

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION OF LAND SOUTH
OF MORETON CAMP,
WELLINGTON QUARRY,
MARDEN, HEREFORDSHIRE:
INTERIM REPORT

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Archaeological evaluation of land south of Moreton Camp, Wellington Quarry, Marden, Herefordshire: Interim report

Simon Sworn and Robin Jackson

1. Introduction

A staged programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the north of St Peter's Close and to the east of Morton Industrial Estate, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire (centred on NGR: SO 3507 2466; Fig 1), and to the south of currently permitted sand and gravel extraction operations at Wellington Quarry. It was undertaken on behalf of Tarmac Limited, who wish to extend their extraction area southwards and the evaluation was undertaken to support a planning application for this extension. The project aimed to determine if a significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate its location, date and nature.

The first stage of the programme of works comprised a desk-based assessment completed in 2006 (Miller and Jackson 2006) and was designed to contribute to an Environmental Impact Assessment being produced by SLR Consulting Limited for the proposed southwards extension. This informed a subsequent staged programme of field investigation as required by Herefordshire Archaeology to provide further information to support determination of the application.

A final report for the evaluation will be submitted in due course upon completion of detailed analysis of the results of the fieldwork. This will include the securing of radiocarbon determinations and other specialist analyses, which will take several months from completion of fieldwork (estimated delivery date April/May 2008). Consequently, this interim statement is presented in order to provide sufficient information to allow Herefordshire Archaeology to determine any archaeological planning conditions recommended for the development.

2. Desk-based assessment

The desk-based assessment (Miller and Jackson 2006) provided a broad summary of results from previous work in the area and specifically within Wellington Quarry, which lies to the north and east of the proposed extension. Within the existing quarry, programmes of evaluation, survey and salvage recording undertaken between 1986-2006 have recorded important multi-period remains relating to utilisation of the floodplain of the Lugg Valley from the early Holocene to the present day (Fig 2; Jackson and Miller 2004).

Palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits have provided evidence of associated landscape change. These derive from palaeochannels and their fills and the alluvial sequences with which they are associated. These extend back into the late glacial period and provide one of the most comprehensive sequences of evidence for human activity and landscape change available in the Midlands. Visible surface remains were also identified within the proposed extension during a rapid walkover survey undertaken at this stage (Fig 3; Miller and Jackson 2006).

The assessment concluded that the archaeological significance of the proposed extension centred on a high potential for the survival of well-preserved buried remains of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon date associated with further significant palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits. These were considered liable to be of both local and regional archaeological importance and in some instances of national significance. Further investigation and assessment of the nature of this resource was recommended prior to the determination of any formal mitigation response to the proposed extension.

In addition, the visible features associated with post-medieval watermeadow systems were also noted as locally or regionally significant, representing a distinctive but poorly documented and under-researched form of land-use. Further investigation of these was also considered necessary to inform any mitigation response.

This information was summarised (see below) and used during subsequent design of the subsequent fieldwork in order to make broad observations about the character of the archaeological resource in the area and the effectiveness of previous evaluation sampling levels.

3. Summary of historical and archaeological background

The following broad observations can be made about the character of the archaeological resource in the proposed extension and the effectiveness of evaluation sampling levels used to date in the area.

Early prehistoric activity

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Pits and hearths (both isolated and in small groups). Dating from Early & Middle Neolithic & Beaker periods	Widely dispersed but restricted in area and typically isolated or present in small groups Mostly located on higher ground on west of site or on gravel islands within otherwise low lying areas	Poor-moderate Sporadically identified at evaluation but also often present at mitigation in apparently blank areas Widely dispersed character means that some are liable to encountered at evaluation but the restricted extent of areas of activity means that commonly applied sample levels are unreliable
Funerary monuments (ring-ditches and a Beaker grave)	Located on higher ridges above valley floor. May reflect dispersed, linear cemetery pattern. Restricted to area of higher ground in north-west and west part of Wellington Quarry: 1986-96 area and on ridge in 2007 stripping area.	Not determined Those identified to date have been both detected at mitigation in areas not subject to prior evaluation as well as recently (2007) in an area subject to prior evaluation. The restricted extent of the funerary deposits present means that commonly applied sample levels are unreliable
Localised deposition of material culture	Widely dispersed Within palaeochannel margins and 'wet' hollows	Poor-moderate Some areas identified at evaluation but also often present at mitigation in apparently blank areas Widely dispersed character means that some are liable to encountered at evaluation but commonly applied sample levels are not considered to be particularly reliable
Localised concentrations of flint	Widely dispersed	Poor

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
and other artefacts	Within alluvial deposits	<p>Some finds identified within alluvium at evaluation but insufficient to determine presence/absence of localised concentrations</p> <p>Widely dispersed character means that some are liable to be encountered at evaluation but the restricted extent of areas of such activity means that commonly applied sample levels are unreliable</p>

Later prehistoric activity

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Middle Bronze Age burnt mound related activity comprising a substantial waterhole and an extensive spread of pits filled with fire cracked stone	<p>Single example</p> <p>Located on higher ground in north part of Moreton Camp</p>	<p>Good</p> <p>Area identified as of high potential in evaluation and successfully earmarked for excavation</p> <p>Although correctly dated the preliminary interpretation was mistaken</p>
<p>Localised deposition of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age material culture</p> <p>(include disarticulated human remains)</p>	<p>Dispersed within palaeochannel margins and localised 'wet' hollows</p> <p>Associated with one particular palaeochannel, especially where it crossed north part of Wellington 1986-96 area and North Extension</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Some areas located at evaluation and identified as of high potential</p> <p>Character was not understood at evaluation and additional areas were revealed at mitigation</p> <p>Widely dispersed character means that some are liable to be encountered at evaluation but the restricted extent of areas makes commonly applied sample levels unreliable</p>
<p>Late Iron Age double inhumation</p> <p>Isolated skulls (x 2) within palaeochannels</p>	<p>Single example of inhumation. 2 isolated skulls</p> <p>Within channel margin and fill environments in 1986-96 area and southern extension</p>	<p>Not determined</p> <p>Inhumation and 1 skull detected at mitigation in an area not subject to prior evaluation. Other skulls detected at mitigation in area subject to prior evaluation</p> <p>The restricted extent of the inhumation and isolated presence of the skulls mean that commonly applied sample levels are likely to be unreliable</p>

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
<p>Field systems</p> <p>Not readily dateable</p> <p>Some ?Roman</p>	<p>Widely dispersed</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Some elements detected in evaluation</p> <p>Due to widely dispersed and linear character evaluation trenching is liable to identify many but not all elements</p>
<p>Probable Iron Age settlement enclosure</p>	<p>Single example (pre-dating and underlying Roman settlement)</p> <p>On higher ground within 1986-96 core</p>	<p>Good</p> <p>Detected in Test pits and low % sample evaluation trenching supporting geophysical survey</p> <p>Areas affected are likely to be extensive and feature concentrated activity thus making these liable to detection through trenching</p>

Romano-British

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
<p>Settlement focus comprising a substantial stone building associated with several ditched enclosures and widespread activity (pits, corndrier, etc)</p>	<p>Single extensive area of settlement and associated activity</p> <p>Settlement focussed on higher ground within 1986-96 area but associated activity extends to encompass lower lying surrounding areas</p>	<p>Good</p> <p>Initial detection through single visit during topsoil stripping at outset.</p> <p>Very limited evaluation (based on 2x2m Test pits, geophysics and augering) broadly established a settlement 'core' although subsequent mitigation revealed the extent of activity to be wider than indicated.</p> <p>Recent trenching within this area has consistently encountered deposits</p> <p>Areas affected are likely to be extensive and feature concentrated activity thus making these liable to detection through trenching</p>
<p>Field systems</p> <p>Not readily dateable</p> <p>Some ?Iron Age in origin; others may be early medieval</p>	<p>Widely dispersed</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Some elements detected in evaluation</p> <p>Due to widely dispersed, linear character evaluation trenching is liable to identify many but not all elements</p>

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Road or trackway comprising metalled surface with flanking ditches	<p>Single example</p> <p>Located on western limits of 1986-96 permitted area</p>	<p>Not determined</p> <p>Detected at mitigation in an area not subject to prior evaluation</p> <p>Assessed as an extensive linear feature liable to be detected even through low sample level</p>

Early medieval

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Watermills and associated channel management features (including possible fish traps)	<p>Two locations</p> <p>Both present in southern extension along (managed) line of lesser palaeochannel</p>	<p>Poor</p> <p>Both identified at mitigation</p> <p>One was provisionally identified during evaluation but was neither accurately dated or fully understood</p> <p>The restricted extent of the features and activity associated mean that commonly applied sample levels are likely to be unreliable</p>

Medieval

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Ovens	<p>Single group</p> <p>On higher ground towards north limit of 1986-96 area</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Area not subject to evaluation</p> <p>The restricted extent of the features and activity associated mean that commonly applied sample levels are likely to be unreliable</p>
Ridge and furrow	<p>Widely dispersed</p> <p>Ridge and furrow is present only on areas of moderate to higher ground but has been recorded within and sealed by alluvium</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Some elements detected in evaluation</p> <p>Due to widely dispersed and linear character evaluation trenching is liable to identify some elements</p>

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Field systems Not readily dateable Some may be early medieval or post-medieval	Widely dispersed Field boundaries have been have been recorded across much of the quarried area – some may survive as slight visible elements of the modern landscape	Moderate - good Elements detected in evaluation Due to widely dispersed and linear character evaluation trenching is liable to identify some elements Visible elements can be identified and recorded through surface survey

Post-medieval

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Water management features Not readily dateable	Widely dispersed within low lying areas Aerial photography and fieldwalkover has noted probably water meadow related earthworks across the original south extension and within the newly proposed southern extension indicating that much survives as a visible element within the landscape	Moderate - good Some elements detected in evaluation Due to widely dispersed and linear character evaluation trenching is liable to identify some elements Visible elements can be identified and recorded through surface survey
Field boundaries Not readily dateable Some may be medieval or modern	Widely dispersed Field boundaries have been have been recorded across much of the quarried area – many survive as visible elements of the modern landscape	Moderate - good Some elements detected in evaluation Due to widely dispersed and linear character evaluation trenching is liable to identify some elements Visible elements can be identified and recorded through surface survey
Sheep wash	Single instance	N/A Area not subject to evaluation The restricted extent of the feature means that commonly applied sample levels are likely to be unreliable

Alluvium and palaeochannels

Character	Distribution/location	Detection
Palaeochannels	Two main channels identified (A and B). Cross lowest areas of modern landscape	Good Both identified at evaluation. Main channel present at more than one location and relatively accurately plotted Due to multiple incisions and width of palaeochannels, understanding of the potential complexity of channel deposits is unlikely to be achieved within a 30-50m trench
Palaeochannel fragments	Widespread Focussed on ground to north and west of 1986-96 quarry but widely present including away from lowest parts of modern valley floor, though not present on high ground at north extent of Moreton Camp	Moderate Some identified at evaluation but not all – extents, understanding and dating poorly established
Alluvium	Almost universal except on highest areas of ongoing Moreton Camp extension	Good Understanding gained at evaluation has been comparable in many ways to that achieved through mitigation and in one case provided information otherwise not recorded

4. Evaluation 2007/8

4.1 Methods

Following from the recommendations of the desk-based study, preliminary discussions with Herefordshire Archaeology indicated that a trial trench excavation sample of between 4-5% would normally be required for an application of this type to provide the additional information needed to inform the development of any appropriate mitigation strategies. However, following discussions between Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service and Julian Cotton (Planning Advisor) and Ian Bapty (Project Officer: Lower Lugg Valley Archaeology and Aggregates Project) from Herefordshire Council, an approach was agreed which integrated new techniques developed through ALSF funding in the Trent Valley (Brown *et al* 2005, 2007). These were designed specifically for evaluating deeply alluviated river valley environments such as that at Wellington and were felt to be suited to the circumstances of this particular site. This was especially felt to be the case for this site given the considerable level of prior understanding of the character and disposition of deposits across the valley floor and therefore the ability to produce predictive models for the likely survival of archaeological deposits within the proposed extension.

The approach adopted uses airborne (LiDAR), ground-based remote sensing techniques (ERGI) and gouge coring in combination with data from geoarchaeological and geotechnical surveys to build up a geomorphological model for the survey area. This data is drawn

together within a GIS (Geographical Information System) and combined with baseline mapping of known archaeological evidence for the area collated from previous archaeological surveys (as presented within the desk-based assessment (Figs 2 and 4). Additional evidence of archaeological earthwork features and potential buried remains may also be identified during the remote sensing works (especially the LiDAR survey) and this can also be mapped within the GIS at this stage. The resultant information supports the design of a programme of targeted geophysical survey to focus on the higher areas of the site (as revealed by the LiDAR mapping) where these techniques are most likely to be effective and where significant areas of cultural remains are most likely to be encountered.

The information and models produced as a result of completion of these stages can then be used to support the design of variable levels of evaluative machine trenching, which can be appropriately targeted and designed to test different parts of the floodplain and terrace depending on the type of archaeological, geomorphological and palaeoenvironmental deposits anticipated. Overall, considerably lower overall machine trenching sample percentages can be used which, not only reduce the impact and resourcing required but also, importantly provide a more focused and targeted approach to testing the potential archaeological resource. This, in turn, supports the development of better-informed and more appropriately targeted mitigation strategies than traditional approaches may support.

4.2 **Geoarchaeological assessment**

The geoarchaeological assessment was undertaken by a specialist team from the VISTA Centre at the University of Birmingham (Carey and Howard 2008). This comprised of topographic modelling using 1m LiDAR data (Fig 5), to establish a general geomorphological map of the study area. Based on topography a relative chronological model was constructed. Existing borehole records were used to map the sub-surface stratigraphy, although in reality only a depth to gravels could be established.

Detailed mapping of the sub-surface alluvial stratigraphy and palaeoenvironmental potential was undertaken using a series of Electrical Resistivity Ground Imaging (ERGI) and gouge core transects (Fig 6). A series of palaeochannel and terrace deposits were assessed. From this, maps of geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential over the study area were produced (Fig 7). Three former channels (Palaeochannels 1, 2 and 3) running roughly north/south were identified, with a fourth (Palaeochannel 4) representing a meander loop identified in the south-east corner of the survey area. Two gravel terrace units were also identified comprising a younger, lower terrace (H1) and an upper, older terrace (H2), both of which were masked by alluvium and do not appear on current BGS terrace unit mapping. Based on the apparent relationship of the terrace units to the palaeochannels, Palaeochannel 3 is understood to be the earliest, with Palaeochannels 2 and 1 following, and Palaeochannel 4 being the youngest.

The alluvial stratigraphy indicated that the application of the shallow prospection techniques, such as gradiometer survey, would be effective at defining cultural archaeology on the areas of higher terrace (H2) within the study area.

4.3 **GIS and enhancement of baseline data**

Geoarchaeological data was manipulated within a GIS at the VISTA Centre whilst in parallel a GIS was used at WHEAS to compile base mapping, historic mapping, archaeological data from excavation, aerial photography and other sources. Features visible on the LiDAR data were mapped at this stage within the GIS providing an additional layer of archaeological information to that provided by cropmark mapping and previous investigation in the area (Figs 8-11).

The resultant mapping was shared across the team and formed the basis for discussion and interpretation leading to the design of a programme of further prospection and evaluative

trenching within a survey area which was reduced at this stage with the omission of two fields to the south from the proposed extension application.

4.4 **Geoarchaeological prospection**

Two gradiometer surveys were undertaken, which both provided good results, although further work is required to evaluate the gradiometer results against excavated data to ground truth several anomalies.

Secondly, ground penetrating radar (GPR) was tested on the study area to assess its applicability within this environment. The results from the upper terrace (H2) were extremely promising and suggest this technique should be used on future evaluations within the Lugg valley.

4.5 **Trenching design**

Trenching consisted of forty-three trenches across the site, located to investigate different topographical zones identified through the geomorphological mapping described above (Figs 12 and 13).

Firstly the sequence of three palaeochannels (1, 2, 3), running roughly north/south, were investigated through long trenches which traversed the channels and extended onto adjacent terrace areas. These provided a sample of approximately 1% of these areas, which were felt to have a high palaeoenvironmental potential but a low potential for the identification of significant archaeological deposits through sample trenching. The trench design aimed to provide cross-sections of the valley floor to enable environmental sampling of organic channel fills and investigation of the relationships between the channels, the alluvial units and the terraces.

Secondly the two gravel terraces were investigated with a 2% trenching sample applied to the lower lying terrace unit (H1), which was anticipated to have a lower potential than the upper terrace (H2) for which a 3% sample was applied.

4.6 **Summary of trenching results (see Appendix 1: Descriptions by trench)**

4.6.1 **Alluvial sequence**

The sequence of alluvial deposits across the Lugg Valley has been well documented, and within the evaluation area this sequence was identified both during the ERGI and gouge coring survey and confirmed and refined through subsequent trenching.

In summary, the underlying natural gravels were overlain by mixed red alluvial silty clay with a high concentration of gravels (Unit 3). These in turn were overlain by a substantial yellow silty clay deposit (Unit 2). This sequence was noted across the entire site. In certain locations a thin band of dark humic material (Unit 5) was noted within the Unit 2 deposit; this represents a period of stasis across the river valley. The yellow alluvial deposit (Unit 2) is understood to have been deposited over a long period of time, probably from the Mesolithic through to the later prehistoric period. Although often appearing to be a uniform deposit, this almost certainly results from several periods of rapid accumulation, interspersed with long periods of relative stasis as indicated by the Unit 5 horizon. The majority of archaeological deposits observed within previously investigated areas have been identified either sealed within the Unit 2 alluvial horizon or more frequently cut into the top of it. Lastly, sealing Unit 2 is a red alluvial deposit (Unit 1), which is understood to be of predominantly post-Roman date. This was well defined within the western part of the site, the lower lying land (Terrace H1), and is inferred to be largely absent to the east due to reworking by ploughing across the higher ground of the upper terrace (H2).

4.6.2 Prehistoric

For the early prehistoric period, a widely distributed scatter of pits, postholes, ditches and isolated cultural material provided evidence of Early Neolithic, Middle Neolithic and Beaker period activity (in Trenches 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27 and 31). These deposits provide further evidence, to that already recorded at Wellington Quarry, for the widespread occupation of this floodplain environment, probably on regular and seasonal basis to exploit the rich wetland resources available.

Identified deposits were dispersed exclusively upon the upper gravel terrace (H2), with distribution particularly noted towards the edge of the terrace close to Channels 2 and 3. The apparent bias to areas adjacent to palaeochannels may, however, be a false impression created by variable survival of deposits across this terrace; since plough truncation appears to have affected this part of the site with the highest parts particularly affected and the lower areas, where it dips towards the channels, being less severely affected. Here, as noted earlier the upper alluvial unit (Unit 1) appears to have been reworked to form the ploughsoil, which across this upper terrace (H2) directly overlies the yellow alluvial unit (Unit 2) and archaeological features.

The deposits concerned included a single large pit, dated to the Early Neolithic (in Trench 27; Fig 14). This lay on the western side of the terrace (H2) and close to one of the palaeochannels (Palaeochannel 2). Considerable quantities of Early Neolithic plain bowl pottery were recovered along with flint tools, fire cracked stone and polished axe fragments from more than tool (both polished stone and polished flint tools were represented). Further activity in this vicinity included Early Neolithic and Beaker pottery recovered from isolated pits, a substantial posthole by the palaeochannel (in Trench 27), and a well defined circular pit containing a large quantity of burnt sandstone slabs (in Trench 21; Fig 15).

Of later date, and lying towards the eastern side of the terrace, adjacent to Palaeochannel 3 (in Trench 14) was a concentration of 21 cremation deposits within small pits and probably of Middle Bronze Age date (Fig 16). One of these was associated with an undecorated urn the top of which had clearly been removed by the plough, supporting the suggestion that plough truncation has affected all deposits within the area occupied by the upper terrace (Fig 17). The remainder of the deposits were not associated with urns but clearly included cremated material indicating that they represent a series of discrete depositions, each potentially associated with the cremation of a separate individual.

Another feature of note was noted towards the centre of the terrace (in Trench 15; Fig 18). This consisted of a single bank and ditch, and was stratigraphically sealed by the Unit 2 layer, into which all other archaeological features had been cut. Within current models of understanding of the alluvial sequence, this stratigraphic location is hard to explain and suggests that this linear feature may be of at least Mesolithic or very Early Neolithic date (a sample of charcoal will be submitted from this feature for radiocarbon dating to help resolve this issue).

4.6.3 Roman

Although there were no features that could be directly attributed to the Roman period, a small number of ditches located to the west of the evaluation site, (Terrace H2; Trenches 27, 38 and 43), could tentatively be given a Roman date purely on stratigraphical grounds. These provide further evidence for the extensive exploitation for agricultural purposes of this valley floor landscape.

4.6.4 Post-Roman ditches

Across the entire site, including the plough-truncated area of the upper terrace (H2), a series of red filled ditches were recorded (Trenches 1-10, 14, 17, 19-21, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34, 36-38, 41 and 43; Fig 19). These fills are almost identical in composition to the red alluvial unit

(Unit 1) and indicate that the ditches are likely to date from the post-Roman period when the red alluvial unit is believed to have begun to be deposited.

The majority of these ditches were aligned east/west and are likely to relate to a water meadow system, which has also been widely identified on the previous aerial photographic survey as well as through mapping of features identifiable on the LiDAR survey. Some of these ditches can still be seen as extant earthworks in the two fields on the western side of the site.

Other red filled ditches may have been either drainage ditches or leats supplying some of the medieval mills known to have been located in the vicinity, although those located to date lie upstream of this area.

4.6.5 **Palaeochannels**

Evidence for at least three palaeochannels was noted during the course of the evaluation. The largest of these channels (3) ran north/south along the eastern edge of the site. This channel was at least 50m wide, and consisted of possibly two early shallow channel cuts (3a, 3c). These two channels were cut later by further re-incisions (3b, 3d). Overlying these later channels was a further deposit of gravel (3e), indicating a high action deposit forming gravel bars. The majority of the deposits contained little or no organic material. The Unit 2 yellow alluvial clay deposit, indicating an early date, overlay all the channels at this location.

Channel 2, again aligned north/south, ran down the centre of the site. This channel consisted of an earlier channel (2a) that was subsequently sealed by the Unit 2 alluvium. Further re-incisions cut through this alluvial deposit and formed later channels, likely to have been contemporary with the surrounding archaeological activity. This may correlate with a palaeochannel recorded in previously quarried areas within which the later, and dated, incisions are of later prehistoric through to early medieval date (Palaeochannel B).

To the far west of the site, Palaeochannel 1 consisted of a series of three inter-cutting channels. These all appeared to be later than the other two channels, as they all truncated the yellow alluvial (Unit 2) deposits. This almost certainly can be equated with a palaeochannel recorded during evaluation of land to the immediate north for which a Roman and post-Roman period of incision was recorded (Griffin and Jackson 2003).

Palaeochannels 1 and 2 provided substantial peaty and organic rich deposits (Fig 20) and will hopefully provide good environmental evidence for an extended sequence of activity across the site contemporary with phases of human activity. Although less organically rich, the deposits associated with Palaeochannel 3 are also of considerable potential significance due to their probably early date within the overall sequence.

4.6.6 **Other organic deposition**

Across terrace H1, within the two pasture fields covering the western side of the proposed extension, a layer of organic peaty material marked the interface between the yellow (Unit 2) alluvium and the overlying red alluvium (Unit 1; Fig 21). This layer is of considerable potential importance and appears to represent a period of major and extensive flooding across the area. This has considerable potential to support dating of the initial deposition of the Unit 1 deposit and the end of deposition of Unit 2. Further, this deposit has considerable implications for the former populations utilising this landscape, since the level of flooding indicated must have heavily impacted upon their ability to use this land and also implies a considerably wider climatic impact in terms of flooding, loss of agricultural land and harvest/s.

5. Conclusions

The evaluative approach adopted at the proposed southern extension at Wellington has adopted new prospection methods and trench sampling strategies to evaluate the archaeological, palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological potential of a large area of the floodplain of the River Lugg. LiDAR data has been used to provide high-resolution topographical mapping. In conjunction with prior archaeological understanding of patterns of activity on the floodplain, historic mapping, borehole and geotechnical data, ERGI survey and gouge coring, this has been used to produce a geomorphological map of the valley floor and inform predictive modelling of the likely nature, survival and disposition of deposits across the survey area.

The geomorphological mapping indicated that four palaeochannels crossed the area under investigation and that these were related to two former terraces, a higher, older one and a lower, younger one. Predictive modelling suggested that the higher areas associated with the older, upper terrace had the highest potential to contain significant evidence for human activity, both in terms of dispersed evidence for early prehistoric activity as well as for any areas of intensive and/or extensive former occupation or other activities. In contrast, the lowest areas of the site associated with the palaeochannel incisions were felt to have only limited potential for the presence of areas of intensive and/or extensive former occupation or other activities but that they had a high potential for the survival of significant palaeoenvironmental deposits. Areas of the site associated with the younger, lower, terrace were felt to have little potential for the survival of significant palaeoenvironmental deposits or extensive areas of former activity or occupation. It was recognised that widely dispersed, small and discrete areas of significant archaeological activity might survive within any of these areas, but it was acknowledged that detection of any such remains through evaluation was largely a matter of chance.

The geomorphological mapping and predictive model were used in conjunction to produce a trenching design focussed on higher level sampling of the upper terrace, low sample levels but use of long trenches to provide transects across the lower lying palaeochannel areas and an intermediate sampling level to broadly test the character of the lower lying terrace areas. Evidence from the resulting trenching largely confirmed the models produced, although greater levels of complexity were identified and considerable refinement of understanding of the archaeological, palaeoenvironmental and geomorphological potential of the area was achieved.

A good correlation was established between areas where significant archaeological deposits survived and the upper terrace. Within the trenching sample of this area, no areas of extensive or complex archaeological remains were identified but widely dispersed, localised areas of highly significant prehistoric activity were present. These included a previously unrecorded site type within the local landscape in the form of a Bronze Age cremation cemetery. As anticipated, only a limited range of features was present across the lower terrace area. These were of probable Roman or later date and were restricted to water management, drainage and boundary features, which range from potential local importance to regional interest. No earlier prehistoric deposits were identified within the area of this lower terrace unit, however, LiDAR mapping of this lower terrace unit identified previously unmapped earthworks along the western side of the proposed extension and these clearly represent cultural features. The mapping of these has extended the known distribution of a previously identified watermeadow system and provides an accurate record of visible survival and extents within the proposed quarry extension. In some cases excavated features from the trenching correlate to the mapped watermeadow system, allowing interpretation of the excavated deposits and supporting understanding of the preservation and survival of the mapped deposits.

A good correlation also existed between the survival of moderate to well-preserved palaeoenvironmental remains and the palaeochannels and areas of potential identified through the geomorphological mapping, ERGI survey and gouge coring. The palaeochannels whilst

correlating well with the predictive model proved considerably more complex than anticipated with numerous incisions recorded, especially within Palaeochannels 2 and 3. Although awaiting further analysis and dating, it appears that the broad sequence suggested by the modelling is correct. The two later channels (1 and 2) both included organic 'peat' rich deposits and have a high potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis. Although the earliest channel (3) included less well-preserved organic 'peat' rich deposits, this is provisionally identified as of early to mid Holocene date (or earlier) and as such is also of considerable potential importance.

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Appendix 1: Descriptions by trench

Note The following descriptions use coloured texts to differentiate between the three main alluvial units present and fills associated with these parent materials as well palaeochannels and associated fills. These are intended to support rapid interpretive analysis and are as follows:

1. Unit 1 alluvial horizons and deposits associated with this general phase of deposition are characterised by reddish colouration and thus red text.
2. Unit 2 alluvial horizons and deposits associated with this general phase of deposition are characterised by yellow to brownish yellow colouration (except where anoxic conditions have resulted in gleying) and thus yellow text.
3. Unit 3 alluvial horizons and deposits associated with this general phase of deposition are characterised by strong reddish brown colouration and frequently by gravel inclusions. These are indicated with purple text.
4. Palaeochannel fills are indicated in blue text.

Trench 1

Site area: NE extension

Maximum dimensions: Length: 44.8m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.7m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Friable mid-dark brown loam.	
101	Subsoil	Friable reddish brown silty clay.	
102	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
103	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted blue/grey silty clay, increase in gravels to base. Gleyed alluvial 102.	
104	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)	Fine silty clay, of strongly red-brown hue often with abundant mixed gravel inclusions.	
105	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
106	Ditch fill	Reddish grey, moderately compact silty clay.	
107	Ditch cut	NW-SE aligned linear ditch. Filled by 105 and 106.	
108	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)	Moderately compacted reddish brown silty clay.	
109	Natural gravels	Small sub-angular gravels within a reddish grey silty clay matrix. Predominantly waterlogged.	

Trench 1, located to the northwest of the main evaluation area contained a single NW-SE aligned red alluvial filled ditch to the north of the trench. The trench was relocated from its earlier position due to the gas pipeline to the west. The edge of palaeo-channel C was possibly observed to the south of the trench, though this was not fully explored due to time and weather constraints.

Trench 2

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54.5m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.5m(not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Friable mid-dark brown loam.	
201	Subsoil	Friable reddish brown silty clay.	
202	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
203	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
204	Ditch cut	E-W linear. Filled by 203.	
205	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
206	Ditch	E-W linear. Filled by 205 and 222.	
207	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
208	Ditch	Linear. Filled by 207.	
209	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
210	Ditch	E-W linear. Filled by 209.	
211	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
212	Ditch (????not sure how real this one is, prob same as 210)	E-W linear. Filled by 211.	
213	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
214	Ditch (????not sure how real this one is, prob same as 216)	Linear. Filled by 213.	
215	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
216	Ditch	E-W linear. Filled by 215.	
217	Pit	Modern pit. Filled by 218.	
218	Pit fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
219	Pit/posthole cut	Filled by 220.	
220	Pit/posthole fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
221	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
222	Ditch fill.	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	
223	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
224	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
225	Natural		
226	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
227	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

Trench 2 contained a series of features, all of which contained reddish brown alluvial silty clays. To the southern end of the trench two east/west aligned ditches (204, 206) were observed. Also here was a small single post/stake hole (219), which contained a similar fill and maybe conjectured to be contemporary with the two ditches. To the northern end of the trench another series of east/west aligned ditches were noted, here though they appeared to be defuse and a clear interpretation was difficult. However, it was clear that there were at least two separate main east/west ditches (210, 216), with possible evidence for earlier (212, 214) and later (208) activity, though the fills of all of these features appeared to be similar and therefore possibly contemporary, yet all dating to the post-Roman or later periods. Ditches 210 and 216 extended westwards into Trench 3 (304, 310), and ditch 216 into Trench 4 (404).

Trench 3

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.5m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Friable mid-dark brown loam.	
301	Subsoil	Friable reddish brown silty clay.	
302	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
303	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
304	Ditch cut	E-W linear. Filled by 305	
305	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	
306	Ditch cut	E-W linear. Filled by 307	
307	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	
308	Ditch cut	E-W linear. Filled by 309	
309	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	
310	Ditch cut	E-W linear. Filled by 311	
311	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	
312	Ditch cut	NE-SW linear. Filled by 313	
313	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	
314	Ditch cut	NE-SW linear. Possible re-cut of 312. Filled by 315	
315	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	
316	Ditch cut	NE-SW linear. Filled by 317	
317	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks..	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
318	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
319	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
320	Natural gravels		

Trench 3 included features predominantly filled with the post-Roman reddish brown alluvial clays. To the northern half of the trench, a series of east/west aligned ditches (304, 306, 308, 310) were recorded, these appeared to be a continuation of the ditches noted in the northern extent of Trench 2 (210, 216). These ditches contained the same sequence as those in Trench 2, though somewhat clearer. Ditch 304 (same as 216) is the earliest stratigraphically. Ditch 304 also extends westwards into Trench 4 (404). Further reddish brown filled ditches were exposed to the southern end of the trench, and consisted of two small ditches running perpendicular to each other. The earlier ditch (312) ran in a WSW/ENE direction and appeared to have been re-cut (314) at a later date. This ditch was truncated by a later NNW/SSW aligned ditch/gully. This later ditch/gully was considerably smaller in size than the earlier ditch.

Trench 4

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.5m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil		
401	Subsoil		
402	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
403	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
404	Ditch cut	E-W linear. Filled by 405 and 406.	
405	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
406	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
407	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
408	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
409	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
410	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
411	Natural gravels		

Trench 4 contained only a single feature, an east/west aligned reddish brown filled ditch (404). This ditch is likely to be a continuation of one of the ditches noted in Trenches 2 and 3. It is most likely to be the same as ditch 216/304.

Trench 5

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 60m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.5m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil		
501	Subsoil		
502	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
503	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
504	Natural gravels		
505	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
506	Ditch cut	N-S linear. Filled by 505.	
507	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
508	Ditch cut	N-S linear. Filled by 507.	
509	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
510	Ditch cut	N-S linear. Filled by 509.	
511	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
512	Palaeo-channel (3a) fill	Firm/compact grey/blue gley clay. Fill of channel 513. Same as 613, 1515.	
513	Palaeo-channel (3a) cut	Wide, shallow north/south aligned cut. Filled by 512. Same as 614, 1523. Part of channel 3a.	
514	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
515	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
516	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

Two large, north/south aligned, red filled ditches (506/8, 510) located at the eastern end of the trench were cut into the yellow alluvial deposit (502), which in turn sealed the earlier deposits within palaeo-channel 3 (513). Here the palaeo-channel showed no signs of any later re-incision though only the

western side of the channel was exposed. It is likely that the exposed part of the channel represents the earliest phase of activity in Palaeo-channel 3 as the earliest deposit (512) was overlain by the thin band of dark humic soil (511/Unit 5) that appears across the majority of the site and is in turn overlain by the later yellow alluvial deposits (Unit 2). The channel (513) clearly truncates the mixed red alluvial and gravel deposit (503/Unit 3).

Trench 6

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.71m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil		
601	Subsoil		
602	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
603	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
604	Ditch cut	Large N-S linear. Filled by 603 and 611.	
605	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
606	Natural gravels		
607	Pit fill	Friable light grey/yellow silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular gravels.	
608	Pit cut	Circular, well defined pit. Filled by 607.	
609	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
610	Ditch cut	NW-SE linear. Filled by 609.	
611	Ditch fill	Grey/blue firm, compacted glazed clay in base of ditch 604.	
612	Layer (Unit 5)		
613	Palaeo-channel (3a) fill	Firm, compact grey/blue glazed clay. Same as 512, 1515.	
614	Palaeo-channel (3a) cut	Wide, shallow north/south aligned cut. Filled by 613. Same as 513, 1523. Part of channel 3a.	
615	Ditch cut	North/south aligned linear. Filled by 619.	
616	Ditch cut	North/south aligned linear. Filled by 603. Possibly same as 604.	
617	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
		sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
618	Ditch cut	N-S linear. Filled by 617.	
619	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks. Fill of 615.	

To the eastern end of this trench, a similar sequence is seen to that at the eastern end of Trench 5. Two large red filled ditches (604/616, 618) extend north/south; these are the ditches that continue south into Trench 5. Also there is a smaller red filled ditch/gully (615; to the west of the two larger ditches) that appears not to extend into Trench 5. These ditches are cut into the yellow alluvial deposit (Unit 3) that also overlies a continuation of Palaeo-channel 3 (614). Here too, the sequence is identical to that already noted in Trench 5. To the centre of the trench a small red filled ditch/gully (610) runs roughly NW/SE (this might be same as 316-need to check plan). To the western end of this trench was a circular pit cut (608), roughly 0.5m diameter, but only 0.08m deep, suggesting a high level of later truncation, this pit contained material (flint/pottery) provisionally dated to the Late Neolithic/Beaker period.

Trench 7

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52m Width: 2m Depth: 0.51m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil		
701	Subsoil		
702	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
703	Pit fill	Compact brown/grey clayey silt, frequent charcoal and 'fire cracked' stones.	
704	Pit cut	Circular pit. Filled by 703.	
705	Stake hole fill	Compact yellow/grey clayey slit, occasional charcoal flecks.	
706	Stake hole cut	Circular cut with vertical sides to pointed base. Filled by 705.	
707	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
708	Ditch cut	Linear ditch. Filled by 707.	
709	Ditch fill	Pinkish grey compact clayey silt.	
710	Ditch cut	Linear ditch. Filled by 709.	
711	Palaeo-channel (2) cut	NW-SE cut in south of trench. Filled by 712-718.	
712	Palaeo-channel (2) fill	Moderately compact light grey/brown silty clay, occasional gravel inclusions and lenses. Primary fill of 711. Not part of the three main channels noted across site.	
713	Palaeo-channel (2) fill	Compact light grey/blue silty clay, occasional gravel inclusions and manganese flecks.	
714	Palaeo-channel (2) fill	Abundant mixed small gravels within grey/blue silty clay.	
715	Palaeo-channel (2) fill	Compact mid yellow silty clay, occasional manganese and small gravels.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
716	Palaeo-channel (2) fill	Compact light bluish grey silty clay, some organics.	
717	Palaeo-channel (2) fill	Loose mid-dark brown silty clay, some organics.	
718	Palaeo-channel (2) fill	Mixed organic material and topsoil?	
719	Ditch cut	Linear ditch. Filled by 720. Cut into the upper fills of palaeo-channel 2.	
720	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
721	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
722	Natural gravels		
723	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

Trench 7 was moved from its original location to keep the level of damage to the newly seeded barley crop to a minimum. The trench was located to the southwest of the field in the set-aside area. A small section of probable palaeo-channel was revealed in the southwest corner of the trench. The steep-sided channel (711) cut across the trench on SE/NW alignment and was filled with a mixture of organic material and gley clays. This channel appears only very faintly on the LiDAR survey and may be part of the northern extent of Palaeo-channel 2. Cut into the upper fills of this channel was an east/west aligned red filled ditch (719; same as 803,1105). Although not visible in the present field surface, this ditch aligned directly with an extant watermeadow ditch, still visible in the pasture field to the west. To the centre of the trench another two east/west red filled ditches were also visible (708, 710); these also appear to be continuations of extant watermeadow ditches in the field to the west and extending eastwards. In the centre of the trench were two features of probable early prehistoric date. A circular pit, 1.30m in diameter and 0.09m deep, contained charcoal, quartz fragments and a flint flake. Directly to the north of this pit was a small post/stakehole, 0.10m in diameter. Although this stakehole did not contain any datable material the similarity of fill and the proximity to the nearby pit would indicate a contemporary date.

Trench 8

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 23.2m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.48m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil		
801	Subsoil		
802	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
803	Ditch cut	Filled by 804 and 805.	
804	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
805	Ditch fill	Mid grey/brown friable clayey silt, frequent manganese.	
806	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
807	Natural gravels		

Trench 8 only contained a single east/west aligned red filled ditch (803). This ditch appears to be similar to the other ditches noted in the north-west field. This ditch continues into Trench 7 and 10 (same as 1105, 719) and then continues as part of the extant watermeadow ditches in the NE field.

Trench 9

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil		
901	Subsoil		
902	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
903	Pit fill	Friable light brown clayey silt.	
904	Pit cut	Oval pit, filled by 903.	
905	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
906	Ditch cut	Modern ditch/gully	

A single red filled ditch/gully and a small posthole (?) were the only features noted in this trench. The small red filled ditch/gully (906) was orientated in a roughly north/south direction, though did appear to have a slight curve to the southwest. The other feature consisted of a possible heavily truncated pit (904). This feature, roughly 0.40m in diameter contained few small charcoal flecks, However the edges were defuse and this feature may have been caused as a result of either animal or tree root activity.

Trench 10

Site area: NE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 35.75m Width: 2m Depth: 0.5m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil		
1001	Subsoil		
1002	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
1003	Ditch cut	Linear ditch cut. Filled by 1004 and 1005.	
1004	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
1005	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
1006	Ditch cut	Curvi-linear ditch cut. Filled by 1007	
1007	Ditch fill	Light reddish grey compact silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
1008	Stake hole cut	Circular cut with vertical sides to pointed base. Filled by 1008.	
1009	Stake hole fill	Compact dark brown clayey slit, occasional charcoal flecks.	
1010	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1011	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1012	Natural gravels		

A single red-filled ditch ran east/west across the northern extent of the trench; this ditch (1003) appeared to be a continuation of the ditch that appeared in Trenches 7 and 8 (719, 803). However, at this point the ditch is considerably deeper, 0.60m. To the centre of the trench there is another red-filled ditch (1006), though this is orientated SW/NE. A single isolated circular feature in the centre of the trench (1008), 0.24m in diameter, represents a stakehole. There was no dating material recovered from this feature, however, the lack of any of the post-Roman red alluvial clays suggests that it pre-dates this period.

Trench 11

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 21.3m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.55m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil		
1101	Subsoil		
1102	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
1103	Pit cut	Oval pit, elongated (east/west), vertical sides to ‘U’ shaped base. Defuse edges.	
1104	Pit fill	Compact grey/yellow silty clay, frequent charcoal fragments. Fill of 1103.	
1105	Posthole cut	Circular pit cut, sheep sides with ‘V’ shaped profile. Clear edges.	
1106	Posthole fill	Compact grey/yellow silty clay, frequent charcoal fragments and occasional small gravels. Fill of 1105.	
1107	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1108	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1109	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1100	Natural gravels		

Only two small possible pits/ postholes (1103, 1105) were recorded in this trench, neither of which contained any datable material.

Trench 12

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.66m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil		
1201	Subsoil		
1202	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	
1203	Pit cut	Irregular, oval pit, extended NW/SE. Truncated by 1205. Filled by 1204.	
1204	Pit fill	Moderately compact mixed yellow/brown silty clay, occasional small pebbles, charcoal and manganese flecks.	
1205	Posthole cut	Circular in plan, with vertical sides and ‘U’ shaped base. Filled by 1206.	
1206	Posthole fill	Mid yellow/brown silty clay, frequent manganese flecks and occasional charcoal.	
1207	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan, with vertical sides and ‘U’ shaped base. Filled by 1208.	
1208	Stake hole fill	Mid yellow/brown silty clay, frequent manganese flecks and occasional charcoal.	
1209	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan, with vertical sides and ‘U’ shaped base. Filled by 1210.	
1210	Stake hole fill	Mid yellow/brown silty clay, frequent manganese flecks and occasional charcoal.	
1211	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1212	Natural gravels		

Pit cut 1203 and associated features 125, 1207, 1209 appear to be quite a complicated series of postholes and stakeholes, however, the irregular nature and diffuse edges, allied with the lack of artefacts, may indicate natural activity such as a treethrow, the ‘stakeholes’ (1207, 1209) being tree root channels. The relationship between the fill of pit 1203 and the three other features does not seem to have been fully clarified, and they may, in fact be contemporary. Lack of any archaeology in the vicinity may also suggest natural disturbance. However there is still the possibility that this small group of features may be part of further activity beyond the extent of the trench.

Trench 13

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.6m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.68m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Topsoil		0-0.27m
1301	Subsoil		0.27m-0.32m
1302	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm, compacted brownish yellow silty clay.	0.32-0.96m
1303	Layer (Unit 5)		0.96-0.98m
1304	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		0.98-1.23m
1305	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		1.23-1.49m
1306	Natural gravels		1.49m+

No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

Trench 14

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.47m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Topsoil		
1401	Subsoil		
1402	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1403	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1404,1405	
1404	Cremation deposit		
1405	Cremation pit backfill		
1406	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1411, 1412	
1407	Cremation pit cut	Contains urn 1408.	
1408	Cremation urn		
1409	Cremation deposit		
1410	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1409.	
1411	Cremation deposit		
1412	Cremation pit backfill		
1413	Cremation deposit		
1414	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1413.	
1415	Cremation deposit		
1416	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1415.	
1417	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1419.	
1418	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1420, 1421.	
1419	Cremation deposit		
1420	Cremation deposit		

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1421	Cremation pit backfill		
1422	Cremation pit backfill		
1423	Void		
1424	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1425.	
1425	Cremation deposit		
1426	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1427.	
1427	Cremation deposit		
1428	Cremation deposit		
1429	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1422, 1428.	
1430	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1431.	
1431	Cremation deposit		
1432	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1433.	
1433	Cremation deposit		
1434	Cremation deposit		
1435	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1434.	
1436	Cremation deposit		
1437	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1436.	
1438	Cremation deposit		
1439	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1438.	
1440	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1441.	
1441	Cremation deposit		
1442	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1443.	
1443	Cremation deposit		
1444	Cremation deposit	Same as 1446.	
1445	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1444/1446. Same as 1447.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1446	Cremation deposit	Same as 1444.	
1447	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1444/1446. Same as 1445.	
1448-1451	Void		
1452	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1453.	
1453	Cremation deposit		
1454	Cremation pit cut	Filled by 1455, 1456.	
1455	Cremation deposit		
1456	Cremation pit backfill		
1457	Posthole cut	Oval cut, extends east/west, steep sides with sharp break of slope to concave base. Filled by 1458.	
1458	Posthole fill	Moderately compact yellow silty clay, occasional manganese and charcoal flecks.	
1459	Posthole fill	Moderately compact yellow silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional manganese.	
1460	Ditch cut	E/W aligned, truncated to south by 1466, steep sides to level flat base. Filled by 1461, 1463.	
1461	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
1462	Post hole cut	Heavily truncated circular pit, very shallow with flat base. Filled by 1459.	
1463	Ditch fill	Moderately compact, reddish brown silty clay, occasional manganese flecks.	
1464	Ditch cut	E/W aligned, truncated to north by 1468, moderate sides to irregular stepped base. Filled by 1465.	
1465	Ditch fill	Moderately compact light reddish brown silty clay, occasional manganese flecks.	
1466	Ditch cut	E/W ditch, truncated to the south by 1468, steep sides to concave base. Filled by 1467.	
1467	Ditch fill	Compact reddish brown silty clay.	
1468	Ditch cut	E/W aligned ditch, truncates 1460, 1464, 1466. Steep/vertical sides to sloping base to north. Filled by	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
		1469.	
1469	Ditch fill	Moderately compact light reddish brown silty clay, frequent manganese flecks.	

This trench contained a considerable quantity of archaeological deposits. To the centre of the trench, was a small cremation cemetery consisting of 20 circular pits, roughly 0.50m in diameter and 0.20m deep. All the pits contained cremation deposit material, charcoal and burnt bone fragments. In a number of the pits it was possible to distinguish an interface between separate fills indicating, the former presence of bags into which the cremation deposits had been collected prior to burial. A number of pits were intercutting, indicating a continuation of usage as apposed to a single use cemetery. Included in the cemetery was a single pit (1407) which contained a cremation urn (1408), which in turn contained a large quantity of burnt bone. The cremation urn is of probable Middle Bronze Age date and had been truncated by ploughing leaving only the lower base half of the vessel. This cremation cemetery was located on the eastern edge of the slightly higher gravel terrace (H1), just to the west of Palaeo-channel 3. In addition to the concentration of pits, two single postholes/small pits were also observed (1457, 1462), both heavily truncated. Located away from the main cremation group, and undated, it is unclear whether these two features were further cremation related deposits or were associated with a separate period of activity.

A series of intercutting red alluvial filled ditches (1460, 1464, 1466, 1468) crossed the trench, aligned east/west and lying close to the group of cremation burials. Although only a small area of these ditches was exposed it remains a possibility that these later ditches may have truncated some of the earlier cremation burials. These ditches, when excavated consisted of up to four separate ditches, though as the fills were very similar to each other identification of the separate ditches was difficult, leaving the possibility that there may have been more than four separate ditches or a series of re-cuts. However it is clear that these ditches represent post-Roman activity due to the nature of the on-filled deposits, and are most likely to be eastern continuations of the extant water meadow ditches that are still visible as earthworks in the pasture fields directly to the west.

Trench 15

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 136.6m Width: 1.81m Depth: 2.4m (max)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1500	Topsoil		
1501	Subsoil		
1502	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1503	Ditch fill	Friable light brown/yellow silty clay, frequent charcoal, occasional small sub-angular gravels. Very similar to overlying alluvial deposit 1502.	
1504	Ditch fill	Firm compact reddish brown silty clay, frequent gravel inclusions.	
1505	Buried land surface (?)	Firm reddish yellow silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels.	
1506	Bank	Loose sub-angular gravels within a reddish brown silty clay matrix, occasional manganese stains. Re-deposited natural gravels.	
1507	Ditch cut	North/south aligned linear cut, steep sides to gentle concave base. Filled by 1503, 1504. Does not extend into the two smaller trial trenches to the north and south of the main trench.	
1508	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)	Same as 1514.	
1509	Pit fill	Friable mid yellow silty clay with orange mottles, frequent charcoal flecks.	
1510	Pit cut	Irregular in plan, steep concave side to north, steep, stepped side to south, regular flat base. Filled by 1509.	
1511	Pit/posthole fill	Friable mid yellow silty clay with orange mottles, frequent charcoal flecks.	
1512	Pit/posthole cut	Circular in plan, vertical sides to regular concave base. Filled by 1511.	
1513	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material. Overlies channels 3a, 3b, truncated by channel 3d and overlain by gravel bar (3e). Same as 1525, 1528.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1514	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)	Same as 1508.	
1515	Palaeo-channel (3a) fill	Firm, cohesive mid red/blue silty clay. Fill of 1523.	
1516	Gravel bar (3e)	Large sub-rounded gravels within red sandy matrix. Bank associated with final channel activity prior to the deposition of the yellow alluvial (Unit 2).	
1517	Palaeo-channel (3c) fill	Firm, cohesive yellow/ silty clay, contains gravel bands, towards the eastern edge becomes laminated and higher concentration of gravels. Fill of 1522.	
1518	Palaeo-channel (3b) fill	Thin lens of small sub-rounded gravels. Fill of 1522.	
1519	Palaeo-channel (3c) fill	Firm bright blue silty clay, occasional organic material. Fill of 1531, same as 1524.	
1520	Palaeo-channel (3b) fill	Firm dark grey organic rich alluvial clay. Fill of 1531.	
1521	Palaeo-channel (3b) fill	Compact blue/grey clay. Fill of 1531.	
1522	Palaeo-channel (3d) cut	North/south aligned channel cut, irregular concave sides, and gentle concave base. Filled by 1517, 1518. Truncates channel 1531 (3b) and humic layer 1513, overlain by gravel bank 1516 (3e).	
1523	Palaeo-channel (3a) cut	Wide shallow cut, truncated in centre by 1531 (3d). Same as 2027.	
1524	Palaeo-channel (3b) fill	Firm bright blue silty clay, occasional organic material. Fill of 1531, same as 1519.	
1525	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material. Overlies channel 3c and overlain by gravel bar (3e). Same as 1513, 1528.	
1526	Palaeo-channel (3c) cut	North/south aligned channel cut, wide and shallow, not fully exposed at eastern end. Filled by 1529, overlain by humic layer (Unit 5) and gravel bank (3e).	
1527	Stained alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Area of dense natural post-depositional blue/grey sandy silt mottling within yellow alluvial deposit.	
1528	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material. Overlies channel 3c and overlain by gravel bar (3e). Same as 1513, 1525.	
1529	Palaeo-channel (3c) fill	Firm, cohesive mid red silty clay. Fill of 1526.	
1530	Gravel bar (3e)	Large sub-rounded gravels within red sandy matrix. Bank associated with final channel activity prior to the	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
		deposition of the yellow alluvial (Unit 2).	
1531	Palaeo-channel (3b) fill	North/south aligned cut, moderate, irregular concave sides, regular concave base. Truncates 1523 (channel 3a), and truncated by 1522 (channel 3d). Filled by 1519, 1520, 1521, 1524.	

To the western end of the trench the yellow alluvial clay deposit (Unit 2) was seen to extend throughout, however, on further investigation a feature was noted that was located below this extensive deposit. A shallow, though well-defined, north/south aligned ditch (1507) with associated up-cast/bank (1506) to the east was clearly visible. The fills of the ditch, though similar in nature to the overlying alluvial deposit, contained considerable amounts of charcoal. The associated bank was also clearly defined. Two small extra trenches were opened directly to the north and the south of this feature (see Fig 12) to try to establish whether this feature extended, it appeared not to. However, it was not established whether the ditch changed direction or terminated prior to the two extra trenches. The stratigraphic location of this feature makes this of considerable potential interest. The yellow alluvial deposit (1502) that overlies both the ditch and bank is part of the extensive Unit 2 deposit that covers much of the Lugg floodplain at this location. This deposit is usually understood to pre-date Early Neolithic activity (as indicated during this evaluation by the presence of features of Early Neolithic date that are clearly cut into the top of the alluvial deposit). In Trench 15, there is no apparent difference in the nature and composition of this deposit and no reason to suppose that it was laid down at a later date. If this ditch/bank is sealed securely below this alluvial horizon then it can only be assumed to be of very Early Neolithic date at the latest and potentially of Mesolithic date. This needs further resolution and much will rest upon the securing of a radiocarbon date from the charcoal. However, if the date is as early as the stratigraphic relationships suggest, the feature is of great importance, and if the date is later, revision of the current model of understanding for deposition of some of the alluvial Unit 2 will be required.

Clearly cut into the upper level of the yellow alluvial layer were two features towards the eastern end of the trench. Interpreted as either postholes or pits these two features were undated, but the lack of any red alluvial deposit, an indication of post-Roman activity, would suggest a pre-historic date.

Sealed below the yellow alluvial layer, again, towards the eastern extent of the trench, evidence for a series of early palaeo-channel was revealed. The full width of the channel was fully not investigated as the channel extended into the field to the east and thus beyond the current evaluation area. However, evidence for a least five episodes of activity could clearly been seen in the exposed section. The earliest channels visible were 1523 (3a), to the west and 1526 (3c), to the east. Although there is no relationship between either of these two channels, it was clear that they represented the earliest activity. To the west, Palaeochannel 3a was truncated by a later re-incision, channel 1531 (3b). These three early channels are all sealed by the thin band of dark humic material 1513/1528 (Unit 5), representing a period of stasis, when vegetation cover was re-established across the Lugg valley. This humic band (Unit 5) has been widely noted but patchily present across much of the valley floor, however, dating and whether it represents a single stasis event or a series of discrete areas of separately dated periods of stasis remains uncertain. The dark humic appears to dip into a later channel 1522 (3d), suggesting that this channel was open during the time in which the Unit 5 layer formed. This later channel clearly truncates earlier Palaeochannels 3a and 3b. Overlying this layer there are two substantial gravel-rich deposits 1516, 1530 (3e). These deposits consist primarily of re-deposited natural gravels, and appear to have been laid down during a substantial flooding episode or high energy channel incision. Although no channel can be seen that relates to this flooding, these gravel bars may represent a flooding episode that directly relates to the extensive deposition of the yellow alluvial deposit (Unit 2) that overlies all of the palaeo-channels and the gravels bars.

The palaeo-channel (3) sequence was best defined and understood from this trench, mainly due to the fact that this trench extended across a wider section, as apposed to the other trenches investigating this channel.

Trench 16

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 62m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.55m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1600	Topsoil		
1601	Subsoil		
1602	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1603	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
1604	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1605	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1606	Natural gravels		

No archaeological features were noted in this trench. The trench was extended to the west to try to establish if the early ditch noted in Trench 15 (1507) extended this far south, no sign of this ditch was observed.

Trench 17

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49.5m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.65m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W/N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1700	Topsoil		
1701	Subsoil		
1702	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1703	Palaeo-channel (3f) fill	Reddish yellow clayey silt, occasional small sub-rounded gravels. Fill of 1705.	
1704	Palaeo-channel (3f) fill	Reddish brown clayey silt, frequent small sub-rounded gravels. Fill of 1705.	
1705	Palaeo-channel (3f) cut	North/south aligned channel cut. Part of palaeo-channel 3.	
1706	Palaeo-channel (3g) fill	Reddish brown clayey silt, occasional small sub-rounded gravels. Fill of 1708.	
1707	Palaeo-channel (3g) fill	Reddish brown clayey silt, frequent small sub-rounded gravels. Fill of 1708.	
1708	Palaeo-channel (3g) cut	North/south aligned later channel re-incision. Part of palaeo-channel 3.	
1709	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)	Same as 1717/1718.	
1710	Natural gravels		
1711	Ditch cut	East/west aligned linear cut, steep, concave sides, gentle concave base, same as 2106. Filled by 1712.	
1712	Ditch fill	Friable reddish brown silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
1713	Pit cut	Partly exposed circular (?) cut, steep sides, flat base. Filled by 1714.	
1714	Pit fill	Friable yellow/grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
1715	Palaeo-channel (3f(?) fill	Yellow/grey silty clay, frequent small sub-rounded gravels. Only partly exposed in alluvial profile.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1716	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
1717	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1718	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

A small section of one of the east/west aligned post-Roman red alluvial filled ditches was seen to the far south of the north/south part of this trench. This ditch extends across site and was also recorded in Trench 21 (2106). A single, partly exposed pit was recorded to the west of the trench, most likely to be circular. A few flint artefacts were recovered from the single fill, indicating a prehistoric date. This pit was cut into the top of the yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), which in turn sealed the fills of the underlying palaeo-channel (3), indicating an early date for these series of north/south aligned channels. The eastern edge of these channels was also noted towards the centre of the trench. There appeared to be at least two separate channels, 1705 (f) and a later re-incision (g). It was not possible to ascertain if either of these two are the same as any of the channels seen in Trench 15. As they are located to the far eastern extent it is likely though that these or separate channels. Therefore indicating at least seven different channels/episodes of activity along this area.

Trench 18

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.1m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.5m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1800	Topsoil		
1801	Subsoil		
1802	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1803	Stake hole (?) cut	Very irregular cut, steep sides, undercutting. Filled by 1804.	
1804	Stake hole (?) fill	Firm mid grey silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
1805	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
1806	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1807	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

The only feature of any note in this trench was a possible stakehole (1804), however, the very irregular nature of this feature suggested that it was created by root action, though the presence of charcoal questions this. No other features were found in relation to this possible stakehole.

Trench 19

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.7m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.66m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1900	Topsoil		
1901	Subsoil		
1902	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
1903	Pit cut	Irregular, circular cut, steep concave sides, shallow concave base. Possibly heavily truncated. Filled by 1904.	
1904	Pit fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
1905	Pit (?) cut	Irregular, circular cut, shallow concave sides, shallow concave base. Possibly heavily truncated. Filled by 1906.	
1906	Pit (?) fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
1907	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, 'V' shaped base. Fill by 1908.	
1908	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1909	Ditch cut	East/west aligned linear cut, moderate concave sides, level base. Filled by 1910.	
1910	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks. Possibly same as 3409.	
1911	Posthole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Fill by 1912.	
1912	Posthole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1913	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Fill by 1914.	
1914	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
		flecks and manganese.	
1915	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Fill by 1916.	
1916	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1917	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, concave base. Fill by 1918.	
1918	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1919	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Fill by 1920.	
1920	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1921	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Fill by 1922.	
1922	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1923	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Fill by 1924.	
1924	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1925	Stake hole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, flat base. Fill by 1926.	
1926	Stake hole fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and manganese.	
1927	Pit/posthole cut	Circular in plan. Steep/vertical sides, gentle concave base. Fill by 1928.	
1928	Pit/posthole fill	Compact orange/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
1929	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
1930	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
1931	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1932	Natural gravels		

Trench 18 contained a number of archaeological features. To the north of the trench was a concentrated group of eight postholes/stake holes/pits (1911, 1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925). The function of these was unclear, though they were of a prehistoric date. Another smaller group was located to the southern end of the trench (1903, 1905, 1907), again appearing to be prehistoric in date. Also at the southern end of the trench an east/west aligned ditch was recorded. This ditch was filled by the post-Roman red alluvial clays.

Trench 20

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 83m Width: 2m Depth: 0.43m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Topsoil		
2001	Subsoil		
2002	Pit cut	Partly exposed circular (?) cut, steep concave sides to moderate concave base. Filled by 2003.	
2003	Pit fill	Firm grey silty clay, occasional charcoal and manganese flecks.	
2004	Tree throw cut	Irregular shaped cut, irregular concave sides, convex base. Filled by 2005.	
2005	Tree throw fill	Firm light yellow/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2006	Tree throw cut	Irregular shaped cut, irregular concave sides, convex base. Filled by 2007.	
2007	Tree throw fill	Firm grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2008	Pit cut	Circular cut, steep concave sides, gentle concave base. Filled by 2009.	
2009	Pit fill	Firm mid grey clayey slit.	
2010	Pit cut	Partially exposed ovoid (?) cut, moderate concave base, gentle concave base. Filled by 2011.	
2011	Pit fill	Firm mid grey silty clay, occasional manganese and charcoal flecks.	
2012	Pit/ditch cut	Partially exposed cut appears to be either ovoid pit or ditch terminus, steep concave sides to flat, regular base. Filled by 2013.	
2013	Pit/ditch fill	Compact grey brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks, diffuse edges.	
2014	Pit/posthole cut	Circular cut, steep/vertical sides to 'U' shaped base. Filled by 2014.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2015	Pit/posthole fill	Compact grey brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2016	Ditch cut	NNE/SSW linear cut, moderate concave sides, gentle concave base.	
2017	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
2018	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2019	Palaeo-channel (3a) fill	Compact blue/grey gley clay.	
2020	Palaeo-channel (3a) fill	Loose dark brown sand and sub-angular fluvial gravels.	
2021	Palaeo-channel (3a) fill	Loose sub-angular gravels within red silty clay and sand.	
2022	Palaeo-channel (3a) fill	Firm, well compacted fine yellow/brown silty clay.	
2023	Natural gravels		
2024	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2025	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
2026	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2027	Palaeo-channel (3a) cut	Western side of north/south aligned channel cut. Gentle slope to wide concave base. Same as Filled by 2019-2022. Same as 1523.	

Trench 21

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 66.7m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.52m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2100	Topsoil		
2101	Subsoil		
2102	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2103	Pit fill	Compact grey/brown silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small burnt sandstones.	
2104	Pit fill	Burnt sandstone slabs within compact grey/black silty clay, frequent charcoal.	
2105	Pit cut	Circular cut, moderate, regular concave sides and base. Filled by 2103, 2104.	
2106	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, steep, regular sides to flat base, same as 1711. Filled by 2107, 2108.	
2107	Ditch fill	Firm mid grey silty clay, with patches of red silty clay.	
2108	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
2109	Ditch cut	East/west aligned linear cut, irregular sides and base. Filled by 2110.	
2110	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
2111	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels. Overlies fills of 2106, 2109.	
2112	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2113	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2114	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
2115	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2116	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2117	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2118	Natural gravels		

To the north of the trench, two east/west aligned ditches were recorded both of which contained red alluvial clays, indicative of post-Roman activity. Ditch 2106 is most likely to be a continuation of ditch 1711, seen in Trench 17 to the east. Ditch 2109 appeared to be a smaller irregular feature, likely to be a ditch but not completely clear. Overlying both of these ditches was deposit 2111; though given a separate context number it maybe a mix of contents 2108 and 2110 that has undergone post-depositional alteration. In the centre of the trench a circular pit (2105) was recorded, initially extending under the western extent of the trench, though later revealed fully. This circular pit contained two fills (2103, 2104), the primary fill (2104) contained 245 pieces of burnt sandstone slab fragments, weighing in total 62.5kgs. Some of these slabs clearly conjoined. These stone slabs appeared to have been the main fill of the pit, though it seems that the pit may have had a prior use, there was no sign of in-situ burning. The stones are likely to have been used elsewhere in the local vicinity and dumped here after use. From the way the stones were recovered it was noted that they might have been dumped into the pit from the northeast corner. Within these stones a quantity of flint and pottery (provisionally identified as of Beaker date) was recovered.

Trench 22

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.55m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2200	Topsoil		
2201	Subsoil		
2202	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2203	Spread	A thin defuse layer of charcoal with occasional pottery fragments.	
2204	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2205	Natural gravels		

The thin layer of charcoal, roughly 1.75m in diameter appeared very defuse and its form/function was unclear. This may represent non-archaeological activity or a remnant of original prehistoric land surface. No other features were observed within the trench.

Trench 23

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48.6m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.6m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2300	Topsoil		
2301	Subsoil		
2302	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2303	Stake hole fill	Firm grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2304	Stake hole cut	Circular cut, steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Filled by 2303.	
2305	Posthole fill	Firm grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2306	Posthole cut	Circular cut, steep/vertical sides, 'U' shaped base. Filled by 2305.	
2307	Pit fill	Firm light grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2308	Pit cut	Circular cut, shallow concave sides and base. Filled by 2307.	
2309	Ditch/gully fill	Firm orangey grey silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2310	Ditch/gully cut	Northeast/southwest gully, southwest end terminates in trench. Steep concave sides, flat base. Filled by 2309. Truncates gully 2312.	
2311	Ditch/gully fill	Firm orangey grey silty clay.	
2312	Ditch/gully cut	Northwest/southeast gully appears to terminate within trench. Steep concave sides, flat base. Filled by 2311. Truncated by 2310.	
2313	Ditch/gully (?) fill	Firm orangey grey silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2314	Ditch/gully (?) cut	Partially exposed cut, shape unclear, steep concave sides, gentle concave base. Filled by 2313.	
2315	Pit fill	Firm orangey grey silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2316	Pit cut	Partially exposed cut, shape unclear, moderate concave sides, gentle concave base. Filled by 2315.	
2317	Pit fill	Firm grey brown silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2318	Pit cut	Ovoid cut, extended north/south, steep regular sides, to stepped 'U' shaped base. Filled by 2317, 2319.	
2319	Pit fill	Firm grey silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2320	Natural gravels		
2321	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2322	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2323	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2324	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material.	
2325	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2326	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

Trench 23 contained a number of probable archaeological features. To the eastern end of the trench, there were a number of pits/postholes and gullies. This concentration consisted of six features; one pit, one posthole, one stakehole and three gullies. Gullies 2310 and 2312 were inter-cutting, with 2312 being later. Both of these terminated in roughly the same place. Gully 2314 may in fact be an elongated pit/posthole as was only partially exposed, and therefore not fully excavated. To the west of the trench a pit (2318) and a partially exposed possible pit was recorded. The similarity of the fills of all of these features suggests a contemporary date, considering the extensive variation of alluvial deposits over time across this area.

Trench 24

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.4m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2400	Topsoil		
2401	Subsoil		
2402	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2403	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
2404	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, steep concave sides, 'U' shaped base. Truncates top fills of ditch 2409. Filled by 2403.	
2405	Ditch fill	Firm orangey brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2406	Ditch fill	Firm grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2407	Ditch fill	Firm grey silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2408	Ditch fill	Firm grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2409	Ditch cut	East/west aligned large ditch cut, straight 45° sides to sharp 'V' shaped base. Filled by 2405-2408.	
2410	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks. Same as 2412.	
2411	Ditch cut	East/west aligned linear ditch cut, moderate, slightly concave sides to irregular base. Same as 2413.	
2412	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks. Same as 2410.	
2413	Ditch cut	East/west aligned linear ditch cut, moderate, slightly concave sides to irregular base. Same as 2411.	
2414	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material. Same as 2418.	
2415	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2416	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2417	Natural gravels		
2418	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material. Same as 2414.	
2419	Natural gravels		
2420	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

The red alluvial filled ditch 2411/2413 appears to be of a single phase. Although the base was irregular and gave the appearance to two separate periods of activity, the fills 2410/2412 were the same and looked as if there was not a later ditch or re-cut. The large ‘V’ shaped ditch (2409) to the southern end of the trench was likely to be of an early date. The fills of this ditch contained none of the later red alluvial deposit. This ditch did not extend into the northern spur of Trench 25 (east). The upper fill of this early ditch have been truncated by a later red alluvial filled ditch (2404), again indicated an early date for ditch 2409.

Trench 25 (east)

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 76m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.63m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S/E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2500	Topsoil		
2501	Subsoil		
2502	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2503	Posthole cut	Ovoid cut, extended NW/SE. Vertical, straight sides to flat base. Filled by 2504.	
2504	Posthole fill	Friable mid yellow/grey silty clay, occasional small sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks.	
2505	Pit cut	Irregular in plan, gentle concave sides and base, truncates 2508. Filled by 2506, 2507, 2510.	
2506	Pit fill	Friable yellow/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2507	Pit fill	Friable dark grey/brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and small sandstone fragments.	
2508	Pit cut	Circular pit cut, regular concave sides and base. Truncated by 2505. Filled by 2509.	
2509	Pit fill	Friable orange/grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and small sandstone fragments.	
2510	Pit fill	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay, frequent inclusion of small burnt sandstone fragments, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2511	Pit cut	Partially exposed circular (?) pit cut, unexcavated. Filled by 2512, 2513.	
2512	Pit fill	Friable yellowish grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2513	Pit fill	Friable yellowish grey silty clay, frequent inclusion of small burnt sandstone fragments and charcoal.	
2514	Pit/tree throw cut	Large irregular cut, slightly ovoid in plan, regular, gentle concave sides, moderate concave base. Filled by 2515, 2516. Same as 2517.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2515	Pit/tree throw fill	Compact yellow/brown silty clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2516	Pit/tree throw fill	Compact mid brownish grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks and small sandstone fragments.	
2517	Tree throw/root activity	Narrow linear cut to southeast of 2514, steep sides, and concave base. Filled by 2515. Same 2514.	
2520	Pit cut	Shallow ovoid cut, extending NE/SW, moderate concave sides, and flat base. Filled by 2521.	
2521	Pit fill	Firm yellow/brown clayey silt, occasional charcoal flecks, heavily disturbed by root activity.	
2522	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material. Same as 2414.	
2523	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2524	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2525	Natural gravels		

Initially Trench 25 was to be continuous trench across the southern extent of the SE field, however, continued access requirements meant that the trench was split into two sections, Trench 25 east and 25 west.

Two concentrations of archaeological remains were observed within this trench. To the far north-eastern end of the trench a single posthole (2520) was recorded, and appeared in isolation to the main concentrations of archaeological features.

In the southeast corner of the trench, a large irregular feature (2514) was initially understood to be a large, though shallow pit, however, upon excavation its irregular nature, allied with the extension to the southeast (2517) may suggest a tree-throw. The fills appeared to be consistent with those of the more defined surrounding archaeological features, suggesting a contemporary date. The presence of artefacts ([check this](#)) and quantities of charcoal indicate that if this was in fact a tree-throw then it is likely to have been utilised in the prehistoric period. A small red alluvial filled gully ran across the trench in a north/south direction close to the earlier tree throw, however, this was not recorded.

Towards the centre of the trench, a small collection of features comprised a well defined posthole (2503). Partially truncated by a machine dug hole for the alluvial profiles, it had near vertical sides and a flat base. Also two circular pits (2505, 2511) containing fragments of burnt sandstone were of interest. These deliberately backfilled pits were unusual in that, along with the Beaker dated pit in Trench 21 9 (pit 2105), these were the only features that contained any sandstone fragments. Although there was no dating evidence from either of these two pits, the similarity of the fills and the presence of the burnt sandstone fragments, as in pit 2105, suggest a possible contemporary date.

Trench 25 (west)

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 105m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.65m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2500	Topsoil		
2501	Subsoil		
2502	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2518	Stake hole/posthole fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay, occasional sandy clay and charcoal flecks.	
2519	Stake hole/posthole cut	Circular cut, steep/vertical sides to flat base. Filled by 2518.	
2525	Natural gravels		
2526	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Compact blue/grey alluvial clays, glazed yellow alluvial (2502) deposit.	
2527	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Friable blue/orange silty alluvial clays.	
2528	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Compact blue/grey alluvial clays.	
2529	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Compact blue/grey alluvial silty clays.	
2530	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Compact dark/grey alluvial clays.	

The palaeo-channel (2) was only investigated here by the insertion of a machine dug alluvial profile slot to determine its presence, a full record had been compiled beforehand from Trench 27. A single undated posthole/stake hole was the only archaeological feature observed in this trench.

Trench 26

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48m Width: 1.81m Depth: 1.70m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2600	Topsoil		
2601	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
2602	Palaeo-channel (2a) fill	Firm dark grey/blue alluvial clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2603	Palaeo-channel (2a) fill	Firm dark grey/blue gley clay, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2604	Palaeo-channel (2a) cutl	NW/SE aligned palaeo-channel cut, only partly exposed in the western end of the trench. Step sides to irregular base. Probably same channel as seen in Trench 27. Filled by 2602, 2603.	
2605	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2606	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Firm blue grey gleyed clay, post-depositional alteration of 2605.	
2607	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Firm light blue/grey gleyed clay.	
2608	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Firm light brown alluvial gleyed clay.	
2609	Palaeo-channel (2b) fill	Firm dark brown alluvial gleyed clay.	
2610	Palaeo-channel (2b) cut	North/south aligned palaeo-channel cut, wide shallow sides to irregular flay base. Filled by 2607-2609.	
2611	Natural gravels		
2612	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2613	Layer/ditch fill	Firm light grey/blue alluvial clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
2614	Ditch cut	North/south aligned linear cut, wide shallow concave cut, cut into the underlying deposit 2602.	
2615	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2616	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

The majority of this trench exposed the north/south palaeo-channel (2). The primary channel incision here (2610) consisted of a wide shallow incision (2a), the low-action deposits within this channel are overlain by the yellow alluvial deposit (Unit 2), indicating an early date for this channel. A later channel (2604) had re-incised into the upper fills of the earlier channel. This later channel is likely to be the same as the channel noted in Trench 27. This channel did not contain any of the red alluvial deposit (Unit1), though it clearly truncated the yellow deposit (Unit 2). To the eastern end of the trench, during the widening of the trench to aid the recording of the palaeo-channels and to retrieve monolith samples, it was seen that a considerable amount of 20th century disturbance had taken place. A large, machine dug pit contained modern material, such as timber, metal, barbed wire etc, possibly relating to the former military base nearby. For safety reasons no samples were taken here, though the depositional sequence was recorded from the top of the trench.

Trench 27

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 91m Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.43m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2700	Topsoil		
2701	Subsoil		
2702	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2703	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks. Same as 2410.	
2704	Ditch cut	North/south aligned linear cut, steep straight sides to flat base. Filled by 2703.	
2705	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2706	Natural gravels		
2707	Pit fill	Friable yellow/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
2708	Pit cut	Circular cut, shallow concave sides and base. Filled by 2707.	
2709	Pit fill	Firm orange/brown clayey slit, frequent charcoal flecks, occasional small 'fire cracked' stones, burnt sandstone fragments and burnt quartz. Upper fill of pit 2710. Consists of 2714, 2716, 2718, 2720.	
2710	Pit cut	Large shallow ovoid cut, extended SE/NW, gentle slightly irregular concave sides and base. Filled by 2709, 2713.	
2711	Posthole fill	Compact grey/brown clayey silt, frequent charcoal flecks.	
2712	Posthole cut	Circular cut, moderate regular concave sides and base. Filled by 2711. Located to SE of large pit 2710, though relationship unclear.	
2713	Pit fill	Firm dark grey clayey slit, frequent charcoal flecks, occasional small 'fire cracked' stones and quartz. Contains frequent pottery vessels. Lower fill of 2710. Consists of 2715, 2717, 2719, 2721.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2714	Pit fill	Upper fill of NW quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2709.	
2715	Pit fill	Lower fill of NW quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2713.	
2716	Pit fill	Upper fill of SE quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2709.	
2717	Pit fill	Lower fill of SE quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2713.	
2718	Pit fill	Upper fill of NE quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2709.	
2719	Pit fill	Lower fill of NE quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2713.	
2720	Pit fill	Upper fill of SW quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2709.	
2721	Pit fill	Lower fill of SW quadrant of pit 2710. Part of Group 2713.	
2722	Pit/posthole cut	Circular cut, steep/vertical sides, gentle concave base. Filled by 2723, 2724.	
2723	Pit/posthole fill	Firm mid brown silty clay, frequent organic material and charcoal, occasional small sub-angular gravels.	
2724	Pit/posthole fill	Compact light brown/grey silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels.	
2725	Palaeo-channel (2a) cut	Partially exposed wide, shallow channel cut. Filled by 2727. Part of channel 2a.	
2726	Ditch (?) cut	NW/SE aligned cut, moderate straight sides, 'U' shaped base. Possibly same as 3810, 4305. Filled by 2728.	
2727	Palaeo-channel (2a) fill	Firm bright blue silty clay, occasional organic material.	
2728	Ditch (?) fill	Firm blue/grey gleyed silty clay.	
2729	Pear layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	

This trench contained a number of interesting and important archaeological features. The western end of the trench contained deposits relating to Palaeo-channel 2. Here it appeared that only a later channel incision was visible, cutting through the yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2). Only a single fill was noted, this appeared to be the same as the later channel seen in Trench 26 (2603). This channel forms part of Palaeochannel 2, running north/south in the centre of the site. In this trench in appeared to have been

truncated by a later feature running NW/SE (2726) which having steep, regular sides appears to be a man-made ditch rather than a further channel related incision. This aligns with the ditches seen in Trenches 38 (3810) and 43 (4305) and, although undated, might be of Roman date. This is conjectured to be a continuation of a feature noted in a previous evaluation to the north (Griffin and Jackson 2002).

On the eastern edge of the palaeo-channel, a single pit or substantial posthole (2722) was noted. Dating retrieved from the fills of this feature indicated an Early Neolithic prehistoric date. Though this posthole appeared in isolation, the size of this feature would suggest associated postholes in the nearby vicinity. To the east of this posthole was a large sub-oval pit cut (2710). Though shallow, this pit contained considerable quantities of material culture. Artefacts included a number of axe fragments, flint tools and pottery which, though heavily fragmented and in a poor state of preservation, appears to represent several vessels deposited as either complete vessels or substantial chunks of them. Dating for this material indicates an Early Neolithic date. The pit also contained significant quantities of 'fire cracked' stone, burnt quartz fragments and charcoal. This extensive range of Early Neolithic artefacts is important in its own right, but the presence of the burnt stone fragments and quartz, along with the high quantities of pottery may suggest the presence of Neolithic pottery manufacture, especially as it is located close to Palaeo-channel 2 which may have been active at the time (as it clearly cuts the yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2) into which the archaeological features are cut).

Slightly to the east of this large pit was a second, smaller possible pit (2708), which contained further Neolithic material. However, this pit was not as clearly defined, and the fill of this feature was a lot more similar to the surrounding natural deposits. It is therefore possible that this feature may have been a tree throw or other natural feature; yet open at the time of the Neolithic activity in the vicinity.

To the far east of the trench was a north/south aligned red alluvial filled ditch (2704). This ditch is part of the post-Roman sequence of ditches that were observed across the evaluation area.

Trench 28

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 147m Width: 1.85m Depth: 0.53m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2800	Topsoil		
2801	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
2802	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Blue/grey gleyed clay, post-depositional alterations of Unit 2 deposit.	
2803	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2804	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2805	Ditch cut	North/south aligned linear ditch cut, step sides, flat base. Filled by 2806.	
2806	Ditch fill	Firm light blue silty clay.	
2807	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2808	Ditch fill	Firm light blue silty clay.	
2809	Ditch cut	SW/NE aligned ditch cut, shallow concave sides and base. Filled by 2809.	
2810	Peat layer / Palaeo-channel (1c) fill	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains. Same as 4006.	
2811	Palaeo-channel (1b) fill	Friable grey/brown peaty clay. Same as 2818, 4008.	
2812	Palaeo-channel (1a) fill	Plastic light blue/grey silty clay, occasional organic material. Same as 4010.	
2813	Palaeo-channel (1a) cut	Wide, shallow north/south channel cut. Filled by 2812. Part of western channel 1. Same as 4011.	
2814	Ditch fill	Friable dark brown peaty clay, occasional organic material.	
2815	Ditch cut	North/south aligned linear cut, steep, regular sides, flat base. Filled by 2814.	
2816	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2817	Ditch cut	North/south aligned ditch cut, steep, concave sides, ‘U’ shaped base. Filled by 2816.	
2818	Palaeo-channel (1b) fill	Friable grey/brown peaty clay, occasional organic material. Same as 2811, 4008.	
2819	Palaeo-channel (1b) cut	North/south aligned channel cut, wide shallow sides, base truncated by later re-incision 2820. Filled by 2811, 2818. Same as 4009.	
2820	Palaeo-channel (1a) cut	North/south aligned channel cut, wide shallow sides, truncates channel 2819. Filled by 2810. Same as 4007.	

Palaeo-channel 1 (2813), the channel to the west of the site, ran through the centre of this trench. Excavations here revealed a full profile of the channel. It appears to be a wide shallow channel with fine silts infilling it. There appear to be two re-incisions (2819, 2820) of this channel, which were noted to be incised into the Unit 2 yellow alluvial layer and are therefore liable to be of Neolithic or later date. Cut in to the upper fills of this palaeo-channel were two later ditch cuts. Ditch 2817 was filled by the red alluvial (Unit 1) deposit and may be of relatively recent date. Ditch 2815, to the eastern side of the palaeo-channel contains an organic rich fill similar to the deposits within the palaeo-channel. Also the infill of this ditch (2814) is sealed by an extensive peat layer/fill which extended across the most recent channel incision represented (2810). This later ditch may have been a deliberately cut feature, at the time the channel was close to the end of its active phase. Although the ditch was undated the similarity of the fills in the channel, its stratigraphic relationship, and the absence of the later Unit 1 alluvial layer suggest either a late prehistoric or Roman date.

To the far eastern end of the trench a small north/south ditch (2805) was observed, filled by the Unit 1 red alluvial deposit, indicative of a post-Roman, or later date.

Trench 29

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 21m Width: 16m Depth: 1.2m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N/A (Located over geo-physical anomaly)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2900	Topsoil		
2901	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
2902	Layer (Unit 5)	Dark brown/black firm silty clay layer with increased humic/organic material. Overlies channel 3c and overlain by gravel bar (3e). Same as 1513, 1525.	
2903	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
2904	Natural gravels		
2905	Subsoil		
2906	Pit fill	Friable grey/yellow silty clay, occasional small 'fire cracked' stone fragments and charcoal.	
2907	Pit cut	Ovoid, extended NW/SE, moderate/steep concave sides, shallow/flat base. Filled by 2906.	

This trench was located to establish the source of a distinctive geophysical anomaly. However, no indication of a feature, which may have given rise to this, was recorded and the current best explanation for the anomaly seems that it resulted from the presence of a concentration of iron objects or a single large object in the ploughsoil (though the signal was noted to be unusual if this was the case).

The only feature of note was a small ovoid pit (2907), which contained pottery and flint fragments indicative of an early prehistoric date. The pit appeared in isolation, though it was located to the edge of the trench.

The organic/humic rich layer (Unit 5) was clearly visible and well-defined here and samples were taken for pollen analysis and dating (Note Processing of a sample has been completed and suggests that unfortunately pollen has not preserved in the deposit).

Trench 30

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.15m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.56m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Topsoil		
3001	Subsoil		
3002	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3003	Ditch cut	North/south aligned ditch cut, steep sides, flat base. Filled by 3004.	
3004	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3005	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, defuse edges, flat base. Filled by 3006.	
3006	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3007	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, wide shallow sides, flat irregular base. Filled by 3008.	
3008	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3009	Pit cut	Circular pit cut, shallow concave sides and base. Filled by 3010. Truncated by ditch 3005.	
3010	Pit fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3011	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, steep, concave sides, 'U' shaped base. Filled by 3012, 3015.	
3012	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3013	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, steep convex sides, flat base. Filled by 3014, 3016.	
3014	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3015	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3016	Ditch fill	Firm, compact mid brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3017	Ditch fill	Firm, compact yellow/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3018	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3019	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3020	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

A rather confusing and extensive group of red alluvial (Unit 1) filled ditches towards the northern extent of the trench. These ditches, all of a post-Roman date appeared to be a continuation of those noted in Trench 14. No other archaeological features were observed within this trench.

Trench 31

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.6m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.65m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: SW-NE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3100	Topsoil		
3101	Subsoil		
3102	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3103	Pit cut	Irregular shaped pit cut, steep concave sides, shallow concave base. Filled by 3104.	
3104	Pit fill	Friable dark grey silty clay, frequent small burnt sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks.	
3105	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3106	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3107	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3108	Natural gravels		
3109	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, steep convex sides, flat base. Filled by 3110, 3111.	
3110	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3111	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	

An east/west aligned red alluvial (Unit 1) filled ditch was noted to the centre of the trench. To the south of the trench was an irregular pit, containing burnt material.

Trench 32

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.2m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.49m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3200	Topsoil		
3201	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3202	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3203	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
3204	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

There were no archaeological features within this trench. Only the peaty layer (3203) was of any significance. This layer is located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), and has been observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.

Trench 33

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.6m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3300	Topsoil		
3301	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3302	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Blue/grey gleyed Unit 1 clays.	
3303	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3304	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3305	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3306	Natural gravels		
3307	Ditch fill	Friable mid reddish brown clayey slit. Unexcavated.	
3308	Ditch cut	Unexcavated NW/SE aligned ditch cut.	
3309	Ditch fill	Friable mid reddish brown clayey slit. Unexcavated.	
3310	Ditch cut	Unexcavated E/W aligned ditch cut.	

Only two ditches were recorded in this trench, both were unexcavated. There were the lower fills of two water meadow ditches that could still be seen as extant earthworks in the present ground surface.

Trench 34

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.73m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3400	Topsoil		
3401	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3402	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
3403	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Blue/grey gleyed Unit 1 clays.	
3404	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3405	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3406	Natural gravels		
3407	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)	Blue/grey gleyed Unit 1 clays.	
3408	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3409	Ditch cut	East/west linear ditch cut, steep sides, 'U' shaped base. Defuse edges to the top. Possibly same as 1910.	

Only a single archaeological feature was recorded, an east/west red filled ditch (3409). This post-Roman ditch is likely to be a continuation of ditch 1910, noted in Trench 19.

The widely observed peaty layer (3402) was present, located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), as observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.

Trench 35

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49.3m Width: 1.81m Depth: 0.6m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3500	Topsoil		
3501	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3502	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
3503	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3504	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		

There were no archaeological features within this trench. Only the peaty layer (3502) was of any significance. This layer is located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), and has been observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.

Trench 36

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 27.3m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.6m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3600	Topsoil		
3601	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3602	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
3603	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3604	Palaeo-channel (?) cut	East/west aligned cut, only very partially exposed, gently sloping sides, base not exposed. Filled by 3605, 3608 (?).	
3605	Palaeo-channel (?) fill	Friable dark grey/brown peaty clay. Occasional organic material.	
3606	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
3607	Ditch cut	NW/SE aligned ditch cut, steep convex sides, and flat base. Filled by 3606.	
3608	Fill/layer	Friable grey/yellow silty clay.	
3609	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, Steep/moderate concave sides and base. Filled by 3610, 3611, 3612.	
3610	Ditch fill	Friable yellow/pinkish brown silty clay.	
3611	Ditch fill	Friable reddish/brown silty clay, occasional peaty material.	
3612	Ditch fill	Friable dark brown peaty clay.	
3613	Natural gravels		

Two ditches ran across this trench. Ditch 3609, cut across in an east/west direction and could still be seen on the surface as an extant earthwork, forming part of the water meadow system, though here it appears to have been re-cut recently; to act as a drainage channel for this low lying area of land.

A NW/SE red filled ditch (3607) was observed to the centre of the trench, this ditch also appeared to be part of either the watermeadow ditches or subsequent later drainage channels running across this field.

The widely observed peaty layer (3602) was present, located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), as observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.

Trench 37

Site area: NW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 19.8m Width: 2.15m Depth: 0.68m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3700	Topsoil		
3701	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3702	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
3703	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3704	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3705	Ditch cut	East/west linear cut, steep slightly convex sides, flat base. Filled by 3706, 3707.	
3706	Ditch fill	Compact brownish blue silty clay, occasional organic material.	
3707	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	

Only a single east/west aligned ditch, part of the extant water meadow system, was noted to the south of this trench.

The widely observed peaty layer (3702) was present, located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), as observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.

Trench 38

Site area: SW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.75m Width: 1.95m Depth: 0.86m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: -

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3800	Topsoil		
3801	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3802	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
3803	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3804	Ditch fill	Firm grey/blue silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
3805	Ditch cut	North/south linear cut, moderate straight sides, ‘V’ shaped base. Filled by 3804. Only exposed in the trench edges.	
3806	Pit (?) fill	Firm dark grey silty clay.	
3807	Pit (?) cut	Only recorded in section, shape in plan unknown, shallow concave sides, gentle concave base. Filled by 3806.	
3808	Layer/upcast	Friable grey/black silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded gravels.	
3809	Ditch fill	Plastic dark grey clayey slit, occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular gravels.	
3810	Ditch cut	Northwest/southeast linear cut, moderate straight sides, ‘V’ shaped base. Filled by 3809. Same as 4305.	
3811	Pit (?) fill	Firm dark grey silty clay.	
3812	Pit (?) cut	Only recorded in section, shape in plan unknown, shallow concave sides, gentle concave base. Filled by 3811.	
3813	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3814	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3815	Natural gravels		

A number of archaeological features were within this trench. Two possible pits were recorded in the exposed northern section of the trench after machining. These two features were not initially noticed due to both the similar nature of their fills with the surrounding deposits, and the very adverse conditions during machining. These features are likely to represent pits, though this is unclear. These pits were undated.

Two ditches also crossed the trench. Ditch 3805; running in a north/south direction was again only recorded in section due to the causes described above. Again undated, the profile of this ditch and its stratigraphic relationships may suggest a Roman origin. Also ditch 3810, aligned northwest/southeast, was also undated, though its profile also suggests a possible Roman date. This ditch aligns with ditch 4305 in Trench 43 and possibly with ditch 2726, cut into the upper palaeo-channel deposits in Trench 27 to the south.

The widely observed peaty layer (3402) was present, located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), as observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.

Trench 39

Site area: SE field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 22.4m Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.64m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: -

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3900	Topsoil		
3901	Subsoil		
3902	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
3903	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3904	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
3905	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3906	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
3907	Natural gravels		

No archaeological feature within this trench. All the deposits recorded from the alluvial profile. There were signs that the Unit 2 alluvial deposit (3904) had become gleyed; blue in colour from extensive water logging.

Trench 40

Site area: NW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 72.8m Width: 1.81m Depth 0.57m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
4000	Topsoil		
4001	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
4002			
4003	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
4004	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
4005	Palaeo-channel (1c) fill	Firm blue/grey silty clay.	
4006	Peat layer/ Palaeo-channel (1c) fill	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains. Same as 2810.	
4007	Palaeo-channel (1c) cut	North/south aligned channel cut, wide shallow sides, truncates channel 4009. Filled by 4005, 4006. Same as 2820.	
4008	Palaeo-channel (1b) fill	Friable grey/brown peaty clay, occasional organic material. Same as 2811, 2818.	
4009	Palaeo-channel (1b) cut	North/south aligned channel cut, wide shallow sides, base truncated by later re-incision 4007. Filled by 4008. Same as 2819.	
4010	Palaeo-channel (1a) fill	Plastic light blue/grey silty clay, occasional organic material. Same as 2812.	
4011	Palaeo-channel (1a) cut	Wide, shallow north/south channel cut. Filled by 4010. Part of western channel 1. Same as 2813.	
4012	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		

Palaeo-channel 1, to the west of the evaluated area produced an identical sequence of channel re-incisions and deposits as those revealed within Trench 28. In total there were three distinct phases within this channel.

Trench 41

Site area: NW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54.8m Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.55m (not including alluvial profile)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
4100	Topsoil		
4101	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
4102	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
4103	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
4104	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, moderate sides, shallow flat base. Filled by 4103.	
4105	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
4106	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, moderate sides, and shallow flat base. Filled by 4105.	
4107	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
4108	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, moderate sides, and flat base. Filled by 4107.	
4109	Pit fill	Friable blue/grey silty clay.	
4110	Pit cut	Irregular oval pit cut, steep sides, irregular flat base. Filled by 4109. Truncated by 4112.	
4111	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
4112	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, moderate sides, and irregular flat base. Filled by 4111. Truncates pit 4110.	
4113	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
4114	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, moderate sides, and shallow concave base. Filled by 4113.	
4115	Ditch fill	Firm, compact red/brown silty clay, occasional small	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
		sub-angular gravels and charcoal flecks.	
4116	Ditch cut	East/west aligned ditch cut, moderate sides, and shallow concave base. Filled by 4115.	

Archaeological deposits in this trench consisted of four east/west ditches, two with later re-cuts. All of these ditches relate to the watermeadow system, still visible as earthworks across this field. Ditches 4108, 4116 are western continuations of ditches noted within Trenches 3 and 4, to the east. A single undated pit was truncated by one of these ditches. The pit was irregular in shape, and contained no artefacts. This pit, or possible tree throw also contained none of the red Unit 1 alluvial deposit, suggesting a Roman or earlier date.

Trench 42

Site area: NW field

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48.4m Width: 2.25m Depth: 0.7m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
4200	Topsoil		
4201	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
4202	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
4203	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
4204	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		
4205	Alluvial deposit (Unit 3)		
4206	Natural gravels		

No archaeology was visible within this trench, however the conditions at the time of excavation were far from ideal. The trench was constantly under water, so it is feasible that there may have been some unrecorded features. The water meadow ditches were not recorded for time constraints.

The widely observed peaty layer (4202) was present, located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), as observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.

Trench 43

Site area: NW field

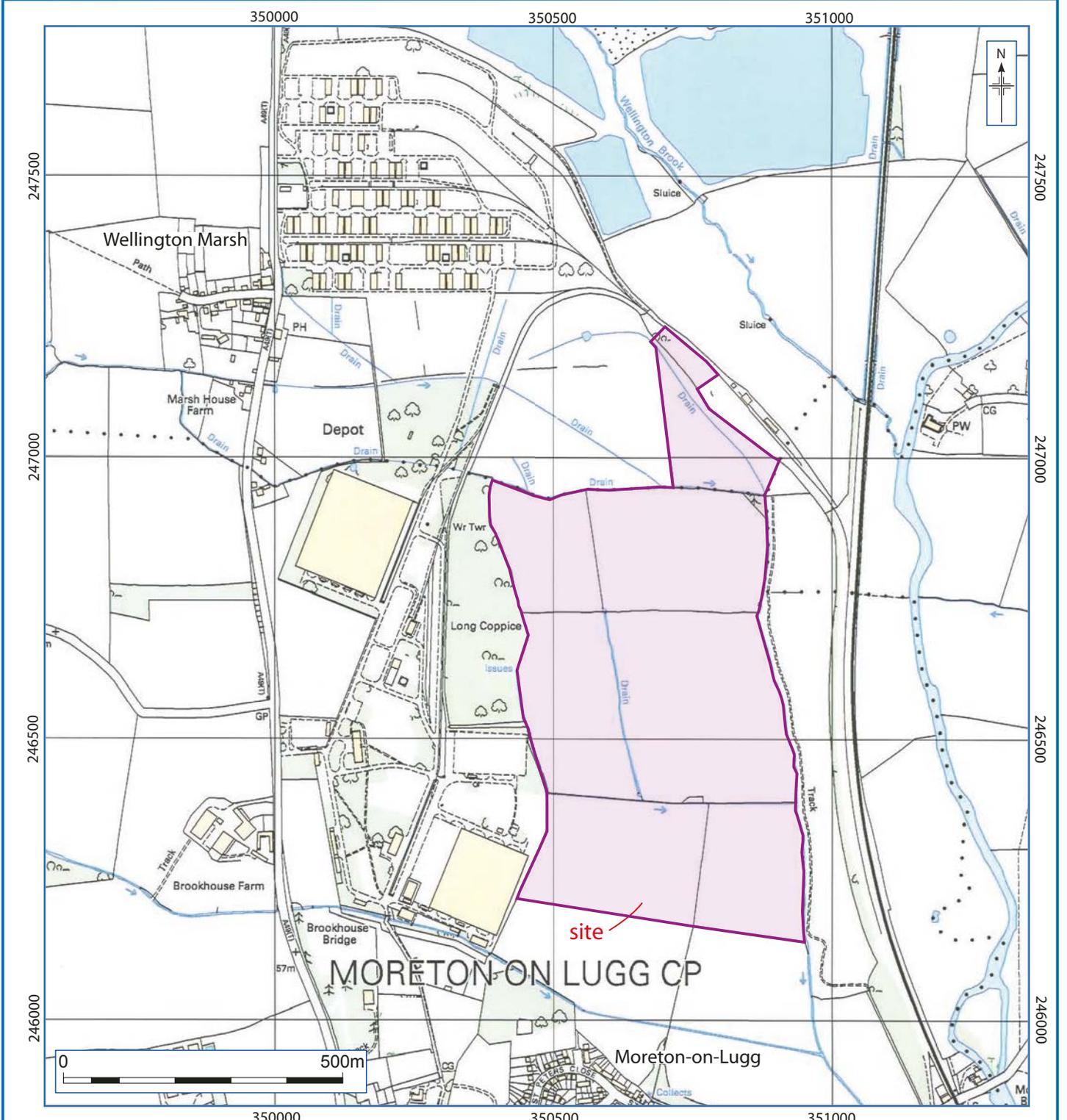
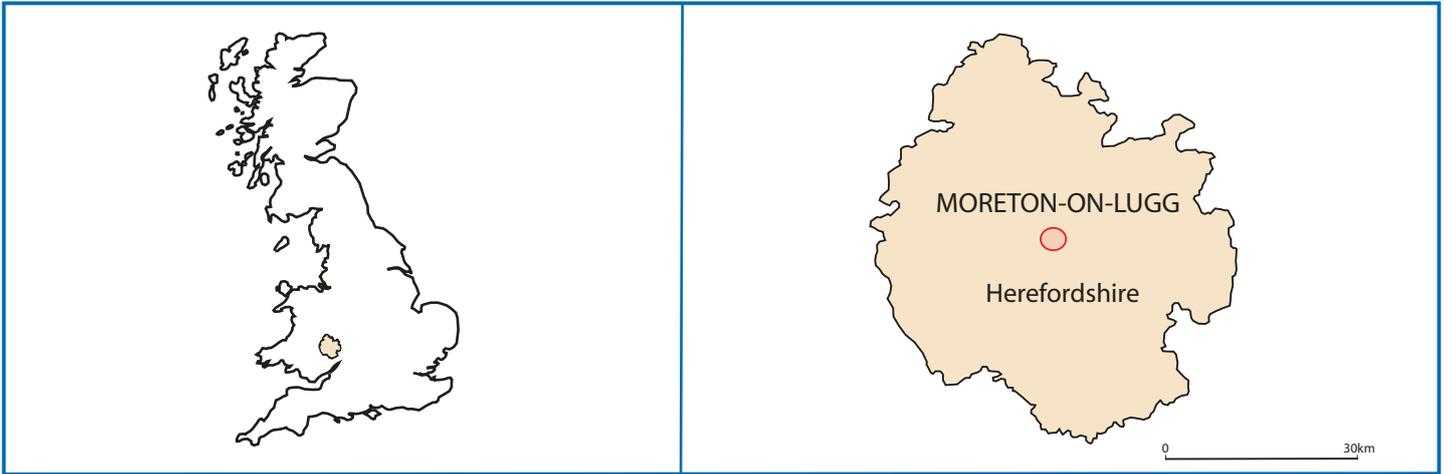
Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.34m (not including alluvial profiles)

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
4300	Topsoil		
4301	Alluvial deposit (Unit 1)		
4302	Peat layer	Plastic dark brown peat and silty clay, frequent organic/waterlogged remains.	
4303	Ditch fill	Friable grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	
4304	Ditch fill	Plastic dark grey clayey slit, occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-angular gravels.	
4305	Ditch cut	Northwest/southeast linear cut, moderate straight sides, ‘V’ shaped base. Filled by 4303, 4304. Same as 3810.	
4306	Alluvial deposit (Unit 2)		

A continuation of a possible Roman ditch (4305) was the only archaeological feature noted in this trench. It appeared that the ditch had been better preserved here, with the upper fill (4303) preserved. No artefacts were recovered from either of the two fills, though a Roman date is still inferred.

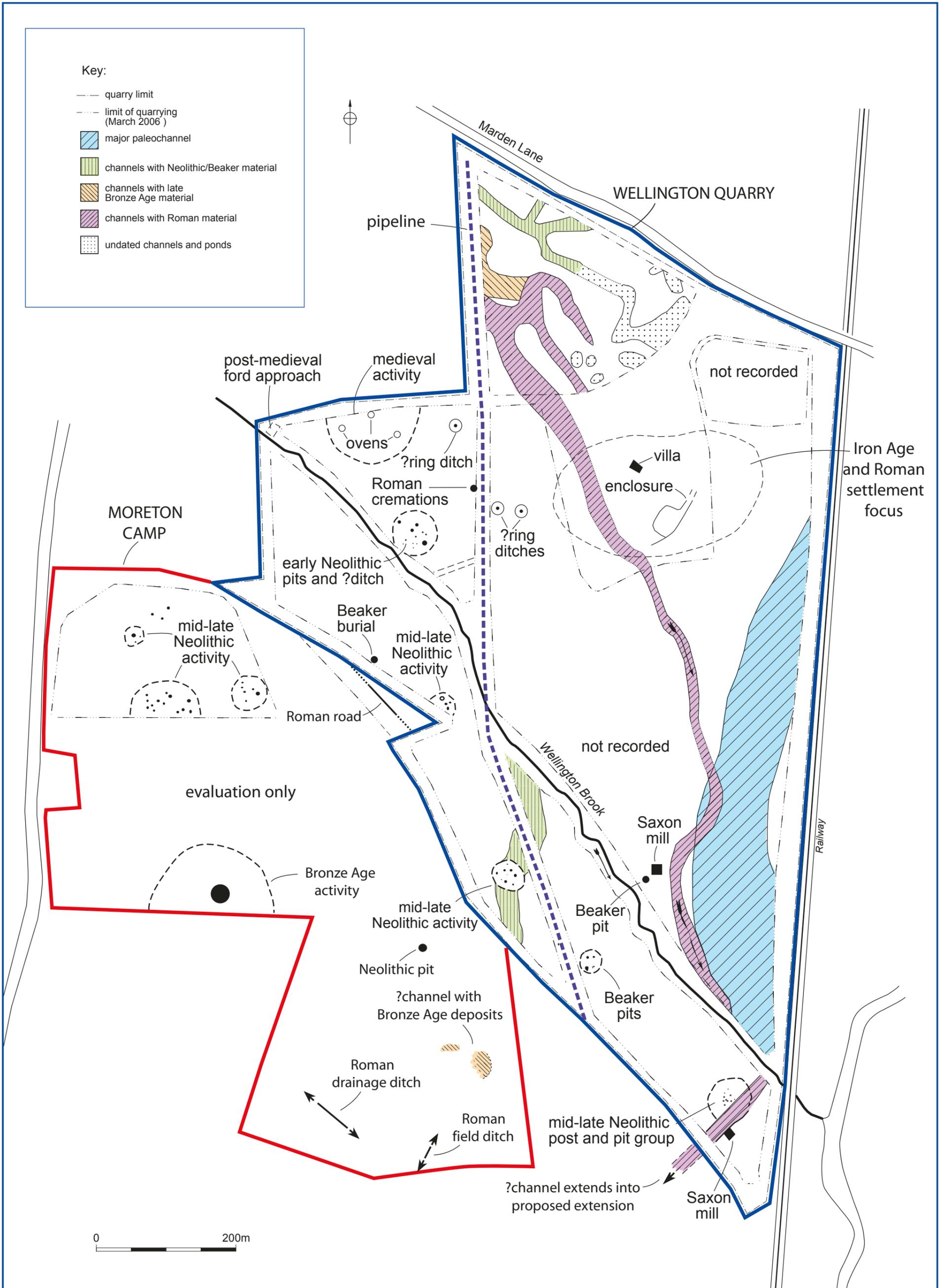
The widely observed peaty layer (4302) was present, located on the interface between the overlying red alluvial layer (Unit 1) and the underlying gleyed yellow alluvial layer (Unit 2), as observed across the entire western side of the evaluation area.



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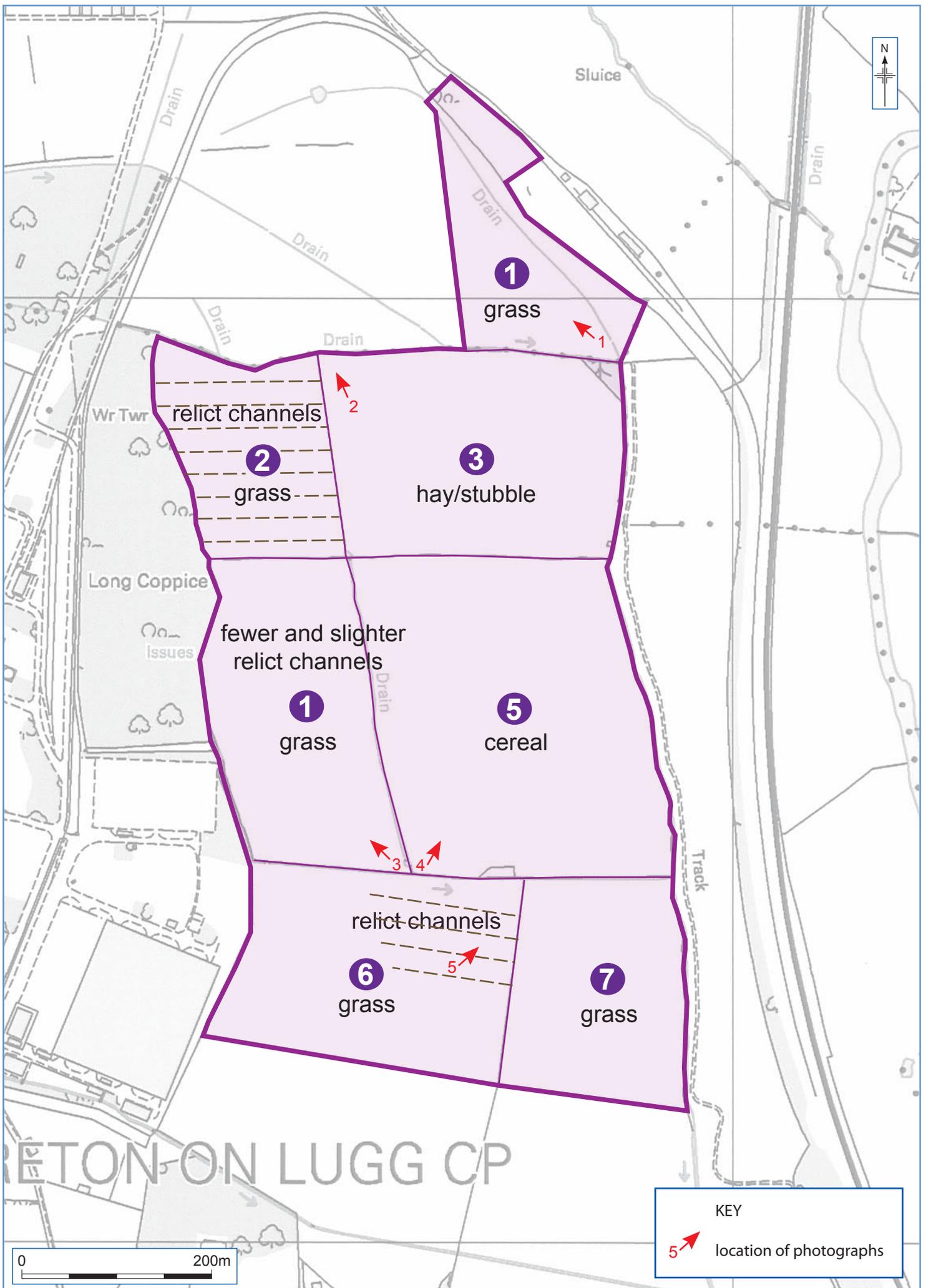
Location of the site.

Figure 1



Summary of results from main quarry

Figure 2



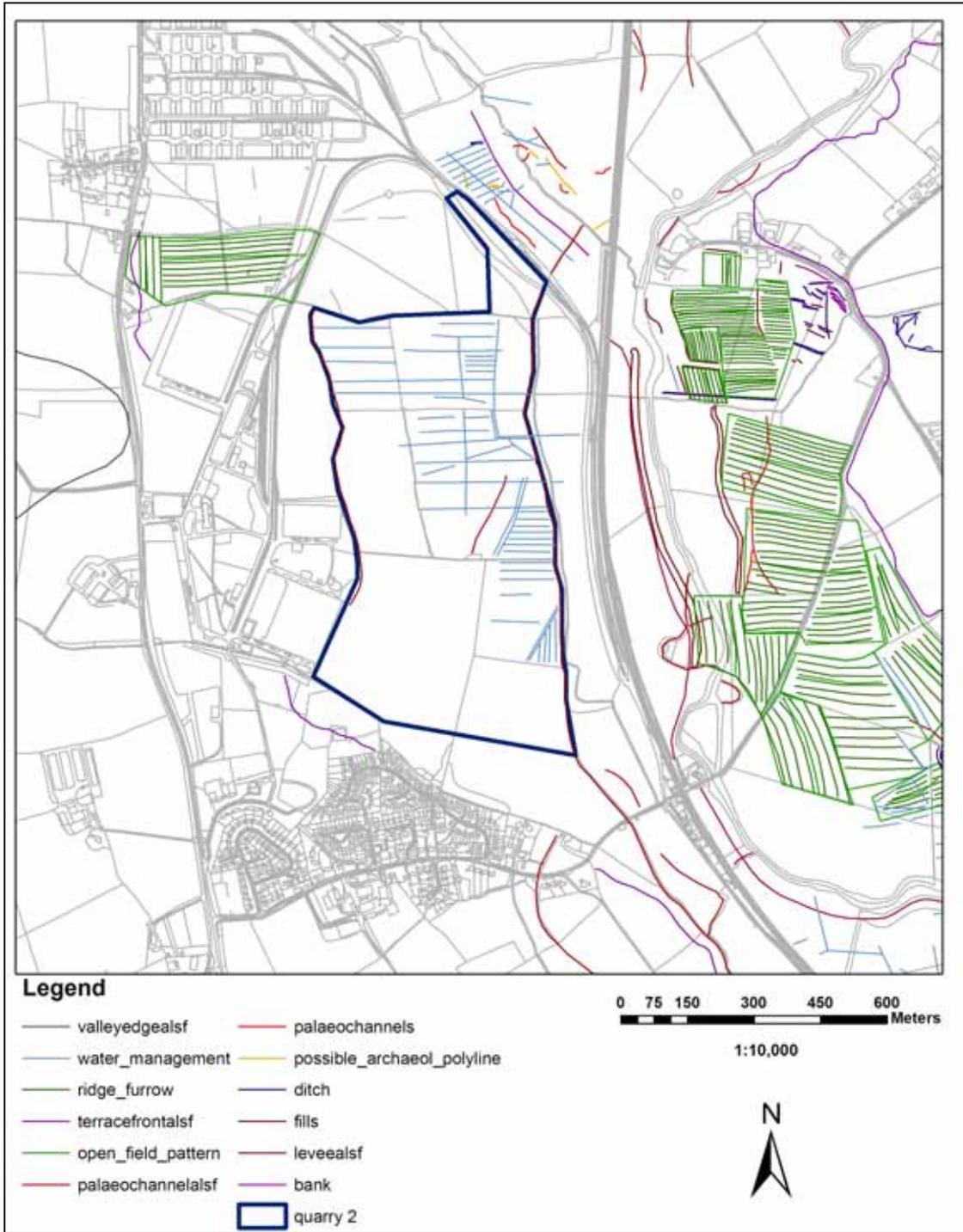


Figure 4: Aerial photographic mapping (after Cox 2007)



Figure 5: Cropped LiDAR LP DTM of the development area. A wealth of geomorphological and cultural features are clearly definable, such as palaeochannels, terraces and water meadow drainage (from Carey and Howard 2008)

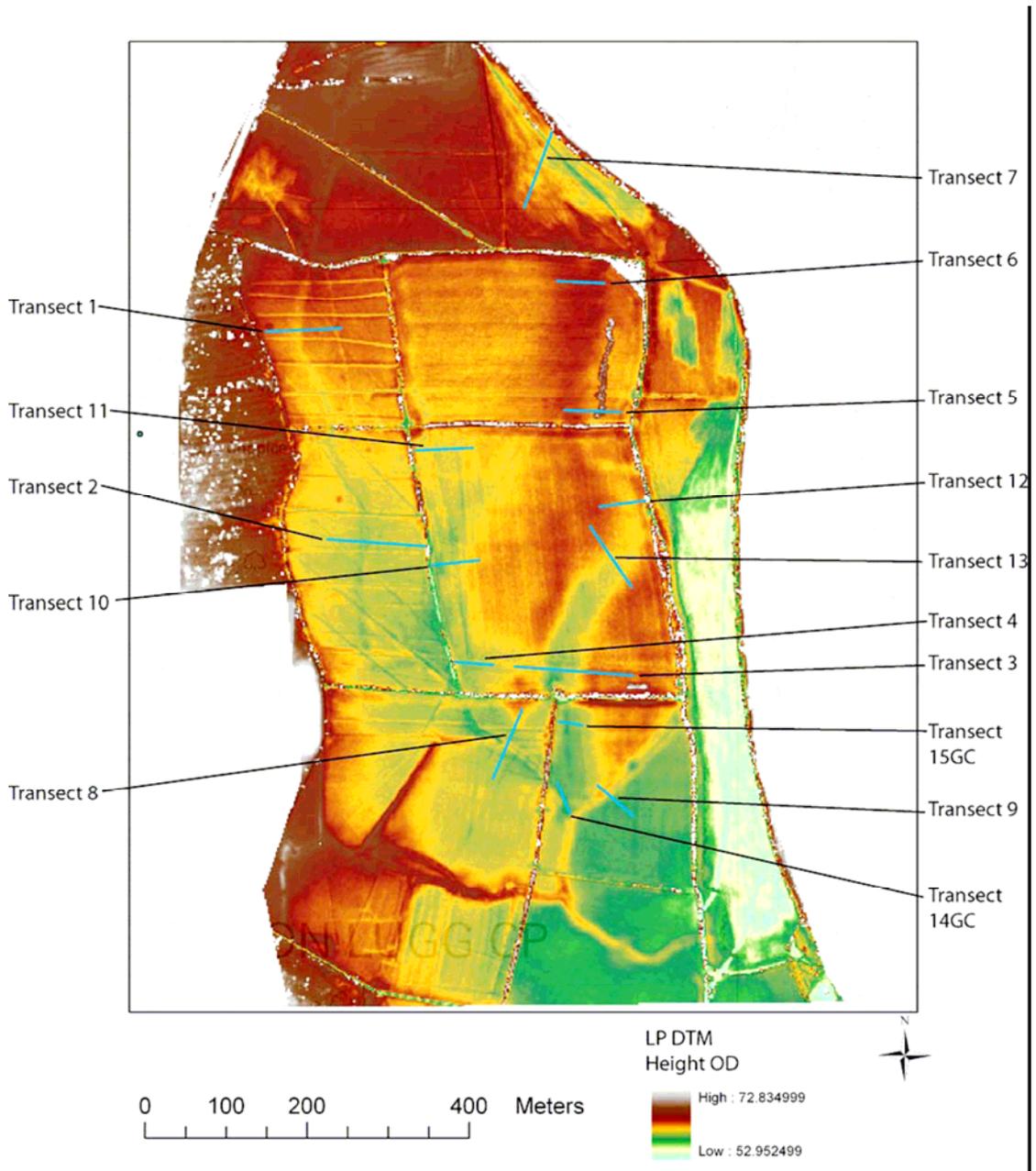


Figure 6: Location of ERGI and gouge core transects (from Carey and Howard 2008)

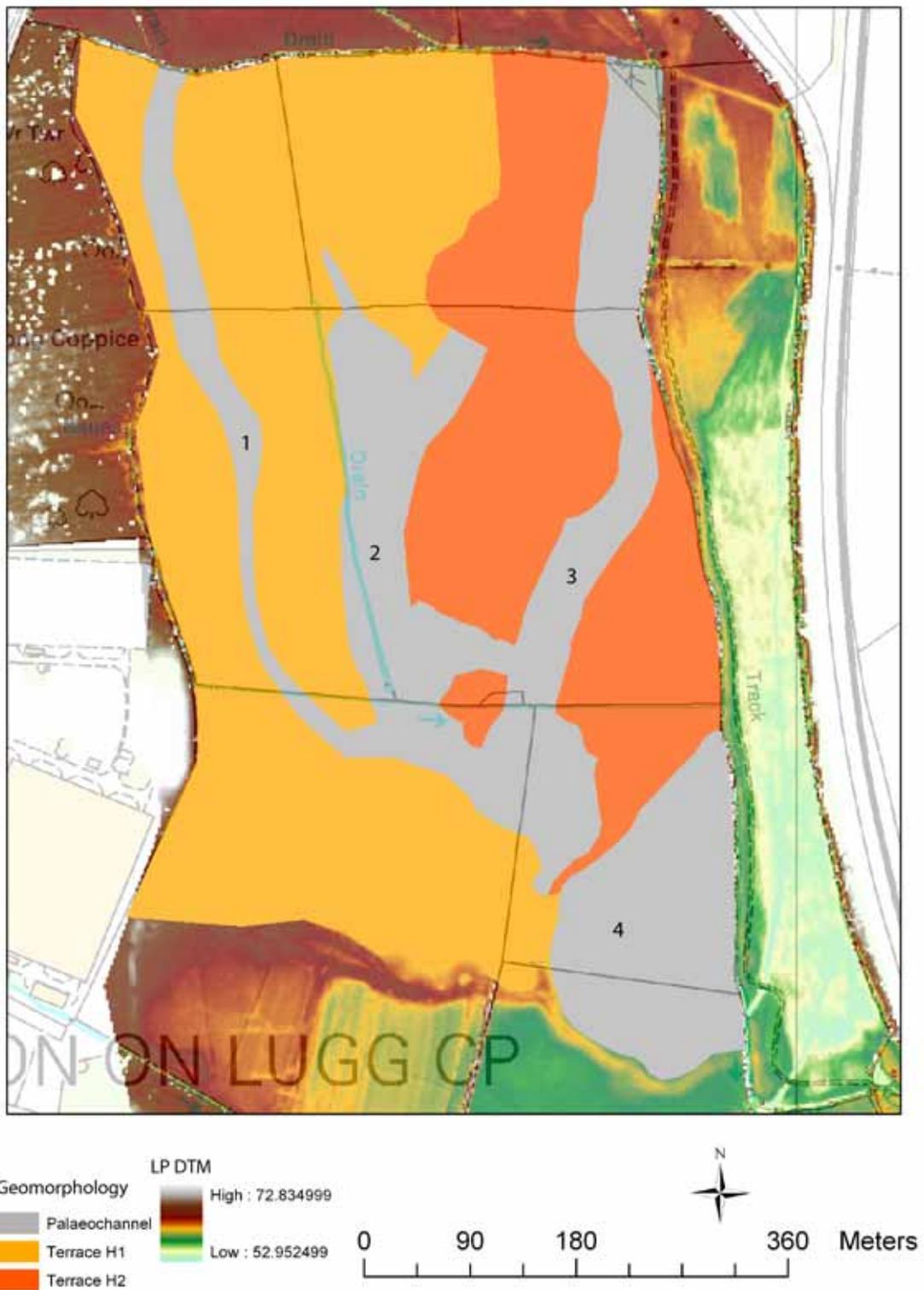


Figure 7: A geomorphological map of the study area, derived from the LP DTM and also field observations, labelling the salient features of the floodplain. It is clear that the Devensian sand and gravel deposits have been incised into and partly eroded by channels active in the Holocene (from Carey and Howard 2008)

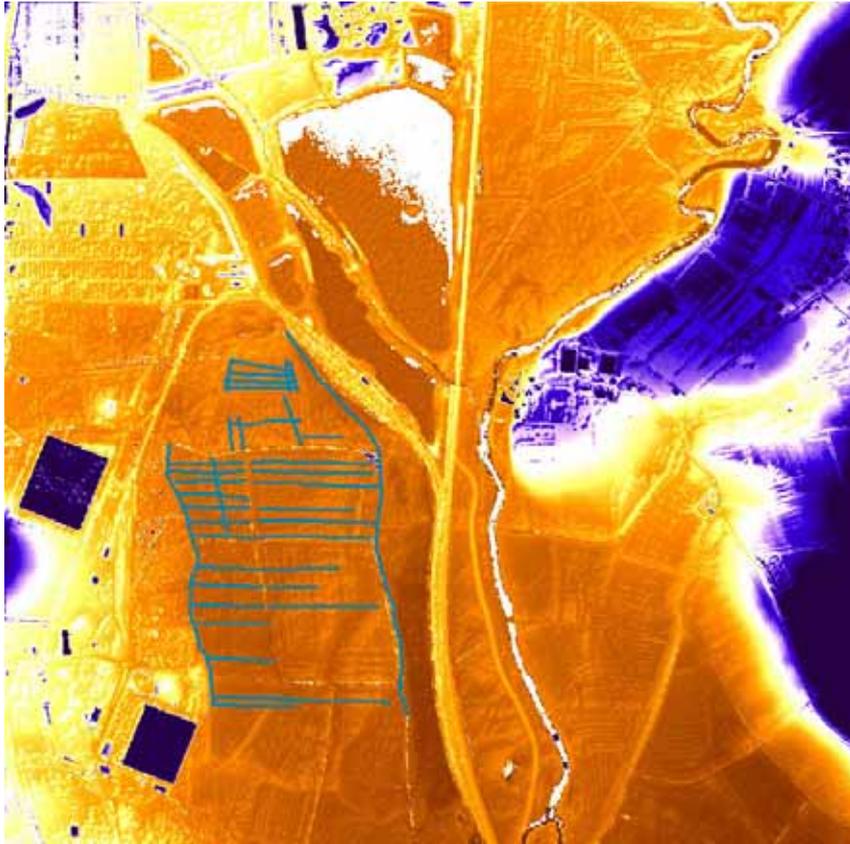


Figure 8: Watermeadow features mapped from LiDAR

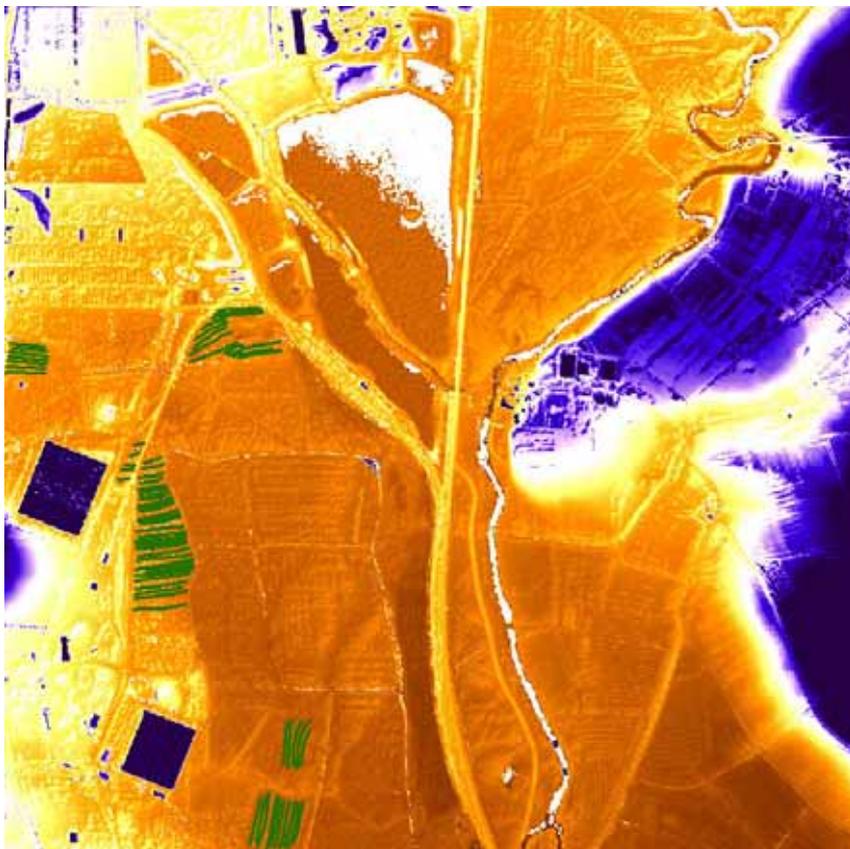


Figure 9: Ridge and furrow mapped from LiDAR

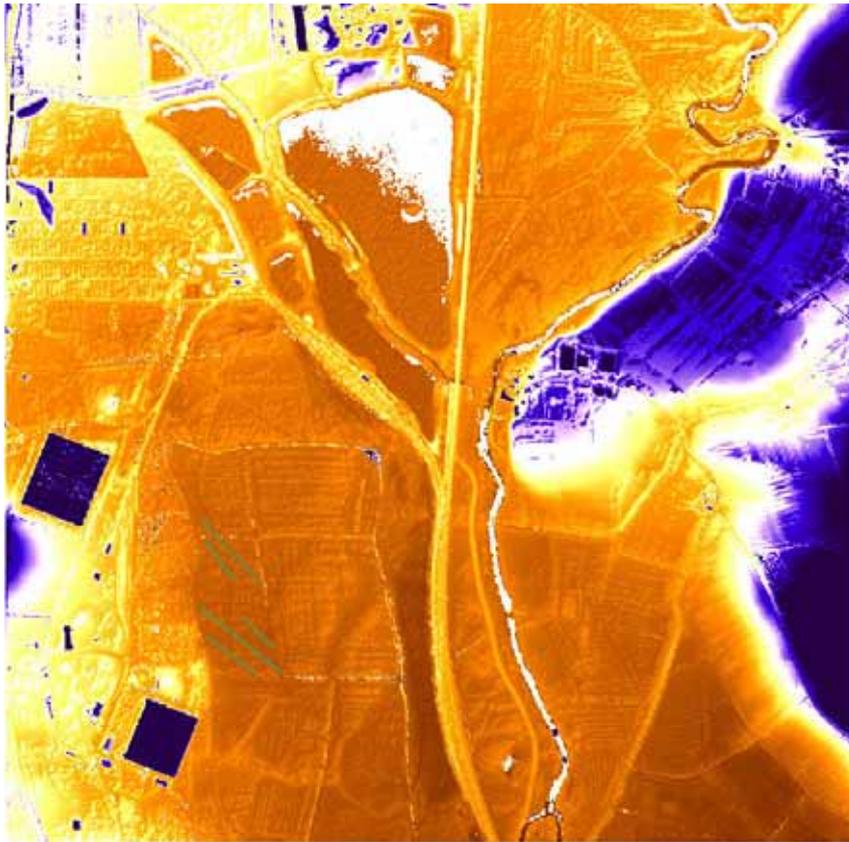


Figure 10: Drains mapped from LiDAR

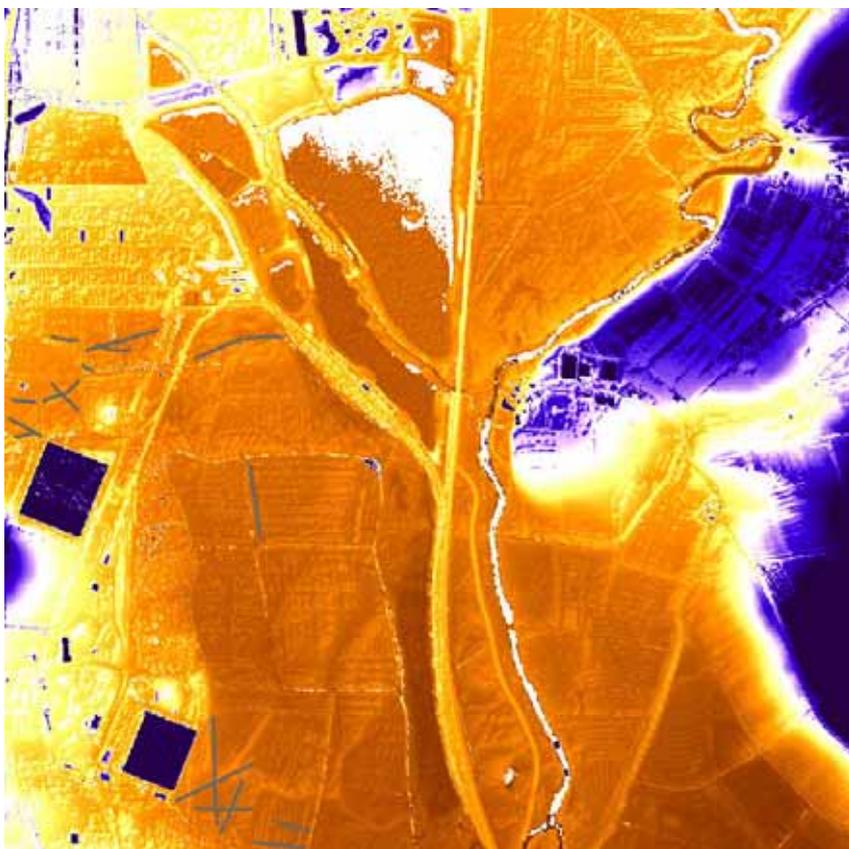


Figure 11: Unassigned features mapped from LiDAR

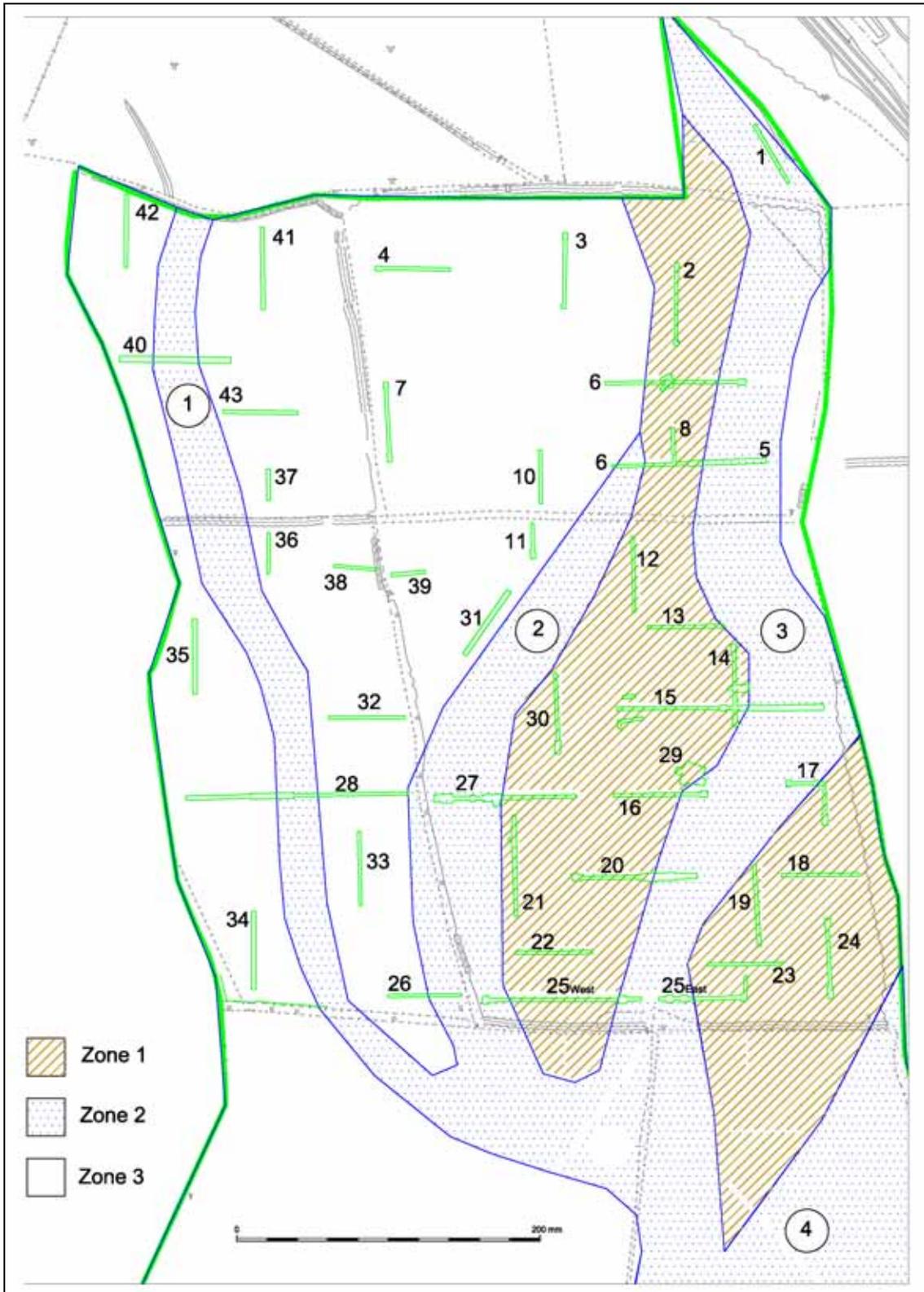


Figure 12: Trench locations



Figure 13: General view of the southeast field, Marden Church in the distance, facing northeast.



Figure 14: Trench 27 - single large early Neolithic pit, facing west.



Figure 15: Trench 21 - circular pit containing burnt sandstone slabs and Beaker period artefacts, facing west.



Figure 16: Trench 14 - general view of probable Middle Bronze Age cremation pits, facing northwest.



Figure 17: Truncated burial urn, associated with Middle Bronze Age cremation group in Trench 14, scale at 50mm.



Figure 18: Trench 15 - early ditch (to centre) and bank (gravel concentration to right), located below the Unit 2 alluvial deposit, facing north.



Figure 19: Example of a red filled ditch



Figure 20: Trench 27 – organic deposits associated with Palaeochannel 2



Figure 21: Extensive organic band separating upper red alluvial unit (Unit 1) from lower yellow alluvium (Unit 2).