ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND OFF HORTON ROAD, BRAFIELD ON THE GREEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (ENN 107940)

Work Undertaken For

LarkEnergy

April 2015

Report Compiled by
Andrew Failes BA (Hons) MA

Planning Application No: S/2014/2075/MAF
National Grid Reference: SP 825 571
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-209671

A.P.S. Report No. **38/15**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Quality Control
Archaeological Evaluation
Land off Horton Road,
Brafield on the Green,
Northamptonshire
(BGHR15)

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	Andrew Failes
Illustration	Andrew Failes
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Andrew Failes

Checked by Senior ~~Manager~~ (Archaeology)	Approved by Team Leader (Archaeology)
Gary Taylor	Denise Drury
Date: 23/4/15	Date: 23/4/15

CONTENTS

Appendices

List of Figures

List of Plates

Plate 11 Stone loomweight from ditch [904], convex face

Plate 12 - Stone loomweight from ditch [904], oblique angle

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Horton Road, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest with Iron Age and Romano-British settlements, identified for the most part through artefact scatters and perhaps representing farmsteads, within the vicinity.

Fieldwalking has identified one of these settlements in the northeastern corner of the site where pottery and coins have been found and a rectangular enclosure and ditch revealed on aerial photographs. However, no trenching occurred in this area as it lies outside the proposed development.

The evaluation identified an area of interest near the centre of the site where previous geophysical survey had recorded two positive linear anomalies tentatively interpreted as a possible enclosure.

A ditch in this area produced animal bone along with pottery and a loomweight of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, suggesting settlement in the area. As a result further test trenches were opened in order to determine if this ditch was part of a larger rectilinear enclosure. The trenching revealed a second ditch, or perhaps a continuation of the first ditch, on a perpendicular alignment. Both of these ditches roughly match up with positive linear anomalies from the previous geophysical survey and possibly represent parts of a small enclosure and occupation.

However, results from environmental sampling of the ditch fill containing the artefacts offered only very limited support for domestic settlement and suggested that the material within the ditch may be the result of manuring of an adjacent field. It is suggested here that the loomweight may be in its primary deposit, and as such, raises the possibility at least that there may be some form of limited occupation in this area. This may be representative of an isolated feature or perhaps connected with, or ancillary to, the settlement at the northeastern corner of the site.

A single isolated pit was recorded to the northeast of the possible enclosure, although no dating evidence was recovered from it.

The rest of the site revealed a sequence of glacial till overlain by topsoil with occasional furrow bases matching the alignment of what were interpreted as agricultural responses on the previous geophysical survey.

A ditch containing a modern drain and a number of what were thought to be natural features were also identified.

It is noted that pottery retrieved during the investigation would be worthy of reassessment alongside any further material recovered from the site.

The stone loomweight is of particular interest as it is an unusual form and may have significance with regards to typology.

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' (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Lark Energy to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of a proposed Solar Farm on land off Horton Road, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was undertaken between 13th March and 2nd April 2015 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Brafield on the Green is located 7km southeast of Northampton and 12km southwest of Wellingborough, in the administrative district of South Northamptonshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site is located a further 2km south of the centre of Brafield on the Green, as defined by the parish church of St Lawrence, on the east side of Horton Road at National Grid Reference SP 8251 5708 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Ashley Association, typically fine loamy over clayey stagnogleyic argillic brown earths (Hodge *et al*. 1984, 96). These soils are developed on a drift geology of glacial till which in turns seals a solid geology of Jurassic Blisworth Limestone (GSGB 1969).

The site lies on a southeast facing slope at heights of between *c*.113mOD to *c*.99mOD within a small valley of an unnamed watercourse.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Prehistoric sites identified within the vicinity have been dated to the Iron Age period. However, limited excavation in the area has produced worked flints (RCHME 1979, 5), potentially of pre-Iron Age date.

There are three Iron Age sites located to the northwest and one *c.* 300m south of the centre of the Site. They have largely been identified from artefact scatters, although limited excavation has taken place on the settlement to the south. The nature of these settlements is unknown but probably represents small isolated farmsteads.

There are a further four prehistoric sites in the area which have revealed evidence of Romano-British settlement. This suggests the pattern of these settlements or farmsteads continued into the Romano-British period (AD 43-410) with some re-use of earlier sites.

Of particular note is a settlement identified through fieldwalking at the northeastern corner of the Site itself, where pottery and coins have been found and a rectangular enclosure and ditch revealed on aerial photographs (Fig 3).

Apart from the four sites with prehistoric origins, there are three further Romano-British settlements in the area, two of which are quite extensive. These are located *c.* 280m south of the centre of the Site and *c.* 1km to the southwest. Excavations to the south of the Site revealed evidence for tiled buildings and a cobbled surface.

Brafield on the Green is first mentioned in

the Domesday Survey of *c*. 1086. Referred to as *Brachesfeld* and *Bragefelda*, the name is derived from the Old English *Bragen*, meaning a brain and in this sense applied to a topographic feature, rendering 'the field or large open space by the hill' (Ekwall 1989, 58; Gover *et al.* 1933, 144). The open space so referred may be an older name of Yardley Chase.

During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the Site lay within common land, possibly originally an area of woodland which, once the timber had been utilised, reverted to scrubland. It is still recorded as such until the mid 19th century when, after enclosure, the Site and its surrounds were parcelled into fields (Cope-Faulkner 2014).

3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeologist to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

4. METHODS

A total of 23 trenches measuring 50m in length (Fig 3) were excavated by machine (Plate 3), together with a series of small test trenches (9a-g), to the level of archaeological remains or the surface of the underlying natural. Trenches 9, 12, 16, 22 and 23 were placed over positive linear magnetic anomalies identified in a previous geophysical survey (Jefferson 2014). Trench 17 was placed over a possible cropmark, while the rest of the trenches were spread out across the area of investigation. No trenches were opened in the northeastern corner of the site where a cropmark and possible small Iron Age farmstead had been identified through fieldwalking and aerial photography.

Following monitoring, the archaeological curator advised that further small trenches or test pits be dug in the vicinity of Trench 9 (Fig. 4) to more fully determine the extent and nature of the archaeological remains identified there.

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 1. 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.

Environmental sampling was undertaken on the discretion of the site supervisor using guidelines established by English Heritage (2002). The subsequent processing of the samples is detailed in Appendix 3.

The location of the excavated trenches was plotted using a survey grade differential GPS.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). 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.

Trenches 1-8

In the southwestern field (Fig 3), Trenches 1-8, contained no archaeological features or finds. Instead, these trenches revealed a sequence of firm greyish brown sandy clay topsoil overlying yellowish reddish brown to reddish greyish brown boulder clay which was observed throughout the whole of the site (Fig 10, Sections 14-21) (Plates 4 & 5).

In these trenches topsoil deposits were assigned context numbers (100), (200), (300), (400), (500), (600), (700) and (800) with the first digit denoting the corresponding trench number. Context numbers for natural deposits were similarly assigned (101), (201), (301), (401), (501), (601), (701) and (801).

Trench 9

The natural deposit in Trench 9 (901) was the same as that within the previous eight trenches (Fig 4).

In the northeastern end of this trench the natural was truncated by a linear ditch cut oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment (Figs 4 & 9, Section 10) (Plate 6), with steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base.

The basal fill of this ditch comprised firm mid yellowish brown clay containing occasional charcoal flecks (903).

The upper fill consisted of firm, mid to dark greyish brown clay (902) with moderate charcoal. A number of finds were retrieved from this deposit including two fragments of fired clay, 24 pieces of mammalian bone, 16 of which represented cattle, one fragment of burnt stone and three sherds of prehistoric pottery of which two sherds could date from the later Bronze Age through to the Iron Age (Beeby, Appendix 2). Of particular note was a circular stone loomweight (Plate 11 & 12) which is probably of Iron Age date, but could date from as early as the later Bronze Age (Taylor, Appendix 2).

An environmental sample was taken from this deposit and found to contain small amounts of 'worn' bone fragments, including sheep calcaneum and tooth, a piece of cattle femur and unidentified fragments. A small amount of charcoal and a few shells of terrestrial snails indicating both open country grassland taxa and a single shell of a species more typical of shaded woodlands were also identified (Rackham, Appendix 3).

The ditch was overlain by a firm greyish brown slightly sandy clay topsoil deposit (900).

Trenches 9a-9g

These small test trenches (Fig 4) were opened in order to better characterise the form and extent of ditch [904].

The natural deposit in Trenches 9a-9g was the same as deposit (901) in Trench 9.

Ditch [904] was recorded extending 6.17m to the southeast into Trench 9a before appearing to terminate.

To the northeast, ditch [904] was observed extending at least 5.26m into Trench 9d but did not continue into Trench 9f.

The ditch did not extend into Trenches 9b or 9e. A southwest to northeast oriented linear [905] was recorded in Trench 9c (Fig 4) and measured 0.61m in width. This might possibly form part of the same ditch or perhaps relate to ditch [904] and occupation in this area.

The topsoil in these trenches was the same as deposit (900).

Trenches 10-13

These trenches contained no archaeological features. However, they revealed the same sequence of boulder clay (1001), (1101), (1201), (1301), overlain by sandy clay topsoil (1000), (1100), (1200), (1300) observed throughout the site (Fig 10) (Sections 22-25).

Trench 14

The boulder clay natural (1401) in this trench was cut by three linear features [1402], [1404], [1406] all oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment (Fig 5).

Feature [1402] probably represents the base of an agricultural furrow and measured 1.4m wide by 0.17m deep with shallow concave sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base (Figs 5 & 8, Section 4) (Plate 7).

The fill of this feature consisted of firm mid brown clay (1403), containing frequent pebbles.

Feature [1404] measured 1.4m wide by 1.02m deep with steep sides angling to vertical before breaking sharply to a flat base (Figs 5 & 8) (Section 5).

The fill of this ditch comprised firm mid brownish grey clay (1405) with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular flints. A 20th century ceramic field drain was recorded in this ditch.

Feature [1406] also probably represents the base of an agricultural furrow and measured 1.70m wide by 0.11m deep with shallow concave sides breaking gradually to a fairly flat base (Figs 5 & 8) (Section 6).

This feature was filled with firm mid brown clay (1407), containing frequent pebbles and flints.

These three features were overlain by firm mid to dark brownish grey sandy clay (1400) topsoil.

Trench 15

The natural glacial till (1507) in Trench 15 was cut by a roughly east to west oriented feature [1502] in the southern end of the trench, measuring 1.10m wide by 0.31m deep with steep sides breaking sharply to a flat base (Figs 5 & 8) (Section 1). This perhaps represents a ditch, although it was somewhat unconvincing when excavated and may have a natural origin, possibly formed through fluvial processes.

Feature [1502] was filled with firm mid greyish brown clay (1501) containing chalk fragments and occasional flints.

A second possible ditch [1503] in this trench was oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment, measuring 1.05m wide by 0.40m deep with straight steep sides breaking sharply to a sloping flat base (Figs 5 & 8) (Section 2). However, as with the previous feature, it was uncertain as to whether this was a natural feature or of anthropogenic origin.

The fill of this feature comprised firm mid greyish brown clay (1504) with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and moderate chalk fragments.

Located in the centre of the trench on a roughly southwest to northeast alignment

was a third linear feature [1505] (Figs 5 & 8) (Section 3), measuring 0.80m wide by 0.28m deep. However, this feature lined up with a tramline in the field and may represent a modern tractor wheel rut made at a time when this area of the field was wet.

The fill consisted of firm greyish brown clay containing chalk fragments and sub-angular stones and flints.

Topsoil in this trench was assigned context number (1500).

Trench 16

The natural deposit in Trench 16 was assigned context number (1601).

A linear feature [1602] measuring 1.35m wide by 0.30m deep with concave sides breaking gradually to a concave base (Figs 6 & 8) (Section 7) represents a possible ditch but could be natural in origin.

This feature was filled with firm greyish brown clay (1603) containing moderate sub-angular stones and flints.

A second possible linear feature [1604] on an east to west alignment extended 1.42m in length into Trench 16 before terminating in a rounded end. It had a width of 0.56m and depth of 0.21m, with moderately steep sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base (Figs 6 & 9) (Section 8).

This feature was quite ephemeral and probably natural in origin. Its fill consisted of firm, slightly mid greyish brown clay (1605) with moderate chalk fragments, occasional sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.

Topsoil (1600) overlay these features.

Trenches 17-20

Trenches 17 to 20 were devoid of any archaeological features. The natural glacial till in these trenches was assigned context numbers (1701), (1801), (1901) and (2001) respectively. The overlying topsoil was given numbers (1700), (1800), (1900) and (2000) (Fig 10, Sections 26-29) (Plate 10).

Trench 21

A single pit [2102] truncated the natural clay (2101) at the southern end of this trench. The pit was ovoid in plan, measuring 0.94m at its widest point by 0.30m deep with moderately steep straight sides braking gradually to a flat base (Figs 6 & 9, Section 9) (Plate 9).

The fill of this pit consisted of firm light greyish brown silty clay (2103), with moderate pebbles and flecks of charcoal and fired clay.

The pit was overlain by topsoil deposit (2100).

Trench 22

No features were identified in this trench. Natural clay (2201) was overlain by topsoil deposit (2200) (Fig 10) (Section 31).

Trench 23

Three features [2303], [2305], [2307] oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment, probably representing the base of agricultural furrows, were identified cutting through the natural clay (2301) in this trench.

The most westerly of these [2303] measured 0.99m wide by 0.21m deep with shallow to moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a fairly flat base (Figs 6 & 9) (Section 11).

The fill consisted of firm to plastic, mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay (2302) containing moderate pebbles and sub-angular flints.

The possible furrow [2305] near the centre of the trench measured 1.05m wide by 0.22m deep with moderately steep concave sides breaking gradually to a flat and slightly sloped base (Figs 6 & 9, Section 12) (Plate 8).

The fill (2304) comprised firm to plastic, mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay with moderate pebbles and sub-angular flints.

The final furrow base [2307] in this trench measured 2.09m wide by 0.20m deep with shallow concave sides breaking gradually to a fairly flat base (Figs 6 & 9) (Section 13).

The fill of [2307] comprised firm to plastic, mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay with moderate pebbles and sub-angular flints (2306).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise reddish brown and brown boulder clays which represent the upper surface of naturally deposited glacial till.

In the southwestern field (Fig 3), Trenches 1 to 8, 10 and 11 contained no archaeological features. Instead, these trenches revealed a sequence of greyish brown sandy clay topsoil overlying yellowish reddish brown to reddish greyish brown boulder clay which was observed throughout the whole of the site. In the northwestern field, Trenches 12-13, 17-20 and 22 also contained no archaeological features.

Trench 9, located in the central area of the site (Figs 1 & 2) revealed a ditch which contained three sherds of handmade prehistoric pottery that could date from the later Bronze Age through to the Iron Age, two fragments of fired clay, a significant amount of bone, mostly representing cattle, and a stone loomweight of possible Iron Age date (Plate 11 & 12). These generally represent the only remains of warp weighted looms and suggest there may be occupation in this area as these items are not usually discarded far from where they were in use.

As a result, the Archaeological Advisor for the Northamptonshire County Council requested that a number of other test trenches (9a-9g, Figs 3 & 4) were opened in the area to determine if this ditch was part of a larger rectilinear enclosure, as tentatively suggested by the earlier geophysical survey (Jefferson 2014). This appeared not to be the case as the ditch looked to terminate to the southeast in Trench 9a, although it extended to the northwest into Trench 9d. Another feature, possibly part of the same ditch or enclosure/boundary was located in Trench 9c, roughly matching up with a positive linear anomaly identified in the previous geophysical survey, although curiously it did not appear to extend into Trench 9g, 9f or 9e. Both of these ditches roughly match up with positive linear anomalies (Fig 4) and possibly represent parts of a small enclosure in this area. This may be an isolated feature but could possibly be associated with the possible Iron Age settlement, identified through fieldwalking, and as a cropmark, in the northeastern corner of the site.

An environmental sample taken from the fill of the ditch in Trench 9 where pottery, animal bone and the loomweight were recovered, offered only limited support for domestic settlement in this area (Rackham, Appendix 3). Quantities of charcoal (one of the clearest indicators of domestic practice) were very small and only two fragments of charred cereal grain were present. The few fragments of animal bone recovered in the sample all had smooth

edges which could suggest the material has been subject to mechanical damage (Rackham, Appendix 3). This has led the environmental specialist to suggest that the material recovered from the ditch may have been introduced through manuring of the fields. The fact that the pottery from within this fill is similarly worn and abraded adds further weight to this notion, as does the low density of finds from the deposit. However, it should be noted that the loomweight was recovered from the base of the deposit and as such may be in its primary context, suggesting the possibility of limited settlement in this area, perhaps ancillary to the occupation site identified to the northeast.

The loomweight is particularly interesting as it is plano-convex and annular in shape with a small perforation (Plate 11 & 12). Loomweights of annular shape occur commonly in Anglo-Saxon contexts, though these are usually donut shaped with a large perforation (Taylor, Appendix 2). However, part of an annular clay loomweight was recovered from a Middle Iron Age deposit at the Iron Age settlement of Salford in Bedfordshire, but considered to be of the early Saxon period and intrusive in the prehistoric horizon (Duncan and Mackreth 2005, 126-7). It seems likely that the present example is of Iron Age date, though could be from as early as the late Bronze Age (Taylor, Appendix 2). This raises the possibility that the fragment of loomweight from the Iron Age settlement in Bedfordshire may not have been intrusive, especially when taking into consideration that there was very limited Saxon evidence at the site.

The pottery specialist has noted that the pottery recovered from the ditch in Trench 9 would be worthy of reassessment alongside any further material recovered from the site.

A number of possible linear features were observed throughout the site, a sample of these was excavated in Trenches 14, 15, 16 and 23. None of these possible features contained any artefacts and, for the most part, appeared to represent the bases of possible agricultural furrows or natural features, with the exception of a ditch containing a modern drain. As a result other features of this type observed across the site were not excavated. These features are probably represented in the geophysical survey as agricultural responses shown in green on Figure 3.

Finally, a shallow pit was excavated in Trench 20; no finds were recovered from this feature, although its fill contained charcoal and flecks of burnt clay suggesting deliberate backfilling. It may possibly represent an outlying feature associated with those recorded in Trench 9.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off of Horton Road, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains consisting of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. The nature of these settlements is unknown but probably represents small isolated farmsteads

Of particular note is a settlement identified through fieldwalking at the northeastern corner of the Site itself, where pottery and coins have been found and a rectangular enclosure and ditch revealed on aerial photographs. However, no trenches were opened in the northeastern corner of the site as development is not taking place in this area.

The investigation revealed an area of

interest near the centre of the site (Figs 3 & 4) where previous geophysical survey had identified two positive linear anomalies tentatively interpreted as a possible enclosure. Initial trenching in this area revealed a ditch containing animal bone along with pottery and a stone loomweight of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, suggesting settlement in this area. Subsequent test trenches in this area revealed a second ditch, or perhaps a continuation of the first ditch, on a perpendicular alignment. Both of these ditches roughly match up with positive linear anomalies from the previous geophysical survey and possibly represent parts of a small enclosure and occupation in this area. However, environmental sampling of the ditch revealed only limited support for domestic settlement and suggested that the pottery and bone may have been deposited through the practice of manuring in the adjacent field. The loomweight still suggests the possibility at least that there was some form of perhaps limited occupation in this area. This may represent an isolated feature or could possibly be associated with the possible Iron Age settlement, identified through fieldwalking, in the northeastern corner of the site.

A single isolated pit was recorded to the northeast of the possible enclosure, although no dating evidence was recovered from it and its relationship to the possible settlement at the centre of the site remains unclear.

The rest of the site revealed a sequence of glacial till overlain by topsoil with occasional natural features and furrow bases which matched the alignment of what were interpreted as agricultural responses on the previous geophysical survey.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Michael Temple of Lark Energy for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury. Elizabeth Bates allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Staff: Andrew Failes, Mary Nugent, Ryan Godbold
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Andrew Failes
Post-excavation Analyst: Andrew Failes

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIfA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists)

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2014 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land east of Horton Road, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire* Unpublished APS report no: **62/14**

Duncan, HB and Mackreth, DF, 2005 'Registered and non-ceramic bulk artefacts', in M Dawson, *An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire*, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 6, 125-137

Ekwall, E, 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)

Gover, JEB, Mawer, A and Stenton, FM,

1933 *The Place-Names of Northamptonshire*, English Place-Name Society Vol. **X**

GSGB, 1969 *Towcester: Solid and drift edition*, 1:63,369 map sheet **202**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Jefferson, N, 2014 *Land at Horton Road, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire (BGHR14) Geophysical Survey* Unpublished APS report no: **97/14**

RCHME, 1979 *An Inventory of Archaeological Sites in Central Northamptonshire*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

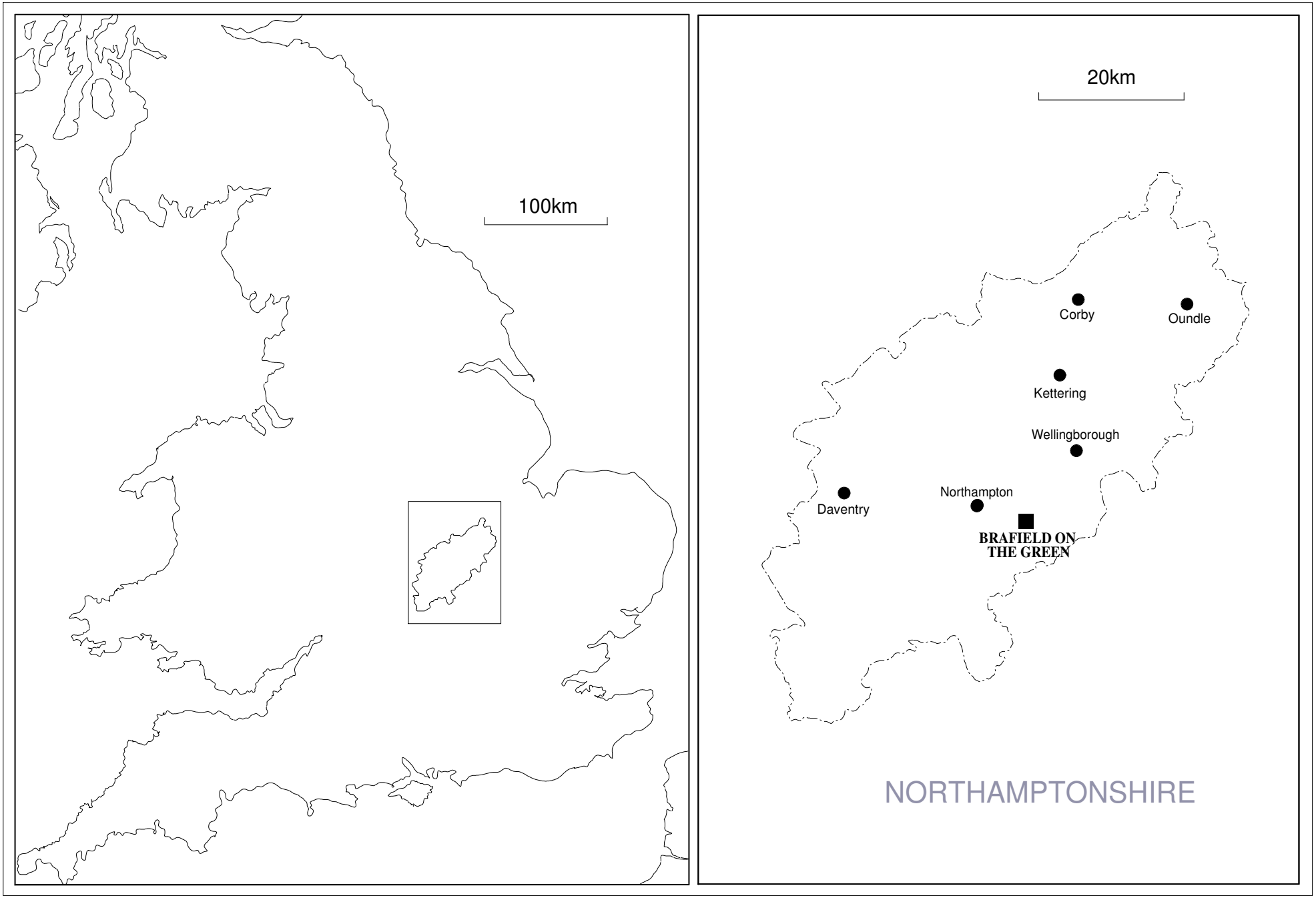


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

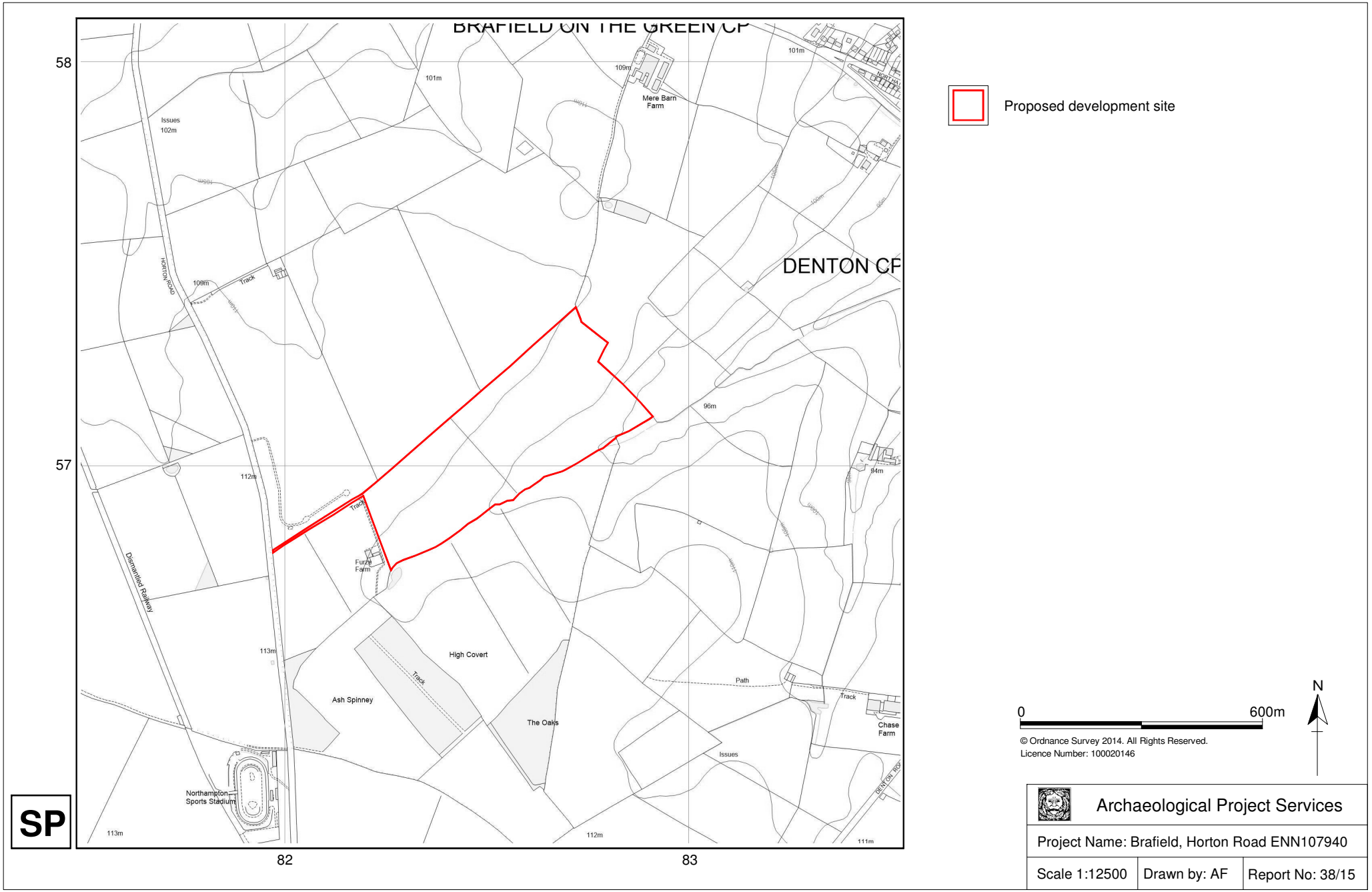


Figure 2 - Site location map

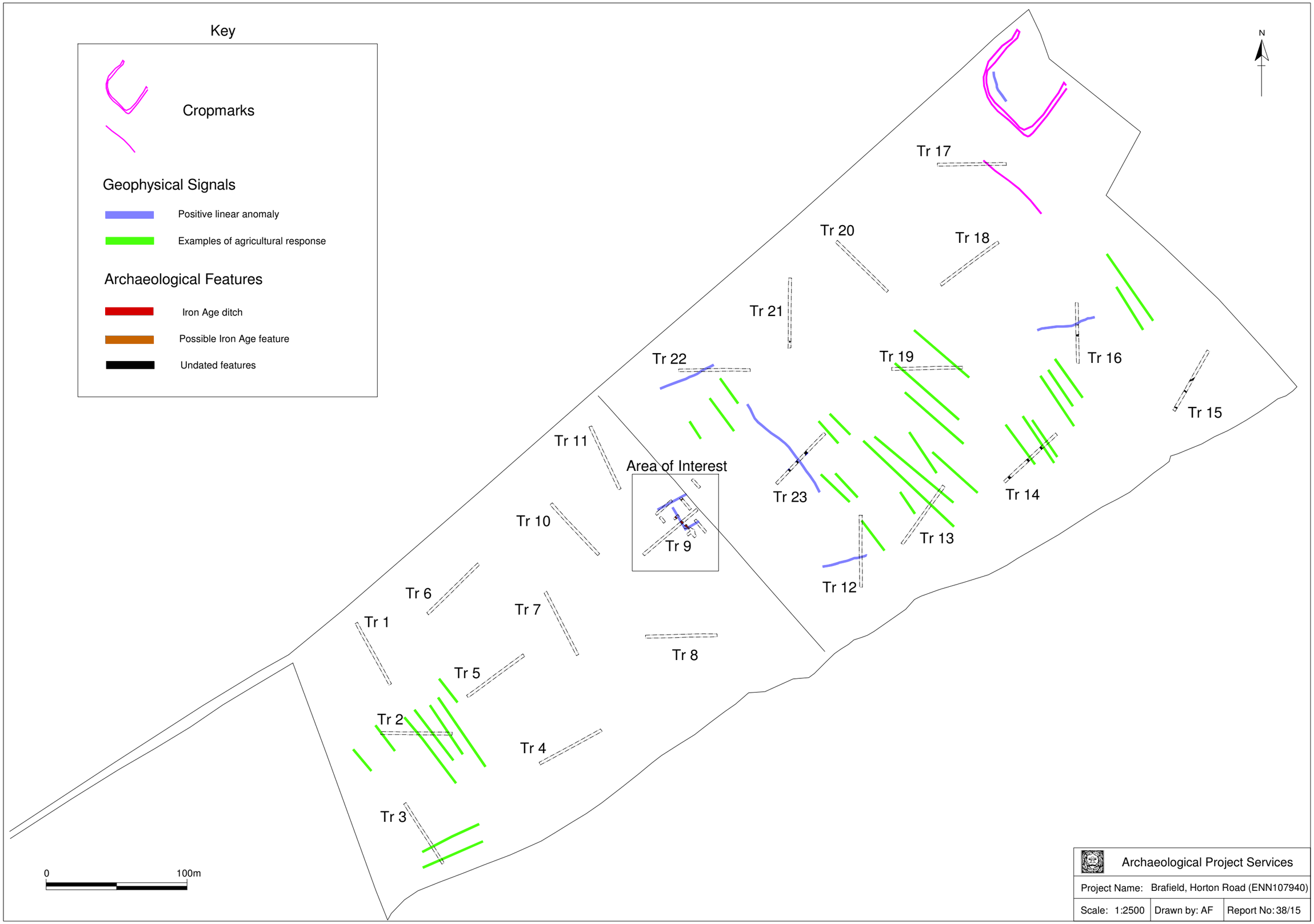


Figure 3 - Trench location plan showing features and results of previous geophysical survey

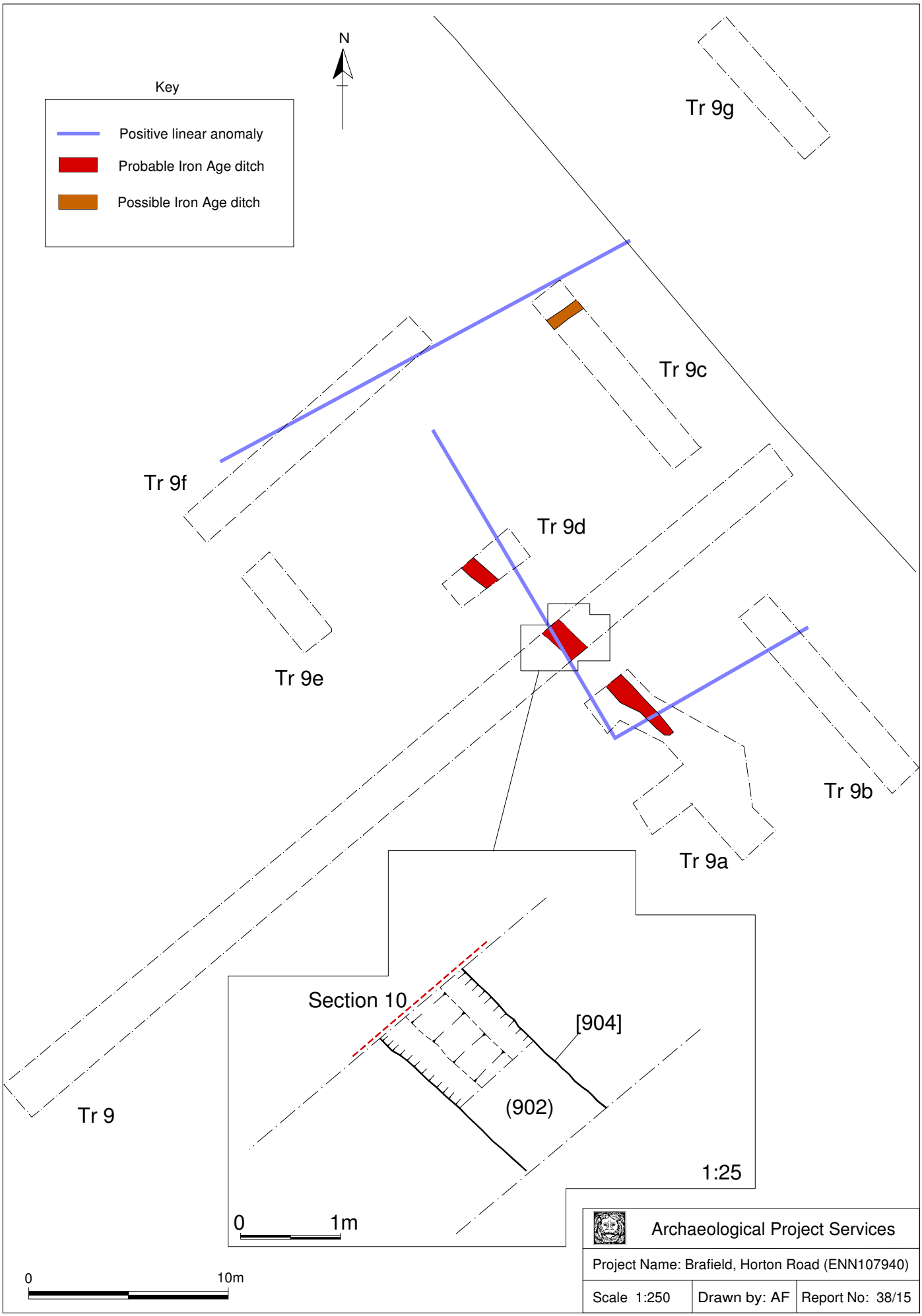


Figure 4 - Trench 9 and Trenches 9a-9g

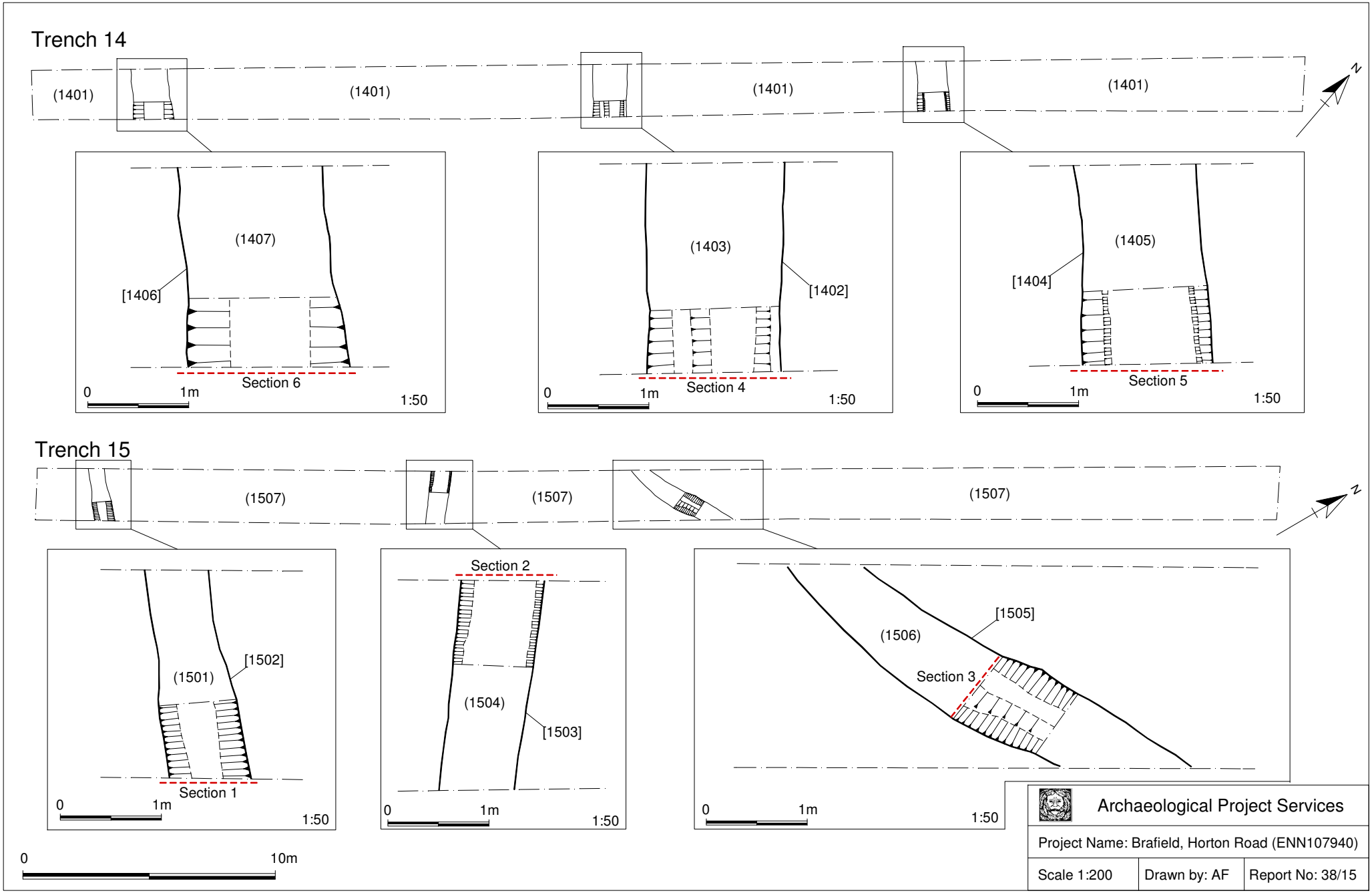


Figure 5 - Trenches 14 & 15

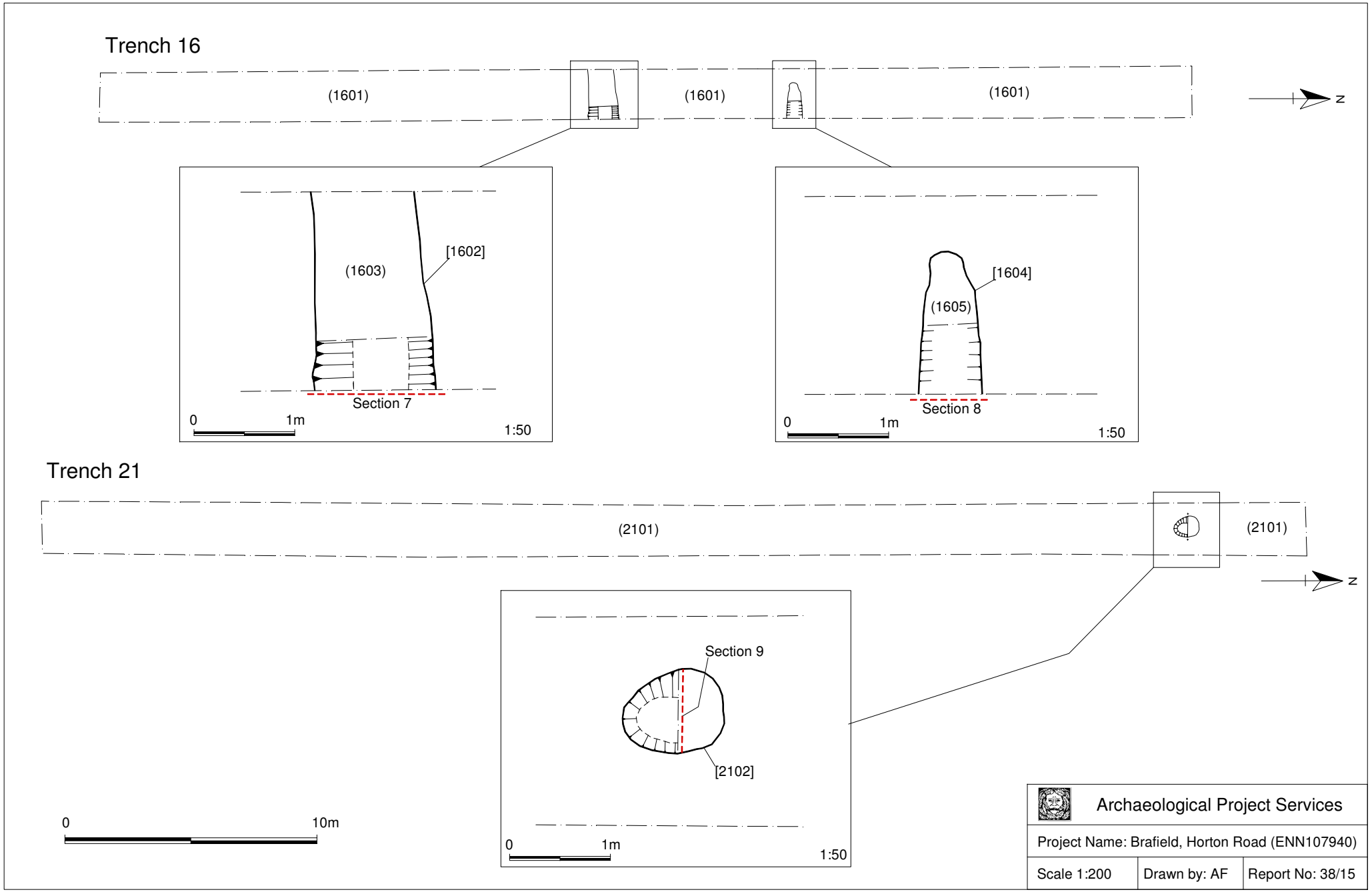
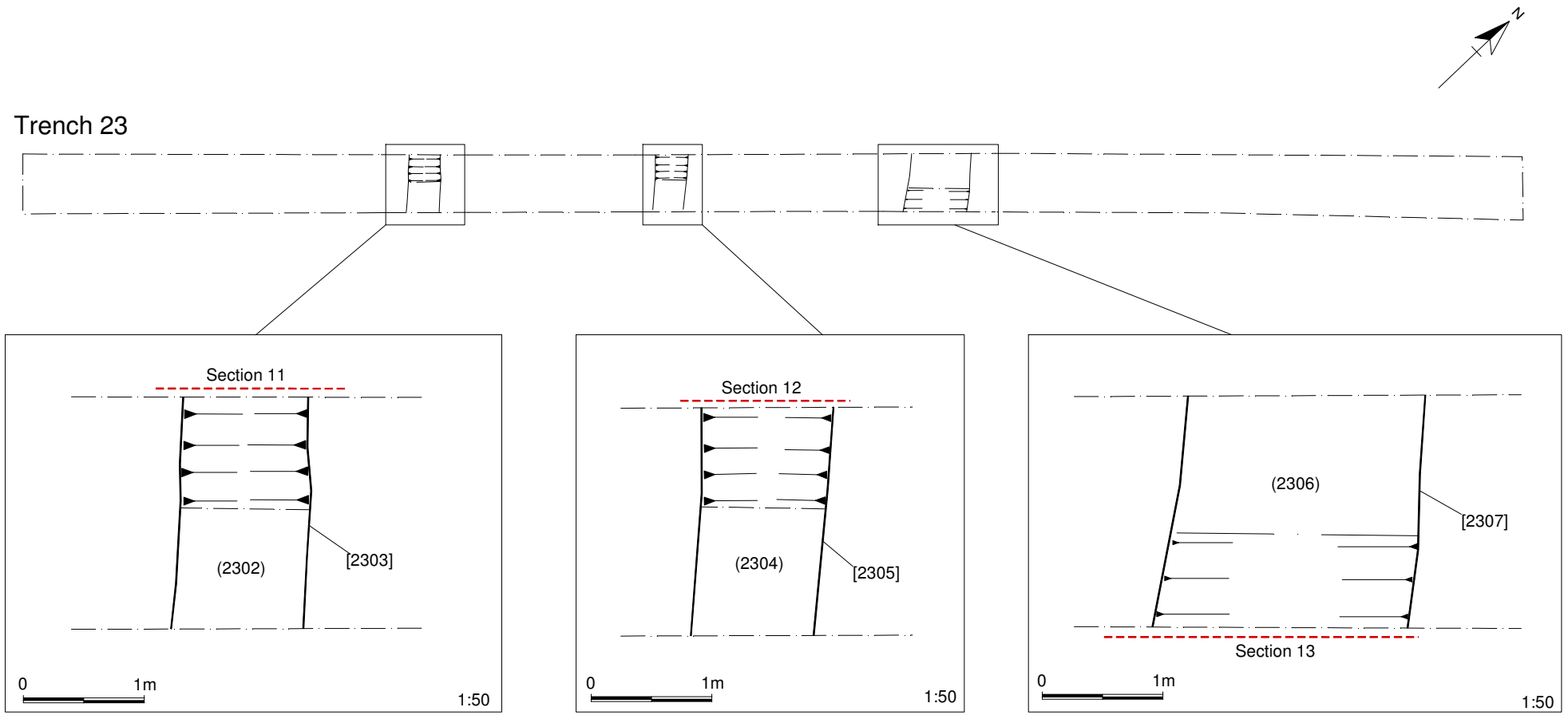
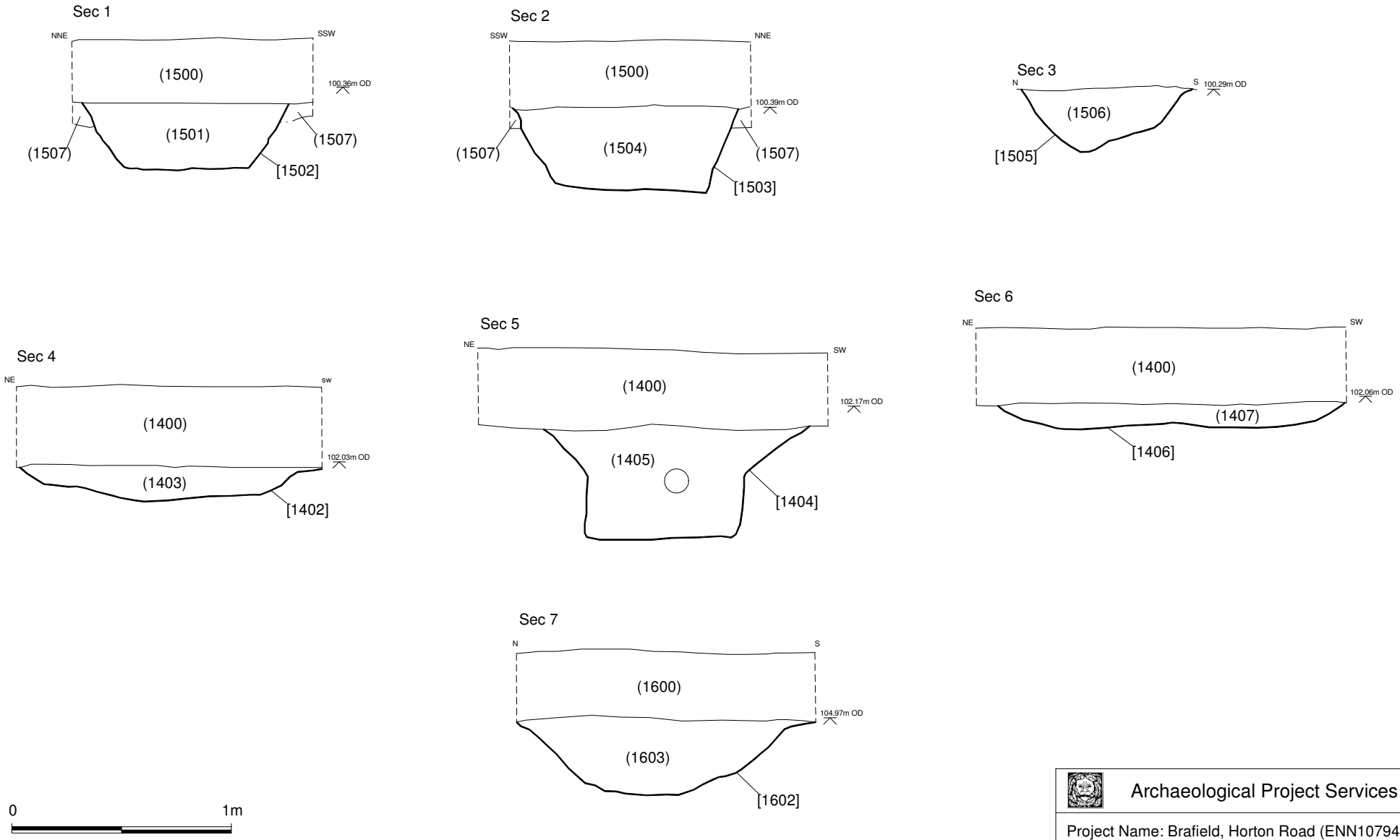


Figure 6 - Trenches 16 & 21



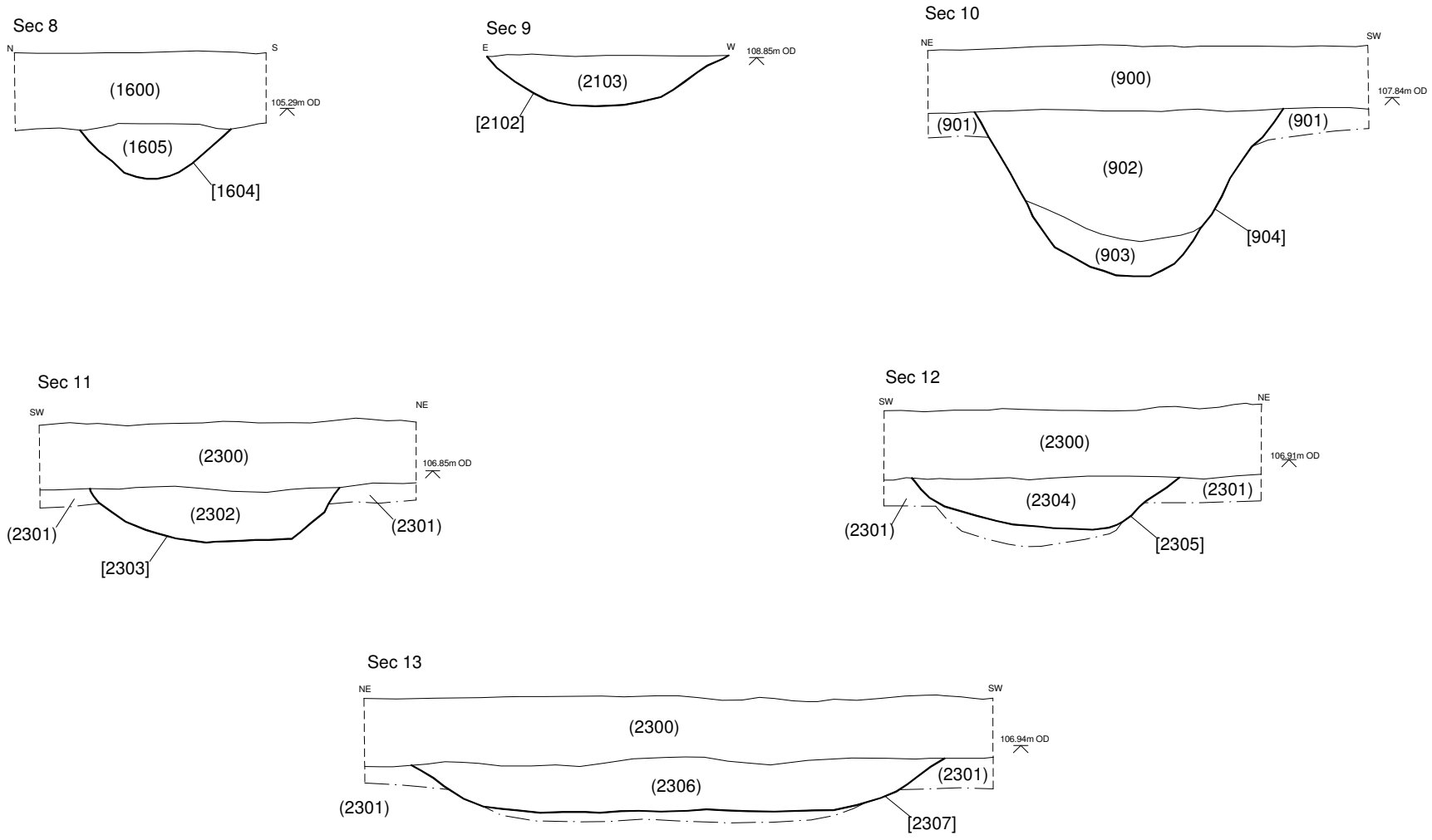
Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Brafield, Horton Road (ENN107940)		
Scale 1:200	Drawn by: AF	Report No: 38/15

Figure 7 - Trench 23



Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Brafield, Horton Road (ENN107940)		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: AF	Report No: 38/15

Figure 8 - Sections 1-7



Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Brafield, Horton Road (ENN107940)		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: AF	Report No: 38/15

Figure 9 - Sections 8-13

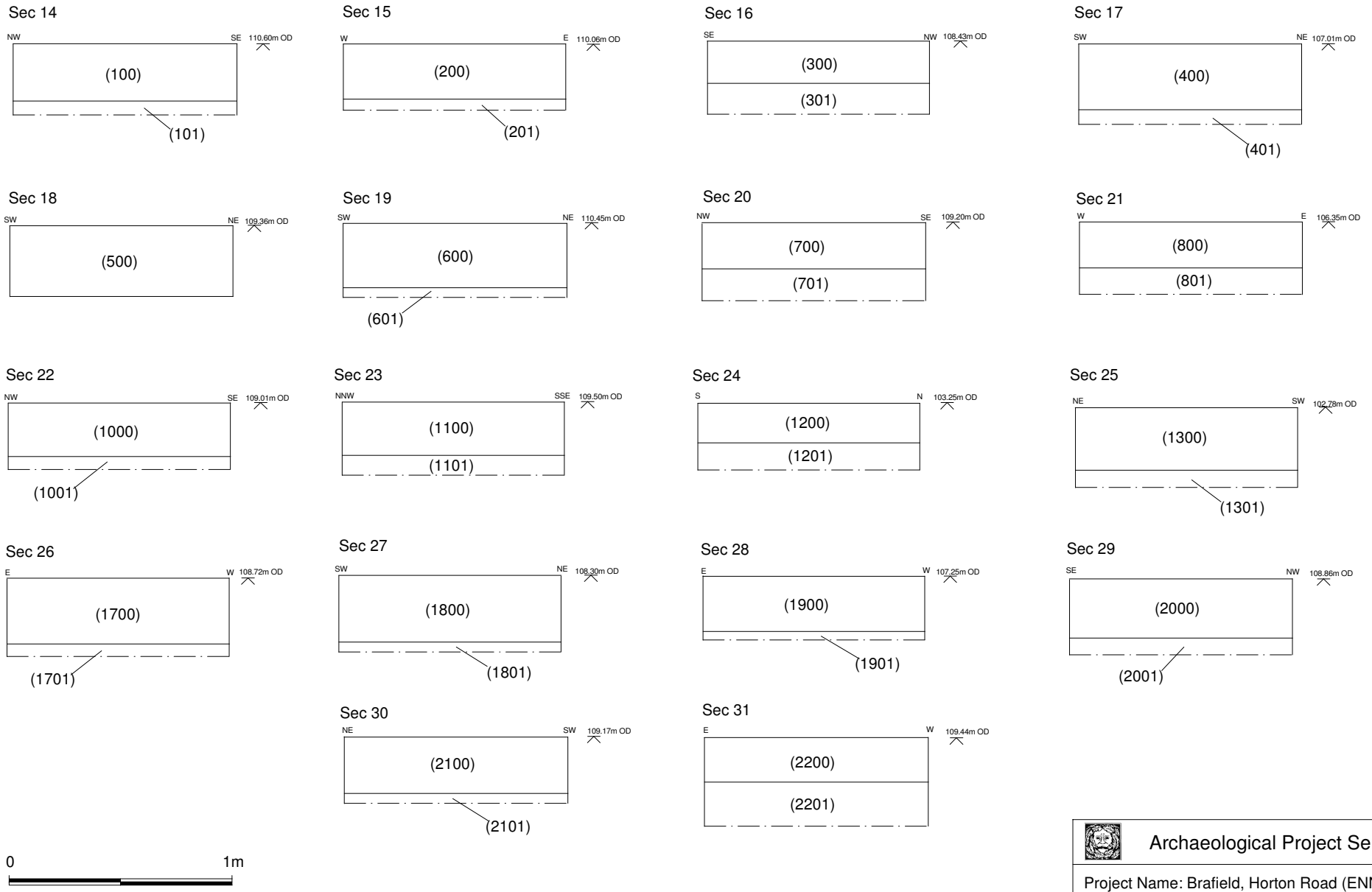


Figure 10 - Sections 14-31

Plate 1 – View of southeastern field looking east

Plate 2 – View of northeastern field looking east

Plate 3 – Working shot, opening Trench 18 looking southeast

Plate 4 – Trench 1 plan, example of blank trench in southeastern field showing the natural glacial till found across the site

Plate 5 – Trench 1, representative section showing sequence of natural overlain by topsoil observed across the site

Plate 6 – Trench 9, ditch [904]

Plate 7 – Trench 14, furrow base [1402]

Plate 8 – Trench 23, furrow base [2305]

Plate 9 – Trench 21, Pit [2102]


Plate 10 – Trench 20, example of blank trench in northwestern field showing the natural glacial till found across the site

Plate 11 – Stone loomweight from ditch [904], convex face

Plate 12 – Stone loomweight from ditch [904], oblique angle

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No	Trench	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
101	1	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
200	2	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
201	2	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
300	3	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
301	3	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
400	4	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
401	4	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
500	5	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
501	5	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
600	6	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
601	6	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
700	7	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
701	7	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
800	8	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular	Topsoil

		pebbles including flint and chalk	
801	8	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
900	9	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
901	9	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
902	9	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown clay with moderate charcoal flecks	Fill of ditch [904]
903	9	Firm mid yellowish brown clay containing occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of ditch [904]
904	9	Linear ditch cut oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment with steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base	Late Bronze Age to Iron Age ditch
905	9	Linear cut oriented on a southwest to northeast alignment	Ditch cut, possibly associated with ditch [904]
906	9	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of ditch [905]
1000	10	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1001	10	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
1100	11	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1101	11	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
1200	12	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1201	12	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
1300	13	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1301	13	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till

1400	14	Firm mid to dark brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1401	14	Firm mid to light brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
1402	14	Linear feature oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment measuring 1.4m wide by 0.17m deep with shallow concave sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base	Probable furrow base
1403	14	Firm mid brown clay containing frequent pebbles	Fill of [1402]
1404	14	Linear feature oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment measuring 1.4m wide by 1.02m deep with steep sides angling to vertical before breaking sharply to a flat base	Ditch containing 20th century field drain
1405	14	Firm mid brownish grey clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular flints	Fill of [1404]
1406	14	Linear feature oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment measuring 1.70m wide by 0.11m deep with shallow concave sides breaking gradually to a fairly flat base	Probable furrow base
1407	14	firm mid brown clay containing frequent pebbles and flints	Fill of [1406]
1500	15	Firm mid to light brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Topsoil
1501	15	Firm mid greyish brown clay containing chalk fragments and occasional flints	Fill of [1502]
1502	15	East to west oriented linear feature measuring 1.10m wide by 0.31m deep with steep sides breaking sharply to a flat base	Probable natural feature/possible ditch
1503	15	Linear feature oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment measuring 1.05m wide by 0.40m deep with straight steep sides breaking sharply to a sloping flat base	Probable natural feature/possible ditch
1504	15	Firm mid greyish brown clay (1504) with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and moderate chalk fragments.	Fill of [1503]
1505	15	Linear feature measuring 0.80m wide by 0.28m deep.	Probable modern tractor wheel rut
1506	15	Firm greyish brown clay containing chalk fragments and sub-angular stones and flints.	Fill of [1505]
1507	15	Firm to hard light to mid brown and reddish brown clay with chalk and stone fragments	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
1600	16	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1601	16	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to	Natural boulder

		reddish grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	clay/glacial till
1602	16	linear feature measuring 1.35m wide by 0.30m deep with fairly steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base	Probable natural feature/possible ditch
1603	16	Firm greyish brown clay containing moderate sub-angular stones and flints.	Fill of [1602]
1604	16	Linear feature oriented an east to west alignment extending 1.42m in length into Trench 16 before terminating in a rounded end with a width of 0.56m by 0.21m deep with moderately steep sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base	Ephemeral feature, probably natural
1605	16	Firm slightly mid greyish brown clay (1605) with moderate chalk fragments, occasional sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1604]
1700	17	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1701	17	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
1800	18	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1801	18	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
1900	19	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
1901	19	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
2000	20	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
2001	20	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
2100	21	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil

2101	21	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
2102	21	Ovoid pit measuring 0.94m at its widest point by 0.30m deep with moderately steep straight sides braking gradually to a flat base	Pit cut
2103	21	Firm light greyish brown silty clay (2103), with moderate pebbles and flecks of charcoal and fired clay	Fill of pit [2102]
2200	22	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
2201	22	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
2300	23	Firm mid greyish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles including flint and chalk	Topsoil
2301	23	Firm mid to light reddish yellowish brown to reddish grey brown to brown silty clay with frequent chalk pebbles and moderate flint nodules	Natural boulder clay/glacial till
2302	23	Firm to plastic mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay containing moderate pebbles and sub-angular flints	Fill of [2303]
2303	23	Linear feature oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment measuring 0.99m wide by 0.21m deep with shallow to moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a fairly flat base	Probable furrow base
2304	23	Firm to plastic mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay with moderate pebbles and sub-angular flints	Fill of [2305]
2305	23	Linear feature oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment measuring 1.05m wide by 0.22m deep with moderately steep concave sides breaking gradually to a flat and slightly sloped base	Probable furrow base
2306	23	Firm to plastic, mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay with moderate pebbles and sub-angular flints	Fill of [2307]
2307	23	Linear feature oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment measuring 2.09m wide by 0.20m deep with shallow concave sides breaking gradually to a fairly flat base	Probable furrow base

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

PREHISTORIC POTTERY
By Alex Beeby

Introduction
All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). A total of three sherds from two vessels, weighing 72 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 1 below.

Condition
The pottery is abraded and fragmentary.

Results
Table 1, Prehistoric Pottery Archive

Trench	Context	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Class/ Form	Neck/Rim	Condition	Comments	Date	Part	NoS	NoV	Weight (g)
9	902	SSSC	Sandstone Sparse Coarse	OX/R/OX	V		ABR			BS	1	1	5
9	902	SHCM	Shell Common Medium	R	?/ J or B	UN/EVR	LEACH; ABR	Moderate red-orange Fe clay pellets; soft; joining sherds; internal scratching or wiping	LBA-IA	RIM; UBDY	2	1	67
										Total	**3**	**2**	**72**

Provenance
All of the pottery was recovered from fill (902) within ditch [904], in Trench 9.

Range
There are three pieces of handmade pottery of Prehistoric date. Two sherds are from a large jar or bowl with a simple everted rim. The angle of the rim is uncertain and the piece could date from the later Bronze Age (Post Deveril Rimbury) through to the Iron Age.

Potential
The pottery should be retained and should pose no problems for long-term storage. The pieces would be worthy of reassessment alongside any further material recovered from the site at a later date.

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 2 below.

Condition
The fired clay is shapeless and friable with no flat surfaces.

Results
Table 2, Fired Clay Archive

Trench	Context	Classification	Full Name	Fabric	Fragments	Weight	Comment	Date
9	902	FCLAY	Fired Clay	OX/R; fine sandy	2	35	Shapeless; friable	Undated

Provenance
The fired clay was recovered from fill (902) within ditch [904] in Trench 9.

Range
There are two pieces of fired clay. The items are shapeless but have clearly been subjected to a high heat, perhaps within a furnace or hearth. The pieces are undatable.

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

FAUNAL REMAINS
By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction
A total of 24 (101g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill (902) of a ditch.

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.

Condition
The overall condition of the remains was poor, averaging at grade 4 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results
Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
902	cattle	mandible	B	19	70	same beast; incl 5 molars
	large mammal	long bone	-	4	28	
	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	3	

Summary
As a small assemblage, falling below the minimum count of *c*. 300 bones required for meaningful analysis, the bone has little potential. Cattle is represented by a mandible and probably the long bone fragments as well.

The bone should be retained as part of the site archive and may warrant re-examination if further work is undertaken at the site.

OTHER FINDS
By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

Introduction
Two items together weighing 685 g were recovered.

Condition
Both the items are in good condition. The loomweight is abraded on one side.

Results
Table 4, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
902	Stone	Burnt, smooth on one side.	1	345	Iron Age?
	Stone	Loomweight, circular, plano-convex. Diameter 105mm, depth 15-20mm with central hole 12mm wide. One surface is slightly domed and smooth. The other side is rough and abraded. Iron Age?	1	340	

Provenance
The finds were recovered from the fill (902) of ditch [904].

Range
A piece of burnt stone was recovered.

A stone loomweight was also retrieved. Loomweights represent, generally, the only remains of warp-weighted looms. The weights are hung on the warp threads to create and maintain the correct tension. The weight of the loomweights defines which yarn is used and also the thread density (Martensen *et al*. 2009).

This particular example is annular, with a small perforation, and superficially resembles a spindle whorl, though is too large for such a function. Loomweights of annular form occur commonly in Anglo-Saxon contexts, though these are usually 'donut-shaped', with a large perforation as wide, or wider, than the surrounding ring. However, part of an annular clay loomweight was recovered from a Middle Iron Age deposit at the Iron Age settlement of Salford in Bedfordshire, but considered to be of the early Saxon period and intrusive in the prehistoric horizon (Duncan and Mackreth 2005, 126-7), though Saxon evidence at that site was very limited. Cylindrical loomweights occur on late Bronze Age sites and weights with a truncated pyramidal form continuing into the Iron Age (Major 2013, 124-5). It seems likely that the present example is of Iron Age date, though could be from as early as the late Bronze Age, and owes its plano-convex form to being made from stone, rather than clay.

Potential
The apparent loomweight is of moderate significance and potential and indicates weaving at the site during later prehistory. The burnt stone is of limited potential.

SPOT DATING
The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
902	LBA-IA	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm

Duncan, HB and Mackreth, DF, 2005 'Registered and non-ceramic bulk artefacts', in M Dawson, *An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire*, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **6**, 125-137

Hillson, S, 2003 *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification* (London)

Lyman, RL, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy,* Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)

Major, H, 2013 'Fired clay objects', in N Brown and M Medlycott, *The Neolithic and Bronze Age Enclosures at Springfield Lyons, Essex: Excavations 1981-1991*, East Anglian Archaeology **149**, 123-5

Martensen, L, Nosch, M-L and Strand,EA, 2009 Shape of Things:Understanding A Loomweight. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* **28**, 373-398).

P.C.R.G., 2010 *The Study of Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*, Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group Occasional Papers 1 and 2. (3rd edition)

Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists* (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)

Appendix 3

Brafield, Horton Road – ENN 107940
Environmental Archaeology Assessment

Introduction

A single environmental sample was collected from an Iron Age ditch fill on an evaluation excavation conducted by Archaeological Project Services. The sample was submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

Table 1: Morton Road, Brafield – ENN 107940 Sample taken for environmental analysis

sample no.	context no.	sample vol. (l)	sample weight kg.	feaure	date
1	902	16	20	Fill of ditch 904	Iron Age

Methods

The soil sample was processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The sample was 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 residue and flot were dried and the residue subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flot was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill none of which was found. The flot was studied using x30 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 flot was then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Table 2.

Results

The sample washed down to a residue of angular flint, flint and quartz pebbles, chalk, a little ironstone, a little fossil shell and abundant sediment concretions. Archaeological finds were limited (Table 2) with just a few bone fragments, all with their edges smoothed indicating erosion in the soil, water action or perhaps plough damage. A small magnetic fraction was composed of ironstone and some possibly heated small stones but no hammerscale was present.

The bone assemblage includes fragments of sheep calcaneum and tooth, a fragment of cattle femur and unidentified fragments.

The first and second flots were very small with just a few fragments of comminuted charcoal and a single piece of twig charcoal. Two fragments of charred grain were present, an unidentifiable ‘blown’ grain and a half grain in better condition but still not identified.

A few shells of terrestrial snails were present, including a shell of *Cecilioides acicula*, a burrowing snail almost certainly intrusive in the deposit. The other shells include *Vertigo pygmaea, Vallonia excentrica, Oxychilus* sp. and *Cochlicopa* sp.. This assemblage includes both open country grassland taxa and a single shell of a genus, *Oxychilus* sp. more typical of shaded woodland habitats.

Table 2: Brafield – ENN 107940. Finds and environmental evidence from the processed sample (+ present)

sample no.	cont. no.	sample vol. (l)	residue vol. (ml)	magnetic wt. g.	bone wt g.	flot vol. (ml)	charcoal $	charred grain *	Chaff *	charred seed *	un-charred seed *	snail	comment
1	902	16	750	2	32	5	1/2	1	-	-	+	1	Indet grainx2; sheep/goat, cattle; snails – *Vertigo pygmaea, Oxychilus* sp., *Vallonia excentrica, Cochlicopa* sp., *Cecilioides acicula*

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

Discussion

The sample sheet asked 'is there a site here?' on the basis of animal bone, pottery and a loom weight being hand recovered from ditch 904. The sample offers only very limited support for this suggestion. The quantities of charcoal in the sample are very small, and high charcoal concentrations are often one of the clearest indicators of local activity, and just two fragments of charred cereal grain are present. If domestic settlement was located nearby one might have expected more charcoal, although the low density of charred cereal grain is not uncommon on prehistoric sites. The 'worn' character of the animal bone might suggest material subject to mechanical damage, such as material introduced during manuring of the fields which could if the pottery is similarly 'worn' suggest that the 'domestic' material in the deposit was introduced with manure and does not indicate an adjacent settlement.

The results from the sample do not answer the question posed when the sample was taken but there are traces of 'domestic' rubbish in the ditch fill. These, apart from the 'worn' animal bone, occur in such low densities that they can hardly be used to support an inference of nearby settlement. The occurrence of this material in the ditch could perhaps be explained by manuring of the adjacent field, but this would seem less likely if the pottery in the ditch has clean rather than abraded fractures. If the few snail shells that occur in the sample are contemporary it is possible that the fields adjacent to the ditch were at some time in their Iron Age history grassland, but this does not preclude periods of arable cultivation.

Recommendations

The samples illustrate the survival of charred plant remains, animal bone and snail shells so any excavations on the site are likely to produce assemblages of these remains. These would allow interpretations on the site agricultural economy, diet and some reconstruction of the local landscape or field history, with potential for understanding the structure of the site through the spatial analysis of material recovered from samples.

If further excavations are undertaken at the site there should be a programme of bulk sampling (at least 30 litre samples) concentrating on datable deposits and covering the spatial and

chronological extent of the site and the full range of feature types excavated. The information recoverable from snail assemblages will be more rewarding if samples for molluscan analysis are taken in columns through dated ditches so that changes in land use might be recognised in the changing shell assemblages through the ditch fills. Waterlogged material is not expected on the site but should it occur in deep features it opens up other lines of investigation. It would be beneficial for the site to be visited by an environmental archaeologist before any final programme of sampling is undertaken to ensure that the sampling is well targeted and cost effective.

Acknowledgments
I should like to thank Angela Bain for the sample processing and sorting.

Bibliography
Williams, D.1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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
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.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Context register sheets
41	Context records
3	Photographic record sheets
14	Daily record sheets
13	Sheets of scale drawings
18	Trench sheets
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

Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record Event Number:	ENN 107940
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	BGHR 15
OASIS record number	archaeol1-209671

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.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol1-209671

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land off Horton Road, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	An An evaluation undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed solar farm development. The site lies in an area of archaeological interest with Iron Age and Romano-British settlements, probably representing farmsteads, within the vicinity. Fieldwalking and a cropmark has identified one of these in the northeastern corner of the site itself, although no trenching occured here as it lies outside of the proposed development. The evaluation identified an area of interest near the centre of the site which may represent a small enclosure/boundary and possible limited settlement, either in isolation or perhaps connected with, or ancillary to, the settlemt at the northeastern corner of the site. An annular stone loomweight from the possible enclosure ditch is of particular interest due to its novel form and may have significance with regards to typology.
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2015 End: 02-04-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENN107940 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	LOOMWEIGHT Iron Age
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Solar Farm
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BRAFIELD ON THE GREEN Land off Horton Road
Study area	179156.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 825 571 52.2055388244 -0.79258609518 52 12 19 N 000 47 33 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Archaeological Project Services
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Andrew Failes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Physical Archive ID	ENN107940
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Archive ID	ENN107940
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Paper Archive ID	ENN107940
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land off Horton Road, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Failes, A
Other	38/15

bibliographic details	
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	APS
Place of issue or publication	Heckington
Description	A4 comb bound

Entered by	Andrew Failes (afailes@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	23 April 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice