A40 Park & Ride, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

March 2019

Client: AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited

Issue No: 3
OA Reference No: 7227
NGR: SP 42071 10113

oxfordarchaeology
southsouthsouth

Client Name:	AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited
Client Ref No:.	N/A
Document Title:	A40 Park & Ride, Eynsham, Oxfordshire
Document Type:	Evaluation Report
Report No.:	7227
Grid Reference:	SP 42071 10113
Planning Reference:	
Site Code:	EYPR 18
Invoice Code:	EYPREV
Receiving Body:	Oxfordshire Museums
Accession No.:	
OA Document File Location:	X:\a\A40_Eynsham_Park_and_Ride\002Reports
OA Graphics File Location:	X:\a\A40_Eynsham_Park_and_Ride\010Geomatics \\10.0.10.86\invoice codes a thru h\E_invoice codes\EYPREV
Issue No:	3
Date:	March 2019
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A40 Park & Ride, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited (AECOM) on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed Park & Ride development. Forty-one trenches were excavated, which investigated various geophysical anomalies of uncertain origin identified during a previous magnetometer survey. Further trenches were located in apparently blank areas to test the reliability of the survey results.

Several Iron Age prehistoric features were found within Trench 19 and adjacent Trench 22. A possible ring ditch on the geophysical survey plot coincides with the densest concentration of Iron Age features and finds in Trench 22, including an assemblage of fired clay oven fragments and pottery. This is likely to be the site of a roundhouse. Some of the fired clay fragments had wattle impressions indicating an associated wall or floor structure. The artefact assemblage from these two trenches included both early and late Iron Age pottery. The limited extent of the site, and apparent lack of a settlement enclosure, suggests that this was a small unenclosed farmstead. No environmental soil samples were recovered from the Iron Age features, which were heavily plough-disturbed, poorly defined and shallow. Iron Age artefact groups occurred as residual finds in contexts otherwise dated to the medieval period.

Trench 30, located 350m west of Trench 22, contained two ditches tentatively dated to the Iron Age by small amounts of pottery, which may be outlying field or trackway ditches associated with the same settlement. A soil spread in the same trench (3008) contained one sherd of Roman pottery, the only distinctively Roman material recovered during the evaluation.

Plough furrows aligned NE-SW were recorded across the site, and were sample excavated in Trenches 14, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 35, 36, 40 and 41. This confirmed the presence of former ridge-and-furrow, as previously recorded from the geophysical survey and the aerial photographic analysis undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment. Medieval pottery was recovered from several of the plough furrows, while post-medieval artefacts were recovered exclusively from the overlying ploughsoil.

A brick boundary wall with a probable gatepost was found in Trench 41. This was clearly associated with a nearby field boundary and an agricultural outbuilding shown on late 19th/early 20th-century OS maps, which was first mapped in 1899 and appears to have been demolished by the 1950s. According to the historic maps the outbuilding itself was located between Trenches 38 and 41.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council who monitored the work on behalf of the local planning authority, for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by Bernadetta Rzadek and Vix Hughes who were supported by Simon Batsman, Phoebe Burrows, Diana Chard, Andrea Forresu, Victoria Green, Tom Lawrence, Muhammed Quadir, Jacob Spriggs and Jack Traill. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Diana Chard, Conan Parsons and Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited (AECOM) on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed Park & Ride development. The land forms part of the A40 Eynsham Park & Ride and bus lane scheme.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken in advance of submission of a planning application. AECOM had submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the scope of the proposed archaeological evaluation, which was approved by Hugh Coddington, Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council; this document details how Oxford Archaeology implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies, including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation' (2014).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site (Fig. 1) is located close to the village of Eynsham, West Oxfordshire and is centred on NGR SP 42071 10113. The site lies to the north-west of the village itself, and comprises a polygonal plot, *c* 10ha in size, encompassing individual pasture fields and hedgerows. The site is bounded to the south by the A40 road, to the east by Cuckoo Lane and to the north and west by agricultural land.

1.2.2 The site is gently sloping with the northern part at *c* 75m aOD sloping down to *c* 70m at the southern end of the site, beside the A40. The underlying geology comprises mudstone of the Oxford Clay and West Walton Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic Period (157 to 166 million years ago). No superficial geology is recorded in the area of the site (British Geological Survey 2018). The site is characterised by slightly acidic, base-rich loamy, slowly permeable, seasonally wet soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield University 2019).

1.3 Previous investigations

2018 geophysical survey by SUMO

1.3.1 As part of the programme of pre-determination evaluation, a geophysical (magnetometer) survey of the site was undertaken. The survey was carried out between 7th and 8th March 2018. The results of the geophysical survey are shown on Figure 2. The survey did not find any definitive archaeological features, although a limited number of weak linear and curvilinear responses of uncertain origin were identified across this site. A former field boundary was identified which was visible on 19th-century OS mapping, along with evidence of ridge-and-furrow cultivation. The ridge-and-furrow was aligned north-east to south-west and was observed on the geophysical survey in the fields in the southern and eastern parts of the site along with another small area to the west. The ridge-and-furrow corresponded with undulations visible on aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery. In the south-western corner of the

site, an infilled pond was identified, which corresponded with a feature visible on OS mapping and was observed during the walkover survey for the desk-based assessment. Areas of magnetic variation and disturbance from ferrous objects were also present within the survey data (SUMO 2018).

1.4 Archaeological and historical background

1.4.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (DBA) (AECOM 2018a) and will not be reproduced in full here. A summary taken from the desk-based assessment can be found below.

Upper Palaeolithic to Late Iron Age (30,000 BC to AD 43)

1.4.2 A cluster of prehistoric activity has been identified at New Wintles Farm complex *c* 700m to the north-east of the site. During an excavation at this site in the late 1960s and 1970s a number of circular cropmarks were recorded (Clayton, 1973). The majority of these were not excavated apart from two which contained Anglo-Saxon finds, indicating a possible reuse of earlier barrows (see 1.4.9). Circular cropmarks of three possible barrows were also identified on 1961 aerial imagery as well as during the Upper Thames Survey of 1974 (Benson and Miles 1974, 51) and the 1993 Thames Gravel Survey (RCHME 1994). These three possible barrows measured 12m, 20m and 30m in diameter.

1.4.3 To the south of the New Wintles Farm complex, and *c* 700m to the east of the site boundary, late prehistoric linear ditches and possible pits have been identified through aerial photographic analysis as part of the 1993 Thames Gravel Survey (RCHME 1994).

1.4.4 Probable prehistoric settlement features have also been recorded through geophysical survey *c* 750m to the south of the site, including ditches, pits and evidence of gravel extraction (AECOM 2018a).

Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

1.4.5 There are no known Roman roads in close proximity to the site; the nearest known major road was Akeman Street, located 7km to the north. Archeological evidence for Roman activity has been found in the vicinity of Eynsham and it is possible that the ford across the Thames at Swinford was in use during this period.

1.4.6 No heritage assets dating to the Roman period are recorded within the site boundary, although three assets are recorded within the 750m study area. These comprise a pottery sherd of smooth buff ware that was located *c* 100m east of the site and a hoard of 35 coins located 400m south-east of the site. The coins dated from the reign of Constantine but also included single coins of Nerva and Probus and were likely buried *c* AD 330-333 (AECOM 2018a).

Early medieval (AD410 – AD1066)

1.4.7 The settlement of Eynsham was likely founded during the Saxon period and by the 9th-century was part of a royal estate. Early Saxon settlement on the site of the later abbey was superseded by buildings probably associated with a minster church founded in the 7th- or 8th-century (Hardy *et al.* 2003). The minster was refounded as a Benedictine abbey in 1005.

1.4.8 Within the 750m study area a cluster of Saxon activity has been recorded at New Wintles Farm, 700m to the north-east of the site. The extensive archaeological work undertaken at the complex (Hawkes and Gray 1969), revealed evidence of several sunken featured buildings, a separate timber building, a well with complete animal skulls, bones and Saxon pottery in the fill and a number of rubbish pits. Two ploughed out ring-ditch barrows were also excavated and were found to contain a bone comb, iron objects and crouched burials (HER refs. MOX10781, MOX10784). This suggests that the possible Bronze Age barrows may have been reused in the Saxon period (AECOM 2018a).

Medieval (AD1066 – AD1500)

1.4.9 Eynsham Abbey was again re-founded in 1109 and this complex was located 1km south-east of the site. The abbey was the focus of settlement in the area throughout the medieval period. The medieval borough of Eynsham itself, first mentioned in AD 1215, was located *c* 700m to the south-east of the site. The area around Eynsham was likely inhabited by small-scale farmers and monastic servants prior to the Reformation in the 16th-century (AECOM 2018a).

1.4.10 No medieval heritage assets have been recorded within the site boundary, although several medieval assets have been identified within the study area. This includes the site of a possible moated farmstead located *c* 200m from the western side of the site. The deserted medieval village of Tilgarsley has also been identified *c* 700m to the north of the site, with visible extant earthworks. The village was most likely depopulated during the Black Death, which peaked in England between AD 1346 and AD 1353, and as a result, Eynsham probably increased in local importance as a surviving population centre (AECOM 2018a).

1.4.11 The geophysical survey of 2018 identified ridge-and-furrow across the southern and eastern part of the site orientated NE-SW. In addition, a small area of ridge-and-furrow was also identified in the western part of the site. An aerial photograph of the site dating from 1946 shows extensive ridge-and-furrow across the whole site, orientated roughly NE-SW (AECOM 2018a).

Post-medieval (AD 1500 – AD 1900)

1.4.12 The desk-based assessment analysed historic maps of the site, which indicated that it was used for agricultural purposes during the later post-medieval period. The site was recorded as part of the manor of Eynsham on a plan of 1782. A plan of 1837 indicated that the eastern part of the site was used as arable land and the western part as pasture (AECOM 2018a).

1.4.13 The geophysical survey identified a former field boundary to the south of the site, orientated NE-SW (Fig.2).

The site is located just north of Derrymerrys Farm, which was in existence by the late 19th-century. The 1899 1:2500 OS map shows that a building was in the southern part of the site, just to the north of the Witney to Cassington Road (now the A40) and adjacent to the NW-SE field boundary. This may have been an agricultural building. It appears to have been extant until the 1920s (as shown on OS mapping) but was demolished by the 1950s.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To evaluate the survival of archaeological deposits or features (including the features of unknown origin identified within the geophysical survey results) to gain information about the archaeological resource (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, quality and significance);
ii. If archaeological remains are identified, to inform the preparation of a strategy to mitigate the impact of development.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

iii. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
iv. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
v. To test the reliability of the results of the geophysical survey, via a number of trenches in potentially blank areas across the site and trenches targeted in areas where anomalies of uncertain origin were recorded;
vi. To provide further information on the extent of modern disturbance.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Forty-one trenches were excavated, focusing on the anomalies of uncertain origin identified during the geophysical survey, with further trenches located in blank areas to test the reliability of the geophysical survey results (Fig. 2). The trenches represented a 2% sample of the overall 10ha site area. Site specific methodologies for the trial trench evaluation were as follows:

- The trenches were laid out as shown in Fig. 2 using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy, leaving a safety buffer zone on either side of an overhead electrical cable which bisected the site. No other adjustments to trench locations were required due to ground conditions or site obstructions;
- Trenches were located to investigate potentially significant anomalies recorded on the geophysical survey plot (Fig. 2);
- The trenches were excavated, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist, using a 14-ton mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches measured 1.8m wide by 30m long. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, trench edges. Trenches and the upcast spoil were scanned with a metal detector on completion of machining;
- Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand;
- The exposed surfaces were cleaned sufficiently to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type (for example furrows) was excavated and recorded. Excavation work carried out was sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation;

- Upon agreement with the Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council, the trenches were backfilled.

2.2.3 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and the OA field manual. Bulk finds were collected by context and no small finds were retrieved.

2.2.4 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered. Iron Age features encountered in Trenches 19 and 22 were very shallow, poorly defined and disturbed, with a high proportion of residual artefacts, having been truncated by medieval and later cultivation.

2.2.5 Digital photographs were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, areas and trenches and works in general.

2.2.6 Plans were produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:50 or 1:100) with larger scale plans of features as necessary. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1m-wide sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plan/s. The absolute height (m OD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines, have been calculated and indicated on the drawings.

2.2.7 All features, trench positions and sample sections were located using a GPS unit. Co-ordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

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

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated: eg pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between the trenches was varied with orange clay soils in the west of the site and silty sand and gravels in the east and south. A number of the trenches also contained geological variations, with trends of gravel recorded along with bands of colluvium, which appeared to cover depressions in the surface of the subsoil.

3.2.2 The natural geology was an orange or yellow brown silty clay towards the western part of the site. In the eastern part the natural was more varied with silty sand and sandy silt and a higher percentage of gravels. The natural was overlain by a subsoil which was present in most of the trenches apart from those in a north-south band through the centre of the site (Trenches 1-10 and Trenches 37-40). The subsoil may have been eroded at these locations, perhaps by modern ploughing. The subsoil varied in depth between 0.04m-0.2m and was either a yellow brown silty clay or an orange clay. The subsoil and the natural geology were overlain by a topsoil of brown silty clay which varied in depth from 0.05 to 0.35m.

3.2.3 Ground conditions were not ideal, the weather being overcast and often wet. Visibility was not sufficiently poor, however, as to compromise the results of the evaluation.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Significant concentrations of Iron Age and later prehistoric features were identified in Trenches 19 and 22 and one possible Roman spread was identified in Trench 30.

3.3.2 In Trench 41 a late post-medieval brick boundary wall was recorded, associated with two large circular quern-shaped stones, which may have supported gateposts.

3.3.3 Archaeological features of low significance, mainly comprising agricultural features such as plough furrows, drainage and boundary features, were present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 14, 16, 21, 25, 26, 27, 29, 35, 36, 37, 40. Geological variations were tested in Trenches 17 and 23 and colluvium was recorded in Trench 18. Tree throw holes were recorded in Trench 20.

3.3.4 The overall results of the evaluation are shown on Figure 3. Trench 19 is shown in plan on Figure 4, Trench 22 on Figure 5, Trench 30 on Figure 6 and Trench 41 on Figure 7. The sections for Trenches 19, 20 and 21 are shown on Figure 8 and the sections from Trenches 22, 30 and 41 are shown on Figure 9.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 This trench had one NE-SW aligned ditch terminus (105) that was 0.46m wide and 0.14m deep with one steep and one gradually sloping side and a concave base. It had one fill (104), a brown grey silty clay, likely the result of natural silting. This ditch was undated but was on the same alignment as the ridge-and-furrow so could be contemporary with it.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 One area of subsoil investigated in this trench may have been the base of a furrow. Feature 202 was 0.06m deep and was a depression with subsoil infilling and no definable edge.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 contained one linear trend in the natural, which may have been the extreme base of a furrow (not excavated).

3.7 Trench 12

3.7.1 One possible plough strike was identified along with a possible furrow or patch of natural variation (Plate 2).

3.8 Trench 14

3.8.1 Trench 14 contained one possible furrow (1402). This was 1.6m wide and 0.2m deep with shallow concave sides and a flat base. The edges were not well defined due to truncation by modern ploughing. This furrow contained one fill (1403), a mid yellow grey silty clay.

3.9 Trench 16

3.9.1 This trench contained a single feature at the west end (1603), which was sampled and thought initially to be a variation in the natural. It had a possible correlation with a geophysical anomaly and was found to be a shallow depression in the natural. It may have been a root hollow of a former hedge line as an extant hedge is located immediately to the west. The feature was filled with 1602, a pale mid grey silty clay and was cut by a modern field drain.

3.10 Trench 17

3.10.1 Trench 17 was devoid of archaeological remains but contained gravel patches within the subsoil 1701, which may explain anomalies on the geophysical survey plot at this location.

3.11 Trench 18

3.11.1 This trench was also devoid of archaeological features but the presence of colluvium was noted. The topsoil and subsoil had formed over colluvium infilling a slight hollow in the natural in the centre of the trench.

3.12 Trench 19

3.12.1 This trench (Figs 4 and 8, Plates 4-7) contained several features including a ditch terminus (1905), one possible ring ditch (1915), three linear ditches (1907, 1917 and 1919), three pits (1911, 1913 and 1926), a gully terminus (1924) and a tree-throw hole 1909 (Fig. 4). The edges of these features were not clear in plan, being truncated by broad plough furrows which had very similar fills. In section, they were more easily defined (Fig. 8, sections 1901-1906).

3.12.2 Ditch 1907 was located towards the western end of the trench and was aligned NE-SW. It was 0.4m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 8, sections 1906; Plate 3). It had one fill (1906) a dark grey silty clay, which contained seven sherds of pottery dating from *c* 1100-1250. As the ditch was on the same alignment as the plough furrows it may have been a medieval drainage ditch.

3.12.3 Ditch 1917 was aligned north-south in the eastern half of the trench and was 2.02m wide and 0.18m deep (Fig. 8, Section 1901; Plate 4). This ditch had gently sloping sides and a ledge on the eastern side. The basal fill (1922) was a dark green grey clayey silt that was 0.34m deep. The upper fill (1916) was 0.18m deep and was a mid-brown grey clayey silt. The latter fill contained two sherds of late Iron Age pottery (100BC – 50AD). This fill also contained one corner fragment of 20th-century roof tile, which may be intrusive. Ditch 1917 was truncated on its western edge by the eastern arm of possible ring ditch 1915.

3.12.4 A possible ring ditch (1915) was located in the eastern part of Trench 19 and cut ditch 1917. This curvilinear ditch was observed twice in section (Fig. 8, Section 1901, Plate 4) and was approximately 4m across in plan. It was 0.68m wide and 0.13m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch had one fill (1914), a mid-brown grey clayey silt, which contained three sherds of pottery which could not be dated. In plan, this feature was not clear and requires further investigation to confirm whether it is a ring ditch. Alternatively, it may represent the intersection of two ditches on different alignments.

3.12.5 Towards the centre of the trench was a pit (1913) which was cut by a gully terminus (1924). Pit 1913 was 1.28m wide and 0.2m deep and was sub-oval in plan with moderately steep sides and an almost flat base. It contained one fill (1912), a light grey brown silty clay, and was cut by gully terminus 1924, which is visible in section (Fig. 7, section 1902, Plate 5). Gully terminus 1924 was 0.42m wide and 0.16m deep with a moderately steep side and a concave base. It contained one fill (1923), a dark brown silty clay.

3.12.6 Pit 1911 was located at the northern edge of the trench in its western half and was 0.83m wide and 0.16m deep, with moderately steep sides and a gentle concave base. It contained one fill (1910), a dark grey brown silty clay (Fig. 8, section 1903).

3.12.7 Ditch 1919 was located towards the eastern end of the trench. It was curvilinear and could be seen in two sections (Fig. 8, sections 1904 and 1905). The ditch was 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had one fill (1918), a dark grey brown silty clay, which contained charcoal. This pit was was cut by pit 1926, which was 1.6m wide and 0.16m deep, sub-oval in plan with gently sloping sides and a near flat base. It contained one fill (1925), a dark grey brown silty clay.

3.12.8 Ditch terminus 1905 was located towards the western end of the trench and was 0.98m wide and 0.2m deep. This ditch was aligned north-south and had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained one fill (1904), a mid-brown grey silty clay.

3.13 Trench 20

3.13.1 This trench contained two features, which were likely tree-throw holes. Feature 2005 had a flat base and sloping sides filled by 2005, a mid-grey silty clay (Fig. 8; section 2001). Feature 2007 had asymmetrical sides and a flat base and was circular in plan (Fig. 8, section 2000). It was filled by 2006, a mid-brown clay.

3.14 Trench 21

3.14.1 This trench had one furrow and two irregular features, which were probably tree-throw holes.

3.14.2 Ditch or furrow 2105 was excavated and was 0.84m wide and 0.17m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 8, section 2101). It contained one fill (2104), a mid-brown grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal.

3.15 Trench 22

3.15.1 This trench (Figs. 5 and 9, Plates 8-13) contained a clear concentration of archaeological features including a possible ring ditch, ditches, pits, postholes and a plough furrow. As in adjacent Trench 19 the edges of the archaeological features were not clear in plan, being truncated by broad plough furrows which had very similiar fills. In section, they were more easily defined (Fig. 9, sections 2201, 2203, 2205, 2206).

3.15.2 Irregular pit 2223 was located beneath pit 2209 in the centre of the trench (Fig. 9, section 2203). Pit 2223 was 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep with a steep slope to the west and a gentle slope to the east. This feature had one fill (2222) and was truncated or overlain by later pit 2209. Pit 2209 was 1.2m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and a flattish base (Fig. 8, section 2203). This pit contained one fill (2208).

3.15.3 Pit 2215 was located just east of features 2223 and 2209 (Fig. 9, Section 2206, Plate 11). It contained a single fill (2214), was 1m long and 0.15m deep with a shallow profile and a flat base to the east and a concave base to the west. Pit 2215 was truncated by later plough furrow (2213) which was aligned NE-SW (Fig. 9, sections 2201 and 2206, Plate 11). This furrow was 2.5m wide and 0.10m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and contained one fill (2212). The mixed ploughsoil infilling the furrow (2212) contained one sherd of 13th-14th century pottery and three sherds of residual early Iron Age pottery. This fill also contained 18 fragments of residual fired clay of prehistoric to Roman date which was probably from an oven. The fired clay displayed hints of wattle impressions which were probably part of the oven wall or floor. The residual pottery sherds and fired clay fragments may have originated from pit 2215, which was truncated by furrow 2213.

3.15.4 Gully 2219 was located towards in eastern half of the trench and was aligned NW-SE (Fig. 9, section 2205, Plate 9). It was 0.35m wide and 0.13m deep with rounded sides and a rounded base and contained one fill (2218). Just to the east of ditch 2219 was a small pit 2221 (Fig. 9, section 2202, Plate 8). This was 0.40m wide and 0.11m deep and oval in plan. In profile, the pit had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. It had

one fill (2220) which was a dark grey black silty clay which contained ten fragments of fired clay from an oven, which like the fragments found in furrow 2213 had faint hints of possible wattles relating to a structure. The fired clay is only broadly datable to the later prehistoric or Roman period.

3.15.5 Ditch terminus 2207 was located near the east end of the trench and was aligned NW-SE (Fig. 9, Plate 10). It was 0.85m wide and 0.3m deep and had rounded sides and a rounded base, with one fill (2206) which contained 60 sherds of later prehistoric pottery. The pottery could not be more securely dated as it was poorly made with a mixed fabric. It may be contemporary with the other early Iron Age material found in Trench 22, but this cannot be demonstrated.

3.16 Trench 23

3.16.1 Trench 23 contained three faint linear features, which were tested and found to be geological variations (2305, 2307 and 2309).

3.17 Trench 25

3.17.1 This trench contained six WSW-ENE-aligned plough furrows (2505, 2509, 2511, 2515, 2517 and 2519) and one of these was excavated and tested (2519). Furrow 2519 was aligned WSW/ENE and was 0.48m wide and 0.10m deep. This furrow had one fill (2518) a light grey brown clay.

3.18 Trench 26

3.18.1 Trench contained four NE-SW aligned linear features (2605, 2607, 2609 and 2611) that were tested but not fully excavated. Three were interpreted as plough furrows. One of the features (2605) may have been a ditch as it was on a slightly different alignment to the others. The fills of all four features were brown grey silty clay.

3.19 Trench 27

3.19.1 Trench 27 contained one plough furrow (2704) which was excavated and found to be 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep and with a single brown-grey silty clay fill (2703).

3.20 Trench 29

3.20.1 Trench 29 contained one plough furrow (unexcavated).

3.21 Trench 30

3.21.1 Trench 30 (Figs 6 and 9, Plate 15) contained a ditch (3005), a furrow (3007) and a spread of silty clay colluvium (3008).

3.21.2 Ditch or furrow 3005 was aligned NW-SE and was 0.96m wide and 0.14m deep (Fig. 9, section 3000, Plate 15). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It had one fill (3004) a mid-blue grey silty clay, which contained two sherds of pottery of possible Iron Age date. This feature may have been a furrow but is on a different alignment to the other known furrows in the field.

3.21.3 Furrow 3007 was aligned east-west and was 1.46m wide and 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It had one fill (3006), a green grey silty clay with one sherd of pottery of possible Iron Age date, which is likely residual.

3.21.4 Layer 3008 was a soil spread of mid-grey orange silty clay, 1.2m wide and 0.05m deep, located at the base of the subsoil. Excavation produced one sherd of Roman pottery.

3.22 Trench 35

3.22.1 This trench contained two NE-SW-aligned linear features (3505, 3507), both probably furrows, one of which was excavated (3505).

3.22.2 Possible furrow 3505 was 1.04m wide and 0.14m deep and was aligned NE-SW. This feature had gently sloping sides and a flat base and contained one fill (3504) a mid-brown silty clay (Plate 16).

3.23 Trench 36

3.23.1 This trench contained two plough furrows and one faint probable geological variation. All of these were tested but not fully excavated. Linear feature 3603 was 0.12m deep and was aligned NE-SW. This feature was diffuse suggesting that it may have been a natural variation. Furrows 3605 and 3607 were both filled with a dark orange grey silty slay (fills 3606 and 3608 respectively).

3.24 Trench 37

3.24.1 Trench contained one NE-SW aligned plough furrow at the northern end of the trench (unexcavated).

3.25 Trench 40

3.25.1 This trench contained a NE-SW aligned probable furrow or hedge line (4002) at the eastern end of the trench (not excavated).

3.26 Trench 41

3.26.1 This trench contained four plough furrows, one of which (4108) was excavated, and a brick wall (4105) at the eastern end of the trench (Figs. 7 and 9, Plate 18).

3.26.2 Furrow 4108 was aligned NE-SW and was 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 9, section 4102). It contained one fill (4107).

3.26.3 Wall (4105) at the eastern end of the trench was aligned NW-SE and a 2.34m length was recorded (Fig. 7, Fig. 9, section 4101, Plate 18). The construction cut (4104) for the wall was 0.34m wide and 0.25m deep with a flat base and steep sides. The base of the cut was filled with a foundation layer (4106) of soft sandy silt. A primary element of the wall, about two-thirds of the way along its length from the north side of the trench, was a pit containing a circular staddle stone 0.5m in diameter (See Appendix B.7). Above this was a sub-rectangular stone 0.18m wide set on edge and supported to NW and south-east by bricks set face down across the line of the wall. Above these on each side of the upright stone was a single course of bricks laid flat across the line of the wall, ie as in header bond, but in the absence of an overlying course this is uncertain. Fragments of bonding material, a fine grained sediment of mid grey silty sand, survived in the south-eastern part of the wall. The 19th-century bricks were unfrogged and were 220mm x 105mm x 70mm. The upright stone may have served to support a gatepost.

3.26.4 A second staddle stone was found 5m west of structure 4105, protruding from the trench section and not *in situ*. The two staddle stones found in Trench 41 probably derived originally from an agricultural storage building of 17th- or 18th-century date. The stones appear to have been re-used to support gateposts in a boundary wall (4105). Historic maps show that the gateway led to an agricultural outbuilding located between Trenches 38 and 41, which was built in the late 19th-century and demolished by the 1950s (see para 4.2.8 below).

3.27 Finds summary

3.27.1 The finds recorded during the evaluation included prehistoric and Roman pottery (Appendix B.1), medieval and post-medieval pottery (Appendix B.2), ceramic building material (Appendix B.3), fired clay (Appendix B.4), four Iron objects (Appendix B.5), one piece of glass (Appendix B.6), two stone objects (Appendix B.7), and 13g of animal bone (Appendix C.1).

3.27.2 The vast majority of the dateable artefacts by fragment count comprised Iron Age pottery. A total of 77 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 585g was recovered, mostly from Trenches 19 and 22. A small number of Iron Age and Roman sherds were found in Trench 30. In addition, 15 sherds (183g) of medieval and later pottery were recovered from a variety of contexts scattered throughout the site. The medieval sherds were mainly recovered from plough furrows and ditches associated with the ridge-and-furrow, whereas the post-medieval pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil.

3.27.3 Two large disc-shaped pieces of worked limestone (staddle stones) were found associated with brick structure 4105, clearly re-used in a secondary context, probably to support gate posts in a late 19th century boundary wall (Appendix B.7).

3.28 Environmental summary

3.28.1 No soil samples were recovered during the evaluation. The decision not to sample was taken due to the very shallow and disturbed nature of the features encountered in evaluation Trenches 19 and 22. These were the only trenches where significant archaeology was identified. The features exhibited a high level of residuality and were heavily disturbed, being only a few centimetres deep. In some sections they were cut through entirely by medieval plough furrows and ditches and were very indistinct in plan. None of the features had visibly charcoal-rich fills and there would have been no confidence that any charred material recovered was Iron Age or medieval in date. The high level of residuality/disturbance was clearly demonstrated by the recovery of significant groups of prehistoric artefacts from contexts otherwise dated to the medieval period.

Regarding the potential for sampling during any further mitigation, open area excavation should allow better resolution of the features than was possible in narrow evaluation trenches, making it more likely that relatively undisturbed contexts can be identified. Some level of soil sampling would need to be allowed for. However, the potential for soil sampling, given the heavily disturbed and truncated nature of the archaeology, and the small size of the identified Iron Age settlement site, would be very limited.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 During the evaluation the weather was wet and overcast with short mid-winter days. This meant that visibility was poor when opening some of the trenches.

4.1.2 A number of the trenches contained variations in the natural geology including bands of natural gravel and areas of clay and colluvium amongst the sandy silt. In some cases it was hard to distinguish between the natural features, plough furrows and archaeological features prior to excavation. Most of the possible features identified were tested unless they were confidently interpreted as plough furrows. Plough furrows were widespread, particularly in the eastern fields, and most were not excavated or recorded in detail. The NE-SW orientation of the furrows in the trenches matched that of the ridge-and-furrow as documented on aerial photographs and the geophysical survey plot (Fig. 3). There was no indication of different phases of ridge-and-furrow. Sufficient furrows were sampled to recover dating evidence and confirm their interpretation.

4.1.3 More archaeological features were present in the eastern fields than the western, and this is considered to be a true reflection of the archaeological potential of the site. It appears to reflect a change in the geology (clay soils to the west, mainly sandy gravel to the east) and differences in predominant historic land-use (pasture to the west, arable to the east).

4.1.4 Four of the trenches (13-16) were moved northwards to create a safety buffer zone around an overhead cable which bisected the site. The trenches nevertheless achieved good coverage of the site area and provided a clear indication of where archaeological evidence is likely to survive.

4.2 Results of the evaluation

Early prehistoric evidence

4.2.1 No finds or features were identified that pre-dated the Iron Age.

Iron Age and Roman evidence

4.2.2 The evaluation demonstrated the presence of a significant focus of Iron Age domestic activity in Trenches 19 and 22.

4.2.3 Trench 22 contained the most Iron Age artefacts, including fired clay oven fragments, and also coincides with a possible ring ditch located on the geophysical survey. This is probably the site of a roundhouse. Ditch terminus 2007 was aligned NW-SE and contained 60 sherds of pottery from a single vessel that was broadly dated to the later prehistoric period. Small pit 2221 contained fired clay fragments dating broadly from the later prehistoric or Roman period (more likely the former given the date of the other artefacts recovered from this trench). Fired clay (18 fragments) and early Iron Age pottery was found as residual material in medieval plough furrow 2213. This furrow cut through an earlier pit (2215) and the early Iron Age pottery and fired clay may have originated from this feature. Possible Iron Age pottery and five fragments of fired clay were also found in pit 2227. The fired clay that was found within pit 2221, pit 2227 and residually in furrow 2213 was probably part of an oven structure of late

prehistoric date. The fired clay fragments had wattle impressions which indicated a structural element such as a reinforced wall or suspended floor. Although the fired clay itself could not be closely dated (wattle structures occur most commonly from the Iron Age to the Saxon period), it is likely that the oven and wattle structures are associated with the Iron Age pottery found within this trench. The oven structures and other dateable finds and features suggest a domestic use for the site in the later prehistoric period.

4.2.4 In Trench 19, which was 30m north-west of Trench 22, a possible small ring ditch was found (1915), although this was unclear in plan and may represent the intersection of two ditches. This feature partly truncated an earlier ditch (1917) that contained late Iron Age (100 BC- AD 50) pottery in its upper fill (1916). Fill 1916 also contained a fragment of 20th-century roof tile, although this is likely to be intrusive. Trench 19 contained several other features, including ditch termini 1905 and 1924, pits 1911, 1913 and 1916 and ditch 1919, which were all excavated but produced no artefacts and are therefore undated. Any or all of them could be contemporary with the Iron Age features. Ditch 1907, located at the western end of Trench 19, in contrast was aligned parallel to the medieval ridge-and-furrow and contained later medieval pottery.

4.2.5 Trench 30, located at the western end of the site, contained slight evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity. This trench contained two linear features, one east-west aligned (3007) and one NW-SE aligned (3005). Ditches 3005 and 3007 contained a total of three sherds of Iron Age pottery, a very small amount. However, both features are aligned in different directions to the SW-NE medieval ridge-and-furrow, which supports their interpretation as later prehistoric features. These could be outlying field boundary or trackway ditches, associated with the settlement found in Trenches 19 and 22, which lies 350m to the east.

4.2.6 Trench 30 also contained a soil spread at the southern end, which contained one sherd of Roman pottery (3008). This may be a colluvial deposit as it is located at the bottom of the slope towards the south-west side of the site. This sherd is the only artefact from the evaluation which is attributed with any confidence to the Roman period.

Medieval and post-medieval evidence

4.2.7 Plough furrows aligned NE-SW were observed throughout the site in Trenches 14, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 35, 36, 40 and 41. Although not all of the furrows were excavated, a proportion were sampled and the sections record a typical very shallow, U-shaped profile. The alignment of the furrows corresponds with the results from the 2018 geophysical survey. The medieval and post-medieval pottery from the site falls into two distinct groups. The medieval sherds were mainly recovered from plough furrows and ditches associated with the ridge-and-furrow, whereas the post-medieval pottery was recovered mainly from the ploughsoil. The desk-based assessment found that NE-SW aligned ridge-and-furrow survived as upstanding earthworks in the three western fields of the site until about 1946 (AECOM 2018a, Plate 2), whereas the ridge-and-furrow in the eastern field had mostly been ploughed out by that date. In the 19th-century the eastern field was used for arable farming whereas the western field was used for pasture. This evaluation found that the soil in the east of the site were more gravelly whereas heavier clays were found to the west of the site. The gravelly soils to

the east were probably preferred for arable farming because they are better drained and more easily worked than the predominantly clay western fields.

4.2.8 Trench 41 contained a 19th-century NW-SE brick wall (4105) at the eastern end of the trench. This boundary wall was on a parallel alignment with an extant hedgeline and field boundary to the east. The wall is a few metres to the south of a former NW-SE aligned building, which is first shown on the 1:2500 OS map of 1899. This probable agricultural outbuilding does not appear on the 1877 OS map, so was probably built in the late 19th-century. It was still present in the 1920s, but had been demolished by the 1950s. It is unlikely that the building was a domestic dwelling, as the OS maps do not show a track leading to the building from the main road to the south.

4.2.9 Wall 4105 had a staddle stone embedded at the base and another *ex situ* staddle stone was located nearby, also in Trench 41. These stones appear to have been used to support a gate providing access to the field containing the agricultural outbuilding. They have presumably been re-used from an earlier building as staddle stones generally date from the 17th- or 18th-centuries and would originally have been used to raise the floor of a granary, or other agricultural storage building, to protect the contents from vermin and water seepage.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The features in Trenches 19 and 22 form a clearly defined focus of regionally important late prehistoric activity. The presence of both early and late Iron Age pottery in these trenches, and parts of an oven structure in Trench 22, suggest that this is a previously unknown Iron Age settlement, perhaps with more than one phase of activity. A possible ring ditch on the geophysical survey plot coincides with the densest concentration of features and artefacts in Trench 22, which indicates the presence of at least one probable roundhouse. The cut features were not at all clear in plan, and were difficult to interpret with any confidence in narrow trenches. The prehistoric features were only a few centimetres deep and prehistoric artefacts occurred in contexts along with medieval material, indicating a high degree of disturbance and truncation, caused by ploughing and agricultural drainage/boundary ditches which cut across the site. No environmental soil samples were recovered for this reason and the site is likely to have very limited potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis during any mitigation. Nevertheless, several features could be structural elements of a roundhouse. The range of artefacts, limited extent of the site and apparent lack of an enclosure ditch, suggest that this may have been a small unenclosed farmstead. On present evidence there is no indication that the site was formerly more extensive and has been truncated. Trenches 19 and 22 lie at the top of a slight plateau in the highest part of the site. The location appears to have suffered very similar levels of plough truncation to the surrounding trenches, which found no archaeological finds or features of this date at all.

4.3.2 Trench 30 produced a total of three sherds of Iron Age pottery, from ditches 3005 and 3007, which suggests a low level of Iron Age activity at this location in the south-west corner of the site. They are poorly dated and not in themselves very significant, but help to clarify the extent of Iron Age activity within the site.

4.3.3 Also within Trench 30 was a soil spread infilling a slight depression in the natural which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. The Roman evidence from the site is very slight and of low significance.

4.3.4 The NE-SW plough furrows and associated agricultural features across the site are not particularly significant, especially given their poor state of preservation. The medieval and post-medieval landscape features have been adequately documented by the geophysical survey and trial trenching.

4.3.5 A brick boundary wall (4105) with probable gatepost in Trench 41 dates from the late 19th-century and was no doubt associated with a nearby agricultural outbuilding depicted on historic maps of the site between the late 19th- and mid-20th-century. The wall itself is not significant, but if remains of the associated agricultural outbuilding were found to be well preserved (the building is located between Trenches 38 and 41) it would have some slight local significance. A pair of large disk-shaped staddle stones, found re-used as supports for gate-posts embedded in the brick boundary wall, probably date from the 17th- or 18th-century. They are not especially rare or unusual, and are clearly not in a primary context. The stones will not be retained for museum deposition.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench had one ditch that terminated within 105. Trench had a topsoil overlying natural geology of yellow brown silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
101	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	Pottery	c1830-1880
102		-		VOID		
103	Layer	-	-	Natural		
104	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of Ditch 105. Brown grey silty clay. Natural silting		
105	Cut	0.46	0.14	Ditch terminus with steep and gradual sides with a concave base		

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench excavated by machine. One area of subsoil investigated and this may be the base of a furrow. The trench had topsoil overlying natural geology of grey orange silty clay.					**Length (m)**	29.7
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer		0.22	Topsoil	Roof tile	LC14-EC17
201	Layer			Natural	Roof tile	LC14-EC17
202	Feature?		0.06	A possible furrow base. A depression with subsoil infilling with no definable edges 0.06m thick		

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench excavated by machine. Trench devoid of archaeology but contained one modern drainpipe at the western end and one linear trend in the natural, which may have been the extreme base of a furrow. The trench had topsoil overlying natural geology of pale grey orange clay.					**Length (m)**	29.7
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer		0.31	Topsoil		
301	Layer			Natural		

Trench 4			
General description		**Orientation**	E-W

Trench 4						
Trench devoid of archaeology but had three modern drains. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light blue yellow silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
401	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
402	Layer			Natural		

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology but contained one modern drain. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light blue yellow silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
501	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
502	Layer			Natural		

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow brown silty clay.					Length (m)	29.4
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
601				VOID		
602	Layer			Natural		

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology but contained three modern drains. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light blue yellow silty clay					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
701	Layer		0.29	Topsoil		
702	Layer			Natural		

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology but contained two modern drains. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light blue yellow silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
801	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
802	Layer			Natural		

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology but contained two modern drains. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light blue yellow silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
902	Layer			Natural		

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology but contained one modern drain. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light blue yellow silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.20
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer		0.20	Topsoil	Pottery	c1750-1900
1002	Layer			Natural		

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Several features were sampled and found to be natural. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid orange grey clay with rounded pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1101	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
1102	Layer			Subsoil. Dark orange brown silty clay		
1103	Layer			Natural		

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of significant archaeology. One possible plough strike was identified along with a possible furrow or patch of natural variation. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of mid grey orange clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer		0.31	Topsoil	Pottery	c1700-1900
1201	Layer			Natural		

Trench 13		
General description	**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
	Length (m)	30

Trench 13						
Trench devoid of archaeology but contained one modern drain. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light blue yellow silty clay.					**Width (m)**	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1301	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
1302	Layer			Natural		

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained one possible furrow (1402). Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow brown silty clay.					**Length (m)**	29.6
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.10
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer		0.10	Topsoil		
1401	Layer			Natural		
1402	Cut	1.6	0.2	Furrow. Shallow concaved sides and flat base. The edges were not well defined due to truncation by modern ploughing		
1403	Fill			Fill of furrow 1402. Mid yellow grey silty clay.		

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of light brown yellow sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
1501	Layer		0.13	Subsoil. Dark yellow brown sandy silt.		
1502	Layer			Natural		

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a feature, which was sampled and thought to be a variation in natural at the west end of the trench. A field drain was also identified. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of orange clay.					**Length (m)**	34.1
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
1601	Layer			Natural		

Trench 16						
1602	Fill of feature			Fill of natural feature 1602. Pale mid grey silty clay		
1603	Natural feature			Natural feature. This feature had a possible correlation to a geophysical anomaly and it was found to be a shallow depression – formed by water? It may have also been a root hollow of a former hedge line and a hedge is located immediately to the north. Less likely to be a variation in natural. Cut by field drain.		

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench had gravel patches within the subsoil 1701 which may be responsible for the anomalies in the geophysics. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow compacted clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2.4
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
1701	Layer			Subsoil. Mid grey brown gravely sand with gravel. Gravel varies in size from small stones to larger pebbles and may be colluvium/alluvium.		
1702	Layer			Natural		

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying colluvium in the centre of the trench and natural geology of mid yellow brown silty clay at either end of the trench (and under the colluvium). The dip in the landscape allowed for the buildup of colluvium in the centre of the trench.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.63
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Layer		0.19	Topsoil		
1801	Layer		0.21	Subsoil		
1802	Layer		0.23	Natural – colluvium. Mid grey brown silty clay		
1803	Layer			Natural		

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a dense cluster of features including two ring ditch several pits and a linear ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow brown silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1901	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
1902	Layer		0.06	Subsoil. dark yellow silty clay		
1903	Layer			Natural		
1904	Fill			Fill of 1905. Mid brown grey silty clay. Formed by natural processes.		
1905	Cut	0.98	0.2	Ditch terminus aligned north-south with a rounded end. Moderately steep sides and a concave base. It is cut to the eastern side by a modern land drain.		
1906	Fill			Fill of 1907. Dark grey brown silty clay.	Pottery	Seven sherds dated c1100-1250?
1907	Cut	0.4	0.3	Ditch aligned NE-SW with steep sides and a flat base on the west side of trench. Cut by three land drains.		
1908	VOID					
1909	VOID					
1910	Fill	0.84	0.16	Fill of 1911. Dark grey brown silty clay.		
1911	Cut	0.84	0.16	Pit located on the western side and northern edge of trench. Moderately steep sides and a gentle concave base.		
1912	Fill	1.28	0.2	Fill of 1913. Light grey brown silty clay.		
1913	Cut	1.28	0.2	Pit. Sub-oval in plan and with moderately steep sides and an almost flat base. Cut by gully 1924 which is visible on the section		
1914	Fill	0.68	0.13	Fill of ring ditch 1915. Mid brown grey clayey silt.	Pottery	Unknown date

Trench 19						
1915	Cut	0.68	0.13	Cut of a shallow curvilinear ditch with gentle sides, concave base. This ditch truncated ditch 1917 and was one of two ring ditches in Trench 19 along with 1919. Also truncated 1922.		
1916	Fill	2.02	0.18	Top fill of ditch 1917. Mid brown grey clayey silt.	Pottery, animal bone, roof tile	Late Iron Age 100 BC- AD 50. Roof tile 20th-century
1917	Cut	2.08	0.4	Ditch orientated NE-SW. Truncated by ring ditch 1915. Full extend unknown. This ditch had gentle sides and a concave base.		
1918	Fill	1.62	0.16	Fill of 1919. Dark grey brown silty clay. Fill contained charcoal.		
1919	Cut	1.62	0.16	Cut of ring ditch. Near flat base with gentle sloping sides. Cut by 1926.		
1920	Fill			Fill of 1921		
1921	Cut			Land drain		
1922	Fill		0.34	Basal fill of 1917. Dark green grey clayey silt.		
1923	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1924. Dark grey brown silty clay		
1924	Cut	0.42	0.16	Gully terminus. Concave base with moderately steep side. Cuts pit 1913.		
1925	Fill		0.16	Fill of pit 1926. Dark grey brown silty clay.		
1926	Cut	0.78	0.16	Pit. Sub-oval in plan with gentle sloping sides and a near flat base. Cuts a ring ditch 1919.		

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two features, which were likely tree throws. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow brown silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2001	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		

Trench 20						
2002	Layer		0.16	Subsoil. Dark yellow brown silty clay.		
2003	Layer			Natural. Mid yellow brown sandy clay.		
2004	Fill			Fill of 2005. Mid grey silty clay.		
2005	Cut			Possible tree-throw. Flat base sloping sides.		
2006	Fill			Fill of 2007. Mid grey brown grey clay	Pottery	
2007	Cut			Possible tree-throw or pit. Asymmetrical sides and a flat base and circular in plan.		

Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench had one furrow and two irregular anomalies, which were likely to be tree throws. Visibility was poor when this trench was opened. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow brown sandy clay					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2101	Layer		0.35	Topsoil		
2102	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Dark yellow brown silty clay.		
2103	Fill			Natural		
2104	Fill		0.17	Fill of 2105. Mid brown grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal.		
2105	Cut	0.84	0.17	Furrow. Had a flat base and gentle sides		

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a concentration of archaeological features in the eastern half, including ditches (possibly furrows), pits and postholes. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow brown sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2201	Layer			Topsoil		
2202	Layer		0.04	Subsoil. Dark yellow brown silty clay		
2203	Layer			Natural		
2204	Void			Duplicate record		
2205	Void			Duplicate record		
2206	Fill			Fill of ditch terminus 2207	Pottery (60 sherds)	Later prehistoric

Trench 22						
						1600 BC-100 AD
2207	Cut	0.86	0.3	Cut of ditch terminus. Rounded sides and base		
2208	Fill			Fill of pit 2209		
2209	Cut	1.48	0.18	Pit. Sub-oval. Gently sloping sides. Truncates or overlays 2223		
2210	Void			Duplicate record		
2211	Void			Duplicate record		
2212	Fill			Fill of furrow 2213	Pottery, fired clay	Pottery - Early Iron Age 500 BC 350 AD. Fired clay is prehistoric to Roman. 1 sherd of c.1100-1400 pottery
2213	Cut	2.65	0.10	Ditch. Shallow U-shaped profile – possibly a furrow.		
2214	Fill			Fill of pit 2215		
2215	Cut		0.06	Cut of pit		
2216	Void			Not a feature		
2217	Void			Not a feature		
2218	Fill			Fill of ditch 2219		
2219	Cut	0.35	0.13	Small ditch. Rounded sides and rounded base.		
2220	Fill		0.11	Fill of 2221. Dark grey black silty clay	Pottery, fired clay	Fired clay, prehistoric to Roman
2221	Cut	0.40	0.11	Pit. Oval with flat base, steep sides. Possible areas of burning and burnt clay		
2222	Fill		0.16	Fill of pit 2223		
2223	Cut			Irregular feature located underneath pit 2209		
2224	Void			Duplicated record		
2225	Void			Duplicated record		
2226	Fill			Fill of 2227	Pottery, fired clay	Pottery - Early Iron Age?; fired clay is prehistoric to Roman
2227	Cut			Pit		

Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Contains three linears, which were very likely geological variations. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2301	Layer			Topsoil		
2302	Layer			Subsoil. Dark yellow brown silty clay		
2303	Layer			Natural. Mid yellow brown silty clay		
2304	Fill			Fill of 2305		
2305	Cut			Natural feature. Feature tested and found to be a geological variation		
2306	Fill			Fill of 2307		
2307	Cut			Natural feature. Feature tested and found to be a geological variation		
2308	Fill			Fill of 2309		
2309	Cut			Natural feature. Feature tested and found to be a geological variation		

Trench 24						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow brown sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2401	Layer			Topsoil		
2402	Layer			Subsoil. Dark yellow silty clay		
2403	Layer			Natural		

Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained six furrows and one of these was excavated and tested (2519). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow brown sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2501	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
2502	Layer		0.14	Subsoil. Dark yellow brown silty clay		
2503	Layer			Natural		

Trench 25						
2504	Fill			Fill of furrow 2505		
2505	Cut			Furrow		
2506	VOID					
2507	VOID					
2508	Fill			Fill of 2509		
2509	Cut			Furrow		
2510	Fill			Fill of 2511		
2511	Cut			Furrow		
2512	VOID					
2513	VOID					
2514	Fill			Fill of 2515		
2515	Cut			Furrow		
2516	Fill			Fill of 2517		
2517	Cut			Furrow		
2518	Fill			Fill of 2519. Light grey brown clay.		
2519	Cut	0.48	0.10	Furrow. Aligned WSW/ENE		

Trench 26						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained four linears and three were likely furrows. One may have been a ditch (2605) as it was on a slightly different alignment. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2601	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
2602	Layer		0.14	Subsoil. Dark yellow brown silty clay		
2603	Layer			Natural. Mid yellow brown silty clay		
2604	Fill			Fill of furrow 2605. Brown grey silty clay		
2605	Cut			Furrow. Possibly a ditch		
2606	Fill			Fill of furrow 2607. Brown grey silty clay		
2607	Cut			Furrow		
2608	Fill			Fill of 2609. Brown grey silty clay		
2609	Cut			Furrow		
2610	Fill			Fill of 2611. Brown grey silty clay		
2611	Cut			Furrow		

Trench 27		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained one furrow (excavated). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of pale grey orange clay.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2

Trench 27						
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer		0.25	Topsoil	Pottery	c1780-1840
2701	Layer		0.16	Subsoil, Mid brown orange firm silty clay		
2702	Layer			Natural		
2703	Fill		0.28	Fill of furrow 2704		
2704	Cut	0.9	0.28	Furrow		

Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology although trench was submerged at the time of recording. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2801	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
2802	Layer		0.21	Subsoil. Mid grey orange silty clay		
2803	Layer			Natural. Orange silty clay		

Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained one furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
2901	Layer		0.11	Subsoil. Orange brown silty clay		
2902	Layer			Natural		

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a ditch, a furrow and a spread of material. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3001	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
3002	Layer		0.17	Subsoil		
3003	Layer			Natural		
3004	Fill		0.14	Fill of ditch 3005. Mid blue grey silty clay	Pottery	Iron Age?

Trench 30						
3005	Cut	0.96	0.14	Ditch orientated NW-SE. Gentle sides and concave base. Cut of a ditch but it may be the base of a furrow		
3006	Fill		0.15	Fill of furrow 3007. Green grey silty clay	Pottery	Iron Age?
3007	Cut	1.46	0.15	Furrow NW-SE. Steep sides and flat base.		
3008	Layer	1.2	0.05	Thin spread of material at the base of the subsoil. Mid grey orange silty clay	Pottery	Roman
3009	unstrat			Context number assigned to unstratified finds from Trench 30	Pottery	Iron Age

Trench 31						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology but contained one land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3100	Layer		0.21	Topsoil		
3101	Layer		0.18	Subsoil. Mid green orange silty clay		
3102	Layer			Natural. Mid orange silty clay		

Trench 32						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3200	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
3201	Layer		0.11	Subsoil. Grey orange silty clay		
3202	Layer			Natural		

Trench 33						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3300	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		

Trench 33						
3301	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Mid grey orange silty clay		
3302	Layer			Natural		

Trench 34						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of orange silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3400	Layer			Topsoil		
3401	Layer			Subsoil. Mid brown grey silty clay		
3402	Layer			Natural		

Trench 35						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two linears, one unexcavated furrow and the other may be a shallow ditch or gully. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3501	Layer		0.17	Topsoil		
3502	Layer		0.32	Subsoil, Mid grey orange silty clay		
3503	Layer			Natural. Mid yellow brown sandy clay		
3504	Fill			Fill of 2505. Mid brown grey silty clay	Pottery	c1225-1450
3505	Cut	1.04	0.14	Furrow orientated NE-SW. Gently sloping sides and a flat base. Probably the base of a furrow – tapers towards the north but perhaps due to a change in gradient. Alternatively, naturally formed?		
3506	Fill			Fill of 3507. Mid grey brown silty clay		
3507	Cut			Furrow (unexcavated)		

Trench 36						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two furrows and one feature, which may have been a possible geological variation. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid grey orange silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

Trench 36						
3600	Layer		0.05	Topsoil		
3601	Layer		0.17	Subsoil. Light grey orange clay		
3602	Layer			Natural		
3603	Cut		0.12	Linear aligned NE-SW very shallow and diffuse - natural variation?		
3604	Fill			Dark grey brown silty clay		
3605	Cut			Furrow aligned N-S		
3606	Fill			Fill of furrow 3605. Dark orange grey		
3607	Cut			Furrow		
3608	Fill			Fill of furrow 3607. Dark orange grey silty slay		

Trench 37						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained one possible furrow NE-SW at the northern end of the trench. Tested, no finds. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of grey orange clay					**Length (m)**	29.4
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3700	Layer		0.31	Topsoil	Brick. Pottery	Brick C18-C19. Pottery c1800-1900
3701	Layer			Natural		

Trench 38						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. It did contain variations in the natural. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of brown silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3801	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
3802	Layer			Natural		

Trench 39						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of soft silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.23
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3901	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
3902	Layer			Natural		

Trench 40						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two furrows and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	29.3
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4000	Layer			Topsoil. Mid grey brown silty clay	Roof tile	C18-C19
4001	Layer		0.28	Natural		
4002	Cut			Furrow or hedge line (unexcavated) oriented NE-SW at the eastern end of the trench		
4003	Fill			Fill of possible hedgeline	Roof tile	Post-medieval

Trench 41						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained four furrows (one tested 4108) and a wall at the eastern end. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of soft light grey yellow silty sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4101	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
4102	Layer			Natural		
4103	Fill			Fill		
4104	Cut	2.34	0.24	Construction cut for wall 4105. Flat base		
4105	Structure	2.34 L	0.34	Wall. Bricks and stones. Dimensions 220mm x 105mm x70mm. Coursing irregular. Factory produced bricks. Bond is fine grained sediment mid grey silty sand	Brick, stone	Brick is 19th-century. Two stones likely 17th- and 18th-century staddle stones but reused as gateposts
4106	Fill			Fill. Fill of construction cut for modern wall 4105. Soft sandy silt.	Glass bottle	19-20th century
4107	Fill			Fill of furrow 4108		
4108	Cut			Furrow		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Prehistoric and Roman pottery

By Alex Davies

B.1.1 A total of 77 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 585g was recovered from the evaluation, as well as two sherds of late Iron Age and a single sherd of Roman pottery collectively weighing 16g. Prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered from nine contexts.

B.1.2 The sherds had a relatively low average sherd weight of 7.5g. The majority were moderately abraded with sherds from three contexts highly abraded. None of the material was fresh.

B.1.3 Most of the sherds included indeterminate voids. These were quite irregular but often sub-rounded and were not characteristic of former organic inclusions. Iron Age pottery in the region is often dominated by shell inclusions (eg Yarnton; Booth 2011), although the voids did not clearly have the plate-like characteristics that indicate this fabric. The voids may have derived from limestone inclusions.

B.1.5 The assemblage was recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, and quantified and spot-dated following recommended guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). Basic fabrics were assigned with the major inclusion code followed by the minor inclusion. The following codes were used:

Cp – Clay pellets
Fl - Flint
Gr – Grog
Io – Iron oxide
Qs – Quartz sand
Vi – Voids, indeterminate

B.1.6 The extent of abrasion was also recorded, using the following code:

1 – Fresh or slight
2 – Moderately abraded. Surface somewhat preserved
3 – High. Surface survival minimum, breaks heavily eroded

B.1.7 Table B.1.1 summarises the pottery assemblage.

B.1.8 Some 60 sherds weighing 491g from a single vessel were recovered from context 2206. This had a wide range of material in its fabric and only a broad later prehistoric date (middle Bronze Age to Iron Age) could be assigned. It may be contemporary with the early Iron Age material discovered in the same trench, although this cannot be demonstrated.

B.1.9 Context 2212 produced the only diagnostic feature sherds. These were an expanded fingertipped rim and a fingertipped body sherd from the same vessel, dating to the later early Iron Age. Unusually, these were in a fabric that included grog and indeterminate voids. Context 2226 produced sherds in the same fabric, and are therefore likely to be of similar date.

B.1.10 Three contexts produced pottery that probably dates to the Iron Age: 3004, 3006 and 3309. The fabrics all comprised quartz sand and indeterminate voids.

B.1.11 Context 1916 produced late Iron Age sherds in a grog-tempered fabric, and 3008 produced an indeterminate Roman sherd.

Context	Sherds	Weight	Fabric	Period	Comment
1914	3	2	Vi	?	Very small, abraded indeterminate sherds.
1916	2	12	GrQs	Late Iron Age	
2206	60	491	QsCpFl	Later prehistoric	Very poorly made with very mixed fabric
2212	3	23	ViGr	Early Iron Age	Later early Iron Age. Expanded rim with internal fingertipping, and fingertip on body sherd.
2226	4	24	ViGr	Early Iron Age?	Same fabric as 2212 so likely to be the same date, otherwise no diagnostic sherds.
3004	2	7	ViQs	Iron Age?	
3006	1	29	QsViIo	Iron Age?	Very unusual handle, with vertical scratches on exterior
3008	1	4		Roman	
3009	4	9	ViQsIo	Iron Age?	

Table B.1.1 The prehistoric and Roman pottery assemblage

B.2 Medieval and later pottery

By John Cotter

B.2.1 A total of 15 sherds (183g) of medieval and later pottery were recovered from the evaluation. This came from a total of eight contexts - five of which were topsoil. Nine sherds of pottery are medieval (up to c 1480 AD) and the other six post-medieval. The pottery ranges in date from the 12th- to the 19th-century.

B.2.2 Given the small size of the assemblage and the relative significance of the medieval material a proper catalogue was compiled. An intermediate level catalogue of pottery types was constructed (in Excel), following standard procedure, for the whole assemblage and spot-dates produced for each context. The catalogue includes, per context and per pottery fabric, quantification by sherd count and weight only. Additional details, including vessel form, part, decoration, condition etc., were recorded in a comments field. The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Full catalogue details may be consulted in the project archive.

B.2.3 Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) whereas post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The limited range of pottery fabrics and vessel forms present is typical of sites in and around Oxford. As the pottery is fully described in the catalogue it will therefore only be summarised below.

B.2.4 The archaeological contexts of the pottery are fully described in the stratigraphic narrative elsewhere - as it provides the only dating evidence for these contexts. The earliest and most significant context assemblage is that from context 1906 (Ditch 1907). This produced five sherds (86g) of Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, c 1050-1250) and two scraps (2g) of unidentified pottery (or fired clay?). The largest sherds here included two joining rims from a jar/bowl form identified as a possible example of a 'West Country bowl' and suggesting a date of c 1100-1250 for the context. Similar bowls (also in OXAC) are known from recent excavations at Rushey Weir, near Bampton in West Oxfordshire, where this type is fully discussed (Cotter 2016). An unusual feature of all the OXAC sherds from (1906) is that nearly all the limestone inclusions have been dissolved out, probably by acid soil conditions. The two other medieval contexts, the fills of ditches or furrows (2212 and 3504), produced single sherds each from glazed jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware suggesting a 13th-14th century date.

B.2.5 The remaining six sherds of pottery (all from topsoil) comprise common late 18th- and 19th-century pottery types.

B.2.6 The small pottery assemblage here falls fairly neatly into two groups: medieval pottery from medieval features, and post-medieval (or modern) pottery from topsoil contexts.

B.2.7 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

Cxt	Spot-date	Sherd count	Wt (g)	Fabric	Common Name	Comments
100	*c* 1830-1880	1	5	TPW	Transfer-printed whiteware	Bodysherd (bo) from dish/plate. Black (fine stipple) transfer printed decoration int showing a bird (thrush/blackbird?) with a worm in its beak feeding three chicks in a nest. Leaves and twigs in background
1001	*c* 1750-1900	1	27	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenwares	Bowl/dish rim in late-looking PMR. Flaring wall with ext beaded/flattened rim. Brown glaze int ending in a sharp line below rim - applied/brushed-on in liquid form. Smooth fabric now with discoloured leached pale grey-brown ext surface. Possibly from waterlogged context? Or scorched?
1201	*c* 1700-1900	1	29	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenwares	Abraded rim sherd. Bowl with flaring wall and ext beaded rim. Fine/smooth orange fabric with brown glaze allover int as far as the rim apex. Looks fairly late. Possibly a post-med Brill redware?
1906	*c* 1100-1250?	5	86	OXAC	Cotswold-type ware	Minumum 3 vessels (now as 7 sherds due to recent fragmentation). Mainly present as 2 joining rims (76g) from thin-walled jar/bowl with slightly down-turned hammerhead rim with a broad flat top (width 23mm). Rim neckless with straight wall below flaring steeply outwards (almost vertical). Rim diam c240mm (13%). The smaller rim sherd has lost its ext lip. Vessel form closer to 'West Country bowls' (see Rushey Weir, Bampton) and less like OXAC 'Top hat' jars (late Saxon). Date probably 12-13C? Leached grey-brown surfaces becoming darker grey lower down (possibly sooted/heat-altered?), darker grey allover int. 1 other darker grey bo poss from a 2nd vess. 3 small bos poss from a 3rd vess have more oxidised orange-brown surfaces. All these sherds have an unusual corky-textured fabric as nearly all the rounded oolitic limestone inclusions have been dissolved-out by acid soil conditions and only survive as chalky grey inclusions in the sherd core. Most dissolved on int of the jar/bowl - in this case possibly due to coooking? Fabric also similar (in corky respect) to samples of Wychwood-type ware (OXCX). Some coarse rounded to sub-angular quartz present and sparse coarse hard brown ironstone
1906	*c* 1100-1250?	2	2	UNIDENT	Unidentified ware	Larger rounded lump and smaller flake possibly from same object. Possibly Fired Clay (FC) but Cynthia Poole thinks it's pottery. No close match to Oxford fabric series. Might be residual Anglo-Saxon or Prehistoric? Fairly soft grey-brown lump with leached brownish surfaces. Possibly shaped/rounded? possibly from a handle-like applied feature??
2212	*c* 1225-1400	1	6	OXAM	Brill/Boarstall ware	1x abraded jug rim Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) with traces of clear ext glaze. Plain sub-squared rim on thin vertical neck. [Nb. See Iron Age pottery elsewhere]
3504	*c* 1225-1450	1	12	OXAM	Brill/Boarstall ware	Bodysherd. Fairly fresh. Strip jug with cream fabric. Applied vertical thin red strip with fine square rouletting down length of strip. Dark copper-stained greenish-brown glaze allover ext
2700	*c* 1780-1840	1	6	PEAR TR	Transfer-printed Pearlware	Abraded. Flanged rim sherd from dish. Blue tranfer printed border dec on top of rim - possibly a mix of Chinese and classical European styles with honeycomb-like elements and swags with pendents
3700	*c* 1800-1900	1	6	PMR	Post-medieval red earthenwares	Fresh bo from jug neck. Late-looking (19C?) light brown glaze allover int and ext. Possibly Leafield or Nettleden source?
3700	*c* 1800-1900	1	4	ENPO	English porcelain	Fresh bo from bowl or deep saucer. Plain white. Good quality. Probably L18-19C
TOTAL		**15**	**183**			

Table B.2.1 The medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblage

B.3 Ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

B.3.2 A small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to eight fragments and a complete brick weighing in total 3005g was recovered from six trenches (2, 19, 25, 37, 40 and 41). Apart from the complete brick the remainder was incomplete with a mean fragment weigh of 46g. The assemblage comprises post-medieval and modern items, though some roof tile could be late medieval.

B.3.3 The assemblage has been spot dated and rapidly recorded in the table below following guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). The record includes quantification, fabric type, form, surface finish and dimensions. Fabrics were characterised broadly on macroscopic features supplemented with a x20 hand lens to assess the finer constituents. Apart from a modern roof tile in a hard engineering type fabric, all the tile was made in the same fabric that is similar to Oxford medieval fabric IVA/B. This is a light orange or red laminated clay streaked with cream lenses of varying thickness and which in some cases was without any coarse inclusions, but in others was made in a fine sandy clay containing small red ferruginous grits and in one case coarse quartz and quartzite sand and grits. In the later medieval period in Oxford this fabric is thought to be produced in the south-east of the county in and around the Nettlebed area as floor tiles in this fabric are known to be produced there. This type of laminated fabric becomes quite common in post-medieval assemblages used for both brick and tile and it is possible that in the later period this fabric was produced across a more extensive area at many of the smaller brickworks that appeared during the 18th- and 19th-century.

B.3.4 Flat rectangular peg tile (6 fragments, 244g) was the dominant form. The examples from Trenches 20 and 25 are early post-medieval in date broadly late 15th-17th century. Though a late medieval date is possible, the general character of the tile is more in keeping with the post-medieval date. The tiles measured 12-15mm thick and two had circular peg holes 11 and 15mm wide. A slightly thinner tile 11-13mm thick with a neater finish from topsoil 4000 is probably of 18th-19th century date.

B.3.5 A single modern roof tile (context 1916) in a hard engineering quality fabric is of 20th-century date.

B.3.6 A brick fragment recovered from topsoil 3700 measured 63mm thick is of 18th-19th century date. A complete brick sampled from structure 4105 measured 67mm thick, 105mm wide and 222mm long. The fabric is probably the same as the other post-medieval CBM but no fresh breaks were exposed to confirm this. It was stock moulded with a striated upper surface from smoothing with the strike. The base was rough, the stretcher faces rough and creased, and the header ends more regular and even. One stretcher face had longitudinal hack (skintling) marks from two bricks set 16mm apart stacked on it during the drying process. The character of the brick and form of the hack marks date this firmly to the 19th-century.

B.3.7 Apart from the complete brick built into the brick foundation structure, the assemblage is typical of casual loss of CBM in an agricultural environment, where such materials could be distributed inadvertently as part of manuring, or utilised in field

drainage or maintenance of farm tracks. The assemblage has little potential for further analysis and the material may be discarded at completion of the project.

Ctx	Nos	Wt g	Date	Fab	Form	Description	Size
200	1	16	LC14-EC17	OX IV: light red with cream laminations; no inclusions	Roof: flat	Corner fragment. Smooth upper surface, rough base and edges	15mm th
201	1	110	LC14-EC17	OX IV: orange with cream laminations, fine sandy clay with scattered coarse quartz sand 1-2mm, red ferruginous pellets c 1mm & coarse quartzite grits up to 11mm. Coarse gritty moulding sand.	Roof: peg	Corner fragment. Upper surface smoothed and striated. Base and edges rough. Upper arrises fairly angular. Peg hole 15x12mm tapering to 12x10mm; centred 22/42mm from top / LH side edges.	12mm th
201	1	39	LC14-EC17	OX IV: light peach-orange with cream laminations & small red clay pellets; no inclusions. Fine moulding sand	Roof: flat	Very smooth upper surface, even rough base	13mm th
1916	1	39	C20	Modern: hard dense dark red fine sandy clay with sparse small diffuse inclusions.	Roof: flat	Corner fragment. Machine made, smooth vitrified surfaces, angular arrises. Engineering quality tile.	11mm th
2501	1	32	LC14-EC17	OX IV: red with thick cream laminations, partly grey core. Smooth clay without inclusions. Fine moulding sand.	Roof: peg	Corner fragment. Smooth upper surface, rough even base and edges. Circular peg hole 11 mm dia centred 22/34mm from top/LH side. Lip of inturned clay round base of peg hole.	12mm th
3700	1	122	C18-C19	OX IV: light orange – red with cream streaks; fine sandy laminated clay	Brick	Smooth striated top, flat fairly even base, rough irregular end surface. Angular arrises.	63mm th
4000	1	8	C18-C19	OX IV: orange with very fine cream striations, sandy clay. Fine moulding sand	Roof: flat	Smooth even surfaces and edge; angular arrises. Thickens to edge.	11-13mm th
4003	1	5	Pmed	OX IV: light orange with cream laminations, fine sandy clay with light scatter of red ferruginous inclusions 0.5-3mm.	Indet	No surfaces surviving; probably roof tile.	>8mm th
4105	1	2634	C19	OX IV? orange red sandy clay with small red ferruginous grits	Brick	Complete solid brick; stock moulded with striated flat upper surface. Rough flat base; fairly even headers, rough creased stretchers. On one stretcher face are two longitudinal skintling / hack marks from 2 bricks resting on it set 16mm apart. Remnants of cream-buff coarse sandy gritty lime mortar on base and stretchers.	67mm th x 105mm w x 222mm l
Total	**9**	**3005**					

Table B.3.1 The ceramic building material assemblage

B.4 Fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

B.4.1 Fired clay amounting to 33 fragments (339g) were recovered from three contexts in trench 22. The material has a mean fragment weight of 10g, is poorly preserved and heavily abraded. As a result, none is diagnostic, nor can it be dated. Details of the assemblage are recorded in the table below.

B.4.2 The fabric is the same for all material. It has fired to a red, cerise, or orange at the exterior, grading to light brown margins and a mid-dark grey core. It is composed of a fine sandy clay containing frequent rounded red ferruginous and cream clay pellets up to 8mm, small angular stone grits 1-4mm and rare coarse quartz sand grains.

B.4.3 Most of the fired clay pieces are irregular and heavily abraded and rounded but a few have evidence of a flat or slightly curving moulded surface. Wattle impressions measuring 6-13mm diameter were identified on pieces from context 2212 and there are vague suggestions of more on other pieces. The fragments are up to 40mm thick.

B.4.4 The fired clay from the three contexts is very similar in character and probably derives from a single structure. The degree of abrasion suggests the structure may have been subject to collapse and weathering over a period of time before deposition in a feature. The group is essentially undiagnostic but based on the general character, intensity of firing and the few surviving features, it is likely to have originated from some form of oven structure. The few wattle impressions that could be measured are typical of fired clay derived from oven structures, though whether they represent reinforcement of the walls or some other element such as a suspended floor is uncertain. Structural material of this sort cannot be closely dated as it occurs during all periods when fired clay is in use. However, wattle supported structure occurs most commonly from the Iron Age to the Saxon period. The material is likely to be contemporary with other dateable artefacts from the same contexts.

B.4.5 The fired clay is too poorly preserved to have much potential for further analysis. It is recommended that a small sample is retained for comparison in the event of further work and that the remainder is discarded.

Ctx	Nos	Wt g	Date	Fabric	Form	Description
2212	18	163	Preh-RB	Red, cerise, orange, light brown; mid-dk grey core. Fine sandy clay with red and cream clay pellets up to 8mm, small stone grits 1-4mm & rare coarse quartz sand	Structural?	Irregular worn fragments with some evidence of flat or curving moulded surface. A couple have poorly preserved wattle/withy impressions (6, 12, 13mm dia) on the interior.
2220	10	67	Preh-RB	As above	Structural?	Irregular worn fragments with little evidence of flat moulded surface. Faint hints of possible wattles.
2226	5	109	Preh-RB	As above	Structural?	Irregular worn fragments with some areas of flat moulded surface. Th: up to 45mm.
Total	**33**	**339**				

Table B.4.1 The fired clay assemblage

B.5 Metal

By Ian R Scott

B.5.1 There are just five metal objects including four nails from context 4106, which include a probable modern drawn wire nail. The only other object is a short length of bar of lozenge section which may be cast iron, from context 3801.

Context	No.	**Description**
Context 3801	(1)	**Bar**, of lozenge section and slightly tapered. Possibly cast fe. L: 55mm. Probably modern.
Context 4106	(2)	**Nail**, L-shaped head. Encrusted. Fe. L: 64mm. Could be modern.
	(3)	**Cut nail**, rectangular section, no head and tapers to its point. L: 48mm. Not closely datable.
	(4)	**Cut nail**, L-shaped head, rectangular section. L: 54mm. Not closely datable.
	(5)	**Drawn wire nail** with small flat circular head. Encrusted. L: 52mm. Probably modern.

Table B.5.1 The metalwork assemblage

B.6 Glass

By Ian R Scott

B.6.1 There is a single piece of vessel glass which came from context 4106.

B.6.2 Context 4106. Bottle, slim with body of regular octagonal section. Only the lower half of the body survives. It was made in a two-piece mould with base plate, it has a slightly indented base. Colourless glass. Ht extant: 81mm. 20th-century

B.7 Worked stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.7.1 Two large limestone discs measuring 47cm diameter x 11cm maximum thickness and 45cm diameter and 9cm maximum thickness had been used to support gate posts in a former boundary wall next to the A40 (4105). These have one flat face and one slightly convex rounded face with tooling marks on all visible surfaces. They are staddle stones, usually used to support the legs of raised granaries during the 17th- and 18th-centuries to protect the contents from vermin and water seepage, but sometimes used as a support for other structures. Their use (or probable re-use) for gateposts, suggests a 19th- or 20th-century date. This is supported by historic map evidence which shows that an adjacent agricultural outbuilding was constructed in the late 19th century.

B.7.2 The staddle stones do not need to be retained, unless a closer identification of their lithology is required, in which case they would need to be cleaned.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

C.1.1 Only two fragments of bone were recovered, both from context 1916. Both fragments were fairly well preserved although one fragment, from a large mammal limb bone shaft, is both gnawed and root-etched. The other fragment, which is from the limb bone of a large bird, is in better condition.

C.1.2 Little useful information can be gleaned from this extremely small assemblage, beyond the fact that bone survives. The fragments do not need to be retained in the archive.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	A40 Park & Ride, Eynsham, Oxfordshire
Site code:	EYPR18
Grid reference	SP 42071 10113
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	26/11/2018 – 14/12/2018 (3 weeks)
Area of site	10ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxforshire Museums in due course:

Summary of results:

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited (AECOM) on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed Park & Ride development. Forty-one trenches were excavated, which investigated various geophysical anomalies of uncertain origin identified during a previous magnetometer survey. Further trenches were located in apparently blank areas to test the reliability of the survey results.

Several Iron Age prehistoric features were found within Trench 19 and adjacent Trench 22. A possible ring ditch on the geophysical survey plot coincides with the densest concentration of Iron Age features and finds in Trench 22, including an assemblage of fired clay oven fragments and pottery. This is likely to be the site of a roundhouse. Some of the fired clay fragments had wattle impressions indicating an associated wall or floor structure. The artefact assemblage from these two trenches included both early and late Iron Age pottery. The limited extent of the site, and apparent lack of a settlement enclosure, suggests that this was a small unenclosed farmstead. No environmental soil samples were recovered from the Iron Age features, which were heavily plough-disturbed, poorly defined and shallow. Iron Age artefact groups occurred as residual finds in contexts otherwise dated to the medieval period.

Trench 30, located 350m west of Trench 22, contained two ditches tentatively dated to the Iron Age by small amounts of pottery, which may be outlying field or trackway ditches associated with the same settlement. A soil spread in the same trench (3008) contained one sherd of Roman pottery, the only distinctively Roman material recovered during the evaluation.

Plough furrows aligned NE-SW were recorded across the site, and were sample excavated in Trenches 14, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 35, 36, 40 and 41. This confirmed the presence of former ridge-and-

furrow, as previously recorded from the geophysical survey and the aerial photographic analysis undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment. Medieval pottery was recovered from several of the plough furrows, while post-medieval artefacts were recovered exclusively from the overlying ploughsoil.

A brick boundary wall with a probable gatepost was found in Trench 41. This was clearly associated with a nearby field boundary and an agricultural outbuilding shown on late 19th/early 20th-century OS maps, which was first mapped in 1899 and appears to have been demolished by the 1950s. According to the historic maps the outbuilding itself was located between Trenches 38 and 41.

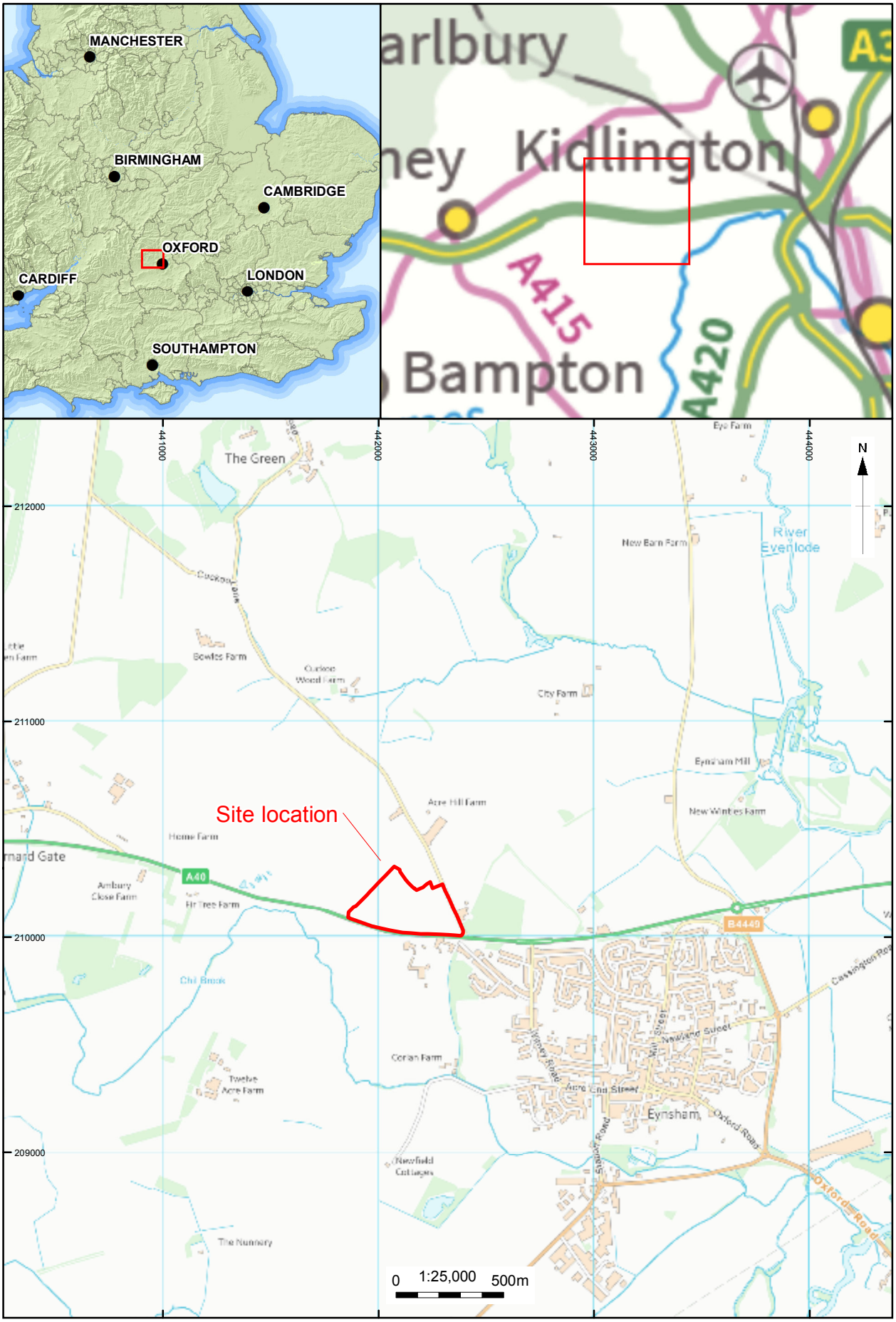

Figure 1: Site location

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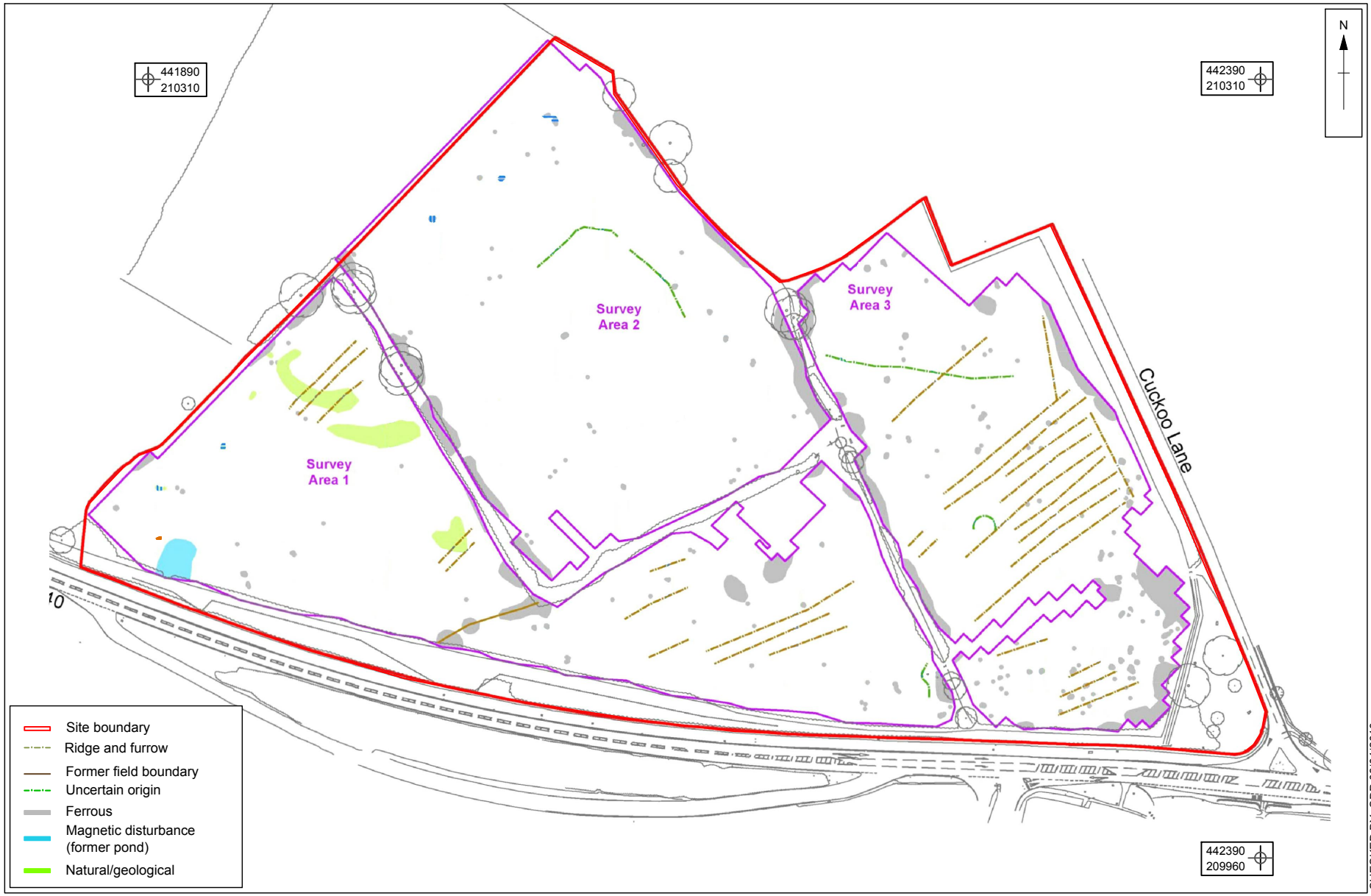

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Figure 2: Geophysical survey results

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Survey Area 1
Survey Area 2
Survey Area 3

Fig. 6
Fig.4
Fig. 5
Fig. 7

Cuckoo Lane

2018 evaluation
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Furrow
- Archaeological spread
- Overhead cable
- Relocated evaluation trench

2018 geophysical survey
- Site boundary
- Ridge and furrow
- Former field boundary
- Uncertain origin
- Ferrous
- Magnetic disturbance (former pond)
- Natural/geological

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0 100m

Scale at A3 1:2000

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CHECKED BY: CDP 04/01/2019

Figure 3: Results of the 2018 evaluation

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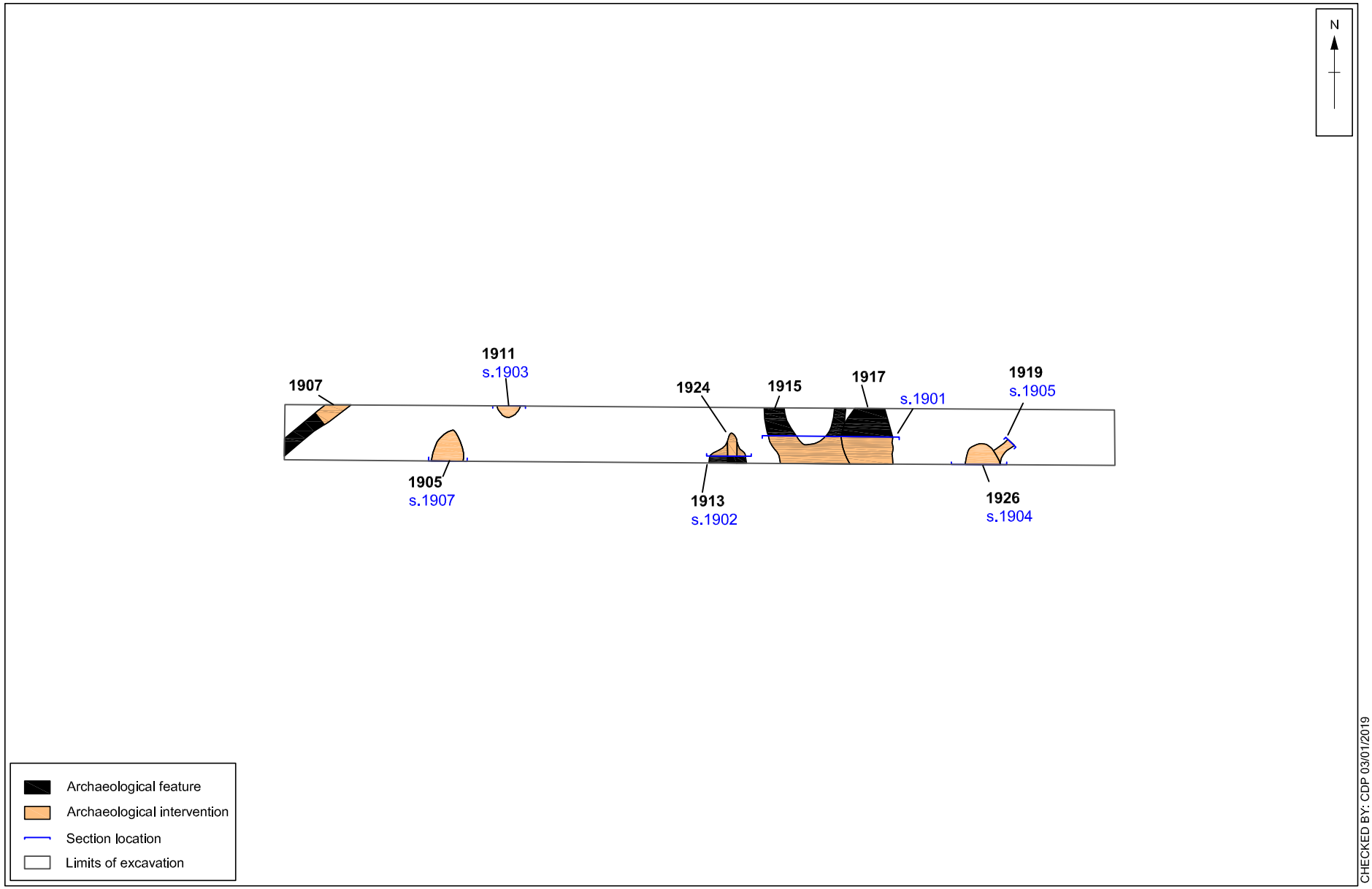

Figure 4: Plan of Trench 19

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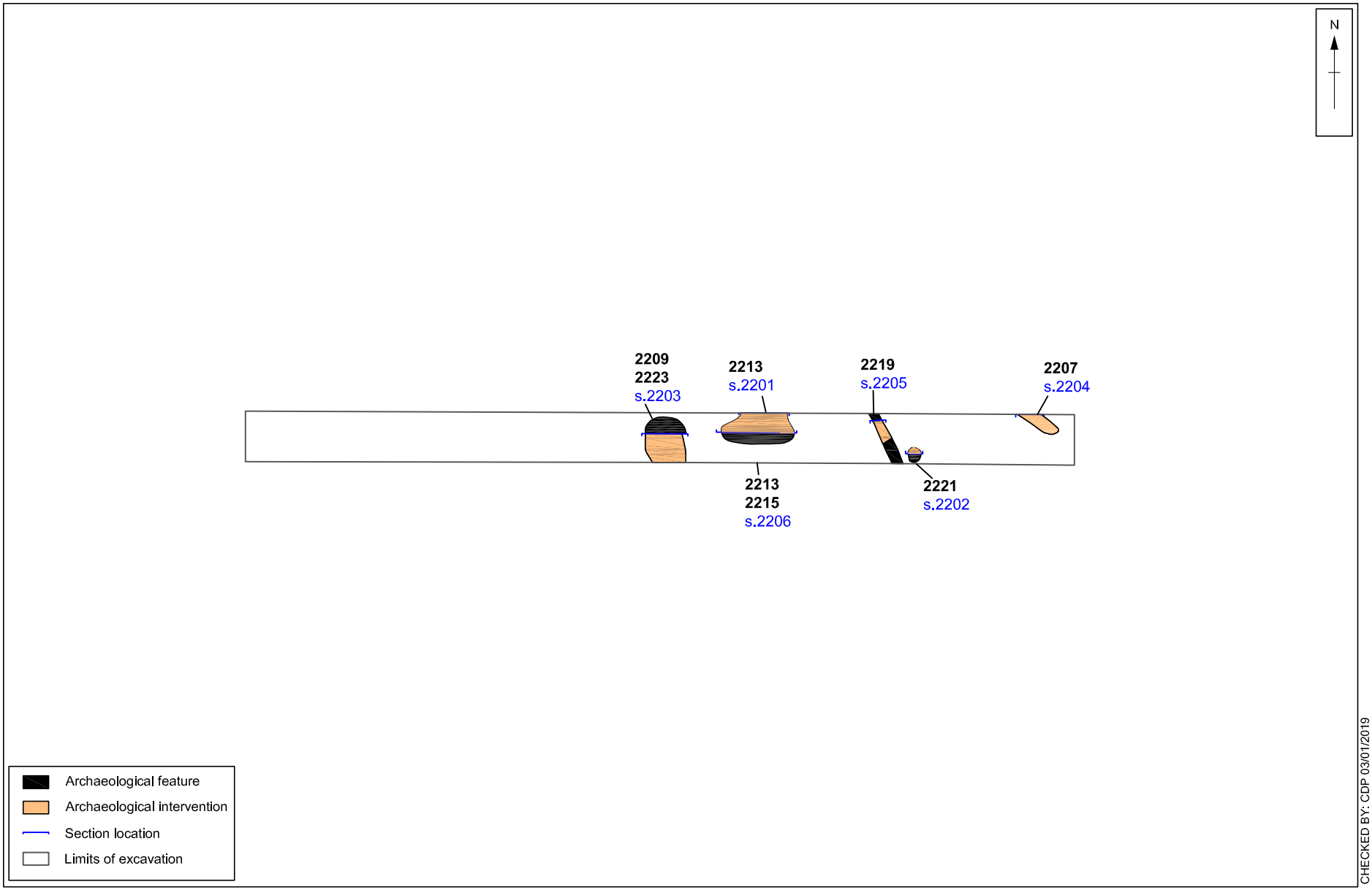

Figure 5: Plan of Trench 22

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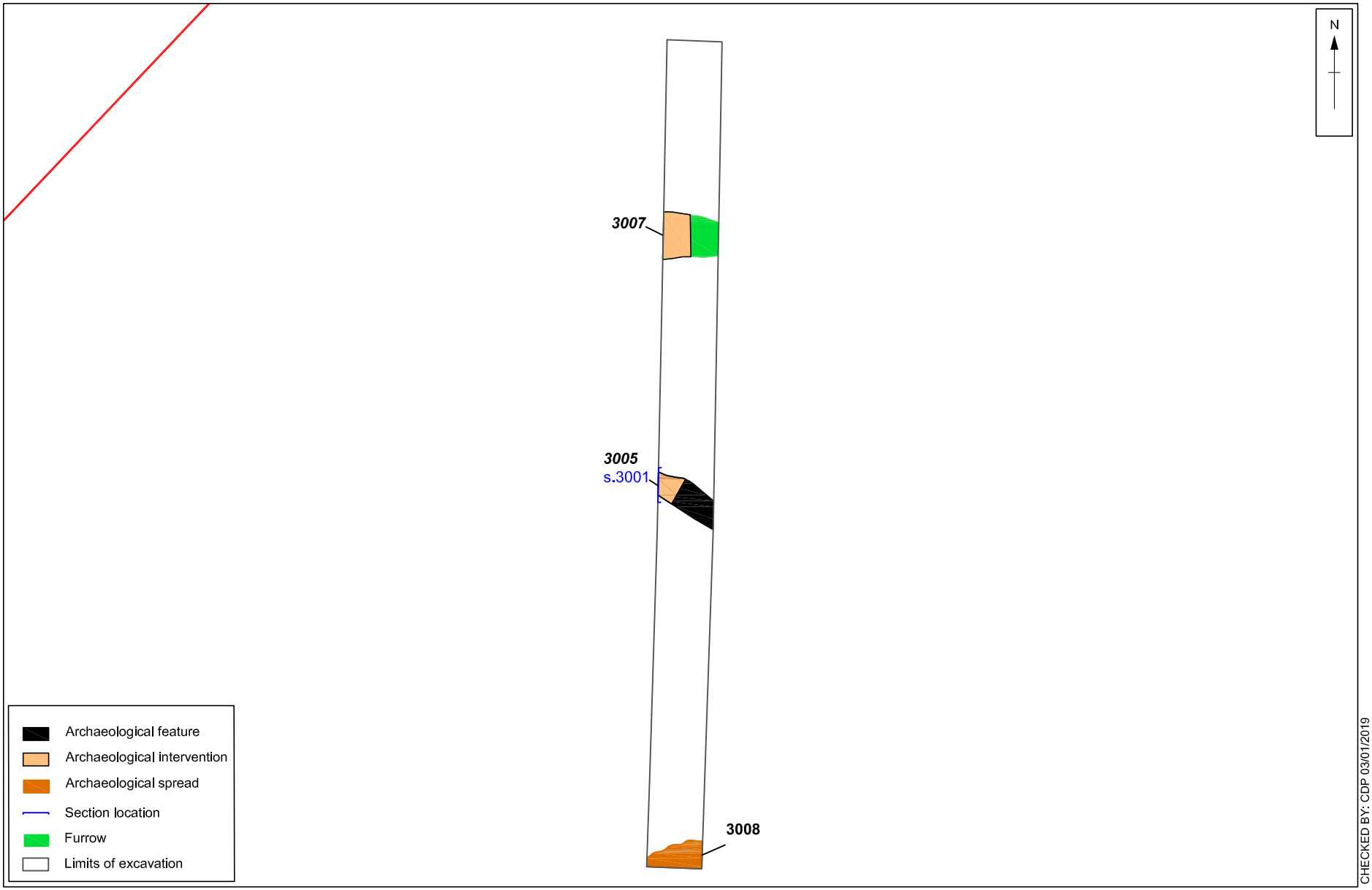

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Figure 6: Plan of Trench 30

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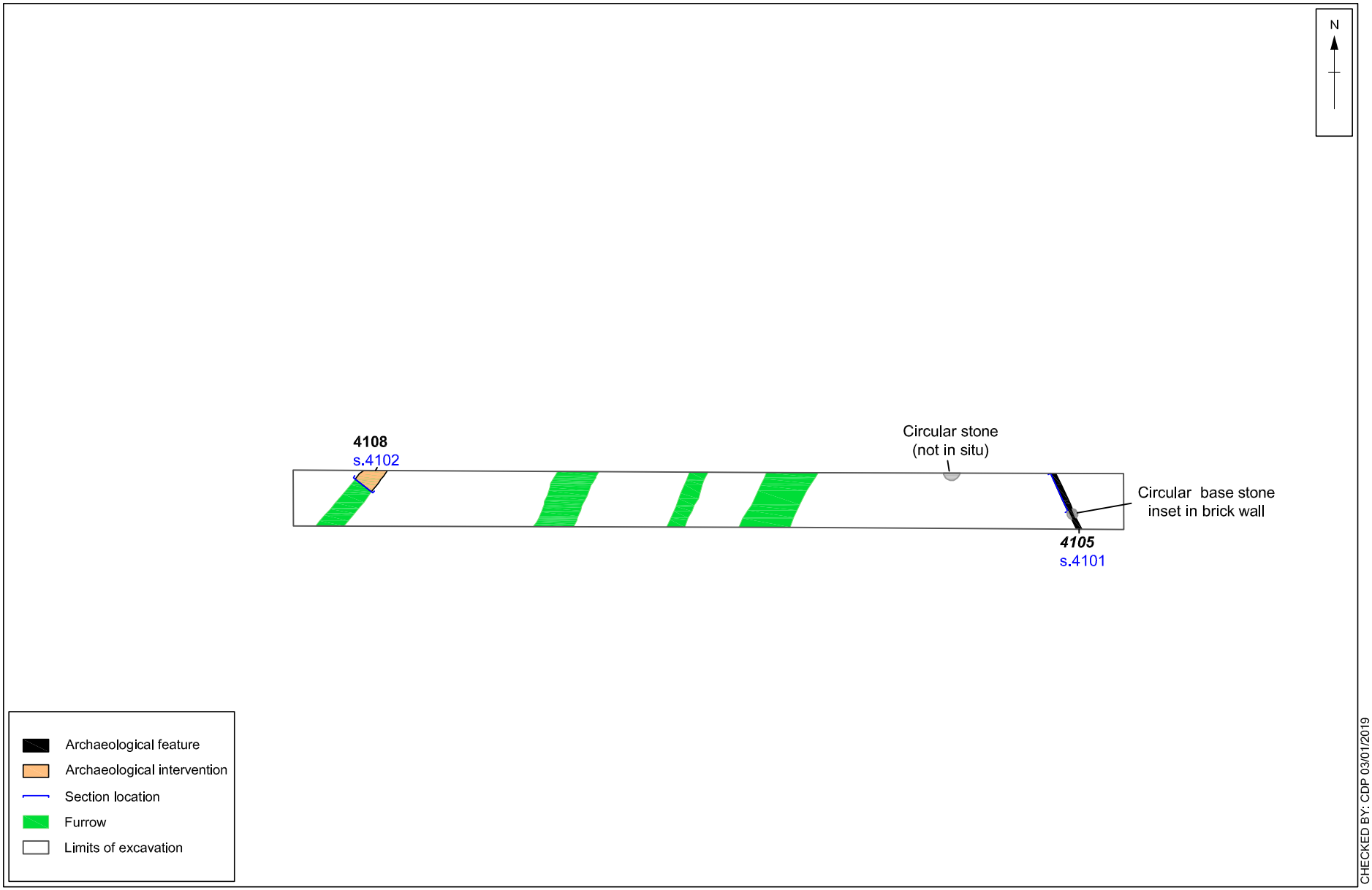

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Scale at A4 1:200

Figure 7: Plan of Trench 41

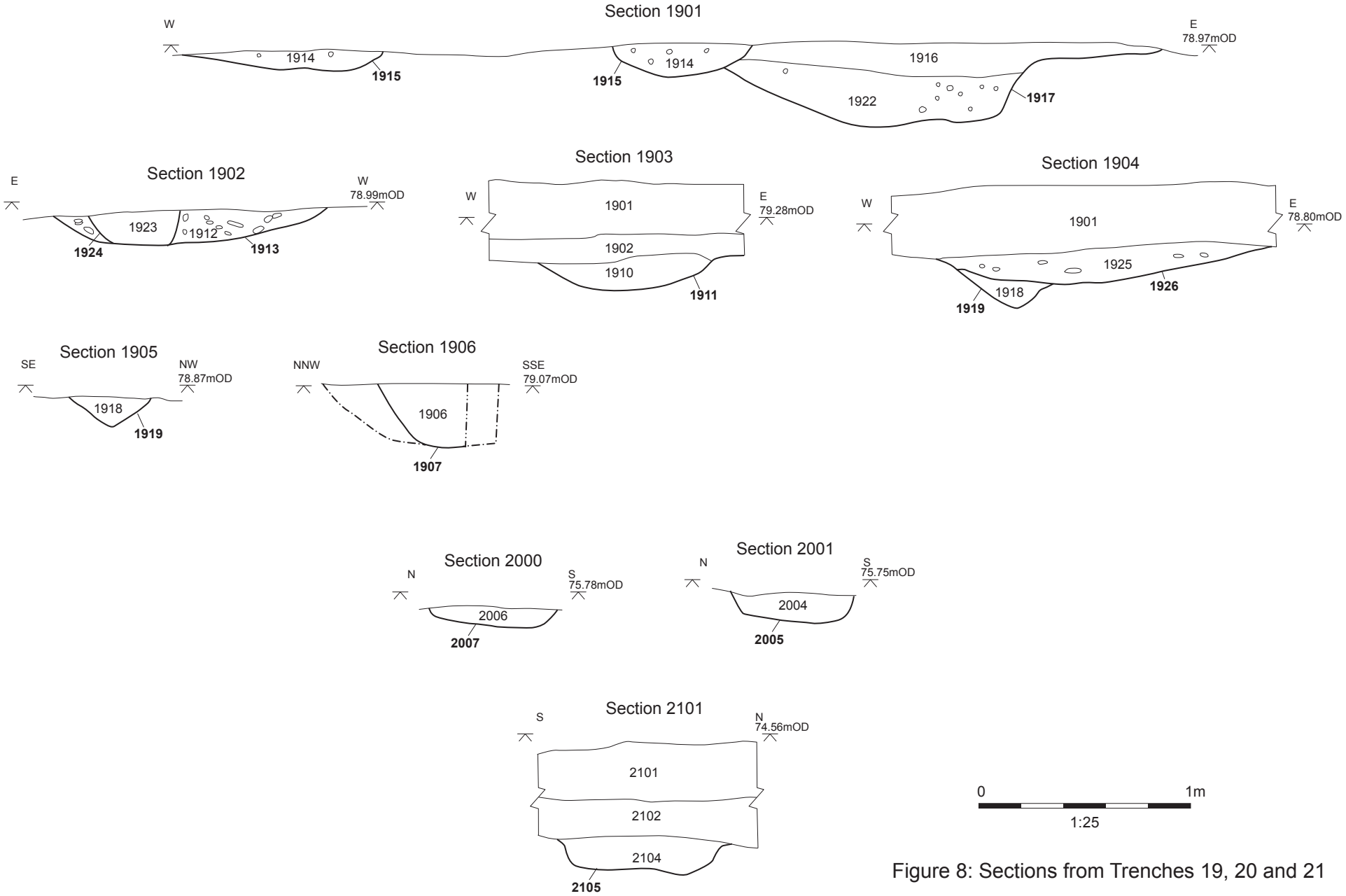

Figure 8: Sections from Trenches 19, 20 and 21

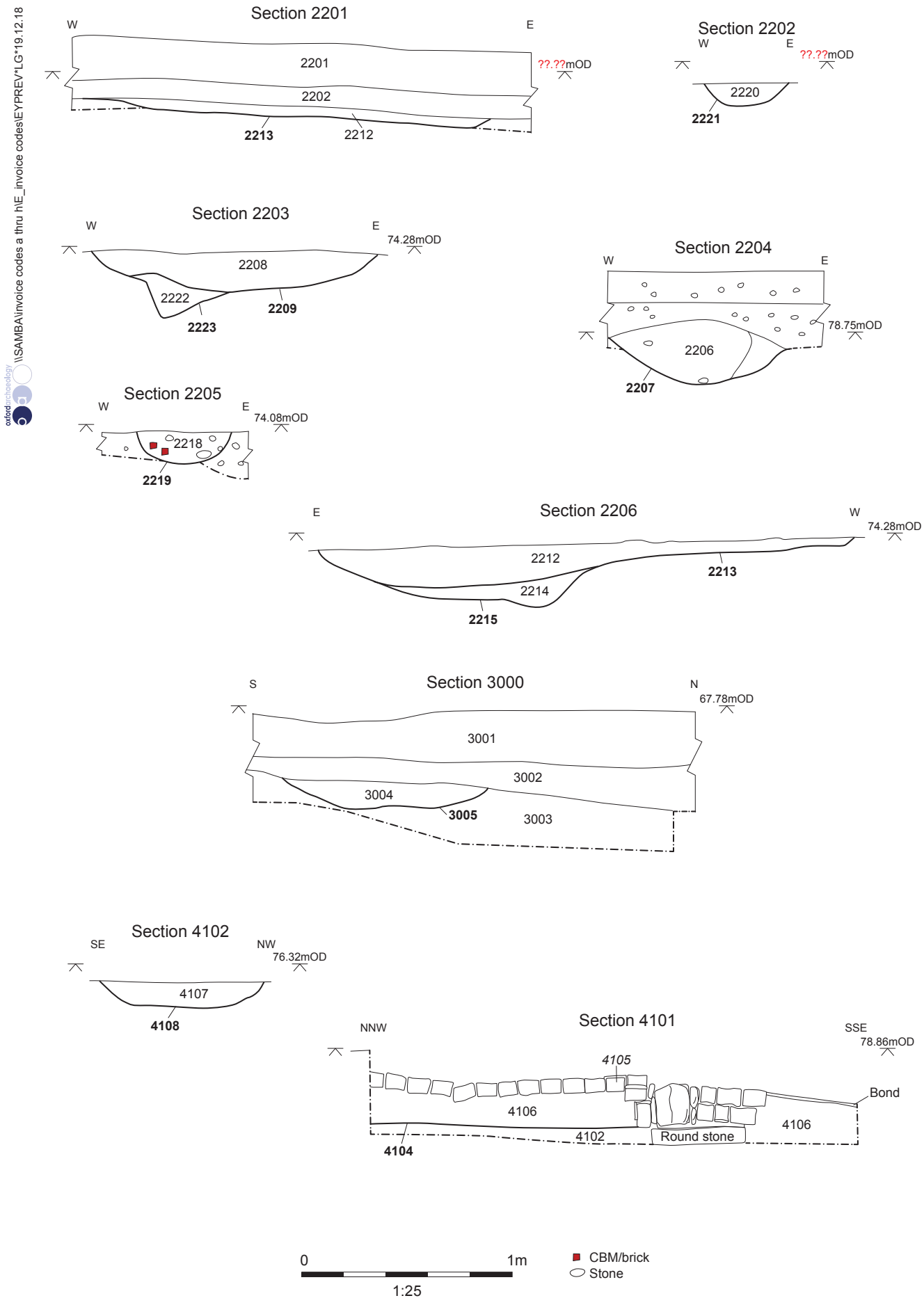

Figure 9: Sections from Trenches 22, 30 and 41

Plate 1: Trench 5, example empty trench, view south

Plate 2: Trench 12, example empty trench, view east

Plate 3: Trench 19, Ditch 1907, view north-east

Plate 4: Trench 19, Features 1915 and 1917, view north

Plate 5: Trench 19, Features 1913 and 1924, view south

Plate 6: Trench 19, pre-excavation view east

Plate 7: Trench 19, pre-excavation view west

Plate 8: Trench 22, Pit 2221, view south

Plate 9: Trench 22, Ditch 2219, view south

Plate 10: Trench 22, Ditch 2207, view north

Plate 11: Trench 22, Furrow 2213 and Pit 2215, view north

Plate 12: Trench 22, pre-excavation view west

Plate 13: Trench 22, pre-excavation view east

Plate 14: Trench 30, Pre-excavation view north, showing deposit 3008

Plate 15: Trench 30, Ditch 3005, view west

Plate 16: Trench 35, Example plough furrows

Plate 17: Trench 38, example empty trench, view east

Plate 18: Trench 41, Brick wall 4105 and staddle stone re-used as gatepost support

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