



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation on land
at Grovelands Farm, West Haddon Road, East Haddon
Northamptonshire
November 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire
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Report 13/254

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OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | Oasis No. 166669 |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Project title | Geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Grovelands Farm, West Haddon Road, East Haddon, Northamptonshire | |
| Short description | A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land to the south of Grovelands Farm, East Haddon, Northamptonshire in November 2013. Five trenches with a total length of 130m were targeted on anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Archaeological features were concentrated in the north-eastern part of the site, and comprised two sub-circular ditches and an L-shaped ditch possibly forming a corner of a ditched feature. Additionally, two linear ditches crossing the field north-east to south-west, along with remnant furrow of medieval date ridge and furrow, were noted. A single sherd of iron Age pottery was a surface find. | |
| Project type | Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation | |
| Site Status | - | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Current land use | Arable Field | |
| Future work | unknown | |
| Monument type and period | Iron Age/Roman | |
| Significant finds | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| County | Northamptonshire | |
| Site address | Grovelands Farm, West Haddon Road, East Haddon | |
| Post code | - | |
| OS co-ordinates | SP 6584 6814 | |
| Area (sq m/ha) | 0.90ha | |
| Height aOD | 160m aOD | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Project brief originator | Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor | |
| Project Design originator | Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Director/Supervisor | Yvonne Wolfram-Murray and Garreth Davey | |
| Project Managers | Anthony Maull and Mark Holmes | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Mr H Brown | |
| PROJECT DATE | | |
| Start date | 8 November 2013 (Geo) 18 November 2013 (Evaluation) | |
| End date | 20 November 2013 (Evaluation) | |
| ARCHIVES | Location (Accession no.) | Contents |
| Physical | NA store | 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 | Geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Grovelands Farm, West Haddon Road, East Haddon, Northamptonshire | |
| Serial title & volume | 13/254 | |
| Author(s) | Yvonne Wolfram-Murray and Garreth Davey | |
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**GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND
AT GROVELANDS FARM, WEST HADDON ROAD, EAST HADDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NOVEMBER 2013**

Abstract

A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land to the south of Grovelands Farm, East Haddon, Northamptonshire in November 2013. Five trenches with a total length of 130m were targeted on anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Archaeological features were concentrated in the north-eastern part of the site, and comprised two sub-circular ditches and an L-shaped ditch possibly forming a corner of a ditched feature. Additionally, two linear ditches crossing the field north-east to south-west, along with remnant furrow of medieval date ridge and furrow, were noted. A single sherd of iron Age pottery was a surface find.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by ABDS on behalf of Mr H Brown, to carry out a detailed magnetometer survey and trial trenching on land at Grovelands Farm, West Haddon Road, East Haddon, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 6584 6814, Fig 1) following a planning application for an anaerobic digester (DA/2013/0795).

The works were required in response to a planning application for residential development and associated infrastructure, in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council required that the impact of development on heritage assets potentially present on the site be mitigated through a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (Mordue 2013a & b). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology for both phases of work (NA 2013). The works were monitored by the Assistant County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council.

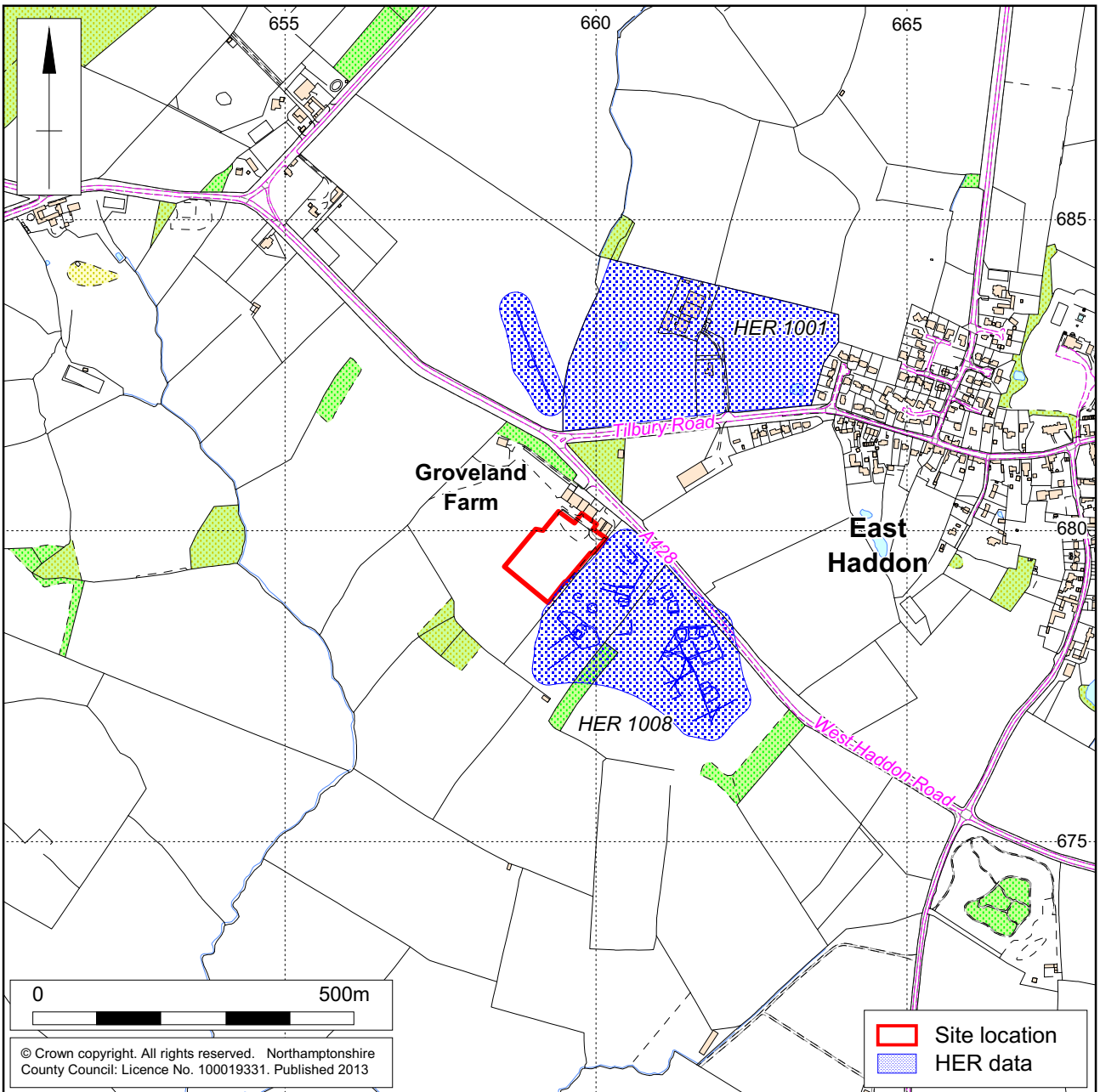
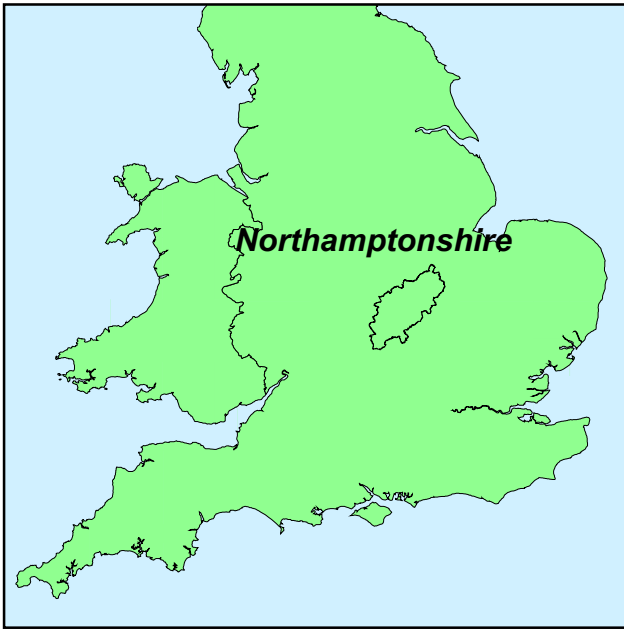
Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. This document was prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The development area, totalling approximately 0.90ha, occupies the north-eastern half of an arable field situated on the south-west of the A428, West Haddon Road, c 350m west of East Haddon village. The south, east and west sides are bordered by open fields with the northern boundary delineated by a series of farm buildings fronting onto the West Haddon Road (Figs 1 and 2).

The topography comprises a steep rolling landscape with the site sloping down towards the south-west, situated at a height of between 155m and 160m aOD. The underlying bedrock geology has been mapped as Northampton Sand and Ironstone (BGS GeolIndex).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



General view of site, looking south Fig 2

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A search of Northamptonshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) and available literature has allowed the following historical and archaeological summary to be written.

The area to the east and north of the site has a complex of cropmarks (Figs 1, 3 & 5) which have been recorded during aerial photography. Immediately east of the application area a dense concentration of cropmarks (HER 1008) defined by two circular features, linear ditches and sub square/rectilinear enclosures. The two circular features have been recorded as Bronze Age burial mounds and the remaining ditches and enclosures, though unexcavated, are likely to represent Iron Age/Roman settlement and agricultural activity.

Another series of cropmarks (HER 1001) are situated to the north of the proposed development site, north of the intersection between the A428 Road and Tilbury Road leading to the village. They comprise another possible burial mound and a ditch, both thought to be prehistoric in date. The Royal Commission reference another possible barrow 0.75km to the north-west of the development area and west of Covert Farm (RCHME 1981).

Immediately west of the village are the open fields, the vestiges of which survive as ridge and furrow earthworks (9896/0/3).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource through trial trench evaluation.

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 aims of the investigation were to:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site;

- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions.

3.1 Geophysical survey methodology

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

An independent system of 30m grids was established within the field to be surveyed. The grids were established with a tape measure and optical square and were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment. The gradiometers were carried at a brisk but steady walking pace through each grid square, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per square.

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

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

The processed data is presented in this report in the form of grey-tone plots, at a scale of +/- 4nT black/white. The plots have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 3). An interpretative overlay has been produced in figure 4 and the raw data is available in figure 5.

3.2 Trial trench evaluation methodology

Five (5) trial trenches, two at 20m long and three at 30m long, each 1.8m wide, with a total length of 130m, were excavated. All areas of ground disturbance were accurately surveyed in using Leica 1200 GPS survey equipment and tied into the Ordnance Survey.

Machine excavation was undertaken under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Trenches were excavated by machine using a toothless ditching bucket wide, to reveal archaeological remains or, where absent, undisturbed natural horizons.

Each trench was cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features. All archaeological features were investigated. All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of evaluation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50. Sections through features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A photographic record was maintained using black and white film supplemented by digital photography. Photographic views of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. Each trench was photographed, together with views of individual features.

Finds were collected from the individual deposits and appropriately packed and stored in stable conditions, by context. The field data was compiled into a site archive with

appropriate cross-referencing. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive.

4 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY by Garreth Davey

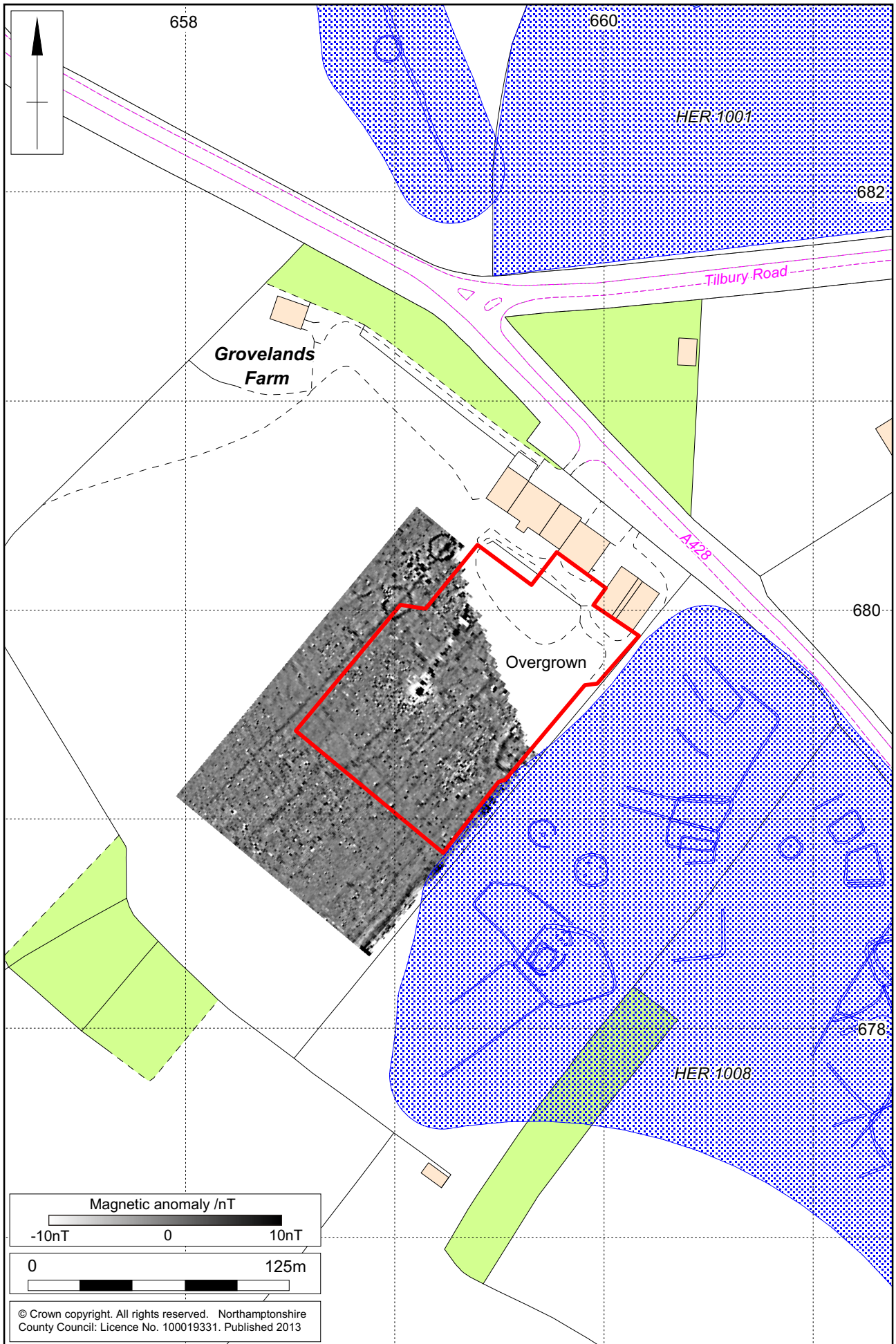
The survey identified two circular ring ditches, the corner of a rectilinear enclosure and a possible boundary ditch as well as remnant furrows of historic ridge and furrow (Figs 3-5).

In the north of the site there are two clear circular anomalies approximately 10-12m in diameter across. It is possible that these are small circular enclosures, roundhouse gullies or barrows. Between these is an area of magnetic disturbance which could be evidence for a cluster of pits. Against the northern point of eastern boundary is an L shaped anomaly representing a rectilinear enclosure that extends outside of the surveyed area.

Across the entire site there are two sets of parallel linear anomalies. The first set is orientated north-east to south-west and could represent historic ridge and furrow. Following these there is also a stronger anomaly possibly indicating a previous field boundary. The second set of linears are grouped much tighter and run north-west to south-east and could represent modern plough lines.

Three linear anomalies are closely aligned with the ridge and furrow anomalies but are more intense and appear to be of different origin. One, which intersects with the two ring ditches, perhaps represents an old field boundary. Another, located fairly centrally within the development area, coincides with a ditch identified in Trench 3. The third, parallel with the modern boundary at the southern edge of the survey are, may also represent a ditch.

There is evidence for a pipeline extending into the site from the north and also some further magnetic disturbance from modern deposits which were identified during the survey to the east.



Scale 1: 2500 (A4)

Magnetometer survey results Fig 3



Scale 1: 2500 (A4)

Magnetometer survey interpretation Fig 4



Scale 1: 2500 (A4)

Magnetometer raw data Fig 5

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5 THE TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

5.1 General comments

The natural substrate consisted of light yellow and orange sands with orange-brown areas of high ironstone content (Figs 6 and 7); this was overlain by mid orange-brown silty sand subsoil. The topsoil was dark grey-brown sandy loam (see Appendix for details).

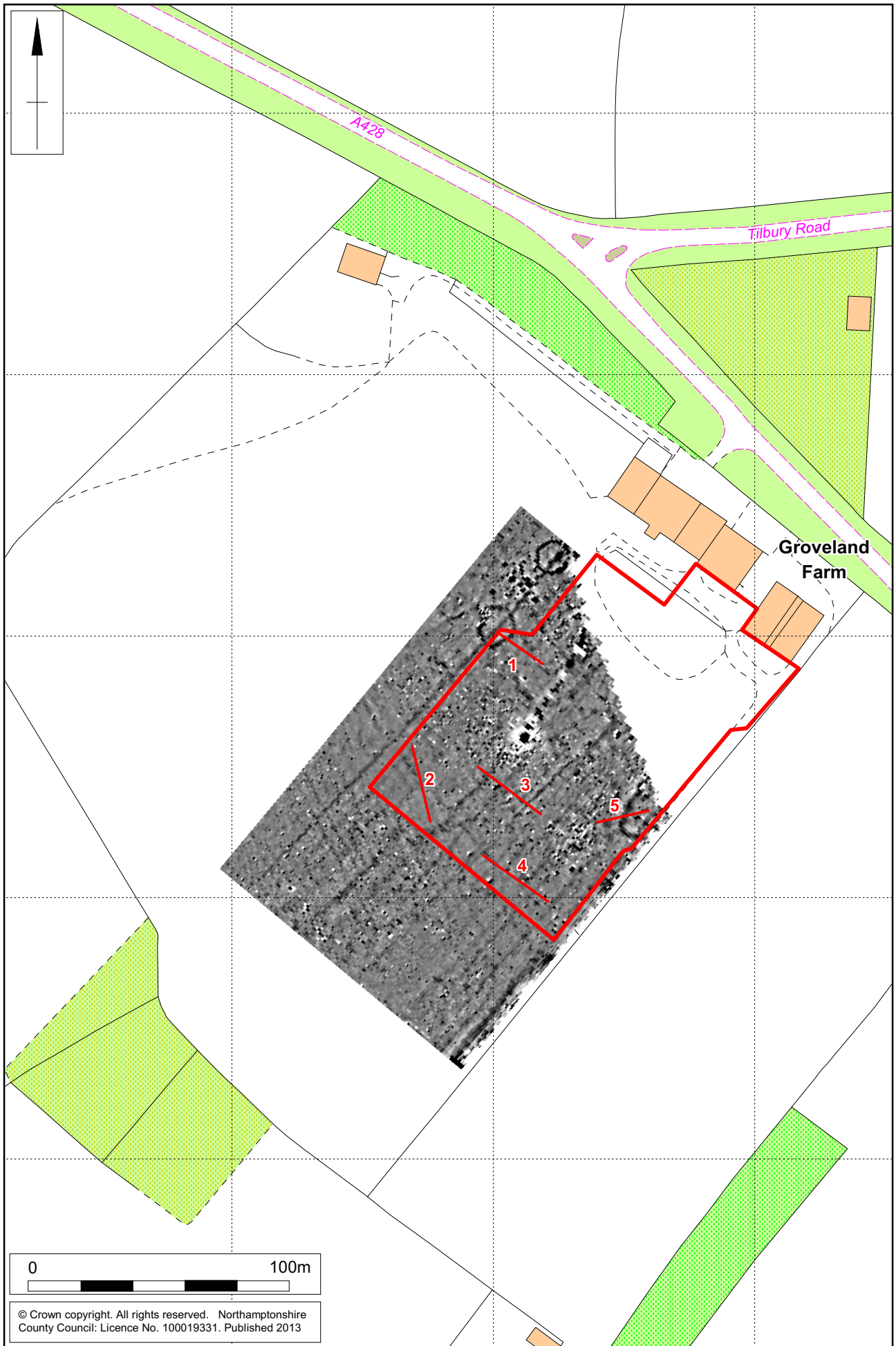


Trench 2 showing general geology of the site, looking south-east Fig 6



Trench 2 showing typical stratigraphy, looking north-east Fig 7

Archaeological features were noted in Trenches 1, 3 and 5. A section through the ring ditch was excavated and an undated gully was uncovered in Trench 1. An undated ditch was uncovered in Trench 3. In Trench 5 a section was dug through the anomaly noted during the geophysical survey, and another ditch was also excavated (Figs 8, 9 and 10). No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 2 and 4, and these trenches are therefore not discussed below.



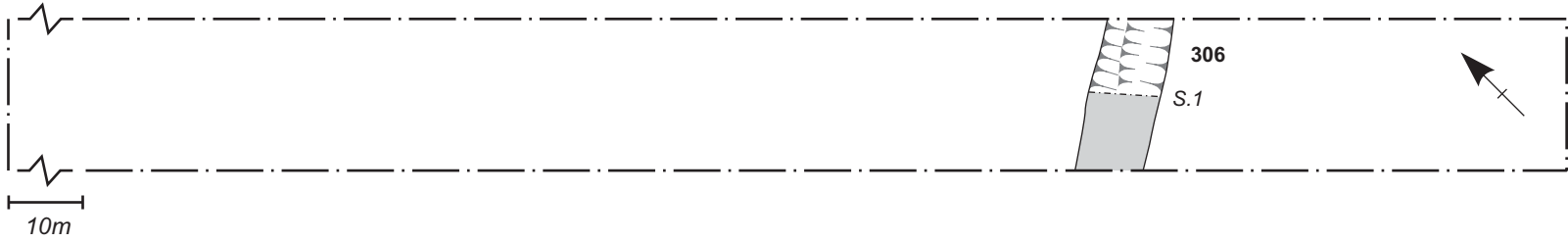
Scale 1:2000

The excavated trenches showing geophysical survey data Fig 8

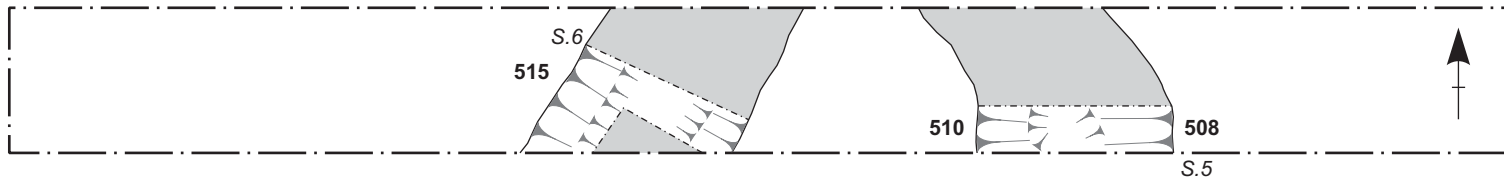
Trench 1

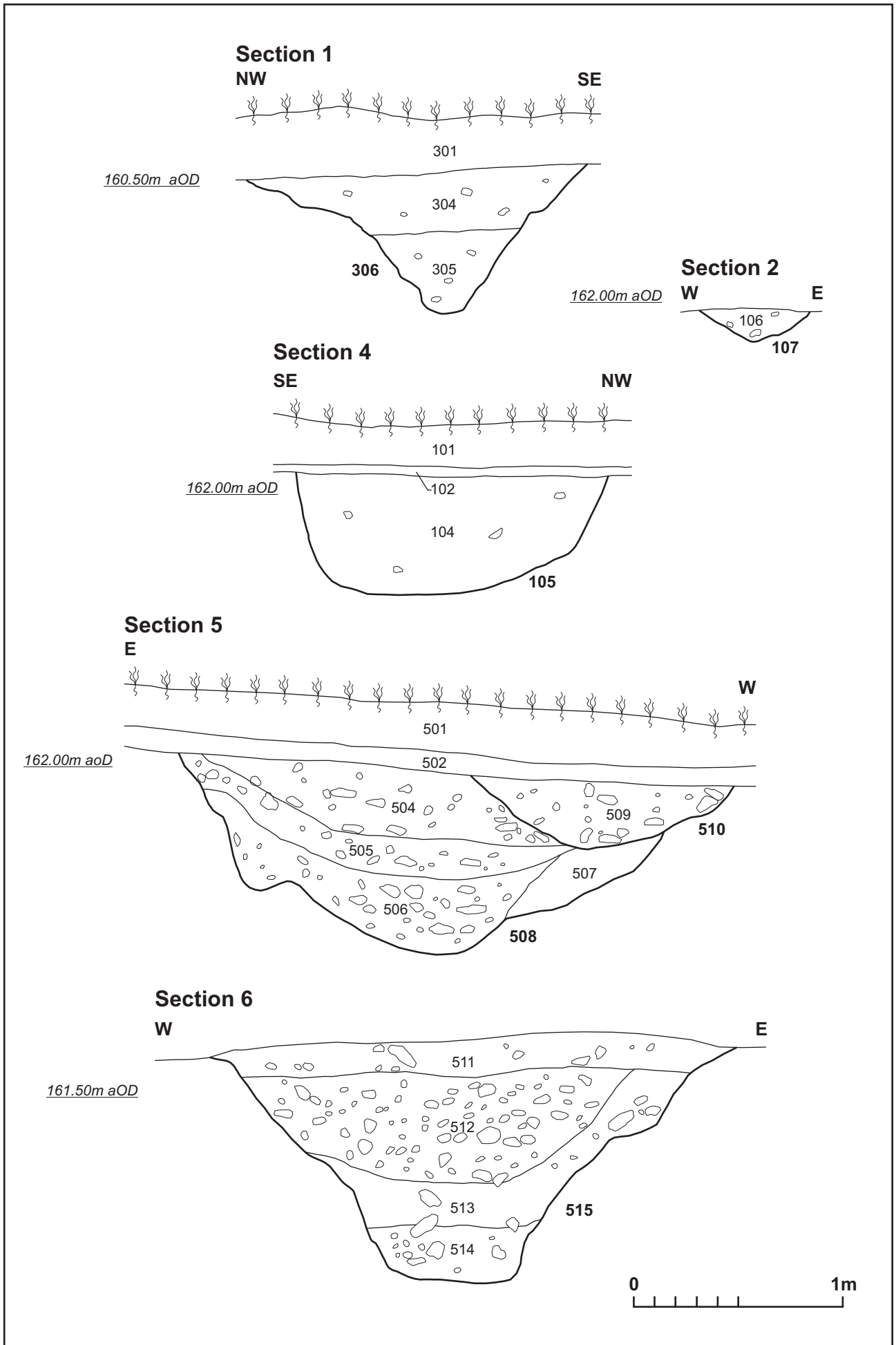


Trench 3



Trench 5



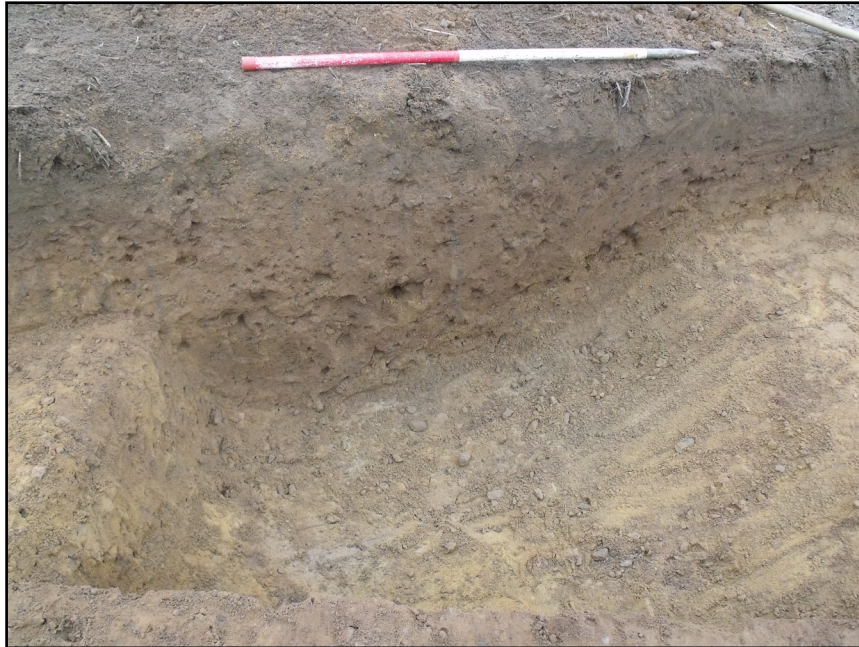


Scale 1:25 (A4)

Sections of ditches in trenches 1, 3 and 5 Fig 10

5.2 Trench 1

Trench 1, 20m long and aligned north-west to south-east, was positioned on the part of the ring ditch within the development area (Figs 1, 8 and 12). The ditch [105] was 1.62m wide and 0.45m deep (Fig 10, section 4 and Fig 11). The mid orange-brown silty sand fill was devoid of any finds or charcoal. A gully [107] towards the north-eastern end of the trench, 0.53m wide and 0.19m deep, with a fill of mid orange-brown silty sand (106) (Fig 10, section 2). No finds were recovered.



Ring ditch [105], looking south-west Fig 11



Trench 1, looking north-west Fig 12

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3, 30m long and north-west to south-east, was situated over a number of linear anomalies aligned north-east to south-west to include a possible ditch and furrows (Figs 8-10, section 1 and 13). A ditch [306] was uncovered at the location of the anomaly at the south-eastern end of the trench. The ditch was 1.63m wide and 0.35m deep, with a fill of red-brown sandy silt (304) overlain by light grey-brown sandy silt (305). No finds were recovered. The furrows were very ephemeral and could not be seen in the trench. Near the north-west end of the trench disturbance by animal burrowing was noted.



Ditch [306] in Trench 3, looking north-east Fig 13

5.4 Trench 5

Trench 5, 20m long and aligned south-west to north-east, targeted the L-shaped ditch feature along the south-western edge of the development area (Figs 8-10 and 14). At the location of the anomaly a ditch 2.40m wide by 1.18m deep [515], aligned north to south, was excavated (Figs 10 section 6, Fig 14 & 15). The fill of silty sands (511)-(514), provides evidence of slumping on the eastern side (513).

A ditch to the west was roughly orientated east to west; the section may have been placed on a bend in the ditch (Fig 16). The ditch [508] measured 2.61m wide and 0.88m deep, with a fill of silty sands (504)-(506). There was evidence of slumping on the western side (507) (Fig 10, section 5). The ditch re-cut [510] on the western edge, had a fill of mid red-brown silty sand (509). No finds or charcoal were noted in the fills of either ditch.



Trench 5 post-excitation of ditches [508] and [515] with [508] in foreground looking south-west Fig 14



Ditch [515], looking north Fig 15



Ditch [508], looking north Fig 16

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Worked flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Nine pieces of worked flint were recovered as surface finds, comprising one core, four flakes, one blade, and two fragments.

The condition of the assemblage was good. The flint showed post-depositional damage in the form of irregular nicks to the edges. Patination was present on two flakes.

The raw material comprised of mid grey-brown coloured vitreous flint. The quality of the raw material is good. Cortex was typically light to mid brown in colour with a generally smooth, rolled and weathered surface. The raw material was likely to have been derived from local gravel deposits.

One flake core were recovered, it had multiple striking platforms. The assemblage comprised four flakes, of which one was broken, and one broken blade. Additionally two fragmented worked pieces of flint were recovered.

The worked flint is not directly dateable but the technological characteristics of the assemblage suggest a broad Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

6.2 Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

A single sherd of pottery, weighing 12g, was found on the surface. This is a body sherd, 8mm thick, with no visible mineral inclusions, a dark grey core and brown surfaces, with the external surface burnished.

The fabric indicates a broad Iron Age date, and the burnished surface is most likely to suggest a date in the Iron Age date, 1st century BC.

7 DISCUSSION

Archaeology was present on the site, primarily towards the north-eastern end of the development area. The geophysical survey has detected two circular ditches, one rectilinear enclosure and a potential ditch. The trial trench evaluation sectioned these features and an additional two features. No direct dating evidence was recovered from these features.

The circular enclosures detected in the survey and excavated in Trench 1 are similar in scale to those identified in the aerial photography of the surrounding area, which are recorded as Bronze Age burial mounds. Further cropmarks in the area indicated the presence of an Iron Age/Roman settlement. The features recorded in Trench 5 may lie on the western edge of this settlement, the morphology of the rectilinear enclosure is of this period.

A single sherd of Iron Age date was recovered as a surface find from the area of the north-eastern ring ditch. It may not be indicative of the circular features, but stem from the adjacent uncovered settlement features (HER 1008) as it is likely to have moved during ploughing.

The geophysical survey identified the presence of ridge and furrow, orientated north-east to south-west. The furrows were very ephemeral and thus were not uncovered during the evaluation. A number of anomalies have also been detected, presenting pipelines and a modern rubbish heap which was identified during the fieldwork.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth & height of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 20m x 1.8m NW-SE | | 162.24.06m aOD | 0.42m, 161.82m aOD |
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Context type</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Dimensions</i> | <i>Artefacts/samples</i> |
| 101 | Topsoil | Dark grey - brown sandy loam; moderate small to medium rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint and ironstone fragments | 0.29m thick | - |
| 102 | Subsoil | Mid orange-brown silty sand; occasional small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | 0.13m thick | - |
| 103 | Natural | Light yellow and orange sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone fragments; there are some orange-brown with high frequency stones | - | - |
| 104 | Fill of [105] | Friable, mid orange-brown silty sand; moderate small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | - | - |
| 105 | Ditch | Curved linear, NE-SW, U-shaped, concave base | 0.45m deep 1.62m wide | - |
| 106 | Fill of [108] | Friable, mid orange-brown silty sand; moderate small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | - | - |
| 107 | Gully | Linear, NE-SE orientated, 45o sloped side with concave base | 0.19m deep 0.53m wide | - |

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth & height of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 | 30m x 1.8m SEE-NWW | | 158.53m aOD | 0.45m, 158.09m aOD |
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Context type</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Dimensions</i> | <i>Artefacts/samples</i> |
| 201 | Topsoil | Dark grey - brown sandy loam; moderate small to medium rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint and ironstone fragments | 0.30m thick | - |
| 202 | Subsoil | Mid orange-brown silty sand; occasional small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions; only present in SEE end of trench | 0.15m thick | - |
| 203 | Natural | Light yellow and orange sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone fragments; there are some orange-brown with high frequency stones | - | - |

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth & height of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 | 30m x 1.8m NW-SE | | 160.55m aOD | 0.43m, 160.12m aOD |
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Context type</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Dimensions</i> | <i>Artefacts/samples</i> |
| 301 | Topsoil | Dark grey - brown sandy loam; moderate small to medium rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint and ironstone fragments | 0.33m thick | - |
| 302 | Subsoil | Mid orange-brown silty sand; occasional small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | 0.10m thick | - |
| 303 | Natural | Light yellow and orange sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone fragments | - | - |
| 304 | Fill of [306] | Loose, red-brown sandy silt; frequent small to medium ironstone lumps | - | - |
| 305 | Fill of [306] | Loose, light grey-brown sandy silt; frequent small to medium lumps of ironstone | - | - |
| 306 | Ditch | Linear, NE-SW, V-shaped, concave base | 0.73m deep 1.63m wide | - |

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth & height of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 | 30m x 1.8m NW-SE | | 158.96m aOD | 0.38m, 158.58m aOD |
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Context type</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Dimensions</i> | <i>Artefacts/samples</i> |
| 401 | Topsoil | Dark grey - brown sandy loam; moderate small to medium rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint and ironstone fragments | 0.23m thick | - |
| 402 | Subsoil | Mid orange-brown silty sand; occasional small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | 0.15m thick | - |
| 403 | Natural | Light yellow and orange sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone fragments | - | - |

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth & height of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 | 20m x 1.8m NE-SW | | 162.28m aOD | 0.48m, 161.80m aOD |
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Context type</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Dimensions</i> | <i>Artefacts/samples</i> |
| 501 | Topsoil | Dark grey - brown sandy loam; moderate small to medium rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint and ironstone fragments | 0.29m thick | - |
| 502 | Subsoil | Mid orange-brown silty sand; occasional small to medium | 0.19m thick | - |

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| | | sub-angular ironstone inclusions | | |
| 503 | Natural | Light yellow and orange sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone fragments | - | - |
| 504 | Fill of [508] | Mid brown-orange silty sand; moderate small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | - | - |
| 505 | Fill of [508] | Dark orange-brown silty sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular inclusions | - | - |
| 506 | Fill of [508] | Dark grey-brown sandy silt; very frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | - | - |
| 507 | Fill of [508] | Light brown-orange and yellow silty sand; moderate small to medium sub-angular ironstone fragments; erosion and slumping of ditch | - | - |
| 508 | Ditch | N-S orientated, section possibly on a turn, steep slopes 60°, v-shaped profile | 0.88m deep 2.61m wide | - |
| 509 | Fill of [510] | Mid re-brown silty sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | - | - |
| 510 | Ditch | N-S orientated; 45° slopes, concave base | 0.22m deep 1.23m wide | - |
| 511 | Fill of [515] | Mid brown silty sand; occasional small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions | - | - |
| 512 | Fill of [515] | Mid brown silty sand; frequent small-medium sub-angular ironstone fragments | - | - |
| 513 | Fill of [515] | Yellow-brown sand-silty sand; occasional small to medium fragment of sub-angular ironstone; possible slumping | - | - |
| 514 | Fill of [515] | Mid brown silty sand; frequent small to medium sub-angular ironstone fragments | - | |
| 515 | Ditch | N-S orientated, Upper slope 45°, lower slope 60°; V-shaped profile, flat base | 1.18m deep 2.40m wide | - |



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