

Iron Age cultivation &  
settlement features &  
post-medieval boundaries  
at Land North of Buntingford  
Hertfordshire



**Archaeological  
Evaluation Report**



November 2013

**Client: Pigeon Land Limited**

OA East Report No: 1543

OASIS No: oxfordar3-163205

NGR: TL 35647 30388

**Iron Age Cultivation and Settlement Features and Post-Medieval Boundaries at  
Land North of Buntingford, Hertfordshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Report Date: November 2013*

**Report Number:** 1543  
**Site Name:** Buntingford North  
**HER Event No:** TBC  
**Date of Works:** 7th-21st October 2013  
**Client Name:** Pigeon Land Limited  
**Client Ref:** 16104  
**Planning Ref:** 3/13/1375/OP  
**Grid Ref:** TL 35647 30388  
**Site Code:** XHTBUN13  
**Finance Code:** XHTBUN13  
**Receiving Body:** East Hertfordshire county store

**Accession No:**

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## Summary

*Between 7th and 21st October 2013 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an evaluation on land north of Buntingford, Hertfordshire. Fifty-one trenches (2550 linear metres) were excavated across three arable fields over an area encompassing c.17ha; these were designed to target a number of geophysical anomalies as well as apparently blank areas.*

*The most northerly field (A) was largely devoid of archaeology, apart from a few narrow Iron Age ditches in the northern part along with several post-medieval post-holes and ditches. A group of large medieval/post-medieval pits/quarries was also investigated towards the centre of the field, which corresponds with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.*

*Field B contained the most extensive archaeological remains, although these were relatively dispersed. Earlier Iron Age shallow ditches/possible hollow ways were present, sealed by a colluvial layer, along the eastern edge of the field, adjacent to Ermine Street. The western third of the field was largely occupied by an extensive series of parallel, slightly sinuous cultivation ditches aligned NNW-SSE, tentatively dated to the Iron Age. Located to the north-east of these was a shallow ditch/hollow way aligned east-west with possible wheel ruts surviving in its compacted base; this contained a mixture of earlier and Middle Iron Age pottery. At least one possible area of dispersed occupation was identified towards the centre of the field, represented by a few post-holes, gullies and possible pits containing earlier and Middle Iron Age pottery. Several post-medieval ditches were also recorded, most of which correlate with boundaries and enclosures shown on historic maps and/or identified by the geophysical survey.*

*Scattered archaeological features were present in Field C, at the southern end of the study area. A curving gully or ring-ditch containing a moderate quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery, along with an associated post-hole, may represent the edge of another settlement focus located adjacent to Ermine Street. A probable ditch was found to the north-east of this, while a scatter of undated (possibly prehistoric) and post-medieval ditches and gullies lay to the west.*

*The finds assemblage from the site includes a moderate collection of mostly earlier to Middle Iron Age pottery, with a few later fabrics; the presence of Middle Iron Age pottery is a relatively rare occurrence in Hertfordshire. The moderately large lithic assemblage suggests relatively intensive and prolonged activity/occupation of the site throughout the prehistoric period. Other finds are infrequent and mostly comprise later medieval and post-medieval metalwork including nails and horse-related items, along with small abraded fragments of CBM. The environmental potential of the site appears to be somewhat limited (perhaps implying that the main settlement focus lay elsewhere), with only small quantities of fragmented animal bone being present within features and very few plant remains being recovered from the bulk samples.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of 51 trenches (2550m; c. 3%), was conducted at land north of Buntingford, Hertfordshire (TL 35647 30388 centred). The site is located in East Hertfordshire District, to the north of Buntingford between the A10 bypass and Ermine Street, on the western terrace of the River Rib (Fig. 1). The fieldwork followed two earlier stages of non-intrusive investigation entailing an Assessment of Archaeological Significance (Hopkins 2013) and a programme of geophysical survey (Roseveare 2013). Anomalies identified by geophysical survey were targeted across the three arable fields (c.17ha); apparently blank areas were also sampled (Fig. 3).
- 1.1.2 This work was undertaken in response to a requirement by the local planning authority (LPA), East Hertfordshire Council, acting on advice from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to determination of the application. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2013).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by HCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site comprises three arable fields on the northern edge of the small town of Buntingford. Here the solid geology comprises the Lewes and Seaford Chalk formation, overlying which are superficial deposits of clay, silt and sand/gravels (BGS 2012). The highest point (c.115m OD) is on the western boundary and the site slopes away to the south and east to c.100.5m OD in the south-east corner of Field C (Fig. 4). Lying in the western river terrace, the land beyond the site again dips down to the east of Ermine Street into the valley of the River Rib.
- 1.2.2 Ermine Street and the A10 form the eastern and western boundaries respectively; to the south lies an industrial estate and school playing fields while more residential properties are located to the north. The three fields (A-C) are gently undulating; a ditched stream forms the boundary between the southern two fields and a former road (old Throcking road) separates the northern and central fields (A and B; Fig. 2). There is a small spinney within a sunken area to the immediate south of the main access to the site, adjacent to the former road. On the opposite side of Ermine Street, which along with a ditch forms the eastern site boundary, there is a farm (possibly the site of the manor of Corneybury, see below) surrounded by historic parkland through which the River Rib flows.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) has been carried out for the site (Hopkins 2013), upon which the following summary is based. Although numerous investigations have been undertaken within Buntingford town, no archaeological work has taken place within the study area until this current project. Only those investigations of possible relevance have been included below; further details of other records noted in the HHER, including numerous listed or noteworthy buildings, can be found in the DBA.
- 1.3.2 There is little recorded evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. Roman remains are also limited, despite the presence Ermine Street Roman Road which runs along the eastern boundary of the site.
- 1.3.3 The nearest investigation to produce results was a watching brief undertaken in May 1986 in advance of the construction of the Buntingford Bypass (MHT 2261; site C); located a few hundred metres to the south-east of the current site. This revealed a large, irregular spread of dark brown clay with charcoal, chalk and flint. A linear feature ran westward from this spread. The features contained Late Iron Age/Roman pottery of the first century AD, one piece of Roman tile, and animal bone.
- 1.3.4 Further south, an evaluation carried out in May 2000 at the former Sunnyside Nursery, Baldock Road (EHT 5000) recorded a number of undated features, possibly associated with prehistoric agriculture.
- 1.3.5 Medieval archaeology is likely to be associated with the manor of Corneybury (MHT 4045) and a historical reference to a deserted medieval village (MHT 1007) which might be linked to the manor. Buntingford itself, which despite its name being of Early Saxon origin, does not appear in Domesday, is mentioned in a Knights Templar land holding in 1185 as Buntas Ford and is documented in 1338 with the granting of a licence to hold a market and fair.
- 1.3.6 Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the proposed development has therefore revealed only limited potential for finds or features of archaeological significance, most probably of late prehistoric or Roman date.
- 1.3.7 Two recent archaeological investigations that were undertaken on the eastern edge of Buntingford are also worthy of mention as they provide a wider archaeological context for the current site. In May 2012 an evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on an 11.7ha site to the east of Buntingford adjacent to the B1038/Hare Street and on the east side of the River Rib (TL3678 2958). The evaluation, which was part of a programme of investigation that included a DBA and geophysical survey, comprised ten trenches up to 50m long that targeted the geophysical anomalies along with apparently blank areas. A number of palaeochannels were revealed, in addition to two enclosures of probable Late Iron Age to Early Roman date and areas of medieval ridge and furrow; the latter close to the former medieval focus around St Bartholomew's church (Fisher 2012)
- 1.3.8 A geophysical survey and subsequent trenching evaluation were also carried out in the latter part of 2012 at a c.18ha site at Land off Owles Lane to the south of the B1038; opposite the site described above. Evaluation entailed the excavation of 19 x 50m-long trenches. Features, in the form of enclosure ditches and pits, were revealed by the geophysical survey, and characterised as belonging to the Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British period by the subsequent trial trenching. The remains appear to represent a small farmstead located in the hinterland of Ermine Street (Snee 2012).

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The project was commissioned by Adrian Tindall of Archaeological Risk Management on behalf of the client, Pigeon Land Limited. Alison Tinniswood, Senior Archaeologist of Hertfordshire County Council monitored the archaeological evaluation; Alison is also thanked for providing information including reports pertinent to the Buntingford area. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay, while the fieldwork was undertaken by Matt Brooks, Steve Graham, Mike Green, Kat Hamilton, Kathryn Nicholls, Robin Webb, Rob Wiseman, Jemima Woolverton and the author; particular thanks are due to Mike Green for assisting with machine-watching and other supervisory roles. The GPS survey was conducted by Stuart Ladd, Dave Brown and the author. Finds were processed by Steve Morgan and environmental samples by Rhiannon Phelp; data entry was undertaken by Kat Hamilton. The various specialists are thanked for their reports as are the illustrators, Stuart Ladd and Gillian Greer.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The WSI, in consultation with Alison Tinniswood of HCC, specified that a 3% sample of the c.17ha area be evaluated, equating to 51 x 50m-long machine-excavated trenches (Figs 1-4).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° excavator using a 2.1m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Stuart Ladd, Dave Brown and the author using a Leica 1200 GPS system.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern. Where damaged (on occasion), ceramic field drains were repaired with plastic or ceramic sections prior to backfilling.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Twenty bulk soil samples were collected from a range of features and deposits to investigate the possible survival of micro and macro botanical remains (see Appendix B).
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were good/dry at the start of the project but soon deteriorated following several days of wind and heavy rain. The latter caused trench sides (which were generally fairly shallow) to partially collapse; to some extent excavation and recording was hampered and the quality of the photographic record was affected, as was subsequent backfilling by the machine.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following section includes a summary of the geophysical survey followed by a synthesis of the fieldwork results by field and trench, presented stratigraphically with the earliest feature/deposit first. Further details, including dimensions and fill descriptions can be found presented by trench/context in Appendix A.

#### 3.2 Geophysical Survey (Fig. 3)

3.2.1 A magnetic survey was commissioned to prospect land north of Buntingford for buried structures of archaeological interest (Roseveare 2013), from which the following summary has been extracted.

3.2.2 Overall magnetic contrast was low but sufficient to reveal traces of a number of former field boundaries, although not all that might have been expected from old maps of the area. This might represent the loss of magnetic material during arable use of the land. Some traces of ridge and furrow cultivation survive, as do some thread like weak magnetic anomalies that might hint at older ditch fills although their identification as such is at best tentative.

3.2.3 Overall the result is as expected; the texture of the data is fairly typical of the Lowestoft Formation Diamicton till, including the numerous small magnetic bodies that are normally associated with glacial debris probably from the north of England.

*Catalogue of geophysical anomalies (after Roseveare 2013)*

Label	Anomaly Type	Confidence in anomaly	Feature Type	Description	Easting	Northing
1	Strong linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch / drain?	A moderately strong anomaly (> 10 nT) defines a linear structure not known to correspond to any former field boundary. The anomaly strength (relative to others on site known to mark ditch fills, e.g. [16]) might suggest material other than just topsoil is present and interpretation as a drain, perhaps ceramic, seems reasonable	535619.3	230615.3
2	Strong linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch / drain?	See [1] which this joins	535661.9	230552.0
3	Area reduced field	High	Natural / fill?	A band of reduced magnetic field will mark a change in the substance of the soil. It could be natural, e.g. a band of sandy or stony soil, or the contact between till to the west and glaciofluvial deposits to the east. Interpretation is uncertain but the former presence of a belt of woodland in the southern fields and of similar width might also be relevant.	535643.8	230614.9
4	Area variable field	High	Natural / fills - Pits?	Uncertain; the nature of the magnetic disturbance is not in keeping with the natural variation and nor is it obviously of archaeological interest	535561.8	230620.0
5	Area variable field	High	Natural / fills - Pits?	See [4]	535563.5	230596.3
6	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Very weak (0.1 nT) and narrow (0.5m) possible anomaly	535508.6	230608.6

Label	Anomaly Type	Confidence in anomaly	Feature Type	Description	Easting	Northing
7	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	Narrow (< 1.5m) probable ditch fill, perhaps part of a former field boundary?	535600.7	230470.5
8	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch / drain?	Narrow (< 1.5m) fill, perhaps within the cut for a drain? The straightness and relative clarity implies a drain but this lacks the strong anomalies of [1] and [2] and is therefore probably of different construction	535711.8	230485.2
9	Linear enhanced dipolar	Medium	Fill - Ditch?	Former field boundary ditch? The Tithe Map suggests there were boundaries on this alignment	535769.6	230416.8
10	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	535519.2	230372.1
11	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	535662.4	230372.1
12	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	535550.4	230301.5
13	Linear enhanced dipolar	Medium	Fill? - Ditch?	Possible line of a former field boundary?	535593.1	230325.6
14	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	535597.3	230287.6
15	Strong area enhanced dipolar	High	Natural / fill?	An intriguing strong anomaly of uncertain interpretation but potentially natural or a fill within a natural feature	535642.9	230343.3
16	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	Known former field boundary, partly defines a rectangular enclosure with [17] and [18]	535566.9	230345.4
17	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	See [16]. Note the slight offset along this fill's length near the west end, presumably indicative of a now invisible further boundary extending northwards?	535602.8	230391.9
18	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	See [16] which marks the opposite side of the enclosure. The relationship with fill [20] is uneasy which might imply a difference of phase of enclosure?	535669.1	230306.6
19	Area variable field	High	Natural / fills - Pits?	An area of variable magnetic fill may be contained against [18] and perhaps therefore be associated? Springs (e.g. former ponds) can produce anomalies like this although here interpretation as such would not be supportable	535672.5	230326.0
20	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	A likely narrow (< 1m) ditch fill, perhaps a former field boundary	535748.9	230219.2
21	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch?	Situated in a field margin it is possible that this is a short length of former field boundary although this would not correlate well with the Tithe Map for example	535717.7	230195.1
22	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	535668.7	230145.7
23	Linear enhanced dipolar	Medium	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	535861.3	230152.4

### 3.3 Archaeological Trenches (Figs 2-11; Trench Plates 1-51)

3.3.1 Fifty-one trenches (50m x 2.1m) were machine-excavated across the three fields (A-C), targeting the geophysical anomalies as well as several apparently 'blank' areas. This section describes the results by field and, where appropriate, by phase/date, supplemented by trench/context data listed by trench in Appendix A. A summary of the results by trench is given in Table 1:

Trench No.	Field	Summary
1	A	?IA ditch(es), undated pits and post-medieval post-holes
2	A	No archaeology
3	A	Single tree throw
4	A	No archaeology
5	A	Two IA gullies
6	A	Post-medieval ?ditch; colluvium
7	A	No archaeology, some tree throws W end
8	A	Several intercutting medieval/post-med pits/quarries; post-holes and narrow ditch
9	A	No archaeology
10	A	No archaeology
11	A	No archaeology
12	A	No archaeology, single tree throw
13	A	No archaeology
14	A	No archaeology
15	A	No archaeology; single tree throw N end. Colluvium
16	B	Single small undated ditch
17	B	Several IA cultivation ditches and one post-med ditch
18	B	IA ditch, undated postholes and post-med pits/tree throws
19	B	?IA pit and adjacent posthole
20	B	No archaeology. Pipe trench running length of trench
21	B	No archaeology
22	B	?EIA ditches/hollow way, gully and pit
23	B	Two post-medieval ditches corresponding to an historic boundary
24	B	?IA postholes, pit and undated gully
25	B	Medieval/post-med ditch (part of enclosure) and undated pit
26	B	?IA cultivation ditch
27	B	?IA cultivation ditches, pit and slot
28	B	?IA cultivation ditch
29	B	IA cultivation ditch, earlier gully and posthole; colluvium
30	B	?IA or later cultivation ditches
31	B	Undated ditches
32	B	IA and post-medieval ditches/gullies and a posthole
33	B	Undated gully and postholes; post-med ditch
34	B	Undated gullies
35	B	?IA ditch/holloway cut by undated gully



Trench No.	Field	Summary
36	B	Undated and post-med ditches and gullies
37	B	Undated pit/ditch terminal and posthole; tree throws
38	B	Post-med and undated ditch
39	B	No archaeology. Tree throws and colluvial/alluvial layer
40	B	Undated ditches and ?IA cultivation ditches
41	B	Undated gully, posthole and pit; colluvial layer
42	B	Undated pit/tree throw
43	B	?IA ditch/hollow
44	B	Undated gullies, pits/tree throws
45	C	Undated ditch
46	C	No archaeology.
47	C	No archaeology.; colluvium/alluvium
48	C	MIA ring-ditch and posthole; ?IA ditch/pit
49	C	Undated gully; tree throws
50	C	Small undated pit; colluvium/alluvium
51	C	Post-med gully, tree throws, modern pipe trench

Table 1: Trench Summary

**Field A: Trenches 1-15 (Fig. 5; Trench Plates 1-15)**

- 3.3.2 The majority of trenches in the most northerly field (Field A) were devoid of archaeological features (Trenches 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14) and/or contained the occasional tree-throw (Trenches 3, 7, 12 and 15). An intermittent layer of mixed brownish red sandy clay colluvium of varying thickness was present in the more easterly and lower-lying trenches (Trenches 5-7 and 15), adjacent to a ditch running parallel to Ermine Street.
- 3.3.3 Field drains were ubiquitous in all trenches, with several phases of ceramic, slag-filled and stone-filled types being present. The series of slag-filled drains (Plate 4) encountered in Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 15 accounted for the geophysical anomalies listed as 1 and 2 in Field A (Fig. 3), while a similar drain was uncovered in Trench 21 in Field B that aligned with geophysical anomaly 8. Elsewhere in Field A, anomaly 6 did not appear to be archaeological in origin while anomaly 3 seemed to correspond to a change in the natural and start of the colluvium, along the Ermine Street side of the field, which created a 'banding' effect within the eastern ends of Trenches 5 and 7.
- 3.3.4 Natural geology varied from mid brownish orange sandy clay with flint gravel at the top of the field (Trench 1) to the pale yellowish grey with frequent chalk inclusions present across most of the site; occasional areas of dark brown sandy clay and reddish brown gravelly clay with large chalk and flint inclusions (e.g. in Trench 12) were also recorded. A number of tree-throws or natural features were present in some trenches, a sample of which were investigated (see Appendix). These were generally filled with sterile fills similar to the colluvium and the more sandy clay natural deposits, and were irregular in plan and profile; they are not further described in this section unless they contained finds.
- 3.3.5 Subsoil (54), varying between 0.04-0.2m thick, was present, although this tended to be an 'interface' mix of the underlying geology and overlying topsoil which was removed by machine in order to clarify the archaeology. Topsoil (51) was on average 0.3m thick, and comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flint inclusions

and occasional fragments of tile and post-medieval pottery. Trenches 6 and 15 adjacent to Ermine Street were machined slightly deeper in places (c. 0.7m ) in order to investigate the colluvial layer and any features that might be sealed beneath it.

- 3.3.6 Two trenches (1 and 5) contained narrow ditches of probable Iron Age date, while medieval/post-medieval features were present in Trenches 1, 6 and 8.

*Iron Age: Trenches 1 and 5*

- 3.3.7 Located in the north-west corner of the field on a slight plateau, Trench 1 contained a number of features, at least one of which is likely to be of Iron Age date based on the pottery recovered from its fill. Five roughly parallel ditches/gullies (south to north: **155**, **151**, **172**, **153** and **165**) ranging between 0.24m-0.67m wide and 0.08m-0.18m deep were aligned approximately east-west across the northern half of the trench. The profiles of the ditches varied, with most having gently-sloping sides and flat to concave bases; one (**165**) had steep sides and a flat base, while the deepest (**153**) was more v-shaped. Fills generally comprised greyish or reddish brown silty clay or clay silts (and occasional sands) with occasional to common flint, chert and chalk fragments.
- 3.3.8 The only feature to produce datable finds was gully **151**, comprising a single sherd (18g) of Iron Age scored pottery, although its similarity to other ditches in the trench might imply that they were contemporary. The largest ditch in the trench (**169**, see below), which is on a slightly different alignment to **151**, however, contained CBM and is likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date. One of the ditches/gullies (**165**) was truncated by intercutting pits **161** and **165** that may also be medieval/post-medieval in date if associated with the adjacent post-holes. Some of the post-holes may conceivably be Iron Age, although the presence of flecks of CBM in some (see below) suggests otherwise.
- 3.3.9 A pair of roughly parallel, slightly sinuous shallow ditches/gullies (**57/59/61/63** and **65**) similar to those in Trench 1 was also revealed in Trench 5, located c.120m down slope to the east. The more southerly of these (**57/59/61/63**) was exposed for a length of c.42m running approximately east-west; it measured between 0.4 and 0.55m wide and was 0.25m deep at its most substantial. Its sides varied along its length from steep to gentle and the base ranged from flat to slightly concave. Adjacent ditch **65** was only partially-revealed within the trench but was similar in profile and dimensions to its neighbour. The single reddish brown silty clay fills of both ditches produced a small quantity (6 tiny sherds weighing 3g) of earlier Iron Age pottery.

*Medieval/post-medieval: Trenches 1, 6 and 8*

- 3.3.10 Features, including ditches, pits/quarries and post-holes containing brick/tile (CBM) and rare pottery sherds of medieval to post-medieval date were encountered in three trenches in this field.
- 3.3.11 The largest and most southerly ditch in Trench 1 (**169**) was parallel to some of the smaller ditches provisionally assigned an Iron Age date (see above). It was c.1m wide and 0.14m deep with a shallow irregular profile. The single light greyish brown silty clay fill contained occasional small fragments of CBM and frequent medium-large flints.
- 3.3.12 Trench 8 was designed to target two broad geophysical anomalies (4 and 5), although the trench alignment was dictated by the presence of an overhead cable crossing the field at this point. The more northerly anomaly was not definitely identified within the trench, although a narrow ditch (**181**) measuring 0.33m wide and 0.3m deep and two possible postholes/small pits (**183** and **185**) were present in this area. The post-holes

are undated but likely to be post-medieval, while the ditch produced a small group of CBM and a single sherd of glazed post-medieval pottery.

- 3.3.13 Anomaly 5 manifested into a series of large intercutting quarry pits (**187**, **189** and **198**) and smaller pits (**193**, **195**, **191**) of uncertain function. The larger intercutting pits (which were not all fully-excavated to their depth) extended over an area measuring c.10m wide and were between 0.4m and in excess of 0.6m deep, with fairly moderately-sloping sides and (where exposed) flat to slightly concave bases. The smaller sub-circular pits were located on the edge of the larger pit group and measured between c.0.5m and 1.5m wide with shallow irregular profiles up to c.0.2m deep. Fills of the quarries/pits comprised reddish, yellowish or greyish brown sandy clays with frequent small chalk lumps, which produced small quantities of CBM, mortar, pottery and animal bone. These are likely to represent an area of post-medieval quarry pitting, possibly exploiting a chalk/marl-rich deposit perhaps extracted in order to spread on the more clay-dominated fields.
- 3.3.14 Located c.80m to the east of Trench 8, Trench 6 was positioned parallel to Ermine Street in an apparently blank (other than magnetic interference) area. At least one ditch (**302/ 307**) or linear quarry was exposed crossing the trench at an oblique angle, cutting a c.20m-wide spread of colluvium-like material and other deposits that might conceivably be the fills of earlier features (1, 303, 304 and 309). The main ditch/quarry measured at least 0.9m wide and was 0.63m deep with steep to moderate sides, extending for 4m across the trench. Finds recovered from the two yellowish brown silt/clay chalky sand fills of the ditch include fragments of CBM and iron nails along with two residual and abraded sherds of Iron Age and Roman/medieval pottery; the latter not closely datable. The only other find comprises a 'crumb' of possibly Iron Age pottery from the colluvial layer (1).

*Undated: Trench 1*

- 3.3.15 Four sub-/circular post-holes (**159**, **168**, **172/174** and **177**) scattered along the length of Trench 1 may be the remains of a fence. They ranged in size from 0.15m-0.55m wide and 0.1m-0.55m deep with generally steep sides and concave bases. One (**159**) at the north end of the trench contained a distinct postpipe and gravel-rich packing and another (**174**) was recut by a smaller posthole on its southern side. None produced datable finds although small fragments of CBM were noted in the fill of **168**; as mentioned above, at least some of these features could conceivably be earlier.
- 3.3.16 Two shallow, intercutting pits (**161** and **163**) truncated ?Iron Age ditch **165** at the northern end of Trench 1. No finds were recovered from the gravelly fills of these features, which measured 1.03m and 1.48m long and were 0.16m and 0.23m deep respectively. Given the absence of dating they could belong to any period but taking the stratigraphic relationship with ditch/gully **165** into account, a tentative post-Iron Age date can be suggested and it is quite possible that they are post-medieval in origin.

***Field B: Trenches 16-44 (Figs 6-9 and 11; Trench Plates 16-44)***

- 3.3.17 The majority of the evaluation trenches were located within the largest/central field (Field B). This area produced the most archaeological remains, with just three (20, 21 and 39) of the trenches being devoid of archaeological features. One of these (Trench 20 adjacent to the old Throcking road) contained a pipe trench for a live water main, while Trench 21 was partly covered by a layer of colluvium at its northern end, which was cut by a tree-throw. Trench 39 at the southern end contained a mixed colluvial/alluvial material, similar to that seen in other trenches in this zone, along most of its length, that overlay a very mixed clay and gravel natural.

- 3.3.18 In general the surface geology was similar to that encountered in Field A, being predominantly a light yellowish grey clay with frequent chalk and occasional flint inclusions, changing to more mixed orangey brown sandy clays and gravels in some of the more central/eastern trenches. Subsoil and topsoil (52 and 55) layers were generally comparable to those described above for Field A, with topsoil being on average 0.3m thick. Little subsoil was present except in the trenches containing colluvium along the eastern and southern peripheries of the field.
- 3.3.19 A range of archaeological features comprising ditches/gullies, pits, post-holes and possible hollow ways/tracks were present dispersed across the field, most of which appear to be Iron Age or post-medieval in date. These generally correspond very well with the geophysical anomalies targeted in this field, although additional features were identified in areas that were apparently blank on the geophysical survey, notably along the eastern edge of the field. Some of the anomalies (e.g. 15) transpired to be changes in the natural, comprising swathes of grey clay or orangey red gravelly clay that formed bands within the surface geology. As mentioned above, a modern slag-filled field drain appears to have caused geophysical anomaly 8, targeted by Trench 21.
- ?Iron Age 'cultivation' ditches (Figs 6 and 11)*
- 3.3.20 Much of the western third of Field B (Figs 6 and 11) contained a series of narrow, parallel ditches aligned roughly north-south running down the length (c.150m) of the south-facing slope towards the stream forming the field boundary. The ditches, which correspond with geophysical anomalies interpreted as furrows (shown as green dashed lines on the plot; Fig. 3) were present in Trenches 16, 17, 26-31 and 40, with Trenches 27, 30 and 40 containing the most (up to eight in each). It is possible that more than one phase of ditch is represented, although none were intercutting and most displayed similar profiles and contained comparable fills. In Trenches 27 and 40 the ditches were found to be spaced between 4.5-c.5.5m apart, with the average distance between ditches being c.5m.
- 3.3.21 The ditches, of which a representative sample were dug in each of the trenches within which they appeared, were on average c.0.5-0.6m wide and between 0.05 and 0.23m deep (most being 0.1-0.15m deep) with generally fairly steep sides and flat to occasionally slightly concave bases. Although broadly linear, where significant lengths of the ditches were exposed in the more north-south aligned trenches, they appeared slightly sinuous rather than straight in plan. All contained single greyish or slightly reddish brown silty clay fills with occasional flints of various sizes and chalk flecks/lumps. Few of these contained finds other than occasional small sherds of abraded Iron Age pottery; the latter were from ditches in Trenches 17, 26 and 29 and comprises a mixture of earlier and later Iron Age fabrics. Presumably intrusive fragments of medieval or later CBM were found in some of the ditches, notably in one ditch (**225**) in Trench 30 and one in Trench 29 (see below); alternatively these might represent a much later phase of drainage/cultivation ditch.
- 3.3.22 One of the most substantial (0.8m wide x 0.23m deep) of the parallel ditches (**267**) was investigated in Trench 29 where it cut two earlier features comprising a shallow possible post-hole (**269**) and a narrow ditch or gully aligned east-west (**271**). Neither the post-hole or the gully, which measured 0.5m wide and 0.33m deep with a rounded concave profile, contained datable finds but given the stratigraphic relationship with ditch **267**, an Iron Age or earlier date might be suggested. The single sherd (5g) of later Iron Age pottery from main ditch **267**, however, may conceivably be residual as a fragment of abraded tile was also recovered from the ditch. The latter was found at the western edge of the cut in an area disturbed by burrowing or tree rooting and therefore

is likely to be intrusive; a further smaller sherd (2g) of later Iron Age pottery in addition to fragments of CBM were also recovered from a layer of colluvium (272) at the southern end of the trench.

- 3.3.23 Environmental samples taken from the ditches did not produce any remains that might help to interpret their function. A cultivation and/or drainage-related function seems most likely.

*Earlier to later Iron Age ditches/possible hollow ways: Trenches 22 and 35 and Trenches 18 and 43 (Figs 7 and 9)*

- 3.3.24 Located in two trenches adjacent to Ermine Street were two broad, shallow and slightly sinuous linear ditches (**27/96** and **352/354**) aligned roughly north-west to south-east that appeared to be sealed beneath the layer of colluvium present on this side of the field. As only the western edges were visible, the full widths of the ditches (which may be the same feature) were not exposed within either trench, implying that they were in excess of 2m wide. The ditches both cut the mixed reddish brown gravelly clay natural and were between 0.18m and 0.24m deep with gradually sloping profiles. In Trench 22 the basal fill of the ditch (26/87) comprised a c.0.1m-thick pale yellow gravelly clay which contained struck flint and occasional pottery sherds, the latter datable to the earlier Iron Age. The flints recovered from the ditch must be residual as they date to the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age. Above this was a deposit of brown silt which also produced a small quantity of earlier Iron Age pottery. The gravelly basal fill was not as evident within the ditch in Trench 35 to the immediate south, although patches of gravel stones were noted and a similar pottery and flint assemblage was recovered. An undated, shallow gravel-filled cut (**18**) partly exposed in the south-east corner of Trench 22 may be a continuation of ditch **27/96** or possibly a separate feature.
- 3.3.25 A gravel-lined hollow or shallow ditch (**452**, see below) investigated in Trench 36 to the immediate south may conceivably be a continuation of these features, given the presence of a small sherd of ?Iron Age pottery in its fill, although a post-medieval date is also feasible
- 3.3.26 A possible ditch or hollow way (**282**) broadly similar to those in Trenches 22 and 35 was also investigated in Trench 43, located c.80m to the south-west. It measured 3.75m wide and 0.40m deep and was aligned approximately east-west with shallow gently-sloping sides and base. As with the ditch in Trench 22 to the north, the primary fill of ditch **282** comprised a c.0.20m-thick gravel-rich deposit (281) overlain by a more silty clay fill (273). The latter contained the largest single group of worked flints (53 pieces) from the site, most of which are datable to the later prehistoric period although earlier items are present. A few pottery sherds dated to the Iron Age, later Iron Age and Roman (a single sherd) were also recovered, suggesting that this feature was slightly later than those in the other trenches; a small quantity of CBM from the upper fill is presumably intrusive. This feature, which was sealed beneath a 0.2m-thick reddish-brown silt clay colluvial-like subsoil (283), appears to have been aligned broadly parallel to the stream situated c.20m to the south. The mixed nature of the finds suggests that much of assemblage is reworked, implying that the feature could be much later.
- 3.3.27 At the northern end of Field B, within Trench 18 (Fig. 9), a further shallow ditch or hollow (**201**) was present, which was also aligned broadly east-west c.9m from the northern end of the trench. Cutting the natural chalky clay, the ditch/hollow measured 2.38m wide and 0.18m deep with a shallow slightly undulating profile. Of note were two narrow (c.0.10m wide) parallel cuts or depressions within the base of the northern part of the ditch/feature; spaced c.0.75m apart, these had the appearance of wheel ruts

(Fig. 9) but may be agricultural in origin. The base of the ditch/hollow comprised compacted chalk and flint forming a possible surface, overlying which was a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (202). The fill contained bone, shell, flint and charcoal, in addition to a moderately large quantity of pottery (63 sherds weighing 250g) of earlier and Middle Iron Age date.

*Possible Iron Age settlement-related features: Trenches 18, 19, 24, 27, 32 and 33 (Fig 9)*

- 3.3.28 In addition to the cultivation ditches and possible hollow ways, a number of possible settlement-related features comprising pits, postholes and gullies were identified. These were generally fairly dispersed, although a slight concentration is discernible within the central/eastern part of the field.
- 3.3.29 Three post-holes or small pits (**203**, **207** and **211**) were present in Trench 18, dispersed along its length on either side of the ditch/hollow way **201**. They ranged in size from 0.18m-0.42m wide and between 0.12-0.14m deep. None produced finds but contained similar mid-dark grey silty clay fills with frequent flint/chalk to that within the main ditch and could conceivably be contemporary.
- 3.3.30 A partly-exposed pit (**70**) and adjacent post-hole (**68**) were identified at the eastern end of Trench 19, c. 50m to the south-east of the features in Trench 18. The pit was 1.35m wide and 0.41m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single pale yellowish grey silty clay fill from which a single sherd of earlier Iron Age pottery along with a small undatable flint chip and animal bone were recovered; a small fragment of CBM is likely to be intrusive. The adjacent post-hole measured 0.34m wide and 0.09m deep with steep sides and a flat base; no finds were recovered.
- 3.3.31 Trench 24, positioned at right angles to the south of Trench 19, contained three postholes (**72**, **74** and **76**), the latter one cut by a large shallow pit (**78**), and a narrow east-west aligned ditch (**80**), all located towards the southern end of the trench. The three post-holes, which were positioned c.1.25m apart and formed a shallow arc, were all sub-circular in plan and measured between 0.22m and 0.31m wide and between 0.09m and 0.2m deep. They were generally steep sided with concave profiles and the most northerly one (**72**) appeared to retain a post-pipe. Fills comprised yellowish brown silty or sandy clay with occasional gravel and charcoal inclusions. Five sherds (20g) of earlier Iron Age pottery were recovered from post-hole **72** and it is probable that the other post-holes are contemporary.
- 3.3.32 Post-hole **76** was cut by a wide shallow irregular pit (**78**), measuring 2.2m long and 0.19m deep, which was only partly-exposed within the trench. Although no pottery was present within its single silty clay fill, two large ?burnt stones, one of which had a smoothed surface, were recovered. Adjacent ditch (**80**), which measured 0.8m wide and 0.44m wide, had steep sides and a slightly rounded base; no finds were recovered from its single fill. It may have been contemporary with the adjacent features, although a later date is also feasible. It appears to roughly correspond with a geophysical anomaly (11), possibly forming the northern arm of a small sub-rectangular enclosure also targeted by Trench 33.
- 3.3.33 Trench 33 was positioned obliquely, aligned north-west to south-east to the immediate south of Trench 24 and designed to investigate a number of geophysical anomalies (11, 18 and 15). One of these (15) was geological in origin and was also identified within Trench 32, where it comprised a 2.5m-wide swathe of gravelly clay with undercutting sides that may represent a periglacial feature such as an ice crack. To the west of the post-medieval ditch (see below) and geological feature were a series of possible post-

holes (**340**, **342**, **344** and **465**), a possible tree bole (unnumbered) and a short length of gully (**348/350**). Three of the post-holes appear to be fairly isolated and spaced several metres apart, while the fourth (**465**) was located immediately adjacent to the gully terminal. They were generally sub-circular in plan, between 0.3m and 0.48m wide and fairly shallow (deepest being 0.08m) with concave profiles. No finds were recovered from their single silty or sandy clay fills, which varied in colour from yellowish to reddish brown with occasional flints and charcoal flecks; the latter within the fill of **344**. The north-east to south-west aligned gully terminal **348/350** was more substantial, measuring c.2.5m long, 0.47m wide and 0.2m deep with a fairly rounded profile. Although this too was undated, the location of these features between dated Iron Age activity in Trenches 24 and 32 to the north and south implies that they might also be contemporary.

- 3.3.34 Towards the centre of Trench 32 was a distinctive linear gully or ditch (**321/325/327/331/335**) aligned north-east to south-west that had been recut at least once by two opposing terminals (**323/329**). The initial ditch, which was exposed for a distance of c.5m running obliquely across the trench, was between 0.25m-0.5m wide and was 0.3m deep at its most substantial. It had moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base and contained a single yellowish brown silty clay fill with occasional to moderate small gravel/flints and chalk fragments. The recut, comprising two elongated, slightly rounded terminals set c.2m apart, was shallower and narrower than its predecessor and contained a distinctive dark greyish brown clayey silt fill with occasional charcoal flecks. A number of pottery sherds (14 sherds weighing 39g) were recovered from the ditch/gully, mostly from the backfill of the recut, all of which date to the Iron Age or later Iron Age; the latter comprising a single sherd. A small undated post-hole (0.36m wide and 0.11m deep) located less than a metre to the north of the gully and may have been associated. These features may conceivably be related to geophysical anomaly 19, although this appears to have been located to the east of the ?post-medieval enclosure represented by geophysical anomalies 16-18, rather than to the west where the ditch and post-hole were situated.
- 3.3.35 In addition to containing numerous Iron Age cultivation ditches (see above), Trench 27 located at the western edge of Field B also contained two discrete sub-rectangular features: a large post-hole (**123**) and an adjacent slot/pit (**125**) with evidence of burning. The post-hole had vertical sides and a flat base, and measured 0.55m long, 0.34m wide and 0.43m deep, while the adjacent pit/slot had a similar vertically-sided profile, extending for 1.2m in length, was 0.55m wide. Somewhat shallower at 0.2m, the slot, which was orientated roughly north-south was notable for the presence of a charcoal and burnt clay lens near its base. Although undated, the fills of these features were very similar to those within the adjacent ditches and may imply some contemporaneity, although their function remains uncertain.
- Miscellaneous ?Iron Age and undated features: Trenches 22, 25, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42 and 44 (Figs 7 and 8)*
- 3.3.36 A scatter of pits, ditches, gullies and possible post-holes were identified across a number of the trenches in Field B, most of which are undated/possibly natural but could feasibly be Iron Age (or earlier).
- 3.3.37 In Trench 22 adjacent to Ermine Street, a wide shallow pit or hollow (**20**) was part-exposed against the eastern baulk. It measured 3.3m wide and 0.19m deep with a shallow slightly concave profile. Sealed beneath the colluvium, the pit/hollow contained a single mid brown silty gravel fill from which a number of struck, mostly later prehistoric, flints were recovered, in addition to seven sherds of earlier Iron Age pottery.

The hollow was cut through a narrow, 0.8m wide and 0.24m deep ditch/gully (**22**), which although undated is likely on stratigraphic grounds to be earlier Iron Age (or earlier) in origin. Located to the immediate north of **20/22** was another hollow (**24**) that may have been a pit or possibly a ditch terminal. It measured 2.6m wide and 0.38m deep with a slightly irregular concave profile. Like the main hollow way (**27**, see above) to the east, this feature also contained a primary gravelly fill (25) overlain by a more silty upper fill which in turn was overlain by the colluvium (99). The upper fill (26) contained later prehistoric flint and four small sherds (7g) of earlier Iron Age pottery.

- 3.3.38 A gully/small ditch (**356**) was also recorded in adjacent Trench 35 to the south of Trench 22, cutting obliquely across earlier Iron Age ditch/hollow way **354**, on a north-west to south-east alignment. It measured 0.64m wide and 0.18m deep with a concave profile; no finds were recovered from its single silty clay fill. Although undated, stratigraphic evidence implies that it is Iron Age or later in origin.
- 3.3.39 Trench 34 located to the west of Trenches 22 and 35 contained two undated and poorly-defined gullies (**262** and **264**) and a clay-filled geological feature (**260**); the latter located at the western end of the trench. Approximately 13m from the east end of the trench, gully **264** was exposed for c. 4m running north-west to south-east. It measured 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep with a concave profile; the interface with the mixed natural clay through which it was cut was not clear and it is feasible that the feature was geological in origin. Gully terminal **262** located c.16m to the west was slightly more convincing, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep with a concave profile, it was exposed for c.1.5m on a north-east to south-west orientation. No finds were recovered from its single mid greyish brown silty clay fill and its date remains uncertain. Of note, a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the topsoil during the machine-excavation of this trench.
- 3.3.40 A number of features were recorded in Trench 36 to the south of Trench 35, most of which appear to be medieval/post-medieval in date although a small sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from ?hollow **452** (see below).
- 3.3.41 Trench 37, located to the north-west of Trench 36, contained a shallow elongated pit/ditch terminal/hollow (**365**), extending into the trench from the east for 1.6m. Measuring 1.2m wide and 0.36m deep with a shallow concave profile, the pit/ditch contained a single reddish brown sandy clay fill with occasional small stones and no finds. Adjacent to this was an oval pit/posthole (**363**) that was 6m long and 0.4m deep; it contained a similar fill to that within the larger feature **365**.
- 3.3.42 To the south of this, in Trench 44 parallel to Ermine Street, a number of possible pits/tree throws and gullies were investigated, all of which are undated but given their ephemeral nature and sterile fills are likely to be prehistoric or natural in origin. At the north end of the trench were a pair of narrow gully terminals (**401** and **403**) aligned north-west to south-east and slightly overlapping. The larger, slightly curving gully (**403**) measured 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep with a concave profile and was exposed for c.5.5m, while the smaller gully (**401**) measured c.3.5m long, 0.26m wide and just 0.1m deep. Located c.2m to the south of **403**, pit **405** was sub-circular in plan, 0.95m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately steep sides and a fairly flat base. Towards the centre of the trench was a short length of narrow ditch (**407**) cut by a possible pit, ditch terminal or tree throw (**409**). The ditch measured 0.6m wide and 0.12m deep, while the later feature was 1.3m wide and 0.23m deep; both were aligned roughly east-west and had concave profiles



- 3.3.43 Trench 42, positioned to target geophysical anomalies 20 and 21, revealed a single pit or hollow (**466**) c. halfway along its length that measured 2.1m by 2.75m and was 0.2m deep with gently-sloping sides and base. Its single dark brown sandy silt fill contained moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small flint inclusions but was devoid of finds. A mixed colluvial/alluvial layer was present within the southern part of the trench where the natural also changed to a more gravelly sandy clay close to the stream. No features directly corresponding to the geophysical anomalies were found, perhaps implying that they represent changes in the natural or field drains with clinker or slag in as was seen in Field A. The ditch or hollow way **282** present in Trench 43 to the east did not appear to extend into this trench.
- 3.3.44 Adjacent Trench 41, also positioned to investigate geophysical anomaly 20, contained a mixed layer of yellowish brown clayey silt colluvium/alluvium (**280**) covering much of the southern two thirds of the trench. To the north of this was a group of features comprising a curving gully (**275**), a pit (**277**) and a possible posthole (**279**); the latter positioned at the terminal of the gully and disturbed by burrowing. The gully measured c.3m long, 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep, and curved south-eastwards out from the western baulk of the trench, culminating in a slightly rounded terminal. Its profile and base were irregular, perhaps implying that it had been dug in sections, although a natural origin (tree-throw/root) could also be feasible. It contained a single mid reddish brown silty clay fill with occasional sub angular flints from which no finds were retrieved. Adjacent post-hole **278** was sub-circular in plan, c.0.5m long and very shallow at 0.05m; it contained no finds and may be a natural feature. The pit was more substantial at 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep; it had moderately steep sides and an irregular base. No finds were recovered from the mid greyish brown silty clay fill and it is possible that the pit was natural in origin.
- 3.3.45 A gully/small ditch **271** and post-hole **269** were both cut by ?Iron Age cultivation ditch **267** in Trench 29 in the western part of Field B (see 3.3.22 above) and may hint at earlier activity in this area. To the north-east in Trench 25 a single small pit or posthole (**131**) measuring 0.3m wide and 0.09m deep with a shallow concave profile was identified close to the southern end of the trench. Although undated the single dark brown silty clay fill contained a moderate amount of charcoal implying an archaeological rather than natural origin; possibly related to the other probable settlement-related features in nearby Trenches 19 and 24 *etc.*
- 3.3.46 In addition to containing a probable north-south aligned cultivation ditch (**133**), Trench 31 also revealed two adjacent roughly east-west aligned ditches (**135** and **137**) located c.12m from the southern end of the trench. The larger and more southerly of these (**137**) measured 2m wide and 0.8m deep with an irregular almost V-shaped profile. It contained a single mid orange brown silty clay fill with moderately frequent small to large flints and stones. A much narrower ditch (**135**) or drain ran roughly parallel to the larger ditch on its northern side, measuring 0.37m wide and 0.28m deep with a concave profile. Its fill was a similar reddish brown silty clay to that within the possible cultivation ditch to the south. Neither ditch produced datable finds although the natural appearance of the fill within the larger ditch might indicate an early date; indeed it may be a natural/periglacial feature. No evidence of geophysical anomaly 14, targeted by this trench, was found.

*Medieval/post-medieval ditches and other features: Trenches 17, 23, 25, 30, 32, 33, 36, 38, 40 (Figs 6-9)*

- 3.3.47 A number of post-medieval ditches were present within the trenches in Field B, most of which can be associated with field boundaries shown on historic maps and/or anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

Geophysical anomaly 16-18 (Figs 3, 6-10)

- 3.3.48 Three main linear anomalies (16-18) forming three sides of a large enclosure were targeted by Trenches 32, 33 and 38 (east side), Trench 25 (north side) and Trenches 30 and 40 (west side). The ditch fills were distinctly different in appearance to those of earlier features, being slightly greyer in colour with frequent chalk and CBM fragments.
- 3.3.49 The eastern arm was investigated in Trench 32 where it was found to comprise a succession of three smaller ditches, with the earliest being **317**, recut by **311** to the west and by **315** to the east (Fig. 11). All had moderately steep sides and slightly rounded bases, measuring between 0.6m and 1m wide, which combined gave an overall width for the ditch (in plan) of c.1.8m. The most easterly and deepest (0.67m) of the ditches (**315**) contained three distinct silty clay fills the appearance of which may suggest deliberate infilling rather than gradual silting. Fragments of roof tile and brick along with occasional sherds of abraded possible medieval pottery (too small to be closely datable) were recovered from the ditch fills (including a fragment of tile from the earliest ditch in the sequence), indicating a medieval or more likely a post-medieval date for the enclosure. It appears to have been infilled by the later 19th century as it is not shown on the first edition OS map.
- 3.3.50 Within Trench 25 the initial enclosure ditch (**127**), which was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, only appears to have been recut once, to the north, by ditch **129** which was more substantial at 0.9m wide and 0.6m deep. Profiles and fills were similar to those recorded elsewhere; a small quantity of CBM and iron nails was recovered from the single fill of later ditch **129**.
- 3.3.51 The western arm of the enclosure investigated within Trench 30 comprised at least two recut ditches but may have been as many as four given the somewhat irregular profile and fill sequence. The earliest ditch (**216**) measured c.1.8m wide and 0.7m deep with an irregular concave profile. It contained four reddish brown or greyish brown silty clay fills with occasional chalk, flint and pebble inclusions and CBM, and may represent different ditch cuts. Ditch **216** was recut on its western side by a shallow narrow ditch **220**, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a fairly flat base.
- 3.3.52 An irregular ditch-like feature (**141**) in Trench 40 located parallel and to the south of Trench 30 may mark the continuation of the enclosure ditch although it was not as well-defined as in other trenches. The main ditch measured c.1.1m wide and c.0.75m deep with a vertical edge to the west and a shallower, more irregular slope to the east where it was disturbed by a burrow or tree throw. A narrow, shallow steep-sided and flat-based ditch (**147**) was recorded in section cutting the infilled ditch on its eastern side. The fills of the ditch were similar to those recorded in the ditch sections excavated in other trenches; no finds were recovered.

Narrow enclosure adjacent to Ermine Street (Figs 2 and 7)

- 3.3.53 A ditch corresponding with the western boundary of a narrow field or enclosure depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2) was identified within Trenches 23 and 36. In Trench 23 the ditch (**4**) was located at the extreme eastern end

of the trench and its full width and depth were not discernible, although it was in excess of 0.8m wide (possibly as much as 3m wide) and 0.4m deep and had moderately steep side on its western edge. The upper part of the mid brownish grey silty clay fill was disturbed by a burrow or tree rooting. Finds from the backfill include fragments of post-medieval CBM, a post-medieval pottery sherd and corroded iron nails.

- 3.3.54 Located c.12.5m to the west of and parallel to ditch **4** was a much narrower (c. 0.9m) ditch that was 0.4m deep with a concave profile. It contained a similar, slightly sandier, fill to the larger ditch, along with CBM and a number of nails.
- 3.3.55 The main enclosure ditch, along with a number of other ditches and features of probable post-medieval date were investigated in east-west Trench 36. The enclosure may be represented by ditch **455** located roughly halfway along the trench, which measured 3.64m wide and 0.55m deep with a concave profile. This ditch contained a primary fill comprising a sticky layer of pale yellowish grey clay with c.50% flint nodules (456) overlain by a more silty clay upper fill. Fragments of CBM were recovered from the primary fill of **455**, indicating a post-medieval date.

*Additional post-medieval features: Trenches 17, 18, 36 and 38 (Figs 6, 8 and 9)*

- 3.3.56 Two parallel, narrow ditches (**458** and **460**) were located c.4m to the west of **455**, in Trench 36. They were separated by a distance of 1.5m and each measured c.6m wide and between 1.18m and 0.29m deep with concave U-shaped profiles. One of the ditches (**460**) contained a small quantity of CBM that is later medieval or post-medieval in date.
- 3.3.57 A further shallow ditch or hollow (**452**) was investigated c.8m to the east of **455**. It was slightly narrower at 2.5m and shallower at 0.34m and bears more similarities with the earlier Iron Age possible hollow ways recorded in Trenches 35 and 22 to the north (see above). A single sherd of abraded pottery that is possibly Iron Age was recovered from its upper silty fill, which combined with the absence of CBM from either fill might imply that the ditch/hollow was not post-medieval but possibly earlier in date.
- 3.3.58 Another ditch (**100**) was present a metre to the east of hollow way 452, aligned on a similar orientation (roughly parallel to Ermine Street). The ditch was 0.96m wide and 0.45m deep with moderately steep sides and rounded base; fragments of CBM and a clay-pipe stem were recovered from its single clay silt fill. A scatter of shallow ephemeral tree throws (unnumbered) were also present within the trench, mostly within its western half.
- 3.3.59 In addition to the eastern arm of the enclosure (anomaly 18, not excavated in this trench), Trench 38 also contained a c.4.5m-wide roughly linear hollow or shallow ditch **36**, aligned roughly north-south c. 13m from the eastern end of the trench. The 0.3m-deep cut had moderately steep sides and a flat base and was filled with a dark reddish brown sandy silt with few inclusions that was fairly plastic in texture; a few fragments of CBM and clinker were recovered indicating a post-medieval date.
- 3.3.60 At the northern end of Trench 18, a part-exposed, irregularly-shaped pit or tree throw (**205**) was investigated that measured in excess of 2.1m x 0.38m and was 0.34m deep with an irregular, undulating profile. A small quantity of CBM was recovered from its single silty clay fill; if this was a tree bole/throw it may have been one of several trees that may have lined the former road to Throcking that forms the boundary to Field A.
- 3.3.61 A 1.2m-wide north-south aligned ditch (**111**) in Trench 17 may also be post-medieval as it was similar in appearance to the enclosure ditches excavated to the south. It

measured 0.45m deep and had an almost V-shaped profile and contained a single pale brownish grey silty clay fill with occasional chalk lumps; no finds were recovered.

### **Field C Trenches 45-51 (Fig. 10)**

- 3.3.62 The majority of trenches in the most southerly field (Field C) contained one or two features (Trenches 45, 49, 50 and 51) while two were devoid of archaeology (Trenches 46 and 47), other than a patch of colluvium at the eastern edge of 47. The most noteworthy remains were located within Trench 48 adjacent to Ermine Street where a number of Iron Age features were revealed. Elsewhere scattered tree throws, ditches and occasional pits were recorded, most of which are undated or post-medieval; the latter correspond with geophysical anomalies interpreted as furrows. Two other geophysical anomalies (21 and 22) did not manifest into archaeological features and may represent land drains or other modern disturbance.
- 3.3.63 Identification of features was, however, hampered by a very mixed 'dirty' reddish brown/brownish orange clay/gravel and sand natural; presumably associated with the stream to the immediate north. Water ingress was also a problem in Trench 45 at the western edge of the field, where a ditch was constantly flooded making full excavation and recording impossible. A live service main was also revealed in Trench 51 and was left unexcavated. Topsoil was on average 0.3m thick and subsoil varied between 0.17m and 0.28m thick.

#### *Iron Age and undated features: Trench 48*

- 3.3.64 Located at the northern edge of the trench, and sealed by a 0.28m-thick silty clay alluvial or colluvial layer (17), was a possible ditch (15), exposed running obliquely in a north-north-west to south-south-east direction. Only one edge was revealed, which was moderately steep but irregular with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The feature was at least 2m wide and survived to a depth of 0.4m. A single tiny sherd of earlier Iron Age was recovered from its dark brown sandy clay fill.
- 3.3.65 Approximately halfway along the trench was a possible natural linear feature (13), measuring 1.9m wide and 0.18m deep, and an adjacent sub-circular pit or tree bole (11) with a diameter of 0.8m and depth of 0.2m. Both had shallow concave profiles and contained single sterile sandy clay fills very similar to the surrounding natural.
- 3.3.66 Part of a ring-ditch (30/7) and associated post-hole (9) were identified towards the southwestern end of the trench. The ring-ditch was exposed for c. 3.5m forming a fairly tight curve from west to south; it was widest (c.1.3m) close to the baulk where it appears to have been recut (6), narrowing to c.0.55m at its rounded terminal to the south. The depth of the earliest cut was c.0.4m, becoming shallower (0.25m) at its terminal; the recut (6) was c.0.35m deep. In terms of profile the earlier cut had slightly steeper sides and a more 'pointed' base, while the later cut had a more rounded profile. The fills of both the original ring-ditch and its recut comprised a mid reddish brown sandy clay, although that within cut 30 was notable for the quantities of gravel within it. Of particular note within the backfill of the recut was the presence of c.30 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, indicative of settlement nearby.
- 3.3.67 The adjacent posthole 9 was circular in plan with steep sides and an undulating generally concave base; it measured 0.44m wide and 0.16m deep. No finds were recovered but the proximity to the ring-ditch and similarity of the fills implies that they were contemporary. A second (unexcavated) possible post-hole was located on the east side of the ring-ditch and may have been associated.

*Undated features: Trenches 45, 49 and 50*

- 3.3.68 Trench 45 at the western edge of the field contained a single east-west aligned ditch (**91**) located towards the northern end of the trench. It could not be fully excavated due to constant flooding but was at least 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep with steep sides and contained a single light brownish yellow sandy silt fill. A small quantity of animal bone and struck flint was recovered from the ditch; the absence of CBM might imply that it is not post-medieval.
- 3.3.69 Trench 49 contained a probable natural tree throw (**84**) towards its centre, measuring 0.4m wide and just 0.1m deep with a sterile fill. At the southern end was a 1m-long gully or small ditch terminal (**86**) aligned north-west to south-east that was 0.58m wide and 0.12m deep. No finds were recovered from its single pale yellowish brown sandy silt fill.
- 3.3.70 A sub-circular pit (**88**) measuring 0.8m wide and 0.36m deep with a concave profile was the only feature recorded in Trench 50; no finds were present in its mid yellowish brown sandy silt fill. A layer of colluvium/alluvium was present at the northern end of the trench.

*Post-medieval features: Trench 51*

- 3.3.71 A single narrow gully **93** (0.5m wide and 0.11m deep) running roughly north-south next to the western edge of the trench is likely to be medieval/post-medieval in date given the presence of CBM and abraded ?medieval pottery in its fill. In addition to a pipe cut for a water pipe/electricity cable, the only other feature comprised a large tree throw (unnumbered) located towards the middle of the trench.

### **3.4 Finds Summary**

- 3.4.1 Over a kilogramme of (fairly abraded) pottery was recovered from a range of features, mostly from Fields B and C. Much of this is earlier and Middle Iron Age in date, although a small quantity of later Iron Age fabrics in addition to some sherds that are Roman and post-Roman were also recovered. The range of earlier Iron Age fabrics and forms is similar to those found at Bishops Stortford North and Hazel End, Bishops Stortford and compare well with the contemporary assemblage found at Fairfield Park, Stotfold. These types of assemblages were probably in use between c.800 and 350BC (Brudenell 2012). The pottery assemblage is of particular interest as it contains at least a small presence of mid Iron Age scored jars, such vessels being rarely found in Hertfordshire.
- 3.4.2 A small assemblage of c.24 copper-alloy, iron and lead objects was recovered from the site; most were stratified in ditches/former field boundaries, although some were found by metal-detector. Much of the assemblage is dominated by iron nails, although a ?late medieval iron horseshoe and a possible copper-alloy harness pendant are present, along with a copper-alloy buckle of probable post-medieval date, and a single, poorly-made lead musket ball.
- 3.4.3 Other miscellaneous finds comprise very small quantities of clay pipe stems, fired clay, modern snail shells, clinker and slag. In addition, part of a saddle quern of possible earlier Iron Age date was also recovered from a pit in Trench 24.
- 3.4.4 A total of 134 pieces of struck flint was recovered from 17 of the evaluation trenches. Given the size of the areas investigated the struck flint assemblage may be regarded as suggestive of fairly intensive activity at the site. It indicates persistent although probably discontinuous activity covering much of the post-Glacial prehistoric period at what is likely to have been regarded as a favourable location, the site occupying an

elevated situation beside a small tributary overlooking the Rib valley. The earlier material, from the Mesolithic through to the Early Bronze Age, is likely to have been produced by relatively transient groups moving through the landscape, whilst the later prehistoric material may relate to more permanent settlement and the establishment of field-systems.

- 3.4.5 The small assemblage of post-Roman CBM (brick and tile), comprising 104 fragments (2.59kg), is very abraded and fragmentary and probably largely derives from manuring scatters.

### **3.5 Environmental Summary**

- 3.5.1 Twenty bulk samples were taken from selected features including ditches, gullies, post-holes, colluvial layers and pits that are predominantly dated to the later prehistoric period. Most of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments, although three contained single items including a degraded glume base (prehistoric wheat chaff) of either spelt or emmer, a single charred grain of wheat tentatively identified as emmer wheat and a charred grain of barley.
- 3.5.2 A very small assemblage of animal bone comprising eighteen fragments (200g) was recovered, with five fragments identifiable to species. A single fragmentary cattle femur and fragments of cattle mandible are present with further identifiable remains being limited to partial sheep/goat humeri.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 General

4.1.1 Although Buntingford lies within a fairly rich archaeological landscape, the area and immediate vicinity of the current site was essentially of unknown archaeological potential prior to the current investigation. Topographically it might be viewed as being attractive to early settlers and farmers given its location on the western terrace of the gently sloping valley of the River Rib. In addition, a tributary stream bisects the site to flow down towards the river and there are plentiful natural flint pebbles and nodules, which combined with the numerous glacial erratics would have provided a useful resource for prehistoric people. The presence of Ermine Street, an important Roman Road linking London and Lincoln, immediately adjacent to the site is also of relevance as other investigations along its route have indicated that it was flanked by small farmsteads in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period (Snee 2012, 20).

4.1.2 The geophysical survey, combined with cartographic evidence, indicated the presence of a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin that were subsequently targeted by the evaluation trenches (Fig. 3). Generally the evaluation results tallied well with the geophysical survey, although some areas that appeared blank in fact contained archaeology while in others no features were found where anomalies were identified and/or revealed themselves to be geological in origin. Below is a table based on the catalogue from the geophysical report with notes on how they correlate with the results from the evaluation.

Label	Anomaly Type	Confidence in anomaly	Feature Type	Description	Comment/Result within trenching
1	Strong linear enhance d dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch / drain?	A moderately strong anomaly (> 10 nT) defines a linear structure not known to correspond to any former field boundary. The anomaly strength (relative to others on site known to mark ditch fills, e.g. [16]) might suggest material other than just topsoil is present and interpretation as a drain, perhaps ceramic, seems reasonable	This was investigated in Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 14 and found to be a slag-filled field drain with a ceramic pipe below
2	Strong linear enhance d dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch / drain?	See [1] which this joins	This was investigated in Trench 15 and found to be a slag-filled field drain with a ceramic pipe below
3	Area reduced field	High	Natural / fill?	A band of reduced magnetic field will mark a change in the substance of the soil. It could be natural, e.g. a band of sandy or stony soil, or the contact between till to the west and glaciofluvial deposits to the east. Interpretation is uncertain but the former presence of a belt of woodland in the southern fields and of similar width might also be relevant.	This was investigated in Trenches 5 and 7 and found to mark a change in the natural creating a banding effect, beyond which was the layer of colluvium lay forming on the edge of the 'terrace' marked by Ermine St
4	Area variable field	High	Natural / fills - Pits?	Uncertain; the nature of the magnetic disturbance is not in keeping with the natural variation and nor is it obviously of archaeological interest	Anomaly just missed by N end of Trench 8 which was moved to avoid overhead cable; presumably same as 5 below
5	Area variable field	High	Natural / fills - Pits?	See [4]	This was investigated by Trench 8 and found to be a series of intercutting quarry pits of medieval to post-

Label	Anomaly Type	Confidence in anomaly	Feature Type	Description	Comment/Result within trenching
					medieval date
6	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Very weak (0.1 nT) and narrow (0.5m) possible anomaly	This was investigated in Trench 2; no archaeological features were present.
7	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	Narrow (< 1.5m) probable ditch fill, perhaps part of a former field boundary?	This was investigated in Trench 21 and found to be another slag-filled land drain
8	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch / drain?	Narrow (< 1.5m) fill, perhaps within the cut for a drain? The straightness and relative clarity implies a drain but this lacks the strong anomalies of [1] and [2] and is therefore probably of different construction	This was investigated in Trench 18 and found to be an Iron Age ditch or hollow way/track
9	Linear enhanced dipolar	Medium	Fill - Ditch?	Former field boundary ditch? The Tithe Map suggests there were boundaries on this alignment	Investigated in Trench 22 where earlier Iron Age ditches/hollow ways found roughly parallel to Ermine St; might correspond to a ceramic field drain?
10	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	Not investigated as under overhead cable. Probably relates to the pylon/pole here.
11	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	Investigated in Trenches 24 and 33. May correspond to ditches found in these trenches.
12	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	Investigated in Trench 29, narrow east-west ditch cut by N-S ditch found
13	Linear enhanced dipolar	Medium	Fill? - Ditch?	Possible line of a former field boundary?	Investigated by Trench 30 where numerous N-S ditches found but nothing corresponding to this anomaly other than a field drain running obliquely across the east end of the trench
14	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	May correspond to an E-W ditch halfway along Trench 31
15	Strong area enhanced dipolar	High	Natural / fill?	An intriguing strong anomaly of uncertain interpretation but potentially natural or a fill within a natural feature	Investigated in Trenches 32 and 33 and found to be a swathe of more gravelly clay within the general chalky clay natural (ie geological in origin)
16	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	Known former field boundary, partly defines a rectangular enclosure with [17] and [18]	Investigated in Trench 30 and possibly 40. West arm of medieval/post-medieval enclosure ditch (recut up to 3 times)
17	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	See [16]. Note the slight offset along this fill's length near the west end, presumably indicative of a now invisible further boundary extending northwards?	Investigated in Trench 25. North arm of medieval/ post-medieval enclosure ditch (recut up to 2 times)
18	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	See [16] which marks the opposite side of the enclosure. The relationship with fill [20] is uneasy which might imply a difference of phase of enclosure?	Investigated in Trench 32 and recorded in Trenches 33 and 38. East arm of medieval/post-medieval enclosure ditch (recut up to 3 times)



19	Area variable field	High	Natural / fills - Pits?	An area of variable magnetic fill may be contained against [18] and perhaps therefore be associated? Springs (e.g. former ponds) can produce anomalies like this although here interpretation as such would not be supportable	Investigated in Trench 32, nothing specific in this part of the trench but further west contained IA ditch/gully.
20	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch	A likely narrow (< 1m) ditch fill, perhaps a former field boundary	Investigated in Trenches 41-43. Possible IA ditch/hollow found in Tr 43 roughly in this area but nothing other than drains and a change in the natural observed in other trenches.
21	Linear enhanced dipolar	High	Fill - Ditch?	Situated in a field margin it is possible that this is a short length of former field boundary although this would not correlate well with the Tithe Map for example	Investigated in Trench 41; nothing obvious here other than very mixed natural/possible tree throws and layer of colluvium/alluvium
22	Linear enhanced dipolar	Low	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	Investigated by Trench 45; only feature comprised a ditch c. 12m from N edge of trench but visibility hampered by water ingress.
23	Linear enhanced dipolar	Medium	Fill? - Ditch?	Uncertain, possible fill?	Investigated by Trenches 48 and 49. No correlating features (although IA features were present at N and S ends of Tr 48); geology very mixed clayey gravel in this field. Possibly a field drain

*Catalogue of geophysical anomalies and corresponding features*

## 4.2 Earlier prehistoric

4.2.1 No features of a demonstrably early prehistoric date were identified, however, the recovery of a lithic assemblage of moderate size from the evaluation trenches implies persistent, although probably discontinuous, activity covering much of the post-Glacial prehistoric period. This location may have been regarded as a favourable site, occupying an elevated situation beside a small tributary overlooking the Rib valley. The earlier lithic material (recovered as residual material within later features), dating from the Mesolithic through to the Early Bronze Age, is likely to have been produced by relatively transient groups moving through the landscape, while the later prehistoric material may relate to more permanent settlement and the establishment of field-systems (Bishop, Appendix B2). An interesting find is a large, although rather coarsely made barbed and tanged arrowhead that was recovered from topsoil deposits, datable to the Early Bronze Age.

## 4.3 Later prehistoric (Iron Age)

4.3.1 Much of the archaeology revealed by the evaluation dates to the later prehistoric period, predominantly the earlier and Middle Iron Age, and was present across all three fields albeit somewhat dispersed in character. Some possible zones of activity can tentatively be suggested, comprising field systems/cultivation areas in the western and northern parts of the proposed development area, with possible low-level settlement areas in the central part of Field B and southeastern area of Field C and possible ? trackways/hollow ways adjacent to Ermine Street and the stream dividing Fields B and C.

### *Cultivation ditches*

- 4.3.2 The 'cultivation' ditches in Field B (Fig. 6) are provisionally assigned an Iron Age date, although dating evidence from these features was relatively sparse and it is conceivable that some if not all are later. The ditches were found to be spaced between 4.5-c.5.5m apart, and were on average c.0.5-0.6m wide and between 0.05 and 0.23m deep with generally fairly steep sides and flat to occasionally slightly concave bases. They were orientated north-north-west to south-south-east along a gentle south-facing slope; similar ditches identified in Field A (Trenches 1 and 5) to the north may represent a different cultivation system/field or perhaps a narrow trackway leading down to the river.
- 4.3.3 Similar ditched cultivation systems have been recorded at sites around Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire (for example at Loves Farm (St Neots); Wintringham Park (St Neots), March and Clay Farm (Cambridge); Tom Phillips pers comm.), although they have generally been assigned a Late Iron Age/Early Roman date. At Wintringham Park (Phillips and Hinman 2009) the cultivation beds comprised regularly spaced linear ditches between 3-5m apart and typically measuring 0.61m wide and 0.11m deep. Here the only associated finds was a single small sherd of Iron Age pottery found in one of the ditches, although they formed part of a wider agricultural landscape, including trackways/roads, associated with a Late pre-Roman settlement enclosure. At Love's Farm at least two separate fields of cultivation strips were excavated, where each field measured approximately 80m<sup>2</sup> and contained 20 cultivation strips.
- 4.3.4 Closer to the current site, in Hertfordshire, a similar ditched cultivation system was identified across most of the trenches in the western and central parts of a site evaluated at Bishop Stortford North (Bush 2013). Here, the ditches were aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and occupied a gentle south-west-facing slope not dissimilar to the current evaluation site. The ditches, which were of similar widths and depths to those recorded elsewhere, were also narrow, flat-based and steep-sided but were, however, more widely-spaced at c.10-13m. They contained a mixed assemblage of Iron Age to Early Roman pottery and were interpreted as being of likely Roman date.
- 4.3.5 The cultivation ditches identified at the current site, although not closely dated, are perhaps more likely to belong to the Iron Age period, given the general absence of Roman activity on the site, although they could be later. In addition, they may serve as a useful reminder that parallel linear anomalies often interpreted (and dismissed) as medieval ridge and furrow may in fact be part of a much earlier agricultural landscape.
- 4.3.6 A number of east-west aligned ditches (some cut by the north-south system) were identified in Trenches 29 and 31 and could belong to an earlier cultivation/field system, although none produced dating evidence.

### *Possible hollow ways*

- 4.3.7 Some of the earliest features within the study area were located adjacent to Ermine Street in Trenches 22 and 35 (Fig. 7). Here a number of shallow ditches/possible hollow ways with compacted gravel bases were revealed, which produced earlier Iron Age pottery along with earlier and later prehistoric flint working. They were only partly exposed (sealed beneath a colluvium layer) within the trenches and so their interpretation remains uncertain based on current information.
- 4.3.8 A similar broad, shallow possible ditch or hollow way with a gravelly base was identified in Trench 43, adjacent to the stream demarcating Fields A and B. This produced the largest assemblage of worked flint from the evaluation, along with a small amount of

Iron Age pottery; the flint comprises both earlier and later lithics suggesting some redeposition.

- 4.3.9 A further ditch/hollow way aligned east-west in Trench 18 at the northern end of Field B was identified which also had a compacted surface at its base. This feature produced a moderately large group of Iron Age and later Iron Age pottery and may be indicative of nearby settlement.
- 4.3.10 The presence of a possible hollow way or track parallel to the old Throcking Road may imply that the road, and indeed Ermine Street to the east, might follow the course of an earlier routeway following the upper terrace/valley side.

#### *Settlement-related features*

- 4.3.11 A possible area of settlement was identified in the central part of Field B, represented by a number of post-holes (one containing earlier Iron Age pottery), pit(s) and gullies scattered across Trenches 19, 24 and 32 (Fig. 9). A re-cut linear gully with a distinctive dark grey fill in Trench 33 contained a small assemblage of mostly Middle, with some later, Iron Age pottery.
- 4.3.12 At the southern edge of Field C, adjacent to Ermine Street, a further area of settlement may be indicated by the presence of a ring gully, post-hole and nearby ditch (Fig. 10). The ring-gully does not have the characteristics of a round-house gully, as it forms quite a tight curve and was quite deep; it had also been recut. The presence of an adjacent post-hole may however hint at nearby structures and the recovery of the largest group of pottery from the site from the fill of the gully also supports this. The latter includes the complete profile from a scored war slack-shouldered jar of Middle Iron Age date. It is possible that some of the undated features scattered across this field are also contemporary.
- 4.3.13 The general paucity of environmental remains, including animal bone, however, may imply that the main settlement focus lay beyond the study area, although clearly some form of farmstead and its associated field system is located here.
- 4.3.14 Identification of a possible earlier to middle Iron Age settlement is of note as most farmsteads/occupation sites in the vicinity (for example the two sites recently evaluated on the east side of Buntingford) have been dated to the Late Iron Age and later periods, with little or no evidence of earlier activity on the site.
- 4.3.15 A single abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from a colluvial layer in Trench 28; other possible sherds may be present but are not closely datable or easily distinguishable from the occasional body sherds assigned a possible medieval date. This implies that, despite the proximity to Ermine Street, the study area does not appear to have been extensively utilised in the Roman period, although it is conceivable that the cultivation ditches were associated with Roman agricultural use of the site and that the Iron Age material is residual.

## **4.4 Medieval to post-medieval**

- 4.4.1 Evidence of post-medieval (and possibly medieval) agriculture was present across the site, represented by post-holes, presumably for fences, ditches and quarry pits, along with a number of stratified and unstratified metal finds. The pits were concentrated in the middle of Field A, within Trench 8, and although not closely dated contained a mixture of occasional medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds and a moderate amount of CBM. The purpose of these pits is uncertain, although they may have been targeting chalk/marl-rich deposits for spreading on the fields.

4.4.2 Several boundary/enclosure ditches were excavated, one of which was located in the middle of Field B and correlates with geophysical anomalies 16-18 (Fig. 3) and also appears on the Tithe map. It had been recut 2-3 times and finally infilled with material including brick, tile and nails; its function remains unclear but there were no finds to indicate that it was earlier than post-medieval in origin. A number of ditches with similar finds assemblages were located at the eastern edge of Field B and are likely to be associated with the boundary to a narrow field aligned parallel to Ermine Street that is shown on late 19th century maps (Fig. 2).

## 4.5 Significance

4.5.1 Relatively little prehistoric activity and/or finds are recorded in the vicinity, so the moderate group of Mesolithic to Bronze Age worked flints recovered by the current evaluation makes a significant contribution to current understanding of earlier prehistoric utilisation of the valley of the River Rib and its tributaries.

4.5.2 The presence of later prehistoric, predominantly earlier to Middle Iron Age, agricultural and settlement-related features is also of significance especially as other sites excavated in the vicinity have generally been of Late Iron Age and later date. The pottery assemblage is of particular interest as it contains at least a small presence of Middle Iron Age scored jars, such vessels being rarely found in Hertfordshire. Both the pottery and lithic assemblages in particular have potential to greatly elucidate the nature and longevity of prehistoric activity and/or occupation on the site.

4.5.3 This evaluation has revealed a dispersed pattern of (largely) later prehistoric activity that has good potential to contribute to the wider understanding of the early exploitation and settlement of Buntingford and the valley of the River Rib.

4.5.4 It is also perhaps worthy of note that although the results of the trenching correlate well with the geophysical survey, a number of features were excavated that were not identified by the survey; the presence of colluvial layers across the peripheral parts of the fields may in part explain this.

## 4.6 Recommendations

4.6.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench in NW corner of Field A containing several ditches and gullies in and approximate E-W alignment, two pits towards the North end and several postholes across the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	Flint; several Sfs	-
54	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	flint	-
151	Cut	0.5	0.08	Gully		
152	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>151</b> , dark greyish brown silty clay		Iron Age
153	Cut	0.26	0.18	Ditch		
154	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>154</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
155	Cut	0.14	0.08	Gully		
156	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>155</b> , dark greyish brown silty clay		
157	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>159</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
158	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>159</b> , mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
159	Cut	0.55	0.22	Posthole		
160	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>161</b> , mid reddish brown silty clay		
161	Cut	0.97	0.16	Pit		
162	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>163</b> , dark reddish brown clayey silt		
163	Cut	1.1	0.23	Pit		
164	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>165</b> , light reddish brown clayey silt		
165	Cut	0.42	0.13	Ditch		
166	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>168</b> , mid yellowish brown clay		
167	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>168</b> , mid greenish brown sandy clay		
168	Cut	0.5	0.55	Posthole		
169	Cut	1.06	0.14	Ditch		
170	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>169</b> , light greyish brown silty clay		

171	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>172</b> , mid reddish brown silty sand		
172	Cut	0.67	0.12	Ditch		
173	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>174</b> , light reddish brown clayey sand		
174	Cut	0.28	0.22	Posthole		
175	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>176</b> , light brownish red clayey sand		
176	Cut	0.5	0.16	Posthole		
177	Cut	0.5	0.1	Posthole		
178	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>177</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
				Natural – sandy gravel natural with band of clay natural towards south of trench		
<b>Trench 2</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
51	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil		
				Natural – mid yellowish grey silty clay with 30% chalk lumps changing to mid orange brown clay with chalk lumps at southern end of trench		
<b>Trench 3</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Only feature was a tree throw towards southwestern end of the trench					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
51	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil		
101	Cut			Tree bole		
102	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>101</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		

				Natural – light yellowish grey silty clay with 30% chalk lumps changing to mid orange brown sandy clay with chalk lumps at southwestern end of trench		
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Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
No archaeological features, lots of field drains				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
				Natural – light yellowish grey sandy clay with 30% chalk changing to mid orange brown clayey sand with 30% fine flint gravel at eastern end		

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Contains parallel gullies in an approximately NE-SW alignment Lots of field drains.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	-	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	-	Subsoil		
57	Cut	0.4	0.19	Gully		
58	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>57</b> , mid reddish brown silty clay		
59	Cut	0.55	0.25	Gully		
60	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>59</b> , mid reddish brown silty clay		
61	Cut	0.46	0.17	Gully		
62	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>61</b> , mid reddish brown clay	Flint	

63	Cut	0.44	0.09			
64	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>63</b> , mid reddish brown clay	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age
65	Cut	0.45	0.9	gully		
66	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>65</b> , mid reddish brown silty clay	pot	Earlier Iron Age
				Natural – light yellowish grey chalky clay changing to mid brownish orange sandy clay partway along trench		

Trench 6						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Trench covered by a colluvial layer which is cut by a gravel channel , possibly a field drain, and a post-medieval ditch				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil		
1	Layer	-	0.3	Colluvium – mid brown silt	Pot, flint	?IA
200	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>302</b> , light yellowish brown silty sand	pot	medieval
301	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>302</b> , light yellowish brown clayey sand	CBM	
302	Cut	0.92	0.63	Ditch		
303	Layer	-	0.34	Colluvium – mid yellowish brown clayey sand	CBM	
304	Layer	-	0.36	Colluvium – dark reddish brown clayey sand		
305	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>307</b> , light yellowish brown silty sand	flint	
306	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>307</b> , light yellowish brown clayey sand	CBM, pot	Post-med/Iron Age
307	Cut	0.61	0.47	Ditch		
308	Layer	-	0.4	Colluvium – mid yellowish brown sandy clay	CBM, flint	
309	Layer	-	0.15	Colluvium – dark reddish brown clayey sand		
				Natural – clayey sandy gravel		



Trench 7						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
No archaeological features, three tree throws at west end, lots of field drains				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	45	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	20	Subsoil		
				Natural – light yellowish grey sandy clay with chalk changing to dark brown sandy clay two thirds of the way along the trench to the east, changing again to mid brownish orange sandy clay with flint gravel at eastern end		

Trench 8						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Several intercutting medieval/post-medieval pits with a couple of postholes and a small E-W aligned ditch at the north end of the trench				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		post-medieval
54	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil		
179	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil – number taken specifically for finds retrieval	pot	Post Medieval
180	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>181</b> , light yellowish brown sandy clay	Pot, CBM	Post Medieval
181	Cut	0.34	0.3	Ditch		
182	Fill	-	-	Fill <b>183</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
183	Cut	0.16	0.12	Posthole		
184	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>185</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
185	Cut	0.45	0.08	Posthole		
186	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>187</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		

187	Cut	1.15	0.38	Pit		
188	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>189</b> , mid yellowish brown sandy clay	bone	
189	Cut	1.15	0.4	Pit		
190	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>191</b> , dark greyish brown sandy clay		
191	Cut	0.7	0.18	Pit		
192	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>193</b> , mid reddish brown sandy clay	CBM	
193	Cut	0.55	0.2	Pit		
194	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>195</b> , mid reddish brown sandy clay	CBM, pot	Medieval
195	Cut	0.55	0.2	Pit		
196	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>198</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
197	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>198</b> , mid reddish brown sandy clay	CBM, bone, mortar	
198	Cut	2.68	0.6	Pit		
199	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>187</b> , mid reddish brown sandy clay		
				Natural – light yellowish grey chalk clay		

Trench 9						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		E-W
No archaeological features				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.5
				<b>Width (m)</b>		2.1
				<b>Length (m)</b>		50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
		-	-	Natural – mixed chalky lumps and flecks with mid orange brown clay in western end changing to chalky light yellowish grey clay in east		

Trench 10			
<b>General description</b>		<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
No archaeological features		<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
		<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
		-	-	Natural – mixed chalky lump sand flecks with mid orange brown clay and chalky light yellowish grey clay in western end changing to mid orange brown clay in east		

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
No archaeological features, geological feature at NE end, lots of plough scars					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil		
		-	-	Natural – light yellow brown clayey chalk gravels with splotches of mid red brown sandy clay		

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Single tree throw/geological feature halfway along north face of trench, large field drain running length of trench. No archaeological features					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil		
		-	-	Natural – light brown gravelly clay with very high chalk content, 4m change in centre to mid reddish brown gravelly clay with large chalk and flint		

				inclusions		
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Trench 13						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
No archaeological features, lots of plough scarring				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.36	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil		
		-	-	Natural – very light brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions		

Trench 14						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
No archaeological features, two large field drains running length of trench				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
54	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil		
		-	-	Natural – very light brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions		

Trench 15						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Layer of colluvium over two thirds of trench from northern end cut by a tree bole in the NW corner. Several field drains				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
51	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Flint, horseshoe	
52	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil		
67	Layer	-	0.1	Colluvium – mixed brownish red sandy clay	pot	Earlier Iron Age
257	Fill	-	-	Fill of 258, light reddish		

				brown silty clay		
258	Cut	1.2	0.11	Tree throw		
		-	-	Natural – sandy clay and gravels		

Trench 16						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Single small ditch aligned NW-SE across southern half of trench				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil		
113	Cut	0.55	0.15	Ditch		
114	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>113</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay		
		-	-	Natural - light brown gravelly clay with very high chalk content		

Trench 17						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Several Iron Age cultivation ditches running NNW-SSE across trench, another ditch on the same alignment similar to post-med boundary ditches in trench 26.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	30	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	15	Subsoil		
103	Cut	0.6	0.15	Ditch		
104	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>103</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age
105	Cut	0.45	0.17	Ditch		
106	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>105</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay	pot	prehistoric
107	Cut	0.6	0.15	Ditch		
108	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>107</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay	pot	Iron Age
109	Cut	0.4	0.15	Ditch		

110	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>109</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay	pot	Earlier Iron Age
111	Cut	1.2	0.45	Ditch		
112	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>111</b> , grey silty clay		
		-	-	Natural – light greyish yellow silty clay with 40% chalk		

Trench 18						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		N-S
Large shallow ditch with possible wheel ruts aligned E-W towards northern end of trench, several postholes spread throughout trench along with two tree throws				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.35
				<b>Width (m)</b>		2.1
				<b>Length (m)</b>		50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	-	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	-	Subsoil		
201	Cut	2.38	0.18	Ditch		
202	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>201</b> , dark greyish brown silty clay	Pot, bone	Earlier Iron Age/Iron Age
203	Cut	0.14	0.08	Posthole		
204	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>203</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
205	Cut	0.38	0.34	Tree throw		
206	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>205</b> , dark greyish brown silty clay	CBM	
207	Cut	0.14	0.12	Posthole		
208	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>207</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
209	Cut	0.28	0.16	Tree throw		
210	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>209</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
211	Cut	0.12	0.2	Posthole		
212	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>211</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
		-	-	Natural – wide bands of light yellowish grey chalky clay and mid orange brown sandy clay gravels		

Trench 19						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Single pit, continuing under baulk, and adjacent posthole				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil		
68	Cut	0.34	0.09	Posthole		
69	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>68</b> , mid brown silty clay		
70	Cut	0.75	0.41	Pit		
71	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>70</b> , mid to light yellow silty clay	Pot, flint, bone, CBM	?Earlier Iron Age
		-	-			

Trench 20						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
No archaeological features. Water main seen in trench parallel to trench edges.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil		
		-	-	Natural - Very light brown slightly silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions		

Trench 21						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
No archaeological features.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		

55	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil		
		-	-	Natural – mid to light brown slightly silty clay with chalk inclusions in SW gradually phasing through to mid red brown slight silty clay with gravel patches in NE		

Trench 22						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Large linear feature, possibly a ditch or holloway, aligned NW-SE at northern end of trench and possibly reappearing in the very SE corner. A small gully, possible pit/ditch terminus and a natural hollow are also present.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil		
18	Cut	0.75	0.04	Ditch?		
19	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>18</b> , mid brown silty gravel	flint	
20	Cut	1.1	0.19	Hollow		
21	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>20</b> , mid yellowish brown silt	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age
22	Cut	0.8	0.24	Gully		
23	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>22</b> , light brownish yellow sandy silt		
24	Cut	2.6	0.38	Ditch terminus/Pit		
25	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>24</b> , light yellow gravelly clay	flint	
26	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>24</b> , mid brown sandy silt	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age
27	Cut	1.5	0.2	Ditch?		
28	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>27</b> , light yellow gravelly clay		
29	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>27</b> , mid yellowish brown sandy silt	flint	
96	Cut	2.1	0.22	Ditch/Holloway		
97	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>97</b> , light yellow gravelly clay	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age
98	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>97</b> , mid brown silt	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age/Iron Age
99	Layer	-		Colluvium – light brownish		



				yellow clayey silt		
		-	-			

Trench 23						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Two ditches towards eastern end of trench aligned NW-SE				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil		
2	Cut	1.07	0.45	Ditch		
3	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>2</b> , mid greyish brown clayey sand	flint	
4	Cut	1	0.46	Ditch		
5	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>4</b> , mid brownish grey silty clay	Flint, CBM, pot	Post Medieval
		-	-			

Trench 24						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Three postholes, one cut by a large pit/tree throw and a small E-W aligned ditch all towards the southern end of the trench				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
72	Cut	0.22	0.15	Posthole		
73	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>72</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay	pot	Earlier Iron Age
74	Cut	0.31	0.2	Posthole		
75	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>74</b> , mid to light brown clayey silt		
76	Cut	0.25	0.09	Posthole?		
77	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>76</b> , mid to light yellowish brown sandy clay		
78	Cut	0.7	0.19	Pit?		

79	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>78</b> , light yellowish brown clayey silt	Saddle quern	Earlier IA?
80	Cut	0.8	0.44	Ditch		
81	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>80</b> , mid brown clayey silt		
82	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>72</b> , dark yellowish brown silty sand		
		-	-	Natural – mid greyish yellow chalky clay with a 10m band of mid orange brown sandy clay towards northern end of trench		

Trench 25						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Trench contains a post-medieval recut ditch and a small pit to the south containing burnt material				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
127	Cut	0.6	0.3	Ditch		
128	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>127</b> , mid yellowish grey silty clay		
129	Cut	0.9	0.6	Ditch		
130	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>129</b> , mid yellowish grey silty clay	Pot, CBM, flint	IA & post-med
131	Cut	0.3	0.09	Pit		
132	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>131</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay	bone	
		-	-	Natural – chalky gravelly clay		

Trench 26						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Single Iron Age cultivation ditch running NW-SE across the trench				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil		

251	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>252</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay	Pot, flint	Later Iron Age
252	Cut	0.68	0.11	Ditch		
253	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>254</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
254	Cut	0.6	0.13	Ditch		
255	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>256</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
256	Cut	0.68	0.16	Ditch		
		-	-	Natural – mid to light grey clay with frequent chalk inclusions		

Trench 27						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Trench contains eight cultivation ditches, four of which were excavated. There is also a large posthole and adjacent slot/pit containing in situ burning				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
115	Cut	0.5	0.05	Ditch		
116	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>115</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay		
117	Cut	0.55	0.1	Ditch		
118	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>117</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay	pot	Earlier IA
119	Cut	0.5	0.1	Ditch		
120	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>119</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay	Flint (Neo), pot	prehistoric
121	Cut	0.6	0.1	Ditch		
122	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>121</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay		
123	Cut	0.35	0.43	Posthole		
124	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>123</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay		
125	Cut	0.55	0.2	Pit/Slot		
126	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>126</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay		
		-	-	Natural – mix of chalky silty clays and gravels		

Trench 28						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Single ditch running NW-SE at northern end of trench				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
213	Cut	0.3	0.16	Ditch		
214	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>213</b> , dark greyish brown sandy clay		
215	Layer	2.1	-	Colluvium? - dark greyish brown sandy clay	pot	Romano-British
		-	-	Natural - mix of chalky silty clays and gravels		

Trench 29						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Roughly N-S trench containing two ditches, a posthole and a layer of either colluvium or alluvium to the south where the trench dips towards the stream. Ditch 271 and the posthole were cut by N-S cultivation ditch 267; both undated.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil		
266	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>267</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay	Pot, CBM	Later Iron Age & CBM
267	Cut	0.8	0.23	Ditch		
268	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>269</b> , light greyish brown silty clay		
269	Cut	0.4	0.08	Posthole		
270	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>271</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay	flint	
271	Cut	0.52	0.33	Ditch		
272	Layer			Colluvium/Alluvium? - mid yellowish brown silty clay	Pot, CBM	Later Iron Age/post-med
		-	-	Natural – yellowish grey chalky clay, quite mixed		

Trench 30						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Series of ditches, some of which were not excavated, running primarily N-S across the trench				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil		
216	Cut	2.2		Ditch		
217	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>216</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay	Bone, CBM	post-med
218	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>216</b> , light brownish red silty clay		
219	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>216</b> , dark greyish brown silty clay		
220	Cut	0.6	0.14	Ditch		
221	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>220</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
222	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>216</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
223	Cut	0.9	0.13	Ditch		
224	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>223</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
225	Cut	0.36	0.15	Ditch		
226	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>225</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay	CBM	post-med
227	Cut	0.32	0.08	Ditch		
228	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>227</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
		-	-	Natural – mid yellowish grey chalky clay		

Trench 31						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contains three ditches of varying sizes and lots of field drains				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date

52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
133	Cut	0.2	0.13	Ditch		
134	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>133</b> , dark reddish brown silt		
135	Cut	0.37	0.28	Ditch		
136	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>135</b> , dark reddish brown clayey silt		
137	Cut	1	0.85	Ditch		
138	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>137</b> , mid brownish orange silty clay		
		-	-	Natural - chalky clay with gravelly patches		

Trench 32						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	
Several Post Medieval and Iron Age ditches present in the trench along with a small undated posthole					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	
					<b>Width (m)</b>	
					<b>Length (m)</b>	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil		
310	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>311</b> , dark reddish brown clayey silt	CBM	post-med
311	Cut	0.6	0.37	Gully		
312	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>315</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay	CBM, bone	post-med
313	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>315</b> , dark greyish brown clayey silt	CBM, clay pipe	post-med
314	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>315</b> , mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
315	Cut	1.1	0.67	Ditch		
316	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>317</b> , dark reddish brown clayey silt	CBM. pot	post-med
317	Cut	0.57	0.6	Ditch		
318	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>319</b> , dark greyish brown clayey silt	pot	Iron Age
319	Cut	0.47	0.13	Ditch		
320	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>321</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay	pot	Iron Age
321	Cut	0.6	0.28	Ditch		

322	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>323</b> , dark greyish brown clayey silt	pot	Iron Age
323	Cut			Ditch terminus		
324	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>325</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
325	Cut	0.48		Ditch		
326	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>327</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
327	Cut	0.25	0.05	Ditch		
328	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>329</b> , dark greyish brown clayey silt	pot	Iron Age
329	Cut	0.32	0.03	Ditch terminus		
330	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>331</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
331	Cut	0.35		Ditch terminus		
332	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>333</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay	pot	Iron Age/Later Iron Age
333	Cut	0.38	0.08	Ditch		
334	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>335</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
335	Cut	0.41	0.13	Ditch		
336	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>338</b> , dark reddish brown clayey silt		
337	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>338</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
338	Cut	0.36	0.11	Posthole		
		-	-	Natural – mixture of chalk brash and sandy clay with chalk inclusions		

### Trench 33

#### General description

Trench contains several posthole type features, a post medieval ditch presumed to be part of an enclosure seen in other trenches and a gully

#### Orientation

E-W

#### Avg. depth (m)

0.4

#### Width (m)

2.1

#### Length (m)

50

#### Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil		
339	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>340</b> , dark greyish brown silty clay		
340	Cut	0.3	0.05	Posthole		

341	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>342</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
342	Cut	0.38	0.12	Posthole		
343	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>344</b> , mid yellowish brown silty clay		
344	Cut	0.48	0.08	Posthole		
345	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>346</b> , dark yellowish brown silty clay	CBM, slag	
346	Cut	0.2	0.33	Drain		
347	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>348</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay	pot	post-med
348	Cut	0.43	0.14	Ditch terminus		
349	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>350</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
350	Cut	0.47	0.2	Ditch		
464	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>465</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
465	Cut	0.32	0.06	Posthole		
		-	-	Natural – mixed yellowish/grey brown clay with chalk and flint and patches of dirty orange gravel		

Trench 34						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench contains two small ditches or gullies, one of which terminates within the area exposed by the trench, and a natural geological feature. Also, plough scarring to the eastern end of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
				Width (m)	2.1	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil		
259	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>260</b> , mid yellowish grey very slightly silty clay		
260	Cut			Natural feature		
261	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>262</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
262	Cut	0.5	0.15	Gully		
263	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>264</b> , mid to dark reddish brown silty clay	pot	IA
264	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch?		
		-	-	Natural – mixed reddish		



				brown gravelly clay		
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Trench 35						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Large ditch or holloway at northern end running NW-SE cut about halfway down trench by a smaller ditch					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil		
351	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>352</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age
352	Cut	1.9	0.24	Ditch		
353	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>354</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay	Flint, pot	Earlier Iron Age
354	Cut	1.2	0.18	Ditch?		
355	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>356</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
356	Cut	0.64	0.18	Ditch		
357	Layer	-	0.08	Colluvium? - dark reddish brown silty clay		
358	Layer	-	0.72	Dark greyish brown clayey silt		
		-	-	Natural – mixed reddish brown gravelly clay		

Trench 36						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Holloway and large ditch running N-S across trench with several post medieval gullies and a ditch aligned NW-SE and a small area of rooting containing finds next the holloway.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
100	Cut	0.96	0.45	Ditch		
451	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>100</b> , mid brown silty clay	CBM, clay pipe, bone	post-med
452	Cut	2.5	0.34	Holloway?		

453	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>452</b> , light yellow clay		
454	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>452</b> , light brown silt	Pot, flint	?IA
455	Cut	3.64	0.55	Ditch		
456	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>455</b> , yellowish grey clay	CBM	post-med
457	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>455</b> , yellowish brown clayey silt		
458	Cut	0.65	0.29	Gully		
459	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>458</b> , mid brown clayey silt		
460	Cut	0.59	0.16	Gully		
461	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>460</b> , mid brown clayey silt	CBM	post-med
462	Cut	0.6	0.1	Natural rooting		
463	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>462</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay	flint	
		-	-	Natural – light yellowish grey chalky clay changing two thirds of the way along the trench to red clay in the east		

Trench 37						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Pit or ditch terminus disappearing under the west facing baulk towards the northern end next to a single posthole. Trench also contains several large tree throws and lots of field drains and mole scars.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.48	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.31	Subsoil		
362	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>363</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
363	Cut	0.6	0.4	Posthole		
364	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>365</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay		
365	Cut	1.2	0.36	Pit/ditch terminus?		
		-	-	Natural - light yellowish grey chalky clay		

Trench 38						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Trench contains two ditches, one of which was not excavated as it had been characterised as post medieval in another trench. Lots of field drains and mole scars.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil		
360	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>361</b> , dark reddish brown sandy clay	Clinker, CBM, flint	
361	Cut	4.3	0.28	Ditch		
		-	-	Natural - light yellowish grey chalky clay		

Trench 39						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Large alluvial layer at southern end of trench where it gradually slopes down towards the stream separating Fields B and C. Several tree throws at the northern end of the trench.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil		
32	Layer	-	0.47	Alluvium – mid reddish brown silty clay	Pot, flint	Earlier IA
		-	-	Natural – mid brownish yellow clay with frequent chalk inclusions		

Trench 40						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Several cultivation ditches aligned N-S across trench, one of which cuts an earlier ditch and bank.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-		Topsoil		
55	Layer	-		Subsoil		

139	Cut	0.65	0.15	Ditch		
140	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>139</b> , mid reddish brown sandy silt	flint	
141	Cut	1.2	0.8	Ditch		
142	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>141</b> , mid reddish brown sandy silt	flint	
143	Cut	0.5	0.15	Ditch		
144	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>143</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay		
145	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>143</b> , dark reddish brown sandy silt		
146	Layer	-	0.88	Bank – light yellowish grey sandy clay		
147	Cut	0.68	0.42	Ditch		
148	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>147</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay		
		-	-	Natural – mid brownish yellow clay with frequent chalk inclusions		

Trench 41						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Small curvilinear gully, a posthole and a possible pit all at the northern end of the trench. Large alluvial/colluvial? layer at southern end where gradually slopes down towards the stream separating Fields B and C.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
274	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>275</b> , mid reddish brown silty clay		
275	Cut	0.6	0.22	Gully		
276	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>277</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
277	Cut	1.5	0.4	Pit		
278	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>279</b> , mid greyish brown silty clay		
279	Cut	0.5	0.06	Posthole		
280	Layer	-	0.5	Alluvium - Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
		-	-	Natural – yellowish grey chalk clay with patches of mid brown clay silt		

Trench 42						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Only feature is a large shallow pit/tree throw about halfway along the trench.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil		
466	Cut	2.75	0.2	Pit/Tree throw		
467	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>466</b> , dark brown sandy silt		
		-	-	Natural – yellowish brown sandy flinty clay in the SW changing to yellow clay in the centre and then finally pale grey chalky clay in the NE		

Trench 43						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Single E-W aligned ditch at southern end of trench sealed by a colluvial layer. Lots of field drains.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil		
273	Fill	-	0.21	Fill of <b>282</b> , dark reddish brown silty clay	Pot, fired clay, flint	IA, Later Iron Age, RB
281	Fill	-	0.19	Fill of <b>282</b> , dark reddish brown clayey silt	CBM, flint	
282	Cut	3.75	0.4	Ditch		
283	Layer	-	0.22	Colluvium – dark reddish brown silty clay		
		-	-	Natural – pale grey chalky clay		

Trench 44		
<b>General description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S

Trench contains several gullies, a pit and a large natural feature. At the southern end there is a spread of colluvium.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
55	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
401	Cut	0.26	0.1	Gully		
402	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>401</b> , mid brownish orange sandy clay		
403	Cut	0.5	0.15	Ditch		
404	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>403</b> , mid brownish orange sandy clay		
405	Cut	0.95	0.2	Pit		
406	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>405</b> , mid orangey brown sandy silt		
407	Cut	0.7	0.12	Ditch		
408	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>407</b> , mid brownish grey silty clay		
409	Cut	1.3	0.23	Ditch		
410	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>409</b> , mid brownish orange sandy clay		
		-	-	Natural – mixed orangey brown gravel and pale yellowish brown silt		

<b>Trench 45</b>						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Single E-W ditch towards northern end of trench. Not fully excavated due to flooding.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
56	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil		
91	Cut	1.1	0.45	Ditch		
92	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>91</b> , light brownish yellow sandy silt	bone	
		-	-	Natural – pale yellow chalky clay		

Trench 46						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
No archaeological features visible				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil		
56	Layer	-	0.29	Subsoil		
		-	-			

Trench 47						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Layer of colluvium at eastern end of trench.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil		
56	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil		
95	Layer	-	0.1	Colluvium – light reddish brown sandy silt		
		-	-	Natural - Mid reddish brown clay gravels		

Trench 48						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Part of a ring ditch and associated posthole towards the southwestern end of the trench, in the middle there is a smallish pit and a natural linear feature. At the northeastern end there is a large alluvial layer sealing a ditch running approximately N-S.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil		
56	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil		
6	Cut	1	0.36	Ring ditch		
7	Cut	0.55	0.25	Ring ditch terminus		
8	Fill	-	-	Fill of 7, mid reddish brown sandy clay		

9	Cut	0.44	0.16	Posthole		
10	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>9</b> , mid reddish brown sandy clay		
11	Cut	0.8	0.2	Pit		
12	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>11</b> , mid reddish brown sandy clay		
13	Cut	1.9	0.18	Natural linear		
14	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>13</b> , mid brownish red clayey sand		
15	Cut	1	0.4	Ditch		
16	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>15</b> , dark brown sandy clay	pot	Earlier Iron Age
17	Layer	-	0.28	Alluvium – mid brown silty clay		
30	Cut	0.44	0.43	Ring ditch		
31	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>30</b> , mid reddish brown sandy clay		
83	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>6</b> , mid brown sandy clay	pot	Iron Age
		-	-	Natural – mid to dark brownish orange sandy clay gravels		

Trench 49						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Terminal end of a small NW-SE aligned gully at southern end of trench. Tree throws and bioturbation towards middle of trench.				Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
				Width (m)	2.1	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
56	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
84	Cut	0.4	0.1	Natural feature		
85	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>84</b> , dark brown silt	flint	
86	Cut	0.58	0.12	Gully		
87	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>86</b> , light brownish yellow sandy silt	flint	
		-	-	Natural – mid reddish brown flinty gravels		



Trench 50						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Smallish circular pit, northern end taken up by a colluvial/alluvial layer.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil		
56	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil		
88	Cut	0.8	0.36	Pit		
89	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>88</b> , mid yellowish brown sandy silt		
90	Layer	-	0.3	Colluvium/alluvium? - light brownish yellow red silty sand		
		-	-	Natural – mid reddish brown clay flinty gravels		

Trench 51						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Single small gully running N-S next to western edge of trench. Pipe cut for a water pipe/electricity cable and a large tree throw found towards the middle of the trench.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.1	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
56	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
93	Cut	0.5	0.11	Gully		
94	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>93</b> , mid to light yellowish brown silty clay	Pot, CBM	post-med
		-	-	Natural – mid to light yellowish brown chalky clay becoming mixed in the east with mid reddish brown sandy clay		

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Metalwork

*By Chris Faine with Rachel Clarke*

#### **Summary**

- B.1.1 A small assemblage of c.24 copper-alloy, iron and lead objects was recovered from the site, most stratified in ditches although some were found by metal-detector. Much of the assemblage is dominated by iron nails (given 'group' SF numbers), which are not closely-datable but are probable medieval or post-medieval. Transport-related items include a fragmentary ?late medieval iron horseshoe, two horseshoe nails and a possible copper-alloy harness pendant. Dress-related objects comprise a copper-alloy buckle of probable post-medieval date, while a single, poorly-made lead musket ball may relate to hunting or warfare.

#### **Catalogue**

SF 1 Context 3, fill of ditch **2**, Tr 23. Unidentified iron object. Possibly rivet/nail head. Date uncertain.

SF 2 Context 51, topsoil Tr 15. Fragmentary iron horseshoe. Extremely corroded, with no nail holes visible. Secure dating of horseshoes without nail holes is difficult, however the width (web) of the shoe (32mm) suggests something similar to a Clark type 4 (Clark 1995) of late medieval date.

SF 3 Context 5, fill of ditch **4**, Tr 23. Unidentified iron object. Possibly rivet/nail head. Date uncertain.

SF 4 Context 5, fill of ditch **4**, Tr 23. Collection of 12 partial square section iron nail shanks. Average length 22mm. Date uncertain.

SF 5 Context 3. Collection of 2 nail heads and portion of square section shank. Medieval/post-medieval

SF 6 Context 51, topsoil near Tr 1. Cast lead musket ball. Width 19mm. Weight 33g. 160—1800 AD. Weight and dimensions similar to types used during the Civil War (Harding 2012).

SF 7 Context 51, topsoil. Cast copper alloy buckle. Single loop rectangular type with two knobs on rear of frame. Fragments of iron pin loop remaining. 26.2mm long, 30mm wide. Late medieval/post-medieval. Most likely the latter due to the quality of casting.

SF 8 Context 312, ditch **315**, Tr 32. Cast copper alloy mount. 51.5mm Long. Long tapered neck ending in trefoil pattern of three short lobes at its end. No rivet holes or other means of mounting are present. May represent a harness pendant. Date uncertain (possibly medieval).

SF 9 Context 312, ditch **315**, Tr 32. Square section clenched iron nail. 74.8mm long. Late medieval/post-medieval

SF 10 Context 306, ditch **307**, Tr 6. Iron horseshoe nail medieval/post-medieval

SF 11 Context 130, ditch **129**, Tr 25. Square section clenched iron nail. 45.9mm long. Late medieval/post-medieval

SF 12 Context 194, pit **195**, Tr 8. Iron horseshoe nail. Medieval/post-medieval

## B.2 Lithic Assessment

By Barry Bishop

### Introduction

B.2.1 The archaeological evaluation at the site resulted in the recovery of a medium sized collection of struck flint. The flintwork has been fully catalogued according to context and this provides data suitable for spatially plotting the material (Catalogue/Appendix B2.2). This report briefly describes the characteristics of each of the industries present and discusses the archaeological significance of the material, including its potential to contribute to the further understanding of the nature and chronology of the activities identified during the project. It also recommends any further work required for the material to achieve its full research potential. The assemblage was recovered predominantly from cut features, although some unstratified items are present.

### Quantification

Type	Decoritication Flake	Flake	Flake Fragment	Blade-like flake	Non-prismatic Blade	Prismatic Blade	Flake Core	Minimally worked Core / Tested Piece	Conchoidally fractured Chunk	Retouched Implement
No.	21	41	17	6	4	3	5	5	18	14
%	15.7	30.6	12.7	4.5	3.0	2.2	3.7	3.7	13.4	10.4

Table B2.1: Quantification of Lithic material

B.2.2 A total of 134 pieces of struck flint was recovered from 17 of the evaluation trenches (Table B2.1; Catalogue/Appendix B2.2). The material was generally present as single pieces or in only small quantities with the exception of three of the trenches. Evaluation Trench 43 produced 53 pieces, amounting to nearly 40% of the entire assemblage, all of which came from a single feature, ditch **282**. Evaluation Trench 22 produced 28 pieces, of which over half came from hollow **20**, and Trench 35 produced 14 pieces, 13 of which came from ditch **354**. None of the other trenches produced more than six pieces each.

### Description

#### Raw material

B.2.3 The assemblage is predominantly produced from a fine grained and good knapping quality translucent black flint with a rough but slightly weathered yellow cortex. Small quantities of an opaque black speckled flint and translucent brown or grey flint are also present. The raw materials appear to have been relatively large and nodular shaped but many pieces exhibit thermal scars or flaws. This indicates that they had been obtained from derived mass weathered deposits, most likely either the glacio-fluvial deposits that

dominate the surface geology of the area, or the colluvium marked by the BGS (2007) as Head deposits that infill a small tributary valley running through the site.

*Technology, Typology and Dating*

- B.2.4 Few truly diagnostic pieces are present but both the typological composition of the struck flint and its technological attributes indicate that it was manufactured over a long period. The chronology of the assemblage cannot be categorized by context and therefore all suggested dates presented in Catalogue/Appendix B2.1 rely on the intrinsic attributes of each piece. This means that in many cases only broad distinctions can be made. Nevertheless, it is possible to propose a chronological framework.
- B.2.5 The earliest pieces comprise a small number of blades and blade-like flakes that can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. These include a blade that has both inverse and 'normal' retouch forming a chisel-like edge at its bulbar end (context 29). No cores that can be attributed to these periods were identified.
- B.2.6 Approximately a third to a half of the remainder of the assemblage comprises generally thin and competently struck flakes, often with carefully edge-trimmed striking platforms. Although not easily defined or closely datable, these are most characteristic of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flintworking techniques. Activity at the site during the Early Bronze Age is confirmed by a large, although rather coarsely made, 'Sutton' type (Green 1980) barbed and tanged arrowhead that was recovered from topsoil deposits (context 52). A broken flake with invasive retouch from ditch **307** is perhaps most comparable with a small chisel-type transverse arrowhead which, if so, would be datable to the Later Neolithic. An invasively retouched flake, possibly a knife from ditch **282**, an end scraper from the same feature and a notched scraper from ditch **256** are also likely to date to the Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.
- B.2.7 The remaining pieces consist of broad and thick flakes, often with wide obtuse striking platforms, minimally or randomly worked cores, and thick flakes with irregular edge retouch, which are most characteristic of later prehistoric industries, dating to the later second and first millennium BC (Herne 1991; Young and Humphrey 1999; Humphrey 2003; McLaren 2009). Possibly the best evidence for later prehistoric flintworking comes from ditch [354] and comprises the waste from a number of very simply and opportunistically reduced nodules. These had essentially been hit with very little proficiency until the required number of suitable flakes had been produced, leaving a mass of irregular conchoidally fractured chunks. Hollow **20** also contained a relatively assemblage that includes both reduction waste and four informal edge-retouched implements. The condition of the pieces from this context precludes *in situ* working, but the assemblage is suggestive of a broadly contemporary episodes of reduction and tool use. Ditch **282** contained the largest single assemblage from the investigations, and whilst many if not most of the pieces are of later prehistoric date, there are also many earlier looking pieces and the overall condition of the pieces suggests considerable redeposition.

**Discussion**

- B.2.8 Given the size of the areas investigated the struck flint assemblage may be regarded as suggestive of fairly intensive activity at the site. It indicates persistent although probably discontinuous activity covering much of the post-Glacial prehistoric period at what is likely to have been regarded as a favourable location, the site occupying an elevated situation beside a small tributary overlooking the Rib valley. The earlier material, from the Mesolithic through to the Early Bronze Age, is likely to have been produced by relatively transient groups moving through the landscape, whilst the later prehistoric

material may relate to more permanent settlement and the establishment of field-systems.

### Recommendations

B.2.9 The struck flint assemblage suggests relatively intensive and prolonged occupation of the site throughout the prehistoric period and which further work at the site could potentially greatly elucidate. The assemblage reported here should be re-examined in conjunction with any additional flintwork found as a result of any further fieldwork and following the completion of the archaeological programmes at the site. Should further fieldwork be considered, attention should focus on obtaining as large and closely contextually defined lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future work, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted.

### Appendix B2.2: Lithic Catalogue

Context	Trench	Feature	Decorated Flake	Flake Fragment	Blade-like flake	Blade	Non-prismatic Blade	Prismatic Blade	Flake Core	Minimally worked / testing Core	Conchoidally fractured Chunk	Retouched Implement	Recorticated	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
1	6	Colluvium		1									Yes	Slightly abraded	Meso - EBA	Narrow flake
1	6	Colluvium	1	1									None	Good	Meso - EBA	
3	23	Ditch 2							1				None	Chipped	MBA-IA	Angular chunk with single broad flake removed
5	23	Ditch 4									1		None	Slightly abraded	MBA-IA	Crude retouch and wear around pointed distal suggests use as a piercer
5	23	Ditch 4	2	1									None	Chipped	MBA-IA	One of the flakes possibly has a small stretch of abrupt retouch on distal
21	22	Hollow 20							1				None	Slightly abraded	LNeo - BA	Single platform made using an alluvial pebble 52g
21	22	Hollow 20										4	None	Slightly abraded	MBA-IA	All four are crudely produced thick flakes with irregular edge retouch forming steep sided or denticulate edges
21	22	Hollow 20	2	4	1		1				1		None	Slightly abraded	MBA-IA	Not refitting but could be from same nodule
21	22	Hollow 20			1								Unknown	Burnt	Undated	Burnt fragment of a thick flake
25	22	Pit 24	1	2									None	Slightly abraded	MBA-IA	
26	22	Pit 24		4									None	Good	LNeo - BA	

Context	Trench	Feature	Decoratation Flake	Flake	Flake Fragment	Blade-like flake	Blade-like flake	Non-prismatic Blade	Prismatic Blade	Flake Core	Minimally worked / testing Core	Conchoidally fractured Chunk	Retouched Implement	Recorticated	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
26	22	Pit 24										1	None	Slightly abraded	MBA-IA	Thick broken or inversely worked flake with fine convex abrupt retouch on part of right margin forming an irregular scraper	
29	22	Ditch 27		1									None	Good	Meso - EBA	Narrow, blade-like	
29	22	Ditch 27										1	None	Slightly abraded	Meso / ENeo	Prismatic blade with abrupt and slightly denticulated inverse retouch along right margin and part of the left margin at the bulbar end. The striking platform has been removed by normal steep retouch, forming a square-ended implement	
32	39	Alluvium		1									None	Slightly abraded	Meso - EBA	Narrow but curved, hard hammer struck?	
51	01/01/15	Topsoil	1										Yes	Abraded	Meso - EBA	Very battered, possibly blade proportions	
52	16-44	Topsoil										1	Incipient	Abraded	EBA	Large but coarsely made barbed and tanged arrowhead	
52	21	Topsoil			1								None	Slightly abraded	Meso - EBA	Distal end of a possible blade	
52	16-44	Topsoil		1									None	Abraded	Meso - EBA	Possibly pressure flaked on right margin but condition precludes positive identification	
54	01/01/15	Subsoil						1					Incipient	Slightly abraded	Meso / ENeo	Complete	
62	5	Gully 61										1	Yes	Slightly abraded	LNeo - BA	Bulbar end of a thick flake with irregular 'nosed' retouch on right margin near striking platform	
64	5	Gully 63	1										Yes	Good	Undated		
67	15	Colluvium		1									Yes	Abraded	Undated	Very battered, possibly retouched - scraper	
71	19	Pit 70		1									Yes	Slightly abraded	Undated	Small chip	
85	49	Natural 84		1									None	Good	LNeo - BA	Secondary flake, distal end missing	
87	49	Gully								1			None	Good	MBA-	angular chunk with a	

Context	Trench	Feature	Decoratification Flake	Flake	Flake Fragment	Blade-like flake	Blade	Non-prismatic Blade	Prismatic Blade	Flake Core	Minimally worked / testing Core	Conchoidally fractured Chunk	Retouched Implement	Recorticated	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
		86														IA	few flakes removed
97	22	Ditch 96								1				Incipient	Abraded	LNeo - BA	Keeled/bifacial core made on a small rounded pebble - possibly used as a chopping/pounding tool. 59g
97	22	Ditch 96										1		None	Chipped	LNeo - BA	Disintegrated core
98	22	Ditch 96								1				None	Slightly abraded	LNeo - BA	Small multiplatform weighs 26g
120	27	Ditch 119		3								1		Yes	Slightly abraded	LNeo - BA	Disintegrated core. Flakes could have been struck from the core
140	40	Ditch 139			1									Yes	Abraded	Meso - EBA	Distal flake fragment
142	40	Ditch 141			1									Yes	Good	Undated	Tertiary flake
142	40	Ditch 141			1									Unknown	Burnt	Undated	Burnt fragment of a possibly struck piece
251	26	Ditch 252	2											Yes	Abraded	Meso - EBA	
255	26	Ditch 256											1	Yes	Slightly abraded	LNeo / EBA	Finely made end and side scraper with a small notched spur on one side
270	29	Ditch 271			1									Incipient	Good	Meso / ENeo	Distal end of a possible blade
273	43	Ditch 282											1	Incipient	Chipped	LNeo / EBA	Narrow flake with faceted striking platform and steep convex retouch around distal end - end scraper
273	43	Ditch 282											1	Incipient	Slightly abraded	LNeo / EBA	Distal end of a narrow flake with fine shallow slightly invasive inverse retouch along right margin and continuing onto distal end - knife? spur?
273	43	Ditch 282											1	None	Abraded	MBA-IA	Thick flake with steep sinuous retouch along left margin
273	43	Ditch 282	8	15	9	5	3					8		None	Abraded	Mixed	A few blade-based pieces of Meso to Later Neo date but mostly later prehistoric thick crude flakes
281	43	Ditch 282									1			None	Slightly abraded	LNeo - BA	Angular chunk with a single flake removed

Context	Trench	Feature	Decorification Flake	Flake Fragment	Blade-like flake	Non-prismatic Blade	Prismatic Blade	Flake Core	Minimally worked / testing Core	Conchoidally fractured Chunk	Retouched Implement	Recorticated	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
281	43	Ditch 282	1									None	Slightly abraded	LNeo - BA	Possibly utilized
305	6	Ditch 307									1	None	Slightly abraded	LNeo	Broken small flake with fine invasive pressure flaking along its left margin and abrupt retouch on surviving parts of its distal and right margin. Possibly a small transverse arrowhead
308	6	Colluvium					2					None	Good	Meso / ENeo	Both complete
351	35	Ditch 352	1									None	Slightly abraded	Undated	Cortex is a thermal scar
353	35	Ditch 354	2					2	2	7		None	Good	MBA-IA	Predominantly shattered cobbles. Both cores are keeled producing broad flakes.
454	36	Hollow 20	1									None	Abraded	Meso - EBA	Tertiary flake
454	36	Hollow 452		1								None	Slightly abraded	Meso / ENeo	Possibly utilized distal tip of a possible blade
463	36	Natural 462	1									None	Good	Meso - EBA	Narrow, bulbar end missing
999	Field B	Unstrat			1							None	Chipped	Meso / ENeo	Distal end, possibly utilized
332 <17 >	32	Ditch 333	1									Incipient	Slightly abraded	Meso - EBA	Possibly utilized



### B.3 Pottery

*By Sarah Percival*

#### **Summary**

- B.3.1 A total of 190 sherds weighing 1,069g, was recovered from 24 trenches during evaluation excavations at Buntingford (Table B3.1). This includes 180 sherds weighing 993g of later prehistoric pottery comprising 64 sherds, 231g, of earlier Iron Age pottery dating to c.800-350BC; 91 Iron Age sherds, weighing 718g, dating to c.350BC to 50BC and six sherds, 20g, of later Iron Age pottery (100/50BC-AD50). Three sherds, 3g, are prehistoric but are otherwise not closely datable. The assemblage is fragmentary and poorly-preserved with an average sherd weight of 6g. Rims are present from eight vessels.
- B.3.2 Two sherds of Roman pottery weighing 13g, two medieval sherds weighing 6g and six post-medieval sherds weighing 57g were also found. The larger prehistoric pottery is considered in detail below. The small Roman and post-Roman assemblage is listed by fabric in Appendix B3.2 but is not further discussed.

Trench	Feature type	Feature	Spot Date	Quantity	Weight (g)	Number of vessels
1	Gully	151	Iron Age	1	18	
5	Gully	63	Earlier Iron Age	5	1	1
		65	Earlier Iron Age	1	2	
6	Colluvium?	1	Not Closely Datable Prehistoric	1	1	
	Ditch	302	Medieval	1	3	
		307	Iron Age	2	8	1
8	Ditch	180	Post-medieval	1	5	
	Pit	195	Medieval	1	3	
	Topsoil	179	Post Medieval	1	35	
15	Colluvium	67	Earlier Iron Age	2	9	1
17	Ditch	103	Earlier Iron Age	5	12	
		105	Not Closely Datable Prehistoric	1	1	
		107	Iron Age	1	16	
		109	Earlier Iron Age	1	4	
18	Ditch	201	Earlier Iron Age	23	118	3
			Iron Age	41	134	
19	Pit	70	Earlier Iron Age	1	3	
22	Ditch terminus/pit	24	Earlier Iron Age	4	7	
	Ditch/holloway	96	Earlier Iron Age	5	9	
			Iron Age	2	10	
Hollow	20	Earlier Iron Age	7	17	1	
23	Ditch	4	Post-medieval	1	7	
24	Post hole	72	Earlier Iron Age	5	20	
26	Ditch	252	Later Iron Age	1	1	
27	Ditch	117	Earlier Iron Age	1	1	

		119	Not Closely Datable Prehistoric	1	1	
		129	Iron Age	1	6	
28	Layer	215	Roman	1	8	
29	Colluvium?	272	Later Iron Age	1	2	
	Ditch	267	Later Iron Age	1	5	
32	Ditch	317	Post-medieval	1	6	
		319	Iron Age	3	5	
		321	Iron Age	2	9	
		333	Iron Age	2	3	
	Later Iron Age		1	4		
	Ditch terminus	323	Iron Age	8	23	
329		Iron Age	2	6		
33	Ditch terminus	348	Post -medieval	1	1	
34	Ditch?	264	Iron Age	2	6	
35	Ditch	352	Earlier Iron Age	2	3	
	Ditch?	354	Earlier Iron Age	3	9	
36	Holloway?	452	Iron Age	2	9	
39	Alluvium	32	Earlier Iron Age	1	3	
43	Ditch?	282	Iron Age	5	8	
			Later Iron Age	2	8	
			Roman	1	5	
48	Ditch	15	Earlier Iron Age	1	1	
	Ring ditch	6	Iron Age	30	490	1
51	Ditch	93	Post-medieval	1	3	
<i>Total</i>				190	1069	8

Table B3.1: Quantity and weight of prehistoric and later pottery by trench

### **Methodology**

B.3.3 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010 Methodology.doc). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE.

### **Early Iron Age (c.800-350BC)**

B.3.4 A total of 67 sherds, weighing 219g, are of earlier Iron Age date. The assemblage includes rims from six vessels.

### **Fabric**

B.3.5 The earlier Iron Age assemblage is mostly flint-tempered with fabrics containing crushed burnt flint as the principle inclusion making up 68% of the assemblage (145g). Two flint-tempered fabrics were identified (Appendix B2.1). The remainder of the sherds are made

of sandy fabrics. Two sandy fabrics are present of which one (Q1) also contains fine flint inclusions.

*Form*

- B.3.6 Rims from six vessels were identified in earlier Iron Age fabrics. These include a jar with high rounded shoulder, upright neck and flattened rim similar to examples found at Fairfield Park, Stotford (Webley et al. 2007, fig.3.3, 30). A plain, slack-shouldered jar is also found at Fairfield Park and at Barley (Webley et al. 2007, fig.3.6, 86; Cra'ster 1961, fig.7, 5) whilst a fine tripartite jar decorated with slashes to the exterior and interior edge of the flattened rim and on the sharp angular shoulder is reminiscent of vessels from Cottenham (Evans 1999, fig, 18). The remaining rims are too small to identify to form. One example is decorated with possible impressed decoration to the rim edge. One body sherd is decorated with a double incised band marking the neck/ shoulder junction and may be from a fine tripartite bowl (Brudenell 2012, 241).

*Deposition*

- B.3.7 Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from Trenches 5, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 35 and 48. Over 75% of the total Early Iron Age pottery by weight came from ditch fills with the largest single feature assemblage being recovered from ditch **201**, Trench 18 which contained 116g representing 55% of the total assemblage and including rims from three vessels and decorated sherds from at least a further two. Further pottery was recovered from gullies **63** and **65** in Trench 5, pit **70** in Trench 19 and hollow **20**, Trench 22.

***Iron Age c.350BC to 50BC***

- B.3.8 The Iron Age assemblage comprises 104 sherds weighing 751g. These include the remains of at least four scored jars in sandy fabrics.

*Fabric*

- B.3.9 The Iron Age assemblage is almost exclusively made of sandy fabrics which represent 97% of the assemblage. The remaining 3% of the sherds are flint tempered. Four sandy fabrics were identified (Appendix B3.2). These contain small quantities of additional inclusions including chopped vegetable material, crushed and detrital flint, mica and small quantities of grog.

*Form*

- B.3.10 Whilst the majority of the Iron Age sherds are undecorated, sherds from at least four vessels are scored. These include the complete profile from a slack-shouldered jar with upright neck, flat rim and simple base from ring ditch **6**, Trench 48. The jar is made of sandy micaceous fabric with conspicuous elongated voids indicating vegetable inclusions, occasional flint and detrital inclusions similar to examples from Little Waltham (Drury 1978, fig.49, 222). A second scored vessel is of hemispherical form with no neck, decorated on the rim top with an impressed cable decoration. This jar is made of sandy micaceous fabric and the form is also paralleled within the Little Waltham assemblage (Drury 1978, fig.43, 55).

*Deposition*

- B.3.11 Iron Age pottery was found in Trenches 1, 6, 17, 18, 22, 32, 34 and 48. The largest single assemblage, which comprised the fragmentary remains of the incomplete scored jar, came from the fill of ring ditch **6**, Trench 48. This single vessel represents 69% of the total Iron Age assemblage by weight (490g). The remainder of the assemblage came from ditch fills (30%, 210g) and from gully **151**, Trench 1.

### **Later Iron Age**

- B.3.12 A total of six sherds, 20g, are made of grog-tempered fabrics which characterise the latest Iron Age in the region (Thompson 1982). The majority of the sherds contain numerous small, dark-grey grog pieces (fabric GTW). A single sherd is made of sandy fabric with sparse pale grog pieces (fabric Q5). All are small abraded body sherds. One sherd has combed decoration similar to an example found at Bishop's Stortford North (Brudenell 2013a).
- B.3.13 Later Iron Age sherds were found in Trenches 26, 29, 32 and 43 being mostly recovered in small quantities from ditch fills. A single sherd was also found in possible colluvium in Trench 29 (context 272).

### **Discussion**

- B.3.14 The assemblage contains a range of Iron Age sherds spanning the early to mid-Iron Age with a small scattering of later grog-tempered sherds. The range of earlier Iron Age fabrics and forms are similar to those found at Bishops Stortford North and Hazel End, Bishops Stortford (Brudenell 2013a and b) and compare well with the contemporary assemblage found at Fairfield Park, Stotfold (Webley et al. 2007). Brudenell has suggested that these types of assemblages were in use between c.800 and 350BC (Brudenell 2012).
- B.3.15 The scored vessels are indicative of activity in the mid Iron Age (350 – 100/50BC) and finds parallel with the sand-tempered scored vessels from Little Waltham (Drury 1978). Mid Iron Age vessels are rare in Hertfordshire, perhaps because of the longevity of the earlier Iron Age forms and fabrics and sporadic uptake of new vessel types (Hill 2002, 155). The mid Iron Age pottery found here appears to be directly associated with occupation with a significant proportion a scored jar being found in ring ditch **6**. The later Iron Age pottery was all recovered as redeposited material in ditch fills and is only found in association with mid Iron Age pot in one feature, ditch **333** in Trench 32.

### **Significance of the Assemblage and Recommendations for Further Work**

- B.3.16 The pottery assemblage is of particular interest as it contains at least a small presence of mid Iron Age scored jars, such vessels being rarely found in Hertfordshire. It is of interest that the mid Iron Age pot appears to be directly associated with occupation features.
- B.3.17 No further work is required on the evaluation pottery however if further work is undertaken at the site then this assemblage should be considered alongside any further pottery recovered and a combined report compiled. It would be of use to undertake radiocarbon dating of suitable short life samples found in association with pottery during future phases of work at the site, to aid further understanding of the earlier to mid-Iron Age transition and subsequent changes in pottery repertoires.
- B.3.18 Two sherds from this assemblage should be considered for illustration should the assemblage be further examined or published as part of further archaeological examination of the development site. These are the earlier Iron Age decorated jar from context 202, ditch **201**, Trench 18 and the middle Iron Age scored vessel from context 83, ring ditch **6**, Trench 48.

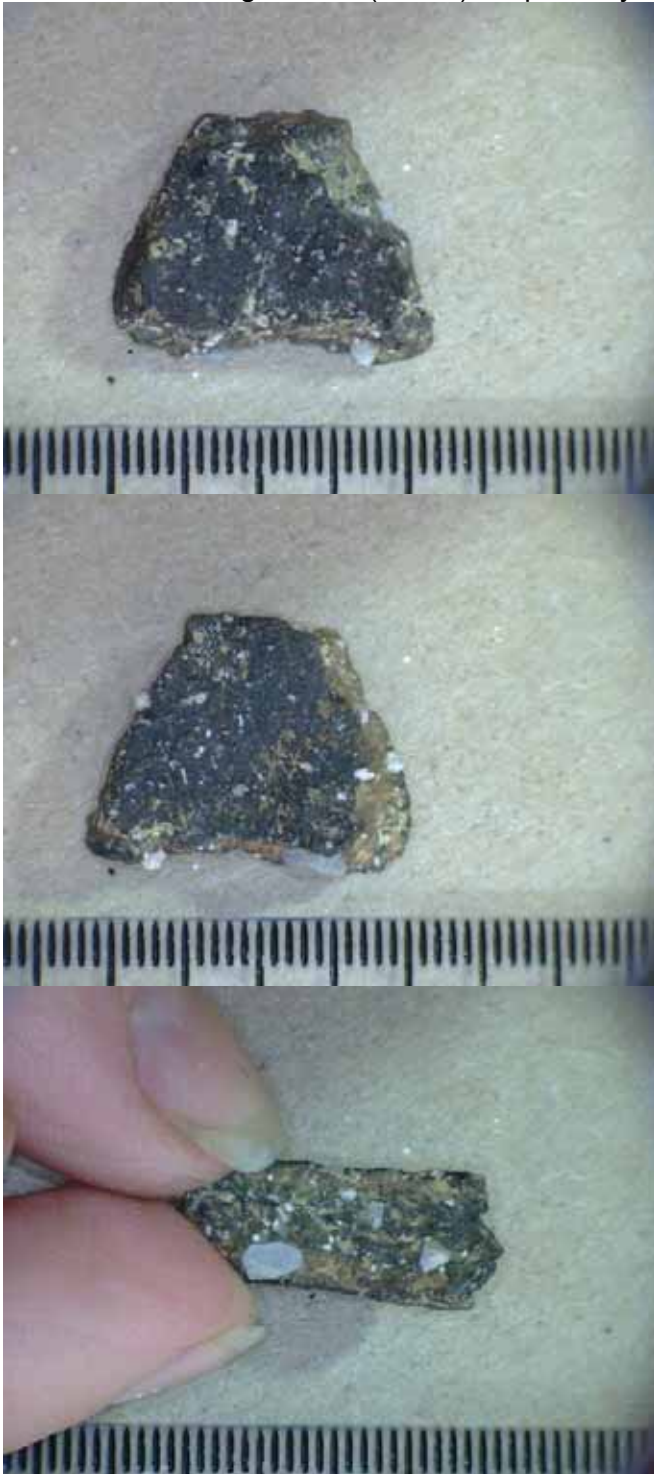
### Appendix B3.2: Pottery by fabric

Period	Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Earlier Iron Age	F1	Common small angular flint (>3mm) in open clay matrix with quartz-sand.	50	143
	F2	Sparse large flint pieces (>5mm) in a sandy matrix (includes both angular crushed flint and detrital flint)	4	36
	Q1	Dense sandy clay matrix with moderate rounded quartz grains and rare small angular flint pieces >3mm	12	33
	Q3	Dense sandy fabric with common rounded quartz grains and common mica	1	7
Iron Age	F1	Common small angular flint (>3mm) in open clay matrix with quartz-sand.	11	20
	F2	Sparse large flint pieces (>5mm) in a sandy matrix (includes both angular crushed flint and detrital flint)	3	16
	Q1	Dense sandy fabric with moderate rounded quartz grains rare small angular flint pieces >3mm	20	102
	Q2	Sandy micaceous fabric with common elongated voids (vegetable inclusions); occasional flint and detrital inclusions	66	569
	Q3	Dense sandy fabric with moderate rounded quartz grains and common mica	3	26
	Q4	Dense sandy fabric with moderate rounded quartz grains, sparse small angular flint pieces plus grog?	1	18
Later Iron Age	GTW	Soft soapy fabric with common small grog pieces	5	16
	Q5	Dense sandy fabric with occasional small grog pieces	1	4
Not Closely Datable	F1	Common small angular flint pieces	1	1
Roman	MSGW	Micaceous sandy greyware	1	5
	SOW	Sandy oxidised ware	1	8
Medieval		Unglazed medieval coarseware	2	6
Post-medieval	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	5	50
	TGE	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1	7
<b>Total</b>			<b>190</b>	<b>1069</b>

**Fabric Plates**

Fabric F1: Trench 5, context (66)

Common small angular flint (>3mm) in open clay matrix with quartz-sand



**Fabric F2 Trench 18, context (202)**

Sparse large flint pieces (>5mm) in a sandy matrix (includes both angular crushed flint and detrital flint)



**Fabric Q1: Trench 17, context (104)**

Dense sandy fabric with moderate rounded quartz grains rare small angular flint pieces





**Fabric Q2: Trench 48, context (83)**

Sandy micaceous fabric with common elongated voids (vegetable inclusions); occasional flint and detrital inclusions



**Fabric Q3: Trench 18, context (202)**

Dense sandy fabric with moderate rounded quartz grains and common mica



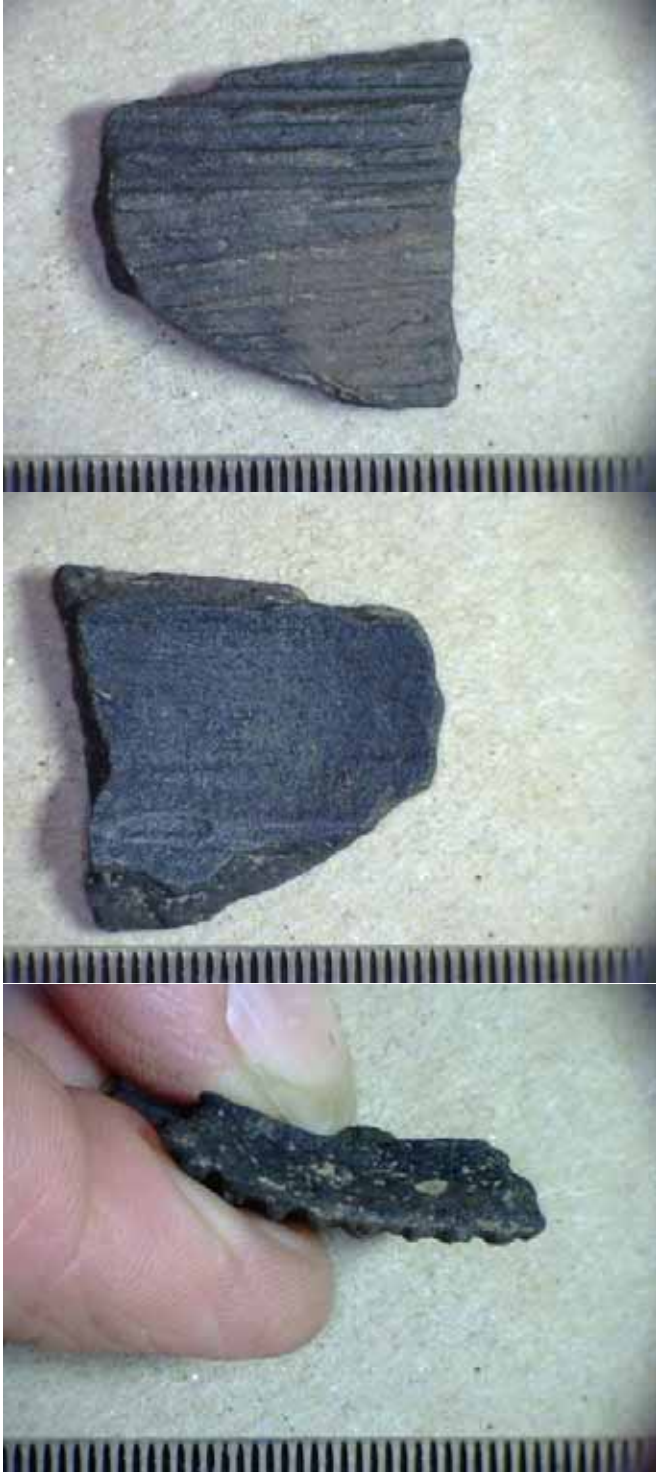
**Fabric Q4: Trench 1, context (152)**

Dense sandy fabric with moderate rounded quartz grains, moderate small angular flint pieces plus grog?



**Q5: Trench 32, context (332)**

Dense sandy fabric with sparse small pale grog pieces





**GTW: Trench 43, context (266)**

Soft soapy fabric with common small dark grey and occasional pale grey blocky grog



## B.4 Ceramic Building Material

*By Rob Atkins*

### **Introduction**

- B.4.1 A very small assemblage of brick and tile, comprising 104 abraded fragments (2.59kg) as well as a fragment of mortar, was recovered (Table B4.1). A catalogue of all CBM recovered is included at the end of the report (Tables B4.2-3)

Type	No. of contexts	No. fragments	Weight (g)	Average weight per fragment (g)
Brick	7	11	681	61.9
Ceramic roof tile	29	93	1913	20.57
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>104</b>	<b>2594</b>	

Table B4.1: *Brick and roof tile*

### **Methodology**

- B.4.2 The material was all weighed by context and type and rapidly assessed by fabric and count. Only a single brick thickness survived to be recorded. Mortar was recorded on sherds to see if they had been used before being discarded. Peg holes were recorded on three fragments but none survived well enough to identify if they had derived from 1 and 2 peg hole type tiles.

### **Results**

#### *Brick*

- B.4.3 An extremely small collection of brick came from six features (Table B3.2). Only a single fragment from ditch **4** survived to provide even a measurable thickness and this brick dates from the late 17th to 18th century. Three brick fragments (from pit **198** and ditch **315**) have been very loosely dated to between the late medieval and post-medieval periods (c.15th-18th centuries). All three are in the same fabric and originally had organic inclusions which have been leached or burnt out. Most of the bricks are undiagnostic.

#### *Roof tile*

- B.4.4 The small collection of 93 roof tile fragments are heavily abraded with an average fragment weight of just 20.57g (Tables B3.1 and B3.2); these are the smallest tile fragments this author has recorded from any site. The large majority of the tile derived from features and these are unlikely to be relate to domestic settlement. It is likely they had been deposited in the ground during manuring.
- B.4.5 The tile is mostly in an orange or an orange/red fully oxidised fabric. This accounts for 90 of the 93 fragments. Only three tile fragments had a reduce core and it is possible that these tiles were medieval or late medieval in date (B3.3). Most of the fully oxidised fragments found in this evaluation are likely to be 17th to 18th century in date as several were well made. A few of the fully oxidised tiles, including one with quartz inclusions from colluvium 308, may date from the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Fully oxidised fabrics are far more common from the 15th to 16th century on sites, presumably as kilns had improved.
- B.4.6 Only three peg holes were found on tiles and all were from tiles in a fully oxidised fabric (Table B3.3). All three peg holes were sub-rounded with none being sub-square.

*Mortar*

B.4.7 A single large piece of lime mortar (74g) came from pit **198**.

**Discussion**

B.4.8 This is a very abraded collection of CBM, almost entirely dating to the post-medieval period, all of which had probably been deposited during agricultural activities such as manuring.

**Recommendations**

B.4.9 No further work is recommended on this assemblage, which has been fully-recorded and can be discarded.

Context	Tr	No	Wt(g)	Comments
5 (ditch <b>4</b> )	23	2	142	In two fabrics: 1) One orange to red sandy (43g) 2) One yellow ('white') sandy (99g). 65mm (2½" thick). Has a slightly creased face. Reasonably well made. c.late 17th to 18th century.
180 (ditch <b>181</b> )	8	1	6	Orange to red sandy. ?brick
197 (pit <b>198</b> )	8	2	97	In two fabrics: 1) One red sandy (14g) 2) One fragment buff to light orange sandy (83g). Frequent very small holes in bricks, presumably where organic remains had been removed during firing or have been leached out. Late medieval to post-medieval
217(ditch <b>216</b> )	30	1	9	Orange to red sandy. Small flint inclusions up to 6mm in length
312 (ditch <b>315</b> )	32	3	149	Medium orange sandy. Frequent very small holes in bricks, presumably where organic remains had been removed during firing or have been leached out. Late medieval to post-medieval.
313 (ditch <b>315</b> )	32	1	270	Moderate orange sandy fabric. Frequent very small holes in bricks, presumably where organic remains had been removed during firing or have been leached out. Has no surviving measurements but the few parts of faces surviving have ok arrises. Late medieval to post-medieval.
345 (drain <b>346</b> )	33	1	8	Orange to red sandy. ?brick.
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>681</b>	

Table B4.2: Catalogue of brick

Context	Tr	No	Wt(g)	Comments
5 (ditch <b>4</b> )	23	16	248	Tile in two fabrics: 1) Fifteen in a hard orange to red sandy fully oxidised fabric (238g). Includes well made examples c.17th/18th century date. 2) One fragment in an orange sandy fabric with reduced grey core (10g). Probably medieval in date
52 (topsoil)	18	2	13	Orange to red sandy fully oxidised
55 (subsoil)		1	26	orange sandy fully oxidised. Soot on one side.
71 (pit <b>70</b> )	19	1	1	orange sandy fully oxidised. ?tile
94 (gully <b>93</b> )	51	2	82	Very hard orange to red sandy. Some flint and small red and yellow clay lump inclusions in one. Marks showing excess clay removed. Includes well made examples c.17th/18th century date.
130 (ditch <b>129</b> )	25	5	80	Tile in two fabrics: 1) Four in a hard orange to red sandy fully oxidised fabric (61g). One sub-rounded peg hole 2) One fragment in an orange sandy fabric with reduced grey core (19g). Probably medieval in date

Context	Tr	No	Wt(g)	Comments
180 (ditch <b>181</b> )	8	7	83	Orange sandy fully oxidised
192 (pit <b>193</b> )	8	1	11	Orange sandy fully oxidised
194 (pit <b>195</b> )	8	4	59	Hard orange/ orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised. One tile with sub-rounded peg hole. Includes well made examples c.17th/18th century date.
197 (pit <b>198</b> )	8	2	27	Orange sandy fully oxidised
206 (natural)	18	3	46	Orange to red sandy fully oxidised
217 (ditch <b>216</b> )	30	6	165	Hard orange/ orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised. Two with some yellow clay lump inclusions up to 7mm in size. Includes well made examples c.17th/18th century date.
226 (ditch <b>225</b> )	30	5	69	Orange sandy fully oxidised
266 (ditch <b>267</b> )	29	2	63	Hard orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised
272 (?colluvium)	29	2	54	Orange sandy fully oxidised. One tile with sub-rounded peg hole
281 (?ditch <b>282</b> )	43	1	3	Orange sandy fully oxidised
301 (ditch <b>302</b> )	6	1	13	Orange sandy fully oxidised
303 (colluvium)	6	1	2	Orange sandy fully oxidised. ?tile
306 (ditch <b>307</b> )	6	5	32	Hard orange/ orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised
308 (colluvium)		2	24	Hard orange/ orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised. One fragment (5g) has some small quartz inclusions
310 (gully <b>311</b> )	32	3	90	Hard orange/ orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised
312 (ditch <b>315</b> )	32	6	305	Tile in two fabrics: 1) Five in a hard orange to red sandy fully oxidised fabric (269g) 2) One fragment in an orange sandy fabric with reduced grey core (36g). Probably medieval in date
313 (ditch <b>315</b> )	32	1	19	Hard orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised
316 (ditch <b>317</b> )	32	6	272	Hard orange/ orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised. one fragment has very rare small flint inclusions up to 6mm long. One has marks showing excess clay removed from mould. Includes well made examples c.17th/18th century date.
345 (drain <b>346</b> )	33	1	24	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised
360 (ditch <b>361</b> )	38	1	6	Hard orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised. Mortar attached to one side
451 (ditch <b>100</b> )	36	3	31	Hard orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised
456 (ditch <b>455</b> )	36	1	6	Hard orange to red sandy. Fully oxidised
461 (gully <b>460</b> )	36	2	59	Tile in two fabrics: 1) One in a hard orange sandy fully oxidised fabric (53g) 2) One fragment in an orange sandy fabric with reduced grey core (6g). Probably medieval in date
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>1913</b>	

Table B4.3 : Catalogue of roof tile

## B.5 Miscellaneous Finds

*By Rachel Clarke with Sarah Percival*

### **General**

- B.5.1 A small quantity of miscellaneous finds were found in addition to those described above. These comprise two undatable clay pipe stems (3g) from post-medieval ditches, a tiny fragment of undiagnostic fired clay (1g) from an ?Iron Age ditch/hollow **282**, modern snail shells (not quantified), clinker (4g) and slag (13g) from post-medieval ditches.



### ***Worked Stone***

- B.5.2 An incomplete saddle quern in un-sourced quartzitic sandstone was found in context (79), pit **78**, Trench 24, along with an unmodified but burnt stone that has been discarded. The quern, which has been broken across its width, has rough shaping to the sides and base and a concave grinding surface which has been smoothed through use. The stone is robust, being 140mm wide and 110mm deep and has some reddening to the sides and base indicating burning or staining.
- B.5.3 The quern is made from a utilized bolder of erratic rock, almost certainly selected from the till or river gravels and is similar to earlier Iron Age examples found at the Plant Breeding Institute, Trumpington which date to the 6th to 3rd centuries BC (Percival 2004).

## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Faunal Remains

*By Chris Faine*

#### **Summary**

- C.1.1 A very small assemblage of animal bone comprising eighteen fragments was recovered from the evaluation, with 5 fragments identifiable to species. Four contexts contained identifiable material, with contexts **71** containing only unidentified fragments. The total weight of the assemblage was 200g. Context **10** contained a single fragmentary cattle femur. Fragments of cattle mandible were recovered from contexts **92** & **202**, with the mandible from **202** coming from an old adult animal. Further identifiable remains were limited to partial sheep/goat humeri from contexts **92** and **197**.

#### **Discussion and recommendations**

- C.1.2 This is a small fragmented assemblage with little research potential; no further work is recommended on this material but it should be incorporated with the animal bone assemblage should further fieldwork be undertaken.

### C.2 Environmental samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction**

- C.2.1 Twenty bulk samples were taken from selected features excavated in evaluation trenches at Buntingford North. Features sampled include ditches, gullies, post-holes, colluvial layers and pits that are predominantly dated to the later prehistoric period.

#### **Methodology**

- C.2.2 One bucket (up to ten litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

#### **Results**

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Tr.	Volume processed (L)	Preservation	Cereals	Chaff	Charcoal	Large animal bones	Pottery	Flint debitage
1	1		Layer	6	10	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0
2	67		Layer	15	8	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0
3	202		ditch	18	10	Charred	0	0	+	#	#	0
4	112	111	ditch	7	10	None	0	0	0	0	0	0

5	114	113	ditch	16	8	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0
6	116	115	ditch	27	10	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0
7	118	117	ditch	27	8	None	0	0	0	0	#	0
8	120	119	ditch	27	9	None	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	126	125	slot/pit	27	10	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0
10	215		layer	28	8	Charred	0	#	+	0	0	#
11	83	6	ditch	48	9	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0
12	353	354	ditch	35	8	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0
13	29	27	Ditch/ holloway	22	10	Charred	#	0	+	0	0	0
14	320	321	ditch/gully	32	10	Charred	#	0	+	0	0	0
15	322	212	ditch/gully	32	9	Charred	0	0	+	0	#	0
16	328	329	ditch/gully	32	4	Charred	0	0	+	#	#	#
17	332	333	ditch/gully	32	6	Charred	0	0	+	0	#	#
18	339	340	post hole	33	1	Charred	0	0	+	#	0	0
19	347	348	ditch terminus	33	10	None	0	0	0	0	#	0
20	343	344	post hole	33	5	Charred	0	0	+	0	0	0

Table C2.1: Environmental samples from XHTBUN13

C.2.3 Most of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments. The three exceptions are Sample 10, layer 215 in Trench 28 which contains a degraded glume base (prehistoric wheat chaff) of either spelt (*Triticum spelta*) or emmer (*T. dicocum*), Sample 13, fill 29 of ?hollow way 27 in Trench 22 which contains a single charred grain of wheat tentatively identified as emmer wheat and Sample 14, fill 320 of hollow way/gully 321 in Trench 32 which contains a single charred grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*).

C.2.4 Occasional finds within residues include small fragments of pottery, animal bone and worked flint. Hammerscale was noted in the following samples:

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Trench	Flake Hammerscale	Spheroidal hammerscale
1	1		Layer	6	#	#
11	83	6	ditch	48	#	
12	353	354	ditch	35	#	#
13	29	27	Ditch/ holloway	22	#	

Table C2.2: Hammerscale

### Discussion

C.2.5 The results from the environmental samples taken during the evaluation of the site at Buntingford North did not reveal any areas of domestic occupation in either Field A or C Pottery and a small amount of animal bone was recovered from a few deposits but it would appear that none of features were used for the disposal of burnt culinary waste or hearth material. The three samples that contain charred remains were all taken from features from trenches located across the middle of Field B adjacent to Ermine Street. The small quantities recovered are not indicative of deliberate deposition and preclude any further interpretation of the site. The distribution of hammerscale is interesting as

each of the four trenches (from which the hammerscale was found) are located along the entire eastern side of the site which is next to the Ermine Street road.

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## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-163205		
Project Name	Evaluation at land North off Buntingford, Hertfordshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	07-10-2013	Finish	21-10-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XHTBUN13	Planning App. No.	3/13/1375/OP
HER No.	TBC	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Landowner Pre-Sale Planning Application

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
cultivation system	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
settlement	Iron Age -800 to 43	flint	Early Prehistoric -500k to -
field boundaries	Post Medieval 1540 to 190	flint	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43

### Project Location

County	Hertfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	East Hertfordshire	Land north of Buntingford off Ermine Street, Buntingford
Parish	Buntingford	
HER	Hertfordshire	
Study Area	17ha	National Grid Reference
		TL 35647 30388

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay OA East
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay OA East
Supervisor	Rachel Clarke OA East

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
East Herts Museum	OA East	East Herts Museum
XHTBUN13	XHTBUN13	XHTBUN13

### Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



APPENDIX F. HER RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land north of Buntingford off Ermine Street, Buntingford		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Buntingford	Parish: Buntingford	
Planning application reference: 3/13/1375/OP		
HER Enquiry reference: 289/12		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Pigeon Linden House 147 Kings Road Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 3DJ 01284 766 200		
Nature of application: Residential		
Present land use: Arable		
Size of application area: 17ha	Size of area investigated: 17ha	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 35647 30388		
Site code (if applicable): XHTBUN 13		
Site director/Organization: R. Clarke/Oxford Archaeology East		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work: October 2013	Start: 7th October	Finish: 21st October 2013
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: East Hertfordshire		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Iron Age and post-medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports Hopkins 2013 Buntingford North, Buntingford, East Hertfordshire. Assessment of Archaeological Significance. Archaeological Risk Management		
Summary of fieldwork results: The most northerly field (A) was largely devoid of archaeology, apart from a few narrow Iron Age ditches in the northern part along with several post-medieval post-holes and ditches. A group of large medieval/post-medieval pits/quarries was also investigated towards the centre of the field, which corresponds with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.  Field B contained the most extensive archaeological remains, although these were relatively dispersed. Earlier Iron Age shallow ditches/possible hollow ways were present, sealed by a colluvial layer, along the eastern edge of the field, adjacent to Ermine Street. The western third of the field was largely occupied by an extensive series of parallel, slightly sinuous cultivation ditches aligned NNW-SSE, tentatively dated to the Iron Age. Located to the north-east of these was a shallow ditch/hollow way aligned east-west with possible wheel ruts surviving in its compacted base; this		

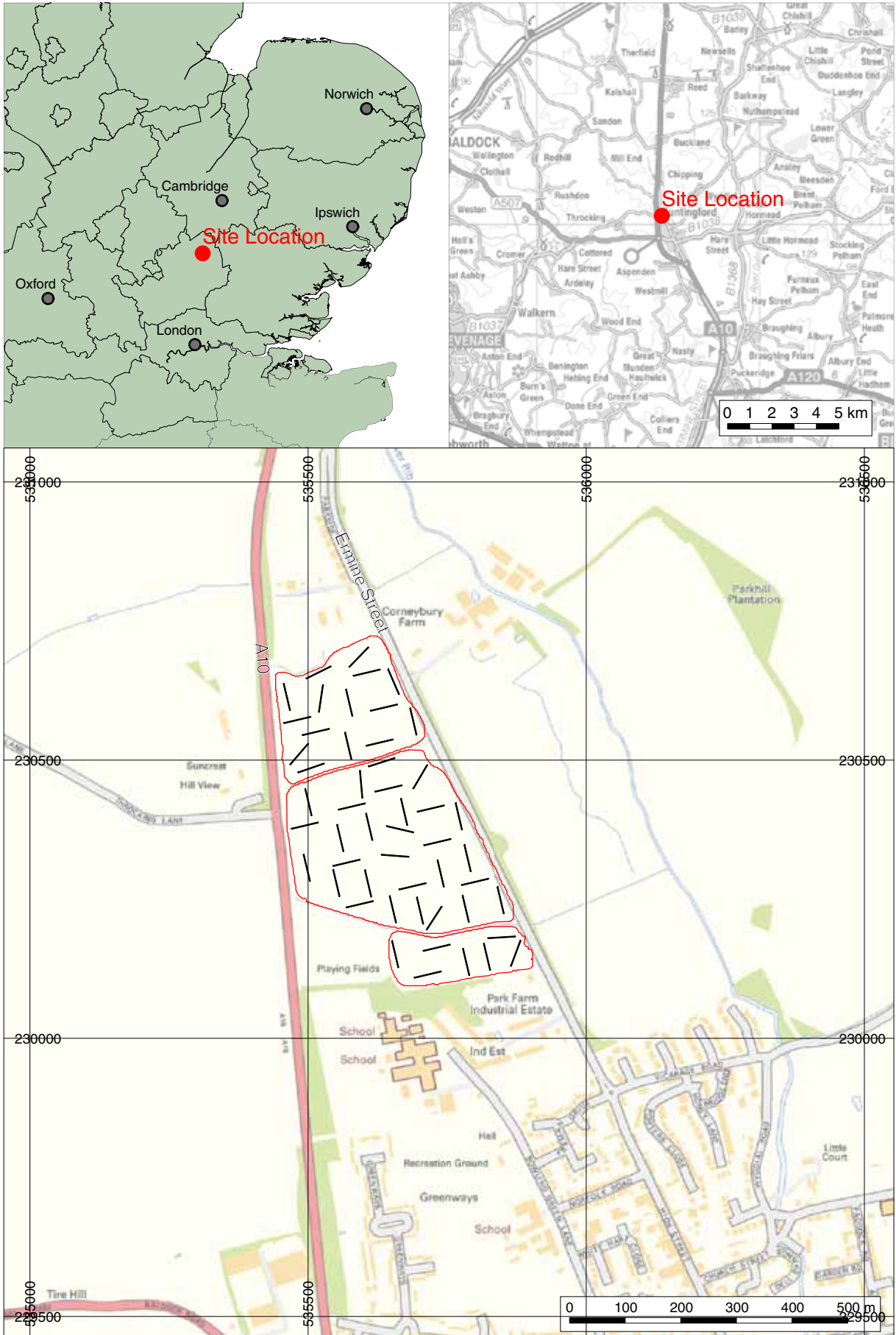
contained a mixture of earlier and Middle Iron Age pottery. At least one possible area of dispersed occupation was identified towards the centre of the field, represented by a few post-holes, gullies and possible pits containing earlier and Middle Iron Age pottery. Several post-medieval ditches were also recorded, most of which correlate with boundaries and enclosures shown on historic maps and/or identified by the geophysical survey.

Scattered archaeological features were present in Field C, at the southern end of the study area. A curving gully or ring-ditch containing a moderate quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery, along with an associated post-hole, may represent the edge of another settlement focus located adjacent to Ermine Street. A probable ditch was found to the north-east of this, while a scatter of undated (possibly prehistoric) and post-medieval ditches and gullies lay to the west.

The finds assemblage from the site includes a moderate collection of mostly earlier to Middle Iron Age pottery, with a few later fabrics; the presence of Middle Iron Age pottery is a relatively rare occurrence in Hertfordshire. The moderately large lithic assemblage suggests relatively intensive and prolonged activity/occupation of the site throughout the prehistoric period. Other finds are infrequent and mostly comprise later medieval and post-medieval metalwork including nails and horse-related items, along with small abraded fragments of CBM. The environmental potential of the site appears to be somewhat limited (perhaps implying that the main settlement focus lay elsewhere), with only small quantities of fragmented animal bone being present within features and very few plant remains being recovered from the bulk samples.

Author of summary: R. Clarke

Date of summary: November 2013



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) and proposed development area (red)

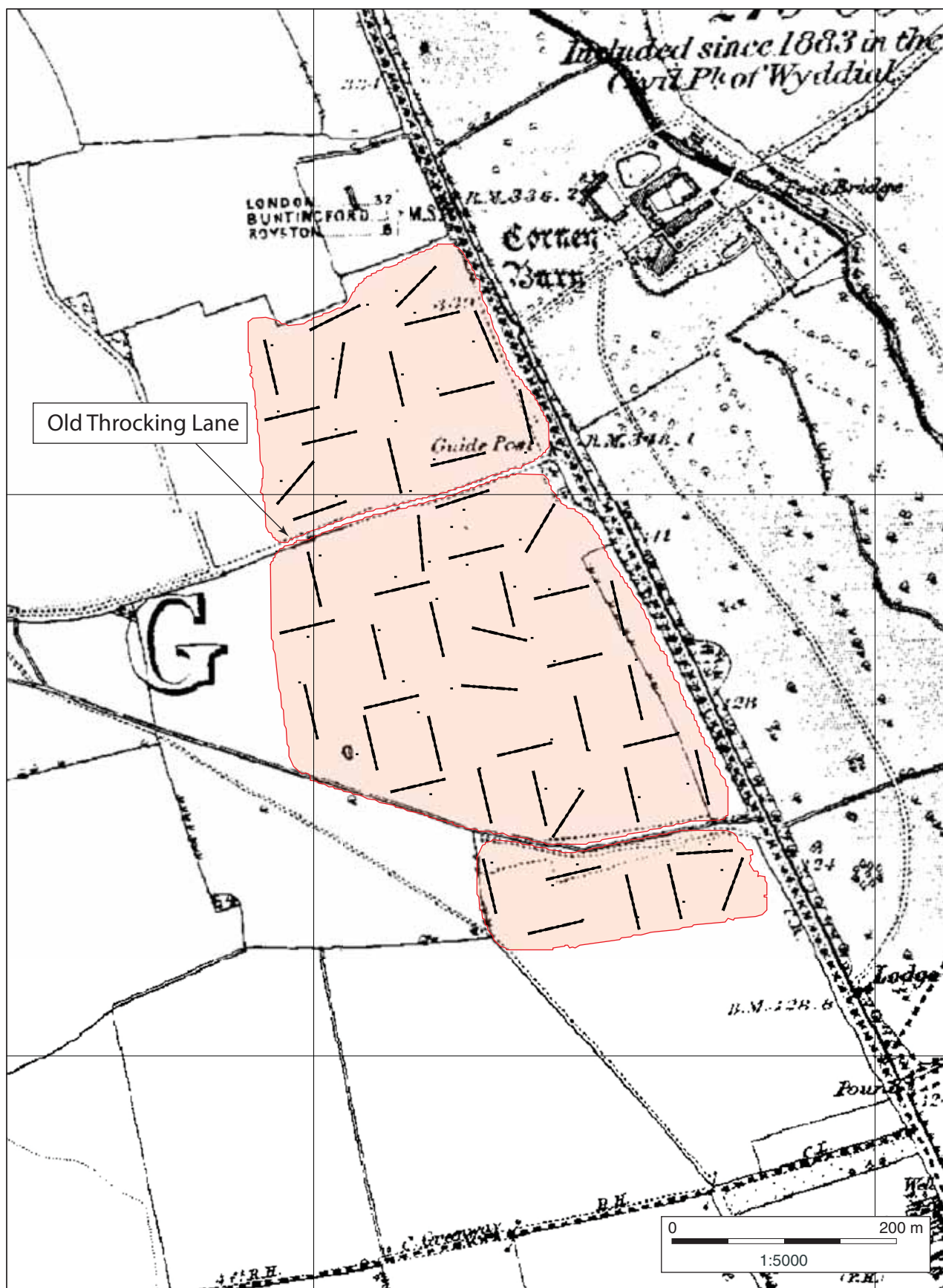


Figure 2: Overall trench plan overlaid on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1883-4)

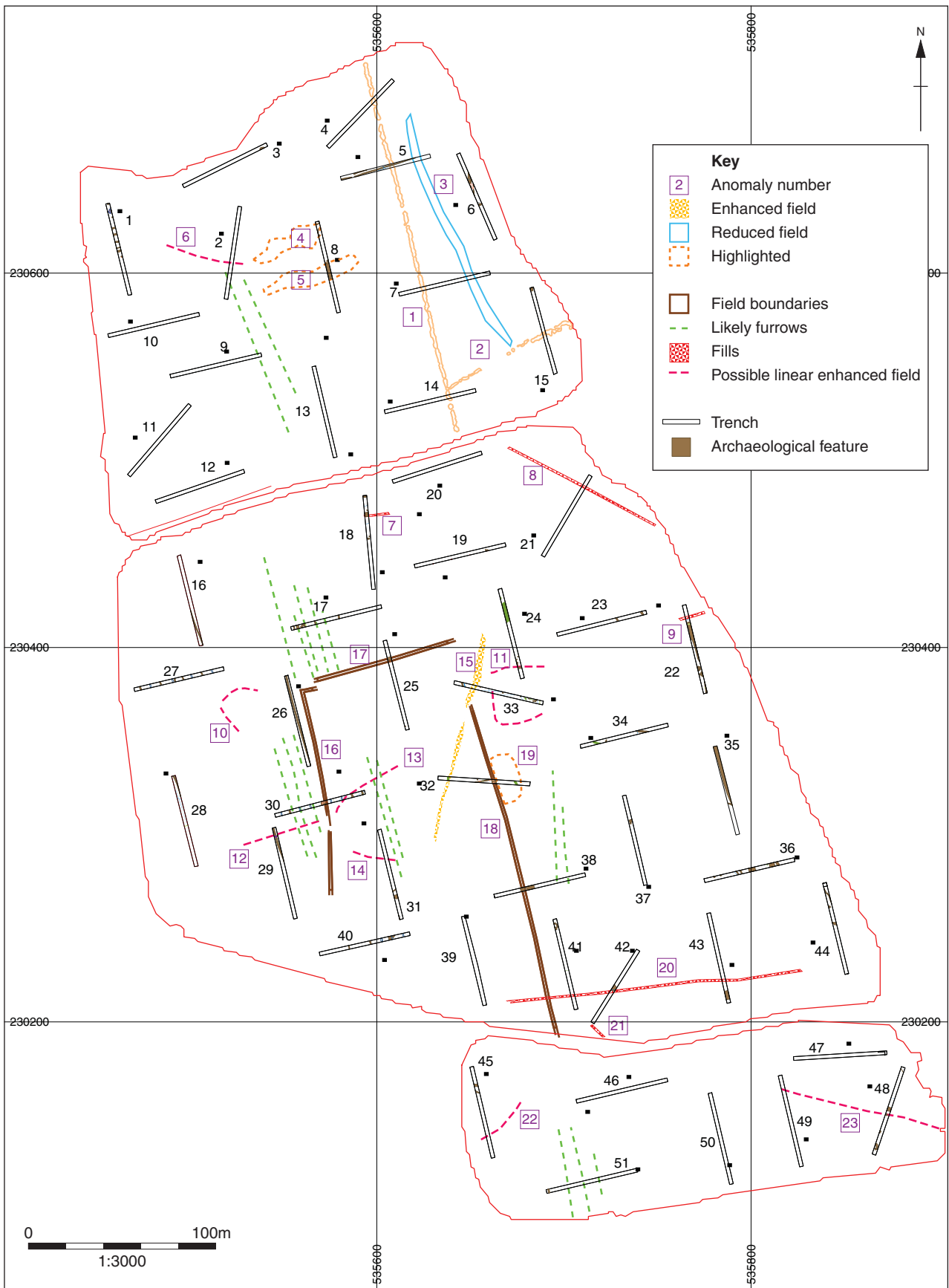


Figure 3: Overall trench plan overlaid on geophysical survey results

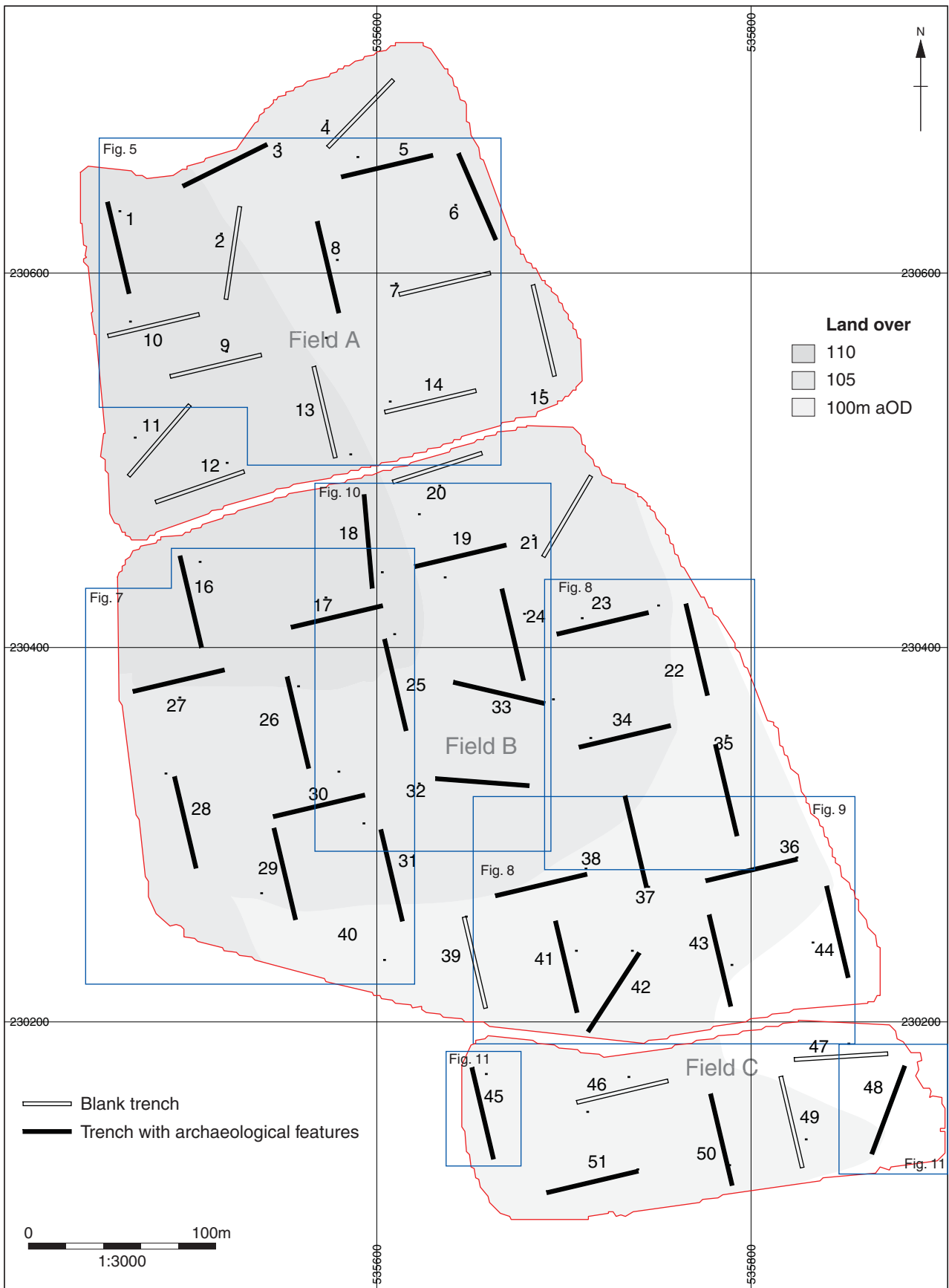


Figure 4: Overall trench plan overlaid on contour map showing location of more detailed plan Figures 5-10



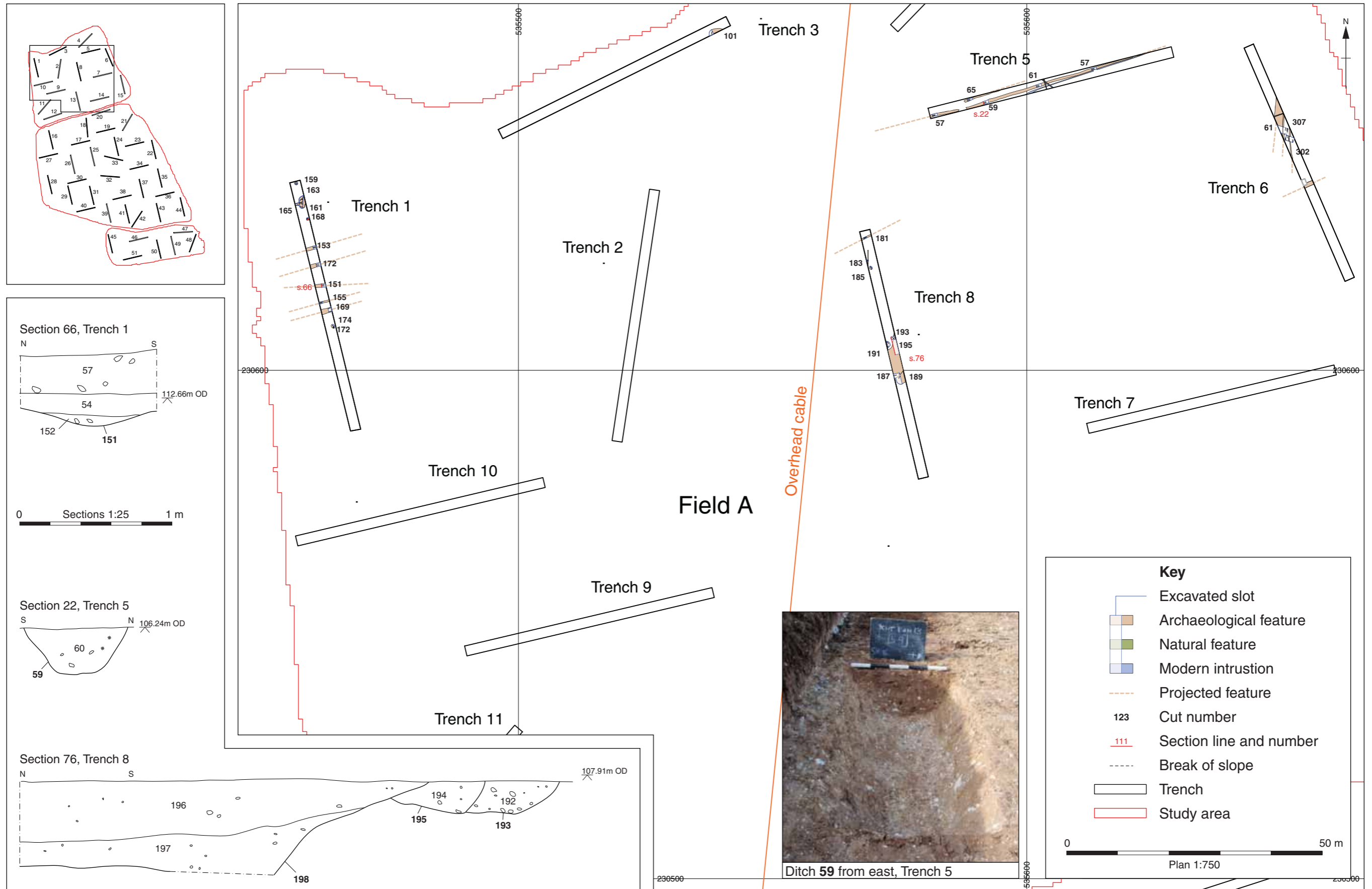


Figure 5: Detail of Field A: Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 8

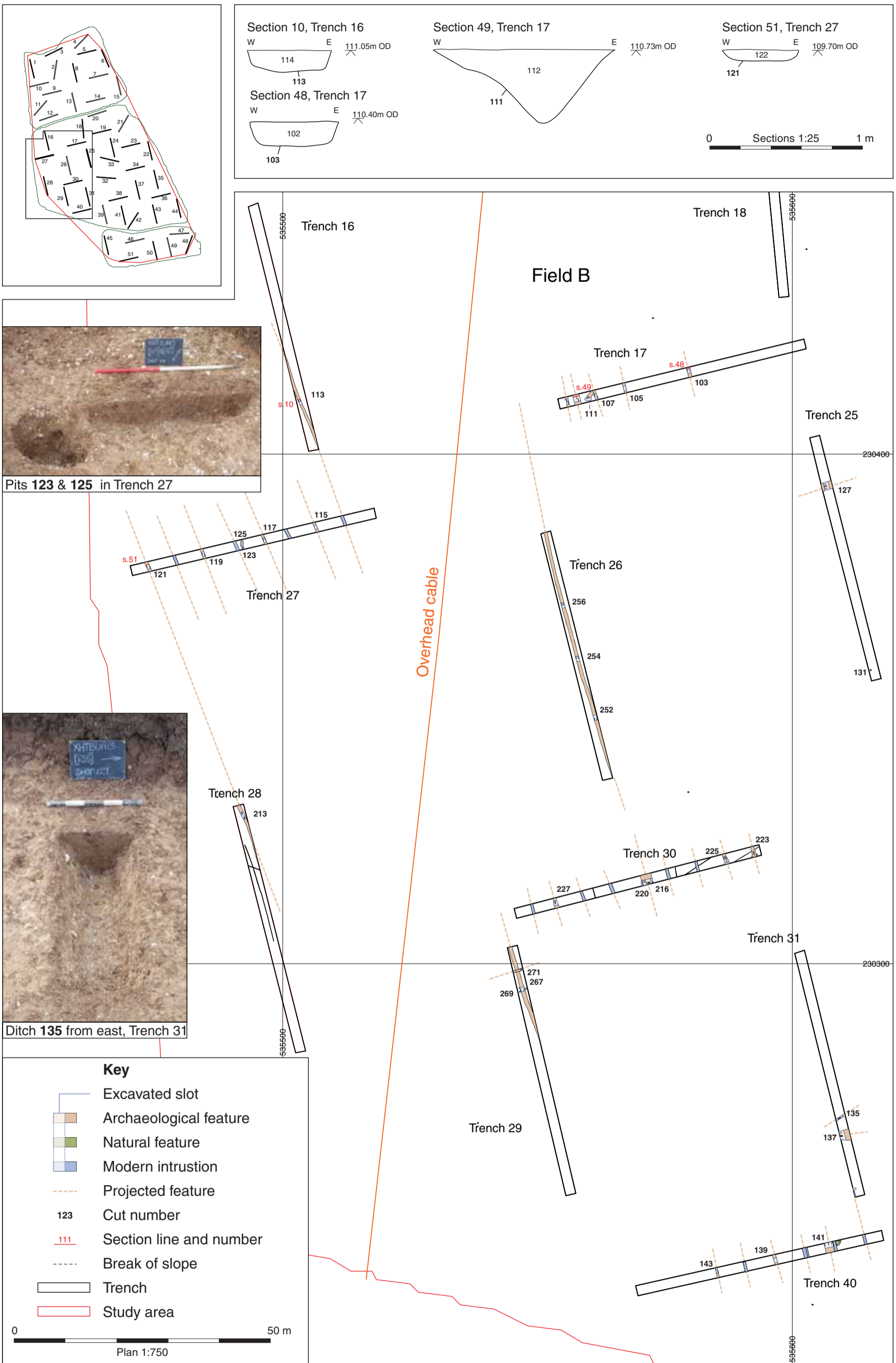


Figure 6: Detail of western part of Field B: Trenches 16, 17, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 40



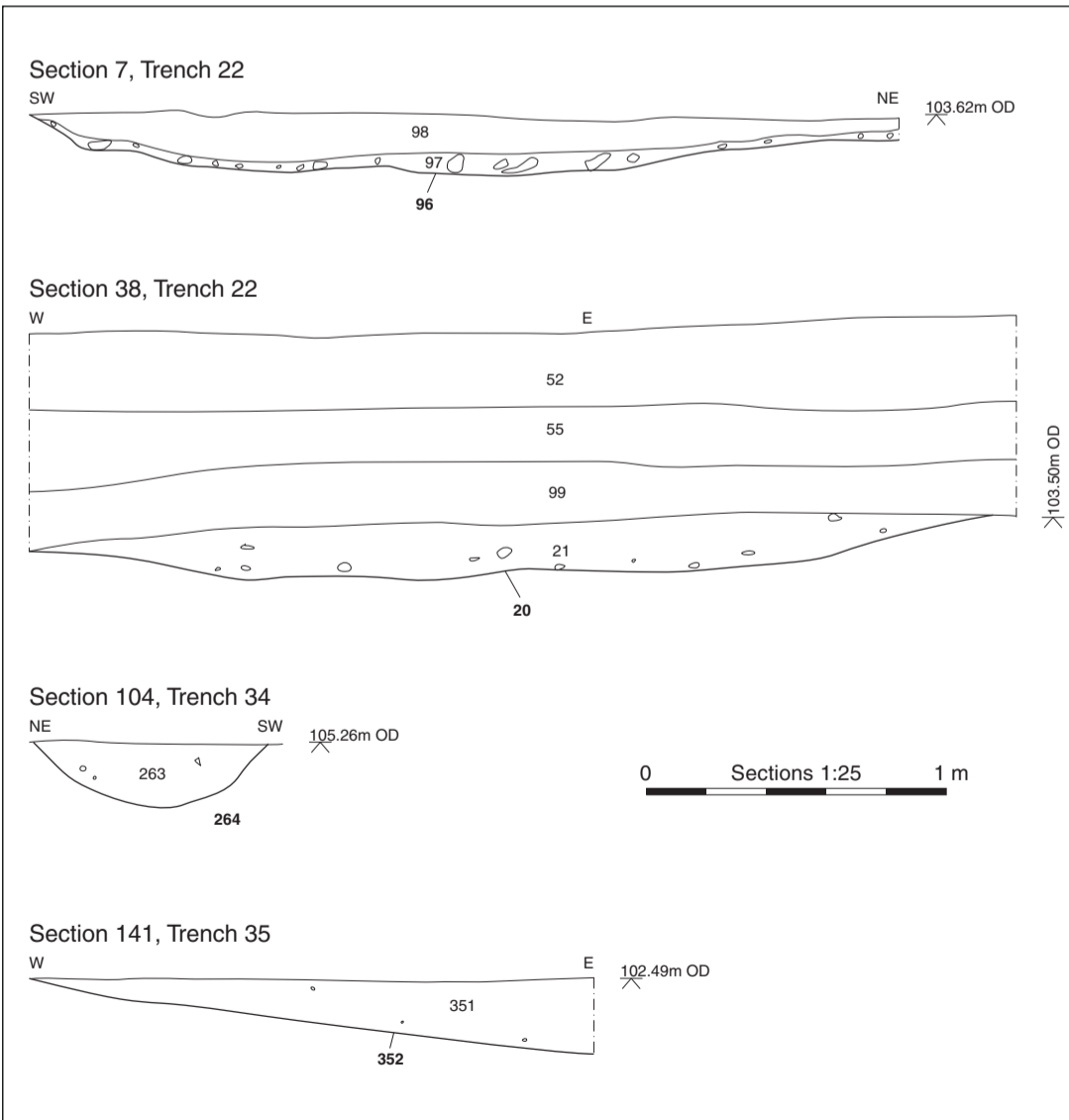
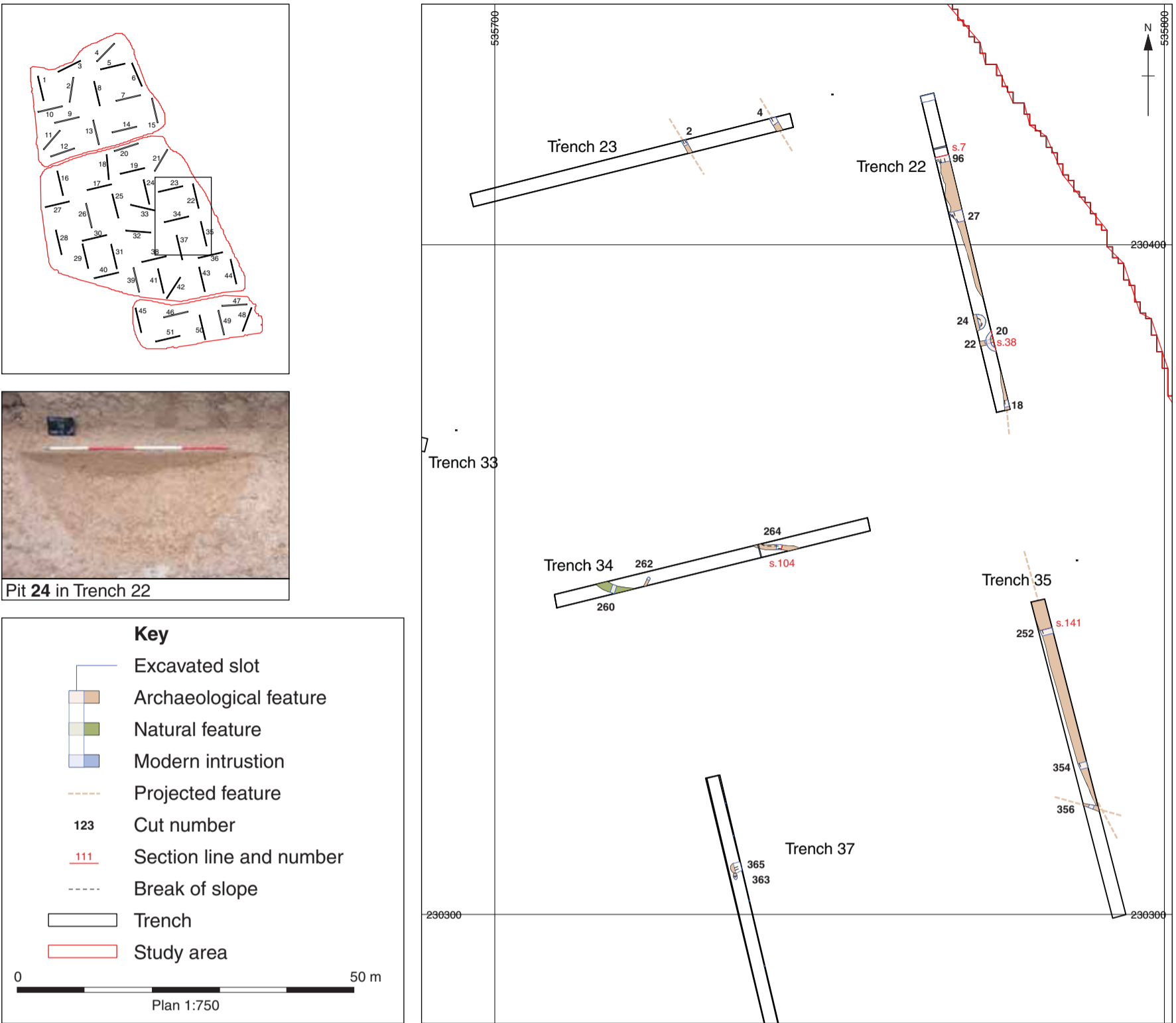


Figure 7: Detail of eastern part of Field B: Trenches 22, 23, 34, 35 and 37

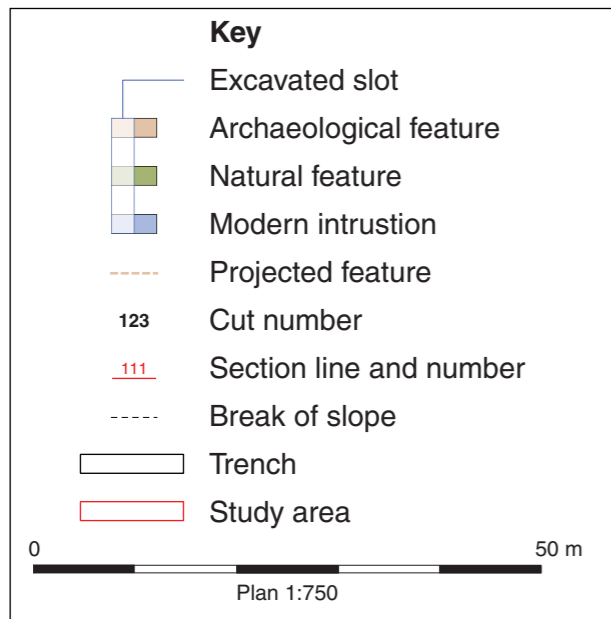
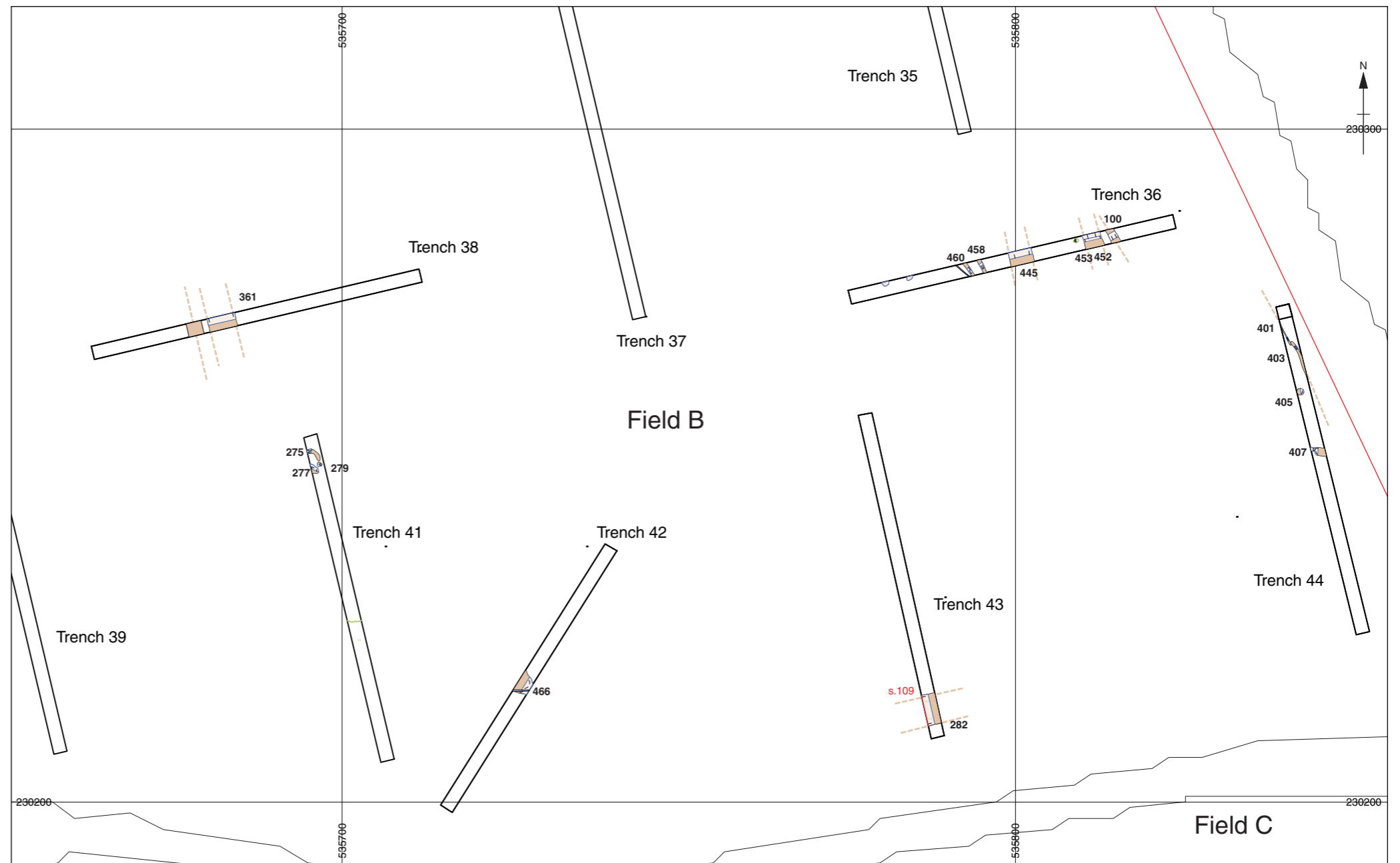
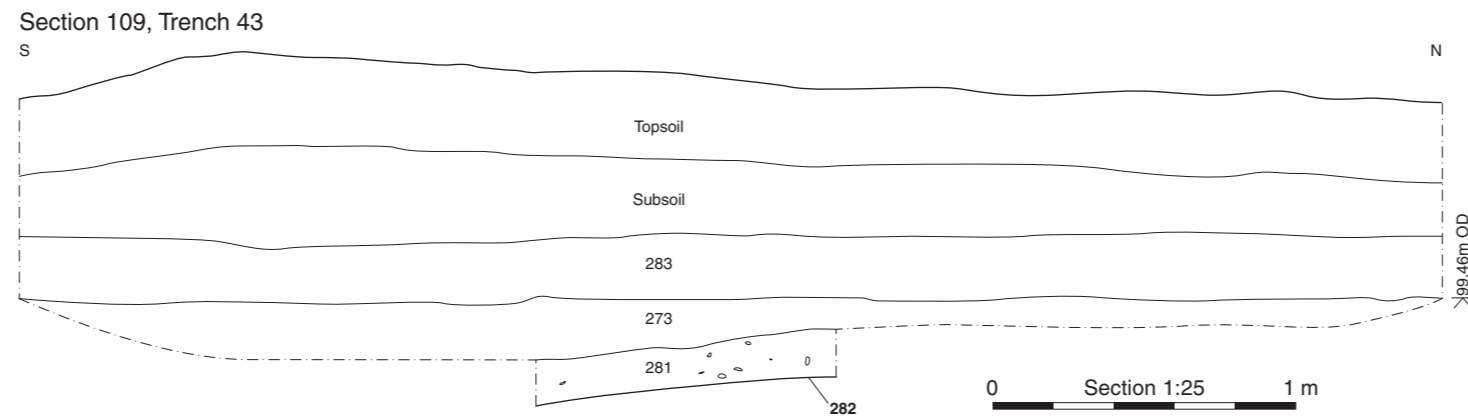
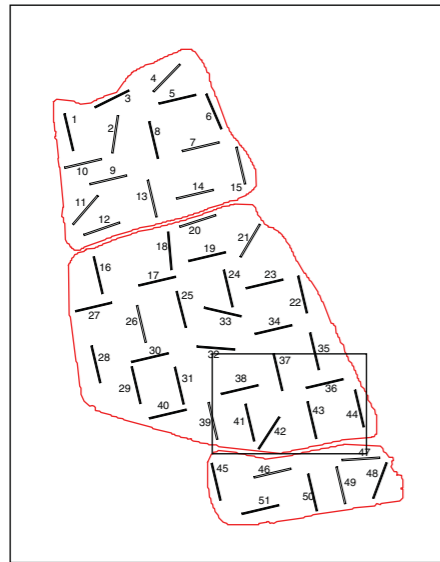
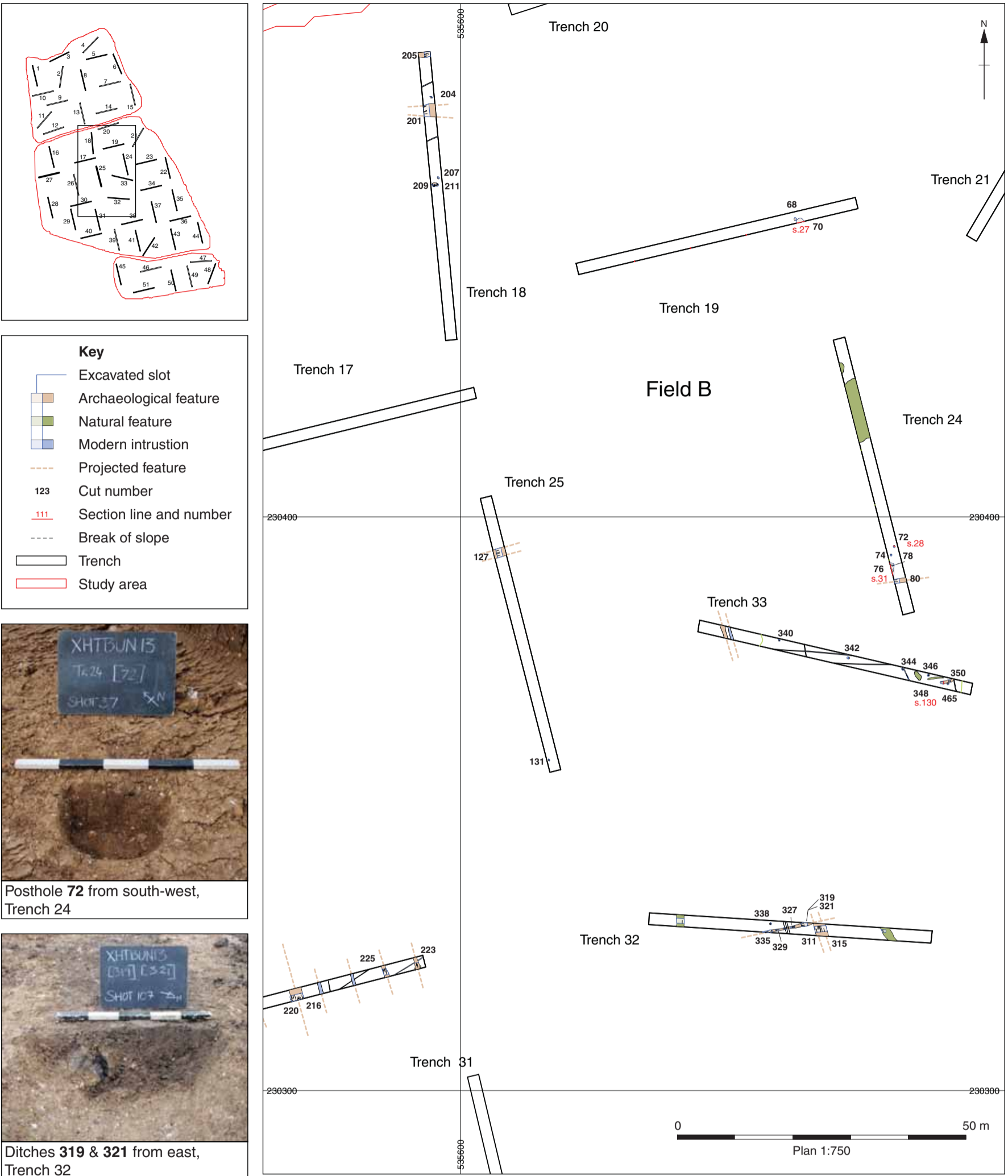


Figure 8: Detail of south-eastern part of Field B: Trenches 36, 38 and 41-44



**Key**

- Excavated slot
- Archaeological feature
- Natural feature
- Modern intrusion
- Projected feature
- 123 Cut number
- Section line and number
- Break of slope
- Trench
- Study area

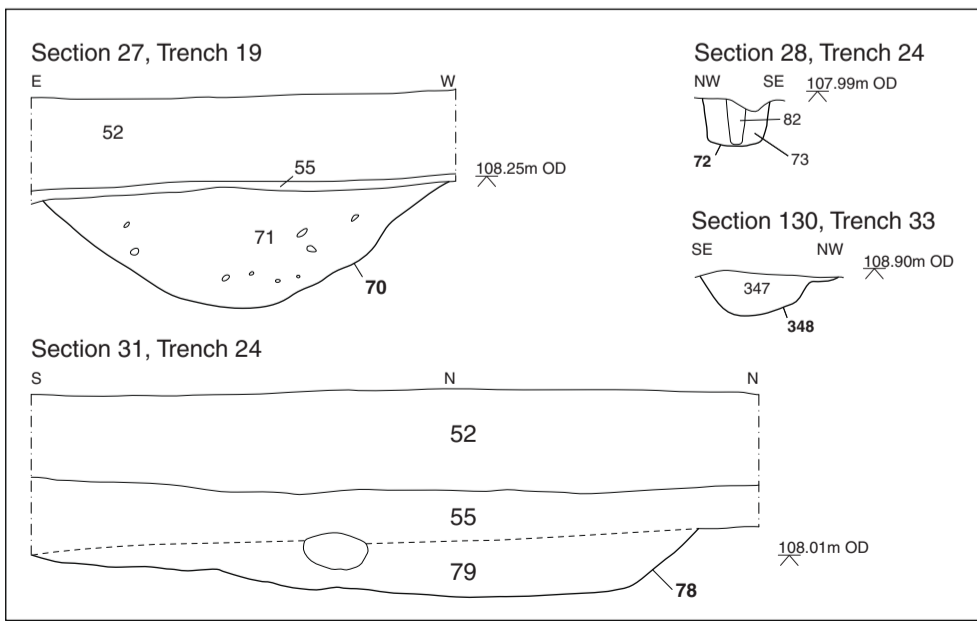
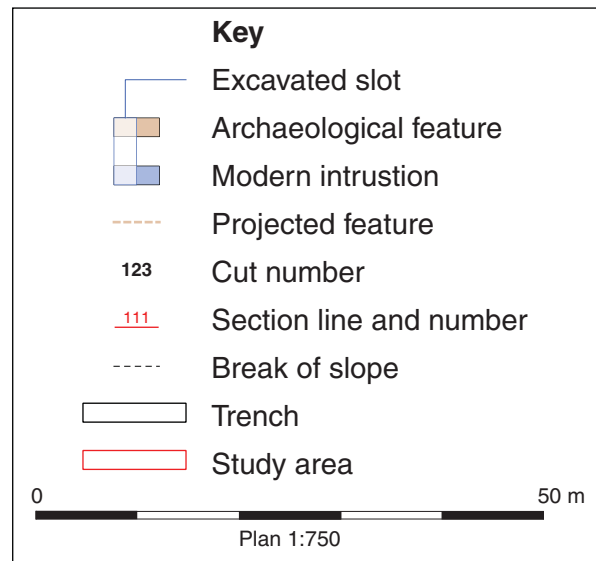
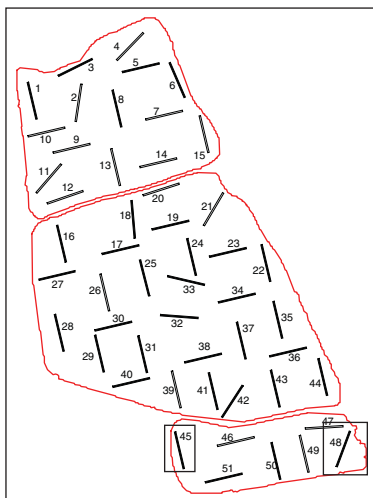
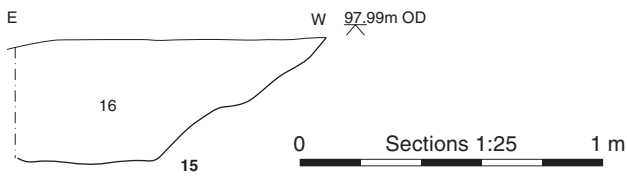


Figure 9: Detail of central part of Field B: Trenches 18, 19, 24, 25, 32 and 33

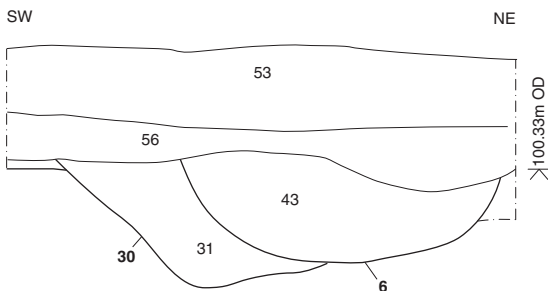




Section 5, Trench 48



Section 1, Trench 48



Ring gully 7 & posthole 9 in Trench 48

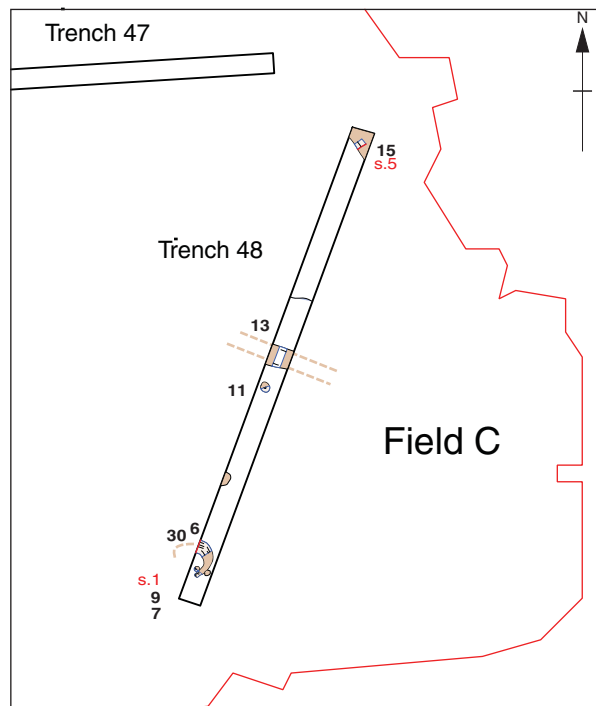
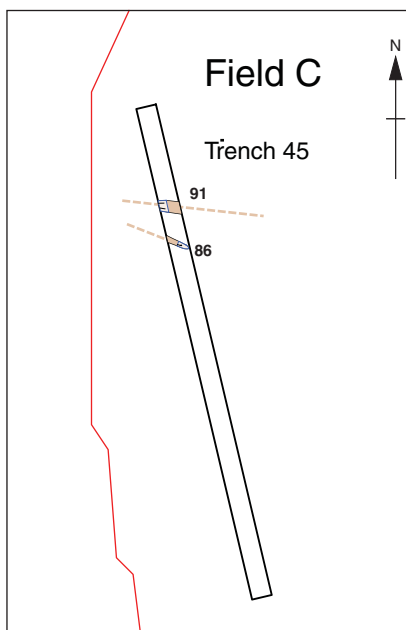
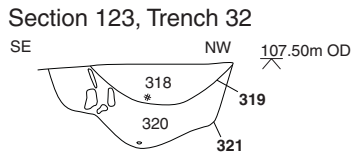
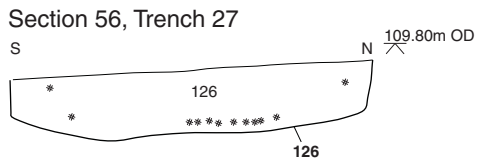


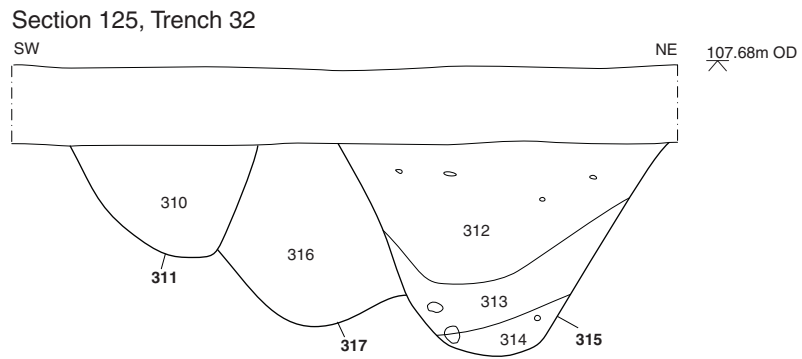
Figure 10: Detail of Field C: Trenches 45 and 48



0 Sections 1:25 1 m




Ditch 113 from south,  
Trench 16



Post-medieval enclosure ditch **311, 315, 317**  
from south, Trench 32

Figure 11: Additional feature shots and sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 from north-west



Plate 2: Trench 2 from south-west



Plate 3: Trench 3 from west



Plate 4: Trench 4 from south-west showing slag-filled drain







Plate 5: Trench 5 from east



Plate 6: Trench 6 from south



Plate 7: Trench 7 from east



Plate 8: Trench 8 from north





Plate 9: Trench 9 from west



Plate 10: Trench 10 from west



Plate 11: Trench 11 from north-east



Plate 12: Trench 12 from north-east







Plate 17: Trench 17 from west



Plate 18: Trench 18 from north



Plate 19: Trench 19 from east



Plate 20: Trench 20 from east, showing pipe trench







Plate 21: Trench 21 from north-east



Plate 22: Trench 22 from south



Plate 23: Trench 23 from east



Plate 24: Trench 24 from south





Plate 25: Trench 25 from north



Plate 26: Trench 26 from south



Plate 27: Trench 27 from east



Plate 28: Trench 28 from north





Plate 29: Trench 29 from south



Plate 30: Trench 30 from east



Plate 31: Trench 31 from south



Plate 32: Trench 32 from east



Plate 33: Trench 33 from south-east



Plate 35: Trench 35 from south



Plate 34: Trench 34 from east



Plate 36: Trench 36 from east



Plate 37: Trench 37 from north



Plate 38: Trench 38 from east



Plate 39: Trench 39 from north



Plate 40: Trench 40 from east





Plate 41: Trench 41 from north



Plate 42: Trench 42 from north



Plate 43: Trench 43 from south



Plate 44: Trench 44 from north







Plate 45: Trench 45 from north



Plate 46: Trench 46 from west



Plate 47: Trench 47 from west



Plate 48: Trench 48 from south-west





Plate 49: Trench 49 from south



Plate 50: Trench 50 from south



Plate 51: Trench 51 from west





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