

Bicester MOD, Graven Hill, Bicester, Oxfordshire



Evaluation Report



April 2016

**Client: Graven Hill Village
Development Company Limited**

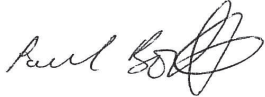
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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Graven Hill Village Development Company Ltd to undertake the evaluation of the Land Transfer Area 1 (LTA1) within the greater development boundary at Graven Hill. This comprised the excavation of 55 evaluation trenches measuring 50m by 4m. The scope and arrangement of the trenches was agreed between the client's consultant archaeologist, Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd, and the Planning Archaeologist for the Cherwell District. In the event two further trenches measuring 30m by 2m were added to the scope.

A variety of positive results were gained at five separate and distinct locations. These spanned the late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, indicating the varied potential of the site. The earliest significant find was a Neolithic polished flint axe fragment. This was recovered from a subsoil deposit within the western part of the evaluation area (Trench 3) although additional artefacts or features of this date were absent.

Late Iron Age activity was evidenced by a dispersed group of ditches and pits focused upon Trenches 21, 22 and 24. These remains appear to be moderately well preserved and entirely of pre Roman conquest origin. The related activity seems to be relatively sprawling with the features spread over a 100m long area around the lower slopes of Graven Hill. Further late Iron Age ditches were recorded to the north of Circular Road within Trenches 12 and 13.

Comparatively dense Roman remains were encountered within the northern part of the LTA1 adjacent to the current Rodney House building. Trenches 39-42 each produced a number of linear ditches, three of which produced moderate-large assemblages of pottery dated mid-late 2nd century. The relative sterility of several other ditches and the apparent phasing represented by intersections and recuts demonstrate a degree of longevity to the activity here. The ditch arrangements are suggestive of field boundaries or other small enclosures. It is possible that this activity or occupation may relate to a known building of some pretension beyond the LTA1 and development boundary to the WNW near to Langford Park Farm.

Further remains of likely Roman origin were investigated in the form of Akeman Street. This survives in the modern landscape as a hedge boundary aligned approximately east-west through the evaluation area. Historically the route of Akeman Street was defined by a double hedge line boundary enclosing a track. This route was investigated along its eastern extent within the evaluation boundary where the hedge lines had been removed, revealing a track or road surface constructed of limestone pieces set within a shallow terrace into the hill slope within Trenches 49, 58 and 59. No dating evidence was present although the absence of modern material suggests that the road surface was sealed by silting layers prior to the military occupation and use of the site.

Within the core of the LTA1 evaluation boundary Trenches 32 and 35 both produced evidence for medieval activity spanning the period 12th-14th century. It is unclear what the linear ditches represent in terms of activity or settlement, although the presence of domestic pottery and a buckle does suggest that some contemporary occupation may be located within the vicinity.



Numerous remains relating to the military camp were encountered. These were almost entirely represented by the destruction and demolition debris resulting from the clearance of the site as part of the reinstatement to pasture fields. These remains are not significant, although interesting pottery assemblages often depicting the date of manufacture within the war period were present. Notable assemblages were recovered from Trench 11.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The Graven Hill development boundary encompasses approximately 186 hectares (ha) in area, centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SP 58863 20834 (Fig. 1). The site is located 1.5 km to the south of the centre of Bicester and bounded by the Oxford to Bicester rail line to the west, by the A41 to the north and agricultural land to the east and south. The interior of the development boundary is subdivided into two main phases: Land Transfer Area 1 and Land Transfer Area 2 (LTA1 and LTA2). This evaluation specifically deals with the LTA1 which covers an area of approximately 94ha.
- 1.1.2 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Graven Hill Village Development Company Ltd to undertake the evaluation of LTA1 acting under the guidance and supervision of their archaeological consultant, Susana Parker of Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd. The scope of the evaluation was established within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Waterman and approved by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council covering the Cherwell District (Waterman 2015). The WSI outlines the calculations and basis for the evaluation scope with a 3% sample by area for areas not previously the subject of geophysical survey and a 2% sample by area of areas where pre determination geophysical survey had been completed. The calculations also took into account and excluded areas of non-intrusive development. Based upon these factors a trench layout was agreed comprising 55 trenches each measuring 50m by 4m. A further two small areas impacted upon by the construction of new pond habitats were added as strip, map and sample excavations undertaken at the same time as the evaluation (Fig. 2).
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork was completed by Oxford Archaeology between 7th September and 20th November 2015.

1.2 Geology and topography

Topography

- 1.2.1 The individual areas and fields each trench group were set within are described in detail in the Results section. These include reference to the land use and surface elevations at the time of the fieldwork.
- 1.2.2 Generally the LTA1 area covers a variety of elevations from the lowest point on land within the western boundary at 65m aOD to the highest point at 96m aOD upon the slopes of Graven Hill within the eastern boundary of the evaluation area. The majority of the LTA1 evaluation was set within existing pasture fields with some showing slight traces of former ridge and furrow, other areas with evidence of military camp construction-related disturbance, and two separate locations set within former sports playing fields that had clearly been levelled.

Geology

- 1.2.3 Superficial (drift) geology was absent from the results of a site investigation carried out prior to submission of the planning application and again from the results of the evaluation. The solid geology largely comprises clay from the Oxford Clay Formation with the Peterborough Member (mudstone) exposed across most of the site and part of the Stewartby Member exposed on the slopes of Graven Hill (British Geological Survey web data).



1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site history presented below is reproduced from the WSI (Waterman 2015) which summarises that set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) authored by Amec (2011a and b), and submitted with the planning application.

Prehistory

- 1.3.2 There are no recorded remains dating to this period within the development boundary, but evidence from the surrounding area shows that it was occupied during this period. There has been some suggestion in the past that the top of Graven Hill was the site of an Iron Age hill fort and that a linear earthwork, which is still visible within the Graven Hill Wood, formed part of the ramparts. However, these earthworks were investigated by the archaeological excavation of a number of trial trenches in 1999, with no clear evidence of Iron Age activity being recovered. There is no other known evidence for Iron Age activity within Graven Hill Wood and an alternative interpretation of the earthworks representing the remains of post-medieval lynchets of agricultural origin appears to be more likely.
- 1.3.3 Evidence of prehistoric settlement and activity within the 1km study area used for the baseline presented in the ES comes from a variety of sources, including those which have been recorded by excavation, sites identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, and as artefact finds.
- 1.3.4 Iron Age settlement sites have been identified at Chesterton Lane and Bicester Fields Farm. The Chesterton Lane site was investigated in advance of construction for dualling of the A41 (then the A421) and identified the presence of middle Iron Age gullies, postholes and sub-rectangular enclosures, all being indicative of settlement. An isolated Bronze Age burial was also identified. The Bicester Fields Farm site is north of Graven Hill and excavation identified an Iron Age enclosure of two phases, surrounded by other domestic features: pits, boundary ditches and both human and animal burials. A late Iron Age date was identified on the basis of the pottery assemblage, and other finds suggested an economy of pastoralism, with unusually large cattle and ironworking, indicating that the farmstead may have been of relatively high status. Evidence for earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic) activity was also identified.
- 1.3.5 Cropmark evidence from aerial photography includes two possible round barrows of probably Bronze Age date to the north-west of the site which are visible as ring ditches. In addition, a banjo type enclosure, three hut circles and a number of sinuous ditches have been identified on aerial photographs to the immediate south-west of the Alchester Roman town. These have been interpreted as possible evidence for pre-Roman settlement within this area. Further evidence recorded in the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) has been found in the form of artefacts, including a Bronze Age palstave found in the vicinity of Alchester Roman Town and a Bronze Age spearhead from south of Graven Hill. There are also a number of finds of late Iron Age pottery recorded in the HER.

Romano-British

- 1.3.6 The principal settlement site of Roman date within the area is the town of Alchester, a Scheduled Monument. Together with the associated Roman roads, one of which crosses the site, Alchester defines the Roman settlement pattern in the immediate surrounds of the site. Other areas of Roman settlement were also present, including a site which has been excavated at London Road in Bicester. This was within an area of raised ground between two palaeo-channels, and comprised a large number of ditches, pits and postholes. The excavation presented a picture of settlement within an area



which was generally wet and marshy. Another Roman period settlement site has been excavated to the north of Graven Hill at Oxford Road. Evaluation revealed extensive survival of late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement within the floodplain of Langford Brook. All identified features were preserved under post-Roman alluvium, and appeared to represent two phases of occupation. The first of these phases was dated to the first century AD, and the second to the second century AD. It was interpreted as a low status rural site typical of Upper Thames region for the period, at a time when increasing agricultural intensification required use of previously marginal land.

- 1.3.7 A feature of interest in the early editions of OS mapping is the course of Langford Lane which ran within the Graven Hill site boundary. From its current location at Alchester, the lane continued toward Merton, remaining outside of the site boundary. The other branch continued to the east, following a line on the north side of Graven Hill, within the site boundary, joining the line of Akeman Street at Wretchwick Farm. Given its location, it is possible that this may be a survival of the original Roman road which led east from Alchester to link with Akeman Street and it is marked as such on early editions of the OS map. This route appears to have survived the initial construction of the Graven Hill ordnance depot as it can be seen on aerial photographs of 1945 as a double line of trees. There is also a significant body of evidence of Roman occupation documented in the Oxfordshire HER in the form of numerous artefact finds, many of which have been within and around the Alchester site or along the known routes of Roman roads.

Medieval

- 1.3.8 There is relatively little known of the early medieval settlement within the area. Bicester appears to have been established as a Saxon settlement in the sixth century and was named as Burencestre in the Domesday Book. The name has been described as either meaning 'fort of Bern' with 'Bern' being derived from the personal name for Beorna, or alternatively being derived from two separate elements – 'byrgen' meaning burial mound, and 'ceaster' meaning Roman fort. The earliest excavated evidence for settlement within the town is from a site to the rear of the King's Arms, which lies to the north of Graven Hill. Excavated remains included pits, gullies and evidence for a number of sunken-feature buildings, which may represent former houses. The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1885 includes the note 'site of battle between the Danes and Saxons in 871 AD' within Graven Hill Wood. However, there is no other known reference to an early medieval battle at this location and it is not clear on what this is based. Without further evidence, this record should be treated with caution.
- 1.3.9 The first edition OS also indicates the boundary between the parishes of Ambrosden and Merton cutting across Graven Hill Wood. The division into two halves may be significant since they are divided by a dry ditch starting at the northern 300' contour and rising with the landscape to about 370' and down again to the southern 300' contour. The two halves of woodland are approximately 53.333 acres each. It may be that the woodland was equally divided between the parishes of Ambrosden and Merton (Oxfordshire HER ref. 13593).
- 1.3.10 Ambrosden formed the principal medieval settlement within its parish, though other settlements are also known, such as the one at Arncott. During the medieval period, much of the land around Graven Hill appears to have been in arable use, and the Victoria County History records that the agricultural land of Ambrosden village was organised around three main fields known by the seventeenth century as East, South and West Fields. The extent of arable cultivation is indicated on aerial photographs of the 1940s which show ridge and furrow earthworks (derived from medieval and post-medieval ploughing) on much of the land surrounding the hill, including some of the



lower slopes. In addition to the surviving settlements of medieval origin, there was also a medieval settlement at Wretchwick, to the north of Graven Hill, and possibly extending into its lower slopes. Wretchwick, now a Scheduled Monument, was in the possession of Bicester Priory, before being depopulated by the priory to make way for sheep grazing.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.11 The site is shown in detail on a series of OS maps dating from 1880 onwards. In 1880, the Graven Hill site is shown comprising a series of enclosed fields arranged around Graven Hill Wood. A single farmstead was present within the site boundary in 1880, located on the southern edge of Graven Hill Wood, and known as Mount Pleasant. A building is shown on this location on the aerial photographs of 1944-45 and it is possible that Mount Pleasant survived until the development of St David's Barracks in the 1950s.

Twentieth Century

- 1.3.12 The major development of the twentieth century, which has shaped the current form of the site, was the establishment of the Central Ordnance Depot I 1941 during World War Two (WWII). The Bicester site was chosen as being suitable as it was located within southern England, with good road and rail links, and with sufficient space for the creation of a dispersed complex required for protection against air attack. It was also felt that the presence of Graven Hill would provide some additional protection in this regard. The depot was to spread over a wide area, occupying a number of sites from Graven Hill in the north to Arncott and Piddington in the south, collectively known as MOD Bicester.
- 1.3.13 The selection of MOD Bicester was approved in May 1941 and construction began soon after. Initial construction involved the laying of a 42 mile military rail network within and linking the various sites, followed by construction of the warehouse buildings. Graven Hill comprised D Site (armaments stores) to the south and E Site (small arms) to the north. Stores began to be issued from the MOD Bicester depot in August 1942, and it remained a key supply point for the army for the remainder of the war.
- 1.3.14 The entry of the United States into the war led to the arrival of large numbers of American troops into Britain, and it was necessary to provide depot facilities for their equipment. This operation was codenamed Bolero and at Bicester it involved the construction of temporary warehousing in the form of groups of Romney huts served by rail spurs and roads. The completed depot at MOD Bicester served as a key facility in supplying equipment for the Normandy landings in June 1944 and the subsequent European campaign. It was also necessary to provide accommodation within the depot for a workforce which during construction reached 24,000, and this was provided by Nissen huts organised into nine self-contained camps. Three of these, Camp nos 5, 6 and 7 were located on the slopes around Graven Hill Wood. This is depicted in the earliest aerial photography available for the site. In 1944 much of the agricultural land surrounding the depot was occupied by ridge and furrow and areas of ridge and furrow also survived within the depot. Changes visible on aerial photographs within the Graven Hill site are:
- Construction of St David's Barracks by 1954;
 - Hutted accommodation north of Graven Hill Wood had been removed by 1959;
 - More of the hutted accommodation had been removed by 1966 and trees within Graven Hill Wood had been felled;
 - Only a small number of accommodation huts were still present by 1975. Graven



Hill Wood had been replanted and no ridge and furrow earthworks are shown to survive within the site; and

- All accommodation huts had been removed by 1989.

- 1.3.15 In addition, the sequence of aerial photographs shows the gradual removal by ploughing of ridge and furrow from the surrounding agricultural land, and this was largely absent by 1975. MOD Bicester continued to operate as a Central Ordnance Depot in the postwar period, though the military workforce was gradually replaced by an increasing number of civilian workers. This resulted in a need for civilian workers to move into the area and for some new housing to be built in Bicester to accommodate them. The temporary hutted accommodation camps were gradually removed and in 1956 new barracks had been completed to the west of Graven Hill Wood on the current St David's Barracks site. Other changes include the removal of the Bolero warehouses in the period after WWII.
- 1.3.16 In 2006, two trial trenches were excavated within a former tennis court at St David's Barracks in advance of the construction of an accommodation block, though no archaeological features were identified.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The principal evaluation aims as outlined within the WSI were to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by invasive development as defined within the agreed scope of this evaluation.
- 2.1.2 It was also the aim of the evaluation to gather and present this evidence to inform the basis of proposals for appropriate mitigation measures that may seek to limit the damage to significant archaeological deposits, and define any research priorities that may be relevant should further investigation be required.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Due to the presence of livestock within much of the evaluation area a rolling programme of access between areas was agreed between the tenant farmer and the consultant archaeologist in combination with OA's Field Supervisor. Immediately prior to starting excavation within each field, the trench layout was established using GPS equipment by an OA surveyor according to the trench plan as agreed within the WSI and subsequent layout revisions issued to and approved by the planning archaeologist for OCC. Minor alterations to trench locations were also made in the field where potential service conflicts were noted. More substantial changes to the trench arrangement were made within the eastern part of the site where it was possible to investigate the projected line of Akeman Street. Additional trenches were also excavated here to identify and confirm the presence of the road. Figure 2 presents the final trench layout. It should also be noted that Trench 44 was not accessible or excavated as this was placed within an area of standing woodland.
- 2.2.2 Following survey of the trench locations within an area/field, each trench was machine excavated under the supervision of OA's Field Supervisor to the first significant archaeological horizon or the surface of the geological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Where significant 20th century activity relating to the military camp was encountered, this was noted and machine excavated to reveal potential underlying features and/or deposits. Once archaeological deposits or those with the potential to contain artefacts were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand with the appropriate additional use of machine excavation. The excavation and recording of archaeological features was undertaken following established OA practices in line with ClfA and OCC standards.
- 2.2.3 Due to the limitations of moving between pasture fields, once an area or group of trenches had been excavated and recorded, approval was sought from OCC to confirm the completion of reasonable excavation prior to the backfill of the trenches. With the exception of Trenches 11-14 that were backfilled prior to informing OCC of the results, this was possible either through site visits or by forwarding digital images of trenches where no archaeology was encountered. Regular site meetings were also arranged between the Planning Archaeologist, Consultant Archaeologist and OA Field Supervisor and Senior Project Manager to review the ongoing results and confirm that the fieldwork was meeting the aims of the investigation.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The following section presents the results by area. The areas are not necessarily defined by the existing field boundaries but rather by a mixture of the physical topography and the grouping of trenches to reflect the range of archaeological remains encountered.
- 3.1.2 Where entirely negative results were recorded, these trenches are not described in full in this section. Detailed descriptions for these are presented in the Appendix A Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory. Similarly, general soil sequences such as topsoil, subsoil and geological variations are only referenced in the area introductions below and not by trench unless pertinent to the archaeological feature or deposit descriptions.

3.2 'Demonstrator Project' field Trenches 1-10 and Ponds A and B

- 3.2.1 The 'Demonstrator Project' field is located within the western boundary of the development to the south of Langford Park Farm buildings (Figs 2 & 3). This land has some of the lowest topographical elevations within the development, between 65m aOD towards the southern end of the field and 67m aOD within the NE corner by Trench 6. Although there is a 2m height difference, this field appears relatively flat and has a large linear drainage ditch aligned NE-SW along the centre of it draining away from the boundary surrounding the adjacent farm buildings.
- 3.2.2 Ten evaluation trenches along with strip, map and sample excavation for the Pond A and B impacts were undertaken within this area. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered within Ponds A and B and Trenches 1, 6, 7, 10. These trench descriptions are presented in Appendix A only.
- 3.2.3 Trenches 2, 3 and 4 each revealed part of a continuous ditch that was previously identified by a geophysical survey of the area undertaken to inform the ES. These trenches and the ditch are described as a group along with the other features encountered within these. Several features of possible natural origin were also excavated and recorded in Trenches 5 and 8 along with historic and recent ditch features in Trenches 5 and 9.
- 3.2.4 The underlying geology across this area was clay deriving from the Peterborough Member (Mudstone). This appeared as an orange brown silty clay at surface level. This was overlain by a subsoil horizon of slightly browner colour and a more silty texture than the underlying geology. The topsoil comprised a dark reddish brown humic silt clay with overgrown pasture at the time of the fieldwork (Plate 1).

Trenches 2, 3 and 4

- 3.2.5 Several features of probable natural origin were recorded cut into the clay geology in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 (Fig. 4). These comprised shallow features with irregular profiles and plan outlines (unnumbered in Trench 2, 3005, 4005). Each was less than 0.2m deep and contained a single sterile deposit of grey/brown silty clay. These features seem likely to represent the remains of treeholes.
- 3.2.6 A narrow and shallow linear ditch (2005) aligned NNE-SSW was recorded within the eastern end of Trench 2 cut into the clay geology. This was less than 0.2m deep and had a rounded profile infilled with a sterile grey/brown fill. This ditch was not present within Trench 3 approximately 35m to the north. The fills of each natural feature and ditch 2005 were apparently sealed by the subsoil layer within this area. Interestingly, a



near half fragment of a Neolithic polished flint axe (sharpened end) was recovered from the subsoil (3001) within Trench 3 (Plate 2). Despite close inspection, no related feature or deposit was visible.

- 3.2.7 A single linear ditch (2003, 3003, 4003) aligned NE-SW with a V-shaped profile was recorded across Trenches 2, 3 and 4 (Fig. 4). This ditch was clearly cut into the subsoil horizon to a maximum depth of 0.42m and width of 1.28m (Plate 3) and was infilled with a single silting deposit. Artefacts were absent with the exception of 8 sherds of Roman pottery recovered from fill 4004 (Ditch 4003). This small assemblage comprised sherds in two fabrics including several from a single samian ware vessel (probably of form Dragendorff 38) suggesting a 2nd-3rd century date.
- 3.2.8 A further ditch (2007) aligned NW-SE and perpendicular to 2003/3003/4003 was recorded in Trench 2. This was similarly cut into the subsoil horizon and infilled with a single silting deposit that had the same colour, appearance and texture as that infilling the adjacent ditch. Ditch 2007 only survived to a depth of 0.03m and no artefacts were present within the exposed fill and excavated part. The subsoil and the fills of the two ditches cut into the subsoil were sealed by the reddish brown topsoil and turf. Within the SE end of Trench 4 a localised layer of small worn limestone pieces (4007) apparently forming a surface was also present between the subsoil and topsoil layers (Plate 3). The date and function of this deposit was not established, although its proximity to an existing access route between fields suggests that it may be post-medieval or modern and a result of laying hard-standing in a low lying field that becomes easily sodden during wet periods.

Trenches 5, 8 and 9

- 3.2.9 Probable treeholes (5003, 8003) of similar appearance to those recorded in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were also recorded in Trenches 5 and 8. These were unremarkable apart from the occurrence of a single sherd of possible prehistoric pottery and several small fragments of animal bone from deposit 5002 forming the fill of 5003.
- 3.2.10 The ditches (5006 and 9003) recorded in Trenches 5 and 9 were both visible as shallow earthworks within the existing field topography, each with V-shaped profiles measuring 1.2-1.4m wide and 0.35-0.5m deep (Plate 4). Both contained single sterile silting fills sealed by the existing topsoil and turf, suggesting that they had existed as relatively stable earthwork features for some time.

3.3 Trenches 11-14

- 3.3.1 Wartime constructions surround Trenches 11-14 to the north, west and east in the form of buildings E1, E2 and E3, and to the south with the former parade ground (Figs 2 and 5). The existing field topography is very undulating and uneven with elevations between 70.5m-73m aOD, with clear evidence of made or raised ground being present around the existing structures that bordered the field prior to the excavation of the evaluation trenches.
- 3.3.2 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered within Trenches 11 and 14 and only relatively shallow and sparse features were present in Trenches 12 and 13. Similar general soil sequences were present in each of the trenches and these are described separately from the archaeological features below.
- 3.3.3 It should be noted that these trenches were excavated during poor weather conditions with persistent heavy rain hampering the excavation and recording of the features and limiting the extent of the excavations due to flooding. Nonetheless, representative results were obtained from these trenches and features.



Ditches present in Trenches 12 and 13

- 3.3.4 A total of five shallow linear ditches (1203, 1205, 1305, 1307 and 1312) were encountered in Trenches 12 and 13. In all cases these were cut directly into the stiff orange brown clay geology (Fig. 5). The ditches had reasonably similar profiles and dimensions being flat-bottomed with sloped sides, 0.2-0.3m deep and 0.6-0.8m wide. Similarly, each was infilled with a single fill deriving from silting, with a greyish brown appearance. The ditch fills were sealed by a subsoil horizon (1201, 1303). A relationship between ditches 1203 and 1205 also hints at a degree of phasing with 1203 being a later cut. Each ditch had a different alignment, although these were not so wildly arranged as to suggest that they could not have formed part of a contemporary landscape.
- 3.3.5 A small and very abraded assemblage of pottery (7 sherds, 4g) was recovered from ditches 1203 and 1205. The fabric suggests a middle-late Iron Age origin for the pottery although the size and very abraded condition leaves some doubt as to the actual date of origin of the ditches.

Prewar and military phase soil sequences

- 3.3.6 Subsoil deposits (11002, 1201, 1303, 1402) were recorded overlying the clay geology and archaeological features throughout Trenches 11-14. A series of extant undulating ridges and furrows were recognisable within the trench sections and, at Trench 14, partly at surface level. The furrows were cut into the subsoil horizon to a depth of 0.3m and the furrow fills were sealed by a buried former topsoil and turf horizons. At Trench 14 this formed the existing topsoil and turf level before the redeposited clay layers also sealed this horizon. Within Trenches 11 and 12 the former turf line was also truncated by pairs of wheel ruts. These were vertical sided and flat-based with redeposited clay infills clearly indicating their origin.
- 3.3.7 Within Trench 11 the deposits sealing the former turf line (11004) comprised redeposited clay (11003) towards the northern end of the trench derived from the surrounding cuttings (Plate 5). Overlying this across much of the trench was a thin layer of black silty clay (11001) that included much ash debris and appears to be the burnt remains of wooden structures or possibly bonfire debris from the postwar demolition of the military huts. Examples of military ceramic wares were recovered from these layers.
- 3.3.8 The deepest deposits of redeposited clay were present sealing the former ridge and furrow topography across Trenches 12 and 13. Here natural clay (1211, 1301) had been redeposited directly onto the former turf line to depths of 1m (Plate 6). The existing topsoil and turf capped the redeposited material across the field with traces of the former ridge and furrow landscape still visible between the areas of made ground.

3.4 Trenches 15-20

- 3.4.1 Prior to the excavation of these trenches it was evident from the surface topography that made ground was likely to be present within the eastern half of this field. This part was visibly raised to a more level terrace between 74-76m aOD whereas the land to the west had a much greater slope variance between 71.2m and 76m aOD. The lowest levels were around the NW perimeter of the field as the topography continues to slope down from Graven Hill to the SE.
- 3.4.2 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts pre-dating the military camp were encountered within any of these trenches and detailed descriptions are presented in Appendix A only.



- 3.4.3 Deposits relating to the military camp were encountered throughout this area. These sequences can be broadly divided into two based upon the surface topography. The underlying geology across this area was clay deriving from the Peterborough Member (Mudstone) which appeared as a very patchy yellow-orange brown clay although this was very disturbed across parts of the field by the demolition and reinstatement-related activities post-dating the military camp.

Trenches 15 and 16

- 3.4.4 A yellowish brown silty clay subsoil was recorded consistently across Trenches 15 and 16 directly overlying the clay geology. A buried topsoil horizon (15004, 16002) overlay the subsoil and was, in turn, sealed across the greater part of these two trenches by a substantial layer of redeposited clay (15003, 16001) which was up to 1m thick in places. This deposit originated from the terrace cut to accommodate building E2 to the north as also demonstrated in Trenches 11 and 14 and visible on contemporary aerial images from 1945 (Plate 7).
- 3.4.5 A number of former service trenches filled with demolition debris and concrete foundations relating to the former military camp were recorded cut into the buried topsoil and subsoil horizons. The redeposited clay and camp-related remains were mutually exclusive in terms of extent, suggesting that the made ground was deposited around the standing camp structures. The debris-filled camp features and the redeposited clay were overlain by the existing topsoil and turf which similarly included material derived from the camp demolition and clearance and represents the reinstatement of the field to pasture.

Trenches 17-20

- 3.4.6 Numerous former service and foundation trenches relating to the military camp were noted throughout this area cut into the remnants of the subsoil horizon. These were infilled with demolition-related debris mostly comprising cinders, brick, concrete, cast iron and ceramic pipe. The subsoil horizon was also very much disturbed with debris relating, presumably, to the construction and demolition phases (e.g. Plate 8). A relatively thin topsoil and turf layer sealed the demolition-related deposits and disturbed subsoil horizon. The redeposited clay material recorded in Trenches 15 and 16 did not extend to the west as far as Trench 17.

3.5 Iron Age activity within Trenches 21-24

- 3.5.1 Trenches 21-24 were situated upon the lower slopes of Graven Hill within a pasture field enclosed by Circular Road to the NW in a similar setting to that of Trenches 25-29 to the NE (Figs 2 and 6). The field slopes from its lowest point along the roadside verge at approximately 77.1m aOD to 91.1m aOD SE of Trench 23 just within the hedge line forming the southern boundary to the area. The trenches were arranged only within the northern half of the field reflecting the current impacts for the development proposal.
- 3.5.2 Three linear ditches were identified in Trenches 21, 22 and 24 and a group of pits were also encountered in Trench 24. With the exception of the ditch in Trench 24 which was cut into the upper fills of a pit cluster, all of the features were cut directly into the clay geology. A series of evenly spaced furrows were also noted within each trench aligned NNW-SSE down slope towards Circular Road and the former double hedge boundary marking the line of Akeman Street. The furrows truncated the features where these coincided.
- 3.5.3 No archaeological features were encountered within Trench 23 and this trench description is presented in Appendix A only. The underlying geology across this area



was clay deriving from the Peterborough Member (Mudstone). This appeared as a yellow brown silty clay at surface level with occasional patches and concentrations of fossil shell bivalves. This was overlain by a thin colluvial layer (24002) and subsoil in Trench 24 and a subsoil horizon elsewhere deriving from the historic arable use of the field also reflected by the presence of the regularly spaced furrows. The subsoil overlay the upper fills of each ditch and pit. A thin topsoil and turf level completed the soil sequence with comparatively little evidence of disturbance and truncation caused by the military camp as noted to the north of Circular Road within Trenches 17-20.

Trench 21

- 3.5.4 Ditch 21009 was cut into the clay geology and aligned NNW-SSE across the NW end of the trench (Fig. 6). The ditch profile was well defined, being steep sided and V-shaped up to 0.84m deep but only 1.1m wide (Plate 9). This contained a series of clayey silting fills ranging in appearance from blue/grey deposits with artefact and ecofact inclusions to more sterile yellow/brown clay fills (21002-21008). Charred plant, animal bone and pottery inclusions were recovered from most of the main fills within the sequence with the pottery suggesting a late Iron Age origin with Roman pottery forms entirely absent. The charred plant remains were not particularly well preserved although the wild species seem to indicate the presence of disturbed ground and/or meadow.

Trench 22

- 3.5.5 Ditch 22003 was aligned approximately parallel to ditch 21009 and 60m to the east of ii (Fig. 6). This ditch had a markedly different appearance, being broad and shallow with a maximum depth of 0.28m. It contained a single silting fill with charred plant inclusions (22004) that was otherwise sterile.

Trench 24

- 3.5.6 The earliest features within Trench 24 were a group of pits identified shortly before the backfilling of this trench. These pits were largely investigated through a machine excavated section following the initial identification of a soil spread surrounding ditch 24006 and furrow 24004 (Plate 10). Limited machine excavation was undertaken to adequately define the soil spread and its origin. In the event it became apparent that the soil spread was a series of intercut pits (24012). These were filled with a series of clayey silt deposits that produced late Iron Age pottery. Some modern items were incorporated into these fills but this is likely to have been a result of the machine excavation method incorporating material that was otherwise present only in the topsoil horizon.
- 3.5.7 Further detailed excavation of the pits was not undertaken once they had been identified, recorded and artefacts recovered following the hand cleaning of the exposed section and the limited hand excavation of *in situ* deposits to reveal the base of the pit. The pit group was at least 6m across at surface level and 1m deep. It was not clear how many individual pits may have been present or if this was a single large feature with an irregular outline.
- 3.5.8 Ditch 24006 was cut into the upper fills of the pit sequence and aligned NE-SW perpendicular to ditch 22003 (Fig. 6). Ditch 24006 was similar in appearance to that in recorded in Trench 22 with a shallow splayed V-shaped profile being no more than 0.4m deep and containing a single dark grey silting fill (24005). This deposit produced 6 sherds of late Iron Age pottery with a moderate average size in excess of 10g.
- 3.5.9 A furrow (24004) truncated the fill of the ditch and the upper fills of the pit sequence partially obscuring these, hence the delay in identifying these features.



- 3.5.10 Two small probable pits (24013 and 24014) were identified to the NE of the pit and ditch sequence but were not investigated beyond collecting the surface finds and recording their location and appearance. These features were cut directly into the clay geology with the fills overlain by the colluvial layer (24002). Fill 24014 produced a small assemblage of late Iron Age pottery.

3.6 Trenches 25-29

- 3.6.1 Trenches 25-29 were situated upon the lower slopes of Graven Hill within Circular Road around the hill (Fig. 2). The field slopes from its lowest point along the roadside verge at approximately 76.50m aOD to 80m aOD at the southern end of Trench 28 just within the hedge line boundary forming the southern limit of this area. The field was pasture at the time of the investigation.

- 3.6.2 Former service trenches and debris comprising concrete and brick fragments mixed with charred wood and glass relating to the former military camp were encountered within Trench 25 and occasional fragments of glass and brick were also noted from the thin cultivated soil within the other trenches. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered within these trenches. The very faint shadows of furrows aligned approximately NNW-SSE were visible within the clay surface in Trenches 25, 28 and 29 (Plate 11). Full descriptions are presented in Appendix A only.

3.7 Trenches 30-35

- 3.7.1 Trenches 30-35 were arranged in a pasture field to the west of the former military base theatre and north of Circular Road (Figs 2 and 7). This field slopes gently down from its highest elevation within the southern boundary at approximately 79m aOD to 77m aOD along the current northern boundary to this field.

- 3.7.2 Five trenches in total were excavated here with the trench number 33 omitted in the numbering sequence and not used. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts predating the military camp were encountered within Trenches 30, 31 and 34. These trench descriptions are presented in Appendix A only.

- 3.7.3 Trenches 32 and 35 each revealed a series of linear ditches. These trenches are separated by nearly 100m so it is not possible to reasonably correlate the ditches between the two. Therefore the features are described by trench in the following section.

- 3.7.4 The underlying geology across this area was clay deriving from the Peterborough Member (Mudstone). This appeared as a stiff yellow brown silty clay at surface level, overlain by a subsoil horizon (32002, 3501) of slightly browner colour and a more silty texture than the underlying geology. The topsoil comprised a dark brown humic silt clay with grazed turf pasture (32001, 3500) at the time of the fieldwork. This contained various mixed building debris resulting from the demolition, clearance and reinstatement of the field.

- 3.7.5 Traces of furrows were noted in Trench 31 only, whilst numerous former service trenches and drainage features were present in all trenches within this field, representing the military camp use and clearance of the site and the subsequent reinstatement to pasture. The absence of furrows across most of this field and the heavily disturbed and truncated sequences present in Trenches 30 and 34 suggest that the post-military clearance of the field was very thorough.



Trench 32

- 3.7.6 Three ditches (32008, 32010, 32011) were encountered in Trench 32 cut into the clay geology. Ditch 32008 was aligned NE-SE with a broad and relatively shallow profile measuring 2.2m across and 0.3m deep. This was infilled with a single silty clay fill (32007) that produced 33 sherds of pottery dating from the 12th-13th century. This ditch appeared to either terminate or turn at its exposed SW limit within the trench.
- 3.7.7 Two parallel ditches (32010, 32011) were located to the south of ditch 32008 and on a slightly more WSW-ENE alignment differing from the adjacent ditch. These were of a very similar appearance, both being approximately 1m wide with broad and shallow profiles approximately 0.15m deep. Both contained dark brown silt clay fills each producing one sherd of pottery although these varied in date from Roman to medieval. The small assemblage size makes any meaningful interpretation impossible. These ditches were spaced 1.4m apart along their exposed lengths suggesting that they are paired and contemporary.
- 3.7.8 A subsoil horizon (32002) sealed the ditch fills. This horizon was truncated by numerous land drains and service trenches relating to the military camp use and demolition. The existing topsoil and pasture turf (32001) completed the sequence.

Trench 35

- 3.7.9 A total of five linear ditches (3503, 3506, 3508, 3510, 3512) were encountered in Trench 35. Each of these ditches was aligned E-W. Ditches 3503, 3506, 3510 and 3512 were each cut into the clay geology with ditch 3508 truncating the fill of ditch 3510 indicating that not all the features were contemporary. The ditches were all of similar appearance with broad U-shaped profiles containing single silting fills except for ditch 3503 which had a thin basal silting fill (3504) also present. The ditch fills did not vary greatly in appearance and texture, being either grey brown silt clays or slightly more yellowish brown with a greater clay component.
- 3.7.10 The fills of ditch 3503 produced a late medieval buckle and a small assemblage of 13th-14th century pottery. Ditch 3506 produced a similar small assemblage of 13th-14th century pottery whilst ditch 3512 produced five sherds of Roman pottery dating from 2nd-4th century.
- 3.7.11 The ditches were each overlain by a subsoil horizon (3501) which had been truncated and disturbed/reworked in places by the removal and backfilling of a former service trench and the insertion of land drains. The existing topsoil and pasture turf (3500) completed the sequence.

3.8 Trenches 36-38 and Trench 43

- 3.8.1 Trenches 36-38 and Trench 43 were situated on land enclosed by former military constructions (buildings and rail infrastructure) (Fig. 2). At these locations the ground is relatively flat only ranging from 68.2m aOD to 71.3m aOD being at the foot of Graven Hill where the topography begins to level. Trenches 36-38 were situated upon maintained grass lawn with Trench 43 situated in a rough meadow.
- 3.8.2 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered and detailed trench descriptions are presented in Appendix A only. The general soil sequence encountered conformed to that elsewhere within the evaluation area with the stiff clay geology overlain by a silty clay subsoil. Within each of these trenches a buried former topsoil was present, sealed by redeposited clay deposits of varying depths deriving from adjacent construction activities. Within Trench 38, numerous live services were also



present, variously cut through the buried topsoil or subsoil horizon. The existing topsoil and turf completed the sequence.

3.9 Roman activity in Trenches 39-42

- 3.9.1 Four trenches were arranged across a former football playing field within the northern boundary of the evaluation area adjacent to Rodney House (Figs 2 and 8). As may be expected of a football pitch, the area was very flat with only a minor elevation variation of 0.3m across the field. The centre of the field was at 67.3m aOD.
- 3.9.2 Linear ditches were encountered in all trenches. These contained simple silting fill sequences with only one ditch displaying more than two fills. Roman pottery was recovered from nine of the ditches with large assemblages present within three of these indicating a mid Roman origin (AD 120-250). The ditches were all cut directly into the clay geology with the exception of a recut sequence of ditches within the SW end of Trench 39 and a ditch junction in Trench 40 which indicate an element of phasing to the sequence of ditches. Due to the number of ditches, they are described in trench order in the following section with additional dimension details presented in Appendix A.
- 3.9.3 The underlying geology across this area was clay deriving from the Peterborough Member (Mudstone). This appeared as a yellow/brown stiff clay at the exposed surface level which was overlain by a subsoil horizon of slightly browner colour and a more silty texture than the underlying geology. Within Trench 39 a buried former topsoil horizon (39020) was present over the subsoil, with a thick current humic dark brown topsoil and turf completing the sequence.

Trench 39

- 3.9.4 Seven linear ditches of varying dimensions and alignments were recorded in Trench 39. Ditches 39003, 39009, 39011 and 39013 were each cut directly into the natural clay geology without revealing relationships with each other within the confines of the trench. Ditches 39003 and 39013 were both aligned NE-SW parallel to each other and approximately 32m apart at opposite ends of the trench. Both displayed similar V-shaped profiles between 0.17-0.3m deep containing single sterile grey/brown silting fills.
- 3.9.5 Ditch 39011 was located 12.5m to the west of ditch 39013 and was aligned slightly more to the north suggesting that the two ditches might have converged before reaching Trench 40. This ditch also had a shallow slightly more rounded profile no more than 0.25m deep with a very similar grey/brown silting fill (39012). This produced two sherds of Roman pottery. Immediately west of this and arranged perpendicular on an ENE-WSW alignment was ditch 39009. This ended in a rounded terminus 1m short of ditch 39011, suggesting that they were part of a contemporary arrangement. This ditch also had a very similar profile, dimensions and fill (39010) which produced two small sherds of Roman pottery.
- 3.9.6 Within the western end of the trench, parallel and in close proximity to ditch 39003, was a sequence of two ditches and a small pit or posthole (39018, 39005, 39007). The pit/posthole (39018) was the earliest feature in this group although it also shared the characteristics of the ditches, having a V-shaped profile containing a single grey/brown silting fill (39019). Given its location within a sequence of recut ditches, it may equally be possible that this represents a ditch terminal. The fill of this feature was truncated by ditch 39005 which was approximately 0.65m wide and 0.4m deep with a steep sided profile that contained two silting fills (39016 and 39006). The basal fill was the ubiquitous grey/brown silting fill distinguished from the upper fill (39006) only by the inclusion of reddish brown clayey patches. The upper fill produced two sherds of



Roman pottery. Cut into the surface of this fill was ditch 39007. This was the largest ditch within the trench with a surface width up to 1.25m and a sharp V-shaped profile up to 0.5m deep. This contained two silting fills (39017 and 39008) of slightly differing shades of grey/brown.

Trench 40

- 3.9.7 A total of five ditches (40003, 40007, 40009, 40012, 40013) were recorded in Trench 40, two of which were not excavated (40012 and 40013). Ditch 40012 was excavated as ditch 41003 in Trench 41 and ditch 40013 may possibly continue as ditch 39011 in Trench 39. A single shallow pit-like feature (40005) with a fill truncated by ditch 40003 was possibly a treehole. No artefacts were present within this feature and its fill differed from those of the Roman ditches.
- 3.9.8 Ditch 40003 was aligned ENE-WSW in much the same manner as ditch 39009 to the south and similarly appeared to form part of a contemporary arrangement with ditch 40013, with a 5.5m wide opening between the ditches. A single sterile grey/brown silting deposit (40004) filled the shallow rounded profile. A further ditch (40009) on a similar alignment was revealed within the western end of the trench. This ditch differed slightly in that it had a more sharply defined V-shaped profile with a flat base containing two silting fills (40011 and 40010) although neither produced any artefactual material. The upper fill of this ditch was truncated by ditch 40007 which cut across the former alignment NW-SE. This ditch is likely to have continued to the south as either ditch 39005 or 39007 although its broad shallow profile is not a positive match for either. Ditch 40007 also slightly differed from the majority of the other ditches with its single sterile silting fill being a reddish brown instead of the grey/brown appearance of the majority.

Trenches 41 and 42

- 3.9.9 Trenches 41 and 42 were excavated as a single 100m long trench (Plate 12). Two ditches (41003 and 41005) and a pit-like or treehole feature (41009) were recorded within the northern end of the trench. The earliest feature was a small probable treehole (41009), the sterile fill of which was truncated by ditch 41005. This ditch was aligned ENE-WSW approximately 12.5m to the north of, and parallel to, ditch 40003. Its orange brown fill was remarkable not only for its apparent distinction in colour, but also for the pottery assemblage it produced, comprising 78 sherds, 744g, of Roman pottery dated to the 2nd century.
- 3.9.10 Ditch 41003 was aligned NNW-SSE and a relationship with ditch 41005 seems likely to have existed just beyond the western limit of the evaluation trench. The fill (41004) was of the more typical single sterile grey/brown type. The different fill and lack of artefacts from this ditch suggest that it is not part of a contemporary arrangement with ditch 41005.
- 3.9.11 Four ditches were present within the southern half of the trench (41011, 42003, 42005, 42009). Two of these (42007 and 42009) were aligned north-south whilst the others (41011 and 42003) were aligned ENE-WSW. These ditches varied in size with ditch 42009 being the smallest at only 0.25m, wide and less than 0.1m deep. This ditch also ended before meeting ditch 41011, which lay beyond its northern limit. Ditches 42003 and 42005 were more similar with broad flat based profiles, being 1.2m and 0.75 wide and 0.22m-0.28m deep respectively. Ditches 42003, 42005 and 42009 each contained single grey/brown fills although fill 42006 was slightly darker in appearance. This deposit also produced an exceptional pottery assemblage given the relatively small amount of the feature excavated. This comprised 246 sherds, 2299g, of pottery closely



dated AD 120-160. The fills of ditches 42003 and 42009 each produced negligible amounts of Roman pottery by comparison.

- 3.9.12 The largest of the ditches within the southern part of Trench 41/42 was ditch 41011. This was 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep with a rounded profile containing three distinct fills (41012, 41013, 41014). Each fill comprised silty clay that appeared to have accumulated through silting, with the primary deposit being yellowish brown, the secondary being the typical grey/brown and the upper fill being a darker grey/brown. Each deposit produced good sized pottery assemblages with a combined total of 199 sherds, 846g. Those recovered from the upper fill were most diagnostic, suggesting a middle Roman origin (AD 120-250).

3.10 Former playing field Trenches 45 -48

- 3.10.1 Four evaluation trenches were arranged within the level field of a former sports pitch within the eastern part of the investigation area and north of Circular Road (Figs 2 and 9). The field varied little in elevation as may be expected of a purposefully constructed sports pitch with levels only ranging between 71.2m aOD in the NW corner to 71.8m aOD in the SE corner across a distance of 200m.
- 3.10.2 Two of the trenches (Trenches 47 and 48) only produced evidence for significant levels of modern truncation and disturbance with frequent land drains present relating to the former use as a playing field and demolition debris relating to the military camp clearance. These trench descriptions are presented in Appendix A only. Trenches 45 and 46 similarly demonstrated significant levels of disturbance and truncation. Amongst the obvious modern features were other linear features of less clear origin.

Trench 45

- 3.10.3 Within Trench 45 the clay geology was overlain by a thin subsoil horizon (45001) comprising a silt clay with occasional limestone fragments, gravel and metal scraps incorporated into the top of it. This debris appears to have derived from disturbance associated with the deposition of the overlying layer (45004) rather than reflecting a more recent deposition of the subsoil level. Cut into the subsoil was a shallow linear feature (45006) aligned NNE-SSW (Fig. 9). This contained a single sterile silt clay fill that also had limestone and gravel inclusions although these had clearly become incorporated from the overlying layer (45004).
- 3.10.4 Within the southern part of the trench a series of former service trenches and possible former foundations infilled with various mixed deposits relating to the demolition of the former military camp were present. A layer of limestone (45004) overlay all of the recent deposits, features, drains and subsoil levels. This layer also included pieces of other debris (drain pipe, pottery, metal fragments and gravel). This layer functioned twofold: both raising the ground level (becoming thicker to the north) and providing drainage for the low lying field. The existing topsoil and turf (4500) sealed the limestone layer.

Trench 46

- 3.10.5 The natural clay geology (46010) encountered within Trench 46 was very disturbed by activities associated with the deposition of the overlying layers. Patchy remnants of a former topsoil horizon (46004) were present overlying the clay geology. This horizon was cut through by a linear feature (46006) infilled with a dark grey silt clay with limestone pieces and sand pressed into the surface of the fill deriving from layers (46003/46009/46002). These layers sealed and buried the former topsoil horizon with limestone pieces both raising and draining the land in the same manner and event as recorded in Trench 45. The relationship of the linear feature with the limestone layer is



not entirely clear although the illustrated section depicts the linear truncating the limestone. However, it is equally possible that the limestone layer overlay the linear fill (46005) with the limestone pieces becoming pressed into and incorporated into the upper part of the fill as also shown (Fig. 9 Section 46000). A further layer of made ground (46001) comprising silt clay with occasional limestone and metal fragments capped the limestone levels with land drains (46007) cut into this level prior to the deposition and levelling of the existing topsoil and turf (46000).

- 3.10.6 Although not entirely clear, it would appear most likely that the linear feature (46006) is a modern drainage-related feature perhaps constructed under the limestone to act as a lower level drain. Whilst the main alignment of the feature has the appearance of a shallow ditch or gully with its silty clay dark grey fill, the presence of branches aligned off this in both directions is more consistent with drainage arrangements.

3.11 Akeman Street remains and Trenches 49-59

- 3.11.1 Trenches 49-59 were arranged around the NE side of Graven Hill within the eastern boundary of the evaluation covering two existing pasture fields (Figs 2 and 10). The elevations varied greatly with Trench 50 located on relatively flat ground at the base of the slope around the hill situated at 75-75.5m aOD whereas Trenches 51 and 56 were located towards the higher levels on the hill side at c 90m aOD. Within these fields at the boundary with the woodland the elevations reach 94-97m aOD.
- 3.11.2 The projected line of Akeman Street runs through the centre of this area as represented by the former double hedge line (now a single hedge boundary) to the west. Two small solitary trees/shrubs mark this line within the northern field and anecdotal accounts from the farmer also helped identify the course of the former track/hedge line and the events that led to its removal. Trenches 49, 52 and 53 were subsequently rearranged and targeted upon this alignment with additional Trenches 58 and 59 added to confirm the location, deposit sequence and quality of preservation. Except in Trench 53, features and deposits relating to the former boundary and track were identified within these trenches and are described in detail in the following section.
- 3.11.3 Apart from military camp related demolition debris and furrows, no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered within Trenches 50, 51 and 53-57. These trench descriptions are presented in Appendix A only.
- 3.11.4 The clay geology encountered within these trenches comprised a stiff yellow brown clay that did not appear to differ greatly apart from the levels of disturbance relating to the demolition activities of the former military camp. However, the British Geological Society (BGS) mapping of the site puts the higher elevations of the hill on the Stewartby Member of Mudstone with the lower elevations on the Peterborough Member. There was no clear distinction visible during the fieldwork to the non specialist. A thin subsoil associated with the remnants of furrows was present at some locations overlying the geology. This was overlain by a clayey brown topsoil that varied in depth.

Akeman Street Trenches 49, 52, 58 and 59

- 3.11.5 The well preserved remains of a road/track surface set within a terrace into the hill side and with accompanying flanking ditches relating to the line of Akeman Street were revealed in Trenches 59, 49 and 58 in west-east order (Figs 10, 11 and 12). The road surface was not encountered in Trench 52 although a ditch (52004) recorded within the northern end of trench may represent the continuation of the flanking ditch along the southern or northern sides of the road. If this is the southern side, this suggests that the surface remains, if present, would be beyond the northern limit of this trench. The road,



terrace, flanking ditches and associated deposits are described collectively below with trench-specific detail given where relevant. Individual trench details and context information are also provided in Appendix A.

- 3.11.6 To accommodate the road a shallow cut (49005, 58009, 59012) was made into the clay geology of the hill slope along a slight natural ridge to form a reasonably level terrace. The terrace was 0.4-0.45m at its deepest point measured from the existing ground level and was aligned E-W. Limestone pieces (49006, 58008, 59004) were set directly into the underlying clay. These were generally small, being no more than 50-100mm across, and defined a surface surviving to a width of approximately 4-5m. The surface was worn and patchy and survived only to a single stone depth, with a brown silty clay deposit between and around the stones. Distinctive shallow U-shaped linear ruts were also present along the margins of the surface.
- 3.11.7 The southern extent of the road surface and terrace was defined by a flanking ditch (49004, 58013, 59005). It appears that this was effectively formed as part of the initial terracing into the slope with no real distinction between the road surface and overlying sediments and the fills of the ditch. The ditch was most pronounced in Trenches 49 and 58, being approximately 0.5-1m wide and 0.2-0.4m deep, although defining exact dimensions is difficult due to the poor distinction between the northern edge of the ditch and the southern edge of the terrace. The ditch contained, at most, two silting fills (49003 and 49002, 58010 and 58011, 59006). In the case of Trenches 49 and 58 (49002, 58010), these deposits extended beyond the ditch and partly overlay the road surfacing. Within Trench 49 the upper fill (49002) was sealed by a further silting deposit (49001) that extended beyond the ditch and sealed the southern edge of the road surface. Each silting fill had a similar yellowish brown silt clay appearance that is likely to have derived from material up slope of the terrace and ditch, e.g. deriving from colluvial silting. No artefacts were present within any of these excavated ditch fills.
- 3.11.8 In Trenches 58 and 59 a buried former topsoil horizon (58002, 59010) sealed the upper fills of the roadside ditch and the road surface. This appeared as a dark brown silty clay deposit that was up to 0.2m thick where it overlay the ditch fills but was generally thin and compressed over the line of the road. The extent of this deposit was largely confined to the line of the southern flanking ditch and the road surface. Along the northern side of the road the deposit had been disturbed and reworked. It appears that this occurred in relation to the military camp use of this field and track with a northern flanking roadside ditch (49009, 58003, 59007) cut through this deposit. Whilst being perfectly positioned to be a contemporary feature in relation to the road and southern flanking ditch, this ditch clearly dates from the military camp phase. It contained a sequence of fills comprising a primary silting deposit (58004, 59009) and mixed debris and redeposited topsoil and clay backfills (58005, 58006, 59008). These produced 20th century artefacts including a military webbing fitting.
- 3.11.9 The single ditch (52004) encountered within Trench 52 had more in common with the northern flanking ditch than the southern. This had a similar profile and dimensions and the fills (52005, 52006) both comprised mixed ash and debris deriving from the military use and subsequent clearance of the site. If this does represent the northern flanking ditch, then any remains of the terrace, road surface and southern flanking ditch have been removed. This may be possible as demolition debris (52002) comprising ash, gravel, glass, concrete and brick was present pressed into the natural clay across this part of the trench. However, it is equally plausible that the southern flanking ditch had been truncated and removed by the modern military camp phase ditch.



3.11.10 North of ditch 52004 and within the end of this trench was a deposit of silt clay (52003) mixed with various debris from the clearance of the camp. A similar deposit (49013) was also present in Trench 49 and these represent material bulldozed down the slope and levelling off the site during the demolition and clearance of the camp. Further camp-related features and similar demolition deposits were present across the southern parts of Trenches 49, 58 and 59 with concrete foundations, former service trenches and spreads of debris over the clay geology and foundations all recorded. A large treehole (59002) that had been dug out with a mechanical excavator and backfilled with demolition and clearance debris (59003) was also present along the southern edge of the road in Trench 59, partly truncating the fill of ditch 59005. This marked the location of a large elm tree that was formerly present within the hedge line when this was removed in the 1970s, as informed by the farmer. A redeposited topsoil (49000, 58001, 59001), with inclusions deriving from the clearance and demolition debris, sealed all of these deposits and the buried topsoil horizon over the line of the road surface.



3.12 Finds summaries

Flint

- 3.12.1 A tiny assemblage of four struck flints was recovered from three trenches: two pieces from context 3001 and one each from contexts 21000 and 24013. Context 3001 produced a very fine polished flint axe fragment (Sf 1). The axe retains its cutting edge but has been snapped in half and the break may have been intentional. The other piece from Trench 3 is an undiagnostic burnt flake.
- 3.12.2 Context 21000 produced a burnt bladelet core with two platforms at ninety degrees to each other. Such complex bladelet cores can have a broad date range but are particularly common in the earlier part of the Neolithic. Context 24013 produced a single undiagnostic side trimming flake.

Prehistoric pottery

- 3.12.3 A small collection of 72 sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 415g, was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage may be entirely of later prehistoric date (late Iron Age) or possibly even extend into the early Roman period, reflecting native coarse ware traditions. However, the absence of more recognisable Roman fabrics amongst the range of contexts that produced this material when considered against the presence of such assemblages elsewhere within this evaluation does suggest that it is exclusively pre-conquest in origin. The assemblage consisted almost entirely of body sherds with few diagnostic characteristics present. The fabrics contained inclusions of local geological origin and are broadly comparable to those published from the nearby site at Alchester (Evans and Booth 2001).

Roman pottery

- 3.12.4 A total of 563 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 4495g, was recovered from the evaluation. The pottery potentially spanned the entire Roman period, but the chronological emphasis of relatively well-dated groups was on the mid-Roman period, particularly the 2nd century AD. The assemblage was dominated by reduced coarse wares of local origin, and included material produced in the Oxford region. Imported samian ware was also present. A number of complete or near-complete vessels were recorded, suggesting that a focus of domestic activity was close to areas of final deposition.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery

- 3.12.5 A total of 103 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, weighing 1704g, were recovered from 16 contexts within the evaluation. This breaks down further to 40 sherds (332g) of medieval pottery and 63 sherds (1372g) of post-medieval pottery (from c 1480+). The pottery mainly derives from fairly superficial features including medieval ditch fills and spreads of modern material associated with the military base. This is reflected in its general condition - which is mostly very fragmentary and sometimes abraded.
- 3.12.6 All of the medieval pottery was recovered from ditches within Trenches 32 and 35. Those from Trench 32 were exclusively in the medieval Oxford and Wychwood ware fabrics suggest with a date range c 1175-1250, whilst those from Trench 35 were of Brill/Boarstall ware most probably dating to the 13th-14th century.
- 3.12.7 The majority of the late post-medieval wares comprise table wares specifically supplied to the military base. Several of these have dates printed on the base relating these to the military camp that was set up towards the end of WWII.

**Fired clay**

- 3.12.8 A small assemblage of fired clay, 39 fragments weighing 109g, was recovered from four trenches within the evaluation. No diagnostic artefacts were present although the material was recovered from features dated to the late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods by associated pottery assemblages. In all cases the material probably derived from oven or hearth structures and furniture, most likely of a domestic character.

Ceramic building material

- 3.12.9 A small quantity of ceramic building material amounting to six fragments weighing 233g was recovered from four trenches. All of the pieces were broken and fragmentary. The assemblage included a single fragment of Roman flat tile (ctx 42006) with the remaining pieces largely comprising flat roof tile of medieval or post-medieval date. A single fragment of 20th century Fletton type brick was also recovered.

Glass

- 3.12.10 Eleven pieces of vessel glass, including three complete bottles, a fragment of an optical lens, and eight pieces of thick wire-reinforced window glass such as is used in warehouses and industrial buildings were recovered from the evaluation. The entire assemblage dates to the period of the military camp established during WWII. The items recovered were a selected sample from some of the post-military camp demolition debris layers encountered within the evaluation trenches.

Metal and other small finds

- 3.12.11 A total of 19 objects (22 fragments) were recovered from the evaluation comprising 11 iron objects, 5 copper alloy, and three plastic or 'Bakelite' objects (4 frags). This included a small late medieval or early post medieval buckle (No. 1) from context 3504. With the exception of this object most, if not all, of the finds are modern, relating to the military camp use of the site. The items recovered were a selected sample from some of the post-military camp demolition debris layers encountered within the evaluation trenches.

Metal working slag residue

- 3.12.12 A single fragment of slag, weighing 7g, was recovered from the fill of ditch 39009 in Trench 39.

Stone

- 3.12.13 A single fragment of stone (140mm x 85mm x 40mm; 937g) was recovered from context 40010. This is a coarse gritty sandstone with ferruginous cement. It does not retain any worked surfaces but is of a stone type used for saddle querns during the late Iron Age.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 3.12.14 Two small pieces of clay pipe were recovered from two contexts (3001 and 51004). These comprised stem fragments of 'chunky' type with a likely date range of 17th-mid 18th century.



3.13 Environmental remains summaries

Charred plant remains

- 3.13.1 A single sample (40L) was taken from fill 21006 (ditch 21009) dated to the late Iron Age from associated pottery. This produced a large quantity of well-preserved charcoal, poorly-preserved charred cereal grains, fragments of hazelnut shell and a small number of charred wild plant seeds including bedstraw (cf. *Galium* sp.), goosefoot family (Amaranthaceae) and chamomile (*Anthemis* sp.).

Animal bone

- 3.13.2 A total of 252 animal bone fragments were recovered from the evaluation. The majority of the assemblage derived from features dated to the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods although the bones displayed a high degree of fragmentation. The presence of cattle, sheep/goat and pig was noted for all periods, but due to the small sample size it was not possible to make any meaningful interpretation of this assemblage.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The ground and weather conditions during the evaluation were generally good with little perceivable impact of these upon the results. The visibility and the distinction of soils was also good and where poor weather hampered the excavation, such as encountered during the recording of Trenches 12 and 13, the features and deposits had already been identified prior to the onset of inclement weather limiting the impact upon the results.
- 4.1.2 The coverage of the evaluation was reasonable and based upon approved OCC sample levels by area. However, the evaluation trench areas were condensed into large individual trenches measuring 50m long and double the standard width at 4m meaning that these were widely spaced. Whilst fulfilling the sample percentage by area, this approach can be seen to have limitations. This is most notable when measuring the distances between trenches. Frequently, and depending upon the arrangement of trench alignments, distances of approximately 50-100m are present between trenches. Such distances and associated areas leave some doubt as to the remaining potential within parts of the evaluation, particularly for periods normally represented by scattered archaeological remains such as those of the early prehistoric periods (pre Iron Age).
- 4.1.3 Although there may be residual doubt over the remaining potential within some areas, it is equally clear that significant remains were present within a wide topographical range of the site. The positive results provided by Trenches 21, 24, 32, 35, 39-42, 49, 52, 58 and 59 leave little doubt that these trenches reflect reliable results indicating the presence of significant archaeological remains.
- 4.1.4 Similarly, the very disturbed and negative results produced by Trenches 36-38, 43, 45-48 and 55-57 would appear to reliably confirm an absence of archaeological potential at these locations.

4.2 Interpretation and discussion

'Demonstrator Project' field Trenches 1 to 10

- 4.2.1 Few archaeological remains were encountered within the Demonstrator Area. A single linear ditch was traced between Trenches 2, 3 and 4 with a possible further associated ditch also present within Trench 2. However, the interpretation and significance of this feature group does prove slightly problematic. Based upon its stratigraphic position, being cut through the 'subsoil' recorded across this field as being of arable origin, it would appear that this ditch has a historical origin although this would predate the 1st edition OS map which shows no indication of it. In contrast, this ditch produced several sherds from a single samian ware vessel, suggesting a mid 2nd century origin. No other artefacts were present within the excavated or exposed parts of this ditch.
- 4.2.2 The pertinent piece of evidence in assessing the origin of the ditch in this area is the subsoil. Other features are recorded as being sealed by this horizon, although these relationships were reasonably unclear. It is possible that the subsoil horizon, rather than representing a buried agricultural soil, does indeed reflect the presence of a true relatively undisturbed subsoil. Certainly, no traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were present within this area to suggest this as an alternative origin for the soil. If so, it is acceptable to interpret the ditch as being Roman. If this is the case, it actually does not affect the potential of this location a great deal as it would appear to be an isolated



feature, perhaps forming a drain or field boundary possibly even replicated in the modern landscape by the existing drainage ditch to the SE.

Trenches 11 to 14

- 4.2.3 This field had raised banks of material within its northern, western and eastern perimeter deriving from spoil from the construction of the adjacent camp buildings and railway built during the war (see Plate 7). This was deposited directly onto the original topsoil of the field preserving the medieval ridge and furrow, aligned NW-SE, which is still visible within the central part of the field. The redeposited material was up to 1m thick in places, demonstrating that little modern disturbance of the buried deposits has occurred here beyond the few wheel ruts recorded relating to the construction phase.
- 4.2.4 A group of ditches of possible Iron Age origin was recorded with Trenches 12 and 13. The small and abraded assemblage of pottery does leave some doubt as to the true date of these features. However, the absence of any later material does provide some confidence that these are of an Iron age origin.
- 4.2.5 The clear presence of surviving ridge and furrow and an associated cultivated soil suggests that these remains are likely to have been truncated. Within the current scope and trench arrangement it is difficult to suggest how far these ditches and any associated remains may have extended and whether they have been removed entirely by historical truncation or if they are very localised in extent. It is clear that these or similar features are not present within Trenches 11 and 14.

Trenches 15-20

- 4.2.6 As with Trenches 11-14, it was evident from the historical aerial images (Plate 7) and through a brief walkover prior to the excavation of the trenches that this area had been subjected to disturbance. This was visible both as made ground across the eastern part of the field relating to the construction of the military camp, and as later truncation and debris resulting from the clearance of the camp, its associated services and the reinstatement to pasture. Although there are large areas and distances between some trenches in this area, the degree of 20th century disturbance, lack of pre-20th century artefacts and absence of any linear features indicates that this field substantially lacks further potential to contain significant archaeological remains.
- 4.2.7 The only caveat to the above statement may relate to the zone immediately to the north of Circular Road between Trench 21 to the south and Trench 17. Trench 21 and its related activities is discussed in the following section along with the potential remains of Akeman Street as preserved by the existing hedge line extending to east. The relevance for this field is that there is some potential to explore the junction between pre-conquest Iron Age features and Akeman Street. If projected, this may occur between Trench 17 and Circular Road, although this precise location is very likely to have suffered significant 20th century disturbance.

Iron Age activity within Trenches 21-24

- 4.2.8 Relatively dispersed features were encountered within this area producing consistently pre-conquest late Iron Age artefact assemblages. The absence of any recognised typical Roman fabrics from these features, given the relative proximity of sites of this period within the surrounding landscape, reinforces the view that these are entirely pre-Roman in origin.
- 4.2.9 Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this area is the proximity of Akeman Street represented by the hedge line that curves around to the east off, or rather truncated by, Circular Street. Prior to the reinstatement of the pastures this hedge line existed as a



double hedge boundary defining a track that remained in use during the camp period. One side of the track and hedge boundary was only removed during the reinstatement phase by the tenant farmer, as related by him to the OA Field Supervisor. Although no relationship between the Iron Age features and Akeman Street was investigated by the evaluation, it is interesting to note that the ditches in Trenches 21 and 22 are arranged perpendicular to the track. It should also be noted that significant 20th century truncation should be expected within a few metres to either side of Circular Road, possibly removing any potential to investigate a relationship at this location.

- 4.2.10 The Iron Age features suggest that settlement is in close proximity to this area, if not actually within the field itself. The ditch encountered within Trench 21 was relatively rich in artefacts, with charred plant remains also present, whilst a group of pits was present within Trench 24. These features span an area over 100m E-W, although the true extent of these or related features is not defined by the current trench layout since the zones to the west and east both lie beyond the scope of the LTA1 impacts.

Trenches 25-29

- 4.2.11 Relatively little can be interpreted from the results in this field beyond an absence of archaeological potential. Although the trench spacing does leave a residual amount of potential for scattered remains to be present, there is no artefactual or geophysical survey evidence to suggest this. However, the route of Akeman Street does form the southern boundary to this area and any proposal that impacts upon this should be considered appropriately.

Trenches 30-35

- 4.2.12 Trenches 32 and 35 produced evidence for medieval activity in the form of ditches that produced some artefactual material. It is difficult to interpret the limited range of features and what these may represent. However, the artefacts included a late medieval buckle and pottery typical of domestic activity. These certainly point to occupation in the near vicinity.
- 4.2.13 As elsewhere, this field had large distances between the evaluation trenches making definition of the extent of these remains difficult.

Trenches 36-38 and Trench 43

- 4.2.14 The degree of modern disturbance recorded in Trenches 36-38 and Trench 43, and the presence of surrounding standing buildings that are likely to have significantly removed any potential remains, combined with the relatively small areas or fields that these are set within, strongly point to these areas having no further potential.

Roman activity in Trenches 39-42

- 4.2.15 Perhaps the clearest indication of significant archaeological remains being present in some density was that presented by the results of Trenches 39-42. At least 14 separate linear ditches were recorded, with common alignments shared between some suggestive of a field arrangement. There was also a degree of phasing with recuts and truncation of earlier ditches recorded. Whilst many of the ditches proved to be largely sterile, perhaps suggesting that they were peripheral to activity and occupation areas, three of the ditches (41005, 41011 and 42005) produced large assemblages of Roman pottery dating from mid-late 2nd century. These assemblages included at least two near-complete vessels. However, with the exception of one occurrence no pits, postholes or any other features apart from ditches were recorded from this period, making interpretation difficult. It is possible that these remains are related to the wider landscape associated with remains uncovered during an evaluation north of Langford



Park Farm in 2010 where a building of some elevated status may have existed, with evidence for opus signinum flooring present (TVAS 2010). Such associations are speculative at this stage, although they provide potential aims to investigate during any subsequent mitigation stage.

Former playing field Trenches 45 -48

- 4.2.16 Significant levels of modern disturbance was recorded in Trenches 45-48 and, despite some reservations on the origin of some features, it is difficult to interpret these as representing anything other than modern drainage and disturbance.

Akeman Street remains and Trenches 49-59

- 4.2.17 Positive remains of a track surface set within a terrace with an accompanying side ditch/ditches was recorded in Trenches 59, 49 and 58 in west-east order. These undoubtedly reflect the alignment of Akeman Street visible on the 1945 aerial image (Plate 7) showing a double hedge boundary incorporating mature trees. Although no artefacts of Roman origin were encountered it is equally compelling that no modern material was present pressed into the remains of the track surface or within the accompanying ditch along the southern side. Interestingly the road/track surface was constructed of small limestone pieces comparable to the construction recorded during recent works by OA east of Alchester at the point where Akeman Street approaches Langford Brook (Steve Lawrence pers. comm.).
- 4.2.18 The eastern extent or survival of this track remained unproven within this evaluation, although the absence of remains of the surface in Trench 53 does suggest that these may have been entirely truncated at this point. With regard to truncation it is also worth noting that remains of furrows were recorded across much of this field, suggesting that the military camp activities and subsequent reinstatement to pasture did not truncate the buried remains and existing topography to the degree experienced elsewhere.
- 4.2.19 With regard to the western route of Akeman Street, this is presumably well preserved by the existing hedge line that, excluding the absence of mature trees and the removal of the second hedge line, seems little disturbed. The associated hedge that defined the southern side of the route was removed during the reinstatement, although the impact of this upon the buried remains is not known. None of the evaluation trenches in the current work investigated this part of the road alignment.
- 4.2.20 Although the spacing of the trenches was sparse within the field at the SE limit of the evaluation area (Trenches 55-57), only considerable modern disturbance relating to the demolition of the military camp and reinstatement to pasture was encountered here. The tenant farmer recalled the reinstatement in this field and confirmed that the former huts were levelled and pushed down slope by a bulldozer with the resultant debris buried in large pits towards the base of the slope. One of these pits was encountered within Trench 55. The anecdotal and excavated evidence suggest that considerable truncation has occurred across most of this field, with levels reduced on the higher ground and intrusive excavations around the base of the slope. Therefore, it is unlikely that this field offers any further archaeological potential.

Military camp remains

- 4.2.21 Remains from the military camp phases were wholly represented by demolition debris, either infilling former service and foundation trenches or spread over former topsoil horizons. Normally such occurrences of 20th century material would not require much comment within an archaeological report. However, at this location the artefactual remains provide a physical link to an important part of the site history, the local social



history and the collective national WWII history. Bicester MOD played a pivotal supply role in the latter stages of the war and the D-Day landings. The presence of the army staff is represented by the typical military domestic wares produced at the time and often marked with a date on the base of the vessel. Several of the examples recovered display dates of 1942-1945. Particularly rich artefact-bearing debris layers were present within Trench 11. With regard to the archaeological 'features' from this period, The areas of debris and removed services and foundations broadly match the locations of the huts visible on the various historic aerial images of the camp (e.g. Plate 7). It is unlikely that the investigation of any of these remains in an archaeological manner will provide any evidence beyond what can usefully be interpreted from the existing documentary evidence. However, a collection of dated artefacts could serve a purpose to illustrate this significant part of Bicester MOD's history.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Please note that the date ranges indicated in the following tables reflect the artefact assemblages recovered from these rather than precisely identifying the feature/deposit date. For relevant discussions of potential feature dates see the main description text and discussion section.

Ponds A and B						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
No archaeology present. Pond A 21m x 9.7m x 0.5m, Pond B 14m x 8m x 0.6m. The underlying geology comprised a stiff yellowish brown clay with grey patches. This was overlain by a light brown silty clay subsoil which was, in turn, overlain by the topsoil and grass. The existing topsoil comprised a dark reddish brown silty clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.50m	
				Width (m)	8-10m	
				Length (m)	14-21m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
101	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
102	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
103	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
104	Layer		0.25	Subsoil		
105	Layer		-	Natural clay		

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil overlain by the reddish brown silty clay of the existing topsoil and grass. The topsoil had limestone and fired clay inclusions throughout although this did not correspond to any recognisable features or deposits of note within the trench.				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50.3m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil		
1001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		



Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
<p>This trench contained three ditches. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil overlain by the reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass. Ditch 2005 was cut directly into the clay geology and apparently sealed by the subsoil horizon. Ditches 2003 and 2007 were cut into the subsoil horizon. No artefact dating evidence present within these features. Ditch 2003 continues into Trenches 3 and 4.</p>					Avg. depth (m)	0.4m
					Width (m)	4m
					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
2001	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil		
2002	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 2003		
2003	Cut	0.9	0.35	Ditch boundary		
2004	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 2005		
2005	Cut	0.42	0.16	Ditch		
2006	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 2007		
2007	Cut	0.85	0.03	Ditch		
2008	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
<p>This trench contained a single ditch. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil overlain by the reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass. Ditch 3003 was cut into the subsoil horizon. No artefact dating evidence was present within the ditch. Ditch 3003 continues into Trenches 2 and 4. A Neolithic polished flint axe head fragment (sharpened end) was recovered from the subsoil.</p>					Avg. depth (m)	0.6m
					Width (m)	4m
					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil		
3001	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	Flint, pottery, clay pipe	Neolithic polished flint axe fragment, post-medieval pipe stem fragment and pottery
3002	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 3003		
3003	Cut	0.95	0.35	Ditch		



3004	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
3005	Cut	1.2	0.18	Root hole		
3006	Fill	-	-	Fill of root hole		

Trench 4

<p>General description</p> <p>This trench contained a single ditch and an undated limestone surface. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay. A treehole was cut directly into the clay geology and the fill, along with the geology, was overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil. This, in turn, was overlain by the reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass. Ditch 4003 was cut into the subsoil horizon and the fill produced several sherds of Roman pottery. A localised area of possible surfacing was present within the SE end of the trench overlaying the subsoil and sealed by the topsoil. Ditch 4003 continues into Trenches 2 and 3.</p>	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5m
	Width (m)	4m
	Length (m)	50.3m

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
4001	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil		
4002	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil		
4003	Cut	1.28	0.42	Ditch		
4004	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 4003	Pottery	2nd-3rd century Roman
4005	Cut	0.68	0.18	Root hole		
4006	Fill	-	-	Fill of root hole		
4007	Layer	-	0.1	Worn limestone fragments forming a possible surface		

Trench 5

<p>General description</p> <p>This trench contained a single modern ditch, a series of land drains and several treeholes. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay. One treehole produced a single sherd of possible prehistoric pottery from its grey brown silty clay fill. The ditch and land drains were cut into the subsoil horizon which was overlain with the reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass horizon. The ditch was visible at surface level</p>	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45m
	Width (m)	4m
	Length (m)	50m

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
5000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
5001	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		



5002	Fill	-	-	Fill of root hole	Pottery, Animal bone	Prehistoric
5003	Cut	0.85	0.16	Root hole		
5004	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
5005	Fill			Fill of ditch 5006		
5006	Cut	1.2	0.48	Modern ditch field boundary		

Trench 6							
General description				Orientation		NW-SE	
<p>No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay overlain by a blue/grey silty clay subsoil overlain by the reddish brown silty clay loam existing topsoil and grass. A land drain was present in the NW section of the trench along with a patch of dark grey clay within the geology. This was investigated but proved to be of natural origin.</p>				Avg. depth (m)		0.75m	
				Width (m)		4m	
				Length (m)		50m	
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
6000	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil			
6001	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil			
6002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay			

Trench 7							
General description				Orientation		NW-SE	
<p>No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff clay with a variable colour appearance ranging from orange brown to dark grey in patches and bands. One band of grey clay was investigated but proved to be entirely natural in origin. This was overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil overlain in turn by the existing reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass. An abraded fragment of pottery was recovered from the subsoil and a backfilled geotechnical test pit was present within the NW end of the trench.</p>				Avg. depth (m)		0.5m	
				Width (m)		4m	
				Length (m)		50m	
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
7000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil			
7001	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	Pottery	Roman	
7002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay			



Trench 8						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
No archaeology present. A single treehole was cut into the clay geology. The single sterile fill was sealed by the grey brown subsoil horizon overlain in turn by the existing reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass.				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
8000	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil		
8001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
8002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
8003	Cut	0.46	0.27	Root hole		
8004	Fill	-	-	Fill of 8003		

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
This trench contained a single modern ditch. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil. The ditch was cut into the subsoil horizon and contained a single dark grey/brown silting fill. The ditch was visible as a shallow earthwork within the field. The ditch fill and the subsoil horizon was overlain by the existing reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass.				Avg. depth (m)	0.7m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
9000	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil		
9001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
9002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
9003	Cut	1.45	0.35	Modern ditch field boundary		
9004	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 9003		

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff orange brown clay overlain by a grey brown silty clay subsoil overlain by the existing reddish brown silty clay topsoil and grass.				Avg. depth (m)	0.66m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date



1000	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
1001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
No archaeology present. The clay geology was overlain with a subsoil layer with ridge and furrow evident above this. Redeposited clay and burnt debris sealed the former topsoil and turf horizon with the topography of the ridge and furrow visible in the trench section. The existing topsoil and turf completed the soil sequence.				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50.3m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
11000	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil and turf		
11001	Layer	-	0.16	Post WW2 camp burnt debris	Pottery, Glass, Bakelite, Iron objects	20th century
11002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
11003	Layer	-	0.36	Redeposited clay		
11004	Layer	-	0.28	Buried topsoil	Pottery	20th century
11005	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow		
11006	Cut	4.1	0.30	Furrow		
11007	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW	
This trench contained two ditches of possible Iron Age origin. The clay geology was truncated by the shallow ditches, both of which contained single fills producing small abraded pottery assemblages. A subsoil deposit sealed the ditch fills. This was truncated by furrows, the fills of which were overlain by a buried former topsoil and turf horizon truncated by wheel ruts. Substantial redeposited natural clay sealed the former topsoil and turf horizon with the existing topsoil and turf completing the sequence.				Avg. depth (m)	1.2m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil and turf		
1201	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
1202	Fill			Fill of ditch 1203	Pottery	?MIA-LIA
1203	Cut	0.7	0.19	Ditch		
1204	Fill			Fill of ditch 1205	Pottery	?MIA - LIA



1205	Cut	0.65	0.31	Ditch		
1206	Layer			Treehole		
1207	Fill			Fill of wheel rut		
1208	Cut			Wheel rut		
1209	Fill			Fill of wheel rut		
1210	Cut			Wheel rut		
1211	Layer			Redeposited clay		
1212	Layer			Buried topsoil and turf		
1213	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
<p>This trench contained three ditches of uncertain origin. The clay geology was truncated by the shallow ditches, each of which contained single fills. A subsoil deposit sealed the ditch fills. This was truncated by furrows, the fills of which were overlain by a buried former topsoil and turf horizon. Substantial depths of redeposited natural clay sealed the former topsoil and turf horizon with the existing topsoil and turf completing the sequence.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	1.6m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	 Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil		
1301	Layer	-	0.65	Made ground		
1302	Layer		0.15m	Buried topsoil		
1303	Layer		0.25	Subsoil		
1304	Fill			Fill of ditch 1305		
1305	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch		
1306	Fill			Fill of ditch 1307		
1307	Cut	0.75	0.22	Ditch		
1308	Cut	2	0.09	Root hole		
1309	Fill			Fill of root hole		
1310	Cut			Natural feature		
1311	Fill			Fill of natural feature		
1312	Cut	0.46	0.16	Ditch		
1313	Fill			Fill of ditch 1312		
1314	Layer	-	-	Natural		



Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW	
No archaeology present. The clay geology was overlain with a subsoil layer with ridge and furrow evident above this and visible at the surface level surround most of the trench. Redeposited clay sealed the former topsoil and turf horizon and the ridge and furrow topography across the NE end of the trench with a new topsoil and turf horizon established above the clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
1401	Layer	-	0.20	Buried topsoil		
1402	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil		
1403	Cut	5	0.2	Furrow		
1404	Fill			Redeposited mixed clay and topsoil		
1405	Layer		0.7	Topsoil and turf		
1406	Fill			Furrow fill		

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. The underlying clay geology was overlain with a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil overlain in turn by a buried topsoil horizon. A thick layer of redeposited clay made ground sealed the former topsoil horizon with the existing topsoil and turf completing the general soil sequence. Former service trenches infilled with demolition debris were recorded cut into the buried topsoil horizon and subsoil levels.				Avg. depth (m)	1m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
15000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil and turf	Pottery	20th century
15001	Fill	-	-	Fill of service trench		
15002	Cut	1m	0.24	Service trench		
15003	Layer	-	0.8m	Made ground		
15004	Layer	-	0.15	Buried topsoil		
15005	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
15006	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		



Trench 16						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. The underlying clay geology was overlain with a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil overlain in turn by a buried topsoil horizon. A thick layer of redeposited clay made ground sealed the former topsoil horizon with the existing topsoil and turf completing the general soil sequence. Foundations and former service trenches infilled with demolition debris were recorded cut into the buried topsoil horizon and subsoil levels.				Avg. depth (m)	0.8m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
16000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil and turf		
16001	Layer	-	0.6	Made ground		
16002	Layer	-	0.24	Buried topsoil		
16003	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
16004	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. The geology comprised clay overlain by a subsoil horizon which was very disturbed with modern debris pressed into it. Several former service trenches were noted but not recorded in detail. These had been removed and backfilled with mixed demolition debris which had resulted in the disturbance to the subsoil. A topsoil and turf horizon that included similar demolition derived materials sealed the demolition debris.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
17000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil and turf		
17001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
17002	Cut	0.8	0.34	Service trenches		
17003	Fill	-	-	Backfilled material	Pottery	20th century
17004	Fill	-	-	Backfilled material		
17005	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
17006	Layer	-	-	Demolition spread		



Trench 18						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised clay overlain by a subsoil horizon which was very disturbed with modern debris pressed into it. Several former service trenches were noted but not recorded in detail. These had been removed and backfilled with mixed demolition debris which had resulted in the disturbance to the subsoil. A topsoil and turf horizon that included similar demolition derived materials sealed the demolition debris.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.4m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
18000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil and turf		
18001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
18002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 19						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised clay overlain by a subsoil horizon which was very disturbed with modern debris pressed into it. Several former service trenches were noted but not recorded in detail. These had been removed and backfilled with mixed demolition debris which had resulted in the disturbance to the subsoil. A topsoil and turf horizon that included similar demolition derived materials sealed the demolition debris.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50.3m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
19000	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil and turf		
19001	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil		
19002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 20						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised clay overlain by a subsoil horizon which was very disturbed with modern debris pressed into it. Several former service trenches converging on a manhole were noted but not recorded in detail. These had been removed and backfilled with mixed demolition debris which had resulted in the disturbance to the subsoil. A topsoil and turf horizon that included similar demolition derived materials sealed the demolition debris.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.5m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						



Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
20000	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil and turf		
20001	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
20002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 21

General description	Orientation	
<p>Trench 21 contained a single linear ditch aligned NNW-SSE. The fills of the ditch produced late Iron Age pottery. The natural geology comprised stiff yellow/brown clay cut by the ditch. The surface of the clay geology and the fill of the ditch were overlain by a silty clay subsoil. Furrows were visible in the surface of the clay geology. The subsoil was overlain by a thin topsoil and turf with occasional fragments and items resulting from the occupation and demolition of the former military camp although this was not as evident as in the trenches to the north of Circular Road.</p>	Avg. depth (m)	0.5m
	Width (m)	4m
	Length (m)	50m

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
21000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil and turf	Pottery, Flint, Metal objects, Glass	Modern
21001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	Pottery, Glass	Post-medieval and modern
21002	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009		
21003	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009		
21004	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009	Pottery, Fired clay, Animal bone	Late Iron Age-early Roman
21005	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009		
21006	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009	Pottery, Fired clay, Animal bone	Late Iron Age-early Roman
21007	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009		
21008	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009	Animal bone	Late Iron Age-early Roman
21009	Cut	1.1	0.84	Ditch		
21010	Fill			Fill of ditch 21009		
21011	Layer	-	-	Natural		



Trench 22						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
<p>Trench 22 contained a single linear ditch. This was undated although ditches with similar orientations and fills were present within the adjacent trenches and dated to the late Iron Age.</p> <p>The natural geology comprised stiff yellow/brown clay cut by the ditch. The surface of the clay geology and the fill of the ditch were overlain by a silty clay subsoil. Furrows were visible in the surface of the clay geology. The subsoil was overlain by a thin topsoil and turf with occasional fragments and items resulting from the occupation and demolition of the former military camp although this was not as evident as in the trenches to the north of Circular Road.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50.3m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
22000	Layer	-	-	Natural		
22001	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil and turf		
22002	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
22003	Cut	1.24	0.28	Ditch		
22004	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 22003		

Trench 23						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
<p>No archaeology present.</p> <p>The natural geology comprised stiff yellow/brown clay overlain by a silty clay subsoil. Faint traces of furrows were visible in the surface of the clay geology. The subsoil was overlain by a thin topsoil and turf with occasional fragments and items resulting from the occupation and demolition of the former military camp although this was not as evident as in the trenches to the north of Circular Road.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.48m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
23000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
23001	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil and turf		
23002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		

Trench 24						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
<p>Trench 24 contained a probable pit group, two individual pits and a single linear ditch that was cut into the surface fills of the pit group. Each of these features produced late Iron Age pottery.</p> <p>The natural geology comprised stiff yellow/brown clay cut by the pit group. A sequence of fills that produced Iron Age pottery were recorded in the pit group following machine excavation. The surface fill was truncated by the linear ditch that also produced Iron Age</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.6m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	



pottery. The surface of the clay geology and the fills of the Iron Age features were overlain by a silty clay colluvial deposit. A reddish brown silty clay subsoil overlain the colluvium. Furrows were visible in the surface of the clay geology cut through the subsoil and colluvial layer. The subsoil was overlain by a thin topsoil and turf with occasional fragments and items resulting from the occupation and demolition of the former military camp although this was not as evident as in the trenches to the north of Circular Road.

Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	 Finds	Date
24000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
24001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
24002	Layer	-	0.10	Hill wash		
24003	Fill			Furrow fill		
24004	Cut			Furrow		
24005	Fill			Fill of ditch 24006	Pottery	Late Iron Age-early Roman
24006	Cut	1	0.4	Ditch		
24007	Fill			Fill of pit/pits 24012	Pottery, Animal bone	Late Iron Age-early Roman
24008	Fill			Fill of pit/pits 24012	Animal bone	
24009	Fill			Fill of pit/pits 24012	Pottery, Animal bone	Late Iron Age-early Roman
24010	Fill			Fill of pit/pits 24012	Pottery, Fired clay, Metal wire, Glass	Late Iron Age-early Roman and modern material (machine excavation)
24011	Fill			Fill of pit/pits 24012		
24012	Cut			Extent of pit cluster		
24013	Fill			Fill of unexcavated feature	Flint, Fired clay	
24014	Fill			Fill of unexcavated feature	Pottery, Animal bone	Late Iron Age-early Roman
24015	Fill			Fill of pit/pits 24012		
24016	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 25		
General description	Orientation	ENE-WSW
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay that	Avg. depth (m)	0.18m
	Width (m)	4m



had been much disturbed from the demolition of the military camp at this location. Very faint shadows of furrows aligned NNW-SSE also visible in the surface of the clay geology. A former service trench and debris (brick, concrete, burnt material, glass etc) associated with the camp demolition was present within the topsoil.					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
25000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil and turf		
25001	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 26						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay directly overlain by a thin topsoil and turf with occasional debris included within this associated with the former military camp demolition.					Avg. depth (m)	0.18m
					Width (m)	4m
					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
26000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil and turf		
26001	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 27						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay directly overlain by a thin topsoil and turf with occasional debris included within this associated with the former military camp demolition. The trench was shortened by 5m at the SW end due to the proximity of the hedge line.					Avg. depth (m)	0.16m
					Width (m)	4m
					Length (m)	45m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
27000	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil and turf		
27001	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay overlain by a clayey subsoil and a thin topsoil and turf. Occasional fragments of limestone, glass and brick were included within the topsoil probably deriving from the former military camp demolition. The faint traces of two probable furrows aligned approximately E-W					Avg. depth (m)	0.4m
					Width (m)	4m
					Length (m)	50m



were also present within the surface of the clay geology.						
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
28000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil and turf		
28001	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
28002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		

Trench 29						
General description		Orientation	NE-SW			
<p>No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay directly overlain by a thin topsoil and turf. Occasional fragments of limestone, glass and brick were included within the topsoil probably deriving from the former military camp demolition. The faint traces of probable furrows aligned approximately E-W were also present within the surface of the clay geology.</p>		Avg. depth (m)	0.17m			
		Width (m)	4m			
		Length (m)	50m			
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
29000	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil and turf		
29001	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 30						
General description		Orientation	NW-SE			
<p>No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a yellow brown silt clay overlain with a subsoil horizon. The surface of the subsoil was disturbed and reworked in places relating to the demolition and clearance of the military camp and the reinstatement of the pasture. The subsoil horizon was also truncated by a series of land drains and former service trenches that had been backfilled with demolition debris. A reworked topsoil with demolition debris inclusions completed the soil sequence in this trench.</p>		Avg. depth (m)	0.5m			
		Width (m)	4m			
		Length (m)	50m			
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
30000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
30001	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
30002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
30003	Fill	-	-	Fill of modern features		
30004	Cut	-	0.25	Service trenches and foundations		



Trench 31							
General description				Orientation		NW-SE	
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a yellow brown silt clay overlain with a subsoil horizon with faint traces of furrows also present. The surface of the subsoil was disturbed and reworked in places relating to the demolition and clearance of the military camp and the reinstatement of the pasture. The subsoil horizon was also truncated by a series of land drains. A reworked topsoil with demolition debris inclusions completed the soil sequence in this trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.65m	
				Width (m)		4m	
				Length (m)		50m	
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
31000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay			
31001	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil			
31002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil			

Trench 32							
General description				Orientation		NE-SW	
Three ditches were present in Trench 32. The clay geology was cut into by each ditch and these all appear to have a medieval origin in the 12th-13th -century despite the presence of a single sherd of Roman pottery from Ditch 32012. A subsoil horizon sealed the ditch fills with numerous land drains and a former service trench truncating the subsoil and ditches. The topsoil and turf completed the sequence.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5m	
				Width (m)		4m	
				Length (m)		50m	
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
32000	Layer	-	-	Natural			
32001	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil			
32002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil			
32003	Cut	1.7	-	Service trench			
32004	Fill	-	-	Fill of service trench			
32005	Cut	0.15	0.5	Land drains x6			
32006	Fill	-	-	Fill of drain			
32007	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 32008	Pottery, Fired clay, Animal bone	12th/13th century	
32008	Cut	2.2	0.3	Ditch			
32009	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 32010	Pottery, Fired clay, Animal bone	12th/13th century	
32010	Cut	0.8	0.12	Ditch			



32011	Cut	1	0.14	Ditch		
32012	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 32011	Pottery	1st-2nd century Roman

Trench 33		
General description	Orientation	n/a
Trench number not used and omitted from the numbering in the WSI.	Avg. depth (m)	n/a
	Width (m)	n/a
	Length (m)	n/a

Trench 34						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. The underlying geology comprised a yellow brown silt clay overlain with a subsoil horizon. The surface of the subsoil was disturbed and reworked in places relating to the demolition and clearance of the military camp and the reinstatement of the pasture. The subsoil horizon was also truncated by a series of land drains and former service trenches that had been removed and backfilled with demolition debris. A reworked topsoil with demolition debris inclusions completed the soil sequence in this trench.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
34000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
34001	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
34002	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
34003	Cut	-	-	Various land drain and services		
34004	Fill	-	-	Fill of land drain and services		

Trench 35		
General description	Orientation	N-S
Five linear ditches present within this trench. The clay geology was truncated by four of the ditches with the fifth (3508) cut into the fill of ditch 3510. Each ditch was broadly similar in appearance although these seem likely to originate from different periods. Ditch 3513 produced Roman pottery whereas ditches 3503 and 3506 produced artefacts from the 13th-14th century. A subsoil horizon sealed the ditch fills and this was truncated by the removal and backfilling of a former service trench and the insertion of land drains. The existing topsoil and pasture turf completed the sequence.	Avg. depth (m)	0.46m
	Width (m)	5m
	Length (m)	50m
Contexts		



Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil		
3501	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil		
3502	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
3503	Cut	1.64	0.46	Ditch		
3504	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 3503	Cu Alloy buckle	Late medieval
3505	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 3503	Pottery, Animal bone	13th/14th century
3506	Cut	0.94	0.39	Ditch		
3507	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 3506	Pottery	13th/14th century
3508	Cut	1.72	0.46	Ditch		
3509	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 3508		
3510	Cut	0.62	0.35	Ditch		
3511	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 3510		
3512	Cut	1.38	0.28	Ditch		
3513	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 3512	Pottery, Animal bone	2nd-4th century Roman

Trench 36							
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW	
No archaeology present. The geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay overlain with an orange brown silty clay subsoil and a buried former topsoil horizon. A layer of redeposited natural clay sealed the former topsoil and was, in turn, overlain with the existing topsoil and turf.				Avg. depth (m)		0.8m	
				Width (m)		4m	
				Length (m)		50m	
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
36000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil			
36001	Layer	-	0.40	Redeposited clay			
36002	Layer	-	0.10	Buried topsoil			
36003	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil			
36004	Layer	-	-	Natural clay			

Trench 37			
General description		Orientation	WNW-ESE
No archaeology present. The geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay. A treehole was cut into the geology. A subsoil horizon sealed the geology and treehole fill with a buried former topsoil horizon overlying the subsoil. A compacted layer of redeposited clay sealed the former topsoil horizon and was, in turn, overlain with the existing topsoil and turf.		Avg. depth (m)	1m
		Width (m)	4m
		Length (m)	50m



The redeposited clay probably derived from spoil generated by the construction of the adjacent railway cutting.						
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
37000	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil and turf		
37001	Layer	-	0.40	Redeposited clay		
37002	Layer	-	0.12	Redeposited clay		
37003	Layer	-	0.22	Redeposited clay		
37004	Layer	-	0.10	Buried topsoil		
37005	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil		
37006	Fill			Fill of root hole		
37007	Fill			Fill of root hole		
37008	Cut	1.08	0.16	Root hole		
37009	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 38						
General description No archaeology present. The trench deposit sequence comprised the natural clay overlain by a clayey subsoil and a former topsoil horizon with modern debris inclusions throughout (plastic, limestone, brick etc). This horizon was truncated by numerous live services (gas, foul, electric) some of which connected to the adjacent building. The existing topsoil and turf sealed the buried topsoil horizon and service trench backfill deposits.	Orientation	NNE-SSW				
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5m				
	Width (m)	4m				
	Length (m)	50m				
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
38000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
38001	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil		
38002	Layer	-	0.12	Buried topsoil		
38003	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		

Trench 39		
General description Trench contained six linear ditches and a pit/posthole or ditch terminal. Four sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the various ditches. The trench sequence comprised the natural clay cut by the ditches with ditch 39007 forming a recut of ditch 39005. A subsoil was overlain by a buried topsoil horizon which was, in turn, overlain by the current topsoil and turf.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5m
	Width (m)	4m
	Length (m)	50m
Contexts		



Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
39000	Layer	-	-	Natural		
39001	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
39002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
39003	Cut	0.78	0.3	Ditch		
39004	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 39003		
39005	Cut	0.64	0.4	Ditch		
39006	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 39005	Pottery	Roman
39007	Cut	1.22	0.48	Ditch		
39008	Fill			Fill of ditch 39007		
39009	Cut	0.34	0.26	Ditch		
39010	Fill			Fill of ditch 39009	Pottery, Fired clay, Slag	Roman
39011	Cut	0.67	0.24	Ditch		
39012	Fill			Fill of ditch 39011	Pottery	Roman
39013	Cut	0.47	0.17	Ditch		
39014	Fill			Fill of ditch 39013		
39015	Cut	0.5	0.07	Root hole		
39016	Fill			Fill of ditch 39005		
39017	Fill			Fill of ditch 39007		
39018	Cut	0.48	0.34	Posthole?		
39019	Fill			Fill of posthole		
39020	Layer		0.15	Buried topsoil		

Trench 40						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
<p>Trench contained five linear ditches (including two unexcavated) and a pit/treehole. No significant artefactual material was present within the excavated features.</p> <p>The trench sequence comprised the natural clay cut by the ditches with ditch 40007 truncating the fill of 40009. A subsoil deposit sealed the ditch fills which was, in turn, overlain by the current topsoil and turf.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.65m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
40000	Layer	-	-	Natural		
40001	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
40002	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
40003	Cut	0.9	0.21	Ditch with rounded terminal end		



40004	Fill			Fill of ditch 40003		
40005	Cut	1	0.05	Root hole		
40006	Fill			Fill of root hole		
40007	Cut	0.76	0.18	Ditch		
40008	Fill			Fill of ditch 40007	Pottery	Roman
40009	Cut	0.65	0.36	Ditch		
40010	Fill			Fill of ditch 40009	Stone	possible LIA quern fragment
40011	Fill			Fill of ditch 40009		
40012	Ditch	0.4	-	Unexcavated ditch		
40013	Ditch	0.8	-	Unexcavated ditch		

Trench 41							
General description				Orientation		NW-SE	
Trench contained three linear ditches and a pit/treehole. A good sized pottery assemblage was recovered from Ditch 41011 dating from the middle Roman period (AD 120-250). The trench sequence comprised the natural clay cut by the ditches. A subsoil deposit sealed the ditch fills which was, in turn, overlain by the current topsoil and turf.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5m	
				Width (m)		4m	
				Length (m)		50m	
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
41000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil			
41001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil			
41002	Layer	-	-	Natural			
41003	Cut	0.4	0.12	Ditch			
41004	Fill			Fill of ditch 41003	Pottery	Roman	
41005	Cut	0.61	0.25	Ditch			
41006	Fill			Fill of ditch 41005	Pottery, Animal bone	2nd century Roman	
41007	Cut	0.7	0.13	Ditch	Pottery	Roman	
41008	Fill			Fill of ditch 41007	Pottery	2nd century Roman	
41009	Cut	0.46	0.06	Ditch			
41010	Fill			Fill of ditch 41009	Pottery	?Prehistoric	
41011	Cut	1.2	0.51	Ditch			
41012	Fill			Fill of ditch 41011	Pottery	2nd-3rd century Roman	
41013	Fill			Fill of ditch 41011	Pottery (near complete jar)	Roman	
41014	Fill			Fill of ditch 41011	Pottery, Animal bone	Roman	



Trench 42						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained three linear ditches and a pit/treehole. Significant pottery assemblage was recovered from ditch 42005 suggesting a Roman 2nd century origin. The trench sequence comprised the natural clay cut by the ditches. A subsoil deposit sealed the ditch fills which was, in turn, overlain by the current topsoil and turf.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5m
				Width (m)		4m
				Length (m)		50m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
42000	Layer	-	-	Natural		
42001	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
42002	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
42003	Cut	1.2	0.22	Ditch		
42004	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 42003	Pottery	1st-3rd century Roman
42005	Cut	0.76	0.28	Ditch		
42006	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 42005	Pottery	mid 2nd century Roman
42007	Cut	0.39	0.16	Root hole		
42008	Fill	-	-	Fill of root hole		
42009	Cut	0.24	0.07	Ditch/gulley		
42010	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch/gulley 42009	Pottery	Roman

Trench 43						
General description				Orientation		N-S
No archaeology present. The geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay overlain with an orange brown silty clay subsoil and a buried former topsoil horizon. A layer of redeposited natural clay sealed the former topsoil and was, in turn, overlain with the existing topsoil and turf.				Avg. depth (m)		1m
				Width (m)		4m
				Length (m)		50m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
43000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
43001	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil and turf		
43002	Layer		0.70	Redeposited clay made ground		
43003	Layer	-	0.20	Buried topsoil horizon		
43004	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		

Trench 44



General description Trench 44 was arranged within an existing conifer tree plantation east of the existing camp boundary. This area was inaccessible for the evaluation and currently remains as woodland.	Orientation	N-S
	Avg. depth (m)	n/a
	Width (m)	n/a
	Length (m)	n/a

Trench 45

General description This trench contained a possible ditch although on the balance of the available evidence it seem most likely that this is of modern origin. The underlying clay geology was overlain by a thin subsoil layer which had debris incorporated into the surface of it from the overlying layer (45004). A series of backfilled former service and foundation trenches were present across the southern end of the trench also cut into the subsoil horizon along with associated demolition debris deposits overlying this. A layer of limestone with other debris inclusions (brick, drain, metal fragments) sealed the subsoil horizon, ditch fill, and all of the military camp demolition related features. A topsoil and turf layer capped the limestone layer.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	0.6m
	Width (m)	4m
	Length (m)	50m

Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
45000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil and turf	Pottery	20th century
45001	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil		
45002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
45003	Layer	-	0.08	Demolition layer		
45004	Layer	-	0.24	Made ground - Limestone layer		
45005	Cut	0.54	0.11	Ditch		
45006	Fill			Fill of ditch 45005		
45007	Fill			Fill of service trench		
45008	Cut	0.28	0.15	Service trench		

Trench 46

General description No archaeology present. A linear feature (46006) cut into the buried topsoil horizon appears most likely to be a drainage related feature. A sequence of coarse sand, cinder and ash debris, and limestone layers overlay the former topsoil providing both levelling and drainage for the playing field. A silt clay 'subsoil' (46001) acts as a final levelling layer being capped by the existing topsoil and turf. Additional land drains were cut into the subsoil layer and sealed by the topsoil	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.6m
	Width (m)	4m
	Length (m)	50m

Contexts						
Context	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Findings	Date



no		(m)	(m)			
46000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil and turf		
46001	Layer	-	0.30	Redeposited silt clay subsoil		
46002	Layer		0.10	Made ground - limestone rubble		
46003	Layer		0.25	Made ground - cinders, ash and sand. Possible demolition debris		
46004	Layer		0.10	Buried topsoil		
46005	Fill			Fill of 46006		
46006	Cut	1.2	0.30	Possible drain or former service trench		
46007	Cut	1.2	0.26	Land drain		
46008	Fill			Fill of land drain		
46009	Layer		0.25	Made ground - limestone rubble		
46010	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
46011	Fill	0.70	0.06	Fill of service trench		
46012	Cut			Service trench		

Trench 47						
General description				Orientation	NNE-SSW	
<p>No archaeology present.</p> <p>The underlying geology comprised clay that had been heavily disturbed with some areas possibly redeposited. A redeposited clay with limestone, brick fragments and gravel inclusions formed a 'subsoil' layer. Numerous land drains associated with the playing field were cut into this aligned along the axis of the pitch. Within the southern part of the trench former service trenches filled with various demolition debris were present relating to the clearance of the military camp. A topsoil layer with small amounts of similar inclusions sealed the drains etc.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.30m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
47000	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
47001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
47002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 48			
General description		Orientation	NW-SE
<p>No archaeology present.</p> <p>The underlying geology comprised clay that had been heavily disturbed with some areas possibly redeposited. A redeposited clay</p>		Avg. depth (m)	0.65m
		Width (m)	4m



<p>with limestone, brick fragments and gravel inclusions formed a 'subsoil' layer. Numerous land drains associated with the playing field were cut into this aligned across the axis of the pitch (unlike within the adjacent Trench 47). Within the western part of the trench a localised deposit of demolition debris was present including much charcoal relating to the clearance of the military camp. A topsoil layer with small amounts of similar inclusions sealed the drains etc.</p>	Length (m)	50m
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Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
48000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil		
48001	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil		
48002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 49

General description	Orientation	N-S
<p>Trench 49 contained a limestone road surface set within a terrace cut into the hill side. A flanking ditch was present along the southern edge of the road with silting fills present extending over the road edge. A former topsoil horizon sealed the road surface and ditch fills which had been partly reworked during the military camp use. A northern roadside flanking ditch was cut in this phase with silting fills present in the base of the ditch overlain and levelled with debris from the clearance of the site. An extensive layer of clearance debris (49013) was present to the north of the road where this had been bulldozed down slope levelling part of the hill side topography. A furrow aligned NNE-SSE was cut into the clay geology across the southern part of the trench. A redeposited topsoil with clearance debris inclusions (concrete, ash, cinders, brick, metal fragments) completed sequence.</p>	Avg. depth (m)	0.4m
	Width (m)	4m
	Length (m)	50m

Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
49000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
49001	Layer	-	0.26	Silting layer sealing 49002	Iron nail	modern
49002	Fill/Layer	-	0.18	Upper silting fill/layer of ditch 49004 extending beyond the ditch edge		
49003	Fill			Primary fill of ditch 49004		
49004	Cut	0.38	0.20	Roadside ditch		
49005	Cut	6.8		Construction terrace into slope for road		
49006	Layer	6	0.10	Limestone road surface		
49007	Cut			Late C20 th levelling of site		
49008	Fill/Layer			Material from demolition of site filling ditch 49009 and extending beyond the feature	Pottery, Animal bone,	20th century



				limits	Lead object	
49009	Cut	0.60	0.20	Roadside ditch	Pottery, Bakelite	20th century
49010	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
49011	Fill			Furrow fill		
49012	Cut	1.20	0.18	Furrow		
49013	Layer		0.36	Demolition and clearance debris levelling the area down slope of the road		
49014	Layer		0.10	Demolition and clearance debris overlying concrete foundations south of the road and ditch		

Trench 50						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay. Several (5/6) furrows were cut into the clay and were, in turn, truncated by a service/foundation trenches that had been removed and backfilled with mixed demolition debris including brick, ash and cinder, concrete fragments, metal and glass. The existing topsoil and turf completed the sequence.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.3m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
50000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
50001	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil and turf		
50002	Cut	0.80	0.05	Furrows		
50003	Cut	0.70	0.10	Service trenches		

Trench 51						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay with grey patches. Several (4) furrows were cut into the clay. The furrow fills produced two sherds of 18th century pottery. A subsoil horizon sealed the furrow fills and included some 20th century debris suggesting that this deposit derived from the levelling and reinstatement of the field to pasture. The existing topsoil and turf completed the sequence.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.4m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date



51000	Layer	-	-	Natural		
51001	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
51002	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
51003	Cut	0.90	0.18	Furrows		
51004	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrows	Clay pipe, Pottery, Glass	Post-medieval with residual Roman material

Trench 52						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
<p>A single ditch was encountered in this trench along with a furrow and military camp phase features and debris. The ditch also dated from the camp use and clearance of the site although it may have earlier origins in relation to the Roman road alignment. A thick layer of demolition and clearance debris with ash, cinders, concrete, brick and wood mixed in a silt clay matrix (52002) was present along the northern side of the ditch. This represented levelling of the hill slope during the clearance and reinstatement of the field to pasture. The redeposited topsoil completed the sequence.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.35m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
52000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
52001	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
52002	Layer	-	0.08	Demolition spread		
52003	Layer		0.20	Demolition material levelling of slope	Pottery, Glass	modern
52004	Cut	0.90	0.38	Ditch		
52005	Fill			Fill of ditch 52004	metal (fork)	modern
52006	Fill			Fill of ditch 52004		
52007	Cut	0.90	0.12	Furrow		
52008	Fill			Fill of furrow		

Trench 53			
General description		Orientation	N-S
<p>No archaeology present. This trench was arranged in an attempt to encounter the line of Akeman Street. However, it has either been entirely truncated and removed at this point or the trench just misses it with the track possibly passing to the immediate north. The geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay with former service trenches cut into this and backfilled with demolition debris. Similar deposits of debris with wood, cinder, ash, tile, brick and glass were also present pressed into the surface of the clay geology. The existing topsoil and turf overlay the demolition features and fills and completed the sequence.</p>		Avg. depth (m)	0.35m
		Width (m)	4m
		Length (m)	50m



Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
53000	Layer	-	-	Natural		
53001	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
53002	Cut	0.40	-	Removed services		
53003	Layer	1.2	0.08	Demolition spread		

Trench 54						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised a stiff yellow brown clay with grey patches. Several (4) furrows were cut into the clay. A subsoil horizon sealed the furrow fills and included some 20th century debris suggesting that this deposit derived from the levelling and reinstatement of the field to pasture. The existing topsoil and turf completed the sequence.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.4m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
54000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
54001	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
54002	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
54003	Cut	0.80	0.18	Furrows		
54004	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrows		

Trench 55						
General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised a stiff light yellow brown clay overlain with a clayey subsoil horizon. The subsoil was truncated by a series of features relating to the demolition of the military camp and the pasture reinstatement. The largest of these (55005) was encountered within the eastern end of the trench. This was a massive pit extending beyond the evaluation trench limits containing a silt clay deposit mixed with concrete, brick and metal. Two former service trenches that had been removed and backfilled within similar debris were also recorded along with a spread of debris pushed into the subsoil and clay geology. A thin layer of topsoil and turf overlay the demolition debris.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.5m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
55000	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil and turf		
55001	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil		



55002	Layer		0.40	Demolition spread		
55003	Fill			Demolition backfill		
55004	Fill			Fill of 55005		
55005	Cut	4		Excavation for demolition material		
55006	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
55007	Cut	1.50	0.60	Service trench		

Trench 56						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised light yellow brown clay. This was overlain with a layer containing frequent amounts of concrete, brick, glass and ceramic pipe mixed in a silty clay deposit. This deposit had also been pressed into the underlying clay surface and filled several former service trenches. This occurred at the time of the former military camp demolition and reinstatement of the fields to pasture. The existing topsoil and turf completed the sequence.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.3m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
56000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil		
56001	Layer	-	0.18	Demolition spread		
56002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		

Trench 57						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
<p>No archaeology present. The geology comprised light yellow brown clay. This was overlain with a layer containing frequent amounts of concrete, brick, glass and ceramic pipe mixed in a silty clay deposit which also filled several former service trenches. This deposit had also been pressed into the underlying clay surface. This is likely to have occurred at the time of the former military camp demolition and reinstatement of the fields to pasture. The existing topsoil and turf completed the sequence.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.4m	
				Width (m)	4m	
				Length (m)	50m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
57000	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil		
57001	Layer	-	0.18	Demolition spread		
57002	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		



Trench 58						
General description				Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench 58 contained a limestone road surface set within a terrace cut into the hill side. A flanking ditch was present along the southern edge of the road with silting fills present extending over the road edge. A former topsoil horizon sealed the road surface and ditch fills which had been partly reworked during the military camp use. A northern roadside flanking ditch was cut in this that had been levelled with debris from the clearance of the site. Former service or foundation trenches that had been removed and backfilled with clearance debris were also present to the south of the road and flanking ditch (58013). A redeposited topsoil with clearance debris inclusions (concrete, ash, cinders, brick, metal fragments) completed sequence.				Avg. depth (m)	0.3m	
				Width (m)	2m	
				Length (m)	24m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
58000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
58001	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil		
58002	Layer	-	0.22	Buried topsoil		
58003	Cut			Roadside ditch		
58004	Fill			Silting fill of ditch 58003		
58005	Fill			Silting fill of ditch 58003		
58006	Fill			Levelling backfill of ditch 58003		
58007	Layer			Reworked former topsoil horizon		
58008	Layer			Limestone road surface		
58009	Cut			Road terrace		
58010	Layer			Fill of 58013		
58011	Layer			Hill wash and silting fill of 58013		
58012	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
58013	Cut	1	0.4	Roadside ditch		

Trench 59			
General description		Orientation	N-S
Trench 59 contained a limestone road surface set within a terrace cut into the hill side. A flanking ditch was present along the southern edge of the road. A former topsoil horizon sealed the road surface and ditch fills which had been partly reworked during the military camp use. A northern roadside flanking ditch was cut in this phase with silting fill present in the base of the ditch overlain and levelled with debris from the clearance of the site. A large treehole		Avg. depth (m)	0.3m
		Width (m)	2m
		Length (m)	24m



that had been machined away and infilled with demolition and clearance debris was present bordering the southern side of the road. A redeposited topsoil with clearance debris inclusions (concrete, ash, cinders, brick, metal fragments) completed sequence.

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
59000	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
59001	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil		
59002	Cut			Machine excavated treehole		
59003	Fill			Clearance debris backfill of treehole 59002		
59004	Layer			Road surface		
59005	Cut			Roadside ditch		
59006	Fill			Fill of ditch 59006		
59007	Cut			Roadside ditch		
59008	Fill			Fill of ditch 59007		
59009	Fill			Fill of ditch 59007	Cu alloy object	20th century (military)
59010	Layer	-	0.10	Buried topsoil horizon		
59011	Layer	-		Reworked former topsoil horizon		



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Struck flint

By Michael Donnelly

- B.1.1 A very small assemblage of 4 struck flints was recovered from this evaluation. Two pieces from context 3001 and one each from contexts 21000 and 24013.
- B.1.2 Context 3001 produced a very fine polished flint axe fragment (Sf 1). The axe retains its cutting edge but has been snapped in half and the break may have been intentional. There is very little damage to the cutting edge, which would also support the intentional breakage theory. Due to the absence of its butt end, little can be said about the axe's form, something that is often used to differentiate between earlier and later axes. The remaining piece is an undiagnostic burnt flake.
- B.1.3 Context 21000 produced a burnt bladelet core with two platforms at ninety degrees to each other. Such complex bladelet cores can have a broad date range but are particularly common in the earlier part of the Neolithic. Context 24013 produced a single undiagnostic side trimming flake.
- B.1.4 The key find here is the axe and it is clearly of Neolithic date. Such pieces do attract attention throughout archaeological time and can be found as curios in much later contexts. Here, both the axe and the burnt flake were recovered from the subsoil and so little can be said about them other than that the axe may well have been intentionally snapped and deposited as part of ritual activity rather than being a loss through breakage during clearance. The core from topsoil 21000 is also likely to date to the early Neolithic, indicating more activity in the area than the casual loss of an axe.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
3001	axe	polished flint fragment	unused and intentionally broken? Survives to 68mm by 53mm by 27mm	Neolithic
3001	flake	misc trimming	hard-hammer struck	
21000	core	other bladelets	two platforms at ninety degrees, burnt	Early Neolithic?
24013	flake	side trimming	hard-hammer struck	

Table B1.1: Flint catalogue



B.2 Prehistoric pottery

By Lisa Brown

- B.2.1 A small collection of 72 sherds weighing 415g may be of later prehistoric date or represent examples of some uncommon locally-made early Roman native coarse wares. This allocation is based on the fact that all sherds in this group are handmade and do not correspond to fabric types of the wider Roman pottery assemblage from the site.
- B.2.2 The pottery was recovered from 11 contexts belonging to ditches 1205, 21008, 24006, 41009, from pit cluster 24012, roothole 5002 and unexcavated feature 24014. In most or all cases the majority of the material was abraded, possibly indicating that some of this material was residual within these features.
- B.2.3 This assemblage is composed almost entirely of unfeatured body sherds in a range of fabrics that include components of the Oxford, Kellaway, and Cornbrash Formations that form the geological sequence on which the site lies – ie gypsum, chalk, limestone, shell. There is a single example of fine flint temper. Some of the fabrics correspond broadly to those of the Iron Age pottery recovered from the nearby site of Alchester (Evans and Booth 2001). Where this is the case the Alchester fabric code is given in table below. The presence of grog (Evans and Booth group P20) would, in this region, indicate a date from the middle Iron Age or later, some possibly as late as the early Roman period.
- B.2.4 The only classifiable sherd probably belonged to a lid, or possibly a gallo-belgic platter copy, in grog-tempered ware from ditch 21008 (ctx 21006). This fragment is extremely abraded but, as the form is relatively apparent, and clearly in a Romanised tradition, it must date at least to the latest part of the late Iron Age.

Ctx	Count	Wt (g)	Fabric	Comments	Date
1202	3	1	Med grade black sandy glauconitic (Alchester P36)	extremely abraded fragments of fabric only	?MIA-LIA
1204	4	3	Med grade black sandy glauconitic (Alchester P36)	Small upright rim, handmade	?MIA-LIA
5002	1	27	Micaceous sand and sparse calcareous voids	Handmade, faceted smoothing	?Preh
21004	13	44	Lightly sanded, slightly soapy with grey grog. (Alchester P25)	Handmade. Oxidised and reduced sherds.	?LIA-early Roman
21004	17	118	Finely sanded with sparse limestone and/or gypsum and chalk, and rare shell (Alchester P02)	Handmade, curving body sherds from a fairly large vessel	?MIA-early Roman
21006	5	12	Finely sanded with shell and limestone and /or gypsum and chalk (Alchester P02)	Handmade, highly abraded	?MIA-early Roman
21006	1	11	Soapy grog-tempered with sparse limestone (Alchester P21)	Handmade, very abraded. Form is either a platter or rim	LIA-early Roman
21008	7	26	Soapy grog with sparse	Handmade, body	LIA-early



Ctx	Count	Wt (g)	Fabric	Comments	Date
			limestone (P21)	sherds	Roman
24005	6	74	Lightly sanded with sparse grey grog (P24)	Handmade, roughly smoothed	LIA-early Roman
24007	1	4	Soapy with grog (Alchester P22)	Handmade, small chip	LIA-early Roman
24007	2	8	Soapy with sparse fine crushed white flint	Handmade, roughly smoothed surfaces	?IA
24009	8	56	Lightly sanded with sparse weathered buff ? chalk and pink grog	Handmade, highly abraded, includes base frag	LIA – early Roman
24010	1	10	Lightly sanded with dark grey grog (Alchester P24)	Handmade	LIA-early Roman
24014	2	8	Grog with sparse limestone (P21)	Handmade	LIA-early Roman
41009	4	14	Organic voids and limestone (P43)	Handmade, heavily abraded, surfaces gone.	?Preh

Table B2.1: Prehistoric pottery forms and fabrics

B.3 Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 Roman pottery recovered from the evaluation was quantified within context groups by sherd count and weight in grammes. Forms identified by rim were additionally quantified by estimated vessel equivalents (EVE), which records the portion of the rim that survives (1 EVE equalling a complete rim, 0.1 EVE equalling 10% of the rim). The assemblage totalled 563 sherds, 4495g and 4.29 EVE. The pottery was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, assess condition, and provide spot dates. Forms and fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard guidelines for Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014). Reference was also made to Young's typology of the Oxfordshire industry (Young 1977) and standard samian ware typologies (cf. Webster 1996). Form and fabric codes are listed in Table B3.1.

Fabric code	Description	Form code	Description
B10	Handmade black-burnished ware	C	Jar
B11	Dorset black-burnished ware	CC	Narrow-necked jar
M21	Verulamium-region white ware	CD	Medium-mouthed necked jar
M22	Oxfordshire white ware mortaria	CN	Storage jar
O10	Fine oxidised ware	E	Beaker
O11	Oxfordshire oxidised ware	H	Bowl
O20	Sandy oxidised ware	JA	Straight-sided dish
O40	Severn Valley oxidised ware	JB	Curving-sided dish
O80	Coarse-tempered oxidised ware	KA	Hooked-rimmed mortarium
O81	Pink-grogged ware		
R10	Fine reduced ware		
R20	Sandy reduced ware		
R30	Medium sandy reduced ware		
R50	Dark-surfaced ware		
R90	Coarse-tempered reduced ware		
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware		
W22	Oxfordshire sandy white ware		
W23	Oxfordshire burnt white ware		

Table B3.1: Roman pottery forms and fabrics



Description

Context	Count	Weight (g)	EVE	Description	Date
3513	5	24		B11, R30	AD 120-410
4004	8	69	0.07	R30 (C) S30 (H – flanged, probably Drag. 38; worn internally)	AD 150-200
7001	3	34		O80	AD 43-410
32012	1	65	0.13	M22 (KA – Young 1977, type M2)	AD 100-170
39006	2	42		R30, O81	AD 150-410
39010	2	8		R30, R20	AD 43-410
39012	2	21		W22 or W23, O81	AD 150-410
40008	1	6	0.04	W22 (H – squared rim with slight groove on the top, ?carinated bowl, Young 1977, type W45)	AD 100-400
41005	78	744	0.15 0.12	O80 (CN) R50 (C) O10, R90, R30, R10 (E – barbotine dots)	AD 100-200
41007	3	207	0.1	R90 (CN)	AD 43-410
41008	3	69	0.27	R30 (CD) S30 (?Drag. 18/31 or 31 – trace of name stamp)	AD 120-200
41012	90	440	0.03 0.35	R50 (C) B11 (JB – flange-rimmed) O20, R30, R20	AD 120-250
41013	69	226	1.00	R30 (CC – near-complete jar)	AD 50-410
41014	40	180		R10, R20, R30, O10	AD 43-410
42004	4	30	0.05 0.03	R30 (C) R10 (C/E) O40	AD 43-250
42006	246	2299	0.11 1.00 0.14 0.16 0.18 0.07 0.15 0.14	S30 (Drag. 27, potter's flaw on internal ridge; name stamp ends JINI; possibly Aventinus ii, Macrinus ii, or Martinus ii) R30 (CC – complete or near-complete jar) R30 (CD) O11 (JA – Young 1977, type O41) R20 (CD) R30 (C) R20 (CD) B10 (JB – plain rim with groove below) M21 or M22, O20	AD 120-160
42010	3	6		R30	AD 43-410
51004	3	25		R10	AD 43-410
TOTAL	563	4495	4.29		

Table B3.2: Summary of Roman pottery



- B.3.2 The earliest Roman-period context groups were dated to the 2nd century AD. These included contexts 4004, 32012, 41005, 41008, and 42006. The best-dated of these were context 42006, which was dated to c AD 120-160 on the basis of a Central Gaulish Drag. 27 cup, an Oxfordshire fine oxidised ware dish, and a dish in black-burnished ware. An Oxfordshire white ware mortarium in context 32012 may have been deposited during the same period, though production of the form began in the early 2nd century (Young 1977, 68). The pottery in context 4004 was deposited a little later; the samian ware bowl recovered from it dates to the second half of the 2nd century. Contexts 41005 and 41008 were dated more broadly to the 2nd century.
- B.3.3 The remaining material is less well dated, but was potentially deposited in the 2nd century. The pottery from context 41012, which included a flanged dish in black-burnished ware, was dated to the mid Roman period, while Severn Valley oxidised ware in context 42004 is likely to date to the later 1st or 2nd centuries. The ceramic groups in contexts 3513, 39006, 39012 and 40008 have a wider date-range, the 2nd to 4th centuries, while seven groups (7001, 39010, 41007, 41013, 41014, 42010, and 51004) were simply dated to the Roman period.
- B.3.4 It is notable that two complete or near-complete vessels, both narrow-necked jars in reduced wares, were recovered, as were the substantial remains of several other vessels, including the Oxfordshire oxidised ware dish, a black-burnished ware dish, and reduced ware jars or beakers. That said, the assemblage overall is quite fragmented, the mean sherd weight being just 8g. By comparison, the 'completeness' value (essentially the mean rim EVE), is 0.2 EVE or 20%, highlighting that reasonably large proportions of vessels, even if fragmented, are present. It is likely, therefore, that the assemblage was deposited close to areas of use and initial discard.
- B.3.5 While the pottery potentially spans the entire Roman period, the emphasis of the assemblage was on the mid-Roman period, with the 2nd century being particularly well represented.
- B.3.6 The pottery recovered from the current site at Graven Hill suggests that activity represented by the pottery was set within a landscape of contemporaneous settlement. The site lies c 2km east of the Roman town of Alchester, which replaced the earlier Roman fort during the late 1st century AD (Booth *et al.* 2001, 428); occupation continued thereafter through the Roman period. Further Roman period settlement is attested in the hinterland of the Roman town, for example within the floodplain of Langford Brook (Waterman 2015), and at sites along the Bicester-Oxford rail line (S Lawrence pers. comm.).
- B.3.7 It is recommended that the pottery from the evaluation be integrated with any additional pottery collected from the site in subsequent interventions and recorded fully as part of a more extensive programme of analysis.



B.4 Medieval and post-medieval pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction

- B.4.1 A total of 103 sherds of pottery weighing 1704g were recovered from 16 contexts. The assemblage can be broken down into 40 sherds (332g) of medieval pottery and 63 sherds (1372g) of post-medieval pottery (from c 1480+). Medieval pottery comprises 39% by sherd count (or 19.5% by weight) of the whole assemblage, and has an average sherd weight of 8.3g. Post-medieval pottery comprises 61% (or 80.5% by weight), and has an average sherd weight of 22.5g. The pottery mainly comes from fairly superficial features including medieval ditch fills and spreads of modern material associated with the military base. This is reflected in its general condition - which is mostly very fragmentary and sometimes abraded.

Methodology

- B.4.2 An intermediate level catalogue of pottery types was constructed, following standard OA procedure, and spot-dates produced for each context. The catalogue includes, per context and per pottery fabric, quantification by sherd count and weight only. Details of vessel form, part, decoration and any other features of note were recorded in a comments field. The inscribed or marked 20th-century military 'canteen' wares, however, were assigned an individual catalogue entry per vessel, as these were considered to be of some importance and some have been illustrated. Full catalogue details remain in archive. As better parallels exist for the medieval wares none has been illustrated. Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but with several quite large and fresh sherds present amongst the modern material, including a few complete vessel profiles. Ordinary domestic pottery types typical of the Oxford area are represented although the military wares are a little out of the ordinary and have therefore been singled out for closer attention. These are detailed in the catalogue and summarised here. Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994). Post-medieval pottery fabric codes used are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). A breakdown of the types present is given in Table B4.1 below.

Date and nature of the assemblage

- B.4.3 Most of the medieval pottery (33 sherds, 247g) comes from the fill of ditch 32008 (32007), in Trench 32, with another sherd (17g) from ditch 3210 (32009). Together these date to c 1175-1250. All sherds of Medieval Oxford ware (fabric OXY) and Wychwood ware (OXCX) listed in the table above are from these two contexts. Although some of these sherds are quite small and scrappy, several are quite large and fairly fresh; all unglazed coarse wares, including a few cooking pot rims and one bowl rim. Two cooking pot rims (OXY and OXCX) have thumbled decoration typical of this period. Several vessels are sooted externally from use as cooking vessels. Wychwood ware is characteristic of north Oxfordshire and is fairly rare from the city of Oxford. Although it is a limestone-tempered ware most of the rounded (oolitic) limestone inclusions have dissolved-out leaving a corky texture which, along with the weakly oxidised firing colour and grey core, is one of the characteristics of this ware (Mellor 1994, 106-111).
- B.4.4 The only other medieval pottery from the site comprises six sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) from ditch fills in Trench 35 contexts (3505, 3507); these are from green-glazed jugs most probably dating to the 13th-14th century. Context (51004) in Trench 51 produced two sherds of early/mid 18th-century pottery (STSL, PMR) and a clay pipe



stem of c 1700-1750. The only other pottery definitely pre-dating the military base is a single rim sherd in Pearlware (PEAR) dating to c 1780-1840 (43003).

- B.4.5 It appears very likely that the remaining 60 sherds (1351g) of late post-medieval pottery (comprising 58% and 79% of the assemblage respectively) date from the time of the military base here, from c 1942 onwards. The inscribed and dated vessels cover the period 1942-1953 and there is nothing obviously later than this. Although some of these late types of refined whiteware (TPW, REFW) and porcelain (ENPO, BONE) were first developed in the 18th and 19th centuries they all continued in production throughout the 20th century and up to the present day. Despite this, an end-date of c 1900 is usually assigned for spot-dating purposes; this is simply convention, however, probably because 20th-century pottery assemblages, as here, are rarely recovered or treated from an archaeological viewpoint.
- B.4.6 By far the commonest fabric here is transfer-printed refined whiteware (TPW), probably the commonest type of mass-produced pottery found in 19th- and 20th-century Britain, and synonymous with Victorian 'Willow Pattern' blue-and-white tablewares. Most of this was produced at the highly industrialised potteries of Staffordshire and the Midlands, and at Stoke-on-Trent in particular. The version of this seen here, however, is a late development of this fabric and comprises functional and durable crockery made for use in canteens and hotels (sometimes referred to as 'canteen ware'). This has a very hard white and sometimes almost porcelain-like body with a clear or slightly greyish glaze. In character it often resembles very closely the vitreous white near-porcelain used for sanitary wares in the late 19th and 20th century. The undecorated version of this is coded REFW but it is likely that the REFW sherds here are just from the undecorated areas of transfer-printed vessels. The TPW vessels here, cups, mugs and dishes or plates, are not actually decorated, as such, but have transfer-printed makers' marks and sometimes the date of manufacture on the (unseen) underside.
- B.4.7 Tableware services, such as that seen here, were often commissioned directly from Staffordshire suppliers by large organisations or companies for use anywhere where the organisation had offices or premises. In this case it is almost certain that the tablewares used at Graven Hill were part of a larger commission by the MoD to supply military bases with a standard issue of serviceable pottery. Ten individual vessels with printed marks have been identified. Most are smallish base sherds but one or two complete profiles have survived. Seven of these, and a plain REFW teacup fragment (probably once marked), are illustrated here (Plate 15, 1-8). Full descriptions and measurements are provided in the catalogue and therefore only summarised here (see also illustration catalogue). The transfer-printed marks are in black or grey and in one instance in green. These usually contain the name of a Staffordshire pottery manufacturer and sometimes the make or brand-name of the ware (eg 'Vitrified' or 'Empire'), also sometimes the royal monogram of King George VI or Queen Elizabeth II. Seven vessels bear dates covering the period 1942-1953. Of these three are dated 1942, one each to 1943 and 1945, and probably two to 1953 (one of these is broken but the digits '195[?]' survive). The bases of two teacups, including one dated 1945, include the abbreviation 'N.A.A.F.' showing they were made for the Navy, Army and Air Force Institute (Plate 15, 5-6). Manufacturing companies named include Woods, Wedgwood, Booths, Dunn Bennet, Furnivals and Allertons. The single most complete item is a conical ?coffee mug lacking a handle (Plate 15, 4). A single (unmarked) teacup has a distinctive robust bracket-like handle derived from the Art Deco-style and typical of cups and mugs from WWII contexts (air-raid shelters etc), although few assemblages of this date have been published. In addition to the 10 inscribed vessels a small number of plain unmarked vessels (REFW) were identified, including a jug and a chamberpot. Sherds from three,

probably contemporary, dishes and bowls in other fabrics were also found (ENPO, BONE, YELL).

- B.4.8 The largest deposit of wartime vessels (9 vessels) was from a general dump layer in Trench 11 (11001). The two 1953 vessels are dish/plate profiles; these were very fragmentary and somehow ended up in the fill of a broken ceramic ?drainpipe in Trench 17 (17003). Despite their fragmentary condition the 'canteen' or wartime vessels are probably the most interesting aspect of the ceramic assemblage from Graven Hill. These provide dating evidence with a degree of accuracy rarely found in pottery assemblages and a useful snapshot, furthermore, of the types of pottery used on military bases as well as the names of several manufacturers who supplied them.

Fabric	Common name	Date	Count	Weight
OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	1075-1300	25	206
OXCX	Wychwood ware (NW Oxon)	1175-1550	9	58
OXAM	Brill/Boarstall ware (Bucks)	1225-1625	6	68
PMR	Post-medieval red earthenwares	1550-1900	1	11
STSL	Staffs-type combed slipware	1680-1900	1	8
ENPO	English porcelain	1745-1900+	1	5
PEAR	Pearlware (Staffs etc)	1780-1840	1	2
TPW	Transfer-printed wares (Staffs etc)	1780-1900+	37	727
BONE	Bone china	1794-1900+	2	28
REFW	Refined whitewares (Staffs etc)	1805-1900+	17	458
YELL	Yellow ware (Staffs/Midlands)	1820-1900+	2	11
ENGS BRST	English stonewares (Bristol glaze)	1835-1900+	1	122
Totals			103	1704

Table B4.1: Breakdown of medieval and later pottery

Plate 15 illustrations (All Transfer-printed ware, TPW)

1. Dish/plate base. Probably Allertons LTD. Dated 1942. Ctx (45000). Vess 13.
2. ?Mug base. Dated 1942. Ctx (15000). Vess 10.
3. Cylindrical mug base. Dated 1942. Ctx (11001). Vess 7.
4. Conical ?coffee mug profile. Height 98mm. Dated 1943. Ctx (11001). Vess 6.
5. Teacup base. NAAFI. Dated 1945. Ctx (11001). Vess 1.
6. Teacup base. NAAFI. Undated. Ctx (11001). Vess 2.
7. Teacup profile with handle (lacking base and inscription). Rim diam 92mm. Ctx (11001). Vess 5.
8. Dish/plate base. Fragmentary green inscription including part of 'E.II.R.' monogram and date 1953. From very fragmentary vessel profile with rim diam 250mm. Ctx (17003). Vess 11.

B.5 Fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

- B.5.1 A small assemblage of fired clay amounting to 39 fragments weighing 109g was recovered four trenches. The material is very fragmentary and poorly preserved with a very low mean fragment weight of 3g. The assemblage has been recorded on a spreadsheet and is summarised in the table below. None of the material is dateable beyond prehistoric – medieval, when fired clay was generally produced. In general fired clay is reliant on associated dateable artefacts for its phasing, except in the case of a small number of diagnostic forms, none of which were present in this assemblage. The material occurred in features dating from the late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, as well as undated contexts.
- B.5.2 Most pieces are indeterminate in form being either amorphous or having a single moulded flat surface. Two pieces had with a narrow groove 7mm in diameter which may have been a perforation or possibly a small stem impression running through the clay. Another piece had a small area of concave surface, possibly a wattle impression.
- B.5.3 The fragments occurred in a variety of fabrics including a smooth laminated clay, grog-tempered, sandy and organic-tempered. The clay was fired to a range of pink, orange, red and brown hues and shades.
- B.5.4 The fired clay probably derived from some oven or hearth structures and furniture most likely of a domestic character. The phasing suggests that the assemblage comprises material from differing periods and does not form a single coherent group.

Context	Sample No	Count	Wt (g)	Fabric	Class	Form	Feature pottery date
21004	~	4	15	grog	Oven/hearth	furniture ?	Late Iron Age
21004	~	2	8	sandy	Oven/hearth	indet	Late Iron Age
21006	<1>	23	42	grog	Oven/hearth	indet	Late Iron Age
24010	~	1	8	organic	Oven/hearth	indet	Late Iron Age
24013	~	1	3	organic	Oven/hearth	indet	Late Iron Age
32007	~	3	13	clay	Oven/hearth	structure ?	Medieval
32007	~	3	8	clay	Oven/hearth	structure ?	Medieval
32009	~	1	8	grog	Oven/hearth	indet	Medieval
39010	~	1	4	sandy	Oven/hearth	indet	Roman

Table B5.1: summary and quantification of fired clay by context

B.6 Ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

- B.6.1 A small quantity of ceramic building material amounting to six fragments weighing 233g was recovered from four trenches. The assemblage has been recorded on a spreadsheet and is summarised in the table below. All the pieces were broken and fragmentary.
- B.6.2 There was a single fragment of Roman flat tile (ctx 42006) made in a light orange grog-tempered fabric containing red and cream clay pellets: the thickness is incomplete and the form uncertain, though tegula or brick is most probable.
- B.6.3 The remaining pieces were all post-Roman, mostly flat roof tile of medieval or post-medieval date. They were made in red-orange sandy or grog-tempered fabrics, except for one in a very dark brown sandy clay containing a high density of shell grit. Although the latter fabric could be medieval, something intangible about the tile finish and a few tiny specks of green paint suggest it was possibly fairly modern. The roof tile measured 12-15mm thick and one had a circular peg hole 11mm diameter centred 22mm and 57mm from the top and side edges respectively; this tile also had a shallow indented border 24mm wide along the side edge. The roof tile cannot be closely dated, though the general finish and thickness suggests it could be late medieval – early post-medieval in date in the region of late 15th-17th century. The only brick recovered was a fragment of 20th century Fletton type.

Context	Count	Wt (g)	Form	Fab Gp	Spot date
21001	1	23	Roof flat	shelly	Pmed/EMod?
24010	1	65	Roof peg	sandy	Med/Pmed
24010	1	103	Brick	Fletton	C20
42006	2	25	Flat	grog	RB
51004	1	17	Roof flat	sandy	Med/Pmed
Total	6	233			

Table B6.1: Summary and quantification of ceramic building material by context

B.7 Glass

By Ian Scott

- B.7.1 The glass assemblage comprises 11 pieces of vessel glass, including three complete bottles (Nos. 1-2 and 5), a fragment of an optical lens (No. 3), and eight pieces of thick wire-reinforced window glass such as is used in warehouses and industrial buildings.
- B.7.2 One piece of window glass (No. 4) is reinforced with a hexagonal mesh (chicken wire), and the other pieces (Nos 6, 11 and 15) with a square mesh of fine wire.
- B.7.3 The vessel glass is almost certainly all machine-moulded and therefore dates to the period after the First World War. The complete vessels include a small medicine bottle (No. 1) and a small cylindrical ink bottle (No. 2) both with screw cap closure. There is also a small pill, or smelling salts, bottle with an in situ screw cap, now somewhat rusted (No. 5).

No.	Context	Count	Dimensions	Identification	Comments
1	11001	1	Ht: 116m W: 44mm	medicine bottle	small medicine bottle of rectangular section with round corners and screw cap closure. No markings or labels. Machine moulded. Colourless. Complete.
2	11001	1	Ht: 57mm D: 44mm	ink bottle	small cylindrical ink bottle with screw cap closure. No markings and no label. Machine made. Colourless. Complete.
3	11001	1	D: 36mm	lens	almost half of a small, probably circular, lens. From an optical instrument rather than from eye glasses? Colourless.
4	11001	1	75mmx53mm Th: 7mm.	window	Thick (chicken) wire mesh reinforced glass with one dimpled surface. Modern. Colourless.
5	11001	1	Ht: 65mm W: 40mm.	pill bottle	small bottle of flattened oval section with in situ metal screw cap. Machine moulded. Embossed "UGB 3" on base for United Glass Bottle. Colourless. Complete.
6	21000	4	80mmx75mm Th: 7mm.	window	4 x non-refitting pieces of thick window glass reinforced with square wire mesh with one dimpled surface. Mesh aligned square to frame? Modern. Colourless.
7	21000	1	Ht extant: 34mm.	bottle	short neck from a machine made bottle with screw cap closure. Modern. Colourless.
8	21001	1	D: c 77- 78mm.	bottle	sherd from the base of a cylindrical bottle. Machine moulded. Embossed "DA. . ." Colourless.
9	21001	1	Not measured	bottle	body sherd from cylindrical bottle. Brown

No.	Context	Count	Dimensions	Identification	Comments
10	21001	1	Not measured	bottle	small body sherd from cylindrical bottle. Amber.
11	24010	1	84mmx76mm Th: 7mm.	window	thick window glass reinforced with square wire mesh. Has one dimpled surface. Mesh possibly aligned diagonally to frame. Modern. Colourless.
12	51004	1	Not measured	bottle	small body sherd from cylindrical bottle. Olive green.
13	52003	1	Not measured	bottle	body sherd from a cylindrical bottle. Colourless.
14	52003	1	sherd Ht: 53mm W: 55mm	bottle	sherd from base and heel of an ovoid bottle with flat sides. Machine moulded. Embossed "E. . ." on one flat side, and embossed with dimples on the base. Modern. Dark green.
15	52003	2	68mmx52mm H: 7mm	window	2 x non-refitting pieces of thick window glass reinforced with square wire mesh. Has one dimpled surface. Mesh possibly aligned square to frame. Modern. Colourless.

Table B7.1: Catalogue of glass finds

B.8 Metal and other small finds

By Ian Scott

B.8.1 There are 19 objects (22 fragments) comprising 11 iron objects, 5 copper alloy, and three plastic or 'Bakelite' objects (4 frags). There is a part of a small late medieval or early post medieval buckle (No. 1) from context 3504. With the exception of this object most, if not all, of the finds are modern. The finds include a George V silver sixpence dating from 1921 (no. 10). There is the base of a beaker or similar vessel in 'Bakelite' stamped 'UTILITY WAR' on the base (No. 6), three pieces from the rim of plastic soup bowl (No. 15), and a 'Bakelite' screw plug (No. 5). There is also a cupro-nickel fork (No.16) and a strap end from military webbing, the latter probably dating from World War 2 or the immediate post-War period (No. 17). Other finds include the blade from a stainless steel table knife (No. 9), and an iron or mild steel latch probably for fastening a canvas cover (No. 2).

No.	Context	Count	Dimensions	Identification	Comments
1	3504	1	W: 20mm	buckle	fragment from a small late medieval or early post medieval buckle with decorated outer edge. Cu alloy
2	11001	1	L: 111mm W: 35mm	tilt latch	large latch with elongated rectangular loop and two fixing points. Probably for canvas/tarpaulin cover of truck. Modern. Fe
3	11001	3	D: 33mm	washers	3 x large washers with small perforations, all three similar and slightly curved. Probably in conjunction with a rivet to secure a cover to a tubular frame. Modern. Fe.
4	11001	1	L: 67mm	rolled sheet	rolled thin rectangular cu alloy sheet.
5	11001	1	D: 18mm Ht: 12.5m	screw plug	'Bakelite' screw top or plug with slightly domed top with knurled edge above a screw thread. Dk brown.
6	11001	1	D: 71mm Ht extant: 46mm.	vessel	base of a cylindrical vessel or beaker in off- white or cream 'Bakelite' (or similar plastic). Moulded and stamped "UTILITY WAR" in base below a monogram " ^ B" (perhaps a ligatured AB or NB ?)
7	21000	1	L: 75mm	nail	3 inch nail. Modern drawn wire nail. Fe.
8	21000	1	L extant: 70mm	heel iron?	possible heel iron fragment comprising fullered curved strip. No clear nail holes however. Fe.
9	21000	1	L: 93mm W: 20mm	knife	knife blade, stainless steel. Trace of tang at one end and shadow of handle. The tip at the opposite end is missing. The back of the blade is very slightly arched. Signs of sharpening. Fe.
10	21000	1	D: 19mm	sixpence	George V silver sixpence (6d), 1921.



No.	Context	Count	Dimensions	Identification	Comments
11	21001	1	40mmx40mm	washer?	roughly square plate, two angled corners and single central perforation. A washer or possibly broken-off lug. Fe.
12	24010	1	L: 25mm	rod or wire	short length of thin rod or thick wire. Fe.
13	49001	1	L: 52mm	nail	probable nail with tapered square section stem and thickened head. Probably hand forged. Complete. Fe.
14	49008	1	L: 31mm W: 10mm	object	lead or leaded cu alloy object. Uncertain ID. Could just possibly be a spent jacketed rifle round.
15	49009	3	D: c 270mm	soup bowl	3 x refitting pieces from the slightly curved and angled rim of a 'Bakelite' (or similar plastic) soup bowl. Cream coloured.
16	52005	1	L extant: 145mm W: 22mm	fork	table fork with four tines and pierced handle. Now bent. Originally c 165mm long. Cupro-nickel?
17	59009	1	L: 18mm W: 26mm	strap end	Cu alloy strap end from military webbing. Probably from 1937 pattern web equipment, but could even be from 1908 pattern. Predates the introduction of the 1958 pattern, which used aluminium instead of brass fittings.

Table B8.1: Catalogue of metal and other small finds



B.9 Clay tobacco pipe

By John Cotter

- B.9.1 Two small pieces of clay pipe weighing 9g were recovered from two contexts. These are fully described below.
- B.9.2 Context (3001) 17th century. One piece (5g): Worn stem fragment of 'chunky' type with a stem bore diameter of 3mm.
- B.9.3 Context (51004) c 1700-1750. One piece (4g): Fresh stem fragment of 'chunky' type with a stem bore diameter of 2mm. Good quality burnish.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Charred plant remains

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single 40L sample was taken from the evaluation and entirely processed by water flotation. Sample <1> (21006) was taken from a deposit with evident charred inclusions within the fill of a ditch [21009] of Iron Age date in Trench 21. It was composed of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) and greyish brown (2.5Y 5/2) silty clay with charcoal flecking.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The sample was processed using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts.
- C.1.3 Sample <1> produced a flot of c 75ml of which 100% was scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification. Seed identifications were made with reference to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

Results

- C.1.4 The flot contains a large amount of fine roots as well as a large quantity of well-preserved charcoal, some potentially large enough to be identified to species. Charred cereal grains were noted, but the majority were too fragmented to identify even to to genus. Three fragments are probably barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains, however the degree of fragmentation means that this identification is not secure. Four small fragments of hazelnut shell and a small number of charred wild plant seeds were also noted. While the majority of seeds are in poor condition and unidentifiable, one appears to be a bedstraw (cf. *Galium* sp.), three are from the goosefoot family (Amaranthaceae) and one is chamomile (*Anthemis* sp.).

C.2 Animal bone

By Lena Strid

- C.2.1 A total of 252 animal bone fragments were recovered from the evaluation. The majority of the assemblage came from features dated to the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods (Table C2.1). Remains from a sieved soil sample comprise 87 fragments (34.5%).
- C.2.2 The bone condition was varied in all phases, but the bones displayed a high degree of fragmentation. A small number of bones showed traces of burning and traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs (Table C2.2).
- C.2.3 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig and bank/field vole, the latter representing natural background fauna. The presence of cattle, sheep/goat and pig are common for both Iron Age, Roman and medieval assemblages, although due to the small sample size it is not possible to extrapolate on the frequency of cattle, sheep/goat and pig and their contribution to the economy and diet. A minimum age at death could only be attributed to four Roman cattle bones (Table C3.3).
- C.2.4 No further information can be gained from such small sample of bones. However, if further excavations take place on the site, the bones should be included in the full excavation report.

	IA	Roman	Medieval	20th C	Undated
Cattle	2	7	3	1	
Sheep/goat	5		1		
Pig	3				
Bank/field vole	1				
Small mammal	1				
Medium mammal	34	3	1		
Large mammal	8	18			1
Indeterminate	77	34	31		21
TOTAL	131	62	36	1	22
Weight (g)	176	429	66	31	18

Table C2.1. Bone assemblage from the Graven Hill (AMOD15) evaluation.

	N	0	1	2	3	4	5	Burnt	Gnawed
IA	131	8	87	19	17			10	
Roman	62		14	12	3	33			2
Medieval	36	1	2		11	22		2	
20th C	1	1							
Undated	2					2			

Table C2.2. Bone preservation and number of bones with traces of burning and gnawing. 0=good and 5=very poorly-preserved



ROMAN		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Cattle	Early fusion			2
	Mid fusion			2
	Late fusion			

Table C2.3. Epiphyseal fusion of cattle, following Habermehl (1975). Fusion stages follows Serjeantson (1996).



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Bicester MOD, Graven Hill, Bicester, Oxfordshire
Site code:	AMOD 15
Grid reference:	centred on SP 58863 20834
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	7th September - 20th November 2015
Area of site:	LTA 1 boundary encloses approximately 94ha

Summary of results:

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Graven Hill Village Development Company Ltd to undertake the evaluation of the Land Transfer Area 1 (LTA1) within the greater development boundary at Graven Hill. This comprised the excavation of 55 evaluation trenches measuring 50m by 4m. The scope and arrangement of the trenches was agreed between the client's consultant archaeologist, Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd, and the Planning Archaeologist for the Cherwell District. In the event an additional 2 trenches measuring 30m by 2m were added to the scope.

A variety of positive results were gained at five separate and distinct locations. These spanned the late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods indicating the varied potential of the site. The earliest significant find was a Neolithic polished flint axe fragment. This was recovered from a subsoil deposit within the western part of the evaluation area (Trench 3) although additional artefacts or features of this date were absent.

Late Iron Age activity was evidenced by a dispersed group of ditches and pits focused upon Trenches 21, 22 and 24. These remains appear to be moderately well preserved and entirely of pre Roman conquest origin. The related activity seems to be relatively sprawling with the features spread over a 100m long area around the lower slopes of Graven Hill. Further late Iron Age ditches were recorded to the north of Circular Road within Trenches 12 and 13.

Comparatively dense Roman remains were encountered within the northern part of the LTA1 adjacent to the current Rodney House building. Trenches 39-42 each produced a number of linear ditches, three of which produced moderate-large assemblages of pottery dated mid-late 2nd century. The relative sterility of several other ditches and the apparent phasing represented by intersections and recuts demonstrate a degree of longevity to the activity here. The ditch arrangements are suggestive of field boundaries or other small enclosures. It is possible that this activity or occupation may relate to a known building of some pretension beyond the LTA1 and development boundary to the WNW near to Langford Park Farm.

Further remains of likely Roman origin were investigated in the form of Akeman Street. This survives in the modern landscape as a hedge boundary aligned approximately east-west through the evaluation area. Historically the route of Akeman Street was defined by a double hedge line boundary enclosing a track. This route was investigated along its eastern extent within the evaluation boundary where the hedge lines had been removed revealing a track or road surface constructed of limestone pieces set within a shallow terrace into the hill slope within Trenches 49, 58 and 59. No dating evidence was present although the absence of modern material suggests that this was sealed by silting layers prior to the military occupation and use of the site.

Within the core of the LTA1 evaluation boundary Trenches 32 and 35 both produced evidence for medieval activity spanning the period 12th-14th century. It is unclear what the linear ditches



represent in terms of activity or settlement although the presence of domestic pottery wares and a buckle do suggest that some contemporary occupation may be located within the vicinity.

Numerous remains relating to the military camp were encountered. These were almost entirely represented by the destruction and demolition debris resulting from the clearance of the site as part of the reinstatement to pasture fields. These remains are not significant although interesting pottery assemblages often depicting the date of manufacture within the war period were present. Notable assemblages were recovered from Trench 11.

Location of archive:

The archive is currently held at Oxford Archaeology's Oxford Office at Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum in due course under the accession number OXCMS 2015.173



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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

Figure 1: Site location

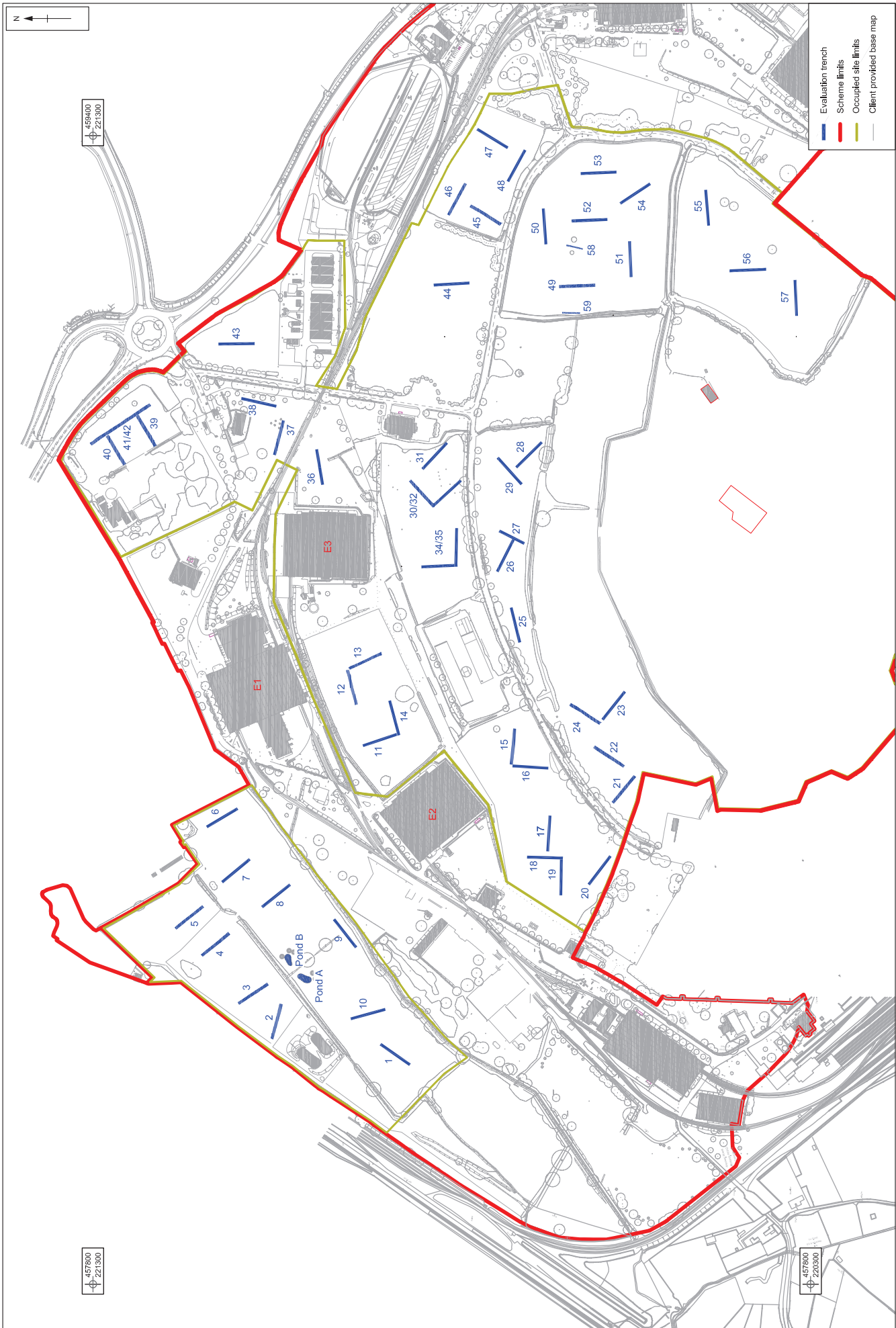


Figure 2: Trench location plan



Figure 3: 'Demonstrator Project' trench layout and archaeological summary

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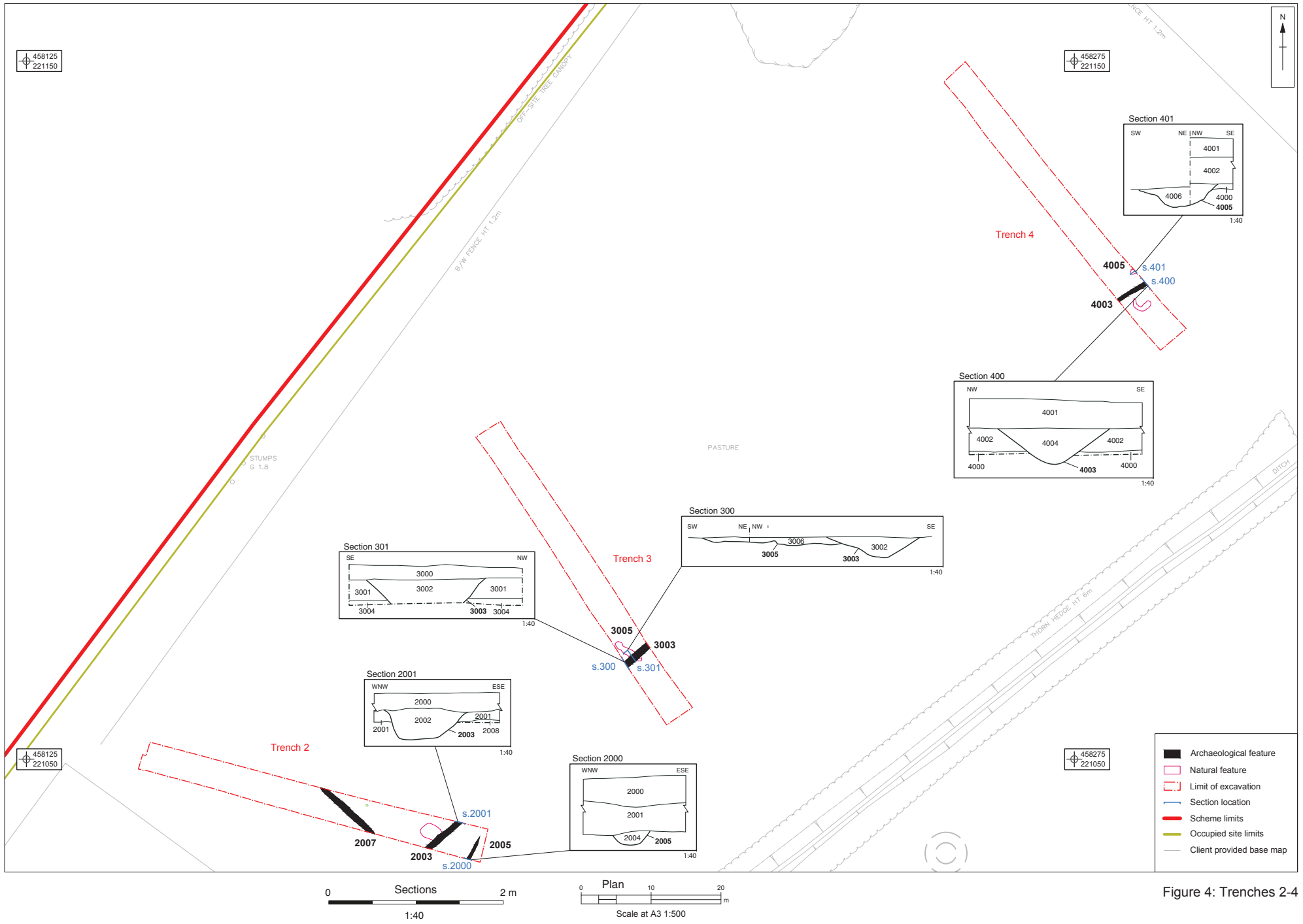


Figure 4: Trenches 2-4

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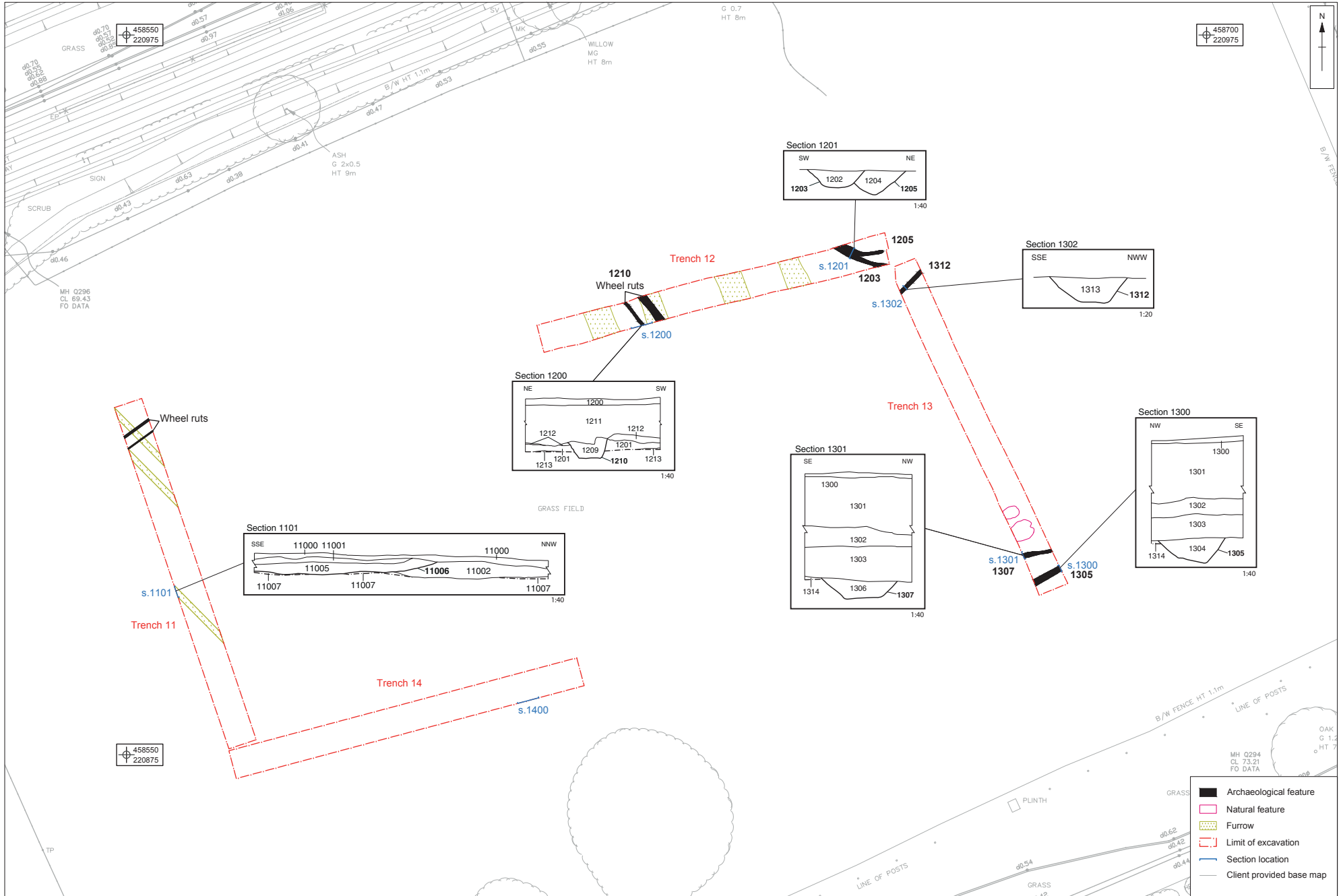


Figure 5: Trenches 11-14

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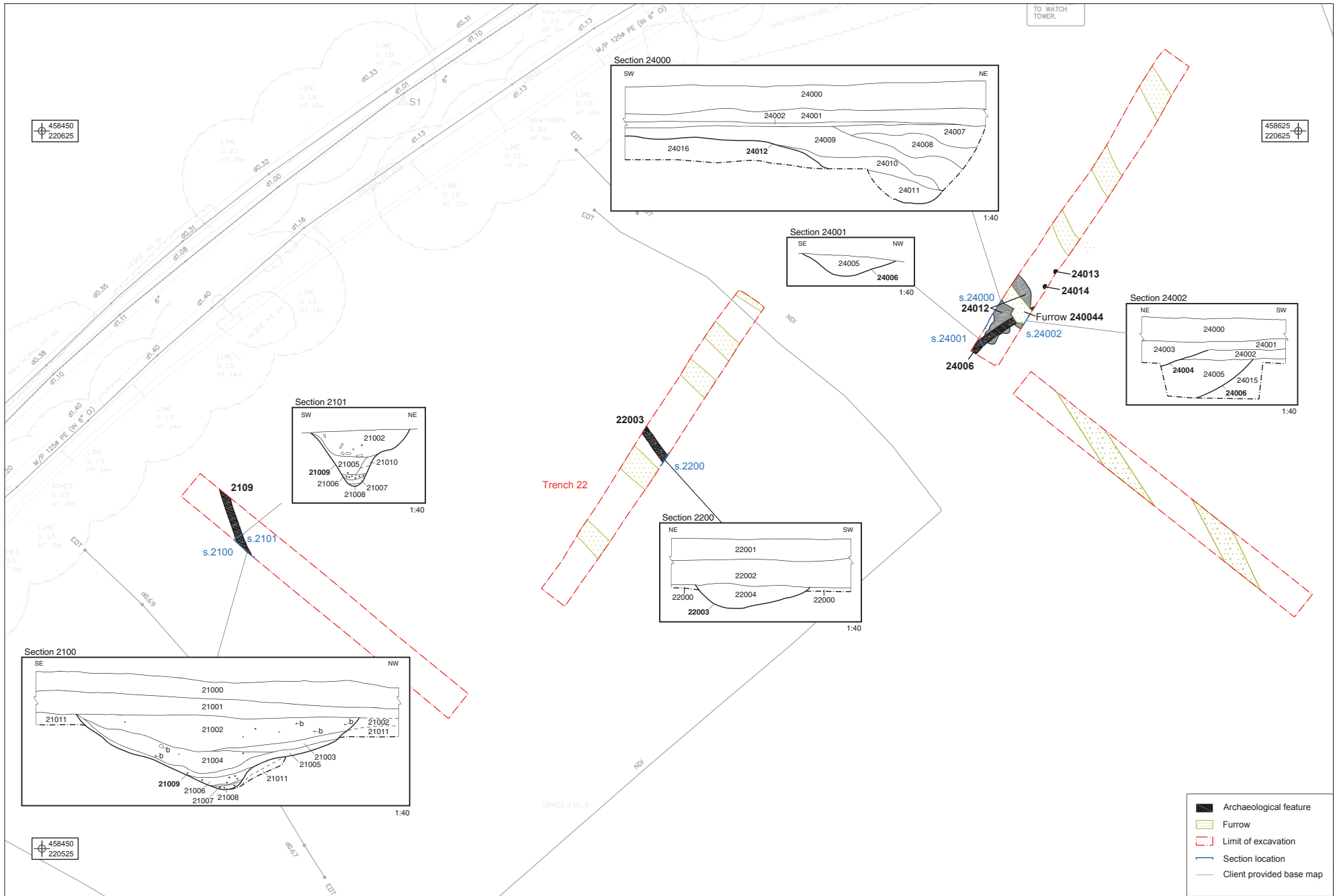


Figure 6: Trenches 21-24

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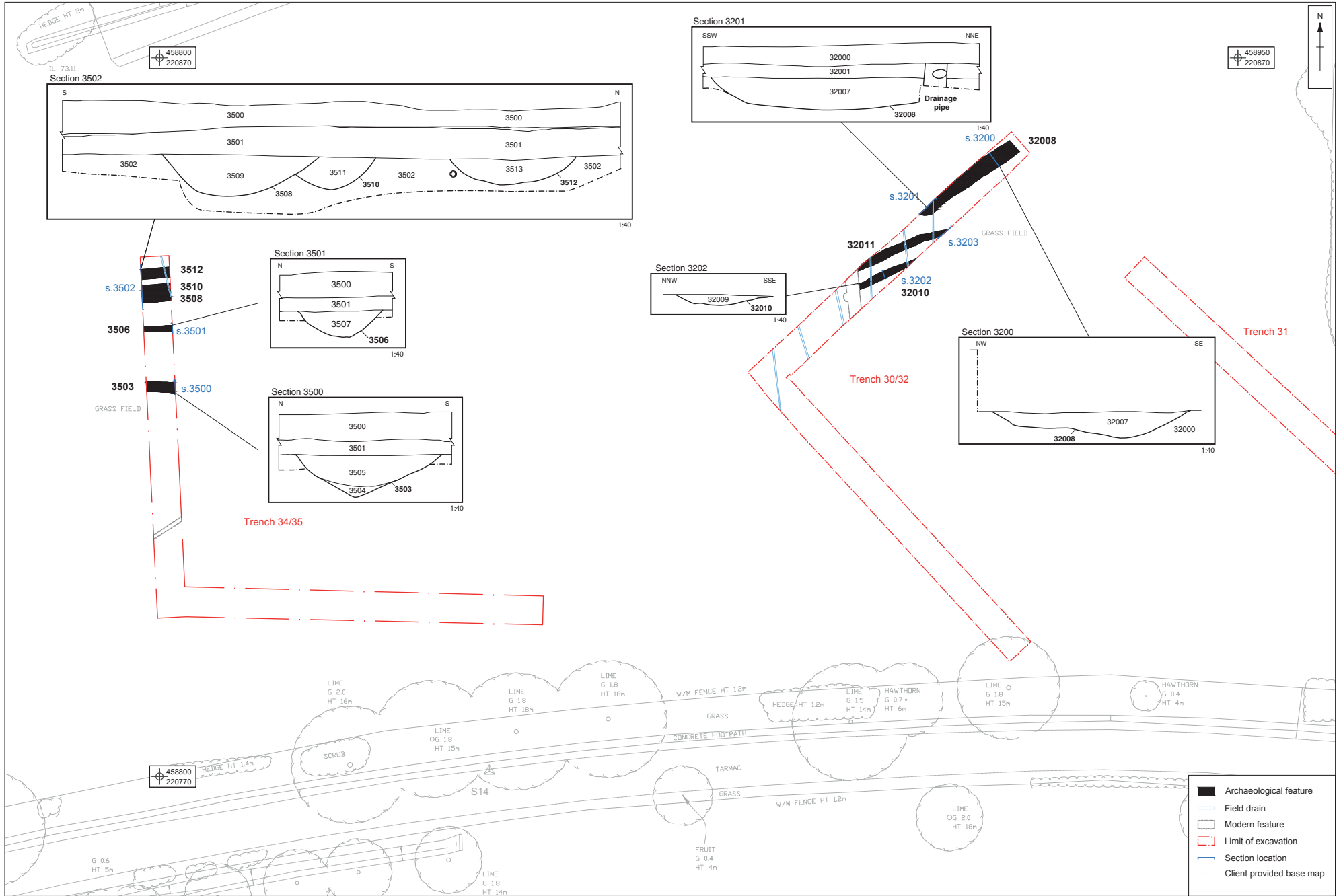


Figure 7: Trenches 30-35

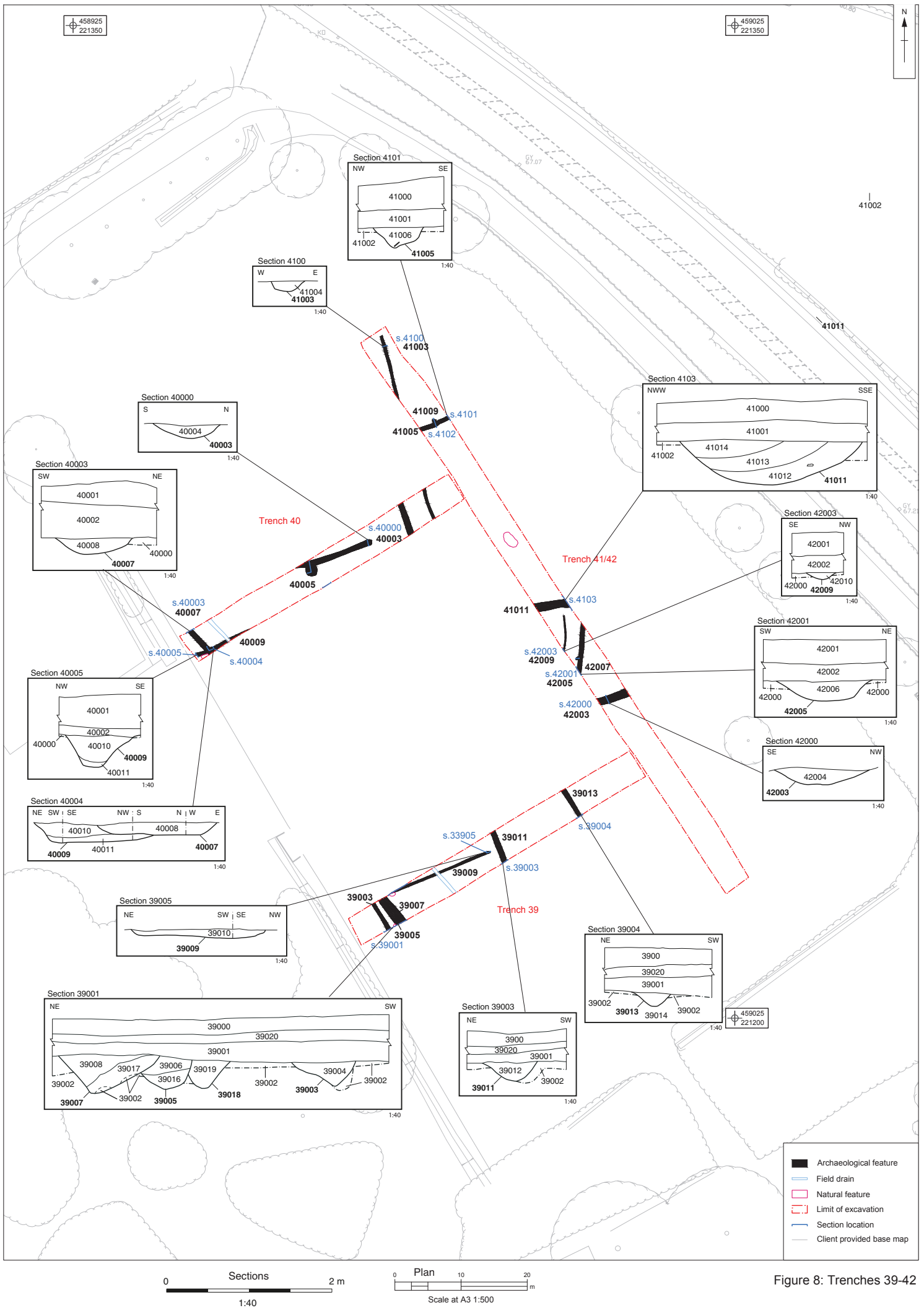


Figure 8: Trenches 39-42

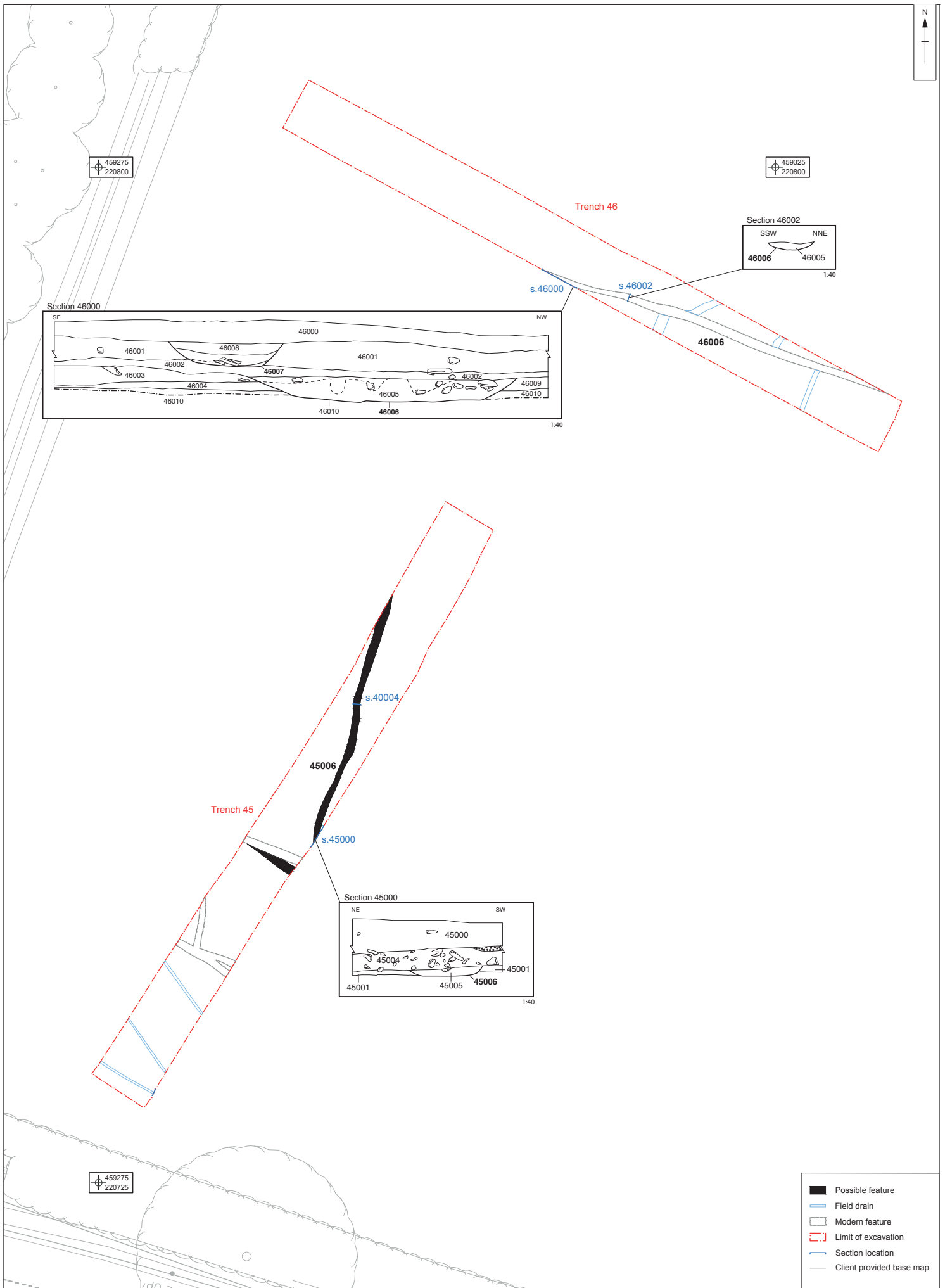


Figure 9: Trenches 45 and 46

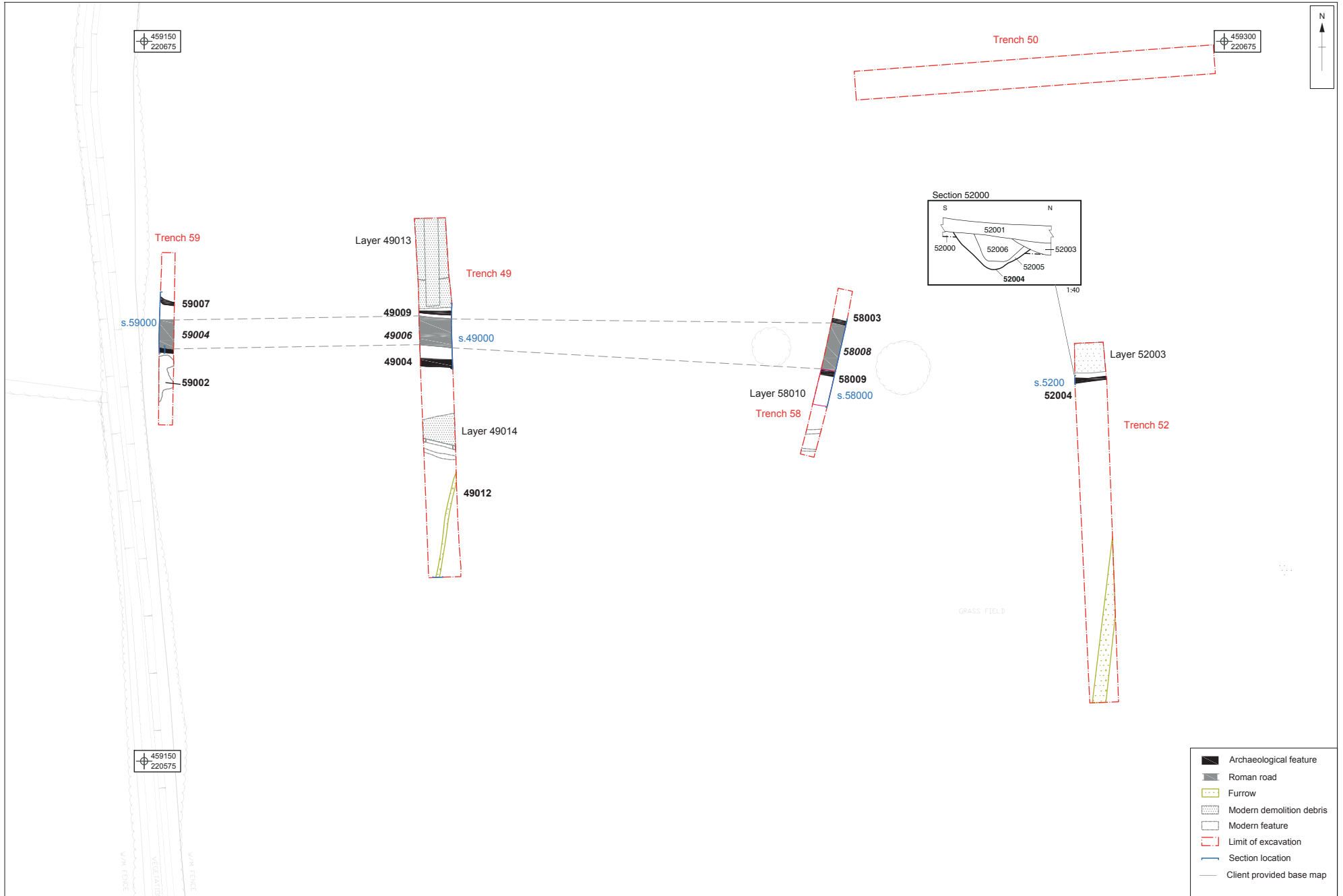


Figure 10: Trenches 49, 50, 52, 58 and 59

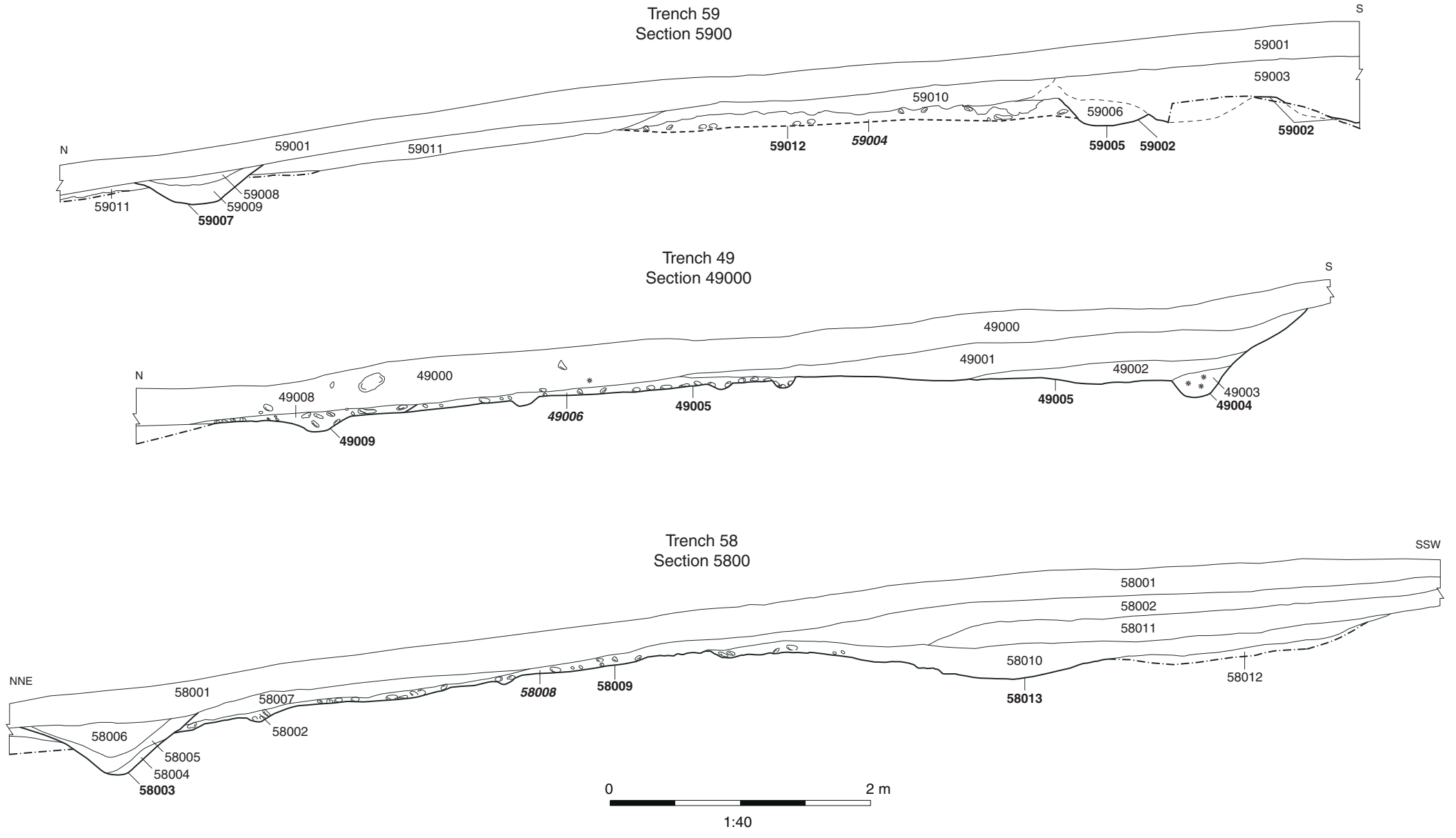


Figure 11: Trenches 59, 49 and 58 Akeman Street sections

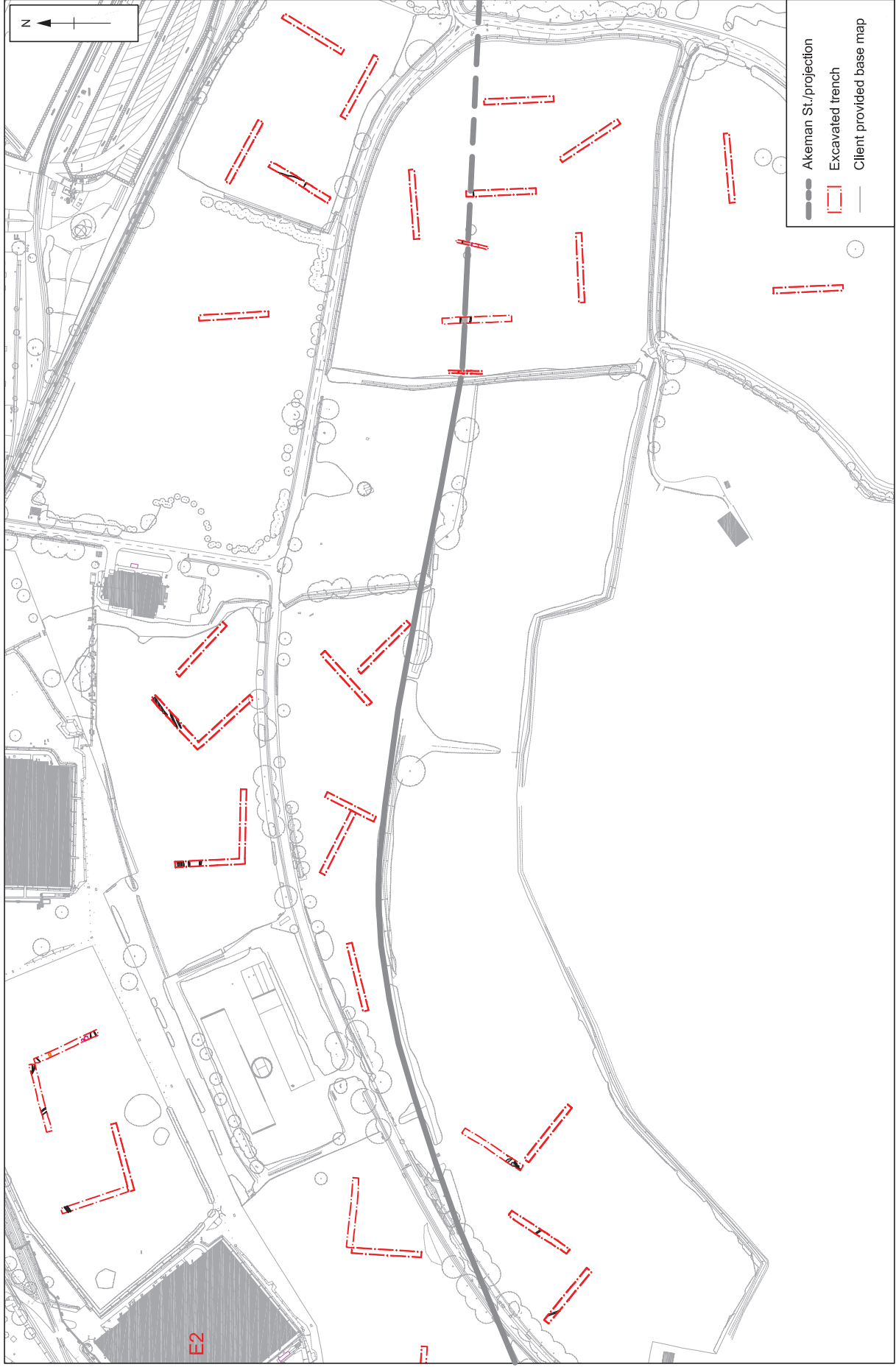


Figure 12: The projected line of Akeman Street through the evaluation area



Plate 1: Trench 8 General view and section



Plate 2: Neolithic polished flint axe fragment from Trench 3

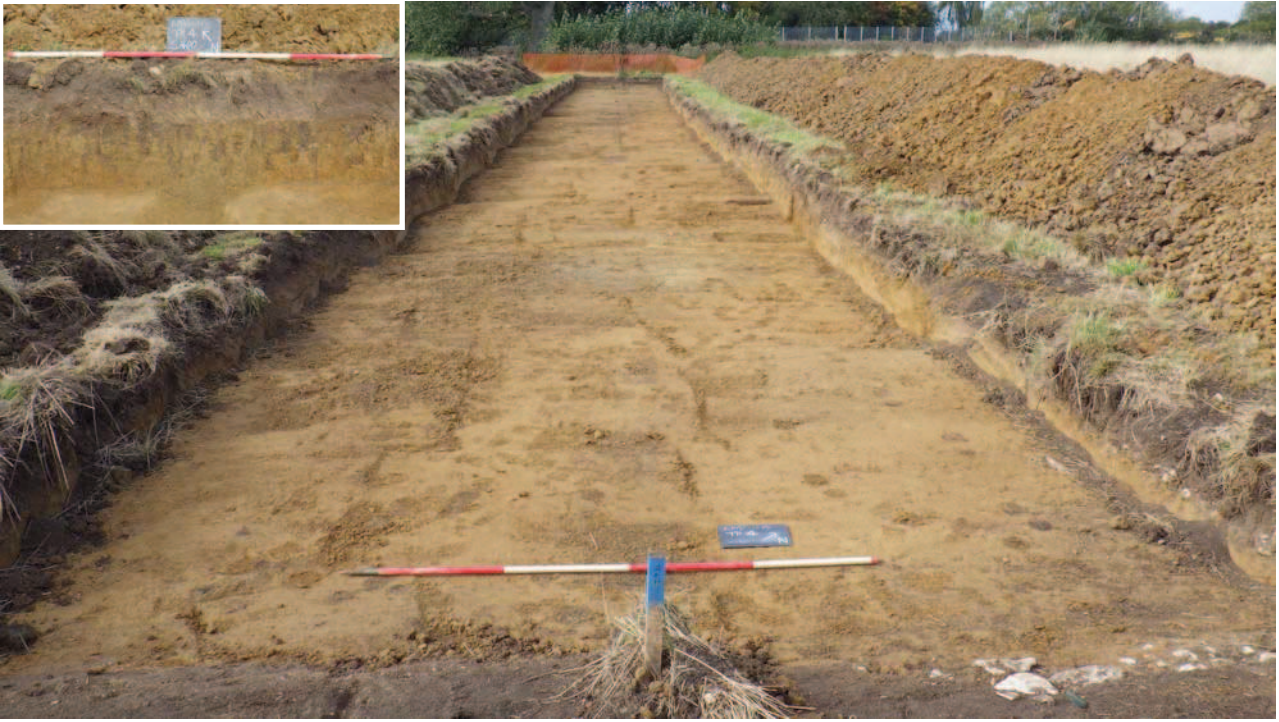


Plate 3: Trench 4 General view and section 400



Plate 4 : Trench 9 Ditch 9003 section



Plate 5: Trench 11 redeposited clay sealing a former topsoil horizon



Plate 6: Trench 13 redeposited clay sealing a former topsoil horizon and Ditch 1305



Plate 7: Aerial image of the military camp in 1945 showing the newly constructed large warehouse buildings and camp hut accomodation units



Plate 8: Trench 20 View of military camp related demolition debris



Plate 9: Trench 21 General view and Ditch 2103 section



Plate 10: Trench 24 Section 24000 view of machine excavated feature



Plate 11: Trench 28 and section



Plate 12: Trench 41/42 with ditch 41003 in the foreground



Plate 13: View SE across Trench 49 and the Akeman Street terrace and surface



Plate 14: Akeman Street limestone surface in Trench 59

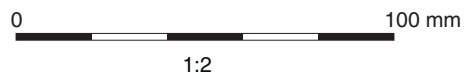


Plate 15: Military camp pottery



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