

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION:
SITE 2, MIDDLEMORE FARM
DAVENTRY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

on behalf of KingsOak Milton Keynes



Nigel Wilson HND AIFA

June 2004

ASC: 509/DMF/2

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Site Data

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| <i>ASC site code:</i> | DMF | <i>Project no:</i> | 509 |
| <i>County:</i> | Northamptonshire | | |
| <i>District:</i> | Daventry | | |
| <i>Village/Town:</i> | Daventry | | |
| <i>Parish:</i> | Daventry | | |
| <i>NGR:</i> | SP 56700 65000 | | |
| <i>Extent of site:</i> | 1.4ha | | |
| <i>Present land use:</i> | Pasture | | |
| <i>Planning proposal:</i> | Housing development | | |
| <i>Extent of development:</i> | 180 x 80m | | |
| <i>Client:</i> | KingsOak Milton Keynes Gazeley House 26 Rockingham Drive Linford Wood Milton Keynes MK14 6PD | | |
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Internal Quality Check

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Summary

During November 2003 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd undertook a program of archaeological recording action on Site 2, Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire. Topsoil and overburden was mechanically removed from an area measuring c.50 x35m at the western end of Site 2.

A number of linear features, pits and postholes were exposed. With the exception of a few insignificant modern pits/ post-holes and a single north to south medieval plough furrow, these features have all been dated by examination of the pottery to the Roman period. The pottery ranges in date from 1st – 3rd century AD. This evidence of Roman activity indicates that there might have been small scale occupation on the site for a significant period. Based on the alignments of the ditches it has been possible to identify two distinct phases of Roman activity. A large ditch running roughly northwest to southeast probably represents the southern boundary of the Roman activity at Middlemore. One of the larger Roman pits contained the remains of at least one juvenile cow.

During February 2004 a limited watching brief was maintained on the rest of Site 2 to the east of the area which had been excavated in November. No further archaeological features were discovered during this phase of the work.

From analysis of the features, finds and environmental samples it has been concluded that this site represents part of a small mixed Romano British farmstead.

1 Introduction

1.1 During November 2003 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a program of archaeological recording action on a site at Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 56700 65000) (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by KingsOak Milton Keynes, and was carried out according to a brief prepared by Charlotte Stevens (Stevens 2003) of the *Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team* (HET), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Wilson 2003).

1.2 Reason for Work

Daventry District Council (DDC) are releasing 32 hectares of agricultural land centred around Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire for residential development. The development area has been subdivided into eleven sites (Fig 2). KingsOak Milton Keynes have purchased Site 2 and the HET recommended to DDC that they place a planning condition on the site, in line with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16). The work required was defined in the brief, prepared by the HET on behalf of the local planning authority DDC.

1.3 Setting

- 1.3.1 Middlemore Farm is sited about 2.5km north of Daventry town centre. The development area is bounded to the south by Drayton Reservoir. The boundary to the east is defined by the A361 Ashby Road, to the west by a disused railway line and to the north by the line of the Grand Union Canal's Braunston tunnel. Site 2 covers an area c.180 x 80m, which prior to the commencement of the development was pastureland. The site is orientated northeast to southwest, and lies to the south and east of the farm complex, on a south facing slope at an elevation of about 145m OD.
- 1.3.2 The British Geological survey has mapped the site as lying on Boulder Clay. The soils of the area belong to the Ragdale association described as "*Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils especially on slopes*" (Soil Survey 1983).
- 1.3.3 Access to the Middlemore development areas is via a newly constructed network of roads leading westwards off the A361 road. No known services or buildings were present on the site prior to the start of the excavation .
- 1.3.4 In 1999 Northamptonshire Archaeology prepared a desk-based assessment (DBA) of the Middlemore Development area, on behalf of DDC (Soden 1999). This assessment examined records held by the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the County Record Office. A site walkover was also included in the assessment. A note held by the SMR showed that a fieldwalking programme on land at Middlemore in 1973 (Brown 1991) had found artefacts of prehistoric and Roman date, indicating the likelihood of activity during these periods on the site. Aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1947 showed well-defined areas of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing surviving over much of the Middlemore development area. Subsequent deep ploughing has almost completely levelled the ridge and furrow in the fields to the east of the farmhouse. The farmhouse at Middlemore appears to date from about 1752, at which time the former Drayton parish was enclosed.
- 1.3.5 Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a watching brief on the groundworks associated with Site 1 (Leigh 2002). A number of Roman ditches were revealed during this watching brief. From this evidence it was concluded that a small Romano-British occupation site was possibly located to the immediate west of Sites 1 & 2. Limited excavation was subsequently carried out on Site 1, under contingency arrangements (Northants Archaeology 2003). The areas examined lay to the immediate north and south of the farm complex (Fig. 3).
- 1.3.6 Daventry District Council have granted KingsOak Milton Keynes planning permission to build housing on Site 2.

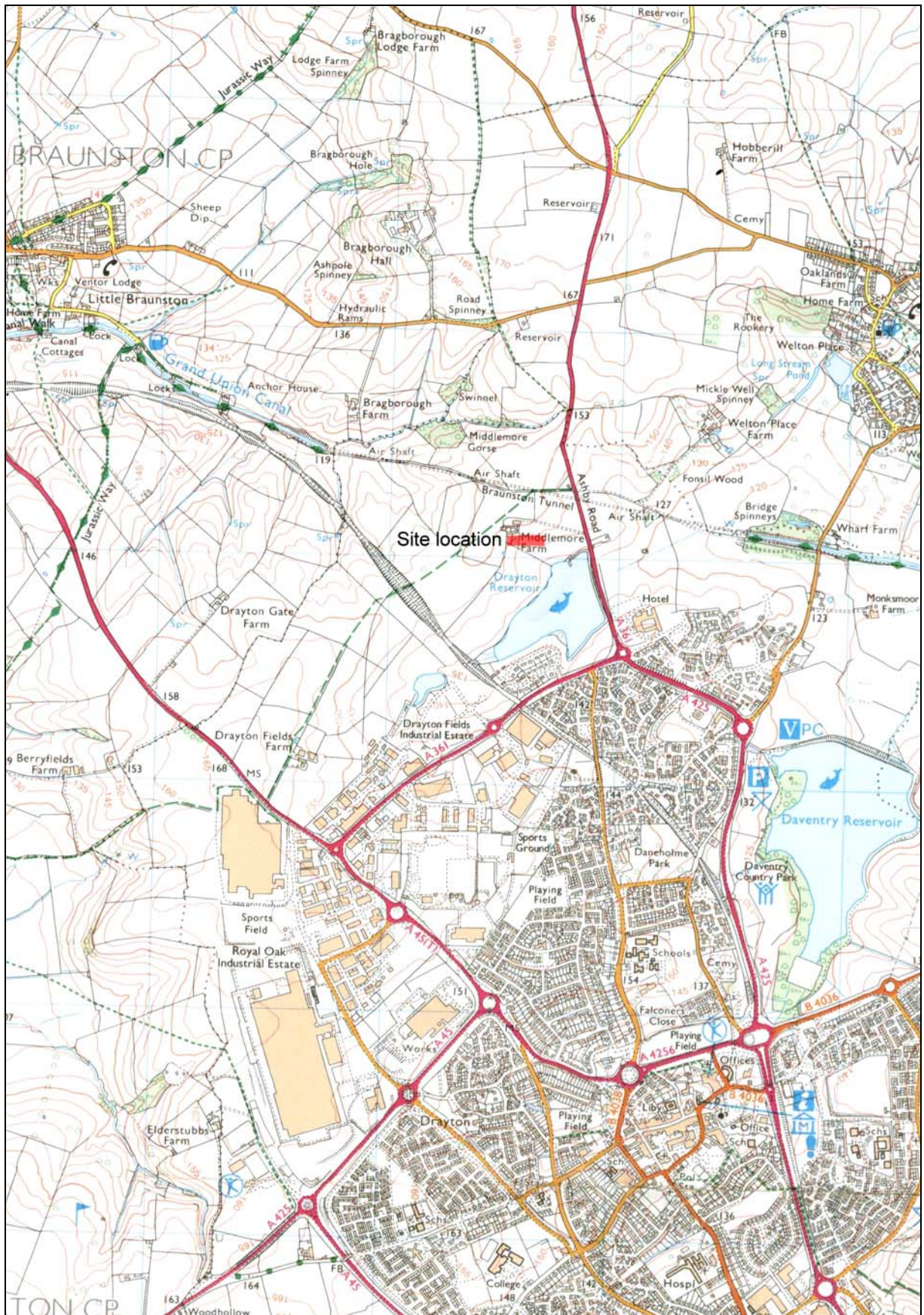


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

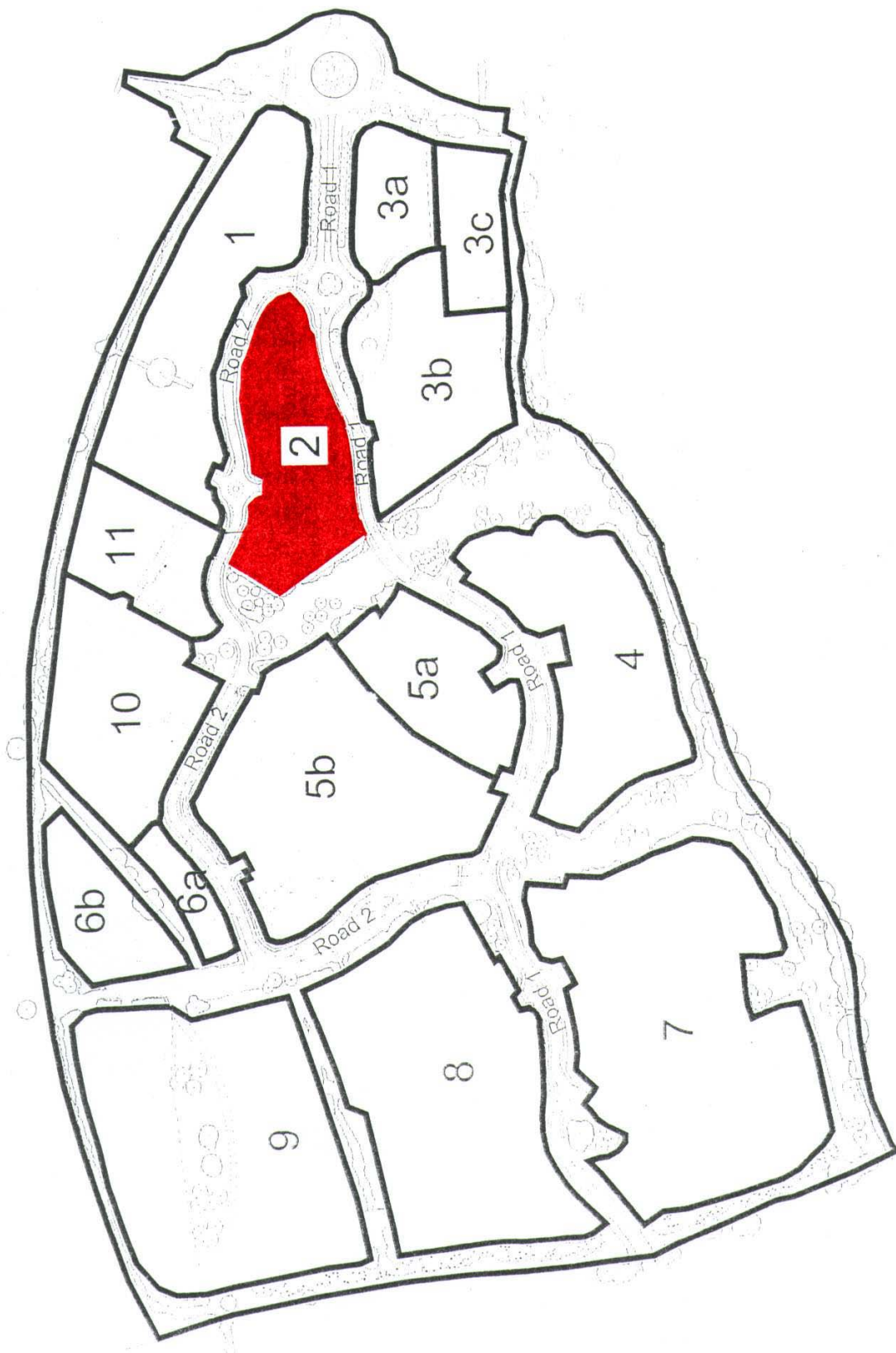


Figure 2: Proposed sites Middlemore Development Area (*not to scale*)

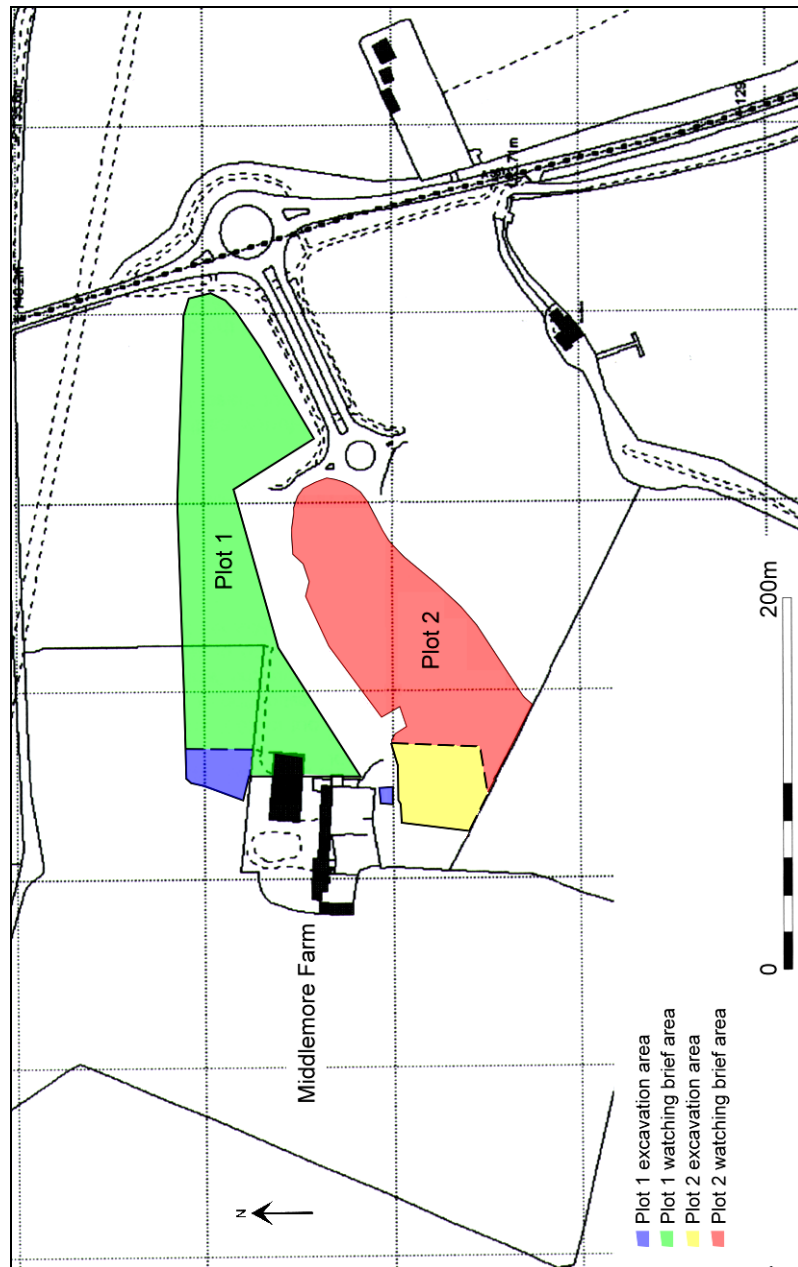


Figure 3: Site plan (scale as shown)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 In line with the requirements of the brief (Section 2), the aims of the Archaeological Recording Action on Site 2 were:

- To identify and make a basic record of archaeological remains revealed by the development
- To establish the extent, nature and character of the Roman period remains identified from previous work, recovering any surviving evidence for the duration of the activity.

2.2 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 3), which required:

- Pre-emptive, supervised stripping and recording of the western part of Site 2 (Fig. 3), with subsequent excavation of exposed features.
- Watching Brief to be maintained during the development.
- All recording procedures to be compatible with those previously used on the Middlemore site by Northamptonshire Archaeology.

2.3 *Standards*

The work carried out conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

3 Results

3.1 The excavation concentrated on an area c.45.0 x 35.0m, at the north-western end of Site 2. Prior to the commencement of the excavation the existing land surface sloped gently down from north to south. The northern part of the excavation area was covered with a recent soil deposit pushed down the slope over the then existing topsoil, when the new estate road and associated infrastructure were constructed. This deposit was up to 1.0m deep. The original topsoil averaged 0.3m in depth and comprised a typical dark yellowish brown agricultural loam.

3.2 *Phasing*

3.2.1 Five distinct phases of activity were identified during the excavation of Site 2 (Fig. 5). Examination of the pottery recovered during the excavation indicates that the site was occupied from the early Roman period through to modern. The three phases of Roman activity have had to be defined by ditch alignments and stratigraphic relationships, and it is impossible to assign dates to the individual features as the pottery recovered from many of the features covered a range of 1st to 3rd centuries.

3.2.2 The initial phase of activity was the cutting of three small ditches, [205], [206] and [210]. These ditches were orientated northeast to southwest. It was noted that the northern extent of these ditches formed a line possibly representing the northern edge of a series of small fields, though no evidence for a northern return ditch or fence line was discovered during the excavation. The second phase of activity saw the excavation of a series of north to south and east to west ditches, [201], [202], [203], [204], [207], [208], and, [209]. It is likely that there is at least one sub phase within this general alignment. A number of isolated pits, especially Pit [63], seem to represent the third phase of activity on the site. It is possible that some of the post-holes may also belong to this phase though no stratigraphic or physical evidence survived to confirm this. A single truncated north to south plough furrow represented the medieval period. A pit and several of the small cut features are almost certainly modern.

3.3 *The ditches*

Ten ditches were identified and recorded during the excavation. Each ditch was given an overall group number, and each excavated segment was given an individual context number. A number of the excavated ditch segments only contained a single sherd of pottery, and the date of the ditch can hardly be accurately concluded from a single sherd.

3.3.1 **Phase 1**

Ditch [205] was orientated southwest to northeast. The ditch continued under the south-western baulk of the site, whilst at its north-eastern end it had been cut by Ditch [208]. This ditch is likely to have been cut during the initial phase of Roman agricultural activity at Middlemore. Two segments were excavated across Ditch [205]. Though no finds or dating material were recovered from the fills it seems likely that this ditch was filled during the 3rd century AD.

Segment [113] was 1.5m long. At this point the ditch was 0.45m wide with a maximum depth of 0.15m reducing to 0.1m at the northern end of the segment. The sides were angled at about 60° to the rounded base. The fill (114) comprised yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles.

Segment [111] was excavated at the intersection with Ditch [208] to establish the relationship between the two ditches. From the section it was evident that Ditch [208] cut and thus post-dated Ditch [205]. The excavated segment measured 1.0x0.55m with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The sides were straight and angled at about 45° to the flat base. The fill (112) comprised yellowish brown silty clay and contained occasional small stones.

Ditch [206] was orientated south-west to north-east. At the southwest end of the ditch it merged into Ditch [201], whilst its northern extent was defined by a terminal. Ditch [207] cut [206], thus it can be clearly stated that it is a later feature. Two segments were excavated across Ditch [206]. A single undiagnostic sherd of pottery was recovered from the fill of Segment [117].

Segment [119] was excavated to investigate the relationship between Ditches [206] and [207]. Segment [119] emerged from the western side of Ditch [121]. This segment was 1.5m long with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The south-eastern side of the ditch had been totally removed when Ditch [207] was cut. The north-western side of the ditch had a straight side angled at about 85° to the rounded base. The south-eastern side of the ditch had been removed when Ditch [207] had been cut. The fill (120) comprised greyish brown sandy clay silt containing occasional small pebbles. No finds or other dating material was retrieved from this fill.

Segment [117] was excavated to the northeast of the intersection with Ditch [207]. This segment measured 0.9 x 0.55m with a maximum depth of 0.1m. The straight sides merged with the rounded base. The fill (118) comprised light greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles.

Ditch [210] was the third ditch on the original northeast to southwest alignment. A single segment [91] was excavated through the ditch. This segment measured 1.0 x 0.2m with a maximum depth of 0.1m. The sides were angled at about 85° to the flat base. The fill (90) comprised mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles. A single sherd of pottery dating from the early – mid 2nd century was recovered from the fill.

3.3.2 Phase 2

Ditch [201] was orientated northwest to southeast. This was a substantial ditch and it is considered likely that it represents the southern boundary of the site. The results from examination of the environmental samples taken from the fills of Ditch [201] seem to support this hypothesis. Two segments were excavated and recorded. A third segment was rapidly excavated through this ditch in the south-eastern sector of the excavation area. This segment enabled the continuation of the ditch to be confirmed. A further environmental sample was also obtained from this section. It is likely that the ditch was re-cut at

least once during its life, with the original cut seemingly on its southern side. Pottery recovered from the fills indicates that the ditch probably went out of use during the mid 2nd century.

Segment [43] was the westernmost excavated section through Ditch [201] and was opened by hand. The ditch was about 3.0m wide with a depth of 1.0m. The sides were angled at about 45° to the flat base. It is possible that a slight change in angle on the southern side of the cut might be evidence of an earlier cut on the same alignment. However as the fill did not change at this point it was not assigned a separate number. Two fills were recorded in Segment [43]. The upper fill (41) comprised dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of medium sized cobbles. The primary fill (42) comprised a 0.2m deep layer of dark grey clay, with no inclusions.

Segment [34] was mechanically excavated. Within this segment the clearest evidence for the original cut on the southern side of Ditch [201] was recorded. Ditch segment [34] was 1.2m wide with a maximum depth of 0.6m. The southern side survived up to the level of the machine surface, and was angled at about 45° to the flat base. Most of the northern side had been removed when re-cut [130] was originally excavated. Two fills were recorded. The upper fill (32) comprised brownish grey silty clay with occasional small pebble inclusions. No finds or dateable material was recovered from this fill. The primary fill (33) comprised light grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and chalk fragments. A moderate quantity of charcoal flecking was also seen in this fill. Again no finds or dateable material was recovered from the fill during the excavation, but an environmental sample may produce some indication for the date of deposition of this fill.

The re-cut of segment [34] cut Ditch [130], and was about 1.6m wide with a maximum depth of 0.35m. The concave sides were angled at about 40° to the rounded base. A single fill was recorded (30). This fill comprised dark grey silty clay containing occasional medium sized cobbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Though four small sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill they have proved to be undiagnostic.

Ditch [202] was orientated north to south. The southern limit of [202] was defined by Ditch [201], whilst at its northern end it swung westwards before terminating. This western arm of Ditch [202] had subsequently been cut on its northern sides by Ditch [209]. It is likely that this ditch represents a field boundary/ drainage ditch from the second major phase of ditch digging activity on the site. Five segments were excavated along the length of the ditch.

Segment [45] was the southernmost excavated segment, and cut Posthole [47]. This segment was cut longitudinally along the centre line of the ditch hence the full profile of the ditch was not exposed. The excavated depth was 0.3m and the exposed eastern side was angled at 45°. The fill (44) comprised greenish brown silty clay with no significant inclusions. Two small sherds of residual 1st or 2nd century pottery and a couple of cattle bones were recovered from the fill.

Segment [37] was 1.4m long, and the ditch was 0.8m wide with a maximum depth of 0.3m. The concave sides were angled at about 45° to the flat base. Cut into the base of the ditch there were the remains of a single post hole [39] which almost certainly pre-dated the cutting of the ditch. The fill (38) comprised yellowish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small pebbles. Two sherds of undated pottery and a few fragments of animal bone were recovered from this fill.

Segment [36] was 1.0m long. At this point Ditch [202] was 1.5m wide with a maximum depth of 0.3m. The western side was concave and angled at about 60° whilst the eastern side was only about 30°. The base of the ditch was rounded. The fill comprised dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of medium sized pebbles. No finds or other dateable material was recovered from this fill.

Segment [29] was located at the turn of Ditch [202]. From the section it was clear that Ditch [202] was cut by Ditch [209]. The excavated segment was entirely on the western arm of the ditch and measured 0.9 x 0.5m with a maximum depth of 0.2m. Only the southern side of the cut survived, the rest had been cut away when Ditch [209] was originally excavated. The southern side was angled at about 30° to the flat base. The fill comprised mid brown silty clay containing a moderate number of small pebbles. No finds or other dateable material was recovered from this fill.

Segment [51] was located against the western baulk of the site to the south of Ditch [209]. The segment measured 1.1 x 0.4m with a maximum depth of 0.15m. At the western end of the segment it possibly terminated but this cannot be confirmed as the cutting of Ditch [209] had removed the northern side. The straight southern side was angled at about 60° to the flat base. The fill comprised dark greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles. No finds or other dateable material was recovered from this fill.

Ditch [203] was orientated north to south. The southern extent of [203] was defined by Ditch [201]. The northern end of Ditch [203] was unclear due to it having been cut by Pit [63]. It is possible that it either turned westwards to become Ditch [209] or [67] alternatively it may have continued northwards as Ditch [78]. It is likely that this feature represents a field boundary ditch from the second phase of activity on site. Three segments were excavated along the length of the ditch south of Pit [63]. Though a number of sherds of pottery were recovered from the various fills they have proved undiagnostic in terms of dating except for a single sherd of mid to late 3rd century beaker from fill (74).

Segment [75] was 1.2m long. At this point Ditch [203] was 0.55m wide with a maximum depth of 0.25m. The sides were concave and angled at about 80° to the rounded base. The fill (74) comprised brownish grey silty clay with rare inclusions of stone ranging in size from small to large. A few small charcoal flecks were also observed within the fill. Six sherds of undated pottery were recovered from the fill, as well as a few fragmentary animal bones and two iron nails.

Segment [55] was 1.4m long. At this point the ditch was 0.4m wide with a maximum depth of 0.2m. The straight sides were angled at 65° to the rounded base. The fill (56) comprised dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles. Four small sherds of undated pottery along with a number of fragmentary animal bones were recovered from the fill.

Ditch [204] was orientated north to south. The northern end of the ditch was cut by Pit [63] whilst its southern end faded to nothing suggesting that it had originally been a larger feature. It is likely that Ditch [204] is a continuation of east to west Ditch [209] but this could not be confirmed due to the later pit having destroyed the relationship. Two segments were excavated across Ditch [204] from which no dating material was recovered.

Segment [57] was the southernmost segment, and measured 2.0 x 0.4m with a maximum depth of 0.2m at its whilst its southern end merged with the surrounding natural subsoil. The sides were concave, and angled at about 60° to the rounded base. The fill (58) comprised greyish brown silty clay containing a few small pebbles.

Segment [61] was at the northernmost end of the ditch where it was cut by Pit [63]. This segment measured 0.65m in length, with a width of 0.65m at its southern end splaying out to 1.2m at its northern end, possibly as a result of the ditch widening as it turned westwards to become Ditch [209]. The depth throughout the segment was about 0.1m. The sides were slightly concave, and angled at about 60° to the flat base. The fill (62) comprised yellowish to greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small to medium sized stones.

Ditch [207] was orientated north to south curving slightly to the southwest at its southern end before it merged with Ditch [201]. It seems likely that Ditch [208] is a western continuation of Ditch [207]. The drawn section (section 34) at the intersection of the two ditches indicates that Ditch [208] was open after Ditch [207] had been filled. Four segments were excavated across this ditch. A limited quantity of pottery recovered from the fills of the various segment indicates that the ditch was filled sometime during the 2nd century.

Segment [105] was located to investigate the relationship with Ditch [208]. This segment measured 1.0 x 0.7m with a maximum depth of 0.25m. Only the eastern side of the segment was excavated. The side was angled at about 45° to the base. The fill (106) comprised yellowish brown clay containing occasional small pebbles. No finds or other dating material was recovered from this fill.

Segment [107] measured 1.5 x 0.85m with a maximum depth of 0.45m. The sides were angled at about 60° to the rounded base. Some slippage on the eastern side had occurred near the top of the cut. The fill (108) comprised dark yellowish brown silty clay. This fill also contained several small sherds of undiagnostic pottery, and a number of fragmentary animal bones.

Segment [115] measured 1.8 x 1.0m with a maximum depth of 0.4m. The sides were angled at about 45° to the rounded base. The fill (116) comprised mid greyish brown silty clay containing a moderate number of small pebbles. Eleven sherds of pottery and a number of fragmentary animal bones were recovered from this fill.

Segment [121] was cut to investigate the relationship with Ditches [206] and [128]. Upon excavation it was clear that Segment [121] truncated both ditches. This segment measured 1.2 x 0.6m with a maximum depth of 0.4m. The straight sides were angled at about 80° to the rounded base. The fill (122) comprised dark greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small to large stones. Six sherds of pottery were retrieved from this fill.

Ditch [208] was orientated west to east. Whilst it is likely that Ditch [208] turned southwards and continued as ditch [207] as described above, a short extension continued for about 3.0m east of the junction with [207] ending in a distinct terminal. Pottery from the fills of Ditch [208] has been dated to the 2nd or 3rd centuries.

Segment [22] was the westernmost excavated segment of Ditch [208]. It measured 1.5 x 0.9m with a maximum depth 0.5m. The concave sides were angled at about 60° to the rounded base. Two fills were recorded. The upper fill (23) comprised yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small to medium stones. The primary fill (125) comprised yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles.

Segment [98] was cut longitudinally along the southern side of Ditch [208] for 2.8m eastwards from the junction with Ditch [205].

Segments [100] and [102] were located at the junction with Ditch [207]. The combined segments measured 2.6 x 1.0m with a maximum depth of 0.3m. The concaved sides were angled at about 45° to the flat base. Two fills were recorded. The upper fills (101) and (103) respectively comprised yellowish brown clay, containing a moderate number of small pebbles. The primary fill (104) comprised orange brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles.

Segment [123] was located on the north side of Ditch [208], and is probably little more than heavy slumping of the side. The fill is very similar to Fill (101).

Segment [109] was the eastern terminal of Ditch [208]. The segment measured 1.0 x 0.6m with a maximum depth of 0.2m. The sides were angled at 60° to the flat base. The fill (108) comprised orange brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles.

Ditch [209] was orientated west to east and cut the northern side of Ditch [202]. As no conclusive relationship was established with Segment [25] to the north it is likely that Ditch [209] and Segment [25] are contemporary, with Segment [25] forming a 'T' junction. Four segments were excavated across

the ditch. Finds retrieved from the fills of the various segments indicates that this ditch was filled sometime during the 2nd century.

Segment [49] was located against the western baulk of the site and to the north of Ditch [202], which it cut. The segment measured 1.5 x 0.5m splaying out slightly towards the north-western end of the segment, with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The concave sides were angled at about 60° to the rounded base. The fill (48) comprised dark grey silty clay containing a few small stones. No dating material was recovered from this fill.

Segments [29] and [27] were cut at the intersection with Segment [25]. The combined dimensions of the two segments were 1.5 x 1.1m with a maximum depth of 0.3m. The concave sides were angled at about 45° to the rounded base. The fill (26) comprised mid brown silty clay containing a moderate number of small pebbles. Three sherds of undiagnostic pottery were recovered from the fill.

Segment [54] was located approximately halfway along the exposed length of Ditch [209], and measured 1.05 x 0.65m with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The steep concave sides were angled at about 85° to the flat base. The fill (53) comprised dark brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles. A number of sherds of undated pottery were recovered from this fill.

Segment [69] was sited to the east of the medieval plough furrow, and was located to enable relationships to be established with Ditch [67] and Posthole [80] both of which were cut by Ditch [209]. The segment measured 1.2 x 0.6m with a maximum depth of 0.2m. The concaved sides were angled at about 50° to the flat base. The fill (70) comprised dark yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles. A number of sherds of undated pottery were retrieved from the fill.

Ditch [21] was a small feature immediately to the north of Ditch [209]. The western limit was defined where it was cut by Ditch [25], whilst at its eastern end there was a distinct terminal. A single segment was excavated to investigate the terminal. This 1.0 x 0.3m segment had a maximum depth of 0.25m. The irregular sides were angled at about 45° to the rounded base. The fill (20) comprised dark yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small to medium sized stones. Ten sherds of 1st or 2nd century pottery were recovered from the fill.

Ditch [25] was orientated north to south and formed a “T” junction with Ditch [209] as described above. A single segment [25] was excavated across the ditch. This segment was 1.0 x 0.9m wide with a maximum depth of 0.25m. The sides were angled at about 45° to the rounded base. The fill (024) comprised dark brown silty clay containing occasional medium sized sub angular stones. Pottery recovered from the fill has been dated to the 2nd century or later.

It is likely that Ditch [25] is a continuation of Ditch [112] excavated during the Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief on Site 1 (Fig 4).

Ditch [67] was a short 1.6m long east to west feature immediately to the north of Ditch [209], Segment [69]. The medieval plough furrow had truncated the western end of Ditch [67]. The eastern end formed a clearly defined terminal. It is possible that Ditches [21] and [67] are related both being earlier than Ditch [209] and on the same alignment though there was no physical evidence to associate them. Ditch [67] was 0.5m wide with a maximum depth of 0.5m. The southern side had been removed when Ditch [209] was originally cut. The northern side was concave and angled at about 60° to the flat base. The fill (68) comprised dark yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small pebbles. Four sherds of undated pottery were recovered from the fill.

3.4 *The pits and Postholes*

A number of small discreet features were excavated and recorded during the excavation. No alignments representing fence lines or structures were identified, and in most cases it is not possible to say if features are pits or postholes. It is likely that features [12], [15], [63] and [86] were cut during the Roman period whilst Pit [19] seems to be modern in origin.

3.4.1 **Pre Phase 2**

Posthole [39] was sealed by the basal fill of ditch segment [37]. The cut was roughly circular with a diameter of 0.45m, and a maximum depth of 0.10m. The fill (40) comprised greyish brown clay with very occasional small pebbles. No finds or other dating material were obtained from this feature.

Pit/ Posthole [47] was cut on its western side by ditch segment [45]. This feature was roughly circular with a diameter of 0.8m and a maximum depth of 0.4m. The fill (46) comprised light brownish grey clay with no inclusions. No finds or other dating material were obtained from this feature, but as it is cut by Ditch [202] it must be earlier than the ditch.

3.4.2 **Phase 3**

Pit [12] was oval in shape, and was orientated south-west to north-east. The pit measured 0.9 x 0.65m with a maximum depth of 0.4m. The sides were very steep angled at about 80° to the concave base. Two fills were recorded. The upper fill (10) comprised greyish black silty clay. The basal fill (11) comprised mid brown sandy silt with a moderate number of stones. No material to date the ditch was recovered but as it cut Ditch 209 it must have been cut and filled sometime during the 2nd century or later.

Pit [15] was roughly oval in shape, and was orientated NNW to SSW. The pit measured 1.5 x 0.56m with a maximum depth of 0.28m. The sides were very steep angled at about 80° to the flat base. Two fills were identified within Pit [15]. The upper fill (13) comprised dark grey silty clay. Of the ten sherds of pottery recovered from this fill the only diagnostic piece has been dated to the 1st century, however it is likely that the fill is significantly later than this date. The basal fill (14) comprised light grey silty clay. No dating material was recovered from this fill.

Pit [63] was cut through the infill of ditches [203], [204] and [209] thus it can be definitely stated that the pit is later than the ditches. The pit was roughly circular in shape with a diameter of about 1.85m and a maximum depth of 0.55m. The sides were angled at about 45° to the concave base. Two distinct fills were recorded. The upper fill (64) comprised yellowish brown silty clay. Fourteen sherds of pottery and 35 fragments of animal bone were recovered from this upper fill. The primary fill (73) of Pit [63] comprised a 0.1m deep layer of very hard clay. Finds from fill (73) were not distinguished from those from fill (64).

Pit [97] was an east to west orientated oval feature. The cut measured 0.9 x 0.5m with a maximum depth of just 0.1m. The shallow angled sides merged with the rounded base. The fill (96) comprised mid brown silty clay containing occasional small to large stones. No finds or other dateable material was retrieved from this feature.

3.4.3 Modern

Posthole [77] was sub oval in shape, measuring 0.55 x 0.45m with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The base of this feature was flat. The fill (76) comprised orange brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles. A few small fragments of animal bone were recovered from within the fill, but there was no material to date the filling of the cut.

Posthole [83] was a small roughly oval feature orientated northeast to southwest. The cut measured 0.3 x 0.2m with a depth of 0.2m. The sides were almost vertical to the rounded base. The fill comprised dark greyish brown silt with occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal. The remains of a small partially cremated animal probably a chicken were noted in the fill. It is likely that this feature is relatively modern.

Posthole [85] was very similar to Pit [83] with a diameter of 0.3m and depth of 0.2m. The sides were very steep angled at about 75° to the rounded base. The fill comprised dark greyish brown silt with occasional small pebbles. Like Pit [83] the remains of a small partially cremated animal probably a chicken were noted in the fill. It is likely that this feature is relatively modern.

Posthole/ Pit [93] was a small roughly oval cut orientated northeast to southwest. The cut measured 0.45 x 0.4m with a maximum depth of 0.1m. The sides were slightly concaved and angled at about 80° to the rounded base. The fill (92) comprised brownish grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles. A single small sherd of undated Roman pottery was retrieved this feature.

Posthole [95] was a very shallow roughly circular scoop, with a diameter of 0.4m. As the cut was only 0.1m deep it is not possible to meaningfully describe the sides, but the base was rounded. The fill (94) comprised mid brownish grey silty clay containing a few small pebbles. Three small sherds of late 1st – mid 2nd century Roman pottery was retrieved from the fill.

3.4.4 Unphased

Pit [19] was square in shape with rounded corners and almost vertical sides leading to a flat base. Each side measured 1.05m and the pit had a maximum depth of 0.32m. The fill (18) comprised dark blackish grey silty clay. No finds or other dating material was recovered from this fill.

It seems likely that Pit 19 equates to the unexcavated pit on Site 1, referred to in the Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief report as context [117] (Fig. 3)

Pit/ Posthole/ [80] was cut on its northern side by ditch segment [69]. This feature was roughly circular with a diameter of 0.8m and a maximum depth of 0.4m. The sides were almost vertical leading to the flat base. The fill (81) comprised dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles. No finds or other dating material was recovered from this feature, but it clearly predates Ditch [209].

Pit [86] was circular in shape with a diameter of 2.45m and a maximum depth of 0.70m. The sides were angled at about 45° to the concaved base. The skeletal remains of at least 3 juvenile cattle were found in the fill of this pit and it is possible that this pit was dug to dispose of the bodies. The fill comprised a mid grey brown silty clay, with occasional inclusions of small pebbles. Eight sherds of pottery as well as the animal bone described above were recovered from the fill of this pit.

Pit [89] was a small roughly oval cut orientated NNW to SSW. The cut measured 0.85m x 0.55m with a maximum depth of 0.1m. The sides were slightly concaved at angle of about 25° to the rounded base. The fill (88) comprised brownish grey sandy clay silt with occasional small to large stones within the fill. A few small charcoal flecks were also recorded. A single sherd of 2nd century Roman pottery was recovered from the fill.

3.5 The Watching Brief

A watching brief was maintained whilst the footing trenches were being excavated in the eastern area of the site, which had not been included in the excavation. The purpose of the watching brief was to establish if the site continued to the east of the excavated area.

As the NCC watching brief on Site 1 to the north of Site 2 had found no evidence for activity east of their excavation area, it was considered likely that this pattern would continue lower down the slope on Site 2. The first monitoring visit to the site examined a row of house plots fronting onto the road defining the south-eastern boundary of the site. The only identified feature within these plots was a recently buried soil similar to that seen in the excavation area. A second visit inspected a series of house plots adjacent to the eastern boundary of the excavation area, again no features of archaeological significance were identified.

As the watching brief on Site 1 to, and the two areas inspected on Site 2, namely the south-eastern and western limits of the watching brief area had produced negative results it was agreed with the CAO that no further visits would be required.



Figure 4: plan of the excavated features (scale 1:500)



Figure 5: phase plan (scale 1:500)



Plate 1: Pit 86 looking south



Plate 2: Pit 63 looking south



Plate 3: Posthole 80, Ditches 67, and 69 looking west



Plate 4: Ditches 55, 57, 59 and 61 looking north



Plate 5: Ditch 43 looking northwest



Plate 6: Ditch 34 looking southeast



Plate 7: Ditches 24 and 25 looking west



Plate 8: Pit 12 looking southwest



Plate 9: Pit 15 looking northwest



Plate 10: Ditch 22 looking west



Plate 11: Ditches 207 and 208 looking west



Plate 12: Ditch 107 looking south



Plate 13: Ditch 115 looking south



Plate 14: Ditch 37 and Posthole 39 looking south



Plate 15: Ditch 208 looking west



Plate 16: Ditch 208 looking east



Plate 17: Ditch 205 looking southwest

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The excavation of Site 2 at Middlemore Farm has revealed a considerable amount of fresh evidence regarding the nature, size and development of the previously identified rural Romano British site. The excavation of Site 1 to the north had indicated that the Roman activity at Middlemore Farm was likely to be concentrated around the existing farm buildings
- 4.2 The excavated evidence from Sites 1 and 2 suggests that during the Roman period the land around Middlemore Farm was occupied by a small Romano British farmstead. The pottery evidence seems to indicate that the site was occupied during the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. It is likely that this farmstead was a small self-sufficient unit, providing little produce for the surrounding area, unlike the large villa estates which were being founded around this time.
- 4.3 All the identified Roman activity on Sites 1 and 2 has been towards the top of the slope possibly indicating that the lower poorly drained slopes were less suited to arable use during the Roman period. It is likely that these lower slopes would have been used for pasturing livestock. The large ditch [201] almost certainly defines the southern boundary of the cultivated part of the farmstead. The excavated sections through Ditch [201] indicate that it was maintained and re-cut at least once during its life, probably a task required by necessity as it naturally silted up. The environmental samples clearly demonstrate that this was a wet vegetated ditch prone to drying, in an open environment. This ditch would almost certainly have served the dual role of separating the animals on the lower slopes from the crops on the upper slope. It is likely that Ditch [201] was originally cut at the same time as ditches 205, 206, and 210 which all run downhill into Ditch [201] which is approximately perpendicular to them. These small ditches will almost certainly have been divisions between small arable fields on the farmstead. From the available evidence it seems likely that the settlement associated with this farmstead was to the north and west of development Site 2, possibly under the existing farmhouse. Sometime after the original land division but still during the Roman period the land was re-divided and new ditches excavated on a slightly different alignment from the original ditches, but boundary ditch [201] seems to have remained open.
- 4.4 From the faunal remains recovered during the excavation and examination of the environmental samples in the laboratory it seems highly likely that this will have been a small mixed farm growing crops including wheat and barley, alongside the rearing of cattle and sheep.
- 4.5 Later medieval ploughing has left the characteristic ridges and furrows in this instance running north to south across the site. Though much denuded since the RAF aerial photos taken in the late 1940's, one of the furrows [131] was identified during the excavation.

5. Acknowledgements

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6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Publication Report
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Sample records
9. Site record drawings
10. List of photographs/slides
11. Colour slides
12. B/W prints & negatives
13. Original specialist reports and supporting information
14. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be stored at ASC's offices in Milton Keynes until such time as a suitable repository is available in Northamptonshire.

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Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

Context Register

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width/ Diameter (m) | Depth (m) |
|-----------|-------------|---|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Deposit | Topsoil | | | |
| 2-9 | Not used | | | | |
| 10 | Fill | Upper fill of Pit 12. Greyish black silty clay, with occasional pebbles. | 0.90 | 0.55 | 0.30 |
| 11 | Fill | Lower fill of Pit 12. Mid brown sandy silt, with moderate small pebbles. | 0.90 | 0.67 | 0.42 |
| 12 | Pit | Oval shaped pit with very steep sides (80°) to a concave base. | 0.9 | 0.67 | 0.42 |
| 13 | Fill | Upper fill of Pit 15. Dark grey silty clay, with occasional small rounded stones. | 1.15 | 0.60 | 0.13 |
| 14 | Fill | Lower fill of Pit 15. Light grey silty clay, with occasional small stones. | 1.15 | 0.56 | 0.13 |
| 15 | Pit | Oval shaped pit with steep sides (80°) to a flat base | 1.15 | 0.60 | 0.28 |
| 16 | Fill | Only fill of ditch/ pit 17. Mid brown silty clay, with occasional small stones. | 1.40 | 0.26 | 0.17 |
| 17 | Pit | Small linear feature (pit/ ditch).very steep sides (85°) to a flat base. | 1.40 | 0.26 | 0.17 |
| 18 | Fill | Very dark grey silty clay | 1.05 | 1.05 | 0.32 |
| 19 | Pit | Roughly square pit with rounded corners and near vertical sides to a flat base | 1.05 | 1.05 | 0.32 |
| 20 | Fill | Dark grey silty clay with occasional small rounded stones | 5.21 | 0.31 | 0.24 |
| 21 | Ditch/ slot | Small ditch or beam slot with near vertical sides to a flat base | 5.21 | 0.31 | 0.24 |
| 22 | Ditch | Large east to west ditch with sides angled at about 65° to a rounded base | 1.50 | 1.00 | 0.50 |
| 23 | Fill | Upper fill of Ditch 22. Yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small stones | 1.50 | 1.00 | 0.30 |
| 24 | Fill | Dark brown to black fill of ditch segment 25. Occasional medium sized cobbles within the fill. | | 0.90 | 0.26 |
| 25 | Ditch | NNE to SSW ditch segment with sides angled at about 45° to a rounded base. | | 0.90 | 0.26 |
| 26 | Fill | Dark greyish brown fill of ditch segment 27. Contains a moderate number of medium sized cobbles and smaller stones. | | 1.00 | 0.28 |
| 27 | Ditch | South-east to north-west with sides angled at about 45° to a rounded base. | | 1.00 | 0.28 |
| 28 | Fill | Mid brown fill of ditch segment 29. Contains a moderate number of small pebbles. | | 0.70 | 0.28 |
| 29 | Ditch | Corner segment of Ditch 202. Sides angled at 45° to a rounded base. | | 0.70 | 0.28 |
| 30 | Fill | Upper dark grey silty clay fill of Ditch 34. Contains a moderate number of medium cobbles. | | 1.60 | 0.35 |
| 31 | Fill | Secondary filling of Ditch 34 similar to Fill 32. Contains occasional medium pebbles. | | 3.30 | 0.25 |
| 32 | Fill | Secondary filling of Ditch 34 similar to Fill 3. Contains occasional medium pebbles. | | 0.50 | 0.25 |
| 33 | Fill | Primary brownish grey silty clay fill of Ditch 34. Contains occasional medium sized pebbles | | 0.95 | 0.22 |

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width/ Diameter (m) | Depth (m) |
|---------|-----------|---|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 33 | Fill | Primary brownish grey silty clay fill of Ditch 34. Contains occasional medium sized pebbles | | 0.95 | 0.22 |
| 34 | Cut | North-west to south-east ditch with sides angled at about 45° to a rounded base. This is part of the main southern boundary ditch | | 4.20 | 0.80 |
| 35 | Fill | Dark greyish brown fill of Ditch 36. Contains occasional medium pebbles. | | 1.50 | 0.30 |
| 36 | Ditch | North to south ditch with very steep sides to a flat base. | | 1.50 | 0.30 |
| 37 | Ditch | North to south ditch with sides angled at about 45° to a flat base. | 1.40 | 0.80 | 0.30 |
| 38 | Fill | Yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 37. Contains occasional small rounded pebbles. | 1.40 | 0.80 | 0.30 |
| 39 | Post-Hole | Possible small circular post-hole, in the base of Ditch 37. | | 0.45 | 0.10 |
| 40 | Fill | Greyish brown clay fill of Post-hole 39. Contains very occasional small rounded stones. | | 0.45 | 0.10 |
| 41 | Fill | Upper dark brownish grey silty clay fill of Ditch 43. Contains occasional medium sized cobbles. | | 3.20 | 0.50 |
| 42 | Fill | Primary dark grey clay fill of Ditch 43. | | 2.40 | 0.20 |
| 43 | Ditch | North-west to south-east ditch with irregular sides angled at about 45° to the flat base. | | 5.80 | 0.85 |
| 44 | Fill | Greenish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 45. | | 0.80 | 0.30 |
| 45 | Ditch | North to south ditch with sides angled at about 45° | | 0.80 | 0.30 |
| 46 | Fill | Light brownish grey clay fill of Pit 47 | | 0.80 | 0.40 |
| 47 | Pit | Sub square pit with rounded corners. The sides are angled at about 45° to the rounded base. | | 0.80 | 0.40 |
| 48 | Fill | Dark grey silty clay fill of Ditch 49. Contains occasional small stones. | | 0.62 | 0.14 |
| 49 | Ditch | East to west ditch with concaved sides leading to a rounded base. | | 0.62 | 0.14 |
| 50 | Fill | Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 51. Contains occasional small rounded pebbles. | | 0.36 | 0.15 |
| 51 | Ditch | East to west ditch with steep (85°) concaved sides leading to a rounded base. | | 0.36 | 0.15 |
| 52 | Fill | Primary light greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 43. Contains occasional small angular stones. | | 2.50 | 0.30 |
| 53 | Fill | Dark brown silty clay fill of Ditch 54. Contains occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks. | | 0.67 | 0.14 |
| 54 | Ditch | East to west ditch with steep sides 85° leading to a flat base. | | 0.67 | 0.14 |
| 55 | Ditch | North to south ditch with straight sides angled at 65° leading to a rounded base. | 1.40 | 0.40 | 0.20 |
| 56 | Fill | Dark yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 55. Contains occasional small rounded stones. | 1.40 | 0.40 | 0.20 |
| 57 | Ditch | North to south ditch. Very shallow at its southern end | 2.00 | 0.40 | 0.20 |
| 58 | Fill | Greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 57. Contains very occasional small pebbles. | 2.00 | 0.40 | 0.20 |
| 59 | Ditch | North to south ditch distinct step at southern end, (re-cut?) | 0.95 | 0.80 | 0.20 |
| 60 | Fill | Yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 59. Contains occasional small pebbles | 0.95 | 0.80 | 0.20 |

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width/ Diameter (m) | Depth (m) |
|-----------|-----------|--|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 61 | Ditch | North to south ditch with concaved sides angled at about 60° to the flat base. | 0.65 | 1.20-0.65 | 0.10 |
| 62 | Fill | Yellowish/ greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 61. Contains occasional small and medium stones. | 0.65 | 1.20-0.65 | 0.10 |
| 63 | Pit | Sub oval shaped pit, with straight sides angled at about 45° leading to a rounded base. | 1.85 | 1.30 | 0.55 |
| 64 | Fill | Upper yellowish brown silty clay fill of Pit 63. Contains occasional small and medium stones. | 1.85 | 1.30 | 0.45 |
| 65 | Ditch | East to west ditch with concaved sides angled at about 45° leading to the flat base. | 0.40 | 0.65 | 0.18 |
| 66 | Fill | Dark yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 65. Contains Occasional medium sized stones. | 0.40 | 0.65 | 0.18 |
| 67 | Ditch | East to west ditch, with straight sides angled at about 60° to the flat base. | 1.35 | 0.75 | 0.20 |
| 68 | Fill | Dark yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 67. Contains occasional small pebbles. | 1.35 | 0.75 | 0.20 |
| 69 | Ditch | East to west ditch with straight sides angled at about 45° to the flat base. | 1.35 | 0.65 | 0.20 |
| 70 | Fill | Dark yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 69. Contains occasional small to medium sized stones. | 1.35 | 0.65 | 0.20 |
| 71 | Ditch | Very shallow skim to the north-east of Pit [63]. Not really a feature. | | | |
| 72 | Fill | See 71 | | | |
| 73 | Fill | Primary yellowish brown fill of Pit 63. Contains a moderate number of medium sized lumps of chalk and occasional small pebbles. This fill was very hard. | | | |
| 74 | Fill | Brownish grey silty clay fill of Ditch 75. Contains occasional stones ranging in size from small to large. | | 0.55 | 0.25 |
| 75 | Ditch | North to south ditch with concaved sides angled at about 80° leading to a rounded base. | | 0.55 | 0.25 |
| 76 | Fill | Orange brown silty clay fill of Pit/ Post-hole 77. Contains occasional small pebbles. | 0.55 | 0.45 | 0.15 |
| 77 | Post-hole | Large post-hole or pit, with near vertical sides and a flat base. | 0.55 | 0.45 | 0.15 |
| 78 | Ditch | North to south ditch. The southern end has been lost whilst at its northern end it is about 0.10m deep. Flat base. | 1.20 | 0.40 | 0.10 |
| 79 | Fill | Yellowish brown fill of Ditch 78. | 1.20 | 0.40 | 0.10 |
| 80 | Pit | | | | |
| 81 | Fill | | | | |
| 82 | Fill | Dark greyish brown silty fill of a small pit (Pit 83) containing an animal burial/ cremation. | 0.30 | 0.19 | 0.20 |
| 83 | Pit | Small oval pit containing an animal burial/cremation | 0.30 | 0.19 | 0.20 |
| 84 | Fill | Dark greyish brown silty fill of a small pit (Pit 85) containing an animal burial/ cremation. | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.07 |
| 85 | Pit | Small oval pit containing an animal burial/cremation | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.07 |
| 86 | Pit | Large roughly circular pit with concaved sides angled at about 45° leading to the rounded base. | | 2.46 | 0.70 |
| | | | | | |

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width/ Diameter (m) | Depth (m) |
|------------|-------|--|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 87 | Fill | Mid greyish brown silty clay fill of Pit 86, remains of at least 3 juvenile cattle were recovered from this fill. | | 2.46 | 0.70 |
| 88 | Fill | Brownish grey sandy clay silt fill of pit 89. Contains occasional large stones. | 0.87 | 0.56 | 0.08 |
| 89 | Pit | Oval pit with sides angled at about 25° leading to the rounded base. | 0.87 | 0.56 | 0.08 |
| 90 | Fill | Mid brownish grey silty clay fill of Ditch 91. Contains occasional small pebbles. | | 0.20 | 0.10 |
| 91 | Ditch | North-west to south-east ditch with concaved sides angled at about 85° leading to a flat base. | | 0.20 | 0.10 |
| 92 | Fill | Brownish grey silty clay fill of possible Post-hole 93. Contains occasional small stones. | 0.43 | 0.38 | 0.10 |
| 93 | Pit | Oval shaped post-hole with sides angled at about 80° leading to a rounded base. | 0.43 | 0.38 | 0.10 |
| 94 | Fill | Mid brownish grey silty clay fill of Post-hole 98. Contains occasional small pebbles | 0.42 | 0.40 | 0.07 |
| 95 | Pit | Circular shaped post-hole with very steep sides angled at 85° to a rounded base. | 0.42 | 0.40 | 0.07 |
| 96 | Fill | Mid brown silty clay fill of possible Post-hole 97. Contains occasional small round stones. | 0.90 | 0.50 | 0.10 |
| 97 | Pit | Shallow oval shaped post-hole with a rounded base. | 0.90 | 0.50 | 0.10 |
| 98 | Ditch | East to west ditch with concaved sides angled at about 45°. The base of this ditch was not seen sufficiently to be able describe I | 2.30 | 0.50 | 0.30 |
| 99 | Fill | Yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 98. Contains occasional small stones. | 2.30 | 0.50 | 0.30 |
| 100 | Ditch | North-west to south-east ditch with straight sides angled at about 45° leading to the flat base. | 1.60 | 0.75 | 0.30 |
| 101 | Fill | Upper yellowish brown clay fill of Ditch 100. contains a moderate number of small pebbles. | 1.60 | 0.75 | 0.30 |
| 102 | Ditch | Continuation of Ditch 1. | 0.80 | 0.35 | 0.30 |
| 103 | Fill | Upper yellowish brown clay fill of Ditch 102. Contains occasional small to medium pebbles. | 0.80 | 0.35 | 0.30 |
| 104 | Fill | Primary fill of Ditches 100/ 102. C Contains occasional small pebbles. | | | |
| 105 | Ditch | North to south ditch with straight sides angled at about 45°. Base not fully seen in the excavated segment. | 0.80 | 0.35 | 0.20 |
| 106 | Fill | Yellowish brown clay fill of Ditch 105. Contains occasional small stones. | 0.80 | 0.35 | 0.20 |
| 107 | Ditch | North to south ditch with convex sides angled at about 60° leading to the rounded base. | 1.55 | 0.80 | 0.40 |
| 108 | Fill | Dark yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 107. Contains occasional small to medium sized stones. | 1.55 | 0.80 | 0.40 |
| 109 | Ditch | Eastern terminal of east to west ditch with straight sides angled at 60° to the leading to the rounded base. | 0.90 | 0.55 | 0.20 |
| 110 | Fill | Orangy brown silty clay fill of Ditch 109. Contains occasional small stones. | 0.90 | 0.55 | 0.20 |
| 111 | Ditch | North-east to south-west ditch with straight sides angled at about 45° leading to the flat base. | 1.00 | 0.55 | 0.15 |
| 112 | Fill | Yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 111. Contains occasional small stones. | 1.00 | 0.55 | 0.15 |

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width/Diameter (m) | Depth (m) |
|---------------|----------|--|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 112 | Fill | Yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 111. Contains occasional small stones. | 1.00 | 0.55 | 0.15 |
| 113 | Ditch | Northeast-southwest ditch with straight sides angled at about 60° leading to the rounded base. | 1.50 | 0.45 | 0.15 |
| 114 | Fill | Yellowish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 113. Contains occasional small stones. | 1.50 | 0.45 | 0.15 |
| 115 | Ditch | North-south with slightly concaved sides angled at about 45° leading to the rounded base. | 1.60 | 1.05 | 0.40 |
| 116 | Fill | Mid greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 115. Contains a moderate number of small stones. | 1.60 | 1.05 | 0.40 |
| 117 | Ditch | Shallow northeast-southwest ditch with a flat base. | 0.90 | 0.55 | 0.10 |
| 118 | Fill | Light greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 117. Contains occasional small stones. | 0.90 | 0.55 | 0.10 |
| 119 | Ditch | Northeast-southwest ditch with almost vertical sides leading to a rounded base. | | 0.30 | 0.12 |
| 120 | Fill | Greyish brown silty sandy clay fill of Ditch 119. Contains occasional small stones. | | 0.30 | 0.12 |
| 121 | Ditch | North-south ditch. Possible re-cut on the western side. Rounded base. | | 1.00 | 0.48 |
| 122 | Fill | Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 121. Contains occasional small to large stones. | | 1.00 | 0.48 |
| 123 | Ditch | Small east-west ditch on the northern side of Ditch 100. The concaved sides angled at about 45° leading to the rounded base. | 1.60 | 0.60 | 0.20 |
| 124 | Fill | Yellowish brown clay fill of Ditch 123. Contains occasional small stone. | 1.60 | 0.60 | 0.20 |
| 125 | Fill | Dark yellowish brown primary fill of Ditch 22. Contains very few small stones. | | 0.45 | 0.10 |
| 126-127 | Not used | | | | |
| 128 | Fill | Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of Ditch 129. Contains occasional small to round stones. | | 0.55 | 0.20 |
| 129 | Ditch | North-west to south-east ditch with concaved sides angled at about 85° leading to the rounded base. | | | |
| Groups | | | | | |
| 201 | Ditch | East – west ditch. Comprises of segments 34 and 43 | | | |
| 202 | Ditch | North – south ditch. Comprises of segments 36, 37 and 45 | | | |
| 203 | Ditch | North to south ditch. Comprises of segments 55, 59 and 75 | | | |
| 204 | Ditch | North to south ditch. Comprises of segments 57 and 61. Might be a continuation of Ditch 209 | | | |
| 205 | Ditch | South-west to north-east ditch. Comprises of segments 111 and 113 | | | |
| 206 | Ditch | South-west to north-east ditch. Comprises of segments 117 and 119 | | | |
| 207 | Ditch | North to south ditch. Comprises of segments 107, 115 and 121 | | | |
| 208 | Ditch | East to west ditch. Comprises of segments 22, 98, 123 and 109 | | | |
| 209 | Ditch | East to west ditch comprises of segments 54 69. Might continue southwards as Ditch 204 | | | |

Appendix 2: Plan Register

| Site Drawing Sheet No | Drawing No | Scale | Details |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 1:20 | [43], [45], [47] |
| 1 | 2 | 1:20 | [34] |
| 1 | 3 | 1:20 | [19] |
| 1 | 4 | 1:20 | [12] |
| 1 | 5 | 1:20 | [36] |
| 2 | 6 | 1:20 | [25], [27], [29] |
| 3 | 7 | 1:20 | [78] |
| 3 | 8 | 1:20 | [55], [57], [59], [61], [63], [65], [67], [69], [80], [77] |
| 3 | 9 | 1:20 | [37], [39] |
| 4 | 10 | 1:20 | [15] |
| 4 | 11 | 1:20 | [49], [51] |
| 4 | 12 | 1:20 | [54], [24] |
| 4 | 13 | 1:20 | [17] |
| 4 | 14 | 1:20 | [75] |
| 4 | 15 | 1:20 | [83] |
| 4 | 16 | 1:20 | [89] |
| 4 | 17 | 1:20 | [95] |
| 4 | 18 | 1:20 | [97] |
| 4 | 19 | 1:20 | [93] |
| 4 | 20 | 1:20 | [85] |
| 4 | 21 | 1:20 | [90] |
| 4 | 22 | 1:20 | [86] |
| 4 | 23 | 1:20 | [115] |
| 4 | 24 | 1:20 | [117] |
| 5 | 25 | 1:20 | [22], [98], [100], [102], [105], [109], [111], [123] |
| 5 | 26 | 1:20 | [113] |
| 5 | 27 | 1:20 | [107] |
| | 28 | 1:20 | [119], [121], [128] |

Appendix 3: Section Register

| Site Drawing Sheet No | Drawing No | Scale | Contexts |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 1:10 | 10, 11, [12] |
| 1 | 2 | 1:10 | 13, 14, [15] |
| 1 | 3 | 1:10 | 16, [17] |
| 1 | 4 | 1:10 | 18, [19] |
| 1 | 5 | 1:10 | 26, [27], 28, [29] |
| 1 | 6 | 1:10 | 26, [27], 28, [29] |
| 1 | 7 | 1:10 | 24, [25] |
| 1 | 8 | 1:10 | 30, 31, 32, 33, [34] |
| 1 | 9 | 1:10 | 35, [36] |
| 1 | 10 | 1:10 | 20, [21] |
| 1 | 11 | 1:20 | 41, 42, 52, [43], 44, [45], 46, [47] |
| 1 | 12 | 1:10 | 48, [49], 50, [51] |
| 1 | 13 | 1:10 | 53, [54] |
| 2 | 14 | 1:10 | 74, [75] |
| 2 | 15 | 1:10 | 82, [83] |
| 2 | 16 | 1:10 | 84, [85] |
| 2 | 17 | 1:10 | 38, [37] |
| 2 | 18 | 1:10 | 38, [37], 40, [39] |
| 2 | 19 | 1:10 | 56, [55], 58, [57] |
| 2 | 20 | 1:10 | 60, [59], 62, [61] |
| 2 | 21 | 1:10 | 60, [59], 62, [61] |
| 2 | 22 | 1:20 | 64, 73, [63] |
| 2 | 23 | 1:10 | 68, [67], 70, [69], 81, [80] |
| 2 | 24 | 1:10 | 76, [77] |
| 2 | 25 | 1:10 | 79, [78] |
| 2 | 26 | 1:10 | 88, [89] |
| 2 | 27 | 1:10 | 90, [91] |
| 2 | 28 | 1:10 | 92, [93] |
| 2 | 29 | 1:10 | 94, [95] |
| 2 | 30 | 1:10 | 96, [97] |
| 2 | 31 | 1:20 | 87, [86] |
| 2 | 32 | 1:10 | 116, [115] |
| 3 | 33 | 1:10 | 110, [109] |
| 3 | 34 | 1:10 | 106, [105], 101,103,104, [102], 124, [123] |
| 3 | 35 | 1:10 | 103, 101, 104, [100], [102] |
| 3 | 36 | 1:10 | 99, [98], 112, [111] |
| 3 | 37 | 1:10 | 23, 125, [22] |
| 3 | 38 | 1:10 | 114, [113] |
| 3 | 39 | 1:10 | 108, [107] |
| 2 | 40 | 1:10 | 48, [47] |
| | 41 | 1:10 | [119], [121], [129] |

Appendix 4: Sample Register

| Sample No | Context No | Sample Type | Quantity |
|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | 99 | Bulk | 30l |
| 2 | 115 | Bulk | 30l |
| 3 | 127 | Bulk | 30l |
| 4 | | Bulk | 30l |
| 5 | | Bulk | 30l |

Appendix 5: Finds Concordance

| Context | Pottery | | Bone | | Brick/Tile | | Flint | Shell | Stone | Other Finds | | Notes |
|---------|---------|-----|------|---------|------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------------|------|-------|
| | (no) | (g) | (no) | (g) | (no) | (g) | | | | (no) | Type | |
| 13 | 13 | 60 | 2 | <5 | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | 2 | 85 | 1 | 65 | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 280 | | | | | | |
| 20 | 12 | 115 | 7 | 35 | | | | | | 1 | Nail | |
| 23 | 8 | 115 | 5 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | 1 | <5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | 3 | 20 | 10 | 210 | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | 2 | 180 | 7 | 300 | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | 2 | 80 | 1 | 10 | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | 35 | 720 | 17 | 1.015kg | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | 6 | 145 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | 2 | 35 | 4 | 170 | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | 13 | 90 | 32 | 510 | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | 4 | 45 | 3 | 80 | | | | | | | | |
| 64 | 14 | 210 | 35 | 790 | | | | | | | | |
| 66 | 9 | 45 | 10 | 260 | | | | | | | | |
| 68 | 4 | 35 | 3 | 40 | | | | | | | | |
| 69 | 31 | 545 | 3 | 200 | | | | | | | | |
| 74 | 6 | 165 | 4 | 30 | 2 | 130 | | | | 1 | Nail | |
| 76 | | | 16 | 90 | 1 | 20 | | | | | | |
| 79 | | | 1 | 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 82 | 1 | <5 | 66 | 75 | | | | | | | | |
| 84 | | | 33 | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| 87 | 8 | 335 | 309 | | | | | | | | | |
| 88 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 90 | 1 | <5 | 1 | <5 | | | | | | | | |
| 92 | 1 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 94 | 3 | 65 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 99 | 4 | 110 | 17 | 210 | | | | | | | | |
| 101 | 5 | 120 | 7 | 145 | | | | | | | | |
| 103 | 4 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 108 | 5 | 45 | 11 | 160 | | | | | | | | |
| 110 | 5 | 120 | 7 | 145 | | | | | | | | |
| 116 | 11 | 95 | 14 | 285 | | | | | | 3 | Nail | |
| 118 | 1 | <5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 122 | 6 | 40 | 1 | <5 | 1 | 85 | | | | | | |

Appendix 6

Romano-British Pottery from Excavations at Site 2, Middlemore Farm, Daventry

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Assemblage size and condition

A stratified assemblage of 255 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 3.909kg was retrieved from the excavations. Fifteen sherds of this assemblage were extracted from environmental samples. The average sherd weight of 15g is relatively good for a rural assemblage and although some of the later dated pottery (usually from the top of feature fills) was noticeably abraded, the pottery was in generally good condition.

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed using the Milton Keynes fabric series (Marney 1989 referred to as MK and see below), alongside generic fabric codes from the Leicestershire Museums fabric series (Pollard 1994). In the archive database all sherds have, where possible, been attributed to specific fabrics, but for the sake of simplicity and clarity in the presentation of quantification in the report, these have been grouped into general ware categories (eg grey ware). Quantification by sherd count and weight was employed and all % proportion figures are expressed in terms of sherd count to avoid the over-representation of heavier fabrics. Data were recorded and analysed on an Excel workbook and the archive comprises data sorts by feature, fabric and form.

Summary of Major Pottery Fabrics within the Assemblage

The information for this summary has been drawn from the major published work on pottery from the Milton Keynes Areas 'Roman and Belgic Pottery from Excavations in Milton Keynes 1972-82' (Marney 1989, appendix 1, henceforth MK). The following list contains the MK fabric codes used in the report alongside the generic Leicester codes and common fabric names.

Fabric concordance

| <i>Ware</i> | <i>LeicsCode</i> | <i>MK Fabric No.</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shelly | CG | 1a Shell-tempered |
| Grog tempered | GT | 2a Soft Pink Grog ware |
| Grey ware | GW | 3 Local grey sandy |
| Mortaria | MO | 4 Mortaria |
| Colourcoated | C2NV | 6 Lower Nene Valley Colourcoat |
| Black Burnished | BB1 | 8 BB1 |
| Grey ware | GW | 9 Local black sandy ware |
| Grey ware | GW4 | 12 Lower Nene Valley Greyware |
| Oxidised | OW | 17 Upper Nene Valley Oxidised |
| White ware | WW | 18 White wares |
| Samian | Samian | 20 Samian ware |
| Belgic | GT/MG | 45 Belgic grog-temp with shell |
| Belgic | GT | 46 Belgic grog-tempered ware |
| Grey ware | GW | 47 Local early sandy wares |

Analysis by Fabric

The following summary table is derived from the archive record. The assemblage is dominated by locally produced grey, grog and shell-tempered wares (88%), which are typical of rural sites in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire during the later first and second century in particular as typified by the sites of this date from the Milton Keynes area (Marney 1989, Ceramic Groups 1-4). The specific forms in which these local products occur, predominantly jars with lid-seated (or channel) rims, initially in shell-tempered ware (Marney 1989 fig24) and progressively in the sandy grey ware fabrics such as the products of Caldecott kiln II (fabric 47) in the early middle second century (Marney 1989 figs 39.21-26), support this assertion as does the proportion of 'Belgic'-style grog tempered jars typical of the middle and later first century (Marney 1989 fig 35 and 36). Another significant observation is that only one sherd of the grog-tempered pottery retrieved was in the 'classic' soft pink grogged ware fabric 2a (Marney 1989, 174 and fig 27) which appears around AD160-70 and becomes ubiquitous at sites in the area such as Towcester during the third and fourth centuries (Woodfield 1983; Booth and Green 1989). However, the occurrence of diagnostic regional imports such as Lower Nene Valley colourcoated ware, BB1, and mortaria from Mancetter Hartshill and Oxfordshire, does indicate that some of the assemblage does derive from activity on the site during the third century or later, and this issue will be considered below in the stratigraphic discussion.

| Fabric Summary | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Fabric | %sherds | sherds | weight | Av.Sh.W t |
| Samian | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Amphora? | 1 | 2 | 72 | |
| Nenevcc | 1 | 1 | 78 | |
| Mortaria | 1 | 3 | 90 | |
| BB1 | 2 | 6 | 74 | |
| Whiteware | 1 | 2 | 16 | |
| Oxidised | 5 | 13 | 181 | |
| Greyware | 58 | 148 | 1736 | |
| Grogtemp | 18 | 47 | 1188 | |
| Shelltemp | 12 | 31 | 473 | |
| Total | 100 | 255 | 3909 | 15.3g |

Analysis by Form

The summary of vessel forms occurring in the assemblage is derived from the detailed archive record. Seventy one percent of the assemblage could be assigned to a vessel type and many of those sherds classed as miscellaneous are probably from jars. Locally produced jars and storage jars in the local fabrics make up 90% of the assemblage as would be expected from a rural site such as this (Evans 2001) and particularly of early Roman date. The occurrence of specialised vessels such as beakers and mortaria are also at their expected levels, with general table wares forms such as bowls and dishes making up just five percent. Of note, the only imported tableware comprised two tiny scraps of central Gaulish samian found in the coarse fraction sorting of an environmental sample. Additionally an unusual and unidentified amphora fabric with an orange micaceous fabric was among the forms.

| Form Summary | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Form | %sherds | sherds | weight |
| Jars | 82 | 148 | 2257 |
| StorageJar | 8 | 15 | 762 |
| Beaker | 1 | 1 | 78 |
| Bowls | 4 | 8 | 158 |
| Dishes | 1 | 1 | 54 |
| Mortaria | 2 | 3 | 90 |
| Amph? | 1 | 2 | 72 |
| Lid? | 1 | 2 | 20 |
| Subtotal | 100 | 180 | 3491 |
| Misc | | 75 | 418 |
| Total | | 255 | 3909 |

Stratigraphic Analysis

Analysis of the ceramic assemblage has also provided support in defining the chronology of the three broad phases of Roman activity identified by the relative sequence of ditches and pits.

Phase 1

The excavated fills of ditches 205, 206 and 210 unfortunately only yielded two sherds of pottery (<1% of the assemblage), both of grey ware and probably dating to the early-middle second century.

Phase 2

The bulk of the assemblage (220 sherds) derived from features relating to the second phase of activity, notably ditches 201-4 and 207-9. The pottery from Boundary Ditch 201 comprises nothing diagnostically later than the second century, whilst Ditch 202 yielded only two sherds of mid first to early second century date. Ditch 203 looks ostensibly similar in date apart from the occurrence of the pedestal base of a Nene valley colourcoated beaker, possibly of folded funnel neck form dating from mid-later 3rd (Howe Perrin and Mackreth 1980, no.43) which came from the surface cleaning of fill 74 of cut 75 and so could be intrusive. Ditch 207 did produce material which could place its filling in the third century; the highly abraded samian, two examples of BB1 which are unlikely to occur on these site before then, and the only occurrences of necked jar rims in soft pink grog fabric (2a) and the Harrold shell-tempered industry (1a) from (122) (Brown 1994). Ditch 208 also produced diagnostic material of third century date comprising a conical bead and flanged bowl in BB1 and a reeded hammerhead mortarium from Mancetter Hartshill, though again somewhat abraded. Ditch 209 did not contain material diagnostically later than the second century.

Phase 3

A small group of 33 sherds derived from the fill (64) of pit cut 63, considered to be the latest Roman feature in the sequence on stratigraphic grounds. The pottery in the fill would probably support a third century or later date, and includes the rim of a later BB1 cooking pot (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991), a white ware mortarium flange and a piece of shell-tempered roof tile. A similar date might also be attributed to Pit cut 86, to the south of 63 which yielded an abraded Oxford white colourcoated mortarium dating to the later third or possibly fourth century (Young 1977).

DMF Daventry Middlemoor Farm Roman Pottery

| Context | Cut Feature | L Fabric | MKFabric | VessForm | VessType | Dec | Sherds | Weight | Dating | Comment |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 38 | 39 PH | AM | ? | amph? | | | 2 | 72 | CHECK | orange micaceous |
| 74 | 75 Ditch 203 | C2NV? | MK6? | beaker | pedbase | | 1 | 78 | M-L3rd? | HPM43? surface clean |
| 20 | 21 slot | OW | MK17 | belgic' | | cordon | 1 | 6 | 1stcent? | |
| 127 | Ditch 207 | BB1? | MK8 | bowl | | | 1 | 12 | 120+ | |
| 101 | 100 Ditch 208 | BB1? | MK8 | bowl | bead&flan | | 1 | 16 | 3rd? | same 110 abraded |
| 110 | 109 Ditch 208 | BB1? | MK8 | bowl | bead&flan | | 1 | 28 | 3rd? | same101 |
| 116 | 115 Ditch 207 | GW | MK3 | bowl | flanged | | 1 | 10 | | |
| 20 | 21 slot | GW1 | MK9? | bowl | groovedflan | | 1 | 2 | Late 2nd+ | |
| 56 | 55 Ditch 203 | OW | MK17 | bowl | plainrim | | 1 | 10 | | |
| 56 | 55 Ditch 203 | OW | MK17 | bowl | Dr30copy? | | 1 | 4 | | |
| 69 | 70 Ditch 209 | OW | MK17 | bowl | beadflang | | 1 | 76 | 2ndcent | |
| Subtotal | | | | | | | 8 | 158 | | |
| 23 | 22 Ditch 208 | GW1 | MK9? | dish | | incised | 1 | 54 | | Im BB1 |
| 64 | 63 Pit 63 | BB1 | MK8 | jar | | | 1 | 2 | 3rd? | |
| 33 | 34 Ditch 201 | CG | MK1a | jar | | | 4 | 8 | | |
| 41 | 43 Ditch 201 | CG | MK1a | jar | chanrim | | 5 | 68 | m1-e2nd | MK24.5/6 |
| 44 | 45 Ditch 202 | CG | MK1a | jar | chanrim | | 2 | 40 | m1-e2nd | MK24.5/6 |
| 101 | 100 Ditch 208 | CG | MK1a | jar | necked | | 1 | 64 | | see Alch |
| 69 | 70 Ditch 209 | CG | MK1a | jar | chanrim | | 1 | 14 | | |
| 69 | 70 Ditch 209 | CG | MK1a | jar | neckbead | | 7 | 36 | | |
| 94 | 95 PH 95 | CG | MK1a | jar | chanrim | | 2 | 10 | m-11st | MK24.2? |
| 64 | 63 Pit 63 | CG | MK1a | jar | | | 1 | 56 | | |
| 122 | 121 Ditch 207 | CG1B | MK1a | jar | neckbead | | 1 | 6 | 2nd/3rd | Harrold |
| 41 | 43 Ditch 201 | GT | MK46 | jar | | | 4 | 90 | 1stcent? | MK36.57 |
| 122 | 121 Ditch 207 | GT | MK2 | jar | neckbead | | 1 | 4 | 2nd/3rd | SPGrog |
| 68 | 67 Ditch 209 | GT | MK46 | jar | belgic | burnish | 1 | 16 | | |
| 68 | 67 Ditch 209 | GT | MK2/46 | jar | | | 2 | 12 | | |
| 69 | 70 Ditch 209 | GT | MK2 | jar | | | 4 | 152 | | |
| 66 | 65 Ditch 65 | GT | MK46 | jar | misc | | 4 | 38 | | |
| 94 | 95 PH 95 | GT | MK2/45 | jar | curved rim | | 1 | 58 | 1st/2nd | parallel? |
| 64 | 63 Pit 63 | GT | MK2 | jar | | | 2 | 32 | | |

| Context | Cut | Feature | L Fabric | MKFabric | VessForm | VessType | Dec | Sherds | Weight | Dating | Comment |
|---------|-----|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|--------|--------|----------|----------------------|
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | GT | MK2 | jar | | | 3 | 28 | | |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | GT | MK2 | jar | | | 3 | 28 | | |
| 87 | 86 | Pit 86 | GT | MK2 | jar | | | 3 | 116 | 1stcent? | |
| 42 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW | MK3 | jar | | | 1 | 52 | e-mid2nd | |
| 74 | 75 | Ditch 203 | GW | MK9 | jar | neckbead | | 1 | 12 | | parallel? |
| 116 | 115 | Ditch 207 | GW | MK3 | jar | | | 8 | 66 | | |
| 122 | 121 | Ditch 207 | GW | MK3 | jar | necked | | 4 | 20 | | |
| 108 | 107 | Ditch 207 | GW | MK3 | jar | | | 3 | 22 | | |
| 99 | 98 | Ditch 208 | GW | MK3 | jar | neckbead | | 3 | 28 | 2nd | shelly tile |
| 103 | 102 | Ditch 208 | GW | MK3 | jar | | | 4 | 18 | 2nd+ | |
| 53 | 54 | Ditch 209 | GW | MK3 | jar | neckbead | | 11 | 82 | e-mid2nd | |
| 69 | 70 | Ditch 209 | GW | MK9? | jar | necked | | 4 | 40 | | |
| 69 | 70 | Ditch 209 | GW | MK3 | jar | | | 9 | 116 | | |
| 66 | 65 | Ditch 65 | GW | MK9/47 | jar | chanrim | | 4 | 50 | e-mid2nd | |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | GW | MK47? | jar | | | 3 | 25 | | |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | GW | MK3 | jar | necked | | 4 | 48 | | mottled |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | GW | MK3? | jar | neckbead | | 2 | 112 | | gritty |
| 87 | 86 | Pit 86 | GW | MK3 | jar | neckbead | | 4 | 158 | 2nd | parallel? |
| 41 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW/SW | MK47 | jar | chanrim | | 1 | 44 | e-mid2nd | MK39.22 |
| 41 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW/SW | MK47 | jar | chanrim | | 1 | 12 | e-mid2nd | MK39.22 |
| 41 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW/SW | MK47 | jar | neckless | | 3 | 66 | e-mid2nd | ? |
| 42 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW/SW | MK47 | jar | chanrim | | 2 | 34 | e-mid2nd | same as41 |
| 56 | 55 | Ditch 203 | GW3 | MK3 | jar | necked | pullywhee l | 1 | 22 | | |
| 20 | 21 | slot | GW3 | MK3? | Jar | | acc.lattice | 1 | 4 | 2nd cent | |
| 41 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW4 | MK12? | jar | neckbead | | 2 | 62 | 125+ | MK46.1 |
| 41 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW4 | MK12? | jar | neckbead | | 3 | 46 | 125+ | MK46.1 |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | GW4 | MK12? | jar | | | 2 | 20 | | |
| 41 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW5 | MK3 | jar | necked | | 10 | 120 | 2nd? | |
| 42 | 43 | Ditch 201 | GW5 | MK3 | jar | | | 3 | 38 | e-mid2nd | mottled |
| 41 | 43 | Ditch 201 | OW | MK17 | jar | narrowm | | 2 | 40 | 2nd? | |
| 42 | 43 | Ditch 201 | OW | MK47? | jar | necked | | 1 | 14 | | from coarse fraction |
| 69 | 70 | Ditch 209 | OW/GW | MK47? | jar | lidseat | | 1 | 36 | e-mid2nd | |

Subtotal

148 2257

| Context | Cut | Feature | L Fabric | MKFabric | VessForm | VessType | Dec | Sherds | Weight | Dating | Comment |
|----------|-----|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|--------|-----------|------------|----------|----------------------|
| | 30 | 130 Ditch | 201 | CG | MK1a | Jarstorage | beaded | 2 | 160 | ncd | MK25.25 |
| | 41 | 43 Ditch | 201 | GT | MK46 | Jarstorage | | 4 | 130 | 1stcent? | MK37.81 |
| | 42 | 43 Ditch | 201 | GT | MK3 | Jarstorage | | 1 | 38 | 1stcent | from coarse fraction |
| | 13 | 15 Pit | 15 | GT | MK2/46 | Jarstorage | base | 6 | 386 | 1stcent? | one vessel |
| | 20 | 21 slot | | GT | MK2 | Jarstorage | misc | 2 | 48 | | |
| Subtotal | | | | | | | | 15 | 762 | | |
| | 108 | 107 Ditch | 207 | GW | MK3 | Lid? | | 1 | 18 | | parallel? |
| | 13 | 15 Pit | 15 | GW | MK3 | Lid? | | 1 | 2 | | 2daubfrags |
| | 116 | 115 Ditch | 207 | BB1? | MK8 | misc | | 2 | 16 | 120+ | |
| | 74 | 75 Ditch | 203 | CG | MK1a | misc | | 1 | 6 | | |
| | 116 | 115 Ditch | 207 | CG | MK1a | misc | | 2 | 3 | | |
| | 99 | 98 Ditch | 208 | CG | MK1a | misc | | 1 | 1 | | from coarse fraction |
| | 20 | 21 slot | | CG | MK1a | misc | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | 56 | 55 Ditch | 203 | GT | MK46 | misc | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 74 | 75 Ditch | 203 | GT | MK46? | misc | | 1 | 10 | | |
| | 69 | 70 Ditch | 209 | GT | MK46 | misc | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 13 | 15 Pit | 15 | GT | MK46 | misc | | 3 | 12 | | thinbody |
| | 20 | 21 slot | | GT | MK46 | misc | | 2 | 12 | 1stcent? | |
| | 34 | 34 Ditch | 201 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 7 | 24 | 2nd+ | from coarse fraction |
| | 34 | 34 Ditch | 201 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 1 | 1 | | from coarse fraction |
| | 42 | 43 Ditch | 201 | GW | MK9 | misc | | 1 | 1 | | from coarse fraction |
| | 74 | 75 Ditch | 203 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 2 | 32 | | |
| | 90 | 91 Ditch | 210 | GW | MK47 | misc | | 1 | 4 | e-mid2nd | |
| | 118 | 117 Ditch | 206 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 1 | 6 | | |
| | 99 | 98 Ditch | 208 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 3 | 8 | | from coarse fraction |
| | 101 | 100 Ditch | 208 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 3 | 20 | | |
| | 110 | 109 Ditch | 208 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 1 | 10 | | |
| | 24 | 25 Ditch | 209 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 1 | 2 | | 2nd+ |
| | 26 | 27 Ditch | 209 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 68 | 67 Ditch | 209 | GW | MK3 | misc | | 1 | 2 | | |

| Context | Cut | Feature | L Fabric | MKFabric | VessForm | VessType | Dec | Sherds | Weight | Dating | Comment |
|-----------------|-----|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 69 | 70 | Ditch 209 | GW | MK9/47 | misc | | | 2 | 14 | | |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | GW | MK3 | misc | | | 12 | 106 | | |
| 88 | 89 | Pit 89 | GW | MK3 | misc | | | 1 | 8 | 2nd | |
| 92 | 93 | Pit 93 | GW | MK9 | misc | | | 1 | 10 | 2nd+ | |
| 20 | 21 | slot | GW/SW | MK47 | misc | | | 2 | 20 | 1stcent? | |
| 127 | | Ditch 207 | GW3 | MK3 | misc | | wavy line | 1 | 1 | | |
| 23 | 22 | Ditch 208 | GW3 | MK3 | misc | | | 5 | 24 | | |
| 66 | 65 | Ditch 65 | GW3 | MK3 | misc | | | 1 | 2 | | |
| 23 | 22 | Ditch 208 | MG | MK45 | misc | | | 1 | 2 | | |
| 34 | 34 | Ditch 201 | OW | MK17 | misc | | | 1 | 8 | 2nd+ | from coarse fraction |
| 74 | 75 | Ditch 203 | OW | MK17 | misc | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| 99 | 98 | Ditch 208 | OW | MK17 | misc | | | 1 | 2 | | from coarse fraction |
| 26 | 27 | Ditch 209 | OW | MK17 | Misc | base | | 1 | 10 | | |
| 26 | 27 | Ditch 209 | OW | MK17 | misc | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 53 | 54 | Ditch 209 | OW | MK17 | misc | | | 1 | 6 | | |
| 116 | 115 | Ditch 207 | Samian | Samian | misc | | | 2 | 1 | 2nd+ | C. Gaul |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | VW | MK18 | misc | | | 2 | 16 | | |
| 82 | 83 | Pit 83 | | MK11 | misc | | | | | modern | |
| Subtotal | | | | | | | | 74 | 412 | | |
| 64 | 63 | Pit 63 | MO | MK4 | mort | | | 1 | 16 | 3rd? | grittywhite |
| 87 | 86 | Pit 86 | MO2 | MK4ba | mort | | | 1 | 42 | 240+ | abraded intrusive? |
| 23 | 22 | Ditch 208 | MO4 | MK4c | mort | reedhamhd | | 1 | 32 | 3rd/4thcent | |
| Totals | | | | | | | | 500 | 7498 | | |

Form Summary

| Form | %sherds | sherds | weight |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|
| Jars | 82 | 148 | 2257 |
| StorageJar | 8 | 15 | 762 |
| Beaker | 1 | 1 | 78 |
| Bowls | 4 | 8 | 158 |
| Dishes | 1 | 1 | 54 |
| Mortaria | 2 | 3 | 90 |
| Amph? | 1 | 2 | 72 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Lid? | 1 | 2 | 20 |
| Subtotal | 100 | 180 | 3491 |
| Misc | | 75 | 418 |
| Total | | 255 | 3909 |

Appendix 7

The Animal Bones from Site 2, Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire
Jennifer Browning

Introduction and Provenance

An excavation at Site 2, Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire revealed a number of linear features, pits and postholes, which probably form part of a Romano-British farmstead. A total of 699 animal bone fragments was recovered during the course of the excavations. The majority were hand-retrieved, but a small number (16%) was recovered through sieving (see Monckton 'Charred plant remains' for sieving methodology).

The bones were generally in fairly good condition, allowing examination of the bone surfaces for signs of butchery, pathological conditions and gnawing. However, the assemblage was fragmented, in particular the bone from context (87).

Methodology

Bones were identified with reference to the comparative skeletal material held by the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at Leicester University. Typically, species, anatomy, state of fusion and completeness was recorded for each specimen and fragments were also examined for evidence of butchery, pathological conditions and gnawing. Where fragmented bones were found to fit together, these were re-assembled and counted as a single specimen. Description of bone parts present followed the zone method defined by Serjeantson (1996). The results were recorded upon a computerised spreadsheet. Age at fusion for individual bones follows Silver (1969) measurements were taken with reference to von den Dreisch (1976).

Results

A total of 699 bone fragments was recovered from archaeological deposits on the site. However only 30% of them were diagnostic enough to confidently identify to species. The identified assemblage comprised cattle, sheep/goat, pig, dog, horse, domestic fowl and, possibly, fox and rabbit. The faunal remains from the sieved samples are mostly small, undiagnostic mammal bone fragments, which contribute little to the interpretation of the assemblage.

| Context | cattle | s/g | pig | horse | dog | dom fowl | cf rabbit | c-size | sh-size | unident mamm | Total |
|---------|--------|-----|-----|-------|-----|----------|-----------|--------|---------|--------------|-------|
| 13 | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| 20 | | | | | | 1 | | 5 | 1 | | 7 |
| 23 | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 4 |
| 26 | 1 | | | | | | | 7 | | | 8 |
| 30 | 1 | | | | | | | 6 | | | 7 |
| 33 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 38 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 41 | 7 | 1 | | 3 | | | | 5 | | | 16 |
| 44 | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| 53 | 4 | | | 2 | | | | 26 | 1 | | 33 |
| 56 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 3 |
| 64 | 7 | | | | | | | 19 | | | 26 |

| Context | cattle | s/g | pig | horse | dog | dom fowl | cf rabbit | c-size | sh-size | unident mamm | Total |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 66 | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 5 | 12 |
| 68 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 69 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 74 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | | 4 |
| 76 | | 6 | | | | | | | 10 | | 16 |
| 79 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 82 | | | | | | 48 | | | | 16 | 64 |
| 84 | | | | | | 29 | | | | 1 | 30 |
| 87 | 48 | 6 | | 1 | | | | 246 | | | 301 |
| 88 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 90 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 99 | 3 | | | | | | | 13 | | | 16 |
| 101 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 108 | 3 | | | | | | | 5 | 1 | | 9 |
| 116 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | 7 | | | 10 |
| 122 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 115 (2.2) | | 1 | | | | | | | | 8 | 9 |
| 115 (2.3) | | | | | | | | | 3 | 18 | 21 |
| 127 (3.1) | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| 127 (3.2) | | | | | | 1 | | | | 6 | 7 |
| 34 (5.2) | | 1 | | | | | | | | 20 | 21 |
| 34 (5.3) | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 10 |
| 42 (4.1) | | | | | | | | | | 11 | 11 |
| 42 (4.2) | | | | | | | 2 | | | 14 | 16 |
| 99 (1.1) | | | | | | | | | | 9 | 9 |
| 99 (1.3) | | | | | | | | | | 8 | 8 |
| Total | 93 | 21 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 79 | 2 | 346 | 18 | 130 | 699 |

Table 1: Table showing the number and species of fragments recovered. Numbers in brackets refer to samples.

An almost complete domestic fowl skeleton, minus the head, was recovered from a small, shallow oval pit [83]. However, a small sherd of modern pottery (N. Cooper *pers comm.*) was also found within the feature. Nearby circular pit [85] contains similar remains and, although it has no dating evidence, is also thought to have modern origins. These features are likely to relate to recent use of the land and to have no association with the Roman bone assemblage. Therefore, the 94 fragments from these contexts have been excluded from the following analysis.

Pit [86]

The largest quantity of bone (301 fragments comprising 43% of the total assemblage) was recovered from the fill of large pit [86], which also contained pottery dating to the late Roman period (N. Cooper *pers. comm.*). The feature was circular, with a diameter of 2.45m and the remains of cattle, horse and sheep/goat were retrieved from the fill. In terms of preservation the material divides into two types; the majority of the bone was lightweight and fragmented, yet with well-preserved cortical surfaces, while there were fewer robust fragments with a more weathered outer appearance. The latter type was represented by occipital part of a cattle skull and three cattle limb bone fragments (2 humeri and possible tibia). Regarding the former, the bone elements present suggest that this is a partial juvenile cattle skeleton, represented mainly by limb bones, spine and ribs. There are no teeth, mandible or skull fragments with the same preservation quality. Although a large quantity of the individual

fragments was not diagnostic enough to confidently identify to species, the similar preservation quality and size suggests that the majority of these ‘cattle-size’ bones (mostly vertebra and rib fragments) derive from the partial skeleton and are therefore cattle by implication. The majority of limb bones present were unfused (see table 2). The exceptions are the more ‘weathered’ bone and also an anomalous partially fused proximal radius (which may indicate that the bones belong to more than one animal). None of the vertebrae present were fused. Assuming that all of the bones do derive from the same partial skeleton, the animal was less than 10 months old at the time of death (see Table 2). Measurements taken on right and left astragalii were compared with Roman examples cited on the ABMAP database (Animal Bone Metrical Archive Project <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/abmap>) . This indicates that the Middlemore Farm examples are rather large, especially as they appear to derive from an immature partial skeleton. Lack of gnawing and the well-preserved surfaces suggest that the bones were deposited quickly. Fragmentation is likely to be due to burial conditions and the brittle, porous nature of the bone.

Five elements of sheep/goat were identified amongst the assemblage. These were all in good condition and were components of the lower leg, mostly hind. All were fused. A metacarpal had a Greatest Length measurement of 132.0mm, which is within the range of examples shown by the ABMAP database. A single horse calcaneum was identified. It had a more weathered appearance than the partial cattle skeleton, a fact that, coupled with the lack of other horse elements in the pit, may suggest that it is residual.

| <i>Cattle</i> | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Age (months)</i> | <i>Bone</i> | <i>Fused</i> | <i>Unfused</i> |
| by 10 months | Pelvis (acet) and scapula D | 0 | 2 |
| 13-18 months | 1st Phal P, Humerus D, Radius P, 2nd phal P | 2 | 8 |
| 24-36 months | MetaC D, Tibia D, MetaT D | 0 | 5 |
| 36-48 months | Femur P, Calc P, Radius D, Ulna P, Humerus P, Femur D, Tibia P | 1 | 7 |
| | | 3 | 22 |

Table 2: Fused and unfused cattle bones from pit [86]. None of the fused bones with the exception of the radius, appear to belong to the partial skeleton.

Analysis of bone from the other Roman deposits

Due to the low number of identifiable bones, only limited analysis has been carried out.

| | <i>cattle</i> | <i>s/g</i> | <i>pig</i> | <i>horse</i> | <i>dog</i> | <i>dom fowl</i> | <i>other</i> | <i>total</i> |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| No frags: | 45 | 15 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 71 |
| %: | 63 | 21 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | |

Table 3: Number and % of Identified Specimens, excluding pit [86] and modern pits [83] and [85].

Cattle

Cattle bones are more numerous than other species. This is probably due in part to the fact that cattle bones are larger and have a greater propensity to fragment than the bones of smaller species. They are also more likely to be observed during excavation. There was little ageing potential with few epiphyses in the assemblage. Two thirds of the epiphyses present were fused but there was no pattern among the small number of unfused bones. Bones were

recovered from all parts of the anatomy, with no particular emphasis on body part such as might indicate specialised butchery or craft activity. However, there is a surprising lack of teeth, which normally survive better than other types of bone.

Sheep/goat

Only 15 fragments were identified as sheep/goat. Both the axial and appendicular skeleton was represented. Unsurprisingly, there were few epiphyses present and even fewer teeth. However, an unfused pelvis (less than 10 months) suggests the presence of some young animals.

Other species

Horse bones were recovered from contexts (41) and (53). A single fragment of pig bone (humerus) was recovered from context (69). A rather weathered dog skull was retrieved from the fill of an east-west aligned ditch [65]. A pelvis fragment, belonging either to a fox or small dog was found in a ditch fill [55]. Vertebrae fragments belonging to a small mammal, possibly rabbit were covered from another ditch [42]. Domestic fowl bones were recovered two ditch fills (20) and (127).

Butchery, burning and gnawing

Butchery was noted on 14 specimens from the assemblage. This was most common on cattle bones and mainly consisted of heavy cut and chop marks and deliberate shaft breakage, probably to extract the marrow. A smaller number of fine cut marks were observed. Heavy butchery is fairly typical of Roman practices, where carcasses tend to be chopped apart rather than carefully disarticulated, as was generally the case in the Iron Age (Grant 1987, 56). Perhaps noteworthy is a horse pelvis (context 41) that appeared to have been chopped through the acetabulum. If this is the case, it is certainly unusual, although not unknown.

Very little burning was noted in the assemblage and it was confined to a few mammal fragments from the samples and a sheep/goat tibia. Gnawing, probably canid, was observed on 12 fragments, and was most commonly present on the ends of the bones, in several cases resulting in the destruction of the epiphyses.

Comments

This is a small faunal assemblage generally comprising domestic species. Fragmentation is high, resulting in a low number of identifiable bones. Cattle bones dominate the assemblage, which is partly a consequence of fragmentation and preservation factors. However, Middlemore Farm is consistent with evidence from numerous other sites, which has shown that there was a greater emphasis on beef in the Roman period than in the preceding Iron Age (Grant 1989, 137). The largest quantity of bone derived from a single pit, which contained the partial skeleton of at least one cow, amid further cattle, horse and sheep/goat bones. The reason for the deposition of the partial skeleton is not clear, as there is a lack of butchery marks or other evidence. Unusually, pig remains, which are often quite frequent on Roman sites, are limited to a single bone at Middlemore Farm. Perhaps the paucity of pig may reflect the fact that this is a farmstead rather than a higher status site such as a villa. With the exception of the bone from pit [86], the assemblage seems to represent general domestic refuse and has probably been incorporated in the deposits rather than being a primary reason for the creation of the features.

Appendix 8

Environmental samples from Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire (MFD.2003, ASC Ltd)

Angela Monckton (May 6th 2004)

ULAS Report 2004-084, Job No. 04147

Introduction

Excavations were carried out by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. of Milton Keynes directed by Nigel Wilson. Environmental samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains which can give evidence of diet, agriculture or activities in the past. The samples were taken from five sections of Roman ditches, other features such as pits were not sampled. Snail shells were recovered from two of the samples.

Methods

Features were sampled at the discretion of the excavator. The five samples consisted of three parts each of around 10 litres in size; two parts of each sample were processed. [NB There were some inconsistencies in the information from the sample labels and forms for samples 4 and 5, and sample 3 had a confused context number and no location information.]

Samples were wet sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The residues were air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted for all finds which are included in the relevant sections of the report. The fraction below 4mm was reserved for sorting during the analysis stage if required. The flotation fraction (flot) was air dried and packed carefully in self-seal polythene bags.

The flots were examined with a x10 stereo microscope, and the plant remains removed to glass specimen tubes. The plant remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material at the University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The remains were counted and tabulated below (table 1). Residues were also examined to determine if the plant remains had been recovered by flotation, little charred material was seen in the residues. The plant names follow Stace (1991) and are seeds in the broad sense unless stated. To examine the composition of the assemblage of plant remains the percentages of chaff (glumes and spikelet forks which consist of two glumes), cereal grains and weed seeds were calculated for each sample (table 1). This was because the proportions of types of remains can indicate crop processing activities (Hillman 1981). This was only recorded for the samples with over 50 items as below this remains cannot be interpreted (van der Veen 1992). Snail shells were numerous in two of the samples and are described below.

Results

Charred plant remains were recovered in moderate numbers from two of the samples, sample 2 context 115 and sample 3 context 127 or 128? possibly both from ditch 207, and were present in smaller amounts in the other samples i.e. sample 1 context 99 from ditch 208, and

samples 4 context 42 and sample 5 context 33 both from the southern boundary ditch 201 (see table 1). The latter samples contained several hundred snail shells.

Cereals: Wheat chaff fragments (glumes) were the most numerous remains, some of the glumes were identified as spelt (*Triticum spelta*) because they had prominent minor veins, one prominent wide angled keel and wide bases. Glumes which were broken too short to distinguish these features, or were of intermediate type, were identified only as the glume wheats either emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). Small rachis segments were also identified only as glume wheat. Cereal grains were very few, mainly broken and abraded, and included spelt and some identified as glume wheat. A few barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) were found as a second cereal. Very little evidence of germination was recorded.

Other plants: The seeds present were not abundant and were mainly weeds of arable or disturbed ground which were probably weeds of the cereal crops. Arable weeds included scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) and seeds of the larger grasses probably included brome grass (*Bromus* sp) which was a common weed of cereals in the past. Such plants as docks (*Rumex* sp) grow on many types of disturbed land such as occurs near to settlements as well as in cultivated fields. There were also a few plants of grassland habitat such ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and clover type plants (*Medicago* or *Trifolium*), these may also have been growing in parts of the fields. There is some evidence for damp ground from plants such as sedges (*Carex* sp) and buttercup (*Ranunculus* subgen. *Ranunculus*) which may have grown at field margins near the ditches. All of these may have been brought in with the crops.

Snails: Two samples from ditch 201 contained quite numerous shells of snails; sample 4 context 42 and sample 5 context 33 (as recorded on the sample labels rather than the record forms). The most numerous were *Trichia* spp., *Oxychilus* spp., *Cochlicopa lubrica* which live in such conditions as occur amongst vegetation in ditches. *Vallonia* sp represented snails of open ground, while *Pupilla muscorum* indicated open disturbed ground caused by cultivation or as may be found on ditch sides. Marshy ground is indicated by the tiny snail *Carychium* sp probably at the ditch sides. A very small number of shells of *Lymnaea truncatula* and *Anisus leucostoma* represent wet conditions which are prone to drying, the former is the host of the liver fluke which affects grazing animals. Occasional shells of the tiny bivalve *Pisidium* sp may also indicate marshy ground rather than standing water (Evans 1972). The two samples from context 33 and 42 contained very similar snails and a small amount of charred plant remains which had probably accumulated in the ditch from cereal processing elsewhere on the site. Charred remains may have been sparse because these primary layers of the ditch may not have accumulated these remains. A similar snail fauna has been found in Late Iron Age ditches in Leicestershire where it was thought to suggest ditches at the edge of grassland used as pasture (Monckton 1992).

Discussion

The main cereal found here is spelt as at many Roman and Iron Age sites (Greig 1991). The samples here contain chaff (glumes) as the most abundant type of remains (table 1). Spelt is a glume wheat which has the grains held firmly in the chaff even after initial threshing which only breaks the wheat ears into segments called spikelets which contain the grain. After threshing, the straw is removed and the spikelets winnowed to remove light contaminants and then coarse sieved to partly clean the spikelets (Hillman 1981, 1984). The cereal could then be stored or transported at this stage as spikelets. Before the grain was used the chaff was

removed by parching and pounding, followed by fine-sieving to remove the chaff and weed seeds, leaving cleaned grain for use (Hillman 1981). This waste mainly of chaff, may be preserved by charring if it was burnt as rubbish or if it was used as fuel or kindling. The remains found here in compare in composition with waste from cleaning spelt by fine-sieving, indicating that dehusking of spelt was being carried out on the site.

This evidence of dehusking glume wheat on the site suggests processing mainly for consumption on the settlement rather than on a larger scale as found at some sites in the Roman period (Moffett and Ciaraldi 1999). At such sites the process of parching cereals was carried out in kilns or corn driers and evidence of the use of waste chaff as fuel has been found (van der Veen 1989), often at high densities of many hundreds of items per litre of soil. No such structures have been identified here. Other Roman rural sites, for example, Potterspury in Northamptonshire, the roadside site at Vinegar Hill, Peterborough and the settlement site at Bubbenhall, Warwickshire (Monckton 1998a, 1998b, 1999) have no remains of the features used for parching the cereals. The burnt waste was found dumped in pits or ditches, often at the edge of settlements and at high densities (maximum densities of 29.9, 91.0 and 512 items per litre of soil respectively). The evidence from this site is considerably less at only 6.4 items per litre of soil, but comparable in composition. Such samples are thought to represent small scale dehusking of glume wheat for consumption. The remains were more abundant in ditch 207 than in ditch 208 and ditch 201 which may suggest that the former was nearer to where the cereals were processed. The ditch 201 contained less of these remains while the snail fauna suggested a wet vegetated ditch prone to drying, in an open area possibly of damp grassland which may have been used as pasture.

This exploitation of glume wheat, often with evidence for the use of waste chaff for fuel or kindling, was widespread in the Roman period. Evidence for the use of glume wheats in the Iron Age is often more sparse although some sites in Northamptonshire have produced remains in greater quantities and at higher densities than at this site eg Crick and Rothwell (maximum densities of 171 and 72.9 items per litre of soil respectively), (Monckton 2003). Although glume wheats can be stored or transported as spikelets so the chaff may be found on both producer and consumer sites, it seems likely that the cereal was produced and processed here and perhaps the main area of activity was not found during this investigation or alternatively, pastoral activity may have been more important at this site.

Conclusions

The main cereal found was glume wheat, probably mainly spelt. The only evidence for other cereals was a few grains of barley. In two of the samples the most numerous remains were of wheat chaff, mainly glumes, with few grains and very few weed seeds interpreted as grain cleanings removed by fine sieving after parching and pounding the wheat, the waste was then burnt possibly as fuel or kindling and then accumulated in the ditches. The density of remains was lower than some other Roman and Iron Age sites in the county and could be found in either period. This waste indicates the dehusking of glume wheat on the site possibly for local consumption. A snail fauna from the southern boundary ditch was not analysed in detail but indicates wet vegetated ditches, prone to drying, in an open environment.

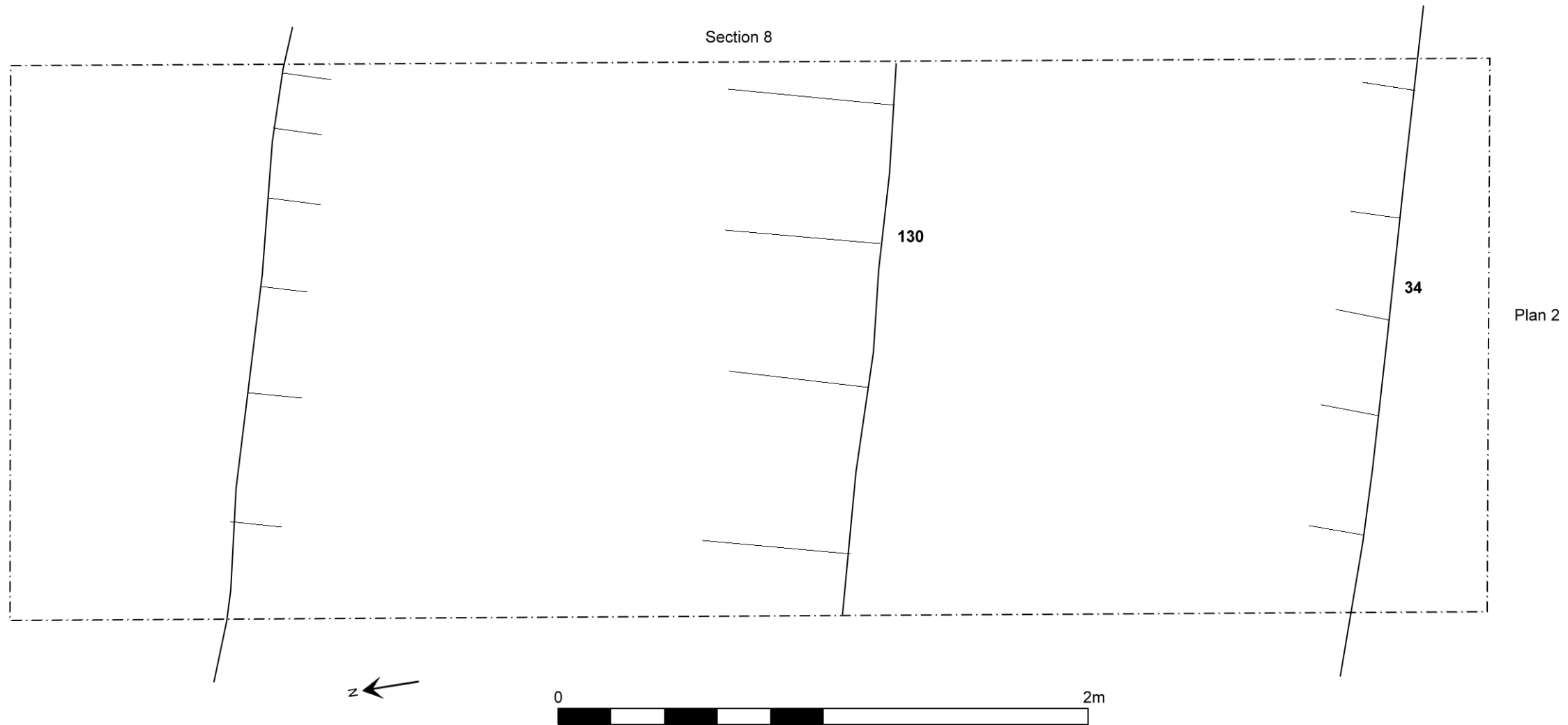
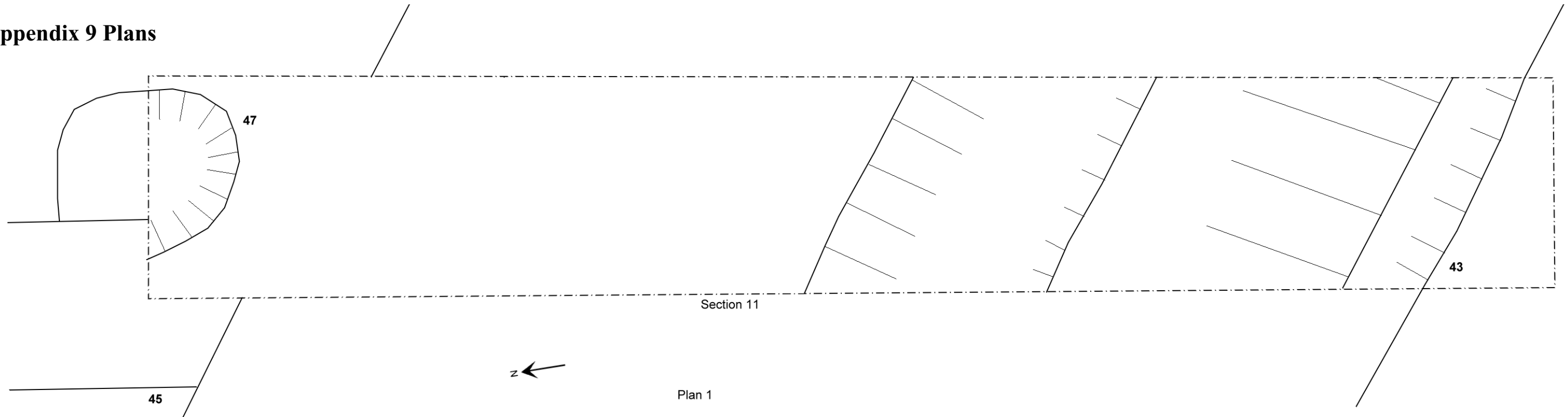
Table 1. Charred Plant Remains from Daventry, Northamptonshire (MFD.2003).

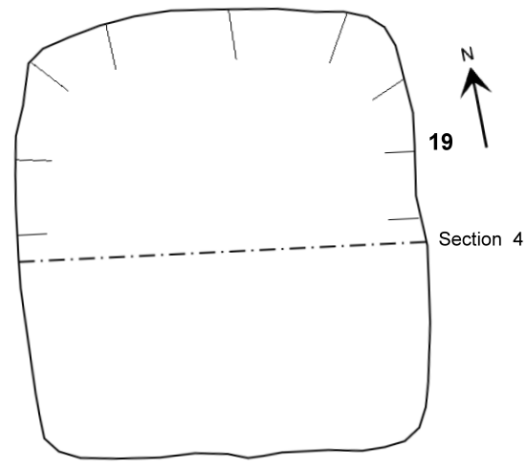
| Ditch | 208 | ?20 7 | ?20 7 | 201 | 201 | |
|--|-----|----------|----------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Sample No. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | |
| Context | 99 | 115 | ?12 7 | 42 | 33 | |
| Feature | 98 | - | ?12 8 | 43 | 34 | |
| GRAINS | | | | | | |
| <i>Triticum spelta</i> L. | - | 1ge | - | - | - | Spelt |
| <i>Triticum</i> spp. | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | Wheat |
| <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1ge | Barley |
| Cereal indet. | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | Cereal |
| Cereal/Poaceae | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | Cereal/Grass |
| Cereal embryos | - | 1 | - | - | - | Cereal |
| Cereal coleoptiles | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | Cereal sprouts |
| CHAFF | | | | | | |
| <i>Triticum spelta</i> L. glume base | 1 | 6 | 9 | - | 1 | Spelt |
| <i>T. dicoccum/spelta</i> glumebase | 6 | 29 | 62 | 2 | 4 | Glume wheat |
| <i>T. dicoccum/spelta</i> rachis | 1 | 7 | 11 | - | 3 | Glume wheat |
| Cereal awns (twisted) | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | Cereal barbs |
| Cereal culm node | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | Straw |
| WILD PLANTS | | | | | | |
| <i>Ranunculus</i> subgen <i>Ranunculus</i> | - | - | - | - | 1 | Goosefoot |
| <i>Rumex</i> sp. | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | Dock |
| <i>Polygonum</i> sp. | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | Knotweed |
| <i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | Medick/Clover |
| <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | Vetches |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L. | - | 1 | - | - | - | Ribwort plantain |
| <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip. | - | - | - | - | 1 | Scentless mayweed |
| <i>Carex</i> sp | - | 1 | - | - | - | Sedge |
| Poaceae large | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | Grasses |
| Poaceae small | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | Grasses |
| Indetermined seeds | 1 | 2 | 4 | - | 1 | Seeds |
| Stem fragments | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | Stem |
| Thorn, Hawthorn/Blackthorn | - | 1 | - | - | - | |
| Snails | (1) | - | - | ++ | +++ | Snails |
| TOTAL | 18 | 69 | 102 | 11 | 17 | Items |
| Vol | 14 | 16 | 16 | 15 | 15 | Litres |
| sample | | | | | | |
| Vol flot | 7 | 11 | 45 | 30 | 30 | mls |

| % Sorted | all | all | all | 50 % | 50 % | % |
|--------------------|-----|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Density | 1.3 | 4.2 | 6.4 | 1.5 | 2.3 | Items/litre of soil |
| PROPORTIONS | | | | | | |
| GLUMES | - | 62. 5 | 83. 5 | - | - | % |
| GRAINS | - | 16. 1 | 6.0 | - | - | % |
| SEEDS | - | 21. 4 | 10. 5 | - | - | % |

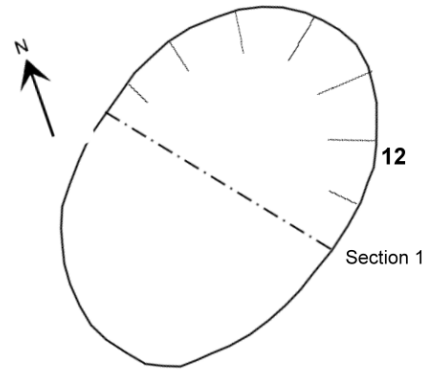
Key: ge = germinated, + = present, ++ = moderate amount, +++ = abundant.
Remains are seeds in the broad sense unless stated.

Appendix 9 Plans

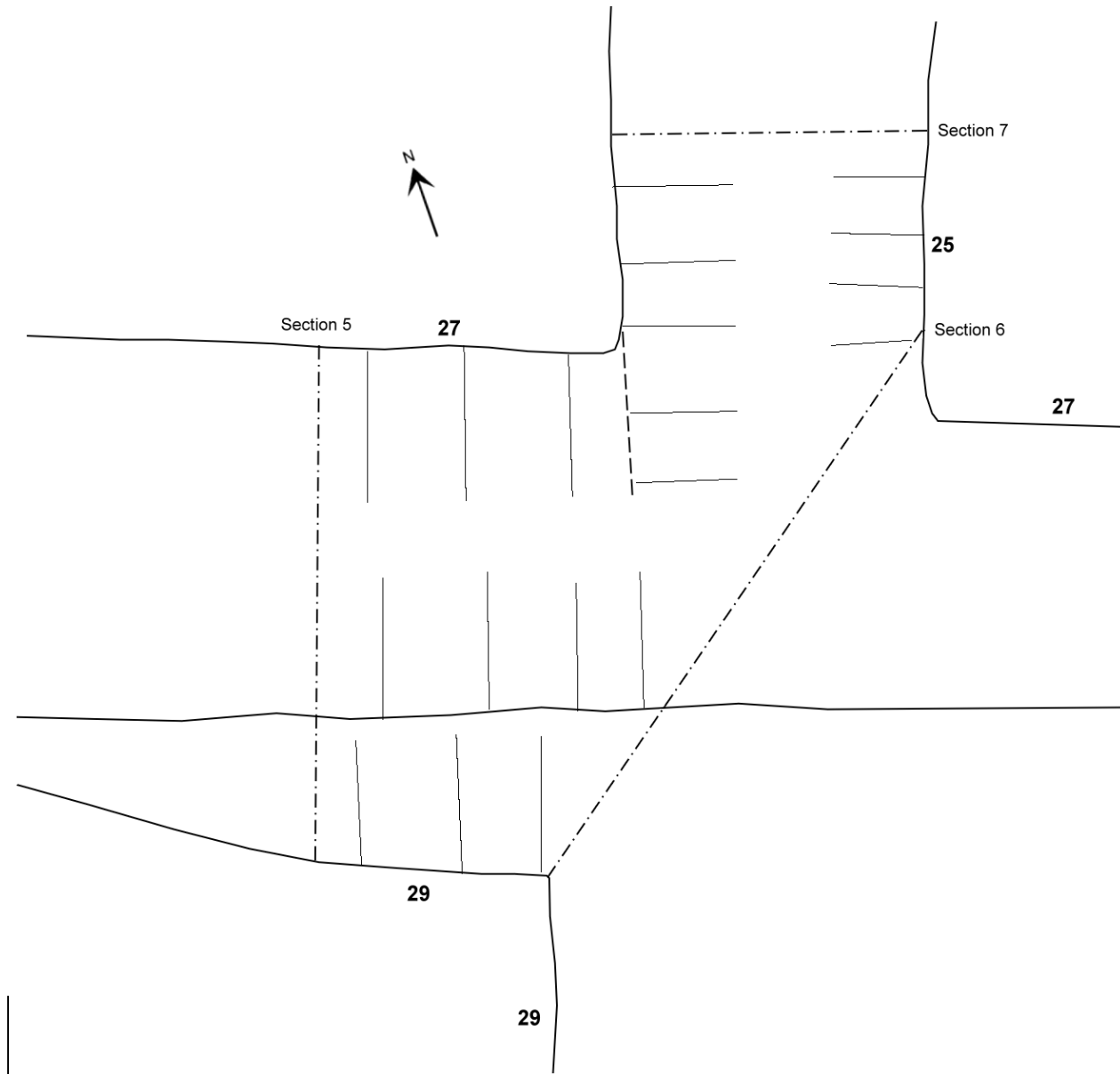




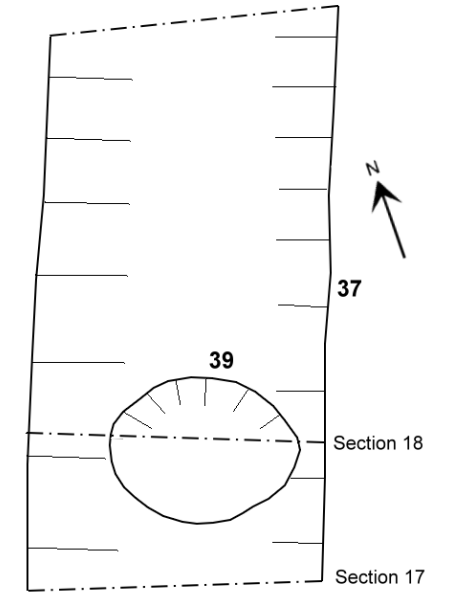
Plan 3



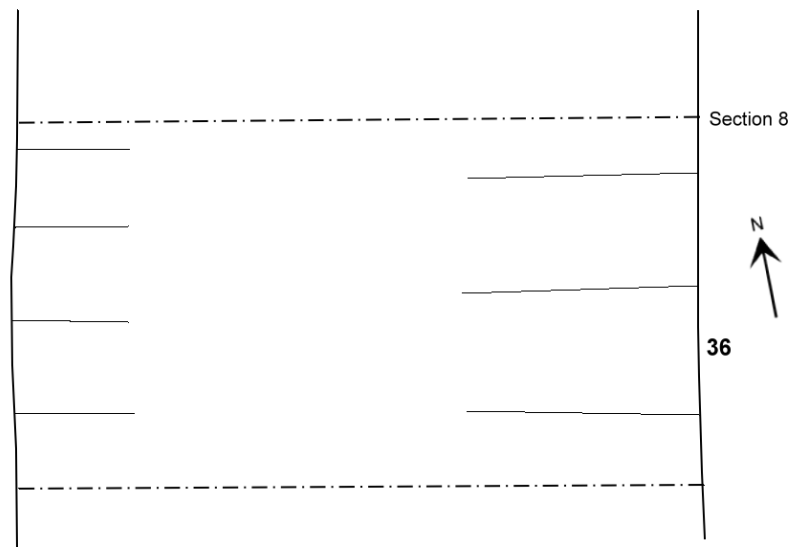
Plan 4



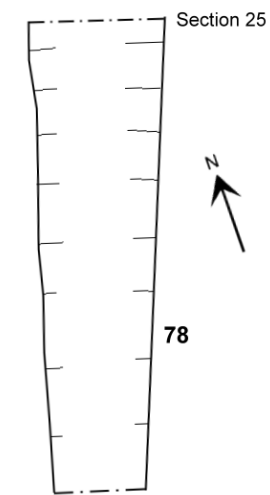
Plan 6



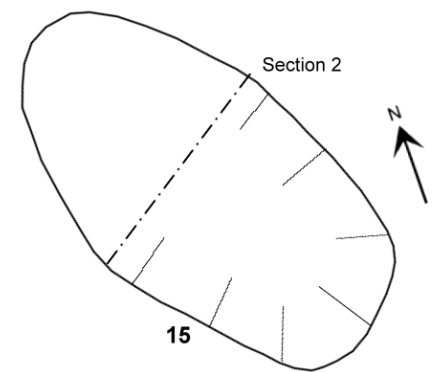
Plan 9



Plan 5

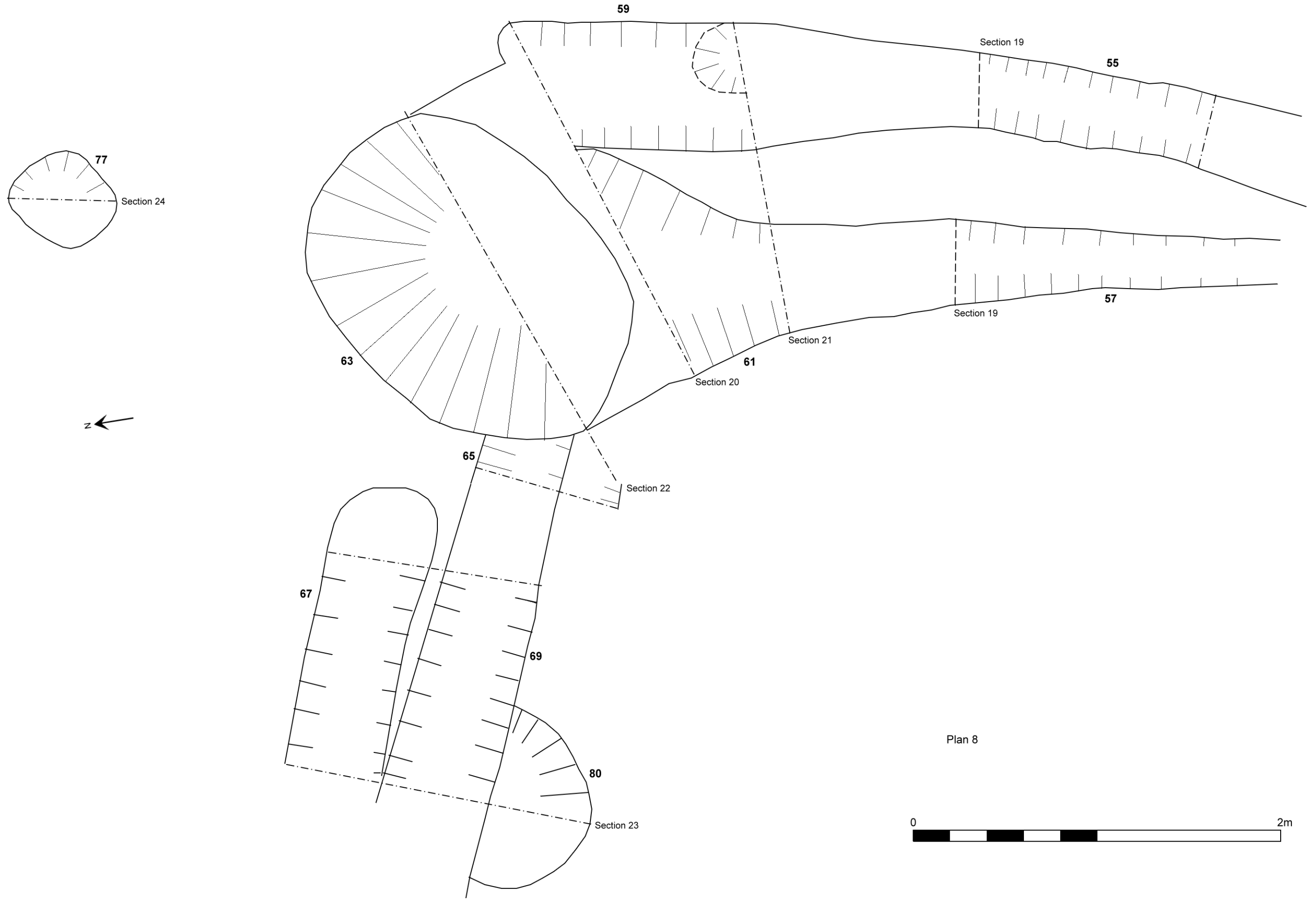


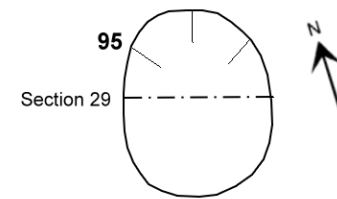
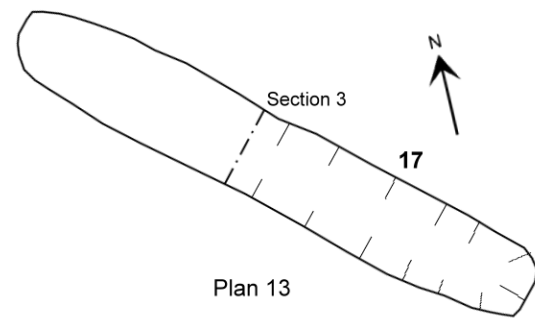
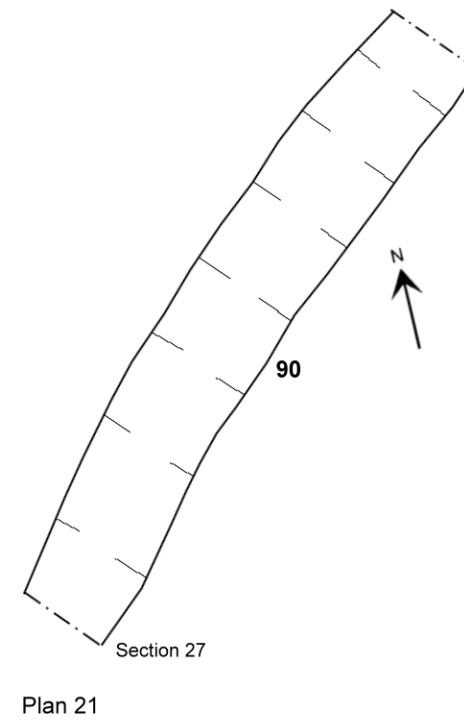
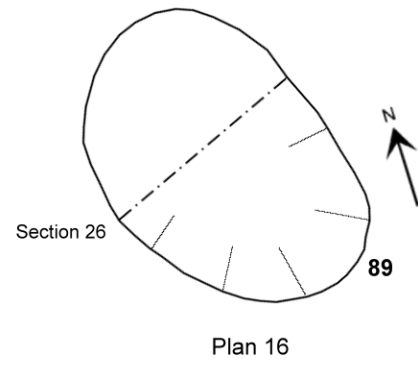
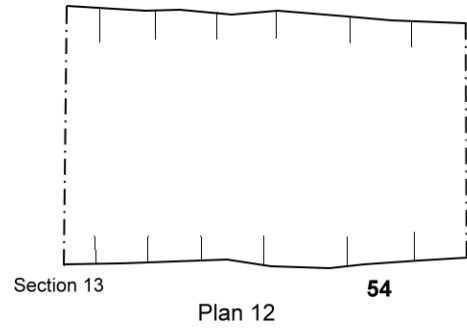
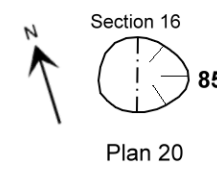
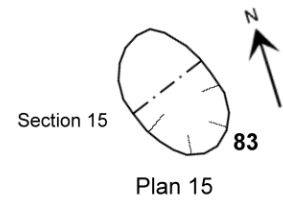
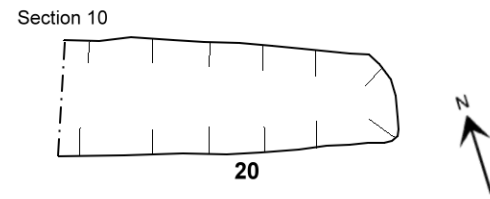
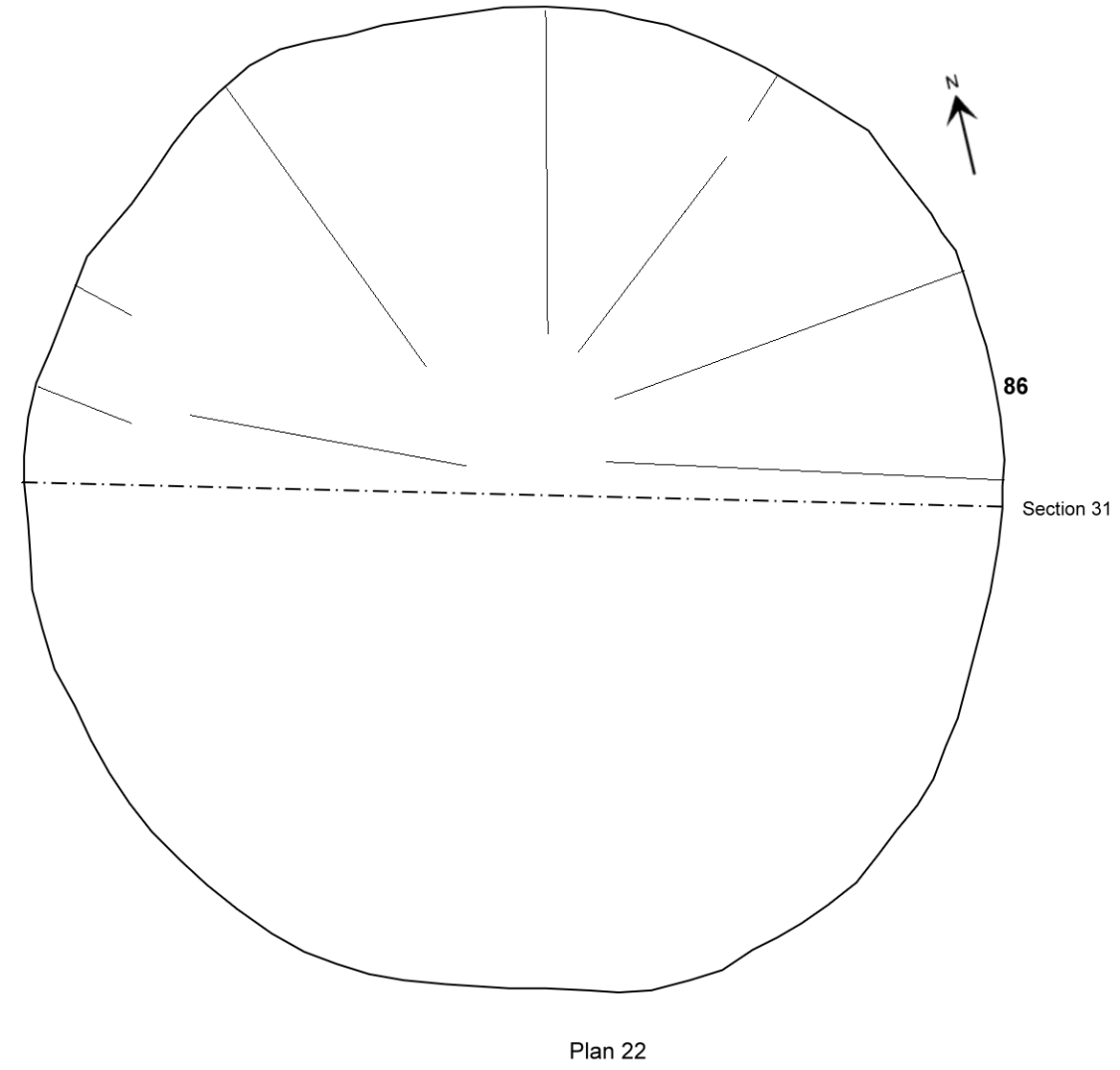
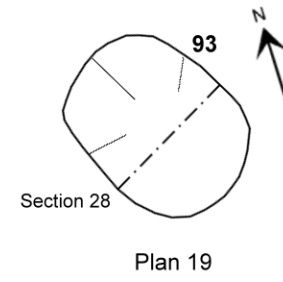
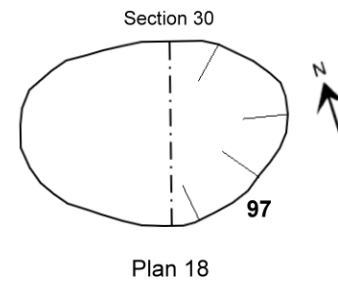
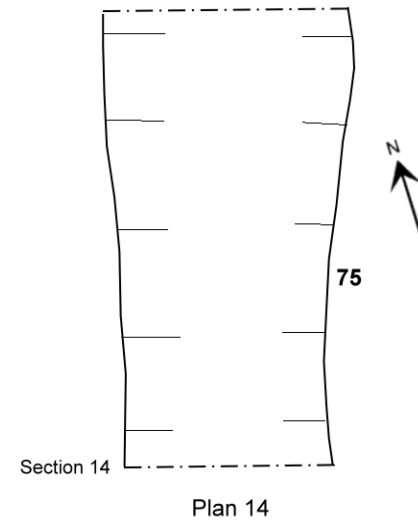
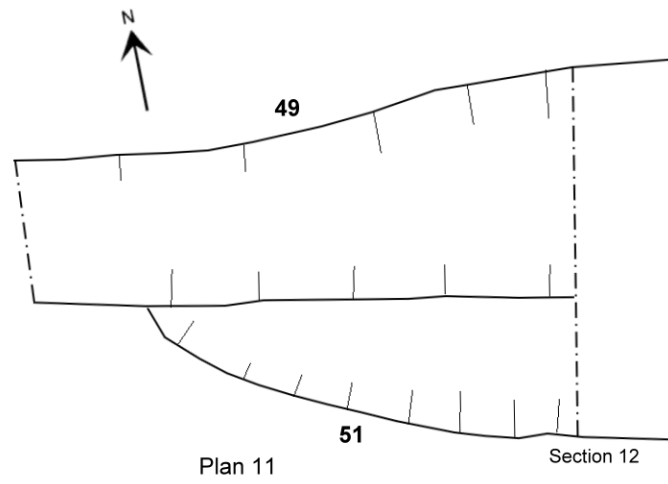
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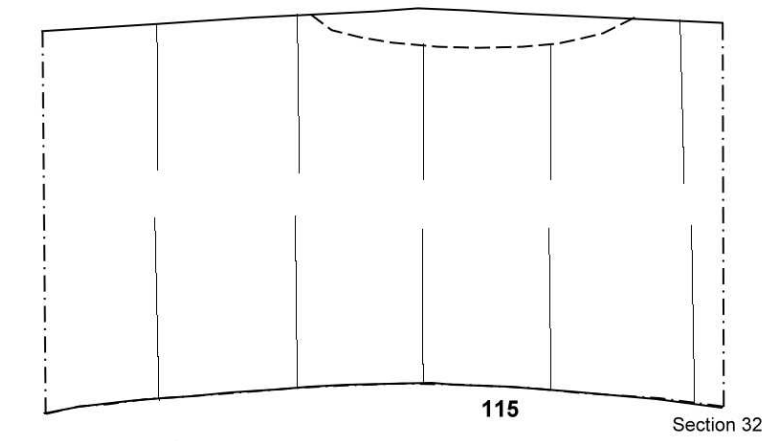


Plan 10

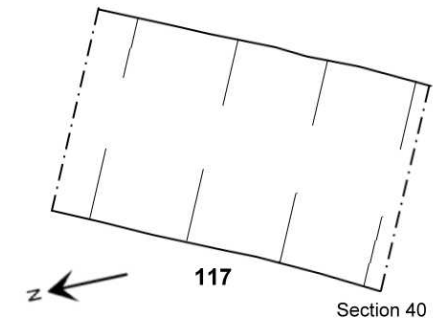




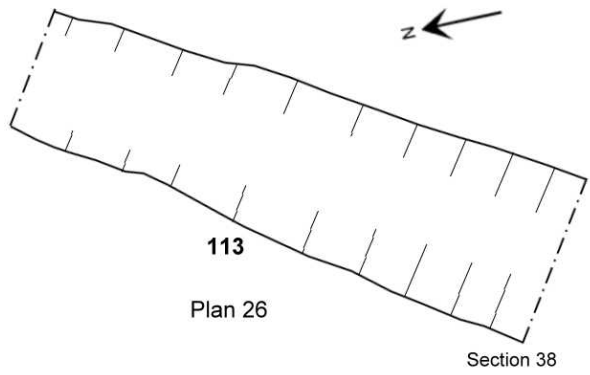




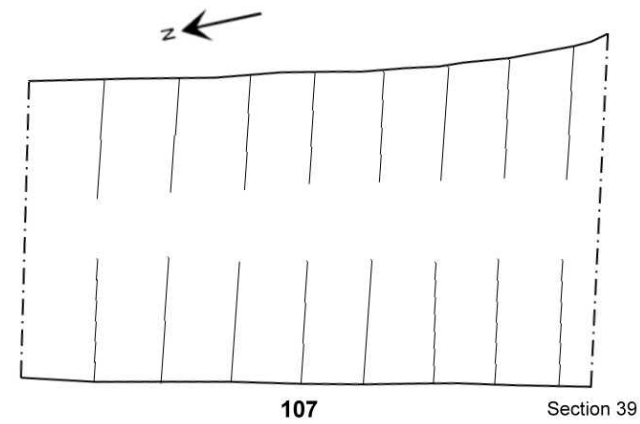
Plan 23



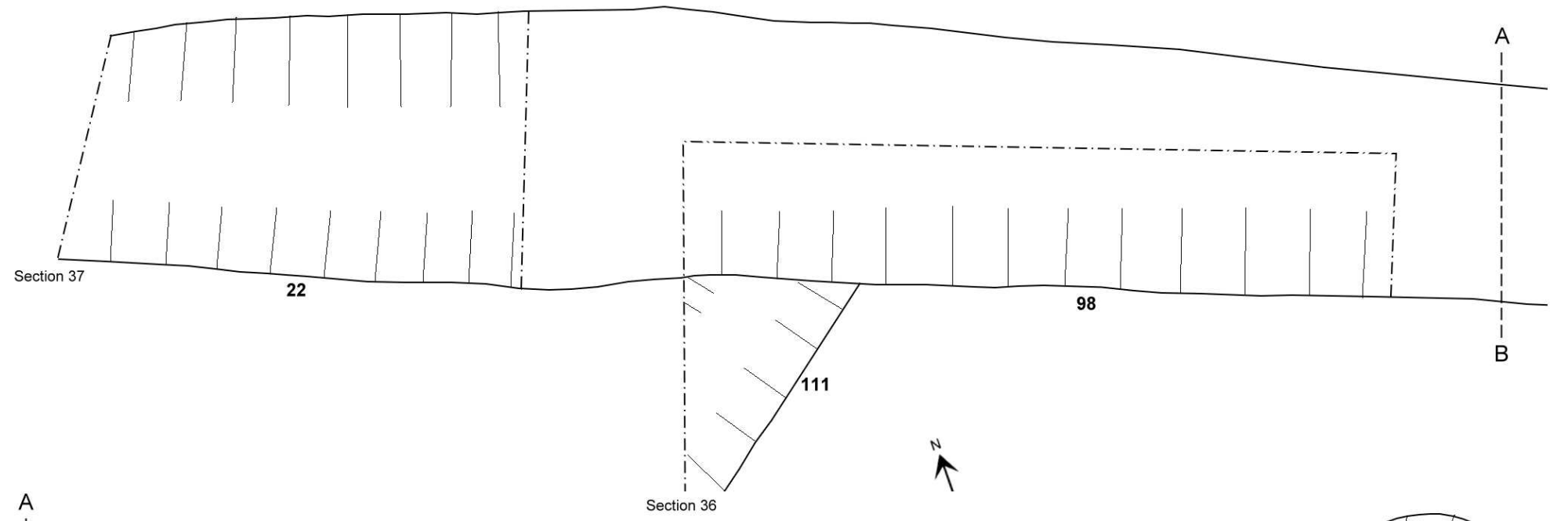
Plan 24



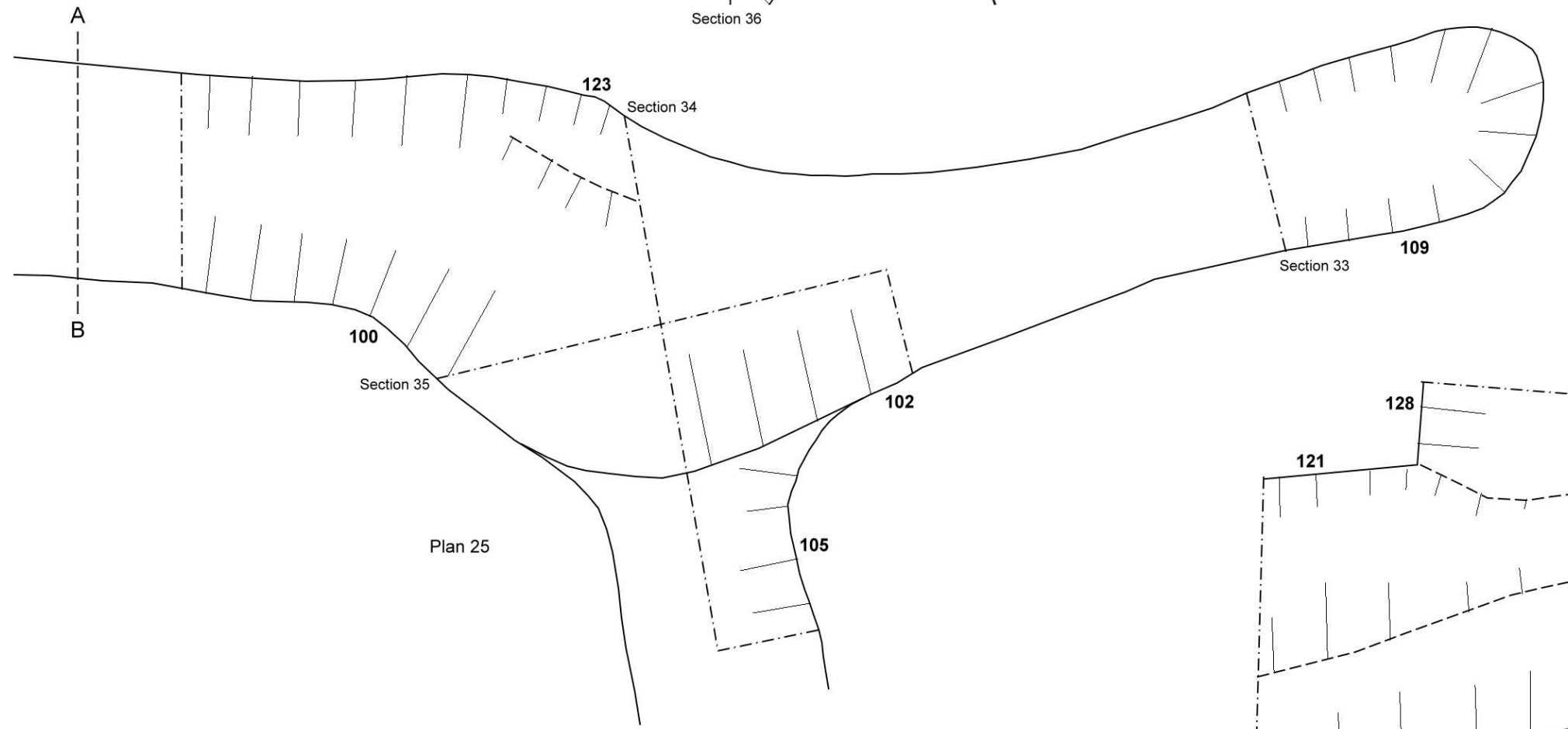
Plan 26



Plan 27



Plan 25

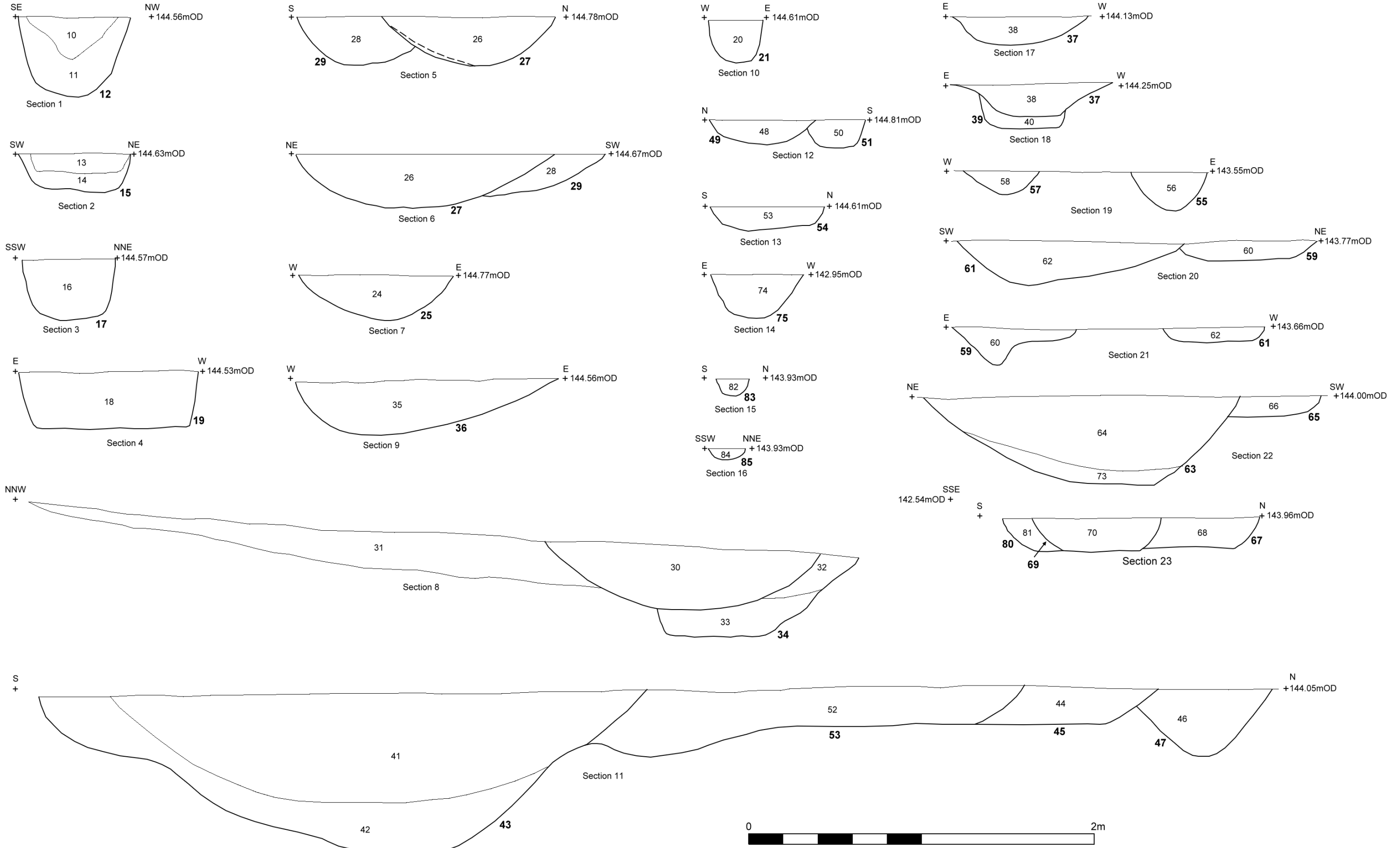


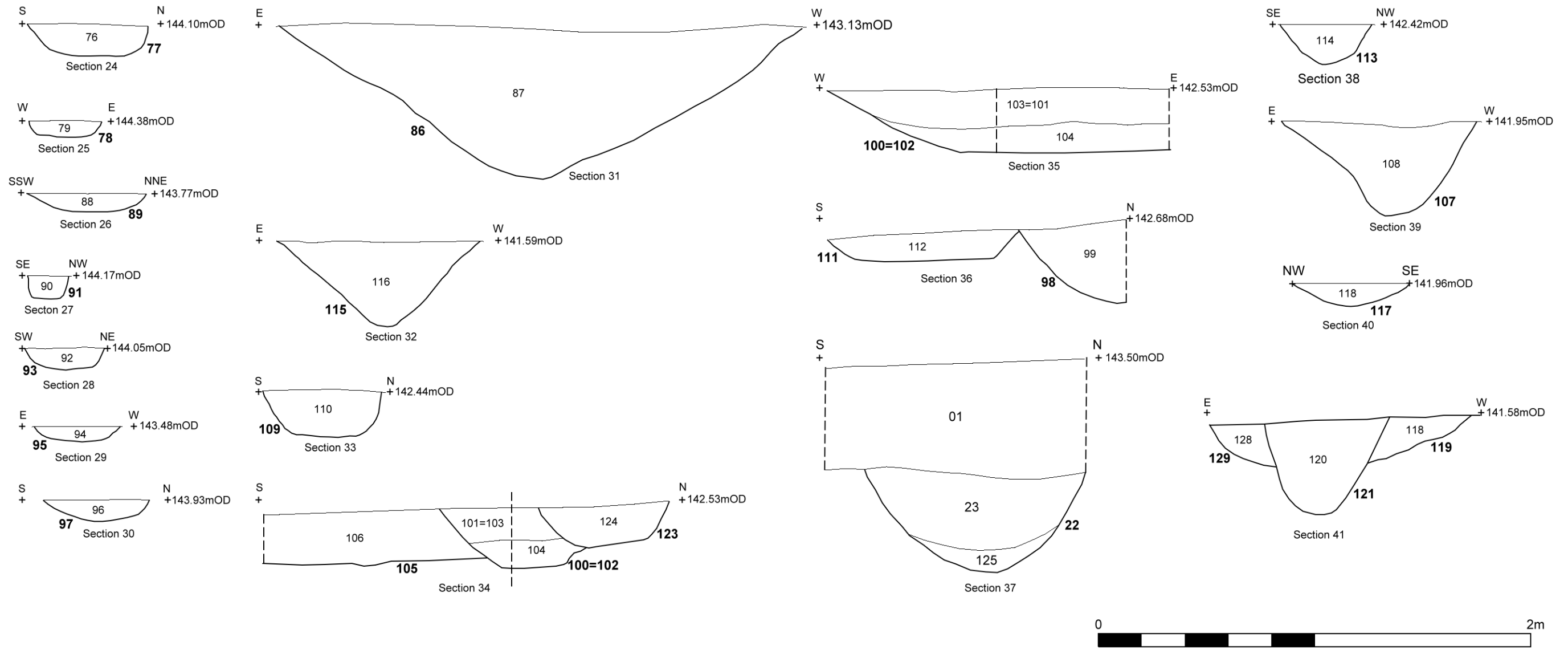
Plan 28



Appendix 10 Sections

AP





Appendix 8: SMR Summary Sheet

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| SMR Record Number | Parish Daventry | Site Name Site 2 Middlemore Farm Daventry |
| Date of Fieldwork November 2003 | Grid ref. SP 56700 65000 | Fieldworker Nigel Wilson |
| Sponsor KingsOak Milton Keynes Gazeley House 26 Rockingham Drive Linford Wood Milton Keynes MK14 6PD | Activity Excavation | |
| Landowner name/address Daventry District Council Daventry | | |
| Finds location ASC Ltd Letchworth House Chesney Wold Bleak Hall Milton Keynes MK6 1NE | Finds Destination N/a | |
| Records location ASC Ltd Letchworth House Chesney Wold Bleak Hall Milton Keynes MK6 1NE | Records Destination N/a | |
| Finds Quantity | Records Quantity | |
| <p>Summary of Results</p> <p><i>During November 2003 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd undertook a program of archaeological recording action on Site 2, Middlemore Farm,. Topsoil and overburden was mechanically removed from an area measuring c.50 x35m at the western end of Site 2.</i></p> <p><i>A number of linear features, pits and postholes were exposed. With the exceptions of a few insignificant modern pits/ post-holes and a single north to south medieval plough furrow, these features have all been dated by examination of the pottery to the Roman period. The pottery ranges in date from 1st – 3rd century AD. This evidence of Roman activity indicates that there might have been small scale occupation on the site for a significant period. Based on the alignments of the ditches it has been possible to identify two distinct phases of Roman activity. A large ditch running roughly northwest to southeast probably represents the southern boundary of the Roman activity at Middlemore.</i></p> <p><i>During February 2004 a limited watching brief was maintained on the rest of Site 2 to the east of the area which had been excavated in November. No further archaeological features were discovered during this phase of the work.</i></p> <p><i>From analysis of the features, finds and environmental samples it has been concluded that this site represents part of a small mixed Romano British farmstead.</i></p> | | |