Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Ferrers College, Higham Ferrers Northamptonshire

August 2007

Simon Carlyle and Nathan Flavell

September 2007

Report 07/150

Northamptonshire Archaeology
2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk

REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

STAFF

Project Manager:	Simon Carlyle BSc MSc AIFA
Fieldwork:	Nathan Flavell, Peter Haines, James Brown BSc, Alexa Lea BA, Laura Boardman BA
Text:	Simon Carlyle and Nathan Flavell
Geophysical survey report:	Carol Simmonds BA PIFA
Flint:	Yvonne B Wolframm-Murray BA PhD
Iron Age pottery:	Andy Chapman BSc
Late Iron Age and Roman pottery:	Tora Hylton
Fired clay:	Pat Chapman BA CMS AIFA
Environmental assessment:	Karen Deighton BSc MSc
Illustrations:	Jacqueline Harding BA HND

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Steve Parry		

Front page illustration: General view of agricultural field (Field 1), facing east.

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Ferrers College, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	The evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains relating to late Iron Age and Roman settlement, which extends across the proposed development area on a north-east to south-west axis. The settlement comprised a complex series of inter-cutting enclosures, gullies and ditches, largely clustered in the north-east and south-west corners of the site, with the focus of settlement shifting throughout the period of occupation. Pottery and animal bone were recovered, together with a small quantity of other finds and environmental remains. The settlement was probably established in the 1st century BC, or perhaps slightly earlier, and was abandoned in the mid 2nd century AD.	
Project type	Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU 2003)	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type and period	N/A	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Ferrers Specialist Arts College, Queensway, Higham Ferrers	
OS NGR	SP 9655 6814	
Height aOD	*c* 75m	
Area	10.7ha	
Land use	Arable and playing field	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Simon Carlyle, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Duchy of Lancaster	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	8th August 2007	
End date	17th August 2007	
ARCHIVES Accession no. BEDFM2006.749	**Location**	**Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)**
Physical		None
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Ferrers College, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire	
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Author(s)	Simon Carlyle and Nathan Flavell	
Page numbers	18 text, 5 figs, 4 plates	
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LATE IRON AGE AND ROMAN SETTLEMENT AT FERRERS COLLEGE, HIGHAM FERRERS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AUGUST 2007

Abstract

In August 2007, Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by the Duchy of Lancaster, via GSS Architecture, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the south and east of Ferrers College, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. The work, which comprised a geophysical survey and trial trench excavation, was carried out prior to the submission of planning proposals to East Northamptonshire District Council for the residential and commercial development of the land.

The evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains relating to late Iron Age and Roman settlement, which extended across the proposed development area on a north-east to south-west axis. The north-eastern periphery of the settlement had previously been investigated during the construction of the A6 Higham Ferrers/Rushden by-pass. The settlement comprised a complex series of inter-cutting enclosures, gullies and ditches, largely clustered in the north-east and south-west corners of the site, with the focus of settlement shifting throughout the period of occupation. Pottery and animal bone were recovered, together with a small quantity of other finds and environmental remains. The settlement was probably established in the 1st century BC, or perhaps slightly earlier, and was abandoned in the mid 2nd century AD.

1 INTRODUCTION

In August 2007, a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land to the south and east of Ferrers College, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 9655 6814; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by the Duchy of Lancaster, via GSS Architecture, and was undertaken prior to the submission of planning proposals for the residential and commercial development of the land to East Northamptonshire District Council (ENDC). The application area covers *c* 10.7 hectares and comprises an agricultural field adjacent to the A6 Higham Ferrers/Rushden by-pass and a playing field, currently being used by Ferrers College.

As the application site was known to contain archaeological remains, Northamptonshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (NCCHET), acting as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, advised that a programme of archaeological work should be carried out in order to mitigate against the impact of the development on buried archaeological remains, in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16), section 30*.

The archaeological work was undertaken in compliance with the brief for archaeological evaluation issued by NCCHET (2005) and the specification prepared by NA (2007). This report, which was prepared in accordance with the English Heritage procedural document *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991), presents the findings of the evaluation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The site is situated to the east of the River Nene, and lies between the eastern outskirts of Higham Ferrers and the A6 Rushden/Higham Ferrers by-pass (Fig 1). The site covers *c* 10.7ha and comprises two fields, an arable field and a playing field, separated by a 2m high steel fence. In the arable field the ground slopes reasonably gently from north to south, descending from *c* 79m to *c* 74m aOD; in the playing field the slope descends from north-east to south-west and is far gentler, the ground level descending from *c* 75m to 71m aOD. The crop in the arable field had been harvested immediately prior to the evaluation.

The underlying geology is predominately Boulder Clay, with a possible outcrop of Great Oolite Limestone at the western edge of the site (BGS 1989). The overlying soils are of the Hanslope soil association (411d), comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The proposed development area is situated in a landscape that has been subject to extensive archaeological investigation over the last fifty years and is known to contain sites of significant archaeological interest, dating from the Neolithic period through to modern times. The southern boundary of the Raunds Archaeological Priority Area (as defined by NCC in 1979) lies 1.5km to the north of the site. This area was intensively surveyed during the 1980s as part of an English Heritage funded project (Parry 2007). More recently, English Heritage sponsored a research report on Higham Ferrers as part of the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) for Northamptonshire (Foard and Ballinger 2000).

Consultation with the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) database identified over seven hundred records relating to archaeological or historical sites within the chosen study area, which covered the application area and its immediate environs. These sites are generally representative of the wider distribution of archaeological sites found along this stretch of the River Nene valley, reflecting the rich prehistoric, Roman and medieval landscapes, which developed over time into the modern landscape seen today.

Many of the sites lie in the northern half of the study area, the bias largely reflecting the pattern of modern development and mineral extraction, with attendant archaeological investigation, in this area. Relevant sites relating to Iron Age and Roman settlement and activity in the area are shown in Figure 1. Due to the numerous records for each individual site, a single HER number has been selected to identify each site.

The Ferrers College settlement (HER1275), the subject of this report, was originally identified from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs and part of the site was excavated during the construction of the A6 Higham Ferrers/Rushden by-pass (HER 116775; Mudd 2004). The settlement was shown to broadly date to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods, although there was some evidence for middle Iron Age activity.

From the evidence of cropmarks shown on aerial photographs, other Iron Age and Roman settlements have been identified in the study area, although the majority have not been subject to archaeological intervention. Approximately 0.7km to the east and north-east of the site there are two extensive areas of cropmarks, comprising a complex of sub-rectangular enclosures, ditches and possible hut circles, that probably relate to settlement activity dating to this period (HERs 1272 and 126647). These features are probably the remains of farmsteads contemporary with

the Ferrers College settlement. To the north of the site and partly on the route of the by-pass is a rectilinear cropmark forming a block of roughly square enclosures (HER 126530), and immediately to the east of this there is a large sub-rectangular enclosure, measuring *c* 100m by 150m (HER 126528). Further to the east other cropmarks have been identified, including a circular enclosure with a diameter of *c* 20m (HER 126527), and a smaller ring ditch (HER 22843), which may be a barrow dating to the Bronze Age. Although not confirmed, evidence has been found for Iron Age activity *c* 0.4km to the south of the site (HER 6563). Excavations in the area of Kings Meadow Lane, at the northern end of Higham Ferrers, have identified Iron Age settlement and activity (HER 126567; Shaw and Steadman 1991) preceding the establishment of the Roman village (HER 115066) that later occupied this area.

There is abundant evidence for Roman activity in the study area. In the early Roman period a new settlement (HER 115066; referred to above) was established to the north-west of the site, in the area of Kings Meadow Lane, on the edge of the floodplain of the River Nene. The settlement, probably a large village covering *c* 11ha, appears to have built up close to a principal Roman road (HER 22861; Score 2002), at this point running along the east bank of the river valley towards the Roman walled-town at Irchester, *c* 5km to the south-west. A possible contemporary track or minor road (HER 22814) leading across the river valley to the west was discovered on the River Nene floodplain during archaeological excavations in advance of gravel extraction.

To the north-east of the site, in the grounds of the medieval castle, evidence has been found for a Roman settlement (HER 5212), including a Roman building, interpreted as a possible bath house (HER 22867), that was found in the 19th century to the rear of the Green Dragon Inn. Another possible Roman building, accompanied by a scatter of Roman pottery sherds, has been recorded in a field 0.5km to the north-east of the site (HER 27653), and there may be evidence for further settlement 0.7km to the south-west, close to a minor tributary of the River Nene, where settlement remains (HER 104389) and a Roman burial (HER 32498) were discovered in the 1950s.

The eastern part of the application area (the agricultural field) has been the subject of non-intrusive archaeological investigation by the Oxford Archaeology Unit, comprising a desk-based assessment, field-walking (surface collection of artefacts) and geophysical survey (OAU 2003). The results of this work supported the findings of earlier work along the route of the by-pass. With the exception of the recent geophysical survey (Simmonds, this report), no archaeological work has been carried out in the area of the playing field.

3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY by Carol Simmonds

3.1 Introduction and methodology

Intensive magnetometer survey was undertaken using Bartington Grad601-2 and Geoscan FM-series fluxgate gradiometers. Survey progresses along a grid system in which 30m x 30m grid squares are traversed at rapid walking pace in zigzag (alternate north-south/south-north) traverses spaced at 1m intervals with data recorded every 0.25m along these (4 readings /m). The Grad601-2 is constructed as a dual-sensor instrument with two vertical gradiometers separated on a yoke to enable two lines of survey to be recorded in tandem. The FM is a single gradiometer system.

A total of 44 separate 30m grid-squares, totalling *c* 4ha, were surveyed in detail. The position of survey blocks was aimed to provide coverage over the development area.

3.2 Results of geophysical survey

The data was analysed using Geoplot 3.00s software. Low (negative) magnetism is shown as black and high (positive) magnetism as white in the resultant greyscale plots. The following processing functions were carried out on the data. The 'Zero Mean Traverse' function was applied in order to bring the average level of each line of data into a balanced zero. Small-scale extreme readings were excised and replaced with the local mean value.

The processed data is presented in Figure 2 in the form of greyscale images highlighting the magnetic anomalies, geo-referenced to scale Ordnance Survey base-maps (-4.0nT / +4.0nT scale).

An area comprising *c* 4ha was surveyed, to the south-west of an earlier survey undertaken by OAU (2003). Many positive magnetic anomalies were identified, curving, linear and discrete, forming a palimpsest of features up to 200m across. There appears to be a core containing enclosures and pits surrounded by further linear ditches to the south-west of the survey area. Various other anomalies have been interpreted as features pertaining to the field's use as a sports pitch, including locations for goalposts, a cricket crease and long jump strips.

3.3 Conclusions

The geophysical survey confirmed that the archaeological remains identified in the field to the east continue into the playing field. The features comprise a ditch, running across the centre of the playing field on a north-east to south-west alignment, and a number of sub-rectangular enclosures, largely clustered in the south-west corner. The results of the survey were used to inform the trenching strategy.

4 TRIAL EXCAVATION

4.1 Introduction

A total of nineteen trenches were excavated (530 linear metres; *c* 1060m^2); fourteen in the agricultural field adjacent to the A6 Rushden/Higham Ferrers by-pass (Field 1), and five in the playing field currently used by Ferrers College (Field 2). The trenches were positioned to investigate the features located by the geophysical survey and to examine blank areas to determine if the geophysical survey plot was a true reflection of the archaeology present (Fig 2).

The specific aims of the project were to:

- Provide consistent detailed information on the presence/absence, extent, degree of survival and depth of burial of archaeological deposits and features across the proposal site.
- To provide sufficient information on the site's surviving archaeology to allow a proper assessment to be made of the implications of future development proposals and to enable an effective mitigation strategy to be defined.

All works were conducted in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1985, revised 2006). The national framework for research is set out by English Heritage (EH 1997). This report complies with the framework for archaeological reports set out

in Appendix 7 of *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991). There is currently no provision within Northamptonshire for the monitoring of archaeological work within the county.

4.2 Methodology

The trenches were positioned using GPS surveying equipment and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches were excavated using 360° tracked mechanical excavators fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench plan approved by NCCHET. The topsoil and subsoil were excavated under archaeological supervision to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately, on either side of the trench. All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to define any features and a representative sample of the features was then excavated by hand to determine their date and character. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the evaluation were fully recorded, following standard NA procedures. All archaeological features and deposits were given a separate context number and were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not retained. Samples were taken for flotation from dateable contexts with the potential for the recovery of charcoal and carbonised or water-logged plant remains.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50. Sections or profiles through features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate, and related to Ordnance Datum. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. On completion the trenches were backfilled, and the trenches in the playing field were professionally reinstated to agreed specifications. The field data has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

4.3 Constraints

There were no constraints in Field 1, where the crop had been harvested immediately prior to the work being carried out. However, in Field 2 the trenches could not be positioned on the sports pitches, but had to be sited around the edge of the playing field, which limited the scope of the evaluation in this area. In addition, there was a network of close-set plastic land drains running across the playing field on a north-east to south-west alignment, and care had to be taken not to damage them as they had only recently been installed. It was therefore not possible to excavate areas where the land drains crossed the trenches. A small, 8-tonne excavator fitted with rubber tracks was used to excavate the trenches in Field 2, so as not to damage the turf. Movement of the machine was restricted to the edge of the playing field.

4.4 Trial trenching results

The trenches were 30m long, with the exception of Trenches 15, 16, 18 and 19, which were 20m long. The trenches in Field 1 (the agricultural field) were 2.0m wide; those in Field 2 (the playing field) were only 1.6m wide as a smaller machine with limited bucket width had to be used in this area.

The natural geology (Boulder Clay) consists of greyish blue clay with orange veins and chalk flecks. This changed to brownish yellow clay toward the top of the slope, on the northern part of the site. The subsoil, which was approximately 0.25m thick, comprised orangey brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and chalk flecks. The ploughsoil in Field 1 consisted of dark greyish brown organic clayey silt with moderate pebble inclusions. The topsoil in Field 2 was slightly sandy, probably due to the use of sand in the maintenance of the sports pitches. A layer of colluvium (hill-wash) was encountered beneath the subsoil in the trenches at the base of the slope (Trenches 1, 2, 12-14, 17 and 18). This comprised mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional to moderate, fine to coarse chalk and flint pebbles.

No archaeological remains were encountered in Trenches 1, 2 and 12 to 16.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned from north-north-east to south-south-west, and was located on the west side of Field 1. Three ditches, which corresponded with the features shown on the geophysics plot (Fig 2), were identified in this trench, the largest of which formed the southern edge of a roughly square enclosure. The ditches contained pottery sherds and animal bone, as well as fragments of fired clay, and probably date to the mid/late 1st to mid 2nd century AD. The early post-medieval coin from the surface of ditch [308] is intrusive and was probably dragged in by ploughing.

The enclosure ditch [308] was aligned from north-west to south-east and measured 2.2m wide by 0.85m deep. The primary fill (307) was up to 0.45m thick and comprised yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and very occasional small limestone cobbles. The upper fill (306), dark grey, almost black clayey silt, was up to 0.28m thick.

To the north of the enclosure ditch there was a smaller ditch [310] on a similar alignment. It measured 1.2m wide and 0.48m deep. It was filled with dark brown silty clay (309) with occasional pebbles.

Near the centre of the trench the third ditch was also aligned from north-west to south-east. It was 0.60m wide and 0.31m deep and was filled with dark brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and chalk flecks.

Trench 4

Trench 4 (Fig 3; Plate 1) was aligned from north-north-east to south-south-west, and was located close to the western boundary of Field 1. Four, possibly five ditches and a gully were identified in this trench. Based on the date of the pottery sherds recovered from the excavated ditches, they date to the mid/late 1st to mid 2nd century AD, in common with those identified in Trench 3

Ditch [413], which was situated near the centre of the trench, was aligned from east to west (Plate 2). It measured 2.2m wide and 0.47m deep, and had moderately steep sides and a flat

base. It was filled with brownish yellow silty clay (412), with occasional pebbles and chalk flecks.

Parallel and approximately 2m to the north of ditch [413] was ditch [405]. It measured 0.9m wide and 0.43 deep, had steep sides and a flat base, and was filled with dark brown silty clay (404).

At the northern end of the trench there were three inter-cutting ditches, aligned from east to west; it is likely that the two later ditches are recuts (Fig 3, Section 1). The earliest ditch [411], the profile of which could not be determined due to truncation by the later recuts, was filled with dark brown silty clay (410) with fine to medium pebbles. To the south, ditch [411] was cut by ditch [409], which measured 1.26m wide and 0.75m deep and had a steep-sided, V-shaped profile with a narrow, flat base. It was filled with dark brown silty clay (408), with occasional pebbles. The latest recut [407], which truncated ditch [411] to the north, was 1.04m wide and 0.35m deep, and had moderately steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with dark brown silty clay (406) with occasional pebbles and chalk flecks.

The two remaining ditches, [415] and [417], and the gully [419], were not excavated. The gully was 0.25m wide and was aligned from north-west to south-east, and cut ditch [415], which was 0.9m wide, at right angles. Both features were filled with mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. Only the southern edge of ditch [417] was exposed, at the northern end of the trench; it is probably a continuation of the enclosure ditch [308], which was excavated in Trench 3.

Trench 5

Trench 5, which was aligned from north to south, was located in the north-west corner of Field 1. It contained a gully and a ditch; the ditch could not be excavated as the trench was largely flooded by water seeping from a land drain. No finds were recovered from these features, but they are likely to be contemporary with the late Iron Age/Romano-British occupation of the site. The features correspond with faint linear features visible on the geophysics plot (Fig 2).

The gully [505], which measured 0.62m wide and 0.21m deep, had a steep-sided, concave profile and was aligned from north-west to south-east. The fill (504) comprised mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles.

The ditch [507], which was aligned from east to west, was 0.95m wide and was filled with mid greyish brown silty clay (506) with occasional pebbles.

Trench 6

The trench (Fig 3) was aligned from north-east to south-west and was positioned across several ditches that possibly form one or more sub-rectangular enclosures. In total, five ditches were identified in the trench, all roughly aligned from north-west to south-east. With the exception of ditch [616], all the ditches date to the late Iron Age/early Roman periods, with ditches [611] and [614] possibly being the earliest among them, dating from the 1st century BC to the early 1st century AD.

Ditch [605], which measured 0.55m wide and 0.42m deep, was steep-sided and had a flat base. It was filled with greyish brown clayey silt (604) and contained occasional pebbles and chalk flecks. Its north-east edge was truncated by a V-shaped ditch [607], which measured 0.88m wide and 0.61m deep. It was filled with mid brownish orange silty clay (606), with pebbles and

chalk flecks. The ditches may relate to the sub-rectangular enclosure shown on the geophysics plot at the southern end of the trench.

Immediately to the north of ditch [607] was ditch [614] (Fig 3, Section 2). This ditch was larger, measuring at least 1.7m wide and 0.91m deep, and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. This ditch probably relates to the linear boundary ditch that extends from the southern end of the trench towards the western edge of the field, as shown on the geophysics plot. The primary fill (613) was 0.26m thick and comprised mid grey silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal flecks. The overlying deposit (612) was darker and was up to 0.65m thick. The ditch appears to have been recut [611] along its southern edge, the later ditch measuring 2.7m wide and 0.85m deep. The primary fill (610) was 0.16m thick and comprised dark grey silty clay with orangey brown mottles, small stones and charcoal flecks. Overlying this was dark grey silty clay (609), up to 0.23m thick with similar inclusions. The upper fill (608), which was 0.47m thick, was similar to (609) but had moderate orangey brown mottles.

The two remaining ditches, [616] and [618], were not excavated. Ditch [618], which measured 1.5m wide, lay near the centre of the trench and was filled with mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt (617). Although no finds were recovered from this ditch, it is clear from the geophysics plot that the ditch forms the northern side of a possible enclosure. Ditch [616], which was located at the extreme south-west end of the trench, contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery and is probably associated with post-medieval or modern land drainage.

Trench 7

Trench 7 (Fig 4) was aligned from north-east to south-west and was positioned to target a number of faint, parallel anomalies shown on the geophysics plot, immediately to the east of the main concentration of ditches and enclosures. Eight gullies were identified in the evaluation trench, all of which appear to date to the mid/late 1st to mid 2nd century AD. A small collection of pottery, animal bone and fired clay fragments were recovered from their fills.

Six gullies were aligned from north-west to south-east; four of these were excavated. Near the centre of the trench was gully [705], which was 0.7m wide, 0.54m deep and had near-vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled with dark grey, almost black silty clay (704), with fine to medium pebbles. A similar, though slightly narrower gully [710] lay *c* 7m to the south-west (Fig 4, Section 3). Running parallel and adjacent to [710], gully [712] was *c* 0.8m wide and 0.32m deep. Its fill comprised black silty clay (711) with fine to medium pebbles. Its south-west edge may have been cut by a small curvilinear gully [714], but it was not possible to confirm this ephemeral feature within the narrow confines of the trench. The southernmost gully [708] on this alignment was near the south-west end of the trench. It was 0.9m wide, had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base, and it may have been recut. Its primary fill (707) was 0.31m thick and consisted of mid brownish yellow silty clay with chalk flecks. Its secondary fill (706), which may be the fill of a recut, was dark grey silty clay, up to 0.19m thick. The unexcavated gullies [718] and [720] were 0.7m and 0.4m wide respectively and were filled with mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles.

At the southern end of the trench, and extending south-westwards from its junction with [712], was gully [716]. It measured 0.8m wide by 0.32m deep, and was filled with dark grey silty clay (715) with fine to medium pebbles. It cut gully [708].

Trench 8

The trench (Fig 4), which was aligned from east to west, was located at the northern end of the field and was positioned to investigate a circular enclosure, possibly a hut circle, set near the

centre of a large sub-rectangular enclosure. The excavated features date to the mid/late 1st to mid 2nd century AD.

The main enclosure ditch [813], which was identified at the western end of the trench, was 3.8m wide and 0.87m deep (Fig 4, Section 4). It was aligned from north-west to south-east, had a reasonably steep slope, a gently concave base and contained three fills. The primary fill, which was 0.65m thick, was light brownish grey silty clay (812) with orangey brown mottles and chalk flecks. The secondary fill was 0.15m thick and comprised mid greyish brown silty clay (811) with chalk flecks. The upper fill was dark grey silty clay (811), up to 0.28m thick, with orangey brown mottles, small pebbles and chalk flecks.

Approximately 2m to the east of the enclosure ditch and within the enclosure was a possible pit [806]. Its full extent could not be determined as the feature extended beyond the limits of the trench, but it was at least 1.6m wide and 0.28m deep. Its primary fill, which was 0.18m thick, was light brownish grey silty clay (805) with orangey brown mottles. The secondary fill was 0.10m thick and consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay (804) with small pebbles.

At the east end of the trench were three small ditches and two narrow gullies. Ditch [815] was *c* 0.8m wide and was aligned from north-east to south-west. It was abutted by ditch terminal [817], which was 0.63m wide and was on the same alignment. Both ditches were filled with mid to dark brownish grey clayey silt. Ditch [815] was cut at right-angles by ditch [809], which had moderately steep sides, a flat base, and measured 0.85m wide and 0.35m deep. The primary fill was light greyish brown silty clay (808), overlain by dark brownish grey silty clay (807), both fills flecked with fine chalk pebbles.

The earlier of the two gullies [819] was 0.25m wide and was roughly aligned from east to west, although it began to curve to the south-west at its western end, where it cut ditch [809]. The second gully [821] was 0.18m wide and was aligned from north-west south-east.

Trench 9

Trench 9 (Fig 5; Plate 3) was aligned from east to west and was located in the north-east corner of Field 1 to investigate a linear ditch that extended south-eastwards from a large sub-rectangular enclosure at the northern end of the field, as shown on the geophysics plot. Excavation demonstrated the presence of two large ditches and two gullies, which probably date to the 1st century AD, with the pottery assemblage from these features being largely of Gallo-Belgic type wares in a grog-tempered fabric.

Ditch [907], which was 2.95m wide and at least 0.7m deep, was situated at the west end of the trench and was aligned from north to south. The sides of the ditch were almost vertical, but splayed out near the top; due to flooding by groundwater, the base of the ditch was not attained. The primary fill (906) was dark grey silty clay with chalk flecks and frequent lumps of yellowish brown silty clay, the latter probably being redeposited natural clay, suggesting that the ditch was deliberately back-filled. The secondary fill (912) was 0.15m thick and comprised mid brownish yellow silty clay.

Ditch [911] lay to the east of ditch [907], and a projection of their alignments indicates that they form a junction *c* 3m to the north of the trench. Ditch [911], which was approximately 2.8m wide and 0.62m deep, was aligned from north-west to south-east and had moderately steep sides and a concave base (Fig 5, Section 5; Plate 4). It contained seven fills, although one of the deposits (910) may be the fill of a shallow feature cut into the top of the ditch. The primary fill (918) was 0.12m thick and consisted of brownish yellow silty clay with occasional pebbles. Slumping into the ditch on its western side, fill (917) was a mixed deposit of mid brown and yellowish brown silty clay. Lying against the opposing slope was a slump deposit of mid grey

clayey silt (915) with charcoal flecks, and a similar deposit (916) lay in the base of the ditch, above (918). These were overlain by a deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (914) with moderate pebbles, which was up to 0.22m thick. The upper fill (913) was 0.35m thick and comprised mid brownish grey silty clay with lumps of yellowish brown silty clay and charcoal flecks. Deposit (910), the fill of the possible feature cut into the top of the ditch, was 0.18m thick and consisted of dark grey clayey silt with pebbles and charcoal flecks.

The two gullies were roughly aligned from north-east to south-west. Gully [905] was situated at the eastern end of the trench, measured 0.65m wide and 0.21m deep, and had moderately steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with dark greyish black silty clay (904) with small stones and charcoal flecks. Gully [909], which was cut by ditch [911], had a U-shaped profile, measured 0.95m wide and 0.42m deep, and was filled with dark brownish black clayey silt (908) with fine to medium pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned from north-east to south-west and was located in an apparently blank area on the eastern side of Field 1, although very faint, parallel striations are visible on the geophysics plot. Excavation demonstrated that these anomalies are small gullies, aligned from north-west to south-east, although their date is uncertain. At the southern end of the trench, gully [1005] had a steep-sided, U-shaped profile and measured 0.65m wide and 0.49m deep. The fill comprised greyish brown silty clay (1004) with orangey brown mottles and chalk flecks. Gully [1007] was almost identical to [1005] and lay *c* 12m to the north.

Trench 11

This trench, which was situated close to the eastern edge of Field 1 on a north to south alignment, was located in an area that had not been subject to geophysical survey. Two shallow, linear ditches were identified near the centre of the trench.

The northernmost ditch [1105] was 1.2m wide, 0.20m deep and was aligned from north-west to south-east. It had short, steep sides, a flat base and was filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (1104) with occasional chalk flecks. A sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit, suggesting that the ditch dates to the mid/late 1st to mid 2nd century AD. Ditch [1107], which was aligned at right angles to [1105], had a similar fill and profile, but was only 0.64m wide and 0.18m deep.

Trench 17

Trench 17 (Fig 5) was aligned from east-south-east to west-north-west and was positioned to examine the main north-east to south-west ditch that crosses the centre of the playing field, and what appears from the geophysics plot to be a small square enclosure abutting it to the south-east. Excavation of this trench was severely hampered by the presence of numerous land drains and flooding by groundwater. The pottery sherds recovered from these features suggests that settlement in this part of the site dates to the 1st century BC, and may be as late as the mid 1st century AD.

The main ditch [1708] was identified but was but a full-width section could not be excavated due to the baulk left in place for a land drain. The ditch measured at least 1.4m wide and up to 0.44m deep, and was filled with dark brownish grey silty clay (1707) containing occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. Two burnt quern stone fragments were found in the fill of the ditch, along with pottery and animal bone. Approximately 3m to the east of this ditch and on the same

alignment there was a second ditch [1712], filled with dark greyish brown silty clay (1711). It was not possible to establish its full width, but it was 0.46m deep.

The ditch [1710] forming the southern side of the possible enclosure was identified near the centre of the trench (Fig 5, Section 6). Due to the presence of the baulks and the oblique angle of the ditch in relation to the trench, it was not possible to determine the full extent of the ditch, nor its relationship with ditch [1712] to the west. The ditch was in excess of 0.9m wide and at least 0.59m deep. It was filled with dark brownish grey silty clay (1709) with orangey brown mottles, occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks.

A possible pit [1706], containing a large number of burnt cobbles in a dark grey clayey silt matrix (1705), was located at the western end of the trench. Its full extent could not be determined as it was obscured by a baulk and largely lay beyond the limits of the trench, but it was approximately 1m wide and 0.15m deep.

Trench 18

Trench 18 was aligned from north-east to south-west and was positioned to investigate a possible enclosure ditch. The ditch [1806] was located and was shown to measure 1.4m wide and 0.38m deep. It was filled with mid to dark brownish grey silty clay (1805) containing occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. The ditch was sealed by a buried soil (1803), in appearance very similar to the fill of the ditch, which ranged in thickness between 0.17m and 0.40m. The date of the pottery sherds from the fill of the ditch is consistent with the date of the pottery in the adjacent trench (Trench 17), which ranges from the 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD.

Trench 19

Trench 19 was aligned from north-north-east to south-south-west and was located close to the western boundary of Field 2. Running along the western edge of the trench there was a shallow gully [1905], approximately 0.14m deep, with short, steep sides and a flat base. Its full extent could not be determined as it largely lay beyond the limits of the trench. The fill (1904) was almost identical to the subsoil, although it was slightly siltier. The feature is undated and may be relatively modern, as the western edge of the field has been extensively disturbed, with the insertion of a sewer and land drains.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 **Worked flint** by Yvonne B Wolframm-Murray

One piece of worked flint was recovered from the ploughsoil (101) near Trench 1. It is the proximal portion of a blade. Both edges of the blade show signs of miscellaneous retouch. It is a dark brownish grey vitreous flint and half of the dorsal surface is covered in a light brownish white and worn cortex. The flake is not diagnostic and no date can assigned.

5.2 **Iron Age pottery** by Andy Chapman

A total of 107 sherds, weighing 1995g, have been attributed to the Iron Age.

Fabrics, forms and decoration

This part of the pottery assemblage comprises hand-built vessels in which the fabric includes quantities of crushed shell. This varies from dense large fragments of shell, up to 7mm long, usually in the thicker-walled sherds, to sparse and finely crushed shell, rarely more than 2mm long, usually in the thinner-walled jars. A single vessel, from context (715), contains sparse grog in addition to dense shell.

The fabrics typically have dark grey to black cores with the surfaces varying from dark grey through brown to bright orange. Most typically, the sherds from thicker-walled vessels, 10-13mm thick, probably storage jars, have oxidised orange exteriors while many of the thinner-walled, 5-8mm thick, bowl forms have dark grey to black surfaces.

The rims are typically upright or slightly everted, and either rounded or flattened. A flattened rim, from context (309) is decorated with shallow finger-tip impressions. There are a few scored ware sherds, one of which has regular deep scoring that may have been executed with a comb. There is a single rim sherd in context (807) from a bowl decorated with lines of closely-spaced impressed dots or dimples, each 2mm in diameter. There is a single line of dots below the slightly everted rim and parts of two diverging curving lines are set obliquely below this. These may have been part of a more elaborate curvilinear decoration in the style of the late Iron Age Hunsbury/Weekly bowls (Foster 1998-9, 130). The vessel has dark brown surfaces and has a well-smoothed surface.

Condition and distribution

The material is typically quite fragmented with few sherds from the same vessel and an average sherd weight of 10-15g. However, there are a few larger, primary groups that contain large sherds, with sherd weights of around 40g, which raises the overall average sherd weight to 18.6g.

The major concentrations of Iron Age pottery comes from trench 4 (Contexts 404, 50g; 406, 165g and 408, 195g) and trench 6 (Contexts (608), 400g, (609), 420g, (612), 180g and (613), 40g). There are small quantities of Iron Age pottery from Trench 3 (Context (309), 60g), Trench 7 (Context (715), 190g), Trench 8 (Context (807), 55g), Trench 17 (Contexts (1705) & (1707), 15g & 165g) and Trench 18 (Context (1805), 5g).

Dating

The assemblage contains a number of finely-made rounded or globular bowls with well-smoothed or burnished surfaces, and black throughout. This group also includes a sherd from a bowl with curvilinear decoration. These vessels would all be most appropriate to the late Iron Age, the first century BC. The group also includes sherds from thick-walled storage jars, a few of which are of scored ware. These are broadly typical of middle Iron Age assemblages but also continued into the late Iron Age, and one scored ware sherd may have been decorated with a comb, which would suggest a late date.

The majority of the assemblage can therefore be dated to the 1st century BC with confidence, although some material of earlier origin is present. The larger groups from Trench 6 were not mixed with any later material, and may suggest that there was a focus of late Iron Age settlement in this area. However, the hand-built Iron Age pottery from Trenches 3 and 4 came from groups that also contained late Pre-Roman wheel-thrown vessels, which are reported separately. In these contexts it is most likely that the hand-built material was broadly contemporary with the wheel-thrown vessels, indicating that there was probably continuity of settlement from the late Iron Age, in the first century BC, through the early 1st century AD and continuing into the early Roman period.

5.3 **Late Iron Age and Roman pottery** by Tora Hylton

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from a complex of features sited to the east of Ferrers College, in Field 1. A total of 173 sherds with a combined weight of 3,795kg were recovered from 10 individual deposits in 6 trenches (3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 11). There appear to be two distinct concentrations of pottery. The highest concentration (65% by weight) lay close to the western edge of Field 1 (Trenches 3 and 4) and the second concentration (20% by weight) was recovered from the north-east (Trench 9). Smaller amounts were recovered from Trenches 7 (13.4%), 8 (0.5%) and 11 (0.8%).

Much of the pottery appears to be of local origin and broadly ranges in date from the early 1st century through to the mid 2nd century. The range parallels examples recovered during previous excavations at Higham Ferrers (Mudd 2004). The condition of the pottery is good, although some sherds display signs of abrasion. The overall average sherd size is 21g. The analysis included sherd count by weight and fabric type.

Chronologically the earliest forms represented are Gallo-Belgic type wares in grog-tempered fabrics, which date to the early-mid 1st century. These were concentrated on the north-eastern edge of Field 1 (Trench 9), and the forms include necked jars, butt beakers and carinated bowls.

Later material (mid to late 1st –mid 2nd century) is represented by channel-rim jars in hard-fired burnt white oxidised fabrics with grog-temper, and shell-gritted wares, some furnished with close set horizontal rilling on the body. In addition there are undiagnostic body sherds from greyware vessels, some displaying a range of decorative techniques, including burnishing, rouletting and faint horizontal rilling, all stylistic features characteristic of pottery of this date. Finally there is a Type 1b ring neck flagon (Tyres 1996, fig 255) in Verulamiam Region Whiteware.

5.4 **Fired clay** by Pat Chapman

There are 45 fragments of fired clay, weighing 276g. Twenty-four fragments come from the fill (304) of ditch [305] and a further ten from the fill (410) of ditch [411]; the rest were small or tiny fragments from six other contexts.

Seventeen sherds from context (304) have features indicating some kind of vessel form, though not a pottery vessel. The sherds are between 10mm and 25mm thick, the largest, a body sherd, measures 55mm by 30mm. They have a smooth outer surface but an irregular broken inner surface. Several sherds are from the sharp angle between body and base, although none are large enough to estimate a diameter. The fabric is hard, fine, sandy clay, with frequent inclusions of grog, sub-rounded gravel and flint all from 2mm up to 10mm long, fired to a dull reddish brown with the outer surfaces light brown. The outer surfaces of these sherds seem to be too well finished for a briquetage vessel, which would usually have denser large inclusions. They could be the broken remnants of a mould for the lost wax method of casting.

The remaining sherds from context (304) comprise small thin flat fragments with stem impressions and one small *c* 15mm square of possible tile. Sherds from the other contexts are generally hard, slightly granular, white and black with occasional orange or pink, suggesting that these have been associated with high temperatures.

While the majority of the fired clay fragments are the debris of material from hearths, localised industrial or domestic structures, the sherds from context (304) indicate that some particular processes of carriage or manufacture were present.

5.5 **Rubbing stones** by Andy Chapman

Two fragments of stone were retained from Trench 17, context (1707). A fragment from a large water-worn sandstone cobble, 125m wide by 70mm thick, has one surface worn smooth and flat, indicating that it had been used as a rubbing stone, possibly for grinding grain into flour. The stone is also blackened and reddened through heating.

A second small piece of sandstone has angular edges probably a result of heat shattering, and also has reddened surfaces. It has a single original surface which is worn smooth but is slightly undulating, leaving it uncertain whether this is a result of natural wear or use as a rubbing stone.

5.6 **The coin** by Mark Patenall

A single coin (context 306; SF1) was recovered from the machined surface of ditch [308]. It is a stock jetton type, issued by most of the prominent Nuremberg makers of the 16th-17th centuries. The flan is cracked and the legend is partially worn on the obverse. The details of the coin are as follows:

Reichsapfel in trilobe / 3 crowns and 3 lys. Diameter 24mm, Hans Krauwinckels (1586-1635). Reverse legend, DOMNI MANET IN VERB-M

Given the early post-medieval date of the coin, it is clearly intrusive and has been dragged into the top fill of the Romano-British ditch by ploughing.

6 FAUNAL AND FLORAL REMAINS

6.1 **Animal bones** by Karen Deighton

A small assemblage of animal bone (2.5 kg) was recovered by hand from a range of late Iron Age and Romano-British ditches during the course of trial trenching. The material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, species present and any potential for further analysis.

Approximately 80% of the bone could be identified to taxon. Fragmentation was moderate to heavy, depending on context, and bone surface abrasion was at a low level. Two instances of butchery were noted, both on large ungulate ribs, and 15% of the bone exhibited evidence of canid gnawing. No evidence of burning was observed. Both ageing (i.e. fusion and tooth wear) data and metrical data were available. The species comprising the assemblage are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Animal species present by context

Context	Feature	Horse *(Equus)*	Cow *(Bos)*	Sheep/goat (Ovicaprid)	Pig *(Sus)*	Large hooved (L.ungulate)
304	Ditch [305]		2	2		2
306	Ditch [308]		1	2		
309	Ditch [310]		2			
404	Ditch [405]	2	4		1	
406	Ditch [407]			2		1
408	Ditch [409]		1			
410	Ditch [411]					1
412	Ditch [413]	1				1
608	Ditch [611]		1			
609	Ditch [611]			1		
706	Ditch [708]	1				
807	Ditch [809]		3	1		1
913	Ditch [911]				1	
916	Ditch [911]		2			
Total		**4**	**16**	**8**	**2**	**7**

The value of further work on the current assemblage would be of limited value due to the paucity of material. However the reasonable preservation, availability of ageing data and metrical data suggest that further collection of bone during any subsequent excavations and its analysis would provide some knowledge of animal husbandry at the site.

6.2 Environmental evidence

Five 20 litre samples were collected from a selection of late Iron Age/Romano-British ditches. The samples were processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 500 micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and examined under a microscope (10x magnification). Dried residues were also sieved and sorted, but were found to be sterile. Charred plant remains were identified with the aid of the author's reference collection, a seed atlas (Schoch *et al* 1988) and the on-line seed workshop at Ohio.edu. The results of the assessment are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of ecofacts by context

Context	**810**	**906**	**913**	**709**	**608**
Feature	Ditch [813]	Ditch [907]	Ditch [911]	Ditch [710]	Ditch [608]
Charcoal*	-	-	1	1	2
Cereal	3	2	10	1	5
Chaff	-	-	1	6	4
Weeds	1	-	6	-	-
Mollusca	200	-	-	-	-

*key to charcoal, 1=10-20, 2=20-30

Four weed taxa were identified; these were cleavers (*Galium aparine*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), chickweed (*Stella medaria*) and sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). These are all common crop weeds and colonisers of disturbed ground. Cereal identifications were Emmer/einkorn (*Triticum monococcum/diococcum*), spelt (*T. spelta*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). The presence of spelt and hulled barley is confirmed by the identification of chaff. Mollusca were limited to a single planorbid species which indicates the presence of standing fresh water.

The results of the assessment are limited in the quantity and range of plant and mollusc taxa present, when compared with the results of the assessment on the part of the current site excavated in advance of the construction of the A6 Higham Ferrers/Rushden By-pass (Deighton 2003). However, the degree of preservation is comparable, suggesting that a more extensive programme of environmental sampling would produce a significant assemblage that could be used to identify areas of activity (e.g. crop-processing, food storage, animal byres etc.) in the settlement during its period of occupation.

7 DISCUSSION

The evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains extending across the proposed development area on a north-east to south-west axis. They comprise a complex series of inter-cutting enclosures, gullies and ditches, largely clustered in the northern part of the agricultural field and the south-west corner of the playing field, with a long boundary ditch and several small rectangular enclosures in-between.

The remains relate to late Iron Age and early Roman settlement, probably a succession of small farmsteads, with the focus of settlement shifting throughout the period of occupation. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered, which included hand-made Iron Age pottery, wheel-thrown Gallo-Belgic and locally produced Romano-British wares, and animal bone, together with a small quantity of other finds and environmental remains.

Assessment of the date and distribution of the pottery has differentiated between areas of early and late settlement within the complex of enclosures, with the earlier phases of occupation occurring near the crest of the slope at the northern end of the agricultural field, and in the south-west corner of the playing field. These areas of late Iron Age settlement, characterized by a fairly irregular pattern of sub-rectangular enclosures, appear to by overlaid by the more rectilinear appearance of the Romano-British enclosure system. This broadly accords with the findings of the excavation of the north-eastern periphery of the settlement, undertaken in advance of the construction of the A6 Higham Ferrers/Rushden by-pass (Mudd 2004).

The settlement was probably established in the 1st century BC, or perhaps slightly earlier, and was abandoned in the mid 2nd century AD, possibly due to the foundation of a large Roman village *c* 0.7km to the north-west, situated on the road between the Roman towns of Irchester and Titchmarsh. The abandonment of the settlement may reflect changes in land ownership and/or the economic base of the area in the century following the Roman conquest. Despite the apparent change in the morphology of the settlement in the 1st century AD, occupation was probably continuous throughout the site's history.

In the area of settlement at the northern end of the agricultural field (Trenches 3, 4, 6 to 9), near the crest of the slope, the subsoil was indistinct, if not entirely absent, and in many cases appeared to be cut by some of the archaeological features. It was also slightly darker than that recorded in areas of little or no archaeology. It is possible that the layer recorded as subsoil in this area is in fact an occupation layer, which developed as a result of trample and frequent earth-moving, associated with the digging of ditches and other features, and perhaps the corralling of livestock. It is likely that the 'true' subsoil near the crest of the slope, if one had developed, may have been ploughed away in modern times.

There was no evidence for medieval or later activity on the site, with the exception of numerous field drains, some of which were constructed from limestone rubble and may date back to the 17th/18th centuries.

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APPENDIX

Summary of features

Abbreviations

P pottery; B bone; F flint; Fc fired clay; Cn coin

[1]All dates AD unless stated otherwise
[2] Depth of archaeology/natural substrate below ground level

Field 1

Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Finds	Date of feature[1]	Depth[2] (m)
1	101	Ploughsoil	F		*c* 0.8
	102	Subsoil			
	103	Colluvium			
	104	Natural substrate			
2	201	Ploughsoil			*c* 0.8
	202	Subsoil			
	203	Colluvium			
	204	Natural substrate			
3	301	Ploughsoil			*c* 0.5
	302	Subsoil			
	303	Natural substrate			
	304 [305]	Ditch	P B Fc	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	306 307 [308]	Ditch	P B Fc Cn	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	309 [310]	Ditch	P B	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
4	401	Ploughsoil			*c* 0.6
	402	Subsoil	P		
	403	Natural substrate			
	404 [405]	Ditch	P B	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	406 [407]	Ditch	P B	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	408 [409]	Ditch	P B Fc	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	410 [411]	Ditch	P B Fc	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	412 [413]	Ditch	P B	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	414 [415]	Ditch		Unexcavated	
	416 [417]	Ditch		Unexcavated	
	418 [419]	Gully		Unexcavated	
5	501	Ploughsoil			*c* 0.5
	502	Subsoil			

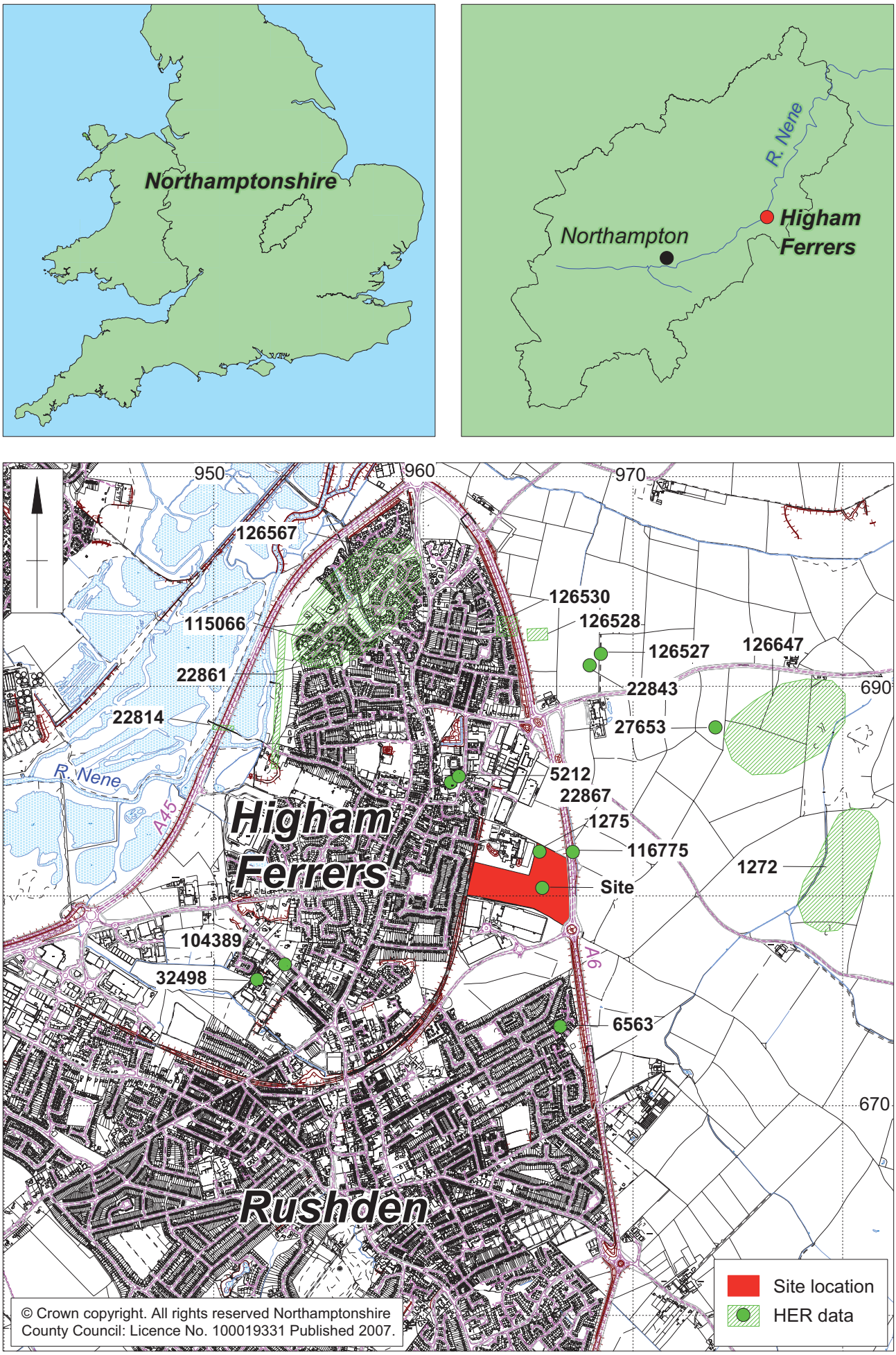
Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Finds	Date of feature[1]	Depth[2] (m)
	503	Natural substrate			
	504 [505]	Gully		Undated	
	506 [507]	Ditch?		Unexcavated	
6	601	Ploughsoil			0.4 - 0.7
	602	Subsoil			
	603	Natural substrate			
	604 [605]	Ditch		1st C BC- mid 2nd C	
	606 [607]	Ditch	B	1st C BC- mid 2nd C	
	608 609 610 [611]	Ditch	P B Fc P B	1st C BC-early 1st C	
	612 613 [614]	Ditch	P B P	1st C BC-early 1st C	
	615 [616]	Ditch	P	Post-medieval/modern	
	617 [618]	Ditch		Unexcavated	
	619 [620]			Unexcavated	
7	701	Ploughsoil			*c* 0.6
	702	Subsoil			
	703	Natural substrate			
	704 [705]	Ditch	P B Fc	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	706 707 [708]	Gully	P B P	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	709 [710]	Gully	P	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	711 [712]	Gully	P Fc	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	713 [714]	Gully		Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	715 [716]	Gully	P	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	717 [718]	Gully		Unexcavated	
	719 [720]	Gully		Unexcavated	
8	801	Ploughsoil			*c* 0.45
	802	Subsoil			
	803	Natural substrate			
	804 805 [806]	Pit?	P B	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	807 808 [809]	Ditch	P B	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	

Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Finds	Date of feature[1]	Depth[2] (m)
	810 811 812 [813]	Ditch	 P P	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	814 [815]	Ditch		Unexcavated	
	816 [817]	Ditch terminal?		Unexcavated	
	818 [819]	Gully		Unexcavated	
	820 [821]	Gully		Unexcavated	
9	901	Ploughsoil		Modern	0.35 - 0.55
	902	Subsoil			
	903	Natural substrate			
	904 [905]	Gully		1st C BC- mid 2nd C	
	906 912 [907]	Ditch	P B	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C	
	908 [909]	Ditch	P	Early-mid 1st C	
	910 913 914 915 916 917 918 [911]	Ditch	 P B P B P	1st C	
10	1001	Ploughsoil		Modern	0.4 - 0.5
	1002	Subsoil			
	1003	Natural substrate			
	1004 [1005]	Gully	Fc	Undated	
	1006 [1007]	Gully		Undated	
11	1101	Ploughsoil		Modern	0.5 - 0.75
	1102	Subsoil			
	1103	Natural substrate			
	1104 [1105]	Gully	P	Mid/late 1st-mid 2nd C?	
	1106 [1107]	Ditch		Undated	
12	1201	Ploughsoil		Modern	*c* 1.0
	1202	Subsoil			
	1203	Colluvium			
	1204	Natural substrate			
13	1301	Ploughsoil			*c* 0.9
	1302	Subsoil			
	1303	Colluvium			
	1304	Natural substrate			

Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Finds	Date of feature[1]	Depth[2] (m)
14	1401	Ploughsoil			0.7 - 1.2
	1402	Subsoil			
	1403	Colluvium			
	1404	Natural substrate			

Field 2

Trench no.	Context no.	Feature type	Finds	Date of feature	Depth[1] (m)
15	1501	Topsoil			*c* 0.65
	1502	Subsoil			
	1503	Natural substrate			
16	1601	Topsoil			0.6 - 0.8
	1602	Subsoil			
	1603	Natural substrate			
17	1701	Topsoil			*c* 0.9
	1702	Subsoil			
	1703	Natural substrate			
	1704 1705 [1706]	Gully	P	1st C BC - 1st C	
	1707 [1708]	Ditch	P B Quern	1st C BC - 1st C	
	1709 [1710]	Ditch	B	1st C BC - 1st C	
	1711 [1712]	Ditch	P	1st C BC - 1st C	
	1713	Buried soil	P	1st C BC - 1st C	
18	1801	Topsoil			*c* 0.9
	1802	Subsoil			
	1803	Buried soil			
	1804	Natural substrate			
	1805 [1806]	Gully	P	1st C BC - 1st C	
19	1901	Topsoil			*c* 0.55
	1902	Subsoil			
	1903	Natural substrate			
	1904 [1905]	Gully		Modern?	



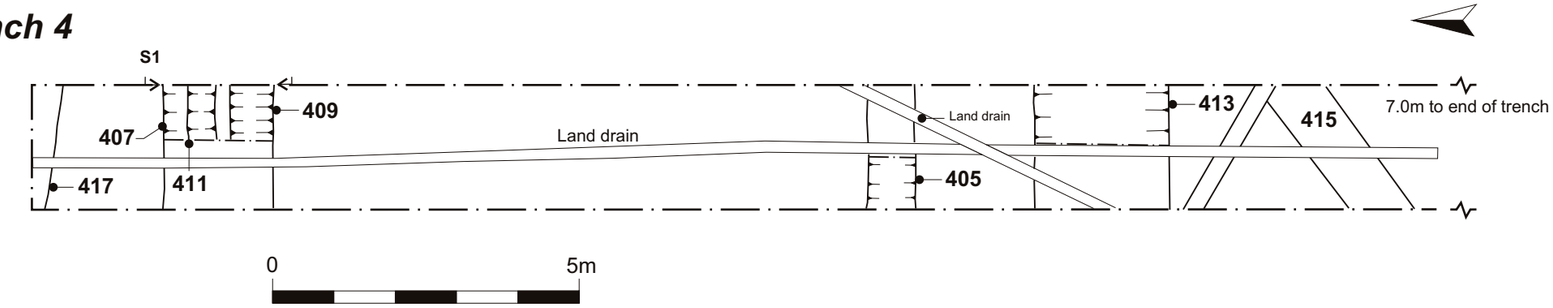
Scale 1:12,500

Site location and HER sites Fig 1

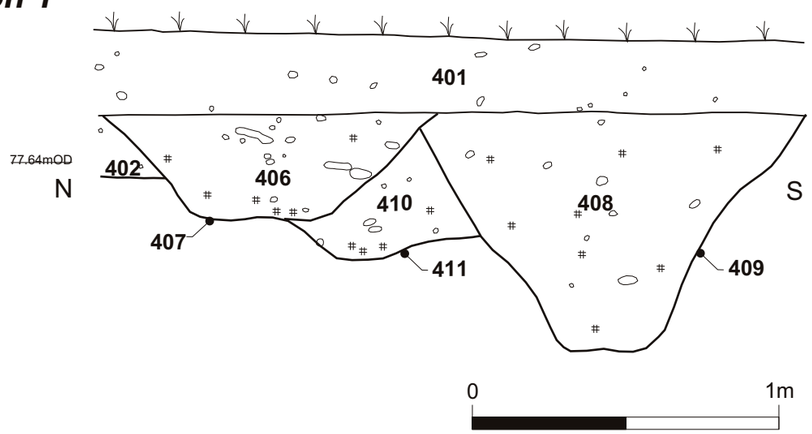
Scale 1:2500

Trench location plan and geophysical survey plot Fig 2

Trench 4



Section 1



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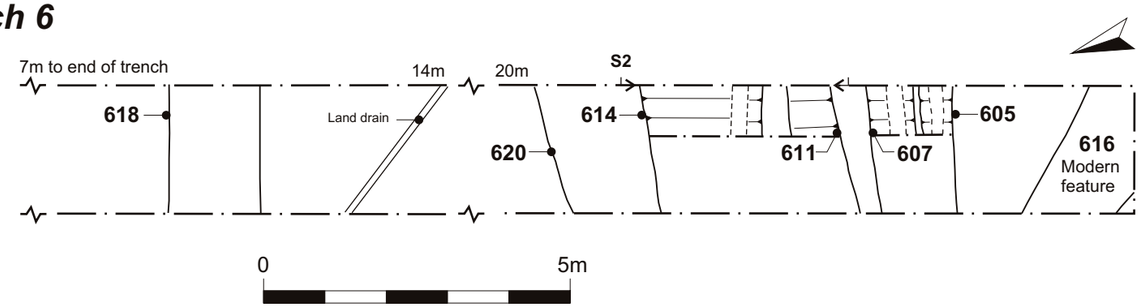

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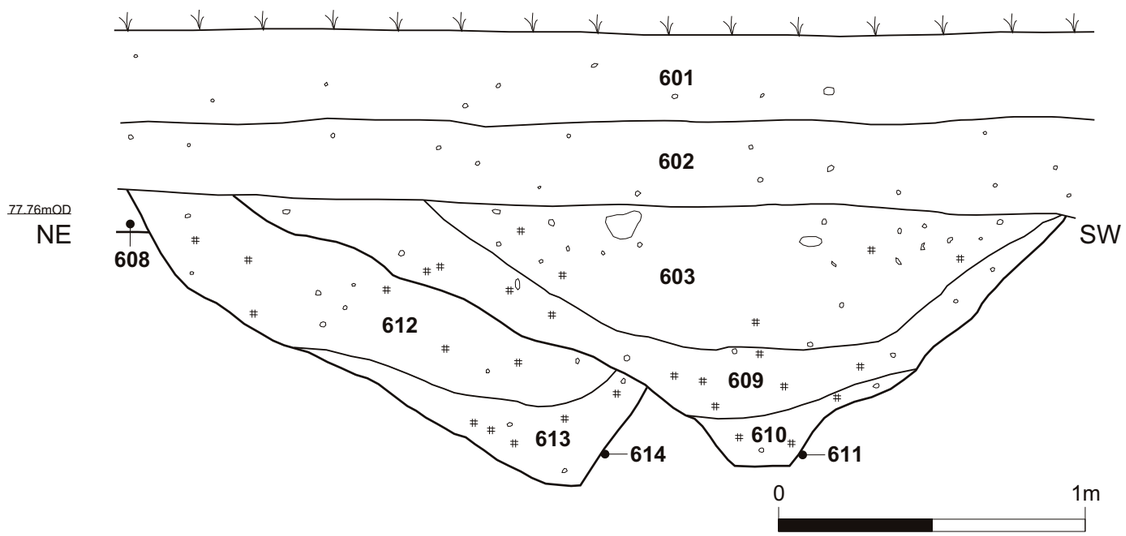
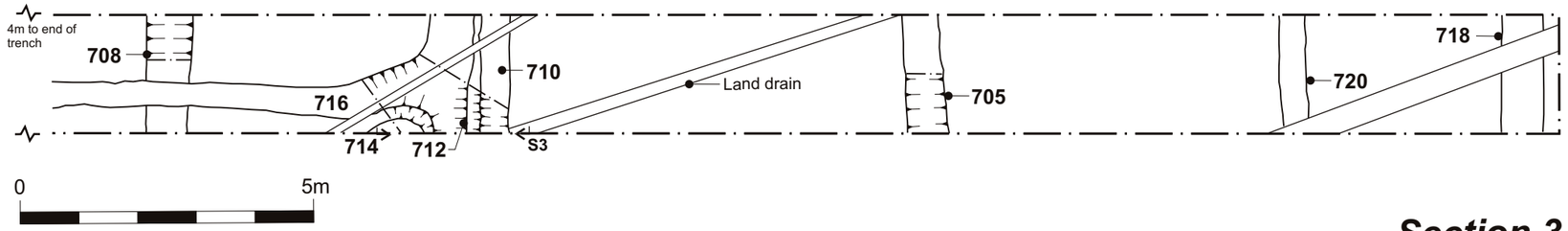


Clay

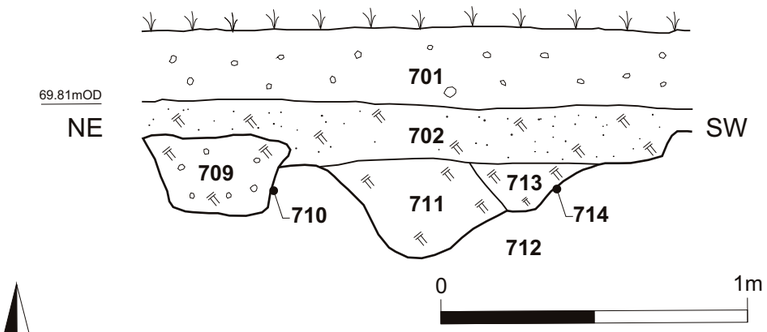
Charcoal

Plans of Trenches 4 & 6, and sections of ditches [411] and [614] Fig 3

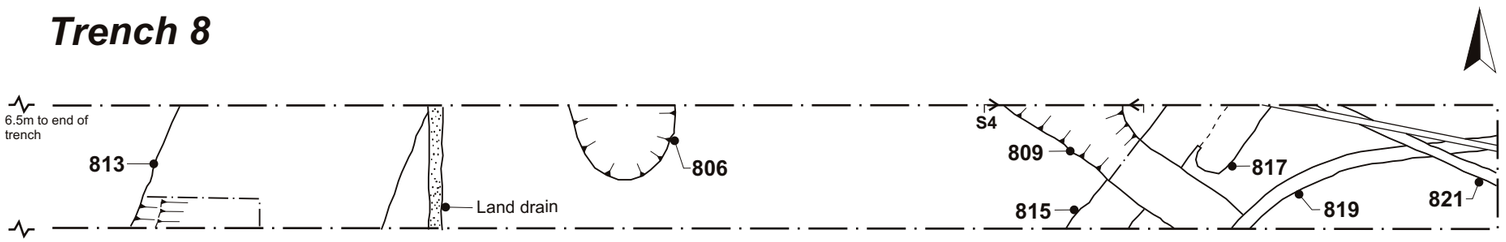
Trench 7



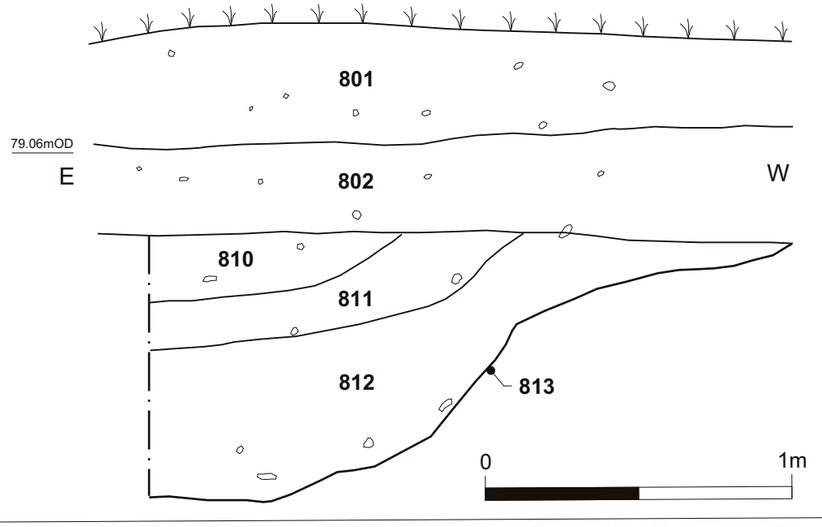
Section 3



Trench 8

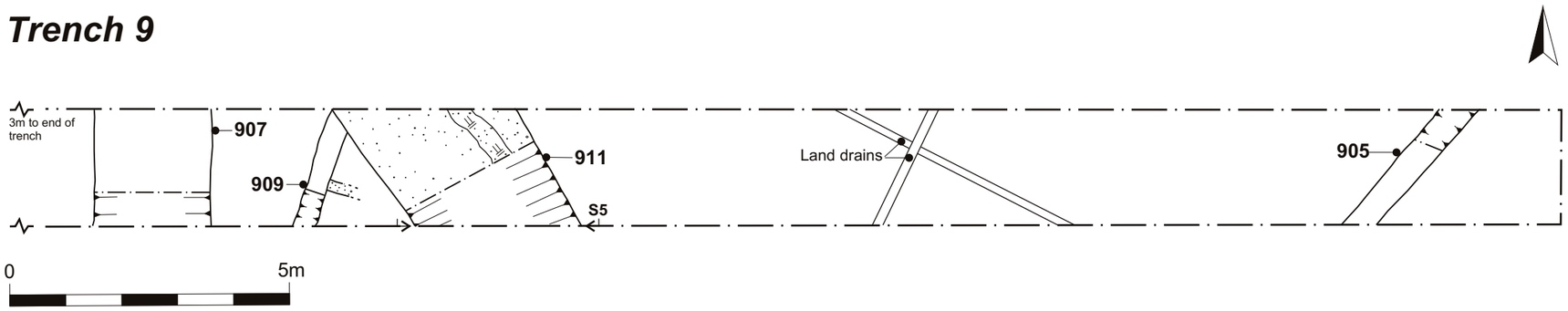


Section 4



Plans of Trenches 7 & 8, and sections of ditches [712] and [813] Fig 4

Trench 9



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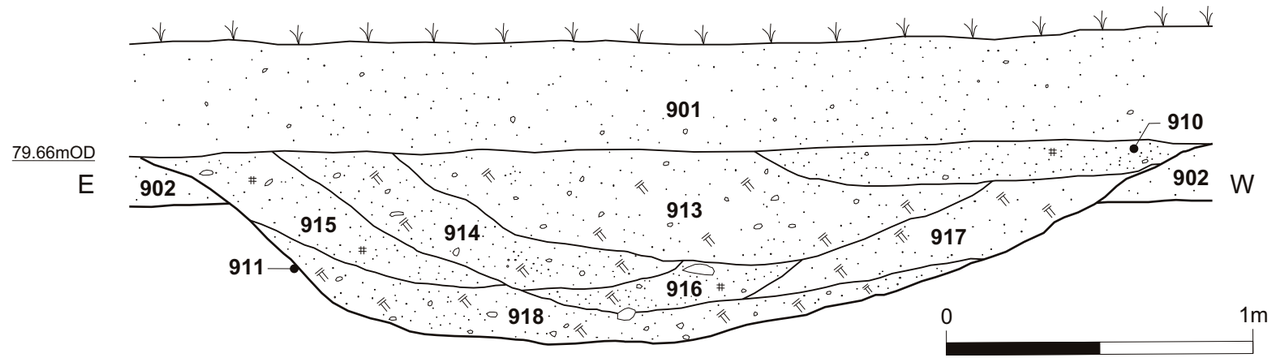
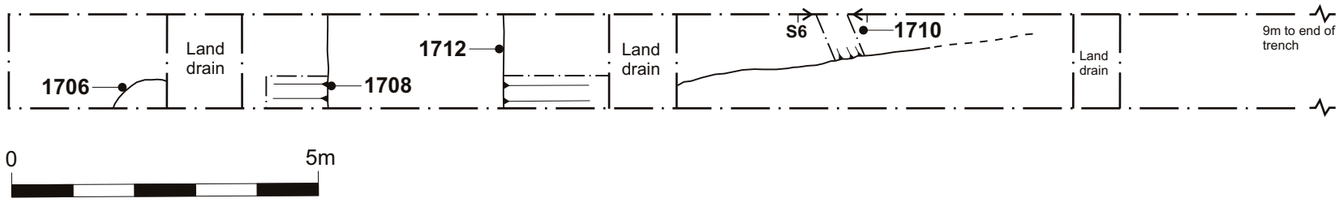


Clay

Charcoal

Trench 17



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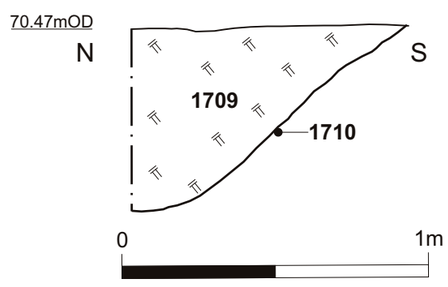

Plan of Trenches 9 & 17, and sections of ditches [911] and [1710] Fig 5

Plate 1: Trench 4, general view facing south

Plate 2: Roman ditch [413], facing east

Plate 3: Trench 9, general view facing east

Plate 4: Late Iron Age ditch [911], facing south