JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

# AT

# LAND ADJACENT TO LAKES 103, 103A AND 104, COTSWOLD WATERPARK, LONDON ROAD FAIRFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

**NGR: SP 16614 00579**

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**APPENDICES**

***SUMMARY***

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological excavation on land to the north of Lake 104, Cotswold Water Park, London Road, Fairford Gloucestershire. The excavation identified a number of ditch features in the south-east corner of the site dating to the Iron Age. Several ditches formed an east to west orientated curvilinear boundary across the north of this area of features. A curvilinear Iron Age ditch in the south of the site was orientated south-east to north-west before curving towards the west. The ditch extended beyond the limit of excavation in the south. Towards the north it may have continued as part of the east to west ditch, however, the relationship was uncertain. The ditch had also been substantially truncated by the previous archaeological evaluation trench which made it difficult to investigate the relationship successfully. The eastern edge of the ditch had been cut by an Iron Age posthole. A further posthole to the north-west of this was undated. A further ditch to the west was dated to the Iron Age and had cut into a pit at its terminus. It was orientated north-east to south-west, terminating it the north-east and extending beyond the limit of excavation in the south. A further pit on the eastern edge of the previous evaluation trench was undated but would likely be Iron Age or earlier based on the stratigraphic relationships recorded in the earlier evaluation phase archaeological work. On the far eastern boundary of the site, and extending beyond it, was the remains of a ring-gully. This was interpreted as the remains of an eaves-drip gully but there was no surviving evidence for a round-house structure. In the very far south east corner of the site there were two parallel ENE to WSW orientated ditches. Both ditches contained fragments of Iron Age pottery in their fills. The most northerly of the two ditches had cut the northern edge of the southernmost ditch. This later ditch also contained a fragment of Roman pottery jar rim in the upper fill, which may have been intrusive, and a possible sherd of Roman pottery from the lower fill. A number of undated pits were identified across the site, this included two pits located in the south-east corner of the site. Further undated features were located in the west of the site. This included a number of features found during the evaluation phase. Some of these were reinterpreted as natural features during the later excavations, this included features that had previously as ditches. Orientated north to south across the centre of the site was an undated ditch, which may have been a field boundary ditch although it did not correspond to any known historical boundaries. Two late post-medieval/modern pits were identified in the west of the site. One contained a fragment of white ware pottery and a brick and the other contained a fragment of white ware pottery and a fragment of bottle glass. To the far east of the site extensive modern rubbish pits had impacted on some of the archaeological features. The Iron Age dated features did not appear to extend further to the north of the site but did extend beyond the limit of excavation towards the east and the south. In the south any continuation would have been mostly destroyed by the 20th century quarrying which had created the lakes.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located on land adjacent to the Cotswold Water Park, Fairford, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 16614 00579).The site covers an area of *c.* 40 hectares; much of which comprises water-filled disused gravel workings, with areas of rough grassland intermixed. The site is relatively level and lies between 79 and 81m OD. The underlying geology consists of river terrace and lacustrine gravels overlain by well-drained, fine loamy, calcareous soils affected by ground water.

## 1.2 Planning Background

Cotswold District Council granted outline planning permission **Tourism and recreational development comprising the erection of 59 pavilions, leisure facility, access, car parking, landscaping and ecological management at Lakes 103, 103a and 104, London Road, Fairford, Gloucestershire** (Ref. 09/00882/OUT). A condition was attached to the permission which stated that

*18 No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that items of archaeological interest are properly recorded.*

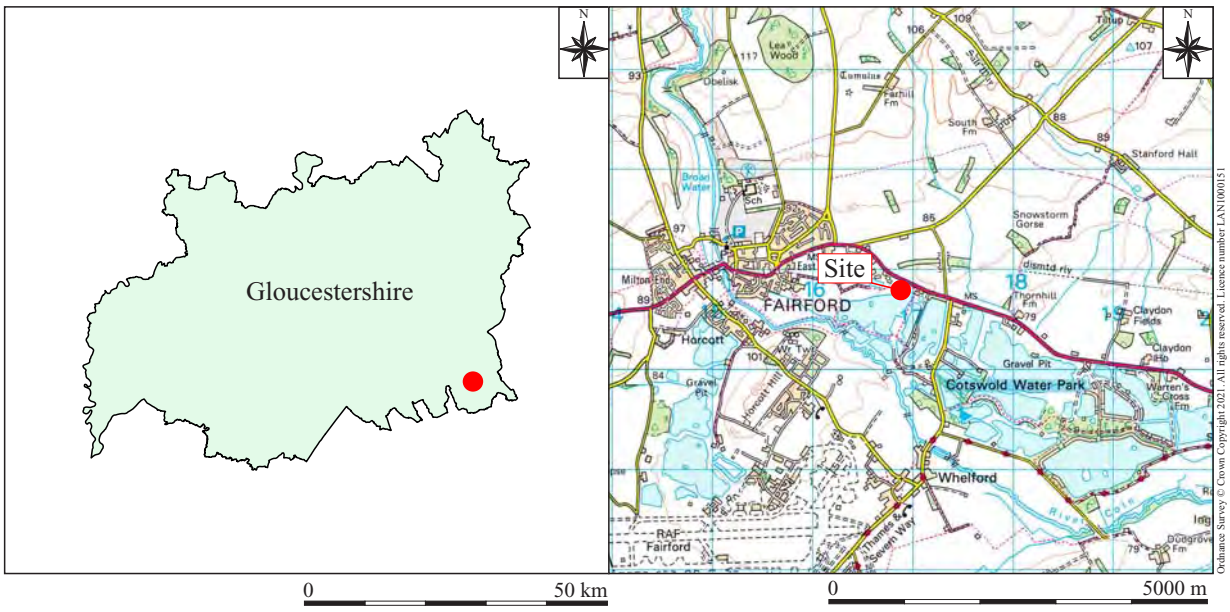
## 1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological background has been mostly taken from the archaeological desk based assessment (CPM 2004). That assessment covered a search area of 1km radius of the wider site. The wider site covers an area of approximately 40 hectares. The current excavations were located in an area of approximately 1km in the north-east of the wider site. Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (GHER) reference numbers have been taken from the desk based assessment (CPM 2004).

Prehistoric and Roman

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the boundaries of the site, However a Scheduled Ancient Monument SAM 45 (GSMR 324) was recorded in the wider study area which is an extensive cropmark complex that incorporates two Romanised farmsteads with Late Iron Age origins

The Gloucestershire HER records the discovery of a relatively large assemblage of Iron Age pottery on the very eastern fringe of the site in 1964 (GSMR 2484). The findspot location is approximately 190km south-east from the current excavation site. The location of two undated cropmark enclosures, visible from aerial photographs (GSMR 2841, 3206) is located approximately 197m to the south of the eastern boundary of the current excavations. Approximately 385m ESE of the eastern boundary of the current excavation site Iron Age pottery along with finds of Roman



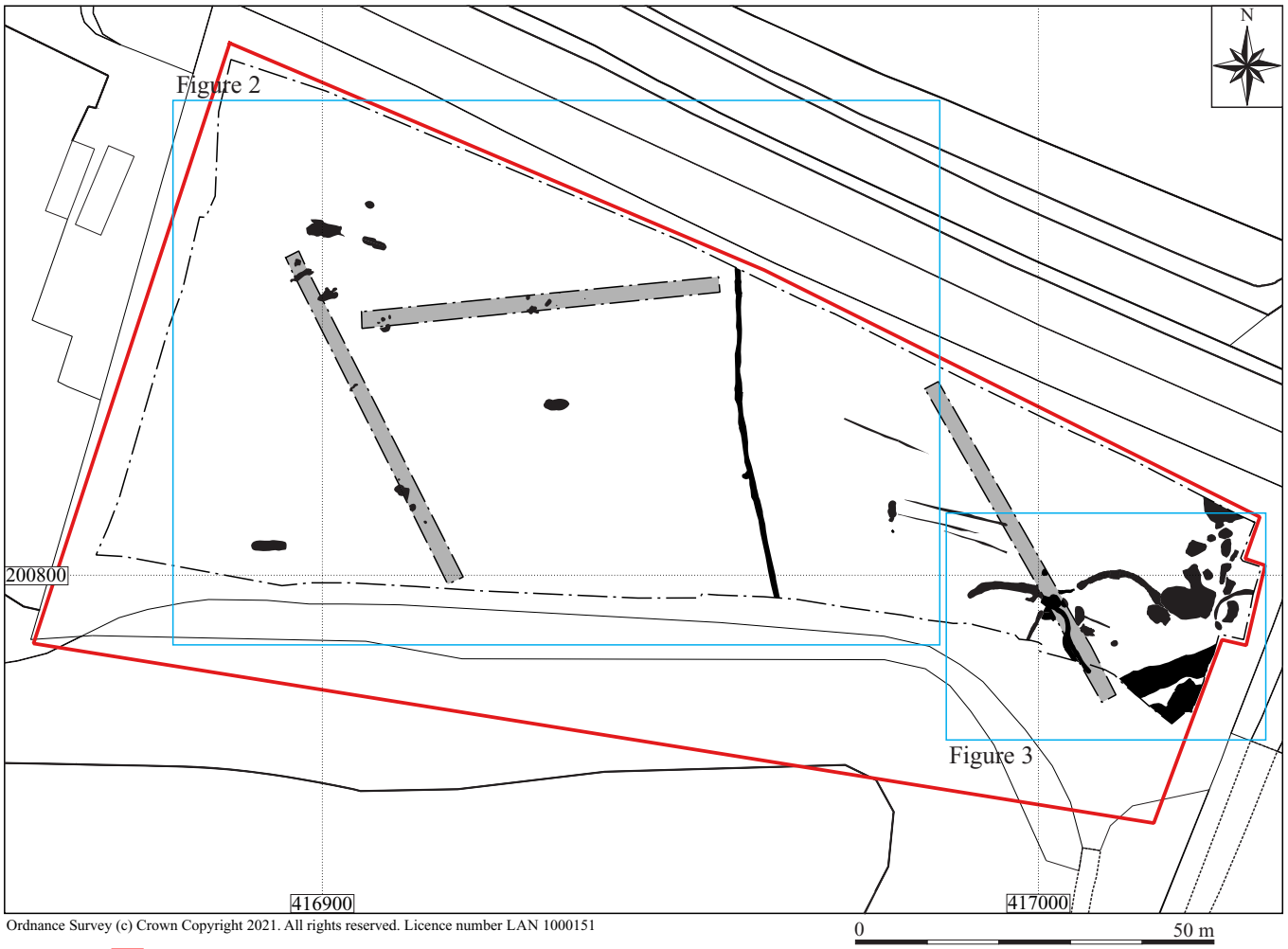




Figure 1: Site location

pottery and associated artefacts were found in a gravel pit (GSMR 2483). A later evaluation in 2004, immediately north of the findspot found no significant archaeological deposits. The area seemed to have been severely truncated by recent quarrying and levelling activities.

Further east, two Roman roads were observed crossing the extensive cropmark complex between Thornhill Farm and Claydon Pike which was excavated between 1985 and 1990 (GSMR 324). The complex itself consisted of two Iron Age farmsteads, which were occupied into the Roman period.

To the west of the study site and south-west of the disused railway station a settlement site visible from aerial photographs has been identified (GSMR 2483). Although the site is undated an Iron Age origin has been suggested.

A cropmark enclosure and trackway, visible on aerial photographs and situated approximately 1.16km southeast of the centre current excavation area, were excavated by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (GSMR 3059). The excavations identified the remains of a small Roman settlement located on the gravel island within the Coln floodplain. The settlement spanned the 1st to 3rd centuries. Close by, to the north of the settlement location, a series of cropmark enclosures (GSMR 3175) were visible on aerial photographs. These were undated and have since been removed by mineral extraction.

An archaeological investigation by the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS 2004) found a number of undated features across the north of the wider study site including pits postholes and ditches (AC Archaeology 2015, 1). None of the features contained datable artefacts, although because of the general character of the deposits, a later prehistoric to Roman date has been suggested (AC Archaeology 2015)

Medieval

The town of Fairford has Anglo Saxon origins and contains buildings and structures of medieval origins, however, there were no known archaeological remains of early medieval or medieval date within 1km study area.

An evaluation by the Oxford Archaeological Unit identified a series of linear ditches and a metalled trackway, aligned east to west, in the north eastern corner of the larger site and approximately 96m east from the eastern boundary of the current excavation site (GSMR 20239). It is suggested the trackway, adjacent to Milestone Cottage, is probably the continuation of trackway shown on post-medieval maps and which runs east across the site from an area of land to the west known as East End. It is suggested that field name evidence points to a medieval origin or earlier. However, no dating evidence for the trackway was found during the evaluation.

Post-medieval

Excluding listed buildings and structures within the town of Fairford there were two post-medieval sites located in the DBA study area. These were are a bridge carrying a road over the carrying a road over the former East Gloucestershire Railway, north of

the A417, Fairford to Lechlade road (GSMR 3305) and the former railway station itself on the north-western boundary of the study site (GSMR 3239).

## 2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the WSI were:

- To record any evidence of past settlement or other land use.
- To recover artefactual evidence to date to any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- To sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use.
- To provide a durable archive, report and publication of the results

## 3 STRATEGY

### 3.1 Research Design

The project design was prepared as the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AC Archaeology 2015) required under condition 18 of the Planning Consent for the development. The terms of the WSI had been set out in a brief by the Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (SAOGCC), dated 24 August 2010.

A reduced area of excavation was proposed following consultation by RPS Group with SAOGCC. A reduced Area A excavation was proposed (see Fig. 1), as Areas B and C would be in undeveloped parts of the site, and effectively preserved *in situ*. Likewise, part of Area A to the west would also be excluded from development

John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) were commissioned to undertake this work, and an addendum to the WSI (JMHS 2021) was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the Brief and to detail the changes to the proposed areas of archaeological investigation.

### 3.2 Methodology

The site area was laid out using GPS. An area to the south of the site which was the route of a public right-of-way was excluded from the excavations with a decision to be made on the necessity for further work in this area to be decided following the results of the excavation of the rest of the site. The archaeological investigation involved the stripping of topsoil and subsoil across the site using a 13t mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of the Archaeological Project Officer. The stripping was organised so that there would be no vehicle movement over stripped areas until that had been signed-off by SAOGCC. Stripping ceased at the level of archaeological deposits or natural geology.

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. The location of the previous evaluation trenches within the site were also located and a selection of features were re-examined to determine the nature of those features and to recover dating material. Standard John Moore Heritage

Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced. A GPS plan of the site was produced which also included the location of section drawings and detailed plans.

Paleo-environmental bulk samples were taken from a selection of suitable deposits.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to Iron Age and Roman periods.

## 4 RESULTS (Figures 1 to 5)

### Field Results

All features were assigned with individual context number. Context numbers with no brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in the round brackets ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material and numbers in bold indicate any form of masonry. All excavation context numbers are in the range 01 to 211. Where mentioned in the text, contexts from the previous evaluation (GCCAS 2004) are numbered in the thousands and are related to the Trench number, thus contexts from Trench 14 are numbered 1406, 1408, 1410, Trench 13, 1302, 1304 etc.

### General deposits

The natural geology (03) was a mid-yellow, orange and white sandy gravel with occasional patches of orange, blue, red and brown clay. The compaction of the geology was mostly friable under machine excavation with more compact areas near to the northern hedge line, and along the southern border near to the lake edge, and in the immediate area around the south end of Trench 14 (Fig. 4).

Overlying the natural over some of the site was a young and poorly developed subsoil or the remains of an earlier plough-soil (02). It was between 0.06m and 0.15m thick, light to mid-brown loamy sand/sandy loam. The deposit was absent in the far south-east of the site and thicker in the north of the site, though it was quite diffuse with the lower horizon of the topsoil. It had rare inclusions of very small sub-angular stone and grit becoming stonier in the west of the site.

The topsoil was a mid-brown slightly loamy sand/sandy loam with rare inclusions of very small angular stone and rare to moderate inclusions of fine grit (01). The deposit was subject to frequent rooting around the perimeter of the site near to the tree and hedge lines. It was between 0.1m thick and 0.25m thick becoming thicker in the north area of the site and along the western boundary where it was diffuse with the lower horizon of tipping activity against the western hedge line.

The majority of the archaeology was observed cut into the top of the natural geology, though modern dumping and plough scars were observed higher up in the soil profile.

## Undated Features

A number of undated features were identified in the west of the excavated area (Fig. 2). The majority of these were features that had been found during the evaluation and some of these were further sampled to investigate their nature and see if dating material could be recovered. Pit 1312 was located towards the centre of Evaluation Trench 13. The evaluation report described the feature as being sub-rectangular with a length of 1.25m, 0.6m wide and a depth of 0.24m. It was recorded as containing a single dark grey brown, silty clay fill. The feature was re-sampled during the evaluation as Pit 34, and was found to be deeper than identified by the evaluation indicating that it had been under excavated (Fig. 3, S.12). It contained three fills, the lowest was a 0.08m thick, mid-bluish brown sandy loam with rare inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (35). Deposited above this was a 0.17m thick deposit of mid-bluish grey sandy loam which contained frequent inclusions of very small sub-rounded gravel (36). Deposited above this was the uppermost deposit, a 0.16m thick, mid-orange brown sandy loam with rare stone inclusions (37). None of the fills contained any finds.

Several possible stake-holes which were identified during the evaluation were described as "almost completely truncated". These would have been located to the east of Pit 34 but were not evident during this stage of excavation.

Identified during the evaluation to the west of Pit 34 was a sub-circular feature 1310. This feature continued beyond the southern edge of the trench. The continuation of this feature identified during more recent excavations revealed an irregular shaped feature. The results of partial excavation concluded that it was likely to be the result of bioturbation rather than anything man made. The feature contained a mixed, gleyed clay fill with no finds (Fig. 2).

Further west of Pit 34 was a sub-circular posthole, Posthole 40 (Fig. 3, S.14). This had been identified during the evaluation but had not been fully recorded. It was unclear if the feature had been previously excavated although it was described previously as "very truncated". Examination of Posthole 40 did not identify any evidence that it had been half-sectioned or that it had been backfilled following archaeological excavation. The posthole was 0.4m by 0.36m in dimension and was 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill of mid-greyish brown sandy loam which contained no finds (41).

A further possible pit, 38, was identified to the north-east of Posthole 40 (Fig. 3, S.13). This was a shallow sub-oval pit, 0.78m by 0.58m and 0.07m deep. It had an uneven, irregular base and may have been the result of bioturbation rather than being manmade. It contained a dark brown sandy loam which contained no finds (39).

Four features were identified at the far westerly end of what had been the area of Trench 13. The trench here appeared to have been dug quite deep into the natural by over 0.15m and so the features would have been quite truncated when identified during the evaluation. Pit 1308 had been identified during the evaluation continuing beyond the southern limit of evaluation Trench 13. It was identified during the most recent archaeological work on site as an irregular feature, indicative of bioturbation or cryoturbation.

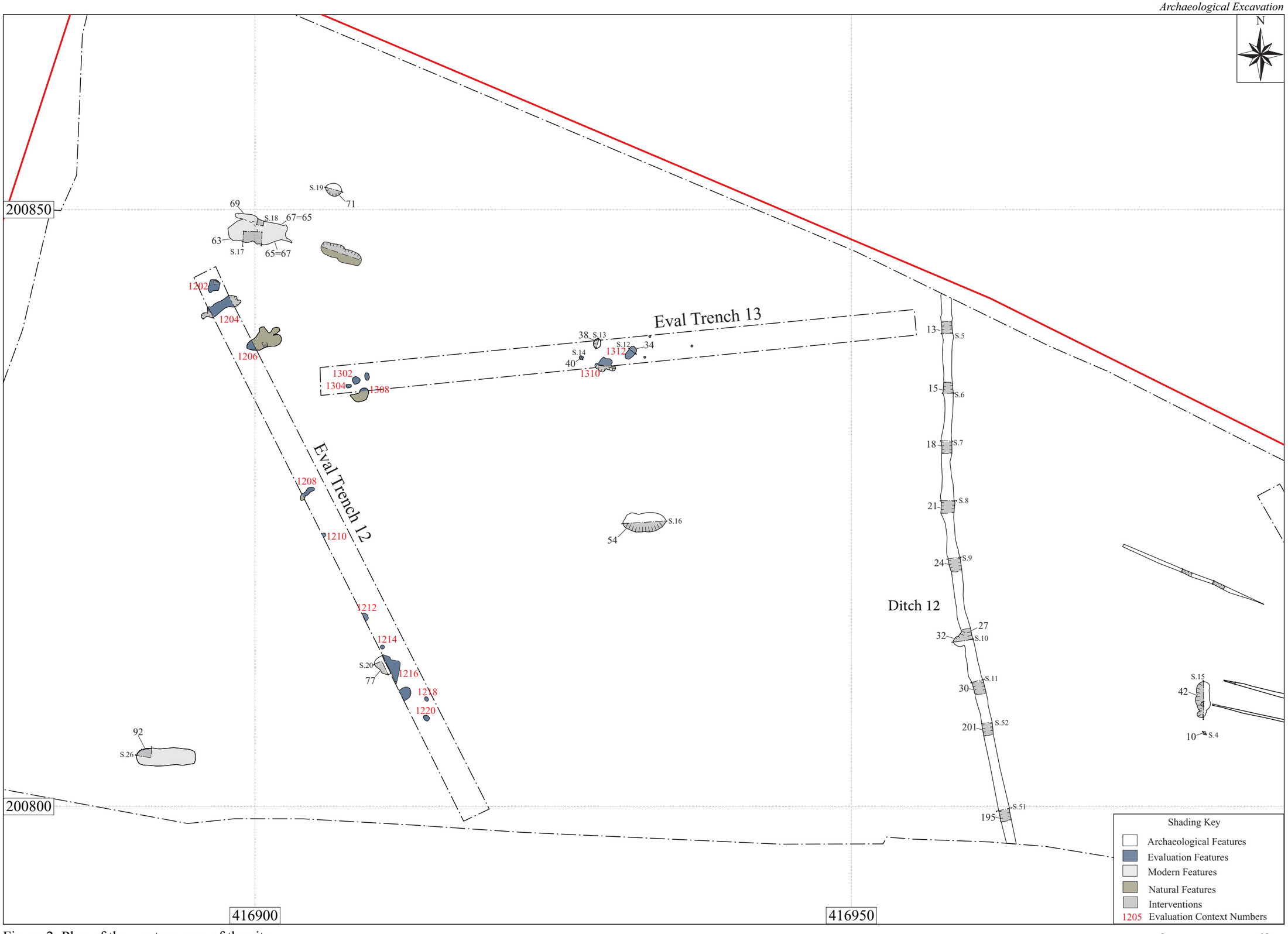



Figure 2. Plan of the western area of the site

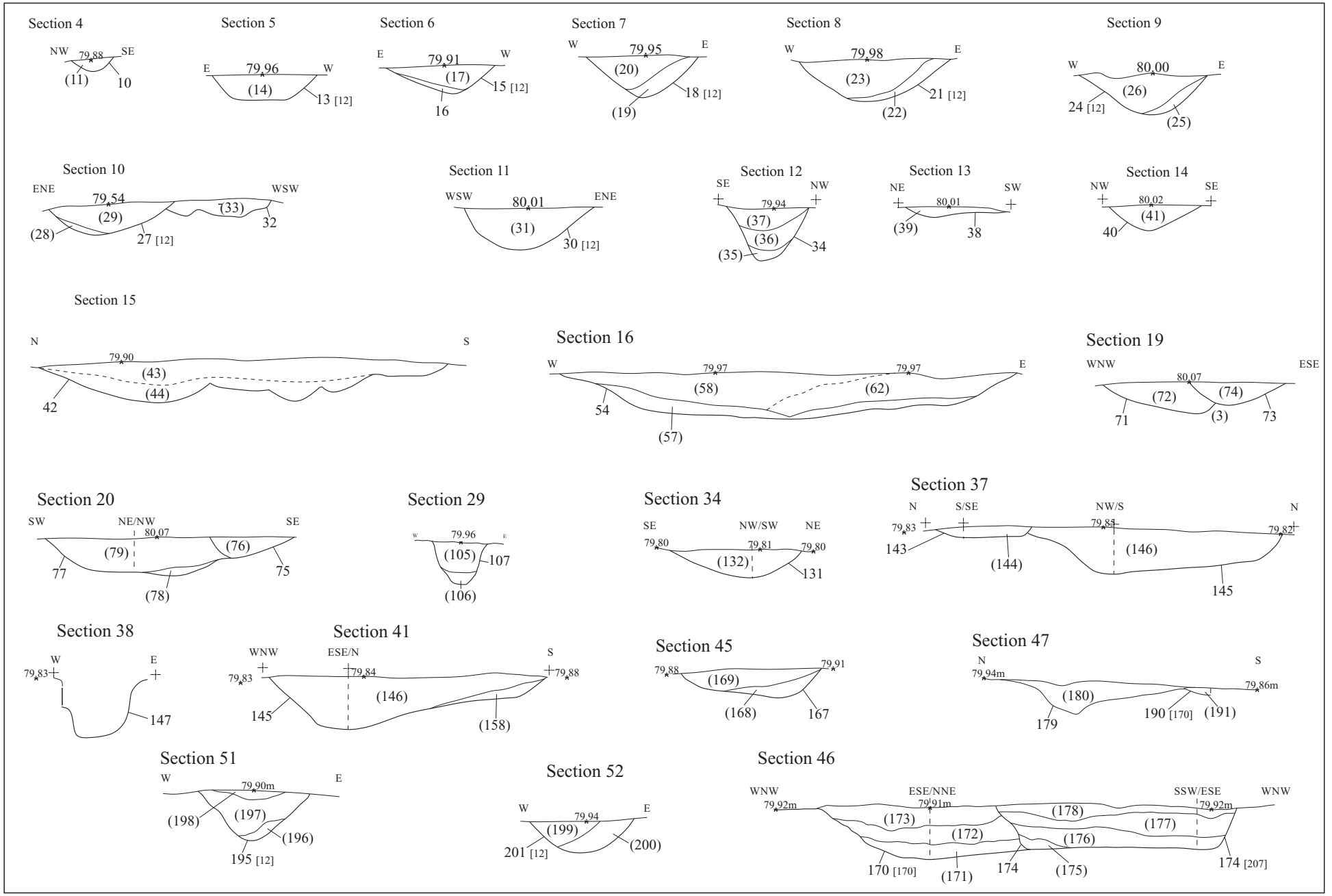



Figure 3. Sections

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Further features identified during the evaluation at the western end of Trench 13 were more convincing. Pits 1302 and 1304 were further excavated but no finds were recovered.

Beyond Trench 13 to the north of it was an undated sub-oval pit, 71, which was 1.4m by 1.08m and 0.25m deep (Fig. 3, S.19). The pit contained a mid to light brown clay loam (72). On the east side of the pit was another fill (74) which was mid brown and had concentrations of blackish brown, scorched red deposits, and burnt stone. The fill was identified as being from a re-cut to the pit but this was not clearly visible in plan and the mixing of the deposits (72) and (74) at their borders made the stratigraphy between the two deposits unclear. Neither of the fill contained any dateable material.

Approximately 12.65m to the south of Trench 13 was an isolated sub-oval pit, 54 (Fig. 3, S.16). The pit was 3.6m long, 1.6m wide and 0.36m deep. The pit only had three fills that could be differentiated although the gleyed nature of the lower fill suggest that the differentiation of the fills was at least partly caused by post depositional chemical processes. The lowest deposit was a 0.09m to 0.13m thick sandy clay which was mid to dark bluish grey with brown streaks (57). The nature of the fill suggests that the deposit had been chemically altered by standing water. Deposited above was a 0.17 to 0.2m thick deposit of mid-orange brown sandy clay (62). The uppermost fill was a 0.28m fill of light bluish brown sandy clay (58). The shape of the feature indicated that it may be the result of tree or bush removal.

Further to the west a number of undated features had been identified in Trench 12 during the evaluation (Fig. 2). The evaluation trench had been excavated quite deep into the natural by 0.2m or more in places and so during these current excavations the features were obscured by the backfill of the trench. There were, however, a number of features that were identified during the evaluation as extending beyond the limit of the excavation. This included three linear features identified as ditches 1204, 1206, and 1208. These features did not, however, appear to clearly extend beyond the limits of the evaluation trench and subsequent removal of the evaluation trench backfill and further investigation of these features identified all these features to be irregular naturally formed features. At the north-west end of Trench 12, Pit 1202, identified during the evaluation was also re-sampled. The feature was irregular in shape with a clayey, gleyed fill and base and was also considered to be natural.

Towards the south-east of Trench 12 on the western edge, a shallow sub-circular feature had been identified during the evaluation, 1210 (Fig. 2). The feature had been identified extending beyond the limit of excavation but could not be located during more recent excavations. Further south-east sub-circular pit, 1212 had been recorded as 0.22m deep and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. This feature could also not be located during the recent excavations. Both features were described as having fills which became more clayey towards the base and it is probable that these features were naturally formed under standing water.

A large shallow pit, 1216 had been identified during the evaluation located to the south-east of feature 1212 (Fig. 2). The pit also extended beyond the western limit of Trench 12 and was identified during more recent excavations as Pit 77 (Fig. 3, S.20). The pit did not conform entirely to the dimensions found during the evaluation It was 1.67m long north-east to south-west compared to 2.7m recorded during the

evaluation. Pit 77 was 0.29 deep and had shallow concave edges. It was filled by a 0.06m thick deposit of greyish brown sandy clay with an abundant inclusion of sub-rounded gravel (78). Deposited above this was a 0.27m thick deposit of mid-bluish brown sandy clay loam with rare gravel inclusions (79). A possible re-cut was identified in section, 75, although it was not clear. Re-cut 75 was recorded as 0.63m by greater than 0.44m wide and contained a single 0.17m thick deposit of mid-yellow brown sandy clay loam with frequent sub rounded gravel inclusions (76).

Towards the centre of the site an undated ditch was identified, 12 (Fig. 3, S.5-11, S.51-52). The ditch was orientated north to south bending towards the SSE. It was greater than 46m in length and extended beyond the limit of excavation in both directions. It was recorded as between 0.75m and 1.16mm wide and between 0.21m and 0.38m deep. The ditch had mostly concave sides and a rounded base, although straight and slightly convex sides were recorded in some sections. A flat base was recorded in only one section (Fig. 3, S.5). Two fills to the ditch were recorded in most of the interventions. The lower fill was a mid-yellow brown sandy loam with frequent to abundant gravel inclusions. The deposit was between 0.05m and 0.24m thick and had formed on the eastern edge of the ditch suggesting the presence of a bank on the eastern side of the ditch. Deposited above this was a mid-orange brown sandy loam that was between 0.18m and 0.3m thick with occasional grass roots and infrequent bluish brown clay patches. A further upper fill was recorded in one intervention, cut 198 (Fig. 3, S.51). The fill was 0.08m thick deposit of mid-grey brown sandy loam with frequent small stone inclusions. It is possible that it was the remnant of a slumped subsoil horizon.

Ditch 12 had cut an earlier irregular pit like feature, 32 on the west edge of the ditch (Fig. 3, Section 10). The pit was 1.10m long, 0.84m wide and 0.16m deep. It had an irregular base and was filled by friable mid-brown sandy loam (33). The feature was considered to have been possibly caused by bioturbation.

To the east of Ditch 12 was an irregular sub-oval pit, 42 (Fig. 3, S.15). The pit was 3.13m long, 1.21m wide and 0.35m deep. It had shallow irregular sides and an irregular base. The shape of the pit may indicate that it was several re-cut or intercutting pits but this was not demonstrated in the fills of the ditch. The feature contained two fills, a lower fill of 0.14m thick, bluish brown sandy clay (44) and an upper fill of 0.19m to 0.26m thick mid-brown sandy clay (43). The horizon between the two layers was very mixed and unclear and the deposit was obviously gleyed in the lower horizon. The irregular nature of the deposit suggested that it may be the result of the removal of a small bush or a small shallow rooted tree.

Adjacent to the pit was a small posthole, 10 (Fig. 3, S.4). The posthole was 0.32m by 0.28m and 0.1m deep. It contained a dark grey brown sandy loam with an abundant inclusion of small sub-rounded stones (11). The colour and texture of the fill was similar to the topsoil on the site suggesting that the posthole may have been a modern feature cut from higher in the soil profile.

A number of shallow, narrow linear cuts were identified across the site, orientated WNW to ESE. These were shallow 0.05m deep, discontinuous features with widths between 0.15m and 0.38m. Each was filled with a light orange brown loamy sand with frequent gravel. The features had poorly defined sides and an unclear horizon

between the backfill and the natural. They were identified as plough scars and only the more clearly defined prominent examples were excavated. Some of these features had been identified higher up in the soil profile with fills similar to the topsoil, suggesting that their formation was quite late on the site.

Further undated pits were identified in the south-east of the site. These were located in an area dominated by Iron Age features and in the area where Trench 14 had been excavated in the previous evaluation (Fig. 4).

Pit 107 was located to the west of Trench 14 on the western edge of Ditch 207 and south of Ditch 206 (Fig. 3, S.29; Fig. 4). The pit was sub-circular with steep sides and a flattish base. It was 0.47m by 0.43m and 0.36m deep and contained two fills, a 0.09m thick lower fill of mid-orange brown loamy sand (106) and an upper fill of mid-brown sandy loam with a moderate inclusion of medium sized angular limestone (105).

A sub-oval pit was identified beyond the eastern edge of Trench 14, 145 (Fig. 3, S.37 & 41; Fig. 4). It was 2.77m long, 1.33m wide, and 0.38m deep. The pit contained a lower fill of 0.11m thick, mid-yellowish brown sandy loam (158) and a 0.38m thick upper fill of mid-orange brown sandy loam, (146). Fragments of fired clay were recovered from the pit which could not be dated. In the base of pit was a posthole, 147 (Fig. 3, S.38). The posthole was 0.49m long and 0.36m wide with steep sides that were near vertical in places. It was 0.3m deep and contained a fill of mid-orange brown sandy loam (148).

On the eastern edge of Trench 14 and cut by it, was a sub-oval pit, 131 (Fig. 3, S.34; Fig. 4). The Pit was 1.4m in length and greater than 0.4m wide. The pit had a recorded depth of 0.22m and contained a single fill of mid-brown sandy loam (132) with an occasional inclusion of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone. Though undated Pit 131 may stratigraphically be Iron Age or pre-Iron Age. Pit 131 aligned with the location of Pit 1408 which was recorded as being cut by Pit 1406. Pit 1406 was in turn recorded as being cut by Ditch 1410. Although no finds were recovered from these features during the evaluation, Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from Ditch 211, which was the same as Ditch 1410, and was excavated during more recent excavations. The interpretation is, however, unclear due to uncertainties with the evaluation results.

A small pit or posthole was identified to the south-east of Pit 131, 167 (Fig. 3, S.45). The pit was 1.06m by 0.98m wide and 0.21m deep. It contained a 0.14m thick, lower fill of mid-yellowish brown sandy loam (168) and an upper fill of mid-orange brown sandy loam (169).

**Iron Age/Pre Iron Age**

Several features were identified which were undated but which stratigraphically were earlier than features containing Iron Age pottery.

Pit 170 was to the east of Trench 14 and had been cut by it (Fig. 3, S.46; Fig. 4; Plate 1). It was an irregular shaped pit that was 2.34m long by greater than 1.6m wide. It had a recorded depth of 0.4m and contained three fills. A 0.2m thick lower fill of light

greyish brown sandy silt loam (171). Deposited above this was a 0.2m deposit of mid-grey brown sandy silt loam (172). The upper deposit was 0.1m deposit of mid to light grey brown sandy silt loam (173). The deposits of the pit had been cut by Iron Age ditch 207. The relationship with Iron Age ditch 206 was less certain as the interface between the edges of the two features was very shallow and difficult to determine.

Pit 170 may have been cut by a possible ditch 179, although again due to the shallowness of the interface between their edges the relationship was not clear (Fig. 3, S.47; Fig. 4). Ditch 179 was orientated ESE to WSW. It was 0.24m deep and 1.1m wide with shallow convex sides and a narrow pointed base. It was cut by Iron Age ditch 207 and did not continue beyond it. The feature had not been identified during the evaluation but given its shallow nature this is understandable. The evaluation trench had been over dug through the natural by between 0.2m and 0.3m and would have removed such a shallow ditch. The Ditch 179 did not continue east beyond Trench 14 and so would have been a short ditch with a potential length of 3.9m or less.

**Iron Age Features**

Features dated to the Iron Age were concentrated in the south-east corner of the site. Some of these features had been identified, though previously undated, by the archaeological evaluation at the south-east end of Trench 14. To the west beyond Trench 14 was the terminus to a ditch, 207 (Fig. 3, S.46; Fig. 4; Fig. 5, S.53; Plate 1). The ditch was orientated SSW to NNE and was greater than 4.6m long, 0.75m to 0.8m wide and 0.3m to 0.35m deep. It had near straight sides that were slightly concave in places and a base that was flat towards the terminus and more rounded in the south-west. It contained four fills, although only a single fill was recorded in the south-west extent of the ditch. The lowest fill was 0.08m thick deposit of mid-grey brown sandy silt loam with infrequent small stone inclusions (175). Deposited above this was a 0.12m thick deposit mid-grey brown sandy silt loam with moderate stone inclusions, pottery and bone (176). This was overlain by a light yellow brown sandy loam with frequent medium to small sized sub-angular stone. The deposit was 0.18m thick and contained several fragments of Iron Age pottery. The uppermost deposit was a 0.12m thick mid-brown grey sandy silt loam with frequent small angular stone inclusions, 178. Ditch 207 had cut an earlier pit 170.

Plate 1: Pit 107 and Ditch 207. SSE View


Figure 4. Plan of the Eastern Area of the Site.

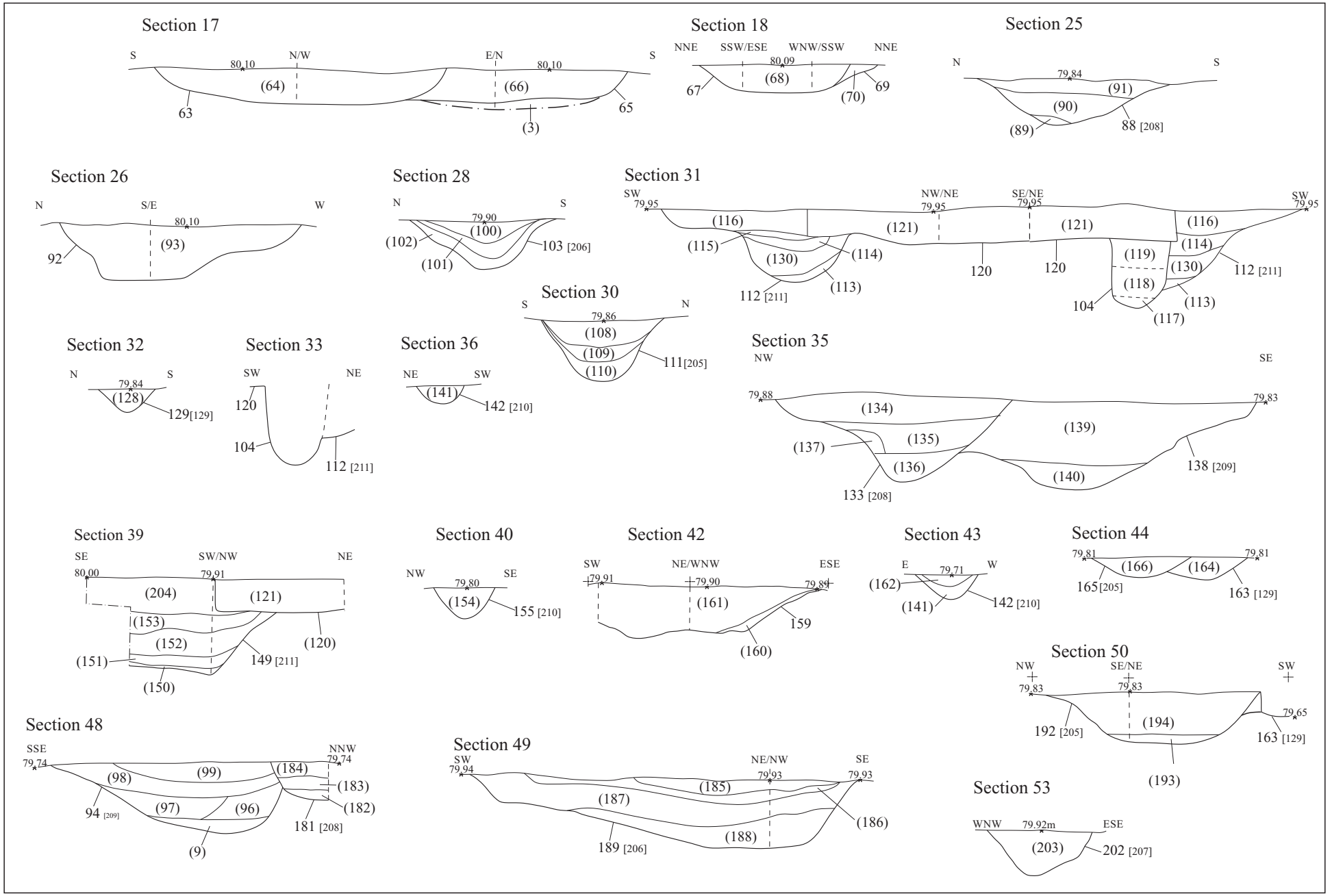


Figure 5. Sections

At 1.8m to the north of Ditch 207 was an east to west orientated curvilinear ditch, 206 (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, S.28 & S.49; Plates 2 and 3). The ditch was greater than 10.95m long west to east turning towards the south-east where it terminated. At the western end the ditch had been cut by the evaluation Trench 14. It was difficult to establish the continuity of Ditch 207 from the results of the evaluation report. Ditch 207 appeared to continue into an area occupied by Pit 1406, recorded during the evaluation. However, the straight edged cut on the north-west of Pit 1406, which had potential to be the continuation of Ditch 207, had been identified as part of the Pit 1406. It is also possible that Ditch 206 continued as Ditch 1410 which had cut pit 1406.


Plate 2. Section 28. Ditch 103, Group 206. East view

Plate 3. Section 49, Ditch Terminus 189,
Ditch Group 206. NE view.

Ditch 206 was between 0.47m and 0.54m deep and contained three to four fills of loamy sand ranging in colour from mid-brown to mid-greyish brown. Finds of Iron Age pottery and an iron nail were recovered from secondary fills (101) and (187), respectively. Iron Age Pottery, bone and shell were recovered from the lowest fill of the terminus (188).

To the east of Trench 14 and cut by it, was a shallow gully 129 (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, S.32). The gully was between 0.3m and 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep. It was not identified during the evaluation. This was probably due to the shallow nature of the feature and that the excavation of Trench 14 had been over excavated into the natural geology by 0.2m to 0.3m truncating features and likely removing shallow features. The gully 129 continued east for 2.2m where it terminated. The gully was filled by a single deposit of light brown sandy loam which contained an iron saw fragment, bone, shell and Iron Age pottery.

The terminus end of Gully 129 had been cut by the western terminus of curvilinear ditch 205 (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, S.44 & S.50). Ditch 205 had a surviving length of approximately 14m and a varying width of between 0.75m and 1.5m. It was orientated east to west, curving towards the south-east in the east and towards the south-west in the west where it terminated. The eastern terminus of the ditch had been lost to destruction by modern rubbish pits. The ditch generally was 0.47m deep and 0.4m deep at the terminus end. It had steep convex sides and a rounded base. The ditch contained between two and three fills (Fig. 5, S.50 & S.30). The lowest fill was a 0.12m thick deposit of sandy silt loam with frequent sub-angular small stone inclusions (110). Deposited above this was a 0.17m thick, greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small stone inclusions, fragments of bone, charcoal and shell, and sixteen fragments of undated fired clay (109). The top fill of Ditch 205 was a 0.2m thick deposit of orange brown sandy loam with moderate stone inclusions (108). Five fragments of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the top fill of the terminus to Ditch 205, (194).

In the east of the site was a ring-gully, 210 (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, S.36, S.40, S.42; Plate 4). It was greater than 7.3m in length, orientated east-west at the eastern end and turned to the south towards the west. The southern terminus had been destroyed by modern rubbish pits which were also prominent immediately to the west of the gully and within the area internal to the gully. The eastern end of the gully continued beyond the eastern boundary of the site. The gully was between 0.3m and 0.8m wide, the variance in width perhaps due to truncation by later activity. Gully 210 was between 0.24m and 0.14m deep with concave sides and a rounded to slightly tapered and rounded base. It contained a lower fill of light brown sandy loam that was between 0.1m and 0.24m thick (141=154). An upper deposit of dark greyish brown sandy loam was observed towards the southern end of the gully (162). The deposit was 0.09m thick and contained rare charcoal flecks and 14 fragments of Iron Age pottery recovered from the same vessel. The upper deposit (162) may have been removed by later modern stripping on the site.

The gully 210 was possibly an eaves-drip-gully, however, cleaning of the area internal to the gully did not reveal any structural elements.

Plate 4. Ring-Gully 210. East View

To the south of 210 in the far south east corner of the site were two parallel ditches orientated north-east to south-west (Fig. 4). The most southerly of the two ditches, 209 was greater than 10.9m long extending beyond the limits of excavation towards the north-east and the south-west (Fig. 5, S.35 & 48; Plate 5). It was between 1.7m and 2.3m wide and 0.55m and 0.7m deep. The sides were convex with a rounded base and it contained between two and three visibly distinct deposits. A the south-western end of the ditch a lower deposit of firm, mid grey brown sandy silt loam (140) was identified. It was 0.2m thick and contained moderate to frequent amounts of small to medium sub-angular stone and rare to moderate amounts of large angular stone. The deposit contained fragment of fired clay, three fragments of Iron Age pottery, and fragments of animal bone, shell, charcoal and slag. Deposited above was a 0.5m thick deposit of mid-orange brown sandy loam with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded and sub-angular small to medium sized stones (138).

Plate 5. Section 35, Ditch 133, Group 208, and
Ditch 138, Group 209. East View.

At the north-eastern end of Ditch 209, the lowest fill was recorded as a 0.1m thick deposit of light grey sandy clay loam with frequent small stone (95). Overlying (95) was a 0.25m thick dark grey silty clay loam with frequent stone inclusions (96).

Deposited above this was a 0.17m thick deposit mid-grey sandy loam which contained medium to large burnt stone fragments, frequent small gravel and two fragments of Iron Age pottery (97). Overlying this deposit was a 0.2m to 0.3m thick deposit of mid-orange brown sandy loam (98) and above this a 0.13m thick deposit of mid-grey brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium stone inclusions (99) (Fig. 5, S.48).

A curvilinear ditch had been identified during the evaluation at the south-east end of Trench 14, Ditch 1410 (Fig. 4). The evaluation had excavated below the natural by 0.2 to 0.3m removing much of the depth and width of the ditch. During the most recent excavations, interventions were cut through the evaluation trench backfill (121) to examine the level of truncation and compare this to the remaining western edge of the ditch which survived to the west of the evaluation trench, Ditch 211 (Fig. 5, S.31 and S.39, Plate 6). The surviving width of the ditch was 1.46m wide, however due to the shallowness of the upper edge of the ditch the previous evaluation excavations could have removed up to 0.7m of the width on the eastern edge suggesting a ditch that may have been as much as 2.16m wide. The ditch was orientated south-east to north-west for approximately 6.3m before curving towards the NNE and returning north-west over a length of approximately 6.17m before exiting the trench on the western edge. Due to the truncation of the ditch by the evaluation trench it was difficult to tie the continuity of Ditch 211 (Ditch 1410) with features found during the excavation. It may have continued as Ditch 206 or have continued into the area of Pit 170 which was possibly the terminus to Ditch 211.

Plate 6. Section 31, Ditch 112, Group 211 and Pit 104. East View

Ditch 211 was between 0.55m and 0.71m deep and contained 5 fills. The lowest fill was a 0.06m to 0.13m thick deposit of mid to light yellowish grey sandy loam (113) = (150) + (151). Deposited above this was a 0.2m to 0.24m deposit of mid-yellowish brown sandy loam with moderate to frequent small stone inclusions and two fragments of Iron Age pottery, (130) = (152). Overlying was a 0.15m to 0.16m deposit of mid to dark brownish grey sandy loam (114) = (153). The deposit contained moderate amounts of small stone, animal bone, fired clay, metal slag and Iron Age pottery. Deposited above (114) was a 0.06m thick, mid-grey and yellow brown sandy loam (115). The deposit was only locally identified in one section face.

The uppermost deposit in Ditch 211 was a 0.23m to 0.29m thick deposit of friable mid-greyish brown loamy sand with moderate small stone inclusions (116)=(204). The deposit contained Iron Age pottery, metal slag and one fragment of Roman pottery.

Ditch 211 was cut on its eastern edge by a circular posthole 104 (Fig. 5, S.31 & S.33; Plate 6). The posthole had a diameter of 0.47m and was 0.62m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. The lowest deposit was a 0.11m thick, light to mid-yellow sandy gravel (117). Deposited above this was a 0.23m thick mid to dark grey brown sandy loam (118) which contained fragment of bone, metal slag, fired clay, a fragment Iron Age Pottery and a crucible. The uppermost fill in the posthole was a 0.27m thick deposit mid-brown grey sandy loam which contained three fragments of Iron Age pottery and a fragment of animal bone (119).

**Early Roman**

To the north of Ditch 209 and cutting its northern edge was Ditch 208 (Fig. 5, S.25, S.35, S.48; Plate 5). The ditch was greater than 13.7m from north-east to south-west extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. The ditch was between 0.37m and 0.68m deep and contained between three and four fills. The lowest fill was a 0.2m to 0.3m thick deposit of light grey brown sandy loam with frequent sub-angular stones (136). The deposit contained a fragment of animal bone, three fragments of Iron Age pottery and a fragment of pottery that was possibly early Roman. Deposited above this was a deposit of dark blackish brown sand, dominant charcoal and sub-angular stone (137). The deposit was formed on the northern edge of the ditch and was 0.16m wide and 0.18m thick. It contained animal bone, fired clay and Iron Age pottery. Deposit (137) was overlain by a 0.25m thick deposit of mid-orange brown sandy loam (135). The upper deposit of Ditch 209 was a 0.28m thick deposit of dark orange brown sandy loam which contained fired clay, animal bone, Iron Age pottery and a fragment of pottery from a Roman jar (134).

Further to the east where Ditch 209 became shallower, three fills were identified. The lowest fill was a 0.07m thick deposit of whitish grey sand which contained a fragment of Iron Age pottery, fragments of large burnt stone (89). Deposited above was a 0.23m thick deposit of mid-brown sandy loam with frequent gravel (90) and above this an upper fill of mid to dark grey brown sandy loam with frequent gravel inclusions (91).

**Post-medieval and Modern Features**

On the eastern edge of Trench 14 and cut by it was an irregular shaped feature 159 (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, S.42). The feature contained two fills, a 0.07m thick, mid-greyish brown silty clay and gravel (160) and a 0.42m thick upper deposit of mid-orange brown sandy loam (161). The upper fill (161) contained a fragment of post-medieval glazed red-earthenware dish. The irregular shape of the feature 159 and the irregular base suggested that it may have been the result of the removal of a small tree or bush.

The eastern edge of the site was dominated by an abundance of large and medium sizes irregular shaped pits. These pits had been rapidly backfilled with soil which contained modern material, bricks, concrete, plastic and metal.

Three modern features were identified in the west of the site in the areas near to evaluation Trenches 12 and 13.

Beyond the southern end of Trench 13, to the north-west, was heavily bioturbated feature that was identified as the result of the removal of a tree or hedge. The fill produced a fragment of modern nail which was not retained (Fig. 2).

To the west of this tree throw was a quarry pit which showed signs of being re-cut although this was not clear in plan (Fig. 2). The most easterly of this group of intercutting pits was Pit 65 which was an irregular shaped pit (Fig. 5, S.17 & S.18). It had cut an elongated cut 69 which contained a 0.17m mid-brown clay loam (70). Pit 65 was 0.26m deep and contained a fill of mid-brown clay loam (66) which contained a fragment of modern bottle glass and a small fragment of modern White Ware pottery which were not retained. Pit 65 was cut by a sub-circular Pit 63 which contained a single 0.3m thick fill of mid-greyish brown sandy loam (64).

Beyond Trench 12 to the west of the south end, was a modern pit, 92 (Fig. 2; Fig.12, S.26). The pit was 4.95m long and 1.45m wide and contained a 0.43m thick deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay loam (93). A brick and a piece of modern white ware pottery were recovered from the fill.

## 5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

### 5.1 Pottery *by Jane Timbey*

Introduction and methodology

The archaeological excavation resulted in the recovery of *c*. 158 sherds of pottery weighing 696 g largely dating to the later prehistoric periods with a small number of Roman and post-Roman pieces. The pottery assemblage was accompanied by one fragment of ceramic building material (CBM), 294 small pieces of fired clay, one possible crucible fragment and a fragment of slag.

The pottery was recorded using recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (Barclay et al. 2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The later prehistoric wares are coded using letters to denote the main fabric constituents as recommended in PCRG (1997). Rims were additionally coded to form.

The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. Very small crumbs too small to verify as pot and not fired clay, or to identify the fabric characteristics, were subsumed under the code OO. The assemblage is catalogued in the accompanying MS Excel spread-sheet with broad spot dates.

In general terms the assemblage was in poor condition with mainly very fragmented sherds. There are a few cases of multiple sherds from single vessels but the number of diagnostic sherds was negligible with just one rim-sherd. The overall average sherd weight was 4.4 g.

Pottery was recovered from 27 archaeological contexts belonging to 18 cut features, twelve of which come from defined ditch groups. Quantities range from single sherds up to a maximum of 40 sherds from ditch 133.

In the following report the general composition of the assemblage is described by chronological period followed by an overall assessment of the potential of the material.

*Table 1. Pottery and Fired Clay. Fabric Type*

| Fabric | Description |
|---|---|
| BWFSY | black fine sandy |
| CBM | ceramic building material |
| CRUC? | crucible? |
| FC | fired clay |
| GYSY | grey wheelmade sandy ware |
| LI1 | sparse, rounded limestone tempered/ voids |
| LISH1 | sparse fine limetine and fossil shell |
| LISH2 | rare-sparse liemste and fossil shell. Sandy matrix |
| NWILBB | N Wilts black burnished ware |
| OO | crumbs |
| PMGL | post-med glazed |
| PMGRE | post-med glazed red earthenware |

Later Prehistoric

Most of the assemblage, 97% by count, dates to the later prehistoric period, more specifically the Iron Age. The majority of sherds contain fragments of Jurassic limestone and fossil shell ranging from moderately fine (generally less than 2 mm) and in sparse frequency (LISH1) to rare to sparse frequency (LISH2). A small number of 10, mainly quite abraded, sherds contain sparse fragments of rounded limestone or voids up to 1-2mm but no shell (LI1). The only exception to the calcareous wares are nine sherds from a black, fine, handmade sandy ware (BWFSY) vessel from the upper fill of ditch group 211.

There are no featured sherds in this group of material although all the vessels are handmade and the wall thickness varies from 5-6 mm through to 20 mm.

The use of calcareous clays in the Iron Age is a long-lived one but the fine nature of the fabrics here suggests they are most likely to belong to the middle Iron Age period rather than early Iron Age. A general absence of other wares might also exclude a later Iron Age presence but the assemblage is quite modest in size.

The main features containing this material include ditch groups 205-211, ditch 129 and pit 104.

Roman

Just three sherds of Roman date are present: a flared jar rim in a local reduced sandy ware and a black fine sandy ware (?early Roman North Wiltshire black burnished

ware) from the upper fills of Iron Age ditch 208 and a grey sandy ware from the upper fill of ditch 211 which are presumably all later intrusions.

Post-Roman
Two sherds of post-Roman date are present, a base sherd from a post-medieval glazed red-earthenware dish from tree throw 159 and a green glazed sherd from evaluation trench backfill (121).

Fired clay and other ceramic material
Some 294 fragments of fired clay weighing 69 g were recovered from 10 features and (121) backfill. Most pieces are very small with no obvious function and not datable unless by association with the pottery.

In terms of distribution particularly high concentrations of fired clay were recovered from ditch groups 208 with 57 fragments and 210 with 63 fragments and ditch 129 with 100 pieces. Small crumbs of fired clay were the only finds from pit 145.

Amongst the fired clay is a small tapered rim in a sandy fabric from ditch 208, 133 which is probably a small piece from a metal-working crucible. A small piece of slag was present amongst the pottery from pit 104.

A piece of post-medieval ceramic roofing tile was amongst the finds from the evaluation backfill (121).

Potential and retention
The excavation produced a very modest group of pottery largely dating to the later prehistoric period accompanied by a limited number of Roman and later sherds.

The complete absence of any diagnostic sherds precludes the establishment of a detailed chronology for the material but the assemblage would be typical of the middle Iron Age in this area.

No further work is recommended. Furthermore the very fragmentary state of the pottery and fired clay and the fact that, in general, far more significant contemporary assemblages have been recovered from Fairford area, suggests that there is little merit in retaining this group of material.

*Table 2. Pottery and Fired Clay*

| Cxt | Sample | Cut | Gp | Type | Fabric *F35 | Form | Wt | No | Rim | EVE | Comment | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 109 | 8 | 111 | 205 | Ditch | FC | | 0.25 | 16 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 194 | | 192 | 205 | ditch uf | LI1 | | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | X5 charcoal | IA |
| 101 | | 103 | 206 | ditch mf | LISH1 | | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 187 | | 189 | 206 | ditch uf | LISH1 | | 48 | 32 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 188 | | 189 | 206 | ditch lf | LI1 | | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | abraded | IA |
| 176 | | 174 | 207 | ditch lf | LISH1 | | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 177 | | 174 | 207 | ditch mf | LISH1 | | 21 | 14 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 89 | | 88 | 208 | ditch lf | LISH1 | | 314 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8=1 fresh break; t= 20 mm | IA |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 134 | | 133 | 208 | ditch uf | GYSY | JAR | 15 | 0 | 1 | 10 | | Roman |
| 134 | | 133 | 208 | ditch uf | LISH1 | | 15 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 134 | 3 | 133 | 208 | ditch uf | LISH1 | | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 134 | 3 | 133 | 208 | ditch uf | OO | | 0.25 | 8 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 134 | | 133 | 208 | ditch uf | FC | | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 134 | 3 | 133 | 208 | ditch uf | FC | | 5 | 34 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 136 | | 133 | 208 | ditch lf | LISH1 | | 28 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4=3 fresh break | IA |
| 136 | | 133 | 208 | ditch lf | NWILBB? | | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | early Roman? |
| 137 | 1 | 133 | 208 | ditch | LISH1 | | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 137 | 1 | 133 | 208 | ditch | OO | | 0.5 | 19 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 137 | 1 | 133 | 208 | ditch | FC | | 0.5 | 22 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 97 | | 94 | 209 | ditch lf | LISH1 | | 13 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 140 | 2 | 138 | 209 | ditch lf | FC | | 0.25 | 15 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 140 | | 138 | 209 | ditch lf | LISH2 | | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 141 | 4 | 142 | 210 | ditch lf | FC | | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 141 | 4 | 142 | 210 | ditch lf | OO | | 6 | 13 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 162 | | 142 | 210 | ditch uf | LISH2 | | 85 | 14 | 0 | 0 | from same vessel | IA |
| 154 | 5 | 155 | 210 | ditch | FC | | 0.5 | 23 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 114 | | 112 | 211 | ditch mf | FC | | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 116 | | 112 | 211 | ditch uf | BWFSY | | 19 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 10=9 fresh break; same vess | IA |
| 116 | | 112 | 211 | ditch uf | GYSY | | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2=1 fresh break | Roman |
| 152 | | 149 | 211 | ditch lf | LISH1 | | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 153 | 7 | 149 | 211 | ditch | FC | | 2 | 22 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 153 | | 149 | 211 | ditch mf | LISH1 | | 8 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 119 | | 104 | | pit | LI1 | | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | x10 mud; x1 slag | IA |
| 121 | | 0 | | eval backfill | CBM | | 36 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | Pmed/mod |
| 121 | | 0 | | eval backfill | FC | | 0.5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 121 | | 0 | | eval backfill | LISH1 | | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 121 | | 0 | | eval backfill | PMGL | | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | Pmed |
| 121 | | 0 | | eval backfill | FC | | 21 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 118 | | 104 | | pit mf | LISH1 | | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3=1 fresh break | IA |
| 118 | | 104 | | pit | FC | | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 118 | | 104 | | pit | CRUC? | | 4 | 0 | 1 | 7 | | no date |
| 128 | 6 | 129 | | ditch | LISH1 | | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | IA |
| 128 | 6 | 129 | | ditch | FC | | 4 | 100 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 146 | | 145 | | pit | FC | | 17 | 13 | 0 | 0 | | no date |
| 148 | | 147 | | pit/phole | STONE | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | oolitic | natural |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | limestone | |
| 161 | | 159 | | tree throw | PMGRE | base | 25 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | Pmed |

## 5.2 Metallurgical remains *by Roger Doonan*

### The assemblage

The assemblage of slag and ferrous objects recovered during the archaeological excavations at London Rd, Fairford, was examined visually following standard methodologies set out in the Historic England guidelines (Bayley et al. 2001). Additional information to assist with identification of material types and their significance was drawn from the datasheets produced by the Historical Metallurgy Society (http://www.hist-met.org/datasheets.html). All of the material was examined visually to determine surface morphology and, where possible, the internal texture of individual pieces of slag. This has allowed key pieces to be assigned to one of the standard slag types (e.g. Bayley et al. 2001). In some instances it was possible to identify the specific process associated with a slag fragment or suggest the conditions under which it had formed which in turn could indicate the type of processes responsible for its formation.

Some pieces of slag were too fragmentary or weathered to allow a type identification and have been classes as non-diagnostic.

All elements of the assemblage were counted, weighed, assessed for magnetic properties and screened by chemically by X-ray fluorescence analysis to identify any cases where significant levels of copper or copper alloy were presence.

The types of slag and related material identified are described in detail below accompanied by a table and a photographic record.

### Description of specimens

The assemblage comprised several categories of material with ferrous objects and metallurgical-related material being the most prominent. A total of seven ferrous objects came from six contexts. Three nails, or fragments of, came from contexts (141, 121, 187). Nails were both round (141) and square (121, 187) in section with the square section examples being indicative of hand wrought nails.

A terminal fragment of a saw blade, evidenced by the presence of a securing rivet, came from context (128). An irregular fragment of iron, most likely cast iron, came from context (153). The provisional identification as ironstone was rejected on the basis of density, metallic lustre and magnetic properties. Two fragments of ferrous plate were recovered from context (02). One showed a defined curved outline with square perforations skirting its edge. It is clearly intended to act as a fixed fitting and can be tentatively identified as a heel plate. The other fragment from context (02) is non-diagnostic.

A total of 33 fragments of metallurgical remains came from seven contexts (148, 118, 116, 114, 140, 121, 146) and included slags, fuel and vitrified ceramic.

Context (148) produced a single fragment of highly fired ceramic that had vitrified. This was indicative of a high temperature process (~1100-1200ºC) such as may be encountered in a metallurgical activity. Similar highly fired ceramic was recovered from context (118) with the addition of one surface having a slagged surface indicative of it being associated with a metallurgical activity. The slagged area was highly magnetic indicative of a high iron content. This fragment was identified as hearth lining.

A total of six pieces of slag were recovered from context (116). Two distinct forms were noted with three pieces being plate-like and three pieces being irregular nodules. It was difficult to attribute these nodules to any specific process and they are best classed as being non-diagnostic.

Seven pieces of slag were recovered from context 114 and again two forms were noted, irregular nodules and plate-like fragments. One fragment of plate-like slag was large enough for a profile to be discerned and it was identified as a possible plano-convex slag type associated with iron smithing and otherwise referred to as a smithing hearth bottom. Smithing hearth bottoms are plano-convex slags that have formed inside the hearth during the secondary working of iron. Smithing hearth bottoms are formed by the reaction between the heated and oxidised surface of the iron, residula slag inclusions, and other alkali oxides and silicates derived from the fuel, fluxes, and hearth lining. The remaining fragments were classed as non-diagnostic.

Twelve pieces of metallurgical material were recovered from context (140), one fragment was of vitrified ceramic similar to that recovered from context (148). The remaining 11 fragments were irregular slag nodules that were best understood as non-diagnostic slags.

Two pieces of sintered coke (fuel) were derived from context (121). Coke was a common fuel associated with metallurgical production in the 18-20$^{th}$ century. Its presence is not necessarily to be associated with metallurgical practice unless there are specific contextual associations or features to link this material to metallurgical practice.

A single piece of slag came from context (146). This was a plate-like fragment similar to that found in other contexts. It was not clearly diagnostic although its association with other similar fragments points towards iron smithing as they activity responsible for its formation.

**Conclusion**

The presence of a smithing hearth bottom fragment suggests the assemblage is associated with iron smithing activities. The entire assemblage of slag and vitrified

*Table 3. Metallurgical remains*

| Context | Description | Frag No | Mass (g) | Chemical analysis | Magnetic | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 148 | Vitrified ceramic | 1 | 1.4 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | No | Highly fired ceramic with evidence of vitrification on edge. Possible hearth lining. |
| 118 | Slagged ceramic, possible hearth lining | 4 | 10.9 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High (2) | |
| 116 | Three pieces of platey slag. Three irregular slag nodules | 6 | 66.4 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | Med (2) | Possible plano-convex slag |
| 114 | 3 fragments of platey slag and 4 irregular nodular slags | 7 | 101.2 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | No | Possible plano-convex slag |
| 140 | I fragment of vitrified furnace lining (40x30mm). 11 irregular slag nodules | 12 | 42.8 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | Low(3)<br>No(9) | |
| 121 | 2 fragments of sintered coal/coke | 2 | 4.1 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | No | |
| 146 | 1 fragment of platey slag | 1 | 27.2 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High | |
| 128 | Terminal fragment of ferrous saw blade with evidence of perforated fitting in terminal. L-64mm | 1 | 22.8 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High | |
| 02 | 2 fragments of ferrous plate. I fragment has rectangular perforations for attachment. Possible heel | 1 | 72.6 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | plate | | | | | |
| 153 | Ferrous fragment. Metallic most likely fragment of cast iron. | 1 | 73.4 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High | |
| 141 | Fragment of round nail | 1 | .07 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High | |
| 121 | Nail.l=29mm. Square section hand made | 1 | 2.3 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High | |
| 187 | Square section nail. 43mm | 1 | 4.1 | Ferrous<br>Cu absent | High | |

was very small (~250g), an amount that could be produced by a single episode of small scale smithing. It cannot therefore be considered as a significant deposit nor iron smithing be considered an activity well represented in the excavated remains. It is probably best understood as material that is derived from iron smithing located in the general area of the excavation and where odd fragments have strayed into the excavated area. All material was analysed for the presence of copper to explore whether non-ferrous metallurgy was practised alongside ferrous metallurgy. There was no evidence to suggest that non-ferrous metals, namely copper alloy, was worked alongside iron.

The ferrous objects are similarly not extensive although the fragment of saw fragment may point towards craft production of some form taking place in the area. Nails and fittings are best understood as being derived from personal and everyday objects and are not to be associated with the smithing activities indicated by the presence of slag.

## 5.3 Animal Remains *by Rebecca Gordon*

Methodology

The London Road, Fairford animal bone assemblage was recorded using an 'all fragments' method. Bones that could not be identified to species were recorded to their nearest size category (large or medium mammal). Associated bone groups (ABGs) were recorded as one bone fragment. The eruption and subsequent wear of mandibular teeth were recorded following the methods outlined in Grant (1982) and Hambleton (1999). Bone preservation was recorded for identifiable post-cranial bones using Harland et al. (2003), and measurements were taken following von den Driesch (1976).

The Assemblage

A total of 77 animal bone fragments were recovered from London Road, Fairford, six of which could be identified to species (Table 4). No identifiable bones were recovered from the samples. Bone preservation was 'fair', and butchery and gnawing

evidence was absent. A small number of bones exhibited fresh breaks, and unidentifiable burnt/calcined fragments were observed in the hand-collected (n=6) and sieved samples (n=34).

*Table 4: Condition and taphonomic modifications on hand collected bones*

| **Preservation** | |
|---|---|
| Good | 0 |
| Fair | 3 |
| Poor | 1 |
| Total | 4 |
| Gnawing | 0 |
| Butchery | 0 |
| Loose teeth* | 3 |
| Teeth in mandibles* | 0 |
| Refit | 4=16 |
| Fresh break | 4 |
| *cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse juvenile and adult premolars and molars. Count show post-cranial bones only, except for teeth | |

Identifiable bones were cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), horse/donkey (*Equus* sp.) and one medium-size bird phalanx (Table 5). Ditch fill 118 had the largest concentration of bones, including 21 fragments from a sheep/goat ABG. The bones included the forelimbs, hindlimbs, vertebrae and jaw. The fusion and the tooth wear data suggest the animal was between 1-2 years of age at the time of death.

*Table 5: Species representation (NISP) of bones (Hand-collected only). *ABGs were recorded as 1*

| **Taxon** | |
|---|---|
| Cattle | 3 |
| Sheep/goat* | 1 |
| Horse/donkey | 1 |
| Bird | 1 |
| Total Identifiable | 6 |
| Unidentifiable Large Mammal | 16 |
| Unidentifiable Medium Mammal | 55 |
| Total Unidentifiable | 71 |

## 5.4 Palaeo-environmental Remains *by Luke Parker*

Introduction

Palaeoenvironmental analysis was undertaken on organic material recovered from bulk sediment samples from nine archaeological contexts. These contexts were primarily ditches, and provisionally dated to the Iron Age based on pottery finds. Two pit contexts were also sampled.

Methods

Botanical macrofossil identification was undertaken using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). Botanical macrofossil identification utilised plates and guides from Martin and Barkley (2000) and Cappers *et al.* (2006), as well as comparison with a modern reference collection. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Cereal identification utilised the guide by Jacomet (2006). Identifiable charcoal fragments were fractured to obtain clean sections on the tangential, transverse, and radial planes. These could then be identified using a high-power Leica GXML3030 binocular microscope (up to x600). Species identification was undertaken using plates and guides from Scoch *et al.* (2004).

Results

Palaeoenvironmental assemblages recovered from archaeological bulk samples were limited and generally restricted to small (<2mm) fragments of charcoal, with limited numbers of larger fragments of between 2-10mm size. These fragments were mostly unidentifiable, due to their extensive fragmentation. However, deposit (137) in ditch 133 contained a charcoal assemblage with identifiable fragments; as did the fill (128) of ditch 129. Table 6 presents the results of charcoal identifications.

*Table 6. Identified charcoal fragments*

| Context | Sample | Fragment | Fragment Size (mm) | Species | Ring Curvature | Vitrification | Radial cracks | Narrow Rings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 128 | 6 | 1 | 8 | Birch (*Betula sp.*) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 128 | 6 | 2 | 6 | Maloideae | 0 | N | N | Y |
| 128 | 6 | 3 | 6 | Birch (*Betula sp.*) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 1 | 18 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 2 | 14 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 3 | 12 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 4 | 8 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 5 | 8 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 6 | 10 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 7 | 14 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 8 | 6 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 9 | 10 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |
| 137 | 1 | 10 | 10 | Oak (Quercus sp.) | 0 | N | N | N |

The three fragments which could be identified from fill (128) of ditch 129 were birch (Betula sp.) and the apple sub-family (Maloideae). The two identifications of the former were based a combination of small clustered pores on the transverse plane, tri-

seriate ray widths on the tangential plane, and (most characteristically) extremely small ray-vessel pits on the radial section. The Maloideae fragment was identified by the numerous, small pores on the transverse plane alongside tri- and bi-seriate ray widths on the tangential plane.

All charcoal fragments identified from deposit (137) in ditch 133 were oak (Quercus sp.). Large, multiseriate rays were clearly visible on the tangential and transverse planes, alongside distinct ring-porosity on the transverse plane. Charcoal fragments from this context which were not identified to the species level are also likely to be oak due to the presence of extensive characteristic radial fracturing.

The charcoal within all contexts was extensively fragmented and very smooth and rounded, indicating that it had been heavily worn and abraded. Similarly, what few archaeobotanical remains were recovered were also heavily eroded and/or fragmented. This is likely due to transportation processes and indicates that the charred remains within these contexts are unlikely to be the result of primary deposition. The charcoal from deposit (137) in ditch 133 was the exception with fragments notably less eroded than in other samples.

Table 7 below displays the recovered archaeobotanical remains from palaeoenvironmental remains.

Charred archaeobotanical remains were very limited. Of the nine sampled contexts, only four contained charred archaeobotanical remains. Two wheat grains were recovered from the fill (128) of ditch 129 which displayed angular profiles indicative of hulled wheat varieties (Triticum spelta/dicoccum). It was not possible to distinguish these as either spelt (Triticum spelta) or emmer (Triticum dicoccum). Single cereal grains in poor condition were recovered from the upper fill of ditch 133 and deposit (137) from ditch 133 which were possibly wheat (c.f. Triticum sp.). Two non-cereal seeds were recovered from archaeological contexts. The first was a possible bed straw (c.f. Galium sp.) from the fill (128) of ditch 129. The second was a seed capsule which displayed the drum-like shape and ribbing suggestive of wild raddish (c.f. Rhamnus raphanistrum), however the poor condition of the seed precluded this being a confident identification.

The charcoal fragments from deposit (137) from ditch 133 were all identified as oak, which may indicate a single instance of burning in which oak was used as fuel. It is probable that oak heartwood was used, rather than twig or branch roundwood, as shown by the lack of observable ring curvature. However, in the absence of observable tyloses this cannot be confirmed. Beyond this, there is relatively little that the recovered organic remains can add towards further archaeological interpretations. The very poor preservation of recovered material, particularly in the form of high degrees of erosion, demonstrates a high likelihood for residuality and so when coupled with the limited quantity of material there is little further which can be determined.

*Table 7. Recovered archaeobotanical remains from archaeological contexts.*

| Sample No. | | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Context No. | 119 | 128 | 134 | 137 | 140 | 153 | 154 | 169 | 141 |
| Context Description | Upper fill of pit [104] | Fill of ditch [129] | Upper fill of ditch [133] | Deposit in ditch [133] | Lower fill of ditch [138] | Middle fill of ditch [149] | Fill of ditch [155] | Upper fill of pit [167] | Lower fill of ditch [142] |
| Charred assemblage description | Three medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of 60% small (>2mm) and 40% medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of 80% small (>2mm) and 20% medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of 50% small (>2mm), 40% medium (2-10mm), and 10% large (>10mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of small (>2mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of small (>2mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of 90% small (>2mm) and 10% medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of small (>2mm) charcoal fragments | Composed of 90% small (>2mm) and 10% medium (2-10mm) charcoal fragments |
| **Cereals** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hulled wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) grain | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| c.f. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| **Non-Cereals** | | | | | | | | | |
| c.f. Bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| c.f. Wild radish (*Rhamnus raphanistrum*) | | | | 1 | | | | | |

## DISCUSSION

Significant archaeological features were located in the south-east of the excavation site and consisted of curvilinear ditches, which may have formed enclosures, and boundary ditches and a ring-gully to the east of these features. The majority of features were broadly dated by the pottery from their fills to the Iron Age, and possibly of middle Iron Age. However, the absence of any diagnostic sherds precludes the establishment of a detailed chronology for the material, and thus the features. The chronology of the features was therefore based on their stratigraphic relationships. Archaeological features had been identified during the evaluation (GCCAS 2004) but these had been undated due to a lack of finds. The evaluation excavations, however, had truncated these features by 0.2m to 0.3m and it is possible that finds located in the upper fills had already been removed by the machine when hand excavation took place. This may in part explain the lack of dating material recovered during the evaluation, although finds were recovered from Ditch 211 during the excavation from ditch fills that were below the lower limit of the evaluation truncation.

The truncation by the previous evaluation also created difficulty with establishing an accurate stratigraphic chronology for the site. Ditches 205 and 206 appeared to form boundaries across the northern edge of the area of concentrated archaeology and may have demarcated enclosures. Ditch 205 had cut an earlier gully 129, which was roughly on the same east-west alignment. The gully 129, however, was absent from the evaluation results and had likely been removed entirely in plan, given the shallow nature of the gully.

Ditch 211 had also been greatly truncated by the evaluation. This had reduced the depth of the feature, but had also greatly reduced the width of the feature resulting in a much narrower feature being recorded in plan during the evaluation than what had actually survived beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. Ditch 211 had been recorded as context 1410 during the evaluation and this had been interpreted as cutting Pit 1406. Pit 1406 had cut an earlier Pit 1408 which was the same as undated Pit 131 identified during the excavation.

The continuation of Ditch 211 towards the west is uncertain. It is possible that it continued as Ditch 206, however, difficulty in aligning the evaluation plan accurately with the more recent excavation plan locations, made this interpretation difficult. This was exacerbated by the distortion in plan created by the truncation of these features during the evaluation.

The irregular shape of Pit 1406 as recorded in the evaluation could indicate that the straight north-western edge of the pit is actually the continuation of Ditch 206, although no such relationship is indicated in the evaluation results. Further excavation to establish these relationships, however, was not considered useful because the truncation of the features and the position of previous investigatory excavations would have limited the area of unexcavated material where a relationship might be possible to establish.

Pit 107 may have been a continuation of Pit 1406. Pit 1406, however, had been interpreted as having been cut by Ditch 211. During the excavation there was no evidence that Pit 107 was cut by an east-west orientated ditch and it is possible that

Pit 107 is the northern terminus to Ditch 211, as no pit was recorded as cutting this ditch in the evaluation results. It was not possible to establish a relationship between Pit 107 and Ditch 206 because of the shallowness of their cuts at the point of relationship and the similarity of the fills.

Ditch 207 was a NNE-SSW orientated Iron Age ditch, which had cut undated Pit 107 at its NNE terminus. If Pit 107 is interpreted as the terminus Ditch 211 then it would provide some chronology for the relationship of those two ditches.

A very small number of pits and postholes were identified in the south-east of the site and were mostly undated. Pit 104 was the exception and was dated to the Iron Age. This had been cut into the eastern edge of Ditch 211.

In the far south-east corner were two intercutting parallel ditches orientated north-east to south-west. The earlier ditch to the south was dated to the Iron Age, the later ditch which cut it to the north did contain a fragment of possible Roman pottery in the lower fill but given the preponderance of Iron Age material from this ditch it is likely to be intrusive or Iron Age. A rim from a Roman jar was found in the upper fill of the ditch but again may be intrusive.

An Iron Age ring-gulley was identified on the far east of the excavation area and continued beyond the eastern limit of excavation. It is possibly that this is an eaves-drip-gully for a roundhouse though no evidence for a structure had survived.

The presence of evidence for Iron Age activity on this part of the site is not unexpected given the close proximity of Iron Age find-spots to the east of the site and the evidence for Iron Age activity in the wider area. The area is highly disturbed by dumping activity in the far east of the site but it is possible that the continuation of these features survive further east beyond the site boundary.

Towards the south the continuation of this activity would have been removed by quarrying in the 20$^{th}$ century and so the extent this activity to the south is unknown, though it could be conjectured that it would have been continuous with settlement activity represented by cropmark features further to the south of the area of the modern, manmade lakes.

Aside from pottery the site produced a number of fragments of metal slag and given the presence of a fragment of crucible recovered from Pit 104 would indicate that metal production had taken place near to the site. Due to the small quantity of this material it considered that iron smithing was located in the general area but not on the site of the excavated area. It is possible that this activity may have taken place in the area of the modern lake and the remains of this activity had been removed by the quarrying which created that lake.

Aside from a couple of modern pits, features identified to the west of the site were either natural features, misidentified during the evaluation or undated pits. There was nothing to indicate the continuation of Iron Age activity to the west.

In the centre of the site extending from north to south from the northern limit of excavation to the southern limit was an undated ditch. The ditch is on the same

alignment as extant hedgerow boundaries which are also present on 18th century maps of the area. It is possible that this ditch marked an earlier subdivision of these plots.

## 7 ARCHIVE

**Archive Contents**
The archive consists of the following:

| Paper record | Physical record |
|---|---|
| The project brief | Finds |
| Written scheme of investigation | Environmental remains |
| The project report | |
| The primary site record | |

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Corinium Museum.

## 8 PUBLICATION

A brief note on the circumstances and nature of the project will be provided for publication as an entry in the annual archaeological review included in the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

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# Summary for johnmoor1-502788

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| OASIS ID (UID) | johnmoor1-502788 |
| Project Name | LAND ADJACENT TO LAKES 103, 103A AND 104, COTSWOLD WATERPARK, LONDON ROAD FAIRFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE |
| Activity type | Excavation |
| Project Identifier(s) | FALR 21, 4427 |
| Planning Id | 09/00882/OUT |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning requirement |
| Organisation Responsible for work | John Moore Heritage Services |
| Project Dates | 02-Mar-2021 - 06-Apr-2021 |
| Location | London Road, Fairford<br>NGR : SP 16921 00723<br>LL : 51.7049947043104, -1.75653273170467<br>12 Fig : 416921,200723 |
| Administrative Areas | Country : England<br>County : Gloucestershire<br>District : Cotswold<br>Parish : Fairford |

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| Project Methodology | The site area was laid out using GPS. An area to the south of the site which was the route of a public right-of-way was excluded from the excavations with a decision to be made on the necessity for further work in this area to be decided following the results of the excavation of the rest of the site. The archaeological investigation involved the stripping of topsoil and subsoil across the site using a 13t mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of the Archaeological Project Officer. The stripping was organised so that there would be no vehicle movement over stripped areas until that had been signed-off by SAOGCC. Stripping ceased at the level of archaeological deposits or natural geology.<br><br>Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. The location of the previous evaluation trenches within the site were also located and a selection of features were re-examined to determine the nature of those features and to recover dating material. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced. A GPS plan of the site was produced which also included the location of section drawings and detailed plans.<br><br>Paleo-environmental bulk samples were taken from a selection of suitable deposits.<br><br>The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to Iron Age and Roman periods. |

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|---|---|
| Project Results | Significant archaeological features were located in the south-east of the excavation site and consisted of curvilinear ditches, which may have formed enclosures, and boundary ditches and a ring-gully to the east of these features. The majority of Archaeological features had been identified during the evaluation (GCCAS 2004) but these had been undated due to a lack of finds. The evaluation excavations, however, had truncated these features by 0.2m to 0.3m and it is possible that finds located in the upper fills had already been removed by the machine when hand excavation took place. This may in part may explain the lack of dating material recovered during the evaluation, although finds were recovered from Ditch 211 during the excavation from ditch fills that were below the lower limit of the evaluation truncation.<br><br>The truncation by the previous evaluation also created difficulty with establishing an accurate stratigraphic chronology for the site. Ditches 205 and 206 appeared to form boundaries across the northern edge of the area of concentrated archaeology and may have demarcated enclosures. Ditch 205 had cut an earlier gully 129, which was roughly on the same east-west alignment. The gully 129, however, was absent from the evaluation results and had likely been removed entirely in plan, given the shallow nature of the gully.<br><br>Ditch 211 had also been greatly truncated by the evaluation. This had reduced the depth of the feature, but had also greatly reduced the width of the feature resulting in a much narrower feature being recorded in plan during the evaluation than what had actually survived beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. Ditch 211 had been recorded as context 1410 during the evaluation and this had been interpreted as cutting Pit 1406. Pit 1406 had cut an earlier Pit 1408 which was the same as undated Pit 131 identified during the excavation.<br><br>The continuation of Ditch 211 towards the west is uncertain. It is possible that it continued as Ditch 206, however, difficulty in aligning the evaluation plan accurately with the |

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| | more recent excavation plan locations, made this interpretation difficult. This was exacerbated by the distortion in plan created by the truncation of these features during the evaluation.<br><br>The irregular shape of Pit 1406 as recorded in the evaluation could indicate that the straight north-western edge of the pit is actually the continuation of Ditch 206, although no such relationship is indicated in the evaluation results. Further excavation to establish these relationships, however, was not considered useful because the truncation of the features and the position of previous investigatory excavations would have limited the area of unexcavated material where a relationship might be possible to establish.<br><br>Pit 107 may have been a continuation of Pit 1406. Pit 1406, however, had been interpreted as having been cut by Ditch 211. During the excavation there was no evidence that Pit 107 was cut by an east-west orientated ditch and it is possible that Pit 107 is the northern terminus to Ditch 211, as no pit was recorded as cutting this ditch in the evaluation results. It was not possible to establish a relationship between Pit 107 and Ditch 206 because of the shallowness of their cuts at the point of relationship and the similarity of the fills.<br><br>Ditch 207 was a NNE-SSW orientated Iron Age ditch, which had cut undated Pit 107<br>At its NNE terminus. If Pit 107 is interpreted as the terminus Ditch 211 then it would provide some chronology for the relationship of those two ditches.<br><br>A very small number of pits and postholes were identified in the south-east of the site and were mostly undated. Pit 104 was the exception and was dated to the Iron Age. This had been cut into the eastern edge of Ditch 211.<br><br>In the far south-east corner were two intercutting parallel ditches orientated north-east to south-west. The earlier ditch to the south was dated to the Iron Age the later ditch which cut it to the north did contain a fragment of possible Roman pottery in the lower fill but given the preponderance of Iron |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Age material from this ditch it is likely to be intrusive or Iron Age. A rim from a Roman jar was found in the upper fill of the ditch but again may be intrusive.<br><br>An Iron Age ring-gulley was identified on the far east of the excavation area and continued beyond the eastern limit of excavation. It is possibly that this is an eaves-drip-gully for a roundhouse though no evidence for a structure had survived.<br><br>The presence of evidence for Iron Age activity on this part of the site is not unexpected given the close proximity of Iron Age find-spots to the east of the site and the evidence for Iron Age activity in the wider area. The area is highly disturbed by dumping activity in the far east of the site but it is possible that the continuation of these features survive further east beyond the site boundary.<br><br>Towards the south the continuation of this activity would have been removed by quarrying in the 20th century and so the extent this activity to the south is unknown, though it could be conjectured that it would have been continuous with settlement activity represented by cropmark features further to the south of the area of the modern, manmade lakes.<br><br>Aside from pottery the site produced a number of fragments of metal slag and given the presence of a fragment of crucible recovered form Pit 104 would indicate that metal production had taken place near to the site. Due to the small quantity of this material it considered that iron smithing was located in the general area but not on the site of the excavated area. It is possible that this activity may have taken place in the area of the modern lake and the remains of this activity had been removed by the quarrying which created that lake.<br><br>Aside from a couple of modern pits, features identified to the west of the site were either natural features, misidentified during the evaluation or undated pits. There was nothing to indicate the continuation Iron Age activity to the west.<br><br>In the centre of the site extending from north to south from the northern limit |

| | |
|---|---|
| | of excavation to the southern limit was an undated ditch. The ditch is on the same alignment as extant hedgerow boundaries which are also present on 18th century maps of the area. It is possible that this ditch marked an earlier subdivision of these plots. |
| Keywords | Ditch - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Boundary Ditch - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Post Hole - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Gully - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Sherd - IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus<br>Rim Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus<br>Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus<br>Quarry - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Animal Remains - IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus |
| HER | City of Gloucester and Gloucestershire HER - noRev - LITE |
| HER Identfiers | |
| Archives | Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Corinium Museum<br>Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive |