ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING REPORT:

LAND AT FAIR VIEW FARM, YELLING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Planning Reference: 15/70216/SCOP
NGR: TL 2677 6092
AAL Site Code: ELFV16
CHER Event Number ECB4673
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-265241

Report prepared for Bird Bros Limited

By
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Contents

List of Plates

List of Appendices

List of Tables

List of Charts

List of Figures

Document Control

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Cover image: Proposed development site, looking southwest

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Bird Bros Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Fair View Farm, Yelling, Cambridgeshire, as a scoping opinion to inform a future planning application for new poultry units and rearing shed, as well as a new access road.

- A trenching strategy was agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council and consisted of ten 30m long evaluation trenches to be excavated across the site, targeting areas of proposed development.

- Trial trenching revealed archaeological remains in the southwest and north of the site, totalling 11 ditches and one posthole. Eleven of the features dated to the middle Iron Age and one from the early Roman period. Trench 2 was positioned over a small geophysical anomaly that represents a probable Roman field boundary and a larger middle Iron Age enclosure ditch from which fragments of a triangular loomweight were recovered. Trenches 5 and 6 were focussed on a larger geophysical anomaly which, upon excavation, produced a relatively large assemblage of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

- The nature of the archaeological features investigated, together with the finds assemblage recovered, indicate that the footprints of the proposed buildings in the north and southwest of the site lie within, or adjacent to, areas of middle Iron Age settlement. Early Roman activity was also noted in Trench 2; however this is likely to be focussed away from the development area.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by Bird Bros Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Fair View Farm, Yelling, Cambridgeshire, as a scoping opinion to inform a future planning application for new poultry units and rearing shed, as well as a new access road.

1.2 All fieldwork and reporting conform with current national guidelines as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (CIfA 2014), the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006), '*Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*' (Medlycott 2011), a brief provided by Cambridgeshire HET (Thomas 2016), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2016a).

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1 Yelling is situated in the administrative district of South Cambridgeshire, approximately 7km northeast of St. Neots and 20km northwest of Cambridge. The site is located 1km to the northwest of the village of Eltisley, 1.6km south of the village of Yelling, and comprises a series of hedge- and tree-bounded fields, centred on NGR TL 2677 6092 (Figure 1).

2.2 The bedrock geology comprises West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation (undifferentiated) Mudstone, overlain by superficial Oadby Member Diamicton (British Geological Survey 2016).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 A scoping opinion was requested in order to inform a future planning application for new poultry units and pullet rearing shed, as well as a new access road at Fair View Farm, Yelling, Cambridgeshire (15/70216/SCOP). The scoping advice provided by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) has indicated that:

The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential. Situated to the west and north west is cropmark evidence of enclosure complexes (MCB18909, MCB19081, MCB19082) as well as evidence of Roman occupation (MCB3184) and medieval and post-medieval cultivation, visible as ridge and furrow (MCB13405). In addition, to the east is Papley Grove Deserted Medieval Village (MCB1326) and moated site (MCB1325).

3.2 A geophysical survey was commissioned to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site (AAL 2016b). The survey revealed a number of geophysical anomalies of potential archaeological origin. A written scheme of investigation was then prepared in response to a design brief from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET) for a programme of intrusive evaluation trenching to further inform the geophysical survey results (AAL 2016a; Thomas 2016).

3.3 The approach adopted is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the proposed development site. Mesolithic flints have been found around Papworth Everard, approximately 2km to the northeast, as has a late Neolithic polished axe, all from either isolated features or as find spots.

4.2 A Middle to Late Bronze Age cremation cemetery was found during construction of the Papworth Everard bypass in 2005–2006 (Hounsell 2007), and Late Bronze Age and Middle to Late Iron Age roundhouses and associated enclosures were found within the area enclosed by the road in 2008 (Patten 2009).

4.3 Geophysical survey of the site prior to trenching noted possible enclosures in the northern and southwestern parts of the site, which are morphologically suggestive of later prehistoric or Romano-British origin (AAL 2016a). Two kilometres to the east of the site is Ermine Street (along the route of the present day A1198), a major Roman road connecting London to York. Roman settlement and field systems have been found on the west side of the road and coins and pottery are noted as having been found to the northwest of the site (MCB3184).

4.4 A rectangular enclosure of unknown date, along with ridge and furrow cropmarks, have been recorded *c.*0.4km to the west of the site (MCB18909), with a further group of, mainly rectangular, cropmark enclosures of unknown date highlighted further north, 0.6km west-northwest of the site (MCB19082).

4.5 Papley Grove deserted medieval settlement is recorded *c.*500m to the northeast of the site (MCB1326). The village was deserted by 1100 although an associated moated site was still occupied in 1279 (MCB1325).

4.6 Further medieval remains are recorded in the settlements of Yelling, over 0.6km to the north of the site and at Eltisley, 0.6km to the south. These include ridge and furrow that was noted on early 19th century mapping (MCB14776) and which has also been noted in the geophysical survey of the site (AAL 2016b).

5.0 Methodology

5.1 The trial trenching methodology entailed the excavation of ten trenches, each measuring 30m long by 1.5m wide. The fieldwork was undertaken by a team of experienced field archaeologists over a period of five working days, from Monday 22nd August to Friday 26th August 2016.

5.2 The trenches were accurately located using a Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS. In each trench the topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed in spits no greater than 100m thickness using a JCB digger fitted with a smooth ditching bucket. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed, with all further excavation of archaeological deposits and features carried out by hand. Machine excavation was monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist.

5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL trench recording sheets and context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (usually 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Full colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, with scales, an identification board and directional arrow included as appropriate.

5.4 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a three digit unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description. A summary of these are included in Appendix 8. Three digit numbers within square brackets represent cut features (e.g. ditch [116]).

6.0 Results

6.1 Ten evaluation trenches were excavated across the site targeting areas of proposed development and anomalies identified from the geophysical survey (Figure 2). Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were positioned in Field 1 in the northern part of the site, Trenches 5 and 6 were in Field 3 in the southwest, Trenches 7 and 8 were in Field 4 and Trenches 9 and 10 in Field 5.

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

6.2 The earliest deposit encountered was mid orange brown clay with small fragments of chalk, 101, and was interpreted as superficial geology. This was overlain by 100, a layer of dark greyish brown, silty clay that was 0.30m thick and which represents the ploughsoil. No features of archaeological interest were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figures 3 and 6)

6.3 The earliest deposit encountered was the superficial geology 201, comprising light yellowish brown, silty clay. A straight, linear ditch [202], aligned northeast to southwest, was located towards the southeast end of the trench. The lowest deposit found was soft, light orange grey, silty clay 209, which was sealed by a dark grey brown, silty clay 208. This in turn was sealed by 203, a mid grey brown, silty clay (Plate 1). Fifty-six fragments of Middle Iron Age pottery, weighing 612g, and 12 fragments of fired clay, weighing 208g, were recovered from ditch [202]. The pottery assemblage included two different fabric-types, indicating at least as many vessels, and the fired clay was from a single object, most likely a triangular loomweight of a type which would have been used on a vertical, two-beam loom. These were found in association with 22 fragments of animal bone, an assemblage that included cattle and pig remains. An environmental sample taken from context 203 identified the presence of barley and wheat grains along with a significant amount of charcoal, suggesting it originated from a domestic hearth or midden.

Plate 1: Northeast-facing section of ditch [202] 1, scales 2m and 1m

6.4 Three parallel features, oriented north to south, were observed in Trench 2: two at the northwest end of the trench and one towards the southeast end. These corresponded with anomalies identified from the geophysical survey where they were interpreted as furrows. The southeastern one was investigated and indeed proved to be a furrow, [204], with a mole drain in its base. The other two linear features were of a similar form and composition and have been given the same interpretation.

6.5 In the centre of the trench was an east to west aligned, V-shaped ditch, [206] (Plate 2). It was filled by 207, a hard, dark grey brown, clayey silt that contained within it 19 sherds of 1st to early 2nd century early Roman pottery, and 14 fragments of animal bone from cattle and smaller, domesticates. A small quantity of cereal grains and charcoal were recovered from an environmental sample taken from this feature.

Plate 2: East-facing section of ditch [206] 1, scales 0.5m

6.6 Ploughsoil 200, a dark grey brown firm silty clay, sealed all archaeological remains within the trench. A post-medieval crotal bell was found during the removal of this layer.

Trench 3 (Figure 3)

6.7 A geological deposit of light yellowish brown silty clay, 301, was overlain by a 0.20m thick, dark, greyish brown, firm, silty clay ploughsoil, 300. No features of archaeological interest were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figures 3 and 7)

6.8 The earliest deposit found was superficial geology 402 comprising light yellowish brown, silty clay that extended throughout the base of the entire trench. Four parallel, straight, linear features were found running north to south in line with anomalies identified from the geophysical survey where they were initially interpreted as furrows. Feature [403] was investigated and positively identified as a furrow. All furrows were sealed by 401, a 0.10m thick layer of mixed, yellow brown, silty clay with frequent chalk fragments. Later 401 was overlain by ploughsoil 400.

Trench 5 (Figures 4 and 8)

6.9 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 5 was superficial geology 502, a light yellowish orange, silty clay with frequent limestone fragments. This had been cut into at the east end of the trench by ditch terminus [505], a northwest to southeast oriented, straight, linear terminus filled by 506, a compact, 0.26m thick, mid greyish brown, silty clay with frequent angular stone fragments (Plate 3). Four sherds of middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from this context, as were several pieces of charcoal from an environmental sample.

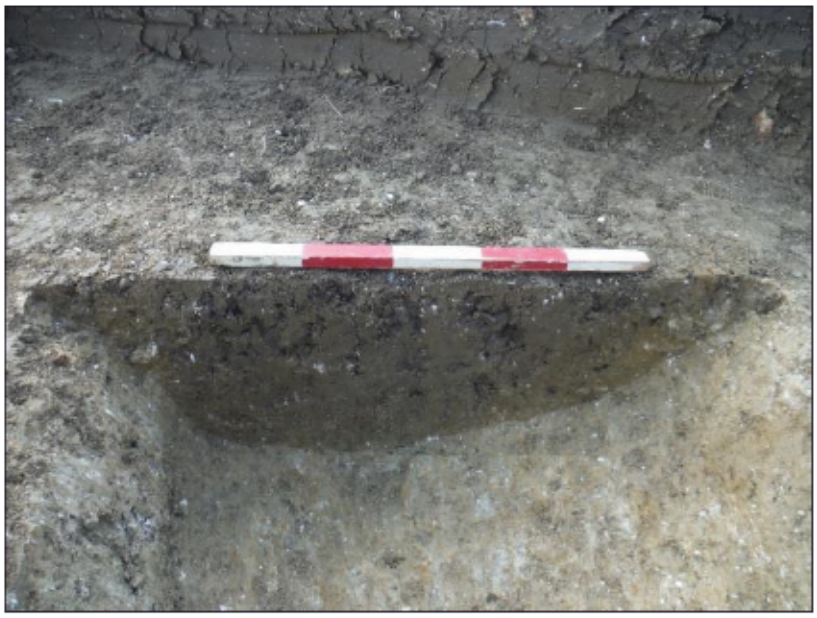

Plate 3: Northwest-facing section of ditch terminus [505], scale 0.5m

6.10 Ditch [503] was identified immediately to the west of [505], running northeast to southwest and with 0.28m deep, steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by greyish brown silty clay with charcoal

inclusions, 504, which contained within it six sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and three fragments of animal bone. Charcoal was also recovered from an environmental sample taken from this ditch.

6.11 Further west was ditch [509] (Plate 4), a northwest to southeast oriented linear ditch with fairly steep sides and filled by loose light greyish yellow clay 0.06m thick, 510. This was overlain by 511 a deposit of loose, mid grey, silty clay with brown mottling, 0.45m thick. In turn this was sealed by 512, a firm, orange brown, silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, 0.44m thick. Two small sherds of middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from contexts 511 and 512, as were three fragments of animal bone.

Plate 4: South-facing section of ditch [509], scales 2m and 1m

6.12 Ditch [509] was truncated by an east to west aligned furrow, [507]. All archaeological remains were sealed by subsoil 501 comprising light yellowish brown, silty clay. This was overlain by ploughsoil 500.

Trench 6 (Figures 4, 9 and 10)

6.13 The earliest deposit encountered was 602, the natural geology, comprised of light to mid yellowish brown, silty clay with frequent angular stone fragments.

6.14 A series of intercutting ditches was found at the northern end of the trench (Plate 5). The earliest of these was [608], a northwest to southeast aligned ditch, that was 0.86m deep with steep sides and a flat base. This was filled by 609, a 0.24m thick deposit of firm, light grey silty clay with orange brown silt laminations that produced a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery and a small quantity of charcoal. It was sealed by 610, a 0.50m thick fill of compact mid brown clayey silt with frequent small chalk pebbles. In turn, this was sealed by 615, a compact, mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional chalk pebbles, 0.17m thick.

Plate 5: West-facing section of intercutting ditches [608] and [611], scale 2m

6.15 Ditch [608] was truncated on its northern side by an east to west aligned ditch cut, [611], that had fairly shallow irregular sloping sides, and was 0.88m deep and 3.46m wide. It was filled by 612, a firm deposit of mid grey, silty clay with occasional small to large sub-rounded stones that was 0.40m thick, and which in turn was sealed by deposit 621, a compact dark brown clayey silt with orange striations which was 0.48m thick. Overlying 621 was 613, a compact deposit of light brown silty clay, 0.50m thick which may represent collapsed bank material. Seventy-three sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, weighing 728g, were recovered from ditch [611], and 57 fragments of animal bone, predominantly from large domesticated mammals including cattle and horse. Cereal grains, including wheat, and a large amount of charcoal were recovered from an environmental sample taken from context 612. This is likely to have come from a nearby domestic hearth or midden.

6.16 Ditch [611] had been truncated by ditch [620], a northeast to southwest oriented feature with gradual sloping sides and a narrow concave base, that was 0.24m deep and 1.48m wide. It was filled by 614, a single compact fill of mid to dark brown clayey silt which produced 12 fragments of animal bone, some identified as having come from cattle and horse, fragments of cereal grains and charcoal.

6.17 This sequence of intercutting ditches was truncated by furrows [616] and [618], to the north and south respectively. One other furrow, [622] located 4.6m south of [618], was investigated, and an unexcavated one was identified 11m south of [622].

6.18 In the centre of the trench, and running parallel to the line of the furrows was ditch [603] (Plate 6). It had moderately steep sides, a narrow rounded base, and measured 1.02m wide and 0.42m deep. It was filled by firm, dark grey, silty clay, 604, from which were found two sherds of middle Iron Age pottery.

Plate 6: West-facing section of ditch cut [603], scales 1m and 0.5m

6.19 To the south of [603] was a northeast to southwest oriented ditch, [624], that was 1.04m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled by firm, dark grey, silty clay with flint and charcoal inclusions, 625 (Plate 7).

Plate 7: West-facing section of curving linear [624], scales 1m and 0.5m

6.20 At the southern end of the trench was a large, east to west oriented ditch cut, [605], 2.70m wide and over 1.0m deep (Plate 8). It had steep sloping sides and was filled at its base by 606, a firm, dark grey, silty clay 0.74m thick which included chalk, flint, cereal grains and charcoal flecks, along with eight sherds of middle Iron Age pottery. This was sealed by a deposit of hard, light brownish grey clay 0.30m thick, 607.

Plate 8: West-facing section of ditch cut [605], scales 2m and 1

6.21 All remains were sealed by 601, a light yellowish brown silty clay layer of subsoil 0.12m thick. This in turn was sealed by 600, a layer of dark grey brown silty clay 0.32m thick layer of ploughsoil.

Trench 7 (Figures 5 and 11)

6.22 The earliest deposit encountered was geological in nature and comprised yellowish brown silty clay. A small posthole, [703], measuring 0.20m diameter, had been cut into the natural geology towards the southern end of the trench. It was filled by deposit 704, a firm, mid grey, silty clay that was sealed by subsoil 701, a yellowish brown silty clay, 0.12m thick that extended across the entire length of the trench. A 0.32m thick layer of ploughsoil, 700, sealed the subsoil.

Trench 8 (Figure 5)

6.23 The earliest deposit encountered was superficial geology comprising hard, mid orange brown clay with frequent angular and sub-angular chalk fragments, 802. Into this were cut three, roughly east to west oriented, furrows and a land drain on the same alignment.

6.24 The southernmost furrow, [803], was excavated to a depth of 0.30m and sealed by 804, a mid orange brown, silty clay with ceramic building material and sub-angular limestone fragments. Throughout the trench this was overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of subsoil, 801, which was sealed by ploughsoil 800.

Trench 9 (Figure 5)

6.25 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 9 was mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent chalk fragments, 902, and has been identified as superficial geology. This was overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of subsoil, 901, that was a light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments. This in turn was sealed by 900, a dark, humic silty clay ploughsoil 0.22m thick. No features of archaeological interest were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 10 (Figure 5)

6.26 Superficial geology in Trench 10 comprised yellowish grey clay with frequent chalk fragments, 1002. This was sealed by 1001, a 0.40m thick mid grey silty clay layer of subsoil that was overlain by 0.26m thick ploughsoil 1000. No features of archaeological interest were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

7.0 Discussion

7.1 The nature of the archaeological features investigated, together with the finds assemblage recovered, indicate that the footprints of the two proposed buildings lie within, or adjacent to, areas of middle Iron Age settlement: the pullet rearing building in Field 3 adjacent to Fairview Farm and the free range egg laying unit in Field 1 in the northern part of the site.

7.2 Anomalies identified on the geophysical survey and investigated in Trench 2 relate to a large middle Iron Age ditch associated with settlement activity that most likely lies to the east, beyond the scope of the survey. A smaller, Roman ditch was found next to it and probably represents a fragment of a later field system that also extends to the east.

7.3 The series of ditches recorded in Trenches 5 and 6, on the eastern side of Fairview Farm, were targeted on what appeared to be a later prehistoric or Roman enclosure, measuring at least 60m long and 25m wide. Trial trenching proved this to be the case by identifying what has been interpreted as a large, outer enclosure ditch ([509], [605] and [611]) with smaller internal features.

7.4 The features found in the southwest part of the site appear similar in shape and date to those found during excavations in Papworth Everard, approximately 2km to the northeast, where middle Iron Age roundhouses were found within a large enclosure ditch (Patten 2009).

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 Trial trenching revealed a total of 11 ditches and one posthole from four trenches, highly localised in the southwest corner (Field 3: Trenches 5 and 6) and in the northern part (Field 1: Trench 2) of the site. These features survived to a reasonable depth and were sealed by approximately 0.3m of ploughsoil.

8.2 The other evaluation trenches provided evidence of a negligible archaeological potential, producing only a very small quantity of scattered, worked flints and ceramic finds.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Bird Bros Limited for this commission.

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Appendix 1: Iron Age and Roman Ceramics

By A Peachey

Introduction

Excavations recovered a total of 171 sherds of pottery; the bulk of which comprised well-preserved but moderately fragmented middle Iron Age fabric and form types, with a single context containing fragments of an early Roman jar (Table 1). In addition to the pottery, 12 sherds of fired clay in a fabric comparable to the Iron Age pottery were derived from a triangular loomweight.

Ceramic type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Middle Iron Age Pottery	165	1471	0.3
Middle Iron Age Loomweight	12	208	NA
Roman Pottery	6	148	0.2
Total	***183***	***1827***	***0.5***

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by period

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification; in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995) and the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). Alpha-numeric codes were assigned based on the principal temper. A catalogue of the pottery, including fabric descriptions has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Fabric Codes and Descriptions

Middle Iron Age

SG — Common, coarse plate-like angular shell (1-3mm, occasionally larger); moderate medium grog (0.25-1mm). As Scotland Farm, Hardwick fabric S1 (Percival 2008, 2), and similar to Little Paxton SHCM (Hancocks 2011, 300).

CG — Common, coarse rounded chalk (0.5-5mm); sparse medium grog (0.25-1mm). As Papworth Fabric 5 (Thompson 2008, 17), and similar to Scotland Farm, Hardwick fabric Q6 (Percival 2008, 2).

QG — Common fine quartz (<0.25mm); rare coarse grog (<3mm). Similar to Little Paxton QUCF/GRCM (Hancocks 2011, 300), and similar to Scotland Farm, Hardwick fabric SG2 (Percival 2008, 2).

IQ — Common medium rounded red ironstone (0.25-0.75mm); common medium quartz (<0.5mm). Similar to Scotland Farm, Hardwick fabric Q9 (Percival 2008, 2).

G — Common medium-coarse angular grog (0.5-3mm); as Little Paxton GRCC (Hancocks 2011, 300) and Scotland Farm, Hardwick fabric SG4 (Percival 2008, 2).

Fired Clay — The fired clay also occurs as fabric CG but with chalk occasionally ranging to 10mm.

Romano-British

RE1 — Dark grey reduced ware; inclusions of common quartz (<0.25mm) and grog (<0.75mm). Little Paxton fabric E12/13 (Evans 2011, 307)

Fabric Code	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Middle Iron Age			
SG	79	710	-
CG	60	498	-
QG	21	173	0.05
IQ	3	75	0.15
G	2	15	-
Fired Clay	12	208	N/A
Roman			
RE1	6	148	0.3
Total	***183***	***1827***	***0.5***

Table 2: Total quantification of fabric types in the assemblage

Middle Iron Age Pottery and Loomweights

The bulk of the middle Iron Age ceramic material, including all diagnostic sherds, was contained in boundary ditch [202] and large linear ditch [611]. Five hand-made, bonfire-fired, middle Iron Age pottery fabrics were identified (Table 2); broadly comparable to the range present in assemblages from the west Cambridgeshire region, notably Little Paxton (Hancocks 2011), as well as Papworth, Cambourne and Hardwick. The fabric types appear to favour shell-temper over sand-temper, as is typical for the region (Percival 2008, 2) though this may be constrained by sample size (see below). The use of chalk-temper in fabric CG and the fired clay is indicative of the exploitation of local boulder clays, as noted at Cambourne (Leivers 2009, 74).

The proportions of these fabric groups is heavily biased by the presence of numerous cross-joining sherds from single vessels, including an un-identified CG vessel in ditch [202], and an SG vessel with a flat base in ditch [611]; both likely slack-bodied jars or bowls. However; the less common fabrics in ditch [202] include weak-shouldered jars with cabled rims in fabrics QG and IQ, comparable to middle Iron Age vessels at Little Paxton (Hancocks 2011, 101: fig.3.25.8) and Cambourne (Leivers 2009, 78: fig.31.34); while separate QG body sherds appear to from a decorated Hunsbury Bowl. Three, cross-joining body sherds exhibit curvilinear lines of tooled running scroll decoration, comparable to middle Iron Age Hunsbury bowls recorded at Northampton (Williams 1974: fig.14.38-40 and fig.35.28) and Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987, fig.33.54). Further small body sherds of prehistoric fabrics, almost certainly of middle Iron Age date were limited to a sparse distribution in other ditch features.

Ditch [202] also contained 12 fragments (208g) of fired clay, derived from a single fired clay object. The object appears to have been *c.*40mm thick, probably a triangular loomweight, though some form of oven furniture cannot be totally discounted. Middle Iron Age loomweights of this size have been recorded at Wardy Hill, Ely (Gdaniec and Lucas 2003, 193), and would have been utilised on vertical two-beam looms (Major 1982; Crummy *et al* 2007, 43)

Roman Pottery

Ditch [206] contained six cross-joining sherds of fabric RE1 from a single jar with an everted bead rim and plain shoulder cordon. The fabric represents a locally-produced coarse ware, and is comparable to 1st to early 2nd century AD vessels recorded at Little Paxton (Evans 2011, 237: fig.4.29 - R051.1), however this example is neatly wheel-made and unlikely to pre-date the Roman Conquest.

Research Potential

Archaeological evidence contributing to the understanding of the middle-late Iron Age in west Cambridgeshire has begun to fill in previous seeming gaps in settlement patterns in this region (Bryant 1997, 24–6; Medlycott 2011, 23–4), and to define ceramic traditions, in particular relative/contrasting to that in the Fens. This assemblage is of limited size and diagnostic value; therefore while it does provide an

addition to this data set, it does not have any potential for further analysis or reporting, unless subsequent investigations reveal a larger assemblage. The Roman pottery is of too limited quantity to justify further analysis, but probably comprises primary deposition related to occupation in the close vicinity.

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Pottery data: Quantification							Middle Iron Age												Roman	
					Total Pottery		SG		CG		QG		IQ		G		Fired Clay		RE1	
F	L	Seg	Description	Spot Date	*F*	*W*	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W
202	203		Boundary Ditch	MIA	*64*	*734*			34	377	18	149					12	208		
202	209		Boundary Ditch	MIA	*4*	*86*							3	75	1	11				
206	207		Ditch	1st-E2nd C AD	*19*	*185*			12	33					1	4			6	148
503	504		Linear Ditch	MIA	*6*	*21*			6	21										
505	506		Ditch Terminus	MIA	*4*	*25*			3	20	1	5								
509	511		Ditch	MIA	*1*	*2*			1	2										
509	512		Ditch	MIA	*1*	*3*	1	3												
603	604		Linear Ditch	MIA	*2*	*8*			2	8										
605	606		Linear Ditch	MIA	*8*	*30*	8	30												
608	609		Linear Ditch	MIA	*1*	*5*					1	5								
611	612		Large Linear Ditch	MIA	*37*	*427*	36	413			1	14								
611	613		Large Linear Ditch	MIA	*36*	*301*	34	264	2	37										
					183	*1827*	79	710	60	498	21	173	3	75	2	15	12	208	6	148

Fabric Descriptions	
Middle Iron Age	
SG	Common, coarse plate-like angular shell (1-3mm, occasionally larger); moderate medium grog (0.25-1mm). Similar to Little Paxton SHCM (Hancocks 2011, 300). SHCC/GRMM
CG	Common, coarse rounded chalk (0.5-5mm); sparse medium grog (0.25-1mm). Papworth Fabric 5 (Thompson 2008, 17). CHCC/GRRM
QG	Common fine quartz (<0.25mm); rare coarse grog (<3mm). Similar to Little Paxton QUCF/GRCM (Hancocks 2011, 300). QUCF/GRRC
IQ	Common medium rounded red ironstone (0.25-0.75mm); common medium quartz (<0.5mm). IRCM/QUCM
G	Common medium-coarse angular grog (0.5-3mm), as Little Paxton GRCC (Hancocks 2011, 300)
Fired Clay	As CG1, but from on object 40mm thick, probably a loomweight though no other diagnostic traits are extant
Romano-British	
RE1	Dark grey reduced ware; inclusions of common quartz (<0.25mm) and grog (<0.75mm). Little Paxton fabric E12/13 (Evans 2011, 307)

Table 3: Ceramic archive

Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery

By J Young

Introduction

Two sherds of pottery weighing 0.066kg in total were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered is of post-medieval date. The pottery was catalogued by ware (common name) and fabric type using mnemonic codenames. The assemblage was quantified within each context by ware and fabric type with three measures: number of sherds, estimated vessel count using sherds obviously and weight. The ceramic data including attributes such as decoration, condition and usage was entered on a Microsoft Access Database using ceramic codenames and a copy of this in available in the archive. Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and forms were identified using the Medieval Pottery Research Group's guide to the classification of forms (MPRG 1998; 2001).

Condition

The pottery is in an abraded to very abraded condition with sherd size falling into the medium size range (27g and 39g). The material is in a stable condition.

Overall Chronology and Source

The sherds, which are both in a poor condition, were recovered from the topsoil layer 100 in Trench 1. A rim sherd comes from a large Slipware (SLIP) bowl in a fine cream sandy fabric. The sherd is very abraded but traces of an internal yellow glaze remain. The vessel is typical of bowls of 18th to 19th century date recovered from other sites in Cambridgeshire and the East Midlands. The other sherd comes from the wall of what is probably a large Midlands Light-bodied Slipware jar (MLBSL). This vessel is also in a poor condition with little of the internal black glaze surviving. The jar is in a light orange fine sandy fabric and has a thin internal and external red slip. Such vessels date to the 18th or 19th centuries.

Summary and Recommendations

The two sherds of pottery recovered from the site are of post-medieval type and date to the 18th or 19th centuries. The poor condition suggests that they have undergone considerable post-depositional movement.

References

MPRG, 1998, 2001, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*, Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 1

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context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
100	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	fine cream sandy	large bowl	1	1	27	rim	very abraded; mainly spalled internal yellow glaze; 18th to 19th	18th to 19th
100	MLBSL	Midlands Light-bodied Slipware	fine light orange sandy	large jar ?	1	1	39	BS	Abraded; mainly spalled internal black glaze over nt and ext red slip; 18th to 19th	18th to 19th

Table 4: Post-Roman pottery archive

Appendix 3: Animal Bone

By T Kausmally

Introduction

This report is an assessment of the potential of a small number of hand collected animal bones. The remains were uncovered from 10 contexts excavated from a series of boundary ditches (Table 5). Subsequent to analysis, dating was suggested to be middle Iron Age and Roman with context 207 of a broader prehistoric date. A total of 119 non-human animal bone fragments were assessed.

No.	Context	Total NISP	Identified (NISP)	Percent identified
1	203	22	5	22.73
2	207	14	2	14.29
3	504	3	1	33.33
4	511	2	0	0
5	512	1	1	100
6	606	5	0	0
7	612	21	12	57.14
8	613	36	4	11.11
9	614	12	5	41.67
10	625	3	0	0
	Total	***119***	***30***	

Table 5: Summary of animal bone (NISP = Number of Identified Specimens)

Of 119 fragments present in the assemblage, 30 fragments (25.21% (30/119)) were identified to at least taxonomic level, 65.55% (78/119) were classified by size (small, medium and large) and 9.24% (11/119) were indeterminate.

For the purpose of this report all contexts have been summarised as being from a single phase due to the paucity in dating when analysis took place. Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of skeletal remains for each context and may aid further interpretation.

Methodology

The aim of this assessment is to identify the main characteristics of the site and establish the value of bone recording. The assessment follows English Heritage MAP2 (1991) and English Heritage Guidelines for assessment of animal bones (Baker and Worley 2014: 18–20).

Numbers of identifiable, ageable and measureable specimens were recorded, but not the detail of the individual bones. This was to allow an assessment of the quantity and quality of information available and its potential in a wider context. The report will further contain an approach, timeframe and cost for the analysis.

The small quantity of bone allowed for all fragments to be included in the assessment. The bone was identified using Schmid (1972) and Hillson (1996). Prummel (1987) was consulted for identification of foetal elements of mammal. Bird were identified with the aid of Cohen and Serjeantson (1996). Completeness was recorded to indicate parts presents such as distal and shaft, cylinder splinter or parts of skull present. The total number of identifiable fragments (NISP) was recorded for each context. Fragments not identified to Taxon were separated into size categories; Small (cat/rodent size), medium (sheep/goat/pig/dog size) and large (cattle/horse size). Indeterminate very small fragments were counted for each context.

State of preservation was recorded in a four stage system of preservation from excellent (surface clearly visible) to poor (unobservable surface). The presence of gnawing, weathering and erosion was further

observed. Skeletal completeness was recorded in 20% intervals. Butchery was recorded distinguishing knife marks, chop marks and helical breaks.

Identified elements were divided into three categories, to help identify areas of consumption versus butchery, craft/industrial activity and treatment of part/whole animals.

1. Cranial/teeth - Skull, Mandibles and maxillae with teeth, horn cores and atlas/axis.
2. Meat limbs - scapula, humerus, radius, ulna, pelvis, femur and tibia, meat-ribs/vertebrae.
3. Feet - carpals, tarsals, metapodials, phalanges.

Mandibles were considered "ageable" if they had one or more cheek bones (4^{th} deciduous/4^{th} premolar-third molar) in situ with recognisable wear on the occlusal surface, following Grant (1982) for cattle and sheep/goat and pig. Isolated teeth were considered ageable if they consisted of a 4th deciduous premolar, 4^{th} premolar or a 1^{st}, 2^{nd} or 3^{rd} molar with recognisable wear.

Bones were considered ageable if the state of epiphyseal fusion could be observed or if they consisted of foetal/perinatal remains, included where the bone ends were damaged or unformed to show the epiphyseal fusion. Age of fusion followed Sission and Grossman (Getty 1975).

Von den Driesch (1976) was used in assessment of measurable bones, excluding all unfused bones. Bones were considered measurable if one or more measurements could be taken.

The assessment has been recorded onto an MS Excel Spreadsheet.

Results

Preservation

Fragmentation of the skeletal remains was high 76.47% (91/119) were 0-20% complete and only 10.92% (13/119) were 80-100% complete (Chart 1).

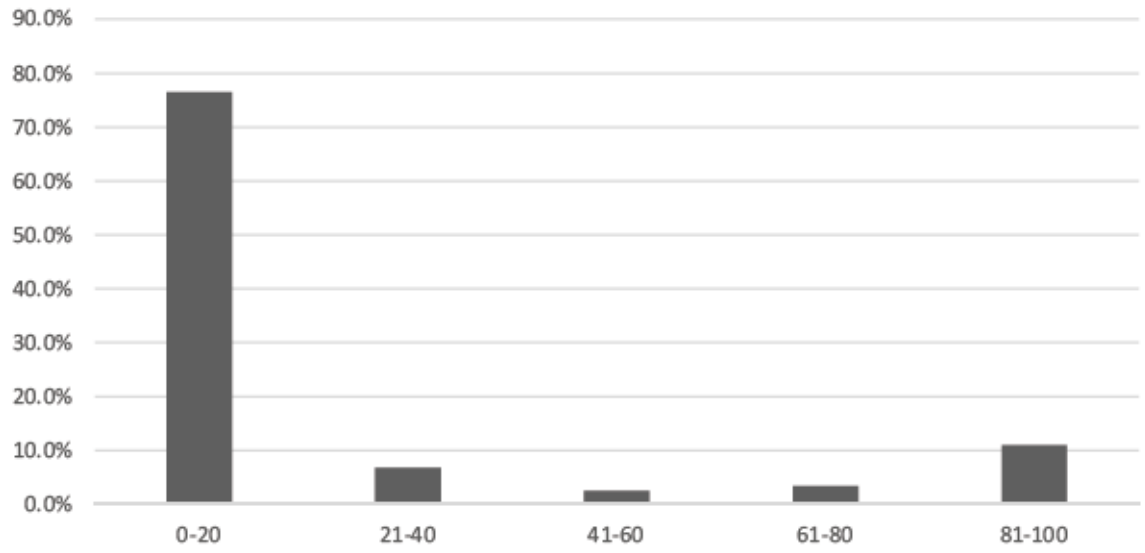

Chart 1: Skeletal completeness

A total of 80.67% (96/119) had an excellent or good surface preservation, allowing clear vision of surface modifications such as cut marks and pathologies (Chart 2). Marked weathering in the form of cracking and warping was not noted in any fragments whilst root marks were recorded in a small number of elements

(4.20% (5/119)), indicating rapid burial. This was supported by the amount if carnivore gnawing recorded, as only 1.68% (2/119) of the fragments both from context 203. Two fragments from context 511 exhibited a typical appearance of digested bone. No rodent gnawing was observed and no evidence of burning was present in this assemblage.

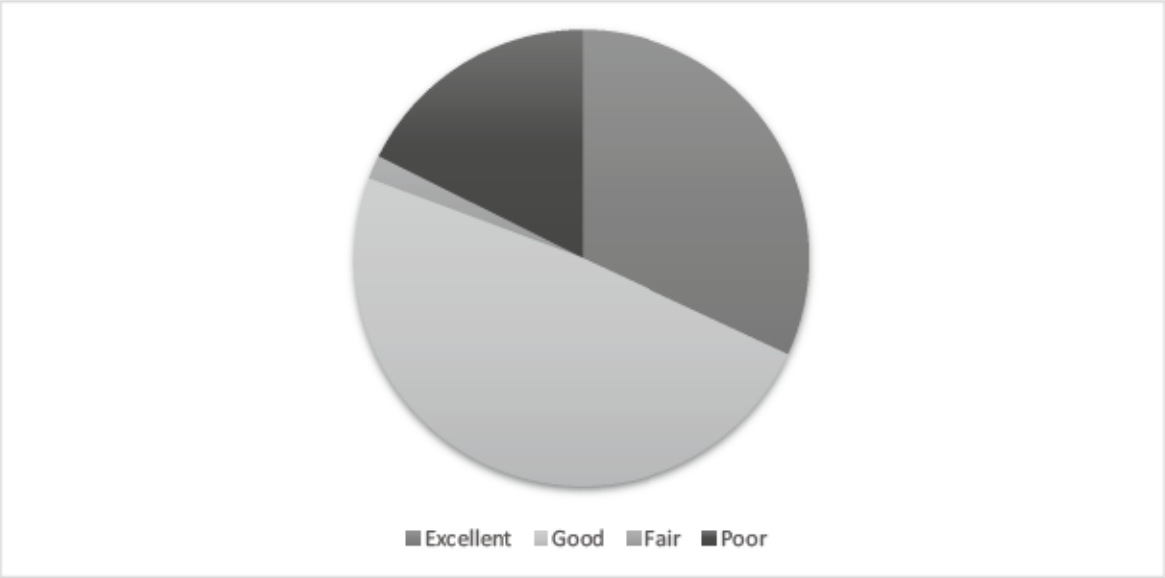

Chart 2: Surface preservation

Species present

From the 119 fragments present a minimum of 21 elements were identified to a minimum of 6 animals. Remains from three different domesticates were identified, cattle, horse and pig. No other domesticates could be positively identified at assessment stage, though fragments of shaft suggested the possible presence of either dog or sheep/goat. Wild mammals, fish or amphibians/reptiles were not present in the assemblage.

Cattle was the most frequent species (% 73.33 (22/30)) followed by horse (16.67% (5/30)) and pig at 10.00% (3/30) based on the NISP. This relative frequency changes based on the MNI with cattle being the most frequent (50.00% (3/6)) followed by pig (33.33% (2/6)) and finally horse (16.67% (1/6)).

Species	Latin name (species)	NISP	MNE	MNI
Cattle	*Bos taurus*	22	14	3
Horse	*Equus*	5	4	1
Pig	*Sus scrofa*	3	3	2
Medium mammal		37	-	-
Large mammal		41	-	-
Indeterminate		11	-	-
Total		***119***	***21***	***6***

Table 6: Number of Identified specimens (NISP), Minimum number of Elements (MNE) and Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)

Eleven ageable elements were identified (9.24% (11/119)). The majority of these were from cattle molars and long bone fusion. Measurements were limited to seven elements (5.88% (7/119)).

	Ageable	Measurable
Cattle	5	4
Horse	4	3
Pig	2	0
Total	***11***	***7***

Table 7: Number of bones with potential of providing age or metric data, context 11

Current results revealed all horse and cattle ageable elements were from mature individuals with fully fused long bones and worn dentition. The pigs exhibited a different pattern with erupting permanent dentition and unfused long bones of a near neonate individual.

Body Part Distribution

The body part distribution presented a near even distribution of high-meat and low-meat elements (Table 8 and * Long bones were fragments not specifically identified to meat limbs or feet. Indeterminate fragments (11) were not included.

Table 9). There was a very low presence of vertebrae for all species (1.68% (2/119)) whilst ribs were present in slightly higher numbers from both large and medium mammals (10.92% (13/119)). The number of bones present is too low to allow any clear cut distinction between different activities. It can only be concluded that, of the three domesticates, all parts of the animal appear to have been present on site, suggesting that both consumption and butchery were activities undertaken on site. There was no suggestion of any industrial activities.

	Cattle	Horse	Pig
Horn core	2		
Skull	1		
Mandible/teeth	7	1	1
Atlas			
Axis			
Scapula			
Humerus			1
Radius			
Ulna	1		
Pelvis			
Sacrum			
Femur	3		
Tibia	3	1	1
Fibula			
Astragalus	2		
Calcaneum	1		
Carpal			
Tarsal	1		
Metacarpal	1	2	
Metatarsal			
Lat. Metapodial			
Phalanx I		1	
Phalanx II			
Phalanx III			
Lateral phalanx			
Total	***22***	***5***	***3***

Table 8: Body part distribution of the three main domesticates in context 11

	Skull parts	Meat limbs	Feet	Long bones*	NISP
Cattle	10	7	5		22
Horse	1	1	3		5
Pig	1	2			3
Medium		14		23	37
Large	18	7		16	41
Total	***30***	***31***	***8***	***39***	***108***

* Long bones were fragments not specifically identified to meat limbs or feet. Indeterminate fragments (11) were not included.

Table 9: Body part distribution showing the NISP for skull parts, meat limbs and feet

Butchery

The presence of butchery indicators was very low with only 10.08% (12/119) of the fragments displayed either knife marks or helical breaks no chop marks were noted (Table 10). Fine parallel marks indicative of skinning was observed on one horse tibia.

Modifications	N	%
Knife marks	6	50.00
Chop marks	-	-
Helical breaks	6	50.00
Total	***12***	***100.00***

Table 10: Butchery modfications

Discussion of Potential

Dating suggested the site was predominantly from the middle Iron Age and Roman period. Context 207 is of broader possible prehistoric date. The only identified taxa in this context was cattle.

The fragmentation on this site was high with only 25% of skeletal fragments identified to taxonomic level. These revealed the presence of predominantly cattle followed by horse and pig. Ageing and metric information was very limited. Some medium sized fragments of long bones suggested the presence of possible dog or sheep/goat sized mammals, though the lack of morphologically distinct features did not allow this to be positively confirmed. The paucity of sheep elements is conspicuous, as these are frequently the most dominant species on Iron Age and Roman sites. The late Iron Age sites of Barrington (Davis 1995) and Wardy Hill (Davis 1999) in Cambridgeshire both had a prevalence of 50% sheep followed by cattle, pig and horse. Grant (1984) noted that sheep were particularly abundant in the first millennium of the Iron Age, which is inconsistent with the findings at Fair View Farm. It is more likely that the absence of identifiable elements from these animals were due to taphonomic processes such as attrition by dogs, given gnawing marks were noted on a small number of fragments from Fair View Farm. Grant (1984) also pointed out that wild animals were very rare on most Iron Age sites in Britain. This was consistent with the finding from Fair View Farm, though the lack of smaller wild species may be due to recovery methods on site.

The assemblage did not yield any new or unusual features. Butchery markers were infrequent. One tibia of a horse did exhibit fine skinning marks in context 613 (Middle Iron Age), indicating butchery of horses. Similar findings were observed at Roman levels at Tort Hill, Cambridgeshire where it was suggested that horses were butchered for human or dog consumption (Arabella 1997b).

The ageing information is limited but suggested fully mature cattle and horse whilst pigs were butchered at an immature age. This may suggest cattle and horse were used for traction and/or dairy whilst pigs were bred for consumption. There was no clear dominance of either low or high meat-yielding elements,

suggesting this was site was not of an industrial nature. The presence of neonate bone of pig may suggest that rearing, butchery and consumption all took place on site. This was consistent with findings at Barrington (Davis 1995), Market Deeping (Arabella 1997a), Tort Hill (Arabella 1997b) and Wardy Hill (Davis 1999).

Due to the small size of the assemblage any further analysis would be of very limited value, unless the site is deemed of specific interest, where information on the presence of species would add to the interpretation of the site. It is recommended that the assemblage be retained in the event of further excavations in the area, as it may prove a valuable addition to a larger assemblage.

References

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Von den Driesch, A, 1976, *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites: As Developed by the Institut Für Palaeoanatomie, Domestikationsforschung und Geschichte Der Tiermedizin*

Context	Species	Element	No. of fragments	Measureable	Ageable
203	Bos	Horn core	1	0	0
203	Bos	Horn core	1	0	0
203	Bos	Calcaneus	1	0	0
203	Lrg.	Ribs	2	0	0
203	Med.	Ribs	5	0	0
203	Med.	Thoracic	1	0	yes
203	Med.	Vertebrae	1	0	0
203	Med.	Long bone	8	0	0
203	Sus	Mandible	1	0	yes
203	Sus	Humerus	1	0	0
207	Bos	Premolar	1	0	0
207	Bos	Ulna	1	0	0
207	Lrg.	Mandible	2	0	0
207	Med.	Radius	1	0	0
207	Med.	Long bone	6	0	0
207	Unidentified	Unidentified	3	0	0
504	Unidentified	Long bone	1	0	0
504	Bos	Molar	1	0	0
504	Unidentified	Unidentified	1	0	0
511	Unidentified	Unidentified	2	0	0
512	Bos	Metacarpal	1	0	0
606	Lrg.	Ribs	3	0	0
606	Med.	Radius	1	0	0
606	Med.	Long bone	1	0	0
612	Bos	Tibia	1	yes	yes
612	Bos	Femur	3	yes	yes
612	Bos	Tibia	1	0	0
612	Bos	Molar	1	0	yes
612	Bos	Astragalus	2	0	yes
612	Bos	Tarsal 4th	1	yes	0
612	Equus	Metacarpal	2	yes	yes
612	Lrg.	Long bone	1	0	0
612	Lrg.	Long bone	4	0	0
612	Lrg.	Ribs	1	0	0
612	Lrg.	Long bone	1	0	0
612	Med.	Ribs	1	0	0
612	Med.	Scapula	1	0	yes
612	Sus	Tibia	1	0	yes
613	Bos	Tibia	1	yes	yes
613	Bos	Maxilla	1	0	0
613	Bos	Molar	1	0	yes
613	Equus	Tibia	1	yes	yes
613	Lrg.	Tibia	1	0	0
613	Lrg.	Long bone	1	0	0
613	Lrg.	Skull	1	0	0
613	Lrg.	Skull	1	0	0
613	Lrg.	Skull	1	0	0
613	Lrg.	Long bone	9	0	0
613	Lrg.	Skull	1	0	0
613	Lrg.	Mandible	12	0	0
613	Med.	Long bone	3	0	0
613	Med.	Ribs	1	0	0
613	Unidentified	Unidentified	1	0	0

Context	Species	Element	No. of fragments	Measureable	Ageable
614	Bos	Molar	1	0	yes
614	Bos	Mandible	2	0	0
614	Equus	Molar	1	0	yes
614	Equus	Phalange	1	yes	yes
614	Med.	Radius	1	0	0
614	Med.	Radius	1	0	0
614	Med.	Long bone	5	0	0
625	Unidentified	Long bone	3	0	0

Table 11: NISP by context

Appendix 4: Lithics

By J T Hogue

Introduction

Two lithic artefacts were recovered showing evidence of intentional working. Neither of these were diagnostic of a particular era, although indicate later prehistoric activity in the area. There were also nine unworked objects submitted for analysis, including one with evidence of burning. These were quantified and discarded.

Methodology

A catalogue of finds was compiled using recommendations for assessment stage lithic reporting established by Bradley (1998) and the standardisation terminology outlined by Butler (2005). This is the first stage reporting and involves establishing the quantity of material, likely date range(s), and potential for undertaking any further detailed analysis. A breakdown of artefacts types by context is given in Table 12.

Results

Trench 5

A fire-cracked stone was recovered from fill 512 of ditch [509]. It had reddened, irregularly fractured, and retained scales and pot lid fractures across all surfaces, suggesting it had been exposed to extreme temperatures. There was no evidence to suggest it had been intentionally heated.

Trench 6

Both the objects showing signs of intentional working were recovered from Trench 6.

There was one flake fragment recovered from fill 606 of ditch [605]. The edges of the piece were sharp and it did not appear to have been rolled. Furthermore, there was no evidence of post-depositional edge damage. It appears probable that the piece was recovered in situ. The object is not diagnostic of a particular era, although is prehistoric in nature.

There was also one blade recovered from fill 625 of curvilinear ditch [624]. It had crazing, small cracks propagating across the surface, indicative of having been heated, but was otherwise intact. It had relatively wide plain butt, prominent bulb, and marked point of percussion, consistent with having been struck using a hard hammer. It was quite a short robust blade measuring 40.0 x 18.2 x 7.2 mm, although had roughly parallel margins and arises indicative of indication blade manufacture. Based on the technological attributes, it might tentatively date to the Neolithic.

Discussion of Potential

There is no further potential for analysis due to the limited size and nature of the collection. However, the assemblage indicates the potential for uncovering finds of similar antiquity in the local area.

Significance of the Data

The collection indicates the presence of human activity in the local area during the prehistoric era and indicates the potential for uncovering similar finds in the area. If found in association with other dating evidence, it may provide a relative age for the features in the area. The assemblage is not of wider regional or national significance.

References

Bradley, P, 1998, 'Lithics from Evaluations – Help or Hindrance?', *Lithics,* 19: 87–92

Butler, C, 2005, Prehistoric Flintwork, Stroud: The History Press

Context	SF	Flakes	Blades	CTE	MB	Chips	Irregular waste	Cores	Tools	Other	Total	Weight (g)	Burnt unworked	Other unworked
207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
512	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (7.0g)	1
606	-	1 (flake frag)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13.8	-	5
612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
625	-	-	1 (blade w/burning)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6.7	-	-

Table 12: Lithic catalogue

Appendix 5: Metal Finds

By M Wood

Introduction

A mixed assemblage of metal objects was recovered during evaluation at Yelling.

Methodology

The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. A summary of the material is recorded in Table 13.

Results

Context	Material	Object	measurements (mm)	Wt (g)	Date	Comments
200	Cu alloy	Crotal bell	30x36x31	24	16th-18th c	One-piece formed crotal bell with two 'sound holes' in upper hemisphere and fractured lower hemisphere. Retains as-cast suspension loop. No makers mark
800	Cu alloy	Button	16mm diam	1	Post-med	Circular button with central depression and four drilled thread holes

Table 13: Metal finds

Discussion

This small assemblage contains two post-medieval artefacts, all found within topsoil. The button and crotal bell are not uncommon finds. The bell is reasonably complete, but lacking decoration and any makers' markings and so it is difficult to ascribe a date beyond a broad 16th–18th century range, with one-piece bells being cast from the 16th century onwards (Egan and Pritchard 1991).

Recommendations

The finds are in a stable condition albeit with some discolouration of the copper objects. None of the finds are of significance and they could be discarded or returned to the landowner.

References

Egan, G, and Pritchard, F, 1991, *Dress Accessories c.1150–c.1450*, London: Museum of London

Appendix 6: Environmental Remains

By V Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, with eight being submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in **Key** x = 1–10 specimens, xx = 11–50 specimens, xxx = 51–100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare, fg = fragment, b = burnt
Table 14. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and arthropod remains were also recorded.

Results

The recorded assemblages are all small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and in most instances are severely contaminated with modern fibrous roots. However, a small number of cereal grains and seeds are recorded, although most are puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded, although rarely as more than one specimen per assemblage. The assemblage from sample 9 (ditch [202] contains a possible asymmetrical lateral grain of six-row barley (*H. vulgare*) along with a spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base and seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae) and goosegrass (*Galium aparine*). Other seeds are very scarce, but sample 9 also includes a single sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet, and the assemblage from sample 2 contains a fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout along with small pieces of charred root or stem.

Other remains are also relatively scarce, although all assemblages (with the exception of sample 3) do contain small pieces of bone, many of which are burnt or calcined. Other remains include black porous and tarry residues (probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains), minute pellets of burnt or fired clay and small pieces of coal (coal 'dust'), although it is thought most likely that the latter are later contaminants within the feature fills, probably introduced via the bioturbation of the deposits.

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, shells of terrestrial, marsh/freshwater and brackish water snails are present within all assemblages, being particularly predominant within the samples from ditches [605] (sample 1), [620] (sample 6), [503] (sample 7) and [505] (sample 8). However, the material is relatively well preserved and it is thought most likely that all remains post-date the features from which the samples were taken.

Sample No.	**2**	**3**	**4**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Context No.	**606**	**609**	**612**	**614**	**504**	**506**	**203**	**207**
Feature No.	**605**	**608**	**611**	**620**	**503**	**505**	**202**	**206**
Cereals								
Hordeum sp. (grains)							xcf	
H. vulgare L. (asymmetrical lateral grain)							xcf	
Triticum sp. (grains)			xcf				x	
T. spelta L. (glume base)							x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x		x	xcffg			xx	x
Herbs								
Bromus sp.			x				x	x
Small Fabaceae indet.			x				x	
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love	xcf							
Galium aparine L.							x	
Wetland plants								
Carex sp.							x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils								
Corylus avellana L.	x							
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x	xxx	xx	xxx	xx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm		x	xx	xx	xxx	x	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	x		x		x		xxx	
Charcoal >10mm	x						x	x
Charred root/stem	x		x	x			x	x
Indet.seed/fruit frag.							x	
Other remains								
Black porous and tarry material	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Burnt/fired clay			x		x	x	x	
Burnt stone				x				
Bone	x xb		x	x xb	x	x xb	x xb	x
Fish bone							xcf	
Pottery								x
Small coal frags.	x	x				x		x
Small mammal/amphibian bones				x			x	x
Vitreous material					x			
Mollusc shells								
Woodland/shade loving species								
Clausilia sp.							x	x
Oxychilus sp.								x
Trichia striolata	xcf							
Open country species								
Helicella itala	x				x	x		
Pupilla muscorum	x			x	x			
Vallonia sp.	xxx		x	x	xx	xx		
V. costata	x			x	x	x		x
V. excentrica	x							
V. pulchella					x		x	
Vertigo pygmaea				x				
Catholic species								
Cochlicopa sp.	x			x	x			
Nesovitrea hammonis	x			x				
Trichia hispida group	xxxx	x		xxxx	xxx	xxx	x	x
Marsh/freshwater species								

Sample No.	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10
Anisus leucostoma	xx			xx	x			
Armiger crista			x					
Lymnaea sp.	xx			x	x	xx		x
Brackish water species								
Leucophytia bidentata								x
Sample volume (litres)	30	10	30	30	30	30	30	30
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key x = 1–10 specimens, xx = 11–50 specimens, xxx = 51–100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare, fg = fragment, b = burnt

Table 14: Plant macrofossils

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the assemblages are very limited in composition, it is tentatively suggested that the material which is recorded is probably derived from a low density of domestic hearth/midden waste, which appears to have been scattered across a wide area, thereby accidentally becoming incorporated within the ditch fills. There is certainly nothing to indicate that any of the remains are derived from the systematic disposal of refuse.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Bibliography

Stace, C, 2010, *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Appendix 7: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: allenarc1-265241

Project details

Project name	LAND AT FAIR VIEW FARM, YELLING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Short description of the project	Trial trenching revealed archaeological remains in the southwest and north of the site, totalling 11 ditches and one posthole. Eleven of the features dated to the middle Iron Age and one from the early Roman period. Trench 2 was positioned over a small geophysical anomaly that represents a probable Roman field boundary and a larger middle Iron Age enclosure ditch from which fragments of a triangular loomweight were recovered. Trenches 5 and 6 were focussed on a larger geophysical anomaly which, upon excavation, produced a relatively large assemblage of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone.
Project dates	Start: 22-08-2016 End: 26-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ELFV 16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/70216/SCOP - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Middle Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	COIN Modern
Significant Finds	CROTAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUTTON Post Medieval

Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Prompt	Scoping opinion
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE YELLING LAND AT FAIR VIEW FARM, YELLING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Postcode	PE19 6TW
Study area	438709 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 2677 6092 52.231451432179 -0.143552833293 52 13 53 N 000 08 36 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Allen Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Mark Allen
Project director/manager	Chris Clay
Project supervisor	Aaron Chapman

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING REPORT: LAND AT FAIR VIEW FARM, YELLING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Chapman, A. and Casswell, C.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Allen Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Lincoln

Entered by	Chris Casswell (c.casswell@allenarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	17 October 2016

OASIS:

Appendix 8: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Humic organic layer. 0.34m thick. Seals 101	Topsoil
101	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 100	Natural geology

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Humic organic layer. 0.28m thick. Seals 201	Topsoil
201	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 200	Natural geology
202	Cut	Northwest-southeast oriented linear ditch with sharp, steep edges and a gradual break of slope. 1.88m wide x 0.96m deep. Filled by 209, cut into 201	Cut of possible boundary ditch
203	Fill	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, daub and flint fragments. 0.46m thick. Sealed by 200, seals 208	Uppermost fill of [202]
204	Cut	Northeast-southwest oriented linear ditch with shallow, concave sides, gentle break of slope and a flat base. 1.8m wide x 0.24m deep. Filled by 205, cut into 201	Cut of furrow with a mole drain running through it
205	Fill	Compact, mid orangey brown, silty clay with frequent burnt clay, occasional small angular flint and occasional small chalk fragments. 0.24m thick. Sealed by 200, seals [204]	Fill of furrow [204]
206	Cut	East-west oriented linear ditch with steep, straight edges, a sharp break of slope and a concave base. 0.9m wide x 0.6m deep. Filled by 207, cut into 201	Cut of ditch
207	Fill	Hard, dark greyish brown, clayey silt with frequent small, sub angular flint fragments and charcoal. 0.6m thick. Sealed by 200, seals [206]	Fill of ditch [206]
208	Fill	Firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and daub fragments. 0.4m thick. Sealed by 203, seals 209	Second fill of [202]
209	Fill	Friable, light orangey grey, silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal fragments. 0.52m–0.1m thick. Sealed by 208, seals [202]	Lower fill of [202], unknown if this is the basal fill as extended beyond safe limit of excavation

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Humic organic plough soil. 0.2m thick. Seals 301	Topsoil
301	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 300	Natural geology

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
400	Layer	Humic organic plough soil. 0.3m thick. Seals 401	Topsoil
401	Layer	Mixed chalky subsoil. 0.08m thick. Sealed by 400, seals 402	Subsoil
402	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 401	Natural geology

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
403	Cut	North-south oriented linear ditch with shallow, concave sides, a gentle break of slope and a flat base. 1.8m wide x 0.4m deep. Filled by 404, cut into 402	Cut of furrow
404	Fill	Clayey silt with frequent post-Medieval brick fragments. 0.4m thick. Sealed by 401, seals [403]	Single fill of furrow [403]

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
500	Layer	Humic organic plough soil. 0.2m thick. Seals 501	Topsoil
501	Layer	Mixed chalky subsoil. 0.1m thick. Sealed by 500, seals 502	Subsoil
502	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 501	Natural geology
503	Cut	Northeast-southwest oriented linear ditch. Steep, concave sides with gentle break of slope and a flat base. 0.7m wide x 0.28m deep. Filled by 504, cut into 502	Cut of linear ditch
504	Fill	Compact, mid greyish brown, silty clay with frequent small angular flint, charcoal flecks, chalk fragments and a single large (0.2m) sub rounded quartzite pebble. Sealed by 501, fills [503]	Single fill of linear ditch [503]
505	Cut	Northwest-southeast oriented linear ditch with a steep, slightly convex northeast side and a moderately steep, concave Southwestern side, a gentle break of slope and flat base. 0.82m wide x 0.26m deep	Terminus of linear ditch
506	Fill	Compact, mid greyish brown, silty clay with frequent small angular flint and chalk fragments, occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional small sub rounded stones. 0.26m thick. Sealed by 501, fills [505]	Fill of ditch terminus [505]
507	Cut	East-west oriented linear ditch with shallow, uneven sides and base. 1.7m wide x 0.12m deep. Filled by 508, cut into 502	Cut of linear furrow
508	Fill	Loose light brown silty sandy clay with small chalk and flint fragments. 0.12m thick. Sealed by 501, fills [507]	Fill of furrow [507]
509	Cut	North-south oriented linear ditch, steep, concave sides. 2.28m wide x 0.8m deep. Filled by 510, cut into 502	Cut of linear ditch
510	Fill	Loose, light greyish yellow, silty clay with frequent small angular flint fragments and sub-angular chalk fragments. 0.06m thick Sealed by 511, fills [509]	Lower excavated fill of ditch [509]
511	Fill	Loose, mid grey and brown mottled, silty clay with occasional small angular flint fragments, occasional small sub-angular chalk fragments and occasional medium angular sandstone fragments. 0.45m thick. Sealed by 512, seals 510	Mid fill of ditch [509]
512	Fill	Loose light brown and grey mottled silty clay with frequent small angular chalk and flint fragments. 0.44m thick. Sealed by 501, seals 511	Upper fill of ditch [509]

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
600	Layer	Humic organic plough soil. 0.28m thick. Seals 601	Topsoil
601	Layer	Mixed chalky subsoil. 0.1m thick. Sealed by 600, seals 602	Subsoil
602	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 601	Natural geology
603	Cut	East-west oriented linear ditch with moderately steep concave sides with a step towards the base, gentle break of slope and a concave base. 1.04m wide x 0.42m deep. Filled by 604, cut into 602	Cut of linear ditch

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
604	Fill	Compact, dark greyish brown, silty clay with frequent small angular flint, small sub-rounded chalk, occasional charcoal flecks and very occasional small sub-rounded stones. 0.42m thick. Sealed by 600, fills [603]	Fill of ditch [603]
605	Cut	East-west oriented linear ditch with steep concave northern side and a steep convex Southern side, base not excavated. 2.7m wide x 1.05m deep Filled by 606, cut into 602	Cut of linear ditch
606	Fill	Firm, dark grey, silty clay with frequent small and medium sub angular flint fragments, small chalk fragments and frequent charcoal flecks. 0.8m thick Sealed by 607, fills [605]	Lower excavated fill of ditch [605]
607	Fill	Hard light brownish grey clay with frequent small and medium sub angular chalk and flint fragments, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.22m thick. Sealed by 601, seals 606	Upper fill of ditch [605]
608	Cut	Northwest-southeast oriented linear ditch with steep, concave edges, a sharp break of slope to a concave base. 1.0m wide x 1.3m deep. Filled by 609, cut into 602	Cut of linear ditch
609	Fill	Firm light grey and orange mottled silty clay. 0.24m thick. Sealed by 610, fills [608]	Basal fill of [608]
610	Fill	Compact mid brown clayey silt with frequent small chalk fragments. 0.5m thick. Sealed by 615, seals 609	Mid fill of [608]
611	Cut	Northeast-Southwest oriented linear ditch with shallow concave sides 3.5m wide x 1.5m deep. Filled by 612, cut into 610	Cut of large linear ditch
612	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay with infrequent small stones and flint fragments, and frequent large stones. 0.4m thick. Sealed by 621, fills [611]	Basal fill of large linear ditch [611]
613	Fill	Compact, light brownish yellow, silty clay with very frequent chalk fragments and occasional small flint fragments. 0.52m thick. Sealed by 620, seals 621	Upper mid fill of large linear ditch [611]
614	Fill	Compact, dark brown, clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments, flint and occasional small sub-rounded stones. 0.44m thick. Sealed by [616], fills [620]	Fill of ditch [620]
615	Fill	Compact, mid brown, clayey silt with infrequent chalk pebbles and flint fragments. 0.17m thick. Sealed by 613, seals 610	Upper fill of ditch [608]
616	Cut	East-west oriented linear ditch with shallow, concave edges, a gentle break of slope and a concave base. 1.2m wide x 0.15m deep. Filled by 617, cut into 614	Cut of furrow
617	Fill	Compact, light orangey brown, silty clay with occasional small sub rounded pebbles and chalk fragments. 0.15m thick. Sealed by 601, fills [616]	Fill of furrow [616]
618	Cut	East-west oriented linear ditch with shallow, concave edges, a gentle break of slope and a concave base. 1.2m wide x 0.14m deep. Filled by 619, cut into 615	Cut of furrow
619	Fill	Compact, light orangey brown, silty clay with occasional small sub rounded pebbles and chalk fragments. 0.14m thick. Sealed by 601, fills [618]	Fill of furrow [618]
620	Cut	Northeast-southwest oriented linear ditch with steep, straight sides, a sharp break of slope and a narrow concave base. 1.5m wide x 0.44m deep. Filled by 614, cut into 613	Cut of linear ditch
621	Fill	Compact, dark brownish orange, clayey silt with occasional chalk and flint fragments. 0.44m thick. Sealed by 613, seals 612	Lower mid fill of large linear ditch [611]
622	Cut	Northwest-southeast oriented linear ditch with shallow, concave edges, gradual break of slope and an irregular base. 1.44m wide x 0.32m deep. Filled by 623, cut into 602	Cut of furrow

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
623	Fill	Compact, mid yellowish brown with light orange mottling, silty clay with frequent small angular flint, small rounded chalk and occasional charcoal flecks. 0.32m thick. Sealed by 601, fills [622]	Fill of furrow [622]
624	Cut	North-east to south-west oriented curvilinear ditch with steep, straight sides, a gradual break of slope to a flat base. 1.04m wide x 0.28m deep. Filled by 625, cut into 602	Cut of curvilinear ditch
625	Fill	Firm, dark grey, silty clay with frequent small to medium angular flint fragments and occasional charcoal and manganese flecks. 0.28m thick. Sealed by 601, fills [624]	Fill of curvilinear ditch [624]

Trench7

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
700	Layer	Humic, organic plough soil. 0.28m thick. Seals 701	Topsoil
701	Layer	Mixed chalky subsoil. 0.06m thick. Sealed by 700, seals 702	Subsoil
702	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 701	Natural geology
703	Cut	North-south oriented sub circular pit with steep sides, gentle break of slope and a concave base. 0.4m long x 0.2m wide x 0.2m deep. Filled by 704, cut into 702	Cut of possible post hole
704	Fill	Firm, mid grey, silty clay. 0.2m thick. Sealed by 701, fills [703]	Fill of possible post hole [703]

Trench 8

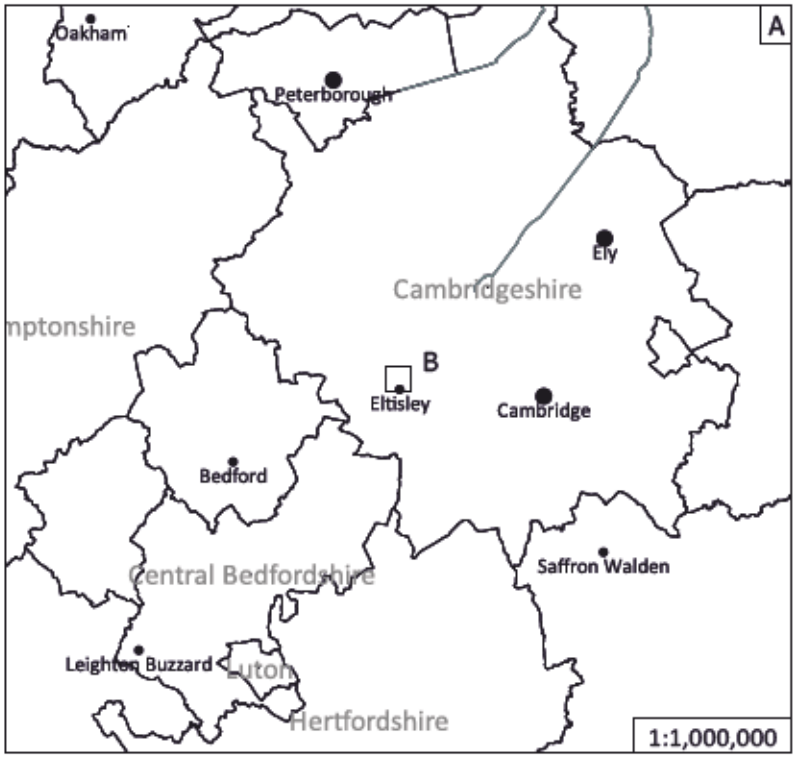
Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
800	Layer	Humic, organic plough soil. 0.28m thick. Seals 801	Topsoil
801	Layer	Mixed chalky subsoil. 0.08m thick. Sealed by 800, seals 802	Subsoil
802	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 801	Natural geology
803	Cut	Northwest-southeast oriented linear ditch with moderately steep, stepped sides with a sharp break of slope and flat base. 1.0m wide x 0.3m deep. Filled by 804, cut into 802	Cut of furrow
804	Fill	Mixed, silty clay with glass and CBM. 0.3m thick. Sealed by 801, fills [803]	Fill of furrow [803]

Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
900	Layer	Humic, organic plough soil. 0.20m thick. Seals 901	Topsoil
901	Layer	Mixed chalky subsoil. 0.1m thick. Sealed by 900, seals 901	Subsoil
902	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 901	Natural geology

Trench 10

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
1000	Layer	Humic, organic plough soil. 0.26m thick. Seals 1001	Topsoil
1001	Layer	Mixed chalky subsoil. 0.3m thick. Sealed by 1000, seals 1001	Subsoil
1002	Layer	Hard clay with chalk inclusions. Sealed by 1001	Natural geology



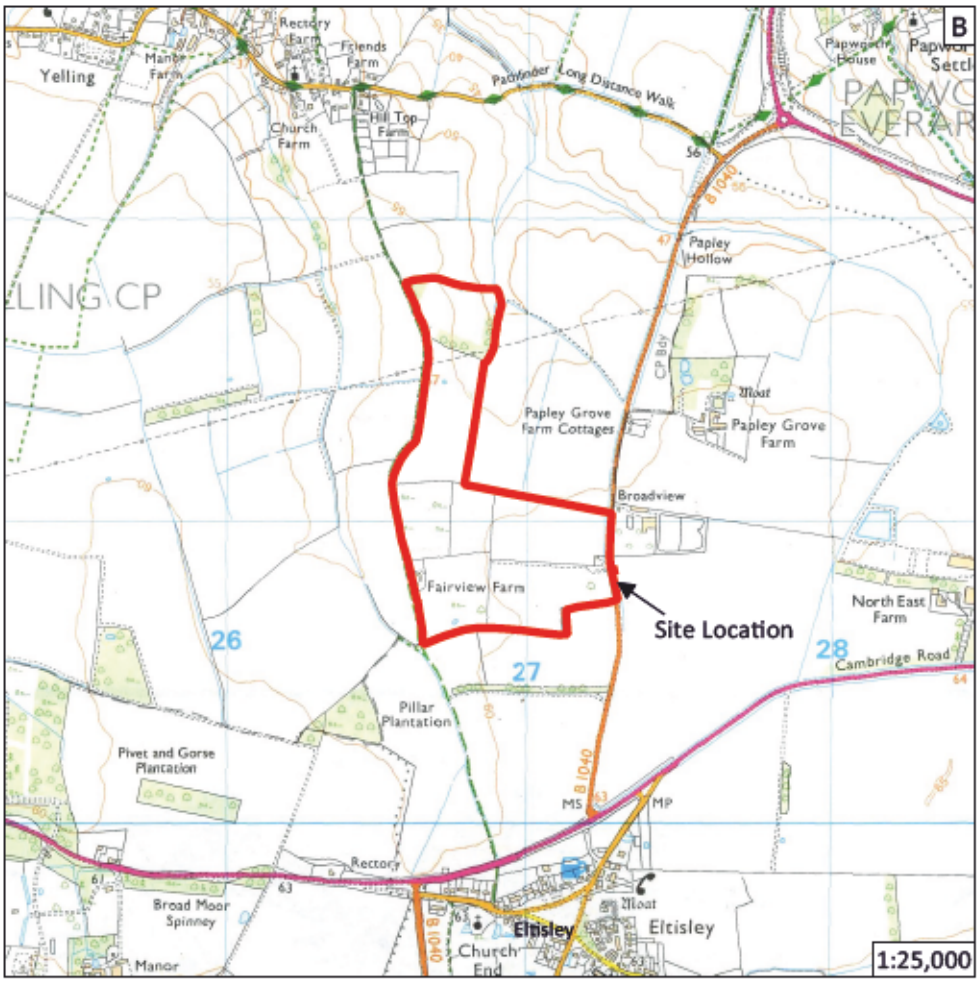


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

Site Code	ELFV 16
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	08/04/16

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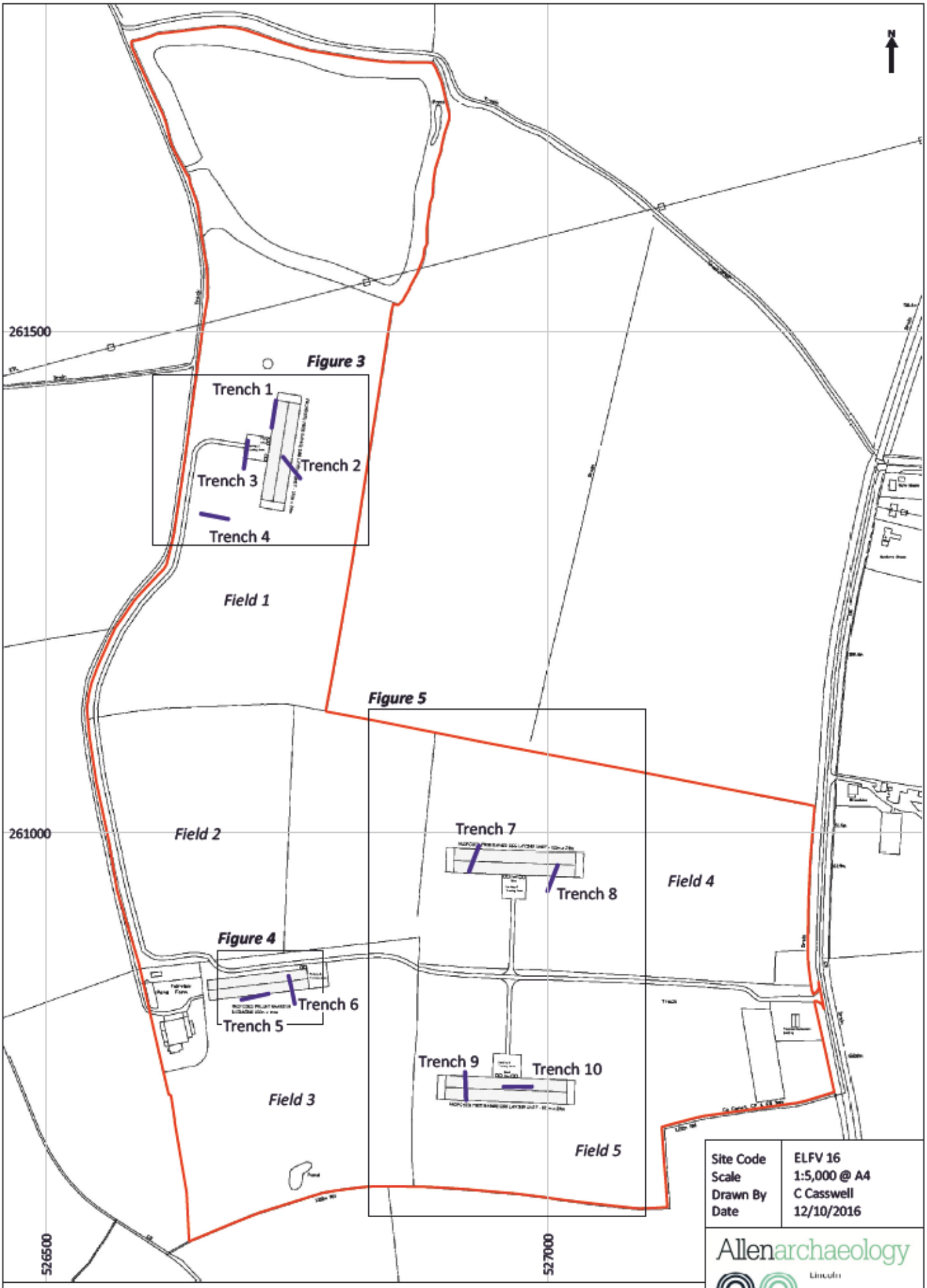

Site Code	ELFV 16
Scale	1:5,000 @ A4
Drawn By	C Casswell
Date	12/10/2016

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Figure 2: Location of evaluation trial trenches (in blue) in relation to proposed development

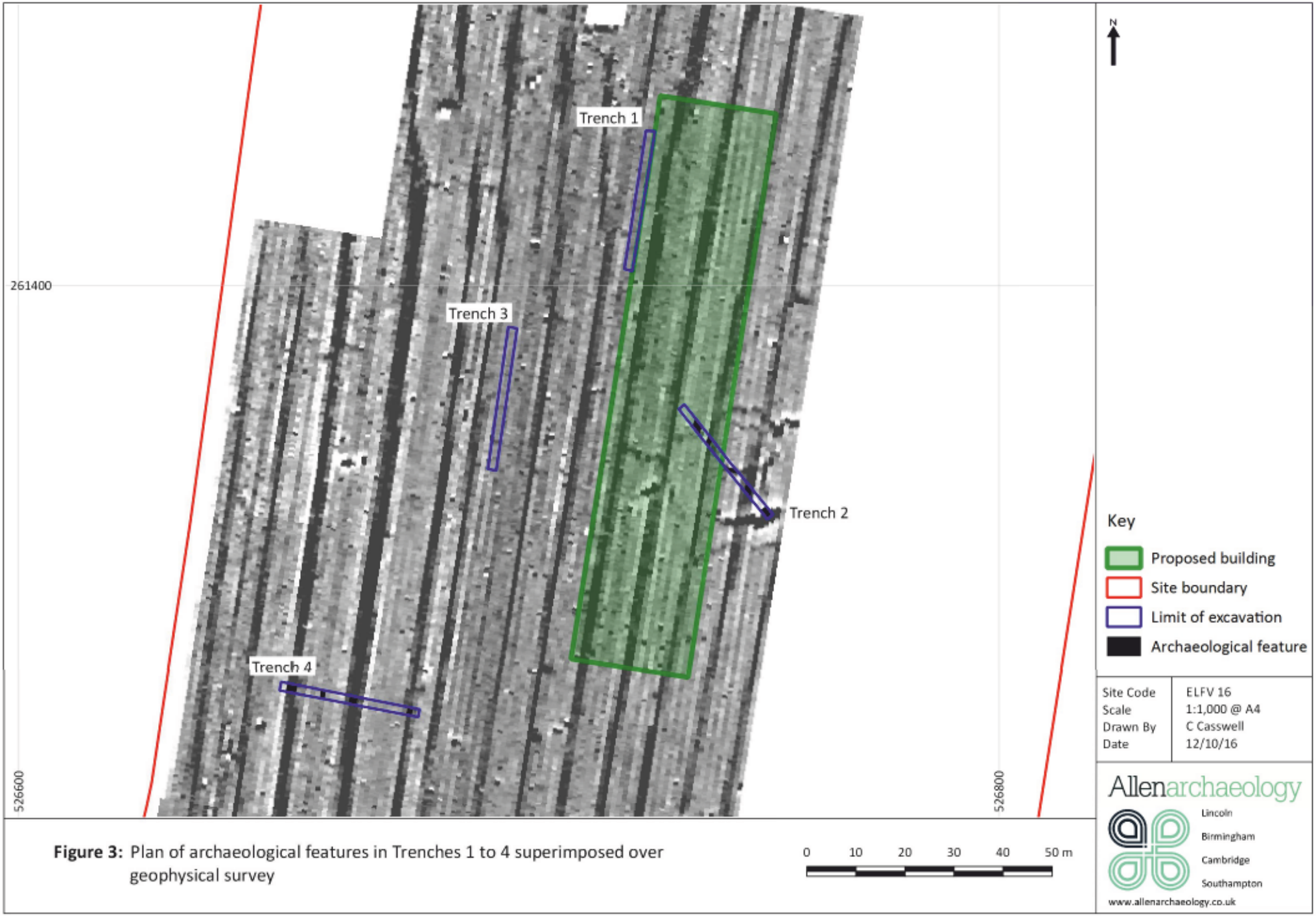


Figure 3: Plan of archaeological features in Trenches 1 to 4 superimposed over geophysical survey

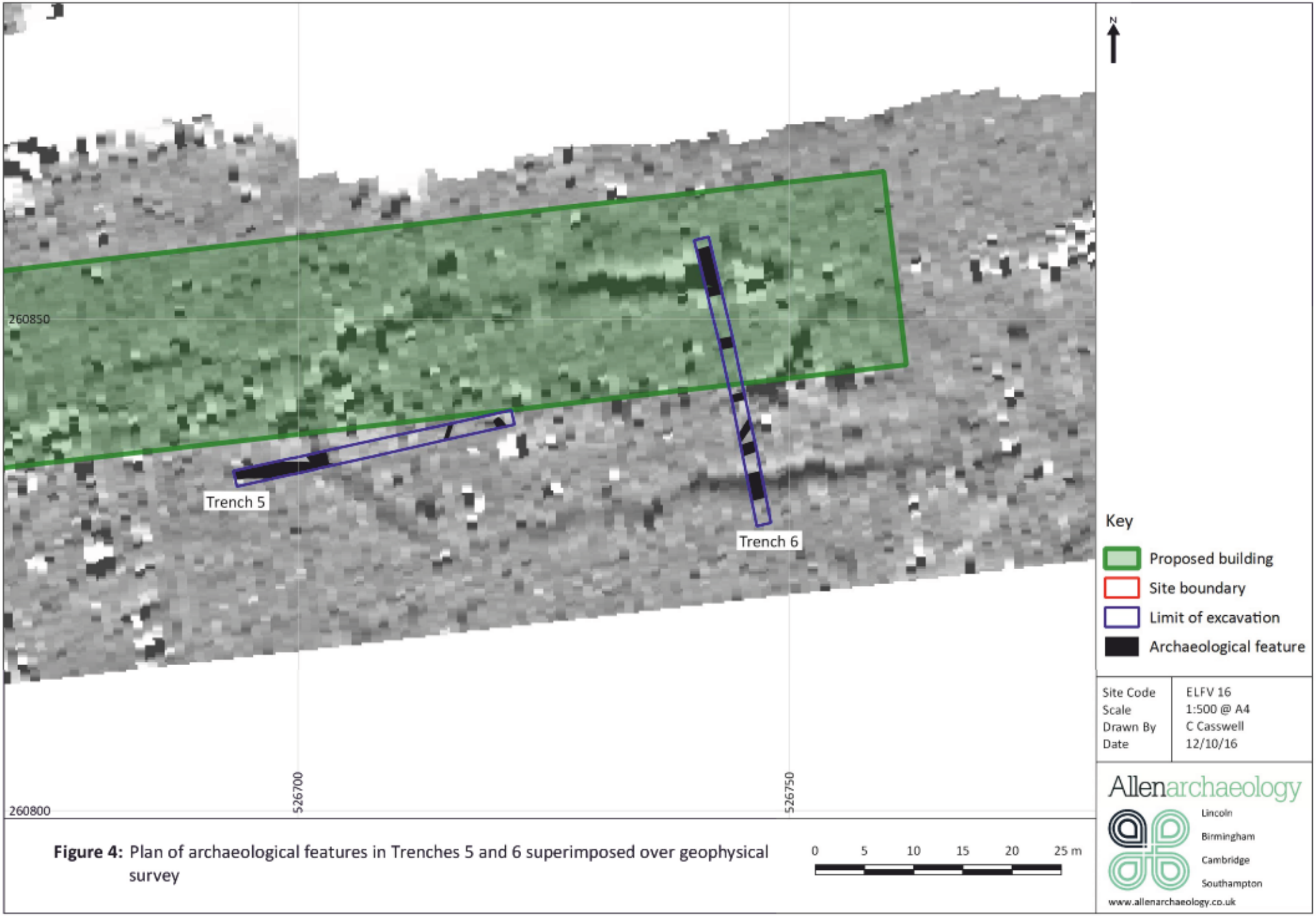
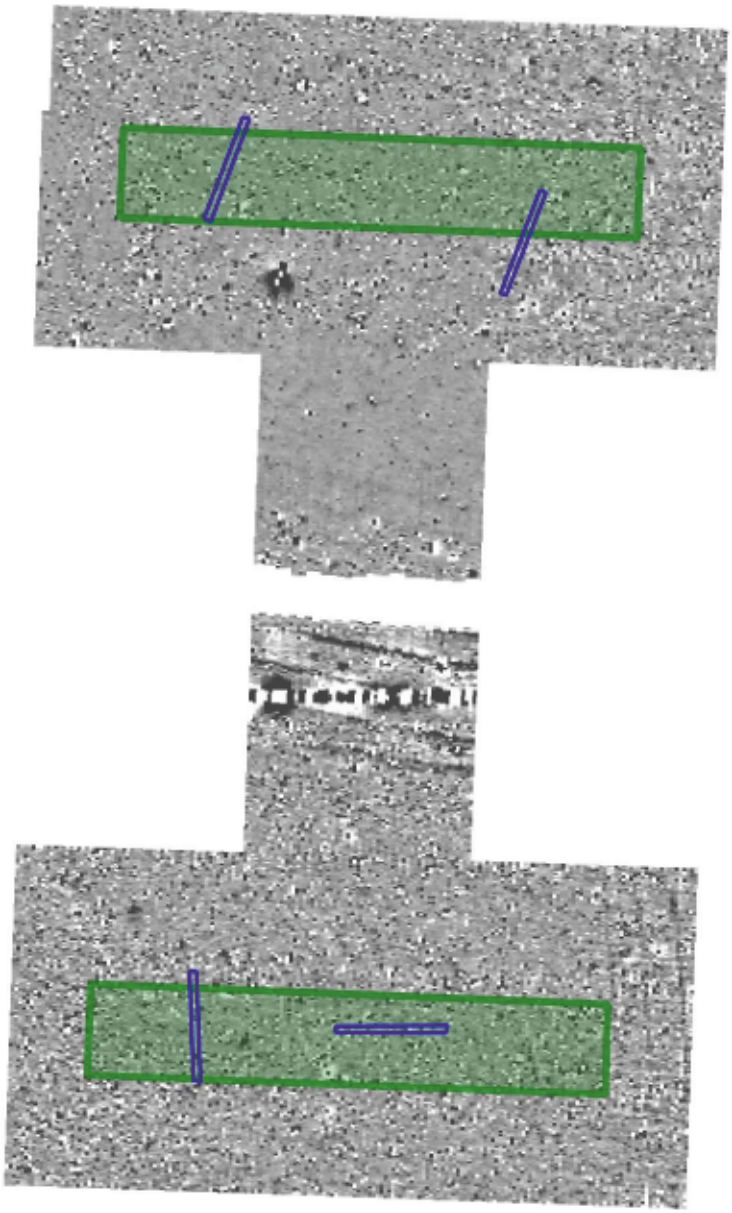


Figure 4: Plan of archaeological features in Trenches 5 and 6 superimposed over geophysical survey



N

Key

- Proposed building
- Site boundary
- Limit of excavation

Site Code	ELFV 16
Scale	1:2,000 @ A4
Drawn By	C Casswell
Date	12/10/2016

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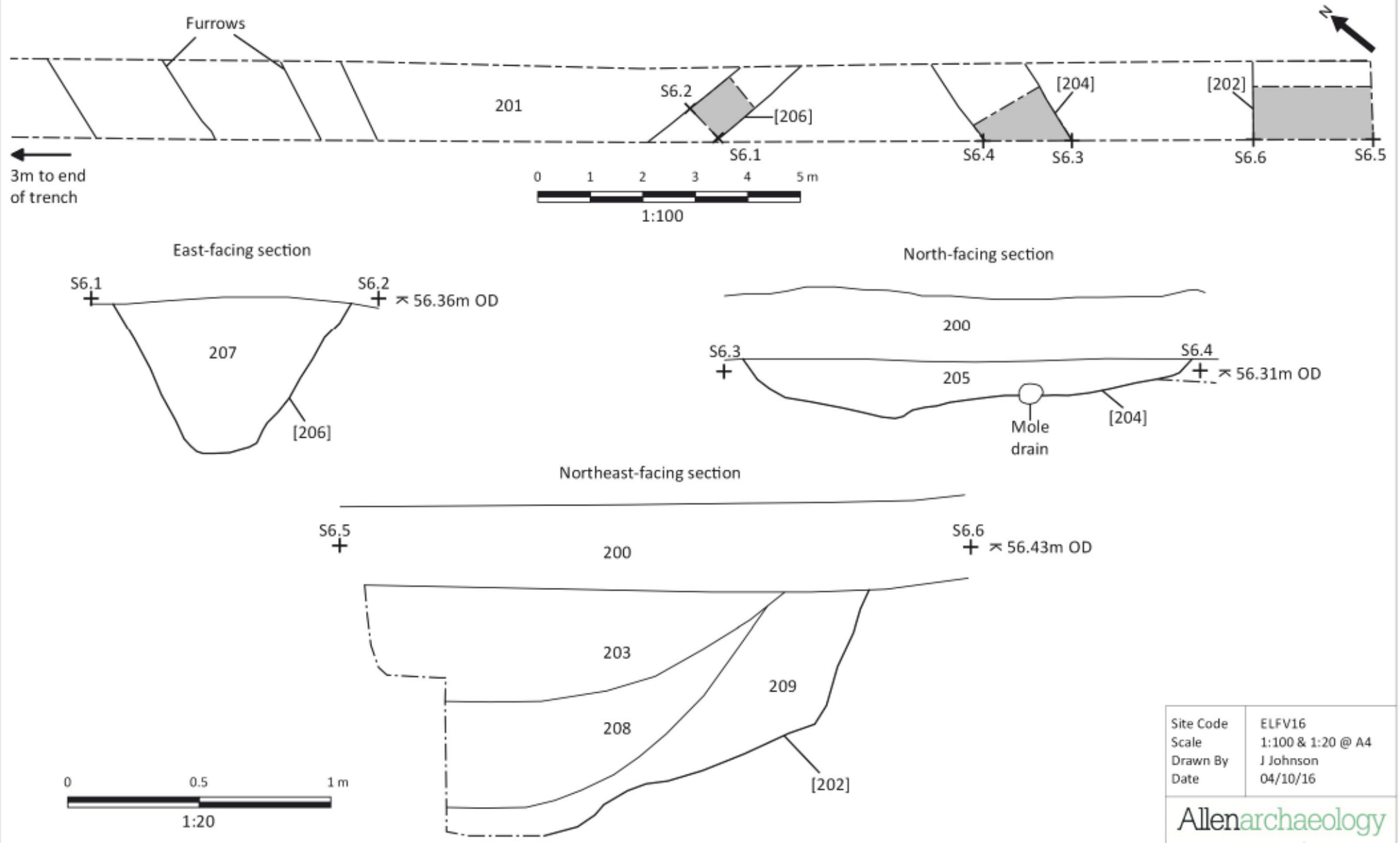
0 20 40 60 80 100 m

Figure 5: Plan of Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 10 superimposed over geophysical survey



Site Code	ELFV16
Scale	1:100 & 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	J Johnson
Date	04/10/16

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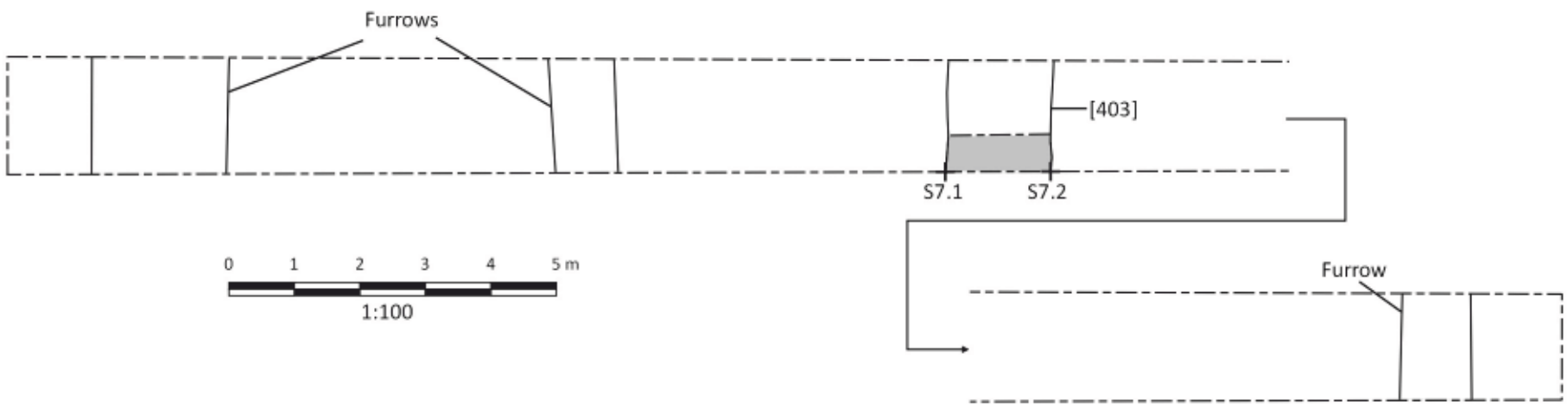
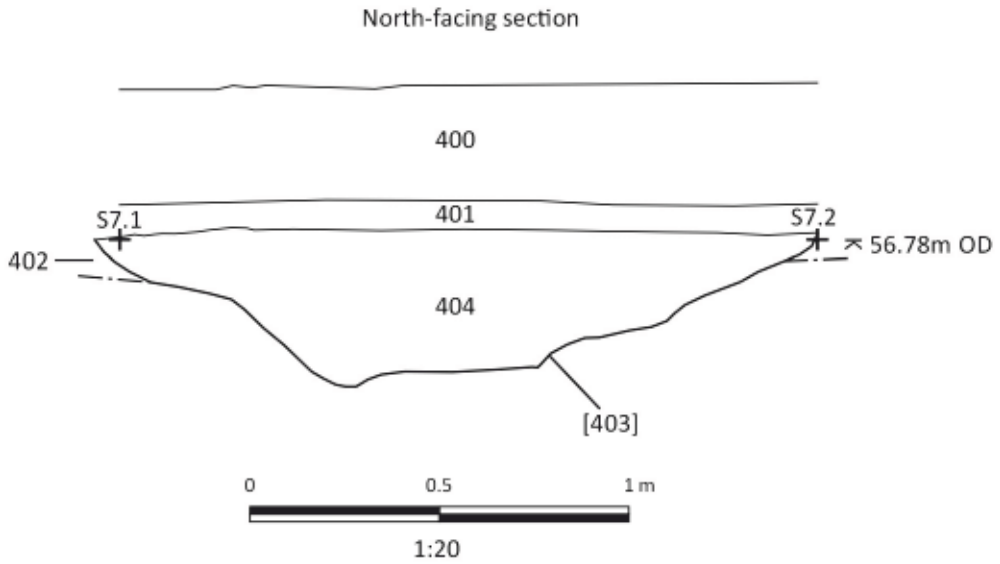
Figure 6: Trench 2 plan and sections





Site Code	ELFV16
Scale	1:100 & 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	J Johnson
Date	04/10/16

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Figure 7: Trench 4 plan and section

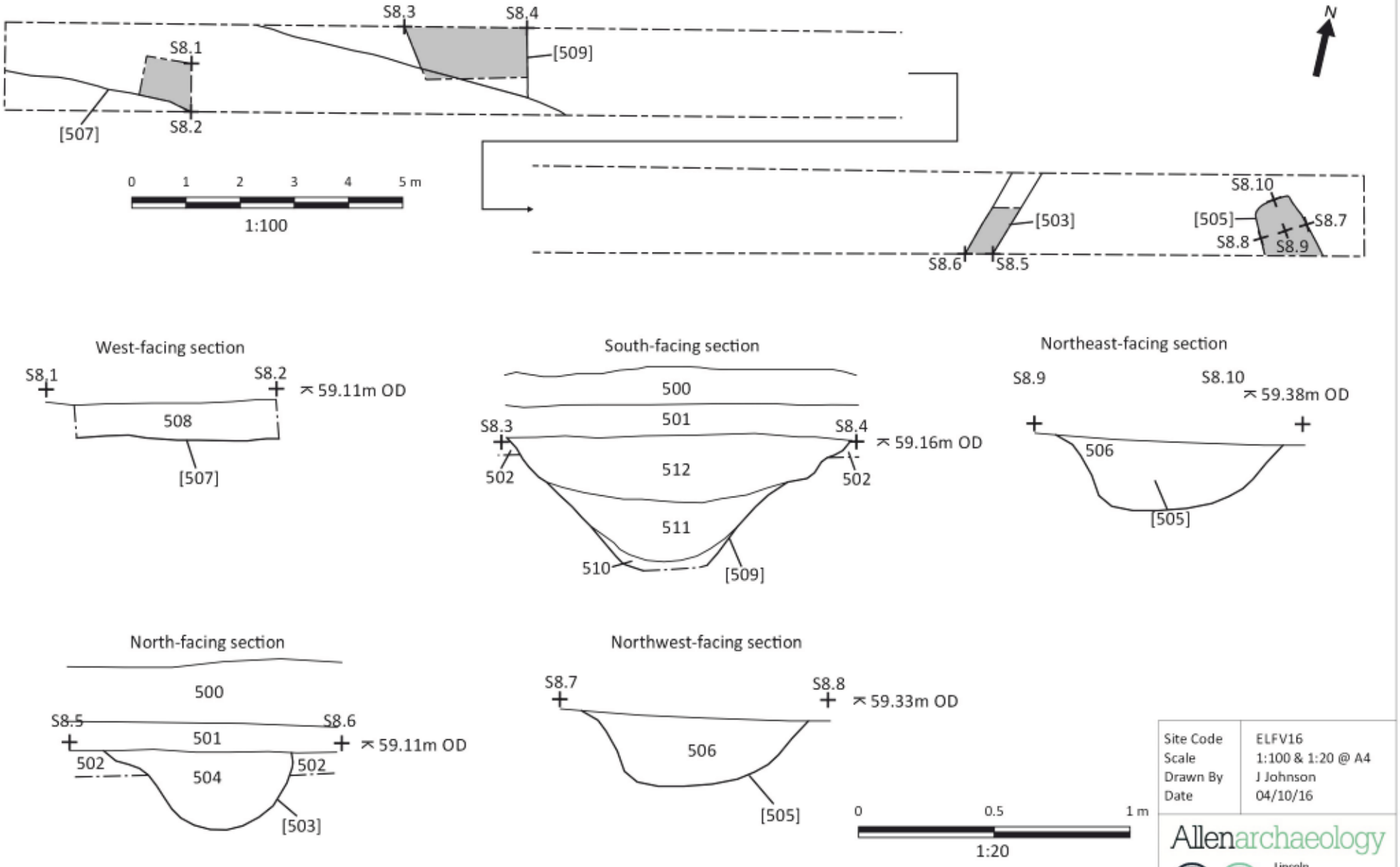
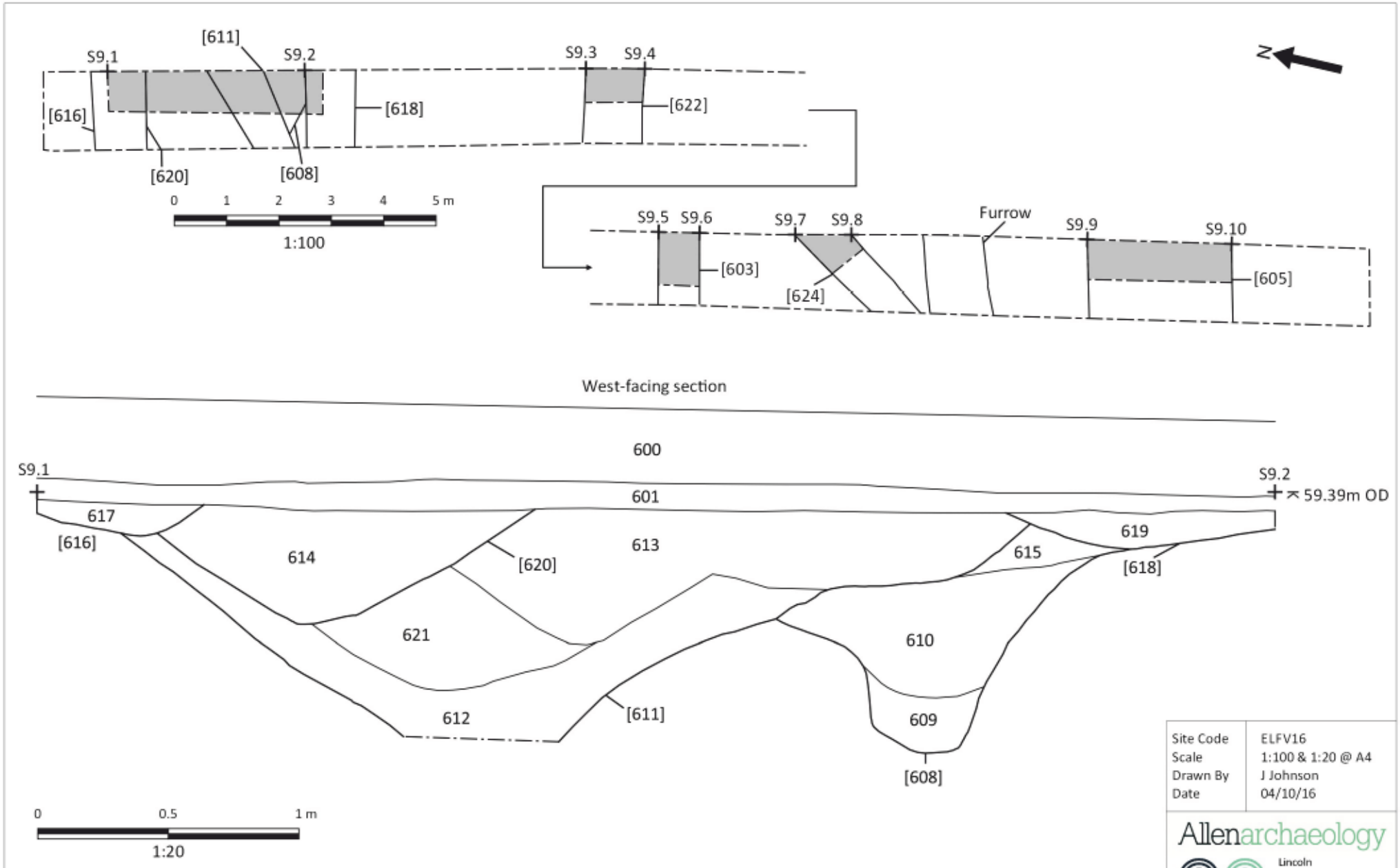


Figure 8: Trench 5 plan and sections



Site Code	ELFV16
Scale	1:100 & 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	J Johnson
Date	04/10/16

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Figure 9: Trench 6 plan and section

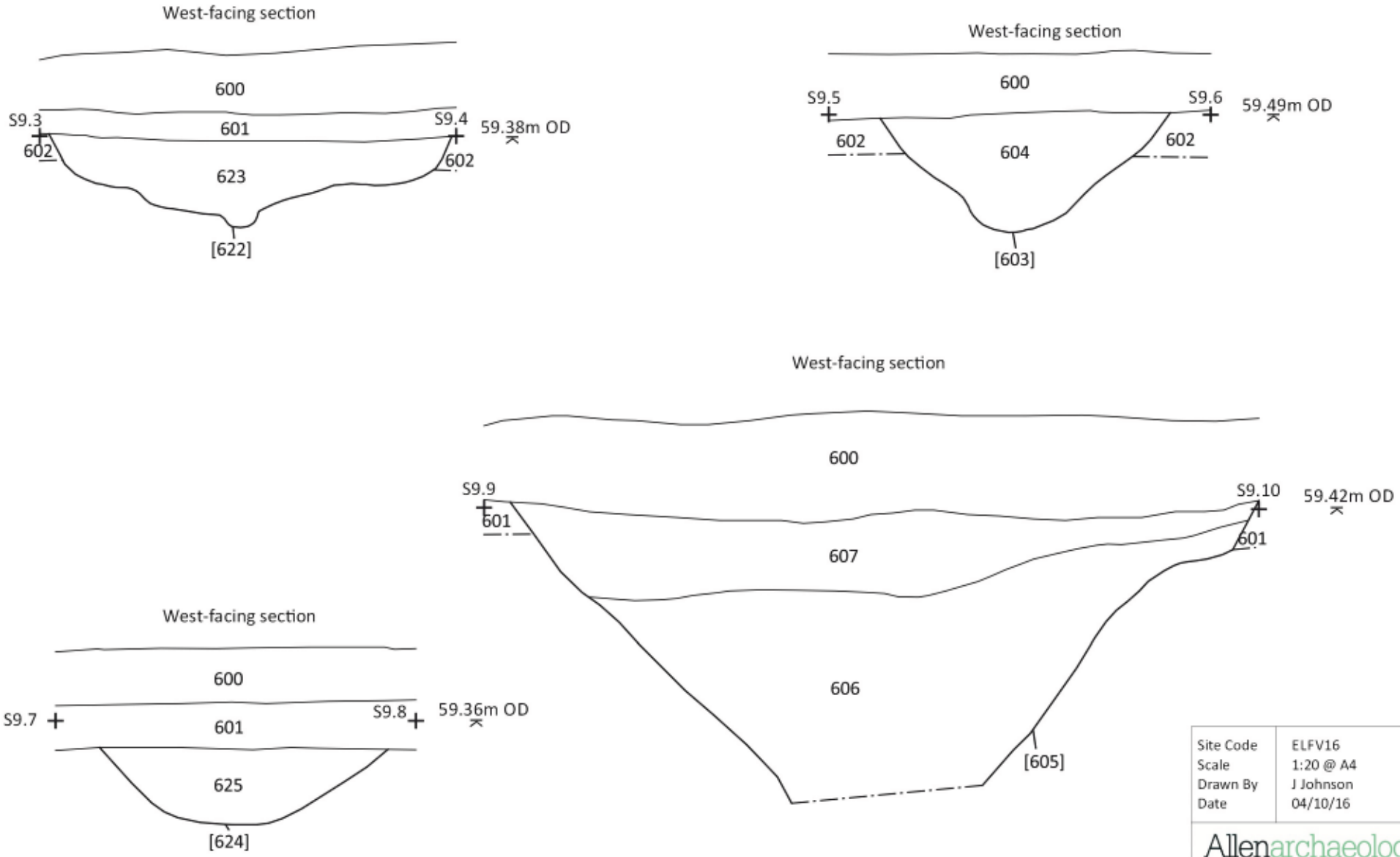

Figure 10: Trench 6 sections

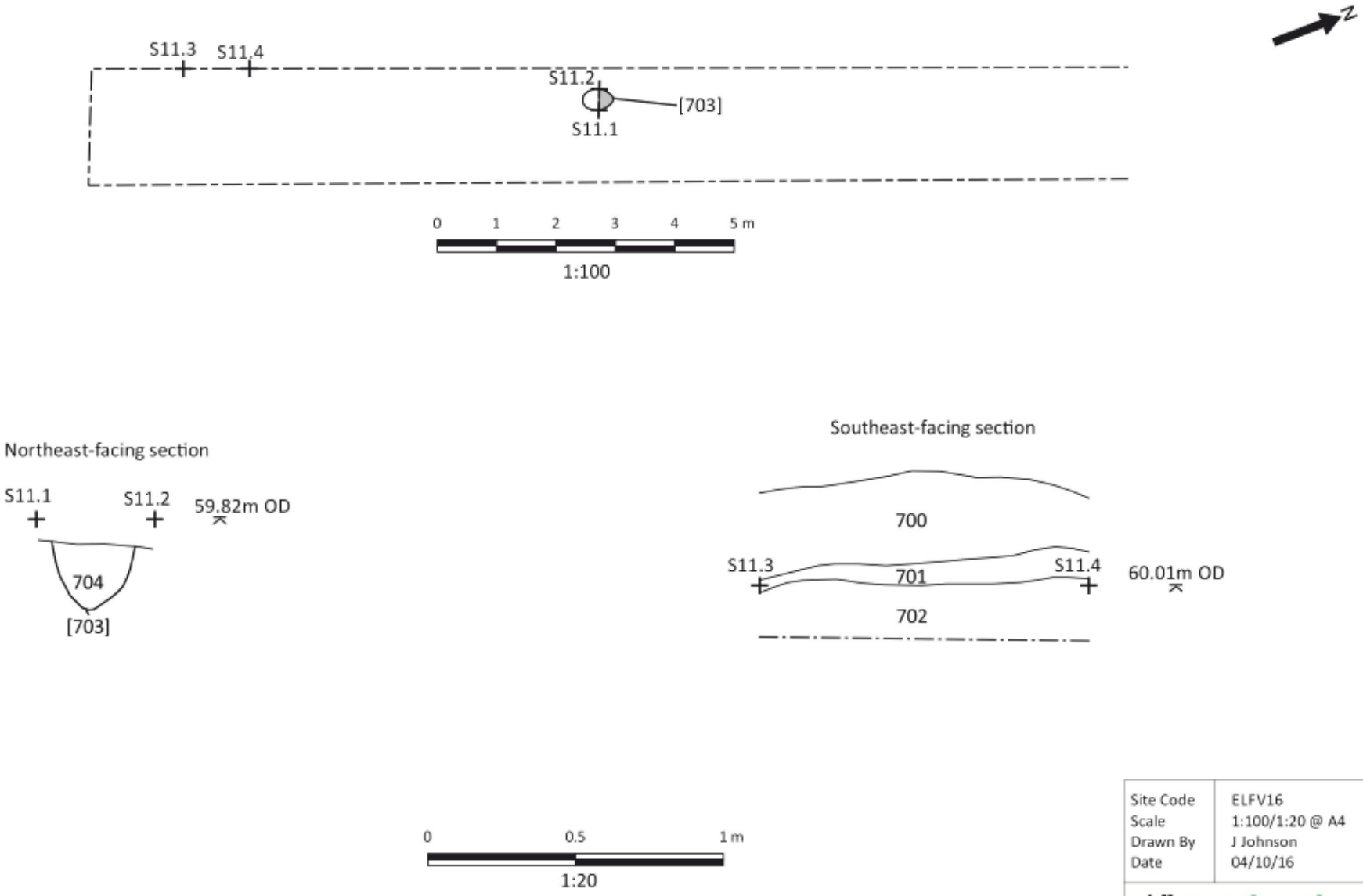

Figure 11: Trench 7 plan and sections

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