



Jersey Way, Middlewich, Cheshire

Archaeological Evaluation



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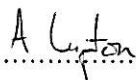
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SUMMARY

Russell Homes has recently registered an application to develop an area of land off Jersey Way, in Middlewich, Cheshire (centred at SJ 706 665). The application site lies within an area of known archaeological potential. In particular, it was considered likely that the site might contain buried remains of archaeological significance dating to the Roman period, as several archaeological investigations carried out previously in the immediate vicinity have revealed the remains of timber structures, brine pits, a pottery kiln, and field systems dating to the pre-Roman and Roman periods. Following consultation with the Senior Regeneration Officer (Archaeology) with Cheshire County Council, it was recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in order to inform and support the planning application.

In response to a request from Wardell Armstrong, acting on behalf of Russell Homes, Oxford Archaeology North carried out an archaeological evaluation of the application site in January 2008. The work was carried out in accordance with a specification produced by Wardell Armstrong, and approved by the Senior Regeneration Officer (Archaeology) with Cheshire County Council. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 27 trenches, with a combined total length of 520m, which were intended to assess the presence or absence of any buried archaeological remains, and establish their character, extent, date, and significance.

The evaluation confirmed that significant archaeological remains survive *in-situ* across the application site. Particular concentrations of buried archaeological remains were identified in the south-western and central parts of the site, with more sporadic remains existing to the north. The majority of these archaeological remains were of a Roman date, and partial excavation yielded a large assemblage of Roman pottery. Conversely, trenches excavated across other parts of the site, including the eastern edge and a strip to the south of the field boundary that traverses the site, were devoid of archaeological features of interest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank David Hodgkinson and Helen Martin Bacon, of Wardell Armstrong, for commissioning and supporting the project on behalf of Russell Homes. Thanks are also expressed to Mark Leah, the Senior Regeneration Officer (Archaeology) with Cheshire County Council, for his invaluable advice and support. Daniel Kershaw, of Russell Homes, is also thanked for his support.

The programme of field evaluation trenching was directed by Sean McPhillips, assisted by David Lamb, Ellen McInnes, Elizabeth Murray and Will Gardner, and all survey requirements were carried out by Chris Wild. The report was compiled by Sean McPhillips, the finds were examined by Christine Howard-Davis, the environmental samples were assessed by Sandra Bonsall and Elizabeth Huckerby, and the illustrations were produced by Marie Rowland. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Russell Homes has recently registered an application to develop an area of land off Jersey Way, in Middlewich, Cheshire. The application site lies within an area of known archaeological potential. In particular, it was considered likely that the site might contain buried remains of archaeological significance dating to the Roman period. Following consultation with the Senior Regeneration Officer (Archaeology) with Cheshire County Council, it was recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in order to inform and support the planning application.
- 1.1.2 In December 2007, Wardell Armstrong, acting on behalf of Russell Homes, invited Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to submit a fee proposal to undertake a specified programme of archaeological evaluation. This allowed for the excavation of 26 trial trenches of varying lengths, which were intended to confirm the presence or absence of the archaeological remains across the site, and to provide a good understanding of their potential. OA North was commissioned subsequently to undertake the evaluation, which was carried out in January 2008.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The application site is lies a short distance to the north-east of Middlewich town centre, on the eastern bank of the river Croco (centred on NGR SJ 706 665). The site occupies approximately 2.1ha, and is bounded to the north by the King Street Trading Estate and to the west by a disused railway line, whilst modern housing developments form the southern and eastern boundaries (Fig 1).
- 1.2.2 Middlewich lies within the Shropshire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire Plain (Countryside Commission 1998, 145–7). This region comprises a pastoral landscape that is dominated by dairying within a productive and managed agricultural area, interspersed with market towns, small villages, and hamlets (*ibid*).
- 1.2.3 The town is situated on a geological fault line with the Lower Keuper Saliferous Beds lying to the west and the Upper Keuper Saliferous Beds to the east. Salop-type reddish loamy and clayey soils (British Geological Survey 1983) overlie river terrace deposits within the application site (Cheshire County Council 2003a, 1). The site was used until recently as a lorry park, and comprises two open plots of land surrounded by hedgerows.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 2.1.1 The modern overburden was removed to the top of the first significant archaeological level using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all excavations were undertaken manually. All deposits were levelled and related to the Ordnance Datum and Ordnance Survey, and the precise location of all trenches was recorded by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger. All information has been tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 2.1.2 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Digital photography was extensively used throughout the course of the fieldwork for presentation purposes.
- 2.1.3 All contexts were recorded using *pro-forma* sheets, which comprised a written detailed description and interpretation of each structure and deposit encountered, and details were incorporated into a Harris matrix. Similar object record and photographic record *pro-formas* were also used. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts was cross-referenced from *pro-forma* record sheets using sequential numbering.

2.2 FINDS

- 2.2.1 Finds' recovery was carried out in accordance with best practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines), and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Artefacts were principally collected by hand from deposits, and all categories of material type were retrieved without exception. In order to maximise the recovery of artefacts, the arisings from all trenches was scanned with a metal detector. All finds recovered during the investigation were lifted, cleaned, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) First Aid For Finds (1998; new edition). Recovery and sampling programmes were in accordance with best practice (current IFA guidelines), and subject to expert advice.

2.3 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

- 2.3.1 A targeted programme of palaeo-environmental sampling was implemented in accordance with the OAU *Environmental Guidelines and Manual* (OAU 2000), and in line with the English Heritage guidance paper on Environmental Archaeology (2001). In general, bulk samples of 10-30 litres were taken where appropriate, to be sub-sampled at a later stage.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited with the nearest appropriate museum upon completion of the project, and a copy of the report will be sent to the Cheshire County Council Historic Environment Record Office in Chester, and a summary sent to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 THE PALAEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC PERIODS (c 12,800–4000 CAL BC)

3.1.1 Whilst there is no evidence for activity at this time within Middlewich, evidence of human activity in the wider Cheshire locale begins at around 12800–12000 cal BC (Matthews 2007a). The evidence for this activity consists of a Cresswell point found at Carden Park, around 25km to the south-west of the study area, datable to the final stages of the Devensian glaciation (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 23), at a time when the glacial climate of the region was becoming gradually more hospitable. There is little further evidence for the late Upper Palaeolithic period or for the earliest Mesolithic period (c 8000–6500 cal BC) in the region, however Mesolithic material was found at Carden Park dating to around 6800–4300 cal BC (Matthews 2007b). The later Mesolithic period is not generally evident elsewhere in the mid Cheshire area.

3.2 THE NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE PERIODS (c 4000–700 CAL BC)

3.2.1 Evidence for activity in the Middlewich area during the Neolithic period is sparse, with a single stone axe, found near to St Michaels Way (CHER 1074), constituting the only identified find of this period. Several scatters of worked flints (eg CHER 1078; CHER 809) that do not appear to have been closely dated have also been found in the Middlewich area (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 5).

3.2.2 The beginning of the Bronze Age in Britain, defined mainly by the introduction of the use of copper alloy metals, developed gradually out of the preceding Neolithic during the mid third millennium BC (Parker Pearson 2000, 13). One of the most conspicuous types of site of this period in Cheshire is round-barrow funerary monuments, of which 109 examples are known from the county (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 43). Many round barrows have been identified within the Cheshire Plain, such as two examples sited close to Alpraham and Eaton by Tarporley (OA North 2007a, 7), to the west of the study area, and a concentration close to Jodrell Bank, to the north-east of the study area (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 43). The numerous barrows present on the Cheshire Plain suggest that the density of Bronze Age occupation in the area is under-represented by the sparse number of settlement sites that have currently been identified. Even allowing for the possibility of spatial differentiation in the siting of funerary monuments in relation to settlement areas, or barrows exhibiting a spatially peripheral role to settlements, as multi-functional territorial boundary markers (Pryor 2006, 47), it is clear that the people responsible for constructing these monuments must have occupied the general area.

3.2.3 In addition to the presence of funerary monuments in the wider locale, Bronze Age activity in the immediate environs of Middlewich is suggested by

archaeological evidence. Several Bronze Age sites, including axe findspots and a potential ring ditch, as well as flint scatters of possible Bronze Age date, have been discovered in the Middlewich area (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 5). All of these sites were, however, situated beyond the extents of the study area, in an arc running from west, to north, to east.

3.3 THE IRON AGE (C 700 CAL BC – AD 43)

- 3.3.1 As one of the three ‘Cheshire wiches’, Middlewich was one of the main sources of raw salt, in the form of brine, around which the salt trade was centred during the Romano-British period and throughout the later historic periods (Rochester *nd*, 27; Crosby 1996, 26). Gullies and pits have been found south of the study area that pre-date Romano-British plots (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 6), in addition to circular timber structures and finds of pottery and metal work that demonstrate indigenous, pre-Roman activity in the town (Strickland 2001, 60–1). Although Iron Age salt extraction has not been conclusively demonstrated at Middlewich, the occurrence of Cheshire VCP (Very Coarse Pottery), which is associated with salt drying and transportation (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 6), in possible Iron Age contexts at Eddisbury hillfort (Matthews 2002, 13; 34) and in Iron Age contexts at Beeston Castle (Ellis 1993, 31), as well as being found in Middlewich, strongly suggests that the local salt industry pre-dated the Roman occupation of the area. The importance of Middlewich during the Iron Age is also suggested by the possibility of several Iron Age trackways serving as forerunners to subsequent Roman roads (Strickland 2001, 60–1).
- 3.3.2 The evidence for Iron Age activity in Middlewich was discovered in the immediate vicinity of the current town centre (Strickland 2001, 60–1) and any activity directly associated with salt production would not necessarily have encroached upon the application area. However, the production of agricultural surplus would have been necessary to support such a specialised industry and the study area may have been well placed to provide such agricultural support. The probable Iron Age pits and gullies found to the south of the study area pre-dated Romano-British features that appeared to represent plots associated with an agricultural hinterland of the town (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 8). It is, therefore, possible that these Iron Age features were part of a similar agricultural hinterland associated with postulated Iron Age saltworking areas (Strickland 2001, 60–1) close to the modern town centre. The possibility that the Romano-British layout of the town might reflect earlier settlement patterns is given credence by the apparent lack of any formal planning associated with the Romano-British settlement (Petch 1987, 2187).
- 3.3.3 A general lack of pottery and other surviving elements of material culture from both the Iron Age and Romano-British periods in the region has, however, led to great difficulty in identifying rural settlement sites from these periods (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 51–2; Philpott 2006, 59). However, aerial photography has revealed numerous cropmark enclosures in Cheshire (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 52) and, when similar examples have been excavated, Iron Age and Romano-British occupation have been demonstrated (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 53; Philpott 2006, 61). A rectilinear enclosure

identified by geophysical survey, to the south-east of the study area, might represent Iron Age or Romano-British rural occupation; however, a programme of evaluation trenching undertaken in 2003 did not encounter any datable material associated with this feature (OA North 2003, 19). No such enclosures have been identified within the study area by aerial photography and, although a geophysical survey of part of the application area by GSB Prospection (2003) revealed a possible enclosure close to the eastern edge of the application area, subsequent evaluation trenching did not encounter any corresponding features (OA North 2003, 19).

3.4 THE ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD (AD 43 – AD 409)

- 3.4.1 There is substantial evidence for activity in Middlewich during the Romano-British period, including the site of a legionary garrison, and industrial sites associated with salt production. The town was once considered to have been the site of the historically attested town named *Condate*, and the site of the fort was given this name on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872. The town has subsequently been correlated with *Salinae*, meaning ‘salt works’ (Petch 1987, 203). Dating evidence from the examination of coins (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 6) suggests that Roman activity in the town may have pre-dated the Flavian period (AD 69–96). An early date for Roman activity in the area is supported by evidence from the fort at Harbutt’s Field, which suggests occupation in the AD 70s (Strickland 2001, 25).
- 3.4.2 The discovery of bricks and tiles from the site of the fort, which lies less than 750m to the north of the study area, suggests the site of a permanent military installation (*ibid*), and it has been suggested that this may have been preceded by a temporary camp (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 6). The use of Middlewich as a permanent military base may have ended around AD 130, although a military presence may have persisted in the area due to the strategic location of the site and the local natural salt resources (Strickland 2001, 30–1). The suggested site of a second fort at Church Fields, near Lewin Street, south-west of the study area, was investigated by archaeological excavation in 1996. No features of Romano-British origin were discovered, and a linear feature suggested to have been the outer ditch of a fort was demonstrated to be geological in origin, leading to the conclusion that there was no fort at Church fields (UMAU 1996).
- 3.4.3 Middlewich is situated at the junction of three Roman roads suggested to have run between Wroxeter and Wilderspool (King Street) (Margary 1973, 302, road 70a), Whitchurch and Peover (Margary 1973, 303–4, road 700), possibly continuing onwards to Manchester, and from east to west from Kelsall to Middlewich, possibly continuing to the east of the town, towards Buxton (Petch 1987, 186). A fourth road ran westwards from the Wroxeter to Wilderspool road (King Street), approximately 200m to the south of the Harbutt’s Field fort (Cheshire Archaeology News 2002). It has been suggested that many of these roads may have been preceded by Iron Age trackways (Strickland 2001, 60–1) and Middlewich may, therefore, have been of strategic importance prior to the Roman occupation. This communications infrastructure was clearly significant during the Romano-British period and this

could reflect the industrial prominence of the site, and related trade networks, in addition to the central position of Middlewich between towns, such as Chester, Manchester, and Wroxeter, and within a recognised, pre-Roman, indigenous route system.

- 3.4.4 Although the use of Middlewich as a military base may have ended around AD 130 (Strickland 2001, 30–1), evidence suggests that the Romano-British salt industry was active in the town from around AD 80 until at least the middle of the second century AD (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 7). This evidence consists of salt evaporation kilns, brine storage pits, lead salt pans, briquetage, and waste from brine storage pots, which have been discovered to the east and west of King Street, to the east of the study area. Within the north-eastern part of the study area, the discovery of a timber structure associated with fragments of briquetage suggested small-scale industrial activity associated with saltworking (Earthworks Archaeological Services 2006).
- 3.4.5 Romano-British settlement at Middlewich is likely to have continued until *c* AD 400, although this may have declined *c* 250 AD, as has been suggested for other settlements in Cheshire (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 8). It has been suggested that the nucleus of the settlement was located to the west of the study area in the King Street area, where several excavations have revealed rectangular buildings with their narrow ends fronting the street (*ibid*). Workshops were situated behind these buildings and numerous industries, such as iron, bronze, and lead working, glass making, fulling, weaving, and shoemaking, in addition to salt production, have been identified in this area (Petch 1987, 206). The settlement appears to have been linear in form and to have expanded as ribbon development along King Street, without any sign of formal planning or of the construction of public buildings (*op cit*, 187). The settlement is suggested to have extended to the south of King Street and Kinderton Street, south-west of the study area, however the Romano-British levels of occupation in this area are recorded by the CHER as being destroyed by house building.
- 3.4.6 An agricultural hinterland appears to have existed beyond the urban nucleus of Romano-British Middlewich (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 8), and excavations to the south of the study area have revealed evidence of a managed rural landscape that was divided into regular plots, and which was in use from the late first century until at least the late second century (Earthworks Archaeological Services 2006). In addition to the evident field systems, a clay quarry pit and a pottery kiln, including *in-situ* jars and flagons, were excavated (*ibid*). The kiln was datable to the early second century. A ditch was also encountered during evaluation trenching, from which a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered. The pottery may have been intrusive, although the shape of the ditch suggested parallels with Romano-British boundary ditches discovered during archaeological excavation further to the north-west in 2001 (OA North 2003, 14). Aerial photography from 1971–3 appears to show a curvilinear feature corresponding roughly to the position of this ditch. The photographic evidence suggests that the ditch could represent the eastern side of a sub-ovoid enclosure, approximately 330m in diameter. The probable antiquity of the ditch is suggested by the aerial photograph, which clearly

shows a field boundary, which dates to at least as early as 1843, truncating the line of the ditch. A rectilinear enclosure discovered to the south of the study area is likely to represent Romano-British or Iron Age rural occupation (OA North 2003, 19).

- 3.4.7 In the nineteenth century, several finds of Romano-British origin were discovered in fields south of the site. These finds consisted of a red-ware cremation urn, a layer of gravel and stones, possibly marking the line of the road between Whitchurch and Middlewich, a cremation burial, a sandal sole, and a pit containing a samian bowl.

3.5 THE EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD (C AD 409 – AD 1066)

- 3.5.1 Although documentary sources attest to considerable activity throughout Cheshire during the early medieval period, artefactual and general archaeological evidence have proved difficult to identify (Newman 2006, 91–3). Some Romano-British farmsteads may have continued in use into this period (*op cit*, 97) and some Romano-British towns, including Middlewich, either continued in use, or were reoccupied, during this period (Crosby 1996, 26). The subsequent continued use of Middlewich through to the present day is likely, therefore, to have concealed or destroyed traces of early medieval activity. Finds deriving from this period that have been found in Middlewich include a bronze stirrup and strap ends, a silver penny of Aethelred II, and an Anglo-Saxon dress pin, all of which were found outside the study area (Strickland 2001, 68–9). To the north of the study area, Kinderton Hall is reputed to have been the site of a castle pre-dating the Norman Conquest (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 11). No structural features relating to this period have been identified in the area. In the absence of abundant material traces of early medieval activity in Middlewich, the use of place-name and documentary evidence can be cautiously used as a guide in order to attempt to identify the nature of contemporary activity.

- 3.5.2 The Old English place-name *Mildestuic* appears to refer to the central location of Middlewich between the other two *wiches* of Northwich, to the north, and Nantwich, to the south, and suggests Anglo-Saxon influence in the area. The element *uic* stems from the Anglo-Saxon *wic*, meaning trading settlement (Crosby 1996, 26). Middlewich, Nantwich, and Northwich continued to be productive centres of the salt industry during the early medieval period and, at the time of the Domesday survey, Middlewich and Northwich were worth £8 and Nantwich was worth £21 (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 8). It is not clear whether the early medieval salt works at Middlewich had continued in unbroken use from the Romano-British period, however a complex series of fines and tolls that were used to regulate salt production during this period has been suggested to have derived from Romano-British taxation systems (Sawyer 1978, 225–6). If this suggestion is correct, then it would imply the continued use of the Cheshire *wiches* without any complete hiatus of industrial activity.

- 3.5.3 It has been suggested that during the early medieval period the Middlewich hundred may have been part of the Newton estate, which lies to the west of

Middlewich township (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 8). By the time of the Domesday Survey, Middlewich appeared to function purely as an industrial site and it is suggested (*ibid*) that Newton may have possessed amenities absent from Middlewich, such as a church, which may have originally served a larger territory, including the Middlewich township.

3.6 THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD (c 1066 – AD 1540)

- 3.6.1 The township of Middlewich appears to have suffered the impact of the ‘harrying of the north’ by Norman forces between AD 1069–70, and by 1086, when the Domesday survey was undertaken, it had not fully recovered (*ibid*). The Manor of Middlewich was the possession of the crown and populated by tenant farmers, with burgesses being recorded from the thirteenth century (*ibid*). The salt-based industrial character of Middlewich continued into the medieval period, although during this period Nantwich was the main centre for salt production in Cheshire (*ibid*). A market and shops also contributed to the economy of the town, and trades, such as lead-smithing, were also present in the town (*ibid*), as well as the brewing and selling of beer (Ormerod 1882, 175). There was also a Mill at Kinderton, to the north of the study area, from at least 1330 (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 10).
- 3.6.2 During the medieval period, several brine pits appear to have been used for salt extraction within Middlewich, with one sixteenth century reference recording two on each side of the river (*op cit*, 138). The river referred to is likely to have been the River Croco, which passes to the north and east of the application site. Several phases of the salt production process are recorded historically, with brine being transferred to salt houses (wych houses) from the brine pits, by way of overhead wooden troughs, before being boiled in lead salt pans (Cheshire County Council 2003b, 10). The salt crystals that were formed during this process were then raked off and dried in wicker baskets (barrows) (*ibid*). Between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries the number of salt pans rose from 75 to 83 and this number continued to increase during the sixteenth century (*ibid*). To the north-west of the study area, in the town centre close to the River Croco, evidence of possible medieval brine pits has been recovered by archaeological excavation (*ibid*). This includes a large clay-lined pit associated with medieval pottery and animal bone found within the study area, on Wych House Lane. To the west of the application site, on Brooks Lane, evidence of saltworking dating to between the thirteenth and eighteenth centuries was found. Within the study area, to the north-east of the application site, five lead spindle whorls were found, which could date to the late medieval or post-medieval periods. However, as has been suggested at the site of an archaeological evaluation at Lewin Street (Gifford and Partners 1992), post-medieval expansion of the town may have been responsible for the destruction of many features of medieval origin.
- 3.6.3 Kinderton Hall, to the north of the study area, was reputedly the site of a castle at the time of the Domesday Survey, which was then replaced by a hall, both of which have now been demolished (*op cit*, 11).

3.7 THE POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

- 3.7.1 The economic prosperity of Middlewich continued into the post-medieval period, and by 1605 there were approximately 646 operational salt pans in the town (*op cit*, 10). Two Civil War battles took place at Middlewich, in December 1643 and January 1644, and defences associated with the earlier battle were said to have been erected, although no evidence of these has been discovered (*op cit*, 11).
- 3.7.2 Although technological advances during the seventeenth century aided the productivity of the salt industry, by 1682 the number of active salt pans in Middlewich had been reduced to 22 (*op cit*, 12). The stability of the Cheshire salt trade began to be threatened when wood, which was used as fuel to heat the salt pans, became scarce (Hawkin nd, 1). Coal was consequently imported into Frodsham from the Lancashire pits and transported to the Cheshire salt works by packhorse, which proved to be costly (*ibid*). In addition to this extra financial overhead, rock salt was discovered in Cheshire in the late seventeenth century, and there was considerable competition between the rocksalt and brine industries (Willan 1951, 3). The Trent and Mersey Canal was opened in 1777, and this will have helped to reduce the costs of overland transportation, both of imported coal and exported salt. Although the scale of salt production previously evident in Middlewich was not regained, the salt trade continued throughout the post-medieval period.
- 3.7.3 The diverse range of additional trades operating in the town appear to have allowed Middlewich to endure the decline in the local salt trade and, by the mid-nineteenth century, numerous businesses, including blacksmiths, cheese-makers, tanners, boat builders, rope makers, a silk factory, and coal merchants, were recorded within the town (Bagshaw 1850, 475–82). The economic vitality of the town allowed it to continue to develop, although late nineteenth-century urban expansion was restricted largely to the immediate vicinity of the town; the present study area was not developed, and is depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1872 as agricultural fields.
- 3.7.4 A railway branch line linking Sandbach to Northwich, built by the London and North Western Railway (LNWR), was opened in 1867 (Greville 1954). Kinderton station was located west of the site, and incorporated two goods branch lines entering the station yard, as shown on the 1872 Ordnance Survey map. Although the station closed for passenger traffic in 1959, the railway marked a boundary between the urban and industrial development of Middlewich to the west, and the relatively unchanged rural environment to the east until as late as the 1980s. The contrast between these areas has become less stark with recent developments, such as a housing development on former agricultural land to the east of the study area.

3.8 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 3.8.1 Previous archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity of the application site during recent years have demonstrated the area to have considerable potential to contain buried remains of archaeological significance. In particular, the results obtained from recent investigations on land immediately adjacent to the application site have discovered features and deposits of Roman and medieval date associated with industrial or agricultural activities.
- 3.8.2 Several archaeological excavations carried out in the town have recorded significant evidence for the Roman salt industry, including brine pits, hearths, furnaces, lead brine pans and briquetage. The remains of a Roman fort, first described by Watkin in the nineteenth century as located within Harbutt's field (Watkin 1886), lies to the north-west of the proposed development. An extensive area to the south and east of the fort was occupied with industry and settlement, which survived up to 1.2km along King Street. It is therefore possible that the development site was likely to retain archaeological deposits associated with this expansion of activity, particularly with salt production. During the nineteenth century, several antiquarians uncovered varieties of material pertaining to Roman Middlewich. Watkin in 1886 recorded discoveries in the area of the railway station and the fields to the south, including an 'abundance of pottery, charcoal and hand-made bricks representing briquetage used in salt production'. A possible burial comprising burnt bone and charcoal was also discovered close to the railway (*ibid*). Less is known concerning the medieval archaeology of the town, although continuation of the salt industry through the medieval period was discovered in 1854 with the excavation of a oak-lined brine pit during the construction of the gas works (Thompson 1981).
- 3.8.3 Prior to 1992, several pieces of archaeological work investigated sites to the west and north of the study area. These included a first- or second-century Roman salt kiln, discovered to the east of King Street in 1960 (Thompson 1965). Further excavation in this area carried out between 1962-4 revealed part of the Roman King Street road surface, along with buildings, pottery, and first- and second-century coins (*ibid*). However, a series of excavations directed by the Middlewich Archaeological Society between 1964 and 1975 exposed extensive evidence for Roman and medieval salt working. An excavation at Dane Street (located north-west of the study area) in 1969 revealed evidence of timber buildings, a cobbled street, and pottery wasters dating to the first or second century (Bestwick 1972). A potential medieval brine pit, measuring 6m in diameter, and the remains of two twelfth- to fourteenth-century timber buildings were discovered in 1973 to the south-east of the study area along Kinderton Street (Bestwick 1974). A major site at 57 King Street exposed third-century buildings overlying timber workshops and evidence of salt working dating to the second century (Bestwick 1975). Further evidence of Roman salt working was exposed at Kinderton Street along with a timber-revetted ditch and plots fronting along King Street (*ibid*).
- 3.8.4 Since 1992 the area between King Street and the river Croco had been subjected to several archaeological investigations. These were concentrated in

the areas of Roman settlement and salt working, with limited evidence pertaining to the medieval period (Cheshire County Council 2003b). The archaeological investigations included several evaluations and watching briefs in the vicinity of the study area. A watching brief conducted in 1995 by Earthworks Archaeology during the construction of housing to the north-east of the site (Areas 2 and 3, Fig 3) recorded a possible Roman hearth, a timber structure and undated ditches (Earthworks Archaeology 1996). Further linear features were uncovered north of the development site in 1992 (Area 8, Fig 3), which revealed a shallow ditch pertaining to a rectangular cropmark (Gifford and Partners 1992) of possible medieval date. Other agricultural features of possible medieval origin were located approximately 150m east of the site (Area 4, Fig 3), interpreted as medieval land divisions (Gifford and Partners 1995). Archaeological monitoring in this area in 1997, recorded two north/south-aligned Roman ditches that have been interpreted as Roman land divisions (Gifford and Partners 1998). In 1996 and 1997, a series of watching briefs conducted by Earthworks Archaeology in the area immediately adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of the site (Area 5, Fig 3) uncovered extensive Roman deposits, including a furnace/kiln, clay floors, ditches and a timber structure of unknown date (Earthworks Archaeology 1997). The archaeological evidence has established that Roman civilian settlement that had developed south of the fort was intensely occupied with a wide variety of domestic and industrial activities taking place. These included evidence of rectangular and oval-shaped timber buildings, clay floors and ovens. An excavation undertaken by Gifford and Partners in 1999, located to the immediate east of the site within land north of Holmes Chapel Road (Area 6, Fig 3), exposed a large concentration of pits connected with salt production in addition to a metalled Roman road surface and an urned cremation (Cheshire Archaeology News 2000). The excavation also exposed traces of a building pre-dating the road located 40m east of the development site boundary.

- 3.8.5 Other significant archaeological work which greatly added to the understanding of the landscape surrounding the nucleus of Roman Middlewich, was exposed within extensive investigation of the land south of Holmes Chapel Road (Area 7, Fig 3) in 2001. This included a pottery kiln complete with wasters, ditches, pits, postholes, and gullies, in addition to a significant pottery assemblage suggesting salt production on the site during the second century AD (Earthworks Archaeology 2001). All the features were encountered at a relatively shallow depth between 0.3m and 0.7m beneath ground level, with the lower part of the ditches immersed below water.
- 3.8.6 Investigation of land at Centurion Way north of the study area in 2001 (Area 8, Fig 3) provided some evidence for prehistoric activity, represented by Mesolithic flint, Iron Age pottery, and the remains of a brine kiln of possible late Iron Age/early Roman date, whilst work carried out in 2002 exposed a series of ditches interpreted as a Roman field system, and a drove way bordered by a possible fenceline formed by rows of postholes (Cheshire Archaeology News 2002).

4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 27 trenches, with a combined total length of 520m (Fig 2). This has provided a good understanding of the site's character and date, and has allowed for the identification of those parts of the site that have good potential to contain buried remains of significance, and those parts that are sterile of archaeological deposits. The results are summarised in Table 1, below.

Trench	Unattributed	Roman	Medieval	Post-medieval	Sterile
1	X	X			
2		X			
3	X	X			
4					X
5	X				
6					X
7					X
8		X		X	
9					X
10					X
11		X	X		
12		X			
13		X			
14					X
15					X
16					X
17	X				
18					X
19		X			
20	X		X	X	
21	X				
22	X				
23	X				
24	X	X		X	
25					X
26					X
27					X

Table 1: Trenches containing significant archaeological remains

- 4.1.2 The natural geology varied considerably across the study area, and within individual trenches; for the most part it comprised a mixture of either light grey (**015**) or yellow-orange (**024/025/027/040**) sand, sealing firm yellow-orange stony sandy-clay (**001/012**), or mixed yellow-grey clay (**029**). These natural deposits were encountered at a minimum depth of 0.80m below the existing ground surface in the northern part of the study area, and an average depth of 1m across the southern part of the site.
- 4.1.3 The overlying stratigraphy across the study area did not vary considerably. The natural geology was by and large sealed beneath a layer of mid-dark grey sand (**009**), which varied in thickness across the site from 0.3m to a maximum of 0.5m. In some trenches (1, 4, 8, 10 and 14), layer **009** commonly produced material of Roman date, including fragments of pottery and glass, implying that it was probably of Roman origin. The layer also sealed several features that had been cut into the natural geology.
- 4.1.4 Deposit **009** was sealed with light brown sandy-clay/silt (**028**), which was exposed in trenches across the southern part of the study area (Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 13). Excavation of layer **028** yielded fragments of Roman, medieval, and early post-medieval pottery. This suggested that layer **028** represented a plough soil, which was likely to have been tilled across the southern part of the study area from at least the medieval period. This layer was in turn sealed with dark grey/brown, humified sandy-clay (**008**), representing the later post-medieval topsoil. This was exposed across almost all of the excavated trenches, although it had been removed locally during the recent development of the site as a lorry park.
- 4.1.5 For the purpose of this report, only those trenches (14 in total) that contained archaeological features are described below; the results obtained from the remaining trenches are summarised, with additional detail presented in *Appendix 3*.
- 4.1.6 **Trench 1:** this east/west-aligned trench was placed along the north-eastern boundary of the study area (Fig 3), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. A fragment of Roman pottery was recovered from sand layer **009** within the central part of the trench, although the earliest stratigraphical feature excavated (**100**) was of unknown date. The natural geology varied across the trench, comprising mid-brown/orange sandy gravel (**101**) across the western side of the trench, which diffused with firm orange clay (**001**) across the eastern side of the trench. Both elements were encountered at an average depth of 0.86m beneath the modern ground surface.



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking east

- 4.1.7 Natural sandy gravel **101** was cut by a single narrow linear feature (**100**), which was aligned north-east/south-west across the trench. It measured 0.40m wide and was less than 0.15m deep, with a V-shaped profile. The intended function of this feature remains uncertain, and a firm understanding of its date is hampered by an absence of finds. However, on stratigraphic evidence, it is likely to have been of Roman origin. The feature was sealed beneath sand layer **009**, which measured an average thickness of 0.12m.
- 4.1.8 **Trench 2:** was aligned east/west, and was placed parallel to Trench 1 along the north-eastern part of the study area (Fig 4). The trench was excavated mechanically under close archaeological supervision to the level of the natural geology (**001**), encountered at a maximum depth of 1.2m. Clay **001** was diffused with a layer of yellow-brown sand (**012**), which contained abundant gravel. Clay **001** was cut by two features of probable Roman origin: a pit (**005**), and a posthole (**003**), which were both exposed within the north-western part of the trench (Fig 4).
- 4.1.9 Pit **005** was roughly circular in plan, measuring 1.48m in diameter. It had steep sides and a concave base, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m (Plate 2). The north-east-facing section through the pit suggested that it may have been cut through the base of sand layer **009**. However, it was filled with dark grey sand (**004**) similar in texture to sand **012**, which contained frequent fragments of charcoal, ceramic building material, and fragments of Roman pottery.

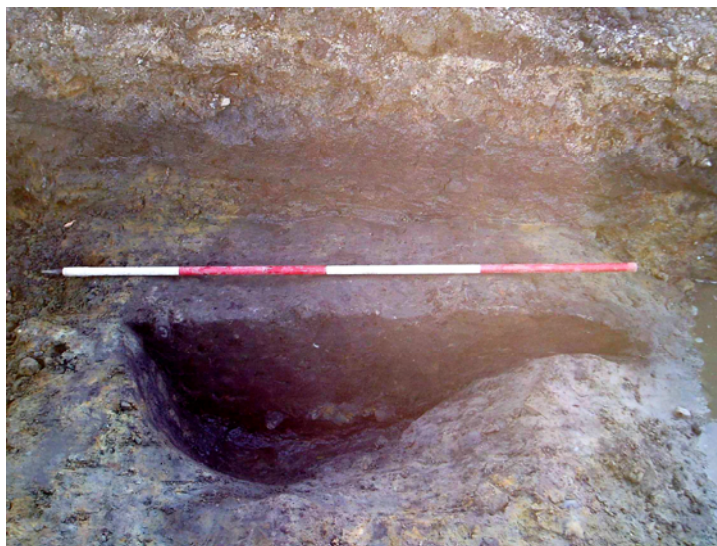


Plate 2: Section excavated across pit **005**, looking south

- 4.1.10 Posthole **003** was located at the western edge of pit **005**, suggesting that the two features were associated. The posthole was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.42m long by 0.26m wide, and surviving to a depth of 0.14m. It had steep-angled sides across an uneven base, and was filled with a dark brown sand (**002**) that contained occasional flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 4.1.11 **Trench 3:** was aligned north-east/south-west, and placed a short distance to the south of Trench 2 (Fig 4). The trench was characterised by the remains of two linear features (**010** and **013**) along the western side of the trench, both seemingly of Roman date. Both features were observed cutting light grey natural sand (**015**), which was exposed at a depth of 0.8m beneath the modern ground surface.

4.1.12 Feature **010** was aligned north-east/south-west, curving across the trench for a distance of 0.65m (Plate 3). It measured 1.14m wide, and had steep edges which sharply terminated onto a flat base, providing a U-shaped profile, surviving to a maximum depth of 0.46m. The lower part of the feature was waterlogged, although it was filled with a mid-brownish-grey clay-sand (**011**), producing pottery dating no later than the second century AD.



Plate 3: Feature **010**, looking north-west, prior to excavation

4.1.13 Feature **013** was located immediately to the east of ditch **010**, and was possibly of a contemporary date, although no clear stratigraphic relationship could be determined. Feature **013** was aligned north/south across the trench, and measured 0.95m wide (Plate 4). It had a rough U-shaped profile with a gentle break of slope along its western edge and a sharp edge in the eastern side, surviving to a depth of 0.35m. It was filled with grey clay sand (**014**) containing abundant ceramic building material fragments, although no datable finds were recovered.



Plate 4: Feature **013** looking south-east

4.1.14 **Trench 4:** this trench was placed adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site, and was aligned broadly east/west. It was devoid of archaeological features, although several fragments of Roman pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

4.1.15 **Trench 5:** was placed within the central part of the application site, close to the field boundary separating the northern and southern fields. It was aligned north-west/south-east (Fig 2), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m onto the surface of mottled orange clay **001**, representing the natural geology. The clay was sealed with a layer of pale yellow sand (**024**), which varied between 0.10m and 0.22m thick throughout the trench. This was cut by two east/west-aligned features located at the southern end of the trench; linear **019** of unknown date, and a field drain of twentieth-century origin. Feature **019** measured 0.8m wide, and comprised a steep-sided cut with a V-shaped profile, surviving to a depth of 0.50m (Plate 5). No dating evidence was produced from its mid-grey-brown silty-sand fill (**018**), although its profile was reminiscent of a Roman enclosure ditch.



Plate 5: Feature **019** partially excavated

4.1.16 **Trench 6:** this trench was aligned north-east/south-west, and was placed to the south of the field boundary that crossed the centre of the site (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, and no finds were recovered.

4.1.17 **Trench 7:** this trench was aligned broadly east/west, and was placed across the central part of the field forming the southern part of the application site (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, and no finds were recovered.

4.1.18 **Trench 8:** the trench was positioned north-east/south-west across the south-eastern part of the study area (Fig 2), close to the projected course of the Roman road. Archaeological remains dating to the Roman period were exposed across the central part of the trench at a depth of 1m beneath the modern ground surface. These comprised layers of burnt material (**022** and **023**), sealed by grey sand layer **009**, which produced an almost complete second-century mortaria. Other remains of archaeological significance included a drainage ditch (**020**) of medieval origin located at the eastern limit of the trench. The natural geology (**024**) was encountered at a depth of 1.2m below the modern ground surface.



Plate 6: In-situ Roman mortaria within sand 009, Trench 8

4.1.19 Layers of burnt material (**022** and **023**) were exposed over a distance of 4m by 0.35m, indicative of high-temperature processing. Deposit **023** comprised a semi-circular area of fire-hardened clay, which possibly represented a structural element of a hearth or kiln. The deposit also contained isolated patches of unburnt clay and small round cobbles along its eastern side, and patches of thick charcoal bordering its southern edge. The charcoal yielded fragments of soft oxidised Roman pottery. Deposit **022** abutted the southern edge of clay **023** across the central part of the trench. It comprised soft pink clay that did not appear to be as hard fired, although it did retain patches of charcoal and baked clay lumps, suggesting rake-out debris.

4.1.20 A north-east/south-west-aligned linear feature (**020**) was exposed at the eastern end of the trench. The feature had a width of 0.78m, and a wide U-shaped profile with gradual sloped sides and a flat base, surviving to a maximum depth of 0.12m. It was filled with mid-grey sand (**021**), which produced a sherd of Roman pottery, and a sherd of post-medieval pottery, dating to the late eighteenth century. It seems likely that feature **020** represented the truncated remains of a field boundary ditch, probably of post-medieval origin.



Plate 7: Ditch **020** prior to excavation

- 4.1.21 **Trench 9:** this trench was aligned east/west, and was placed adjacent to the southern boundary of the site (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, and no finds were recovered.
- 4.1.22 **Trench 10:** this trench was aligned north/south, and was placed adjacent to the southern boundary of the site (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, and no finds were recovered.
- 4.1.23 **Trench 11:** was placed in the south-western corner of the site, and was aligned north-west/south-east (Fig 2). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m onto the surface of natural geology, which comprised yellow sandy-clay (**029/001**). This was cut by the remains of a ditch (**032**), seemingly of Roman origin. Clay **029/001** was sealed with a mid-brown sand deposit (**028**), which spread across the northern half of the trench. This deposit has been interpreted provisionally as a buried plough soil of probable medieval origin. The soil was cut by at least two features (**030** and **034**), which produced pottery of medieval date. The remaining stratigraphy comprised dark brown humic topsoil (**008**) sealing plough soil **028**. This topsoil contained numerous fragments of pottery and clay tobacco pipe dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- 4.1.24 Ditch **032** was aligned east/west across the trench, although it was partially excavated via a sondage. This revealed the ditch to be in excess of 1m wide, with steeply angled sides. It was filled with mid-grey compacted sand (**033**), which contained frequent medium to large water worn cobbles, and fragments of Roman pottery that included amphora and grey wares.
- 4.1.25 Ditch **032** was cut by another ditch (**030**), which was aligned north-east/south-west across the northern part of the trench. Ditch **030** measured 2.5m long by 1.5m wide, and had a U-shaped profile with near vertical sides that gradually sloped to a concave base. It was filled at the base with a concentration of stones, hinting that it may have had a drainage-related function. The stones were overlaid with a dark grey silty-sand deposit (**031**), measuring 0.38m thick, which produced pottery with a broad date range between the Roman to early post-medieval periods. It seems likely that the fragments of Roman pottery were residual, and the feature represented a post-medieval field boundary.



Plate 8: Section excavated across ditch **030**

4.1.26 Feature **034** was exposed within the central area of the trench, cutting layer **028**. It was circular in plan, measuring 1.75m in diameter, although its western edge lay beyond the edge of the excavated trench. It had an uneven U-shaped profile with steep sloping sides gradually terminating onto a concave base, providing a maximum depth of 0.40m. Its fill (**035**) comprised mid-brownish-grey silty-sand mixed with lenses of mid-brown soil **028**. No artefacts were recovered from the fill, and its intended function remains uncertain.

4.1.27 **Trench 12:** was aligned north-east/south-west across the western edge of the site (Fig 7), directly north of Trench 11. Archaeological remains in the trench provided evidence for dense Roman activity within this part of the site, represented by at least three pits of varying sizes (**044**, **047**, and **055**), a ditch (**042**), and a spread of burnt clay (**052**), which collectively produced material dating from at least the late first century AD. Another pit (**049**) located at the western end of the trench was devoid of artefacts, although it was possibly contemporary in date to the other pits. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05m onto the surface of natural geology. This comprised mottled brownish-yellow sand (**040**) at the eastern end of the trench, which diffused with mid-yellow-grey clay (**029**) at the western end. All the exposed features were cut into these natural deposits. The

The overlying startigraphy comprised mid-brown silty-sand **028**, representing the extent of the medieval plough soil observed in Trench 11, although the lower level of the deposit yielded frequent sherds of Roman pottery, implying some disturbance to Roman horizons. Silty-sand **028** was overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil (**008**).



Plate 9: Trench 12, looking west

4.1.28 Two of the pits (**044** and **047**) were situated less than 0.25m apart. The earliest datable pit (**047**) contained evidence of at least two possible cremation burials, which had been backfilled with abundant fragments of broken Roman pottery. The pit was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.90m long by 0.82m wide, with moderately steeply sloping sides that levelling onto a flat base, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.32m. The cremations comprised two broken grey ware vessels placed upright in the centre of the pit. Fragments of burnt bone were

fused to the interior of the vessels, although for the most part the cremated bone was not visible. However, concentrated areas of charcoal, baked clay and bone fragments were recovered from the grey sand fill (**048**), suggesting localised burning across the top of the pots. No remains that could be firmly identified as pyre material was observed, although the pit located directly east (**044**) contained large amounts of charcoal suggesting that it possibly represented a fire pit. Two inverted pots were exposed directly beneath the cremations.

- 4.1.29 These were perhaps intentionally placed as part of a votive offering, although no other material was recovered from the pit. Pit **044** was sub-circular in plan with a narrow channel (**046**) extending north beyond the northern trench edge, providing a light bulb shape. Its measured 0.95m long by 0.80m wide with a wide-shape profile onto a shallow base providing a maximum depth of 0.16m. Channel **046** was observed for a length of 0.73m long by 0.26m wide and 0.10m deep. The fill of both features comprised dark brown silty sand (**043**), with lenses of compacted fired clay and large amounts of charcoal, particularly rich in channel **046**. Fragments of Roman pottery recovered from the fill suggested a date approximate to the late first/second century AD.



Plate 10: Pits **044** and **047** prior to excavation



Plate 11: Remains of broken cremation vessels within pit **047**

4.1.30 Pit **055** was exposed at the western end of the trench, and whilst the feature continued beyond the edge of the excavated trench, it had an approximate diameter of 1.54m. The feature had similar form to pit **047**, with very steep sides bottoming out onto a concave base with a wide U-shaped profile, providing an excavated depth of 0.34m. Its fill (**056**) comprised mid-grey-brown silty-sand, which contained medium-sized stones and a single sherd of Roman pottery.

4.1.31 Ditch **042** was located at the eastern end of the trench, and measured 2m long by 1.6m wide, following a north-east/south-west alignment. It had a wide U-shaped profile with gradual sloping sides and a concave base surviving to a depth of 0.28m. Its fill (**043**) comprised light brown clay sand containing small stones along its base and several fragments of pottery dating no later than the second century AD. It is possible that the feature may have been associated with pits **044** and **047**.



Plate 12: South-facing section through ditch **042**

4.1.32 A spread of mid-brown-grey clay sand mixed with compacted fire hardened clay (**052**) was located at the western edge of the trench. It measured 1.9m long by 0.75m wide with an average thickness of between 0.03 and 0.05m. It contained several corroded iron nails, small fragments of cremated bone, and oxidised Roman pottery.

4.1.33 Pit **049** was located along the western side of the trench, and measured 0.75m long by 0.50m. The feature had a depth of less than 0.10m, and was filled with a mid-brown silty-sand deposit (**050**). It is possible that this represented a natural depression, although its interpretation as the truncated base of a small pit or posthole cannot be discounted entirely.

4.1.34 **Trench 13**: the trench was aligned east/west along the western side of the application site (Fig 2), and was excavated to the upper surface of the natural geology. This comprised light grey sand (**015**), which was exposed at a depth of 0.8m below the modern ground surface. The archaeological remains comprised a single pit of probable Roman origin (**072**), which was exposed in the central part of the trench, cutting sand **015**. The overlying stratigraphy comprised mid-grey sand (**009**), measuring up to 0.50m thick, and sealed by dark grey humic topsoil (**008**).

4.1.35 Pit **072** was only partially exposed within the excavated trench, although the exposed dimensions comprised a sub-rectangular cut measuring approximately 0.5m long by 0.3m wide, aligned north-east/south-west. The pit was immersed

under water due to heavy rainfall during the course of the evaluation, which hindered an accurate interpretation of the feature. However, several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the charcoal-rich sandy fill. The pit was sealed by a layer of mid-grey sand (**009**).

4.1.36 **Trench 14:** this trench was aligned north/south, and was placed adjacent to the western boundary immediately to the south of the field boundary that crossed the site (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, although a single fragment of Roman glass was recovered.

4.1.37 **Trench 15:** this trench was aligned north-east/south-west, and was placed adjacent to the western boundary in the central part of the site (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, and no finds were recovered.

4.1.38 **Trench 16:** this trench was aligned east/west, and was placed adjacent to the western boundary of the site to the north of Trench 15 (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, and no finds were recovered.

4.1.39 **Trench 17:** was aligned north/south across the north-western corner of the site (Fig 2). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.68m onto the surface of mottled-pale yellow sand (**024**), representing the natural geology. The archaeological remains consisted of a ditch (**099**) that was exposed along the southern part of the trench. The overlying stratigraphy comprised mid-grey sand (**009**), sealed with dark grey-brown silty-sand (**008**), which was in turn overlaid with demolition debris (**045**) associated with the destruction of modern buildings along the western side of the site.

4.1.40 Ditch **099** was aligned broadly east/west across the trench with exposed dimensions of 2m long by 1.9m wide. The cut had a U-shaped profile with gradual to moderately sloping sides onto a concave base, providing a maximum depth of 0.4m. It was filled with mid-yellow-brown loose sand (**098**) containing frequent medium-sized stones, compacted across the base of the ditch. No finds were recovered from its fill, although the alignment of the feature was similar to a ditch exposed within Trench 23 (4.1.55 below).

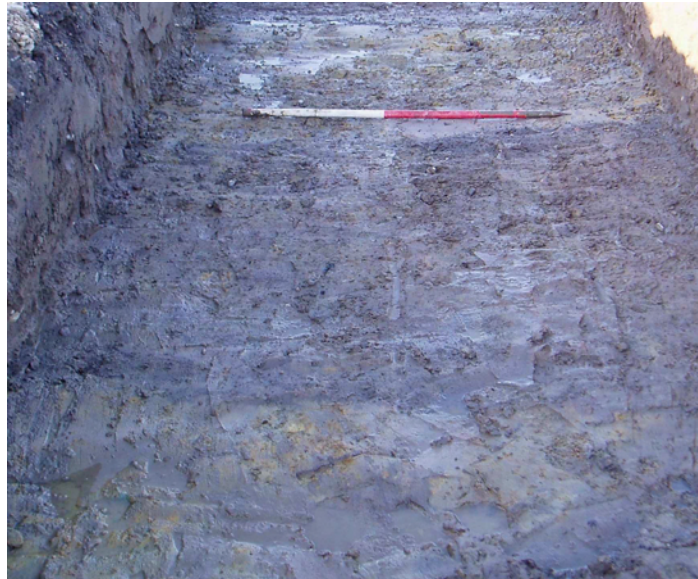


Plate 13; Ditch **099**, prior to excavation

4.1.41 **Trench 18:** this trench was aligned north-west/south-east, and was placed immediately south of Trench 6 (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant

archaeological features, fragments of Roman and post-medieval pottery were recovered.

4.1.42 **Trench 19:** was aligned north-west/south-east from the central part of Trench 8, and was excavated to provide a clearer understanding of the extent of burnt clay layers **022** and **023**. The trench measured 5.4m wide at the northern end and 2m wide at the southern end, and extended 14.4m in length, thus providing an L-shape (Fig 6). The deepest part of the trench was excavated to the surface of the natural geology, which comprised light grey sand (**015**), exposed at a depth of 1.1m.

4.1.43 The archaeological remains encountered comprised further components of the possible kiln exposed in Trench 8, together with an associated cobble surface (**071**), and a spread of sand (**060**). Other remains of significance included two pits (**061** and **062**) that were exposed along the southern part of the trench. The overlying stratigraphy included dark brown sand (**028**), which measured up to 0.5m in thick, overlain by a dark brown humic topsoil (**008**).

4.1.44 Deposit **023**, exposed in Trench 8, was revealed to continue across the eastern part of Trench 19. Although less fire hardened than in Trench 8, it appeared to be a continuation of the putative structural element. The extent of deposit **022** comprised a mixture of baked clay and cobbles continuing along a similar alignment as deposit **023** across the eastern side of the trench, although it dissipated across the southern part of the trench. Deposit **060** was located across the centre of the feature, diffused with **022** and bordered by cobble surface **071** in the southern part of the trench. Its exposed dimensions measured 4.2m long by 3.6m wide, and comprised dark grey-brown sand containing charcoal and baked clay lumps of briquetage. Cobble surface **071** comprised medium- to well-sorted water-worn cobbles measuring between 0.08m to 0.10m laid within a dark grey silt sand, that were spread across an area measuring 1.52m long by 1.06m wide. A single sherd of oxidised Roman pottery was recovered above the cobbles.



Plate 14: Eastern extent of deposit **023**



Plate 15: Cobble surface **071** and the southern extent of deposit **023**

- 4.1.45 Pits **061** and **062**, spaced 2m apart, were observed cutting sand **015**. Pit **061** measured 1m long by 0.8m wide providing a sub-circular shape. Pit **062** was similar in proportion to **061**. The pits were unexcavated, although fragments of pottery dating to the Roman and medieval period were recovered immediately above each feature within soil **028**, suggesting a Roman or post-Roman date.
- 4.1.46 **Trench 20:** was aligned broadly north/south across the western side of the central part of the study area (Fig 2). The southern part of the trench was close to the existing ditched boundary separating the northern and southern fields. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.37m onto the surface of mottled yellow-grey sand (**015**), which represented the natural geology (Plate 16). The trench was characterised by the remains of three ditches (**083**, **084** and **085**), two of which lay parallel to one another. Although only one of the ditches (**085**) yielded any dating evidence, it is possible that they represent an enclosure or an old field system. In addition, two postholes (**081** and **082**) of unknown date were located along the southern part of the trench. The remains were sealed by dark brown-grey silty-sand (**009**), measuring up to 0.50m thick throughout the trench. Other remains included a horseshoe-shaped land drain (**086**), orientated broadly parallel to ditch **085**, thus perhaps representing an improvement of land drainage in the later post-medieval period. The overlying stratigraphy included mid-grey-brown clay sand (**087**), sealed by, dark grey sandy-silt representing post-medieval topsoil (**008**).
- 4.1.47 A 1.8m wide linear cut (**085**), aligned north-west/south-east, was exposed across the central part of the trench. The feature was partially excavated, and part of its northern edge was exposed showing a moderate break of slope at the top of the cut with gradual sloping sides. Its fill comprised dark grey-brown clay sand (**074**), containing lumps of charcoal and fragments of pottery dating between the late medieval and early post-medieval periods. The feature was bordered along its northern edge by another feature (**084**), which had the same

alignment. Feature **084** was 1.08m wide, and partial excavation revealed that it had a moderate sharp break of slope with gradual sloping sides to an exposed depth of approximately 0.45m. Its brown sand fill (**075**) was very similar to fill **074**, although a large amount of burnt clay was observed across the upper areas of the ditch. A third ditch (**083**) located along the western side of the trench was observed following a north-east/south-west alignment for a distance of 5m. The angle of the ditch suggests that it was possibly forming a return of ditch **084**, although evidence for this was obscured by the trench edge. The ditch was partially excavated, revealing a steep-sided cut. It was filled (**076**) with very similar material as that exposed in the other ditches, and contained flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. Collectively, the ditches perhaps represented the south-western corner of a former field system; whilst dating evidence was lacking, the possibility that these features had earlier origins than any of the other remains encountered on the site cannot be discounted entirely.



Plate 16: General view of Trench 20, looking north-east

- 4.1.48 Postholes **081** and **082** were set 2m apart along an approximate north/south alignment. The northern posthole, **081**, was sub-circular in shape, measured 0.45m across, and was excavated to a depth of 0.12m. It had a wide U-shaped profile, and was filled (**077**) with dark grey-brown clay and flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. Posthole **082** was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.35m. It was filled with an homogeneous greyish-brown clay (**078**). Neither feature produced any finds, although the presence of baked clay fragments and charcoal suggests industrial activity in proximity.
- 4.1.49 **Trench 21:** was aligned south-west/north-east across the central area of the site, adjacent to the ditched field boundary separating the northern and southern fields (Fig 2). It was excavated for a length of 13m and was placed in order to trace the alignment of the possible enclosure ditches encountered in Trench 20. The trench was excavated to the surface of light grey sand (**015**) representing the natural geology, at a maximum depth of 1.6m. The remains comprised a single linear feature (**079**) of unknown date aligned north-west/south-east across the western end of the trench, which possibly

represented a continuation of ditch **085** in Trench 20. The overlying stratigraphy included dark grey sand (**009**) sealed by dark grey brown topsoil (**008**).

4.1.50 Feature **079** was exposed for a distance of 2m long and 0.80m wide, although a depth was not ascertained owing to the unsafe depth of the trench. It was filled with dark grey brown humified clay silt (**080**), which did not produce any finds. The humic nature of the deposit suggested that the feature had silted up over a considerable length of time, although the water dilution was well serviced due to the presence of two land drains along the eastern side of the trench. It is therefore possible that the feature represented an old drainage ditch along the southern edge of the former field boundary.

4.1.51 **Trench 22:** was aligned north-east/south-west across the eastern side of the site, and was excavated to a length of 10m (Fig 9). It was intended to further inform the possible field enclosure ditches exposed in Trenches 20 and 21. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.1m onto the surface of light grey sand (**015**), representing the natural geology. The archaeological remains exposed within the trench comprised a ditch (**091**) and a circular feature (**093**). The overlying stratigraphy comprised mid-grey sand (**009**), which sealed the features. This was in turn overlaid with dark grey sandy-clay topsoil (**008**), although this had been largely removed during the levelling of the site associated with its modern use as a lorry park.

4.1.52 Ditch **091** was aligned north-east/south-west, and was exposed for a length of 2.3m and width of 1m at the western end of the trench. Its fill comprised dark grey sand (**092**), which had a high humified wood content. No finds were recovered from its fill, although it is possible that the feature was used as a drainage feature.



Plate 17: Ditch **091** prior to excavation, looking north-west

- 4.1.53 Circular feature **093** was located in the central part of the trench, and measured approximately 0.35m in diameter. The pit was not excavated.
- 4.1.54 **Trench 23**: this trench was aligned broadly north/south across the northern part of the site, and to the east of Trench 17 (Fig 2). It was intended to establish the extent of Roman remains exposed in the trenches excavated directly to the east (1, 2 and 3) and north-west (17). It was excavated to the depth of 0.7m onto the surface of the natural geology. This comprised yellow sand (**027**), diffused with a band of mottled sand (**040**) along the northern part of the trench.
- 4.1.55 The archaeological remains comprised two closely positioned linear features (**096** and **097**) of unknown date aligned broadly east/west across the northern part of the trench (Plate 18), and cutting sand **040** (Fig 10). One of the features (**096**) was probably associated with ditch **099** in Trench 17, and had a similar alignment. The overlying stratigraphy included dark grey sand **009**, which sealing the exposed archaeological features, and was in turn overlain with the remnants of a dark brown humified topsoil (**008**), and modern bedding layers (**007**) associated with the lorry park.



Plate 18: Ditches **096** and **099** (Trench 23), looking north-west

- 4.1.56 Ditch **096** measured 1.7m wide, and had a maximum depth of 0.28m. The ditch had steep sloping sides and a slightly concave base, providing a V-shaped profile. Its fill (**094**) comprised a mixture of mid-grey sand and yellow clay lenses, with occasional small stone inclusions. No dating evidence was recovered, although the apparent profile suggests a feature that is military in nature. Ditch **097** was located less than 1m to the north of ditch **096**, and was likely to be of a broadly contemporary date. It measured 2.6m wide along its eastern side, and 1.8m along its western side. This suggests that the feature

curved along a slight north-west/south-east orientation. It was filled with grey sand (**095**) similar in composition to fill **094**, although the base of the fill contained pungent humified wood and fragments of ceramic building material.

4.1.57 **Trench 24:** was aligned north-east/south-west across the southern part of the site, and was placed between Trenches 8 and 12. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.02m onto the surface of light grey sand (**015/068**), representing the natural geology. Archaeological remains comprised two mixed clay horizons (**066/069** and **067**) sealed by dumps of burnt material (**070** and **073**), in addition to a cobble surface (**057**) and a posthole (**058**), all seemingly of Roman date (Fig 10). Collectively, these remains resembled the type of material detritus deriving from features of an industrial nature, such as a furnace or a kiln. These layers were overlain with a thick band of mid-brown silty-sand (**028**), as observed within Trenches 8, 19, 11, 12 and 13, representing a medieval plough soil. This was cut at the western end of the trench by a ditch (**065**) of probable medieval/early post-medieval origin. This was in turn sealed by dark grey sandy-silt (**008**), representing a remnant of a post-medieval topsoil. The eastern end of the trench contained a deposit of demolition debris (**045**), which was seemingly been dumped across the central part of the site during the late nineteenth or twentieth centuries.

4.1.58 Layer **066/069** comprised a spread of mottled pink and yellow clay, mixed with lenses of brown sand, deposited over natural sand **015/068** at the western end of the trench. The eastern side of the deposit was diffused with a layer of yellow clay (**067**), which extended over a distance measuring 0.50m by 0.32m, and was 0.12m thick. Later **067** was laid above sand **015/68** across the central part of the trench. Both clay horizons possibly represented the foundation remains of a demolished structure. Layer **067** was sealed towards the centre of the trench by an east/west-aligned cobble spread (**057**), which comprised a surface of small stones measuring 0.10m-0.20m thick. A sherd of oxidised Roman pottery was recovered within the sand around the cobble. The spread possibly represented the remains of a working surface or alley.



Plate 19: Deposits exposed at the western end of the trench

- 4.1.59 Layer **066** was cut in the western side of the trench by the remains of a sub-circular posthole (**058**), measuring 0.35m long by 0.30m wide, and excavated to a depth of 0.18m. The fill comprised dark brown sand (**059**) that did not contain any dating evidence, although it is possible that the feature was associated with clay horizons **066/069** and **067**. These clay horizons were sealed by two distinct burnt spreads (**073** and **070**), comprising dark brown sand mixed with charcoal. No clear function of the spreads was fully determined, although they possibly the waste derived from a high-temperature process.
- 4.1.60 Deposit **028** varied in thickness across the trench measuring between 0.35m-0.50m. It was cut by north/south aligned linear feature **065** at the western end of the trench. The feature had near vertical sides resembling the type of cut used for a drain, although at some stage the feature had clearly been re-cut. No finds were recovered from its silt sand fill (**064**), although stratigraphically the feature may have represented a cut dating from at least the medieval to early post-medieval period.
- 4.1.61 **Trench 25:** this trench was aligned north-west/south-east, and was placed to the west of Trench 8 (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, although a fragment of medieval pottery was recovered.
- 4.1.62 **Trench 26:** this trench was aligned north-east/south-west, and was placed to the north of Trench 25 (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, although fragments of Roman pottery were recovered.
- 4.1.63 **Trench 27:** this trench was aligned north-west/south-east, and was placed immediately to the south of the field boundary that crossed the site (Fig 2). The trench was devoid of significant archaeological features, although a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.

5. THE FINDS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The finds assemblage recovered from the programme of evaluation trenching was dominated by pottery, with lesser amounts of ceramic building material, industrial residues, iron, lead, animal bone, glass, wood and clay tobacco pipe. On the whole the material was well preserved with minimal damage caused from the effects of ploughing, although the acidic condition of the soils has had detrimental effect on the metalwork. The material mostly derived from buried soils, deposits, and from the fills of pits, ditches and other features of Roman, medieval and post-medieval dates. A summary catalogue of the finds is presented in *Appendix 2*.

5.2 POTTERY

5.2.1 In total, some 404 sherds, weighing approximately 13kg, were recovered from the evaluation. An assessment of the potential of this material for further study was undertaken by rapid scan, and where possible spot dates were assigned to individual vessels and/or contexts. All the material was examined, with the intention of determining a range of factors that might influence its potential. These comprised: range of fabrics present; range of vessel forms present, level of preservation and degree of fragmentation. It must be borne in mind that this assessment was compiled after a limited programme of excavation and should excavation be continued, or enlarged, it would require substantial revision.

5.2.2 The material falls easily into two groups with 366 sherds from vessels of first- and early second-century date, and 35 of eighteenth-century or later date, the former group representing 90.5% of the total assemblage. Three abraded fragments of medieval pottery were also noted. The material is discussed below in chronological order.

5.2.3 The condition of the pottery is varied, with most fragments relatively soft, and prone to surface damage, possibly reflecting inimical soil conditions. This has led to some loss of decorative detail, especially on samian ware. Sherd size varies considerably, from *c* 20 mm maximum dimension, to *c* 150 mm maximum dimension. This seems to reflect the level of post-depositional disturbance, with the smaller fragments coming from topsoil and other disturbed contexts, being found with late pottery. There is considerably less fragmentation in undisturbed contexts, with as many as ten vessels being represented by joining fragments comprising *c* 50% of the vessel.

5.2.4 ***First- and second-century pottery:*** rapid scan suggests that several well-known fabrics are present in the group, including south Gaulish samian, rusticated greywares and occasional fragments of oxidised rusticated vessels, a coarse orange-oxidised ware similar to those seen at Chester, and possibly Wroxeter; a finer orange oxidised fabric with white slipped surfaces, coarse

sandy reduced fabrics, amphora fabrics, fine, thin white oxidised fabrics and an early colour-coated fabric.

- 5.2.5 There were 17 fragments of samian (4.6% of the Roman assemblage by fragment count), of which seven were from decorated vessels. Most of the fragments were small with abraded surfaces, but four well-preserved fragments joined to form *c* 50% of a small Dr 29 bowl (La Graufesenque) of mid-late Flavian date, the form going out of production *c* AD85. Plain forms included Dr 18, again mid-late Flavian in date, and Curle 15, in production from the late first century, and predominantly pre-Antonine in date. Fragments of cup form Dr 27, of a broadly similar date range, were also noted. Only a few amphora fragments were noted (six), all being relatively small, but including the necks/handle-seatings of at least two vessels. Mortaria were well-represented (29 fragments, *c* 8% of the Roman assemblage by fragment count), almost exclusively in a coarse orange fabric with mixed white and red trituration grits. The fabric has been tentatively identified as a Wroxeter product, again likely to be later first century in date. The vessels are consistently relatively small, with heavy hooked rims. No makers' stamps were seen. Several of the vessels were well-worn, although two were represented by large joining fragments allowing the reconstruction of complete profiles. A third, possibly associated with a cremation burial, was not examined.



Plate 20: Fragments of a Dr 29 samian bowl

- 5.2.6 The majority of the other vessels represented were jars, with rusticated vessels representing 6% of the assemblage by fragment count. Rustication is regarded as a later first-century decorative treatment, possibly associated with military assemblages, dying out in the North around AD120-30. Fragments of a large rusticated ware vessel, possibly associated with a cremation burial, has not been examined. Although many of the greyware fragments could be identified as from jars, there were few diagnostic rim fragments to allow refinement of dating. Several small vessels were substantially complete, however, and again,

rim forms suggest a late first to early second century date. One or two fragments were from narrow-necked jars, reminiscent of the vessels produced by the Severn Valley industry, although in reduced fabrics. At least four lids were noted. The forms represented in oxidised fabrics were largely restricted to small flagons, often with a white external slip, again a common first and early second century type. In this case there were no rims surviving to allow any refinement of dating. The extremely low representation of Black Burnished ware (three fragments) is a good indicator of the early dating of the assemblage, as is not regarded as taking a significant part of the northern military pottery market until after *c* AD 120. Occasional vessels are seen in the North before that date, however, as at Carlisle, and are thought to reflect the possessions of individuals, probably within a military context. Imported fabrics were restricted to one or two sherds, including a battered fragment of a Rhine Valley colour-coated ware, and perhaps a rim fragment from a small eggshell-ware vessel.

- 5.2.7 **Medieval pottery:** medieval pottery was confined to a few abraded fragments, all from contexts producing later pottery (Trenches 13, 20, and 25). The three fragments probably cover the entire medieval period, with a small fragment of a sandy, incompletely reduced fabric from Trench 13 being the oldest, probably thirteenth to fourteenth century. A fully reduced green-glazed fragment from Trench 25 is likely to date from the fourteenth to sixteenth century, and the final fragment, from the rim of a jug, seems likely to be Midlands Purple, or a variant thereof, bridging the late medieval and early post-medieval period.
- 5.2.8 **Post-medieval pottery:** this falls into two smaller groups, earlier post-medieval material and nineteenth century or later material. The former is fragmented, and often badly abraded, but appears to represent a range of domestic tablewares, including slip-trailed hollow wares, bowls and dishes dating from the later seventeenth century at the earliest, and continuing into the eighteenth century. A brief examination of the fabrics represented seems to suggest that most has its origins with the early Staffordshire producers. There are, in addition, a few small fragments of the hard-fired blackwares typical of the same period, cream-bodied blackwares of eighteenth-century date, and a few small fragments of the coarser red-bodied blackwares that continued as local products, into the twentieth century. A single base fragment of a small stoneware bottle is again likely to be of late seventeenth- to eighteenth-century date. The nineteenth century material is typically fine tablewares, with a small range of blue and white under-glaze transfer-printed earthenwares, bone china, and late ?Porcelain.
- 5.2.9 This small assemblage seems to suggest strongly that the site is well-preserved, and a good representation of large fragments and sherd families representing large parts of individual vessels suggesting that it is largely undisturbed. The composition of the pottery assemblage might point towards a military origin, or certainly a site with good access to military sources of supply, including, possibly military producers. Material is confined to a late first to early second century date range, and there is no indication of later Roman activity on the site, with Roman material from topsoil and other

disturbed contexts reflecting the same date range, with an a mixture of nineteenth century material. Although small, the group of medieval pottery suggests some activity in the area, throughout the medieval period, although its presence in disturbed contexts must raise the possibility that it was introduced from elsewhere in the course of agricultural activity. Similarly the post-medieval material, ranging potentially from the later seventeenth to the nineteenth century, is an indicator that activity continued throughout, although, until the nineteenth century when there appears to have been some larger-scale domestic dumping, resulting in the deposition of large fragments of late tablewares, it seems to have been at a low level.

5.3 CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

5.3.1 In total, four pieces of clay tobacco pipe were retrieved from mostly topsoil horizons across the site. These included a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century bowl, a nineteenth-century bowl, and unmarked stems. In summary, the clay tobacco pipe fragments are of little archaeological interest, and do not add significantly to the interpretation of the site.

5.4 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

5.4.1 In total, 111 fragments of ceramic building material were collected from mostly Roman contexts. The material is represented by floor and roof tile, and incidentally fired clay such as daub and hand-made brick, to which a Roman date may be ascribed. Several pieces of daub (10) and fragments of brick (6) were recovered from clay layer **023**, which possibly represented structural components associated with the putative brine kiln in Trench 8. The bulk of the remaining building material assemblage derived from the fills of Roman and medieval features recovered mostly across the southern part of the site.

5.5 GLASS

5.5.1 A single clear fragment from a mould-blown flask was recovered from soil horizon **009** in Trench 14. It is possible that the vessel dated to the Romano-British period, although the fragment was too small to ascribe a date with confidence.

5.6 METALWORK

5.6.1 In total, four fragments of iron and a single piece of folded lead were recovered from trenches across the eastern side of the site; despite scanning with a metal detector, no metalwork was recovered from the spoil excavated from the trenches.

5.6.2 The iron objects included two nails, and two unidentifiable objects from deposits ascribed a Roman date. These were all in poor condition with the surfaces of the objects heavily encrusted with corrosion products. The lead object was recovered from buried topsoil horizon **009** in the north-eastern side of the site.

5.7 INDUSTRIAL RESIDUES

5.7.1 In total, seven pieces of slag/fuel waste were recovered from a variety of deposits with ascribed broad dates ranging between the Roman and post-medieval periods. Two pieces of fuel waste of probable Roman date were recovered in proximity (**060**) to the possible brine kiln in Trench 8/19. Similar waste lumps were found in relative proximity within Trenches 11 and 12, recovered from within the base of a medieval plough soil horizon. This suggests probable disturbed evidence of Roman industrial activity in the surrounding area.

5.8 ANIMAL BONE

5.8.1 A small collection of animal bone, 1 NISP (Number of Individual Specimens), was recovered from the excavated trenches. The animal bones were derived from a Roman deposit (**30**) in Trench 11. The material was rapidly assessed following English Heritage guidelines set out in Payne (1991), using reference collection held by the author.

5.8.2 The material was in poor condition and fragmented. The assemblage consisted of a mandibular molar of a sheep or goat. The total sample size from the evaluation makes interpretative comments impractical.

5.9 WOOD

5.9.1 Several fragments of wood were recovered from the evaluation trenches. These largely consisted of dried fragments, and were mostly recovered from topsoil and buried subsoil deposits across the western side of the site. No identifiable fragments were present.

5.10 CHARRED AND WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS

5.10.1 In total, 22 environmental bulk samples (5-40 litres in volume) were taken from various features on the site; the different feature types are shown on Table 2. All the samples were taken from secure contexts for the assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains, and were intended to provide information on the environment and economy of the site.

5.10.2 Ten litres of each sample was processed, except for the samples from contexts **002** and **048** (Sample 21), which were only five litres in volume. The samples were hand-floated and the flots were collected on 250 micron mesh and air dried. The flots were scanned with a Leica MZ6 stereo microscope and the plant material was recorded and provisionally identified.

Feature	Number of samples
Posthole/pit	7
Ditch	12
Pit cremation	3

Table 2: Number of samples from each feature type.

- 5.10.3 **Posthole/pits:** eight of the samples from contexts **002, 004, 043, 035, 058, 072, 077** and **090**, came from postholes/pits, and all contained charcoal. A sample taken from the fill (**071**) of pit **081** (Trench 20) contained a charred plant assemblage that included cereal grains of *Triticum* sp.(wheat) and *Avena* (oats), with associated crop processing waste including glume bases and rachis fragments and occasional weed seeds of *Bromus* (bromes) and *Persicaria lapathifolia* (pale persicaria). The characteristics of the amorphous plant remains in Sample 12, taken from the fill (**072**) of a pit in Trench 13, suggest that it may include some cessy material. All the other samples taken from the fills of pits and postholes contained only low numbers of plant remains.
- 5.10.4 **Ditches:** abundant waterlogged plant remains were recorded in Sample 15, taken from the fill (**080**) of a ditch in Trench 21, and included seeds of *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrass), *Persicaria lapathifolia* (pale persicaria), *Ranunculus sardous* (hairy buttercup), *Ranunculus repens* (creeping buttercup), and *Corylus avellana* fragments (hazelnuts). Another sample, taken from the fill (**076**) of ditch **083** in Trench 20, contained low numbers of waterlogged and charred plant material were recorded. The charred material included *Triticum sp* (wheat), *Hordeum vulgare* (barley), *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat), glume bases and culm nodes.
- 5.10.5 **Cremation pit:** three of the samples (10, 20 and 21) came from cremation pit **047** in Trench 12, and all contained charred plant material, although in low numbers. *Corylus avellana* (hazelnut) fragments were present in two of the samples (samples 10 and 20), and two, there were cereals including *Triticum* (wheat), *Avena* (oats) and cf *Hordeum* (barley). Charcoal fragments were abundant in all samples, and in Sample 10 there was a mixed assemblage of *Quercus* (oak) and diffuse porous taxa.
- 5.10.6 **Discussion:** although all feature types were sampled for plant remains, very few contained any significant quantities of charred or waterlogged plant remains, in common with many other sites in the north-west of England. However, one sample, taken from the fill (**077**) of pit **081** in Trench 20, contained grains of *Avena* and *Triticum* with associated glume and rachis fragments. The presence of cereal grains and crop processing waste in this feature suggests there may have been some on-site processing. Further evidence for cultivation comes from the fill (**080**) of ditch **079** in Trench 21, in which waterlogged plant remains were abundant. In this sample, seeds from several different ecological groupings were recorded including arable weeds (eg pale persicaria and knotgrass), ruderals such as common nettle, and native plants that may have been utilised as food sources (blackberries and *Prunus* sp).
- 5.10.7 The Middlewich area, which was situated at the junction of three Roman roads, was an area of substantial activity during the Romano-British period as the site of a legionary garrison and industrial sites linked to salt production. At least four samples taken during the evaluation (Samples 14, 15, 19 and 24) have demonstrated some potential to enhance our understanding of agricultural regimes and the surrounding environment during these periods. In addition, the charred plant remains would provide suitable material for AMS radiocarbon dating.

5.10.8 A recently published review of the evidence for macrofossil plant remains from Northern England (Hall and Huntley 2007) has only a handful of sites listed for the Roman and medieval periods in Cheshire. The only sites dated to the Roman period, that were available to Hall and Huntley in 2002, are limited to a handful from Cheshire, a single sample from St Anne's Lane, Nantwich and three Romano-British sites at Wilderspool near Warrington, Irby on Meresey side and Tarporley in Cheshire. There is a similar shortage of medieval sites, although OA North assessed some medieval samples excavated by Earthworks Archaeological Services from a site at Second Wood Street in Nantwich, which were rich in waterlogged plant remains (OA North 2007b); these deposits were recovered from features associated with salt production and tanning. Hall and Huntley (2007) in their summary for both the Roman and medieval periods highlight the absence of archaeobotanical data from west of the Pennines and, although many of the samples from the present study area have few plant remains in them, they are important because so few records exist away from Carlisle and Ribchester.

Sample	Context	Feature	Sample vol (ml)	Flot description	Plant remains
1	002	Posthole/ pit	40	Charcoal >2mm (2), modern roots (4), coal, (1), clinker (3), modern bryophyte fragment (1)	
2	004	Pit	420	Charcoal >2mm (3), modern roots (4), calcined bone (2)	
3	011	Possible ditch	280	Modern roots (2), coal (2), clinker (2), metallic spheres (1),	WPR (1) Leaf ± modern
4	014	Ditch	150	Charcoal >2mm (3), charred roots (3), coal (2), calcined bone (3)	
5	021	Ditch	190	Charcoal >2mm (2), modern roots (2), coal (2), clinker (2)	WPR (1) <i>Trifolium</i> sp. ± modern
6	043	Pit	350	Charcoal >2mm (4), modern roots (2), coal (1), calcined bone (1)	CPR (1) <i>Triticum</i> , <i>Plantago</i> WPR (1) <i>Euphorbia</i>
7	031	Ditch	100	Charcoal >2mm (2), modern roots (3), clinker (3), calcined bone (1)	
8	035	Pit	125	Charcoal >2mm (2), modern roots (3), coal (2), clinker (3), insect remains (1), earthworm egg cases (1)	WPR (2) <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Trifolium</i>
9	058	Posthole	75	Coal (2), clinker (4), metallic waste (1)	WPR (2) <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>

10	048	Possible cremation from pit	250	Charcoal >2mm (4) diffuse porous+ <i>Quercus</i> (mixed assemblage), mammal bone (2), calcined bone (1), mineralised plant material and modern wood remains, coal (1), CBM (1)	CPR (1) <i>Corylus avellana</i> fragment
11	042	Roman ditch	20	Charcoal >2mm (2), coal (2), mammal bone (1), calcined mammal bone (1), clinker (2), fragment of worked bone/ivory	CPR (1) cerealia indet
12	072	Roman/medieval ditch	20	Amorphous plant remains. The nature of these remains suggest that they may derive from "cessy" material	WPR (4) <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> , <i>Rumex acetosella</i>
13	075	Roman/medieval ditch	25	Modern roots (4)	WPR (4) <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Bryophyte</i> fragments, <i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> , <i>Rumex acetosella</i> , <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
14	076	Roman/medieval ditch	45	Charcoal >2mm (2), clinker (3), modern roots (2), insect remains (1), fibre (could be modern), CBM fragments (1), mammal bone (1)	CPR (2) <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , <i>Triticum spelta</i> glume bases, culm node, <i>Bromus</i> WPR (2) <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> , <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , <i>Persicaria maculosa</i> , <i>Cirsium</i> , <i>Trifolium</i>
15	080	Ditch	400	Amorphous organic (4), coal (2), insect fragments (1)	WPR (4) <i>Corylus avellana</i> fragment, <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> , <i>Carex lenticular</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Ranunculus sardous</i> , <i>Fumaria</i> , <i>Prunus</i> sp., <i>Potentilla erecta</i> , <i>Chenopodium album</i> ,

					<i>Ranunculus repens, Sonchus arvensis, Stellaria media, Lapsana</i>
16	090	Pit	125	Charcoal >2mm (4), calcined mammal bone	CPR (1) Hordeum vulgare (hulled) WPR (1) Sambucus nigra
17	094	Ditch	175	Charcoal >2mm (2), clinker (2)	
18	095	Ditch	100	Charcoal >2mm (1), coal (1), modern roots (4)	WPR (1) <i>Trifolium, Polygonum aviculare</i>
19	077	Pit	25	Charcoal >2mm (2), clinker (3), calcined mammal bone (1)	CPR (2) cf <i>Avena, Triticum, Bromus, glume bases, rachis fragment</i> <i>Persicaria lapathi folia</i>
20	048	Cremation pit	350	Charcoal >2mm (4) mostly mineralised diffuse porous, calcined mammal bone (1), calcined bone, clinker (3), coal (2)	CPR (2) <i>Corylus avellana</i> fragment, <i>Triticum, Avena, cf Hordeum</i>
21	048	Cremation pit	125	Charcoal >4mm (4) mainly mineralised, mammal bone (2), calcined bone (2), coal (2), Samian fragment	CPR (1) <i>Cerealia</i> indet <i>Corylus avellana</i> fragment
22	098	Ditch	50	Charcoal >2mm (1), coal (1), clinker (2), calcined bone (1)	WPR (3) <i>Juncus, Persicaria maculosa</i>

Table 3: Assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains

Plants recorded on a scale of 1-4, where 1 is rare (1-5 items) and 4 is abundant (more than 100 items).

WPR = waterlogged plant remains, CPR = charred plant remains.

CBM = ceramic building material

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The archaeological investigations undertaken on the eastern fringe of Middlewich town centre within the last 20 years has revealed extensive and well-preserved Roman remains of considerable archaeological significance. The results from these investigations have furnished important information, which suggested that the areas surrounding the present study area were used predominantly for agricultural and industrial/craft-working purposes during the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. The present evaluation has revealed the *in-situ* survival of buried archaeological remains that support and enhance previous results.
- 6.1.2 Several features that possibly date to the pre-Roman period were identified within Trenches 5 (**019**), 20 (**083** and **084**), 21 (**080**) and 22 (**091**) across the central part of the site, which possibly represented the remains of a large rectangular-shaped ditched enclosure. Other substantial ditches of a presently uncertain date were identified within the north-western corner of the site within trenches 17 (**099**) and 23 (**097**). A rectilinear enclosure was identified to the south-west of the site in 2003, and was considered to represent Iron Age or Romano-British rural occupation. It is therefore possible that the ditches encountered during the present evaluation originated during this period, although this can only be corroborated by further intrusive investigation. In addition, two small pits/postholes (**078** and **082**) of uncertain date were observed along the southern side of ditch **074** in Trench 20.
- 6.1.3 Features of Roman date were predominant across the northern and southern parts of the site, although the southern part of the site distinctively contained concentrated areas of archaeology. All of these features were encountered beneath a 0.50m thick horizon of grey sand **009**, probably representing a Roman buried soil, which was exposed at a general depth of less than 0.40m beneath the modern ground surface.
- 6.1.4 Although no firm evidence of salt production was encountered during the evaluation, the character of some features strongly suggests industrial activity dating from at least the late first century to early second century AD. This activity was localised across the southern part of the site within Trenches 8, 19 and 24, and was represented by the remains of a possible brine kiln (**022/023** and **060**) in Trench 8/19, clay/charcoal rake-out deposits (**066-073**) from a possible furnace in Trench 24, and a burnt clay horizon (**046/052**) along the western end of Trench 12. A discrete feature (**005**) exposed in the northern part of the site within Trench 2 possibly represented the remains of a small hearth, and a shallow pit (**044**) in Trench 12 contained the remains of a probable fire. In addition, a series of pits identified within Trenches 12 (**047**, **049** and **055**), 13 (**072**) and 19 (**061** and **062**) possibly represented the deposition of rubbish.

- 6.1.5 Some evidence for a Roman cemetery was provided by possible cremation burials (**047**) in Trench 12, adding weight to Watkin's observations of Roman burials to the west of the study area in the nineteenth century. Pit **047** contained large amounts of broken pottery and charcoal, and fragments of cremated bone. Other activity comprised several gullies and ditches along the north-eastern side of the site within Trench 3, and the south-western end within Trenches 11 and 12 (**042**).
- 6.1.6 In addition to the identified features, a relatively large assemblage of Roman ceramics was recovered from stratified deposits during the evaluation, which testifies to the military aspect of the Roman settlement. The identification of Roman features confirms that deep archaeological stratigraphy survives *in-situ* across parts of the site, and the likelihood of similar archaeological deposits remains high. Given the relative heights of the Roman sand horizon **009** and the natural geology, it is possible that approximately 0.50m of relatively intact stratified Roman deposits will be encountered.
- 6.1.7 The evaluation has also demonstrated that some features of medieval date also survive *in-situ*, represented in Trench 11 by a shallow ditch (**030**), a narrow drainage ditch (**020**) in Trench 8, and a large ditch (**074**) representing a probable field boundary in Trench 20. These features were cut into the remains of a probable plough soil (**028**) of medieval origin, which extended across the southern part of the study area. It would appear that this layer was continually ploughed until the early post-medieval period, indicated by the recovery of pottery sherds dating no later than the mid-eighteenth century.
- 6.1.8 The later post-medieval period was represented by remnants of layer **008**, which sealed plough soil **028** in the south and **009** in the north. The soil yielded few finds, although this is likely to be a reflection of the truncation caused by the construction of the lorry park in the twentieth century.

7. SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

7.1 SIGNIFICANCE

7.1.1 The evaluation has provided evidence for significant archaeological remains surviving *in-situ* across the study area. These remains represent several phases of archaeological activity, pertaining to the Roman, medieval, and post-medieval periods. Evidence for Roman activity has the potential to provide important information on the character of the Roman settlement in Middlewich. Any such remains may be considered to be of regional archaeological significance, particularly in the light of the recent Roman discoveries surrounding the site during the last 20 years.

7.2 IMPACT

7.2.1 Development of this area will almost certainly have a negative direct impact on buried remains that survive within parts of the study area, involving their damage or destruction as a result of ground-reduction works or the excavation of service trenches. In particular, any earth-moving works within the area of Trenches 8, 11, 12, 13, 19, and 24 in the southern end of the site, and Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 17, 20, 21, 22 and 23 in the north, may result in the loss or damage of significant archaeological deposits.

7.2.2 Development will have a lesser impact in the areas along the north/south central area of the south field and the east/west central area of the north field. Evaluation has demonstrated that ground levels in these areas have been built up as a result of nineteenth-century dumping and twentieth-century construction activity. It is considered that any archaeological remains in these areas may have been largely removed during these periods.

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APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

Context	Trench	Description	Date
001	-	Orange sandy-gravel (natural)	Geological
002	2	Fill of posthole 003	Unattributed
003	2	Posthole along the western edge of pit 005	Unattributed
004	2	Fill of pit 005	Roman
005	2	Pit	Roman
006	2	Drain	Post-medieval
007	All	Tarmac and bedding layer	Modern
008	All	Topsoil	Post-medieval
009	All	Grey sand subsoil	Roman
010	3	Ditch along the western side of the trench	Roman
011	3	Fill of ditch 010	Roman
012	2	Yellow sandy-gravel (natural)	Geological
013	3	Linear feature aligned north/south across the trench	Unattributed
014	3	Fill of linear feature 013	Unattributed
015	3	Light grey sand (natural)	Geological
016	4	Mid grey-brown silty-sand beneath 007 , mixed with demolition rubble	Unattributed
017		Not Used	
018	5	Fill of ditch 019	Possible Roman
019	5	Ditch (V-shaped)	Possible Roman
020	8	Ditch at eastern end of the trench	Medieval
021	8	Fill of ditch 020	Medieval
022	8	Fired clay, possible foundation remains of a kiln	Roman
023	8	Burnt clay and charcoal butting the southern edge of 022	Roman
024	5	Pale yellow sand beneath sand 015 (natural, same as 025/027/040)	Geological
025	8	Yellow sand (same as 024/027/040)	Geological
026	5	Mid-brown-yellow mottled sand beneath soil 008	Unattributed
027	16	Yellow sand (natural, same as 024/025/040)	Geological
028	11	Mid-brown silty-sand plough soil (same as 087/089)	Medieval
029	11	Yellow/grey clay layer (natural)	Geological
030	11	North-east/south-west-aligned linear feature	Medieval
031	11	Fill of feature 030	Medieval

032	11	Linear feature beneath feature 030	Roman
033	11	Fill of feature 032	Roman
034	11	Pit at the southern end of the trench	Medieval?
035	11	Fill of pit 034	Medieval?
036	15	Dark grey layer beneath 007	Post-medieval
037	15	Fill of modern feature 038	Post-medieval
038	15	Modern feature	Modern
039	15	Mid-grey brown silty-sand (same as 009)	Roman
040	15	Mottled yellow sand (natural, same as 024/025/027)	Geological
041	12	Fill of ditch 042	Roman
042	12	Ditch	Roman
043	12	Fill of pit 044	Roman
044	12	Pit	Roman
045	12	Demolition debris	Post-medieval
046	12	Charcoal/burnt clay horizon at the western end of the trench	Roman
047	12	Pit containing possible cremation burials	Roman
048	12	Fill of pit 047	Roman
049	12	Pit west of pit 047	Roman
050	12	Fill of pit 049	Roman
051		Not used	
052	12	Burnt clay layer at the western end of the trench (same as 046)	Roman
053	25	Fill of dump 054	Post-medieval
054	25	Dump	Post-medieval
055	12	Pit to the south of pit 049	Roman
056	12	Fill of pit 055	Roman
057	24	Cobble spread	Roman
058	24	Posthole containing burnt bone	Roman?
059	24	Fill of posthole 058	Roman?
060	19	Dark grey sand butting clay 022	Roman
061	19	Pit located along the southern part of the trench	Unattributed
062	19	Pit located along the southern part of the trench	Unattributed
063	19	Grey-brown gravel rich sand	Unattributed
064	24	Fill of ditch 065	Medieval/post-medieval?
065	24	Ditch at the western end of the trench	Medieval/post-medieval
066	24	Disturbed yellow/orange clay deposit	Possible Roman
067	24	Yellow clay horizon	Possible Roman

068	24	Pale grey sand	Unattributed
069	24	Clay spread east of ditch 065	Possible Roman
070	24	Burnt spread at the western end of the trench	Possible Roman
071	19	Cobble spread north of clay band 022 within the central part of the trench	Roman
072	13	Pit	Possible Roman
073	24	Spread of burnt clay beneath spread 070	Possible Roman
074	20	Fill of ditch 085	Late medieval/early post-medieval
075	20	Fill of ditch 084	Unattributed
076	20	Fill of ditch 083	Unattributed
077	20	Fill of pit 081	Unattributed
078	20	Posthole	Unattributed
079	21	Cut of linear feature; ditch	Unattributed
080	21	Fill of ditch 079	Unattributed
081	20	Pit relating to possible industrial activity	Possible Roman
082	20	Posthole	Unattributed
083	20	North-east/south-west-aligned ditch, enclosure?	Unattributed
084	20	North-west/south-east-aligned ditch, enclosure?	Unattributed
085	20	North-west/south-east-aligned linear feature; ditch	Late medieval/early post-medieval
086	20	Horseshoe-shaped drain	Nineteenth century
087	20	Mid-brown clay sand (same as 028/089)	Medieval
088	27	Drain	Eighteenth century
089	20	Mid-brown grey silt (same as 028/088)	Medieval
090	13	Fill of pit 072	Possible Roman
091	22	North-east/south-west aligned ditch, enclosure?	Unattributed
092	22	Fill of ditch 091	Unattributed
093	22	Pit east of ditch 091	Unattributed
094	23	Fill of ditch 096	Unattributed
095	23	Fill of ditch 097	Unattributed
096	23	North-west/south-east-aligned ditch, V-shaped	Possible Roman
097	23	North-west/south-east-aligned ditch, boundary?	Unattributed
098	17	Fill of ditch 099	Unattributed
099	17	North-west/south-east-aligned ditch, boundary?	Unattributed
100	1	Fill of 102	Unattributed
101	1	Brown-orange gravel levelling	Unattributed
102	1	Linear feature extending east/west across the western side of the trench	Unattributed

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY FINDS CATALOGUE

Pottery Catalogue

Trench	Context	Material	Count	Description	Period
8	021	Ceramic	1	One greyware fragment	RB
12	048	Ceramic	54	Three fragments cream/white jar with red barbotine dots; four fragments rusticated greyware; one greyware lid; one greyware bowl; one fragment BB1; 19 fragments undiagnostic greyware; 20 fragments orange oxidised ware; five fragments white oxidised fabric, very thin, possibly included eggshell ware beaker	First - early second century
12	048	Ceramic	4	Joining fragments of small Dr 29 decorated bowl. La Graufesenque	Mid-late first century
12	048	Ceramic	3	joining fragments of large sandy orangeware jar or flagon.	Late first century/
12	048	Ceramic	9	One fragment greyware lid; two small fragments rusticated ware; oxidised base; fragments of large sandy	Late first to early second century
12	048	Ceramic	20	Small fragments of amphora	First to third century
12	048	Ceramic	1	One fragment samian form Dr 18	First century
12	048	Ceramic	1	Small and abraded fragment colour-coated fabric - Rhine?	First century
12	048	Ceramic	12	Two fragments greyware lids; ten fragments of rusticated vessels, one small with a flaring rim	Late first to early second century
12	048	Ceramic	1	Fragment of amphora	First to third century
12	048	Ceramic	1	Greyware rim, narrow-necked jar	RB
12	052	Ceramic	2	One body fragment greyware; one body fragment rusticated ware	RB
12	056	Ceramic	1	One fragment oxidised fabric.	RB
1	009	Ceramic	1	Greyware jar rim	RB
2	004	Ceramic	37	Twenty joining fragments orange oxidised flagon with white slip; 17 fragments greyware jars	RB
2	004	Ceramic	13	Thirteen joining fragments orange oxidised flagon with white slip	RB
2	004	Ceramic	18	Joining fragments small cornice-rimmed greyware jar.	RB

2	008	Ceramic	1	Roofing sheet	Twentieth century
2	008	Ceramic	1	Small fragment white china.	Nineteenth century
3	011	Ceramic	1	Hook-rimmed mortarium, white/cream fabric with red grits.	First century?
3	011	Ceramic	1	Small fragment samian, form Dr 27	Late first - early second century
3	011	Ceramic	16	Four fragments BB1, including rim; two fragments greyware, ten fragments orange oxidised wares.	Early second century
3	015	Ceramic	7	Orange oxidised ware fragments.	RB
4	008	Ceramic	1	One small fragment slip-decorated ware.	Eighteenth century
4	008	Ceramic	4	Two small fragments greyware; two small fragments oxidised ware.	RB
4	009	Ceramic	9	Six joining fragments orange oxidised jar or flagon; one fragment greyware; two fragments orange oxidised ware.	RB
18	008	Ceramic	1	Hard-fired purplish blackware body	Late seventeenth - eighteenth century
8	009	Ceramic	7	Joining fragments of mortarium, coarse orange oxidised fabric with red and white trituration grits. Approx 50% of vessel.	First century?
8	009	Ceramic	1	One fragment orange oxidised ware	RB
8	009	Ceramic	1	One small abraded fragment samian, form Dr 37.	Late first to early second century
8	009	Ceramic	3	One base fragment rusticated greyware; one fragment greyware; one fragment oxidised orange ware	RB
8	009	Ceramic	9	Joining fragments mortarium with orange oxidised fabric and white and red trituration grits	First- early second century
8	021	Ceramic	1	One small fragment slip-decorated ware.	Late eighteenth century?
9	007	Ceramic	3	Two small fragments of white-glazed earthenware. One white kiln ware spacer	Nineteenth century
9	009	Ceramic	2	Two abraded fragments decorate samian ware, form Dr 37	Late first to early second

					century
9	009	Ceramic	3	Two fragmetns greyware; one fragment oxidised ware.	RB
10	028	Ceramic	1	Orange oxidised flagon neck.	RB
10	028	Ceramic	1	Undecorated samian, form unknown	Late first to early second century
11	008	Ceramic	5	Two hard-fired purplish blackware body fragments; one body fragment soft-fired black-glazed redware; base of stoneware bottle.	Late seventeenth - eighteenth century
11	008	Ceramic	3	One fragment greyware; two fragments oxidised orange ware	RB
11	028	Ceramic	1	One fragment amphora	RB
11	028	Ceramic	1	One small fragment samian.	Late first to early second century
11	031	Ceramic	1	One fragment samian, form not determined.	RB
11	031	Ceramic	1	One small fragment amphora	RB
11	031	Ceramic	10	Orange oxidised ware.	RB
11	033	Ceramic	3	Amphora neck	First to third century
12	041	Ceramic	1	Small fragment samian, form Dr 27	Late first - early second century
12	041	Ceramic	16	Two fragments greyware, one fragment small cornice-rimmed beaker; one fragment BB1, 12 fragments oxidised orange wares.	Late first - early second century
12	042	Ceramic	1	One fragment greyware	RB
12	050	Ceramic	20	Seven fragments rusticated greyware; 13 fragments coarse orange oxidised ware.	RB
12	050	Ceramic	3	One fragment oxidised orange flagon; one fragment rusticated greyware; one fragment cream oxidised rusticated ware.	RB
12	015	Ceramic	1	One fragment samian	RB
12	015	Ceramic		Two fragments oxidised ware.	RB
12	043	Ceramic	29	Greyware	RB
12	043	Ceramic	1	Amphora	First-third century
13	090	Ceramic	1	Fragment orange oxidised fabric with white slip, flagon.	RB
13	028	Ceramic	2	Small stem fragments	Post- medieval
13	028	Ceramic	1	Small fragment amphora	First- third

					century
13	028	Ceramic	1	Small fragment incompletely reduced green-glazed ware	Thirteenth-fourteenth century
13	028	Ceramic	1	Small fragment	Not dateable
13	028	Ceramic	2		RB
13	028	Ceramic	1	Small fragment slip-decorated ware	Eighteenth century
16	009	Ceramic	1	One fragment orange oxidised ware	RB
18	018	Ceramic	1	Amphora	First-third century
18	028	Ceramic	3	Small fragment Staffordshire slipware; small fragment late yellow-glazed ware; small fragment late stoneware.	Early eighteenth-nineteenth century
19	063	Ceramic	2	Two fragments samian, including form Dr15	Pre-Antonine
19	063	Ceramic	4	One fragment greyware; three fragments orange oxidised ware	RB
19	063	Ceramic	4	One small fragment underglaze transfer-printed white earthenware; one small fragment Staffordshire slip-decorated hollow-ware; small fragment Staffordshire slip-decorated plate; one small fragment black-glazed redware.	Late seventeenth-nineteenth century
19	065	Ceramic		One fragment orange mortarium	RB
19	028	Ceramic		Small fragment Staffordshire slip-decorated plate.	Early eighteenth century
20	074	Ceramic		One fragment manganese-speckled ware.	Late seventeenth-eighteenth century
20	074	Ceramic		One small rim fragment Midlands purple-type ware.	Fifteenth-seventeenth century
20	015	Ceramic		Dark reddish fabric, distinctive flattened rim Mortarium.	RB
24	045	Ceramic		Approximately 50%h blue and white underglaze transfer-printed white earthenware plate.	Nineteenth century
24	057	Ceramic		One fragment samian	RB
25	008	Ceramic		One small abraded body fragment fully reduced green-glazed ware	Fourteenth-sixteenth century
25	053	Ceramic		Complete profile, brown-glazed	Nineteenth

				pie dish; base, porcelain cup; almost complete ?bone china cup with blue and white underglaze transfer-printed design.	century
25	053	Ceramic		Blue and white porcelain dish.	Nineteenth century
25	053	Ceramic		Base fragment, cream fabric with dark slip and glaze; one rim fragment redware with white internal slip and self-glaze; one body fragment redware with	Late eighteenth to nineteenth century
26	009	Ceramic		Joining fragments of greyware jar	RB
27	053	Ceramic		One fragment black-glazed redware.	Nineteenth century
27	088	Ceramic		Two small fragments cream-bodied black-glazed ware with some slip decoration.	Eighteenth century?
27	009	Ceramic		Small abraded fragment.	RB

Other Finds Classes Catalogue

Trench	Context	Material	Count	Description	Period
8	009	Ceramic building material	2		RB
3	016	Ceramic building material	2	Tile	Post-medieval
3	011	Ceramic building material	6		RB
22	009	Ceramic building material	1	Tile	RB
4	009	Ceramic building material	1		RB
8	023	Ceramic building material	10	Fired clay	RB
25	028	Ceramic building material	8		Medieval?
23	094	Ceramic building material	1		Unknown
12	045	Ceramic building material	8	Daub	Post-medieval
20	009	Ceramic building material	2	Tile	RB
8	023	Ceramic building material	15		RB
12	041	Ceramic building material	3		RB
22	008	Ceramic building material	3	Drain	Twentieth century

		material			
24	009	Ceramic material	building	4	RB
8	023	Ceramic material	building	4	Daub RB
8	022	Ceramic material	building	3	Daub RB
2	006	Ceramic material	building	4	Roof tile Post-medieval
11	031	Ceramic material	building	3	Daub Medieval?
13	090	Ceramic material	building	2	Roman?
12	052	Ceramic material	building	1	RB
12	052	Ceramic material	building	5	RB
21	009	Ceramic material	building	1	RB
11	033	Ceramic material	building	1	Tile RB
11	028	Ceramic material	building	2	Medieval?
12	048	Ceramic material	building	4	RB
19	063	Ceramic material	building	8	Unknown
12	028	Ceramic material	building	5	Medieval?
21	009	Ceramic material	building	1	RB
12	009	Ceramic material	building	5	RB
19	028	Clay tobacco pipe		1	Stem and bowl Late seventeenth/early eighteenth century
14	008	Iron		1	Object Post medieval
8	023	Iron		1	Object RB
11	030	Animal bone		5	Teeth RB
3	009	Industrial residue		1	Fragment Roman?
18	008	Clay tobacco pipe		1	Stem Eighteenth/nineteenth century
19		Industrial residue		2	Unknown
27	054	Clay tobacco pipe		1	Bowl Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
20	074	Wood		2	Small fragments Medieval?

18	008	Wood	1	Small fragments	Post-medieval
26	008	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Stem	Late eighteenth/ nineteenth century
3	009	Iron	1	Nail	Roman
12	028	Industrial residue	1		Medieval?
2	008	Copper alloy	1	Spoon	Twentieth century
3	009	Lead	1	Folded fragment	Roman
11	031	Industrial residue	3		Medieval
25	028	Wood	1	Fragments	Medieval?
12	041	Stone	1	Fragment	Roman?
11	031	Wood	1	Charcoal	Unknown
14	009	Glass	1	Vessel-clear	RB
24	057	Iron	1	Nail	Roman
12	048	Animal bone	1	Burnt fragments	Roman
12	052	Animal bone	1		Roman

APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICALLY-STERILE TRENCHES

Trench	Archaeology	Finds	Deposits	Natural Geology
4	Modern drain	Roman; pottery, tile from 009 . Post-medieval pottery from 008	Grey sand (009). Dark brown humic topsoil (008)	Light grey sand (015) at 1.3m in depth
6	Modern drain	None	Grey sand (009), Dark brown humic topsoil (008) containing drain	Mottled pale grey sand (015) at 1.08m in depth
7	Three modern land drains	None	Grey sand (009), Dark brown humic topsoil (008)	Orange clay (001) at 1m in depth, diffused with light grey sand 015
9	Modern dump across the south-eastern end of the trench	None	Grey sand (009), accumulated up to 1m in thickness	Orange clay (001) at 1.3m in depth. Diffused with water-worn gravel and veins of blue clay
10	Modern land drain	Roman flagon and Samian pottery from 028	Mid grey-brown silty sand (028) sealing 001 .. Overlaid with dark grey clay silt topsoil (008)	Orange clay (001) at 0.7m deep in the northern end of the trench rising to 0.40m in the south
14	Two modern land drains, 19th century dump across the north-eastern end of the trench	Roman glass from 009	Grey sand (009) humic. Dark brown humic topsoil (008) at the southern end of the trench	Light grey sand (015) at 0.75m in depth
15	Large vertical sided cut (quarry 038) post medieval in date cutting sand 040 at the eastern end of the trench	None	Mid grey-brown sand (039) sealed with dark grey brown sandy silt (036)	Mottled brown-yellow sand (040) at 1m in depth
16	None	None	Grey sand 009 , sealed with dark grey brown sand (008)	Orange-yellow mottled sand (027) varying in depth between 0.41m to 0.86m
18	Two modern drains	Eighteenth-century	Grey sand 009	Light grey sand

		pottery and wood from soil 008	containing modern drains, sealed with dark brown topsoil (008)	(015) at 0.7m in depth
25	Dump comprising late nineteenth- and twentieth-century material 054	Medieval pottery and wood from 028 , nineteenth- and twentieth-century pottery (053) from dump 054	Mottled pale yellow sand/mid grey-brown sand (040), sealed by mid grey-brown sand plough soil (028), sealed by dark grey sandy silt topsoil (036)	Light grey sand (015) at 1.4m in depth
26	Dump containing nineteenth- and twentieth-century material, probably same as dump 054 in trench 25	Roman pottery from 009	Dark grey sand 009	Light grey sand (015) at 0.9m in depth
27	Drain of eighteenth-century date, modern dump as seen in trenches 25 and 26	Roman pottery from 009 , Eighteenth century pottery from drain 088	Dark grey sand 009	Light grey sand (015) at 1.1m in depth

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Figure 11: Study area, showing predicted zoning of archaeological potential

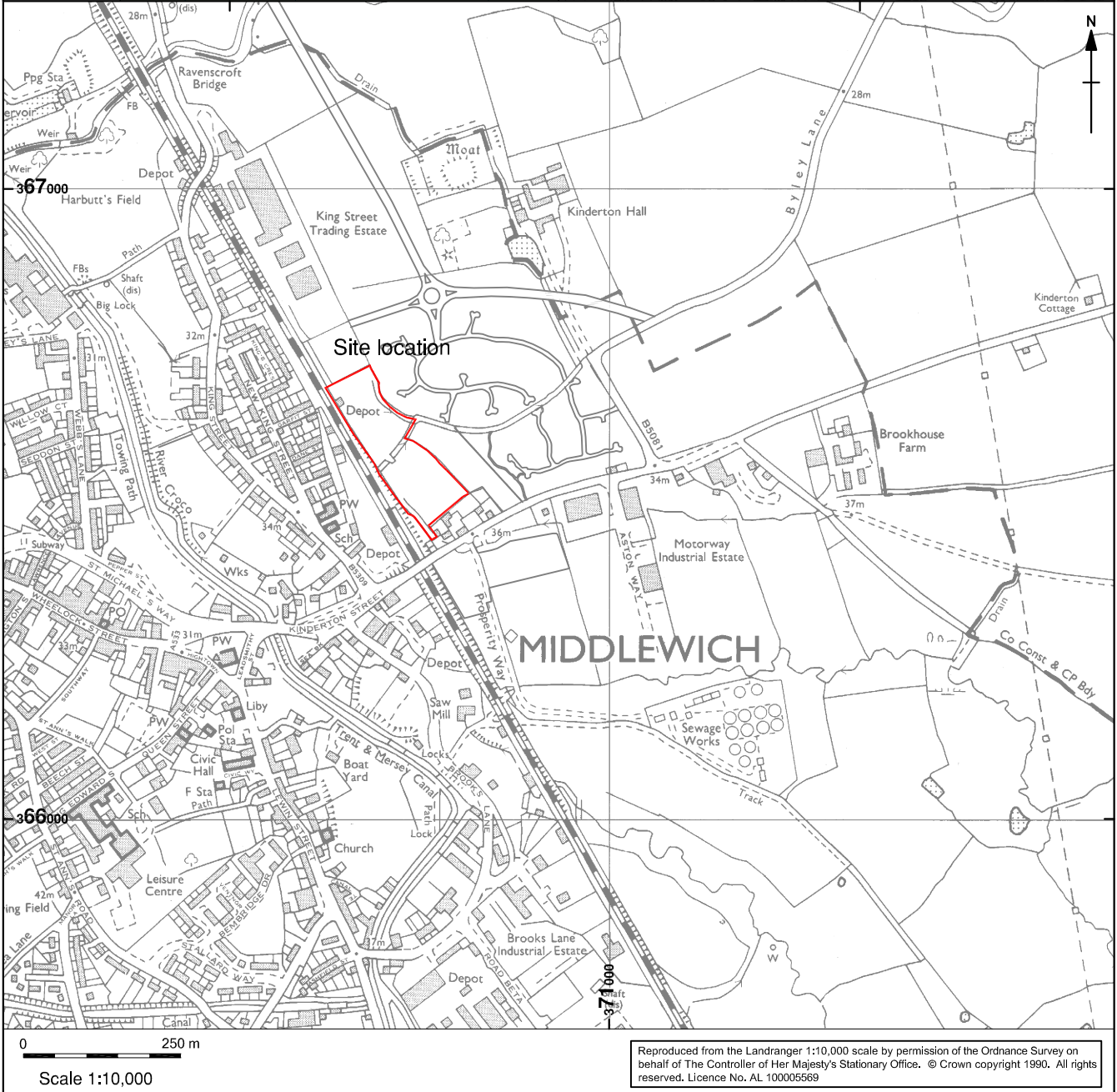
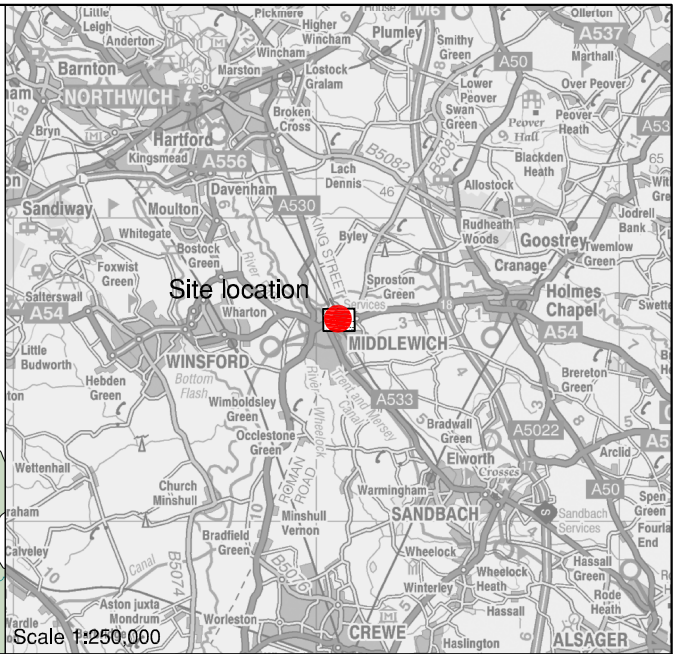


Figure 1: Site location



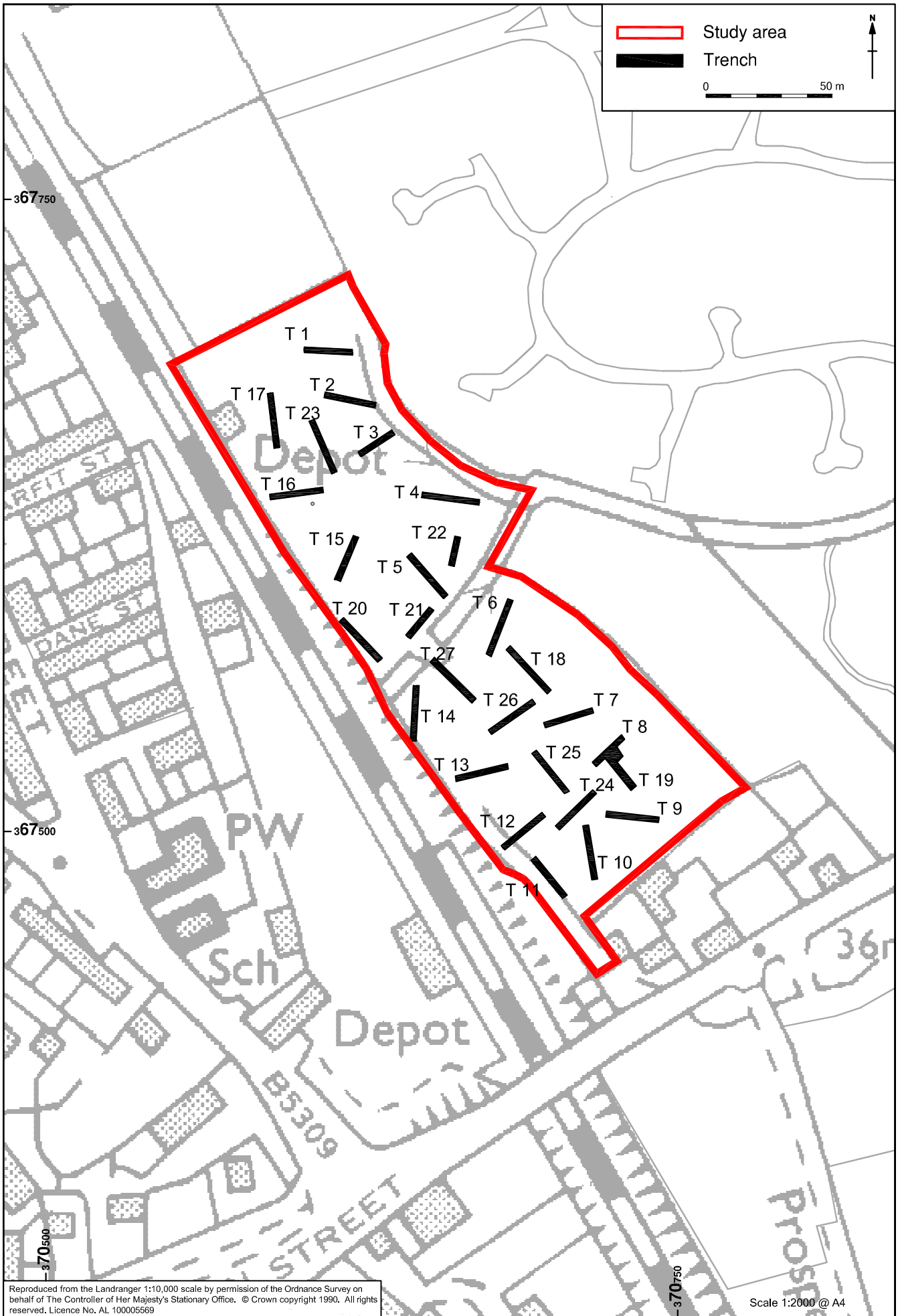


Figure 2: Trench location plan

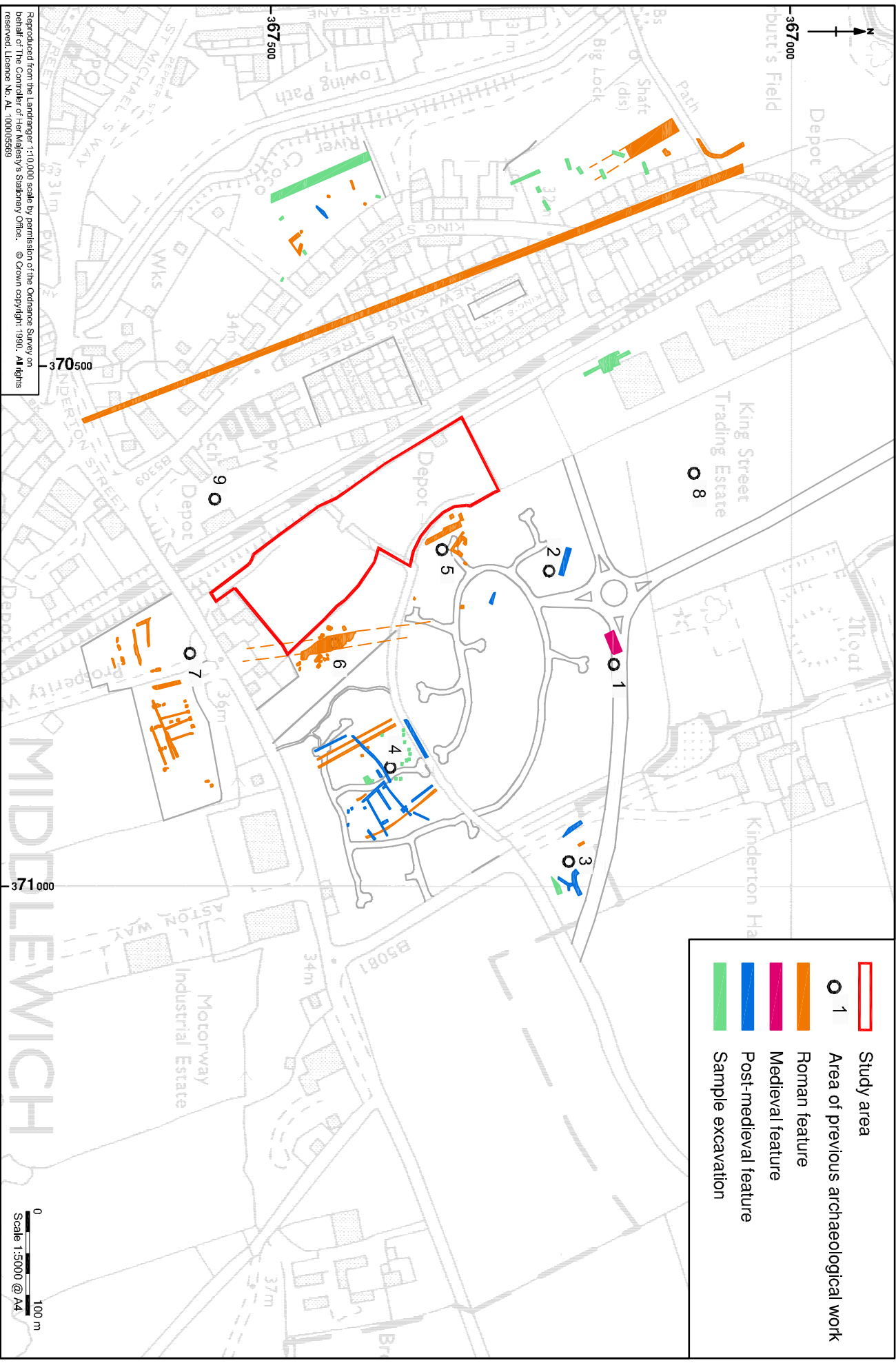


Figure 3: Plan showing areas of previous archaeological work

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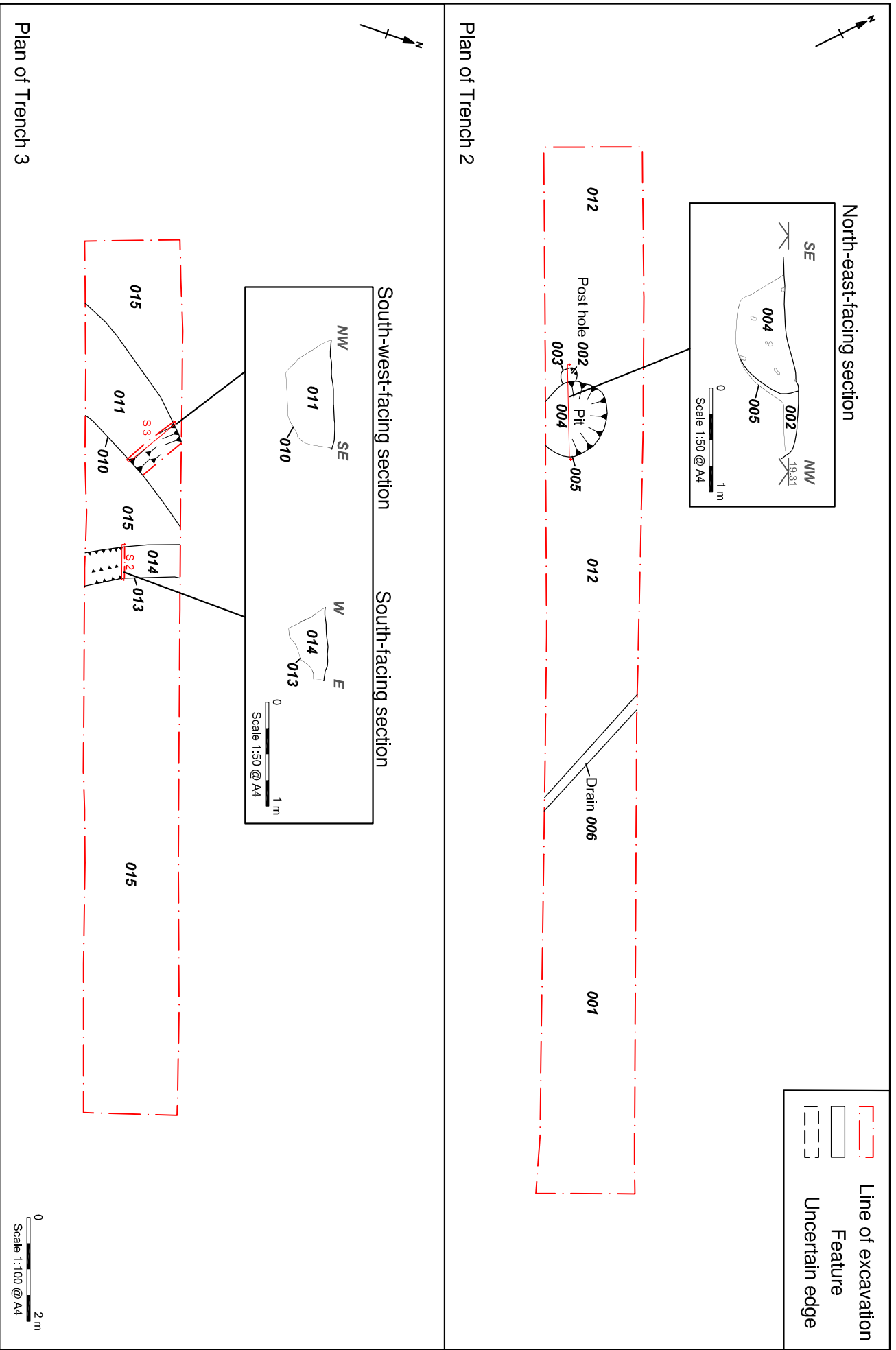


Figure 4: Plan and sections of Trenches 2 and 3

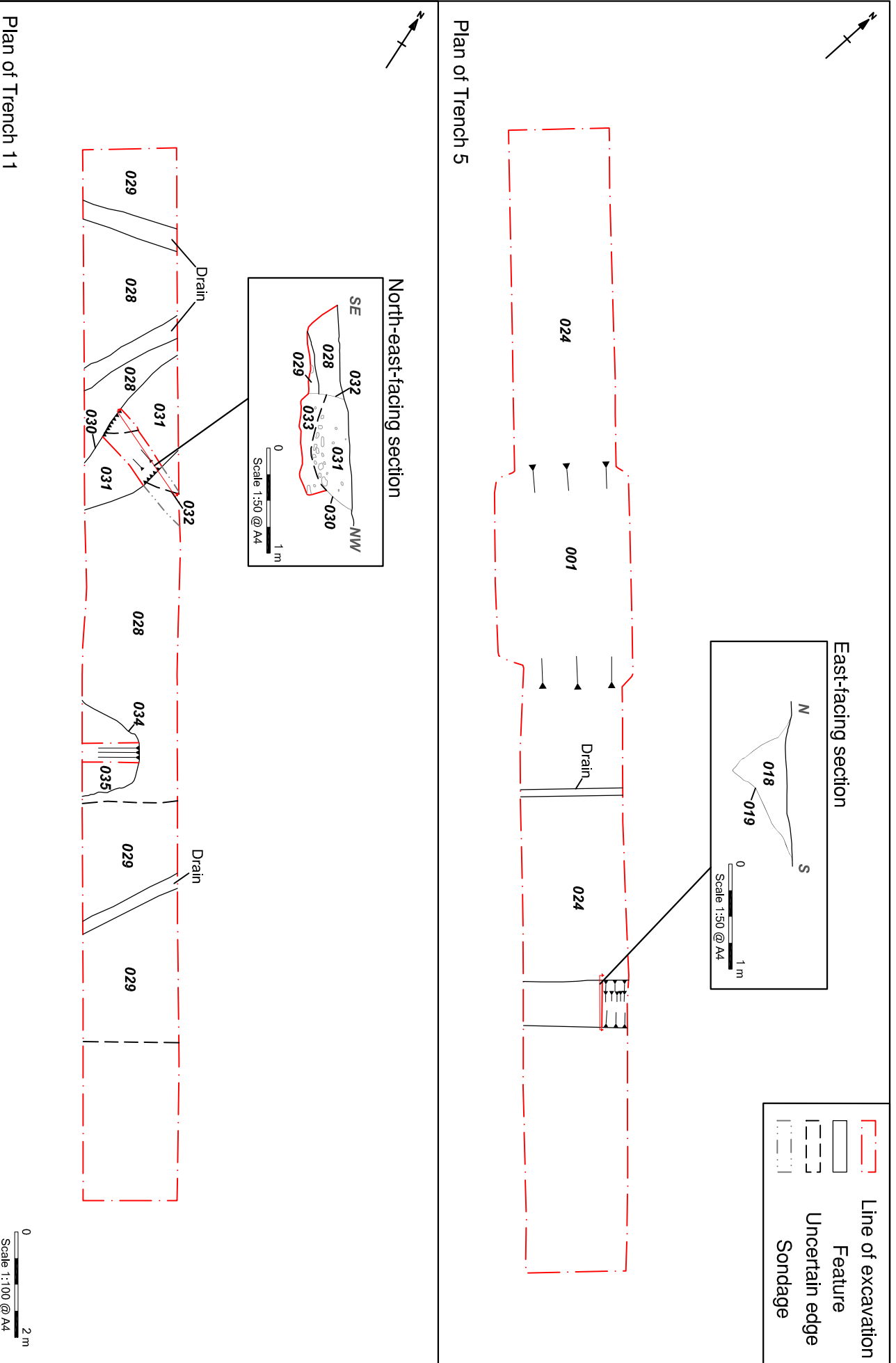
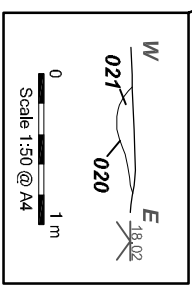
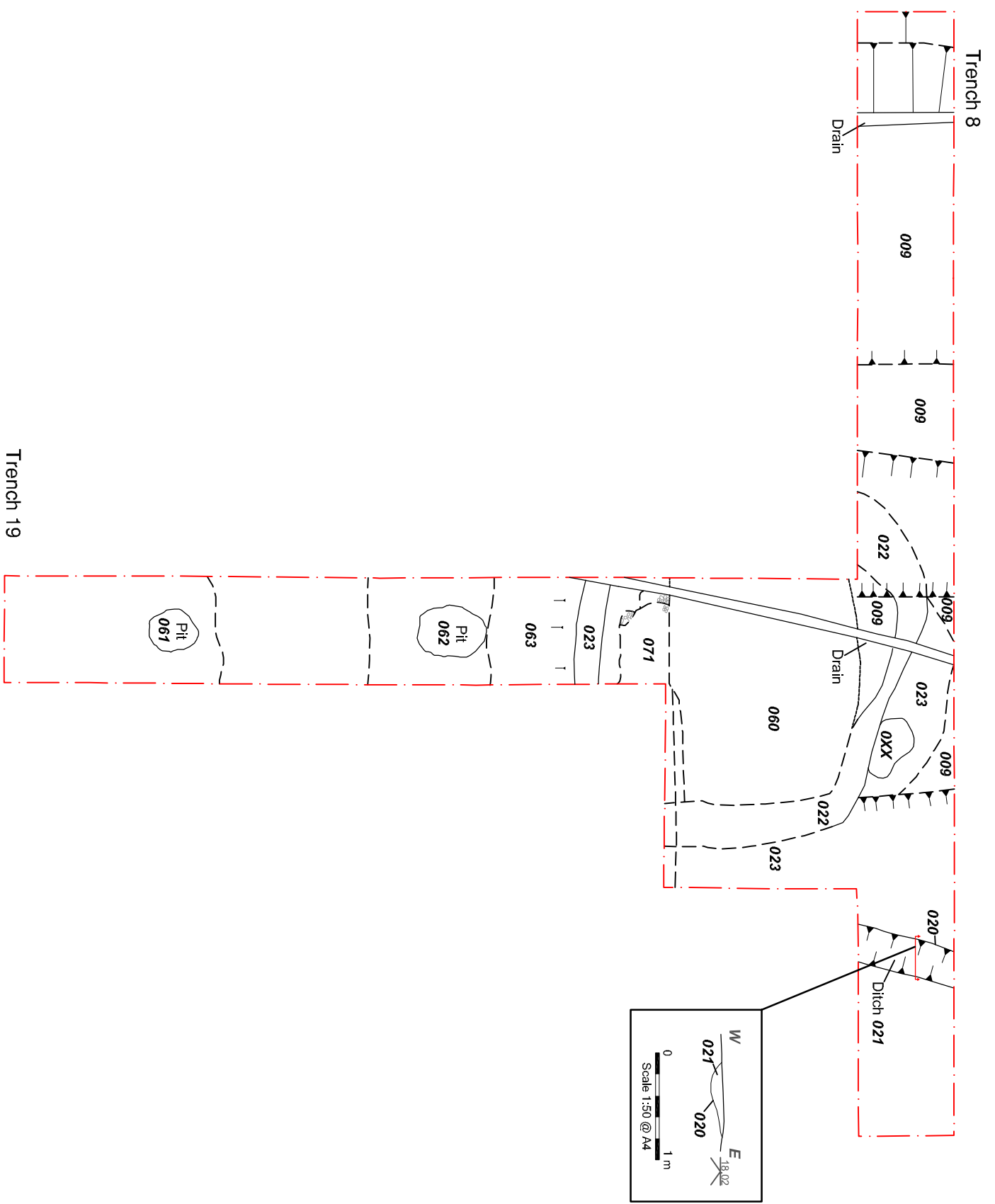


Figure 5: Plan and sections of Trenches 5 and 11



- Line of excavation
- Feature
- Uncertain edge
- Sondage
- Stone



Figure 6: Plan of Trenches 8 (with section) and 19



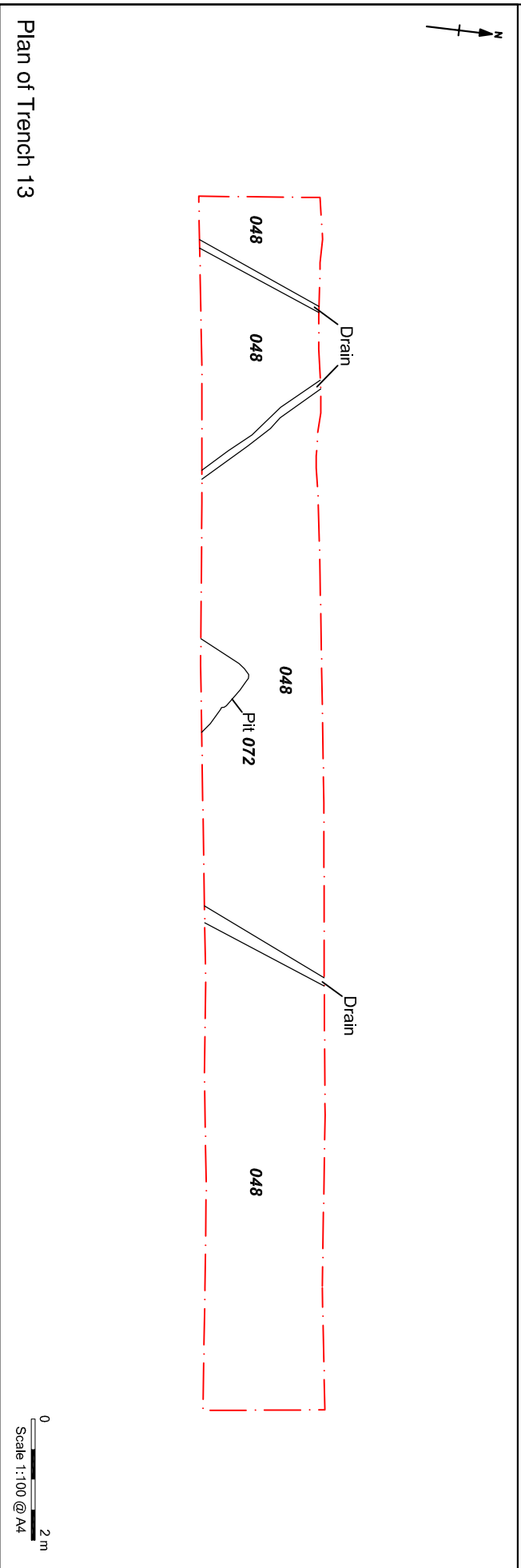
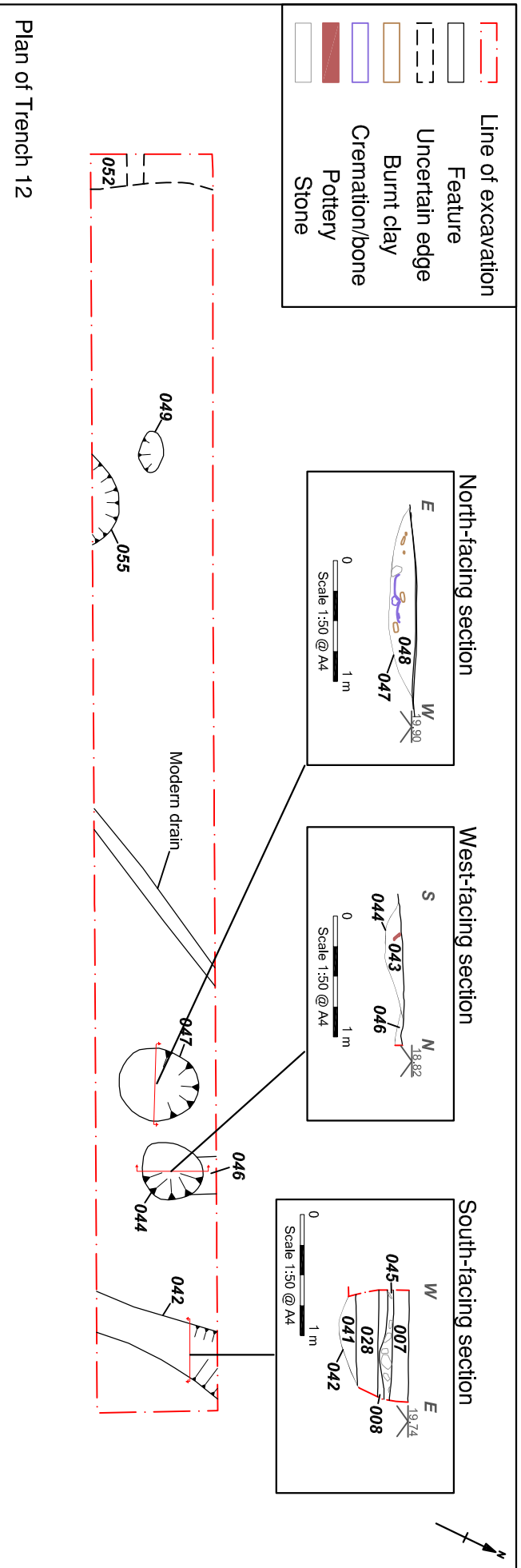
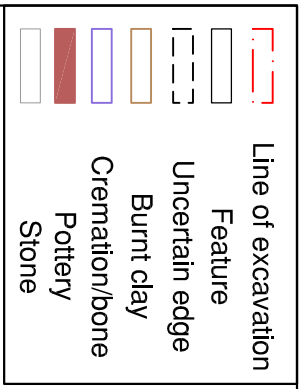
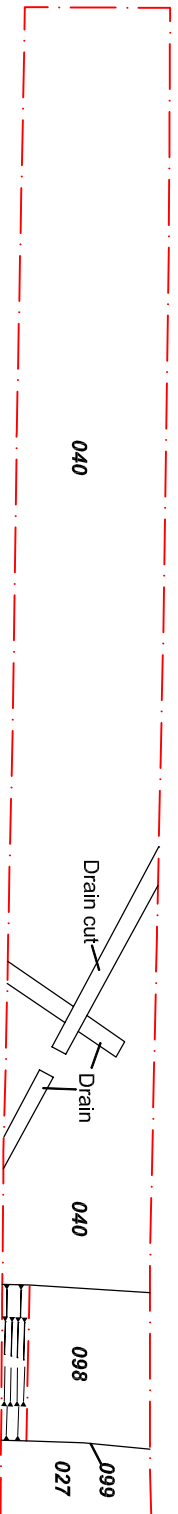
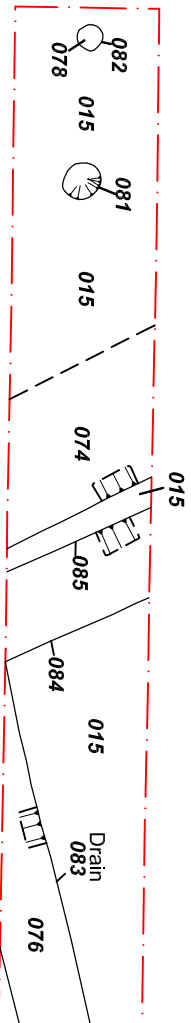


Figure 7: Plan of Trenches 12 (with sections) and 13



	Line of excavation
	Feature
	Uncertain edge

Plan of Trench 17



Plan of Trench 20

0 2 m
Scale 1:100 @ A4



Figure 8: Plan of Trenches 17 and 20

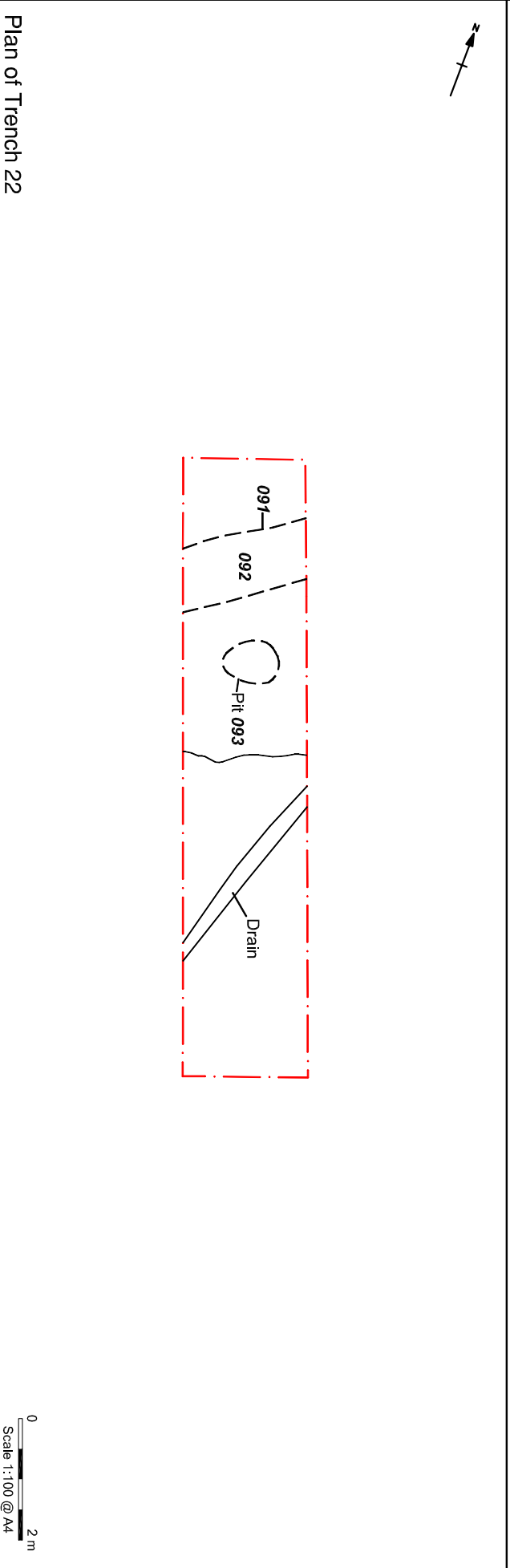
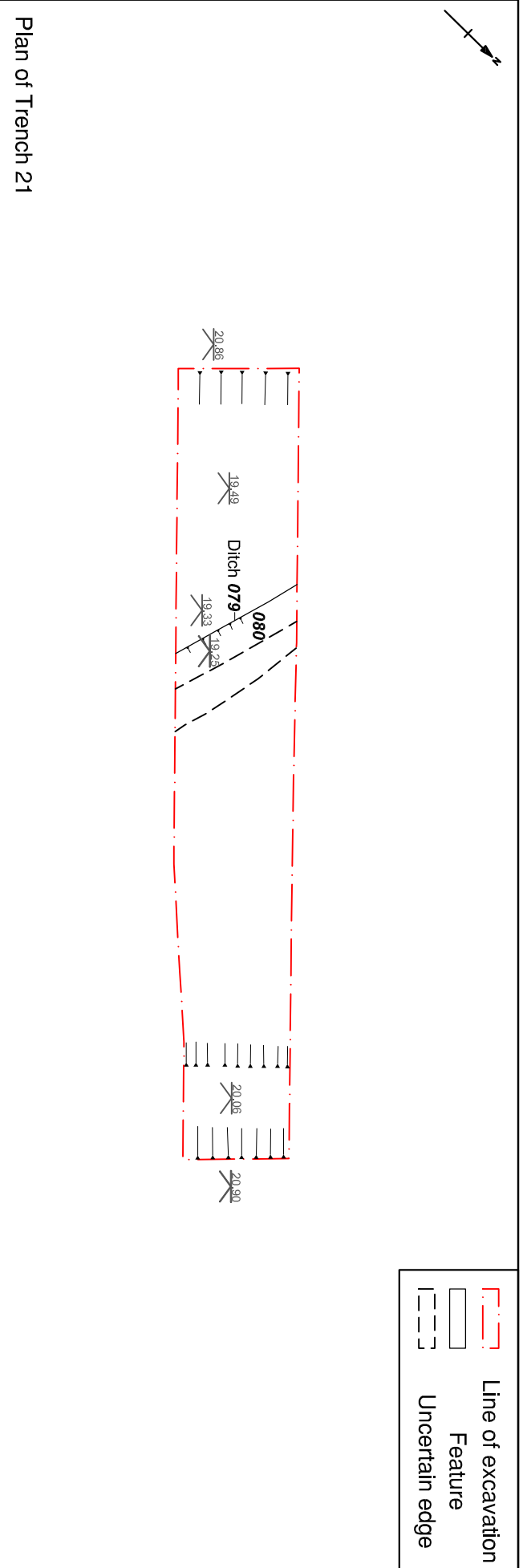


Figure 9: Plan of Trenches 21 and 22

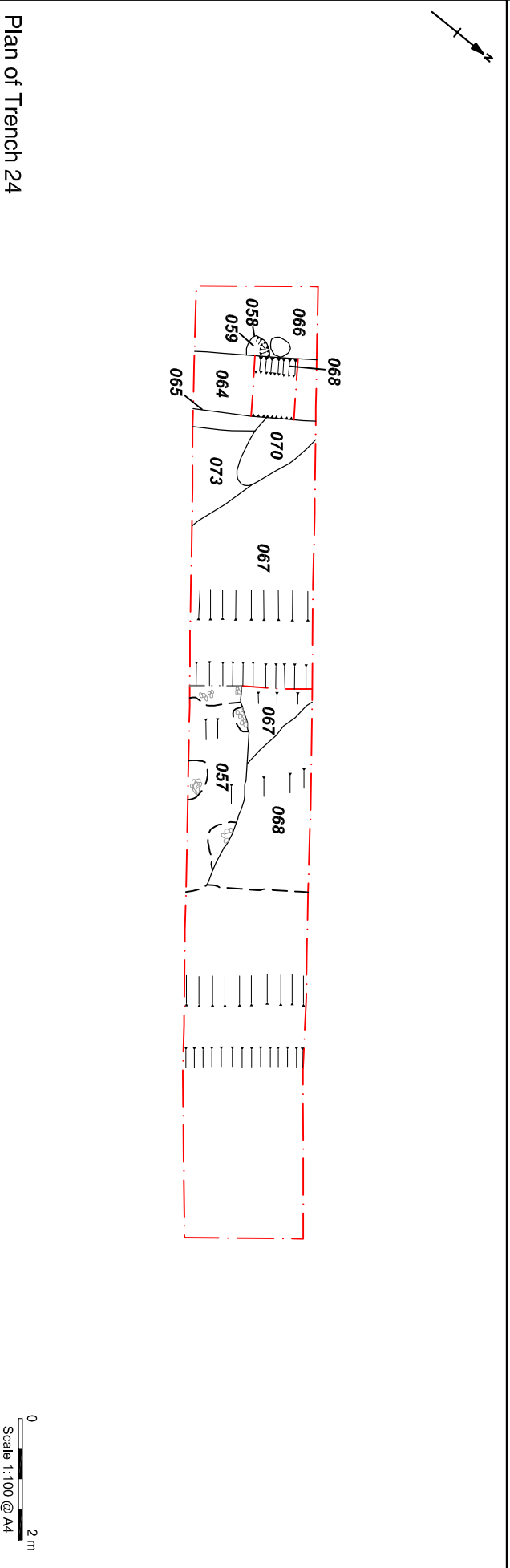
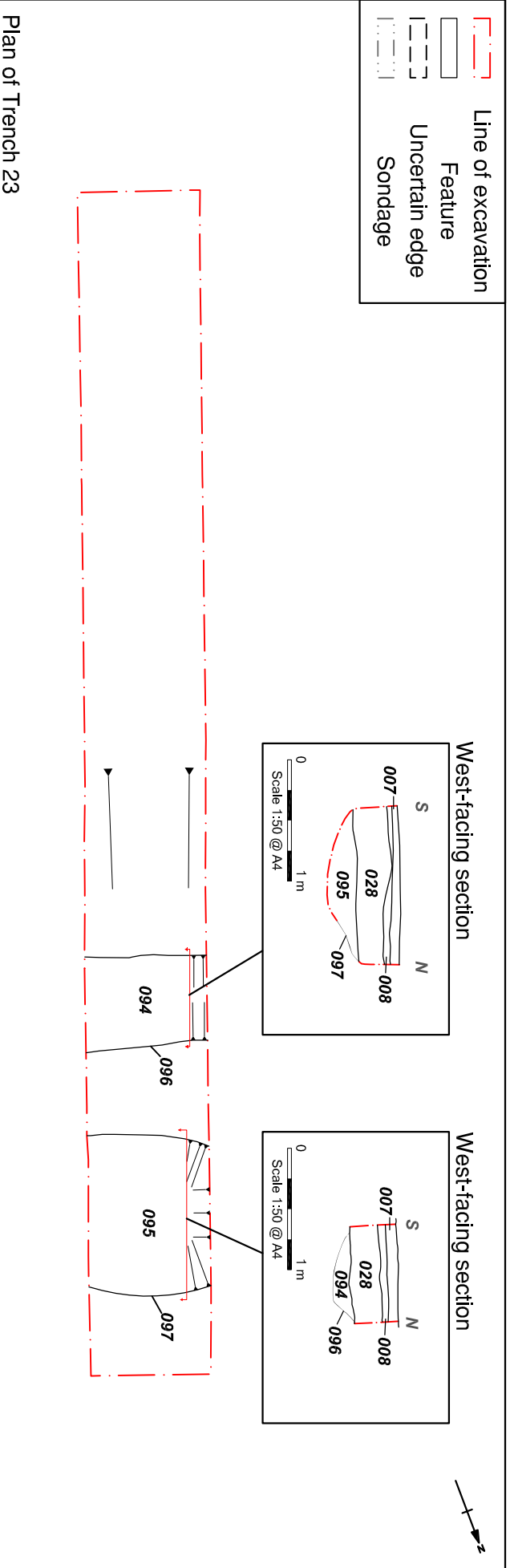
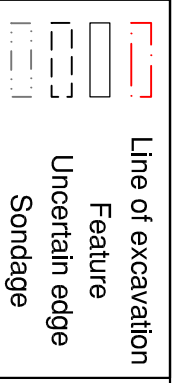


Figure 10: Plan of Trenches 23 (with sections) and 24

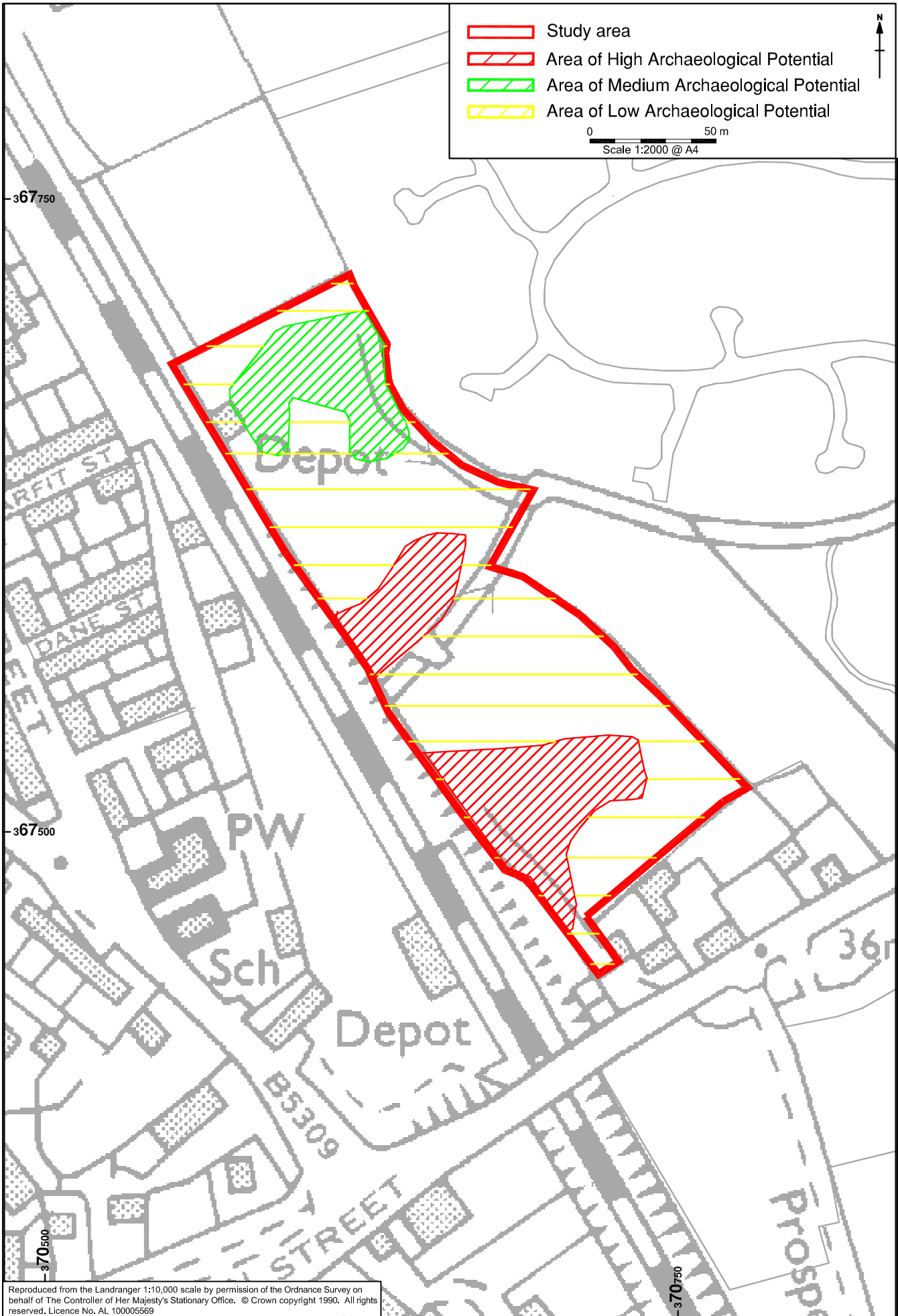


Figure 11: Study area, showing predicted zoning of archaeological potential