



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land at Bridge Farm,  
Shefford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire  
April 2012



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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worked stone:

:

**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM 126568**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological evaluation of land at Bridge Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire, April 2012	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake trial trenching on land to the west of Shefford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire. Earlier Heritage Assessment and geophysical survey suggested that there was prehistoric activity in the eastern part of the proposed development area. The geophysical survey identified three enclosures and possible pits. The trial trenching targeted areas of archaeology as well as 'blank' zones. To the east there are enclosures dating to the middle to late Iron Age, perhaps the 1st century BC, while to the west there is a small enclosure that spans the 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD. Remnants of medieval furrows were also found. There was some modern activity including a rubbish pit, areas of tree disturbance and an extensive network of field drains.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Cultural Heritage Statement (Dawson 2012), geophysical survey (Butler 2012)	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Iron Age hillside occupation enclosures	
Significant finds	Iron Age pottery	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Bridge Farm, Shefford Road, Shefford	
Study area	4.8ha	
OS Grid ref	TL 145 384	
Height above OD	41m to 54m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Martin Oake (CBCA)	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Carol Simmonds (NA)	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (NA) and Mike Dawson (CgMs)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bovis Homes	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	10/4/2012	
End date	27/4/2012	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>		
	Location	Content
Physical	BEDFM:2012.22	2 archive boxes of pottery, animal bone and other artefacts
Paper		1 archive box of site records
Digital		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Archaeological evaluation of land at Bridge Farm, Shefford, Bedfordshire, April 2012	
Serial title & volume	NA report 12/82	
Page number	48 pages text and illustrations	
Author(s)	Carol Simmonds	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND  
AT BRIDGE FARM, SHEFFORD ROAD, SHEFFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE  
APRIL 2012  
BEDFM:2012.22**

**Abstract**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake trial trenching on land to the west of Shefford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire.*

*Earlier Heritage Assessment and geophysical survey suggested that there was prehistoric activity in the eastern part of the proposed development area. The geophysical survey identified three enclosures and possible pits. The trial trenching targeted areas of archaeology as well as 'blank' zones. To the east there are enclosures dating to the middle to late Iron Age, perhaps the 1st century BC, while to the west there is a small enclosure that spans the 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD.*

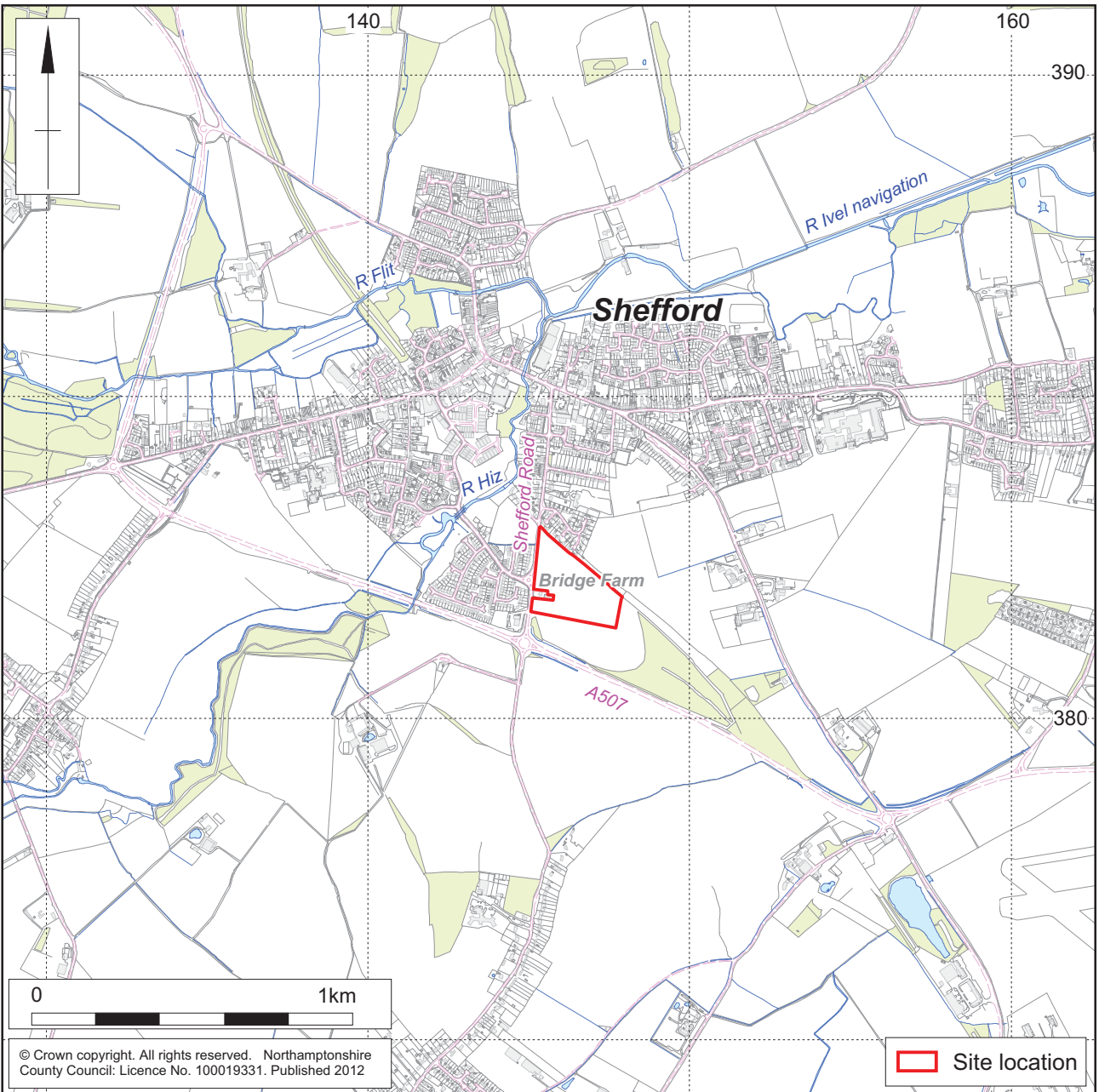
*Remnants of medieval furrows were also found. There was some modern activity including a rubbish pit, areas of tree disturbance and an extensive network of field drains.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on a proposed development site at Bridge Farm, Shefford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire. It follows a desk-based Heritage Assessment (Dawson 2012) and a geophysical survey (Butler 2012). The proposed development site comprises c4.8ha of land, located on the southern outskirts of Shefford, Bedfordshire (centred on NGR TL 145 384: Fig 1).

The works are being undertaken on behalf of Bovis Homes in support of a proposal for development in accordance with National Planning *Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). The works form part of the requirements of the Central Bedfordshire Local Validation Checklist. The site has been allocated for housing in the Central Bedfordshire Site Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD).





Scale 1:20,000

Site Location Fig 1

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Location, topography and geology

Situated south-east of a tributary of the River Flit, the area is dominated by a series of clay ridges trending east to west, intersected by the rivers Hiz, Flit and Ivel. At the point where the rivers Hiz and Flit join, they form the Ivel which flows north towards Biggleswade and Sandy before the Ivel's confluence with the Great Ouse at Tempsford.

The site forms a polygonal-shaped area of arable land surrounding Bridge Farm. The ground slopes from south-east (54m aOD) to north-west (41m aOD), overlooking the River Hiz and modern housing estates that mark the southern expansion of Shefford (Fig 2).



General view of the site, looking south-west Fig 2

The solid geology of the site is composed of mudstones belonging to the Lower Cretaceous Gault Formation overlain by glacial tills of the Quaternary Lowestoft Formation (Steve Critchley pers comm).

### 2.2 Archaeological background

A Heritage Assessment was undertaken by CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2012) and its findings are summarised below. The evidence from the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Records (HER) shows that the proposed development area lies within a rich archaeological landscape (Fig 3). However, it lies outside of the boundaries of the Roman focus of occupation to the west, the historic core to the north and modern urban growth (Albion Archaeology 2003).

Much of this data referred to in the Heritage Assessment, synthesises the works undertaken in advance of recent development, allied to evidence from local antiquarians and archaeologists, including Thomas Inskip and David Kennet; as well as the available historic mapping for the proposed development area. In March 2012, Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a geophysical survey of the development area (Butler 2012).



The early prehistoric period is defined by two cropmark complexes; **HER602**, possible ring ditches within the grounds of Robert Bloomfield School to the west of the proposed development site and **HER11766**, a possible Neolithic enclosure. The latter is part of a set of prehistoric or later enclosures (see below) which falls partly within the boundaries of the development area. However, the aerial photographs do not indicate the nature of archaeological remains in the proposed development area.

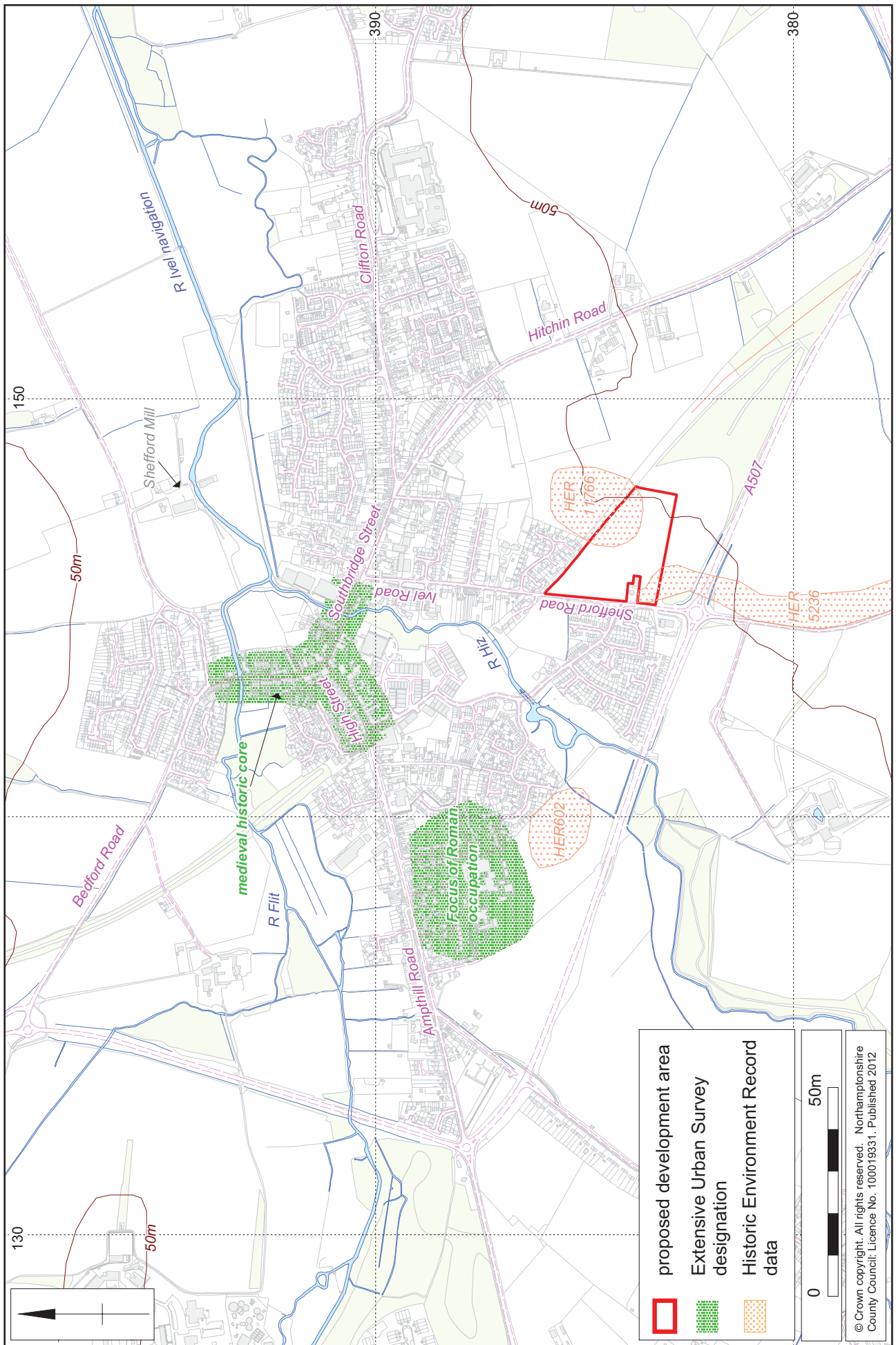
Later prehistoric and Roman evidence is known to cluster in the western part of the parish, specifically focussed on the Ampthill Road and centred on Robert Bloomfield school and Shefford Lower School (Albion Archaeology 2003, Walker 2011). The information indicates the presence of a settlement, the size of which has not yet been determined, the course of a possible Roman road is also known to the west of the site (**HER10480**). Antiquarian and recent excavations within the environs of Ampthill Road show the settlement was established prior to the Roman conquest and comprised a large ditched enclosure which continued to function throughout the 2nd century until the 3rd century and contained evidence for a possible roundhouse and a later substantial aisled building (Luke, Preece and Wells 2010).

Within the margins of the development site and extending to the north-east are a series of cropmarks **HER11766** which indicate the remains of a probable Iron Age and Roman settlement. They comprise a trapezoidal enclosure with attached smaller curvilinear enclosures. The situation of these cropmark enclosures on a south-west facing slope above a watercourse is typical of later prehistoric and Roman period settlement.

Shefford probably originates in the late Saxon period. Although there is no mention of Shefford in the Domesday Book, there is a record of a 'Sheep-ford', by which the crossing was known in the early 11th century. It only appears to become a place in its own right, rather than just a river-crossing, in the 12th century. Although no settlement is mentioned here at Domesday it is thought that there was at least one, if not several, mills in the area at that time, including a watermill belonging to Walter Gifford, lord of the manor of Campton. This may have been located either on the River Hit at Campton or possibly at Shefford (VCH 1908). It is probable that the proximity of the Gilbertine Priory at Chicksands, 2km to the west, influenced the development of the settlement (Steadman and MacQueen 2003). By 1225, the right to a market was granted. The population of the town, however, remained small until the middle of the 19th century.

The Ordnance Survey maps from 1884 onwards illustrate a lack of development on the site throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, with the landscape remaining agricultural. The railway to the north was in place by the publication of the 1st edition map and Bridge Farm was built between 1938 and 1976. Shefford expanded significantly in the 20th century and the proposed development area sits on the periphery of the modern development.

The results from the geophysical survey (Butler 2012) revealed two probable ditched enclosures in the eastern half of the proposed development area (Fig 4). One in the north-east of the field is ovoid in shape, approximately 20m long, abutting a likely L-shaped ditch. The other enclosure is situated on the south-eastern boundary of the area, at least 5-sided, of approximately 30m x 30m area and likely to extend to the south of the development. Ridge and furrow cultivation was also noted across the entire area of proposed development. The enclosures are likely to relate to cropmark complex **HER11766**.



Scale 1:1,2500 (A4)

Historic Environment Record data Fig 3

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Scale 1:2,000

Magnetometer survey results Fig 4



### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims and objectives

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

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.

The following research documents were consulted as appropriate: Shefford was also assessed as part of the Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire (BCC 2003)

- Research and Archaeology, A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1, Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997);
- Research and Archaeology, A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2, Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000);
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medleycott 2011);
- Bedfordshire Archaeology, Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy (Oake *et al* 2007).

The site also has the potential to add to our knowledge of:

- Origins of the Roman settlement at Shefford, its nature, change over time and quality of its survival;
- Iron Age- Roman transition (Medlycott 2011,31) and Romanisation (Medlycott 2011, 47);
- The wider questions concerning the mechanism of the Roman economy on a small scale, including; trade links and economic production (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 31).

### 3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the specification (NA 2012) and following discussions with the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Archaeologist. The following guidelines were adhered to: *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 CBC Archaeologist.

Trial trenching comprised the excavation of 20 trenches. Of these, 18 trenches measured 50m x 2m, and the remaining two trenches were 25m by 2m (trenches 9 and 10). The trenches were machine-excavated in dry conditions using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan and trench concordance approved by Mike Dawson (CgMs Consulting) and the CBC Archaeologist, and were related to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 5). Trenches 5, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 16 all targeted enclosures identified in the geophysical survey, the remainder were positioned across remnants of medieval cultivation or in 'blank' areas. On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist reinstatement.

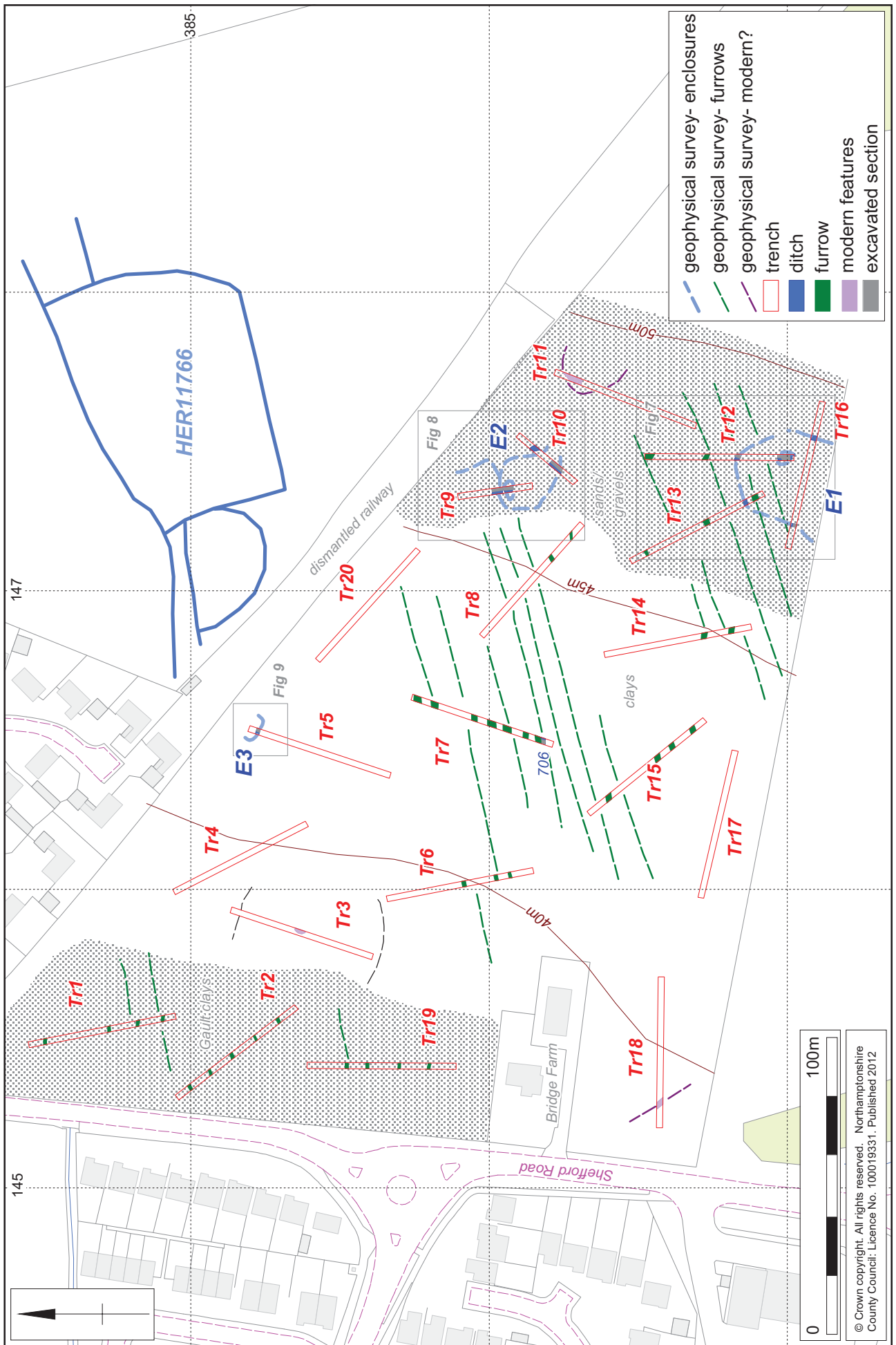
The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal archaeological remains or where absent to the natural. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.

At the on-site monitoring meetings of 12th April 2012 and 17th April 2012 it was agreed with Martin Oake (CBCA) that of the four locations where the Enclosure 1 was identified in Trenches 12, 13 and 6 that the excavation of two interventions was acceptable (M Oake pers comm). Likewise two interventions of the penannular shaped Enclosure 2 was deemed to be acceptable.

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given a separate context number and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. Sections of the sequence of deposits in each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 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 has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.



Scale 1:1,750

The geology, topographic and archaeological features Fig 5



## 4 EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 4.1 General comments

The natural soils varied across the proposed development area and respected the changes in topography (Fig 5). On top of the north-west facing slope at an average height of 54m aOD the soils were orange-brown clayey sands or gravels (Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16). Further down the slope in such as Trenches 8 and 6, the soils comprised orange-brown silty clays (Fig 6).



The composition of the soil in Trench 8, looking north-east Fig 6

The natural soils at the base of the slope were the blue-grey clays of the Gault formation or fine white-yellow sands (Trench 3). In Trench 3 a layer of colluvium comprising reddish-brown silty sands, up to 0.49m thick, masked the natural. A subsoil typically comprising brownish-yellow clays of variable thickness (0.11m to 0.20m) was present in the majority of the trenches. Unless otherwise stated all archaeological features were sealed by a subsoil. This was overlain by a well developed topsoil of dark brown sandy/clayey loam with an average thickness of 0.25m across the site.

The fills of the features varied across the site and to a certain extent mirrored the geology into which the features were cut. Many of the soils across the site had chalk flecking or chalk lumps as well as flint nodules. Appendix 1 provides the context data for the excavation.

## 4.2 Iron Age occupation

The Iron Age remains comprised two enclosures (Enclosures 1 and 2) on the top of the hill, a small enclosure mid slope (Enclosure 3) and a ditch aligned down the slope in Trench 7.

### **Enclosure 1** (Figs 5 & 7)

The geophysical survey identified four sides of a large polygonal shaped enclosure in the south-eastern corner of the field at a height of 53m aOD. It is presumed that the remainder lies south of the modern hedge-line. This enclosure measured at least 29m long (north to south) and 28m wide. It was identified in Trenches 12, 13 and 16, where it was defined by a narrow deep cut with a V-shaped profile [1606] and [1207]. The survey and subsequent excavation suggested the potential for internal pit or water-hole features [1213] and [1210].

Where the ditch was investigated in Trench 12, it was 1.16m wide and 1.06m deep (Fig 7, section 7). The primary fill (1206), firm yellowish-brown silty clay, was probably as a result of water silting. The upper fills (1204) and (1205) tipped in from the north-east and sagged in the centre; they comprised grey-brown silty clays. Pottery was recovered from all the fills and was of late Iron Age date. Animal bone was recovered from the upper fills.

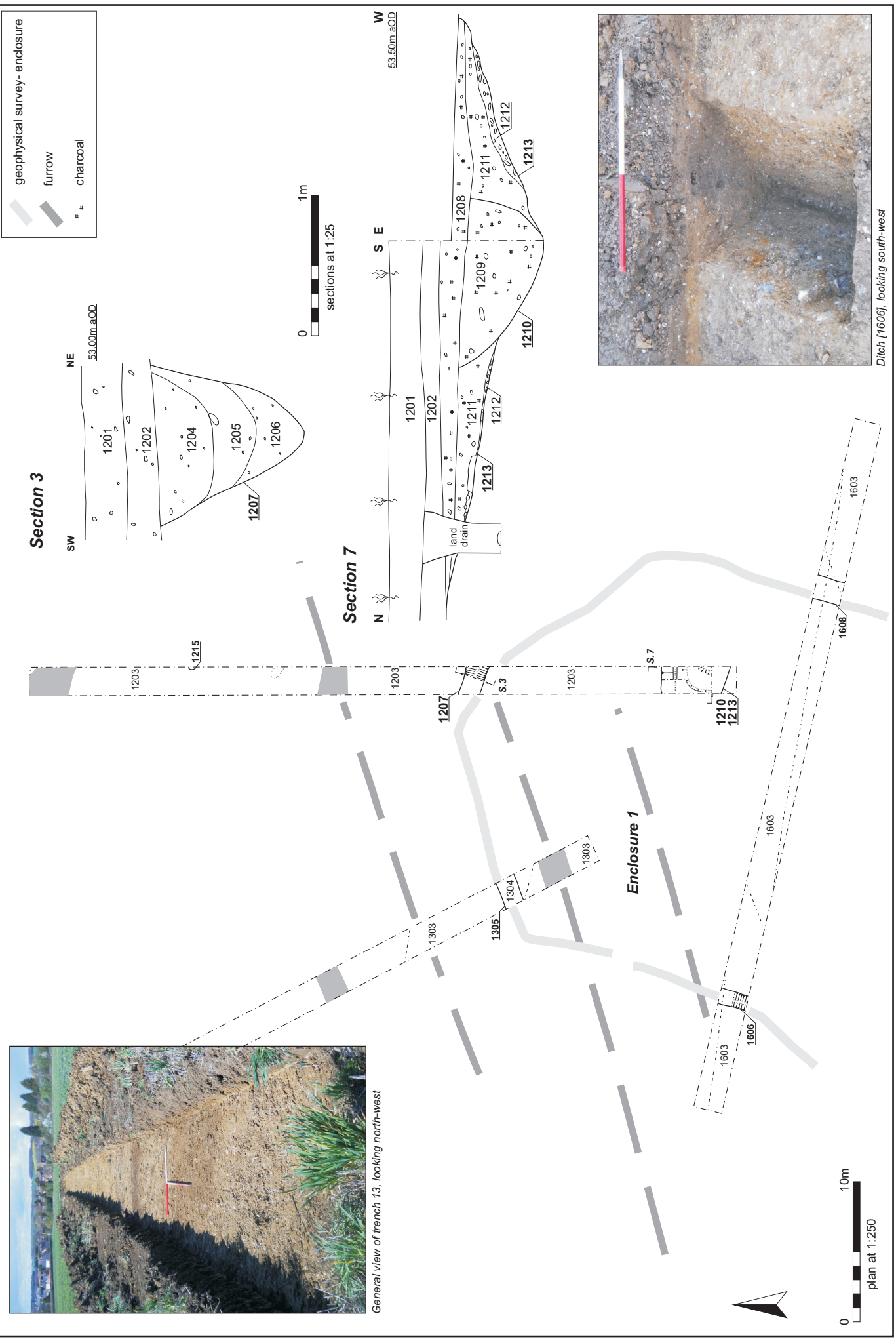
In trench 16, the ditch [1606] was 1.0m wide by 0.75m deep and was filled with compact greyish-orange clayey silts (1604) and (1605) which were disturbed by roots. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from (1604).

A large pit or watering hole [1213] matching a positive magnetic anomaly in the geophysics was investigated at the south-western end of Trench 12 (Fig 7, section 7). It was oval in plan, 4.40m wide and up to 0.66m deep, with gradual sloping sides. The pit was initially filled with a thin light yellowish-brown clay with cobbles and flint nodules (1212). This was overlain by a firm dark brown silty clay (1211). Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the lower fill. The pit or watering hole was recut [1210] to a size of at least 1.20m wide and up to 0.55m deep. Its profile comprised steep sloping sides tapering to a narrow base. It was filled with a friable dark grey clayey silt (1209) and then a broad spread of firm dark brownish-grey silty clay (1208). Pottery was recovered from the upper fill and animal bone from both. Both fills were also sampled.

A probable posthole [1215] was recorded outside Enclosure 1, c20m to the north of ditch [1207]. The full extent of the posthole was not known as part of it lay under the baulk of the trench. It was at least 0.55m wide and 0.18m deep with a dish-shaped profile. The fill comprised a well defined compact dark blueish-brown silty clay. Sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill. No other postholes or other associated features were identified.

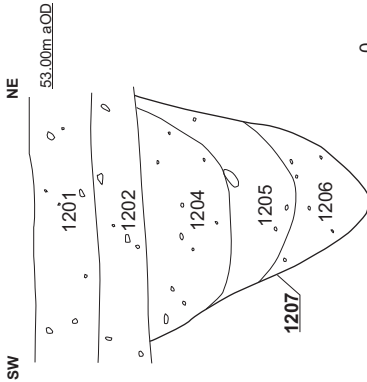


General view of trench 13, looking north-west

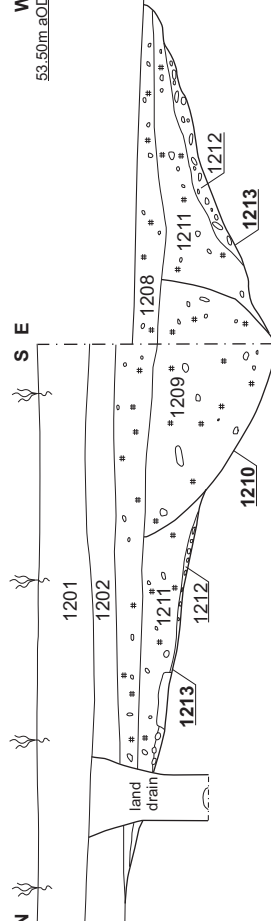


geophysical survey- enclosure  
 furrow  
 charcoal

**Section 3**



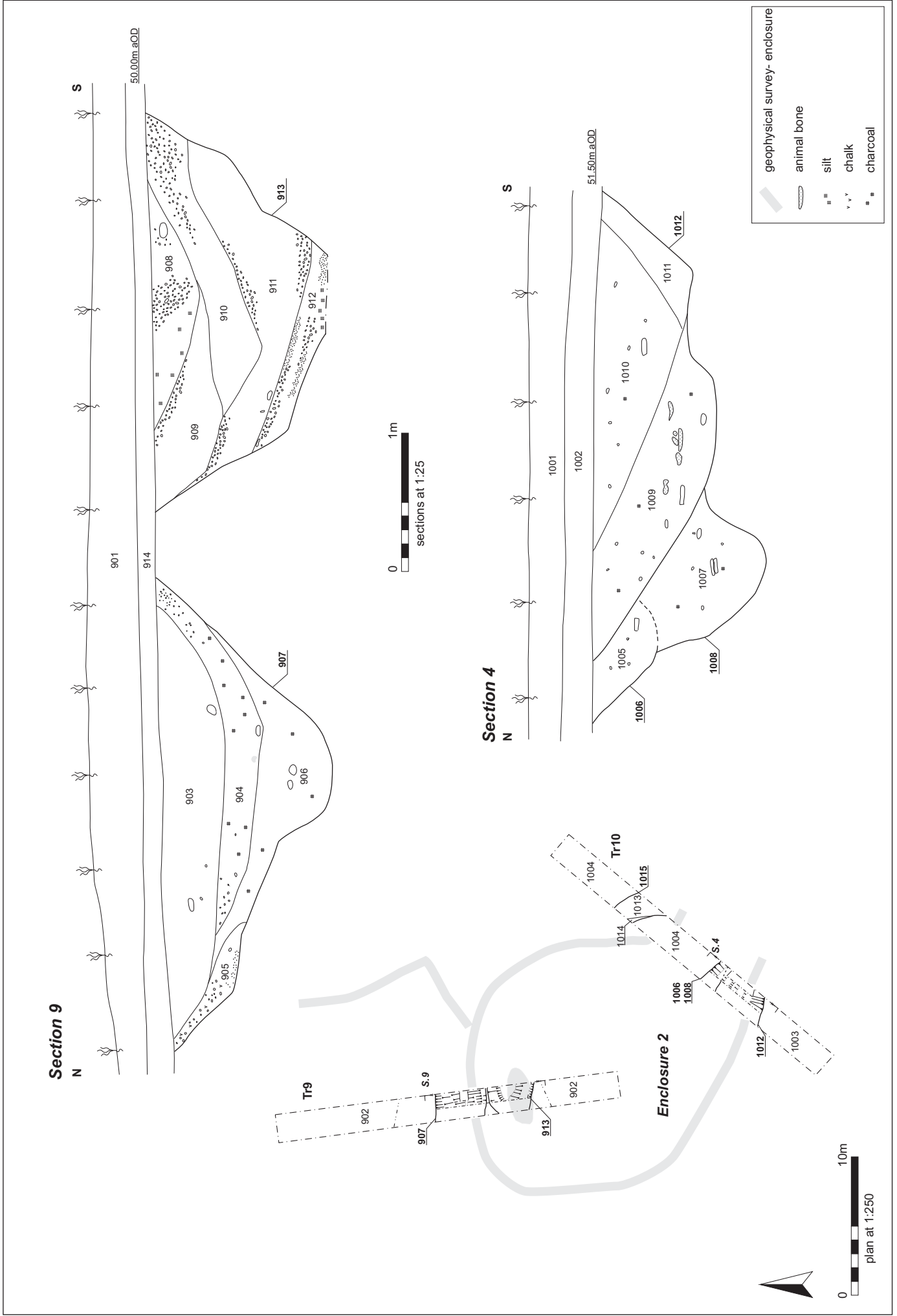
**Section 7**



Ditch 1606j, looking south-west

**Enclosure 1**





Enclosure 2, plan and sections Fig 8



**Enclosure 2** (Figs 5 & 8)

Enclosure 2 comprised a complex of features, 58m to the north of Enclosure 1, at a height of 51m aOD. The geophysical survey identified a well defined penannular-shaped enclosure, aligned north-west to south-east, with a south-east facing entrance. It measured 24m long by 15m wide. An L-shaped ditch bounding the enclosure's northern arm was at least 20m long. Within the enclosure was a large positive magnetic anomaly.

The northern boundary of the penannular enclosure was investigated in Trench 9 [907] and was noted in Trench 10 [1015], with the southern boundary excavated in Trench 10. The anomaly within the enclosure was investigated in Trench 9 [913]. The enclosure complex was cut into the natural sands and gravels.

In the north-eastern part of Trench 10, ditch [1015] measured up to 2m wide. Although it was not excavated in evaluation, two distinct fills were visible on the excavated surface of the trench. These comprised a dark brown sandy clay (1013) and a reddish-brown clayey sand (1014).

Where the northern boundary of the enclosure curved round in Trench 9, ditch [907], 3.25m wide and up to 1.24m deep, had an eroded V-shaped profile with weathered upper edges (Fig 8, section 9). The north-western edge was particularly eroded and its upper portion was defined by a slump of brownish-orange sand with coarse gravel lenses (905). This was overlain by a greyish-brown silty sand with charcoal flecking (906), probably formed as a result of water silting. Pottery and animal bone was recovered from (906). This was overlain by firm dark brownish-grey silty sandy clay (904) with occasional charcoal flecking with a lense of coarse gravel in the upper part of the southern edge. The fill tipped in from within the enclosure. Pottery and animal bone was recovered from (906). It was overlain by a greyish-brown silty clay-sand with frequent coarse gravel (903).

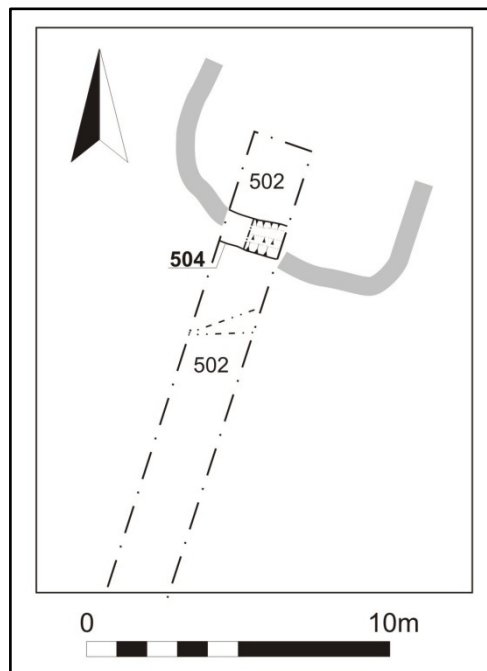
The southern return of the ditch in Trench 10, indicated that there had been three phases of enclosure maintenance (Fig 8, section 4). The first ditch [1008], 1.0m wide and 0.80m deep, had a weathered bowl-shaped profile, filled with compact light brownish-orange clayey silt (1007). Two fragments of worked stone comprising a probable saddle quern and a rubbing stone were recovered from the fill. The ditch's north-eastern edge was cut by ditch [1006], 1.20m wide and 0.45m deep, which had a bowl-shaped profile. Its single fill comprised a compact light brownish-orange clayey silt (1005), from which a worked flint flake (probably residual), sherds of late Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered. The upper portion of the south-western edge of the ditch was cut away by ditch [1012]. This was 3.40m wide and 0.90m deep and had a gently curving sides and broad base, although the south-western edge was steeper. The primary fill (1009) tipped in from the north-east (from within the enclosure) and comprised compact light brownish-orange clayey silt with charcoal flecking. The steeper south-western edge of the ditch was further defined by compact light brownish-orange-grey clay (1011), this may indicate weathering of the upper portion of the ditch. The final identified fill (1010) also tipped in from the north-east and comprised compact dark brown clayey silt. A small group of seven flints, including two blades, were recovered from (1009) and (1010), as were sherds of Iron Age pottery and a quantity of animal bone. A lump of fired clay was recovered from fill (1010).

Pit [913] had no direct stratigraphic relationship which could be identified within Trench 9, and was situated 0.50m to the south of ditch [907]. On the geophysical survey it appeared to be elliptical in plan and up to 6m long. It was not fully excavated owing to health and safety considerations, and it was 2.90m wide by at least 1.25m deep (fig 8, section 9). It had a asymmetrical profile with heavily eroded sides. It was

filled with a sequence of silts, sands and clays with lenses of coarse grained gravel. The fills tipped in from either side of the pit.

**Enclosure 3** (Figs 5, 9 & 10),

Enclosure 3 was situated mid-slope (46m aOD) against the northern boundary, comprised the south-western part of an oval-shaped enclosure. The north-eastern part had been destroyed by the railway (now dismantled). The interior of the enclosure measured 7m long and at least 6m wide and was defined on its south-western side by a ditch [504]. The ditch was 1.10m wide by 0.65m deep with a bowl-shaped profile and eroded south-eastern edge. It was filled with compact, sterile brownish-orange clayey silt. Sherds of early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD hand built and wheel thrown pottery were recovered from the fill. Of note was a virtually complete small bowl (section 5.1; Fig 13).



Plan of Enclosure 3 and trench 5, scale 1:250 Fig 9



Ditch [504] in trench 5, looking east Fig 10



**Ditch [706]** (Fig 5)

At the south-western end of Trench 7, there was a ditch [706], aligned north-east to south-west going down the slope. It lay at a height of approximately 48m aOD, was 0.96m wide and 0.30m deep. It had an asymmetrical weathered profile with a rounded base. The lower fill (704) was compact brownish-yellow slightly silty clay, overlain by a firm dark reddish-brown slightly silty clay (705). Two sherds of pottery of middle to late Iron Age date were recovered from the upper fill. Its weathered nature and position down slope would suggest that the ditch drained material away from the occupation on higher ground.

**4.3 Medieval cultivation**

The geophysical survey identified bands of positive magnetic readings on a north-east to south-west trend across the site (Fig 4). The trends were interpreted as remnants of furrows.

The excavation identified the bases of furrows in a number of trenches (Fig 5). The furrows were spaced between 6m and 7m apart and were up to 2.5m wide by 0.14m deep. At the base and on the slope (Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 14 and 15) they comprised brown or yellowish-brown silty or sandy clays (Fig 11).



The Gault clays and furrows in trench 1, looking north-west Fig 11

On top of the slope in Trenches 12 and 13, the furrows were filled with orange-brown silty clays. No artefacts were recovered from the furrows.

#### 4.4 Modern

The modern features comprised an extensive network of land drains across the site (Fig 5). The geophysical survey had recorded a positive magnetic anomaly in the south-western corner of the site. At the western end of Trench 18 two ceramic drains were recorded at the base of a ditch [1805].

The north-eastern corner of the site indicated that there was mixed magnetic responses, suggesting disturbed ground. At the north-western end of Trench 11 there was extensive tree root disturbance (Fig 12).



The tree root disturbance (1106) at the north-western end of trench 11 Fig 12

A rubbish pit [307], 3.70m wide and 0.45m deep, had a flattish base and gradual sloping sides. Its lower fill (306) had a quantity of burnt stone, fragments of modern tile and land drain. The upper fill, comprising a firm brown sandy clay was sealed by the topsoil.

## 5 THE ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

### 5.1 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 163 sherds, weighing 1.68kg, of hand-built and wheel-finished Iron Age pottery was recovered in quantity from features in trenches 5, 9, 10, and 12, along with two sherds from ditch 706 in Trench 7 (Table 1). Trenches 5, 9, 10 and 12 produced similar quantities by sherd count, but by weight Trenches 5 and 9 are dominant as Trench 5 produced an entire small bowl (Fig 13) and Trench 9 about a third of a larger bowl (Fig 14), with these two vessels forming 42% of the entire assemblage by weight.

*Table 1: Iron Age pottery/trench*

<b>Trench (feature)</b>	<b>No. of Sherds</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Comments</b>
5 (E3)	44	27.0	605	36.0	Late Iron Age (1st century BC/1st century AD)
7 (ditch 706)	2	1.2	11	0.7	Iron Age
9 (E2)	36	22.1	670	39.9	Late Iron Age (1st century BC)
10 (E2)	42	25.8	232	13.8	Late Iron Age (1st century BC)
12 (E3)	39	23.9	163	9.7	Late Iron Age (1st century BC)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>161</b>		<b>1671</b>		<b>Average sherd weight 10.4g</b>

The material from trenches 7-9, Enclosures 1 and 2, can all be characterised as broadly dating to the middle to late Iron Age, with the fine bowl in a dark grey fabric and a smoothed surface (Fig 14) and other similar vessels, favouring a late Iron Age date, the 1st century BC. The material from Trench 5, Enclosure 3, is more mixed containing both hand-built vessels and wheel-finished vessels of the early 1st century AD.

#### ***Fabrics***

Sandy: containing sand with fine rounded quartz, up to 1mm, hard coarse texture  
100 sherds (62.1%)

Grog: a soft fabric with soapy texture either containing no evident inclusions or small pellets of grog.  
48 sherds (29.8%)

Quartz: a sandy fabric containing scattered angular quartz, up to 5mm, typically soft with light yellow-brown oxidised surfaces and a light grey core.  
6 sherds (3.7%)

Shelly: containing dense coarse shell, 2-4mm.  
4 sherds (2.5%)

Flint: containing inclusions of angular flint, up to 3mm.  
2 sherds, trench 12 (1.2%)

Gritty: containing frequent dark brown inclusions, up to 3mm, probably ironstone.  
1 sherd, trench 5, whole vessel (0.6%)



A majority of the assemblage, 62% by sherd number, is a sandy fabric comprising hard sherds with a coarse surface texture. A further 30% of the assemblage has a soft fabric with the sherds having rounded edges and abraded surfaces, and at least a proportion of these contain grog. The other fabrics are present in small quantities, and the very distinctive ironstone gritted fabric of the small complete bowl (Fig 13), does not appear within any other vessel.

### **Forms and chronology**

The material from Trench 7, Trenches 9 and 10 (Enclosure 2) and Trench 12 (Enclosure 1), is dominated by body sherds with few diagnostic features. Many of the body sherds probably come from jars, and there is a shouldered jar with a short neck and an upright rounded rim from the fill (910) of pit [913]. From the fill (904) of ditch [907] there were six large joining sherds, partly a modern break, forming about a third of bowl with a complete profile. It has a flat base 75mm diameter, stands 135mm high and has a rim diameter of c 165mm. The fabric is dark grey throughout and the bowl is well finished with a smoothed surface (Fig 14). This vessel can be attributed to the late Iron Age, the 1st century BC.

The fill (503) of ditch [504], Enclosure 3, contained a very mixed group from several vessels, some wheel-finished vessels dating to the later Pre-Roman Iron Age, the early decades of the 1st century AD. These vessels include a thin-walled long necked jar, a comb-decorated body sherd and body sherds from cordoned jars (Fig 15). In addition, from the surface of this ditch that was the much more crudely made small bowl (Fig 13). This bowl, which is virtually complete but cracked, was recovered from the surface (503) of ditch [504]. It is in a fabric containing dense inclusions of dark red-brown to dark grey minerals, possibly ironstone, measuring 1-3mm, and sparse small pieces of shell. The core is a light greyish-brown, as is the interior, and surface is orange-brown around one half of the vessel and light grey-brown around the other half. The jar stands 80mm high with a flat base 60mm in diameter and a rim diameter of 90mm, but all of these dimensions are rounded off as the vessel is quite irregular and uneven, and was probably formed from a single lump of clay. The form is a small but deep open bowl with a simple rounded rim.



Two views of the complete small bowl from ditch [504], Enclosure 3  
(Scale 10mm cube) Fig 13



Late Iron Age bowl (photographically reconstructed), from ditch 907, Enclosure 2 (Height 135mm) Fig 14



Wheel-finished and comb decorated vessels of the early 1st century AD from ditch [504], Enclosure 3 (Scale 20mm) Fig 15

## 5.2 Fired clay by Andy Chapman

From the fill (1010) of ditch [1012] there is an irregular lump of fired clay, 75mm long by 40mm wide, in a hard orange fabric containing calcareous and small mineral inclusions measuring up to 5mm.

## 5.3 Querns and rubbing stones by Andy Chapman

From the fill (1007) of ditch [1008], there are two fragments of large quartzite pebbles. One piece is 50mm thick with a rounded circumference and a slightly concave heavily worn surface, indicating probable usage as a saddle quern. The second piece is 70mm thick and is perhaps a fragment of a rubbing stone, but the worn surface has been damaged.

## 5.4 The worked flint by Andy Chapman

A total of eight flints were recovered. There is a single squat cortical flake from the fill (1005) of ditch [1006], and a single irregular chunk of shattered cortical flint from the fill (1010) of ditch [1012]. From the fill (1009) of ditch [1012] there is a small group of six flints. There is a fresh squat cortical flake and three other flakes, two with surface patination. In addition, there are two blades, one cortical and the other struck from a core with patinated surfaces. Both has edge damage.

This group of flints contains no specific tool types, and appears to comprise a random selection of flakes and blades only broadly datable to the Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

## 5.5 Animal bone by Karen Deighton

### ***Introduction***

A total of 3kg of animal bone was collected by hand during the course of trial trenching. This material was assessed to ascertain the condition of the bone, the species present and potential contribution to the understanding of the site and to inform on future collection strategies.

### ***Method***

The animal bone was scanned and identifiable elements were noted (following Halstead 1985 after Watson 1979). Preservation and modification (after Binford 1981) were also noted. Any available biometrical data (after von den Driesch 1976) was noted as was any available ageing data. Ageing data included state of epiphyseal fusion (after Silver 1969) and tooth eruption and wear (after Payne 1973 for Ovicaprids).

### ***Results***

#### ***Preservation***

Fragmentation was fairly heavy in most contexts, where bone fragments could be categorised as splinter or cylinder, this could be the result of heavy handed butchery techniques, trampling or compaction within the soil (more evidence would be needed to confirm which one). A more moderate level of fragmentation was observed in contexts (904) fill of ditch [907] and (1009) lower fill of ditch [1012] where some bones remained almost complete. A number of fresh breaks were noted, throughout all contexts. The level of fragmentation adversely affected identification. Surface abrasion was moderate in most contexts, although bone from context (1212) lower fill



of pit [1213] exhibited surface flaking and splitting. Five examples of canid gnawing were noted which could suggest the presence of dogs/foxes at the site. Three examples of butchery were observed, all were consistent with chopping. No evidence of burning was noted, indicating that this was not a preferred method of disposal.

#### *Taxonomic distribution*

*Table 2: Taxa by phase*

<b>Cut/fill</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Sheep/ goat</b>	<b>Pig</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>L ungulate</b>	<b>Total</b>
504 / 503	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
907 / 904	9	2	1	-	1	-	13
913 / 910	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
1006 / 1005	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
1012 / 1009	-	-	1	1	-	8	10
1207 / 1204	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1207 / 1205	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
1210 / 1208	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
1606 / 1604	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>

Contexts (906), (1010), (1209) and (212) had indeterminate bone fragments only. Taxa were restricted to the major domesticates plus horse and dog.

#### *Ageing and metrical data*

*Table 3: The availability of ageing and metrical data*

<b>Data type</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Sheep/goat</b>	<b>Pig</b>	<b>Dog</b>
Fusion	2	1	1	-
Juvenile bone	1	-	-	-
Tooth eruption and wear	-	3	-	1
Measurements(number of bones)	9(3)	-	-	-

#### **Discussion**

The mixed nature of the anatomical elements and taxa observed tentatively suggest that the material represents domestic waste, resulting from consumption. The presence of dog and horse bones could alternatively be the remains of whole carcass dumping following death. Little more can be said of the animal economy or status of the site due to the paucity and poor preservation of the material.

If more material were collected from well dated/phased contexts during any further excavations a basic idea of the animal economy of the site could be constructed.

Assessment has shown a small, moderately preserved assemblage of common domesticates and suggests further work may be viable.

## 5.6 Charred plant remains by Karen Deighton

### **Introduction**

Six samples were collected by hand during the course of the trial trenching (Table 4). This material was assessed to ascertain the presence, nature and level of preservation of ecofacts. The potential contribution to the understanding of the site along with any future sampling strategies was considered.

### **Method**

The samples were processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250micron mesh and flot sieve. Any resulting flots were dried and examined under a microscope (10x magnification). Identifications were made with the aid of the author's small reference collection, Schoch *et al* (1988) and Cappers *et al* (2006). For snails Cameron and Kerney (1994) and Glöer and Meier-Brook 2003 were used.

### **Results**

Plant remains were preserved by charring only and were fragmentary and abraded. This adversely affected the identification of ecofacts. Snails were fairly well preserved with moderate fragmentation.

Charred cereal grains and weed seeds were observed in samples 1 and 6 only. The small amounts of charred plant material encountered suggest its genesis to be, "background" (i.e. material washed or blown into features from activities taking place elsewhere). The molluscs present are largely those preferring moderately damp habitats (for example *C. bidentata* and *Cochliopa* spp) although *P. muscorum* and *V. excentrica* prefer dry open habitats. This particular community of taxa could suggest a local open dry landscape, with shelter provided for moisture loving species by open pits and ditches. The presence of members of the genus *Bithynia* suggests some standing water. More work (based on further sampling if possible) would be required to refute or confirm this brief conjectural description of the site's environment.

With respect to any future excavation, as ecofacts have been shown to be present at the site, some information on the economy and environment of the site may be gleaned from both charred plant material and molluscs. Further sampling of any suitable phaseable/dateable contexts should be undertaken. It would be particularly useful to sample for molluscs from any long stratigraphical sequences that may be encountered as these could provide information on local environmental temporal changes.

### **Conclusion**

Assessment has shown a small assemblage with some potential, and indicates that further work may be of value if more ecofacts are recovered during any subsequent excavation.

Table 4: Ecofacts by sample and context

<b>Cut/fill</b>		1207/ 1204	1207/ 1205	1210/ 1209	1210/ 1208	907/ 904	907/ 906
<b>Sample</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Feature</b>		Enclosure ditch	Enclosure ditch	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch
<b>Volume (litres)</b>		40	40	30	40	40	40
<b>Charcoal</b>		10(12)	20	20(25)	5	20	-
<b>Wheat/barley</b>	Triticum/ Hordeum	-	-	-	7	(5)	-
<b>Cereal</b>	Cerealia	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Fat hen</b>	Chenopodium album	2	-	-	2	-	-
<b>Dock</b>	Rumex sp	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Terrestrial molluscs</b>							
	Cepaea nemoralis	-	2(11)	-	-	(13)	3
	Pupilla muscorum	14	-	1	3	20	6
	Euconulus fulvus	2	1	-	-	52	1
	Vallonia excentrica	20	3	5	-	1	21
	Clausilia bidentata	1	-	-	-	12	-
	Cochliopa lubrica	-	-	-	-	10(3)	-
	Cochliopa lubricella	-	-	-	-	3	-
	Indet	5(21)	20(18)	2	3	150(30)	7
<b>Fresh water molluscs</b>							
	Bithynia sp	-	-	-	-	24	-

## 6 DISCUSSION

The geophysical survey and trial trench evaluations have revealed a number of features that form part of a landscape dating from the Iron Age through to the modern period. The available literature of the development of settlement of Shefford suggests that prehistoric settlement lay on the slopes overlooking the rivers and then shifted in to the valleys in the Roman period. The works confirmed the presence of late Iron Age hillside occupation, which may be part of the prehistoric occupation of the slope to the north (HER11766).

The following approximate chronology may be suggested. The enclosures of middle to late Iron Age origin were situated on the brow of the north-west facing slope, and may reflect peripheral occupation. To the east there were two enclosures. A polygonal enclosure, E1, 28m wide and occupying in excess of 0.08ha, and an penannular shaped enclosure E2, 24m long by 15m wide with an eastern entrance. The pottery assemblage indicates a middle to Late Iron Age date, perhaps the 1st century BC. To the north-west there is a smaller rectangular enclosure, only 6m wide. The pottery assemblage indicates that this enclosure is of late Iron Age date, 1st century BC and the early decades of the 1st century AD.

Although a more refined chronology is not possible from the results of the evaluation, there was evidence of maintenance of Enclosure 2. The maintenance would have been in part due to the weathering and silting of the ditches. The function of the enclosures is currently not known although it is likely that there was some butchery and grain processing on the site.

The geophysical survey suggested that the proposed development area had been under plough for some time as there were indications of ridge and furrow in the data. In places the variations in the soils and the subsequent modern intensive ploughing meant identification of furrows in the evaluation was difficult. In modern times the land regime was improved by laying field drains, suggesting that the site was poor draining.



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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NWN- SES</b>	<b>514552 238529</b>	<b>41.50m</b>	<b>0.28m &amp; 41.22m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
101	Topsoil	Friable to firm, dark brown sandy clay loam, with frequent rounded and sub-rounded stones and occasional angular flint nodules	0.28m thick	–
102	Natural	Firm, light blue-grey sandy clay with fissures of orange sandy clays randomly spread throughout, frequent rounded/sub rounded stones	–	–
103	Furrows	Four furrows across trench on a WSW to ENE alignment. They comprise a brown silty san with chalk flecking.	Average width 1m	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NW-SE</b>	<b>514545 238484</b>	<b>42.00m</b>	<b>0.30m &amp; 41.70m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
201	Topsoil	Friable to firm, dark brown sandy clay loam, with frequent rounded and sub-rounded stones and occasional angular flint nodules	0.30m thick	—
202	Natural 1	Firm, light blue-grey sandy clay with fissures of orange sandy clays randomly spread throughout, frequent rounded/sub rounded stones	—	—
203	Natural 2	Friable, orange very sandy clay patches towards SE end of the trench. Probably colluvial	—	—
204	Furrows	Firm, brown silty clay, chalk flecking aligned W - E	Average width 1.5m	—



<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NNE- SSW</b>	<b>514577 238439</b>	<b>43.70m</b>	<b>0.90m (max) &amp; 42.80m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
301	Topsoil	Friable to firm, dark brown sandy clay loam, with occasional rounded and sub-rounded stones and occasional angular flint nodules	0.34m thick	–
302	Colluvium	Firm, reddish-brown sandy silty clays, occasional sub-rounded pebbles, flint nodules	0.49m thick	–
303	Natural 1	Loose yellow sand	–	–
304	Natural 2	Firm grey and brown clays at NNE	–	–
305	Upper fill of pit 307	Firm brown sandy clay, charcoal flecking	3.70m wide 0.43m thick	–
306	Lower fill of pit 307	Loose black sand, with rare modern tile and land drain tile; abundant burnt stone	1.0m wide 0.25m thick	–
307	Modern pit cut filled with 305 & 306	Seen in trench section. Gradual sloping sides, flattish base	3.70m wide 0.45m deep	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NW-SE</b>	<b>514610 238483</b>	<b>44.00m</b>	<b>0.33m &amp; 43.67m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
401	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown slightly sandy clay loam, occasional sub rounded pebbles, flint nodules	0.33m thick	–
402	Natural	At SE end a firm reddish-brown silty clay, in the middle and NW end of trench orangey-borwn sandy clay	–	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NNE- SSW</b>	<b>514638 238433</b>	<b>46.50m</b>	<b>0.31m &amp; 46.19m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
501	Topsoil	Friable to firm dark brown sandy clay loam, with frequent rounded and sub-rounded stones and occasional cobbles	0.31m thick	–
502	Natural	Firm orangey-brown silty clay, occasional chalk fragments, gravel and flint nodules	–	–
503	Fill of ditch 504 Enclosure 3	Compact, dark brownish-orange clayey silt, rare small to medium sized stones	1.10m wide 0.65m thick	Iron Age pottery Animal bone
504	Ditch cut Filled with 503 Enclosure 3	NW- SE aligned ditch with a bowl shaped profile and eroded SE edge	1.10m wide 0.65m deep	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NW- SE</b>	<b>514601 238409</b>	<b>45.00m</b>	<b>0.52m &amp; 44.48m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
601	Topsoil	Friable to firm dark brown sandy clay loam, with frequent rounded and sub-rounded stones and occasional cobbles	0.27m thick	–
602	Natural	Firm orangey-brown silty clay, occasional chalk fragments, gravel and flint nodules	0.25m thick	–
603	Furrows	Bases of three furrows were identified, aligned NE- SW, firm reddish-brown sandy clays with rare chalk flecking	–	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NNE- SSW</b>	<b>514648 238378</b>	<b>48.00m</b>	<b>0.33m &amp; 47.67m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
701	Topsoil	Friable to firm dark brown sandy clay loam, with occasional chalk fragments and cobbles	0.33m thick	—
702	Natural	Firm orangey-brown silty clay, occasional chalk fragments, gravel and flint nodules	—	—
703	Furrow	One of seven identified furrows in the trench aligned NE-SW. The furrow which was excavated had a shallow, dish shaped profile with compact dark brownish-yellow clay, occasional chalk flecking and rare small flint nodules	Typically 2.50m wide and 0.14m thick	—
704	Upper fill of ditch 706	Firm, dark reddish-brown slightly silty clay, occasional chalk flecking, very rare charcoal flecking, rare small to medium sized (10mm-80mm) rounded flint nodules. Truncated to NNE by furrow	0.86m wide 0.20m thick	Pottery
705	Lower fill of ditch 706	Compact brownish-yellow slightly silty clay, very rare charcoal flecking and rare small flint nodules, few chalk flecks	0.92m wide 0.10m thick	—
706	Cut of ditch Filled with 704 & 705	Aligned NE-SW, asymmetrical shaped profile with heavily eroded SSW edge, rounded base	0.96m wide 0.30m deep	—

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NW-SE</b>	<b>514703 238385</b>	<b>50.00m</b>	<b>0.41m &amp; 49.59m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
801	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown clayey loam, occasional chalk fragments, occasional sub-rounded pebbles, flint nodules	0.30m thick	–
802	Subsoil	Firm brown silty clay	0.11m thick	–
803	Natural	Brown sandy/silty clays, abundant chalk flecks and lumps, occasional sub rounded pebbles and flint nodules	–	–
804	Furrows	Two identified furrows aligned NE-SW, brown sandy clays, rare chalk flecking	Average width 1.50m	–



<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; WNW- ESE</b>	<b>514738 238294</b>	<b>51.00m</b>	<b>0.49m &amp; 50.51m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
901	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown clayey loam, occasional chalk fragments and rare flint nodules	0.34m thick	—
902	Natural	Coarse fine gravels comprising small-medium poorly sorted gravels in a yellowish-white and orange sandy clay	—	—
903	Upper fill of ditch 907 Enclosure 2	Friable greyish-brown silty clay-sand, frequent gravel, small to medium sized stones and flint	3.19m wide 0.47m thick	—
904	Fill of ditch 907 Enclosure 2	Firm dark brownish-grey silty sandy-clay, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small to medium sized stones	2.25m wide 0.28m thick	Iron Age pottery, animal bone Sample 5
905	Primary slumping fill of ditch 907 Enclosure 2	Friable brownish-orange sand with lenses of small coarse gravel. Indicative of erosion of N edge of ditch	0.90m wide 0.20m thick	Iron Age pottery, animal bone Sample 6
906	Fill of ditch 907 Enclosure 2	Friable greyish-brown silty sand, occasional small to medium sized stones, gravel and charcoal flecks	2.60m wide 0.55m thick	—
907	Cut of Ditch Filled with 903, 904, 905 & 906 Enclosure 2	Ditch aligned E-W forming northern boundary of Enclosure 2. V-shaped profile with eroded upper edges	3.45m wide 1.24m deep	—
908	Fill of Pit? 913	Firm dark brownish-grey silty sandy clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecking, lenses of coarse gravel and loose sand	1.80m wide 0.32m thick	—
909	Fill of Pit? 913	Friable orangey-brown silty sand, occasional well sorted small gravel	1.65m wide 0.45m thick	—
910	Fill of Pit? 913	Firm greyish-brown silty sandy clay, occasional small to medium sized stones, occasional charcoal flecking	2.20m wide 0.37m thick	—

911	Fill of Pit? 913	Friable orangey-brown silty sand, frequent small to medium sized gravel	2.58m wide 0.65m thick	—
912	Fill of Pit? 913	Friable brown silty sand, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	1.45m wide at least 0.23m thick	—
913	Cut of Pit?	Elliptical shaped Pit (?) to the south of enclosure ditch 907. heavily eroded steep sides. Not fully excavated and water in the base	2.90m wide at least 1.25m deep	—
914	Subsoil	Firm dark brownish-yellow clay, few chalk and flint, merging with natural	0.15m thick	—

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>25m, 2m &amp; NE-SW</b>	<b>514744 238380</b>	<b>51.82m</b>	<b>0.40m &amp; 51.42m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1001	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown slightly loamey clay, rare chalk and flint	0.25m thick	—
1002	Subsoil	Firm brown clay, occasional chalk and flint nodules	0.15m thick	—
1003	Natural 1	At SW end of trench. Firm light brownish-yellow clays, fine well sorted flint gravel	At least 4m wide	—
1004	Natural 2	Firm dark brownish-red sandy clay with small-medium coarse rounded gravel	—	—
1005	Fill of ditch 1006 Enclosure 2	Compact light brownish-orange clayey silt, occasional small stones. Cut by 1012	1.20m wide 0.45m thick	Worked flint, Iron Age pottery, animal bone and daub?
1006	Ditch cut Filled with 1005 Enclosure 2	Second in a sequence of E-W ditches at this point. Bowl-shaped profile	1.20m wide 0.45m deep	—
1007	Fill of ditch 1008 Enclosure 2	Compact light brownish-orange clayey silt, charcoal flecks, occasional small stones. Cut by 1006	1.0m wide 0.80m thick	—
1008	Ditch cut Filled with 1007 Enclosure 2	First in a sequence of E-W ditches at this point. Bowl-shaped profile.	1.0m wide 0.80m deep	—
1009	Lower fill of ditch 1012 Enclosure 2	Compact light brownish-orange clayey silt, charcoal flecking, occasional small stones	2.40m wide 0.84m thick	Worked flint, Iron Age pottery and animal bone
1010	Upper fill of ditch 1012 Enclosure 2	Compact dark brown clayey silt, few small stones, few charcoal flecking	2.40m wide 0.60m thick	Worked flint, Iron Age pottery, daub, shell and animal bone
1011	Middle fill of ditch 1012 Enclosure 2	Compact light brownish-orange/grey clay, rare small stones. Tipping from south.	0.40m wide 0.60m thick	—
1012	Ditch cut Filled with 1009, 1010 & 1011 Enclosure 2	First in a sequence of E-W ditches at this point. Bowl-shaped profile with eroded S edge.	3.40m wide 0.90m deep	—

1013	Fill of ditch 1015 Enclosure 2	Unexcavated. Dark brown sandy clay occasional small flint gravel	–	–
1014	Fill of ditch 1015 Enclosure 2	Unexcavated. Reddish-brown clayey sands, few small flint gravel	–	–
1015	Ditch cut filled with 1013 & 1014 Enclosure 2	Unexcavated ditch aligned NW-SE	2m wide	–



<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
11	50m, 20 & NEN-SWS	514764 238354	53.00m	0.45m & 52.55m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1101	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown slightly loamey clay, rare chalk and flint	0.25m thick	–
1102	Subsoil	Firm, brownish-yellow clay, occasional small chalk, merging with natural at SWS end of trench	0.20m thick	–
1103	Natural 1	Firm orange and yellowish-white clays at SWS end of trench	–	–
1104	Natural 2	Coarse orange gravels	–	–
1105	Tree bole	Sub-circular tree bole with irregular base filled with a light brownish-yellow silty clay	0.80m wide 0.50m thick	–
1106	Tree bole	Gradual sloping sides, uneven base, dark rooty brown silty clays mixed with firm greyish-brown / yellow silty clays	8m wide at least 0.60m thick	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; N- S</b>	<b>514744 238322</b>	<b>53.00m</b>	<b>0.43m &amp; 52.57m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1201	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown slightly loamey clay, rare chalk and flint	0.25m thick	–
1202	Subsoil	Firm, brownish-yellow clay, occasional small chalk, merging with natural at SWS end of trench	0.18m thick	–
1203	Natural	Compact yellowish-orange clays and gravels, chalk	–	–
1204	Upper fill of ditch 1207 Enclosure 1	Firm, brownish-grey with orange mottling silty clay, occasional small to medium sized stones, occasional charcoal flecking, moderate chalk lumps	1.10m wide 0.42m thick	Iron Age pottery and animal bone Sample 1
1205	Middle fill of ditch 1207 Enclosure 1	Firm, greyish-brown silty clay, occasional small to medium sized stones, occasional charcoal flecking, moderate chalk flecks	1.06m wide 0.32m thick	Iron Age pottery and animal bone Sample 2
1206	Lower fill of ditch 1207 Enclosure 1	Firm yellowish-brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks, occasional small chalk flecks. Probably a silting/trampling fill.	0.76m wide 0.34m thick	Iron Age pottery
1207	Cut of ditch Filled with 1204, 1205 & 1206 Enclosure 1	Ditch aligned NW-SE, V-shaped profile	1.16m wide 1.06m deep	–
1208	Upper fill of Pit 1210	Firm dark brownish-grey silty clay, occasional small stones, charcoal flecks	4.20m wide 0.20m thick	Iron Age pottery and animal bone Sample 4
1209	Lower fill of Pit 1210	Friable dark grey clayey silt, occasional small to medium sized stones, occasional charcoal flecks	1.20m wide 0.55m thick	Animal bone Sample 3
1210	Re-cut of Pit 1213 Filled with 1208 & 1209	Oval? in plan, steep sloping sides and narrow rounded base	1.20m wide 0.55m deep	–

1211	Upper fill of Pit 1213	Firm dark brown silty clay occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	0.60m wide 0.30m thick	—
1212	Lower fill of Pit 1213	Firm light yellowish-brown clay, frequent rounded cobbles and flint nodules	1.80m wide and 0.06m thick	Animal bone
1213	Cut of Pit Filled with 1211 & 1212	Oval? in plan, gradual sloping sides, base truncated by later re-cut 1210	4.40m wide 0.66m deep	—
1214	Fill of posthole? 1215	Compact, dark blueish-brown slightly silty clay, charcoal flecks, rare small rounded stones	0.55m wide 0.18m thick	Iron Age pottery
1215	Cut of posthole? Filled with 1214	Much of probable post-hole is under trench section, but visible remains suggest circular in plan with a dish-shaped profile	0.55m wide 0.18m deep	Iron Age pottery
1216	Furrows	Orangey-brown silty clay. Very ephemeral but seen in the base of the trench as dark staining of the natural	Average width 2m	—

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NW - SE</b>	<b>514721 238330</b>	<b>52.00m</b>	<b>0.44m &amp; 51.56m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1301	Topsoil	Compact, dark brown slightly loamey clay, rare chalk flecks and flint nodules	0.25m thick	–
1302	Subsoil	Firm, brownish-yellow clay, occasional chalk and flint nodules, merging with natural 1303	0.19m thick	–
1303	Natural	Yellow and orange clays chalk and flint nodules, some plough staining	–	–
1304	Fill of ditch Enclosure 1	Unexcavated. Dark brown slightly sandy clay with chalk flecks	1.40m wide	–
1305	Cut of ditch Filled with 1304 Enclosure 1	Unexcavated. Aligned NE-SW	1.40m wide	–
1306	Furrows	Bases of the three furrows aligned NE-SW, brownish-yellow sandy clays with chalk and flint	Between 1m and 2m wide	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; N- S</b>	<b>514683 238336</b>	<b>50.00m</b>	<b>0.28m &amp; 49.72m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1401	Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay loam, occasional chalk flecks and sub-rounded pebbles, flint nodules	0.28m thick	–
1402	Natural	Firm orangey-brown silty clay with patches of brownish-orange sandy clay, occasional chalk flecks, sub-rounded pebbles	–	–
1403	Furrows	Bases of two furrows aligned NE-SW, yellowish-brown sandy clay	Average 2m wide	–



<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
15	50m, 2m & NW-SE	514656 238327	50.00m	0.27m & 49.72m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1501	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown slightly loamey clay, rare chalk flecks and flint nodules	0.27m thick	–
1502	Natural	At SE and NW end of trench firm orangey-brown silty clay with patches of orange sand, occasional chalk flecks, sub-rounded pebbles. In the middle of the trench greyish-brown silty clay with few chalk lumps and abundant chalk flecking.	–	–
1503	Furrows	Ephemeral dark greyish-yellow silty clay	Average 2m wide	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; WNW- ESE</b>	<b>514738 238294</b>	<b>53.00m</b>	<b>0.38m &amp; 52.62m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1601	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown slightly loamey clay, with occasional chalk and angular flint nodules	0.28m thick	–
1602	Subsoil	Well developed firm dark brownish-yellow clay, few chalk and flint, merging with natural	0.18m thick	–
1603	Natural	Yellow/ orange clays with medium gravel content comprising coarse sorted rounded gravel, flint and chalk	–	–
1604	Upper fill of ditch 1606 Enclosure 1	Compact mid greyish-orange clayey silt. Charcoal flecking	0.50m wide 0.40m thick	Animal bone
1605	Lower fill of ditch 1606 Enclosure 1	Compact, mid greyish-orange clayey silt, charcoal flecking, some vegetation disturbance	1.0m wide 0.75m thick	–
1606	Cut of ditch Filled with 1604 & 1605 Enclosure 1	Ditch aligned N-S, V-shaped profile. Defines the western boundary of Enclosure 1	1.0m wide 0.75m deep	–
1607	Fill of ditch 1608 Enclosure 1	Unexcavated.	0.95m wide	–
1608	Cut of ditch Filled with 1607 Enclosure 1	Unexcavated ditch aligned N-S. Defines the eastern boundary of Enclosure 1	0.95m wide	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; W-E</b>	<b>514621 238323</b>	<b>47.50m</b>	<b>0.33m &amp; 47.17m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1701	Topsoil	Friable to firm, dark brown sandy clay loam, with occasional rounded and sub-rounded stones and occasional angular flint nodules	0.33m thick	–
1702	Natural	Firm orangey-brown sandy clay, occasional flint nodules, high concentration of chalk flecking at E end	–	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; W-E</b>	<b>514545 238342</b>	<b>45.00m</b>	<b>0.62m &amp; 44.38m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1801	Topsoil	Firm dark brown slightly silty clay, rare flint and chalk	0.30m thick	–
1802	Subsoil	Firm light brownish-orange clay	0.32m thick	–
1803	Natural	Light grey/ orangey-yellow sandy clay with gravel	–	–
1804	Fill of modern land drain trench Fill of 1805	Light brownish-orange silty clay, occasional small stones, merges with natural. Two substantial bore ceramic field drains near the base	At least 1.60m wide	–
1805	Cut for modern land drain trench Filled with 1804	Linear aligned NW-SE, gradual sloping sides	At least 1.60m wide	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; N- S</b>	<b>514541 238435</b>	<b>43.00m</b>	<b>0.28m &amp; 42.72m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1901	Topsoil	Firm dark brown slightly silty clay, rare flint and chalk	0.28m thick	–
1902	Natural 1	Firm, light blue-grey sandy clay with fissures of orange sandy clays randomly spread throughout, frequent rounded/sub rounded stones	–	–
1903	Natural 2	Friable, orange very sandy clay patches , lenses of pea gravel and rare flint nodules. Probably colluvial	–	–
1904	Furrows	Bases of four furrows comprising firm, brown silty clay, chalk flecking aligned SW - NE	Average width 1.5m	–

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>50m, 2m &amp; NW- SE</b>	<b>514695 238440</b>	<b>48.50m</b>	<b>0.24m &amp; 48.26</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
2001	Topsoil	Firm dark brown slightly silty clay, rare flint and chalk	0.24m thick	–
2002	Natural	Firm/compact brownish-orange sandy clays with coarse, poor sorted flint gravel	–	–
2003	Furrows	Bases of two furrows surviving. Compact brownish-yellow sandy clays, few chalk flecking on a NE- SW alignment	Average 2m wide	–



Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology



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