/ pit [3715], fill (4113) of ditch [4112], fill (4109) of ditch [4110], pit/posthole [4210], ditch [4214], including a necked jar rim, a jar with an everted rim and a globular jar or beaker rim, ditches [4304] and [4405] with two necked jar rims and a jar with an everted rim, ditch [4411], ditch [4413] and gully [7906]. Class E wares also occur residually in Trenches 38 and 39.

The reduced handmade groggy fabric classified by Booth *et al* (2002) as R91, but considered by the current authors as properly belonging to class E, although with a potentially wider date range than most of this class, was present as a possibly carinated shouldered jar rim in ditch [4305], a jar with an outcurving rim in ditch [2717], a simple rimmed lid in gully [3709], and a jar with an everted rising rim in ditch fill [4404]. Iron Age and Transitional material seems to be concentrated in Trenches 27, 42 and 44.

There is a 2nd century horizon suggested by a Verulamium whiteware reeded-rimmed bowl in layer [3705], a Harrold wheelmade shell-tempered C11 necked jar with an out turned rim, dated from the 2nd-3rd century, in layer [3705] TP4, a Verulamium whiteware flagon, dated from the early-mid 2nd century in gully [4211], a greyware dish with a beaded rim, dating from the mid 2nd century onwards, in layer [3704], and a Nene Valley colour coated ware cornice rimmed beaker, dated AD 160- 250, from ditch [2704].

Material dating from later 3rd century onwards includes a number of pink grog tempered body sherds and jars in fill (2713) of ditch [2714] and layer [2725], an Oxford red slipped (Young 1977) C18.3 jar from ditch [3906] along with a Young (1977) type C51 bowl from the same context, a fine greyware developed bead and flange rim bowl, of later 3rd or 4th century date, from fill (4114) of ditch [4112], an Oxford red slipped (Young 1977) C47 bowl, date AD 270-400 AD onwards, in (4114), and an Oxfordshire colour-coated ware beaker from (4220), ditch [4217]. The latest dated vessel from the site is an Oxford red slipped (Young 1977) C75 bowl from layer [2725], with a date range of AD 325-400 onwards. It seems likely that most of the Oxfordshire colour-coated ware on the site reached it in the 4th century.

Supply

Table 1 shows the approximate breakdown of the main fabric classes and R91 from the whole site. The breakdown for the wider range of fabrics identified, with concordances with the national Roman fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) as appropriate is shown Table 1.

The proportions of the fabric groups identified, without the class P or class Z pottery is shown in Table 6.

Table 4: Stacked bar chart of class E and Class C handmade and wheelmade fabrics sorted by earlier dated contexts

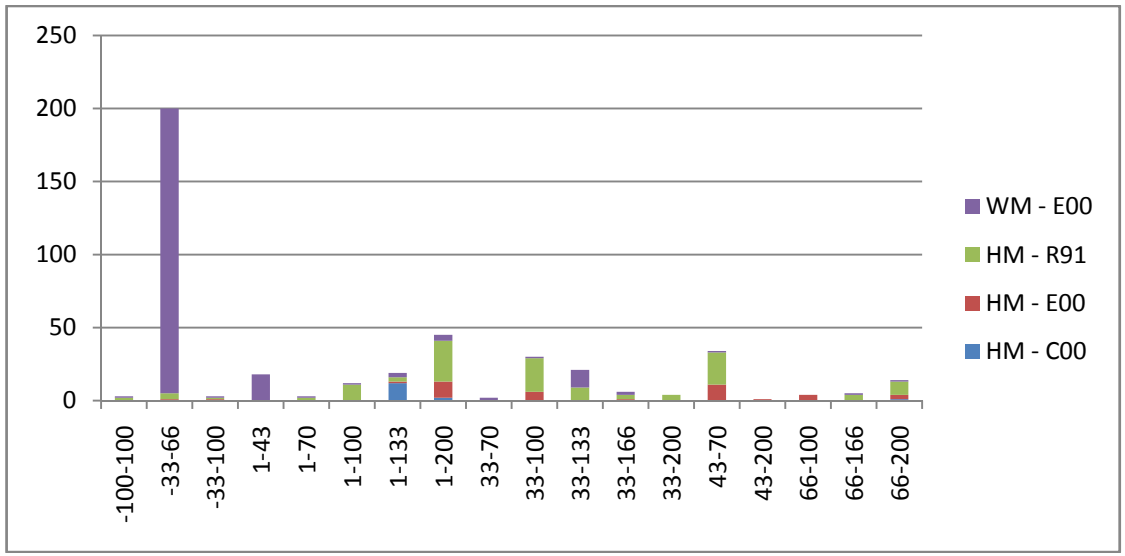


Table 5: Proportional Stacked bar chart of class E and Class C handmade and wheelmade fabrics sorted by earlier dated contexts

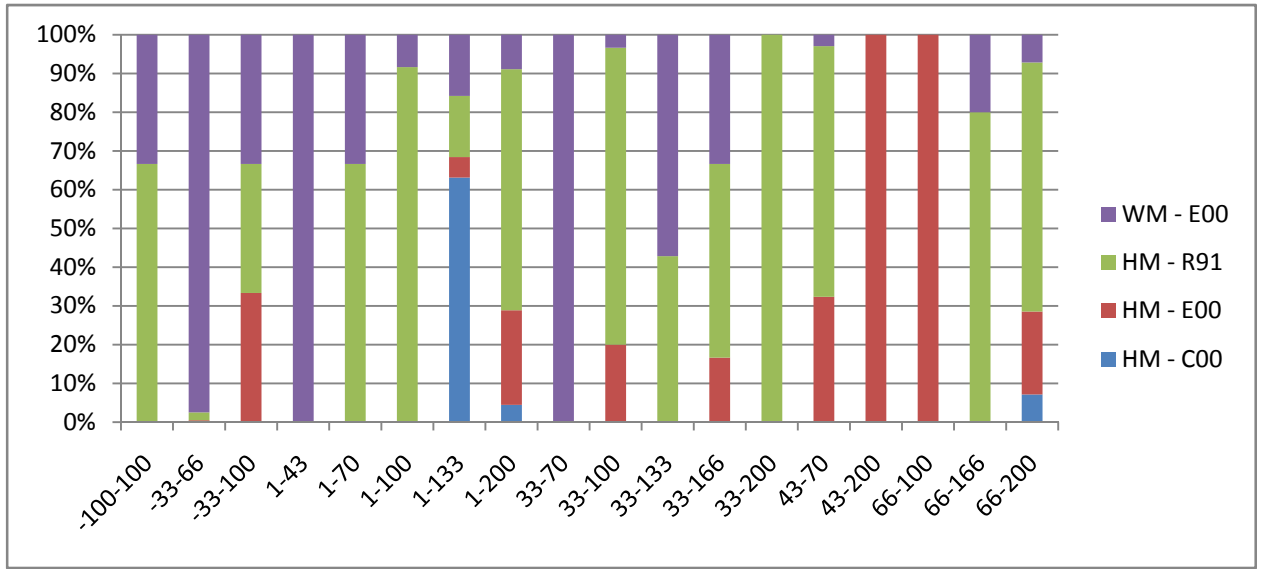


Table 6: Main ware types by Trench

Trench	Ware A00	B00	C00	E00	F00	G00	M00	O00	P00	Q00	R00	R91	S00	W00	Z00	*Total*
14															100.0%	***2***
21									100.0%							***5***
22															100.0%	***1***
27			0.8%	23.6%	4.2%			7.2%	0.4%		27.4%	24.9%	3.8%	6.3%%	1.3%	***237***
34				11.1%	22.2%						22.2%	44.4%				***9***
36				33.3%				13.3%			46.7%				6.7%	***15***
37	0.4%	0.4%	8.4%	9.2%	4.2%	1.7%	0.8%	9.2%	1.7%		42.9%	14.3%	1.3%	5.0%	0.4%	***238***
38				16.7%				16.7%			33.3%			33.3%		***6***
39			2.2%	15.4%	9.9%		1.1%	11.0%			34.1%	25.3%	1.1%			***91***
41			0.8%	23.4%	2.4%		0.8%	6.5%	3.2%		45.2%	14.5%	0.8%	1.6%	0.8%	***124***
42			5.3%	67.2%	4.9%			3.8%			1.9%	4.5%	0.4%	12.1%		***265***
43				66.7%								33.3%				***3***
44			1.4%	68.1%				4.2%	5.6%		4.2%	11.1%	2.8%	2.8%		***72***
45															100.0%	***2***
65												50.0%			50.0%	***2***
70															100.0%	***1***
79			7%	21%				2%		2%	26%	24%	7%	12%	0%	***58***

A single sherd of a Dressel 20 amphora amounted to 0.1% (Nosh). This is a very low level and indicative of a basic level rural assemblage.

BB1 is present at 0.1% (Nosh) and 0.8% (MNR) represented by a single simple rimmed dish. This seems extremely low for the region, even given the rural status of the site *cf* Evans (2001, 364) who suggests a range of 1.25-2.5% based on the rural site based evidence outlined in Allen and Fulford (1996).

Class C, shell-tempered wares, comprise 4% (Nosh) of the assemblage, of which the majority (3.1%) are the handmade fabric C13 with a small quantity of the Harrold Shelly ware, C11, making up 0.8%.

The grog tempered 'Belgic' wares, in class E, make up the majority of the fabrics, some 33% (Nosh) and 23% (MNR), or 48% (Nosh) and 30% (MNR) if R91 is included with this ware group, as it should be. A stacked bar chart of class E and Class C fabrics subdivided into handmade and wheel made fabrics grouped by similarly dated contexts is shown in Table 4. The same data is displayed as proportional stacked bar chart in Table 5. This suggests an interesting transition from wheelmade production of class E vessels in pre- conquest deposits to handmade production in post-conquest contexts.

Finewares and samian make up 6% of the total assemblage, with the majority coming from Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, at 2% (Nosh), and samian ware at 2% (Nosh). Nene Valley colour-coated ware is only 1% (Nosh) of the assemblage and a number of early colour –coated ware sherds from unidentified sources make up the remaining 1% (Nosh).

Mortaria comprise only 0.4% (Nosh) of the assemblage, these chiefly being Oxford whiteware mortaria, but also including a late 2nd century AD mortarium perhaps from the Northamptonshire/Bedfordshire/Buckinghamshire area (possibly Hartley 1989 fabric 4eg).

Class O makes up 7% (Nosh) and 12% (MNR) of the group. It includes an example of a possible Severn Valley ware fabric at 0.1% (Nosh) and 1% (Nosh) and 2% (MNR) of the later Pink Grog Tempered ware from Towcester, dating from the late 3rd century. Class P, the handmade IA tradition pottery, makes up 2% of the assemblage in a variety of fabrics. Class Q is very sparse at 0.1%.

Class R, reduced wares, excluding the handmade reduced grog tempered fabric R91, make up 25% (Nosh) and 34% (MNR). The majority of these are assumed to belong to the Oxfordshire greyware series, but have not been sub-divided for this assessment.

Whitewares make up 6% (5% by MNR) which are mainly Verulamium whitewares at 3% (Nosh) and 3% (MNR) and with some possible Oxfordshire whiteware at 2% (Nosh) with a further 2% from no identified source.

The breakdown of ware classes by trench is shown in Appendix 2, Table 4. Normally trenches with less than 50 sherds would not be included in such a break down, but the smaller groups are shown in this table as indicative of the pre-Roman focus of the settlement (Trench 21) and a transitional period settlement focus (Trenches 34 and 36).

The trenches from which more than 50 sherds were recovered show an interesting divergence of patterns – presumably reflecting the changes in the site status and focus over time.

Trench 27 shows finewares, including samian at 8%, class E with R91 has been reduced to 49% of the assemblage, with Class R at 27%, Class O at 7%, and Class W at 6%, with pottery deposition perhaps peaking during the mid 2nd century, but with a small amount of late 3rd century onwards material present.

Trench 37 has the amphora sherd, although at 0.4% this is still within the range appropriate for base level rural, as does the class B example also at 0.4%. This trench has the highest incidence of class C vessels, at 8% with the lowest class E (9%) but one of the highest incidences of R91 at 25%. Finewares, with samian make up 10% of the assemblage, a figure much more appropriate to a villa site (Evans 2001). Mortaria are present at 1%, oxidised wares are present at 9% Class R at 43%. The high level of fineware is present in Trench 39, albeit mainly by class F with a sharp reduction in class S.

Trenches 41 and 42 have combined Class F and S values at 4% and 5% respectively, with trench 42 having a very low level of class R reflecting a main focus of activity in the early post conquest period, a pattern perhaps also reflected in trench 79, although the small sample size means the pattern should be treated with caution.

Function

Table 7: Approximate overall functional analysis by MNR

F	CJ	SJ	J	WMJ	BK	M	B	D	L	Uncertain	***N***
											111
1.8%	1.8%	3.6%	62.2%	0.9%	4.5%	0.9%	15.3%	6.3%	0.9%	1.8%	***Rims***

Table 8: Approximate function breakdown by trench

Trench	F	CJ	SJ	J	WMJ	BK	M	B	D	L	Uncertain	*Total*
27			2.6%	73.7%		7.9%		5.3%	10.5%			***38***
37		6.9%	3.4%	44.8%	3.4%		3.4%	17.2%	10.3%	3.4%	6.9%	***29***
39				50.0%		10.0%		40.0%				***10***
41				60.0%				40.0%				***10***
42	16.7%			66.7%		8.3%		8.3%				***12***

Key to tables: F=flagon; CJ=carinated jar; SJ=storage jar; J= jar; WMJ=wide-mouthed jar; BK=beaker; M=mortarium; B=bowl; D=dish; L=lid

Table 4 shows the approximate functional breakdown for the whole assemblage. Jars are at 63% (MNR) compared to tablewares (dishes and bowls) at 21% which places the site strongly into the basic level rural category (Evans 2001, fig 6 and fig. 8).

Table 5 shows the functional breakdown by trench where more than 10 rims are present. Trench 27 falls very firmly in the rural category. Trench 37, with jars at 48% and table wares at 27% is a little more diverse, although still within the rural range.

Summary of Potential

This assemblage reflects a period of activity starting in the late Iron Age, with a thriving settlement in the pre-conquest period. It continues, perhaps with a change in geographical focus, in the immediate post-conquest period. There is an important 2nd century horizon, substantially so in Trenches 27 and 37, but although the functional analysis does have higher tableware levels here than on some other parts of the site there is no clear ceramic evidence of higher status activity here.

The site is probably continuously occupied until the later 4th century. The apparent lack of early third century material is as likely to be owing to a lack of available type fossils for the period at this geographical location as it is to a real decline.

6.2 Ceramic tile by Pat Chapman

There are 219 sherds of ceramic tile, weighing 5462g. The bulk of the assemblage comprises small and very fragmented Roman floor tile sherds, the majority made from fine, silty, slightly soft, pale brown clay and a few from a harder sandy red-brown clay (Table 9). The sherds and fragments from the softer pale brown floor tiles comprise about 60% by number and 50% by weight of the assemblage and they are concentrated in Trenches 27, 37, 38, 41, 42 and 43. Measurable sherds are 35mm thick.

Medieval/post-medieval tile

Flat tile sherds, typically about 15mm thick, made from hard sandy red-brown or orange-brown clay fabrics are flat roof tiles. There is at least one pegtile as a remnant peghole survives in a sherd from fill (3701).

Table 9: Ceramic tile quantification

Context/feature	No	Wt (g)	Comment
101 / topsoil	3	40	Red-brown *c* 15mm thick, roof
901 / topsoil	1	45	Red-brown *c* 15mm thick, roof
2705 /ditch 2704	1	56	
2707 / ditch 2706	3	910	Red-brown, black core, *c* 35mm thick, floor
2709 / posthole 2708	2	5	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
2712 / ditch 2714	65	500	Fine silty pale brown, *c* 35mm thick floor fragments
2713 / ditch 2714	14	245	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
2716 / ditch 2717	2	7	Fragments
2724 / hollow 2743	17	891	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
2726 / ditch 2727	7	20	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
2728 / hollow 2729	3	130	Fragments red-brown and black
3201 / topsoil	2	65	Orange-brown
3501 / topsol	1	26	Orange-brown
3609 / ditch 3609	2	25	Orange-brown
3701 / topsoil	2	150	Red-brown, medieval roof pegtile
3703 / hollow 3705	10	226	Red-brown
3704 / hollow 3705	3	50	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
3708 / gully 3709	3	45	Red-brown
3712 / gully 3713	6	75	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
3809 / pit 3807	8	72	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
3811 / ditch 3810	3	150	2 fine silty pale brown floor fragments, 1 red-brown
4104 / gully 4106	1	10	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
4113 / ditch 4112	5	187	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
4205 / ditch 4208	1	6	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
4209 / posthole 4210	3	2	Red-brown
4212 / gully 4211	1	4	Red-brown
4213 / ditch 4214	14	180	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
4304 / ditch 4305	3	42	Fine silty pale brown, floor fragments
4412 / ditch 4411	1	60	Red-brown, *c* 35mm thick, floor
4501 / topsoil	2	74	Red-brown
4701 / topsoil	2	40	Red-brown
4801 / topsoil	2	50	Red-brown
5101 / topsoil	4	133	Red-brown and dark red
5301 / topsol	7	146	Red-brown and dark red
5601 / topsoil	1	17	Red-brown
5701 / topsoil	5	290	Orange-brown
5801 / topsoil	3	65	Orange-brown
6001 / topsoil	2	198	Red-brown
6201 / topsoil	1	70	Red-brown
6601 / topsoil	2	130	Red-brown
6801 / topsoil	1	25	Red-brown
Totals	**219**	**5462**	

The bulk of this assemblage is Roman floor tile. It should be noted that there are no diagnostic sherds of Roman *tegula* or *imbrex* roof tile or box flue tile, neither was there any *opus signinum*. Most of the thinner tile sherds, which come predominantly from the topsoil contexts, are residual medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile sherds.

6.3 Brick and fired clay by Pat Chapman

There are eight post-medieval brick fragments, weighing 432g, from topsoil deposits (Table 10).

Table 10: Brick quantification

Context/feature	No	Wt (g)
901 / topsoil	1	45
2601 / topsoil	4	140
4501 / topsoil	1	57
5601 / topsoil	1	100
6001 / topsoil	1	90
Totals	**8**	**432**

Fired clay comprises just eight fragments, six from context (3703) and two from context (4220), altogether weighing 45g. Nothing more can be said about them.

6.4 The other finds by Tora Hylton with Ian Meadows

There are 15 individually recorded small finds which were recovered from stratified deposits in Trenches 27, 36, 37 39, 44, 41 and 79. They comprise a knife, two fittings, a bone cylinder, five nails and four undiagnostic fragments.

The knife (SF 7) is complete and it was recovered from Ditch [3707]. Typologically, it displays similarities to Manning's Type 13 (1985). It measures 160mm in length and it comprises a short, broad blade which curves down to the tip. The back of the blade is in line with the tang, which has a circular cross-section and terminates in an expanded knop. A knife with a similar tang and knop was recovered from Shakenoak Farm, Oxfordshire (Brodribb *et al* 1973, fig 57, 381).

There are fragments from two iron fittings (SF 12, 13), both are of uncertain use. One was recovered from Gully [7906] and it comprises a D-sectioned strap (width: 12mm) with curved profile, it has two countersunk perforations for attachment and it may have been some sort of corner fitting. The other was recovered from ditch [2714]. It comprises a parallel-sided strip with U-shaped cross-section forged at right angles, it has a looped terminal.

There are five nails (SF 4, 9-11, 15) and a possible nail shank (SF8). Complete examples range from 62-81mm in length, three are of indeterminate form and two represent Mannings Type 1b (ibid 1985, fig 32). They have flat sub-circular heads and they were presumably used for light structural fixings.

A bone cylinder (SF 14) was located in ditch [2714]. The square-sectioned cylinder measures 30mm long and 8mm wide; the central cavity has been hollowed out and scratches and knife cut incisions are evident on the surfaces and at the terminals.

In addition, there is a fragment of copper alloy sheet (SF1) from the palaeochannel [3612] and a small piece of lead sheet (SF2) from layer [2723]

The Roman coins by Ian Meadows

A copper alloy AE4, 12mm in diameter (SF2) was found in layer [2725]. The obverse legend is unclear but –ONSTANTIV- could be read suggesting it is either an issue of Constantius or Constantine II. The reverse was a GLORIA EXCERCITVS two soldiers with one standard, although none of the lettering could be discerned. The standard top bore a clear Chi-Rho. The mint mark in the exergue was *PLG indicating a minting date of between 335-7.

A copper alloy minim 9mm diameter (SF5) from layer [3705]. Both faces were worn and smooth preventing the identification of the prototype used for this coin. A date from the later 3rd or 4th century should be expected.

6.5 Slag and metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

From the bulk soil samples, there are small quantities of flat and spherical hammerscale from the fill (4114) of ditch [4112], and a very small quantity of flat hammerscale, 12 pieces, from the fill (7911) of pit/ditch terminal [7910]. The fill (4114) of ditch [4112] also produced a very small quantity, 12g, of small fragments of fuel ash slag, with three small pieces, weighing 2g, coming from the fill (3907) of ditch [3906]. No slag was recovered as bulk finds.

This material provides evidence that ironworking, probably secondary smithing, was being carried out within the settlement, but the quantities of material recovered are minute.

7 THE FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

7.1 The faunal remains by Laszlo Lichtenstein

The animal bone was identified using Northamptonshire Archaeology's vertebrate reference collection, and further guidelines from Schmid (1972), Driesch (1979), Sisson & Grossman (1953) and Feher (1990). Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat the criteria set out by Boessneck (1969) were used to separate the two species. Ageing data and tooth eruption and wear were categorised according to Grant (1982), Hillson (2005) with the identification of juveniles after Amorosi (1989) and Schmid (1972).

The following were recorded for each bone: species, anatomical element, fragmentation, side, fusion, cut- or animal teeth marks and sex (where applicable). Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (large ungulate size: cattle or horse sized, small ungulate size: pig or sheep/goat). Presence of large and medium vertebrae and ribs was recorded for each context, although these were not counted, except for the first two cervical vertebrae. These were identified to species and were counted.

All teeth and a restricted suite of parts of the postcranial skeleton were recorded and used in counts.

Introduction

A total of 650 animal bone fragments weighing a total of 7.5kg were collected from a range of features during the excavation. Some 92.3% of the specimens had been hand-collected during the excavation and the remaining 7.7% were recovered from the

sieved environmental samples. Following cleaning and drying all fragments of animal bone were analysed and recorded, using standard zooarchaeological methods.

Late Iron Age

The material was recovered from fill of one possible late Iron Age ditch [2116]. This very small assemblage of bone fragments (2g) is too small to warrant further analysis, although it contains fragments, including vertebrae, and a diaphysis fragment of long bone, from a small ungulate size animal. The state of preservation fore-bone on the site in this period was generally poor and the amount of material retrieved was below the level anticipated for a site of domestic occupation.

No evidence for butchery, canid gnawing, burning or pathological signs was recovered.

Early-mid 1st century

A total of 143 (NISP, 1654g) hand-collected and sieved animal bone elements and fragments were analysed from the early-mid 1st century. Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures 119 specimens (83.2% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing 4 mammalian (*Bos*/cattle; *Equus*/horse, *Ovicaprid*/sheep or goat, *Canis*/dog) species (Table 8). The majority of bones came from cattle (24.5%) and sheep/goat (12.6%). No avian bones were recovered.

Table 11: Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count (including teeth) in the Roman period

Species/taxa	Early-mid 1st century Count	Early-mid 1st century Percentage	1st-4th century Count	1st-4th century Percentage
Cow *Bos*	35	24.5%	86	17.1%
Horse *Equus*	5	3.5%	31	6.2%
Goat *Capra*	-	-	4	0.8%
Sheep *Ovis*	16	11.2%	78	15.5%
Sheep/goat *Ovicaprid*	2	1.4%	30	5.9%
Dog *Canis*	3	2.1%	-	-
Pig *Sus*	-	-	11	2.2%
Hare *Lepus*			1	0.4%
Fish			2	0.8%
Large ungulate size	36	25.1%	122	24.2%
Small ungulate size	22	15.4%	98	19.4%
Unidentified	24	16.8%	40	7.9%
Total	**143**	**100%**	**503**	**100%**

Taphonomy

The bones were generally in good condition, but the fragmentation was high (Table 9), with the majority (75.6%) being less than 50mm in size. No complete long bones were recorded, because the proximal and the distal end were damaged, but some measurements were recorded. Taphonomic factors affecting the material included gnawed, butchered and recently broken bones. More than 50% showed signs of fresh breaks. Only 1.4% (2 fragments) had been affected by butchery. Butchery was noted on a small ungulate size animal diaphysis fragment of long bone (4204), ditch [4208] and on a fragment of *bos*/cow femur (4407), ditch [4406].

Canid gnawing was seen on one *bos* femur fragment (4407). Evidence of burning was observed in one context (4205), ditch [4208]. No evidence for bone working was noted.

Table 12: Size of the animal bone assemblage (excluding teeth) in the Roman period

	Early-mid 1st century	Early-mid 1st century	1st-4th century	1st-4th century
Size (mm)	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
<20	22	16.3%	87	18.6%
20-50	80	59.3%	259	55.2%
50-100	28	20.7%	102	21.8%
100-150	3	2.2%	14	3%
150-200	2	1.5%	5	1%
200-250	-		1	0.2%
250-300	-		1	0.2%
Total	**135**	**100%**	**469**	**100%**

Little ageing data was available. Partial epiphyseal fusion of a large ungulate size animal cervical vertebra from (4204), ditch [4208], indicates this was a young individual.

A deciduous cattle premolar indicated a young animal and another severely worn down first molar indicated an adult/mature beast. One complete and one broken M1 dog molar were found in fill (4220); both were from mature dogs (Table 10).

Ageing data was taken from cattle teeth and bone fusion (Table 10). The most epiphyseal fusion was recorded for cattle bones; the majority of these animals (at least 4 individuals) were mature at death.

Table 13: Ageing data after the teeth eruption in the early-mid 1st century

Context	Species	Years
4405	cattle	Juvenile, younger than 2 years
4204-4206	cattle	Mature individual, older than 14 years
4204-4206	large ungulate size animal	Juvenile individual
4220	dog	Mature individual

All of the horse bone fragments were from mature animals.

Table 14: Minimum number of individuals identified in the early-mid 1st century

Common name	MNI
Cattle	3
Horse	1
Sheep/Goat	1
Dog	1

Discussion

The fragmentation was very high. Some 42.7% of the assemblage could be identified to species. The assemblage is dominated by cattle at 24.5%, followed by lower numbers of sheep/goat 12.6% and horse at 3.5%. The dominance of cattle is not unusual for this period (Table 11). Its presence is likely to be the result of domestic waste disposal.

The dog gnawing was of very low frequency (little more than 1 %of the total NISP). None of the hand-collected bones was burnt, but some from the sieving showed

evidence of burning. Only one cattle femur and a small ungulate size animal diaphysis fragment had been affected by butchery.

1st-4th century

A total of 503 NISP (5.9kg) hand-collected and sieved animal bone elements and fragments were analysed from these contexts. Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures 463 specimens (92.1% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing at least six mammalian (*Bos*/cattle; *Equus*/horse, *Ovis*/sheep, *Capra*/goat, *Sus*/pig, *Lepus capensis*/hare) species, one unidentifiable fish and some small creatures species (such as mole, frog, mouse). No avian bones were recovered.

The bones were generally in good condition. The fragmentation was high (Table 8), with the majority (73.8%) being less than 50 mm in size. No complete long bones were recorded, because the proximal and the distal ends were damaged, but some measurements were recorded. Taphonomic factors affecting the material included burnt, gnawed, butchered and recently broken bones. Some bones were smashed in antiquity signifying a chosen method of disposal and many bones showed signs of fresh breaks. Sometimes the bone surface was severely abraded or distorted by acidic soils, for example in context (2715), ditch [2717]. Approximately 2.8% had been gnawed by carnivores, mainly dogs.

Only 1% had been affected by butchery. Knife marks on bones were noted on cattle vertebrae (3708), gully [3709], a pig diaphysis fragment of humerus (4114), ditch [4112], on large ungulate size animal diaphysis fragments of long bones from the fill of the palaeochannel feature, and layer [3705] and on small ungulate size animals diaphysis fragments of long bone. No evidence for bone working was observed.

None of the hand-collected bones were burnt, but some from the sieved samples showed evidence for burning (3907), ditch [3906]. A green metal oxide spot was noted on one cattle scapula fragment in context (4114), ditch [4112].

Ageing and sex

Ageing data was available because of teeth eruption and bone fusion (Table 12). The most epiphysical fusion was recorded for cattle and sheep or goat bones; although the majority of these animals were mature at death.

Table 15: Ageing data after teeth eruption and bone fusion in the 1st-4th century

Context	Feature	Species	Years
2715	2717	cattle	TWS l-m, Mature, 16-17 years
2724	2725	cattle	TWS k, Mature, older than 14 years
		sheep	Juvenile, 1 2/3-2 years
3305	3304	cattle	TWS l, Mature, older than 16 years
3703	3705	cattle	TWS l-m, Mature, 16-17 years
3907	3906	cattle	Juvenile, younger than 2 years
		ovis	Juvenile, 1 1/1-1 2/3 years
3911	3910	cattle	TWS c-d, Adult, 8-9 years

In only one case can the sex of the individual be identified; the size of *sus*/pig canine indicates this individual was an adult female from context (3911), ditch/pit [3910].

Discussion

The fragmentation was very high and many bones had been broken recently. 48.1% of the assemblage could be identified to species. The assemblage is dominated by sheep/goat 21.4%; this was the most numerous taxon at the settlement during this period. Partial articulated sheep bones were noted in context (4114). There were lower numbers of cattle at 17.1%.

The presence of horse bones was 6.2%. A horse metacarpus was pathologically fused with row II in context (3714), gully/pit [3715]. Pig remains were relatively infrequent in this period, accounting for only 2.2% of the assemblage.

Gnawing was noted on cattle (2712, 4104), *sus* (3911, 4114) and *ovicaprid* (2705, 2711, 2724, 3909) bone fragments. The dog gnawing was of relatively moderate frequency in this period (2.8% of the total NISP), but the presence of canid gnawing on bones suggests that they were left in the open before being buried. This is an indicator that dogs were present on the site despite none of their bones being recorded in the faunal assemblage from this period (Table 13).

A pathological condition (exotosis) was noted on a cattle metapodium (phalanx prima) from layer [2725]. Hare was represented by one broken pelvis also found in layer [2725]. There was no evidence of butchery.

Table 16: Minimum number of individuals identified in the 1st-4th century

Common name	MNI
Cattle	5
Horse	2
Sheep	4
Goat	1
Pig	3
Hare	1
Fish	1

The two fish vertebrae cannot be identified to species. The fish species may represent food items.

Conclusion

There was only a very small amount of animal bone within the Iron Age contexts which precludes any meaningful discussion. More animal bone was recovered from the early-mid 1st century contexts than from the 1st-4th century contexts.

Cattle were the most important species in terms of food value on account of the much greater carcass weight in both phases. Although in the latest phase, they were second to sheep/goat in terms of numbers of fragments (NISP) and equal to minimum number of individuals (MNI).

The bones and teeth of horses were common in all phases at the site, accounting 3.5% of the earliest period and 6.2% in the latest period. All the horse teeth and long bones were part of mature animals. None of the horse bones had any evidence of butchery, suggesting they were all working animals reaching full maturity.

There was no evidence of pig remains in the early period. The presence of pig bones during the later period indicates the difference between the earlier and later phases. Pigs tend to be more numerous at Romanised sites.

The range of skeletal elements found indicates that cattle, sheep and, in the later period, pigs were butchered on site. The species present and their relative proportions appear to be typical for the Roman period.

Marine shells

A total of 83g of marine shells were recovered from three contexts. This material was analysed to provide information on preservation and taxa present.

All of the pieces were oyster (*ostrea edulis*) shells. Fragmentation and abrasion were high. Evidence of modification was not observed on the Oyster shells. The presence of marine species indicates trade with the coast.

7.2 **The charred plant remains** by Val Fryer

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from excavation trenches at the southern end of the development area (trenches 27, 36, 39, 41, 42 and 79), and were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by NA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots, straw and arthropod remains were abundant within all six assemblages.

Table 17: Charred plant remains quantification

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Context No.	**7911**	**3605**	**2724**	**4114**	**3907**	**4220**
Feature No.	**7910**	**3604**	**2725**	**4112**	**3906**	**4217**
Feature type	**Ditch/pit**	**Pit**	**Hollow**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**
Trench No.	**79**	**36**	**27**	**41**	**39**	**42**
Cereals						
Avena sp. (grain)					x	
Triticum sp. (grains)			x	x	xxx	x
(glume bases)	x		x		xxx	x
(spikelet bases)					xx	x
(rachis internodes)					x	
T. spelta L. (glume bases)			x	x	xxxx	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xcffg		xfg	xcffg	xxx	x
(detached sprouts)					x	
(detached embryos)						x
Herbs						
Bromus sp.					x	x
Fabaceae indet.	x				x	
Galium aparine L.				xfg		
Small Poaceae indet.			x	x	x	
Rumex sp.					xx	x
Other plant macrofossils						
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xx	xxxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	x	xxxx	xx	x
Charred root/stem	x		x			
Other remains						
Black porous 'cokey' material			x	x		
Black tarry material		x		x		
Bone	x			x xb	x xb	x xb
Burnt/fired clay	x	x	x		xx	xx
Small coal frags.	x			x		x
Small mammal/amphibian bone				xpmc	x	
Vitreous material				x		
Sample volume (litres)						
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key to table: x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt pmc = possible modern contaminant

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds were present at varying densities within all but one assemblage (sample 2). Preservation was moderately good, although a number of the grains were severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat being predominant throughout. Most grains were of an elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*), and spelt glume bases were also noted within four of the assemblages studied. A small number of the grains within sample 5 (ditch [3906]) appeared to have germinated prior to combustion, as they displayed characteristic concave sides and dorsal grooves. Detached cereal sprouts were also recovered within the same sample.

Seeds of common segetal weeds/grassland herbs were recorded, with taxa noted including brome (*Bromus* sp.), small grasses (Poaceae) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout but, with the exception of two pieces of charred root or stem, other plant macrofossils were not recorded. Other remains included bone fragments, some of which were burnt/calcined, and small pellets of burnt or fired clay. The pieces of black porous and tarry material were all probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures.

Conclusions

In summary, the assemblage from ditch [3906] is almost certainly derived from a small deposit of cereal processing/storage waste, possibly indicating that such activities were taking place within the near vicinity. The other assemblages may also be partly derived from similar activities, although it should be noted that the presence of bone fragments and pieces of burnt or fired clay may also be indicative of small quantities of domestic hearth waste.

Although the current assemblages are mostly small, they clearly illustrate that reasonably well-preserved plant macrofossils indicative of one or more specific activities are present within the archaeological horizon at Aston Clinton. Therefore, if further interventions are planned within the immediate area, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 30 – 40 litres in volume should be taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation. Analysis of any samples taken should greatly enhance the current slightly sparse data set for Iron Age/ Romano-British settlement and expansion in the Buckinghamshire/East Midlands areas.

8 DISCUSSION

A late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement was situated in Fields 8 and 9 covering an area of about 1.5ha. Pottery from the site suggests that it was continuously occupied from the late 1st century BC to the 4th century, although the assemblage predominantly dated to the late 1st to 2nd century, with a peak during the 2nd century.

Many of the features found during the evaluation were ditches, probably defining enclosures. Although there were no definitive structural remains, there was part of a possible eaves drip gully for a roundhouse in Trench 21, possible beam-slots in Trenches 44 and 79 and a stone-packed posthole in Trench 27. This may indicate a move away from traditional roundhouses constructed during the late Iron Age towards more Romanised rectangular wooden buildings from the 1st century AD. A decapitated inhumation burial probably dates to the late 3rd or 4th centuries; these types of burial are generally isolated and may not be indicative of a wider cemetery.

While the palaeochannel was clearly open during the Romano-British period, its course does not show on the geophysical survey and its alignment within Trench 37 does not appear to correspond with the later parish boundary. However, this feature was demonstrably earlier than the slight bank which was visible in Field 8. While the palaeochannel's function within the settlement is at present unclear, similar features have been found at other sites, such as Weedon Hill, on the northern outskirts of Aylesbury, where a channel was associated with a malting oven.

The artefactual evidence from the site was well-preserved and pointed to a broad exploitation of resources, with evidence of crop-processing and animal husbandry. There appears to have been a shift in animal rearing methods over time, with a preponderance of cattle bone from the earlier phase of the settlement, with sheep/goat and pig becoming more common through time.

Evidence for continuity of settlement from the late Iron Age to the Roman period has been noted at other settlements in the area such as at Lodge Hill and Site B on the Ashton Clinton Bypass (Zeepvat and Radford 2007). The research agenda for the area has highlighted sites of this type, with well-preserved deposits, for investigation (Fulford and Allen 2010).

The social status of the settlement is, at present, uncertain; while the floor tile may suggest the presence of a Romanised building in the vicinity, such as at Wymbush, there was no *opus signinum* and the pottery assemblage was fairly utilitarian. Similar artefactual evidence of such a building was also found at Site B of the Aston Clinton Bypass, although no remains of the building itself were identified. It was thought that it may have been situated to the west of the site.

The site is located 2km from the Roman road of Akeman Street and 1.4km from a similar site and it is likely to have formed part of the wider rural economy within the area. It may have formed an outlying component of a higher status complex nearby.

The results of the evaluation suggest that there is little complex stratigraphy present on site and most of the features are ditches. A layer of buried soil seals many of the Romano-British features in Trenches 37 and 27.

The features associated with the parish boundary remain at this stage enigmatic. The bank clearly follows the sinuous parish boundary and may therefore be a predecessor. Although there was no dating material associated with the bank it must be later than the 4th/5th century AD and probably medieval in origin. The broad, shallow ditch that also appears to follow the parish boundary was similarly undated and its relationship with the bank is currently unknown. It was, however, earlier than the current hedge.

Aston Clinton and Buckland parishes are both part of a group of north-east to south-west orientated strip parishes which run along the Chiltern Scarp. The origin of these parishes can be traced back as far as the 6th century, but the fundamental

components of the parishes are thought to have a much earlier origin. Bull (1993) argues that a system of roads and tracks, which extend over a wide area and run either parallel to the Icknield Way or at right angles to it, and that this bi-axial landscape was created during the prehistoric period. The network appears to pre-date the Roman road network and Grim's Ditch, which has an early Iron Age date. The boundaries of the strip parishes are on the same alignment as this bi-axial network.

Excavations at the Lower Icknield Way site (Site B) in advance of the Aston Clinton Bypass found a late Iron Age and Roman trackway running perpendicular to the Icknield Way and parallel to a holloway at nearby Drayton Beauchamp. It also lay on the same north-west south-east alignment as the parish boundaries. The parish boundary between Aston Clinton and Buckland was identified on Bull's map of the bi-axial landscape as a possible former trackway, although the evaluation did not find any proof of this. The evaluation did not find any conclusive evidence of a link between the boundary and the Iron Age and Roman settlements and, while ditches relating to the boundary were identified, they have not yet been conclusively dated.

It is considered that the evaluation has largely fulfilled the listed aims and objectives by establishing the nature, date and approximate extent of the settlement remains, although the boundary has not yet been conclusively dated. Further excavation of the settlement will be able to clarify the exact nature and extent of the settlement, as well as the formation processes and extent of the overlying layer. The relationship between the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement with the parish boundary may be of significance with regard to Bulls theories of the creation of a prehistoric bi-axial landscape. Further work may be able to provide important information regarding the evolution of the parish boundary, specifically if it pre-dated the Roman settlement remains as suggested by Bull (1993).

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Northamptonshire Archaeology
A Service of Northamptonshire County Council 14th November 2011

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**85.50m aOD**	**0.42m, 85.08m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
101	Topsoil	Dark brown grey clay loam with occasional small stones and chalk fragments	0.25-0.30m thick	Tile
102	Subsoil	Mottled light yellow-brown clay	0.08-0.12m thick	
103	Natural	Mixed, yellow brown to grey clay with chalk fragments and gravel	_	

Trench 2: not excavated

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**85.70m aOD**	**0.59m, 85.11m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
301	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loam clay with occasional small stones/chalk flecks	0.28-0.29m thick	
302	Subsoil	Mottled grey-brown clay	0.16-0.20m thick	
303	Natural	Grey-brown clay with occasional chalk fragments and patches of orange gravel clay	_	
304	Fill of ditch [305]	Mottled orange-brown clay silt and rare small stones	>0.42m thick	
305	Ditch (filled by (304)	Steep edges and wide flat base. Parish boundary ditch?	> 1.50m wide >0.42m deep	

Trench 4: not excavated

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**85.40m aOD**	**0.44m, 84.96m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
501	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey clay loam with small chalk fragments, small stones and occasional fragments of modern brick	0.27-0.30m thick	
502	Subsoil	Mottled grey clay silt with occasional chalk fragments	0.07-0.14m thick	
503	Natural	Stiff mottled grey clay with patches of orange clay	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**86.40m aOD**	**0.61m, 85.79m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
601	Topsoil	Dark brown grey loamy clay	0.19-0.29m thick	
602	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay	0.15-0.32m thick	
603	Natural	Mixed brown and grey clays	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**85.5m aOD**	**0.55m, 84.97m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
701	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare small stones and chalk flecks	0.20-0.27m thick	
702	Subsoil	Stiff mottled grey clay with rare chalk flecks	0.18-0.26m thick	
703	Natural	Very stiff mottled grey clay with frequent chalk inclusions	_	
704	Natural	Silty gravel located at extreme SW of trench	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**86.2m aOD**	**0.40m, 85.8m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay, rare stones and chalk flecks	0.21-0.22m thick	
802	Subsoil	Mottled yellow-brown silty clay	0.14-0.18m thick	
803	Natural	Gravel with orange-brown clay	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	**50 x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.70m aOD**	**0.46m, 87.24m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
901	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare sub-angular stones	0.19-0.26m thick	Tile, brick
902	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay	0.18-0.20m thick	
903	Natural	Mid grey clay with pocket of brown-grey clay	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**87.20m aOD**	**0.53m, 86.67m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1001	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay	0.20-0.24m thick	
1002	Subsoil	Light brown clay	0.25-0.29m thick	
1003	Natural	Light grey clay, with pockets of mid brown clay	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
11	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.2m aOD**	**0.48m, 86.72m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1101	Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt, moderate small stones and chalk fragments	0.27-0.30m thick	
1102	Subsoil	Mottled orange-brown clay with chalk fragments	0.10-0.18m thick	
1103	Natural	Mottled orange-brown clay with gravel patches	_	

Trench 12: not excavated

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
13	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**88.10m aOD**	**0.52m, 87.58m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1301	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loam clay	0.17-0.27m thick	
1302	Subsoil	Mid brown clay	0.20-0.25m thick	
1303	Natural	Light grey clay and light brown clay pockets	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
14	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.60m aOD**	**0.35m, 88.25m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown loamy clay	0.28-0.35m thick	
1402	Natural	Light blue grey clay with pockets of mid grey-brown clay	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
15	**30m x 1.8m E-W**		**86.20m aOD**	**0.40m, 85.80m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay, rare stones	0.21-0.30m thick	
1502	Subsoil	Light blue-grey clay	0.20m thick	
1503	Natural	Mid green-grey clay	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
16	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.20m aOD**	**0.61m, 88.59m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1601	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay and rare sun-angular stones	0.22-0.24m thick	
1602	Subsoil	Mid brown loamy clay	0.16-0.37	_
1603	Natural	Light blue-grey clay	_	
1604	Natural	Mid brown clay, beneath [1603]	_	
1605	Fluvial deposit?	Very fine blue clay	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
17	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.80m aOD**	**0.48m, 88.32m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1701	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay	0.19-0.26m thick	
1702	Subsoil	Light brown-grey clay	0.17-0.22m thick	
1703	Natural	White chalky clay	_	
1704	Natural	Mixed grey clay with yellow mottling	_	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
18	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.20m aOD**	**0.59m, 87.61m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1801	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay, rare stones	0.17-0.23m thick	
1802	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay	0.13-0.36m thick	
1803	Natural	Mid/light grey clay		
1804	Natural	Fine light blue-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
19	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.80m aOD**	**0.61m, 88.19m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1901	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay, rare stone inclusions	0.20-0.25m thick	
19602	Subsoil	Mid grey clay	0.31-0.36m thick	
1903	Natural	White chalky clay		
1904	Natural	Mid grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
20	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.30m aOD**	**0.36m, 88.94m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2001	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay, rare stones	0.18-0.20m thick	
2002	Subsoil	Mid grey clay	0.10-0.16m thick	
2003	Natural	Fine grey-blue clay; possible remains of standing water, as trench located over large sub-circular depression		
2004	Natural	Mid brown-grey clay		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
21	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.10m aOD**	**0.40m, 88.70m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2101	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey loamy clay, rare angular stones	0.21-0.22m thick	
2102	Natural	Light brown-grey clay, occasional chalk inclusions		
2103	VOID			
2104	VOID			
2105	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.16-0.18m thick	
2106	Gully	Aligned SE-NW, vertical sides and flat base. Profile suggests feature may be modern	0.62m wide 0.59m wide	
2107	Fill of gully [2106]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions	0.59m thick	
2108	Gully	Aligned SE-NW, steep sides and flay base	0.55m wide 0.31m deep	
2109	Fill of gully [2108]	Firm mid brown-grey clay with rare chalk inclusions	0.31m thick	
2110	Gully	Aligned SE-NW, steep sides and a flat base	0.58m wide 0.32m deep	
2111	Modern pit	Rectangular, Aligned NE-SW, vertical sides and a flat base	5.3m long, 0.60m wide 0.50m deep	
2112	Fill of modern pit [2111]	Firm light brown-grey clay, rare chalk inclusions	0.50m thick	
2113	Pit	Oval, Aligned E-W, fairly steep edges and concave base. Cut by [2116]	1.10m long, at least 0.50m wide 0.24m deep	
2114	Primary fill of pit [2113]	Firm brown-grey silty clay, with occasional chalk and charcoal	0.04m thick	
2115	Upper fill of pit [2113]	Firm orange-brown clay, with occasional chalk and charcoal	0.20m thick	Pottery and bone
2116	Ditch	Curvilinear, Aligned NW-SE, shallow sides and slightly concave base. Cuts [2113]	6.00m long (in trench), 0.70m wide 0.30m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
21	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.10m aOD**	**0.40m, 88.70m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2117	Primary fill of ditch [2116]	Firm grey-brown silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal	0. 60m thick	
2118	Upper fill of ditch [2116]	Firm orange-brown clay with occasional charcoal and chalk	0.24m thick	Bone
2119	Ditch	Aligned N-S, steep W edge and flat base. E edge truncated by modern feature [2121]	0.50m wide 0.16m deep	
2120	Fill of ditch [2119]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling. Some chalk	0.16m thick	
2121	Ditch	Modern ditch. Aligned N-S, shallow sides and a concave base	0.40m wide 0.08m deep	
2122	Fill of ditch [2121]	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal	0.08m thick	
2123	Fill of gully [2110]	Firm light brown-grey clay with rare chalk	0.32m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
22	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.00m aOD**	**0.27m, 88.73m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2201	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey loamy clay, occasional stones	0.18-0.27m thick	
2202	Natural	Bands of brown-grey and blue-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
23	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.40m aOD**	**0.30m, 88.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2301	Topsoil	Brown-grey loamy clay with chalk inclusions	0.20-0.30m thick	
2302	Natural	Mid brown and blue-grey clay with chalk		
2303	Subsoil	Light grey-brown silty clay	0.10m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
24	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.70m aOD**	**0.68m, 89.02m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2401	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey loamy clay	0.18-0.21m thick	
2402	Subsoil	Light grey-brown silty clay with 30% chalk	0.11-0.47m thick	
2403	Natural	Mid grey clay		
2404	Layer	Mid grey-brown silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
25	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.30m aOD**	**0.70m, 88.60m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2501	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions	0.30-0.35m thick	
2502	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions	0.30-0.35m thick	
2503	Natural	Mid-light brown-grey clay and chalk		
2504	Fill of ditch [2506]	Firm/compact mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional chalk	0.30m thick	
2505	Primary fill of ditch [2506]	Firm/compact mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional chalk	0.10m thick	
2506	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, with fairly steep sides and flat but irregular base	6.90m wide 0.40m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
26	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.90m aOD**	**0.45m, 89.45m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2601	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay, rare stones	0.18-0.22m thick	Brick
2602	Subsoil	Mid green-grey silty clay	0.17-0.23m thick	
2603	Natural	Light blue-grey chalk and clay		
2604	Natural	Mid brown-grey clay overlying [2603]		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
27	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.90m aOD**	**0.67m, 89.23m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2701	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loam clay	0.24-0.34m thick	SF 13 and 14, Fe fitting and bone cylinder
2702	Subsoil	Light brown-grey silty clay with patches of yellow-grey silty clay	0.12-0.33m thick	
2703	Natural	Light blue-grey clay with mix of brown-grey clay		
2704	Ditch	Aligned N-S, V-shaped profile	0.72m wide 0.31m deep	
2705	Fill of ditch [2704]	Firm grey-brown silty clay, occasional charcoal	0.31m thick	Pottery (mid 2nd century+), brick/tile and bone
2706	Pit/ditch terminal	Circular, steep sides and flat base. Cuts [2704] and [2708]	1.40m long, >0.83m wide 0.20m deep	
2707	Fill of pit/ditch terminal [2706]	Firm brown-grey silty clay, rare flint, charcoal and chalk	0.20m thick	Pottery (late 2nd century), brick/tile and bone
2708	Posthole	Circular, vertical sides and flat base	0.19m diam 0.50m deep	
2709	Fill of posthole [2708]	Medium-firm dark brown-grey silty clay, rare charcoal	0.50m thick	Pottery (160 AD+) bone and tile
2710	Ditch?	Irregular in plan, irregular edges and flat ditch. Heavily truncated by modern activity	0.47m long, 0.45m wide 0.10m deep	
2711	Fill of ditch? [2710]	Loose medium grey-brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk	0.10m thick	Pottery (2nd century +) and bone
2712	Upper fill of ditch [2714]	Loose brown-grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and rare flint	0.42m thick	Pottery (43-70 AD), brick/tile and bone
2713	Primary fill of ditch [2714]	Firm dark black-brown clay silt with frequent charcoal	0.30m thick	Pottery (late 3rd-4th), brick/tile and bone
2714	Ditch	Aligned E-W, fairly steep sides, concave base. Re-cut of ditch [2717]	2.10m wide 0.70m deep	
2715	Upper fill of ditch? [2717]	Loose brown silty clay with rare chalk	At least 0.42m thick	Pottery (mid 1st-mid 2nd), bone and SF8 (Fe object)

2716	Fill of ditch [2717]	Medium-firm brown-grey silty clay with yellow mottling and rare chalk	0.20m thick	Pottery (1st century AD) and bone
2717	Ditch	Appears to be cut into geological feature [2719]. Aligned E-W	1.70m wide 0.65m deep	
2718	Fill of geological feature [2719]	Firm green-brown silty clay yellow mottling with rare chalk	At least 1.40m thick	
2719	Geological feature	Aligned E-W, base not reached. Possibly a frost-fracture	4.50m wide at least 1.40m deep	
2720	Fill of pit [2721]	Firm dark brown-grey clay, infrequent chalk, flint and charcoal	0.45m thick	Bone
2721	Pit	Possible square or rectangular pit, steep, uneven sides and flat base	At least 5.00m long, 2.28m wide 0.45m deep	
2722	Fill of hollow/depression [2723]	Firm mid to dark grey mottled clay with 5% small stones	0.22m thick	Pottery (1st-2nd century AD) and brick/tile
2723	Hollow/depression	Shallow sides and flat base	More than 1.8m wide	
2724	Fill of hollow/depression [2725]	Firm to friable, mid to dark grey black clay silt with moderate flint and chalk fragments	0.26-0.29m thick	Pottery (mid 4th century & medl), brick/tile, bone, SFs 2, lead fragment and 3 RB coin, sample <3>
2725	Hollow/depression	Shallow/gradual sides, sloping base	0.26-0.29m deep	
2726	Fill of ditch [2727]	Firm mottled mid grey-brown silty clay, rare flint	0.20m thick	Pottery (1st century AD) and bone
2727	Ditch	Curvilinear, steep sides and flat base	0.70m wide 0.20m deep	Tile
2728	Fill of hollow/depression	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with yellow mottling with rare chalk and flint		Pottery, flint, tile
2729	Hollow/depression	Linear spread Aligned NE-SW	About 3.00m wide	
2730	Fill of posthole [2731]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay. Larger limestone pieces around edges – possible post-packing	0.18m thick	
2731	Posthole	Circular, irregular edges and flat base	0.40m diam 0.18m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
28	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.60m aOD**	**0.40m, 89.20m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.19-0.21m thick	
2802	Subsoil	Mid yellow-grey silty clay	0.15-0.19m thick	
2803	Natural	Light blue-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
29	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.20m aOD**	**0.46m, 88.74m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
2901	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown loamy clay with rare stones	0.19-0.25m thick	
2902	Subsoil	Light grey-brown silty clay with rare chalk inclusions	0.05-0.21m thick	
2903	Natural	Light grey-blue clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
30	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.50m aOD**	**0.46m, 87.84m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3001	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay	0.23-0.27m thick	
3002	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay with rare stone	0.10-0.19m thick	
3003	Natural	Orange-brown with grey banding and rare stone inclusions		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
31	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.50m aOD**	**0.31m, 88.19m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.13-0.16m thick	
3102	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange silty clay with rare stone	0.08-0.15m thick	
3103	Natural	Firm orange-brown clay with rare stone		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
32	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.10m aOD**	**0.44m, 87.66m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown loamy clay with frequent stones	0.22-0.29m thick	Tile
3202	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones	0.11-0.15m thick	
3203	Natural	Mid yellow-brown clay with occasional pockets of chalk/gravel		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
33	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.50m aOD**	**0.42m, 88.08m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3301	Topsoil	Dark brown-black loamy clay	0.20-0.24m thick	
3302	Subsoil	Brown-grey silty clay	0.09-0.18m thick	
3303	Natural	Mix of orange-brown and blue-grey clays with frequent chalk flecks		
3304	Geological (frost fracture?)	Aligned NW-SE, almost vertical edges, flat base	2.30m wide 0.64m deep	
3305	Fill of [3304]	Very firm mid orange-brown silty clay with rare chalk	0.64m thick	
3306	Geological (frost fracture?)	Aligned NW-SE, almost vertical edges, flat base	0.90m wide 0.31m deep	
3307	Fill of [3306]	Very firm grey-brown silty clay with rare chalk flecks	0.31m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
34	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.10m aOD**	**0.47m, 87.63m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3401	Topsoil	Dark brown-black loamy clay with rare stone	0.18-0.25m thick	
3402	Subsoil	Grey-brown silty clay with chalk flecks	0.15-0.22m thick	
3403	Natural	Orange-grey firm clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
35	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.00m aOD**	**0.50m, 88.50m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3501	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown loamy clay with rare stones	0.18-0.28m thick	Tile
3502	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay with rare stones	0.15-0.22m thick	
3503	Natural	Grey-blue clay	>0.04m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
36	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.60m aOD**	**0.70m, 88.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3601	Topsoil	Dark brown-black loamy clay	0.28-0.30m thick	
3602	Bank material	Firm brown-grey silty clay with frequent chalk and stone and rare flint. Slumped into palaeochannel depression	0.13-0.72m thick	
3603	Natural	Blue and orange clay with rare stones		
3604	Pit	Circular (but only half exposed in trench), irregular, shallow edges and flat base	1.12m long, 0.41m wide 0.26m deep	
3605	Fill of pit [3604]	Firm dark blue-grey silty clay with frequent chalk flecks	0.26m thick	Pottery (Roman) and bone, SF10 (Fe nail), Sample <2>
3606	Gully	Aligned SW-NE, almost vertical sides and concave base. Cut by [3608]	At least 8.70m long, 0.38m wide 0.17m deep	
3607	Fill of gully [3606]	Firm mid orange-brown silty clay	0.17m thick	
3608	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, steep sides with flat base	1.77m wide 0.33m deep	
3609	Fill of ditch [3608]	Firm dark brown-grey silty clay with orange mottling and occasional chalk flecks	0.33m thick	Brick/tile
3610	Upper fill of palaeochannel [3612]	Firm dark grey-black silty clay, rare flint and chalk	0.58m thick	Pottery (Roman and post-med), flint, bone and SF1 (Cu sheet fragment)

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
36	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.60m aOD**	**0.70m, 88.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3611	Fill of palaeochannel [3612]	Firm light grey-green silty clay with yellow mottling	depth unknown	Pottery (late 1st century) and bone
3612	Palaeochannel	Aligned E-W, fairly shallow edges. Base only reached with auger	10.50m wide *c* 1.70m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
37	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.50m aOD**	**0.70m, 88.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3701	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay	0.28-0.59m thick	Tile
3702	Natural	Light blue-grey clay with yellow mottling		
3703	Fill of hollow/depression [3705]	Firm dark black-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions and rare chalk	0.20-0.25m thick	Pottery (3rd-4th), bone, brick/tile and SF4 (Fe nail) and SF5 (Cu coin). Fired clay
3704	Lower fill of hollow/depression [3705]	Firm mid-dark black-brown silty clay with rare chalk and charcoal	0.23m thick	Pottery (mid 2nd century +) bone, tile
3705	Hollow/depression	Shallow edges and flat base. Overlies Romano-British features	0.20-0.48m thick	
3706	Fill of ditch [3707]	Firm dark brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and rare chalk	0.52m thick	Pottery (late 2nd century +), shell and bone, SF 7 (Fe knife)
3707	Ditch	Aligned SW-NE, with moderately sloping edges and flat base	>1.60m long >1.00m wide 0.52m deep	
3708	Fill of gully [3709]	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with yellow mottling and rare chalk	0.17m thick	Pottery (late 1st – 2nd century), flint, bone and SF 11 (Fe nail), tile
3709	Gully	Aligned NW-SE, shallow edges and flat base	Unknown dimensions	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
37	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.50m aOD**	**0.70m, 88.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3710	Fill of gully [3711]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with yellow mottling and infrequent chalk	0.25m thick	Pottery (1st -2nd) and bone
3711	Gully	Curvilinear, aligned W-E, steep sides and slightly concave base	0.54m wide 0.25m deep	
3712	Fill of gully [3713]	Compact dark black-grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and chalk	0.40m thick	Pottery (100 AD +), bone and brick/tile
3713	Gully	Curvilinear?, steep sides and flat base	0.40m deep, > 0.60m long and wide	
3714	Fill of gully/pit [3715]	Soft dark brown silty clay with small pebbles	0.49m thick	Pottery (120-200 AD) and bone
3715	Gully/pit	Curvilinear?, steep sides and flat base	0.49m deep, >0.45m long 0.44m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
38	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.40m aOD**	**0.68m, 88.72m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.19-0.31m thick	
3802	Subsoil	Mid grey clay	0.27-0.37m thick	
3803	Natural	White clay with light grey mottling		
3804	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, with shallow edges and flat base	1.2m wide 0.34m deep	
3805	Fill of ditch [3804]	Firm very dark blue grey silty clay	0.29m thick	Pottery (mid 1st-mid 2nd)
3806	Layer	Layer of white chalk over NE half of trench, deposited during road build		
3807	Pit	Sub-circular, concave sides and base	0.70m long, 0.60m wide 0.15m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
38	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.40m aOD**	**0.68m, 88.72m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
3808	Primary fill of pit [3807]	Firm mid green-grey clay	0.05m thick	
3809	Fill of pit [3807]	Firm dark green grey clay	0.10m thick	Pottery (early Roman?) and brick/tile
3810	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, near vertical sides and flat base	1.75m long 1.15m wide 0.34m deep	
3811	Fill of ditch [3810]	Firm dark grey clay with yellow mottling and rare chalk	0.34m thick	Bone and brick/tile
3812	Primary fill of ditch [3804]	Firm dark green-grey silty clay	0.05m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
39	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.60m aOD**	**0.41m, 89.19m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
3901	Topsoil	Dark grey loamy clay	0.18-0.21m thick	
3902	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.12-0.20m thick	
3903	Natural	Mix of light brown clay and light grey clay		
3904	Fill of gully [3905]	Firm/compact dark grey silty clay with occasional flint, chalk	0.15m thick	Pottery
3905	Gully terminal	Aligned NW-SW, uneven, fairly steep sides, flat base	0.64m wide 0.15m deep	
3906	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, steep SW side, gradual NE side and flat base. Cuts [3908] and [3910]	2.85m wide 0.45m deep	
3907	Fill of ditch [3906]	Firm very dark blue-grey silty clay	0.45m thick	Pottery (270-400 AD), bone, SF 9 (Fe nail) and Sample <5>
3908	Gully	Aligned NW-SE, U-shaped profile. Cut by [3906]	Dimensions unknown	
3909	Fill of gully [3908]	Firm black silty clay, with redeposited natural yellow clays		Pottery (240 AD+)

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
39	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.60m aOD**	**0.41m, 89.19m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
3910	Ditch/pit?	Irregular slope on SW side; rest of feature not visible in test-pit	>2.00m long 1.6m wide 0.75m deep	
3911	Fill of ditch/pit [3910]	Firm mid blue-grey clay with yellow mottling, frequent charcoal and chalk	At least 0.75m thick	Pottery (1st-2nd century) and bone

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
40	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.20m aOD**	**0.36m, 87.84m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4001	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.14-0.18m thick	
4002	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.15-0.18m thick	
4003	Natural	Light grey-brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
41	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.60m aOD**	**0.41m, 89.19m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4101	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.19-0.20m thick	
4102	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.11-0.21m thick	
4103	Natural	Light blue-grey clay		
4104	Fill of gully [4106]	Firm, compact dark grey silty clay with occasional chalk and flint	0.50m thick	Pottery (270 AD+, but most 1st-2nd century), bone, tile
4105	Primary fill of gully [4106]	Firm, compact light/mid grey silty clay with green mottling and occasional chalk	0.07m thick	
4106	Gully	Aligned NW-SE, steep, irregular sides and flat base	1.10m wide 0.57m deep	
4107	Fill of gully [4108]	Firm, compact dark grey silty clay with occasional chalk and flint	0.14m thick	Pottery (mid 1st - 2nd century)

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
41	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.60m aOD**	**0.41m, 89.19m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4108	Gully	Aligned NE-SW, steep irregular sides and uneven base	0.65m wide 0.14m deep	
4109	Fill of ditch [4110]	Firm, compact dark grey silty clay with occasional flint and chalk	0.42m thick	Pottery (mid 1st - 2nd century)
4110	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, steep sides and slightly concave base	0.73m wide 0.43m deep	
4111	Primary fill of [4110]	Firm, compact light/mid grey silty clay with darker grey mottling	0.30m thick	
4112	Ditch	Aligned SW-NE, N side steep, S side more shallow, flat base	1.50m wide and 0.93m deep	
4113	Primary fill of ditch [4112]	Compact light grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling	0.42m thick	Pottery (1st century AD, bone and tile
4114	Upper fill of ditch [4112]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with rare stone	0.51m thick	Pottery (1st-2nd century, poss intrusive 270-400 AD) and bone. Sample <4>
4115	Ditch	Aligned SW-NE, with shallow sides and a flat base	0.98m wide and 0.48m deep	
4116	Fill of ditch [4115]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with white mottling and occasional chalk flecks	0.48m thick	
4117	Ditch	Aligned WNW-ESE southern edge shallow, concave base. Cut by ditch [4119]	0.50m wide and 0.27m deep	
4118	Fill of ditch [4117]	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with rare chalk	0.27m thick	Pottery
4119	Ditch	Aligned E-W, S edge shallow, flat base	0.56m wide and 0.26m deep	
4120	Fill of ditch [4119]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with white mottling and occasional chalk	0.26m thick	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
42	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.30m aOD**	**0.60m, 88.70m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4201	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.19-0.23m thick	
4202	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay with flecks of chalk	0.08-0.27m thick	
4203	Natural	Light blue-grey clay		
4204	Upper fill of ditch [4208]	Hard, compact mid-light grey silty clay, occasional charcoal and stones	0.30m thick	Pottery (1st-early 2nd century) and bone
4205	Fill of ditch [4208]	Hard, compact dark black-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones	0.50m thick	Pottery (1st century) Bone, tile
4206	Fill of ditch [4208]	Firm mid grey silty clay with green-yellow mottling and occasional charcoal	0.10m thick	Pottery (1st century BC-AD) and bone
4207	Primary fill of ditch [4208]	Firm mid-light grey clay with orange mottling and rare charcoal flecks	0.16m thick	
4208	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, starting to turn N? in trench. Steep sides and flat base	1.70m wide 0.70m deep	
4209	Fill of pit/posthole [4210]	Firm mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal	0.30m thick	Pottery (1st century BC-AD) tile
4210	Pit/posthole	Circular, steep sides and uneven base	0.70m diam 0.30m deep	
4211	Gully	Aligned NW-SE, with shallow sides and concave base	0.60m wide 0.14m deep	
4212	Fill of gully [4211]	Friable mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional flint	0.14m thick	Pottery (early-mid 2nd century), bone, tile
4213	Fill of ditch [4214]	Firm mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal	0.47m thick	Pottery (late 1st century BC-mid-1st century AD), bone, tile
4214	Ditch	Aligned N-S, fairly steep sides and flat base	1.25m wide 0.47m deep	
4215	Possible ditch?	Possible ditch, seen at the edge of the trench; not excavated		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
42	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.30m aOD**	**0.60m, 88.70m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4216	Fill of possible ditch [4215]			
4217	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, steep sides and concave base	2.1m wide 0.90m deep	
4218	Primary fill of ditch [4217]	Firm mid-light yellow-grey silty clay	0.20m deep	
4219	Fill of ditch [4217]	Compact mid grey-black silty clay	0.40m deep	Pottery
4220	Upper fill of ditch [4217]	Firm mid-light grey silty clay with frequent charcoal	0.40m thick	Pottery (270-400 AD) and bone. Sample <6>

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
43	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.20m aOD**	**0.56m, 88.64m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4301	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy silt with occasional stones	0.20-0.29m thick	
4302	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.22-0.27m thick	
4303	Natural	Light grey clay		
4304	Fill of [4305]	Very firm leached mottled yellow-brown clay with moderate chalk and flint	0.24m thick	Pottery (late 1st century BC-late 1st century AD) and brick/tile
4305	Ditch	Aligned NE-SW, shallow sides and concave base	0.74m wide 0.24m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
44	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.50m aOD**	**0.55m, 88.95m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4401	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay	0.19-0.28m thick	
4402	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay with rare stones	0.18-0.27m thick	
4403	Natural	Light blue-grey clay		
4404	Ditch	Aligned NE-SW, fairly steep sides and an uneven base	1.42m wide 0.55m deep	
4405	Fill of ditch [4404]	Very compact brown-grey silty clay with	0.55m thick	Pottery (1st century AD –pre-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
44	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.50m aOD**	**0.55m, 88.95m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
		occasional chalk and flint		conquest?) and bone
4406	Ditch	Aligned N-S, fairly shallow edges, slightly concave base	1.55m wide and 0.64m deep	
4407	Fill of ditch [4406]	Compact mid grey-brown silty clay with rare chalk inclusions. Lens of slumped natural within the fill	0.64m thick	Pottery (1st-2nd century) and bone
4408	VOID			
4409	Grave cut	Aligned E-W, with curved W end. Steep, almost vertical edges and flat base	>1.70m long, 0.84m wide 0.32m deep	
4410	Fill of grave [4409]	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional flint	0.32m thick	Pottery (Roman) and bone. SF 6 (Fe object)
4411	Ditch	Aligned SW-NE, U-shaped profile	0.50m wide 0.38m deep	
4412	Fill of ditch [4411]	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and chalk	0.38m thick	Pottery (1st-2nd century), tile
4413	Ditch	Aligned N-S, V-shaped profile	0.54m wide 0.12m deep	
4414	Fill of ditch [4413]	Compact mid grey-brown silty clay with white mottling and occasional chalk inclusions	0.12m thick	Pottery (mid1st-mid 2nd century)
4415	Skeleton in grave [4409]	Skeleton only partially excavated. Decapitated, head between lower legs. Bones not fully fused; juvenile		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
45	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.00m aOD**	**0.62m, 88.38m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare stones	0.20-0.28m thick	Tile, brick
4502	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.21-0.34m thick	
4503	Natural	Light grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
46	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.60m aOD**	**0.58m, 88.02m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4601	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay	0.15-0.19m thick	
4602	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.16-0.39m thick	
4603	Natural	Mid grey-blue clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
47	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.30m aOD**	**0.50m, 87.80m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4701	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.19-0.22m thick	Tile
4702	Subsoil	Light grey-brown silty clay	0.09-0.28m thick	
4703	Natural	40% light blue-grey clay and 60% mid grey-brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
48	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.50m aOD**	**0.40m, 88.10m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.20-0.21m thick	Tile
4802	Subsoil	Light grey-brown silty clay	0.07-0.19m thick	
4803	Natural	Light brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
49	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.70m aOD**	**0.54m, 88.16m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
4901	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare stones	0.18-0.28m thick	
4902	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.10-0.26m thick	
4903	Natural	Light grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
50	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.70m aOD**	**0.46m, 88.24m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5001	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare stones	0.21-0.24m thick	
5002	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay	0.14-0.22m thick	
5003	Natural	Mid brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
51	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.30m aOD**	**0.36m, 87.94m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5101	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare angular stones	0.17-0.18m thick	Tile
5102	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.16-0.18m thick	
5103	Natural	Mid brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
52	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.50m aOD**	**0.45m, 88.05m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare stones	0.18-0.24m thick	
5202	Subsoil	Light brown-grey silty clay	0.13-0.21m thick	
5203	Natural	Light grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
53	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.80m aOD**	**0.39m, 87.00m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5301	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.18-0.19m thick	Tile
5302	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.13-0.20m thick	
5303	Natural	Mid brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
54	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.50m aOD**	**0.52m, 86.98m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5401	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.22-0.24m thick	
5402	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.23-0.28m thick	
5403	Natural	Light grey clay and mid brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
55	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.30m aOD**	**0.40m, 86.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5501	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.17-0.18m thick	
5502	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.17-0.22m thick	
5503	Natural	Mid brown clay and light grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
56	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**88.20m aOD**	**0.40m, 87.80m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5601	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay silt with moderate small stones	0.25-0.28m thick	Tile, brick
5602	Subsoil	Mottled light grey-brown clay with chalk fragments	0.10-0.12m thick	
5603	Natural	Very mixed natural horizon; light grey clay silt with pockets of mid-dark grey clay and chalk		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
57	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.70m aOD**	**0.27m, 87.43m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5701	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silt clay with rare stones	0.22-0.27m thick	Tile
5702	Natural	Light grey clay: pockets		

		of blue-grey clay & chalk		
Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
58	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.00m aOD**	**0.34m, 86.66m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5801	Topsoil	Sticky dark grey silty clay with moderate small stones	0.22-0.28m thick	Tile
5802	Subsoil	Mixed orange/light grey clay	0.02-0.06m thick	
5803	Natural	Mottled pale grey clay with pockets of blue/yellow clay		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
59	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**86.00m aOD**	**0.46m, 85.54m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
5901	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey clay silt with rare stones	0.29-0.30m thick	
5902	Subsoil	Pale yellow-grey silty clay	0.14-0.16m thick	
5903	Natural	Stiff pale grey clay with rare chalk and patches of mid orange-brown clay		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
60	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**85.59m aOD**	**0.41m, 85.09m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
6001	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt with rare stones	0.27-0.28m thick	Tile
6002	Subsoil	Light grey clay, disturbed by ploughing	0.07-0.13m thick	
6003	Natural	Stiff light grey clay with rare patches of brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
61	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**85.10m aOD**	**0.37m, 84.73m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
6101	Topsoil	Very sticky dark grey-brown clay silt with moderate stones	0.26-0.27m thick	
6102	Subsoil	Pale grey clay, plough disturbed	0.03-0.10m thick	
6103	Natural	Pale grey clay with chalk fragments		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
62	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**86.30m aOD**	**0.40m, 85.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
6201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	0.27-0.30m thick	Tile
6202	Subsoil	Mottled pale grey-yellow clay	0.06-0.1-m thick	
6203	Natural	Mottled pale grey-yellow clay		

Trenches 63 and 64: not excavated

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
65	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**85.90m aOD**	**0.35m, 85.55m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
6501	Topsoil	Stiff grey-brown clay with occasional stones	0.28m thick	
6502	Subsoil	Mottled grey-brown clay	0.07m thick	
6503	Natural	Mid grey-brown clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
66	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**86.50m aOD**	**0.37m, 86.13m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
6601	Topsoil	Sticky grey-brown clay silt with moderate stones	0.26-0.27m thick	Tile, brick
6602	Subsoil	Mottled grey-brown clay	0.06-0.10m thick	
6603	Natural	Mottled light grey to orange-brown clay with chalk flecks		

Trench 68: not excavated

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
68	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.80m aOD**	**0.68m, 87.12m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
6801	Topsoil	Firm mid grey-brown clay silt with moderate stones	0.25-0.34m thick	Tile
6802	Subsoil	Mottled light grey clay with chalk fragments	0.06-0.34m thick	
6803	Natural	Very mixed natural light grey to mid-light orange clay		
6804	Fill of ditch [6805]	Very firm mid brown clay with rare stones	0.34m thick	
6805	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, shallow sides and flat base	>3.60m wide 0.34m deep	

Trench 69: not excavated

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
70	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.40m aOD**	**0.28m, 87.12m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7001	Topsoil	Firm mid grey-brown clay silt	0.20-0.22m thick	
7002	Subsoil	Light grey-brown clay silt	0.06m thick	
7003	Natural	Pale grey-brown clay with chalk fragments		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
71	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**87.10m aOD**	**0.55m, 86.55m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay	0.18-0.19m thick	
7102	Subsoil	Light yellow-grey clay with pockets of gravel	0.21-0.36m thick	
7103	Natural	Light blue-grey clay, with pockets of light yellow-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
72	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**86.70m aOD**	**0.65m, 86.05m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7201	Topsoil	Grey-brown loamy clay	0.21-0.28m thick	
7202	Subsoil	Firm blue-grey clay with rare stone	0.18-0.37m thick	
7203	Natural	Mid blue-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
73	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**85.10m aOD**	**0.50m, 84.60m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7301	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with rare stones	0.13-0.19m thick	
7302	Subsoil	Light green-grey clay with rare stones	0.24-0.31m thick	
7303	Natural	Light blue-grey clay with occasional chalk		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
74	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**86.70m aOD**	**0.56m, 86.04m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7401	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay with rare stones	0.15-0.19m thick	
7402	Subsoil	Mid yellow-grey clay with rare stones	0.25-0.37m thick	
7403	Natural	Light blue-grey clay with occasional chalk flecks		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
75	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**86.00m aOD**	**0.48m, 85.52m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay	0.19-0.23m thick	
7502	Subsoil	Mid yellow-grey clay with orange mottling	0.18-0.25m thick	
7503	Natural	Mid blue-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
76	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**85.20m aOD**	**0.68m, 84.52m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7601	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay	0.25-0.28m thick	
7602	Subsoil	Firm grey-green clay	0.19-0.40m thick	
7603	Natural	Light blue-grey clay with pockets of light yellow-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
77	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**84.50m aOD**	**0.48m, 84.02m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7701	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loamy clay	0.10-0.18m thick	
7702	Subsoil	Grey clay	0.15-0.30m thick	
7703	Natural	Light blue-grey clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
78	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**84.40m aOD**	**0.25m, 84.12m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey loamy clay with occasional stones	0.17-0.25m thick	
7802	Natural	Dark grey-brown clay with rare stones and pockets of sandy clay		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
79	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**89.70m aOD**	**0.26m, 89.44m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
7901	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay with rare stone	0.24-0.26m thick	
7902	VOID			
7903	Natural	Blue-grey clay		
7904	Ditch	Aligned NW-SE, shallow sides and flat base	0.74m wide 0.44m deep	
7905	Fill of ditch [7904]	Firm dark brown-grey clay with rare chalk	0.44m thick	Pottery (late 3rd-4th)
7906	Gully	Aligned NW-SE, steep sides and concave base	0.83m wide 0.52m deep	
7907	Fill of gully [7906]	Firm dark grey clay with frequent charcoal flecks	0.52m deep	Pottery (mid 1st-early 2nd AD) and bone and SF12 (Fe fitting- perforated strap fragment)
7908	Ditch	Aligned NE-SW, steep sides and a flat base	0.92m wide 0.46m deep	
7909	Fill of ditch [7908]	Firm dark brown-grey clay with rare stone and chalk inclusions	0.46m thick	Pottery (mid 1st-early 2nd AD) and bone
7910	Ditch terminal/pit?	Sub-circular/oval, moderately sloping sides and concave base	1.05m long, 0.52m wide 0.42m deep	
7911	Fill of ditch terminal/pit [7910]	Firm dark brown-grey clay with rare charcoal inclusions	0.42m thick	Pottery (120-200 AD) and bone. Sample <1>
7912	Gully/beam-slot	Aligned NE-SW, shallow edges and concave base	0.32m wide 0.10m deep	
7913	Fill of gully/beam-slot [7912]	Firm dark brown-grey clay with rare charcoal flecks	0.10m thick	Pottery (60-150 AD) and bone
7914	Gully/beam-slot	Aligned NW-SE, shallow edges and slightly concave base	>2.2m long 0.21m wide 0.11m deep	
7915	Fill of gully/beam-slot [7914]	Firm dark grey-brown clay with moderate charcoal flecks	0.11m deep	Pottery (1st century BC-1st century AD) and bone

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