



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological Earthwork Survey,
Geophysical survey and Trial Trench evaluation
on land at Leighton Road, Linslade
Bedfordshire
May 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No. 152478
Project name	LINSLADE, LEIGHTON ROAD	
Short description	<p>A programme of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in May 2013 prior to the proposed development of land to the north of Leighton Road, Linslade, Bedfordshire. The work, which comprised an earthwork survey, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation, was commissioned by Wilbraham Associates on behalf of their client Mr M Compton.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a number of Early/Middle Saxon ditches and gullies and ridge and furrow of probable medieval origin.</p>	
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	DBA (Cotswold Archaeology 2012)	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Saxon Ditches; ridge and furrow	
Significant finds	Middle/Early Saxon pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Leighton Road, Linslade, Bedfordshire	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 90300 25955	
Area	1.72ha	
Height aOD	c 130m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor	
Project Manager	Ant Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr M Compton	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	8/5/13	
End date	10/5/13	
ARCHIVES		
Archive location	LUTNM2013/3	
Archive contents	Trial Trench forms (9), B+W contact sheets and negs (1) digital photos (1 cd), plans and sections (2 sheets), pottery (1 box)	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
ON LAND AT LEIGHTON ROAD, LINSLADE
BEDFORDSHIRE
MAY 2013**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in May 2013 prior to the proposed development of land to the north of Leighton Road, Linslade, Bedfordshire (NGR SP 90300 25955 Fig 1). The work, which comprised an earthwork survey, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation, was commissioned by Wilbraham Associates on behalf of their client Mr M Compton.

The evaluation identified a number of Early/Middle Saxon ditches and gullies and ridge and furrow of probable medieval origin.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in May 2013 prior to the proposed development of land to the north of Leighton Road, Linslade, Bedfordshire (NGR SP 90300 25955 Fig 1). The work, which comprised an earthwork survey, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation, was commissioned by Wilbraham Associates on behalf of their client Mr M Compton. It was in response to a brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) (Oake 2013) in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

The investigation followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013) and adhered to the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

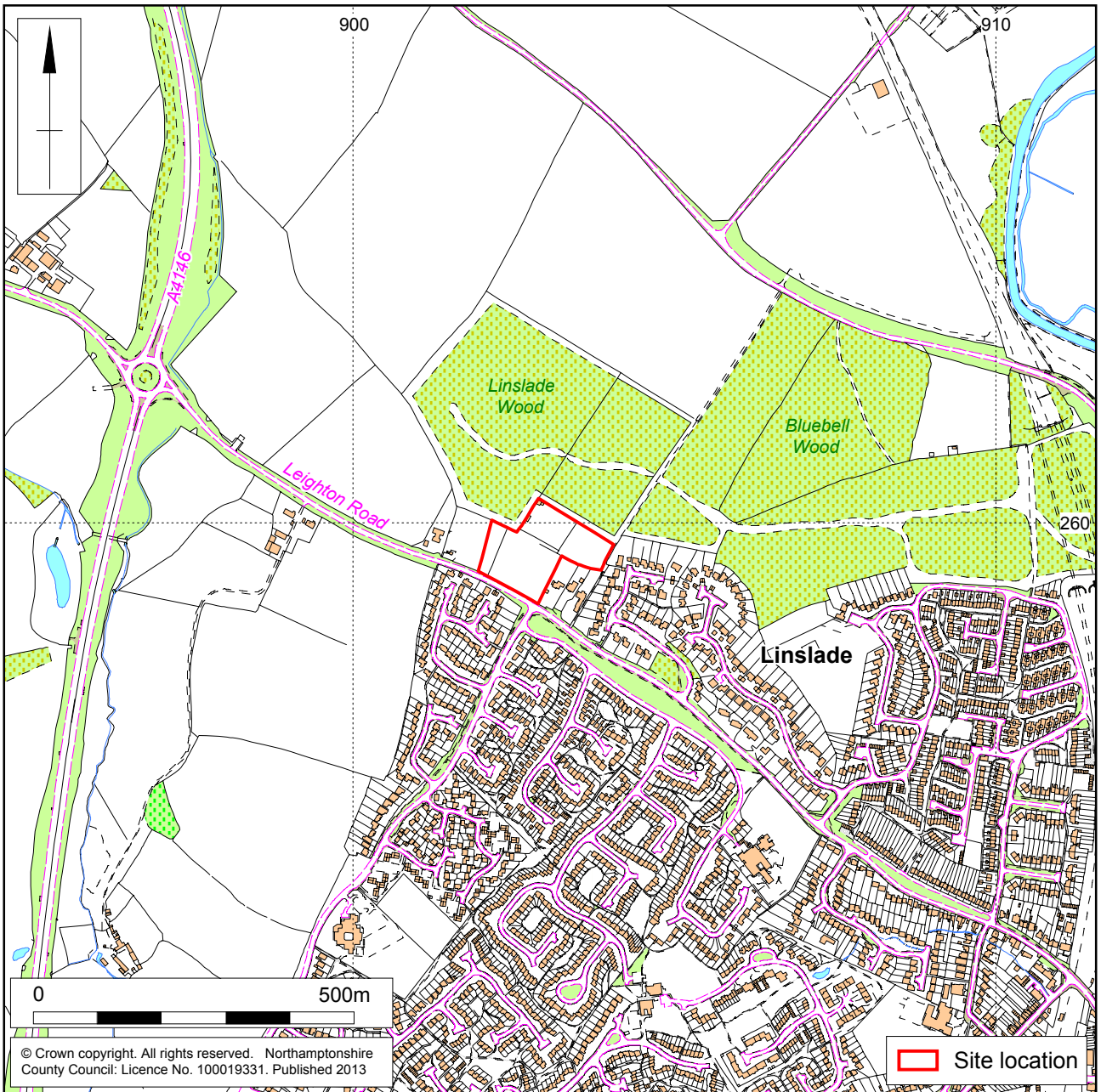
2.1 Location and topography

The proposed development site comprises c1.72ha of land, located on the north-western outskirts of Linslade, Bedfordshire centred on NGR SP 90300 25955 (Fig 1). It forms a polygonal-shaped area of pasture land to the north of Leighton Road. The proposed development area contains ridge and furrow earthworks (HER 5458).

The geology of the site is the Gault Formation overlain by Glacial Till deposits. Topographically the proposed development site is on the western end of a ridge overlooking a valley to the west, lying at a height of c 130m aOD (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)

2.2 Archaeological and historical background by Pat Chapman

A search in the Historic Environment Records (HER) of both Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) was carried out, as the development area lies adjacent to the county boundary and Linslade was part of



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

Buckinghamshire until 1965. The Heritage Gateway for Buckinghamshire was used for this WSI, with the agreement of Martin Oake, whilst awaiting the HER material for that county. No archaeological works have taken place within the proposed area.

A full consideration of the site's archaeological potential is discussed in a Desk-Based Assessment prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2012). In the wider area, excavation by Network Archaeology (Moore *et al* 2007) along the Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass within Buckinghamshire in 2005 (HER 17779 and Moore *et al* 2007) and evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at Bossington Lane/Stoke Road in 2008 have been carried out (HER 18254 and Foard-Colby 2009).

Neolithic and Bronze Age

Archaeological excavation along the bypass was carried out at Site F in Buckinghamshire (EBD885, HER 17779, SP 8975 2625) about 700m to the north-west of the proposed development area. A backed knife and two retouched blades of Neolithic and Bronze Age date were residual in ditches of later date. A total of 86 worked flint were found along the bypass. Although residual they imply at least temporary occupation of those periods (Moore *et al* 2007, 5). Another isolated find comprises a flint knife (HER 10721), probably of prehistoric origin.

A Saxon boundary charter of 966 mentions seven *hlaws*, or barrows, one possibly used as a boundary marker *pan anum hlawe* (the one mound), north of the Leighton to Soulbury Road (buckscc.gov.uk, HER 10996). The landscape of that area had many rough hillocks of possible glacial origin, which may have included the *hlaws*, the area was levelled in 1837.

Iron Age

A curvilinear ditch of Iron Age date was followed by a large enclosure of Late Iron Age/early post conquest date, including at least one cremation, within Site F (EDB 885, Moore *et al* 2007, 24). More extensive remains of Iron occupation lay further south along the bypass on Site ABC (HER 1777, Moore *et al* 2007, 7-37). Fragments of loomweight were recovered from both sites and crucible fragments came from Site F (Moore *et al* 2007, 34).

Roman

Roman settlement features on Site ABC to the south seemed to be concentrated in the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD (HER 17779, Moore *et al* 2007, 37-42). About 1km to the east a concentration of pits, ditches and postholes of a small farmstead with field boundaries dated to the 1st – 3rd centuries AD were found in an evaluation on land at Bossington Lane/Stoke Road (HER 18254, Foard-Colby 2009). Finds include Roman pottery, roof and floor tile, a Roman 'spud' or hoe, a rotary quern and iron smelting debris. In a field to the north of the proposed development area a silver finger ring, dated to the 4th-5th centuries AD was found by metal detecting in the parish of Soulbury (buckscc.gov.uk).

Saxon and medieval

Early to mid Saxon occupation was present at Bossington Lane/Stoke Road with pottery dated to 5th - 9th centuries and an annular loomweight (HER 18254, Foard-Colby 2009). Linslade has a Saxon origin and the boundary quoted in the charter of 966 apparently runs nearby, but there is no indication of Saxon settlement in or near the development area. Excavations along the bypass south of the proposed development area did not confirm a Saxon origin to the ditch identified (Moore *et al* 2007, 42). Old Linslade was centred around the church of St Mary's, Old Linslade Manor and farms, about 1.5km to the north of the development area and north of the hamlet of Southcott, with open country between (www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/). A Saxon strap-end (HER 18305) has also been found in the locality.

Ridge and furrow earthworks of the medieval field cultivation of Linslade parish were

visible in an aerial photograph dated 12 December 1946 (CPE/UK1897, HER 5458) in the proposed development site and the surrounding area and are still extant. Geophysical survey has also recorded ridge and furrow in Soulbury parish to the north (buckscc.gov.uk, GBS Prospection 2008).

Linslade Wood (HER 13038), currently known as Bluebell Wood, is a remnant of a larger medieval woodland. The rest of the mapped woodland has been planted since the 1990s.

Post-medieval/modern

There was a stray find of a gold and enamel posy ring of 16th/17th century date, inscribed *God did decree our unitie* (HER 18885), in a field north-west of the proposed site.

The building of the Grand Union Canal along the valley of the River Ouzel past Southcott in 1805 and then, in 1835, the London & North Western Railway alongside the canal saw the growth of Southcott into the present town of Linslade. The town was originally part of Buckinghamshire until it was transferred to Bedfordshire in 1965. It abuts the town of Leighton Buzzard with which it forms the civil parish of Leighton-Linslade (wikipedia.org/wiki/Linslade). The proposed development area lies on the north-western edge of the most recent town growth.

A Second World War Prisoner of War camp (HER 19612), established just to the east of the development area for 200 German and Italian prisoners, comprised wooden huts that remained until the 1950s. A little further east a school (HER 11001) had been built on Milebush Hill sometime after the 1880 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. It was labelled on the 1960 6" Ordnance Survey map and the 1946 aerial photograph, but has since been demolished and the site redeveloped as a modern housing estate.

Undated

Located to the north-west of the site, a large undated cropmark feature (HER 11186) has also been identified, although it may be of natural origin.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains are 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 fieldwork was carried out with consideration of the research aims laid out in the following documents as appropriate:

- *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)
- *Bedfordshire Archaeology, Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al 2007)
- *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the east of England* (Medlycott 2011)

4 THE EARTHWORK SURVEY

4.1 Methodology

The measured earthwork survey (Level II) was undertaken according to the methodologies listed in the English Heritage guidance document *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes* (2007). Survey was undertaken by means of Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) operating using SMARTNET real-time corrections. The top and bottoms of the breaks of slope for the ridges and furrows were recorded along with sufficient data to generate an image of the natural topography.

The survey data has been used to generate a series of line plans and drawings accurately locating the remains in relation to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. Figure 2 shows the earthworks as line data within the wider context of the development area. A detailed hachure plan produced at 1:750 show the form of the remains (Fig 3), supplemented by profiles at appropriate scales. The form and setting of all features identified were photographed using a digital camera.

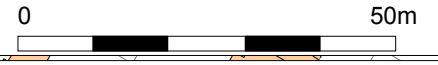
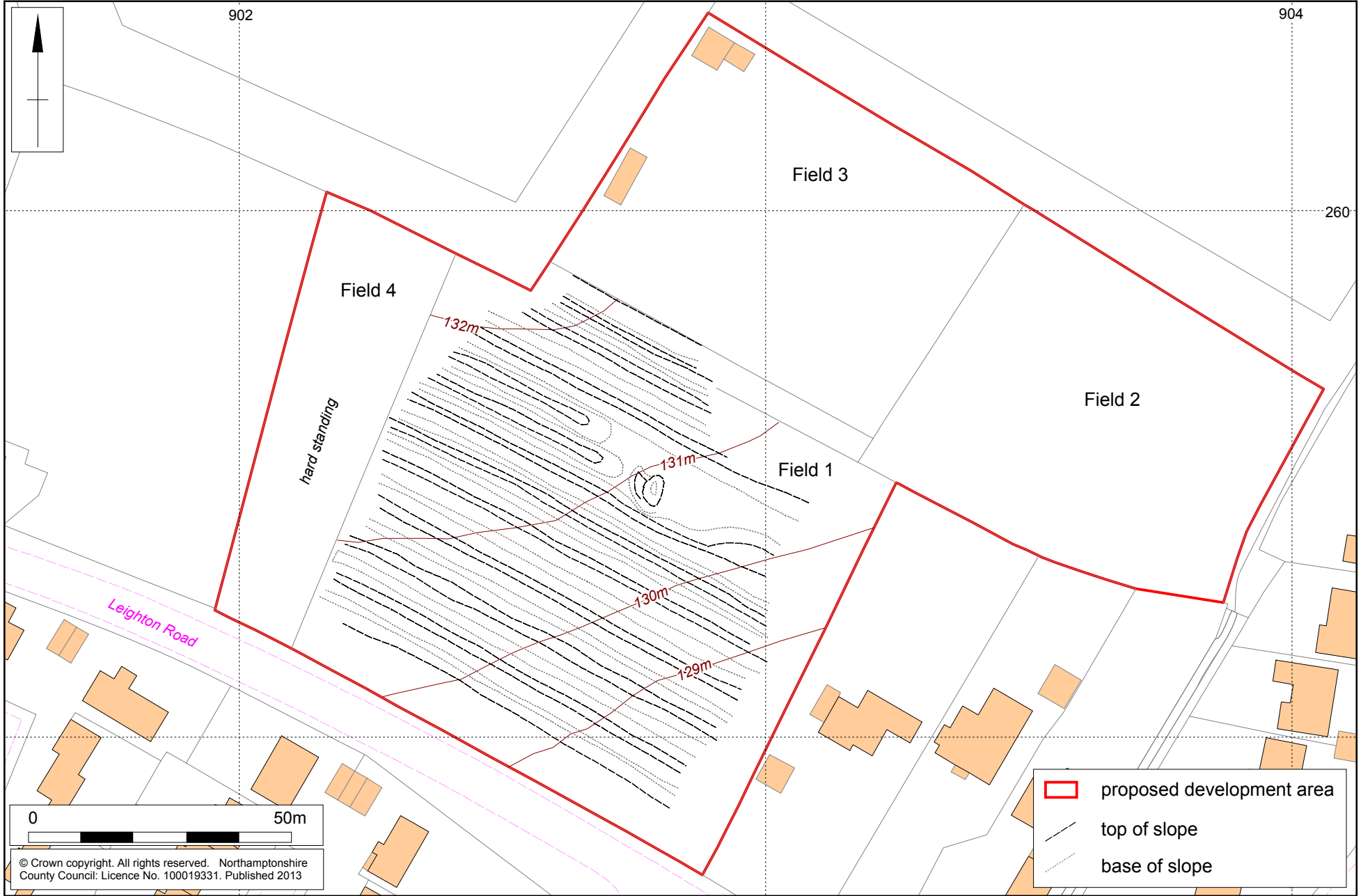
4.2 Results

The earthwork survey identified and recorded an area of upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks in Field 1 and an ovoid-shaped depression. No other earthworks were identified in Fields 2, 3 and 4. The earthworks are well defined and are of a fair to good state of preservation suggesting that Field 1 has not been subject to much post-medieval ploughing.

The earthworks, comprising 11 ridges and 12 furrows, are aligned north-west to south-east and measure at least 90m long. However, two ridges in the north-western part of the field are c50m long. The ridges tend to have low gradual sloping sides rising to a slightly rounded top. They are evenly spaced at between 6.5m to 7m apart and up to 0.30m high. In places the bases of the furrows have been impacted by horse hooves, especially where the ground is wet.

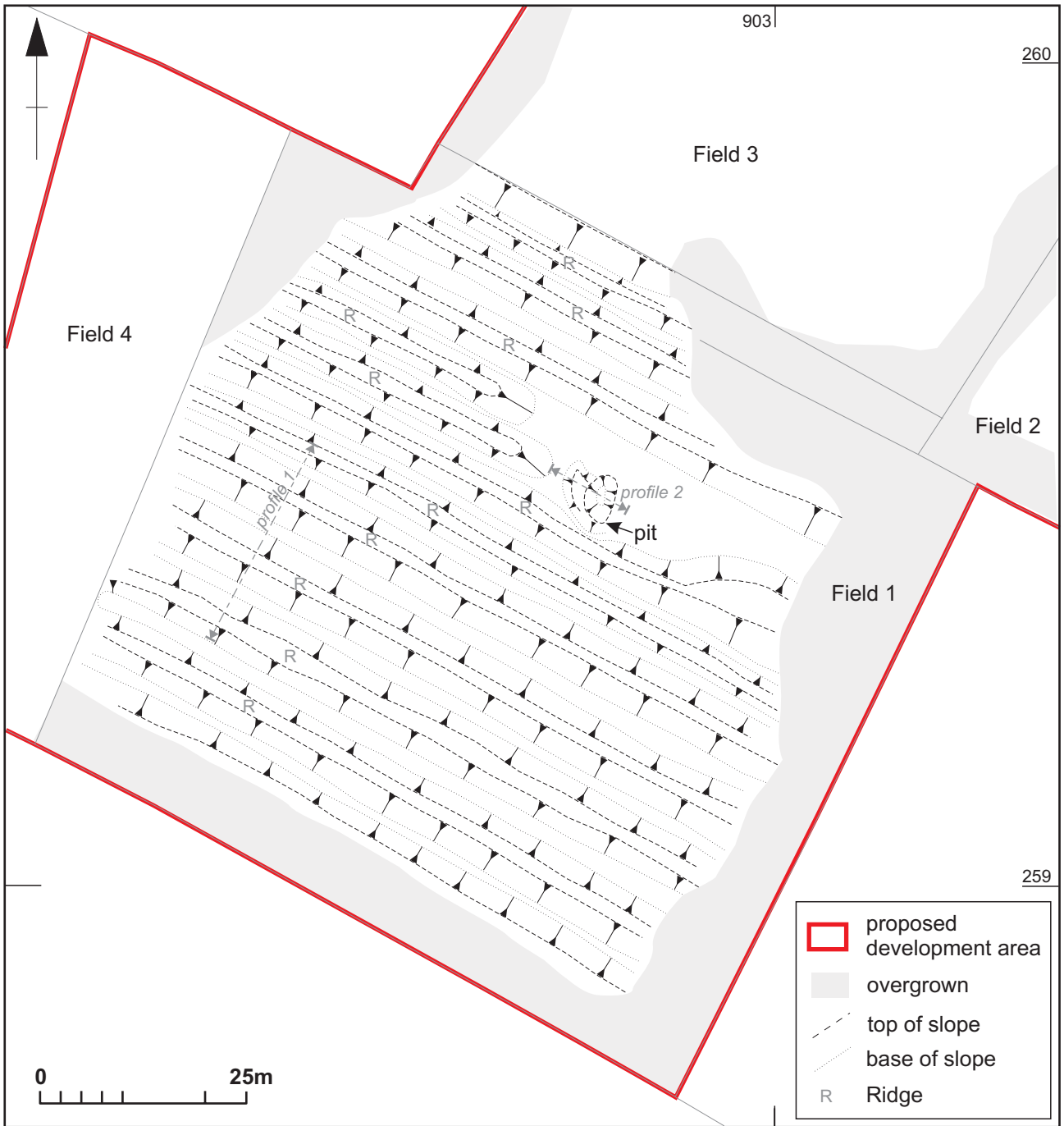
Scale 1:1000 (A4)

Earthwork survey results
Fig 2



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- proposed development area
- top of slope
- base of slope



Scale 1:750 (A4)

Detailed plan of earthworks in Field 1 Fig 3



General view of the ridge and furrow in Field 1, looking north Fig 4

In general the ridge and furrow are in a fair to good state of preservation and are well defined (Fig 5, Profile 1)

A shallow pit, with a low bank of upcast material to its western and southern sides is situated in the north-western part of the field (Fig 5, Profile 2) The pit itself measures 10m north to south, 7m east to west and up to 0.20m deep. The upcast material measures 10m long, 3m wide and is less than 0.10m high on its western edge.

4.3 Conclusions

The ridge and furrow are probably medieval in origin, as suggested by the broad width of the ridges. Two of the ridges terminate approximately 1m west of the pit but at this stage it is unclear if this is because of the depression/pit truncated the ridges.

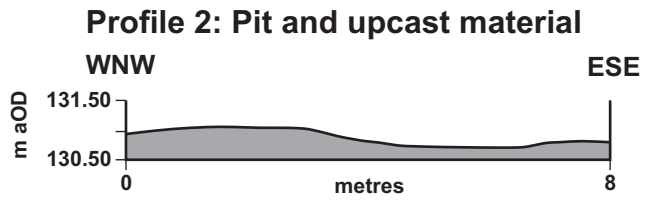
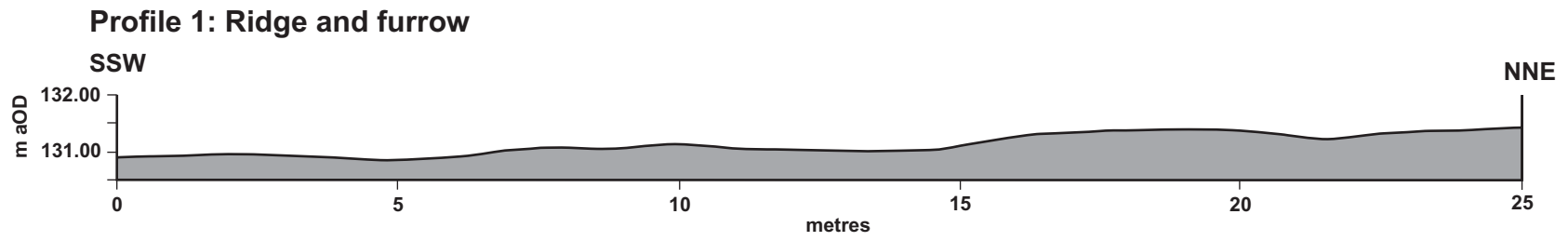
5 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

5.1 Methodology

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

A network of 30m grid squares was established across the area to be surveyed. This was laid out with a tape measure and optical square and was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by measurement to field boundaries and other points of detail. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid square, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per square.

Scales (horizontal & vertical) 1:125



Earthwork profiles Fig 5

Scale 1:1000 (A4)

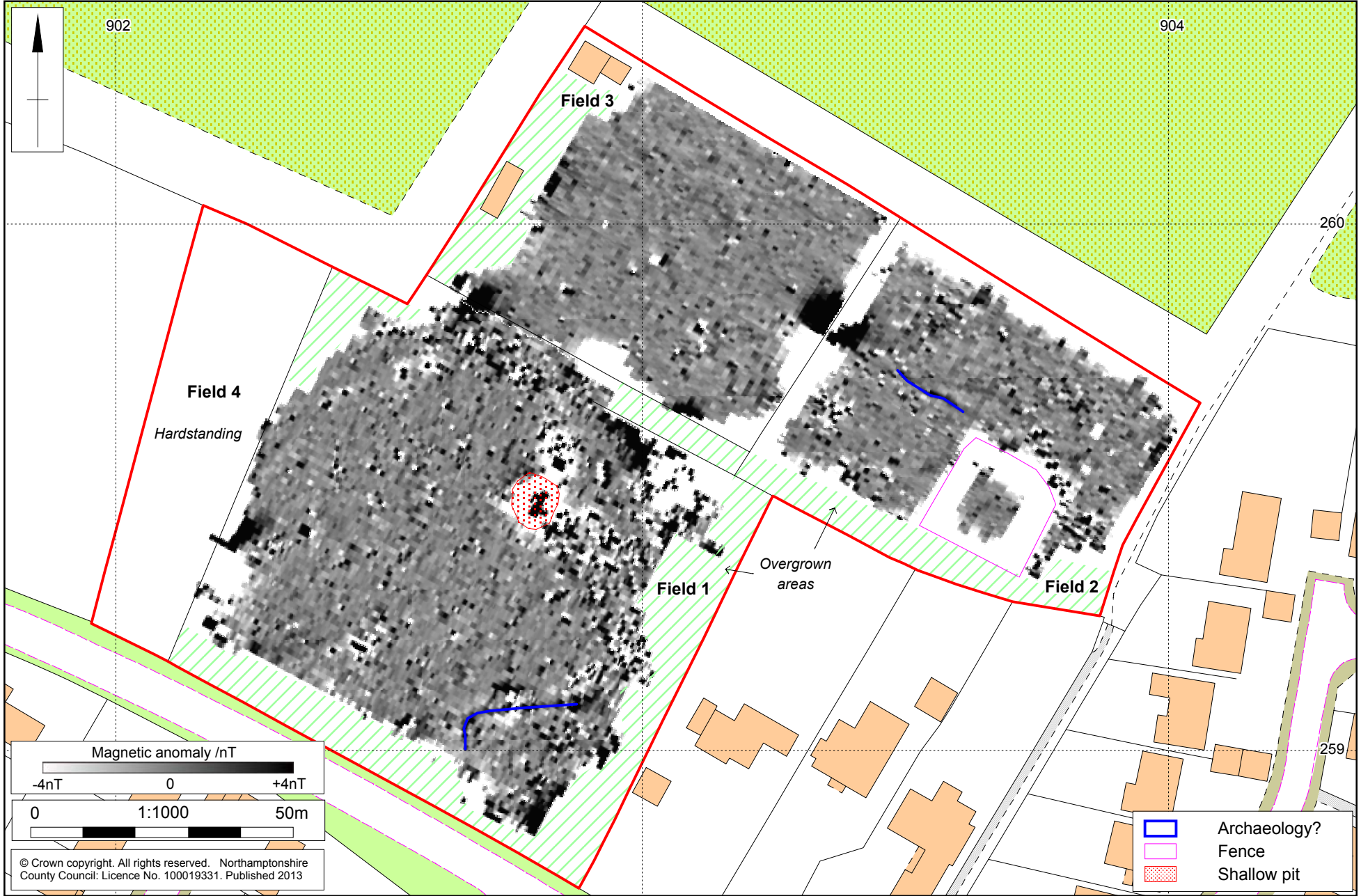


Geophysical survey results Fig 6

Scale 1:1000 (A4)

Geophysical survey results with interpretation

Fig 7



All fieldwork methods complied with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute for Archaeologists and with the agreed method statement for this project (EH 2008; IfA 2011; NA 2013).

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

The processed data is presented in this report in the form of grey-tone plots, at a scale of +/- 4nT black/white. The plots have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Figs 6 and 7). An interpretative overlay has been produced and is shown in Figure 7. The unprocessed survey data is presented as greyscale plots in Figure 8.

The two areas of survey area targeted four small fields, totalling 1.7ha in extent (Fig 6). At the time of survey, the westernmost field (Field 4) was covered by hard standing and was not surveyed. A thin overgrown band around the perimeter of each field was not surveyed.

5.2 Results

Field 1

Ridge and furrow is visible on the ground in Field 1. However, it is not reflected in the survey data. The survey identified a positive L-shaped linear anomaly, measuring approximately 28m in length (Fig 7). This may represent an enclosure ditch that extends beyond the survey area.

The survey data is dominated by magnetic noise across most of the field with a concentration on the east side of the field. It suggests an area of disturbed ground, perhaps containing a certain amount of hardcore and / or small ferrous debris. Such noise is often the result of modern activity, such as the dumping of spoil or the construction of a temporary hard standing.

Field 2

The survey identified a sinuous positive linear anomaly, approximately 15m in length, orientated north-west to south-east (Fig 7). This may represent a ditch. In the southern part of the site, a small fenced off area was also surveyed but the results reflect a metal fence. No ridge and furrow was identified.

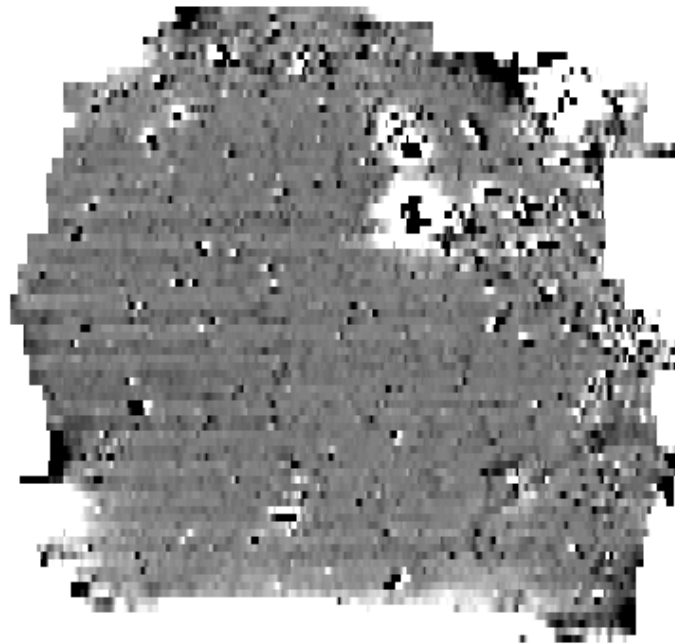
Field 3

The survey did not identify any significant anomalies. Ridge and furrow was not visible in the field.

5.3 Conclusions

The two surveys have shown evidence for ridge and furrow in Field 1 and two probable lengths of ditches in Fields 1 and 3, the former probably representing the north west of an enclosure.

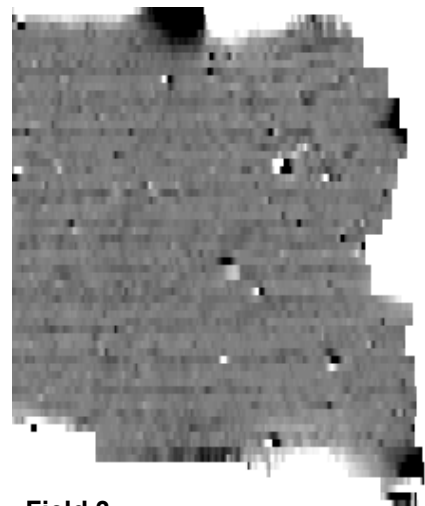
The area of disturbed ground in the magnetometry data for Field 1 coincides with the shallow earthwork pit and up cast material (Fig 9).



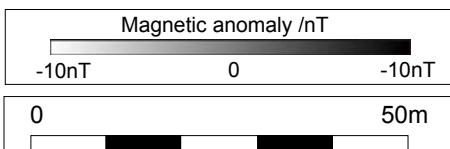
Field 1



Field 2



Field 3



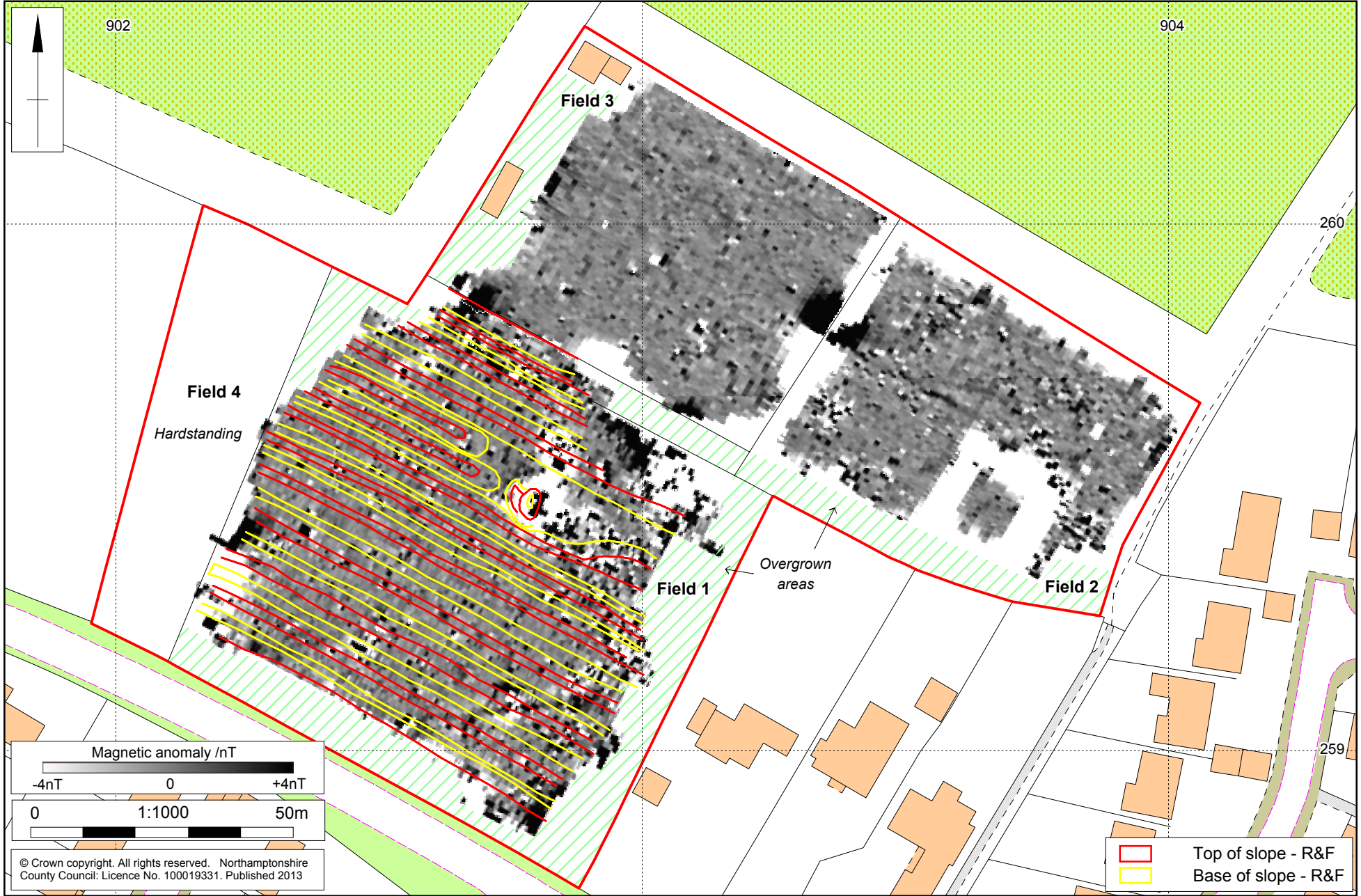
Scale 1:1000

Unprocessed magnetometer data Fig 8

Scale 1:1000 (A4)

Geophysical survey results with earthwork interpretation

Fig 9



6 THE TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

6.1 Methodology

The evaluation comprised nine trenches with a total area of 520m² positioned over areas with archaeological potential (Fig 10) identified by the earthwork survey and the geophysical survey and to investigate apparent blank areas. They were positioned using a Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$.

Excavation was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision using a JCB 4CX mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in NA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011). Trenches containing possible archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 402, Trench 4, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20) where necessary. Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using 35mm black and white negative and digital images.

The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).

All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI prepared by NA (2013), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 1985, revised 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety

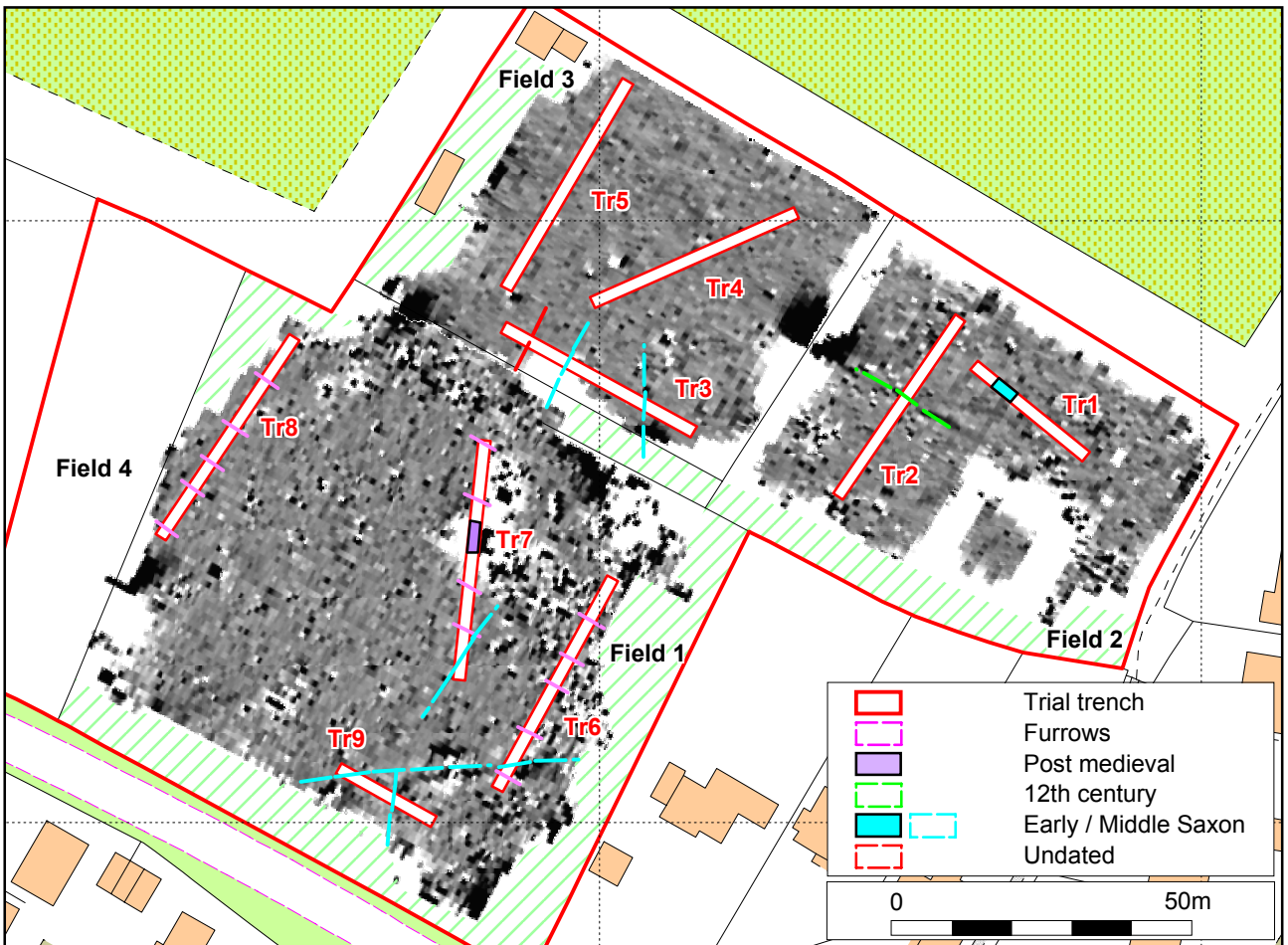
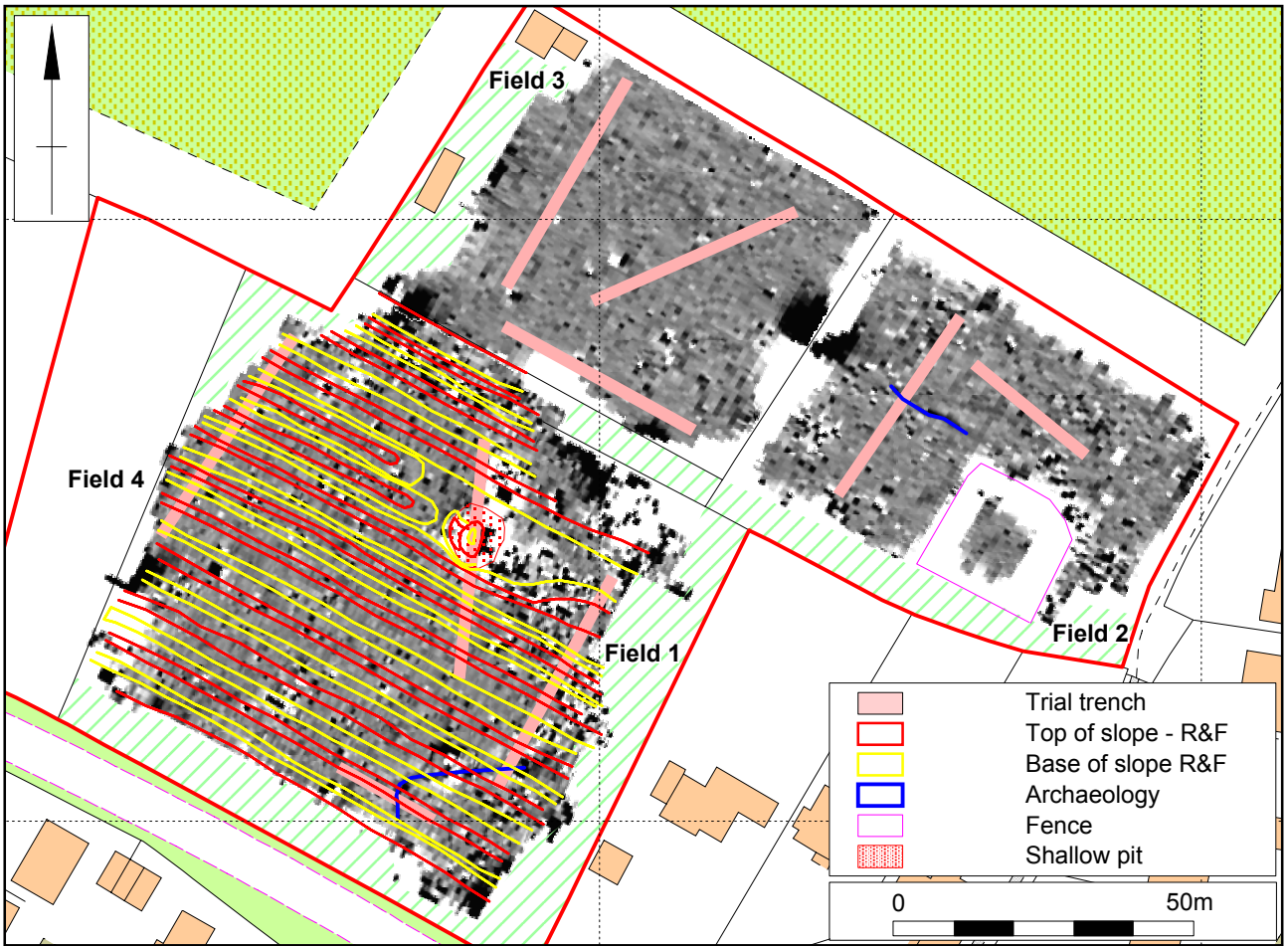
7 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

The natural substrate was fairly uniform across the site, generally comprising mid to light brown, firm silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions. In places there were light yellow sandy patches.

The overlying subsoil comprised a mid brown sandy clay, 0.20m-0.25m thick which was overlain by a mid grey-brown clay loam topsoil, 0.12m-0.30m thick. Throughout Trench 3 and at the very north-east end of Trench 8 there was a layer of what appeared to be redeposited natural clay, 0.13m-0.20m thick, overlying the original topsoil. On the surface of this a thin topsoil had formed.

Where archaeological remains were present they were overlain by the subsoil. The only exception to this was a pit in Trench 7 (discussed below) which truncated the subsoil and was overlain by topsoil.



Scale 1:1250

Trial trench locations with earthwork and geophysical survey results Fig 10

Environmental potential was low across the entire site and accordingly, following on-site discussions with the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (9/5/13), no environmental samples were taken.

No archaeological remains were present within Trench 5.

7.2 Trench 1

Furrow/ditch [105]

In the middle of the trench there was a furrow or shallow ditch, [105], which was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig 11). It was 3.30m wide, 0.20m deep with gradual sloping edges and broad flat base. The fill, a mid brown silty clay, produced three sherds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery (see paragraph 8).

7.3 Trench 2

Ditch [206]

This trench confirmed the presence of a linear anomaly aligned north-west to south-east identified by the geophysical survey (Fig 10). The ditch, [206], was 0.60m wide, 0.40m deep with steep, straight sides and a narrow, flat base (Figs 11 and 12, Section 1). The fills comprised mid yellow-brown to dark grey-brown silty clays with occasional small stone inclusions. The upper fill, (204), produced two sherds of pottery dating to the 12th century (see paragraph 8).

7.4 Trench 3

Ditch [310]

This north to south aligned ditch was 0.70m wide, 0.36m deep with steep sloping sides and concave base (Fig 11). The mid to dark brown and yellow silty clay fills produced three sherds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery (see paragraph 8).

Ditch [314]

Aligned north-east to south-west, this ditch was 0.70m wide, 0.35m deep with steep sides and a broad, concave base (Fig 11 and 12, Section 5). The dark grey-brown silty clay fill produced three sherds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery (see paragraph 8).

Gully [316]

A narrow gully, aligned north-east to south-west, was 0.25m wide, 0.25m deep with steep, almost vertical sides and a narrow concave base (Fig 11). The mid brown-grey silty clay fill produced no finds.

Furrows [307], [312] and [318]

These were aligned approximately north to south and were spaced between 4m and 5m apart (Fig 11). They were 0.80m wide, 0.20m deep with gradual sloping edges and broad, flat bases. The fills comprised mid to dark brown silty clays which produced no dating evidence. Furrow [318] was not excavated.

7.5 Trench 4

Ditch/furrow [405]

A shallow ditch or possible furrow, aligned north-west to south-east, was 1m wide, 0.16m deep with gradual sloping sides and a broad flat base (Fig 11). The mid orange-brown silty clay fill produced no dating evidence. Although similar in form to the furrows investigated in Trench 3, its differing alignment suggests it may be a ditch rather than a furrow.

7.6 Trench 6

Furrows [605], [607], [609], [611] and [623]

Aligned north-west to south-east these were between 1.10m and 2m wide and between 4m and 7.70m apart (Fig 11). They were filled with mid to dark grey-brown silty from which a single sherd of 16th-century pottery was retrieved ([605]). None of the furrows were excavated.

7.7 Trench 7

Gullies [707] and [705]

Gully [707] and its recut [705] were located at the southern end of the trench and aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 11 and 12, Section 10). The earlier gully was at least 0.30m wide, 0.25m deep with steep edges and a narrow flat base. The dark grey silty clay fill produced two sherds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery (see paragraph 8). The recut, [705] was similarly aligned, 0.25m wide, 0.15m deep with steep sides and a narrow concave base. The mid grey-brown silty clay fill produced no dating evidence.

Furrows [711], [713], [715] and [717]

These were aligned north-west to south east and were between 1.10m and 2.50m wide (Fig 11). They were not excavated but the upper fills comprised mid to dark brown silty clay which produced no dating evidence.

Pit [709]

This trench was positioned to investigate a large but slight depression in the field which was detected by both the earthwork survey and the geophysical survey. It confirmed the presence of a large, modern pit which was at least 5m in diameter and cut the subsoil. The pit was not excavated but the upper fill comprised ash, china, bottles, wood and heavily corroded metal fragments (not retained) all of which appeared to have been burnt.

7.8 Trench 8

Furrows [806], [810], [812], [814] and [816]

These north-west to south-east aligned gullies were between 1.30m and 2.10m wide and between 3m and 7m apart. Their fills comprised mid to dark grey silty clays which produced no dating evidence. Furrow [806] was the only one to be investigated and proved to be 0.10m deep with gradual sloping sides and a flat base (Fig 12, Section 9).

Ditch [808]

The trench was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Fig 9). This was confirmed as ditch, [808], aligned east to west, which was 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep (Fig 11). It had irregular sides, a narrow flat base and was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay which produced no finds.

7.9 Trench 9

Ditch [905]

Aligned east to west this was 0.80m wide, 0.35m deep with steep sloping sides and a broad concave base (Figs 11 and 12, Section 6). The fill, a dark brown silty clay produced two sherds of residual Iron Age pottery and ten sherds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery (see paragraph 8).

Ditch [908]

Identified as a linear anomaly during the geophysical survey (Fig 10), this was confirmed as a ditch, aligned north-south which was 1.0m wide and 0.60m deep (Fig 11). It had steep, slightly convex edges and a narrow concave base (Fig 12, Section 8). The primary fill comprised a mid brown silty clay whilst the upper fill, which produced a single sherd of Middle/Early Saxon pottery (see paragraph 8), was similar but more sandy.

8 THE POTTERY by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 27 sherds with a total weight of 196g. Most of the material was of early or middle Anglo-Saxon date. Where appropriate, the codings and chronology of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1977) were used, as follows:

IAF1: Shelly Ware, Iron Age. Sparse to moderate shell platelets up to 2mm, 2 sherds, 7g.

A18: Fine quartz, Early/Middle Saxon, c AD450-850, 22 sherds, 149g,

C03: Fine sandy reduced ware, 12-13th centuries, 2 sherds, 27g.

P01: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th century, 1 sherd, 13g.

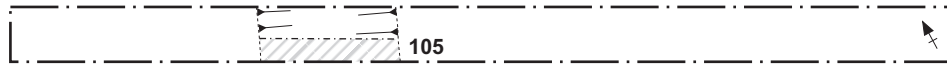
The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. All the wares are types which are well-known in the region. The sherds of Iron Age material were very abraded, with the majority of the inclusions leached out, rendering precise dating impossible. The rest of the assemblage was in good condition, and appears to be reliably stratified.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type

Fill/Cut	IAF1		A18		C03		P01		Date
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
104/105			3	14					E/MS
204/206					2	27			12thC
308/310			3	4					E/MS
313/314			3	14					E/MS
604/605							1	13	16thC
706/707			2	12					E/MS
904/905	2	7	10	101					E/MS
906/908			1	4					E/MS
Total	2	7	22	149	2	27	1	13	

Scale 1:200

Trench 1

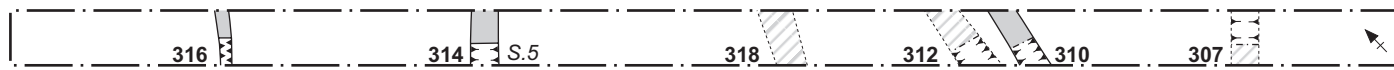


archaeological feature
furrow

Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 8



Trench 9



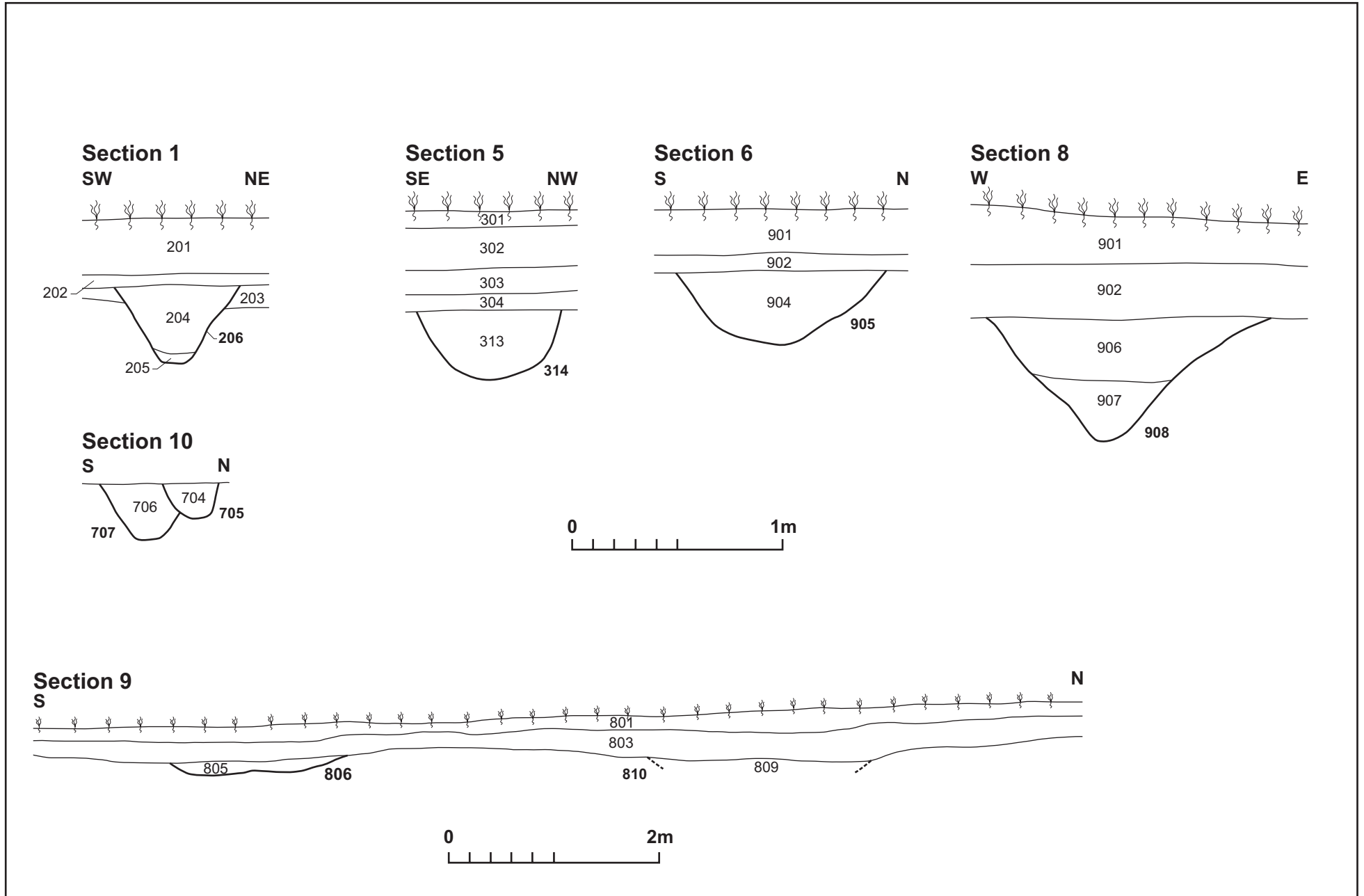
0 10m

Plans of trenches 1-4 & 6-9 Fig 11

Scales 1:25 & 1:50

Sections of ditches and furrows in trenches 2, 3, 7, 8 & 9

Fig 12



9 DISCUSSION

The programme of evaluation has shown that, other than ridge and furrow of probable medieval origin, few archaeological remains are present within the proposed development area.

Iron Age activity is represented by sherds of residual pottery retrieved from a later ditch in Trench 9.

The trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of ditches identified by the geophysical survey in Trenches 2, 8 and 9. In Trenches 8 and 9 these proved to be of Early/Middle Saxon date and may form the northern extent of a small enclosure with a possible north-south division. Further Early/Middle Saxon ditches and gullies on varying alignments were identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 7. The broad linear feature in Trench 1 produced sherds of Saxon pottery but may have been a furrow. Although not detected by the earthwork survey, slight furrows aligned north-east to south-west, were visible in the south-east part of Field 2.

The paucity of finds from these Saxon features would suggest that the proposed development area was some distance from the foci of activity during this period.

Medieval activity is attested to by a single gully in Trench 2 which had been identified by the geophysical survey and the ridge and furrow present across Field 2. A single sherd of 16th-century pottery was retrieved from one of the furrows in Trench 6.

The large pit in Trench 7 proved to be of mid 20th-century origin. The upper fill produced an abundance of burnt bottles and other detritus including broken ashtrays, fragmentary combs, toothbrushes and shaving razors (not retained) which suggest a possible association with the former Prisoner of War camp to the south-east (HER 19612).

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APPENDIX: INDEX OF CONTEXTS BY TRENCH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
1	25m x 1.6m NN-SE	490371/225968	132m aOD	0.35m-0.57m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.28m-0.30m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.20m-0.25m thick	-
103	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-
104	Fill of 105	mid brown silty clay	0.20m thick	Early/Middle Saxon pottery
105	Cut of ?ditch/furrow	NE-SW, gradual sides, broad, flat base	3.30 wide, 0.20m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
2	40m x 1.6m NE-SW	490351/225971	132m aOD	0.38m-0.49m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.26m-0.28m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.08m-0.09m thick	-
203	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-
204	Fill of 206	Dark brown silty clay, occasional small stone inclusions	0.33m thick	12th century pottery
205	Fill of 206	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.07m	-
206	Cut of gully	NW-SE, steep sloping sides, narrow flat base	0.60m wide, 0.40m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
3	40m x 1.6m NW-SE	490302/225972	132m aOD	0.66m-0.73m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.06m-0.10m thick	-
302	Levelling layer	Mid brown silty clay with chalk flecks	0.14m-0.20m thick	-
303	Former topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.12m-0.18m thick	-
304	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.18m-0.25m thick	-
305	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-
306	Fill of 307	Mid brown silty clay	0.20m thick	
307	Cut of furrow	NE-SW, gradual sloping sides, flat base	0.70m m wide, 0.20m deep	
308	Fill of 310	Mid- dark brown silty clay	0.29m thick	Early/Middle Saxon pottery
309	Fill of 310	Mid yellow silty clay	0.07m thick	
310	Cut of ditch	N-S, steep sloping sides and concave base	0.70m Ø 0.36m deep	
311	Fill of 312	Mid brown silty clay	0.20m thick	
312	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, gradual sloping sides, flat base	0.20m deep 0.90m wide	
313	Fill of 314	Dark grey-brown silty clay	0.35m thick	Early/Middle Saxon pottery
314	Cut of gully	NE-SW, steep, almost vertical sides, broad, concave base	0.70m wide 0.35m deep	
315	Fill of 316	Mid brown-grey silty clay	0.25m thick	
316	Cut of gully	NE-SW, Steep, almost vertical sides, narrow, concave base	0.25m wide 0.25m deep	
317	Fill of 318	Dark brown silty clay	Unexcavated	
318	Cut of furrow	NW, unexcavated	0.90m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
5	40m x 1.6m NE-SW	490318/225995	132m aOD	0.36m-0.39m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.25m-0.26m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.10m-0.14m thick	-
503	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
6	40m x 1.6m NE-SW	490238/225964	131.5m aOD	0.28m-0.32m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.20m-0.22m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.08m-0.13m thick	-
603	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-
604	Fill of 605	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Unexcavated	16th century pottery
605	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, unexcavated	2m wide	-
606	Fill of 607	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Unexcavated	
607	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, unexcavated	1.70m wide	
608	Fill of 609	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Unexcavated	
609	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, unexcavated	1.70m wide	
610	Fill of 611	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Unexcavated	
611	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, unexcavated	1.30m wide	
612	Fill of 613	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Unexcavated	
613	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, unexcavated	1.10m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
7	40m x 1.6m NW-SE	490278/225942	130m aOD	0.34m-0.40m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
701	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.20m-0.23m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.10m-0.18m thick	-
703	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-
704	Fill of 705	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.15m thick	
705	Cut of gully	NE-SW, steep sides, narrow concave base	0.25m wide 0.15m deep	
706	Fill of 707	Dark grey silty clay	0.25m thick	Early/ Middle Saxon pottery
707	Cut of gully	NE-SW, steep sides, narrow flat base	0.30m wide. 0.25m deep	
708	Fill of 709	Clay loam with abundant ash, cinders, bottles, china, metal fragments	Unexcavated	Mid 20th century glass and ceramics (not retained)
709	Cut of pit	Sub circular, not excavated	>5m Ø	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
8	40m x 1.6m NE-SW	490293/225923	129m aOD	0.23m-0.54m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
801	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.20m-0.23m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.10m-0.18m thick	-
803	Levelling layer	Mid brown silty clay with chalk flecks	0.13m thick	-
804	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-
805	Fill of 806	Mid grey silty clay	0.10m thick	-
806	Cut of Furrow	NW-SE, gradual sloping sides, broad flat base	1m wide 0.10m deep	-
807	Fill of 808	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.30m thick	-
808	Cut of ditch	E-W, irregular sides, narrow flat base	0.70m wide 0.30m deep	-
809	Fill of 810	Mid grey silty clay	Not excavated	-
810	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, not excavated	2.10m wide	-
811	Fill of 813	Mid grey silty clay	Not excavated	-
812	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, not excavated	1.50m wide	-
813	Fill of 814	Mid grey silty clay	Not excavated	-
814	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, not excavated	1.30m wide	-
815	Fill of 816	Dark grey silty clay	Not excavated	-
816	Cut of furrow	NW-SE, not excavated	2m wide	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
9	20m x 1.6m NW-SE	490265/225904	129m aOD	0.35m-0.49m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
901	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam	0.24m-0.30m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.09m-0.19m thick	-
903	Natural	Light brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional yellow sandy patches	-	-
904	Fill of 905	Dark brown silty clay	0.35m thick	IA and Early/Middle Saxon pottery
905	Cut of ditch	E-W, Steep sloping sides, broad concave base	0.80m wide 0.35m deep	
906	Fill of 908	Mid brown sandy clay	0.30m thick	Early/Middle Saxon pottery
907	Fill 908	Mid brown silty clay	0.30m thick	
908	Cut of ditch	N-S, steep, convex sides, narrow concave base	Unexcavated	



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