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Phase 3, Foxbridge, Swindon, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In late September and early October 2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial-trench evaluation at Foxbridge, Swindon, the site of a proposed mixed development. The works comprised the excavation of 29 trenches and is the third phase of evaluation undertaken within the site.

Due to prolong heavy rain the trenches became waterlogged during the evaluation. While it is not considered that these conditions hindered the identification of archaeological remains within the trenches, it did impact the level of hand excavation that could be undertaken and therefore the characterisation of several features identified.

Archaeological features dating from the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic period through to the post-medieval period were recorded across the area. The archaeological features were distributed across the site and predominately comprised ditches and a number of pits.

The trenches were positioned to ground truth the results of a geophysical survey. The correlation between the results of the survey and the trial trenching is mixed. Geophysical anomalies interpreted as 'positive linear archaeology' were all present and were dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, the correlation between anomalies interpreted with less certainty was moderately poor. While some archaeological features were identified that correlated with the anomalies, there was no evidence for others. Several archaeological features were also identified during the evaluation that were not identified by the geophysical survey.

The earliest activity recorded comprises an assemblage of struck flint from an alluvial deposit in the centre of the site. The assemblage includes blade cores and debitage indicative of blade production dating to the early Neolithic period, although a late Mesolithic date is possible. Although the assemblage was not recovered from an *in situ* scatter, the struck flint is fresh and is unlikely to have been moved far from the original point of deposition, suggesting flint production within the site.

A small prehistoric enclosure was also identified. The absence of internal features suggest it served an agricultural function as a stock enclosure, rather than being indicative of domestic/settlement activity. Pottery recovered from the feature has been dated to the mid to late Bronze Age and the early to middle Iron Age. Prehistoric pottery was also recovered from a number of ditches.

Previous evaluations within the Foxbridge site have identified significant activity of Roman date associated with Wanborough Roman town, which lies to the north. Only four land management ditches of Roman date were recorded during this phase of evaluation. Dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries, the ditches are more likely to be associated with an early Roman farmstead

located 300m to the south-west of the site than with the activity recorded during the previous phases of evaluation within the Foxbridge site which is predominately of middle and late Roman date. The Phase 3 area appears to lie between the two foci of Roman activity.

The ditches dating to both the prehistoric and Roman periods represent land management and drainage but it is not possible to define any field systems based on their orientation and distribution.

Enclosure ditches most likely associated with a small medieval/post-medieval farmstead were also recorded within the site.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Paul Murray, who was supported by Tamsin Jones, Andrew Smith, Jana Smirinova and Edward Tolley. Survey and digitising was carried out by Jana Smirinova and Gary Jones. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Barratt David Wilson Homes SW to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed mixed development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning authority in advance of a submission of a planning application. Discussion between Jo Vallender of EDP and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Archaeological Advisor to Swindon Borough Council, established the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA and outlined the scope of works required (OA 2019). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 These works form the third phase of evaluation undertaken within the proposed development area. The results of the previous phases of evaluation have been covered in two separate reports (OA 2021a and OA 2021b).

1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014, revised 2020).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the eastern edge of Swindon in Wanborough Parish (Fig. 1; NGR SU 19827 84476).

1.2.2 The site consists of a roughly triangular parcel of land. It is bounded to the north-east by the Wanborough Road, to the south by agricultural fields and to the west by the A419. The site lies between 95m and 98m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The area proposed for development covers approximately 40ha and comprises several agricultural fields separated by hedges and trees. The works undertaken in Phase 3 lie within the southern half of the site (Fig. 2).

1.2.3 The geology of the southern part of the site is mapped as Gault Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 101 to 113 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. In the northern part of the site the underlying geology is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. A band of alluvium is recorded overlaying the Gault Formation in the center of the site along the route of a water course which functions as an open drain (BGS Online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Previous archaeological work

1.3.1 The site is bisected by the route of the proposed Swindon Southern Connector Road and a recently installed water pipeline. Both projects have been subject to prior archaeological investigations, including a geophysical survey (Fig. 3; AS 2017) and trial-trench evaluations (CA 2018 and WA 2017). Based on the results of these

investigations, further archaeological work is proposed, including open-area excavation and strip, map and sample, as well as two areas identified for preservation *in situ*.

1.3.2 The following summary is derived from the desk-based assessment (CA 2016) produced for the Swindon Southern Connector Road and has been supplemented by the results of the associated archaeological investigations.

Prehistoric

1.3.3 No heritage assets dating to the prehistoric period were recorded within the site prior to the trial-trench evaluations, although features of prehistoric date are known in the immediate vicinity. The previous evaluation works identified a Bronze Age cremation towards the northern end of the southern parcel of the proposed development (CA 2018). An assemblage of worked flints of prehistoric date was also recovered but not considered to date any of the archaeological features identified. In addition, a Mesolithic flint tool was recovered from a pit immediately to the south of the site. The geophysical survey identified a cluster of suspected intercutting ring ditches within the route of the proposed connector road.

Roman

1.3.4 The Roman nucleated roadside settlement of *Durocornovium* (Scheduled Monument 1004684) lies within the development boundary and extends to the north and north-east. Wanborough Road, which forms the north-eastern boundary of the previously evaluated site, is broadly aligned on Roman Ermin Street. The nucleated settlement is known to have been occupied from the mid-1st century AD to the mid-4th century AD (Anderson *et al*. 2001). Geophysical survey of the evaluation area clearly shows that the settlement extended along either side of Ermin Street within the proposed development area and beyond. Excavations undertaken in the 1960s and 1970s identified the remains of a substantial Roman roadside settlement. The earliest activity identified was the remains of large post-built structure suspected to have served a military function. The settlement developed over the course of the late 1st and early 2nd centuries into a small town or nucleated settlement with the construction of several rectangular timber buildings and at least one stone building. The timber structures were represented by vertical-sided foundation trenches which either contained ground-beams or uprights, the presence of packing stones in one of the trenches suggesting the latter. Cobbled and mortar floor surfaces were also identified. Evidence for possible lead production or lime for mortar was identified with the remains of oven structures surviving and quantities of slag being recovered. The settlement underwent significant development in the 3rd and 4th centuries with the focus of activity lying to the east of Ermin Street. Ermin Street was resurfaced and widened, and an additional street extending from it was constructed. Numerous additional stone buildings were built during this period and are likely to reflect the increased wealth of the settlement. However, wooden structures were still built and comprised the placement of sill-beams on sarsen stones to elevate the structure above ground level to overcome damp ground conditions. A lack of roof tile suggests the building were predominately thatched and the recovery daub indicates the

continued use of timber-framed structures during this period. Evidence for metal-working was indicated by the presence of slag and the recovery of metal-working tools.

1.3.5 Trial trenching in the vicinity revealed ditches, shallow pits and one inhumation burial, all dating to the Roman period; several possible industrial features are thought to have been related to the town (WA 2017). Further to the south, along the route of the connector road but beyond the limits of this site, two Romano-British farmsteads and associated agricultural features were identified by the geophysical survey and confirmed by the trial-trench evaluation, one *c* 75m to the south and the other *c* 700m south (CA 2018).

1.3.6 In 2019 OA undertook the first phase trial-trench evaluation within the northern half of the proposed development, with some of the trenches focusing on geophysical anomalies which were interpreted as a continuation of *Durocornovium*. Archaeological remains consistent with Roman roadside activity were identified within five trenches. The remains comprised rectilinear enclosures, pits and two postholes but no buildings could be definitely defined. The activity is contained within a 50m-wide strip that runs parallel to the Wanborough Road, which forms the eastern site boundary, and is delimited to the west by a large enclosure ditch. Features of potential archaeological origin investigated to the west of this ditch were demonstrated to be of geological origin (OA 2021a).

1.3.7 A second phase of evaluation was undertaken in August 2020 (OA 2021b). The works comprised the excavation of seven trenches within the curtilage of the Scheduled Monument of *Durocornovium*. The trenches revealed the remains of Roman timber and stone-built structures, along with trackways, a small inhumation cemetery and enclosure ditches. As observed during previous investigations of *Durocornovium*, the focus of activity appears to be in the immediate vicinity of Wanborough Road with the cemetery located further to the west. Artefactual evidence recovered indicates key development in the late 2nd century through to the 4th century.

Medieval/post-medieval

1.3.8 The village of Wanborough, *c* 1km to the southeast of the site, is suspected to have Saxon origins, and Saxon pottery sherds have been recovered from the village. The parish church of St Andrew is Grade I Listed and dates from the 14th century. A medieval moated site indicative of former settlement is located some 1.2km to the south of the site.

1.3.9 Areas of ridge and furrow are recorded on the HER within the northern part of the site and these were confirmed by the results of the geophysical survey. Its presence was also recorded in a significant number of trenches within the route of the proposed connector road (CA 2018).

1.3.10 No archaeological features dating to the early medieval period were identified during the previous evaluation works. A series of geophysical anomalies identified within the south-east corner of the site were interpreted as enclosure systems of possible Roman origin. Several linear ditches were identified in the trenches excavated across the anomalies, from which quantities of medieval pottery were recovered. The features

were interpreted as representing a small medieval farmstead dating from the 11th to 15th centuries, with some evidence for mid-16th- to 18th-century activity. It should be noted that sherds of pottery dated to the Roman period were also recovered from these features but in very small quantities.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to:

- Undertake a programme of archaeological investigation targeted on known features of heritage significance and geophysical anomalies of suspected or unknown archaeological significance;
- Confirm the absence or presence of archaeological features in areas indicated to be devoid of archaeological remains in the results of the geophysical survey;
- Make a competent record of the location and character of any such remains;
- Recover any archaeologically significant artefacts;
- Recover samples to assess material which has potential for the survival of paleoenvironmental or dating evidence from a range of archaeological features and significant deposits;
- Prepare a report on the findings and material recovered, and their significance;
- Make the report available through the Wiltshire HER and other online sources; and
- Create and deposit with a suitable repository the written, drawn and photographic data along with artefactual and ecofactual evidence.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Establish the character and preservation state of any remains present. This will include the archaeological features themselves and all types of organic and inorganic material identified;
- Assess how any proposed development works may impact on the preservation of the remains identified;
- Further refine our understanding of the development of *Durocornovium*, including the organisation of the settlement, structures and the relationship between the settlement and Ermin Street;
- If possible, identify any evidence of any industrial activities that may have occurred within the settlement, eg metalworking, with consideration given to appropriate paleoenvironmental sampling to aid identification;
- If present, further our understanding of the dark earth deposit identified during previous work (OA 2020a), including date, means of accumulation and relationship between the deposit and any positive and negative features (eg raised buildings and ditches). This should include appropriate bulk and specialist sampling;
- To consider the remains identified within both the context of previous investigation of the settlement of *Durocornovium*, and the wider landscape.

2.3 SWARF and other research questions

2.3.1 In addition to the above, the evaluation had the potential to contribute to the regional research agenda as outlined in the South-West Archaeological Research Framework (Grove and Croft 2012).

How does the settlement sit within the wider landscape?

2.3.2 Theme A of the agenda highlights the importance of looking at the interaction between settlement and landscape. Two research aims within this theme were relevant to the evaluation: 'Improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement' (Aim 29) and 'Improve understanding of early Roman urban settlement' (Aim 35).

2.3.3 The first phase of these works had confirmed the results of geophysical survey and demonstrated that Roman activity was concentrated along the edge of the development area, with the rest of the site forming the rural hinterland. No archaeological features were present in the hinterland. The geophysical survey suggested a similar layout within the area of the proposed works.

2.3.4 The evaluation had the potential to shed further light on the character of *Durocornovium*'s periphery and its hinterland and contribute to our understanding of the development and chronology of the settlement and its wider landscape. Reference to the outputs of the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain (Allen *et al*. 2018; Smith *et al.* 2016) would be key to the interpretation of any remains.

2.3.5 In addition to the suspected significant remains in the eastern half of the site, any archaeological features identified within the hinterland were to be fully investigated and subject to paleoenvironmental sampling.

Can the evaluation shed light on key periods of transition?

2.3.6 Aim 10 of the South-West Archaeological Research Framework highlights the need to address our currently poor understanding of key transitional periods, listing two periods that are relevant to the evaluation: the 2nd to 3rd centuries and the late Roman to post-Roman period. Excavation of a range of archaeological features, and the recovery of artefactual and ecofactual evidence (notably from any 'dark earth' deposits) was flagged up as having the potential to contribute to our knowledge of these periods in relation to *Durocornovium* and its wider landscape.

What evidence is there for the evolution of the settlement and how do any remains identified relate to those previous investigated?

2.3.7 Located approximately 400m to the north of the proposed evaluation, the results of the excavations undertaken in the late 1960s and 1970s identified three broad phases of development. The evidence suggested that the settlement started as a small roadside settlement with possible military origins. It then developed into a nucleated settlement in the 1st century, before expanding in the late 3rd and 4th centuries. Previous investigation to the south suggested limited activity prior to the 1st century, suggesting that the settlement developed mainly to the north. The evaluation provided an opportunity to examine the development of the settlement.

Is there any evidence of the suspected military origins to the settlement?

2.3.8 The location of the evaluation was likely to lie beyond the extent of the earliest known activity and the putative military settlement. Nevertheless, Aim 50 of the Research Framework, which looks to improve understanding of the effects of the Roman army on the local population, was relevant to the evaluation. Consideration was given to the impact of the military activity on the surrounding landscape, for example through changes in agricultural practices and material culture.

What was the economic basis of the settlement?

2.3.9 The remains of a suspected *mansio* have been identified at *Durcornovium* through cropmark evidence. This would have provided a resting-place for travellers and state officials moving along Ermin Street, as well as a place to change horses, and suggests that the settlement had a significance that most other nucleated roadside settlements lacked. As a result, the settlement may have drawn greater resources from the local area and centralised key economic functions, such as agricultural processing, distribution of goods, and tax-collection.

2.3.10 At least one corndryer was identified during the excavation in the 1960s and 1970s. However, it was noted in the results that agricultural tools were rare, suggesting that this area was not a focus of activity.

2.3.11 Through the excavation of a wide range of archaeological features and the recovery of charred plant remains and animal bones, the evaluation provided an opportunity to identify evidence for agricultural and industrial activity. While interpretation of any enclosure systems would be limited, the results of these works should be considered together with the results of previous evaluations to identify any enclosure patterns and help identify function.

How did Ermin street develop and what can this tell us about the development of the activity is this area?

2.3.12 Evidence to the north suggests that as the settlement developed, Ermin Street was expanded and improved. Should the remains of the road be identified during these works, it will be important to establish through excavation the development of the road surface and any adjacent roadside ditches. This will aid our understanding of the chronology and sequence of the road, as well as the development of adjacent features, such as field systems.

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in the written scheme of investigation (WSI; OA 2019).

2.4.2 The trenches were positioned as shown in Figure 3. The presence of dense shrubbery constricted space in the proposed locations of Trenches 34, 35a and 35b, and therefore the trenches were reduced in length and their orientations altered. The trenches were located using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy. Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a JCB 3CX fitted with a toothless bucket, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from the trench edges.

2.4.3 Machining continued in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of a machine.

2.4.4 The exposed surface was sufficiently clean to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. All spoil heaps and the surfaces of features were scanned with a metal detector to aid in the recovery of metal objects. A sample of each feature or deposit type, for example pits, postholes and ditches, was excavated and recorded. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual. Small finds and samples were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context.

2.4.5 Digital photos were taken of archaeological features, deposits, trenches and the evaluation work in general.

2.4.6 On-site planning was undertaken using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy. All section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of either 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. 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 are indicated on the drawings.

2.4.7 All trenches, features and interventions were located using a GPS unit.

2.4.8 Upon completion of all hand excavation and recording, trenches were backfilled with the arisings in reverse order.

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 are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates can be found in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 In general the soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform, consisting of a silty clay natural overlain by subsoil and topsoil (Plate 1), although some variations were noted. The natural geology in Trench 50 differed from elsewhere on site, comprising a pale greyish white stone-rich clayey silt (Plate 2). This natural variation was observed in the southern half of the trench only and appears to be a very localised variation. The reason for this variation is not apparent but it does appear to correspond with a slight depression within the landscape in which alluvial deposit were also noted.

3.2.2 The alluvial deposits were identified in Trenches 43, 47, 50 and 51. In Trenches 50 and 51 the archaeological features were sealed by the alluvium. No relationship was discernable within Trenches 43 or 47, with the alluvium petering out before reaching the location of the archaeological features. The alluvium recorded in Trenches 50 and 51 appears to fill the depression in the landscape mentioned above. All alluvial deposits are suspected to have accumulated as a result of seasonal flooding.

3.2.3 Deposits of made ground were recorded in Trenches 34, 35a and 35b overlying a buried topsoil. These deposits appeared to be relatively modern in date (20th century) and were interpreted as being derived from a combination of dredging of extant drainage ditches and dumping of hardcore to stabilize the ground.

3.2.4 At the commencement of fieldwork ground conditions were good, with trenches remaining dry. However, due to prolonged periods of extremely heavy rain the trenches began to flood and the ground conditions deteriorated rapidly (Plates 3 and 4). The archaeological features could be identified easily against the underlying natural geology when the trenches were initially opened but quickly became submerged. While this did not impact the identification of archaeological features within the trenches it did limit the level of hand excavation that could be undertaken.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all trenches except Trenches 27, 28, 35a, 35b, 37, 41, 42, 46 and 52. Trench 38 contained no archaeological features other than furrows.

3.4 Trench 34 (Fig. 4)

3.4.2 Trench 34 contained two broadly NW-SE aligned ditches (3404 and 3406), pottery of post-medieval date was recovered from the surface of both features.

3.4.3 The ditches were overlain by a buried topsoil (3402) which in turn was overlain by a deposit of made ground (3401) believed to be associated with modern clearance

within the area. Modern brick and ceramic building material (CBM) were identified in the made ground but these were not retained.

3.5 Trench 36 (Figs 4 and 10)

3.5.1 Trench 36 contained two ditches and a localised soil spread.

3.5.2 Ditch 3605 crossed the centre of the trench on a NW-SE alignment (Fig. 10 section 3601; Plate 5). The ditch was overlain by a spread of material (3607) which was only located within the vicinity of the ditch and suspected to be the remnants of a bank associated with the ditch. Animal bone was recovered from the sole fill of the ditch (3606) and pottery and CBM were recovered from the spread. The pottery comprised a single sherd from a 17-18th century Minety ware bowl and the CBM a single fragment of probable Roman date.

3.5.3 Aligned NW-SE, ditch 3603 was located at the southern end of the trench. The ditch contained a single fill (3604) from which animal bone was recovered. A linear geophysical anomaly crossed the southern end of Trench 36, in the location of ditch 3603, but the anomaly is on an NW-SE alignment and therefore not indicative of the feature identified within the trench.

3.6 Trench 39 (Figs 5 and 10)

3.6.1 Trench 39 was positioned to investigate two linear geological anomalies, but no corresponding features were identified within the trench. A single N-S aligned ditch (3903) was identified crossing the southern end of the trench (Fig. 10 section 3901; Plate 6). Two small sherds (2g total weight) of late Iron Age–early Roman pottery were recovered from the sole fill of the ditch (3904).

3.7 Trench 40 (Fig. 4)

3.7.1 Trench 40 contained a single linear feature. The feature (4003) was located at the western end of the trench and aligned NW-SE. No corresponding geophysical anomaly was noted in this area, but the feature does appear to be aligned with a NW-SE aligned anomaly located to the north-west of the trench and continuing into Trench 36, although no corresponding feature was noted in Trench 36 (see above). Post-medieval pottery (17th-18th century) and animal bone were recovered from the ditch.

3.8 Trench 43 (Figs 5 and 10)

3.8.1 Trench 43 was positioned to enable the investigation of two linear geophysical anomalies. Three ditches and a layer were recorded within the trench but there was no correlation between the geophysical survey and the features (Fig. 5)

3.8.2 Ditch 4303 crossed the trench on an E-W alignment and was cut by ditch 4305, also aligned E-W (Fig. 10 section 4300; Plate 7). The earlier ditch was significantly more substantial than the later, measuring 1.12m wide and 0.41m deep compared to 0.50m wide and 0.19m. Both features contained a single fill from which no finds were recovered.

3.8.3 The third ditch (4304) was located towards the southern end of the trench (Fig. 10 section 4301). The location of the ditch corresponded with the location of a linear

geophysical anomaly, although the alignment of the feature (NE-SW) and the anomaly (N-S) do not correspond. A single sherd of Roman pottery (AD 43-200) was recovered from fill 4308, the only fill of ditch 4304.

3.8.4 Layer 4309 was exposed at the southern end of the trench and extended 7.5m to the north-west. The layer was observed to be 0.15m thick, overlying the natural and overlain by the subsoil. The layer was interpreted as an alluvial deposit.

3.9 Trench 44 (Figs 6 and 10)

3.9.1 Three ditches were recorded within Trench 44, one of which appears to correlate with one of the two geophysical anomalies targeted by the trench.

3.9.2 Ditch 4407 crossed the south-western end of the trench on a NNW-SSE alignment. A small assemblage (2 sherds) of medieval pottery was recovered from the sole fill of the ditch (4408).

3.9.3 Aligned NNE-SSW, ditch 4405 was located approximately 15m to the north-west of ditch 4407 (Fig. 10 section 4401). The location and orientation of ditch 4405 corresponds with a short linear geophysical anomaly that starts immediately to the north of the trench before stopping some 8m to the south. The ditch contained a single fill (4406) from which a small fragment (8g) of Roman CBM was recovered.

3.9.4 The third ditch within Trench 44, ditch 4403, was located immediately to the north-west of ditch 4405 and had a comparable NNW-SSE alignment (Fig. 10 section 4400). A sherd of Roman pottery and a sherd of medieval pottery were recovered from the feature.

3.10 Trench 45 (Figs 6 and 10)

3.10.1 Trench 45 contained a single N-S aligned ditch (4503), which was located at the eastern end of the trench and corresponded with a geophysical anomaly (Fig. 10 section 4500). A single sherd of middle Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery was recovered from the feature's sole fill (4504)

3.11 Trench 47 (Figs 7 and 10)

3.11.1 Trench 47 was positioned across two irregular geophysical anomalies. Archaeological features were identified in both locations and are likely to be the origin of the anomalies.

3.11.2 Ditch 4704 was located in the northern half of the trench and ditch 4706 crossed the centre of the trench (Fig. 10 sections 4700 and 4701; Plate 8). Both ditches were aligned NE-SW and each contained a single fill (4705 and 4707 respectively) from which early Neolithic or early/middle Bronze Age pottery and worked flint were recovered. A crested worked flint blade of possible Neolithic date was also recovered from ditch 4704.

3.11.3 A third NE-SW aligned ditch (4708) was located towards the southern end of the trench. A single sherd of early to middle Roman pottery was recovered from the sole fill of the ditch (4709). Immediately to the south of the ditch was posthole 4710 (Fig.

10 section 4703; Plate 9). No datable material was recovered from the charcoal-rich fill of the posthole and no other postholes were identified within the trench.

3.11.4 Overlying the natural in the southern 7m of the trench was alluvial layer 4703. An assemblage of 22 worked flints was recovered from the deposit (Plate 17). The flint was in fresh condition and included cores, blades and flakes with technological elements indicative of Neolithic date. In addition to the struck flint eight sherds of early Roman pottery were also recovered.

3.12 Trenches 48A and 48B (Figs 7 and 11)

3.12.1 Trenches 48A and 48B were targeted on a number of strong geophysical anomalies interpreted as archaeology.

3.12.2 Trench 48B contained a pit and four ditches which correspond well with the geophysical survey results. Located at the western end of the trench, ditch 4809 was aligned NW-SE and corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly which appears to form part of an enclosure system. The ditch contained a single fill (4810) from which seven sherds of medieval (13th-14th century) pottery were recovered.

3.12.3 NE-SW aligned ditch 4807 and pit 4805 were located in the centre of the trench (Fig. 11 sections 4801 and 4802). Each feature contained a single fill (4806 and 4808) from which no artefactual evidence was recovered.

3.12.4 Located at the eastern end of the trench and corresponding with the results of the geophysical were ditches 4803 and 4811 (Fig. 11 section 4800; Plate 10). Aligned NW-SE, ditch 4803 contained a single fill (4804) from which a large assemblage (245 sherds) of medieval pottery was recovered (Plate 11). The pottery assemblage is formed of multiple vessels including Brill/Boastall ware pipkins and jugs, Kennet Valley B ware/East Wilts ware bowls, a small Minety ware bowl and 10 adjoining sherds from a Laverstock ware jug. The north-east side of ditch 4803 was truncated by ditch 4811. Also aligned NW-SE, ditch 4811 contained three fills (4812, 4813 and 4814), each producing small quantities of post-medieval pottery (16-18th century).

3.12.5 Ditches 4803 and 4811 were also present in Trench 48A, ditch 4818 representing the continuation of ditch 4803 and ditch 4819 the continuation of ditch 4811. Although not excavated in Trench 48A, post-medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of ditch 4819 and CBM of Roman date from the surfaces of ditch 4818.

3.12.6 A third NW-SE aligned ditch (4820) was located at the eastern of Trench 48A. Again, this ditch was not excavated but a single fragment of Roman CBM was recovered from its surface.

3.12.7 All three ditches were also investigated during a previous phase of evaluation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) in 2018 (CA 2018, Trench 127). During the previous evaluation ditch 4820 was identified and recorded as ditch 12704, which contained two fills and produced a sherd of medieval pottery. Ditches 4803/4818 and 4811/4819 were recorded as ditches 12713 and 12711.

3.13 Trench 49 (Fig. 8)

3.13.1 A spread of unhewn limestone (4904) was exposed in the centre of Trench 49, covering an area of about 3.7m in extent. There was no obvious structure to the deposition of the stones and they appeared to be compressed into the natural horizon. They have been interpreted as a dump of material to consolidate boggy ground; however no date for this activity could be determined.

3.14 Trench 50 (Figs 7 and 11)

3.14.1 A NW-SE aligned ditch (5003) was recorded running for 35m along the length of the trench before turning to the south-west (Fig. 11 section 5001). The ditch aligns with either ditch 4803/4818 or 4811/4819 in Trench 48 but it is unclear whether the ditch represents the continuation of the earlier or later ditch. Ditch 5003 contained a single fill (5004) from which medieval pottery (AD 1150-1400), CBM and fired clay of possible Roman date and a rotary key of medieval date were recovered.

3.14.2 Two broadly E-W aligned ditches were recorded at the southern end of Trench 50 (5005 and 5008). Neither ditch was excavated but a medieval or post-medieval swivel was recovered from the surface of ditch 5008 (fill 5009).

3.14.3 The archaeological features in Trench 50 were overlain by a thick alluvial layer which increased in thickness from the north end of the trench to the south. No alluvium was recorded in Trenches 48A or48 B but it was present in Trench 51, which runs parallel to Trench 50, although it was noticeably shallower, 0.12m on average compared to 0.58m in Trench 51.

3.15 Trench 51 (Fig. 7)

3.15.1 A large (3.9m wide) NE-SW aligned ditch (5103) was the only feature recorded in Trench 51. Given the size of the ditch, 3.9m wide, it was only partially investigated but it was demonstrated to contain at least two fills (5104 and 5106). The ditch was overlain by a layer of alluvium from which medieval pottery and Roman CBM were recovered.

3.15.2 The location and alignment of the ditch correspond with a geophysical anomaly which appeared to form part of the same enclosure system as the features identified in Trenches 48A, 48B and 50.

3.16 Trench 53 (Figs 9 and 11)

3.16.1 Trench 53 contained a ditch and a furrow.

3.16.2 The ditch (5305) was located at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 11 section 5300; Plates 12 and 13). The ditch was curvilinear in plan, entering and exiting the trench from the southern baulk. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the sole fill of the ditch (5306).

3.17 Trench 54 (Fig. 9)

3.17.1 A NE-SW aligned ditch (5403) was recorded in the centre of Trench 54. Unfortunately, due to flooding it was not possible to safely excavate the ditch but eight sherds of middle/late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the surface of the feature.

3.17.2 The ditch corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly which extends to both east and west of the trench.

3.18 Trench 55 (Figs 9 and 11)

3.18.1 Trench 55 contained two ditches and a pit

3.18.2 Pit 5503 was only partially observed within the trench, continuing beyond the north-eastern baulk (Fig. 11 section 5500; Plate 14). A single fill was recorded within the pit (5504) but no artefactual evidence was recovered.

3.18.3 Ditch 5505 was located approximately 3m south of pit 5503. Aligned NE-SW, the ditch contained a single fill from which a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered along with a struck flint flake.

3.18.4 The second ditch recorded in Trench 55, ditch 5507, was located a further 5m to the south and similarly extended on a NE-SW alignment (Fig. 11 section 5502). Eight fills were recorded within the ditch (5508-5514) but artefactual evidence was only recovered from fill 5514, the final fill, and comprised three sherds of middle Bronze Age or possibly early Iron Age pottery. The number of fills present within the ditch may indicate seasonal flooding of this area.

3.18.5 Trench 55 was located in an area that was not subject to geophysical survey due to a density of shrubbery.

3.19 Trench 56 (Figs 9 and 12)

3.19.1 Trench 56 contained two ditches which represent either side of a rectangular enclosure identified by the geophysical survey.

3.19.2 Ditch 5603 forms the western side of the enclosure and ditch 5605 the eastern side. The ditches were comparable in size, ditch 5603 measuring 2.6m wide by 0.4m deep and ditch 5605 2.08m wide and over 0.5m deep (Fig. 12 section 5601; Plate 15). Each ditch contained a single fill. Seven sherds of early-middle IA pottery were recovered from fill 5604 in ditch 5603, and fill 5606 from ditch 5605 produced a sherd of middle or late Bronze Age pottery, undated fired clay and three struck flint flakes.

3.20 Trench 57 (Figs 9 and 12)

3.20.1 Trench 57 (Plate 4) was positioned to investigate four linear geophysical anomalies but no corresponding features were recorded within the trench. However, a ditch and a pit were recorded within the trench.

3.20.2 Aligned NNE-SSW, ditch 5705 crossed the centre of the trench (Fig. 12 section 5701; Plate 16). Three fills were recorded within the ditch (5706-5708) but artefactual evidence was only recovered from the final fill, fill 5708. The finds comprised four

sherds of pottery, one dated to the middle-late Bronze age and three dated to the early Roman period (AD 1-100).

3.20.3 Pit 5703 was located approximately 8m to the south of ditch 5705. The pit had a shallow profile 0.10m deep and contained a single sterile fill (5704). A second possible pit was investigated but was determined to be a manganese-rich variation in the natural geology.

3.21 Trench 58 (Fig. 9)

3.21.1 Trench 58 contained a single ditch, five furrows and a pit. Unfortunately, due to water ingress the features within Trench 58 could not safely be excavated.

3.21.2 Ditch 5807 was located in the centre of the trench and corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly. A single sherd of early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the surface of the ditch.

3.21.3 Both furrows also align with geophysical anomalies interpreted as ridge and furrow, but it should be noted that these anomalies were also recorded as crossing trenches 56 and 57 but no corresponding features were recorded within these trenches.

3.22 Trench 59 (Fig. 3)

3.22.1 Trench 59 contained a single ditch

3.22.2 Due to water ingress the ditch was not excavated, but its position and alignment suggest it represents the continuation of the N-S field boundary located immediately to the north of the trench. No finds were recovered from the surface of the dich.

3.23 Finds summary

3.23.1 Small assemblages of prehistoric and Roman pottery were recovered during the evaluation. The prehistoric pottery assemblage comprises 28 pieces with a combined weight of 128g. The dating of the assemblage is difficult due to the small size of the assemblage and the lack of diagnostic sherds. The majority of the sherds are flint tempered but sandy and glauconitic sherds are also present. The flint-tempered sherds have been dated to the middle/late Bronze age but are possibly of early Neolithic date. The sandy and glauconitic sherds are of Iron Age date.

3.23.2 The Roman pottery assemblage is similarly small, comprising only 19 sherds with a combined weight of 238g. Dating of several sherds can not be refined beyond a broad Roman date. Where it has been possible to refine the date, the assemblage dates from the late Iron Age to the mid-3rd century. No sherds of late Roman date were recovered. The condition of pottery is relatively poor. While some larger sherds are present the assemblage is largely fragmented and abraded. The sherds appear to have undergone several episodes of redeposition and are likely to have been deposited incidentally.

3.23.3 CBM of Roman date was also recovered from across the area, comprising a total 20 fragments with a combined weight of 837g. The assemblage comprises flat tiles, flue and imbrex fragments, and brick. The CBM was largely recovered as single fragments from contexts of later date and is considered to be residual. Three fragments of fired

clay were also recovered but these are not closely dateable and their function cannot be determined.

3.23.4 Pottery of medieval and post-medieval date constitutes the majority of artefacts recovered, with the majority of sherds coming from Trenches 48A, 48B, 50 and 51. The assemblage comprises 292 sherds of pottery weighing 3.403kg and was recovered from 17 different contexts. Over 75% of the medieval/post-medieval pottery assemblage was recovered from ditch 4803 in Trench 48B. The assemblage consists of jugs, bowls, cooking pots and saucepans in a variety of fabric from the local area, east Wilshire ware, Mintey ware from north Wiltshire, and slightly further afield such as Brill/Boarstall produced in west Buckinghamshire.

3.23.5 Two metal objects, both of iron, were recovered during the evaluation. The objects were a medieval rotary key and a medieval or post-medieval swivel, both recovered from Trench 50.

3.23.6 A moderate assemblage of 31 struck flints was recovered from across the area with 24 pieces coming from Trench 47. Of the 24 fragments, 22 were recovered from alluvial deposit 4703. Four flints were recovered from ditch 5506, one from ditch 4803 and two from the subsoil in Trench 57. The flint assemblage is general in good condition implying recovery from or near the original point of deposition. The flint assemblage is heavily blade-focused including several fine blade cores and blade debitage, indicative of a late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date.

3.24 Environmental summary

3.24.1 Six bulk samples were taken from a range of feature of varying date. The samples produced poor flots and suggest there is limited potential for informative environmental material to be recovered within the Phase 3 area. Along with charcoal fragments, evidence for wheat and grain was observed.

3.24.2 Fragments of animal bone recovered during the evaluation were in poor condition. A total of 18 fragments weighing 48g was recovered from four contexts, ditches 3603, 3605, 4003 and 4803. The assemblage comprised sheep/goat teeth and fragments from heavily eroded large mammal bones. The small size and poor preservation of the bones means little can be interpreted from the assemblage.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches provided a good coverage of the proposed development area while targeting the results of the geophysical survey. The machining was generally carried out cleanly, providing good visibility of features and deposits in the evaluation trenches. However, the ground and site conditions deteriorated as the evaluation progressed due to wet weather and flooding. While it is was possible to identify and map all archaeological features exposed within the trenches, the level of hand excavation that could be undertaken was restricted in several of the trenches, most notably Trenches 54 and 58. Where possible surface artefacts were recovered but the limited hand excavation has restricted the characterisation of the features within these trenches.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 In general, the evaluation should be considered to have achieved the aims and objectives outlined above in Section 2. The evaluation established and recorded the presence and extent of archaeological features and deposits in 21 of the 30 trenches investigated as part of the Phase 3 works. Of the 21 trenches containing archaeological remains one contained no features other than a furrow, Trench 38. The archaeological features are distributed across the site and are of a low complexity, predominately comprising land management and boundary ditches.

4.2.2 Excluding furrows, datable material was recovered from approximately 75% of the archaeological features exposed within the trenches. Although these assemblages have been used to date the features it should be noted that most features only produced one or two sherds of abraded material. In additional, several features produced material from multiple periods, such as ditch 4403 in Trench 44, which contained both Roman and medieval pottery. Despite this, activity foci can clearly be defined within the site. Prehistoric activity is focused on Trenches 47 and 53-57 and medieval activity is focused on Trenches 48A, 48B, 50 and 51.

4.2.3 Many of the site-specific aims and objectives outlined in the WSI relate to furthering our understanding of Wanborough Roman town. The area evaluated during Phase 3 lies beyond the limit of the town.

4.2.4 The correlation between the results of the evaluation and the geophysical survey are mixed and of moderate reliability (Fig. 3). Trenches 48A, 48B, 50 and 51 were all targeted on anomalies interpreted as 'positive linear archaeology' and there is excellent correlation between the features recorded within the trenches and the results of the geophysical survey. In this area, only two features were recorded in the trenches that were not indicated by the geophysical survey. These were both located at the southern end of Trench 50 and were sealed by *c* 0.6m of alluvium, which is likely to have impacted the accuracy of the survey in this area. Beyond this area there are several linear features, such as ditches 3605, 4003, 4706 and 5705, recorded in trenches that were not identified by the geophysical survey.

4.2.5 Two ditches identified in Trench 56 align with either side of a geophysical anomaly interpreted as an enclosure.

4.2.6 The correlation between archaeological features and geophysical anomalies interpreted as being of an uncertain origin was mixed. For example, ditches 5403 and 5805 both aligned with linear anomalies, but no features were identified representing other anomalies targeted by Trenches 39, 42, 41, 49, 53, 54 and 57.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Archaeological features were recorded ranging in date from the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic through to the post-medieval period and comprising predominately of ditches and occasional pits. The results of the evaluation suggest the area investigated during Phase 3 falls within the wider hinterland of more significant archaeological activity, most notably Roman settlement activity to the north and south-west. Although distributed across the site, the density of features is relatively low with three key area of archaeological interest identifiable within the site: a concentration of prehistoric struck flint in Trench 47, a prehistoric enclosure and land management ditches in Trenches 53-57 and medieval and post-medieval enclosures in Trenches 48A, 48B, 50 and 51.

Prehistoric

4.3.2 A concentration of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic stuck flint (22 pieces) was recovered from alluvial deposit 4703, located at the southern end of Trench 47. Early Neolithic struck flint was also recovered from ditches 4704 and 4706, located to the north of the alluvial deposit. As well as the flint, both ditches produced sherds of prehistoric pottery. Based on the form and fabric the pottery is believed to be of middle Bronze Age date, but this is not certain, and an early Neolithic date cannot be ruled out and is made more likely based on the suspected date of the flint.

4.3.3 Despite being recovered from a single deposit (4703), there was no evidence to suggest that the struck flint represented an *in situ* artefact scatter.

4.3.4 Only a small assemblage (20 pieces) of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic struck flint was recovered during the evaluation along the proposed route of the Swindon Southern Connector Road (SSCR; CA 2018). The assemblage was interpreted as evidence of a limited and transitory presence in the area at this time.

4.3.5 The recovery of 22 pieces of flint from a single context, and pottery and struck flint from two adjacent features, suggests a more intensive utilisation of the landscape than previously suggested. The flint assemblage is heavily blade focused, including several fine blade cores and blade debitage, indicative of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic knapping probably associated with utilisation of the local landscape for hunting.

4.3.6 A second focus of prehistoric activity was recorded in Trench 56. Two ditches (5603 and 5605) were present and are suggested by the results of the geophysical survey to form a rectangular enclosure with an entrance on the western side. Both ditches have comparable profiles, supporting the idea that they constitute the same feature. No features were recorded within the enclosure, suggesting it served an agricultural

purpose as a small stock enclosure rather than being associated with domestic activity.

4.3.7 Dating of the feature is problematic. Ditch 5603, which forms the western side of the enclosure, produced seven sherds of early to middle Iron Age pottery, whereas ditch 5605, the eastern side of the enclosure, produced a single sherd of middle/late Bronze Age (or early Neolithic) pottery. Weighing only 3g, the sherd recovered from ditch 5605 is likely to be residual. Previous investigations in the vicinity, including the evaluation along the route of the SSCR and the archaeological watching brief undertaken during the installation of a water pipeline (WA 2018), have identified little evidence of early-middle Iron Age activity. A single ditch identified during the watching brief produced pottery of mid-late Iron Age date. Limited evidence of middle Iron Age settlement activity was recorded during an evaluation at Redlands Airfield, some 750m to the east of the site (EDP 2021). The probable stock enclosure may represent agricultural utilisation of the landscape surrounding this settlement. Early Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the surface of feature 5807, which was interpreted as a furrow.

4.3.8 No features have been dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman periods, but pottery of this date was recovered from ditch 3903 and ditch 4708. A Roman farmstead identified approximately 400m south-west of the enclosure is believed to have late Iron Age-early Roman origins and the pottery recovered is likely associated with this activity.

4.3.9 Ditches 5403 and 5507 both produced sherds of probable middle or late Bronze Age pottery (again an early Neolithic date cannot be ruled out). Both ditches are aligned broadly NE-SW and function as land management or boundary ditches. While ditch 5403 correlates with a geophysical anomaly, ditch 5507 was previously unknown.

4.3.10 Excluding the identification of a middle Bronze Age cremation during the evaluation along the route to SSCR (Fig. 2 CA Trench 56), little evidence for activity of this period has previously been identified within the immediate landscape. Similarly, evidence of middle Iron Age activity comprises the identification of limited settlement activity during the evaluation at Redlands Airfield (EDP 2021).

Roman

4.3.11 Eighteen sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the across the Phase 3 area, but no discernible Roman focus was present. The area evaluated during Phase 3 lies to the south of the dense Roman activity recorded during Phases 1 and 2, which is associated with Wanborough Roman town (OA 2020a and OA 2020b). It also lies to the north-west of a small Roman farmstead identified in the result of the preceding geophysical survey and confirmed during evaluation works along the proposed route of the SSCR (CA 2018).

4.3.12 Ditches 4304, 4405 4708 and 5505 have been tentatively assigned a Roman date based on the recovery of pottery from the features. It should be noted that the general condition of the Roman pottery assemblage suggests the sherds have undergone several episodes of redeposition, likely being deposited incidentally.

4.3.13 All four ditches are on comparable alignments, broadly NE-SW, but the features are distributed across the site and do not form a coherent field system, likely representing land management ditches. The dispersed nature of the feature of Roman date and the generally poor condition of the artefact assemblage suggests that the features identified during this evaluation lie within the wider hinterlands of both Wanborough Roman town and the farmstead. The pottery assemblage comprises sherds of early-middle Roman date, with no sherds of late Roman date present. The pottery assemblages recovered from the evaluations undertaken to the north (Phases 1 and 2; OA2020a and OA2020b) have predominately comprised sherds of middle-late Roman date. This suggest the pottery recovered during this evaluation is likely to have derived from the farmstead to the south, where the majority of the recovered pottery assemblage belongs to the 1st and 2nd centuries (CA 2018).

4.3.14 Roman pottery was also recovered from two other ditches (5103 and 5705) and alluvial deposit 4703 but is not considered indicative of the date of these features.

Medieval and post-medieval

4.3.15 Trenches 48A, 48B, 50 and 51 contained remains of a medieval/post-medieval enclosure system. Evidence for recutting and re-establishment of the boundary ditches indicates the prolonged use of the enclosures. The pottery recovered from features the suggests the activity originates in the early 12th century and continued into the 17th century.

4.3.16 The enclosures had previously been identified by the geophysical survey and confirmed during trail trenching along the proposed route of the SSCR. The results of the Phase 3 evaluation further support the previous understanding of the remains.

4.3.17 Trench 44 contained two ditches from which medieval pottery (12-14th centuries) were recovered and post-medieval pottery was recovered from ditch 4003 in Trench 40. These features lie beyond the focus of medieval/post-medieval activity but further represent the utilisation of the landscape during these periods.

4.3.18 Although undated, furrows recorded in Trenches 38, 53 and 58 indicate medieval and post-medieval agriculture across the site.

4.3.19 A suspected mill-pond is indicated in documentary sources (Jo Vallender *per comms)* as located immediately to the south-west of Trench 50 (hashed in blue on Figure 2). There was no evidence for the extent of the pond within the trenches, however, the area was observed to flood during the evaluation. The accumulation of alluvium recorded in Trenches 50 and 51 suggest that the flooding is not a modern occurrence and it is likely that this natural accumulation was exploited for the creation of the pond.

Undated

4.3.20 Only a small percentage of the features identified are undated. The character of the features, land management ditches, mean it is not possible date the features by association with other feature on the site as they could belong to any of the phases of activity present within the site.

4.3.21 An undated curvilinear ditch was recorded at the north-western end of Trench 53. The feature is characteristically different to all of other features on site. The form of the feature suggest it is likely to be prehistoric. This interpretation is further supported based on its location within the site. It lies *c* 50m to the north of a Bronze Age ditch and *c* 100m south-west of the middle Bronze Age cremation identified during the evaluation along the route of the SSCR.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 27						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2700	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
2702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 28						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2800	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 34						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained two ditches of medieval date. Consists of topsoil, made ground deposit and a buried topsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.95
					Avg. depth (m)	0.63
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3400	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
3401	Layer	-	0.30	Made ground – mid grey silty clay with sub angular poorly sorted stone inclusions	CBM	Modern
3402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3403	Layer	-	0.13	Buried topsoil	-	-
3404	Cut	1.15	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-
3405	Fill	1.15	-	Fill of ditch 3404 – mid brown grey silty clay	Pottery	P Med
3406	Cut	0.73	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-
3407	Fill	0.73	-	Fill of ditch 3406 – mid brown soft silty clay	Pottery, CBM	P Med

Trench 35a						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, made ground and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	11
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3500	Layer	-	0.06	Topsoil	-	-
3501	Layer	-	0.17	Made ground – grey soft clay silt	-	-
3502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3503	Layer	0.11	-	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 35b						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, made ground and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	22
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.64
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3504	Layer	-	0.08	Topsoil	-	-
3505	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3506	Layer	-	0.38	Made ground – dark grey clay silt	-	-
3507	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 36						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3600	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	Pottery	P Med
3601	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
3602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3603	Cut	1.42	0.36	Ditch	-	-
3604	Fill	1.42	>1m	Fill of ditch 3603 – mid reddish grey silty clay with rate charcoal flecks and stones	Animal bone	-
3605	Cut	>1.65	0.3	Ditch	-	-
3606	Fill	>1.65	0.3	Fill of ditch 3605 – mid reddish grey silty clay occasional stones and rare charcoal flecks	Animal bone	-
3607	Layer	5.6	0.23	Buried soil – mid greyish red sandy clay with occasional stone	Pottery, CBM	Med

Trench 37						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
3701	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
3702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a single linear feature suspected to be a furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.59
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3800	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
3801	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3803	Cut	2.80	0.29	Furrow	-	-
3804	Fill	2.80	0.29	Fill of furrow 3803 – mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional sub rounded stones	-	-

Trench 39						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.59
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3900	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
3901	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
3902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3903	Cut	1.10	0.19	Ditch	-	-
3904	Fill	1.10	0.19	Fill of ditch 3903 – mid greyish brown with yellow hue silty clay, occasional sub rounded stones	Pottery	LIA-ER

Trench 40						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	51
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4000	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
4002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4003	Cut	0.82	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-
4004	Fill	0.82	-	Fill of ditch 4003 – dark brown grey silty clay	Pottery, animal bone	P Med

Trench 41						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
4101	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
4102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 42						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4200	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
4201	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
4202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 43						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SW
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a possible alluvial deposit which in turn overlay the natural geology, a silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4300	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
4301	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
4302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4303	Cut	1.12	0.41	Ditch	-	-

4304	Cut	0.86	0.28	Ditch	-	-
4305	Cut	0.50	0.19	Ditch	-	-
4306	Fill	0.50	0.19	Fill of ditch 4305 – mid reddish grey silty clay, rare stones and charcoal flecks	Pottery	MBA/LBA
4307	Fill	0.12	0.41	Fill of ditch 4303 – mid blueish grey with orange mottling, silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks	-	-
4308	Fill	0.86	0.28	Fill of ditch 4304 – mid orange grey silty clay, rare charcoal flecks	Pottery	E-M Roman
4309	Layer	-	0.15	Alluvium? Mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 44						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SW
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
4401	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
4402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4403	Cut	1.40	0.30	Ditch	-	-
4404	Fill	1.40	0.30	Fill of ditch 4403 – dark greyish brown clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and flint	Pottery	Roman and Med
4405	Cut	1.10	0.12	Ditch	-	-
4406	Fill	1.10	0.12	Fill of ditch 4405 – dark greyish brown with slight yellow hue, clay, occasional sub rounded stones and flint	CBM	Roman
4407	Cut	1.30	0.22	Ditch	-	-
4408	Fill	1.30	0.22	Fill of ditch 4407 – dark greyish brown clay, occasional sub rounded stones	Pottery	Med

Trench 45						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single shallow ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4500	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
4501	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
4502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4503	Cut	2.08	0.18	Ditch	-	-
4504	Fill	2.08	0.18	Fill of ditch 4503 – mid orange grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and rare stone	Pottery	MBA-IA

Trench 46						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
4601	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
4602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 47						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained three ditches, a post-hole and layer rich in flint and prehistoric pottery. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4700	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
4701	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
4702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4703	Layer	6.00	0.30	Alluvium? – dark blueish grey with brown mottle, silty clay	Pottery, flint	E Roman
4704	Cut	0.80	0.18	Ditch	-	-
4705	Fill	0.80	0.18	Fill of ditch 4704 – mid greyish brown with yellow hue, clay	Pottery, flint	E Neo
4706	Cut	1.10	0.12	Ditch	-	-
4707	Fill	1.10	0.12	Fill of ditch 4706 – mid greyish brown with yellow	Pottery, flint	E Neo

				hue, clay, occasional flecking and flint		
4708	Cut	2.10	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-
4709	Fill	2.10	-	Fill of ditch 4708 – dark brownish grey clay with charcoal flecking and occasional small stones	Pottery	E-M Roman
4710	Cut	0.18	0.09	Post-hole	-	-
4711	Fill	0.18	0.09	Fill of post-holes 4710 – dark grey with slight orange hue, silty clay, charcoal rich		

Trench 48a						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained three ditches, all the continuation of features observed in Trench 48b. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.59
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4815	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
4816	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
4817	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4818	Cut	2.06	-	Ditch – unexcavated	CBM	Roman
4819	Cut	1.49	-	Ditch – unexcavated	Pottery	P Med
4820	Cut	3.07	-	Ditch – unexcavated	CBM	Roman
4821	Fill	2.06	-	Fill of ditch 4818 – mid brown grey silty clay	-	-
4822	Fill	1.49	-	Fill of ditch 4819 – mid brown grey silty clay	-	-
4823	Fill	3.07	-	Fill of ditch 4820 – mid brown grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 48b						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contains four ditches and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.68
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4800	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
4801	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
4802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4803	Cut	2.06	0.68	Ditch		
4804	Fill	2.06	0.68	Fill of ditch 4803 – mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with occasion charcoal flecks and rare stone	Pottery, flint, animal bone	Med
4805	Cut	0.52	0.17	Pit	-	-

4806	Fill	0.52	0.17	Fill of pit 4805 – mid brownish grey sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks	-	-
4807	Cut	0.72	0.16	Ditch	-	-
4808	Fill	0.72	0.16	Fill of ditch 4807 – mid brown grey sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks	-	-
4809	Cut	1.38	0.19	Ditch	-	-
4810	Fill	1.38	0.19	Fill of ditch 4809 – mid to dark brown grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and stones	Pottery	Med
4811	Cut	1.42	0.66	Ditch	-	-
4812	Fill	0.58	0.16	Fill of ditch 4811 – light to mid greyish brown clay with rare charcoal flecks	Pottery	P Med
4813	Fill	1.42	0.52	Fill of ditch 4811 – mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Pottery	P Med
4814	Fill	0.64	0.10	Fill of ditch 4811 – mid to dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Pottery	P Med

Trench 49

General description					**Orientation**	NE=SW
Trench contained a possible limestone surface. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.63
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4900	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
4901	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil	-	-
4903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4904	Layer	3.70	-	Limestone surface – formed of unhewn limestone deposited onto natural geology.	-	-

Trench 50

General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained three ditches cutting through a larger alluvial layer. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	1.10
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
5001	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
5002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

5003	Cut	1.50	0.50	Ditch	-	-
5004	Fill	1.50	0.50	Fill of ditch 5003 – dark greyish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Pottery, CBM, fired clay, Fe obj	Med
5005	Cut	1.20	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-
5006	Fill	1.20		Fill of ditch 5005 – dark grey brown clay with charcoal flecking	-	-
5007	Layer	-	0.58	Alluvium – mid brownish grey clay with limestone fragments	-	-
5008	Cut	0.80	-	Ditch	-	-
5009	Fill	0.80	-	Fill of ditch 5008 – dark grey clay	Fe Obj	Med / p-med

Trench 51						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a single ditch overlain by a suspected layer of alluvium. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.70
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
5101	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
5102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5103	Cut	3.90	-	Ditch	-	-
5104	Fill	1.20	-	Fill of ditch 5103 – mid brownish green silty clay with charcoal flecking	Pottery, CBM	Med (and residual E-M Rom)
5105	Fill	3.90	-	Fill of ditch 5103 – dark greyish brown clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	Pottery	Med
5106	Layer	-	0.12	Alluvium – dark greyish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks and sub rounded stones	Pottery, CBM	Med

Trench 52						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5200	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
5201	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil	-	-
5202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 53						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained a ditch and a suspected furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
5301	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
5302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5303	Cut	3.00	-	Furrow	-	-
5304	Fill	3.00	-	Fill of furrow 5303 – mid greyish brown silty clay	-	-
5305	Cut	0.50	0.26	Ditch	-	-
5306	Fill	0.50	0.26	Fill of ditch 5305 – light greyish brown silt frequent manganese and rare sub-angular stones.	-	-

Trench 54						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SE
Trench contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5400	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
5401	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-
5402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5403	Cut	-	-	Ditch	-	-
5404	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 5403	Pottery	MBA/LBA

Trench 55						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two ditches and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.60
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5500	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
5501	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
5502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5503	Cut	0.70	0.33	Pit		
5504	Fill	0.70	0.33	Fill of pit 5503 – mid brownish grey sandy clay	-	-

				with occasional stone and rare charcoal flecks		
5505	Cut	1.35	0.22	Ditch	-	-
5506	Fill	1.35	0.22	Fill of ditch 5505 – light blueish grey silty clay contained frequent gravel lenses and manganese	Pottery, flint	Roman
5507	Cut	2.5	1.00	Ditch	-	-
5508	Fill	0.80	0.20	Fill of ditch 5507 – mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rare stones	-	-
5509	Fill	1.10	0.28	Fill of ditch 5507 – light mid brownish blue grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rare stones	-	-
5510	Fill	0.82	0.20	Fill of ditch 5507 - mid greyish brown silty clay with rare stone and charcoal flecks	-	-
5511	Fill	1.10	0.46	Fill of ditch 5507 – mid brownish orange sandy clay with rare stone and charcoal	-	-
5512	Fill	1.22	0.22	Fill of ditch 5507 – mid brownish grey sandy clay with rare stones and occasional charcoal flecks	-	-
5513	Fill	1.3	0.29	Fill of ditch 5507 – mid grey orange red sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks and rare stone	-	-
5514	Fill	2.10	0.26	Fill of ditch 5507 – dark brownish grey sandy clay with moderate stones and occasional charcoal flecks	Pottery	MBA

Trench 56						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.7
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5600	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
5601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
5602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5603	Cut	2.60	0.40	Ditch		

5604	Fill	2.60	0.40	Fill of ditch 5603 – light grey silty clay with frequent small sub rounded gravel	Pottery	E-MIA
5605	Cut	2.08	0.54	Ditch	-	-
5606	Fill	2.08	0.54	Fill of ditch 5605 – mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent manganese flecking	Pottery, fired clay, flint	MBA/LBA

Trench 57						
General description					**Orientation**	ESE-WNW
Trench contained a pit and a ditch. A third possible was investigated but determined to be of natural origin Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5700	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
5701	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	Flint	-
5702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5703	Cut	0.82	0.10	Pit	-	-
5704	Fill	0.82	0.10	Fill of pit 5703 – light blueish grey orange clay silt with rare flint inclusions	-	-
5705	Cut	1.68	0.52	Ditch	-	-
5706	Fill	0.98	0.14	Fill of ditch 5706 – mid orange grey gravelly silt with frequent manganese flecking	-	-
5707	Fill	1.42	0.28	Fill of ditch 5705 – light orangey grey silty clay with frequent manganese flecking	-	-
5708	Fill	1.04	0.16	Fill of ditch 5705 – dark orange brown silty clay with frequent manganese flecking	Pottery	MBA/LBA and E Roman

Trench 58						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a possible pit, a ditch and a series of furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5800	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
5801	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-
5802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5803	Cut	1.16	-	Furrow – unexcavated		

5804	Fill	1.16	-	Fill of furrow 5803 – mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
5805	Cut	1.60	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-
5806	Fill	1.60	-	Fill of ditch 5805 – mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
5807	Cut	0.70	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
5808	Fill	0.70	-	Fill of furrow 5807 – mid brownish grey silty clay	Pottery	EIA
5809	Cut	0.54	-	Pit - unexcavated	-	-
5810	Fill	0.54	-	Fill of pit 5809 – mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
5811	Cut		-	Furrow – unexcavated		
5812	Fill		-	Fill of furrow 5811 – mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
5813	Cut		-	Furrow – unexcavated		
5814	Fill		-	Fill of furrow 5813 – mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
5815	Cut		-	Furrow – unexcavated		
5816	Fill		-	Fill of furrow 5815 – mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 59						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
5900	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
5901	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
5902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5903	Cut	2.80	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-
5904	Fill	2.80	-	Fill of ditch 5903	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Prehistoric pottery

By Alex Davies

Introduction

B.1.1 Some 28 sherds (128g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from ten contexts across eight trenches (Table 1). The pottery belongs to two chronological groups, one probably later Bronze Age (possibly early Neolithic), the other Iron Age. Dating was difficult due to the small assemblage size with only two diagnostic sherds.

Early Neolithic or Later Bronze Age

B.1.2 Most of the material was tempered with flint, either medium or coarse grade. The sandy and glauconitic material is Iron Age, and the two small sherds with leached limestone were from a context (5404) also producing pre-Iron Age material. The only diagnostic flint-tempered sherd was a rim with a flattened top that was slightly outwardly expanded, belonging to a vessel that had a vertical upper body, from context 5514. The date of this sherd is not certain, although a middle Bronze Age date is the best fit. An early Neolithic or even early Iron Age date is possible.

B.1.3 The middle Bronze Age assemblage from Commonhead, *c* 2km to the south-west of the site, was predominantly vesicular (containing shell/limestone). Late Bronze Age material at the same site was mostly flint tempered (Headland Archaeology 2019, 124-6; only assessment-level information is currently available from the site). There are few good late Bronze Age assemblages in the region, but these include flint, shell and calcareous material (Rams Hill: Bradley and Ellison 1975, 94-8; see Davies 2018, map 3.7). Early Iron Age pottery in the region is usually shell-tempered (Groundwell West: Timby 2001; Watchfield: Laidlaw 2001; Mudd and Bourne 1992), giving way to sand in the middle Iron Age.

B.1.4 If this group is later Bronze Age, the local fabrics suggest it could be late in the period. However, the only diagnostic sherd fits uncomfortably in the late Bronze Age, and a middle Bronze Age date is instead thought most likely for the group. The group could belong to the early Neolithic, although the flint in the fabric seems generally too well-sorted to be of this date. An early Iron Age date for this material is less likely as early Iron Age fabric ranges in the area are better established and flint is only present in very small quantities.

Iron Age

B.1.5 Two or three contexts produced Iron Age material. An early Iron Age rim in a sandy fabric was found in context 5808, and body sherds in quartz and glauconitic sand were found in context 5604. This might be early or middle Iron Age. The small sandy sherd in context 4504 might also be Iron Age.

Table 1: Prehistoric pottery

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Spot-date	Comment
4306	1	8	Flint, med	MBA/LBA (E Neo?)	
4504	1	5	Sand, med	MBA-IA	
4705	1	7	Flint, med	MBA/LBA (E Neo?)	
4707	4	28	Flint, coarse	MBA/LBA (E Neo?)	
5404	8	12	Flint, coarse; Limestone, med	MBA/LBA (E Neo?)	
5514	3	38	Flint, coarse	MBA (or EIA?)	Rim with flat top and outwardly expanded. Straight-sided vessel
5604	7	13	Sand and glauconite, med	E-MIA	
5606	1	3	Flint, med	MBA/LBA (E Neo?)	
5708	1	6	Flint, coarse	MBA/LBA (E Neo?)	Enviro. sample 53
5808	1	8	Sand, med	EIA	Shouldered jar with upright neck, poss fingertip decoration on rim top
Total	**28**	**128**			

B.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.2.1 A total of 19 sherds of pottery, weighing 238g, were recovered from the evaluation. Each context-group was sorted into fabrics, which were quantified by sherd count and weight in grammes. Forms were identified by rim and quantified by minimum number of vessels (MV) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE), which measure the surviving percentage of the rim circumference (thus, 0.06 EVE equals 6%). Forms and fabrics were assigned codes from Oxford Archaeology's pottery recording system (Booth, nd). A summary of the pottery is provided in Table 2. The following fabrics were encountered (codes in brackets from Tomber and Dore 1998):

- E30 – Coarse sand-tempered fabric
- E60 – Flint-tempered fabric
- E80 – Grog-tempered ware (SOB GT)
- E810 – Grog and sand tempered fabric

- F51/O11 – Oxford red colour-coated ware (OXF RS)/Oxford fine oxidised ware
- R30 – Medium sandy reduced ware
- R95 – Savernake grog-tempered ware (SAV GT)
- S – Indeterminate samian ware

B.2.2 In addition, the following form was noted:

- CH – bead-rimmed jar

Table 2: Quantification of the late Iron Age and Roman pottery by context

Context	Ware	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Type	EVE	Spot-date
3904	E810	2	2			50 BC-AD 100
4308	R95	1	113			AD 43-200
4404	F51/O11	1	2			AD 43-410
4703	E80	2	38	CH	0.06	AD 1-100
	E60	7	39			
4709	S	1	7			AD 43-240
5104	R95	1	18			AD 43-200
5506	R30	1	5			AD 43-410
5708	E810	1	3	CH	0.03	AD 1-100
	E30	1	2			
	E60	1	9			
Total		19	238	MV = 2	0.09	

Assemblage composition

B.2.3 The earliest context-groups, dating to the late Iron Age or early Roman period, were 3904 (ditch 3903), 4703 (ditch 4704) and 5708. These contained grog-tempered fabrics (E80/E810), along with flint-tempered fabrics (E60) in two of the groups and a sandy fabric (E30) in one group. Two vessels, both bead-rimmed jars, were identified by rim and date to the 1st century AD.

B.2.4 Activity in the Roman period is suggested by the presence of Savernake ware (R95), recovered from contexts 4308 and 5104, a reduced ware (R30) from context 5506 (ditch 5506), a sherd of samian ware (S) of uncertain source from context 4709 (ditch 4708) and a sherd from 4404 (ditch 4403) belonging to a vessel made in the Oxford pottery industry (Young 1977). Fabric R95 generally dates to the mid-1st to 2nd century AD, while the samian ware arrived between the mid-1st and mid-3rd century. The date of the Oxford fabric is uncertain; there was no trace of a slip and therefore identification as late Roman fabric F51 cannot be confirmed. No forms were recognised by rim, although the sherds in R95 are likely to be part of storage jars.

B.2.5 The pottery points to activity of late Iron Age and Roman date at or close to the site. Contexts 4404 and 5104 also contained post-Roman pottery, and therefore the Roman-period material recovered from them is residual.

Condition and distribution

B.2.6 The condition of the pottery is mixed. The mean sherd weight (MSW; weight divided by the number of sherds) is 12g, while the mean rim percentage or mean EVE (EVE divided by MV) is 0.05 EVE. This is consistent with a generally fragmented assemblage of small sherds, although some larger pieces were present. Pottery was recovered from across the evaluation area, with no concentrations noted.

B.2.7 The condition and distribution of the pottery, the size of the assemblage, and the fact that some of the pottery is residual, suggests that the material had undergone several episodes of redeposition and had been deposited incidentally, for example through agricultural practices.

B.3 Post-Roman pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 A total of 292 sherds (3.403kg) of pottery were recovered from 17 contexts. A range of medieval and post-medieval wares (*c* 1480+), are represented, but medieval wares easily predominate.

B.3.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is fragmentary, but some fairly large and fresh sherds are present.

B.3.3 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. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc). 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 range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and is therefore only summarised below (Table 3).

Table 3: Post-Roman pottery catalogue and description

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
3405	*c* 1650-1800?	1	65	Large storage jar rim with handle in PMR (Post-medieval redware)
3407	*c* 1835-1900+	1	60	Base of stoneware cylindrical spirits flagon (ENGS BRST)
3600	*c* 1600-1750?	2	9	Abraded bos (body sherds) in pink-buff sandy ware. 1 with traces of red ?slip/wash and glaze. See 4004 - same fabric? Ashton Keynes ware (AK)?
3607	*c* 1100-1500?	1	3	Small bo ?Minety ware (OXBB) with dissolved limestone/chalk

4004	*c* 1600-1750?	2	25	Bos from 2 vess in a brown glazed pink-buff local/regional post-med fabric like PMR or RBOR. AK ware? Or Somerset/Bristol?
4404	*c* 1150-1350	1	8	Worn bo OXAQ (Kennet Valley B ware/East Wilts ware). V coarse flint-temper
4408	*c* 1150-1350	2	10	Coarse OXAQ (or poss OXBF? *c* 1050-1250?)
4804	*c* 1250-1350	245	2671	Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), incl profile smallish globular pipkin (jar) with flat base and scar of handle, yellow-glazed lower int. OXAM rims from 1 strip jug with red vertical strips & yellow glaze. 1x bo gg (green glazed) OXAM jug & gg baluster jug base. Lots of OXAQ incl fresh bowl profiles with classic inturned rim. OXAQ cook pots rims and probable profiles. Approx 10 joining sherds from unusual coarse light orange-brown ?Laverstock ware jug with coarse red ironstone/clay inclusions - from highly dec jug with thumbed base, rod handle and traces of slip decoration incl horiz white bands/strips studded with red pellets (like a studded belt), traces of yellowish glaze. 1x small bo ?Minety ware (OXBB) with dissolved limestone/chalk. Sherds from this context mainly fresh but surfaces have been attacked or weathered possibly by acid soil conditions?
4810	*c* 1275-1350	7	108	1x bo OXAM biconical strip jug. 1x fresh rim Minety ware OXBB cook pot with greenish glaze on rim. 1x OXAQ cook pot rim. Smaller bos of the same
4812	*c* 1550-1700	3	102	1 vess. Bowl with broken everted rim and int greenish-brown glaze. Probably Ashton Keynes ware (AK, similar to PMR)
4813	*c* 1550-1700	1	20	Wall AK ware bowl/dish
4814	*c* 1550-1700	1	51	Bowl rim AK ware
4819	*c* 1550-1700	2	14	Worn bo AK. 1x OXAQ
5004	*c* 1250-1400?	13	140	Nearly all Minety ware OXBB incl cook pot rim and robust jug/pitcher handle with diagonal slashed dec, unglazed. 1x bo OXAQ
5104	*c* 1150-1350	6	31	Bos OXAQ

5105	*c* 1250-1350	2	77	1x large fresh jar/cook pot rim OXBB with greenish glaze on rim & traces of incised dec ext. 1x OXAQ
5106	*c* 1150-1350	2	9	Bos OXAQ
Total		**292**	**3403**	

Discussion

B.3.4 The assemblage comprises ordinary domestic pottery typical of this part of Wiltshire.

B.3.5 Medieval pottery easily predominates here. This came from eight contexts and comprises a total of 279 sherds (3.057kg). There is a strong 'high medieval' dating emphasis on all this (roughly *c* 1250-1350). Most of it came from just one context (4804) which produced 245 sherds (2.671kg). This is characterised by the presence of glazed jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), produced in west Buckinghamshire but widely traded across the surrounding region. Fresh sherds from typical Brill strip-decorated jugs are present, with green or yellow glazes. There is also a complete profile of a small globular pipkin (saucepan) with the scar of a handle. Other wares in this context included profiles of wide bowls in flint-tempered Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ, also known as East Wiltshire ware). This occurs in several other contexts here too. Context 4804 also produced several sherds from a highly decorated strip jug with a belt-like decoration of horizontal white strips with red clay studs. This is in a different, coarser, fabric than the Brill jugs and may be from the Laverstock kilns near Salisbury in the south of the county, or possibly from the Lacock kilns in the west of the county. These two types are not covered by the Oxfordshire fabric coding system.

B.3.6 Another, relatively local, medieval type present from a few contexts here is Minety ware (OXBB), a limestone-tempered ware from north Wiltshire. Sherds from a glazed and decorated cooking pot were noted in one context (5105) and a decorated jug handle in another (5004).

B.3.7 Post-medieval pottery occurred in nine contexts but in much smaller quantities (13 sherds, 346g). This mainly comprised dishes and jars in local, or regional, post-medieval red earthenwares of the 16th-18th centuries. Much of this in a pink-buff or orange-pink fabric with a clear glaze and may be Ashton Keynes ware (AK; *c* 1550-1700), from the village of that name near Minety. The latest item in the assemblage is part of a 19th-century stoneware spirits flagon. Over all, the post-medieval wares are not of much significance compared to the medieval wares.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.3.8 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. It is therefore recommended that it be retained. The medieval pottery should be properly catalogued at some stage in the future.

B.4 Fired clay and ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

B.4.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay amounting in total to 20 fragments weighing 837g was recovered from Trenches 34, 36, 44, 48, 50-1 and 56 (Table 4). The assemblage all appears to be of Roman date, except for one post-medieval tile. The fired clay is not dateable but is assumed to be contemporary with the Roman activity. The assemblage has been spot-dated and recorded on an Excel file, which forms part of the archive and is summarised in the table below.

Ceramic building material

B.4.2 The Roman CBM amounts to 16 fragments weighing 803g and comprises mostly flat tile but includes examples of flue, imbrex and brick. The majority had smooth even surfaces and a neat regular finish. Single examples of imbrex, flue and brick were identified. The imbrex was made in a red fine sandy fabric with sparse fine iron oxide inclusions (fabric B), measured 24mm thick and had been burnt on the underside. The flue tile was made in an orange fabric containing a high density of medium quartz sand and rare chalk grit (fabric C). It measured 28mm thick and had two bands of coarse combing running diagonally to form a cross, probably one of several down the tile face. The brick was made in a light orange sandy fabric with cream streaks and containing coarse cream and red clay pellets (fabric E1). The remainder were all poorly preserved flat tiles, of which only two had a complete thickness surviving of 24 and 29mm. Two had burnt and blackened surfaces indicating reuse in ovens or hearths.

B.4.3 The majority of the tile was made in fabric E, which can be subdivided into E1, a light orange fine sandy clay matrix streaked with cream laminations, and E2, a red-orange fine sandy silty micaceous clay containing small cream marl pellets and red iron oxide/ferruginous clay pellets. These both appear to be equivalent to Wanborough Fabric group F (Darvill 2001, 318-9), which it has been suggested may originate from the Highworth area 8km to the north of the site.

B.4.4 The post-medieval tile (29g) was a fragment of rectangular flat roof tile, probably peg tile. It measures 12mm thick and has a somewhat lumpy finish to the surface. A narrow indented border 7mm wide runs alongside the edge.

Fired clay

B.4.5 Three fragments of fired clay (5g) were amorphous, having lost any original surfaces. These were made in a fine sandy clay, occasionally with a scatter of coarser quartz sand fired reddish brown or grey. Function cannot be determined, but the pieces are most likely to derive from oven or hearth structures.

Table 4: Summary of CBM and fired clay assemblage

Ctx	Spot Date	Nos	Wt (g)	Material	Fabric	Form
3407	Pmed	1	29	CBM	E	Roof: flat
3607	RB	1	33	CBM	E2	Indeterminate
4406	RB	1	8	CBM	E2	Flat tile
4818	RB	1	170	CBM	C	Flue: tubulus
4820	RB	1	28	CBM	E2	Flat tile
5004	RB	1	354	CBM	E1	Brick
5004	U	1	4	FC	Q	Indeterminate
5004	RB	1	28	CBM	C	Brick/flat
5104	RB	1	4	CBM	E1	Flat tile
5106	RB	5	74	CBM	E1	Flat tile
5106	RB	1	54	CBM	B	Imbrex
5106	RB	1	35	CBM	E2	Flat tile
5106	RB	2	15	CBM	D	Flat tile
5606	U	2	1	FC	Qf	Indeterminate

Conclusions

B.4.6 The Roman tile represents a scatter of debris no doubt originating from masonry buildings in the small town of Wanborough subject to refurbishment or demolition. Some of it may have been obtained with the intention of re-use in the construction of ovens, hearths or corn dryers, based on the presence of burning on a few pieces but it is likely much of it represents incidental dispersal of waste material.

B.5 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.5.1 A moderate assemblage of 31 pieces was recovered from this evaluation with 24 of the pieces coming from one trench and 22 of these coming from an alluvial deposit in a localised area (Table 5). The assemblage was very heavily blade focused and included a number of fine blade cores and blade debitage (Plate 17). A crested blade was also recovered. The assemblage is highly indicative of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic knapping activity and suggest that the alluvial deposit may contain a sizable assemblage and could indicate the presence of similar flint-rich deposits nearby.

Table 5: Flint catalogue

Category type	4703-07	Other	Total
Flake	13	4	17
Blade	2		2
Bladelet	2		2
Blade index	23.53% (4/17)	0%	19.05% (4/21)
Sieved chip		1	1
Crested flake	1		1
Core single platform bladelets	2		2
Core single platform flakes	1		1
Core fragment	1		1
Denticulate	1		1
Notch	1		1
Retouched flake		1	1
Retouched blade		1	1
Total	24	7	31

Burnt unworked	Na	Na	NA
No. burnt (%)	3/24 (12.50%)	01-Jul	4/31 (12.90%)
No. broken (%)	6/24 (25%)	3/6 (50%)	9/30 (30%)
No cores/related debitage (%)	5/24 (20.83%)	0/6	5/30 (16.67%)
No. retouched (%)	2/24 (6.25%)	2/6 (33.33%)	4/30 (13.33%)

Methodology

B.5.2 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (eg Bamford 1985, 72-7; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al*. 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Provenance

B.5.3 Most of the flintwork came from Trench 47, most of which were from alluvial deposit 4703 (22), but two other ditch fills (4705 and 4707) also contained single flints. Seven other flints from elsewhere on site completed the assemblage, with four in ditch fill 5506 and two more from subsoil 5701. The flint was very clearly concentrated in and around layer 4703.

Raw material and condition

B.5.4 Flint was the sole material represented here and came with a wide variety of cortical states indicating that a range of sources was exploited. The flint tended to be fresh (53.85%, 14/26) or lightly edge damaged (42.31%, 11/26) with just one in worse condition (3.85%). Cortication showed a similar pattern between light (61.54%), moderate (34.61%) and no cortication (3.85%). The assemblage from contexts 4703, 4705 and 4707 was fresher (61.91%) than the reminder with lesser amounts of lightly damaged material (33.33%) but contained the sole moderately damaged piece (4.76%). Overall, these figures imply *in situ* or near to *in situ* material with this being especially true for context 4703.

Key contexts

B.5.5 Alluvial layer 4703 contained 22 flints, mostly in fresh condition, and included four cores of early character, three of which were bladelet cores (one a burnt fragment of uncertain overall form) while the fourth was a short flake or perhaps even a bladelet core on a large flake. Three of the four cores were single-platform examples while the fourth fragmentary example may have had more than one platform. There were also four blade forms compared to twelve flakes with three showing signs of possible use. One heavy denticulate on a snapped flake had possible burin spalls on it while the remaining tool type was a notch, which, while undiagnostic, are common forms in Neolithic assemblages. Ditch fill 4705 contained a crested blade with a single full crest while ditch fill 4707 contained a single flake. This assemblage was very clearly early with the best possible fit being early Neolithic based on its blade index of 25%, but a Mesolithic date could not be ruled out; in fact the core types were more typical of the late Mesolithic than the early Neolithic, as in the latter case complex cubic bladelet cores tend to be more prevalent than single platform examples.

B.5.6 Ditch fill 5506 contained four flakes, one of which had been retouched, possibly as an end truncation, an early tool type sometimes recovered from early Neolithic assemblage but more common in Mesolithic contexts. Subsoil 5701 contained a retouched blade and a fairly squat hard-hammer struck flake more typical of later prehistoric industries. The blade form had oblique blunting on it and may represent an unfinished early Mesolithic microlith or perhaps an earlier type of point.

Discussion

B.5.7 The material from this evaluation was typically early in character and most likely belongs to either the late Mesolithic or early Neolithic period. There is some possibility that more than one period could be represented but the simpler picture is probably more likely. Given the freshness of the material and the presence of several cores and related debitage, on-site knapping appears to be likely. Since this material was recovered from a buried soil horizon, the potential for additional lithic remains is very high. If any further work does commence an effort should be made to deal with any flint-rich sediment in a systematic fashion with controlled sampling of deposit so as to allow a truer understanding of the knapping processes and related activities conducted here. There is some chance, given the nature of the flint-bearing layers, that large-scale *in situ* knapping may be encountered.

B.6 Metalwork

By Anni Byard

Introduction and methodology

B.6.1 Just two metal objects, both of iron, weighing 231.7g were recovered from Trench 50 during Phase 3 of the evaluation. The material is of medieval or early post-medieval date.

B.6.2 The metalwork was scanned during the present assessment and where possible century or broad period dates were assigned. Objects were quantified by type count and weight by context (Table 6).

Table 6: Summary of metalwork assemblage

Context	SF no.	Material	Count	Wt (g)	Object	Date	Description
5004	173	Fe	1	11.2	Key	Med	Incomplete rotary key
5009	174	Fe	1	220.5	Swivel	Med/PM	Complete large eye-eye or eye and hook swivel

Discussion

B.6.3 The incomplete rotary key (SF 173) has a short circular shank and protruding bit and a broken circular or lozenge shaped bow. Similar keys date to throughout the medieval period (*c* 1200-1500).

B.6.4 The large eye-eye or eye and hook swivel has both male and female elements preserved. Similar objects could be used to suspend cooking pots over hearths for example. A medieval or early post-medieval date would seem appropriate, *c* 1200-1600.

Recommendations

B.6.5 The metalwork assemblage is small but interesting and should be retained. X-radiography would be beneficial to determine the exact mechanism of the swivel and the form of the key. This in turn may help to refine dating.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Richard Palmer

Introduction

C.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken as part of the third phase of evaluation work at Foxbridge, Swindon, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of charred plant remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

Results

C.1.3 The results of the flot assessment and a summary of the bulk samples is presented in Table 7.

Trench 47

C.1.4 Sample 49 from fill 4711 of posthole 4710 produced a poor flot with a small number of charcoal fragments. No finds were recovered from the residue.

Trench 48

C.1.5 Sample 54 from fill 4804 of ditch 4805 produced a poor flot containing a possible wheat fragment (cf *Triticum* sp.). Pottery was recovered from the residue.

Trench 55

C.1.6 Sample 50 from fill 5504 of pit 5503 produced a poor flot. Recovered material consists primarily of roots and modern seeds. No finds were recovered from the residue.

Trench 56

C.1.7 Sample 52 from fill 5606 of ditch 5605 produced a poor flot. All charcoal is <4mm in size. No finds were recovered from the residue.

Trench 57

C.1.8 Sample 51 from fill 5704 of pit 5703 produced a poor flot. Recovered material includes possible grain fragments and highly vitrified material. No finds were recovered from the residue.

C.1.9 Sample 53 from fill 5708 of ditch 5705 produced a poor flot. Pottery was recovered from the residue.

Discussion

C.1.10 Assessment of these samples suggest limited potential for the recovery of charred remains in this area of the site. Earlier phases of work suggest this is not indicative of the entire site but this area may be of low potential in the event of further work.

Recommendations for retention/dispersal

C.1.11 The flots warrant retention until all work on site is complete, though it is not expected that further work will be required on these flots at this time.

Table 7: Assessment of bulk (CPR) samples

Sample no.	Context no.	Trench	Feature/deposit	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
49	4711	47	4710		4	25	++						10YR 5/4 silty clay
50	5504	55	5503		40	16	++			+			10YR 6/2 silty clay loam
51	5704	57	5703		20	30		+					10YR 6/1 silty clay loam
52	5606	56	5605	MBA/LBA	40	50	+						10YR 6/2 silty clay loam
53	5708	57	5705	MBA/LBA and LIA/ER	40	25							10YR 6/1 silty clay loam
54	4804	48	4805	MED	32	25	+	+					10YR 5/2 silty clay

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), abundant (100+).

C.2 Animal bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

C.2.1 Eighteen fragments of animal bone weighting 48g in total was recovered.

Description

C.2.2 The bone is generally in poor condition, often chalky and fragmented.

C.2.3 From Trench 36 the bone comprises three small fragments of heavily eroded large mammal bone (possibly proximal metapodial) from context 3604 and, from 3606, a fragment of pig sacrum in fair condition, two loose sheep/goat right mandibular molar teeth (M1/M2 and M3) and three indeterminate fragments. The pig sacrum fragment has a small cut to the ventral aspect of the cranial portion.

C.2.4 From Trench 40, context 4004, there are three heavily eroded fragments of large mammal long bone shaft.

C.2.5 From Trench 48, context 4804, four loose sheep/goat left mandibular teeth, probably from the same jaw (P4, M1, M2, M3) and two small fragments that are probably from

this mandible. Using Grant's (1982) wear stages (e, g, f, f) the jaw has a mandible wear stage of 34, and using data from Moran and O'Connor (1994) this equates to an age of 18-24 months.

C.2.6 Beyond demonstrating the poor survival of bone, the assemblage has little research value.

Recommendations for retention/dispersal

C.2.7 The bone does not merit retention in the archive.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

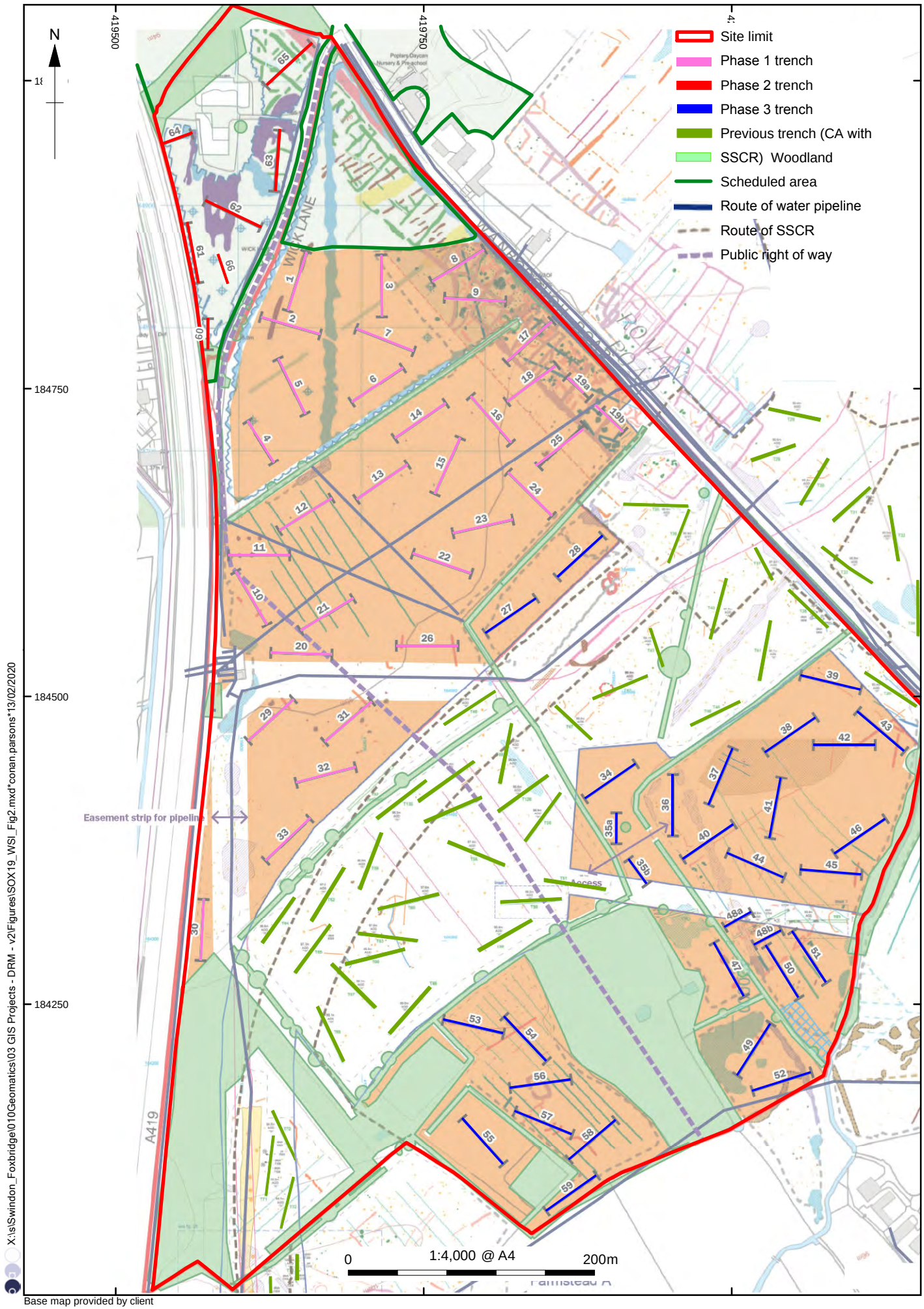
Site name:	Foxbridge Swindon
Site code:	SOX19
Grid Reference	SU 19827 84476
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	Four weeks – Sept 2020
Area of Site	*c.* 40ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery in due course, under the following accession number: SWIMG:2019.162.
Summary of Results:	In late September and early October 2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at Foxbridge, Swindon, the site of a proposed mixed development. The works comprised the excavation of 29 trenches and is the third phase of evaluation undertaken within the site. Due to prolong heavy rain the trenches became waterlogged during the evaluation. While it is not considered that these conditions hindered the identification of archaeological remains within the trenches, it did impact the level of hand excavation that could be undertaken and therefore the characterisation of several features identified. Archaeological features dating from the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic through to the post-medieval were recorded across the area. The archaeological features were distrusted across the site and predominately comprised ditches and a number of pits. The trenches were positioned to ground truth the results of a geophysical survey. The correlation between the results of the survey and the trial trenching is mixed. Geophysical anomalies interpreted as 'positive linear archaeology' were all present and were dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, the correlation between anomalies interpreted with less certainty was moderately poor. While some archaeological features were identified that correlated with the anomalies, there was no evidence for others. Several archaeological features were also identified during the evaluation that were not identified by the geophysical survey. The earliest activity recorded comprises an assemblage of struck flint from an alluvial deposit in the centre of the site. The assemblage includes blade cores and debitage indicative of blade production dating to the early Neolithic period, although a late Mesolithic date is possible. Although the assemblage was not recovered from an *in situ* scatter, the stuck flint is fresh and is unlikely to have been recovered far from the original point of deposition, suggesting flint production within the site.

A small prehistoric enclosure was also identified. The absence of internal features suggest it served an agricultural function i.e a stock enclosure, rather than being indicative of domestic settlement activity. Pottery recovered from the feature has been dated to the mid-late Bronze Age and the early-middle Iron Age. Prehistoric pottery was also recovered from a number of ditches.

Previous evaluations within the Foxbridge site have identified significant activity of Roman date associated with Wanborough Roman Town which lies to the north. Only four land management ditches of Roman date were recorded with during this phase of evaluation. Dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries the ditches are more likely to be associated with an early Roman Farmstead located 300m to the south-west of the site rather than the activity recorded during the previous phases of evaluation within the Foxbridge site which is predominately of middle and late Roman date. The Phase 3 area appears to lie in the hinterland between the two foci of Roman activity.

The ditches dating to both the prehistoric and Roman periods represent land-management and drainage but it is not possible to define any field systems based on their orientation and distribution.

Enclosure ditches likely associated with a small medieval/post-medieval farmstead were also recorded within the site.



Base map provided by client

Figure 2: Proposed works and previous investigations

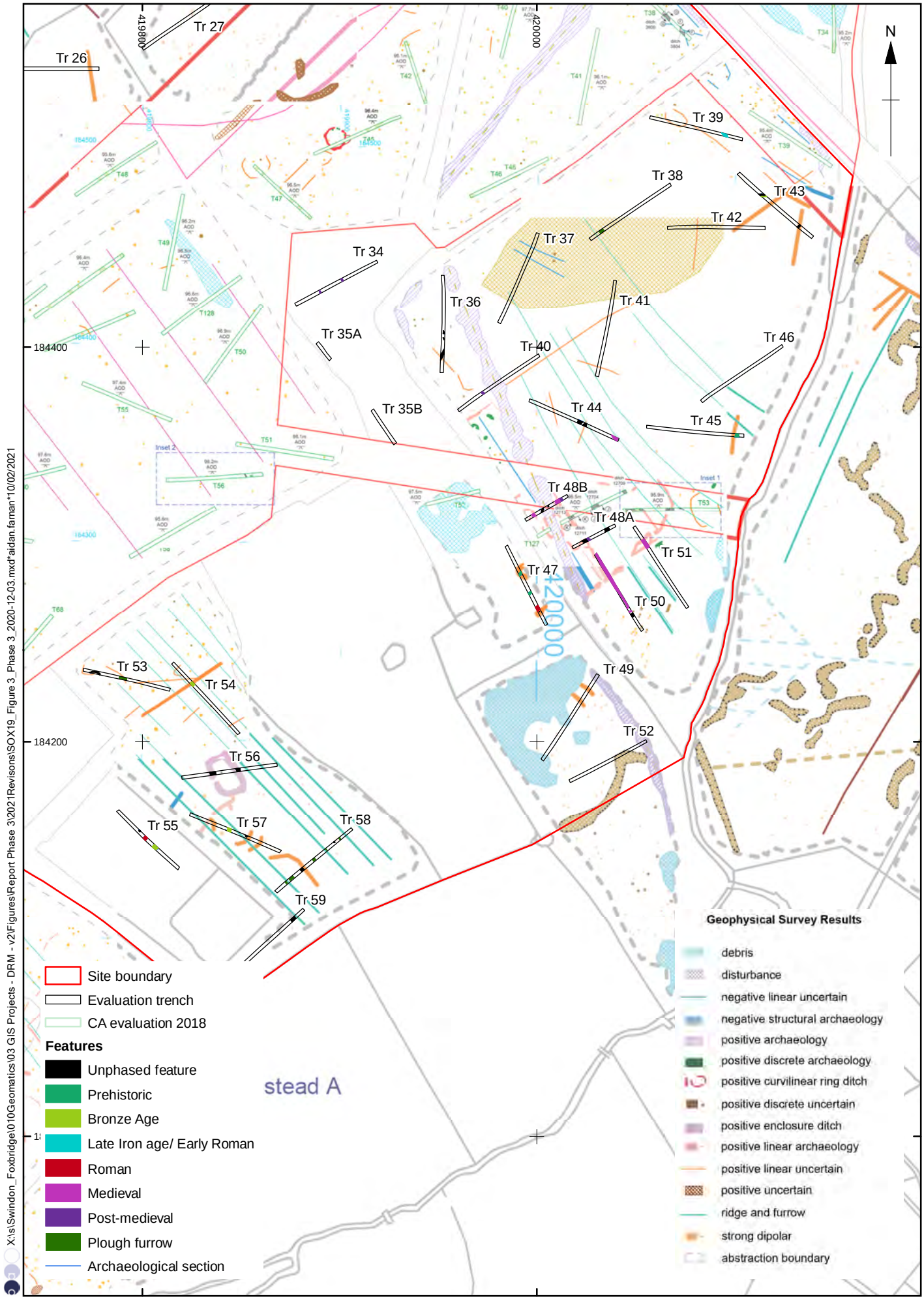


Figure 3: Trench layout

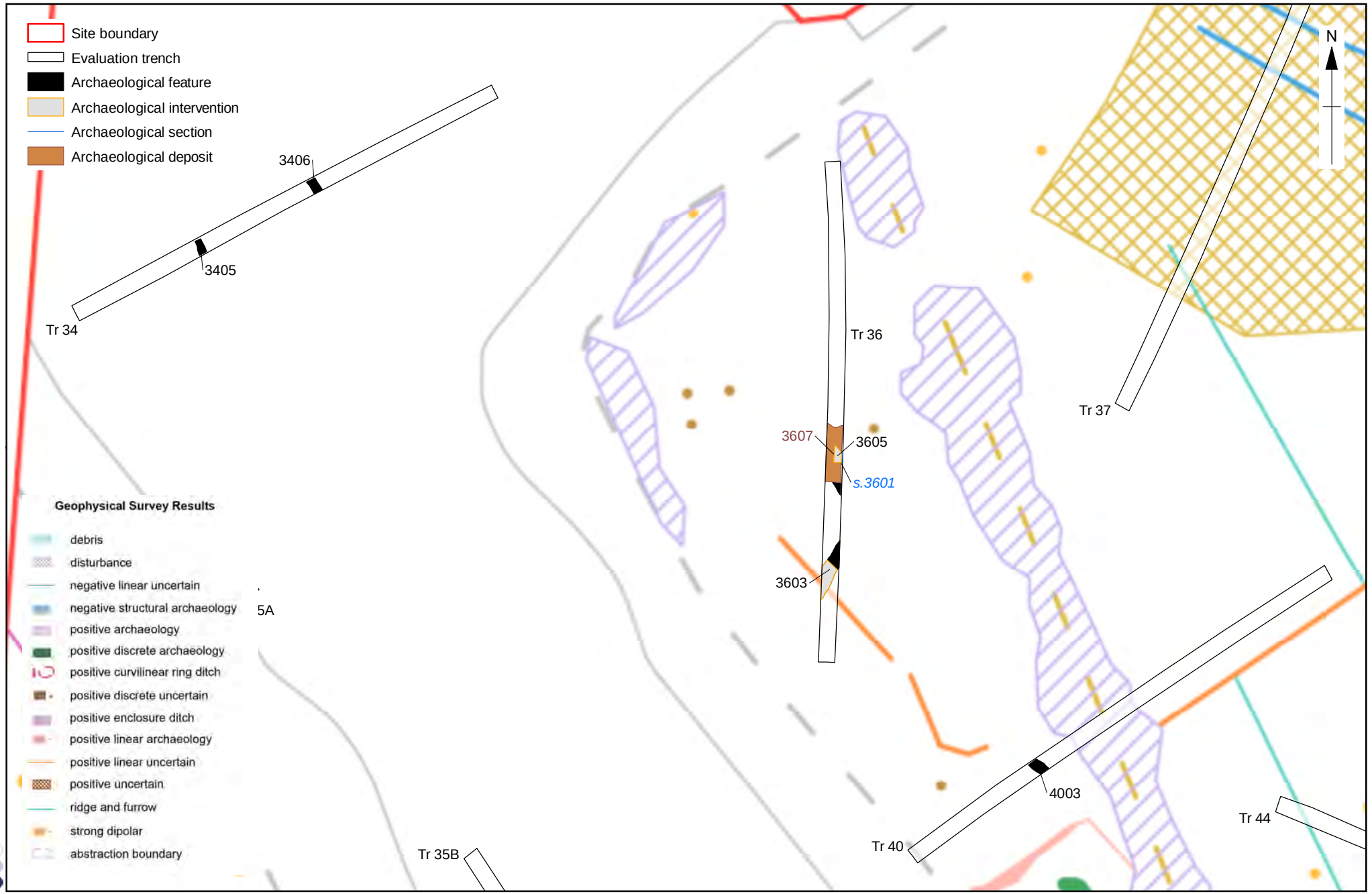


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Figure 4: Trenches 34, 36 and 40

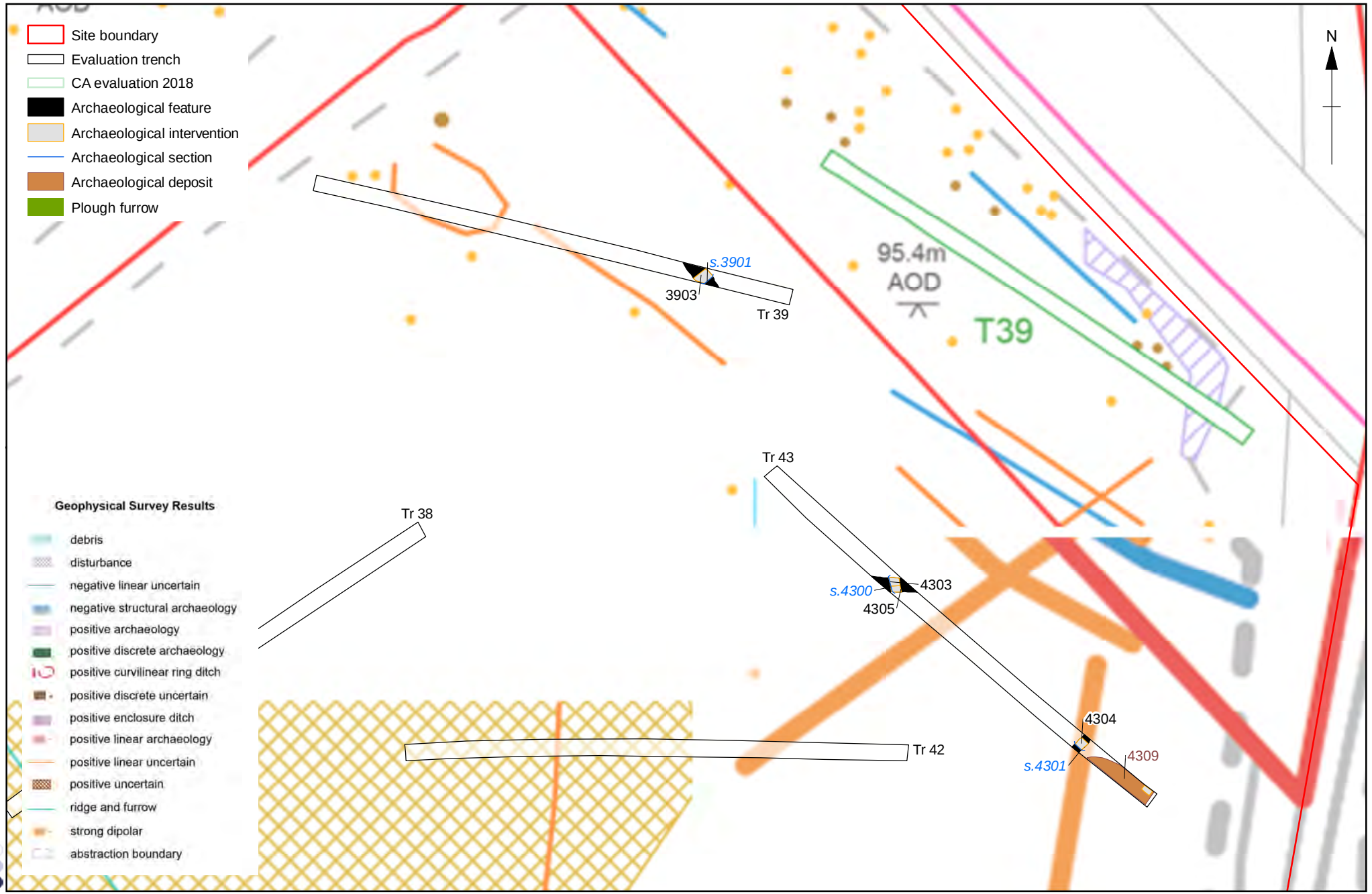

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Figure 5: Trenches 39 and 43

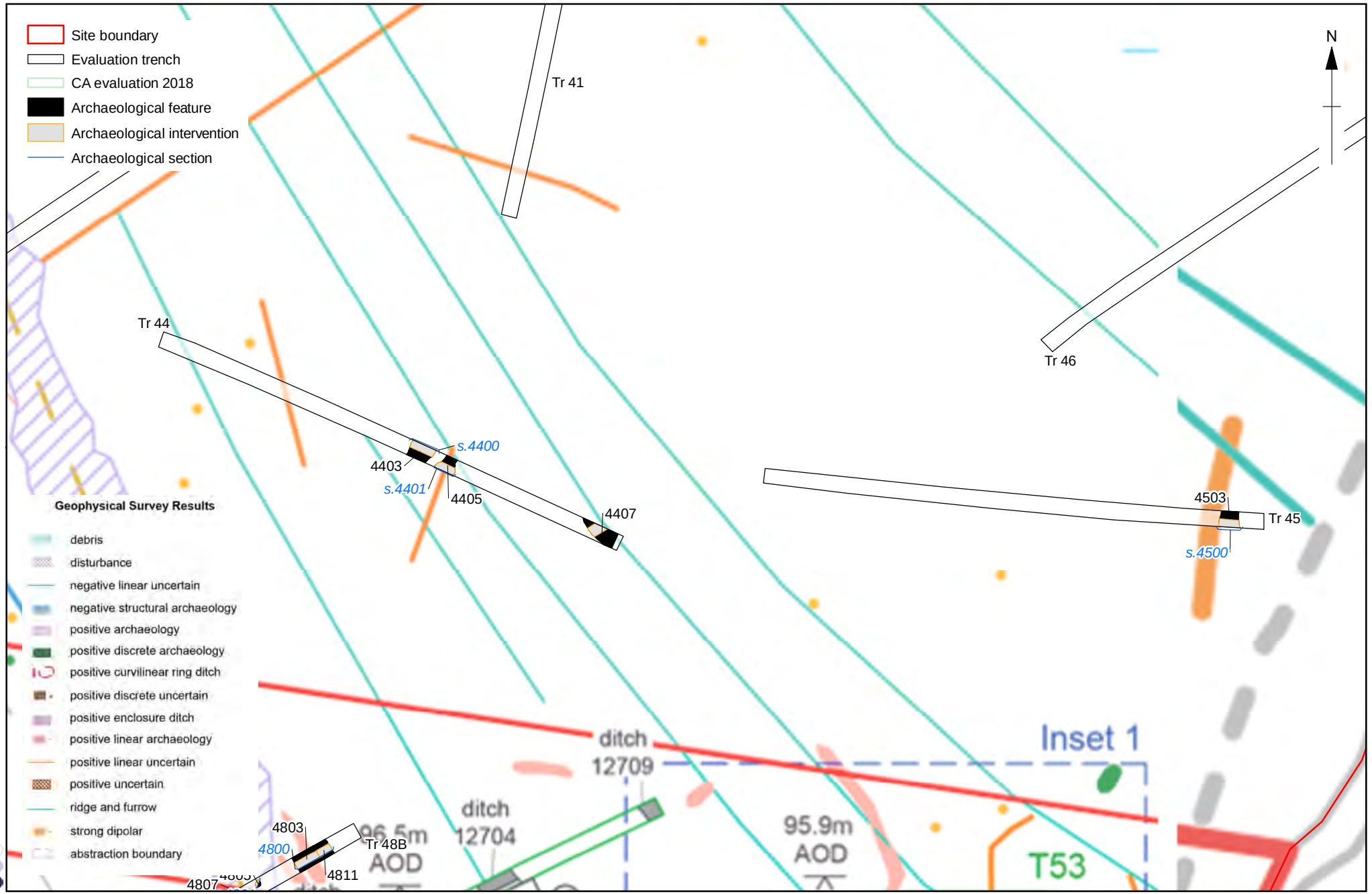

Figure 6: Trenches 44 and 45

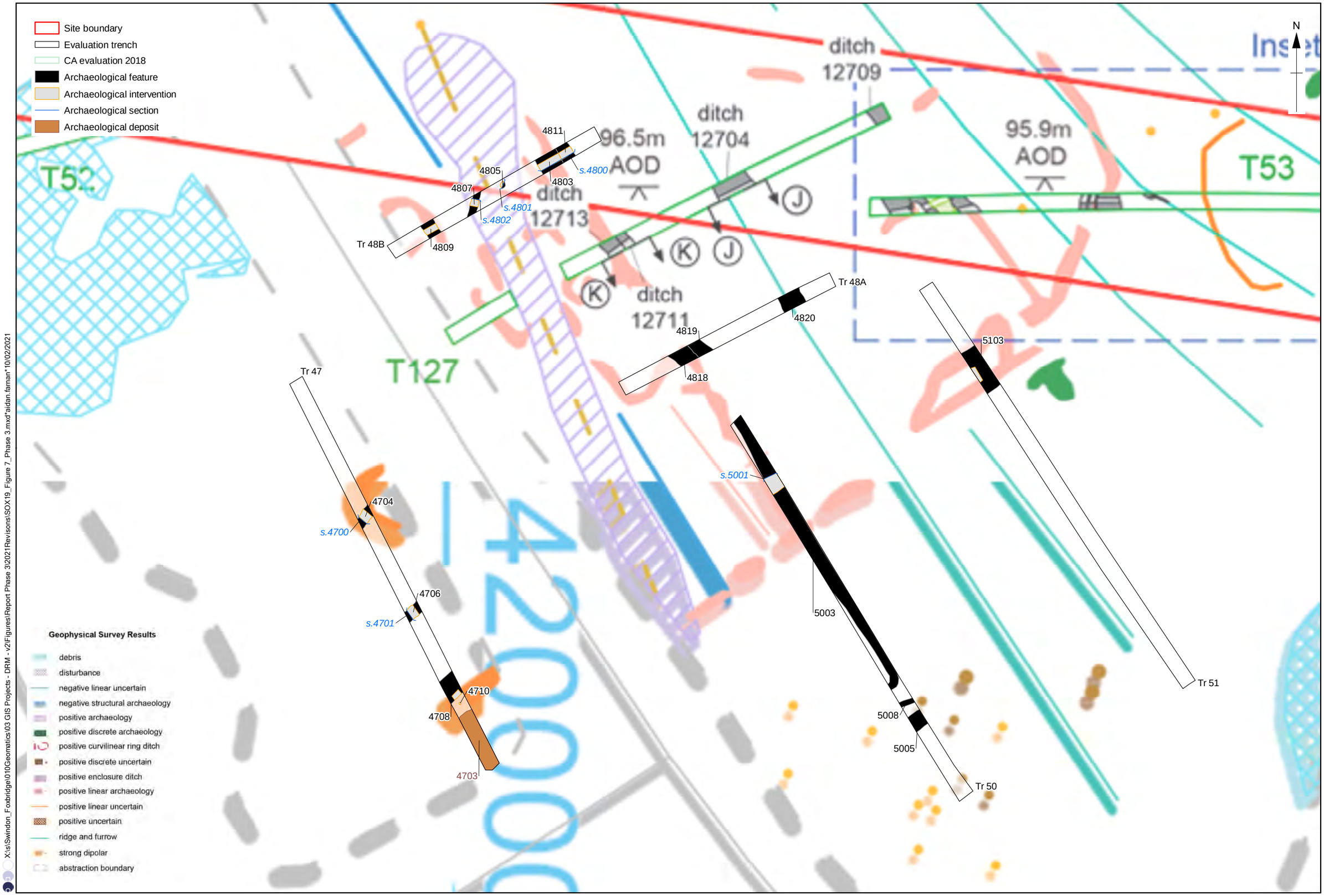

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Figure 7: Trenches 47, 48A, 48B, 50 and 51

Figure 8: Trench 49

Site boundary
Evaluation trench
CA evaluation 2018
Archaeological feature
Archaeological intervention
Archaeological section
Plough furrow

N

Tr 54
Tr 53
s.5300
5305
5303
5403
s.5601
Tr 56
5605
5603
Tr 57
5705
5703
s.5701
5503
s.5500
5505
5507
s.5502
Tr 55
5809
5815
5807
5805
5813
5811
5803
Tr 58

Geophysical Survey Results

debris
disturbance
negative linear uncertain
negative structural archaeology
positive archaeology
positive discrete archaeology
positive curvilinear ring ditch
positive discrete uncertain
positive enclosure ditch
positive linear archaeology
positive linear uncertain
positive uncertain
ridge and furrow
strong dipolar
abstraction boundary

0 1:500 @ A3 25 m

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Figure 9: Trenches 53-58

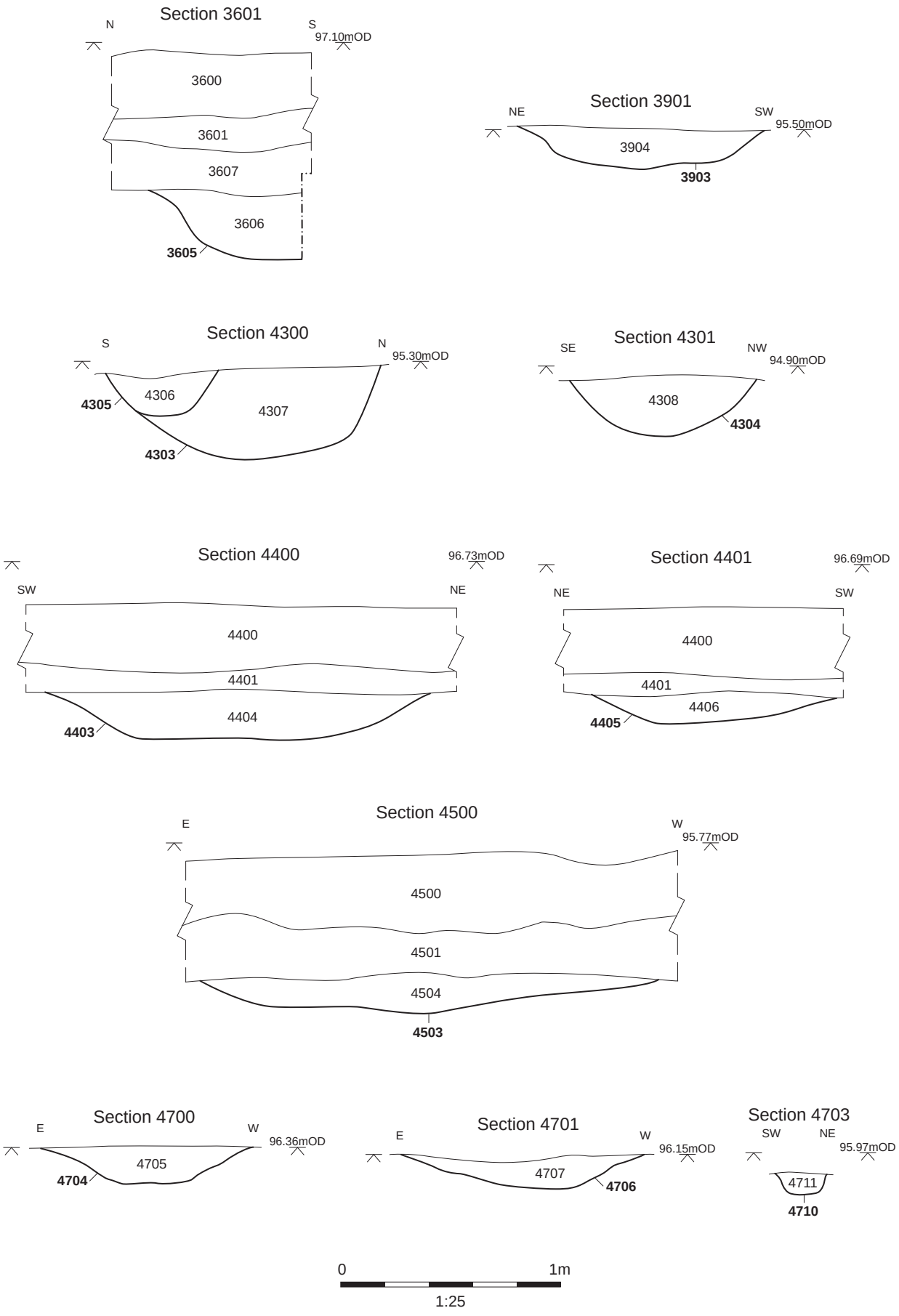

Figure 10: Sections, Trenches 36-45

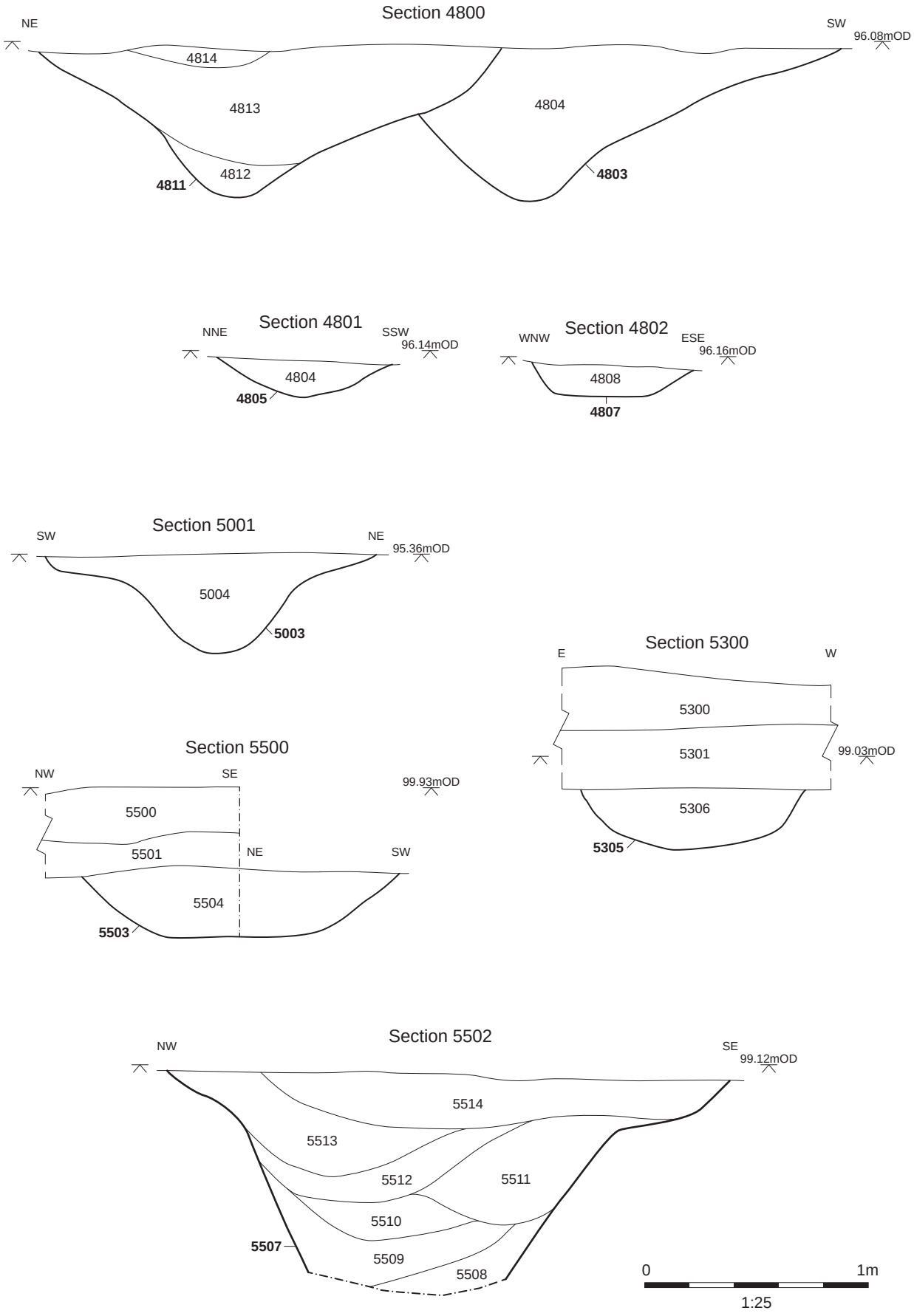

Figure 11: Sections, Trenches 48-55

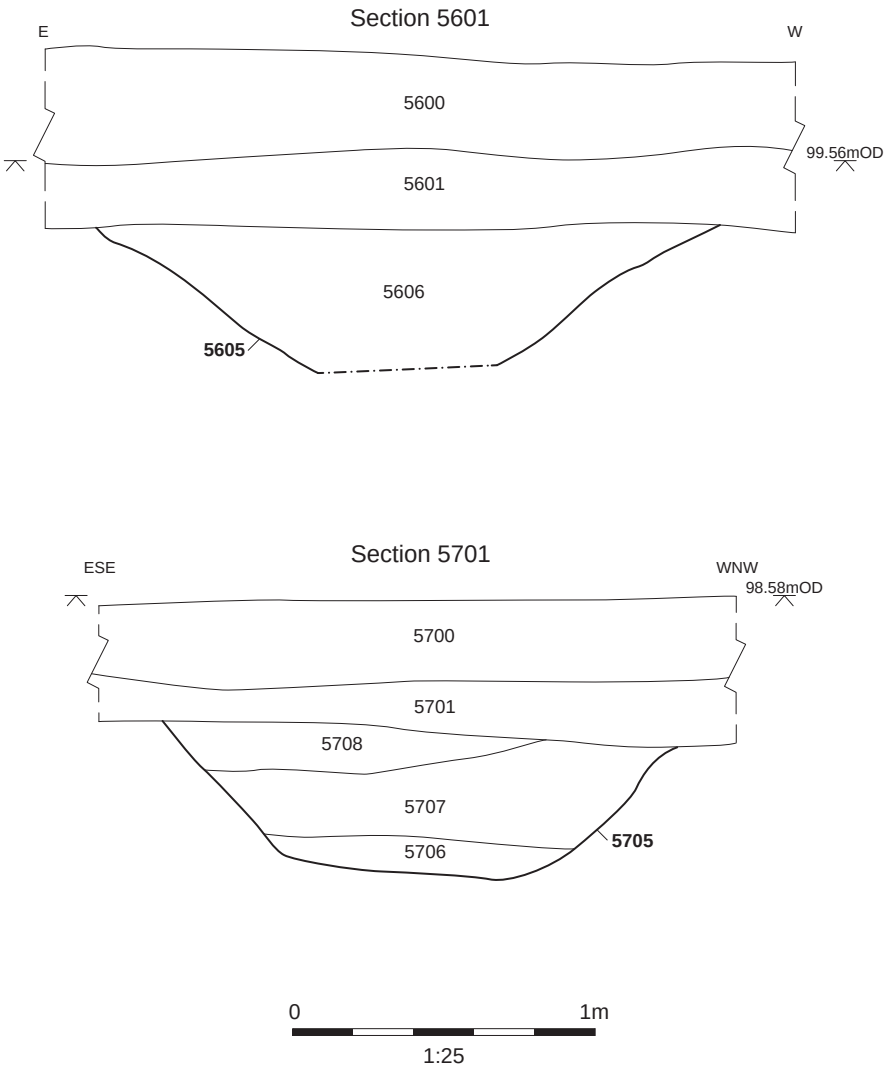

Figure 12: Sections, Trenches 56-57

Plate 1: Trench 41

Plate 2: Trench 50

Plate 3: Trench 55

Plate 4: Trench 57

Plate 5: Ditch 3605 and layer 3607, view to E

Plate 6: Ditch 3903, view to E

Plate 7: Ditch 4303, view to W

Plate 8: Ditch 4704, view to SE

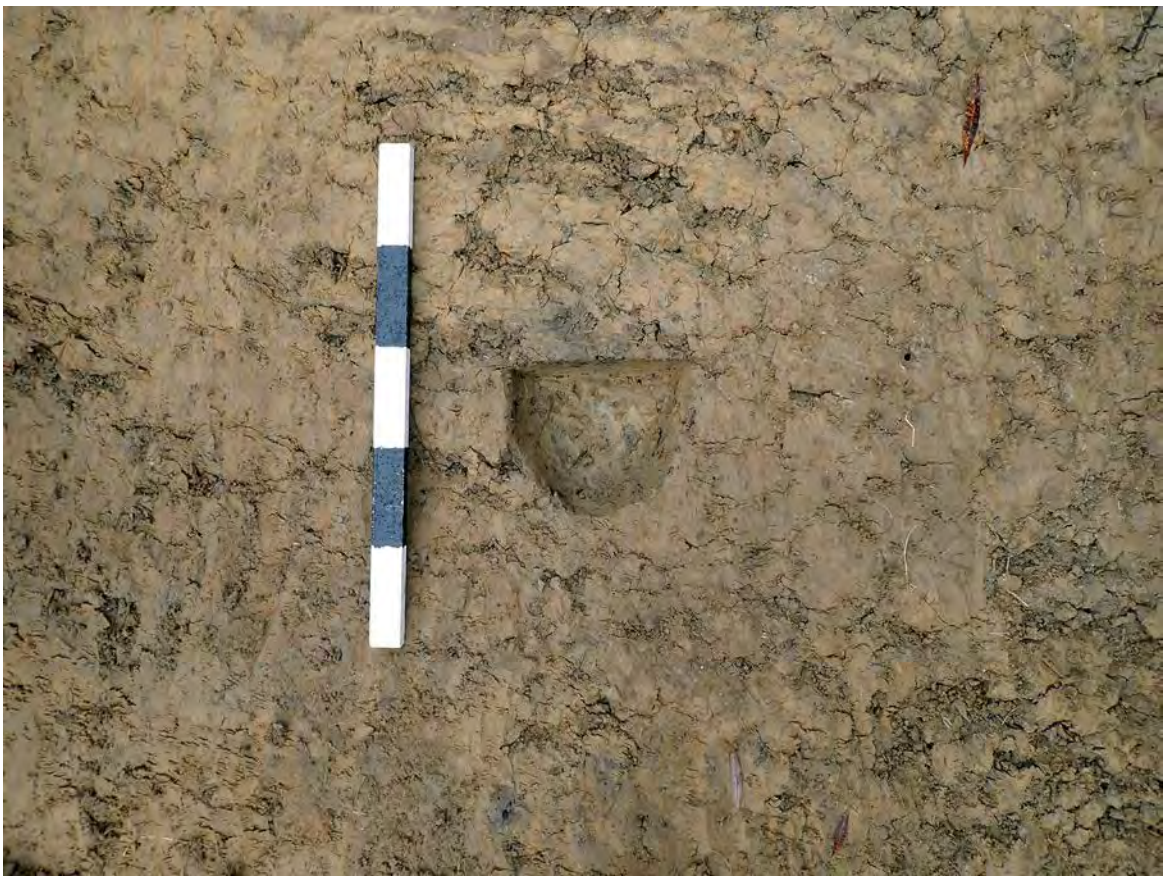

Plate 9: Posthole 4710, view to NW

Plate 10: Ditches 4803 and 4811, view to SE

Plate 11: Pottery deposit in ditch 4803

Plate 12: Ditch 5305, view to S

Plate 13: Ditch 5305, view to NW

Plate 14: Pit 5503, view to NE

Plate 15: Ditch 5603, view to N

Plate 16: Ditch 5705, view to SW

Plate 17: Struck flint from alluvial deposit 4703

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