

Further Evaluation at
Land East of Aylesbury
Broughton Crossing
Bierton
Buckinghamshire



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Evaluation Report**

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2	Mike Donnelly Project Officer	Ed Biddulph Project Manager	Ken Welsh Project Manager	

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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

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**Further Evaluation at Land East of Aylesbury, Broughton Crossing,
Berton, Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Mike Donnelly

*with contributions from Ed Biddulph, John Cotter, Louise Loe, Cynthia Poole, Ian Scott,
Dan Stansbie and Lina Strid*

Illustrated by Anne Kilgour, Leo Heatley, Gary Jones and Hannah Kennedy

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Summary

In July and September 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on Land at Broughton Crossing, Berton in Buckinghamshire. The evaluation comprised machine excavation of 41 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m, in two separate areas. Evaluation trenching of two further areas at the site will be carried out when access is available.

Area B, adjacent to Burcott Lane, comprised 27 trenches, located to investigate two areas of anomalies recorded in a geophysical survey of the site as well as an apparently blank area between them. The trenching revealed two concentrations of archaeology in the northern part of the area, most of which dated to either the medieval or Roman periods.

Some evidence of prehistoric activity was present in the north of the area, in the form of a small group of pits and, possibly, human remains (although these were not dated). The nature of this activity is unclear and it was not closely dateable.

Roman activity, probably originating in the 2nd century AD, was recorded at the northern edge of the field. Here, a considerable density of archaeological features produced pottery, fragments of oven furniture and a range of economic crop remains, strongly indicating the presence of a small rural settlement or farmstead.

In the south-eastern part of Area B, a series of ditches and a pit were recorded. These features largely coincided with a series of geophysical anomalies indicating the presence of a series of enclosures. Pottery from the features suggests a Roman date for the enclosures, although some late Iron Age material was also present.

In the north-western part of Area B, medieval remains, including a cobbled surface, pits and ditches, were present. Examination of the 1780 Enclosure map for the area suggests these features form part of a more extensive area of medieval activity, forming part of the medieval village of Burcott. In general, the pottery recovered from these features suggests a 12th-14th century date for this activity, but the presence of a few sherds of St Neots-type ware may suggest an earlier, late Saxon origin.

Scattered post-medieval field boundaries and furrows were also present further south.

Area C, adjacent to Gib Lane, comprised 14 trenches and revealed very sparse archaeological remains that consisted mostly of probable plough furrows, of medieval or post-medieval date. A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from an irregular pit or tree-throw hole. It is likely that a series of geophysical anomalies recorded in the area largely resulted from variations in the underlying natural geological deposits.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Barratt Strategic to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed new urban expansion to the east of Aylesbury (Fig. 1). The proposed development consists of 2450 homes, a 10 ha employment land, a neighbourhood centre, two primary schools, construction of an eastern link road (part) and the Stocklake link road (rural section), green infrastructure, associated community facilities and support infrastructure including expanded an electricity sub-station and flood defences (planning reference: 10/02649/AOP).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2012) submitted to, and approved by, Sandy Kidd of Buckinghamshire County Council (on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council).
- 1.1.3 A number of sites of known archaeological potential, recorded during a geophysical survey of the main development site, were identified (Fig. 2) as requiring further evaluation. In the event, access was only possible to two areas, labelled B and C on Figure 2. This document reports on the results of the investigations carried out in those two areas.
- 1.1.4 Fieldwork in the remaining two areas will be undertaken once access becomes available and the results will be reported separately.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area lies in the Vale of Aylesbury (centred on SP 848 145), to the east of the built environment of the town of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire and within the administrative area of Aylesbury Vale District Council.
- 1.2.2 The development site lies over farmland. Its western extent meets the current eastern urban edge of Aylesbury, to the north lies Berton, to the south Broughton and to the east, open farmland. The fields are mostly pasture, but with crops (beans and silage) to the east with set-aside and cereal to the west.
- 1.2.3 The geology of development area is complex. The majority of the development is dominated by Kimmeridge Clay, with a layer of Alluvium at the extreme western edge (associated with the Bear Brook) and Upper Greensand and Gault in the south east corner (BSG sheet 219).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in the Cultural Heritage Baseline Report (Oxford Archaeology 2010, Appendix 1), which should be read in conjunction with this document. A summary is given below to set the context for the current investigations.
- 1.3.2 The topography of the site suggests that it would have been amenable to settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. Evidence of prehistoric activity has been recovered from the broader area, including finds of Mesolithic/Neolithic flints and a hoard of late Bronze Age axes, discovered approximately 550m north of the site. There is much more widespread evidence for Iron Age settlement activity in the Berton area, following a series of excavations in the village over the past 140 years.



- 1.3.3 Possible Iron Age/Romano-British sites were identified by the geophysical survey of the site (see below). In addition, there is also a Roman road (Akeman Street) to the south of the site and a possible villa at Bierton. A number of findspots of Roman pottery and coins are known from the wider area. These are concentrated in particular around Bierton and a number of Roman burials have also been identified in this area, close to the site of the putative Roman villa.
- 1.3.4 Saxon settlement evidence has been found at Bierton, and Broughton is thought to have Saxon origins. Excavations at Church Farm, Bierton revealed a settlement site dating to the late 5th to 9th centuries AD and further finds of Saxon pottery have been made within the village.
- 1.3.5 The earliest detailed mapping of the area (the Bierton and Hulcott Enclosure map of 1780) is thought to show many surviving elements of the later medieval landscape, including fields, lanes and settlements at Bierton, Hulcott and Broughton. A number of cropmarks, visible in aerial photographs within the site and to the north of Broughton, were thought to be associated with the Worlds End medieval settlement. These were investigated as part of this project (Oxford Archaeology 2011) and it was shown that the cropmarks were not associated with underlying archaeological remains of medieval date but were, rather, associated with agricultural features of probable 19th century date.
- 1.3.6 The geophysical survey of the main development site recorded a number of anomalies of probable archaeological origin, some of which (labelled B, C and D on Fig. 2) appear to form coherent archaeological sites. In addition, an area of strong magnetic disturbance (labelled A on Fig. 2) may be the site of some form of industrial activity. Roman pottery has also been recorded on the surface of the field at this location, perhaps indicating that the activity is of this date.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The work was funded by Barratt Strategic. The fieldwork was managed for OA by Ken Welsh and conducted by Harriet Bloore, Mike Donnelly, Felicia Fricke, Mark Fussey, Andy Ginns, Alex Latham, Steve Leach, Kevin Moon and Emily Plunkett, OAS would like to thank the tenant farmer, Tony O'Brien, for his and his colleagues help and assistance during the fieldwork programme. Sandy Kidd of Buckinghamshire County Council monitored the fieldwork on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were:

- To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains in the areas of geophysical anomalies.
- To confirm whether the geophysical anomalies accurately represent the extent of any surviving remains.
- To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The trial trenching methodology adhered to the requirements set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2012), other than as detailed in paragraphs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3, below.

2.2.2 An initial array of 39 trenches, each 30m in length, was excavated across areas B and C (Fig. 2). Trench 3 was repositioned around 40m west of its original location due to the presence of a large tree.

2.2.3 Two further trenches were excavated and one trench was extended, all in Area B, in consultation with Sandy Kidd, the Buckinghamshire County Archaeologist.

2.2.4 All trenches were laid out by a surveyor using a Leica RX1250XC Global Positioning System tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum level.

2.2.5 Trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately and reinstated in reverse order of excavation.

2.2.6 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with standard OAS practices (Wilkinson 1992).



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with a description of the ground conditions, the distribution of archaeological remains and followed by a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. An index of all trenches is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 A fairly consistent sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying Kimmeridge Clay was present in most trenches. In general, the natural geology consisted of heavy, tenacious clay. However, there were variations in the natural geology in the north-western parts of Area B, where patches of sandier clay were present (for example in Trenches 3 and 77).

3.2.2 In Area B, the topsoil was generally between 0.2m and 0.3m thick in the northern part of the area. but tended to be thinner towards the south of the area. It overlay a layer of subsoil which was between 0.2 and 0.3m thick in the northern part of the area, between 0.15 - 0.25m thick in the south of the area and was entirely absent in Trenches 15, 16 and 26.

3.2.3 In Area C, the topsoil was generally between 0.2m and 0.3m thick. It overlay a layer of subsoil in all trenches. It was generally between 0.2 and 0.3m thick although it tended to be thicker (up to 0.42m) in the centre and eastern parts of the area.

3.2.4 It is likely that, in both areas, the subsoil represents a former ploughsoil of medieval or later date.

3.2.5 Ground conditions were very wet in both areas and surface and ground water flooding affected several trenches.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

Area B

3.3.1 Significant archaeological remains were present in the northern and south-western parts of the area, coinciding, in part, with recorded geophysical anomalies.

3.3.2 To the north, remains of possible prehistoric date were recorded in Trench 77, remains of Roman date were recorded in Trenches 4 and 5 and remains of medieval date were present in Trench 3.

3.3.3 To the south, remains of Roman date were present in Trenches 21-23 while some evidence of Late Iron Age activity was also present in Trench 27.

3.3.4 A scatter of features, largely ditches containing little or no artefactual material, was recorded throughout the remainder of the area, in Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 25 and 26.

3.3.5 No archaeological remains were present in Trenches 6, 7, 8, 13, 14-20 and 24.

Area C

3.3.6 Very few archaeological features were present in this area. A number of broad, shallow plough furrows were present as well as a sparse scatter of other features including a shallow pit which produced a sherd of medieval pottery.



3.4 Trenches in Area B

3.4.1 An initial array of 25 trenches was excavated in this area. Subsequently, and in consultation with the Buckinghamshire County Archaeologist, two additional trenches (77 and 78) and a northern extension to trench 6 were excavated to further characterise the deposits present in the northern part of the area. Unless stated otherwise, all archaeological features were sealed beneath a layer of subsoil.

Trench 3 (Figs 5 and 8)

3.4.2 The northern 6m of the trench (Plate 1) contained a surface of predominantly white pebbles and cobbles (303). These were well-set together but had suffered from root action and were loose in places (Plate 2). Pottery of 12th to 14th century date was recovered from the cobbles (including St Neots ware) while Roman pottery originated from the layer immediately below it (327) that was thought to represent a bedding layer for the stones.

3.4.3 Layers 303 and 327 were partially removed: two pits (329 and 330) were found to underlie them.

3.4.4 Pit 329 was 0.7m deep and contained two fills (332 and 328). Fill 328 produced nine sherds (161g) of medieval pottery (13th to 14th century), a fragment of Roman tile and animal bone and Fill 332 produced two sherds of Roman pottery.

3.4.5 Pit 330, cut by Pit 329, contained two fills (333 and 331), neither of which produced any artefacts.

3.4.6 To the south of the cobbled area, the trench contained several features including pits, ditches and postholes.

3.4.7 Two narrow ditches with slightly rounded 'V'-shaped profiles (319 and 323) ran across the trench on a roughly E-W alignment. Ditch 319 contained a single fill (320) which produced medieval pottery (12th-14th century).

3.4.8 Ditch 323 contained two fills (325 and 324). Fill 324 produced a small sherd of prehistoric pottery.

3.4.9 Ditch 319 cut Pit 314 which in turn cut Pit 321. Pit 314 contained four fills (318, 317, 316 and 315). Fill 318 contained a sherd of medieval pottery, Fill 317 contained a sherd of Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone and Fill 315 contained five sherds of medieval pottery and fragments of bone. A soil sample from Pit 314 contained small animal bone (including eel, frog/toad and small mammal) as well as wheat, legumes, hazel nut shell and various non-cultivated plant species.

3.4.10 Pit 321 contained a single fill (322) which did not contain any artefacts.

3.4.11 A row of four postholes (304, 306, 308 and 310), orientated NW-SE, was also present at the southern end of the trench. Two (Posthole 304, containing Fill 305, and posthole 310, containing Fills 313, 312 and 311) were investigated but neither yielded any finds.

Trench 77 (Figs 5 and 9)

3.4.12 Trench 77 was an additional trench excavated to further investigate the archaeological remains encountered Trench 3. It revealed several features in its western two-thirds sealed below an intermittent layer of buried soil (7720) that contained some Roman pot. One feature that ran obliquely across the NW corner of the trench was not investigated due to the depth of topsoil at that location. Another large feature near to the mid point of the trench was investigated and the trench was extended at this point in order to reveal its full extent.



- 3.4.13 Pit 7703 was 0.6m across and 0.06m deep and contained a single fill (7704). On excavation it was found to contain human remains and, as a result, the entire fill was retained as a soil sample. It produced the disarticulated and fragmentary remains of an adult female. Whilst incomplete, the bones represented sizeable portions of material from several parts of the body. Many of the pieces appeared to have fragmented in antiquity and it seems likely that this feature represents the partial re-internment of a disturbed burial. A small posthole (7705 containing Fill 7706) was located nearby but their relationship to each other may simply be fortuitous rather than indicating some form of grave marker.
- 3.4.14 Pit 7707 measured 3.2m by 2.5m by 0.65m in depth, with a broadly rectangular shape in plan (Plates 3 and 4). Its edges undercut slightly but this occurred where the underlying geology changed from clays (7702) to less stable sandy gravel (7720). The feature contained a sequence of narrow bands of sandy gravelly clay (Fills 7713, 7711 and 7709) interleaved with darker, organic silty clay fills (Fills 7714, 7715, 7712, 7710 and 7708), containing sparse cultural remains. Pottery, animal bone and some struck flint was recovered. Pottery of prehistoric date was recovered from two fills (7714 and 7710), including the basal fill, and Roman pottery was recovered from the upper fill (7708). The animal bone included what appeared to be an articulated joint in Fill 7715.
- 3.4.15 Two features running off from its southern and western edges were not investigated due to flooding. However both resembled ditches or possibly pits rather than postholes.
- Trench 9 (Figs 5 and 12)*
- 3.4.16 Trench 9 contained two features: a pit and a tree throw-hole.
- 3.4.17 Pit 903 was 1.52m across and 0.27m deep and contained a single fill (904) which did not produce any artefacts.
- 3.4.18 Tree throw-hole 905 was 0.5m across and 0.06m deep and contained a single fill (906) which did not produce any artefacts.
- Trench 4 (Figs 6 and 10)*
- 3.4.19 Trench 4 was located close to the northern limit of the field. Geophysical survey in the area had suggested that a north-south linear feature would be present in the eastern third of the trench and a possible candidate for that anomaly was found as unexcavated ditch 412. However, several other features were also present and did not appear on the geophysics plot.
- 3.4.20 Because of the high water-table in this area, only three of the six features identified in the trench were investigated.
- 3.4.21 Ditches 402 and 404 (containing, respectively, Fills 401 and 403) were partially exposed and appeared to run parallel to one another on NE-SW alignment (Plate 5). Both produced pottery of Roman date. In addition, pit 404 also contained a fragment of ceramic building material and a fragment of oven plate.
- 3.4.22 Ditch 407 was only partially excavated but was 2.5m wide and orientated NW-SE and contained at least two fills (406 and 405). It produced 22 sherds of Roman pottery as well as fragments of animal bone. This ditch appeared to form the western limit to the Roman activity.
- Trench 5 (Figs 6 and 11)*
- 3.4.23 Trench 5 was located around 40m east of Trench 4. It contained a dense cluster of archaeological features and these were also defined by a major ditched feature, 526,



along their southern limit. Twelve features were identified consisting of six pits and six ditches. Four of each were investigated and pottery was recovered from the surface of two more. A linear geophysical anomaly crossed the trench but there was no corresponding ditch at this location.

3.4.24 Pits 507 (containing Fill 508), 509 (containing Fills 511 and 510), 514 (containing Fills 516 and 515) and 524 (containing Fill 525) were excavated and all were relatively shallow (maximum depth 0.32m). Pit 509 (Plate 6) contained 1st to 2nd century pottery, Pits 507 (Plate 6) and 514 both contained a variety of 2nd century pottery. Pit 514 also contained a sherd of medieval pottery but this is likely to be intrusive. Pit 524, the latest in a sequence of features, produced pottery of later Roman date. All of the pits contained fired clay objects comprising fragments of oven plate and a fragment of hearth floor.

3.4.25 Ditches 517 (containing Fill 518), 519 (containing Fills 521 and 520), 526 (containing Fills 528 and 527) and 529 (containing Fill 530) were excavated and all were relatively shallow (maximum depth 0.5m) and on a similar NE-SW alignment. Pottery of a broad Roman date was recovered from ditches 526 and 529 and pottery of later Roman date was recovered from ditches 517 and 519. Ditches 517 and 526 also contained fragments of oven plate.

3.4.26 Trench 6 was extended northwards in order to establish whether this Roman activity continued to the east but no archaeological features were present.

Trench 78

3.4.27 Trench 78 was excavated to test whether the activity represented by the features recorded in Trenches 4 and 5 extended to the west. In the event, no archaeological deposits were present in the trench.

Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 15 (Figs 3, 12 and 13)

3.4.28 Trench 10 contained shallow ditch (1003) that cut through the subsoil indicating a relatively recent date. It contained Fill 1004 which did not produce any artefactual material.

3.4.29 Trenches 11 and 12 each contained a probable plough furrow (1103 and 1202): the former contained two sherds of medieval pottery while abraded Roman material originated in the latter.

3.4.30 A north-south orientated ditch (1504) was present in Trench 15 but this did not yield any datable material.

Trench 21 (Figs 7 and 14)

3.4.31 Trench 21 contained a ditch (2104) which had been re-cut on its eastern side by ditch 2107. Both were orientated NW-SE. Ditch 2104 contained Fills 2106 and 2105: Fill 2106 produced six sherds of Roman pottery. Ditch 2107 contained a single fill (2103) which did not produce any artefactual material. These ditches were coincident with a linear geophysical anomaly.

3.4.32 Ditch 2108 was orientated from N-S and contained a single fill (2109) which produced seven sherds of Roman pottery (AD 150-200), including a sherd of Samian ware. A linear geophysical anomaly was recorded a few metres to the east of this ditch.

Trench 22 (Figs 7 and 14)

3.4.33 Trench 22 contained a ditch (2203), orientated N-S and 2m wide by 0.6m deep. Its single fill (2204) contained a sherd of Roman pottery and a fragment of ceramic



building material. A linear geophysical anomaly was recorded 10m metres to the east of this ditch.

- 3.4.34 Pit 2205 was 2.5m across and 0.2m deep. A sherd of pottery recovered from its single fill (2206) dated to the Roman period.

Trench 23 (Figs 3 and 15)

- 3.4.35 Trench 23 contained a ditch (2304), orientated roughly E-W and coincident with a linear geophysical anomaly. Due to flooding, the ditch was not fully excavated but five sherds of Roman pottery and six fragments of animal bone were recovered from its upper fill (2303).

Trench 25 (Figs 3 and 15)

- 3.4.36 Trench 25 contained a possible ditch (2503), orientated NW-SE and 0.5m wide by 0.03m deep. Its single fill (2503) did not produce any artefactual material.

Trench 26 (Fig. 7)

- 3.4.37 Trench 26 contained a ditch (2604), orientated NW-SE and 0.8m wide. The trench flooded rapidly and it was not possible to excavate this feature.

Trench 27 (Figs 7 and 15)

- 3.4.38 Trench 27 contained a ditch (2704) which had been re-cut on its southern side by ditch 2705. Both were orientated E-W.

- 3.4.39 Ditch 2704 contained Fill 2703 which yielded five sherds of late Iron Age pottery and four fragments of animal bone. Ditch 2705 contained Fill 2706 which did not produce any artefactual material. These ditches were coincident with a linear geophysical anomaly.

3.5 Area C

- 3.5.1 This area contained 14 trenches (Trenches 28-41) in three fields (Fig. 4). The depth of overburden and the nature of the underlying natural varied between each field. No significant archaeological remains were present in any of these trenches but some probable pits and linear features were identified. Only one small sherd of worn pottery was recovered here and the topsoil and subsoil layers were almost entirely bereft of finds save some sherds of ceramic building material, including field drain fragments.

- 3.5.2 Four trenches (28-31) were located in the northernmost field. No archaeological remains were encountered.

- 3.5.3 Three trenches (35, 36 and 41) were located in the eastern field which is used for silage. This field contained the greatest depth of subsoil and had a very tenacious clay natural geology with a markedly irregular upper surface. Two of the three trenches had been located to investigate a potential rectangular enclosure identified in the geophysical survey. In Trench 41, no features were present that coincided with the location of the geophysical anomaly. However, in Trench 36, a broad swathe of banded geological deposits matched the anomaly. This was investigated by machine in order to establish if a palaeochannel or possible ice wedge was present but this revealed a consistent mottled blocky clay with only extremely rare small cobble/pebble inclusions.

- 3.5.4 The southern field contained seven trenches (32-34 and 37-40). It had similar deep subsoil and undulating natural clay to the eastern field. Several possible linear features, most likely plough furrows, were present as well as a number of pits or tree throw-holes.



Trench 32 (Figs 4 and 16)

- 3.5.5 Trench 32 contained a broad, shallow feature (3203), aligned NW-SE, and containing Fill 3204. It is almost certainly a plough furrow.

Trench 34 (Figs 4 and 16)

- 3.5.6 Trench 34 contained a broad, shallow feature (3405), aligned NW-SE, and containing Fill 3406. It was not excavated due to flooding but is probably a plough furrow.

Trench 37 (Figs 4 and 16)

- 3.5.7 Trench 37 contained five features. A broad, shallow feature (3705), aligned NW-SE, and containing Fill 3706, is almost certainly a plough furrow.
- 3.5.8 Features 3704 (containing Fill 3703) and 3708 (containing Fill 3707) were similar shallow features, perhaps pits or tree-throw holes. Feature 3708 (Plate 7) produced a sherd of worn medieval pottery.
- 3.5.9 Two further features, a possible posthole (3709) and a ditch (3711) were present at the eastern end of the trench but could not be excavated due to flooding.

Trench 40 (Figs 4 and 17)

- 3.5.10 Trench 40 contained three linear features, two of which (4003, containing Fill 4004, and 4005, containing Fill 4006) were excavated and proved to be broad and shallow. It is thought that all three are plough furrows. Feature 4007 coincided with a linear geophysical anomaly.



4 FINDS REPORTS

4.1 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

by Edward Biddulph and Dan Stansbie

Introduction, methodology and condition

- 4.1.1 The pottery from the evaluation was sorted into context groups and scanned to determine context-group dates and to assess its character. Groups were quantified by sherd count and weight in grammes. Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. A note was made of the fabric and vessel types using the Oxford Archaeology later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2007).
- 4.1.2 A total of 216 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, weighing 2822g, were recovered during the course of the evaluation (Table 1). The condition of the assemblage was generally moderate to good, with a mean sherd weight of 13g and average of 7 sherds per context. There is a one relatively large group of fresh, unabraded sherds from context 508, although many groups comprise small numbers of small and abraded sherds.

The assemblage

- 4.1.3 The earliest material present consists of a small number of prehistoric sherds with a wide range of fabrics, including two flint-tempered sherds (F2, F3), a shell-tempered sherd (S2) and a sherd tempered with fragments of large angular quartzite (Q3). Given the lack of diagnostic features from these sherds precise dating is difficult. However, a broad date range of late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age seems likely and it is possible that the sherds span a range of different periods within later prehistory. Context 2703 contained a sherd, probably from a jar, decorated with lines scored obliquely across the body. Scored decoration is a technique associated with middle Iron Age pottery, and the sand-and-flint-tempered fabric (AF3) in which the piece was made is consistent with this. However, the sherd is likely to be residual, as it was found with a grog-tempered sherd (E80) dating to the late Iron Age or very early Roman period.
- 4.1.4 The vast majority of the assemblage is Roman in date, belonging to the mid-late 1st and 2nd centuries. A number of contexts contained grog-tempered pottery (E80) in association with sandy ceramic fabrics, are dated to the second half of the 1st century AD. Generally, however, the assemblage is dominated by sandy grey wares (R20), black-surfaced wares (R50) and medium/fine grey wares (R30), probably with a local origin. Vessels in these fabrics are dominated by jars and the presence of a wide-mouthed jar and a narrow-necked jar, along with a groove-rimmed dish and a bead-rimmed bowl suggest a 2nd century date for the majority of the material. Also present are body sherds in fine grey ware (R10), including a sherd bearing a panel of barbotine dots from a late 1st or early 2nd century beaker. The grey wares are supplemented by jars in shell-tempered ware (C10), including a rim sherd from a cooking jar, along with sandy oxidised wares (O20) and fine oxidised wares (O10). Vessels in the oxidised wares are dominated by flagons and include neck and shoulder sherds, along with one rim sherd. A small number of mid 1st century BC to late 1st century grog-tempered sherds (E80) are also present in the assemblage, but their quantity and abraded nature suggest that they are mostly residual. Two sherds of unsourced colour-coated ware (F60) are probably from unknown local production sites.



4.1.5 Regional material includes Verulamium white wares (W21), including a flagon handle and a sherd from a mortarium, along with sherds of Oxfordshire white ware mortaria and Oxfordshire fine oxidised ware which, dating from c AD 240 onwards, provide evidence of late Roman deposition. A single sherd of Dorset black-burnished ware (B11) is also present. Context 2109 contained a jar in pink-grogged ware (O81), which was manufactured in the Northampton/north Buckinghamshire area between the later 2nd century and mid 4th century. Pottery imported from outside the province includes several sherds of Dressel 20 amphora, including a handle and south and central Gaulish samian, including a form 27 cup, a form 18/31 dish, and a form 36 dish, all from Central Gaul (S30) and dating to the 2nd century.

Discussion

4.1.6 The prehistoric assemblage has little potential for further work, comprising as it does just a few body sherds, but it may indicate prehistoric occupation in the area. The Roman assemblage is typical of a small scale rural settlement, consisting mostly of jars in locally produced sandy grey wares and shell-tempered fabrics and indicates the presence of settlement focused on the 2nd century AD, but continuing to some extent into the late 3rd century, and possibly into the 4th. The settlement had some contact with the wider region and beyond, importing a range of regionally produced table wares and some samian, along with some amphorae which probably contained olive oil. Some or all of this material may have derived from supply patterns and sources used by the nearby villa or relatively high-status settlement at Berton (Allen 1986). Pottery from the site, which included fine wares, amphorae, and samian (decorated and plain), indicated that the site was occupied throughout the Roman period (Dannell 1986; Parminter 1986).

Table 1: Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
317	1	3	R20 – residue	AD43-410
324	1	3	F2	PREHIST
327	5	43	R20, C10 (cooking jar), R50 (bead-rim dish)	AD120-200
332	2	20	C10, R20	AD43-410
401	8	56	E80 (jar), R20, O20, O10	AD43-70
403	1	52	A11, R30, O10	AD1-250
405	8	52	E80, C10, R20, R30, S30 (1 FORM 27, 1 FORM 18/31)	AD43-160
406	14	17	R20, R50, O20, E80	AD43-410
506	5	37	R20 (jar), O20, O10	AD43-410
508	63	868	R20, R30 (jars, 1 wide-mouthed jar, 1grooved rim dish, 1 lid), R50 (jars), C10 (jars), O20 (jar), B11, W21 (1 mortarium), S30, O10 (flagon)	AD100-200
510	14	162	E80, C10, W21, R30 (with barbotine dots), S20, S30, F60, R20 (1 jar)	AD50-120
513	3	37	R20, R10	AD43-410
515	15	240	A11 (handle), R20 (narrow-necked jar, bead-rimmed bowl, O20, W21 (1 jar), C10,	AD100-200
518	1	94	R20, O20 (jar), O80, A11, W21 (flagon handle), W22, M22	AD240+
520	1	121	E80, R20, R10, W21, O10, M22	AD240-410
525	5	92	E80, R20, O11, M22	AD240-410
528	15	123	E80 (jar), R20, W21, O20, F60, O10	AD43-410
530	1	8	R20 (body sherd with cordon)	AD43-410
1001	1	1	R20	AD43-410
1204	2	82	O20	AD43-410
2106	6	41	R30, R10, O10, O20	AD43-410
2109	7	180	Drag. 36 dish (S30), jar (R30), jar (O81), R10, R50	AD150-200
2204	1	5	E80	AD43-100
2206	1	7	R30	AD43-410
2303	5	230	E80, jar (O80)	AD43-100



Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
2703	5	49	E80, body sherd with scored decoration and body sherd from ? slack-shouldered jar (sand-and-flint-tempered fabric, AF3)	100BC-AD50
7702	2	23	C10	AD43-410
7708	3	17	FC2, O20, O10	AD43-410
7710	3	16	S2, F3	PREHIST
7714	1	8	Q3	PREHIST
7801	16	135	R20, O20	AD43-410
TOTALS	216	2822		

4.2 Medieval and post-medieval Pottery

by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

4.2.1 A total of 38 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 498g (Table 2) was recovered from thirteen contexts on the site. This is mostly of medieval date with a small amount of post-medieval pottery also present. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded, 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 etc.). Where possible fabric codes have been correlated with those of the Museum of London (MoLAS) fabric reference collection which are widely used in the London area, or with the Oxfordshire fabric coding system (Mellor 1994).

Date and nature of the assemblage

- 4.2.2 Overall the pottery assemblage is in a very fragmentary and mostly worn/abraded condition and consists mostly of body sherds. The earliest post-Roman contexts here have been dated to c 1170-1350 mainly by the presence of South Hertfordshire-type greywares or variants of these (see below). Most of the contexts here have been dated to between the late 12th to the 14th century. A small number of post-medieval sherds also occur and one definite 19th-century sherd. The material is entirely domestic in character. A relatively small number of pottery fabrics were identified. These are briefly described below. Fuller details may be consulted in the spot-dates catalogue.
- 4.2.3 St Neot's-type ware (NEOT), c 850-1150. Six sherds of this Saxon-Norman wheel-thrown shelly ware are present - all apparently residual. These include a classic hammerhead bowl rim (328).
- 4.2.4 South Hertfordshire-type greyware (SHER and SHER COAR), c 1170-1350. This grey reduced sandy coarseware is the commonest medieval pottery fabric from the site. It was made in south Hertfordshire and south Buckinghamshire (Blackmore and Pearce 2010). Mostly in the form of jars/cooking pots with sagging bases. A possible variant of this has a much finer silty-sandy grey fabric with sparse-moderate angular grits of white flint/chert up to 3mm. across (mostly finer). This may be equivalent to MoLAS code SHER FINE. The assemblage here includes a jar/cooking pot rim and a very worn sherd from a thick-walled vessel with traces of applied strips and stamped or rouletted decoration (1301). This may come from a large storage jar or perhaps a curfew (firecover)?



- 4.2.5 Flint-tempered ware (possibly equivalent to MoLAS code EMFL). Possibly 11th to 13th century? One or two small sherds present here.
- 4.2.6 Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), c 1225-1600. From west Buckinghamshire. About half a dozen small sherds here - mostly from glazed jugs and a possible bowl sherd. These probably belong to the earlier phase of the industry c 1225-1400 (Mellor 1994).
- 4.2.7 Post-medieval wares. Three or four small sherds including post-medieval red earthenware (PMR, c 1550-1900) and a sherd of Staffordshire-type blue transfer-printed ware (TPW).

Table 2: Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery

Context	Sherd No	Weight(g)	Comments	Spot Date
301	2	13	1x bs (body sherd) jug neck in Brill/Boarstall ware - cream with green glaze specks ext. 1x worn bs medium sandy greyware - poss S Herts-type greyware?	c1225-1400
303	3	18	1x bs (body sherd) fine grey sandyware with sparse white flint - as in (315). 2x worn bss prob St Neot's-type ware or early med shelly ware?	c1170-1350
315	5	98	2x bss wheelthrown hard grey sandy ware - pob cook pots (1 sooted) prob S Herts greyware. 3x fresh joining sherds from squared wheelthrown cook pot rim in a fine silty-sandy grey fabric with sparse-moderate inclusions of white flint-chert up to 2mm across, mostly under 0.5mm, plus rare coarse organic inclusions - poss a fine variant of S Herts greyware?	c1170-1350
318	1	29	Fresh sagging base from cook pot in light grey S Herts greyware as in (315)	c1170-1350
320	4	20	Small fresh bss min 3 vessels, prob cook pots, in prob S Herts greyware as in (315)	c1170-1350
328	9	161	Min 6 vessels. 1x small worn bs buff-cream prob Brill/Boarstall ware with ext splash clear yellow glaze. 4x S Herts grey ware (3 vess) incl sag base from thick-walled cook pot with oxid brown outer surface, 1 other sag base. 4x St Neot's-type ware (c850-1150) incl hammerhead bowl rim & bss & sag base of second vess	c1225-1350
515	1	10	Cook pot with early med-style beaded clubbed rim with traces of thumbed dec on top. Coarse dark grey sandy with some flint - prob an early S Herts greyware type? Handmade	c1170-1250?
600	3	7	Small scrappy bss. 1x fresh prob late med/early post-med transitional fine hard-fired grey sandyware with broad red core - prob Tudor? 1x med fine grey with flint. 1x med coarse sandyware with flint c1050-1250?	c1475-1600?
800	3	16	2 joining sherds from pad base in post-med red earthenware with int clear glaze. 1x worn jug rim in Brill/Boarstall ware with int patches green glaze c1225-1400	c1600-1900
1000	2	11	1x bs blue transfer-printed whiteware dish. 1x bs coarse S Herts greyware type	c1825-1900
1104	2	16	Bss from 2 vess in S Herts greyware - prob cpots	c1170-1350
1301	2	82	1x worn bs poss bowl or cook pot in Brill/Boarstall ware with traces int yellowish glaze. 1x worn thick (13mm) bs hard fine light grey sandyware with moderate grits of angular white flint/chert up to 3mm across - poss traces	c1225-1400?



			of parallel applied strips ext with traces of stamped or rouletted bands of short parallel oblique strokes or cells - poss from a large early med storage jar or perhaps a curfew?	
3707	1	17	Worn bs S Herts-type greyware prob cpot	c1170-1350
Total	38	498		

4.3 Metal objects

by Ian Scott

- 4.3.1 There were just four pieces of metal from three contexts. Context 510 produced a nail stem fragment. Probably a hand made nail, but not closely datable. Context 518 produced a piece of slag.
- 4.3.2 Context 1100 produced pieces of two patten irons of oval shape. The larger piece comprises most of the oval hoop and one of the two upright terminal lugs. The hoop is incomplete and has been bent out of shape, and the lug, also appears to be incomplete, since there are no nails present. The second piece consists of most one half of an oval patten hoop, but with no upright lug. Pattens were over shoes of wood with iron hoops nailed to the underside and were designed to raise shoes out the mud and wet. See the example with a crinkled iron ring from Norwich (Goodall 1993, 63 & fig. 31, no. 392) and another with an oval iron hoop from Street Farm, Wiltshire (Scott 1999, 400 & fig. 7.31, no. 621). These objects are post-medieval in date.

4.4 Clay pipe

by John Cotter

- 4.4.1 A single bowl fragment with prominent heart-shaped heel and a possible makers stamp but very abraded, was recovered from subsoil 1001 from trench 10. It is likely to be of mid 17th century date.

4.5 Ceramic Building Material

by Cynthia Poole and Edward Biddulph

- 4.5.1 A total of 16 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 711g were recovered as a light scatter across the excavated trenches. The mean fragment weight of 44g is very low. Apart from fragments of modern field drain of 20th century date in 1100, the remainder is Roman, though the indeterminate fragments cannot be dated with certainty and one from 800 is likely to be post-Roman.
- 4.5.2 Fabrics were generally orange or reddish orange in colour sometimes with a pinkish grey or red core and consisted of fine sandy micaceous clay (fabric D), or the same matrix with red ferruginous clay pellets (fabric B) or with the addition of medium-coarse quartz sand (fabric C). Fabric F contained a high density of fine-medium quartz sand. Fabric G, an oxidised organic and glauconitic clay (Aylesbury sits close to a band of Upper Greensand from which the glauconite derives) was used for a single example of brick or flat tile recovered from context 2303.
- 4.5.3 Apart from a brick fragment over 54mm thick, the Roman material has been classified as flat tile varying in thickness from 12-23mm, which suggests it is most likely to derive from roofing (tegula, imbrex). The only apparent concentration of pieces is in trench 5, but these are all very small though taken with the concentration of fired clay in this



area, may indicate tile was being re-used in the construction of ovens, hearths or similar structures in this area.

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Nos	Wt (g)	Fab	Form	Date
328	1	32	D	Flat tile	RB
403	1	5	D	Indeterminate	U/RB?
513	1	17	B	Flat tile	RB
520	1	3	D	Indeterminate	U/RB?
525	1	14	D	Flat tile	RB
528	1	3	D	Indeterminate	U/RB?
800	1	35	F	Indeterminate	U/Pmed?
900	1	84	B	Brick	RB
1100	3	158	MOD	Field drain	C20
2204	1	5	C	indeterminate (could be pot rather than CBM)	RB?
2303	2	115	G; C	brick or flat tile; indeterminate	RB
3101	1	112	C	Flat tile	RB
7801	1	128	D/C	Flat tile	RB
Total	16	711			

4.6 Fired clay

by Cynthia Poole

- 4.6.1 The fired clay amounted to a total of 30 fragments weighing 715g with a mean fragment weight (MFW) of 24g, which is high compared to many assemblages, especially for an evaluation (Table 4). Individual fragment size ranges from a few grams up to nearly 130g. Abrasion is low and the material is generally in good condition.
- 4.6.2 Almost all the material is made in a fine silty sandy clay fabric tempered with a high density of organic material (fabric V), essentially crop processing waste consisting of chaff and broken straw. Impressions are coarse up to 20mm long. The fabric varies in colour from dark red and reddish brown, through buff to shades of grey. There are a small number of pieces made in fabric A, which is essentially the same as the matrix of fabric V.
- 4.6.3 All the material appears to derive from the same basic form. This is a flat clay slab, probably with one smooth moulded surface and one rougher reflecting the working surface on which it was made. One fragment from 508 formed a corner with two straight vertical edges; the angle formed was slightly greater than a right angle c.105° suggesting the plate was either slightly trapezoidal or subrectangular with bowed sides. The corner fragment measured 25mm thick whilst other fragments were up to 40mm thick, though on most of these thickness is incomplete. One of these thicker pieces from 525 appeared to form a rectangular edge, 40mm thick, possibly with a damaged surface. Although oven plates may be this thick it is perhaps more likely to be a square sectioned tapered firebar.
- 4.6.4 The fired clay was concentrated in Trench 5 found in ditches and shallow pits suggesting a focus of activity in this area. The firebars are most commonly found in association with kilns. The function of the slabs is uncertain, but they are normally interpreted as oven, hearth or kiln plates and this type of object is common on settlement sites of mid-late Iron Age – early Roman date in the East Midlands and though often occurring in conjunction with rectangular firebars, the plates appear to have a more generalised function. A fragment of firebar was previously found at Aylesbury Berryfields site. Similar oven plates and firebars have been found at Great



Barford, Bedfordshire (Poole 2007, 269-72), and oven plates at Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (Poole 2009) and the Wittenhams, Oxfordshire (Poole 2010, 166).

Table 4: Fired Clay

Context	Nos	Wt (g)	Form	Fabric	Comment
403	3	27	Oven plate	V	
			Oven plate	V	Includes a corner fragment; hearth floor in silty/sandy fabric without organic temper.
508	9	261			
508	3	54	Hearth floor	A	
510	7	241	Oven plate	V	
515	2	37	Oven plate	V	
518	1	21	Oven plate	V	
525	2	71	Oven plate; firebar	V	A thicker piece 40mm with possible edge may be fire bar.
528	2	22	Oven plate	V	
Total	30	715			

4.7 Human Bone

by Louise Loe

- 4.7.1 Disarticulated fragmentary human remains (7704) were recovered from a circular pit (7703) that measured 0.56m wide, 0.60m long and 0.06m deep. The remains comprise one individual, of which approximately 40% had survived. They include skull, and bones from the torso, legs, arms, hands and right foot. All were incomplete.
- 4.7.2 None of the fragments had fracture margins that suggested they had been broken when the bone was fresh, that is before the organic matrix had decomposed. However, most fracture margins were stained the colour of the surrounding bone suggesting that the bone breakage had occurred some time in the less recent past. There was minimal surface erosion (consistent with grade 2, after McKinley 2004,16), indicating that the bones had not been exposed to the elements. All of these observations suggest that the context represents a secondary burial of skeletonised remains that were possibly disturbed by later activity. The fact that the small bones from the hands and feet are present suggests that care had been taken to collect up the remains of the individual.
- 4.7.3 By employing features of the skull (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994), it was estimated that the individual was a female. The skull is not as reliable as the pelvis for estimating the sex of skeletons (Mays and Cox 2000). In the present individual, only a small part of the right innominate had survived precluding observation here. Dental attrition, scored after Brothwell (1981) and Miles (1963), indicated that the individual was between approximately 33 and 45 years of age when they died.
- 4.7.4 Despite the incomplete and fragmentary nature of the remains, several pathological conditions were observed, including non-specific bone inflammation, osteochondritis dissecans and age related joint changes. Joint changes were seen in the form of degenerative disc disease of the cervical spine. The bone inflammation, observed on unisided fragments of fibula and tibial shafts, may refer to a localised infection or minor trauma. The lesions were smooth, indicating that they had healed prior to death. The changes attributed to osteochondritis dissecans were observed on the trochlea of the left humerus (the elbow) and may refer to low grade trauma.



4.8 Animal Bone

by Lena Strid

- 4.8.1 A total of 82 animal bones were recovered from this site. They derived from several pits and ditches, which have been preliminary dated to the late Iron Age, Roman and Medieval periods. All bones were in a good condition. The bones from the Roman features as a whole are slightly more abraded, which probably reflects the longer deposition period. Traces of gnawing and burning occurred on two bones in the Medieval contexts, affecting a total of four bones.
- 4.8.2 The assemblages are small, and consequently will yield little information on animal husbandry practices, industrial processes or ritual practices. Nevertheless, domestic mammals dominate both assemblages (Table 5), consistent with contemporary settlements in the region (Dobney and Jaques 1996; Holmes and Dobney 1994; Holmes and Rielly 1994; Locker 1990; Strid forthcoming). Judging by epiphyseal fusion, the cattle and sheep/goat bones mainly derived from sub-adult and adult animals. No pig bones could be aged. A single large mammal vertebra came from a juvenile animal.
- 4.8.3 A withers' height of 132.6cm could be calculated on a Roman horse tibia.
- 4.8.4 Butchery marks were found on a total of nine bones. In the Roman assemblage, two ribs, one from a medium mammal and one from a large mammal, were portioned. The ends of a fowl ulna had been chopped off during disarticulation/portioning of the wing. A horse humerus had blade marks from filleting with a heavy cleaver at the distal metaphysis. This is unusual, since horses were normally not eaten during the Roman period. The Medieval assemblage included two portioned vertebrae from medium mammals and two sheep/goat humeri, one with cut marks from filleting or disarticulation around the distal end of the shaft and one which had been chopped off at the distal end, and one sheep/goat metatarsal that had been split longitudinally, probably for marrow extraction.
- 4.8.5 One female cattle pelvis had eburnation in the hip socket, a sign of osteoarthritis. This degenerative joint disorder is often affecting older animals, but can also develop with increased muscle strain, for example when using animals for heavy traction.

Table 5: Number of bones per species in all phases

	Prehistoric	Roman	Medieval	Total
Cattle		5	1	6
Sheep/goat		2	11	13
Pig			2	2
Horse		2	3	5
Domestic Fowl		1		1
Goose			1	1
Indet. bird			1	1
Medium mammal	1	8	19	28
Large mammal	3	8	2	13
Indeterminate		4	8	12
Total	4	30	48	82
Weight (g)	108	1356	596	2060



4.9 Flint

by Mike Donnelly

- 4.9.1 Five pieces of flint were recovered from the evaluation: one was a 10g fragment of burnt unworked flint (508), while the remaining four appear as genuine struck lithics.
- 4.9.2 A flake from the topsoil in Trench 10 may have been used as an awl. However, its tip is missing and it is possible that the rather crude retouch is in fact damage. A retouched blade fragment from the subsoil in trench 13 may be a microlith fragment or simply be from a retouched blade. In either case, an early date is likely, ranging from the Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic. Two flints were recovered from pit 7707 in Trench 77. One, from upper fill 7708, is clearly worked and may represent a form of core face rejuvenation: again a Mesolithic or Neolithic date is likely. Finally a heavily burnt flake from fill 7712 is likely to have been struck, but no other information is available due to the high degree of damage caused by the burning.
- 4.9.3 The presence of Mesolithic-Neolithic material may be of local importance given the absence of such material from the archaeological background search. The quantity of flint recovered implies very low levels of activity.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

5.1 Environmental samples

by Julia Meen and Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

- 5.1.1 Two environmental samples were taken during the evaluation at Land East of Aylesbury, Broughton, Crossing, in Buckinghamshire in July 2012. Sample 1 was taken from context 315 and was the top fill of a pit or possible kiln, thought to be medieval in date. It was a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silty clay. Sample 2 was 100% of context 7704, a pit fill. It was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silty clay.

Methodology

- 5.1.2 Sample 1, which was 34L in volume, and sample 2, 27L in volume, were both processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The charred plant remain flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification and identifications made with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

Results

Finds

- 5.1.3 Sample 1 contained pottery and burnt clay. A few small bones were recovered, including single vertebra from eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and herring (*Clupea harengus*), frog or toad and small mammal including mouse (*Apodemus/Mus* sp.). The abundant bone recovered from sample 2 was identified as being human (see section 4.7, above). A single rodent tooth from house mouse (*Mus domesticus*) was also found in this sample.

Charred Plant Remains



5.1.4 Sample 1 produced a flot of 200ml, of which approximately 40% was scanned for the presence of charred plant remains. Both charcoal and grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were well-preserved and abundant in this flot, both being present in roughly equal quantity. Many of the charcoal pieces were greater than 4mm in size and therefore potentially identifiable. Two possible free-threshing wheat rachises were provisionally identified. Grains of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) were also common and fragments of hazel nut shell (*Corylus avellana*) occurred frequently. Legumes were common and were represented by both 4mm and 2mm types. Non-cultivated species were present only in small quantities, with occasional medium and small grasses (Poaceae), two examples of dock (*Rumex* sp.), one possible eyebright (cf. *Euphrasia* sp.) and one possible chamomile (*Anthemis* sp.) observed.

5.1.5 Sample 2 was approximately 5ml in volume; 100% was scanned for the presence of charred plant remains. The flot contained abundant modern roots and modern insects, and fragmented human bone was common. Charcoal flecks were the only charred plant remains noted in the flot; however, four poorly preserved, indeterminate cereal grains were extracted from the fine residue.

Discussion

5.1.6 The presence of identifiable charred plant remains in both of these samples demonstrates that this type of remain survive at this site in good or reasonably good condition. Sample 1, from the pit, was very rich and contained predominately economic crops – wheat, legumes and possibly oat (although the oat may represent accidentally harvested wild plants) – as well as hazelnut, whose charred presence suggests that they are the waste product of hazelnuts deliberately collected as a food plant. The very small proportion of chaff and weed seeds in the assemblage suggests that it may represent a cleaned crop which became charred accidentally. This rich sample certainly has potential to provide valuable information about the agricultural economy of the site, and it may be that further analysis of the assemblage will help in the interpretation of the nature of the feature. Sample 2 was very poor in charred plant remains, and the infrequent charcoal flecks and rare, poorly preserved cereal grains that were recovered are thought likely to represent background material only.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 Ground conditions were very wet and, in some cases, trenches became inundated to depths greater than 0.5m. In Area B, Trenches 4, 5, 26 and parts of 77 were particularly badly affected. Despite this, trenches were planned, and a sample of features excavated, prior to flooding, and other features had pottery recovered from their surface levels to allow for spot-dating of contexts.

6.1.2 In Area B, the results of the geophysical survey produced a general indication of the location of archaeological deposits. However, the deposits in Trenches 3 and 77 did not produce corresponding geophysical anomalies and, while anomalies were recorded in the vicinity of Trenches 4 and 5, they did not correspond closely to the features revealed. Further south in Area B, there was a reasonably good correspondence between geophysical anomalies and archaeological features.

6.1.3 In Area C, it is likely that most of the geophysical anomalies resulted from variations in the underlying geological deposits.



- 6.1.4 In spite of these issues, it is felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features provides a generally accurate representation of the evaluation areas as a whole.

6.2 Interpretation

- 6.2.1 The evaluation recorded relatively rich archaeological remains in the northern part of Area B. The earliest features encountered were located in Trench 77 where a large pit contained prehistoric pottery. The pottery was, unfortunately, not particularly diagnostic, with a broad date range of late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age. Roman pottery recovered from the top of this feature is likely to represent the final silting of the feature long after it went out of use. The pit cut two other features (which could not be excavated due to flooding) – although undated, they pre-date the pit and may belong to the same general period of activity. The human remains found nearby are likely to be redeposited in the shallow pit in which they were found – again undated, they could be the remains of a contemporary, prehistoric, burial. The nature of this prehistoric activity remains unclear but it is possible that a settlement of this date exists in the vicinity. A considerable number of scatters of prehistoric pottery have been found to the north and east of Bierton and, in Bierton itself, there is widespread evidence of Iron Age activity. However, the imprecise dating of the activity represented here makes it difficult to arrive at an understanding of how it fits into wider patterns of prehistoric activity in the area.
- 6.2.2 A second focus of activity was located in Trenches 4 and 5, dating to the Roman period. Here, a fairly dense cluster of pits and ditches were found near the northern boundary of the evaluation area. A number of geophysical anomalies here had suggested a series of small enclosures, perhaps set off the northern boundary of the field which takes the form of a trackway. However, the archaeology revealed in the trenches bore little or no resemblance to the form of the geophysical anomalies.
- 6.2.3 Although hampered by flooding, a sufficient number of the features were excavated and a reasonable assemblage of pottery and other finds was recovered. In addition, a soil sample produced a rich assemblage of charred plant remains.
- 6.2.4 The density of features recorded, along with the quantity of pottery, fragments of oven furniture and the range of economic crops present, strongly suggest that these features form part of a small settlement or farmstead. The ceramic evidence indicates a 2nd century focus for the settlement, with some activity perhaps continuing into the 3rd or even 4th centuries. A trackway, which appears on the Bierton and Hulcott enclosure map of 1780 (see Fig. 18) which represents the, then still-surviving, medieval landscape, forms the northern boundary of the field. It is tempting to suggest that this trackway had its origins the Roman period. If this was the case, then the settlement or farmstead may be set-off the trackway, perhaps forming part of a wider landscape associated with a Roman villa found to the north-east, immediately to the south of St James' Church in Bierton.
- 6.2.5 A second area of Roman activity was present in the south of Area B, although the features identified and the relative paucity of the artefact assemblage are more indicative of field systems or other agricultural enclosures. A few sherds of pottery from Trench 27 hint at an earlier, late Iron Age, origin for these features.
- 6.2.6 A dense pattern of Roman rural settlement sites on the heavy clays in the Aylesbury region has been demonstrated through fieldwalking to the west of Aylesbury (Zeepvat and Radford, 2009). The current works seem to indicate that that a similar pattern may exist to the east of Aylesbury.



- 6.2.7 In the north-western corner of Area B, a series of features of medieval date, including a cobbled surface, ditches, pits and possibly postholes, were excavated in Trench 3. Overall, the pottery assemblage indicates a 12th-14th century date, although a few sherds of St Neots-type ware may suggest an earlier, late Saxon origin for this activity. It is likely that the activity relates to the medieval settlement of Burcott and the 1780 enclosure map (Fig. 18) shows a series of plots, some containing buildings, set-off the still extant Burcott Lane at this location. It is likely, therefore, that the area of medieval remains is considerably more extensive but the lack of deposits of this date further east in the current evaluation area suggests that such remains are most likely to occur to the west (and north) along Burcott Lane. The former field boundary shown on the enclosure map immediately to the east of Trench 3 appears to mark the eastward extent of settlement of this date on the southern side of the trackway although possible plots may be present on the northern side.
- 6.2.8 Area C contained only very sparse remains, some of which probably relate to agricultural practices of medieval or post-medieval date. The only artefactual remains encountered here was a single sherd of medieval pottery in a shallow pit or tree-throw hole. It is likely that the geophysical anomalies recorded here are largely caused by variations in the underlying geological deposits.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Area B1

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Significant archaeological remains including a row of four postholes, 2 ditches, 4 pits and a cobbled surface, all of mostly late Saxon-early Medieval date with an upper demolition level (326) of modern date (post 1950's). This trench was moved to the west due to the presence of a grove of large trees. Contained distinctive natural, alongside trench 77.					Avg depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	30
					Length (m)	1.8
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
300	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
301	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil, mid grey brown slightly sandy clay	pottery and CBM	-
302	Natural	-	?	Possible brickearth light-mid reddish brown sandy clay, sits over Greensand type material.	-	-
303	Surface	6	0.1	Sub-rounded to sub angular limestone pebbles and small cobbles	pottery	Medieval
304	PH cut	0.2	?	Circular posthole, unexcavated	-	-
305	PH fill	0.2	?	Moderately compact, mid dark grey silty clay	-	-
306	PH cut	0.22	0.12	Circular postholes cut with 'u' shaped profile	-	-
307	PH fill	0.22	0.12	Moderately compact, mid dark grey silty clay	-	-
308	PH cut	0.2	?	Oval posthole, unexcavated	-	-
309	PH fill	0.2	?	Moderately compact, mid dark grey silty clay	-	-
310	PH cut	0.36	0.18	Circular posthole cut with steep sided 'U' shaped profile	-	-
311	PH fill	0.36	0.08	Moderately compact, dark grey silty clay	-	-
312	PH fill	0.36	0.06	Moderately compact, mid-light yellowish grey silty clay	-	-
313	PH fill	0.32	0.05	Moderately compact, mid dark grey silty clay	-	-
314	Pit cut	0.8	0.54	Probable circular pit cut with near vertical sides and a flat base	-	Early Roman
315	Pit fill	0.68	0.1	Dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions <1>	pottery and animal bone	Early Roman



316	Pit fill	0.74	0.14	Mottled dark yellowish grey silty clay, frequent charcoal	-	Early Roman
317	Pit fill	0.8	0.16	Mottled mid-dark yellowish grey silty clay, frequent charcoal	pottery and animal bone	Early Roman
318	Pit fill	0.8	0.14	Mid-light yellowish grey silty clay, moderate charcoal	pottery	Early Roman
319	Ditch cut	1.15	0.3	Gently sloped, flat bottomed ditch cut	-	?
320	Ditch fill	1.15	0.3	Mid-dark grey silty clay with rare pot and bone	pottery and animal bone	?
321	Pit cut	1.3	0.28	Probably circular pit cut, not fully in trench, cut by pit 314	-	?
322	Pit fill	1.3	0.28	Mid yellowish grey silty clay	-	?
323	Ditch cut	0.68	0.32	'V' shaped profile with slightly rounded base	-	
324	Ditch fill	0.68	0.12	Dark grey silty clay, very sterile	-	?
325	Ditch fill	0.62	0.2	Mid-dark grey silty clay with single worn pot sherd	pottery	?
326	Layer	-	0.2	Loose, very dark grey brown to black organic silty clay with masses of brick, demolition layer	brick, glass, tile	modern
327	Layer	6	0.1	Support for cobbled surface 303 dark grey silty clay with pot	pottery	Medieval
328	Pit fill	1.56	0.56	Upper fill of 329, moderate to firm mixed yellowish grey silty clay with charcoal	pottery, animal bone and CBM	?
329	Pit cut	1.56	0.7	Cut of uncertain shape in plan, visible in slot through cobbles 303, flat base with steep sides	-	?
330	Pit cut	0.26	0.5	Only very partially revealed in slot through 303/327, probable pit cut with steep sides and a slightly rounded base	-	?
331	Pit fill	0.26	0.38	Upper fill of 330, moderate compacted mid-dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal	pottery and animal bone	?
332	Pit fill	1.44	0.14	Lower fill of 329, soft light yellowish grey silty clay with charcoal and pot	pottery	?
333	Pit fill	0.26	0.08	Lower fill of 330, light grey silty clay with charcoal inclusions	-	?

Trench 4		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Several archaeological features were concentrated in the eastern half of this trench inside of ditch 407, however, flooding meant that approximately four features could not be tested. All features investigated contained Roman material. Unexcavated ditch 412 probably accounts for the geophysical anomaly identified here, but, all other features including	Avg depth (m)	0.6
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30



the main boundary ditch 407 did not show up on the geophysical plot.						
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Layer		0.4	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
401	Ditch fill	1	0.18	Fill of 402, moderate to soft, mid-dark brownish grey silty clay	pottery and CBM	Early-mid Roman
402	Ditch cut	1	0.18	Cut of shallow feature probably a ditch, in corner of trench so shape in plan not known	-	Early-mid Roman
403	Ditch fill	0.8	0.14	Fill of 404, moderate, mid-dark brownish grey silty clay	pottery	Early-mid Roman
404	Ditch cut	0.8	0.14	Cut of shallow feature probably a ditch, in corner of trench so shape in plan not known	-	Early-mid Roman
405	Ditch fill	1.35	0.16	Upper fill of 407, soft light yellowish grey silty clay	pottery	Early-mid Roman
406	Ditch fill	1.2	0.5	Lower fill of 407, moderate, dark brownish grey clayey silt	pottery	Early-mid Roman
407	Ditch cut	2.5	0.66	Cut of probable boundary ditch, open flaring profile before steeper central section. Not bottomed due to flooding	-	Early-mid Roman
408	Layer	-	0.2	Mottled mid dark yellowish brown -mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
409	Natural	-	?	Mixed blue-grey and light yellow brown clay	-	-
410	Pit cut	1.6	?	Rectangular cut of probable pit, unexcavated due to flooding	-	?
411	Pit fill	1.6	?	Fill of 410, mottled mid brownish grey to reddish brown sandy clay, unexcavated	-	?
412	Ditch cut	1.2	?	Probable ditch, unexcavated due to flooding	-	Roman?
413	Ditch fill	1.2	?	Fill of 412 dark brownish grey silty clay, contained Roman material, not recovered due to flooding	pottery	Early-mid Roman
414	Ditch cut	1.3	?	Either a continuation of 402/404 or a separate feature, unexcavated due to flooding	-	Roman?
415	Ditch fill	1.3	?	Fill of 414, dark brownish grey silty clay, contained Roman material, not recovered due to flooding	pottery	Early-mid Roman

Trench 5		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE



Dense concentration of Roman activity in northern three-quarters of trench bounded along southern edge by possible boundary ditch 526/529. Consists of a mix of pits and shallow linear features. Ditch 512 probably accounts for the geophysical anomaly identified here, but, all other features including the main boundary ditch 526 did not show up on the geophysical plot.					Avg depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
501	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil, mid grey brown slightly sandy clay	pottery and CBM	-
502	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed mid yellow brown to dark grey clay	-	-
503	Pit cut	1	?	Pit cut semicircular, unexcavated	-	-
504	Pit fill	1	?	Dark greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated	-	-
505	Pit cut	1.5	?	Pit cut semicircular, unexcavated	-	Roman
506	Pit fill	1.5	?	Mid-dark greyish blue silty clay, unexcavated	pottery	Roman
507	Pit cut	1.85	0.3	Circular pit cut with shallow bowl-shaped profile	-	Mid-late Roman
508	Pit fill	1.85	0.3	Dark greys silty clay with numerous finds	pottery, animal bone, flint and CBM	Mid-late Roman
509	Pit cut	1.8	0.32	Shallow bowl-shaped pit cut truncated by 507	-	Early-mid Roman
510	Pit fill	1.8	0.2	Upper fill of 509, moderate, mod-dark grey silty clay with frequent coarse sand and charcoal inclusions	pottery, animal bone and CBM	Early-mid Roman
511	Pit fill	1.04	0.1	Lower fill of 509, moderate, light-mid grey silty clay	-	Early-mid Roman
512	Ditch cut	2.3	?	Linear feature, unexcavated	-	Roman
513	Ditch fill	2.3	?	Moderate light-mid grey silty clay	pottery	Roman
514	Pit cut	1.98	0.26	Semicircular shallow bowl-shaped pit cut, truncated by 517	-	Early-mid Roman
515	Pit fill	1.98	0.2	Upper fill of 514, moderate mid-dark grey silty clay	pottery	Early-mid Roman
516	Pit fill	1.2	0.08	Lower fill of 514, moderate light-mid grey silty clay	pottery	Early-mid Roman
517	Ditch cut	1.46	0.16	Shallow 'U'-shaped ditch cut, truncates 514	-	Early-mid Roman
518	Ditch fill	1.46	0.16	Moderate dark grey silty clay	pottery	Early-mid Roman
519	Ditch cut	1.42	0.28	Flat bottomed, steep sided ditch cut	-	Mid-late



						Roman
520	Ditch fill	1.42	0.12	Upper fill of 519, moderate, mid-dark grey silty clay	pottery	Mid-late Roman
521	Ditch fill	1.3	0.16	Lower fill of 519, moderate, light-mid grey silty clay	-	Mid-late Roman
522	Ditch cut	2	?	Linear feature, unexcavated	-	?
523	Ditch fill	2	?	Moderate mottled mid and light greyish brown silty clay	pottery	?
524	Pit cut	2.04	0.18	Shallow flat bottomed pit cut, cuts ditch 526	-	Mid Roman
525	Pit fill	2.04	0.18	Moderate mid-dark grey silty clay	pottery	Mid Roman
526	Ditch cut	1.62	0.5	Ditch with rounded 'U' shaped base and regular sides, cuts 529 and is cut by pit 524	-	Early-mid Roman
527	Ditch fill	1.06	0.14	Upper fill of 526, moderate, mixed mid grey to yellowish brown silty clay	-	Early-mid Roman
528	Ditch fill	1.62	0.36	Lower fill of 526, moderate to compact, dark grey silty clay	pottery	Early-mid Roman
529	Ditch cut	1.9	0.44	Possible earlier ditch, matches base of 526, gently sloping sides	-	Roman
530	Ditch fill	1.9	0.44	Moderate, light yellowish grey slightly silty clay	pottery	Roman
531	Layer	-	0.15	Possible colluvium visible in northwest end of trench	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified. No source for the geophysical anomalies identified here. Trench extended northwards in order to see if it contained similar material to trench 5 and also to see if ditch 526 continued. No archaeology was observed in the extension.					Avg depth (m)	0.52
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	45
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery and CBM	modern
601	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
602	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-

Trench 7			
General description		Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified. Land drain at northern end running		Avg depth (m)	0.44



directly down trench caused very slight shift in its location.		Width (m)	1.8			
		Length (m)	30			
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
701	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
702	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-

Trench 8						
General description			Orientation	NE-SW		
No archaeological remains identified. Two land drains present running north-south.			Avg depth (m)	0.4		
			Width (m)	1.8		
			Length (m)	30		
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery	modern
801	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
802	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown, mid reddish brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-

Trench 9						
General description			Orientation	NW-SE		
One pit and one probable treethrow examined One other area of very narrow staining proved to be natural.			Avg depth (m)	0.66		
			Width (m)	1.8		
			Length (m)	30		
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery	modern
901	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
902	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-



903	Pit cut	1.52	0.27	Circular in plan with steep sided rounded 'U' shaped profile	-	-
904	Pit fill	1.52	0.27	Compact mid greyish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
905	Natural cut	0.5	0.06	Probable treethrow cut, irregular in plan with rounded shallow profile	-	-
906	Natural fill	0.5	0.06	Mid brownish grey fill of treethrow 905	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
One narrow, shallow ditch present.					Avg depth (m)	0.54
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery and flint	modern
1001	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
1002	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-
1003	Ditch cut	0.66	0.1	Shallow open 'v' shaped ditch, probably cut through subsoil 10001 and thus very recent	-	-
1004	Ditch fill	0.66	0.1	Compact mid brownish grey clay	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
One probable agricultural furrow investigated. Two sherds of worn Medieval pottery recovered. One land drain also present. No sign of a source of the two geophysical anomalies identified here.					Avg depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery	modern
1101	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
1102	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-



1103	Ditch cut	3.28	0.24	Very shallow slight 'V' shaped cut, probable agricultural furrow.	-	?
1104	Ditch fill	3.28	0.24	Mid yellowish grey clay, two sherds of worn Medieval pot present.	pottery	?

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
One agricultural furrow investigated. Furrow also contained a land drain.				Avg depth (m)	0.45	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery and CBM	modern
1201	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
1202	Ditch cut	2.5	0.17	Very shallow slight, rounded 'V' shaped cut, agricultural furrow.	-	?
1203	Ditch fill	2.5	0.17	Mid greyish brown clay, two worn sherds of Roman pot present.	pottery	?
1204	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
No archaeological remains identified. Some geological formations tested. Two sherds of pottery recovered, one was late Medieval while the other may have been earlier, possibly Saxon.				Avg depth (m)	0.63	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
1301	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	pottery and flint	-
1302	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
No archaeological remains identified.				Avg depth (m)	0.5	



				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery and CBM	modern
1401	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
1402	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-

Trench 77						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Additional trench chosen to test continuation of archaeological remains in trench 3 down the western edge of the area B1. Trench contained numerous archaeological features including a very large pit and some probable ditches. One pit contained the partial remains of a probable female adult inhumation. Pressures of time, inopportune feature locations and rising water levels meant that only around half the features were tested.				Avg depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
7700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	pottery and CBM	modern
7701	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil, mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay	-	-
7702	Natural	-	0.25	Possible brickearth light-mid reddish brown sandy clay, sits over Greensand type material.	-	-
7703	Pit cut	0.6	0.06	Shallow oval cut with dished profile.	-	-
7704	Pit fill	0.6	0.06	Mid-light grey silty clay fill with partial human inhumation <2>.	human bone	-
7705	PH cut	0.3	0.08	Circular posthole cut with vertical sides and a rounded 'U' shaped base.	-	-
7706	PH fill	0.3	0.08	Mid-light grey silty clay fill	-	-
7707	Pit cut	3.2	0.65	Large sub-rectangular cut with vertical or undercutting sides. Base uncertain as was below water table but possibly stepped.	-	Late Saxon?
7708	Pit fill	0.7	0.12	Dark yellowish to greyish brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions	pottery, flint and animal bone	Late Saxon?



7709	Pit fill	0.85	0.08	Thin band of mid yellowish brown sandy gravelly clay.	-	Late Saxon?
7710	Pit fill	2.2	0.26	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	pottery, shell and animal bone	Late Saxon?
7711	Pit fill	2.5	0.12	Thin band of mid yellowish brown sandy gravelly clay.	-	Late Saxon?
7712	Pit fill	2.7	0.25	Moderate, mid brownish grey slightly mottled (dark yellow brown) clay.	pottery, flint and animal bone	Late Saxon?
7713	Pit fill	2.2	0.08	Very thin band of mid yellowish brown sandy gravelly clay.	-	Late Saxon?
7714	Pit fill	2.1	0.28	Fine blue grey clay with charcoal inclusions, contained possible articulated animal bone joint but under water at time of excavation.	pottery and animal bone	Late Saxon?
7715	Pit fill	2.1	0.14	Moderate, mid brownish grey slightly mottled (dark yellow brown) clay.	-	Late Saxon?
7716	Pit cut	1.3	?	Pit or ditch running south out of extension around pit 7707. Not excavated.	-	-
7717	Pit fill	1.3	?	Mid reddish brown silty clay with charcoal and bone inclusions (not recovered). Not excavated.	animal bone	-
7718	Ditch cut	0.8	?	Probable ditch cut running into feature 7707. Not excavated.	-	-
7719	Ditch fill	0.8	?	Dark reddish brown silty clay with charcoal and pebble inclusions.	-	-
7720	Layer	-	0.15	Probable buried A horizon, very dark brownish to blackish grey silty clay.	pottery	?
7721	Natural	-	0.5	Probable 'Greensand' deposit, mixed reddish white to yellowish brown sandy gravel, undercut in places by water action	-	-
7722	Ditch cut	0.9	?	Probable ditch cut running obliquely across west end of trench, full width not revealed. Not excavated	-	-
7723	Ditch fill	0.9	?	Moderate mod brownish grey silty clay with some reddish brown mottling. Not excavated.	-	-
7724	Pit fill	0.6	0.2	Basal fill in north side of pit 7707. Mid brownish grey slightly mottled (dark yellow brown) clay.	-	Late Saxon?
7725	Natural	-	?	Below 'Greensand', light blue clay with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles.	-	-

Trench 78



General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Additional trench chosen in order to test any continuation of southern boundary ditch 526 in trench 5. No archaeological remains identified. One band of natural at likely point of intersection with ditch 526 tested.					Avg depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
7800	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	CBM and glazed pottery	modern
7801	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil, mottled blueish grey to dark yellowish brown slightly silty clay, contained several sherds of Roman pot.	pottery	-
7802	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay	-	-
7803	Natural	-	-	Natural feature at location of likely continuation of ditch 526.	-	-

Area B2

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single northwest-southeast orientated shallow ditch, no finds recovered.					Avg depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1501	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
1502	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
1503	Ditch fill	-	0.2	Lower fill of 1504, light yellowish grey silty clay	-	-
1504	Ditch cut	1.7	0.2	Flat bottomed shallow feature.	-	-
1505	Ditch fill	-	0.1	Upper fill of 1504, brownish yellow sandy clay	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified.					Avg depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	1.9



					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1601	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
1602	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
No archaeological remains identified.					Avg depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1700	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil, light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
1702	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified.					Avg depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1800	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil, light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
1802	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified.					Avg depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.9



					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1900	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil, light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
1902	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified.					Avg depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
					Contexts	
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2000	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil, light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
2002	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Two north-south orientated ditches with the westernmost one having a recut. Roman pottery recovered from the eastern ditch					Avg depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
					Contexts	
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2101	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil, mid-light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
2102	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2103	Ditch fill	-	0.18	Fill of recut ditch 2107, light reddish brown silty clay	-	-
2104	Ditch cut	0.62	0.38	North south cut with 'U' shaped	-	-



				profile, recut as 2107		
2105	Ditch fill	-	0.03	Upper fill of ditch 2104, mid yellowish grey silty clay	-	-
2106	Ditch fill	-	0.35	Lower fill of ditch 2104, mid to dark brownish grey silty clay	-	-
2107	Ditch cut	0.86	0.18	North-south re-cut of ditch 2104, rounded 'U' shaped profile and single fill	-	-
2108	Ditch cut	1	0.34	North-south cut, with rounded 'U' shaped profile	-	-
2109	Ditch fill	-	0.34	Fill of 2108, light greenish grey sandy clay	pottery and CBM	Roman

Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	E-W
A large shallow pit and a north-south orientated ditch were identified here. Pottery from both has been dated to the Roman period.					Avg depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2200	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil, light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
2202	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2203	Ditch cut	2	0.6	Shallow open ditch cut with double break of slope.	-	Roman
2204	Ditch fill	-	0.6	Fill of 2203, mid yellowish grey silty clay	pottery	Roman
2205	Pit cut	2.5	0.2	Semicircular shallow pit cut with flat base	-	Roman
2206	Pit fill	-	0.2	Fill of 2205, mid greenish grey silty clay	pottery	Roman

Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single ditch containing Roman pottery and animal bone.					Avg depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date



2300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2301	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil, mid-light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
2302	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2303	Ditch fill	-	?	Fill of 2304, mid brownish grey silty clay	pottery and animal bone	Roman
2304	Ditch cut	1.32	?	Deep ditch cut, not bottomed but at least 0.5m deep and certainly much more.	-	Roman

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified.					Avg depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2400	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil, light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
2402	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern

Trench 25						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained one very shallow probable ditch or remnant furrow					Avg depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2501	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil, mid-light yellowish brown silty clay	-	-
2502	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2503	Ditch fill	-	0.03	Fill of 2504, mid greyish brown silty clay	-	-
2504	Ditch cut	0.5	0.03	Shallow flat bottomed north-south	-	-



				linear		
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Trench 26						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench orientation altered and length shortened due to proximity to dense hedge-line. Contained a single east-west linear, however, not excavated due to flooding.					Avg depth (m)	0.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	26
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2601	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2602	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2603	Ditch fill	-	?	Fill of 2604, mid greyish brown silty clay, not excavated as under water.	-	-
2604	Ditch cut	0.8	?	East-west orientated ditch cut	-	-

Trench 27						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two intercutting east-west ditches with late Iron Age pot coming from the earliest feature.					Avg depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2701	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2702	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, light yellowish grey clay	-	-
2703	Ditch fill		0.4	Fill of 2704, mid blueish grey clay	pottery and animal bone	Late Iron Age
2704	Ditch cut	0.7	0.4	East west cut, earliest of two intercutting features, 'U' shaped profile	-	Late Iron Age
2705	Ditch cut	2	0.7	East-west cut with double break of slope	-	?
2706	Ditch fill		0.7	Fill of 2705, mid blueish grey clay	animal bone	?
2707	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil, mid yellowish grey silty clay	-	-

Area C

Trench 28		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW



No archaeological remains identified.				Avg depth (m)	0.45	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2801	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
2802	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-

Trench 29						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
No archaeological remains identified. Nothing corresponded to geophysical anomalies identified in central portion of trench. One possible feature tested but found to be old tractor track cutting down through subsoil 2901.				Avg depth (m)	0.52	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
2901	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
2902	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-

Trench 30						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
No archaeological remains identified. One land drain present. Nothing corresponded to geophysical anomalies identified in central portion of trench.				Avg depth (m)	0.48	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3001	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty	-	-



				clay		
3002	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-

Trench 31						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified. Two land drains present.					Avg depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3101	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	CBM	-
3102	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-

Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
One possible ditch/furrow investigated. Several possible features all proved to be geological. The ditch was far east of the location for the geophysical anomaly identified here.					Avg depth (m)	0.53
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3201	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
3202	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-
3203	Ditch cut	1.86	0.14	Open rounded 'u' shaped profile.	-	-
3204	Ditch fill	1.86	0.14	Compact mid brownish grey clay.	-	-

Trench 33						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeological remains identified. One land drain present. No sign of					Avg depth (m)	0.47



geophysical anomalies identified at eastern end of trench.		Width (m)	1.8			
		Length (m)	30			
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3301	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
3302	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-

Trench 34						
General description		Orientation	NE-SW			
No definite archaeological remains identified. One possible broad ditch that was located west of the western geophysical anomaly was not tested due to deep groundwater and rain water. Another feature that corresponded to the central anomaly was tested and found to be natural.		Avg depth (m)	0.62			
		Width (m)	1.8			
		Length (m)	30			
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3401	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
3402	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-
3403	Natural cut	0.69	?	Stepped shallow cut of probable geological/periglacial feature.	-	-
3404	Natural fill	0.69	?	Compact light greyish brown clay, not bottomed.	-	-
3405	Ditch cut	1.8	?	Possible ditch cut, not excavated as underwater.	-	-
3406	Ditch fill	1.8	?	Mottled mid reddish to brownish grey slightly silty clay, not excavated.	-	-

Trench 35			
General description		Orientation	NE-SW
No archaeological remains identified. One land drain present.		Avg depth (m)	0.6
		Width (m)	1.8
		Length (m)	30



Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3501	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
3502	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-

Trench 36						
General description		Orientation	NE-SW			
No archaeological remains identified. One area of mottled banded clay that conformed to the location of the geophysical anomaly and was thought to represent an ice wedge or paleochannel was tested and found to represent variations within the clay natural.		Avg depth (m)	0.7			
		Width (m)	1.8			
		Length (m)	30			
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3601	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
3602	Natural	-	1.4	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-
3603	Natural	-	?	Natural horizon under 3602, compact mottled mid yellowish brown to blue grey blocky clay.	-	-

Trench 37						
General description		Orientation	NE-SW			
This trench contained two probable pits or treethrows, two linears/furrows and a probable posthole. Two features were not tested due to being underwater, including one linear that equated to the geophysical anomaly identified here.		Avg depth (m)	0.7			
		Width (m)	1.8			
		Length (m)	30			
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3701	Layer	-	0.36	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-



3702	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-
3703	Pit fill	1.8	0.3	Dark yellowish to greyish brown clay	-	-
3704	Pit cut	1.8	0.3	Pit or treethrow cut with rounded 'U' shaped profile steeper to east.	-	-
3705	Ditch cut	1.63	0.22	Open rounded 'u' shaped profile.	-	-
3706	Ditch fill	1.63	0.22	Mottled mod yellowish brown to light grey clay, occasional charcoal and small pebble inclusions.	-	-
3707	Pit fill	2.12	0.35	Mid-dark yellowish grey silty clay, occasional charcoal and small pebble inclusions, a single worn pot sherd was recovered.	pottery	Medieval
3708	Pit cut	2.12	0.35	Open rounded 'u' shaped profile.	-	Medieval
3709	PH cut	0.45	?	Possible circular posthole cut, not excavated as underwater.	-	-
3710	PH fill	0.45	?	Mid brownish grey slightly silty clay, not excavated.	-	-
3711	Ditch cut	1	?	Possible ditch cut, not excavated as underwater.	-	-
3712	Ditch fill	1	?	Mottled mid reddish to brownish grey slightly silty clay, not excavated.	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
No archaeological remains identified. One treethrow investigated. Nothing present in trench that equated to the two geophysical linear anomalies.					Avg depth (m)	0.39
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3801	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
3802	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-
3803	Natural cut	2.88	0.17	Figure-of eight shaped cut with irregular profile, probable treethrow	-	-
3804	Natural fill	2.88	0.17	Compact mid greyish brown clay.	-	-



Trench 39						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains identified.					Avg depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3900	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
3901	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
3902	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-

Trench 40						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Three ditches present here, the easternmost of which, 4007, probably equated to the geophysical anomaly indicated here. All three share the same north-south orientation, two are very close together and these may all in fact be agricultural furrows.					Avg depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil, very dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
4001	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
4002	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-
4003	Ditch cut	1.56	0.26	Open flattened 'u' shaped profile.	-	-
4004	Ditch fill	1.56	0.26	Light-mid greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
4005	Ditch cut	1.64	0.23	Open flattened 'u' shaped profile.	-	-
4006	Ditch fill	1.64	0.23	Light-mid greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
4007	Ditch cut	1.1	?	Open flattened 'u' shaped profile, not excavated.	-	-
4008	Ditch fill	1.1	?	Light-mid greyish brown silty clay, not excavated.	-	-

Trench 41



General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
No archaeological remains identified. Two land drains present, geological band responsible for geophysical anomaly.				Avg depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	45	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil, dark grey brown organic silty clay	-	modern
4101	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil, mottled dark yellowish brown to mid grey brown slightly silty clay	-	-
4102	Natural	-	?	Natural 'C' horizon, mixed dark yellow brown to dark blueish grey clay, probable Kimmeridge clay.	-	-



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Broughton Crossing, Berton, Buckinghamshire

Site code: BBBC12

Grid reference: SP 850 150

Type: 41 trench evaluation

Date and duration: July and September 2012

Summary of results: In July and September 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on Land at Broughton Crossing, Berton in Buckinghamshire. The evaluation comprised machine excavation of 41 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m, in two separate areas. Evaluation trenching of two further areas at the site will be carried out when access is available.

Area B, adjacent to Burcott Lane, comprised 27 trenches, located to investigate two areas of anomalies recorded in a geophysical survey of the site as well as an apparently blank area between them. The trenching revealed two concentrations of archaeology in the northern part of the area, most of which dated to either the medieval or Roman periods.

Some evidence of prehistoric activity was present in the north of the area, in the form of a small group of pits and, possibly, human remains (although these were not dated). The nature of this activity is unclear and it was not closely dateable.

Roman activity, probably originating in the 2nd century AD, was recorded at the northern edge of the field. Here, a considerable density of archaeological features produced pottery, fragments of oven furniture and a range of economic crop remains, strongly indicating the presence of a small rural settlement or farmstead.

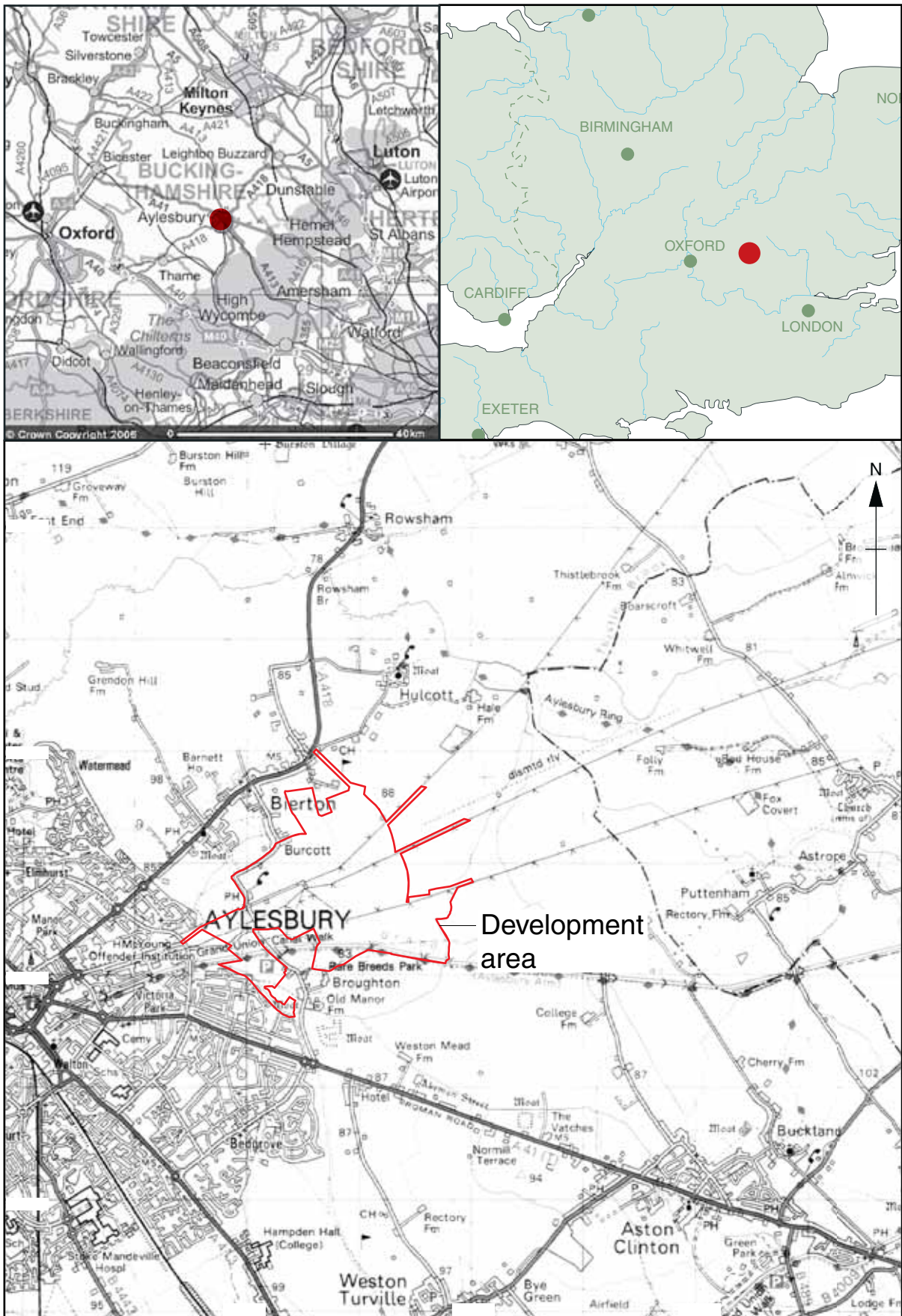
In the south-eastern part of Area B, a series of ditches and a pit were recorded. These features largely coincided with a series of geophysical anomalies indicating the presence of a series of enclosures. Pottery from the features suggests a Roman date for the enclosures, although some late Iron Age material was also present.

In the north-western part of Area B, medieval remains, including a cobbled surface, pits and ditches, were present. Examination of the 1780 Enclosure map for the area suggests these features form part of a more extensive area of medieval activity, forming part of the medieval village of Burcott. In general, the pottery recovered from these features suggests a 12th-14th century date for this activity, but the presence of a few sherds of St Neots-type ware may suggest an earlier, late Saxon origin.

Scattered post-medieval field boundaries and furrows were also present further south.

Area C, adjacent to Gib Lane, comprised 14 trenches and revealed very sparse archaeological remains that consisted mostly of probable plough furrows, of medieval or post-medieval date. A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from an irregular pit or tree-throw hole. It is likely that a series of geophysical anomalies recorded in the area largely resulted from variations in the underlying natural geological deposits.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM: 1012.50



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

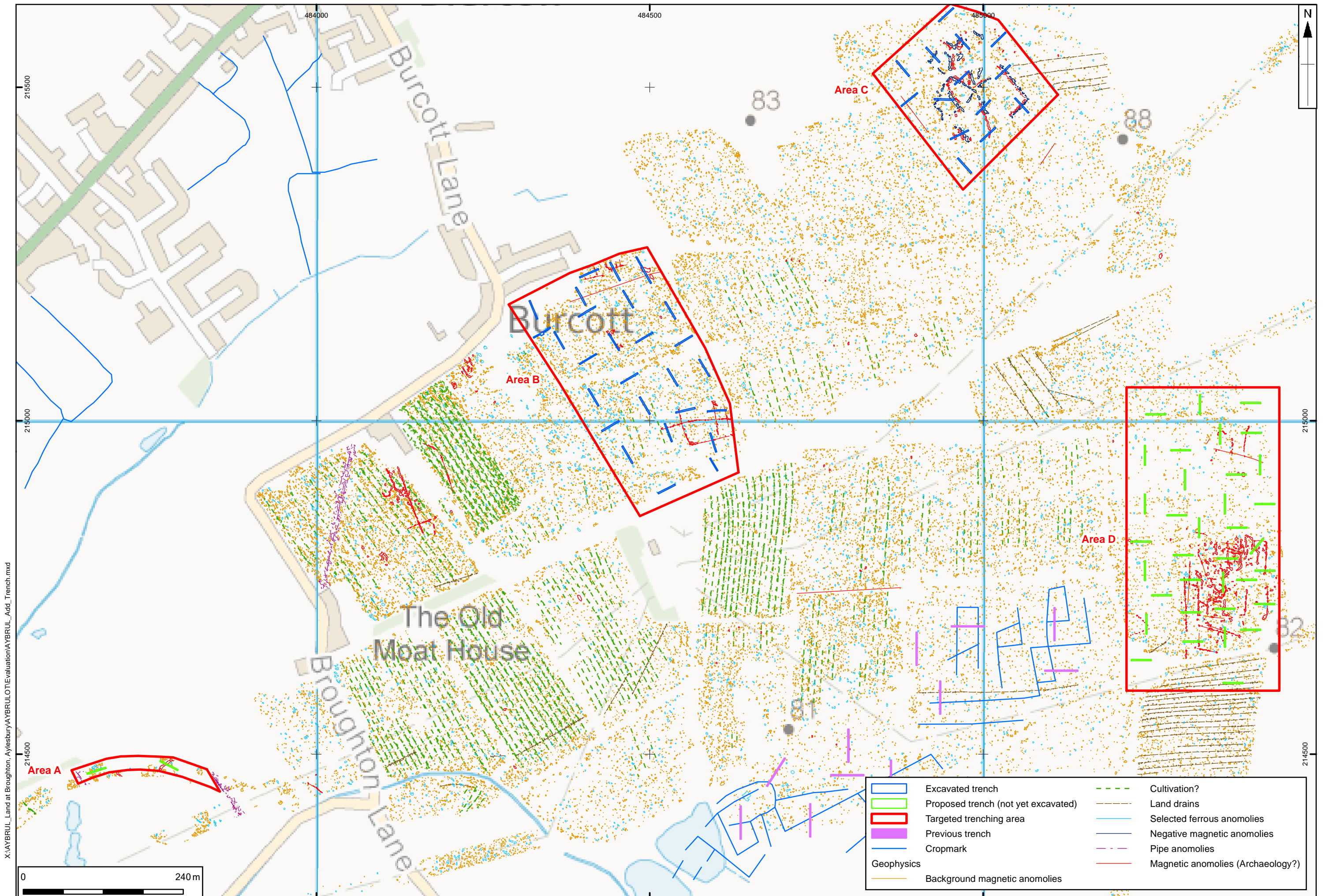
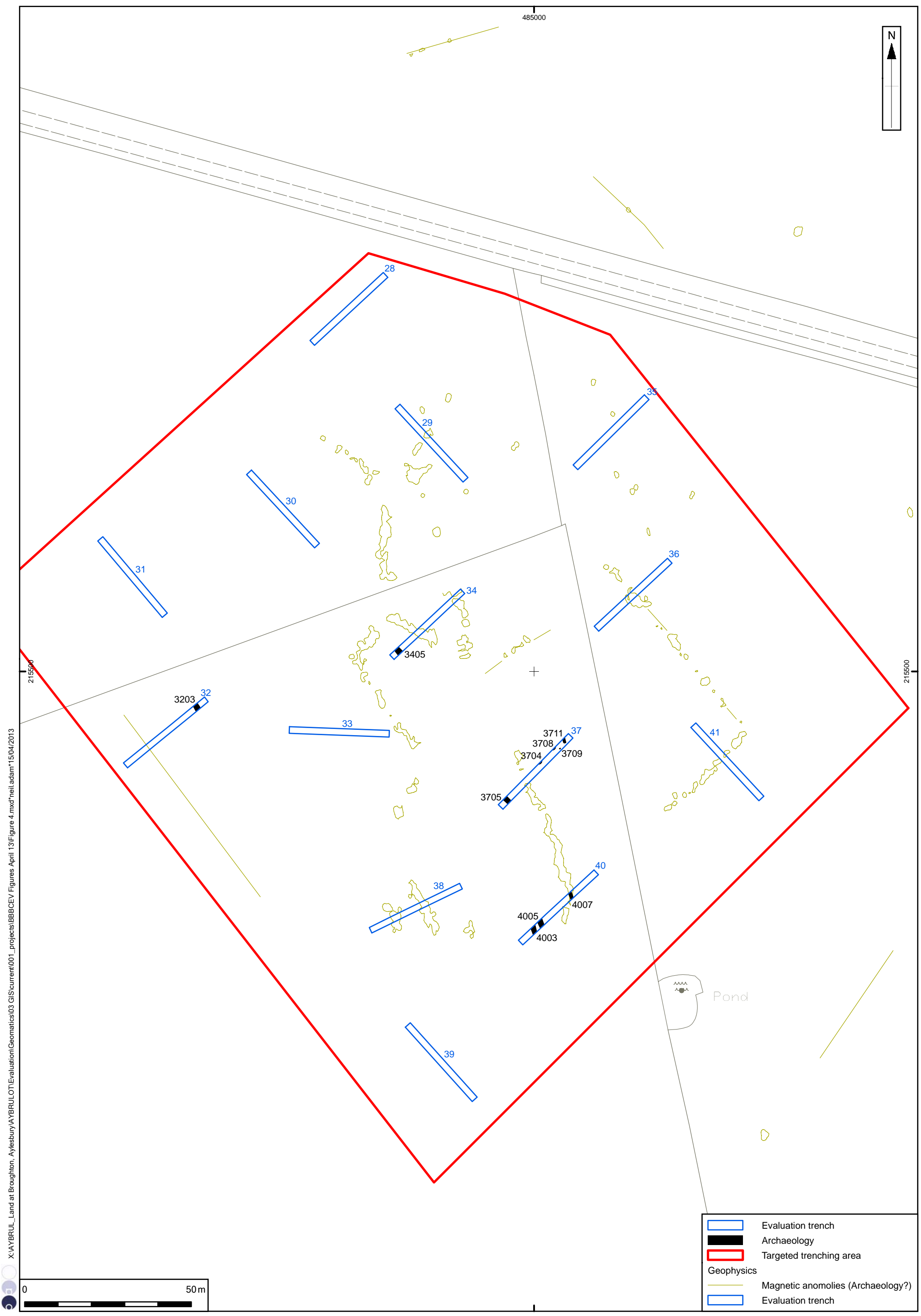


Figure 2: Trench locations



Figure 3: Archaeology in Areas B



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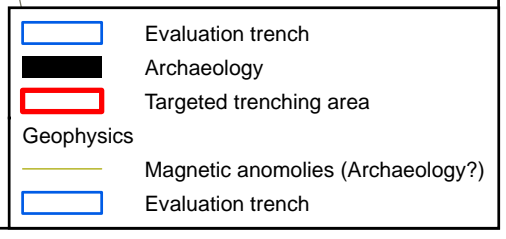


Figure 4: Archaeology in Area C

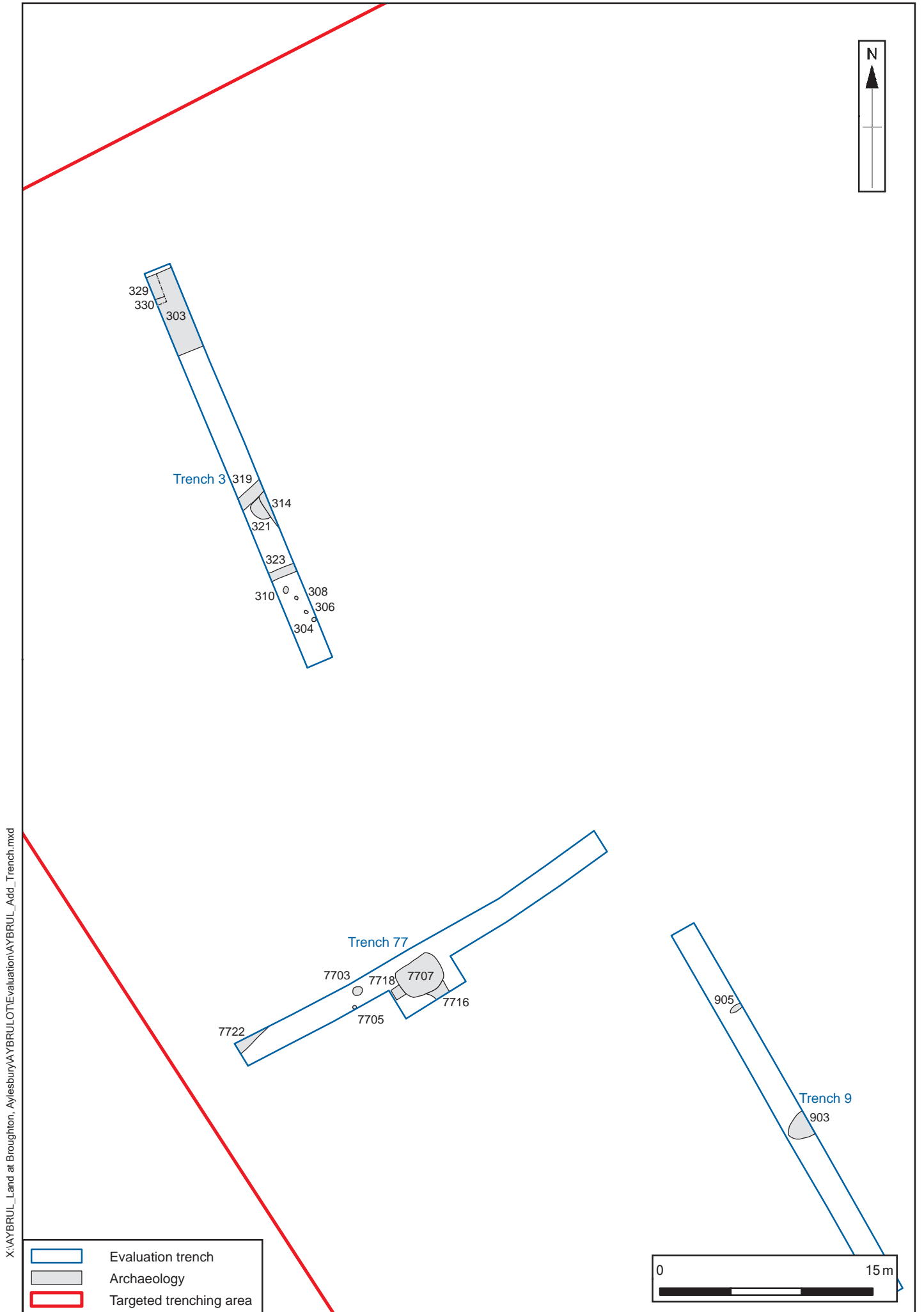
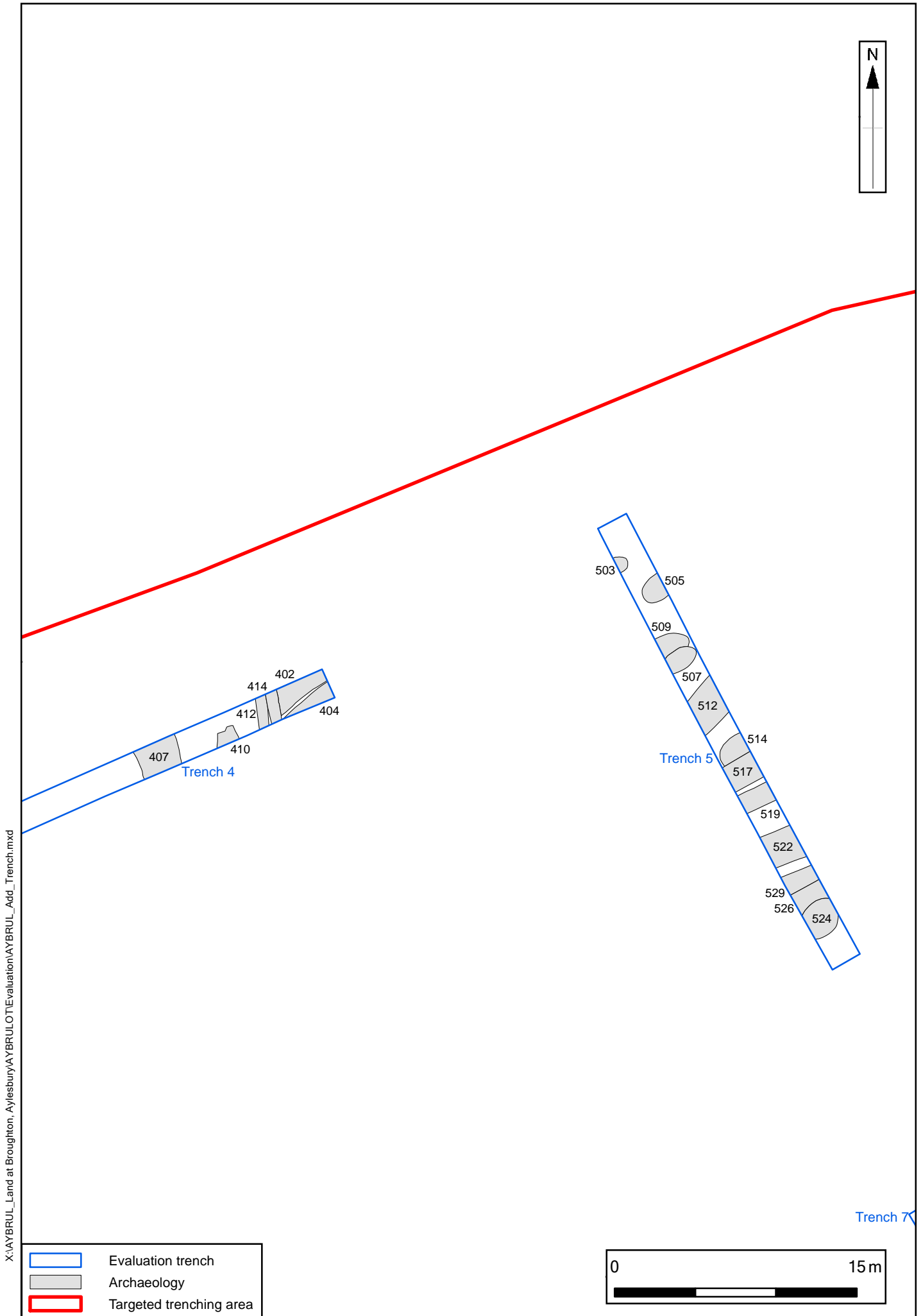
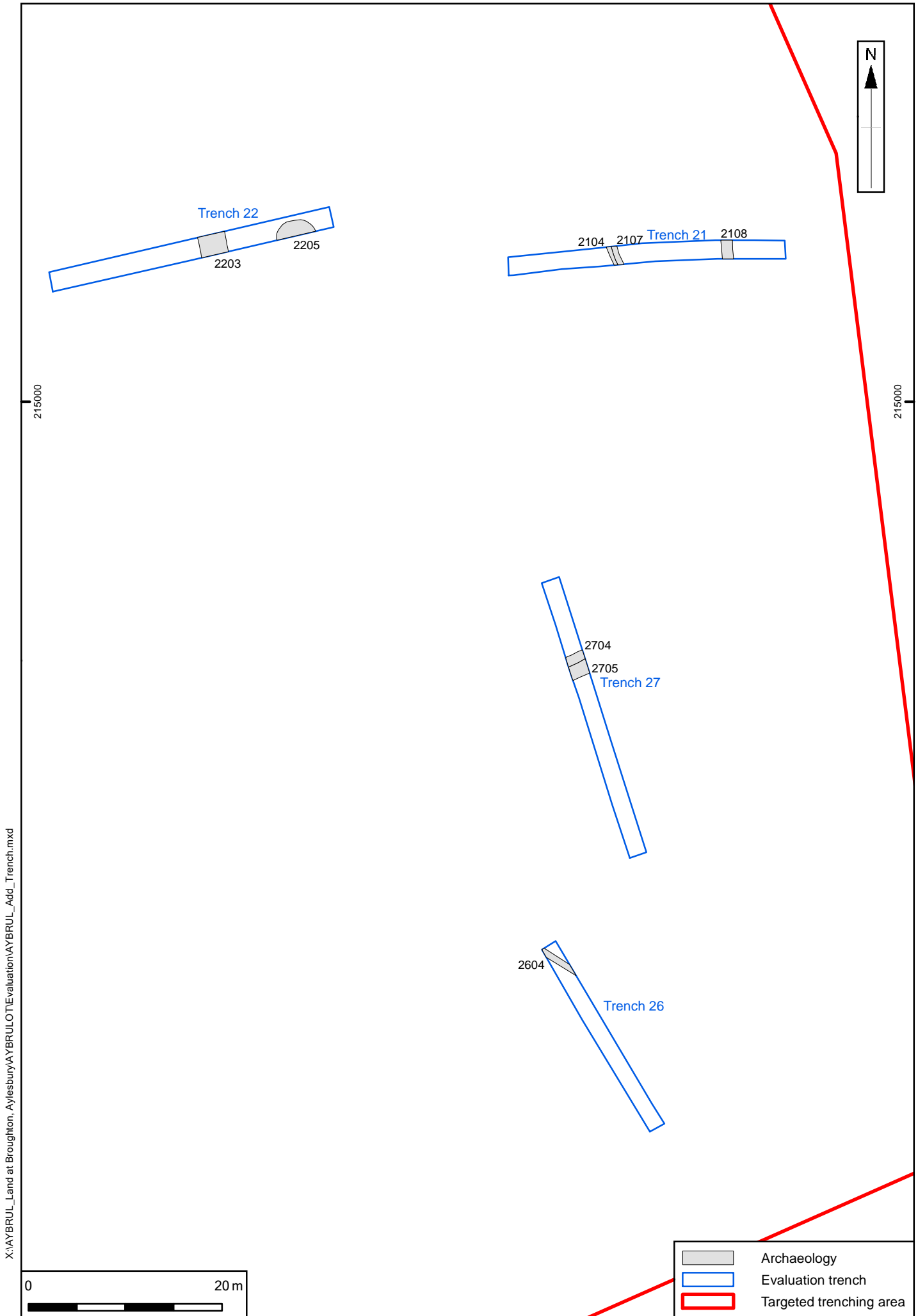


Figure 5: Detail of archaeology to the northwest of Area B



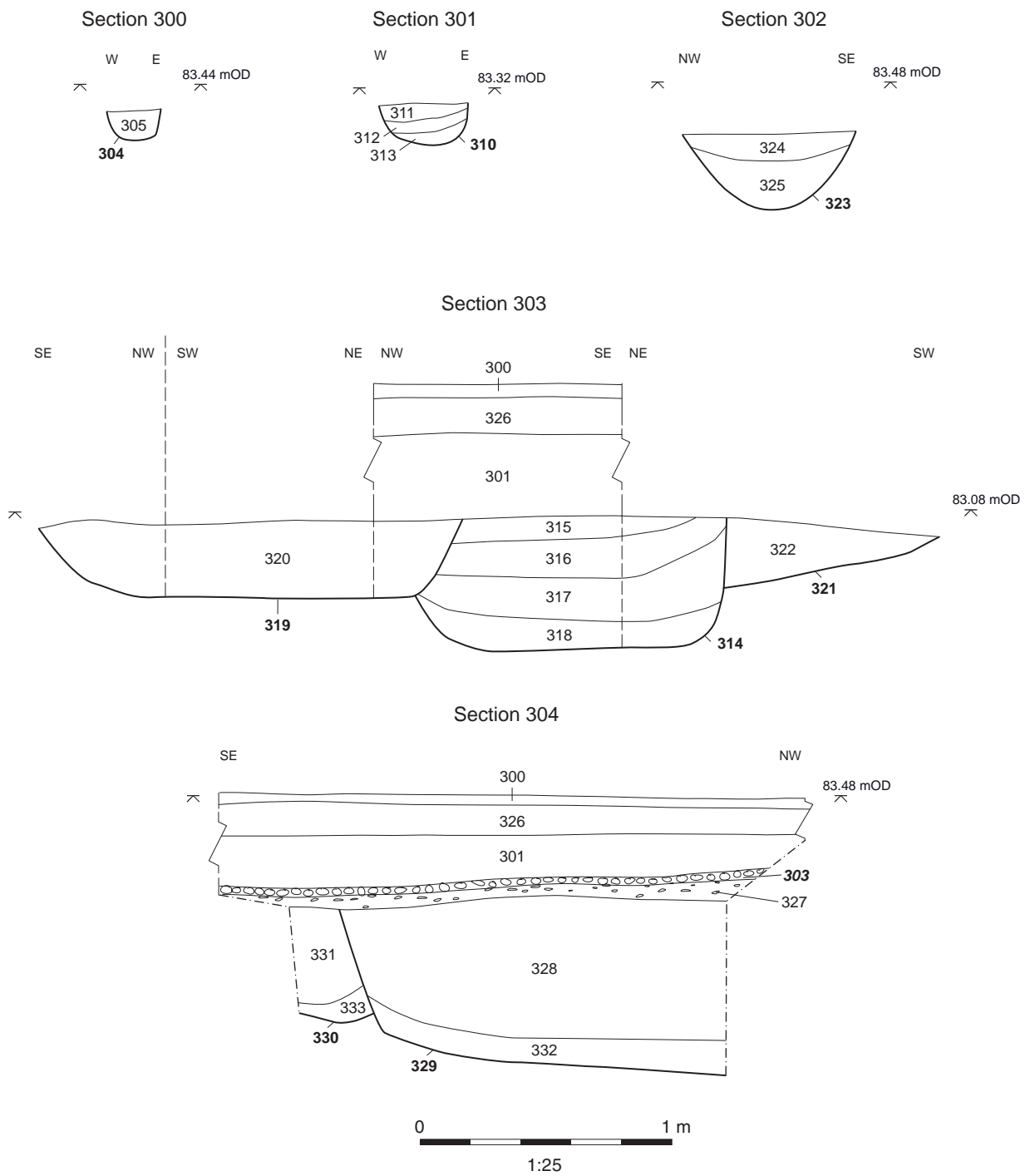
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Figure 6: Detail of archaeology to the north of Area B



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Figure 7: Detail of archaeology to the southeast of Area B2



Key to all sections:

- context boundary
- - - - context boundary uncertain
- cut feature
- · - · - limit of excavation
- limit of section
- - - - change in section direction

Figure 8: Sections from Trench 3

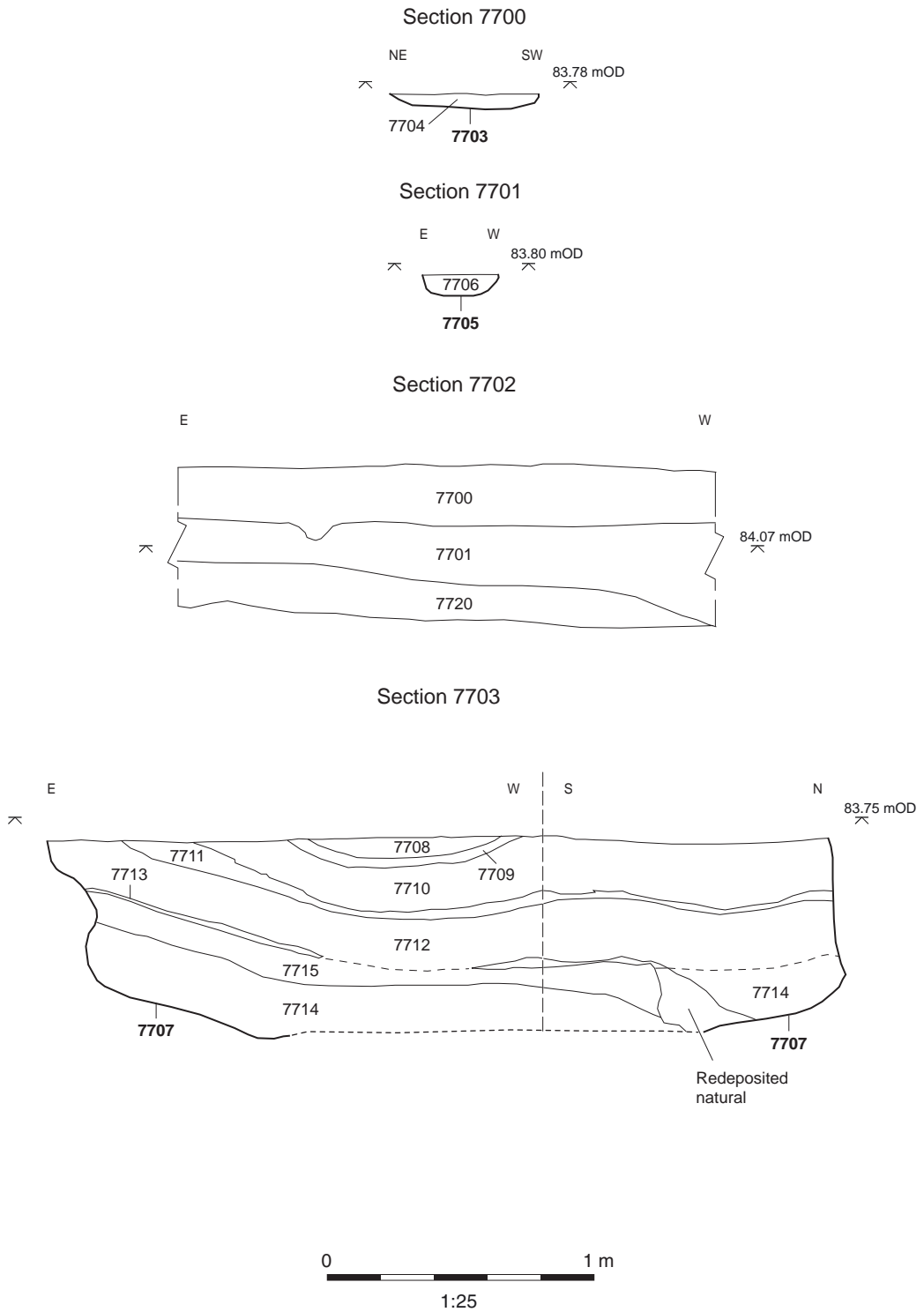


Figure 9: Sections from Trench 77

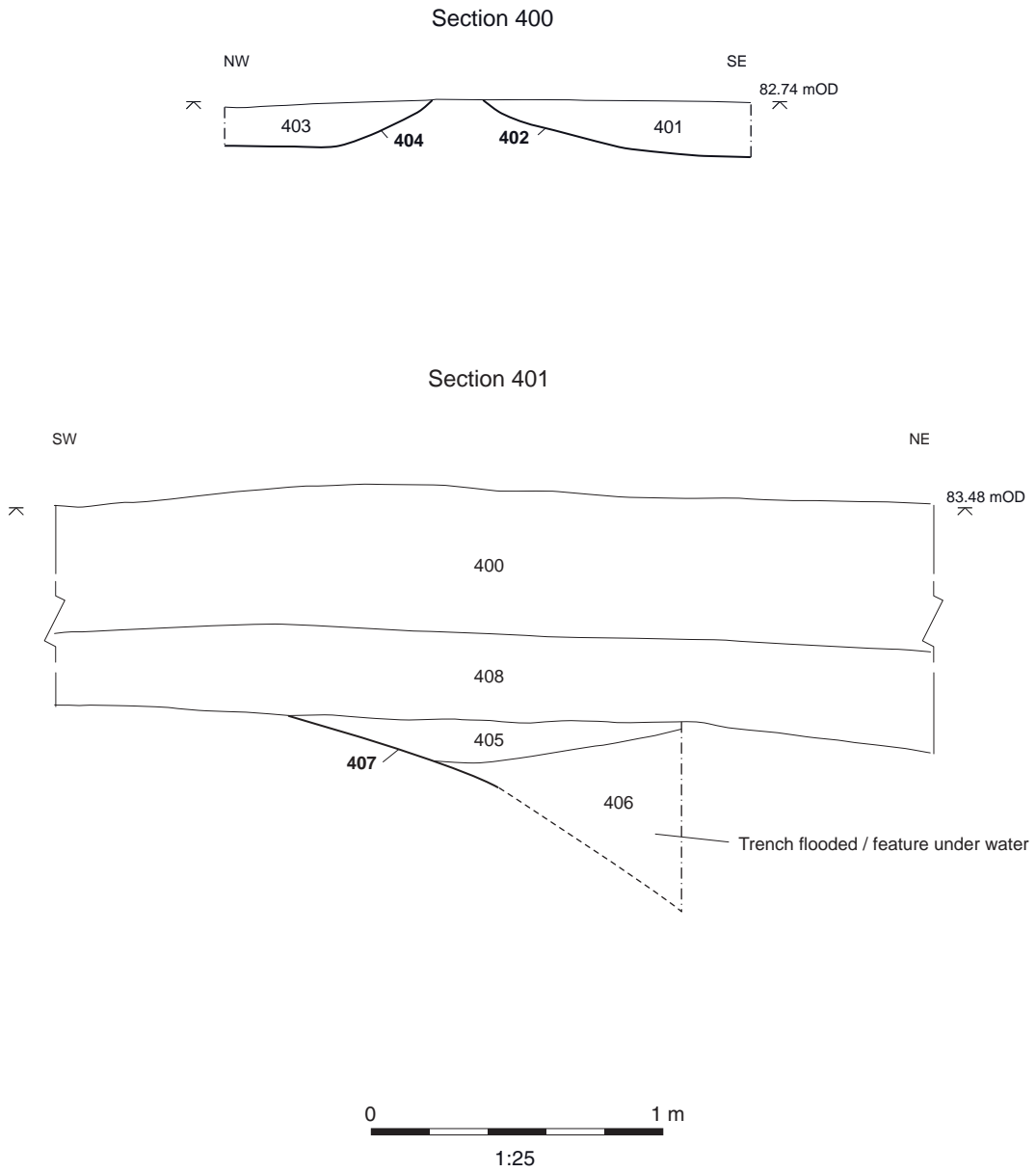


Figure 10: Sections from Trench 4

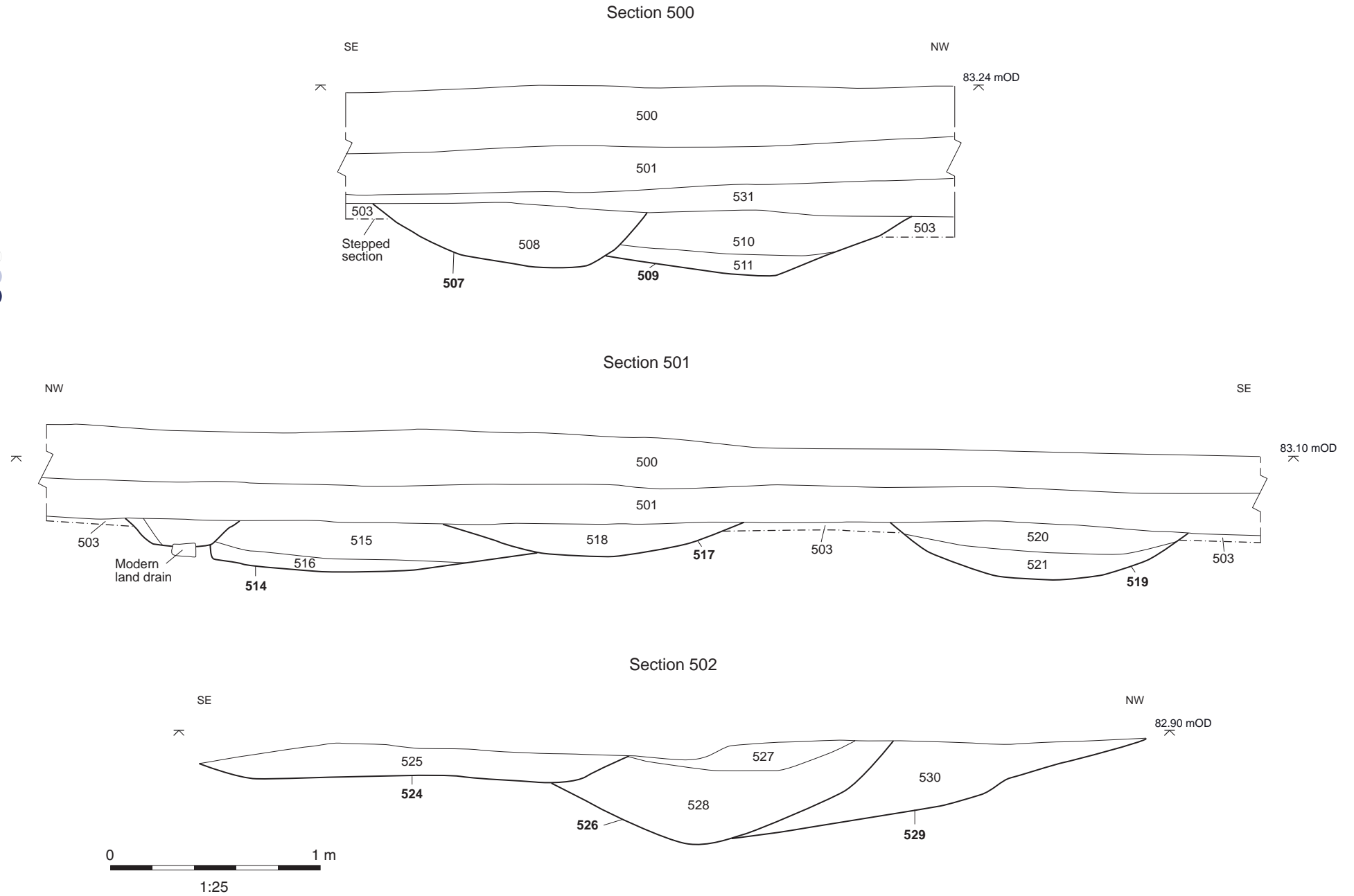


Figure 11: Sections from Trench 5

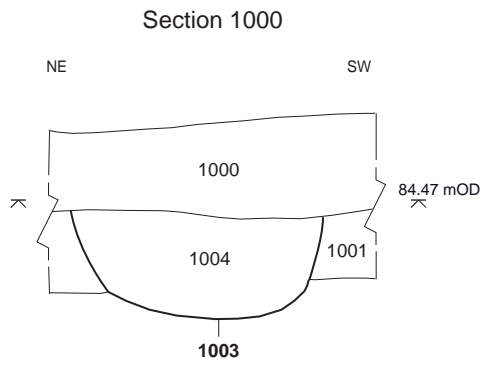
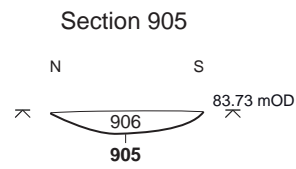
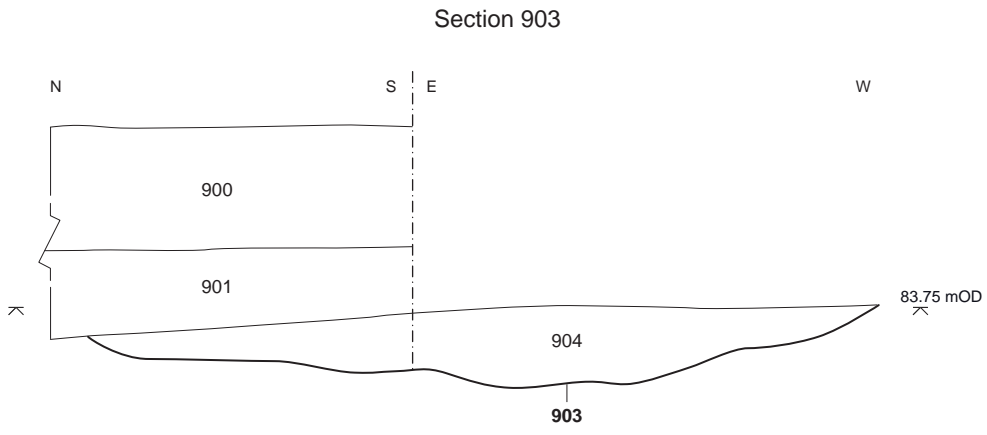


Figure 12: Sections from Trenches 9 and 10

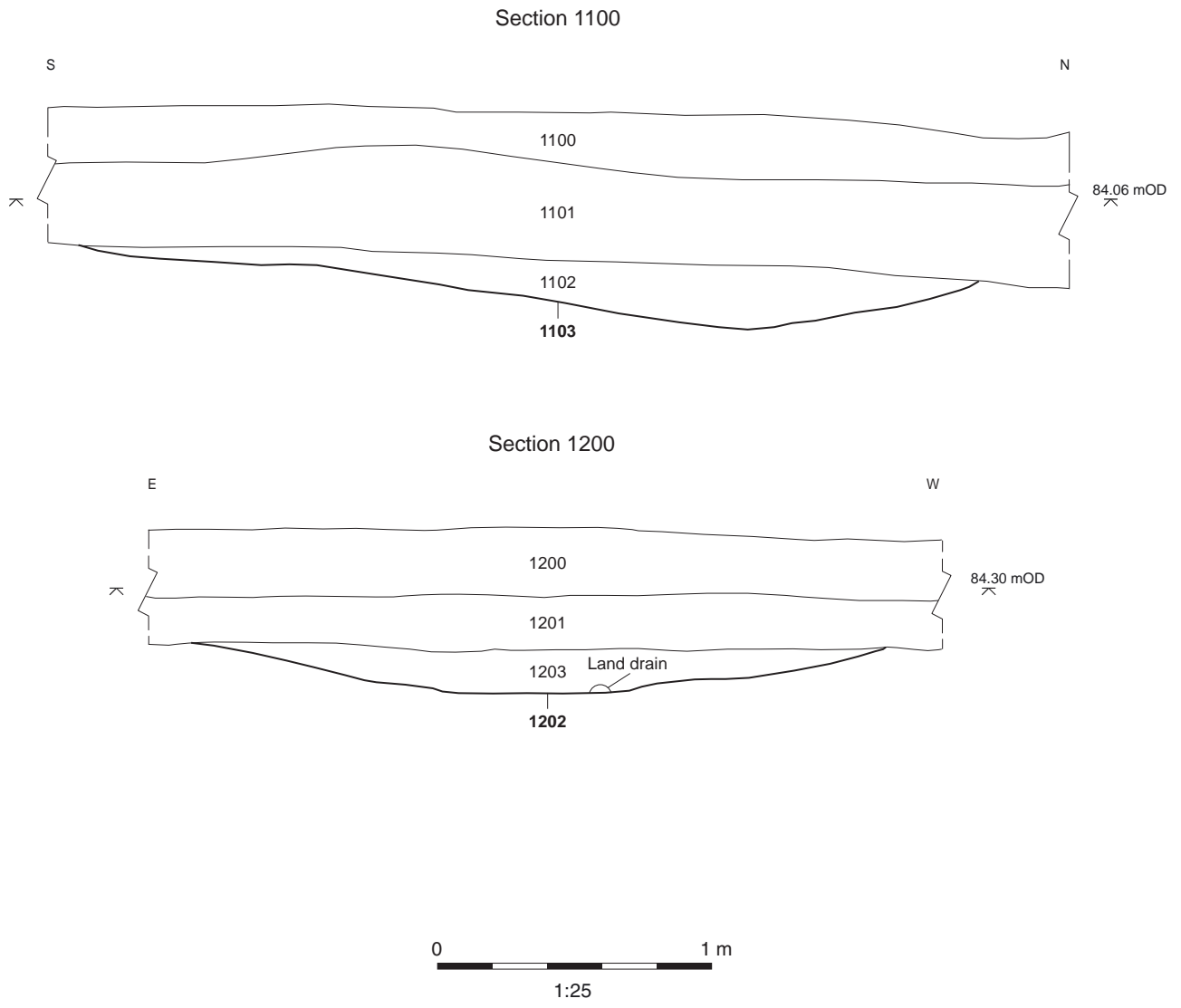


Figure 13: Sections from Trenches 11 and 12

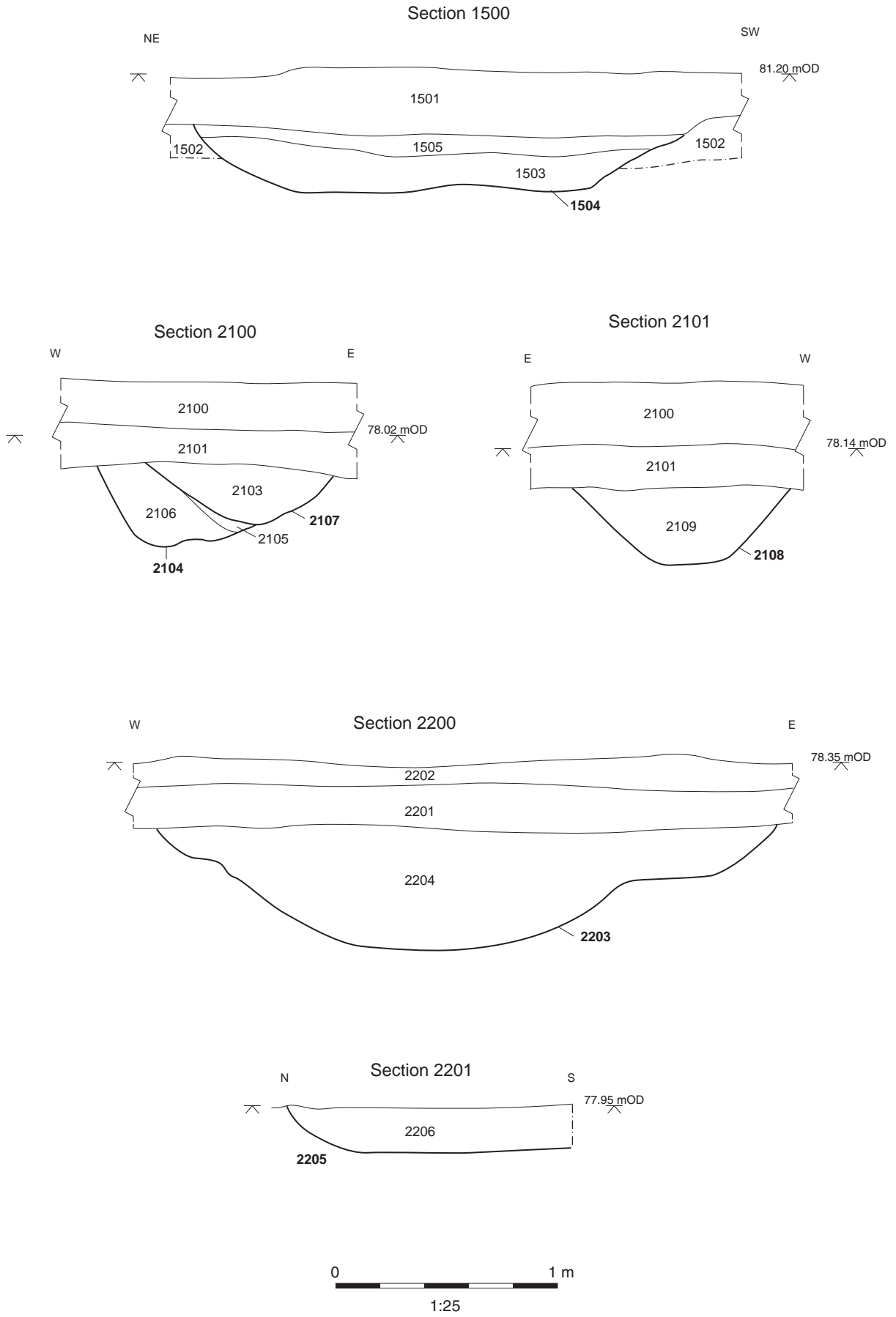


Figure 14: Sections from Trenches 15, 21 and 22

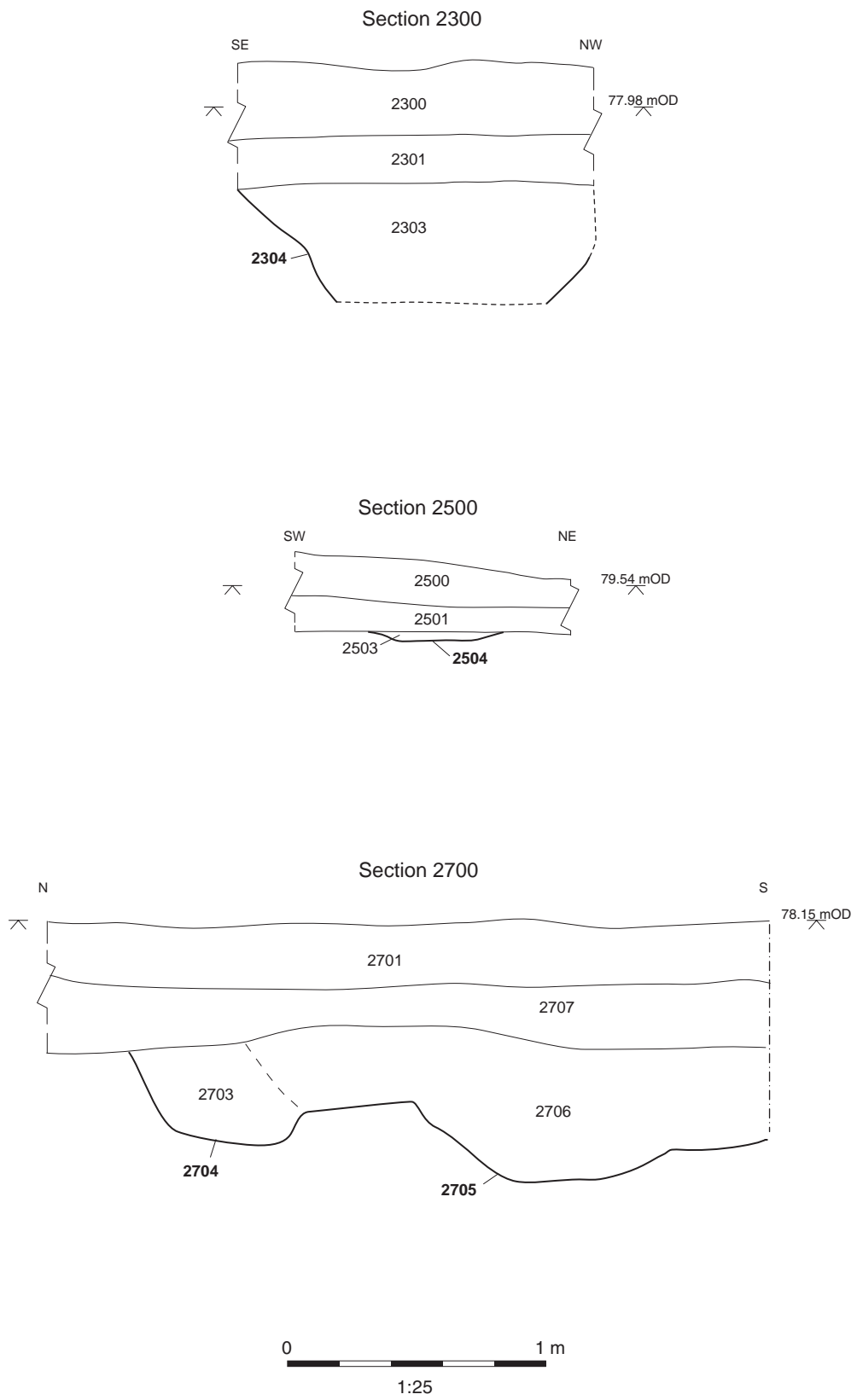


Figure 15: Sections from Trenches 23, 25 and 27

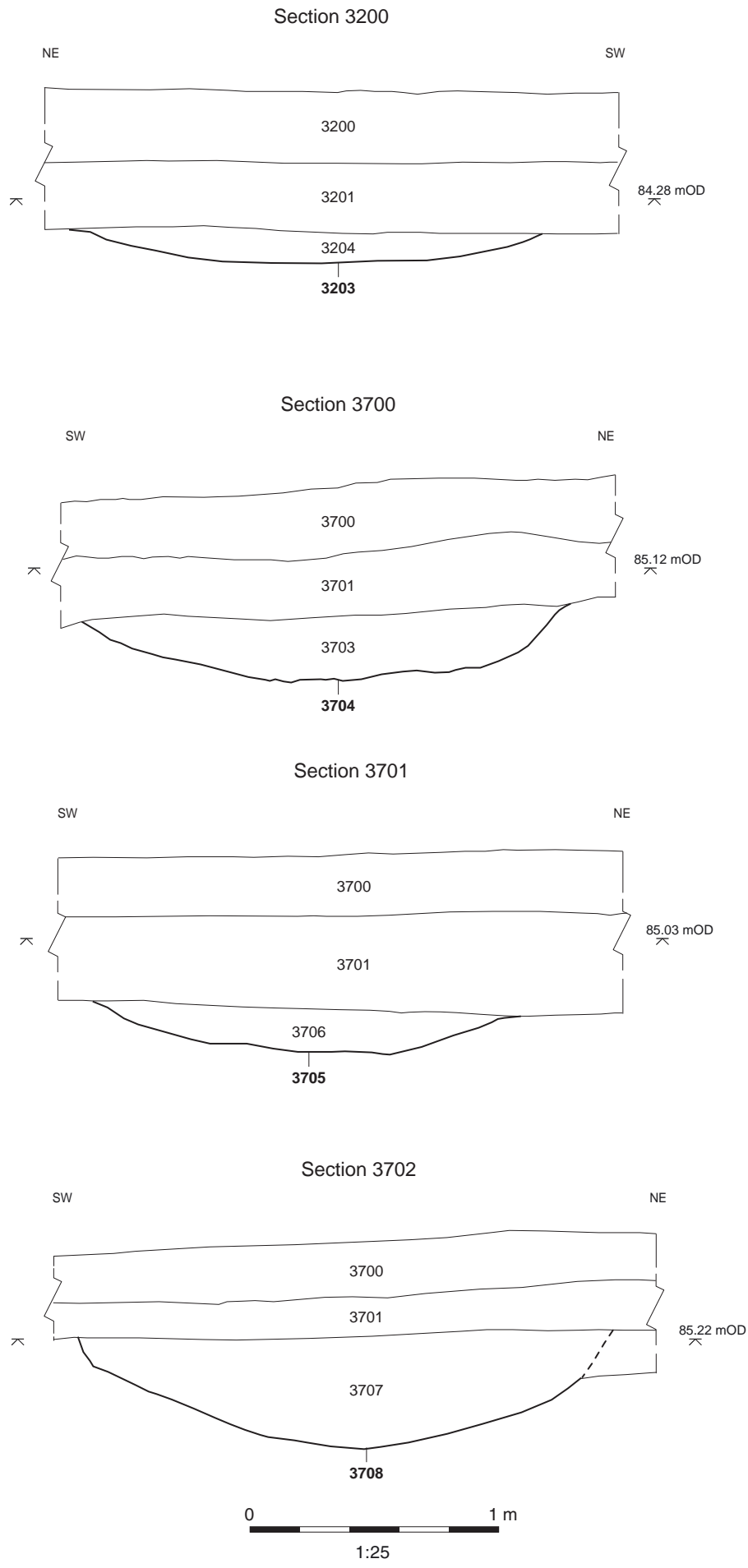


Figure 16: Sections from Trenches 32 and 37

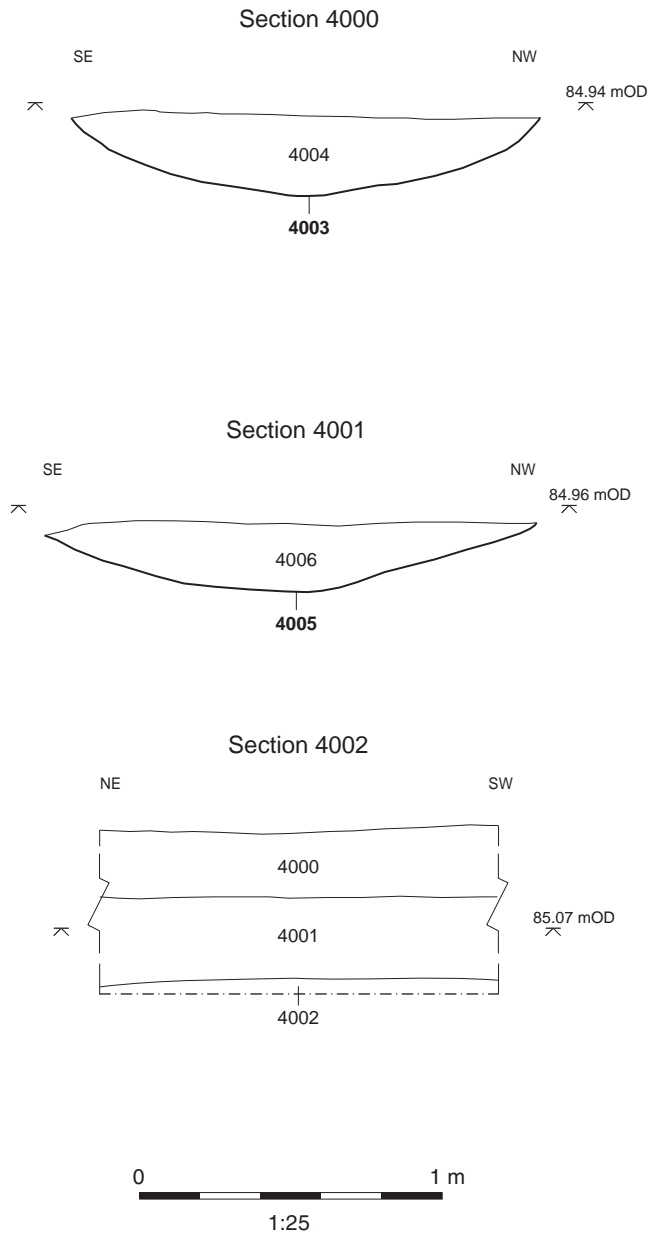


Figure 17: Sections from Trench 40



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	Evaluation trench
	Archaeology
	Targeted trenching area
Geophysics	
	Magnetic anomalies (Archaeology?)
Possible extents of:	
	Medieval settlement
	Roman settlement
	Late Iron Age / Roman enclosures
	Prehistoric activity

Figure 18: Archaeology over Bierton & Hulcott enclosure map



Plate 1: Trench 3, general view from north



Plate 2: Cobbled surface 303, Trench 3



Plate 3: Pit 7707, Trench 7



Plate 4: Pit 7707 - detail



Plate 5: Ditches 402 and 404, Trench 4



Plate 6: Pits 507 and 509, Trench 5



Plate 7: Possible pit 3708, Trench 37



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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