

Archaeological excavation at
Pendeford Mill Lane,
Bilbrook,
South Staffordshire
Worcestershire Archaeology
for Orion Heritage

December 2020



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PENDEFORD MILL LANE, BILBROOK, SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological excavation report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name: Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, South Staffordshire
Local planning authority: Staffordshire County Council
Planning reference: 18/00710/FUL
Central NGR: SJ 88374 03153
Commissioning client: Orion Heritage
WA project number: P5747
WA report number: 2866
Oasis reference number: fieldsec1-408939

DOCUMENT CONTROL PANEL				
Version	Date	Author	Details	Approved by
1	15/12/2020	Tim Cornah	Draft pending client comments	Tom Vaughan
2	16/12/2020	Tim Cornah	Client comments incorporated	Tom Vaughan
3	18/12/20	Tim Cornah	Client comment update	Tom Rogers

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Archaeological excavation at Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, South Staffordshire

By Tim Cornah

With contributions by C Jane Evans and Liz Pearson

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

Archaeological mitigation was undertaken at Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, South Staffordshire (NGR SJ 88374 03153). It was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of their client, Bloor Homes Midlands, in advance of residential development. Planning consent had been granted subject to a programme of archaeological works.

This report discusses the archaeological features within four excavation areas and a further five trenches. The excavation areas were placed in order to interrogate areas of concentrated activity as identified within the earlier evaluation and the trenches were placed to locate the extent of a hypothesised enclosure as well as to test a further geophysical anomaly.

The features present on the site were dominated by small ditches and gullies, considered to have originated as intermittently excavated strip field boundary and drainage features. A slightly more complex picture was present in the south of the area with a small enclosure present, considered to represent animal corralling. The agricultural nature of the site was supported by the presence of a probable crop drier in the form of a clay built structure, although the environmental evidence could not clearly support this interpretation. It is also possible that this may have been an oven for more direct food preparation, but no immediate habitation was identified.

The artefactual evidence supports the picture of a typical rural agricultural site, with hints that it could have originated in the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, but with material of the 2nd and 3rd centuries dominating. As with other such settlements, the pottery was a mix of both local and imported wares, demonstrating the wider trade networks of the period.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

Archaeological mitigation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in February and March 2020 at Pendeford Mill Lane, Bilbrook, South Staffordshire (NGR SJ 88374 03153). This comprised four excavation areas and five trenches. The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of their client, Bloor Homes Midlands, in advance of residential development. Planning consent had been granted by South Staffordshire Council (reference number 18/00710/FUL) subject to a programme of archaeological works.

The archaeological advisor to the local planning authority considered that the proposed development had the potential to impact upon specific heritage assets. A geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017) of the site identified anomalies which mainly related to medieval agricultural practices in the form of furrows. Further to this, evaluation trenches were excavated across the site by WA (Lovett 2019) which revealed Roman activity defined by a probable enclosure ditch with a possible associated droveway, which was indicative of domestic settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. A number of small ditches within the interior of the enclosure probably represented internal sub-divisions. The pottery recovered from the site was in good condition with a higher than average sherd size and suggested a main period of activity in the 2nd to mid-3rd centuries. Environmental evidence was poor, with no preservation of bone and only a small amount of charred cereal crop, although hammerscale was present, suggesting some level of metal working in the vicinity.

A Mitigation Strategy was prepared by Orion Heritage (2019) and a Method Statement was prepared by WA (2020). Both were approved by the Planning Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council prior to the mitigation excavation commencing. The investigations also conformed to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site comprises a single agricultural field. It is located to the south of Pendeford Mill Lane, on the eastern side of Bilbrook. It is bounded on the west by further fields with residential properties beyond, and to the south and east by agricultural land. The River Penk flows c 500m to the south and east of the site, whilst Moat Brook runs c 400m to the north (Figure 1).

The site is 2.74ha in size, and sits on the Helsby Sandstone Formation of sandstone and pebbly bedrock (BGS 2020). No superficial deposits are recorded. The site is generally flat across the central area, at around 115.5m AOD, dropping off slightly in the south to 114.80m and sloping more to 109.50m in the north-east. The land is currently laid to grass for grazing.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by Orion Heritage (2017). The findings presented in the DBA are summarised below.

No archaeological interventions have been recorded within the site or within the wider 1km study area. As such, the baseline knowledge of the site may be skewed by a dearth of data. However, no find spots of prehistoric or Roman date have been recorded in the study area, suggesting that the landscape had not seen a great deal of activity within these periods. A Roman road is mapped running north to south, 1km east of the site. This is projected to run between Greensforge fort (c

14.5km south) and the town at *Pennocrucium* (c 7km north). No other Roman activity has been recorded in the area.

The village of Bilbrook is recorded in the Domesday Survey, and the historic core is most likely to have been located to the north-west of the site, as shown in the earliest historic mapping. The site occupies what was the surrounding agricultural land. A low to moderate potential for agricultural remains dating to the medieval period was identified, with a low potential for all other periods.

2.2 Previous archaeological work on the site

As part of the preparation of the DBA, a geophysical survey was undertaken (Magnitude Surveys 2017). No features of archaeological potential were identified beyond possible medieval agricultural activity in the form of furrows.

Thirty-two evaluation trenches were excavated by Worcestershire Archaeology across the site and adjacent fields, 14 of which were within the bounds of the current site (Lovett 2019). These latter trenches revealed Roman activity defined by a probable enclosure ditch with a possible associated driveway, which was considered to be indicative of domestic settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. A number of small ditches in the interior of the enclosure probably represented internal subdivisions. The pottery recovered from the site was in good condition with a higher than average sherd size, and suggested a main period of activity in the 2nd to mid-3rd centuries. Environmental evidence was poor, with no preservation of bone and only a small amount of charred cereal crop, although hammerscale was present, suggesting some level of metal working in the vicinity.

The site of a possible Second World War anti-aircraft emplacement was identified on the site, defined by an area of made ground serviced by a now defunct electricity cable.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the project were given in the Mitigation Strategy prepared by Orion Heritage (2019), as follows:

The principal aim was to:

- determine the character, extent, date, complexity, integrity, state of preservation and quality of the archaeological remains present within the excavation areas, therefore ensuring their preservation by record.

The general objectives were to ensure:

- the protection and recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works;
- that any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified; and
- the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

Further, more detailed, research aims were to be considered from the results of the archaeological investigation and specifically in relation to the *West Midlands Regional Research Framework* (Watt 2011) as appropriate. These were to be reviewed during an on-site meeting with South Staffordshire Council's Planning Archaeologist.

4 Project methodology

A Method Statement (MS) was prepared by WA (2020). Fieldwork was undertaken between 18 February and 11 March 2020.

Four excavation areas (Areas 6-9) and five trenches (Trenches 1-5) were excavated. Their locations are indicated in Figure 2.

The excavation areas were located in order to interrogate areas of concentrated activity identified during the evaluation. In the event, these areas were modified with Area 7 slightly reduced to avoid a live service, although extended slightly to the north-east to fully expose a feature of interest. Area 6 was also extended to the north (to absorb Trench 4) and south in order to expose the full extent of an enclosure. The trenches were located to test a boundary ditch and hypothesised driveway. Trenches 1 and 2 were extended towards the west in order to track the position of ditches identified within the excavation areas.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° 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 (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, artefactual and environmental evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The features recorded, the trenches and excavation areas are shown in Figures 2-11 and Plates 1-13.

5.2 Deposit descriptions

5.2.1 Natural deposits and subsoils across the site

Subsoil deposits typically consisted of soft mid reddish brown sandy silts 0.28-0.45m in depth. These in turn overlay natural deposits which varied from soft red and yellows to areas of compact reddish purple small particle gravels.

5.2.2 Post-medieval and modern deposits

Topsoil across the site consisted of soft dark greyish brown silty sands, 0.20-0.36m in depth. A concrete structure in between Areas 6 and 7 was present which is thought to have been a gun emplacement from the Second World War. A defunct electric cable ran to this. Area 7 was slightly reduced in order to avoid this. A number of recent geotechnical investigation pits were also present on the site, as well as drainage features such as land drains.

5.3 Trench and Area descriptions

5.3.1 Trench1

The features (Plate 1 and Plate 2, Figure 5) consisted of four north to south aligned gullies, 103 (Figure 11), 107, 109 and 111 (Figure 11). These were between 0.12-0.54m in depth and 0.48-0.97m in width. They contained very similar fills made up of loose brownish grey silty sands. Two further north to south aligned small ditches were noted at the eastern end which were not excavated. A further 1.54m wide ditch, 115, ran in a north-east to south-west direction and was again filled by a very similar brownish grey silty sand. A possible further shallow oval shaped pit base, 105, was 1.24 m in length and 0.09m in depth. No dating was recovered from any of these features, although they were considered to be part of the wider Roman period site.

5.3.2 Trench 2

Five north to south aligned gullies were excavated (Plate 3 and Plate 4, Figure 5). Three of these, 203, 205, 207 (Figure 11), at the western end of the trench were between 0.5-1.22m in width and 0.14-0.66m in depth and again filled by similar loose brownish grey silty sands. Similar deposits also filled north south aligned gullies 211 and 213 which were between 0.34-0.43m in width and 0.08-0.31m in depth. A slightly larger ditch, 209 (Figure 11), ran north-west to south-east and was 1.6m wide and 0.65m deep with a flat base. Three further unexcavated small north to south aligned ditches were present at the eastern end of the trench and were between 0.40-1.30m in width. No dating was recovered from any of these features although they were again considered to be part of the wider Roman period site.

Some ceramic building material was present within quarry pit 220, which dated to the medieval or post-medieval period. This sub-round feature was 6m in length, 4.7m in width though only 0.18m in depth.

5.3.3 Trench 3

Three north to south aligned ditches were present (Plate 5, Figures 4 and 8), 305, 307 and 309. These were between 0.85-1.4m in width and 0.38-0.52m in depth and filled by loose mid reddish brown sandy silts, with the exception of 309 which had an additional fill numbered 314 which was a dark grey brown sandy silt. Of these, 306, fill of 305 contained pottery of broadly Roman date, the other features in the trench were considered to be contemporary. A small isolated oval pit or possible post hole 303 was 1.07m in length and 0.28m and filled by a mid reddish brown sandy silt. At the eastern end of the trench was a possible east to west aligned feature, though this was indistinct and plan, so was not excavated.

5.3.4 Trench 4

This contained a single east to west aligned ditch which was later incorporated into Area 6 and will be discussed in that context (Figures 3 and 7).

5.3.5 Trench 5

This trench (Figure 3) contained no features of archaeological significance.

5.3.6 Area 6

This area (Plate 6 to Plate 8, Figures 3 and 7) was dominated by linear features comprising gullies and small ditches. However, due to the lack of finds and differentiation between the fills of these features, very few relationships were visible, resulting in grouping and phasing being problematic.

It is possible that small ditch 6079 (Figures 3 and 7), which was 0.95m in width and 0.30m in depth, along with the ditch labelled as Context Group 2, CG2, 1.06m wide and 0.38m deep, were the earliest elements of this area as they were cut by CG1. CG3 (Figure 3), 0.81m wide and 0.22m deep, could also be included in this, but the relationship was not defined. Of all of these features within the area, only CG3 contained dating material, although this only gave a broad Roman period date. As with much of the rest of the site, the fills of the ditches within this area were homogenous and consisted of mid brown sandy silts.

The layout of the area was consolidated with the excavation of CG1 (Figure 3), 1.4m wide and 0.48m deep. This broadly formed a north to south aligned small sub-rectangular enclosure of approximately 37m by 18m, that is likely to have been part of a field system or stock enclosure. It is possible that gullies 6037 and 6040 represented structural elements such as fence lines although were far from clear. They were up to 4.6m long, 0.45m wide and 0.10m deep. Within the vicinity of those features was a cluster of 16 ephemeral pits, a sample of which are presented on Figure 7. These were largely round or oval and ranging from 0.46-1.47m in length and 0.02-0.22m in depth. It is possible that some of these were of natural in origin. Three further such pits were present across the area.

A further feature of clear natural original was also present.

5.3.7 Area 7

At least thirteen ditches and gullies were present within this area (Plate 6, 9 and 10; Figures 4, 6 and 9), largely running east to west, although five of these turned to run in a north to south direction.

The earliest of these was potentially in the 1st to 2nd centuries and was the end of a north to south aligned ditch 7063 which was 1.73m wide and 0.17m deep. It is possible that small ditches 7073 and 7044 were of this phase also, with 7044 having been cut by north to south aligned ditch CG9, which was up to 1.26m wide and 0.50m deep. Like CG9, ditch CG8 was truncated by ditch CG6 so therefore potentially early in the sequence. It was for the most part aligned north to south but turned to run westward at its southern end. It was up to 1.20m in width and 0.40m in depth. Small ditch CG5 also had this east to west alignment, though with a slight northward turn at its end. This was up to 0.60m wide and 0.26m deep. This contained material of 2nd to 3rd century date though its relationship with CG8 and 7044 was not remaining. A further small ditch CG7 was also east to west aligned which truncated ditch 7063, though with no remaining relationship with CG8. This contained material of a generic Roman date. One of the largest ditches, and likely to be fairly late in the sequence was CG6, which was again north to south aligned, turning to the west at its southern end. The ditch was up to 0.73m in depth and 2.0m in width. This ditch contained material of 2nd to 3rd century date, as well as a small amount of 1st to 2nd century material which is considered likely to have been residual.

Within the upper fill of CG6 was a clay-built probable oven or drier structure, 7085, with ashy sweep outs to its north, CG11 (Plate 10; Figures 4 and 6). The clay structure was 1.36m in diameter with the sweep out extending 1.70m to its north. Unfortunately, the survival of environmental remains was poor so no clear evidence of function remained.

To the immediate south of the oven structure was an east to west ditch consisting of a number of small gully cuts, collectively numbered CG10 (7006, 7007 and 7008) which was up to 5m wide. This truncated CG8 and CG9, though its relationship with 7044 and CG9 was not present. It remains possible that these features post-dated the Roman period but no evidence for this remained. The fills of these features were reddish brown silty sands, not distinguishable from the subsoil, potentially supporting a later date.

A further nine discrete features were present which consisted of small pits, only one of which contained a small amount of Roman pottery.

The ditches in this area are interpreted to represent field systems of agricultural origin, rather than settlement enclosures. The paucity of finds, and the low density of internal features further support this hypothesis.

5.3.8 Area 8

Seven small ditches were present within this area (Plate 11; Figures 4 and 10) running north to south, along with three running east to west in the middle of the area.

Ditches 8011 and 8013/8024 ran north to south and stopped in the middle of the area and were up to 0.93m wide and up to 0.20m deep. CG13 (8003) was parallel with these though ran the full extent of the area and was up to 0.83m in width and 0.60m deep and split into two at its southern limit. It was truncated by CG12 (8005) which was 1.27m wide and 0.68m deep and contained a small amount of material of 2nd to 3rd century date. North to south aligned ditch 8013 turned to run towards the west at its southern end. It was 1.27m wide and only 0.04m deep, much like the small east to west aligned gullies in the centre of the site, which were not excavated for this reason.

These ditch and gully features are again likely to be part of field systems, and it is possible that CG12 was the same as CG6 within Area 7. An agricultural interpretation is supported by the presence of an oval possible water hole 8035, 2.10m in length and 0.75m in depth. Three possible small pits were also present within the area.

5.3.9 Area 9

Five small ditches ran east to west across this area (Plates 12 and 13; Figure 5).

Ditch 9007 was aligned broadly east to west, 2.4m wide and 0.50m deep and contained material of 1st to 2nd century date. Ditches 9003 and 9005 did not contain any dating material but were parallel to 9007. Both of these ditches split at their eastern end. This area was not investigated due to the high water table. The ditches were up to 1.80m wide and up to 0.47m in depth. A narrow and shallow east to west aligned linear, 9009, lay between 9005 and 9007, which terminated abruptly to the east. The fills of these features were typical of other ditches on the site being mid brown silty sands, not dissimilar from the subsoil.

A single further broadly round feature up to 3m wide, most likely a large pit, was present which could not be excavated due to the high water table.

6 Artefactual evidence report

By C Jane Evans, MCIfA, with Rob Hedge, PCIfA

6.1 Introduction

The artefact report brings together finds from the excavation and the evaluation, the latter reported on by Rob Hedge (2019). It 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 the three period 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 finds were analysed with reference to the aims and objectives defined in the Method Statement (Worcestershire Archaeology 2020) and approved by the curator. The focus was on:

- determining the date, character, quality and state of preservation of the archaeological finds
- ensuring preservation by record
- placing the finds in their local context and making this record accessible
- reviewing the evaluation evidence for Roman activity dating to the 2nd to mid-3rd centuries.

6.3 Methodology

6.3.1 Recovery Policy

Artefacts from both the evaluation and excavation were recovered according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). The majority of artefacts were recovered by hand, but a small quantity of further material was retrieved from environmental samples.

6.3.2 Method of analysis

All 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 any phases of activity on the site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2007 database, with tables generated using Microsoft Excel.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification. In the absence of a county-wide fabric reference system for Staffordshire, codes follow the fabric type series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology which is widely accessible through the Worcestershire Ceramics Online Database (WAAS 2017). These fabrics are cross-referenced and discussed, where possible, in relation to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) and other regional assemblages, in particular from the M6 Toll excavations (Leary 2008, 465-470). Forms were

categorised and dated using the appropriate published typology for the specific fabric type. The finds records from the evaluation (Hedge 2019) were enhanced to ensure data was consistent with the excavation. For pottery this mainly comprised adding further detail on forms. The pottery assemblage was quantified by count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent for rims (rim EVE). Decoration was noted, as was evidence for manufacture, use/-re-use and deposition/post-deposition, if present.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined and are included in the tables below.

The copper alloy find did not require x-ray for identification.

None of the finds justified illustration.

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. 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

The assemblage is summarised in Tables 1 to 7.

The report below provides a summary of the finds and their associated contexts. Dates have been allocated where possible and the importance of individual finds is commented upon, as appropriate. The finds are discussed by period and material.

The combined assemblage totalled 240 finds weighing 3.7kg (Table 1). Finds came from 36 stratified contexts; 10 from the evaluation and 26 from the excavation. The assemblage dated predominantly to the Roman period, the exceptions being a single prehistoric flint from the evaluation and a handful of post-medieval to modern finds.

The average sherd weights from the evaluation and excavation were both relatively high for a rural site in this area (Tables 2 and 3), suggesting that there had been little post-depositional disturbance. However, the soil conditions impacted negatively on the condition of the pottery, which was often abraded and sometimes extremely so, with powdery surfaces. Sandy soil conditions also contributed to the poor survival of animal bone on the site.

Site ref	Period	Material class	Object specific type	Count	Weight(g)
Excavation P5747	Roman	Ceramic	Pot	123	1679
	Medieval to post-medieval	Ceramic	Tile	1	61
	Post-medieval	Metal	Cu alloy rivet	1	4
	Post-medieval to modern	Glass	Bottle	1	38
	Undated	Ceramic	Fired clay frag.	15	47.5
	Undated	Metal	Lead frag.	2	36

	Undated	Slag (fe)	Hammerscale	1	0
	Undated	Slag (fe)	Hearth bottom	1	218
	Undated	Stone	Burnt stone frag.	12	687
Total from excavation				157	2770.5
Evaluation P5628	Prehistoric	Flint	Flake	1	0.2
	Roman	Ceramic	Pot	53	1080
	Roman	Slag (Fe)	Hammerscale	20	0.21
	Roman	Stone	Counter	1	11
	Undated	Igneous rock	Burnt stone	1	4.4
	Undated	Slag	Clinker	7	0.1
Total from evaluation				83	1095.91

Table 1: Quantification of site assemblages from excavation (P5747) and evaluation (P5628)

6.4.1 Summary of artefacts by period and material

Prehistoric finds by Rob Hedge

The only artefact pre-dating the Roman period was a residual, prehistoric worked flint flake, found in an environmental sample from the evaluation (pit 2109, fill 2110).

Roman pottery

Roman pottery was recovered from five excavation trenches (Table 2) and five evaluation trenches (Hedge 2019, table 3, Trenches 22, 24, 25, 26 and 30). The pottery from the excavation came mainly from Trenches 8 and 7. It derived predominantly from ditch and gully fills (Table 3), particularly from Ditches 8007 and 8015 (Table 7, fills 8008 and 8018 respectively). The average sherd weights for the small assemblages from Trenches 3 and 9 were noticeably lower (Table 2), suggesting these groups may represent redeposited material. The same is true of the two sherds from pits (Table 3), both from Trench 7 (7009, fill 7010 and 7015, fill 7016).

Site ref	Area/trench	Count	% count	Weight(g)	% weight	Rim eve	% rim eve	Average sherd weight (g)
Excavation P5747	3	8	7%	49	3%	0.1	2%	6
	6	11	9%	362	22%	0.49	12%	33
	7	29	24%	505	30%	0.82	20%	17
	8	73	59%	753	45%	0.68	16%	10
	9	2	2%	10	1%	2.09	50%	5
Total excavation		123	100%	1679	100%	4.18	100%	14

Total evaluation P5628	53		1080		3.31		20
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Table 2: Quantification of pottery assemblages from excavation (P5747) by trench and evaluation (P5628)

Site ref	Feature type	Count	% Count	Weight(g)	% Weight	Rim EVE	% rim EVE	Average sherd weight (g)
Excavation P5747	Ditch	104	85%	1201	72%	1.25	60%	12
	Gully	11	9%	377	22%	0.56	27%	34
	Layer	1	1%	15	1%	0.08	4%	15
	Pit	2	2%	18	1%	0.04	2%	9
	Subsoil	5	4%	68	4%	0.16	8%	14
Total excavation P5747		123	100%	1679	100%	2.09	100%	14
Total evaluation P5628		53		1080		3.31		20

Table 3: Quantification of pottery assemblages from excavation (P5747) by feature type and evaluation (P5628)

Local wares

Fourteen fabrics were identified (Table 4). There was some variation in the range and proportion of fabrics in the evaluation and excavation assemblages (Table 5; Chart 1). This most likely reflects the biases inherent in analysing data from small assemblages. Combining the two assemblages gives the best overview of pottery use on the site.

Both assemblages were dominated by a range of oxidised coarse wares (Fabrics 12 to 13). The main Severn Valley ware fabric, Fabric 12, was generally sandier than typical for this ware. This is a characteristic of Severn Valley wares in this region, noted for example at Wroxeter (Timby et al 2000) and Whitemoor Haye (Leary 2017). A range of sources are possible; similar wares were produced at Mancetter-Hartshill (Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service 2020) and Perry Barr (Webster 1959), and Severn Valley ware-type tankards were produced at a Roman kiln excavated in Sherifoot Lane, Sutton Coldfield (Evans et al 2014). The most common forms were jars; narrow-mouthed (rim EVE 1.28) and wide mouthed (rim EVE 1.22). The narrow-mouthed jars were consistent with a 2nd to 3rd century date (Webster 1976, fig 1, A3, A4, A6; Rees 1992, fig 28.3). The wide-mouthed jars also included types dating to the 2nd to 3rd century (ibid, fig 5, C2) and the mid-2nd to 3rd century (ibid C23-25), but also a later form with a markedly hooked rim (ibid 27-9), dating broadly to the mid-3rd to 4th century. Tankards also suggested activity in the 2nd to 3rd centuries (ibid, fig 7, E40-41), extending to at least the mid-3rd century and possibly later (ibid, E44). The only other form of note was a segmental bowl (ibid type J), probably dating from the mid-2nd to 3rd century. During the assessment this was provisionally identified as an Oxfordshire product (Hedge 2019), suggestive of a later date. However, it is most likely to have been produced more locally. Segmental bowls were produced at the Mancetter-Hartshill kilns (ibid, HE7725_pot_dwg_pub_MH_O11_09.jpg, H11.1 and H15.1) and at Sherifoot Lane, Sutton Coldfield (Evans et al 2013, fig 14.53), and the form is also recorded at Shenstone (Leary 2008, fig 124.3) and Perry Barr (Webster 1959, fig 3.27).

The sherds classified as Fabric 13 had a coarser sand temper. Only fragmentary rims were present in this ware, limiting its dating. This was the single most common fabric recorded (Table 4). However, most sherds came from two vessels, one from ditch 8007 and the other from ditch 8015 (fill 8008, 44

sherds, 314g; fill 8018, 16 sherds, 93g). These could be Mancetter-Hartshill products. The assemblage included two Severn Valley ware fabrics with organic temper, one oxidised (Fabric 12.2) and one reduced (Fabric 12.3). Only body sherds were recovered in these wares, but the fabrics are indicative of a 1st or 2nd century date. One sherd in the reduced fabric, from Ditch 7071 (fill 7072), has rusticated decoration. This is diagnostic of a late 1st early 2nd century date.

The other reduced coarse wares occurred in small quantities. Two were broadly classified as fine and coarse sandy wares (Fabrics 14 and 15). The only form amongst these was a narrow-mouthed jar in Fabric 14. The form is similar to Severn Valley ware types produced throughout the Roman period (Webster 1976 fig 1, A1-2) and to forms produced at Mancetter-Hartshill (ibid HE7725_pot_dwg_pub_MH_R11_01.jpg C17) and Sherifoot Lane, Sutton Coldfield (Evans et al 2013, fig 10.18, 20). Fabric 15 was a coarser sandy fabric represented by a single body sherd. Two sherds were in fabrics not covered by the Worcestershire fabric series. Fabric 98.1 was a sandy fabric with reduced surfaces and a distinctive brown core, similar to Warwickshire fabric R44. The other was a very abraded sherd of Derbyshire coarse ware.

Non-local wares

The other fabrics represented were more widely traded and imported wares.

Black-burnished ware (BB1; Fabric 22) provided a tpq of c AD 120 for the contexts in Trenches 7 and 8 in which it occurred. The only diagnostic rims were from dishes (Gillam 1976, fig 5.77 and 78), dating to the late 2nd to early 3rd century. Both came from Trench 7; one from Ditch 7067 (fill 7068) and the other from the subsoil (layer 7001). Trench 7 also produced a Mancetter Hartshill mortarium (Fabric 32), recovered from a fill of Ditch 7102 (7103). The vessel had a fairly upright, reeded, hammer head rim, suggestive of a date between c 200 to 230/50 (cf Leary 2008 Shenstone fig 124.27; Hartley 2002, fig 51.33, 37). The handful of handmade Malvernian ware (Fabric 3) was also from Trench 7. Sherds included rims from two tubby cooking pots, one with a slightly in-turned, expanded rim (Ditch 7102, fill 7103) and one with a more upright rim, from Layer 7080 (Peacock 1967 fig 1.6 and 1.1 respectively). These are broadly 1st to 2nd-century types. The former, therefore, is likely to be residual, given its association with the Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium described above.

Three sherds of samian were recovered, representing three vessels of different sources and dates. A flake of South Gaulish samian, most likely from La Graufesenque (Fabric 43.1) and dating to c AD 70-100, was recovered from the evaluation (Ditch 2407, fill 2408). The flake came from the outer surface of a rim from a Dr 37 bowl. It was very abraded but hints of the ovolo survived. Another rim, in Central Gaulish samian, probably Lezoux (Fabric 43.2) was found in Trench 7 pit 7015 (fill 7016). This was from an Drag 18/31 bowl/plate, dating to between c AD 120 and 150. The final sherd was found in Ditch 307 (fill 308). The hooked flange suggested that this was from a Curle 21 mortarium/bowl, although not enough of the profile survived to determine whether it had the fluted external wall characteristic of this form. The absence of internal grits is typical of samian mortaria, like the Curle 21 form (Willis 2005, 8.4.2). The vessel found here had a very worn internal surface, with no slip surviving, suggesting that it had been well used. The limestone rich fabric is East Gaulish, either Trier or Rheinzabern. The form appears c AD 160/170, with East Gaulish types continuing into the mid-3rd century. The bead rim is missing and smoothed down, possibly indicating subsequent use of the sherd.

Fabric code (WAAS 2017)	Fabric common name	NRFRC code (Tomber & Dore 1998)	Warwickshire/M6 Toll code
3	Malvernian ware	MAL RE A	G44/ MALV
12	Severn Valley ware, oxidised	SVW OX 1/OX 2	O23/ SV1

12.2	Oxidised organically tempered Severn Valley ware	-	O21/ SV3
12.3	Reduced organically tempered Severn Valley ware	-	
13	Sandy oxidized ware	-	O
14	Fine sandy grey ware	-	R
15	Coarse sandy grey ware	-	R
22	Black-burnished ware, type 1 (BB1)	DOR BB1	B11/ BB1
32	Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium	MAH WH	M22/ MH
43.1	Southern Gaulish samian ware	LGF SA	S10/ SG
43.2	Central Gaulish samian ware	LEZ SA 2	S20/ CG
43.3	Eastern Gaulish samian ware	RH SA/ TRI SA	S32/33 / EG
98.1	Reduced sandy ware (not represented in Worcestershire series). Grey surfaces and brown core	-	R10?/ R44
98.2	Derbyshire coarse ware	DER CO	R23/ DBY

Table 4: List of pottery fabrics represented

Site ref	Fabric code	Count	% count	Weight(g)	% weight	Rim eve	% rim eve	Average sherd weight
Excavation P5747	3	4	3%	32	2%	0.11	5%	8
	12	36	29%	906	54%	1.31	63%	25
	12.2	4	3%	30	2%	0	0%	8
	12.3	4	3%	65	4%	0	0%	16
	13	63	51%	429	26%	0.24	11%	7
	15	1	1%	7	0%	0	0%	7
	22	5	4%	59	4%	0.17	8%	12
	32	3	2%	119	7%	0.12	6%	40
	43.2	1	1%	7	0%	0.04	2%	7
	43.3	1	1%	21	1%	0.1	5%	21
98.2	1	1%	4	0%	0	0%	4	
Total excavation P5747		123	100%	1679	100%	2.09	100%	14
Evaluation P5628	12	32	60%	739	68%	1.89	57%	23
	12.2	9	17%	102	9%	0	0%	11
	13	1	2%	22	2%	0	0%	22
	14	9	17%	206	19%	1.36	41%	23

	43.1	1	2%	3	0%	0.06	2%	3
	98.1	1	2%	8	1%	0	0%	8
Total evaluation P5628		53	100%	1080	100%	3.31	100%	20

Table 5: Quantification of pottery assemblages from excavation (P5747) and evaluation (P5628) by fabric

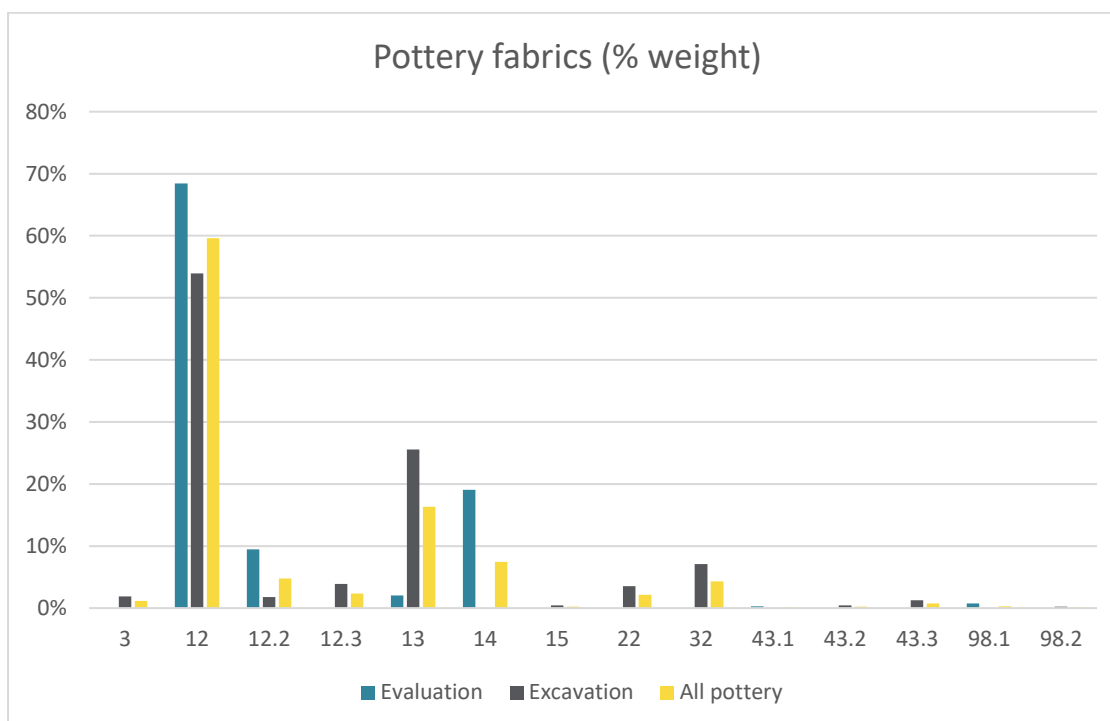


Chart 1 Pottery fabrics by % weight (evaluation, excavation and whole assemblage)

Vessel forms

Variations can be seen in the range of forms represented in the evaluation and excavation assemblages. As with the pottery fabrics, however, this more likely reflects the bias introduced by small assemblage size rather than functional variations. Overall, the assemblage was dominated by jars; a recognised characteristic of rural assemblages. Narrow-mouthed storage jars were most common, followed by wide mouthed jars and jar cooking pots (Table 6, Chart 2). Most jars were in the oxidised and reduced coarse ware fabrics. Cooking pots were in handmade Malvernian ware and BB1, though no rims were recovered in the latter so these jars cannot be included in quantification by rim EVE. One of the BB1 dishes had also clearly been used for cooking, having an external burnt residue. Other forms represented (Table 6, Chart 2) comprised: mortaria, for food preparation, including a fine ware, samian vessel without grits; tankards, associated with the consumption of liquids; and bowls and a bowl/plate, thought to have been used for serving food. The latter occurred in oxidised coarse ware fabrics and samian.

Site ref	Pot form type	Rim eve	% rim eve
Excavation P5747	Unidentified	3	1%
	Bowl	15	7%
	Bowl (mortarium)	10	5%
	Bowl/jar	16	8%
	Bowl/plate	4	2%
	Dish	17	8%

	Jar	6	3%
	Jar cook pot	11	5%
	Jar wide-mouthed	96	46%
	Mortarium	12	6%
	Tankard	19	9%
Total excavation		209	100%
Evaluation P5628	Bowl	24	7%
	Jar narrow-mouthed	264	80%
	Jar wide-mouthed	26	8%
	Tankard	17	5%
Total evaluation		331	100%

Table 6: Quantification of pottery assemblages from excavation (P5747) and evaluation (P5628) by vessel class (% rim EVE)

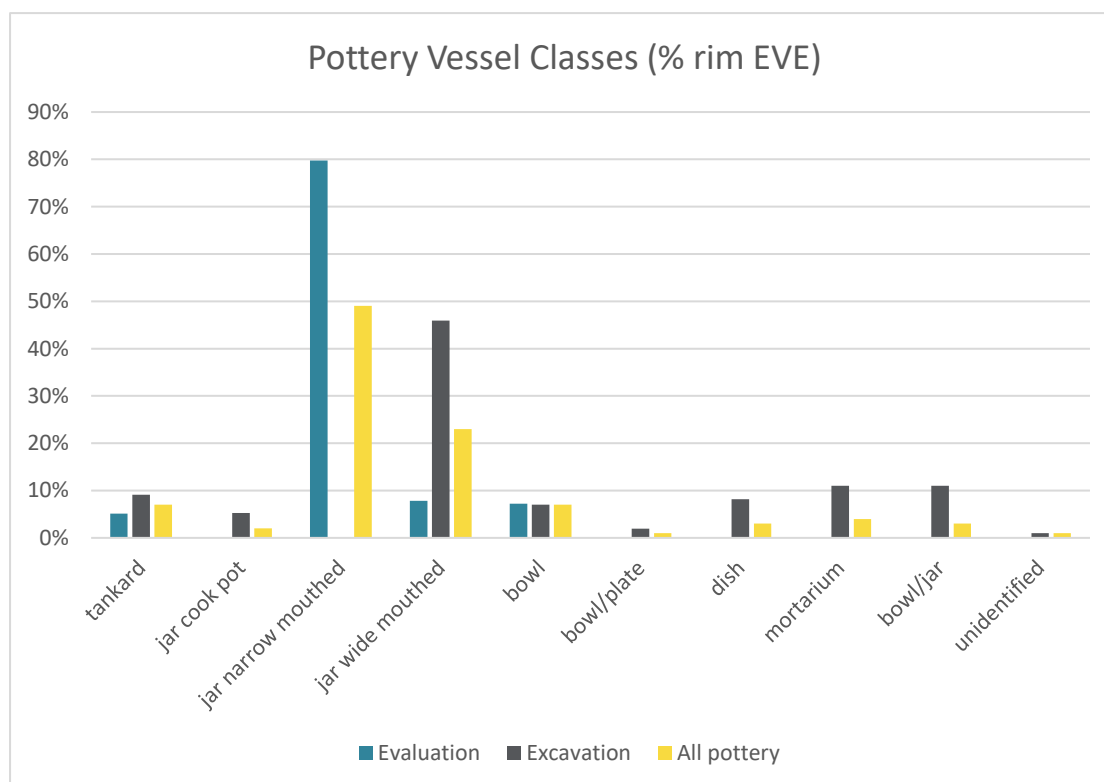


Chart 2 Pottery vessel classes by % rim EVE (evaluation, excavation and whole assemblage)

Other Roman finds

A small number of other finds are likely to be Roman in date, though not in themselves closely datable. The evaluation produced a little evidence for iron-smithing; environmental samples from deposits in Trench 21 yielded small quantities of clinker and flake hammerscale (Hedge 2019). Further, limited, evidence for iron working came from the excavation. A hearth bottom had been deposited in the fill of Ditch 8016 (fill 8019) and a hammerscale flake was retrieved from an environmental sample from Gully 6077 (fill 6078). Fragments of fired clay were associated with an oven feature (layers 7086 and 7087) and from Gully 6077 (fill 6078) and Ditch 7077 (fill 7078). Fragments of heat-cracked stone, further evidence for high temperature processes, were also noted from the latter two features.

Post-medieval and other finds

A very small assemblage of post-medieval finds was recovered. A copper alloy rivet was recovered from the subsoil (6001). This had a round-sectioned shank (6mm in diameter), with a flat oval base (10mm by 13mm) at one end and passing through a circular rove or washer (diameter 15mm) at the other. It was 10mm long. Similar examples recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) are associated with leather work (PAS database NML-989977, NML-D12B38). A base fragment from a dark green glass bottle was found in the fill of a modern ditch (8030, fill 8031). The form of this suggested a date broadly between c 1750 and 1900. The only other find was a small fragment of tile, broadly dated to the late medieval or post-medieval period.

Two fragments of lead waste were recovered from the subsoil (6001). These are undiagnostic and, given their context, cannot be securely dated stratigraphically.

context	material class	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date	context tpq
221	ceramic	tile	1	61	medieval to post medieval	1400	1900	1400-1900
306	ceramic	pot	6	27	Roman	43	400	43-400
308	ceramic	pot	1	21	Roman	160/70	?260	160/70-260
	ceramic	pot	1	1	Roman	43	400	
6001	metal	Cu alloy rivet	1	4	post-medieval	1600	1900	1600-1900
	metal	Lead frag.	2	36	undated			
6062	ceramic	pot	1	17	Roman	43	400	43-400
6078	ceramic	Fired clay frag.	1	0.5	undated			undated
	Slag (Fe)	hammerscale	1	0	undated			
	stone	Burnt stone	8	48	undated			
6080	ceramic	pot	1	4	Roman	43	400	43-400
	ceramic	pot	1	13	Roman	43	400	
6083	ceramic	pot	3	217	Roman	250	400	250-400
	ceramic	pot	5	111	Roman	250	400	
7001	ceramic	pot	1	16	Roman	100	300	150-250/300
	ceramic	pot	1	15	Roman	150	250	
	ceramic	pot	1	3	Roman	120	400	
	ceramic	pot	1	18	Roman	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	1	16	Roman	43	400	
7010	ceramic	pot	1	11	Roman	43	400	43-400

7014	ceramic	pot	2	32	Roman	43	400	43-400
7016	ceramic	pot	1	7	Roman	120	150	120-150
7068	ceramic	pot	1	33	Roman	150	250	150-250
7072	ceramic	pot	1	4	Roman	43	?200	75-150
	ceramic	pot	1	3	Roman	43	200	
	ceramic	pot	1	11	Roman	75	120	
	ceramic	pot	3	54	Roman	43	?150	
	ceramic	pot	2	8	Roman	43	200	
7078	ceramic	Fired clay frag.	5	8	undated			undated
	stone	Burnt stone frag.	4	639	undated			
7079	ceramic	pot	1	29	Roman	43	400	43-400
7080	ceramic	pot	1	15	Roman	43	200	43-200
7086	ceramic	fragment	4	2	undated			undated
7087	ceramic	Fired clay frag.	5	37	undated			undated
7093	ceramic	pot	2	22	Roman	43	200	43-200
	ceramic	pot	1	28	Roman	43	400	
7103	ceramic	pot	1	7	Roman	43	400	200-230/50
	ceramic	pot	1	45	Roman	200	400	
	ceramic	pot	1	21	Roman	200	230/50	
	ceramic	pot	2	98	Roman	200	230/50	
	ceramic	pot	1	9	Roman	43	200	
8006	ceramic	pot	1	30	Roman	150	300	150-300
8008	ceramic	pot	3	75	Roman	43	400	250-400
	ceramic	pot	1	16	Roman	250/300	400	
	ceramic	pot	44	314	Roman	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	1	5	Roman	120	400	
	ceramic	pot	1	3	Roman	120	400	
	ceramic	pot	1	179	Roman	250	400	
8018	ceramic	pot	14	50	Roman	43	400	43-400
	ceramic	pot	2	43	Roman	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	5	38	Roman	43	400	
8019	Slag (Fe)	hearth bottom	1	218	undated			undated

8031	glass	bottle	1	38	post-medieval to modern	1750	1900	1750-1900
9004	ceramic	pot	1	5	Roman	43	400	43-400
9008	ceramic	pot	1	5	Roman	43	200	43-200

Table 7: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6.5 Discussion

Detailed analysis of the evaluation and excavation finds confirms a broadly 2nd to mid-3rd century date for activity on the site. The best dating evidence came from the more widely traded and imported wares. There are hints of late 1st to early 2nd century activity; a sherd of South Gaulish samian and a sherd from a rusticated ware jar. However, the samian vessel could well have continued in use into the 2nd century, and the rusticated jar need not necessarily predate the early 2nd century. There is little else in the assemblage to suggest any significant 1st century activity.

The presence of BB1 provided a tpq of c AD 120 for a number of contexts, but the one diagnostic form, a dish, dated to the later 2nd to early 3rd century date. The Central Gaulish Drag 18/31 bowl/plate would have been produced between c AD 120-150, but again could have continued in use longer. While some of the local coarse wares could only be dated broadly to the 2nd to 3rd centuries, some forms suggested a mid-2nd century tpq. A slightly later date is indicated by the East Gaulish samian, dating to c AD 160/170 to 260, and the Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium, dating to c AD 200-230/50. A couple of the Severn Valley ware forms dated broadly from the mid-3rd to 4th century; a splayed tankard and a hook-rimmed jar. But none of the pottery could be dated with confidence to the 4th century; there were no late BB1 forms and no Oxfordshire colour coated wares. The absence of evidence in a relatively small assemblage like this must be interpreted with caution. However, there is nothing to suggest any significant activity continued beyond the mid-late 3rd century.

The range of forms, dominated by jars, is typical of a rural settlement in this region, as is the overall proportion of samian (1% by weight, 4% by rim EVE; Willis 2005, tables 32 and 33). However, the proximity of a Roman road, c 1km to the east of the site, and, following that, relatively easy access to Watling Street, must have influenced patterns of supply to the site, particularly from the kilns at Mancetter-Hartshill. Traded wares include BB1 from Dorset, Malvernian ware from Worcestershire, and the samian reflects access to the trade network with Gaul.

There were few other finds, but the presence of hammerscale and a hearth bottom suggest some level of metalworking was taking place in the near vicinity.

6.5.1 Recommendations

Discard/retention

Given that this assemblage represents activity on a hitherto unrecognised site, the finds are considered sufficiently significant to warrant retention. The final decision rests with the Potteries Museum as the receiving institution.

7 Environmental evidence report

By Elizabeth Pearson, MCIfA

7.1 Introduction

The environmental project conforms to guidance by CfA (2014a) on archaeological excavation and further guidance by English Heritage (2011).

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). Three deposits were determined to be suitable for environmental analysis, and were bulk sampled (each of up to 20 litres; Table 8).

7.2.2 Processing and analysis

The 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 scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. For initial assessment, the flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers et al 2012). As a result of assessment, no further work was recommended, but results are presented here in order to characterise the site. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

Charcoal was examined under a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope in order to determine the condition of the charcoal and presence of oak and non-oak charcoal.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
6078	3	Gully	6078	undated	20	10	Yes	Yes
7086	2	Oven	7085	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes
7087	1	Oven	7085	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes

Table 8: List of bulk samples

7.2.3 Discard policy

Remaining sample material and scanned residues 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 Charred plant macrofossils and charcoal

The results are summarised in Tables 9 and 10.

Assessment of samples from oven 7085 and gully 6077 showed that few identifiable environmental remains were present, with the only a charred bud, unidentified charcoal fragments and small fragments of large mammal bone (some burnt) being recorded. Charcoal was generally made up of twig-like fragments and small, warped unidentifiable heartwood fragments.

In particular, there was no evidence of oven 7085, CG11, having been used for drying or malting grain, and the fuel used was unidentifiable. No further work was recommended.

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Context	Sample	Charcoal	Uncharred plant *	Large mammal	Charred plant	Artefacts
6078	3	occ	abt			occ fired clay(?), Fe object, heat-affected stones
7086	2	occ	abt	occ**		occ fired clay(?)
7087	1	mod	abt	occ**	occ	occ heat-affected stones

Table 9: Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive, ** = burnt bone

Context	Sample	Preservation type	Species detail	Category remains	Quantity/diversity	Comment
6078	3	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous), unidentified fungal sclerotia	misc	+++/low	
6078	3	unch*	Chenopodium album	seed	++/low	
6078	3	ch	unidentified wood fragments, unidentified	misc	+/low	charcoal mostly warped ?twig fragments. One unidentified fragment - parenchyma?
7086	2	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous), unidentified fungal sclerotia	misc	+++/low	
7086	2	unch*	Fumaria sp, Chenopodium album	seed	+/low	
7086	2	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
7087	1	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	+++/low	
7087	1	unch*	Fumaria sp, Chenopodium album, Chenopodium/Atriplex sp	seed	+/low	
7087	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments, unidentified bud	misc	+/low	charcoal warped and poorly preserved

Table 10: Plant remains from bulk samples

Preservation	Quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10

min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
uncharred plant*	+++ = 51 - 100
	++++ = 101+
	* = probably modern and intrusive

7.4 Discard/retention

Remaining sample material, flots and unsorted sample residue will be discarded after three months, following submission of this report, unless a specific request is made to retain them.

8 Discussion

The dominant features of the site were ditches and gullies, running largely in a north to south direction in the middle of the site from Area 7 to Trench 1, and some running east to west at the northern end of the site in Area 9. These are typical of strip field systems known elsewhere from the Roman period. Perhaps the best comparison for these features is the long, narrow strip field systems which have pre-Roman origins, often part of field systems termed 'Celtic' long fields (Bowen 1963). Examples of long narrow strips associated with settlement are present at Uffington Castle in Berkshire where the ditches sometimes extend for over a kilometre without being in an otherwise bounded area (Bradley and Richards 1978). The ditches change direction within Area 7, and the majority do not extend as far as Area 6 at the southern limit. This area with its enclosure and possible elements of fencing is most likely to have been used for stock enclosure. Evidence for stock watering was present here in the form of a water hole in Area 8. Due to the poor survival of animal bone across the site, no data survived with which this element of the farming economy could be analysed.

An indication of nearby settlement was present in the form of a circular clay built structure interpreted to be an oven, with sweep out deposits immediately to the north. The general proportions of this feature were typical of recorded examples of temporary oven base structures which are known to have had reusable ceramic superstructures that could be used elsewhere after use, often with ceramic plates within the base which could be taken out and reused (Evans, Heke and Peachey 2018), although no evidence for this superstructure or plate remained. The feature was set into the top of a backfilled ditch, which may have been a slight hollow in the landscape, deliberately chosen in order to provide some shelter from prevailing winds. The lack of evidence for settlement activity on site does not preclude the interpretation of the feature as an oven, given its temporary nature. It may have been used by agricultural workers cooking whilst working within the fields. As with the animal bone, preservation of environmental material was poor, so the exact use of the oven remains unclear.

Detailed analysis of the finds confirms a broadly 2nd to mid-3rd century date for activity on the site. There were hints of late 1st to early 2nd century activity, although some of this material appears to have been residual within later ditches. Where features were dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries, it was based on small amounts of pottery so was not always entirely secure. Certainly, there was little else in the assemblage to suggest any significant 1st century activity. None of the pottery could be dated with confidence to the 4th century. There was nothing to suggest any significant activity continued beyond the mid-late 3rd century. The range of forms was typical of a rural settlement in this region, although the amount of pottery was fairly low. There were few other finds, however the presence of hammerscale suggests some level of metalworking was taking place in the near vicinity.

9 Conclusions

The features present on the site were dominated by small ditches and gullies, generally aligned north to south in the centre of the site and east to west to the north. These are likely to have originated as

intermittently excavated strip field boundary and drainage features. There was a slightly more complex picture in the south of the site with a small enclosure present, considered likely to represent animal corralling. A probable oven was also located in the top of a backfilled ditch in the centre of the site, which was considered to be temporary in nature, although the environmental evidence was not identified to inform the food preparation process. It is therefore considered that the settlement to which this activity related was elsewhere, although likely to be in the near vicinity.

The artefactual evidence again supports the picture of a typical rural agricultural site, with hints that it could have originated in the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, but with material of the 2nd and 3rd centuries dominating. As with other such settlements, the pottery was a mix of both local and imported wares, demonstrating the wider trade networks of the period.

9.1 Statement of confidence in method and results

The investigations have produced interesting results and post-excavation analysis has established the sequence of activity on the site; the method and approach to this site have, therefore, been successful.

It is also worth noting that:

- The site was typical of many rural sites in that it lacked a depth of stratigraphy, making it difficult to assign clear associations between features. Association of features between areas was also not possible.
- Dating of features, had to rely primarily on their associated artefactual assemblage, which was minimal.
- A high water table combined with collapsing soft sand deposits within Area 9 precluded full excavation of features.
- The preservation of environmental evidence was poor due to the acidic sandy geology, both macrofossil and bone, which precluded a full understanding of the agricultural economy.

10 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Tim Cornah, ACIfA, Jamie Wilkins, ACIfA, and Andy Mann, MCIfA, assisted by Beth Williams, Jesse Wheeler, ACIfA, Yago Terroba-Souto, PCIfA, Chris Crump and Martina Locatelli.

The report was produced and collated by Tim Cornah. The project was managed, and the report edited by Tom Vaughan, MCIfA. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

11 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for the successful conclusion of the project: Cathy Patrick (Technical Director, Orion Heritage), and Shane Kelleher (County Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council).

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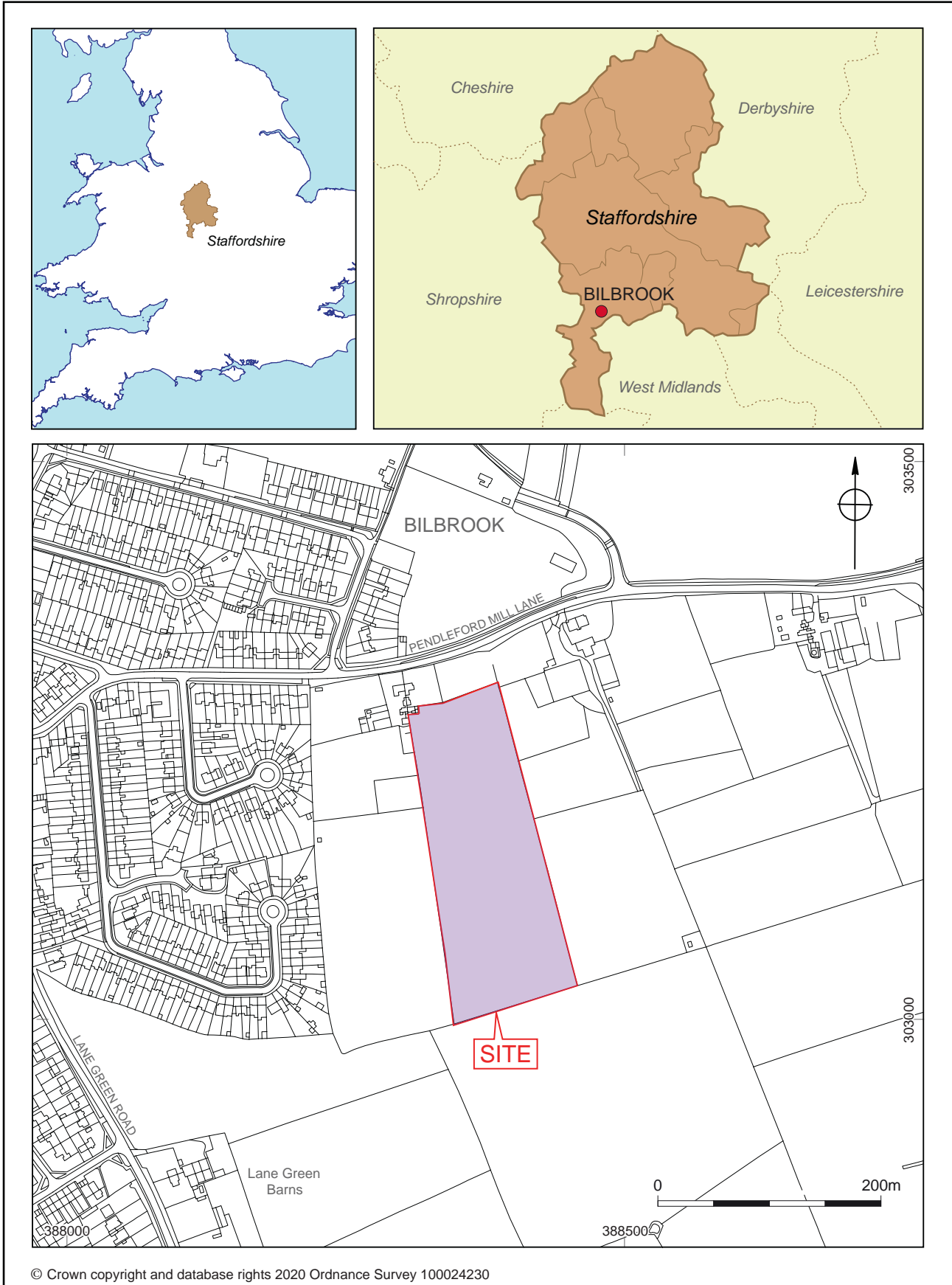
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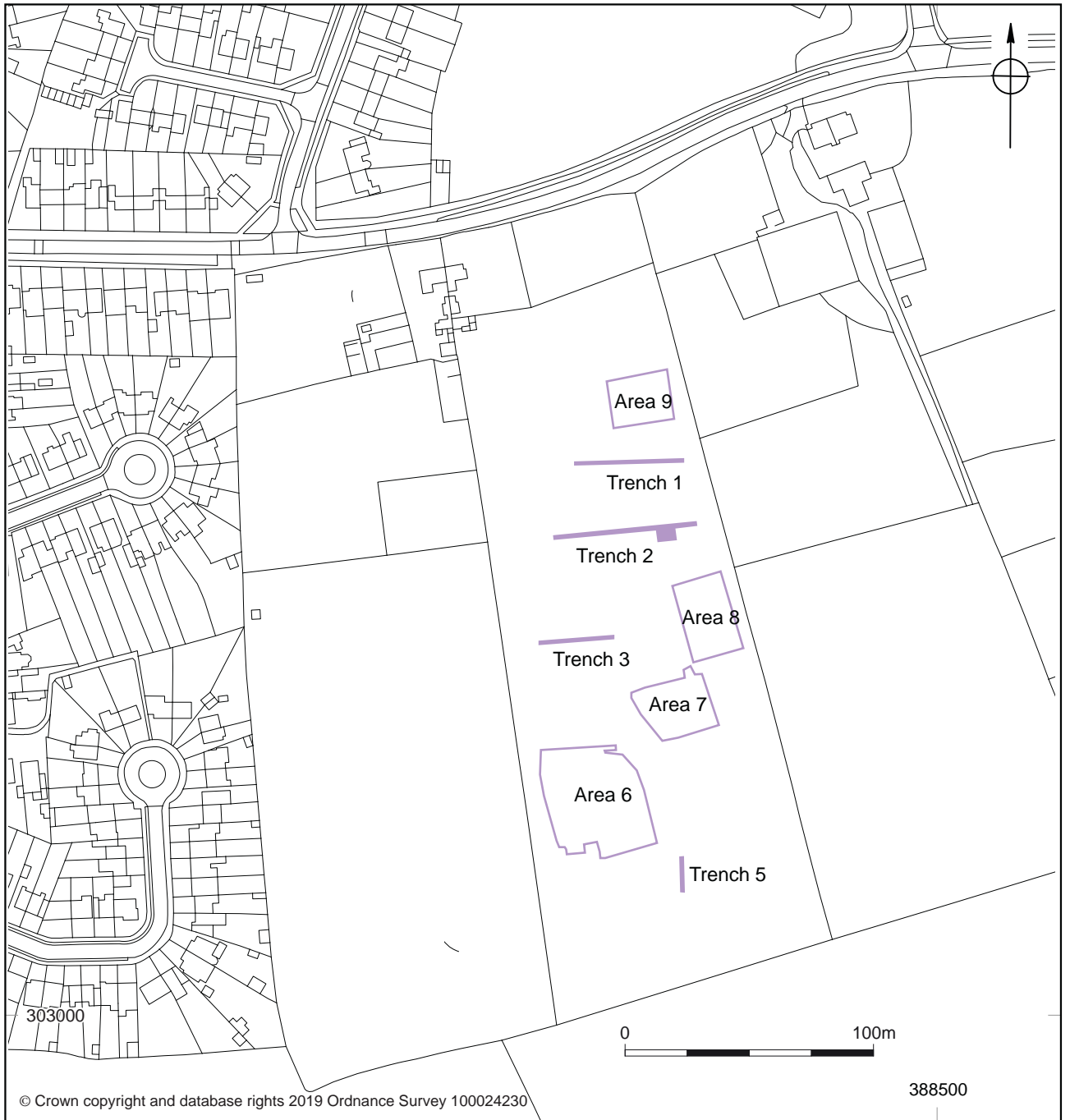
Figures

By Laura Templeton, MCIfA



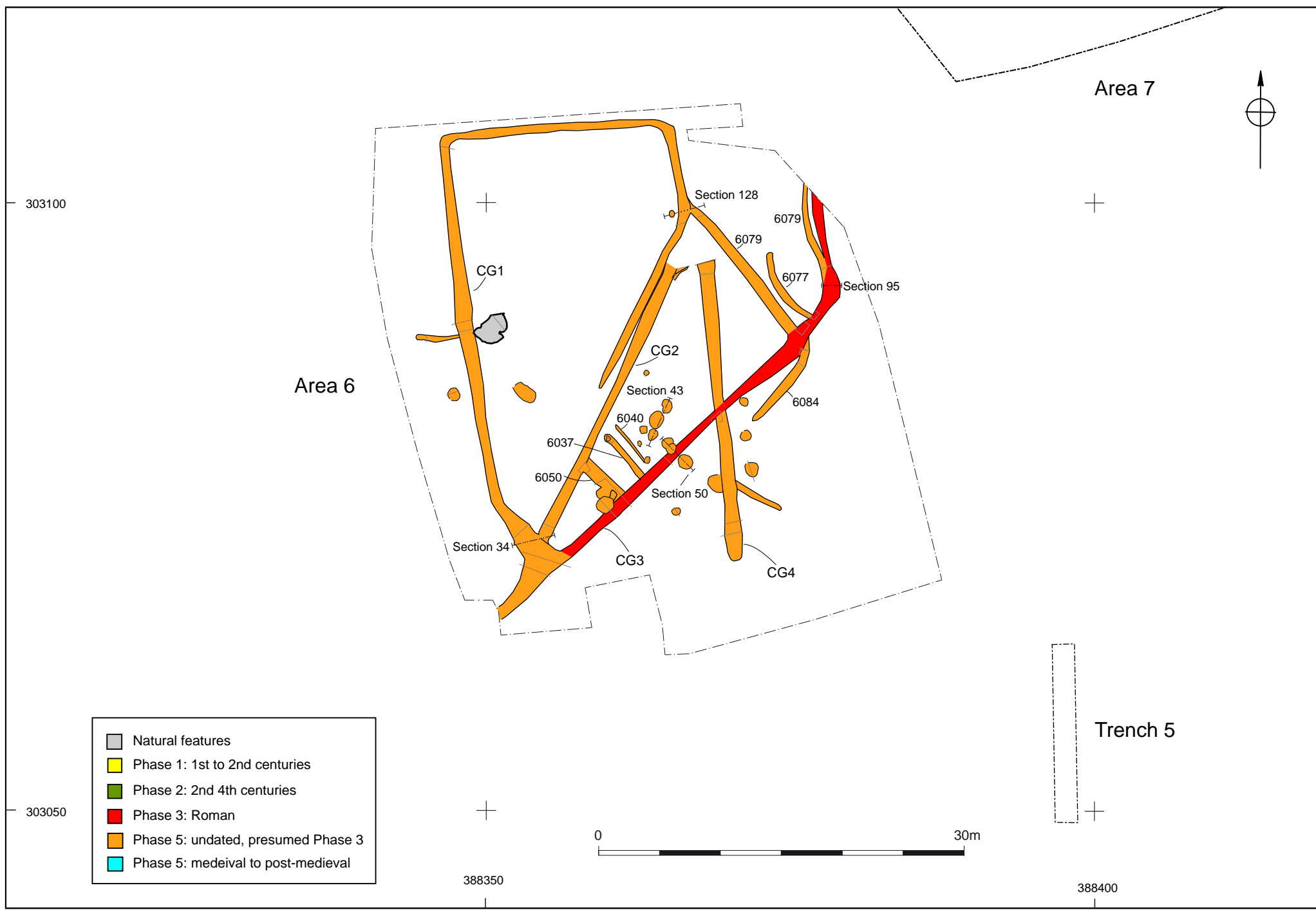
Location of the site

Figure 1



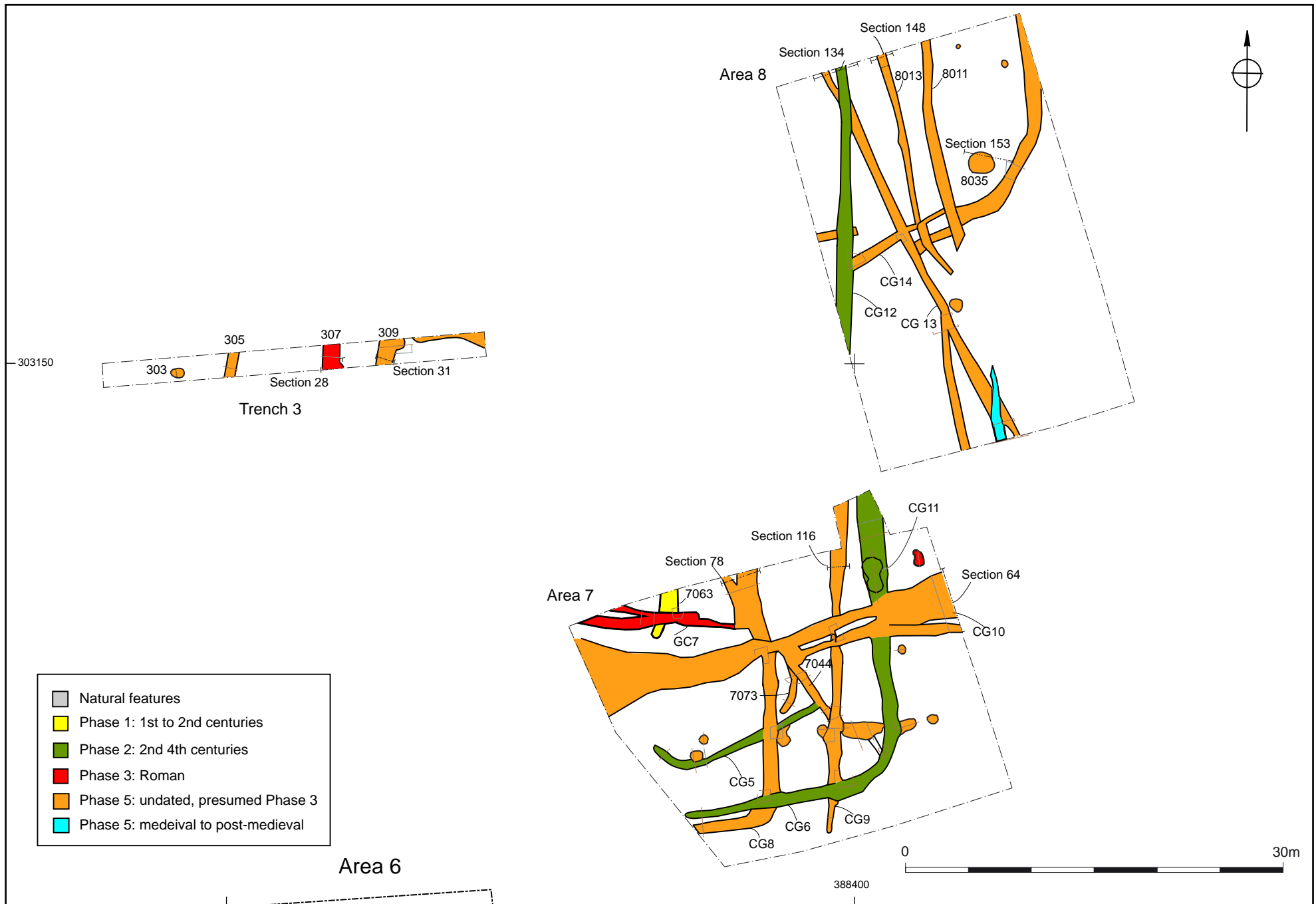
Trench and area locations

Figure 2



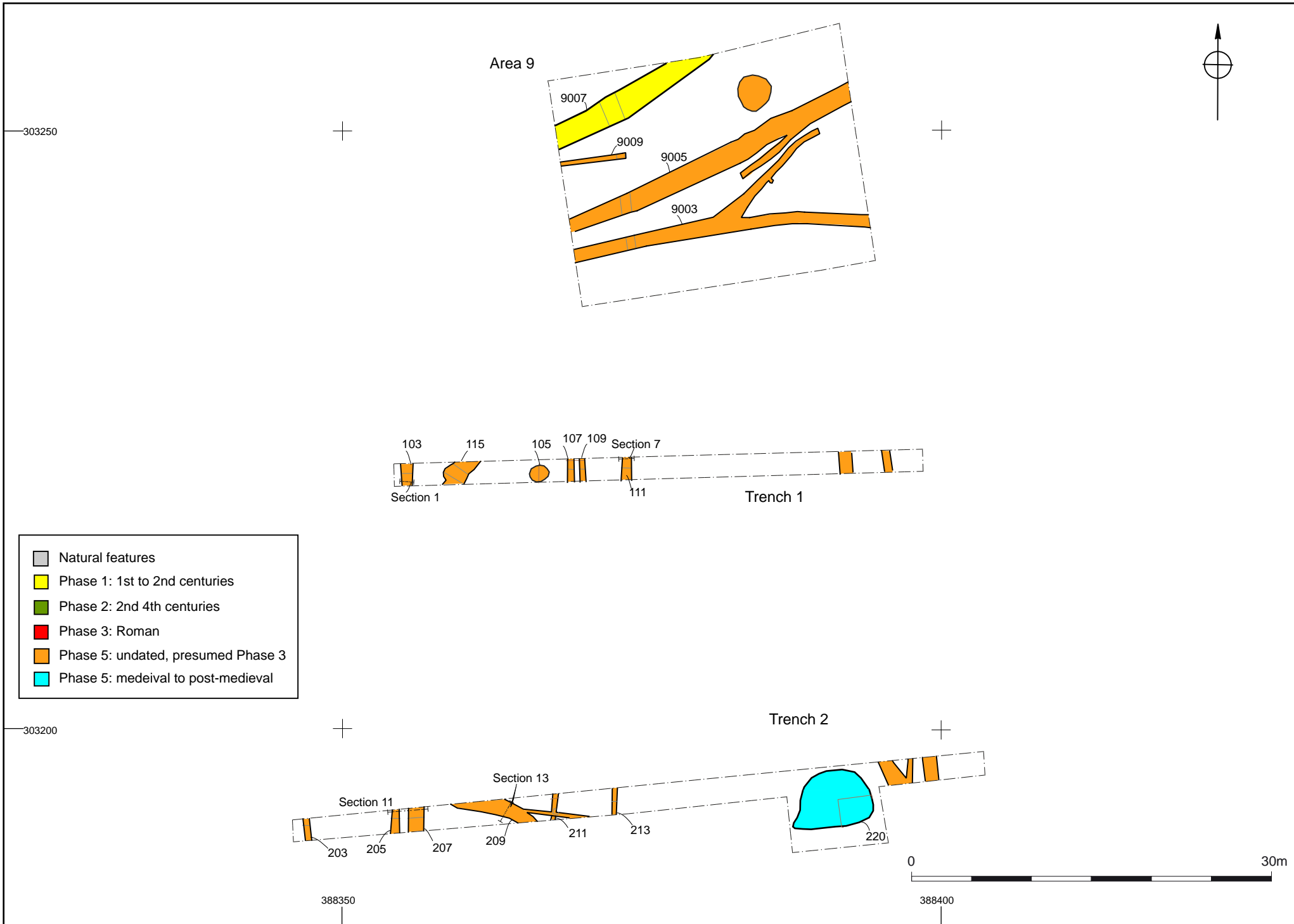
Trench 5 and Area 6

Figure 3



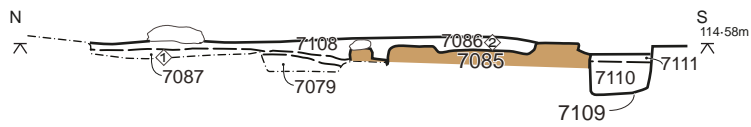
Trench 3 and Areas 7 and 8

Figure 4



Trench 1 and 2 and Area 9

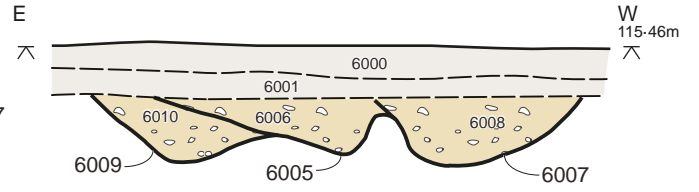
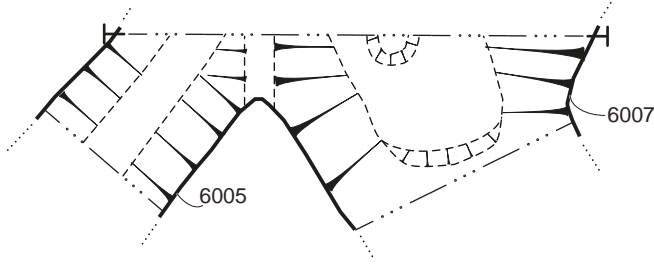
Figure 5



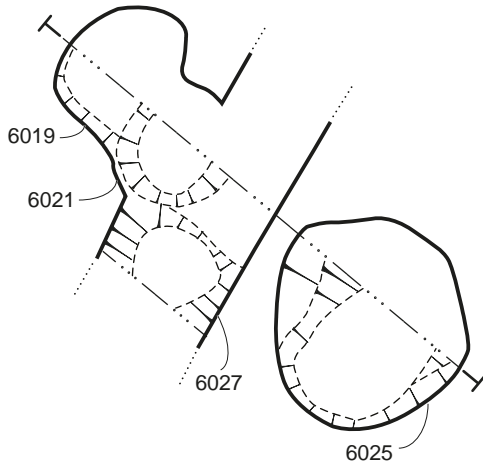
Area 7 7085, CG11: Oven, orthographic view and section

Figure 6

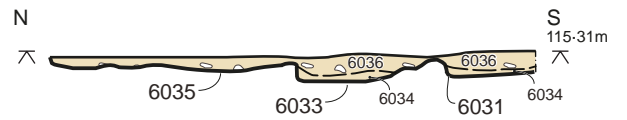
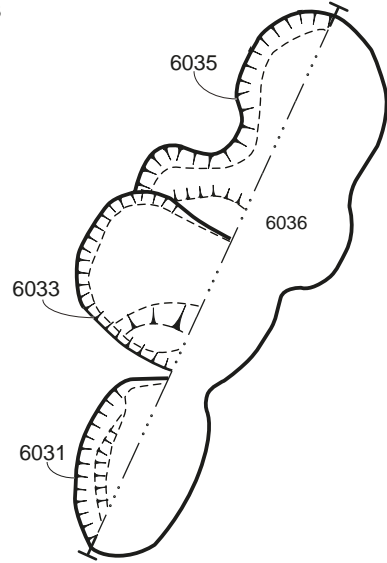
Ditches 6005, 6007 and 6009
Section 34



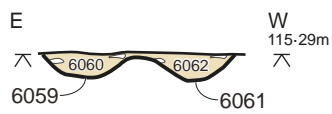
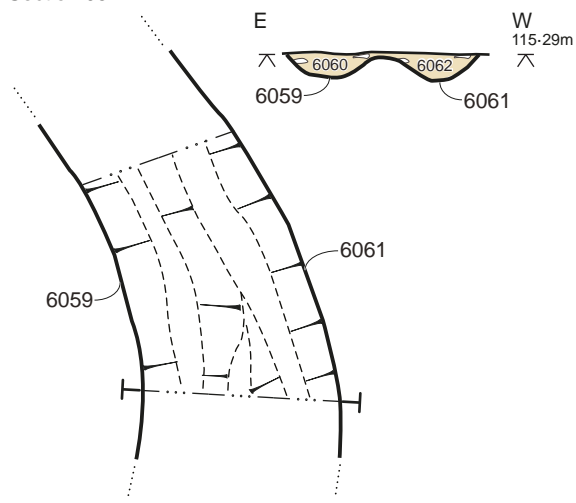
Pits 6019, 6021, 6025 and ditch 6027
Section 50



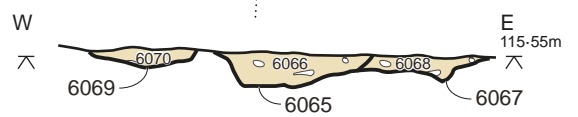
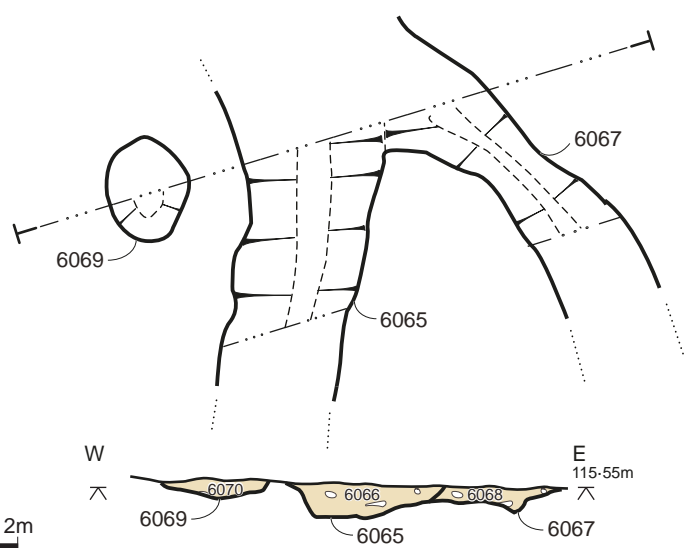
Pits 6031, 6033 and 6035
Section 43



Ditch 6059
Section 95

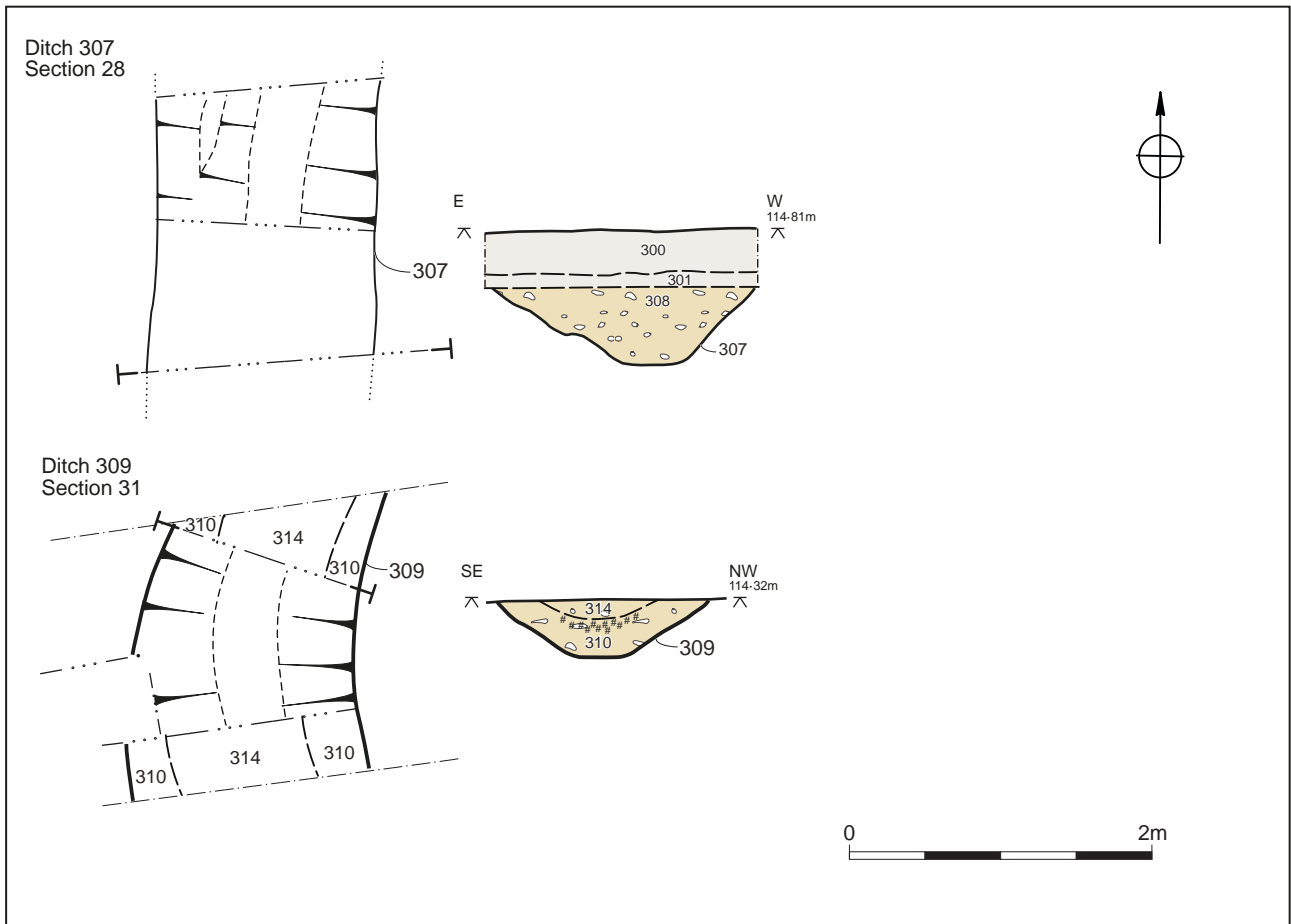


Ditches 6065, 6067 and pit 6069
Section 128



Plans and sections: Area 6

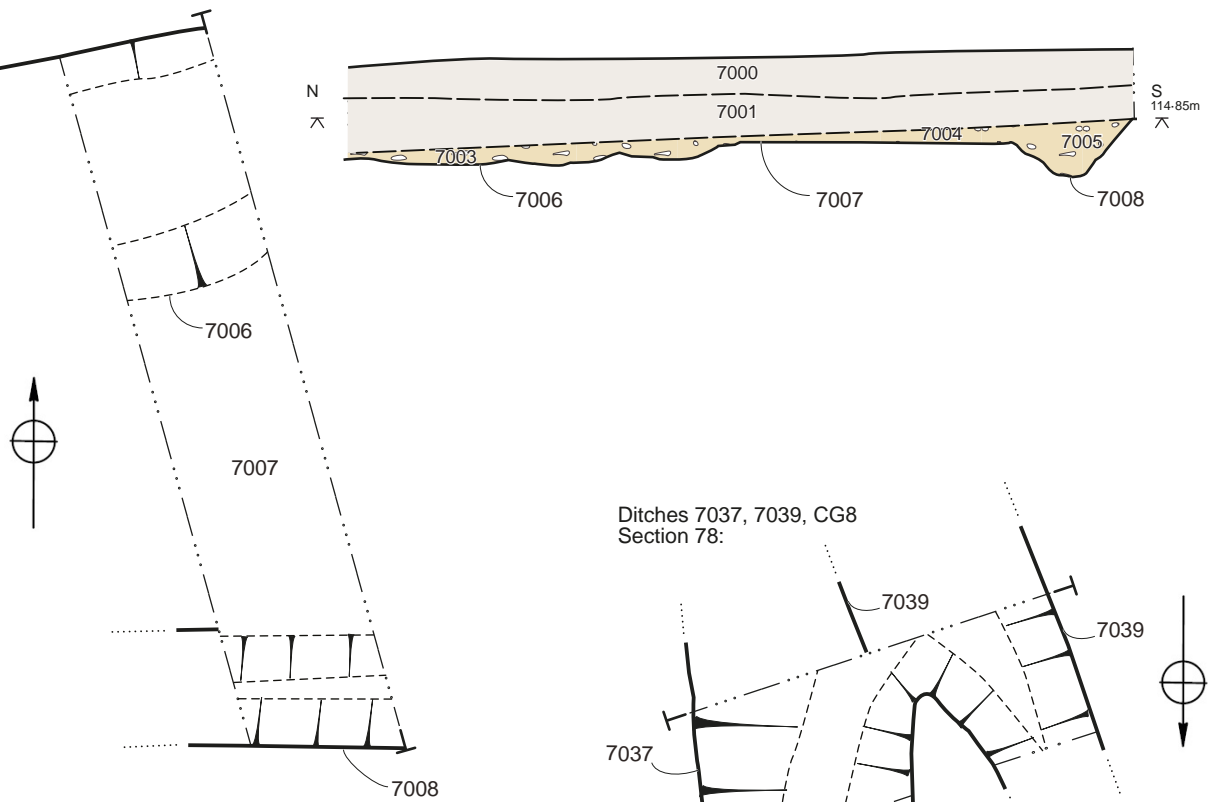
Figure 7



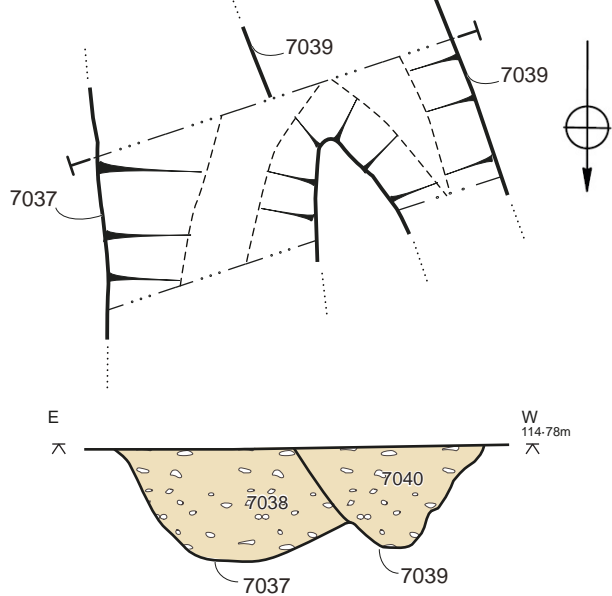
Plans and sections: Trench 3

Figure 8

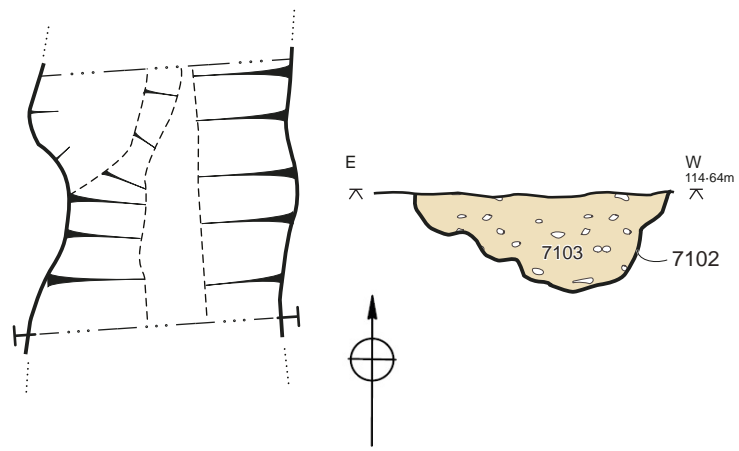
Contexts 7006, 7007, 7008, CG10
Section 64



Ditches 7037, 7039, CG8
Section 78:

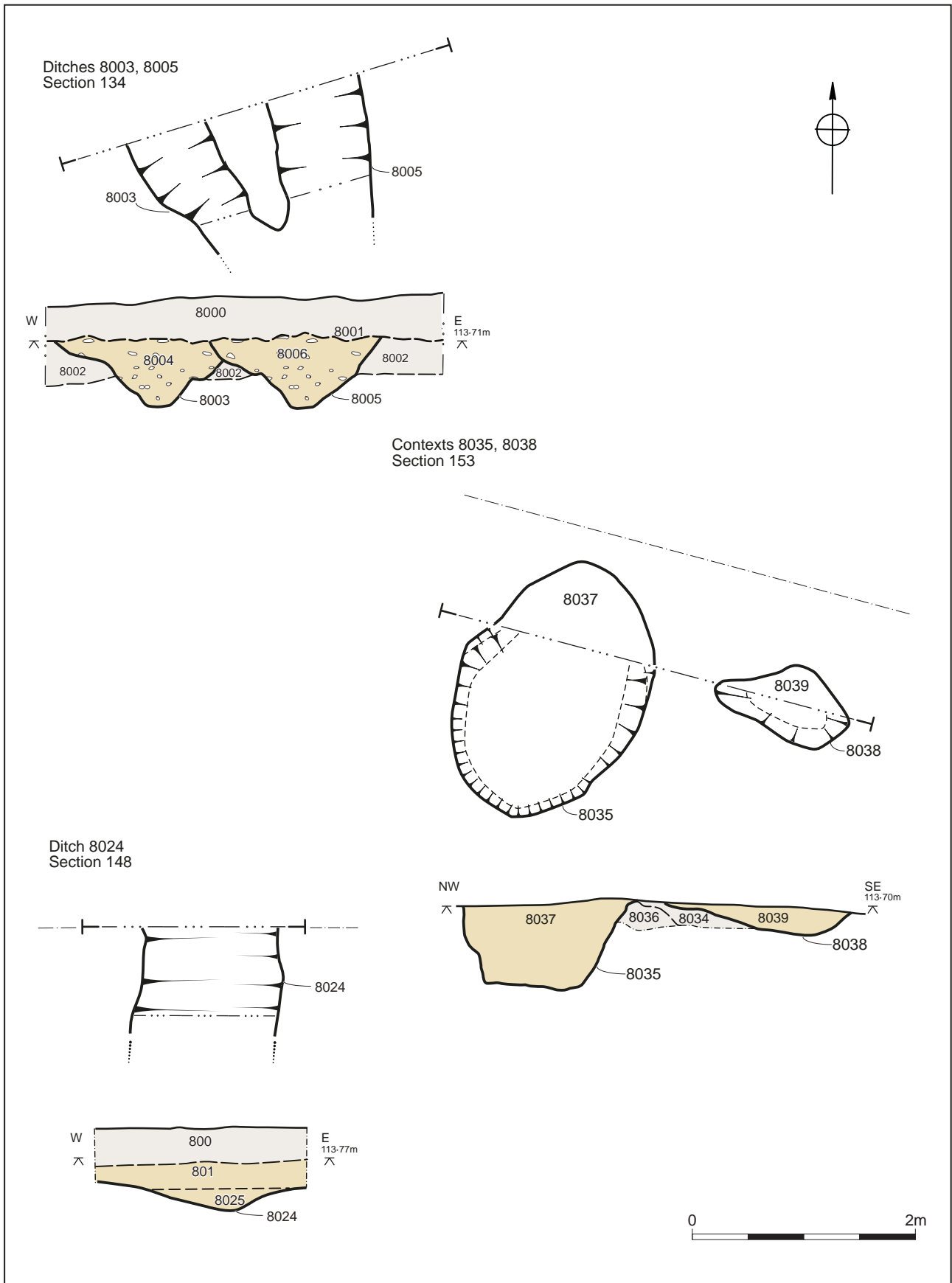


Ditch 7102, CG9
Section 116:



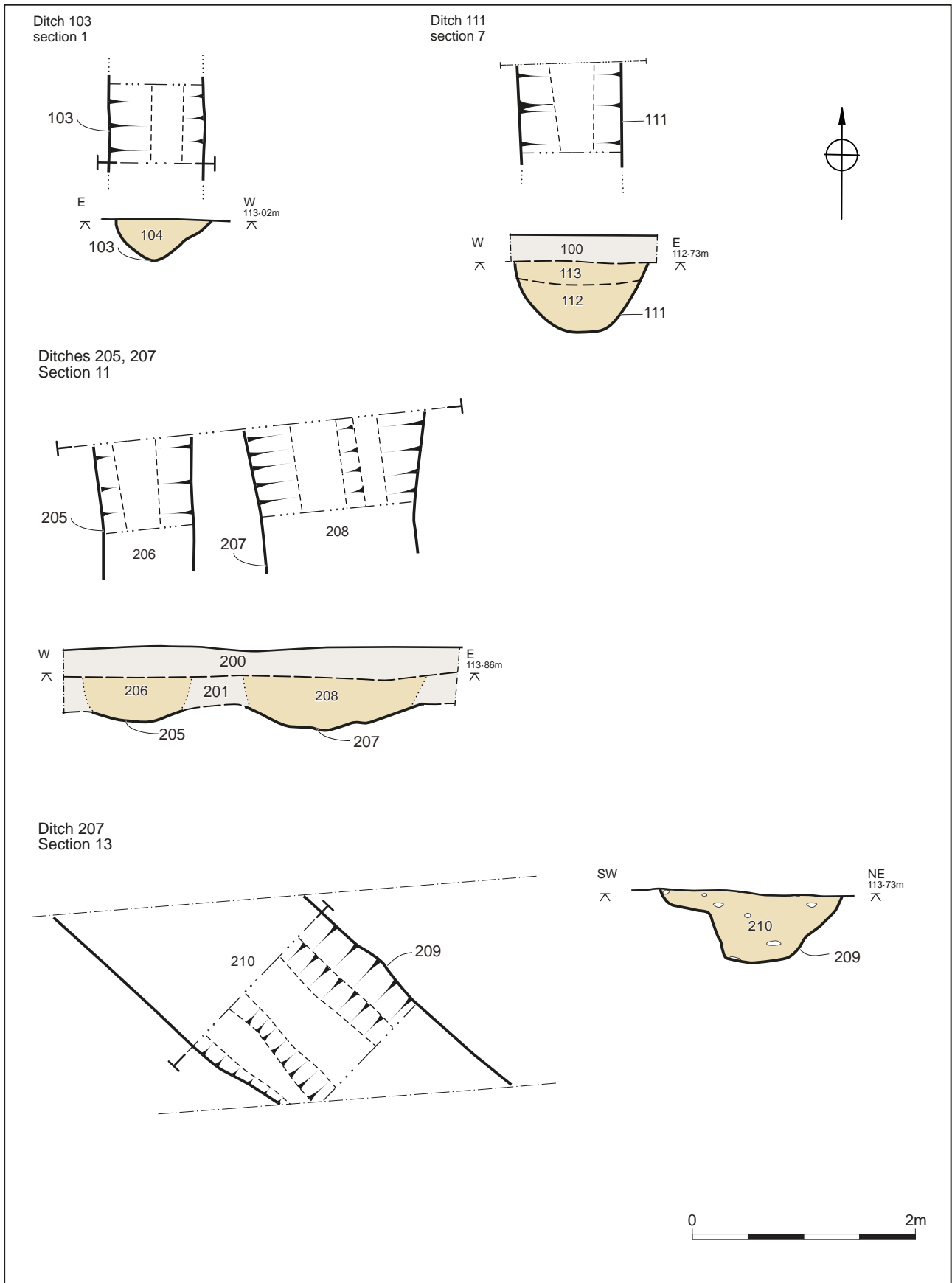
Plans and sections: Area 7

Figure 9



Plans and sections: Area 8

Figure 10



Plans and sections: Trench 1 and 2

Figure 11

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1, 2x 1m scales, looking east



Plate 2 Trench 1 gullies 107 and 109, 1m scale, looking north



Plate 3 Trench 2 gullies 205 and 207, 2x 1m scales, looking north



Plate 4 Trench 2 ditch 209, 1m scale looking north-east



Plate 5 Trench 3 ditch 309, 1m scale, looking south-west



Plate 6 The site looking south-west across Area 7 towards Area 6



Plate 7 Area 6 ditches 6089 and 6091, 2x 1m scales, looking north-east



Plate 8 Area 6 pits 6031, 6033, 6035, 2x 1m and 0.4m scales, looking south-east



Plate 9 Area 7 ditches 7104 and 7106, 1m scale, looking south-east



Plate 10 Area 7 oven/drier 7085, CG11, 1m scale, looking east



Plate 11 Area 8 ditches 8003 and 8005, 1m scale, looking north



Plate 12 The site looking north-east across Area 9, no scales



Plate 13 Area 9 ditch 9003, 1m scale, looking west

Appendix 1: Summary of project archive

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Ceramics, Environmental, Metal
Paper	Context sheet, Correspondence, Diary (Field progress form), Drawing, Photograph, Plan, Report, Survey
Digital	Database, GIS, Geophysics, Images raster/digital photography, Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.