Archaeological earthwork survey, evaluation and excavation at land at Harry Stoke, South Gloucestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology

for RPS Group

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LAND AT HARRY STOKE, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological earthwork survey, evaluation and excavation report

Worcestershire Archaeology
Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service
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SITE INFORMATION

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Planning reference:	PT17/5810/RM
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation, excavation and earthwork survey was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) at Harry Stoke, South Gloucestershire (NGR ST 6229 7888). This comprised of fourteen evaluation trial trenches, eight excavation trenches, a survey of extant earthworks, and the auger survey of a pond. The project was commissioned by RPS (previously CgMs) on behalf of Crest Nicholson, in advance of a proposed residential development.

An assemblage of Mesolithic flint was recovered from a tree throw in the eastern part of the site. This was dominated by small blade debitage, and tools suggesting that flintknapping was carried out there indicating the presence of a small temporary shelter, probably using the natural cover of a fallen tree. Mesolithic flint was also recovered from another pit and potential activity of this period was noted previously from a site to the east.

Evidence of medieval activity was fairly limited in most of the trenches, although one area of more intensive activity was identified in the south-western part of the site. The activity largely dated to the 13th to early 14th century, and comprised of what appeared to be a pond, several other discrete features including a possible well, a short ditch, as well as an undated fence line. All the features were located to the west of a medieval ditch, which probably marks the boundary of an enclosure that was partially exposed during the works.

The two surveys recorded the surviving features, and analysis of lidar data supplemented these results. Most of the features surveyed were probably post-medieval field boundaries although a small number may have their origins in the medieval period. The evaluation and excavation trenches revealed limited archaeological evidence from the surveyed features, although many of the earthworks were associated with features cutting the natural strata. Generally, however, these features were sterile.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation, excavation and earthwork survey was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) at Harry Stoke, South Gloucestershire (NGR ST 6229 7888). This comprised of fourteen evaluation trial trenches, eight excavation trenches, a survey of extant earthworks, and an auger survey of a pond. The project was commissioned by RPS (previously CgMs) on behalf of Crest Nicholson, in advance of a proposed residential development. A planning application has been submitted to South Gloucestershire Council, and a programme of archaeological works was required to accord with a draft planning condition relating to the proposed development (planning reference PT17/5810/RM).

Paul Driscoll, the Archaeological Officer for South Gloucestershire Council, considered that the proposed development has the potential to impact upon possible heritage assets. Previous geophysical survey and evaluation on the site had identified evidence of medieval, post-medieval and modern activity at the site.

The project conforms to a methods statement prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019). A WSI was prepared by RPS (CgMs 2019) and approved by Paul Driscoll.

The excavation conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance: for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014b).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of the historic village of Harry Stoke, about 6.5km north-east of Bristol. It comprised of four fields, which had been used for pasture. The area of the site is 19 hectares and was bounded by the Ham Brook to the east, the A4147 Filton Road to the south, Harry Stoke Road to the west and north-west, and residential properties to the north. The site is undulating in nature although generally it slopes down towards Ham Brook in the east. The underlying geology was primarily mapped at Mercian Mudstone Group, with Blue Anchor Formation mudstone recorded along the western edge of the site (BGS 2019). Superficial Head deposits of ‘Clay, Silt, Silt and Gravel’ were mapped in the north-eastern corner of the site. The soils consisted of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage, of moderate to high fertility (Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute 2020).

2 Archaeological and historical background

It is thought that Harry Stoke was a subsidiary settlement in the parish of Stoke Gifford (Samuel and Young 1996) and probably established during the early medieval period. It appears to have been recorded as a separate estate called Stoke during the Domesday Survey in 1086, when it was recorded as being relatively small comprising of nine households. Tracing the history of the settlement during the medieval period is difficult, partially as a result of its close relationship with Stoke Gifford. However, it appears to have remained a very small manor and settlement throughout the medieval and later periods.

Excavations during the 1980s at the northern end of the historic settlement core (to west of the present site) revealed a farmstead dating to the 12th to 13th centuries which was abandoned during the second half of the 14th century (Young 1995). The reason for the abandonment of the farmstead was not evident from the archaeological remains but it was suggested that it was probably due to a combination of economic and social pressures. An assemblage of early prehistoric lithics was also identified from this site (Russett 1995a).

During the 20th century Harry Stoke, like the rest of the parish of Stoke Gifford, has largely been subsumed into the suburbs of Bristol. A series of extant earthwork features were noted to survive to the north-east of the historic settlement core, within the bounds of the development site. Part of a pond, which is also recorded as a moat on some historic maps, also survives in this area. Records on the South Gloucestershire HER indicate this is not a moat, but rather a pond. Ordnance Survey mapping indicates that the existing pond is significantly smaller than recorded in the late 19th and early 20th century indicating it has been subject to modern infilling.

The current site has been the subject to a desk-based assessment, a geophysical survey and two phases of archaeological evaluation. In 1996 Avon Archaeology Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation in the southern part of the site (Samuel and Young 1996). This comprised of 42 trenches and identified archaeological features in seventeen of the trenches. The features indicate activity dating to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods, although it was noted that the distribution of the activity was 'patchy'.

A desk-based assessment was produced in 2003 by CPM and updated in late 2004, although this report is not currently available. In 2005 Archaeological Services WYAS conducted a partial geophysical survey of site, as well as an area to the east of the current site (Harrison 2005). Two areas, called Block 1 and Block 2 covering a total of 12300m², were surveyed in the northern part of the current site. Block 1 was positioned over some of the extant earthworks while Block 2 was positioned over a flatter area to the east. Except for features which were related to the earthworks the survey failed to identify any anomalies that could be confidently attributed to significant archaeological remains.

Also undertaken in 2005 was an archaeological evaluation by AC Archaeology (Robinson 2005). The evaluation comprised the opening of 52 trenches in four areas. Area 1 was located of the northern part of the current site and comprised of fourteen trenches. The trenches yielded a small quantity of residual prehistoric flint and identified a number of features of medieval and/or post-medieval date which were associated with the extant earthworks in this area. The remaining trenches were located to the east of the present site.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the project are to locate and sample archaeological deposits and record their nature, extent and date with the aim of preserving these assets by record to mitigate the effects of the proposed development.

4 Project methodology

4.1 Introduction

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological works was prepared by RPS (CgMs 2019) and a Method Statement prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019). The development site was divided into seven phases (Site Phases 1-7). These are illustrated in Figure 2 and referenced in the remainder of this report.

4.2 Earthwork survey

The extant earthworks, located in Site Phases 1, 3 and 7, were subject to earthwork survey in order to complement lidar survey data. The earthwork survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS instrument, with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. Throughout the survey, notes and digital photographs were taken to supplement the digital survey record. A hachured drawing plan of the earthworks has been produced in QGIS. Although conditions the survey were generally good, the northern part of the site was covered in newt fencing which reduced the visibility of the often low and indistinct earthwork features even further.

4.3 Auger survey

A series of auger holes were recorded across the pond in the western part of the site to establish the profile of the feature. As noted above, historic Ordnance Survey mapping records the pond as a moat, but records held by the South Gloucestershire HER indicate the feature is a pond.

4.4 Archaeological evaluation

As described above (Section 2) most of the site had already been the subject of archaeological trial trench evaluation. However, discussions with the local planning authority archaeological advisor identified a number of areas of the site that required additional archaeological trial trench evaluation. These were located in Site Phases 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (Figure 2) and comprised of:

- Site Phase 3: Four trenches (Trenches 6-9) measuring 30m by 1.8m were excavated in this area to test the likely impact of the proposed development in that area on any archaeological remains that may be present, including the historic pond (Trench 6) and earthworks (Trench 7).
- Site Phase 4: Six trenches (Trenches 16-21) measuring 30m by 1.8m were excavated in this area to complement the results of the trial trenching already undertaken in this location, and to understand the archaeological potential of the areas within this site phase that had not previously been tested through trial trenching.
- Site Phase 5: A single trench (Trench 15) measuring 30m by 1.8m was excavated in this area to complement the results of the trial trenching already undertaken in this area, and to understand the archaeological potential of the areas within this site phase that had not previously been tested through trial trenching.
- Site Phase 6: A single trench (Trench 4) measuring 30m by 1.8m was excavated in this area to complement the results of the trial trenching already undertaken in this area, and to understand the archaeological potential of the areas within this site phase that had not previously been tested through trial trenching.
- Site Phase 7: Two trenches (Trenches 13-14) measuring 30m by 1.8m were excavated in this area to complement the results of the trial trenching already undertaken in this area, and to understand the archaeological potential for the presence of a medieval mill.

4.5 Archaeological excavation

Eight areas of detailed excavation and recording were identified based on the findings of previous archaeological investigations (Section 2). These were in Site Phases 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Figure 2) and comprised of:

- Site Phase 1: one trench (Trench 1) measuring approximately 25m by 25m to target features identified as medieval in date which were identified during the 2005 evaluation. While originally intended to be a single, uninterrupted area, the trench had to be divided into four smaller sections due to the presence of newt fencing, a public footpath, and a sewage pipe which all crossed through the location of the excavation area. As the area was positioned to target possible features identified in a previous evaluation trench, it was decided that it would not be appropriate to move the area to accommodate these obstacles.
- Site Phase 2: one trench (Trench 12) measuring 25m by 25m to target an undated linear feature identified during the 1996 evaluation.
- Site Phase 3: two trenches (Trenches 5 and 10) measuring 25m by 25m to target to target features identified as medieval in date which were during the 2005 evaluation.
- Site Phase 4: two trenches (Trenches 22 and 23) measuring 25m by 25m to target a series of medieval features identified during the 1996 evaluation.

- Site Phase 5: two trenches measuring 25m by 25m to target a prehistoric feature (Trench 3) and an undated feature (Trench 2), identified during the 1996 evaluation.

4.6 General methodology

In all evaluation and excavation trenches deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360º tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected, and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a GNSS device with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

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

The project archive (Appendix 1) is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited with Bristol Museums.

4.7 Metal detecting

Since October 2018 a local metal detectorist (Ian Lapraik) had been systematically detecting the site with permission of Crest Nicholson (the landowner). During the archaeological works Mr Lapraik typically detected the spoil heaps as well as identifying possible targets in archaeological deposits. Any finds in spoil heaps he showed to the project leader to determine if they were of archaeological interest, and worthy of retention by Worcestershire Archaeology. He also scanned the trenches when backfilled, reported all notable finds to the Portable Antiquaries Scheme and produced a series of reports which are included in Appendix 2. He has a separate agreement with Crest Nicholson over ownership of the finds not retained by Worcestershire Archaeology.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The earthwork features are illustrated in Figures 3-5, the auger holes in Figures 6-7, and the features recorded in the evaluation and excavation trenches are shown in Figures 8-22.

5.2 Earthwork survey

In the northern part of the site a series of low banks were identified (Features A-D and possibly E; Figure 4 and Plates 1-4), which historic mapping indicates relate to post-medieval field boundaries. To the south features I and J, which were both ditches (Figure 5 and Plates 5-6), and K, which was a distinct bank (Plate 7), also probably relate to post-medieval field boundaries.

Features H and G appear to represent the remains holloway or boundary orientated towards the north-east from the core of Harry Stoke (Figure 5 and Plates 8-10). Feature L which may also be the remains of a holloway, or possibly a substantial boundary ditch.

5.3 Auger survey

A sequence of five auger holes were excavated in 1m intervals across the pond to establish its profile (Figures 6 and 7; and Plate 11). They all revealed natural deposits at a depth of c.0.55-0.7m below the current ground level (Table 1). The base of the pond was broadly level. On the southern side of the pond several different deposits were identified indicating this side had been subject to a sequence of silting/infilling events, while the only a single deposit of black silt was identified on the northern side.

A sixth auger hole was excavated in the north western part of the pond. This revealed and a depth of 0.66m below the current water level and a similar soil profile to holes 1 to 3.

	Auger hole						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**		**6**
Context	P100: Soft red brown silt	P200: Soft grey black silt	P300: Soft grey black silt	P400: Soft black silt	P500: Soft black silt		P600: Soft grey black silt
	P101: Soft grey brown silt	P201: Soft grey red silt	P301: Soft black silt	P401: Soft red brown silt clay			P601: Compact orange black clay
	P102: Soft grey black silt	P202: Soft grey black silt	P302: Soft black silt (humic and woody)				P602: Compact yellow brown clay
	P103: Soft black silt	P203: Compact red brown clay silt					
	P104: Compact red and blue clay natural	P204:Compact red and blue clay natural	P303: Compact red and blue clay natural	P402: Compact red and blue clay natural	P501: Compact red and blue clay natural		P603: Compact red and blue clay natural
Depth to natural deposits	0.71m bgl	0.67m bgl	0.56m bgl	0.55m bgl	0.61m bgl		0.66m bgl
Depth of auger hole	0.78m bgl	0.73m bgl	0.66m bgl	0.64m bgl	0.81m bgl		0.71m bgl

Table 1: Summary auger hole record

5.4 Evaluation trenches

5.4.1 Site Phase 3: Trenches 6-9

5.4.1.1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit identified in all these trenches was a pinkish or reddish brown clay consistent with the natural mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area.

5.4.1.2 Trench 6 (Figure 6)

This trench targeted an infilled section of a pond (described as a moat on some historic mapping) in this area. Trench 13 (in Site Phase 7) also targeted this pond.

The remains of the pond (606) was identified at the western end of the trench. The pond measured at least 11m in width, and largely comprised of modern infill (605) consisting of loose rubble, ash and other waste measuring at least 1m in depth (Plate 12). Two earlier fills (603 and 604) were also noted although because the pond was not fully excavated it is unclear what their relationship was, and whether they were primary or later deposits. No finds were recovered from these deposits and no further excavation of pond was undertaken, as the modern infill was loose and unstable, causing the

edges of the trench to become unstable and collapse. No other archaeological deposits or features were identified in this trench.

5.4.1.3 Trench 7 (Figure 8)

This trench targeted the northern part of earthwork feature H.

The earliest feature was Ditch 703, which measured around 0.22m in depth (Figure 9, S.11 and Plate 13). It was filled by a single sterile clay (704) which yielded no finds. This was cut by Ditch 705 which measured 0.32m in depth and was also filled by a single clayey deposit (706) although this contained two sherds of medieval pottery and a fragment of bone antler. To the west of this feature was a bank (707) formed of clay. It measured 3.3m in width by 0.34m in height and although it did not contain any finds it appears likely that it was up cast material from Ditches 703 and 705. The bank and ditches were both sealed by subsoil (701) and topsoil (700). These features were interpreted as a possible holloway leading northwards from Harry Stoke during the topographic survey, although the excavated evidence suggests they were formed intentionally in two interventions, rather than through a longer process of repeated use.

5.4.1.4 Trench 8 (Figure 8)

No archaeological deposits or features were identified in this trench.

5.4.1.5 Trench 9 (Figure 8)

No archaeological features were identified in this trench. A layer of a light yellowish or orangish brown sandy silt colluvium (902) was identified above the natural substrate throughout this trench. It typically measured around 0.23m in depth, although it did reach a maximum of 0.54m.

5.4.1.6 Modern deposits

The features and deposits described above were sealed by subsoil and topsoil in these trenches.

5.4.2 Site Phase 4: Trenches 16-21

5.4.2.1 Natural deposits

In Trenches 16 and 17 (Figure 10) the natural substrate was a red clay consistent with the Mercia Mudstone mapped by the BGS in the area while in Trenches 18 to 21 it was a blueish-yellow clay consistent with the Blue Anchor Mudstone mapped in the area.

5.4.2.2 Trenches 16, 17 and 19-21 (Figures 10 and 12)

No archaeological deposits or features were identified in these trenches.

5.4.2.3 Trench 18 (Figure 10)

This trench was targeted across an earthwork, which represents the remains of a field boundary which historic mapping indicates was in use until the mid-20th century. To the west of the former boundary the natural topography was broadly level while to the east it drops down towards the Ham Brook.

The field boundary was represented by a ditch (1803) cutting the natural substrate. The ditch measured approximately 1.2m in width and 0.5m in depth (Figure 11, S.33) and contained four fills (1804-1807). Large stone slabs were present in the fill (Plate 14), possibly demolition rubble from structures associated with medieval or post-medieval Harry Stoke. A sherd of post-medieval pottery was also recovered from the ditch. This field boundary was also excavated in Trench 4 (Site Phase 6).

5.4.2.4 Modern deposits

These trenches were sealed by deposits of subsoil and topsoil, except Trench 17 where only topsoil was recorded.

5.4.3 Site Phase 5: Trench 15

Trench 15 (Figure 10) was not fully excavated to natural deposits due to the presence of asbestos at the eastern end. The trench comprised of made ground (1501) measuring up to 1m in depth, sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of topsoil (1500). It is of note that there is a distinct change in the lidar image in the south-east part of the site around Trench 15 (see Figure 22) and it appears highly likely that this area was used for dumping and levelling of a significant quantity of material during the 20th century.

5.4.4 Site Phase 6: Trench 4

This trench (Figure 10) targeted the same historic field boundary earthwork as Trench 18 (Site Phase 4). To the west of the former boundary the natural topography was broadly level while to the east it drops down towards the Ham Brook.

Excavation of the trench revealed that to the west of the trench was a natural greyish-blue clay representing Blue Anchor Mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area, while to the east a dark reddish clay represented the remains of Mercia Mudstone mapped. The field boundary was located at this change in geology, and a ditch (403) cut the natural substrate at this point. It measured approximately 1.4m in width and 0.3m in depth (Figure 11, S. 3 and Plate 15) and contained a yellowish-brown silty clay fill (404) which yielded a sherd of medieval pottery, animal bone and flint. This is the same field boundary as excavated in Trench 18 (803; Site Phase 4).

5.4.5 Site Phase 7: Trenches 13-14

5.4.5.1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit identified in these trenches was a pinkish or reddish brown clay consistent with the natural mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area.

5.4.5.2 Trench 13 (Figure 6)

This trench targeted an infilled section of a pond (described as a moat on some historic mapping) in this area. Trench 6 (in Site Phase 3) also targeted this pond.

The remains of the pond (1304) was identified at the western end of the trench. The pond measured at least 8m in width and comprised of modern infill (1305) consisting of loose rubble, ash and other waste measuring at least 1.5m in depth (Plate 16). No further excavation of pond was undertaken. No other archaeological deposits, features or finds were identified in this trench.

5.4.5.3 Trench 14 (Figure 8)

No archaeological deposits or features were identified in this trench.

5.4.5.4 Modern deposits

These trenches were sealed by deposits of subsoil and topsoil, except Trench 13 where the pond infill overlaid the topsoil.

5.5 Excavation trenches

5.5.1 Site Phase 1

5.5.1.1 Trench 1 (Figure 13)

This excavation trench targeted a number of features identified as medieval in date during the 2005 evaluation. As noted in Section 4.5 the trench had to be divided into four smaller areas due to the presence of newt fencing, a public footpath, and a sewage pipe which all crossed through the location of the excavation area.

The natural substrate encountered in the areas making up this trench excavation trench consisted of a reddish-orange silty clay with blue-grey mottling, seen at between 0.11m and 0.49m below the ground surface. A layer of orangey-brown, silty clay colluvium (102) was recorded in the south-east corner of the excavation area.

A single modern feature (105) was encountered in the south-west corner of the excavation area. This feature contained a predominantly limestone fill, and yielded sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery, CBM and metalwork. This appeared to be a linear feature (Figure 14, S.1) and was probably a stone drain, aligned north-west to south-east, although the full extent was not visible due to its position next to the exclusion zones avoiding the various obstacles crossing the excavation area. The stones did not appear to be structurally placed within the feature and it was interpreted as a drain.

The four excavation areas were sealed by a light orangey brown silty clay subsoil and a greyish brown clayey silt topsoil. Two unidentifiable iron objects and one unidentifiable piece of lead were recovered from colluvium 102, but no other finds were recovered from the trench.

5.5.2 Site Phase 2

5.5.2.1 Trench 12 (Figure 17)

This excavation trench targeted an undated linear feature identified during the 1996 evaluation. The natural geology encountered in this trench was a pink clay mudstone consistent with the natural mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area.

The natural stratum was cut by a single undated ditch orientated broadly east to west, which was the same as the feature identified during the evaluation. Two slots were excavated through the ditch (1205 and 1207). It measured less than 0.1m in depth and around 0.6m in width and was exposed for around 15m in length (Plate 17). The ditch yielded no finds, and was sealed by a thick layer of colluvial subsoil, measuring 0.2m to the west and 0.8m to the east, which was formed at the base of the slope, either naturally or due to ploughing. The trench was sealed by a layer of topsoil.

5.5.3 Site Phase 3

5.5.3.1 Trench 5 (Figure 13)

This excavation trench targeted a number of features identified as medieval in date during the 2005 evaluation as well as part earthwork feature E. The natural geology encountered in this excavation trench comprised of a reddish or yellowish-brown clay mudstone consistent with the natural mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area.

Four ditches were exposed in the trench. Ditches 503/505 and 515/519 were aligned together on the same north-west to south-east orientation. Ditch 503/505 measured approximately 1.1m in width and 0.30m in depth and had a flat U-shaped profile (Figure 14, S. 9). It contained a single sterile fill and yielded one sherd of 12th to 14th century pottery, animal bone and a piece of iron. Ditch 515/519 was a small ditch or gully measuring around 0.2m in depth (Figure 14, S. 13). It was recut (517) into a much larger ditch measuring 0.5m in depth and 1.9m in width. No finds were recovered from the ditch or recut, although given their relationship it appears likely that this feature is contemporary with Ditch 503/505. These features were located broadly under and on the same alignment as earthwork feature E (Plate 18).

Ditch 515/519 was cut by Ditch 511. This ditch was orientated broadly east to west and contained at least three fills, although it was not fully excavated as it was also truncated by the service trench for a modern water pipe. It yielded a sherd of post-medieval tile, and an environmental sample taken from this feature did not yield any significant material.

An undated ditch (509) was identified in the western part of this trench, orientated north-west to south-east for about 10m in length. This ditch had a V-shaped profile, and a single, compacted fill, which yielded no finds (Figure 14; S. 5). The ditch appeared to be truncated at either end.

Several modern features including a field drains and a geotechnical test pit were also identified in this trench, which was otherwise sealed by deposits of subsoil and topsoil.

5.5.3.2 Trench 10 (Figure 13)

This excavation trench targeted a number of features identified as medieval in date during the 2005 evaluation as well as part earthwork feature G. The natural substrate encountered in this excavation trench comprised of a reddish, pinkish or yellowish-brown clay mudstone consistent with the natural mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area.

The earliest deposit identified was colluvium 1002, which was identified across the trench (Figure 15, S. 18 and 19) but was deepest in the northern part of the trench. Here it measured up to 1m in depth. An environmental sample taken from this feature did not yield any significant material.

The colluvium was cut by an elongated pit or tree throw 1018. It measured approximately 1.9m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.15m in depth (Figure 16, S. 28 and Plate 19), and was filled by a single dark grey humic silt, which yielded over 150 Mesolithic flints and a stone anvil. An environmental sample from this feature only yielded occasional charcoal fragments.

The remaining features identified in the trench were likely post-medieval or undated. Ditches 1006/1014 and 1008/1014 were aligned together on the same north-east to south-west orientation for approximately 11m within the trench. Ditch 1006/1014 measured up to 1m in width and 0.4m in depth (Figures 15, S. 18 and 16, S. 20), and contained a single fill which yielded a sherd of pottery dating to the post-medieval period. Ditch 1008/1016 measured 1.2m in width and 0.5m in depth and also contained a single fill (Figures 15, S. 18 and 16, S. 20). Although this ditch yielded no datable finds given their relationship it is certainly contemporary with Ditch 1006/1014. These features were located broadly under and on the same alignment as earthwork feature G, which was represented by deposits 1004 and 1005 (Figure 15, S. 18 and 19; Plate 20).

Posthole 1010 and Gully 1012 were both undated. Posthole 1010 measured 0.31m in diameter and 0.1m in depth and contained a single fill. Gully 1012, which also contained a single fill, was a shallow, meandering, feature measuring around 12m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth (Figure 16, S. 25). No finds were recovered from either of these features.

The trench was sealed by deposits of subsoil and topsoil.

5.5.4 Site Phase 4

5.5.4.1 Trench 22 (Figure 18)

This excavation trench targeted a number of features identified as medieval in date during the 1996 evaluation. The natural geology encountered in this excavation trench comprised of a reddish, pinkish or yellowish-brown clay mudstone consistent with the natural mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area.

The earliest feature identified in this trench was Pit 2223. This shallow pit measured around 3.1m in length, 1.1m in width and 0.1m in depth (Figure 19, S. 47 and Plate 21) and contained a single fill, which yielded two pieces of Mesolithic flint. The pit was filled by a sterile yellowish-brown silty clay with dark blue mottling (2224). There was no evidence for the presence of any surviving environmental remains.

The remaining features in this trench mostly dated to the medieval period. A large shallow feature (2248), probably the remains of a pond was identified in the western part of the site. It measured approximately 10m in width, at least 11m in length, and 0.5m in depth (Plate 22). It contained three fills (2252, 2254, 2267) in the central and southern part of the feature (Figure 21, S. 63), while on the northern and eastern side it appeared to be defined or bounded by a wall (2249; Plate 23). One the southern side there was an extensive rubble deposit (2252; Plate 24) and it was unclear if this was simply a dump of stone or an attempt to provide a surface, possibly for livestock, on this side of the pond. Finds from the pond included medieval pottery and animal bone. In the base of the pond a possible posthole (2259; Figure 21, S. 67) was identified although its relationship with the pond was not established.

The pond appeared to be sealed (or possibly filled) by layer 2222 which contained over 100 sherds of medieval pottery, although a small amount of post-medieval and modern pottery was also recovered, as well as fired clay, a possible stone tile, animal bone and a piece of oyster shell. An environmental sample yielded only yielded occasional charcoal fragments and plant macrofossils. To the south-east of the pond was another deposit of stone (2264), although this had been truncated by modern drain and an evaluation trench in 1996 and the nature of this uncertain.

North of the pond was layer 2219. This deposit, which measured no more than 0.1m in depth but measured at least 6m by 3m, simply appeared to be filling a shallow depression in the natural geology. It contained two small sherds of medieval pottery.

To the west of layer 2219 was Ditch 2 (sections 2227, 2229 and 2231), which measured around 9.3m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.05m in depth. Although this feature was shallow and truncated it yielded twelve sherds of medieval pottery.

Ditch 2 was cut by Ditch 2225 which measured around 0.8m in width and 0.3m in depth and contained eighteen sherds of medieval pottery. It measured around 4m in length and had an unclear relationship with feature 2216 to the south. Feature 2216 was a pit or extension of Ditch 2225, and measured approximately 4.8m in length, 1.6m in width and 0.4m in depth (Figure 19, S. 45 and Plate 25). It contained two fills and the upper fill yielded a large quantity of stone, which appeared to be a dump of material, rather than the remains of an *in-situ* structure. Finds included medieval pottery, iron and copper alloy objects, and animal bone.

Three other pits were located in this part of the trench. Pit 2220 measured around 2.2m in length, 1.0m in width and 0.4m in depth (Figure 19, S. 51). It contained a single homogeneous fill which yielded over 50 sherds of pottery, as well as a small amount of animal bone and stone.

Pit 2233 measured approximately 2m in diameter and 1.8m in depth, and contained five fills (Figure 20, S. 61 and Plate 26). The basal fill (2234) contained pottery dating to the mid to late 13th century, while the fourth fill (2237) contained pottery with a slightly latter range (mid 13th to mid 14th). A dump of stone (2236), which included a whetstone, may define a change in use and there was also another defined stone dump (2238) on top of the feature. This feature held ground water even in late summer/early autumn and of note was a small ‘ledge’ or ‘step’ in the profile of the feature, approximately 0.6m above the base. This feature was probably a well, although environmental samples only revealed occasional charcoal and plant macrofossils, and no evidence of waterlogged material was identified.

The eastern side of the medieval activity appeared to be defined by Ditch 1 (section 2203, 2239 and 2243). This feature was orientated broadly north to south across the trench and measured up to 2.1m in width and 0.6m in depth (Figure 19, S. 35, 57 and 59; Plate 27). It contained two fills although a possible recut (2246) was also identified in section 2243. The finds from this feature date to the 13th century, while iron and copper objects, stone tile, fired clay and animal bone were also identified. An environmental sample taken from section 2243 only revealed occasional charcoal, but one taken from section 2204 revealed moderate to abundant evidence of plant macro fossil, charcoal and mollusc.

Five undated postholes (2206, 2208, 2110, 2212 and 2214) and an undated pit (2261) were identified in the western part of the trench. The postholes appear to have been running broadly east to west and may be the remains of a fence line. Pit 2261 measured 2.9m in length, 1m in width and 0.42 (Figure 21, S. 65). It contained a sequence of three fills. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

The trench was sealed by a subsoil and topsoil.

5.5.4.2 Trench 23 (Figure 12)

No features, deposits or finds were identified in this trench.

5.5.5 Site Phase 5

The earliest deposit identified in these trenches was a pinkish or reddish-brown clay consistent with the natural mudstone mapped by the BGS in this area.

5.5.5.1 Trench 2 (Figure 17)

This trench targeted a prehistoric feature identified in the 1996 evaluation. The trench was identified but the feature was not, due to the evaluation trench being excavated deeper than the top of the natural horizon, and the backfill of the trench covering it (Plate 28).

Towards the south-eastern edge of this trench was a thin deposit of colluvium (202). This deposit was not identified in most of the trench, but it was also identified further downslope in Trench 3 (see below). No further features were identified within the excavated area, except for two heavily truncated furrows (204 and 206).

5.5.5.2 Trench 3 (Figure 17)

This trench targeted an undated feature identified in the 1996 evaluation. It was not fully excavated to the natural substrate due to the depth of the deposits encountered. The earliest deposit identified in this trench was a light whiteish-grey with frequent brown clayey silt (304), which was visible along the eastern side of the trench (Plate 29). This appeared natural in origin and may be the remains of colluvium or possibly an earlier (paleo)channel for the Ham Brook which was located 11m to the east of the trench.

Cutting the natural mudstone substrate was Pit 305 (Plate 30). This was the remains of the pit excavated during the 1996 evaluation. The surviving half of the feature was excavated revealing charcoal flecking and a few fragments of natural sandstone but no other finds.

Deposit 304 and Pit 305 were sealed by layer of colluvial subsoil (302) which measured 0.45m deep to the west of the trench and 1.05m deep to the east, a profile similar to the colluvial subsoil identified in Trench 12. This deposit was formed at the base of the slope, either naturally or due to ploughing. No other features or deposits, or finds, were identified in this trench.

6 Artefactual evidence by C Jane Evans and Rob Hedge

6.1 Introduction

The artefact report conforms to standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), as well as further guidance on pottery analysis, archive creation and museum deposition created by various pottery study groups (PCRG/SGRP/MPRG 2016), the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF 2011), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993).

6.2 Aims

The broad aims of the project are defined in Section 3 above. With these in mind, finds analysis aimed to identify, quantify and date all artefacts, with a view to dating and characterising the site and establishing the wider significance of the finds.

This report covers artefacts of Mesolithic to modern date, the two most significant assemblages being the Mesolithic flint and medieval pottery.

6.3 Methodology

6.3.1 Recovery policy

Artefacts were recovered according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). The majority of artefacts collected in the field were recovered by hand, but a small quantity of further material was retrieved from environmental samples (see below).

6.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each stratified context. This date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2007 database, with tables generated using Microsoft Excel. Artefacts from environmental samples were examined and those worthy of comment are included below.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification. It was recorded using site specific fabric codes which were then cross referenced, where possible, to known fabrics. This was done with reference to: the Gloucester pottery fabric type series (http://glospot.potsherd.net/docs/intro); the Bristol Pottery Type (BPT) Series (Vince 2004); detailed fabric descriptions in Alan Vince's PhD thesis (Vince1984); and the online fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (WAAS 2017). Some of the known local and regional fabrics are described as very variable, which made precise fabric identification more difficult. Individual sources can be split into a range of fabric codes within the Bristol Type series (Vince 2004) but are more likely to be 'lumped' together in the Gloucester series. The presence of diagnostic forms and decoration, however, supported fabric identifications. A small quantity of small sherds that could not be identified with confidence were grouped as Fabric 10. Pottery from environmental samples was analysed where possible. A small quantity was not seen by the author due to restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, though quantification and photographs were provided. These sherds have also been recorded as Fabric 10. The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight. Diameters and percentages were recorded for rims but not bases, allowing additional quantification by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). Decoration and evidence for manufacture, use and post-deposition were recorded, if evident. However, most sherds were very abraded.

Classification of worked flint follows conventions outlined in Ballin (2000), Inizan *et al* (1999), and Butler (2005); the material was catalogued according to type and dated where possible. Visible retouch, edge-damage, cortex, raw material characteristics and quality, burning, and breakage were noted.

Where possible, the results from analysis of this assemblage have been compared to assemblages from other local and regional sites.

It should be noted that the finds were recorded in 2020 during COVID-19 Lock Down. This prevented access to fabric type sherds and severely restricted access to literature not available online.

6.3.3 Discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). Large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain (such as local production), may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample will be retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

6.4 Results

6.4.1 Summary

The assemblage totalled 1754 finds (Table 2). These came from 36 stratified contexts, derived from four of the evaluation trenches (4, 6, 7 and 18) and five of the excavated areas (1, 2, 5, 10 and 22). Unstratified finds, mostly recovered by metal-detecting of spoil heaps, are also included. Apart from the small but significant assemblage of Mesolithic flint from Trench 10, the majority of finds comprised medieval pottery from Trench 22. A scatter of post-medieval and modern finds was also recovered. The majority of the Mesolithic flint represents primary deposition in two features: other material was

largely residual within later features and site soils. The medieval and later finds also appear to have been redeposited; most sherds were abraded and fragmentary with an overall average sherd weight of less than 10g.

Period	Material class	Material subtype	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)
Mesolithic	Stone	Chert	Debitage	2	2
			Tool	1	0.9
		Flint	Debitage	176	316.4
			Tool	10	24.8
		Sandstone	Anvil	1	626
Later Mesolithic	Stone	Flint	Debitage	2	1.3
			Tool	2	1.5
Mesolithic to early Bronze Age	Stone	Flint	Debitage	12	25.4
			Tool	1	5.5
Prehistoric	Stone	Flint	Debitage	1	1
			Tool	1	7.1
Medieval	Ceramic	Earthenware	Pot	1323	11200
		Fired clay	Spindle whorl	1	16
	Metal	Copper alloy	Button	2	4
			Finger ring	1	2
			Hooked book clasp	2	8
Medieval /post-medieval	Metal	Copper alloy	Copper alloy plate with iron hinge	1	5
			Wire shank button	1	1
		Iron	Horseshoe	1	63
			Iron object	15	93
			Nail	7	60
			Unidentified	1	6
Post-medieval	Ceramic	Fired clay	Clay pipe	24	44
			Tile	3	104
	Metal	Copper alloy	Bent coin/token	1	1

Period	Material class	Material subtype	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)
			Buckle	2	13
			Button	1	1
Post-medieval / modern	Ceramic	Earthenware	Pot	28	266
		Fired clay	Brick/tile	12	361
	Metal	Copper alloy	Coin/token	4	19
			Copper alloy fragment	5	13
			Decorative strip	1	4
			Perforated buttons	3	3
			Upholstery tack	1	1
			Wire shank button	19	47
Modern	Metal	Aluminium alloy	Toy truck	4	42
		Copper alloy	Anti-aircraft shell	3	43
			Copper alloy object	4	99
			Washer	3	4
		Iron	Iron object	15	85
	Plastic		Homing pigeon ring	1	0.5
			Pot	1	31
Undated	Ceramic	Fired clay	Fragment	15	274.5
	Metal	Copper alloy	Copper alloy fragment	2	2
			Copper alloy slag	1	48
		Iron	Flake hammerscale	3	1
		Lead	Folded lead strip	1	15
			Lead object	10	56
			Lead pot mend	2	45
			Lead weight	1	22
		Slag(Fe)	Fragment	9	1341
	Mortar	Mortar	Fragment	5	5.5

Period	Material class	Material subtype	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)
	Stone		Tile	5	222
			Whetstone	1	151
			Totals	**1754**	**15834**

Table 2: Quantification of site artefact assemblage (ie excluding animal bone)

The reports below provide a detailed discussion of the finds by period and material type, describing evidence for dating and discussing the context and significance of the finds.

6.4.2 Prehistoric flint and stone

6.4.2.1 Background

Stratified Mesolithic finds are rare in Gloucestershire: in 2004, Saville (2004, 240) noted that 'more extensive evidence of Mesolithic presence… must surely be awaiting discovery in Gloucestershire'. In the same volume, Darvill notes that recent discoveries have been concentrated in the uplands, and that the extensive early Holocene topographic changes render the South Gloucestershire and Bristol areas challenging to interpret (Darvill 2004, 16). Notwithstanding the presence of Mesolithic material at Bradley Stoke (Samuel 2002), South Gloucestershire remains somewhat sparsely represented in distribution maps (Bell 2007, Figure 1.6), although the extensive evidence for Mesolithic activity along the west bank of the Severn, at sites like Goldcliff, suggests the area was well-utilised, especially in the later Mesolithic.

Interrogation of grey literature from the locality suggests that Mesolithic material may indeed be more prevalent in the area than previously suspected: residual material from the 1987-8 Harry Stoke excavations (Russett 1995a) was recorded as largely Neolithic-Bronze Age, but the descriptions include the suggestion of earlier material. On the Bronze Age site of Savages Wood, Bradley Stoke (Russett 1995b), Mesolithic elements were present within the assemblage. The 2005 evaluation of this site yielded a single microlith among a Mesolithic to Bronze Age assemblage (Laidlaw and Martin 2005), although the 1996 evaluation yielded only material of Neolithic and Bronze Age date (Russett 1996).

6.4.2.2 Quantification

The assemblage comprised 208 pieces of flaked stone (Table 3), of which 15 (43g) were retouched tools and pieces with clear evidence of use-damage; the remaining 193 (343g) were unmodified blades, flakes, and other debitage. Of these, 156 (229g) came from a single deposit: fill 1018 of pit or tree throw feature 1019. This feature also contained a large piece (626g) of worked sandstone, with two dished, abraded surfaces, which is probably an anvil (Figure 26.1).

Artefact class	Artefact type	Flake portion	Qty	Weight	Period	Start date	End date
Tool	Backed blade	Proximal	2	4.1	Mesolithic	-10000	-4000
	End-scraper	Distal	1	3.5			
	Micro-scraper		1	6.3			
	Notch	Distal	1	0.9			

Artefact class	Artefact type	Flake portion	Qty	Weight	Period	Start date	End date
	Segment	Medial	1	1.4			
	Truncated blade	Proximal	2	4.2			
	Utilised flake	Distal	1	3			
		Proximal	1	2.1			
		Whole	1	3			
	Scalene microlith		1	1	Later Mesolithic	-6500	-4000
	Segment	Medial	1	0.5			
	Utilised flake	Whole	1	5.5	Mesolithic to early Bronze Age	-10000	-1500
	Utilised flake	Proximal	1	7.1	Prehistoric	-10000	43
Tools subtotal			**15**	**42.6**			
Debitage	Blade	Distal	4	4.1	Mesolithic	-10000	-4000
		Medial	9	4.9			
		Proximal	8	5.9			
	Blade core		1	10.1			
	Bladelet core		1	41			
	Chip		57	13.1			
	Chunk		23	45.2			
	Core rejuvenation flake		3	13			
	Flake	Distal	1	1.4			
		Medial	2	3			
		Proximal	11	14.8			
		Whole	50	91			
	Flake core		3	31.9			
	Microblade	Proximal	2	2			
		Whole	2	0.2			

Artefact class	Artefact type	Flake portion	Qty	Weight	Period	Start date	End date
	Tested nodule		1	34			
	Microburin	Distal	1	1	Later Mesolithic	-6500	-4000
	Blade	Proximal	1	0.3			
	Blade	Whole	1	4.1	Mesolithic to early Bronze Age	-10000	-1500
	Chunk		3	6.8			
	Flake	Medial	1	3			
		Proximal	1	2.8			
		Whole	6	8.7			
	Chip		1	1	Prehistoric	-10000	43
Debitage subtotal			**193**	**343.3**			
Overall total			**208**	**385.9**			

Table 3: Quantification of flaked stone assemblage

6.4.2.3 Raw materials

There were three pieces of orange-brown chert and a sandstone anvil. The remainder was flint, which varied widely in character and quality. The majority comprised translucent light to dark grey pebble flint of moderate to poor quality. Cores showed a high proportion of hinge fractures and other knapping accidents caused by flaws in the flint. Where cortex was present, it tended to be off-white to cream in colour, but relatively thin and contused. These characteristics suggest that the majority of flint artefacts were made of locally sourced material from glacio-fluvial deposits.

Post-depositional abrasion was noted on the unstratified and residual material: this is typical of artefacts that have been present in near-surface domestic or cultivation soils for some time.

Re-cortication — mostly leaving an opaque light grey, off-white or blue-grey ‘skin’ — was observed on 11% of the artefacts, but this did not reliably correlate with date.

6.4.2.4 Metrics

Length and breadth measurements were taken from 64 complete flakes or flake tools, where dimensions had not been altered by modification or breakage post-manufacture. This is a relatively modest sample. The results are plotted in Charts 1 and 2. Pitts and Jacobi (1978) highlight the difficulties in distinguishing later Mesolithic and later assemblages based on scatterplots alone, but the presence of both slender blades and broad, squat flakes, and the mean breadth/length ratio of 0.76, are consistent with the values expected from an assemblage concentrated in the later Mesolithic, with a handful of later elements.

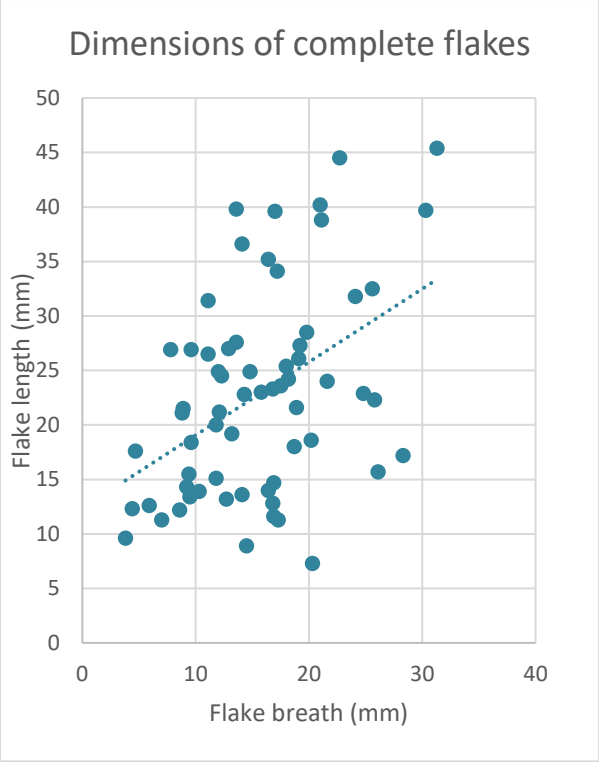

Chart 1: scatterplot showing length and breadth of complete flakes

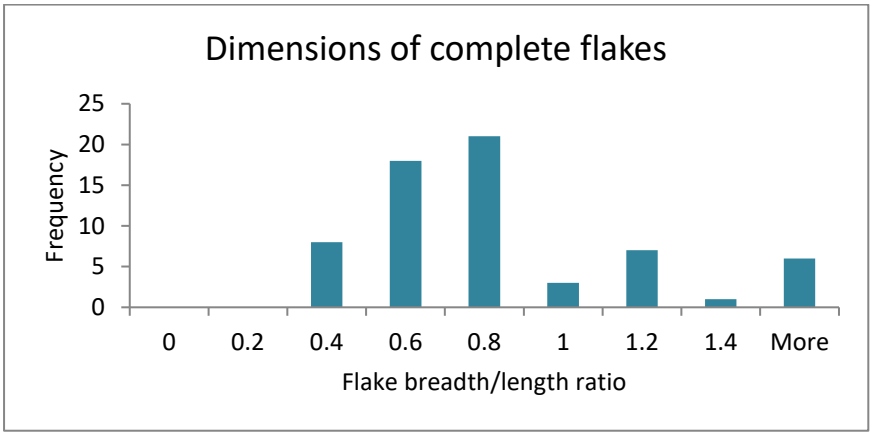

Chart 2: Histogram showing breadth/length ratio of complete flakes

6.4.2.5 Analysis

The presence of very small microblades, a microlith, a microburin, and snapped blades, are all typologically indicative of a later Mesolithic date for the bulk of the assemblage. The 156 pieces from feature 1019 in Trench 10 (see Plate 31) are dominated by small blade debitage, and tools including backed and obliquely-truncated blades, and suggest the presence of a small temporary shelter, probably utilising the natural cover of a tree-throw. The presence of small debitage and a probable anvil indicates that flintknapping was carried out here.

Pit 2223 in Trench 22 is probably roughly contemporary, although only two pieces of flint were recovered from this feature. The remainder of the assemblage is largely residual (see Plate 32); the majority — including bladelet cores, truncated blades and blade segments — is probably of the same date, although among the undiagnostic debitage are some pieces likely to be Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Although the residual material is widely distributed, the two notable concentrations are in

trenches 10 and 22. A full list of flaked stone with quantities from each context can be found in Appendix 3.

6.4.3 Pottery

Medieval and later pottery was recovered from nine trenches (Table 4). The only significant assemblage was the medieval pottery from Trench 22; other trenches produced only a handful of sherds. No prehistoric pottery was recovered from any of the trenches, though Bronze Age pottery has been noted from previous fieldwork at Harry Stoke (Laidlaw 2005, 13). The medieval and later wares represented are listed in Table 5, with concordance to the Gloucester and Bristol type series where possible.

Trench description	Trench	Pottery period	Count	% count	Weight (g)	% weight	Average weight	Rim eve
Evaluation trench	4	Undated	1	0%	2	0%	2	0
	6	Post-medieval	1	0%	20	0%	20	0.11
	7	Medieval	2	0%	15	0%	8	0
	18	Post-medieval/ modern	1	0%	65	1%	65	0
Excavation area	1	Modern	4	0%	11	0%	3	0
		Post-medieval	7	1%	45	0%	6	0
	2	Medieval	1	0%	3	0%	3	0
		Post-medieval	1	0%	35	0%	35	0
	5	Medieval	4	0%	40	0%	10	0
	10	Post-medieval	1	0%	8	0%	8	0
	22	Late med/ early post-med	2	0%	5	0%	3	0
		Late medieval	1	0%	12	0%	12	0
		Medieval	1255	95%	10685	95%	9	10.72
		Post-medieval	7	1%	47	0%	7	0
		Post-medieval/ modern	2	0%	9	0%	5	0
		Undated	24	2%	13	0%	1	0
Unstratified		Medieval	8	1%	174	2%	22	0
		Modern	1	0%	9	0%	9	0
Total			1323	100%	11198	100%	9	10.83

Table 4: Summary of the medieval and later pottery by trench and period

Period	Fabric common name	Archive fabric code(s)	Gloucester fabric code	Bristol fabric code
Medieval	Brill/Boarstall ware	Fabric 13		
	Unsourced glazed ware	Fabric 21		
	Ham Green ware	Fabrics 1, 2 & 5	TF53	Proto Ham Green BPT 305; glazed Ham Green BPT 26, 27, 241, 248; BPT 32, 65
	Minety ware	Fabric 4		BPT 18, 84, 145
	Redcliffe ware	Fabric 6	TF92	BPT 72, 74, 85, 103, 117, 118, 120, 123, 126, 154, 166, 208, 230, 242, 247, 294, 316, 324, 357
	Reduced quartz-tempered ware	Fabric 8		
	Reduced fine sand-tempered ware	Fabric 7		
	Oxidised flint-tempered ware	Fabric 3	TF47?	
	Reduced flint-tempered ware	Fabric 9	TF47?	
	Shell tempered ware	Fabric 11		
Late med/ early post-med	Beauvais ware?	Fabric 12		
	Southern white ware	Fabric 14		
Post-medieval	Nottingham stoneware	Fabric 15	TF121	BPT 212
	Tin-glazed	Fabric 20	TF62	BPT 99
Post-medieval/ modern	Porcelain	Fabric 19	TF66	BPT 203
	Post-medieval red ware	Fabric 16	-	
	Stoneware	Fabric 17	TF96	BPT 277?
Modern	Modern china	Fabric 18	TF69, TF71	

Table 5: List of pottery fabrics represented

6.4.3.1 Medieval pottery (13th to 14th century)

One thousand three hundred and twenty-three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, weighing 11.2kg. While the discussion below covers all the medieval pottery, the vast majority came from excavation Trench 22 (Table 4) with very little found in the other evaluation and excavation trenches. The assemblage was fragmentary and abraded which made identification of fabrics more difficult. This was compounded by the fact that known sources of the 'Avon wares' found in the region, for example Ham Green and Redcliffe, produced very variable fabrics (Vince 1984, Chapter 2). While the

presence of diagnostic forms and decoration supported fabric identification, some fabrics represented by less diagnostic sherds could not be confidently attributed to a source. The high level of fragmentation and abrasion suggested that the medieval pottery was redeposited, presumably derived from activity outside the area excavated. The Trench 22 assemblage dates broadly to the 13th to mid-14th centuries, perhaps with an emphasis on the period between the mid-13th to mid-14th century. The limitations of the dating mean that it is not clear whether the assemblage represents a discrete period of activity, or an accumulation of material dumped over a longer period of time.

The medieval fabrics are listed in Table 5 and summarised in Table 6. As with other medieval assemblages recorded from Harry Stoke (Burchill 1995;1996; Laidlaw 2005), the medieval wares were mainly from Ham Green, Bristol/Redcliffe and Minety.

Fabric common name	Count	% count	Weight (g)	% weight	Average weight (g)	Rim eve	% rim eve
Brill/Boarstall ware	1	0%	14	0%	14	0	0%
Glazed ware	2	0%	15	0%	8	0	0%
Ham Green ware	722	57%	5892	54%	8	5.36	47%
Minety ware	159	13%	1782	16%	11	2.03	18%
Oxidised flint-tempered ware	49	4%	437	4%	9	0.54	5%
Redcliffe ware	192	15%	1626	15%	8	2.58	23%
Reduced quartz-tempered ware	37	3%	329	3%	9	0.8	7%
Reduced fine sand-tempered ware	41	3%	648	6%	16	0.1	1%
Reduced flint-tempered ware	12	1%	76	1%	6	0	0%
Shell-tempered ware	1	0%	6	0%	6	0	0%
Unidentified (fabric 10)	54	4%	92	1%	2	0	0%
Total	1270	100%	10917	100%	9	11.41	100%

Table 6: Summary of all the medieval pottery fabric

Ham Green wares, produced near Pill on the outskirts of modern Bristol, made up more than half of the overall assemblage, and the Trench 22 assemblage, by count and weight (Table 6). Both glazed wares and unglazed wares were represented. An initial study of this ware (Barton 1963, 96-7) separated the kiln products into A and B fabrics; A fabrics having a high proportion of clay pellets and limestone, and B fabrics having a high proportion of quartz. Alan Vince's study (1984, Chapter 2) suggested there are more indeterminate sherds than ones that fall clearly into either of these groupings. During analysis, an attempt was made to separate out A and B fabrics but this supported Vince's findings. The glazed ware sherds were from jugs with sagging and, in one case, frilled bases. Only one rim from an A-style jug was noted (Figure 23.1), decorated with diamond-shaped rouletting. The other diagnostic sherds were more typical of B-style jugs, decorated with horizontal and vertical grooves (Figure 23.2). A-style jugs were produced from the 12th century but continued in use alongside the B-style jugs through the mid-to-late 13th century. One sherd from a jug (Figure 23.3) had impressions around the external handle scar and was slashed internally where the handle was attached; all presumably to help fix the handle in place. No exact parallels were found for this, though

Barton describes and illustrates a range of forms of handle fastening involving slashing or jabbing with the end of a stick (Barton 1963, 110-11). There was no evidence for earlier Ham Green forms, such as tripod pitchers dated by Vince to the late 12th century (*ibid*).

The Ham Green jars, with one exception unglazed, were characteristically oxidised 'brick red.' These are classified by both Barton and Vince as cooking pots (Barton 1963, 111; Vince ibid). The evidence from Harry Stoke supports this interpretation, many sherds having external smoke fuming or sooting and, occasionally, internal burnt residues. The jars/cooking pots are all similar to Barton's B-type cooking pots (1963, Figure 7); with slightly flaring rims (Figure 23.4-7), sagging bases, and decoration consisting of grooves, combing and, in one example, an applied strip (Figure 23.6). One rim had splashes of glaze inside (not illustrated). Some of the jars were in a coarser fabric variant (classified here as Fabric 2), typical of 'Proto-Ham Green ware' (Vince *ibid* 305; BPT). The rim forms were consistent with the other Ham Green jars, though one had finger impressions around the rim (Figure 23.7), a known characteristic of 'Proto-Ham Green ware.' Several sherds in this coarser fabric were also smoke fumed or had external sooting. Proto-Ham Green ware dates to the 12th century to early-13th centuries.

Figure 23 Ham Green ware

1 Ham Green ware. Rim of an A-type jug, decorated with diamond-shaped rouletting (cf Barton 1963, Figure 1.4-6). Diameter 10cm (10%). Pit 2220, fill 2221, Rec 141

2 Ham Green ware. Body sherd from a B-type jug, with a green glaze and decorated with horizontal and vertical grooves. Layer 2222, Rec 142

3 Ham Green ware. Body sherd from a jug, with a curved strap handle scar. There are eight vertical slashes on the inside of the vessel, where the handle is attached, and Group 1 ditch 2203, fill 2204, Rec 178

4 Ham Green ware. Jar rim, slightly flaring, flat-topped and with a slight external projection (cf Barton 1963, Figure 7.7). Shallow, horizontal combing on the shoulder. Diameter 24cm (32%). Group 1 ditch 2246, fill 2247, Rec 214

5 Ham Green ware. Jar rim, slightly flaring with a slight external projection (cf Barton 1963, Figure 7.2). Shallow, horizontal combing on the shoulder. Diameter 21cm (44%). Layer 2222, Rec 207

6 Ham Green ware. Jar rim, slightly flaring and flat-topped; decorated on the shoulder with an applied strip (cf Barton 1963, Figure 7.15). Diameter 25cm (44%). Ditch 2216, fill 2217, Rec 209

7 Ham Green ware. Jar rim, in the coarser 'Proto-Ham Green ware,' with finger impressed decoration (cf Barton 1963, Figure 7.1). A jar/cook pot from previous excavations in Harry Stoke, with similar decoration but a different form, is dated to 1200-1250 (Burchill 1995, Figure 14.28). Diameter 35cm (53%). Ditch 2216, fill 2217, Rec 206

Bristol Redcliffe ware jugs were also common (Table 6), with a handful of jars also recorded. The jugs had 'standard' Redcliffe rims, flat with a moulding or 'nose' just below (Figure 24.8-10; Dawson and Ponsford 2018); none of the later, simple rims were noted. One bridged spout was recovered from the well (fill 2237, not illustrated); these went out of use after about *c* 1350 (*ibid*). Strap handles were decorated with knife slashes and stabbing (Figure 24.10, 11) while body sherds were decorated with applied strips of red firing or self-coloured clay and/or horizontal grooves (Figure 24.12-13). Two types of bases were noted; a thumbed or frilled type (Figure 24.14), common at the beginning of the Redcliffe industry (Dawson and Ponsford *ibid*) and dated by Vince to the later 13th to early 14th centuries (*ibid*), and a splayed type which appeared in the 14th century and continued in use until the 15th century (*ibid*; Figure 24.15). As elsewhere (Vince *ibid*), few jars or 'cooking pots' were noted. The rims were gently everted and usually thickened (Figure 24.16); one small jar had splashes of glaze

inside the rim (Figure 24.17). A couple of sherds were smoke-fumed but otherwise there was no clear evidence for use.

Figure 24 Redcliffe ware

8 Redcliffe ware. Rim from a jug, flat-topped and slightly grooved, with a pronounced moulding or 'nose' just below. Diameter 12cm (44%). Well 2233, tertiary fill 2237 Rec 151

9 Redcliffe ware. Rim from a jug, flat-topped with a moulding just below; thick olive-green glaze. Diameter 10cm (20%). Well 2233, basal fill 2234, Rec 158

10 Redcliffe ware. Flat-topped rim and curved strap handle from a jug. The handle has slashed decoration, four downward strokes from the rim and diagonal slashes below 10cm (289%). Posthole 2256, fill 2258. Rec 146

11 Redcliffe ware. Curved strap handle from a jug, with stabbed and slashed decoration. Group 1 ditch 2239, upper fill 2241, Rec 147

12 Redcliffe ware. Body sherd from a jug, decorated with turned grooves and an applied strip with diagonal slashes. Group 1 ditch 2239, upper fill 2241, Rec 148

13 Redcliffe ware. Body sherd from a jug, decorated with an applied strip with an iron rich slip. Group 1 ditch 2203, fill 2204, Rec 144

14 Redcliffe ware. Frilled base from a jug (cf Dawson and Ponsford 2018, Figure 7 right). Group 1 ditch 2203, fill 2204, Rec 173

15 Redcliffe ware. Splayed, squared off base with a mottled green glaze (cf Dawson and Ponsford, Figure 7 left) Layer 2222, Rec 168

16 Redcliffe ware. Slightly everted, thickened, flat-topped rim from a jar, Diameter 27cm (47%). Group 1 ditch 2203, fill 2204, Rec 389

17 Redcliffe ware. Lid-seat rim from a small jar; patchy glaze inside and on the top of the rim. No sooting or fuming. Diameter 15cm (31%). Group 1 ditch 2203, fill 2204, Rec 380

Minety ware, produced in North Wiltshire, was also well represented (Table 6), mainly jugs but also occasional jars. The limestone-tempered fabric was often vesicular, where inclusions had leached out. The jugs had the curved strap handles characteristic of the ware, decorated with diagonal slashing (Figure 25.18-20), similar to vessels published from Cirencester, for example (Ireland 1998, Figure 89), and the jars had sharply everted rims (Figure 25.21) and sagging bases, similar to 13th century examples illustrated by McCarthy and Brooks (1988, Figure 206). One jar (not illustrated) had a horizontal ridge around its girth (cf McCarthy and Brooks 1988, Figure 206, 1393). Decoration consisted of combing (Figure 25.22, 23). Some sherds had smoke fuming or, occasionally, sooting or internal burnt residues; all supporting the interpretation of these as cooking pots. One more unusual, lid-seat rim was possibly from a pipkin (Figure 25.24). While production of Minety ware started in the early-to-mid 12th century, no typically-early forms were noted; there was, for example, no evidence for tripod pitchers, and no tubular spouts or complex handles were found. The forms were broadly consistent with a mid-13th to 14th-century date.

Figure 25 Minety ware and flint-tempered ware

18 Minety ware. Flat-topped rim from a jug, with curved handle decorated with diagonal slashing forming chevrons. Diameter 12cm (12%). Posthole 2256, fill 2258, Rec 136

19 Minety, flat-topped rim from a jug, with curved handle decorated with diagonal slashing. (cf Ireland 1998, Figure 89.50). Diameter 14cm (47%). Pond 2248, lower basal fill 2254, Rec 135

20 Minety curved strap handle from a jug, decorated with diagonal slashing (cf Ireland 1998, Figure 89.50, Posthole 2256, fill 2258, Rec 137

21 Minety sharply everted, grooved rim from a jar, a 13th century type (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, Figure 206.1388). The surface is smoke fumed indicating use as a cooking pot. Diameter 25cm (25%). Layer 2242 (over Group 1 ditch 2239), Rec 132

22 Minety body sherd decorated with wavy combing. Group 1 ditch 2246, fill 2247, Rec 417

23 Minety body sherd decorated with horizontal combing Group 1 ditch 2246, fill 2247, Rec 418

24 Minety ware, lid-seat rim, thickened and in-turned, possibly from a pipkin (cf Ireland 1998 Figure 89.45). Diameter 26cm (11%), Group 1 ditch 2243, fill 2244, Rec 313

25 Flint-tempered ware. Rim from a jar, oxidised (Fabric 3), slightly everted, thickened and in-turned at the tip. Diameter 30 (12%) Group 1 ditch 2246, fill 2247, Rec 290

Most of the other medieval wares were jars/cooking pots and occurred in much smaller quantities (Table 6). The few diagnostic sherds were mostly very fragmentary making comparison and illustration, difficult. Two fabrics, characterised by flint or chert inclusions (Fabric 3 oxidised, Fabric 9 reduced), are probably the same, with different firing or use patterns. These may be Bath fabric A/Bristol BPT46, as suggested by Burchill (1995, 42), though two of the oxidised rims are reminiscent of 13th-century Laverstock types (Figure 25.25; McCarthy and Brooks 1988, Figure 202, 1341), and may be contemporary, if not Laverstock products. There were no rims in the reduced fabric. Fabric 8 is quartz-tempered. This may include some North Avon Gritty wares, previously noted at Harry Stoke (Burchill, *ibid*), though this would indicate the presence of 12th century pottery not otherwise evident in the assemblage here. One fragmentary rim was again similar to a Laverstock form (not illustrated; McCarthy and Brooks 1988, Figure 202.1334), with an angular in-turned rim. Fabric 7 is a finer quartz-tempered fabric of unknown source, with no diagnostic forms. The only other cooking ware was a single, fragmentary sherd of shell-tempered ware (Fabric 11) from the basal fill of the pond (2248, fill 2254). This is unsourced, but Burchill notes that shell-tempered wares are common in the Bristol area (*ibid*). Only one slightly more exotic fabric was recorded from Trench 22, a rilled sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware, from the same pond fill.

The handful of medieval pottery from other trenches was mostly consistent with the finds from Trench 22. The only exception was a glazed ware (Fabric 21), represented by two sherds from Trench 7 (ditch 705, fill 706), which was unlike anything from Trench 22. These were in an iron-rich clay, with orange surfaces and a reduced core, tempered with quartz and ironstone, and with a pale green glaze. The source is unknown, but Burchill describes a quartz gritted jug fabric from Harry Stoke, with a suggested source in south Gloucestershire.

‘Fabric 10’ was used to record unclassified sherds, all probably medieval. This includes sherds too fragmentary for reliable analysis, and additional sherds from environmental samples, recovered after analysis of the pottery was complete. All the latter came from contexts for which pottery had already been recorded and, based on photographs, were in similar fabrics.

The late medieval/early post-medieval wares are discussed below.

6.4.3.2 The medieval pottery from Trench 22

With the exception of Fabric 21, all the pottery illustrated and discussed in detail above was from Trench 22. So little medieval pottery was recovered from other trenches that fabric proportions for the whole assemblage (Table 6) are effectively those for Trench 22. The pottery came from a range of features (Table 7), but predominantly from ditches (*c* 60% of the assemblage by count and weight). No significant patterns in deposition were evident between different feature types, though it is interesting that three handles were recovered from the fill of posthole 2256. Perhaps these more substantial sherds were deliberately selected for packing the post in place. The pottery from the layers was no more fragmented than from cut features; sometimes less so. Little can be drawn from the proportions of fabrics and forms in different features. Pit 2220 (fill 2221), the only pit to produce pottery, contained almost exclusively Ham Green ware, but the significance of this is uncertain. By far the largest assemblage was associated with the Group 1 ditch. The Group 2 ditch, in contrast,

produced only 11 sherds. The second largest group came from assorted layers, mostly from a layer over the pond (2222, 199 sherds, 1973g) and a stony layer over ditch 2239 (2242, 57 sherds, 427g).

The main forms represented were jars/cooking pots (Rim EVE 9.08) and jugs (Rim EVE 2.12), with one possible pipkin.

Feature type	Group number	Fill of	Count	% count	Weight (g)	% weight (g)	Average weight	Rim eve	% rim eve
Ditch		2216	53	4%	635	6%	12	1.17	10%
Ditch		2225	18	1%	28	0%	2	0	0%
Ditch	1	2203	151	12%	1514	14%	10	1	9%
Ditch		2239	98	8%	1028	10%	10	0.86	8%
Ditch		2243	13	1%	140	1%	11	0.11	1%
Ditch		2246	413	33%	2810	26%	7	1.87	16%
Ditch	2	2227	8	1%	29	0%	4	0.08	1%
Ditch		2229	3	0%	17	0%	6	0	0%
Layer			273	22%	2520	24%	9	3.52	31%
Pit		2220	54	4%	333	3%	6	0.22	2%
Pond		2248	37	3%	462	4%	12	0.79	7%
Posthole		2256	60	5%	701	7%	12	0.91	8%
Well		2233	74	6%	468	4%	6	0.88	8%
Total			1255	100%	10685	100%	9	11.41	100%

Table 7: Summary of the medieval pottery from Trench 22 by feature type and feature

6.4.3.3 Post-medieval and modern pottery

Very small quantities of late medieval/ early post-medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered from a number of trenches across the site (Table 8). The fabrics are listed in Table 5. The only pieces that justifies individual comment is a sherd of possible Beauvais sgraffito ware, recovered from the subsoil in Trench 22 (layer 2201), which dates to the 15th to 16th centuries. Two sherds of Southern white ware, also from Trench 22 (Ditch 2246, fill 2247) are probably contemporary with this. These had a thin yellowish-green glaze, more similar to Border ware than Tudor Green.

Period	Trench type	Trench	Feature type	Group/fill of	Fabric common name	Count	Weight(g)
	Excavation area	22	Ditch	Group 1, 2246	Southern white ware	2	5

Period	Trench type	Trench	Feature type	Group/fill of	Fabric common name	Count	Weight(g)
Late med/ early post-med			Subsoil		?Beauvais	1	12
Post-medieval	Evaluation trench	6	Pond		Nottingham stoneware	1	20
	Excavation area	1	Unknown	105	Nottingham stoneware	4	19
					Post-medieval red ware	2	25
					Tin-glazed	1	1
	Excavation area	2	Subsoil		Post-medieval red ware	1	35
	Excavation area	10	Ditch	1006	Post-medieval red ware	1	8
	Excavation area	22	Layer		Nottingham stoneware	2	20
			Layer		Post-medieval red ware	4	16
			Subsoil		Post-medieval red ware	1	11
Post-medieval/ modern	Evaluation trench	18	Ditch	1803	Post-medieval red ware	1	65
	Excavation area	22	Layer		Porcelain	1	4
			Layer		Stoneware	1	5
Modern			Unstratified		Modern china	1	9
	Excavation area	1	Unknown	105	Modern china	4	11
Total						28	266

Table 8: Summary of the post-medieval and modern pottery by period, trench and fabric common name

6.4.4 Other finds

6.4.4.1 Other ceramic finds

The only find of interest was a spindle whorl (SF12) found in layer 2222, overlying the pond (Figure 26.3). This is likely to be medieval, given the quantity of medieval pottery associated with it. However,

it is not in itself datable, and a small quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery was also incorporated in this layer. Other finds (Table 9) included: clay pipe fragments, mainly stems but including two bowl spurs, both unstratified; fragments of ceramic building material, and undiagnostic fragments of fired clay.

Trench	Feature type	Fill of	Object specific type	Period	Count	Weight(g)
Unstratified			Clay pipe	Post-medieval	23	41
1	Unknown	105	Brick/tile	Post-medieval/modern	12	361
5	Ditch	511	Fired clay	Undated	1	0.5
5	Ditch	511	Tile	Post-medieval	1	24
6	Pond		Tile	Post-medieval	1	45
22	Layer		Fired clay	Undated	1	0.5
	Layer		Spindle whorl	?Medieval	1	16
	Subsoil		Clay pipe	Post-medieval	1	3
	Ditch	2203	Fired clay	Undated	7	0.5
	Pit	2220	Fired clay	Undated	1	2
	Ditch	2246	Fired clay	Undated	5	271
	Ditch	2246	Tile	?Medieval	1	35

Table 9: Summary of the fired clay finds by trench

6.4.4.2 Metal finds

The majority of the metal finds were recovered from spoil heaps by metal detectorist Ian Lapraik. Those recovered during archaeological works are recorded in this report. Following the completion of the works, another scan of the disturbed ground was undertaken, yielding further material, discussed in Appendix 2. The latter has been shown to the areas Finds Liaison Officer, and it is hoped that a further stage of reporting can combine the material.

The metalwork is summarised in Table 2; a large quantity of medieval and post-medieval undiagnostic ironwork was recovered. Post-medieval copper-alloy coins and fittings were also common. 20th century finds of interest included shrapnel from anti-aircraft shells, and a late 1960s Matchbox toy grit-spreading truck. Condition was generally poor. Four finds of medieval date (see Plate 33) are worthy of further comment:

- Registered find 16 from context 2226: Cast copper-alloy button with a silver appearance, probably a tin-rich alloy. Bi-convex head, with a broken looped drawn wire shank. Another identical unstratified button was also recovered. These are a long-lived type dating from the mid-13th to the mid-14th century (Reed 2005, 23). This is consistent with the later-13th century pottery dating from 2226.
- Unstratified metal-detecting find: Copper-alloy stirrup-shaped finger-ring, with the gem missing. Internal diameter was 18mm, and the ring measured 25mm from the top of the bezel to the back of the hoop. It was in poor condition, with active corrosion. A type typically dated

from the mid-12th to the 15th century, they were most popular in the 13th century; this example is likely to be contemporary with the medieval settlement.

- Unstratified metal-detecting find: Hooked book-clasp, copper-alloy with two irons pins at the proximal end, and a third (possibly the remains of a lug) in the medial section. The distal end formed a hook. It was in two parts, and badly corroded. There were faint traces of rocker-arm decoration. It is a Howsam type A3 or A4: probably an A4.2, if the third pin is the remnants of a lug. These are thought to be 14th or 15th century in date (Geake 2016): it is just possible, therefore, that it is contemporary with the final phases of medieval settlement on the site.

6.4.4.3 Industrial waste

Occasional fragments of iron-working waste were found in four trenches (Table 10). Some were clearly tap slag, with the characteristic flowed surfaces; from the fill of a Trench 1 drain (105, fill 104), a Trench 2 furrow (206, fill 207), and the Trench 22 pond (2248, fill 2252). One of the fragments from the Trench 1 drain is more likely to be ore. The finds from Trench 10 were from Ditch 1006 (fill 1007). These are probably also smelting slag but have rougher surfaces. Larger quantities of slag have been found from previous fieldwork at Harry Stoke (Laidlaw 2005, 13).

Trench	Feature type	Fill of	Count	Weight(g)
1	Unknown	105	3	439
2	Subsoil		1	149
10	Ditch	1006	3	88
22	Pond	2248	2	665
Total			9	1341

Table 10: Summary of the industrial waste by trench

6.4.4.4 Medieval and later stone objects

An incomplete fragment of a schist whetstone (Figure 26.2; SF13) was recovered from the stony backfill of the Trench 22 well 2233 (fill 2236). The whetstone is rectangular in section (width 49mm, maximum thickness 33mm, extant length 68mm) and has iron staining from use, particularly down one side. It is not in itself closely datable, though the rectangular section is consistent with medieval types. Medieval pottery was recovered from other fills of the well. The only other stone finds were also from Trench 22; fragments of possible tile from stony layer 2242 and ditch 2246 (fill 2247).

6.5 Discussion

Only two trenches produced significant assemblages of finds: the Mesolithic flint from Trench 10 and from Trench 22, an assemblage of medieval pottery along with a handful of associated domestic finds. Beyond this it was difficult to draw any meaningful conclusions about the various trench assemblages, as they were so small. There was perhaps an emphasis on slag and ceramic building material from trenches to the north of the site, but the quantities are minimal.

The quantity and character of the Mesolithic assemblage suggest that the concentration in Trench 10 represents a small-scale temporary camp, possibly utilising the natural shelter of a tree-throw feature. Given the presence of small quantities of residual flint across the site, and at least one other feature (pit 2223) that is likely to be contemporary, it is possible that there may be other features within the locality; repeated visits to favoured spots close to a watercourse, resulting in flint deposition within multiple tree-throw features, is a pattern observed elsewhere in the region. The Mesolithic flint is of regional significance: *in-situ* knapping scatters within features are very rare within the region; the author is not aware of any others from South Gloucestershire.

The medieval pottery from Trench 22, to the south of the area excavated, represents redeposited rubbish, most likely derived from domestic activity outside the area excavated; perhaps nearer the road. The assemblage provides a *tpq* for the infilling of the various features in which it was dumped. More generally, it allows for dating and some characterisation of medieval activity in this area of Harry Stoke. The pottery dates from the 13th to mid-14th century. There is no clear evidence for earlier medieval activity, though possible late 10th/11th century pottery has been found previously at Harry Stoke (Burchill 1996; Laidlaw 2005). The mid-14th century end date is consistent with previous finds from Harry Stoke, where a period of abandonment, shortly after 1350, has been suggested (Young 1995, 30). The assemblage contains a restricted range of forms; jars/cooking pots and jugs, and one possible pipkin, with an emphasis on the former.

The medieval pottery from Trench 22 is of regional and local significance. It characterises medieval activity in this area of Harry Stoke. The range of fabrics and diagnostic form sherds will contribute to local and regional synthesis. The medieval metalwork is very likely to be contemporary with the pottery and related to domestic occupation, as are the whetstone and spindle whorl, though not in themselves closely datable. These associated finds therefore share the same significance. The medieval pottery from other trenches, the post-medieval and modern pottery, other ceramic and stone finds are of negligible significance.

6.6 Recommendations

6.6.1 Further analysis

Given the scarcity of *in-situ* Mesolithic remains in this region, and the paucity of reliable dating, scientific dating of organic material within fill 1018 of feature 1019 has the potential to yield valuable results. Detailed analysis of the reduction sequence and raw materials was not possible due to time constraints, though this could be usefully done.

A small selection of iron and copper alloy objects of medieval date and/or from medieval contexts would benefit from radiography, in order to further classification. Incorporation and comparison of data from finds recovered from the site by Ian Lapraik after backfilling would enable a more systematic assessment of the metalwork associated with the medieval settlement.

The medieval pottery and associated stone and ceramic finds have been studied in detail and require no further work. The remaining post-medieval and modern finds do not justify further analysis.

6.6.2 Discard/retention

The Mesolithic assemblage from Trench 10, the residual flaked stone, and the medieval assemblage from Trench 22 alongside unstratified medieval metalwork should be retained; both will contribute to future synthetic studies. Other finds could be discarded following discussion with the receiving museum.

7 Environmental evidence by Elizabeth Pearson

7.1 Methodology

7.1.1 Sampling policy

The environmental works conforms to guidance by English Heritage (2011) and the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995). Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). A total of eight bulk samples (each of up to 40 litres) were taken from the site (Table 11).

7.2 Processing and analysis

A sub-sample of 1 litre was processed from the lower and upper fills of well/pit 2233, by the wash-over technique as follows. The sub-sample was broken up in a bowl of water to separate the light organic remains from the mineral fraction and heavier residue. The water, with the light organic

faction was decanted onto a 300µm sieve and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve. The remainder of the bulk sample was retained for further analysis.

The remainder of material from the well/pit, and all other samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were assessed, initially, by scanning by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. The flots were also assessed by scanning using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012).

As a result of the initial assessment, one sample from a fill (2204) of medieval Ditch 1 (section 2203) was selected for analysis, for which quantified results are presented for charred plant remains, whilst summary assessment results are presented for the less abundant charcoal and mollusc remains, in order to make the best use of resources. The flot from the whole sample from 2204 was fully sorted and remains identified as described above. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

Context	Sample	Fill of	Context description	Period	Date	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
513	1	511	Fill of ditch 511	Post-medieval		20	10	Yes	Yes
1002	2		Colluvium	Palaeolithic/Mesolithic		20	10	Yes	Yes
1019	3	1018	Fill of feature 1018	Late Mesolithic		20	10	Yes	Yes
2204	7	2203 Ditch 1	Fill of ditch 2203	Medieval	12th to early 14th C	40	40	Yes	Yes
2222	11		Upper layer over pond	?Modern	12th to early 20th C	30	10	Yes	Yes
2234	8	2233	Basal fill	Medieval	Mid 13th to late 13th C	20	20	Yes	Yes
2235	9	2233	Fill above basal fill	Medieval	Mid 13th to late 13th C	30	30	Yes	Yes
2244	10	2243 Ditch 1	Lower fill of ditch 2243	Medieval	Mid 13th to late 13th C	40	10	Yes	Yes

Table 11: List of bulk samples

7.2.1 Animal bone by Matilda Holmes

Bones were identified using the author's reference collection. Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, bones of this type were assigned to the category 'sheep/goat', unless a definite identification (Zeder and Lapham 2010; Zeder and Pilaar 2010) could be made. Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (micro – rat/vole size; small – cat/rabbit size; medium – sheep/pig/dog size; or large – cattle/horse size). Ribs were identified to size category where the head was present, vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments.

Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Payne (1973), as were bone fusion, metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996) and any evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988) and working. The condition of bones was noted on a scale of 0-5, where 0 is fresh bone and 5, the bone is falling apart (Behrensmeyer in Lyman 1994, 355). Other taphonomic factors were also recorded, including the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments.

7.2.2 Discard policy

Remaining soil sample and residues (post scanning) will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 Animal bone by Matilda Holmes

7.3.1.1 Summary

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered, largely from medieval features, although post-medieval material was also present. A surprisingly diverse range of taxa came from the medieval phase, dominated by cattle which were represented by the bones of perinates, subadults and elderly animals. A basic description of findings is presented, but the sample was too small for detailed consideration.

7.3.1.2 Taphonomy

Bones were generally in good to fair condition (Table 12), though the relatively high proportion of freshly broken and refitted fragments suggests they were friable upon excavation. A few canid gnaw marks were observed, indicating that some bones were not buried immediately following discard, but were available for dogs to chew. Delayed burial or post-depositional disturbance may also have caused many of the loose teeth to fall out of their respective mandibles, as teeth are usually securely rooted in place when fresh. A few butchered and burnt fragments reflect processing of the assemblage. The unfused metaphysis of a juvenile bone was recovered from ditch 2216 (context 2217) alongside its corresponding epiphysis, indicating that this was a primary context that saw little disturbance following burial. There were no obvious deposits of butchery, craft-working or skin-processing waste, or associated bone groups to imply symbolic deposits.

Condition	Medieval	Med/post-med
Fresh	0	0
Very good	0	0
Good	15	1
Fair	6	7
Poor	1	3

Condition	Medieval	Med/post-med
Very poor		1
Total	22	12
Refit	7=32	5=35
Fresh break	6	5
Gnawed	2	1
Loose mandibular teeth*	3	1
Teeth in mandibles*	3	2
Butchery		1
Burning**	9	

*Table 12: Condition and taphonomic factors affecting the hand-collected assemblage identified to taxa and/or element. Teeth included where stated; *deciduous and permanent 4th premolar and molars, ** from unidentified fragments*

7.3.1.3 Medieval

The largest assemblage came from medieval features, largely ditches 505, 2246, 2243 and 2216 and the well. Cattle bones were most abundant (Table 13), with a few sheep/goat, pig, equid (horse or donkey), dog, cat and domestic fowl (chicken) remains also recorded. Several cattle bones were suitable to consider in terms of bone fusion, suggesting that all came from young adult animals, with no later-fusing bones fused. However, a single mandible came from an elderly animal at wear stage J, and the porous bone from a calf was also present. A single cattle pelvis came from a male.

7.3.1.4 Medieval to post-medieval

A less diverse range of taxa was recovered from this phase, most coming from tumbles 2248 and 2249 and the upper layer above the pond. Cattle remains dominated (Table 13), the majority of which were loose teeth, with a few sheep/goat and equid bones and teeth also present. A cattle mandible indicated the presence of a young adult animal at wear stage E.

Taxa	Medieval	Med/post-med
Cattle	20	18
sheep/goat	6	7
Pig	2	
Equid	2	3
Dog	1	
Cat	1	
Domestic fowl	1	
Total identified	33	28

Taxa	Medieval	Med/post-med
Unidentified mammal		
Large mammal	55	63
Medium mammal	25	9
Bird	69	10
Total	182	110

Table 13: Species representation (NISP) of hand collected assemblage. H= hand collected; S= samples

7.3.2 Environmental bulk samples

7.3.2.1 Assessment of bulk samples

Assessment of the bulk samples showed that environmental remains were generally poorly preserved, consisting of small unidentifiable charcoal fragments and occasional charred cereal crop remains, consisting of a single hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain and unidentified cereal culm node (straw node). Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments were assumed to be modern and intrusive, as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging. However, as Ditch 1 contained a rich assemblage of charred cereal crop waste and molluscs in fill (2204), this sample (7) was selected for analysis. In order to make the best use of resources, species presence/absence was recorded for charcoal and estimates of abundance for molluscan remains, as nether assemblage was species diverse.

The assessment results are summarised in Table 14.

Context	Sample	Large mammal	?Small mammal	Fish?	Mollusc	Charcoal	Charred plant	Mineralized plant	Uncharred plant	Phosphate concretions	Artefacts
513	1		occ	occ	mod			occ	occ		occ coal, lime mortar (?), cbm
1002	2					occ			occ		occ flint
1019	3					occ			abt		occ flint
2204	7	occ			mod	mod	abt		mod		occ coal, fired clay, pot, Fe scale, Fe objects
2222	11	occ				occ	occ		occ		occ fired clay, pot
2234	8	occ				occ	occ		occ		occ pot
2235	9	occ				occ			occ	mod	occ pot, flint
2244	10	occ				occ			abt		occ coal

Context	Sample	Large mammal	?Small mammal	Fish?	Mollusc	Charcoal	Charred plant	Mineralized plant	Uncharred plant	Phosphate concretions	Artefacts

Table 14: Summary of environmental

Sample	Preservation type	Species detail	Category remains	Quantity/diversity	Comment
513	1	unch*	*Brassica nigra*	seed	+/low	
513	1	unch*	*Rubus* sp, *Sambucus nigra*	seed	+/low	
1002	2	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	+/low	
1019	3	unch*	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+++/low	
2204	7	ch	*Vicia sativa* ssp *nigra*, cf *Pisum sativum*	seed	+/low	
2204	7	ch	Cereal sp indet culm node, *Corylus avellana* shell fragment	chaff	+/low	
2204	7	ch	*Triticum aestivo-compactum* grain, *Triticum* sp (free-threshing) grain, *Triticum* sp tail grain	grain	+++/low	Mostly *Triticum* sp (free-threshing)
2204	7	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	++/low	
2222	11	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	+++/low	
2222	11	ch	Cereal sp indet culm node	chaff	+/low	
2222	11	ch	*Hordeum vulgare* grain (hulled)	grain	+/low	
2222	11	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
2234	8	ch	*Triticum* sp (free-threshing) grain	grain	+/low	
2234	8	unch*	unidentified straw fragments	misc	+/low	
2234	8	unch*	*Ranunculus acris*/*repens*/*bulbosus*, *Taraxacum* sp	seed	+/low	

Context	Sample	Large mammal	?Small mammal	Fish?	Mollusc	Charcoal	Charred plant	Mineralized plant	Uncharred plant	Phosphate concretions	Artefacts
2234	8	ch	unidentified wood fragments					misc	+/low		
2235	9	ch	unidentified wood fragments					misc	+/low		
2235	9	unch*	*Sambucus nigra*					seed	+/low		
2244	10	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)					misc	+++/low		
2244	10	ch	unidentified wood fragments					misc	+/low		
2244	10	ch	Cereal sp indet grain					grain	++/low		

Table 14: Assessment of plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	*quantity*
ch = charred	*+ = 1 - 10*
min = mineralised	*++ = 11- 50*
wa = waterlogged	*+++ = 51 - 100*
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	*++++ = 101+*
	** = probably modern and intrusive*

7.3.2.2 Analysis of sample 7 (Ditch 1, fill 2204)

7.3.2.2.1 Plant macrofossils and carbonised remains

This ditch fill (part of Ditch 1) consisted of, predominately, charred grains of a free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing), some of which were of a compact, club wheat type (*Triticum aestivo-compactum*). As there appeared to be a continuum of short, compact grains to less compact grain, it is thought that the grains identified as club wheat are not the remains of a distinct crop. Rather, it is likely that there is a degree of genetic variability within the wheat crop.

Occasional grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), rye (*Secale cereale*), oat (*Avena* sp) and fescue/rye-grass (*Festuca/Lolium* sp) were identified, alongside fragments of cereal straw (culm) nodes and seeds of vetch/pea (*Vicia*/*Lathyrus* sp) and small weed seeds. Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) and lesser water-parsnip (cf *Berula erecta*) indicate diverse conditions such as acidic sandy soils, clayey soils and aquatic conditions found in rivers, ditches and ponds, but also on seasonally-flooded ground respectively. This is likely to reflect debris from mixed crops, grown in different locations, but probably relatively locally, as soils in the area are slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils, with those to the west of Harry Stoke being seasonally wet.

As few grains of barley and oat were present, or whole florits in the case of oat, it was not possible to distinguish between 6-row and 2-row barley or cultivated or wild oat, respectively.

The composition of the remains, with only a small weed or chaff component, is suggestive of a processed crop – perhaps originating from an oven or kiln/corn drier. The predominance of free-threshing wheat, and the composition, is characteristic of charred cereal crop assemblages of medieval date.

Analysis showed that charcoal was dominated by lime (*Tilia* sp), with occasional poorly preserved possible oak (*Quercus robur/petraea*). For some of the fragments, the curvature of the growth rings indicates the presence of roundwood or branchwood. No further work has been carried out on this material.

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	2204
Triticum aestivo-compactum grain	Poaceae	club wheat	F	51
Triticum sp (free-threshing) grain	Poaceae	free-threshing wheat	F	408*
Triticum sp (free-threshing) tail grain	Poaceae	free-threshing wheat	F	5
Triticum sp tail grain	Poaceae	wheat	F	4
Hordeum vulgare grain (hulled)	Poaceae	barley	F	4
cf *Hordeum vulgare* grain (hulled)	Poaceae	barley	F	3
Hordeum vulgare tail grain (hulled)	Poaceae	barley	F	1
Secale cereale grain	Poaceae	rye	F	1
Cereal sp indet grain	Poaceae	cereal	F	23
Cereal sp indet culm node	Poaceae	cereal	F	3
Avena sp grain	Poaceae	oat	AF	7
Vicia/Lathyrus sp	Fabaceae	vetch/pea	ABCD	3
Vicia/Lathyrus sp (fragment)	Fabaceae	vetch/pea	ABCD	23
Corylus avellana shell fragment	Betulaceae	hazelnut	C	22
Rumex acetosella	Polygonaceae	sheep's sorrel	ABD	1
Galium aparine	Rubiaceae	Cleavers/goosefoot	ABC	1

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	2204
Anthemis cotula	Asteraceae	stinking chamomile	AB	3
cf *Berula erecta*	Apiaceae	lesser water-parsnip	E	1
Festuca/Lolium sp grain	Poaceae	fescue/rye-grass	ABD	1
Poaceae sp indet grain	Poaceae	grass	AF	13*
Poaceae sp indet grain (small)	Poaceae	grass	AF	2
Poaceae sp indet grain (2mm size)	Poaceae	grass	ABD	1
unidentified twig/bud fragments	unidentified			+
unidentified	unidentified			+

Table 15: Charred plant remains from ditch fill 2204

Key:

Habitat	Quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10
B= disturbed ground	* = includes estimate from fragments
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	
E = aquatic/wet habitats	
F = cultivar	

7.3.2.2.2 Molluscs by Andy Mann

Moderately abundant molluscan remains were recovered from this sample (Ditch 1, fill 2204, Table 16). The presence of *Ancius leucostoma* and *Vertigo* species indicate that, if present *in situ*, that the ditch was at least periodically waterlogged. *Discus rotundatus* and *Clausilia bidentata* are common in shady, wooded places, underneath dead wood logs and stones, and in humus or soil litter. Likewise, *Carychium* species are common in woodlands and in deep litter layers, although can be found in open, wet places.

On balance, the assemblage is consistent with one formed in the ditch, and is suggestive of a dense, well established hedgerow which would have provided shade, deep litter and humus-rich soils. The presence of *Vallonia* species suggests that there was grassland beyond.

Species	Abundance
Ancius leucostoma	+++
Discus rotundatus	++
Carychium sp	++
Vallonia sp	+
Clausilia bidentata	+
Pisidium sp	+
Vertigo sp	+

Table 16: Molluscan remains from (2204); + = 1 – 10, ++ = 11 – 50, +++ = 51 - 100

7.4 Synthesis

Abundant charred plant remains in fill 2204 within Ditch 1, section 2203, are the product of processing a free-threshing wheat crop, disposed of in the ditch. This type of waste is characteristic of many charred cereal crop assemblages of this date, and suggests that processing of cereals was being carried out in bulk within the settlement. These remains are likely to be the debris raked out from an oven or kiln/corn drier in the vicinity. Molluscan remains from the same ditch are suggestive of a ditch shaded by a hedgerow, particularly as this forms a boundary.

The dominance of lime in the charcoal remains associated with the charred cereal crop assemblage suggests selective collection of lime for wood fuel. Lime can be coppiced to provide wood poles for fuel, and poles fashioned into various implements (Woodland Trust 2020).

It is likely that the medieval settlement was a cereal producer, considering the moderate to high fertility of the soils and evidence for several ovens or kilns at a nearby site to the north of the main village settlement (Young 1995). Analysis of charred plant remains from layers adjacent to the kilns here demonstrated the dominance of wheat grain. Although poorly preserved, here, free-threshing wheat was identified which included rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*), identified from rachis internodes (chaff material). No rivet wheat was identified from the 2019 excavations, although as chaff remains were restricted to occasional cereal culm (straw) nodes and it is the rachis internodes which are diagnostic, its identification there was unlikely.

A small assemblage of animal bone was dominated by remains of medieval date, which was similar in composition to the animal bone recovered from excavations on the north side of the village (Sarjeantson 1995), as cattle, with some sheep/goat, pig, equid, dog, cat and domestic fowl (chicken) were identified. The cattle from the 2019 excavations were represented mainly by young, adult animals. No pigeon bones were identified to indicate the presence of dovecotes, as found during the 1995 excavations.

7.4.1 Recommendations

No further work is recommended, although flots, sorted remains from residues and animal bone should be retained for archive.

8 Discussion

8.1 Earthwork and auger survey

The earthwork survey successfully recorded the surviving features. When overlaid on the lidar data (1.0m DTM) it is clear that the survey did not identify the full extent of all the features present, but the

use of lidar data has enhanced the survey results, enabling with the identification of features that were not visible due to the site conditions. It is noted was frequently crossed by newt fencing at the time of the survey.

Most of the features identified by the earthwork survey and the lidar data appear to relate to historic field boundaries. By comparing the identified features with the available historic mapping, including a reproduction of a survey of Stoke Gifford dating to 1725, historic Ordnance Survey maps from 1880 onwards, and field name evidence, it is possible to establish an evolution of the field boundaries during the later post-medieval and modern periods (Figure 22). Most of the features recorded can be attributed to a field boundary although features B, D, G, H and L do not appear on any of the available historic mapping and their origin is uncertain. However, given their morphology, it appears likely that features B and D represent earlier field boundaries, presumably early post-medieval in date, which were replaced by feature C by 1725. Pottery from evaluation trenches excavated in 1996 to south of earthwork feature H suggested it might be 13th to 15th century in date although the datable finds were limited and could be residual, and a trench across L indicated it was 16th to 17th century in date.

The auger survey of the pond did not identify any evidence to suggest that the feature was anything other than a pond. It is not recorded on the reproduction of the 1725 map. The function of the feature is uncertain, although several ponds are recorded in and around the Harry Stoke area on historic and modern mapping.

Some of the earthwork features and the pond were also targeted by evaluation and excavation trenches and these are discussed below.

8.2 The evaluation and excavation trenches

8.2.1 Palaeochannel and colluvium

The remains of a possible palaeochannel was identified in Trench 3. Although no dating or environmental evidence was identified within its fill given its projected course it appears likely that it was an earlier course of the Ham Brook.

In Trench 1, 2, 3, 10 and 12 deposits of colluvium were identified. In Trenches 2, 3 and 12 these deposits were likely related to filling of the natural valley to the east of the site which the Ham Brook runs along. In Trenches 1 and 10 the colluvium appeared to be filling a natural linear depression or channel running broadly south-west to north-east towards the Ham Brook. In Trench 10 the colluvium was cut by a Mesolithic feature, but elsewhere the relationship between the colluvium and later features was less clear, suggesting it was variable and had built up over an extended period.

8.2.2 Mesolithic by Rob Hedge

One hundred and fifty-six pieces of flint were recovered from Feature 1019 in Trench 10. The assemblage is dominated by small blade debitage, and tools including backed and obliquely-truncated blades, and suggest the presence of a small temporary shelter, probably utilising the natural cover of a tree throw. The presence of small debitage and a probable anvil indicates that flintknapping was carried out here. Pit 2223 in Trench 22 is probably broadly contemporary, although only two pieces of flint were recovered from this feature.

Mesolithic material may indeed be more prevalent in the local area than previously suspected: residual material from the 1987-8 Harry Stoke excavations (Russett 1995a) was recorded as largely Neolithic-Bronze Age, but the descriptions include the suggestion of earlier material. Given the presence of small quantities of residual flint across the current site, and at least one other feature that is likely to be contemporary, it is possible that there may be other features within the locality. Repeated visits to favoured spots close to a watercourse, resulting in flint deposition within multiple tree-throw features, is a pattern observed elsewhere although *in-situ* knapping scatters within features are very rare within this area, and the author is not aware of any in South Gloucestershire.

8.2.3 Medieval

The focus of the medieval activity identified during the archaeological works was in Trench 22. The medieval activity was located to the west of a Ditch 1. This ditch was orientated on the same alignment as Harry Stoke Road (broadly north to south), which was located about 30m to the west to the ditch. No medieval features were identified to the east of the ditch and it is likely that the ditch defined the eastern side an enclosure or toft, which was located adjacent to, and probably facing onto, the road to the west.

The key features identified within the enclosure were a pond and a possible well, as well as several pits and ditches, and a row of undated postholes forming a possible fence line. This may represent a subdivision of the enclosure, although given the lack of dating evidence this is uncertain.

No buildings or structures were identified within Trench 22. The environmental evidence was generally poor, although a possible dump of grain was identified in Ditch 1, suggesting crop processing was taking place in close proximity to the site, and possibly within the enclosure. The morphology of two features (2216 and 2261), hinted that they may have been corn driers but excavation of these features did not show any evidence of in-situ crop processing, and if these features were corn driers they had been completely cleaned out after their final use.

The medieval pottery represents redeposited rubbish, most likely derived from domestic activity outside the area excavated, perhaps nearer the road or to the north. The pottery dates from the 13th to mid-14th century. There was no clear evidence for earlier medieval activity, though possible late 10th-11th century pottery has been found previously at Harry Stoke (Burchill 1996; Laidlaw 2005), and metal work found by Ian Lapraik after Trench 22 was backfilled included a Saxon hooked clasp or stirrup mount, and a Viking penannular brooch (Appendix 2). The metal finds provide evidence of early medieval activity at Harry Stoke and may have been associated with the earliest phases of the settlement. The mid-14th century end date is consistent with previous finds from Harry Stoke, where a period of abandonment, shortly after 1350, has been suggested (Young 1995, 30).

The environmental evidence from the medieval features was generally poor, except for a dump of material in Ditch 1 in Trench 22. These remains were probably the debris raked out from an oven or kiln/corn drier, which was probably located in the vicinity of the ditch.

8.2.4 Post-medieval

Several features identified in the trenches appear to have related directly to the surveyed earthwork features. These include Ditches 503/505 and 515/519 in Trench 5, Ditch 703 in Trench 7 (earthwork feature H), and Ditch 1006/1014 and 1008/1016 in Trench 10 (earthwork feature G). It also appears likely that Ditch 511 (Trench 5) was the eastern continuation of feature C (or possibly D) as illustrated by the lidar survey (Figure 4). The dating evidence from these features was generally inconclusive, and although a small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from Ditch 503 and the earthwork bank in Trench 7 (707; H), these may be residual sherds. However, it should be noted that medieval pottery was also identified in evaluation trenches excavated in 1996 on the southern side of feature H. Ditch 511 (feature C or D) and 1006/1014 (G) yielded post-medieval finds. Given this, as well as the evidence from historic mapping and previous evaluation discussed in Section 7.2.1, it does appear most likely that most surveyed earthworks and the associated buried features date to the post-medieval period. It is possible that feature H dates to the medieval period but the evidence for this is not secure.

Ditches 403 (Trench 4) and 1803 (Trench 18) were two sections of the same field boundary, which ran north-east to south-west across the southern half the site. This field boundary was recorded on all available historic mapping from 1725 to 1950 (Figure 22), and although no evidence was identified to suggest it predates the post-medieval period, it is of note that it runs on the same alignment as Harry Stoke Road and the medieval layout of the settlement. This boundary was removed in the second half of the 20th century.

No dating evidence was recovered from the primary fills of pond targeted by Trenches 6 and 13. Given the available evidence from the historic mapping, auger survey and evaluation trenches it appears likely that this feature dates to the post-medieval or early modern period.

8.2.5 Modern

A possible stone drain (103) was identified in Trench 1, and various other field drains were identified in Trenches 4, 5 and 22.

The south-eastern corner of the site appears highly likely to have been used for dumping and levelling of a significant quantity of material during the latter part of the 20th century. This was recorded in Trench 15 and is visible on the lidar data (Figure 22). This material was also identified during the 1996 evaluation (trench 19).

9 Conclusions

The archaeological works at Harry Stoke comprised of an earthwork survey, auger survey and a series of evaluation and excavation trenches. The excavations revealed *in-situ* evidence of Mesolithic flint knapping, which is rare in the local area. Given that a second feature possibly dating to the Mesolithic period was also identified, and potential Mesolithic activity was also identified immediately east of the present site, it is possible that other Mesolithic features may survive within the locality.

Evidence of medieval activity was fairly limited in most of the trenches, although one area of more intensive activity was identified in the south-western part of the site. This activity largely dated to the 13th to early 14th century and comprised of what appeared to be a pond, several other discrete features including a possible well, a short ditch, as well as an undated fence line. The activity was located to the west of a medieval ditch, which probably marks the boundary of an enclosure that was partially exposed during the works.

The two surveys recorded the surviving features, and analysis of lidar data supplemented these results. Most of the features surveyed were probably post-medieval field boundaries although a small number may have their origins in the medieval period. The evaluation and excavation trenches revealed limited archaeological evidence from the surveyed features, although many of the earthworks were associated with features cutting the natural strata. Generally, however, these features were sterile.

10 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Graham Arnold, Tim Cornah, Peter Lovett, Tom Rogers, Andrew Walsh and Jesse Wheeler assisted by Jem Brewer, Elspeth Iliff, Adrian Robins, Gwyneth Thomas, Beth Williams and Hazel Whitefoot.

The project was managed by Tom Rogers. The report was produced and collated by Andrew Walsh. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

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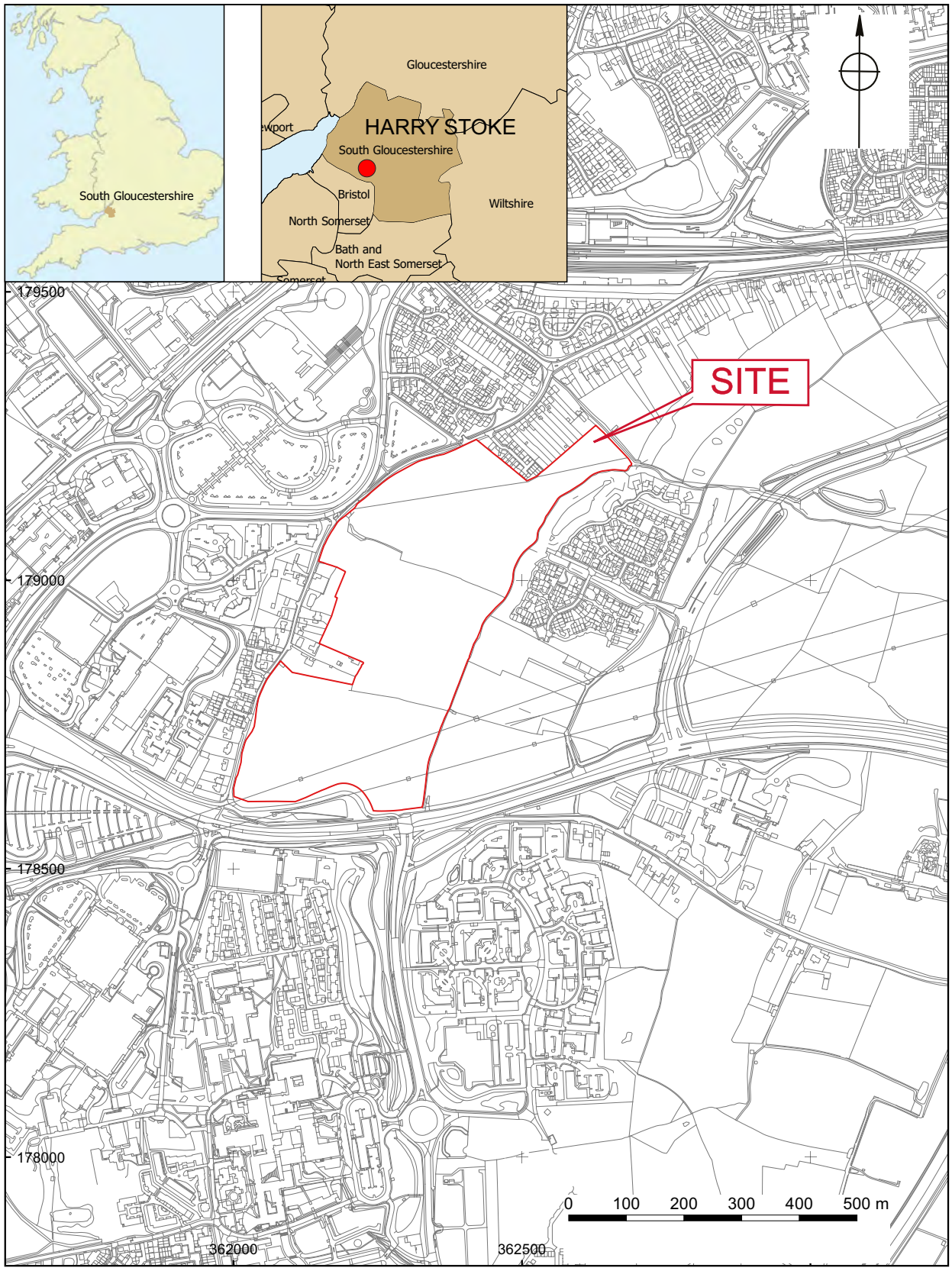
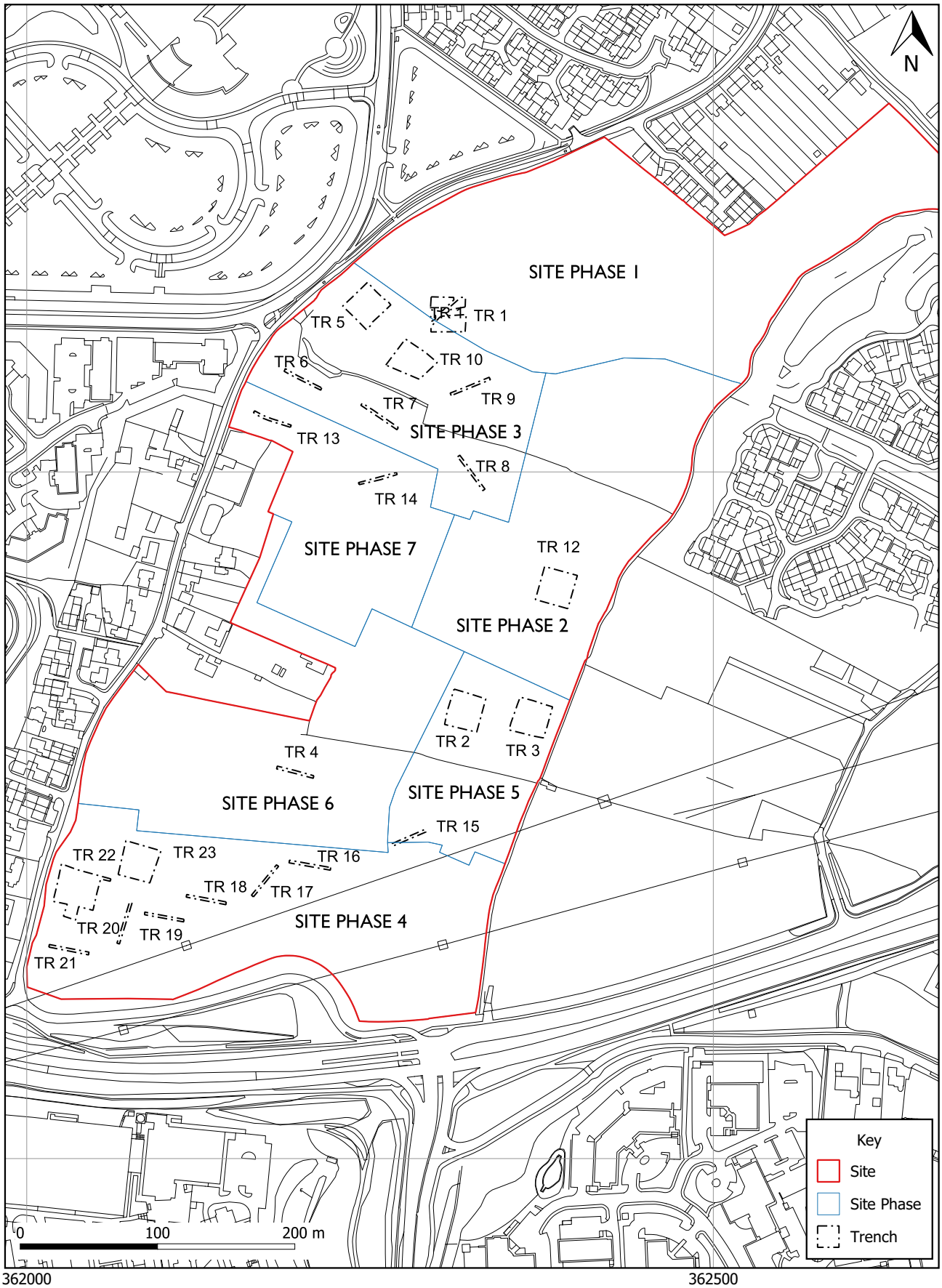
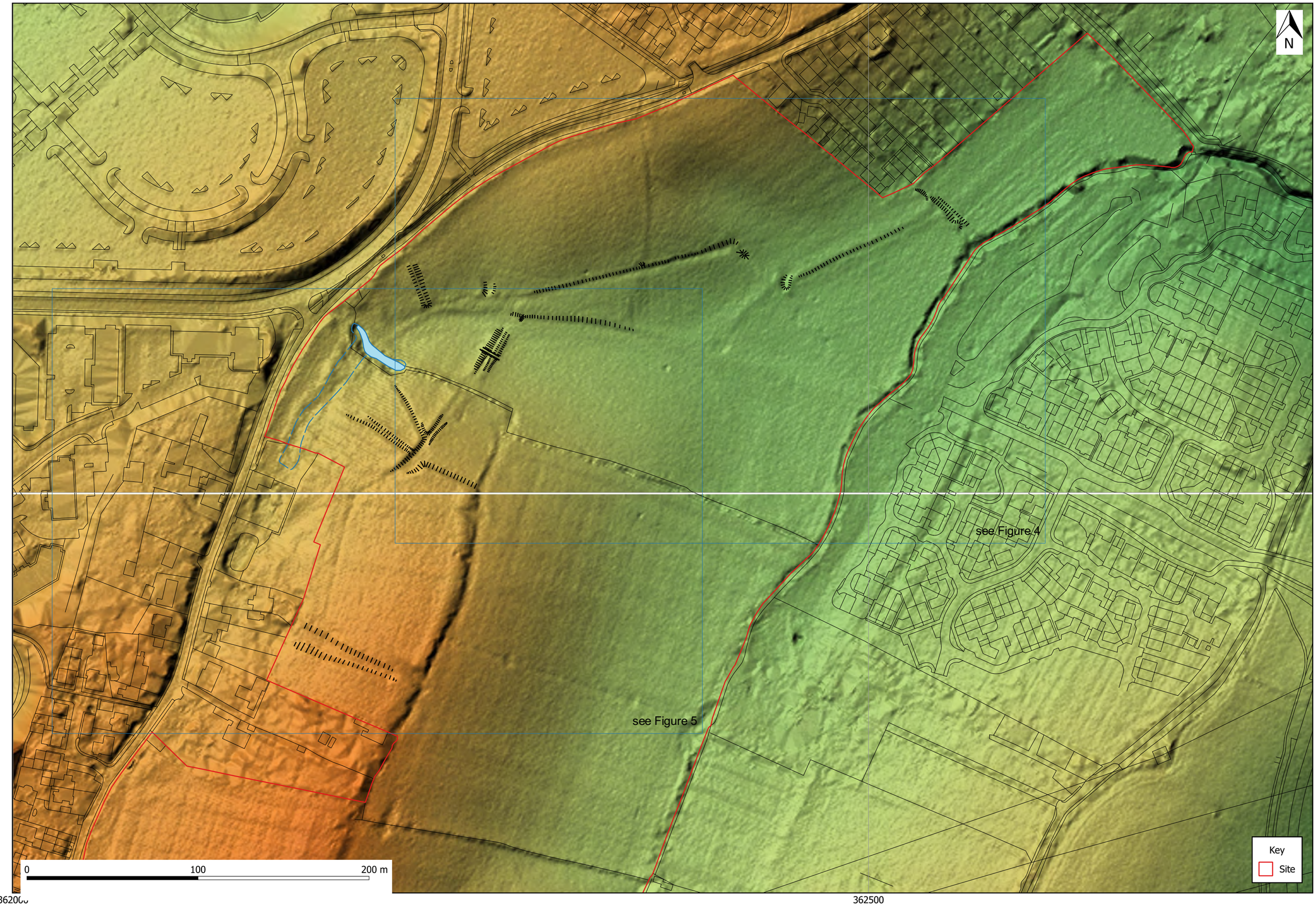
Figures



Location of the site *Figure 1*

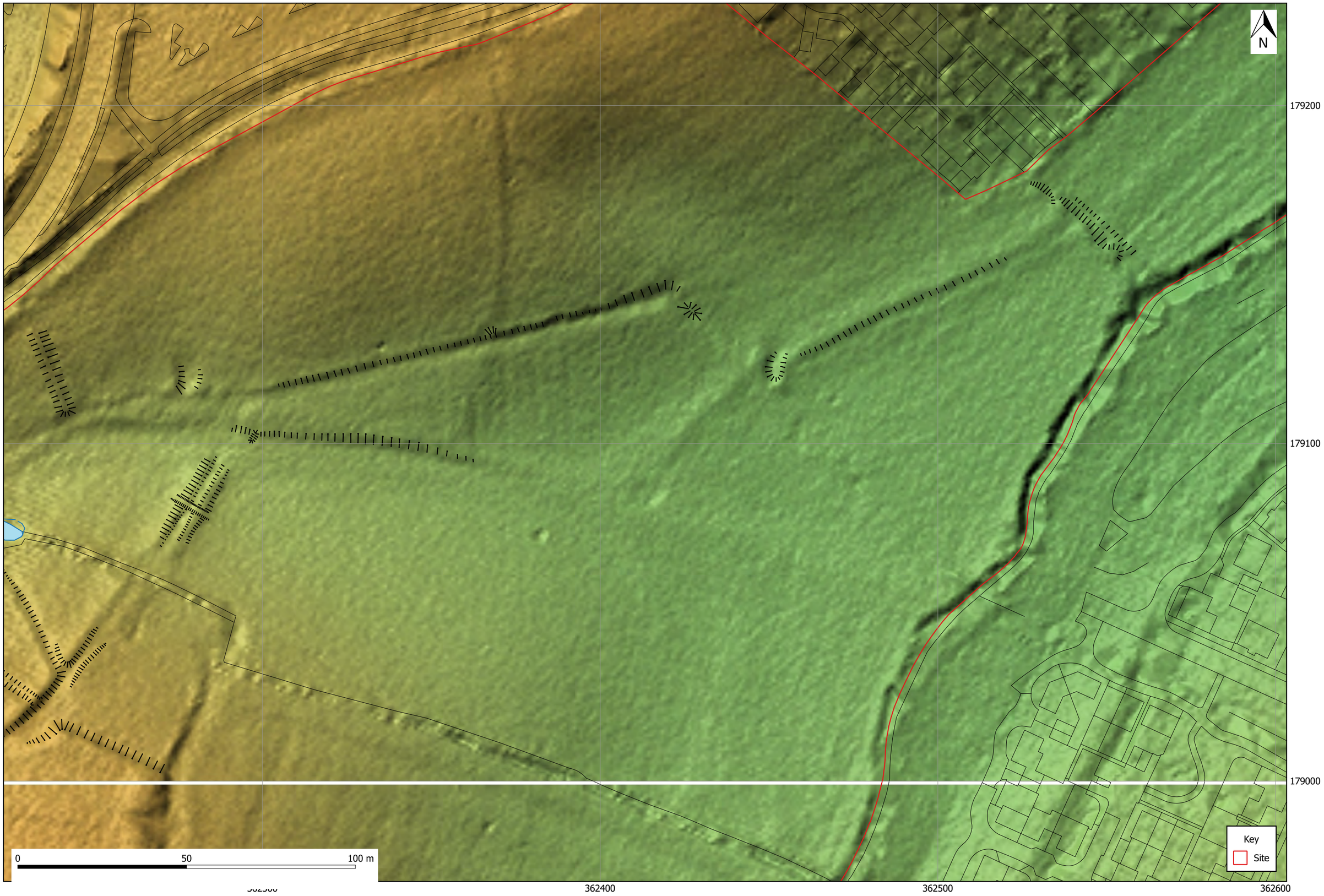


Location of site development phases and trenches *Figure 2*



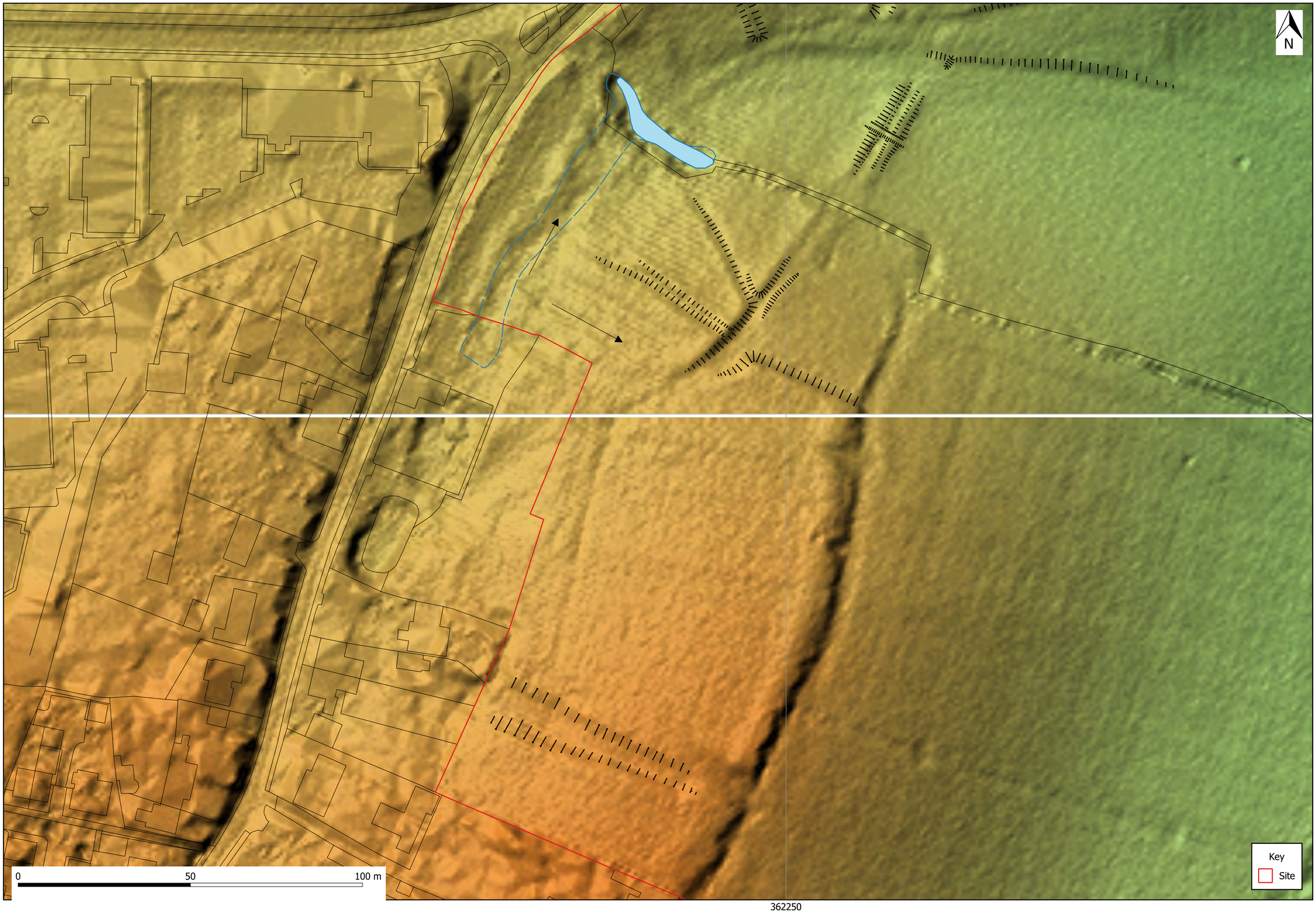
The earthwork survey overlaid on lidar data (1.0m DTM)

Figure 3



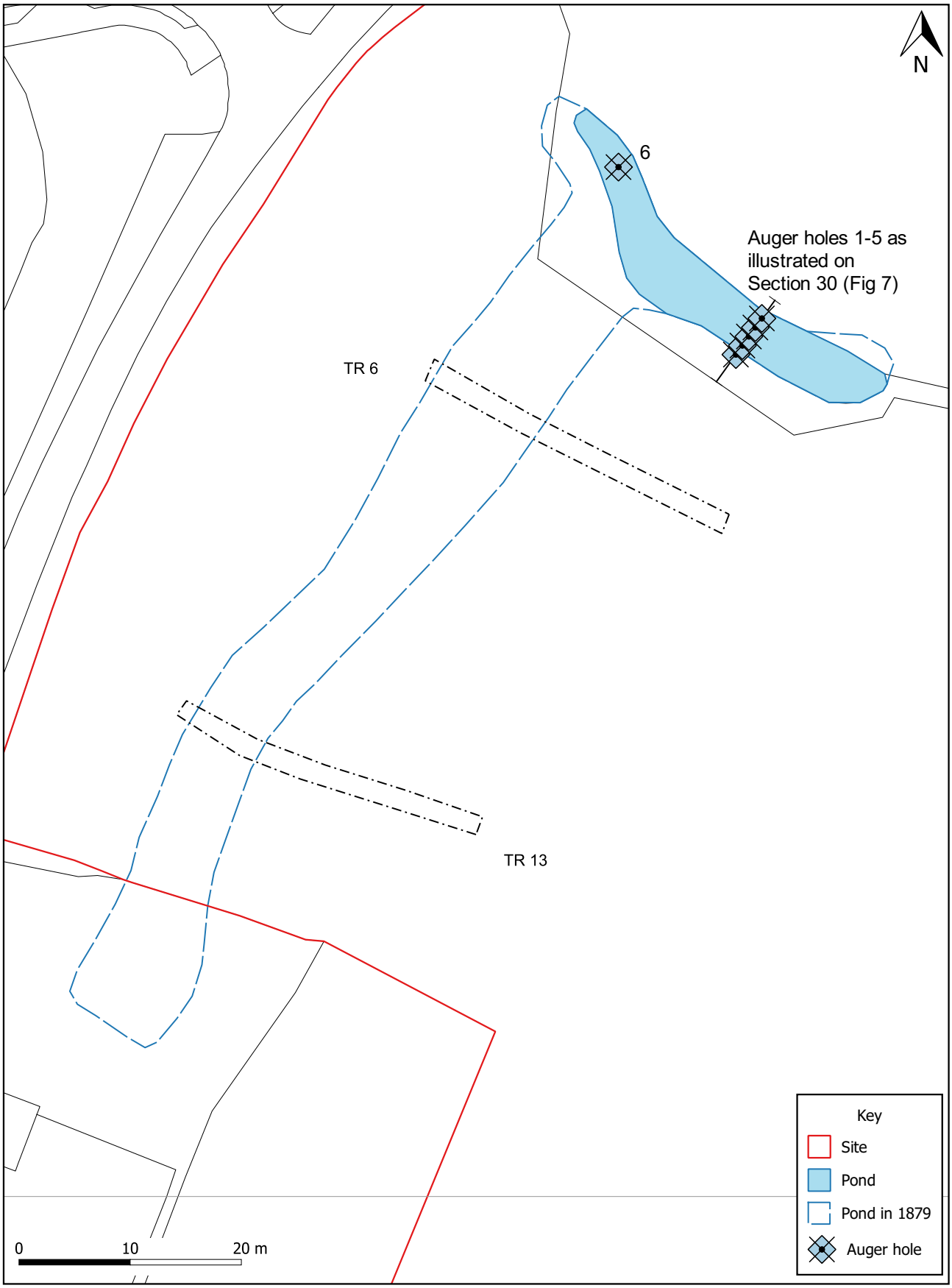
The north-eastern part of the earthwork survey overlaid on lidar data (1.0m DTM)

Figure 4

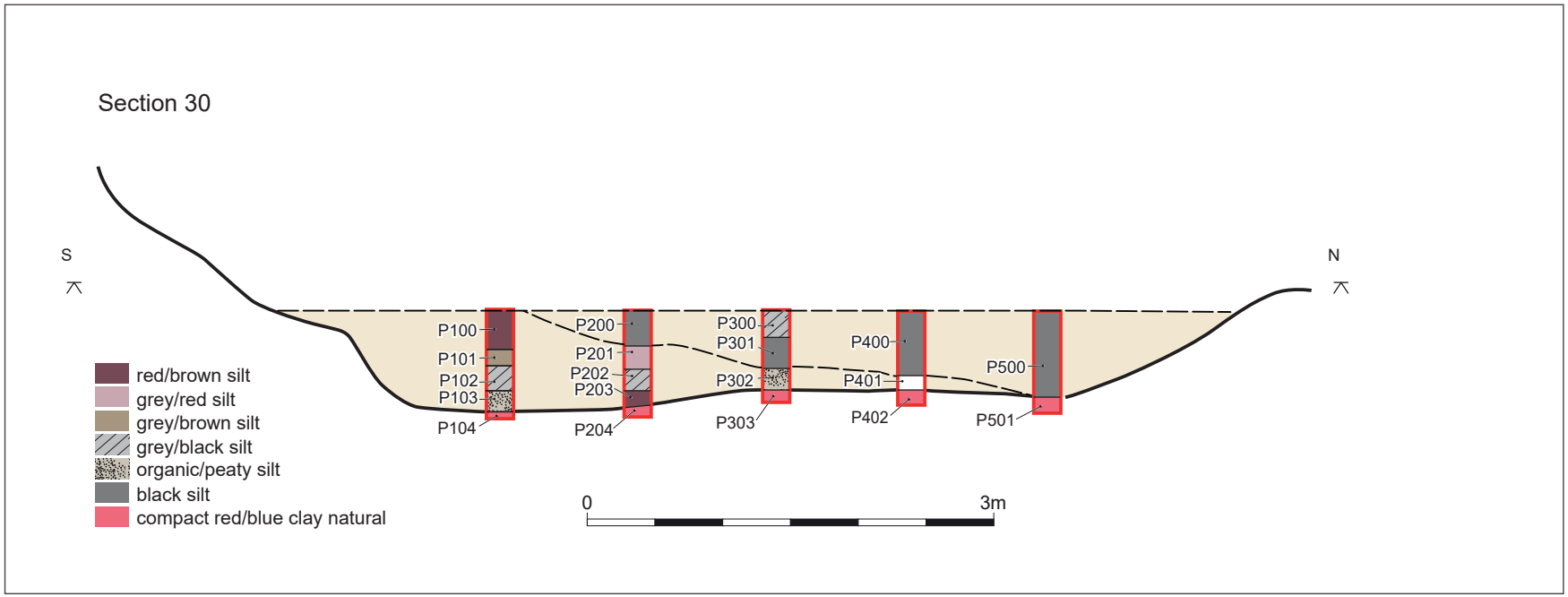


The south-western part of the earthwork survey overlaid on lidar data (1.0m DTM)

Figure 5

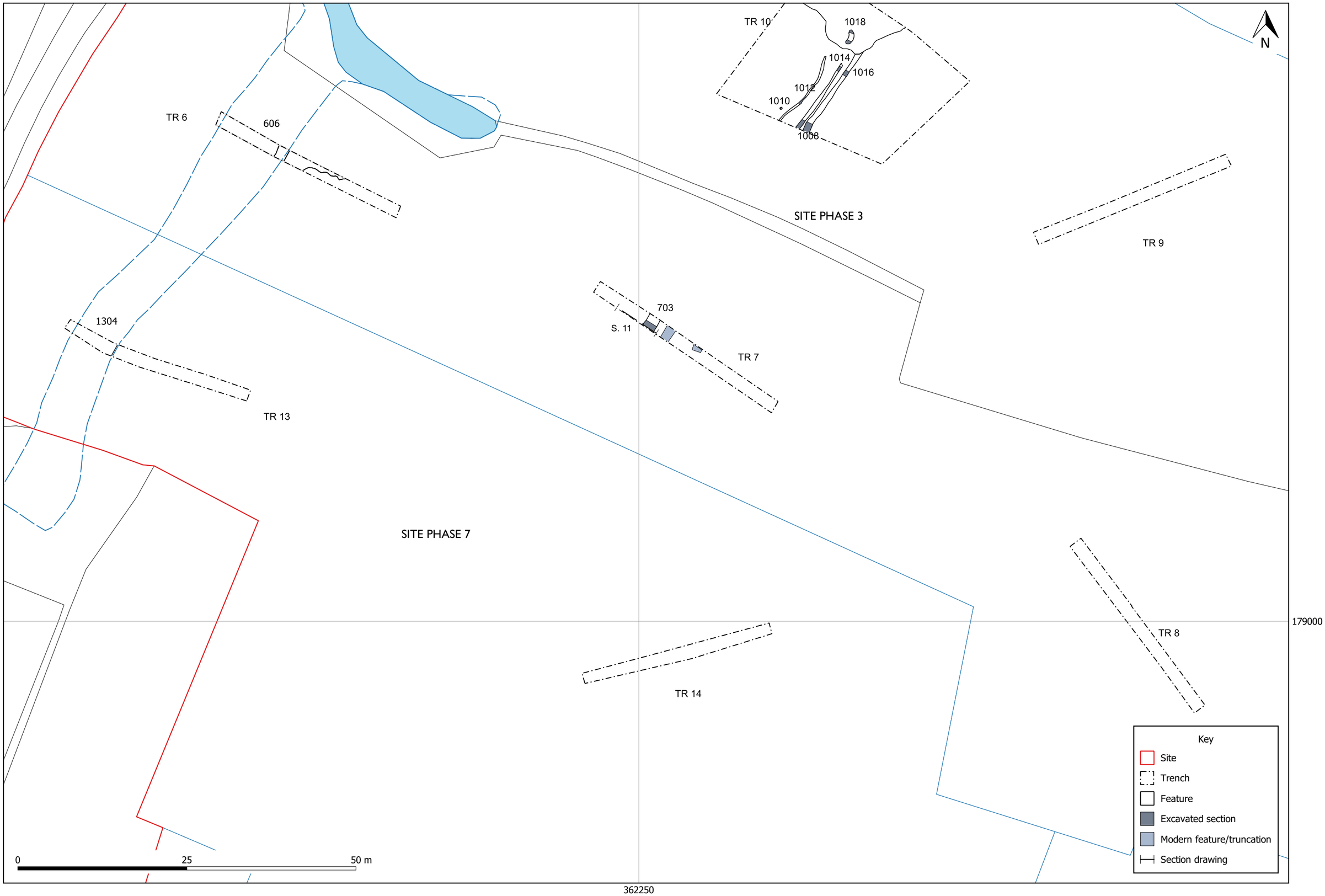


Location of the Auger holes. The size of the pond in 1879 and the present day as recorded by the Ordnance Survey is illustrated. *Figure 6*



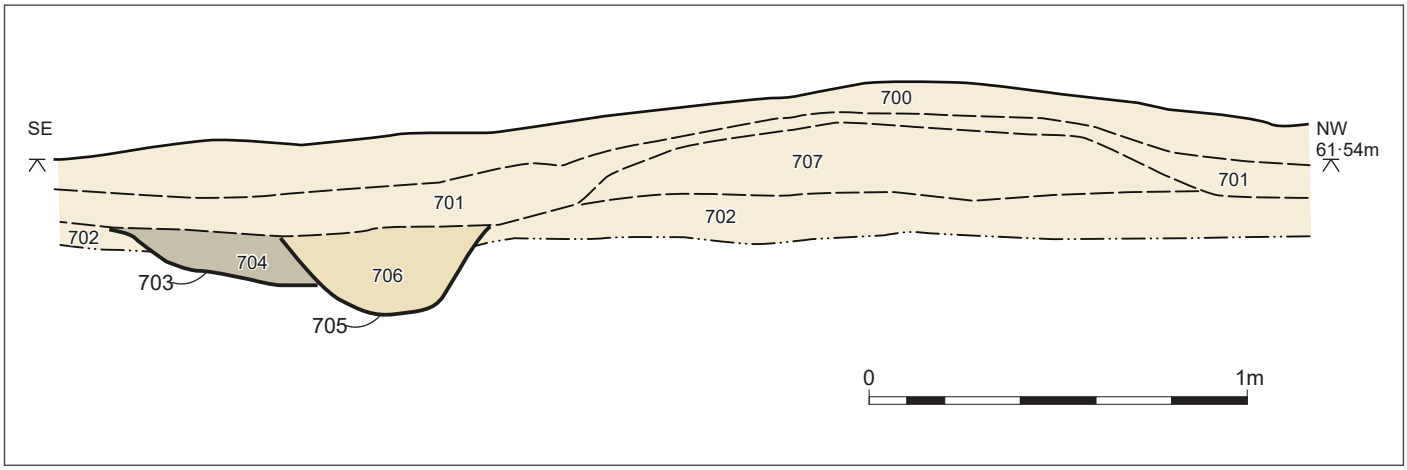
Profile of Pond showing locations of auger samples

Figure 7

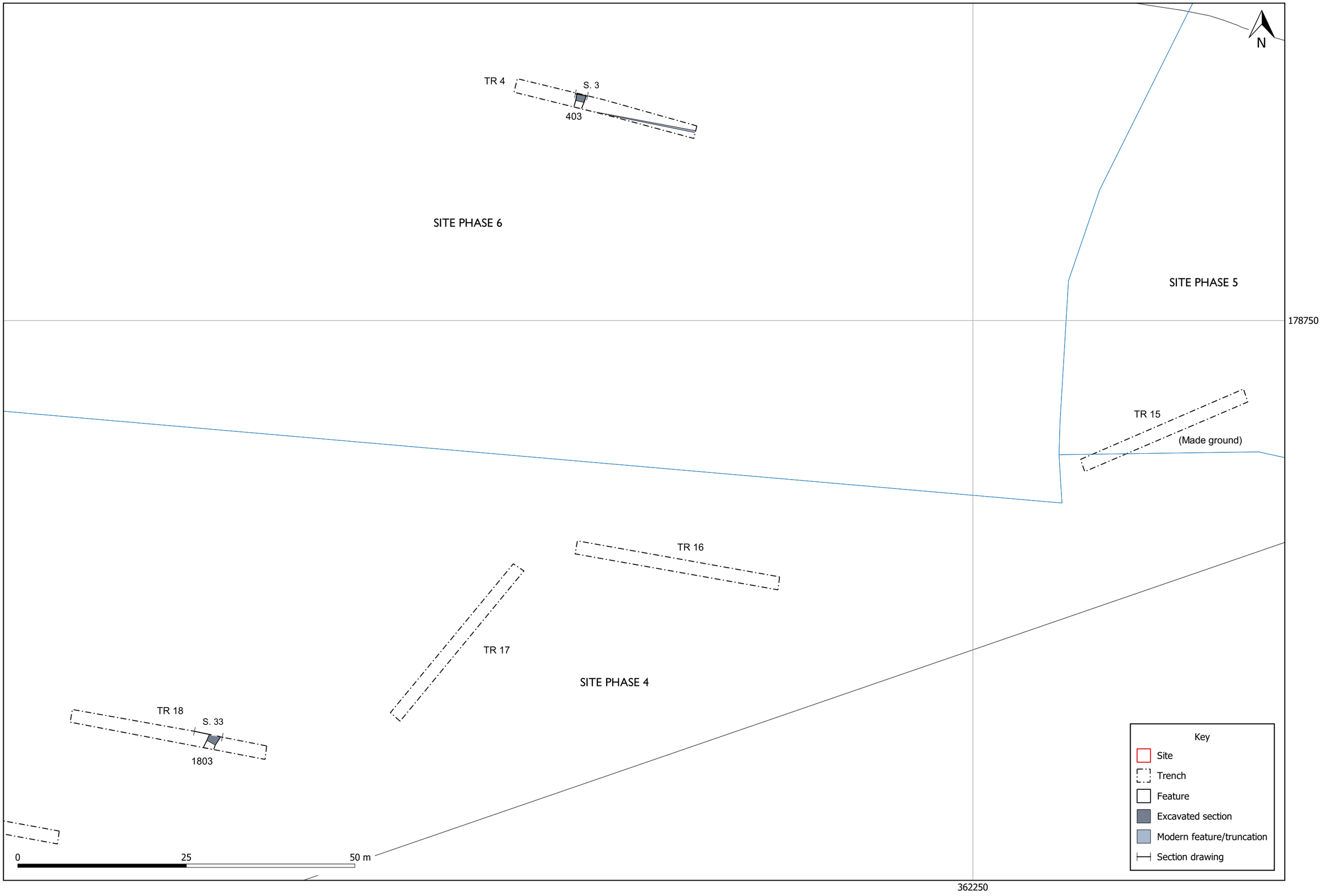


Evaluation Trenches 6-9 (Site Phase 3) and 13-14 (Site Phase 7)

Figure 8

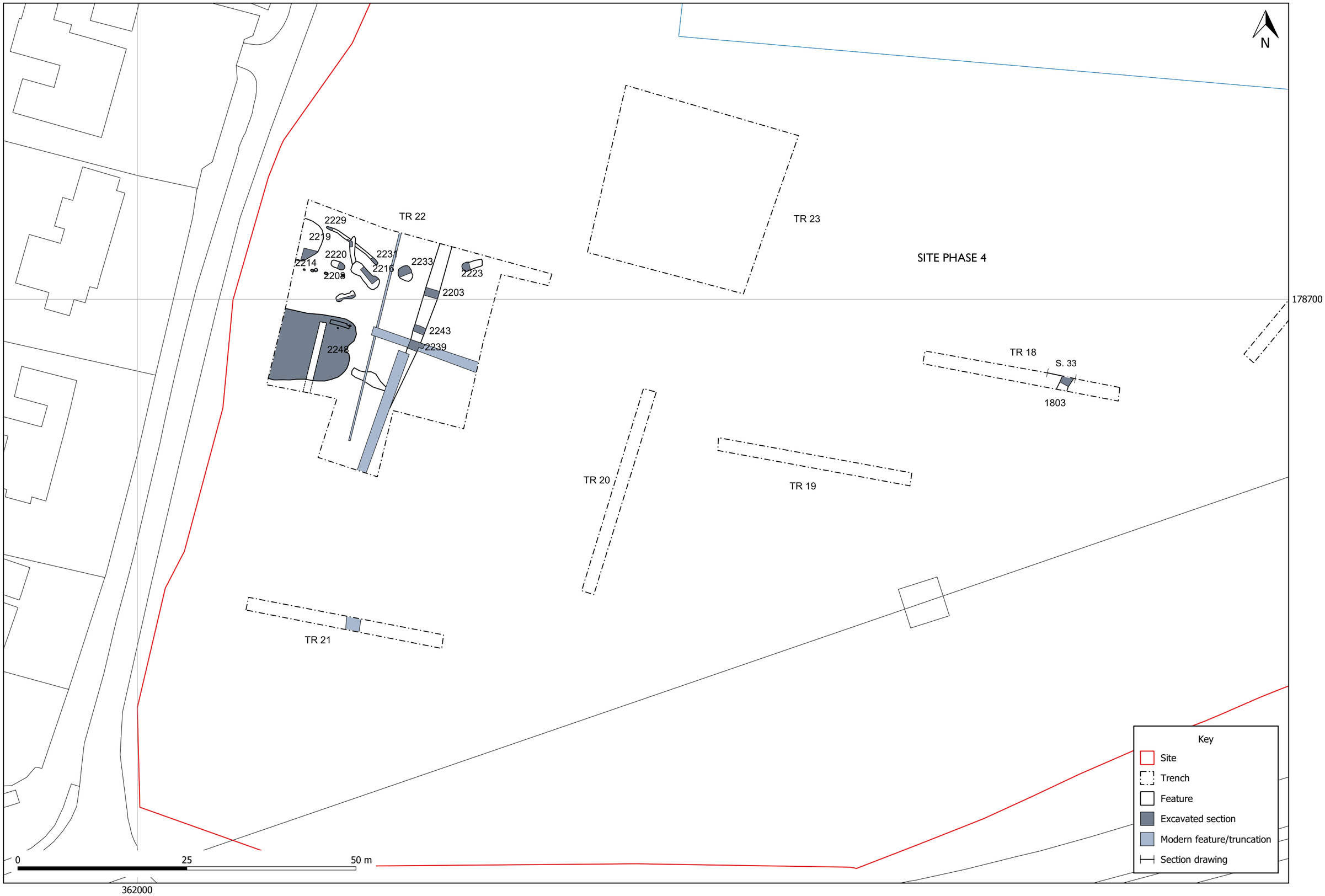


Section 11, Trench 7 *Figure 9*



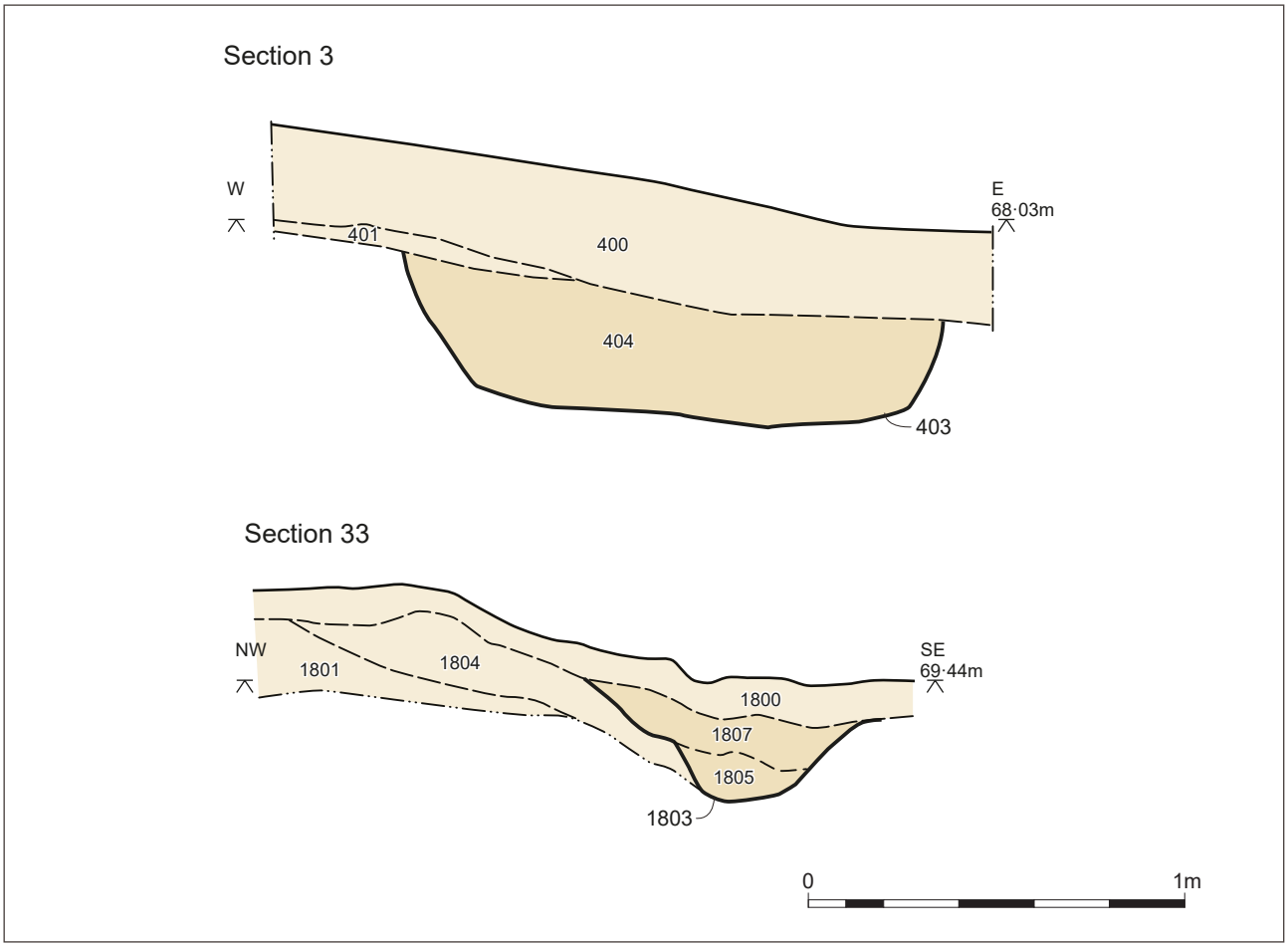
Evaluation Trenches 4 (Site Phase 6), 15 (Site Phase 5) and 16-18 (Site Phase 4)

Figure 10

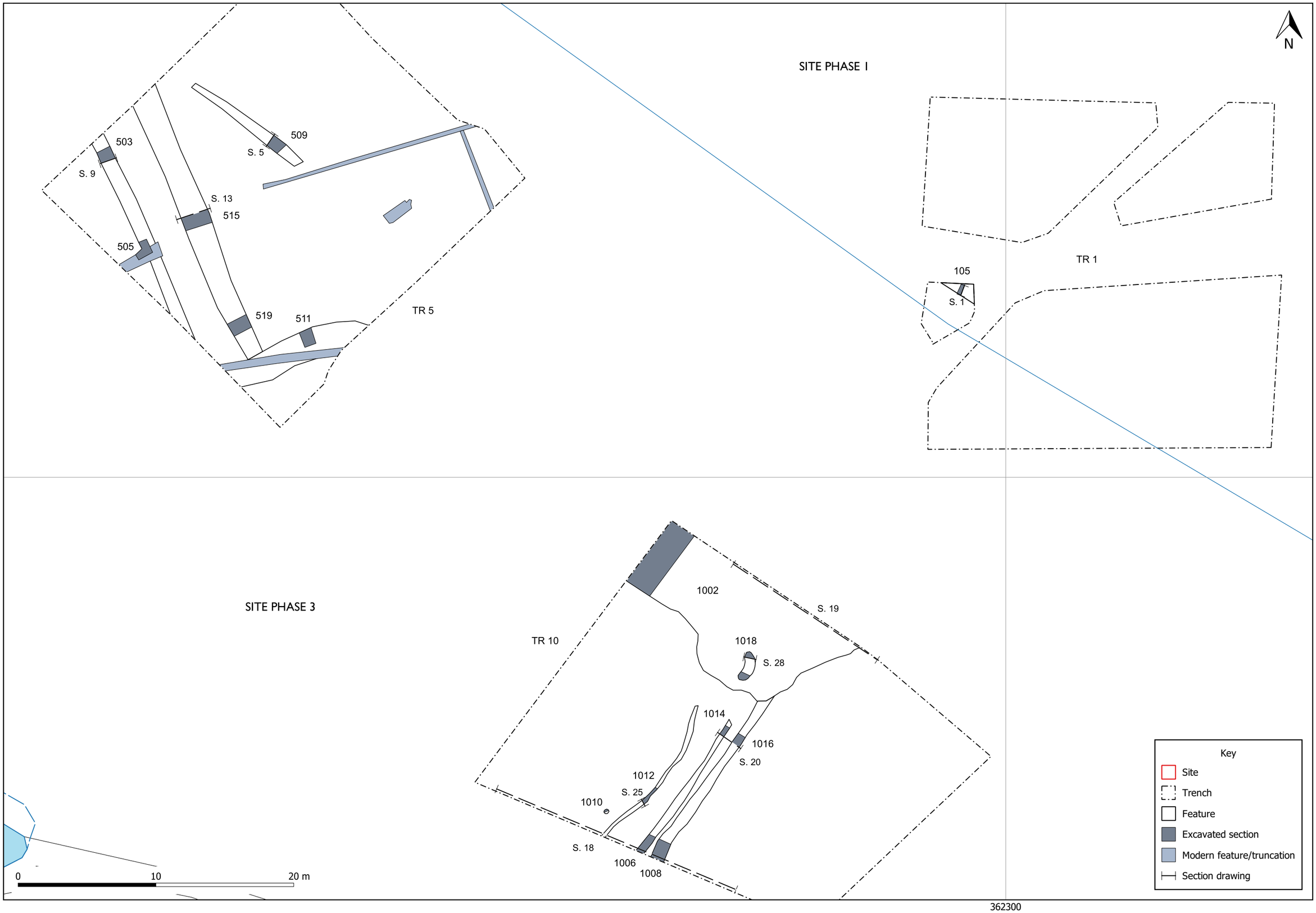


Evaluation Trenches 18-21 (Site Phase 4)

Figure 11

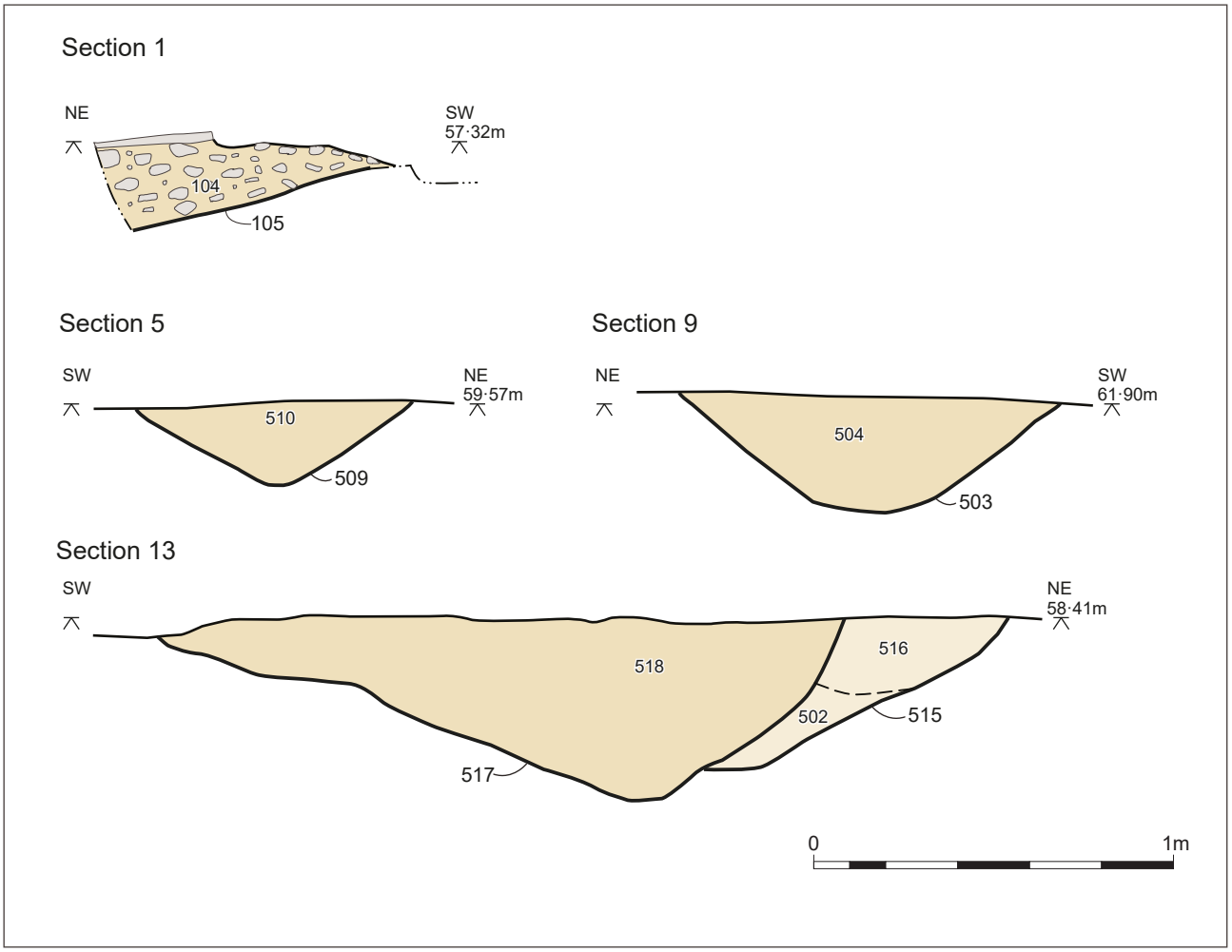


Section 3, Trench 4 and section 33, Trench 18 *Figure 12*

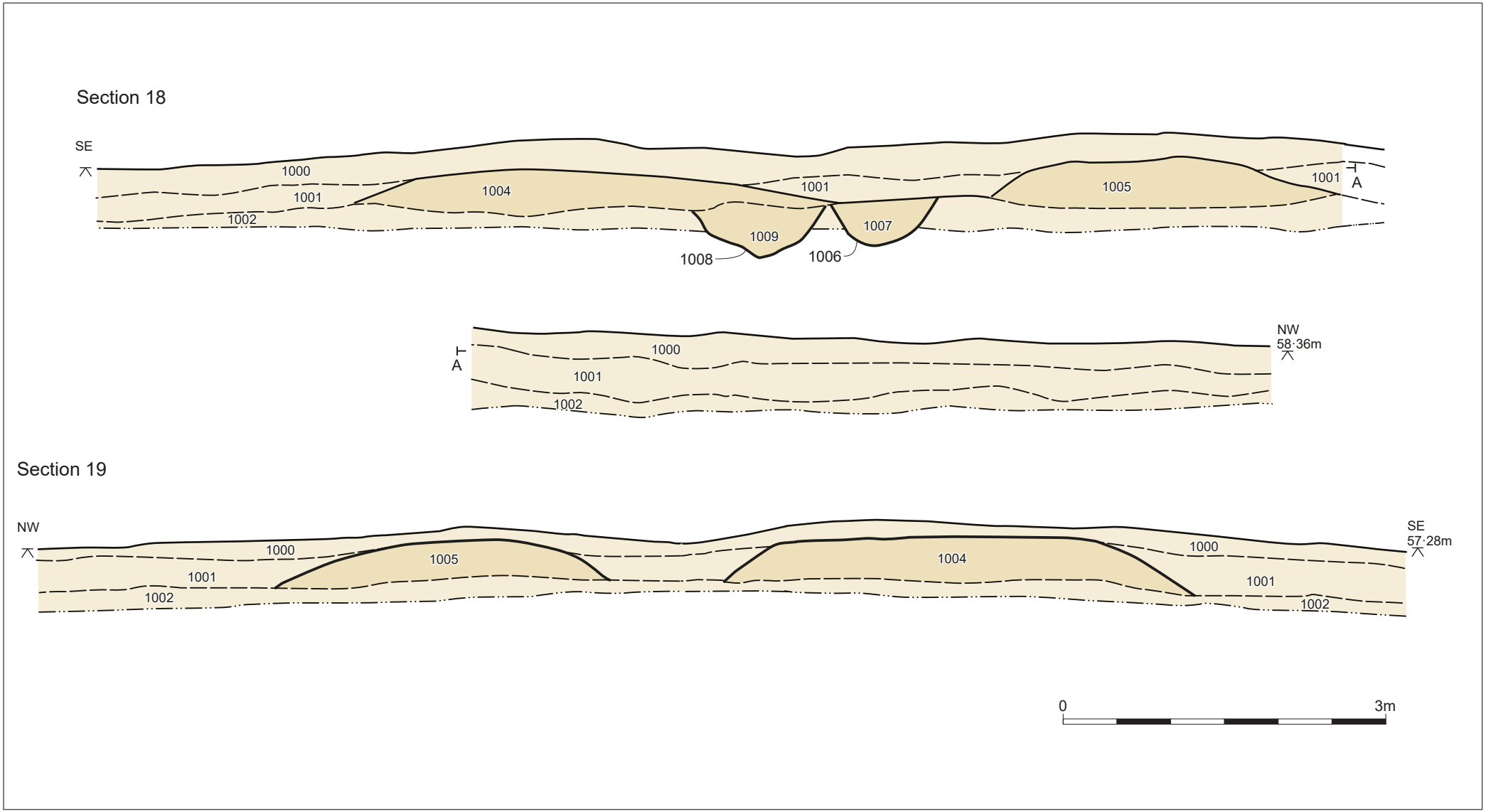


Excavation Trenches 1 (Site Phase 1), and 5 and 10 (Site Phase 3)

Figure 13

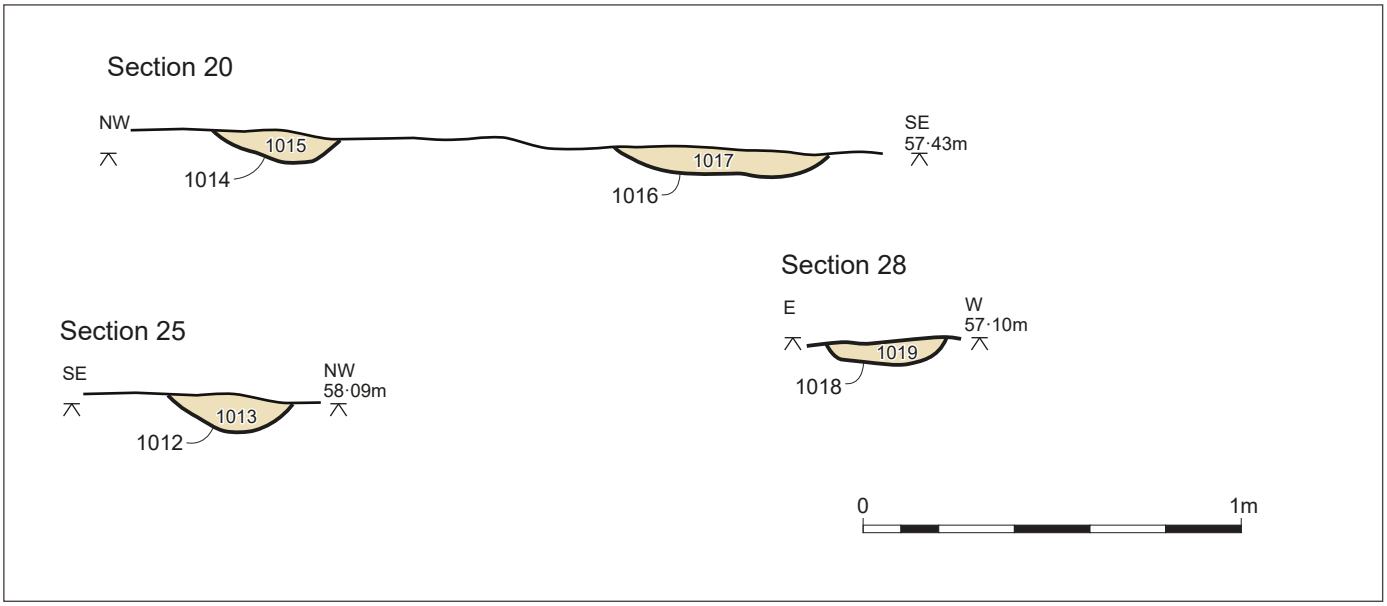


Section 1, Trench 1; sections 5, 9 and 13, Trench 5 *Figure 14*

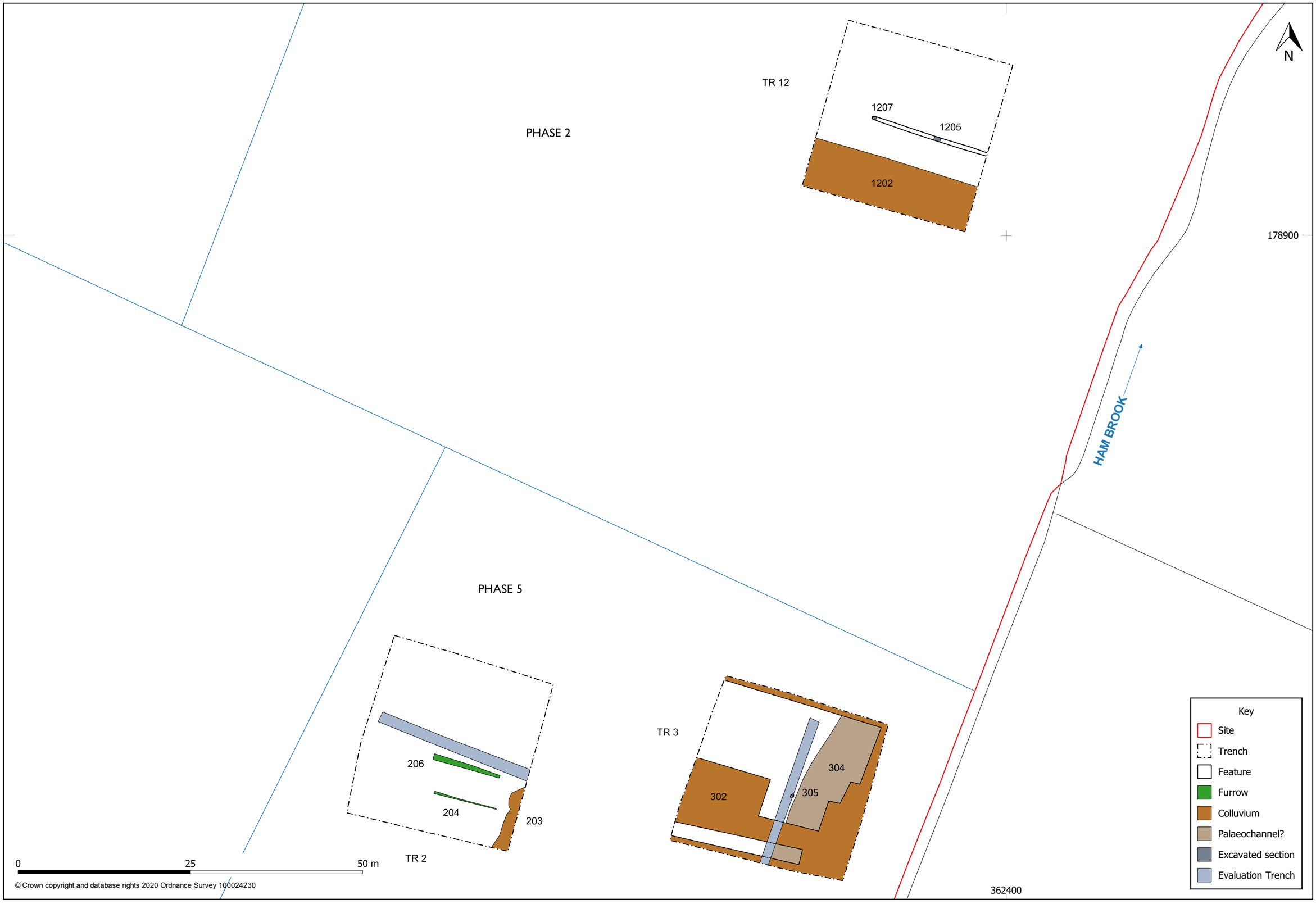


Sections 18 and 19, Trench 10

Figure 15

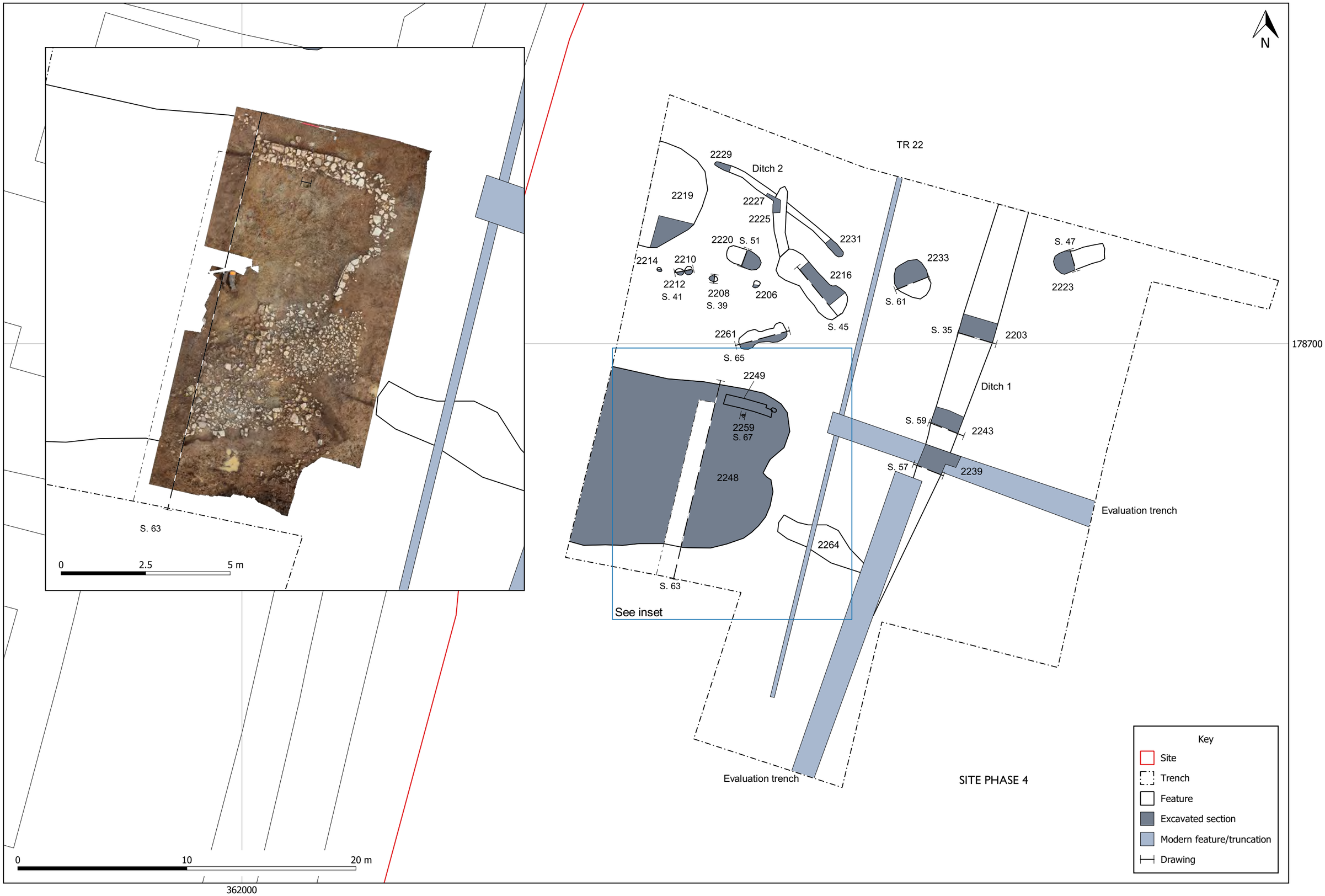


Sections 20, 25 and 28, Trench 10 *Figure 16*



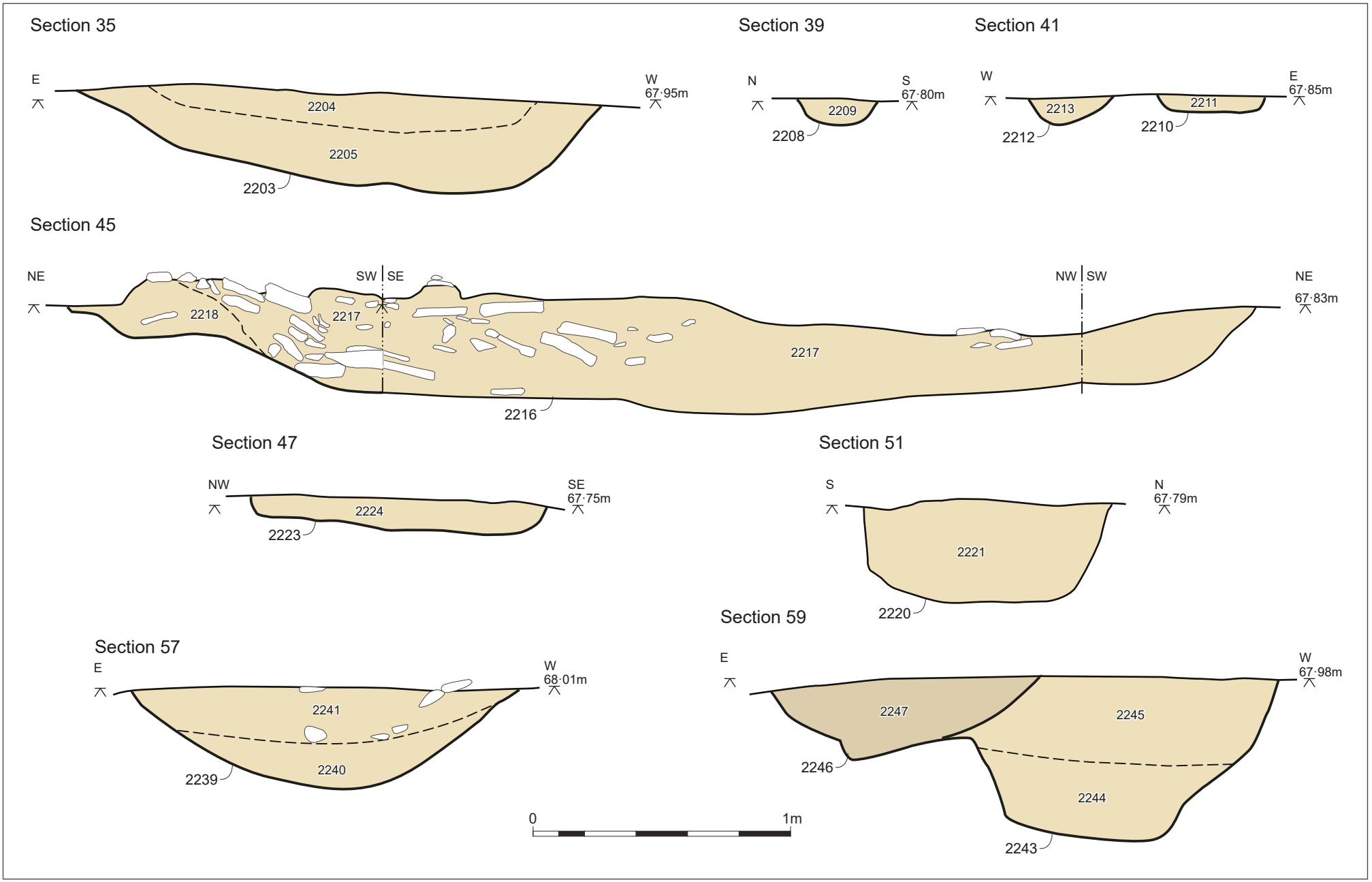
Excavation Trenches 2 and 3 (Site Phase 5) and 12 (Site Phase 2). Trenches 3 and 12 were both sealed by thick colluvium.
The colluvium illustrated in these trenches were areas not excavated to natural deposits. The colluvium illustrated in Trench 2 represents the total extent of the colluvium observed in this trench.

Figure 17



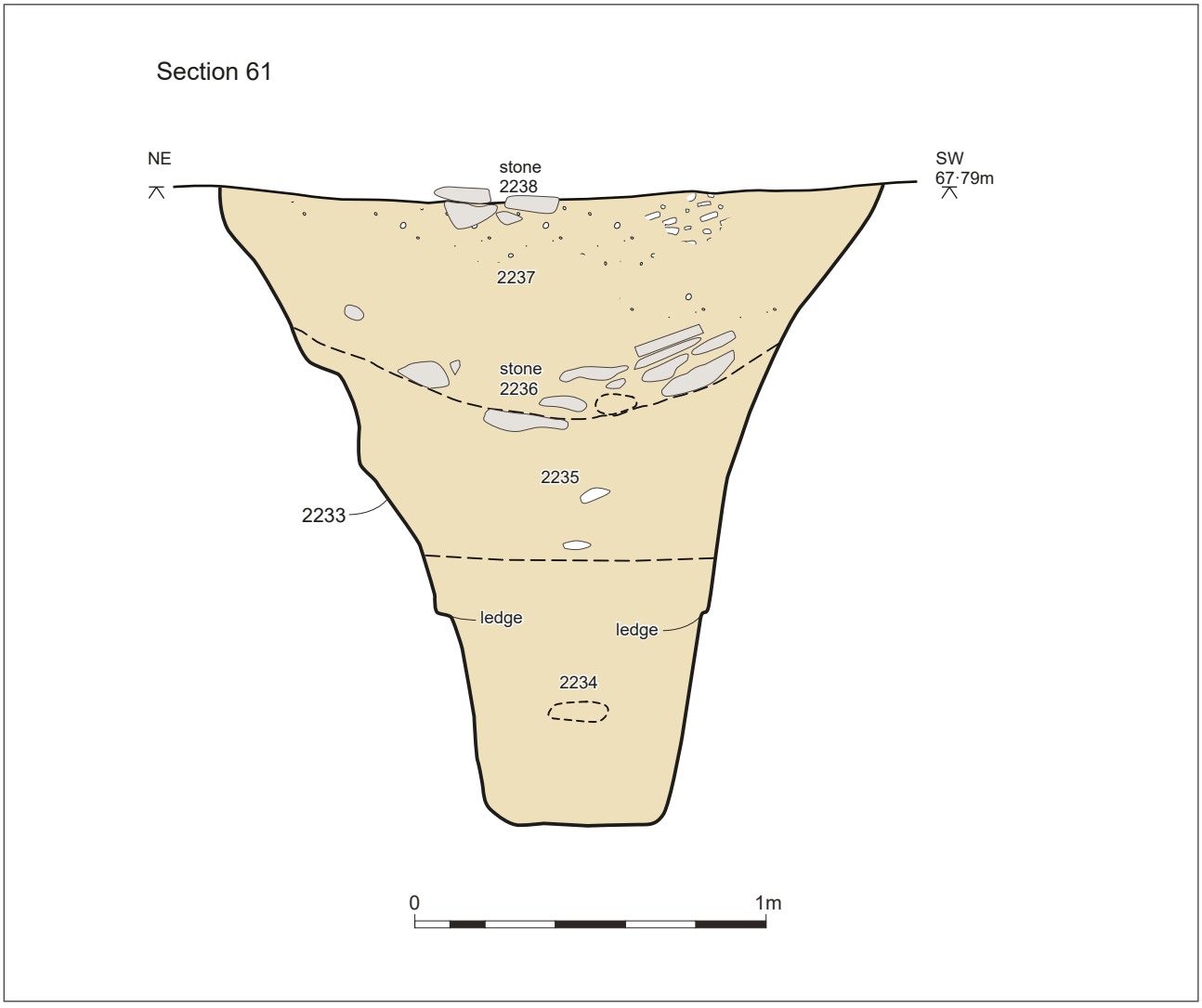
Excavation Trench 22 (Site Phase 4). The inset shows the partially excavated pond.

Figure 18

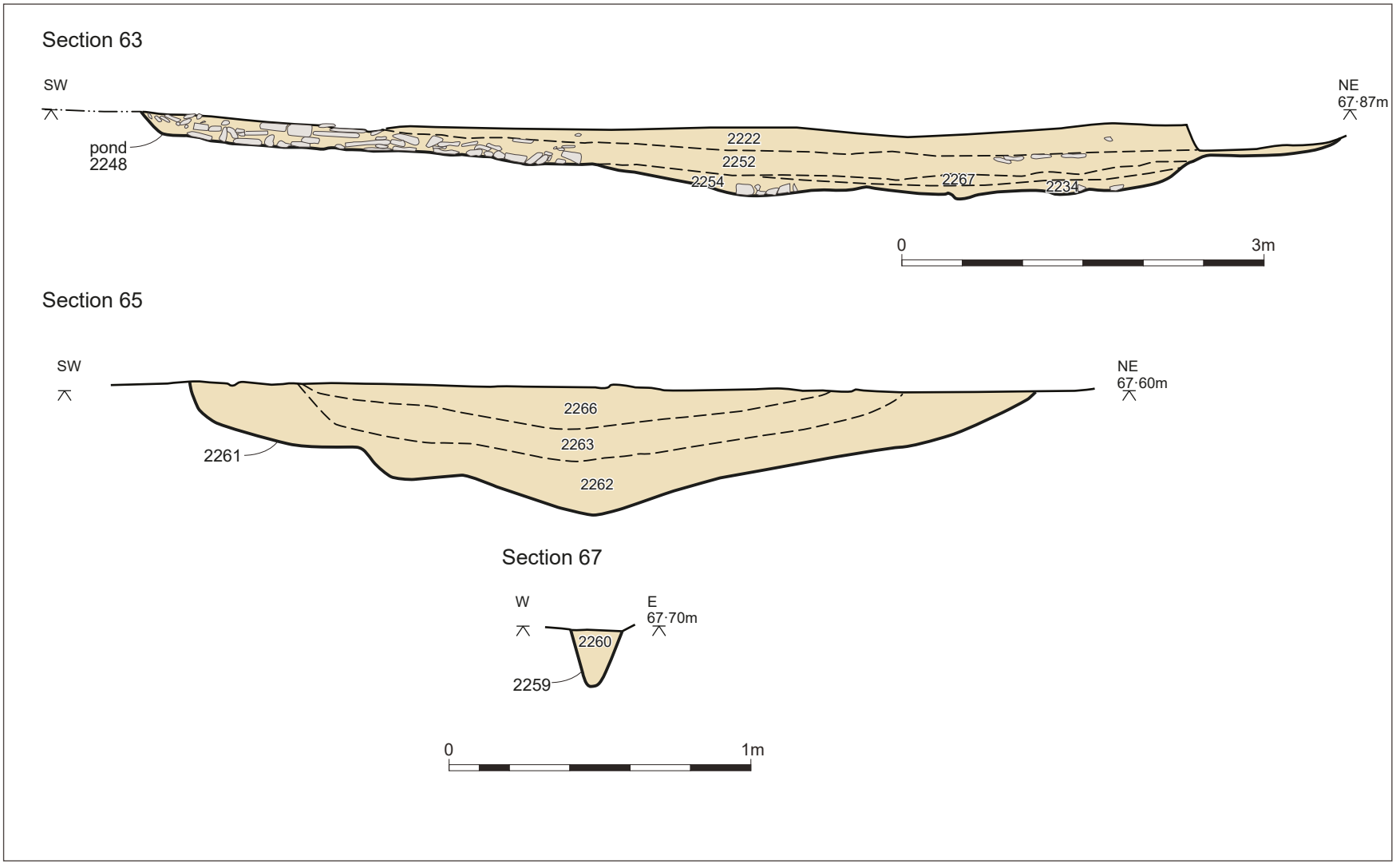


Sections 35, 39, 45, 47, 51,57 and 59, Trench 22

Figure 19



Section 61, Trench 22 *Figure 20*

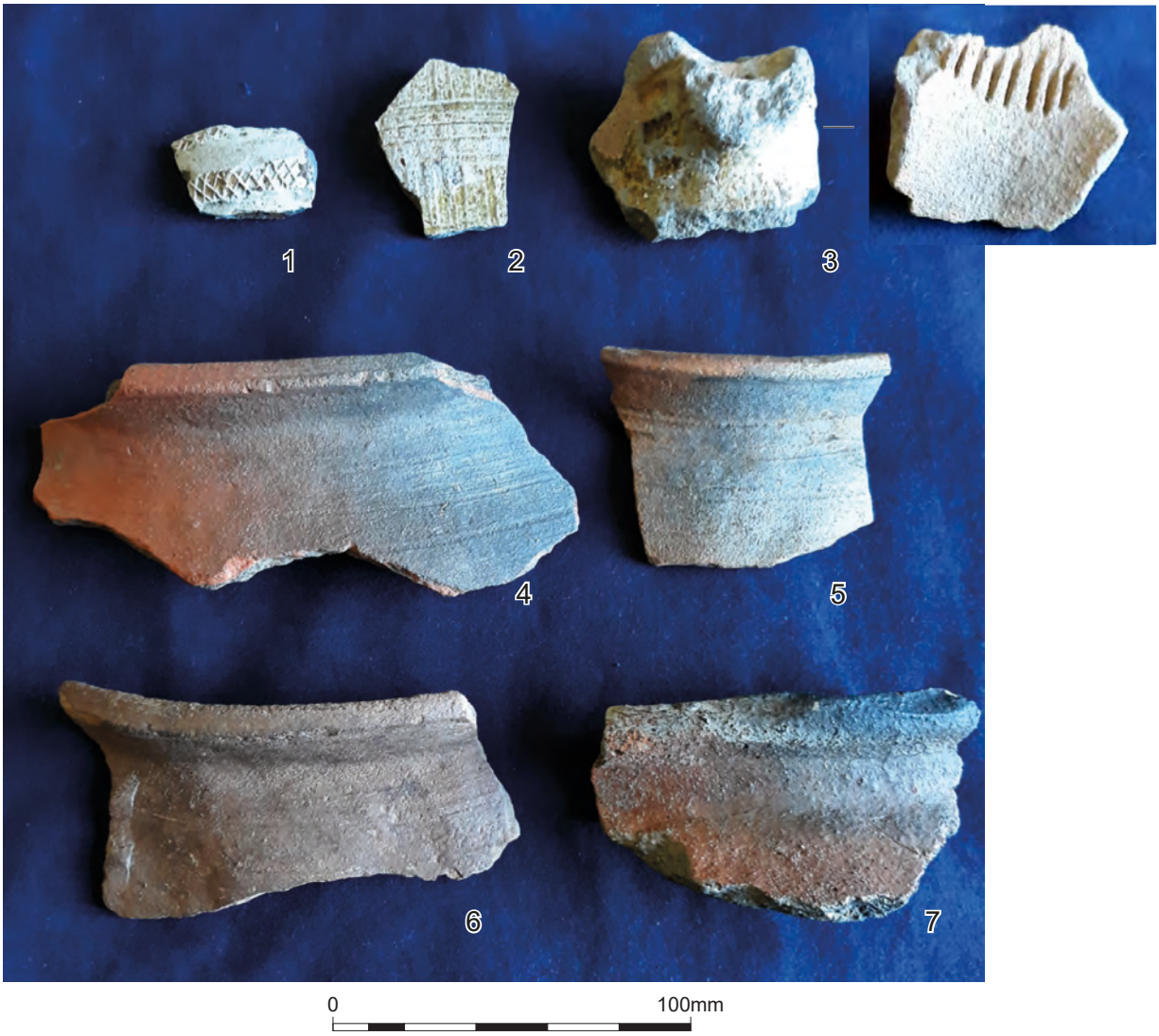


Sections 63, 65 and 67, Trench 22

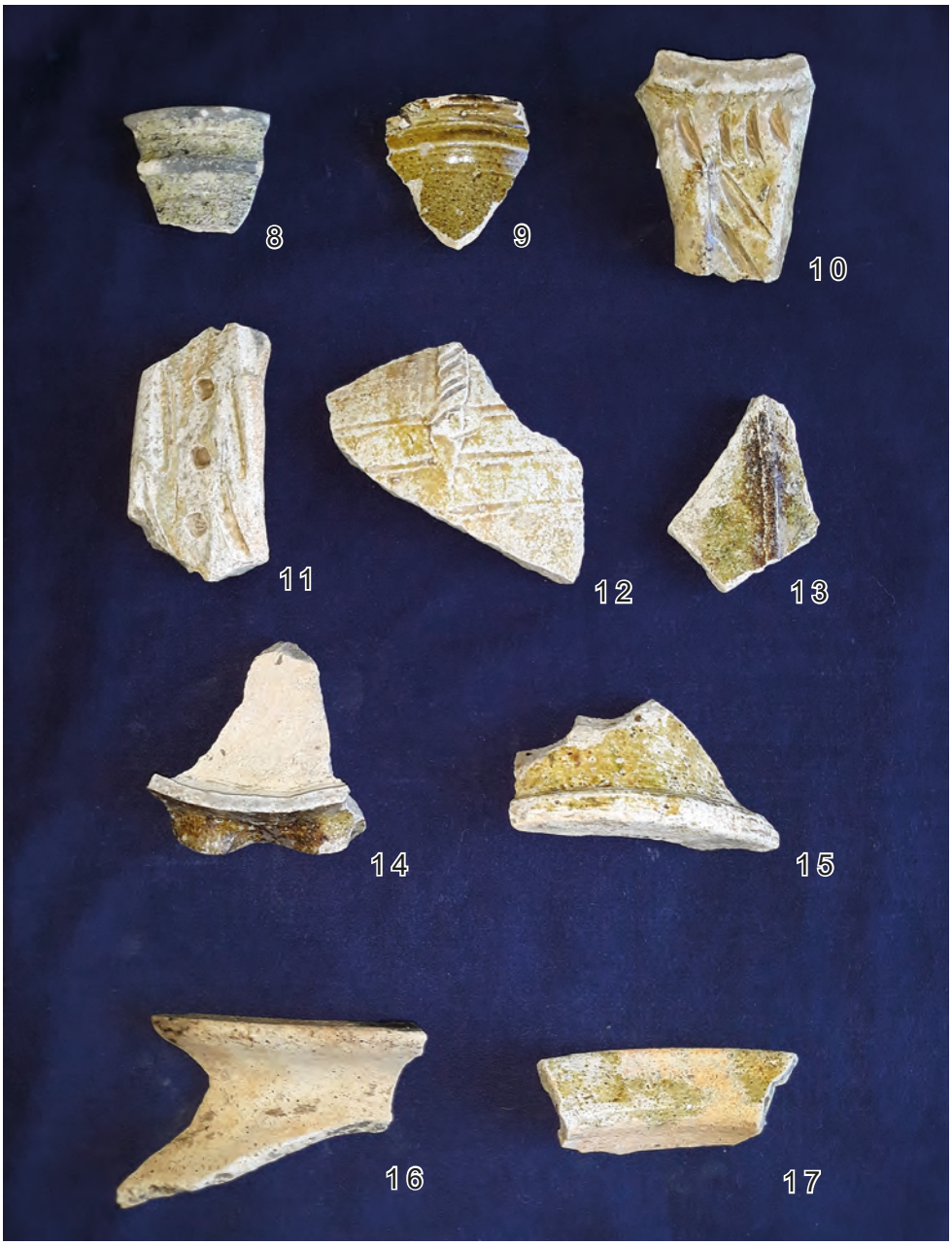
Figure 21

A schematic plan of field boundaries and other earthworks, with the start and end date of their appearance on historic mapping, overlaid on the lidar data (1m DTM). Features labelled uncertain may be pre-1725, 1726-1880 or not have been surveyed.

Figure 22



Ham Green Wares *Figure 23*



Redcliffe ware *Figure 24*

Minety ware and Flint templered wares *Figure 25*

Mesolithic stone anvil (1), whetstone (2) and spindle whorl (3) *Figure 26*

Plates

Plate 1: Earthwork feature A. Photo looking south-west. Note the newt fencing

Plate 2: Earthwork feature B. Photo looking north-east

Plate 3: Earthwork feature C. Photo looking north-east

Plate 4: Earthwork feature D. Photo looking east

Plate 5: Earthwork feature I. Photo looking west

Plate 6: Earthwork feature J. Photo looking west

Plate 7: Earthwork feature K. Photo looking west

Plate 8: Earthwork feature G may be the remains of a holloway. Photo looking south-west towards the historic core of Harry Stoke

Plate 9: Earthwork feature H may be the remains of a holloway. Photo looking south-west towards the historic core of Harry Stoke

Plate 10: Earthwork feature H. Photo looking north

Plate 11: The pond. The ground rises to the right of the shot (south) and falls away to the left (north), and a stone wall or dam is clearly visible holding back the water. Photo looking east

Plate 12: Pond 606 was located at the north-western end of Trench 6. The upper deposit comprised of modern infill. Photo looking north-east

Plate 13: Ditch 703 in Trench 7. To the right is a bank (707) which forms part of earthwork feature H. Photo looking south-west

Plate 14: Filled boundary Ditch 1803 in Trench 18. Note the large stone slabs which is probably building rubble from Harry Stoke. Photo looking north

Plate 15: Field boundary Ditch 403 in Trench 4. Note the change in geology to the left and right of the ditch. Photo looking north

Plate 16: Pond 1304 was located at the north-western end of Trench 13. The fill comprised of modern infill. Photo looking east

Plate 17: Working shot of Trench 12 with the excavation of Ditch 1205/1207 underway. Note the depth of the colluvium. Photo looking east.

Plate 18: Ditch 503/505 (to the left) and Ditch 515/519 (to the right) were on the same alignment as earthwork feature E, visible in the trench edge. Photo looking north-west.

Plate 19: Pit or tree throw feature 1018, contained an assemblage of Mesolithic flint. Photo looking south.

Plate 20: Trench 10, looking south-west. The profile of earthwork feature G is visible in the trench edge and Ditches 1006/1014 and 1008/1016 in the middle of the trench.

Plate 21: Pit 2223 contained a piece of Mesolithic flint. Photo looking north-east

Plate 22: Pond 2248. Wall 2249 is visible to the right, will rubble 2252 to the left forming the south side of the pond and rubble 2264 to the lower left. Photo looking west.

Plate 23: Wall 2249 defined the northern and eastern edge of the pond. Photo looking east.

Plate 24: It was unclear if rubble layer 2252 was simply a dump of stone, or an attempt to build a surface on the edge of the pond. Photo looking west.

Plate 25: A longitudinal section through Feature 2216. Note the stone to the left. Photo looking south-west

Plate 26: Pit, or well, feature 2233. Note the defined dumps of stone in section (2236) and on top of the feature (2238). Photo looking south-east.

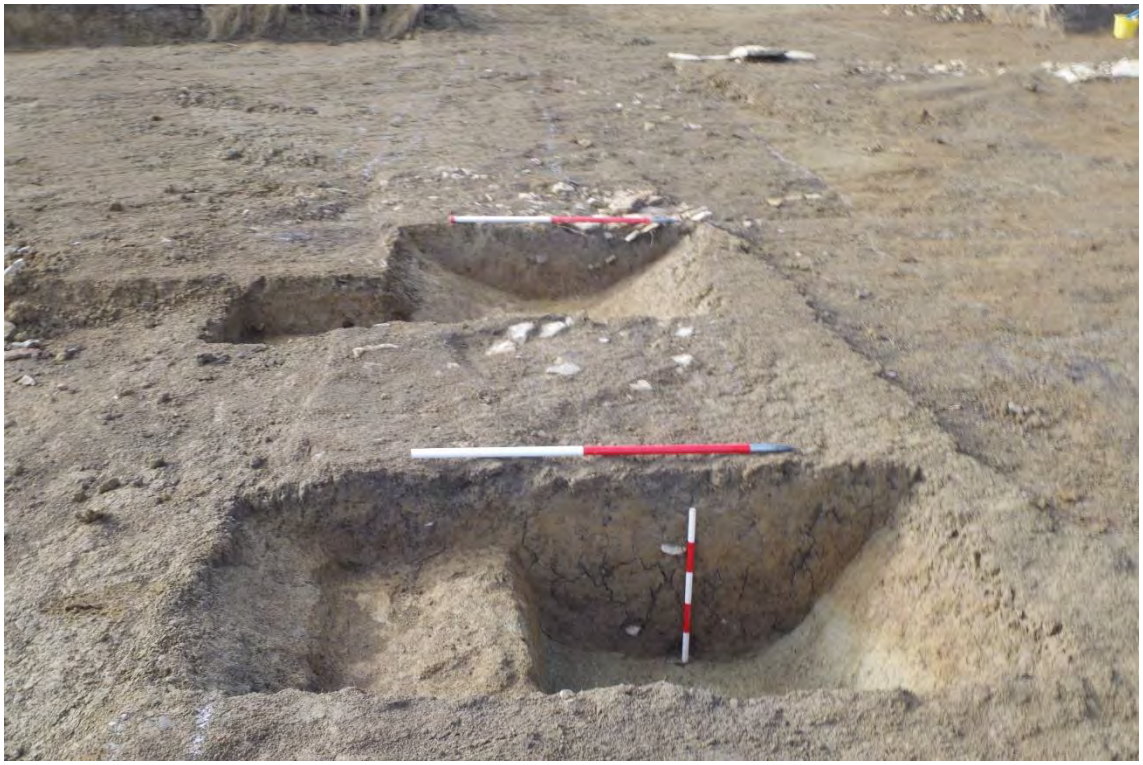


Plate 27. Ditch 1 was orientated north to south and formed the eastern boundary of the medieval activity in this area. Photo looking south.

Plate 28: Trench 2, looking west towards Harry Stoke. Note the natural topography sloping upwards away from the camera. The evaluation trench excavated in 1996 is visible cutting the natural mudstone.

Plate 29: Trench 3 looking south-west. Note the deep colluvium (302) and the natural topography. Natural clay mudstone (303) is clearly visible in the distance while a lighter brownish deposit is visible closer to the camera. This maybe an earlier (paleo)channel of Ham Brook

Plate 30: Pit 305 in Trench 3. Photo looking north

Plate 31: Mesolithic flint from fill 1018 of tree-throw 1019. L: debitage (core rejuvenation flake, microblades, microburin); R: tools (backed blade, truncated blade, microlith)

Plate 32: Flaked stone from elsewhere on the site. Clockwise from top left: U/S blade cores, U/S micro-scraper, backed blade from 404, notch from 2252, blade fragment and segment from 2224.

Plate 33: Medieval metalwork. Clockwise from top left: RF16 cast copper-alloy button from 2226; U/S cast copper-alloy button; U/S copper alloy stirrup-shaped finger-ring; U/S hooked copper alloy book-clasp.

Appendix 1: Summary of project archive (P5513)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Animal bone, Ceramics, Environmental, Glass, Industrial, Metal, Wood, Worked stone/lithics
Paper	Context sheet, Drawing, Plan, Section
Digital	Database, GIS, Images raster/digital photography, Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*

Appendix 2: Metal detecting reports by Ian Lapraik

Trench 1

Stoke Gifford – Crest Nicholson Development Site
Artefacts found by metal detecting on the site of completed archaeological excavations

Date:	13 February 2019
Location:	003 – Stoke Gifford Pasture Field (Excavation Area)
Start Time:	11:45
End Time:	14:45
Weather:	Bright, very muddy underfoot in this specific area
Detector:	Minelab Safari
Coil:	11" Standard Coil
Settings:	All Metal (Ferrous)

Date:	01 April 2019
Location:	003 – Stoke Gifford Pasture Field (Excavation Area)
Start Time:	12:30
End Time:	13:45
Weather:	Bright & dry
Detector:	Minelab Safari
Coil:	11" Standard Coil
Settings:	All Metal (Conductive)

General Narrative
As agreed with the archaeology team while they were on site, I have now gone back over the areas excavated and re-filled with the aim of recovering additional artefacts from the disturbed soil.

OpenStreetMap: Approximate Position of Excavation Area

This document gives a high level description of the artefacts found; the intention is to provide enough information for the archaeology team to determine whether any or all of these objects are

of interest for further study or inclusion in their finds record for this site, in which case any or all will be given to the archaeology team.

Two visits to the area were made, using different settings and search patterns on each occasion. On the first visit, ground conditions were difficult. The soil is clay based and had been compacted by the refilling process. This combined with rain between the excavation period and the detecting date to create very heavy conditions for digging.

On the second visit, the ground had dried out considerably leading to much better conditions. The ground was firm under foot but not hard-baked.

Finds

Sixteen artefacts were recovered from the site on the first visit, and a further eighteen on the second visit (plus one fragment of aluminium foil which has not been included in photographs).

13 February 2019

Lead Artefacts

- Cloth/bale seal
- Three unidentified lead fragments

Lead Cloth/Bale Seal Detail: Lettering visible but indistinct

Iron Artefacts

- What appears to be a small cast iron pot lid;
- Two iron nails;
- Two unidentified iron fragments

Militaria

- A piece of World War II Anti-Aircraft shrapnel, probably fired from the Purdown Battery (the nearest AA battery to this site) during the Bristol Blitz;
- A .303 Cartridge, headstamp clearly identifiable as 1940 Royal Laboratories Greenwich, Type B VI Z ("Buckingham" Incendiary round).

During the course of detecting this field a large number (over 100) of shrapnel pieces and .303 cartridges have been recovered. The .303 cartridges are a variety of types, with a high proportion of armour piercing (AP) rounds. Research suggests these are likely to have been fired from interceptor aircraft (Hurricanes or Spitfires), as the standard load during the Battle of Britain was 50% AP, 50% Incendiary. It seems likely therefore that these cartridges are relics of the Bristol Blitz / Battle of Britain.

Coins

- Bent George III Half Penny, date not identifiable

Buttons

- Tombac button, probably 18th Century;
- Small copper alloy button, probably gilt originally, maker's stamp on reverse but not legible;
- Copper alloy button fragment: this is quite rough on the front which may indicate an older age. No clear design visible;
- Small copper alloy stud type button

01 April 2019

Lead Artefacts

- Lead hemisphere, unknown use;
- Five unidentified lead fragments

Militaria

- A piece of World War II Anti-Aircraft shrapnel, probably fired from the Purdown Battery (the nearest AA battery to this site) during the Bristol Blitz;
- A shotgun cartridge, unidentified make and date

Buttons

- Two Tombac buttons, probably 18th Century;
- Two copper alloy buttons, one probably gilt originally;
- One modern (post 1840) four-hole button

Other Artefacts

- Copper alloy flat ring, narrowed at one point, trace of possible gilding remaining: possible annular brooch?
- Two unidentified fragments of unidentified metal;
- Pipestem fragment (surface find);
- Octagonal blue glass bottle base fragment (surface find)

All Finds


003 - STOKE GIFFORD - 13/02/2019
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS SITE
WW II A.A. SHRAPNEL
.303 CARTRIDGE
ROYAL LABORATORIES, GREENWICH : 1940
B VI Z INCENDIARY
CAST IRON POT LID?
IRON NAILS
IRON FRAGMENTS
GEORGE III HALF PENNY
C 18 TOMBAC BUTTON
COPPER ALLOY BUTTON
COPPER ALLOY BUTTON FRAGMENT
STUD/ BUTTON
UNIDENTIFIED FRAGMENTS (LEAD)
LEAD CLOTH/ BAG SEAL

01/04/2019

003- STOKE GIFFORD: EXCAVATION AREA

WW II A.A. SHRAPNEL

TOMBAC BUTTONS
c. 18TH C.

COPPER/ALLOY BUTTONS

MODERN BUTTON
POST 1840

LEAD HEMISPHERE

SHOTGUN CARTRIDGE

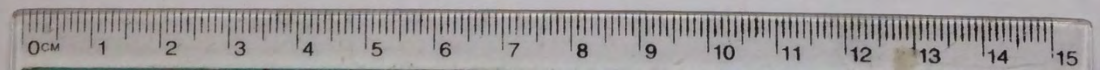
COPPER ALLOY RING/BROOCH
(TRACE GILDING REMAINING)

UNIDENTIFIED

SURFACE FINDS

PIPESTEM FRAGMENT

OCTAGONAL BOTTLE BASE



Trenches 2 and 3

Harry Stoke – Crest Nicholson Development Site
Artefacts found by metal detecting on the site of completed archaeological excavations

Date:	29 March 2019
Location:	005 – Harry Stoke Pasture Field (Excavation Areas 1 & 2)
Start Time:	11:00
End Time:	14:45
Weather:	Bright and sunny, firm underfoot
Detector:	Minelab Safari
Coil:	11" Standard Coil
Settings:	All Metal (Ferrous)

Date:	01 April 2019
Location:	005 – Harry Stoke Pasture Field (Excavation Area 2)
Start Time:	12:30
End Time:	13:45
Weather:	Bright & dry
Detector:	Minelab Safari
Coil:	11" Standard Coil
Settings:	All Metal (Conductive)

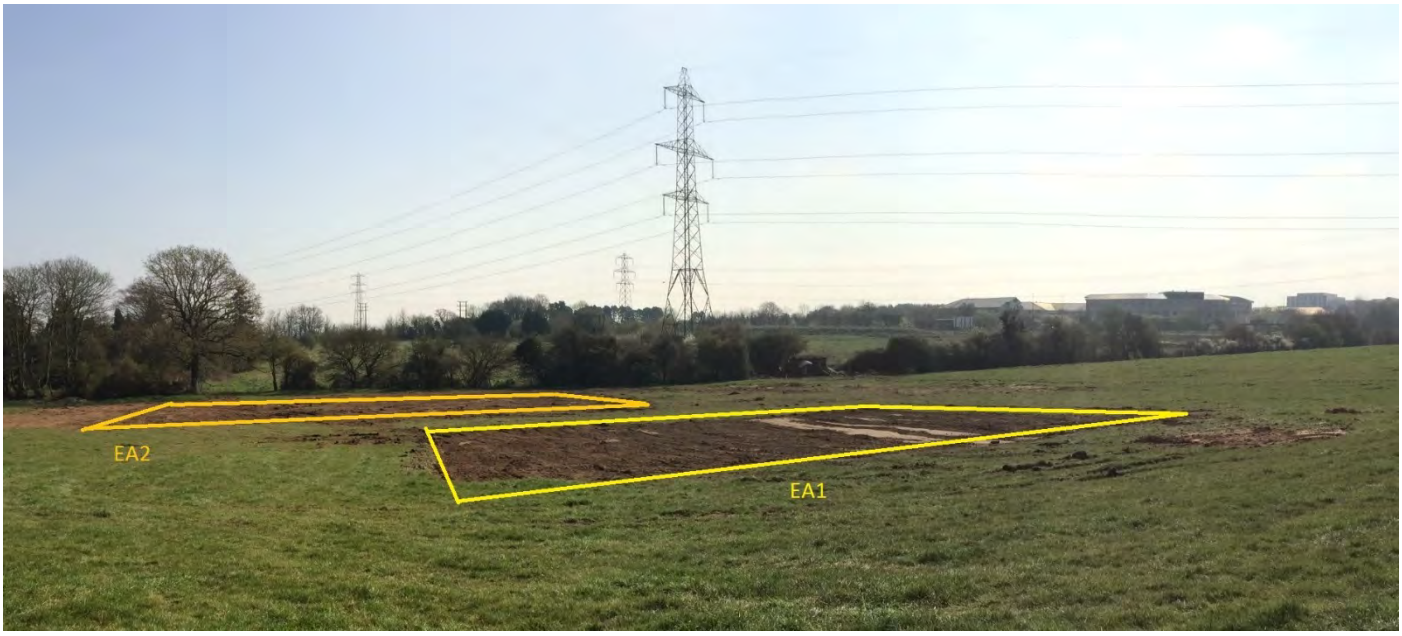
Date:	08 April 2019
Location:	005 – Harry Stoke Pasture Field (Excavation Areas 1 & 2)
Start Time:	11:00
End Time:	14:15
Weather:	Overcast, damp underfoot
Detector:	Minelab Safari
Coil:	15" Detech Ultimate Coil
Settings:	All Metal (Conductive)

General Narrative
As agreed with the archaeology team while they were on site, I have now gone back over the areas excavated and re-filled with the aim of recovering additional artefacts from the disturbed soil.

Excavations detected on this visit consisted of two 25 x 25m squares which I have designated EA1 (higher up the slope, centred on ST 6231 7883) and EA2 (at the lower end of the slope, centred on ST 6236 7882). Precise grid references for artefacts found were not recorded as the soil has been removed and re-filled, so this level of accuracy would be spurious.

This document gives a high level description of the artefacts found; the intention is to provide enough information for the archaeology team to determine whether any or all of these objects are of interest for further study or inclusion in their finds record for this site, in which case any or all will be given to the archaeology team.

Ground conditions were good. Weather since excavations were re-filled have been clement, so the clay-based soil has not been compacted. The 8 April visit followed a few days of rain, so soil was wetter below the surface but still easy to dig.



View of the two main excavation areas

OpenStreetMap: Approximate Positions of Excavation Areas

Finds – EA1
In total 11 artefacts were recovered from Excavation Area 1 on 29 March, and a further 16 on 8 April.

29 March 2019
Coins

- Hammered Penny – Edward IV, London (Tentative); late 15th Century? Damaged, worn and clipped.


Obverse


Reverse

Buttons

- Two Tombac buttons, probably 18th Century
- Flat copper alloy button, probably 17th Century or later

Ordnance / Militaria

- Fragment of WW II Anti-Aircraft shrapnel

Lead Artefacts

- Possible cloth or bale seal, no visible distinguishing marks

Copper/Alloy Artefacts

- Stud or tack

Four unidentified fragments of metal were also recovered.

8 April 2019

Ordnance / Militaria

- Fragment of WW II Anti-Aircraft shrapnel
- Shotgun cartridge
- .22 Rimfire cartridge

Buttons

- Two small hollow buttons, copper/alloy, c. 18th Century

Other

- Unidentified metal disc, possible coin but metal does not appear to be copper/alloy, silver or gold
- Three strips of twisted lead
- Seven unidentified metal fragments

Excavation Area 1 – All Finds

OOS - HARRY STOKE - EXCAVATION AREA 1

08 APRIL 2019

WW II ANTI-AIRCRAFT SHRAPNEL

SHOTGUN CARTRIDGE

.22 RIMFIRE CARTRIDGE

HOLLOW BUTTONS 18TH CENTURY?

UNIDENTIFIED METAL DISC

TWISTED LEAD STRIPS

UNIDENTIFIED

Finds – EA2

In total 32 artefacts were recovered from Excavation Area 2 on 29 March. A further 15 artefacts were recovered on 1 April, and 13 more on 8 April.

29 March 2019

Coins

- Hammered Halfpenny – Henry VII, London (Spink 2241), 1485-1509
- 1922 George V Farthing
- Two unidentified coins – one probably a Georgian Halfpenny, one probably a Victorian or later Farthing

First view in over 500 years – Hammered Silver

Obverse

Reverse

Henry VII London Half Penny (Spink 2241)

Buttons

- Tombac Button, c. 18th Century
- Gilt button
- Three silver plated or tinned buttons
- Seven copper / alloy buttons
- Modern 4-hole button, post 1840

Militaria

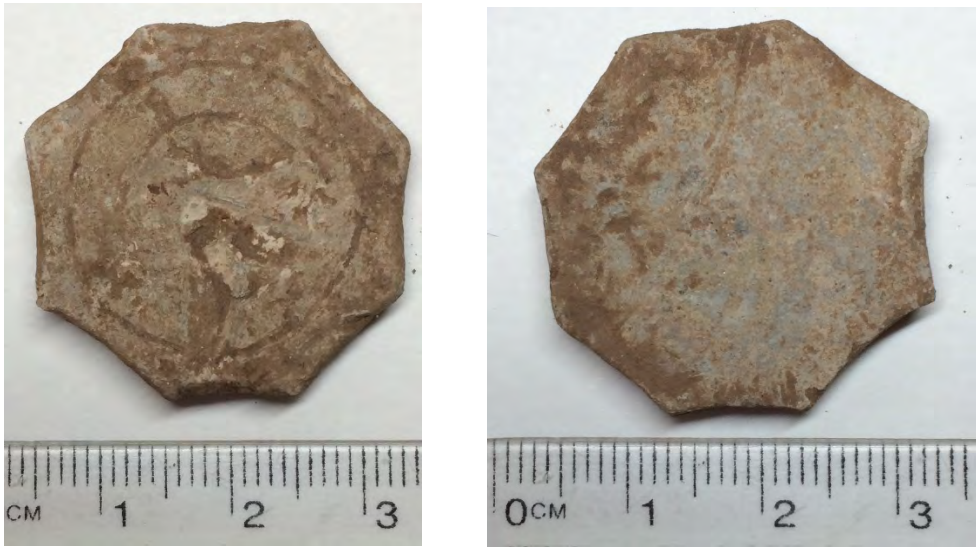
- Two fragments of WW II Anti-Aircraft shrapnel

Copper/Alloy Artefacts

- Signet ring, shield with star (guiding light?), small stone inset; stamped on inside "22 CT GOLD PLATED"; probably Victorian

Lead Artefacts

- Probable trade weight, octagonal, 1.068 oz: date indeterminate
- Net weight (rabbit or fishing net), 1600-1800?



Octagonal Trade Weight, 1.068 oz

Other Artefacts

- Pewter cutlery handle, post medieval?
- Racing Pigeon leg ring, GB 1979. Unable to trace owner via the Royal Pigeon Racing Association stray reporting website – records not kept this far back.

Seven unidentified fragments of metal were also recovered.

1 April 2019

- Two shotgun cartridges
- Racing Pigeon leg ring, GB 1997; owner traced via the Royal Pigeon Racing Association Stray Reporting webpage: A&R Smith, Patchway – the bird was lost close to home.
- Copper/alloy button
- Possible belt decoration
- Large iron nail
- Nine unidentified fragments of metal

8 April 2019

Coins

- 1478-1483 Edward IV Irish Penny "Suns and Roses"; Spink 6394

Obverse *Reverse*

Edward IV Irish Penny

Other

- Two fragments of WW II Anti-Aircraft Shrapnel
- Racing Pigeon leg ring, GB 1989. Unable to trace owner via the Royal Pigeon Racing Association stray reporting website – records not kept this far back.
- Tombac button c. 18th Century
- Copper/Alloy button
- Pipestem fragment (surface find)
- Six unidentified fragments of metal

Excavation Area 2 – All Finds

OOS - HARRY STOKE - EXCAVATION AREA 2

01 APRIL 2019

SHOTGUN CARTRIDGES

RACING PIGEON LEG RING GB97

COPPER/ ALLOY BUTTON

BELT DECORATION?

IRON NAIL

UNIDENTIFIED

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08 APRIL 2019

WW II A.A. SHRAPNEL

RACING PIGEON LEG RING GB89

TOMBAC BUTTON c.18TH C.

COPPER/ ALLOY BUTTON

EDWARD IV IRISH PENNY SPINK 6394

PIPESTEM FRAGMENT (SURFACE FIND)

UNIDENTIFIED

Trench 4

Harry Stoke – Crest Nicholson Development Site
Artefacts found by metal detecting on the site of completed archaeological excavations

Date:	01 April 2019
Location:	007 – Harry Stoke Pasture Field
Start Time:	14:00
End Time:	15:15
Weather:	Bright and dry
Detector:	Minelab Safari
Coil:	11” Standard Coil
Settings:	All Metal (Conductive)

General Narrative
As agreed with the archaeology team while they were on site, I have now gone back over the areas excavated and re-filled with the aim of recovering additional artefacts from the disturbed soil.

The excavation detected on this visit consisted of a 30m trench between grid references ST 6218 7878 and ST 6221 7878. Precise grid references for artefacts found were not recorded as the soil has been removed and re-filled, so this level of accuracy would be spurious.

View of backfilled trench

This document gives a high level description of the artefacts found; the intention is to provide enough information for the archaeology team to determine whether any or all of these objects are of interest for further study or inclusion in their finds record for this site, in which case any or all will be given to the archaeology team.

Ground conditions were good. Weather since excavations were re-filled have been clement, so the clay-based soil has not been compacted.

OpenStreetMap: Approximate Position of Excavations

Finds
In total 8 artefacts were recovered.

Buttons

- Modern four hole button, post 1840;
- Copper alloy button, probably 17th Century or later

Buckle

- 18th Century boot or garter buckle, copper alloy with two iron tongues, oval frame

Other Artefacts

- Copper screw;
- Copper/alloy D-shaped ring, possibly horse harness related;
- Two modern threaded brass artefacts, possibly parts of darts.

One unidentified fragment of lead was also recovered.

Excavation Area 1 – All Finds

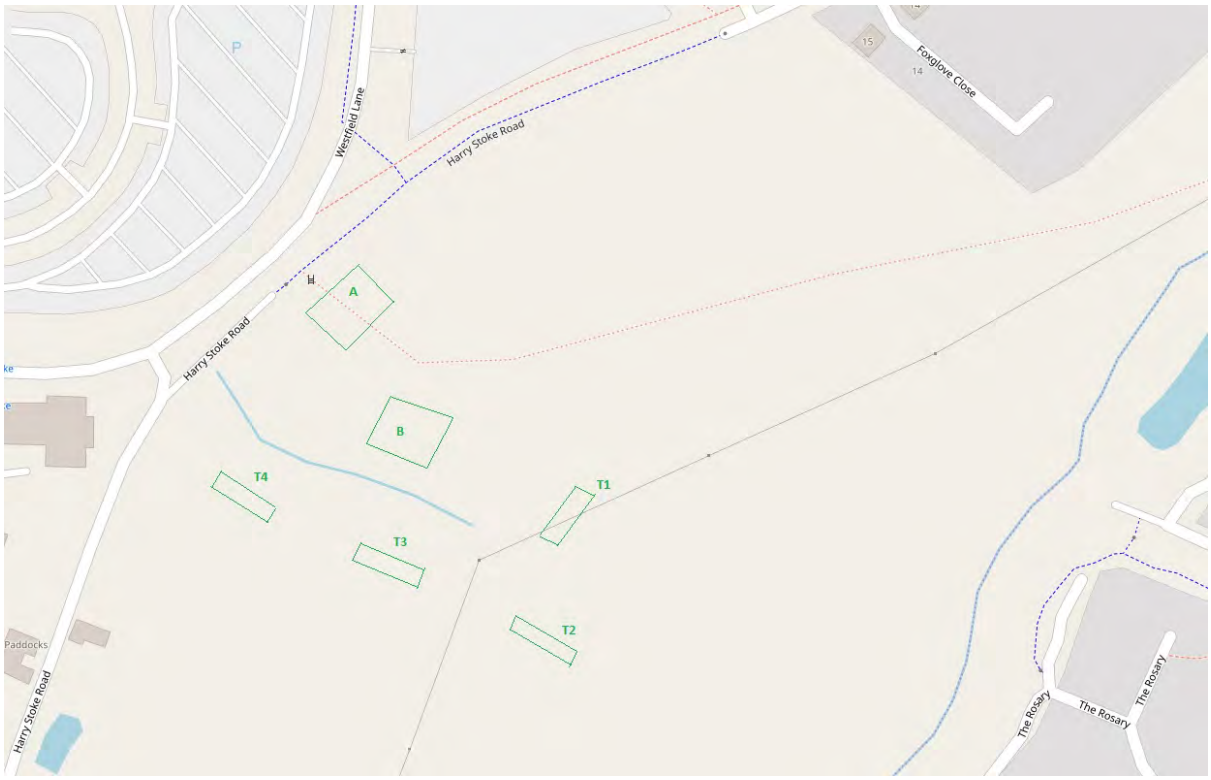
Trenches 5 to 10

Stoke Gifford – Crest Nicholson Development Site
Artefacts found by metal detecting on the site of completed archaeological excavations

Date:	Various, May 2019
Location:	003 – Stoke Gifford Pasture Field (Excavation Areas)
Weather:	Generally Sunny and warm
Detector:	Minelab Safari
Coils used:	11" Standard Coil, 6x8" SEF Coil
Settings:	All Metal (Ferrous/Conductive), Manual Sensitivity

General Narrative

With permission from Crest Nicholson to metal detect on their development site, and with the agreement of the Worcestershire Archaeology field team, I have performed metal detecting searches of topsoil and subsoil spoil heaps for the areas excavated. I have also searched the trenches (labelled T1 – T4 in the diagram below) after they were backfilled, and was permitted to search the floor of the two larger excavation areas (labelled A and B) while the archaeology team were on site.



OpenStreetMap: Approximate Position of Excavation Areas and Trenches

This document gives a high level description of the artefacts found; the intention is to provide enough information for the archaeology team to determine whether any or all of these objects are of interest for further study or inclusion in their finds record for this site, in which case any or all will be given to the archaeology team. All artefacts will be shown to the Finds Liaison Officer (Kurt Adams) to ensure anything of historical interest is recorded appropriately.

Several visits to the area were made, and a variety of combinations of search coil and detector settings were used in order to optimise performance for the individual areas being searched.

Finds

A large number of finds were made during the course of the search. The majority of finds are fragments which it has not been possible to date or accurately identify. The areas from which finds which were considered potentially of interest were noted. As most finds were from spoil heaps or backfilled trenches a more accurate location would be misleading.

1. Miscellaneous Finds

Miscellaneous Finds

Roman Bronze Coin – Constantinople City Commemorative – Detail

Description	Location	Comment
Roman Bronze Coin, Constantinople City Commemorative, Victory on the Prow of a Boat, 330-340 AD	Excavation Area A ST 62249 79112	Found in the base of the excavation area, at the point where a medieval ditch has been intersected by a modern land drain. Full identification made by FLO.
Various buttons	Excavation Area A and B topsoil spoil heaps	The two larger buttons are examples of gilt livery or uniform buttons from 17th-18th Century; the balloon button is probably 18th Century; the three smaller buttons/studs are probably more modern
Buckle, probably 16th-17th Century	Excavation Area B subsoil spoil heap	Unable to find an exact match; possibly medieval
Copper Alloy Rings	Larger: Excavation Area A topsoil spoil heap Smaller: Trench 1	It is difficult to date and identify the purpose of metal rings with no distinguishing marks. These are likely to be modern and agricultural or horse related, although it is possible that the larger ring could have been more decorative
Copper Alloy Pot Fragment (tentative)	Trench 4	This fragment has a slight curve and a raised line towards one edge. It has been tentatively identified as a copper alloy pot fragment, in which case it would probably be medieval
Pewter Spoon Handle (tentative)	Trench 3 topsoil spoil heap	Probably post medieval
Spoon handle	Trench 2	17th-18th Century
Pewter (unidentified strip)	Excavation Area B topsoil spoil heap	Possibly decorative in nature
Badge (tentative)	Excavation Area B topsoil spoil heap	Shield shaped, no clear distinguishing marks
Cross fragment (tentative)	Excavation Area A topsoil spoil heap	
Unidentified 1	Trench 2	
Unidentified 2	Trench 1	Hook shaped fragment; identified as medieval by FLO, possible clasp or hinge

2. Militaria

Fragments of World War II Anti-Aircraft ("AA") shells and spent .303 cartridges are the commonest identifiable finds on this site. They are scattered indiscriminately over the site, so the locations of these items has not been specifically recorded.

The AA fragments found are parts of the fuse ring (the mechanism which determined the height at which the shell would explode); the shells were probably fired from the Purdown AA Battery (this being the closest AA Battery to the site).

The .303 cartridges were probably fired from an interceptor aeroplane during World War II (Hurricane or Spitfire), both of which were fitted with Browning .303 calibre machine guns. Armour piercing and incendiary rounds were part of the standard loadout for interceptors.

The ordnance found are most likely to be relics of the Bristol Blitz.

Militaria

3. Iron

Iron Finds

Huge amounts of iron scraps are found on almost all sites. Metal detectorists do not generally dig iron signals deliberately, but extremely corroded iron and curved or holed fragments often give misleading signals so inevitable iron scraps and artefacts are dug.

The above selection is fairly typical, including assorted nails and unidentified lumps and fragments.

4. Unidentified and Modern Fragments

A large number of small, unidentifiable lead or other metal scraps were found. Many of these are clearly modern, but a few of the smaller lead fragments were located in the base of Excavation Area A (particularly the ditches), indicating an older origin.

As these fragments are either clearly modern in nature, or unidentifiable, detailed locations have not been recorded.

Unidentified / Modern

5. Surface Finds

Non-metallic artefacts are occasionally found while metal detecting. Sometimes these are found by chance in holes dug while hunting for a metal target, sometimes they are “eyes only” surface finds.

During this search, 11 pottery fragments (all modern), 10 pipestem fragments and one fragment of flint were found. All of these were surface finds. The flint was located close to the subsoil spoil heap for Excavation Area B. The archaeology team discovered a number of flint artefacts in this Excavation Area, so it is likely that surface find forms part of the same collection, relocated while excavating.

Surface Finds

Trenches 22 and 23

Harry Stoke – Crest Nicholson Development Site
Artefacts found by metal detecting on the site of completed archaeological excavations

Date: September-October 2019 (various dates)
Location: 007 – Harry Stoke Pasture Field (Re-filled Excavation Areas)
Detector: Minelab Safari
Coil: 11" Standard Coil
Settings: All Metal (Ferrous) / All Metal (Conductive)

General Narrative
As agreed with the archaeology team while they were on site, I have now gone back over the areas excavated and re-filled with the aim of recovering additional artefacts from the disturbed soil.

Excavations detected consisted of two 25 x 25m squares which I have designated EA3 (closest to the hedge, containing a medieval pond and house, centred on ~ST 6203 7869) and EA4 (further into the field, centred on ~ST 6207 7871). Precise grid references for artefacts found were not recorded as the soil has been removed and re-filled, so this level of accuracy would be spurious.

This document gives a high level description of the artefacts found; the intention is to provide enough information for the archaeology team to determine whether any or all of these objects are of interest for further study or inclusion in their finds record for this site, in which case any or all will be given to the archaeology team.

Ground conditions were wet. Weather since excavations were re-filled has been rainy, which has turned the excavation areas into heavy mud which is difficult to detect in.

OpenStreetMap: Approximate Positions of Excavation Areas

Finds

In total 113 artefacts were recovered from the two excavation areas after they had been re-filled. Artefacts recovered by metal detecting while the excavations were in progress were retained by the archaeology team and are not recorded in this document.

All artefacts documented here have been shown to the FLO for the area (Kurt Adams); he has retained 6 items for possible recording on the PAS database. These items are marked * or referred to explicitly in the text below.

Coins

- 1180-1189 Henry II Cut Half Penny (Class I – Willelm – London): severely bent *:


- 1770's George III Half Penny (final digit of date obscure);
- 1806 George III Half Penny;
- 1807 George III Half Penny;
- Unidentified milled copper coin, half penny size;
- Four unidentified milled copper coins, farthing size;
- Two unidentified copper discs, one bent; approximately farthing size but thinner than most milled coins.

Buttons

- 14 flat copper buttons, various sizes;
- Four plain tombac buttons, probably 18th century;
- Three tombac buttons with (different) floral motifs, probably 18th century;
- Four gilt buttons (traces of gilding remaining), typical of livery buttons, 18th-19th century;
- One gilt livery button with family crest on face (indistinct);
- One silver-faced button (no design);
- Three modern (post 1840) four-hole buttons;
- Four copper button fragments.

Ordnance

- 10 fragments of WW II Anti-Aircraft shells;
- One lead pistol ball;
- One lead .22 bullet.

Copper/Alloy Artefacts

- Saxon hooked clasp or stirrup mount *:

- Three pieces of 17th century drop handles (two petal/star-shaped plates and one drop-handle);
- Post medieval – modern barrel tap key;
- Thimble, 18-19th century;
- Four buckle fragments, probably Georgian;
- 5 rings, indeterminate age and usage;
- One copper nail;
- 5 copper/allow pins or studs;
- One spoon handle;
- One watch winder, probably Victorian;
- One household or trade brass weight, 0.448 oz (probably ½ oz originally);
- One modern dog tag;
- 11 unidentified copper / alloy artefacts (one of these artefacts was subsequently identified as part of a Viking penannular brooch by the FLO, Kurt Adams. This is marked **A** in the collective photograph below, and has been retained by the FLO for recording on the PAS Database).

Lead Artefacts

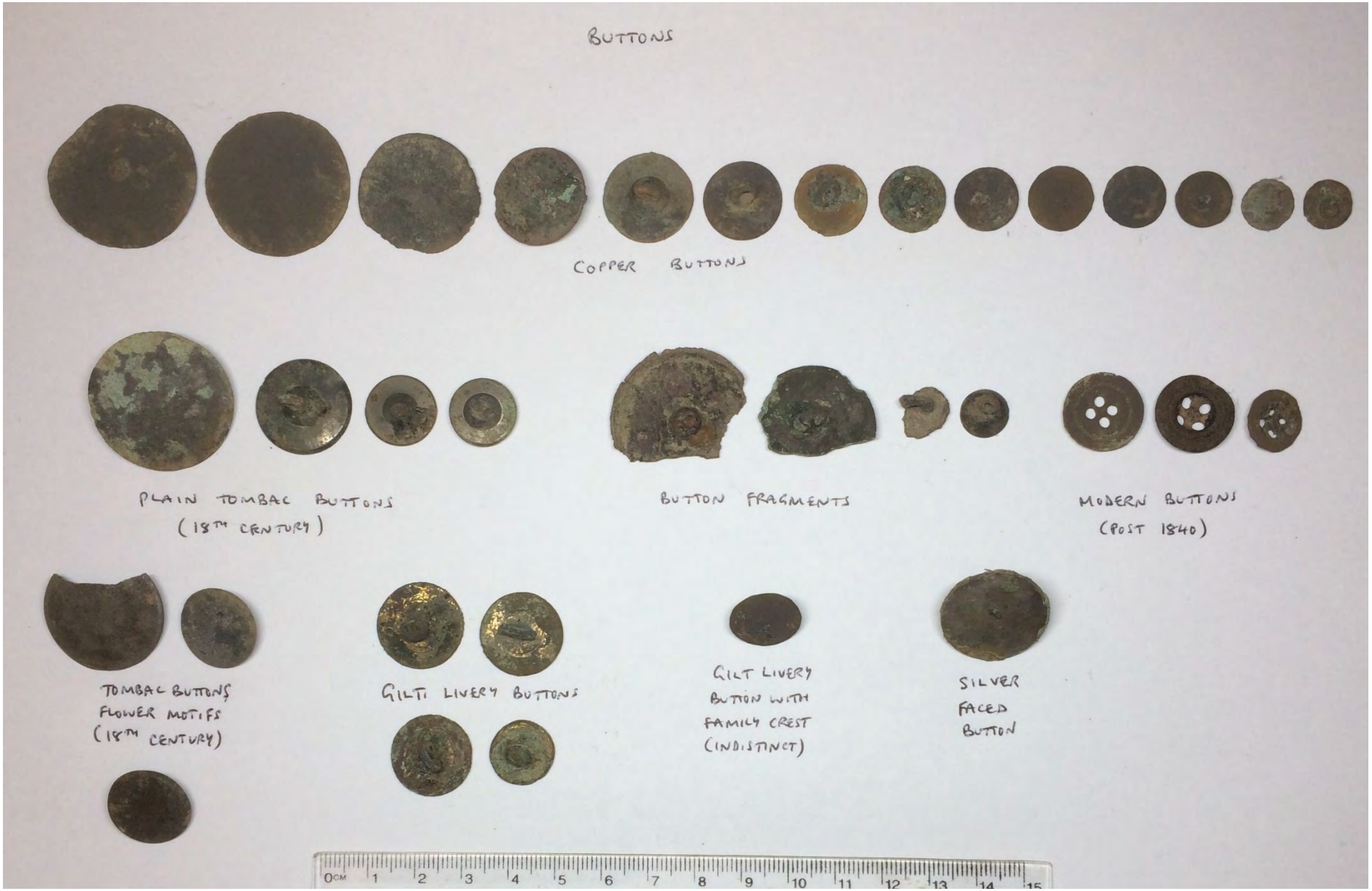
- Conical lead weight, 5.34 oz, similar to PAS GLO-DFCF7C found on a neighbouring field;
- Three pot mends *;
- One cloth or bale seal, not complete, numbers on one side;
- One pistol ball (also included in ordnance section above);
- One .22 bullet (also included in ordnance section above);
- One roughly cut lead heart;
- 14 unidentified fragments.

Several obviously modern metal items (aluminium cans, bottle caps, aluminium foil) were discarded and are not recorded here.

Coins


COINS
1180-1189 HENRY II
CUT HALF PENNY
CLASS I - WILLELM - LONDON
177x GEORGE III
HALF PENNY
1806 GEORGE III
HALF PENNY
1807 GEORGE III
HALF PENNY
UNIDENTIFIED
HALF PENNY
UNIDENTIFIED FARTHINGS
0CM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Buttons


BUTTONS
COPPER BUTTONS
PLAIN TOMBAC BUTTONS
(18TH CENTURY)
BUTTON FRAGMENTS
MODERN BUTTONS
(POST 1840)
TOMBAC BUTTONS
FLOWER MOTIFS
(18TH CENTURY)
GILT LIVERY BUTTONS
GILT LIVERY
BUTTON WITH
FAMILY CREST
(INDISTINCT)
SILVER
FACED
BUTTON

Ordnance


ORDNANCE
FUSE RING FRAGMENTS
NOSE CONE FRAGMENTS
WORLD WAR II ANTI-AIRCRAFT SHELL FRAGMENTS
PISTOL BALL
.22 BULLET
0CM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Copper / Copper Alloy


COPPER / ALLOY ARTEFACTS - UNIDENTIFIED
A
0CM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Lead


LEAD ARTEFACTS + FRAGMENTS
CONICAL LEAD WEIGHT
5.34 oz
POT MENDS
CLOTH OR BALE SEAL
PISTOL BALL
.22 BULLET
LEAD HEART
LEAD FRAGMENTS
0cm 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Appendix 3: Flaked stone listed by context

			cut number	403	503	606	705		1008	1018		2223	2233		2246	2248	subsoil	unstrat
			context number	404	504	604	706	1002	1009	1019	2222	2224	2235	2237	2247	2252		
Tool			backed blade	1						1								
			end-scraper														1	
			micro-scraper															1
			notch													1		
			segment									1					1	
			truncated blade					1		1								
			utlitised flake					1									3	1
			scalene microlith							1								
Debitage			(micro)blade			1		2		22	1	1						
			blade(let) core														1	1
			core rejuv. Flake							3								
			chip				1	4		52			1					
			chunk					2		20				2			2	
			flake core					1		2								
			flake		1			6	1	52			1	2	1		8	
			microburin							1								
			tested nodule							1								
Total count		**208**		1	1	1	1	17	1	156	1	2	2	4	1	1	16	3
Total weight (g)		**385.9**		1.1	1.4	0.8	0.2	38.7	1.7	228.8	0.7	0.8	3.8	7.8	4	0.9	71.7	23.5
			Residual?		y		y		y		y		y	y	y	y	y	y
burnt	**36**	17.3%						2		30				2	1		1	
damaged	**16**	7.7%			1			4			1		1				8	1
retouched	**9**	4.3%		1				1		3						1	2	1
broken	**0**	0.0%																