



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation on land north of Hethersett, Norfolk February 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire
County Council

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Event No. ENF128437



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation on land north of Hetherset, Norfolk. February 2012	
Short description	In February 2012, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land at Hetherset, Norfolk. Fifty-four trenches were excavated in fields 4, 6 and 10. Only three trenches in field 10 revealed any archaeological features, an Iron Age pit, a Roman ditch, a Roman pit or ditch and a unurned cremation burial. Post-medieval boundary ditches were also present in a number of trenches.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site Status		
Previous work	Field walking survey and geophysical survey	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	Human cremated bone, Iron Age and Roman pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Norfolk	
Site address	Land north of Hetherset, Norfolk	
Post code	-	
OS co-ordinates	TG 164 055	
Area (sq m/ha)	21.1ha	
Height aOD	47m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones (NA)	
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA) Duncan Hawkins (CgMs)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	06/02/2012	
End date	28/02/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	ENF128437	Pottery
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land north of Hetherset, Norfolk	
Serial title & volume	12/ 51	
Author(s)	Christopher Jones	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND NORTH OF HETHERSETT, NORFOLK
FEBRUARY 2012**

Abstract

In February 2012, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land at Hethersett, Norfolk. Fifty-four trenches were excavated in fields 4, 6 and 10. Only three trenches in field 10 revealed any archaeological features, an Iron Age pit, a Roman ditch, a Roman pit or ditch and a unurned cremation burial. Post-medieval boundary ditches were also present in a number of trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a trial trench evaluation for a planning application on land north of Hethersett (SP 796 660; Fig 1). The event number is ENF128437.

The programme of archaeological investigation, involved the excavation of 54 trenches across the development area, the results of which are presented in this report.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the specification (NA 2011) and *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991, appendix 4: assessment report specification) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

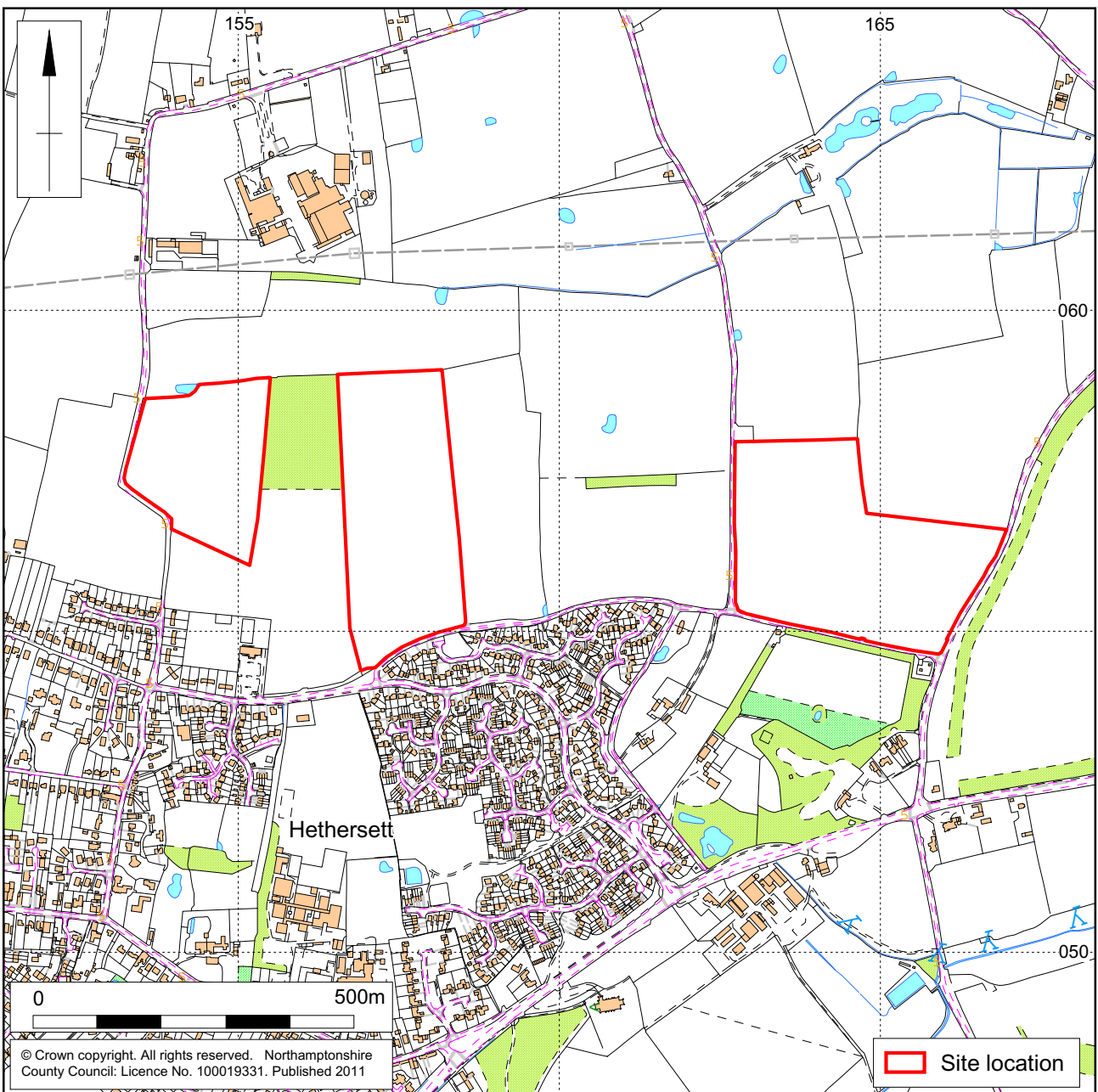
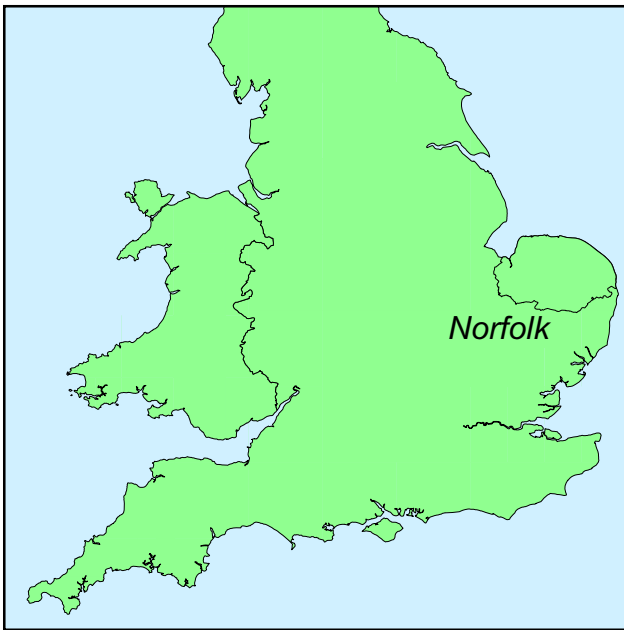
This tranche of works follows a detailed geophysical magnetometer survey and fieldwalking by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Wolfram-Murray and Walford 2011).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The area lies to the north of Hethersett, which is on the northern side of the B1172 (Norwich Road), and to the south of Little Melton. The area lies at a height of approximately 47m AOD and is generally flat or slightly undulating. The area to be excavated by trenching comprised three fields F4, F6 and F10 (Fig 2).

The geology of the survey area is largely composed of diamicton overlying chalk. At the far eastern and western ends of the survey area, terrace deposits of sand and gravel also occur (BGS 2011). These strata support sandy and coarse loamy soils of the Burlingham 1 soil association (SSEW 1983 and pers obs).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Archaeological background

There are six Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) entries directly within the development area. There are further sites and find spots recorded in close proximity to the area which are of interest. Metal detecting revealed Roman to post-medieval metal finds (MNF 24043). A postulated Early Saxon inhumation cemetery in the southern half of F6 is apparently based on three pieces of metalwork. Finds from multiple periods were also recovered from this area, recovered mostly through metal detecting (ENF 21862). A possible World War Two bomb crater is recorded (MNF 59880), notable as an earthwork on aerial photographs. Aerial photographs showed possible earthworks of linear ditches and possible bank.

The area surrounding the development area is relatively rich in prehistoric worked flint. These included a Palaeolithic axe (MNF 17936) and Neolithic flint scatters (MNF13216, MNF28149). To the north-west of Field 2 is a possible Bronze Age ring ditch visible in aerial photographs (MNF 59876). There is a Roman settlement site, which included inhumations and buildings (MNF 9270). A geophysical survey revealed possible Roman and Early Saxon features (MNF 42110). There has also been intense metal detecting activity within and around the survey area, which has resulted in several Roman finds spots. Previous fieldwalking had similar finds of Roman and post-medieval pottery (MNF 32865).

Recent fieldwalking survey recovered lithic artefacts from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age and pottery sherds from the Bronze Age, the Early/Middle Saxon and Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period through to the post-medieval and modern period. Little evidence was found to support the postulated provenance of an early Saxon inhumation cemetery (Wolframm-Murray and Walford 2011).

The recent geophysical survey revealed a possible enclosure and a possible ring ditch in Field 6, possible ditches and pits in Field 11 and a number of former field boundaries, infilled ponds and other recent landscape features (Wolframm-Murray and Walford 2011).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was:

- To inform a forthcoming planning application for the site;
- To determine and understand the nature, function, and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting;
- To determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- To determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

Specific research objectives will be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1997; Glazebrook 1997; and Brown and Glazebrook 2000) as relevant depending upon the results of the evaluation.

3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the specification (NA 2011), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists* (IfA 1985, revised 2010).

Fifty-four trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. Fifty-two of the trenches were 50m long by 2m wide and two trenches 25m long by 2m wide. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by CgMs Consulting archaeological advisor and have been related to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 2).

The trenches were set out by survey grade GPS (Leica System 1200) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m. They were positioned to provide a full coverage of the development area, and to provide more detailed coverage where the geophysical survey had identified any possible archaeological features.

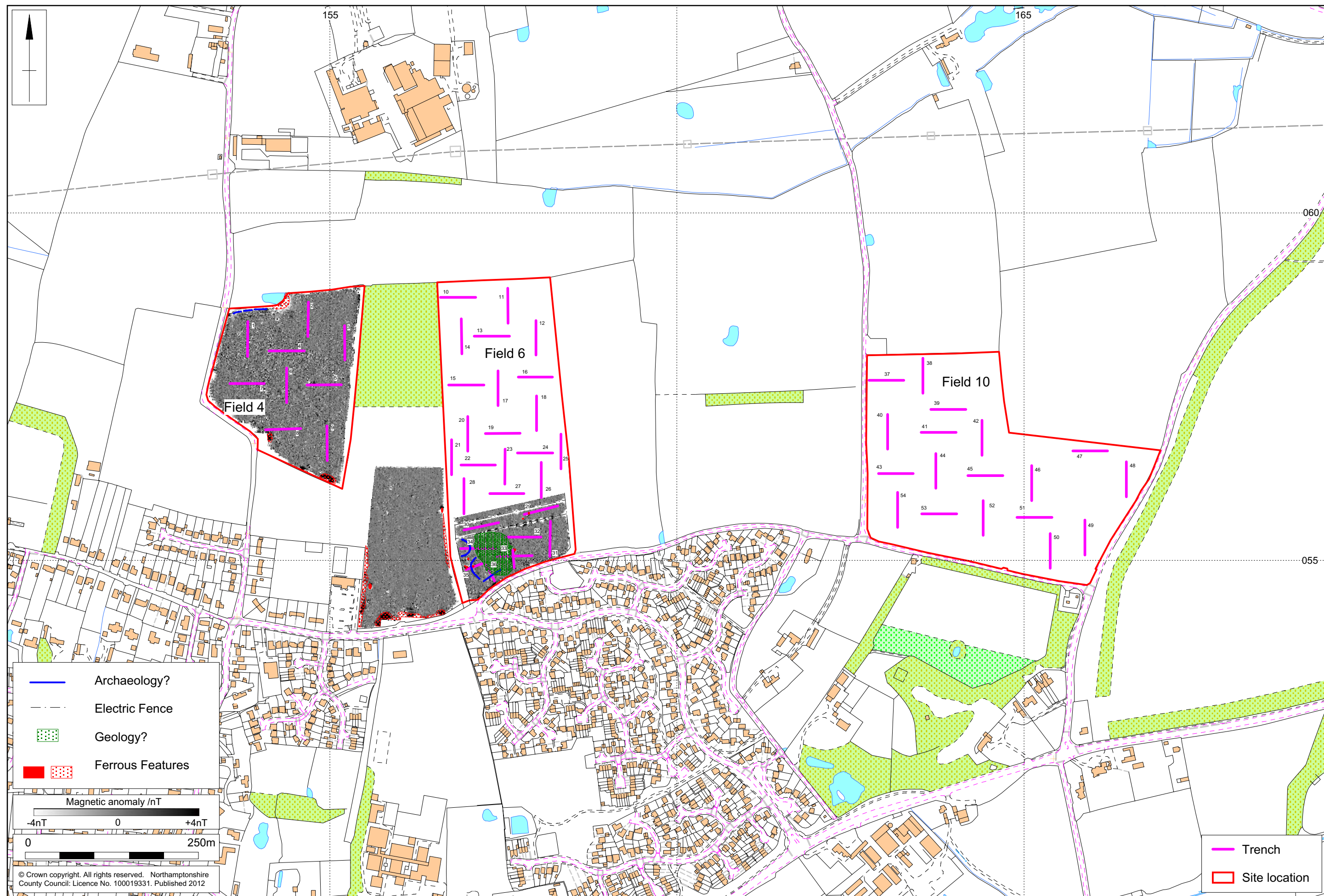
The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal archaeological remains or where absent to the natural. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given a separate context number and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2006). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. Sections of the sequence of deposits in each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and related to Ordnance Datum. Archaeological artefacts were recovered from the surface and excavated deposits. Deposits suitable for environmental assessment were encountered and sampled. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.

The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.



4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 Field 4

Trenches 1-9 were excavated in Field 4. Natural sands were overlain by gray-brown sandy silt topsoil averaging 0.3m deep. A single ditch was observed in Trench 3.

Trench 3

The only feature present was a post-medieval ditch [303] in trench 3, which contained a modern field drain (Fig 3). This was 2.0m wide and 0.85m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill (304) was friable mid brown silty sand.

4.2 Field 6

Trenches 10–36 were excavated in the field. Natural light brown sand was overlain by locally present light greyish-brown sandy clay subsoil up to 0.1m deep and dark grey sandy silt topsoil 0.35m deep.

At the north end of Field 6, Trenches 11 and 14 contained a post-medieval boundary ditch running east-west across the field (Fig 3). A series of undated ditches were present towards the southern end of the field in Trenches 24-27, 29, 32, 33 and 34. These were aligned generally either north-south or east-west, parallel to the current field boundaries and where dated produced post-medieval or modern material. These may represent previous field divisions.

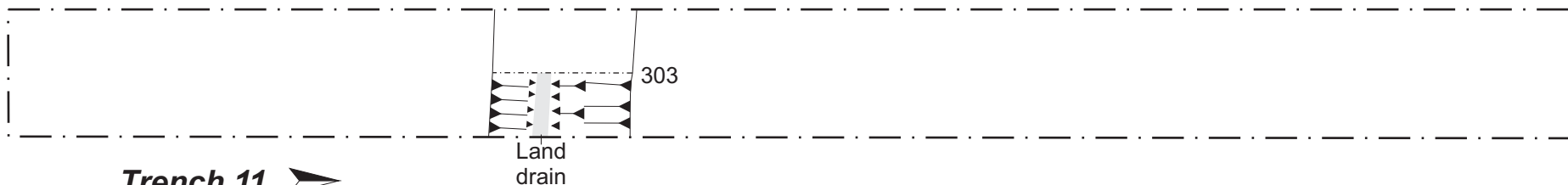
Trenches 34, 35 and 36 were targeted on geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin. There was little correspondence between the features present and the anomalies identified by geophysical survey, although a ditch seen in Trench 34 may relate to one of the geophysical survey features. No archaeological features were present in Trenches 35 and 36, although variations in the natural deposits were observed which may account for the geophysical responses.

Trenches 11 and 14

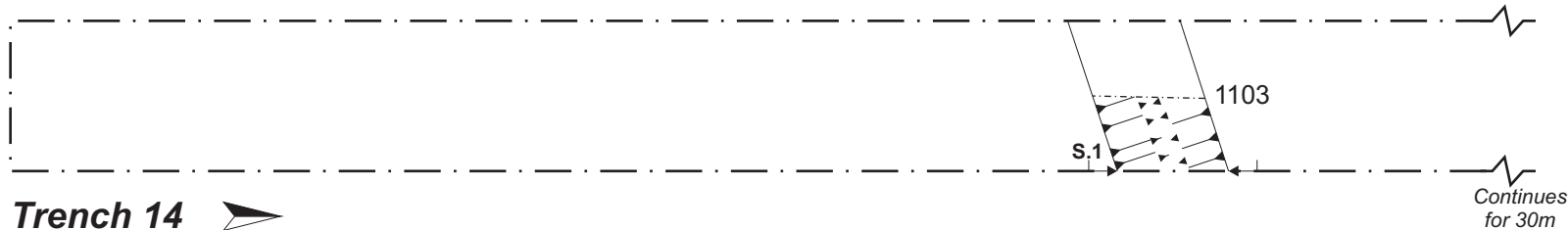
A modern ditch, aligned east-west, was present in the south end of Trench 11 [1103], and is probably the same as ditch [1404] seen in the north end of Trench 14.

Ditch [1103] was 1.76m wide and 0.78m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Fig 3, section 1). The fill of mid orange silty sand (1104) produced a fragment of modern bottle glass. Ditch [1404] was 2.5m wide and 1.3m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Fig 3, section 9). There was a sequence of fills comprising grey- to orange-brown sandy silty clays (1405-7).

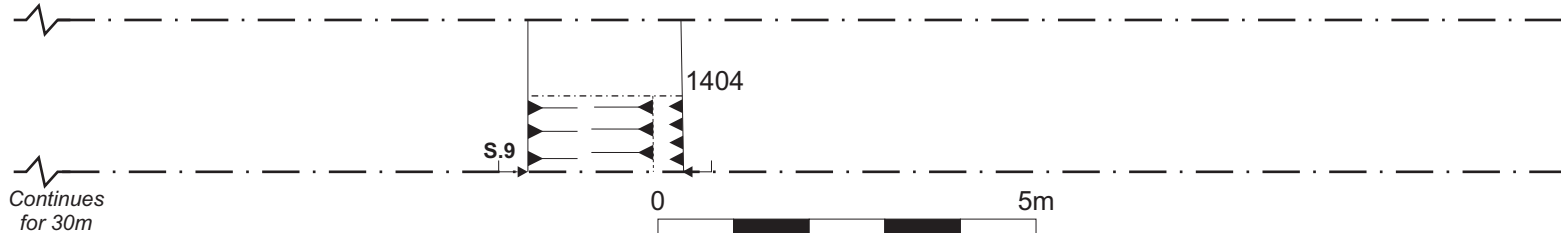
Trench 3



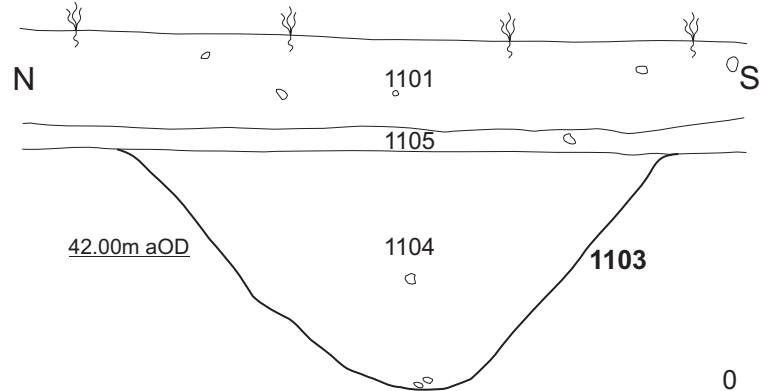
Trench 11



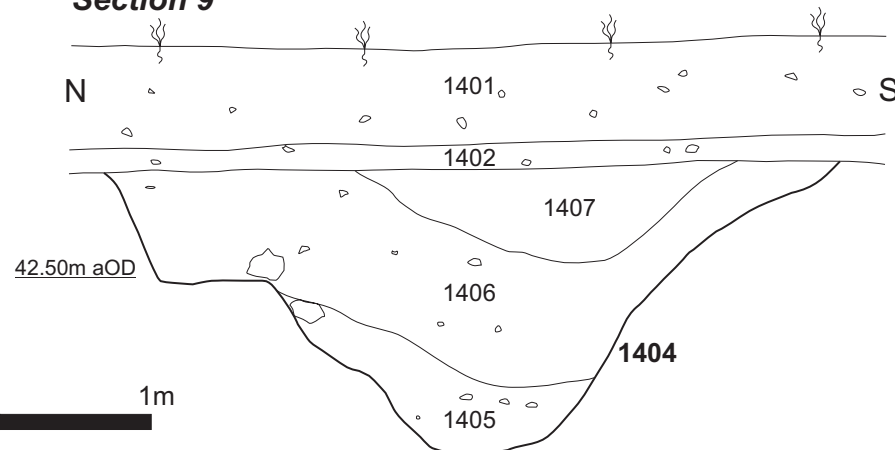
Trench 14



Section 1



Section 9



Trench 24

An undated ditch [2403], aligned north-south, was 1.5m wide and 0.9m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 6, section 4). The fills comprised grey-brown silty sands (2404 and 2405). Feature [2406] was found on further investigation to be a natural hollow.

Trench 25

An undated ditch [2503], aligned east-west, was 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep, U-shaped in profile, with a fill of dark grey-brown silty sand (2504).

Trench 26

Trench 26 contained two parallel ditches, aligned north-east to south-west. Ditch [2603] was 1.5m wide and 0.9m deep, U-shaped in profile with fills (2604-5) of brown-grey silty sands (Fig 5, section 5). Ditch [2606] was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep, U-shaped in profile, with a fill (2607) of orange-brown silty sand (Fig 5, section 12).

Trench 27

Ditch [2703], aligned north-south, was 1.35m wide and 0.8m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 6, section 8). The fill was red-brown silty sand (2704), which produced an iron object of uncertain purpose.

Trench 28

Ditch [2803], aligned east-west, was 1.0m wide and 0.8m deep, with a shallow V-shaped profile, and a fill of firm orange-brown sandy silt.

Trench 29

Features in this trench included ditch [2903], aligned north-south, 1.74m wide and 0.5m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 7, section 6). The fills (2904-6) comprised brown silty sands, the uppermost of which (2904) produced 19th-20th century ceramics, an iron nail and post-medieval brick fragments. Also present in this trench were a number of shallow hollows and gullies [2907, 2908 and 2909] which, on investigation, proved to be of natural origin.

Trench 32

A ditch [3204], aligned north-south, was 1.2m wide and 0.8m deep with a steep V-shaped profile (Fig 4, section 3). The primary fill comprised mostly angular flint (3206) overlain by mid-brown silty sand (3205), which produced pottery of 16th-19th century date. This was likely a field drain.

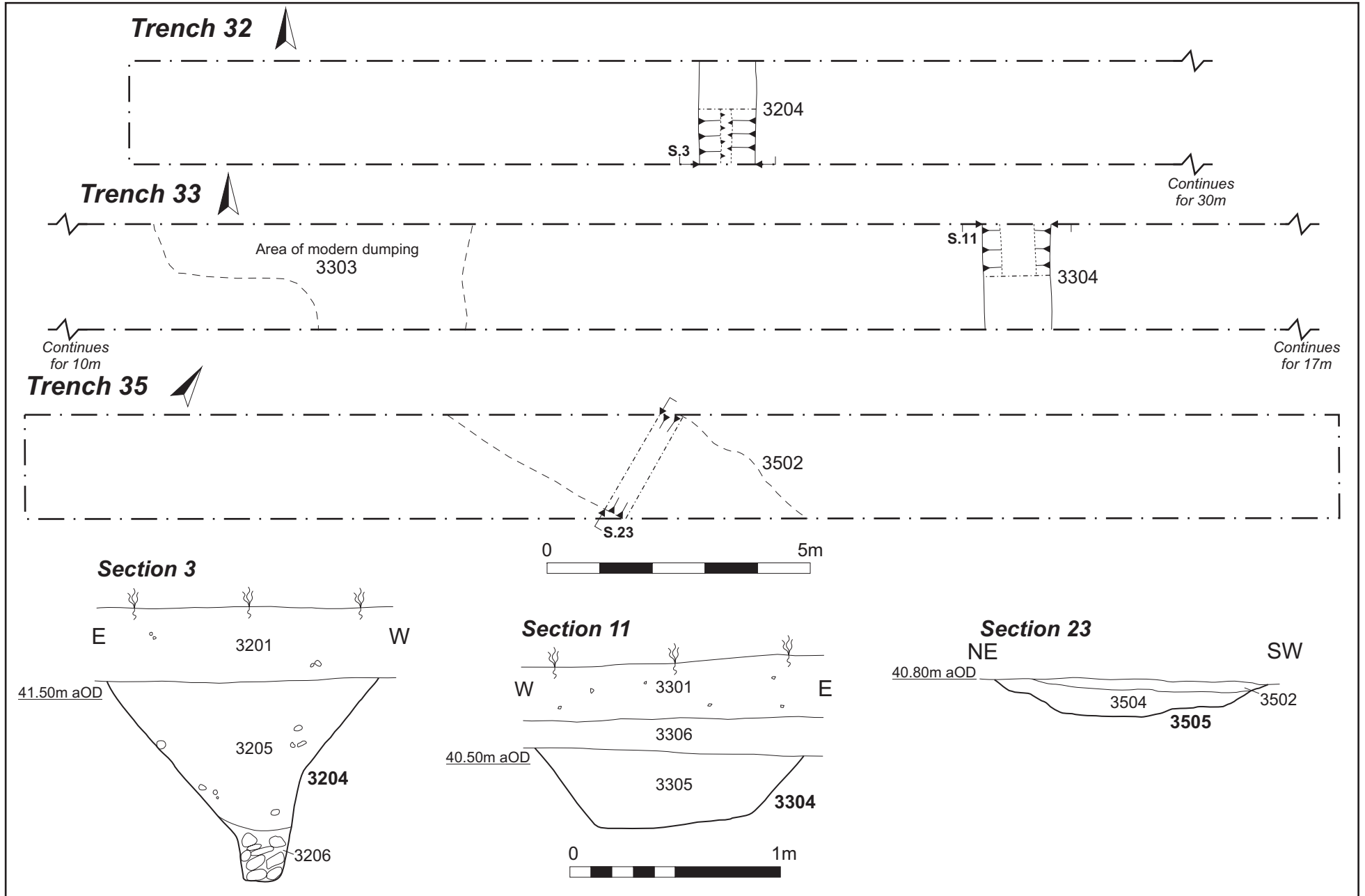
Trench 33

Ditch [3304], aligned north-south, was 1.1m wide and 0.7m deep with a flat base (Fig 4, section 11). The fill (3305) was yellow-brown sandy silt which produced a clay tobacco pipe stem.

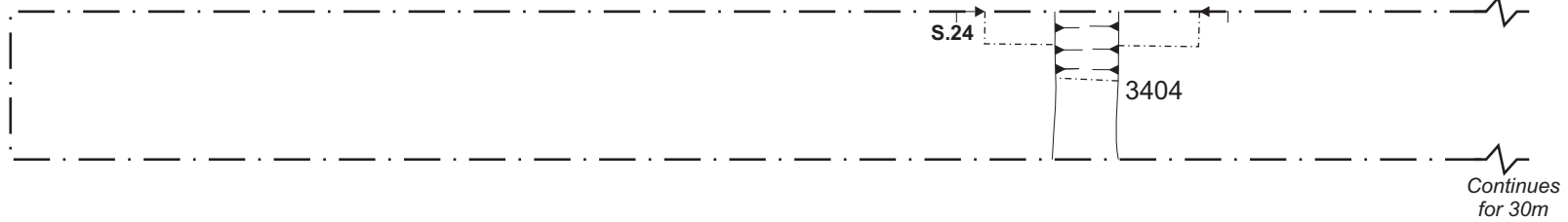
Towards the western end of the trench was a layer of recent dumping (3303) which included brick fragments and coal.

Trench 34

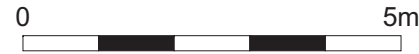
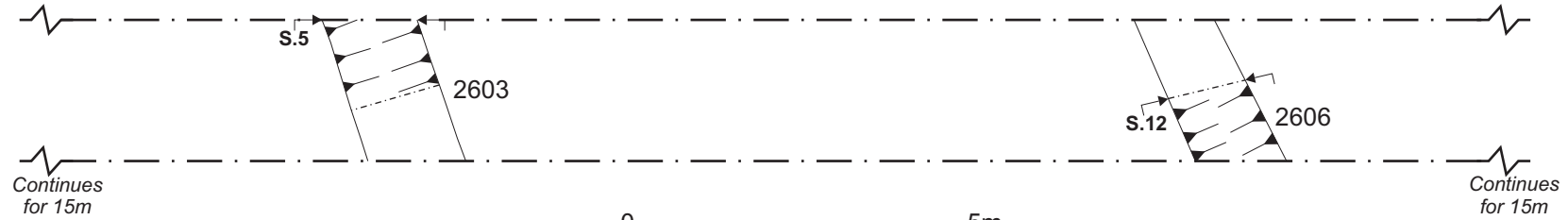
A ditch [3404], aligned east-west, was 0.7m wide and 0.35m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 5, section 24). The fill was orange-brown silty sand (3403) containing brick fragments.



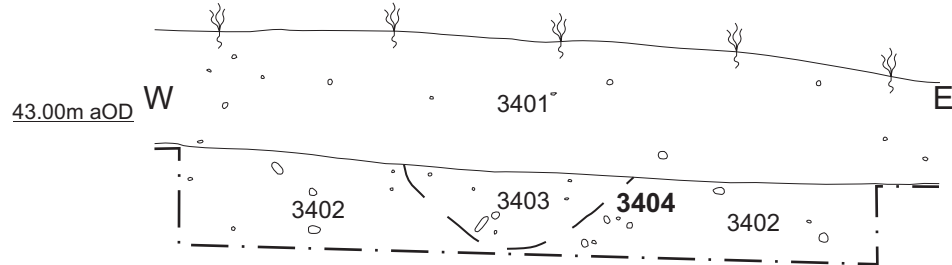
Trench 34



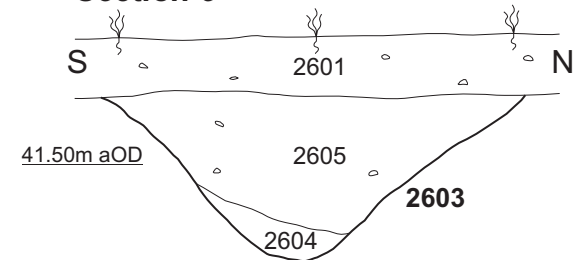
Trench 26



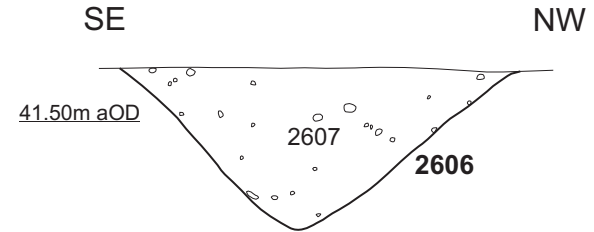
Section 24

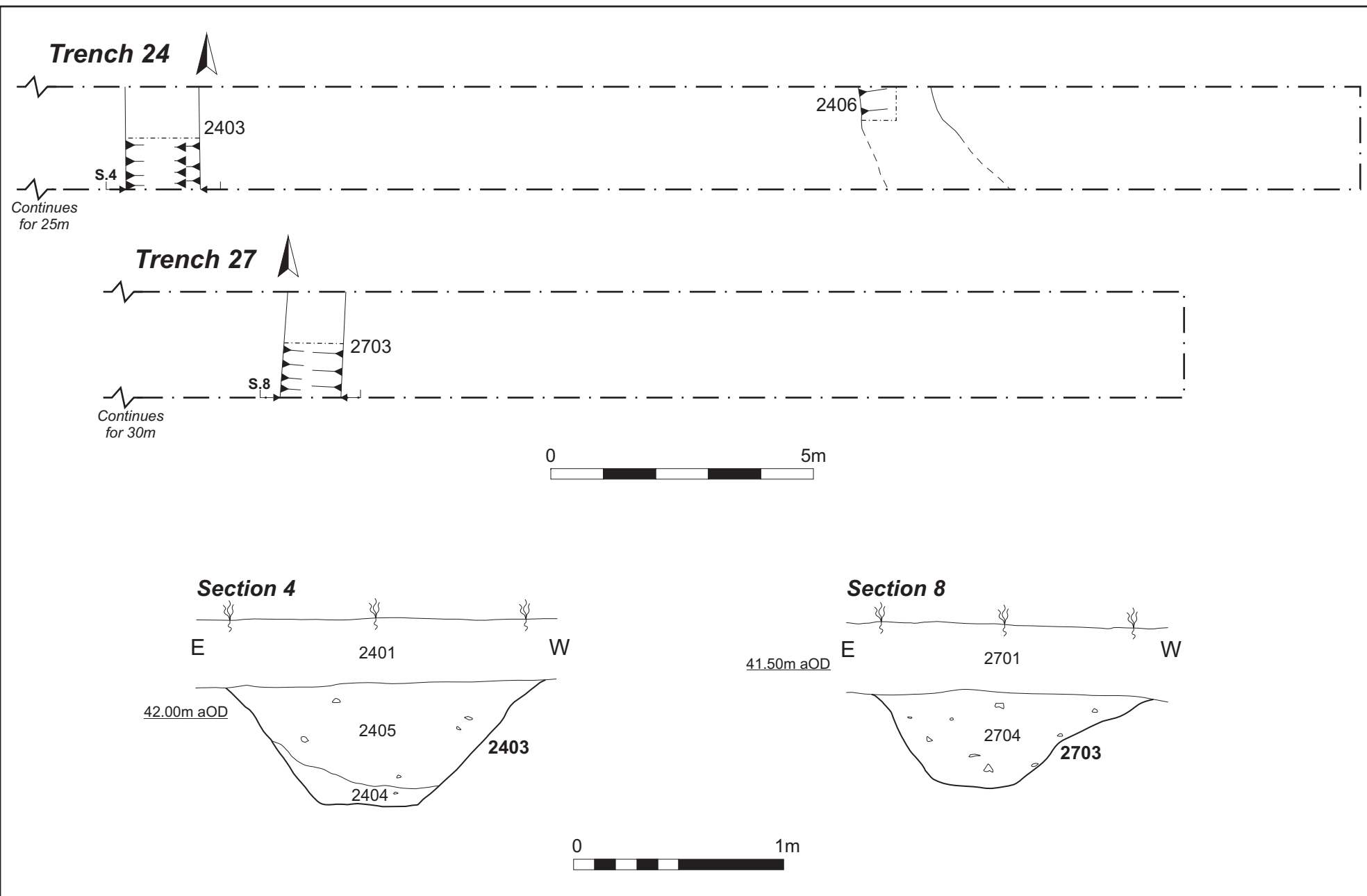


Section 5

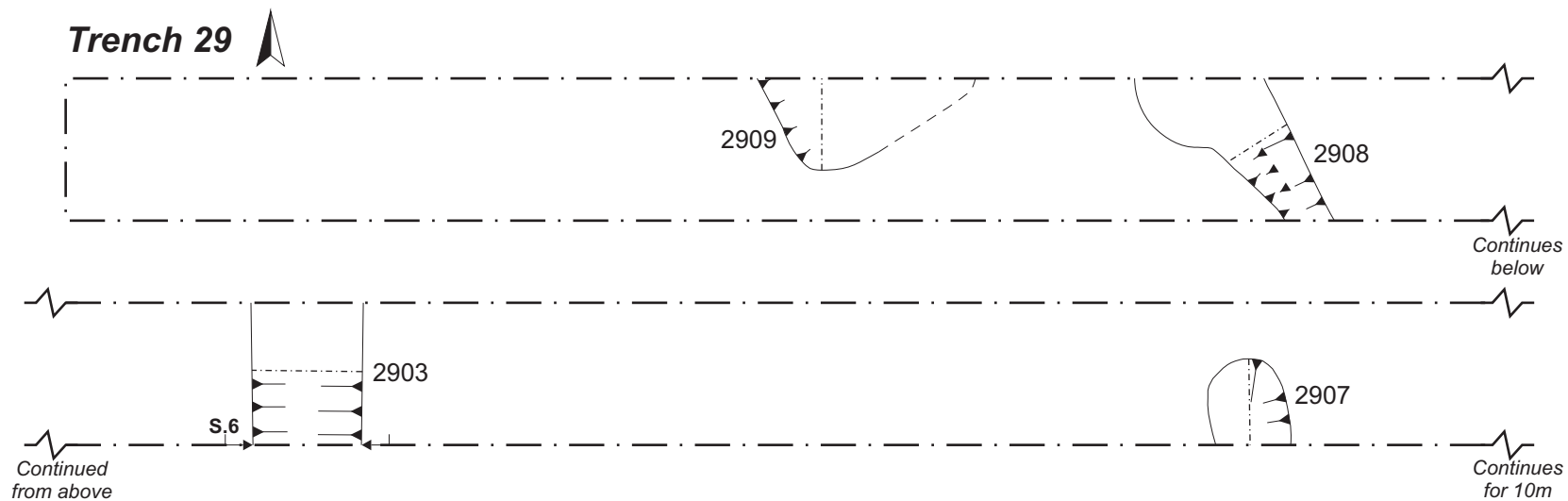


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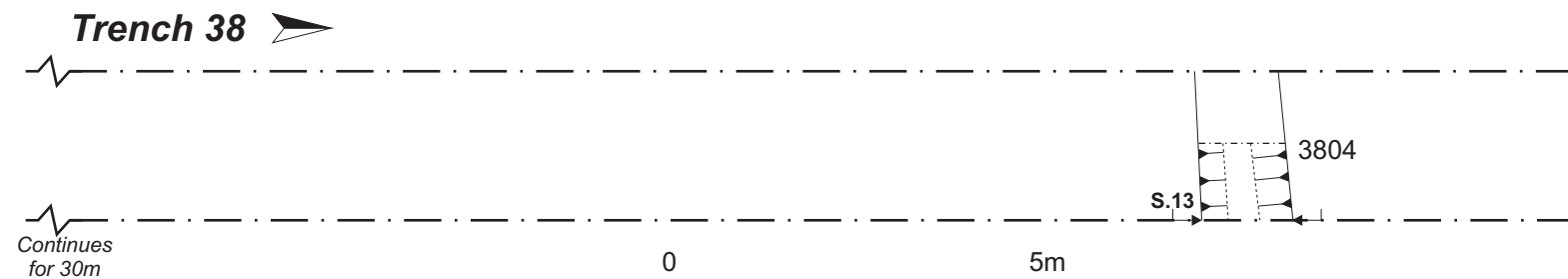




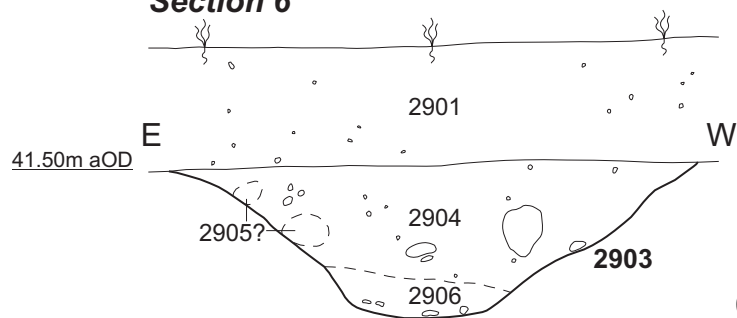
Trench 29



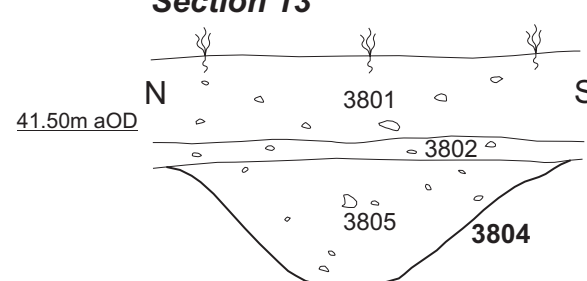
Trench 38



Section 6



Section 13



0 5m

0 1m

4.3 Field 10

Trenches 37-54 were excavated in Field 10. Natural sands were overlain by grey-brown silty loam subsoil, up to 0.15m deep, and dark grey silty loam topsoil, up to 0.35m deep. Trenches 38, 40, 43, 48, 53 and 54 contained features. These included Iron Age and Roman ditches and pits in Trenches 43 and 53, an undated cremation burial in Trench 48 and field boundary ditches.

Trench 38

A ditch [3804], aligned east-west, was 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Fig 7, section 13). The fill was dark red-brown loam (3805).

Trench 40

Ditch [4004], aligned east-west, was 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Fig 8, section 14). The fill of mid grey silty clay loam (4005) contained a brick fragment.

Trench 43

Trench 43 contained a ditch [4306] aligned north-south and a small pit or gully terminal [4311].

Ditch [4306] was U-shaped and 2.10m wide by 1.20m deep (Fig 9, section 20). The fills comprised brownish-grey silty clays (4307, 4308, 4309 and 4310). Fill (4309) contained Roman pottery and animal bone.

Feature [4311] was partly contained within the trench so could not be fully excavated. It was at least 0.35m wide by 0.37m deep with brown sandy clay fill (4312), which contained Roman pottery (Fig 9, section 21).

A ditch [4304], aligned north-south, was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep with an irregular profile (Fig 9, section 19). The fill of brown sandy clay (4305) produced pottery of 19th-20th century date and an iron nail. This ditch was seen to continue as ditch [5404] in Trench 54.

A fragment of lava quern, probably Roman in date, was recovered from the topsoil (4301) at the north end of the trench.

Trench 48

Trench 48 contained a single unurned cremation burial [4803]. The pit was 0.30m wide by 0.14m deep (Fig 10, section 17), with a fill of black-brown sandy clay (4804). The bone recovered during excavation and from sieving probably derived from an individual in their teenage years.

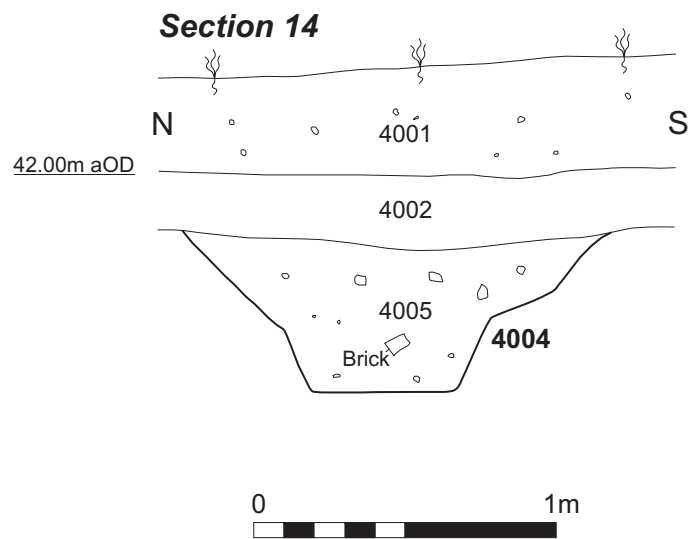
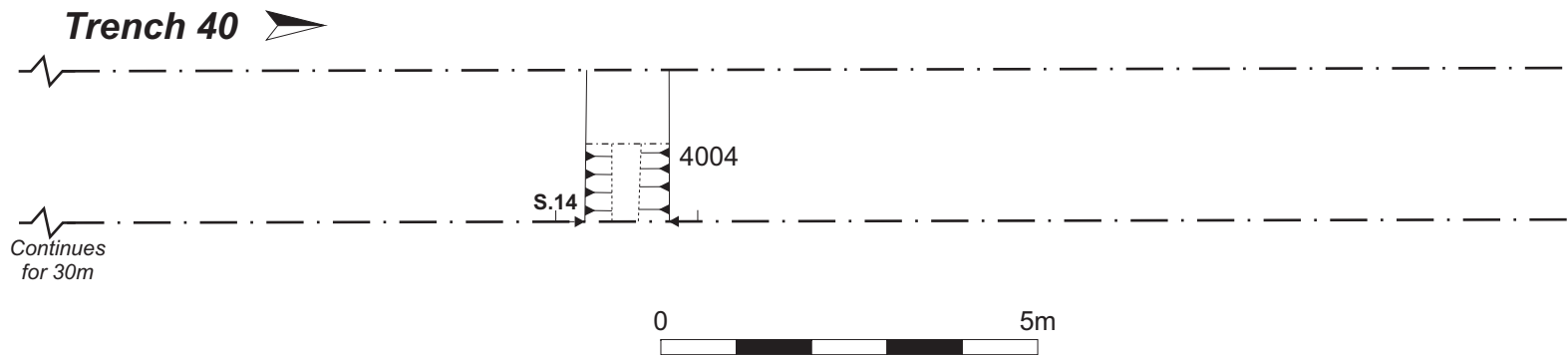
Also present within this trench was a gully [4805], aligned east-west, 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep. The fill (4806) produced a piece of post-medieval brick or tile.

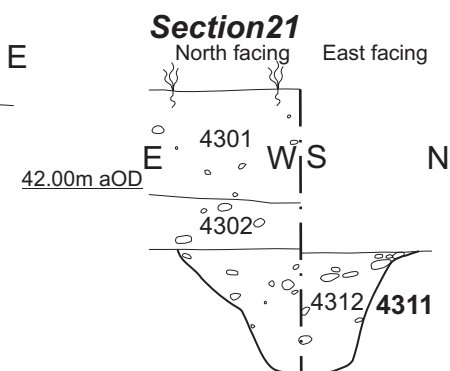
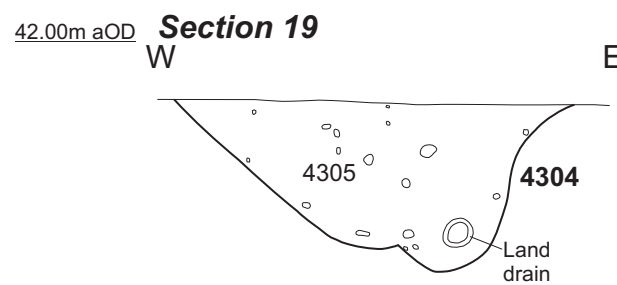
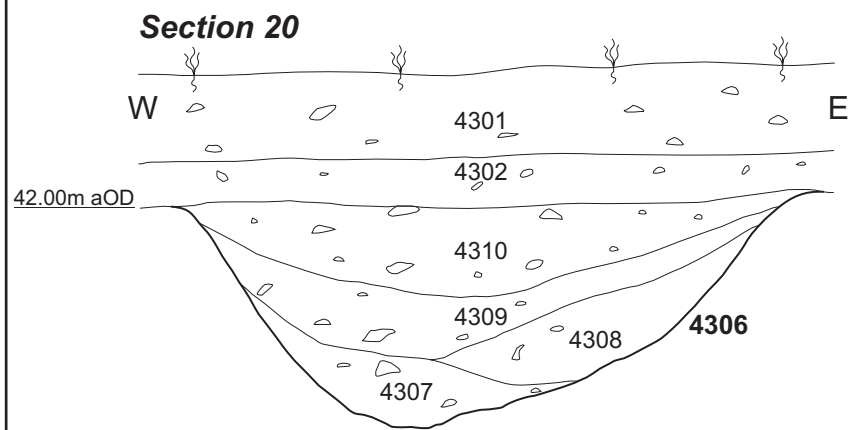
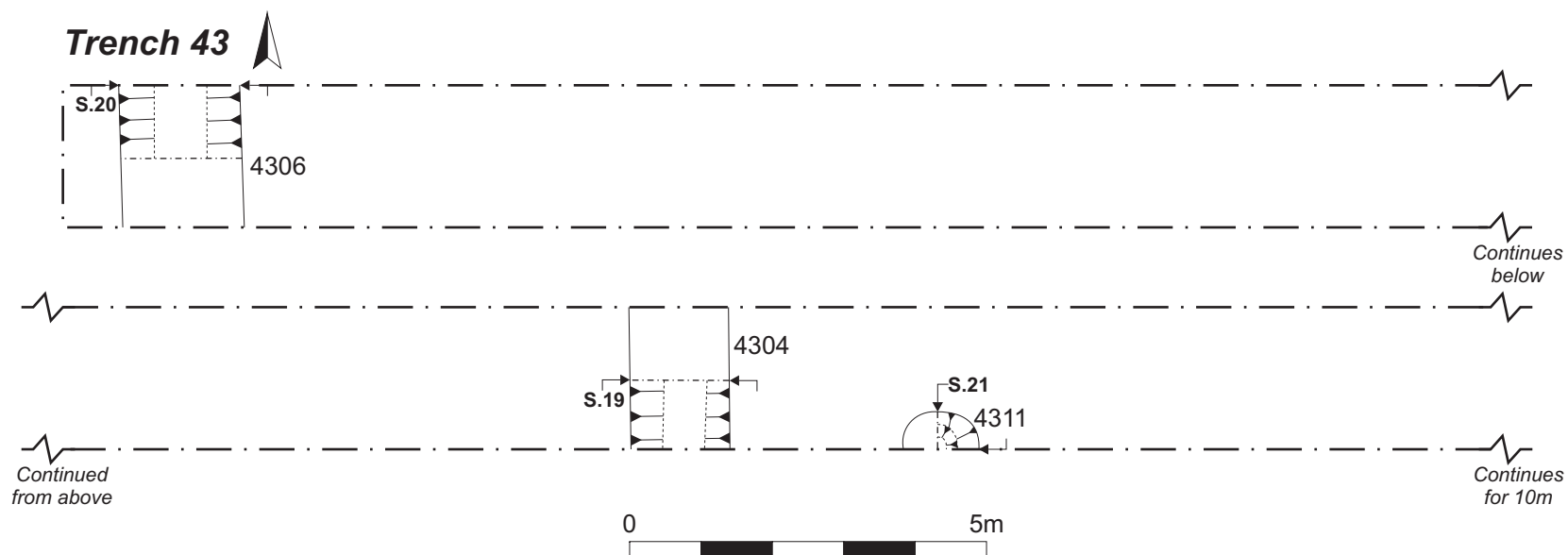
Trench 53

Trench 53 contained a single pit [5304], 0.46m wide by 0.16m deep, with a fill of dark brown sandy clay (5305) with charcoal fragments and Iron Age pottery (Fig 10, section 22).

Trench 54

Trench 54 contained the continuation of the boundary ditch [4304] in trench 43. The ditch [5404] was 1.12m wide by 0.40m deep, with a fill of brown sandy clay (5406) with a modern land drain at the base (Fig 10, section 15).

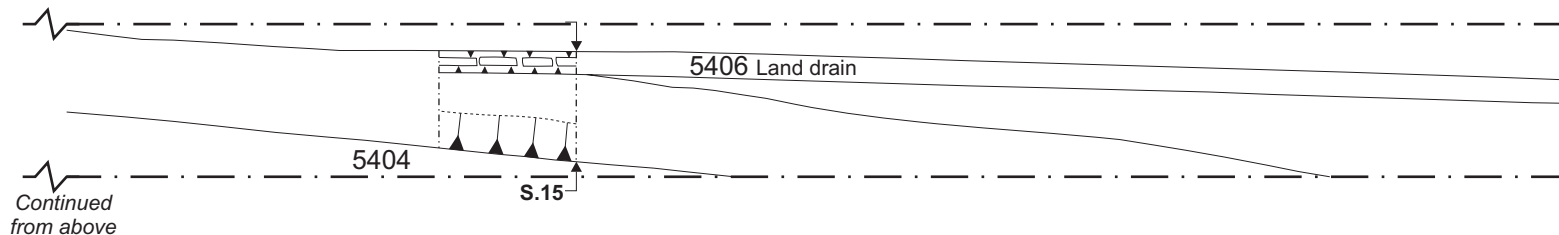
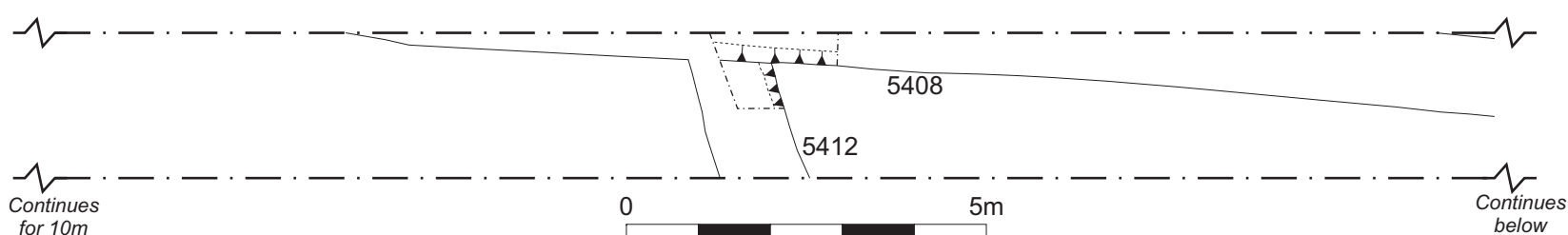




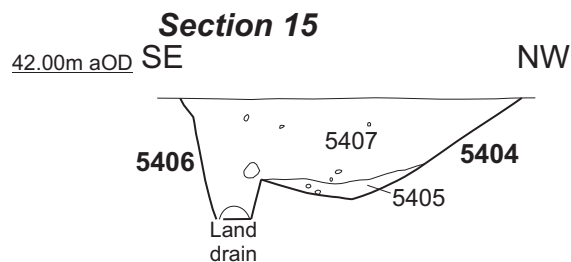
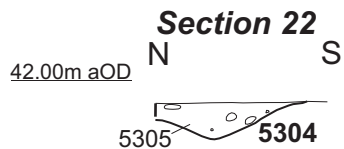
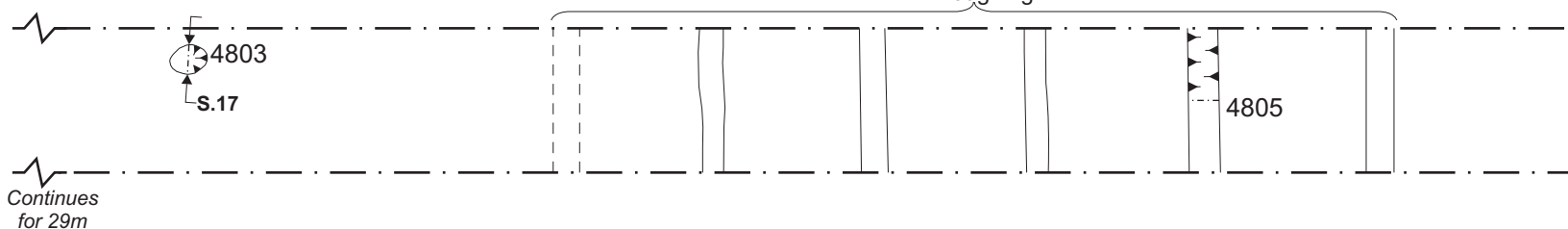
Trench 53



Trench 54



Trench 48



5 THE FINDS

5.1 The flint by Andy Chapman

There are nine pieces of flint residual in seven contexts (304, 2607, 3205, 3403, 4305, 4308, and 4312). The material is typically grey-black vitreous flint with a light brown cortex. The group comprises mainly large and irregular cortical flakes, although one piece has a short length, 19mm, of edge retouch. There are also two small flakes. There are no diagnostic pieces, but the crude working would suggest a middle Bronze Age or later date, and some of the material may be the result of accidental flaking rather than deliberate working.

5.2 The Iron Age and Roman pottery by Rob Perrin

Ninety sherds weighing a total of 900g were recovered from three features, comprising two pits and a ditch, during evaluation excavations at a site north of Hethersett, Norfolk.

Iron Age pottery

The pottery found in pit 5304 (60 sherds weighing 534g) is in a hard flint-gritted fabric, which is mainly buff to reddish-yellow in colour, but brown in places. The sherds are too fragmentary to be certain of the vessel form, but a globular bowl or jar seems likely. The thin rim is a simple curved type with a flat top. The fabric and rim form strongly suggest an Iron Age date. Percival (2000, 215) states that, in Norfolk, 'flint-tempered fabrics dominate the earliest Iron Age assemblages and continue in use until c 200 BC'.

Roman pottery

Ditch 4306 and Pit 4311 contain Roman pottery, as follows:

Table 1: Summary of Roman pottery

Feature	Fabric	No	Wt (g)	Rim %	Base %
Ditch 4306	Grey, micaceous	7	134	39	-
	Buff, red iron ore inclusions	1	90	-	100
	Buff	11	32	-	-
Total ditch		19	256	3	100
Pit 4311	Grey, micaceous, black inclusions	7	60	-	-
	Grey, micaceous, large quartz	4	50	-	-
Total pit		11	110	-	-
Total		30	366	39	100

The grey ware sherds from Ditch 4306 are all from a carinated bowl with a reeded rim and a base in a buff ware with noticeable large red iron ore conclusions is from a small flagon. The small sherds in the other buff ware may also be from a flagon. The ditch fill is probably of Flavian-Trajanic date, based on the carinated bowl with a reeded rim. The pottery from Pit 4311 comprises only base and body sherds, but it is likely that these come from jars, neither of which can be closely dated.

All of the Roman pottery from the site is likely to have been manufactured locally and there are a number of known kilns, producing similar wares and vessel types, within a 20 kilometre radius of the site, at Lyng, Morley St Peter, Caistor St Edmunds, Hevingham and Brampton (Swan 1984, 144).

Potential

Though only a small pottery assemblage was recovered, it is of local importance in that little excavation has previously been carried out in the area. The analysis of material recovered from any future archaeological excavations would enable activity on the site to be tied in to the Roman settlement site known to exist in the vicinity.

5.3 Querns by Andy Chapman

There is a single fragment of lava quern from the topsoil at the north end of trench 43 (4301). It has worn surfaces, but forms 20% of the circumference of an upper stone c400mm in diameter, and 50mm thick. Rotary querns in lava imported from the Eifel region of Germany are common in both Roman and early/middle Saxon contexts.

5.4 The post-medieval pottery by Iain Soden

The trial excavation produced six sherds of pottery, as follows:

- 1 sherd unglazed earthenware (probably flower pot, 19th-20th centuries), fill (2904) ditch [2903]
- 1 sherd glazed red earthenware (16th-17th centuries), fill (3205) ditch [3204]
- 1 sherd white glazed earthenware (19th-20th centuries), fill (3205) ditch [3204]
- 2 sherds white glazed earthenware (19th-20th centuries), fill (4305) ditch [4304].

5.5 Post-medieval finds by Iain Soden

There is one piece of clear modern bottle glass from (1104) of boundary ditch [1103] and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem from (3305), ditch [3304].

None of the above are intrinsically significant and merely indicate a date from the later post-medieval or modern periods for the contexts from which they come.

5.6 Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman**Brick**

Of the eleven brick fragments, weighing 4.4kg, there are three different types. The earliest, from fill (3403) of [3404], is handmade from hard fine silty clay fired to pink and white with irregular surfaces and grass stem impressions. It measures 115mm wide by c 45mm thick (4½ x 1¾ inches), and could date to the medieval period.

There are two sandy fabric types, a friable reddish-brown and a hard coarse sandy orange-brown. The reddish-brown fabric comprises a very abraded broken brick from layer (3303). It is at least 200mm long by 60mm both wide and thick (c 8 x 2⅝ x 2⅝ inches). Five other fragments in the same layer are made from the same fabric.

A large fragment, 55mm thick, from fill (4005) ditch [4004] and a small fragment from (2904) ditch [2903] are made from the hard coarse sandy orange-brown fabric with quartz and flint inclusions up to 20mm long. The large fragment has remnant white lime mortar adhering to a damaged stretcher. The other brick remnant from layer (3303) is 110mm wide by 73mm thick (4⅞ x 2⅞ inches), made of the same fabric but overfired on exposed areas. One small sherd of brick or tile, much abraded, came from (4806) of gully [4805].

These sandy bricks could date between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Roof tile

There are nine very small roof tile sherds, weighing 194g: four from fills (2904) and (2906) of ditch [2903]; four from fill (4305) of [4304] and one from fill (1104) of [1103]. Eight sherds are 12-15mm thick and made from slightly coarse sandy orange-brown fabric. The sherd from fill (2906) ditch [2903] is 20mm thick and made from finer sand. These tiles can only be loosely dated to the 15th to 19th centuries.

5.7 The Iron objects by Tora Hylton

Three iron objects were recovered from linear features in Fields 6 and 10. They include two iron nails and an undiagnostic fragment. The nails are complete and measures up to 66mm in length, both were located in post-medieval ditches (2903, 4304). Finally, an undiagnostic object with broken square-sectioned shank and small lozenge-shaped terminal was recovered from Ditch 2703.

5.8 The cremated bone by Andy Chapman

A total of 350g of cremated bone was recovered as an unurned cremation burial in a small pit [4803], within a fill (4804) of blacked sand containing much comminuted charcoal, but no larger pieces. The bone has not been submitted for full osteological analysis but a few observations are offered.

The bone is highly fragmented, although the larger fragments of long bones are up to 45mm long, and it is all consistently white in colour, indicating efficient burning in a pyre temperature above 650°C. The assemblage contains fragments of long bone and skull, and the presence of teeth and tooth fragments indicate that the bone is human. The skull fragments are relatively thin, 3-4mm, and the teeth are small. Even allowing for the inevitable shrinkage caused by heating, it appears that the bones are from an immature individual, a sub-adult, although not an infant. There is a complete upper pre-molar tooth, and these are fully developed by 11 or 12 years of age (White and Folkens 2005, 145 and Schaefer *et al* 2009, 95), so an age in the mid-teenage years is tentatively suggested.

The recovered weight of 350g probably represents not less than a third of the total bone assemblage, as the full bone weight for a sub-adult would be around 1kg or a little higher, depending on age and size. The presence of small items such as tooth roots and the blackened soil, show that some effort was made to recover a high proportion of the available bone, but by collecting both bone and pyre debris as a mixed deposit. This material was deposited in the pit without any further processing to separate the bone from the pyre debris.

5.9 Animal bone by Laszlo Lichtenstein

A total of 25 hand-collected animal bone elements and fragments were analysed from the fill (4309) of Roman ditch [4306]. Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures 18 specimens (72% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing at least two mammalian (Bos/cattle; Ovicaprid/sheep or goat) species. No fish, amphibian bones were recovered.

Method

The animal bone was identified using Northamptonshire Archaeology's vertebrate reference collection, and further guidelines from Schmid (1972), Driesch (1979), Sisson & Grossman (1953) and Feher (1990). Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat the criteria set out by J. Boessneck (1964) were used to separate the two species (where applicable). The following were recorded for each bone: species, anatomical element, fragmentation, side, fusion, cut- or animal teeth marks (where applicable).

Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (large ungulate size: cattle or horse sized, small ungulate size: pig or sheep/goat). All fragments were recorded. Unfortunately biometrical data was not possible noted.

Taphonomy

The fragmentation and surface abrasion was high (Table 2), with the majority of the bones (72%) being less than 50mm in size. No complete long bones recorded. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded including recently broken bones. The bones showed signs of fresh breaks.

No evidence for canid gnawing, burning, butchery, bone working or pathological signs were observed.

Table 2: Size of the animal bone assemblage (without teeth)

Size (mm)	Number	Percentage
<20	3	12%
20-50	15	60%
50-100	7	28%

Table 3: Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count

Species	NISP	Percentage
Bos taurus L. (Linné 1758)	17	68%
Ovicaprid	1	4%
Large ungulate size	7	28%
Total	25	100%

Table 4: Minimal individual identified in the animal bone assemblage in the contexts

Species/Taxa	Common name	MNI
Bos taurus L. (Linne 1758)	Cattle	1
Ovicaprid (Ovis aries or Capra hircus Linne 1758)	Sheep or goat	1

Discussion

Little can be said of the animal economy of the site due to the paucity of material. The fragmentation was high and many bones were smashed recently, but 72% of the assemblage could be identified to species. The assemblage is dominated by cattle (68%) with lower number of sheep/goat (4%). The species present are typical of those seen from Roman contexts. The dominance of the cattle is typical of this period (Table 4), and the material is likely to be the result of domestic waste disposal.

This very small size of the assemblage precludes any attempt at interpreting settlement economy and animal husbandry practices.

5.10 Ecofactual material

Four samples were collected during the evaluation from contexts (4804), (4309), (5305) and (4312) as follows in Table 2.

Table 2: Sample data

Sample	Context	Feature	Description
1	(4804)	[4803]	Cremation burial
2	(4309)	[4306]	Roman ditch fill
3	(5305)	[5304]	Iron Age pit
4	(4311)	[4312]	Roman pit/gully

These samples were processed and bulk floated at Northamptonshire Archaeology and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Cremated bone from Sample 1 was passed to the relevant specialist. Otherwise the samples only yielded a few fragments of charcoal between them and analysis was not pursued any further.

6 DISCUSSION

Early activity on the site is represented by a small quantity of flint of middle Bronze Age or later date recovered from later contexts. The material is later than the scatter identified by the fieldwalking survey (Wolfram and Walford 2011), and probably reflects a general low level of background activity.

The single cremation burial seen in Trench 48 is undated, but a prehistoric date may be likely. There were no indications of any further burials in the excavated trenches.

Iron Age and Roman features seen in Trenches 43 and 53 point to an area of activity in the south-west corner of Field 10, although as other trenches in this area did not contain features of a similar date, this is not likely to be intense. This activity may be the source for the few sherds of prehistoric pottery and the scatter of Roman material picked up during fieldwalking in Field 10 (Wolfram and Walford 2011, figs 10 and 11).

There was no evidence for the supposed Saxon cemetery in the south end of Field 6. The only features present in this area related to later field boundaries and recent disturbance. There was limited correspondence between the results of the geophysical survey and the field evaluation. Only one feature, a ditch in trench 34, possibly corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Type	Brief description	Date
101	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
102	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
201	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	-
202	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
301	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
302	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
303	Cut	Boundary ditch. Land drain	Modern
304	Fill	Fill of 303	Modern
401	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
402	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
501	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	-
502	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
601	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.32m thick	-
602	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
701	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
702	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
801	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
802	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
901	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	-
902	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1001	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.37m thick	-
1002	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1101	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	-
1102	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1103	Cut	Boundary ditch	Modern
1104	Fill	Fill of 1103	Modern
1105	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.11m thick	-
1201	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.33m thick	-
1202	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.15m thick	-
1203	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1301	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	-
1302	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1303	Fill	Tree hollow	-
1401	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.27m thick	-
1402	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.10m thick	-
1403	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1404	Cut	Boundary ditch. 2.5m wide by 1.3m deep	Modern
1405	Fill	Fill of 1404	Modern
1406	Fill	Fill of 1404	Modern
1407	Fill	Fill of 1404	Modern
1501	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
1502	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1503	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.8m thick	-
1601	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.29m thick	-
1602	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.10m thick	-
1603	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1701	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.29m thick	-
1702	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.10m thick	-
1703	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1801	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
1802	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.9m thick	-
1803	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
1901	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.28m thick	-
1902	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.9m thick	-

Context Number	Type	Brief description	Date
1903	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2001	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
2002	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.8m thick	-
2003	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2101	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.32m thick	-
2102	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2201	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.32m thick	-
2202	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2301	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.32m thick	-
2302	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2303	Cut	Land drain	Modern
2304	Fill	Fill of 2303	Modern
2401	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	-
2402	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2403	Cut	Boundary ditch. 1.5m wide by 0.9m deep	-
2404	Fill	Fill of 2403	-
2405	Fill	Fill of 2403	-
2406	Cut	Natural hollow	-
2501	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	-
2502	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2503	Cut	Ditch 0.8m wide by 0.5m deep	-
2504	Fill	Fill of 2503	-
2505	Cut	Natural hollow	-
2601	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	-
2602	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2603	Cut	Ditch 1.5m wide by 0.9m deep	-
2604	Fill	Fill of 2603	-
2605	Fill	Fill of 2603	-
2606	Cut	Ditch 1.31m wide by 0.53m deep	-
2607	Fill	Fill of 2606	-
2701	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	-
2702	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2703	Cut	Ditch 1.35m wide by 0.8m deep	Post-med
2704	Fill	Fill of 2703	-
2801	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.32m thick	-
2802	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2803	Cut	Ditch 1m wide by 0.8m deep	-
2804	Fill	Fill of 2803	-
2805	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand 0.5m thick	-
2901	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.33m thick	-
2902	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
2903	Cut	Ditch 1.74m wide by 0.57 deep	20th century
2904	Fill	Fill of 2903	20th century
2905	Fill	Fill of 2903	20th century
2906	Fill	Fill of 2903	20th century
2907	Cut	Natural hollow 0.08m deep	-
2908	Cut	Natural hollow 0.09m deep	-
2909	Cut	Natural hollow 0.12m deep	-
3001	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	-
3002	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
3101	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.35m thick	-
3102	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
3201	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	-
3202	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	-
3203	-	NOT USED	-
3204	Cut	Ditch 1.24m wide by 0.81m deep	20th century
3205	Fill	Fill of 3204	20th century

Context Number	Type	Brief description	Date
3206	Fill	Fill of 3204	20th century
3301	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.38m thick	
3302	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
3303	Layer	Spread of burning with coal, bricks	Modern
3304	Cut	Ditch 1.1m wide by 0.07m deep	Post-med
3305	Fill	Fill of 3304	
3306	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand 0.15m thick	
3401	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	
3402	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
3403	Fill	Fill of 3404	
3404	Cut	Ditch 0.71m wide by 0.34m deep	
3501	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.36m thick	
3502	Layer	Spread of burning with charcoal, brick, clay pipe	Modern
3503	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
3504	Natural	Dark orange sand	
3505	Natural	Diffused boundary between naturals	
3601	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.38m thick	
3602	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand 0.13m thick	
3603	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
3604	Layer	Spread with charcoal, drain, tile fragments	Modern
3701	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.35m thick	
3702	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.11m thick	
3703	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
3801	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.36m thick	
3802	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.10m thick	
3803	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
3804	Cut	Ditch 1.2m wide by 0.45m deep	
3805	Fill	Fill of 3804	
3901	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.29m thick	
3902	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.12m thick	
3903	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4001	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	
4002	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.08m thick	
4003	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4004	Cut	Ditch 1.40m wide by 0.50m deep	Post-med
4005	Fill	Fill of 4004. Brick and tile	Post-med
4101	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	
4102	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.08m thick	
4103	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4201	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	
4202	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.08m thick	
4203	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4301	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.29m thick	
4302	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.12m thick	
4303	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4304	Cut	Ditch 1.32m wide by 0.50m deep. Same as 5404	20th century
4305	Fill	Fill of 4304	20th century
4306	Cut	Ditch 2.1m wide by 1.20m deep	Roman
4307	Fill	Fill of 4306	Roman
4308	Fill	Fill of 4306	Roman
4309	Fill	Fill of 4306 pottery	Roman
4310	Fill	Fill of 4306	Roman
4311	Cut	Pit 0.35m wide by 0.37m deep	Roman
4312	Fill	Fill of 4311 pottery	Roman
4401	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	

Context Number	Type	Brief description	Date
4402	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.10m thick	
4403	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4501	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.34m thick	
4502	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.06m thick	
4503	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4601	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	
4602	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4701	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	
4702	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4801	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.28m thick	
4802	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
4803	Cut	Cremation pit 0.30m wide by 0.14m deep	
4804	Fill	Fill of 4803	
4805	Cut	Gully 0.35m wide by 0.15m deep	19th century
4806	Fill	Fill of 4805 pottery	19th century
4901	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	
4902	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
5001	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.29m thick	
5002	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.07m thick	
5003	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
5101	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.30m thick	
5102	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
5201	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.32m thick	
5202	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.08m thick	
5203	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
5301	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.32m thick	
5302	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.11m thick	
5303	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
5304	Cut	Pit 0.46m wide by 0.16m deep	Iron Age
5305	Fill	Fill of 5304 pottery	Iron Age
5401	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam. 0.31m thick	
5402	Subsoil	Light brown silt sand. 0.10m thick	
5403	Natural	Orange sand and gravel.	
5404	Cut	Ditch	
5405	Fill	Fill of 5404	
5406	Cut	Land drain	
5407	Fill	Fill of 5406	
5408	Cut	Ditch same as 5404	
5409	Fill	Fill of 5408	
5410	Cut	Land drain	
5411	Fill	Fill of 5410	
5412	Fill	Natural hollow	



Trench 1



Trench 4



Trench 2



Trench 5



Trench 3



Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 10



Trench 8



Trench 11



Trench 9



Trench 12



Trench 13



Trench 16



Trench 14



Trench 17



Trench 15



Trench 18



Trench 19



Trench 22



Trench 20



Trench 23



Trench 21



Trench 24



Trench 25



Trench 28



Trench 26



Trench 29



Trench 27



Trench 30



Trench 31



Trench 34



Trench 32



Trench 35



Trench 33



Trench 36



Trench 37



Trench 40



Trench 38



Trench 41



Trench 39



Trench 42



Trench 43



Trench 46



Trench 44



Trench 47



Trench 45



Trench 48



Trench 49



Trench 52



Trench 50



Trench 53



Trench 51



Trench 54



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