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Prepared by: Mariusz Gorniak (Project Officer)
Checked by: Tim Allen (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by: Chris Hayden (Senior Project Manager)
Approved for Issue by: David Score (Head of Fieldwork)
Signature:

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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

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A355 Beaconsfield Eastern Relief Road

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Mariusz Gorniak and Tim Allen

*With contributions from Edward Biddulph, Lee Broderick,
Sharon Cook, John Cotter, Mike Donnelly, Ian R Scott and
illustrations by Benjamin Brown, Charles Rousseaux, and
Markus Dylewski*

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Summary

A total of fifty four trenches 25m long and 1.9m wide were excavated, according to the layout in the Written Scheme of Investigations approved by P Markham of BCC.

Seventeen of the trenches (1, 2, 9, 11, 15, 27, 29, 30, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, and 51-54) proved to be devoid of archaeology. Features uncovered and excavated in Trenches 18, 21, and 23 proved to be natural formations.

In the northern field (Trenches 1-32), few of the soilmarks that were investigated contained dating evidence. Nevertheless, there was a scatter of undated ditches and probable pits across this area, which represent human activity of one or more periods. The absence of finds suggests that this activity was peripheral to settlement.

The ring ditch suggested by the geophysical survey was investigated by Trench 10, but proved to be a large pit some 12m across and 1.1m deep of late post-medieval date with redeposited natural filling the centre over a dark, greyish-brown sandy silt. Finds of various types were recovered, indicating an 18th or early 19th century date. The purpose of this feature is still unclear.

One flint knife was recovered from a gully in Trench 3 and another from a pit in Trench 25. The latter feature also contained a whetstone. Otherwise finds from the north-west end of the site, like those from the deep pit in Trench 10, were post-medieval, and mainly from field boundaries, except for the pit in Trench 25 and a pit in Trench 24, where a couple of small pieces of Roman pottery were present.

Trenches alongside the eastern edge of the northern field contained colluvial layers (at the deepest point c. 1.0m thick), overlaying natural geology. These also overlay archaeological features in Trenches 31 and 32 at the north-east corner of the site. Trench 31 contained two ditches at right angles, one very large, and Trench 32 a ditch and a pit. None of the ditches contained dating evidence, but the pit contained small fragments of early Roman pottery, showing that the colluvium here was Roman or later.

Archaeological features were more distinct, and more numerous, in the central and southern part of the site, and here concentrations of struck flints and Roman pottery were found. Roman pottery was found in ditches at right angles in Trenches 35 and 36, in a pit in Trench 40, and in ditches in Trench 45. Other categories of find in these features included a small piece of possibly Roman window glass from Trench 46, fired clay and burnt flint in Trench 40, and burnt flint in Trench 45.

The ditches in Trench 45 included a corner, suggesting a small enclosure, and a larger enclosure is suggested by ditches in Trenches 35 and 36. There was also a charcoal-filled pit in Trench 45.

Struck flint was recovered as residual finds from Trenches 25, 35, 45, and from a small pit in Trench 34 and a deeper pit in Trench 37. The deep pit was 5m across and was not bottomed, so could represent a shaft rather than a pit.

Post-medieval field boundaries were found in Trenches 45 and 47, and an undated small pit in Trench 50, but south of this the trenches were devoid of archaeological activity.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Tim Allen. The fieldwork was directed by Mariusz I. Gorniak, who was supported by Bob McIntosh, Ben Slader, Ann Bolein, Adam Fellingham, Povilas Chepauskas, and David Pinches. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Diana Chard. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Sharon Cook, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and project details

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Balfour Beatty on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the route of the A355 Improvement Scheme, a proposed relief road east of Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire (centred at NGR 495100 190750).

1.1.2 Advice from the BCC Senior Archaeological Officer Philip Markham established that the proposed development has the potential to impact unknown heritage assets of historical and archaeological interest. Paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCMS 2015) states that:

Local Planning Authorities require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any historic assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner appropriate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (any archive generated) publicly accessible.

1.1.3 In accordance with this requirement, consultation with Philip Markham has established a trench layout indicating the scope of work necessary to meet the Local Authority's requirements to inform the planning process. OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation outlining how OA would conduct the evaluation to match those requirements (OA 2017).

1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCMS 2015), with the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Manager's guide (Historic England 2015), and in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, of which OA is a Registered Organisation. The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the standards and guidance for archaeological excavation and archiving (CifA 2014a; CifA 2014b).

1.1.5 This report provides the detail of the archaeological and other features found during the evaluation, reviews the evaluation aims in the light of the discoveries, and assesses the significance of the results.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the eastern periphery of Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire, and is bounded by the A355 Amersham Road on the west, by Minerva Way on the south and by the railway on the north. On the east side there are open fields.

1.2.2 The corridor of the proposed relief road crosses three agricultural fields between the A355 at the north-west end (NGR 494790 191028) and Minerva Way at the south-east end (NGR 495380 190453). The area of proposed development extends over a length of 900m, and the area to be evaluated comprises 6.07 hectares (Fig. 1).

1.2.3 The site is located within an undulating landscape between 93m and 112m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The lowest area is in the eastern part of the northern field while the highest is in the central part of the southern field.

1.2.4 The three fields are all under grass; there is a copse to the west of the proposed route, and several ponds within the fields both to the west and east.

1.2.5 The drift geology of the area is mapped as Beaconsfield Gravel, formed of sand and gravel. The southern part of the proposed route is underlain by the Lambeth Group Formation, comprising variable sequences of silty and sandy clays, with some sands and gravels, minor limestone and lignite and occasional sandstone and conglomerate. The northern part of the route is underlain by the Seaford Chalk Formation and the Newhaven Chalk Formation, consisting of chalk and marls (Geology of Britain Viewer 2016).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL

2.1 Archaeological and historical background

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was described by Jacobs as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Environmental Statement for the scheme (Jacobs 2016), and only the relevant parts will be summarized here.

2.1.2 No previous fieldwalking or archaeological excavation has taken place within the site, but a geophysical gradiometer (magnetometer) survey was carried out by Headland Archaeology in 2016 (Jacobs 2016, appendix 6B; Fig. 2). This revealed a possible ring ditch 11m in diameter towards the north-west end of the scheme corridor, with a possible central pit and several others outside the ditch.

2.1.3 A potential Bronze Age Bowl Barrow known as 'The Mount' lies c. 700m north-east of the line of the scheme within Beaconsfield golf course (Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record MBC533, Scheduled Monument 27128). This may alternatively be of later date, associated with the 18th century Wilton Park Mansion.

2.1.4 Several prehistoric struck flints have been recovered from within 1km of the scheme: a fragment of Neolithic polished axe (MBC4725), a Neolithic flake (MBC1154) and two Neolithic or Bronze Age scrapers (MBC7021).

2.1.5 No Iron Age remains are known within the vicinity of the site.

2.1.6 Two potentially Roman roads, one known as Viatores Route 163, are believed to cross south of Beaconsfield. These routes are not however confirmed. A Roman coin was found somewhere in the vicinity of the site (MBC26598).

2.1.7 An early medieval settlement area has been identified south-west of the scheme, between Beaconsfield Old Town and Milton Park Mansion, just east of the A355 and north of Minerva Way (Buckinghamshire County Council 2008, figs 27 and 28). This is around 500m south-west of the scheme. Evidence for this is however limited.

2.1.8 A manor is recorded at Beaconsfield in Domesday Book, and the town was focused on the cross-roads of the London to Oxford road and the route from Windsor to Aylesbury. No finds of medieval date have been recovered from the vicinity of the site.

2.2 Potential

2.2.1 The potential for early prehistoric activity was high. Based upon the results of the geophysical survey, there was a possible barrow within the line of the proposed route (Fig. 2), and an upstanding possible barrow is known within 700m to the north-east, as well as Neolithic and Bronze Age lithic finds in the wider area.

2.2.2 The potential for Iron Age activity was believed to be low, as no finds have been recovered from the site or from the vicinity.

2.2.3 The potential for Roman activity was also low, with only a single coin found in the vicinity of the site.

2.2.4 There was potential for early Medieval activity, although the reported settlement is 500m from the line of the scheme. No later Medieval remains are known within the site. In

the post-medieval period the site was part of Milton Manor, and maps suggest that the site has remained agricultural land.

3 EVALUATION AIMS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- 3.1.2 To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other remains.
- 3.1.3 To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- 3.1.4 To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- 3.1.5 To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- 3.1.6 To determine the potential for the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- 3.1.7 To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- 3.1.8 To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

3.2 Specific aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:
 - i. To investigate whether there is evidence of Neolithic activity within the area of the scheme, and if so, to establish its extent, character and date within this period;
 - ii. To establish whether the circular geophysical anomaly towards the NW end of the proposed route is a prehistoric ring ditch, and if so, to date this;
 - iii. To establish whether there are burials within and around this, and of what type;
 - iv. To establish whether there is any associated activity within the wider area around the possible ring ditch, and if so, to characterize and date this. If such activity exists, to determine whether it is all broadly contemporary with the ring ditch, or spread over a long period or periods of time;
 - v. To characterize and date the possible linear features indicated by geophysical anomalies in parts of the scheme;
 - vi. To investigate whether early Medieval activity extended into the area of the scheme, and if so, to characterize and date this;
 - vii. To clarify whether the discrete geophysical anomalies of varied size and shape are of geological origin or may indicate further archaeological activity, and, if the latter, to characterize and date this.

4 PROJECT-SPECIFIC EXCAVATION AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY

4.1 Scope of works

4.1.1 An evaluation consisting of 54 trenches, 25m long and 1.9m wide, constituting a 4% sample of the area, was excavated and recorded (Figs 3 and 4).

4.1.2 Where archaeological features were evident in the results of the geophysical survey, trenches were targeted upon them. The only clear archaeological feature was the possible ring ditch towards the north-west end of the scheme. A number of possible linear features were also suspected from the survey plot, and trenches were also positioned to test if these were genuine.

4.1.3 Otherwise the trenches were laid out to provide an even coverage of the scheme area.

4.2 Programme

4.2.1 The opening, excavation, recording and backfilling of the 54 trenches took 3 weeks to complete with a team consisting of Project Officer Mariusz Gorniak assisted by Supervisor Robert McIntosh and up to 6 Project Archaeologists (50 man-days on site), under the management of Tim Allen, Senior Project Manager.

4.2.2 All fieldwork undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (South) is overseen by the Head of Fieldwork, David Score MCIfA.

4.3 Site specific methodology

4.3.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in the WSI Appendix A. Standard methodologies for Geomatics and Survey, Environmental evidence, Artefactual evidence and Burials were also supplied in the WSI (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).

4.3.2 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken.

4.3.3 The trenches were set out using a GPS, and were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.3.4 Topsoil and overburden were excavated carefully in level spits using a 360 tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under close archaeological supervision.

4.3.5 Topsoil and other overburden were removed and stored separately. Spoil was monitored for finds both visually and using a metal detector.

4.3.6 A ramp was created at one end of every trench to aid access and egress.

4.3.7 Trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to archaeological deposits or features which appeared worthy of preservation *in situ* or more detailed investigation than is required for the purposes of evaluation. Where the sequence of deposits overlying the natural, or the depth of revealed archaeological features, exceeded 1.2m, trenches were stepped out to allow safe access for excavation and recording.

4.3.8 No structures, features or finds appearing to merit preservation *in situ* were encountered.

4.3.9 Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

4.3.10 Particular attention was paid to the possibility of buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits, but none was encountered.

4.3.11 No environmental deposits of particular or unusual significance were found.

4.3.12 Sampling for scientific dating (radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology or Archaeomagnetic dating) was considered, but no features warranting scientific dating at evaluation stage, and containing suitable materials to make this practicable, were found.

4.3.13 Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.3.14 Sections of any excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20). At least one representative section from one longitudinal face of each trench was recorded. All sections were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum.

4.3.15 Photographs were taken of all trenches and archaeological features both in colour and in black-and-white.

4.3.16 None of the trenches was backfilled without the permission of the BCC Senior Archaeological Officer. Following his first site visit, the BCC Senior Archaeological Officer agreed that trenches devoid of archaeology could be backfilled without his prior visual inspection, provided that photographs of the trenches were emailed to him in advance of backfilling.

4.3.17 The trenches were backfilled in correct stratigraphic order and levelled off.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction and presentation of results

5.1.1 The results of the evaluation and further archaeological mitigation 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 form the content of Appendix A. Finds reports are presented in Appendix B, and environmental reports in Appendix C.

5.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

5.1.3 The context list in Appendix A starts with Trench 1 and continues in numerical order through the trenches and areas.

5.1.4 The excavated trenches are described in three parts: those in the northern field (Trenches 1-32), those in the central field (Trenches 33-36), and those in the southern field (Trenches 37-54). Trenches 1-36 are shown on Fig. 3, Trenches 37-54 in Fig. 4.

5.2 General soils and ground conditions

5.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches varied slightly. The natural geology was generally a friable, silty sand with flint gravel. The proportions of silt varied, sometimes being more silt than gravel, and in places hollows in the gravel were filled by patches of light grey silty clay. The natural gravel was overlain by a B-Horizon formed of a friable brown sandy silt with flint and quartzite pebbles. The pebbles were mostly rounded and small to medium-sized (1-30mm). The subsoil was in turn overlain by topsoil, which was a friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with mostly rounded flint and quartzite pebbles.

5.2.2 Trenches in the eastern part of the northern field (Nos 25, 27-32) and three south westernmost trenches in the southern field (Nos 52-54) had thick colluvial horizons (up to c. 1.0m thick) overlying natural geology.

5.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout.

5.2.4 Archaeological features, where present, were not always easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, as the fills of some of the pits and ditches were very similar to the fills of natural depressions and frequent tree-throw holes in the gravel.

5.2.5 Seventeen of the trenches (Nos 1, 2, 9, 11, 15, 27, 29, 30, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, and 51-54) proved to be devoid of archaeology.

5.2.6 Soilmarks investigated by hand were found in the other 37 trenches. A summary of the results is given below.

5.3 Trenches in the northern field (Figure 3)

Trenches 1-3

5.3.1 Trenches 1, 2, and 3 were located in the north western corner of the northern field (Fig. 3).

5.3.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were devoid of archaeology.

5.3.3 The stratigraphic sequence of soils horizons in all three trenches consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand c. 0.5m below the current ground level.

5.3.4 Two features were uncovered and investigated in Trench 3.

5.3.5 Cut 302 was a ditch aligned NNE-SSW measuring 0.96m wide and 0.38m deep, with sloping sides and a slightly pointed base. It had a single fill of brown slightly clayey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles, which contained a piece of worked flint of possibly Neolithic date (Fig. 5, section 300).

5.3.6 Linear feature 305, aligned east – west, extending eastwards beyond the trench, was interpreted as a possible ditch terminus (Plate 1). It was 1.65m wide and 0.51m deep with sloping sides, and a flat base. Its single fill, composed of silty sand with pebbles, did not contain any finds.

Trenches 4-8

5.3.7 Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were located in the north western part of the northern field (Fig. 3). The soil sequence in these trenches was similar to that described above.

5.3.8 Trench 4 revealed two undated features (cuts 402 and 405). One of these was selected for sample excavation with the aid of a machine.

5.3.9 Pit 402 was roughly circular, 1.0m in diameter and 0.32m deep, with asymmetric sides and a slightly uneven base (Fig. 5, section 400). Neither of its two fills contained any finds.

5.3.10 Unexcavated feature 405 was an irregular oblong up to 2.0m long, with a silty sand fill.

5.3.11 Trench 5 contained one sub-oval feature, extending eastwards beyond the trench. This was 1.33m wide and 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill contained no finds.

5.3.12 Trench 6 was located to test one of the numerous discrete magnetic anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Harrison 2016; see Fig. 10). It proved to contain a linear feature (602) and a possible pit (604).

5.3.13 The ditch matched the location of the magnetic anomaly, but since other similar anomalies did not correspond to archaeological features, the correlation in Trench 6 may be accidental.

5.3.14 Ditch 602 was aligned NNE-SSW, and was 2.1m wide and 0.52m deep (Fig. 5, sections 601 and 603). It had sloping sides and a concave base, and cutting both natural geology and the subsoil above. Its single fill (a silty sand with pebbles) did not contain any finds.

5.3.15 Pit 604 was circular with steep sides and a flattish base, and was filled with sterile sandy deposits (Fig. 5, section 602).

5.3.16 Trench 7 also contained two undated features: a possible ditch (702), aligned north-east to south-west, with sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, section 700) and a pit (704), 0.59 in diameter and 0.15m deep, with a single fill of silty sand (Fig. 5, section 701).

5.3.17 Trench 8 was laid out across a discrete, amorphous magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 10). This was confirmed to be of geological origin. The trench also contained a single oval pit (803), which was 0.85m wide and 0.34m deep, with vertical sides

and a flat base (Fig. 5, section 800; Plate 2). Its upper fill was a very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles. It contained a piece of either post-medieval or early 19th-century brick (not retained). The lower fill was similar to the subsoil and contained no finds. The feature could be related to the late post-medieval/19th-century feature uncovered in Trench 10 (see below).

Trenches 9-15

5.3.18 Trenches 9 to 15 were located in the central western and south western part of the northern field (Fig. 3). Their soil sequence was similar to that in Trenches 1-3, except that the subsoil horizon was thinner and the natural geology contained clayey material.

5.3.19 Trench 9 was devoid of archaeology.

5.3.20 Trench 10 was located across a circular magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 10). The survey suggested that this feature was of archaeological origin, and could represent the ring ditch of a ploughed-out prehistoric barrow. The anomaly was confirmed as a man-made feature, though of very different character to the suggested interpretation.

5.3.21 The uncovered part of the circular feature, whose cut was numbered 1002, was 12.3m across, with a reddish gravel centre and a dark soilmark around this (Plate 3). It proved to consist of a large pit 1.08m deep with gently sloping sides (Fig. 5, section 1001; Plate 4). There were two fills. The lower and outer fill (1003) was a friable brownish-grey sandy silt with some clayey inclusions and frequent small-sized pebbles, which contained glazed pottery sherds, glass fragments, a copper alloy buckle, a piece of horseshoe, and nail fragments (all dated to 18th-19th century). This deposit was overlain by a firm, compact, orange-brown silty sand with some clayey inclusions and very frequent pebbles, which was numbered 1004. This also contained 18th- to 19th-century finds. Both fills were overlain by topsoil and cut by a land-drain.

5.3.22 Even though feature 1002 provided dating evidence, its character/function remains obscure, as the plan appears very regular for a quarry. It could have had an agricultural purpose, but the limited investigation at evaluation stage does not allow for closer interpretation.

5.3.23 Trench 11 was set out to cross an ENE-WSW aligned line of magnetic anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 10), but proved to be devoid of archaeological features, exposing only an animal burrow and two subsoil-filled undulations in the natural geology.

5.3.24 Trench 12 exposed one ovoid feature, cut 1202. This was 2.45m across and 0.81m deep, but had asymmetric sides and a very uneven base (Fig. 5, section 1200). Three fills with varying contents of silt and gravel were distinguished within the cut, but none contained any finds. The feature is interpreted as a large tree-throw hole.

5.3.25 The trench was also located to cross a discrete magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 10), but no corresponding archaeological feature was found. The uncovered tree-throw hole did not match the location of the anomaly.

5.3.26 Trench 13 revealed a linear feature, which was recorded as cut 1303 (Plate 5). It was aligned east - west, was 1.15m wide and 0.4m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The feature had two fills, fill 1304 being a loose gravelly sand on the north side, and 1305 a

slightly darker sandy silt. The very steep angle between these fills may indicate that 1305 was filling a recut of the ditch. Neither of the excavated deposits contained finds.

5.3.27 Unlike the other trenches in this part of the northern field, Trench 14 contained a 0.1m thick yellowish-brown silt with pebbles (layer 1402) below the subsoil (1401) and overlying the natural geology (here numbered 1403). Layer 1402 did not contain any finds. The layer was interpreted initially as colluvium, but the topography at this point is fairly flat, so this appears unlikely. As this trench is situated at the edge of the field, it is possible that it represents an earlier build-up of ploughsoil, which was not entirely removed by later cultivation.

5.3.28 The subsoil and the underlying deposits were cut by an east - west aligned linear feature, 1410 (Fig. 5, section 1400; Plate 6). It was 1.5m wide and 0.6m deep, with sloping sides and a narrow steeper-sided slot at the bottom with a flat base. Its single fill was a brown to dark-greyish brown sandy silt, which contained a piece of ceramic building material (CBM) dated to the 15th – 17th centuries and a piece of slate.

5.3.29 Below the subsoil, and cut by ditch 1410, a series of possible cuts (1403, 1404 and 1408) were discovered and investigated (Fig. 5, section 1400). These were initially interpreted as possibly earlier phases of ditch 1410, but were stratigraphically separated from it by the subsoil, and had irregular edges and fills, which all had diffuse edges and were without finds. This suggests that this was either a large tree-throw hole at the field edge or a geological formation.

5.3.30 Trench 15 had a similar soil sequence to Trenches 9-13, and was without archaeological features.

Trenches 16-19

5.3.31 Trenches 16 to 19 were located in the central southern part of the northern field (Fig. 3). The soil sequence in these trenches consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty sand topsoil, either a yellowish-brown or brown silty sand subsoil, and a sandy natural geology with pebbles/gravel and some light grey silty patches. However, the thickness of the topsoil and subsoil over the natural geology was greater - on average c. 0.65m – than it was in other trenches.

5.3.32 Trench 16 had two partially exposed features (cuts 1602 and 1604), both of which were investigated by hand-excavation.

5.3.33 Feature 1602 was sub-circular, extending westwards beyond the trench, and was 1.1m wide and 1.35m deep, with a very steep side and a concave base (Plates 7 and 8). Due to its depth the base was emptied by machine. It was filled with a single, firm sandy silt with pebbles containing no finds.

5.3.34 Feature 1604 was aligned north east – south west, and extended south-westwards beyond the trench. It had steep and sloping sides and a concave base, and was 0.48m wide and 0.46m deep (Fig. 6, section 1601). It had a single fill lacking any finds. This feature is interpreted as a possible ditch terminus.

5.3.35 Trench 17 contained three features, all of which were investigated. Cut 1705 was sub-rounded in plan and was 1.2m across and 0.4m deep, with gently sloping sides and an undulating base. Cut 1707 was slightly larger, being 1.4m across and 0.4m deep, and had an

irregular plan and an uneven base. No finds came from the fill of either, and these were probably tree-throw holes.

5.3.36 The third feature (cut 1703) was a pit 0.98m in diameter. This feature had vertical and near-vertical sides, and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m by hand, but due to the depth could not be excavated further by hand for health and safety reasons. As the pit extended northwards beyond the trench, the limit of excavation was extended by two metres, exposing the whole feature, and a machine was then used to bottom the feature. The friable fill in the section then partly collapsed, preventing access for detailed recording, but the base lay at around 1.5m. There was only a single fill, which did not contain any finds.

5.3.37 One feature (cut 1803) was exposed and explored in Trench 18. This was amorphous, and extended northwards beyond the trench. The exposed part measured 1.64m across and was 0.75m deep, with irregular sides and an unevenly concave base (Fig. 6, section 1800). The feature had two fills – silty sand and sandy silt with pebbles – but no finds. It was interpreted as a possible pit.

5.3.38 Trench 19 exposed three soilmarks, and the trench was extended northwards in order to characterise one of these features. One appears to have been an undulation in the natural geology, another a tree-throw hole, and the third (1902) was a possible circular pit, 0.73m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with asymmetric sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, section 1900). Its single fill contained no finds.

Trenches 20-27

5.3.39 Trenches 20 to 27 were located in the south-eastern part of the northern field (Fig. 3). The soil sequence in most of them was very similar to that described above, except for Trenches 20, 25 and 27, which had colluvial deposits below the subsoil.

5.3.40 Trench 20 had a 0.25m thick layer of firm, brown sandy silt with pebbles below the subsoil and overlying the natural geology, which was friable sand and gravel. The layers below the subsoil were cut by a north – south-aligned linear feature at least 7m long (cut 2003), with its terminal within the trench. In order to expose the feature's full width, the trench was extended eastwards. Feature 2003 appeared to be 2.42m wide and 0.68m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Its single fill was mottled, and comprised patches of redeposited material from subsoil, topsoil, and from the natural geology. It contained frequent large pieces of timber (including a c. 3m long tree trunk, sawn off at its base – see Plate 9). A piece of CBM from the fill was dated to the 17th – 19th centuries.

5.3.41 South of the northern field, a length of surviving field boundary consisting of a ditch, trees and shrubs, was in line with ditch 2003, which could therefore have been a former northern continuation of this boundary, the hedge now felled and buried in the backfilled ditch.

5.3.42 Another feature explored in Trench 20 was cut 2005, which was an elongated soilmark 0.72m across and was 0.28m deep. This feature, which extended eastwards beyond the trench, was not investigated by hand, as it appeared to be of geological origin.

5.3.43 Trench 21 revealed several sandy silt soilmarks in the natural geology, one of which (cut 2102) was explored by hand. This was amorphous in plan, survived 0.3m deep, and had an asymmetric profile and uneven edges. It is interpreted as a tree-throw hole. All of these soilmarks were either geological formations or bioturbations.

5.3.44 Trench 22 had six features cutting the friable natural sand and gravel. Three of them were amorphous and asymmetric with sterile fills, so were judged to be of natural origin and were not investigated further. The three other soilmarks - cuts 2202, 2204 and 2206 - were more regular and were excavated by hand. The first two possibly represent undated pits; the third (cuts 2206 and 2208) may represent a ditch terminus.

5.3.45 Pit 2202 was 1.4m wide and was sub-oval in plan, extending northwards beyond the trench. It had sloping sides, was 0.47m deep and had a single fill. It was truncated by another sub-oval feature, 2204, also extending beyond the trench edge, which was 1.66m wide and 0.76m deep, with a single sandy fill (Plate 10).

5.3.46 A linear feature, aligned ENE-WSW and terminating within the trench on the east, was characterized by two hand-dug interventions. The terminal (cut 2206) was 0.8m wide and 0.26m deep with symmetric sides and a concave profile, while cut 2208 was 0.29m deep with a similar profile (Fig. 6, section 2202). The cuts were filled with single silty sand fills that did not contain any finds.

5.3.47 Trench 23 was located across the line of a large magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 10). The anomaly appears to correspond with a change in the natural geology partway along the trench. The only soilmarks exposed were of natural origin. One of these amorphous soilmarks (cut 2302) was sample-excavated by hand, and had an asymmetric profile, an uneven base and a single silty sand fill without finds. This is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

5.3.48 Trench 24 exposed part of a pit (2402). It was sub-oval, extending eastwards beyond the trench, and was bowl-profiled, with shelving sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, section 2400). The feature was 0.84m wide and 0.22m deep, and its single fill, a brown sandy silt with pebbles, contained a couple of Roman pottery sherds.

5.3.49 In Trench 25 the subsoil overlay a 0.3m thick colluvial layer of greyish-brown silty sand. Within the subsoil a patch that had been burnt *in situ* was found, and was numbered 2504. No clear cut could be distinguished for the feature, but it contained a clay pipe stem dated to the 18th or 19th century AD.

5.3.50 No finds were recovered from the colluvium (2502). Below this, seven soilmarks were found. Four of these, all of which extended beyond the limits of the trench, were irregular, and were interpreted as of natural origin, so were not excavated. Three more regular soilmarks in the southern half of the trench (cuts 2505, 2507, and 2509) were however investigated by hand.

5.3.51 Of these three, cut 2505, was ovoid, and was 1.03m across, with uneven sides varying from shelving to sloping in angle, and an uneven base (Fig. 25, section 2500). It had a single fill without finds, and is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

5.3.52 Cut 2507 was 1.85m wide and continued north-westwards and south-eastwards beyond the trench. It was thought to represent a ditch, but the hand excavations proved it to be an oval pit more than 1.2m deep with almost vertical sides (Fig. 6, section 2501). Due to its depth it was not bottomed. It was possibly truncated by a shallower linear feature with sloping sides, but the fills of both the pit and the linear feature were indistinguishable dark brown silty sands, and so the pit may instead represent a sump for the ditch. As a result, both the ditch and the pit were given the same number. No finds came from the fill of either.

5.3.53 Feature 2509 was similar to feature 2507. It also had sloping sides in its upper part, which steepened gradually to almost vertical at a depth of 1.2m, at which depth hand excavation had to stop because of the soft and unstable sides of the feature (Fig. 6, section 2502; Plate 11). This feature was sub-oval in plan and extended north-westwards beyond the trench. The feature's single fill, a friable, dark brown silty sand with pebbles numbered 2510, contained a small piece of Roman pottery, a whetstone, and a late Neolithic flint knife.

5.3.54 Trench 26, located in the south-eastern corner of the northern field, contained possible pit 2602 and tree-throw hole 2604, both of which were excavated. The pit was sub-circular, extending eastwards beyond the trench, with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 6, section 2600). It had a single fill that did not contain any finds, and was truncated by the tree-throw hole, which was an amorphous feature with uneven sides and base, which was also undated.

5.3.55 Trench 27 did not contain any soilmarks that could be interpreted as archaeological features. The sequence of soils in the trench consisted of natural gravel overlain by two distinctive deposits with a combined thickness of 0.75, and then topsoil. The lower deposit was interpreted as a colluvial deposit; the upper was probably subsoil (B-Horizon), but neither contained any finds.

Trenches 28-32

5.3.56 Trenches 28 to 32 were located alongside the eastern edge of the northern field (Fig. 3). All of them contained colluvial deposits. The area containing these trenches was not covered by the geophysical survey (Fig. 10).

5.3.57 Trench 28 contained two subsoil layers below the topsoil and over the natural: a 0.39m thick, brown silty sand with pebbles overlying a 1.13m thick dark brown silty sand with pebbles (Plate 12). These layers sealed a ditch terminus numbered both 2808 and 2805, and a tree-throw hole (2803), both cut into the natural geology. The ditch was aligned NNE-SSW with its terminal at the south. It was 0.36m wide and only 0.17m deep (Fig. 6, section 2802) with a single fill, which did not contain any finds. The tree-throw hole was 1.44m wide and 0.2m deep with asymmetric, irregular sides and an uneven base.

5.3.58 Trenches 29 and 30 did not contain any archaeological features and the depth of their colluvial deposits below topsoil was 0.65m and 0.81m respectively (Plate 13).

5.3.59 Trench 31 contained three successive colluvial layers: 3112 overlying the natural, 3106 over 3112, and 3101 sealing 3106, together measuring c. 0.77m thick below the topsoil. A large ditch, 3107, cut 3106 below 3101. The ditch was 3.78m wide and so was excavated by machine. It proved to be c 1.4m deep (Fig. 7, sections 3100 and 3101), and was aligned NNE-SSW, with a slightly asymmetric bowl-shaped profile (with its eastern side steeper). None of its fills contained any finds.

5.3.60 A second linear feature, 3103, ran ENE-WSW across the trench (Plate 14). It was only recognized at the top of the natural geology, where it was 0.98m wide and 0.45m deep with two similar, sterile fills. The ditch was not seen cutting colluvial layer 1312 and 1306, but its upper fill was very similar to both of these, so the relationship of this ditch to the colluvial fills is unclear.

5.3.61 West of ditch 3107, an oval feature 1m long with a brown sandy silt fill was exposed, but was not excavated due to the depth of the overlying deposits. No finds were visible on its surface.

5.3.62 Trench 32, located at the north eastern corner of the field, had a relatively shallow colluvial subsoil (0.52m thick), which sealed ditch 3203 and possible pit 3205.

5.3.63 The ditch (3203) was 0.96m wide, aligned ENE-WSW, with sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 7, section 3201). Its single, brown silty sand fill contained no finds. The pit, extending eastwards beyond Trench 32, was 1.32m wide and 0.8m deep, with sloping sides and a flattish base. A circular soilmark in the base may have been a posthole, but the fill was very similar to that of the pit and so was recorded as part of the same feature (Fig. 7, section 3202).

5.3.64 The pit had three fills (3206-8), of which the middle fill (a greyish brown silty sand with gravel) contained pottery sherds dated to c 50BC-AD100.

5.4 Trenches in the central field (Figures 3 and 4)

5.4.1 Trenches 33 to 36 were located in the north-east corner of the central field (Figs 3 and 4).

5.4.2 The soil sequence in this area was relatively uniform in three of the trenches (33-35) – with the subsoil/B-Horizon under the topsoil and over natural geology comprising either a yellowish brown sand and gravel or a light brown slightly clayey sand and gravel. The depth of natural geology varied from 0.36 to 0.60m below the current ground level.

5.4.3 In Trench 36 the topsoil horizon overlay a clayey sand natural geology with no subsoil in between (Plate 18).

5.4.4 Trench 33 was positioned to cross a linear magnetic anomaly (Fig. 10), and found a linear feature in the corresponding location towards its southern end, which was numbered 3303 (Fig. 3). The feature was aligned ENE-WSW, and was 0.87m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 8, section 3300). Its single fill contained a piece of a post-medieval peg-tile.

5.4.5 Trench 34 was set across a number of magnetic anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 10). Three features were found: an amorphous tree-throw hole, a ditch (3403) and a pit (3405), the last two of which were excavated by hand. Both the ditch and the pit roughly corresponded to discrete anomalies, though there was no linear anomaly corresponding to ditch 3403.

5.4.6 The ditch (3403) was aligned NNE-SSW, and continued beyond the trench in both directions, but became shallower to the west. It was 0.72m wide and 0.39m deep with a single fill containing no finds (Fig. 8, section 3401).

5.4.7 Cut 3405 was sub-circular, and continued beyond the edge of the trench. It was 0.72m wide and 0.39m deep, with a sloping side, a flat base, and a single yellowish light grey silty sand fill, 3406, which contained a flint flake of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date (Fig. 8, section 3402).

5.4.8 A retouched flint flake was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 35. Below the subsoil, three features were exposed.

5.4.9 Pit 3503 was 1.1m wide and extended southwards beyond the trench edge. It had almost vertical sides and was more than 0.5m deep, but was not bottomed. There was a single fill devoid of finds (Plate 15).

5.4.10 Feature 3505 was ovoid, 1.42m long and 0.21m deep, with uneven sides and base (Fig. 8, section 3501; Plate 17). There was a single fill without finds. This feature is probably a tree-throw hole rather than a pit.

5.4.11 The eastern part of the trench revealed a ditch aligned north east – south west (cut 3507). This was 2.5m wide and 0.75m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 8 section 3502; Plate 16). The fill was a light yellowish-grey sandy silt, which contained Roman pottery sherds of 1st century (AD50-100) date close to the base.

5.4.12 Trench 36 also contained a ditch (3602), which was aligned north west – south east, at right angles to ditch 3507 in the adjacent trench. This had gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, section 3600). Its single fill (3603) contained a few Roman pottery sherds dated to AD50-100, and although it was shallower than ditch 3507, this ditch may have been associated with that in Trench 35, perhaps forming two sides of an enclosure.

5.5 Trenches in the southern area (Figure 4)

Trenches 37-39

5.5.1 Trenches 37, 38, and 39 were located in the northern corner of the southern field, close to its eastern boundary (Fig. 4).

5.5.2 The soil sequence was uniform in all three trenches – topsoil overlying a subsoil/B-Horizon 0.14-0.16m thick, which overlay a yellowish-brown silty sand natural with patches of light greyish brown silty sand.

5.5.3 Trench 37 exposed part of a pit that extended south and eastwards beyond the trench. The excavated part (cut 3702) was 2.1m wide, with sloping sides, and was more than 1m deep (Fig. 9, section 3701). It was not bottomed for health and safety reasons. Three fills were exposed, the lowest (3703) a firm, light grey silty clay that contained two worked prehistoric flint flakes tentatively dated to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. This pit may correspond to a discrete geophysical anomaly plotted just beyond the end of the trench.

5.5.4 Trenches 38 and 38 were devoid of archaeological features.

Trenches 40-45

5.5.5 Trenches 40 to 45 were located in the central northern part of the southern field (Fig. 4). The soil sequence in these trenches was similar to that in the trenches described above, the subsoil/B-Horizon ranging from 0.05m to 0.26m deep.

5.5.6 Trench 40 revealed parts of two features. A ditch (4002) ran NNE-SSW across the trench, and was 0.75m wide and 0.38m deep, with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 9, section 4000). Its single fill contained a few Roman pottery sherds dated to 50BC-AD100.

5.5.7 A large ovoid pit (4004), measuring 3.48m across, extended westwards beyond the trench, and was 0.81m deep with sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 9, section 4001). There were four deposits (numbered 4008-4005 from the bottom up) filling the pit, all sandy silts or silty sands of varying colour containing varying quantities of pebbles. Fill 4006 contained small pieces of charred wood identified as beech, burnt flint and fired clay, and the uppermost fill,

4005, contained Roman pottery sherds dated to 50BC – AD100. There was no burning on the base of the pit, so this material was presumably dumped into the pit.

5.5.8 Trenches 41, 43, and 44 were devoid of archaeological features. Trench 41 had been positioned to investigate a discrete magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 11), but the anomaly was not identified in the stripped trench.

5.5.9 Trench 42 contained a ditch aligned WNW-ESE (cut 4202), which was 0.66m wide and proved to be V-profiled and 0.3m deep (Fig. 9, section 4201). Its single fill was devoid of finds.

5.5.10 A linear feature running north-west to south-east just south of ditch 4202 may represent the terminus of another ditch, but was not excavated.

5.5.11 A discrete magnetic anomaly was recorded by the geophysical survey within the area of Trench 42 (Fig. 11), but did not match the location of the ditch or possible ditch terminus, and no corresponding archaeological feature was found.

5.5.12 Trench 45 contained a number of archaeological features, comprising part of an enclosure ditch (cuts 4504 and 4506), a possible ditch (4508), a second wider possible ditch (4518), a charcoal-filled pit (4510; Plate 19) and a possible pit (4512).

5.5.13 The enclosure ditch consisted of two ditches, 4504 running ENE and 4506 SSE, meeting at a corner. They were 0.8m wide and 0.44-0.45m deep, with single fills containing occasional charcoal flecks and Roman pottery sherds dated to 50BC-AD100 (Fig. 9, sections 4501 and 4506; Plate 20).

5.5.14 On its east side ditch 4506 cut the fill of gully 4508, which was aligned ENE-WSW. Ditch 4508 was 0.2m wide and 0.28m deep with a V-profile (Fig. 9, section 4504). It contained no finds in its single fill and may represent either a ditch terminus or a natural feature. It did not continue west of 4506.

5.5.15 Pit 4510 was located within the corner formed by ditches 4504 and 4506, almost opposite gully 4508, and was 1.0m across. It had sloping sides and an uneven base, was 0.17m deep, and had a single fill (1511) consisting largely of charcoal. A sample of the charcoal (Sample 1) was taken for species identification, and proved to be a mixture of oak and beech. There was no sign of burning on the base or sides of the pit.

5.5.16 Two possible ditch cuts, 4516 and 4518, lay further south, and 4518 was excavated. This was aligned ENE-WSW. It was 1.6m wide and 0.56m deep (Plate 21). It had very irregular, asymmetric sides and a flat base. Its single fill, 4517, a greyish brown silty sand, contained a piece of post-medieval CBM.

5.5.17 Two soilmarks north of 4516, a possible pit (4512) and a possible elongated pit (4514), were planned cutting the natural (Fig. 4), but were not excavated.

5.5.18 Trench 45 was set across a large magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 11) which covered most of the north end of the trench, but there was no resemblance between this anomaly and the archaeological features uncovered in this part of the trench.

Trenches 46-50

5.5.19 Trenches 46-50 were located in the central southern part of the northern field (Fig. 4). The sequence of soils in all of these trenches was very similar to those in the trenches already described in this field.

5.5.20 Trench 46 was laid out to cross two sets of curvilinear magnetic anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 11). The trench revealed an east – west aligned ditch (4603) with steep sides, eroded at the top, and a flat base (Fig. 9, section 4600). This had a single fill containing pieces of window glass and a few sherds of Roman pottery.

5.5.21 An irregular feature, 4605, further south along the trench was interpreted as a large tree-throw hole, and so was not excavated by hand.

5.5.22 Both the ditch (4603) and the probable tree-throw hole (4605) match the location of the geophysical anomalies, suggesting that 4605 may in fact have been part of a curvilinear ditch (Fig. 4).

5.5.23 Trench 47 was also laid out to cross the location of a discrete magnetic anomaly and a line of anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey (Fig. 11). Stripping revealed a north - south ditch (4702) and a modern pit.

5.5.24 Ditch 4702 was 0.94m wide and 0.48m deep (Fig. 9, section 4700). Its single fill contained a piece of CBM dated to the 15th – 17th centuries.

5.5.25 The pit was 1.9m in diameter, and pieces of modern glass and a small bottle were recovered from the surface of the fill, which was not further investigated.

5.5.26 The modern pit matched the location of the discrete geophysical anomaly, but the line of magnetic anomalies did not corresponded to the ditch, or to any difference in soils within the trench.

5.5.27 Trench 48 was also laid out to cross a line of magnetic anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Fig. 11). This corresponded roughly to the position and alignment of ditch 4802 (Fig. 4), which was 1.9m wide and was aligned NNE-SSW (Fig. 9, section 4801). The ditch was 0.78m deep with sloping sides and a concave base, and there was a primary thin basal fill (not evident in section) and a main fill, neither of which contained any finds.

5.5.28 Trench 49 revealed a ditch (4902) which was aligned east – west, and was 1.42m wide. This ditch was 0.46m deep, with steep sides and a stepped flattish base, and had four fills, 4903-4906 (Fig. 9, section 4900). It was truncated on the northern side by recut 4907, which was 0.56m wide and 0.38m deep with a V-shaped profile, and had a single fill numbered 4908. Neither the fills of 4902 nor the single fill of 4907 contained any finds.

5.5.29 The line of magnetic anomalies crossing Trench 48 and possibly corresponding to ditch 4802 also appeared to cross Trench 49, but nothing was found in the appropriate position (see Figs 4 and 11).

5.5.30 Trench 50 was also laid out to cross a discrete magnetic anomaly (Fig. 11). The trench revealed a small circular pit (5002) and a tree-throw hole (5004), but neither of these corresponded to the magnetic anomaly. There were, however, variations in the underlying geology in this trench, to one of which the anomaly was probably due (Plate 22).

5.5.31 Pit 5002 was 0.65m in diameter and 0.19m deep, with very steep sides and a flat, slightly sloping base (Fig. 9, section 5000). There two fills, neither of which contained any finds.

5.5.32 Tree-throw hole 5004 was an elongated soilmark 0.6m long and 0.17m deep, with uneven sides and an uneven base. There were no finds from its single fill.

Trenches 51-54

5.5.33 Trenches 51-54, located in the southern part of the southern field, did not contain any archaeological features.

5.5.34 The three southernmost trenches had a colluvial deposit below the subsoil (Plate 23). Its depth varied from 0.1 to 0.7m. The colluvium was lighter, and contained a larger percentage of sand and gravel, than the colluvial layers from the northern field (see above sections 5.3.39 - 5.3.62).

5.6 Finds summary

5.6.1 A small collection of struck flints was recovered, most of them tools of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The majority came from later deposits or features, but those from a pit in Trench 34 and a deep pit or shaft in Trench 37, where there were no later finds, may indicate prehistoric features.

5.6.2 A small assemblage of early Roman pottery was recovered, suggesting Roman activity on or near to the site in the 1st century AD. The pottery all came from features that contained no later finds, but the abraded and comminuted state of most of the material suggests that it had been discarded onto the ground and trampled before being incorporated into the features. One fragment of window glass was also recovered from a Roman context.

5.6.3 The burnt flint and fired clay lumps in one Roman pit may have derived from a hearth or oven nearby.

5.6.4 The rest of the finds were of post-medieval date. One or two tiles may belong to the early post-medieval period, but the majority of the finds came from the large pit in Trench 10, and are likely to be of 18th or early 19th century date.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 Ground conditions were generally good, and there was generally no problem in identifying features within the trenches, which were left open for long enough to allow for features to weather out.

6.1.2 In areas of colluvium, however, features were very poorly-defined within the colluvium, and attempts to find the edges by hand-excavation proved impossible. While features were plotted as far as was possible in the surface of the colluvium, the decision was taken to remove the colluvium and these possible features in thin spits under close archaeological supervision to the surface of the underlying natural, where they were much better defined, and excavate from there. A close watch was maintained on excavation to retrieve any finds from within these possible features, but none were seen.

6.1.3 As a result, it is unclear in one or two cases whether features were cut through the colluvium, or whether the ill-defined outlines observed in the colluvium were due simply to slight changes in the character of the colluvium where it had subsequently settled into the tops of earlier features.

6.2 Evaluation objectives and results

6.2.1 The evaluation met most of its objectives. All of the uncovered archaeological features were planned and recorded, and the vast majority were sample-excavated by hand. A few features that were found deep below the current ground level, or were over 1m deep, were not bottomed for reasons of health and safety.

6.2.2 A sample of natural features was also explored in order to determine their character, and to distinguish them from potential archaeological features. These were either tree-throw holes or variations in the natural geology.

6.2.3 The date of many of the revealed features was established by artefactual evidence. Two pits contained only late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age finds, and a number of ditches and pits contained Roman finds. A variety of other features of late post-medieval or modern date were also discovered. There were however undated features comprising pits, ditches and gullies exposed and excavated in sixteen trenches.

6.2.4 The condition and state of preservation of the uncovered features proved to be reasonable, with little disturbance from modern activity, though it is likely that many of the earlier features had been truncated by later ploughing.

6.2.5 There was no evidence of vertical stratigraphy other than the colluvial deposits, and otherwise almost all features cut only the natural geology. Only a couple of features intercut. Even though not all features were excavated to the bottom, the general depth, density, and complexity of archaeological deposits was established.

6.2.6 Charred plant remains in any quantity were only found in a few features, but where samples were taken, the remains were in a fair state of preservation. Animal bones were not preserved in any contexts except those of recent date, probably due to the acid nature of the soils. No waterlogged deposits containing environmental remains were found.

6.2.7 The generally abraded nature of the Roman pottery, and the small numbers of Roman finds of other types, suggest that the features examined were peripheral to foci of occupation. Nevertheless, a range of types of find was recovered, which might provide information about the function of, and economic activities on, the site should more extensive excavation take place.

6.2.8 Other than the undated pit containing charcoal in Trench 45, and the dumped material from a hearth or oven in a pit in Trench 40, there were no features that might indicate particular activities at the site.

6.2.9 The specific aims and objective of the evaluation were also addressed.

6.2.10 Aims i and iv. The recovery of a small assemblage of flint tools and flakes of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date has substantiated an earlier prehistoric presence on the site, with the possibility that two of the excavated features were of this date. This activity was not associated with the supposed ring ditch (which proved not to exist).

6.2.11 Aim ii. The circular magnetic anomaly identified in the geophysical survey, and investigated in Trench 10, proved not to represent the ring ditch of a prehistoric barrow, but was instead a large circular 18th/19th century pit.

6.2.12 Aim iii. No trace of prehistoric burials or other prehistoric activity was found in the vicinity of the supposed ring ditch, although one pit in Trench 8 may have been associated with the large circular pit of post-medieval date in Trench 10.

6.2.13 Aim vi. No evidence of early medieval activity was found in the evaluation.

6.2.14 Aims v and vii. The linear and discrete magnetic anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey proved in most cases to represent changes and undulations in the natural geology. However, archaeological features in Trenches 34, 46 and 48 may match the lines of magnetic anomalies.

6.3 Interpretation

6.3.1 The supposed ring ditch identified by the geophysical survey proved to be a large pit of post-medieval date, and no other early prehistoric features or finds were identified in the trenches around this. The purpose of this large feature is not clearly understood, and it predates the detailed Ordnance Survey map series.

6.3.2 One flint tool was recovered from a gully at the very north edge of the site. It may well be residual in this feature, but possibly indicates some earlier prehistoric activity here.

6.3.3 A potential focus of early prehistoric activity is suggested in the central and central southern part of the site, where a scatter of worked flints, including one knife, was found. Three of the flints came from features, one of which also contained later finds, but two of these features (3405 and 3702) may genuinely be of earlier prehistoric date. The large feature in Trench 37 could be a shaft rather than simply a pit.

6.3.4 No later prehistoric activity was indicated by the evaluation results.

6.3.5 Early Roman activity was indicated in the centre of the site, where the ditches of a possible large enclosure were suggested in Trenches 35 and 36, and of a small enclosure further south east in Trench 45, as well as by pits in Trenches 24, 25 and 40. Further ditches of probable Roman date were found in Trenches 45 and 46. The zone of potential Roman

activity extends over a length of 800m of the proposed scheme, although the quantity of finds, and the character of the pottery, suggests relatively low-level activity rather than a settlement focus. A number of undated features were found within this area, which may also relate to the Roman activity, or may indicate activity of other dates in this area.

6.3.6 Early Roman pottery also came from a pit in the north-east corner of the site, where several undated ditches were also found, one very large. This feature, lying at the bottom of a valley, is unusually deep. It is unclear whether this represents another small focus of Roman activity, or whether the ditches are unrelated to the pit.

6.3.7 No evidence for early or high medieval activity was found in the evaluation.

6.3.8 With the exception of the unusual feature in Trench 10, a small pit in Trench 8 and a modern pit in Trench 47, certain post-medieval activity consisted of field boundaries. The purpose of the large feature is not clearly understood, and it predates the detailed Ordnance Survey map series. The small pit may be related to the circular 18th/19th century pit.

6.3.9 Undated ditches and probable pits were found across the north-western part of the site, and indicate a wider spread of activity across this area. No clear associations are evident between them. Several of these features were deep vertical-sided pits, but their function is at present unclear. The date and character of this activity remains uncertain, but the absence of finds suggest that it was probably peripheral to any settlement.

6.3.10 Comparison of the results with the geophysical survey (Figs 10 and 11) adds little to the interpretation. The presence of the only magnetic anomaly positively interpreted as an archaeological feature was confirmed in Trench 10, although its date and character was quite different from what was expected. Other targeted possible linear magnetic anomalies were mostly confirmed to be of geological origin except for two curvilinear and one linear line of magnetic anomalies running across Trenches 33, 46 and 48 which appeared to represent undated features interpreted as ditches (Figs 3 and 4). A few of the many discrete anomalies did correspond to features, but many more features were not represented by anomalies, showing that the geophysical survey cannot be relied upon on this geology as an indicator of the presence or absence of archaeological features.

6.4 Significance

6.4.1 The uncovered archaeological features and the excavated deposits indicate human activity within the site during the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age, Roman, late post-medieval, and modern periods.

6.4.2 The presence of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity not apparently associated with burial monuments is potentially of county significance, if the features containing only struck flint from the evaluation prove to be of this date, as settlement sites of these periods are rare. If the large feature in Trench 37 is a shaft of this date, rather than a pit, then it would constitute an important addition to the corpus of such sites, but this identification remains to be proven.

6.4.3 The Roman activity in the central and north-eastern parts of the site is of at least local significance, as no Roman settlement was previously known in this area. The overall significance of this activity will not be clear without further investigation.

6.4.4 The large post-medieval pit in the north-west of the site is unusual, and thus of some local significance, but at present its function remains unclear.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench located in the north western corner of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer Topsoil	-	0.35	Very dark, greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
101	Layer Subsoil	-	0.15	B-Horizon, greyish-brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
102	Layer Natural geology	-	-	Light yellowish-brown sand with gravel and with patches of light greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer Topsoil	-	0.35	Very dark, greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
201	Layer Subsoil	-	0.15	B-Horizon, greyish-brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
202	Layer Natural geology	-	-	Light yellowish-brown sand with gravel and with patches of light greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the north western corner of Northern Area with one undated ditch and one possible ditch terminus/elongated pit					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

300	Layer Topsoil	-	0.2	Very dark, greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
301	Layer Subsoil	-	0.35	B-Horizon, greyish-brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
302	Ditch cut	0.96	0.38	Aligned NNE-SSW, moderately steep sides, bowl shaped, filled with 303	-	-
303	Fill of ditch 302	0.96	0.38	Brown slightly clayey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles	Worked flint (backed knife)	Neolithic ?
304	Layer Natural geology	-	-	Reddish-brown sand with gravel and with patches flint pebbles	-	-
305	Cut of ditch terminus	1.65	0.51	Aligned E-W with terminus at the western part, moderately steep sides, a sharp break of slope, a flat base	-	-
306	Fill of 305	1.65	0.51	Mottled – light and medium grey silty sand with pebbles	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area with two undated, possible pits – one explored with a machine excavator					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer Topsoil	-	0.25	Very dark, greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
401	Layer Subsoil	-	0.3	B-Horizon, greyish-brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
402	Cut of possible pit / natural feature	1.0	0.32	Sub-circular, a moderately steep and steep side, a concave, slightly uneven base, filled with 403 and 404	-	-
403	Fill of pit 402	1.0	0.1	Friable, light reddish-grey slightly silty sand with frequent flint gravel, basal fill overlain by 404 – more of a 'B-Horizon' of fill 404 and natural geology	-	-

404	Fill of pit 402	0.78	0.2	Friable, grey slightly silty sand with occasional pebbles, overlying 403	-	-
405	Cut of possible pit	2.0	-	Irregular oblong (suboval), not excavated	-	-
406	Fill of possible pit 405	2.0		Friable, reddish-grey silty sand with frequent pebbles, not excavated	-	-
407	Natural geology			Reddish and orange-brown sand with gravel and with patches flint pebbles		

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area with one undated, possible pit					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark, greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
501	Layer Subsoil	-	0.2	B-Horizon, greyish-brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
502	Natural geology			Dark yellow sand with gravel	-	-
503	Cut of pit	1.33	0.4	Sub-oval, extending eastwards beyond Tr 5, a steep side and a slightly concave base, filled with 504	-	-
504	Fill of 503	1.33	0.4	Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area with one undated, possible pit and a ditch; set across a discrete geophysical anomaly (the uncovered ditch may relate to this, but it could be accidental)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark, greyish-brown silty sand	-	-

601	Layer Subsoil	-	0.25	B-Horizon, greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
602	Cut of ditch	2.1	0.52	Linear, aligned NNE-SSW, moderately steep sides, a slightly concave base, cutting natural geology 606 and subsoil 601, filled with 603	-	-
603	Fill of ditch 602	2.1	0.52	Friable, light yellowish-grey sandy clay and silt with occasional pebbles	-	-
604	Cut of possible pit	0.58	0.32	Circular, a steep side, a flattish base, filled with 605	-	-
605	Fill of pit 604	0.58	0.32	Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles	-	-
606	Natural geology			Orange-yellow sand with gravel	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area, with two ditches – aligned NE-SW and NW-SE					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark, greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
701	Layer Subsoil	-	0.25	B-Horizon, greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
702	Cut of ditch	0.76	0.27	Linear, aligned NE-SW, moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base, filled with 703	-	-
703	Fill of ditch 702	0.76	0.27	Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles	-	-
704	Cut of possible pit	0.59	0.15	Linear, aligned NW-SE, moderately steep sides, a concave base, filled with 705	-	-
705	Fill of pit 604	0.59	0.15	Friable, light brown sandy silt and frequent pebbles	-	-
706	Natural geology			Dark orange-yellow sand with gravel	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area, with one post-medieval/modern pit; set across a discrete, amorphous geophysical anomaly (confirmed as a geological formation)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer Topsoil	-	0.28	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
801	Layer Subsoil	-	0.26	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
802	Natural geology			Friable, not compact, brownish-yellow sand with flint gravel	-	-
803	Cut of pit	0.85	0.67	Oval, a vertical – not very straight – side, a gradual break of slope, and a flat base, filled with 804 and 805, cutting natural geology 802 and subsoil 801	-	-
804	Fill of pit 803	0.85	0.34	Friable, very dark brown greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint pebbles. A piece of 17th-19th century unfroged brick recorded, sealing 805	CBM	17th-19th century
805	Fill of pit 803	0.85	0.35	Friable, brown, slightly silty sand with frequent flint gravel, overlain by 804	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil sealing natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer Topsoil	-	0.28	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
901	Layer Subsoil	-	0.26	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-

902	Natural geology			Dark brownish-yellow clayey sand with moderate amount of flint pebbles	-	-
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Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area, with a round 19th century structure and a land-drain running across it; set across a round geophysical anomaly (the uncovered structure confirms its archaeological origin)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1000	Layer Topsoil	-	0.28	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
1001	Layer Subsoil	-	0.26	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1002	Cut of large pit	12.3	1.08	Round – partly exposed in the trench – with gently sloping sides, base not exposed, filled with 1003 and 1004, cutting natural geology 1005 and subsoil 1001	-	-
1003	Fill of 1002 pit	12.3	0.86	Friable, brownish-grey sandy silt with some clayey material at the base and frequent small sized gravel, overlain by fill 1004 and topsoil 1000, cut by land-drain	Pottery sherds, glass fragments, Cu alloy buckle fragment, a horseshoe fragment, nail stem	Post-medieval. 18 th century
1004	Fill of 1002 pit	1.02	0.6	Firm, compact, silty sand with some clayey material, very frequent pebbles, overlying 1003, sealed by topsoil 1000, cut by land-drain	Glazed pottery sherds, animal bone fragment, pieces of CBM	19th century
1005	Natural geology			Friable, not compact, brownish-yellow sand with flint gravel	-	-

Trench 11		
General description		Orientation
		NE-SW
		Length (m)
		25

Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil sealing natural geology, three sub-oval natural features (an animal burrow and undulations in geology); set across a ENE-WSW aligned line of geophysical anomalies (not confirmed as an archaeological feature)					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-
1101	Layer Subsoil	-	0.4	B-Horizon, brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1102	Natural geology			Reddish-brown sand with moderate amount of flint pebbles	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the central western part of Northern Area, with one large tree-throw explored; set across a discrete geophysical anomaly (not confirmed by the uncovered feature)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer Topsoil	-	0.28	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
1201	Layer Subsoil	-	0.26	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1202	Cut of tree-throw hole	2.45	0.81	Ovoid (asymmetric), with very steep and vertical side, a strongly uneven base, filled with 1203, 1204, 1205	-	-
1203	Fill of 1202	+0.91	0.36	Friable, grey clayey silt with pebbles, overlying 1204 and 1205	-	-
1204	Fill of 1202	+0.56	0.23	Firm, reddish-brown, silty clay with pebbles, overlain by 1203, overlying 1205	-	-
1205	Fill of 1202	0.55	+1.08	Friable, grey clayey silt with pebbles, overlain by 1204 and 1203	-	-
1206	Natural geology			Friable, not compact, reddish-brown clayey sand with flint gravel	-	-

Trench 13

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the central western part of Northern Area, with an E-W aligned ditch					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer Topsoil	-	0.27	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
1301	Layer Subsoil	-	0.25	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1302	Natural geology			Friable, not compact, reddish-brown clayey sand with flint gravel	-	-
1303	Cut of ditch	1.15	0.4	Linear, aligned E-W, moderately steep northern side, very steep southern side, a flat base, filled with 1304 and 1305	-	-
1304	Fill of 1303	0.22	0.4	Friable, not compact, sand and gravel – possible earlier phase with fill 1305 representing a recut	-	-
1305	Fill of 1303	0.83	0.4	Friable, light to medium yellowish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, overlying 1304 – may represent a recut within 1303	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the south western part of Northern Area, with an E-W aligned ditch truncating a large tree-throw					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer Topsoil	-	0.26	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand	-	-
1401	Layer Subsoil	-	0.5	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1402	Layer – colluvium	-	0.1	Yellowish-brown clayey silt with flint pebbles	-	-

1403	Natural geology			Friable, not compact, reddish- brown clayey sand with flint gravel	-	-
1404	Cut of tree-throw hole	2.35	0.46	Extends east and west-wards beyond Tr 14, southern side steep, northern side gently sloping, an uneven base, filled with 1405, 1406, 1407, 1409, equal to 1408, truncated by 1410.	-	-
1405	Fill of 1404	0.46	0.1	Firm, light yellowish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, sealed by 1406	-	-
1406	Fill of 1404	0.56	0.34	Friable, reddish-grey sandy gravel, overlain by 1407, overlying 1405, very similar to natural geology 1403		
1407	Fill of 1404	0.36	0.8	Friable, yellowish-grey gravel and silt, overlying 1406, overlain by 1401 – lens within 1408		
1408	Cut of tree-throw hole (= 1404)	1.7	0.3	Edge of deposit 1409 (initially interpreted as a ditch with single fill) – cutting fill 1407 and truncated by 1410		
1409	Fill of 1408	1.7	0.3	Friable, medium to light brownish-grey sandy silt, cut by 1410		
1410	Cut of ditch	1.5	0.6	Linear, aligned E-W, moderately steep sides, a flat base, cutting subsoil 1401, natural geology 1403, and fill 1409		
1411	Fill of ditch 1410	1.5	0.6	Friable, medium to dark greyish-brown sandy silt, sealed by topsoil 1400	CBM, slate fragment	15 th -17 th century ?

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench located in the south western part of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil sealing natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer Topsoil	-	0.25	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-

1501	Layer Subsoil	-	0.3	B-Horizon, brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1502	Natural geology			Reddish-brown sandy clay with moderate amount of flint pebbles	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in central part of Northern Area, with an undated NE-SW possible ditch terminus, a deep pit, and a large tree-throw					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
1601	Layer Subsoil	-	0.4	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1602	Cut of pit	1.1	1.35	Circular, extending westwards beyond the trench, very steep, convex side, a concave base, filled with 1603	-	-
1603	Fill of 1602	1.1	1.35	Firm, brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles	-	-
1604	Cut of possible ditch terminus	0.48	0.46	Linear with rounded end in the NE part, very steep and moderately steep side, filled with 1605	-	-
1605	Fill of 1604	0.48	0.46	Firm, brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles	-	-
1606	Natural geology			Friable, silty clay with gravel in the southern part of the trench, clayey sand in the northern part of the trench		

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in central part of Northern Area, with an undated pit and several oval natural features – trench extended northwards to characterize one of the exposed features					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-

1701	Layer Subsoil	-	0.3	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1702	Natural geology			Friable, silty clay with gravel in the southern part of the trench, clayey sand in the northern part of the trench	-	-
1703	Cut of pit	0.98	+0.5	Rounded – extending beyond Tr 17 – vertical sides, base not reached, filled with 1704	-	-
1704	Fill of 1703	0.98	+0.5	Friable, yellowish-grey silty sand with pebbles	-	-
1705	Cut of tree-throw hole	1.2	0.4	Sub-circular, a gently sloping side, a strongly uneven base, filled with 1706	-	-
1706	Fill of 1705	1.2	0.4	Friable, medium to light grey silty sand with pebbles		
1707	Cut of tree-throw hole	1.4	0.4	Amorphous with an irregular side and an uneven base		
1708	Fill of 1707	1.4	0.4	Friable, brownish-grey silty sand with pebbles		

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in central part of Northern Area, with only natural features – tree-throws					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer Topsoil	-	0.32	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
1801	Layer Subsoil	-	0.28	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1802	Natural geology			Friable, clayey sand	-	-
1803	Cut of pit or tree-throw hole	1.64	0.75	Amorphous, steep, irregular side, unevenly concave base, filled with 1804 and 1805 , extending beyond Tr 18		-

1804	Fill of 1803	1.64	0.75	Friable, orange-grey silty sand with pebbles, overlain by 1805		-
1805	Fill of 1803	1.08	0.52	Friable, yellowish-grey sandy silt with pebbles, overlying 1804		-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in central southern part of Northern Area, with one large natural feature and one possible pit. Trench extended northwards to characterize one of the exposed features					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.66
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer Topsoil	-	0.32	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
1901	Layer Subsoil	-	0.28	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
1902	Cut if possible pit	0.73	0.25	Circular, an uneven side – steep and moderately steep, a slightly concave base, filled with 1903		
1903	Fill of 1902	0.73	0.25	Firm, brown sandy silt with pebbles		
1904	Natural geology			Friable, sand and gravel		-

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in central southern part of Northern Area, with one large modern pit and one tree-throw. Trench extended eastwards to characterize the modern feature					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.59
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer Topsoil	-	0.21	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
2001	Layer Subsoil	-	0.28	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-

2002	Layer – colluvium	0.73	0.25	Firm, brown sandy silt with pebbles		
2003	Cut of modern pit / ditch terminus	2.42	0.68	Linear, aligned N-S, with rounded end in the south, very steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a flat base, filled with 2004		
2004	Fill of 2003	2.42	0.68	Firm, mottled yellowish-brown and brown silty sand with pebbles and large pieces of timber (including a sawn off tree bole)	CBM	17 th -19 th century
2005	Cut of tree-throw hole	0.72	0.28	Elongated, extending eastwards beyond Tr 20, moderately steep sides, a concave base, filled with 2006		
2006	Fill of 2005	0.72	0.28	Friable, brown sandy silt with pebbles		
2007	Natural geology			Friable, sand and gravel		

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench located in central southern part of Northern Area, with a few amorphous features – one explored (a tree-throw).					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer Topsoil	-	0.21	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
2101	Layer Subsoil	-	0.28	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2102	Cut of tree-throw hole	0.66	0.3	Irregular plan and asymmetric profile with uneven sides and base, filled with 2103		
2103	Fill of 2102	0.66	0.3	Friable, brown sandy silt with pebbles		
2104	Natural geology			Friable, sand and gravel		-

Trench 22		
General description		Orientation
		E-W
		Length (m)
		25

Trench located in central southern part of Northern Area, with one undated pit and a ditch terminus					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	 Finds	Date
2200	Layer Topsoil	-	0.21	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
2201	Layer Subsoil	-	0.28	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2202	Cut of possible pit	1.4	0.47	Oval, extending northwards beyond Tr 22, moderately steep sides, filled with 2203, truncated by 2204		
2203	Fill of 2202	0.62	0.47	Firm, brown, sandy silt with frequent pebbles, cut by 2204		
2204	Cut of pit	1.66	0.76	Oval, extending northwards beyond Tr 22, steep sides, a slightly concave base, cutting 2203		-
2205	Fill of 2204	1.66	0.76	Firm, brown, sandy silt with frequent pebbles		
2206	Cut of possible ditch terminus	0.8	0.26	Linear with curved terminal part, aligned ENE-WSW (terminus at WSW), gently sloping and moderately steep side, a concave base, filled with 2207 – part of the same ditch as cut 2208		
2207	Fill of 2206	1.24	0.26	Firm, brown, sandy silt with frequent pebbles		
2208	Cut of possible ditch	0.4	0.29	Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, a moderately steep side, a concave base, filled with 2009, part of the same ditch as 2206		
2209	Fill of 2208	0.4	0.29	Firm, brown, sandy silt with frequent pebbles		
2210	Natural geology			Friable, sand and gravel		

Trench 23		
General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench located in central southern part of Northern Area, with a few amorphous features – one explored (a tree-throw hole); set across a large discrete geophysical anomaly (confirmed as a geological formation)	Length (m)	25
	Width (m)	1.9
	Avg. depth (m)	0.52

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer Topsoil	-	0.23	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
2301	Layer Subsoil	-	0.28	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2302	Cut of tree-throw hole	0.8	0.4	Irregular plan and profile, filled with 2303		
2303	Fill of 2302	0.8	0.4	Friable, brown sandy silt with pebbles		
2304	Natural geology			Friable, sand and gravel		-

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	
Trench located in central southern part of Northern Area, with one pit containing pottery sherds					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer Topsoil	-	0.21	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
2401	Layer Subsoil	-	0.28	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2402	Cut of pit	0.84	0.22	Ova, extending eastwards beyond Tr 24, a moderately steep side, a slightly concave base, filled with 2403		
2403	Fill of 2402	0.84	0.22	Friable, brown sandy silt with pebbles	Pottery sherds	Roman 50BC-AD100
2404	Natural geology			Patches of reddish-brown clayey sand and gravel and light brownish-yellow sand and gravel		-

Trench 25		
General description		Orientation
		NE-SW
		Length (m)
		25

Trench located in central southern part of Northern Area, with one undated pit and a ditch terminus					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
2500	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
2501	Layer Subsoil	-	0.34	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2502	Layer – colluvium	-	0.3	Greyish-brown silty sand		
2503	Natural geology			Friable, not compact, sand with moderate amount of gravel		
2504	Deposit	1.41	0.11	Friable, very dark brown with traces of burning in situ, overlain by topsoil 2500, overlying subsoil 2501	Clay pipe fragment	18 th to early 19 th century
2505	Cut of tree-throw hole	1.03	0.14	Irregular sub-oval, gently sloping and sloping sides, an uneven base, filled with 2206		
2506	Fill of 2505	1.03	0.14	Brownish-grey silty sand with occasional pebbles		
2507	Cut of pit	1.85	+1.2	Extending NW and SE beyond Tr 25 – appears linear but may be an elongated oval, sides sloping and almost vertical, base not reached, filled with 2508		
2508	Fill of 2507	1.85	+1.2	Friable, dark brown silty sand with pebbles		
2509	Cut of pit	1.0	+1.2	Suboval (extending NW and SW beyond Tr 25), steep and almost vertical sides, base not reached, filled with 2510		
2510	Fill of 2509	1.0	+1.2	Friable, dark brown silty sand with pebbles, a very small piece of pottery in the uppermost part of the fill, a possible wet-stone, and a flint flake	Pottery, whetstone, flint knife	Roman AD43-410 ? (late Neolithic or EBA flint knife)

Trench 26
General description
Orientation

N-S

Trench located in central south western part of Northern Area, with one pit and one tree-throw					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer Topsoil	-	0.32	Very dark greyish-brown clayey silty sand	-	-
2601	Layer Subsoil	-	0.1	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with some clayey material with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2602	Cut of pit	1.9	0.62	Sub-circular (extending eastwards beyond Tr 26), a very steep side, a flat base, truncated by 2604, filled with 2603		
2603	Fill of pit	1.9	0.62	Friable, dark brown silty sand with pebbles		
2604	Cut of tree-throw hole	+0.75	0.3	Amorphous, elongated, uneven sides and base, filled with 2405, truncating 2602		-
2405	Fill of 2604	+0.75	0.3	Friable, dark brown silty sand with pebbles		
2406	Natural geology			Patches of reddish-brown clayey sand and gravel and light brownish yellow sand and gravel		

Trench 27						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the south western part of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consisted of topsoil overlying two colluvial horizons sealing natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	1.0
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer Topsoil	-	0.25	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-
2701	Layer Subsoil – colluvium	-	0.6	Friable, brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2702	Layer Subsoil – colluvium		0.15	Friable, light brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles		

2703	Natural geology			Reddish-brown sandy clay with moderate amount of flint pebbles	-	-
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Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the central western part of Northern Area, with a narrow ditch and a tree-throw; consisted of topsoil overlying two colluvial horizons sealing natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.73
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer Topsoil	-	0.36	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-
2801	Layer Subsoil – colluvium	-	0.39	Brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
2802	Layer Subsoil – colluvium		0.13	Dark brown silty sand with pebbles		
2803	Natural geology			Reddish-brown sand and gravel	-	-
2804	Fill of 2808	0.33	0.07	Friable, greyish-brown clayey silt with sand and occasional pebbles		
2805	Cut of ditch	0.36	0.17	Linear with terminal part in the south, aligned NNE-SSW, steep sides, a concave base, filled with 2804 – part of the same feature as 2808		
2806	Fill of 2805	0.36	0.17	Friable, greyish-brown clayey silt with sand and occasional pebbles		
2807	Tree-throw hole	1.44	0.2	Irregular oval with moderately steep and steep sides, an uneven base		
2808	Cut of ditch terminus	0.33	0.07	Terminal part of NNE-SSW aligned narrow ditch, gently sloping sides, a flat base, filled with 2804		

Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the central western part of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consisted of topsoil overlying two colluvial horizons sealing natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

2900	Layer Topsoil	-	0.25	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-
2901	Layer Subsoil – colluvium	-	0.5	Friable, brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
2902	Natural geology			Reddish-brown sandy clay with moderate amount of flint pebbles – overlain by 2901 in the western part of the trench and by 2903 in the eastern part of the trench		
2903	Layer Subsoil – colluvium		0.15	Friable, light brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the central western part of Northern Area, devoid of archaeology, consisted of topsoil overlying two colluvial horizons sealing natural geology, the natural geology was lower in the northern part of the trench					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer Topsoil	-	0.32	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-
3001	Layer Subsoil – colluvium	-	0.3	Friable, brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
3002	Layer Subsoil – colluvium		0.51	Friable, light brown clayey sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, sealed by 3001, overlying 3003 - only in the northern part of the trench		
3003	Natural geology			Reddish-brown sandy clay with moderate amount of flint pebbles – overlain by 2901 in the western part of the trench and by 2903 in the eastern part of the trench	-	-

Trench 31						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area with two undated ditches and one pit (not excavated) the soil sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil and two colluvial horizons sealing natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	1.05
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

3100	Layer Topsoil	-	0.27	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-
3101	Layer Subsoil	-	0.27	B-Horizon, brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
3102	Natural geology			Reddish-brown sand and gravel		
3103	Cut of ditch	0.98	0.45	Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, irregular, moderately steep sides, an asymmetric concave base, filled with 3104 and 3105	-	-
3104	Fill of 3103	0.98	0.23	Brown clayey silt with small pebbles, overlying 3105		
3105	Fill of 3103	0.43	0.22	Very similar to 3105 – probably equal to 3104		
3106	Layer - colluvium		0.3	Greyish-brown clayey silt, overlain by 3101, overlying 3102		
3107	Cut of ditch	3.78	1.4	Linear, aligned NNE-SSW, a steep eastern side, a moderately steep western side, a concave base, cutting horizons 3106 and 3102, filled with 3108 and 3109		
3108	Fill of 3107	3.53	1.23	Friable, brown sandy silt with pebbles, main fill of ditch, overlying 3109, sealed by subsoil 3101		
3109	Fill of 3107	2.15	0.2	Friable, yellowish-brown sand silt with gravel – basal fill – overlain by 3107		
3110	Cut of a possible pit	c. 1.0	-	Oval, not excavated, cutting 3102		
3111	Fill of 3110	c. 1.0	-	Friable, brown sandy silt with pebbles – not excavated		
3112	Layer colluvium		0.2	Dark greyish-brown clayey sand, overlain by 3106, overlying 3102 in the western part of the trench		

Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the north western part of Northern Area, with a ditch and a possible pit; consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil over natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer Topsoil	-	0.23	Very dark greyish-brown clayey sand	-	-
3201	Layer	-	0.52	Brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-

	Subsoil					
3202	Natural geology			Yellowish-brown sand and gravel		
3203	Cut of ditch	0.96	0.21	Linear, aligned NNE-SSW, with asymmetric moderately steep sides, a slightly uneven base, filled with 2204	-	-
3204	Fill of 3203	0.96	0.21	Brown silty sand with pebbles		
3205	Cut of pit	1.32	0.8	Ovoid, extending eastwards beyond Tr 32, asymmetric sloping sides and a flat base with a deeper vertical-sided part (either a possible posthole or bioturbation), filled with 3206 and 3207		
3206	Fill of 3205	1.32	0.25	Dark brown silty sand with gravel. Overlying 3207		
3207	Fill of 3205	1.5	0.13	Greyish-brown silty sand with gravel over 3208	Pottery sherd	50BC-AD100
3208	Fill of 3205	0.2	0.24	Grey silty sand with gravel		

Trench 33						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench located in north western part of Central Area, with one undated narrow ditch					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer Topsoil	-	0.35	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
3301	Layer Subsoil	-	0.2	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
3302	Natural geology			Coarse brownish-yellow sand with gravel and patches of light yellowish-brown silty sand		
3303	Cut of ditch	0.87	0.4	Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, steep and moderately steep sides, a flat base, cutting horizons 3301 and 3302, filled with 3304		
3304	Fill of 3303	0.87	0.4	Friable, silty sand with pebbles	Piece of CBM (peg-tile)	17 th -19 th century

Trench 34						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in north western part of Central Area, with one undated narrow ditch/gully and a pit; set across a discrete geophysical anomaly (the uncovered ditch may relate to this, but it could be accidental)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
3401	Layer Subsoil	-	0.3	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
3402	Natural geology			Mottled, yellow and light brown slightly silty sand and brownish-yellow coarse sand with gravel		
3403	Cut of ditch	0.72	0.39	Linear, aligned NNE-SSW (extending both directions beyond Tr 34 but shallowing in the southern part), V-shaped profile, cutting 3201 and 3402, filled with 3404		
3404	Fill of 3404	0.72	0.39	Yellowish-grey silty sand with pebbles, overlain by 3400		
3405	Cut of possible pit	1.8	0.45	Sub-circular – extending north and eastwards beyond Tr 34, a moderately steep side, a flat base, filled with 3406		
3406	Fill of 3405	1.8	0.45	Friable, light yellowish-grey silty sand with gravel	Worked flint flake	Late Neolithic-EBA

Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench located in north western part of Central Area, with two undated pits and a ditch (possibly part of enclosure)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-

3501	Layer Subsoil	-	0.3	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	worked flint flake	Late Neolithic- EBA
3502	Natural geology			Brownish-yellow coarse sand with gravel		
3503	Cut of pit	1.1	+0.5	Subcircular, extending southwards beyond Tr 35, almost vertical side, base not exposed, filled with 3504		
3504	Fill of 3503	1.1	+0.5	Friable, light yellowish-grey silty sand with pebbles		
3505	Cut of pit or tree- throw hole	1.42	0.21	Ovoid, with shelving and sloping sides and an uneven base, filled with 3506		
3506	Fill of 3505	1.42	0.21	Friable, light reddish-brown sandy silt with pebbles		
3507	Cut of ditch	2.5	0.75	Linear, aligned NE-SW, wide V-shaped with concave base, filled with 3508		
3508	Fill of 3507	2.5	0.75	Friable, light yellowish-grey sandy silt with pebbles, pottery sherds close to the base	Pottery sherds	Pottery sherds AD43- 410 and AD50- 100

Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in north western part of Central Area, with a ditch (possibly part of enclosure)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer Topsoil	-	0.32	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
3601	Layer Subsoil	-	0.14	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
3602	Cut of ditch	2.68	0.42	Linear, aligned NW-SE, with moderately and gently sloping sides, a concave base, filled with 3603		
3603	Fill of 3602	2.68	0.42	Friable, light orange-brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles	Pottery sherds (14)	Roman AD50- 100

3604	Natural geology			Brownish-yellow coarse sand with gravel		
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Trench 37						
General description					Orientation	
Trench located in north western part of Southern Area, with a pit					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer Topsoil	-	0.26	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
3701	Layer Subsoil	-	0.14	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
3702	Cut of pit	+2.1	+0.78	Semicircular (extending south and eastwards beyond Tr 37), sloping upper sides becoming vertical lower down, base not reached, filled with 3703, 3705 and 3706		
3703	Fill of 3702	+0.38	+0.78	Firm, light grey, silty clay with occasional pebbles, cut by 3704	Worked flint flakes	Late Neo/EBA?
3704	False cut within 3702	+1.75	+0.78	Supposed recut, but actually simply interface between fill 3703 and fills 3705 and 3706		
3705	Fill of 3702	+1.75	+0.78	Friable, yellowish-grey clayey sand with pebbles, overlying 3706		
3706	Fill of 3702	+1.0	+0.2	Friable, greyish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles		
3707	Layer Natural geology			Brownish-yellow coarse sand with gravel		

Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	
Trench located in north western part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil with natural geology underneath					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer Topsoil	-	0.28	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
3801	Layer Subsoil	-	0.16	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
3802	Natural geology			Yellowish-brown silty sand with patches of light greyish-brown silty sand		

Trench 39

General description					Orientation	
Trench located in north western part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil with natural geology underneath					Orientation	E-W
					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer Topsoil	-	0.28	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
3901	Layer Subsoil	-	0.15	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
3902	Natural geology			Yellowish-brown silty sand with patches of light greyish-brown silty sand		

Trench 40

General description					Orientation	
Trench located in north western part of Southern Area, with one deep pit and one ditch					Orientation	N-S
					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer Topsoil	-	0.32	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4001	Layer Subsoil	-	0.23	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
4002	Cut of ditch	0.75	0.38	Linear, aligned NNE-SSW, with steep sides and a concave base, filled with 4003		
4003	Fill of 4002	0.75	0.38	Friable, light reddish-brown sandy silt with pebbles	Pottery sherds	50BC-AD100

4004	Cut of pit	3.48	0.81	Ovoid, extending westwards beyond the trench, moderately steep sides, a flat base, filled with 4005-4008		
4005	Fill of 4004	3.48	0.32	Friable, brown silty sand with pebbles, overlying 4006 and 4007	Pottery sherds	50BC-AD100
4006	Fill of 4004	1.15	0.1	Friable, dark grey sandy silt with pebbles and charcoal, overlain by 4005, overlying 4007	Charcoal – beech	
4007	Fill of 4004	1.56	0.4	Friable, greyish-brown silty sand with gravel, overlain by 4007 and 4005		
4008	Fill of 4004	0.76	0.1	Friable, dark grey silty sand with pebbles, basal fill, overlain by 4007		
4009	Natural geology			Yellowish-brown silty sand with patches of light greyish brown silty sand		

Trench 41						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench located in north central part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil with natural geology underneath; set across a discrete geophysical anomaly (confirmed as a geological formation)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer Topsoil	-	0.29	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4101	Layer Subsoil	-	0.26	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
4102	Natural geology			Yellowish-brown silty sand with patches of light greyish brown silty sand		

Trench 42						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in north western part of Southern Area, with one ditch and one possible ditch; set across a line of geophysical anomalies ((not confirmed by the uncovered features)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

4200	Layer Topsoil	-	0.27	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4201	Layer Subsoil	-	0.1	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
4202	Cut of ditch	0.66	0.3	Linear, aligned WNW-ESE, V-shaped profile, filled with 4303		
4203	Fill of 4202	0.66	0.3	Friable, yellowish-grey sandy clay with pebbles		
4204	Cut of possible ditch terminus			Aligned WNW-ESE, with terminal part in the western part, slightly irregular		
4205	Fill of 4204			Fill of 4204 – not excavated		
4206	Layer Natural geology			Light reddish-brown sandy clay with pockets of gravel		

Trench 43

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in north central part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil with natural geology underneath					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4300	Layer Topsoil	-	0.29	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4301	Layer Subsoil	-	0.18	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
4302	Layer Natural geology			Reddish-brown sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

Trench 44

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in north central part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil with natural geology underneath. One large tree-throw with a patch of burning in situ					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4400	Layer Topsoil	-	0.29	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-

4401	Layer Subsoil	-	0.05	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
4402	Layer Natural geology			Reddish-brown sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

Trench 45						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in north central part of Southern Area, with a Roman enclosure ditch, an earlier narrow ditch, a pit with charcoal, another possible ditch and a couple of not excavated linear features; set across a large geophysical anomaly (not confirmed to be of an archaeological origin)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4501	Layer Topsoil	-		Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	Worked flint flake	-
4502	Layer Subsoil	-		B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
4503	Fill of 4504	0.8	0.45	Firm, orange-brown silty sand with pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks	Pottery	Roman 50BC- AD100
4504	Cut of enclosure ditch	0.8	0.45	Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, steep sides, a flat base, filled with 4503 – part of the same feature as 4506		
4505	Fill of 4506	0.8	0.44	Firm, orange-brown silty sand with pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, filled with 4506	Flint	
4506	Cut of enclosure ditch	0.8	0.44	Linear, aligned NNE-SSW, convex sides (gently sloping and very steep), a flat base, filled with 4505		
4507	Fill of 4508	0.2	0.28	Firm, light greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles, cut by 4506		
4508	Cut of possible ditch	0.2	0.28	ENE-WSW aligned linear, with stepped sides – gently sloping and steep, and a concave base, apparently truncated by ditch 4506, filled with 4507		
4509	Fill of 4510	1.0	0.17	Friable, dark brownish-black sandy silt with c 30% charcoal	Charred wood – oak, beech	

4510	Cut of shallow pit	1.0	0.17	Ovoid, with moderately steep sides, and an undulating base. Relationship with ditch 4506 uncertain, as charcoal from the enclosure ditch may not derive from fill 4509.		
4511	Fill of 4512	1.7		Not excavated – orangey brown silty sand		
4512	Cut of possible pit	1.7	-	Subcircular – extending eastwards beyond the trench		
4513	Fill of 4514			Not excavated		
4514	Cut of possible ditch / pit	1.0	-	Elongated – aligned ENE-WSW – extending westwards beyond the trench		
4515	Fill of 4516	0.8	-	Fill of 4516 – not excavated		
4516	Cut of possible ditch	0.8	-	ENE-WSW aligned linear – not excavated		
4517	Fill of 4518	1.6	0.56	Firm, greyish-brown silty sand with large amount of pebbles	CBM	17 th – 19 th century
4518	Cut of possible ditch	1.6	0.56	Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, stepped - very gently sloping and steep southern side, steep northern side, a flat base, filled with 4517		
4519	Layer Natural geology			Reddish-brown sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

Trench 46						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench located in north central part of Southern Area, with a ditch and a possible pit; set across two curvilinear lines of geophysical anomalies (the uncovered features match the locations of the lines)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4600	Layer Topsoil	-	0.25	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4601	Layer Subsoil	-	0.17	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
4602	Layer Natural geology			Orange-yellow sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

4603	Cut of ditch	1.0	0.35	Linear, aligned E-W, moderately steep sides, a slightly concave base, filled with 4604		
4604	Fill of 4603	1.0	0.35	Friable, light yellowish-grey silty sand with pebbles	Pottery sherds, Glass fragment	Roman ?
4605	Cut of tree-throw hole	2.2	-	Amorphous, extending NEwards beyond Tr 46, not excavated		
4606	Fill of 4605	2.2	-	Light yellowish-grey silty sand with pebbles		

Trench 47						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench located in north central part of Southern Area, with two ditches (one modern and one post-medieval); set across a line of geophysical anomalies and a discrete geophysical anomaly (the modern pit matches the location of the discrete anomaly, the line of anomalies not confirmed as a feature)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4700	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4701	Layer Subsoil	-	0.14	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
4702	Cut of ditch	0.94	0.48	Linear, aligned N-S, moderately steep sides, a concave base, filled with 4703		
4703	Fill of 4702	0.94	0.48	Firm, orange-brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles	CBM	15 th -17 th century
4704	Cut of pit	1.9	-	Aligned NE-SW elongated feature (extending both directions beyond the trench), not excavated, filled with 4705		
4705	Fill of 4705	1.9	-	Firm, dark brown with black patches sandy silt	Pieces of modern glass, a small glass bottle, beer bottle	Modern
4706	Layer Natural geology			Orange-yellow sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

Trench 48						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench located in southern part of Southern Area, with one ditch; set across a line of geophysical anomalies (the uncovered ditch matches the location of the line)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4800	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4801	Layer Subsoil	-	0.07	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
4802	Cut of ditch	1.9	0.78	Linear aligned NNE-SSW, with convex eastern side and moderately steep western side, a concave base, filled with 4803 and 4804		
4803	Fill of 4802	1.9	0.37	Friable, greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles, overlying 4804		
4804	Fill of 4802	1.38	0.41	Friable, light greyish-brown slightly silty sand with gravel – similar to natural geology		
4805	Layer Natural geology			Orange-yellow sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

Trench 49						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in southern part of Southern Area, with one ditch with a recut; set across a line of geophysical anomalies (not confirmed as a feature)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4900	Layer Topsoil	-	0.38	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
4901	Layer Subsoil	-	0.26	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
4902	Cut of ditch	1.42	0.42	Linear, aligned E-W, a steep northern side (southern truncated by 4908), a sloping		

				concave base, filled with 4903. 4904. 4905, 4906		
4903	Fill of 4902	0.6	0.18	Friable, reddish-brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, basal fill, overlain by 4904, cut by 4907		
4904	Fill of 4902	0.46	0.12	Friable, light grey sandy silt with pebbles, overlying 4903, overlain by 4904, cut by 4907		
4905	Fill of 4902	0.5	0.1	Friable, reddish-brown sandy silt with pebbles, overlain by 4905, overlying 4904, cut by 4907		
4906	Fill of 4902	0.4	0.06	Friable, blackish-brown sandy silt with pebbles, overlying 4905, cut by 4907		
4907	Recut of ditch	0.56	0.34	Linear, V-shaped profile, filled with 4908, cutting 4909 and fills 4902-4906		
4908	Fill of 4907	0.56	0.34	Friable, light reddish-brown sandy silt with pebbles		
4909	Layer Natural geology			Orange-yellow sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

Trench 50						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in southern part of Southern Area, with one post-hole and one tree-throw; set across a discrete geophysical anomaly (not confirmed as a feature)					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5000	Layer Topsoil	-	0.3	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
5001	Layer Subsoil	-	0.2	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
5002	Cut of post-hole	0.65	0.19	Circular, a very steep side, and a flat, slightly sloping base, filled with 5003 and 5004		
5003	Fill of 5002	0.6	0.11	Friable, light orange-grey slightly silty sand with rare pebbles, basal fill, overlain by 5005		
5004	Fill of 5002	0.65	0.09	Friable, light greyish-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, overlying 5003		

5005	Cut of tree throw hole	0.6	0.17	Elongated with uneven gently sloping sides and an uneven base, filled with 5006		
5006	Fill of 5005	0.6	0.17	Friable, orange-grey, coarse sand with frequent pebbles		
5007	Layer Natural geology			Orange-yellow sand with some pockets of silty sand and gravel		

Trench 51

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in south western part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil which sealed natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5100	Layer Topsoil	-	0.27	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
5101	Layer Subsoil	-	0.2	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
5102	Layer Natural geology			Brownish-yellow sand with gravel and patches of subsoil		

Trench 52

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in south western part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil which sealed natural geology in the eastern part, while the subsoil overlain colluvial horizon in the western part					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4 – 1.1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5200	Layer Topsoil	-	0.2	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
5201	Layer – colluvium		0.7	Only in the western part of the trench – yellowish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
5202	Layer Natural geology			Brownish-yellow sand with gravel and patches of subsoil		
5203	Layer Subsoil	-	0.1	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite		

				pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.		
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Trench 53						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in south western part of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil which sealed a colluvial horizon, overlying natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.9
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5300	Layer Topsoil	-	0.2	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
5301	Layer Subsoil	-	0.35	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
5302	Layer – colluvium		0.26	Yellowish-brown silty sand with pebbles		
5303	Layer Natural geology			Brownish-yellow sand with gravel		

Trench 54						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in south western end of Southern Area, devoid of archaeology, the stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil which sealed natural geology					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5400	Layer Topsoil	-	0.6	Very dark greyish-brown silty sand with pebbles	-	-
5401	Layer Subsoil	-	0.6	B-Horizon, light brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles. Only in some parts of the trench.	-	-
5402	Layer Natural geology			Brownish-yellow sand with gravel and patches of subsoil		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph and John Cotter

Introduction

B.1.1 Forty-four sherds of pottery, weighing 272g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was recorded to identify fabrics and any evidence for form and function, and to provide spot-dates. The pottery was quantified using standard methods (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016). Fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014).

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
1003	8	59	Glazed red earthenware vessel (0.07 EVE)	Post-medieval
2403	1	1	E80 tiny sherd	50BC-AD100
	2	12	E80 oxidised body sherds	50BC-AD100
2510	1	1	O oxidised flake of pottery	?AD43-410
3207	1	6	E80 oxidised body sherd	50BC-AD100
3508	10	25	R30 abraded sherds from rim/shoulder of jar (0.05 EVE)	AD43-410
	1	3	R50 body sherd	
3603	1	17	E30 body sherd; fabric includes grog	AD50-100
	3	22	R30 body sherds	
	1	6	R20 Verulamium-region grey ware body sherd	
	4	63	R10 body sherds	
	1	6	R50 rim sherd from plain-rimmed lid (0.06 EVE)	
	4	8	O oxidised fabric	
4005	2	11	E80 body sherds	50BC-AD100
4503	3	17	E80 body sherds	50BC-AD100
	1	15	E80 body sherd, sand in fabric	50BC-AD100

Table B.1.1: Pottery from BARR17

B.1.2 With the exception of post-medieval earthenware from context 1003, all the pottery could belong to the mid/late 1st century AD. All contexts apart from 2510 and 3508 contained grog-tempered pottery (E80) or pottery in a sand- and grog-tempered fabric (E30), both of which have a broad date range of mid/late 1st century BC-late 1st century AD. Fabric E30 was associated with pottery of certain post-Roman conquest date, including fine grey ware (R10), medium-sandy grey ware (R30), a lid fragment in a dark-surfaced fabric (R50), and sandy grey ware from Verulamium (R20). Together, the pottery points to a mid/late 1st century date or later for deposition. Fabric E80 was not found in association with pottery of certain Roman date, but is not inconsistent with an early Roman date. The remains of a jar in fabric R30 from context 3508 could not be closely dated, though again is not out of place within the early Roman period. Oxidised pottery (O) from context 2510 was in too poor a condition to identify to fabric, but is likely to be of Roman date.

B.1.3 The late Iron Age/Roman pottery was concentrated in the central part of the investigation area, the pottery having been recovered from Trenches 24, 25, 32 and 36.

Smaller quantities of pottery were collected from the eastern end of the investigation area in Trenches 40, 45 and 46.

B.1.4 The condition of the late Iron Age/Roman pottery is poor. The surfaces of the pottery are generally worn, and the mean sherd weight (weight/number of sherds) is relatively low at 6g, pointing to an assemblage consisting of small sherds. While the assemblage indicates Roman (and possibly late Iron Age) activity in the area, the deposits from which the pottery was recovered are likely to have been away from the focus of settlement, the pottery having been exposed on the ground for some time before arriving in the contexts from which it was recovered.

B.1.5 Post-medieval pottery. **Context (1003) Spot-date: Late 18th to 19th century.** The condition of the group is fairly worn/abraded, and the sherd size fairly small, although two of the sherds are fresh. The sherds come from a minimum of four vessels in local post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric code PMR). Four sherds have a clear brown internal glaze and one body sherd is glazed on both sides. The assemblage includes a bead rim from a bowl or jar, two sherds from two dishes with internal glaze, and an unglazed sherd from a steep walled vessel - possibly a flower pot.

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

B.2.1 A total of 16 pieces of CBM weighing 458g were recovered from 6 contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are described below. This is mainly post-medieval roof tile; a few pieces may be of late medieval or early post-medieval date. No further work is recommended.

B.2.2 Context (1003) Spot-date: 17th to 19th century (possibly all 18th to 19th century?)
Description: 11 pieces (300g). Comprising 1x small corner fragment of sandy reddish-brown brick (16g) and 10 pieces of flat roofing tile (probably peg tile) in a hard orange-red fabric typical of post-medieval tiles. A mixture of fairly fresh and very worn pieces is present, including a fresh corner fragment. The date of the latest pieces may be 18th/19th century rather than earlier.

B.2.3 Context (1411) Spot-date: 15th to 17th century? Description: 1 piece (86g). Roughly circular piece of flat roof tile (diameter c 75mm) with trace of an edge. Almost certainly a peg tile as the smoother upper surface bears a ring-shaped impression (diam. 20mm) caused by the tool used to produce the circular nail holes - probably from piercing a stack of tiles resting on this one. Fabric quite different to those in (1003) above: smooth and a very hard orange-brown colour with a sharp blue-grey core. Fairly crude manufacture with a rough sanded underside. Date probably late medieval to early post-medieval?

B.2.4 Context (2004) Spot-date: 17th to 19th century. Description: 1 piece (22g). Worn edge fragment probably from a peg tile in red sandy fabric as in (1003).

B.2.5 Context (3304) Spot-date: 17th to 19th century. Description: 1 piece (21g). Worn top-right corner fragment from a peg tile in orange-red sandy fabric with rare flint and chalk inclusions. Most of a circular nail hole surviving (diam. 13mm) set close to the corner.

B.2.6 Context (4517) Spot-date: 17th to 19th century? Description: 1 piece (1g). Tiny scrap of sandy reddish-brown brick as in (1003) above.

B.2.7 Context (4703) Spot-date: 15th to 17th century? Description: 1 piece (28g). Worn fragment from near the corner of a peg tile with a complete oval nail hole surviving (max diam. 19mm). Nail hole exit on the underside has a raised rim or 'puckering'. Fairly crude manufacture. Fairly smooth orange-red sandy fabric with sanded underside. Date probably late medieval to early post-medieval?

B.3 Clay Pipes

By John Cotter

B.3.1 A total of 2 pieces of clay pipe weighing 10g were recovered from two contexts. The condition of the material is fairly poor. Given the small size of the assemblage a separate catalogue has not been constructed and instead the pipes are simply described and spot-dated below.

B.3.2 Context (1003) Spot-date: 18th century. Description: 1 piece (4g): Worn stem fragment. Fairly 'chunky' with stem bore diameter of c 2.5mm.

B.3.3 Context (2504) Spot-date: 18th to early 19th century. Description: 1 piece (6g): Fairly fresh stem fragment. Fairly 'chunky' with stem bore diameter of c 2.4mm.

B.4 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.4.1 A small assemblage of 7 pieces of struck flint and one natural fragment was recovered from this evaluation. The assemblage consisted entirely of flakes and flake tools. Retouch and/or utilisation was very common with five examples. The assemblage consisted of quite regular flakes often with parallel dorsal ridges. The lack of blades and the absence of typically later prehistoric debitage suggests a date in the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age for much of the assemblage. However, none of the pieces are absolutely chronologically diagnostic.

B.4.2 The flints were generally quite fresh with low levels of edge damage and very low levels of cortication. They are likely to be residual but have clearly not moved far or been subject to heavy post-depositional disturbance.

B.4.3 Three tool forms were recovered. Fill 303, ditch 302 contained an informal backed knife formed on a crested flake. The crest has formed the backing while the sharp edge shows signs of heavy use and may have obliterated any formal retouch. Possible pit feature 2509, fill 2510 produced a finer example of a knife, this time on a preparation flake. The knife has quite fine regular heavy invasive retouch along its distal edge becoming more steep and scraper-like towards its right side. It also displays blunting retouch along its upper right side, probably for holding in the hand, and it was naturally backed along the upper left. Subsoil context 3501 had a retouched regular distal trimming flake with possible heavy use at its distal and lower right edges.

B.4.4 Two pieces also displayed utilisation or possible atypical retouch. Pit 3405, fill 3406 contained a quite regular side trimming flake with possible light use along its right side.

Pit/shaft 3702 contained two flakes, one very large preparatory flake and another side trimming flake with a heavy possible notch along its lower right edge.

B.4.5 The composition of the assemblage is unusual and it is possible that only the more obvious pieces such as tools have been recovered. However, usually selective assemblages are dominated by cores and since none are present here, the retouch-heavy assemblage may genuinely reflect the flint work in the evaluation area. The occurrence of largely informal tools would suggest some domestic foci rather than burial or ritual activity (likely to be formal tool heavy) or a more industrial knapping site with numerous unmodified pieces.

B.4.6 This small assemblage would appear to indicate that there is high potential for prehistoric archaeology in this evaluation area. This activity would likely date to the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age. As mentioned above, a domestic focus would appear to be the most likely explanation for this assemblage.

Methodology

B.4.7 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
303	Backed knife	Distal trimming crested flake	Uses backing of crest with heavy use along sharp edge	?Neo
2510	Other knife	Preparation flake	More formal knife with regular heavy retouch distal and blunting upper right for holding	L Neo-EBA
3406	Flake	Side trimming	Quite regular flake with parallel dorsal ridges and possible use right hand side	?L Neo-EBA
3501	Retouched flake	Distal trimming	Regular flake with parallel dorsal ridges and fine trimming left side and use/poor retouch distal	?L Neo-EBA
3703	Flake	Side trimming	Possible heavy notch lower right, but edges quite damaged so unclear	
3703	Flake	Preparation	Very large preparation flake	
4007	Natural			
4501	Flake	Preparation	Hard-hammer struck, quite fresh	

Table B.4.1

B.5 Stone

By Tim Allen

B.5.1 Two fragments of stone were recovered from the evaluation. One was a whetstone or sharpening stone; the other a fragment of slate of unknown function.

B.5.2 Context 1411 – fragment of slate, 35 x 25mm x 3mm thick, no clear edges.

B.5.3 Context 2510 – Sandstone of rectangular cross-section, 112mm long, up to 30mm wide and 22-3mm thick, with worn rounded and angled ends. Sides very smooth, bottom worn but less so, top rough. Two parallel slight groove at angled end. Whetstone/sharpening or polishing stone.

B.6 Glass

By Ian R Scott

B.6.1 There are five fragments of glass from three contexts, but these include three refitting sherds from a single vessel from context 4705. The glass sherds that are closely datable are those from the modern machine-moulded beer bottle from context 4705. The other two sherds may well be earlier in date but are undiagnostic.

Context 1003 (1) **Vessel glass.** Small body sherd of olive green glass. Undiagnostic to form, but comparatively thin-walled. Could be from flask or small bottle. Not measured.

Context 4604 (2) **Possible window glass.** Very small and thin sherd of weathered pale green glass. 13mm x 8mm; Th: c. 03mm.

Context 4705 (3) **Beer bottle.** Amber glass. Three refitting sherds from a small cylindrical machine moulded beer bottle. 20th-century or later in date. Ht extant: 100m; D: 52-54mm

B.7 Metals

By Ian R Scott

B.7.1 There are five pieces of iron all, from context 1003, and single piece of copper alloy from the same context.

Context 1003 (1) **Buckle,** fragment of cast buckle frame. Probably either a rectangular single loop or rectangular double loop buckle. Possibly 18th-century. Cu alloy. L extant: 27mm, W extant: 12mm.

(2) **Horseshoe.** One branch of a horseshoe with possibly pointed heel and four nails. Not closely datable. Later medieval or post medieval. Fe. L extant: 95mm.

(3) **Fragment of strip or plate,** encrusted. Fe. 28mm x 28mm.

- (4) **Fragment**, small, curved and encrusted. Uncertain identification. Fe. Not measured
- (5) **Rod or bar fragment**, curved. Encrusted with corrosion. Fe. L: 35mm
- (6) **Nail stem fragment**. Fe. Not measured.

B.7.2 Most of the metal finds are not closely datable. The horseshoe cannot be closely dated since there are no clear diagnostic features visible. The buckle fragment looks to be 18th-century on stylistic grounds, but insufficient of the frame survives to identify its form.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook and Julia Meen

Introduction

C.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken during the evaluation on the A355 Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire during March 2017.

C.1.2 Sample <1> (4509) was 35 litres in volume, and came from the fill of a shallow pit [4510] in Trench 45.

C.1.3 Sample <2> (4006) was 37 litres in volume, and came from a dumped deposit within the middle fill of Roman pit [4004] in Trench 40.

C.1.4 Both samples are from contexts of probable early Roman date.

Method

C.1.5 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.

Results

C.1.6 Sample <1> produced a flot of approximately 750 ml of which 100ml was scanned. A small amount of burnt flint was extracted from the residues.

C.1.7 Sample <2> produced a flot of approximately 600ml of which 100 ml was scanned. A larger amount of burnt flint was extracted from the residues together with a quantity of burnt clay, suggesting that this may have come originally from an oven or hearth.

C.1.8 Both flots contain a small amount of fine modern roots with the occasional modern seed together with well-preserved charcoal, with sample <2> containing large fragments suitable for species identification. The size of the charcoal within sample <2> may support its derivation from a hearth or oven. No other charred remains were observed within either flot.

Charcoal

By Julia Meen

C.1.9 A representative selection of charcoal fragments from each of the two bulk samples was examined in order to establish the range of taxa present. Each fragment was examined on the transverse section at 10-40x magnification using a Brunel stereo microscope in order to provide a preliminary identification. Where required, items were then examined on the radial and tangential sections at up to 200x magnification using a Brunel Metallurgical SP-400BD microscope in order to confirm identifications. Identifications were made with reference to Schweingruber (1990).

C.1.10 Sample 1, from fill 4509 of a shallow pit, produced a large quantity of charcoal. This was found to be predominately composed of oak (*Quercus* sp), mostly heartwood; a small number of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) fragments were also present, including roundwood. Sample 2, from the fill of a pit, was found to contain exclusively beech charcoal, none of which was roundwood.

Discussion and recommendations

C.1.11 The condition of the observed charcoal within these samples indicates that charred material survives well on this site, and the presence of assemblages of a single species suggests careful selection of wood for particular uses on the site.

C.1.12 If further excavation is carried out, it is recommended that further sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Lee Broderick

Introduction

C.2.1 A single fragment of indeterminate animal bone weighing 3g was recovered from post-medieval context 1003.

C.2.2 The bone is of low potential and requires no further work.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	A355 Beaconsfield Eastern Relief Road
Site code:	BERR17
Grid Reference	495100 190750
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	7th March 2017 – 24th March 2017
Summary of Results:	A total of fifty four trenches 25m long and 1.9m wide were excavated. Seventeen of the trenches proved to be devoid of archaeology. Features uncovered and excavated in three other trenches proved to be natural formations.

In the northern field (Trenches 1-32), few of the soilmarks contained dating evidence, and the majority were probably patches in the very varied natural in this part of the site. A scatter of undated ditches and pits was however found throughout the area, indicating activity of one or more periods, though the scarcity of finds suggests that this activity was peripheral to settlement.

The ring ditch suggested by the geophysical survey was investigated by Trench 10, but proved to be a large pit of post-medieval date with redeposited natural filling the centre over a dark, greyish-brown sandy silt. A variety of types of finds was recovered, indicating an 18th or early 19th century date. The purpose of this feature is still unclear.

One flake flint knife was recovered from a gully in Trench 3 and one flint knife from a pit in Trench 25. The latter feature contained also a whetstone. Otherwise finds from the north-west end of the site, like those from the deep pit, were post-medieval, and mainly from field boundaries, except for the pit in Trench 25 and a pit in Trench 24, where a couple of small pieces of Roman pottery were present.

Trenches alongside the eastern edge of the northern field contained colluvial layers, and archaeology was uncovered below the colluvium horizon. At the north-east corner Trenches 31 and 32 contained archaeological features, Trench 31 two ditches at right angles, one very large, and Trench 32 a ditch and a pit. None of the ditches contained dating evidence, but the pit contained a little early Roman pottery.

Archaeological features were more distinct, and more numerous, in the central and southern part of the site, and here both a concentration of struck flints and of Roman

pottery was found. Roman pottery was found in ditches at right angles in Trenches 35 and 36, in a pit in Trench 40, and in ditches in Trench 45. Other categories of find in these features included window glass from Trench 46, modern glass bottles from a pit in Trench 47, fired clay and burnt flint in Trench 40, and burnt flint in Trench 45.

The ditches in Trench 45 included a corner, suggesting a small enclosure, and a larger enclosure is suggested by ditches in Trenches 35 and 36. There was also a charcoal-filled pit in Trench 45.

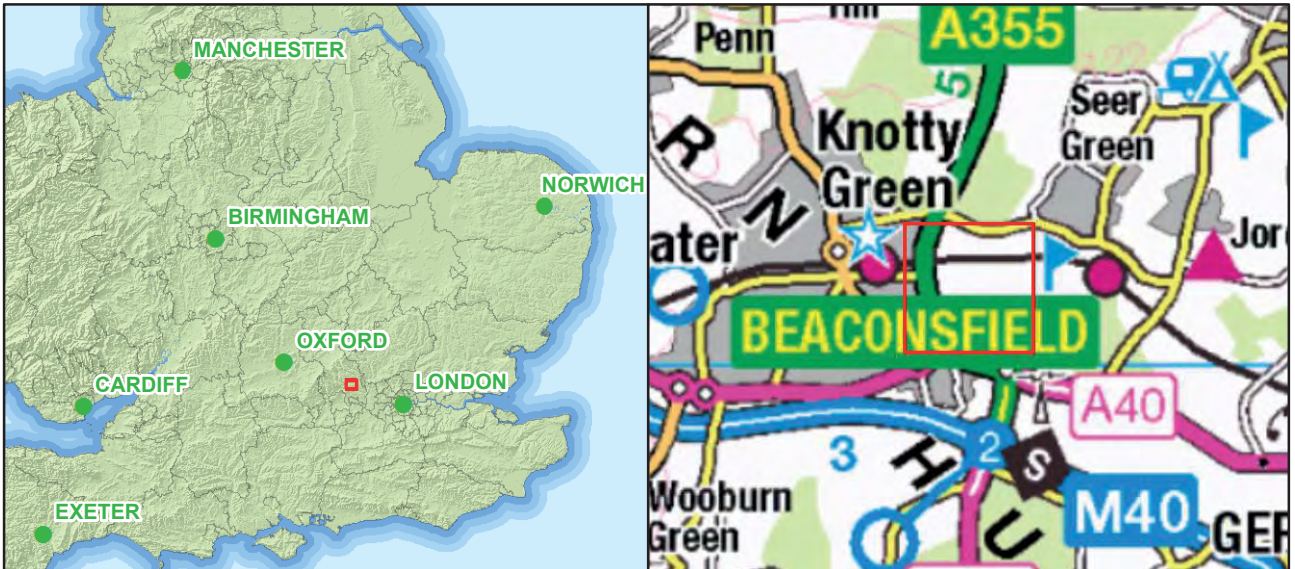
Struck flint was recovered as residual finds from Trenches 25, 35 and 45, and from a small pit in Trench 34 and a deeper pit in Trench 37. The deep pit was 5m across and was not bottomed, so could represent a shaft rather than a pit.

Post-medieval field boundaries were found in Trenches 45 and 47, and an undated posthole in Trench 50, but trenches to south of this were devoid of archaeological activity.

Area of Site

Location of archive:

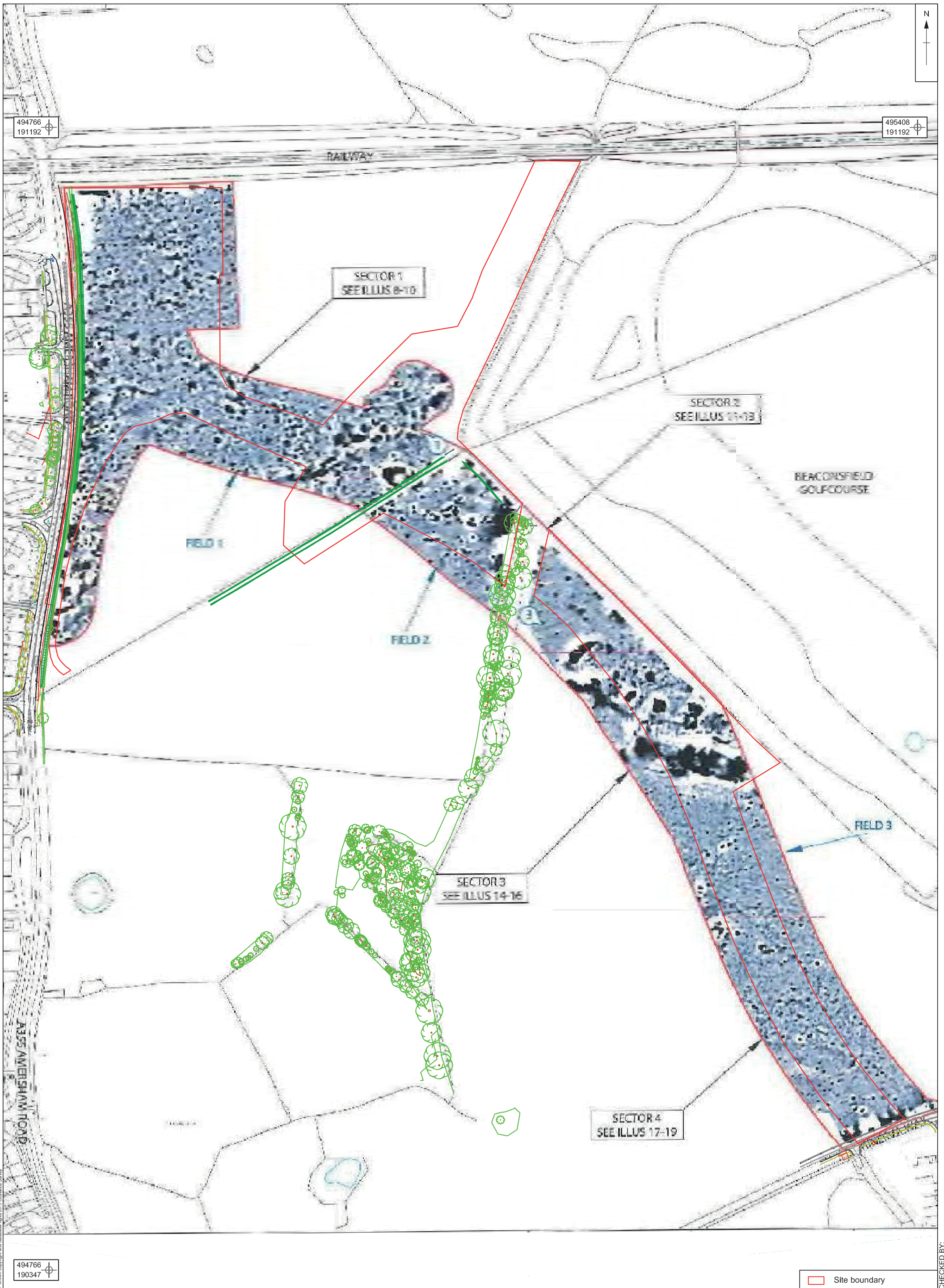
The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museums in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM: 2017.35



X:\a\A355 Beaconsfield\10Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\BERREY_Figure1.mxd\benjamin.brown\04/10/2016

Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2016
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location



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CHECKED BY:

0 100 m
Scale at A3 1:2500

Figure 2: Geophysical Survey (Greyscale) after Headland Archaeology

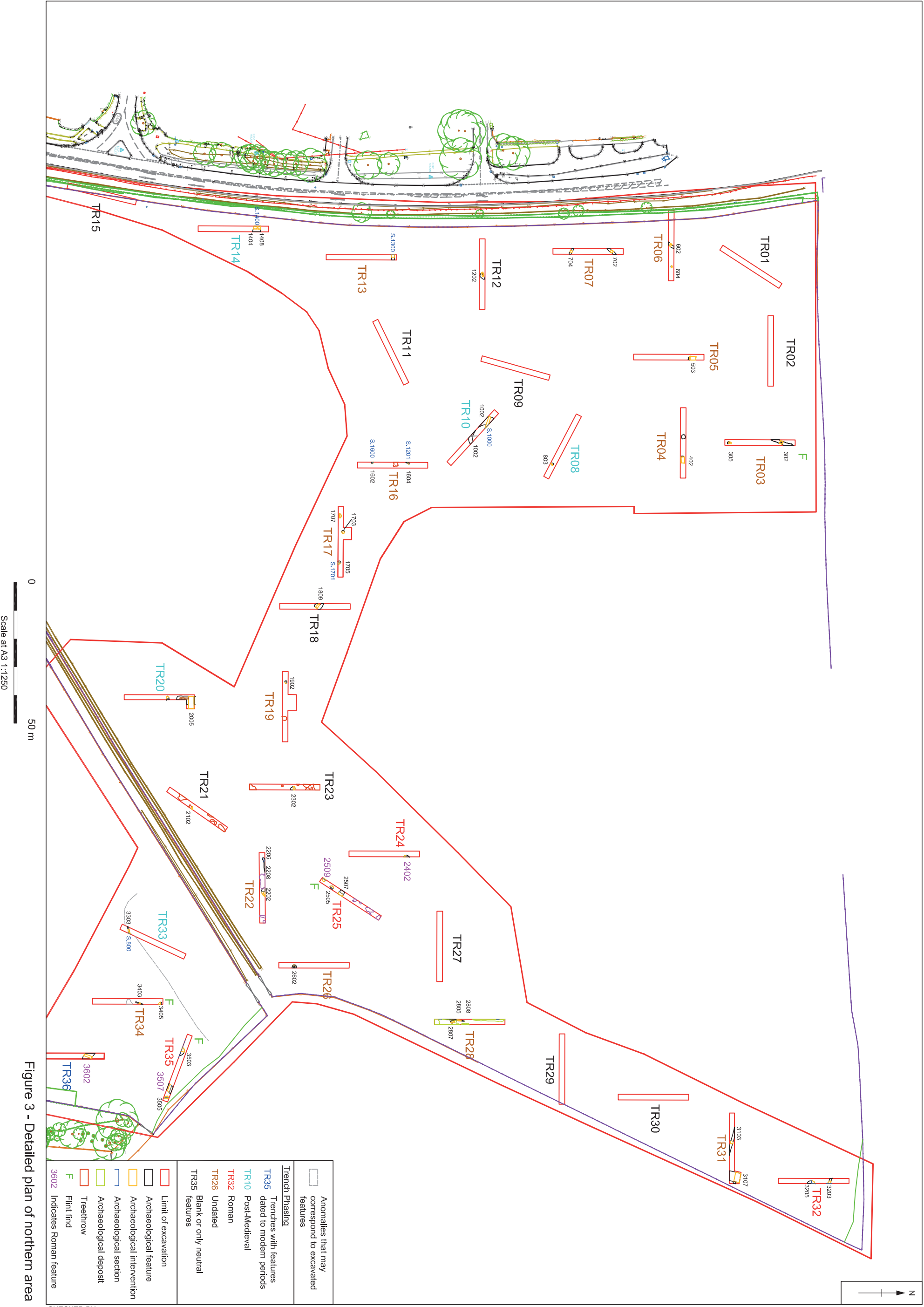
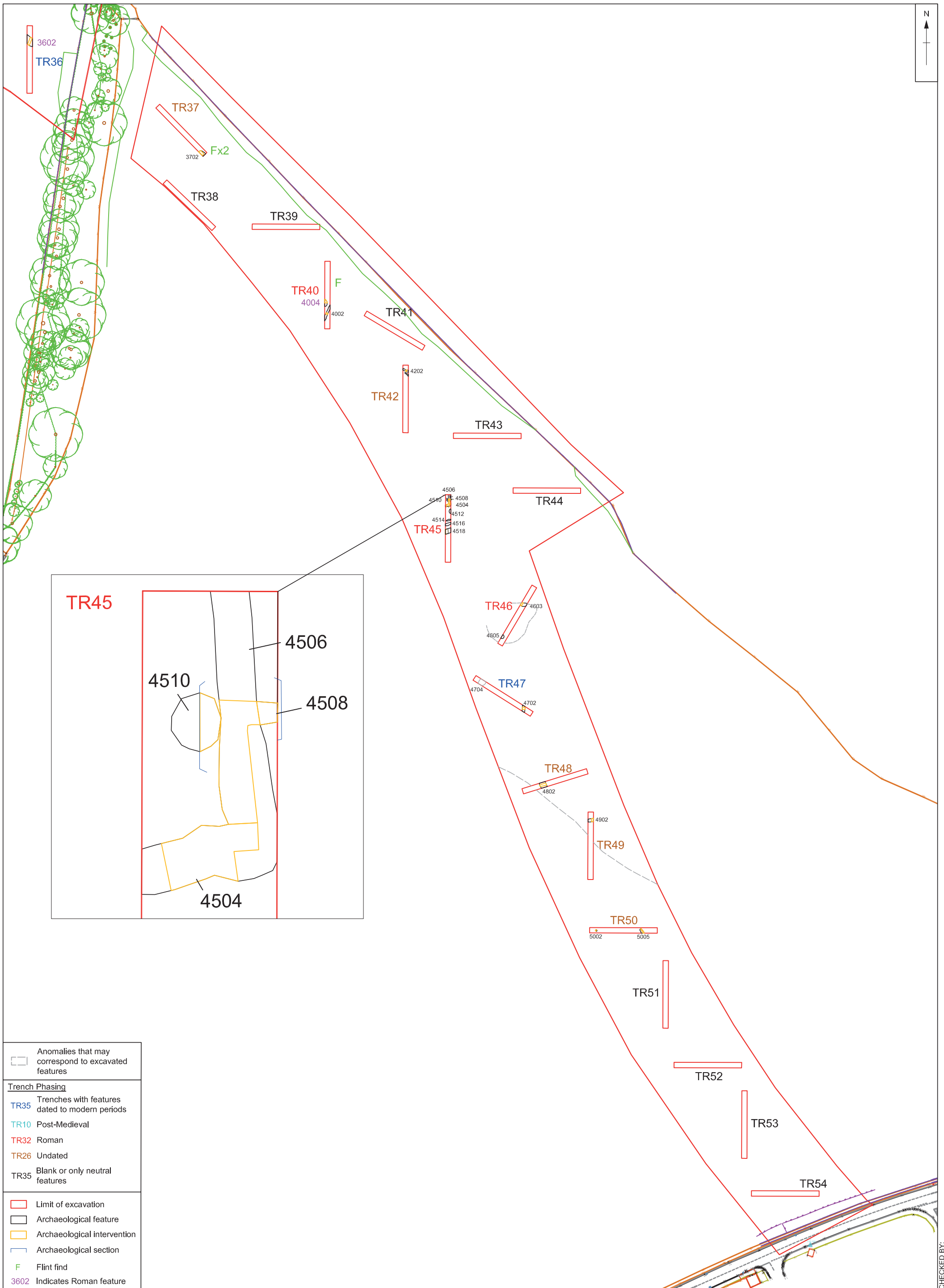


Figure 3 - Detailed plan of northern area

CHECKED BY:



	Anomalies that may correspond to excavated features
Trench Phasing	
TR35	Trenches with features dated to modern periods
TR10	Post-Medieval
TR32	Roman
TR26	Undated
TR35	Blank or only neutral features
	Limit of excavation
	Archaeological feature
	Archaeological intervention
	Archaeological section
	Flint find
	Indicates Roman feature

0 50 m

Scale at A3 1:1250

Figure 4 - Detailed plan of southern area

CHECKED BY:

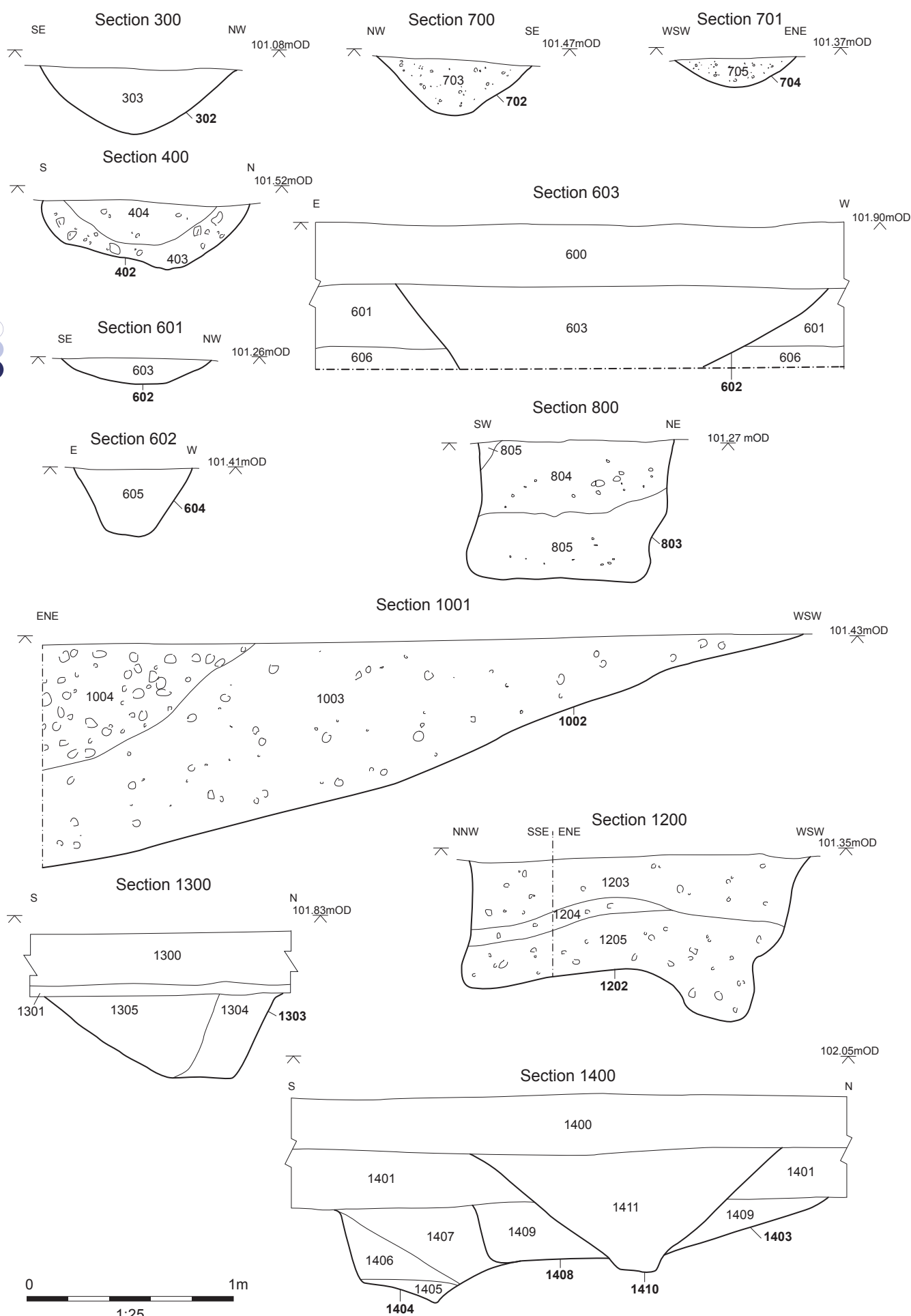


Figure 5: Sections from the northern area

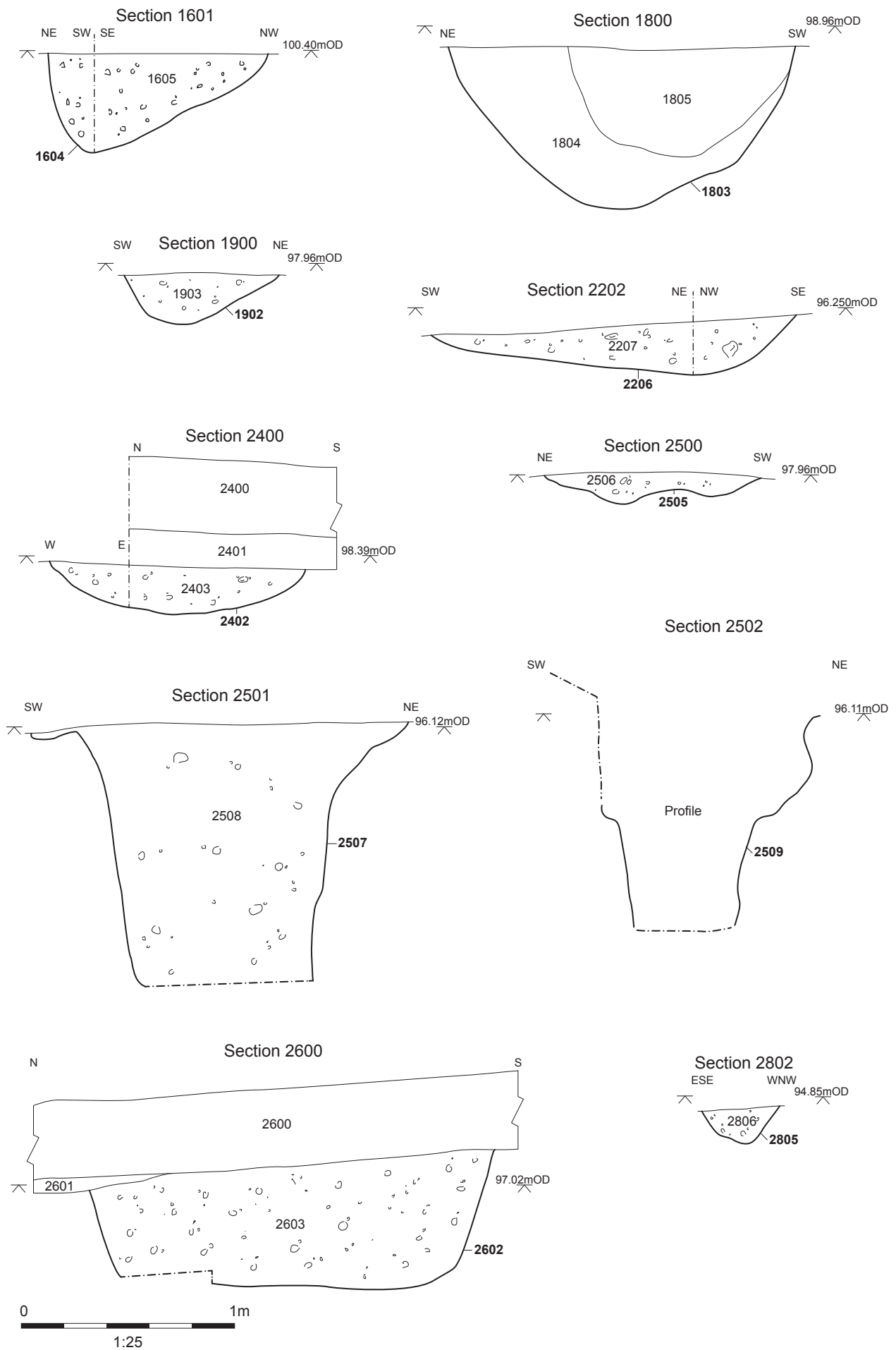


Figure 6: Sections from the northern area

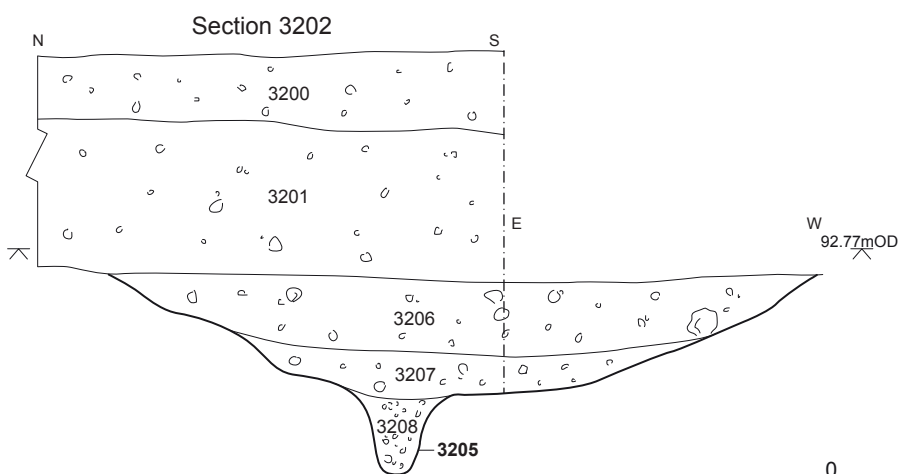
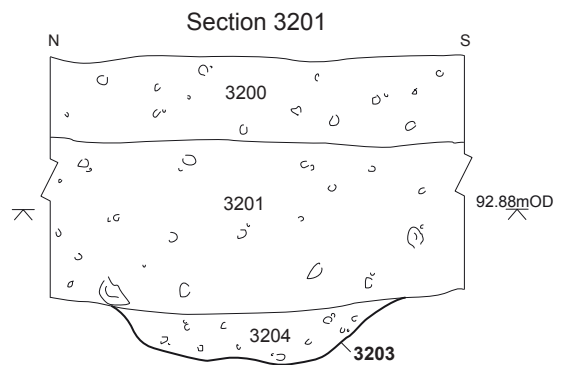
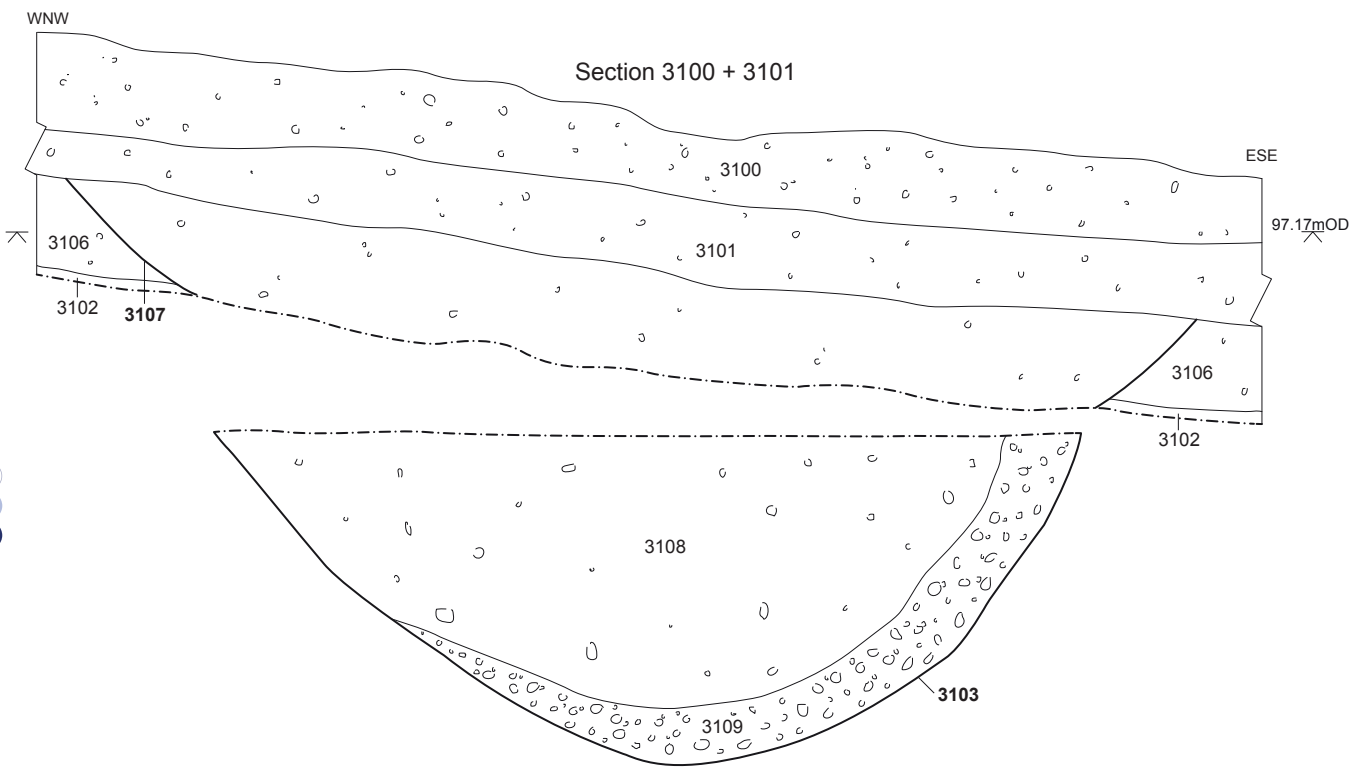


Figure 7: Sections from the northern area

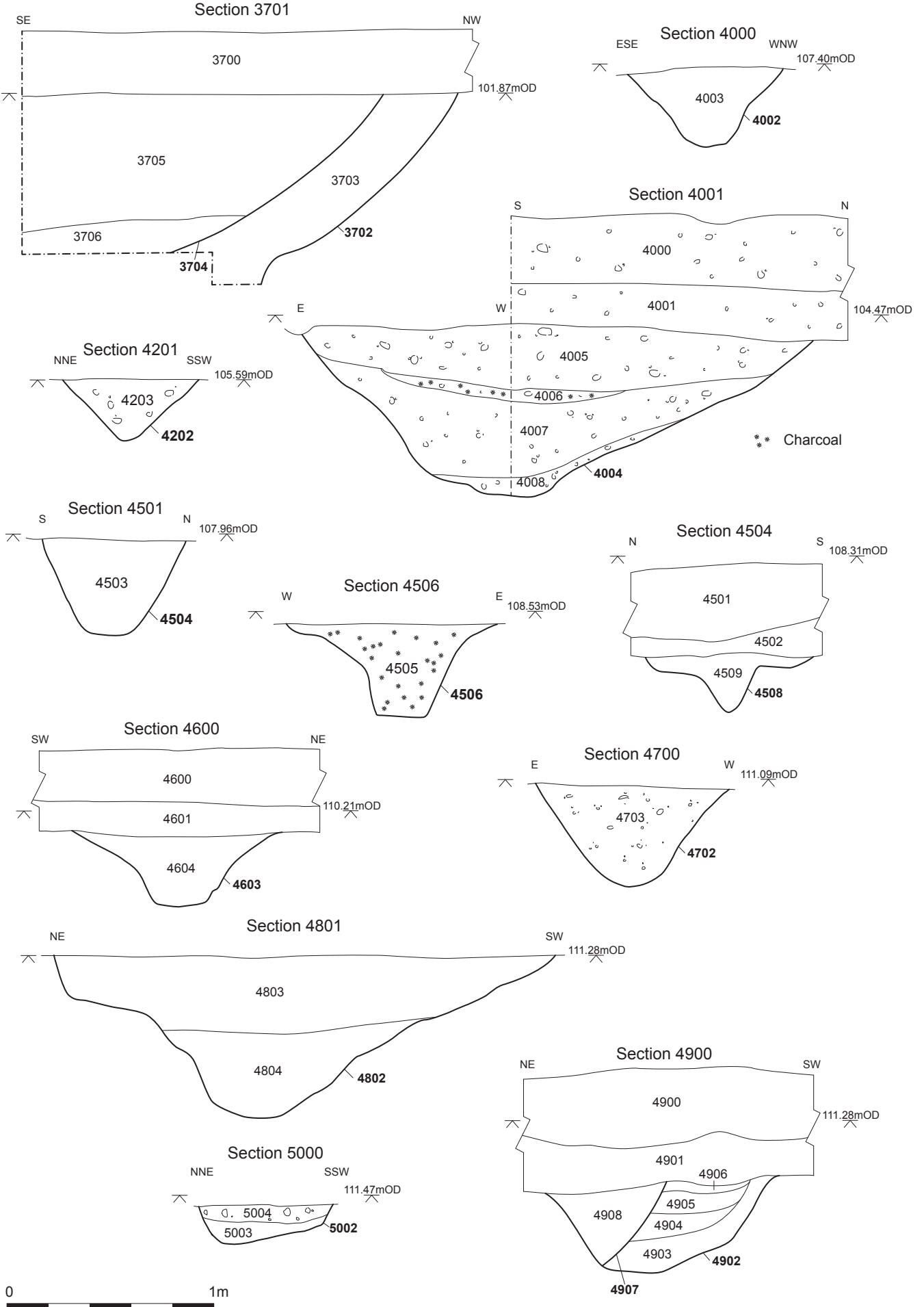


Figure 9: Sections from the southern area

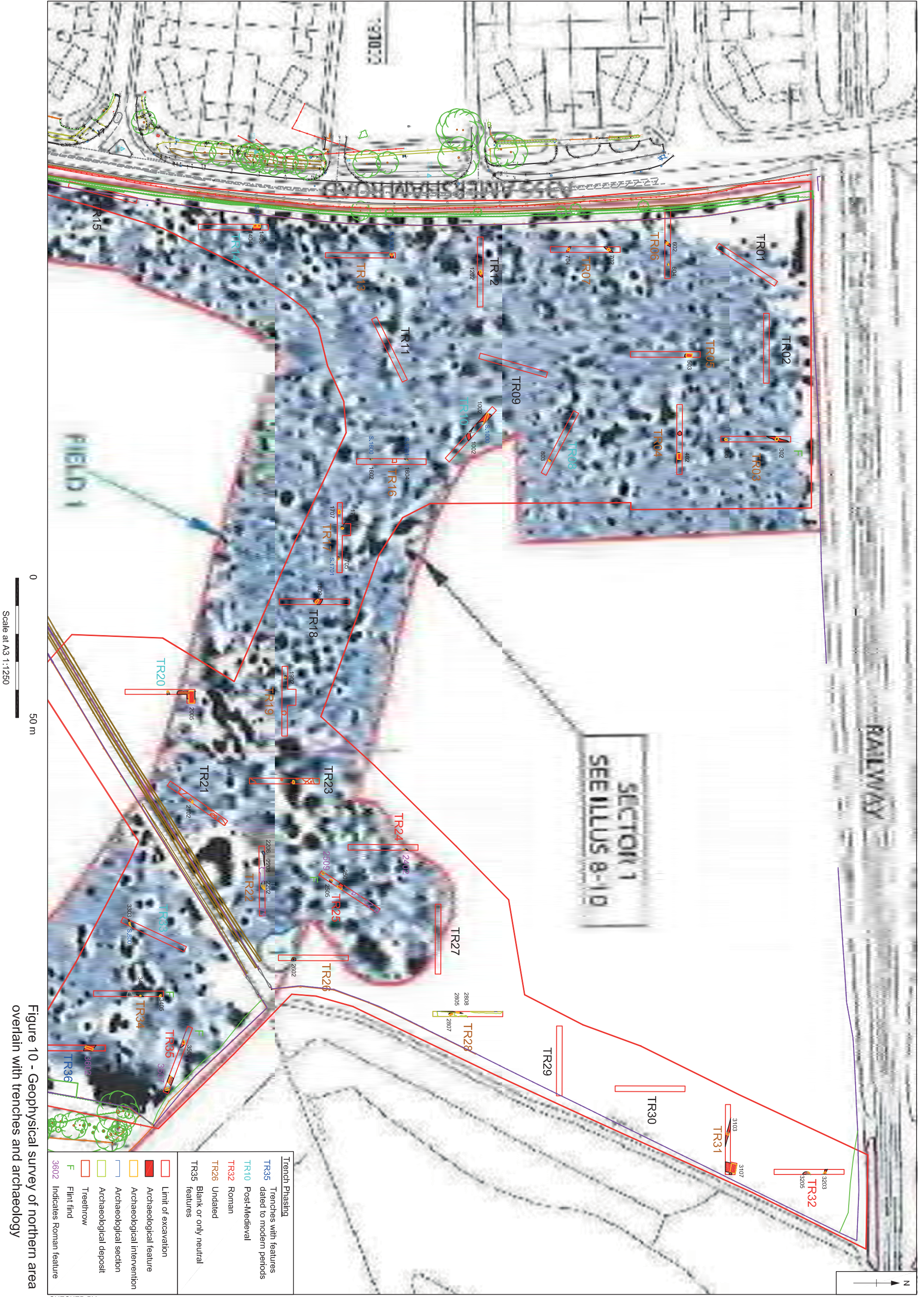


Figure 10 - Geophysical survey of northern area
overlay with trenches and archaeology

CHECKED BY:



Trench Phasing	
TR35	Trenches with features dated to modern periods
TR10	Post-Medieval
TR32	Roman
TR26	Undated
TR35	Blank or only neutral features

	Limit of excavation
	Archaeological feature
	Archaeological intervention
	Archaeological section
F	Flint find
3602	Indicates Roman feature

0 50 m
Scale at A3 1:1250

Figure 11 - Geophysical survey of southern area overlain with trenches and archaeology

CHECKED BY:



Plate 1: Trench 3 section 301 with cut 305 – looking south west



Plate 2: Trench 8 section of cut 803 – looking north west



Plate 3: Trench 10 after stripping showing feature 1002 – looking north west



Plate 4: Trench 10 section 1001 with cut 1002 – looking south west



Plate 5: Trench 13 section 1300 with cut 1303 – looking west



Plate 6: Trench 14 section 14 with cut 1410 – looking west



Plate 7: Trench 16 section 1600 with cut 1602 – looking west



Plate 8: Trench 16 section 1600 with cut 1602 – looking south



Plate 9: Trench 20 view of a felled tree-trunk in ditch 2003 – looking east



Plate 10: Trench 22 section 2201 with cuts 2202 and 2204 – looking north



Plate 11: Trench 25 section 2502 with cut 2509 – looking north west



Plate 12: Trench 28 representative section – looking east



Plate 13: Trench 30 representative section – looking west



Plate 14: Trench 31 plan view – looking east



Plate 15: Trench 35 section 3500 with cut 3503 – looking south



Plate 16: Trench 35 section 3502 with cut 3507 – looking north east



Plate 17: Trench 35 section of cut 3505 – looking west



Plate 18: Trench 36 representative section – looking east



Plate 19: Trench 45 looking south, with ditches 4504/4506 and pit 4510 in foreground



Plate 20: Trench 45 cut 4506 with pit 4510 on left and gully 4508 on right, looking north



Plate 21: Trench 45 section 4505 with cut 4518 – looking south east



Plate 22: Trench 50 plan view –
looking east



Plate 23: Trench 52 representative section – looking north



**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@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
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