



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation
of land at Ravenstone Road
Ibstock, Leicestershire
February 2012



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Report 12/45

March 2012

X.A2.2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire February 2012	
Short description	In February 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire. The works identified a pit alignment of possible Iron Age date. Two undated ditches were also identified. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. A known Roman settlement immediately to the north of the site did not appear to extend into the evaluation area and only a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the excavations.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Iron Age pit alignment, Roman town, Roman road, medieval ridge and furrow	
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Ravenstone Road, Ibstock	
Easting Northing	SK 406 113	
Area (sq m/ha)	5.9ha	
Height AOD	140m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher (NA)	
Project Manager	Myk Flitcroft (CgMs) and Mark Holmes (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body		
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	08/02/2012	
End date	17/02/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	X.A2.2012	Pottery
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of Land at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire February 2012	
Serial title & volume	12/45	
Author(s)	Ian Fisher	
Page numbers		
Date	14 March 2012	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION OF LAND AT
RAVENSTONE ROAD, IBSTOCK
LEICESTERSHIRE
FEBRUARY 2012**

Abstract

In February 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire. The works identified a pit alignment of possible Iron Age date. Two undated ditches were also identified. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. A known Roman settlement immediately to the north of the site did not appear to extend into the evaluation area and only a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the excavations.

1 INTRODUCTION

In February 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 406 113; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of the Davidsons Group Ltd, and was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the proposed residential development of the land.

The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012). The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

Location

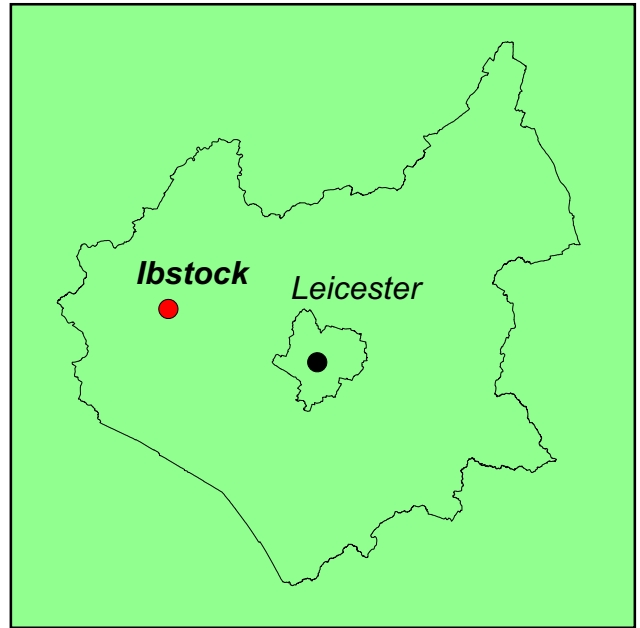
The area proposed for residential development comprises a single arable field and two paddocks, totalling 5.9ha, centred at NGR SK 406 113 (Fig 1). It lies to the north of Ibstock, on the east side of Ravenstone Road. It is bounded to the south by the existing Chandlers Croft & Flats Close housing development and to the north and east by fields. It stands at an approximate elevation of 140m AOD and is mildly undulating with an overall slope down to the east.

Geology

The solid geology of the site is mapped as the Radcliffe member of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation (formerly known as the Lower Keuper Marl). A capping of glacial till is present in the south of the area (BGS 2012).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The proposed development area lies immediately to the south of a substantial but poorly investigated Roman settlement, which Peter Liddle has classified as a 'small town' (Liddle 2004, 68-9). Cropmarks and fieldwalking evidence suggest that it was linear in plan, and



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

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extended for a distance of at least 1km along the line of a Roman road, the *Via Devana*. Piecemeal salvage excavation and watching briefs on the western half of the town, in advance of open-cast mining, have recorded various boundary ditches, structural remains and kilns, but it appears that much else may have been destroyed without adequate record (Lucas 1981, Liddle 2004). Geophysical survey was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology earlier in 2011 (Walford 2011). The survey located a substantial complex of ditched enclosures, which based upon their form and character constituted an occupation site of Iron Age or Romano-British date. This site extends across the majority of the area surveyed and continues beyond its western, southern and eastern boundaries. The survey results also demonstrated the presence of medieval or later ridge and furrow across the entire survey area and suggest that some relatively small quarry pits may be located along its western boundary.

The geophysical survey confirmed the presence of part of a substantial Roman roadside settlement lying along the course of the *Via Devana* (Walford 2011). This comprised a regularly laid out set of plots arrayed along either side of a road. The plots were delineated by boundary ditches, and several contain internal features such as pits and kilns. There was no clear evidence for wall footings or other structural remains but such features are difficult targets for magnetometry (EH 2008: 14) and their absence may prove to be more apparent than real. Several outlying features were detected, but most of these are represented by such weak and fragmentary magnetic anomalies that their full significance and extent could not be determined. To the south of the town were a pair of highly magnetised anomalies that may represent kilns. The only other features of archaeological interest are the traces of ridge and to the south of the settlement. The remaining anomalies detected by the survey all related to modern features and apart from one unusually large ferrous anomaly, were thought to be of little significance.

Immediately south-west of the proposed development area is the Ashby Road site, where Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a magnetometer survey in 2010. This survey detected very little of archaeological interest, apart from a single pit and some very slight traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (Butler 2010). Subsequent trial trenching confirmed that there was little of archaeological interest on the site (Jarvis 2010).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Twenty trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by CgMs Consulting and approved by Richard Clarke (Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; Fig 2).

Eight of the trenches measured 50m long by 2m wide, seven trenches were 40m long by 2m wide, three trenches measured 25m by 4m, intersecting a possible prehistoric pit alignment and a large ferrous anomaly and two small areas, 5m by 5m, targeting highly magnetic features, possibly kilns. The total area excavated was 1710m². Trenches were positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS.

A 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:50 or 1:100 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology was Keuper Marl, which was encountered between 0.3-0.6m below the modern ground surface. This occurred as light-mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional-frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded pebbles and flint. The subsoil was mid orange-brown silty clay and the topsoil was mid-dark grey-black sandy clay, both soils contained occasional-frequent sub-rounded pebbles and flint. All archaeological features were cut into the natural geology and sealed by the subsoil, save for a probably post-medieval field boundary in trench 16 which cut through the subsoil.

4.2 The trial trenches (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

The trial trenches were positioned to investigate whether the substantial Roman roadside settlement identified by the earlier geophysical survey, continued south of its known location. More specifically, the trenches sought to investigate the presence/absence of a prehistoric pit alignment known from cropmarks (trenches 7, 17 and 18) and two highly magnetic features, possible kilns, identified by the geophysical survey (trenches 14 and 15). Trenches 2, 3 and 16 were positioned to target linear anomalies also identified by the geophysical survey.

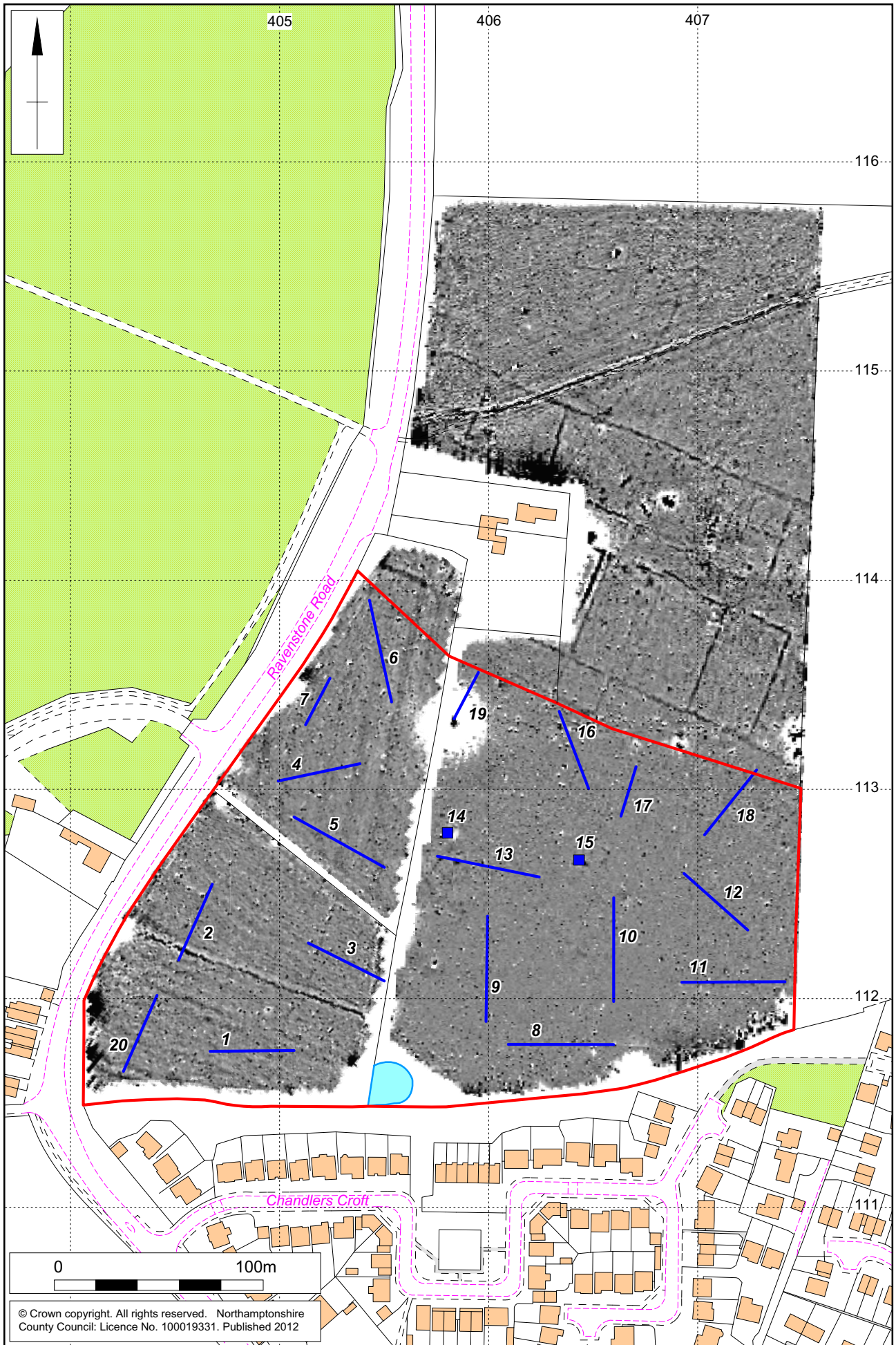
The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix. Archaeological features were found in six of the twenty trenches.

Trenches 4, 17, 18 contained undated ditches. The latter two features correspond with a single linear anomaly detected by the geophysical survey suggesting that they represent segments of a ditch system, possibly associated with the Roman settlement to the north. These features may also be related to the pit alignment located in trenches 7 and 16 as they share an approximate alignment. The ditch in trench 4 had not previously been identified.

Trenches 7, 13, 16 contained pits. Those in trenches 7 and 16 were similar in character and form part of a prehistoric pit alignment previously identified by aerial photography. The feature in trench 13 was of a different character and is thought to be an isolated small pit or posthole.

Remnant furrows from ridge and furrow cultivation were encountered in trenches 4 and 6 and a field boundary, probably of post-medieval date, was identified in trench 16.

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 20 contained no archaeological features. These blank trenches included trench 2, which targeted a linear magnetic anomaly and trench 19 which targeted a strong localised ferrous anomaly. It is likely that in both cases these anomalies existed solely within the ploughsoil and did not survive as below ground features. Trenches 14 and 15 had targeted anomalies which the geophysical survey report had suggested might be kilns (Walford 2011, 4). In the event, excavation disproved this hypothesis as both trenches were blank.



Scale 1:2500 (A4)

Trench location plan and geophysical survey Fig 2

4.3 Prehistoric and Roman features

Trench 4

Trench 4, was 40m long and aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and located in order to sample an area identified as devoid of significant anomalies by the geophysical survey (Fig 3). The terminal of a ditch [404] was recorded in the west end of the trench.

Ditch [404]

A ditch [404], aligned north-west to south-east, 0.90m wide and 0.25m deep, had shallow broad U-shaped profile (Fig 5). The fill of mid grey brown sandy clay (405) contained no finds.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was 25m long and 4m wide, and aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 2 and 3). It was positioned to intersect the line of a possible prehistoric pit alignment. Two similar pits [704] and [707] were identified in the centre of the trench, confirming the presence of this boundary feature.

Pit [704]

Pit [704] measured 2.31m wide and 0.91m deep. It was U-shaped profile (Fig 5). The fills of mid grey brown sandy clay (705) and (706), contained no finds.

Pit [707]

Pit [707] measured 2.40m wide and 0.90m deep. It had a U-shaped profile (Fig 5). The fills of mid grey brown sandy clay (708) and (709), contained no finds

Trench 13

Trench 13, 50m long, was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and was located to target a geophysical anomaly representing a pit. An undated feature [1304] located towards the west end of the trench corresponds to this anomaly (Fig 3). It is unclear whether this feature functioned as a small pit or a posthole.

Pit/Posthole [1304]

A pit or posthole [1304], located at the west end of the trench, 0.70m wide and 0.33m deep, had a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 5). The fill of orange brown sandy clay (1305) contained no finds.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was 40m long, aligned north-west to south east and located in order to sample geophysical anomalies representing a possible ditch and a former field boundary. A single pit [1608] was found where the geophysical survey identified a linear anomaly and this may indicate the presence of a prehistoric pit alignment known from aerial photographs and also present in trench 7. A possible second pit or re-cut of [1608] occurred at the very edge of excavation and was only visible in section [1610] A small gully [1605], confirmed the presence of the former field boundary (see 4.3) (Figs 2 and 4). Neither feature contained finds.

Pit [1608]

In the centre of the trench pit [1608] measured 1.70m wide and 0.90m deep with a broad U-shaped profile (Fig 6). The fill of mid orange grey sandy clay (1606) and (1607) contained no finds. Its eastern edge western side had been cut by a possible later feature (Fig 6; [1610]).

Trench 17

Trench 17 was 25m long and 4m wide, aligned north north-east to south south-west, and located to sample a linear geophysical anomaly representing a ditch or a possibly prehistoric pit alignment (Fig 2). Two terminals of ditches aligned east-west and spaced c 0.50m apart were found. These corresponded with the geophysical anomaly (Fig 4). A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch [1704].

Ditch [1704]

At the north end of the trench [1704] was aligned north-west to south-east, 1.30m wide and 0.20m deep, with a shallow rounded profile (Fig 6). The fill of light grey brown sandy clay (1705) contained a single sherd of Iron Age pottery.

Ditch [1706]

Also at the north end of the trench ditch [1706], was similarly aligned north-west to south-east, measured 1.50m wide and 0.24m deep, with a shallow rounded profile, and a fill of mid grey brown sandy clay (1707) contained no finds (Fig 6).

Trench 18

Trench 18 was 40m long, aligned north-east to south-west, and located to target the possible continuation of a geophysical anomaly representing a possible boundary ditch. There was a single shallow ditch [1804] at the south-west of the trench which had not previously been identified by the geophysical survey (Fig 4). Further to the north-east end of the trench, an irregular feature was excavated but proved to be a natural hollow [1806].

Ditch [1804]

A ditch [104], aligned north to south, 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep, had a shallow U-shaped profile, and a fill of mid grey brown sandy clay (1805) containing no finds (Fig 7).

4.4 Later features

The remains of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing had been detected by the geophysical survey and the remnants of their furrows were present in trench 4 only.

A field boundary, possibly of post-medieval date was located at the north-west end of trench 16. It comprised a gully [1605], aligned east to west, which measured 1.0m wide and 0.50m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Fig 6). The fill of mid orange brown sandy clay (1604) contained no finds. The gully cut through the underlying subsoil.

The linear anomaly found by the geophysical survey and targeted by trench 2 was an existing modern path, which crossed the paddock. Although visible on the ground, there were no underlying archaeological features associated with it.

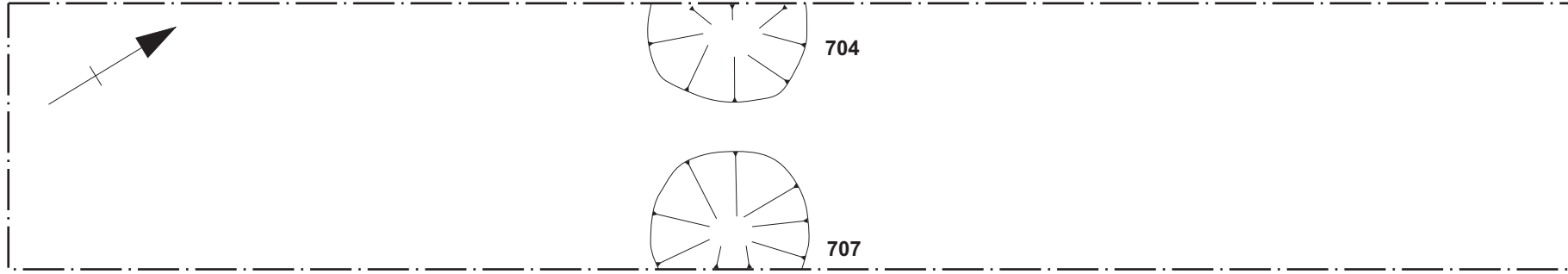
Ceramic land drains were also found during the excavations in trenches 3, 7 and 16.

Scale 1:100 (A4)

Trench 4



Trench 7



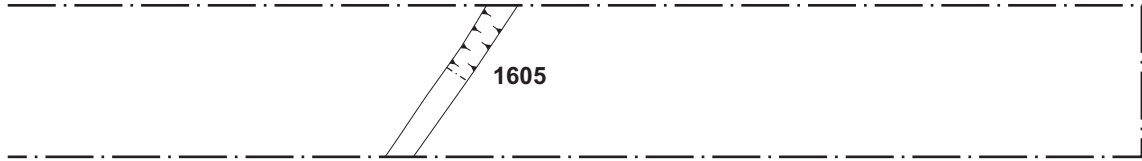
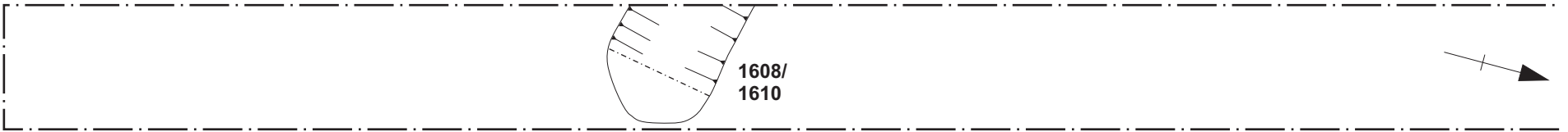
Trench 13



Plans of trenches 4, 7 and 13 Fig 3

Scale 1:100 (A4)

Trench 16



Trench 17

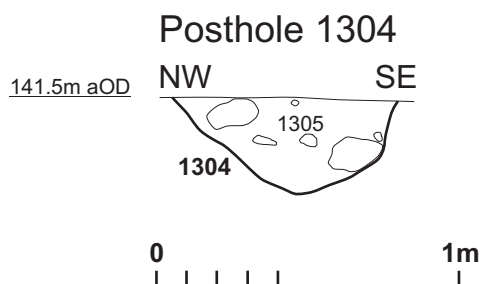
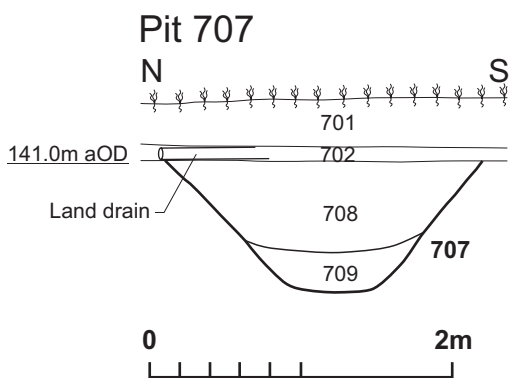
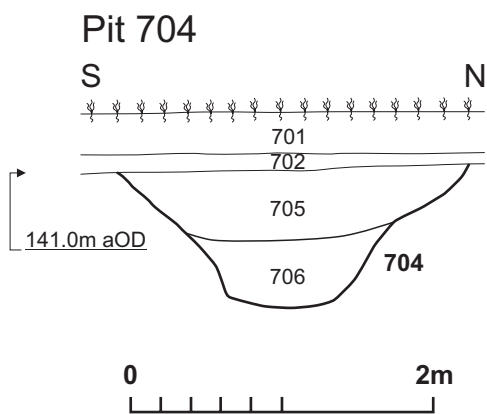
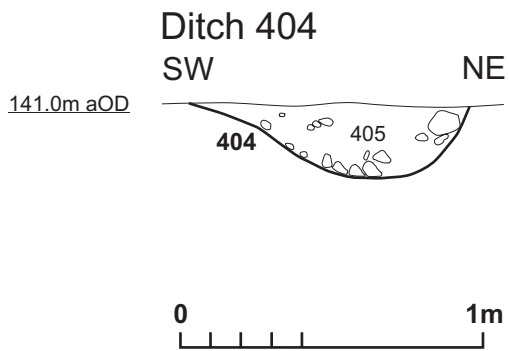


Trench 18

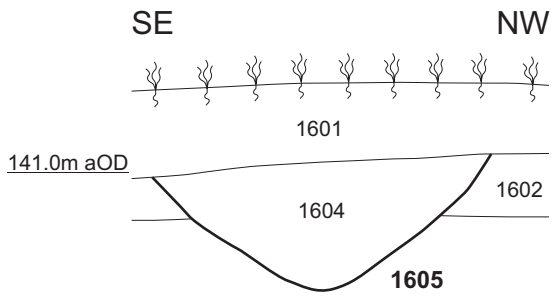


Plans of trenches 16, 17 and 18

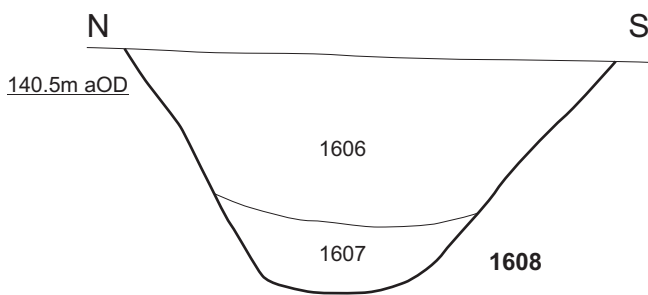
Fig 4



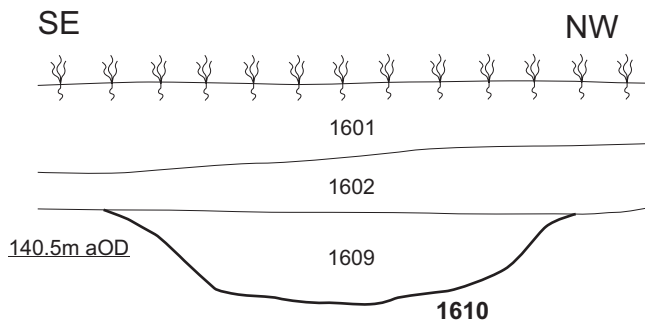
Gully 1605



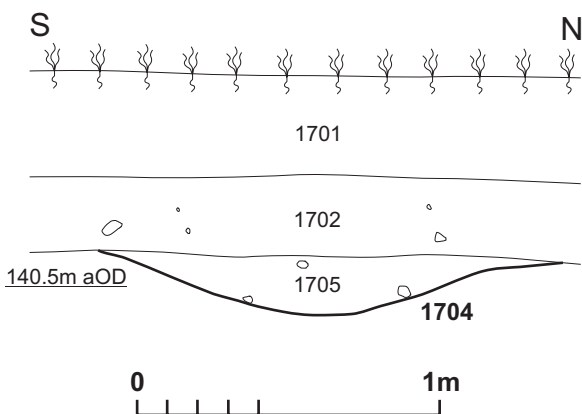
Pit 1608

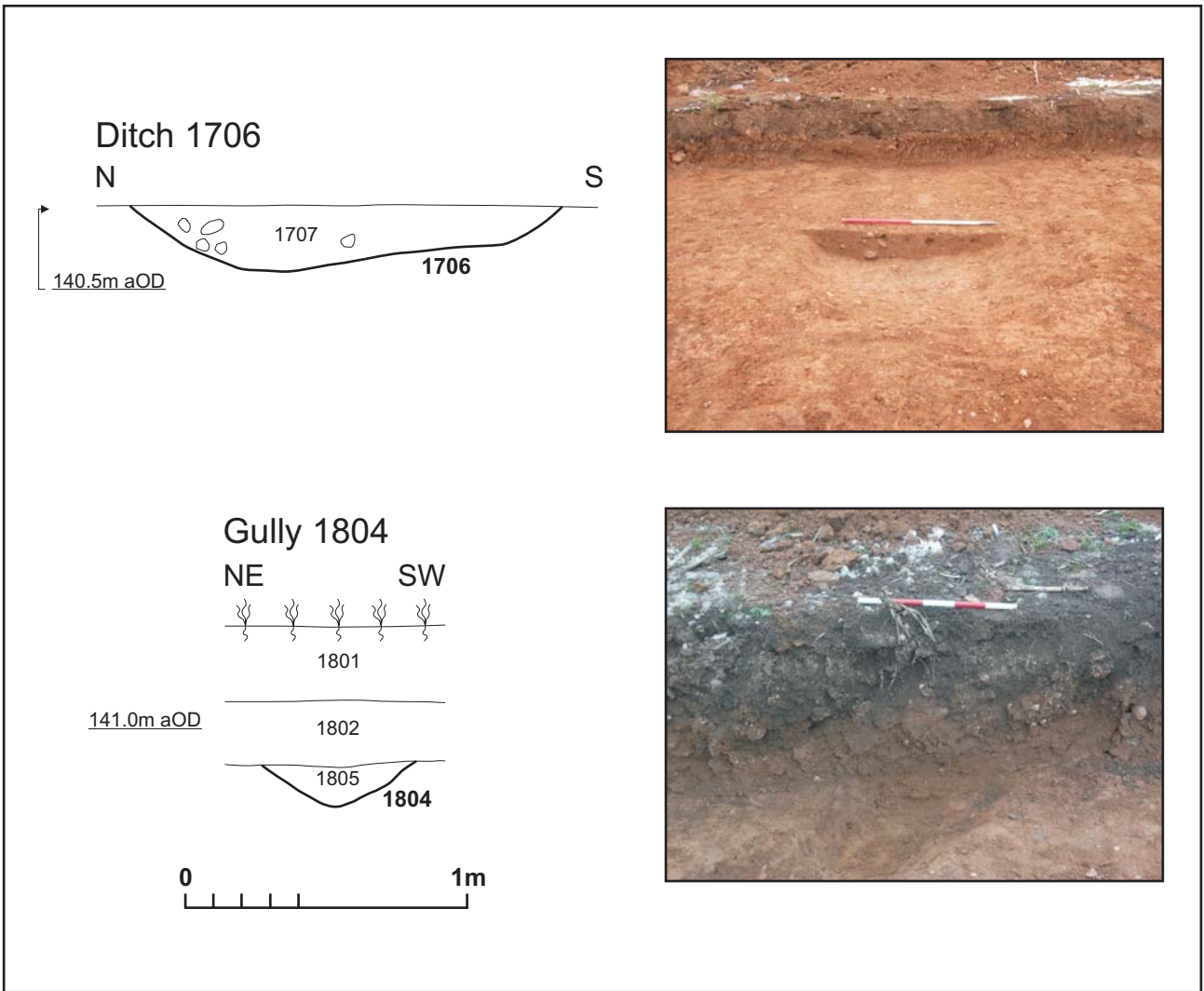


Pit 1610



Ditch 1704





Scale 1:25 (A4)

Excavated sections Fig 7

5 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

There is a single rim sherd of Iron Age pottery, weighing 20g, from the fill (1705) of a ditch [1704] in trench 17. The sherd is in a sandy fabric containing angular and rounded quartz, up to 1mm, with very sparse small pellets of orange-brown or grey-brown grog, up to 2mm (Leicestershire Fabric Q1). The core is brown, the outer surface is brown to dark grey and the inner surface is orange-brown. The sherd has an everted rim, with an internal chamfer, and the vessel is hand-built but wheel-finished. The form, fabric and finishing all suggest a late Iron Age date, probably the early decades of the 1st century AD.

5.2 Charred plant materials by John Summers

Introduction

Eight bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed by water flotation. The samples were from ditch and pit features of probable Iron Age or Roman date.

The samples were sent to Archaeological Solutions Ltd for assessment and characterisation. This report presents the results from the assessment of the environmental samples and discusses the significance and potential of the remains in relation to future investigations at the site.

Methodology

Samples were processed by water flotation by Northamptonshire Archaeology. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereo microscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). In samples containing larger quantities of charcoal, a small sub-sample of larger charcoal fragments (>2mm) were fractured in order to produce a transverse section for the assessment of variation in the assemblage (ring-porous, diffuse-porous and *Quercus* sp.). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) and a reference collection of modern seeds were consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions are detailed in Table 1. Information about the charcoal from the heavy fractions is also presented in Table 1.

Carbonised plant macrofossils

The number of carbonised plant macrofossils in the samples was very low. A small amount of cereal processing waste was present in sample 6 (context 705) in the form of three cereal culm fragments and an emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) glume base. In addition, a probable oat grain (cf. *Avena* sp.) was identified in sample 4 (context 1606). Both oats and emmer wheat are widely recorded in Iron Age archaeobotanical assemblages in England (e.g. Campbell and Straker 2003). Unfortunately, the number of items is far too low to confirm local cultivation or to investigate the relative importance of either cereal.

Other carbonised plant remains were in the form of small numbers of stem fragments from dicotyledonous plants, including heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and possible carrot family (cf. Apiaceae indet.). Numbers were low and such fragments could have been incorporated through a wide range of activities.

Charcoal

Other than in sample 8 (context 405), most of the charcoal was poorly preserved. Much of the material was friable and slightly vitrified, which may be indicative of burning at high temperatures. Some fragments in sample 7 (context 708) appeared incompletely charred.

In sample 8, two wood types were present, a ring-porous type and a diffuse-porous type. The ring-porous type showed clear curvature of the growth rings, indicating the use of small-diameter roundwood. The analytical potential of this single sample is limited since the number of fragments is relatively low and the source of the material is unknown.

Other remains

All samples contained material thought to be fragments of coal. It would seem that this was one of the dominant fuel sources at the site. Burning of coal and the higher temperatures that can be achieved could account for the poor preservation of charcoal and other organic material. Vitrified slag-like material identified in the samples may also be a by-product of coal fuel use.

Limited presence of other amorphous carbonised organic material was noted in samples 6 (context 705) and 7 (context 708). This could be the remains of burnt dung or another similar material.

Contaminants

Modern roots were abundant in most samples. Modern seeds, insects, earthworm egg capsules and nematode egg capsules were also all recorded. The evidence for extensive root action suggests that some disturbance of the deposits through bioturbation is likely to have occurred.

Discussion

Although carbonised remains and evidence of anthropogenic burning activities were encountered in the deposits, there was very limited material indicative of the use and processing of cereals or other economic plants. The low density of cereal remains is likely to represent small amounts of food and/or processing waste which entered hearths on the site. However, the densities are too low to shed light upon the sources of the material or the relative importance of different crops. Based on the present evidence, it does not appear that this site was a focus for cereal cultivation or processing.

The prevalence of coal in so many Iron Age contexts is interesting. Coupled with the limited amount of evidence for domestic activity (food and economic plants) in the samples, this suggests that the material in the deposits may represent debris from activities of a more industrial nature.

Statement of potential

Based on the eight samples recovered from the trial excavations, it appears unlikely that an analytically viable assemblage of carbonised plant macrofossils or charcoal would be recovered through further excavation and sampling. No further analysis of the samples from the trial excavations is recommended.

Table 1: Data from the assessment of environmental samples

Sample number	Context	Volume (litres)	Cereals			Charcoal		Contaminants					Other	Potential - GPR	Potential - Charcoal	
			Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Grain preservation	Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Roots	Modern seeds	Insects	Nematode capsules				Earthworm capsules
1	1707	40	X	-	Frag. (X)	6	X	-	XXX	XX	X	XXX	X	cf. coal fragments (X)	D	D
2	1805	40	-	-	-	-	XX	Friable and slightly vitrified	XX	XX	-	-	-	cf. coal fragments (X)	D	D
3	1305	40	-	-	-	-	XX	Ring porous. Friable and slightly vitrified.	XXX	XX	-	XXX	X	cf. coal fragments (X)	D	D
4	1606	40	X	-	cf. <i>Avena</i> sp. (1)	5	x	-	xxx	xx	-	-	-	cf. coal fragments (XX)	D	D
5	1604	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxx	xx	xx	-	-	cf. coal fragments (XXX)	D	D
6	705	40	-	x	Emmer wheat glume base (1); Cereal culm frag. (3)	-	X	-	XXX	XX	X	XXX	-	cf. coal fragments (XXX); clinker/slag (XX); cf. burnt dung (X); cf. Apiaceae indet. stem frag (X)	D	D
7	708	40	-	-	-	-	X	Friable and incompletely charred	XXX	X	-	XXX	X	cf. coal fragments (XXX); cf. dung (X); Dicot. stem (X); Heather stem (X)	D	D
8	405	40	-	-	-	-	XX	Ring porous roundwood (X); Diffuse porous (X)	XXX	XX	-	-	X	cf. coal fragments (XXX)	D	D

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trenching generally confirmed the accuracy of the earlier geophysical survey. Very few archaeological features were found, and a number of potential archaeological anomalies identified in the survey were shown not to represent archaeological features

Elements of a pit alignment, a landscape feature usually thought to date to the early Iron Age, were located traversing the site. Other shallow boundary ditches were also present. These shared an alignment with the pits and may represent a later continuation of the boundary. A field boundary, possibly of post-medieval date was also present.

All features displayed a relatively high degree of truncation, probably due to medieval and later ploughing on the site.

No evidence of settlement or industrial activity was found and of particular note was the dearth of finds. Only a single sherd of pottery was recovered and no animal bone or other

evidence of domestic detritus was present. The metal detector survey similarly found no pre-modern artefacts. This lack of material so close to a Roman settlement is surprising, possibly indicating that this area was given over to pasture or other such land-use up until the medieval period when traces of ridge and furrow cultivation show it became arable fields.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	50m x 2m W-E	440486 311174	142.02m aOD	0.48m 141.54m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy soil, 1-5% small to medium rounded stones	0.3-0.32m thick	
102	Subsoil	Dark orange brown sandy clay, <1% small sub-angular/subrounded pebbles and flint	0.1-0.18m thick	
103	Natural	Pinkish orange brown sandy clay, pockets of small- medium rounded pebbles and clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	50m x 2m SW-NE	440460 311236	141.75m aOD	0.54m 141.23m aOd
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay. Modern brick intrusion. <1% sub-rounded pebbles	0.26-0.34m thick	
202	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay-occasional clay patches. <1% sub-rounded pebbles	0.06-0.2m thick	
203	Natural	Dark orange brown sandy clay with grey mottles of clay. Small-medium sub-rounded pebbles		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	50m x 2m NW_SE	440532 311217	141.81m aOD	0.50m 141.31m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy clay. <1% small sub-rounded pebbles	0.3-0.34m thick	
302	Subsoil	Dark orange brown	0.14-0.2m	

		sandy clay. 1-5% small sub-rounded pebbles	thick	
303	Natural	Pink/orange brown sandy clay.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	40m x 2.0m E-W	440519 311308	141.56m aOD	0.50m 141.06m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Mid black-grey sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions	0.25-0.3m thick	
402	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions	0.15-0.2m thick	
403	Natural	Mid red brown sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions		
404	Cut of ditch butt end	Linear butt end on NW-SE alignment. 65 degree slope with rounded base	0.9m wide 0.25m wide	
405	Fill of [404]	Firm mid-grey brown sandy clay, stoney to base	0.9m wide 0.25m wide	Sample 8

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	50m x 2m NW-SE	440528 311275	141.83m aOD	0.50m 141.33m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Mid black-grey sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions	0.3m thick	
502	Subsoil	Mid brown grey sandy clay with moderate sub-rounded stone inclusions	0.2m thick	
503	Natural	Mid brown-red sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded stone		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	50m x 2m NW-SE	440548 311,366	141.61m aOD	0.40m 141.21m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay. 5% small rounded gravels	0.15-0.2m thick	
602	Subsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay containing <1% small-medium rounded gravels	0.2-0.25m thick	
603	Natural	Mid reddish-brown sandy clay. Contains 10-20% mixed small-large gravels and pebbles, manganese flecks.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	24m x 4m N-S	440512 311342	141.36m aOD	0.41m 140.95m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay, 5% small rounded gravels	0.23-0.26m thick	
702	Subsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay containing 5% small-medium rounded gravels	0.14-0.15m thick	
703	Natural	Mid reddish grey and brown sandy clays. 10-20% mixed small to large gravels and pebbles, large sandstone block		
704	Cut of pit	Circular pit partly under baulk. Sharp break of slope onto 55 degree sloping side onto flat base. Possible E-W pit alignment	2.3m wide 0.91m deep	
705	Fill of [704]	Secondary fill of pit [704] Firm mid browny grey sandy clay. 20% small to large gravels and pebbles. <1% charcoal flecks. Possibly intentionally backfilled	0.7m thick	Sample 6
706	Fill of [704]	Primary fill of pit [704] Firm mid bluey grey very sandy clay. 5% small rounded- angular	0.21m thick	

		gravels. Naturally silted		
707	Cut of pit	Circular pit partly under baulk. Sharp break of slope into 60 degree edge onto flat base. Possible E-W pit alignment	2.4m wide 0.9m deep	
708	Fill of [707]	Secondary fill of pit [704] Firm mid brownish grey sandy clay. 20% small to large gravels and pebbles. <1% charcoal flecks. Possibly intentionally backfilled	0.56m thick	Sample 7
709	Fill of [707]	Primary fill of pit [704] Firm mid bluey grey very sandy clay. 5% small rounded- angular gravels. Naturally silted	0.34m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	50m x 2m W-E	440635 311178	142.03m aOD	0.34m 141.69m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- some orange brown mottles. <1% sub-rounded/sub-angular small-medium pebbles	0.25-0.30m thick	
802	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay. <1% sub-rounded/ sub-angular small pebbles	0.05-0.10m thick	
803	Natural	Dark red/ orange brown sandy clay. Frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded medium pebbles, pink brown mottles of sand with occasional flint nodules		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	50m x 2m N-S	440599 311214	141.89m aOD	0.28m 141.61m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay. 1-5% sub-rounded pebbles- small, <1%	0.22-0.34m thick	

		small flint nodules		
902	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay, 1-5% sub-rounded small pebbles	0.04m-0.10m thick	
903	Natural	Mottled dark orange brown sandy clay. Moderate mix of pebbles, small-medium sub-rounded and sub-angular. Occasional large pebble flint nodule. Patches of pink-brown sand and orangey yellow clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	50m x 2m N-S	440660 311223	141.65m aOD	0.37m 141.28m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay. 1-5% sub-rounded/sub-angular small pebbles	0.30--0.35m thick	
1002	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay.<1% sub-rounded/sub-angular small pebbles	0.07-0.20m thick	
1003	Natural	Dark red/ orange brown sandy clay. Frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded medium pebbles, pink brown mottles of sand with occasional flint nodules		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
11	50m x 2m W-E	440717 311207	141.27m aOD	0.40m 140.87m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay. 1-5% sub-rounded/sub-angular small pebbles	0.27-0.30m thick	
1102	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay.<1% sub-rounded/sub-angular small pebbles	0.10--0.19m thick	
1103	Natural	Dark red/ orange brown sandy clay. Occasional		

		sub-angular and sub-rounded medium pebbles. Occasional flint nodule and large boulder, Patches of orange-yellow clay		
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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
12	50m x 2m SW-NE	440709 311246	140.98m aOD	0.40m 140.58m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
1201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay. 1-5% rounded/ angular small pebbles/ gravels	0.20-0.30m thick	
1202	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay. 1-5% rounded/ angular small pebbles/ gravels	0.04-0.15m thick	
1203	Natural	Mottled light orangey grey, brown and dark orangey grey brown sand and clay mix. Contains patches of mixed small to large rounded and angular pebbles and flints.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
13	50m x 2m W-E	440600 311263	141.14m aOD	0.28m 140.86m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
1301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay. <1% small sub-rounded pebbles some orange brown sandy patches	0.22-0.36m thick	
1302	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay. <1% rounded small pebbles. Occasional clay patches	0.04-0.08m thick	
1303	Natural	Dark red brown sandy clay. occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and medium flint nodules, pink brown mottles of sand and yellow orange clay		

1304	Cut of post hole	Oval shaped post hole on NE-SW alignment with a 50- 75 degree cut onto rounded base. Has large cobbles (post packing?)	0.97m length 0.70m width 0.33m deep	
1305	Fill of [1304]	Loose mottled orange/ brown grey sandy clay with 10-20% small to large cobble stones.	0.97m length 0.70m width 0.33m deep	Sample 3

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
14	5m x 5m Square N-S	440580 311279	141.84m aOD	0.46m 141.38m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
1401	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- 1-5% rounded/sub-angular small-medium pebbles	0.32-0.42m thick	
1402	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay.<4% sub-rounded small pebbles and flint	0.04-0.10m thick	
1403	Natural	Dark red brown sandy clay. Moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded medium pebbles and flints. Patches of grey white clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
15	5m x 5m Square N-S	440643 311266	141.35m aOD	0.38m 140.97m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
1501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- 1-5% sub-rounded small pebbles	0.28-0.30m thick	
1502	Subsoil	Dark red brown sandy clay.<1% sub-rounded small pebbles	0.06-0.08m thick	
1503	Natural	Dark red brown sandy clay. Moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded small- medium pebbles and flints. Patches of		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
16	50m x 2m WNW-SSE	440640 311318	141.27m aOD	0.52m 140.75m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- 5-10% rounded small-large pebbles, occasional small angular flint	0.28-0.33m thick	
1602	Subsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay. 10% rounded small- medium pebbles	0.22-0.26m thick	
1603	Natural	Mottled dark reddish brown, dark grey brown and orangey brown sandy clay. 10% angular flint and rounded pebbles throughout		
1604	Fill of [1605]	Soft mid orange brown sandy clay. 3% poorly sorted 5-150mm rounded stones. Poss. modern? Silting deposit	1m wide 0.5m deep	Sample 5
1605	Cut of gully	Linear gully on NE-SW alignment, moderate break of slope with concave sides and base. Poss. Modern as cuts subsoil.	1m wide 0.5m deep	
1606	Fill of [1608]	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay. 3% poorly sorted sub-rounded 10-150mm stones. A natural silting deposit	1.70m wide 0.65m deep	Sample 4
1607	Fill of [1608]	Primary fill, a friable mid orange grey sandy clay. 2% poorly sorted 10-150mm rounded stones. Part of natural silting process.	1.70m wide 0.20m deep	
1608	Cut of pit	A sub-circular pit with a sharp break of slope, concave sides and flat base. Not fully visible in trench so possible pit.	1.70m wide 0.90m deep	
1609	Fill of [1610]	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay. 2% poorly sorted sub-rounded stones. A natural silting deposit	1.20m wide 0.28m deep	
1610	Cut of pit	A sub-circular pit with a sharp break of slope, concave sides and flat	1.20m wide 0.28m deep	

		base. Not fully visible in trench so possible pit.		
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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
17	25m x 4m SSW-NNE	440667 311299	140.04m aOD	0.53m 139.51m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- 5-10% rounded mixed small- medium pebbles,	0.30m thick	
1702	Subsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay.5-10% small-medium rounded pebbles	0.20-0.23m thick	
1703	Natural	Mottled dark reddish brown, dark grey brown and orangey brown sandy clay. 10% angular flint and rounded pebbles throughout		
1704	Cut of ditch butt end	E-W aligned linear butt end, moderate break of slope to 30 degree cut onto rounded base. Very shallow.	1.30m wide 0.20m deep	
1705	Fill of [1704]	Firm light grey brown sandy clay, single fill. 1% small and medium rounded gravels with occasional charcoal flecks. Naturally silted.	1.30m wide 0.20m deep	Iron age pottery
1706	Cut of ditch butt end	E-W aligned linear butt end, moderate break of slope to 40 degree cut onto uneven base. Very shallow.	1.50m wide 0.24m deep	
1707	Fill of [1706]	Firm mid grey brown sandy clay. 5% small-medium rounded gravels. a naturally silted single fill.	1.50m wide 0.24m deep	Sample 1

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
18	50m x 2m NE-SW	440715 311293	140.80m aOD	0.47m 140.33m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- 5-10% rounded	0.27-0.30m thick	

		small pebbles		
1802	Subsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay.5-10% rounded small pebbles	0.18-0.20m thick	
1803	Natural	Mottled light orangey and dark reddish brown sands. More dark brown grey clay to south end of trench		
1804	Cut of gully	Linear gully on NW-SE alignment. Moderate break of slope to 45 degree cut onto rounded base	0.30m wide 0.15m deep	
1805	Fill of [1804]	Firm mid grey brown sandy clay. 1-5% small rounded gravels. single naturally formed fill	0.30m wide 0.15m deep	Sample 2
1806	Natural hollow?	Irregular shaped hollow on E-W alignment. Sharp break of slope northern edge onto 70 degree cut, southern edge gradual 15 degree slope onto uneven base.	1.90m wide 0.30m deep	
1807	Fill of [1806]	Loose dark orangey brown with orange mottling sandy clay. <1% sub-rounded small pebbles. Naturally formed deposit in natural hollow.	1.90m wide 0.30m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
19	50m x 2m NE-SW	440589 311344	141.70m aOD	0.40m 141.30m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- 1-5% sub-rounded small pebbles	0.30-0.32m thick	
1902	Subsoil	Reddish brown sandy clay.1-5% small-medium sub-rounded/ sub-angular pebbles	0.10-0.17m thick	
1903	Natural	Dark red brown sandy clay. Moderate- frequent small- medium sub-rounded/ sub-angular pebbles and flint. Occasional large rounded boulder or large pebble		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
20	50m x 2m NE-SW	440433 311183	141.19m aOD	0.64m 140.55m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay- <1% sub-rounded small pebbles. Depth decreases to south	0.20-0.34m thick	
2002	Subsoil	Dark orange brown sandy clay, <1% sub-rounded small pebbles. Depth decreases to south.	0.20-0.30m thick	
2003	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay with pinkish tinge. Small sub-angular/ sub-rounded pebbles and flint. More clay than sand.		



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