



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Trial trench evaluation at High Flyer Farm Ely, Cambridgeshire February 2011



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS report form

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	ELY, HIGH FLYER FARM
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during February 2011, comprising 54 trenches, on farmland at High Flyer Farm, Ely, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation confirmed the presence of a complex of enclosures and a driveway which had previously been suggested by geophysical survey. Settlement at the site began in the Early to Middle Iron Age with the peak of activity occurring during the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Parts of the enclosure complex were maintained into the Saxon period.
Project type	Trial trench evaluation
Site status	None
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Walford 2010)
Current land use	Arable
Future work	Unknown
Monument type/ period	-
Significant finds	-
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Cambridgeshire
Site address	High Flyer Farm, Ely
OS Easting & Northing	554 824
Area	36ha
Height aOD	20m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Design originator	CgMs
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor
Project Manager	Ant Maull (NA) Mike Dawson (CgMs)
Sponsor or funding body	-
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	31/1/11
End date	18/2/11
ARCHIVES	
Archive location	ECB3530
Archive contents	Pottery, animal bone, flint, and fired clay (1 box); site records and related documents (2 large archive boxes); digital photographs, digital report copies (1 CD)
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
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**TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
HIGH FLYER FARM
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FEBRUARY 2011**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during February 2011, comprising 54 trenches, on farm land at High Flyer Farm, Ely, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation confirmed the presence of a complex of enclosures and a droveway which had previously been suggested by geophysical survey. Settlement at the site began in the Early to Middle Iron Age with the peak of activity occurring during the Romano-British period in the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Parts of the enclosure complex were maintained into the Saxon period.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of approximately 36ha of arable land at High Flyer Farm, Ely, Cambridgeshire during February 2011 (NGR TL554 824, Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd acting on behalf of their clients the Church Commissioners for England, prior to the proposed development of the site. The evaluation followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011).

The event number issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology HER is ECB3530. This report, which presents the results of the evaluation, has been prepared in accordance with Appendix 4 of the English Heritage procedural document *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991), MoRPHE (EH 2006) and appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008, 2010).

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives as set out in the Written Scheme of Evaluation were:

- to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be affected by the proposed development
- to provide a comprehensive, illustrated assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and should aim to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework
- to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals
- to assess the impact of development.

The period specific research aims were:

- To add to the knowledge of the development of the agrarian economy in the Iron Age;
- To add to the knowledge of settlement chronology and dynamics in the Iron Age with particular reference to the apparent discontinuity of settlement between the Early and Late Iron Age;

- To provide information on the economic status of Romano-British rural settlement which may indicate subsistence or market economy;
- To provide information relating to changes of economic status between the Late Iron Age and the Early Romano-British period to assess the extent to which the conquest effected patterns of production;
- To provide information to enable reconstruction of the fen edge environment;
- To gain information on the changes in the wider landscape in the Late Roman and Post Roman periods.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development area lies on the eastern periphery of the city of Ely, south of the village of Chetisham. The site is situated on a broad ridge of land which slopes gradually from 20m in the south to 5m in the north. To the north-west lies a shallow valley in which a small reservoir has been created before the ground rises up towards Chetisham and Lynn Road.

The underlying geology ranges from the Lower Cretaceous, Woburn Sands Formation of the Lower Greensand Group, the underlying Kimmeridge Clay Formation of the Upper Jurassic Ancholme Group and the overlying Mid Pleistocene Anglian Tills.

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

A fieldwalking exercise recorded lithic scatters, and a bronze rapier and a bronze axe head dating from the Bronze Age have also been recovered (Hall 1996, Dawson 2010). A later desk based assessment of the site summarised its archaeological potential (Dawson 2010). A geophysical survey of land within the current study area was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between August and October 2010 (Walford 2010). The geophysical survey recorded extensive occupation within the south-west. Part of the proposed development is likely to contain occupation from the Iron Age and Roman periods, principally the northern part of a settlement seen during excavation undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2000 at the adjacent Prickwillow Road (Atkins and Mudd 2003). The site at Prickwillow Road identified part of a rural settlement occupied from the 5th to the 3rd century BC and through to the 4th century AD. It is likely to represent a continuation of the geophysical anomalies surveyed in 2010.

The surrounding area has been settled since the Palaeolithic with records showing lithic assemblages suggesting working or chipping floors (NMR3752734). There may have been Bronze Age settlement locally as suggested by burials (inhumations) at Old Pits in 1914. Iron Age settlement is known from excavations at Prickwillow Road (Atkins and Mudd 2003) and from work on the Ely/Littleport bypass. Occupation on the Prickwillow Road site continued into the Roman period with enclosures and a cemetery being recorded. The Isle of Ely, with its cathedral, was a major regional centre in the medieval period, with causeways across the fens linking it with other settlements. However, much of the recorded Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeology has been recorded outside of the study area.

The site and the surrounding landscape was enclosed before Parliamentary Enclosure with the study area sub-divided into rectangular and sub-rectangular fields.

4 EXCAVATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

Initially the evaluation comprised 52 trenches of varying lengths with a total of 2710 linear metres, 4227m². At the request of Cambridgeshire County Council's Senior Archaeologist, two further trenches were added to the schedule. Trench 53 was 39m long and positioned to establish the presence or otherwise of an ice house reputed to have stood in the vicinity of a large ferrous anomaly seen on the geophysical survey plot (Fig 4). Trench 54 was 29m long and was positioned to further investigate a curvilinear gully encountered in the north-east end of Trench 8. Trenches 5, 6, 8, 49 and 50 were moved slightly to avoid overhead services. The trenches targeted areas of potential archaeology identified by the geophysical survey and apparently blank areas (Fig 2). A perched water table created difficulties during excavation of some trenches. After consultation with Cambridgeshire County Council's Senior Archaeologist it was agreed that the ditch seen in flooded Trench 47 could be recorded in plan without excavation and the driveway ditches in flooded Trench 12 could be recorded in plan and investigated by hand excavation in trenches to the north and south.

4.2 Methodology

The trenches were positioned using a Leica System 1200 GPS and were excavated, under continuous archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked 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* (2006). Trenches containing 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 (e.g. 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). 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 colour slide film, supplemented by digital images.

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (UKIC 1998). 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 specification prepared by NA (2010), the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2002), and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (1985, revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 2008). All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology's Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

4.3 Geological Observations by Steve Critchley

The underlying geology ranged from the Lower Cretaceous, Woburn Sands Formation of the Lower Greensand Group, the underlying Kimmeridge Clay Formation of the Upper Jurassic Ancholme Group and the overlying Mid Pleistocene Anglian Tills.

The main Woburn Sands outcrop is located on the hilltop to the west of the water tower so only a small portion of the site lay on the edge of these beds. They also act as a groundwater store being composed of yellow-brown permeable fine to coarse sands and gravels. The Anglian tills outcropped along the ridge to the east of the farm road and were seen to be composed of sticky grey-brown to yellow-brown sandy clays with numerous clasts of chalk and flint. Most exposures had been cryoturbated by ground ice during the Devensian Glaciation cold phase forming complex exposures of tills mixed with sands and gravels and as the thickness decreased down slope, with the underlying Kimmeridge Clays. They also held an appreciable amount of groundwater stored in the more permeable components and the upper weathered zone. The rest of the lower slopes within the excavation area were underlain by mudstones of the Kimmeridge Clays covered in part by a variable layer of colluvium or periglacial head deposits.

4.4 Field 1 (Trenches 34-46)

Summary

In Field 1 the evaluation aimed to confirm the absence of archaeological remains suggested by the results of the geophysical survey (Fig 3). Furrows and narrow, shallow gullies which were probably remnants of lazy bed cultivation were encountered in most of the trenches (34, 35, 38, 40 and 43 to 46, Fig 10 sections 26 and 22). Their alignment was consistent with faint, linear geophysical anomalies. Other linear anomalies proved to be related to post-medieval land drains and other farming activity. No archaeological features were present in Trenches 36, 37, 39 and 42.

A possible track or driveway, which was not initially detected by interpretation of the geophysical survey, was encountered in Trenches 46 and 34. The track, aligned north-north-west to south-south-east appeared to lead to a rectilinear enclosure associated with the square double-ditched enclosure known to exist to the north-west of the development area (Walford 2011).

The concentration of dipolar anomalies near to the south-east corner of the field were shown to relate to a surface spread of brick and tile fragments and other modern detritus within a shallow, dark loamy soil filling a shallow, natural depression.

Trench 34

Approximately 21m from the north-west end of the trench there was a ditch, [3404], which was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. It was 0.80m wide, 0.25m deep with a broad V-shaped profile. The grey-brown silty clay fill produced no finds. It is likely that this ditch defines the eastern side of a possible track or driveway seen on the geophysical survey results.

Trench 46

Two ditches in the north-west half of the trench, [4604] and [4606] defined both sides of the possible track or driveway. The track was 6m wide and both ditches were 0.50m wide, 0.15m deep with gradually sloping profiles. The mid grey-brown silty clay fills produced no finds.

4.5 Field 2 (Trenches 3-33 and 48-54)

Summary

Interpretation of the geophysical results had identified an area of intense archaeological activity upon the higher ground in the south-west corner of the Field 2. Trial trenches in this area confirmed the presence of a complex of rectilinear enclosures and a possible driveway leading to the square enclosure shown on the geophysical survey plot (Figs 4 and 7) (Walford 2011). It is likely that these features are the continuation of the long lived Iron Age and Romano-British settlement excavated to the immediate south of development area (Atkins and Mudd 2003). Trenches 3, 7 and 13 contained no archaeological features.

Trenches in the central and western parts of the field were positioned to evaluate apparent blank areas. Archaeological features encountered by these trenches comprised recently backfilled former boundary ditches. Trenches 11, 20-24, 27-30, 32, 33, 51 and 52 contained no archaeological features.

Where archaeological features were encountered their fills generally comprised brown-gray sandy or silty clay which contained occasional gravel, angular and sub angular stones, stone fragments and charcoal flecking. In the trenches located on the Greensand Ridge (8 and 9) the fills were accordingly more sandy than elsewhere.

The subsoil across the site comprised a yellow-brown silty or sandy clay between 0.02m and 0.34m thick with occasional stone inclusions. This was overlain by a dark grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil which was generally between 0.17m and 0.46m thick.

Following on-site discussions with the Senior Archaeologist of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team and CgMs Consulting Ltd, further trenching in addition to the agreed schedule was undertaken. This comprised an L-shaped trench (Trench 53) to determine the presence or otherwise of an ice house reputed to have stood on the edge of the large ferrous anomaly seen on the geophysical survey plot towards the centre of the field; and a trench to further investigate the large curvilinear ditch on the western edge of the field (Trench 54).

A detailed summary of the archaeological features and deposits by trench is presented in Appendix 1.

Trench 4

In the middle of the trench there were two linear gullies [406], aligned north-east to south-west and [408], aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 4). At the southern end of the trench there was a third gully [404] aligned north-east to south-west. All of the gullies were 1m wide, 0.25m-0.35m deep with irregular, gradually sloping sides and broad flat bases. The fills comprised a sterile light grey sand with fine yellowish-grey pea gravel at the bases and sides of the gullies. It is likely that these features were erosion gullies or possibly variations within the natural substrate.

Trench 5

At the eastern end of the trench there was a 1.30m wide ditch, [505] which was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 4). It was 0.50m deep with gradual sloping sides with a broad flat base. The ditch appeared to cut the subsoil suggesting a possible post-medieval date.

At the opposite end of the trench there was a shallow gully, [507] which was similarly aligned, 0.50m wide and no deeper than 0.02m deep. The edges were almost imperceptible and the base was broad and flat.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was positioned to investigate the ditches defining a north-east to south-west aligned sub rectangular enclosure shown on the geophysical survey plot. The southernmost ditch [605] was at least 1.40m wide, 0.55m deep with steep sloping sides and a narrow concave base. A fragment of a rotary quern stone and 18 sherds of pottery dating from the 2nd to 3rd centuries were retrieved from its upper fill. The single recut [608] was of similar dimensions and profile and produced a single sherd of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and 22 sherds of pottery dating to from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

The northern ditch [611] was at least 0.50m wide and 0.50m deep. The southern edge sloped 45° to a broad flat base. The ditch had been recut twice, [613] and [615], each recut being slightly steeper in profile and deeper than its predecessor. The second recut produced 5 sherds of Early to Middle Saxon pottery and an antler comb of a similar date. The final cut [615] was 2.10m and 0.85m deep (Fig 10, section 58).

Cleaning of the section around the ditches revealed no evidence of associated bank material and there were no surviving surfaces or buried soils within the enclosure.

Trench 8

Within this trench there were ten features of which half comprised small rills or erosion gullies in the sandy natural substrate ([813], [815], [817], [819] and [826], Mike Allen pers com). The rills were generally 0.50m-1.50m wide 0.20m-0.30m deep and aligned downslope, north-west to south-east (Fig 7).

Cutting the area of erosion there was a ditch, [821] which was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 2.50m wide, 0.65m deep with gradual sloping edges and a broad concave base. A smaller gully [824], 1m wide, 0.35m deep, cut the ditch on the same alignment along its south-west edge.

At the north-eastern end of the trench the curvilinear ditch detected by the geophysical survey, [809] was encountered. It was 1.72m wide, 0.33m deep with gradual sloping sides and a broad flat base. Immediately to the south-west of this there was a partial exposed pit or ditch terminal, [811] which was 2.30m wide, 0.30m deep. Cleaning of the section and the base of the trench between the two features confirmed they were separate and had no intercutting relationship.

To the north-east of ditch [809] there was a broad feature, [806] which appeared to be a linear ditch but may have been a large oval pit. It was 4m wide with steep sloping sides, stepped on the south-west edge with a broad flat base.

At the north-east end of the trench there was a narrow gully, [804], which was aligned north to south, was 0.42m wide and 0.25m deep. It had a gradual sloping profile and contained a single sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery.

Trench 9

This was positioned to examine the group of linear ditches detected by the geophysical survey (Figs 7 and 9). A total of 10 ditches and gullies aligned north-west to south-east were encountered, many of them clearly intercutting, but due to the similarity of fills comprising homogeneous dark grey-brown silty sandy clay it was not always possible to determine the sequence of re-cutting.

Approximately 7m from the north-east end of the trench there were two intercutting ditches, [904] and [906]. These were 1.20m-1.70m wide, 0.20m-0.40m deep with gradual sloping sides and broad concave bases. The relationship between the two ditches could not be established due to the similarity of fills. Sherds of pottery dating to the middle of the 1st to 2nd century AD

Approximately 16.5m from the south-west end of the trench there was a group of four intercutting ditches, [908], [910], [912] and [914]. These were 0.60m-1.30m wide and 0.15m-0.40m deep with varying profiles. They produced 18 sherds of pottery dating from the Late Early to the Late Iron Age and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. Again, relationships could not be established due to the similarity of fills although it appeared that ditch [912] cut ditch [914].

Immediately to the south-west of this group there was a broad, steep-sided gully [918] which was 2.80m wide, 0.65m deep and produced a single sherd of pottery dating to from the middle of the 1st to the 4th centuries AD. It was cutting an earlier ditch on same alignment, [916], which was at least 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep.

At the south-west end of the trench there were two roughly parallel gullies 4.50m apart, [920] and [924]. They were both 0.80m wide and 0.20m and 0.35m deep respectively. Ditch [920] had a bowl-shaped profile while ditch [924] had steeply sloping straight sides and a narrow flat base.

To the north-east and 0.50m from ditch [924] there was a partially exposed small pit or posthole, [922]. It had steep sides, a flat base and produced a single sherd of Mid to Late Iron Age pottery and a residual barbed and tanged flint arrowhead.

Trenches 10, 12 and 14

These trenches were positioned to investigate the ditches of a possible droveway that were detected by the geophysical survey (Figs 4 and 5, Section 72). The droveway, which was aligned north-east to south-west, was 7.50m-8m wide and was at least 250m long, almost certainly continuing beyond the limit of the current evaluation area. The ditches were not excavated in Trench 12 due to the inundation of ground water. The western ditch [1004], [1206] and [1408] was 2m wide and 0.40m-0.65m deep with a profile varying from steep sloping sides and a flat base in the south to gradual sloping edges and an irregular base in the north. Both of the droveway ditches had been partially truncated by ploughing in Trench 10. The eastern ditch, [1008], [1204] and [1404], was 1.75m-2.10m wide, 0.40m deep with gradual sloping sides and a broad concave base. On the inside and 0.65m from the eastern ditch in Trench 14 there was a parallel ditch [1406] of similar dimensions and profile. To the west of the droveway, in Trench 12 there was a shallow gully, [1208] Aligned north-east to south-west it was 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep and may have been a furrow.

Within the droveway there was no evidence of surfaces, camber or bank material. Samples were taken from within the droveway and to the east and west of the ditches in Trench 14 for future phosphate analysis.

Trench 15

Near to the north-east end of the trench there was a 2.10m wide ditch, [1506], which was 0.73m deep and corresponded with a linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east, detected by the geophysical survey (Fig 7). The slightly concave edges sloped 45°-50° to a broad, convex base. The ditch had been recut once on the same alignment. The recut [1508] was 1.35m wide by 0.50m deep and produced 5 sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD.

Trench 16

This trench was positioned to investigate a ditch aligned north-east to south-west, shown on the geophysical survey plot (Fig 7). It was encountered 18m from the eastern end of the trench. The ditch [1606] was 0.55m wide, 0.33m deep with a V-shaped profile and produced 18 sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd to 3rd centuries. Ten meters to the east of this there was a gully, [1604], which was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 0.49m wide, 0.17m deep with a bowl-shaped profile.

Trench 17

In the middle of the trench there was a 1.40m wide gully, [1704], which was aligned north-west to south-east and corresponded with a linear anomaly seen on the geophysical survey plot (Fig 7). The ditch was likely to be that which cut the erosion rills in the south-western half of Trench 8. It was 0.74m deep with steep sloping sides and a broad flat base.

Trench 19

This trench was positioned to further investigate the north-east to south-west ditch seen on the geophysical survey plot and encountered in Trench 16 to the south-west (Fig 7). The ditch, [1908] crossed the trench near to its northern end. It was 1m wide, 0.31m deep with a steep V-shaped profile. Approximately 0.50m to the west there was a second ditch [1906] which was aligned north to south. Much of the original ditch had been truncated by the recut, [1904], which was 0.80m wide, 0.35m deep with steep sloping sides and broad, flat base.

At the request of Cambridgeshire County Council's Senior Archaeologist the trench was extended to the east to investigate a possible ditch seen on the geophysical survey plot. The ditch [1912] was found just beyond the original eastern end of the trench. It was aligned north-east to south-west and was 1m wide, it was not subject to hand excavation,

Trench 48

Positioned across an sub /rectangular enclosure at the south-west end of the driveway seen on the geophysical plot, the trench encountered a number of linear features (Figs 4 and 6, section 68). The western ditch of the enclosure, [4820], was 0.70m wide, 0.20m-0.45m deep and aligned north-west to south-east although there did appear to be the beginnings of a north-east to south-west return. A similarly aligned ditch, [4824], 1m to the west is may have been the primary enclosure ditch or a recut. In between the two ditches there was a possible pit or gully terminal [4822] which was at least 0.40m wide, 0.25m deep with gradual sloping sides and a concave base.

Overlying this group of features there was a layer of silt clay loam, (4819), which was up to 0.30m deep and comprised a mid grey-brown silty sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions. It is likely that this buried soil accumulated at the bottom of a large area of ponding which developed over the ditches. The overlying deposit (4818) was darker in colour with more frequent gravel inclusions, it produced a single sherd of Romano-British pottery and was overlain by subsoil. The area of ponding extended to 19m from the western end of the trench and exploratory machine excavation revealed it up to 2m from the northern and southern edges of the trench. A monolith sample was taken from these deposits for analysis and the results are discussed in section 6.3.

The western enclosure ditch [4815], 25m to the west of ditch [4820] was 0.70m and 0.40m deep. It had steep sloping sides a broad, slightly concave base and had a single recut, [4812] which was of similar dimensions and profile as its predecessor and produced 6 sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

To the east of, and 9m from ditch [4815] there was a 1m wide ditch, [4810], aligned north-west to south-east. It was 0.25m deep with gradual sloping sides and a broad concave base. A single sherd of pottery dating to the middle 1st to 2nd centuries AD was retrieved from the single fill.

At the western end of the trench there was a shallow ditch [4828] which was aligned north to south. It was 1.30m wide, 0.15m deep with steep sloping sides and a broad flat base. Romano-British pottery and fragments of tile were retrieved from the fill. To the east and 3m from this there was a second ditch [4826] which was aligned north-west to south-east and appeared to either be terminating or turning to the north at its north-west end. It was 1m wide, 0.15m deep with steep sloping sides and a broad flat base. This feature appeared to cut the lower buried soil, (4819), but was overlain by the upper buried soil (4818).

At the eastern end of the trench there was a group of three post-medieval gullies which cut the subsoil.

Trench 49

Corresponding with geophysical anomalies seen on the interpretative plot, three probable enclosure ditches aligned north-east to south-west were encountered in this trench (Fig 7).

The north-western ditch [4904] was 1.64m wide, 0.34m deep with gradual sloping edges and a broad slightly concave base. Approximately 18m to the south-east of this the middle ditch, [4906], was 1.50m wide, 0.40m deep with a similar profile and produced 9 sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries (Fig 10, section 15). The most substantial ditch of the three, [4908] was located 15m from the south-east end of the trench. It was 2.50m wide, 0.68m deep with steep sides, a concave base and produced a single sherd of mid 2nd to 4th century dated pottery.

Trench 50

This trench was originally positioned to investigate the curvilinear ditch at its north-western end and the linear geophysical anomaly at its south-eastern end (Fig 7). However, due to the presence of overhead services the trench had to be moved to the south-east so only the linear anomaly, two parallel ditches, was encountered in the middle of the trench.

The largest of the ditches, [5006] was 1.20m wide by 0.35m deep with gradual sloping sides and broad flat base. To the south-east of this and 0.60m away there was a less substantial gully, [5004], which was 0.80m wide, 0.21m deep with slightly steeper sides and a concave base.

Trench 53

This was positioned to investigate a large ferrous anomaly seen on the geophysical survey plot and establish the presence or otherwise of an ice house reputed to have stood in the immediate vicinity (Fig 4). The trench encountered no archaeological remains other than a former boundary ditch near its south-west end. The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east, 3m wide and the upper fill comprised a dark organic loam and contained modern ceramic and plastic material. The ditch was not investigated by further excavation.

Trench 54

Positioned across the possible curvilinear enclosure, the archaeology encountered in this trench did not correlate well with the results of the geophysical survey (Fig 7). The

ditch curving from south-east to north-west which was anticipated near the north-west end of the trench was absent. The reason for this is unclear. Near the south east-end of the trench there was a ditch curving in the opposite direction, [5406], which was 0.90m wide, 0.50m deep with a steep V-shaped profile (Fig 11).

On the north-western side of the ditch there was a large sub circular pit, [5408], which was partial exposed by the trench. It was at least 3m in diameter, 1m deep with steep, almost vertical sides and a broad flat base. Pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age suggest this was one of the earliest features encountered by the evaluation.

To the south-east of ditch [5406] there was a small gully, [5415], which was aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.55m wide, 0.20m deep with steep sloping sides and a narrow base. It is likely to be the continuation of the gully seen in the north-east end of Trench 8.



Trench 54, ditch [5406] and pit [5408] looking north-west

Fig 11

Trenches 18, 25, 26 and 31

These trenches were positioned to investigate linear anomalies thought to be recently removed field boundaries. All of the ditches cut the subsoil and were between 1.20m and 2.60m wide. The upper fill comprised a dark grey/black clay loam which often contained modern glass, china, brick, tile (not collected) and occasional roots. None of the ditches were further investigated by hand excavation.

The north-western end of Trench 25 did not encounter the backfilled pond but confirmed the presence of brick and tile fragments within the topsoil as suggested by the geophysical survey. The boundary ditch in this trench was that seen to branch off at right-angles to the main north-west to south-east ditch shown on the geophysical interpretation.

No other archaeological features were present within these trenches.

4.6 Field 3 (Trenches 1, 2 and 47)

Trench 1

Approximately 16.5m from the western end of the trench there was a 2m wide ditch, [104] (Fig 2). It was 0.70m deep with gradual sloping sides and broad slightly concave base. The ditch cut the subsoil which would suggest a post-medieval date.

Trench 2

There were no archaeological features present within this trench.

Trench 47

This was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly aligned north-east to south-west detected by the geophysical survey. The ditch, [4705], appeared to be up to 5m wide but due to the influx of ground water the ditch was not excavated.

5 FINDS

5.1 Flint by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

In total, 28 pieces of worked flint were recovered as residual finds from Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano British ditches, gullies and posthole. The flint comprised 23 flakes, two blades, two scrapers and one barbed-and-tanged arrowhead (Table 1).

Table 1: Quantification of worked flint

Description	Whole	Fragment	Burnt	Total
Flake	18	3	2	23
Blade	2	-	-	2
Scraper, end	1	-	-	1
Scraper, end/side	1	-	-	1
Arrowhead, barbed-and-tanged	1	-	-	1
Total	23	3	2	28

The condition of the assemblage was good. The flints showed post-depositional edge damage, displaying small edge spalls to battered and crushed edges. Patination was present on four pieces in the assemblage ranging from a slight to a heavier mottled white discolouration of the surface. Accidental burning of the flint was evident on one flake in the form of thermal fracturing, crazing, and patination.

The raw material is a vitreous flint of light to dark coloured greys and browns. There is also a small component of a more opaque brown flint. The light to dark brown coloured cortex present on the dorsal surface on half of the assemblage has a generally smooth, rolled and weathered surface. The raw material was likely to have comprised local gravel deposits.

The majority of flints procured consisted of waste flakes and blades. The assemblage comprised 23 flakes, of which three were broken and two burnt, and two blades. There was a flake with a cortical striking platform and one flake with a relatively long and flat striking platform. There were also two squat flakes present in the assemblage.

The retouched tool forms comprised two scrapers, an end scraper and an end/side scraper, and one barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. The end scraper had retouch on the

convex distal end. The side/end scraper had semi-abrupt and invasive retouch along its entire circumference, including the proximal end. The distal end had been struck off. Also there was invasive retouch on the ventral surface down one lateral edge, most likely to thin the proximal end with its bulb of percussion. The barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was bi-facially worked across both surfaces. Its manufacture and raw material are of high quality. The arrowhead was of a triangular shape with the tip and both barbs broken, it was 42mm in length and 25mm at its base.

Technological characteristics of the assemblage suggest a broad Mid to Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The barbed-and-tanged arrowhead is indicative of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and the two scrapers are possibly of a similar age.

5.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British Pottery by Katie Anderson and Matt Brudenell

The pottery assemblage totals 201 sherds, weighing 5153g and representing 6.3 EVEs (estimated vessel equivalent). It has been divided into two groups, prehistoric and Romano-British, which are discussed separately. The prehistoric pottery was recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group; sherds weighing less than 1g were recorded as crumbs and excluded from the analysis. Roman pottery was recorded in accordance with the standards produced by the Study Group for Roman Pottery.

Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery

In total, 101 sherds, 2755g, of hand-built prehistoric pottery was recovered, with a mean sherd weight of 27.3g. The material derives from ten separate contexts in four trenches (Table 2), and included ceramics dating from the Late Bronze Age to Middle/Late Iron Age in a range of flint, sand and shell-tempered fabrics (Table 3).

Table 2: Quantification of prehistoric pottery by context

Fill/cut	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Pottery date range
610/611	1	46	Middle/Late Iron Age (c300-50 BC)
805/804	1	9	Middle/Late Iron Age (c300-50 BC)
807/806	1	18	Late Bronze Age (c1100-800 BC)
810/809	1	3	Late Early Iron Age (c450-300 BC)
909/908	4	60	Mixed: Late Early Iron Age (c450-300 BC) & Middle/Late Iron Age (c300-50 BC)
911/[910]	14	214	Mixed: Late Early Iron Age (c450-300 BC) & Middle/Late Iron Age (c300-50 BC)
923/924	1	14	Middle/Late Iron Age (c300-50 BC)
5411/5408	46	1298	Late Early Iron Age (c450-300 BC)
5413/5408	31	1074	Late Early Iron Age (c450-300 BC)
5414/5408	1	19	Late Early Iron Age (c450-300 BC)
TOTAL	101	2755	-

Flint fabrics

F1: moderate medium and coarse burnt flint (mainly 2-4mm in size)

Flint-and-sand fabrics

FQ1: Sparse to moderate medium and coarse burnt flint (mainly 2-4mm in size) and moderate to common sand

- FQ2: Moderate to common medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm in size) and moderate to common sand
- FQ3: Sparse to moderate medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm in size) and moderate to common sand
- FQ4: Sparse to moderate fine and medium flint (mainly <1.5mm) and moderate to common sand
- FQ: Small sherds with flint inclusions too fragmented or abraded to assign to a more specific fabric category

Sand with flint fabrics

- QF1: Common quartz sand and rare burnt flint (1-3mm) with occasional rounded quartz grains (up to 3mm)

Sand with shell fabrics

- QS1: Moderate to common quartz sand and sparse to moderate shell flecks

Sand fabrics

- Q1: Moderate to common quartz sand with sparse rounded and sub-rounded quartz gains (up to 3mm)
- Q2: Common quartz sand with sparse sub-rounded quartz gains (up to 3mm) and rare to very rare shell (up to 3mm)
- Q3: Sparse to moderate quartz sand
- Q4: Moderate to common quartz sand with sparse rounded and sub-rounded quartz gains (up to 3mm) and sparse voids from burnt out vegetable matter

Shell fabrics

- S1: Moderate to common medium to very coarse shell (mainly 2-5mm)
- S2: Moderate medium and coarse shell (mainly 1-3mm in size)
- S3: Sparse shell fleck (<1mm in size)
- S4: Sparse medium and coarse shell (mainly 1-3mm in size)

The earliest pottery, from context 807 in Trench 8, is a single plain Late Bronze Age body sherd in a coarse flint-tempered fabric (F1, 18g), dated c 1100-800 BC.

The greater part of the later prehistoric assemblage came from the fills of a pit in Trench 54, which yielded 78 sherds, 2391g, of Early Iron Age pottery from contexts (5411), (5413), and (5414). The group is characterised by medium and large-sized sherds, with joining sherds in contexts (5411) and (5413). The assemblage is dominated by flint-and-sand tempered fabrics (88% by weight), with a small proportion of sherds having either shell inclusions (17%), a mix of quartz sand with rare flint (3%), or just plain quartz sand (2%).

Based on the total number of different rims and bases identified, the group is thought to comprise fragments of at least 17 different vessels (13 different vessel rims and 4 different bases). These included the partial profiles of seven shouldered jars with rims measuring 140-270mm, two with fingertip decorated rim-tops, and two plain burnished fineware bowls with S-shaped profiles and slightly flared necks; one with a rim diameter of 180mm.

On typological grounds the assemblage belongs to the closing stages of the Early Iron Age, and probably dates to the late 4th or 5th centuries BC, with parallels with the published group from Pickwillow Road, immediately adjacent to the site (Jackson 2003).

Table 3: Quantification of later prehistoric assemblage by fabric

Fabric	No/weight (g)	% of fabric (by weight)	No/weight (g) sherds burnished	% of fabric burnished	Fabric date range
F1	1/18	0.7	-	-	LBA
FQ	2/6	0.2	-	-	Late EIA
FQ1	52/1942	70.5	5/394	20.3	Late EIA
FQ2	10/158	5.7	4/65	41.1	Late EIA
FQ3	5/59	2.1	4/47	79.7	Late EIA
FQ4	5/46	1.7	-	-	Late EIA
Q1	6/94	3.4	1/1	1.1	Middle/Late IA
Q2	1/44	1.6	-	-	Late EIA
Q3	2/26	0.9	2/26	100	Middle/Late IA
Q4	3/62	2.3	-	-	Middle/Late IA
QF1	3/71	2.6	-	-	Late EIA & Middle/Late IA
QS1	2/19	0.7	-	-	Middle/Late IA
S1	5/173	6.3	-	-	Late EIA & Middle/Late IA
S2	2/21	0.8	-	-	Late EIA
S3	1/12	0.4	-	-	Late EIA
S4	1/4	0.1	-	-	Late EIA
TOTAL	101/2755	100	16/533	19.3	-

Similar flint-and-sand tempered sherds were recovered from context 810 in Trench 8 (1 sherd, 3g) and contexts (909) (3 sherds, 51g) and (911) in Trench 9 (3 sherds, 37g). However, in the latter two examples, the sherds were found alongside pottery in dense sand tempered fabrics typical of the Middle/Late Iron Age, c 300-50 BC. Context 909 yielded just one such sherd, weighing 9g, though a total of 11, weighing 177g, were recovered from context (911), two with lightly combed/scored surfaces. No rims or other diagnostic sherds were present in this group, though the fabrics are paralleled on other Middle/Late Iron Age sites on Ely including West Fen Road (Percival 2005), Wardy Hill (Hill and Horn 2003) and Hurst Lane (Percival 2007).

Three other Middle/Late Iron Age sherds were recovered: single body sherds from context (923), 14g, and (805), 9g, and a residual sherd from context (610), 46g.

Roman Pottery

The Roman component of the assemblage totalled 100 sherds weighing 2398g and representing 4.31 EVEs. The material was recovered from 17 contexts across ten trenches (see Table 4), and generally consists of medium to large-sized sherds, with a relatively high mean weight of 24.5g, although a number of the sherds were noted as being heavily abraded. Several refits of vessels were possible, but only within the same context.

The pottery dates from the 1st-4th centuries AD, with an apparent peak between the later 2nd-3rd centuries AD. However, it should be noted that many of the sherds are dated 2nd-4th century AD and without the presence of more diagnostic sherds (both in terms of fabrics and forms) many contexts could not be more specifically dated.

Table 4: Quantification of Roman pottery by context

Fill/Cut	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Date
609/608	22	406	2nd-4th century AD
606/605	18	636	2nd-3rd century AD
610/608	15	214	2nd-4th century AD
614/613	1	9	Samian (plus 5 sherds of Saxon)
820/819	5	41	Romano-British
905/904	8	255	Mid 1st-2nd century AD
911/910	1	3	Romano-British
919/918	1	4	Mid 2nd-4th century AD
1507/1506	5	76	2nd-3rd AD
1905/1904	4	128	Mid 1st-2nd century AD
3811/3810	1	1	Romano-British
4811/4810	1	6	Mid 1st-2nd century AD
4813/4812	6	144	2nd-4th century AD
4818	1	3	Romano-British
4829/4828	2	17	Romano-British
4905/4904	9	418	2nd-4th century AD
4909/4908	1	40	Mid 2nd-4th century AD
TOTAL	100	2398	

A variety of fabrics were identified in the assemblage (see Table 5), with sandy greywares the most commonly occurring, at 68% of the Roman assemblage. However, most of these fabrics are unsourced; as is typical of Roman greywares. The exception to this is a group of Horningsea greyware sherds (14 sherds, 592g), which were produced approximately 25km south-west of the site. Further products from the Horningsea kilns comprise 21 sherds of imitation Black Burnished ware (518g), thus making Horningsea products the most frequently occurring within the assemblage. These vessels broadly date to the 2nd-4th centuries AD.

Other sources identified include three Nene Valley colour-coated sherds (49g), which along with a single East Gaulish Samian sherd (9g), represent the only finewares in the assemblage. A sherd of Samian is the only imported ware in the assemblage and dates to the later 2nd-early 3rd centuries AD. However, it was found alongside five probable Saxon sherds (81g), suggesting it was residual.

A minimum of 22 different vessels were recorded, representing a somewhat limited range of vessel forms (Table 6). Jars dominate the assemblage, representing 48% of all diagnostic sherds. Within this category there are a number of different types, including narrow-mouth jars and wide-mouth storage jars with rim diameters ranging from 60mm to 300mm in diameter. One of the most interesting vessels in the Roman assemblage is a sandy greyware wide-mouth jar (context 606, 260mm diameter) with a very long neck, which with the exception of a prominent shoulder, is very similar in profile to a deep-sided beaded bowl.

Table 5: Quantification of Roman pottery by fabric

Fabric	No of sherds	Weight (g)
Buff sandy ware	1	3
Coarse sandy greyware (unsourced)	50	1042
East Gaulish Samian	1	9
Horningsea Greyware	14	592
Imitation BB	21	518
Micaceous sandy greyware	4	143
Nene Valley colour-coat	3	49
Oxidised sandy ware	6	42
TOTAL	100	2398

Other vessel forms are less frequent, with dishes representing 25% by sherd count. However, these equalled just three vessels in total, all of which were straight-sided shallow dishes, dating to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. Two Nene Valley colour-coated beakers were identified, including one body sherd with white painted decoration, which dates to the 3rd century AD. One imitation Black Burnished ware bowl (9 sherds) was also identified, along with a single lid.

Table 6: Roman Pottery by form

Form	No of sherds	Weight (g)
Beaker	2	45
Bowl	9	253
Dish	11	319
Jar	20	804
Lid	1	6
Unknown	57	971
Total	100	2398

The Roman assemblage is typical of a rural settlement; although the presence of Horningsea wares, Nene Valley wares and a single East Gaulish Samian sherd indicate that the site had access to goods from outside of the immediate local area. The vessel forms are indicative of a domestic assemblage, although there was little in the way of usewear evidence which may have provided more information on the specific uses of some of the vessels.

Although the material primarily dates to the 2nd-4th centuries AD, there is a small number of sherds from contexts (905) and (1905), which date to the mid 1st-2nd centuries AD. In terms of composition the Roman assemblage has clear parallels with material from an earlier phase of excavation, immediately to the south of the current evaluation (Mackreth 2003). The 1999-2000 excavations produced a much larger quantity of Roman material (3215 sherds), which peaked in the later Roman period. However, the pottery was dominated by local sandy wares and Horningsea greywares (*ibid*), thus demonstrating that that the sites had access to the same pottery sources.

Summary

The only substantial assemblage of Iron Age material came from the fills of a pit in Trench 54, which contained a dump of late Early Iron Age pottery (450-300 BC), including fragments of at least 17 vessels, but there are also small quantities of pottery dating to the middle/late Iron Age (300-50 BC)

For the Roman pottery only one context contained more than 20 sherds; context (609) containing 22 sherds, weighing 406g, nine of which are from a single bowl. The majority of Roman material is from features within the south-west corner of the site. The only exception was a single sherd of Roman pottery from Trench 38, context (3811) in the north of the site. However, given that this single sherd weighs just 1g, it seems probable that this might have been residual.

5.3 Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblage comprised 10 sherds with a total weight of 205g. It comprised Early/Early Middle Anglo-Saxon hand-built and post-medieval wares. The following fabrics were noted:

Early/Early Middle Anglo- Saxon

A small assemblage of early Saxon hand-built pottery occurred in a single context, [614], as follows:

ES1: *Quartz. And Chaff.* Moderate chaff voids up to 5mm, sparse to moderate quartz up to 2mm. Even scattering of fine mica. 2 sherds, 37g.

ES2: *Calcareous Sandstone.* Sparse to moderate calcite-cemented sandstone up to 2mm, many 'free' quartz grains, sparse calcareous material (?chalk) up to 1mm, even scattering of fine mica. 3 sherds, 43g.

The fabrics are typical of hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010). These sherds are almost certainly of early or early middle Anglo-Saxon (c 5th – early 8th century) date. Recent work in Ely and, on a broader scale, East Anglia generally, has indicated very strongly that hand-built pottery was rarely made and used in the part of the middle Saxon period when Ipswich Ware was current (c AD720-850). At sites such as West Fen Road, Ely (Blinkhorn 2005), over 400 sherds of Ipswich Ware noted, but just three hand-built sherds. This would therefore suggest that the hand-built pottery from this site pre-dates the start of Ipswich Ware use in the area around AD720. Unfortunately, Early Saxon hand-built pottery can only generally be dated from decorated sherds, and all the sherds from here are plain. This is not unusual, as decorated pottery from domestic sites usually comprises around 5% or less of such assemblages.

Post-medieval

A single small group of post-medieval pottery occurred in context [4805], with the following fabrics noted:

Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 1 sherd, 7g.

Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware 17th – early 18th century (Orton 1988). Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration, . Range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases. 1 sherd, 2g.

Metropolitan Slipware, 17th – 18th centuries. Similar fabric to Red Earthenware, with geometric designs in white slip under the glaze. Produced at a number of centres, but particularly Harlow in Essex (Davey and Walker 2009). 1 sherd, 28g.

Iron-glazed Earthenware, late 17th – 18th centuries. Range of large, heavy utilitarian vessels, mainly pancheons, with a thick, black, internal glaze. 1 sherd, 81g.

Mass-produced white earthenwares, 19th and 20th centuries. 1 sherd, 7g.

The fabrics are all typical finds in the region, and have a date range of the 17th – 19th centuries.

5.4 Ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

Roman ceramic tile

There are six sherds of Roman tile, weighing 684g, from contexts (610), (4829) and (5411), ditches [608] and [4828] and pit [5408]. The three curved *imbrex* roof tile sherds are 13mm thick, two are made from shelly ware, the other is made from fine orange sandy clay with fine gravel and grog. The three floor tile sherds are made from hard coarse sandy clay, with occasional chalk, grog and gravel.

Fired clay

The four fragments of fired clay come from contexts (3505) gully [3404], (5411) and (5413) pit [5408], made from sandy or silty fabrics. Three have one flat surface. A larger irregular-shaped sandy red-brown fragment has a possible worn wattle impression with a 25mm diameter.

Post-medieval brick and tile

The two brick pieces and three small tile sherds come from context (4805) gully [4804]. The large brick fragment is 38mm (1½ inches) thick, made with a very hard fine yellow-white clay with pink streaks. One surface is quite smooth. Three small joining roof tile fragments, 13mm thick, are made from the same material. These items are unlikely to be earlier than the 18th century in date, when this particular colour began to be used in brick and tile. The other brick fragment is made from dark red-brown slightly soft clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

5.5 The Querns by Andy Chapman

From the fill (606) of ditch [605], there is a fragment from the circumference of an upper stone from a flat rotary quern in Millstone Grit, typically of those in use during the Roman period. The stone is 50mm thick, but too little of the circumference survives to estimate the diameter. The grinding surface is concave and worn smoother and the upper surface has dimpled tool marks.

5.6 The other finds by Tora Hylton

There are eight finds from Trenches 6, 9 and 48.

Finds of Roman and Saxon date were located in a series of linear features within the confines of Trench 6. In addition, a small undiagnostic fragment of sheet metal (iron) was recovered from Trench 9, ditch [904], and an iron hobnail and a lead repair patch were recovered from Trench 48, the former from buried soil (4818) and the latter from subsoil deposits (4802).

The Roman finds from Trench 6 were recovered in association with pottery sherds dating from the 2nd to 4th century, and they include, a suspension hook and two undiagnostic fragments from fill (610) from ditch [608] and a clenched nail shank and an undiagnostic fragment from Ditch 611 [609]. The suspension-hook is U-shaped with a rectangular cross-section; the hook terminates in a small knob and the other end

tapers and it is folded back on its self, the tail end is coiled around the upper section of hook to form a suspension loop. The hook resembles a type of suspension hook that would have been used as part of a steelyard for weighing. It is not dissimilar to a suspension hook found in association with a steelyard at Dorn Farm, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, which too is manufactured from iron and dates to the late Roman period (Manning 1985, Plate 52, P40 and 41). Similar copper alloy examples are known from Richborough (Henderson 1949, Plate XXXVIII, 133) and Colchester (Crummy 1983, 104, 2508). The suspension hook would have acted as a fulcrum to ensure the correct equilibrium was achieved. Two hooks were usually employed to enable a greater range of weights.

Saxon finds comprise a composite, round-backed comb manufactured from antler (Pers com. Karen Deighton), it was recovered from Ditch 613 [614], together with a small assemblage of Saxon pottery. Most of the teeth and the terminals of the end-plates and connecting-plates are missing. The comb comprises six individual sections, four tooth-plate segments (including end-plates) and two connecting-plates, which originally would have been secured by copper alloy rivets (one rivet extant and copper alloy staining around the other perforations). The tooth-plate is made up of four individual pieces, each section is shaped to form the rounded apex of the comb; the outside edge is 'scalloped' or 'frilly-edged' and each 'scallop' is perforated. Most of the teeth are missing (three extant and measuring c15mm long), but the bases of the teeth survive and the distance between indicates that there would have been 8 teeth per 10mm. The end-plates would have splayed out and projected beyond the end of the connecting-plates; the parts of the teeth that remain indicate that they are graduated.

The connecting-plates would have been positioned on either side of the tooth-plate and secured by ten equidistant rivets, five each along the lower and upper edges. The connecting-plates are ornamented with motif of compass drawn ring and dots within a border of five marginally placed close set incised grooves. The lower edges of the connecting-plates are furnished with tiny equidistant notches, spaced according to the size of the teeth; these were created during the cutting of the teeth.



The antler comb (Scale 20mm)

Fig 12

This comb has been manufactured to a high standard and stylistically it closely parallels an example illustrated by Roes (1963, fig 3) which was recovered from the Cathedral Square, Utrecht, suggesting that this example may be an import. Triangular combs were fashionable in the 4th and 5th centuries (Roes 1963, 10), and stylistically those with a more rounded apex date to the latter part of that period (Ibid 1963, 11). A not dissimilar fragment with a 'frilled' edge was recovered from a 5th-century sunken featured building at West Stowe (West 1985, Fig 94, 12), while other less well executed examples with compass drawn motifs have been recovered from Spong Hill, Norfolk (Hills 1977 fig 133, 1496). For a brief discussion see Macgregor (1985, 83).

Illustration catalogue

Fig 12: Comb, antler. Tooth plates – length (incomplete): 70mm Height (incomplete): 39mm TH: 2mm Connecting-plates – Length (incomplete): 80mm Height: 34mm TH: c.1mm (Context 614, Ditch 613)

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Animal bone by Matilda Holmes

A total of 7.5kg (2 archive boxes) of animal bone was collected by hand from 25 contexts. The majority of contexts produced only one or two identifiable pieces. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and to aid the understanding of the site.

Methodology

Bones were identified using the author's reference collection, and further guidelines as required. Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, bones of this type were assigned to the category 'sheep/goat', unless a definite identification (Prummel and Frisch, 1986; Payne, 1985) could be made. The method for recording animal bones is based on Davis (1992), where only 'countable' fragments were recorded. 'Countable' fragments are those which contained epiphyses or metaphyses (the ends) of long bones, scapulae, phalanges, and vertebrae, the acetabulum of the pelvis, medial projection of the calcaneus, and the astragalus where over 50% was present. The zygomatic arch, maxilla and occipital areas of the skull were recorded if present, as were mandibles and loose mandibular teeth. Fragments that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (small – rodent /rabbit sized; medium – sheep / pig / dog size; or large – cattle / horse size).

Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Silver (1969), as were bone fusion (Amorosi 1989 and Silver 1969), metrical data (von den Driesch, 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996), evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988) and working. The condition of bones was noted on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is perfectly preserved and 5, the bone is so badly degraded to be almost unrecognisable (Lyman 1994). Other taphonomic factors were also recorded, including the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments. As only epiphyses of bones were recorded, these can be more fragile in very young animals, so porous bones from animals in the first few months of life were also noted.

Taphonomy and Condition

Bones were generally in good to fair condition, although there was a high number of fresh breaks, and a moderate amount of refitted fragments, which indicate that the burial conditions made the assemblage friable and liable to break when handled (Table 11, Appendix 2). A greater proportion of fragments from Iron Age contexts contained signs of canid gnawing and loose teeth, suggesting that they were not buried as rapidly as those from later features. More butchery marks were observed from the Roman and Saxon assemblages, implying greater processing of animal carcasses in these phases. No signs of burning were recorded, indicating that bones from these features were not directly exposed to fire either during processing or disposal.

The Assemblage

There were no distinct deposits of craft working or primary butchery waste, although the red deer antler from the Saxon phase showed signs of working. Cattle and sheep/goat remains dominated the assemblage, while pig, horse and dog remains were also observed (Table 12, Appendix 2). The size of the assemblage meant that there was little ageing data, although neonatal sheep were present in Iron Age contexts, indicating that they were bred on the site.

6.2 The plant macro fossils by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Ely, undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, recorded ditches, pits, gullies and other discrete deposits of Romano-British date. This work was conducted on land adjacent to a known enclosure system of Iron Age to Roman date, excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology between 1999 – 2000 (Prickwillow Road, Ely, Atkins and Mudd 2003). Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil

assemblages were taken from ten of the current excavation trenches, and twenty two were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by Northamptonshire Archaeology using standard techniques, and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 3. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants, including fibrous roots, seeds and arthropod remains, were present throughout, forming a major component within a number of the assemblages studied.

Results

Although cereal grains, chaff and/or seeds of common weeds were present within all but three of the assemblages, the density of material recorded was generally very low, with macrofossils frequently occurring as single specimens within an assemblage. Preservation was mostly poor, with many of the cereals being both puffed and distorted (possibly as a result of combustion at very high temperatures) and fragmentary. The macrofossils within sample 8 (ditch [613]) were also very abraded, possibly indicating that they had either been exposed for a long period prior to burial or had been subjected to some post-depositional disturbance.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, along with a number of cereals, which were too poorly preserved for close identification. Wheat occurred most frequently, with many of the grains being of an elongated 'drop' form typical of emmer (*T. dicoccum*) or spelt (*T. spelta*). Spelt glume bases were noted within four assemblages.

Weed seeds were very scarce, occurring within only ten of the assemblages studied. All were of common ruderal or grassland species including brome (*Bromus* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*) type, medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.) and grasses (Poaceae). Nutlets of spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), both common wetland plants, were noted within three assemblages.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments, most of which were very comminuted, were present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Other plant macrofossils were exceedingly scarce, but did include pieces of charred root/stem and indeterminate culm nodes and seeds.

Other remains were also scarce, being entirely absent from five of the assemblages studied. Although many of the fragments of black porous and tarry material were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, some pieces were very hard and brittle, possibly suggesting that they were derivatives of the combustion of coal, fragments of which were also recorded. Other remains included bone and fish bone fragments, flakes of heat-altered or burnt stone and small globules of vitreous material.

Shells of both terrestrial and marsh/freshwater slum molluscs were present at a low to moderate density within all but eight of the samples (not tabulated). However, most were extremely well preserved, with some retaining both coloration and delicate surface structures. As a result, it was presumed that most were intrusive within the contexts from which the samples were taken. Notwithstanding this, the species present were indicative of open, short-turfed grassland conditions, with minimal areas of shade. The presence of shells of *Lymnaea* sp. and *Succinea* sp. probably indicated

that many of the excavated ditches and gullies were at least seasonally wet at their bases.

Discussion

Although plant remains are generally scarce, small concentrations of material do occur within the trenches to the south-west of the Field 2 area (particularly trenches 6, 9 and 48), that is immediately adjacent to the highest concentrations of material recorded during the Prickwillow Road excavation (ibid). As the current assemblages appear to be largely derived from small scatters/deposits of domestic detritus and/or cereal processing waste, it would appear most likely that this entire area formed some focus of agricultural or marginal domestic activity during the Romano-British period, although the principal domestic focus of the site still appears to be elusive. When compared to the earlier assemblages, the current samples are very sparse, with most of the remains probably being derived from scattered refuse or wind-dispersed detritus, much of which was possibly accidentally incorporated within the various feature fills and deposits on site.

6.3 Geoarchaeological appraisal by Mike Allen

The site was visited on 15th February 2011 with A Maul and E Taylor. A series of specific sedimentary sequences were examined, a targeted palaeo-environmental and geoarchaeological sampling strategy provided, three key sequences were described (trenches 33, 52 and 48) and monolith samples taken from all three to augment field descriptions.

Site background

The site is situated on an east-facing slope leading down to a local water course. The topographic ridge is created by a greensand ridge, but the area locally is Kimmeridge Clays and glacial tills which generally support brown earths and stagnogleyic brown earths with earthy peat soils in the river valley.

The archaeology comprises mainly linear ditches and a drove way; the main activity is mid 1st to 4th centuries AD (E Taylor pers comm), and seems largely to comprise field systems away from the centre and focus any domestic or settlement activity.

Aims

The aims of this report are to provide a geoarchaeological background, and outline land-use history where possible, and indicate the geoarchaeological potential. Thus the report aims to :-

- provide a sedimentary and pedological background
- provide full records of the key sequences described
- describe and record subsamples (taken as and if appropriate) from the three monolith sequences
- provide an assessment of the on-site colluvial context and sequence histories
- indicate soil chemistry (phosphate / magnetic susceptibility) potential
- provide costed post-excavation programme (as and if required)
- include a summary/overview

Geoarchaeology

A series of geoarchaeological themes derived from the exposures in the evaluation were addressed as follows.

1. Colluvium

Hillwash was present in some trenches. A record of its occurrence was made and detailed descriptions made from one location (Trench 33) where the deepest and best profile was exposed. Examination of the colluvial sequence and a possible buried soil was as made to elucidate an outline land-use history, and to define the palaeo-environmental and geoarchaeological potential.

2. Peat in the stream-side valley bottom

Peat reported in one trench (52) nearest the small stream at the base of the slope was examined and sampled to determine its palaeo-environmental potential. In particular the possibility of obtaining a stratified pollen record which might elucidate the nature of local and landscape and land-use penecontemporaneous with the archaeology and human activity recorded.

3. Colluvial deposits with Trench 48 contain a more humic deposit

The profile exposed in Trench 48 was examined, described and sampled to determine the nature and geoarchaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of the possibly more humic layer and this short sediment sequence.

Methods

Many of the evaluation trenches were rapidly examined and cursory basic records made of soil depth, the presence of Holocene sediments, and the nature of the parent material ('natural'). Some of these summary records are given in Appendix 1. More detailed records were made at selected locations, and the exposed trench sections were cleaned to reveal an unweathered face, and the sediments described using standard notation (Hodgson 1976). These descriptions were augmented by more detailed examination of the monoliths sampling key parts of the profile. Again the face of the undisturbed sediment in the monolith was cleaned carefully before description to expose an unweathered surface and attempt to reveal any soil or sediment structure. Descriptions were recorded moist following nomenclature outlined by Hodgson (1976), and munsel soil colours recorded in natural light.

To aid in characterising the colluvial sequence in trench 33 a rapid simple programme of magnetic susceptibility measurements were made on 10g samples of air dry sediment >2mm retained in demagnetised 10cc azlon pots, and measured using a Bartington MS2B meter coupled to a dual frequency MS2B coil. For this rapid magnetic susceptibility profile measurements were only recorded at low frequency (LF). Three measurements were made of each samples and the mode recorded (Tables 15).

Magnetic Susceptibility

Magnetic susceptibility enhancement may be due, at one level, to pedogenic activity and enhanced biological activity in top soils, enabling the differentiation between topsoil and 'subsoils' (Tite & Mullins 1971; Allen 1986; Allen & Macphail 1987), and vegetation types the topsoil supported to be inferred (Allen 1986; 1988). The principals are summarised elsewhere (eg Allen 1986; 1988; 1990; Clark 1990). Anthropogenic activity, such as burning, may result in enhancement (but at different orders of magnitude than that created by environmental or pedogenic enhancement) may be detected and related to past soil regime or vegetation type.

Sampling

The sequence was subsampled in 10mm band-widths at 5cm intervals for magnetic susceptibility (see below and Appendix 2). Subsampling for pollen was not deemed necessary as colluvial deposits are well aerated, biotically mixed and often pollen-poor (Dimbleby 1985; Scaife pers com).

Colluvium

The top of the ridge supports shallow brown earth plough soils, over drift and glacial till (e.g. Trenches 3, 13, 25, 48 etc., Appendix 1). Footslope locations contained colluvium lying at the break of slope but not continuing further. Where colluvium was most pronounced (Trench 33) a clear colluvial buried soil was present within the hillwash sequence. This occurred in less well preserved, mixed and truncated form where more shallowly buried (eg Trench 29). Full descriptions were made of the sequence in Trench 33, and a 50cm long monolith taken through the lower part of the upper colluvium, the buried soil and the upper part of the lower colluvium.

Distribution of colluvium

A range of trenches were examined across the whole site excluding Trenches 34-51 and 45-56 to the north-east of the site which were not available for inspection at the time of the visit (Appendix 2). The presence of colluvium >40-50cm was used to indicate presence, and this is crudely mapped on Figure 1.

The main colluvial packet seems to be restricted to one area of footslope where the contributing slope is steepest (Fig. 13). Areas to the south had gentler slopes and although colluvium was present it was very shallow. Trenching of comparable areas to the north were not available for inspection at the time of the geoarchaeological visit. The area of mapped colluvial extent is, therefore, indicative and may be more extensive.

The potential of the presence, extent and depth of this colluvium is discussed below.

Colluvial geoarchaeology

A full geoarchaeological record was made from Trench 33 where the sequence was deepest, most complete and the putative buried soil with the colluvium was most evident. The full record is given below, with summary interpretation of each layer. This was described in the field, and then augmented with closer more detailed examination of the monolith. In addition a series of 10 subsamples were taken and measured for magnetic susceptibility

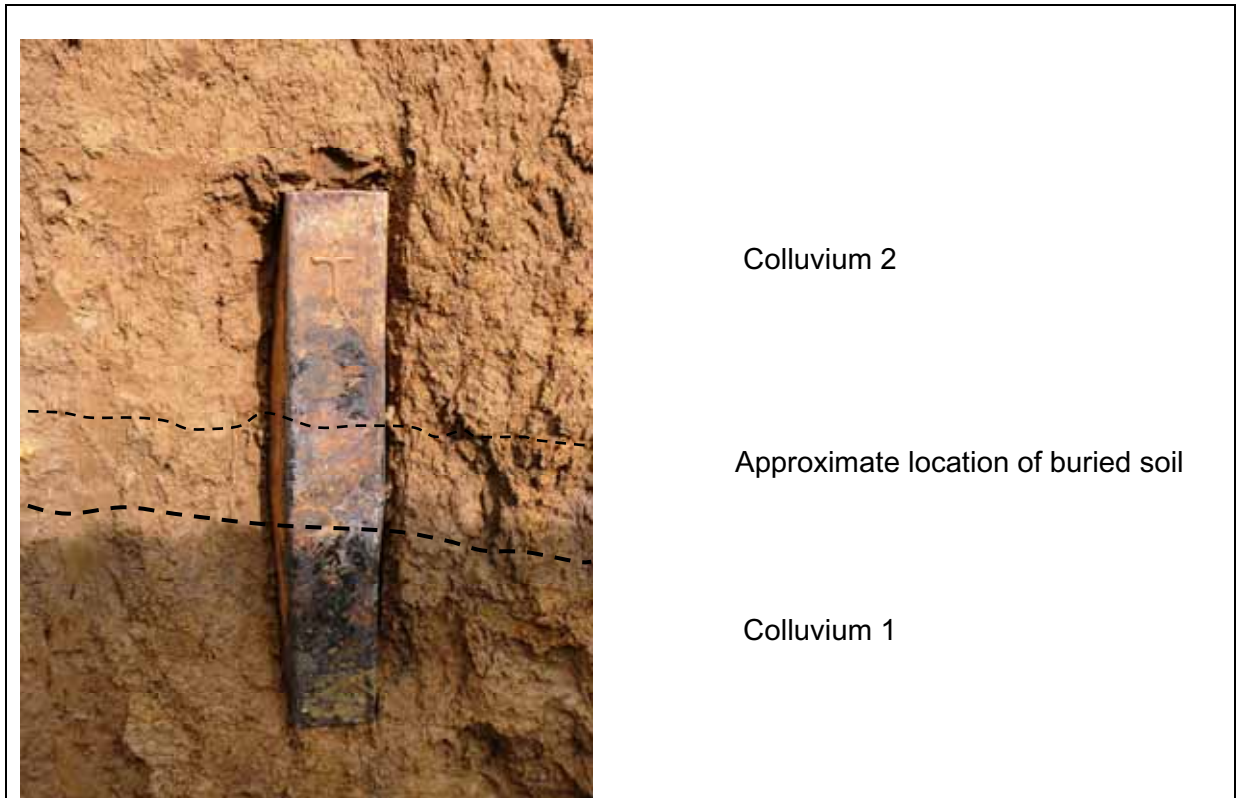
Table 7: Description of deposits, Trench 33

context	Depth * (cm)	Unit samples	description
3301	0-24		Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) humic silty clay loam, stone-free, large weak blocky – subangular structure, rare fine fleshy roots, common fine macropores, abrupt wavy boundary Ap - ploughsoil
3302	24-79	660mm 710mm 760mm	Yellowish brown to brownish yellow (10YR 5/8 – 6/8) stone-free massive compact silt loam colluvium with fine sand grains visible and rare fine charcoal fragments, clear boundary Colluvium 2
3304	79-94	810mm 860mm 910mm	Yellowish brown to brown (10YR 5/4 - 4/3) stone-free, silty clay, with weak small to medium subangular blocky structure, clear boundary ?bB colluvial soil (colluvial brown earth)
3305	94-123	960mm 1010mm 1060mm 1110mm	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6 – 6/8) silty clay with clear fine moderate strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) Mn mottles towards base, abrupt boundary Colluvium 1
3303	123+		Yellow silty clay and sand

Monolith at 560mm-1060mm

Three distinct colluvial units were present (Figure 14). A lower unsorted stone-free colluvium with evidence of ground-water gley at the base (Colluvium 1) was c. 0.3m thick. Mottling resulting from groundwater gley here is post-depositional and provides evidence of fluctuating watertables since deposition.

A soil developed in this lower colluvium probably as a result of cessation, or more likely lessening, of erosion and deposition at this footslope location. This may be a consequence of reduced human activity upslope, or the creation of more formalised fields and field boundaries (ditches and lynchets) arresting soil erosion before arrival at the footslope (eg Allen 1988, fig 6.5 Allen 1991, fig 5.2).



The colluvial sequence in Trench 33

Fig 14

The upper part of this colluvial soil was incorporated within further colluvium as a result of renewed, or increased colluviation (colluvium 2); the deposition of which resulted in c. 0.8m of unsorted stone-free hillwash.

A section about 3m long and full depth of the section in Trench 33 was vigorously cleaned-back, not just for observation of the sediments, but also in an attempt to recover any artefacts from which the colluvia could be dated (cf. Bell 1983; Allen 1991). The buried soil horizon was examined more vigorously along a length of approximately 5m. No artefacts were recovered from the cleaning back of nearly 4m² of the section. Consequently the entire sequence remains undated.

Magnetic susceptibility

The rapid magnetic susceptibility profile showed low readings and little magnetic susceptibility enhancement; readings typical of hillwash (Allen 1988). Both the upper and lower colluvium gave low readings (6-8) and are indistinguishable on the basis of magnetic susceptibility. The putative buried soil, however, consistently shows significant enhancement of about $\times 2.5$ with readings of 15-17 (Table 14), typical of enhancement in soils. Further this enhancement is restricted to the zone observed as having darker hues and more pronounced structure. cursory examination indicates that it is likely to represent the base (bB) of a former soil and stasis in colluviation.

Outline land-use and landscape history

Based on the record from Trench 33, also noted in Trench 29, an outline history of erosion, deposition events and soil formation can be defined and related to human activities and land-use. The chronology and dating of these events, is however, speculative and assumed.

Typically there is no basal buried soil as is common with most colluvial sequences (Allen 1988; 1991; Bell 1983 etc.), suggesting the removal of the postglacial forest soil, probably by initial prehistoric deforestation usually attributed to Neolithic or Bronze Age activities. Erosion and subsequently some deposition may occur as a result of woodland clearance.

The first phase of colluviation (colluvium 1), however, can probably be attributed to preparation of land for cultivation and tillage itself. We can postulate that this colluvium may have commenced in later prehistory (cf Prickwillow Road, Atkins & Mudd 2003), but it is possible that the Romano-British activity recorded at High Flyers Farm may also have been responsible for some of the colluvium in this unit. The presence of stasis and buried soil may indicate a more formalised bounded farmed landscape, as discussed above, or the change from tillage to pasture, or reduction in tillage immediately upslope. The date of this is difficult to ascertain, though it *may* present the creation of field systems and ditches in the Romano-British period as seen in the archaeological evidence from the evaluation trenches.

The final phase of colluviation probably indicates renewed tillage, and gain dating this possibly long duration phase is difficult. Some of the colluviation might relate to the Romano-British activity, but it is probable that the majority relates to medieval and post-medieval farming of the adjacent slope.

Table 8: Postulated land-use history

	Geoarchaeological Event	Deposit	Archaeological activity	Possible date
7	Tillage and pasture	Present day soil	Current farming	Post-medieval to recent
6	Renewed colluviation	Colluvium 2	Renewed tillage	Medieval
5	Lessening of colluviation, stasis and stabilisation	Colluvial soil	-	Romano-British or post Romano-British
4	Colluviation	Colluvium 1	Tillage	Late prehistoric – Romano-British
3	Erosion and truncation of former soil	-	Woodland clearance	Neolithic-Bronze Age
2	Development of post-glacial soil	-	-	Mesolithic - > Neolithic
1	Parent Material	Rw	-	Geological

Significance, implications and palaeo-environmental potential of the colluvium

The extent of colluvium is relatively local (Fig. 13), but this must be seen as the minimum extent. The colluvium can provide a geoarchaeological record (see above), but which would be more significant if phases of hillwash could be dated via the distribution or presence of included artefacts (cf Allen 1988; 1991; Bell 1983).

The hillwash may mask, seal and contain relevant archaeological evidence, including whole phases of activity or even whole classes of site (Allen 1995; Bell 1983). This

evidence and these sites are not readily detected by surface archaeological reconnaissance (Allen 1991), but their presence here is unlikely because of the relatively limited area of the colluvial blanket, and the fact that features are likely to extend beyond the colluvial envelope and be detected in the immediately adjacent area.

Colluvial sequences have the potential to provide long and stratified sequences of palaeo-environmental evidence relating to the local land-use history. Pollen, however, is typically very poorly preserved, if present, in colluvial deposits (Dimbleby 1985; Scaife pers comm), and although some of the areas in the vicinity have produced moderate land snail assemblages, the deposits here are clearly not calcareous and will not contain sufficient shells, if any, for statistically useful analysis (cf. Evans 1972).

The buried soil, as detected from visual inspection and by soil magnetic susceptibility, is however of some archaeological significance. This stasis horizon may contain evidence of human activity, though the total lack of the recovery of any artefacts suggest that this is likely to be low, if present at all.

Stream-side valley bottom peat

The presence of 'peat' in Trench 52 (Figs 13 and 15) close to the watercourse is potentially of great palaeo-environmental significance. Such deposits can contain long stratified pollen sequences contain landscape and land-use histories relevant to the human activity detected in the archaeological evaluation here, but also elsewhere, such as Prickwillow Road (Atkins & Mudd 2003).



The humic silty peat in Trench 52

Fig 15

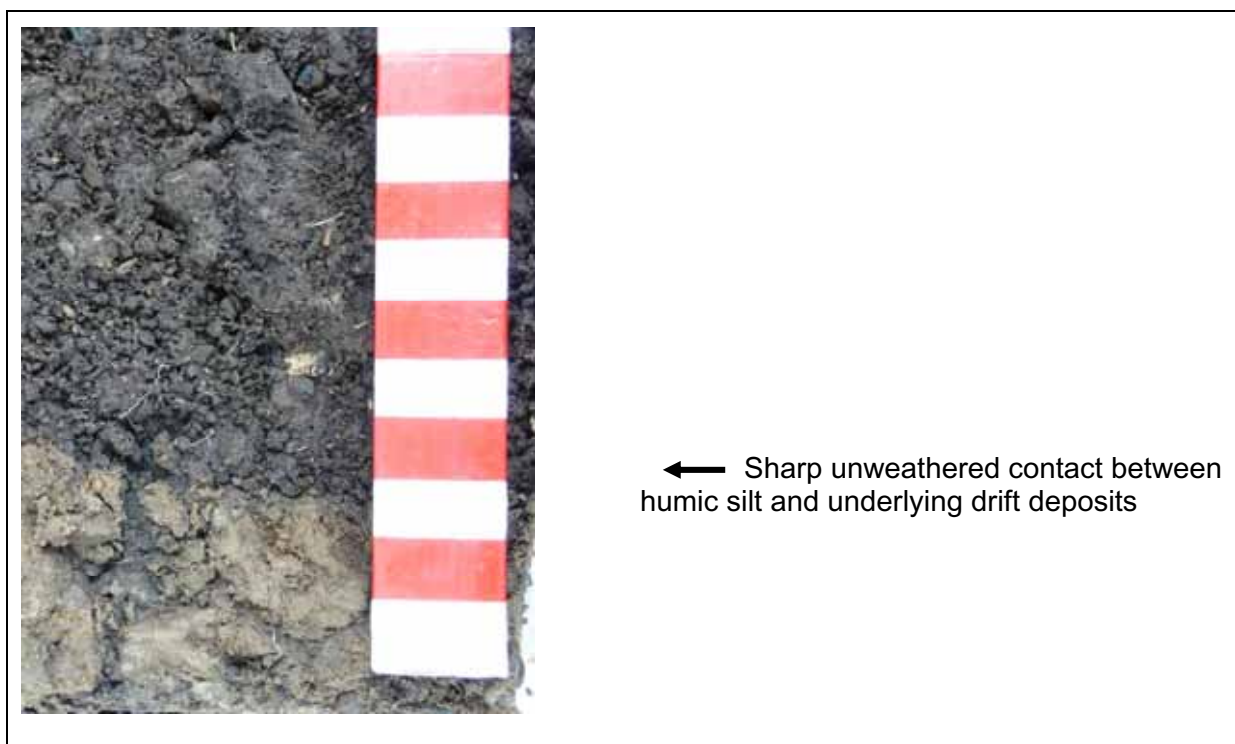
The deposits were relatively shallow (c 1m in total) and was only recorded in this one evaluation trench (Fig 15). Detailed description both in the field and of the monolith sample is given below.

Table 9: Description of deposits, Trench 52

context	Depth * (mm)	Unit samples	description
5201	0-400		Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) loose crumbly structureless stone-free humic silt, many veridical fissures to 6mmn, clear to gradual boundary
5202	400-1020		Very dark brown to black (10YR 2/2 – 2.1) firm slightly moist massive uniform homogeneous humic/humified peaty silt with some fine fleshy roots, with fine (>10mm) lenses of brown (10YR 4/3) silt loam, at 95cm (42cm in monolith) are three fragments of fine sandy mortar to 14mm, sharp smooth boundary
5204	1020+		Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) massive large blocky silty clay, with rare vertical macropres (4mm-5mm) over gravels R – parent material

Monolith at 53cm - 103cm (0-450mm, humic silt; 450-500mm+ dark greyish brown silty clay)

There is no internal stratification within the deposit, and the soil development on the deposit is largely undifferentiated indicating a relatively young (in pedological terms) soil. The deposit was homogenous and highly humified and not recognisable plant remains were noted. Up to 25mm of the surface of the sediments retained in the monolith were carefully removed to recover any artefacts and palaeo-environmental significant items. Only a small fragment (up to 14mm) of probably post-medieval mortar were present low down in the sequence and only 70mm from the bottom of the deposit.



Detail of the sharp contact between the humic silt and underlying geology

Fig 16

Most significant is the astonishingly sharp contact of the humified silt with the underlying drift deposits (Fig. 16). This unweathered contact suggests an unconformity which might be due to erosion and the creation of an erosion surface before the *in situ* formation of peaty deposits. However, more likely is the fact that this is cut surface upon which the humic peaty deposits have been dumped in relatively recent times. It is even possible that this infilling a former river channel or small oxbow. It seems unlikely that this formation is of any antiquity, but the humic matter itself may be.

Consequently no subsampling for pollen has been undertaken, and at present the significance of this deposit is considered low.

Colluvium-filled feature

A humic lens was noted within the colluvial infill with trench 48. This was described in the field, and a monolith of undisturbed sediments taken, and supplied by, the excavators for more detailed geoarchaeological description. The colluvium seems to infill a local landscape feature, possibly related to the driveway (see Fig. 13).

Table 10: Description of deposits, Trench 48

context	Depth * (mm)	Unit samples	description
4801	0-320		Very dark grey AP
4802	320-420		Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) moist plastic silty clay loam with some medium sand visible, rare very small stones otherwise essentially stone-free, small moderate reddish brown (5Y 4/3) sandy mottles, clear boundary Colluvium / feature infill
4818	420-500		Brown to dark brown (10YR 4/3 – 3/3) ? humic moist pliable silty clay, stone-free with weak small to medium block to subangular structure, few small moderate reddish brown (5Y 4/3) sandy mottles, clear boundary bB
4819	500-700		Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) moist plastic silty clay loam with some medium sand visible, few small and medium stones, common small moderate reddish brown (5Y 4/3) sandy mottles, clear boundary Colluvium / feature infill
4803	700-760+		Weathered clay Rw

The colluvium is located on the brow of the hill above the slope to the watercourse, and the colluvial infill (4819 and 4802) is a dark greyish moist gleyed silty loam ponding between ditches to west and east. The gleying indicates locally high, , groundwater table, or the creation of a less soluble boundary below the deposits; possibly due to compaction of the 'natural' by human and animal footfalls and trampling.

Within the colluvial infill is a distinct darker band with weak ped structure, again indicating temporary stasis in infill and the development of a, presumably, grassland soil. This stasis is a local feature-specific phenomena and cannot be related or equated to that seen in the footslope colluvium (trench 33).

This is an important record relating the use, and dis-use history of this feature. Its implication and value for the rest of the site is, however, probably limited. The palaeo-

environmental significance is relatively low as the buried soil post-dates the use of the feature.

Palaeo-environmental considerations

A number of palaeo-environmental aspects are considered here. Some specific palaeo-environmental sampling requirements were reported on site, and in the site visits rapid résumé (Allen 2011).

Droeway

The possibility of defining if the drove way was used drive cattle might be determined by the measurement and record of high phosphate levels relative to the surrounding area indicating the input of dung. This could be achieved by taking a transect of a small suite of 250g/ml samples from the exposed surface natural across the droeway in addition to samples either side and a control from elsewhere away from archaeological activity. This is outlined in Allen (2011).

Palaeo-environmental sampling of the monolith sample sequences

Pollen

Subsampling for pollen from the colluvium (trench 33) was not undertaken due to the likelihood of poor pollen preservation in colluvium. Subsampling from the humified silty peat sequence was not undertake due its potentially very recent age.

Land Snails

Although the potential for land snail survival exists and good bone preservation was seen at Prickwillow Road, shell preservation was poor and sparse (Deighton in Atkins & Mudd 2003). The deposits here, especially the footslope colluvium is unlikely to recover significant or even statistically useful numbers of shells, if indeed they are preserved at all.

Summary / overview

The geoarchaeological appraisal has indicated an outline land-use history. It suggests phases of landscape stability, and of cultivation. It hints at the possibility of the establishment of a more managed and bounded farmed landscape, but the date of this phase of activity can only be postulated.

The presence of a buried soil was confirmed and it significant in relation the local land-use history, but its overall significance is relatively low.

The presence of colluvium may contain, seal and mask archaeological evidence not detectable by normal surface reconnaissance. However the potential of significant remains being masked by the relatively limited extent of colluvium here is considered to be low.

The presence of humified silty peats (trench 52) are considered to be recent and of little palaeo-environmental significance.

Future work

This geoarchaeological appraisal provides the main outline land-use history. Further dating of the colluvial sequences would provide a chronology to the postulated history and enable the production of revised and more useful report.

No subsamples were deemed necessary for palaeo-environmental (pollen) assessment or analysis.

The colluvial deposits are not calcareous enough to preserve shells, and certainly not in suitable numbers to make analysis statistically viable (cf. Evans 1972), and shell survival elsewhere on site is deemed to be poor.

The undisturbed sediments should be discarded.

7 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation has confirmed the presence of a complex of enclosures in the south-western part of the site, the continuation and a possible droveway leading to the square double-ditched enclosure detected by geophysical survey to the north of the current study area (Walford 2011).

The chronological sequence of activity broadly parallels that seen to the immediate south at the Prickwillow Road excavations (Atkins and Mudd 2003) of which the settlement at High Flyer Farm is almost certainly a continuation. Background levels of flint and a single sherd of pottery, all thought to be residual in nature, attest to activity on the site from the Late Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age. Settlement features comprising ditches, a pit and a posthole appeared in the south-west corner of the site probably during the middle of the 5th century BC. Between the 4th century BC and 1st century AD the western side of the site appeared to have been loosely divided by a series of fragmentary ditches which, from the trial trench evidence, formed no clear plan.

A peak of activity occurred during the 2nd and 4th centuries AD when a more structured and densely spaced complex of rectilinear enclosures developed. The complex sprawled to the south-east slightly, away from the high ground and focused on the southern end of the droveway leading to the square enclosure (seen on the geophysical survey plot) to north-west. A second track or droveway apparently leading to the enclosure was also present in the open land in the north-eastern part of the site. Unlike the Prickwillow Road site, elements of the enclosure complex were maintained into the Early or Early Middle Saxon period.

Little can be said of the site's economy but the small enclosures and droveways would appear to be features of stock management.

During all phases of activity, the site appeared to have been on the eastern periphery of any occupation as suggested by the lack of structural evidence and the paucity of ceramic and faunal remains. The land in the eastern and northern part of the site remained unenclosed until medieval or post-medieval times.

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APPENDIX 1: summary of contexts and features

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	50m x 1.6m E-W	555200/282031	21m aOD	20.51m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam.	0.30m-0.34m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand clay	0.20m thick	-
103	Natural	Mid orange/yellow clay with sand and gravel inclusions.		-
[104]	Gully Filled by 105 and 106	N-S linear. Gradual sloping profile, broad concave base, cuts subsoil	1.95m wide 0.68m deep	-
105	Fill of Gully [104]	Mid brown silty-sand with infrequent flint inclusions	0.2m thick	-
106	Fill of Gully [104]	Dark brown silty-sand with infrequent flint inclusions	0.5m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555177/2811908	20.95m aOD	20.43m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam.	0.3m-0.35m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand clay	0.2m thick	-
203	Natural	Mid orange/yellow clay with sand and gravel inclusions.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555283/281988	20.14m aOD	19.56m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate flint gravel.	0.23m-0.37m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid yellow/brown sandy clay with orange mottling, flint nodules and limestone inclusions	0.17m-0.34m thick	-

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303	Natural	Light yellow/orange brown sandy clay with moderate limestone fragments and occasional pockets of orange sand and small patches of blue/grey clay.		-
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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555265/281922	20.12m aOD	19.59m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate flint gravel.	0.17m-0.30m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid yellow/brown sandy clay with orange mottling, flint nodules and small limestone inclusions	0.19m-0.35m thick	-
403	Natural	Mixed horizon of light yellow/orange brown sandy clay with moderate limestone fragments and patches of sterile yellow/red sand.		-
[404]	Gully?, Filled by 405	NNE-SSW linear, shallow concave profile, possibly natural rill	1m wide 0.35m deep	-
405	Fill, Gully [404]	Sterile mid-orange brown red sand.	0.35m thick	-
[406]	Gully or Natural feature filled by 407	NNE-SSW linear, gradual sloping profile with broad flat base.	1m wide 0.45m deep	-
407	Fill of gully or natural channel [406]	Sterile mid-orange brown red sand with gravel inclusions.	0.45m thick	-
[408]	Gully or Natural feature filled by 407	NNW-SSE linear, gradual sloping profile, broad flat base	1m wide 0.3m deep	-
409	Fill of gully or natural channel [408]	Sterile mid-orange brown red sand with gravel inclusions.	0.3m thick	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	50m x 1.6m NNW-SSE	555269/281887	20.14m aOD	19.45m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.28-0.46m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Orange brown grey silty clay.	0.02m-0.14m thick	-
503	Natural	Orange grey sandy silt with decayed limestone fragments and clay patches.		-
504	Subsoil	Leached orange brown sandy gravel.	0.15m-0.36m thick	-
[505]	Ditch Fill 506	NW-SE linear, Gradual sloping sides with broad, flat base, disturbed by root disturbance.	1.3m wide 0.5m deep	-
506	Fill Ditch [505]	Loose mid grey brown, silty sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions.	0.5m thick	-
[507]	Gully Fill 508	NW-SE linear, very gradual sloping profile, broad flat base.	0.50m wide 0.02m deep	-
508	Fill Gully [507]	Yellow orange sterile sandy gravel	0.02m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	60m x 1.6m NE-SW	555252/281837	19.97m aOD	19.43m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	0.25m-0.36m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Light grey/brown sandy silt	0.1m-0.13m thick	-
603	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand.	0.23m thick	-
604	Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with frequent flecks of decayed limestone.		-
[605]	Ditch Filled by 606 and 607	NW-SE linear, with southern side having a steep profile with slightly concave base.	1.4m wide 0.55m deep	-
606	Fill (Upper) Ditch [605]	Loosely compacted light grey/brown sandy silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.25m thick	Pottery, bone, oyster shell and fragment of millstone SF15

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607	Fill (primary) Ditch [605]	Lose mid grey/brown sandy silt clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.	0.3m thick	Sample 5
[608]	Ditch Filled by 609 and 610. Re-cut of ditch [605].	NWSE linear, immediately adjacent to/parallel with ditch [605]. Steep, almost vertical sides with narrow concave base.	1.1m wide 0.6m deep	-
609	Fill (upper) Ditch [608]	Loosely compacted dark grey sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.	0.3m thick	Pottery, bone, oyster shell and Fe nail SF16 and flint SF17 Sample 6
610	Fill (primary) Ditch [608]	Loosely compacted light grey/brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.	0.3m thick	Pottery, bone, oyster shell and Fe object SF18, Fe hook SF19 and metal object SF20 Sample 7
[611]	Ditch Fill 612	NW-SE linear, forming earliest enclosure ditch subsequently re-cut by [613] and [615]. U-V shaped profile with broad, flat base.	>0.5m wide 0.3m deep	-
612	Fill Ditch [611]	Light grey brown sandy silt clay with small gravel inclusions.	0.3m thick	Bone
[613]	Ditch Fill 614	NW-SE linear, re-cut of [611], cut by [615] U-V shaped profile with broad, flat base.	>0.75m wide 0.5m deep	-
614	Fill Ditch [613]	Dark grey sandy silt with occasional small flint gravel and rare charcoal flecks.	0.5m thick	Pottery, bone and SF21 Sample 8
[615]	Ditch Fill 616	NW-SE linear, forming latest ditch in sequence, cutting [613]. Steep, almost vertical sided with irregular to flat base.	2.1m wide 0.85m deep	-
616	Fill Ditch [615]	Light brown/grey sandy silt clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.	0.85m thick	Bone

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555322/281460	19.52m aOD	19.93m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.30m-0.36m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Orange brown grey silty clay.	0.12m-0.15m thick	-
703	Natural	Orange grey sandy silt with decayed limestone fragments and clay patches.		-
704	Subsoil	Leached orange brown sandy gravel.	0.09m-0.18m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555150/281660	20.40m aOD	19.77m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam	0.24m-0.38m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt.	0.14m-0.5m thick	-
803	Natural	Mixed orange to light brown sand with frequent sand and gravel.		-
[804]	Gully Fill 805	N-S aligned with U-V shaped profile, steep sided with a flat base.	0.42 wide 0.25 deep	-
805	Fill Gully [804]	Mid brown/grey sandy silt with small flint inclusions.	0.25m thick	Pottery
[806]	Ditch Fill 807, 808	NW—SE curvilinear, gradual sloping profile, broad concave base	4.5m wide 0.8m deep	-
807	Fill Ditch [806]	Mid brown/grey sandy silt with small flint inclusions.	0.4m thick	Flint and SF9 Sample 14
808	Fill Ditch [806]	Light brown/grey sandy silt with small flint inclusions.	>0.45m thick	Bone Sample 15
809	Ditch Fill 810	E-W aligned with U shaped profile, with gradual sides and concave base.	1.72m wide 0.33m deep	-
810	Fill Ditch [809]	Dark grey/brown sandy silt with small flint gravel.	0.33 thick	Pottery and bone

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[811]	Pit/Tree throw Fill 812	Oval in plan (NE-SW aligned), with U-shaped profile and concave base.	1m-1.9m in diameter by 0.3m deep	-
[812]	Fill Pit/Tree throw [811]	Light grey sandy silt with small gravel inclusions.	0.3m thick	-
[813]	Gully/Natural Rill Fill 814	NW-SE linear, with shallow-gradual sides and flat base.	1.8m wide 0.18 deep	-
814	Fill Gully/Natural Rill [813]	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt clays with occasional small flint gravel.	0.18m thick	Bone
[815]	Gully/Natural Rill Fill 816	NW-SE linear, with shallow-gradual sides and flat base.	1.3m wide 0.3m deep	-
816	Fill Gully/Natural Rill [815]	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt clays with occasional small flint gravel.	0.3m thick	-
[817]	Gully/Natural Rill Fills 818	NW-SE linear, with shallow-gradual sides and flat base.	5.20m wide 0.24 deep	-
818	Gully/Natural Rill Fill [817]	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt clays with occasional small flint gravel.	0.24m thick	-
[819]	Gully/Natural Rill Fill 820	NW-SE linear, with shallow-gradual sides and flat base.	1.2m wide 0.3m deep	-
820	Fill [Gully/Natural Rill 819]	Mid brown grey sandy silt with flint inclusions	0.3m thick	Pottery
[821]	Ditch Fills 822, 823	NW-SE linear, U-V-shaped profile with slightly concave base.	2.5m wide 0.6 deep	-
822	Fill (upper) Ditch [821]	Light grey/brown sandy silt with flint inclusions	0.2m thick	-
823	Fill (primary) Ditch [821]	Mid brown sandy silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.4m thick	-
[824]	Ditch Fill 825	NW-SE linear, U-V-shaped profile, with broad concave base	1.2m wide 0.35m deep	-
825	Fill Ditch [824]	Mid grey sandy silt clay with occasional flint gravel.	0.35m thick	-
[826]	Gully Fill 827	NW-SE linear, U-V-shaped profile with narrow concave base.	0.57m wide 0.23m deep	-
827	Fill Gully [826]	Mid brown grey sandy silt with flint inclusions	0.23m thick	Flint

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555146/281574	19.33m aOD	18.79m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
901	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam	0.24m-0.4m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt.	0.05m-0.32m thick	-
903	Natural	Mixed orange to light brown sand with frequent sand and gravel.		-
[904]	Ditch Fill 905	E-W linear adjacent to [906]. Shallow sloping sides and concave base.	1.74m wide 0.4m deep	-
905	Fill Ditch [904]	Dark brown/grey silty-sand/clay with occasional flint.	0.4m thick	Pottery, bone and SF1
[906]	Ditch Fill 907	E-W linear, adjacent to [904]. Shallow sloping sides and concave base.	1.2m wide 0.2m deep	-
907	Fill Ditch [906]	Dark brown/grey silty-sand/clay with occasional flint.	0.2m thick	-
[908]	Ditch Fill 909	E-W linear, Broad U-V shaped profile, with concave base.	1.06m wide 0.26m deep	-
909	Fill Ditch [908]	Mid grey/brown silty-sand with occasional flint	0.26m thick	Pottery
[910]	Ditch Fill 911	E-W linear, U-V shaped profile with broad concave base.	1.7m wide 0.36m deep	-
911	Fill Ditch [910]	Mid grey/brown silty-sand with occasional flint	0.36m thick	Pottery, flint and bone
[912]	Ditch Fill 913	E-W linear, U-V shaped profile, with concave base.	0.5m wide 0.27m deep	-
913	Fill Ditch [912]	Dark grey/brown sandy silt with occasional small flint gravel.	0.27m thick	-
[914]	Ditch Fill 915	E-W linear, Flattened broad concave shaped profile.	0.7m wide 0.15m deep	-
915	Fill Ditch [914]	Mid grey/brown silty-sand with occasional flint	0.15m thick	-
[916]	Ditch Fill 917	E-W linear, U-shaped profile with concave base.	0.68m wide 0.32m deep	-
917	Fill Ditch [916]	Dark grey/brown sandy silt with yellow tinges and rare small flint	0.32m thick	Sample 23

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		gravel.		
[918]	Ditch Fill 919	E-W linear, Broad undulating U-shaped profile.	3m wide 0.61m deep	-
919	Fill Ditch [918]	Dark brown silty sand with orange mottling and occasional flint nodules.	0.61m thick	Pottery, bone Sample 22
[920]	Ditch Fill 921	E-W linear, shallow U-shaped profile with concave base.	0.78m wide 0.19m deep	-
921	Fill Ditch [920]	Mid brown silty sand with orange mottling and occasional flint nodules.	0.19m thick	-
[922]	Posthole Fill 923	Circular, with steep sides and concave base.	0.46m in diameter 0.39m deep	-
923	Fill Posthole [922]	Dark brown silty sand with orange mottling and occasional flint nodules.	0.39m thick	Pottery, bone
[924]	Ditch Fill 925	E-W linear, U-V shaped profile with concave base.	0.82m wide 0.38m deep	-
925	Fill Ditch [924]	Mid- brown silty-sand with yellow tinges and occasional flint gravel.	0.38m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555375/281987	18.88m aOD	18.45m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1001	Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small flint gravel	0.24m-0.32m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional small decayed limestone fragments and flint nodules.	0.1m-0.27m thick	-
1003	Natural	Mixed mottled yellow brown sandy clay containing decayed limestone fragments to as blue grey clay.		-
[1004]	Droeway Ditch Fill 1005	NE-SW linear, broad U-shaped profile	2.1m wide 0.4m deep	-
1005	Fill Ditch [1004]	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions.	0.4m thick	-
[1006]	Furrow Fill 1007	NE-SW linear, shallow to gradual profile, with concave base.	1.25m wide 0.35m deep	-
1007	Fill Furrow [1006]	Mid grey brown silty clay with orange mottling and rare flint inclusions.	0.35m thick	-

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[1008]	Droeway Ditch Fill 1009	NE-SW linear, broad U-shaped profile with concave base.	2.1m wide 0.4m deep	-
1009	Fill Ditch [1008]	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions.	0.4m thick	-
[1010]	Furrow Fill 1011	NE-SW linear, shallow to gradual profile	1.3m wide 0.3m deep	-
1011	Fill Furrow [1010]	Mid grey brown silty clay with orange mottling and rare flint inclusions.	0.3m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
11	50m x 1.6m NESW	555392/281933	18.32m aOD	17.72m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1101	Topsoil	Mid to dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional small flint gravel	0.3m-0.35m thick	-
1102	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional small decayed limestone fragments and flint nodules.	0.2m-0.26m thick	-
1103	Natural	Mixed mottled yellow brown sandy to dark blue grey clay containing decayed limestone fragments.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
12	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555345/281909	18.83m aOD	18.29m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1201	Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small flint gravel	0.26m-0.32m thick	-
1202	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional small decayed limestone fragments and flint nodules.	0.18m-0.35m thick	-
1203	Natural	Light mottled yellow brown sandy clay containing decayed limestone fragments and patches of blue grey clay.		-

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[1204]	Droeway Ditch Fill 1205	NE-SW linear, broad U-shaped profile	Not excavated	-
1205	Fill Ditch [1204]	Mid grey brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions.		-
[1206]	Droeway Ditch Fill 1207	NE-SW linear, broad U-shaped profile	Not excavated	-
1207	Fill Ditch [1206]	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate flint inclusions.		-
[1208]	Gully Fill 1208	NE-SW linear, gradual sloping profile, narrow concave base.	0.6m wide, 0.20m deep	-
1209	Fill Gully [1208]	Mid brown silty-sandy clay with charcoal flecks	0.20m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
13	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555295/281856	18.77m aOD	18.18m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.30m-0.38m thick	-
1302	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.1m-0.15m thick	-
1303	Natural	Orange grey sandy silt with decayed limestone fragments and clay patches.		-
1304	Subsoil	Leached orange brown sandy clay.	0.1m- 0.2m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
14	40m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555309/281800	17.48m aOD	16.96m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1401	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty-clay with occasional flint nodules	0.18m-0.37m thick	-
1402	Subsoil	Mottled mid yellow brown silty clay	0.12m-0.36m thick	-
1403	Natural	Mixed yellow and orange sandy clay	>0.18m thick	Samples 10-13 and 28 provisionally taken for phosphate analysis.
[1404]	Droeway Ditch Fill 1405	NE-SW linear, U-V shaped with broad flat base.	1.5m wide 0.5m deep	-
1405	Fill Ditch [1404]	Mid grey- brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions.	0.5m thick	Bone Sample 1

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[1406]	Ditch Fill 1407	NE-SW linear, U-shaped profile with broad flat base.	1.8m wide 0.42m deep	-
1407	Fill Ditch [1406]	Mid grey- brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions and rare manganese flecking.	0.42m thick	Bone Sample 2
[1408]	Droeway Ditch Fill 1409	NE-SW linear, U-shaped profile with broad flat base.	2m wide 0.6m deep	-
1409	Fill Ditch [1408]	Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions and rare manganese flecking.	0.6m thick	Sample 9

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
15	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555267/281678	17.06m aOD	16.63m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-loam	0.24m-0.31m thick	-
1502	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay	0.06m-0.25m thick	
1502	Natural	Mixed Yellow-orange sands with gravel and patches of blue grey clay		-
[1504]	Animal burial cut Fill 1505	Oval in plan, with shallow sides and flat base.	0.6m long 0.25m wide 0.05m deep	-
1505	Fill Burial cut [1504]	Dark brown silty clay with occasional small flint gravel.	0.05m thick	Bone
[1506]	Ditch Fill 1507	NW-SE linear, U-shaped profile with irregular base.	2.1m wide 0.75m deep	-
1507	Fill Ditch [1506]	Mid grey brown clay with orange clay mottles and decayed limestone flecks.	0.75m thick	Bone, Pottery
1508	Ditch Fill 1509	Mid grey brown clay with orange clay mottles and occasional charcoal and decayed limestone flecks.	1.4m wide 0.5m deep	-
[1509]	Ditch Fill [1508]	Mid grey/brown silty-clay with occasional flint and charcoal flecks.	0.5m thick	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
16	50m x 1.6m E-W	555289/281635	15.57m aOD	15.03m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-loam	0.3m-0.35m thick	-
1602	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay	0.17m-0.23m thick	-
1603	Natural	Mixed Yellow-orange sands with gravel and patches of blue grey clay		-
[1604]	Gully Fill 1603	NW-SE linear, flattened U-shaped profile with concave base.	0.49m wide 0.17m deep	-
1605	Fill Gully [1604]	Dark grey/brown silty clay with flint inclusions and charcoal flecks.	0.17m thick	-
[1606]	Gully Fill 1605	NE-SW linear, V-shaped profile, steep sides and concave/pointed base.	0.55m wide 0.33 deep	-
1607	Fill Gully [1606]	Orange grey sandy clay with flint gravel and decayed limestone.	0.33m thick	Sample 24

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
17	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555230/281596	17.11m aOD	16.66m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-loam	0.25m-0.35m thick	-
1702	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay	0.12m-0.18m thick	-
1703	Natural	Mixed Yellow-orange sands with gravel and patches of blue grey clay		-
[1704]	Ditch Fills 1705 and 1706	NW-SE linear, U-shaped with concave base.	1.4m wide 0.74m deep	-
1705	Fill (upper) Ditch [1704]	Mottled grey/brown silty- clay with small flint inclusions	0.4m thick	-
1706	Fill (primary) Ditch [1704]	Grey brown silty clay mottled with manganese and orange clay patches	0.34m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
18	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555361/281572	13.27m aOD	12.94m aOD

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Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-loam	0.22m-0.26m thick	-
1802	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay	0.08m-0.1m thick	-
1803	Natural	Mixed Yellow-orange sands with gravel.		-
[1804]	Ditch	NE-SW linear post-med ditch. Not excavated	1.2m wide	-
[1805]	Ditch	NE-SW linear post-med ditch. Not excavated	2m wide	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
19	50m x 1.6m E-W	555341/281680	14.41m aOD	13.87m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1901	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam	0.35m-0.37m thick	-
1902	Subsoil	Mixed green/blue clay and orange sandy clay.	0.14m-0.2m thick	
1903	Natural	Mixed orange to light brown sand with frequent sand and gravel.		-
[1904]	Ditch (re-cut of [1906] Fill 1905	N-S linear, U-shaped profile with steep sides.	0.8m wide 0.35m deep	-
1905	Fill Ditch [1904]	Grey/brown silty clay with small flint gravel inclusions	0.35m thick	Pottery, bone
[1906]	Ditch Fill 1907	Truncated N-S linear, U- shaped profile, with steep sides.	>0.2m wide 0.34m deep	-
1907	Fill Ditch [1906]	Mixed green blue/orange silty clay with small flint gravel inclusions.	0.34m thick	-
[1908]	Gully Fill 1909	NE-SW linear, U-shaped profile with concave base.	1m wide 0.31m deep	
1909	Fill Gully [1908]	Mottled grey/brown silty clay with small flint gravel inclusions.	0.31m thick	-
[1910]	Pit/Tree throw Fill 1911	Irregular shaped tree throw partially investigated to reveal a gradual to steep sided cut with undulating base.	>4m wide 0.45m deep	
1911	Fill Pit/Tree throw [1910]	Mottled grey/brown blue clay with orange sand/clay with gravel inclusions.	0.45m thick	
1912	Gully	NE-SW linear gully. Not	1m wide	

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	Fill 1913	excavated		
1913	Fill Gully [1912]	Mid grey brown sandy clay.	Depth unknown	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
20	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555392/281841	16.22m aOD	15.52m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.4m thick	-
2002	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.15m-0.2m thick	-
2003	Natural	Mid grey glacial till with decayed limestone fragments and orange brown clay patches.		-
2004	Subsoil	Leached mid brown silt clay.	0.26m- 0.3m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
21	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555478/281905	16.63m aOD	16.08m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.4m thick	-
2102	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.1m-0.2m thick	-
2103	Natural	Blue-grey glacial till with decayed limestone fragments and gravel patches.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
22	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555441/281941	17.64m aOD	17.04m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.35m thick	-
2202	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.2m-0.3m thick	-
2203	Natural	Blue-grey glacial till with decayed limestone fragments and gravel patches.		-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
23	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555554/281909	13.00m aOD	12.40m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.4m thick	-
2302	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.2m thick	-
2303	Natural	Blue-grey glacial till with decayed limestone fragments and gravel patches.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
24	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555318/281891	13.55m aOD	12.95m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.35m-0.4m thick	-
2402	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.2m-0.25m thick	-
2403	Natural	Blue-grey glacial till with decayed limestone fragments and gravel patches.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
25	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555466/281777	13.26m aOD	12.74m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.2m-0.35m thick	-
2502	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.15m thick	-
2503	Natural	Mottled grey/blue glacial till with decayed limestone fragments and orange brown clay patches.		-
2504	Subsoil	Leached mid brown sandy silt clay with rare inclusions.	0.15m- 0.2m thick	-
[2505]	Ditch Fill 1905	N-S linear defining post-medieval field boundary ditch (not excavated).	1.6m wide	-
2506	Fill Ditch [2505]	Dark brown-grey clay loam.	1.6m wide	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
26	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555420/281682	12.25m aOD	11.94m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.22m-0.24m thick	-
2602	Subsoil	Orange-grey sandy clay.	0.06m-0.1m thick	-
2603	Natural	Orange clay with sand and gravel patches.		-
[2604]	Ditch Fill 1905	N-S linear: defining post- medieval field boundary ditch (not excavated) Same as [3104] to east.	2.6m wide	-
2605	Fill Ditch [2604]	Dark brown-grey silty clay loam with root inclusions.	Depth unknown	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
27	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555501/281621	9.79m aOD	9.48m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.21m-0.23m thick	-
2702	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.08m-0.09m thick	-
2703	Natural	Orange clay with sand and gravel patches.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
28	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555443/281587	11.90m aOD	11.56m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.22m-0.28m thick	-
2802	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.05m-0.1m thick	-
2803	Natural	Yellow-orange sand and gravel interspersed with clay patches.		-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
29	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555616/281853	9.38m aOD	8.63m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.3m thick	-
2902	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.15m-0.2m thick	-
2903	Natural	Glacial till, comprising mid grey clay with decayed limestone fragments and orange brown clay patches.		-
2904	Buried soil	Dark brown sandy/silty clay with rare inclusions.	0.15m- 0.2m thick	-
2905	Colluvium	Leached mid brown sandy silt clay with rare inclusions.	0.15m- 0.2m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
30	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555586/281772	8.87m aOD	8.27m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.25m-0.3m thick	-
3002	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.2m thick	-
3003	Natural	Glacial till, comprising mid grey clay with decayed limestone fragments and orange brown clay patches.		-
3004	Colluvium	Leached mid brown sandy clay with rare inclusions. Only observed within last 6m at SE end of trench.	0.2m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
31	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555542/281677	8.17m aOD	7.81m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-loam	0.22m-0.24m thick	-
3102	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay	0.12m-0.14m thick	-
3103	Natural	Orange sandy clay with green/blue clay patches.		-

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[3104]	Ditch Fill 3105	Post medieval WNW- ESE linear (not excavated)	1.5m wide	-
3105	Fill Ditch [3104]	Mottled orange brown sandy clay .	Depth unknown	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
32	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555578/281593	6.63m aOD	6.30m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.2m-0.23m thick	-
3202	Subsoil	Yellow brown silty clay.	0.1m-0.12m thick	-
3203	Natural	Yellow grey clay mottled with small patches of orange sand.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
33	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555676/281855	7.10m aOD	5.93m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.35-0.4m thick	-
3302	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay.	0.2m-0.4m thick	-
3303	Natural	Glacial till, comprising mid grey clay with decayed limestone fragments and orange brown clay patches.		-
3304	Buried soil	Dark grey brown silty clay with very occasional small gravel inclusions.	0.1m- 0.25m thick	Sample 27
3305	Colluvium	Light brown sandy silt clay with rare inclusions.	0.15m- 0.5m thick	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
34	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555632/282201	15.01m aOD	14.49m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty-clay.	0.25m-0.26m thick	-
3402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt.	0.15m-0.23m thick	-
3403	Natural	Mottled light grey/brown clay with flint inclusions.		-
[3404]	Ditch Fill 3405	NW-SE linear, stepped profile	0.8m wide 0.25m deep	-
3405	Fill ditch [3404]	Grey brown silty clay.	0.8m wide 0.25m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
35	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555603/282129	15.59m aOD	15.15m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silty loam.	0.24m-0.31m thick	-
3502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt.	0.09m-0.21m thick	-
3503	Natural	Mottled light grey/brown clay with flint inclusions.		-
[3504]	Furrow Fill 3505	Post medieval E-W linear, gradual sloping profile, broad base	1.35m wide 0.15m deep	-
3505	Fill Furrow [3504]	Grey brown silty clay.	1.35m wide 0.15m thick	-
[3506]	Gully Fill 3507	NNE-SSW linear, bowl-shaped profile	0.4m wide 0.13m deep	-
3507	Fill Gully [3506]	Grey brown silty clay.	0.4m wide 0.13m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
36	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555576/282075	16.30m aOD	15.54m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.15m-0.18m thick	-
3602	Subsoil	Yellow brown silty clay with decayed limestone flecks.	0.12m-0.32m thick	-

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3603	Natural	Yellow orange sandy gravel with high clay content.		-
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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
37	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555556/282038	15.87m aOD	15.22m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.3m-0.35m thick	-
3702	Subsoil	Yellow brown silty clay with decayed limestone flecks.	0.12m-0.2m thick	-
3703	Natural	Yellow orange sandy gravel with high clay content.		-
3704	Subsoil	Mixed sandy gravel containing clay patches.	0.1m-0.33m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
38	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555719/282185	12.88m aOD	12.46m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3801	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam.	0.24m-0.32m thick	-
3802	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt.	0.11m-0.19m thick	-
3803	Natural	Mixed light grey/brown clay with flint inclusions.		-
[3804]	Gully Fill 3805	NW-SE linear, gradual sloping profile, concave base	0.5m wide 0.14m deep	-
3805	Fill Gully [3804]	Light brown sandy silt clay.	0.14m thick	-
[3806]	Gully Fill 3807	NW-SE linear, gradual sloping profile, irregular base	0.60m wide 0.08m deep	-
3807	Fill Gully [3806]	Light brown sandy silt clay.	0.08m thick	-
[3808]	Gully Fill 3809	NW-SE linear, gradual sloping profile, concave base	0.45m wide 0.10m deep	-
3809	Fill Gully [3808]	Light grey brown sandy silt clay.	0.10m thick	-
[3810]	Gully Fill 3811	NW-SE linear, steep sloping profile, flat base	0.5m wide 0.20m deep	-
3811	Fill Gully [3810]	Light brown sandy silt clay.	0.20m thick	Pottery

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
39	50m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	555685/282129	12.69m aOD	11.93m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3901	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam.	0.24m-0.4m thick	-
3902	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt.	0.12m-0.2m thick	-
3903	Natural	Mixed orange sandy gravel interspersed with blue clay with flint inclusions.		-
3904	Subsoil	Sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions	0.10m-0.22m thick	-
3905	Layer	Orange brown silty sandy clay	0.10m-0.20m thick	-
3906	Layer	Grey brown silty clay. .	0.10m-0.29m thick	-
3907	Layer	Dark orange/brown silty clay with manganese flecks.	0.10m-0.42m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
40	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555695/282066	11.30m aOD	10.89m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4001	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.19m-0.29m thick	-
4002	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay with occasional flint nodules and decayed limestone inclusions.	0.12m-0.17m thick	-
4003	Natural	Mixed blue/grey clay with occasional flint nodules and pockets of yellow/orange sand.		-
[4004]	Gully Fill 4005	E-W linear, gradual sloping profile, narrow base	0.8m wide, 0.25m deep	-
4005	Fill Gully [4004]	Brown/grey clay with rare small flint inclusions.	0.25m thick	-
[4006]	Tree root Fill 4007	Oval tree bole, gradual sloping sides, irregular base.	0.70m long 0.40m wide 0.15m deep	-

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4007	Fill Tree root [4006]	Brown silty clay.	0.15m thick	-
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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
41	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555606/282000	13.80m aOD	13.30m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.3m thick	-
4102	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay with occasional flint nodules and decayed limestone inclusions.	0.2m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
42	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555815/282152	9.21m aOD	8.93m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.1m-0.25m thick	-
4202	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay with occasional flint nodules and decayed limestone inclusions.	0.08m-0.2m thick	-
4203	Natural	Mixed blue/grey clay with occasional flint nodules and pockets of yellow/orange sand.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
43	50m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555749/282110	9.72m aOD	9.11m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4301	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy loam with frequent flint	0.26m-0.37m thick	-
4302	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay with occasional flint nodules and decayed limestone inclusions.	0.17m-0.43m thick	-
4302	Natural	Mixed orange-red sand with patches of ironstone and blue/grey clay.		-
[4304]	Gully Fill 4305	NW-SE linear, gradual sloping sides, concave base	0.70m wide 0.20m deep	-

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4305	Fill Gully [4304]	Brown silty sand with rare small flint inclusions and occasional ironstone fragments.	0.20m thick	-
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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
44	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555785/282032	6.50m aOD	5.88m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4401	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.21m-0.38m thick	-
4402	Subsoil	Light brown grey silty clay with occasional flint nodules.	0.14m-0.21m thick	-
4403	Subsoil	Light brown silty clay	0.37m thick	-
4404	Natural	Light grey silty clay with ironstone fragments.		-
[4405]	Gully Fill 4406	NE-SW linear, gradual sloping profile, broad flat base	0.60m wide 0.15m deep	-
4406	Fill Gully [4405]	Mid grey brown silty clay.	0.15m thick	-
[4407]	Gully Fill 4408	N-E linear, V--shaped profile	0.60m wide 0.20m deep	-
4408	Fill Gully [4407]	Light grey brown silty clay.	0.20m thick	-
[4409]	Gully Fill 4410	N-W linear, V-shaped profile	0.50m wide 0.25m deep	-
4410	Fill Gully [4409]	Mid grey brown silty clay.	0.25m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
45	80m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	555710/281998	9.01maOD	8.52m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4501	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy loam with frequent flint	0.18m-0.26m thick	-
4502	Subsoil	Light grey brown sandy silt.	0.16m-0.35m thick	-
4503	Natural	Light grey clay with mixed orange-red sandy clay.		-
[4504]	[Ditch] Fill 4505	NW-SE linear, bowl-shaped profile	1.50m wide 0.34m deep	-
4505	Fill Ditch [4504]	Light grey brown sandy silt.	0.34m thick	-

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4506	Topsoil variation	Dark grey brown sandy loam mixed with organic material, modern bricks and rubbish	0.25m thick	Modern bricks and rubbish tins
[4507]	Posthole Fill 4508	Oval, concave profile	0.47m diameter 0.16m deep	-
4508	Fill Posthole [4507]	Light grey clay with mixed orange-red sandy clay.	0.16m thick	-
[4509]	Gully Fill 4510	NNE-SSW linear, gradual sloping concave profile	0.50m wide 0.15m deep	-
4510	Fill Gully [4509]	Light grey clay sandy silty clay.	0.15m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
46	50m x 1.6m NE-SW	555646/282079	13.87m aOD	13.57m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4601	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.12m-0.16m thick	-
4602	Subsoil	Light brown grey silty clay with occasional flint nodules.	0.1m-0.18m thick	-
4603	Natural	Light grey silty clay with ironstone fragments.		-
[4604]	Gully Fill 4605	NNW-SSE, linear, gradual sloping profile, broad concave base.	0.50m wide 0.15m deep	-
4605	Fill Gully[4405]	Mid grey brown silty clay.	0.15m thick	-
[4606]	Gully Fill 4608	NNW-SSE, linear, gradual sloping profile, broad concave base.	0.50m wide 0.15m deep	-
4607	Fill Gully[4606]	Mid grey brown silty clay.	0.15m thick	-
4608	Variation in natural	Mixed blue clay and gravel.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
47	20m x 1.6m NW-SE	555192/281965	20.99m aOD	20.12m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam.	0.3m-0.35m thick	-

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4702	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand clay	0.3m-0.4m thick	-
4703	Natural	Mid orange/yellow clay with sand and gravel inclusions.		-
4704	Subsoil	Mixed sandy gravel containing clay patches.	0.2m thick	-
[4705]	Ditch Fill 4406	E-W linear. Unexcavated	4.50 wide	-
4706	Fill Ditch [4705]	Dark grey brown silty clay		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
48	92m x 1.6m E-W	555327/281746	15.85m aOD	15.35m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
4801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam	0.3m thick	-
4802	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt.	0.2m thick	Sample 16 (monolith)
4803	Natural	Mixed orange to light brown sand with frequent sand and gravel.		-
[4804]	Gully (Modern) Fill [4805]	NW-SE linear, with U-V shaped profile and concave base.	0.5m wide 0.25m deep	-
4805	Fill Gully [4804]	Mid grey/brown silty sand clay.	0.25m thick	Pottery
[4806]	Gully Fill 4807	NW-SE linear, U-V shaped profile with narrow concave base.	1m wide 0.4m deep	-
4807	Fill Gully [906]	Mid grey/brown silty sand clay.	0.4m thick	-
[4808]	Ditch Fill 4809	NE-SW linear, U-V shaped profile, steep, almost vertical sides and broad, slightly concave base.	1m wide 0.7m deep	-
4809	Fill Ditch [4808]	Dark grey/brown silty-clay with frequent gravel inclusions.	0.7m thick	-
[4810]	Ditch Fill 4811	NW-SE linear, U-shaped profile, with broad concave base.	1m wide 0.25m deep	-
4811	Fill Ditch [4810]	Mid grey- brown silty-sandy clay with frequent gravel.	0.25m thick	Pottery, bone
[4812]	Ditch re-cut of [4815] Fills 4813, 4814	N-S linear, asymmetrical profile and broad flat base.	1.9m wide 0.5m deep	-
4813	Fill (upper) Ditch [4812]	Sterile grey/brown silty clay.	0.4m thick	Pottery Sample 3

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4814	Fill (primary) Ditch [4812]	Sterile mottled grey/brown silty clay.	0.1m thick	Sample 4
[4815]	Ditch Fills 4816, 4817	N-S linear, U-V shaped profile with broad flat base.	0.8m wide 0.4m deep	-
4816	Fill Ditch [4815]	Sterile grey/brown silty clay.	0.3m thick	Bone
4817	Fill Ditch [4815]	Sterile mottled grey/brown silty clay.	0.1m thick	-
4818	Buried soil Defining possible ponding of over ditch complex.	Loose dark grey/brown silty clay with orange mottling and occasional small stone and gravel inclusions.	18m long 5-6m wide 0.3m thick	Pottery Sample 20 Sample 16 (monolith)
4819	Buried soil Defining possible ponding over ditch complex.	Loose mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	5.2m long 0.2m thick	Sample 16 (monolith)
[4820]	Ditch Fill 4821	NE-SW linear, U-V shaped profile with concave base.	1.2m wide 0.45m deep	-
4821	Fill Ditch [4820]	Blue/grey silty clay with orange mottling and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.45m thick	-
[4822]	Ditch Terminal/Pit Fill 4823	NE-SW linear, U-V shaped profile with broad concave base.	0.9m wide 0.2m deep	-
4823	Fill Ditch terminal/Pit [4822]	Blue/grey silty clay with orange mottling and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.2m thick	-
[4824]	Gully Fill 4825	NE-SW linear, U-V shaped profile with concave base.	0.6m wide 0.25m deep	-
4825	Fill Gully [4824]	Blue/grey silty clay with orange mottling and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.25m thick	-
[4826]	Ditch Fill 4827	NE-SW linear, U-shaped profile with concave base.	1m wide 0.15m deep	-
4827	Fill Ditch [4826]	Mottled orange to blue/grey silt clay with occasional stone inclusions.	0.15m thick	-
[4828]	Ditch Fill 4829	N-S linear, U-shaped profile, with broad flat base.	1.15m wide 0.2m deep	-
4829	Fill Ditch [4828]	Blue/grey silty clay with orange mottling and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.2m thick	Pottery

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
49	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555244/281727	18.65m aOD	18.30m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
4901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-loam	0.22m-0.27m thick	-
4902	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay	0.04m-0.317 thick	-
4903	Natural	Mixed Yellow-orange sands with gravel and patches of blue grey clay		-
[4904]	[Ditch] Fill 4905	N-S linear, U-V shaped profile with steep sides and flattened - concave base.	1.64m wide 0.34m deep	-
4905	Fill Ditch [4904]	Mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional flint and decayed limestone inclusions.	0.34m thick	Pottery, bone
[4906]	[Ditch] Fill 4907	N-S linear, U-V shaped profile with steep sides and concave base.	1.3m wide 0.4m deep	-
4907	Fill Ditch [4906]	Mid grey/brown silty clay with some sand content and rare decayed limestone fragments.	0.4m thick	Pottery, bone
[4908]	[Ditch] Fill 4909	N-S linear, U-V shaped, with gradual sides and concave base.	2.16m wide 0.68m deep	-
4909	Fill Ditch [4908]	Mid grey/brown silty clay sand with occasional flint inclusions.	0.68m thick	Pottery, bone

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
50	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555201/281654	19.41m aOD	18.91m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
5001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions.	0.22m-0.27m thick	-
5002	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay.	0.04m-0.317 thick	-
5003	Natural	Mixed Yellow-orange sands with gravel and patches of blue grey clay.		-
[5004]	[Ditch] Fill 5005	N-S linear, U-V shaped profile, with gradual sides and concave-flat base.	0.81m wide 0.21 deep	-
5005	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt,	0.21m thick	Pottery

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	Ditch [5004]	with yellow mottling and rare flint inclusions.		SF 8
[5006]	[Ditch] Fill 5007	NW-SE linear, with U-shaped profile, steep sides with a broad flat base.	1.7m wide 0.35m deep	-
5007	Fill Ditch [5006]	Dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small stones.	0.35m thick	Sample 21

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
51	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555688/281794	5.73m aOD	4.83m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
5101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam.	0.4m thick	-
5102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt.	0.3m thick	-
5103	Natural	Mottled blue/brown clay with orange sandy patches		-
5104	Colluvium	Mid brown silty sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.2m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
52	50m x 1.6m NW-SE	555657/281722	5.60m aOD	4.65m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
5201	Topsoil	Very dark brown/black humic rich, sterile peaty silt loam.	0.3m-0.7m thick	-
5202	Subsoil	Light orange brown silty clay, with occasional small gravel inclusions.	0.1m-0.2m thick	Sample 25
5203	Natural	Mottled blue/brown clay with orange sandy patches		-
5204	Colluvium	Mid grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	0.1m-0.6m thick	Sample 26

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
53	40m x 1.6m NE-SW	555395/281805	aOD	aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
5301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty-clay with occasional flint nodules	0.3m thick	-

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5302	Subsoil	Light yellow brown silty clay.	0.1m-0.3m thick	-
5303	Natural	Mixed yellow and orange sandy clay		-
[5304]	Ditch (post-med) Fill 5305	E-W, unexcavated	3m wide	-
5305	Fill Ditch [5304]	Dark grey/black sandy clay with high root content.		Modern plastic bottles, brick fragments

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR (centre)	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
54	29m x 1.6m E-W	555157/281705	aOD	aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
5401	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam	0.32m-0.4m thick	-
5402	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt.	0.06m-0.16m thick	-
5403	Natural	Mixed orange to light brown sand with frequent sand and gravel.		-
5404	Subsoil	Dark grey/brown silty clay loam with occasional small inclusions.	0.01m-0.3m thick (max)	-
5405	NOT USED			
[5406]	Ditch Fill 5407	E-W linear, V-shaped with steep sides and narrow concave base.	0.9m wide 0.5m deep	-
5407	Fill Ditch [5406]	Mid brown/grey silty-sandy clay with up to 50% gravel and flint pebble inclusions.	0.5m thick	Sample 17
[5408]	Pit Fills 5409-5414	Oval in plan, with very steep, almost vertical sides and a broad-flat base.	>2.7m wide 1m deep	-
5409	Fill (upper) Pit [5408]	Dark grey/brown silty-sand clay with occasional flint gravel.	1m thick	
5410	Fill (secondary) Pit [5408]	Mottled dark grey/brown silty-sand clay with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt bone fragments.	1.6m wide 0.2m deep	
5411	Fill (secondary) Pit [5408]	Dark grey silty-sand clay with charcoal fragments.	0.2m thick	Pottery, bone Sample 18
5412	Fill (secondary) Pit [5408]	Dark grey silty-sand clay with frequent charcoal inclusions.	0.2m deep	Bone
5413	Fill (secondary) Pit [5408]	Mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions and	0.45m thick	Pottery, bone Sample 19

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		decayed limestone flecks.		
5414	Fill (primary) Pit [5408]	Orange brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions	0.2m thick	Pottery
[5415]	Gully Fill 5416	N-S linear, U-V shaped with steep, almost vertical edges and a narrow, concave base.	0.55m wide 0.2m deep	-
5416	Fill Gully [5415]	Mid orange/brown silty-sand clay with occasional flint gravel.	0.2m thick	-

APPENDIX 2: Animal bone tables

Table 10: Number of bones recorded by feature and phase

Cut	Feature	Phase	No
809	Ditch	Early Iron Age	1
5408	Pit	Early Iron Age	14
910	Ditch	Mid-late Iron Age	12
904	Ditch	Mid 1st - 2nd C	1
1904	Ditch	Mid 1st - 2nd C	1
4810	Ditch	Mid 1st - 2nd C	1
1506	Ditch	2nd-3rd C	5
608	Ditch	2nd-4th C	10
4904	Ditch	2nd-4th C	4
613	Ditch	Saxon	3

Table 11: Condition and taphonomy of bones recorded to anatomy and/ or species

Condition		EIA	M-LIA	1st-2nd C	2nd-4th C	Saxon
Excellent	1					
Good	2	6	1	1	13	
Fair	3	4	2	1	5	1
Poor	4	1	2			
Very poor	5					
Total		11	5	2	18	1
Taphonomy						
Gnawed		36%	40%		22%	
Burnt						
Butchered		18%		50%	1%	100%
Fresh Break		27%	60%	100%	50%	100%
Loose Molars:						
Molars in Mandibles		0:2	6:0	0:1	0:1	0:2
Refitted Fragments		2=1		14=1	14=6	7=1

Table 12: Species representation

Species	EIA	M-LIA	1st-2nd C	2nd-4th C	Saxon
Cattle	9	4	2	15	1
Sheep/ Goat	5	7		2	
Pig	1				
Horse		1	1	1	
Dog					1
Red Deer (antler)					1
Total	15	12	3	18	3

APPENDIX 3: Environmental catalogue

Sample No.	5	6	7	8	14	15
Context No.	607	609	610	614	807	808
Feature No.	605	608	608	613	806	806
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Trench No.	6	6	6	6	8	8
Cereals						
<i>Avena</i> sp. (awn frag.)						
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)				x		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)			xcf	x		
(glume bases)	x			x		
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)				x		
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	xfg	x	xfg	
Herbs						
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		x		x		
Fabaceae indet.				xcf		
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love					x	
<i>Galium mollugo</i> type			x			
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.		x				
Small Poaceae indet.			xcf			
Wetland plants						
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.		x	x			
Other plant macrofossils						
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	xx	xxxx	x	xx
Charcoal >2mm		x		xxx		x
Charcoal >5mm				x		
Charred root/stem				x		
Indet.culm nodes						
Indet. seeds		x	x			
Other remains						
Black porous 'cokey' material		x		x		
Black tarry material				x		
Bone				x		
Burnt stone						x
Fish bone				x		
Small coal frags.				x		x
Small mammal/amphibian bones				x	x	
Vitrified material				x		
Sample volume (litres)	40	40	40	40	40	40
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1	0.2	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	0.5
% flot sorted	100%	50%	50%	100%	100%	25%

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Sample No.	22	23	1	2	9	24
Context No.	919	917	1405	1407	1409	1607
Feature No.	918	916	1404	1406	1408	1606
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	D.Ditch	Ditch	D.Ditch	Gully
Trench No.	9	9	14	14	14	16
Cereals						
<i>Avena</i> sp. (awn frag.)				x		
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x					
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x		xcf		
(glume bases)						
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)					x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x				
Herbs						
<i>Bromus</i> sp.						
Fabaceae indet.						
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love						
<i>Galium mollugo</i> type						
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.				x		
Small Poaceae indet.						
Wetland plants						
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.						
Other plant macrofossils						
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	xx	x	x	xx
Charcoal >2mm				x	x	x
Charcoal >5mm						
Charred root/stem	x	x				
Indet.culm nodes	x					
Indet. seeds	x					x
Other remains						
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x				
Black tarry material						
Bone						
Burnt stone						
Fish bone						
Small coal frags.					x	
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x					
Vitrified material	x					
Sample volume (litres)	40	40	40	40	40	40
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

HIGH FLYER FARM, ELY

Sample No.	27	3	4	20	21
Context No.	3304	4814	4817	4818	5007
Feature No.		4812	4815		5006
Feature type	B.soil	Ditch	Ditch	B. soil	Ditch
Trench No.	33	48	48	48	50
Cereals					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	xcf				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x			
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x	x	
(glume bases)		x	x		
(spikelet bases)		x	x		
(rachis internodes)			x		
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)		x	x		
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x		x
Herbs					
Brassicaceae indet.					
<i>Bromus</i> sp.			x		
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.					
Small Poaceae indet.				x	
Large Poaceae indet.					
Wetland plants					
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> (L.)Pohl					
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm		x			
Charred root/stem			x		
Indet.culm nodes					
Indet. seeds	x				
Other remains					
Black porous 'cokey' material		x	x	x	
Black tarry material			x		
Bone		x			
Small coal frags.	x	x			x
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x		x	
Vitrified material					
Sample volume (litres)	40	20	20	40	40
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

HIGH FLYER FARM, ELY

Sample No.	25	26	17	18	19
Context No.	5202	5204	5407	5411	5413
Feature No.			5406	5408	5408
Feature type	Subsoil	Coll.	Ditch	Pit	Pit
Trench No.	52	52	54	54	54
Cereals					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)					
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	xcf				
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)				x	
(glume bases)					
(spikelet bases)					
(rachis internodes)					
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)					
Cereal indet. (grains)	x			xfg	
Herbs					
Brassicaceae indet.	x				
<i>Bromus</i> sp.					xcf
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.			x		
Small Poaceae indet.					
Large Poaceae indet.	x				
Wetland plants					
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> (L.)Pohl					x
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x	x	xxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x			x	x
Charred root/stem					
Indet.culm nodes	x				
Indet. seeds	x				
Other remains					
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		x	x	x
Black tarry material	x	x			
Bone				x xb	x xb
Small coal frags.	xx	x			
Small mammal/amphibian bones					
Vitrified material	x				
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	40	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

APPENDIX 4: Geoarchaeological tables*Table 13: Magnetic Susceptibility Profile: Summary magnetic susceptibility results (χ) expressed in SI units $m^3 kg^{-1} \times 10^{-6}$.*

Context	Depth and fill type	sample wt (g)	LF1	LF1 corrected	LF2	LF2 corrected	LF3	LF3 corrected	average
3302	660mm, colluvium 2	10	8	8	8	8	7	7	8
3302	710mm, colluvium 2	10	6	6	7	7	7	7	6
3302	760mm, colluvium 2	10	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
3304	810mm, putative buried soil	10	16	16	15	15	15	15	15
3304	860mm, putative buried soil	10	17	17	18	18	17	17	17
3304	910mm, putative buried soil	10	16	16	17	17	17	17	17
3305	960mm, colluvium 1	10	8	8	8	8	7	7	8
3305	1010mm, colluvium 1	10	5	5	4	4	5	5	5
3305	1060mm, colluvium 1	10	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
3305	1110mm, colluvium 1	10	6	6	6	6	5	5	6

Table 14: Mean magnetic susceptibility results for each fill type

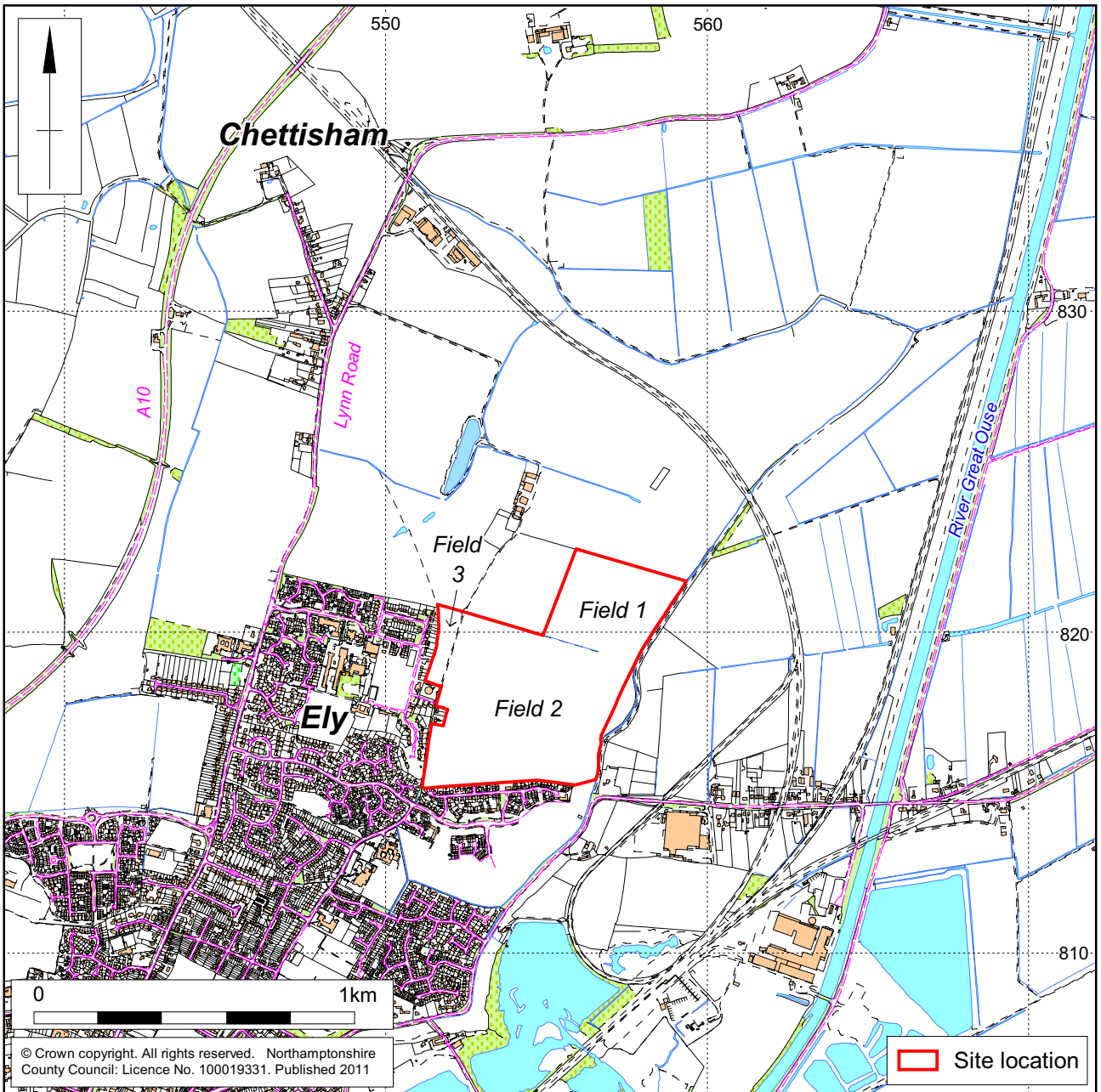
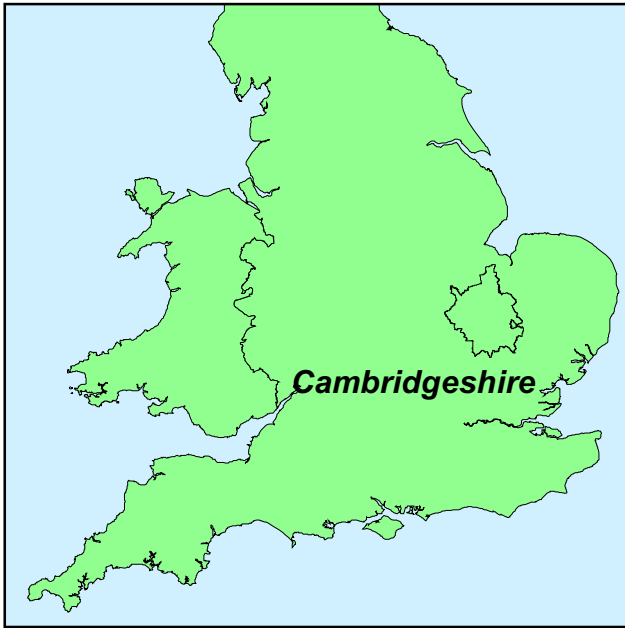
fill	contexts	range	Mean (χ) $m^3 kg^{-1} \times 10^{-6}$
Colluvium 2	3302	6-8	6.7
Buried soil	3304	15-17	16.3
Colluvium 1	3305	5-8	6.0

Monoliths

Monolith	Trench 33	1 × 500mm long
Monolith	Trench 48	1 × 500mm long
Monolith	Trench 52	1 × 500mm long

Table 15: Magnetic susceptibility ($\times 10$) subsamples from the monolith (Trench 33)

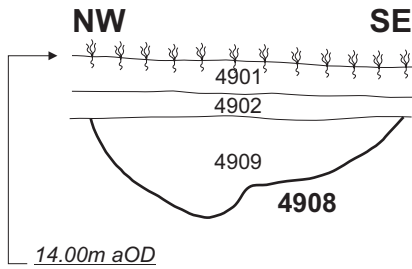
context	Depth and fill type	Magnetic susceptibility	pollen
3302	660mm, colluvium 2	✓	
3302	710mm, colluvium 2	✓	
3302	760mm, colluvium 2	✓	
3304	810mm, putative buried soil	✓	
3304	860mm, putative buried soil	✓	
3304	910mm, putative buried soil	✓	
3305	960mm, colluvium 1	✓	
3305	1010mm, colluvium 1	✓	
3305	1060mm, colluvium 1	✓	
3305	1110mm, colluvium 1	✓	



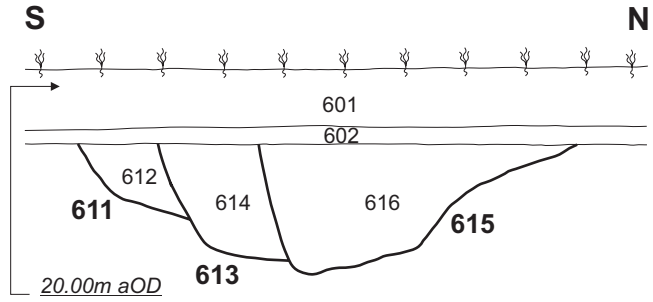
Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

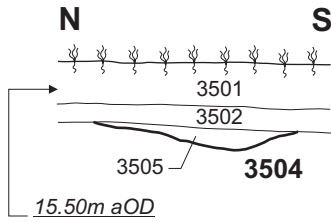
Section 16, Trench 49



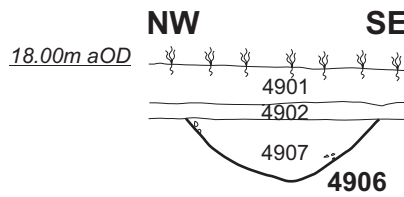
Section 58, Trench 6



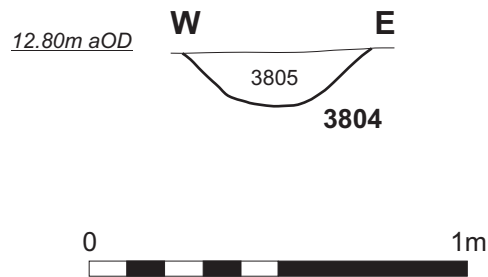
Section 26, Trench 35



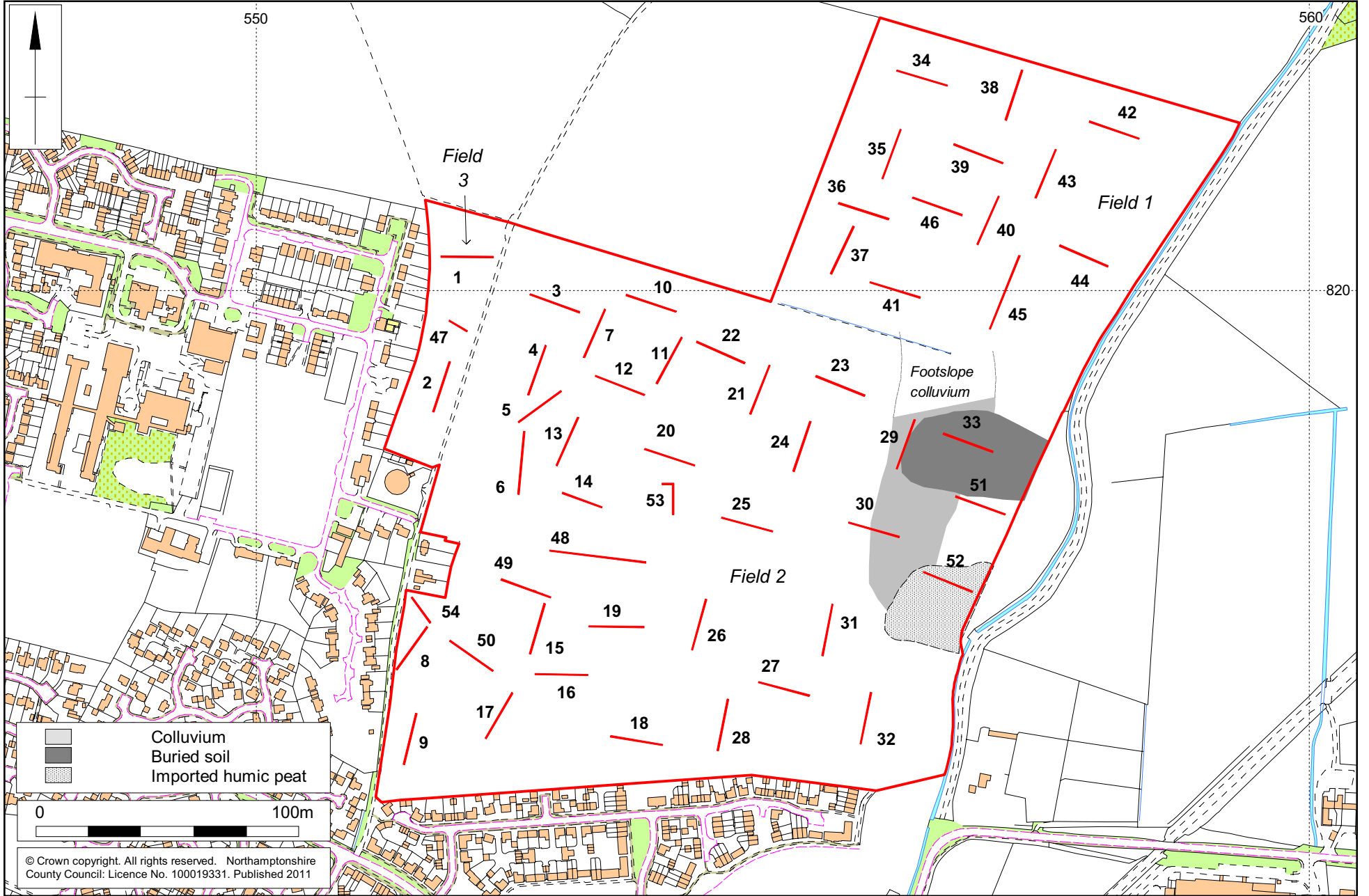
Section 15, Trench 49



Section 22, Trench 38



Scale 1:5000

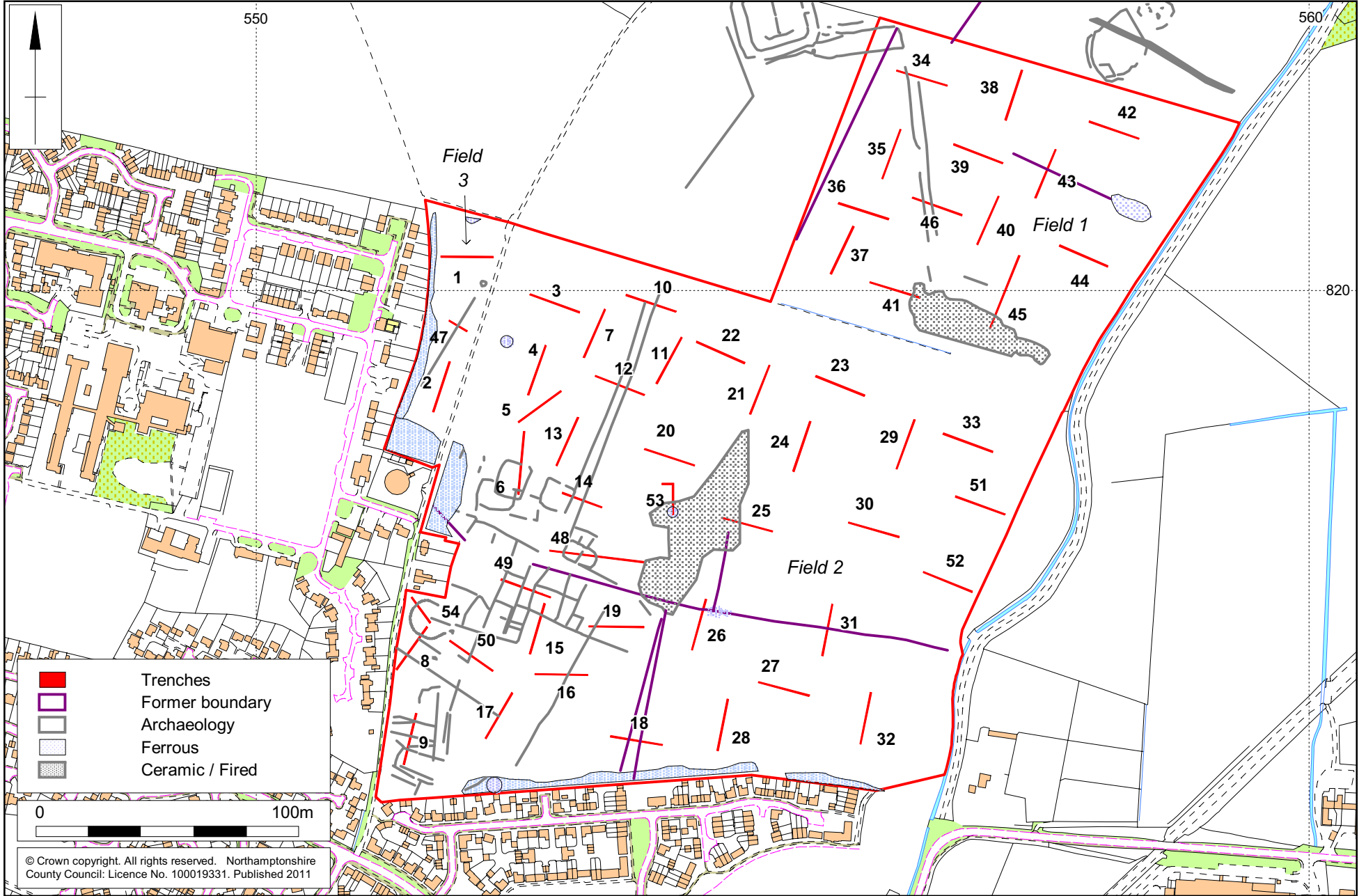


Trench location plan showing areas of colluvium, buried soil and humic peat
Fig 13

Scale 1:5000

Trench location plan with geophysical interpretation

Fig 2

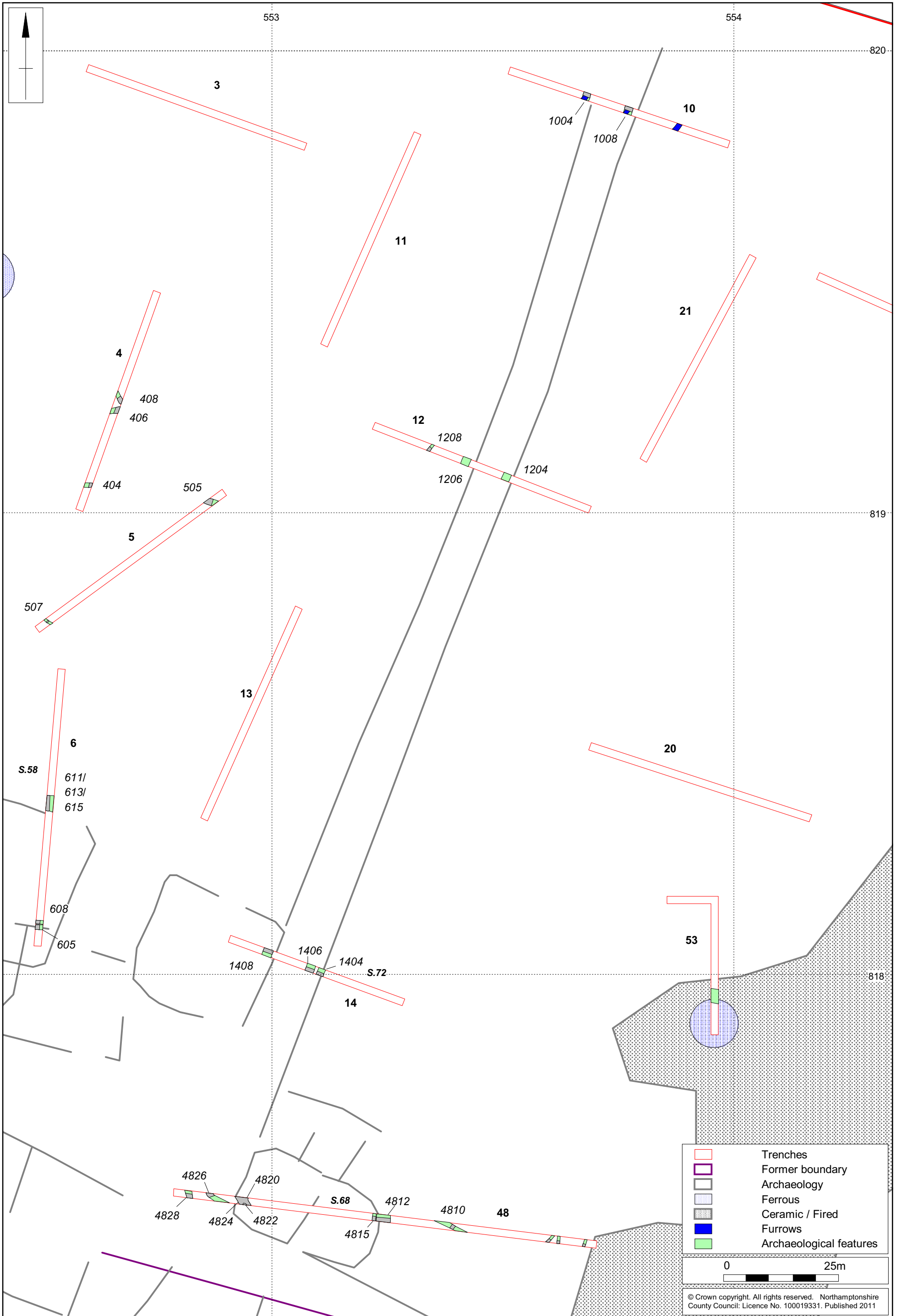




Scale 1:1500

Field 1, Trenches 34-45 Fig 3

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Scale 1:750

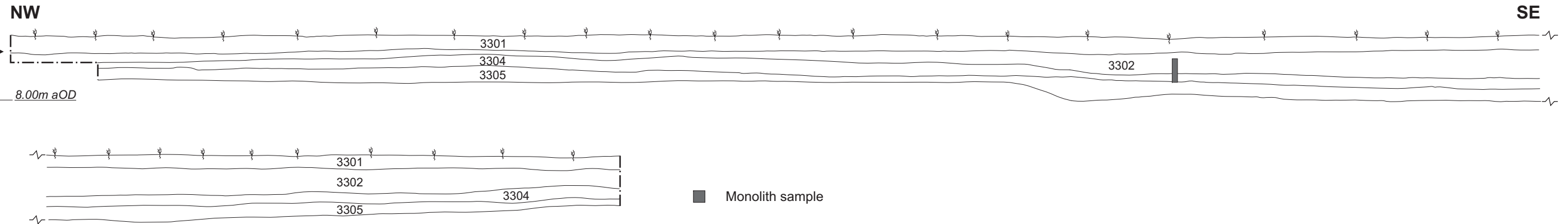
Field 2, trenches 3-6, 10-14, 20, 21, 48 and 53 Fig 4

- Trenches
- Former boundary
- Archaeology
- Ferrous
- Ceramic / Fired
- Furrows
- Archaeological features

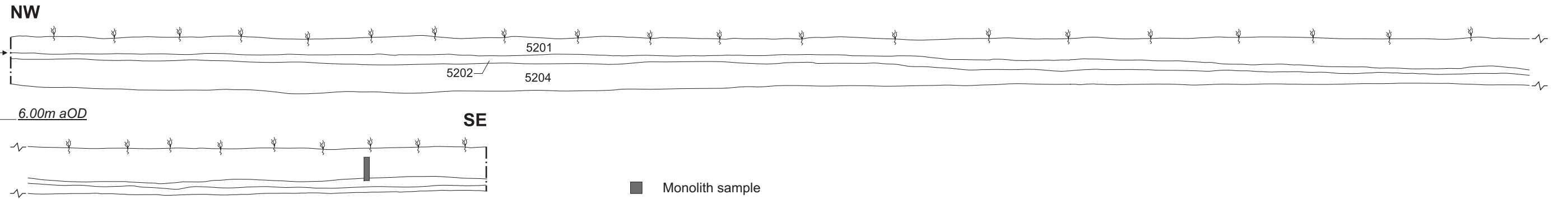


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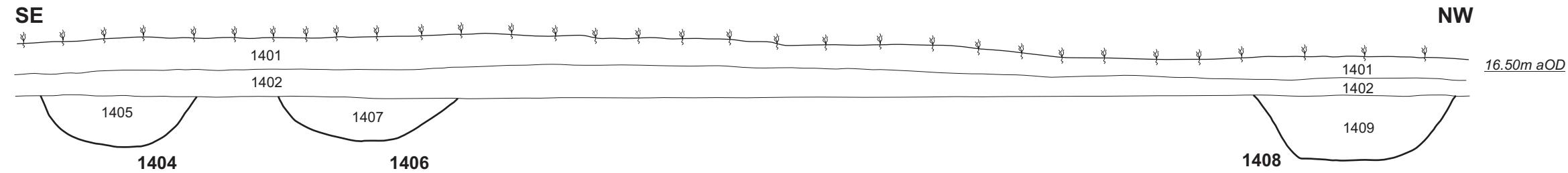
Section 71, Trench 33

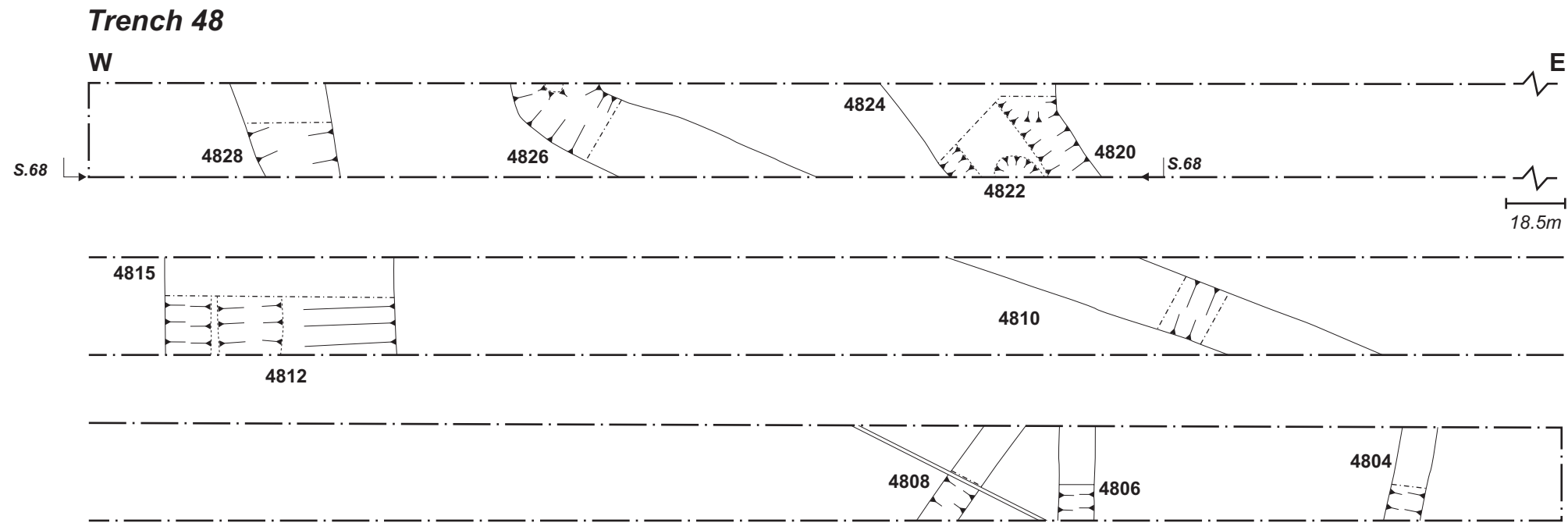


Section 70, Trench 52

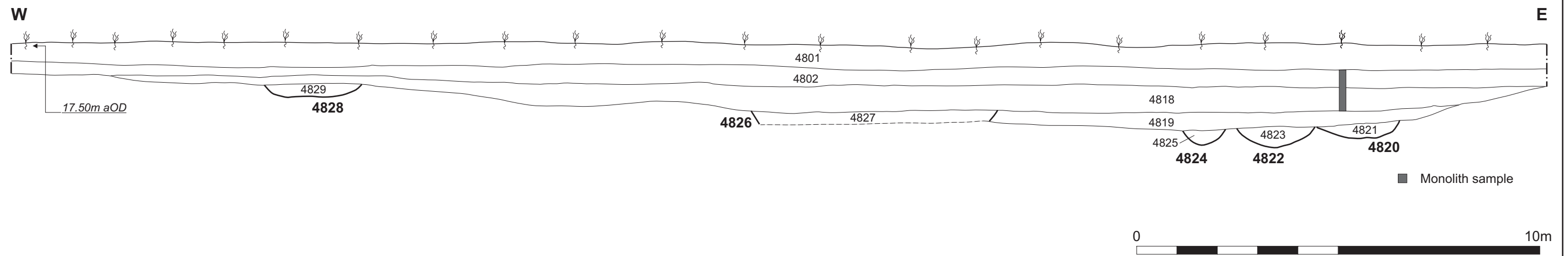


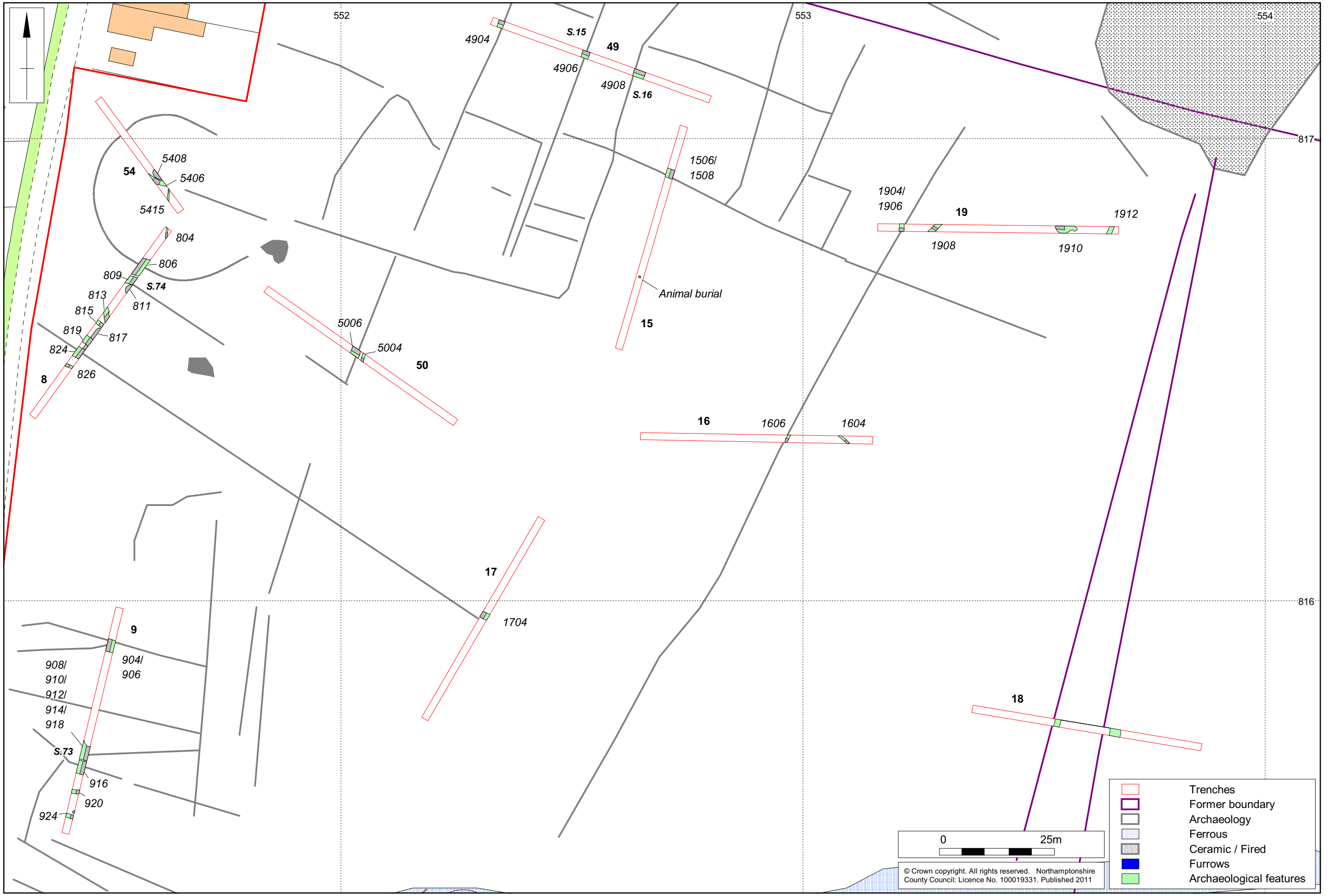
Section 72, Trench 14 (Composite)





Section 68, Trench 48





Scale 1:750

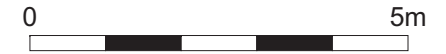
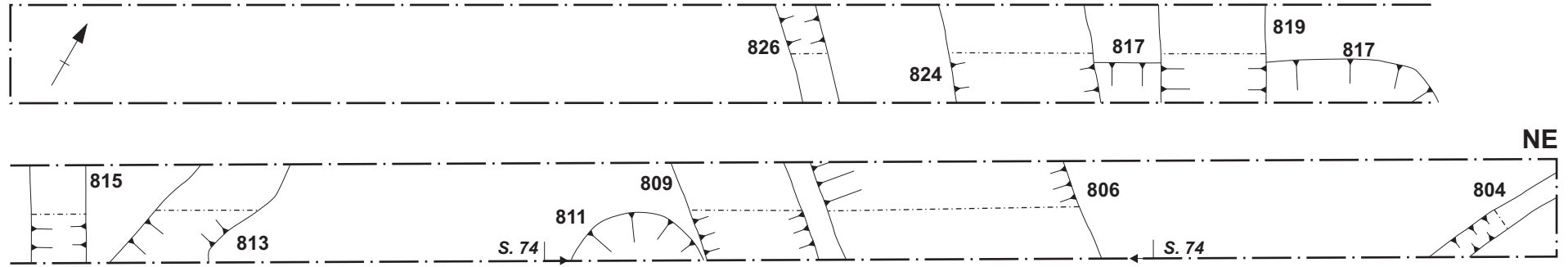
Field 2, Trenches 8, 9, 15-17, 18, 50 and 54 Fig 7

- Trenches
- Former boundary
- Archaeology
- Ferrous
- Ceramic / Fired
- Furrows
- Archaeological features

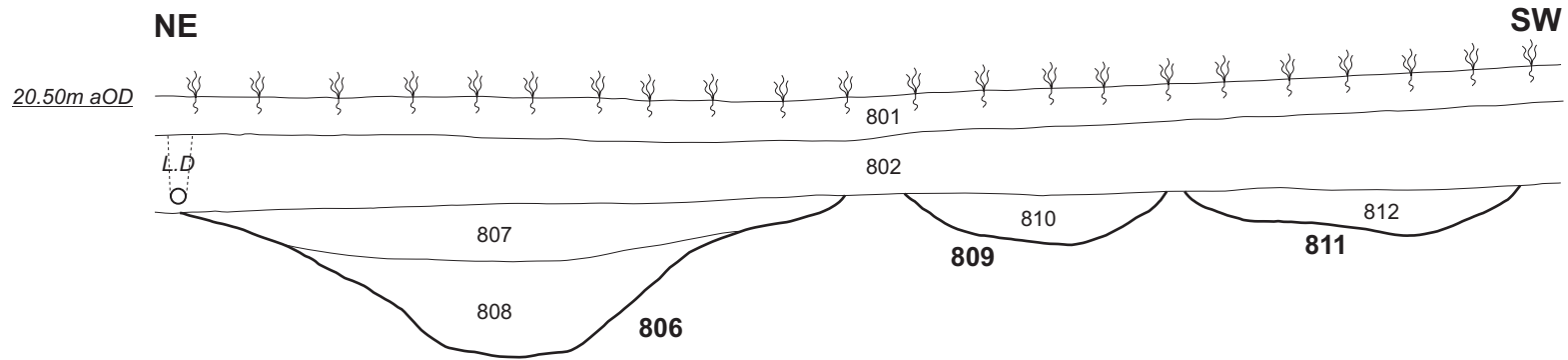
0 25m
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Scale 1:100, 1:50

Trench 8 SW



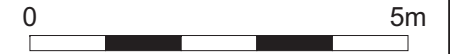
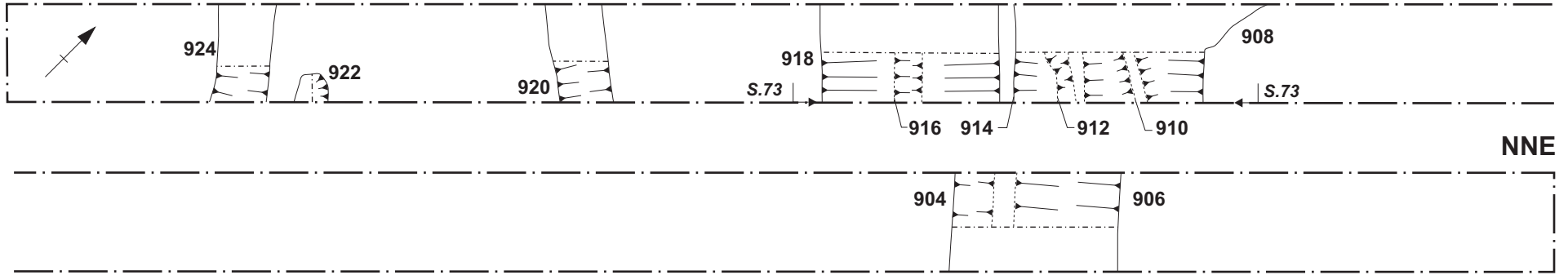
Sections 74, Trench 8 (Composite)



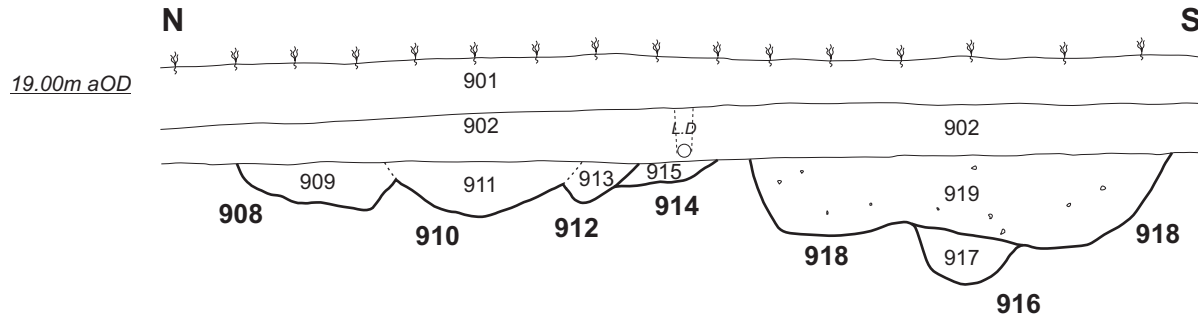
Plan of Trench 8 and Section 74 Fig 8

Scale 1:100, 1:50

Trench 9 SSW



Section 73, Trench 9 (Composite)



Plan of Trench 9 and Section 73 Fig 9



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