Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial excavation on land off
Huntingdon Road, Cambridge

December 2007 - February 2008
HER Event No ECB2592

Paul Mason

March 2008

Report 08/37

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	Adam Yates BA AIFA
Fieldwork	Paul Mason BA
	Daniel Nagy BA
	Sarah Potter BA
	Josh Seaman BA
	Leon Williams BA
Text	Paul Mason
Prehistoric and Roman pottery	Dr Jane Timby
Medieval and later pottery	Iain Soden BA MIFA
Ceramic building material	Pat Chapman BA AIFA
Small finds	Tora Hylton
Animal bone	Dr Philip Armitage
Molluscs	Karen Deighton MSc
Plant macrofossils	Val Fryer MA MIFA
Illustrations	Jacqueline Harding BA HND

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signature	Date
Checked by	P Chapman		
Verified by	A Yates		
Approved by	S Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological trial excavation on land off Huntingdon Road, Cambridge	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a trial excavation on land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road, Cambridge on behalf of CgMs and their clients David Wilson Estates. Two distinct areas of mid-late Iron Age to late 2nd/early 3rd-century AD occupation were identified together with evidence for an inter-joining field system. Smaller concentrations of archaeological features of Bronze Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date, were dispersed across the proposed development area.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment, aerial photograph analysis, field walking, geophysics	
Current Land use	Arable, pasture, sports fields	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type/ period	Bronze Age (?), Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
Significant finds	Iron Age and Roman pottery, metalwork	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Land off Huntingdon Road, Cambridge	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	55ha	
OS Easting and Northing	NGR TL 437 607	
Height OD	12-20mOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice	
Project Design originator	CgMs	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Mason	
Project Manager	Adam Yates, Myk Flitcroft, CgMs	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	3.12.07	
End date	1.2.08	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological trial excavation on land off Huntingdon Road, Cambridge	
Serial title and volume	NA Report 08/37	
Author(s)	Paul Mason	
Page numbers	36	
Date	March 2008	

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL EXCAVATION ON

LAND BETWEEN HUNTINGDON ROAD AND HISTON ROAD, CAMBRIDGE

DECEMBER 2007 - JANUARY 2008

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a trial excavation on land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road, Cambridge on behalf of CgMs and their clients David Wilson Estates. Two distinct areas of mid-late Iron Age to late 2nd/early 3rd-century AD occupation were identified together with evidence for an inter-joining field system. Smaller concentrations of archaeological features of Bronze Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were dispersed across the proposed development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

In December 2007 and January 2008 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an archaeological trial excavation on land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road, Cambridge on behalf of CgMs and their clients David Wilson Estates (NGR TL 437 607, Fig 1).

The archaeological investigations were undertaken at the request of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) in order to inform the planning process (CAPCA 2007). The work was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by CgMs which was approved by CAPCA (CgMs 2007). The fieldwork commenced on 3 December 2007 and was completed on 1 February 2008.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning background

An outline planning application for the development of the site was submitted in the autumn of 2006. The proposals are for a residential development together with a school, community facilities and associated infrastructure. In response to this application the local planning authority indicated that a programme of archaeological work, comprising aerial photographic assessment, geophysical survey, field walking and trial excavation was required.

2.2 Archaeological background

The aerial photographic assessment, geophysical survey and field walking were undertaken prior to the trail excavation and the results of these surveys are summarised below. The specification prepared by CgMs summarised the archaeological background to the site (CgMs 2007, 1.3). The following information is paraphrased from this document.

The site lies to the north-west of the historic core of Cambridge and an earlier Roman town which was sited in the Castle Hill area of the city. Huntingdon Road follows the route of a Roman road leading to Durovigutum at Godmanchester. A Roman cemetery is located close to the road in the area of Girton College which lies *c* 1km north-west of the site. Cropmarks to the south, east and west of the site indicate extensive later prehistoric and Roman activity in the immediate locality.

A Saxon cemetery has been identified in the vicinity of Girton College and medieval settlement identified at Howes End to the west of the site.

Aerial photography assessment

The aerial photography assessment was undertaken by Air Photo Services of Cambridge and identified extensive plough-levelled ridge and furrow over much of the site. Features of archaeological potential included a bank of unknown origin, but predating the ridge and furrow, aligned south-east to north-west across the central part of the site and an area of possible pitting to the east. Following this survey CAPCA have identified a possible curvilinear soilmark on aerial photographs of the northern periphery of the Christ Collage playing fields.

Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey comprising magnetometry scanning of the entire site and detailed survey of 13.75ha was undertaken by GSB Prospection. Although some anomalies of potential archaeological interest were detected they were widely dispersed across the site and no significant concentrations of such features were noted.

Field walking

Field walking was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in October 2006 resulting in light scatters of artefacts being collected from across the site (Simmonds 2006). The artefacts included flint, tile and pottery spanning the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The distribution of Roman pottery was restricted to one field towards the north-eastern end of the site. No other significant concentrations of artefacts were noted.

2.3 Topography and geology

The proposed development site lies on the north-west edge of Cambridge and comprises *c* 55ha of land extending between Huntingdon Road (A1307) and Histon Road (B1049) (Fig 1). It is centred on NGR TL 437 607 and is currently occupied by arable fields belonging to the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) and the Chivers family. Smaller parcels of land located in the south of the site comprise the former the playing fields of Christ's College and a grassed area to the south of the NIAB buildings.

The land slopes gently from south to north (*c* 20mOD to *c* 12mOD). The underlying geology of the proposed development area comprises Upper Greensand and Gault Clay overlain by River Terrace Deposits (www.bgs.org/geoindex).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the fieldwork are defined in the approved specification (CgMs 2007) as follows:

General aims

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable that archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains

- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Cambridgeshire HER

Specific objectives

- Determine the survival of buried remains associated with the bank identified from aerial photography and establish the date of surviving remains: identification and assessment of the potential for a buried land surface beneath any bank will be a priority
- Confirm the interpretation of the possible area of pitting identified from aerial photography
- Establish the interpretation of the curvilinear soilmark suggested from Cambs CC APs
- Establish the presence and extent of any buried remains associated with the spread of Roman pottery identified in the fieldwalking survey
- Examine and interpret the scattered anomalies identified from geophysical survey as being of possible archaeological origin
- Evaluate the archaeological potential of areas not highlighted as being of significance from the previous survey work and areas where previous survey work was constrained by site conditions

3.2 Methodology

One hundred and thirty-six 50m-long trenches were laid out in pre-determined positions over the fields that comprise the proposed development area using a Leica 1200 GPS system (Fig 2). Most of the trenches were excavated using a Volvo 360º tracked digger fitted with a 2.20m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Those lying on the Christ's College playing fields and to the south of the NIAB buildings were excavated using a JCB 3CX fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil, where present, were removed to expose the upper strata of geology and stored separately. A number of trenches (16-19) had to be moved from their original positions to avoid NIAB's football pitch and Trenches 6 and 7 in the college fields were moved to avoid an occupied paddock. A number of trenches in the NIAB fields were either split or shortened to avoid overhead power cables and in the Chivers fields two trenches (128 and 129) were moved a short distance to avoid a foul water sewer. All of the repositioned trenches were resurveyed using a GPS system or Total Station.

Once opened, hand excavation and recording of trenches progressed in accordance with the approved specification (CgMs 2007). Following the completion of the archaeological work the trenches were backfilled. All works were monitored by CgMs on behalf of the client and CAPCA.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 Christ's College playing fields (Trenches 1-10)

The geology in the northernmost part of the field comprised reddish brown River Terrace Gravels and sand. This was replaced by bluish grey to yellow brown Gault Clay in the central and southern part of the field. Deposits of silty clay subsoil overlay the geology in thicknesses varying from 0.06m-0.38m - the thinnest layers were observed towards the centre of the field in Trenches 5, 6 and 7. Here the upper levels of subsoil together with the original topsoil appeared to have been removed - probably as the ground was levelled off to make the playing fields. In Trench 10 the subsoil had been partially scoured away

and the ground level subsequently raised by the deposition of an imported soil containing 19th- and 20th-century pottery and ceramic building material. Depths of topsoil varied from 0.13m-0.47m; it was evident that much this soil horizon had been modified - perhaps even replaced - to form the playing surfaces.

Trenches 9 and 10 had been positioned to investigate the possible curvilinear soilmark identified by CAPCA from aerial photographs. In the event, archaeological features were present in Trenches 5 and 9, both of which were located in the northern sector of the site over the gravel geology. The possibility that archaeological features were once present in other parts of the field but removed during episodes of landscaping cannot be discounted. All trenches measured 50m by 1.6m.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located on the north-west periphery of the field and aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 2 and 3). Two small pits or large postholes [504] and [506] were cut into the geology towards the south-western end of the trench and overlain by up to 0.25m of subsoil (502) and 0.30m of topsoil (501). Their diameters measured *c* 0.60m and *c* 0.45m and their depths were 0.16m and 0.11m respectively. Both were filled with deposits of mid-orange brown silty loam (505) and (507); neither contained dating evidence. A short distance to the north-east a 0.70m-wide gully was aligned east-west [508]. It was 0.20m deep and filled with a mid-brown silty loam (509) containing a single sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery.

These features may be associated with a ditch or large pit [2004] observed on the other side of the nearby field boundary in Trench 20 of the NIAB north field (see Section 4.4).

Trench 9

Trench 9 was located on the north-east periphery of the field and aligned north-east to south-west. A small cluster of features, comprising a pair of gullies [904], [906] and two pits [908], [910], cut the geology towards the centre of the trench (Figs 2 and 3). They were overlain by comparatively deep deposits of subsoil (902) measuring up to 0.37m deep and 0.25m-0.30m of topsoil (901). The gullies were both aligned north-west to south-east and spaced only 0.25m apart. Both were *c* 0.80m wide, *c* 0.30m deep and filled with mid-brown silty loam (905), (907). Sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were present in both features.

To the immediate north-west were pits [908] and [910]. Both were roughly oval in plan with pit [908] being slightly the larger at 1m x 0.72m x 0.40m deep. It was filled with dark orange brown silty loam (909) containing sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery. The fill of the other pit was a mid-brown silty loam (911); no finds were present.

The features in Trench 9 are most probably associated with, but peripheral to, the denser concentrations of archaeology located over the northern field boundary in the south-east part of the NIAB field (see Section 4.4).

4.2 NIAB south (Trenches 11-15)

In the small field located to the south of the NIAB buildings the geology comprised light greyish brown Gault Clay with patchy River Terrace Gravels appearing towards the north-west. The silty clay subsoil was typically 0.20m thick across the entire area and was overlain by silty clay loam topsoil ranging from 0.20m-0.40m. Trenches 13 and 15 revealed archaeological features. All trenches measured 50m x 1.6m.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was located in the south-west part of the field and was aligned north-west to south-east. Two pits or postholes [1304] and [1306] cut the geology towards the centre of the trench (Figs 2 and 3). They were overlain by *c* 0.20m of subsoil (1302) and 0.25m-0.30m of topsoil (1302). Pit [1304] was circular with a diameter of *c* 1m and a depth of *c* 0.15m. It was filled with greyish brown silty clay loam (1305). Pit [1306] had an irregular oval shape measuring 1m x 0.55m x 0.12m deep. Its fill (1307) was similar in character to that of pit [1304]; neither feature contained dating evidence.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was located towards the north-west edge of the field and aligned north-east to south-west. Part of an earth-cut feature [1504] was revealed in the extreme south-western end of the trench (Fig 2 and 3). It was overlain by 0.20m of subsoil (1502) and 0.30m of topsoil (1501). The feature could have been either a pit or curving ditch/gully. Its mid-greyish brown silty loam fill (1505) was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. Two sherds of pottery dating to the medieval period were recovered.

There were no other archaeological features present in the trench but a modern trench backfilled with blue clay was observed aligned north-east to south-west in the northern end of the trench. This was not excavated as it was thought to be a gas pipeline whose position is marked a short distance to the north-west on National Grid mains records.

4.3 NIAB north (Trenches 16-86)

Seventy trenches were excavated in the arable fields to the north-east of the NIAB buildings. The geology comprised blue, brown and grey gault clays in the south-west, with bands of sand and gravel appearing towards the centre of the field. The north-eastern area was characterised by brown silty clay with dispersed patches of gravel and chalk. Deposits of silty clay subsoil overlay the geology in depths ranging from 0-0.80m. The topsoil comprised silty clay loam with a thickness typically ranging from 0.20-0.40m. A large number of field drains were noted across the entire area.

Four trenches (16-19) were repositioned to avoid NIAB's football pitch in the south-eastern part of the field. A number of trenches were shortened or split in two due to the presence of overhead power cables which crossed the field in a south-east-north-west alignment. All trenches measured 50m x 2.2m unless otherwise stated. All repositioned/shortened trenches were resurveyed and are shown in their new positions (Fig 2).

Twenty trenches revealed archaeological features. The most significant concentration was observed towards the eastern side of the field in Trenches 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70 and 74 where what appeared to be the western periphery of a late Iron Age/Roman settlement extended into the site from the area covered by the housing estate to the east.

Trench 17

Trench 17, repositioned to the west of the football pitch, was aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 2 and 3). A 0.75m-wide gully [1704], aligned roughly east-west cut the subsoil towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It had near vertical sides, a flat base and was filled with silty clay (1705). It was overlain by up to 0.35m of topsoil (1701).

The same gully was observed to the west in Trench 26 [2604] where post-medieval building material and pottery was retrieved from its fill. It is thought to be a redundant component of the field's irrigation system.

Trench 20

Trench 20 (47m x 2.2m) was aligned north-west to south-east in close vicinity to the boundary with the Christ College playing field (Figs 2 and 3). Towards its western end was a large, irregular-shaped feature [2004] that, on the basis that it did not extend into neighbouring trenches, was thought to be a pit (Fig 8, Section 1). At its widest it measured 2.5m and it had a depth of 0.65m. Its primary fill was light grey sandy clay (2005) which contained an iron ring fitting (SF 25). The secondary fill was lighter silty clay (2006) which was overlain by light brown clay (2007) containing residual sherds of prehistoric pottery. Up to 0.22m of subsoil (2002) and 0.33m of topsoil (2001) overlay the feature.

Pit [2004] is probably associated with the small cluster of features recorded to the south-east in Trench 5 of the Christ College playing field.

Trench 23

Trench 23 (38m x 2.2m) was aligned north-west to south-east and lay close to the north-west corner of the Christ's College land (not illustrated). A row of modern postholes were present, aligned across the centre of the trench on an approximate east to west axis. They had a very dark, loamy fill reminiscent of the topsoil (2301) which lay to a depth of *c* 0.30m. A similar line of posts were observed in nearby Trenches 28 and 29; part of a wooden post was removed by the machine when the latter was opened.

Trench 26

Trench 26 contained a post-medieval gully [2604], the same feature observed to the south-east in Trench 17 (Figs 2 and 3).

Trench 28

Modern postholes similar to those observed in Trench 23 were present (not illustrated).

Trench 29

Two separate clusters of modern postholes were observed in this trench (not illustrated). A wooden post was removed from one of them; another clearly cut the backfill of a trench containing a ceramic field drain.

Trench 37

Trench 37 was aligned north-west to south-east in the south-west part of the field (not illustrated). Towards its centre was a pit [3704] filled with 19th/20th-century rubbish including pottery, rusted metal, tile, glass and charcoal.

Trench 39

Trench 39 was aligned north-west to south-east in the central part of the field (Figs 2 and 3). Beneath *c* 0.50m subsoil (3902) and a similar depth of topsoil (3901) were two small pits [3904] and [3906], both of which had profiles suggesting they may each have housed a pair of posts (Fig 8, Section 2). They were filled with dark grey brown silty clay loam (3905) and (3907) containing animal bone and in (3905), a sherd of pottery that possibly dates to the Bronze Age.

Trench 51

Trench 51 (split into two sections to avoid overhead cables) was aligned north-east to south-west towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 3). Cutting the sandy geology (5103) at the north-east end of the trench was a roughly circular pit [5104] with a diameter of *c* 1m and depth of *c* 0.40m. It was overlain by 0.35m of subsoil (5102) and a

similarly thick deposit of topsoil (5101). The pit was filled with orange brown sandy loam (5105); no dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 64

Trench 64 was aligned north-south to the north of the Christ College playing field (Figs 2 and 4). Towards the northern end of the trench the geology was cut by a north-west to south-east aligned gully [6404]. It was overlain by 0.20m of subsoil (6402) and 0.40m of topsoil (6401). The gully was *c* 0.45m wide and *c* 0.20m deep and filled with mid greyish brown silty clay (6405).

Trench 66

Trench 66 (52m x 2.2m) was aligned east-west in the south-eastern corner of the field (Figs 2 and 4). A number of archaeological features were present in the eastern end of the trench, buried beneath *c* 0.50m of subsoil (6602) and a similar depth of topsoil (6601). Slightly to the east of centre was a shallow, 0.70m-wide gully [6404] filled with a yellowish brown silty loam (6605) containing a lot of charcoal, animal bone, Roman glass, iron nails and pottery dating to the early Roman period. A short distance to the west was a shallow pit-like feature [6606] with an uneven, pitted base (Plate 1). It was filled with dark grey brown sandy loam (6607) containing large quantities of fragmented fired clay and Roman pottery dating to the 2nd century. Some of the clay fragments were marked with impressed grooves and ridges, perhaps evidence that they had been applied to laths in the same manner as daub as part of a structure. Against the edge of the trench and within feature [6606] was a deeper pit [6608] which appeared to be associated with a narrow, curving 'flue', only partially visible within the trench. Both of these features were filled with deposit (6607); a soil sample produced small quantities of charred cereal grains and charcoal (see Section 6.3, <4>).

At the eastern end of the trench were three parallel gullies aligned north-east to south-west [6610], [6612] and [6614]. They measured 0.35m, 1m and 0.55m wide respectively and each had shallow concave profiles. Gully [6610] was filled with a light greyish brown silty loam (6611) containing sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery. The fill of the central and largest gully [6612] was a dark grey silty clay (6613) containing animal bone and 2nd-century AD pottery. Gully [6614] was filled with mid-greyish brown silty clay (6615) again containing bone and pottery dated to the 2nd century.

Trench 67

Trench 67 was aligned south-west to north-east in the south-east corner of the field (Figs 2 and 4). The trench exposed the densest concentration of archaeological features seen during the entire evaluation. The features, indicative of at least two phases of activity, cut the sand and gravel geology and were buried beneath up to 0.80m of subsoil (6702) and 0.55m of topsoil (6701).

A number of small pits or postholes were present in the south-west end of the trench [6710], [6719], [6721], [6729], the fill of the latter (6730) contained sherds dating to the mid to late Iron Age. Also located in the south-western end of the trench was a 1.40m-wide, gully [6712] containing undiagnostic Roman pottery within its primary fill (6714). The gully was cut by a more substantial curvilinear ditch [6704/6715] which was only partially exposed by the trench. It was 1.10m deep with a wide, flat base and contained a series of fills producing pottery dating to the Roman period. Its tertiary fill (6717) contained a copper alloy ring decorated with an abstract depiction of ouroboros (SF3). Overlying this was deposit (6718) containing a shard of blue glass from a vessel form commonly used in the period 70-120 AD (see Section 5.4). The edge of another feature [6724], possibly a ditch, was exposed in the extreme south-eastern corner of the trench.

A number of these earlier features were cut by a 1.75m-wide, 0.70m-deep ditch [6706] which was aligned north-east to south-west in the southern end of the trench (Plate 2). Its uppermost fill (6707) was a mid-grey clay containing late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Another linear feature, [6727], was located to the north and cut pit/posthole [6729]. It was at least 1.40m wide, 0.80m deep and filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay (6728) containing Iron Age pottery. To the north, in the centre of the trench, was an extensive area of disturbed geology (6743) reminiscent of animal trampling. It extended across *c* 12m of the trench's length obscuring the edges of a number of features that were evidently present but indistinguishable from one another. Because of this ambiguity, the features were not sampled; it lay 0.40-0.50m thick over the upper horizon of the undisturbed geology.

Cutting the northern periphery of layer (6743) was a large feature [6744], probably a north-west to south-east aligned ditch but possibly, on the basis of the curvature of its lower profile, a large pit (Fig 8, Section 3). Its width was extrapolated to *c* 4.4m with a depth of *c* 1.45m Pottery recovered from its basal fill which comprised peat-like organic material suspended in a silty matrix (6749), dated to the 2nd-century AD. A sample taken from this deposit contained waterlogged seeds of various weed species (see Section 6.3, <6>). Roman pottery was also present in the loamy uppermost fill of the feature (6745).

In the north-eastern part of the trench were another cluster of features, which were again indicative of at least two phases of activity. The earlier group comprised a gully [6737] and pit [6741] both of which were cut by a curvilinear gully [6733/6735/6739]. Another pit [6750] was present in close vicinity but stratigraphically separated from these features. Gully [6733/6735/6739] arched across the northern end of the trench in an approximate north-east to south alignment. It was typically 1.25m wide, only 0.25m deep and filled with dark greyish brown silt and sand (6734/6736/6740). Two sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery were recovered from its fill. Its southern end was cut by a small pit [6731]. No dating evidence was retrieved from this but sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery were found in the fill (6751) of pit [6750]. Cutting both pit [6750] and gully [6737] was another pit [6752], which had been dug from relatively high up in the subsoil (6702) and was visible only in section against the trench edge (Plate 3). This feature was *c* 3.40m wide, 0.45m deep and was filled with dark bluish brown loam (6753) containing charcoal, burned clay and pottery dating to the Roman period.

Trench 68

Trench 68 was aligned north-west to south-east towards the south-eastern corner of the field (Figs 2 and 4). Archaeological features cut the clay, sand and gravel geology (6803) at its south-eastern end. They were overlain by *c* 0.40m of subsoil (6802) and 0.45m of topsoil (6801).

Two intercutting pits were present (Plate 4); the earliest [6806] appeared to be an irregular lozenge shape (part lay outside the trench) measuring at least 3.90m long, 2.10m wide and up to 0.40m deep. It was filled with mid-orange brown sand and silt containing domestic waste. The southern end of the pit was cut by [6804], only partially visible in the end of the trench, and with a depth of 0.12m. It was filled with mid-greyish brown sand and silt (6805) containing pottery, shell, bone and an undiagnostic flint flake. A total of 543 sherds of pottery were retrieved from these features, accounting for over one third of the site's total Roman assemblage. Five sherds of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated beaker from (6806) suggest a later 2nd or 3rd-century date.

To the immediate north of the two pits, and seemingly in association with them, were two postholes [6808] and [6810] with diameters of 0.35m and a single stakehole [6812] with a diameter of 0.7m.

Trench 69

Trench 69, located to the north-east of Trench 68, was aligned north-south. The geology (6903) lay 0.60-0.75m below the surface and was overlain by 0.25-0.40m of subsoil (6902) and 0.33-0.42m of topsoil (6901). A pair of gullies [6904] and [6906] were aligned north-west to south-east in the southern end of the trench. Separated by a narrow spit of geology and with near identical profiles their dimensions were *c* 1.20m wide and 0.25m deep. The fills (6905) and (6907) were also very similar being an orange brown sandy loam; (6907) contained pottery dating to the late 2nd century AD.

Approximately 25m to the north was a shallow feature [6908] only part of which was visible within the trench. Its profile suggests that it was a circular pit with a diameter of 1.10m and a depth of only 0.05m. Post-medieval pottery sherds were found in its dark greyish brown silty loam fill (6909).

Trench 70

Trench 70 was aligned north-west to south east in the southern central part of the field (Fig 2). The geology (7003) was a silty clay overlain by up to 0.50m of subsoil (7002) and a similar thickness of topsoil (7001). In the north-west end of the trench was an indistinct curving gully-like feature [7004] filled with a reddish brown silty clay (7005) that was similar to the subsoil (not illustrated). The feature may have been a natural formation or perhaps a root throw. Sherds of pottery and a rounded pebble with one flat, smooth face, perhaps a rubbing stone, were found unstratified in close vicinity.

Trench 74

Trench 74 was located to the north-east of Trench 69 and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 2 and 4). The geology (7403) comprised sand and gravel overlain by *c* 0.30m of subsoil (7402) and *c* 0.35m of topsoil (7401). A *c* 35m-length of gully [7404/7406] was revealed with an alignment for the most part mirroring that of the trench but turning to the east at either end. It was filled with orange brown silty clay (7405/7407) containing early Roman pottery.

At the south-eastern end of the trench was a ditch [7408], aligned north-east to south-west and measuring 1.45m deep and in excess of 2.40m wide (Fig 8, Section 4; its full profile could not be ascertained). Evidently a boundary/enclosure ditch of substantial size, its primary fill was an alluvial light grey silty clay (7411) containing sherds of pottery dating from the late 2nd century AD. A soil sample taken from this fill indicated that the feature was probably semi-filled with water. As well as aquatic species, it also contained cereals, elderberry and bramble pips (see Section 6.3, <2>). Overlying this fill was a darker clay (7410), again sampled for environmental evidence but containing only charcoal. The ditch's uppermost fill was a greyish brown clay loam (7409) also contained 2nd-century pottery, animal bone and a copper alloy bracelet of a style commonly encountered in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD and part of a shale ring.

Trench 76

Trench 76 (45m x 2.2m) was aligned north-west to south-east towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 4). The geology, a silty clay with patches of chalk (7603), was overlain by 0.35-0.45m of subsoil (7602) and *c* 0.30m of topsoil (7601). A shallow, 0.85m-wide gully [7604] was aligned north-south at the south-east end of the trench. It was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam (7605). No finds were recovered.

Trench 78

Trench 78 was aligned north-south towards the eastern boundary of the field (Fig 2 and 4). The geology was sand and gravel (7803) overlain by up to 0.70m of subsoil (7802) and 0.25-0.45m of topsoil (7801). A short distance south of centre was a 2.30m-wide linear feature [7804] which, on the basis of its very compact, homogeneous silty fill (7805), was interpreted as a geological/hydrological feature. No other features were present.

Trench 81

Trench 81 was aligned roughly east-west towards the north-east corner of the field (Figs 2 and 4). The geology was a silty clay (8103) overlain by up to 0.80m of subsoil (8102) and up to 0.40m of topsoil (8101). A 1.30m-wide, 0.80m deep ditch [8104] was aligned north-south at the eastern end of the trench (Plate 5). Its primary fill was a charcoal rich silt (8105) containing animal bone but no pottery. A soil sample was taken producing only charcoal and burned residue (see Section 6.3, <1>). The secondary fill of the ditch, (8106), was a greyish brown silty loam. Ditch [8104] continued to the north-east and was sampled again in Trench 82.

Trench 82

Trench 82 was aligned roughly east-west in the north-east corner of the field (Figs 2 and 5). The geology was an orange brown silty clay with patches of chalk (8203) overlain by 0.10-0.20m of subsoil (8202) and *c* 0.40m of topsoil. At the western end of the trench was a 1.2m-wide ditch [8204], the continuation of ditch [8104]. Due to rapidly rising ground water, the feature was not fully excavated; no dating evidence was recovered from its upper fills (8206) and (8207). A short distance to the east a small north-east to south-west aligned gully [8208] was present. Its light greyish brown fill (8209) was almost indistinguishable from the subsoil suggesting that the feature may be an agricultural furrow; however, it did contain pottery dating to the 2nd century AD.

4.4 Chivers land (Trenches 87-136)

Forty-nine trenches were located to the north of the NIAB site in arable fields belonging to the Chivers family. The geology comprised of orange brown silty clay interspersed with deposits of sand and gravel. The subsoil, a light to mid greyish brown silty clay, was typically 0.20m thick and overlain by deposits of dark greyish-brown silty clay loam topsoil lying up to 0.35m thick. A number of field drains crossed the area. All trenches measured 50m x 2.2m unless otherwise stated.

Twenty-four trenches revealed archaeological features. The most significant concentration was located in the centre of the southern field (Trenches 90-92, 99-105, 112-114) where the remains of a mid-late Iron Age/Roman settlement were discovered. A number of ditches and gullies appeared to radiate from this nucleus but petered out towards the northern boundary of the field. To the north of this boundary only a few isolated features were present. Evidence for post-medieval gravel extraction was found in the far north of the proposed development area (Trench 134).

During this stage of the evaluation heavy rainfall resulted in a highwater table which saw rapidly rising groundwater flood a number of the trenches. The situation was exacerbated by broken field drains channelling water into the excavated areas. Despite the use of a submersible pump, a number of the deeper archaeological features had to be abandoned without full excavation once their form, character and probable date had been established.

Trench 87

Trench 87 was aligned north-east to south-west in the south-east corner of the Chivers land (Fig 2). The geology was a orange to greyish brown silty clay (8703) overlain by an uneven layer of subsoil measuring up to 0.15m thick and *c* 0.30m of topsoil. Two pit-like features were observed during the excavation of the trench; however, it was subsequently flooded before excavation could take place (and are therefore not illustrated). Attempts to pump out the floodwater proved futile and it was abandoned.

Trench 90

Trench 90 was aligned north-west to south-east close to the south-east corner of the field (Figs 2 and 5). The silty clay geology (9003) was overlain by *c* 0.30m of subsoil (9002) and a similar thickness of topsoil (9001). Cutting the geology towards the north-west end of the trench was a ditch [9004] aligned north-west to south-east. At its southern end it intersected with a second, east-west aligned ditch [9008] with a width of 1.40m. These features appeared to be contemporary; the uppermost fill of both was yellow brown silty clay (9005), (9009) containing 2nd-century AD pottery. Full excavation was prevented by rapidly rising ground water. Ditch [9004] was cut by a narrow, shallow gully [9006] filled with mid-brown silt (9007).

To the south-east was another gully [9010] aligned south-west to north-east. It was 1.20m side, *c* 0.30m deep and filled with charcoal-flecked silty clay (9011) containing undiagnostic Roman pottery and animal bone.

Trench 91

Trench 91 was aligned north-east to south-west towards the eastern boundary of the field (Figs 2 and 5). Towards its centre and only partially exposed by the trench were two intercutting pits [9104] and [9108]. The earlier, [9104], was 1.50m wide, 0.50m deep and filled with mid-grey silty loam (9105) containing animal bone and undiagnostic Iron Age pottery. It was cut by a slightly smaller pit [9108] which was filled with mid-grey brown sandy loam (9109). Another pit [9106] lay adjacent to these. It had a diameter of 1.40m and was 0.40m deep. Mid-grey sand (9107) containing animal bone and Iron Age pottery was the only fill.

At the south-east end of the trench and aligned north-east to south-west was a *c* 2m-wide ditch [9110]. It was filled with silty clay (9111), similar in character to the subsoil and undated. A plough furrow cut across the ditch.

Trench 92

Trench 92 was aligned east to west towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 5). The geology was a silty clay with patches of sand and gravel (9203) overlain by *c* 0.20m of subsoil (9202) and *c* 0.30m of topsoil (9201). A line of four of stakeholes [9606], [9608], [9610] and [9612] cut the geology in the eastern part of the trench. They measured up to 0.06m in diameter and 0.09m deep and each was filled with a dark grey clay loam (9607), (9609), (9611) and (9613). In the centre of the trench was a large feature [9214], either a pit or ditch, measuring *c* 4.5m across and at least 1m deep. Its upper fill was a light yellowish grey silty clay (9215) containing animal bone and a single sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery. Full excavation was prevented by rapidly rising ground water. Similar features were observed in Trenches 101 and 114 (see below).

Trench 99

Trench 99 was aligned north to south in the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 5). The geology was a silty clay with patches of gravel and chalk (9903). This was overlain by *c* 0.20m of subsoil (9902) and *c* 0.40m of topsoil (9901). A cluster of three stakeholes

[9904], [9906] and [9908] cut the geology towards the southern end of the trench. Their diameters were 0.07m, 0.08m and 0.11m respectively and their depths were 0.05m, 0.07m and 0.09m. They were filled with dark grey/blue brown silty clay (9905), (9907) and (9908). No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 100

Trench 100 was aligned north to south to the east of Trench 99 (Figs 2 and 5). The geology was silty clay with patches of gravel (10003) overlain by *c* 0.20m of subsoil and *c* 0.25m topsoil. In the northern part of the trench were two pits [10004] and [10006]. The former had a diameter of 1.45m, a depth of 0.27m and was filled with a mid-greyish brown silt (10005) containing animal bone, 2nd century-AD pottery and a single undiagnostic flint flake. Slightly to the north, pit [10006] had an estimated diameter of 0.90m and a depth of 0.40m. It was filled with charcoal-flecked mid-brown sand (10007). In close vicinity to this feature was a posthole [10008] with a diameter of 0.20m and a depth of 0.08m. Its fill (10009) was similar to that of the pit; neither contained finds.

Towards the centre of the trench was north-west to south-east aligned gully [10010]. It had a width of 0.90m, a depth of 0.28m and was filled with a mid-orange brown sandy clay (10011). Animal bone and pottery dating to the 3rd century AD was present.

Trench 101

Trench 101 was aligned north-east to south-west towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 5). The geology was silty clay, sand and gravel (10103). This was overlain by *c* 0.20m of subsoil (10102) and *c* 0.30m of topsoil (10101). A feature with a curving edge [10110], either a ditch or pit, was partially visible in the south-east corner of the trench. It was 0.30m deep and filled with light greyish brown clay loam (10111) containing animal bone, including a small horse skull, and pottery dating to the late 2nd century AD. Adjacent to this feature and conforming to a north-east to south-west alignment was gully [10112]. It was 0.56m wide, 0.12m deep and filled with light grey clay loam (10113). A narrow linear feature [10114] cutting across its eastern edge was probably a plough furrow; its fill (10115) contained 19th-century glass.

A short distance to the north were two east to west aligned ditches [10104] and [10107]. The former was 1.05m wide, 0.94m deep and had a primary fill comprising light greyish brown clay loam (10105) containing 2nd-century AD pottery. This was overlain by light grey clay loam containing pottery of the same date. Ditch [10107] was larger, measuring 3.1m wide and 0.76m deep. Its primary fill was a light greyish brown silt (10109) containing a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and overlain by a mid-greyish brown sandy clay (10108).

Towards the north-eastern end of the trench was a 6m-wide feature [10116], probably a ditch but perhaps a very large pit. Rapidly rising groundwater prevented full excavation, however, its uppermost fill (10117) was found to contain animal bone and undiagnostic pottery. Similar features were investigated in Trench 92 (see above) and Trench 114 (see below).

Trench 102

Trench 102 was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east in the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 5). The geology was chalk mottled sand and gravel (10203) overlain by *c* 0.15m of subsoil (10202) and 0.20-0.30m of topsoil (10201). At the western end of the trench were two intercutting pits [10213] and [10217]. The earlier, [10217], was only partially exposed by the trench; it had a depth of 0.42m and was filled with mid-greyish brown

silty loam (10218). Animal bone and sherds of Iron Age pottery were present in this deposit. Pit [10213] cut the eastern side of the pit and measured *c* 2m long by 0.80m wide. It was *c* 0.40m deep and was filled with dark brown silty loam (10214), again containing animal bone and Iron Age pottery.

To the west of these were two parallel ditches [10221], [10224] aligned roughly north to south (Fig 8, Section 5). Ditch [10221] was 2.25m wide, 0.80m deep and had a mid-grey silt lying in its base. This was overlain by a mid-greyish brown sandy clay loam (10223) and a dark brown silty loam (10222). Animal bone and Iron Age pottery were present in both of these fills and a soil sample taken from (10222) produced a small quantity of charred cereal grains and weed seeds (see Section 6.3, <8>). Whereas ditch [10221] was cut from the geology, ditch [10224] was cut from slightly higher up in the subsoil. It was 1.60m wide, 0.34m deep and filled with mid-grey silty clay (10225). No finds were present. A similar ditch was present in Trench 104 (see below).

Towards the centre of the trench another pair of linear features [10215] and [10216] were aligned north-west to south-east, their upper profiles truncated by a later re-cut [10208] (Fig 8, Section 6). The primary fill of gully [10215] was a mid-grey silty clay (10211) containing a large quantity of late 2nd-century AD pottery including three bases stacked together. It was overlain by a dark greyish brown silty clay loam (10210) also containing late 2nd-century pottery and bone. Only the 'V'-shaped base of gully [10216] remained; it was filled with a charcoal-flecked dark greyish brown silty loam (10212). Animal bone and late 2nd-century pottery were present. These two gullies were effectively re-cut by ditch [10208] which measured 1.80m wide and *c* 0.40m deep. It was filled with mid-greyish brown clay loam (10209) with bone and late 2nd-3rd-century pottery. On the south-eastern edge of this ditch was a posthole [10227] flanked by a pair of stakeholes [10229] and 10231].

At the south-eastern end of the trench was a trapezoid-shaped spread of dark grey, organic and mineral material (10220) filled what was assumed to be a shallow 2.40m-wide depression [10219] with straight edges (Plate 6). Cleaning the surface of this deposit produced animal bone and a near complete bone needle (SF10). Hints of possible beam slots present either side of the spread lead to the conclusion that the deposit may have been occupation debris lying *in situ*. It was clear that what lay within the trench was only part of a larger feature; because of this it was left unexcavated to preserve its integrity.

Trench 103

Trench 103 was aligned east to west towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 5). The geology, silty clay with patches of sand and gravel (10303) was overlain by *c* 0.20m of subsoil (10302) and *c* 0.35m of topsoil (10301). A 0.60m-wide gully [10304] was aligned north-west to south-east in the southern end of the trench. It was 0.28m deep and filled with mid-grey sandy loam (10305) that contained animal bone. To the west was a kidney-shaped pit [10306] measuring 2.10m on its long axis by 0.70m. It was 0.34m deep and filled with yellowish brown clay (10307).

Trench 104

Trench 104 was aligned north-east to south-west towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was silty clay with patchy sand and gravel (10403) overlain by *c* 0.20m subsoil and *c* 0.30m of topsoil. A 1.60m-wide curvilinear ditch [10404] was revealed in the southern half of the trench. It was *c* 0.50m deep and filled with light orange brown gravel (10406) overlain by light orange brown silty clay (10405) containing sherds of Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

To the south was a posthole [10407] with a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of *c* 0.15m. It was filled with a greyish brown silty loam (10408).

Trench 105

Trench 105 was aligned roughly east to west towards the western boundary of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was a silty clay with patches of gravel (10503) overlain by *c* 0.15m of subsoil (10502) and 0.25m of topsoil (10501). At the western end of the trench was a 0.70m-wide curvilinear gully [10504] filled with mid-greyish brown silty loam (10505).

Trench 107

Trench 107 was aligned roughly east to west towards the south-western corner of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was silty clay with patches of sand and gravel (10703) overlain by 0.15-0.30m of subsoil (10702) and 0.35m of topsoil (10701). Near to the centre of the trench was a small pit or posthole [10704] with a diameter of 0.55m and a depth of 0.15m. It was filled with mid-greyish brown silty loam (10705).

Trench 110

Trench 110 was aligned north-east to south-west near to the eastern boundary of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was silty clay with patches of sand and gravel (11003) overlain by *c* 0.20m of subsoil (11002) and 0.30-0.40m of topsoil. Three evenly spaced, furrow-like ditches were revealed [11004], [11007], [11010] crossing the trench on an approximate east to west alignment. They were sealed by the subsoil and measured up to 2.20m wide and 0.45m deep. Each had silty clay primary fill (11006), (11009) and (11012) overlain by clay loam secondary fills (11005), (11008), (11011). Post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone were recovered from both primary and secondary fills.

Trench 112

Trench 112 was aligned north-east to south-west in the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was a light brown silty clay (11203) overlain by up to 0.50m of subsoil (11202) and 0.30m of topsoil (11201). Towards the centre of the trench were two pits [11204] and [11207]; or perhaps a pit and a gully terminus as the latter was only partially exposed by the trench. Pit [11204] was kidney-shaped, *c* 1.80m long and 0.70m wide with a depth of 0.35m. It was filled with mid-brown silty clay loam (11206) overlain by a darker variant (11205). Neither fill contained finds. Pit/gully [11207] was 0.85m wide, 0.40m deep and filled with mid-grey silty clay (11208).

Trench 113

Trench 113 was aligned east to west towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was a light brown silty clay (11303) overlain by 0.20-0.30m of subsoil (11302) and 0.25-0.35m of topsoil (11301). Approximately 13m from its eastern end was a north-east to south-west aligned gully [11304]. It measured 0.42m wide, 0.23m deep and was filled with a light orange brown silt (11305). Partially revealed at the opposite end of the trench was a irregularly-shaped pit [11306] measuring 2.10m wide and *c* 0.30m deep. None of its three fills (11307), (11308), (11309) contained dating evidence; however, fill (11308) was flecked with charcoal and fragments of bone. A soil sample from this context produced only charcoal (see Section 6.3, <10>).

Trench 114

Trench 114 was aligned north-east to south-west towards the western boundary of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was silty clay and gravel (11403) overlain by up to

0.30m of subsoil (11402) and 0.40m of topsoil (11401). A large number of archaeological features were present.

Towards the south-western end of the trench was a 1.20m-wide, north-west to south-east aligned gully [11404]. It was 0.50m deep and filled with a yellow brown silty clay (11405). A short distance to the north was a series of intercutting features. Small pit or posthole [11431] was cut by a north-west to south-east aligned ditch [11420] that was filled with light yellow grey clay (11421). This was recut on its north-eastern side by another, similarly-aligned ditch [11418] which measured 1.80m wide and 0.60m deep (Fig 8, Section 7). It was filled with mid-grey clay loam (11419) overlain by dark grey loam (11433); both contained animal bone and the former contained late 2nd-century AD pottery.

Less than a metre to the north-east a machine-cut section was excavated through a very large pit [11422], or perhaps the terminus of a substantial ditch (Plate 7). It was at least 6m wide, 2m deep and its primary fill was mid-greyish brown silty clay (11443). This was overlain by a thin layer of re-deposited natural gravel, mid-grey silty clay (11424) and dark greyish brown silty clay loam (11423). The latter, representing the final in-filling of the feature, contained a large quantity of animal bone, a shard of vessel glass and late 2nd-3rd-century pottery. Similar large features were partially excavated in Trenches 101 and 92 could be associated with this, perhaps forming a linear boundary ditch or alignment of large pits.

To the north-east were a complicated series of smaller inter-cutting pits [11412], [11414], 11416], [11434], [11436], [11438], [11440]. They varied in size from 0.70m to 7.40m wide and 0.15 to 0.80m deep. The earliest was pit [11416] which was filled with light orange grey silty clay (11417) containing late 2nd-century pottery and a residual undiagnostic flint flake. The latest was pit [11414] was filled with undated dark grey brown silty loam (11415).

Again to the north-east was another cluster of inter-cutting pits [11408], [11425] and [11428]. The former was the largest, measuring 2.60mx2.50mx0.85m deep. Its primary fill was dark grey clay (11411) containing fragments of charcoal, animal bone, oyster shell and late 2nd-century pottery. This was overlain by mid-grey silty clay (11410) and another fill (11409) very similar to the basal fill and containing more 2nd-century pottery together with a number of iron nails, a possible iron gouge (SF18) and an iron wedge (SF20). In close vicinity to this pit group was the terminus of an east-west aligned gully [11406] which measured 0.85m wide and *c* 0.30m deep. There were no finds in its silty clay fill (11407).

Trench 115

Trench 115 was aligned north-west to south-east to the north of Trench 114 (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was silty clay (11503) overlain by up to 0.40m of subsoil (11502) and *c* 0.30m of topsoil (11501). Towards the centre of the trench were four furrow-like gullies [11504], [11506], [11508] and [11510]. The largest was [11504] which was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.10m wide and 0.24m deep. It was filled with orange brown silty clay (11505) containing a single sherd of 2nd-century AD pottery. The other gullies were grouped to the north and followed a similar alignment except for [11508] which curved to the south and was cut by [11510]. The latter was cut through the subsoil and is, therefore, probably of a much later date.

Trench 116

Trench 116 was aligned north-west to south-east in the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 6). The geology was silty clay (11603) overlain by 0.20-0.30m of subsoil (11602) and *c*

0.30m of topsoil (11601). Cutting the geology at the south-eastern end of the trench was an east-west aligned ditch [11604] (Plate 8). It was 2.40m wide, 0.65m deep and had a primary fill consisting of yellow brown sandy clay (11606). Sherds from a Westerwald stoneware flask date this deposit to the 18th century; there was also a sherd of 18th/19th-century bottle glass. The ditch appears to have been re-cut and a deposit of burned residue (11605) comprising sand, charcoal and glass and fragments of an iron scythe tipped in. This was overlain by yellow brown sandy clay (11607).

Trench 117

Trench 117 was aligned east to west in the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 7). The geology was silty clay and gravel (11703) overlain by up to 0.40m of subsoil (11702) and 0.20-0.30m of topsoil (11701). Towards the western end of the trench were two north-south aligned gullies [11704] and [11708] measuring 1.20m and 0.70m wide respectively. In the centre of the trench was a similarly-aligned ditch [11710] measuring 2.20m wide and 0.55m deep. Towards the east end of the trench was another gully [11706]. None of these features produced finds.

Trench 118

Trench 118 was aligned north-west to south-east towards the centre of the field (Figs 2 and 7). The geology was silty clay and gravel (11803) overlain by up to 0.30m of subsoil (11802) and 0.40m of topsoil (11801). At either end of the trench were furrow-like ditches [11804] and [11808] aligned north-west to south-east. Both were filled with grey brown silty clay (11805) and (11809); neither contained finds. Towards the centre of the trench was a 0.80m-wide north-west to south-east aligned gully [11806]. Its fill (11807) did not contain finds.

Trench 119

Trench 119 was aligned east to west towards the eastern side of the field (Figs 2 and 7). The geology was a mixture of sand and gravel and silty clay (11913). The southern edge of a linear feature [11908] was revealed at the extreme eastern end of the trench. It was cut through the subsoil, measured at least 1.4m wide and 0.70m deep and was filled with orange grey sandy clay (11909). Towards the centre of the trench were two parallel north-south gullies [11904] and [11906] cut through the subsoil and filled with subsoil-like deposits (11905) and (11907).

Trench 120

Trench 120 was aligned north to south near to the eastern boundary of the field (Figs 2 and 7). The geology was silty clay and gravel (12003) overlain by 0.10m of subsoil (12002) and 0.30-0.40m of topsoil (12001). Towards the centre of the trench was a single stakehole [12004] with a diameter of 0.10m and a depth of 0.07m. It was filled with a grey/orange clay (12005).

Trench 123

Trench 123 was aligned north to south in the centre of the field (Fig 2). The geology was silty clay (12303) overlain by 0.10-1.30m of subsoil (12302) and 0.30m of topsoil (12301). During machining a small posthole was observed towards the northern end of the trench. Rapidly rising ground water flooded the trench before this feature could be investigated (and therefore it is not illustrated).

Trench 129

Trench 129 was aligned north-east to south-west in the south-western corner of the northern field (Figs 2 and 7). The geology was silty clay and gravel (12903) overlain by

0.20m of subsoil and up to 0.35m of topsoil. At the south-western end of the trench was an undated pit or gully terminus [12904] measuring 1.60m wide and 0.50m deep. It was filled with orange brown clay and gravel (12906) overlain by mid-grey silty clay (12905). Towards the centre of the trench was a 4-5m-wide trench carrying a foul sewer and north-east of this a north-east to south-west aligned gully [12907]. It was 0.55m wide, 0.20m deep and filled with mid-grey brown silty clay loam (12908). A similar curvilinear gully was present to the north [12909]. Neither contained dating evidence.

Trench 130

Trench 130 was aligned north-west to south-east to the north of Trench 129 (Figs 2 and 7). The geology was silty clay with patches of sand and gravel (13003) overlain by up to 0.40m of subsoil (13002) and 0.35m of topsoil (13001). Towards the north-western end of the trench a 1m-wide east to west gully [13004] cut the subsoil. Another very shallow gully may have been present *c* 6m to the north.

Trench 134

Trench 134 was aligned east to west in the extreme north of the site Fig 2 and 7). The geology was an orange brown/off white silty clay with gravel (13403) overlain by 0.30m of subsoil (13402) and 0.20m of topsoil (13401). A series of pits and sinuous gullies present in the eastern half of the trench were investigated ([13404] and [13406]) and found to be post-medieval in date. They are probably the result of sand/gravel extraction.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Prehistoric and Roman pottery by Jane Timby

Introduction

The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of a fairly modest assemblage of 1618 sherds of pottery, weighing 22.9 kg, dating to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Pottery was recovered from just 21 of the 136 trenches excavated, a total of 81 separate contexts. The assemblage was mainly recovered from pits, ditches and gullies.

The largest concentration of material came from trench 68 which produced 25% of the total assemblage recovered. Other moderately large groups came from trenches 66, 67, 102 and 114 collectively accounting for a further 50%. The remaining 25% was spread across the remaining 16 trenches.

The material is of variable condition with some larger well-preserved sherds and other more fragmented pieces. In a few cases contexts contained joining sherds but there did not appear to be any complete pots or reconstructible profiles. The overall average sherd weight is 14 g, which is quite good for a rural assemblage of mixed prehistoric and Roman date.

For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1 (in archive). No extensive comparative or library research has been carried out in conjunction with this work.

Late Bronze Age or earlier

Five very small coarse calcined flint-tempered sherds were present from pits 2004 and 3904. This material is of a different character to the rest of the assemblage suggesting an

earlier date. Flint-tempered wares are typical of the Bronze Age in this area but the material is too fragmentary to be sure of its date. One rim from pit 3904 has incisions on the upper rim surface. It is perhaps significant that both these trenches are away from the main concentration of later finds.

Iron Age

Some 152 sherds, 9.4% of the assemblage comprises handmade wares typical of the Iron Age period. There are a variety of fabrics present. Most of the wares have a predominantly sandy fabric although sherds tempered with flint, organic matter, grog, limestone and fossil shell in varying grades and frequencies are also present.

Most of the assemblage is plain but there are a few sherds with criss-cross or vertical scoring. There are very few featured sherds present, the only clear recognisable form being shouldered necked jars.

It is difficult to determine the chronology of such a small diverse group and only 13 features produced this material. Seventy-eight per cent of the assemblage came from just four features. Ditch 10221 produced 43 sherds with calcareous, sandy, organic and grog-tempered pieces. Featured sherds include two shouldered jars and the sherds with criss-cross scoring. The ditch also produced 40 amorphous fragments of fired clay. The group is fairly typical of the middle Iron Age period but could also be later as the traditions of scoring and similar forms continue into the 1st century BC. Ditch 10404 produced a small assemblage of 21 sherds, all sandy or organic-tempered. One of the latter had a horizontal finger groove and a burnished finish. It is probably broadly contemporary with ditch 10221. Pit 9104 produced 15 sherds of fine flint-tempered and sandy ware bodysherds. Flint-tempered wares are generally regarded as earlier Iron Age in this region. Forty sherds were recovered from ditch 6706 with a diverse mix of sandy, shelly, sandy with organic, grog and limestone-tempered wares. Featured sherds include simple everted rim necked jars/bowls and storage jar and provisionally this group could be seen as very later Iron Age or even early Roman. Ditch 6727 produced eight sherds, one of which was flint-tempered. Pit 6789 produced a single shelly ware sherd with vertical scoring.

In conclusion there are appears to be two foci for the Iron Age material, one towards the north of the investigated area based around trenches102, 104 and 91; the other around trench 67 on the south east side. The northern group provisionally appears to be the earlier and likely to be of middle Iron Age date whilst the latter is later Iron Age/early Roman.

Roman

Most of the assemblage, some 1453 sherds, 90%, dates to the Roman period with an emphasis on material of 2nd and 3rd-century currency. The assemblage is very much dominated by local sandy grey and brown wares with few recognisable traded wares. Unfortunately this made dating quite difficult for the several contexts with less than five sherds.

Imports include 29 sherds of Central Gaulish samian, four sherds of Baetican olive oil amphorae from southern Spain and a single sherd of roughcast beaker from Argonne. The samian includes at least five cups Dr 33 including two semi-complete stamped examples from gully 6906 (stamps BVCI (Buccus) and SATTOF (?Satto). Both are probably late Hadrianic-early Antonine potters. Other forms include cups Curle 23, Dr 27, bowls Curle 21 and Dr 31, and dishes Dr 36.

Regional imports include several products from the Lower Nene Valley kilns, colour-coats, greywares, whitewares and mortaria; two sherds of Verulamium-type whiteware, one a mortarium and some possible Hadham ware. The latter includes two sherds from an extremely worn facemask probably from a flagon with no discernible features left (ditch 7408).

Of note amongst the local wares were several sherds of handmade sandy storage jar, some sherds with distinct finger depressions on the interior surface. One grey ware jar base had a three intersecting line star incised on the underside before firing (10215).

Two particularly large groups of material came from pit 6806 with 188 sherds and pit 6804 with 211 sherds and a further 144 sherds collectively from both. This accounts for over one third of the Roman assemblage. Five sherds of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated (LNV CC) beaker from 6806 suggest this has to be later 2nd or 3rd century in date. Both features contained several sherds of handmade storage jar and 6806 the only sherd of Argonne colour-coated ware from the site.

Other significant groups of material came from the possible proto-industrial feature 6608 with 72 quite well preserved sherds, ditch 10208 with 134 sherds and gully 10215 with 188 sherds. The latter two features contains several sherds of LNV CC with beakers and a copy of a barbotine decorated Dr 36 suggesting a probable 3rd-century date of abandonment. Feature 6608 had no Nene Valley wares but contained a Verulamium-type mortarium suggesting an early-mid 2nd -century date.

The Roman pottery was mainly concentrated in the same two areas as the later prehistoric sherds. The only outliers are single small sherds from gullies in trenches 5 and 17 and two sherds from a gully in trench 82.

Summary and recommendations

This is a diverse range of material, which indicates sporadic occupation in the locality possibly from the late Bronze Age but more conclusively from the middle-late Iron Age. Occupation continues into the early-mid Roman period but there is little evidence of later 3rd-4th century activity suggesting abandonment sometime on the 3rd century.

The Roman assemblage is very modest with a low level of imported material and few fine or specialist wares. The level of samian at around 2% (count) is typical of that to be expected from a rural site.

Further work in the area will undoubtedly clarify understanding of this assemblage and refine the chronology. At such time it would be useful to include the evaluation assemblage.

5.2 **Medieval and post-medieval pottery** by Ian Soden and Jane Timby

Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were presented for identification as follows:

Tr10 (1004) Two non-diagnostic sherds of unglazed red earthenware, slightly abraded. 16th-18th century.

Tr116 (11606) Two joining body sherds of cobalt- and salt-glazed imported Westerwald stoneware from a large flask (18th century). One non-diagnostic sherd from a yellow slip-glazed pancheon of red earthenware (18th-19th century).

Tr134 (13405) One non-diagnostic sherd of White salt-glazed stoneware (18th century).

In addition a single sherd, probably from a medieval cooking pot, was recovered from (1505). Seven post-medieval pieces were noted, two from pit fill (6908), two from gully fill (10113), one from ditch fill (11011), one intrusive piece amongst the material from Roman pits [6804/06] and one unstratified piece.

None of the material has any intrinsic value but is useful for providing clear post-medieval dating for the contexts from which they derive.

5.3 **Ceramic building material** by Pat Chapman and Jane Timby

Tile

There are three sherds of Roman tile, weighing 718g. A sherd from the end of a curved imbrex roof tile, from the primary fill (10111) of ditch/pit [10110], was made from a fine hard orange clay. Two sherds, possibly from the same tile, from primary fill (11410) and secondary fill (11411) of pit [11408], are 28mm thick and could be either from a tegula roof tile or a floor tile, and are made from a buff slightly soft coarse sandy fabric with frequent fine quartz and a pale orange brown surface.

A small sherd, 10mm thick and weighing 18g, from primary fill of ditch [8104] may have come from a medieval/post-medieval roof tile.

Fired clay

There was a dump of fired clay in fill (6607) of proto-industrial feature [6606/6608] of 130 fragments weighing 2706g. They comprised about 30 large lumps measuring *c* 70 x 50 x 30, with one or two slightly larger, and the remaining small pieces typically 40 x 25 x 15mm or smaller. The fabric is friable, sandy, with fairly frequent inclusions of grit up to 10m long, and orange in colour. The fired clay has not been washed due to the friable nature of the fabric possibly disintegrating and the danger of plaster or any structural details disappearing.

The majority of the pieces are amorphous worn lumps, but a few have some structural details. One piece, 100mm long, *c* 35mm wide and 25mm thick has two adjacent impressions, semicircles 32mm in diameter, possibly from close-set stakes, and two other pieces have less defined impressions. Another four pieces have parallel ridges and grooves, each being 10mm wide, one with plaster or limewash still adhering to the clay. There are a few fragments of fired clay with limewash/plaster still on the surface, and a few small individual fragments of plaster. These fragments of fired clay are the remnants from a structure.

There are also two small irregular reddish brown lumps of friable clay from fill (9105) pit [9104] with frequent flint up to 12mm, and two tiny fragments from fill (10222) of ditch [10221].

5.4 **Other finds** by Ian Meadows

Copper alloy finds

SF3 [6717] A plain copper alloy ring, 28mm external diameter, with a round to oval 2mm section. The bezel comprises a thickening of roughly square cross section. This part is 5mm across and roughly 5mm thick and appears to form an abstract snakes or bird head. The upper surface is defined at either end by a pair of incised lines and a large X occupies the middle, the side elevation of this thicker part has a sub rectangular hole, it

was unclear if this ran right through. This piece is unlike the typical Roman snake rings that have two opposed heads but its depiction of ouroboros is well known from mythology.

SF22 (7409) A fragment of a copper alloy strip bracelet that had been bent to perhaps form a bangle for a child. The piece had a flat length of about 90mm and at one end the 2mm hole was present for the rivet that would originally have joined the two ends together. The surface of the narrow 4mm wide strip was decorated with a series of diagonal incised single lines which divided the surface up into triangles with a 15mm long base, each triangle contained a centrally position ring and dot motif either side of which on the edge a small notch was present. Bracelets of this type are most commonly encountered in the 3rd and 4th centuries, and whilst the precise combination of decorative motifs cannot be readily paralleled it is of a type seen both at the Lankhills Winchester cemetery (Clarke 1979, 301-13) and the Butt Road cemetery Colchester (Crummy 1983, 37-42).

Bone finds

SF10 (10220) A bone needle 110mm long, the surface of which has largely become weathered and pitted. This example is a Crummy type 2 with a flat spatulate head pierced by a 6mm long and 2mm wide rectangular hole. Below the thread hole the flat head gives way to a round section 3mm across which tapers to the broken tip. As a type this form of needle is common throughout the Roman period but it is more common from the 2nd century onwards. (Crummy 1983 65-6, no 1982).

Shale objects

SF2 (7409) About half of a probable shale ring 48mm external diameter with an internal diameter of 19mm. The piece had a sub-square cross section 15mm thick and had presumably been at least partly finished on a lathe although the inner surface showed signs of tooling which had not been totally removed by the lathe. A similar ring was recovered from Maiden Castle (Wheeler 1943, 314-5 no 3) but no function was suggested.

Iron Objects

SF1 (6807) An iron lynch pin of a Manning type 2b (Manning 1985, 72). This form is characteristic of Roman Britain and is in fact the commonest type. This example measured 165mm long, had a tapered square section stem115mm long and a spatulate head with a turned over loop at the top of the head. This form of lynch pin is not closely datable within the Roman period.

SF6 (6805) Six fragments of iron nails ranging in length from 16-40mm. No examples were complete and no individual forms could be identified.

SF7 (6607) An iron nail 47mm long with a sub circular flattened struck head 16mm across, the stem is about 4mm across and sub square and the tip is missing. This nail is not closely dateable.

SF8 (6606) An iron fragment 40x15x10mm. It is unclear what this piece is derived from.

SF9 (6607) A highly corroded iron nail 40mm long too encrusted to identify further.

SF11 (10211) Two lengths of iron, one was 71mm long and was perhaps the shank of a square sectioned nail (missing its head). The other was 60mm long and also square sectioned, but at one end it was bent to form a small hook which was now broken. This piece may have been a small carpenters dog. Neither piece can be closely dated.

SF12 (10209) Two fragments, each about 30mm long, of iron nail stems. Both pieces were too corroded to identify the original cross section. Neither piece can be closely dated.

SF13 (10211) Two pieces of iron, one a length of strip 50mm long and 8mm wide was broken at each end, the other was 142mm long and survived as two joining pieces. This piece comprised a 95mm long tapering spike, tapering from about 7mm across to a point, at the wider end of this length the piece flattened out to have an elongated spatulate end 16mm across. It is unclear what the original form or function of this piece was but it is likely to be either structural or cart fitting. Sadly it is not itself dateable.

SF14 (10211) A fragment of an iron nail 40mm long with a struck head and which had been slightly bent back on itself. Not closely dateable.

SF16 (10106) Two iron nails, one complete 70mm long and the other near complete at 45mm long. The shorter example had a tapering square sectioned shaft. Not closely dateable.

SF17 (11409) A collection of eight iron nails. Four ranged in length from 32mm to 42mm the other four were reaching 72mm. The original form of the nails could not be determined and individually they are not closely dateable. One example was bent and had presumably been driven through a wooden structure 35mm thick before being bent back (clenched).

SF18 (11409) A possible iron gouge 133mm long. The round sectioned stem 9mm across flared in its last 25mm to produce a flat end 20mm across. A similar piece was found in the Waltham Abbey hoard (Manning 1985, B50), but as an artefact it cannot alone be closely dated.

SF19 (11409) An iron wedge 85mm long, 35mm wide and up to 25mm thick. The original form of this object is unclear but this piece is similar in many ways to an iron ploughshare (Rees 1979, fig 50) but most examples were less wedge shaped. It is perhaps more likely this item is either a wedge or part of a heavy edged tool like an axe.

SF20 (13405) About twelve fragments of different size of thin iron sheet, such as would form a binding or reinforcing strip, and a thicker piece of metal 150mm long and about 10mm across, which appears to either be fused (with corrosion products) to thin sheet or which formed a rim or reinforced edge to the thin metal. It is unclear what the original form of this artefact was.

SF21 (11605) Two joining fragments of the tip of a scythe blade. The combined length was 160mm and the blade was up to 30mm wide. There was only a slight suggestion of a thickening of the rear edge of the blade. Morphologically this is not a closely dateable artefact.

SF23 (10111) An iron concretion perhaps formed around the stem of a nail. The lump measured 40mm long and 18mm in diameter.

SF24 (1004) A fragment of iron sheet up to 25 x 13mm and 1mm thick and a 31mm long rectangular sectioned nail, missing its tip, similar to a flooring brad. The rectangular stem was 4 x 3mm and did not appear to taper to a point in the fragment present.

SF25 (2005) An iron ring 40mm external diameter. The item was formed from a round section rod the ends of which were flatted to form a 20mm overlapping lap joint. It is unclear what purpose this item had but the lap joint might suggest it was to allow the insertion of the ring onto another item.

SF26 (6909) A fragment of ferrous slag and a 60mm length of a strip of iron up to 17mm wide which might have been part of a knife blade but it was too fragmentary to be certain. These items came from a post medieval context.

SF27 (10209) A 20mm long iron tack. The item had a burred head where it had been struck and a sub square tapering stem, 7mm wide directly below the head tapering to a point.

SF28 (10210) A 53 x 37mm, and 3mm thick, square of iron of uncertain origin.

SF29 (11423) Two fragments of iron. One comprised a 78mm long bar of 6mm square section which turned at each end in the same direction. This piece might be a joiners dog missing its arms. The second piece was a sheet 60 x 30mm and up to 2mm thick of uncertain origin. Additionally a square sectioned nail 55mm long, missing its tip, with a flat irregular oval head was present along with two 30mm either points to nails or arms from joiners dogs and the bent 80mm long stem of a clenched nail.

Glass

(6605) One sherd of probably 19th-century green bottle glass.

(6718) One sherd of bluey glass from a mould blown square bottle. This fragment is from one of the basal corners and preserves part of the base and two sides, the sides are thinner than the base. Part of a raised ring is apparent on the edge of the base. Similar vessels are well known (Frere 1972, fig 75, 14 and 16) and they are most common between 70-120 AD but may have remained in use for longer. The use of these bottles as containers for the transport and storage of liquids, rather than as a table ware is well known (Charlesworth 1966, 26).

(1004) One sherd of 20th-century green bottle glass.

(10115) One sherd of thin 20th- or late 19th-century bottle glass.

(11423) One sherd of 3mm thick flat blue glass, possibly Roman window glass or, perhaps more likely, a fragment of the side of a square bottle. One surface is smooth and the other rough, this roughness is more characteristic of dragging or chaffing than the production process for window glass, but certain identification is not possible.

(11443) One sherd of glass from an onion bottle probably of 18th- or 19th-century date. The surface of the pieces are highly iridescent as they have decayed.

(11606) One sherd of highly iridescent glass probably derived from an 18th- or 19th-century bottle.

Discussion

This assemblage contained few recognisable pieces, the majority of finds being nails or nail fragments. The identifiable artefacts, for example the bracelet, lynch pin and blue glass bottle fragments, were typical of the Roman period but add little further to the dating. The occurrence of the Gouge, wedge and scythe blade fragment suggest agriculture with perhaps some supporting crafts, but otherwise they add little. The finger ring is unusual and could not be readily paralleled.

6 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 **Animal bone** by Philip Armitage

Introduction

Numbers of bone elements/fragments (NISP) and species represented

A total of 552 animal bone elements/fragments were analysed, which included 419 specimens that had been hand-collected during the excavation and 133 others recovered from the sieved bulk environmental samples. Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures, 171 specimens (31% of the total) were identified to taxa and part of anatomy; representing six mammalian species and a single bird. No fish, amphibian or reptile bones were recovered.

For the purpose of analysis and reporting, the collected bone samples from the various contexts/features were grouped according to the following locations in the ancient landscape:

Northern settlement

Southern settlement

Field system

Based on these landscape/context groupings, summary counts of the numbers of identified animal bones (NISP) for each taxa/species are presented in Tables 1 and 2, whilst Tables 3 to 6 provide information on their anatomical distributions. Table 7 records the metrical data collected from selected bone specimens (all in archive).

When inspecting the NISP data in the appended tables it should be noted that the exceptionally high levels of fragmentation throughout the site (as discussed below) presented problems when attempting to establish these values. For the purposes of quantification (deriving NISP values), fragments of shafts and/or epiphyses recognized as deriving from the same bone element were counted as a single "unit". A similar procedure was adopted in the cattle and horse skulls where loose upper cheek teeth could be matched with previously associated pieces of cranium/maxilla, as for example in the extremely fragmented specimen (skull of a pony-sized horse aged 12-13 yrs) from (10011) the primary fill of gully [10010]. Similarly "reconstructed" on paper for quantification purposes was a fragmented/part skull with cheek teeth of a horse (aged 10-11 yrs at time of death) from (6745) upper fill of ditch [6744].

Preservation and condition of the bones

Preservation

Overall, the preservation of the animal bone from the Huntingdon Road site was generally assessed as poor to fair – although certain deposits did yield relatively well-preserved bones, for example (7411) primary fill of ditch [7408], which included (among other bones) a virtually complete adult cattle innominate bone.

The conditions following deposition/burial of the majority of the bones appeared to have resulted in a tendency for many to become brittle and therefore greatly susceptible to fragmentation in situ (in antiquity) post deposition and/or more recently when excavated. In addition, many of the specimens examined - especially those from the northern settlement area - exhibited the effects of leaching, cortical erosion, and mineralization/staining (by iron compounds) - probably resulting either from periods of

exposure when first deposited in open ditches/gullies and/or from contact with groundwater during subsequent burial.

All of the above modifying factors account for the disproportionately high frequency of unidentified bone (69% of the total submitted for analysis), which included 129 extremely small/"scrappy" fragments from sieved samples. The generally poor preservation conditions may also account for the low frequencies of the bones from sheep/goats and pigs – resulting in the samples recovered during excavation being biased in favour of the larger-sized more robust bone elements of cattle (?). One context however appeared to have experienced suitably favourable conditions for the preservation of pig bones – (11011) secondary fill of ditch [11010] in the area outside of the northern settlement yielded articulated thoracic vertebrae and associated ribs together with a cervical vertebra and scapula, representing the partial skeletal remains of a sub adult pig (see Table 6, in archive).

Dog gnawing

Owing to the highly fragmented/leached/eroded condition of much of the recovered bone, it was not possible to identify bone elements that had been gnawed by dogs – apart from a single cattle tibia from (11411) primary fill of pit [11408].

Burning

Owing to the highly fragmented condition of much of the recovered bone, it was not possible to establish a percentage frequency for burnt-bone elements. Overall, however, the incidence of such bones appeared to be low, with specimens identified from the following contexts:

(10210) secondary fill of gully [10215] one burnt black sheep/goat rib

(11423) upper fill of large pit [11422] one charred cattle rib and one charred long bone shaft

(6607) fill of ?Roman corn drier calcined "scrappy" fragment of a mammalian bone

(7407) fill of gully [7406] one small burnt black fragment of a mammal bone

(8105)<1> primary fill of ditch [8104] "scrappy" fragments of mammalian bones: nine calcined,

nine burnt/greyish colouration and one burnt black

Interpretation and discussion

The excavated faunal material was predominated by food refuse, and therefore provided direct evidence of the diet of the inhabitants as well as indirect insight into their livestock husbandry practices. Intermixed with the food debris were the skeletal remains of working horses and of pet/working dogs, as well as waste from bone-working activity. These aspects are considered below:

Food debris and diet

The greatest proportion of the animal bone collected was recognised as discarded waste from the on-site slaughter, primary butchering and consumption of domestic cattle. Meat from sheep/goats, plus the occasional pig or goose apparently also featured in the diet but to a very much lesser extent (although the paucity in these smaller animals and the surprising absence of domestic fowl bones may be a consequence of the poorer preservation of their skeletal remains/ and therefore reflecting sampling bias – see discussion above).

Although certain contexts exhibited slightly higher concentrations of food bones than others, there was no discernable pattern found in the distributions of slaughter/primary butchering waste and that of kitchen/table waste – all of which was intermixed and dispersed throughout the site/occupation areas.

There was no evidence for the exploitation of wild game or wildfowl. The small portion of a red deer antler (tine attached to a piece of beam) recovered from context (6749) primary fill of ditch [6744] may not necessarily represent the remains of a hunted animal but could instead have been from a naturally shed antler collected in the surrounding landscape for the purposes of bone-working.

The only other evidence of bone-working activity was provided by a sawn cattle horn core from (10210) secondary fill of gully [10215].

Evidence of "Romanisation" in the livestock

Among the cattle bones from the Huntingdon Street site there was a noticeably massive radius from (6745) upper fill of ditch [6744]. The proximal width (Bp = 94.2 mm) was greater than that in the exceptionally large ox radius (Bp = 91 mm) from Vindolanda documented by Hodgson (1977:19 and 20) – whose withers height was calculated at 144 cm. An especially large and robust cattle radius (Bp = 91.7 mm) has also been recovered from Phase 3 (late 2nd-3rd century AD) context (276) bottom fill of chalk quarry pit [150] at The Broadway, Yaxley – whose withers height was estimated at 135.9 cm (Armitage 2007, 4).

The presence of such large cattle in the Roman period has led to much debate as to whether these animals were upgraded local (native Iron Age) cattle or imports of improved breeding stock from continental Europe. According to Professor Jewell (1963) "the large strains of cattle were encouraged into ascendancy [from the native cattle stocks] by the Roman organisation of agriculture", a view also held by Harcourt (1974, 261) and Armitage (1982, 50). However, Albarella (2003, 196) writing about the large cattle from Great Holts Farm, Essex, concluded these represented imported rather than improved native stock – probably recently imported and which had not yet "interbred with local populations".

Conclusion

Although only a relatively modest amount of bone was recovered, this material has highlighted the potential if the site goes to open area excavation: the recovery of further bone samples would potentially significantly add to our growing knowledge of the extent to which the Roman conquest affected the regional dietary and livestock husbandry practices – an aspect of zooarchaeological application identified by Going and Plouviez (2000, 21) as being of high priority among the research topics requiring attention in the south eastern counties.

6.2 **Molluscs** by Karen Deighton

Introduction

A total of 0.82kg of shells was collected by hand from a range of Roman contexts during the course of trial trenching.

Method

Material was identified to species where possible.

Results

Preservation

Preservation was reasonable with approximately 50% of shells and valves complete.

No evidence of opening techniques for the bivalves was observed.

The Taxa present

Table 1: Shell taxa by context

Cut/fill	**Feature**	***Cepaea nemoralis***	***Helix aspersa***	***Ostrea edulis***	***Mytilus edulis***
			Garden snail	**oyster**	**mussel**
6612/6613	Gully	3	2		
6715/6716	Ditch	3			
6715/6718	Ditch			2	
6744/6746	Gully			1	
6804/6805	Pit			1	
6806/6807	Pit			13	
6808/6809	Posthole			1	
6817					2
10208/10209	Ditch			1	
10215/10210	Gully			3	
10215/10211	Gully			1	
10220	Occupation layer			1	
11408/11409	Pit			1	
11408/11411	Pit			2	
11420/11421	Gully			2	
11422/11423	Pit			3	
11443					2
Total		6	2	32	4

The snail species present (*C.nemoralis* and *H.aspersa*) are common taxa found in a wide range of habits.

Oysters appear to be the dominant species. On the whole Oyster shells appear regular in shape and thickness and show a medium level of ornamentation. The mussels present are the marine species.

Discussion

The snail species provide little evidence for past environments due to the low numbers recovered and the catholic habitat preferences of the species present.

The oysters and mussels indicate trade with the coast as both are marine species. Their presence in the various features is most likely due to the disposal of kitchen waste.

Potential

The presence of marine shells and their reasonable level of preservation indicate that if more were collected during the course of excavation analysis could contribute to an understanding of the economy of the site.

6.3 **Plant Macrofossils** by Val Fryer

Introduction

The samples were bulk floated by Northamptonshire Archaeology and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. Two samples were seen to contain waterlogged plant remains, and these were stored in water prior to sorting. The remaining flots were air dried. Both flots and wet retents were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1 (in archive). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Both charred and waterlogged plant remains were recorded, the latter being denoted in the table by a lower case 'w'.

Results

Charred barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and wheat (*Triticum sp.*) grains were recorded at an extremely low density within four assemblages. Preservation was generally poor, with most specimens being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. Wheat glume bases were noted within samples 2 and 8. Charred seeds were also very scarce. All were of common arable weeds including brome (*Bromus sp.*), grass (*Poaceae*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus sp.*). Waterlogged seeds were abundant within sample 2, but less common within sample 6. Both assemblages were dominated by seeds of ruderal weeds and colonising herbs including musk thistle (*Carduus sp.*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), dead-nettle (*Lamium sp.*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), grasses, sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*).

Seeds of wetland and aquatic plants were recorded within four assemblages. Sample 2 contained a very high density of seeds of wild celery (*Apium graveolens*) along with individual specimens of sedge (*Carex sp.*) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis sp.*) nutlets. The latter two species were also recorded within samples 8, 9 and 11. The fragments of bramble (*Rubus sp.*) type 'pips' and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds recorded within sample 2 were the sole tree/shrub macrofossils recorded.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Other plant macrofossils were generally very scarce, but did include pieces of charred and waterlogged root/stem and indeterminate buds and tuber fragments.

With the exception of waterlogged arthropod remains within samples 2 and 6, other material types were also rare. However, sample 11 did contain a small assemblage of terrestrial and freshwater obligate mollusc shells, some of which were burnt.

Discussion

The composition of the waterlogged assemblage from the primary fill of Roman ditch [7408] (sample 2) would appear to indicate that the ditch was situated in an area of damp, rough grassland and was possibly poorly maintained, with abundant weed growth on the ditch banks and some partial overgrowth of woody shrubs. The abundance of wild celery seeds suggests that the feature was at least semi-permanently waterfilled, and it is of note that the assemblage also contained a small number of freshwater obligate mollusc shells. With the exception of a single charred wheat glume base, 'cultural' debris is entirely absent, probably indicating the ditch was situated well away from areas of domestic or agricultural activity.

Waterlogged macrofossils are also present in the assemblages from the primary fill of Roman pit/ditch [6744] (sample 6) although in this instance, they appear to indicate a

rough, grassed area rapidly being colonised by rank weeds including hemlock and stinging nettles.

Small charred assemblages, including cereals and segetal weed seeds, are present within the fills of ditch [10221] (sample 8), pit [9104] (sample 9) and pit group [6606]/[6608]/[6609] (sample 5). In all three instances, the density of material recorded is extremely low, and it would appear most likely that the assemblages are partly or wholly derived from scattered refuse or wind-blown detritus, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

Sample 11, from the fill of 17th-century pit [11604], is a little unusual as it consists almost entirely of small pieces of charred root or stem. A small number of burnt shells of grassland molluscs are also present, possibly indicating that the material is derived from either burnt flooring materials or burnt bedding or litter.

The remaining assemblages contain insufficient material for conclusive interpretation.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the two waterlogged assemblages appear to indicate that, during the Roman period, parts of the site were covered in rough, weedy, damp grassland, with the dug features (particularly the ditches), being poorly maintained. The paucity of charred remains may indicate that the recorded features were peripheral to any main centres of domestic or other activity, with the recovered material being accidentally blown into the feature fills.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The trial excavation has demonstrated that archaeological remains are dispersed across the proposed development area in clusters of varying density (Fig 9). The principal concentrations are of late Iron Age/Roman date and lie in the NIAB field to the immediate north-east of the Christ's College playing field and in the centre of the Chivers fields. Both of these sites provided evidence for occupation in the form of domestic waste and to a lesser degree, structural remains. Between them lies an area of more dispersed ditches and gullies – possibly the vestiges of a contemporary field system. Artefactual and environmental evidence suggests both were modest rural settlements.

The southern settlement contains evidence for occupation spanning the mid-late Iron Age to late 2nd/early 3rd century AD. Its presence was suggested by an earlier phase of geophysical survey which identified an area of anomalies corresponding with the buried remains. The presence of the northern settlement was hinted at by both geophysical survey and by the light scatter of pottery recovered during field walking. Its chronology appears similar to that of the other; although a possible hiatus in the pottery spanning the 1st-century Roman period might indicate a brief period of abandonment following the conquest.

Smaller pockets of archaeology were found away from these two concentrations. In the centre of the NIAB field one of two isolated pits present in Trench 39 contained Bronze Age pottery. Spanning the boundary between the NIAB field and the Christ's College playing field was a small group of features, perhaps Roman in date. These may have originally extended further to the east. The natural ground level appears to have been reduced during landscaping of the playing field area. In the south-western corner of the field, to the south of the NIAB buildings, was a light scatter of earth-cut features. Medieval pottery was found in one of them. In the extreme north of the proposed

development area there were a small number of ditches, pits and gullies of probable post-medieval provenance. Evidence for post-medieval quarrying was found in Trench 134.

It was noted that the areas containing settlement evidence broadly corresponded with river terrace deposits taking the form of sand and gravel to the south (NIAB field) and clay, sand and gravel to the north (Chivers field). The intervening areas, including those where vestiges of ancient field systems were observed, were normally characterised by Gault clay geology except where a bank identified by aerial photography assessment was aligned south-east to north-west across the central part of the site. This appears to be of geological origin as it corresponds with a localised deposit of underlying gravel. Another curvilinear soil mark identified by CAPCA in the northern periphery of the Christ's College playing fields (Flitcroft, pers comm) might be related to the nearby settlement – or be the product of the aforementioned landscaping.

The evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity on the site is set within a historic landscape that bears witness to significant late prehistoric and Roman land-use. The two principal features of this are the Roman road to the immediate south of the site (whose route corresponds with that of modern day Huntingdon Road) and the truncated remains of Arbury Camp, an Iron Age univalliate hillfort to the north (Fig 9). Archaeological investigations suggest that this was subsequently reused in the Roman period (http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk).

In addition to these two monuments, a number of pertinent archaeological interventions and observations have been made in close vicinity to the site (Fig 9). Roman features, including evidence for occupation, were discovered during excavations at Brownlow Road (HER 09533A) adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. They are clearly associated with the postulated late Iron Age/Roman settlement present in the Chivers fields.

Further to the south, pottery sherds of late Iron Age and Roman date were recovered from service trenches at Windsor Road (HER 05191). This lies to the east of the dense cluster of occupation features found in the south-east corner of the NIAB fields and may indicate that they extend a considerable distance to the east of the proposed development area.

Further evidence for late prehistoric and Roman exploitation of the local landscape exists to south of Huntingdon Road where a field system and associated enclosures are indicated by cropmarks identified by aerial photographic assessment (HER 09529). Aerial photographs have revealed an enclosure system to the north of the site at Impingham (HER 08955).

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Northamptonshire Archaeology

a service of Northamptonshire County Council June 2008

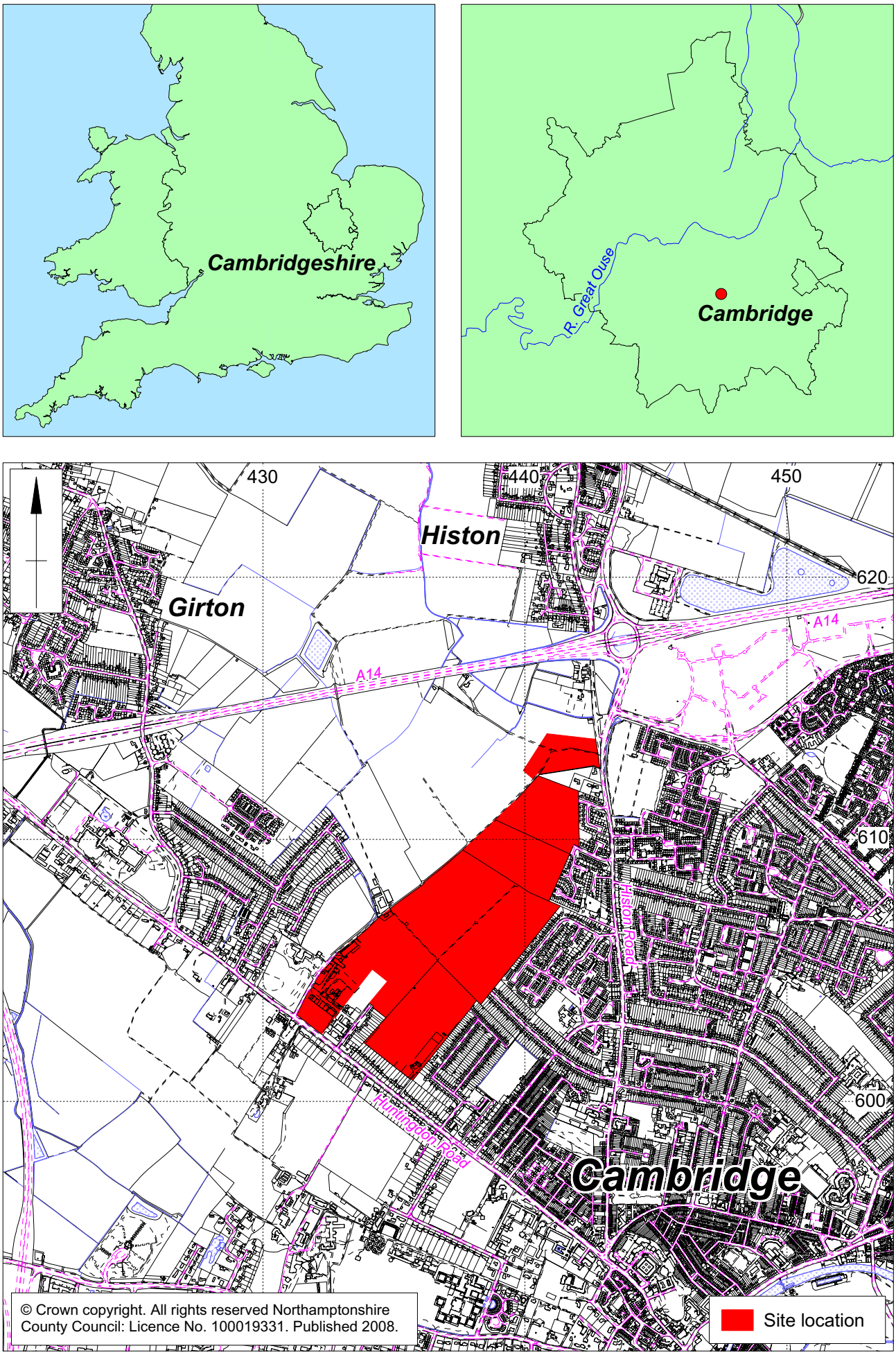
APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No	Trench Summary
1	Clay geology, subsoil (0.14m-0.18m), topsoil (0.21-0.32m), no archaeology
2	Clay geology, subsoil (0.09-0.14m), topsoil (0.13-0.18m), no archaeology
3	Clay geology, subsoil (0.19-0.38m), topsoil (0.26-0.30m), no archaeology
4	Clay geology, subsoil (0.21-0.29m), topsoil (0.14-0.21m), no archaeology
5	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.07-0.25m), topsoil (0.18-0.30m), Roman (?) pits/postholes and gully
6	Clay geology, subsoil (0.06-0.19m), topsoil (0.21-0.35m), no archaeology
7	Clay geology, subsoil (0.08-0.14m), topsoil (0.23-0.27m), no archaeology
8	Sand geology, subsoil (0.19-0.23m), topsoil (0.27-0.37m), no archaeology
9	Sand geology, subsoil (0.33-0.37m), topsoil (0.26-0.30m). Roman pits and gullies
10	Sand geology, subsoil (0.21-0.28m), topsoil (0.34-0.46m), post-medieval midden deposit
11	Clay geology, subsoil (0.23-0.27m), topsoil (0.27-0.40m), no archaeology
12	Clay geology, subsoil (0.12-0.19m), topsoil (0.21-0.26m), no archaeology
13	Clay geology, subsoil (0.20-0.24m), topsoil (0.23-0.30m), undated pits
14	Clay geology, subsoil (0.15-0.18m), topsoil (0.24-0.30m), no archaeology
15	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.19-0.27m), topsoil (0.23-0.31m), medieval pit/gully
16	Clay geology, subsoil (0.18-0.19m), topsoil (0.18-0.22m), no archaeology
17	Clay geology, subsoil (0.29-0.43m), topsoil (0.17-0.34m), post-medieval irrigation (?) gully
18	Clay geology, subsoil (0.19-0.24m), topsoil (0.17-0.21m), no archaeology
19	Clay geology, subsoil (0.28-0.40m), topsoil (0.30-0.36m), no archaeology
20	Sandy clay geology, subsoil (0.16-0.22m), topsoil (0.20-0.33m), Roman pit (?)
21	Clay geology, subsoil (0.17m-0.25m), topsoil (0.16-0.20m), no archaeology
22	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.13-0.18m) topsoil (0.26-0.28m), no archaeology
23	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.08-0.12m), topsoil (0.23-0.33m), modern postholes
24	Sand and clay geology, subsoil (0.19-0.21m), topsoil (0.18-0.27m), no archaeology
25	Clay geology, subsoil (0.17m-0.33m), topsoil (0.21-0.26m), no archaeology
26	Clay geology, subsoil (0.15-0.18m), topsoil (0.20-0.23m, post-medieval irrigation (?) gully
27	Clay and sand geology, subsoil (0.23-0.30m), topsoil (0.20-0.32m), no archaeology
28	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.25m), topsoil (0.14-0.29m), modern postholes

Trench No	Trench Summary
29	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.19m), topsoil (0.25-0.35m), modern postholes
30	Sand and clay geology, no subsoil, topsoil (0.35-0.50m), no archaeology
31	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.20-0.24m), topsoil (0.22-0.32m), no archaeology
32	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.29-0.34m), topsoil (0.28-0.31m), no archaeology
33	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.20-0.45m), topsoil (0.25-0.35m), no archaeology
34	Clay geology, subsoil (0.25-0.35m), topsoil (0.20-0.25m), no archaeology
35	Clay geology, subsoil (0.15-0.25m), topsoil (0.15-0.29m), no archaeology
36	Clay geology, subsoil (0.18-0.20m), topsoil (0.08-0.29m), no archaeology
37	Clay geology, subsoil (0.25-0.34m), topsoil (0.20-0.30m), post-medieval midden deposit
38	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.10-0.45m), topsoil (0.28-0.39m), no archaeology
39	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.36-0.51m), topsoil (0.39-0.49m), Bronze Age (?) pits/postholes
40	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.46-0.63m), topsoil (0.37-0.59m), no archaeology
41	Clay geology, subsoil (0.23m-0.62m), topsoil (0.38-0.43m), no archaeology
42	Sand gravel geology, subsoil (0.32-0.65m), topsoil (0.45-0.64m), no archaeology
43	Sandy clay geology, subsoil (0.30-0.44m), topsoil (0.42-0.52m), no archaeology
44	Sandy clay geology, subsoil (0.22-0.45m), topsoil (0.32-0.37m), no archaeology
45	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.21-0.30m), topsoil (0.40-0.61m), no archaeology
46	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.21-0.32m), topsoil (0.41-0.49m), no archaeology
47	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0-0.15m), topsoil (0.25-0.46m), no archaeology
48	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.11-0.20m), topsoil (0.30-0.43m), no archaeology
49	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.18-0.39m), topsoil (0.34-0.42m), no archaeology
50	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.22-0.48m), topsoil (0.26-0.32m), no geology
51	Sand geology, subsoil (0.26-0.60m), topsoil (0.32-0.45m), undated pit
52	Sand and clay geology, subsoil (0.20-0.40m), topsoil (0.20-0.40m), no archaeology
53	Sand geology, subsoil (0.29-0.42m), topsoil (0.24-0.42m), no archaeology
54	Sand geology, subsoil (0.26-0.42m), topsoil (0.32-0.43), no archaeology
55	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.53-0.61m), topsoil (0.33-0.42m), no archaeology
56	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.25-0.47), topsoil (0.32-0.041m)
57	Clay geology, subsoil (0.19-0.75m), topsoil (0.42-0.49m), no archaeology

Trench No	Trench Summary
58	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.18-0.43m), topsoil (0.38-0.43m), no archaeology
59	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.26-0.62m), topsoil (0.37-0.48m), no archaeology
60	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.32-0.56m), topsoil (0.39-0.45m), no archaeology
61	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.14-0.20m), topsoil (0.33-0.42m), no archaeology
62	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.26-0.34), topsoil (0.39-0.41m), no archaeology
63	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.23-0.25m), topsoil (0.34-0.40m), no archaeology
64	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.19-0.26m), topsoil (0.33-0.36m), undated gully
65	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.21-0.39m), topsoil (0.35-0.44m), no archaeology
66	Sand and clay geology, subsoil (0.27-0.55m), topsoil (0.28-0.50m), Roman gullies and proto-industrial features
67	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.41-0.80m), topsoil (0.35-0.55m), Roman ditches, gullies, pits and postholes
68	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.16-0.41m), topsoil (0.36-0.42m), Roman pits and posthole
69	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.25-0.40m), topsoil (0.33-0.42m), Roman gullies, post-medieval pit
70	Sand and clay geology, subsoil (0.29-0.52m), topsoil (0.30-0.51m), natural feature?
71	Sand geology, subsoil (0.36-0.48m), topsoil (0.30-0.40m), no archaeology
72	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.26-0.29m), topsoil (0.29-0.34m), no archaeology
73	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.04-0.29m), topsoil (0.23-0.30m), no archaeology
74	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.29-0.32m), topsoil (0.29-0.36m), Roman ditches
75	Clay geology, no subsoil, topsoil (0.29-0.34m), no archaeology
76	Clay geology, subsoil (0.36-0.46m), topsoil (0.28-0.31m), undated gully
77	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.13-0.44m), topsoil (0.31-0.48m), no archaeology
78	Sand geology, subsoil (0.36-0.69m), topsoil (0.23-0.43m), geological/hydrological feature
79	Clay geology, subsoil (0.06-0.12m), topsoil (0.33m), no archaeology
80	Clay geology, subsoil (0.30m), topsoil (0.30-0.35m), no archaeology
81	Clay geology, subsoil (0.16-0.53m), topsoil (0.27-0.40m), undated ditch
82	Clay geology, subsoil (0.10-0.20m), topsoil (0.40m), undated ditch, Roman (?) gully
83	Clay geology, subsoil (0.35-0.40m), topsoil (0.30-0.35m), no archaeology
84	Clay geology, subsoil (0.60-0.80m), topsoil (0.20-0.35m), no archaeology
85	Clay geology, subsoil (0.20-0.35m), topsoil (0.22-0.35m), no archaeology
86	Clay geology, subsoil (0.29-0.33m), topsoil (0.21-0.37m), no archaeology
87	Clay geology, subsoil (0-0.15m), topsoil (0.30m), trench flooded
88	Clay geology, no subsoil, topsoil(0.40m), no archaeology
89	Clay geology, subsoil (0.20-0.30m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
90	Clay geology, subsoil (0.30m), topsoil (0.30m), Roman ditches and gullies
91	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.15-0.20m), topsoil (0.30m), Iron Age pits, undated ditch
92	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.30m), stakeholes and Roman (?) ditch/pit
93	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.30m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
94	Clay geology, subsoil (0.25m), topsoil (0.35m), no archaeology
95	Clay geology, subsoil (0.25m), topsoil (0.40m), no archaeology
96	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.25m), topsoil (0.35m), no archaeology
97	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.15), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
98	Clay geology, subsoil (0-0.15m), topsoil (0.33m), no archaeology
99	Clay geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.40m), undated stakeholes

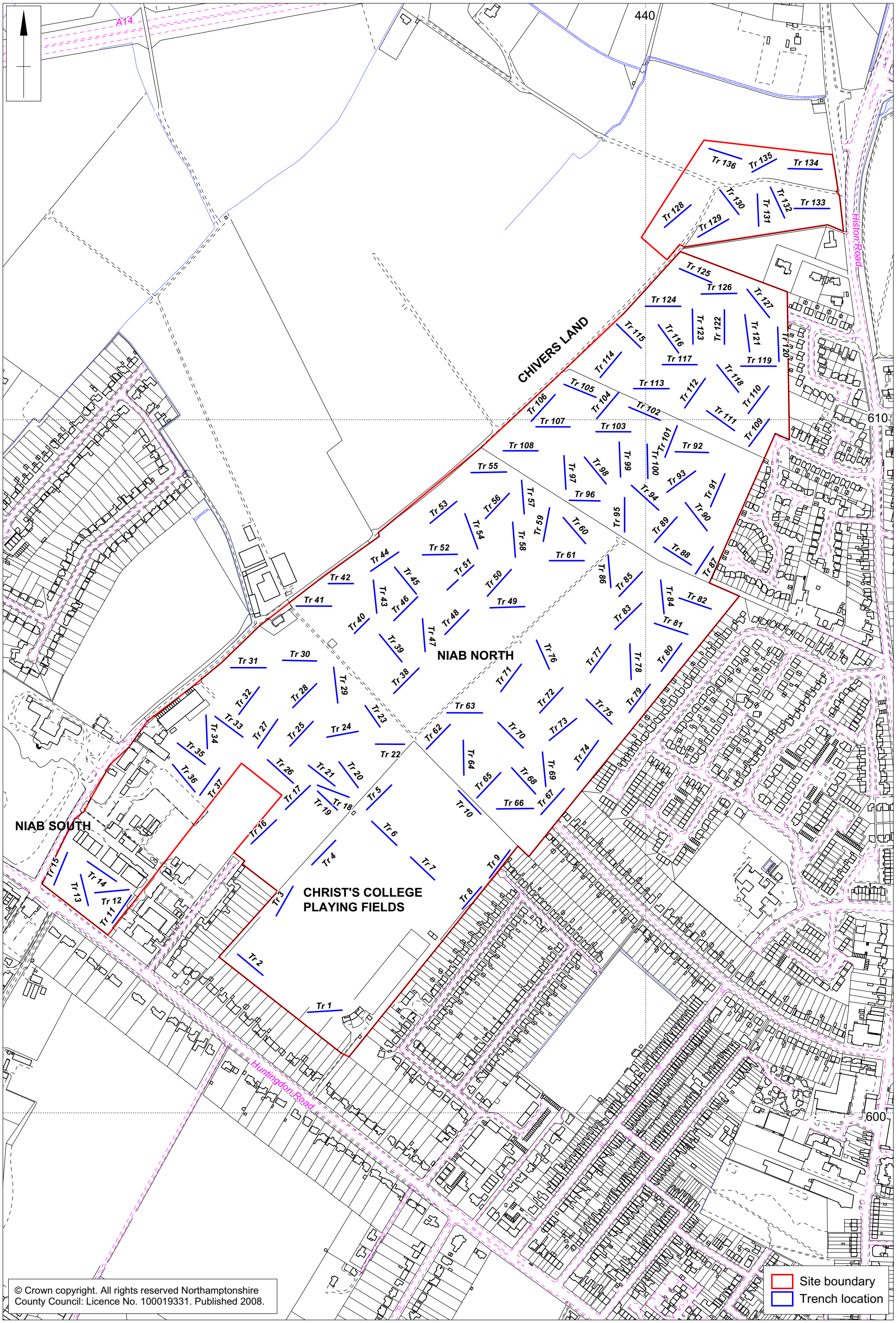
Trench No	Trench Summary
100	Clay geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.25m), Roman pits, gully and posthole
101	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.30m), Roman ditches, pits and gullies, post-medieval gully
102	Sand and gravel geology, subsoil (0.15m), topsoil (0.20-0.30m), Iron Age pits, Roman ditches, gullies and occupation debris (?)
103	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.35m), undated pit and gully
104	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.30m), Iron Age ditch, posthole
105	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.15m), topsoil (0.25m), undated gully
106	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.30m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
107	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.15-0.30m), topsoil (0.35m), undated pit/posthole
108	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.40m), topsoil (0.20-0.30m), no archaeology
109	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.15-0.20m), topsoil (0.25-0.35m), no archaeology
110	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.18-0.20m), topsoil (0.30-0.40m), post-medieval ditches/furrows
111	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.30m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
112	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.20-0.50m), topsoil (0.30m), undated pits/gullies
113	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.20-0.30m), topsoil (0.26-0.35), undated gully
114	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.12-0.30m), topsoil (0.25-0.38m), Roman ditches, gullies and pits
115	Clay geology, subsoil (0.15-0.40m), topsoil (0.30m), gullies/furrows
116	Clay geology, subsoil (0.20-0.30m), topsoil (0.26-0.30m), post-medieval ditch
117	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.26-0.40m), topsoil (0.22-0.30m), undated ditch and gullies
118	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.10-0.30m), topsoil (0.28-0.40m), undated gullies/furrows
119	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.15-0.30m), topsoil (0.25m), undated gullies/furrows
120	Clay geology, subsoil (0-0.10m), topsoil (0.30-0.40m), no archaeology
121	Clay geology, subsoil (0.10-0.15m), topsoil (0.25m), no archaeology
122	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.10m), topsoil (0.20-0.30m), no archaeology
123	Clay geology, subsoil (0.10-0.30m), topsoil (0.30m), undated posthole
124	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.10m), topsoil (0.25m), no archaeology
125	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.10m), topsoil (0.20m), no archaeology
126	Clay geology, subsoil (0.15m), topsoil (0.35m), no archaeology
127	Clay geology, subsoil (0.10-0.20m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
128	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
129	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.35m), undated gullies
130	Sand and gravel/clay geology, subsoil (0.40m), topsoil (0.35m), undated gullies
131	Clay geology, subsoil (0.30m), topsoil (0.35m), no archaeology
132	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.20m), topsoil (0.25m), no archaeology
133	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.25m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
134	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.30m), topsoil (0.20), post-medieval extraction pits
135	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.25m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology
136	Clay and gravel geology, subsoil (0.15m), topsoil (0.30m), no archaeology



Scale 1:20,000

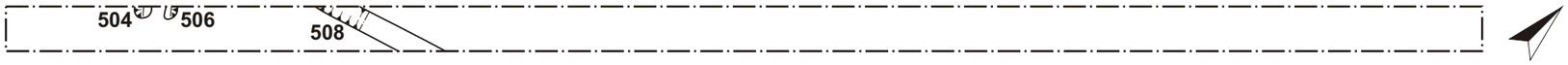
Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:5000

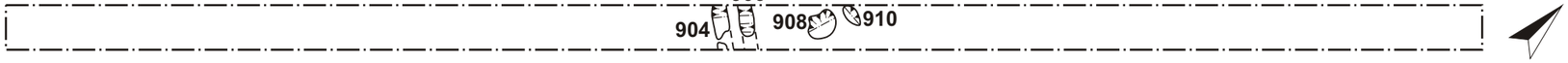


Trench location Fig 2

Trench 5

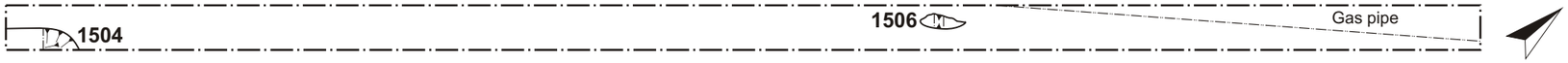


Trench 9

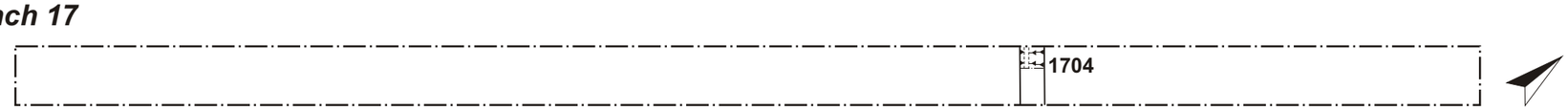


Trench 13

Trench 15

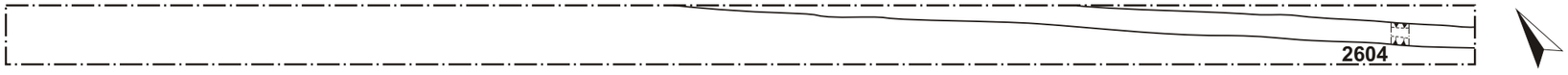


Trench 17

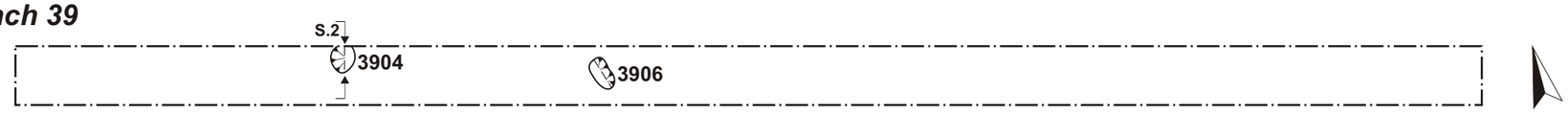


Trench 20

Trench 26



Trench 39



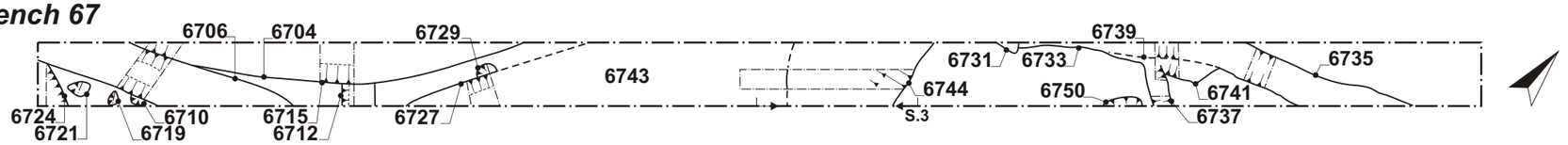
Trench 51

Plans of Trenches 5, 9, 13, 15, 17, 20, 26, 39 and 51 Fig 3

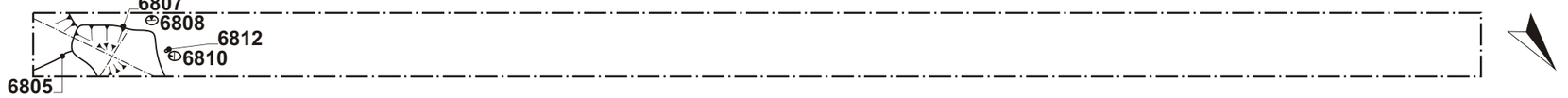
Trench 64

Trench 66

Trench 67

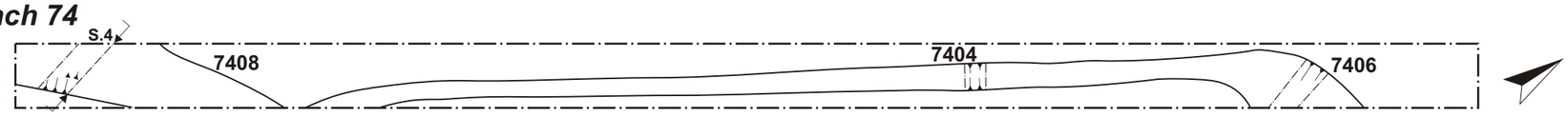


Trench 68



Trench 69

Trench 74



Trench 76

Trench 78

Trench 81

Plans of Trenches 64, 66-69, 74, 76, 78 and 81 Fig 4

Trench 82

Trench 90

Trench 91

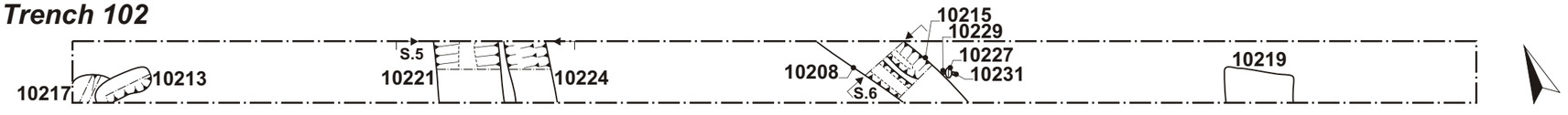
Trench 92

Trench 99

Trench 100

Trench 101

Trench 102

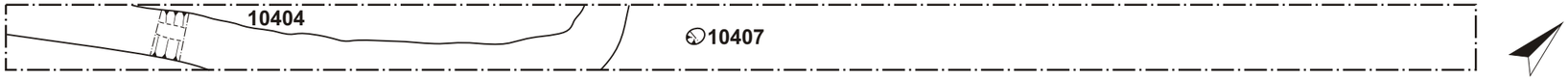


Trench 103

0 10m

Plans of Trenches 82, 90-92, and 99-103 Fig 5

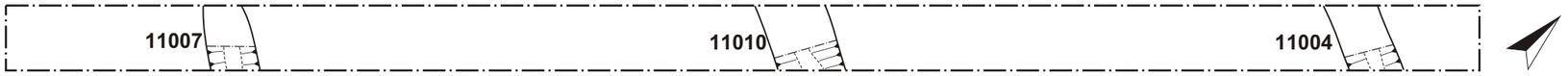
Trench 104



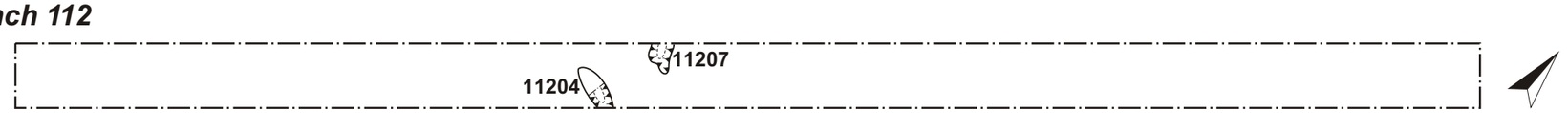
Trench 105

Trench 107

Trench 110

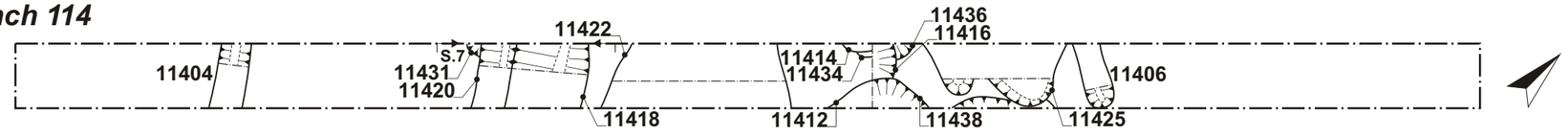


Trench 112

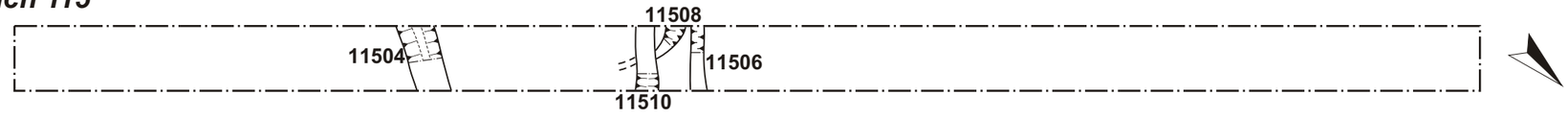


Trench 113

Trench 114



Trench 115

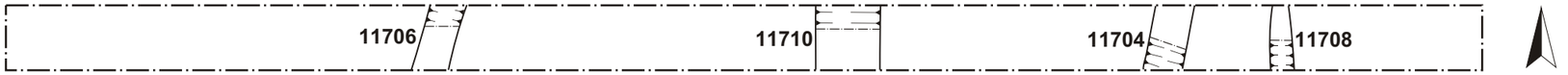


Trench 116

0 10m

Plans of Trenches 104-5, 107, 110, and 112-6 Fig 6

Trench 117



Trench 118

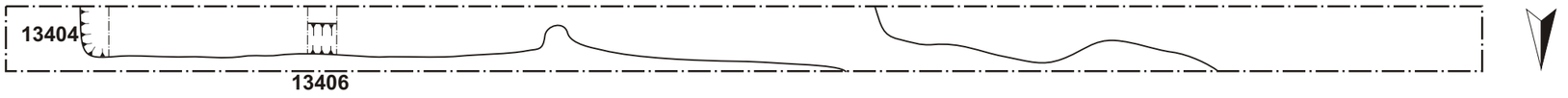
Trench 119

Trench 120

Trench 129

Trench 130

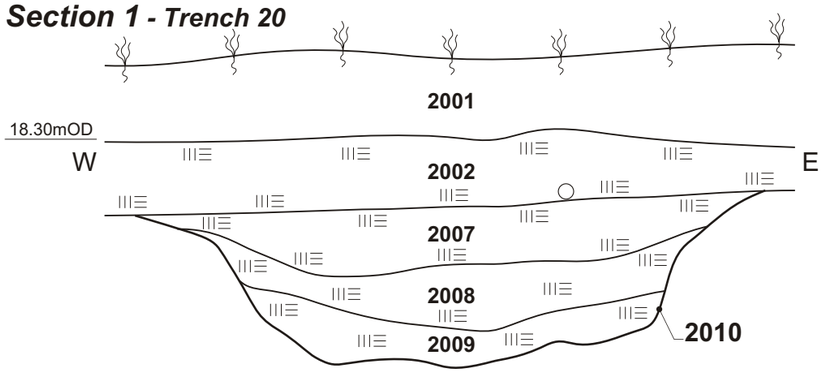
Trench 134



0 10m

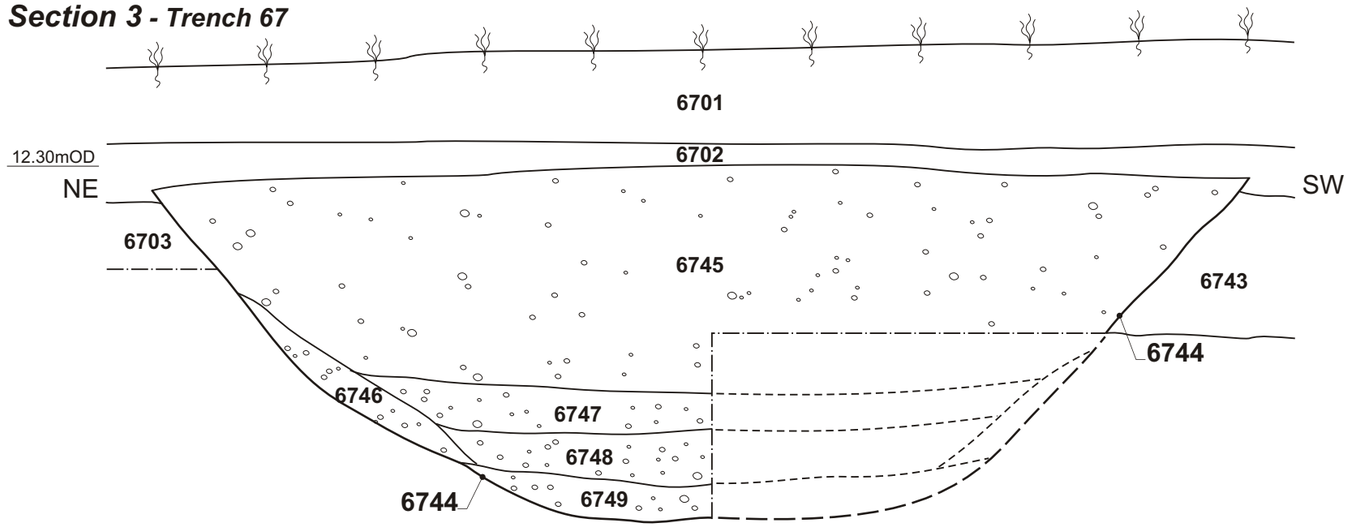
Plans of Trenches 117-20, 129-30 and 134 Fig 7

Section 1 - Trench 20

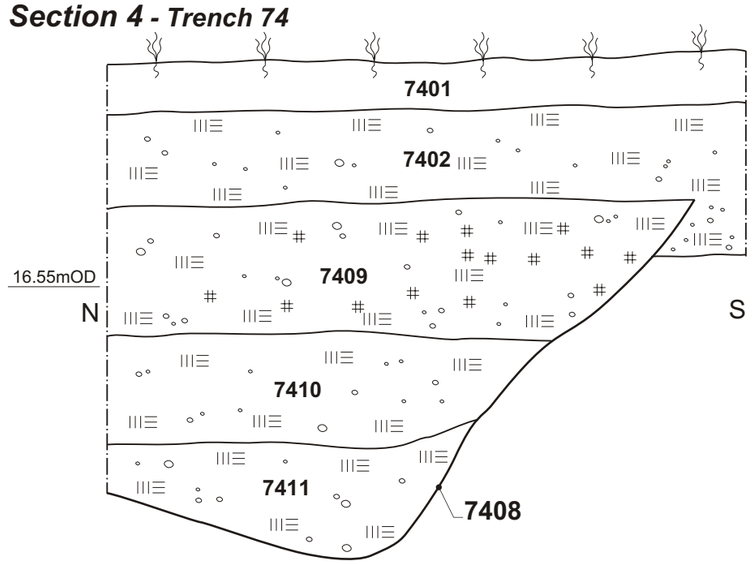


Section 2 - Trench 39

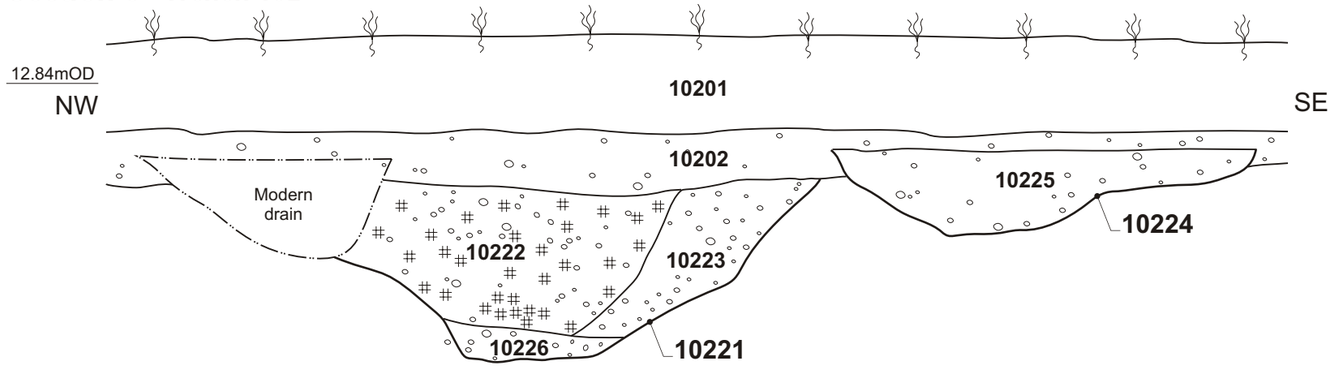
Section 3 - Trench 67



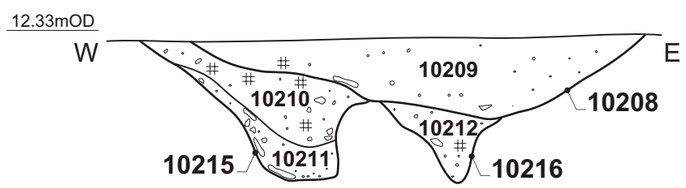
Section 4 - Trench 74



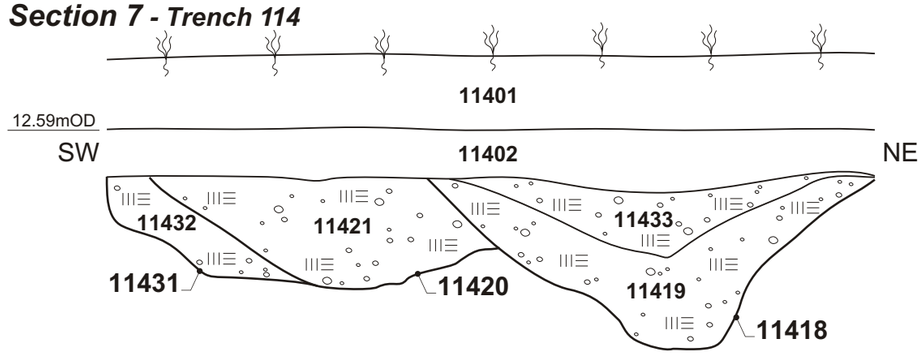
Section 5 - Trench 102



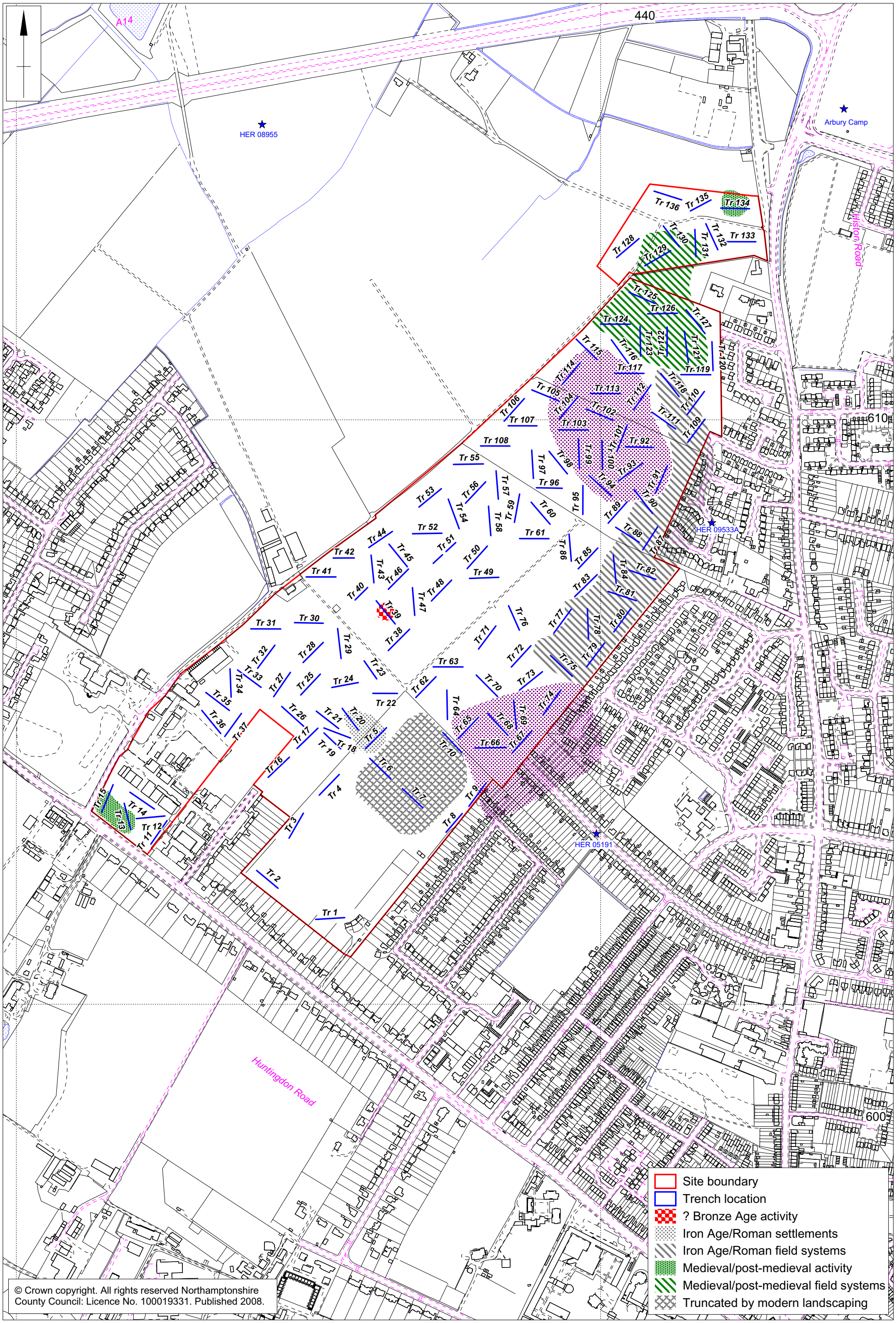
Section 6 - Trench 102



Section 7 - Trench 114



Sections 1-7 Fig 8



Interpretive plan of site Fig 9

Plate 1: Proto-industrial feature [6606], 2nd-century AD

Plate 2: Ditch [6706], late Iron Age/early Roman

Plate 3: Pit [6752], Roman

Plate 4: Intercutting pits [6804]/[6806], late 2nd/early 3rd-century AD

Plate 5: Ditch [8104], Roman field system

Plate 6: Possible occupation layer (10220), Roman

Plate 7: Pit or ditch terminus [11422], in-filled late 2nd/early 3rd century AD

Plate 8: Ditch [11604], post-medieval