



Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

November 2017

Client: Bloor Homes South Midlands

Issue No: 1

OA Reference: LSSREV

NGR: TL 15963 3541



Client Name: Bloor Homes South Midlands
Document Title: Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Grid Reference: TL 15963 35741
Planning Reference: CB/17/00938/PAPC
Site Code: LSSR17
Invoice Code: LSSREV
Receiving Body: Luton Culture
Accession No.: LUTNM 1282

OA Document File Location: X:\Lower Stondon Station Road\Report
OA Graphics File Location: X:\Lower Stondon Station Road\010Geomatics

Issue No: 1
Date: November 2017
Prepared by: John Boothroyd (Senior Project Manager)
Checked by: John Boothroyd (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by: Leo Webley (Head of Post-Excavation)
Approved for Issue by: David Score (Head of Fieldwork)

Signature:



.....

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by John Boothroyd

With contributions from Lee Broderick, Lisa Brown, Sharon Cook, Mike Donnelly, Cynthia Poole, Ian Scott and Ruth Shaffrey, and illustrations by Magda Wachnik and Gary Jones

Contents

Summary	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	4
2.1 Aims	4
2.2 Methodology.....	4
2.3 Introduction and presentation of results	5
2.4 General soils and ground conditions.....	5
2.5 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	5
2.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 3).....	5
2.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 4).....	6
2.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 5).....	6
2.9 Trench 10 (Fig. 6).....	6
2.10 Trench 11 (Fig. 7).....	7
2.11 Trench 14 (Fig. 8).....	8
2.12 Trench 15 (Fig. 9).....	8
2.13 Trench 17 (Fig. 10).....	9
2.14 Finds summary	9
2.15 Environmental Summary	10
3 DISCUSSION	11
3.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	11
3.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	11
3.3 Interpretation.....	11

3.4	Significance	12
APPENDIX A	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY	13
APPENDIX B	FINDS REPORTS.....	23
B.1	Pottery	23
B.2	Flint	25
B.3	Metal.....	26
B.4	Stone.....	26
B.5	Ceramic building material	27
B.6	Fired clay.....	28
APPENDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS.....	30
C.1	Environmental samples	30
C.2	Animal bone.....	32
APPENDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY	35
APPENDIX E	SITE SUMMARY DETAILS	37

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench layout
Fig. 3	Trench 3
Fig. 4	Trench 7
Fig. 5	Trench 8
Fig. 6	Trench 10
Fig. 7	Trench 11
Fig. 8	Trench 14
Fig. 9	Trench 15
Fig. 10	Trench 17
Fig. 11	Trenches 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14
Fig. 12	Sections from Trenches 3, 7 and 8
Fig. 13	Sections from Trenches 10 and 11
Fig. 14	Sections from Trenches 11, 14, 15 and 17

List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 5 - view to NE
Plate 2	Trench 15 - view to NE
Plate 3	Trench 16 - view to SE
Plate 4	Trench 3 - ditch 304, view to NE
Plate 7	Trench 7 - posthole 712, view to N
Plate 8	Trench 8 - ditches 807 and 809, view to SE
Plate 9	Trench 10 - ditch 1013, view to SE
Plate 10	Trench 14 - ditches 1402 and 1404, view to N
Plate 11	Trench 15 - ditches 1503 and 1504, view to SE
Plate 12	Trench 17 - ditches 1704 and 1706, view to W

Summary

In early September 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, on the site of a proposed housing development. A total of 18 trenches were excavated to target the results of a geophysical survey. Cropmarks within the site suggest the presence of Iron Age enclosures forming a small settlement in the central southern part of the site. This was confirmed by the results of the geophysical survey. The survey suggested that archaeological remains were confined to the area of the cropmarks with only features related to medieval or modern agricultural practices recorded across the rest of the site.

Ditches recorded within the trenches correlate well with the focus of activity identified by the non-intrusive surveys. The nature of the features, along with the material culture, pottery sherds, butchered animal bone and quern stone fragments, are indicative of a small early to middle Iron Age settlement.

Several ditches were also recorded to the east and west of the main focus of activity. Though not all these features are dated, some have a similar early to middle Iron Age date, with evidence suggesting continued use into the late Iron Age. These more isolated features have been interpreted as forming part of the rural hinterland supporting the small settlement recorded in the central southern part of the site.

Post-medieval plough furrows were also present in the eastern half of the site.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Nexus Heritage for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Hannah Firth and Martin Oake who monitored the work on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Gary Evans, who was supported by Rachael Sisman, Andrew Smith and George Gurney. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Wendy Morrison. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Nexus Heritage on behalf of Bloor Homes South Midlands to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. CB/17/00938/PAPC) to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. Although the local planning authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions with Martin Oake, Archaeologist for Central Bedfordshire Council, established the scope of work required. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the NE of the village of Lower Stondon and to the west of Henlow Camp (NGR: TL 15963 35741). The site is bounded to the south by houses and Station Road, Henlow Racing greyhound track to the east, and arable fields to the west and north.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of two fields forming c 6 hectares (ha). An arable field, approximately 2.8ha, forms the western portion of the site, and 3.2ha of grassland forms the east portion, which is partially used as a football pitch. A large proportion of the eastern field is covered in dense shrubbery and trees.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Gault Formation Mudstone, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 100 to 112 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, Diamicton, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period are recorded as overlying the bedrock (BGS).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the desk-based assessment carried out for the site (Nexus Heritage 2017). A summary of this information is included below. It is important to note that the level of evidence for archaeological remains in all periods noted here is a reflection of the intensity of archaeological investigation in the area and is not necessarily a true indication of actual past activity.

Early prehistoric period

- 1.3.2 There are no known deposits from the Neolithic or Bronze Age within the site or within the vicinity of the development area. However, it is important to note that settlement sites of this period are rare, with the evidence for these being difficult to identify and interpret. More common and readily identifiable (through aerial photography) are ceremonial and burial monuments. Where identified, the distribution of these early prehistoric sites is heavily biased towards the main river valleys and the chalk downland. Evidence from excavated sites is usually characterized by small clusters of

pits and occasionally possible structures; the latter rarely forming coherent or structured patterns.

Later prehistoric period

- 1.3.3 Later prehistoric activity, indicative of settlement, has been identified within the site and the wider area recorded as cropmarks on aerial photographs (HER: 19792, 402, 19455, 16791 and 16790). This includes a cropmark located in the centre of the development area (HER 16792). Iron Age coins have also been recovered to the north-west of the site at Manor Farm, Upper Stondon (HER 18392, 18795, 18981). Excavations to south of the site, undertaken in advance of the construction of the Mount Pleasant Golf Course, revealed an early-middle Iron Age enclosure, c. 35m in diameter, with an entrance to the south-west (Albion 2016).
- 1.3.4 Cropmarks approximately 450m to the south of the site were recently investigated in a trial trench evaluation and excavation revealed these features to be Iron Age enclosure ditches and discrete features (Albion 2013).
- 1.3.5 An old roadway to the north-west of the site, noted as the “end of ancient driftway” (HER: 10643) may be indicative of intensive activity during the later prehistoric period.

Roman period

- 1.3.6 A significant number of Roman artefacts have also been recovered in the vicinity of the site but not from within the site. There are several recorded find spots to the north-east of the site. A rectangular enclosure of suspected Roman date has been recorded approximately 500m to the north of the site (HER: 16790).

Saxon-medieval

- 1.3.7 There is an absence of maps and documentary evidence for the area prior to the post-medieval period, suggesting an absence of significant activity. Fragmentary Anglo-Saxon period finds have been recovered with the vicinity of the site, generally discovered through metal detecting (HER: 18814 and 18982).
- 1.3.8 Stondon was mentioned in the Domesday Book survey of AD 1086 as Stondone, but the medieval core of the settlement is c. 800m from the site area, suggesting that the site area was likely used for agricultural purposes during this period. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture has also been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.9 The parish of Shillington in which Stondon lies was enclosed in 1814. The Inclosure Award Map shows the development area forming part of a large single field. Historic mapping suggest that the field remained unchanged until the 19th century, suggesting an agricultural land use for the site in this period.

Modern

1.3.10 The establishment of an RAF station at Henlow to the east of the site led to development in the vicinity of the site. No development appears to have occurred within the site boundary itself.

Geophysical survey (Sumo Survey 2016)

1.3.11 A series of irregularly shaped, conjoined enclosures are visible near the centre of the site. These correspond with the HER record of two enclosures being visible as cropmarks in the area, however the data reveals three, or possibly four enclosures as opposed to the two visible on aerial photographs. The form of the enclosures suggests that they are prehistoric in date.

1.3.12 Widely spaced, slightly curved, parallel linear anomalies are visible in the north of the site. These are likely to be a result of ridge and furrow cultivation.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- iv. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- v. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vi. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- vii. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- viii. To ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey, including testing areas shown as being devoid of archaeology.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The trenches were laid out using a GPS with sub-50mm accuracy, except where minor adjustments were required due to ground conditions or site obstructions.
- 2.2.2 The trenches were excavated using an appropriately powered mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from trench edges.
- 2.2.3 Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation was undertaken by hand.
- 2.2.4 The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type, for example pits, postholes, and ditches, was excavated and recorded.
- 2.2.5 Upon agreement with Martin Oake, Planning Archaeologist for Central Bedfordshire County Council, the trenches were backfilled.
- 2.2.6 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual. Small finds and samples were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context.
- 2.2.7 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100). Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1m-wide sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plan/s. The absolute height (m OD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines, were calculated and indicated on the drawings.

2.2.8 When *in situ* complex or fragile archaeological remains were encountered in the trench, consideration was given to the most appropriate strategy to deal with them. When necessary, complex and fragile finds were protected and left *in situ* for excavation during future phases of work. When encountered features or deposits were characterized, dated where possible and sampled if appropriate.

2.2.9 The trench and sample sections were located using either a GPS unit or total station. Co-ordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

2.3 Introduction and presentation of results

2.3.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

2.3.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, e.g. ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3, while posthole 718 is a feature within Trench 7.

2.4 General soils and ground conditions

2.4.1 The soil sequence, in particular the natural geology, varied across the site (Plates 1, 2 and 3). In the eastern field and Trenches 7, 10, 11 and 12 the natural geology consisted of a mid-brown silty clay. Further to the north and west the natural geology changed to a white chalk marl with large grey clay patches. A greyish brown subsoil was recorded in Trenches 3, 7, 8, 14, 17 and 18, and varied in thickness between 0.1m and 0.3m. In Trenches 3, 7, 14, 17 and 18 a greyish brown subsoil deposit, between 0.1m and 0.3m thick, overlay the natural geology. A dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil overlay the natural geology, or subsoil where present.

2.4.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

2.5 General distribution of archaeological deposits

2.5.1 Significant archaeological features were present in Trenches 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 17. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 13 were devoid of archaeology, and only furrows were recorded in Trenches 12, 16 and 18. The following trench descriptions are supplemented by more detailed measurements and descriptions of deposits in Appendix A.

2.5.2 Unless discussed below, all features truncated the natural geology and were sealed by topsoil or subsoil where present.

2.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

2.6.1 Trench 3 contained a single ditch, 304 (Fig. 12; Plate 4). Aligned NE-SW, the ditch had straight sloping sides and a flat base and crossed the northern end of the trench. A sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the sole fill of the ditch, 303.

2.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 4)

- 2.7.1 Aligned NW-SE, Trench 7 was positioned to investigate two curvilinear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. A small gully was identified, along with four postholes, a possible ditch, a small pit and a potential buried soil.
- 2.7.2 Located in the northern half of the trench, ditch 714 measured 0.28m across and 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill, 715, from which four sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered.
- 2.7.3 Observed within the centre of the trench, a dark greyish brown silty clay (703) has been interpreted as a buried soil (Fig. 11). The deposit was recorded as overlying the natural geology and was sealed by the subsoil. The deposit continued beyond the limit of the trench but measured 17.35m wide and 0.18 deep within the trench. Given the variation recorded across the site is likely that this deposit is a localized change in the underlying natural geology.
- 2.7.4 A ditch, 705, and a small pit, 707, were observed to truncate this deposit. Both features were very difficult to define in plan (Fig. 12). Ditch 705 was aligned NW-SE and measured 0.9m wide and 0.55m deep. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the sole fill of the feature, 706, along with a small assemblage of animal bone. Pit 707 was located on the north-east edge of the ditch. The pit measured 0.35m in both width and depth and was filled by a single deposit, 708, from which no artefactual evidence was recovered.
- 2.7.5 Four postholes, 710, 712, 716 and 718, were distributed along the length of the trench (Fig. 12; Plate 5). The postholes all had a comparable shallow concave profile and measured between 0.28 and 0.18m wide and 0.08m and 0.11m deep.

2.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 5)

- 2.8.1 The results of the geophysical survey indicated Trench 8 to be devoid of archaeological features. However, Trench 8 contained four linear features all interpreted as ditches.
- 2.8.2 At the north-east end of the trench N-S aligned ditch 805 measured 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The ditch contained a single fill, 806. The southern extent of ditch 805 within the trench was truncated by NW-SE aligned ditch 803. This later ditch measured 0.9m wide by 0.12m deep and contained a single fill, 804.
- 2.8.3 Ditches 807 and 809 were located approximately 8m to the SW of ditches 805 and 803 towards the centre of the trench. Both ditches were aligned NW-SE. Ditch 807, measuring 0.71m wide and 0.25m deep, truncated the NE edge of ditch 809 (Fig. 12; Plate 6).
- 2.8.4 No artefacts were recovered from any of the features in Trench 8.

2.9 Trench 10 (Fig. 6)

- 2.9.1 Distributed along its length, five linear features, one more than suggested by the results of the geophysical survey, and a pit were recorded in Trench 10.

- 2.9.2 Aligned NW-SE, ditch 1003 was located at the north-east end of the trench and measured 2.25m wide by 0.24m deep. The ditch had a shallow concave profile and contained a single fill, 1004, from which no artefacts were recovered.
- 2.9.3 Ditch 1005, aligned NE-SW, measured 0.87m wide and 0.27m deep (Fig. 13). The ditch had straight sloping sides and concave base. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the sole fill of the ditch, 1006.
- 2.9.4 To the south-west of ditch 1005 lay pit 1015 and ditch 1011 (Fig. 13). Pit 1015 was only partially excavated, but was observed to be 6.2m in diameter and greater than 0.5m deep. Two fills were recorded within the pit; the lower fill, 1016, was overlain by later fill 1017. No finds were recovered from either fill.
- 2.9.5 The south-west sides of the pit were truncated by NE-SW aligned ditch 1011. Excavated to a depth of 0.8m the ditch was 2.85m wide and had steep sloping sides. An auger hole suggested the ditch had a maximum depth of 1.88m. The ditch contained four fills (1012, 1018, 1019 and 1020). Nine sherds of early-middle Iron Age/Iron Age pottery were recorded from fill 1020. No artefacts were recovered from the other fills.
- 2.9.6 Also on a NW-SE alignment, ditch 1007 measured 0.66m wide and 0.23m deep and had both concave sides and base (Fig. 13). The ditch contained two fills, sterile lower fill 1008 and upper fill 1009, from which a small assemblage of animal bone and Iron Age pottery was recovered.
- 2.9.7 Aligned E-W, ditch 1013 was located towards the south-west end of Trench 10 (Fig. 13; Plate 7). The ditch was observed to have sloping straight sides and measured 1.75m wide. The ditch was excavated to depth of 0.9m; an auger hole to the base of the feature indicated a maximum depth of 1.5m. Iron Age pottery was recovered from both fills of the ditch, 1014 and 1022. An unburnt worked flint and a small assemblage of animal bone was also recovered from fill 1022.

2.10 Trench 11 (Fig. 7)

- 2.10.1 The alignment of Trench 11 was altered in the field and re-orientated from a NE-SW alignment as shown in the WSI (OA 2017) to an ENE-WSW alignment (Fig. 2). The results of the geophysical survey indicated two ditches crossing the trench, one of which turned and re-crossed the trench.
- 2.10.2 A series of intercutting pits and a ditch were located at the north-east end of Trench 11. The earliest feature was pit 1111, circular in plan with sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 13). The pit contained three fills, a sterile primary silting event 1112 and a secondary deposit, 1113, from which Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered. The third fill, 1115, appeared to be a deliberate dump of pottery and contained 126 sherds of early Iron Age pottery. In addition to the pottery, a flint bladelet, believed to be residual, was recovered during the processing of an environmental sample.
- 2.10.3 The south-west edge of the pit was truncated by the terminus of a ditch which entered the trench from the north-west before turning towards the north-east where it terminated. The ditch measured over 6.9m long and 1.5m wide, and had a maximum recorded depth of 0.6m but shallowed towards the terminus. Two interventions were

excavated across the feature, one where the ditch terminated, 1105, and the other where the ditch entered the trench, 1107 (Fig. 13). A single fill, 1106, was recorded at the terminal end, from which four sherds of early Iron Age/Iron Age pottery and a small assemblage of animal bone were recovered. This fill was also recorded in the second intervention, 1108, and produced two further sherds of Iron Age pottery. A second later fill (1109) was recorded as the ditch began to deepen away from the terminus, from which animal bone and two sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered.

2.10.4 Cutting into the top of the ditch was pit 1103. The pit was oval in plan and had shallow concave sides and base. The pit contained a single fill, 1104, from which no artefacts were recovered.

2.10.5 Crossing the centre of the trench on an E-W alignment, ditch 1116 measured 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep. No artefacts were recovered from the sole fill of the feature, 1117.

2.10.6 Ditch 1120 was located towards the south-west end of the trench. The edges of the feature were not parallel and therefore initial interpretations indicated it was likely to be two intercutting ditches. However, upon excavation it appears to be a single feature and therefore suspected to be a corner of a ditch, as indicated by the results of the geophysical survey. The ditch had sloping sides and measured 12.5m wide. Hand excavation to a depth of 1.1m did not reveal the base of the feature; an auger hole suggested the feature had a maximum depth of 1.9m (Fig. 14). The ditch contained at least four fills, 1119, 1121, 1122 and 1123, from which early Iron Age/Iron Age pottery was recovered along with a nail, a burnt unworked flint and animal bone.

2.11 Trench 14 (Fig. 8)

2.11.1 Trench 14 was positioned to investigate a single anomaly, interpreted as possible archaeology, identified by the geophysical survey. However, two intercutting ditches were recorded in Trench 14 (Fig. 14; Plate 8).

2.11.2 The earlier ditch, 1404, was aligned NE-SW and measured 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep. The ditch had steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill, 1403, from which no artefacts were recovered.

2.11.3 The later ditch, 1402, was slightly curved in plan turning from the south-west towards the north-west. The ditch had sloping sides and a slightly concave base, and measured 1.2m wide and 0.42m deep. The ditch contained two fills, a sterile primary silting event, 1405, and a secondary deposit, 1401, from which animal bone and organic-tempered pottery of suspected Iron Age date was recovered. Although organic-tempered pottery does occur in the Iron Age it is not very common and therefore these sherds do have the potential to be Saxon in origin. However, given the lack of further material dating to the Saxon period the sherds have been assigned an Iron Age date.

2.12 Trench 15 (Fig. 9)

2.12.1 Despite being shown as devoid of archaeological features, except two 'uncertain trends', in the results of the geophysical survey, two linear features were recorded in Trench 15.

- 2.12.2 Located at the south-west end of Trench 15, ditch 1503 was observed to truncate ditch 1504 (Fig. 14; Plate 9). The earlier ditch, 1504, measured 0.4m wide by 0.11m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. A nail or horseshoe nail head and a fragment of fired clay were recovered from the sole fill, 1505.
- 2.12.3 The later ditch, 1503, was 0.5m wide and 0.42m deep and had steep sides and a flat base. The ditch contained two fills. The lower produced no artefacts, but early Iron Age / Iron Age pottery, burnt flint, fired clay and animal bone were recovered from the upper fill, 1502.
- 2.12.4 Ditch 1504 did not continue beyond ditch 1502 which terminated within the trench.
- 2.12.5 In addition to the two ditches, four furrows were recorded crossing the trench.

2.13 Trench 17 (Fig. 10)

- 2.13.1 Like Trench 15, Trench 17 was positioned to confirm the absence of features in an area indicated to be devoid of archaeological remains in the results of the geophysical survey. However, two undated intercutting ditches were located in the centre of the trench (Fig. 14; Plate 10).
- 2.13.2 Aligned E-W, ditch 1704 measured 0.84m wide by 0.14m deep and had a shallow concave profile and flat base. No artefacts were recovered from the sole fill, 1703.
- 2.13.3 Ditch 1706 crossed the trench on a N-S alignment and truncated ditch 1704. The ditch measured 0.95m wide by 0.26m deep and had a sloping side and a concave to flat base. No artefacts were recovered from the sole fill, 1705.

2.14 Finds summary

- 2.14.1 A total of 374g of prehistoric pottery weighing 2079g was recovered from 15 different features. No pottery from any other period was recovered during the works. The condition of the assemblage is generally poor with an average sherd weight of under 5g and over a quarter of the assemblage recorded as being heavily abraded.
- 2.14.2 Several of the sherds, including some of the assemblage from ditch 1120 and all those from ditch 1402, could be of Saxon origin. The sherds are of soapy, organic-tempered fabric which was not very common in Iron Age pottery production, although did occur. Do to the absence of anything other than Iron Age pottery fragments it is believed these sherds are of Iron Age date.
- 2.14.3 In addition to the pottery a small assemblage of flint, three burnt unworked fragments and bladelet, were recovered. However, the whole assemblage is considered to be residual.
- 2.14.4 Two fragments from a rotary quern were recovered from context 1122, fill of ditch 1120. A third fragment though undiagnostic is almost certainly from the same object. The quern has an unusual band around the circumference. While this may have been decorative it may might also mark the position of an iron band used to affix a handle. However, as this quern also has a handle socket cut through the side, an iron band would be superfluous.

- 2.14.5 Fragments of ceramic building material of post-medieval date were recovered from three different contexts. With the exception of fill 1014 of ditch 1013, all the fragments were recovered from features interpreted as furrows or the current topsoil.
- 2.14.6 Six contexts produced a small assemblage of fired clay. Totalling 26 fragments with a combined weight of 121g, none of the fragments were diagnostic or datable.

2.15 Environmental Summary

- 2.15.1 Environmental samples were taken from four different contexts (Appendix C.1). The samples all produced small fragments of charcoal which is in good condition. The majority of the grains and seeds recovered from the samples is in poor condition being very fragmented and heavily burnt. However, a fragment of chaff from context 1502 appeared much better preserved indicating the potential for material to survive well on the site. The material recovered from the samples is typical of that seen within Iron Age contexts in southern Britain.
- 2.15.2 A total of 137 animal bones was recovered from the site. The assemblage consisted mostly of domestic cattle; small quantities of sheep, goat, pig and horse were also present. Three cattle specimens and a horse specimen had been gnawed by dogs, suggesting their presence on site as well. Butchery marks on the bones are indicative of secondary butchery – i.e. in the kitchen or at the table.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Reliability of field investigation

3.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during fair weather conditions, with no flooding of the trenches. The revealed features were generally easy to identify against the underlying natural deposits. The geophysical survey results proved to be generally accurate, with the features exposed relating well to the results. This provides a high level of confidence that the combined investigations have provided an accurate indication of the density and distribution of the remains within the proposed development area.

3.2 Evaluation objectives and results

3.2.1 The aims and objects of the evaluation are detailed above within Section 2. The trenching successfully confirmed the location of archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey. The remains uncovered were well preserved, especially given the limited thickness of overburden deposits.

3.3 Interpretation

3.3.1 Cropmarks identified through aerial photography suggested there was a concentration of archaeological features in the south-east corner of the western field. This was supported by the results of the geophysical survey and has subsequently been confirmed by the results of the archaeological trial trenching. Figure 11 shows the correlation between the geophysical survey results and the archaeological feature recording during the trenching works. Though there is some variation (e.g. Trench 7 where an anomaly towards the northern end of the trench was not observed) nearly all the anomalies were recorded in the trenches. The trenching also confirmed areas suggested as being devoid of archaeological remains were indeed empty. However, several additional features were recorded in Trenches 3, 8, 15 and 17.

3.3.2 The archaeological features recorded within the trenches predominantly consist of enclosure ditches along with several pits and postholes. Though not all these features are dated, the evidence is confined to the Iron Age, in some cases refined to the early to middle Iron Age.

3.3.3 The cropmarks within the site had previously been interpreted as being indicative of Iron Age settlement. The nature of the excavated features and the material culture recovered from the site, including fragments of rotary quern, strongly support this hypothesis. This suggests the site fits into the known wider Iron Age landscape as recorded during recent excavation by Albion Archaeology to the south-east of the site (Albion 2013)

3.3.4 Ditches observed beyond the focus of activity, in Trenches 3, 14, 15 and 17, are indicative of a more rural landscape and likely represent the agricultural hinterland associated with the settlement. Though it may be an intrusive find, pottery from ditch 304 in Trench 3 is believed to be late Iron Age or Roman reduced ware. This suggests the possible continued use of the agricultural ditches after the settlement had fallen into disuse.

3.3.5 Other activity within the development areas is limited to medieval/post-medieval agricultural activity.

3.4 Significance

3.4.1 Though large parts of the proposed development area are devoid of archaeological remains, a concentration of features within the southern part of the site is of high significance. Ditches beyond the focus of activity represent an agricultural landscape and can be considered to be of moderate potential.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural – chalky marl	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural – blue grey clay	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural – brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded pebbles.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay and chalk.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural – grey clay.	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural – chalky marl.	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a plough furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Fill	1.52	0.31	Fill of 304 – brown clay.	Pottery	LIA
304	Cut	1.52	0.31	Ditch / furrow – linear aligned NE-SW.	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay and chalk.					Length (m)	51
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	-	Natural – compact white chalky marl.	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural – grey clay.	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay and chalk.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	Natural – chalky marl.	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural – grey clay.	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural – orange brown clay and pebbles.	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW	
Trench contained a modern gully. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay and chalk.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Natural – chalky marl.	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural – grey clay.	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Natural – brown clay.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contains two pits, a ditch, a gully and four post holes. Consists of topsoil, buried subsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silt and clay.				Length (m)	54	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.60	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
701	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid yellowish red clayey sand.	-	-
703	Layer	17.35	0.18	Buried Soil	Pottery, fired clay, animal bone	EIA
704	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

705	Cut	0.9	0.55	Ditch with steeply sloping sides and a flat base.	-	-
706	Fill	0.9	0.55	Fill of 705. Firm dark greyish brown silty clay.	Pottery, fired clay, animal bone	IA
707	Cut	0.35	0.35	Pit. Steeply sloping sides and a flattish base.	-	-
708	Fill	0.35	0.35	Fill of 707. Firm dark greyish brown silty clay	-	-
709	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm, light greyish white clay.	-	-
710	Cut	0.28	0.11	Posthole. Oval with concave sides and base.	-	-
711	Fill	0.28	0.11	Fill of 710. Soft brownish grey silty clay, small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions.	-	-
712	Cut	0.38	0.15	Post hole. Circular in plan with concave base and sides.	-	-
713	Fill	0.38	0.15	Fill of 712. Firm dark greyish orange silty clay.	-	-
714	Cut	0.28	0.08	Gully. Linear aligned NE-SW, with shallow concave sides and concave base.	-	-
715	Fill	0.28	0.08	Fill of 714. Firm greyish orange silty clay	Pottery.	IA
716	Cut	0.18	0.08	Posthole. Shallow concave sides, concave base.	-	-
717	Fill	0.18	0.08	Fill of 716. Firm greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
718	Cut	0.34	0.12	Posthole. Shallow concave sides and concave base.	-	-
719	Fill	0.34	0.12	Fill of 718. Firm greyish orange silty clay.	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contains four ditches. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	53
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
801	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid yellowish brown friable sandy silt.	-	-
803	Cut	0.2	0.12	Linear ditch aligned NE-SW, with a sloping concave sides and concave base.	-	-

804	Fill	0.2	0.12	Fill of 803. Firm mid greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
805	Cut	0.6	0.2	Linear ditch aligned N-S. Moderate sloping sides and flattish base.	-	-
806	Fill	0.6	0.2	Fill of 805. Firm mid greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
807	Cut	0.71	0.25	Linear running SE-NW. shallow concave sides and concave base.	-	-
808	Fill	0.71	0.25	Fill of 807. Soft light brownish grey silty clay with small stone inclusions.	-	-
809	Cut	0.81	0.31	Linear ditch aligned NW/SE. Concave sloping sides and concave base.	-	-
810	Fill	0.81	0.31	Fill of 809. Soft dark greyish orange silty clay.	-	-
811	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil -	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	Natural – brown clay.	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural – light blue grey clay.	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a shallow ditch, three other ditches and a large pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1001	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural – light yellowish grey/brown silty clay with sandy patches.	-	-
1003	Cut	2.25	0.24	Shallow ditch, concave profile	-	-
1004	Fill	2.25	0.24	Fill of 1003.	-	-
1005	Cut	0.87	0.27	Linear ditch aligned NW-SE. Straight sloping sides and concave base.	-	-

1006	Fill	0.87	0.27	Fill of 1005. Compact dark greyish brown clayey silt.	Pottery.	IA
1007	Cut	0.66	0.23	Linear ditch aligned N-S. Straight sloping sides and concave base.	-	-
1008	Fill	0.66	0.12	Fill of 1007. Compact greyish yellow sandy silt.	-	-
1009	Fill	0.45	0.16	Fill of 1007. Compact mid brownish grey clayey silt.	Pottery, animal bone	IA
1010	Void	-	-	-	-	-
1011	Cut	2.85	0.8	Ditch. Steeply sloping sides, base unexcavated.	-	-
1012	Fill	2.85	0.32	Fill of ditch 1011. Firm mid reddish brown silty clay.	-	-
1013	Cut	-	1.0	Linear ditch aligned SE-NW. moderate sloping sides, unexcavated base.	-	-
1014	Fill	2.8	0.2	Fill of 1013. Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay.	Pottery, CBM	IA
1015	Cut	6.2	0.5	Pit cut. Steeply sloping sides, unexcavated base.	-	-
1016	Fill	0.5	0.4	Fill of 1015. Firm mid greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1017	Fill	0.4	0.5	Fill of 1015. Firm mid brownish yellow silty clay.	-	-
1018	Fill	0.7	0.5	Fill of 1011. Firm mid greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1019	Fill	1.9	0.3	Fill of 1011. Firm mid yellowish silty clay.	-	-
1020	Fill	2.8	0.5	Fill of 1011. Firm mid brownish silty clay.	Pottery, animal bone	EIA-MIA / IA
1021	Fill	1.8	0.2	Fill of 1011. Firm mid brownish grey clayey silt.	-	-
1022	Fill	2.8	0.5	Fill of 1013. Firm dark greyish brown silty clay.	Pottery, flint, animal bone	IA

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains one pit and three curvilinear ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1101	Layer	-		Topsoil	Pottery	IA
1102	-	-	-	Void	-	-
1103	Cut	0.65	0.31	Pit cut. Oval in plan with concave base and sides.	-	-

1104	Fill	0.65	0.31	Fill of 1103. Semi-firm dark bluish grey compacted silty clay.	-	-
1105	Cut	2.41	0.4	Curved ditch cut. Concave sloping sides and concave base.	-	-
1106	Fill	2.41	0.4	Fill of 1105. Friable light orangey grey silty clay.	Pottery, animal bone	EIA / IA
1107	Cut	2.0	0.6	Curvilinear ditch. Shallow sloping sides and concave base.	-	-
1108	Fill	2.0	0.15	Fill of 1107. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	Pottery.	IA
1109	Fill	2.0	0.6	Fill of 1107. Firm dark greyish brown silty clay.	Animal bone	-
1110	Layer	-	-	Natural – light orange greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1111	Cut	0.95	0.24	Pit cut. Sub rounded with sloping sides and a flat base.	-	-
1112	Fill	0.95	0.1	Fill of 1111. Compact dark yellowish brown silty clay.		-
1113	Fill	0.91	0.22	Fill of 1111. Compacted dark greyish brown sandy silt.	Pottery, animal bone	EIA
1114	-	-	-	Void	-	-
1115	Fill	0.05	0.08	Fill of 1111 – Pottery dump	Pottery, flint	EIA
1116	Cut	0.8	0.3	Ditch	-	-
1117	Fill	0.8	0.3	Fill of ditch 1116	-	-
1118	-	-	-	Void	-	-
1119	Fill	12.5	0.25	Fill of 1120. Firm greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1120	Cut	12.5	1.1	Curved ditch.	-	-
1121	Fill	3.15	0.2	Fill of 1120. Firm dark greyish brown silty clay.	Pottery, flint, Fe Object, animal bone	EIA / IA
1122	Fill	12.51	0.41	Fill of 1120. Firm greenish brown silty clay.	Pottery, worked stone, fired clay, animal bone	EIA / IA
1123	Fill	12.51	0.22	Fill of 1120. Firm light greyish silty clay.	-	-

Trench 12

General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contains four furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clayey sand.					Length (m)	38
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

1201	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural – soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand.	-	-
1203	Cut	1.9	0.3	Furrow with steep sides and a flattish base.	-	-
1204	Fill	1.9	0.3	Fill of 1203. Firm mid greyish brown silty clay.	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	IA
1205	Cut	1.36	0.28	Furrow oriented NE-SW. Steeply sloping sides and flattish base.	-	-
1206	Fill	1.36	0.28	Fill of 1205. Firm mid greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1207	Cut	-	-	Furrow. Unexcavated.	-	-
1208	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1207.	-	-
1209	Cut	-	-	Furrow. Unexcavated.	-	-
1210	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1209.	-	-

Trench 13

General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contains two very large quarry pits and a small linear ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1301	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	CBM, fired clay	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural – soft yellowish brown clay silt.	-	-
1303	Cut	-	-	Natural - Soft whitish chalk marl.	-	-

Trench 14

General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contains a curvilinear ditch and a linear ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Fill	1.2	0.40	Fill of 1402. Greyish brown silty clay.	Pottery, animal bone	EIA? / IA
1402	Cut	1.2	-	Curvilinear ditch. Straight sloping sides and concave base.	-	-
1403	Fill	0.5	0.15	Fill of 1404. Compact light greyish brown silty clay.	-	-

1404	Cut	0.5	0.16	Linear ditch. Almost vertical sides and flat base.	-	-
1405	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of 1402. Compact light brown chalky clay.	-	-
1406	Layer	-	-	Natural – orangey brown clay.	-	-
1407	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contains two ditches and four furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	53
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Fill	0.5	0.1	Fill of 1503. Compact dark grey brown silty clay,	Pottery, animal bone	IA
1501	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1502	Fill	0.5	0.2	Fill of 1503. Compact dark grey silty clay.	Pottery, flint, fired clay, animal bone	EIA-MIA / IA
1503	Cut	0.5	0.42	Ditch	-	-
1504	Cut	0.4	0.11	Ditch	-	-
1505	Fill	1.1	-	Fill of 1504. Moderately compact light brown silty clay.	Fe Object, fired clay	-
1506	Fill	0.3	0.1	Fill of 1507.	-	-
1507	Cut	0.5	-	Furrow, shallow sloping sides and concave base.	-	-
1508	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1509. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1509	Cut	1.1	-	Furrow	-	-
1510	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1511. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1511	Cut	1.1	-	Furrow	-	-
1512	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1513. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1513	Cut	0.4	-	Furrow	-	-
1514	Layer	-	-	Natural – orange clay.	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contains five furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-

1601	Fill	0.6	-	Fill of 1602. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1602	Cut	0.6	-	Furrow. Not excavated.	-	-
1603	Fill	0.3	-	Fill of 1604. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1604	Cut	0.3	-	Furrow. Not excavated.	-	-
1605	Fill	1.2	0.15	Fill of 1606. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1606	Cut	1.2	0.15	Furrow. Straight sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
1607	Fill		-	Fill of 1608. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1608	Cut	1.2	-	Furrow. Not excavated.	-	-
1609	Fill	1.2	0.15	Fill of 1610. Light greyish brown clay.	-	-
1610	Cut	1.2	0.15	Furrow. Concave sloping sides.	-	-
1611	Layer	-	-	Natural – yellow/orange clay with frequent pebbles.	-	-

Trench 17

General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contains two intercutting ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	-	Natural – Orangey brown clay and pebbles.	-	-
1702	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
1703	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1704. Light brown silty clay.	-	-
1704	Cut	0.84	0.14	Ditch	-	-
1705	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1706. Greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1706	Cut	-	-	Ditch	-	-

Trench 18

General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contains five furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	26
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	-	Natural – orangey brown clay with pebbles.	-	-

1802	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1803	Cut	1.1	0.5	Furrow	-	-
1804	Fill	1.1	0.5	Fill of 1803. Greyish brown silty clay.		-
1805	Fill	1.1	0.5	Fill of 1806. Greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1806	Cut	1.1	0.5	Furrow.	-	-
1807	Fill	1.1	1.0	Fill of 1808. Greyish brown silty clay.		-
1808	Cut	1.1	1.0	Furrow	-	-
1809	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1810.	-	-
1810	Cut	1.2	-	Furrow	-	-
1811	Fill	0.7	-	Fill of 1812.	-	-
1812	Cut	0.7	-	Furrow	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Lisa Brown

Introduction

- B.1.1 A total of 374 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 2079g was recovered from the site. Although few fragments diagnostic of form were present, there are no distinctively earlier prehistoric fragments and the entire group is likely to date to the early to middle Iron Age. There is some possibility that some sherds in a soapy, organic-tempered fabric from ditches 1120 and 1402 could be Saxon as this type of fabric was not very common in Iron Age pottery production, but this would require further investigation. A single sherd from ditch 304 looks like late Iron Age or Roman reduced ware.
- B.1.2 Most of the pottery came from the fills of linear ditches (1005; 1007; 1013; 1402) and curvilinear ditches (1105; 1107; 1120), and a ditch terminal (1503). The ditches appear to be elements of enclosure complexes of the type identified in earlier work in the area (Albion Archaeology 2013; 2016). A single pit (1111) yielded conjoining sherds of a single vessel fragment. Other sherds were residual in ploughsoils and plough furrows.
- B.1.3 The condition of the assemblage is generally poor, with an average sherd weight (ASW) of under 5g and some 36% of sherds recorded as highly abraded.

Methodology

- B.1.4 The pottery was recorded by context on an Access Database, the recorded attributes including sherd count and weight, fabric, form (where possible), surface finish and decoration, level of abrasion, and spot-date. Fabrics were identified using a 10x and 20x magnification hand lens, and divided and codified on the basis of dominant inclusion type, in line with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010).

Fabrics

- B.1.5 The geology of the area is essentially Cretaceous, and some of the fabrics reflect these local deposits, containing weathered chalk and other calcareous inclusions – some certainly fossiliferous. Red and black ferrous inclusions are discernible in some of these fabrics. Glauconitic sandy clays were also identified. These are derived from Greensand outcrops are known as Woburn Sands in Bedfordshire, and so these fabrics may also represent locally procured raw materials. Flint is an uncommon inclusion, and where it does occur it seems to be accidentally or naturally occurring in the potting clay. One fabric contains abundant finely crushed shell, which may be fresh rather than fossil shell, but would require further analysis to confirm this. Sherds in a notably organic-tempered fabric (O1) from ditches 1120 and 1402 resemble early Saxon fabrics (John Cotter, pers. comm.), but the use of organic matter in Iron Age potting clays is not unknown.

B.1.6 The fabrics are described below, with numbers and weight of sherds:

- **C - Predominantly calcareous**
 - *C1 Relatively fine sandy clay with rare to sparse pieces of weathered calcareous material (often chalk) <2mm [61 sherds / 241g]*
 - *C2 medium grade sandy clay with weathered calcareous material <4mm [10 sherds / 97g]*
 - *C3 medium grade sandy clay with mixed temper which can include chalk, calcareous fossiliferous matter, rare uncalcined flint, powdery red oxides and black ferrous pellets. Generally used for larger vessels [174 sherds / 918g]*
- **S - Predominantly shell**
 - *S1 smooth, lightly sanded clay incorporating abundant finely crushed shell, which may be fresh [8 sherds / 108g]*
 - I – Abundant ferrous inclusions
 - *I1 medium grade sandy ware with abundant scatter of black ferrous pellets [2 sherds / 7g]*
- **O – Organic temper**
 - *O1 – soapy lightly sanded fabric with greater or lesser amounts of organic temper of grassy character [13 sherds / 12592g]*
- **Q - Predominantly quartz sand**
 - *Q1 fine glauconitic sandy clay with few or no visible inclusions [76 sherds / 506g]*
 - *Q2 medium grade rounded quartz sandy clay, occasional red and black ferrous inclusions [21 sherds / 42g]*
 - *Q3 fine to medium sandy clay with rare rounded chalk pieces <3mm [3 sherds / 25g]*

Forms

B.1.7 Very few forms were identified. Most of the diagnostic fragments may be early Iron Age (6th–5th century BC) in style and decoration, but elements of the early Iron Age potting tradition such as pronounced shoulders, carination, and finger-impressed decoration endured into the 4th–3rd centuries BC and even slightly later in the Bedfordshire region, and so these are not closely dateable. This fragmentary group includes only seven rim sherds (most of these unassignable to any particular class of vessel), six bases (either simple and flat or slightly kicked-out), and seven decorated pieces, five with shallow-tooled or incised linear patterns, one with fingertipping on a tiny rim fragment of organic-tempered pottery from ditch 1402. The fingertip impression suggests that this example of an organic-tempered vessel is more likely to be Iron Age than Saxon.

B.1.8 Another sherd with fingernail impressions on the curving neck of a bowl or jar came from ditch 1120. A fragment with shallow-tooled decoration consisting of intersecting vertical and horizontal lines came from curvilinear ditch 1105. A carinated bowl fragment in fabric Q1 was recovered from buried soil 703. An ovoid vessel with simple rim in fabric Q3 from ditch 1011 could be of similar date. Although fingertip and fingernail impressed decoration is a feature of Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery,

these persisted into the beginning of the middle Iron Age in this and proximate regions of Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Cambridgeshire.

A rather squat bowl with a slight shoulder and simple rim and fragments of a flat base from ditch 1120 in organic-tempered ware O1 could be early Saxon (John Cotter, pers. comm.). This ditch fill also produced sherds of early Iron Age type and mixing of non-contemporary sherds, especially those showing signs of weathering, is not uncommon in such deposits. At this stage, while it is important to highlight the possibility of early Saxon pottery on the site, an early Iron Age date seems on balance more likely.

Fill	Fill of	Rim Sherds	Body Sherd	Base Sherds	Total	Weight	Date
303	304		1		1	10	LIA?
703	-		1		1	5	EIA
706	705		12		12	23	IA
715	714		4		4	26	IA
1006	1005		1		1	3	IA
1009	1007		5		5	4	IA
1014	1013		2		2	12	IA
1020	1011	1	8		9	36	EIA-MIA / IA
1022	1013		5		5	31	IA
1101	-		35	2	37	98	IA
1106	1105		2	2	4	63	EIA / IA
1108	1107		2		2	4	IA
1109	1107		2		2	13	IA
1113	1111		12		12	95	EIA
1115	1114		120	6	126	660	EIA
1121	1120	1	38	2	41	381	EIA / IA
1122	1120		19		19	213	EIA / IA
1204	1203		46		46	96	IA
1401	1402	2	16		18	73	EIA? / IA
1500	1503		2		2	14	IA
1502	1503	4	20	1	25	231	EIA-MIA / IA

Table B.1.A: Record of pottery

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.2.1 This evaluation yielded a single struck flint, several natural fragments and a small amount of burnt unworked flint (33) weighing 43g. The struck piece is a snapped bladelet segment and is very likely to be early prehistoric in date while the burnt material probably relates to hearths, water heating and/or cooking, generally standard domestic activities. The burnt material came from three contexts (1022, 1121 and 1502) while the struck piece was a residual find in pit 1114, fill 1115.

B.2.2 The recovery of a bladelet is of note and indicates a very limited early prehistoric presence here most probably dating to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic. The burnt material is of little note and consisted mostly of very small fragments. The possibility remains that any further work in this area may encounter richer flint-related activity, but the possibility is very low.

Methodology

B.2.3 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
1022	Burnt unworked		16 fragments 16g	
1115	Bladelet	Inner	Heavily corticated distal segment	EPH
1121	Burnt unworked		2 fragments 16g	
1502	Burnt unworked		13 fragments 6g	

Table B.1.A: Record of flint

B.3 Metal

By Ian Scott

Introduction

B.3.1 There are two pieces of iron from two contexts. Neither object is closely datable.

Context	Description
1121	Nail, with small slightly domed head and square section stem tapering to a point. The nail is hand-forged by not closely datable. L:78mm
1505	Nail or horseshoe nail head, tapered and off square section. Little or none of the stem survives. Not measured.

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.4.1 Eight pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. Five of these are unworked and can be discarded. Three fragments of stone were recovered from context 1122. Two of these are certainly from a rotary quern and the third is non diagnostic, but all are likely to be from the same item. The quern in question is of flat disc type with a handle socket through the side. It is made from a fine-medium grained glauconitic sandstone, probably from the Woburn Sands of the Lower Greensand. Woburn Sands occur to the east of the site where it is largely obscured by superficial deposits, and also to the north in the Campton and Shefford areas, where it may have been exposed. Only thin section analysis would confirm the Woburn Sands as the source for the quern.

The rotary quern has an unusual band around the circumference. This may have been decorative but it might also mark the position of an iron band around the quern. Such bands are usually thought to have secured a handle for the operation of the quern, but as this quern also has a handle socket cut through the side of the quern, an iron band would have been superfluous.

B.5 Ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

B.5.1 A small group of ceramic building material was recovered from three contexts in Trenches 10, 12 and 13. All the material is post-medieval date and comprises flat roof tile and brick, recorded in the table below. The roof tile measured 14-16mm thick, had even regular surfaces, the top smooth or finely striated from wiping and the base rougher and sanded. They were all made in red-orange sandy fabrics with sparse small flint grit and in one frequent buff clay and red ferruginous pellets. The brick fragments, probably originally a single piece, had two flat regular surfaces forming a corner angle.

Context	Nos	Wt g	Form	Fabric	Th mm	Description	Spot date	Abr
1014	1	11	Roof: flat	Red, frequent medium quartz sand; rare flint grit 1-3mm	15	flat even surfaces, fairly neat finish	Post-med	Low
1204	2	84	Roof: flat	Orange sandy fabric containing frequent fine-medium quartz sand, buff rounded clay pellets 1-5mm and red ferruginous pellets 1-3mm. Rare flint grits.	14	Smooth even top surface; rougher pitted base	Post-med	Mod
1204	3	13	Brick	Orange red, high density of coarse quartz sand & sparse scatter of small flint grit and black ferruginous grits 1-2mm	>24	Two fairly even flat surfaces at right angles	Post-med	Mod

1301	1	58	Roof: flat	Hard pinkish red, fine-coarse quartz sand, scattered flint grit up to 9mm & occasional red ferruginous sandy inclusions	16	Upper surface finely striated from wiping; rough flat base and edge	Post-med	Mod
Total	7	166						

Table B.5.A: Record of ceramic building material

B.6 Fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

B.6.1 A small assemblage of fired clay amounting to 26 fragments (121g) was recovered from seven contexts. The material is recorded in the table below. None is diagnostic, nor can any be dated.

B.6.2 Most pieces were amorphous, though a few had evidence of a flat moulded surface. Two fragments from context 1307 are probably burnt mudstone. It is probable that the fired clay derived from domestic ovens or hearths, though it is not possible to verify function from the surviving characteristics. Fabrics were very variable ranging from fine silty clay to coarse sandy and gritty fabrics, which no doubt reflect the range of clay sources available in the area. The coarser sandy fabrics probably derive from boulder clay.

Context	Nos	Wt	Fabric	Form	Size	Description	Spot date
703	2	6	Pink fine sandy-silty clay	Indet	15mm th x 20	Amorphous scraps	Undated
706	8	12	Cream – pale grey – dk grey core fine silty chalky clay	Indet	20	Some small areas of flat surface; most pieces amorphous	Undated
1122	6	16	Grey-black with red-cream laminated surface on two; high density of black ferruginous pellets 1-2mm, rarely 6mm; rare shell grit	Indet	>13 th x 22mm	Rough flat moulded surface possibly with second at right angles on largest frag	Undated
1301	2	2	Red and white laminated clay	Mudst	20	Burnt mudstone? amorphous	Undated
1502	3	30	Orange brown clay with grey core containing frequent coarse quartz sand sparse chalk grit 0.5-2mm and moderate burnt flint grit 1-3mm	Indet	30-35mm	Amorphous fragments	Undated

1502 <2>	4	13	Orange brown clay containing frequent chalk grit 0.5-5mm	Indet	20-25mm	Amorphous rounded lumps	Undated
1505	1	42	Pinkish red-orange with yellowish brown - grey core; freq coarse quartz sand, flint grit and burnt chalk 4-8mm	Furn?	>55mm th	One small area of flat even surface; possibly fragment of portable oven/hearth furniture	Undated
	26	121					

Table B.6.A: Record of fired clay

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Four samples were taken during the evaluation. All samples were 40 litres in volume with the exception of sample <1> (1115) which was 2.5 litres in volume. Sample <1> (1115) came from the fill of a pit (1114) within Trench 11, sample <2> (1502) is from a linear feature (1503) within Trench 15, sample <3> (1121) was from a ditch fill (1120) within Trench 11 and sample <4> (1022) was from the fill of a ditch (1013) within Trench 10. All samples were taken from Iron Age contexts.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010). All flots of less than 100ml were 100% scanned, for larger flots 100ml was scanned.

Results

Sample No.		1	2	3	4
Context No.		1115	1502	1121	1022
Flot Volume		10	50	150	75
Cereal grain					
<i>cf Triticum</i> sp.	cf wheat		3*		2*
<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	oat/brome		2*		1*
Cerealia	indet. cereal	2*	10*	9*	24*
Chaff					
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i>	emmer/spelt glume base		10*	3*	1*
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i>	emmer/spelt spikelet fork			1*	
Wild Species					
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. <2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc		1*	1	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. >2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc	1		2	1
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	goosefoot		3		

<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	ivy-leaved speedwell	1#			
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	scentless mayweed		1*		
Other					
Indet.	seed/fruit		1*		1*
*fragmented	#possibly modern				

Table C.1.A: Environmental samples

- C.1.3 The flots for these samples all contain charcoal which is mostly small-sized but in good condition. Some fragments larger than 4mm are present in all samples, with the exception of sample <1> which only contains small material, but they are few in number. The grain in all samples is in poor condition, being very fragmented and heavily burnt, as are the majority of other seeds.
- C.1.4 All flots contain modern roots and other material such as uncharred seeds and occasional insects and all contain occasional *Ceciloides acicula* which is a burrowing snail. Samples <3> and <4> both contain terrestrial snails with sample <4> being particularly rich with over 100 snails from least five species.
- C.1.5 The residues of these samples contained animal bone (2, 3 and 4), burnt flint (2, 3 and 4), pottery (2, 3 and 4), burnt clay (2) and occasional potentially struck flints which are likely to be residual (all samples).

Discussion and conclusion

- C.1.6 The material within these samples is typical of that seen within Iron Age contexts in southern Britain. While the grain is largely unidentifiable due to condition, the presence of glume wheat chaff indicates that this is most likely to be wheat and the overall dating of the site would make spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) the most likely candidate. The other seeds are likely to have been growing within cereal fields, and possibly accidentally harvested along with the cereals, as all identified charred material comes from plants common either as weeds of crop fields or as plants common to the margins of such fields.
- C.1.7 The poor condition is a combination of damage caused by burning, with many seeds having a shiny exterior as a result of burning at high temperature, and secondary deposition with the material having worked its way into the features over time. It is likely that material closer to the area of crop or food preparation will be in better condition as one fragment of chaff within sample <2> appeared much better preserved than its companions. This shows that some material can survive well on this site.
- C.1.8 Charred remains are evidently preserved at the site and the presence of snails within both sampled ditches indicates that molluscan analysis is likely to be worthwhile should further excavations take place at the site, and this should be a consideration for any sampling strategy, since mollusc assemblages can provide a means of

landscape reconstruction particularly when other forms of palaeoenvironmental evidence (eg pollen) does not survive. Any future sampling policy should be in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. English Heritage 2011).

C.2 Animal bone

By Lee Broderick

- C.2.1 A total of 137 animal bones were recovered from the site, mostly from contexts dated to the early Iron Age on the basis of associated ceramic finds; the assemblage was in moderate condition (Fig. C.2.A). Environmental samples were taken and sieved at 10mm, 4mm and 2mm intervals, contributing 31.4% of the assemblage (NSP=59).
- C.2.2 The assemblage was dominated by domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*), with caprines (sheep [*Ovis aries*] or goat [*Capra hircus*]), pig (*Sus ferus domesticus*) and horse (*Equus caballus*) also present in small quantities (Table C.2.A). Three cattle specimens (one from Iron Age context 1500 and two from early Iron Age contexts 1113 and 1121) as well as a horse specimen (from Iron Age context 1022) had been gnawed by canids, suggesting that dogs (*Canis familiaris*) were also present on the site at this time. No particular patterning was observed of body part or species distribution across the site.
- C.2.3 A cattle mandible (from Iron Age context 1502) has an oblique cutmark on the lingual side of the ramus, probably caused during secondary butchery – i.e. in the kitchen or at the table. It was possible to get a mandible wear stage from another cattle mandible (from early Iron Age context 1122), giving an age at death of the individual of over 6 years and 2 months. Five cattle longbones had epiphyses present, which have potential for ageing data but in all cases these had fused to the diaphysis, so it was only possible to say that they came from individuals beyond the stage at which fusion occurs (as much as four years in late fusing elements). The single early Iron Age caprine specimen, a metapodial, was unfused distally, suggesting an age at death of under 28 months.
- C.2.4 The environmental samples increased the numbers of medium mammal specimens recovered (including the only pig specimen) as well as containing the only micro mammal specimens recovered from the site. These included water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*), probably present due to the tributary streams to the nearby River Purwell. Alongside the presence of several drainage ditches in the area today it suggests a relatively wet environment, which would be more conducive to the farming of cattle than to sheep and goats and so may be one reason for the greater number of these specimens in the assemblage. Alternatively, the larger proportion of cattle may be evidence of recovery bias – the rarity of horse might argue against this but the much larger proportion of medium mammals recovered from environmental samples would support it; in short the evidence is equivocal at this stage.
- C.2.5 Given the small size of the assemblage it is difficult to draw any further conclusions and no additional work on it is recommended unless further excavation on the site takes place, in which case it should be considered alongside any material recovered then.

	EIA	EIA-MIA	IA		EIA sieved	IA sieved
domestic cattle	18		7			
caprine	1		5		3	3
pig						1
horse		1	1			
small rodent						1
water vole						3
water vole?						1
micro mammal						1
small mammal						2
medium mammal	5		1		11	14
large mammal	33		52		1	14
Total NISP	57	1	66		15	41
Total NSP	61	1	67		18	41

Table C.2.A: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from the site.

	Butchery marks	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data
domestic cattle	1	3		6	1
caprine				1	
horse		1			
small rodent				1	
bank vole/field vole/common vole				1	
medium mammal			1		
large mammal			1		
Total Mammal	1	4	2	9	1
indet.			3		
Total	1	4	5	9	1

Table C.2.B: Non-species data recorded for specimens from the site.

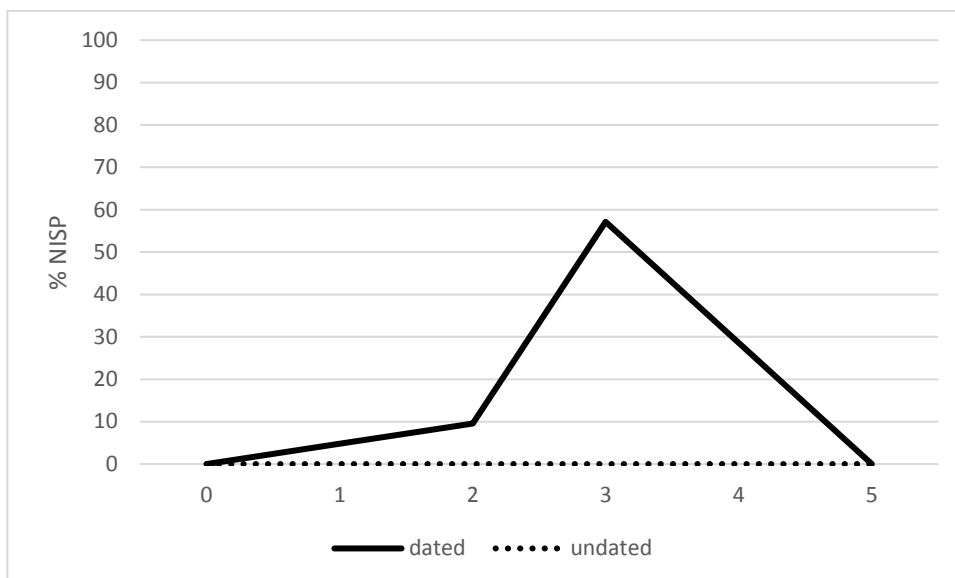


Figure C.2.A: Condition of identified specimens (following Lyman (1996)).

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
703	4	22
706	3	13
1009	3	5
1020	1	229
1022	44	346
1106	6	105
1109	5	28
1113	13	389
1121	30	214
1122	29	247
1204	6	52
1401	3	16
1500	3	114
1502	38	137

Table C.2.C: NSP and total mass per context.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2013 Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and Open Area Excavation Report: Land to the rear of Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire

Allen, T, Barclay, A, Cromarty, A, M, Anderson-Whymark, H, Parker, A, Robinson, M, and Jones, G, *Opening the wood, making the Land; The Archaeology of a Middle Thames Landscape, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age, Vol 1*, Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit. Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph **38**

Bamford, H., 1985 *Briar Hill: excavation 1974-1978*, Northampton: Northampton Development Corporation. Archaeological monograph **3**

Bradley, P, 1999 The worked flint. In A. Barclay and C. Halpin. Eds. *Excavations at Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxfordshire*, Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit. Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph **11**: 211-227

Conneller, C, 2005 Moving beyond sites: Mesolithic technology in the landscape, in N. Milner and P. Woodman, *Mesolithic Studies at the beginning of the 21st Century*, Oxbow

Harding, P, 1990 The worked flint, in *The Stonehenge environs project*, (ed J C Richards) London, English Heritage

Healy, F, 1988 The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VI: Occupation during the seventh to second Millennia BC, *East Anglian Archaeological Reports* **38**

Inizan, M.-L, Reduron-Ballinger, M, Roche, H and Tixier, J, 1999 *Technology and terminology of knapped stone*, Cercle de Recherches et d'Etudes Préhistoriques, CNRS, Nanterre

Nexus Heritage 2017 Land adjacent to Station Road, Lower Stondon, Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey

OA 2017, Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, Oxford Archaeology

Onhuma, K and Bergman, C A, 1982 Experimental studies in the determination of flake mode, *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology, London* **19**, 161-171

PCRG (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group), 2010 *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: general Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication (3rd edn revised)*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occas. Pap. 1/2

Saville, A., 1980 On the measurement of struck flakes and flake tools, *Lithics* **1**, 16-20.

Sumo Survey 2017 Geophysical Survey Report (No.11251): Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire
Site code:	LSSR17
Grid Reference	TL 15963 35741
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	4th–15th September 2017, 2 weeks
Area of Site	c 6ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Luton Culture in due course, under the following accession number: LUTNM 1282.

Summary of Results: In early September 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, on the site of a proposed housing development. A total of 18 trenches were excavated to target the results of a geophysical survey. Cropmarks within the site suggest the presence of Iron Age enclosures forming a small settlement in the central southern part of the site. This was confirmed by the results of the geophysical survey. The survey suggested that archaeological remains were confined to the area of the cropmarks with only features related to medieval or modern agricultural practices recorded across the rest of the site.

Ditches recorded within the trenches correlate well with the focus of activity identified by the non-intrusive surveys. The nature of the features, along with the material culture, pottery sherds, butchered animal bone and quern stone fragments, are indicative of a small early to middle Iron Age settlement.

Several ditches were also recorded to the east and west of the main focus of activity. Though not all these features are dated, some have a similar early to middle Iron Age date, with evidence suggesting continued use into the late Iron Age. These more isolated features have been interpreted as forming part of the rural hinterland supporting the small settlement recorded in the central southern part of the site.

Post-medieval plough furrows were also present in the eastern half of the site.



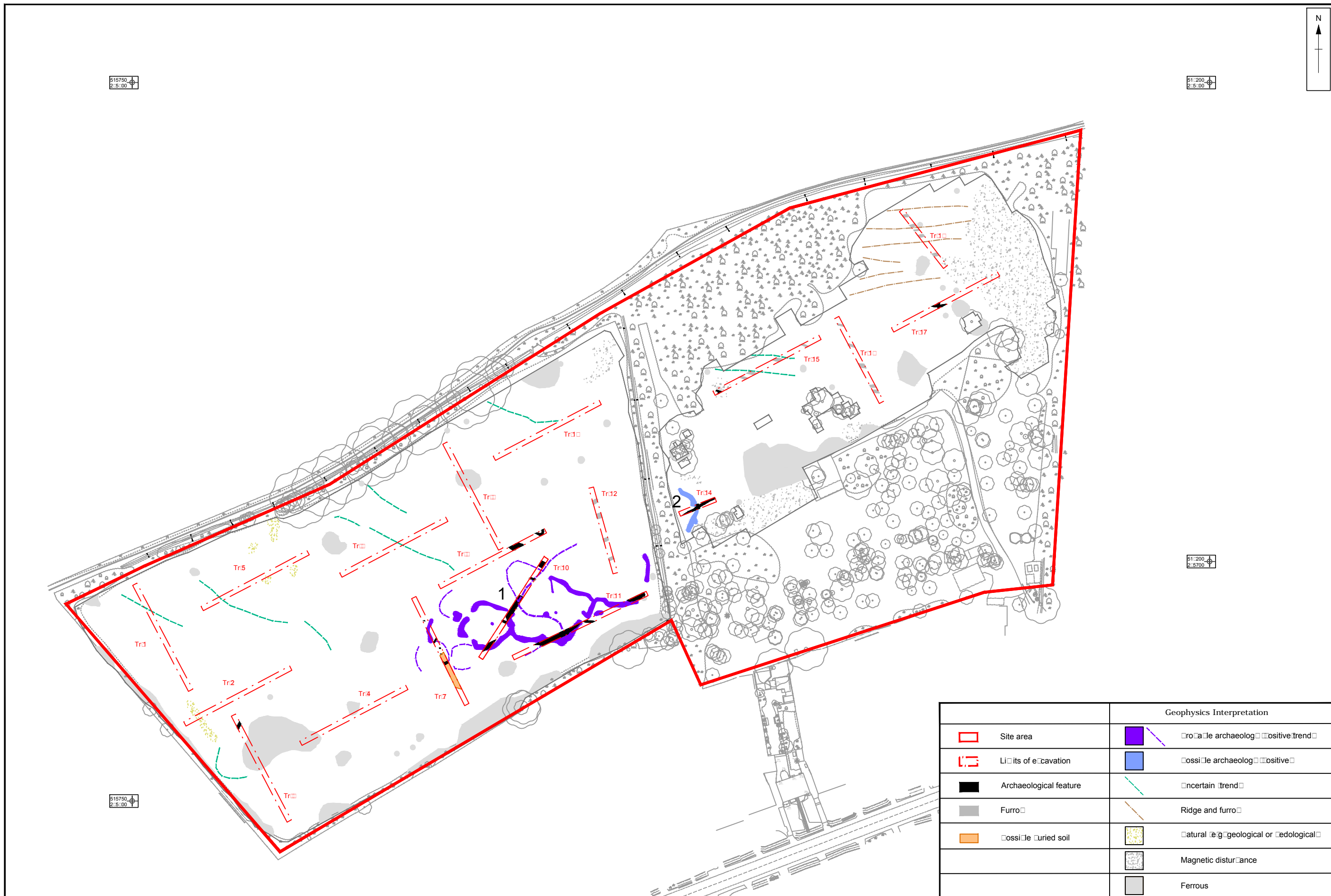
X:\Lower Stondon Station Road\010\Geomatics\03_GIS Projects\LSSREV_Figure1_2017-07-26.mxd*matt.bradley*26/07/2017

Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

1:10,000

Figure 1: Site location

C:\Users\gary.jones\XARCH\appdata\local\temp\AcPublish_368\SSREV_Lower_Station_Rd_with Geophysics_2017-11-09.dwg(figure2)***** 10 Nov 2017



Geophysics Interpretation	
	Site area
	Limits of excavation
	Archaeological feature
	Furrow
	Possibly buried soil
	Probable archaeological positive trend
	Possible archaeological positive
	Uncertain trend
	Ridge and furrow
	Natural or geological or biological
	Magnetic disturbance
	Ferrous

Geophysics Data supplied by :
Sumo Survey

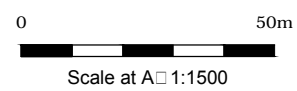
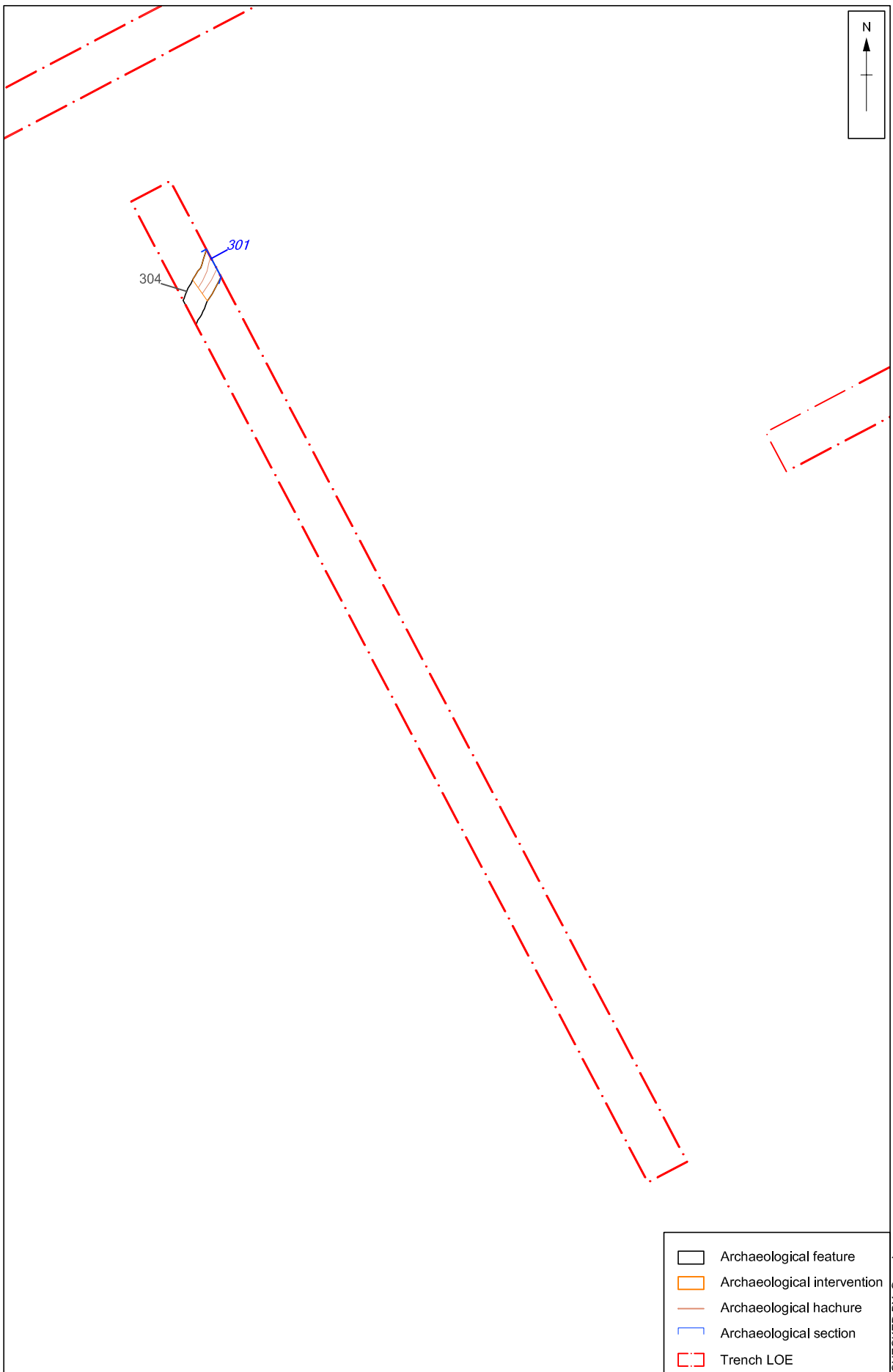


Figure 2:Trench layout

CHECKED BY: JB

X:\Lower Stondon Station Road\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\SSREV_Lower Stondon_Station_Rd_2017-11-08.dwg(Fig3)\LSSR17\LSSREV\Lower Stondon\matt.bradley* 08 Nov 2017



CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

Survey Data supplied by :
Matt Reynolds

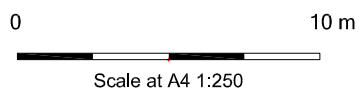
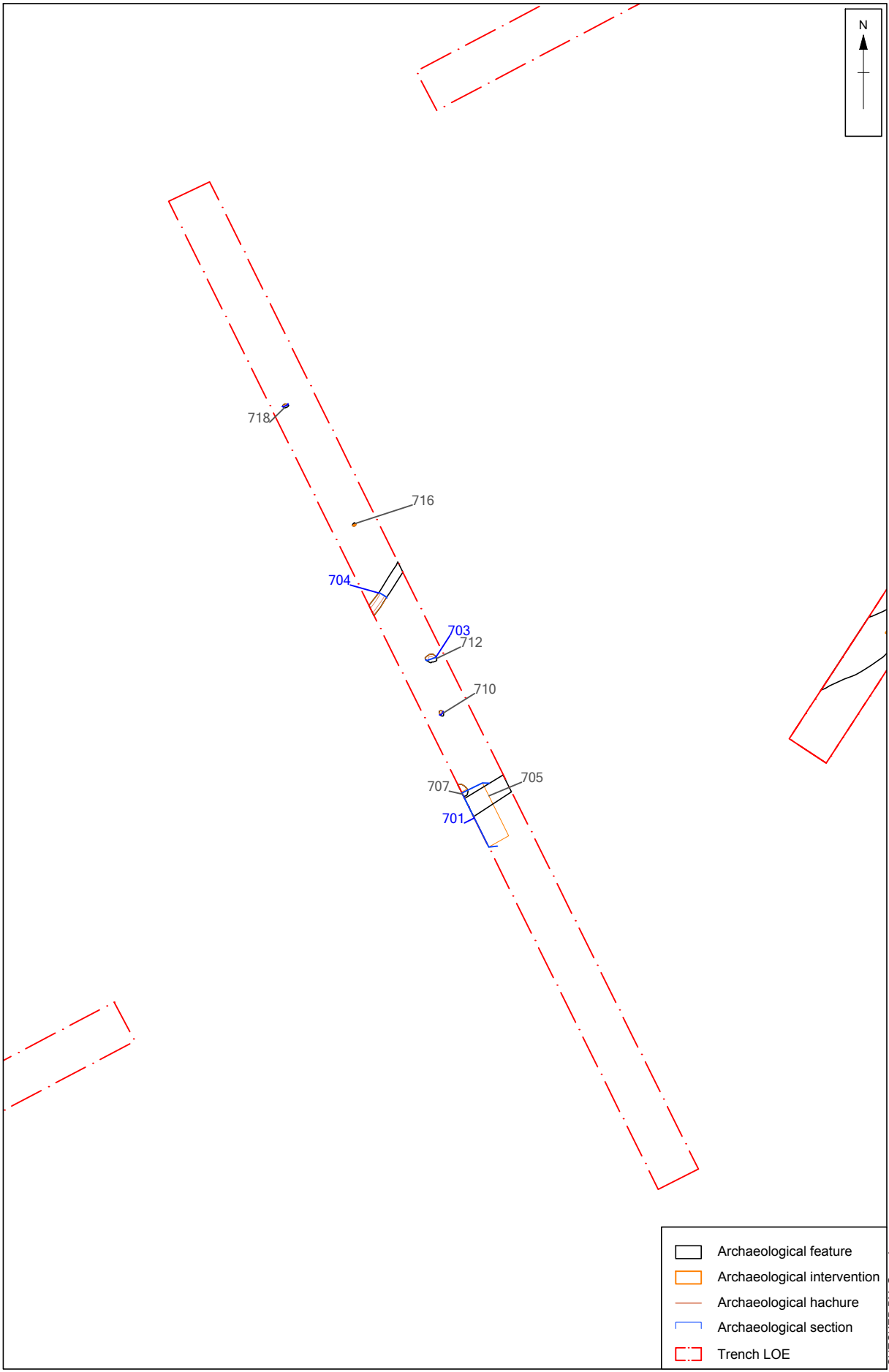







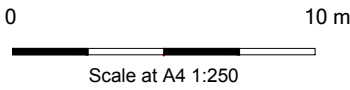
Figure 3: Trench 3

X:\Lower Stondon Station Road\10Geomatics\02 CAD\SSREV_Lower Stondon_Station_Rd_2017-11-08.dwg(Fig4)\LSSR17\LSSREV\Lower Stondon\aidan.farnen 10 Nov 2017



-  Archaeological feature
-  Archaeological intervention
-  Archaeological hachure
-  Archaeological section
-  Trench LOE

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones



Survey Data supplied by :
Matt Reynolds

Figure 4: Trench 7

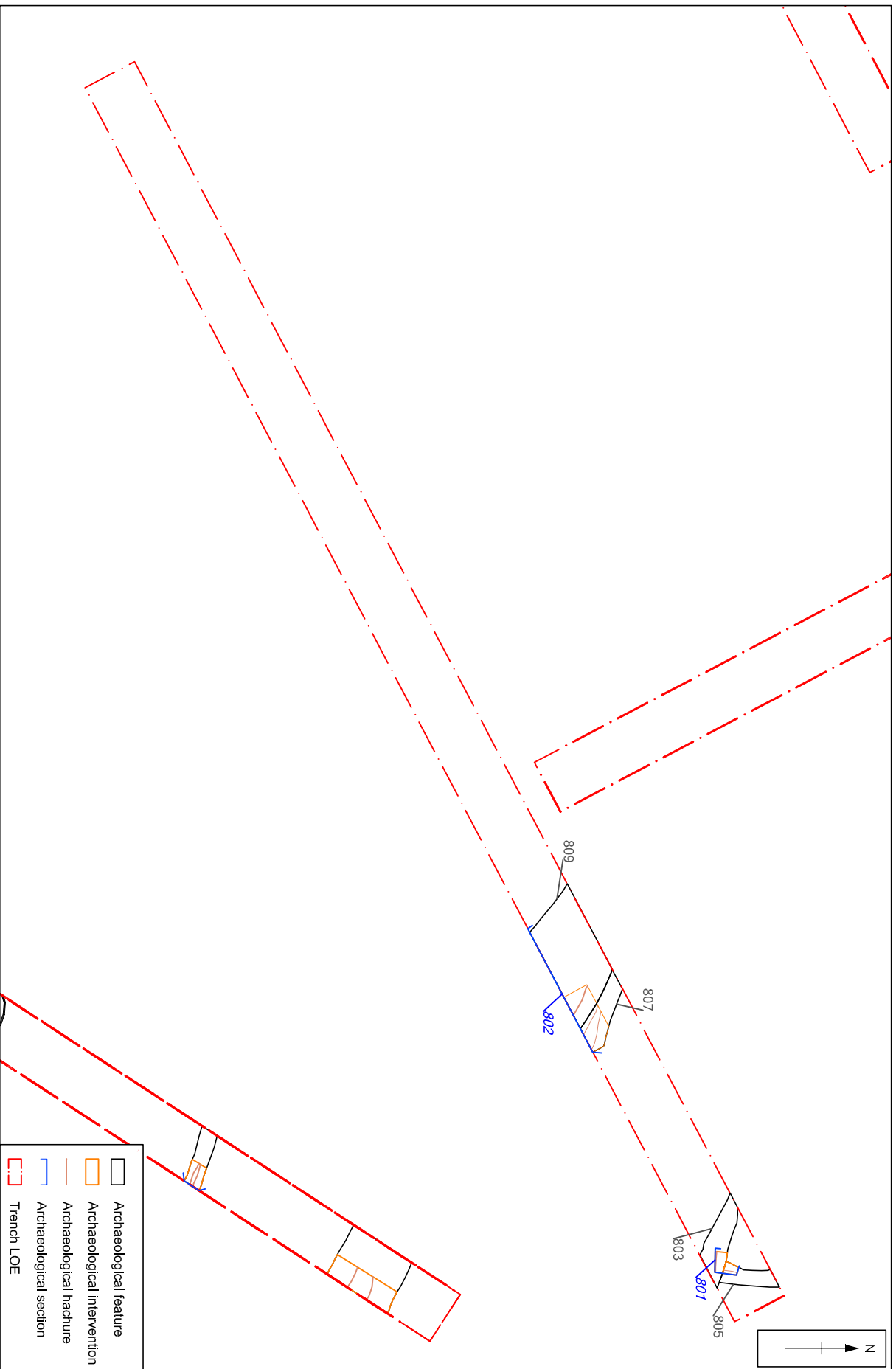
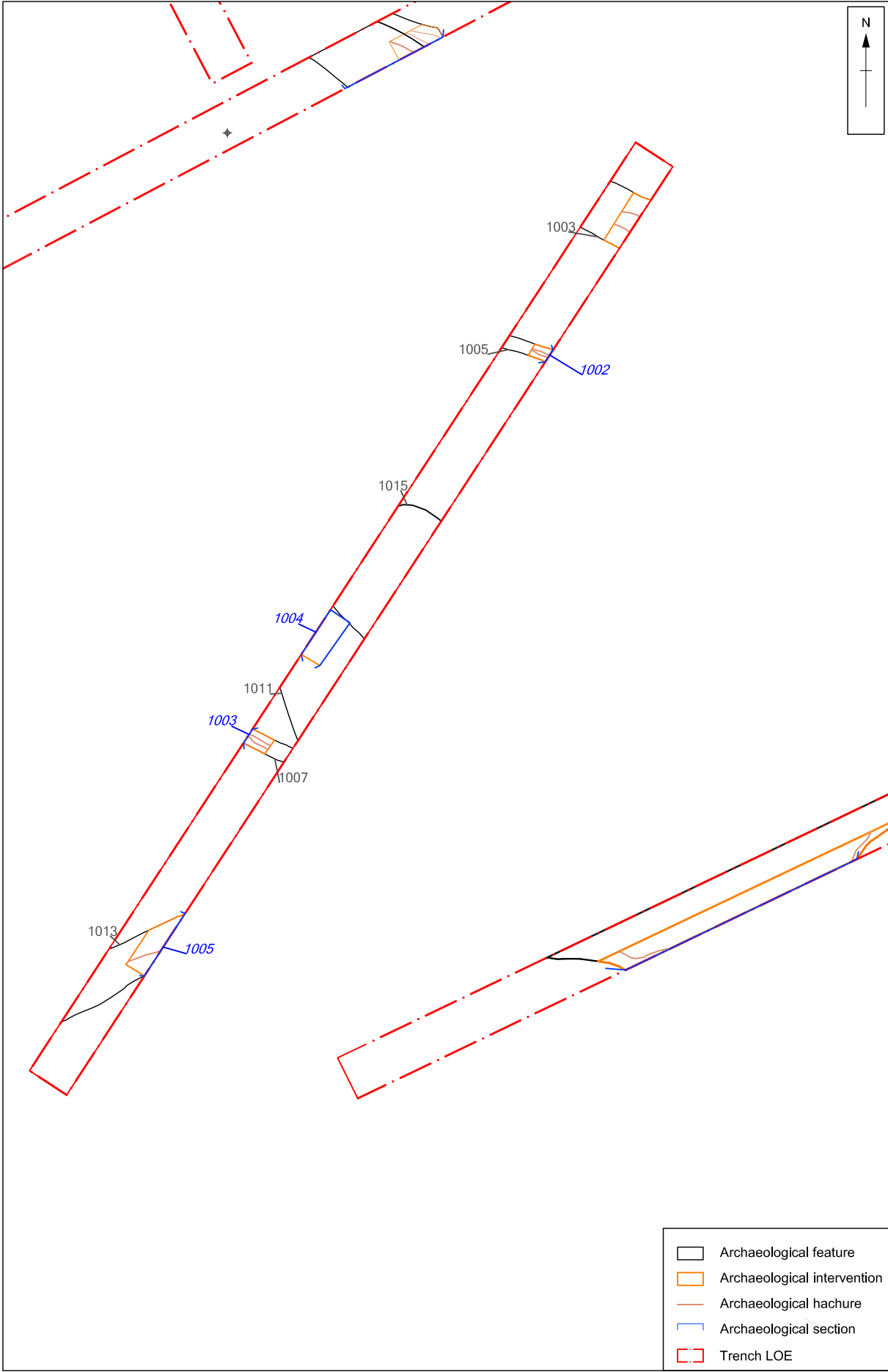


Figure 5: Trench 8

Survey Data supplied by:
Matt Reynolds

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

X:\Lower Stondon Station Road\010Geomatics\02 CAD\LSSREV\Lower Stondon\katrina.anker* 10 Nov 2017



Survey Data supplied by :
Matt Reynolds

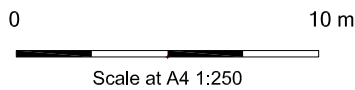
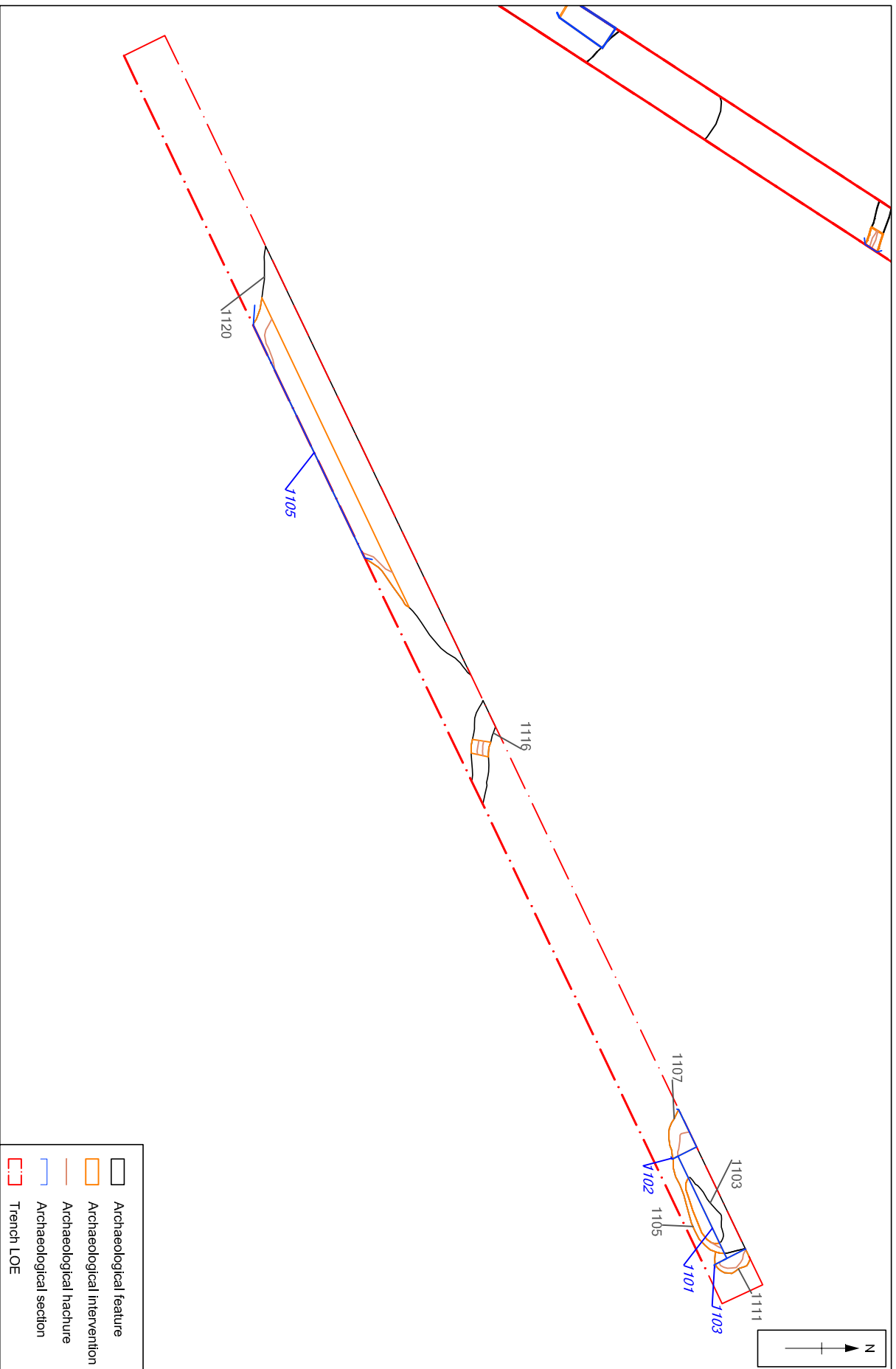


Figure 6: Trench 10

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

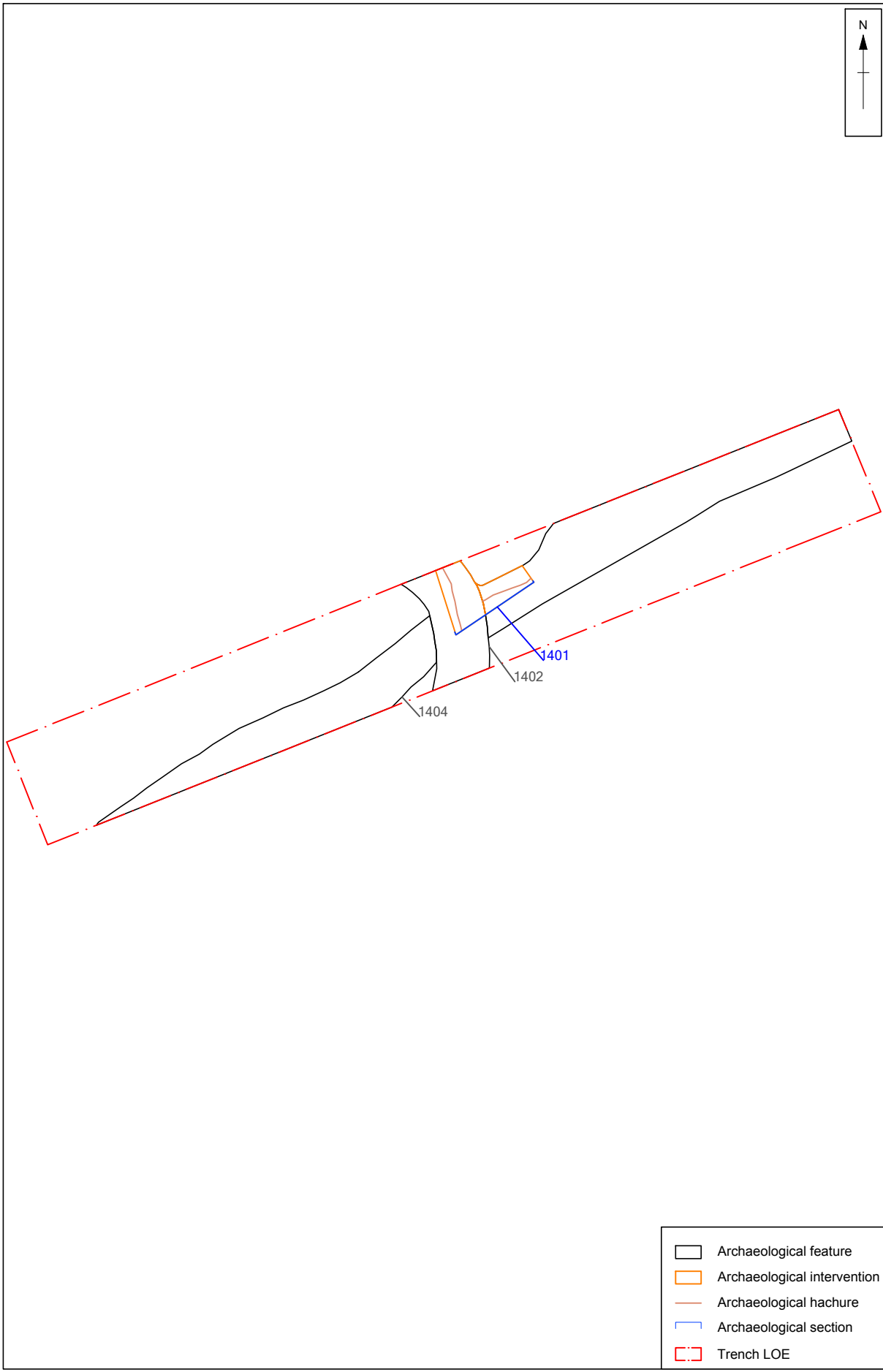







CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

Figure 7: Trench 11

Survey Data supplied by:
Matt Reynolds

X:\Lower Stondon Station Road\010Geomatics\02 CAD\SSREV_Lower Stondon_Station_Rd_2017-11-08.dwg(Fig8)\LSSR17\LSSREV\Lower Stondon\gary.jones* 10 Nov 2017



-  Archaeological feature
-  Archaeological intervention
-  Archaeological hachure
-  Archaeological section
-  Trench LOE

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

Survey Data supplied by :
Matt Reynolds

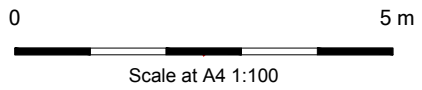


Figure 8: Trench 14

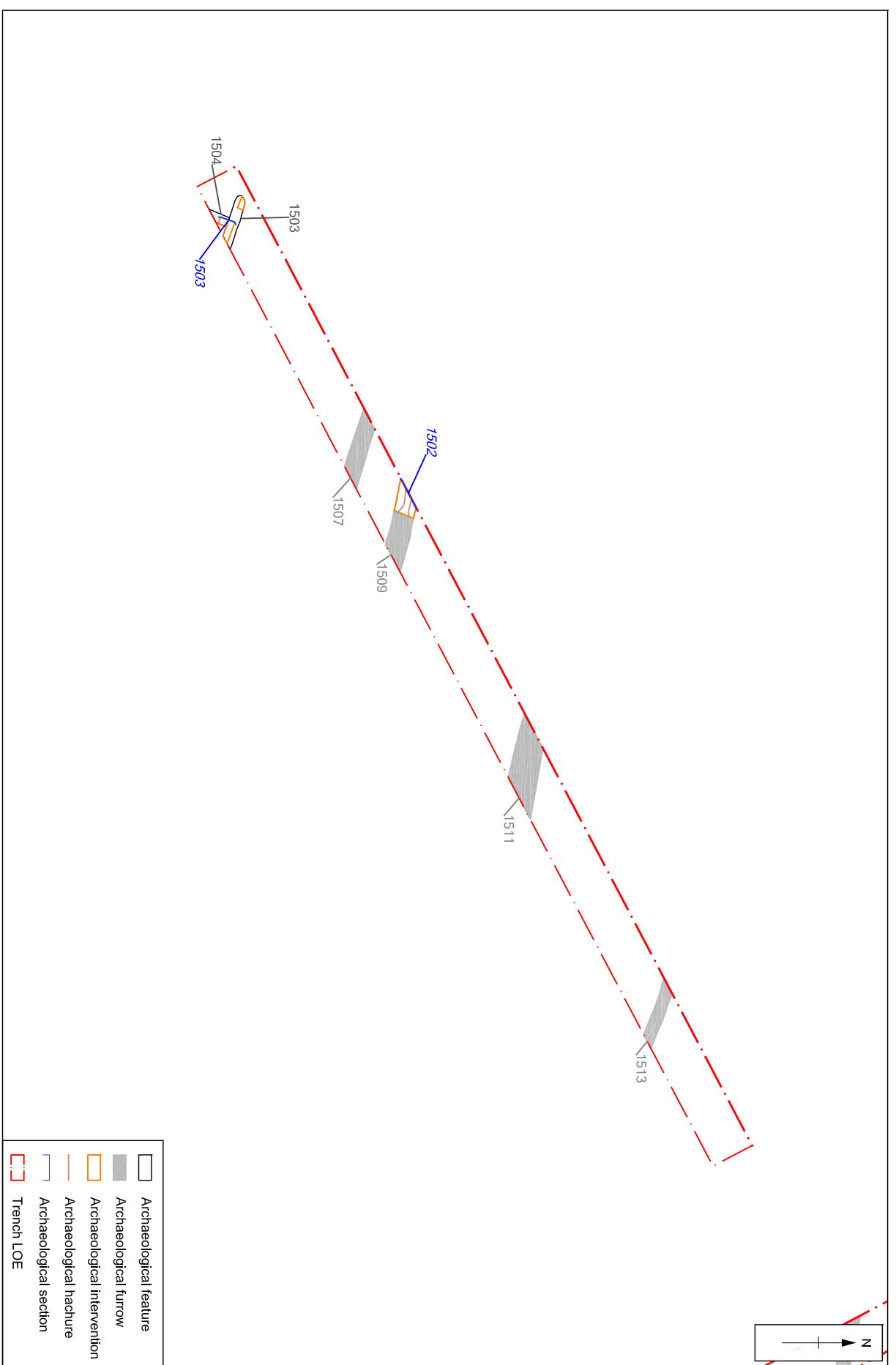


Figure 9: Trench 15

Survey Data supplied by:
Matt Reynolds

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

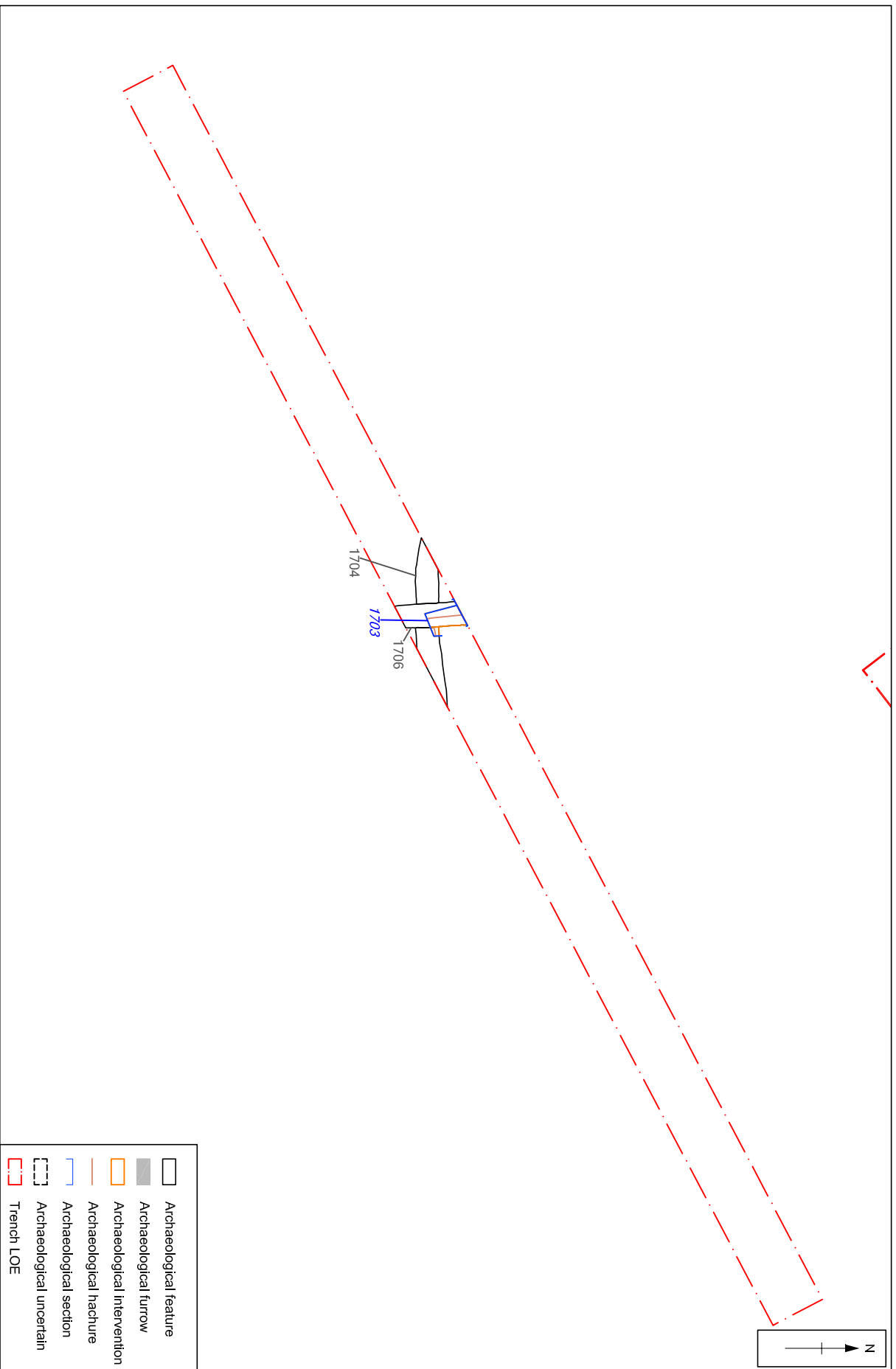


Figure 10: Trench 17

Survey Data supplied by :
Matt Reynolds

Geophysics Data supplied by :
Sumo Survey

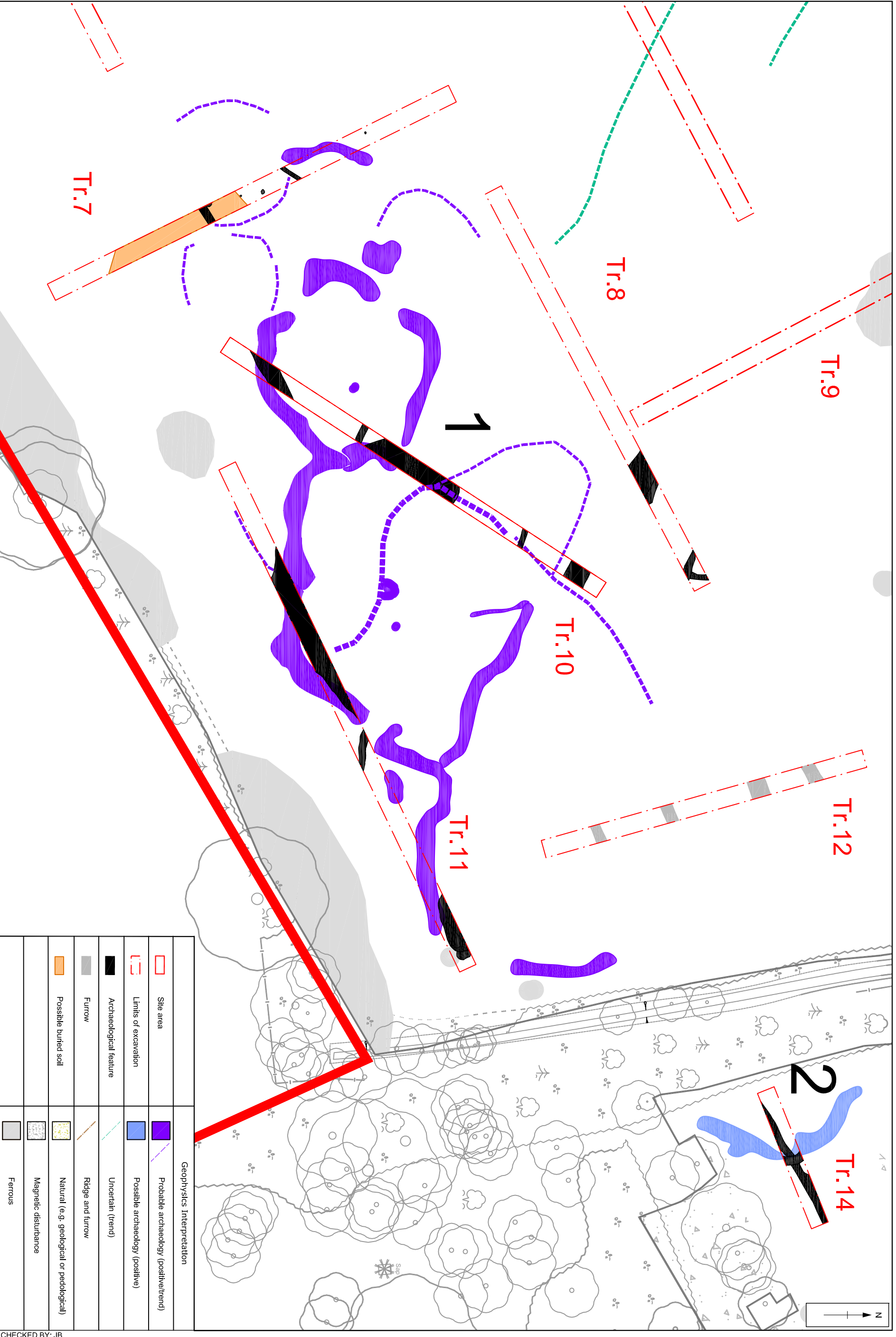


Figure 11: Close up of Trenches 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14

CHECKED BY: JB

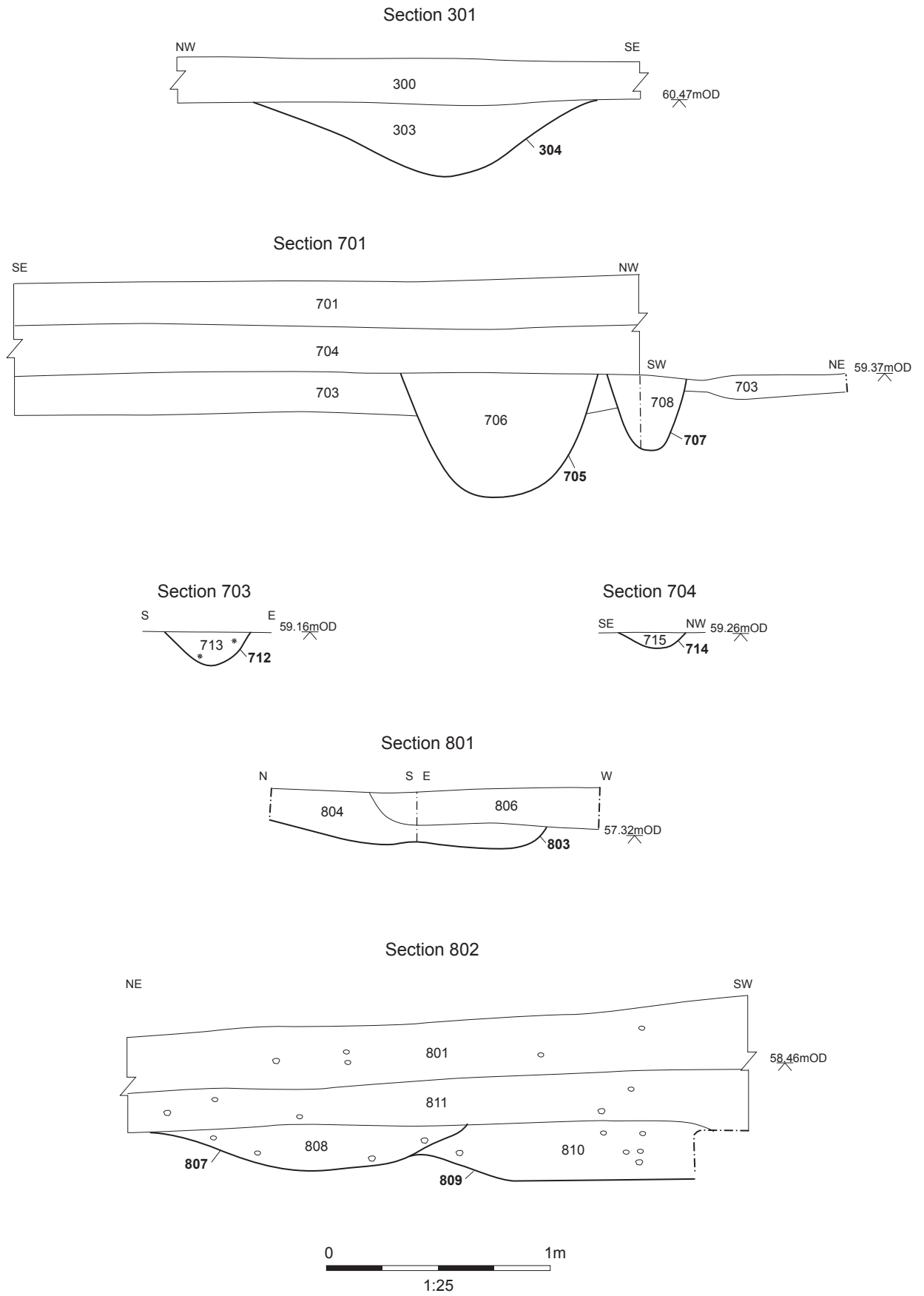


Figure 12: Sections from Trenches 3, 7 and 8

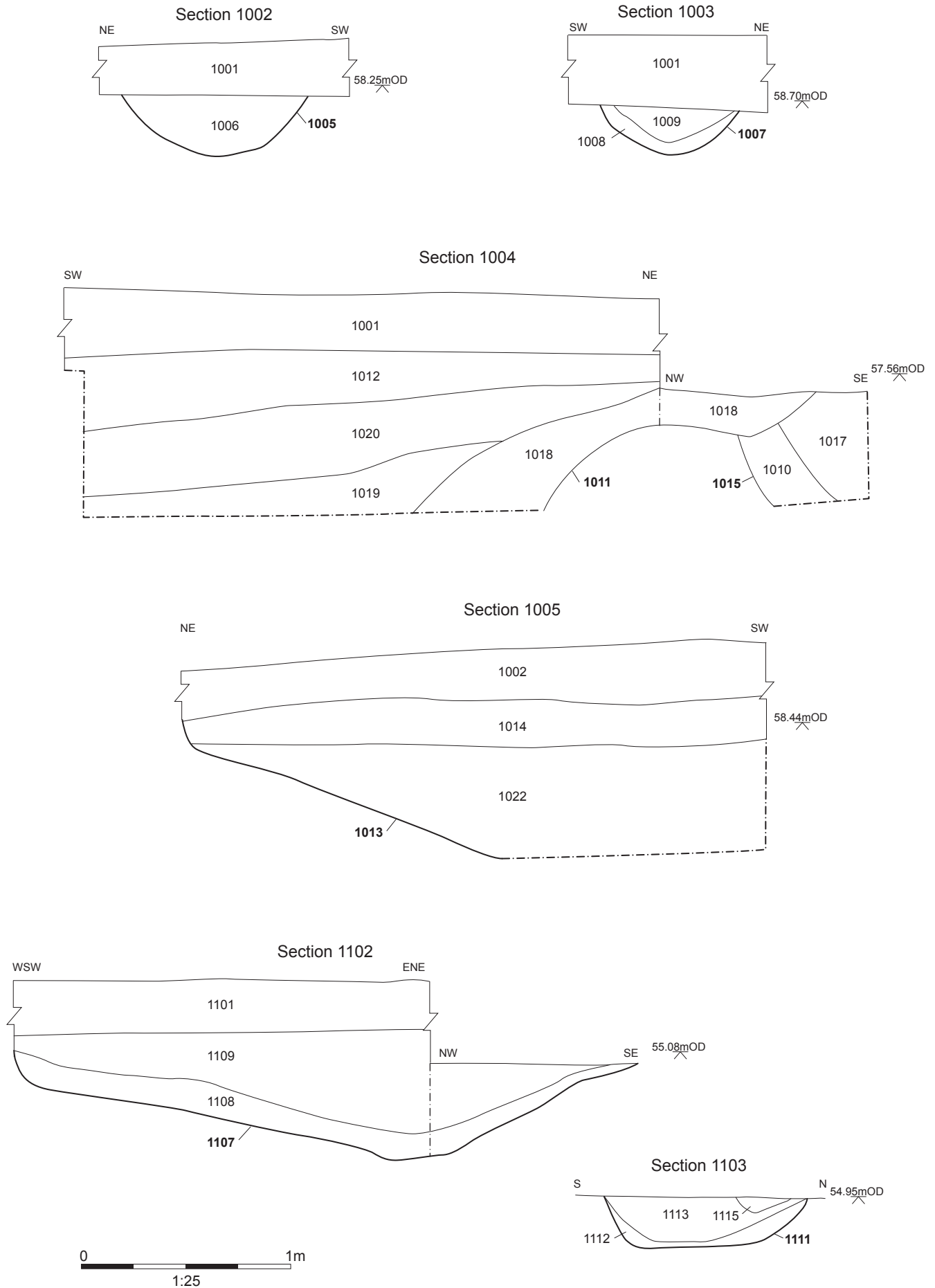


Figure 13: Sections from Trenches 10 and 11

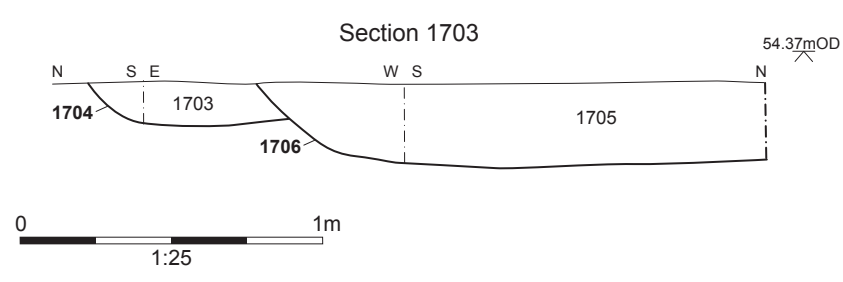
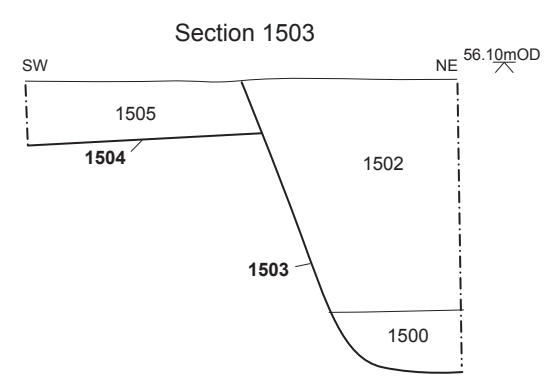
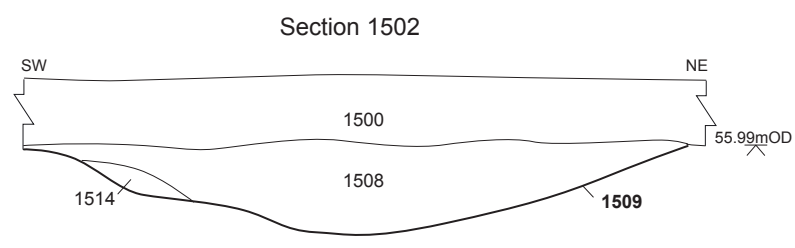
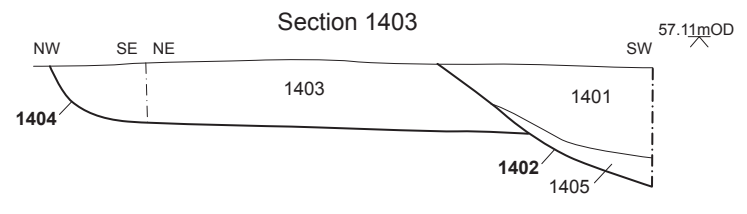
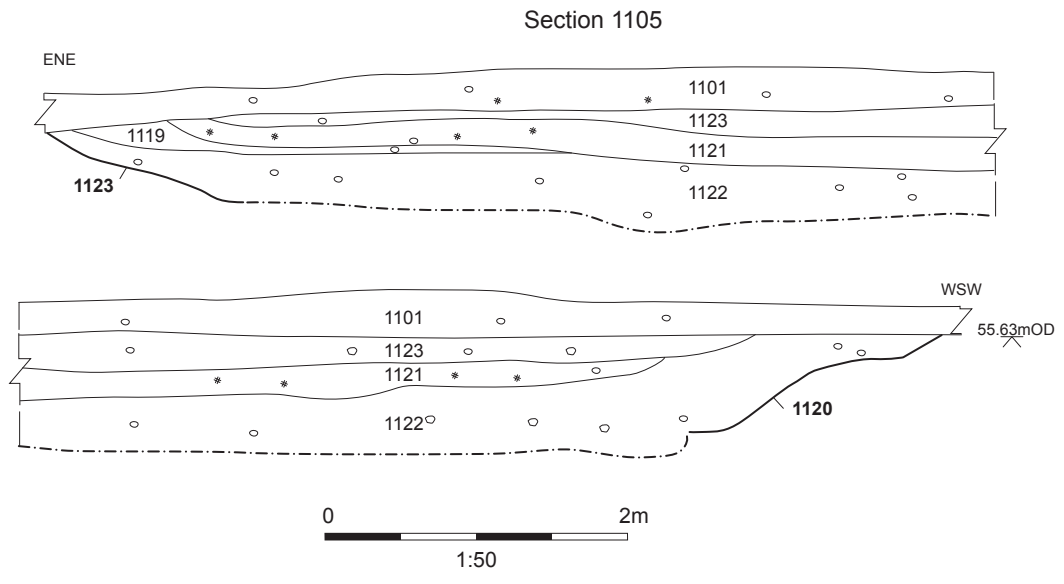


Figure 14: Sections from Trenches 11, 14, 15 and 17

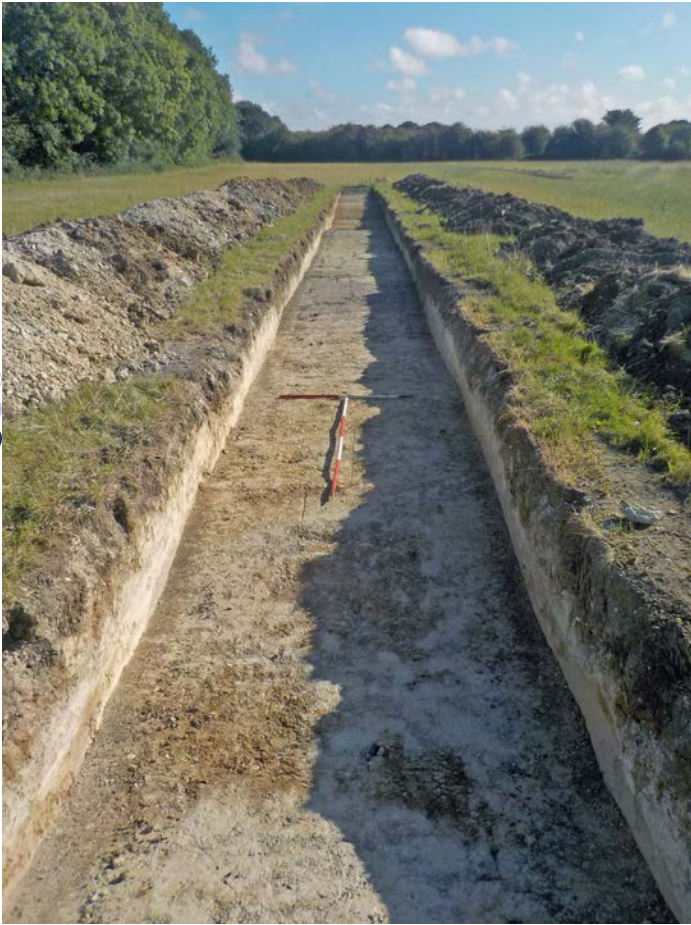


Plate 1: Trench 5 - view to NE



Plate 2: Trench 15 - view to NE



Plate 3: Trench 16 - view to SE



Plate 4: Trench 3 - ditch 304, view to NE



Plate 5: Trench 7 - posthole 712, view to N



Plate 6: Trench 8 - ditches 807 and 809, view to SE



Plate 7: Trench 10 - ditch 1013, view to SE



Plate 8: Trench 14 - ditches 1402 and 1404, view to N



Plate 9: Trench 15 - ditches 1503 and 1504, view to SE



Plate 10: Trench 17 - ditches 1704 and 1706, view to W



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

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX20ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*