

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Geophysical survey and archaeological trial
excavation on land off Huntingdon Road,
Thrapston, Northamptonshire
February-March 2007



Paul Mason

April 2007

Report 07/63

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Geophysical survey and archaeological trial excavation on land off Huntingdon Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire.	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted geophysical survey and trial excavation on c 16.5 ha of pasture land at Thrapston, Northamptonshire. Geophysical survey confirmed and further expanded upon evidence for an important Bronze Age ringfort lying within the proposed development site that had been previously located by aerial photography and partially excavated in 1997. Trial excavation on land surrounding the ringfort revealed archaeological features including parts of three possible roundhouses, a human cremation and gravel pits which were widely dispersed over an area to the south-west of the fort.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Evaluation, Excavation	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	unknown	
Monument type/ period	Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval, Post-medieval	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Human cremation	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Land off Huntingdon Road, Thrapston	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	16.5ha	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	TL 007 7817	
Height OD	61m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council's Planning Policy Team	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Mason	
Project Manager	Bill Boismier	
Sponsor or funding body	Henry H Bletsoe and Son	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	12.2.07	
End date	16.3.07	
ARCHIVES		
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
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	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
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GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL EXCAVATION ON LAND OFF HUNTINGDON ROAD, THRAPSTON

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2007

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted geophysical survey and trial excavation on c 16.5 ha of pasture land at Thrapston, Northamptonshire. Geophysical survey confirmed and further expanded upon evidence for an important Bronze Age ringfort lying within the proposed development site that had been previously located by aerial photography and partially excavated in 1997. Trial excavation on land surrounding the ringfort revealed archaeological features including parts of three possible roundhouses, a human cremation and gravel pits which were widely dispersed over an area to the south-west of the fort.

1 INTRODUCTION

In February and March 2007 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Henry H Bletsoe and Son on approximately 16.5 ha of pasture land at Thrapston, Northamptonshire (centre: NGR TL 0027 7817, Fig 1). At the centre of the site are the important archaeological remains of a Bronze Age ringfort identified by aerial photography and partially excavated in 1997 (Hull 2001). The current evaluation comprised geophysical survey, trial excavation and a metal detector survey. This report has been prepared in support of an outline planning application for residential development of the site.

The archaeological investigations were undertaken at the request of Northamptonshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (NCCHET) in order to inform the planning process. The work was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Mason 2007) which was approved by East Northamptonshire Council.

The geophysical survey took place 12-15 February 2007 and the trial excavation and metal detector survey 5-16 March of the same year.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning background

Outline planning permission will be sought to develop c 16.5 ha of land off Huntingdon Road, Thrapston. The outline proposal is for residential use over the site conforming to the District Local Plan. Northamptonshire County Council's Planning Policy Team (NCCPPT), as

archaeological advisers to East Northamptonshire Council, have indicated that the site contains nationally important archaeological remains (Flitcroft 1999). NCCPPT therefore advised that a programme of archaeological field evaluation be undertaken to characterise the nature of the archaeological resource in order to inform the planning decision.

Part of the proposed development area, the former site of the Hermitage, which lies to the immediate south of the junction of Huntingdon Road and Market Road has already been granted outline planning permission (EN/04/01328/OUT) for a doctor's surgery and residential development (Fig 1, blue shaded area). Following consultation with East Northamptonshire Council's Senior Conservation Officer, and in light of the current programme of archaeological works, the archaeological condition will be discharged upon submission of this report (Lloyd Mills, Senior Conservation Officer, *pers comm*).

2.2 Archaeological background

Aerial photography in 1971 identified a circular enclosure with a diameter of *c* 120m lying within the proposed development site (Fig 2). A large quantity of 3rd and 4th century Roman coins were recorded as having been found on or around this site, associated with possible limestone building rubble and Roman pottery (RCHME 1975, 96). In 1990 limited programme of trial trenching was undertaken by the Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit on the south-east part of the enclosure. It found no evidence to support suggestions of Roman buildings, but did recover a small amount of Iron Age pottery from part of the enclosure ditch.

Approximately 20% of the enclosure lying in a field to the north of the development site was evaluated in 1991 (Jackson 1991) and subsequently archaeologically excavated in 1997 prior to a residential development (Hull 2001). This fieldwork established the full significance of the enclosure allowing it to be interpreted as a 'ringfort', a mini-hillfort or elite residence of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. These remains are considered to be of national importance and require physical preservation within the proposed development. The archaeological potential of the other parts of the site was not determined.

2.3 Topography and geology

The proposed development site lies on the south-eastern outskirts of Thrapston, on land south of the A604 Huntingdon Road and north of the A14. It lies on relatively high ground (*c* 61m OD) overlooking the River Nene to the west. Well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks are visible across much of the site which is currently used for pasture.

The proposed development area is located over bands of varied geology ranging from Great Oolite limestone in the north-west to boulder clay in the south-east (Fig 3).

3 OBJECTIVES

The objective of the archaeological work was to determine the extent, nature and degree of preservation of archaeological features and remains across the development site and to provide information to enable the preservation of the nationally important ringfort remains within the proposed development.

4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

4.1 Methodology

All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (English Heritage 1995 & Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002). The instruments used were a Geoscan FM36 and a Geoscan FM256, both of which are fluxgate gradiometers with 0.5m sensor separations.

The scanning was undertaken along transects at 10m intervals. Where anomalous readings ($>3nT$ above the background) were encountered, their immediate surroundings were scanned to investigate their extent and trace-form. Anomalies of ferrous origin were ignored, as were those thought to be indicative of modern disturbance. All others were marked and their locations manually tied in to the national grid.

Six sample blocks (A to F) were selected for detailed detailed magnetometer survey (Fig 4). Each was laid out by tape-measure, to an accuracy of $\pm 1m$ in relation to Ordnance Survey National Grid and was sub-divided into grid squares of 30m x 30m. The instruments were carried along transects spaced at 1m intervals within each grid, with with measurements being automatically triggered every 0.25m.

The data collected during the survey was viewed using Geoplot 3.00s software. Minimal processing was carried out. The 'Zero Mean Traverse' function was applied as a standard in order to balance the data to zero. Other functions were applied as necessary to deal with specific data flaws.

The processed data is presented here in the form of greyscale graphics highlighting the magnetic anomalies (scale $+5nT / -5nT$ or $+3nT / -3nT$, black ~ white, Fig 4). It was considered that other plotting regimes such as 'stacked trace' would be uninformative for the majority of this survey. An interpretative plot (Fig 5) has been generated from the greyscales to aid in the discussion.

4.2 Results

Reconnaissance survey

Scanning with the magnetometers revealed a scatter of potentially significant anomalies, the main cluster of which occurred to the west and south-west of the ringwork (Fig 4). The ringwork area itself was not scanned, as it was felt that this would not have provided any useful new information.

During the scanning survey, some difficulty was encountered in disentangling genuine anomalies from various unwanted sources of background magnetic noise. The ridge and furrow earthworks had a magnetic signature which closely resembled that of other archaeological features, and the site of the old orchard (Field 2/3) was magnetically disturbed, perhaps due to the pedological effects of grubbing up and burning tree roots. Ferrous anomalies were also a problem in some areas, particularly around the barns and along the line of an east-west trending sewer pipe which crosses the northern end of the survey area. For these reasons isolated scanning anomalies were regarded as unreliable guides to archaeology, and only clusters of anomalies were treated as potentially significant.

Detailed survey

Area A

This survey block was located to cover the site of the ringwork and the adjacent cluster of scanning anomalies. The results clearly show the circuit of the enclosure ditch, together with a few large, pit-like internal features. Two parallel linear anomalies, presumably representing ditches or small gullies, intersect with the enclosure. Because these do not relate to the layout of the ringwork they presumably represent a separate phase of activity on the site.

Beyond the ringwork, the only anomalies of possible archaeological significance, apart from the weak, north-south trending ridge and furrow, are a few fragmentary linear features. These cannot be securely interpreted and will need to be investigated by trial trenching. The broad, fuzzy, blob-shaped anomalies in the southern part of the data are unlikely to be archaeological, being more typical of those produced by natural geological or pedological variations.

Areas B to F

Blocks C to E were located to investigate various minor clusters of scanning anomalies whilst B and F were placed in quieter areas to ensure even coverage of the site. None revealed any undisputable archaeological remains, other than ridge and furrow. However there was a very faint linear anomaly in block B which could conceivably represent a ditch. A small number of ferrous anomalies are scattered throughout these survey blocks, and a small pipe or cable anomaly runs across block B.

4.3 Conclusions

The geophysical survey produced no evidence to suggest that the ringwork extends any further than indicated by previous cropmark and excavation evidence and failed to identify any other unambiguously archaeological remains. However there are a small number of anomalies which may be of minor archaeological significance, and these should be investigated further during the trial trenching.

5 TRIAL EXCAVATION

5.1 Methodology

Thirty-four sixty metre long trenches were laid out over the eight fields that comprise the proposed development area out using a Leica 1200 GPS system (Fig 2). Trenches were placed to intercept known or suspected features identified by the geophysical survey, investigate areas of potential, and provide coverage of apparently blank areas within the constraints imposed by existing vegetation. The trenches were excavated using a Volvo 360° tracked digger fitted with a 2.1m-wide ditching bucket. Subsoil and topsoil were removed to expose the upper strata of geology and stored separately. Topographic constraints and the disruptive intervention of a third party required a number of the trenches to be moved a short distance from their original positions. Final trench positions were re-surveyed using a Leica 1200 GPS system.

Once opened, hand excavation and recording of trenches progressed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation (Mason 2007). Following the completion of the archaeological work the trenches were backfilled.

5.2 Results

Field 1

Three trenches (T1, T3 & T4) were located in Field 1 which lay in the north-west part of the site. The geology in this field lay at *c* 52.4-57m OD and comprised Oolite limestone in the north, sandy clay in the centre and Cornbrash in the south. Subsoil was typically 0.1-0.3m thick and was overlain by 0.2-0.35m-thick layer of topsoil. Deposits of subsoil observed filling undulations in the geology were probably the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation.

The only archaeological features present were in Trench 4 where a pair of shallow parallel gullies [403] and [405] were aligned roughly east-west in the western end of the trench. Post-medieval pottery and fragments of clay pipe stem were present in their fills. The features were characteristic of wheel ruts perhaps relating to the route of a former farm trackway.

Field 2

A single trench (T2) was located in Field 2 which also lay in the north-western part of the site. The geology lay at *c* 53.1-55.5m OD and comprised clay with outcropping Oolite limestone (203) overlain by a *c* 0.2m thickness of subsoil (202) and a *c* 0.25m thickness of topsoil (201). A linear gully [204] aligned north-south in the centre of the trench appeared to be part of a drainage system contemporary with gravel-filled land drains that dissected the trench towards its northern end. A sherd of later post-medieval pottery, a fragment of clay pipe stem and a copper-alloy clasp (SF6) were found in its compacted clay backfill (206).

Field 3

A single trench (T5) was located in Field 3 which occupied a position in the western part of the site, to the south of Field 2. Field 3 was marked with prominent ridge and furrow earthworks which were aligned north-south. Overlying the ridge and furrow was a raised earthen causeway forming a track that crossed the field on a north-west to south-east alignment.

The geology lay at *c* 56.9-57.75m OD and was clay (503) overlain by up to 0.6m of subsoil (502) and a *c* 0.25m thick deposit of topsoil (501). There were no archaeological features.

Field 4

Ten trenches (T6 - T15) were located in Field 4 which lay in the south-western part of the site. The entire field was marked with prominent ridge and furrow with particularly well-preserved examples, including headlands, surviving in the south-east corner of the field (Plate 1).

The geology in the north-east part of the field was sand and gravel - elsewhere it comprised clay with occasional patches of gravel. Across the field, depths of topsoil and subsoil each varied from 0.15-0.4m. Archaeological features were confined to the trenches located in the north-eastern and central part of the field (T6 - T8, T10).

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned roughly east-west in the northern part of the field (Fig 6). The geology, a yellow brown sand and gravel (603) was revealed *c* 0.6m below the surface (*c* 57.8-58.8m OD). It was overlain by 0.2m-thick brown clay subsoil (602) and 0.4m-thick grey brown sandy loam topsoil (601).

In the eastern end of the trench the geology was cut by a cluster of three postholes [604], [606], [608] whose diameters ranged from 0.16m to 0.32m and depths from 0.12 to 0.21m. They were filled with brown sandy loam (605), (607), (609). The only finds were a single fragment of animal bone from fill (605).

Towards the centre of the trench and protruding from its southern edge were three small inter-cutting pits [610], [612], [614]. The earliest of these, [610], was circular with a diameter of

0.40m and a depth of 0.12m. It was filled with a greyish brown clay loam (611). This was cut by pit [612] of which only part was visible where it protruded from the trench edge. It had been cut from above the subsoil, had a depth of 0.2m and was filled with dark brown silty loam (613) containing a single sherd of post-medieval pottery. This pit had an equivocal stratigraphic relationship with the third feature [614] of which only a small part was visible. It too appeared to be cut from above the subsoil.

At the western end of the trench was a single posthole or small pit [616] which had a diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.2m. It was filled with a leached mid-grey brown silty loam (617).

Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned north-south in the north-east corner of the field (Fig 6). The geology, a yellow brown sand and gravel (703) was revealed *c* 0.5m below the surface (*c* 58.4-59.2m OD). It was overlain by 0.2m of brown clay subsoil (702) and 0.3m of dark grey brown sandy clay loam topsoil (701). The north and south ends of the trench were quickly immersed by rapidly rising ground water.

At the north and south ends of the trench, where the flooding was at its worst, a series of inter-cutting features were observed and recorded in plan but not excavated. They were filled with a distinctive dark brown sandy clay loam. Similar features were observed to the east in Field 5 where they were sampled and are thought to be filled-in gravel extraction pits of various date (see below).

In the centre of the trench a number of features were cut into the sand and gravel. A linear gully [734] with a width of *c* 1.25m and a depth of *c* 0.3m bisected the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment (Fig 8; section 42). Half a metre to the south a possible pit [736] protruded from the eastern trench edge (Fig 8; section 43). Both features were filled with mid-greyish brown sandy loam and remain undated. To the north was a large cluster of stake/postholes [708], [712]-[732], [738]-[740] (Fig 8; section 40, 41) and two inter-cutting pits [704] and [706]. The latter was cut from above the subsoil and is thought to be of fairly modern date. The stake/postholes and pit [704] were all filled with greyish brown silty clay loam. No finds were recovered to aid the dating of these features.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned east-west towards the centre of the field (Fig 6). The geology, red brown clay (803), was revealed *c* 0.4m below the surface (*c* 58.5-59m OD). It was overlain by 0.2-0.25m of brown clay loam subsoil (802) and 0.15m of dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil (701).

Two shallow postholes were located towards the centre of the trench [805] and [807]. Their diameters were 0.25m and 0.32m respectively. They were both filled with dark grey silty loam

(804), (806) with sherds of late Bronze Age pottery present in the later. Further to the west a small pit [809] protruded from the southern trench edge (Fig 8; section 23, Plate 2). A sample taken from its dark, charcoal-flecked clay loam fill (808) was found to contain cremated human bone which remains undated. At the extreme western end of the trench a single, undated posthole or small pit [811] was present.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned north-south towards the centre of the field (Fig 6). The geology, light grey brown clay (1003), was revealed *c* 0.45m below the surface (*c* 57.15-57.9m OD). It was overlain by 0.2m of grey clay loam subsoil (1002) and 0.25m of dark grey-brown clay loam topsoil (1001). Once opened, rapidly rising groundwater quickly flooded the entire trench.

A curvilinear gully [1004] cut the geology at the south-eastern end of the trench and terminated at its centre. It was 0.30m wide, only 0.10m deep and had a shallow 'u'-shaped profile (Fig 8; section 36). It was filled with light grey-brown clay (1005) that contained sherds of late 1st- to mid-2nd century pottery (Plate 3). The fill was also flecked with dispersed fragments of burned clay.

Field 5

Ten trenches (T16-T17, T19-26) were located in Field 5 which lay in the central part of the site. The field was fairly flat having been ploughed and re-sown with grass following the archaeological works of 1991. At its southern end faint remnants of east-west aligned ridge and furrow were present.

The geology in the north-west part of the field was sand and gravel while to the south-east it comprised clay and Boulder Clay. Across the field depths of topsoil varied between 0.1-0.5m and subsoil between 0.1-0.6m. The greater depths of both topsoil and subsoil were noted in the north-western part of the field. Archaeological features were also confined to the trenches located in this area (T23-T26).

Trench 23

Trench 23 was aligned north-south on the western side of the field (Fig 6). The geology, a yellow brown gravelly clay (2309), lay *c* 0.6m below the surface (*c* 57.95-58.7m OD). It was overlain by *c* 0.35m dark brown clay subsoil (2302) and 0.25m dark brown clay loam topsoil (2301).

Cutting the geology towards the centre of the trench were three archaeological features. Parts of two pits [2303] and 2305] were partially visible against the trench edges. Both were filled with gravel-flecked dark brown sandy clay (2304), (2306), similar to that observed filling comparable features in T7 to the west and T24 and T25 to the north. Neither pit contained dating evidence. Because of their distinctive fill they are thought to be gravel extraction pits.

A short distance to the south a shallow, 0.9m-wide ditch [2307] was aligned east-west across the trench. Its brown sandy clay fill (2308) contained no dating evidence. South of this ditch was an area of modern disturbance that may have truncated its upper profile. A number of land drains were also present.

Trench 24

Trench 24 was aligned north north-west to south south-east in the extreme north-western corner of the field (Fig 7). The geology, a brown clay (2403), lay *c* 0.55-0.75m below the surface (*c* 57-57.7m OD) and was overlain by a 0.1-0.3m depth of reddish brown subsoil (2402) and a dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil (2401) measuring up to 0.45m thick. The southern end of the trench flooded soon after it was opened.

Cutting the geology in the southern part of the trench were a number of pits filled with the same gravel-flecked dark brown sandy clay observed infilling similar features in neighbouring trenches. One of these, pit [2404] cut the geology across the width of the trench from its eastern edge. An excavated section revealed its depth to be *c* 0.6m and sherds of prehistoric pottery were found in its fill (2405). To the north of this pit a 4.5m wide spread of gravel-flecked dark brown sandy clay was investigated revealing three inter-cutting features [2406], [2408] and [2410]. The most southerly feature [2406] appeared to be a small pit or perhaps a gully terminus, whereas [2408] and [2410] were more likely gullies aligned east-west across the trench. Pottery sherds of probable late Bronze Age date were found in the fill of [2408].

Land drains were located at each end of the trench.

Trench 25

Trench 25 was aligned north-south in the north-western corner of the field (Fig 7). The geology, a brown sand and gravel (2503) lay *c* 0.6-0.8m below the surface (*c* 57.6-58m OD). It was overlain by a 0.30-0.60m depth of reddish brown subsoil (2502) and a dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil (2501) measuring up to 0.3-0.5m thick.

The geology along the entire length of the trench was cut by a number of features filled with the same gravel-flecked dark brown sandy clay observed elsewhere. Circular pit [2504], located towards the southern end of the trench had a diameter of 1.30m and a depth of only 0.15m (Fig 8; section 27). Curvilinear feature [2506] was also located towards the trench's southern end. It had a width of 1.4m and a depth of 0.3m. It may have been a ditch terminus. Nearby inter-cutting pits [2508] and [2510] were bereft of dating evidence. The later was the earlier and had a near vertical profile and a depth of 0.5m. Further towards the centre of the trench against its eastern edge was pit [2512] whose projected diameter exceeded 2m. It cut another pit [2514] which was filled with gravel-flecked dark brown sandy clay (2516) and a lens of re-deposited geology (2515). Sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from this feature.

Further to the north was a narrow gully [2517] filled with an orange brown sand (2518) (Fig 8; section 29). It appeared to be cut by another large, shallow, undated pit [2520]. Closer to the trench's northern end a small, undated pit or gully terminus [2528] was located against its western side. To the south a number of inter-cutting features were present including curvilinear feature [2530] which contained Iron Age pottery and a single flint blade (SF4). This was cut by a circular feature [2532], perhaps a small pit, with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of just 0.1m. In close vicinity was pit [2539] whose relationship to adjacent pit [2541] was ambiguous (Fig 8; section 37). Both features were undated. The latter had a similar indistinct stratigraphic association with nearby pit [2543] which is also undated.

At the extreme northern end of the trench a 6m-wide band of the ubiquitous dark brown fill deposit was partially sectioned and was thought to be a large pit. One of the three fills encountered (2536) contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery, another (2537) contained a 12th/13th century sherd.

Trench 26

Trench 26 was aligned roughly east-west towards the centre of the field (Fig 7). The geology, a brown sand and clay (2613), lay 0.3-0.7m below the surface (*c* 58.5-59.8m OD). It was overlain by a 0.1-0.5m depth of reddish brown subsoil (2602) and a dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil (2601) measuring up to 0.2-0.5m thick.

Cutting the geology towards the centre of the trench was the northern edge of an undated pit [2603]. It had a projected diameter of 1.25m and a depth of some 0.3m. Its primary fill was a mid-orange brown gravel-flecked clay (2604). This was overlain by a grey sandy fill (2605). Further to the west was a patch of disturbed ground (2612) where topsoil appeared to have been worked into the geology, perhaps by livestock trampling. Ten sherds of prehistoric pottery were found in association. At the extreme western end of the trench a curvilinear gully [2606] cut another patch of similarly disturbed ground. Its fill, a dark grey silt (2609), contained a single sherd of Roman Greyware pottery and two fragments of burned flint.

Field 6

A single trench (T18) was located in Field 6 which occupied a position in the southern part of the site, to the south of Field 5.

The geology (*c* 61.2-61.55m OD) was clay (1803) overlain by up to 0.2m of subsoil (1802) and a *c* 0.15m thick deposit of topsoil (1801). There were no archaeological features.

Field 7

Five trenches (T27-29, T33-34) were located in Field 7 which occupied a position in the north-east part of the site, to the south of the Huntingdon Road. Traces of ridge and furrow crossed the

field on an approximate north-south alignment. The geology in this area varied between clay, cornbrash and limestone. Subsoil was typically 0.15m thick and topsoil 0.2-0.3m thick.

Archaeological features were present in only one of the trenches, north-south aligned T27, which lay close to the western boundary of the field (Fig 7). Here the geology (2717) varied between cornbrash and clay (59.5m OD) and was overlain by a 0.3m thickness of orange brown clay subsoil (2702) and 0.25m of dark brown clay loam topsoil (2701). The archaeology was clustered in the southern end of the trench where the principal feature was a 3m-wide ditch [2703] that was aligned east-west. It had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and was 0.8m deep (Fig 8; section 2). It was filled by a dark greyish brown clay loam (2704) which contained a flint core, a single shard of post-medieval glass and a sherd of prehistoric pottery. To the north was an undated shallow pit [2705] and associated posthole [2705]. To the south of the ditch were two undated pits [2709] and [2711]. Of these the later was the more substantial being 0.4m deep and having a projected diameter of 1.6m (Fig 8; section 4). Its dark, gravel-flecked fill resembled those of the pits located to the west of the ringfort. Aligned north-west to south-east at the extreme southern end of the trench was a shallow ditch or gully [2713]. Its dark brown clay loam fill (2714) contained no dating evidence.

Field 8

Three trenches (T30-32) were located in Field 8 which occupied a position in the far north-east part of the site, to the south of the Huntingdon Road. Traces of ridge and furrow crossed the field on an approximate north-south alignment (Plate). The geology in this area lay at *c* 56.95-59.3m OD varied between clay, cornbrash and limestone. Subsoil was typically 0.2-0.4m thick and topsoil 0.2-0.25m thick. There were no archaeological features present.

6 METAL DETECTOR SURVEY

The pasture fields were unsuitable for the metal detecting survey as specified in the written scheme of investigation (Mason 2007). Instead the bases of each trench and the spoil heaps were scanned - an area which amounted to *c* 2% of the proposed development area. Many iron objects of relatively modern date such as nails and agricultural fittings were found and discarded on site. Three items of greater interest; a lead shot (SF1), an iron fitting (SF2) and a copper alloy bridal boss (SF3) were retained and are reported on below.

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Worked flint by Y B Wolframm-Murray

In total five pieces of flint were recovered. The raw material is of a mid-light grey vitreous flint and the cortex of this flint is a light to mid brown colour. There is one core, (2704) from ditch [2703], which appears to have been knapped from multiple directions and is heavily damaged. There is one whole blade (SF4) from fill (2531) of ditch [2530], with some edge damage. Also there are three flake fragments. Two pieces from fill (2609) of gully [2606], one the distal end and the other a fragment, are thermally altered and as a result heavily damaged and patinated. The third piece is the distal end of a flake (SF5) from fill (2536) of pit [2535] and shows miscellaneous retouch on the distal end and the lower right edge on the dorsal surface. There are no diagnostic pieces and therefore it is not possible to date the flint.

7.2 Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

Nine contexts produced a total of only twenty-five sherds of hand-built pottery, weighing 230g. Five contexts (2516, 2536, 2519, 2531 and 2704) produced only single sherds in shelly fabrics, while a further context (2405) produced two shelly sherds.

The fill (806) of posthole [807], close to a cremation deposit (808) in pit [809], produced two large sherds from a single vessel with a simple rim with an internal bevel. The fabric contains dense shell inclusions but also contains some small quartz grains, suggesting the addition of sand. The core is grey while the surfaces vary from dark red-brown to dark grey.

The fill (2409) of pit [2408] produced seven small sherds, weighing 20g, six of which were in shelly fabrics while a single sherd contained flint. A single body sherd comes from a vessel with a sharp angle at the neck which has been decorated with short, oblique fingernail impressions.

The single sherd from (2531) the fill of ditch [2530] contains sparse shell and grog, has a light grey core and orange surfaces and comes from a small well-made bowl with a simple bead rim and probably a burnished surface.

Trample layer (2612) contains ten sherds, eight of which are from a single vessel in hard fabric containing some shell, uniformly grey throughout. This was probably a small bowl with a plain rim.

Given both the overall total and the small number and the small size of the majority of the sherds from individual contexts, and the paucity of diagnostic features, it is difficult to provide a specific date for this material, and indeed it may not all derive from the same period.

A single vessel has an angle at the neck, decorated with oblique fingernail impressions, while another has a rim with an internal bevel. These features are broadly consistent with the material

from the nearby late Bronze Age ringwork (Jackson 2000-01, 78- 84). The predominance of shelly fabrics, typically in darker colours, with a limited number of flint-gritted sherds, is also comparable, although the same could equally be true across a broader period of time. The single oxidised vessel, a plain bowl with a bead rim and probably a burnished surface, could be appropriate in either the early Iron Age or the late Iron Age.

While the assemblage is small and equivocal, it does contain elements that suggest that there are features present in the evaluation area that may have been broadly contemporary with the nearby late Bronze Age ringwork, although there may also be a presence into the middle or even the late Iron Age.

7.3 Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

The evaluation produced a small group of late 1st to mid 2nd century pottery. A total of thirty-one sherds with a combined weight of 0.357kg were recovered from two individual deposits in two trenches (T10, T26). The assemblage includes locally produced wares in grog-tempered (23), greyware (1) and oxidised ware (7). The only identifiable vessel form is a hard-fired grog-tempered jar with everted rim. Patches of a burnt residue are evident on the interior surface of the vessel and the broken edges are heavily burnt, suggesting that the vessel may have fallen into the fire during use. The remaining sherds are all undiagnostic.

Table 1: Roman pottery

Context	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Description
1005	7	5	Undiagnostic body sherds in a fine oxidised sandy fabric
1005	23	332	Jar with everted rim in a hard fired grog tempered fabric - date <i>c</i> late 1st to mid 2nd. Residue on interior surface, broken edges burnt.
2609	1	20	Greyware- undiagnostic

7.4 Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Ian Soden

Eleven sherds were recovered from six contexts. They span from the 12th/13th to the nineteenth centuries in date.

Table 2: Medieval and post-medieval pottery

Context	Product
2606	1 sherd Creamware (late 18th-early 19th century)
404	1 sherd Creamware 1 sherd Blackware (18th century) 1 sherd Scratch-blue ware (17th -18th century) 1 amorphous piece of glazed clay, possibly tile
406	3 sherds Mocha ware, probably from 1 vessel (c1830-50)
613	1 sherd Blackware
902	1 sherd late medieval coarseware type (13th-15th century)
2537	1 sherd glazed whiteware, possibly developed Stamford Ware (12th-13th century)

This small selection of sherds is too few in number from any period to indicate nearby occupation. Rather they are likely to be the result of various episodes of agricultural manuring of the fields or middening of refuse from surrounding farms. The older material is suitably more abraded by more prolonged exposure to the elements.

7.5 **Metallic small finds** by Tora Hylton

Four individually recorded small finds were recovered. With the exception of a decorative hinged (?) furniture/casket fitting recovered from the fill of a gully (205), all the finds were recovered from topsoil deposits overlying trenches (T7, T14, T16). All the finds are post-medieval in date and include a lead shot for use with a pistol, a gilded bridle boss in the form of a flower and an undiagnostic iron fitting.

Catalogue

SF1 Lead shot, spherical, 14mm in diameter, no impact marks. Size suggests that it would have been for use with a pistol rather than a musket. Post-medieval. Context (1601), Trench 16, topsoil.

SF2 D-shaped iron fitting, slightly curved profile. Nature of original object difficult to determine. Post-medieval. Measurements: 50 x 21 x 8mm. Context (1401), Trench 14, topsoil.

-
- SF3 Bridle boss, copper alloy. Ornamented with a floral motif comprising centrally laced anther and stamens surrounded by an inner and outer ring of six petals. Evidence of gilding in the recesses. Post-medieval. Diameter: 34mm. Context (701), Trench 7, topsoil.
- SF6 Hinged fitting, copper alloy with iron hinge. Small decorative fitting for small box or piece of furniture with ornate tri-lobed terminal. Post-medieval. Length: 30mm Width: 20mm. Context (205), Trench 2, gully.

7.6 **Human cremation** by Andy Chapman

A total of 310g of cremated bone was recovered from the fill (808) of pit [809]. The bone is generally well burnt, most typically white in colour although some fragments are blue grey to grey suggesting incomplete combustion of organic material. The bone has been recovered from a soil sample by wet sieving and includes pieces as small as 1mm. There are numerous fragments of long bone, which survive to lengths of up to 35mm, and a lesser number of identifiable skull fragments, including a few tooth roots. Two individual bones, a left talus (foot bone) and a right patella (knee cap), survive partially intact and with only limited distortion. They are grey to white in colour, indicating incomplete combustion.

It is difficult to determine many specific details of this individual. The patella displays bony growths while a fragment of skull shows visible but fused sutures, both of which would suggest that these are the remains of an adult. The bones are not particularly large, although size is a difficult criterion to judge given the inevitable distortion and shrinkage of burnt bone, but the remains may be attributed to either a female or a small male.

The 310g of bone recovered represent only a fraction of the original cremated remains which, even for a small adult, could have amounted to some 2.0-2.5kg. The deposit is therefore a product of either selected collection from the pyre, which might account for the low representation of skull fragments, and/or the deposit has suffered subsequent truncation.

7.7 **Animal bone** by Damion Churchill

The sample comprises eight fragments of animal bone the condition of which was generally good, if fragmented. The two identifiable fragments were both from sheep remains, one of which was the distal end of a right tibia from context (2536) and the other a mandibular molar from (2531)

There is little indication of butchery except from the piece of sheep tibia from context (2536) which has a possible small knife mark running horizontally on the medial side of the bone. The piece of tibia surviving is the distal end and looks to have been broken from the shaft before deposition. This may suggest that the bone was not only possibly butchered for meat, but also for the marrow. There is also a single example of burnt bone from context (2612).

The tooth is in poor condition and so there would be little value in any attempt at using any wear stage methodology for a rough idea of age. Both identifiable fragments were located within the same trench (25), with the tibia fragment found within a pit, and the tooth, within a ditch. Of the whole sample, the only fragment of bone that was not located within Trench 25 was an unidentifiable fragment from Trench 6 and found within a post hole. Although unidentifiable, the bone from context (2507) is probably from a large ungulate, due to its size and density and could have been part of a long bone.

The bone is not securely dated and is of little interpretive value. It is worth noting however, that the majority of bone recovered is from Trench 25 where most of the prehistoric pottery came from and so could be prehistoric in date.

Table 3: Animal bone

Context	Description
605	1 unidentifiable fragment.
2507	2 unidentifiable fragments, probably from a large ungulate.
2531	1 mandibular molar, sheep.
2536	1 distal end of tibia, sheep. 2 unidentifiable fragments.
2612	1 unidentifiable fragment, burnt.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The geophysical survey corroborated the evidence provided by aerial photography and previous excavation which locates the ringfort at the centre of the proposed development area. Additional geophysical anomalies picked up in the immediate vicinity suggest the presence of a cluster of internal pit-like features and two parallel linear features which may represent a separate phase of activity on the site of the ringfort.

Trial excavation revealed archaeological features in areas peripheral to the fort and in a band aligned south-west from the fort into the western part of the site. The exposed archaeological features fall into two broad categories; those indicative of occupation in the prehistoric and Roman period and those providing evidence for gravel extraction over a longer, non-specific time scale.

Features suggestive of occupation included sections of curvilinear gullies in Trenches 10 and 26 both containing sherds of Roman and prehistoric pottery respectively and a similar undated gully was present in Trench 25. All of these could conceivably be the remnants of roundhouses. A localised grouping of features in Trench 7, including a densely concentrated cluster of postholes, may also be of structural origin. Although undated, the human cremation located to the south-west in Trench 8 is of particular interest as Bronze Age pottery found in close proximity may indicate that it is contemporary with the occupation of the ringfort.

The only archaeology discovered to the north-east of the fort was in Trench 27 where a group of linear features and pits remained largely undated. The most substantial feature, a wide east-west aligned ditch contained a flint core, prehistoric pottery and a shard of post-medieval glass in its fill, may be a relatively recent field boundary. The composition of this small assemblage of finds is indicative of the potential for high levels of residuality elsewhere across the development area.

The second class of archaeology comprised mainly of large pits, some quite shallow, with a distinctive dark brown sandy clay fill. Generally speaking they were located to the west of the ringfort (Trenches 23-25, Trench 7) where, of no little coincidence, the geology comprised mainly of gravel. Most of the small assemblage of pottery recovered from these features dated to the prehistoric period, however sherds of 12th/13th-century date were also recovered. The field in which most of these features were located (Field 5) is known as 'Gravel pits' (Mr Bletsoe, *pers comm*) so it would seem sensible to conclude that most of them derive from gravel quarrying. The absence of any dating evidence later than the 12th/13th century may suggest the pits are of some antiquity although, as already suggested, levels of ceramic residuality are probably quite high.

To conclude it would appear that the areas of most significant archaeology coincide with areas of gravel extraction in the central and western part of the site. The northern and southern parts of the site revealed little of archaeological interest.

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APPENDIX 1

Table 1: Context descriptions

Trench	Context	Context type	Description	Finds
1	101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.35m	
	102	Subsoil	Light reddish brown clay loam, 0.1-0.2m	
	103	Geology	Limestone	
2	201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.25m	
	202	Subsoil	Orange brown clay loam, 0.2m	
	203	Geology	Clay with outcropping limestone	
	204	Gully	Drainage gully	
	205	Fill of 204	Re-deposited natural clay	Copper alloy fitting
	206	Fill of 204	Grey clay lining	
	3	301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay, 0.25m
	302	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, 0.30m	
	303	Geology	Clay and boulder clay	
4	401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay, 0.30m	
	402	Subsoil	Medium yellow brown silty clay, 0.1-0.15m	
	403	Gully	Wheel rut	
	404	Fill of 403	Fill of wheel rut	Post-medieval pottery
	405	Gully	Wheel rut	
	406	Fill of 405	Fill of wheel rut	Post-medieval pottery
	407	Geology	Cornbrash	
5	501	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.25m	
	502	Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay loam, 0.60m	
	503	Geology	Clay, boulder clay	
6	601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.40m	
	602	Subsoil	Brown silty clay loam, 0.2m	
	603	Geology	Sand and gravel, patchy clay	
	604	Posthole	Diameter 0.32m, depth 0.2m	
	605	Fill of 604	Dark brown sandy loam	Animal bone
	606	Posthole	Diameter 0.13m, depth 0.21m	
	607	Fill of 606	Mid brown sandy loam	
	608	Posthole	Diameter 0.25m, depth 0.16m	
	609	Fill of 608	Mid brown sandy loam	
	610	Pit	Diameter 0.4m, depth 0.12m	
	611	Fill of 610	Grey brown sandy loam	
	612	Pit	Depth 0.2m	
	613	Fill of 610	Dark brown silty loam	Post-medieval pottery
	614	Pit?	Unknown dimensions	
615	Fill of 614	Dark brown silty loam		
616	Pit/posthole	Diameter 0.45m, depth 0.2m		
	617	Fill of 616	Mid grey brown silty clay	

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			loam	
7	701	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.3m	Bridal boss
	702	Subsoil	Dark brown silty clay loam, 0.2m	
	703	Geology	Gravel	
	704	Pit	Diameter 0.75m, depth 0.2m	
	705	Fill of 704	Mid grey brown sandy loam	
	706	Pit?	Modern?	
	707	Fill of 706	Dark brown clay loam	
	708	Post hole	Diameter of following postholes varies from 0.12-0.26m and depth between 0.12-0.25m	
	709	Fill of 709	Mid grey brown silty loam	
	710	Pit?	Unknown dimensions	
	711	Fill of 710	As 709	
	712	Posthole	See 708	
	713	Fill of 712	As 709	
	714	Posthole	See 708	
	715	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	716	Posthole	See 708	
	717	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	718	Posthole	See 708	
	719	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	720	Posthole	See 708	
	721	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	722	Posthole	See 708	
	723	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	724	Posthole	See 708	
	725	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	726	Posthole	See 708	
	727	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	728	Posthole	See 708	
	729	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	730	Posthole	See 708	
	731	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	732	Posthole	See 708	
	733	Fill of posthole	As 709	
	734	Ditch	1.26m wide, 0.3m deep	
	735	Fill of 734	Mid grey silty loam	
	736	Pit?	Diameter 1.65m, depth 0.28m	
	737	Fill of 736	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	738	Posthole	See 708	
	739	Fill of 738	As 709	
	740	Posthole	See 708	
	741	Fill of 740	As 709	
8	801	Topsoil	Mid grey brown loam, 0.16m	
	802	Subsoil	Yellow brown clay loam, 0.25m	
	803	Geology	Clay	
	804	Fill of 805	Dark grey silty loam	
	805	Posthole?	Diameter 0.25m, depth 0.14m	
	806	Fill of 807	Mid grey silty clay loam	Prehistoric pottery
	807	Posthole	Diameter 0.32m, depth	

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			0.12m	
	808	Fill of 809	Dark grey loam	Human cremation
	809	Cremation pit?	0.2m deep	
	810	Fill of 811	Yellow brown/grey clay	
	811	Small pit	Diameter 0.45m, depth 0.16m	
9	901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay, 0.2-0.4m	
	902	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, 0.15-0.4m	Medieval pottery
	903	Geology	Clay	
10	1001	Topsoil	Grey brown clay loam, 0.25m	
	1002	Subsoil	Grey brown clay loam, 0.2m	
	1003	Geology	Clay	
	1004	Curvi-linear gully	0.3m wide, 0.1m deep	
	1005	Fill of 1004	Light grey brown clay	Roman pottery
11	1101	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam, 0.3m	
	1102	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy loam, 0.2m	
	1103	Geology	Clay	
12	1201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.2-0.3m	
	1202	Subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, 0.15-0.25	
	1203	Geology	Clay, boulder clay	
13	1301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.25-0.45m	
	1302	Subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, 0.2-0.4m	
	1303	Geology	Clay, boulder clay	
14	1401	Topsoil	Light grey brown clay loam, 0.12-0.2m	Iron fitting
	1402	Subsoil	Light yellow brown/grey clay loam, 0.15m	
	1403	Geology	Clay, patchy gravel	
15	1501	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam, 0.3m	
	1502	Subsoil	Reeish brown clay loam, 0.15m	
	1503	Geology	Clay	
16	1601	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam, 0.3m	Lead shot
	1602	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, 0.25-0.3m	
	1603	Geology	Clay	
17	1701	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.1-0.25m	
	1702	Subsoil	Mid brown clay, 0.2-0.25m	
	1703	Geology	Clay	
18	1801	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam, 0.15m	
	1802	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay, 0.2m	
	1803	Geology	Clay	
19	1901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam, 0.2m	
	1902	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay, 0.25m	
	1903	Geology	Clay	

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20	2001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, 0.3-0.35	
	2002	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, 0.25-0.3m	
	2003	Geology	Clay	
21	2101	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay, 0.3-0.4m	
	2102	Subsoil	Light yellow brown silty clay 0.2-0.3m	
	2103	Geology	Clay, patchy gravel	
22	2201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay, 0.3-0.35m	
	2202	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay, 0.25-0.40	
	2203	Geology	Sand and gravel, clay, boulder clay	
23	2301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay, 0.25m	
	2302	Subsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay, 0.35m	
	2303	Pit	Gravel pit?	
	2304	Fill of 2303	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2305	Pit	Gravel pit?	
	2306	Fill of 2305	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2307	Ditch	0.90m wide, 0.25m deep	
	2308	Fill of 2507	Orange/grey brown sandy clay	
	2309	Geology	Clay and gravel	
24	2401	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.3-0.45m	
	2402	Subsoil	Orange brown gravel and silty clay, 0.1-0.2m	
	2403	Geology	Clay	
	2404	Pit	0.3m deep	
	2405	Fill of 2404	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	Prehistoric pottery
	2406	Pit	0.5m deep	
	2407	Fill of 2406	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2408	Pit	0.5m deep	
	2409	Fill of 2408	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	Prehistoric pottery
	2410	Pit	0.2-0.3m deep	
	2411	Fill of 2410	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
25	2501	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.3-0.50m	
	2502	Subsoil	Orange brown silty clay, 0.3-0.6m	
	2503	Geology	Gravel	
	2504	Pit	Diameter 1.3m, depth 0.15m	
	2505	Fill of 2504	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2506	Ditch terminus	1.4m wide, 0.3m deep	
	2507	Fill of 2507	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	Animal bone
	2508	Gully	0.85m wide, 0.16m deep	
	2509	Fill of 2508	Dark brown gravel-flecked	

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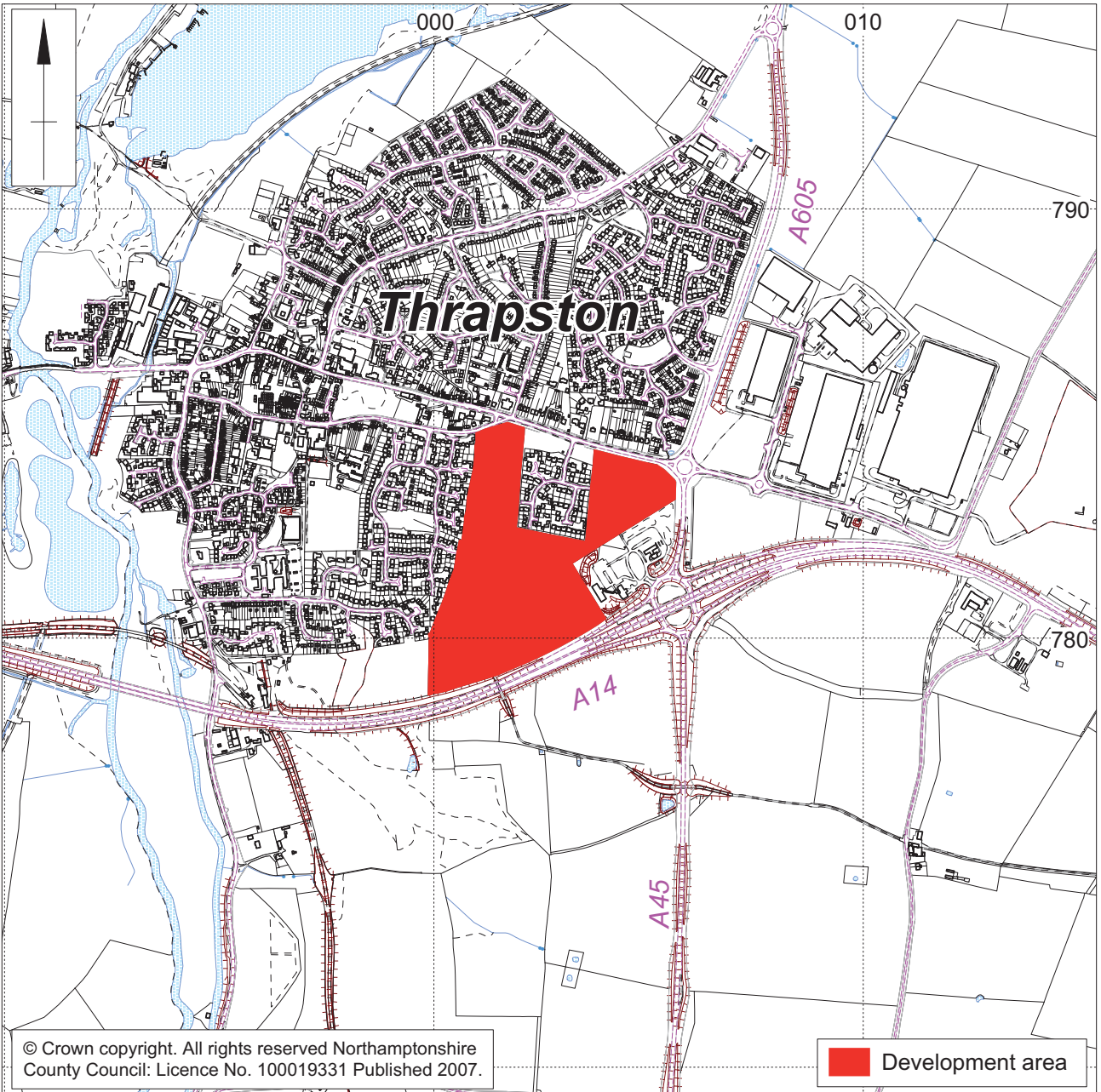
			sandy clay loam	
	2510	Pit	0.52m deep	
	2511	Fill of 2510	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2512	Pit	Diameter 2.4m?	
	2513	Fill of 2512	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2514	Pit	0.75m deep	
	2515	Fill of 2514	Light brown sand and clay	
	2516	Fill of 2514	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	Prehistoric pottery
	2517	Gully	Width 0.34m depth 0.21m	
	2518	Fill of 2517	Orange brown sand	
	2519	Layer	Trample spread	Prehistoric pottery
	2520	Pit	Diameter 1.5m, depth 0.23m	
	2521	Fill of 2520	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2522	Same as 2541		
	2523	Fill of 2522		
	2524	Same as 2539		
	2525	Fill of 2524		
	2526	Same as 2543		
	2527	Fill of 2526		
	2528	Pit	Depth 0.14m	
	2529	Fill of 2528	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2530	Ditch	1.7m wide, 0.4m deep	
	2531	Fill of 2530	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay	Flint blade, prehistoric pottery, animal bone
	2532	Posthole?	Diameter 0.5m, depth 0.1m	
	2533	Fill of 2532	Mid brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2534	Fill of 2532	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2535	Pit	10-15m wide, 1.4m deep	
	2536	Primary fill of 2535	Mid brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	Flint flake, prehistoric pottery, animal bone
	2537	Fill of 2535	Mid yellow brown limestone and clay	Medieval pottery
	2538	Fill of 2535	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2539	Pit?	0.15m deep	
	2540	Fill of 2539	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2541	Pit or gully	1.5m wide	
	2542	Fill of 2541	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2543	Pit?	Diameter 1m?	
	2544	Fill of 2543	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
26	2601	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.2-0.5m	
	2602	Subsoil	Orange brown silty clay, 0.1-0.5m	
	2603	Pit	Diameter 1.25m?, depth 0.3m	
	2604	Fill of 2603	Orange brown sand and gravel	
	2605	Fill of 2603	Mid grey sand	

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	2606	Gully	Curvi-linear gully	Post-medieval pottery
	2607	Layer	Upcast?	
	2608	Layer	Upcast?	
	2609	Fill of 2606	Dark grey silty loam	Flint flakes, Roman pottery
	2610	Layer	Colluvium?	
	2611	Layer	Colluvium?	
	2612	Layer	Trample?	Prehistoric pottery, animal bone
	2613	Geology	Clay	
27	2701	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam	
	2702	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay	
	2703	Ditch	3m wide, 0.8m deep	
	2704	Fill of 2703	Dark brown silty clay loam	Flint core, prehistoric pottery
	2705	Pit	Diameter 2.5m? depth 1m	
	2706	Fill of 2705	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	
	2707	Posthole	Diameter 0.2m, depth 0.2m	
	2708	Fill of 2707	Dark brown silty clay loam	
	2709	Depression	Trample?	
	2710	Fill of 2709	Dark brown silty clay loam	
	2711	Pit	Diameter 1m?, depth 0.37m	
	2712	Fill of 2711	Dark brown gravel-flecked sandy clay loam	
	2713	Ditch	unexcavated	
	2714	Fill of 2713	Dark brown silty clay	
	2715	Gully?	unexcavated	
	2716	Fill of 2715	Dark brown silty clay	
28	2801	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.2m	
	2802	Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay loam, 0.15m	
	2803	Geology	Clay with outcropping limestone	
29	2901	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.25m	
	2902	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay loam, 0.15m	
	2903	Geology	Clay with outcropping limestone	
30	3001	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.2-0.25m	
	3002	Subsoil	Orange brown silty clay, 0.2-0.25m	
	3003	Geology	Clay with outcropping limestone	
31	3101	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.25m	
	3102	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay, 0.3-0.35m	
	3103	Geology	Clay, boulder clay	
32	3201	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.2-0.25m	
	3202	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy loam, 0.35-0.4m	
	3203	Geology	Clay, limestone, sand and gravel	
33	3301	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam,	

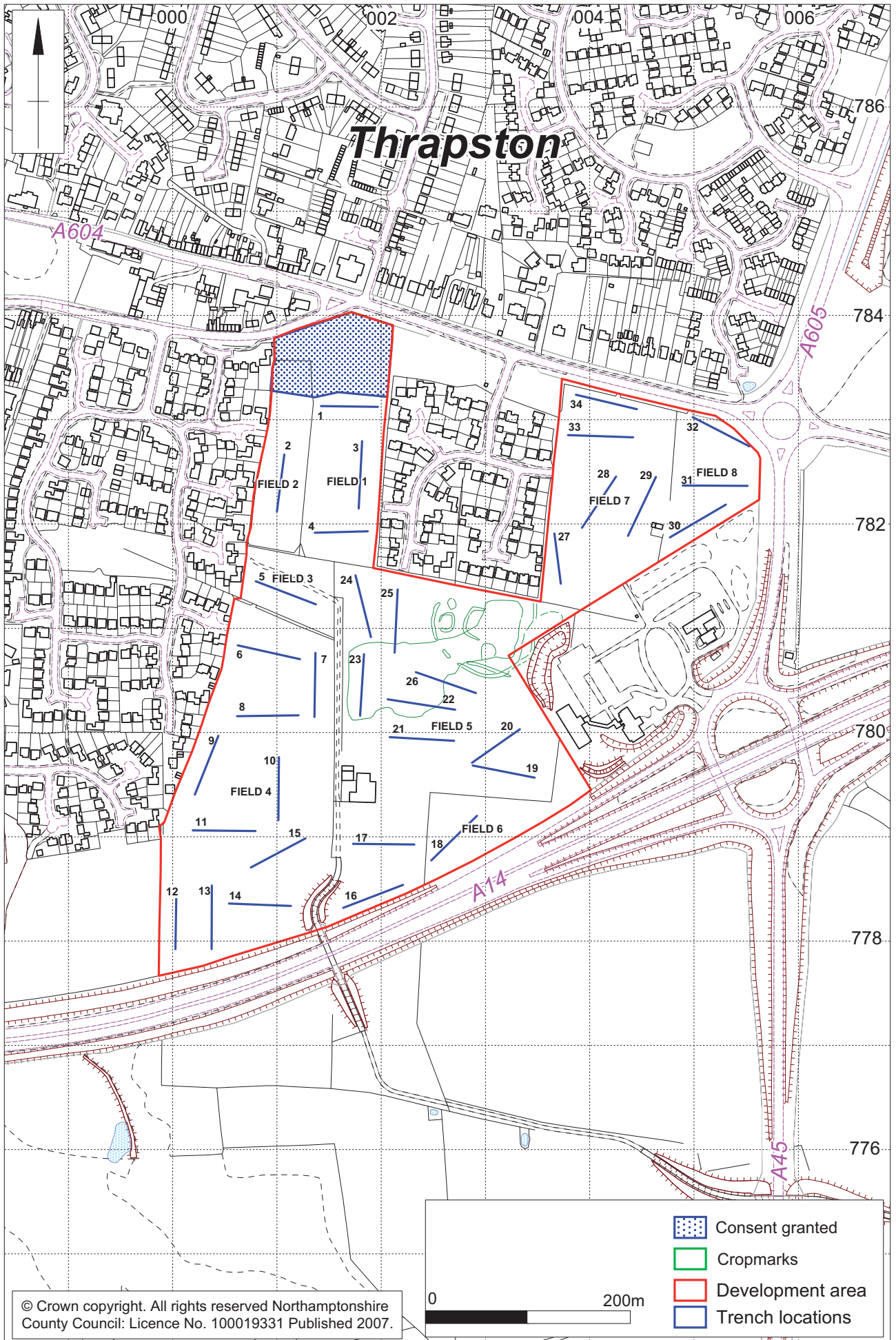
LAND OFF HUNTINGDON ROAD, THRAPSTON

			0.20m	
	3302	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy loam, 0.25-0.5m	
	3303	Geology	Clay, boulder clay	
34	3401	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam, 0.15-0.2m	
	3402	Subsoil	Orange brown silty clay loam, 0.15-0.35m	
	3403	Geology	Clay with outcropping limestone	

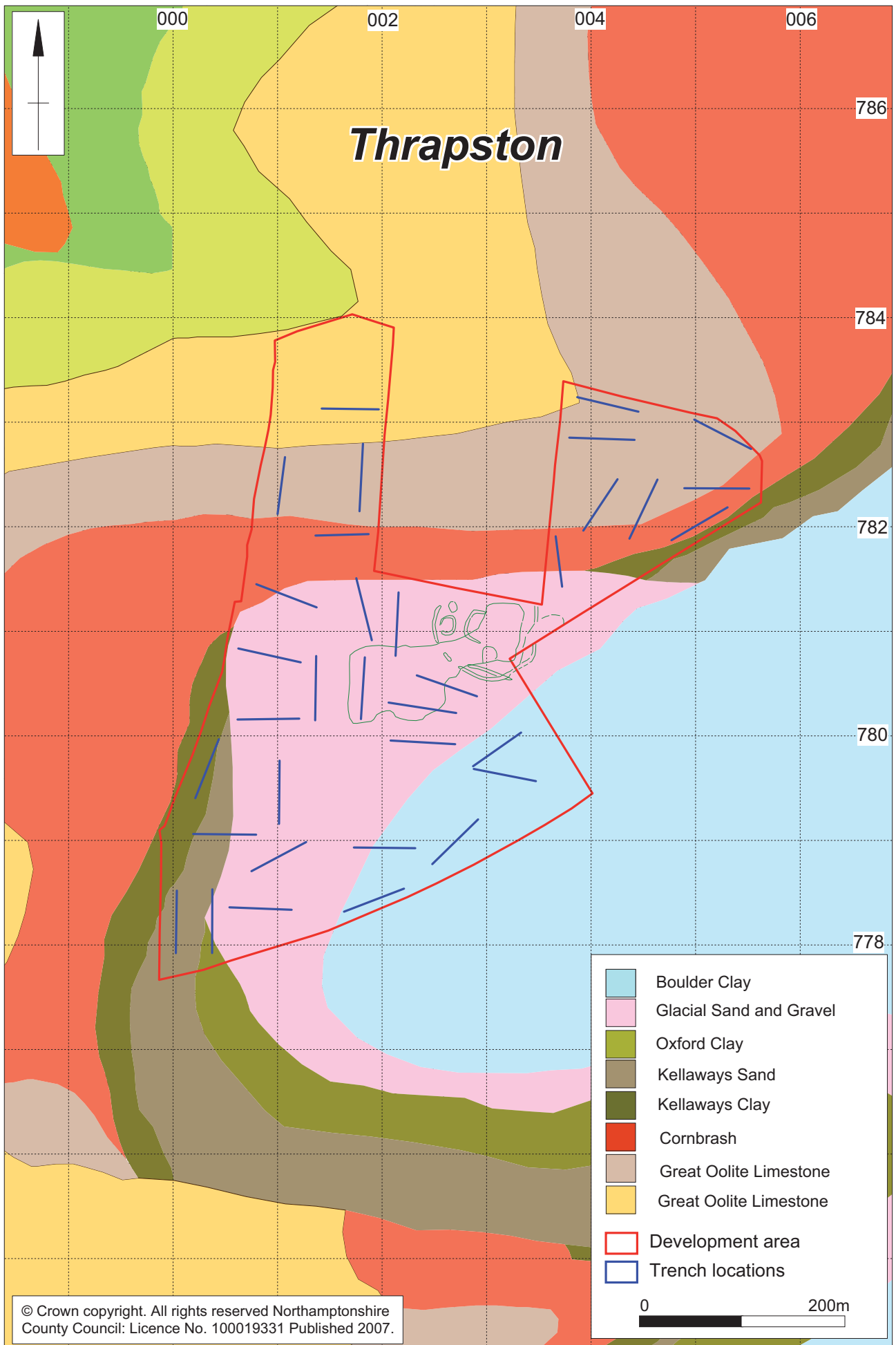


Scale 1:15000

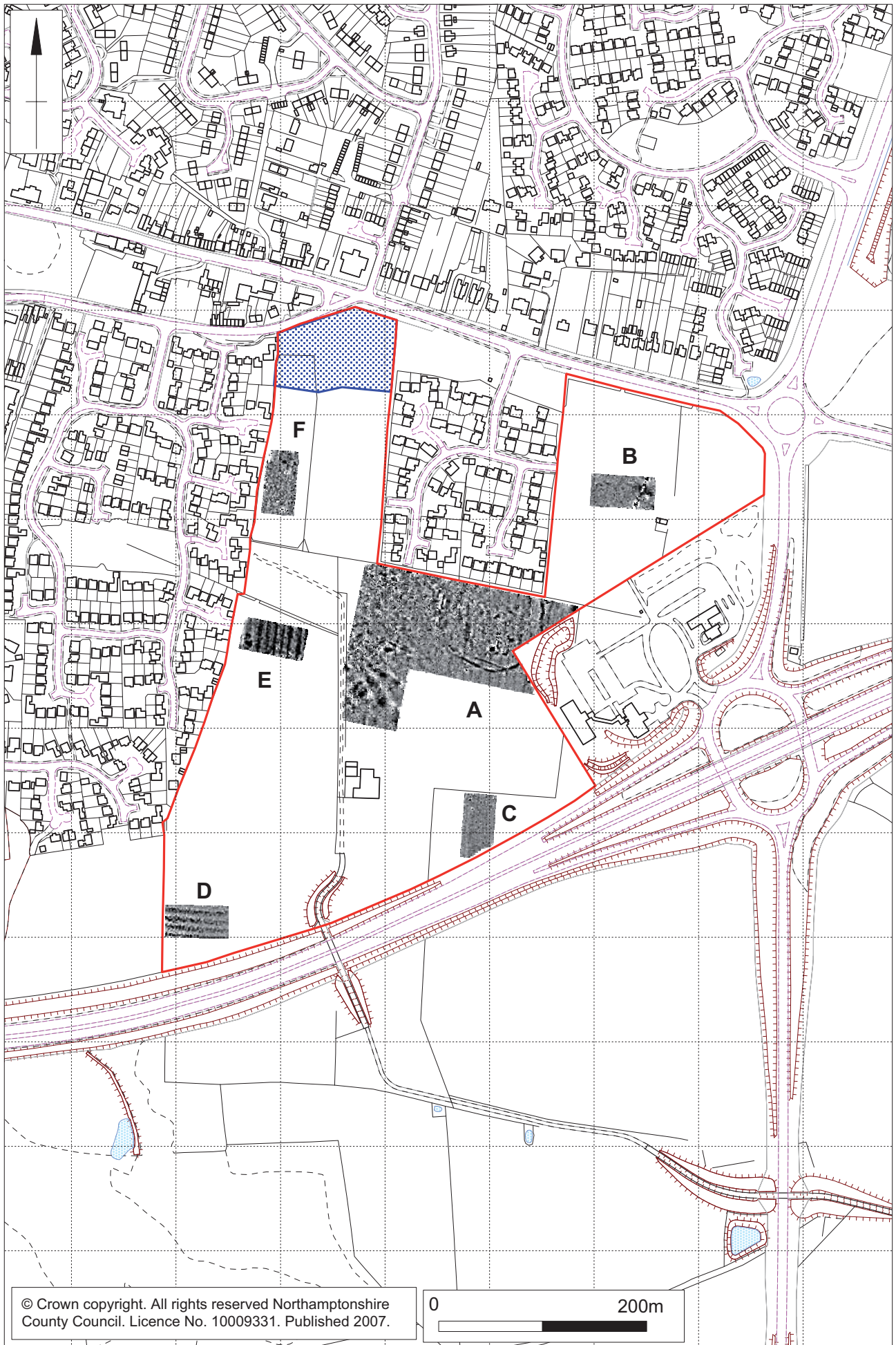
Site location Fig 1



Trench locations Fig 2



Geology Fig 3



Geophysical survey plots Fig 4

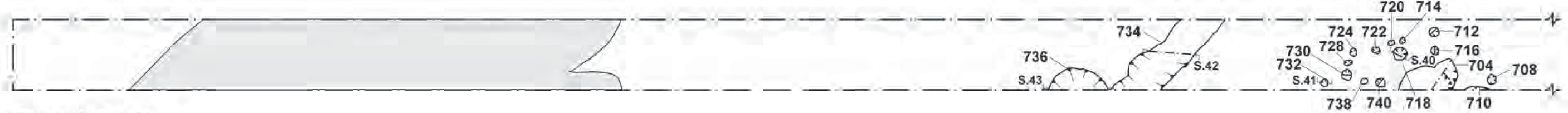


Geophysical survey interpretation Fig 5

Trench 6 - East



Trench 7 - South



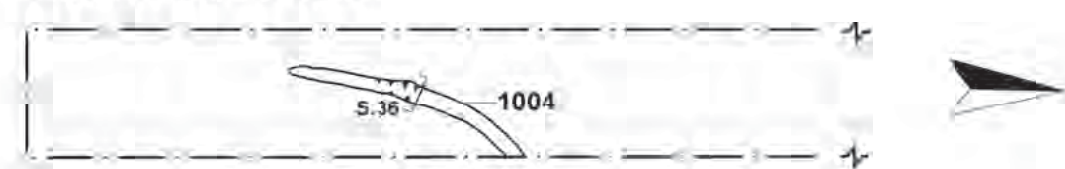
Trench 7 - North



Trench 8 - West



Trench 10 - South



Trench 23 - North

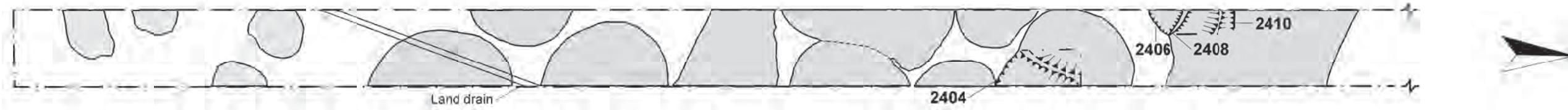


?Gravel pits

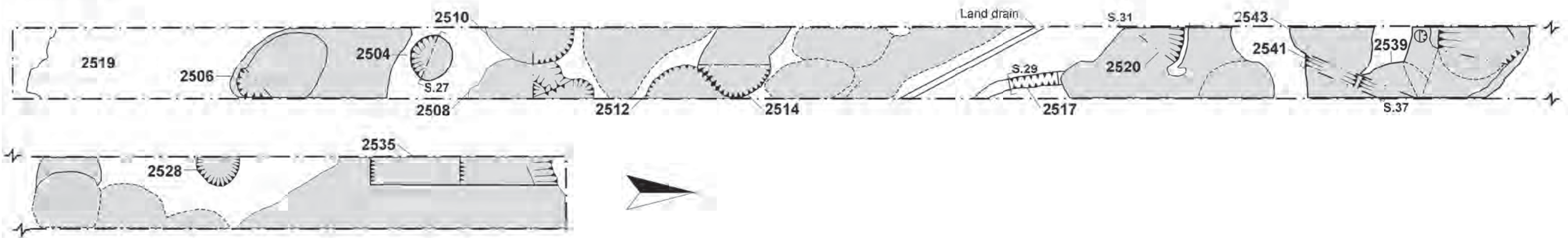


Trench plans 6-8, 10 and 23 Fig 6

Trench 24 - South



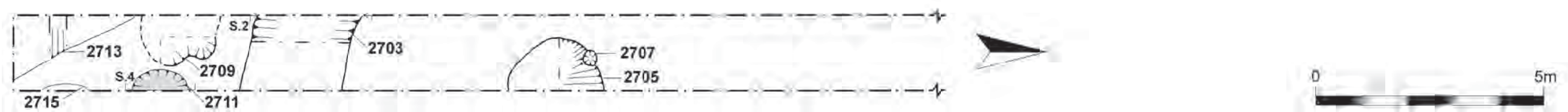
Trench 25



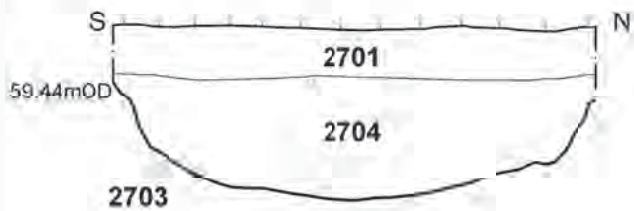
Trench 26 - West



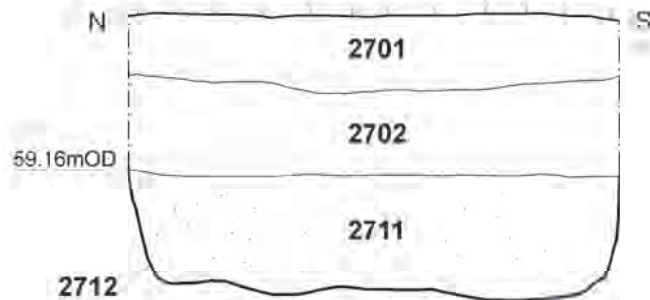
Trench 27 - South



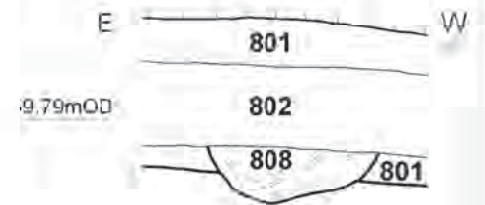
Section 2 - Trench 27



Section 4 - Trench 27



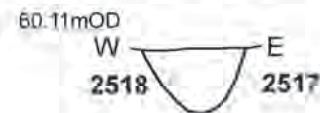
Section 23 - Trench 6



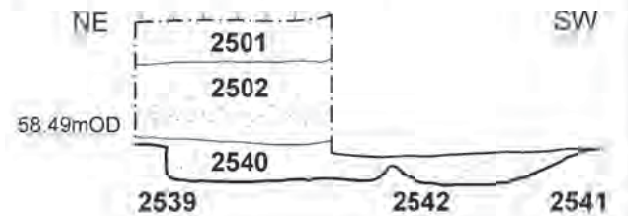
Section 27 - Trench 25



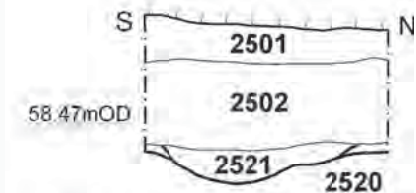
Section 29 - Trench 25



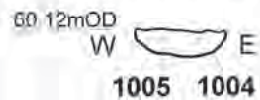
Section 37 - Trench 25



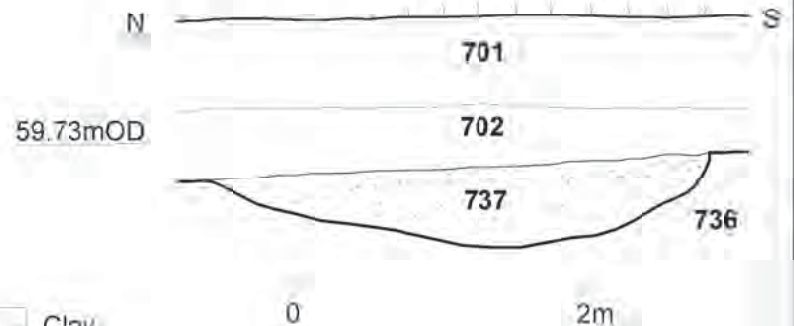
Section 31 - Trench 25



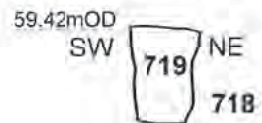
Section 36 - Trench 10



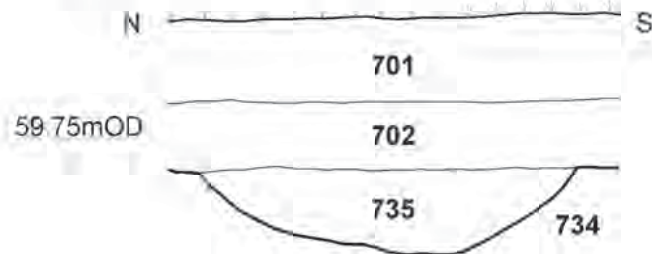
Section 43 - Trench 7



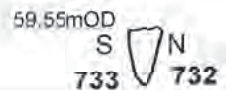
Section 40 - Trench 7



Section 42 - Trench 7



Section 41 - Trench 7



Clay
Charcoal



Plate 1: Ridge and furrow in Field 4



Plate 2: Human cremation [809]



Plate 3: Roman gully with pottery [1004]



Plate 4: Gravel pits and gullies in Trench 25