

# Towcester Southern Extension Northamptonshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

*for*  
**CgMs Consulting**


CA Project: 660160  
CA Report: 13636

November 2013

# TOWCESTER SOUTHERN EXTENSION, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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CA Project: 660160  
CA Report: 13636

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# TOWCESTER SOUTHERN EXTENSION, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation

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# TOWCESTER SOUTHERN EXTENSION, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation

### SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire
<b>Location:</b>	Towcester, Northamptonshire
<b>NGR:</b>	NP 470794 247150
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	30th September – 7th October 2013
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	S/2007/0374/OUTWNS
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	CA Milton Keynes offices
<b>Site Code:</b>	TWV13

Generally the evaluation results correlate well with the earlier geophysical surveys, which indicated that the main area of archaeological potential lay in the south-eastern part of the proposed wider development area. The evaluation has however identified numerous linear and discrete features not identified by the geophysical surveys which suggest that occupation was perhaps even more intensive than that indicated by the geophysical survey. However the evaluation has also indicated that the majority of features are relatively shallow, indicative that the archaeological resource has been heavily truncated by erosion and ploughing.

The results of the evaluation record three pieces of residual worked flint on the site probably dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age periods (4000 – 700 BC). Little of this date has been recorded for the proposed development area except for a single polished axe.

The results of the evaluation are dominated by settlement and land management (farming) activities from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD. The current results confirm those of the earlier geophysical surveys in 2007 and 2012. The characteristic patterning of the mapped anomalies and recorded features comprise well known aspects of later prehistoric and early Roman rural settlement and land management features. These include enclosures (settlement and pastoral), some with circular anomalies suggesting roundhouse structures,

as well as drove ways linked in with the settlement enclosures as well as associated field system boundaries in close proximity. The faunal assemblage indicates the management and butchery of the usual domesticates for these periods, including cattle, pig, sheep/goat and horse.



# TOWCESTER SOUTHERN EXTENSION, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was appointed by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation of a site at Towcester Vale (Phase 1), Northamptonshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 470794 247150 (**Figure 1**). The fieldwork was undertaken in support of a planning application (South Northamptonshire Council Planning Ref: no. S/2007/0374/OUTWNS) and comprised a 22ha evaluation area of a proposed overall development area of approximately 180ha.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (2013) and a Project Design by CA (2013a) and endorsed by South Northamptonshire Council. The fieldwork was also undertaken in accordance with *the Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* (IfA 2009), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and any other relevant standards or guidance.

#### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area comprises approximately 180ha of arable land, enclosed by the A5 (Watling Street) to the north, the A43 to the west and further arable land to the south (**Figure 1**).
- 1.4 The geology of the area is variable. It consists of a sequence of Jurassic strata, ranging in age from the Upper Lias to the Blisworth (Great Oolite) clay, with overlying superficial drifts. Generally speaking, the high ground is capped by Boulder Clay, the valley floors contain alluvium, and the Jurassic strata outcrop in sequence up the valley sides. In the east, close to the A5, substantial masses of rafted limestone occur in association with the Boulder Clay.

- 1.5 The topography of the development area is undulating. In simple terms, it consists of two expanses of high ground (each standing at approximately 120-130m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)) divided by the valley of the Wood Burcote Brook and flanked to the west by the valley of the Silverstone Brook. Both brooks drain northwards towards the River Tove. The evaluation area was on the relatively higher ground, with the highest point at 129.5m aOD in the middle/east of the site, with the land sloping gently down to the west and the east.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 The modern town of Towcester stands directly on the site of *Lactodorum*, a small Roman town which developed alongside the Watling Street Roman road in the second half of the 1st century AD. This town appears to have been abandoned in the centuries immediately following the Roman occupation, but was re-fortified as a *burh* in the late Saxon period and subsequently grew into a medieval market town (Taylor et al 2002, 7-8).
- 1.7 The proposed development area lies to the south of the town centre, beyond the limits of Roman or medieval urban development, but is known to contain several foci of later prehistoric or Romano-British rural settlement as well as features and findspots of other dates (Butler 2007).
- 1.8 The earliest recorded find within the proposed development area is a Neolithic polished axe (NHER 739/0/0). Nothing else of early prehistoric date is known, but two probable Iron Age settlements were identified in the preliminary phase of geophysical evaluation (Butler 2007). One of these sites lies approximately 400m to the north-west of Wood Burcote, and the other, which is much more substantial, lies slightly to the west of Watling Street at the eastern end of the Site.
- 1.9 It is possible that both the settlements noted above continued to flourish into the Roman period, and there is clear evidence for Roman occupation just outside of the proposed development area at Swinneyford Farm, where a villa complex was excavated in the 1970s (Turland 1977). It is also known that a Roman road passed through the western part of the proposed development area, heading southwards towards the town at Alchester (Oxfordshire; NHER 725).



- 1.10 The main focus of medieval settlement within the proposed development area was the village of Wood Burcote. This appears to have shrunk in recent centuries, as there are suspected house platforms to the north of the village (Simmonds 2011) and another possible house site to its immediate south (RCHME 1982, fig 118). Much of the rest of the area seems to have been under cultivation in this period, although there is some documentary evidence for the existence of a windmill. Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record lists two contradictory locations for this structure, largely on the basis of field name evidence (NHER 4786 & NHER 8330).
- 1.11 A moderate finds assemblage of artefacts was collected during field walking of ploughed arable fields within the proposed development area in 2007 (ULAS), comprising 313 sherds of pottery and 270 worked stone/flints, however the results did not appear to identify any particular area of concentrated distribution.
- 1.12 The 2007 geophysical survey comprised magnetic susceptibility (MS) of virtually the whole proposed development area, followed by targeted detailed magnetometer survey of 22ha. The most concentrated area of activity was identified near to the present A5 road (the Watling Street Roman road) where a suspected Iron Age settlement was identified.
- 1.13 More recently, a second phase of detailed magnetometer work has been undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Walford 2012). The survey covered approximately 180ha and generally confirmed the results of the original survey (although the extent of some archaeological sites was better defined). By far the most substantial site was detected in the fields alongside Watling Street, where an area of at least 8ha contains an abundance of pits, enclosures and ditches representing a multi-phased settlement probably of Iron Age and Romano-British date.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.14 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information on the archaeological resource within the Site, including presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality.

- 1.15 The evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable relevant parties to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 1.16 Additional aims of the archaeological evaluation (trail trenching) are:
- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
  - To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.17 The evaluation comprised nine 50m x 2m trial trenches, one 30m x 2m trench, and one 10m x 2m trench. The trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological significance recorded in the earlier geophysical surveys (**Figure 2**). **Trenches 4, 8, 9** were moved, as was **Trench 2** (which was also shortened to **10m** in length) due to the proximity of overhead cables running across the Site.
- 1.18 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS survey equipment and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual* (2012). All trenches were excavated under continual archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket until the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.19 A sample of a number of the features in each trench was excavated as per the evaluation *Archaeological Objectives*. All features not sample excavated, were documented in plan and any surface finds were recovered for processing and further analysis. In places, unexcavated features were augered by hand to establish their overall depth.

- 1.20 Relationships between features were recorded in plan where visible and a sample of these targeted for investigation. All trench spoil heaps were visually scanned for finds. Upon completion of the archaeological investigation and survey, all trenches were backfilled and reinstated.
- 1.21 Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and were sampled and processed accordingly. All artefacts recovered, were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.22 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with an appropriate museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-9)

### *Excavation*

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds, animal bone and palaeo-environmental evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 2.2 At the time of the evaluation the field was arable, with a 0.25 - 0.35m thick, dark greyish-brown humic, sandy clay plough soil containing a few sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone and flint inclusions (0 - 0.06m). The Site straddles a slight ridge, with a gentle slope down to the east. The natural geology, which lay directly below the plough soil, was variable across the Site; comprising yellowish-grey boulder clay to a light yellowish-brown limestone based 'corn brash' with pockets of yellowish-blue alluvial clays. All the trenches contained archaeological features, which all cut the natural geology. In places, modern plough scars were discernible in the base of the trench as well as a number of late post-medieval and modern land drains.

- 2.3 There was a clear area of intensive settlement activity on the higher ground (ridge) of the site (**Figure 2**) as reflected in the earlier geophysical survey anomaly plots (Butler 2007; Walford 2012). The highest level of activity appears to have been focused on the crest of the slope within **Trenches 4 – 10**. More peripheral activity was established within **Trenches 1, 2, 3, 9, and 11**, where less intense activity of predominantly land divisions (field boundaries and drove ways) were present.
- 2.4 Aside from modern cultivation and agricultural land use reflected by ceramic land drains and plough scars in the natural geology, evidence of post-Roman activity on the Site was peculiarly absent.

### ***Trench 1 (Figures 2, 3 & 7)***

- 2.5 Four approximately aligned east-west ditches **105, 107, 109, 113** were recorded in the trench, of which ditches **109** and **113** correlated well with two linear anomalies of the geophysical survey results (Walford 2012; fig. 14). All except ditch **107** were investigated. The parallel linear anomalies, approximately 20m apart, continue to the west and east and correlate with other pairs of linear anomalies suggesting they represent droveway ditches linking settlement enclosures to the east with associated fields to the west.
- 2.6 Ditches **105** and **113** were 0.5 – 0.6m wide and 0.14 – 0.18m in depth, containing single fills. Ditch **109** was 4m wide and >0.70m deep with fills **110, 111, 112**. None of the excavated ditches had finds.

### ***Trench 2 (Figures 2, 3 & 7)***

- 2.7 Three north-south aligned ditches, **202, 204, 206** and possible pit **208** were recorded in the trench. There are no geophysical anomalies recorded for this part of the Site (Walford 2012; fig.14). None of the features were excavated, though ditch **204** and pit **208** in the west of the trench, inter-cut, as did ditches **202** and **204** in the east of the trench.



### **Trench 3 (Figures 2, 4 & 7)**

- 2.8 The trench contained seven ditches, **303, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318** which correlated very well with mainly NNW/SSE aligned geophysical anomalies recorded in the earlier survey (Walford 2012; fig.14) and at the northern extent of the relatively concentrated area of archaeological features. Overall the trench crossed the northern extent of a settlement enclosure (ditches **316, 318**) and two parallel north-west/south-east aligned anomalies (ditches **314, 303**) possibly representing a 20m wide droveway. Ditch **303** was investigated.
- 2.9 Ditch **303** was 1.81m wide and 0.47m deep, and contained a number of fills (**304 – 307**) which derived from the initial erosion of the ditch sides after construction (**304**) and the subsequent slow silting during use (**305 – 307**). A single piece of unidentified animal bone was recorded from the latest fill **307**.
- 2.10 Ditches **314** and **316** were both cut by the large, north-south aligned ditch **318**. Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of both earlier ditches. Ditch **310**, lying in the north of the trench, was cut by parallel ditches **308** and **312**.

### **Trench 4 (Figures 2, 4 & 8)**

- 2.11 A number of ditches, pits (**408, 412, 414**) and postholes (**416, 418, 420**) were recorded in this trench, reflecting land and settlement boundaries, a droveway and post-built structures probably indicating occupation. The four ditches **406, 410, 424** and **426**, recorded in this trench correlated with curvilinear and linear geophysical anomalies indicating at least two phases of activity (Walford 2012; fig.14). To the west, ditch **410** correlated with an enclosure ditch, whilst ditches **404** and **426** correlated with axial boundary ditches and droveway ditches respectively.
- 2.12 Ditches **404, 428**, pit **414** and three postholes **408, 420**, and **422** were excavated. The postholes were 0.3 – 0.6m in diameter and approximately 0.3m deep but contained no finds, although a sample from posthole **420** (fill **421**) contained charcoal of oak, ash and cherry wood.
- 2.13 Pit **414** which cut ditch **428**, was approximately 1.05m in diameter and approximately 0.40m deep and contained a relatively dark, greyish-black silty clay fill (**415**) but no finds.

- 2.14 Ditch **404**, a large linear feature, on a north-west to south-east alignment, correlated with a major axial land boundary/geophysical anomaly (Walford 2012; fig. 14). It was 2.30m wide and 0.73m deep and contained a single piece of Roman ceramic building material (tile) in its single fill **405**.
- 2.15 Ditch **424**, was on a slightly differing alignment to ditch **426** and therefore is possibly not part of parallel geophysical anomalies indicative of droveway ditches (Walford 2012; fig. 14). The ditch, which was north/south aligned, 0.88m wide and 0.35m wide, appear to curve away from ditch **426** had a single fill **425** containing Late Iron Age/Roman pottery as well as horse and 'large mammal' bone.

### **Trench 5 (Figures 2 & 3)**

- 2.16 This trench contained six ditches **503**, **511**, **513**, **521**, **531** and **532** and a number of pits; **508**, **515**, **517**, **519**, **523**, **525** as well as pit cluster **534**. Overall there was a moderate correlation of the ditched features with the linear geophysical anomalies noted for this part of the Site (Walford 2012; fig. 14), which probably comprised part of a curvilinear enclosure (**503**), and land divisions (**521** and **534**). Of these features, ditch **503** and pits **508** and **525** were investigated.
- 2.17 Ditch **503** was north/south aligned, 2.32m wide and 0.41m in depth, with its single fill **504** containing Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, slag, oyster shell and animal bone which in addition to the charcoal inclusions (see Appendix C) are indicative of proximity to domestic and possibly light industrial activity. The ditch was later re-cut **531** but its single fill **532** contained no finds.
- 2.18 Pit **508** was 1.08m in diameter and 0.15m deep, containing fills **509**, **510** with no finds except sheep/goat and pig bone from **510**. Pit **525** was 1.6m in diameter and 0.39m deep containing two fills **526**, **527** with no finds. The inward sloping sides of the pit suggest a characteristic form of some pits in the later prehistoric periods interpreted as grain storage usually later in-filled with settlement waste products.
- 2.19 Although pit **519** was not investigated a single bone of sheep/goat was recovered from the surface of fill **520**.

### **Trench 6 (Figures 2, 5 & 8)**

- 2.20 This trench was located across a number of north-east/south-west aligned linear geophysical anomalies (Walford 2012; fig. 14) that probably represent successive phases of planned landscape boundaries. There is a moderate overall correlation between recorded features from the trench and earlier recorded anomalies, namely ditches **602, 614, 618**, although a majority of the ditches (**604, 606, 610, 612, 616, 620, 628, 630**) do not appear in the earlier survey. Two pits; **622, 624** were also recorded in the trench. Ditch **618** was investigated.
- 2.21 Ditch **618** was 1.24m wide and 0.36m deep, on a north-east/south-west alignment, containing a single fill **619** with no finds. However, finds were recovered from the surfaces of a number of features in the trench including ditches **604** (fill **605**), **610** (fill **611**), **612** (fill **613**), **614** (fill **615**), **620** (fill **621**) and **628** (fill **629**). This surface assemblage included Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, Roman tile and fired clay fragments.

### **Trench 7 (Figures 2, 5 & 8)**

- 2.22 The trench was located across a number of geophysical anomalies in the densest area of recorded features (Walford 2012; fig. 14), including nine linear features, ditches **702, 708, 714, 719, 730, 732** and gullies **704, 716, 721, 723**, as well as pit **706** and posthole **727**. The linear anomalies were generally WNW/ESE aligned and comprised possible droveway gullies/ditches (**714, 719, 712, 723**) and landscape boundary ditch **730**. Ditch **708**, gully **716**, posthole **727** and tree-throw **725** were investigated.
- 2.23 A large extent of a curvilinear gully **716** was uncovered with an overall projected diameter of approximately 28m, (if circular) which did not correlate with any geophysical anomalies. It is however similar to many other sub-circular and sub-oval anomalies (enclosures?) from the geophysical survey (Walford 2012; fig.14) though these are generally smaller (10 – 15m/roundhouses?) or larger (50 – 60m/enclosures?) in extent. It might actually link up with an enclosure anomaly located to the north-west.
- 2.24 Gully **716** was 0.62m wide and 0.32m deep with steep, concave sides. The two fills **717, 718** were primary fills from the initial construction/use of the feature. The fills

contained Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, fired clay, worked flint, animal bone and charcoal, all suggesting settlement activity in the vicinity as well as a possible settlement boundary function for the feature.

- 2.25 Ditch **708** was 1.33m wide and 0.55m deep, having three fills **709**, **710**, **711** which contained Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, slag and animal bone. Again the feature appears to have been associated with settlement activity, perhaps enclosing a roundhouse. Posthole **727** was 0.41m diameter and 0.13m deep with moderately steep sides and a fills **728**, **729** of which the latest (**729**) had a sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Tree-throw **725** had no finds.

### ***Trench 8 (Figures 2, 5 & 9)***

- 2.26 This trench was located across a dense area of geophysical anomalies many of which were discernible as archaeological features, there being overall a very good correlation. The anomalies included two sub-circular features (**804**, and **805**) and a possible sub-rectangular anomaly in the north, which consisted of gully **806** and ditch **834**. Overall, the trench contained five ditches (**804**, **807**, **819**, **822**, and **834**), three gullies (**803**, **806**, and **828**) three pits (**808**, **824**, and **826**), two postholes (**830**, **832**) and a tree-throw (**810**). Ditches **805**, **806**, gullies **803**, **806**, and tree-throw **810** were all investigated.
- 2.27 Gullies **803** and **806** were both approximately 0.4m wide with their single fills (respectively **809**, and **813**) containing early Roman pottery (1st – 2nd century AD) and may represent roundhouse ‘drip gullies’. Ditches **804** and **805** (0.26m deep), were of a similar width (0.80m) and correlated exactly with a sub-circular anomaly of approximately 10m diameter. This probably indicates the ditches are part of a roundhouse structure’s foundation ditch.
- 2.28 Ditch **807** was 1.85m wide and 0.44m deep, containing single fill 814 with no finds. This was re-cut by ditch **819**, which was 1.7m wide and 0.49m deep with fills **820**, **821**. These contained early Roman pottery including fine and grey wares, and a piece of Roman brick. These ditches represent two phases of the approximately 40m diameter enclosure anomaly (Walford 2012; fig. 14).



- 2.29 Possible pit **810** was 0.68m diameter and 0.06m deep, with irregular edges and base indicating that this feature was a tree-throw. No finds were recorded from its single fill **811**.
- 2.30 East/west ditch 834 in the north of the trench was 2.18m wide and truncated earlier pit **808**. A small assemblage of early Roman pottery (mid-late 1st century AD) was recorded from the surface of pit **808** (fill **809**).

### ***Trench 9 Figures 2 & 5)***

- 2.31 This trench was located across a number of geophysical anomalies to the east of the main concentration of anomalies, and included a possible, small D-shaped enclosure (**909, 911**) and a small sub-oval anomaly (**915**). However, other recorded features; ditches **905, 907** and **913**, were not identified by the earlier geophysical survey (Walford 2012; fig. 14). Ditches **905, 907** and **909** were investigated.
- 2.32 Ditch **905** was 0.40m wide and 0.11m deep. Ditch **907** was 1.10m wide and 0.31m deep. Ditch **909** was 0.52m wide and 0.22m deep. The single fills contained no finds except a single piece of slag and animal bone fragments from fill **910**, and a single bone fragment from ditch fill **906** (ditch **905**). A flint scraper of possible Neolithic/Bronze Age date was recorded from the topsoil **901** of the trench.

### ***Trench 10 (Figures 2, 6 & 9)***

- 2.33 This trench was located in a peripheral area with regard to the main concentration of geophysical anomalies and crossed two areas of possible geological anomalies and a small number of linear anomalies with a less coherent layout. Overall, there is a poor correlation between the geophysical and evaluation results. The trench contained five ditches (**1002, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1010**), and a relative cluster of seven pits (**1012, 1014, 1017, 1019, 1032, 1024, 1027**). Quarry pit **1030** was of post-medieval date. Ditch **1010**, pit **1014** as well as inter-cutting pits **1021, 1024, 1027** and **1032** were all investigated.



- 2.34 Ditch **1010** was east/west aligned, 0.84 wide and 0.16m deep with single fill **1011** containing two sherds of Roman pottery. Rectangular pit **1014** was 0.8m by 0.6m in extent and 0.2m deep and had two fills **1015**, **1016**, the latest of which (**1016**) contained Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and two unidentified fragments of animal bone.
- 2.35 A pit cluster of successively later, limestone quarry pits **1021**, **1024**, **1027**, **1032** contained primary fills (**1022**, **1025**, **1028**, **1033** respectively) and later deliberate dumps (**1023**, **1026**, **1029**, **1034** respectively); the deliberate dumps containing most of the relatively small finds assemblage recovered. The assemblage included Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (**1023**, **1028**, **1029**), fired clay (**1029**) a worked flint flake/blade fragment (**1028**) and charcoal.

### ***Trench 11 Figures 2 & 6)***

- 2.36 The trench was located at the periphery of the area of dense geophysical anomalies, and crossed two outlying linear anomalies. These probably represent part of a rectilinear pattern of field boundary ditches (**1103**) closely associated with nearby settlement enclosures (Walford 2012; fig.14). There were no discrete features in the trench and the overall correlation with the earlier geophysical survey anomalies was moderate. Ditches **1105** and **1107** were investigated.
- 2.37 North/south ditch **1105** was 2.4m wide and 0.62m deep and contained single fill **1106**, from which a moderate assemblage of early Roman pottery (2nd century AD) was recovered. It was later re-cut by ditch **1107**, which contained a number of fills (**1108**, **1109**, **1110**), consisting of dump deposits containing a sizeable assemblage (99 sherds) of early Roman pottery (1st – 2nd century AD), ceramic building material, fired clay, and a large rotary, millstone grit quernstone (fill **1108**).



## ***The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence***

### **Finds** by Jacky Sommerville

- 2.38 Finds recovered from evaluation included pottery, ceramic building material, worked flint and items of worked stone and iron which are tabulated in Appendix B – Table 2. Codings for Roman fabrics given in the text and Appendix B in parenthesis correspond to the Towcester type series codes as defined by Brown and Alexander (1982) and Woodfield (1983).

### ***Pottery: Iron Age***

- 2.39 Fill **409** (posthole **408**) produced two unfeatured body sherds in a handmade, coarser shell-tempered fabric, which is considered to date to the Iron Age. A further two sherds in a similar fabric, representing a bead-rim jar – a form common to the Middle/Late Iron Age, were recovered from surface (**707**) of unexcavated pit **706**.
- 2.40 A proportion of the recovered pottery comprises unfeatured body sherds in mainly shell-tempered fabrics which are broadly dateable to the Iron Age or ‘transitional’ Late Iron Age/Roman transition (the first centuries BC/AD).

### ***Late Iron Age/‘transitional’***

- 2.41 Pottery ascribed to this period consists of wheel-thrown grog-tempered and wheel-thrown coarser shell-tempered fabrics. The grog-tempered fabric (15 sherds) was noted from ditches **316** (fill **317**), **410** (**411**), **424** (**425**), **612** (**613**), **1103** (**1104**) and pits **1014** (fill **1016**), **1021** (**1023**) and **1027** (fills **1028**, **1029**) and **1029**. The shell-tempered fabric is more common (59 sherds), noted from ditches **410** (fill **411**), **426** (**427**), **503** (**504**), **628** (**629**), **708** (fills **710**, **711**), **1006** (**1007**), gullies **704** (**705**), **712** (**713**), **716** (fills **717**, **718**), pit **1027** (**1029**) and posthole **727** (**729**). In addition, five sherds in a hybrid shell-and-grog-tempered fabric from pit **808** (fill **815**) and one sherd in a shell-and-limestone-tempered fabric from ditch **314** (**315**) may also relate to this period.

### ***Roman***

- 2.42 Roman pottery, amounting to 248 sherds (4031g), was recorded from 18 deposits. The largest proportion comprises reduced and other coarse wares from mainly local sources.

- 2.43 A total of six sherds pink grog tempered ware (Fabric 35b), a common type, were recovered from ditches **614** (fill **615**), **804** (**813**) and **1107** (**1108**). The two from ditch fill **615** were a rim sherd and joining body sherd from a wide-mouthed jar. The wide-mouthed necked jar is a common form in this fabric, dated to the late 2nd to late 3rd centuries in excavations at Alchester Road Suburb in Towcester (Woodfield 1983, 78).
- 2.44 Grog-tempered wares (Fabric 35a) are representative of pre-Roman tradition continuing in to the later 1st century AD. A total of 27 unfeatured body sherds of pottery of this type were recovered, from ditches **807** (fill **818**), **819** (**821**), **1002** (**1003**), **1010** (**1011**), **1107** (**1108**) and pit **414** (**415**). Harder, typically buff or white-firing 'developed' grog-tempered wares are known to have been produced in the Upper Nene Valley, close to Northampton in the later 1st and 2nd centuries. Such material (39 sherds) was recorded from ditch **1105** (fill **1106**) and its later re-cut **1107** (**1108**, **1110**, **1112**). Some sherds of this type (fill **1110**) exhibit vertical combed decoration. A necked jar from fill **1108** was the only identifiable vessel form. A total of 66 sherds occur of Roman shelly wares (Fabrics 44b, 44c and 44d); from ditches **610** (fill **611**), **614** (**615**), **714** (**715**), **730** (**731**), **819** (fills **820**, **821**), **1002** (**1003**), **1107** (fills **1108**, **1110**), gully **803** (**809**) as well as pits **414** (**415**) and **1012** (**1013**). Identifiable forms are mainly channel rim (lid-seated) jars; present in fills **415**, **611**, **809**, **1003** and **1110**. Such forms are a common feature of earlier Roman assemblages from region, dating to the mid-1st to 2nd centuries (Friendship-Taylor 1999, 13).
- 2.45 Reduced sandy coarse wares are a common feature of the assemblage. Grey wares of uncertain, but probably local source (Fabrics 16 and 20) amount to 52 sherds recovered from ditches **714** (fill **715**), **819** (fills **820**, **821**), **1002** (**1003**), **1010** (**1011**), **1105** (**1106**), **1107** (**1108**, **1110**, **1112**), and gully **1004** (**1005**). Fill **1108** included one rim sherd from a carinated bowl. A total of seven sherds of Upper Nene Valley grey ware (Fabric 22) were recorded, from ditch fills **715** and **821**, and deposit **1106**. One sherd from fill **1106** was a rim sherd from a channel rim jar, which dates to the mid-1st to 2nd centuries.
- 2.46 A total of 24 sherds of pottery in a black firing, sandy fabric were recovered ditch fills **715**, **821**, **1003**, **1106**, **1108**, **1110** and from pits **414** (**415**). The sherds from fills **715**, **1108** and **1110** included fragments of channel rim jars (again, dating to the mid-1st to 2nd centuries), and an everted rim jar featured in fill **1106**.

- 2.47 Ditch **1105 (1106)** produced two joining rim sherds from a ring necked flagon in cream flagon fabric (Fabric 42). This form dates to the late 1st to early 2nd centuries AD. A sherd from a cheese press in a sandy white-firing fabric was also recorded from this fill.
- 2.48 Continental imported types are present as a total of six sherds of Gaulish samian; recovered from ditches **730 (731)** and **819 (821)**. South Gaulish sherds from fill **731** included a stamped base sherd from a dish which reads "DASSEN", and identifies the La Graufesenque potter Passenus. Pottery from La Graufesenque was used widely in Britain from to approximately 110 AD. Sherds from fill **821** are Central Gaulish and dateable to the 2nd century.

#### *Ceramic building material*

- 2.49 A total of six fragments of Roman ceramic building material were recovered from ditches **318 (319)**, **404 (405)**, **604 (605)**, **730 (731)**, **819 (821)** and **1105 (1106)**. Of these fragments, four were identifiable as tile and one as brick. One fragment of a modern drainpipe in salt-glazed stoneware was recovered from topsoil **101**.

#### *Iron*

- 2.50 The shaft of an iron nail was recovered from the surface of ditch **1103 (1104)**. It is not possible to date this item.

#### *Worked stone*

- 2.51 A worked stone object (Ra. 1) was recovered from ditch re-cut **1107 (1108)**. This was a large fragment (approximately 50%) of the upper stone from a Roman disc quern, manufactured from millstone grit, a material seeing wide use for this purpose and probably originating from central or northern England. The quernstone measures 0.40 m in external diameter and has a smooth, concave underside and a central perforation.

#### *Worked flint*

- 2.52 A total of three pieces of worked flint were recovered from gully **716 (718)**, pit **1027 (1028)** and topsoil. Those from fills **718** and **1028** were fragments from broken flakes or blades and the item from topsoil **901** was a side scraper. The scraper was made on a thick flake and featured an area of very steep, moderately fine retouch along

the proximal half of the left dorsal edge. None of these items can be dated more precisely than possibly the Neolithic/Bronze Age prehistoric periods.

### **Faunal Remains** by Andy Clarke

- 2.53 A collection of animal bones numbering 69 fragments (513g) was recovered from the evaluation. The bone was well-preserved, but highly fragmented, with frequent modern damage noted. This has rendered 60.8% of the assemblage unidentifiable beyond the level of 'large' or 'medium mammal'. For the purpose of this report, the bones were identified to species and skeletal element using an osteological reference collection (Cotswold Archaeology Ltd) as well as standard reference literature (Schmid 1972), and quantified by fragment count and weight. Where modern breakage was observed and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were recorded as a single bone. Any undated material is not discussed beyond the details set out in Tables 3 - 5 (Appendix B).

### **Iron Age/Roman**

- 2.54 A total of 49 fragments (411g) were recovered from seven deposits dating broadly to the late Iron Age/early Roman period (Table 3). While the majority of the bone (65%) was too fragmented to categorise beyond large or medium mammal, it was possible to identify the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and ovicaprids (*Ovis aries*/*Capra hircus*). Both meat-rich and meat-poor elements were present throughout the assemblage.
- 2.55 Horse (*Equus caballus*) was also recovered from ditch **424 (425)** in the form of loose molars and cranial fragments, probably resulting from the deposit of a single skull.

### **Roman**

- 2.56 The Roman activity produced the smallest amount of faunal material with seven fragments (25g) recovered from two deposits (Table 4). Cattle (*Bos taurus*) and ovicaprids (*Ovis aries*/*Capra hircus*) were identified with the latter species showing cut marks indicative of filleting.

### **Summary**

- 2.57 The small size of the faunal assemblage severely limits the amount of interpretative data that can be obtained. However the species and skeletal elements identified in each phase of the site are indicative of domestic refuse, resulting from butchery and food waste associated with the culling and eating of domesticates.

### **Palaeo-environmental Evidence** by Sarah Cobain

- 2.58 Four environmental samples (63 litres of soil) were retrieved from four deposits with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating (Appendix B – Tables 6, 7). The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 2.59 Sample 1 (SS 1) was recovered from ditch **503 (504)**, dating to the Late Iron Age/Roman periods. The sample contained a single poorly preserved vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) seed and a large assemblage of moderately well-preserved charcoal. Unfortunately the charcoal was highly fragmented which prevented identification; however it was possible to identify a single fragment of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), hawthorn/rowan/crab apple (*Crataegus monogyna/Sorbus/Malus sylvestris*) and cherry tree sp (*Prunus*).
- 2.60 Sample 2 (SS 2) was retrieved from ring gully **716 (718)** dating to the Iron Age/Romano periods. A small number of poorly preserved plant macrofossils consisting of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*), sedge (*Carex*), vetches/peas, bromes (*Bromus*), indeterminate cereal grains and a glume base were identified. The charcoal was moderately abundant, but highly fragmented. It was however possible to identify fragments of beech, oak (*Quercus*), hawthorn/rowan/crab.
- 2.61 Sample 3 (SS 3) was recovered from undated ditch **109 (110)** and contained no plant macrofossil or charcoal remains. Sample 4 (SS 4) was retrieved from undated pit **420 (421)**. The plant macrofossil were recovered in small quantities and were poorly preserved consisting of a single vetch/pea and indeterminate cereal grain. The charcoal was recovered in small quantities and was moderately well preserved consisting of oak, ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and cherry tree sp.

### **Summary**

- 2.62 The poor preservation of the plant macrofossils and the highly fragmented nature of the charcoal suggests that the ecofactual material from these features accumulated from wind-blown hearth debris. The presence of cereal grains, chaff and arable weeds suggests some form of crop/grain processing may have been taking place on the Site.

- 2.63 The charcoal from SS 1 and 2 would be suitable for radiocarbon dating, although the residual nature of this material would need to be taken into account if samples were to be selected for dating purposes.

### 3. DISCUSSION

#### *Introduction*

- 3.1 The evaluation results correlate reasonably well, with the earlier geophysical surveys, which indicated that the main area of archaeological potential lay in the south-eastern corner of the wider development footprint. However (as is often the case) the evaluation has also identified further linear and discrete features, that were not revealed by the geophysical surveys, suggesting that the intensity and complexity of occupation is even greater than that indicated prior to trial trench evaluation. The predominance of Late Iron Age and early Romano-British so close to Watling Street is hardly surprising, however the remains and the lack of indications of any medieval activity is. There were no convincing indicators of agricultural activity for this period, such as ridge and furrow or any material evidence for that matter, and evidence of subsequent land drainage was probably nineteenth century or modern.

#### *Early Prehistoric*

- 3.2 Only three pieces of residual worked flint were recovered from the evaluation, derived from topsoil **901**, as well as Late Iron Age/early Roman gully **716** and pit **1027**.

#### *Late Iron Age/early Roman*

- 3.3 The main area of activity of this period (1st century BC – 2nd century AD) is concentrated on the higher ground in the middle/east of the site. The archaeology of the Site is dominated by a number of settlement enclosures, possible roundhouse gullies/ditches, drove ways and associated nearby fields on the relatively higher ground covered by **Trenches 6 -10**. The other trenches (**Trenches 1-5**, and **11**) cover less dense areas of archaeological features, as the ground drops away to the east and west. In these, more peripheral areas of the site, the character of the archaeology changes to predominantly drove ways leading to associated irregular ditched fields laid out around the core settlement area. Settlement activity is reflected in the recorded pits, including possible re-used grain storage pit **414**,



postholes of post-built structures (roundhouses?, above ground granaries?, fencelines?), butchery waste of domesticated cattle, horse, pig and sheep/goat, as well as possibly, industrial activity.

### **Conclusions**

- 3.4 The results of the evaluation are dominated by settlement and land management (farming) activities from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD. This was predicted from the earlier geophysical surveys (Butler 2007; Walford 2012) due to the characteristic patterning of the mapped anomalies, comprising well known elements of later prehistoric and Roman rural settlement and land management features - including enclosures (settlement/pastoral), some with circular anomalies suggesting roundhouse structures, as well as drove ways linking settlement enclosures with associated field boundaries.
- 3.5 Although there is a concentrated area of settlement activity on the Site there is a relative lack of deep stratigraphic sequences, indicated from the excavation results as well as the overall patterning of features from the geophysical surveys (Butler 2007; Walford 2012).
- 3.6 These factors, in conjunction with the finds evidence of almost exclusively 1st century BC to 2nd century AD date indicates occupation of approximately 300 years duration, with no evidence of later settlement or land management practices on the Site before the post-medieval period (18th – 19th centuries onwards). The former evidence suggests a certain complexity of settlement (albeit truncated by erosion and later ploughing), the form and alignment of which may have been altered to reflect new economic and political influences, such as the construction of Watling Street. The latter evidence, though negative, may be more indicative of the effect of post-medieval erosion and modern ploughing than suggestive of a hiatus in crop farming during the medieval period. Nevertheless the lack of material culture even from the topsoil across the Site is worth noting.
- 3.7 All the archaeological features cut the natural geology and were sealed directly below the topsoil (plough soil) except for **Trench 1**, where 0.14m thick subsoil (**103**) was recorded. This was characterised by a greyish-brown silty clay which was cut by undated ditch **105**.

- 3.8 Overall, evidenced by the lack of depth to many of the features sampled, recorded archaeological features would appear to have been heavily truncated by ploughing as even relatively substantial ditches of probable settlement enclosures were only c. 0.50 – 0.70m deep, (though admittedly, only a small number were investigated during the evaluation so as to be minimally intrusive). The finds assemblage suggests settlement, including pottery, fired clay, animal bone, specifically butchery waste of later prehistoric domesticates (sheep/goat, cattle, pig, horse). Grain processing was undertaken on the Site, and the small number of slag fragments also possibly indicates industrial activity took place on the Site (smithing?).
- 3.9 No features, deposits or artefacts of post-2nd century AD date were recorded during the evaluation except for post-medieval quarrying and a small number of land drains and plough scarring.

#### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

- 4.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter James, assisted by Rob Scott, Caiomhin O Coilean, Daniel Wojcik and Kevin White. The report was compiled by Peter James, assisted by Emily Evan, Jacky Sommerville (Finds), Sarah Cobain (Environmental Analyses) and Andy Clarke (Faunal Remains). The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Peter James and Chris Ellis, and prepared for deposition by Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

#### **5. MONITORING**

- 5.1 Monitoring of the evaluation was undertaken by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

All excavated contexts in **bold**

Trench No.	Context No.	Fill of	Context type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1	<b>101</b>		topsoil	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.25	
1	<b>103</b>		subsoil	greyish-brown silty clay with dark orange/brown clayey sand	-	-	0.14	
1	104		natural geology	Yellowish-grey sandy clay	-	-	-	
1	<b>105</b>		ditch	east/west ditch	>1.80	0.6	0.14	
1	<b>106</b>	<b>105</b>	ditch	dark orangey brown clayey silt	-	0.6	0.14	
1	107		ditch	east/west ditch	>1.80	3.00	-	
1	108	107	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with stones	-	-	-	
1	<b>109</b>		ditch	east/west ditch	>2.20	4.0	>0.70	
1	<b>110</b>	<b>109</b>	fill	medium grey brown clay	-	-	>0.18	
1	<b>111</b>	<b>109</b>	fill	light grey brown clay with limestone	-	-	>0.38	
1	<b>112</b>	<b>109</b>	fill	medium yellowish-brown sandy clay	-	-	>0.33	
1	<b>113</b>		ditch	east/west ditch	>2.05	0.51	0.18	
1	<b>114</b>	<b>113</b>	fill	medium yellowish-brown sandy clay	-	-	0.18	
2	<b>200</b>		topsoil	dark grey silty clay	-	-	0.30	
2	201		natural geology	light yellowish-brown silty clay with stones	-	-	-	
2	202		ditch	north/south ditch	>1.80	>1.40	-	
2	203	202	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
2	204		ditch	north/south ditch	>1.80	>1.92	-	
2	205	204	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
2	206		ditch	north/south ditch	>1.80	>1.55	-	
2	207	206	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
2	208		pit	sub-circular pit	>1.56	-	-	
2	209	208	fill	mid brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
3	<b>301</b>		topsoil	medium greyish-brown sandy clay with flint and limestone	-	-	0.35	
3	302		natural geology	light yellowish-brown sandy clay with limestone	-	-	-	
3	<b>303</b>		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	>2.20	>1.81	0.47	
3	<b>304</b>	<b>303</b>	fill	light greyish-brown sandy clay with limestone	-	-	0.07	
3	<b>305</b>	<b>303</b>	fill	medium greyish-brown sandy clay	-	-	0.18	
3	<b>306</b>	<b>303</b>	fill	dark greyish-brown sandy clay	-	-	0.16	
3	<b>307</b>	<b>303</b>	fill	medium greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.2	
3	308		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	>2.20	0.64	-	
3	309	308	fill	medium greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
3	310		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	>1.18	0.6	-	
3	311	310	fill	light greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
3	312		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	>2.20	>2.00	-	
3	313	312	fill	medium greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
3	314		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	>2.20	0.9	-	
3	315	314	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	IA - RB
3	316		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	>2.20	1.47	-	
3	317	316	fill	medium greyish-brown silty clay with limestone	-	-	-	LIA - C1
3	318		ditch	north/south ditch	>22	>2.20	-	
3	319	318	fill	medium greyish-brown silty sandy clay	-	-	-	RB

Trench No.	Context No.	Fill of	Context type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3	320	318	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
4	<b>401</b>		topsoil	dark blackish brown silty clay with stone	-	-	0.35	
4	403		natural geology	light yellowish grey sandy clay with stone	-	-	-	
4	<b>404</b>		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	-	-	0.4	
4	<b>405</b>	<b>404</b>	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	0.4	RB
4	406		ditch	north-north-east/west-south-west ditch	-	1.45	0.16	
4	407	406	fill	mottled dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
4	408		posthole	circular in plan	-	>0.38	0.11	
4	409	408	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	>0.38	0.11	IA
4	410		ditch	north/south ditch	-	1.92	-	
4	411	410	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	1.92	-	LIA – C1
4	412		pit	sub-circular in plan	-	-	-	
4	413	412	fill	dark greyish-black with stone	-	-	-	
4	<b>414</b>		pit	sub-circular in plan	-	1.05	0.40	
4	<b>415</b>	<b>414</b>	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	-	-	MC1 – LC1
4	416		posthole	circular in plan	-	0.65	-	
4	417	416	fill	dark greyish black silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
4	418		posthole	circular in plan	-	0.6	-	
4	419	418	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
4	<b>420</b>		posthole	sub-circular in plan	-	0.28	0.12	
4	<b>421</b>	<b>420</b>	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	-	0.12	
4	<b>422</b>		posthole	circular in plan	-	0.35	0.1	
4	<b>423</b>	<b>422</b>	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	-	0.1	
4	<b>424</b>		ditch	north/south ditch	-	0.88	0.35	
4	<b>425</b>	<b>424</b>	fill of	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.35	LIA - RB
4	426		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	-	3.3	-	
4	427	426	fill of	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	-	-	LIA - RB
4	428		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	-	-	-	
4	429	428	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
5	<b>501</b>		topsoil	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	0.19	
5	<b>503</b>		ditch	north/south ditch	>2.10	2.32	0.41	
5	<b>504</b>	<b>503</b>	fill	mid brownish black silty clay with sandstone and pebbles	-	-	<0.30	LIA - RB
5	<b>505</b>	<b>531</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.25	
5	<b>506</b>	<b>531</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	1	
5	<b>507</b>	<b>531</b>	fill	light greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.2	
5	<b>508</b>		pit	circular in plan, concave sided	1.00	1.08	0.15	
5	<b>509</b>	<b>508</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	0.12	
5	<b>510</b>	<b>508</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.03	
5	511		ditch	NNW/SSE ditch	>1.90	1.7	-	
5	512		fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
5	513		ditch	NNW/SSE ditch	>4.20	>2.50	-	
5	514	513	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	

Trench No.	Context No.	Fill of	Context type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5	515		pit	sub-circular pit	>0.55	>0.60	-	
5	516	515	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
5	517		pit	sub-circular pit	>0.50	0.6	-	
5	518	516	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
5	519		pit	sub-circular pit	>0.40	0.55	-	
5	520	519	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
5	521		ditch	North-west/south-east ditch	>2.60	1.1	-	
5	522	521	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	1.1	-	
5	523		pit	circular in plan	>1.60	1.6	-	
5	524	523	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	>1.60	1.6	-	
5	<b>525</b>		pit	circular in plan	>1.50	1.6	-	
5	<b>526</b>	<b>525</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	>1.50	1.6	0.04	
5	527		natural geology	light to mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
5	<b>530</b>	<b>525</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.35	
5	<b>531</b>		ditch	re-cut of ditch 503	>1.80	0.94	0.30	
5	532		ditch	NNE/SSW ditch	>2.0	1.66	-	
5	533	532		light greyish-brown silty clay			-	
5	534		Pit cluster	large pit cluster to west of ditch 511	>2.0	4.88	-	
5	535	534	fill	Fill of pit cluster. mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
6	<b>600</b>		topsoil	dark greyish-black silty clay	>50	>1.80	0.28	
6	601		natural geology	light yellowish-brown silty clay with chalk flecking	-	-	-	
6	602		ditch	east/west ditch	>4.0	>1.22	-	
6	603	602	fill	light greyish-brown silty clay with stone and chalk	-	-	-	
6	604		ditch	NNE/SSW ditch	>1.80	2.12	-	
6	605	604	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	RB
6	606		ditch	ENE/WSW ditch	>2.84	>0.83	-	
6	607	606	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with stone and chalk	-	-	-	IA – C1
6	608		ditch	ENE/WSW ditch	>1.88	>0.48	-	
6	609	608	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
6	610		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	>1.80	1.25	-	
6	611	610	fill	dark grey silty clay with stone and chalk	-	-	-	C1
6	612		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	>1.80	4.36	-	
6	613	612	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	LIA - RB
6	614		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	>1.80	2.52	-	
6	615	614	fill	dark greyish black silty clay	-	-	-	LC2 – C4
6	616		ditch	south-east terminal of ditch (north-west/south-east aligned)	>1.13	0.89	-	
6	617	616	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
6	<b>618</b>		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	>1.80	1.24	-	
6	<b>619</b>	618	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
6	620		ditch	ENE/WSW ditch	>1.80	0.35	-	
6	621	620	fill	mid yellowish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
6	622		pit	sub-circular pit	0.97	-	-	
6	623	622	fill	dark grey silty clay	0.97	-	-	
6	624		pit	circular in plan	1.2	-	-	
6	625	624	fill	dark grey silty clay with charcoal flecking	-	-	-	
6	626		ditch	NNW/SSE ditch	>1.80	1.18	-	

Trench No.	Context No.	Fill of	Context type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
6	627	626	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
6	628		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	>1.80	1.09	-	
6	629	628	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	>1.80	1.09	-	LIA - RB
6	630		ditch	east/west ditch	>3.41	>1.47	-	
6	631	630	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
7	<b>700</b>		topsoil	dark greyish-black silty clay loam	-	-	0.38	
7	701		natural geology	mottled reddish brown silty clay with light yellowish-brown clayey silt	-	-	-	
7	702		ditch	east/west ditch	>1.80	0.92	-	
7	703	702	fill	mid greyish-brown sandy clay with gravel	-	-	-	
7	704		gully	North-east/south-west gully	>2.25	0.5	-	
7	705	704	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	IA - C1
7	706		pit	sub-circular pit	1.91	>0.57	-	
7	707	706	fill	dark grey silty clay	-	-	-	LIA
7	<b>708</b>		ditch	east/west ditch	>1.80	1.33	0.55	
7	<b>709</b>	<b>708</b>	fill	mid reddish brown sandy clay	-	-	0.08	
7	<b>710</b>	<b>708</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.33	IA - C1
7	<b>711</b>	<b>708</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone, chalk and charcoal	-	-	0.24	IA - C1
7	712		ditch	NNE/SSW ditch	>4.55	0.65	-	
7	713		fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	IA - C1
7	714		ditch	WNW/ESE ditch	>1.80	1.12	-	
7	715		fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	>1.80	1.12	-	LC1 - C2
7	<b>716</b>		gully	Sub-circular gully c. 28m diameter (enclosure gully?)	0.62	0.32	-	
7	<b>717</b>	<b>716</b>	fill	mottled grey and yellow clayey silt	-	-	0.04	IA - C1
7	<b>718</b>	<b>716</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.29	IA - C1
7	719		ditch	WNW/ESE ditch	>1.80	>0.53	-	
7	720		fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	>1.80	>0.53	-	LIA
7	721		gully	WNW/ESE gully	>1.80	0.54	-	
7	722		fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
7	723		gully	WNW/ESE gully	>1.80	0.27	-	
7	724		fill	mid greenish brown silty clay	-	-	-	
7	<b>725</b>		tree throw	irregular edges	-	0.72	0.05	
7	<b>726</b>	<b>725</b>	fill	dark grey mottled with yellowish-brown	-	0.72	0.05	
7	<b>727</b>		posthole	circular in plan, moderate edges and concave base	-	0.41	0.13	
7	<b>728</b>	<b>727</b>	fill	mid yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.02	
7	<b>729</b>	<b>727</b>	fill	dark grey sandy clay	-	-	0.11	IA - C1
7	730		ditch	WNW/ESE ditch	>1.80	1.23	-	
7	731	730	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	>1.80	1.23	-	MC1 - LC1
8	<b>801</b>		topsoil	dark grey silty clay	-	-	0.32	
8	802		natural geology	light yellowish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
8	<b>803</b>		gully	curvilinear gully, aligned north-east/south-west	>4.30	0.4	0.26	
8	804		ditch	curvilinear ditch	-	-	-	
8	<b>805</b>		ditch	curvilinear ditch with concave edges and base	>1.80	0.8	0.25	
8	<b>806</b>		gully	north/south gully	.3.8	0.4	0.26	
8	<b>807</b>		ditch	north-west/south-east ditch	>1.80	>1.85	>0.44	
8	808		pit	sub-circular in plan	>2.90	1.9	-	



Trench No.	Context No.	Fill of	Context type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
8	<b>809</b>	<b>803</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	MC1 – LC1
8	<b>810</b>		tree throw	shallow sided with irregular base	-	0.68	0.06	
8	<b>811</b>	<b>810</b>	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.06	
8	<b>812</b>	<b>805</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with yellowish-brown lenses	-	-	0.25	
8	<b>813</b>	<b>806</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown clay	-	-	-	LC2 – C4
8	<b>814</b>	<b>806</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
8	815	808	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	LIA – C1
8	<b>816</b>	<b>807</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	>0.16	
8	<b>817</b>	<b>807</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with chalk	-	-	>0.12	
8	<b>818</b>	<b>807</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	0.35	RB
8	<b>819</b>		ditch	north-west/south east ditch. Re-cut of ditch 807.	>1.80	>1.70	0.49	
8	<b>820</b>	<b>819</b>	fill	light yellowish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.10	RB
8	<b>821</b>	<b>819</b>	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	>1.70	0.39	C2
8	822		ditch	north-west/south east ditch	>1.38	>0.55	-	
8	823	822	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
8	824		pit	sub-circular pit	1.86	>0.47	-	
8	825	824	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	1.86	>0.47	-	
8	826		pit	sub-circular pit	1.33	-	-	
8	827	826	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	1.33	-	-	
8	828		gully	WNW/ENE gully	>1.80	0.4	-	
8	829	828	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
8	830		posthole	sub-circular posthole?	>0.66	-	-	
8	831	830	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	>0.66	-	-	
8	832		posthole	sub-circular posthole?	0.54	-	-	
8	833	832	fill	dark greyish silty clay with stone	-	-	-	
8	834		ditch	east/west ditch	>1.80	>2.18	-	
8	835	834	fill	mid brown silty clay	-	-	-	
9	<b>901</b>		topsoil	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone	-	-	0.3	
9	904		natural geology	mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with chalk flecking	-	-	-	
9	<b>905</b>		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	-	0.4	0.11	
9	<b>906</b>	<b>905</b>	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.11	
9	<b>907</b>		ditch	north/south ditch	-	1.1	0.31	
9	<b>908</b>	<b>907</b>	fill	dark brown silty clay with orange hue	-	-	0.31	
9	<b>909</b>		ditch	north/south ditch	-	0.52	0.22	
9	<b>910</b>	<b>909</b>	fill	dark greyish black silty clay with charcoal flecking	-	0.52	0.22	
9	911		ditch	north/south ditch	>1.80	2.15	-	
9	912	911	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with flint	-	-	-	
9	913		ditch	ENE/SW ditch	>4.5	1.35	-	
9	914	913	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with chalk	-	-	-	
9	915		ditch	NNW/SSE ditch	>2.6	4.8	-	
9	916	915	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay with chalk	-	-	-	
10	<b>1000</b>		topsoil	dark grey silty clay	-	-	0.29	
10	1001		natural geology	light yellowish-brown silty clay with bluish-grey patches and stone	-	-	-	
10	1002		ditch	east/west ditch	>1.80	4.82	-	

Trench No.	Context No.	Fill of	Context type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
10	1003	1002	fill	dark greyish-black silty clay with stone and charcoal	-	-	-	LC1 – C2
10	1004		ditch	north-east/south-west ditch	1.37	0.52	-	
10	1005	1004	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay with stone	-	-	-	RB
10	1006		ditch	WNW/ESE ditch	2.14	1.34	-	
10	1007	1006	fill	dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	LIA - RB
10	1008		ditch	NNE/SSW ditch	>4.52	0.38	-	
10	1009	1008	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
10	<b>1010</b>		ditch	east-west ditch	>1.80	0.84	0.16	
10	<b>1011</b>	<b>1010</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	>1.80	0.84	0.16	RB
10	1012		pit	sub-circular pit?	0.88	0.57	-	
10	1013	1012	fill	dark black silty clay with charcoal and stone	-	-	-	RB
10	<b>1014</b>		pit	rectangular pit, steep sided with flat base	-	0.74	0.2	
10	<b>1015</b>	<b>1014</b>	fill	light greenish grey clay	-	-	0.07	
10	<b>1016</b>	<b>1014</b>	fill	dark black silty clay with charcoal	-	-	0.2	LIA – C1
10	1017		pit	sub-circular in plan	1.62	-	-	
10	1018	1017	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
10	1019		pit	circular in plan	1.28	-	-	
10	1020	1018	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	
10	<b>1021</b>		pit	steep sided with concave base. Cut by pit 1024.	-	-	0.35	
10	<b>1022</b>	<b>1021</b>	fill	mid yellowish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.06	
10	<b>1023</b>	<b>1021</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.33	LIA – C1
10	<b>1024</b>		pit	moderate edges with irregular base. Cuts pits 1021, 1032.	-	-	0.22	
10	<b>1025</b>	<b>1024</b>	fill	mid yellowish-brown silty clay	-	0.1	0.15	
10	<b>1026</b>	<b>1026</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.22	
10	<b>1027</b>		pit	steep sided pit. Cuts pit 1032.	-	2.1	<0.30	
10	<b>1028</b>	<b>1027</b>	fill	mid reddish-brown clay with chalk flecking	-	2.1	<0.32	LIA – C1
10	<b>1029</b>	<b>1029</b>	fill	dark grey silty clay with stone, chalk and charcoal flecking	-	<0.75	<0.30	LIA – C1
10	1030		pit	Post-medieval quarry pit, linear in plan	>3.6	8	<0.30	
10	1031	1030	fill	mid brown silty clay with stone	-	9	<0.30	
10	<b>1032</b>		pit	unknown edges and irregular base. Cut by pits 1024, 1027.	-	0.6	0.25	
10	<b>1033</b>	<b>1032</b>	fill	light greyish-brown silty clay	-	0.25	0.15	
10	<b>1034</b>	<b>1032</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	0.3	0.25	
11	<b>1101</b>		topsoil	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.25	
11	1102		natural geology	mid yellowish-brown silty clay with pebbles and stone	-	-	-	
11	1103		ditch	north/south ditch	>2.00	2.3	-	
11	1104	1103	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	LIA – C1
11	<b>1105</b>		ditch	NNE/SSW ditch. Possible terminal. Cut by ditch 1107.	>1.20	1.8	>0.44	
11	<b>1106</b>	<b>1105</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	-	C2
11	<b>1107</b>		ditch	Re-cut of ditch 1105.	>2.30	2.4	>0.44	
11	<b>1108</b>	<b>1105</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.4	LC1 – C2
11	<b>1109</b>	<b>1107</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.4	
11	<b>1110</b>	<b>1107</b>	fill	mid greyish black silty clay with charcoal flecking	-	-	0.16	LC1 – C2
11	<b>1111</b>	<b>1107</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.38	
11	<b>1112</b>	<b>1107</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	<0.06	LC1 – C2
11	<b>1113</b>	<b>1105</b>	fill	mid greyish-brown silty clay	-	-	0.35	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context No.	Description	Count	Wt(g)	Spot-date
101	Modern ceramic building material: drainpipe	1	91	Modern
111	Charcoal	1	2	-
315	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-and-limestone-tempered fabric	1	3	IA-RB
317	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog tempered fabric	1	2	LIA-C1
319	Roman ceramic building material: tile	1	3	RB
405	Roman ceramic building material: tile	1	33	RB
409	Iron Age pottery: shell-tempered fabric	2	26	IA
411	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	3	123	LIA-C1
	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	3		
415	Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	3	28	MC1-LC1
	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1		
	Roman pottery: black firing, sand-tempered fabric	2		
425	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	18	LIA-RB
427	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1	4	LIA-RB
504	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	9	14	LIA-RB
	Slag	3	142	
605	Roman ceramic building material: tile	1	28	RB
607	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1	5	IA-C1
611	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	6	55	C1
613	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	7	LIA-RB
615	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	4	91	LC2-C4
	Roman pottery: soft pink grog tempered ware	2		
	Fired clay	1	6	-
621	Fired clay	1	0	-
629	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	12	14	LIA-RB
705	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	2	6	IA-C1
707	Late Iron Age pottery: shell-tempered fabric	2	10	LIA
710	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1	12	IA-C1
	Fired clay	1	29	
711	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	9	77	IA-C1
	Slag	1	1	
713	Iron Age/Roman pottery: sand-tempered fabric	1	27	IA-C1
715	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	11	385	LC1-C2
	Roman pottery: grog-and-quartz-tempered fabric	4		
	Roman pottery: black firing, sand-tempered fabric	5		
	Roman pottery: greyware	6		
	Roman pottery: Upper Nene Valley greyware	1		
717	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	2	9	IA-C1
718	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	17	108	IA-C1
	Fired clay	1	2	
	Flint	1	0	
720	Late Iron Age pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	6	LIA
729	Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1	2	IA-C1
731	Roman pottery: Samian ware	4	13	MC1-LC1
	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	3	30	
	Roman ceramic building material: tile	1	11	
809	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	12	198	MC1-LC1
813	Roman pottery: soft pink grog-tempered ware	2	26	LC2-C4
	Roman pottery: gorged greyware	1		
815	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-and-grog-tempered fabric	5	7	LIA-C1

Context No.	Description	Count	Wt(g)	Spot-date	
<b>818</b>	Roman pottery: Upper Nene Valley greyware	1	45	RB	
	Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1			
<b>820</b>	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	4	38	RB	
	Roman pottery: greyware	1			
<b>821</b>	Roman pottery: Samian ware	2	6	C2	
	Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	7	118		
	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	2			
	Roman pottery: Upper Nene Valley greyware	3			
	Roman pottery: greyware	4			
	Roman pottery: black firing, sand-tempered fabric	1			
	Roman ceramic building material: brick	1	702		
<b>901</b>	Worked flint: scraper	1	22	-	
<b>910</b>	Slag	2	123	-	
1003	Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	4	340	LC1-C2	
	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	14			
	Roman pottery: greyware	4			
	Roman pottery: black firing, sand-tempered fabric	4			
	Fired clay	1			6
1005	Roman pottery: greyware	1	2	RB	
1007	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1	11	LIA-RB	
<b>1011</b>	Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	7	RB	
	Roman pottery: greyware	1			
1013	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1	2	RB	
<b>1016</b>	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	3	26	LIA-C1	
<b>1023</b>	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	10	LIA-C1	
<b>1028</b>	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	38	LIA-C1	
	Worked flint: flake/blade fragment	1	2		
<b>1029</b>	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	2	15	LIA-C1	
	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	1			
	Fired clay	1			13
1103	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	2	11	LIA-C1	
	Iron object	1	2		
<b>1106</b>	Roman pottery: greyware	5	322	C2	
	Roman pottery: Upper Nene Valley greyware	3			
	Roman pottery: black firing, sand-tempered fabric	1			
	Roman pottery: white flagon fabric	2			
	Roman pottery: fine white ware	1			
	Roman pottery: developed grog-tempered fabric	4			
	Roman pottery: fine oxidised fabric	4			
	Roman ceramic building material	1			47
<b>1108</b>	Roman pottery: greyware	21	910	LC1-C2	
	Roman pottery: black firing, sand-tempered fabric	8			
	Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric	2			
	Roman pottery: fine white ware	1			
	Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	9			
	Roman pottery: developed grog-tempered fabric	25			
	Roman pottery: soft pink grog-tempered ware	2			
	Roman pottery: fine oxidised fabric	4			
	Fired clay	1			42
	Worked stone object	1			7600
	<b>1110</b>	Roman pottery: greyware			7
Roman pottery: black firing, sand-tempered fabric		3			
Roman pottery: shell-tempered fabric		6			
Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric		2			
Roman pottery: developed grog-tempered fabric		8			
<b>1112</b>	Roman pottery: greyware	2	52	LC1-C2	
	Roman pottery: developed grog-tempered fabric	2			

Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context. BOS = Cattle; O/C = oviacaprid, SUS = pig; LM= large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal

**Table 3: Iron Age/Roman animal bone totals**

Context	BOS	O/C	EQ	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
411				2		2	34
425			11	12		23	153
504	1			10		11	111
710				2		2	22
711	2	1		1	2	6	57
717		2		1	1	4	32
1014					1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>411</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>10</b>		

**Table 4: Roman animal bone totals**

Context	BOS	O/C	MM	Total	Weight (g)
1106		2		2	4
1110	1	1	3	5	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>		

**Table 5: Undated animal bone totals**

Context	BOS	O/C	SUS	MM	Total	Weight (g)
304		1			1	13
510		1	1	6	8	35
519		1			1	4
906		1			1	11
910	1			1	2	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>		

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 6: Plant macrofossil identifications

Context number				504	718	110	431
Feature number				503	716	109	420
Sample number (SS)				1	2	3	4
Flot volume (ml)				11	18	3	2
Sample volume processed (l)				20	19	18	6
Soil remaining (l)				20	20	0	0
Period				LIA-RB	IA-RB	U/D	U/D
Plant macrofossil preservation				Poor	Poor	-	Poor
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name				
HSW	Betulaceae	<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazelnut		+		
M/D	Cyperaceae	<i>Carex</i> L.	Sedges		+		
D/A/P	Fabaceae	<i>Vicia</i> L./ <i>Lathyrus</i> L.	Vetches/peas	+	+		+
A/D	Poaceae	<i>Bromus</i> L.	Bromes		+		
E		<i>Poaceae</i>	Indeterminate cereal grains		++		+
E		<i>Poaceae</i>	Glume bases		+		

Table 7: Charcoal identifications

Context number				504	718	110	431
Feature number				503	716	109	420
Sample number (SS)				1	2	3	4
Flot volume (ml)				11	18	3	2
Sample volume processed (l)				20	19	18	6
Soil remaining (l)				20	20	0	0
Period				LIA-RB	IA-RB	U/D	U/D
Charcoal quantity				++++ (s)	+++ (s)	+ (s)	++
Charcoal preservation				Moderate	Moderate	-	Moderate
Family	Species	Common Name					
Fagaceae	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.	Common beech	1	2			
	<i>Quercus robur</i> L./ <i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl.	Pedunculate Oak/Sessile Oak		5		2	
Oleaceae	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	Ash				1	
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq./ <i>Sorbus</i> L./ <i>Malus sylvestris</i> (L.) Mill.	Hawthorn/rowan/ crab apple	2	3			
	<i>Prunus</i> L.	Cherries	1			2	
		Indeterminate		1			
<b>Number of Fragments:</b>			4	10	0	5	

## Key

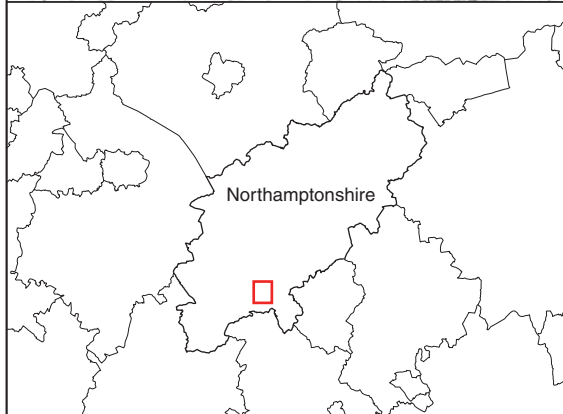
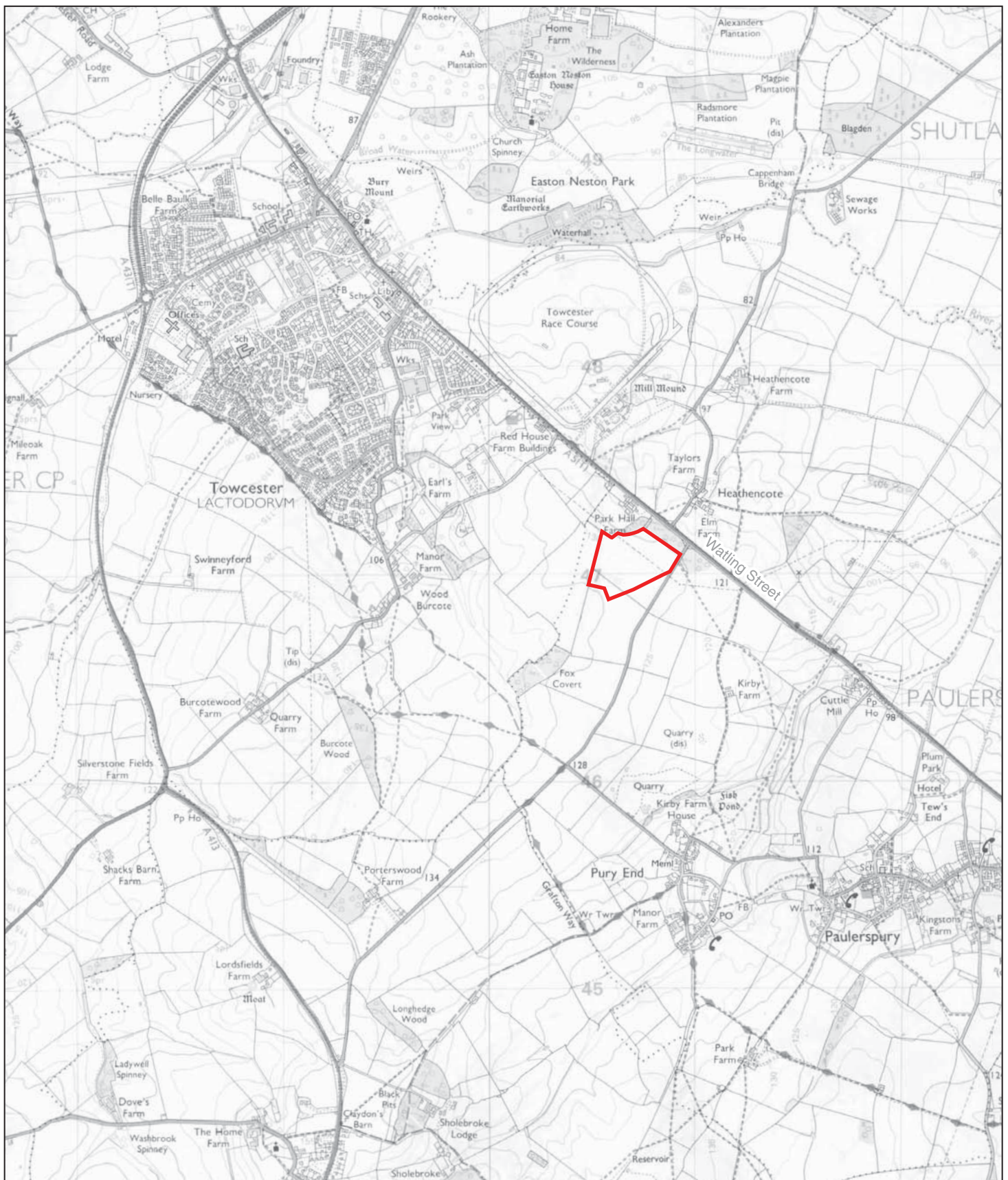
+ = 1-4 items; ++ = 5-20 items; +++ = 21-40 items; ++++ = 40+ items

(s) = the majority of the charcoal fragments highly fragmented and too small to identify

LIA = late Iron Age; IA = Iron Age; RB = Romano-British; U/D = undated

**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	The results of the evaluation are dominated by settlement and land management (farming) activities from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD. The current results confirm those of the earlier geophysical surveys in 2007 and 2012. The characteristic patterning of the mapped anomalies and recorded features, comprise well known aspects of later prehistoric and early Roman rural settlement and land management features. These include enclosures (settlement and pastoral), some with circular anomalies suggesting roundhouse structures, as well as droveways linked in with the settlement enclosures as well as associated field system boundaries in close proximity. The faunal assemblage indicates the management and butchery of the usual domesticates for these periods, including cattle, pig, sheep/goat and horse.	
Project dates	30th September - 7th October 2013	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Fieldwalking survey (2007) Geophysical surveys 2007 and 2012	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	22 Ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	NP 470794 247150	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	CgMs Limited	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Peter James	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
None		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
Roman disc quern		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive To be confirmed. Currently kept at Cotswold Archaeology Milton Keynes offices.	Content
Physical		Pottery, cbm, bone, fired clay, worked flint, iron obj.
Paper		Trench records, site drawings (A4); photo, sample and RA registers
Digital		Digital photographs and survey data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA Typescript report		



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 Andover 01264 347630  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**

Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan



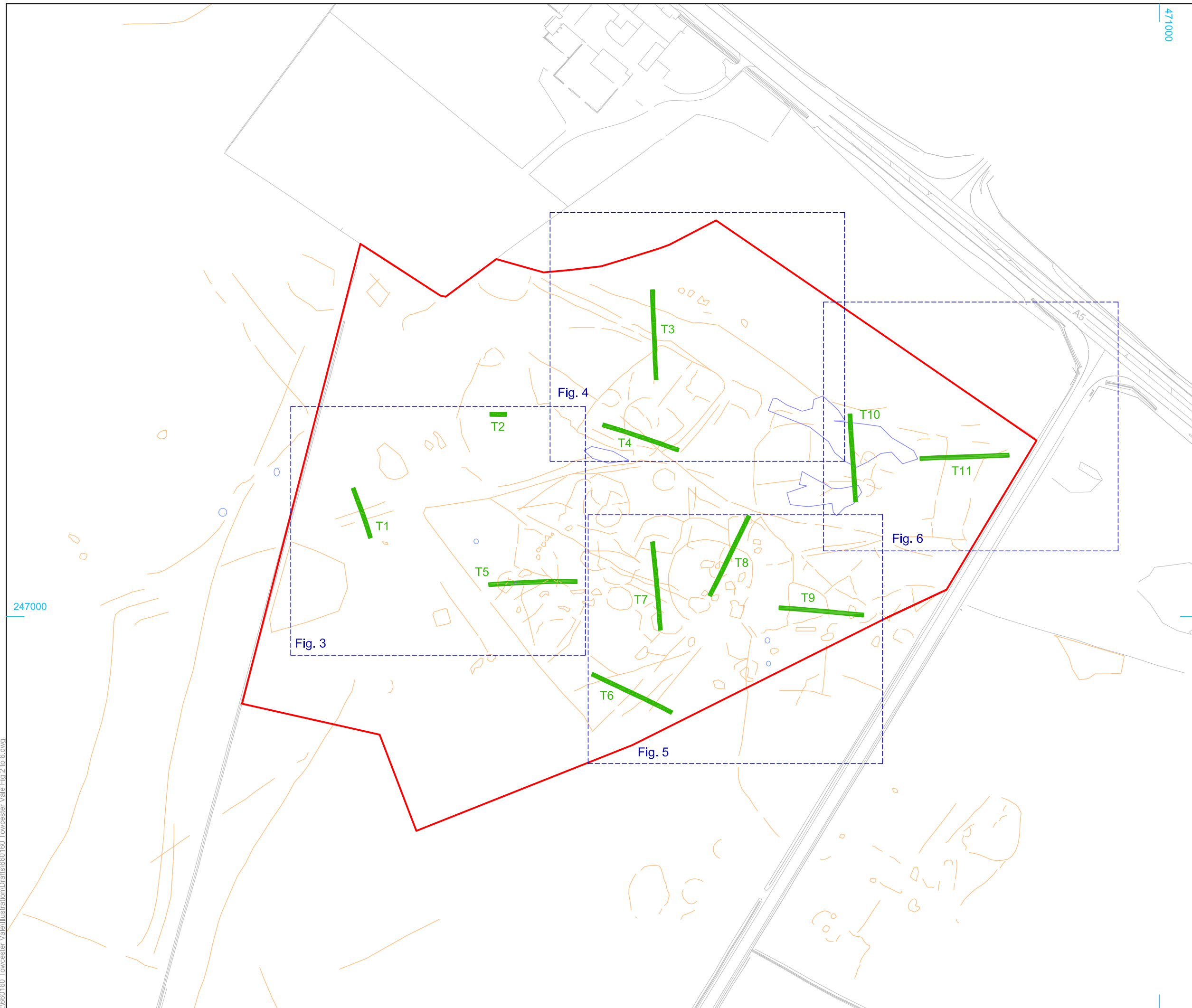
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FIGURE NO.

1





471000

247000



- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench

geophysical survey key

- Possible Archaeology / Burnt Soil / Ceramic Debris
- Possible geology



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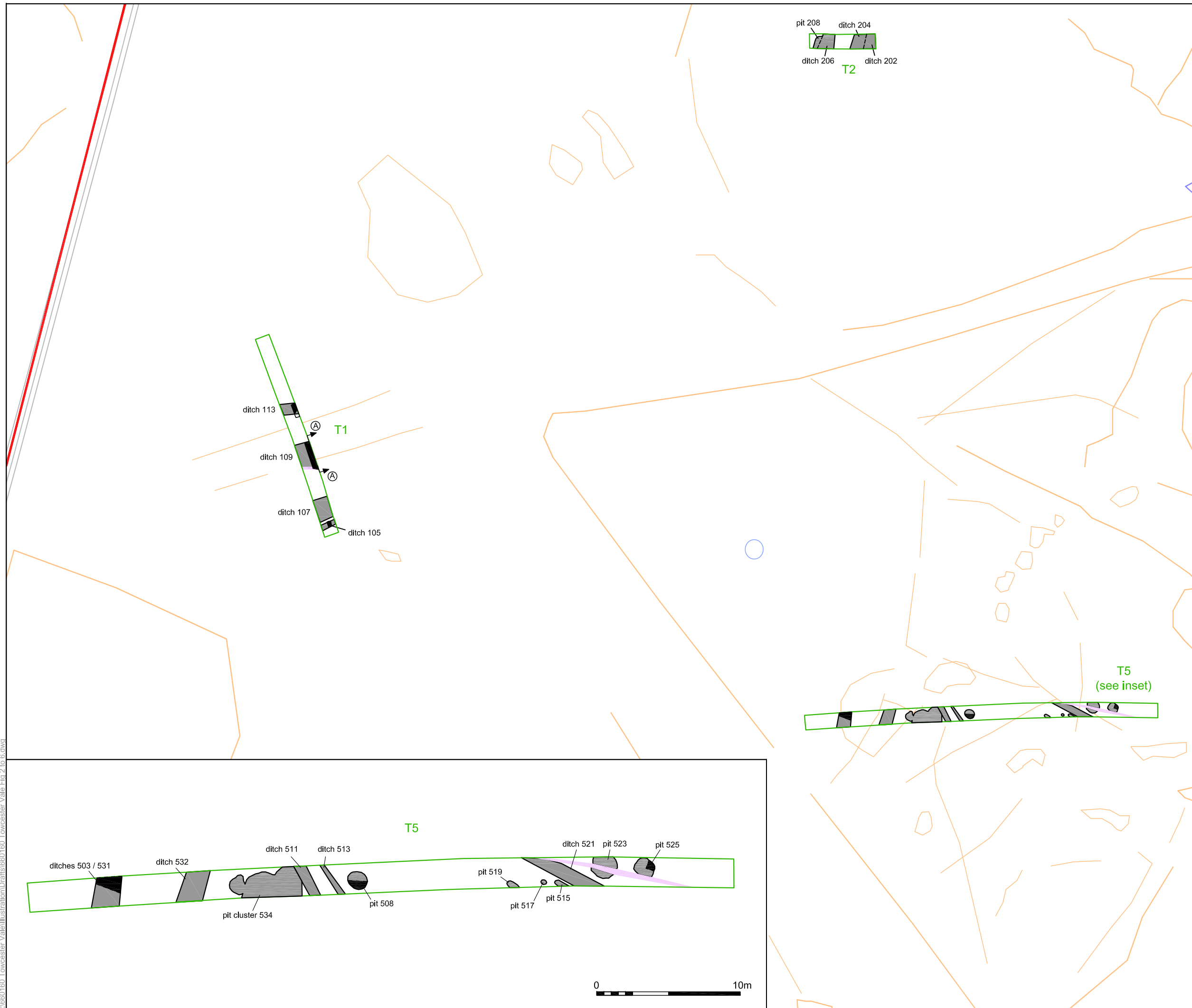
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PROJECT TITLE  
**Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results**

PROJECT NO.	660160	DATE	06-12-2023	FIGURE NO.	2
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:2000		

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- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- Excavated section of feature
- modern
  
- geophysical survey key
- Possible Archaeology / Burnt Soil / Ceramic Debris
- Possible geology



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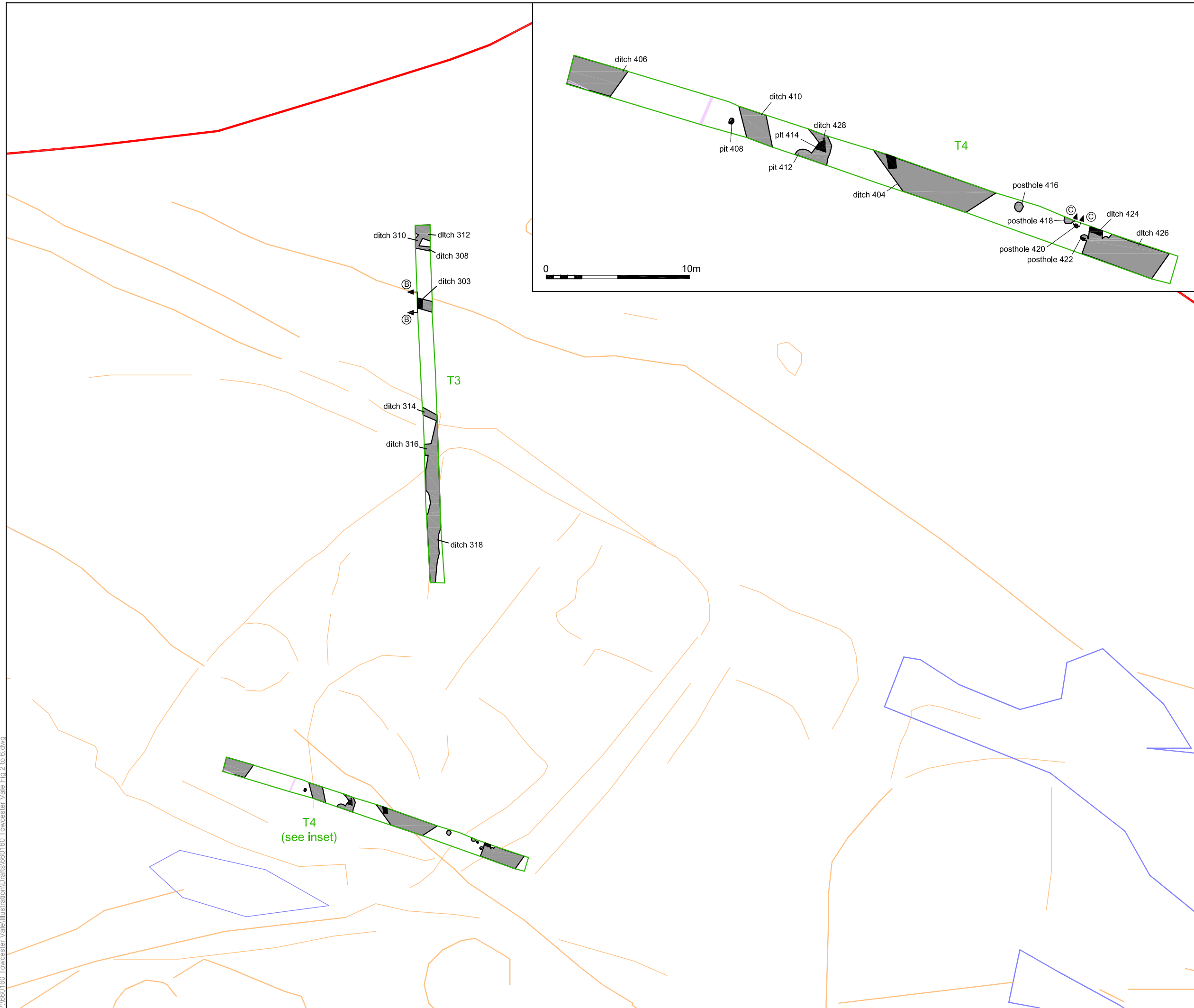
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trenches 1, 2 and 5, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO. 660160	DATE 06-12-2023	FIGURE NO. 3
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APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:2000	

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- ▬ site
  - ▬ evaluation trench
  - archaeological feature
  - Excavated section of feature
  - modern
- geophysical survey key
- Possible Archaeology / Burnt Soil / Ceramic Debris
  - Possible geology



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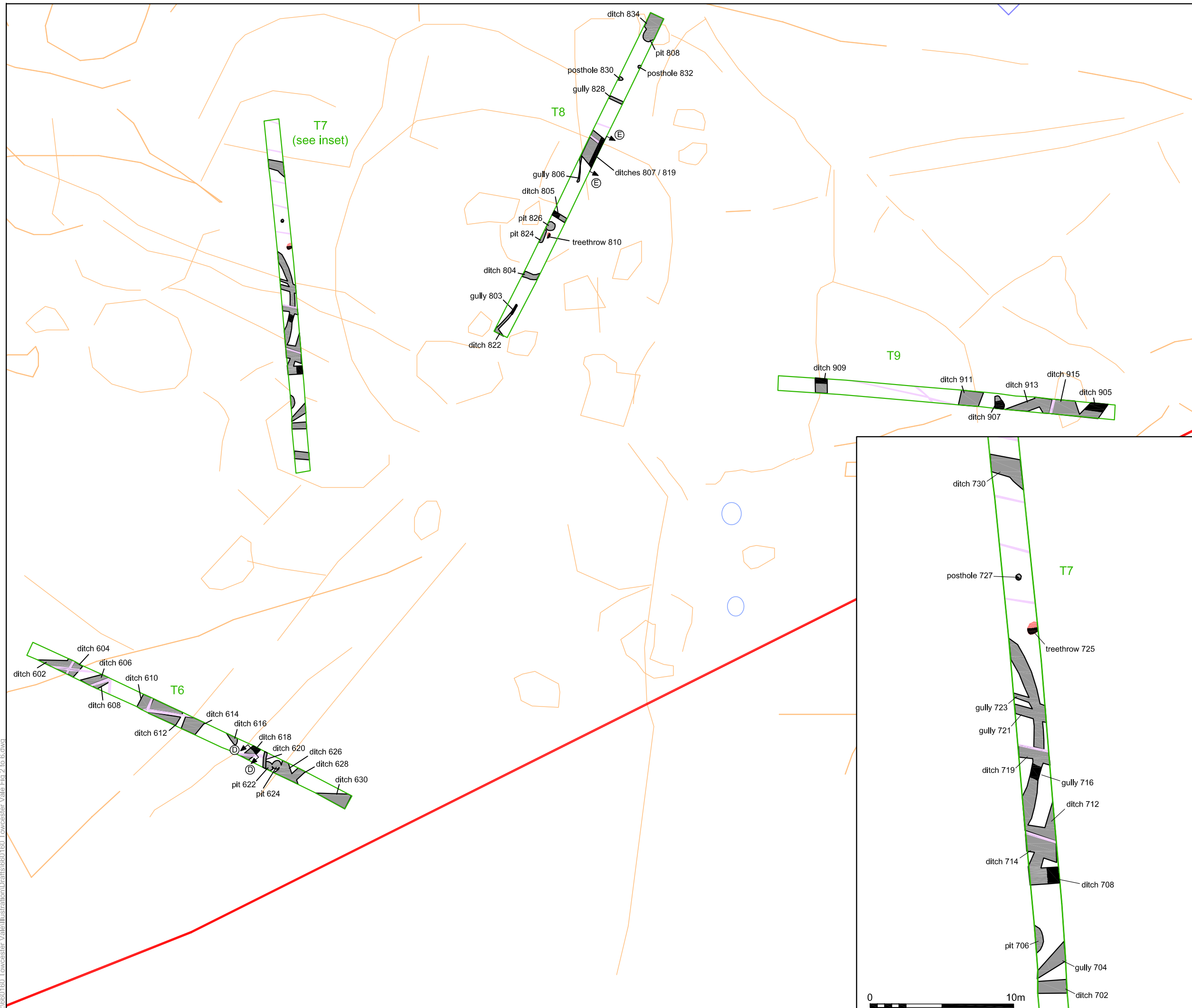
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trenches 3 and 4, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO.	660160	DATE	06-12-2023	FIGURE NO.	4
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APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:2000		

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- ▬ site
  - ▬ evaluation trench
  - archaeological feature
  - Excavated section of feature
  - modern
- geophysical survey key
- Possible Archaeology / Burnt Soil / Ceramic Debris
  - Possible geology



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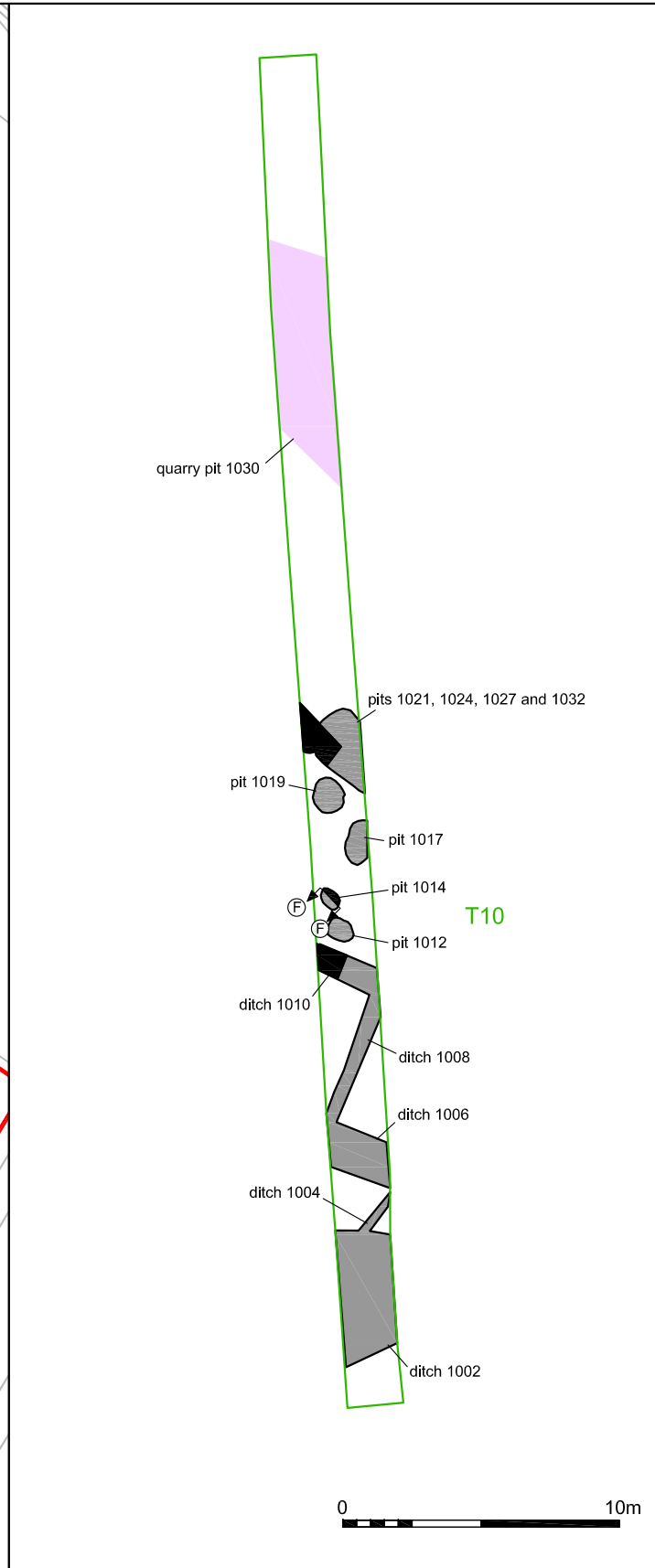
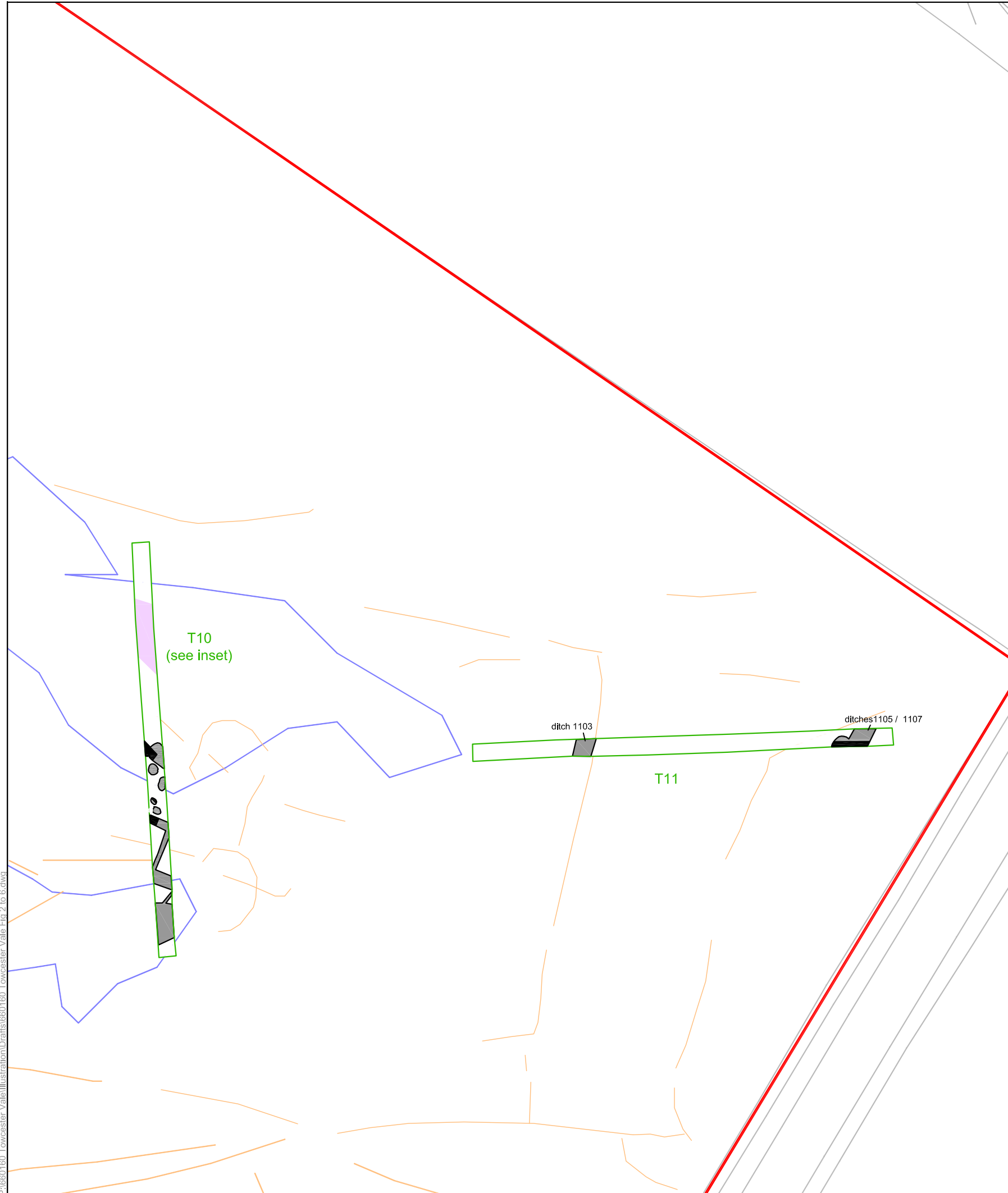
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO.	660160	DATE	06-12-2023	FIGURE NO.
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- site
  - evaluation trench
  - archaeological feature
  - Excavated section of feature
  - modern
- geophysical survey key
- Possible Archaeology / Burnt Soil / Ceramic Debris
  - Possible geology



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Towcester Vale, Northamptonshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trenches 10 and 11, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

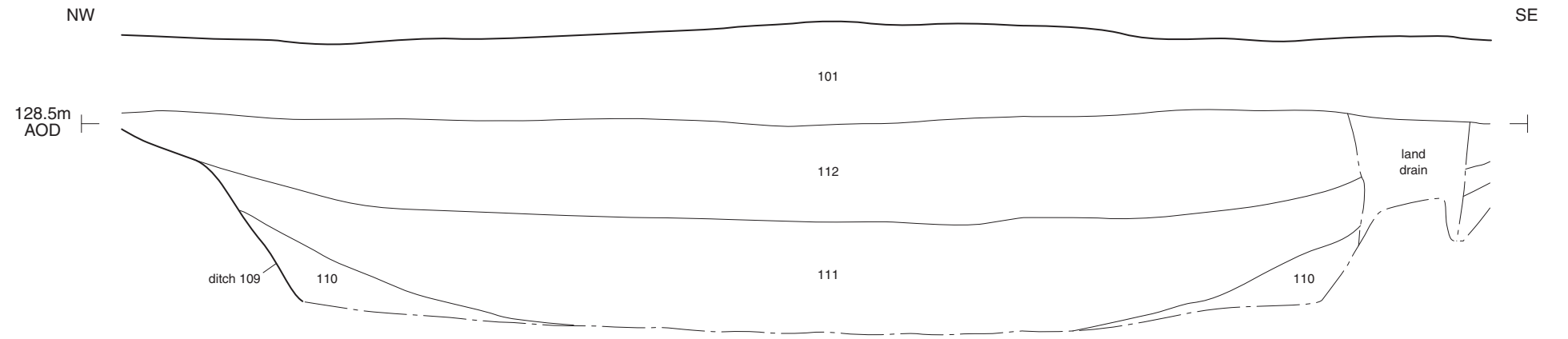
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APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:2000		

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Trench 1: south-east facing section of ditch 109, (2m scale)

Section AA

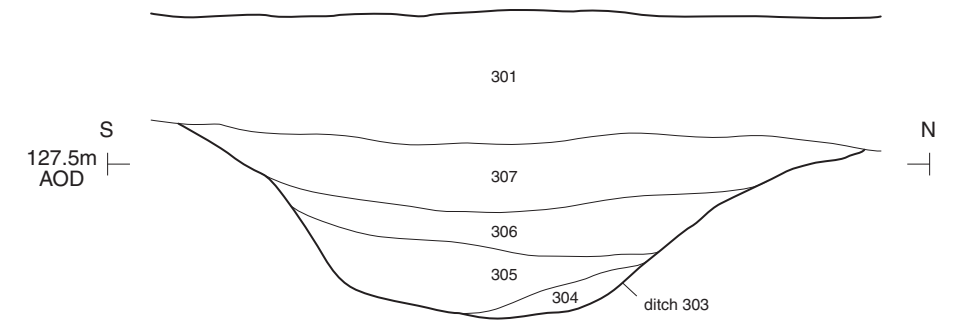


Trench 2, facing west (1m scales)



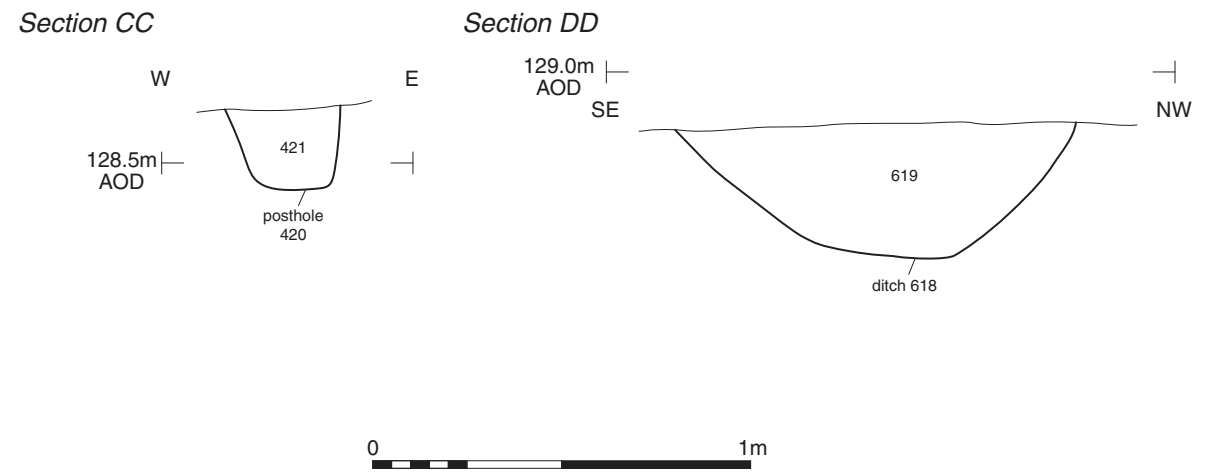
Trench 3, East facing section of ditch 303 (1m scale)

Section BB





Trench 4, facing east (1m scales)

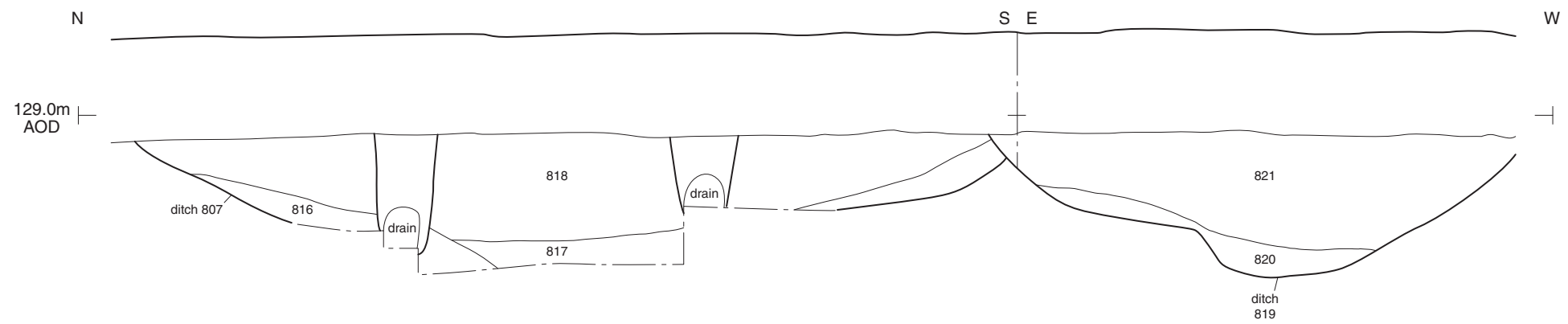


Trench 7, west facing section of ditch 708 (1m scale)



Trench 7, south-west facing section of gully 716 (0.4m scale)

Section EE



Trench 10, west facing photograph of pits 1021, 1024, 1027 and 1032 (1m scale)

Section FF

