
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT WELLINGBOROUGH ROAD,
SYWELL,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(SYWR 14)**

Work Undertaken For



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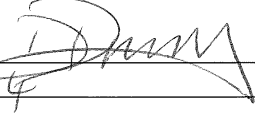
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT WELLINGBOROUGH ROAD,
SYWELL,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(SYWR 14)

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CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF AN EVALUATION	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	2
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	3
5.	RESULTS	3
6.	DISCUSSION	11
7.	CONCLUSIONS	12
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	13
9.	PERSONNEL	13
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	13

Appendices

1	Specification for archaeological evaluation
2	Context Descriptions
3	The Finds <i>by Alex Beeby, Denise Buckley, Tom Lane, Sarah Percival and Gary Taylor</i>
4	Environmental Assessment <i>by James Rackham</i>
5	Glossary
6	The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Trench location plan and geophysical interpretation
- Figure 4 Trenches 1-5 plans
- Figure 5 Trenches 6-11 plans
- Figure 6 Trenches 12-17 plans
- Figure 7 Trenches 19, 21, 22, 25-27 plans
- Figure 8 Trenches 1-6 sections
- Figure 9 Trenches 8-11 sections
- Figure 10 Trenches 12-21 sections
- Figure 11 Trenches 25-28 sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General shot of site from the south looking north
- Plate 2 Trench 1 looking north
- Plate 3 Trench 11 looking west
- Plate 4 Trench 1. Southeast facing Section 101 of linear [104]
- Plate 5 Trench 1. Southwest facing Section 100 of linear [101]
- Plate 6 Trench 1. Northwest facing Section 103 of linear [107]
- Plate 7 Trench 1. Southeast facing Section 102 of features [106], [110], [112]
- Plate 8 Trench 2. Northeast facing Section 104 of linear [201]
- Plate 9 Trench 2. West facing Section 105 of post hole [203]
- Plate 10 Trench 2. West facing Section 106 of linear [206]
- Plate 11 Trench 2. West facing Section 107 of linear [208]

- Plate 12 Trench 2. South facing Section 110 of linear [210]
- Plate 13 Trench 3. West facing Section 135 of linear [303]
- Plate 14 Trench 3. South west facing Section 136 of linear [305]
- Plate 15 Trench 4. North facing Section 115 of linear [402].
- Plate 16 Trench 5. North facing Section 109 of linear [501].
- Plate 17 Trench 8. South facing Section 116 (west) of linear [804].
- Plate 18 Trench 8. South facing Section 116 (east) of linear [806].
- Plate 19 Trench 11. South east facing Section 117 of linear [1102].
- Plate 20 Trench 11. South facing Section 118 of linear [1108].
- Plate 21 Trench 11. North east facing Section 124 of linears [1124] and [1128]
- Plate 22 Trench 11. West facing Sections 119, 120, of post holes [1119] and [1121]
- Plate 23 Trench 12. South east facing Section 121 of linear [1202].
- Plate 24 Trench 12. South east facing Section 123 of linear [1205]
- Plate 25 Trench 13. North facing Section 134 of pond [1301]
- Plate 26 Trench 17. North east facing Section 128 of fire pit [1701]
- Plate 27 Trench 19, South east facing Section 127 of linear [1902]
- Plate 28 Trench 19. South west facing Section 126 of linear [1904]
- Plate 29 Trench 21. East facing Section 133 of linear [2102]
- Plate 30 Trench 25. South west facing Section 125, linears [2504] and [2506] / [2508]
- Plate 31 Trench 27. South west facing Section 129 of linear [2708]
- Plate 32 Trench 27. North east facing Section 132 of linear [2709]

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land for a proposed solar farm at Wellingborough Road, Sywell, Northamptonshire as the site lay in an area of archaeological interest.

Artefact scatters of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date have been identified just southwest of the site. Geophysical survey of the site recorded linear and curvilinear features perhaps defining Iron Age enclosures. Other linear features perhaps represented former field boundaries and there was evidence of medieval ridge and furrow.

The evaluation revealed two areas of Late Iron Age enclosures and other related features such as post holes with several of the ditches corresponding to the geophysical survey.

Two areas of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation recorded in the west and northwest of the site also matched the geophysical survey.

The information from the 1886 1st edition Ordnance Survey for the area regarding the post-medieval field systems was confirmed through excavation. A pond located on the same map and through the geophysical survey was also investigated.

Finds included Late Iron Age and post-medieval pottery and animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures,*

deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning permission (application number WP/14/00368/FUL) was sought by Lark Energy Limited for construction of a solar farm. A desk-based study was prepared and identified moderate potential for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains at the site (Cope-Faulkner 2013). A geophysical survey of the site identified archaeological remains including possible Iron Age enclosures and other features (Malone 2014). As a result, the archaeological curator advised that archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was required to assess the character, significance and extent of the remains. The results of the evaluation would enable the archaeological curator to make an informed decision regarding the impact of the development on any surviving archaeological remains and allow proposals for any necessary mitigation measures to be formulated and agreed.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned to undertake this evaluation which was carried out between the 24th July and 12th August 2014 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Sywell and Mears Ashby are located 5km southwest of Wellingborough and 11km

northeast of Northampton, in the administrative district of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (Fig 1). The proposed development site is located 2km north of the centre of Mears Ashby and 2km northeast of Sywell, to the north of Sywell Road, at National Grid Reference SP 8377 6868 (Fig 2).

Local soils are of the Hanslope Association, typically calcareous pelosols, with pelo-stagnogley soils of the Ragdale Association in the northern part of the site (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 209; 293). These soils are developed on a drift geology of glacial till which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic limestones of the Upper Estuarine Series (GSGB 1974). The site lies just within Mears Ashby parish at a height of *c.* 120m OD on land that slopes broadly down to the south, with a slight slope down to the west, towards a minor watercourse along the parish boundary with Sywell.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

A heritage desk-based study was prepared and indicated that artefact scatters of prehistoric flints and Roman and medieval ceramics had been found just to the southwest of the site. Further scatters of Roman and medieval pottery have been found a little further west, and cropmarks and slight earthworks of an undated incomplete enclosure occur to the southwest (Cope-Faulkner 2013).

Mears Ashby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Asbi*, the name is derived from the Old English and Old Scandinavian and means ‘the village or farmstead (*býr*) by an ash tree’. The first element is named from the de Mares family who held the manor in 1242 (Gover *et al.* 1933).

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Mears Ashby was held by the Countess

Judith and contained extensive arable land and was subsidiary to the manor of Earls Barton (Williams and Martin 1992).

The northern part of the parish of Mears Ashby was woodland in 1577 and the surrounding furlongs were called the ‘stockings’, indicating land recently cleared of tree stumps. The woodland covered much of the central area of the current site (Hall 1995). The parish was enclosed in 1777 (Cope-Faulkner 2013).

Geophysical survey of the site recorded linear and curvilinear magnetic anomalies that appear to define enclosures. These enclosures are irregular in form, which may suggest they are Iron Age in date. Other linear magnetic anomalies probably represent former field boundaries. Some isolated pit-type features were recorded thinly spread around the site, with no pattern evident. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded (Malone 2014).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site. The work had the potential to address research objectives such as prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement and landscape (Knight *et al.* 2012).

Specific objectives of the work were to establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation that may be present within the development site; to determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site; establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape; recover

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

4. METHODS

Twenty-eight trenches, each measuring 50m long by 2m wide, were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying natural geology (Fig. 3). Trench 3 was later extended by 5m.

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed by differential RTK GPS survey. The calibrated data is logged in the field and subsequently processed in the office by specific processing software which is used to produce customised CAD files.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Topsoil and natural were the same throughout the site, the topsoil being mid greyish brown, friable, silty clay. The natural was a mid brownish yellow, firm, clay with frequent inclusions of sub angular flint stones and chalk fragments.

Trench 1 ((Fig 4, Plate 2)

Cutting the natural (105) in Trench 1 were three ditches; [101], [104] and [107], a pit [106], and two gullies [110], [112].

Ditch [101] (Fig 8, Section 100; Plate 5) was 0.86m wide and 0.46m deep with a V shaped profile aligned southwest to northeast and filled with (102) a greyish orange clay which contained single charred seeds and cereal grains, together with pottery of Late Iron Age date. Ditch [104] (Fig 8, Section 101; Plate 4) was 0.61m wide and 0.27m deep with a U shaped profile, aligned east to west, and filled by (103) a mottled light blue grey and mid yellow brown clay that yielded Late Iron Age pottery. Ditch [107] (Fig 8, Section 103; Plate 6) was 0.7m wide and 0.28m deep with a U shaped profile and flat base. Aligned west to east, this was filled by (108) a light grey with reddish brown and mid yellow brown mottled clay with moderate charcoal flecks. This also contained Late Iron Age pottery. This feature was noted on the geophysical survey.

Pit [106], cutting the natural (105) in the centre of the trench, was 1m wide and 0.34m deep with concave sides and a flat base. It was filled by (109), a mid grey yellow silty clay. Its mixed nature

suggested a backfill deposit. The pit was later cut by northeast to southwest aligned gully [112] (Fig 8, Section 102; Plate 7) which was 1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.35m deep with moderate concave sides and a concave base. This gully was filled by (113), a mid greyish yellow silty clay and cut by gully [110] (Fig 8, Section 102; Plate 7). This was 0.8m wide and 0.35m deep with steep straight sides and a concave base having a southeast to northwest alignment. This gully cut both [112] and [106]. It was filled by (111) a mid greyish yellow silty clay. Fill (111) could be a series of silting events to gully [110] carrying in local debris or a backfill to the feature. It contained Late Iron Age pottery, charred grain, seeds and bone.

Trench 2 (Fig 4)

Four ditches [201], [206], [208], [210] and one post hole [203] were recorded cutting the natural (205).

Ditch [201] (Fig 8, Section 104; Plate 8) was 0.96m wide, 0.24m deep, with a northwest to southeast alignment with gentle concave sided slopes and a concave base. It was filled with (202), a firm brown orange clay which contained a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

Ditch [206] (Fig 8, Section 106; Plate 10) was northeast to southwest, 1.1m wide and 0.2m deep with moderate straight sides and a concave base. It was filled by firm brown orange clay (207).

Northeast to southwest ditch [208] (Fig 6, Section 107; Plate 11) was 0.8m wide and 0.34m deep with steep straight sides and a flat base. It was filled by (209), a light brown grey clay which contained a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery.

Curvilinear ditch [210] (Fig 8, Section 108; Plate 12), at the north end of the

trench, was 0.8m long, 0.8m wide, 0.35m deep with steep concave sides and a concave base. Aligned northeast to southwest, the ditch was filled by firm mid grey brown silty clay (211).

Post hole [203] (Fig 8, Section 105; Plate 9) located to the south of ditch [206] was sub circular in plan and was 0.19m deep, 0.35m wide. With vertical concave sides and a concave base, it was filled by (204) 0.19m thick, a mid to dark grey clay with moderate charcoal flecks.

Trench 3 (Fig 4)

Trench 3 was initially excavated to a depth of approximately 0.3m through the plough soil (300) onto natural (301). Due to an anomaly identified on the earlier geophysical survey it was decided to re-excavate the trench and extend its length at the northern end by 5m. This re-excavation started at about the centre of the trench and extended towards the northern end of the trench. The last 12m towards the northern end, including the extension, was machined to a depth of up to 1m, the remainder to a depth of 0.5m.

Following the machining one gully [305] and, further to the north, one ditch/ palaeo-channel [303] were identified but no dating material was recovered from either feature. Gully [305] (Fig 8, Section 136; Plate 14) was 0.49m wide, 0.15m deep, and 5m long with steep straight sides and a flat base. Aligned NNE to SSW, it was filled by (306) a mid yellowish brown, silty clay.

Ditch [303] (Fig 8, Section 135; Plate 13) or possible palaeo-channel was located 0.75m below the top of the plough soil. This feature was 1m wide and aligned east to west. The feature was not fully excavated but was recorded in plan. It was filled with (304) a mid yellowish brown, firm silty clay. Fill (304) was almost identical to the natural though possibly a

little browner. It lay underneath approximately 0.5m of the natural (301), as seen in section. The probability is that this may be a natural feature rather than an archaeological one due to the depth of the natural material overlying [303].

Trench 4 (Fig 4)

Trench 4 contained one ditch, [402], which was 2m wide and 0.91m deep, the western side being steep and straight, the eastern side a gentler slope, while the base was concave. The feature was aligned north to south. Ditch [402] (Fig 8, Section 115; Plate 15) had three fills (403), (404), (405) in order from the top to the base. Fill (403) was firm mid yellowish brown, silty clay, 0.33m thick. Below this was fill (404), a 0.32m thick firm light greyish yellow, silty clay. The base fill (405) was a mid yellowish grey brown clay silt which contained Late Iron Age pottery and fired clay. These fills probably represent phases of silting to feature [402], the size and depth of which suggests a boundary ditch.

Trench 5 (Fig 4)

Trench 5 contained one north to south linear [501] which could be either a ditch or a natural feature, due to the nature of the fills, which were close to the local naturals in colour and texture. Feature [501] (Fig 8, Section 109; Plate 16) had steep concave sides and a flat base. The fills (502), (503), (504) from top to base were: (502) firm mid brown orange clay 0.2m thick; (503) was grey brown clay 0.12m thick and base fill (504) was 0.13m thick firm mid brown orange clay with moderate chalk. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 6 (Fig 5)

Trench 16 revealed one possible fire pit [602] with the northeast edge being truncated by a modern land drain. Feature

[602] (Fig 8, Section 110) was sub-circular in plan and about 0.8m in diameter and 0.36m deep with steep straight sides and a concave base. It contained a sequence of fills as follows: (606) a firm light brown clay with common gravel, 0.12m thick; (605) a mid red burnt clay, 0.22m thick, (604) a dark grey clay, 0.2m thick and (603) a 0.04m thick soft dark grey clay silt. Following excavation it was believed this feature may have been burnt out roots, similar features being noted on site, such as [903] and [1008].

Trench 7 (Fig 5)

Trench 7 contained two parallel ditches, [704], and to the east of this [706], both of which were on a northeast to southwest alignment. Ditch [704] was 0.9m wide while [706] was 0.4m wide. The fills of both ditches, (703) and (705) respectively, were dark brown grey clay silt with frequent stones and pebbles. The same features were noted in Trench 8, ditch [704] matching [804], ditch [706] being [806]. They were fully excavated in Trench 8 and therefore only recorded in plan in Trench 7. These features are known to be post-medieval and present on the 19th century first edition Ordnance Survey map for the area.

Trench 8 (Fig 5)

Trench 8 contained two parallel ditches with [804] being to the west of [806]. Both were on a north to south alignment and corresponded with the ditches located in Trench 7, [804] with [704] and [806] with [706].

Ditch [804] (Fig 9, Section 116; Plate 17) was 1.15m wide and 0.44m deep with steep concave sides and a concave base. Fill (803) was firm dark brownish grey, with patches of light yellow brown, clay silt, 0.44m thick.

Ditch [806] (Fig 9, Section 116; Plate 18) was 0.45m wide and 0.16m deep. With steep concave sides and a concave base, this was filled by (805), a firm dark brownish grey clay silt.

Both of these features were part of a post modern field system noted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map for the area, excavated in Trench 8 to confirm their provenance, along with those located in Trench 7.

Trench 9 (Fig 5)

In Trench 9 an irregular burnt patch [903] of mid red scorched silty clay was located and excavated to a depth of 0.1m. It was concluded that this feature was burnt out tree roots similar to those of [1008] in Trench 10. The feature was undated.

Trench 10 (Fig 5)

Trench 10 contained two fire pits, [1005] and [1010], and a tree throw [1008], all of which cut the natural (1002). Following investigation it was observed that all these features were most probably burnt out roots from tree clearance. No dating evidence was discovered.

Pit [1005] (Fig 9, Section 111) was irregular/ sub oval in plan, 0.7m by 0.4m and 0.1m deep. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base with three fills (1006), (1003), (1004) from the top to the base. Fill (1006) was a stiff mid olive brown silty clay with frequent flints and chalk fragments, 0.8m thick. This fill closely resembled the natural (1002). Fill (1003) was dark grey silty clay of firm compaction, 0.05m deep. The basal fill, (1004), was hard mid red silty clay, 0.05m thick, showing evidence of being scorched *in situ*.

Pit [1008] (Fig 9, Section 113) had an irregular shape in plan, 0.5m by 2m and

0.58m deep. It had a gradual break of slope, steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by (1007), (1012), (1013), (1014), (1015) and (1011). Fill (1007) was 0.19m deep and was composed of a firm mid red scorched clay. Fill (1012) was a dark grey silty clay while fill (1013) was a silty clay. Fill (1014) was a dark grey, silty clay and (1015) was mid red scorched silty clay. Fill (1011) was a mid olive brown, silty clay and was hard to distinguish from the natural (1002).

Pit [1010] (Fig 9, Section 112) was irregular/ oval in plan, 0.6m by 0.32m and 0.15m deep with variable steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by (1009), 0.15m thick, dark grey silty clay of a firm compaction. The evidence suggested that this was a probable episode of root burning.

Trench 11 (Fig 5, Plate 3)

In Trench 11 machine excavation revealed three ditches [1102], [1108], and [1124], a furrow [1123] and two post holes [1119] and [1120]. Ditches [1102] and [1108] form a possible rectilinear enclosure from the evidence of the geophysical survey. Excavation of these features confirmed a similar morphology.

Ditch [1102] (Fig 9, Section 117; Plate 19) was aligned northwest to southeast. It was 1.75m wide, 0.90m deep, and 1.60m long with steep straight sides and a concave base. It contained five fills: (1103), (1104), (1105), (1106), and (1107). Fill (1103) was a firm dark grey brown, silty clay, 0.27m thick. Fill (1104) was a mid brownish grey silty clay of firm compaction with frequent charcoal flecks, 0.35m thick, containing Late Iron Age pottery and fired clay. Fill (1105) was a firm mid yellowish brown, silty clay 0.6m thick. Fill (1106) was a mid brownish yellow, clay of firm compaction 0.32m thick while the final base fill (1107) was a

soft mid greyish yellow, clay silt.

Ditch [1115] was situated to the east of [1102] and is aligned approximately north to south. It was 0.6m wide, 1.8m long and 0.52m deep and had steep sides and a concave base, with top fill (1116), which was a firm mid-light yellowish brown/grey clay silt, 0.25m thick, containing a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery. The lower fill (1117) was a mid grey and light yellowish brown clay silt, 0.90m thick. This feature was later re-cut by ditch [1008].

Ditch [1108] (Fig 9, Section 118; Plate 20) a possible re-cut of [1115] was 1.9m wide, 1.8m long, and 1.22m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained fills (1109) to (1114) from top to base. Fill (1109) was a firm mid dark grey, with frequent rusty flecking, clay silt, 0.75m thick containing Late Iron Age pottery. Fill (1110) was stiff light yellow brown silty clay, 0.22m thick. Fill (1111) was a firm mid grey and light yellow brown, with rusty mottle, clay silt, 0.2m thick containing Late Iron Age pottery. Fill (1112) was a mix of mid grey with rusty flecking and light yellowish brown clay silt, 0.15m thick. Fill (1113) was mid grey, silty clay 0.8m thick while the base fill (1114) was a mix of firm mid orange and mid grey clay with frequent chalk fragments, 0.2m thick.

The two post holes located in this trench [1119] and [1120] were to the east of [1108]. Post hole [1119] (Fig 9, Section 119; Plate 22) was oval in plan, 0.6m by 0.55m and 0.19m deep, having steep sides and a concave base. This was filled by (1118), a medium-dark brownish grey clay silt with frequent rusty flecking.

Post hole [1121] (Fig 9, Section 120; Plate 22) to the east of [1119] was oval in plan, 0.66m by 0.34m, 0.23m deep with steep/vertical sides and a concave base.

This feature was filled by (1120) a firm medium-dark brownish grey clay silt with frequent rusty flecks.

The third ditch located in Trench 11 [1124] was at the east end of the trench and was aligned northeast to southwest. This ditch was not noted in the geophysical survey and may represent evidence for another enclosure in the area or part of the [1102/ [1108] enclosure. It was not observed in any nearby trenches and was linear in plan, 0.33m deep, 0.8 wide with steep sides and a concave base. Within the ditch was fill (1125), a medium brown grey clay containing animal bone.

Ditch [1124] was later cut by linear [1128] (Fig 9, Section 124; Plate 21) following the same northeast to southwest alignment and was 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep. It had steep sides and a concave base and contained fill (1129) a light grey clay. Both ditches [1124] and [1128] were later cut by ditch [1126], 0.2m deep, and 1.5m wide with steep sides and a concave base. Fill (1127) was a medium brown, clay. An environmental sample produced chaff and is indicative of crop processing being undertaken on the site (Appendix 4).

Furrow [1123] (Fig 9, Section 122) was located around the middle of the trench. It was linear in plan, aligned roughly north to south, 4.5m wide, 1.8m long, 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a shallow concave base. The fill (1122), 0.1m deep, was a firm mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent small sub angular and rounded flints and stones and contained fired clay.

Trench 12 (Fig 6)

Trench 12 contained two ditches cutting the natural (1201). Ditch [1202] to the north of [1205] had a northwest to southeast alignment; ditch [1205] had a NNW to SSE alignment. Both ditches are most probably those noted on the 19th

century first edition Ordnance Survey map and are likely to be part of the same linears noted, but not excavated, in Trench 14, [1402] and [1403]. Both ditches were excavated to confirm their nature and relationship to the available historical mapping.

Ditch [1202] (Fig 10, Section 121; Plate 23) was 0.94m wide and 0.33m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. This feature had two fills, (1203) 0.22m deep, firm dark brownish grey silty clay. The base fill (1204), 0.30m deep, was firm mid yellowish brown silty clay.

Ditch [1205] (Fig 10, Section 123; Plate 24), to the southwest of [1202], was 1.12m wide, 0.42m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The top fill (1206), 0.22m thick, was mid greyish brown silty clay. Its mixed appearance suggested a backfill. The base fill (1207) was 0.35m thick firm mid brownish grey silty clay.

Trench 13 (Fig 6)

Trench 13 revealed a pond which was marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey for the area. It was machine excavated to confirm its categorisation and date. No finds were revealed but the shape and nature of the fills did suggest a pond feature, which was later backfilled.

Pond [1301] (Fig 10, Section 134; Plate 25) was circular in plan, 9m wide and 1m deep with gently sloping straight sides. The shape of the base was unknown as the feature was only excavated to 1m depth. Fill (1302) was a medium brown orange clay silt, its mixed nature suggesting a backfill. Below this was (1303) a black clay peat layer, suggesting an organic layer towards the base of the pond. The base fill (1304) was hard black flint with iron panning.

Trench 14 (Fig 6)

Trench 14 contained probable burnt out tree roots [1401], similar to [1005] in Trench 10, which were not excavated. As with [1005] it is possible that this may have been part of a tree clearing event. Two post-medieval boundary ditches were also identified in this trench, both of which were located on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. It is probable that [1402] equates to [1202] and [1403] equates to [1205] forming part of a linear boundary system running approximately east to west across site. As these had already been tested by excavation in Trench 12 they were not excavated.

Trench 15 (Fig 6)

One boundary ditch [1501] cut the natural (1502) and was probably of post-medieval date. It appears on the 19th century first edition Ordnance Survey map for the area. It was not excavated, but recorded in plan, as it was considered to be the same feature as [2506] in Trench 25.

Trench 16 (Fig 6)

In this trench, two furrows, [1601] and [1603], of probable medieval or post-medieval date, aligned roughly west to east, both cut the natural (1602). These features were not excavated as similar features were examined in Trench 28.

Trench 17 (Fig 6)

Trench 17 revealed one feature [1701] cutting the natural (1706), excavation suggesting it was a fire pit of unknown use or date. Pit [1701] (Fig 10, Section 128; Plate 26) was circular in plan, 0.9m wide and 0.13m deep with gentle sloping sides and a flat base. The top fill was (1705) 0.08m thick, dark brown silty clay with occasional small rounded and angular stones, a possible plough soil over the pit.

Below this was (1703), black silty clay, 0.04m thick, with occasional small angular flint and frequent charcoal. Beneath this was (1704) dark red silty clay, 0.03m thick, with burnt clay. The base fill (1702) was a dark red clay of firm compaction forming a layer of burnt clay suggesting this was fired *in situ*.

Trench 18

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 19 (Fig 7)

Two ditches were recorded cutting the natural (1901) in Trench 19. The first ditch [1902] (Fig 10, Section 127; Plate 27), located in the southwest of the trench, was 1m wide and 0.55m deep and had a northwest to southeast alignment. It had a sharp break of slope with regular steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (1903) of light brown clay with light blue patches and occasional small stones.

Ditch [1904] (Fig 10, Section 126; Plate 28) was located in the northeast of the trench. It had a southwest to northeast alignment and was 0.9m wide and 0.44m deep, the west edge having a steep slope and the east edge a gradual slope. The base of the feature was flat and it was filled with (1905), 0.44m thick, a firm light brown clay.

The geophysical survey suggested that these two ditches were associated as a boundary or enclosure feature. Both features were very similar in morphology and from the geophysical information may have formed two sides of an enclosure system. However no finds were obtained from either feature to prove a chronological relationship. The geophysical survey suggests that [1902] continued in a northeast direction towards Trench 21 where a feature of similar

morphology was located [2102].

Trench 20

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 21 (Fig 7)

One feature, ditch [2102], was identified in Trench 21, cutting the natural (2101) with a roughly east to west alignment. This ditch, according to the geophysical survey, may be related to ditch [1902] in Trench 19, forming a side to an enclosure or boundary ditch. Both features shared a similar morphology, but no finds were recovered.

Ditch [2102] (Fig 10, Section 133; Plate 29) was linear in plan, 1.6m wide and 0.67m deep. The south edge had steep irregular sides while the north edge had moderate convex sides with a concave base. The fills (2105), (2104), (2103) formed a series of silting events.

Trench 22 (Fig 7)

Two ditches of post-medieval date were located in Trench 22, [2201] and [2202]. They were parallel to each other, had an approximately northeast to southwest alignment and appear to have been part of a field boundary running southwest to northeast from Trench 15 to Trench 25. They were marked on the early 19th century 1st edition Ordnance Survey map for the area. Neither ditch was excavated in this trench as those in Trench 25 were examined. In this case [2201] related to ditch [2506], and ditch [2202] corresponded to [2504].

Trench 23

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 24

Six furrows of medieval or post-medieval date cut the natural (2401) and were aligned southwest to northeast.

Trench 25 (Fig 7)

Trench 25 contained two ditches, aligned approximately northeast to southwest, forming a field boundary as observed on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of the early 19th century.

Ditch [2504] (Fig 11, Section 125; Plate 30) was 0.85m wide, 2.1m long and 0.4m deep with moderately steep sides and a gently concave base. It was filled by (2503), a medium brown clay silt.

Ditch [2508] (Fig 11, Section 125; Plate 30) was linear in plan, 0.5m wide, 2.1m long and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a concave base, filled by (2507) mottled medium brown/mid grey clay silt. This ditch was later recut by [2506]. Ditch [2506] was linear in plan, 1.3m wide, 2.1m long and 0.67m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Fill (2505) was a dark brownish grey clay silt.

Trench 26 (Fig 7)

Seven southwest to northeast furrows of medieval or post-medieval date were located in Trench 26. Two of these were excavated, [2602] and [2606], to determine their morphology and date.

Furrow [2602] was 2 m wide, 0.05m deep, with gently sloping sides and a gentle concave base. It was filled by (2603), a mid brown clay. This feature was cut by a post-medieval land drain [2604] (Fig 11, Section 130) which was 0.25m wide and 0.28m deep with vertical sides and a flat base filled by (2605), a mid brown clay which contained some mid 17th to 18th century pottery and animal bone.

Furrow [2606] (Fig 11, Section 131) was 2.30m wide, 0.17m deep with very gentle sides, a slightly concave base and filled with (2607) a mid olive brown clay. It was later cut by [2608] a post-medieval field drain, 0.28m wide, placed in the base of the furrow. This feature was not fully excavated and was filled by (2609), a mid brown clay.

Trench 27 (Fig 7)

Trench 27 contained eight medieval/post-medieval furrows, on a southwest to northeast alignment, and two ditches.

Both ditches, [2708] and [2709], were aligned northwest to southeast, ditch [2708] being to the southeast of [2709]. Both ditches and one furrow [2704] were excavated. A further land drain [2706] was discovered cutting furrow [2704].

Ditch [2708] (Fig 11, Section 129; Plate 31) was linear in plan, 0.9m wide, 2.1m long, 0.57m deep with very steep sides and a concave base. This was filled by (2707), a mid olive brown – orange silty clay.

Ditch [2709] (Fig 11, Section 132; Plate 32) was linear in plan with gentle sloping sides and a flat base. This was filled by (2711) and (2710), both orange grey clay.

Furrow [2704] cut ditch [2708] and 2.1m wide, 1.8m long and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base with a mid brown, silty clay fill (2703). This feature was cut by field drain [2706] which 0.25m wide with vertical sides. It was on the same southwest to northeast alignment as furrow [2704] and was filled by (2705), a mid brown, with patches of dark grey, silty clay.

Trench 28

Eight furrows of medieval or post-medieval date were located in Trench 28,

on a southwest to northeast alignment. None were excavated as these features had been tested through excavation in Trench 26.

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposit encountered across the site was consistently a mid to light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent flints and chalk fragments.

Most of the trenches were located with regard to information from historical maps and the prior geophysical survey which proved to be effective in locating archaeological features.

Two areas of concentrated activity were noted in the area of Trenches 1-4 and, secondly, in the area of Trench 11 which were dated to the Late Iron Age by the pottery

The number of ditches in the area of Trenches 1-4 suggested a concentrated habitation area. Trench 1 contained three ditches [101], [104], and [107], the latter two and a pit [106] containing pottery of Late Iron Age date. This pit was cut in turn by gully [112], and finally by [110], neither of which contained datable material. Features [107] and [110] appear on the geophysical survey.

Trench 2 to the north contained features of a similar morphology to those in Trench 1. There were four ditches [201], [206], [208], [210], and one post hole [203] to the south of [206]. The geophysical survey indicated the presence of features [201], [206] and / or [208]. Features [201], [208] included pottery dated to the Late Iron Age. Trench 3 gully [305] was identified after the natural was machined back to clarify the presence of a feature indicated by the geophysical survey. It may be that this relates to a feature in Trench 1 and

could form an enclosure but this is not certain. Trench 4 targeted further geophysical anomalies and a probable boundary ditch was excavated although it was not certain if this related exactly. This was also dated to the Late Iron Age.

The features located in Trench 11 also suggest an area of intense activity. The geophysical information indicated the possible presence of a rectilinear enclosure in this trench, terminating to the south and north before Trench 13. Ditch [1102] produced both charcoal and pottery dated to the Late Iron Age. Ditch [1108] also produced pot from (1109) and (1111) with charcoal from (1109). These fills were quite productive in finds and the amount of charcoal may suggest a domestic enclosure or area of intense activity. Another ditch [1128] in the west of the trench shared a similar morphology, but was not indicated in the geophysical survey. It may be this is an unrelated enclosure of a different date or relates to [1102] and [1108]. Two post holes [1119], [1120], were also investigated and this may reinforce the notion of a domestic enclosure of Iron Age date.

Environmental samples from the Iron Age ditches in Trenches 1 and 11 produced low levels of charred cereal remains, with charcoal, burnt stone, fired earth and pottery clearly indicating that these features lay close to settlement (Appendix 4). The presence of chaff in context (1127), despite a small assemblage, was indicative of crop processing being undertaken on the site.

Both of these areas of intense activity were located on a slight ridge from the southwest, in the area of Trenches 1-4, to the northeast, in the area of Trench 11, gaining in height towards the northeast. It may be that the topography of the site explains the location of the intensive areas of Iron Age activity and associated

enclosures.

The geophysical survey noted a possible enclosure targeted by Trenches 19 and 21. It was noted that they shared a similar morphology and the feature in Trench 21 [2102] probably related to [1902] in Trench 19 but no dating evidence was recovered.

Ditches [2708] and [2709] were excavated in Trench 27 and it was noted that the former was cut by [2704], a medieval furrow, so must predate the medieval field systems. However no finds were retrieved from either ditch. Neither ditch was observed in any trenches nearby but it may be possible that these features have been masked by furrows in Trench 26.

A further undated ditch was examined in Trench 5, [501]. This feature was not detected by the geophysical survey, nor was it located in any other trenches and there were no finds. It may be possible that it is part of another ditch system or another possible natural feature as with [303] in Trench 3.

The geophysical survey also revealed the possible presence of ridge and furrow in the area. The concentration of this type of feature was to the northwest in and around Trenches 24, 26, 27, 28, and to the west in the area of Trench 16. The evaluation confirmed the presence of these features and two, in Trench 26, [2602] and [2606], were excavated fully. Both had had field drains added to their bases probably in the post-medieval period. Further ridge and furrow was located in the geophysical survey to the east of Trench 1, but none was observed in that trench. A further possible furrow was excavated in Trench 11, [1123] on a north-south axis. The possible furrow located in Trench 11 [1123] and those to the east of Trench 1 may suggest that the ridge and furrow had been more extensive but had not been

preserved.

A number of possible fire pits were identified during machining. Those located in Trenches 6, 9 and 10 were examined and it was concluded that these were probably burnt out roots and may be due to field clearance or extension. No dating material was obtained from these features.

The Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1886 recorded the presence of four fields in the area of the evaluation, of probable post- medieval date. The boundary ditches for these fields were located in Trenches 8, 7, 12, 14, 15, 22, and 25. The ditches in Trenches, 8, 12 and 25 were excavated and the combined information from the geophysical survey and fieldwork confirmed these to be the ditches on the map. It is probable that they were backfilled at some stage to create a larger field.

Another feature indicated on the Ordnance Survey map and as a geophysical anomaly in Trench 13 was a possible pond [1301]. The profile and fills confirmed this feature as being a pond.

Trenches, 18, 20 and 23 were blank with no features or other archaeological information.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Wellingborough Road, Sywell, Northamptonshire, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains, a prior geophysical survey of the site having recorded linear and curvilinear features.

The dateable archaeology on site included two areas of Late Iron Age enclosures and other related features such as post holes. Several of the ditches corresponded to the

geophysical survey.

The geophysical survey detected three areas thought to be medieval field systems with those in the west and northwest of site confirmed through excavation.

The information from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey for the area regarding the post-medieval field systems was confirmed through excavation. A pond located on the same map and through the geophysical survey was also investigated.

Finds included Late Iron Age and post-medieval pottery and animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Lark Energy Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Staff: Chris Moulis, Andy Pascoe, Mary Nugent, Maria Gale, Gary Trimble, Ingo Wagenknecht
 Surveying: Chris Moulis
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Andy Pascoe, Mark Peachey
 CAD Illustration: Andy Pascoe, Mark Peachey, Steve Malone
 Post-excavation Analyst: Andy Pascoe

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

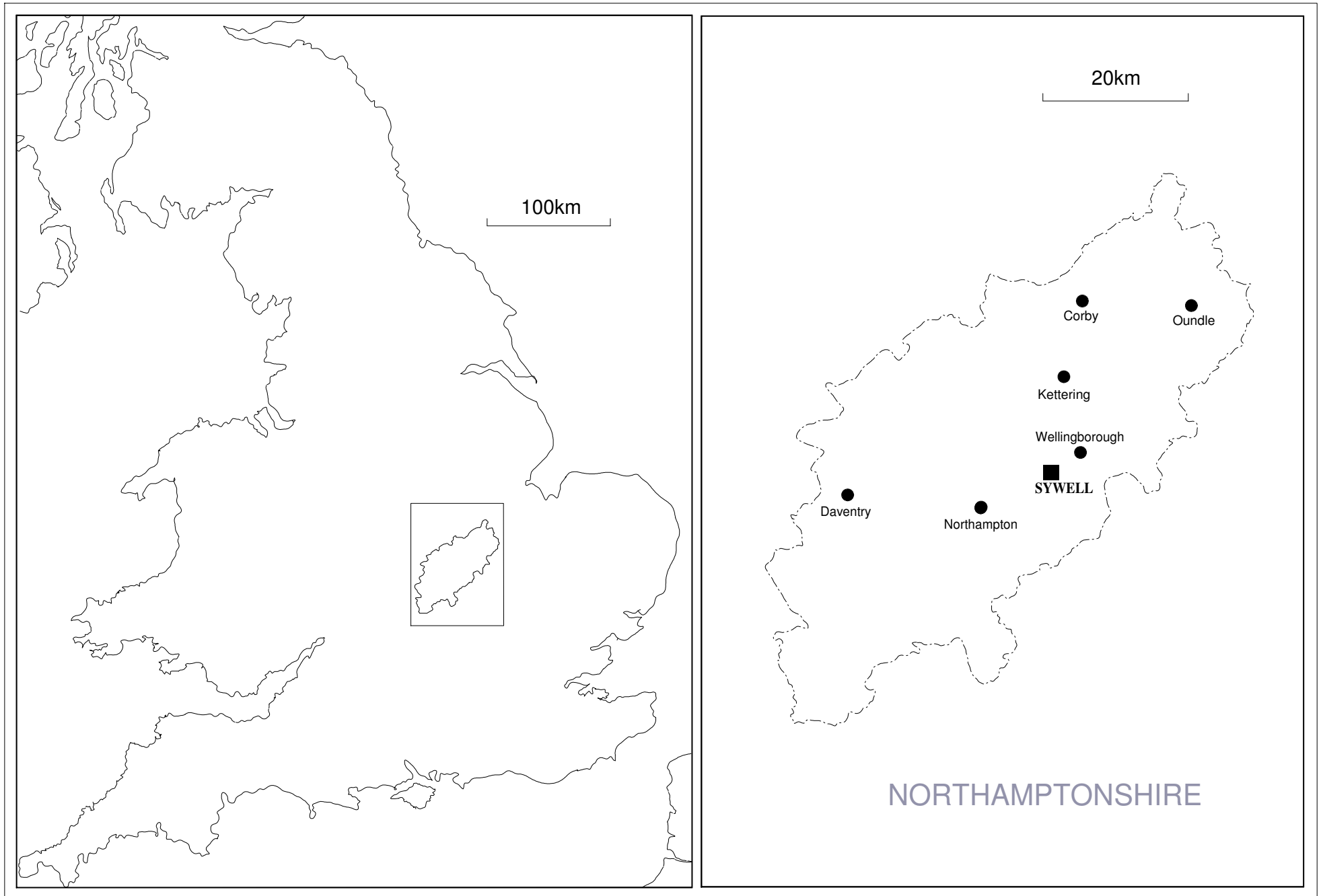


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

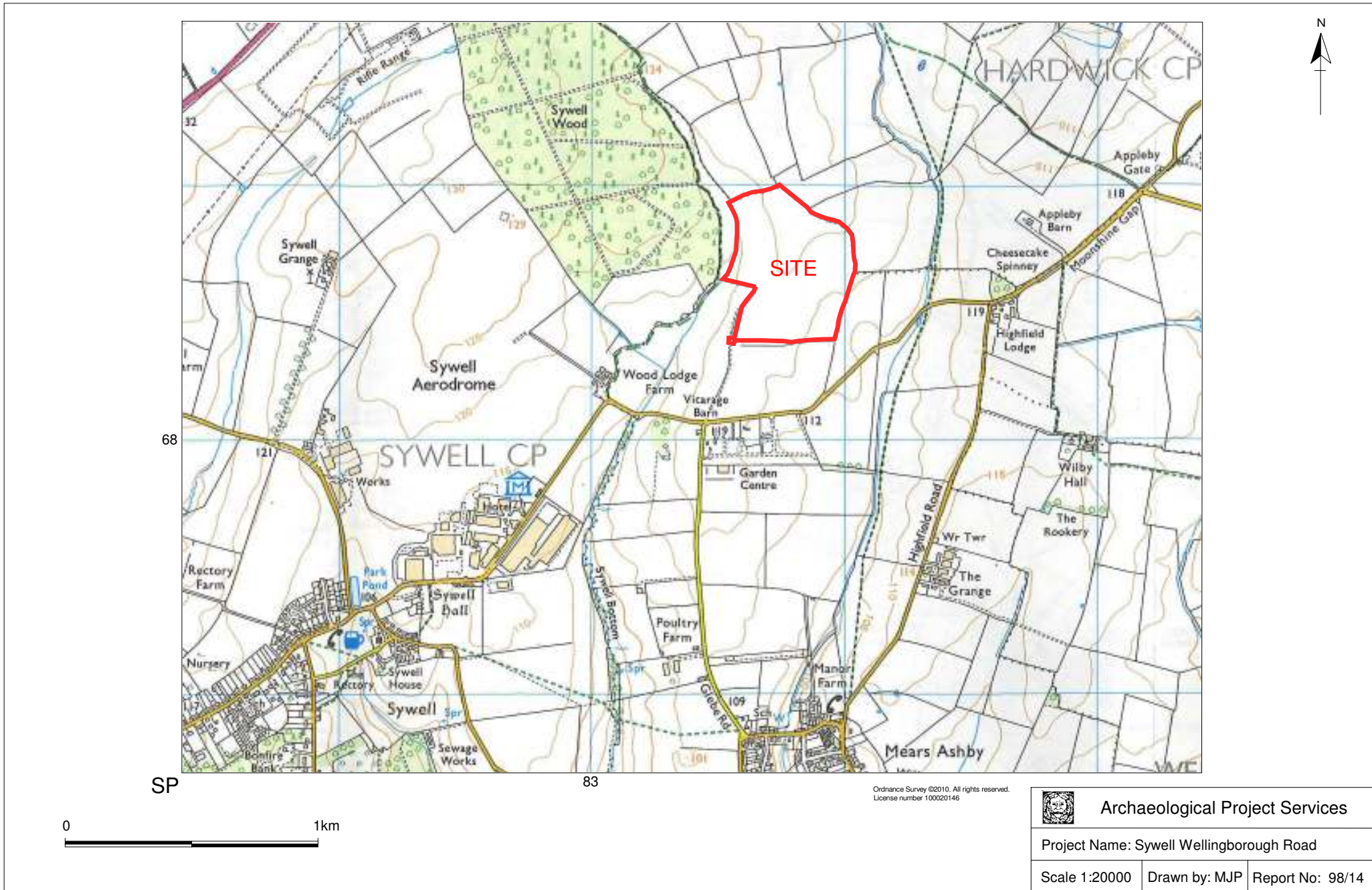


Figure 2. Site Location Plan

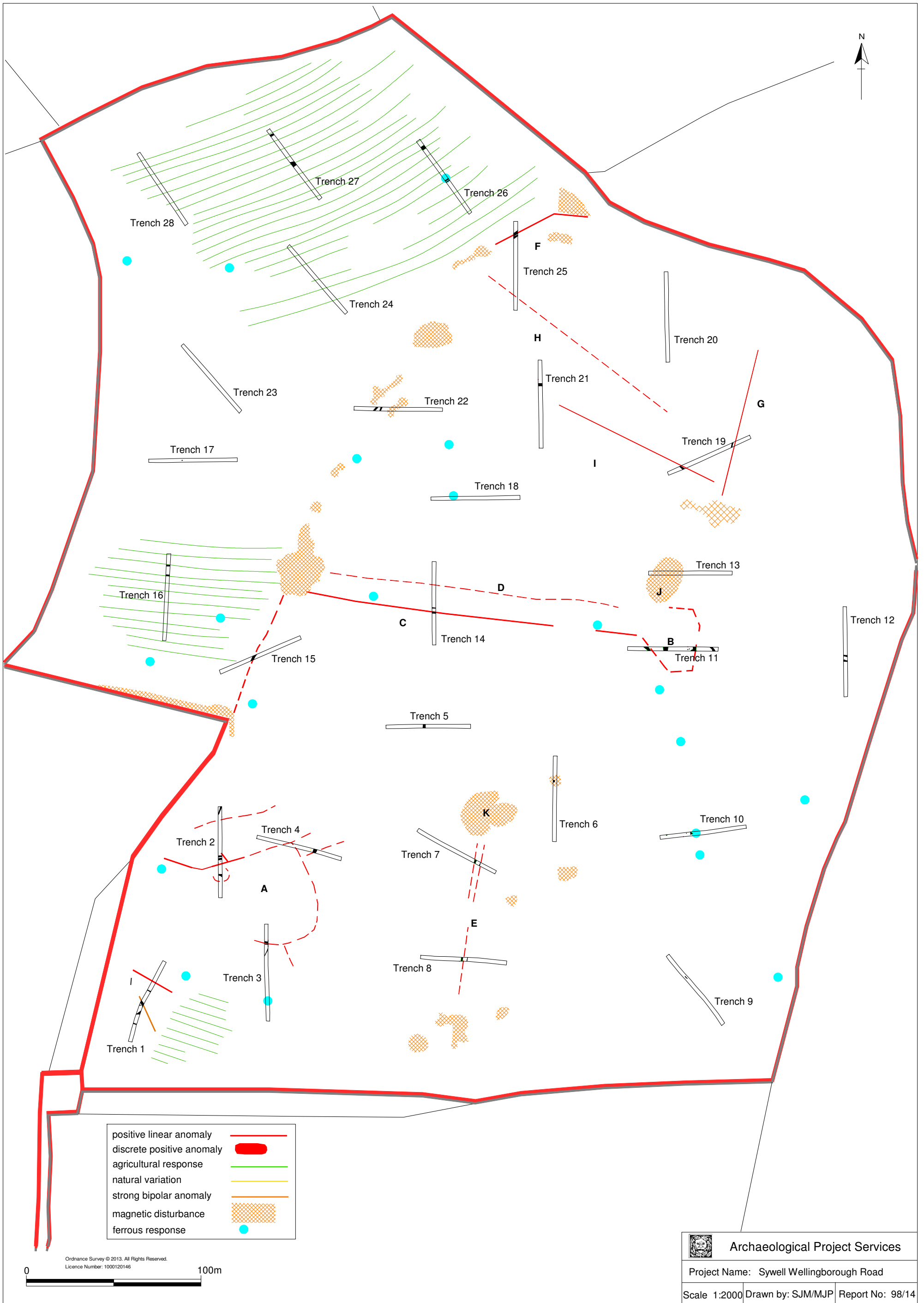


Figure 3. Trench location plan and geophysical interpretation

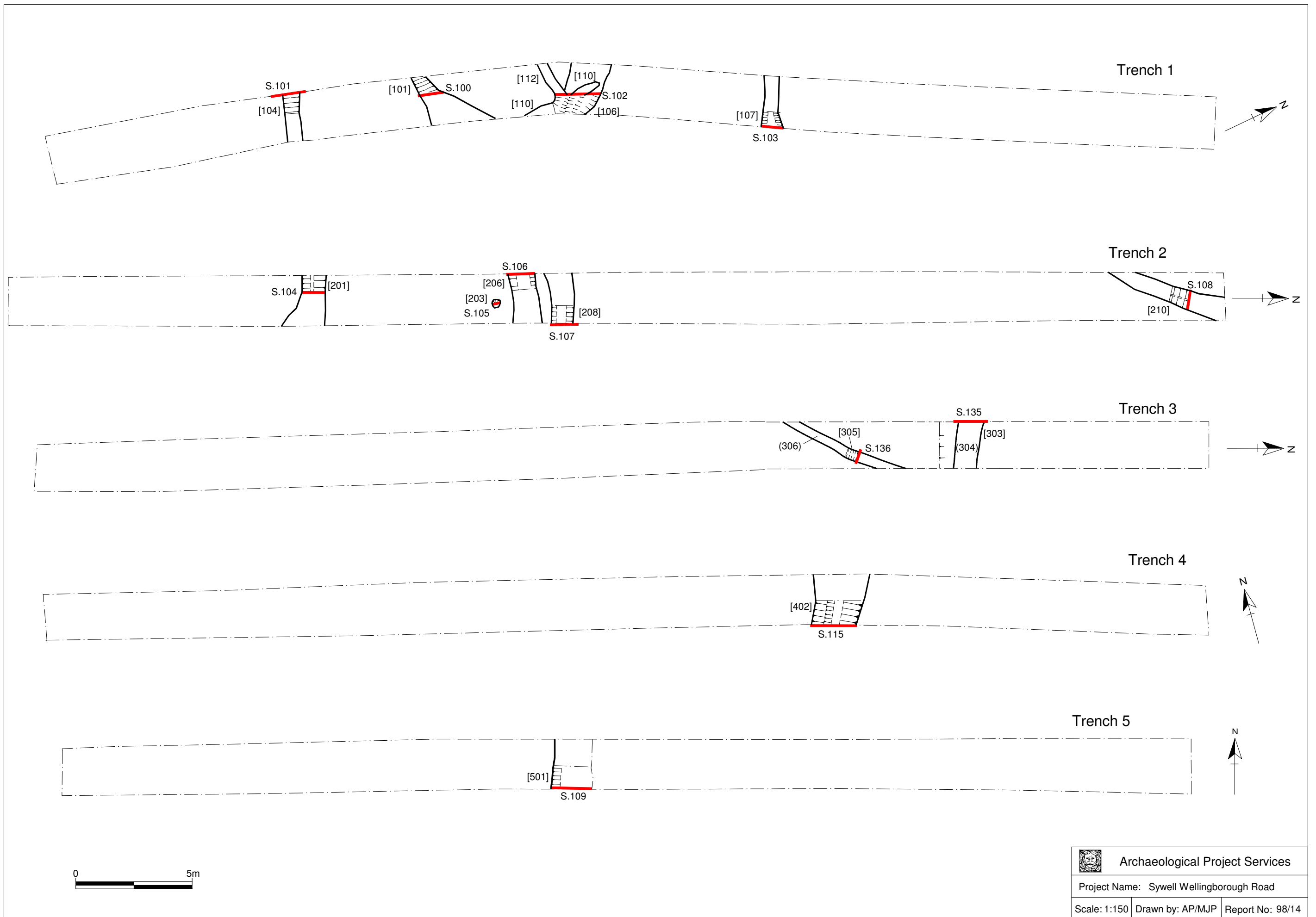


Figure 4. Trenches 1-5 plans

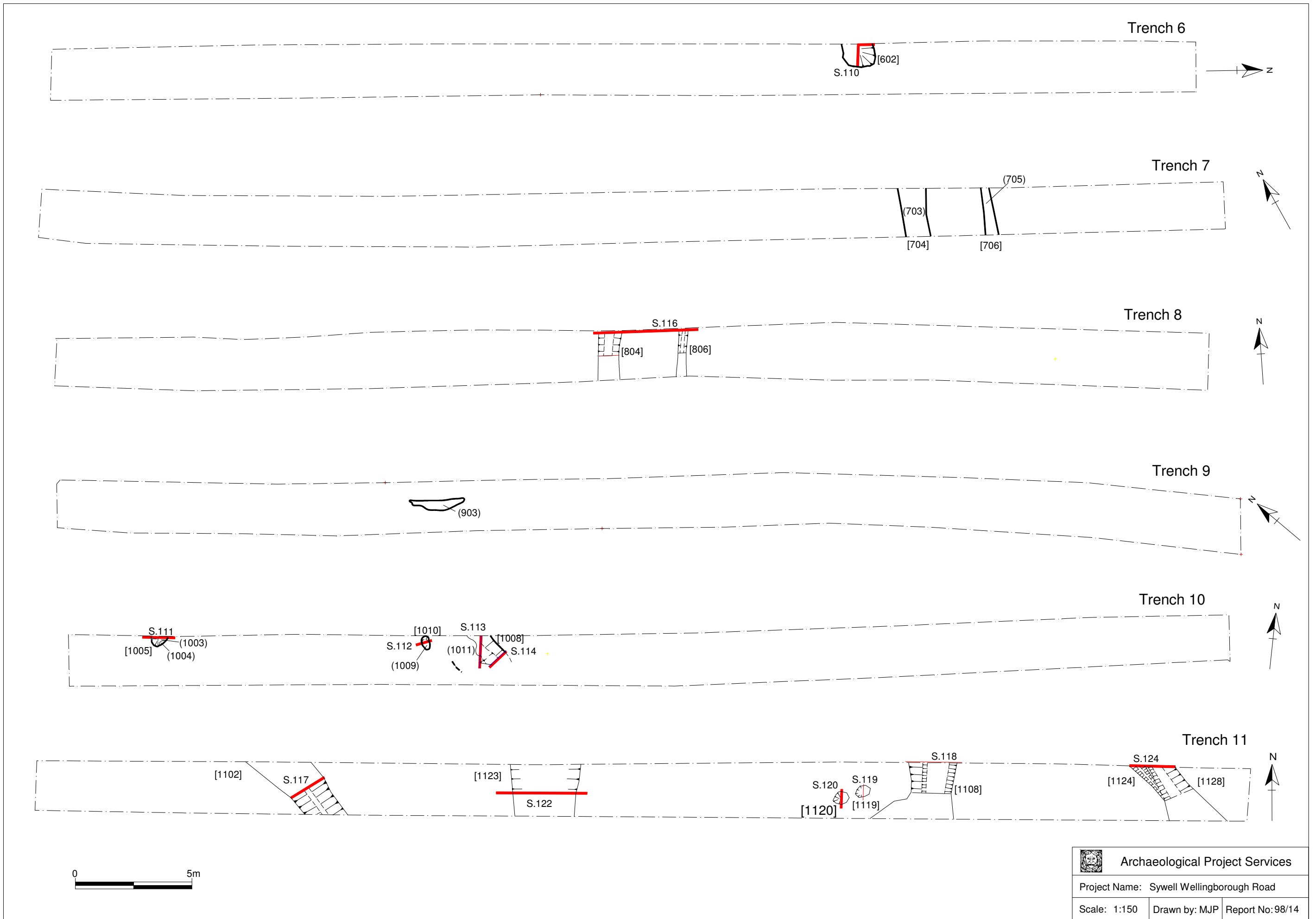


Figure 5. Trenches 6-11 plans

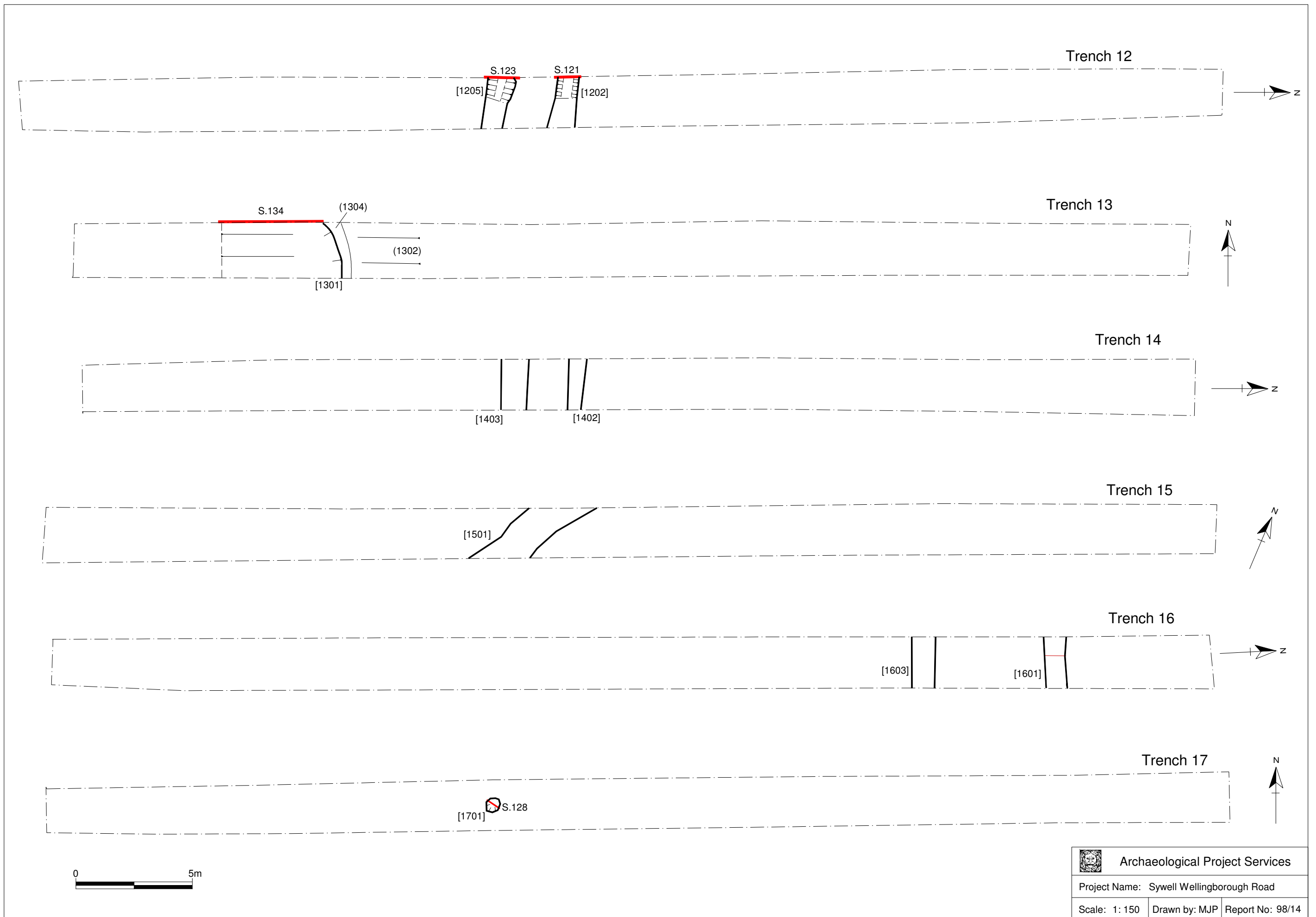


Figure 6. Trenches 12-17 plans

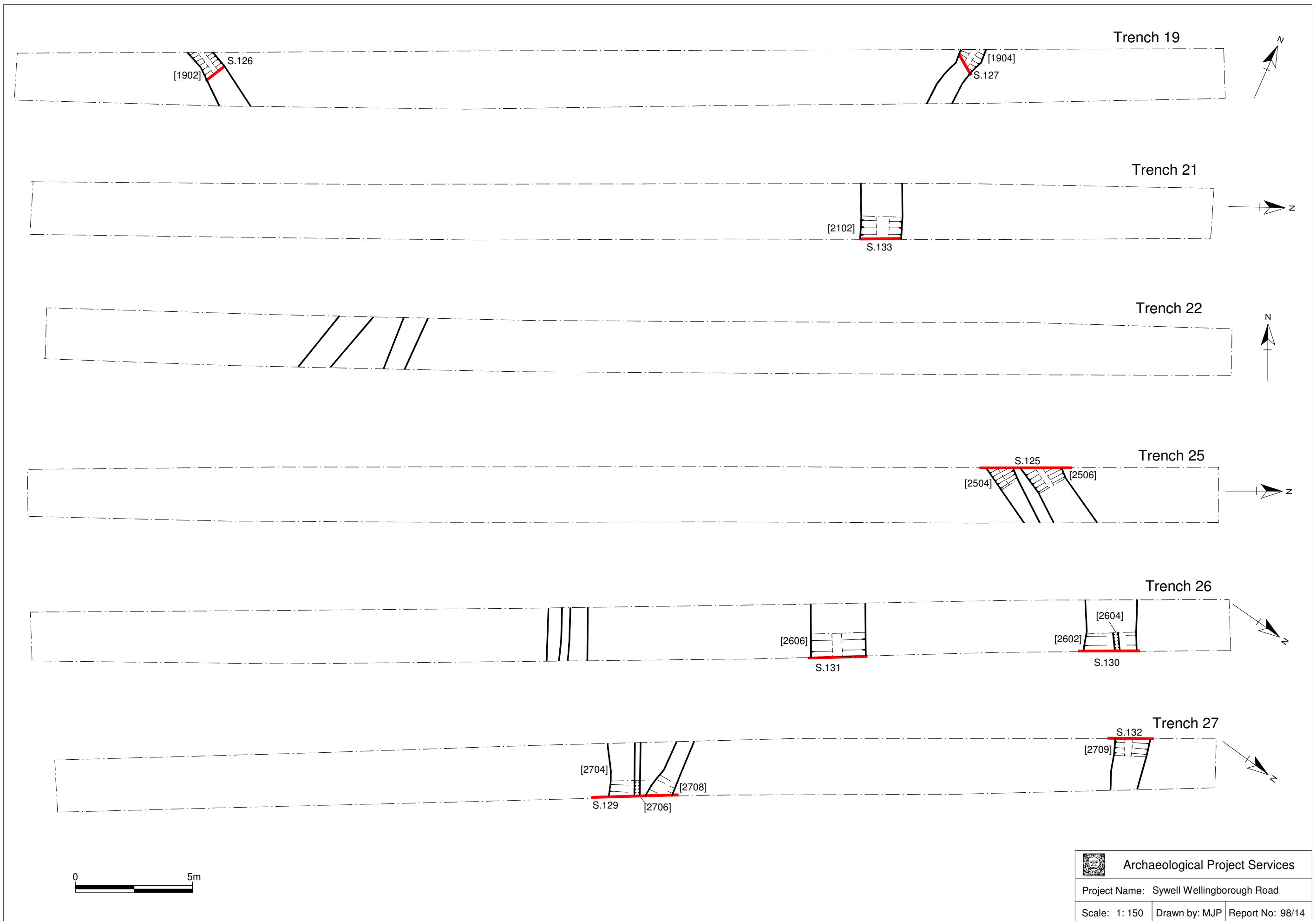


Figure 7. Trenches 19, 21, 22, 25-27 plans

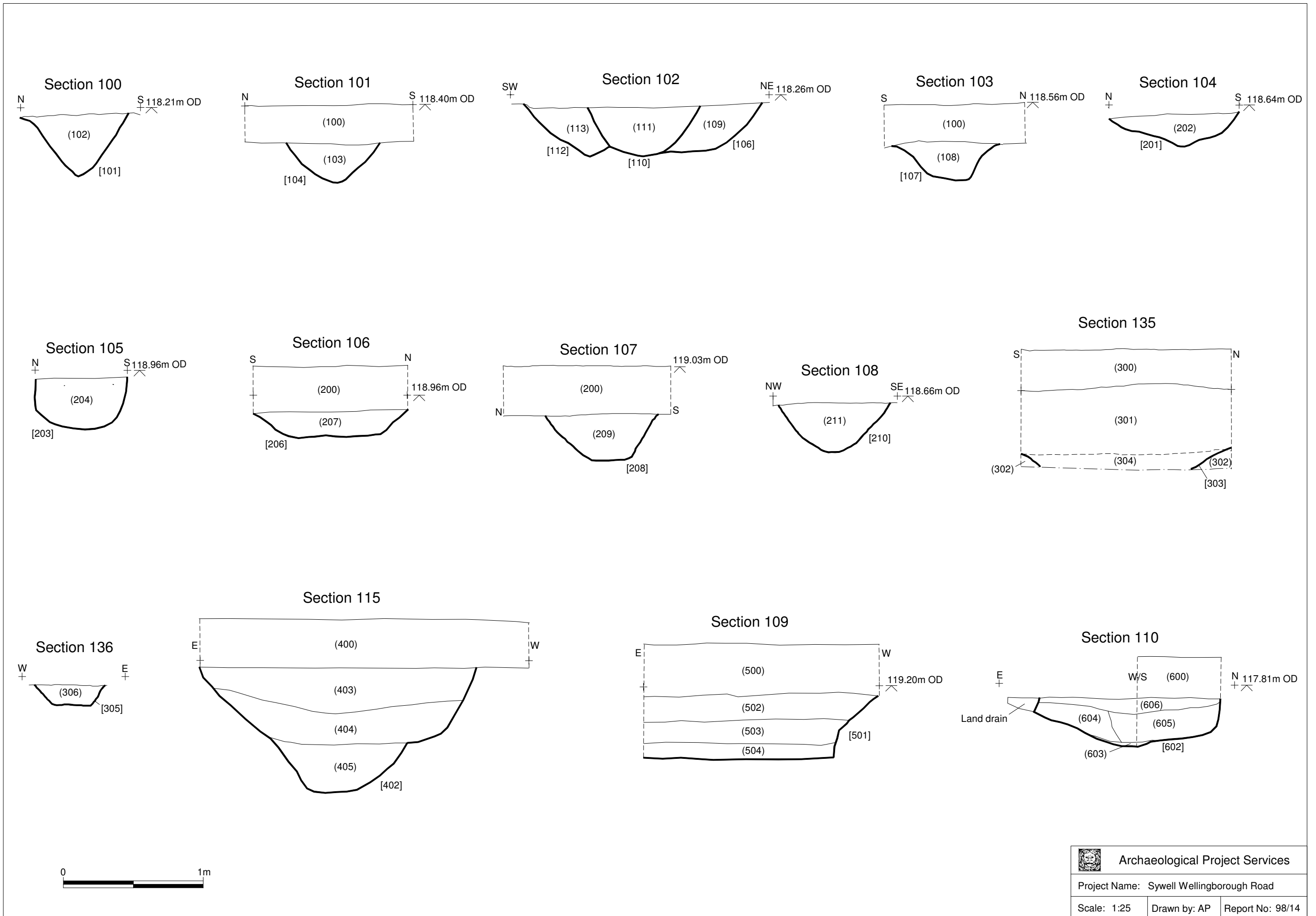


Figure 8. Trenches 1-6 sections

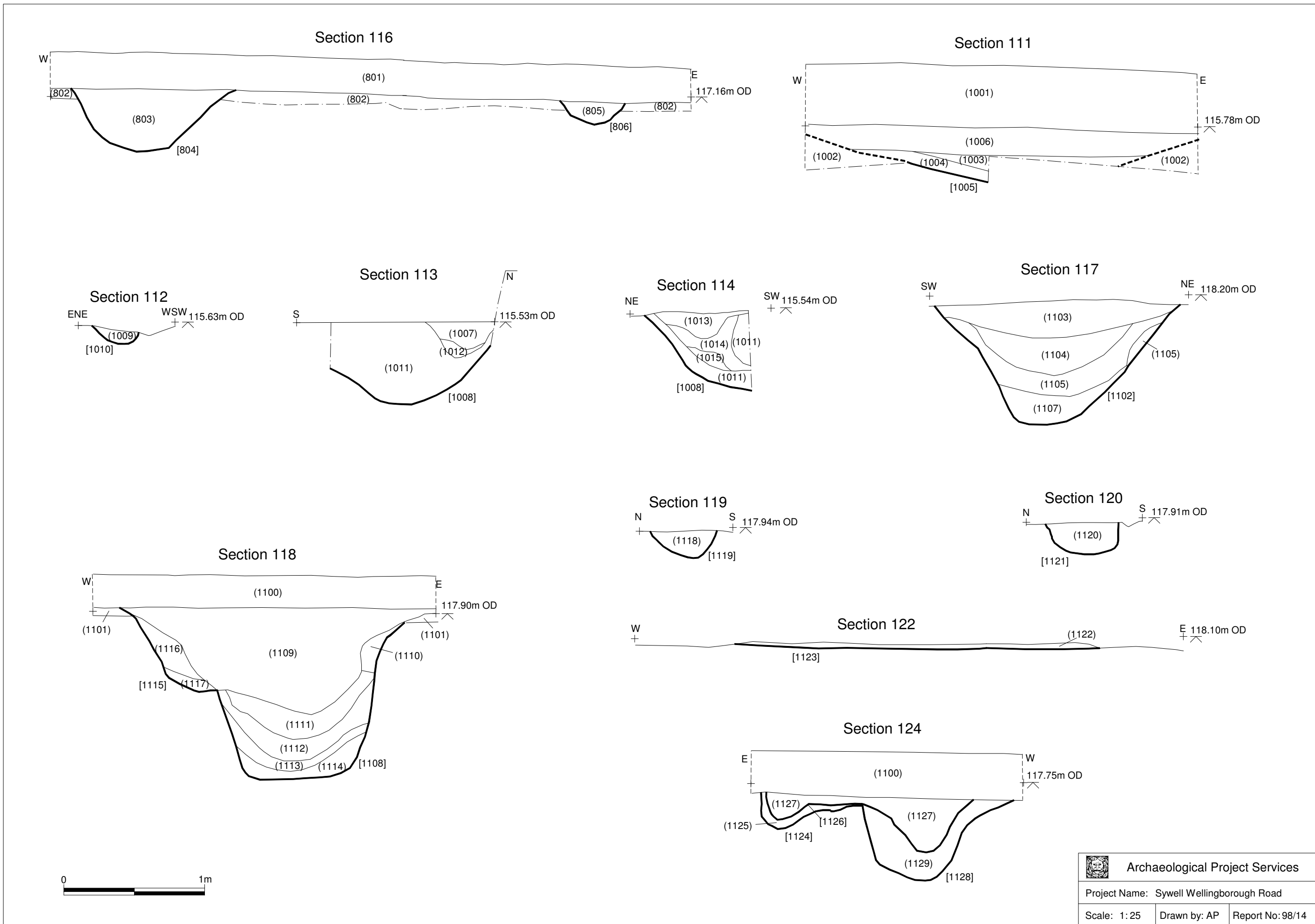


Figure 9. Trenches 8-11 sections

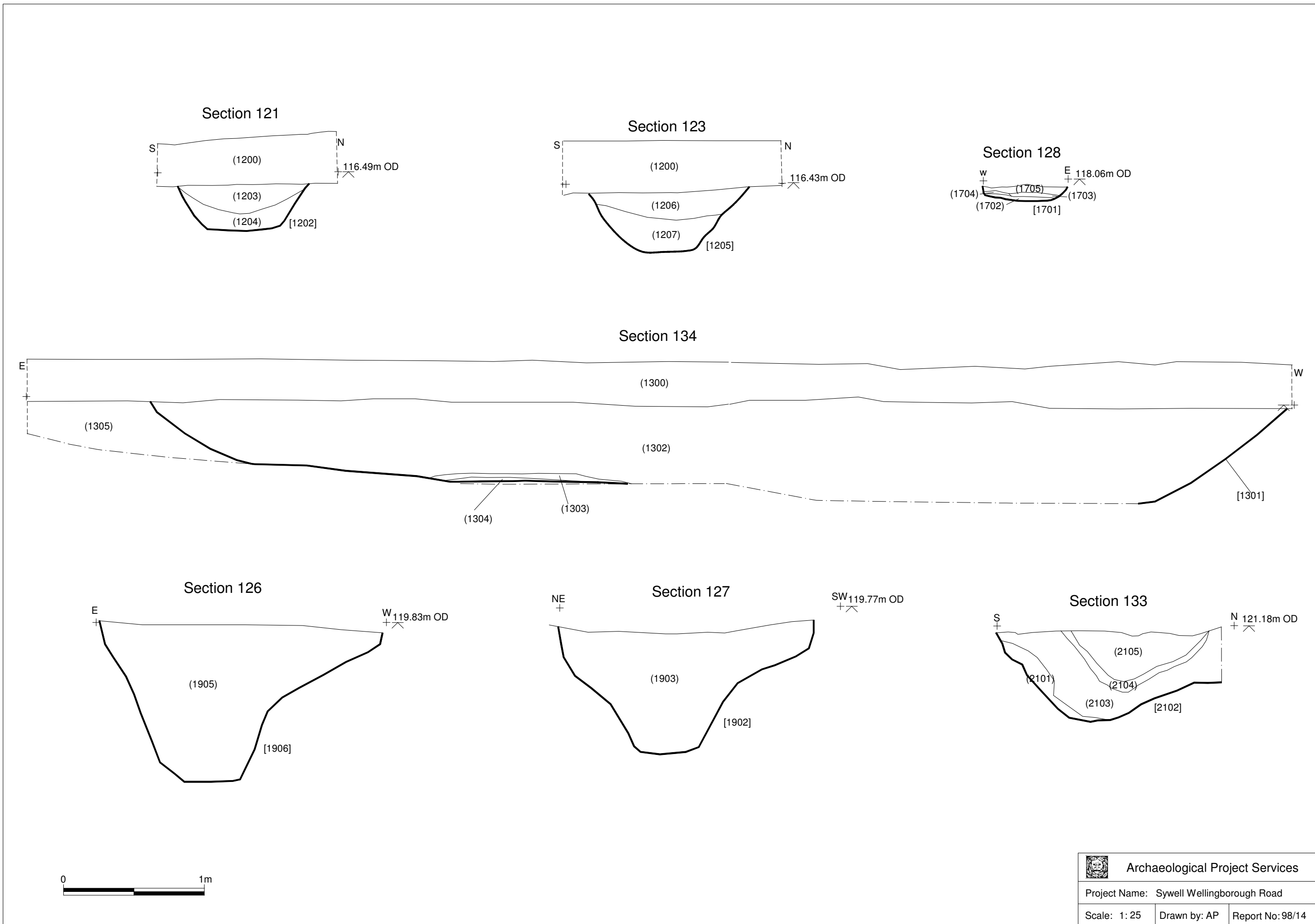
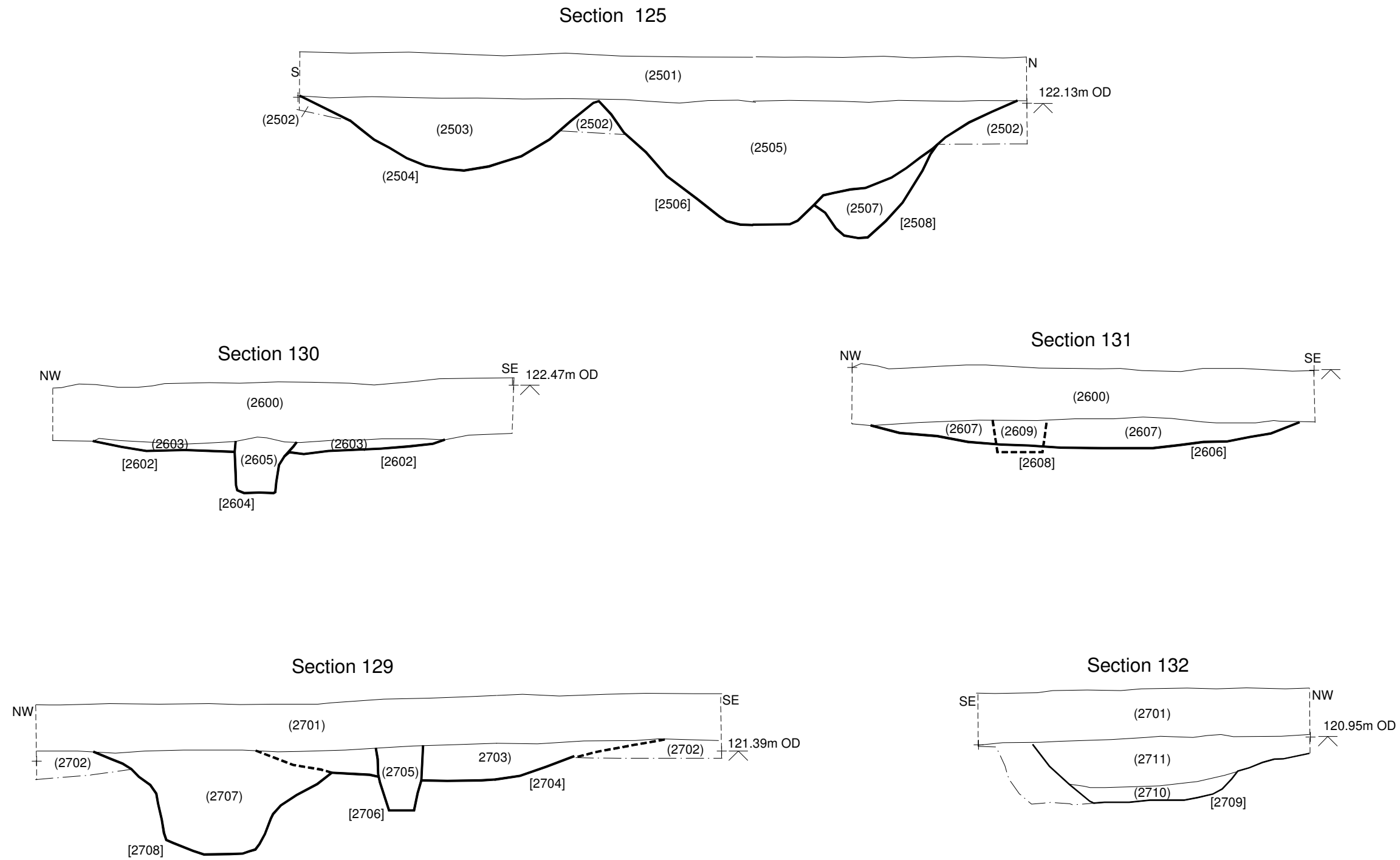


Figure 10. Trenches 12-21 sections




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Sywell Wellingborough Road		
Scale: 1: 25	Drawn by: MJJ	Report No: 98/14

Figure 11. Trenches 25-28 sections



Plate 1
General view of site
from the south looking
north



Plate 2
Trench 1 looking north



Plate 3
Trench 11 looking west



Plate 4. Trench 1. South east facing Section 101 of linear [104]



Plate 5 Trench 1. South west facing Section 100 of linear [101]



Plate 6 Trench 1. North west facing Section 103 of linear [107]



Plate 7 Trench 1. South east facing Section 102 of [106], [110], [112]



Plate 8 Trench 2. North east facing Section 104 of linear [201]



Plate 9 Trench 2. West facing Section 105 of post hole [203]



Plate 10. Trench 2. West facing Section 106 of linear [206]



Plate 11. Trench 2. West facing Section 107 of linear [208]



Plate 12 Trench 2. South facing Section 110 of linear [210]



Plate 13. Trench 3. West facing Section 135 of linear [303]



Plate 14. Trench 3. South west facing Section 136 of linear [305]



Plate 15. Trench 4. North facing Section 115 of linear [402]



Plate 16. Trench 5. North facing Section 109 of linear [501]



Plate 17.
Trench 8. South
facing Section 116
(west) of linear [804]



Plate 18
Trench 8. South facing
Section 116 (east) of
linear [806]



Plate 19. Trench 11. South east facing Section 117 of linear [1102]



Plate 20. Trench 11. South facing Section 118 of linear [1108]



Plate 21. Trench 11. North east facing Section 124 of linears [1124] and [1128]



Plate 22
Trench 11. West facing
Sections 119, 120 of
post holes [1119] and
[1120]



Plate 23. Trench 12. South east facing Section 121 of linear [1202]



Plate 24. Trench 12. South east facing Section 123 of linear [1205]



Plate 25. Trench 13. North facing Section 134 of pond [1301]



Plate 26. Trench 17. North east facing Section 128 of fire pit [1701]



Plate 27. Trench 19. South east facing Section 127 of linear [1902]



Plate 28. Trench 19. South west facing Section 126 of linear [1904]



Plate 29. Trench 21. East facing Section 133 of linear [2102]



Plate 30. Trench 25. South west facing Section 125, linears [2504] and [2506] / [2508]



Plate 31. Trench 27. South west facing Section 129 of linear [2708]



Plate 32. Trench 27. North east facing Section 132 of linear [2709]

Appendix 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PREPARED FOR Lark Energy Ltd

BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Institute for Archaeologists' Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21

JULY 2014

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation of land for a proposed solar farm at Sywell Road, Mears Ashby, Northamptonshire.*
- 1.2 *Archaeological sites and finds have been identified at the site and nearby previously. Artefact scatters of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date have been identified just southwest of the site previously. Geophysical survey of the site recorded linear and curvilinear features perhaps defining Iron Age enclosures. Other linear features perhaps represent possible former field boundaries and there was evidence of medieval ridge and furrow.*
- 1.3 *The Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council has recommended that archaeological evaluation be undertaken at the site. A programme of trial trenching is proposed.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs. The report will allow proposals for any necessary mitigation measures to be formulated and agreed.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for the evaluation of land at Sywell Road, Mears Ashby, Northamptonshire.
 - 2.1.1 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.1.2 Overview
 - 2.1.3 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.1.4 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.1.5 List of specialists
 - 2.1.6 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1.1 Sywell and Mears Ashby are located 5km southwest of Wellingborough and 11km northeast of Northampton, in the administrative district of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. The proposed development site is located 2km north of the centre of Mears Ashby and 2km northwest of Sywell, to the north of Sywell Road, at National Grid Reference SP 8377 6868.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (application number WP/14/00368/FUL) is being sought for construction of a solar farm. A desk-based study was prepared and identified moderate potential for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains at the site. The archaeological curator advised that geophysical survey be undertaken at the site to prospect for archaeological remains in the area. This survey was undertaken and identified archaeological remains including possible Iron Age enclosures and other features. As a result, the archaeological curator has advised that archaeological evaluation by trial trench is now required to assess the character, significance and extent of the remains. The results of the evaluation will enable the archaeological curator to make an informed decision regarding impact of the development on any surviving archaeological remains at the site, and allow proposals for any necessary mitigation measures to be formulated and agreed.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are of the Hanslope Association, typically calcareous pelosols, with pelo-stagnogley soils of the Ragdale Association in the northern part of the site (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 209; 293). These soils are developed on a drift geology of glacial till which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic limestones of the Upper Estuarine Series (GSGB 1974). The site lies at a height of c. 120m OD on land that slopes broadly down to the south, with a slight slope down to the west, towards a minor watercourse along the parish boundary with Sywell.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 A heritage desk-based study was prepared and indicated that artefact scatters of prehistoric flints and Roman and medieval ceramics had been found just to the southwest of the site. Further scatters of Roman and medieval pottery have been found a little further west, and cropmarks and slight earthworks of an undated incomplete enclosure occur to the southwest (Archaeological Project Services 2013).
- 6.2 Subsequent geophysical survey of the site recorded linear and curvilinear magnetic anomalies that appear to define enclosures. These enclosures are irregular in form, which may suggest they are Iron Age in date. Other linear magnetic anomalies probably represent former field boundaries. Some isolated pit-type features were recorded thinly spread around the site, with no pattern evident. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded (Archaeological Project Services 2014).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site. The work will have the potential to address research objectives such as prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement and landscape (Knight *et al.* 2012).
- 7.2 Specific objectives of the work will be to:
- 7.2.1 Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation that may be present within the development site;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
 - 7.2.3 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
 - 7.2.4 Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
 - 7.2.5 Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

8 TRIAL TRENCHING

8.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 8.1.2 The trial trenching is shown on the accompanying plan.

8.2 General Considerations

- 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 8.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IfA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 8.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required

to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. All archaeological features exposed will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the Northamptonshire County Council archaeological advisor. The investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.

- 8.2.5 If necessary, open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles if of excessive depth. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.
- 8.3 Methodology
- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 8.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - the site on completion of field work
- 8.4 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Ministry of Justice licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 8.5 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 8.6 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 8.7 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by differential RTK GPS survey.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 During the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. If necessary the specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the

environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

- 9.2 Deposits with the potential to provide environmental information will be bulk sampled. If possible these should be from a range of feature types distributed across the site and from well preserved and dated contexts.

10 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

10.1 Stage 1

- 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

10.2 Stage 2

- 10.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

10.3 Stage 3

- 10.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
 - Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
 - A text describing the findings of the investigation.
 - Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
 - A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the

evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures detailed in *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard* (2014) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), for long-term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited within an approved store as soon as possible after completion of the post-excavation and analysis.

- 11.2 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

12 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 12.1 Two copies of the report (one hard copy and one digital) will be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor. After approval, the report will be passed to the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record to act as a permanent record of the investigation. Two copies of the final report will be sent to the client.

13 PUBLICATION

- 13.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the appropriate local journal. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.
- 13.2 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

14 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with the Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council. As much notice as possible will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

15 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 15.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: David Knight Trent and Peak Archaeology. Small assemblages may be reported on by Alex Beeby/Dale Trimble, APS.
Roman:	Alex Beeby APS
Anglo-Saxon:	Alex Beeby, APS/Dr Anne Irving, independent specialist.
Medieval and later:	Alex Beeby, APS/Dr Anne Irving, independent pottery specialist.
Other Artefacts	G Taylor, APS/J Cowgill, independent specialist

Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	P Cope-Faulkner, APS/M Holmes, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	Val Fryer, independent specialist
Soil Micromorphology	Dr Charly French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Pat Wiltshire, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

17 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 17.1 Site work will be undertaken by a Project Officer with experience of archaeological excavations of this type, assisted by experienced archaeological technicians.
- 17.2 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by the Project Officer, or post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.
- 17.3 Contingency
- 17.3.1 Contingencies for the processing and analysis of 6 waterlogged bulk environmental samples and the processing and analysis of artefacts in excess of 100 items.
- 17.3.2 The activation of any contingency requirement will be by agreement with the client and in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council.

18 INSURANCES

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

19 COPYRIGHT

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 19.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

20 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 2, 21 July 2014

Appendix 2

Context Descriptions

Context	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Trench 1. Pottery surface finds from pit feature.		Late Iron Age
002	Trench 1. Pottery surface finds from ditch feature.		Late Iron Age
003	Trench 1. Pottery surface finds from possible feature.		Late Iron Age
004	Trench 2. Pottery surface finds, south of ditch		Late Iron Age
005	Trench 2. Pottery surface find from ditch.		Late Iron Age
006	Trench 24. Machining find.		18 th -20 th century
007	Trench 24. Pottery surface find, third furrow from North West end		Late 13 th -16 th century
(100)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
[101]	Cut to linear ditch. 0.86m wide, 0.46m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep straight sides. Sharp break of slope to base, v shaped base. North East to South West alignment.	Ditch	
(102)	Greyish orange, clay, occasional flint and chalk. 0.46m deep. Hard.	Fill of [101]	
(103)	Mottled light blue grey and mid yellow brown. Clay. Occasional large sub rounded inclusions 40mm to cobble sized, occasional charcoal. Up to 0.27m thick. Gradual silting event. Firm.	Fill of [104]	Late Iron Age
[104]	Cut to Linear. 0.27m deep, 0.61m wide. Sharp break of slope, moderate concaved sides. Sharp break of slope to base, concaved base. Alignment NNW to SSE.	Linear	Late Iron Age
(105)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[106]	Cut to pit. Round in plan. 1m wide, 0.45m long, 0.34m deep. Sharp break of slope, moderate concaved sides. Sharp break of slope at base, base flat.	Pit	
[107]	Cut to linear. 0.28m deep, 0.70m wide. Sharp break of slope, moderate concaved sides. Non perceptible break of slope to base, base concaved. Alignment East to West.	Linear	Late Iron Age
(108)	Light grey with reddish brown and mid	Fill of [107]	Late Iron

	yellow brown mottle. Clay. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular stone inclusions, moderate charcoal flecks. 0.28m thick. Gradual silting event. Firm.		Age
(109)	Mid grey yellow. Silty clay. Rare chalk flecks, Rare small sub angular flint. 1m wide, 0.45m long, 0.34m deep. Backfill. Hard.	Fill of [106]	
[110]	Curvilinear. 0.8m wide, 0.35m deep, 1m long. Sharp break of slope, steep concaved sides. Sharp break of slope to base, concaved base. Alignment North to South. Cuts pit [106].	Gully	Late Iron Age
(111)	Mid greyish yellow. Silty clay. Rare charcoal flecks, rare daub flecks, rare chalk fragments. 1m wide, 0.80m long, 0.35m deep. Silting/backfill. Hard.	Fill of [110]	Late Iron Age
[112]	Cut to linear. 1m long, 0.60m wide, 0.35m deep. Sharp break of slope, moderate straight sided slope. Sharp break of slope to base, concaved base. Alignment South West to North East. Cut by [110]	Linear	
(113)	Mid greyish yellow. Silty clay. Rare small flint stones, sub angular, rare daub flecks, rare charcoal flecks. 1m long, 0.60m wide, 0.35m deep. Silting/backfill. Hard.	Fill of [112]	
(200)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
[201]	Cut to linear. 0.96m wide, 0.24m deep. Gradual break of slope, gentle concaved sided slope. Gradual break of slope to base. Concaved base. Alignment North West to South East.	Ditch	Late Iron Age
(202)	Brown orange. Clay. Occasional Chalk flecks, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.24m deep. Hard.	Fill of [201]	Late Iron Age
[203]	Cut to posthole. Sub circular. 0.19m deep, 0.35m wide. Sharp break of slope, Vertical concaved sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Concaved base.	Posthole	
(204)	Mid to dark grey. Clay. Occasional sub rounded inclusions, moderate charcoal flecks and fragments. 0.19m deep. Firm.	Fill of [203]	
(205)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[206]	Cut of linear. 1.10m wide, 0.20m deep. Gradual break of slope, moderate straight sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Concaved base. Alignment South West to North East.	Ditch	

(207)	Brown orange. Clay. Occasional large stones, occasional flint, occasional chalk. 0.20m deep. Hard.	Fill of [206]	
[208]	Cut to linear. 0.80m wide, 0.34m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep straight sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Flat base. Alignment North East to South West.	Ditch	Late Iron Age
(209)	Light brown grey. Clay. Common chalky granules, common rounded to sub rounded inclusions. Occasional charcoal. 0.34m deep. Firm	Fill of [208]	Late Iron Age
[210]	Cut to curvi-linear. 0.80m long, 0.80m wide, 0.35m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep concaved sides. Sharp break of slope to base, concaved base. Aligned North East to South South West.	Ditch	
(211)	Mid grey brown. Silty clay. Occasional medium sized stones sub rounded, rare fleck of chalk, rare small stones sub angular. 0.80m long, 0.80m wide, 0.35m deep. Firm.	Fill of [210]. Silting	
(300)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(301)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(302)	Lower natural below (301) same as ()	Natural	
[303]	Linear. 2m long, 1m wide. Aligned East to West. Not fully excavated. Machined to investigate geophysical anomaly.	Ditch/ Natural feature.	
(304)	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay. Moderate chalk flecks, occasional small stones sub rounded. 2m long, 1m wide, 0.11m deep. Firm.	Fill of [303]. Silting / natural.	
[305]	Cut to linear. 0.49m wide, 0.15m deep, 5m long. Sharp break of slope, steep straight sided slope. Sharp break of slope to base, base flat. Aligned North North East to South South West.	Gully	
(306)	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional chalk flecks, rare small flint stones sub angular. 0.49m wide, 0.15m deep, 5m long. Firm.	Fill of [305]. Silting events.	
(400)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(401)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	

[402]	Linear. 2m wide, 1m long, 0.91m deep. Sharp break of slope, West edge steep straight sided slope, East moderate straight sided slope. Sharp break of slope to base. Base concaved. Boundary ditch. Aligned North to South.	Ditch	
(403)	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay. Rare chalk flecks, rare small stones sub rounded. 1m long, 2m wide, 0.33m deep. Hard.	Fill of [402]. Silting.	
(404)	Light greyish yellow. Silty clay. Rare chalk flecks, rare small stones sub rounded / sub angular. 1m long, 1.80m wide, 0.32m deep. Firm.	Fill of [402]. Silting	
(405)	Mid yellowish grey brown. Clay silt. Moderate chalk flecks, rare chalk fragments sub rounded, rare small stones sub angular. Firm.	Fill of [402]. Silting	Late Iron Age
(500)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
[501]	Cut to possible ditch or natural feature. Gradual break of slope, Moderate steps down to steep sided concaved slope. Gradual break of slope to base. Flat base. Aligned North to South.	Ditch / Palaeo channel	
(502)	Mid brown orange. Clay. Occasional rounded stones, occasional flint. 0.20m deep. Hard.	Fill of [501]	
(503)	Grey brown. Clay. Occasional flint, occasional chalk. 0.12m deep. Firm.	Fill of [501]	
(504)	Mid brown orange. Clay. Moderate chalk. 0.13m deep. Firm.	Fill of [501]	
(505)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(600)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(601)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[602]	Sub circular. 0.36m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep straight sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base concaved. Cut by modern drain.	Fire pit/ burnt out roots.	
(603)	Dark grey. Clay silt. 0.04m deep. Soft.	Fill of [603]	
(604)	Dark grey. Clay. Occasional gravel. 0.2m deep. Firm.	Fill of [603]	
(605)	Mid red. Burnt clay. 0.22m deep. Friable.	Fill of [603]	

(606)	Light brown. Clay. Common gravel. 0.12m deep.	Fill of [603]	
(701)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(702)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(703)	Dark brown grey. Clay silt. Frequent stones and pebbles. firm	Fill of [704]	
[704]	Cut to ditch. 0.90m wide. Same feature as [804]. Boundary ditch. Alignment North East to South West.	Ditch.	Post medieval
(705)	Dark brownish grey. Clay silt. Frequent stones and pebbles. Firm.	Fill of [706]	
[706]	Cut to ditch. 0.40m wide. Same as [806]. Boundary ditch. Alignment North East to South West.	Ditch	Post medieval
(801)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(802)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(803)	Dark brownish grey with patches of light yellow brown. Clay silt. Occasional black patches organic staining. 0.44m deep. Firm.	Fill of [804]	
[804]	Cut to linear. 1.15m wide, 1.8m long, 0.44m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep concaved sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved. Aligned North to South.	Ditch.	Post medieval.
(805)	Dark brownish grey. Clay silt. Moderate flint and pebbles. 0.16m deep, 0.45m wide. Firm.	Fill of [806]	
[806]	Cut to linear. 0.45m wide, 1.8m long, 0.16m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep concaved sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved. Aligned North to South.	Ditch	Post medieval.
(901)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(902)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(903)	Irregular patch of mid red scorched Silty clay. Similar to [1008]. Burnt out tree roots. 0.10m deep.	Natural feature	
(1001)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk	Plough soil	

	fragments. Firm.		
(1002)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(1003)	Dark grey brown. Silt clay. Occasional small flints, occasional charcoal. 0.05m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1005]	
(1004)	Mid red. Silty clay. 0.05m deep. Scorched in situ. Compact/hard.	Fill of [1005]	
[1005]	Cut to Irregular/ sub oval pit. 0.70m by 0.40m, 0.10m deep. Gradual break of slope, gently sloping. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved.	Cut to fire pit. Burnt out roots.	
(1006)	Mid olive brown. Silty clay. Frequent flints and chalk fragments. 0.80m deep. Same material as (1002). Stiff.	Fill of [1005]	
(1007)	Mid red. Scorched clay. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular stones. 0.19m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1008]	
[1008]	Cut to irregular pit. 0.50m by 2m, 0.58m deep. Gradual break of slope, steep sides. Gradual break of slope to the base. Base concaved.	Tree throw.	
(1009)	Dark grey. Silty clay. Moderate small flints and stones. Occasional charcoal flecks. 0.15m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1010]	
[1010]	Irregular/ oval. 0.60m by 0.32m, 0.15m deep. Variable steep sides. Break of slope to base gradual. Concaved base.	Natural feature	
(1011)	Mid olive brown. Silty clay. Moderate small stones, flints and chalk fragments. 0.58m deep. Hard to distinguish from natural (1002). Firm.	Fill of [1008]	
(1012)	Dark grey. Silty clay. Moderate small flints and stones, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.10m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1008]	
(1013)	Silty clay. Moderate small angular and sub rounded flint and stones, moderate chalk fragments. 0.18m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1008]	
(1014)	Dark grey. Silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks, medium small sub angular and rounded stones. 0.10m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1008]	
(1015)	Mid red. Scorched clay/ Silty clay. Occasional stones. 0.12m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1008] Fire residue.	
(1100)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(1101)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular.	Natural.	

	Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.		
[1102]	Cut to linear. 1.75m wide, 0.90m deep, 1.60 m long. Sharp break of slope, steep straight sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base concaved. Aligned North West to South East.	Ditch	
(1103)	Dark grey brown. Silty clay. Rare charcoal flecks, rare chalk flecks, rare small stones sub rounded. 1.75m wide, 0.27m deep, 1.60m long. Firm.	Fill of [1102]	
(1104)	Mid brownish grey. Frequent charcoal flecks, rare small stones sub angular, rare flecks daub. 1.15m wide, 0.35m deep, 1.60m long. Firm.	Fill of [1102]	Late Iron Age
(1105)	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay. Rare flecks charcoal, rare small stones, sub rounded. 1.60m long, 1.62m wide, 0.60m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1102]	
(1106)	Mid brownish yellow. Clay. Rare small stones, sub rounded. 1.60m long, 0.25m wide, 0.32m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1102]	
(1107)	Mid greyish yellow. Clay silt. Rare charcoal flecks, rare chalk flecks, rare small stones sub rounded. Soft.	Fill of [1102]	
[1108]	Cut to linear. 1.90m wide, 1.80m long, 1.22m deep. Gradual break of slope, steep sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base flat. Possible re cut of [1115].	Ditch	
(1109)	Mid dark grey with frequent rusty flecking. Clay silt. Occasional charcoal flecks, occasional sub angular flints and stones. 0.75m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1108]	Late Iron Age
(1110)	Light yellow brown. Silty clay. Occasional flint. 0.22m deep. Stiff.	Fill of [1108]	
(1111)	Mid grey with rusty mottle and light yellow brown. Clay silt. Moderate sub angular and rounded flints and stones. 0.20m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1108]	Late Iron Age
(1112)	Mid grey with rusty flecking, light yellowish brown, 50%/50% mix. Clay silt. Moderate sub angular and rounded stones, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.15m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1108]	
(1113)	Mid grey. Silty clay. Moderate small sub angular and rounded flints and stones, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.80m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1108]	
(1114)	Mix of mid orange and mid grey. Clay. Frequent chalk fragments. 0.20m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1108]	
[1115]	Cut to linear. 0.60m wide, 1.80m long, 0.52m deep. Gradual break of slope, steep sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved. Alignment North to South.	Ditch	

(1116)	Mid –light yellowish brown/ grey with moderate rusty flecking. Clay silt. Moderate small sub angular flint, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.25m deep, 0.60m wide. Firm.	Fill of [1115]	Late Iron Age
(1117)	Mid grey and light yellowish brown. Clay silt. Moderate small sub angular and rounded chalk fragments, moderate flint, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.90m deep, 0.38m wide. Firm.	Fill of [1115]	
(1118)	Medium-dark brownish grey with frequent rusty flecking. Clay silt. 0.60m by 0.55m, 0.19m deep. Moderate small flints and stones, occasional charcoal. Firm.	Fill of [1119]	
[1119]	Cut to oval pit. 0.60m by 0.55m, 0.19m deep. Steep sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved.	Pit	
(1120)	Medium-dark brownish grey with frequent rusty flecks. Clay silt. Moderate small sub angular and rounded stones, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.66m by 0.54m, 0.23m deep. Firm.	Fill of [1121]	
[1121]	Cut to small oval pit. 0.66m by 0.34m, 0.23m deep. Steep/vertical sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved.	Pit	
(1122)	Mid-dark grey with frequent rusty flecking. Clay silt. Frequent small sub angular and rounded flints and stones, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.10m deep, 4.5m wide, 1.8m long. Firm.	Fill of [1123]	
[1123]	Cut to linear. 4.5m wide, 1.80m long, 0.10m. gradual break of slope. Gently sloping sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved. Alignment North to South.	Ridge and furrow.	
[1124]	Cut of linear. 0.33m deep, 0.80 wide. Sharp break of slope, steep sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base concaved. Alignment North East to South West. Cut by [1128]	Ditch	
(1125)	Medium brown grey. Clay. Occasional chalk. Hard.	Fill of [1124]	
[1126]	Cut to linear. 0.20m deep, 1.50m wide. Sharp break of slope. Steep sides. Sharp break to base. Base concaved. Alignment North to South. Re-cut of ditch [1124]	Ditch re-cut	
(1127)	Medium brown. Clay. Occasional small stones. Hard.	Fill of [1126]	
[1128]	Cut to linear. 0.90m wide, 0.40m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base concaved. Re-cut by [1126].	Ditch	
(1129)	Light grey. Clay. Occasional small angular	Fill of [1128]	

	flint. Soft.		
(1200)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(1201)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[1202]	Cut to linear. 0.94m wide, 1m long, 0.33m deep. Sharp break of slope, steep sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base concaved. East to West alignment.	Ditch	Post medieval
(1203)	Dark brownish grey. Silty clay. Rare chalk flecks, rare small sub angular stone. 1m long, 0.94m wide, 0.22m deep. Series of silting events. Firm.	Fill of [1202]	
(1204)	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay. Rare chalk fragments, rare small stones sub angular. 1m long, 0.90m wide, 0.30m deep. Firm. Silting events.	Fill of [1202]	
[1205]	Cut to linear. 1m long, 1.12m wide, 0.42m deep. Sharp break of slope. Steep sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base flat. North West to South East alignment.	Ditch	Post medieval.
(1206)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Rare small stones sub rounded, rare chalk flecks. 1m long, 1.12m wide, 0.22m deep. Firm. Backfill.	Fill of [1205]	
(1207)	Mid brownish grey. Silty clay. Rare small stones sub rounded, rare chalk flecks. 0.84m wide, 1m long, 0.35m deep. Firm. Silting.	Fill of [1205]	
(1300)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
[1301]	Circular. 9m wide, 1m deep. 2m wide where excavated. Gradual break of slope gentle sloping straight sides. Gradual break of slope. Base unknown, only excavated to 1m depth.	Pond	Post medieval
(1302)	Medium brown orange. Clay silt. Moderate large flint stones. 0.55m deep. Loose. Backfill.	Fill of [1301]	
(1303)	Black. Clay peat. 0.06m deep. Soft. Organic layer to base of pond.	Fill of [1301]	
(1304)	Black. Flint iron pan. Frequent flint. Base to pond iron panning to base. Hard.	Fill of [1301]	
(1305)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(1400)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk	Plough soil	

	fragments. Firm.		
[1401]	Possible burnt out tree roots, as [1005]	Tree roots	
[1402]	Post medieval field boundary, as [1202]. Not excavated.	Ditch.	Post medieval
[1403]	Post medieval field boundary, as [1205]. Not excavated.	Ditch.	Post medieval
(1404)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(1500)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.		
[1501]	Post medieval field boundary, as [2506]. Not excavated.	Ditch	Post medieval
(1502)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(1600)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
[1601]	Medieval furrow. Not excavated.	Furrow	Medieval
(1602)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[1603]	Medieval furrow. Not excavated.	Furrow	Medieval
(1700)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil.	
[1701]	Cut to circular pit. 0.90m wide, 0.13m deep. Gradual break of slope, gentle sloping sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base flat. Cut to fire pit.	Pit	
(1702)	Dark red. Clay. 0.04m deep. Firm. Bottom layer of burnt clay.	Fill of [1701]	
(1703)	Black. Silty clay. Occasional small angular flint, frequent charcoal. 0.04m deep. Loose.	Fill of [1701]	
(1704)	Dark red. Silty clay. 0.03m deep. Firm. Burnt clay.	Fill of [1701]	
(1705)	Dark brown. Silty clay, occasional small rounded and angular stone. 0.08m deep. Possible plough soil.	Fill of [1701]	
(1706)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural.	
(1800)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(1801)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular.	Natural.	

	Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.		
(1900)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(1901)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[1902]	Cut to linear. 1m wide, 0.55m deep. Sharp break of slope, regular steep sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base flat. Alignment North West to South East. Associated with [1904] from geophysical information.	Ditch	
(1903)	Light brown with light blue patches. Clay. Occasional small stones. 1m wide, 0.55m deep. Firm.	Fill to [1902]	
[1904]	Cut to linear. 0.90m wide, 0.44m deep. Sharp break of slope. West side: gentle stepping down to steep slope; East side steep stepping down to gradual slope. Gradual break of slope to base. Base flat. Associated with [1902] from geophysical information.	Ditch.	
(1905)	Light brown. Clay. Occasional small stones. 0.90m wide, 0.44m deep. Firm/hard.	Fill of [1904]	
(2001)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2002)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(2100)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2101)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[2102]	Cut to linear. 1m long, 1.60m wide, 0.67m deep. Sharp break of slope, South edge: steep irregular sides; North edge; moderate convex sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base concaved. Alignment East to West.	Ditch	
(2103)	Light brown grey. Silty clay. Rare chalk flecks, rare small stones sub angular. 1m long, 1.60m wide, 0.67m deep. Firm. Silting to feature.	Fill of [2102]	
(2104)	Mid yellowish grey. Silty clay. Rare small stones sub angular, rare chalk flecks. 1m long, 1.05m wide, 0.47m deep. Firm. Silting to feature.	Fill of [2102]	
(2105)	Mid brownish yellow. Silty clay. Rare small	Fill of [2102]	

	stones sub angular, rare chalk flecks. 1m long, 1m wide, 0.40m deep. Firm. Post abandonment accumulation.		
(2200)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
[2201]	Cut to linear. Post medieval ditch. Noted on 19 th century map. As [2506].	Ditch	Post medieval
[2202]	Cut to linear. Post medieval ditch. Noted on 19 th century map. As [2504].	Ditch	Post medieval
(2203)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[2300]	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2301)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(2400)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2401)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(2501)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2502)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(2503)	Medium brown. Clay silt. Moderate small sub angular and sub rounded flints, moderate small chalk. 0.83m wide, 2.10m long, 0.40m deep. Firm.	Fill of [2504]	
[2504]	Cut to linear. 0.85m wide, 2.10m long, 0.40m deep. Moderately steep sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base gently concaved. Alignment South West to North East.	Ditch	
(2505)	Dark brownish grey moderate rusty flecking. Clay silt. Occasional sub angular and rounded stone. 1.30m wide, 2.10m long, 0.67m deep. Firm.	Fill of [2506]	
[2506]	Cut to linear. 1.30m wide, 2.10m long, 0.67m deep. Gradual break of slope, steep sides. Sharp break of slope to base. Base flat. Re cut of [2508]	Ditch	Post medieval
(2507)	Medium brown with mottled mid grey. Clay silt. Moderate small sub angular and rounded	Fill of [2508]	

	flint and stone. 0.50m wide, 2.10m long, 0.50m deep. Firm.		
[2508]	Cut to linear. 0.50m wide, 2.10m long, 0.50m deep. Gradual break of slope, steep sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved. Cut by [2506]	Ditch.	
(2600)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2601)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
[2602]	Cut to linear. 2 m wide, 0.05m deep. Gradual break of slope, very gentle sides. Break of slope to base not perceptible. Very gentle concaved base. Alignment North East to South West.	Furrow	Medieval
(2603)	Mid brown. Clay. Occasional chalk flecks, occasional small stones. 2 m wide, 0.05m deep. Firm.	Fill of [2602]	
[2604]	Cut to linear. 0.25m wide, 0.28m deep. Sharp break of slope, vertical sides. Gradual Break of slope to base. Base flat. Cuts furrow [2602]	Land drain	18 th / 19 th century.
(2605)	Mid brown. Clay. Very frequent medium sized stones. 0.25m wide, 0.28m deep. Firm.	Fill of [2604]	
[2606]	Cut to linear. 2.30m wide, 0.17m deep. Gradual break of slope, very gentle sides. Break of slope to base not perceptible. Base slightly concaved. Aligned North East to South West. Cut by field drain [2608].	Furrow	Medieval
(2607)	Mid olive brown. Clay. Occasional chalk flecks, occasional gravel and medium stones. 2.30m wide, 0.17m deep. Firm.	Fill of [2606]	
[2608]	Linear field drain, in furrow [2606]. Not excavated. 0.28m Wide. Placed to base of furrow [2602].	Field drain	
(2609)	Mid brown. Clay. Moderate small stones. 0.28m wide. Hard.	Fill of [2608]	
(2701)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2702)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	
(2703)	Mid brown. Silty clay. Frequent small sub angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. 0.20m thick, 2.10m wide. Firm.	Fill of [2704]	
[2704]	Cut to linear. 2.10m wide, 1.80m long, 0.20m	Furrow	Medieval

	deep. Gradual break of slope, gently sloping sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base gently concaved. Alignment South West to North East.		
(2705)	Mid brown with patches of dark grey. Silty clay. 0.25m wide. Firm. Ceramic drain pipe in base.	Fill of [2706]	
[2706]	Cut to linear. 0.25m wide. Vertical sides. Alignment South West to North East.	Land drain	
(2707)	Mid olive brown – orange. Silty clay. Moderate flints. 0.57m thick, 0.90m wide, 2.10 m long. Firm.	Fill of [2708]	
[2708]	Cut to linear. 0.90m wide, 2.10m long, 0.57m deep. Gradual break of slope, very steep sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base concaved. Alignment North North East to South South West. Cut by [2704]	Ditch	Undated
[2709]	Cut to linear. Gradual break of slope, gentle sloping sides. Gradual break of slope to base. Base flat. Alignment East to West.	Ditch	
(2710)	Orange grey. Clay. Occasional large chalk stones. 0.10m deep. Firm.	Fill of [2709]	
(2711)	Orange grey. Clay. Occasional small pieces of chalk. 0.25m deep. Hard.	Fill of [2709]	
(2800)	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Firm.	Plough soil	
(2801)	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Occasional small stones, sub angular. Occasional chalk fragments. Hard.	Natural	

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

PREHISTORIC POTTERY

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

A total of 114 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 899g were collected from fifteen contexts. All the pottery is of late Iron Age date, *c.* 1st century BC to AD. The assemblage is fragmentary and no complete vessels were present. The sherds are small to medium and are moderately to poorly preserved, the average sherd weight is 8g.

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by APS

Fabric

Seven fabrics were identified in three main fabric groups. Shell-tempered fabric (STW and QSh) are the most numerous group, forming 64% of the assemblage (576g). The second most common are grog-tempered (GTW) and include Romanising proto-greyware fabric PGW. Grog-tempered sherds form 30% of the assemblage (258g). One fabric contains both shell and grog (SG). The remaining sherds are made of sandy fabrics (7%; 65g). All the sherds are handmade.

Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
STW	Common well sorted shell in clay matrix	67	552	61.40%
GTW	Common sub-rounded grog in sandy matrix	26	269	29.92%
Q1	Common rounded quartz sand	36	10	4.00%
QSh	Common rounded quartz sand, moderate shell plates >3mm	5	19	2.11%
SG	Common well sorted shell; moderate small rounded grog	3	13	1.45%
PGW	Sandy greyware with sparse grog inclusions	1	2	0.22%
QF	Common rounded quartz sand; sparse flint	2	8	0.89%
Total		114	899	100.00%

Table 1: Quantity and weight by fabric

The fabrics are typical of late Iron Age assemblages found in the region, such as that from ceramic period CP1 –CP2 from Weekley, which were principally tempered with shell derived from calcareous deposits along the Jurassic ridge, with the remaining pottery in sandy or grog-tempered fabrics (Jackson and Dix 1987, 73).

Form

The assemblage contains a mix of shell-tempered Iron Age jars of ovoid form similar to examples found at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987, fig.37, 98). Later Iron Age 'Belgic' forms include grog-tempered and sandy wide-mouth everted rim jars (Thompson 1982, B3-1; Marney 1989, fig.32, 42) and rounded jars with corrugated necks (Thompson 1982, B2-4) found locally at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987, fig.40, 166) and in the Conquest era cemetery at Broughton (Atkins *et al.* 2014, fig.4.20, SF378).

Storage jar fragments comprise a sherd from a plain shell-tempered example and three grog-tempered vessels including one combed example (Thompson 1982, C6-1) and one from a globular storage jar with stabbed decoration on the shoulder (Thompson 1982, C6-2) similar to examples found at Moulton Park, dated to *c.* AD 25 -50 (Elsdon 1993, E.9, 88).

Deposition

A little over 10% of the assemblage was recovered as surface finds (Table 2). The remainder of the sherds came from linear features, ditches and a gully. The redeposited context of deposition is consistent with the fragmentary and abraded condition of the sherds.

Feature	Feature type	Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
1	Surface finds	7	7	0.78%
2	Surface finds	5	15	1.67%
3	Surface finds	1	22	2.45%
4	Surface finds	8	42	4.67%
5	Surface finds	1	7	0.78%
104	Linear	16	83	9.23%
107	Linear	3	13	1.45%
110	Gully	20	144	16.02%
201	Ditch	1	11	1.22%
208	Ditch	1	4	0.44%
402	Ditch	8	43	4.78%
1102	Ditch	13	166	18.46%
1108	Ditch	29	264	29.37%
1115	Ditch	1	78	8.68%
Total		114	899	100.00%

Table 2: Quantity and weight by feature

Discussion

The assemblage suggests activity at the site in the latest Iron Age from the mid-1st century BC and continuing up to the Roman conquest. The sherds are derived from domestic activity comprising cooking and storage vessels and compare well with assemblages found locally at Weekley, Moulton and Broughton (Jackson and Dix 1987, Elsdon 1993, Atkins *et al.* 2014).

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which also contains material from surrounding counties. A concordance with the

Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type series (CTS) (Blinkhorn, 1996, unpublished) is also included in Table 3 below. A total of 11 sherds from six vessels, weighing 554 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 3 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Medieval to the Early Modern period.

Condition

The condition of the pottery is mixed, with both large fresh pieces and smaller fragments recorded.

Results

Table 3, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Lincs Cname	Full Name	CTS Code	Sub Fabric	Form	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
24	006	LERTH	Late Earthenware	-		Garden Pot	Base		18th-20th	1	1	15
24	007	POTST	Potterspur Type ware	F329		Bowl	BS BS		L13th-16th	1	1	26
26	2605	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	F426	Pale Buff; Fe slip	Jar or Bowl	BS	Appears to be two sherds fired into one with slipped surface within core		1	1	63
26	2605	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	F426	Pale Buff; Fe slip	Bowl	Rim	Everted rim		1	1	104
26	2605	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	F426	Pale Buff; Fe slip	Bowl	BSS			2	1	70
26	2605	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware	F426	Pale Buff; Fe slip	Jar	Bases; BSS		M17th-18th	5	1	276
Total										11	6	554

Provenance

Unstratified pottery was recovered from Trench 24, whilst fill (2605) within land drain [2604] in Trench 26 also produced pieces.

Range

A fragment of garden pot in Late Earthenware (LERTH) and a small sherd from a bowl in Potterspur Type ware (POTST) are unstratified; these pieces came from Trench 24. Land drain [2604] in Trench 26 produced a total of nine sherds, from at least four separate vessels, in a Brown Glazed Earthenware fabric (BERTH). These are large domestic jars and bowls dating to the Mid 17th to 18th centuries.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of three fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 129 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 4 below.

Condition

The ceramic building material is fragmentary and two pieces are abraded. One piece, a fragment of floor tile, has an unusual, depressed damaged area, which makes it appear frogged – this would be unusual for a piece of this type, and it may simply be the way the item has worn and/or broken.

Results

Table 4, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
2605	BRK	Brick	Oxidised; clay pellets	Flake; mortared base; finely sanded base	Roman or Post Roman	1	44
2605	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; clay pellets	Abraded; surfaceless; probably BRK	Roman or Post Roman	1	38
2605	RTMISC	Miscellaneous Tile	Oxidised; fine sandy	Abraded; sanded base and sides; ?ID; appears frogged- presumably damage?; FILOOR or base tile from Land drain	Medieval to Post Medieval	1	47
Total						3	129

Provenance

Ceramic building material was recovered from fill (2605), within land drain [2604] in Trench 26.

Range

There is an undiagnostic and surfaceless fragment of ceramic building material, a small fragment of undiagnostic brick, and a piece of tile. The tile may be from the base of a Post Medieval, 'horseshoe shaped' land drain system or it may be a section of floor tile.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The items should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

FIRED CLAY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002).

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in Table 5 below.

Condition

The fired clay is fragmentary, with just a few rough areas of recognisable surface. A single fragment has been exposed to very high heat, perhaps in a furnace or kiln, and is partially vitrified.

Results

Table 5, Fired Clay Archive

Tr	Context	Classification	Fabric	Comment	Date	Fragments	W(g)
4	405	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine; clinkered	Clinkered surface with pale deposit - cess?	Undated	1	2
11	1104	Fired Clay	Oxidised; medium sandy; Fe; flint	Sooted; hard; single area of rough curved surface	Undated	13	53
11	1122	Fired Clay	Oxidised; fine; Ca	Single bleached rough flat surface ; possible wattle impression; DAUB?	Undated	3	16
Total						17	71

Provenance

Fired clay was recovered from ditch fill (405) in [402] within Trench 4. In addition, pieces came from fill (1104) in ditch [1102] and deposit (1122) in ridge and furrow [1123], both within Trench 11.

Range

There are 17 fragments of fired clay, most of which are undiagnostic. A single piece from [1122] has possible wattle impressions and may be a fragment of daub.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The fired clay should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 191 (2273g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Provenance

The bone was retrieved from the fill of a gully (111) and ditch fills (202, 209, 211, 1104, 1109, 1111 and 1127).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was moderate to poor, averaging at grades 3-4 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 6, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Ctx	Taxon	Element	Side	No	W(g)	Comments
111	large mammal	humerus	-	1	5	burnt
	indeterminate	unknown	-	1	1	
202	horse	phalange	-	1	23	
	large mammal	molar	-	6	4	
	large mammal	long bone	-	14	9	
209	large mammal	scapula	-	1	6	
	large mammal	long bone	-	6	11	
211	large mammal	rib	-	2	13	Possible femur
	large mammal	long bone	-	18	117	
405	banded snail	shell		1	1	
1104	large mammal	scapula	-	3	54	
	large mammal	long bone	-	20	35	
	medium mammal	radius	-	1	5	
1109	cattle	femur	R	2	304	
	cattle	skull	-	11	246	
	cattle	tibia	-	1	86	
	cattle	humerus	both	21	250	
	cattle	phalange	-	5	12	
	large mammal	vertebra	-	3	104	
	large mammal	ribs	-	32	32	
	large mammal	long bone	-	7	102	
	large mammal	scapula	-	1	184	
	pig	maxilla	-	1	30	
	sheep/goat	femur	-	4	27	
	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	39	
	medium mammal	vertebra	-	1	5	
medium mammal	rib	-	1	2		
1111	horse	scapula	L	3	130	
	cattle	calcaneum	L	1	44	
	cattle	phalange	-	1	22	
	cattle	mandible	-	1	30	
	large mammal	vertebra	-	5	246	
	large mammal	long bone	-	1	16	
	indeterminate	unknown	-	1	1	
1127	cattle	molar	-	2	31	
	large mammal	long bone	-	10	46	

Summary

The assemblage falls below the minimum count of c. 300 bones required for meaningful analysis. The four main domesticates are represented in the assemblage which is dominated by large mammals (eg horse and cattle). Sheep/goat is generally poorer represented with only a single bone of pig. In ratio, this is broadly typical of the Iron Age to which most of the features from which they were derived are dated to.

There is a marked change in the condition of the bone from those trenches located in the southwest corner of the site to those from Trench 11. Soil conditions are likely to be the cause and are likely to introduce a bias in the surviving bone. However, it may be possible that different activities were taking place at each of these areas.

The bone is archive stable and is suitable for archiving. If further work is undertaken at the site, the bone will warrant re-examination in the light of any new discoveries.

WORKED FLINT

By Tom Lane

Introduction

A single broken flint blade of Neolithic date was collected from the surface of a ditch in Trench 1.

Condition

The item was a little abraded but otherwise in good condition.

Results

Table 7, Worked Flint Archive

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
002	Broken blade flake. 20 x 15 x 6mm	1	2	Neolithic

Potential

The item has little potential for understanding the site.

Summary

A single worked flint indicates the presence of prehistoric people in the Sywell area at some point during the Neolithic.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

Introduction

Four items weighing a total of 1756g were recovered.

Condition

The other finds are in good condition.

Results

Table 8, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
111	Stone	Burnt stone. One has some ferrous staining.	2	26	
207	Stone	Burnt stone	1	8	
805	Stone	Saddle quern; appears to have been cut down for use as some form of large hone or grind stone	1	1722	prehistoric?

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from a gully fill (111), and ditch fill (207, 805).

Range

All the other finds are of stone, with several of them burnt. There is also a large piece of a saddle quern. these are typically of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. However, this example appears to have been cut down, with several smooth flat sides, and the polished concave saddle seems to be seen a later use as a hone or similar grinding stone.

Potential

The other finds are of limited potential. However, the quern suggests Neolithic-Bronze Age settlement somewhere in the general vicinity, though the remodelling and reuse of the item occurred at some indeterminate later date.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 9 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 9, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
103	Late Iron Age	
108	Late Iron Age	
111	Late Iron Age	
202	Late Iron Age	Based on 1 sherd
207	Undated	
209	Late Iron Age	Based on 1 sherd
405	Late Iron Age	
805	prehistoric?	Based on 1 remodelled stone
1104	Late Iron Age	
1109	Late Iron Age	
1111	Late Iron Age	
1116	Late Iron Age	Based on 1 sherd
1122	Undated	
2605	M17th-18th	Good group

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 4: Environmental Assessment by James Rackham

Evaluation excavations conducted by APS at Sywell resulted in the collection of six samples from features uncovered across the site. All the samples except that from context (1703) were taken from ditch fills, (1703) being a pit fill. Samples 1, 2, 3 and 6 are provisionally dated to the Iron Age on the basis of ceramics. Contexts 1127 and 1703 are undated.

Table 1: Sywell – SYWR14. Samples taken for environmental analysis

sample no.	context no.	sample volume (l)	sample weight kg.	feature	Provisional date
1	102	8	9	Ditch fill	IA?
2	111	13	14	Ditch fill	IA?
3	1109	20	34	Ditch fill	IA?
4	1127	5	6	Ditch fill	undated
5	1703	9	10	Pit fill	undated
6	1104	22	24	Ditch fill	IA?

Methods

The sample volume and weight were measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both the residue and flot were dried and the residue subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material.

The residue was sorted by eye and archaeological and environmental finds picked out. A magnet was run through the residues in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The flots of the samples were studied using x10 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the sample.

Results

The samples washed down to a residue sub-angular flint, pebbles, limestone, ironstone, sandstone and sediment concretions. There was a magnetic component in all the samples, but particularly abundant in context (1703). This and the presence of fired earth suggests some burnt mineral material in the deposit although most of the magnetic fraction was ironstone and concreted sediment.

Table 2: Sywell – SYWR14. Finds from the processed samples

sample no.	context	sample vol. l.	residue volume (ml)	pot no/ wt g.	fire-cracked stone wt. g.	fired earth wt. g.	flint no/wt. g.	magnetic wt. g.	bone wt. g.	
1	102	8	600	3/3.6				2.4	1	
2	111	13	1700			0.8		5.8	10.4	
3	1109	20	4000	42/34.2	732		13/0.6	1.2	289.8	
4	1127	5	2000		24.6	0.8	2/0.2	0.1	20.6	Small fragment of mussel shell
5	1703	9	500		4	14.8		19.2		
6	1104	22	1000	5/38	3.2	5.6		1.8	5.6	

Finds include pottery, firecracked stone (including flint, pebbles and sandstone), a little fired earth and flint chips, which may be natural.

Environmental finds from the residues included animal bone, abundant in context (1109), and a tiny fragment of marine mussel shell in (1127). The bone includes fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, chicken sized bird, small passerine sized bird, field vole, bank vole and snake. Apart from context (1109) most of the bone is burnt with any unburnt bone present showing signs of erosion in the soil. Ditch fill (1109) contrasts with this in having good bone preservation.

Table 3: Sywell – SYWR14. Environmental finds from the processed samples

sample no.	cont. no.	sample vol. (l)	flot vol. (ml)	char-coal #	charred grain *	chaff *	charred seed *	snail *	comment
1	102	8	2.5	2/3	1	1	1		Cereal grain x1; charred seed x1 and indet burnt bone
2	111	13	16	3-4	1		2		Indet grain x4 and frags, charred seeds, burnt bone- sheep, with some eroded unburnt bone
3	1109	20	85	4/5	1		1	1	Grain x 4, wheat?, <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., tuber, fruit stone/nut; snails – <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> ; Cattle, pig, sheep/goat, snake, field vole, bank vole, bird chicken size and small passerine
4	1127	5	70	5/5	1	2	1	1	Grain x 5 + frags, chaff x14; charred seed x1, tuber; snail – <i>Trichia hispida</i> ; pig mandible and canine
5	1703	9	67	5/5	1		1		Oat? Grain x1; charred herbaceous stem and seed x1
6	1104	22	8.5	3/4	1		1		Ceral grain x7 + frags; charred seed x1; indet burnt bone and eroded unburnt bone

*frequency 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250; # frequency >2mm/<2mm

The sample flots are variable, generally dominated by charcoal, and with relatively little identifiable environmental evidence. Charred cereal grains were recovered in small numbers from all samples, along with a few charred weeds seeds. Only context (1127) produced any cereal chaff, and in this deposit the chaff exceeded the grains, perhaps suggesting some crop processing was undertaken at the site. This deposit is undated but identification of the chaff may permit some estimate of the date based upon the wheat species present.

A few snail shells were present in two of the samples. Shells of the blind burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* are probably intrusive, but those of *Vallonia excentrica* and *Trichia hispida* are likely to be contemporary. Vallonids are typically found in grassland environments.

Conclusion

The general occurrence of low levels of charred cereal remains, with charcoal, burnt stone, fired earth and pottery clearly indicates that these ditches lie close to settlement. The presence of a dominance of chaff in context (1127), despite a small assemblage, is indicative of crop processing being undertaken on the site. Interestingly the pit sample, apart from charcoal, has the least environmental evidence.

Although none of the samples produced an abundance of environmental data they have produced assemblages that can be used to consider the economy of the site. There is also a limited potential for considering the local environment from the snails and small vertebrate fauna but this has much less potential. A sample size of 30 or 40 litres from each of the

sampled deposits would have increased the identifiable environmental remains three or fourfold and if samples of this size are taken on any future excavations then useful assemblages of charred plant remains, and probably also charcoal could be obtained. While some of the deposits show relatively poor preservation of unburnt bone, the fact that some deposits contained well preserved unburnt animal bone indicates that this evidence also has potential for considering the site economy. The excavation strategy should include a facility for extending the excavation of bone rich features to ensure a reasonable assemblage of bone is recovered.

Acknowledgments

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Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
14th September 2014

Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 6

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context register sheets
29	Trench record sheets
139	Context record sheets
7	Photographic record sheets
2	Plan record sheets
2	Section record sheets
14	Daily record sheets
1	Sample record sheet
6	Environmental sample sheets
31	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The final destination will be the planned Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre.

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SYWR 14

OASIS Record No: archaeo11-189744

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-189744

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land at Wellingborough Road, Sywell, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	An evaluation comprising twenty-eight trenches revealed two areas of Late Iron Age enclosures, some medieval ridge and furrow and post-medieval field systems.
Project dates	Start: 24-07-2014 End: 12-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SYWR14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WP/14/00368/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	POST HOLE Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WELLINGBOROUGH SYWELL Land at Wellingborough Road
Postcode	NN6
Study area	23.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 8377 6868 52.3094429128 -0.771129718904 52 18 33 N 000 46 16 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 115.70m Max: 122.10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Andy Pascoe
Project supervisor	Chris Moulis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lark Energy

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Wellingborough Road, Sywell, Northamptonshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pascoe, A..

Other bibliographic details	98/14
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington
Description	A4 comb bound
Entered by	A Pascoe (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
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