ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND OFF BECKFORD ROAD, ALDERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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Archaeological Evaluation at land off Beckford Road, Alderton, Gloucestershire

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With contributions by Elizabeth Pearson and Dennis Williams

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in early January 2013 across approximately 4.4 hectares of land off Beckford Road on the western edge of Alderton in Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference 399640, 233350. It was commissioned by Cathy Patrick of CgMs Consulting Ltd (the Client) acting on behalf of Persimmon Homes Limited who intends to undertake residential development with associated access roads and utilities, for which a planning application will be submitted to Gloucestershire County Council

Nine 50m long trenches excavated over the site area were positioned to test anomalies identified on a geophysical survey. These included possible enclosures to the north of the site, an area of strong irregular magnetic interference to the east, the presence of ridge and furrow and possible survival of earlier features in the south, plus areas with no identified geophysical anomalies.

Across the nine trenches the archaeological remains observed suggest that this site occupies an area of land previously used for mostly rural agricultural activity. This can be characterised as an undeveloped agricultural landscape from the Medieval period onwards, potentially overlying earlier small-scale field enclosures arranged on a differing alignment. There was also isolated and mainly undated small-scale discrete activity but little indication of direct settlement and a relative absence of cultural material remains from any period. One feature however, located in the centre of Trench 3 in the north-east part of the field, can be dated as early prehistoric in origin. This was an isolated small sub-circular pit 0.93m wide and 0.17m in depth, with a fill including redeposited burnt material in which small fragments of Neolithic pottery were discovered when the feature was selected for environmental sampling.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken across approximately 4.4 hectares of land off Beckford Road on the western edge of Alderton in Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference 399640, 233350 (see figure 1). It was commissioned by Cathy Patrick of CgMs Consulting Ltd (the Client) acting on behalf of Persimmon Homes Limited who intends to undertake residential development with associated access roads and utilities, for which a planning application is being prepared.

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the development application. This is due to the presence of cropmarks identified on aerial photographs both to the west (HER 22112) and north-east of the site (HER 7580 and HER 12653), as well as known ridge and furrow field system remains to the south (HER 15428) and south-east (HER 15633). Additionally, a geophysical survey of the site has recently been carried out which identified a possible enclosure system in the northern half of the site and ridge and furrow remains in the southern part.

The project conforms to a verbal brief provided by the Client and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2013).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage assets with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Richard Bradley (BA (hons.); MA; AIfA), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2008 and has been practicing archaeology since 2005. Fieldwork assistance was provided by Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practising archaeology since 2004. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA; MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt. Dennis Williams contributed the finds information and Elizabeth Pearson the environmental evidence.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) undertaken by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Persimmon Homes Limited provides the detailed background research information for this project (CgMs 2012), and therefore a brief summary of the results are presented here.

The DBA consulted the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record, analysing a search area with a 1km radius from the centre of the site, as well as both early and modern Ordnance Survey mapping and conducting a site inspection. A number of designated heritage assets were identified within the vicinity of the site, including sixteen Grade II and one Grade II* listed buildings within the

historic core of Alderton village, east of the site, and the Grade II* Church of St. Mary located to the west in Little Washbourne. There are no designated heritage assets on the site itself. With regard to undesignated heritage assets, the DBA highlighted the recorded cropmark evidence from aerial photographs for possible prehistoric or later Roman remains within the surrounding landscape, as well as some isolated find spots of prehistoric material. Medieval ridge and furrow has been recorded in a number of fields across this area and medieval pottery sherds have been found during fieldwalking in the surrounding landscape. There was no aerial photographic evidence found that showed evidence for cropmarks within the site area itself.

The DBA also recorded that there have been no previous archaeological investigations of this site and that earlier archaeological work in Alderton village, consisting of two evaluations and three watching briefs, has not produced any archaeological remains.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013) and the fieldwork was undertaken between 8th January 2013 and 11th January 2013.

Nine 50m long trenches, amounting to just over 990m² in total, were excavated over the site area of 4.4ha (44000m²), representing a sample of 2.25%. The trenches were positioned to test anomalies identified on the geophysical survey and their locations are indicated in Figure 2. These anomalies include possible enclosures to the north of the site (trenches 1-4), an area of strong irregular magnetic interference to the east (trench 5), the presence of ridge and furrow and possible survival of earlier features in the south (trenches 8 and 9), as well as areas with no identified geophysical anomalies (trenches 6 and 7). The specific location of these trenches was restricted by the presence of an 11kv overhead electricity cable crossing the site and an abandoned water main along the northern edge, from which a distance of 10m and 8m respectively was retained during the excavation of trenches. No modifications to the planned trench layout were required during the course of the work.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 20 tonne 360º tracked excavator, employing a 2.10m wide toothless bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.4 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.5 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams

3.5.1 Artefact Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (WA 2012, appendix 2).

3.5.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date range was produced for each stratified context. These date ranges were used for determining the broad dates of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material were examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012a). One sample of 20 litres was taken from the site, comprising the fill of a Neolithic pit (303).

3.6.2 Processing and analysis

The sample was processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flot was collected on a 300μm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residue was scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. The flot was scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Capper *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved and that the archaeological potential of the development site has been established.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology, and current land use

The site is currently in use as an arable field and is bounded by the Beckford Road to the north, houses and allotments to the east, a hedgerow on the west and further arable land to the south. The field forms part of a broadly level landscape surrounded by visible high ground and gradually slopes from the north-east to the south-west. A small brook was noted in the southwest corner of the site and the field is transected by a high voltage power line (see plate 1).

Geologically, the site is situated on bedrock geology of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation, overlain by superficial geology of Head gravel, sand, silt and clay (BGS 2000). The soil type across the site is defined as a waterlogged brown loamy soil over clayey profiles of the Bishampton 2 association (Ragg *et al.* 1984, 100-102).

4.2 Archaeological context

The existing DBA report (CgMs 2012; also summarised above) provides a detailed assessment of the known heritage assets within the local vicinity of the site. It also notes that the site is positioned on an area of well-drained land close to sources of water, located in a wider landscape characterised by extensive evidence for prehistoric, Roman and Medieval activity, as well as being in direct association with the village of Alderton which has early Medieval origins. It was therefore identified that there was a moderate potential for the existence of archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods on this site, along with a moderate potential for agricultural remains from the early Medieval and Medieval periods. The potential for Post-Medieval and Modern period remains was considered to be low.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-5. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Natural deposits

The natural substrate was encountered in all nine of the trenches excavated. This comprised firm mid orangey-brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of the underlying grey-blue clays showing through in places, encountered at between 0.34-0.44m below the current ground surface across the site.

In most trenches this was overlain by a shallow yellow-brown silty clay subsoil layer varying between 0.03-0.15m in depth, which was in turn sealed by an organic topsoil of between 0.26-0.38m that had been recently used for a maize crop in the field.

5.1.2 Prehistoric deposits

One feature on the site can be attributed as prehistoric, though some of the undated features described below could also potentially date from this period. This was located in the centre of Trench 3 in the north-east part of the field, and comprised an isolated small sub-circular pit [304] 0.93m wide and 0.17m in depth, with a fill including redeposited burnt material and small fragments of mid to late Neolithic pottery (see plate 4). The fill was fairly homogenous throughout and indicative of a short period of infilling.

5.1.3 Medieval/post-medieval deposits

Every trench excavated across the site contained a large number of furrow features relating to Medieval and later agriculture, roughly corresponding to those picked up as anomalies on the geophysical survey. With the exception of six furrows seen in Trench 9, which were orientated north to south, they were all broadly aligned east to west. Where excavated, these had gradual sloping sides breaking sharply to a slightly concave base, were 0.20-0.30m in depth and seen to cut through the subsoil where it was present (see plate 5). Some of the furrows (in Trench 3, 5 and 9) contained pottery dated to the Medieval period within their fills. The alignment of these furrows appears in some cases to correlate between various trenches, suggesting that the furrows survive all the way across the site.

5.1.4 Undated deposits

The majority of features observed across the trenches remain undated, although in some cases stratigraphic relationships were seen that suggest certain features may be earlier than the furrows. These included four small linear ditches [205], [504], [605] and [906] identified within Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 9 that all exhibited a similar form and profile and contained comparable sterile fills lacking in finds and inclusions (see plate 7). Two of the four, [205] and [605], contained primary and secondary fills of slightly differing composition and they were all on an alternate alignment to the furrows running across site. One of the ditches, [906], was associated with a post hole feature [904] that slightly truncated its western edge (see plate 6 and figure 5) and another [504] was seen to be truncated by a later furrow. Trench 5 also contained two linear gully features, both running parallel to furrows. One of these was excavated, [512], and was seen to be only 0.48m wide and 0.10m in depth (see plate 8).

Trenches 3, 6 and 7 also contained some small and isolated undated discrete features, such as three possible pits in Trench 6, [607], [609] and [613], a possible pit [308] and terminus [306] in Trench 3, and what appeared to be a small isolated post hole [706] in Trench 7. These were all shallow and ephemeral, lacking in finds or cultural inclusions in most cases, and often containing fills comparable to the underlying natural geology. Without clear cultural evidence to identify these as man-made, the possibility remains that these features are purely natural anomalies, although

the well-defined shapes of the features could preclude this. The exception to these was a small pit 0.64m wide and 0.16m in depth identified at the northern end of Trench 7, which appeared to contain some possible redeposited burnt material, although the edges were quite poorly defined and no finds were recovered.

5.1.5 Modern

A number of features across the site were of modern origin, including land drains of varying orientations seen in Trenches 1, 6, 7, and 9. There was also a clearly recent machine excavated hole visible in Trench 2 cut from the current ground surface and containing a fill of the underlying blue-grey clay geological substrate. A number of similar patches of this material were seen on the surface of the field, probably relating to excavation of geotechnical trial holes.

Additionally, Trench 9 contained a post hole feature that upon excavation, became immediately apparent was of modern origin. The fill was loose and very topsoil rich and contained a modern and little degraded staple nail probably from a post and wire fence.

5.2 Artefactual analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Table 1. Except for animal bone recovered from subsoil (803), all the finds were pottery sherds. The animal bone was fragmentary, and was not examined in detail.

The pottery came from seven stratified contexts and could be dated from the Neolithic period onwards (see Table 1 below). The condition of the pottery was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying moderate levels of abrasion, and the sherd sizes were above average.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
prehistoric	ceramic	-	pot	2	6
medieval	ceramic	-	pot	11	204
undated	bone	animal bone	-	30	134
			totals:	43	344

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

The pottery finds are summarised in Table 2 below. Two small sherds of quartzite-tempered ware (fabric 5.8) from the mid to late Neolithic period were found in pit fill (303). One of these sherds exhibited a trace of impressed decoration typical of Peterborough ware (R Jackson pers. comm.).

The remainder of the pottery finds were all Medieval. These included glazed (fabric 69) and unglazed (fabric 56) Malvernian wares from a 13th to 15th century date range, including four diagnostic form sherds. Rim sherds from unglazed cooking pots (one bearing soot deposits) were recovered from furrow fills (309) and (907). Glazed sherds, from a pitcher handle and the rim of a pipkin (Bryant 2004), were found in furrow fill (507) and topsoil (700), respectively.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
prehistoric	97	Miscellaneous prehistoric wares	2	6
medieval	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	6	70
medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	4	124
medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	10
totals:			13	210

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery

5.3 Significance of the artefacts

The pottery finds from this site are of limited value stratigraphically, but do indicate nearby occupation and use of this area during the Medieval period. Evidence for much earlier activity, potentially of greater significance, is provided by the Neolithic pottery. The *terminus post quem* dates determined for the contexts are shown in Table 3 below.

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	*tpq* date range
201	ceramic	pot	69	1	12	1200	1500	1200–1500
303	ceramic	pot	5.8	2	6	-3400	-2500	3400–2500 BC
309	ceramic	pot	56	1	34	1200	1400	1200–1400
311	ceramic	pot	69	1	44	1200	1500	1200–1500
507	ceramic	pot	69	1	54	1200	1400	1200–1400
700	ceramic	pot	69	1	14	1300	1500	1300–1500
803	bone	animal	-	30	134	-	-	-
907	ceramic	pot	56	1	28	1200	1400	1200–1400
	ceramic	pot	56	4	8	1200	1400	
921	ceramic	pot	99	1	10	1200	1500	1200–1500

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.4 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

Only occasional unidentifiable fragments of charcoal were recorded from context (303). Although occasional uncharred seeds were noted, such as sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), these are not thought to be contemporary with the pit fill. This type of material is unlikely to be of Neolithic date unless the feature was waterlogged. In this context they are considered to be intrusive.

No interpretation of crop husbandry practices or other activities on site could be made.

6 Synthesis

The archaeological potential for this site identified throughout the DBA is broadly supported by the remains observed during the excavation of the evaluation trenches, although there were no confirmed archaeological deposits dated to the Roman period. This is slightly surprising given the location of the site and its surrounding landscape and suggests that the site was not intensively managed in this period. The presence of small scale evidence for prehistoric activity and the preservation of remains related to a Medieval agricultural landscape is representative of the expected archaeological signature for a site in this location.

Across the nine excavated trenches the archaeological remains observed suggest that this site occupies an area of land previously used for mostly rural agricultural activity, with little indication of direct settlement due to the lack of clearly defined discrete features and the relative absence of cultural material remains from any period. Two features, being the pits in Trench 3 [304] and in Trench 7 [704], contained burnt remains but no evidence of in-situ burning. In the case of pit [304], dated as mid to late Neolithic, this is a documented characteristic of pit features from this period, as is the single homogenous fill it contains (Thomas 1999, 64-66). These pits could potentially relate to ancillary activity comprising dumps of burnt material associated with nearby prehistoric occupation; Darvill (2006, 29) has noted that in Gloucestershire, evidence for Neolithic occupation often consists solely of pits and pit clusters. The lack of directly associated features within the trenches here however makes the potential extent and level of this activity difficult to determine, even if it exists at all, and it is often the case that structural evidence for occupational activity in earlier prehistory is not immediately apparent or surviving due to later truncation (Darvill 1996, 80-82). Interestingly, cropmark evidence close to this site, around 310m to the north-east, has been identified as prehistoric in date, though the specific period is not clear (CgMs 2012, 12).

The number of undated and ephemeral discrete pit and post hole features seen across the site, coupled with the linear ditches of comparable form also seen in various trenches, suggest the potential survival of a possible enclosed field system with low-level small-scale background activity. In the case of the ditch in Trench 9 [906], which is slightly truncated by post hole [904], this activity is in direct association and may represent a field boundary with an adjoining fence line. In addition, the differing alignment and the truncation of one ditch by an east to west furrow is suggestive of an earlier field system, although the exact period remains unknown. This was superseded by a later Medieval agricultural landscape probably associated with the nearby settlements of Alderton and Little Washbourne. The good condition and moderately abraded nature of the finds from the furrow features is unsurprising given the proximity of these settlements and the artefactual material present is likely to be resultant from general discard and manuring upon the surrounding fields. The two gully features identified in Trench 5 run parallel to the furrows and seem to therefore be part of the same agricultural landscape.

With a fairly small sample of the site excavated in this evaluation, it is not definitive as to whether every feature type surviving on this site has been observed, but it does seem to have produced a collection of remains generally representative of the archaeological activity present in this field. This can be characterised as an undeveloped agricultural landscape from the Medieval period onwards, overlying earlier small-scale field enclosures on a differing alignment with possible associated discrete activity, some of which may date from the prehistoric period.

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The majority of archaeological remains observed on this site appear to be representative of agricultural activity from the Medieval period onward and are therefore of lesser archaeological interest. An earlier field boundary system defined by linear ditches is suggested to have survived,

but the antiquity and significance of this is currently unknown due to the lack of cultural finds recovered during the evaluation. Most of the other features across the site also remain undated and remain poorly understood both in relation to one another and the sequence of activity on the site.

The isolated pits containing burnt material identified in Trench 3 and in Trench 7 represent the most interesting and significant remains found during the evaluation, particularly the pit in Trench 3 dated to the Neolithic period by the pottery within it. There may be similar features surviving in the north-east area of the site outside the coverage of the trench which could potentially provide information on past land-use and occupational or ritual activity during the prehistoric period. Similar interest may extend around the pit in Trench 7, although as this is undated this potential is not as clear.

The environmental evidence recovered from the site was of low significance.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The features observed during the evaluation demonstrate an archaeological site of variable importance, with some features of limited significance and others that demonstrate a site of much greater potential. The furrows observed during the evaluation to suggest a site important at a local level for improving understanding of the Medieval archaeological activity in the immediate area. The presence of a Neolithic pit on the site is a rare and important feature that is of regional significance and potentially, if similar features exist around it or the undated features found during the evaluation represent activity on a larger scale during this period, this significance could be considerably higher.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The archaeological remains relating to the Medieval and later agricultural activity has been seen to extend across the entirety of the site, as shown on Figure 2. The potentially earlier field system defined by the sterile linear ditches was not seen in all trenches but still covers a substantial area. The survival of these remains is good, although they are not buried by a significant depth of plough soil at present. The discrete features observed appear to be more focused in the west (Trenches 6 and 7) and north-east (Trench 3) of the site, although there is little certainty about how far these types of deposits extend.

8 The impact of the development

At present, the exact scheme of the proposed development and the form it will take is unknown, although it is planned to include residential plots with associated access roads and utilities and retain the current hedge boundary on the western edge of the site.

It would be expected that the ground works usually associated with this type of development could impact upon the archaeological remains identified during the evaluation, particularly as they are relatively close to the surface. The remains of the small discrete features such as pits and post holes would be particularly vulnerable to any ground reduction taking place. Whilst the agricultural remains seen to extend across the whole of the development site are deemed to be of lesser archaeological significance than earlier features, their loss through development would still represent the removal of an archaeological heritage asset.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141). If further early prehistoric remains of Neolithic date are surviving on this site they are likely to be shallow and ephemeral and easily lost during construction works. The research potential of this site could potentially become very high if the opportunity to explore these further was realised.

9 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in early January 2013 by Worcestershire Archaeology, commissioned by Cathy Patrick of CgMs Consulting Ltd acting on behalf of Persimmon Homes Limited. The evaluation covered approximately 4.4 hectares of land off Beckford Road on the western edge of Alderton in Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference 399640, 233350.

Nine 50m long trenches were excavated over the site area were positioned to test anomalies identified on a geophysical survey. These included possible enclosures to the north of the site, an area of strong irregular magnetic interference to the east, the presence of ridge and furrow and possible survival of earlier features in the south, plus areas with no identified geophysical anomalies.

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10 Acknowledgements

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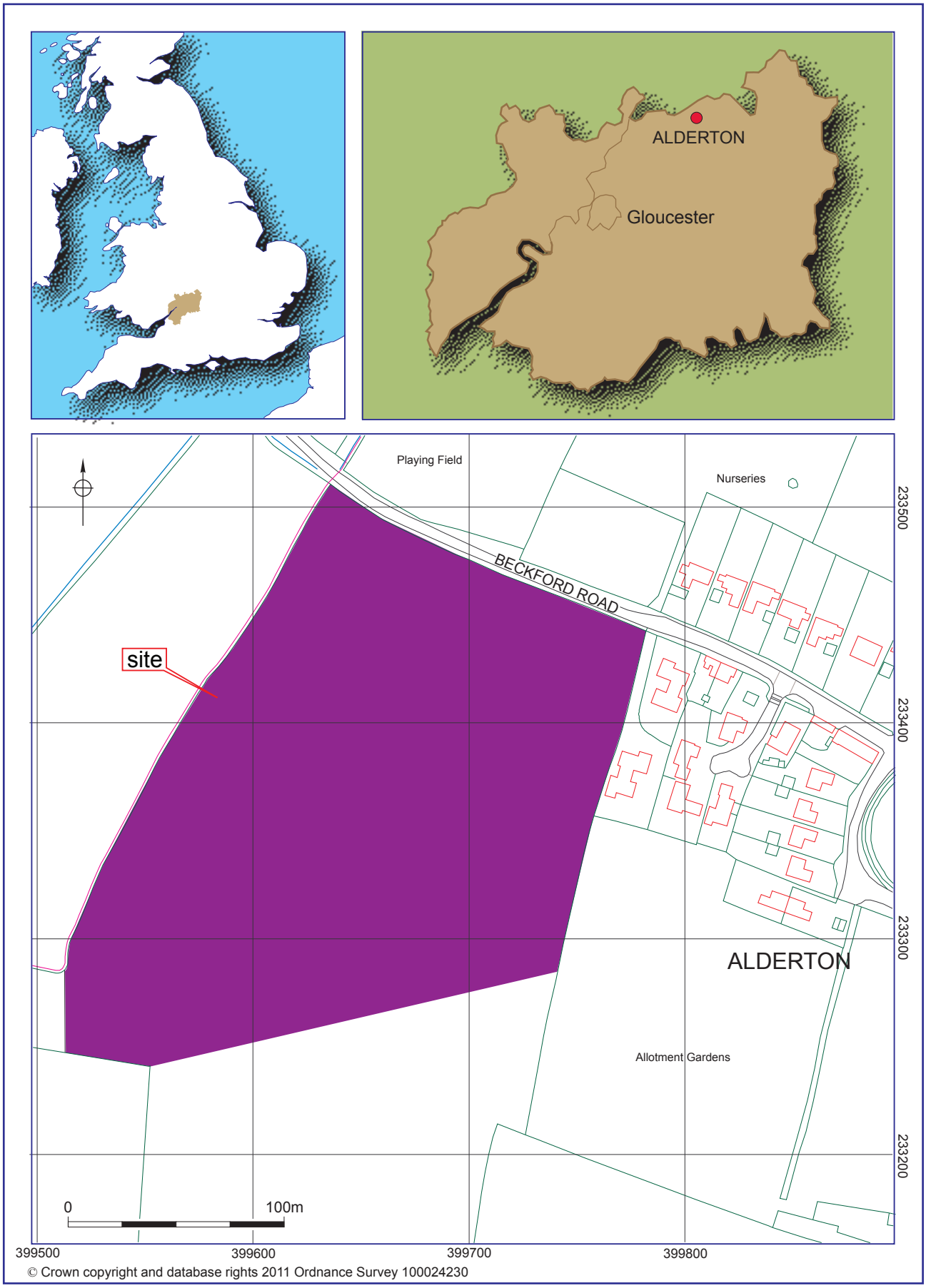
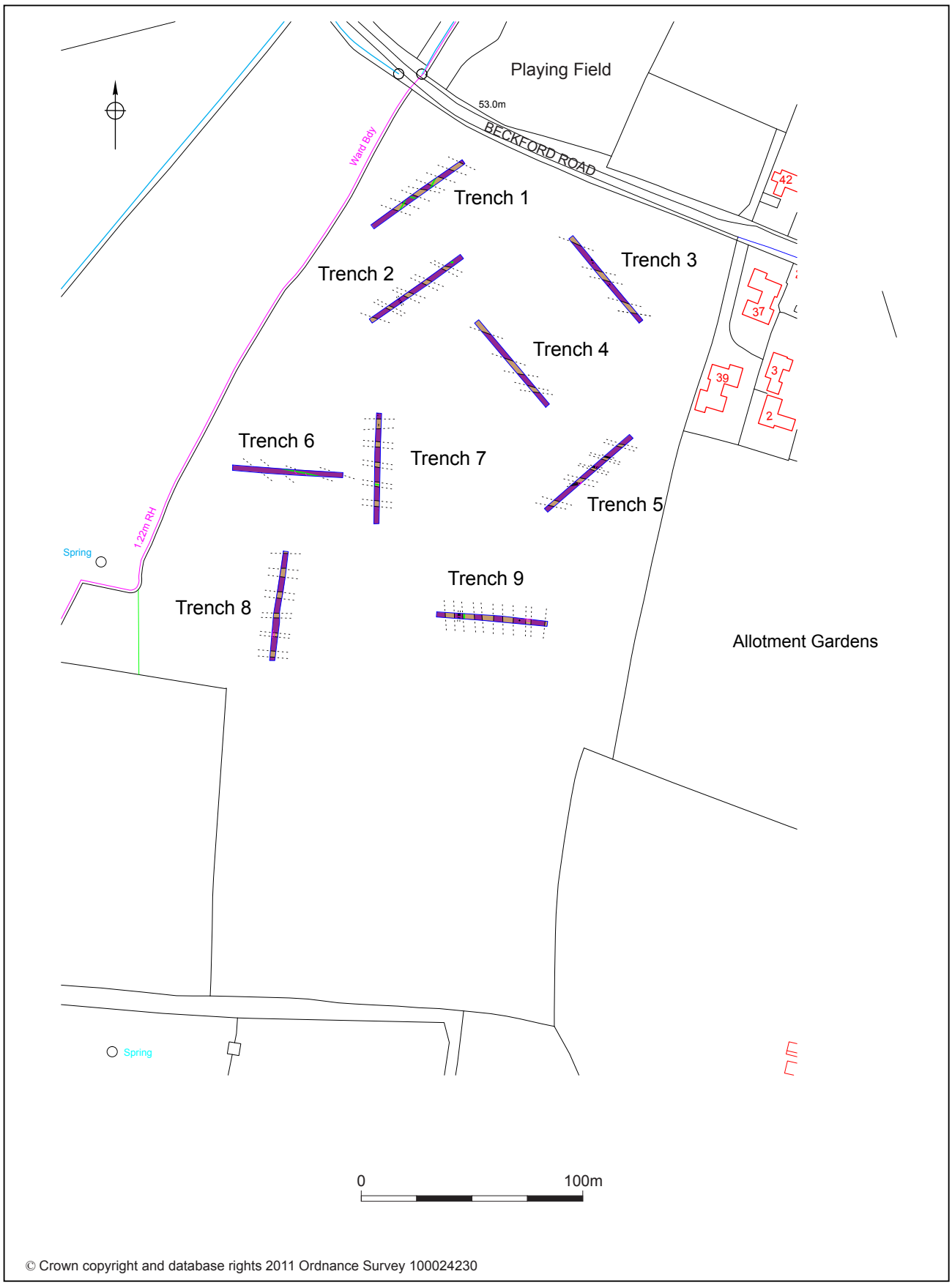
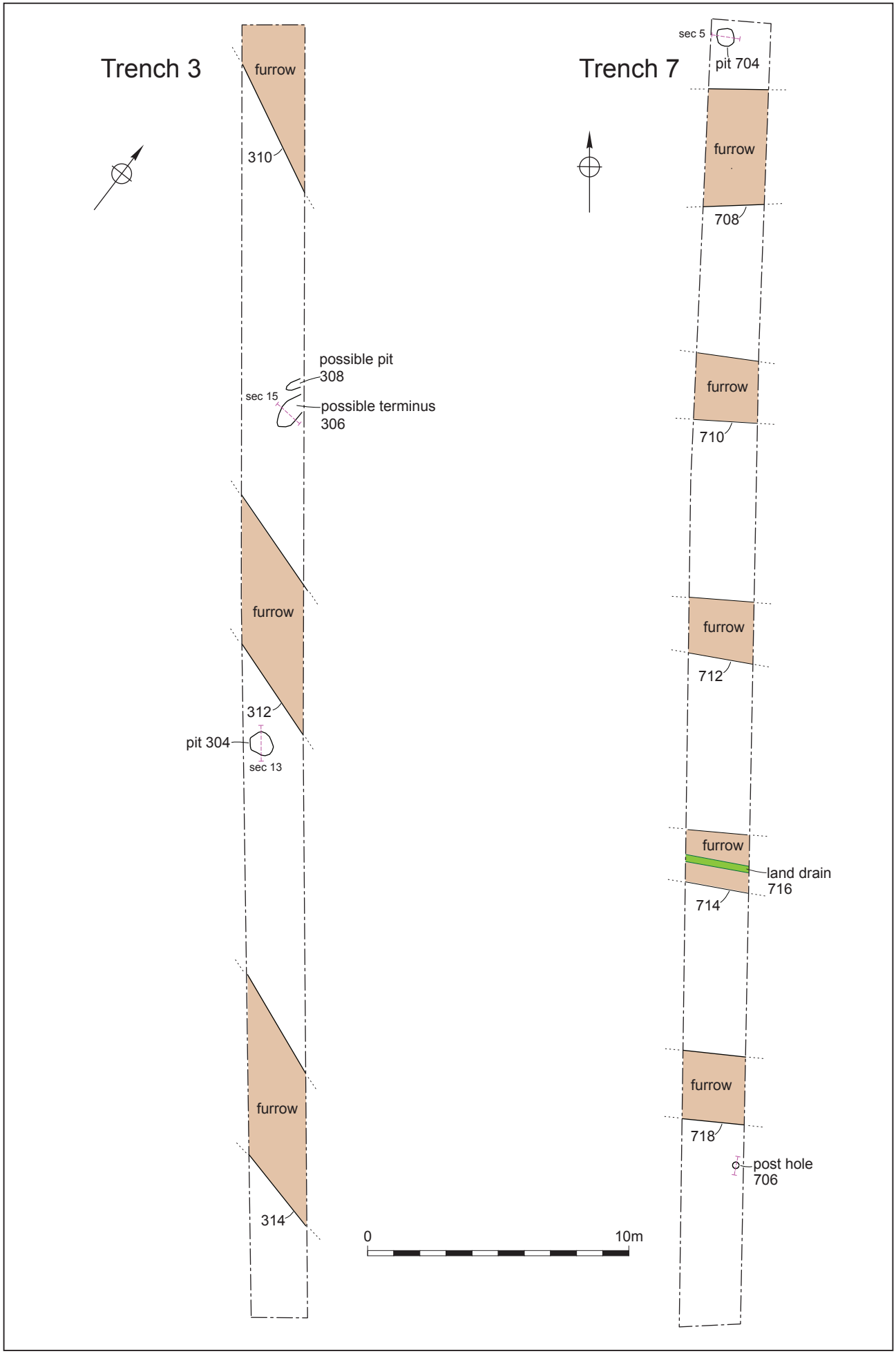
Figures



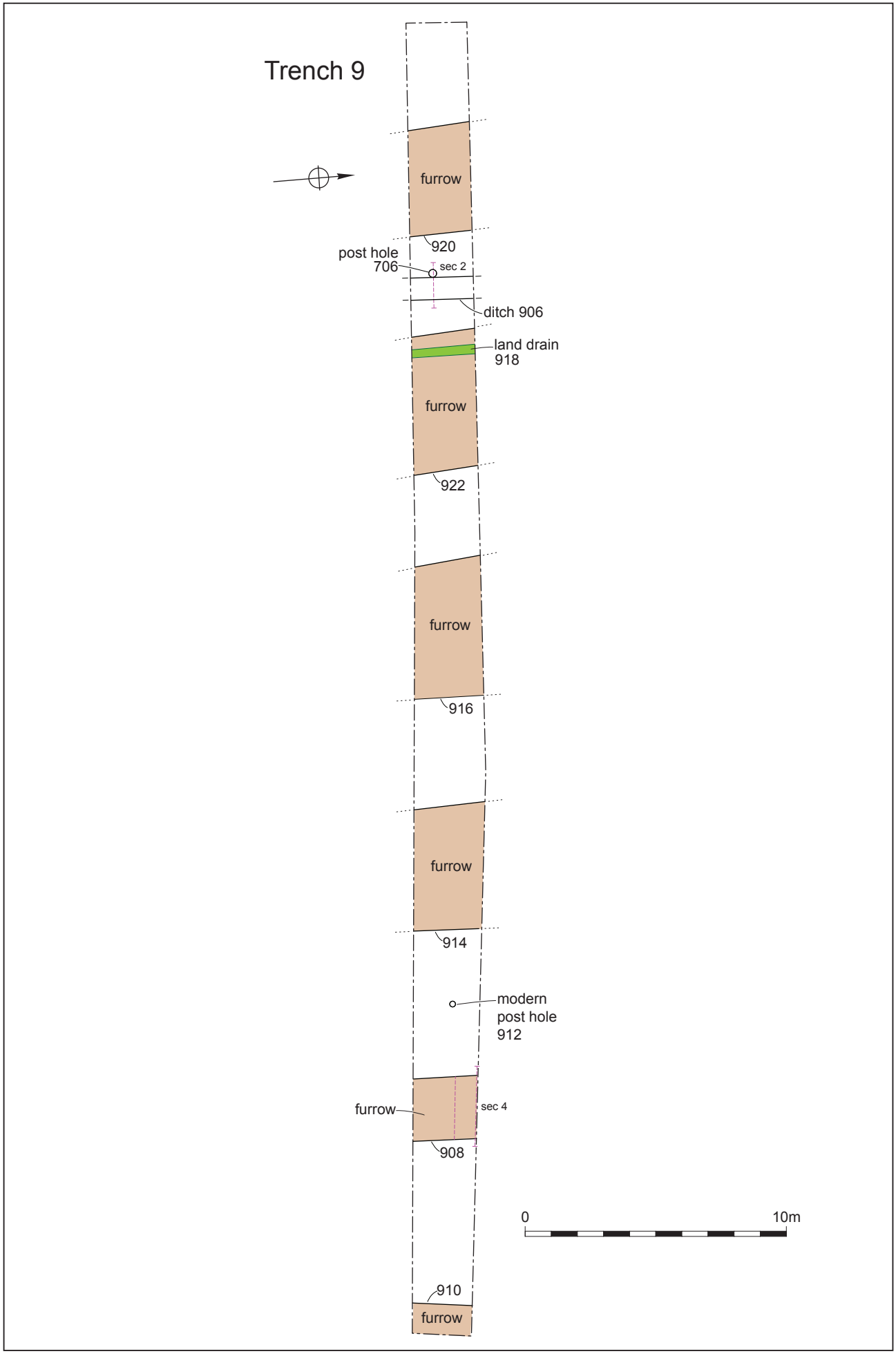
Location of the site *Figure 1*



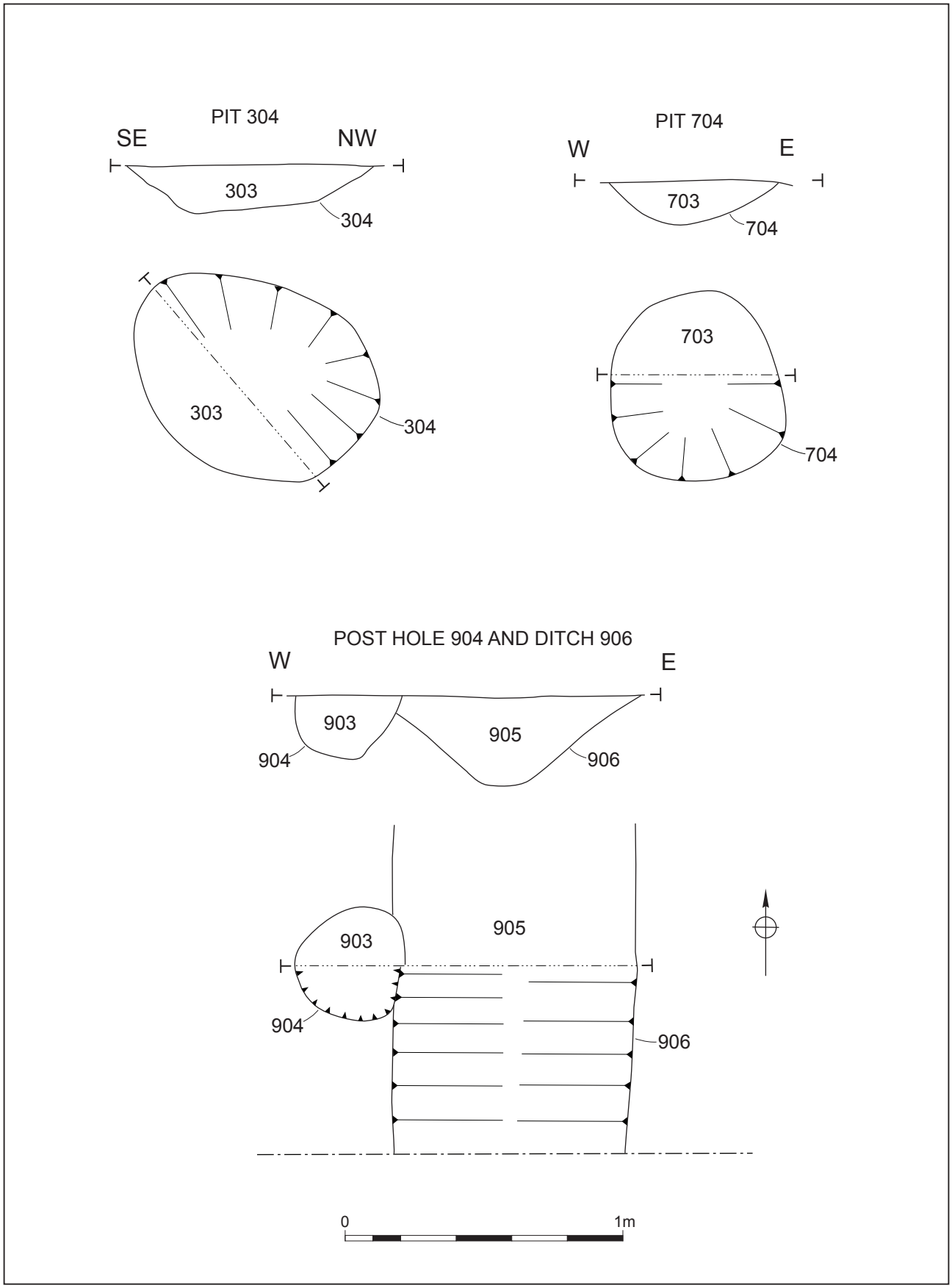
Trench location plan *Figure 2*



Trenches 3 and 7: plans *Figure 3*



Trench 9: plan *Figure 4*



Plans and sections of Pits 304 and 704, post hole 904 and ditch 906 *Figure 5*

Plates

Plate 1: The site looking south-east

Plate 2: Trench 1 facing south-west

Plate 3: Trench 4 facing north-west

Plate 4: Pit feature [304], facing south-west

Plate 5: Furrow [802] shown in Trench 8 section, facing west

Plate 6: Section through linear ditch [906] and post hole [904], facing north

Plate 7: Section through linear ditch [205], facing south-east

Plate 8: Linear gully [512], facing west

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish grey-brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation, occasional small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks.	0-0.26m
101	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish red-brown sandy clay, occasional bioturbation and charcoal flecks. Cut by E-W furrows.	0.26-0.40m
102	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels.	0.40m+
103	Fill of [104]	Firm, mid greyish brown clay silt fill of furrow.	0.26m+
104	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
105	Fill of [106]	Firm, mid greyish brown clay silt fill of furrow. Cut by land drain [112].	0.26m+
106	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
107	Fill of [108]	Firm, mid greyish brown clay silt fill of furrow.	0.26m+
108	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
109	Fill of [110]	Firm, mid greyish brown clay silt fill of furrow. Cut by land drain [116].	0.26m+
110	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
111	Fill of [112]	Firm mid yellow-grey topsoil and clay mix with limestone pieces. Fill of land drain.	0.26m+
112	Cut	Cut of land drain. Truncates furrow [106].	Unexcavated
113	Fill of [114]	Firm mid brown topsoil with terracotta pipe land drain.	0.26m+
114	Cut	Cut of land drain	Unexcavated
115	Fill of [116]	Firm mid yellow-grey topsoil and clay mix with medium limestone pieces forming lining of land drain.	0.26m+
116	Cut	Cut of land drain. Truncates furrow [110].	Unexcavated

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.39m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation.	0-0.36m
201	Subsoil	Firm mid reddish brown sandy clay, included pottery. Not present along whole of trench. Cut by E-W furrows.	0.36-0.39m
202	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels with patches of grey blue clays.	0.39m+
203	Fill of [205]	Secondary fill of ditch. Soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks.	0.39-0.46m
204	Fill of [205]	Primary fill of ditch. Firm light yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded gravels.	0.39-0.63m
205	Cut	Cut of small linear NW-SE ditch, undated.	0.39-0.63m
206	Modern cut	Machine excavated hole seen in trench to be cutting from ground surface and into underlying geology. Probable geotechnical pit. Unexcavated.	0.00+
207	Fill of [208]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.36m+
208	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
209	Fill of [210]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.36m+
210	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
211	Fill of [212]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.36m+
212	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
213	Fill of [214]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.36m+
214	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
215	Fill of [216]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.36m+
216	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.37m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation.	0-0.26m
301	Subsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay. Cut by E-W furrows	0.26-0.37m
302	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels.	0.37m+
303	Fill of [304]	Fill of small pit. Soft mid brownish grey clayey sand with frequent burnt clay and charcoal flecks. Small pieces of Neolithic pottery within the fill.	0.37-0.54m
304	Cut	Cut of sub-circular isolated pit feature.	0.37-0.54m
305	Fill of [306]	Fill of possible terminus. Soft mid brownish grey sandy clay, undated.	0.37-0.43m
306	Cut	Cut of possible ditch terminus, though very ploughed out and indistinct.	0.37-0.43m
307	Fill of [308]	Fill of possible small pit. Soft mid brownish grey sandy clay, unexcavated.	0.37m+
308	Cut	Cut for possible small pit.	Unexcavated
309	Fill of [310]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.26m+
310	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
311	Fill of [312]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.26m+
312	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
313	Fill of [314]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.26m+
314	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Firm mid grey brown sandy clay with frequent bioturbation, occasional small and medium sub-round stones and occasional charcoal flecks.	0-0.28m
401	Subsoil	Firm mid reddish yellow-brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal flecks. Cut by E-W furrows	0.28-0.38m
402	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional sub-angular small limestone fragments.	0.38m+
403	Fill of [404]	Firm, mid reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.28m+
404	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
405	Fill of [406]	Firm, mid reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.28m+
406	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
407	Fill of [408]	Firm, mid reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.28m+
408	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.44m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation.	0-0.29m
501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.29-0.44m
502	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels.	0.44m+
503	Fill of [504]	Fill of small ditch, cut by furrow [506]. Soft mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional sub-angular pebbles and	0.44-0.70m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		gravels. Undated.	
504	Cut	Cut of small linear ditch orientated NW-SE.	0.44-0.70m
505	Fill of [506]	Firm, mid reddish brown silty sand fill of furrow.	0.44-0.59m
506	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow. Truncates ditch [504].	0.44-0.59m
507	Fill of [508]	Firm, mid reddish brown silty sand fill of furrow. Included pottery.	0.44m+
508	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
509	Fill of [510]	Firm, mid reddish brown silty sand fill of furrow.	0.44m+
510	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
511	Fill of [512]	Fill of small linear gully. Friable light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.	0.44-0.54m
512	Cut	Cut for small linear gully, orientated E-W.	0.44-0.54m
513	Fill of [514]	Firm, mid reddish brown silty sand fill of furrow.	0.44m+
514	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
515	Fill of [516]	Fill of small linear gully, unexcavated. Similar to (511).	0.44m+
516	Cut	Cut of linear gully, orientated E-W.	Unexcavated
517	Fill of [518]	Firm, mid reddish brown silty sand fill of furrow.	0.44m+
518	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.44m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation.	0-0.38m
601	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.38-0.06m
602	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels with patches of grey blue clays.	0.44m+
603	Fill of [605]	Secondary fill of small linear ditch. Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular gravels. Cut by land drain [611].	0.44-0.69m
604	Fill of [605]	Primary fill of small linear ditch. Firm light reddish brown clay with sand and gravel.	0.69-0.75m
605	Cut	Cut of linear ditch orientated NE-SW.	0.44-0.75m
606	Fill of [607]	Fill of small pit. Firm light blue grey sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stones. Cut by pit [609].	0.44-0.50m
607	Cut	Cut of possible small and shallow circular pit.	0.44-0.50m
608	Fill of [609]	Fill of shallow pit. Firm light blue grey sandy clay. Cut by land drain [611].	0.44-0.56m
609	Cut	Cut for shallow sub-circular pit. Truncates pit [607].	0.44-0.56m
610	Fill of [611]	Firm mid yellow-grey topsoil and clay mix.	0.38m+
611	Cut	Cut of land drain. Truncates furrow [615], linear [605] and pits [609] and [613].	Unexcavated
612	Fill of [613]	Fill of small pit. Firm light bluish grey sandy clay. Unexcavated. Cut by land drain [611].	0.44m+
613	Cut	Cut for small possible pit feature.	Unexcavated
614	Fill of [615]	Firm, mid reddish brown silty sand fill of furrow.	0.38m+
615	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
616	Fill of [617]	Firm, mid reddish brown silty sand fill of furrow.	0.38m+
617	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.42m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation. Included pottery.	0-0.34m
701	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.34-0.42m
702	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels with patches of grey blue clays.	0.42m+
703	Fill of [704]	Fill of pit feature. Firm mid yellow brown/mid orange red mix of sandy clay with burnt patches and occasional sub-angular stones. No in-situ burning.	0.42-0.58m
704	Cut	Cut of possible sub-circular pit feature.	0.42-0.58m
705	Fill of [706]	Fill of post hole. Undated. Firm mid blue-grey clayey sand with occasional sub-round stones.	0.42-0.52m
706	Cut	Cut of isolated circular post hole feature.	0.42-0.52m
707	Fill of [708]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.34m+
708	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
709	Fill of [710]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.34m+
710	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
711	Fill of [712]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.34m+
712	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
713	Fill of [714]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow. Cut by land drain [716].	0.34m+
714	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
715	Fill of [716]	Firm mid yellow-grey topsoil and clay mix.	0.34m+
716	Cut	Cut of land drain. Truncates furrow [714]	Unexcavated
717	Fill of [718]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.34m+
718	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.34m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation. Included pottery.	0-0.30m
801	Fill of [802]	Fill of furrow. Firm light reddish brown sandy clay, with high proportion of sub-angular limestone cobbles at the base.	0.30-0.67m
802	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	0.30-0.67m
803	Subsoil	Firm, mid reddish brown sandy clay. Not present across whole of trench. Contained animal bone.	0.30-0.34m
804	Natural	Firm, mid orange brown clayey sands and gravels with patches of grey blue clays.	0.34m+
805	Fill of [806]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.30m+
806	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
807	Fill of [808]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.30m+
808	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
809	Fill of [810]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.30m+
810	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
811	Fill of [812]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.30m+
812	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
813	Fill of [814]	Firm, light reddish brown sandy clay fill of furrow.	0.30m+
814	Cut	Cut of E-W orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Depth: 0.36m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent bioturbation.	0-0.30m
901	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.30-0.36m
902	Natural	Firm, mid orangey brown clayey sands and gravels.	0.36m+
903	Fill of [904]	Fill of post hole. Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional sub-round stones.	0.36-0.58m
904	Cut	Sub-circular post hole feature, truncates edge of ditch [906].	0.36-0.58m
905	Fill of [906]	Fill of linear ditch feature. Firm mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional sub-round stones. Cut by post hole [904].	0.36-0.69m
906	Cut	Cut for linear ditch, orientated N-S.	0.36-0.69m
907	Fill of [908]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow. Included pottery.	0.30-0.50m
908	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	0.30-0.50m
909	Fill of [910]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.30m+
910	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
911	Fill of [912]	Loose, topsoil-rich fill of post hole. Included modern nail.	0.30-0.40m+
912	Cut	Cut of modern post hole.	0.30-0.40m+
913	Fill of [914]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.30m+
914	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
915	Fill of [916]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.30m+
916	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
917	Fill of [918]	Firm mid yellow-grey topsoil and clay mix.	0.30m+
918	Cut	Cut of land drain. Truncates furrow [922]	Unexcavated

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
919	Fill of [920]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow.	0.30m+
920	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
921	Fill of [922]	Firm, mid reddish brown clayey sand fill of furrow. Included pottery.	0.30m+
922	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

26 Context records AS1

3 Field progress reports AS2

2 Photographic records AS3

81 Digital photographs

1 Drawing number catalogues AS4

22 Scale drawings

1 Sample records AS17

1 Sample number catalogues AS18

1 Flot records AS21

9 Trench record sheets AS41

1 Box of finds

1 CD-Rom/DVDs

1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
Clarence Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 3JT