

Land East of Brackmills Northampton



Archaeological Evaluation Report



February 2014

Client: CgMs

Issue No: 1

OA Job No: 5824

NGR: SP 7880 5890



Client Name: CgMs Consulting
Client Ref No:
Document Title: Land East of Brackmills, Northampton
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: SP 7880 5890
Planning Reference:
OA Job Number: 5824
Site Code: GHBP 13
Invoice Code: GHBPEV
Receiving Museum: n/a
Museum Accession No:
Event No:

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
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Document File Location projects\b\Brackmills\002Reports
Graphics File Location \\Samba-1\invoice codes a thru h\G_invoice codes\GHBPEV
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Land East of Brackmills, Northampton

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Table of Contents

Summary.....	4
1 Introduction.....	5
1.1 Project details.....	5
1.2 Geology and topography.....	5
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	5
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	6
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....	7
2.1 General Aims.....	7
2.2 Specific aims and objectives.....	7
2.3 Methodology.....	7
3 Results.....	9
3.1 Introduction.....	9
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	9
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	9
3.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 3).....	9
3.5 Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 7).....	9
3.6 Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 8).....	9
3.7 Trench 11 (Figs 4 and 9).....	10
3.8 Trench 15 (Figs 4 and 10).....	10
3.9 Trench 16 (Figs 4 and 11).....	11
3.10 Trench 17 (Figs 4 and 12).....	11
3.11 Trench 18 (Figs 5 and 13).....	12



3.12 Trench 19 (Figs 5, 14, 15 and 16).....	12
3.13 Trench 20 (Figs 4 and 17).....	13
3.14 Trench 25 (Figs 6 and 18).....	13
3.15 Finds summary.....	14
4 Discussion.....	15
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	15
4.2 Evaluation results in relation to the project objectives	15
4.3 Interpretation.....	15
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	17
Appendix B. Finds Reports.....	36
B.1 Pottery.....	36
B.2 Fired clay.....	39
B.3 Iron.....	40
B.4 Clay pipe.....	41
B.5 Animal bone.....	41
Appendix C. Environmental Reports.....	44
C.1 Environmental samples.....	44
Appendix D. Bibliography and References.....	47
Appendix E. Summary of Site Details.....	48

**List of Figures**

- Fig. 1 Site location plan
Fig. 2 Trenches and geophysical anomalies
Fig. 3 Plan of Trenches 4, 8, 9 and 12
Fig. 4 Plan of Trenches 11, 15, 16, 17 and 20
Fig. 5 Plan of Trenches 18 and 19
Fig. 6 Plan of Trench 25
Fig. 7 Trench 8, sections
Fig. 8 Trench 9, section
Fig. 9 Trench 11, sections
Fig. 10 Trench 15, sections
Fig. 11 Trench 16, sections
Fig. 12 Trench 17, sections
Fig. 13 Trench 18, sections
Fig. 14 Trench 19, sections
Fig. 15 Trench 19, sections
Fig. 16 Trench 19, sections
Fig. 17 Trench 20, section
Fig. 18 Trench 25, sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 11: ditches 1114 and 1116, looking north
Plate 2 Trench 11: ditch 1118, looking north
Plate 3 Trench 15: ditch 1508, looking south
Plate 4 Trench 15: ditch 1510, looking north
Plate 5 Trench 15: ditch 1516, looking north
Plate 6 Trench 16: ditches 1615, 1617 and 1619 looking north-west
Plate 7 Trench 17: pit 1703, looking north
Plate 8 Trench 17: ditches 1718 and 1720, looking south-east
Plate 9 Trench 18: pit 1809, looking north-east
Plate 10 Trench 18: wall 1814, looking north
Plate 11 Trench 19: ditch 1915, looking east
Plate 12 Trench 19: ditches 1918, 1920 and 1923 looking north-west
Plate 13 Trench 19: ditches 1926, 1929, 1931 and 1937, looking north-west
Plate 14 Trench 20: pit 2004, looking south-west



Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an evaluation of a site known as Land East of Brackmills, Northampton (centred on SP 7880 5890).

The work was undertaken between 6th and 23rd January 2014. A total of 28 trenches were excavated across the site.

Archaeological remains dating to the middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman periods were recorded. In addition, evidence for medieval ridge and furrow agriculture was present across the site.

Evidence of settlement dating to the middle Iron Age was found in the higher, southern part of the site. A series of small sub-circular enclosures, recorded as geophysical anomalies, appear to date from this period. In addition, further pits and ditches containing Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fragments of oven or hearth furniture were present.

Settlement activity appears to continue into the late Iron Age/early Roman period, again focused on the high ground overlooking the River Nene. The activity continues into the Roman period proper, with some evidence that it became more extensive in the late Roman period. A length of stone-built wall footing was present in one of the trenches and is almost certainly Roman in date. Whether this formed part of a building or some other structure was not clear.

Extensive earthworks, the remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture, are present across the site. The presence of late medieval pottery in a layer adjacent to an existing pond on the eastern boundary of the site may suggest that the pond formed part of the medieval landscape.

Possible evidence of small-scale post-medieval quarrying was present at the southern edge of the site where a layer of sandy silt containing frequent stone fragments was recorded. It is noticeable that evidence of ridge and furrow, either as earthworks or as geophysical anomalies, is absent from this area, having, perhaps, been destroyed by quarrying.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an evaluation of a site known as Land East of Brackmills, Northampton (centred on SP 7880 5890).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with Lesley-Ann Mather, the Planning Archaeologist for Northamptonshire County Council, established the scope of work required. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2013) was subsequently submitted to, and approved by, Lesley-Ann Mather.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (revised 2008) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the east of the Brackmills Industrial Estate and the west of the village of Great Houghton (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of pasture land with extant ridge and furrow earthworks across the site. The site has a relatively flat area to the south-east, forming a small plateau at about 71m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The land then slopes moderately steeply down to approximately 58m aOD.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is the Whitby Mudstone Formation, although ironstone of the Northampton Sand Formation may occupy areas at its south-eastern extent (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within a wider area of known prehistoric, Roman and later activity. Fieldwalking c 500m to the south of the site in 1990, prior to the extension of the Brackmills estate, produced prehistoric worked flint, Iron Age and Roman and medieval pottery but did not identify any specific settlement evidence (Shaw 1990).
- 1.3.2 Approximately 1km to the south-west of the site, an extensive Iron Age settlement and part of a Saxon cemetery were excavated prior to the installation of a water pipeline. A possible Roman ditch or pit was located during a watching brief undertaken immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the site (HER 5043/0/1). Within the site, previous geophysical survey has identified curvilinear anomalies which may be of archaeological origin (Wessex Archaeology 1996).
- 1.3.3 A recent geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013) identified a large number of clear, positive anomalies of archaeological origin (Fig. 2). These include linear, curvi-linear and circular features, concentrated in the southern and central sections of the survey area. There are also a number of linear anomalies, possibly indicating cut features and negative linear features indicative of banks or earthworks. The character of these anomalies suggests the presence of surviving remains relating to a focus of former Romano-British settlement.
- 1.3.4 Ridge and furrow ploughing is also present across the whole site, as well as pipes/services, areas of magnetic disturbance and areas of natural geological variation.



1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Steve Weaver, of CgMs, acted as archaeological consultant for the project. Lesley-Ann Mather, the Planning Archaeologist for Northamptonshire County Council, monitored the work.
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was conducted by Vix Hughes assisted by Mariusz Gorniak, John Tierney, Ian Cook, Ben McAndrew and Victoria Green. The report was written by Vix Hughes. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ken Welsh.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were:

- (i) To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- (ii) To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- (iii) To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- (iv) To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- (v) To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- (vi) To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Northamptonshire HER.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (vii) To investigate and characterise various anomalies identified through geophysical survey that may represent archaeological features;
- (viii) To examine areas identified by the geophysical survey as being blank;
- (ix) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (x) Relate any discoveries to known period evidence and any relevant information in national (English Heritage 1991 and 1998) and regional (Cooper 2006 and Knight *et al* 2012) research agendas.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 An array of 28 trenches, each 50m x 2m, was excavated across the site (Fig. 2). The trenches were positioned in order to avoid known services and to investigate geophysical anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey. Trenches were also located in blank areas where no geophysical anomalies were recorded.

2.3.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation proposed the excavation of a further three trenches (Trench 1, 10 and 31). Trenches 1 and 10 could not be excavated due to ecological constraints and Trench 31 could not be excavated due to access restrictions.

2.3.3 Several trenches, namely Trenches 2, 3, 17, 18, 21 and 29, were relocated from their proposed positions to avoid water monitoring boreholes, standing water and ecological constraints.

2.3.4 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with standard OAS practices (Wilkinson 1992).

2.3.5 Site specific methodologies was as follows:

- (i) Each trench was excavated using an appropriate mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from trench edges. Topsoil and subsoil were stored in separately.



- (ii) Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of machine.
- (iii) The exposed surface were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or of each feature or deposit type, for example pits, postholes, and ditches, was excavated and recorded.
- (iv) Excavation slots were at least 1m in width.
- (v) Following recording, trenches were backfilled with excavated material in reverse order of excavation, and compacted as far as was practicable with the mechanical excavator.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with a summary of the trench results, followed by a description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. Full details are contained within Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The underlying geology varied across the site and was partly dependant on whether the trenches were located at the top or bottom of the slope in the field. Archaeological features were all cut into the underlying natural geological deposits. Subsoil was present in all of the trenches and, unless otherwise stated below, overlay the archaeological remains.

3.2.2 Extant earthworks, the remains of medieval ridge and furrow, were present across the site. The orientation and extent of ridge and furrow is clearly recorded in the geophysical survey (Figure 2). In the following trench descriptions, below ground evidence of ridge and furrow is only noted where it had an impact upon the level at which earlier archaeological remains survived.

3.2.3 The ground conditions were very wet and several trenches flooded, either partially or entirely, following excavation.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 A total of 11 of the 28 trenches (Trenches 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 25) contained significant features of late prehistoric to Roman date.

3.3.2 The remaining trenches contained no features other than furrows, field drains or features of natural geological origin.

3.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

3.4.1 The trench contained a dark silty deposit, layer 403, filling a shallow hollow. The layer was sealed by the subsoil and overlay the natural geological deposits. A single sherd of Iron Age or Roman pottery was recovered from the layer.

3.5 Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 7)

3.5.1 The trench contained two ditches, 804 and 806, that approximately corresponded to the locations of geophysical anomalies of probable archaeological origin. The ditches were overlain by a subsoil, 802, which was overlain by a former ploughsoil, 801, which was, in turn, overlain by the topsoil, 800.

3.5.2 Ditch 804 was aligned north-south and contained three fills (808, 807 and 803). A fragment of animal bone was recovered from fill 803.

3.5.3 Ditch 806 was aligned NW-SE and contained fill 805 which produced no artefactual material.

3.6 Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 8)

3.6.1 The trench contained a single ditch (903) that approximately corresponded to a geophysical anomaly. The ditch was overlain by a subsoil, 901, which was, in turn, overlain by the topsoil, 900.

3.6.2 Ditch 903 was aligned NE-SW and contained three fills (906, 905 and 904). None of the fills contained any artefactual material.



3.7 Trench 11 (Figs 4 and 9)

- 3.7.1 The trench contained eight features comprising seven ditches (1104, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1114, 1116 and 1118) and a pit or ditch terminus (1111).
- 3.7.2 The features were overlain by a subsoil (1101) which contained two sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. The subsoil was, in turn, overlain by the topsoil (1100).
- 3.7.3 Ditch 1104 was aligned NW-SE and contained a single fill (1103) which produced no artefactual material. It approximately corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.7.4 Ditch 1105 was aligned NW-SE and contained a single fill (1106) which produced three sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone.
- 3.7.5 Ditch 1107, aligned NW-SE, contained a single fill, 1108, which produced 18 sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.7.6 Ditch 1109, was aligned north-south and contained a single fill, 1110, which produced three sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.7.7 Pit or ditch terminus 1111 contained a single fill, 1112, which produced a sherd of Iron Age or Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone
- 3.7.8 Ditch 1114, aligned north-south, contained a single fill, 1113, which produced a sherd of Iron Age or Roman pottery and a fragment of animal bone.
- 3.7.9 Ditch 1116, aligned north-south, contained a single fill, 1115, which produced two sherds of Iron Age or Roman pottery and a fragment of animal bone. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.7.10 Ditch terminus 1118 (Plate 2), aligned north-south, contained a single fill, 1117, which produced four sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.

3.8 Trench 15 (Figs 4 and 10)

- 3.8.1 This trench contained seven features comprising three pits (1506, 1508 and 1514) and four ditches (1504, 1510, 1512 and 1516).
- 3.8.2 The features were overlain by a subsoil (1501) and the topsoil (1500).
- 3.8.3 Ditch 1504, aligned NE-SW, contained two fills (1517 and 1503), neither of which produced any artefactual material. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.8.4 Pit 1506 was sub-rectangular in plan. Its fill, 1505, produced a sherd of Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone. It was cut through the subsoil (1501) and so it is likely that the pottery is residual.
- 3.8.5 Pit 1508 (Plate 3) contained four fills (1520, 1507, 1519 and 1518). Fill 1507 produced four sherds of pottery dating to the late Roman period as well as fragments of animal bone. The location of the pit corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.8.6 Ditch 1510 (Plate 4) was aligned NE-SW and contained two fills (1509 and 1511). Fill 1509 produced seven sherds of mid-late Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone. A soil sample from fill 1509 contained wheat chaff and grains along with oat/brome grains.
- 3.8.7 Ditch 1512 (Plate 5) was aligned NW-SE and contained a single fill (1511) which produced two sherds of Roman pottery. It was cut by ditch 1516.
- 3.8.8 Pit 1514 was 0.6m in diameter. The single fill (1513) contained no artefactual material.



3.8.9 Ditch 1516 (Plate 5) was aligned NE-SW and contained three fills (1523, 1522 and 1515). Fill 1515 contained five sherds of late Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone. The ditch approximately corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.

3.9 Trench 16 (Figs 4 and 11)

3.9.1 This trench contained four furrows (1603, 1605, 1609 and 1613), three intercutting ditches (1615, 1617 and 1619), a pit (1607) and a possible pit or tree-throw hole (1611).

3.9.2 The features were overlain by a subsoil (1601) and the topsoil (1600).

3.9.3 Pit 1607, 0.76m across, extended beyond the trench limits. The single fill (1608) contained no artefactual material.

3.9.4 Feature 1611, was an irregular, shallow oval feature which was either a pit or a tree-throw hole. The single fill (1612) contained no artefactual material.

3.9.5 The three intercutting ditches were all aligned NW-SE (Plate 6) and corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.

3.9.6 Ditch 1615 contained fill 1616 which produced fragments of animal bone. It was cut by ditch 1617.

3.9.7 Ditch 1617 had a single fill (1618) which contained no artefactual material. It was cut by ditch 1619.

3.9.8 Ditch 1619 had a single fill (1620) which contained no artefactual material.

3.10 Trench 17 (Figs 4 and 12)

3.10.1 This trench contained two pits (1703 and 1714) and seven ditches (1706, 1708, 1710, 1712, 1716, 1718 and 1720). A number of geophysical anomalies were recorded in this area but there was poor correspondence between the anomalies and the recorded features.

3.10.2 The features were overlain by a subsoil (1701) and the topsoil (1700).

3.10.3 Pit 1703 (Plate 7) was 1.2m in diameter and contained two fills (1705 and 1704). Both the lower fill (1705) and the upper fill (1704) contained a significant quantity of middle Iron Age pottery (31 and 98 sherds respectively) as well as fragments of animal bone. In addition, the lower fill contained fired clay and fire-cracked cobbles. Soil samples were taken from both fills. The sample from fill 1704 produced only charcoal but the sample from fill 1705 also contained a small number of charred wheat grains and a glume base.

3.10.4 Ditch 1706 was aligned east-west and contained a single fill, 1707, which produced six sherds of probable middle Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone.

3.10.5 Ditch 1708, parallel to ditch 1706, had a single fill (1709) which did not produce any artefactual material.

3.10.6 Ditch 1710 was a curvilinear ditch. The single fill (1711) contained no artefactual material.

3.10.7 Ditch 1712, aligned NE-SW, contained a single fill, 1713, which produced no artefactual material.

3.10.8 Ditch terminus 1716 was aligned NW-SE and contained a single fill (1717) which produced fragments of animal bone. The ditch was cut by pit 1714.

3.10.9 Pit 1714 was 1.8m across and its fill (1715) contained fragments of animal bone.

3.10.10 Ditch 1720 (Plate 8), aligned east-west, contained fill 1721 which produced 11 sherds of early Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly. It was cut by ditch 1718.



3.10.11 Ditch 1718 (Plate 8), aligned NW-SE, contained fill 1719 which produced 82 sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, fired clay and a considerable quantity of animal bone. A soil sample from fill 1719 contained a small number of poorly-preserved cereal grains, some of which were probably wheat.

3.11 Trench 18 (Figs 5 and 13)

3.11.1 This trench contained two pits (1806 and 1809), two ditches (1804 and 1811=1815) and a wall (1814) with associated rubble spread (1817). A number of geophysical anomalies were recorded in this area and there was limited correspondence between the anomalies and the recorded features.

3.11.2 The features were overlain by a subsoil (1802) or layer 1801 and the topsoil (1800). Layer 1801 was a pale greyish yellow sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stones, perhaps derived from nearby quarrying. Certainly, the ridge and furrow earthworks, present across most of the field, were disturbed in this area.

3.11.3 Ditch 1804 was aligned east-west and contained a single fill (1805) which produced a sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone.

3.11.4 A large ditch ran obliquely east-west through the centre of the trench. Two interventions were excavated across it (1811 and 1815). The single fill (1812/1816) was a dark friable deposit very similar to the subsoil and topsoil. It contained six sherds of middle Roman pottery, fired clay and fragments of animal bone.

3.11.5 Pit 1806, 1.64m across, contained two fills (1807 and 1808). Fill 1807 produced fragments of animal bone fragments and fired clay.

3.11.6 Pit 1809 (Plate 9) was 0.92m in diameter. The single fill (1810) contained two sherds of Iron Age or early Roman pottery.

3.11.7 At the SE end of the trench a layer (1819) was recorded overlying the natural geology. The layer contained three sherds of Roman pottery. Overlying this layer were the remains of a wall (1814) and a layer of stone rubble (1817) (Plate 10), presumably derived from the collapse of the wall or might have been part of an internal surface.

3.11.8 The wall was curvilinear and was 0.93m wide. It was constructed from squared stones, forming the faces, with a rubble core. Only one course of stone survived.

3.11.9 The majority of the associated collapse material (1817) lay to the east and consisted of medium sized sub-angular stones which were densely packed but appeared to be haphazardly tumbled rather than deliberately laid.

3.11.10 Overlying the wall and rubble was a layer of dark grey silt, 1818, which contained 11 sherds of Roman pottery and a nail.

3.12 Trench 19 (Figs 5, 14, 15 and 16)

3.12.1 This trench contained two postholes (1902 and 1908), five pits (1904, 1906, 1910, 1913 and 1931) and nine ditches (1915, 1918, 1920, 1923, 1926, 1929, 1933, 1935 and 1937).

3.12.2 The features were overlain by a subsoil (1912) and the topsoil (1900).

3.12.3 Posthole 1902 was small and poorly preserved, although the few stones suggested packing material was present. The single fill (1903) contained no artefactual material.

3.12.4 Pit 1904 was 1.2m across. The single fill (1905) contained fragments of animal bone.

3.12.5 Pit 1906 was 1.6m across and contained fill 1907 which produced fragments of animal bone.

3.12.6 Pit 1913 was 1.3m across and contained fill 1914 which produced no artefactual material. It was cut by posthole 1908.



- 3.12.7 Posthole 1908 contained fill 1909 which produced no artefactual material.
- 3.12.8 Pit 1910 was 1.8m across. The single fill (1911) contained no artefactual material. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.12.9 Ditch 1915 (Plate 11) was aligned NW-SE and contained two fills (1916 and 1917). Fill 1917 produced 13 sherds of Roman pottery, fragments of fired clay and animal bone.
- 3.12.10 To the immediate NE of ditch 1915 were three intercutting ditches, all aligned NW-SE. Ditches 1918 and 1923 were cut by 1920 (Plate 12). They corresponded with a geophysical anomaly forming a small enclosure.
- 3.12.11 Ditch 1918 contained fill 1919 which produced a sherd of Iron Age pottery.
- 3.12.12 Ditch 1923 contained fill 1924 which produced no artefactual material.
- 3.12.13 Ditch 1920 contained two fills (1921 and 1922). Fill 1922 contained three sherds of middle-late Iron Age pottery, an iron split spike loop and fragments of animal bone. A soil sample from fill 1922 produced a quantity of charred grain including barley, oat/brome and a small quantity of possible wheat.
- 3.12.14 To the north-east were three intercutting ditches, all aligned NW-SE, and a pit (Plate 13). The ditches corresponded with a geophysical anomaly forming a small enclosure.
- 3.12.15 Pit 1931 was 0.9m across and contained fill 1932 which produced no artefactual material. It was cut by ditch 1929.
- 3.12.16 Ditch 1929 contained a single fill (1930) which contained no artefactual material. It was cut by ditch 1926.
- 3.12.17 Ditch 1937 contained a single fill (1925) which contained no artefactual material. It was cut by ditch 1926.
- 3.12.18 Ditch 1926 had two fills (1927 and 1928). Fill 1928 contained fragments of animal bone.
- 3.12.19 Ditch 1935 was aligned north-south and contained one fill (1936) which produced a sherd of Roman pottery and a small quantity of animal bone. It corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.
- 3.12.20 Ditch 1933 was aligned NW-SE and contained fill 1934 which produced two sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and a small quantity of animal bone.
- 3.13 Trench 20** (Figs 4 and 17)
- 3.13.1 This trench contained a single pit (2004) overlain by a subsoil (2001) and the topsoil (2000).
- 3.13.2 Pit 2004 (Plate 14) was 1.51m across. The single fill, 2003, produced 22 sherds of late Roman pottery, fired clay and fragments of animal bone. It lay in the same location as a linear geophysical anomaly.
- 3.14 Trench 25** (Figs 6 and 18)
- 3.14.1 This trench contained two pits (2505 and 2506), a ditch (2511) and a layer (2501), perhaps associated with an extant pond.
- 3.14.2 The features were overlain by a subsoil (2502) and the topsoil (2500).
- 3.14.3 Layer 2501 was recorded at the north-east end of the trench. It was a dark brown silty clay, 0.56m thick, similar to the overlying subsoil. It produced four sherds of pottery of 14th-early 16th century AD date. To the north is an extant pond and it is possible that the material is associated with the construction or maintenance of this feature. The deposit corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.



- 3.14.4 Pit 2506 was 0.46m across and contained fill 2509 which produced no artefactual material. It was cut by pit 2505.
- 3.14.5 Pit 2505 was 4.85m across and contained two fills (2508 and 2507). Fill 2507 produced eight sherds of Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone. A soil sample from fill 2507 produced a small quantity of charred grain, including barley.
- 3.14.6 Ditch 2511 was an irregular, linear feature aligned NW-SE. Its fill (2510) contained 12 sherds of middle-late Iron Age pottery.

3.15 Finds summary

- 3.15.1 A total of 379 sherds of pottery, weighing 9,092g, was recovered from the evaluation, largely dating to the middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman periods. A small quantity of late medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recovered.
- 3.15.2 A total of 29 fragments of fired clay was recovered. The assemblage is typical of material derived from ovens of Iron Age and Roman date.
- 3.15.3 An iron nail and a split spike loop were recovered. Although not particularly diagnostic, associated pottery would suggest a Roman and possible late Iron Age date respectively for these objects.
- 3.15.4 A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe of 19th-century date was recovered from the topsoil.
- 3.15.5 A total of 339 fragments of animal bone was recovered. The bone was found within contexts dated to the middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman periods. The assemblage includes bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and dog as well as single bones from a blackbird-sized passerine and an unidentified fish.
- 3.15.6 Six soil samples were taken from five features of Iron Age and Roman date. A range of charred cereal remains was recovered.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in less than ideal conditions, with groundwater affecting most trenches and features. However, it was possible to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features in all trenches and to sample most of the features present.
- 4.1.2 Although correspondence between the anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey and the features actually present in the trenches was variable, the evaluation has confirmed that the geophysical survey does provide a good indication of the extent and complexity of archaeological features present.
- 4.1.3 It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate representation of the evaluation area as a whole.

4.2 Evaluation results in relation to the project objectives

- 4.2.1 The location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the site was determined. Most of the features encountered were linear in nature although discrete features were also present, as was a section of wall.
- 4.2.2 The site has been under pasture for a considerable period of time with the result that the archaeological remains have not been affected by modern agricultural practices.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 Evidence was found for activity dating to the later prehistoric and Roman periods in the south-eastern part of the site and largely confined to the higher ground. Evidence of agricultural activity of medieval date was present across the site.

Iron Age

- 4.3.2 A number of features were dated to the middle Iron Age or, more broadly, to the Iron Age. These features were confined to the highest part of the site in an area where a number of small sub-circular enclosures were recorded in the geophysical survey. Although not all of these enclosures were represented by archaeological features within the trenches, where they were (for example, in Trench 19 and, perhaps Trench 11) the pottery recovered indicates an Iron Age date. The quantity of pottery and animal bone recovered, along with fragments of oven or hearth furniture from a pit in Trench 17, suggests that these features represent a settlement site. Further evidence supporting this interpretation comes from a soil sample from a pit in Trench 19, dated to the middle or late Iron Age. It contained grain with little charcoal or other impurities present, suggesting that it represents part of a cleaned crop, accidentally charred during preparation for consumption or storage.
- 4.3.3 A large number of sites of middle Iron Age date are known from Northamptonshire, particularly along the Nene and Ise valleys (Cooper 2006). Given the variable correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and the results of the trench evaluation, it is difficult to suggest what form the settlement here takes but it is at least possible that some of the smaller sub-circular anomalies could represent structures set within larger, D-shaped enclosures (for example in the vicinity of Trench 19).

Late Iron Age/early Roman

- 4.3.4 Settlement appears to continue into the late Iron Age/early Roman period, occupying the same area of higher ground overlooking the River Nene. Such continuity of



settlement is relatively common in Northamptonshire (Cooper 2006, 107) although there is no strong evidence here, as there is elsewhere, that the form of the settlement persisted. Indeed, it seems likely that the more rectilinear layout of enclosures evident in the geophysical survey, some of which were also recorded during the present evaluation, date to this period (and later).

- 4.3.5 A considerable quantity of pottery was recovered, including a North Gaulish beaker, hinting at wider trade links at this time.

Roman

- 4.3.6 Settlement activity continued throughout the Roman period, although only a single group of distinctively middle Roman pottery was recorded. There is some evidence to suggest that the area of occupation became more extensive in the later Roman period, extending further to the north-west.
- 4.3.7 The presence of a length of wall footing, almost certainly of Roman date, is of significance. The wall appears to be curving slightly and so the nature of the structure of which it forms part is uncertain. Nevertheless, it demonstrates a significant transformation in the architecture of the settlement.
- 4.3.8 There is a well-known tradition of circular stone built structures of Roman date in Northamptonshire, such as at Stanwick (Keevill and Booth 1997). The arc of wall exposed here is too short to provide a reliable estimate for the possible diameter, should it form part of a circular structure. However, many of those excavated elsewhere are quite large. For example, a structure excavated at Redlands Farm, Stanwick had an external diameter of 15.6m (Keevill and Booth 1997, 22).
- 4.3.9 The range of artefactual material present, while certainly reflecting supra-regional patterns of supply, is relatively limited and does not suggest that the settlement was of particularly high status.
- 4.3.10 Numerous find spots of Roman date have been recorded within the area. Most of these lie within, or in close proximity to, the villages of Hardingstone (to the south-west) and Great Houghton (to the east). This includes pottery kilns, a settlement and external enclosures at Hardingstone and other pottery kilns and activity at Great Houghton (Wessex Archaeology 1996). Some of the evidence points to three phases of activity with the period of occupation extending from the later Iron Age into the Roman period, a pattern of activity which appears to be reflected at the current site.

Medieval to post-medieval

- 4.3.11 Ridge and furrow earthworks were evident across the site, and they were also recorded as geophysical anomalies and in trenches across the site. The presence of ridge and furrow on the more steeply-sloping areas of the field shows that the use of space was maximised. The presence of late medieval pottery in a layer adjacent to the existing pond at the eastern edge of the site may indicate that this pond formed part of the medieval landscape.
- 4.3.12 The survival of the earthworks demonstrates that, once medieval arable use ceased, the site remained under pasture to the present day.
- 4.3.13 Possible evidence of small-scale post-medieval quarrying was present in Trench 18 where a layer of sandy silt containing frequent stone fragments was recorded. In this regard, it is noticeable that evidence of ridge and furrow, either as earthworks or as geophysical anomalies, is absent from this area.
- 4.3.14 No evidence of medieval or later settlement was recorded on the site.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 2		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. There were three NE-SW aligned field drains visible. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a subsoil, over geological natural.	Avg. depth (m)	0.85
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	50

Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: mid greyish brown, soft silty clay	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.55	Subsoil: pale orangey brown clayey silt	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale yellowish grey clay	-	-

Trench 3		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. There were several irregular patches of greyer silts with diffuse edges. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.	Avg. depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	49.8

Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, soft silty clay	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.15-0.25	Subsoil; mid grey firm-tacky clay, alluvial or waterlain deposit	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural; pale orangey grey firm-tacky clay with occasional rounded pebbles	-	-

Trench 4		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single deposit interpreted as a possible pond, seen at SW end. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over the deposit 403 and subsoil 404 (NE end only), over geological natural.	Avg. depth (m)	0.7
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	50.1

Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil: dark greyish brown friable silty clay	-	-



401	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil: mid brownish grey, friable-tacky silty clay	-	-
402	Layer		>0.06	Natural: pale-mid orange silty clay with rounded gravel inclusions	-	-
403	Layer	5.3	0.28	Deposit: dark blackish grey, tacky-soft silty clay, no charcoal detected, subangular stones in pinkish and pale grey hues approx 10%	Pottery	Iron Age/Roman
404	Layer	6	0.13	Subsoil: pale-mid grey stiff tacky clay, alluvial / waterlain deposit	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained a single irregular patch of greyer silts with diffuse edges. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil: mid greyish brown, soft sandy silt	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil: pale orangey brown firm sandy clay	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orangey brown firm clay	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.93
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil: mid brownish grey, firm sandy clay	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.66	Subsoil: pale brownish grey, friable sandy clay	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orangey brown, sandy clay	-	-



Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.51	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	-	0.3-0.55	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable silty clay	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: mid brownish grey, tacky silty clay	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural: patches of mid orange silty clay with sand and gravel inclusions and patches of blocky pale grey clay	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Contained two ditches; 804 and 806. Neither were datable both had waterlain deposits as their fills. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, a subsoil composing the ridge, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.38-0.63	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
800	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable silty clay	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil: mid brownish grey, firm-tacky silty clay, probable ridge deposit	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.08-0.21	Subsoil: pale grey block clay	-	-
803	Fill	1.5	0.39	Fill of 804: pale-mid brown, stiff silty clay	Animal bone	undated
804	Cut	1.5	0.86	Ditch: N-S aligned, filled by 803	-	-
805	Fill	0.9	0.32	Fill of 806: mid grey silt clay	-	-
806	Cut	0.9	0.32	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, filled by 805	-	-
807	Fill	1.1	0.12	Fill of 804: mid grey firm silty clay	-	-
808	Fill	0.8	0.41	Fill of 804: mid brown stiff clay	-	-
809	Layer	-	-	Natural: patches of mid orange silty clay with sand and gravel inclusions and patches of blocky pale grey clay	-	-



Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained a single ditch 903, with three fill all consistent with waterlain deposits. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.59
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil: mid reddish brown, friable sandy silt	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil: mid reddish brown, firm sandy clay	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale reddish brown sandy clay	-	-
903	Cut	1.77	0.85	Ditch: N-S aligned, filled by 904-906	-	-
904	Fill	1.77	0.41	Fill of 903: mid orangey brown, firm clayey sand	-	-
905	Fill	0.82	0.36	Fill of 903: pale yellowish brown, firm sandy clay	-	-
906	Fill	0.46	0.21	Fill of 903: mid yellowish brown, firm sandy clay	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench contains eight features; a possible pit/ditch terminus 1111; and seven ditches. The features are sealed by the subsoil. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1100	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, friable-tacky silty clay	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, silty clay, thickens to west, diffuse horizon	Pottery	Late Iron Age / Early Roman
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale greyish orange – yellow silty clay	-	-
1103	Fill	1.2	0.12	Fill of 1104: mid greyish brown, friable clayey sand	-	-
1104	Cut	1.2	0.12	Furrow: NW-SE aligned, filled by 1103	-	-
1105	Cut	0.6	0.2	Ditch: NNW-SSE aligned narrow ditch, filled by 1106	-	-
1106	Fill	0.6	0.2	Fill of 1105: mid greyish	Pottery	Late Iron Age / Early



				brown, friable sandy silt	animal bone	Roman
1107	Cut	1.1	0.17	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, filled by 1108	-	-
1108	Fill	1.1	0.17	Fill of 1107: mid greyish brown, friable sandy silt	Pottery animal bone	Late Iron Age / Early Roman
1109	Cut	2.04	0.24	Ditch: N-S aligned, filled by 1110	-	-
1110	Fill	2.04	0.24	Fill of 1109: dark pinkish grey soft sandy clay, pebble and cobble inclusions	Pottery animal bone	Middle Iron Age
1111	Cut	0.62	0.2	Pit / Ditch terminus: filled by 1112	-	-
1112	Fill	0.62	0.2	Fill of 1111: dark greyish brown, soft sandy clay	Pottery animal bone	Iron Age/Roman
1113	Fill	0.61	0.17	Fill of 1114: mid brownish grey, soft clayey silt	Pottery animal bone	Iron Age/Roman
1114	Cut	0.61	0.17	Ditch: N-S aligned, narrow ditch, filled by 1113	-	-
1115	Fill	0.62	0.18	Fill of 1116: mid brownish grey, soft clayey silt	Pottery animal bone	Iron Age/Roman
1116	Cut	0.62	0.18	Ditch: N-S aligned, narrow ditch, filled by 1115	-	-
1117	Fill	1.09	0.44	Fill of 1118: dark grey, friable clayey silt	Pottery animal bone	Middle Iron Age
1118	Cut	1.09	0.44	Ditch: NNE-SSW aligned ditch terminus, filled by 1117	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of visible archaeology. There were two irregular patches of greyer silts with diffuse edges, a field drain and a recent geotechnical pit. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	49.85	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky silty clay	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil: pale brown, stiff-tacky silty clay	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural: patches of mid orange silty clay with sand and gravel inclusions and patches of	-	-



				blocky pale grey clay		
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Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of visible archaeology. There were three field drains, two were in the base of furrows. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45-0.8
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1300	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm-tacky silty clay	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orangey brown clayey sand, rounded gravel inclusions	-	-
1303	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm silty clay. Probable ridge deposit	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Contains three field drains, two in the base of furrows. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.6-0.8
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1400	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm-tacky silty clay	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orangey brown clayey sand, rounded gravel inclusions	-	-
1403	Layer	-	0.11-0.34	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm silty clay. Probable ridge deposit	-	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contains seven features; two pits; a probable ditch terminus and four ditches, of varying alignments and sizes. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		48



Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1500	Layer	-	0.24-0.32	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable silty clay	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.12-0.36	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, friable silty clay, thickens towards the NW, downslope	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale orange to mid brownish orange clay	-	-
1503	Fill	1.3	0.6	Fill of 1504: mid brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
1504	Cut	1.3	0.65	Ditch: NE-SW aligned, filled by 1503 and 1507		
1505	Fill	1.37	0.28	Fill of 1506: dark grey, soft silty clay, approximately 15% small -medium subangular stones	Pottery animal bone	Roman
1506	Cut	1.37	0.28	Pit: large sub-square, filled by 1505		
1507	Fill	2.72	0.18	Fill of 1508: dark grey clayey silt	Pottery animal bone	Late Roman
1508	Cut	2.72	0.22	Ditch terminus: NE-SW aligned, filled by 1507, 1518-1520	-	-
1509	Fill	1.8	0.45	Fill of 1510: dark grey, firm-tacky silty clay	Pottery fired clay, animal bone	Middle-Late Roman, prehistoric-medieval
1510	Cut	1.8	0.45	Ditch: NE-SW aligned, filled by 1509 and 1521	-	-
1511	Fill	0.42-0.54	0.09-0.14	Fill of 1512: dark grey soft clayey silt, occasional small subangular stones	Pottery	Roman
1512	Cut	0.42-0.54	0.09-0.14	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, narrow ditch, filled by 1511	-	-
1513	Fill	0.6	0.13	Fill of 1514: dark grey soft clayey silt, with rare soot smears (not large enough to be charcoal)	-	-
1514	Cut	0.6	0.13	Pit: round pit, filled by 1513	-	-
1515	Fill	2.2	0.32	Fill of 1516: mid-dark grey, soft silty clay, with rare charcoal	Pottery animal bone	Late Roman
1516	Cut	2.2	0.49	Ditch NE-SW aligned, filled by 1515, 1522 and 1523	-	-
1517	Fill	0.48	0.05	Fill of 1504: mid greyish brown, firm silty clay	-	-
1518	Fill	0.92	0.06	Fill of 1508: dark grey clayey silt	-	-



1519	Fill	1.11	0.09	Fill of 1508: pale greyish orange tacky clay	-	-
1520	Fill	1.3	0.07	Fill of 1508: pale greyish orange tacky clay	-	-
1521	Fill	1.23	0.16	Fill of 1510: dark grey, firm-tacky silty clay with moderately frequent inclusions of yellow clay patches	-	-
1522	Fill	1.4	0.24	Fill of 1516: pale-mid grey firm-tacky silty clay with 20% subangular stones	-	-
1523	Fill	0.7	0.21	Fill of 1516: pale orange mottled grey firm silty clay	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains four NW-SE aligned furrows, three ditches, one pit and one uncertain feature. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4-0.7
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, friable silty clay	Animal bone	undated
1601	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: mid orangey brown, stony silty clay	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid-dark orange stony silt clay	-	-
1603	Cut	1.16	0.11	Furrow: NW-SE aligned, broad shallow feature, filled by 1604	-	-
1604	Fill	1.16	0.11	Fill of 1603: mottled orangey brown, soft silty clay	-	-
1605	Cut	1.26	0.19	Furrow: NNW-SSE aligned, broad shallow feature, filled by 1606	-	-
1606	Fill	1.26	0.19	Fill of 1605: pale yellowish brown, soft silty clay	-	-
1607	Cut	0.76	0.3	Pit: moderate size, rounded, filled by 1608	-	-
1608	Fill	0.76	0.3	Fill of 1607: mid greyish brown, soft silty clay	-	-
1609	Cut	1.22	0.18	Furrow: N-S aligned, broad shallow feature, filled by 1610	-	-
1610	Fill	1.22	0.18	Fill of 1609: mid orangey brown, soft silty clay	-	-
1611	Cut	1.09	0.22	Uncertain Feature: irregular oval feature, possibly a pit or a tree throw, filled by 1612	-	-
1612	Fill	1.09	0.22	Fill of 1611: mid orangey	-	-



				grey, soft silty clay		
1613	Cut	1.2	0.1	Furrow: NNW-SSE aligned broad shallow feature, filled by 1614	-	-
1614	Fill	1.2	0.1	Fill of 1613: mid orangey brown, soft silty clay	-	-
1615	Cut	1.16	0.34	Ditch: NNW-SSE aligned, filled by 1616	-	-
1616	Fill	1.16	0.34	Fill of 1615: pale orangey brown, soft silty clay, cut by 1617	Animal bone	undated
1617	Cut	0.76	0.21	Ditch: NNW-SSE aligned, filled by 1618	-	-
1618	Fill	0.76	0.21	Fill of 1617: pale orangey brown, soft silty clay, cut by 1619	-	-
1619	Cut	0.93	0.2	Ditch: NNW-SSE aligned, filled by 1620	-	-
1620	Fill	0.93	0.2	Fill of 1619: mid-dark brown, soft silty clay,	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contains seven ditches and two pits. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1700	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, friable silty clay	Animal bone	undated
1701	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil: mid orangey brown, silty clay	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural: dark orange silty clay / mudstone	-	-
1703	Cut	1.2	0.54	Pit: circular steep sided pit, filled by 1704 and 1705	-	-
1704	Fill	1.2	0.24	Fill of 1703: pale brown, firm silt, charcoal inclusions, overlies 1705	Pottery fired clay, animal bone	Middle Iron Age, prehistoric-medieval
1705	Fill	1.2	0.3	Fill of 1703: dark brown, firm silty clay, frequent charcoal inclusions and cracked cobbles	Pottery fired clay, animal bone	Middle Iron Age, Iron Age / Early Romano-British
1706	Cut	1.5	0.45	Ditch: E-W aligned, asymmetrical profile, filled by 1707, parallel to 1708	-	-
1707	Fill	1.5	0.45	Fill of 1706: dark brown, firm	Pottrey	Middle Iron Age



				silty clay	animal bone	(probable)
1708	Cut	1	0.43	Ditch: E-W aligned, symmetrical profile, filled by 1709, parallel to 1706	-	-
1709	Fill	1	0.43	Fill of 1708: dark brown, firm silty clay	-	-
1710	Cut	0.6	0.25	Ditch: curvilinear, symmetrical profile, filled by 1711	-	-
1711	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of 1710: dark brown, firm silty clay	-	-
1712	Cut	0.5	0.1	Ditch: NE-SW aligned shallow ditch, filled by 1713	-	-
1713	Fill	0.5	0.1	Fill of 1712: dark greyish brown, firm silty clay	-	-
1714	Cut	1.8	0.2	Pit: rounded probable pit, filled by 1715, cuts 1717	-	-
1715	Fill	1.8	0.2	Fill of 1714: dark orangey brown, firm silty clay	-	-
1716	Cut	>0.5	0.3	Ditch: N-S aligned, extended beyond LOE, filled by 1717	-	-
1717	Fill	>0.5	0.3	Fill of 1716: mid orangey brown, firm silty clay, cut by 1714	Animal bone	undated
1718	Cut	0.8	0.25	Ditch terminus: NW-SE aligned, (or possible pit), filled by 1719, cuts 1721	-	-
1719	Fill	0.8	0.25	Fill of 1718: dark brown, firm silty clay	Pottery fired clay, animal bone	Late Iron Age / Early Roman, Iron Age / Early Romano-British,
1720	Cut	1.9	0.62	Ditch: E-W aligned, steep profile, filled by 1721	-	-
1721	Fill	1.9	0.62	Fill of 1720: dark orangey-greyish brown, firm silty clay, cut by 1718	Pottery animal bone	Early Roman

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contains one large ditch, one small ditch, two pits, a wall and associated rubble collapse, and a layer of stone rich dumped material. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, dumped layer, overlying subsoil, that sealed features and layer which cut the geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.8-1.1	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1800	Layer	-	0.52	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, loose sandy silt	Pottery animal bone	Late Roman



1801	Layer	-	0.14-0.45	Deposit: pale greyish yellow, frequent subangular stones, thickens to the NW, dumped deposit	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid brownish orange sandy clay	-	-
1803	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil: dark brown, firm sandy clay	-	-
1804	Cut	0.5	0.19	Ditch: E-W aligned, symmetrical profile, filled by 1805	-	-
1805	Fill	0.5	0.19	Fill of 1804: mid orangey brown, soft sandy clay	Pottery animal bone	Late Iron Age / Early Roman
1806	Cut	1.64	0.14	Pit: sub-square to rounded, extended beyond LOE, filled by 1807	-	-
1807	Fill	1.64	0.14	Fill of 1806: dark greyish brown, soft silty clay, overlain by 1808	Fired clay, animal bone	Late Iron Age / Romano-British
1808	Fill	1.64	0.04	Fill of 1806: pale yellowish orange, soft sandy clay	-	-
1809	Cut	0.92	0.32	Pit: circular, steep sides, symmetrical profile, filled by 1810	-	-
1810	Fill	0.92	0.32	Fill of 1809: dark brownish grey, soft silty clay	Pottery	Iron Age / Early Roman
1811	Cut	>1.2	0.4	Ditch: possible ditch, E-W aligned, filled by 1812, same as 1815	-	-
1812	Fill	>1.2	0.4	Fill of 1811: dark greyish brown, soft sandy clay, similar to topsoil	-	-
1813	Cut	-	-	Interface at base of wall 1814, an actual cut was unclear	-	-
1814	Structure	0.93	0.06	Wall: curvilinear, trending N-S, 3.34m in length, edged stones with core material between, only one course survives	-	-
1815	Cut	>1.2	0.52	Ditch: possible ditch, E-W aligned, filled by 1816, same as 1811	-	-
1816	Fill	>1.2	0.52	Fill of 1815: mid greyish brown, soft sandy clay, similar to topsoil	Pottery fired clay, animal bone	Middle Roman, Late Iron Age / Romano-British
1817	Layer	>2	0.1	Deposit: subangular stones, densely packed, rubble collapse from wall 1814	-	-
1818	Layer	-	0.18	Deposit: dark grey, friable clayey silt, above 1814	Pottery iron	Roman, Roman - 19 th century



1819	Layer	-	0.16	Deposit: mid grey, firm silty clay, below 1814	Pottery	Middle Roman
1820				Unexcavated feature at NW end	-	-

Trench 19						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contains two postholes, five pits and nine ditches Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		53
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1900	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, friable silty clay,	Pottery	Roman
1901	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid-dark orange firm silty clay, frequent stones	-	-
1902	Cut	0.46	0.12	Posthole: circular, small feature, filled by 1903	-	-
1903	Fill	0.46	0.12	Fill of 1902: dark brownish grey, friable silty clay with stone inclusions, possible packing	-	-
1904	Cut	1.2	0.53	Pit: rounded, extended beyond LOE, symmetrical profile, filled by 1905	-	-
1905	Fill	1.2	0.53	Fill of 1904: mid orangey grey, friable silty sand	Animal bone	undated
1906	Cut	1.6	0.25	Pit: rounded, extended beyond LOE, symmetrical profile, filled by 1907	-	-
1907	Fill	1.6	0.25	Fill of 1906: mid orangey brown, friable sandy silt	Animal bone	undated
1908	Cut	0.24	0.4	Posthole: circular, symmetrical steep profile, filled by 1909, cuts 1914	-	-
1909	Fill	0.24	0.4	Fill of 1908: mid greyish brown, friable silty clay	-	-
1910	Cut	1.8	0.22	Pit: rounded, extended beyond LOE, symmetrical profile, filled by 1911	-	-
1911	Fill	1.8	0.22	Fill of 1910: mid orangey grey, friable silty sand	-	-
1912	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil: dark greyish brown, stony, weathered silty clay	-	-
1913	Cut	1.3	0.16	Pit: rounded, extended beyond LOE, symmetrical profile, filled by 1914	-	-
1914	Fill	1.3	0.16	Fill of 1910: mid orangey grey, friable silty sand, cut by 1908	-	-



1915	Cut	2.69	0.64	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, symmetrical profile, steep sides flat base, filled by 1916 and 1917	-	-
1916	Fill	1.4	0.21	Fill of 1915: mid reddish brown, compact silt, subangular stones 10%	-	-
1917	Fill	2.69	0.64	Fill of 1915: dark brownish grey, firm silt, subangular stones 10%	Pottery fired clay, animal bone	Roman, Iron Age / Romano-British
1918	Cut	1.06	0.55	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, steep sided U-shaped profile, filled by 1919	-	-
1919	Fill	1.06	0.55	Fill of 1918: mid reddish brown, friable silt, cut by 1920	Pottery	Roman
1920	Cut	1.8	0.75	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, steep sided U-shaped profile, filled by 1921, cuts 1919 and 1924	-	-
1921	Fill	0.6	0.4	Fill of 1920: mid reddish brown, friable silt, below 1922	-	-
1922	Fill	1.8	0.75	Fill of 1920: dark brownish grey, compact silt, above 1921	Pottery animal bone, iron	Middle-late Iron Age
1923	Cut	0.65	0.79	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, steep sided V-shaped profile, filled by 1924	-	-
1924	Fill	0.65	0.79	Fill of 1923: mid brownish grey, friable silt, cut by 1920	-	-
1925	Fill	0.9	0.72	Fill of 1937: mid brownish grey, friable silty clay, cut by 1926	-	-
1926	Cut	1.4	0.72	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, steep sided U-shaped profile, filled by 1927 and 1928, cuts 1925 and 1930	-	-
1927	Fill	0.8	0.32	Fill of 1926: mid brownish grey, friable silty clay, below 1928	-	-
1928	Fill	1.4	0.5	Fill of 1926: mid reddish brown, friable silty clay, above 1927	Animal bone	undated
1929	Cut	0.52	0.51	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, steep sided U-shaped profile, filled by 1930, cut 1932	-	-
1930	Fill	0.52	0.51	Fill of 1929: mid brownish grey, friable silty clay, cut by 1926	-	-
1931	Cut	0.9	0.37	Pit: rounded, extended beyond LOE, symmetrical profile, filled by 1932	-	-
1932	Fill	0.9	0.37	Fill of 1931: mid orangey brown, friable silty clay, cut by 1929	-	-



1933	Cut	1.53	0.4	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, broad gently sloping U-shaped symmetrical profile, filled by 1934, cut 1936	-	-
1934	Fill	1.53	0.4	Fill of 1933: dark brownish grey, friable silty clay	Pottery animal bone	Late Iron Age / Early Roman
1935	Cut	2.4	0.5	Ditch: N-S aligned broad gently sloping U-shaped symmetrical profile, filled by 1936	-	-
1936	Fill	2.4	0.5	Fill of 1935: mid brownish grey, friable silty clay, cut by 1933	Pottery animal bone	Roman
1937	Cut	0.9	0.72	Ditch: NW-SE aligned steep sided U-shaped profile, filled by 1925	-	-

Trench 20						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contains one pit. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4-0.7
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2000	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, friable silty clay	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil: mid orangey brown, friable, silty clay, colluvium evident to NW end	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural: variable, outcrops of blocky mudstone, orange firm silty clay grading to orangey grey towards the NW	-	-
2003	Fill	1.51	0.12	Fill of 2004: mid grey, friable silty clay	Pottery fired clay, animal bone	Late Roman, Late Iron Age / Romano-British
2004	Cut	1.51	0.12	Pit: rounded, extended beyond LOE, symmetrical profile, filled by 2003	-	-

Trench 21						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. There were four field drains, two were in the base of furrows. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.39-72
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50.3
Contexts						



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2100	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil: mid brownish grey, firm-tacky silty clay	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orangey brown clayey sand, rounded gravel inclusions, with irregular patches of grey clay	-	-
2103	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm silty clay. Probable ridge deposit	-	-

Trench 22						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.42-0.65
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		49.75
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm-tacky silty clay	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale brownish orange silty clay, with irregular patches of grey clay	-	-
2203	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm silty clay. Probable ridge deposit	Flint	undated

Trench 23						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2300	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: pale greyish brown, firm-tacky silty clay	-	-
2302	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale brownish orange silty clay, with irregular patches of grey clay	-	-



2303	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil: pale greyish brown, firm clayey silt. Probable ridge deposit	pot	Roman
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Trench 24						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of visible archaeology. Contained a two irregular patches of greyer silts with diffuse edges Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.48-0.73
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		49.75
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2400	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil: mid greyish orange, friable-tacky silty clay	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid brownish orange silty clay	-	-

Trench 25						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contains two pits, a bank deposit and a probable linear feature. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.67-1.15
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		49.9
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2500	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
2501	Layer	-	0.56	Deposit: bank deposit, dark brown, friable silty clay, at NE end of trench only	Pottery	14-early16th century
2502	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil: mid brown, friable sandy silt	Pottery	Iron Age / Early Roman
2503	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil/Natural horizon interface: mid grey, soft dandy silt	-	-
2504	Layer	-	0.2	Natural: mottled pale yellow and grey patches within a pale orange silty sand	-	-
2505	Cut	4.85	0.4	Pit: large oval pit, extended beyond LOE, filled by 2507 and 2508, cuts 2509	-	-
2506	Cut	0.46	0.48	Pit: rounded, extended beyond LOE, small, steep sided, filled by 2509	-	-
2507	Fill	4.7	0.4	Fill of 2505: dark grey, soft silty sand, stones and charcoal	Pottery	Iron Age



				inclusions, above 2508	animal bone	
2508	Fill	0.3	0.15	Fill of 2505: mid greyish brown, mottled, soft sandy silt, with sandy patches, below 2507	-	-
2509	Fill	0.46	0.48	Fill of 2506: mid greyish brown, soft silty sand, cut by 2505	-	-
2510	Fill	1.3	0.26	Fill of 2511: mid brownish grey, soft silty sand, subangular stone 10%	Pottery	Middle-late Iron Age
2511	Cut	1.3	0.26	Linear Feature: ephemeral, NW-SE aligned	-	-

Trench 26						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Contains one field drain NW-SE aligned along furrow base. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.46	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	49.85	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable silty clay	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil: mid brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
2602	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale-mid grey silty clay, with a greener hue to the NW	-	-

Trench 27						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.46-0.77	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	49.9	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2700	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, stiff-tacky silty clay	-	-
2702	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid brownish orange silty clay, with irregular patches of grey clay	-	-
2703	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm silty clay. Probable ridge deposit	-	-



Trench 28						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.44-0.67
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		49.9
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable-tacky, silty clay	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, stiff-tacky silty clay	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid brownish orange silty clay, with irregular patches of more orange clay	-	-
2803	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm silty clay. Probable ridge deposit	-	-

Trench 29						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.38-0.81
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		23.5
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2900	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil: dark brown, friable silty clay	Pottery, clay pipe	18 th century, 19 th century
2901	Layer	-	0.55	Subsoil: mid orangey brown, firm silty clay	-	-
2902	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale orangey grey, firm silty clay	-	-
2903	Layer	-	>0.1	Deposit: hardcore, dark grey compacted small angular stones	-	-

Trench 30						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Contains one field drain NW-SE aligned along furrow base. Consists of ploughsoil overlying, subsoil, over geological natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.41
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		50.15
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date



3000	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable silty clay	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil: mid brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale-mid grey silty clay, with a greener hue to the NW	-	-



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph (identifications and dating of post-Roman pottery by John Cotter)

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 Some 379 sherds, weighing 9092g, were recovered from the evaluation. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and scanned to characterise the pottery present, identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, and provide spot-dates. Iron Age and Roman forms and fabrics were assigned standard OA codes (Booth 2008). Post-Roman fabrics were given codes from the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series.

Description

- B.1.2 Some 37% of the assemblage belonged to context groups dated to the middle Iron Age (MIA). Most forms were identified as slack profiled shouldered jars (CS), although a large a bowl or wide-mouthed jar was recovered from context 1704 and a possible lid was recorded in context 1707. Forms were available in moderately coarse shelly fabrics (S3) or occasionally in sandy fabrics (A3). Decoration seen on a number of vessels included scoring across the body and notched or slashed rims. The forms and decoration are characteristic of the middle Iron Age in the region.
- B.1.3 Pottery assigned to groups dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period accounted for 28% of the assemblage by sherd count, or 41% by weight. The difference between these proportions is due to the presence of large and heavy sherds in two contexts, 1108 and 1719. The former contained rim sherd from a large storage jar or barrel-shaped jar (CB) with a notched rim, a substantial fragment from a globular storage jar (CN), and a rim sherd from a lid-seated jar (CJ). All three vessels were made in an oxidised shell-tempered fabric (E40). Context 1719 contained a large fragment from a narrow-necked jar (CC), a piece representing almost the complete profile of a carinated and cordoned bowl (HA), a necked jar (CD), and a storage jar rim. These vessels were made in grog-tempered fabrics (E80). The carinated bowl corresponds to a type (Thompson 1982, type E1) well recognised across south-eastern Britain, including Northamptonshire (Thompson 1982, 351).
- B.1.4 Pottery more certainly dated to the early Roman period was recovered from context 1721. Sand-tempered reduced ware (R30), a grog-tempered shallow bowl or dish with a flanged rim upturned or beaded at the tip, a bead-rimmed jar (CH) and a lid-seated jar in shell-tempered ware, and a fragment from a North Gaulish white ware beaker (EA) suggest a mid to late 1st century date for deposition.
- B.1.5 Just one group (1816) was dated to the mid Roman period (c AD 100-250) based on a sherd of Central Gaulish samian ware (S30), although the shell-tempered lid-seated jar and sandy reduced ware also recovered from the context are consistent with a mid Roman date.
- B.1.6 Four contexts were dated by pottery to the late Roman period (c AD 250-410), representing 9% of the assemblage by sherd count, or 7% by weight. Context 2003 contained a relatively large group which included a jar rim and a beaker base in Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52), a very small fragment from a possible Oxford red



colour-coated ware mortarium (M41), and a late shelly ware (C11) oval-bodied necked jar (CD). These were accompanied by sandy white ware (W20) and sandy reduced ware (R30). Dropped-flanged bowls (HB) were recorded in contexts 1507, 1515 and 1800. These were available in a range of fabrics, including black-burnished ware (B11) from Dorset (a fragment of shale was seen in the fabric), late shelly ware, and sandy reduced ware. Among other notable vessels were a bowl (HC) copying samian form Drag. 38 in Nene Valley colour-coated ware in context 1515, and a storage jar (CN) with a flrilled rim in shelly ware in context 1800.

B.1.7 Pottery recovered from context 2501 was identified as Brill/Boarstall ware, or possibly Potterspury ware, and dated to the late medieval period. Post-medieval pottery is represented by 18th-century tin-glazed ware and Stamford comb slipped ware in context 2900.

B.1.8 The pottery is summarised in Table 1.

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
403	1	10	E40/C10	Iron Age/Roman
1101	2	30	Body sherds – E40, E80	LIA/ER
1106	3	19	E80 body sherds	LIA/ER
1108	18	1744	CB large jar with notched decoration on rim (oxidised E40); CN (oxidised E40); CJ (oxidised E40); E30	LIA/ER
1110	3	74	?CS (A3); S3	MIA
1112	1	4	E40/C10	Iron Age/Roman
1113	1	14	?E40	Iron Age/Roman
1115	2	20	E80/E40 – uncertain fabric	Iron Age/ER
1117	4	76	CS with notched decoration on rim (mixed fabric, mainly SA3)	MIA
1505	1	30	O10 base from flagon or beaker	Roman
1507	6	53	Castor-box lid (F52); HB drop-flange bowl (B11); CD (C11); R50	LR
1509	7	148	O20 body/base sherds from bowl; CM necked jar (R30); F60 body sherd	MR-LR
1511	2	10	C10 rilled body sherd – possibly LR jar	Roman
1515	5	150	HB drop-flange bowl (R30); HC flanged bowl copying Drag. 38 (F52)	LR
1704	98	2921	Bowl or large jar with scored decoration (S3)	MIA
1705	31	548	body sherds with scored decoration (S3)	MIA
1707	6	53	S3 ?lid and body sherds with trace of scored decoration	?MIA
1719	82	1839	CC large jar (E80); HA carinated bowl, Thompson E1 type (E80); CD necked jar (oxidised E80); CN storage jar (O80)	LIA/ER
1721	11	126	EA (W30 – North Gaulish white ware);	ER



			R30; CH (E40); flanged bowl or dish (E80); CJ with rilled shoulder (E40)	
1800	2	298	HC drop-flange bowl, CN with frilled rim (C11)	LR
1805	1	5	E80 body sherd	LIA/ER
1810	2	50	jar base (E40/C10)	Iron Age/ER
1816	6	50	R30, CJ (oxidised C10); S30	MR
1818	11	111	CJ (R30); O80	Roman
1819	3	32	R30, CJ (oxidised C10); S30	MR
1900	1	22	CJ (O30 with clay pellets/grog)	Roman
1917	13	160	R50, C10, O20	Roman
1919	1	14	Body sherd in sandy fabric	Iron Age
1922	3	14	Everted rim in sandy fabric (A3)	MIA/LIA
1934	2	46	Body sherds – E40, E80 with shell	LIA/ER
1936	1	23	O20 body sherd	Roman
2003	22	152	C rim, beaker base (F52); W20; R30; CD (C11); ?M41 very small frag.	LR
2303	1	15	O20 body sherd	Roman
2501	4	23	?Brill/Boarstall (F324) or Potterspury ware (F329)	14th-E16th C
2502	3	22	E40/C10 oxidised; E30	Iron Age/ER
2507	8	112	Sandy fabrics – uncertain date, but probably IA	Iron Age
2510	12	49	body sherds – shell and grog?	MIA/LIA
2900	2	25	Stamford comb slipped ware dish; tin-glazed earthenware (F410)	18th century
Totals	379	9092		

Table 1: Pottery by context

Discussion

- B.1.9 The assemblage spans the Iron Age to post-medieval period, though is concentrated in the middle Iron Age, the late Iron Age/early Roman period and the late Roman period. The middle Iron Age groups are characterised by shell-tempered jars, often with scored or notched decoration. Shelly fabrics remained important in the late Iron Age and early Roman period, but were joined by grog-tempered jars, bowls and dishes of 'Belgic' type (sensu Thompson 1982). The presence of a North Gaulish beaker points to wider trade links, and the sherd of samian suggests that these were maintained into the 2nd century. The range of late Roman period pottery evident – shell-tempered jars, drop-flange dishes, black-burnished ware and Nene Valley ware – reflect patterns of supply and use in the period, for example the increased importance of supra-regional industries and diversification of forms.
- B.1.10 The condition of the pottery was mixed. While the mean sherd weight (weight / sherd count) of the assemblage of 24g could be considered relatively high, the range was wide, with the mean sherd weight ranging from 4g for context 1112 to 149g for context



1800. Overall, however, the presence in several deposits of substantial proportions of individual vessels suggests that the focus of domestic activity and initial discard lies close to areas of final deposition. This material was found largely in the southern tip of the site in Trenches 11, 15, 17, 18 and 20, which were positioned to investigate potential settlement features. This area had evidently been available for deposition from the middle Iron Age to the late Roman period, although it is notable that Trenches 15 and 20 contained no pottery earlier than mid Roman, hinting at a shift in settlement focus over time.

- B.1.11 Given the range and condition of the pottery encountered during the evaluation, it is likely that pottery will be recovered during any further investigation. It is recommended that the pottery from the evaluation be integrated with any additional pottery collected from the site and recorded fully as part of a wider programme of analysis. Such analysis has the potential to address questions raised in the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework (Cooper 2006) of society and social relations, economy and trade, site function and status, among others.

B.2 Fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

- B.2.1 Fired clay amounting to 29 fragments weighing 388g was recovered by hand excavation and from sieved samples from trenches 15 and 17-20. The assemblage has been recorded and key characteristics are summarised in the table below. The assemblage was in moderately good condition, with generally low abrasion and a mean fragment weight of 13.4g.

Description

- B.2.2 Two basic fabrics were identified. One was fine micaceous clay (fabric AM) with small red ferruginous grits and occasionally found with additional organic temper (fabric AM V). The second (fabric Sh V) contained a high proportion of shell and limestone grit and some red ferruginous grits, all from sand size up to 12mm. The organic temper was generally chaff, though in one example there were large well preserved impressions of monocot type, probably of leaves from cereal straw (straw consists of both the stem and the leaves).
- B.2.3 Fired clay was in use throughout the prehistoric period and into the medieval period, after which it fell into disuse generally being replaced by other building materials. It is generally reliant on associated artefacts for dating, apart from a small number of diagnostic forms, which can be assigned to broad periods. Most fired clay derives from burnt structures (kilns, ovens, hearths, furnaces etc) and material surviving from buildings is rare.
- B.2.4 The assemblage is typical of material derived from ovens, but does not contain any clear cut diagnostic forms. However the overall character of the assemblage suggests it is of Iron Age - Roman date, which could possibly be narrowed to late Iron Age -early Roman. The fragments from contexts 1705 and 1719 are likely to derive from a single object (or possibly two produced together from the same clay batch and used together). They have two adjacent roughly moulded surfaces probably representing parts of the



side and front face of a triangular perforated brick. One fragment has the edge of a groove that could be the end of a perforation. The poorly fired core is a common feature of these artefacts. They were in use throughout the Iron Age but continued in use at least into the early Roman period. They are ubiquitous on Iron Age sites and would normally have served as domestic oven or hearth furniture, most probably as pedestals or supports, though possibly as floors or kerbs for hearths.

B.2.5 A fragment from context 2003 has two parallel moulded surfaces and formed a flat slab 17mm thick. The surfaces are well finished and though no edge survives, the general character is compatible with discs or polygonal plaques frequently found in the late Iron Age - Roman period in the east Midlands. Pieces from contexts 1807, 1816 and 1917 are less well preserved having one surface and part of a side edge, in one case bevelled rather than at right angles. These are designated as probable discs though other forms are possible: the most likely form is the triangular brick, though square sectioned kiln bars could look very similar.

B.2.6 The general character of the assemblage is compatible with an interpretation of domestic oven or hearth furniture of Iron Age, probably late Iron Age, to Roman date. The material from pit 1703 was associated with charcoal and heated cobbles and it is possible that this feature formed a cooking pit or similar structure.

Context	Sample No	Nos	Wt (g)	Fabric	Form	Spot date
1509	1500	1	6	AM	Oven structure: misc	PreH-Med
1704	~	1	17	AM	Oven structure: wall	PreH-Med
1705	1701	2	31	Sh V	Oven furniture: TPB?	IA-ERB?
1719	~	3	128	Sh V	Oven furniture: TPB?	IA-ERB?
1719	1702	4	114	Sh V	Oven furniture: TPB?	IA-ERB?
1807	~	12	10	AM	Oven furniture: Disc?	LIA-RB?
1816	~	4	28	AM	Oven furniture: Disc?	LIA-RB?
1917	~	1	31	AM V	Oven furniture: Disc/TPB	IA-RB
2003	~	1	23	AM	Oven furniture: Disc	LIA-RB

B.3 Iron

By Ian Scott

Context	Description	Date
1818	A single handmade T-headed nail, 30g.	Roman - 19th century
1922	A single split spike loop, 20g.	



B.4 Clay pipe

By John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
2900	A single bowl fragment of clay tobacco pipe with broken spur, 9g.	19th century

B.5 Animal bone

By Lena Strid

B.5.1 A total of 339 hand-collected animal bone fragments were recovered from this site. The majority of the assemblage came from features preliminarily dated to the middle Iron Age/late Iron Age and Roman periods.

Context	Number	Weight (g)
803	1	31
1106	7	37
1108	17	299
1110	15	346
1112	11	40
1113	1	3
1115	1	14
1117	3	19
1505	2	57
1507	3	96
1509	6	43
1515	7	608
1600	10	156
1616	4	309
1700	6	660
1704	14	117
1705	32	159
1707	3	137
1717	4	292
1719	66	1272
1721	16	147
1800	3	251
1805	2	14
1807	1	1



Context	Number	Weight (g)
1816	6	248
1905	3	76
1907	2	25
1917	2	49
1922	3	39
1928	2	96
1934	20	372
1936	2	17
2003	15	202
2507	49	338
Total	339	6570

- B.5.2 The bone condition was generally good to fair, regardless of phase. Almost all phases contained a small number of bones with traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs. Burnt bones were scarce.
- B.5.3 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog, as well as one bone each from a blackbird-sized passerine and an unidentified fish. These domestic taxa are typical of Iron Age and Roman assemblages although, due to the small sample size for each phase, it is not possible to speculate on the frequency of cattle, sheep/goat and pig and their contribution to the economy and diet. It is unclear whether the passerine bone comes from food waste or if it represents commensal fauna dying of natural causes on the site. It was not possible to identify the single fish bone to species. However, fish bones are rare on Iron Age rural sites and its presence should be noted if further excavations take place.
- B.5.4 A small number of bones could be attributed to minimum age at death. Sub-adult and adult cattle and sheep/goat are present, as is young pig. Generally in the Iron Age and Roman periods cattle and sheep/goat have a wide range of slaughter ages, but were rarely kept to an old age. Sheep/goat were often slaughtered at younger ages than cattle, probably reflecting higher fecundity and more rapid growth of these animals. The wide range of slaughter ages suggests that cattle and sheep/goat were kept for a variety of products: meat, milk, wool and use as draught animals (van Dijk and Groot 2013, 184). Surplus animals were killed after their first few winters and the rest of the herd were killed later on as adults past their prime. Pigs were on the other hand raised solely for meat and due to their high fecundity and growth rate they were mostly killed as sub-adults after reaching maximum size. Horses were killed as adults, indicating their main use as riding or pack animals.
- B.5.5 A withers' height of 62.9cm could be calculated on one late Roman sheep metatarsal (Teichert 1975). This is within the average range of contemporary sheep/goat withers' heights as shown by the Animal Bone Metrical Archive Project (University of Southampton 2003).
- B.5.6 Butchery marks were noted on two cattle long bones and one medium mammal rib from the middle Iron Age, one large mammal vertebra from the late Iron Age/early Roman period and one cattle skull from the early Roman period. The butchery marks include



sagittal splitting of the carcass, portioning of ribs and cut marks from disarticulation of the elbow joint. Chop marks at the base of a cattle horn core suggests removal of the horn sheath for horn working.

- B.5.7 Pathological conditions were only noted in the late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage. They include bone absorption at the P4/M1 on a cattle mandible, probably caused by infection of the gums, and an ossified muscle attachment on the lower shaft of a cattle metatarsal suggesting muscle strain.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Julia Meen

Introduction

C.1.1 Six bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of artefacts and environmental remains. The samples were:

- Sample 1900 was from ditch fill 1922 (Trench 19), dated on the basis of associated pottery to the middle to late Iron Age.
- Sample 2500 was from fill 2507 of pit 2505 in Trench 25, dated on the basis of associated pottery to the Iron Age.
- Sample 1500 was from fill 1509 of ditch 1508 in Trench 15, dated on the basis of associated pottery to the middle or late Roman period.
- Sample 1700 was from fill 1704 of pit 1703 in Trench 17. Sample 1701 was from the lower fill (1705) of this pit. The pit was dated on the basis of associated pottery to the middle Iron Age.
- Sample 1702 was from fill 1719 of pit 1718 in Trench 17 in Trench 17, dated on the basis of associated pottery to the late Iron Age or early Roman period.

Methodology

C.1.2 The full volume of each of the six samples was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, and the flots were collected on a 250µm mesh. The heavy residues were sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The dried flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification and identifications made with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

Results

C.1.3 Sample 1900 produced a flot of approximately 100ml. Much of this flot was composed of modern root, and therefore the root portion was separated out and the remainder scanned for charred plant remains. The charred component was dominated by grain, with only a small number of charcoal pieces of identifiable size present. A preliminary check of a small selection of the larger charcoal pieces suggested that at least four different woody species were represented. These were mostly diffuse porous species, with one example of ring porous cf. *Quercus* sp. (oak) observed. The grain assemblage mostly consisted of barley (*Hordeum* sp.), with a small quantity of oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus* sp.). Only a few examples of possible wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were noted, with these examples mostly poorly preserved and difficult to confidently identify. A single seed of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and a fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) were also present.

C.1.4 Sample 2500 produced a flot of approximately 200ml, of which one quarter was scanned. Most of the flot consisted of charcoal, with a small number (fewer than 25 examples) of cereal grains also present. The cereal grains varied in their state of preservation, but many could be identified as barley. A small selection of the charcoal pieces were examined under low magnification (x15) and almost all showed characteristics of ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), although further analysis under higher magnification would be required to confirm these identifications. Two fragments of



diffuse porous *Prunus/Pomoideae* type were also observed.

- C.1.5 Sample 1500 produced a flot of approximately 150ml, with abundant modern root present. The flot was dominated by chaff, with a high number of cereal grains also present. The chaff all appeared to be glume bases or spikelet forks of wheat, with the morphology of the best preserved examples indicative of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). The majority of the grain was also identified as *Triticum* or *Triticum* cf. *spelta*, with a small number of oat/brome grains and a small grass (*Poaceae*) seed also present. The weed seed component was small, with occasional seeds of dock (*Rumex* sp.) and a single example of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*).
- C.1.6 Sample 1700 was approximately 200ml in volume, with abundant modern root. The charred material was separated out from the root and was scanned in its entirety. No charred material apart from charcoal was present. Charcoal was fairly frequent and a small number of items were of identifiable size. A random selection of these pieces was examined under low magnification (x15) and all studied items were found to be of diffuse porous *Prunus/Pomoideae* type.
- C.1.7 Sample 1701 produced a flot of approximately 100ml. The flot was predominately composed of charcoal with a small number of poorly preserved cereal grains present, provisionally identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.). A single fragment of glume base of spelt or emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) was also noted. No weed seeds were observed. Much of the charcoal was large enough to allow potential identification; a small selection of fragments was examined under low magnification (x15) and all studied items were found to be of diffuse porous *Prunus/Pomoideae* type.
- C.1.8 Sample 1702 produced a flot of approximately 100ml, much of which consisted of modern root. Cereal grains were present in very low numbers and were in poor condition; some were provisionally identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Charcoal was present although few items were of a size large enough to potentially be identifiable; a small number were examined under low magnification and were found to be mostly diffuse porous *Prunus/Pomoideae* type with a smaller number of ring porous type.

Discussion

- C.1.9 Sample 1900 was dominated by grain with few impurities and little charcoal, suggesting that this may represent part of a cleaned crop which has had cause to be discarded, possibly after accidental charring during preparation for storage or consumption. The charcoal appears to be of a range of different species, although too little is present in the sample for inferences to be made regarding selection of wood or composition of the local woodland.
- C.1.10 Sample 2500, as sample 1900, was dated to the Iron Age. It shows similarities to 1900 in that it also contained grains of barley, suggesting that the deposit may include the waste from similar, perhaps contemporaneous activity. However, sample 2500 was mostly dominated by charcoal, with initial examination showing that much of the wood appears to be ash. If further study was to be made of this context, sufficient charcoal would be available to potentially allow statistically valid interpretations and suggest whether there was preferential selection of this particular species.
- C.1.11 In contrast to the first two samples, sample 1500 was dated to the mid to late Roman period, and appears to represent a different form of activity. It is dominated by spelt



wheat chaff, with a lower but still significant number of wheat grains, suggesting it to be the waste of a relatively early stage in removing the usable crop from the glumes. Spelt was the main variety of wheat cultivated in Britain during the Roman period (Pelling and Robinson 2000). Stinking chamomile is also characteristic of Roman arable farming, a weed associated with the increasing cultivation of heavier soils during the period.

- C.1.12 The two samples from middle Iron Age pit 1703 (1700 and 1701) both contained charcoal but few other charred remains. The quantity of charcoal was much greater in the lower fill and, as initial examination suggested the charcoal to be similar in type, it may be that the charcoal in the upper fill is reworked material from the lower layer. The charred cereal remains in sample 1701 are of minor significance, given their low abundance and poor state of preservation, and may well represent background material from agricultural activity elsewhere in the settlement.
- C.1.13 Sample 1702 produced little identifiable material and the charred remains which were present were often in poor condition.



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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land East of Brackmills, Northampton

Site code: GHBP 13

Grid reference: SP 7880 5890

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 6th-24th January, 2014

Summary of results: Archaeological remains dating to the middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and Roman periods were recorded. In addition, evidence for medieval ridge and furrow agriculture, was present across the site.

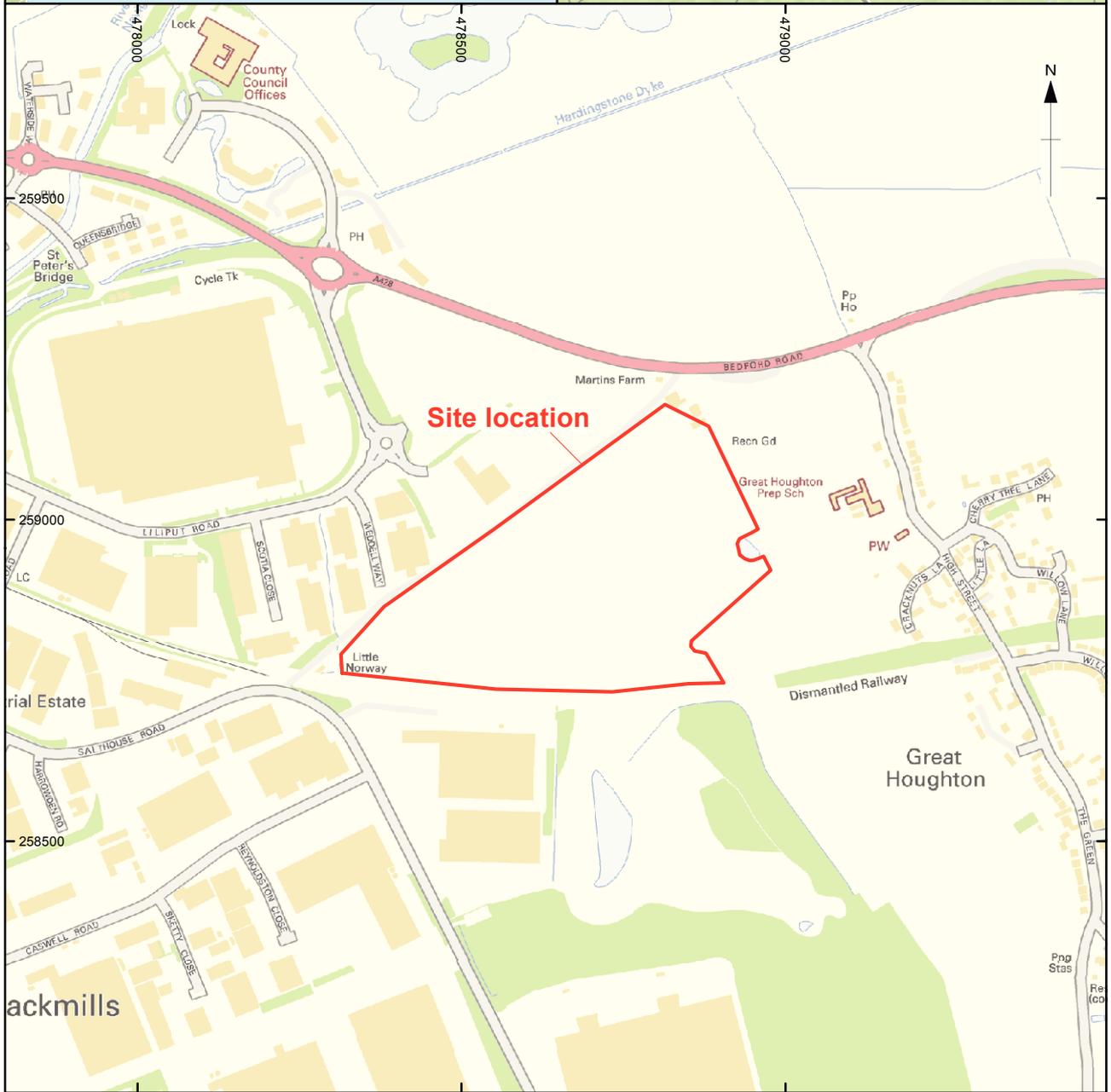
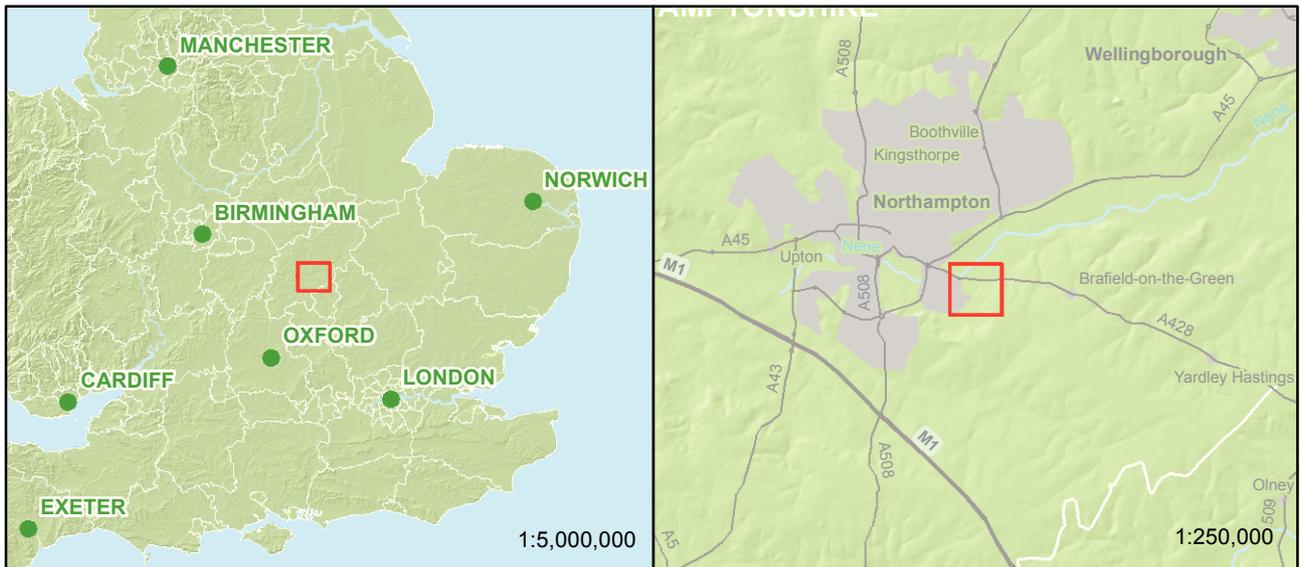
Evidence of settlement dating to the middle Iron Age was found in the higher, southern part of the site. A series of small sub-circular enclosures, recorded as geophysical anomalies, appear to date from this period. In addition, further pits and ditches containing Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fragments of oven or hearth furniture were present.

Settlement activity appears to continue into the late Iron Age/early Roman period, again focused on the high ground overlooking the River Nene. The activity continues into the Roman period proper, with some evidence that it became more extensive in the late Roman period. A length of stone-built wall footing was present in one of the trenches and is almost certainly Roman in date. Whether this formed part of a building or some other structure was not clear.

Extensive earthworks, the remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture, are present across the site. The presence of late medieval pottery in a layer adjacent to an existing pond on the eastern boundary of the site, may suggest that the pond formed part of the medieval landscape.

Possible evidence of small-scale post-medieval quarrying was present at the southern edge of the site where a layer of sandy silt containing frequent stone fragments was recorded. It is noticeable that evidence of ridge and furrow, either as earthworks or as geophysical anomalies, is absent from this area, having, perhaps, been destroyed by quarrying.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course.



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0 500 m

Figure 1: Site location plan



Key

- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature

Geophysical Survey Interpretation

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Widely spaced linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern services
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as services or field boundary
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

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 Geophysical Survey Interpretation supplied by: Stratuscan
 Figure 2: Trenches and geophysical anomalies



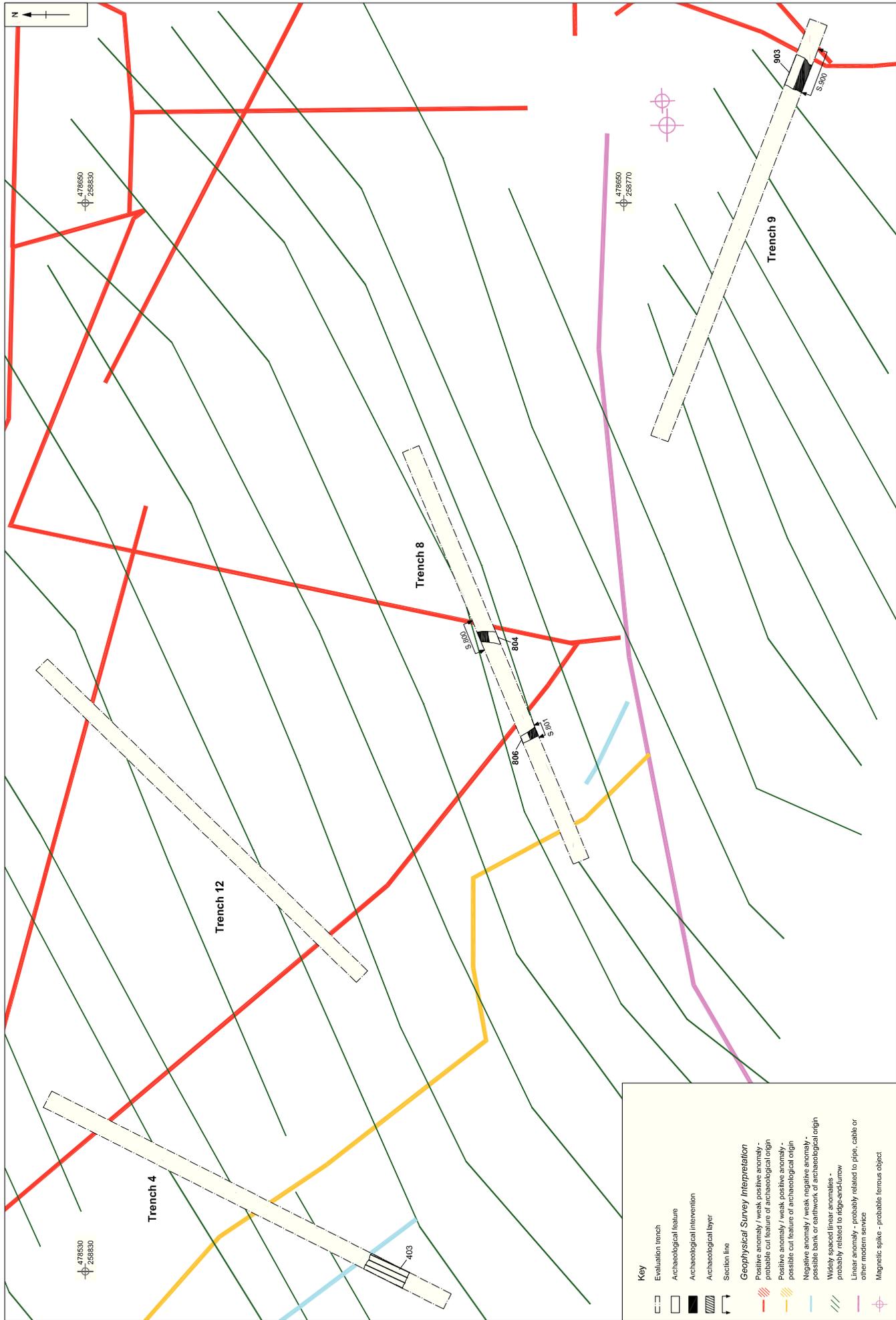
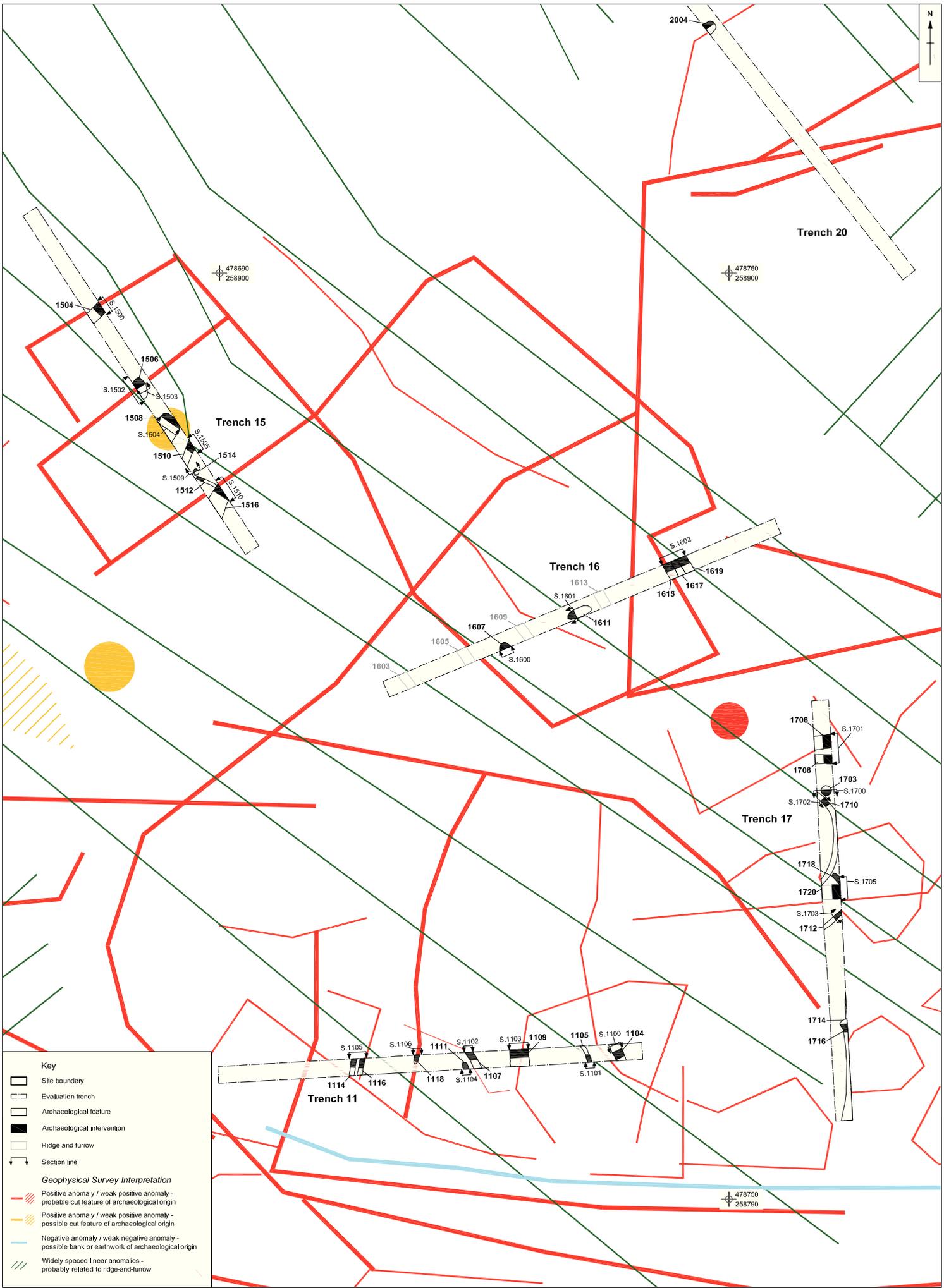


Figure 3: Plan of trenches 4, 8, 9 and 12





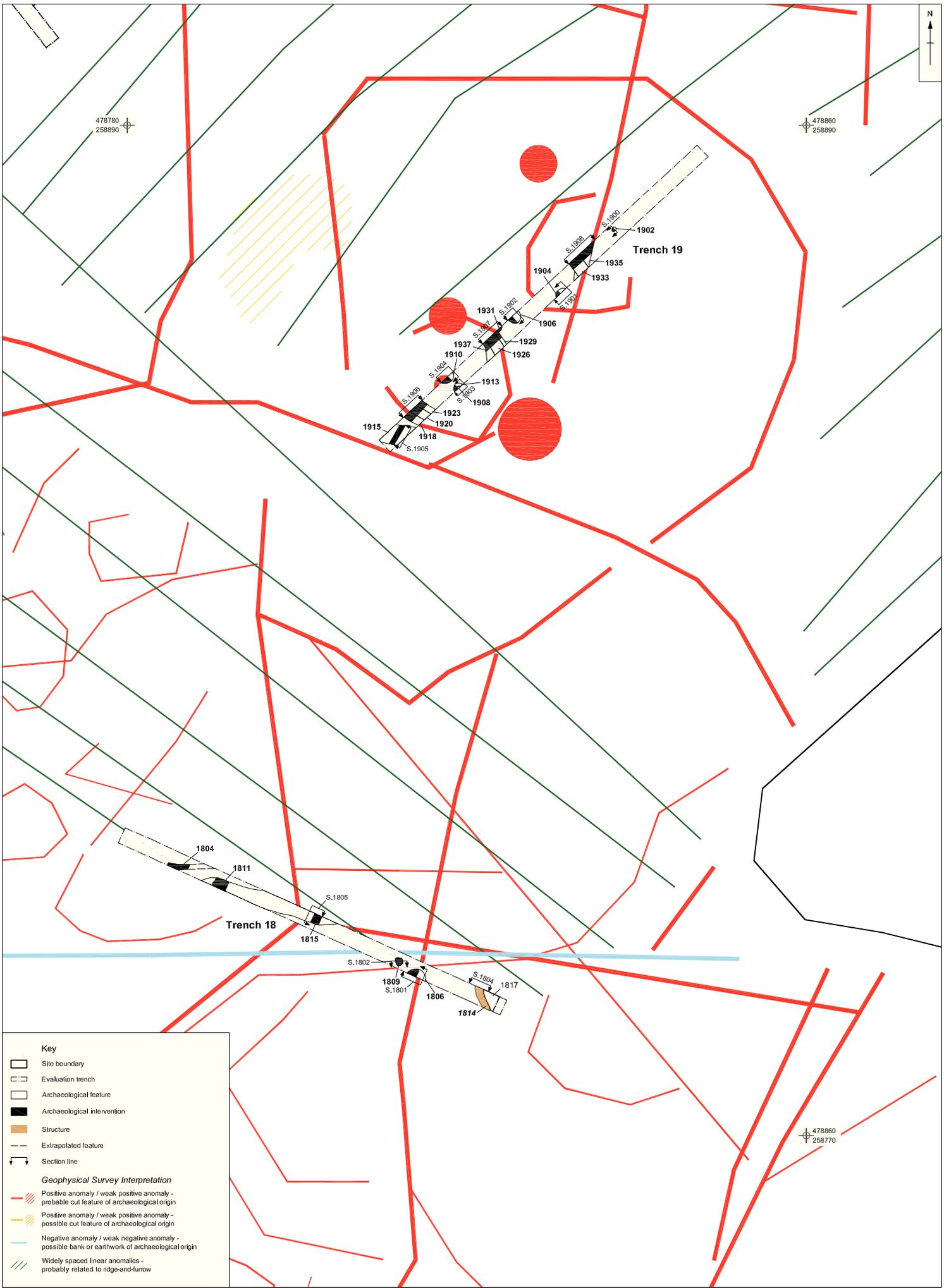


Figure 5: Plan of trenches 18 and 19

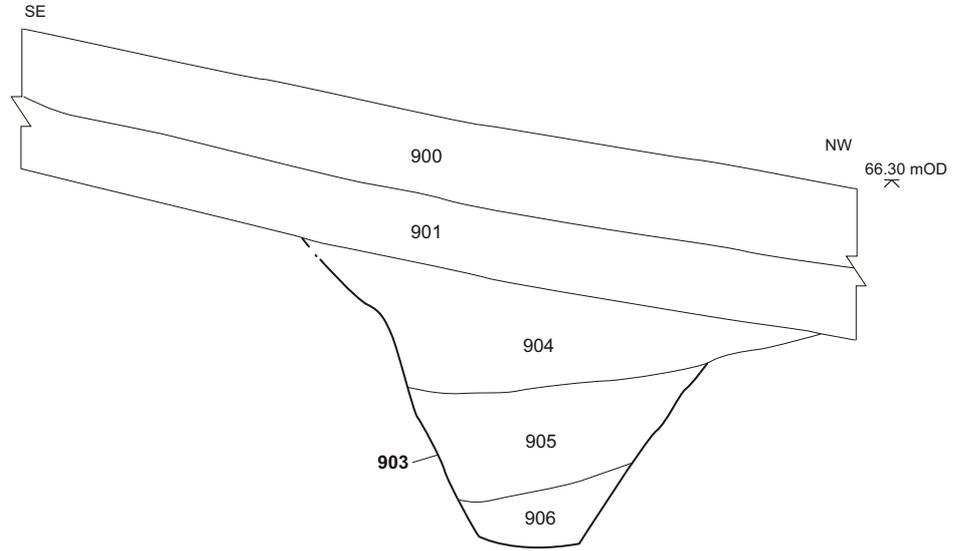


Figure 8: Trench 9, section

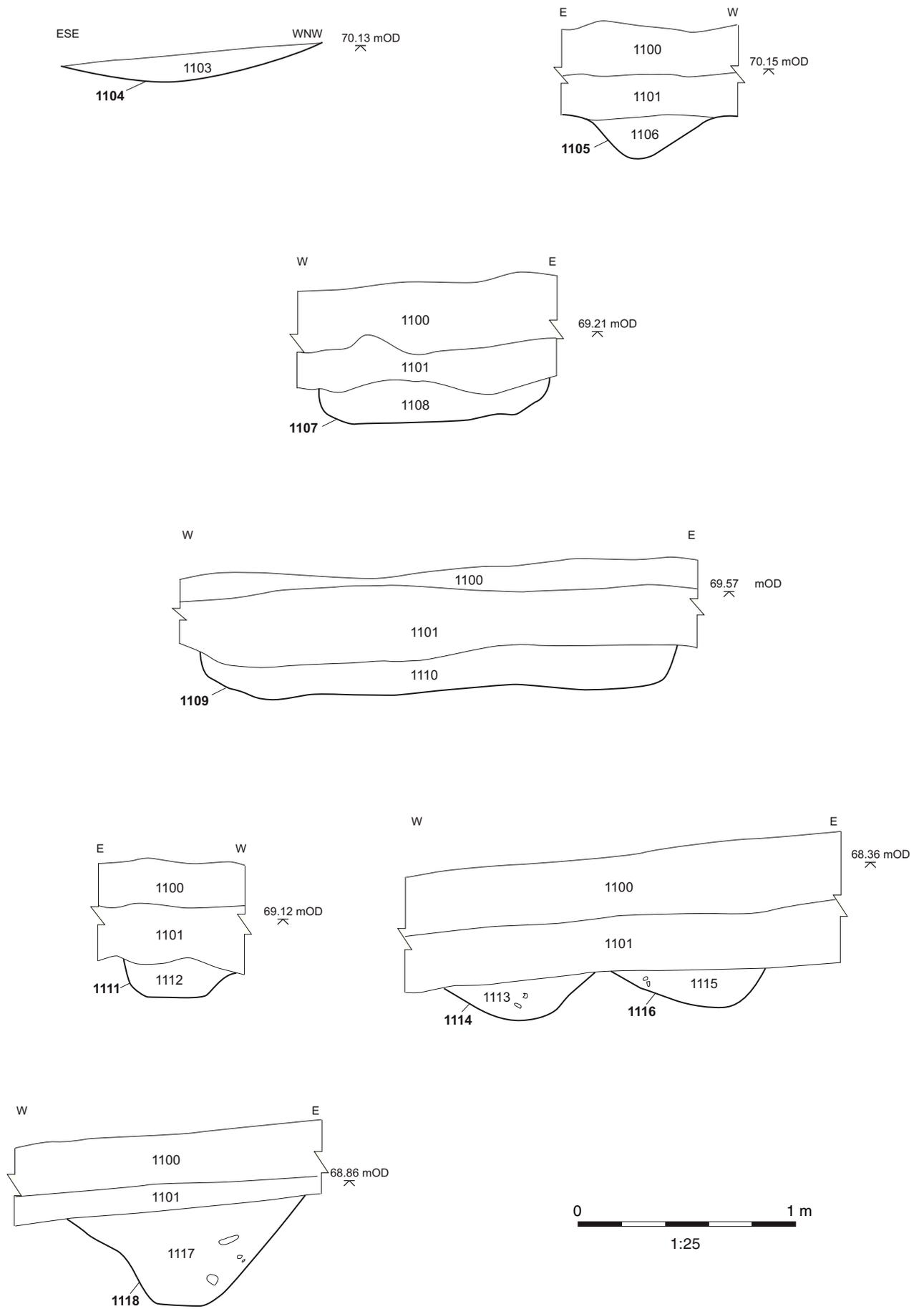


Figure 9: Trench 11, sections

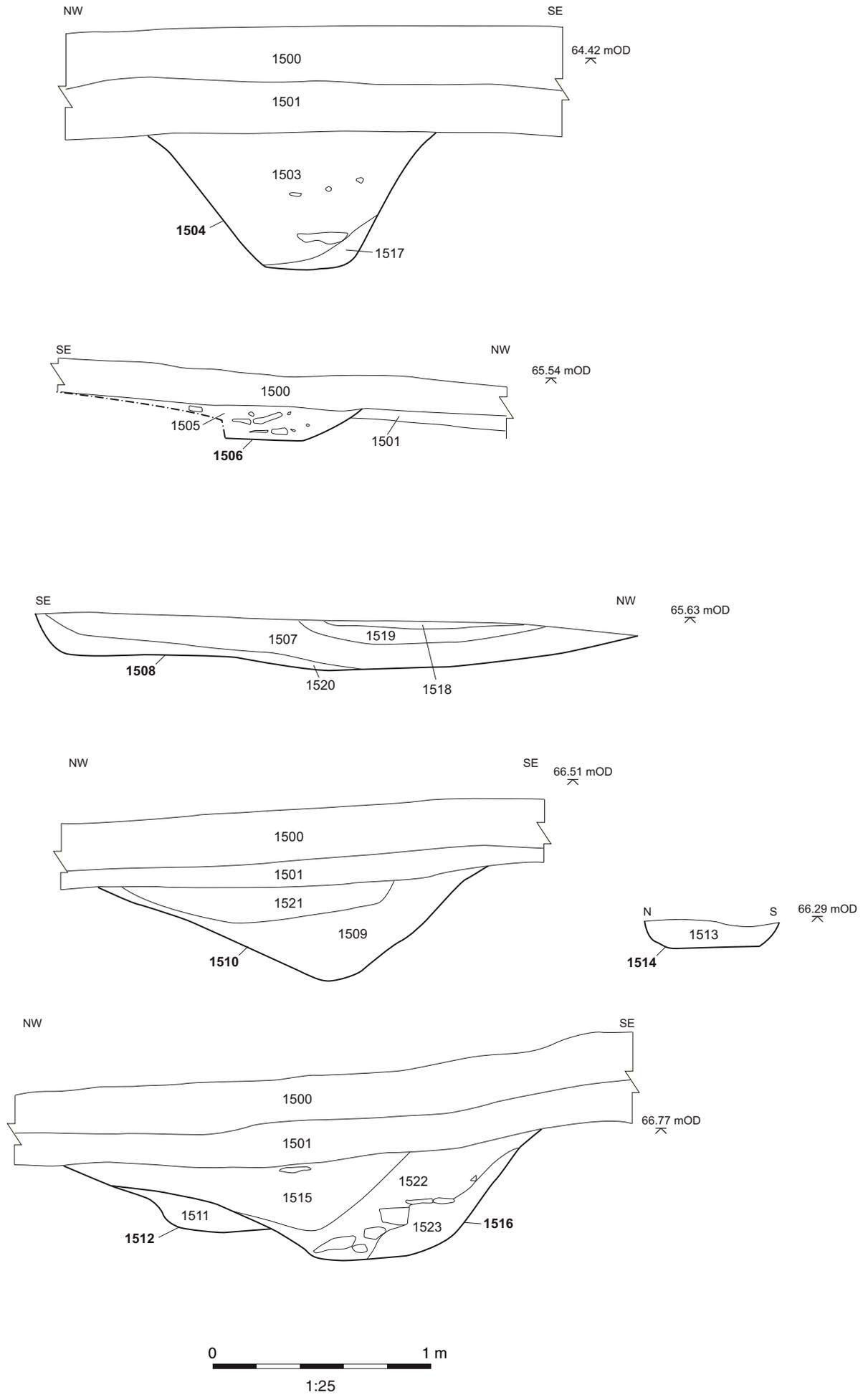


Figure 10: Trench 15, sections

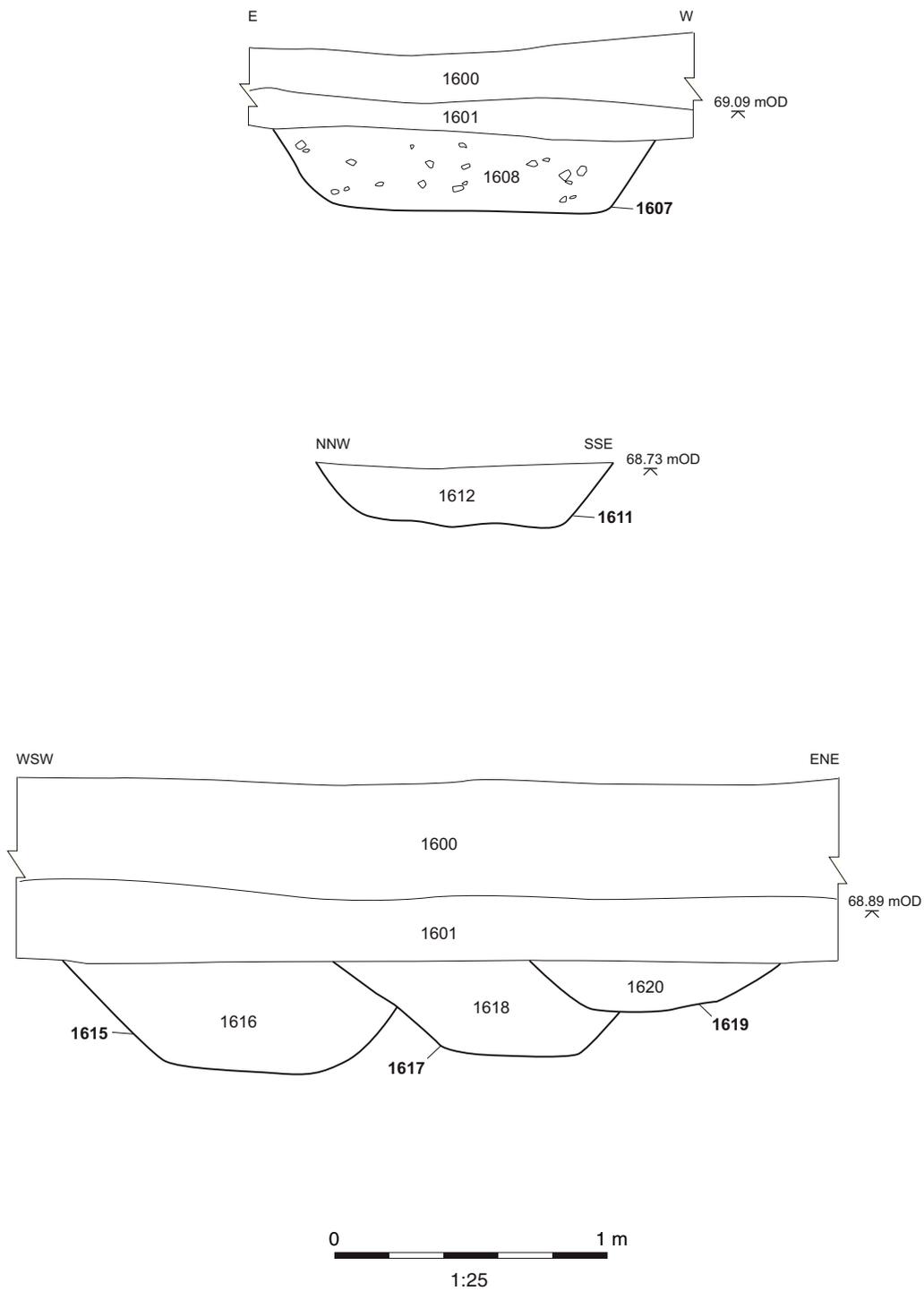


Figure 11: Trench 16, sections

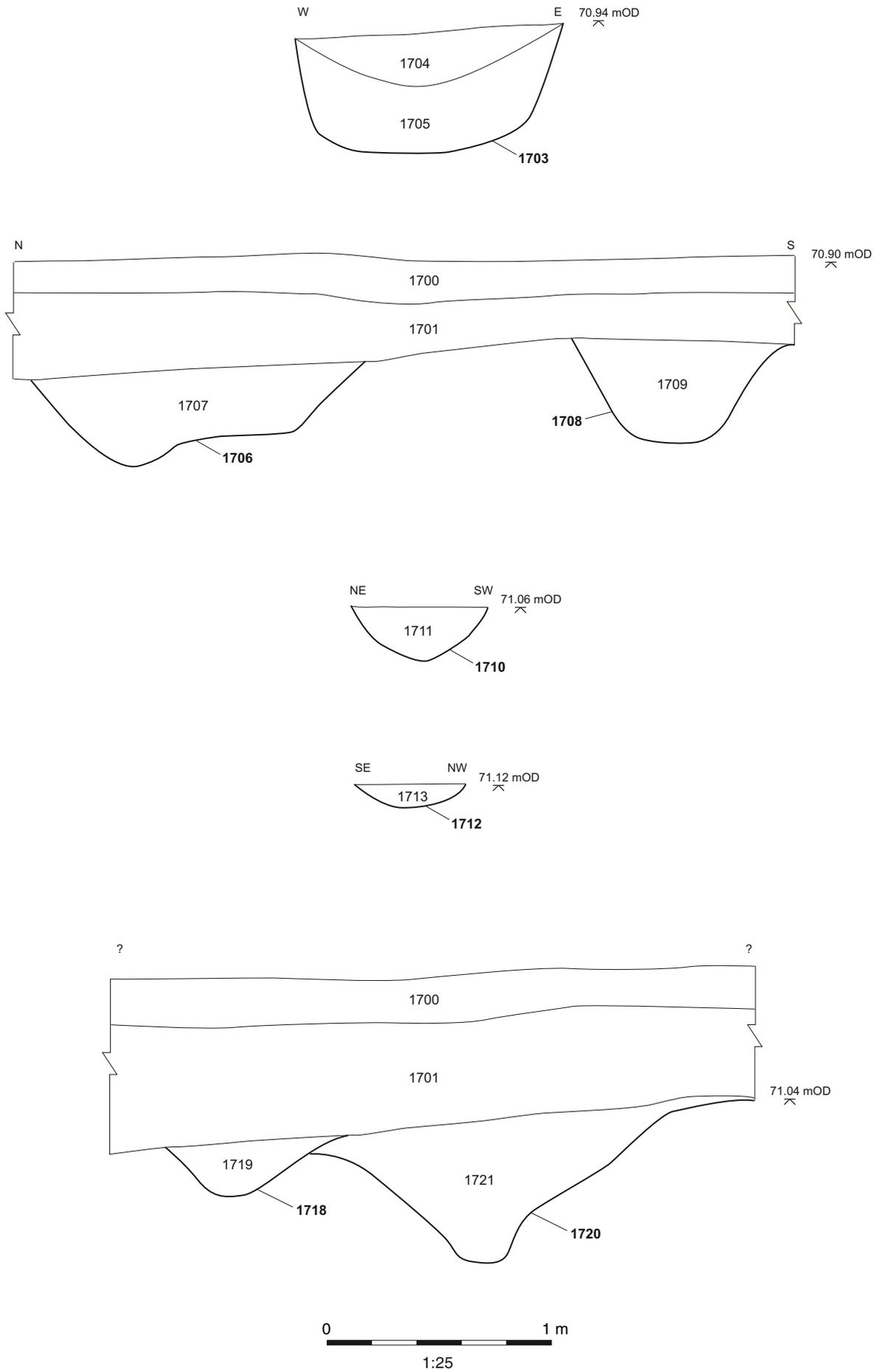


Figure 12: Trench 17, sections

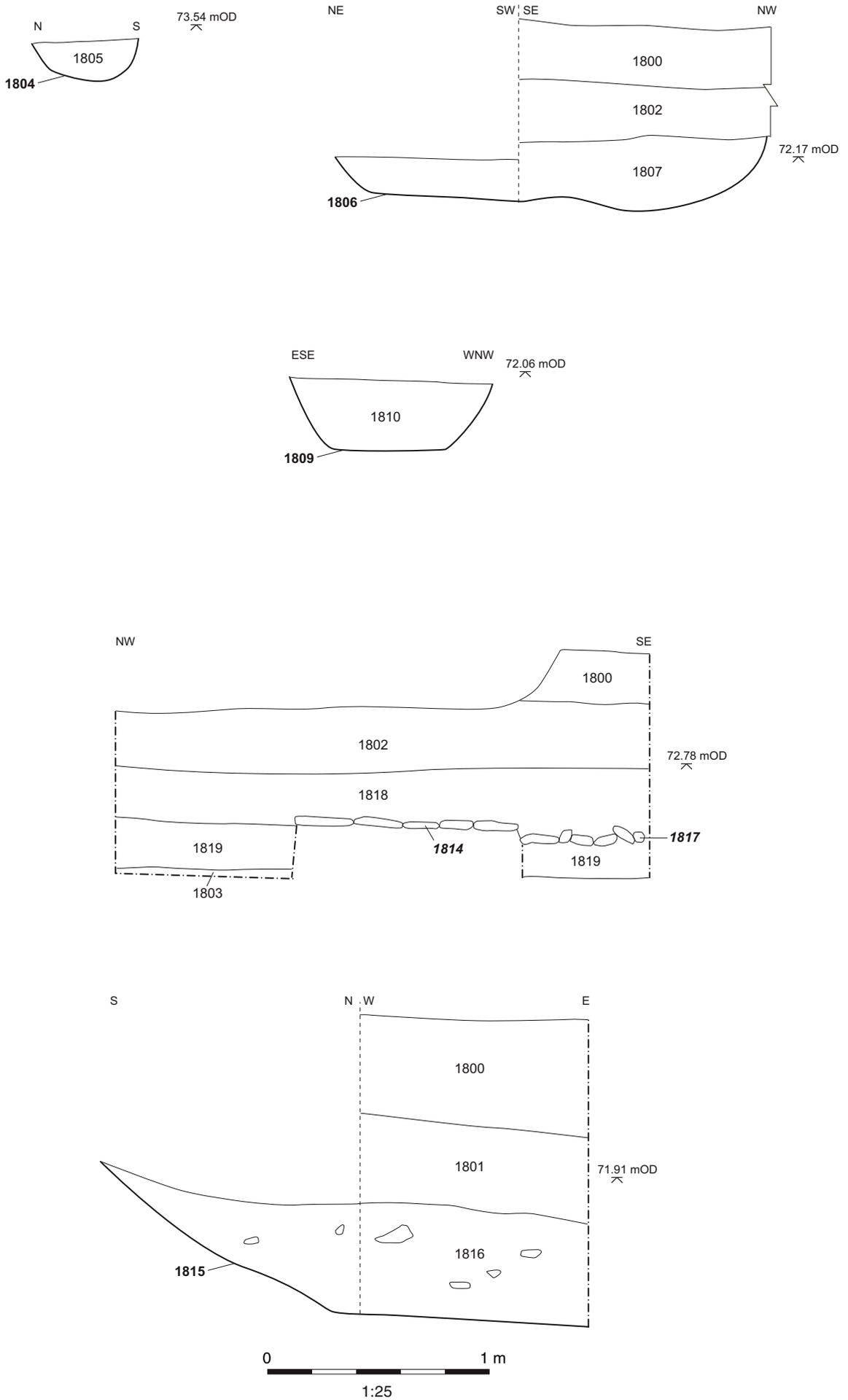


Figure 13: Trench 18, sections

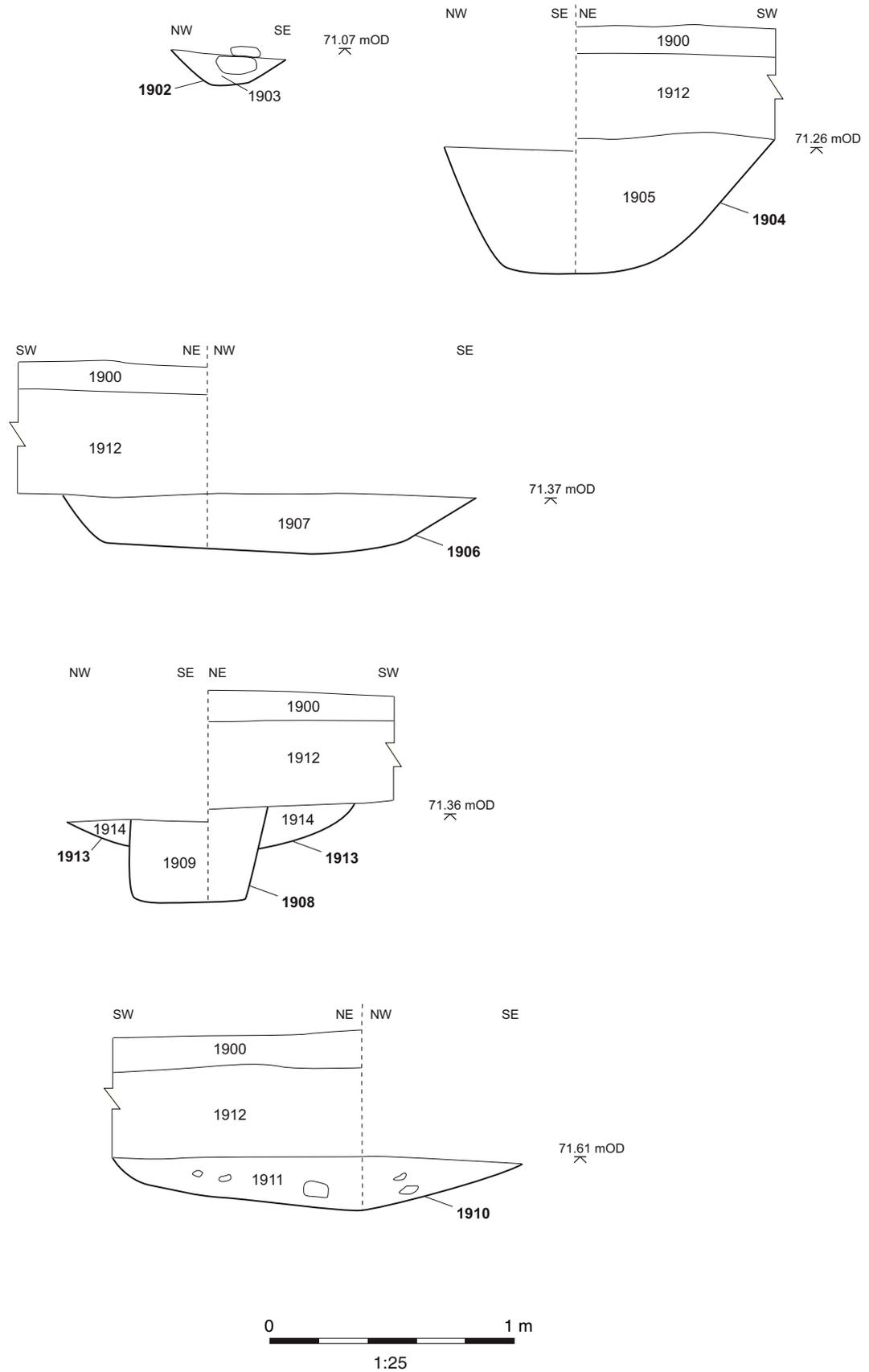


Figure 14: Trench 19, sections

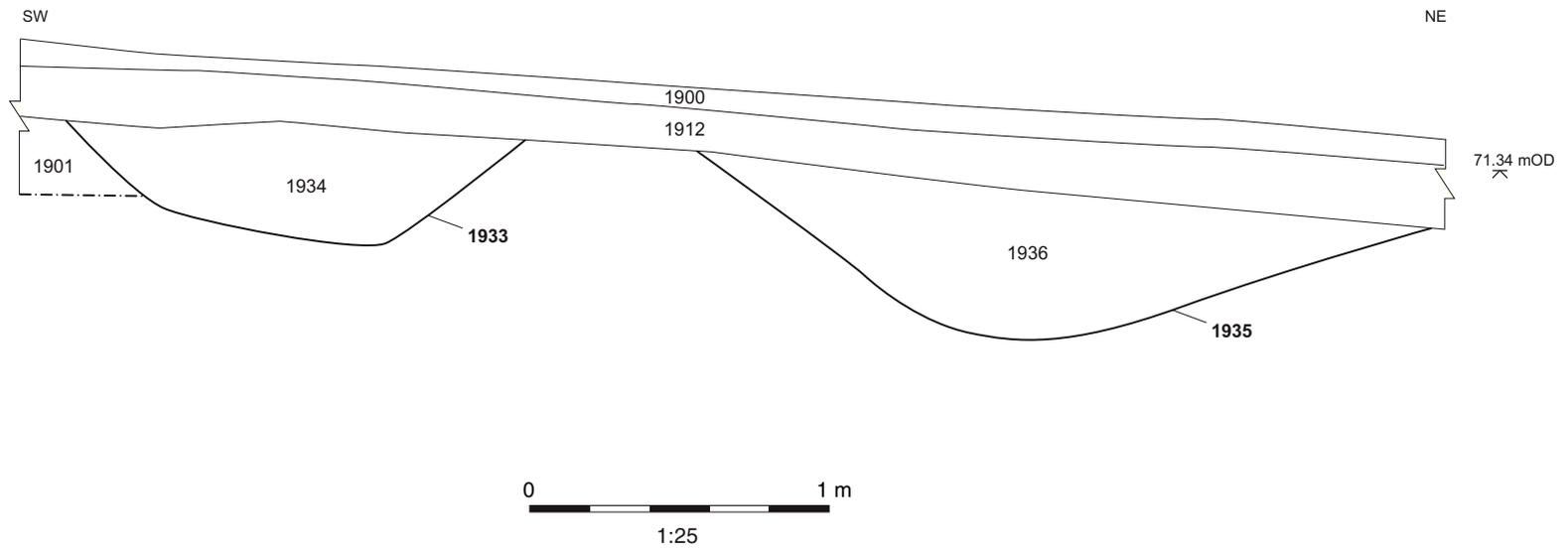


Figure 16: Trench 19, sections

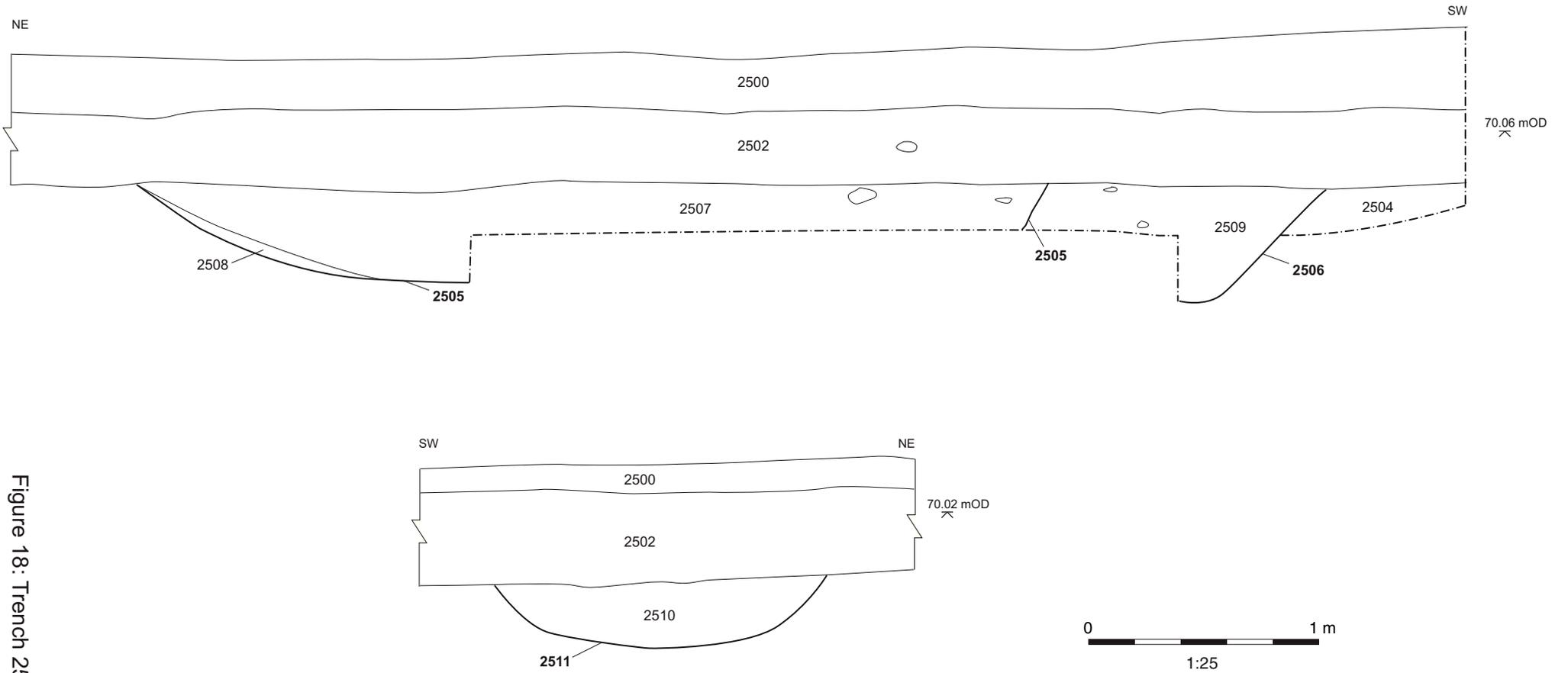


Figure 18: Trench 25, sections



Plate 3: Trench 15: ditch 1508, looking south



Plate 4: Trench 15: ditch 1510, looking north



Plate 5: Trench 15: ditch 1516, looking north



Plate 6: Trench 16: ditches 1615, 1617 and 1619 looking north-west



Plate 9: Trench 18: pit 1809, looking north-east



Plate 10: Trench 18: wall 1814, looking north



Plate 11: Trench 19: ditch 1915, looking east



Plate 12: Trench 19: ditches 1918, 1920 and 1923 looking north-west



Plate 13: Trench 19: ditches 1926, 1929, 1931 and 1937, looking north-west



Plate 14: Trench 20: pit 2004, looking south-west



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