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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Springfield Farm, Ambrosden between 16th and 28th January 2013. The area of proposed development currently consists of open grassland, and is currently being considered for development for housing. Following a desk-based assessment of archaeological potential, and geophysical survey, an archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the submission of a planning application. The scope of the evaluation was agreed with Richard Oram, planning archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council, and consisted of 12 trenches varying between 50m and 100m in length, and totalling a 2% sample of the proposed development area. Trenches were laid out to target anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, and to provide an even coverage of the development area. The work was carried out over 9 working days in adverse conditions with a team of 2-7 archaeologists and a 360° mechanical excavator.

The evaluation revealed several ditches in the north-east corner of the site, two of which included single sherds of Roman pottery. One other Roman sherd was found in a post-medieval ditch. The paucity of Roman sherds, and the absence of any other material of this date, indicates that these features were probably field boundaries remote from settlement.

These ditches were cut by the furrows of medieval or post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, which covered the whole of the area evaluated. No finds of medieval or early post-medieval date were recovered in association to refine this dating.

Several later post-medieval field boundaries were also uncovered. The bulk of the geophysical anomalies proved to be either spreads of recent material associated with the levelling of the site after removal of these field boundaries, or in the case of the more amorphous anomalies, to have derived from animal activity associated with a series of pig sties that formerly ran along the edges of the field west of Springfield Farm.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Bloor Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development at Ambrosden, Oxfordshire.
- 1.1.2 The site is situated on the eastern edge of the village of Ambrosden in the Cherwell District of Oxfordshire, centred at NGR SP607 194, and is bounded by Ploughley Road on the west and Merton Road on the north (Figure 1).
- 1.1.3 The site had previously been subject to a Desk-Based Assessment (EDP 2012) and a geophysical survey (Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2012; see 1.3.27 and Figure 2 below). Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions between Jo Vallender of EDP and Richard Oram (Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council) established the scope of work required. This was an evaluation comprising twelve trenches varying in length from 50 to 100m, all 2m wide (Figure 2).
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigations was prepared by Oxford Archaeology detailing how they would carry out the work, and this was agreed with Richard Oram prior to work commencing (OA 2012).
- 1.1.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies (NPPF and Cherwell District Plan).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The area of proposed development currently consists of open grassland east, west and south of Springfield Farm, and slopes gently south-eastwards from 63m to 60m AOD (Figure 2).
- 1.2.2 The geology of the area is superficial deposits of banded clay, sand and gravel overlying mudstone of the Kellaways Clay Member (BGS 2012), and comprises gravel terrace deposits on the edge of the floodplain of the river Ray, which runs west-south-west some 800m south-east of the site. Alluvium is also likely to be present in the south-east corner of the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in *Springfield Farm, Ambrosden, Bicester; Archaeological and Heritage Assessment* (EDP 2012), drawing on information in the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the 1st edition OS map of 1876 and the Ambrosden Tithe Map of 1848, and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 There are no heritage assets of any period recorded within the application site boundary.

Prehistoric (500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 1.3.3 Approximately 500 metres to the west of the site, a flint scraper and flint flake of either Neolithic or early Bronze Age date were found, together with an undated ditch terminus and pit, during the replacement of a water pipeline at Graven Hill (HER 16825).
- 1.3.4 Some 400m north-east of the site, and at a slightly higher elevation than it, two cropmark ring ditches have been identified on aerial photographs (HER 13909). These



are likely to be the ditches of ploughed-out barrows of early Bronze Age or (less likely) of Neolithic date.

- 1.3.5 A little further to the north-east, antiquarian excavations uncovered pits containing Iron Age pottery (HER 2787), probably representing late prehistoric settlement at this location.
- 1.3.6 There is therefore considered to be moderate potential for prehistoric activity of the early Bronze Age to the late Iron Age period on the site.

Romano-British (AD43 – 410)

- 1.3.7 The Roman town of Alchester, which is designated as a scheduled monument, is located approximately 3.5 kilometres just north of west. The line of Akeman Street (HER 8920), a major Roman road which passes just north of the town, and connects Verulamium (now St Albans) to Cirencester, runs east-west some 900 metres to the north of the site.
- 1.3.8 Less than 200 metres south of Akeman Street, a Roman Cornelian intaglio (HER 15645) was found. EDP analysis of aerial photographs identified a rectilinear grid of cropmarks c 350 m north of the site, in the same field (EDP 2012, 15). These cropmarks, which are aligned parallel to, and at right angles to, Akeman Street, may represent a former Roman field or enclosure system.
- 1.3.9 Some 400m east of this, rock cut features filled with Roman pottery were found (HER 2787).
- 1.3.10 Closer to the application site, Roman pits and ditches (HER 681) were exposed during groundworks in 1954. Immediately north of the application site, a small magnetometer and resistivity survey of the playing field at Five Acres School was carried out in 2006 (EOX 2357), and identified a potential north-east to south-west ditch parallel to Merton Road. A subsequent excavation by the pupils of the school confirmed its location and recovered a single sherd of Roman pottery from its fill.
- 1.3.11 This represents evidence for Roman settlement activity to the north of the application site. Furthermore, the Iron Age and Roman pottery in pits to the north-east (see above) may suggest the development of an Iron Age farmstead into the Roman period, possibly like that excavated at Bicester Fields Farm 3 km to the north-west (Cromarty et al. 1999). Akeman Street, to the north of the application site, would have provided easy access to the nearby Roman town.
- 1.3.12 It is therefore considered that there is moderate potential for activity of the Roman period within the site.

Early Medieval (AD 410 -1066)

- 1.3.13 There are no early medieval heritage assets identified on the Oxfordshire HER within the application site or, indeed, in the vicinity.
- 1.3.14 Early Anglo-Saxon settlement typically comprises isolated farmsteads and small communities widely dispersed within the rural landscape, seemingly with a focus on prehistoric and Roman settlement sites. As a result, it is considered that there is low potential for the land within the application site to contain significant archaeological remains from this period.
- 1.3.15 There is no physical evidence for either middle or later Anglo-Saxon activity within the study area, although historical sources (see below) suggest there was a pre-Conquest manor at Ambrosden. Given the paucity of information within the study area, it is



considered there is low potential for the application site to contain significant archaeological remains of this period.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1485)

- 1.3.16 Settlement during this period would have been focused on Ambrosden, whose 12th century church, which is a Grade II* listed building (LB 1046525) lies 300m to the west of the site, and upon a possible manor house (HER 5657), also on the west side of Ambrosden.
- 1.3.17 Medieval pottery (HER 16031) was recovered to the south of the manor site prior to residential development. However, no other features or structures were identified, perhaps suggesting that the core of medieval settlement at Ambrosden was to the north of the manor, between it and the church. Indeed, to the north of the church, the Oxfordshire HER records the location of a medieval gold coin, identified during a metal detector survey (HER 27518).
- 1.3.18 The land within the application site was on the periphery of medieval settlement at Ambrosden, and most probably formed part of the 'open field' farming regime. As such, there is low potential for the application site to contain significant archaeological remains from this period.

Post-Medieval and Georgian (AD 1485 – 1837)

- 1.3.19 As with the medieval period, Ambrosden would have formed the settlement focus, and many of its listed buildings, described above, date from this period. However, not all the buildings from this period are extant, and on the western edge of the village is the site of the former Ambrosden Hall (HER 4594).
- 1.3.20 In 2003, an archaeological evaluation (EOX 1094) identified an 18th century brick-built tunnel, presumably associated with the former Ambrosden Hall (HER 4594). Subsequent investigations, to identify the alignment of the tunnel, included a geophysical survey in 2003 (EOX 2718) and further evaluation in 2005 (EOX 1832).
- 1.3.21 In the wider study area, there is evidence for rural industry, with the site of a post-medieval mill recorded within Ambrosden (HER 5299). To the north, a former brickworks at Blackthorn Farm (HER 12575) was redundant by 1919.
- 1.3.22 As mentioned above, the land within the application site was probably under agricultural management during the 18th and 19th centuries, and it is unlikely to contain any significant archaeological remains from this broad period.

Victorian and Modern (AD 1837 - present)

- 1.3.23 The Tithe Map of 1846 depicts residential properties along Merton Road, with strip fields to their south. Ploughley Road did not yet exist.
- 1.3.24 In the wider study area, a small chapel (HER 12532) is located approximately 80 metres to the west of the application site boundary. Dating from the 1920s, it is situated off Merton Road, on the edge of the historic core of the village.
- 1.3.25 With the continuation of the established agricultural regime within the application site, it is considered to have low potential to contain significant archaeological remains from this period.
- 1.3.26 EDP analysed historic maps of the site from 1848 and 1876. These maps demonstrated the site's agricultural use but showed no evidence of further possible archaeological features (EDP 2012, 14).



Previous Archaeological Investigation of the site

- 1.3.27 A magnetometer survey of the site was conducted by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy in August 2012. The survey did not record any definite archaeological features, although it was suggested that anomalies recorded in the north-west corner of the site could be the remains of enclosures (Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2012, 3-4 and Figure 2).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to acknowledge Jo Vallender of EDP for commissioning OA to carry out the work, and Bloor Homes for their understanding of the difficult weather conditions in which it was carried out. We are also grateful to Mr and Mrs Richardson of Springfield Farm for allowing us onto the land, and for information regarding its use in recent years. Tim Allen managed the evaluation for OA, and he would like to thank Conan Parsons for laying out the trenches, and Jim Mumford for his efficient and pragmatic supervision of the work on site. Jim was ably assisted by Michael McLean, Richard Kevill, Lee Sparks, Ian Cook, Mike Sims and Victoria Skipper.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.2 General

2.2.1 The aims of the evaluation were to:

- (i) establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area;
- (ii) determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation;
- (iii) determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;
- (iv) characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon younger (overlying) deposits where possible;
- (v) determine the palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits; and
- (vi) make available the results of the investigation to inform any further mitigation strategy.

2.3 Specific aims and objectives

2.3.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (vii) to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey;
- (viii) establish the character and extent of any Bronze Age activity, noting the potential for Bronze Age funerary activity in this area;
- (ix) establish the character and extent of any Iron Age and Roman activity, noting the potential for Iron Age and Roman activity in the wider landscape.

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 The evaluation consisted of a series of trenches spread across the site. These were mostly 50m and 100m in length, but also including one 80m trench. Some were positioned over anomalies and features revealed in geophysical survey; others to obtain a reasonable coverage of the evaluated area in apparently blank areas.

2.4.2 Trench positions were laid out using a GPS.

2.4.3 All trenches were initially dug by 360 machine with a toothless bucket under close, constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoils were excavated and stored separately, and were replaced in their appropriate stratigraphic order once investigation was completed.

2.4.4 Trenches were generally clean enough to photograph and plan following machining; a few were subsequently cleaned by hand in part to clarify possible features. Empty trenches (in this case only Trench 5) were not planned.

2.4.5 Following planning at 1:50 and photography, possible archaeological features were sample-excavated by hand to investigate their depth, form, character and date. Plans and sections were drawn of hand-excavated interventions on permatrace.

2.4.6 All trenches were levelled along their length.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The trenches are described individually below, and are followed by a summary of the finds and environmental evidence, and then by a discussion of the results. Appendices contain tabulations of the archaeological contexts, the finds and environmental assessment reports and the bibliography. Location plans, plans and sections of the trenches and an interpretation of the results will be found at the back of the report.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The site is grassland pasture at present, but was formerly ploughed farmland. The soil sequence consisted of a silty clay loam overlying clay with patches of silty clay, cornbrash and gravel. Occasional patches of groundwater were encountered in the central part of the site; water generally drains from the site to the river Ray, which lies to the south-east. Ground conditions were soft and sticky, and snow covered the ground for most of the duration of the fieldwork.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Ridge-and-furrow cultivation was evident right across the site. The geophysical survey had also indicated a number of linear and irregular anomalies in the western part of the site (Figure 2). The linear anomalies proved to correspond to former field boundaries, and the irregular anomalies to recent disturbance, probably from the presence of pig sties known to have been on this side of the site (see Figure 7).

3.3.2 The only more ancient features were a small number of ditches, all located in the north-eastern part of the site (Figure 7).

3.4 Trench 1 (Figures 3 and 5)

3.4.1 This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and was originally 100m long x 1.5m wide. A 13m extension was added to the north-east end as the trench was excavated with a 1.5m wide bucket rather than the prescribed wider bucket. This extension was agreed with Richard Oram to compensate for the reduced area. The trench was 0.55m in depth onto the top of the yellowish brown silty clay natural (106), and had been cut by a number of medieval furrows [104] aligned north-west to south-east. The furrows were 1.5m to 2m wide and 0.16m in depth with a shallow concave profile and filled with a light reddish brown silty clay loam (105).

3.4.2 Towards the south-west end of the trench a post-medieval field boundary [102] was exposed aligned north-west to south-east. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.92m in depth with sloping sides and flat base. It was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay loam (103) and was overlain by the reddish brown silty clay loam lower plough soil (101). Spread over the line of the boundary ditch was a 2m wide and 0.24m thick layer (107) of black ash, cinder and charcoal levelling up a slope between the former fields. The farmer stated that after this hedge line was removed (about 25 years ago) the step between fields had been graded over for ploughing. The whole of the trench was sealed below a 0.26m thick dark reddish brown silty clay loam (100) plough soil.

3.5 Trench 2 (Figures 3 and 5)

3.5.1 This trench was aligned west to east and was 50m long x 1.8m wide x 0.5m deep, and was excavated to the top of the yellowish brown silty clay natural (209). This had been

cut by a series of furrows [210] aligned north-west to south-east measuring 1.5m wide and 0.1m deep and filled by a light reddish brown silty clay loam (211). An undated ditch [206] was aligned north-east to south-west, with sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 1.8m x 0.62m x 0.18m and was filled by a light grey brown silty clay (207) loam. The furrows were sealed by a 0.2m thick reddish brown silty clay loam (201), interpreted as a lower plough soil. Cutting this was an old field boundary [204] aligned north-west to south-east with steep sloping sides and flat base. It measured 1.8m x 1.55m x 0.28m and was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay loam (205).

- 3.5.2 At the west end was a modern broad V-profiled ditch measuring 1.8m x 1.7m x 0.5m, filled with a dark grey brown silty clay loam (203) over a broken concrete drainpipe. This was sealed under a levelling layer of dark orangey brown silty clay (208). This feature was associated with a former line of pig sties along the western edge of the site. Sealing all these features was a 0.26m thick very dark reddish brown silty clay loam (200) plough soil.

3.6 Trench 3 (Figures 3 and 5)

- 3.6.1 This trench was aligned east to west and was 100m long x 1.8m wide x 0.6m deep, bottoming on to the top of the yellowish brown clay natural (309). This had been cut by a number of medieval furrows [302] aligned north-west to south-east. The furrows were 1.5m to 2m wide and 0.16m in depth with a shallow concave profile and filled with a light reddish brown silty clay loam (303). In the middle of the trench a small ditch [307] cut north-east to south-west across the trench with steep sloping sides and concave base. It measured 2.6m x 0.9m x 0.21m, and cut both the natural and the medieval furrows. It was filled by a dark grey reddish brown silty clay loam (308). This was overlain by a 0.23m thick light reddish brown silty clay loam (301), a lower ploughsoil.
- 3.6.2 The subsoil was cut by two modern ditches [304] and [311]. The first ditch [304] lay along the western edge of the site. It had very steep sloping sides, and its base was not exposed as it lay below the water table. It measured 1.9m x 2.2m x 0.6m and was filled by a silting up of reddish brown silty clay loam (306). This was overlain by a very dark grey brown silty clay (305) with CBM, slag and bone and sealed below a 0.3m thick very dark grey brown silty clay (310) with patches of yellowish brown clay. The farmer stated that this ditch was associated with the line of pig sties that had formerly run along this edge of the field.
- 3.6.3 The second ditch [311] was a modern field boundary with steep sides and concave base, and measured 2m x 1.2m x 0.4m. It was filled by a dark reddish brown silty clay loam (312). All these features and subsoil were sealed below a very dark reddish brown silty clay loam (300), a plough soil 0.23m deep.

3.7 Trench 4 (Figures 3 and 5)

- 3.7.1 This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 50m long, 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep. It was dug to the top of the mid yellowish brown silty clay natural (400). This had been cut by two furrows. One furrow [402] was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 3m wide and was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay loam (403). The other furrow [406] was aligned east to west and measured 3m wide, and was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay loam (407). These had been sealed below a thick dark reddish brown silty clay loam (408), a lower plough soil 0.3m deep. Layer (408) was cut by a modern field boundary with sloping sides and narrow concave base. It measured 2m x 2.08m x 0.58m and contained two fills. The primary silt was a dark reddish brown silty clay loam (409), and was sealed below a dark grey brown silty clay



(405) with occasional stone fragments. The was sealed below a very dark reddish brown silty clay loam (401), a plough soil 0.3m deep.

3.8 Trench 5 (not illustrated)

3.8.1 This trench was aligned nearly north to south and measured 50m long x 1.8m wide x 0.34m deep to the top of the yellowish brown silty clay natural (502). This was sealed by a 0.10m thick reddish brown silty clay loam (501), a lower plough soil, which was in turn covered by a dark reddish brown silty clay loam (500), a plough soil 0.24m thick. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed in the trench, which is not therefore included in the detailed trench plans.

3.9 Trench 6 (Figure 3)

3.9.1 This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 100m long x 1.8m wide x 0.4m deep. It was dug to the surface of the dark yellowish brown clay natural (602). Two series of furrows from ridge-and-furrow cultivation were exposed in the trench. One series was aligned north-east to south-west across the northern end of the trench. These furrows [605] were 1m wide and filled by a light reddish brown silty clay loam (606). The second series was represented by furrow [607], which was aligned north-west to south-east at the southern end (the last 12m) of the trench, and was filled by a light reddish brown silty clay loam (608). The two groups were divided by a headland observed crossing the middle of the trench north-east to south-west.

3.9.2 The furrows were sealed below a reddish brown silty clay loam (601), a lower plough soil 0.24m deep. This had been cut by a modern field boundary [603] with near-vertical sides rounding to a gentle slope and narrow concave base. It measured 2m wide and 0.58m in depth with a fill of dark grey brown silty clay loam (604). This was sealed below a very dark reddish brown silty clay loam (600), a plough soil 0.16m deep.

3.10 Trench 7 (Figures 3 and 5)

3.10.1 This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 80m long x 1.8m wide x 0.5m deep, bottoming on the dark yellowish silty clay natural (702). Cutting the natural was a series of furrows [705] aligned north-west to south-east, which were 2m wide and were filled by a light reddish brown silty clay loam (706).

3.10.2 These were sealed below a reddish brown silty clay loam (701), a lower plough soil 0.20m thick, which was cut at the south-western end of the trench by an east-west modern field boundary ditch [703]. It measured 3.75m long x 0.8m wide x 0.3m with a steep, concave profile. It was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay loam (704) which was sealed below plough soil (700), a very dark reddish brown silty clay loam 0.25m deep.

3.11 Trench 8 (Figures 4 and 5)

3.11.1 This trench was T-shaped in plan, each arm being 50m long x 1.8m wide x 0.6m deep. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural, a light orangey brown silty clay (800) with patches of limestone brash. In the top of this were several natural features. The first was an oval root-hole [803] with irregular sides and concave base measuring 0.52m x 0.36m x 0.13m, with a dark grey brown silty clay fill (804). Another irregular feature [805] with uneven sides and concave base measured 2.2m x 0.72m x 0.17m deep, and containing a fill of dark reddish brown silty clay loam (806). There was also a linear feature with irregular sides and an uneven, concave base, some 2m long, 0.92m



wide and 0.26m deep, which was filled by a reddish brown silty clay (808) fill. None of these 'features' contained any finds.

- 3.11.2 These 'features' had been cut by a series of furrows [809] aligned north-east to south-west and generally measuring 3.5m wide and 0.2m deep, filled by a reddish brown silty clay loam (810). These were overlain by the reddish brown silty clay (802) lower plough soil below the very dark reddish brown silty clay loam plough soil (800), which was 0.24m deep.

3.12 Trench 9 (Figures 4 and 5)

- 3.12.1 This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 50m long x 1.8m wide x 0.5m deep. It was cut into the top of the natural, a light yellowish brown silty clay (904). The natural had been cut by a ditch [905] with very steep sloping sides and concave base, which measured 9m x 0.5m x 0.28m deep, and was filled with grey brown silty clay (906). This contained a couple of fragments of animal bone.
- 3.12.2 This ditch has been cut by the furrows of ridge-and-furrow cultivation. The main series of furrows was aligned almost north to south with a single north-east to south-west furrow at the east end. These furrows, numbered [902], were 2m wide and 0.2m deep with a concave profile, and were filled by a reddish brown silty clay loam (903). The furrows were sealed below a reddish brown silty clay loam (901), a lower plough soil 0.3m thick, and this was in turn covered by the usual ploughsoil, a very dark reddish brown silty clay loam (900), which was 0.2m thick.

3.13 Trench 10 (Figures 4 and 6)

- 3.13.1 This trench was aligned north-east to south-west, and was divided into two parts by a fence line crossing its line. To compensate for the break caused by the fence line an extension was dug westwards on the north side of the fence. The trench measured 100m long x 1.8m wide x 0.5m deep, and exposed a natural of dark yellowish brown silty clay (1000). This was cut by a number of features.
- 3.13.2 In the southern end of the trench was a ditch [1002] with shallow sloping sides and flat base measuring 1.8m x 1.18m x 0.36m and filled by (1003), a yellowish brown silty clay fill. In the northern half of the trench at its north end there was a small gully [1004] aligned east to west with sloping sides and concave base, measuring 5.2m x 0.55m x 0.16m and filled by a mid grey brown silty clay loam (1005).
- 3.13.3 At the south end of the north half of the trench was another ditch, numbered both [1009] and [1011] either side of a succession of furrows, that had sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.8m long, 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep. This was filled by a dark brown silty clay loam numbered (1010) and (1012). This may have cut the fill (1014) of a earlier gully ditch, numbered both [1013] and [1015], with steep sloping sides and a concave base. The relationship was however obscured by a land drain cutting over the top of the intersection. The earlier ditch measured 8.75m x 0.65m x 0.2m deep, and was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay loam numbered (1014) and (1016).
- 3.13.4 Ditches [1013], [1015] and [1004] were cut by furrows [1006] aligned north-west to south-east. These furrows of ridge-and-furrow cultivation were 2.5m wide and 0.2m deep with shallow concave profile and a reddish brown silty clay loam fill (1007). The furrows and earlier features were all sealed below a dark reddish brown silty clay loam (1008), a lower plough soil 0.23m thick. Overlying this was the very dark reddish brown silty clay loam plough soil (1001), which was 0.26m thick.



3.14 Trench 11 (Figures 4 and 6)

- 3.14.1 This trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 50m long x 1.8m wide x 0.38m deep to the top of the light orangey brown silty clay natural (1102). This had been cut by a small gully or ditch [1103] with sloping sides and flat base. The gully measured 1.8m x 0.38m x 0.1m deep, and was filled by a orangey grey silty clay loam (1104). The natural was also cut by an irregular feature [1110] which had sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 1.4m x 1m x 0.53m deep, and was filled by light yellowish grey brown silty clay (1109).
- 3.14.2 A series of furrows [1113] crossed these features, running north-west to south-east and measuring 1.7m wide and 0.16m deep. These were filled by a dark reddish brown silty clay loam (1114), and were sealed below the reddish brown silty clay (1101) lower plough soil, which was 0.14m thick. Layer (1101) had been cut by three north-south mole drains [1105], [1111] and [1107]. These had near-vertical sides and concave bases, and were all filled by a grey brown silty clay, numbered respectively (1106), (1108) and (1112). Sealing these was a dark grey brown silty clay loam ploughsoil numbered (1100), which was 0.24m deep.

3.15 Trench 12 (Figures 4 and 6)

- 3.15.1 This trench was aligned east to west and measured 50m long x 1.8m wide x 0.5m deep. It was excavated to the top of the natural yellowish brown silty clay (1200). This had been cut by a ditch [1209] which ran north-east to south-west and had a V-shaped profile. This ditch had been cut away on one side of the trench by a recent test-pit [1213]; the surviving ditch within the trench measured 1.45m long, 1.4m wide and was 0.4m deep. It was filled by a light reddish brown silty clay loam (1210), which contained a sherd of Roman pottery and a piece of flint.
- 3.15.2 The natural and the ditch had been cut by furrows [1203] aligned north-west to south-east, which were generally 2.3m wide and 0.2m deep, and were filled by a dark reddish brown silty clay loam (1204). Some of the furrows were completely removed by machine to expose underlying deposits, so do not appear on plan. These were sealed below a dark reddish brown silty clay loam (1202), a lower plough soil 0.16m thick. This had been cut by a number of mole drains [1205], [1207] and [1211] with steep sloping sides and concave bases. These measured 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep and were filled by a dark reddish brown silty clay loam, numbered respectively (1206), (1208) and (1212). It would appear that [1211] was the end of one of these drains, as it narrowed to a point in plan. These mole-drains were sealed by a dark grey brown silty clay loam (1201), a plough soil 0.21m deep. At the west end of the trench the plough soil had been cut by [1213], a very recent test pit, 2m x 1.2m x 0.5m deep.

4 SUMMARY OF FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Finds

- 4.1.1 Three sherds of Romano-British pottery were found, one in ditch 1209, one in ditch 905, and the third in later ditch 307, suggesting a Romano-British presence on the site. Another 25 sherds of post-medieval pottery, almost all of 19th century or later date, were also recovered, together with a small quantity of ceramic building material, 2 fragments of clay pipe and a few recent metal and glass fragments.

**Environmental remains**

A single bulk sample from the fill of Romano-British ditch 1209 was floated and assessed for charred plant remains. A few small fragments of charcoal were present, but were too small to be identified to species.



5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The results of the evaluation was hampered by some of the trenches having to be re-excavated due to a thick covering of snow. Once this had been removed, however, the deposits within the trenches became clear. Trenches 6,7, 9 and 10 did have ground water seeping into the deeper sections, but a pump was available to drain these, and this did not affect the reliability of the investigation.

5.2 Evaluation objectives and results

5.2.1 The first specific aim and objective of the evaluation was to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Some of these proved to have been caused by modern material spread to level up fields on the removal of former field boundaries, and others to be superficial spreads in the topsoil associated with the former pig sties. A few were infilled post-medieval ditches.

5.2.2 The second objective was to establish the character and extent of any Bronze Age activity, noting the potential for Bronze Age funerary activity in this area. Only a single flint was found, and this was considered to have been natural, although as flint is not natural to this area, it might perhaps have been brought in during prehistory. No good evidence of Bronze Age activity was found in the evaluation.

5.2.3 The third specific aim and objective was to establish the character and extent of any Iron Age and Roman activity, noting the potential for Iron Age and Roman activity in the wider landscape. No Iron Age features or finds were identified in the evaluation. A very few sherds of Romano-British date came from two ditches, and two other narrow gullies may also have been of this date. These features were all confined to the north-east part of the site.

5.3 Interpretation

5.3.1 The natural proved to be a clayey silt, presumably weathered from the limestone to the north of the site. A few natural geological anomalies were found within this silt, probably a mixture of periglacial features and very early tree-throw holes or animal disturbances.

5.3.2 A single flint was recovered from ditch 1209 in Trench 12. This material is not of local origin, so was presumably imported, but was not a worked piece. There is no evidence of prehistoric activity on the site.

5.3.3 Several ditches, two of which were probably of Romano-British date, were found cut by the ridge-and-furrow cultivation in Trenches 9, 11, 12 and the northern part of Trench 10, all in the north-east corner of the site. The two containing Roman pottery were 905 and 1209, the other possibly Romano-British ditches were 1004, 1011/1013 and 1103. The only finds of this period were a very few sherds of pottery, all somewhat abraded. These features may represent the edge of a Romano-British field system, but were clearly not close to a focus of occupation.

5.3.4 Almost all of the trenches revealed evidence of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, as seen in the 1975 aerial photograph (EDP Archaeological and Heritage Assessment 2012, Appendix 1). No finds were recovered to establish whether this cultivation was of medieval or early post-medieval date. They demonstrate the use of this area for cultivation, probably throughout both the medieval and post-medieval periods, as part of the infield-outfield system of the village of Ambrosden.



- 5.3.5 The furrows of ridge-and-furrow cultivation were truncated by later field boundaries and by heavy ploughing by the present farmer. The NE-SW field boundary found crossing trenches 6, 3 and 2 is visible on both the Tithe Map and the 1st Edition OS map, as are those oriented NW-SE in trenches 1 and 2 and in Trench 4.
- 5.3.6 The anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were either natural features in the banded clay, or in the case along the western edge of the site alongside Ploughley Road, the former site of pig sties and allotments.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench had ridge-and-furrow cutting across it sealed below a lower plough soil. The had been cut by a later field boundary which had been removed and levelled off.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55m
					Width (m)	1.5m
					Length (m)	113m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.28	Plough soil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.24m	Lower plough soil	-	-
102	Cut	1.5m	0.92m	Post medieval field boundary	-	-
103	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	Pot, glass, metal	19 th /20 th century
104	Cut	2m	0.16m	Furrow	-	-
105	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-
106	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
107	Layer	-	-	Levelling layer	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 2 had ridge-and-furrow across it, which was cut by later field boundaries and modern ditch. These had been removed and ploughed over.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5m
					Width (m)	1.8m
					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.24m	Plough soil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.18m	Lower plough soil	-	-
202	Cut	1.7m	0.5m	Modern ditch	-	-
203	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	Pot, Glass,	19 th /20 th Century
204	Cut	1.55m	0.28m	Field boundary ditch	-	-
205	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	Pot, CBM, Glass	19 th /20 th Century
206	Cut	0.62m	0.18m	Field boundary ditch	-	-
207	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	Pot, CBM, Glass	19 th /20 th Century
208	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
209	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-



210	Cut	1.5m	0.1m	Furrow	-	-
211	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench with ridge-and-furrow cutting across it and a number of field boundaries and modern features relating to pig sties on the site.				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	1.8m	
				Length (m)	100m	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.23m	Plough soil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.24m	Lower plough soil	-	-
302	Cut	3-4m	0.2m	Furrows	-	-
303	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrows	-	-
304	Cut	2.2m	0.6m	Modern feature	-	-
305	Fill	-	-	Fill of feature 304	-	-
306	Fill	-	-	Fill of feature 304	-	-
307	Cut	0.9m	0.21m	Ditch	-	-
308	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
309	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
310	Fill	-	-	Fill of feature 304	-	-
311	Cut	1.2m	0.4m	Field boundary ditch	-	-
312	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench with ridge-and-furrow cutting across it and a single field boundary oriented NW-SE				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	1.8m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.30m	Plough soil	-	-
402	Cut	3m	0.2m	Furrow	-	-
403	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-
404	Cut	2.08m	0.58m	Field boundary	-	-
405	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
406	Cut	3m	0.18m	Furrow	-	-



407	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow-	-	-
408	Layer	-	0.3m	Lower plough soil	-	-
409	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of ditch 404	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying silty clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.34m
					Width (m)	1.8m
					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.24m	Plough soil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.10m	Lower plough soil	-	-
502	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench with ridge-and-furrow orientated NW-SE, with a headland in the middle cut and followed by a modern field boundary.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4m
					Width (m)	1.8m
					Length (m)	100m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	-	0.25m	Plough soil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.20m	Lower plough soil	-	-
602	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Cut	2m	0.4m	Modern field boundary	-	-
604	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
605	Cut	1m	-	Furrow	-	-
606	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-
607	Cut	1.4m	-	Furrow	-	-
608	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench had ridge-and-furrow across it with a small modern field boundary at its south-west end.					Avg. depth (m)	0.56m
					Width (m)	1.8m
					Length (m)	80m
Contexts						



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	-	0.25m	Plough soil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.3m	Lower plough soil	-	-
702	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	0.8m	0.3m	Field boundary ditch	-	-
704	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
705	Cut	2m	-	Furrow	-	-
706	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE NE-SW
A T-shaped trench containing a number of natural features cut by later ridge-and-furrow.				Avg. depth (m)		0.6m
				Width (m)		1.8m
				Length (m)		100m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
800	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.24m	Plough soil	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.2m	Lower plough soil	-	-
803	Cut	0.36m	0.13m	Root hole	-	-
804	Fill	-	-	Fill of feature	-	-
805	Cut	0.72m	0.17m	Natural feature	-	-
806	Fill	-	-	Fill of feature	-	-
807	Cut	0.92m	0.26m	Natural feature	-	-
808	Fill	-	-	Fill of feature	-	-
809	Cut	4m	0.2m	Furrow	-	-
810	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench with a small gully containing a sherd of Roman pottery, cut by later ridge-and furrow aligned NW-SE and one furrow aligned NE-SW				Avg. depth (m)		0.5m
				Width (m)		1.8m
				Length (m)		50m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	-	0.26m	Plough soil	-	-



901	Layer	-	0.24m	Lower plough soil	-	-
902	Cut	1.5m	0.2m	Furrow	-	-
903	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-
904	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
905	Cut	0.5m	0.28m	Ditch/gulley	-	-
906	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch/gulley	Bone	-

Trench 10

General description Trench excavated in two halves due to a modern fence. Two gullies cut by ridge-and-furrow plus a later field boundary.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5m
	Width (m)	1.8m
	Length (m)	100m

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1000	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.26m	Plough soil	-	-
1002	Cut	1.18m	0.36m	Ditch/gulley	-	-
1003	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
1004	Cut	0.55m	0.16m	Ditch/gulley	-	-
1005	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
1006	Cut	2.5m	0.2m	Furrows	-	-
1007	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrows	-	-
1008	Layer	-	0.23m	Lower plough soil	-	-
1009	Cut	1.3m	0.4m	Ditch (same as 1011)	-	-
1010	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
1011	Cut	1.3m	0.4m	Ditch (same as 1009)	-	-
1012	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	-	-
1013	Cut	0.2m	0.06m	Gulley	-	-
1014	Fill	-	-	Fill of gulley	-	-
1015	Cut	0.65m	0.2m	Gulley	-	-
1016	Fill	-	-	Fill of gulley	-	-

Trench 11

General description Trench with an undated ditch and a tree-throw hole, which had been truncated by ridge-and-furrow. The furrows had been cut by a series of mole drains.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38m
	Width (m)	1.8m
	Length (m)	50m

Contexts



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1100	Layer		0.24m	Plough soil	-	-
1101	Layer		0.14m	Lower plough soil	-	-
1102	Natural			Natural	-	-
1103	Cut	0.38m	0.1m	Ditch/gulley	-	-
1104	Fill			Fill of ditch/gulley	-	-
1105	Cut	0.45m	0.20m	Mole drain	-	-
1106	Fill			Fill of drain	-	-
1107	Cut	0.43m	0.25m	Mole drain	-	-
1108	Fill			Fill of drain	-	-
1109	Fill			Fill of root hole	-	-
1110	Cut	1.4m	0.53m	Tree root hole	-	-
1111	Cut	0.4m	0.3m	Mole drain	-	-
1112	Fill			Fill of drain	-	-
1113	Cut	1.7m	0.16m	Furrow	-	-
1114	Fill			Fill of furrow	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench containing a ditch containing a Roman pottery sherd, which was cut by ridge-and-furrow. This had been cut by a series of mole drains across the field.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5m	
				Width (m)	1.8m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1200	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.21m	Plough soil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.16m	Lower plough soil	-	-
1203	Cut	2.3m	0.2m	Furrow	-	-
1204	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow	-	-
1205	Cut	0.7m	0.5m	Mole drain	-	-
1206	Fill	-	-	Fill of drain	-	-
1207	Cut	0.85	0.42m	Mole drain	-	-
1208	Fill	-	-	Fill of drain	-	-
1209	Cut	1.4m	0.4m	Field boundary ditch	-	-
1210	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch	Pot, Flint	Romano British?
1211	Cut	0.85m	0.36	Mole drain	-	-
1212	Fill	-	-	Fill of drain	-	-
1213	Cut	1.2m	0.5m	Test pit	-	-



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Assessment of the Roman and post-Roman pottery

by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 28 sherds of pottery weighing 206g was recovered from six contexts. This is mainly of late post-medieval or modern date but includes a few sherds of Roman date. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg decoration).

Date and nature of the assemblage

- B.1.2 The Roman pottery comprises 7 sherds (13g), although four of these join to make just 3 sherds, each from a different vessel. All three sherds are worn/abraded body sherds with no diagnostic features or decoration and cannot be dated closer than to the Roman period (c 70-410AD) (Paul Booth, pers. comm.). The sherd from (308) is a fine oxidised coarseware, probably from a jar or flagon. The other sherds, from (906) and (1210), come from two separate vessels in local grey sandy coarseware; the larger sherd (1210) is probably from a jar. Although worn and probably redeposited, these at least provide evidence for Roman activity in the area.
- B.1.3 The post-Roman pottery comprises 21 sherds (193g) and includes a mixture of fairly large and fresh sherds and smaller, worn sherds. These mainly comprise common Staffordshire-type refined white tablewares and kitchenwares of the 19th and earlier 20th centuries. There is also a single sherd of terracotta flowerpot. Context (205) also includes a sherd of Pearlware and a sherd of Creamware which date from the late 18th- or early 19th century. Fuller details are given in the spot-dates spreadsheet. No further work is recommended.

B.2 The clay tobacco pipe

by John Cotter

- B.2.1 Two joining pieces from a single clay pipe weighing 2g were recovered from context (1212). The pieces are from the front rim of a pipe bowl of fairly straight and slender profile and thus likely to date broadly to the 18th century. The pieces are quite worn or weathered and discoloured. There is no evidence of milling under the rim which suggests a date after c 1720. No further work is recommended.

B.3 The ceramic building material (CBM)

by John Cotter

- B.3.1 A total of 5 worn pieces of post-Roman CBM weighing 170g were recovered from three contexts. The condition of the material is mostly very fragmentary, small and abraded -

similar to that from field scatters or trackway metalling/rubble. No further work is recommended.

- B.3.2 **Context (203)**. Date Late 19th/20th century? (1 piece, 35g). Worn edge fragment from a roof tile in an unusual fine sandy pale grey fabric (almost like cement) with orange-brown surfaces. This is very flat and regular and most likely fairly modern.
- B.3.3 **Context (305)**. Date 16th-18th century? (1 piece, 17g). Small and very worn edge fragment probably from a peg tile in a dense, fine-medium sandy, light orange-brown fabric with fine red and white clay pellets. Probably early post-medieval.
- B.3.4 **Context (1212)**. Date 16th-18th century? (3 pieces, 118g). Probably three separate peg tiles. One fairly large fairly fresh edge fragment in a similar fabric to that from (305) above but with a light bluish-grey core and sharply squared/cut edge. One very small worn fragment in the same fabric. One smallish and extremely worn fragment in a pale orange-brown fabric with relatively little quartz sand and with common distinctive inclusions of red iron oxide up to 4mm across. Possibly medieval?.

B.4 Metal finds

Ian R Scott

- B.4.1 There are just 4 metal finds from three contexts:
- B.4.2 **Context 203** - L-shaped fragment of plate, curved along one edge. Not closely datable, but probably quite recent. Fe (iron).
- B.4.3 **Context 205** - 2 x lengths of narrow strip, no obvious nails but 2 possible nail holes just visible one on each fragment. Not closely datable. Fe (iron).
- B.4.4 **Context 1212** – flat plain circular shank button, with cu alloy loop. Pewter or more likely tinned cu alloy. D: 28mm. Copper alloy

B.5 Glass finds

Ian R Scott

- B.5.1 There are 3 pieces of glass from 2 contexts:
- B.5.2 **Context 203** – 2 pieces of vessel glass. (1) almost half the body of a moulded cylindrical cream jug compete with spout, in colourless metal. Lower body decorated with ribs, above are panels defined by further ribs and decorated with diamonds. Sunburst pattern on base. Made in a multi-part mould. 19th-century. Ht: 98mm; D: 70mm.
(2) body sherd from condiment bottle of square or rectangular section with bevelled corners, in blue green glass. 19th- or early 20th-century.
- B.5.3 **Context 205** – base of a beer bottle in dark green glass. Moulded in a 2-piece mould. Embossed: 'BRACKLEY' near heel. Late 19th- or early 20th-century. D: 74mm.

B.6 The animal bone

identified by Lena Strid

Context	Description
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305	Unidentifiable large mammal bone fragment, 13g
906	Large mammal long bone fragment, 28g

B.7 The clinker

by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
305	Single piece of clinker, 4g

B.8 The flint

by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
1210	Single piece of natural flint, 26g

B.9 The plastic

by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
203	Pale blue plastic cup base, Made in England moulded on base, small size indicating possibly from child's tea set, 6g

B.10 Discussion/recommendations

B.10.1 None of the finds assemblages are of other than low potential, and no further work is recommended.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental sample from Springfield Farm, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire, AMSF13

Sharon Cook

Introduction

- C.1.1 This report describes one sample taken from the evaluation at Springfield Farm, Ambrosden, in January 2013.
- C.1.2 Sample <1> (1210) was taken from a secondary fill within Roman ditch [1209] in Trench 12.

Aims

- C.1.3 Sampling was undertaken to:
- C.1.4 Determine whether ecofacts and environmental evidence (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present.
- C.1.5 Determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence.
- C.1.6 Recover and identify any small artefacts.
- C.1.7 Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

Methodology

- C.1.8 The sample was processed for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains.
- C.1.9 The flot was scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.

Results

- C.1.10 Sample <1> (1210) was a pale brown silty clay. 40L was processed for the recovery of CPR and artefacts. No artefacts were present within the residue. The sample yielded approximately 75ml of flot material.
- C.1.11 The flot for this sample was largely comprised of modern roots. Occasional small fragments (<2mm) of charcoal were noted, these were in good condition, but were too small to identify to species. No charred seeds were observed.

Discussion

- C.1.12 While this sample was poor in charred plant remains, those which were present were in very good condition. This would seem to indicate that preservation on this site is potentially good and the lack of material may be an indication that this feature was at a distance from areas of occupation during its use.



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land at Springfield Farm, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire

Site code: AMSF 13

Grid reference: SP 6070 1940

Type: Evaluation

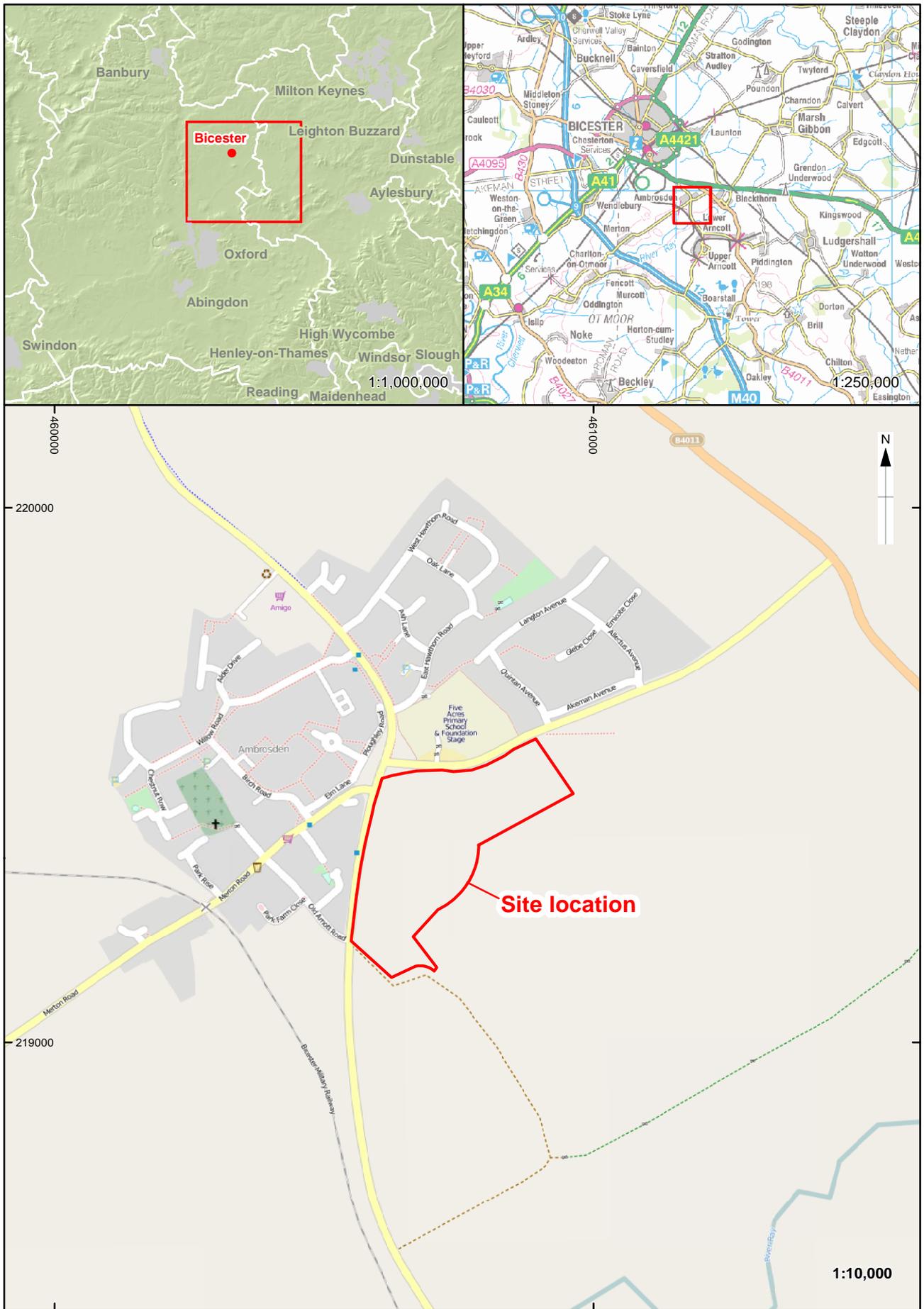
Date and duration: 16th January to 28th January 2013

Area of site: 6 x 50m trenches, 5 x 100m trenches and 1 x 80m trench

Summary of results: A small number of probable Romano-British ditches, of which only one contained dating evidence, was found in the north-east corner of the site. There were very few finds, suggesting that this was part of a field system. The site was covered by the furrows of medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, but no finds were recovered to date this more exactly. A few more recent field boundaries were also found, plus spreads associated with former pig sties that stood around the western part of the site.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum in due course, under accession number OXCMS 2012.157.

S:\PROJECTS\Springfield Farm, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire_101212\Springfield_Farm_Ambrosden_Fig 1_121212.mxd*leo.heatley*13/12/2012



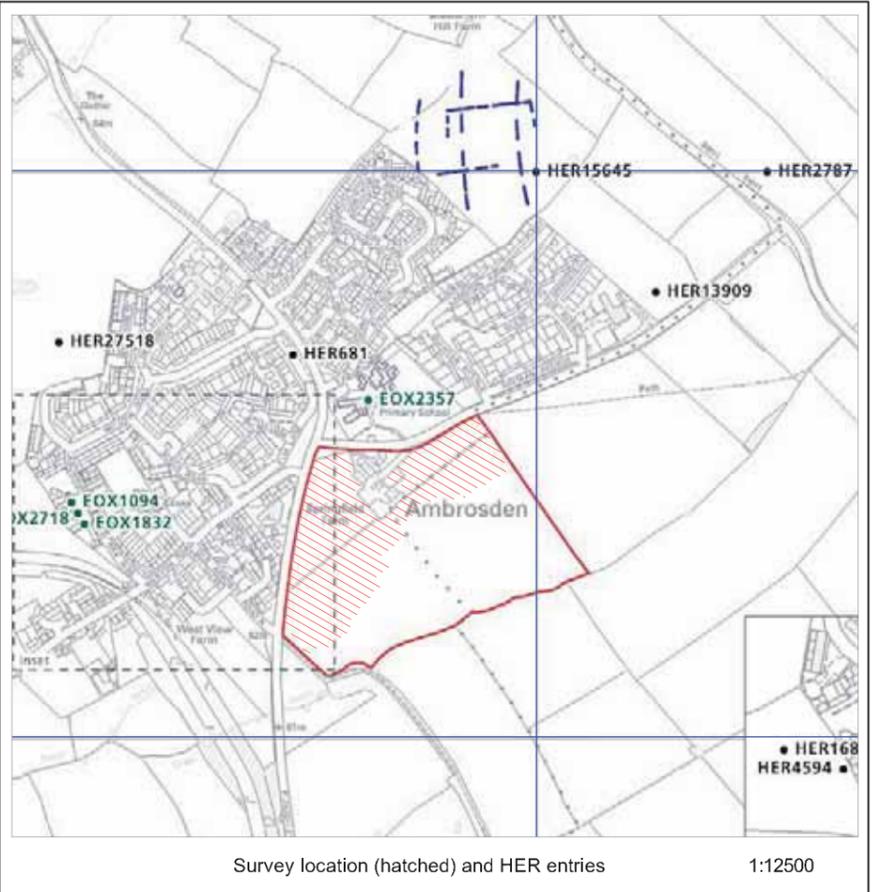
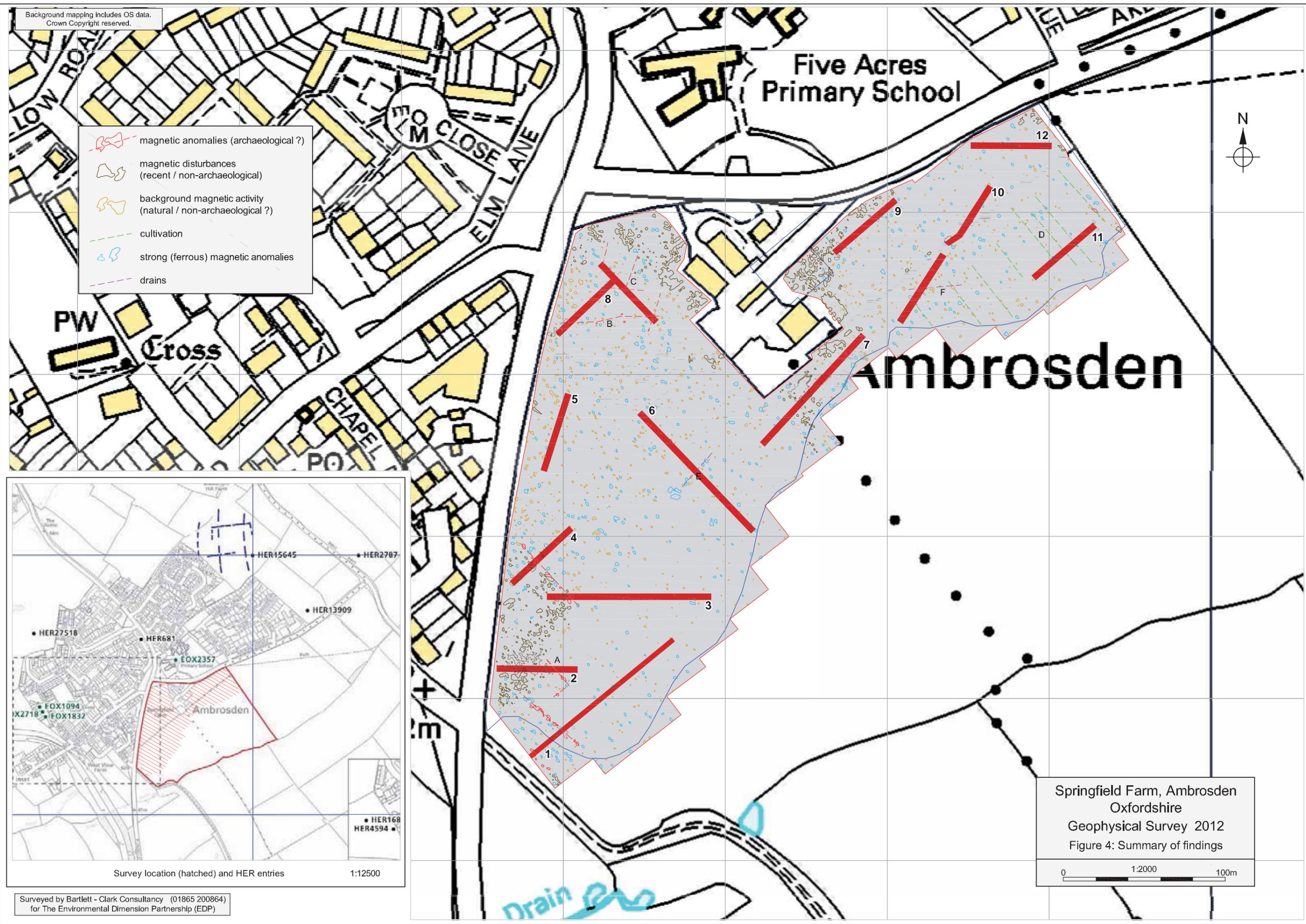
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011
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Figure 1: Site location

\\Samba-1\invoice codes a thru h\A_invoice codes\AMSFE\ Springfield Farm, Ambrosden\mw-12.12.12

Background mapping includes OS data.
Crown Copyright reserved.

-  magnetic anomalies (archaeological ?)
-  magnetic disturbances (recent / non-archaeological)
-  background magnetic activity (natural / non-archaeological ?)
-  cultivation
-  strong (ferrous) magnetic anomalies
-  drains



Springfield Farm, Ambrosden
Oxfordshire
Geophysical Survey 2012
Figure 4: Summary of findings



Surveyed by Bartlett - Clark Consultancy (01865 200864)
for The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP)

Figure 2: Plan of trench layout superimposed on the geophysical survey interpretation (after Bartlett-Clark 2012, Figure 4)

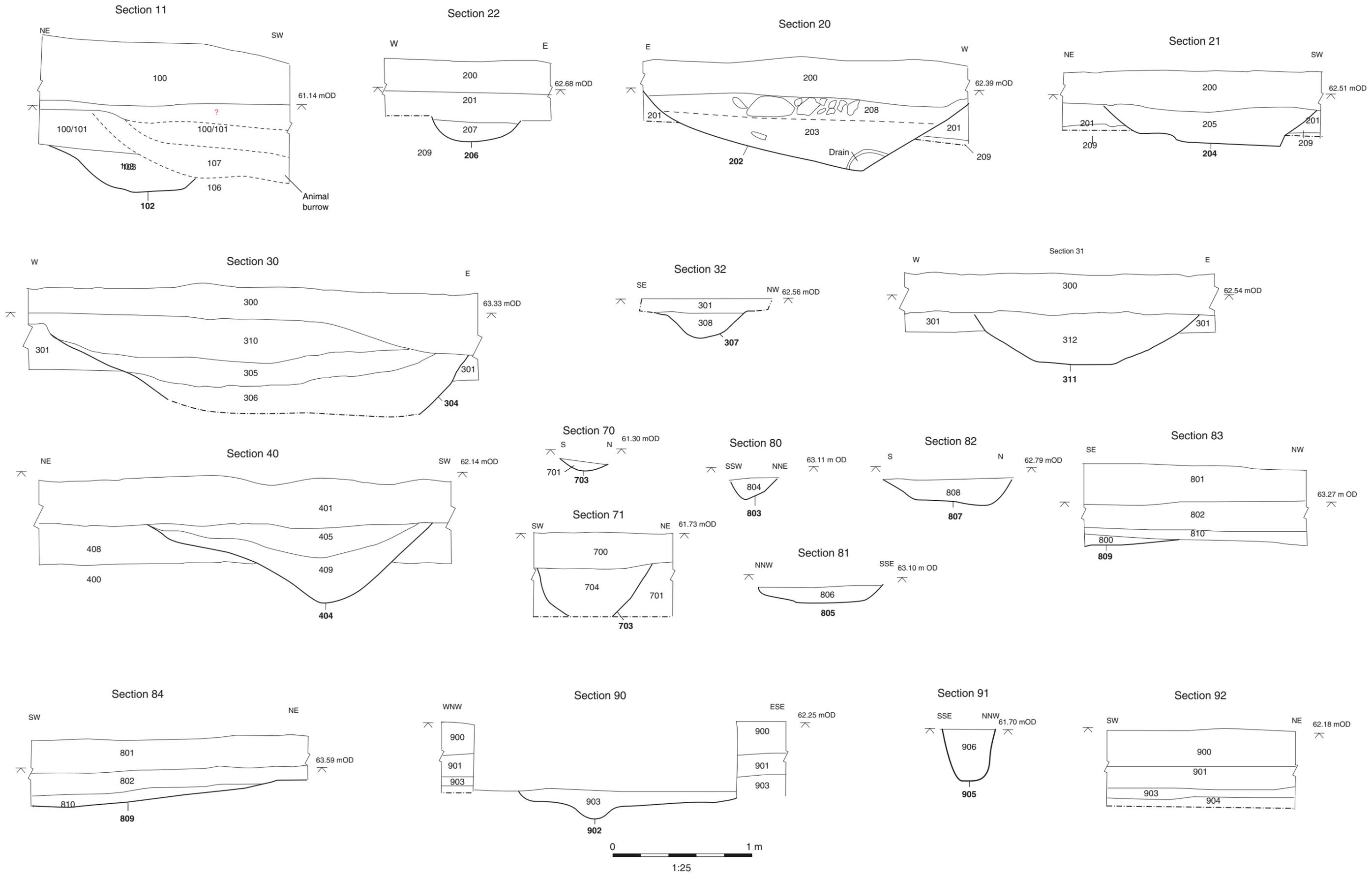


Figure 5: Sections

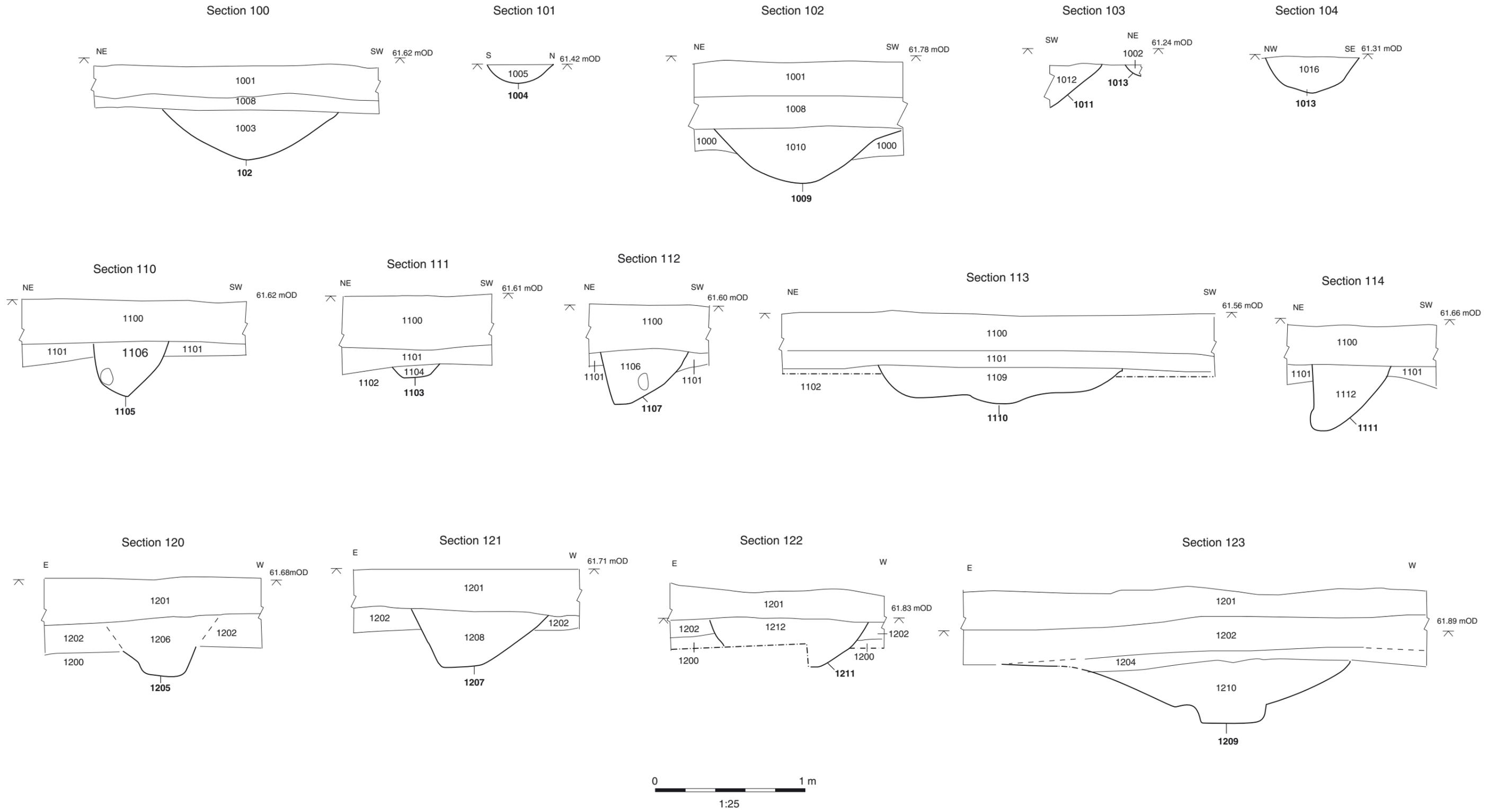


Figure 6: Sections

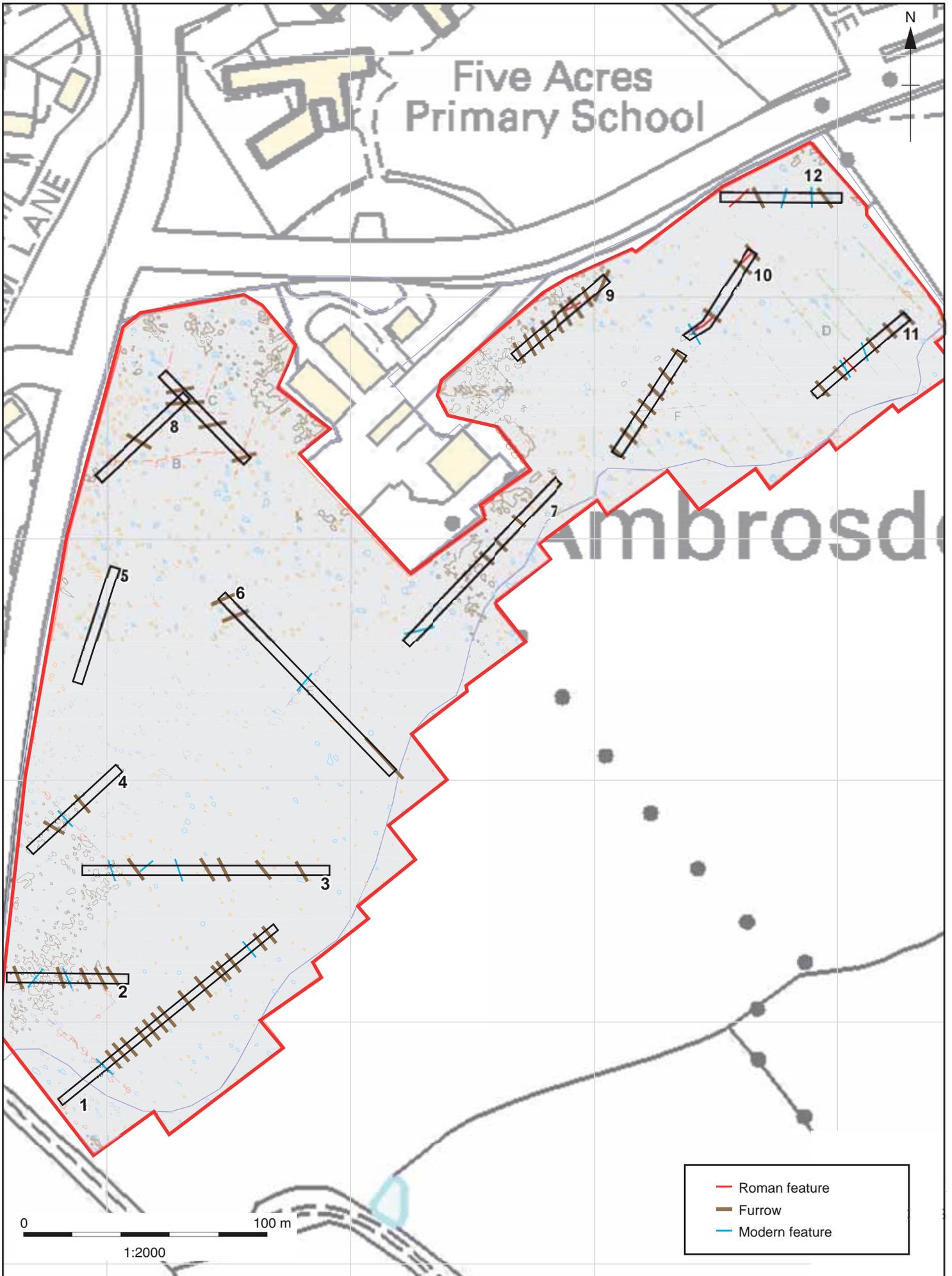


Figure 7: Interpretation of archaeological features overlaid on geophysical survey



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