# Boulton Moor, Chellaston, Derby (Phase 4)

## Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Report

**June 2017**

**Client: CgMs Consulting on behalf of Persimmon Homes Ltd**

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# Evaluation and excavation at Boulton Moor, Chellaston, Derby (Phase 4)

## *Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation Report*

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# Summary

Twenty evaluation trenches representing a 3% sample of the site were excavated on a standard north-south by east-west grid. Archaeological features were few, but a sub-rectangular pit was found in the centre of the site in Trench 15 that contained charcoal and small sherds of prehistoric pottery, and a 10m square was opened up around this to determine whether it was an isolated pit or part of a larger group. Four similar pits were found on an east-west alignment, the pits spaced just over 1m apart, and a further pit on the same alignment was found in a trench to the west. A gully running obliquely across the pit alignment was also exposed in Trench 15, plus two pits of different sizes south of the alignment. The only other feature possibly of ancient origin found was an undated larger pit in a trench further to the south-west.

Several probable east-west furrows were revealed, one dated by pottery to the post-medieval period, plus a recent field boundary ditch. A north-south ditch crossing the middle of the site contained 19th-20th century finds, and was probably a former field boundary. A large pit of 19th century date was partly exposed at the north edge of the site.

Due to the desire to begin construction, evaluation was followed immediately by further archaeological mitigation of the pit alignment and associated features in and around Trench 15. This was extended considerably, as was Trench 14 containing the pit further west. Further 10m squares were dug to the west and east on the projected line of the pit alignment.

Fifteen pits of the alignment were exposed in Area 15, and five in Area 14, but no pits were found in the 10m squares further west or east. A further area (Area 21) was therefore stripped closer to Area 14 on the west, and another (Area 22) not far east of Area 15. Area 21 proved to be blank, suggesting that in this direction the alignment had ended, but Area 22 found three further pits on an ENE-WSW alignment. This was different from the alignment in Area 15, so the blank 10m square further east was extended northwards on the new projected alignment, and located another five pits. The pits of the alignment therefore extended for at least 160m across the eastern half of the site.

In total 14 of the pits were excavated, and fragments of pottery tempered with quartzite were found in five of these, but no other finds except burnt flint and a possible fragment of utilized stone. A sample of charcoal from one of the pits produced a radiocarbon date of 760 – 420 cal BC at 93% confidence.

One of the pits in Area 15 was cut by two lengths of curving ditch roughly at right angles with a gap in between, the north-eastern length recut by a shallower gully. The gully, which continued beyond Area 15, contained sand-tempered pottery with ferrous inclusions including a pedestal base, suggesting an Iron Age date. South of the alignment one deep and one shallow pit, plus five probable small pits, were found, but none produced any dating evidence.

# Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Michael Dawson of CgMs for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to Stephen Baker who monitored the work on behalf of Derbyshire County Council for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Tim Allen. The fieldwork was directed by Mariusz Gorniak, who was supported by Isobel Bentley, Sophie Bojadzieva, Rachel Legge, Mike Mclean and David Pinches. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Conan Parsons and Ben Brown. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Geraldine Crann and the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Sharon Cook under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Persimmon Homes Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Boulton Moor, Chellaston, Derby.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 9/2015/1104 South Derbyshire District Council).

1.1.3 Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions between Stephen Baker, Planning Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council and Mike Dawson of CgMs Consulting established the scope of work required, and OA provided a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) outlining how OA would implement those requirements (OA 2017a).

1.1.4 Immediately following the excavation and recording of the evaluation trenches, and while these were still open, one trench was extended to examine the context of a pit of prehistoric date, and revealed a pit alignment of later Bronze Age or Iron Age date.

1.1.5 Because of the survival of significant heritage assets, further mitigation excavation and recording was requested by the planning authority, and a further WSI was written and approved for this (OA 2017b). In the light of the timescale for development, Stephen Baker agreed that the report on both the evaluation and the further archaeological mitigation could be combined into one report.

1.1.6 All work was undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework Section 12 (DCMS 2015), with the MoRPHE Project Manager's guide (EH 2006), and in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, of which OA is a Registered Organisation. The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation and archiving (CIfA 2014a; CifA 2014b) and in accordance with the requirements of Derby County Museums.

1.1.7 This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements for evaluation and further mitigation, and describes and discussed the results.

## 1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies south of Alvaston and north-east of Chellaston, Derby, at NGR SK 3965 3131 (Figure l). The site (Phase 4) consists of one field, oriented east to west with a total area of *c* 3.6 hectares (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The site is bordered by housing to the north, Snelsmoor Lane to the east and south and agricultural land to the west (Figure 1). The land falls from south to north from around 55m aOD to 42m aOD.

1.2.3 The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying geology of the area is Branscombe Mudstone Formation, overlain by sand and gravel in the northern part of the site (Allenton Terrace Deposit), by Head (a combination of sand and gravel, silt and clay) towards the centre and south of the site and by Oadby Member Diamicton in the very south of the site

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for the area to the west (Hunt 2013). Geophysical survey has been undertaken for an earlier scheme but with inconclusive results (GSB Prospection 2003). Some undated archaeological features were located in Phase 2 immediately to the north of Phase 4.

### Neolithic and Early - Middle Bronze Age

1.3.2 The Derbyshire HER indicates that the area around the southern part of Derby is rich in prehistoric archaeology, with two scheduled sites close to the assessment area, including the Swarkestone Lows barrow cemetery, which lies around 2.5km south-west of Boulton Moor.

### Middle - Late Iron Age

1.3.3 There are Iron Age settlements and a pit alignment in the vicinity of the scheme. Trial trenching in Phase I to the north (Fig. 1) located archaeological remains of Iron Age date including a pit alignment dated to the middle Iron Age, and some ditches and pits, some of which also contained Iron Age pottery (Hunt 2014a; Hunt 2014b; see Fig. 10).

### The Roman Period

There are several Roman sites within the vicinity including enclosures and a Roman road. Evaluation in Phase 2 revealed a pond containing some Roman sherds (Hunt 2014b), and evaluation north of Snelsmore Lane to the west of Phase 4 revealed two ditches in the north-east corner cutting a pit, one of which contained a few sherds of abraded Roman pottery (Hunt 2014c). It was unclear whether the features were really of Roman date, but the pottery indicates some Roman activity in the vicinity of the site.

# 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 General Aims

2.1.2 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
ii. To determine the character, extent and date range of any remains exposed within the evaluation trenches and excavation areas.
iii. To produce an archive and report of any results.

## 2.2 Specific Aims

2.2.1 All work took into account the National research context (English Heritage 1997; 2005), the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and the Updated East Midlands Research Strategy (Knight *et al.* 2012). The principal specific aims were as follows:

iv. To establish the extent of the prehistoric pit alignment and to clarify its date and relationship with other features.
v. To investigate the probable other pits and small pits or postholes south of the pit alignment in the area centred upon Trench 15, and attempt to determine if these are genuine, and if so, to date and characterise them, and to establish their chronological relationship to the adjacent pit-alignment.
vi. To establish the limits, date and character of one or more sinuous linear features crossing the area centred upon Trench 15, and its relationship to the pit-alignment.
vii. A further aim will be to establish whether the Iron Age pit-alignment is contemporary with that discovered in the Phase 1 evaluation to the north, or is of earlier date.

## 2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The evaluation consisted of a total of 20 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m, laid out as shown in Figure 2, which equates to a 3% sample of the 3.6 ha Phase 4 area.

2.3.2 The further mitigation originally comprised five areas measuring 10m x 10m and two measuring 20m by 5m, with the possibility of extending one of the latter. These areas were laid out as indicated on Figure 2. Four of the 10m squares were intended to establish the limits of the pit-alignment to the east and west, and one of the 20m by 5m areas, both to confirm that the pit alignment continued westwards from the area centred upon Trench 15 and to expose more of the linear feature. The locations of the 10m squares was established by projecting the alignment of the pits found in evaluation Trenches 14 and 15.

2.3.3 The last 10m square was targeted upon the linear feature within the Trench 15 area to establish its limits at the north-east end. The other 5m x 20m area was excavated to enlarge the area centred upon Trench 15 on the south-east, to clarify the extent and character of the features exposed south of the pit-alignment. This area was to be further expanded if necessary to establish the limits of activity here.

2.3.4 A 50% sample of the exposed pits of the pit-alignment was to be excavated, comprising a proposed total of up to 10 further pits from the alignment, in addition to the 3 already investigated.

2.3.5 In addition, the two most convincing pits among the soilmarks exposed south of the pit-alignment in the area centred upon Trench 15 were 100% excavated, and a 50% sample of any further pits or postholes found in the newly-exposed area was to be excavated by hand and recorded.

2.3.6 Interventions were also excavated into the linear features crossing the area centred upon Trench 15, including one to test the relationship between one of these and one of the pits of the pit-alignment (see Fig. 4).

2.3.7 Should any of these areas fail to find the pit-alignment, provision was made for the areas as yet undug to be moved closer to the last area in which the alignment was present, in order to establish its limits.

2.3.8 In the event, the western half of the site was signed off for construction with the exception of the agreed initial 10m squares, so Areas 17 and 11 were both opened up as rapidly as possible, but failed to find any pits (Plate 7). Stripping of Area 14 appeared initially to have drawn a blank, and it was not until weathering had occurred that the further pits became clear, demonstrating that the alignment of the pits differed to that in Area 15. In view of this, a further area (Area 21) was opened up south of Trench 13 to look for a continuation on the new alignment, but failed to find any pits.

2.3.9 To the east, no pits were present in the 10m square originally opened as Area 10, so an additional area (Area 22) was opened up between Areas 15 and 10 to establish the eastern limits of the pit alignment. In the light of the changed alignment in Area 14, this was dug as a trench continuing north of the projected alignment in Area 15 and duly located a pit belonging to the alignment further to the north. The trench was then extended east and west to expose further pits, in order to confirm the alignment here. Once this had been established, Area 10 was extended northwards until the pit alignment was found, just south of the end of evaluation Trench 10.

2.3.10 Topsoil and overburden was removed under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The machining was carried out carefully in level spits. Trenches and areas were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features.

2.3.11 Machine excavation generally left a clean surface in which archaeological features were clear, but selected areas were cleaned by hand to ensure that all archaeological features were fully exposed.

2.3.12 All archaeological features or deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale.

2.3.13 Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as required in sections 2.3.4-6 above, to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, and to recover economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

2.3.14 Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans have been tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate.

2.3.15 Sections of all excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale. A representative section of part of one face of each area was recorded in each evaluation trench or, if different, in the adjacent excavation area. Sections were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

2.3.16 Trench and area locations were recorded by GPS and transferred to a CAD plan tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation and further archaeological mitigation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds reports are presented in Appendix B, and environmental reports in Appendix C.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.1.3 Where further mitigation areas were extensions of evaluation trenches, additional context numbers continue the sequence issued for the evaluation trench. Where these areas were separate, new Area numbers were given (Fig. 2), and context numbers reflect the number of the area, e.g. pit 2203 is in Area 22.

3.1.4 The context list in Appendix A starts with Trench 1 and continues in numerical order through the trenches and areas.

## 3.2 General soil and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches varied only slightly. The natural geology was generally a friable, silty sand with flint gravel. The proportions of silt varied, sometimes being more silt than gravel, and in places hollows in the gravel were filled by patches of light grey silty clay. The natural gravel was overlain by a friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles. The pebbles were mostly rounded and small to medium-sized (1-30mm). The subsoil was in turn overlain by topsoil, which was a friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional rounded flint and quartzite pebbles (Plates 2 and 3).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout.

3.2.3 Archaeological features, where present, were not always easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, as the fills of some of the pits, particularly those in the pit alignment, were similar to the fills of natural depressions in the gravel. Following weathering, however, these could usually be distinguished by their regular shape, and especially when in alignment.

## 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches or Areas 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 22.

3.3.2 Features in Trenches 3, 4, 7, 13, and 19 were of recent date. Archaeology of greater age was concentrated in the eastern half of the site.

## 3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-western part of the site and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). It was devoid of archaeology. The geological sequence consisted of topsoil 0.23m thick, overlying subsoil 0.14m deep, which overlay the natural geology.

## 3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 was located in the north-western part of the site, ESE of Trench 1 and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). It contained no archaeological features and the sequence and depth of layers was very similar to those in Trench 1.

## 3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 was located in the centre of the north part of the site and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). It had to be moved a few metres westwards to avoid the end of a modern, deep field boundary ditch running east – west. A former hedgerow along the northern side of this ditch was clearly visible as root-disturbance continuing beyond the ditch terminus in the natural geology within Trench 3.

3.6.2 The sequence and depth of soils in this trench were similar to that described in Trench 1.

3.6.3 In the central part of the trench a feature 5.7m wide (cut 303) was exposed (Fig. 2). In order to characterize it properly, the trench was extended two metres southwards to expose the southern limits of the feature.

3.6.4 Feature 303 had a rounded southern end, and continued north beyond the limits of the trench. Due to its size it was excavated by machine, and proved to be 1.25m deep, with stepped sides and a slightly concave base (Plate 5). Its single fill was a homogenous, friable, dark greyish-brown sandy silt with flint pebbles. The deposit contained modern (late 19$^{th}$/early 20$^{th}$ century) pottery sherds, CBM fragments, animal bone fragments, and a piece of iron plough. At the bottom there was a lens of grey, clayey sand, probably indicating that it had had standing water in the base while still open. The feature is interpreted as a recent sand and gravel quarry pit.

## 3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Trench 4 was located in the north-eastern part of the site, and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). The sequence and depth of soils was similar to that in Trench 1. Its western half was devoid of features.

3.7.2 The eastern part had three parallel linear soilmarks, aligned north-west to south-east cut into the natural geology (Plate 1). Despite their parallel alignment they were irregular, and varying in width, and their fills were all light in colour, without any trace of finds or environmental remains. One of these (cut 403) was investigated, and was 1.0m wide, 0.14m deep, with moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a slightly concave base. Its single fill was a firm, greyish-brown silty sand with flint gravel. There were no finds.

3.7.3 Two linear soilmarks on similar alignments were found in the Phase 2 evaluation, and may represent continuations of one or more of those found in Trench

4 (see section 4.2 below and Fig. 10). Both of those found in the Phase 2 evaluation were hand-excavated, but did not produce any finds. These were probably archaeological features, although their irregularity and sterile fills could alternatively indicate a geological origin (possibly glacial features).

## 3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Trench 5 was located in the north-western part of the site, south of Trench 1, and was aligned north-south (Fig. 2). The subsoil horizon here was a yellowish-brown, slightly clayey sand and gravel, while the natural geology consisted of brownish-yellow clayey sand and gravel. The trench was devoid of archaeology.

## 3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Trench 6 was located in the western part of the site, south of Trench 2, and was aligned north-south (Fig 2). It was devoid of archaeology. The topsoil overlay subsoil 0.36m thick, which in turn overlay the natural geology.

## 3.10 Trench 7

3.10.1 Trench 7 was located in the central part of the site, south-west of Trench 3, and was aligned north-south (Fig. 2). A rectangular area across the centre of the trench had already been stripped of topsoil by the Principal Contractor (Fig. 2).

3.10.2 Two linear features aligned east – west were found cutting the natural beneath subsoil, and both were investigated. The more northerly (cut 703) was 1.05m wide and 0.15m deep, with gently sloping sides and a slightly undulating base. Its single fill was grey, friable sandy silt with occasional pebbles. There were no finds.

3.10.3 The more southerly (cut 705) was 1.35m wide and 0.12m deep. This also had gently sloping sides and an undulating base, and its fill was very similar to that of cut 703.

3.10.4 Both linear features represent furrows, further examples of which were exposed in trenches 10, 14, 15, and in Area 22 (see below).

## 3.11 Trench 8

3.11.1 Trench 8 was located south-east of Trench 3 and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). It was devoid of archaeology. Topsoil was 0.27m thick, overlying subsoil 0.25m deep, which overlay the natural geology (Plate 2).

## 3.12 Trench 9

3.12.1 Trench 9 was located in the eastern half of the site, ENE of Trench 8 and south of Trench 4, and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). The sequence and depth of layers was similar to that in Trench 8, except that the natural silty sand was light brown in colour (Plate 3).

3.12.2 One possible feature, which continued beyond the north edge of the trench, was exposed and investigated (cut 903). It proved to be an irregular oval, some 1.4m wide and 0.29m deep, and had uneven sides and an undulating base. Its single fill was

a grey silty sand with manganese flecks and occasional pebbles, but no finds. This feature was interpreted as a tree-throw hole, and is not plotted on Figure 2.

## 3.13 Trench 10 and Area 10

3.13.1 Trench 10 was located close to the east edge of the site, and was aligned north-south (Fig. 2). It was later extended southwards to look for a continuation of the pit alignment found in Areas 14 and 15, Area 10 being 15.5m north-south and 10-11.5m east-west (Fig. 6).

3.13.2 Two linear features aligned east – west were exposed, cut into the natural in the evaluation trench, and two more in Area 10 to the south (Fig. 6). The one at the south end of the evaluation trench (cut 1003) was excavated and proved to be 1.4m wide and 0.1m deep, with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled with a brown sandy silt with pebbles, identical to the subsoil.

3.13.3 All four of these east-west linear features are furrows (see also Trenches 7, 14, and 15).

3.13.4 A line of five pits, aligned ENE-WSW was exposed (Figs 2 and 6). All the pits were sub-rectangular and were below the subsoil and cut into the natural geology (Plate 8). The distance in between the pits varied - 1.1, 1.4, 1.0, 2.0, and 3.6m. Given the distance between pits from the same alignment from Area 15, Trench 15, and Area 14 (on average 1.2m) the 3.6m distance in between two pits in Area 10 clearly is an anomaly, representing a possible entrance.

3.13.5 Two of the pits in Area 10 were excavated.

3.13.6 Pit 1007 was 1.26m wide and 0.44m deep (Fig. 6), with steep sides, gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (Fig. 7). Its single fill (1008) was a grey sandy silt with orange-brown lenses and contained flint pebbles. Several small fragments of pottery were recovered.

3.13.7 Pit 1004 was 1.32m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep and sloping sides and a flat base (Figs 6 and 7). The lower of its two fills was a grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, while the upper fill was a yellowish grey sandy silt with pebbles (Plate 9). Neither deposit contained any finds.

## 3.14 Trench and Area 11

3.14.1 Trench 11 was located close to the south-western edge of the site and was orientated WNW-ESE. It was later extended by adding a 10m square area to the south end to look for a continuation of the pit alignment found further west, but did not expose any archaeology (Plate 7).

3.14.2 The sequence of soils consisted of topsoil 0.26m thick, overlying a yellowish-brown clayey sand subsoil 0.09m thick, which overlay the natural geology.

## 3.15 Trench 12

3.15.1 Trench 12 was located in the western part of the site, east of Trench 11, and was aligned east-west (Fig 2). It was devoid of archaeology. The soil sequence consisted

of topsoil overlying subsoil 0.32m thick, which overlay natural geology composed of patches of brownish yellow sand and gravel and light brownish grey silty sand.

## 3.16 Trench 13

3.16.1 Trench 13 was located in the central part of the site, east of Trench 12, and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). The soil sequence consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil 0.36m thick, which overlay natural geology like that in Trench 12.

3.16.2 A linear feature aligned north – south (cut 1304) was exposed in the western part of the trench. It was 1.52m wide and 0.68m deep, cutting the subsoil and natural geology, and had steep, slightly convex sides and a concave base. Its single fill was dark brown sandy silt with flint pebbles, overlain by topsoil. The deposit contained pieces of modern CBM, drain tile fragments, and fragments of a wine bottle.

## 3.17 Trench and Area 14

3.17.1 Trench 14 was located in the central part of the site, east of Trench 13, and was aligned north-south (Fig. 2). Two furrows on an east-west alignment were uncovered in the northern and the southern parts of the trench, the southern furrow partly overlying a sub-rectangular pit (Fig 3). This pit was believed to belong to the pit alignment exposed in Trench 15, and the southern end of the trench was subsequently extended westwards to confirm this, revealing four further sub-rectangular pits aligned ENE-WSW (Fig 3). The distance in between the sub-rectangular pits varied from as little as 0.2m to 1m. Two of these pits (cuts 1410 and 1407) were excavated.

3.17.2 Pit 1403 (Fig. 3), which cut the natural geology, measured 1.5m across by 0.42m deep, and had steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 7). It was filled with a mottled light to medium brownish-grey sand, which contained flint pebbles and a little burnt flint. A bulk environmental sample <4> was taken from this fill.

3.17.3 Pit 1410 was 1.35m across and 0.22m deep, with moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base (Fig. 3; Fig. 7). Its single fill was a light brownish-grey silty sand with occasional flint pebbles (Plate 10). A bulk environmental sample <11> was taken from the fill.

3.17.4 Pit 1407 was 1.58m across and 0.3m deep with sloping and steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 3). It contained two fills. The lower fill (1406) was a 0.27m thick, light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional flint pebbles. The upper fill (1405) was a 0.3m thick, brownish grey sandy silt with similar inclusions (Fig. 7). The fills contained no obvious artefactual material, but a bulk environmental sample <10> was taken from the upper fill, from which scraps of pottery were recovered.

3.17.5 Pit 1407 cut feature 1409 – an irregular oval hollow roughly 1.5m across and 0.24m deep, with sloping sides and an undulating base (Fig. 3; Fig. 7). There were no finds, and this is interpreted as a tree-throw hole.

## 3.18 Trench and Area 15

3.18.1 Trench 15 was located in the south-eastern part of the site, south of Trench 9, and was aligned north-south (Fig. 2).

3.18.2 The geological sequence in the trench was very similar to that in the trenches described above: topsoil, brown silty sand subsoil, and natural geology composed of sand with gravel and silty sand.

3.18.3 Three east – west aligned furrows ran across the trench, spaced 8m apart, and a fourth was found further south when the trench was extended to become Area 15 (Figs 2 and 4).

3.18.4 Seven other features were exposed in the trench – five represented tree-throws and geological formations within the natural sand and gravel.

3.18.5 Two features were regular in plan, and these were excavated as cuts 1503 and 1505 (Fig 4).

3.18.6 Feature 1505 was a pointed oval, 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep, with very asymmetric sides (steep and undercut) and an undulating base (Fig 4). Its single fill was a light greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. The feature was interpreted as a tree-throw hole. This was confirmed when the trench was extended (Area 15), demonstrating that feature 1505 was very irregular in plan.

3.18.7 Feature 1503 was sub-rectangular, 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep, with sloping and steep sides, a gradual break of slope, and a slightly concave base (Fig 4; Fig. 7). It was filled with1504, a brownish-grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks and occasional flint pebbles. A few pottery sherds were present in the upper part of the fill. The whole of the deposit was excavated, and bulk environmental samples <1> and <2> were taken for charred plant remains.

3.18.8 Because pit 1503 contained prehistoric pottery, a 10 x 10m area around the pit was stripped following a site visit by Stephen Baker of Derbyshire County Council, in order to determine whether the pit was isolated, or was part of wider group of features.

3.18.9 The extension uncovered four other pits of similar size, forming an east–west line. Moreover, a north east – south west aligned linear feature (obscured in Trench 15 by one of the furrows) and a north east – south west aligned linear feature were also exposed.

3.18.10 Pit 1507 was sub-rectangular, 1.28m across and 0.53m deep, with moderately steep sides, very gradual breaks of slopes, and a flattish base (Fig. 4; Fig. 7; Plate 12). It had three fills. The basal fill was a greyish brown sandy silt, the middle fill a grey sandy silt, while the upper fill (1510) was light greyish brown sandy silt with pebbles and charcoal. The two lower fills did not contain any finds, but fill 1510 contained a few sherds of pottery, and a bulk environmental sample <3> was taken for charred plant remains.

3.18.11 Trench 15 was then extended to the west and south-west, to the east and south-east, and to the north-east. The western extension was both to reveal

more pits of the alignment and to trace the gully running diagonally across it further to the south-west. The eastern extension was intended both to uncover further pits and to investigate the area south of the pit-alignment, where probable pits and possible postholes had been exposed, and the north-eastern extension was to further investigate the gullies, which did not reach Trench 9 (Figs 2 and 4).

3.18.12 The extended Area 15 exposed a total of fifteen pits forming an east – west alignment, slightly curving ENE at its eastern end, and continuing both east and west beyond the area. Pits in the western part of Area 15 were masked by a furrow, which was removed by machine to expose the underlying pits. Apart from pits 1503 and 1507, six other pits from the alignment were partly or wholly excavated (cuts 1531, 1521, 1538, 1541, 1549 and 1554).

3.18.13 Pit 1531 was fully excavated. It was circular, 1.57m in diameter and 0.32m deep, with moderately steep sides and a flattish base (Fig. 4; Fig. 7). Its single fill (1532) was a greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles, but it did not contain any finds. A bulk environmental sample <8> was taken from the fill.

3.18.14 Pit 1521 was excavated to establish its stratigraphic relationship with linear cut 1523. This first intervention (cut 1535) proved inconclusive, so a second intervention across the pit and the linear feature was excavated (cut 1533). The pit was circular, with moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base. It had two fills – a light brownish-grey sandy silt with flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1520), overlain by a similar deposit (1519) with a smaller amount of pebbles. Neither of the excavated deposits contained any artefactual material, but a bulk environmental sample <5> was taken from the upper fill.

3.18.15 Pit 1554 had its section excavated against the limit of excavation (Fig 4). The feature was 1.8m wide and 0.7m deep. It had steep sides, very gradual breaks of slope and a flat base (Fig. 7; Plate 13). The pit had two fills and a lens of slumped natural (1573) at its base. The upper fill (1555) was brownish-grey while the lower fill (1572) was grey, but both were sandy silts with flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Neither fill contained any finds.

3.18.16 Pit 1538 was sub-rectangular, 1.45m wide and 0.36m deep, with moderately steep sides, and a slightly concave base. It had two fills, of greyish-brown and light grey sandy silt. The lower deposit contained occasional charcoal flecks. Neither contained any finds.

3.18.17 Pit 1541 was also sub-rectangular, with both steep and sloping sides, and a flat base. It was 1.38m across and only 0.13m deep (Fig. 4; Fig. 7). Its single fill contained occasional charcoal flecks but no finds.

3.18.18 Pit 1549 was sub-rectangular in plan, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It was 1.36m wide and 0.22m deep, with two fills, a light greyish-brown sandy silt with pebbles (1550) overlying a light grey sandy silt with pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1551). The lower fill contained pottery sherds.

3.18.19 Twenty-two other discrete soilmarks were exposed in Area 15 – most of them located south of the pit alignment on the eastern side. The majority clearly represented tree-throw holes and geological formations. However, a few had regular shapes in plan, and these were excavated.

3.18.20 Feature 1524 was round, 1.18m wide and 0.18m deep, with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 4; Fig. 9). Its single, light greyish brown sandy silty fill contained occasional charcoal flecks, but no other finds. A bulk environmental sample <7> was taken for charred plant remains. The feature is interpreted as a shallow pit.

3.18.21 Feature 1526 (Fig.9), located in the south-western part of Area 15, was oval, 1.6m long and 0.6m deep. It had vertical sides, undercut towards the bottom, and a flat base. There were two fills, a light brownish-grey silty clay overlain by a greyish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present in either fill, but this feature has the characteristic shape of an eroded storage pit. A bulk environmental sample <6> was taken from the upper fill 1527, and another <9> from the lower fill 1530.

3.18.22 Features 1547, 1565, 1568, 1560, and 1558 were also located in the south- eastern part of Area 15. The last two of these are illustrated (Fig. 9). They were from 0.95 to 0.52m wide, shallow (from 0.11m to 0.25m deep) with either steep or sloping sides and slightly undulating or concave bases. Each of them had a single fill with no finds. The features were interpreted as small pits, but their character cannot be determined.

3.18.23 Oval features 1545 and 1562 had undulating bases, uneven sides and silty fills with no finds, and are interpreted as tree-throw holes.

3.18.24 Part of linear feature 1552, which was aligned WNW-ESE, was exposed in the south-eastern part of the area, continuing eastwards beyond the limit of excavation. This was 0.66m wide and 0.16m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base. Its single light yellowish-grey, sandy silt fill contained no finds.

3.18.25 North of this, ditch 1537 ran from south-east to north-west across the line of the pit alignment (Fig. 4). This was sectioned south-east of the pit alignment, where cut 1523 was 0.7m wide and 0.35m deep, with steep sides and a cupped base (Fig. 8 section 1506). At the intersection with pit 1535 the ditch, here numbered 1533, cut the pit (Fig. 8 section 1511). North-west of this the ditch shallowed rapidly, almost petering out where it met gully 1515 (Fig. 8 section 1504). The relationship between the ditch and the gully was not clear at this intersection.

3.18.26 Throughout its length the ditch had a single fill, a sandy silt that varied from greyish-brown to greyish-orange in colour, with varying proportions of flint gravel and charcoal flecks in cut 1523. There were no finds.

3.18.27 Gully 1515 ran across Area 15 from its south-western to north-eastern corner and continued in both directions beyond the limit of excavation. The feature followed a slightly sinuous course. Six interventions were excavated across the feature: cuts 1543, 1513, 1515, 1529 (Plate 14), and 1578.

3.18.28 In the south-western half of the site this ditch varied from 0.60m to just over 0.8m wide and was approaching 0.2m deep, with gently sloping sides and a pointed base (Fig. 8 sections 1503 and 1514). The north-west side of the gully just clipped the edge of pit 1503, but no clear relationship could be obtained. A little further to the north-east, the gully was met by ditch 1537, but no clear relationship was established at this point.

3.18.29 Throughout this part of its length the gully had a single fill of sandy silt or sandy clay, generally greyish-brown in colour, with occasional flint gravel inclusions. Small sherds of pottery were recovered from 1516, the fill of cut 1515.

3.18.30 North-east of this the width of the gully increased, and proved to contain two cuts (Fig. 8 section 1521), the north-westerly (1556) similar in profile and depth to 1537, the south-easterly (1577) very similar to the gully in cuts 1543 and 1515 (Plate 15). It therefore seems probable that ditch 1537 continued after a gap as ditch 1556, and was cut by the continuous gully 1515=1529=1577.

3.18.31 Ditch 1556 had two fills. The lower fill (1576) was a mottled yellowish-brown and light grey silty sand, with occasional flint pebbles, and was overlain by a greyish-brown silty sand (1557), also with occasional pebbles. At the interface between these fills there was a lens of compact reddish sand and frequent pebbles. Neither fill contained any finds.

3.18.32 Gully 1577=1529 was filled with a greyish-orange sandy silt (1528=1578) containing flint pebbles and stones, and 1528 also included occasional charcoal flecks (Plate 14). Fill 1578 contained sherds of pottery of similar fabric to those from fill 1516.

## 3.19 Trench 16

3.19.1 Trench 16 was located in the south-east corner of the site, and was aligned north-east to south-west (Fig. 2). It was devoid of archaeology.

3.19.2 The soil sequence was the same as that in most other trenches, with topsoil and subsoil both around 0.3m deep overlying the natural gravel with patches of silt in hollows.

## 3.20 Trench and Area 17

3.20.1 Trench 17 was located in the south-western part of the site, south of Trench 12, and was aligned north-south (Fig. 2). One undated pit, cut 1703, was found towards the south end of the trench. A 10m square was later excavated at the north end of the trench on the projected alignment of the pit alignment found further east in Trenches 15 and 14, but no further archaeological features were found (Fig. 2).

3.20.2 The soil sequence was similar to that in the adjacent trenches, with topsoil 0.34m deep and subsoil 0.21m deep over the natural gravel and sandy clay (1702).

3.20.3 Pit 1703 was sub-rectangular and 1.3m across north-south; the pit continued beyond the western edge of the trench, so the east-west dimension is unknown. It was

0.72m deep with steep sides and a flattish base, and had a single fill of light greyish-brown sandy silt (Fig. 9; Plate 6). There were no finds.

## 3.21 Trench 18

3.21.1 Trench 18 was located at the south-west corner of the site, south of Trench 17, and was aligned east-west (Fig. 2). There were no archaeological features or finds.

3.21.2 The sequence of soils was similar to that elsewhere across the site, with topsoil 0.18m deep overlying subsoil 0.14m deep over the natural gravel and sandy clay.

## 3.22 Trench 19

3.22.1 Trench 19 was located at the southern edge of the site, south of Trench 13, and was aligned south-west to north-east (Fig. 2). A linear feature on a north-south alignment, cut 1903, was found towards the south-west end of the trench.

3.22.2 The sequence of soils was similar to that elsewhere across the site: topsoil 0.36m thick over subsoil 0.21m thick sitting upon the natural sandy clay and gravel.

3.22.3 Feature 1903 was 0.78m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a flat bottom. It had a single fill (1904) very similar to the subsoil (Plate 4). No finds were recovered, but this was probably a former field boundary. It may have been associated with larger ditch 1304 in Trench 13, with which it was roughly in line.

## 3.23 Trench 20

3.23.1 Trench 20 was located along the southern edge of the site, south of Trench 8, and was orientated east-west (Fig. 2). A modern pipe was found towards the east end of the trench, but there were no archaeological features or finds.

3.23.2 The soil sequence was similar to that elsewhere across the site, with topsoil 0.25m thick over subsoil 0.11m deep sitting on the natural gravel and clayey sand.

## 3.24 Area 21

3.24.1 As no continuation of the pit alignment had been found on the projected line in Area 17, a further area was excavated by machine south of Trench 13 to establish whether the pit alignment continued this far west. This area was just over 15m long and 4-5m wide, and was aligned NNW-SSE (Fig. 2). No archaeological features were seen in this trench, establishing that the probable limit of the pit alignment lay between Area 21 and Area 14 20m to the east.

3.24.2 The soil sequence in this area was the same as elsewhere across the site: topsoil overlying subsoil, which in turn overlay the natural gravel and clayey sand.

## 3.25 Area 22

3.25.1 Area 22 was a trench dug between Area 15 and Area 10 when the initial 10m square stripped south of Trench 10 did not reveal any pits, and the alignment was thought to end between these two areas. It began as a bucket-width trench (1.9m) aligned north-south, and was 6.5m long. When a sub-rectangular pit was found towards the north end of the trench, the trench was extended at right angles both to

the east and west to expose a further pit on each side, resulting in a cross-shaped trench 6.5m north-south and 6.2m east-west (Fig. 2).

3.25.2 Two sub-rectangular pits (2203 and 2207) and one sub-square pit (2208) were exposed on an ENE-WSW alignment (Plate 16). All had very similar surface fills. The gap between pits 2208 and 2203 was 1.8m, that between pits 2203 and 2207 only 1.1m. An east-west furrow 2205 was also uncovered north of pit 2203 (Fig. 5).

3.25.3 Pit 2203 measured 1.2m north-south by 1.07m east-west, and the southern half was excavated. The pit had very steep sides and a flat base, and was 0.4m deep (Fig. 7; Plate 17). There were two fills, the lower fill (2209) a light grey sandy silt with flint gravel and pebbles, the upper (2204) a light brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. No finds came from either fill, or from the surface of either of the unexcavated pits.

3.25.4 Furrow 2205 was not excavated, but was filled with dark brown sandy silt similar to the subsoil, but darker. There were no finds from this.

## 3.26 Summary of finds and environmental remains

3.26.1 A very small assemblage of quartzite-tempered prehistoric pottery, most of it very fragmented, was recovered from the pit alignment. None of the sherds was diagnostic of date, but a radiocarbon date of 760-420 cal BC (UBA-34326; 2460 ± 28 BP), ie of the Early Iron Age, was obtained from associated charcoal.

3.26.2 Another very small assemblage of sand-tempered pottery, including a footring of Iron Age character, came from a ditch cutting the pit alignment.

3.26.3 Burnt flint was also recovered from a couple of the pits in the alignment, and a fragment of stone with one utilized surface.

3.26.4 Two pieces of post-medieval pottery were recovered, and four fragments of ceramic building material, three of roof tile, the fourth an engineering brick. Two of the tile fragments joined, and together form a circular disc trimmed from the original tile. It is uncertain whether the tile was Roman, medieval or post-medieval, though the context in which it was found was certainly post-medieval.

3.26.5 A number of the pits in the pit alignment contained charred plant remains scattered through the fill or fills, as did the ditch and gully in the same trench, but there were no deposits solely consisting of charred plant remains, and generally the remains were sparse. Almost all the remains were of wood charcoal, and were mostly of oak heartwood, though a few other species were also identified. A very little cereal chaff and grain was also present, but was too poorly preserved for closer identification.

3.26.6 A small group of animal bones was recovered from the post-medieval pit in Trench 3.

3.26.7 Charred plant remains in any quantity were recovered from only two adjacent pits, and mostly consisted of charcoal. Most of this was oak, but also included charcoal of ash and of the hawthorn family, and a few charred cereal fragments were present in one pit.

# 4 DISCUSSION

## 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The weather was dull but mostly dry, allowing reasonable visibility of archaeological features. The local geology included areas and patches of sandy clay, which were quite similar to the fills of some of the pits of the alignment, so identification of archaeological features was not always easy immediately after stripping. Weathering however clarified the distinction between these, and it is believed that no significant features were missed.

## 4.2 Discussion and Interpretation

### Matching up the Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 4 archaeological investigations

4.2.1 During the Phase 2 evaluation the location of the earlier Phase 2 evaluation trenches was assumed to be further north, under the housing already under construction. Following the completion of the Phase 4 fieldwork, an attempt was made to combine the information from the Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 4 archaeological investigations into a single drawing. The plans available in the reports on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 investigations (Hunt 2014a; Hunt 2014b) did not however have OS co-ordinates, and when plotted one of their trenches appeared to overlap with Trench 4 in the north-east corner of the Phase 4 evaluated area.

4.2.2 As no trace of a prior evaluation trench was evident in Trench 4, it became clear that there was some margin of error in matching up the plans. The resulting drawing (Figure 10) is therefore a best-fit taking into account the boundaries that were shown in the Phase 2 report, but the exact location of Trenches 40 and 52 in the south-east corner of Phase 2 in relation to Phase 4 Trench 4 remains slightly uncertain.

### The pit alignment

4.2.3 The pit alignment was traced for a distance of over 160m across the eastern half of the site, and may well have continued beyond the site boundary to the east. It consisted of pits generally spaced 1-1.4m apart edge to edge, although some pits were as little as 0.4m apart; three in Area 14 were particularly close to one another. There was a gap of 3.6m between two of the pits in Area 10, which indicates that one pit was omitted at this point.

4.2.4 The pit alignment was not straight but sinuous, being ENE-WSW in Trench 15, but turning more north-eastwards in Area 10, and south-westwards in Area 17. The areas excavated to look for a western continuation of the alignment, Areas 17 and 11, which were placed on the basis of the alignment established in Area 15, were therefore not in the right place, and unsurprisingly failed to locate any further pits.

4.2.5 A further pit was located in Trench 17 further south, though this was larger than those elsewhere along the alignment. Given the variation in the orientation of the pit alignment, it is just possible that this represented a continuation. Area 21, however, which was dug not far west of Area 14 across the projected alignment, also failed to find any further pits, and probably indicates that the alignment had ended

between these two areas. The gap of 3.6m in Area 10 does however demonstrate that there were sizeable gaps in the alignment, and it is conceivable that the absence of pits in Area 21, which was 4-5m wide, could have been due to another gap. On balance, however, this seems unlikely, and the pit in Trench 17 was probably an isolated example of unknown date.

4.2.6 Over short stretches, for instance in Area 10, the pits were of similar size, shape and orientation, but elsewhere (as in Area 16), they varied considerably in shape and size. This suggests that these were not key to the purpose of the pits, although it might indicate the presence of a directing hand in some parts of the alignment.

4.2.7 None of the pits gave any indication that they had held posts, and cultural material was generally sparse, only adjacent pits 1503 and 1507 containing a variety of cultural material, though even here the quantities were small. In Area 15 the pottery came from two adjacent pits and one other 20m to the west, with small sherds in Areas 14 and 10 to the west and east. The excavated sample of pits in the alignment did not therefore suggest that the pit alignment was adjacent to an area of contemporary settlement, nor were the pits intended as repositories for deliberate deposition of cultural material, perhaps unlike the pit containing much of a middle Iron Age vessel in the alignment found in Phase 1 of the development to the north. The absence of other cultural material from the evaluation appears to support the view that there was no concentration of occupation in the adjacent areas to the north or south.

4.2.8 The purpose of such pit alignments has been much debated, but it is clear that they formed linear boundaries. At West Heslerton, North Yorkshire, for example, a pit alignment was succeeded by a palisade and then a ditch (Powlesland 1983). One interpretation is that the pits were simply a different way of creating upcast from digging a continuous ditch, and that the upcast was used to create a continuous bank that formed the real boundary. If this was the case here, then the bank is likely to have been on the north side, as no potentially contemporary features were found on this side of the pit alignment, whereas a variety of features were found to the south, although as none was dated, this argument is not conclusive. The gap in the pits in Area 10 may therefore represent an entrance through this boundary.

4.2.9 The alignment of the pit alignment overall was more ENE-WSW than north-east to south-west, and so is not at right angles to the exposed length of the pit alignment found in Phase 1 of the Boulton Moor development further north (Hunt 2014a; Fig. 10). This also changed alignment along its length from north-west to south-east towards NNW-SSE, but no trenches were placed across its line further south-east than Trench C in Phase 1, and it was not picked up in the Phase 2 evaluation (Hunt 2014b; Fig. 10). As only a couple of evaluation trenches crossed the projected line of the pit alignment, and the pits were sometimes difficult to see in the local geology, it is not certain that the Phase 1 alignment might not have continued, at least partway across Phase 2. There were certainly gaps wider than a single evaluation trench in the Phase 4 alignment. If not, however, then the known length of the Phase 1 alignment was at least 120m.

4.2.10 A fragment of hawthorn-type charcoal from pit 1503 was submitted for radiocarbon-dating, and gave a calibrated range of 760-420 cal BC at 93% confidence, and 750-510 cal BC at 68% confidence, ie within the early Iron Age. The fragment dated was of heartwood, and hawthorn can live for 100-200 years, so the date of the pit could possibly have been 4th century BC, but an earlier date is more likely. The date range generally established for pit alignments in the East Midlands is late Bronze Age to early Iron Age (Willis 2006).

4.2.11 The pits of the Phase 1 alignment were of similar size to those found in Phase 4 here, and the gaps between them were also similar. The dating of the Phase 1 alignment is given by a large number of sherds from a single pot found in pit 6, which was believed to have scored decoration (Cooper in Hunt 2014, Appendix II). The dating of East Midlands Scored Ware was given by Cunliffe as 5th-3rd centuries BC (Cunliffe 1991, Appendix A Figure A.9), and by Elsdon as 4th or mid-3rd century to 1st century BC (Elsdon 1992). Subsequent discoveries appear generally to confirm Elsdon's dating.

4.2.12 Given the possibility of a 5th century origin for this pottery tradition, and the small number of dated associations for the tradition in Derbyshire, it is possible that the vessel found in the Phase 1 pit alignment is an early example of the tradition, and that there might have been an association between the alignments in Phase 1 and Phase 4, the Phase 4 alignment dating from the latter part of the early Iron Age and the Phase 1 alignment being dug a little later, at the very end of the period.

4.2.13 A third pit alignment, this time a double line of pits of similar size and spacing on an ENE-WSW alignment, has been found at Swarkestone only just over 2km to the south-west of Boulton Moor, with a possible shorter alignment at right angles running NNW. This is again associated with Iron Age pottery, though no further details are available as yet (Harvey 2012; Clay 2015). This raises the possibility of large-scale land division of the area north of the river Trent and south-west of the river Derwent during the Iron Age.

4.2.14 The environmental evidence from the fills of pits in the alignment is not very rich, but consists largely of charcoal. This may possibly represent trees or bushes that were growing alongside the boundary, though in the limited areas examined tree-throw holes were few. The very small numbers of charred plant remains need not imply that the adjacent areas were not cultivated, as unless the stubble was burnt, evidence of arable agriculture might not be evident. The pits of the alignment were very different in character to Iron Age storage pits.

4.2.15 The fact that the pit alignment was cut across by gullies containing Iron Age pottery on alignments that were oblique to that of the pit alignment strongly suggests that the alignment, and the boundary it may have represented, did not survive throughout the Iron Age.

## The ditch and gully

4.2.16 The earlier phase of ditches found in Area 15 appears to have consisted of a length running from south-east to north-west (ditch 1537), and a second length at right angles (1556) running from south-west to north-east. At the west corner between

these two ditches was a curving, and much slighter, length, which apparently continued directly from 1537, but which was not confirmed as far as deeper ditch 1566. This appears likely to have been the blocking of an entrance between these ditches after they had partly silted up. This ditch did not continue as far as Trench 9, so presumably either ended or turned south-east before this. Similarly, ditch 1537 did not appear in Trench 16 further south-east. The two ditches may therefore have been parts of a sub-rectangular enclosure. Neither ditch contained any finds, but ditch 1537 cut the early Iron Age pit alignment, and ditch 1566 was cut by a gully containing Iron Age pottery.

4.2.17 Ditch 1566 was recut by a shallower ditch or gully that continued south-westwards right across Area 15 and continued beyond it. The projected alignment of this gully would have passed through Trench 20, but was not observed there, so presumably ended or turned before this. Like ditch 1556, it did not appear in Trench 9 either, so either turned or ended before this. No continuations of this ditch were seen in any of the trenches to the north-west, so it seems unlikely that it formed part of a field or enclosure in this direction. It is difficult to interpret the function of this short length of gully, unless it perhaps represented a recut and extension of the earlier enclosure. If so, it is possible that the storage pit and smaller pits found south of the pit alignment belonged with this enclosure, rather than with the pit alignment, but as none was dated, this remains speculative.

4.2.18 The ditch contained Iron Age pottery, which is likely to be middle or late Iron Age given the early Iron Age date of the infilling of the pit alignment. Whatever the function of these ditches, and even if some of the features within Trench 15 to the south—east were associated, they appear to represent a relatively isolated area of activity in the Iron Age landscape, and one that was not a focus of domestic activity.

4.2.19 A similar area of ditches and assorted pits, a few of which contained Iron Age sherds, was found at the south-west corner of Phase 1 some 300m to the north-west (Fig. 10; Hunt 2014b; see Fig. 10).

4.2.20 A number of other ditches were found in the Phase 2 evaluation to the north, but none of these was dated to the Iron Age, or shared the alignment of the ditches found in Area 15.

4.2.21 The chipped tile disc came from a post-medieval context, but may represent earlier activity. In view of the Roman finds retrieved from the pond in Phase 2 just north of Phase 4, it is possible that this too represents Roman activity in the wider area.

## Post-medieval activity

4.2.22 There was no evidence of any further activity before the post-medieval period. Part of the rim of a wide bowl of 17$^{th}$-18$^{th}$ century date was recovered from one of the east-west furrows, showing that this area was under ridge-and-furrow cultivation until this time. A further sherd of pottery of similar date was recovered from a large pit at the north edge of the site, but this was residual, as it was accompanied by an

engineering brick of later 19th or 20th century date, so probably derives from the cultivation phase.

4.2.23 The large pit may indicate one-off quarrying of the gravel natural adjacent to the field boundary shown on historic maps that marked the limit of the Phase 4 area.

## 4.3 Review of Aims and Objectives

4.3.1 Aims i-ii. Within the limits of the sample of the site that was stripped, and the sampling strategy that was agreed with the agreement of Stephen Baker of Derbyshire County Council, the presence, character and extent of archaeological remains has been thoroughly investigated. The date of parts of the archaeological sequence have been established from the finds that were recovered, and a sample of charcoal has been submitted for radiocarbon dating to assist in determining the date of the pit alignment.

4.3.2 Aim iii. This report provides the results of the investigations, and once approved, the archive will be deposited with Derby County Museums.

4.3.3 Aim iv. The extent and character of the pit alignment within the site was established with a fair degree of confidence, and its date should be established in broad terms by the radiocarbon date obtained from the submitted sample of charcoal, although as this is heartwood, allowance will need to be made for the age of the tree before its use as charcoal.

4.3.4 Aim v. A number of the soilmarks south of the pit alignment in Area 15 are regular in shape, and are likely to be genuine archaeological pits, but it has not been possible to establish their dates or their relationship to the pit alignment or the ditches, due to the lack of finds or datable material within them.

4.3.5 Aim vi. The relationship of the pit alignment to the ditches and gully within Area 15 has been established, and a tentative interpretation of their function suggested.

4.3.6 Aim vii. Similarities to the Phase 1 pit alignment have been mentioned, and the pottery from the Phase 4 pit alignment has confirmed its prehistoric date, but this was insufficient to determine whether the Phase 1 and Phase 4 alignments were of the same period, let alone contemporary. This objective will hopefully be achieved by the radiocarbon date from the submitted sample of charcoal.

## 4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The archaeological investigation has provided further information about the character of prehistoric activity at Boulton Moor, and in particular has revealed a pit alignment. Such pit alignments are found over much of the Midlands and the North of England, and are not of regional significance. Few have however been found and excavated in Derbyshire, so the significance of the discoveries is of county, rather than merely local, significance. The evidence of later Iron Age enclosures, although limited, provides greater time-depth to the evidence, reinforcing the county significance of the discoveries.

# APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.35 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 100 | Layer | - | 0.23 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 101 | - | - |
| 101 | Layer | - | 0.14 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 102, overlain by topsoil 100 | - | - |
| 102 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.35 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 200 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 201 | - | - |
| 201 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 202, overlain by topsoil 200 | - | - |
| 202 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Trench 3 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | E-W |

| One large pit with modern finds cutting subsoil and natural geology. Trench extended southwards to enable excavating the feature. Also a WNW-ESE aligned line of modern hedgerow exposed. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.55 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 300 | Layer | - | 0.35 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 201 | - | - |
| 301 | Layer | - | 0.2 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 302, overlain by topsoil 300 | - | - |
| 302 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel and with lenses of light grey silty sand | - | - |
| 303 | Cut of pit | 5.7 | 1.25 | Sub-circular – extending northwards beyond T3, the southern edge exposed in an extension of T3, stepped sides with gradual breaks of slopes – moderately steep and steep – a concave base, cutting 301 and 302, filled with 304 | | Modern |
| 304 | Fill | 5.7 | 1.25 | Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles, single fill of 303, sealed by 300 | Post-medieval pottery sherds, CBM, animal bones, iron plough | Modern |

| **Trench 4** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Set of five linear features, aligned NW-SE, extending both directions beyond T4 – one excavated – interpreted as a geological (periglacial) formation | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.6 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 400 | Layer | - | 0.28 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 401 | - | - |
| 401 | Layer | - | 0.24 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 402, overlain by topsoil 400 | | |
| 402 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 403 | Cut of natural feature | 1.0 | 0.14 | Natural feature: Linear, aligned NW-SE – one of five similar linear features, with a moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes and a slightly concave base, cutting 402, filled with 404 | - | - |
| 404 | Fill | 1.0 | 0.14 | Firm, yellowish brown silty sand with very occasional flint pebbles, overlain by 401, fill of 403 | - | - |

| **Trench 5** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | N-S |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.35 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 500 | Layer | - | 0.22 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 501 | - | - |
| 501 | Layer | - | 0.13 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlaying natural geology 502, overlain by topsoil 500 | - | - |
| 502 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **Trench 6** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | N-S |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.45 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 600 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 601 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 601 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 602, overlain by topsoil 600 | - | - |
| 602 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: firm, reddish-brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| **Trench 7** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | N-S |
| Two E-W aligned furrows exposed and investigated. The central part of the trench lay within an area stripped of topsoil by the Principal Contractor, prior the OA evaluation works. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.4 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 700 | Layer | - | 0.28 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 701 | - | - |
| 701 | Layer | - | 0.14 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 702, overlain by topsoil 700 | - | - |
| 702 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable, lightly silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 703 | Cut of furrow | 1.05 | 0.15 | Furrow: Linear, aligned E-W, extending in both directions beyond T7, asymmetric sides – southern moderately steep, northern undulating, gently sloping, imperceptible breaks of slope, a slightly undulating base, cutting 702, filled with 704 | - | - |
| 704 | Fill | 1.05 | 0.15 | Grey friable sandy silt with only occasional, small sized flint pebbles, sealed by 701, single fill of 703 | - | - |
| 705 | Cut of furrow | 1.35 | 0.12 | Furrow: Aligned E-W, gently sloping sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a slightly undulating base, filled with 706 | - | - |
| 706 | Fill | 1.35 | 0.12 | Friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, single fill of 705 | - | - |

| Trench 8 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.45 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 800 | Layer | - | 0.27 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, not compact, very dark brown greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlaying subsoil 801 | - | - |
| 801 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 802, overlain by topsoil 800 | - | - |
| 802 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable, lightly silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Trench 9 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. One feature of natural origin (tree-throw) cutting natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.5 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 900 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 201 | - | - |
| 901 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 202, overlain by topsoil 200 | - | - |
| 902 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable, lightly silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 903 | Cut of tree-throw | 1.4 | 0.29 | Natural feature: Suboval – extending northwards beyond T9, asymmetric sides – E steep, W gently sloping, an undulating base, imperceptible breaks of slopes, cutting 902, filled with 904 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 904 | Fill | 1.4 | 0.29 | Friable, grey silty sand with manganese flecks and occasional flint pebbles, single fill of 903 | | |

| **Trench 10 and Area 10** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Area (m2)** | 167 |
| Four E-W aligned furrows uncovered – one investigated. A line of five sub-square pits (orientated NE-SW), cutting natural geology – two excavated. All features sealed by topsoil. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 45.5 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2-11.5 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.5 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1000 | Layer | - | 0.36 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1001 | - | - |
| 1001 | Layer | - | 0.22 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1002, overlain by topsoil 1000 | - | - |
| 1002 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable, lightly silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 1003 | Furrow | 1.4 | 0.1 | Furrow: Aligned E-W, very gently sloping sides and slightly concave base, cutting 1002, filled with 1004 – as 1001 subsoil. | - | - |
| 1005 | Fill of 1004 | 0.88 | 0.12 | Friable, yellowish-grey sandy silt with moderate flint pebbles, overlaying 1006 | | |
| 1006 | Fill of 1004 | 1.32 | 0.25 | Friable, grey sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles, overlain by 1005 | - | |
| 1007 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.26 | 0.44 | Subrectangular, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, filled with 1008 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1008 | Fill of 1007 | 1.26 | 0.44 | Friable sandy silt, grey with orange-brown lenses, occasional flint pebbles | Pottery sherds | Prehistoric |
| | | | | | | |

| **Trench 11 and Area 11** |
|---|

| General description | | | | | Orientation | NNE-SSW |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Area 11 excavated just south of T11 | | | | | Length (m) | 39 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.9-10m |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.5 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1100 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional rounded flint and quartzite pebbles, overlaying subsoil 1101 | - | - |
| 1101 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1102, overlain by topsoil 1100 | - | - |
| 1102 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |

| Trench 12 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | Length (m) | 30 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.9 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.55 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1200 | Layer | - | 0.33 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional rounded flint and quartzite pebbles, overlaying subsoil 1201 | - | - |
| 1201 | Layer | - | 0.32 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional rounded flint and quartzite pebbles, overlaying natural geology 1202 | - | - |
| 1202 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |

| Trench 13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| General description | Orientation | E-W |
| One modern ditch uncovered and investigated. Topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. | Length (m) | 30 |
| | Width (m) | 1.9 |

| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.35 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1300 | Layer | - | 0.23 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional rounded flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1301 | - | - |
| 1301 | Layer | - | 0.06 | Reddish-brown sandy silt overlain by 1300 and overlying 1302 | - | - |
| 1302 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional rounded flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1303 | - | - |
| 1303 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 1304 | Cut of ditch | 1.52 | 0.68 | Linear, aligned N-S, moderately steep, slightly convex sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a concave base, cutting 1301, 1302, and 1303, filled with 1305 | | Modern |
| 1305 | Fill | 1.52 | 0.68 | Friable, dark greyish-brown sandy silt with moderate amount sub-rounded flint pebbles, overlain by 1300, single fill of 1304 | CBM, drain tile, wine bottle | Modern |

| **Trench 14 and Area 14** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | - |
| Trench with two E-W aligned furrows and one pit, extended westwards exposing further pits from the linear pit alignment. Four pits uncovered – two of them investigated. A natural feature (probably a tree-throw) was cut by one of the excavated pits. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2-8 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.37 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1400 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlaying subsoil 1401 | - | - |
| 1401 | Layer | - | 0.19 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlaying natural geology 1402, overlain by topsoil 1400 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1402 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 1403 | Cut of Pit in alignment | >1.35 | 0.42 (0.3 in natural geology) | Sub-rectangular (extending eastwards beyond T14), steep sides, very gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting 1401 and 1402, filled with 1404 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1404 | Fill | >1.35 | 0.42 | Mottled light to brownish grey sandy silt with flint pebbles, sealed by 1400, fill of 1403 | | Prehistoric |
| 1405 | Fill | 1.12 | 0.3 | Friable, brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional flint pebbles, overlaying 1406, upper fill of 1407 | | Prehistoric |
| 1406 | Fill | 1.58 | 0.27 | Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional flint pebbles, overlain by 1405, lower fill of 1407 | | Prehistoric |
| 1407 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.58 | 0.3 | Sub-rectangular, moderately steep and steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting 1402 and fill of feature 1409, filled with 1405 and 1406 | | Prehistoric |
| 1408 | Fill | 1.5 (N-S) | 0.24 | Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with flint pebbles, cut by 1407, single fill of 1409 | | Prehistoric |
| 1409 | Cut of tree-throw | 1.5 (N-S) | 0.24 | Ovoid, a moderately steep side, an undulating base, cutting 1402, truncated by 1407 | | |
| 1410 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.35 | 0.22 | Sub-rectangular, sloping sides, gradual breaks of slope, a flattish base, cutting 1402, filled with 1411 | | Prehistoric |
| 1411 | Fill | 1.35 | 0.22 | Friable, light brownish-grey silty sand with occasional flint pebbles, fill of 1410 | | Prehistoric |

| Trench 15 and Area 15 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Area m2** | 718 |
| Trench with subrectangular pit and a few tree-throw holes, and an E-W furrow. Area 15 extended the evaluation trench north, west, and eastwards. Fifteen prehistoric pits in an alignment, several other pits, and three linear and curvilinear features uncovered and investigated. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 36.5 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 32.2 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.45 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1500 | Layer | - | 0.35 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional, flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1501 | - | - |
| 1501 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1502, overlain by topsoil 1500 | - | - |
| 1502 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 1503 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.3 | 0.3 | Sub-rectangular with a moderately steep and steep side, a gradual break of slope, and a flattish base, cutting 1502, filled with 1504 | - - | Early Iron Age |
| 1504 | Fill | 1.3 | 0.3 | Light greyish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flint gravel, single fill of 1503 | - Pottery sherds | Early Iron Age |
| 1505 | Cut of tree-throw | 0.9 | 0.3 | Sub-oval – extending eastwards beyond Tr 15, with very asymmetric sides - steep and undercut – filled with 1506, cutting 1502 | - | |
| 1506 | Fill | 0.9 | 0.3 | Brownish-grey sandy silt with very occasional flint pebbles | - | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1507 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.28 | 0.53 | Sub-rectangular, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting 1502, filled with 1508, 1509, and 1510 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1508 | Fill | 1.1 | 0.14 | Light greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles, lowest fill of 1507 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1509 | Fill | 1.28 | 0.14 | Grey sandy silt with flint pebbles, overlain by 1510, overlying 1508, middle fill of 1507 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1510 | Fill | 1.14 | 0.31 | Greyish-brown sandy silt and charcoal, overlying 1509, upper fill of 1507 | Pottery sherds | Prehistoric |
| 1511 | Cut of furrow | +1.63 | +9.8 | Linear, aligned E-W, very gently sloping sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, very slightly undulating base, cut into natural geology and fills of ditches 1515 and 1517, filled with 1512 | - | Post-medieval |
| 1512 | Fill | +1.63 | +9.8 | Friable, brown silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles, homogenous – part of subsoil, sealed by 1500, fill of 1511 | Pottery sherds, pieces of CBM | Post-medieval |
| 1513 | Cut of ditch | 0.61 | 0.15 | Linear, aligned NE-SW, slightly asymmetric – moderately steep and steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flattish base, cutting 1502, filled with 1514 | - | Iron Age |
| 1514 | Fill | 0.61 | 0.15 | Friable, greyish-brown silty sand with flint gravel, single fill of 1513 | - | Iron Age |
| 1515 | Cut of ditch | 1.15 | 0.2 | Linear, aligned NE-SW, gently sloping western side and slightly concave base, cutting 1502, relationship with ditch 1517 not clear | - | Iron Age |
| 1516 | Fill | 1.15 | 0.2 | Friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt with moderate amount of | Pottery sherds | Iron Age |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | flint pebbles, single fill of 1514 | | |
| 1517 | Cut of ditch | 0.15 | 0.1 | Linear, aligned N-S, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, concave base, cutting 1502, filled with 1518 | - | - |
| 1518 | Fill | 0.15 | 0.1 | Friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt with flint pebbles, single fill of 1517 | - | - |
| 1519 | Fill | 1.78 | 0.47 | Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, probably cut by ditch 1523, overlying 1520, upper/main fill of 1521 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1520 | Fill | 1.1 | 0.1 | Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks, overlain by 1519, basal fill of 1521 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1521 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.78 | 0.47 | Circular, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting 1502, probably truncated by 1523, filled with 1519 and 1520 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1522 | Fill | 0.71 | 0.33 | Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles, single fill of 1523 | - | - |
| 1523 | Cut of ditch | 0.71 | 0.33 | Linear, aligned NW-SE, very steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting 1502 and probably cutting fill 1519 of pit 1521, filled with 1522 | - | - |
| 1524 | Cut of pit | 1.18 | 0.18 | Circular, gently sloping sides, slightly concave base, cutting 1502, filled with 1525 | - | - |
| 1525 | Fill | 1.18 | 0.18 | Friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt with | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | flint pebbles and charcoal flecks, single fill of 1524 | | |
| 1526 | Cut of pit | 1.6 x 1.24 | 0.6 | Ovoid, vertical/undercut sides and a flat base, cutting 1502, filled with 1527 and 1530 | - | - |
| 1527 | Fill | 1.6 x 1.24 | 0.37 | Friable, greyish-brown slightly sandy silt with pebbles, overlying 1530, fill of 1526 | - | - |
| 1528 | Fill | 1.68 | 0.26 | Friable, light greyish-brown, sandy silt with flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Single fill of 1529 – possibly fills of two ditches (not distinguished during excavation) | - | - |
| 1529 | Cut of ditch | 1.68 | 0.26 | Linear, aligned NE-SW, steep sides (NE steeper), gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting 1502, filled with 1528 | - | - |
| 1530 | Fill | 1.43 | 0.3 | Friable, light brownish-grey silty clay with occasional flint pebbles, overlain by 1527, lower fill of 1526 | - | - |
| 1531 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.57 | 0.32 | Circular, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flattish base, cutting 1502, filled with 1532 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1532 | Fill | 1.57 | 0.32 | Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles, single fill of 1531 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1533 | Cut of ditch | + 0.32 | 0.53 | Linear, aligned NW-SE, very steep side, gradual break of slope, concave base, cutting 1502 and 1536, filled with 1534 | - | - |
| 1534 | Fill | + 0.32 | 0.53 | Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt, with flint pebbles and some | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | cobbles, single fill of 1533 | | |
| 1535 | Cut of pit in alignment | +0.95 | 0.42 | Circular, moderately steep side, truncated by 1534, cutting 1502, filled with 1536, the same pit as 1521 | - | - |
| 1536 | Fill | +0.95 | 0.42 | Friable, greyish-brown mottled with yellowish-brown sandy silt, with frequent flint pebbles, cut by 1533, single fill of 1535, the same as fills 1519 and 1520 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1537 | Group – ditch | | | Ditch aligned NW-SE and curving NE-SW. 28m long, extending beyond Area 15, includes cuts 1533, 1523, 1517 and probably 1556 | - | - |
| 1538 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.45 | 0.36 | Sub-rectangular, with moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, and a flat base. Cuts 1502, filled with 1539 and 1540 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1539 | Fill | 1.45 | 0.18 | Friable. Greyish-brown sandy silt with flint pebbles, overlying 1540, upper fill of 1538 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1540 | Fill | 1.25 | 0.25 | Friable, light grey sandy silt with flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, overlain by 1539, lower fill of 1538 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1541 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.38 | 0.13 | Sub-rectangular, moderately steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, flat base, cutting 1502, filled with 1542 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1542 | Fill | 1.38 | 0.13 | Friable, light greyish-brown, sandy silt with flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, single fill of 1541 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1543 | Cut | 0.84 | 0.19 | Linear, aligned NE-SW, steep sides, slightly concave base, cutting 1502, filled with 1544 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1544 | Fill | 0.84 | 0.19 | Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, single fill of 1543 | - | - |
| 1545 | Cut of natural feature | 0.95 | 0.35 | Elongated asymmetric and irregular ovoid, steep and sloping sides, gradual breaks of slopes, sloping flattish and concave base, cutting 1502, filled with 1546 and 1548 | - | - |
| 1546 | Fill | 0.5 | 0.24 | Patches of light grey and light brown sandy silt with occasional quartzite pebbles, overlying 1548, upper fill of 1545 | - | - |
| 1547 | Cut of natural feature | 0.95 | 0.25 | Slightly irregular ovoid, very steep and gently sloping sides, slightly undulating and sloping base, cutting 1502, filled with 1567 | - | - |
| 1548 | Fill | 0.95 | 0.35 | Yellowish-brown silty sand with flint pebbles, overlain by 1546, lower/main fill of 1545 | - | - |
| 1549 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.36 | 0.22 | Sub-rectangular, sloping (S) and steep (N) sides, gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting 1502, filled with 1550 and 1551 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1550 | Fill | 1.23 | 0.11 | Friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt with flint pebbles, overlying 1551, upper fill of 1549 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1551 | Fill | 1.36 | 0.22 | Friable, light grey sandy silt with flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, overlain by 1550, lower/basal fill of 1549 | Pottery sherds | Prehistoric |
| 1552 | Cut of gully terminus | 0.66 | 0.16 | Linear with rounded end, aligned ESE-WNW – extending eastwards beyond Area 15. 2.56m exposed, two sections excavated, cutting 1502, filled with 1553 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1553 | Fill | 0.66 | 0.16 | Friable, light yellowish-grey sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles, single fill of 1552 | - | - |
| 1554 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.8 | 0.7 | Sub-rectangular, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting 1502 extending north beyond Area 15, filled with 1555, 1572, and 1573 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1555 | Fill | 1.8 | 0.45 | Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, overlying 1572, upper fill of 1554 | - | Prehistoric |
| 1556 | Cut of ditch | 0.77 | 0.34 | Linear, aligned NE-SW, steep sides, slightly concave base, cutting 1502, truncated by 1577, filled with 1557 and 1776 | - | - |
| 1557 | Fill | 0.7 | 0.23 | Greyish-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles – a lens of compact reddish sand with flint gravel at the base on the south. Overlying 1576, cut by 1577, fill of 1556 | - | - |
| 1558 | Cut of pit | 0.55 | 0.22 | Ovoid, with steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes and a slightly concave base, cutting 1502, filled with 1559 | - | - |
| 1559 | Fill | 0.55 | 0.22 | Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with pebbles, single fill of 1558 | - | - |
| 1560 | Cut of pit | 0.52 | 0.2 | Oval, with steep slightly asymmetric sides, gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting 1502, filled with 1561 | - | - |
| 1561 | Fill | 0.52 | 0.2 | Friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with pebbles, single fill of 1560 | - | - |
| 1562 | Cut of natural feature | 0.92 | 0.26 | Linear with rounded western end, extending eastwards beyond Area 15, sloping and very | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | steep sides, undulating irregular base, cutting 1502, filled with 1563 and 1664 | | |
| 1563 | Fill | 0.92 | 0.26 | Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, overlain by 1564 – the latter is a lens, fill of 1562 | - | - |
| 1564 | Fill | 0.28 | 0.26 | Brownish-grey silt within 1563, fill of 1562 | - | - |
| 1565 | Cut of pit | 0.44 | 0.11 | Ovoid, sloping and steep sides, a slightly concave base, cutting 1502, filled with 1566 | - | - |
| 1566 | Fill | 0.44 | 0.11 | Friable, light brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, single fill of 1565 | - | - |
| 1567 | Fill | 0.95 | 0.25 | Friable sandy silt, light grey mottled with yellowish-brown, occasional pebbles, single fill of 1547 | - | - |
| 1568 | Cut of natural feature | 0.9 | 0.23 | Irregular ovoid with sloping and vertical sides, gradual breaks of slopes, irregularly undulating base, cutting 1502, filled with 1559, the same feature as 1570 | - | - |
| 1569 | Fill | 0.9 | 0.23 | Friable, slightly sandy silt, brownish-grey with patches of light greyish-brown, fill of 1568 | - | - |
| 1570 | - | - | - | The same feature as 1558 | - | - |
| 1571 | | | | The same fill as 1569 | - | - |
| 1572 | Fill | 1.38 | 0.28 | Friable, grey clayey silt with frequent pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, overlain by 1555, overlying 1573, lower fill of 1554 pit | - | Prehistoric |
| 1573 | Fill | 0.5 | 0.06 | Friable, light yellowish-grey silt with pebbles, | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | overlain by 1572, basal fill of pit 1554 | | |
| 1574 | Cut of natural feature | 0.6 | 0.25 | Irregular oval, asymmetric sides, a slightly undulating base, cutting 1502, filled with brownish-grey slightly sandy fill | - | - |
| 1575 | Cut | 0.5 | 0.2 | Circular, steep sides, concave base, filled with greyish brown silty sand | - | - |
| 1576 | Fill | 0.56 | 0.13 | Friable silty sand, patches of yellowish brown and light grey, with very occasional flint pebbles, overlain by 1557, cut by 1577, lower fill of ditch 1556 | - | - |
| 1577 | Cut of ditch | 0.85 | 0.26 | Linear, aligned NE-SW, sloping sides, concave base, cutting 1556, filled with 1578, part of the same ditch as 1529 | - | Iron Age |
| 1578 | Fill | 0.85 | 0.26 | Friable, greyish-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, single fill of 1577 | Pottery sherds | Iron Age |

| **Trench 16** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | NE-SW |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.6 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1600 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1601 | - | - |
| 1601 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1602, overlain by topsoil 1600 | - | - |
| 1602 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Trench and Area 17 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | NNE-SSW |
| Trench with extension 10m square at N end. One pit in the southern part of the trench with no finds. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 40 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9-10 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.55 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1700 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1701 | - | - |
| 1701 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1702, overlain by topsoil 1700 | - | - |
| 1702 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |
| 1703 | Cut of pit | 1.3 | 0.72 | Subrectangular – extending westwards beyond Tr 17 – steep, symmetric sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting 1700 and 1701, filled with 1704 | - | - |
| 1704 | Fill | 1.3 | 0.72 | Light greyish-brown sandy silt, disturbed by a tree-throw hole on its eastern side | - | - |

| Trench 18 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.42 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1800 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1801 | - | - |
| 1801 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1802, overlain by topsoil 1800 | - | - |
| 1802 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Trench 19 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | NE-SW |
| NNW-SSE aligned linear feature uncovered and excavated. It contained no finds. May be part of the same linear as feature 1303 | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.57 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 1900 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1901 | - | - |
| 1901 | Layer | - | 0.09 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy clay with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1902, overlain by topsoil 1900 | - | - |
| 1902 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable sandy clay with flint gravel | - | - |
| 1903 | Cut of ditch | 0.78 | 0.24 | Linear, aligned NNW-SSE, western side steep, eastern side sloping, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting 1902, filled with 1904 | - | - |
| 1904 | Fill | 0.78 | 0.24 | Sandy clay with occasional pebbles, single fill of 1903 | | |

| Trench 20 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 1.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.36 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 2000 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 1801 | - | - |
| 2001 | Layer | - | 0.11 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 1802, overlain by topsoil 1800 | - | - |
| 2002 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |

| Area 21 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | NW-SE |
| Area located south of Trench 13, north of Trench 19, and west of Area 14. devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 16 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 4.9 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.4 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 2100 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil: Friable, soft, very dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying subsoil 2101 | - | - |
| 2101 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Subsoil/B-Horizon, friable, compact, brown sandy silt with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying natural geology 2102, overlain by topsoil 2100 | - | - |
| 2102 | Layer | - | - | Natural geology: friable silty sand with flint gravel | - | - |

| Area 22 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Area (m2)** | 21 |
| Cross shaped area – in between Area 15 and Area 10. Three subrectangular pits belonging to the pit alignment uncovered – one excavated. An E-W orientated furrow at the northern part of the area. | | | | | **Length (m)** | 6.8 |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 6.33 |
| | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.36 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| 2200 | Layer Topsoil | - | 0.24 | Very dark grey silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 2201, the furrow, and probably fill 2204 | - | - |
| 2201 | Layer Subsoil | - | 0.3 | Light brown sandy silt with flint pebbles, overlain by 2200, overlaying 2202 | - | - |
| 2202 | Layer Natural geology | - | - | Horizon 0.3m thick, of light brown silty sand with patches of reddish brown silty sand overlying grey sand and gravel horizon | - | - |
| 2203 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.2 | 0.4 | Sub-rectangular, western side almost vertical, eastern side very steep, sharp breaks of slopes, a flat base, cutting the upper horizon of 2202, filled with 2204 and 2209. | - | Prehistoric |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2204 | Fill | 0.75 | 0.2 | Light brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, overlying 2209, upper fill of 2203 | - | Prehistoric |
| 2205 | Cut of furrow | +0.8 | - | E-W aligned furrow, only southern part exposed, truncating upper parts of pits 2203, 2207, and 2209, sealed by 2200, filled with 2206 | - | - |
| 2206 | Fill | +0.8 | +0.3 | Dark brown sandy silt, sealed by 2200 | - | - |
| 2207 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.05 | - | Sub-rectangular, cutting 2202, 1.3m westwards from 2203, not excavated, upper part cut by 2205 | - | Prehistoric |
| 2208 | Cut of pit in alignment | 1.05 | - | Sub-rectangular, cutting 2202, 1.16m eastwards from 2203, not excavated, upper part cut by 2205 | - | Prehistoric |
| 2209 | Fill | 1.2 | 0.4 | Light grey sandy silt with flint pebbles, overlain by 2204, fill of 2203 | - | Prehistoric |
| | | | | | - | - |

# APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

## B.1 Prehistoric pottery

*By Lisa Brown*

### *Introduction*

B.1.1 Some 86 sherds weighing 176g were recovered from several pits and a ditch at Chellaston (Table B.1). The group is in very fragmentary condition, with an average sherd weight (ASW) of just over 2g. However, a few sherds are more robust and reasonably well-preserved.

B.1.2 Most of the pottery (63 sherds) came from five pits (1007, 1407, 1503, 1507, and 1549) belonging to an alignment that ran east to west across the site. Another 15 sherds came from fill 1516 of ditch 1515. A northern continuation of the same ditch, here numbered 1578, produced 13 lumps of ferrous clay that may be fired clay or very degraded pottery.

Table B.1

| Ctx | Feature | Nosh | Wt (g) | Fabric | Form | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1008 | Pit 1007 | 1 | 12 | Red ferrous sandy with sparse white quartzite | body | Matrix resembles (1516) |
| 1504 | Pit 1503 | 2x | 29 | Black ferrous coarse sandy with moderate coarse quartzite | Flat base | Uniform oxidised |
| 1504 | Pit 1503 | 5 | 7 | Black ferrous coarse sandy with moderate coarse quartzite | body | Matrix as above but inner reduced |
| 1504 <1> | Pit 1503 | 1 | 3 | Black ferrous coarse sandy with moderate coarse quartzite | body | Part of uniform oxidised |
| 1504 <2> | Pit 1503 | 4x | 9 | Black ferrous coarse sandy with moderate coarse quartzite | body | Matrix as above but inner reduced |
| 1405<10> | Pit 1407 | 1 | 2 | Coarse sand with red and black ferrous inclusions | body | tiny |
| 1510 | Pit 1507 | 1 | 4 | Fine micaceous sand with rare small quartzite inclusions | Body | |
| 1510 <3> | Pit 1507 | 1 | 7 | Moderate slightly micaceous sandy with moderate coarse quartzite | too fragmentary | Slightly out-turning rim; or base frag |
| 1516 | Ditch 1515 | 15x | 58 | Fine sandy with red ferrous matter | Slightly kicked out low pedestal base | Not all sherds join, but clearly single vessel |
| 1551 | Pit 1549 | 42 | 38 | Soft sandy red and black ferrous with sparse coarse quartzite | Body | |
| 1578 | Ditch 1578 | 13 | 7 | clay containing black ferrous matter | Body | Fired clay, not pot? Or very degraded pot |

< > indicates that the pottery came from sieving of bulk samples

B.1.3 Two principal fabric groups were identified using Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group's Guidelines (PCRG 1997), and were quantified by sherd count and weight. One fabric is a slightly micaceous, sandy fabric with red and black ferrous oxides that incorporates angular and subangular pieces of white and translucent quartzite. The other is a fine to moderate sandy fabric that also contains ferrous oxides. Both are common prehistoric fabrics in the region.

B.1.4 Similar quartz inclusions and ferrous components have been identified by David Williams in Fengate Wares at Potlock Cursus, Derbys (Williams 1978), and by Johnson and Whitbread (1998) in Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery from Wilmington, Derbys. At some sites in the region similar inclusions are associated with later BA and Iron Age forms, for example Mam Tor (David Knight pers. Comm.) and the very recently published Gardom's Edge (Barnatt, Bevan and Edmonds 2017).

B.1.5 The ferruginous inclusions are also noted in a sand-tempered Iron Age jar recovered during evaluation at a nearby site on Boulton Moor (Hunt 2013, 2014). Therefore, whatever the date of the sherds from the current site, the raw materials appear to have been procured fairly locally.

B.1.6 All of the pottery from the pits is quartzite-tempered. In contrast, the pottery from ditch 1515 and the possible pottery (or fired clay) from ditch 1578 contains no quartzite. This correlation suggests a chronological distinction, which might be supported by the stratigraphic relationship between the alignment and the ditch, the latter cutting the alignment.

B.1.7 Only two sherds diagnostic of form were identified. A quartzite-tempered fragment from fill 1510 of Pit 1507 is a simple rim, slightly out-turned. It belonged to a moderate sized vessel, which cannot be further defined in chronological terms. A sand-tempered low pedestal base from fill 1516 of ditch 1515 is probably Iron Age, based on the quality of the fabric and the shape. Footring and pedestal bases are certainly known in the middle Iron Age and the late Iron Age in the region, but can also be somewhat earlier (as they are in southern Britain). However, this example is too fragmentary to be more specific.

B.1.8 Charcoal from fill 1504 of pit 1503, which contained some of the quartzite-tempered sherds, was submitted for radiocarbon dating, and returned a date range of 760-420 cal BC at 93% confidence. Unless the quartzite-tempered pottery is residual in the pits, this would appear to confirm an early Iron Age date for the pottery in the alignment, and this would be consistent with the generally later prehistoric date of pit alignments where they have been able to be dated.

B.1.9 Although small, the prehistoric pottery should be retained for comparison with that from other Iron Age pit alignments and sites of other types in the county and the region.

## B.2 Post-medieval pottery

*By John Cotter*

### *Introduction*

B.2.1 A total of two sherds of pottery weighing 84g were recovered from two contexts. Both are of post-medieval date. The condition of the material is generally good. Given the small size of the assemblage the pottery is simply described and spot-dated below. Post-medieval pottery fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). No further work is recommended, and the pottery need not be retained.

### *Context (304) Spot-date: 17th to 18th century?*

B.2.2 Description: 1 sherd (4g). Midlands black ware (Fabric code: BLACK, c 1600-1900). Small flat body sherd probably from the flat base of a vessel. Very hard purplish-brown near-stoneware fabric with an internal black glaze. Also similar to Midlands purple ware (MPUR, c 1400-1750).

#### *Context (1512) Spot-date: 17th to 18th century?*

B.2.3 Description: 1 sherd (80g). Midlands yellow ware (MY, c 1550-1700). Flanged or sub-triangular rim from a wide bowl (diameter c 380mm) of conical form with a shallow flaring wall. Fine cream sandy fabric with an all-over internal glossy yellow glaze.

## B.3 Ceramic building material

*By Cynthia Poole*

B.3.1 A small quantity of ceramic building material was recovered from two contexts (304, 1512) and is recorded in Table B.2 below. The pieces from context 304 comprise a small fragment of flat roof tile (4g) probably of medieval or post-medieval date, and a block of engineering brick (512g) of mid-19th – early-20th century date.

B.3.2 From context 1512 come two joining fragments (39g) of roof tile that have been neatly chipped to form a circular disc 75mm diameter. Tile discs such as this are mainly of Roman and Medieval date, but this example comes from a post-medieval furrow (see Post-Medieval pottery above). The tile fabric is not easily datable, but the time should be retained for comparison with fabrics of known date from other sites in the region.

| Ctxt | Nos | Wt g | Form | Dimensions | Fabric | Spot Date | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 304 | 1 | 4 | Roof tile | >9mm th | Red with cream laminations; orange surface; fine sandy slightly micaceous clay containing medium quartz sand and iron oxide grits | Med/Pmed | Small scrap with smooth top surface only surviving |
| 304 | 1 | 512 | brick | 66-71mm th; >94mm w | Hard red well fired clay containing sand and common dark grits 1-5mm SA possibly ironstone. | MC19-EC20 | Partial brick, unfrogged. Upper and lower bedding surface of similar character, slightly rough and concave. Edge is rough with longitudinal striations |
| 1512 | 2 | 39 | Roof tile/disc | >12mm th; 75mm diameter | Orange fine sandy clay containing frequent quartz sand <5mm, occasionally up to 1mm, & coarser grits of quartzite, ironstone & cream siltstone up to 5mm. | Roman/Med | Flat tile fragment with smooth upper surface; lower surface missing, neatly chipped to form a circular disc. A worm (annelid) impression occurs on the underside. |

## B.4 Stone

*By Ruth Shaffrey*

### *Introduction*

B.4.1 A total of 47 pieces of stone were retained (1604). The bulk of these (37 items) are heat-shattered quartzite pebbles (1092g from contexts 1504 and 1510, fills of pits 1503 and 1507 in the pit alignment) that are otherwise unworked. There were also two pieces of burnt flint, with the characteristic crazing of `pot-boilers'. These can now all be discarded.

B.4.2 Six pieces of quartz were found in the topsoil over Trench 15, context 1500; these do not appear to have been struck or worked, but demonstrate the local availability of the quartzite used to temper some of the pottery.

B.4.3 One piece of worn grey siltstone bears some scratches and may be part of an object, but at 17g is too small to be identified with confidence (1504). This object should be retained for comparison with objects from other sites in the region.

# APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

## C.1 Environmental Samples

*By Sharon Cook with charcoal identifications by Julia Meen*

### *Introduction*

C.1.1 Eleven samples, each of 30-40 litres, were taken from the evaluation at Boulton Moor, Chellaston, Derby. The initial four samples were from Trench 14 and Trench 15 (see Table C.1) while the later samples were taken from extensions to these two trenches. All samples were taken from the fills of pits in an alignment, believed to date to the later Bronze Age.

| Sample No | Context No | Trench No | Sample Volume (L) | Flot Volume (ml) | Feature Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1504 | 15 | 40 | 100 | Single fill of Pit [1503] |
| 2 | 1504 | 15 | 40 | 75 | Single fill of Pit [1503] |
| 3 | 1510 | 15 | 40 | 50 | Upper Fill of Pit [1507] |
| 4 | 1404 | 14 | 40 | 10 | Single fill of Pit [1403] |
| 5 | 1519 | 15 ext | 36 | 20 | Upper fill of Pit [1521] |
| 6 | 1527 | 15 ext | 36 | 25 | Upper fill of Pit [1526] |
| 7 | 1525 | 15 ext | 34 | 50 | Single fill of Pit [1524] |
| 8 | 1532 | 15 ext | 39 | 25 | Single fill of Pit [1531] |
| 9 | 1530 | 15 ext | 32 | 20 | Lower fill of Pit [1526] |
| 10 | 1405 | 14 | 40 | 20 | Upper fill of Pit [1407] |
| 11 | 1411 | 14 | 40 | 50 | Single fill of [1410] |

Table C.1. Sample details

### *Method*

C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification.

### *Results*

C.1.3 Pottery was retrieved from the residues of Samples <2>, <3> and <10>, and a small quantity of burnt stone was present in samples <1> and <2>.

C.1.4 Samples <1> and <2> which are both from the same pit fill, produced charcoal-rich flots of 100ml and 75ml with fewer modern roots than the other samples. Most of the charcoal in these samples was in a poor state of preservation, often mineral-encrusted, soft and friable, making identification very difficult. The majority of the fragments examined from sample <1> are of oak (Quercus sp.), with a small number of ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and hawthorn type (Pomoideae) fragments; a fragment of the latter has been chosen for radiocarbon dating. Sample <2> was similarly dominated by oak charcoal, although occasional fragments of hazel/alder (Corylus/Alnus) charcoal were also present. Apart from charcoal,

present in fairly small amounts in the other flots, samples <1> and <2> are the only ones to contain other charred material, with four small chaff fragments and one unidentifiable cereal grain and a weed seed fragment in sample <1> and three unidentifiable cereal grain fragments and two chaff fragments present in sample <2>.

C.1.5 Sample <3> contained approximately 50% modern roots with the rest being charcoal. Most of the charcoal was in a good enough condition to allow a preliminary assessment of species composition. Almost all examined items were of oak (Quercus sp.), with many fragments clearly being heartwood. A single fragment of diffuse porous type was noted, although this was heavily mineral-encrusted and further identification was not possible.

C.1.6 For the remaining samples the majority of the flot material consists of modern root material with occasional modern seeds or insect fragment. All contain small fragments of charcoal with the majority not suitable for further identification.

#### *Discussion and Conclusion*

C.1.7 The material observed within samples <1> and <2> is not inconsistent with an Iron Age date. The chaff fragments, while too fragmented to identify fully, are from a glume wheat, although it is impossible to confirm if they are fragments from spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) or emmer wheat (Triticum dicoccum).

C.1.8 While the initial three samples for this site should be retained, the remaining samples produced very little material. The size and condition of the majority of the observed charcoal would seem to indicate that these are a result of secondary deposition of material rather than deliberate dumping episodes. These other samples need not be retained.

## C.2 Animal Bone

*By Lee Broderick*

#### *Introduction*

C.2.1 A total of 6 animal bones were recovered from the site, all from a single context (304) dated to the nineteenth century AD on the basis of a fragment of engineering brick (see B.3 above). The material was recovered by hand.

C.2.2 Two of the specimens were rib fragments of a medium (sheep/goat sized) mammal, with the remainder coming from neonatal caprine (sheep [Ovis aries] and/or goat [Capra hircus]). Given the absence of animal bone recovered from the rest of the site, it is possible that these bones are the remains of a natural casualty rather than coming from animals slaughtered for human consumption. Two misaligned puncture marks on one of the ribs are probably the result of canid scavenging.

C.2.3 No animal bone was recovered from any of the prehistoric features. This could be due to post-depositional processes (eg acidic soils) or reflect the general paucity of finds from these features, indicating an area remote from human occupation.

C.2.4 The animal bones need not be retained.

## C.3 Scientific Dating

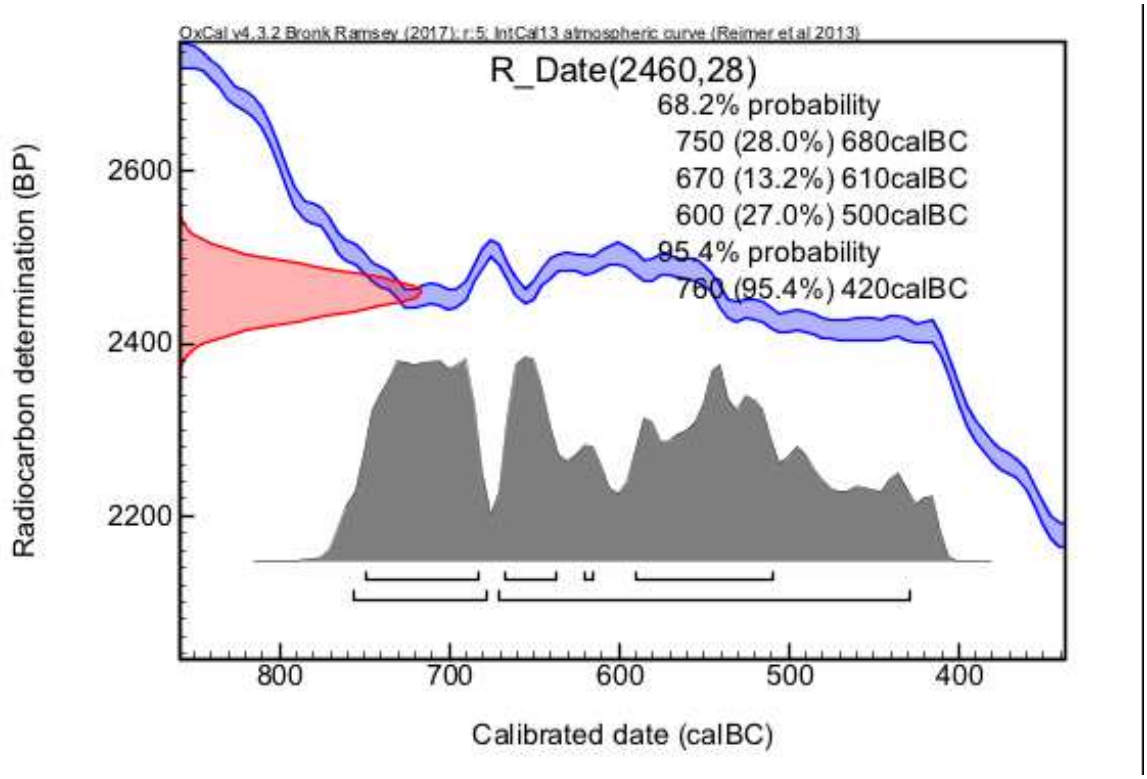
*By Rebecca Nicholson*

C.3.1 A single sample of Pomoideae (apple/pear/quince/ hawthorn type) charcoal from sample <1>, context 1504, the fill of pit 1503, was submitted to the CHRONO radiocarbon laboratory at the University of Belfast for AMS radiocarbon dating. The laboratory maintains a continuous programs of internal quality control in addition to participation in international inter-comparisons (Scott *et al*. 2010). These tests indicate no laboratory offset and demonstrate the validity of the precision quoted.

C.3.2 The resulting date, provided in Table C.2, is a conventional radiocarbon age (Stuiver and Polach 1977), quoted in accordance with the international standard known as the Trondheim convention (Stuiver and Kra 1986). The resulting radiocarbon age includes a fractionation correction based on $\delta^{13}C$ measured on the AMS. The sample was prepared using an acid-alkali-acid pretreatment protocol (Reimer *et al*. 2015).

C.3.3 The calibrated date (Fig C.1; Table C.2) has been calculated using the datasets published by Reimer *et al* (2013) and the computer program OxCal v4.3.2 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; 1998; 2001; 2017). The calibrated date ranges cited are quoted in the form recommended by Mook (1986), with the end points rounded outward to 10 years. The date range has been calculated using the maximum intercept method (Stuiver and Reimer 1986).

Figure C.1



| Lab. Number | Sample | Context | Material | **Radiocarbon Age (BP)** | **Calibrated date (at 95.4%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UBA-34326 | <1> | 1504 | 1 frag of Pomoideae charcoal | 2460 ± 28 | 760-420 cal. BC |

Table C.2

C.3.4 As Fig. C.1 shows, the resulting date has a broad chronological spread spanning the early Iron Age. Since the submitted charcoal could not be identified as roundwood or sapwood, there is a potential age offset of over 100 years which could potentially just place the date in the early part of the middle Iron Age, although an early Iron Age date is much more likely.

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# APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Site name:** | Boulton Moor, Chellaston, Derby (Phase 4) |
| **Site code:** | CHBM 17 |
| **Grid Reference** | SK 3965 3131 |
| **Type:** | Evaluation and further archaeological mitigation |
| **Date and duration:** | February 2017, four weeks |
| **Summary of Results:** | Twenty evaluation trenches representing a 3% sample of the site were excavated on a standard grid. Archaeological features were few, but a prehistoric pit was found in Trench 15, so a 10m square was opened up to determine whether it was isolated or not. Four similar pits were found forming an east-west alignment, and a further pit on the same alignment in Trench 14 to the west. A gully cutting the alignment was also exposed in Trench 15, plus other pits south of the alignment. The only other possibly ancient feature was an undated pit in Trench 17.<br>Several east-west furrows were revealed, one dated by pottery to the post-medieval period, and two recent field boundary ditches. A large pit of later 19th or 20th century date was also partly exposed in Trench 3.<br>The evaluation was followed immediately by further archaeological mitigation. Trench 15 was extended considerably, and Trench 14 by a 10m square. Further 10m squares were dug to the west and east on the projected pit alignment.<br>Fifteen pits of the alignment were exposed in Area 15, and five in Area 14, but none in Areas 11 and 17 further west, nor in Area 10 to the east. Area 21 was therefore stripped between Areas 14 and 17, and Area 22 between Areas 15 and 10. Area 21 was blank, but Area 22 found three further pits on an ENE-WSW, rather than an east-west, alignment. Area 10 was therefore extended northwards, and located another five pits, showing that the alignment extended for at least 160m across the site.<br>Fourteen pits were excavated, and pottery tempered with quartzite was found in five of these, but no other finds except burnt flint and one utilized stone fragment. A sample of charcoal from one of the pits has been radiocarbon-dated to 760-420 cal BC at 93% confidence.<br>One of the pits in Areas 15 was cut by a curving ditch consisting of two lengths at right angles with a gap in between. The north-eastern arm was recut by a shallower gully, which continued south-westwards right across the area. This gully contained sand-tempered pottery with ferrous inclusions including a pedestal base, of Iron Age date.<br>One deep and five small pits were found south of the alignment in Trench 15, but none produced any dating evidence. A gully containing subsoil, and so probably post-medieval, was also found. |
| **Area of Site** | 3.6 ha. |
| **Location of archive:** | The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES. Following consultation with the Derbyshire Planning Archaeologist Stephen Baker, the prehistoric pottery, worked stone and the charred plant remain flots will be deposited with Derby County Museum and Art Gallery under accession number: ***. |

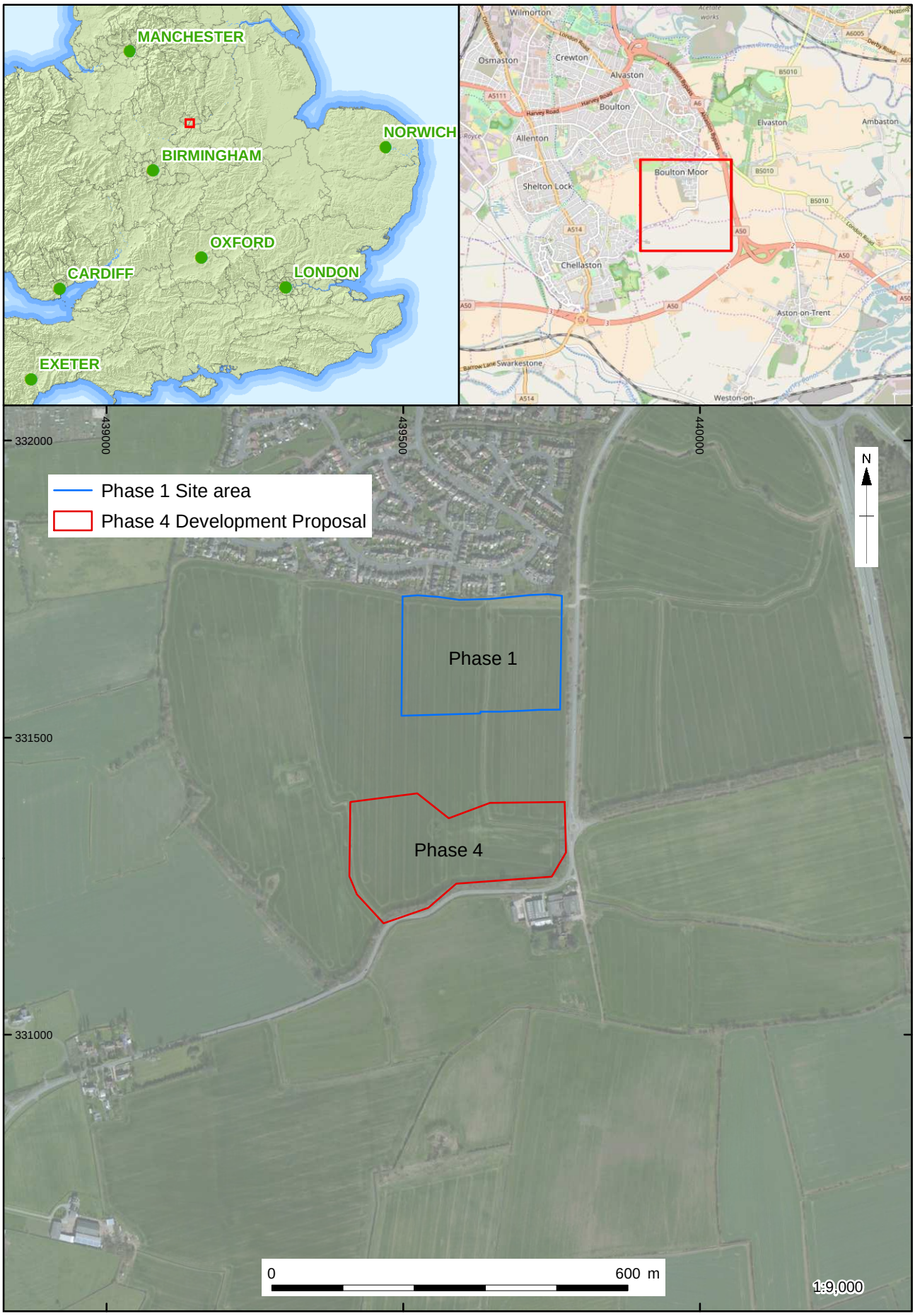


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Figure 1: Site location

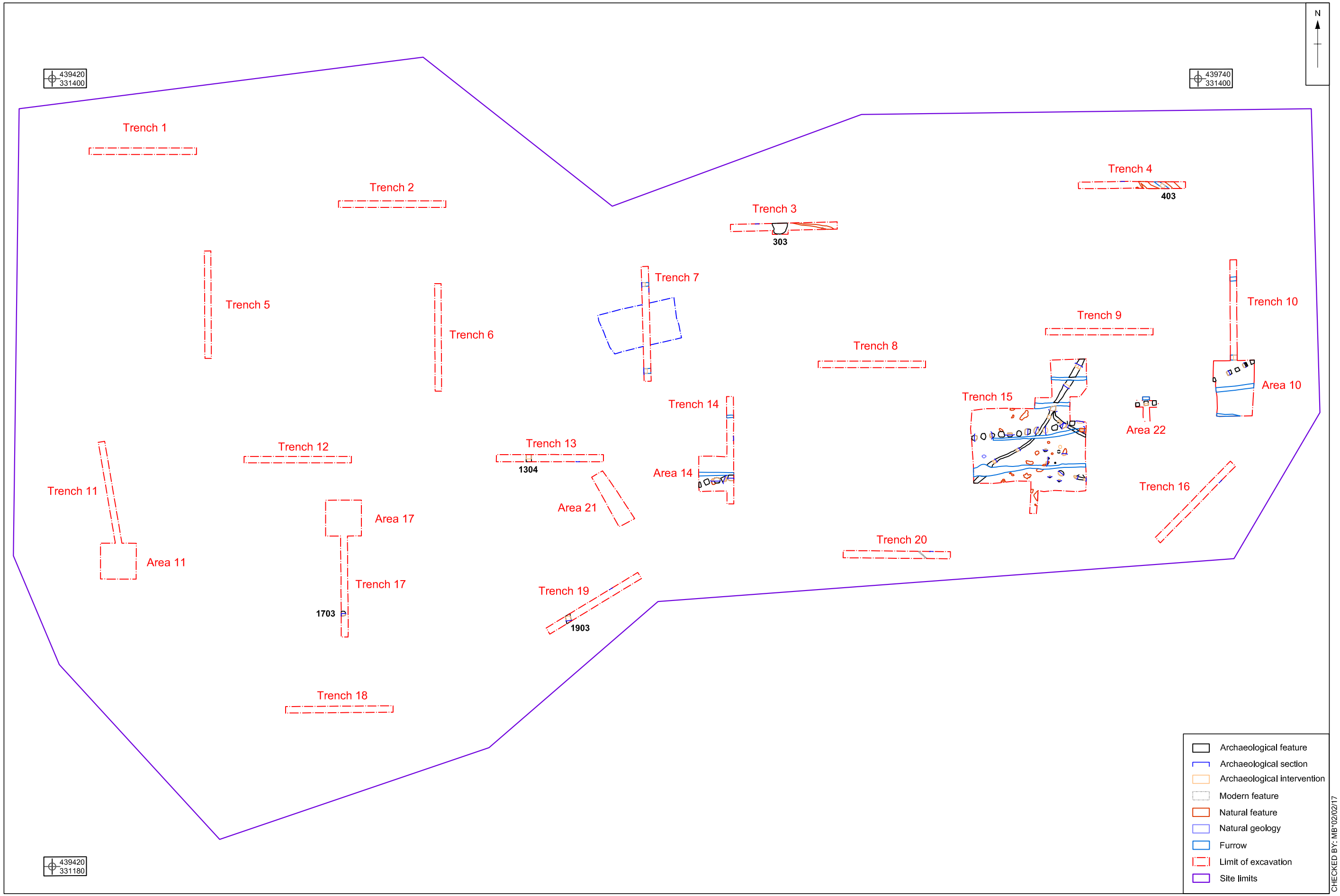
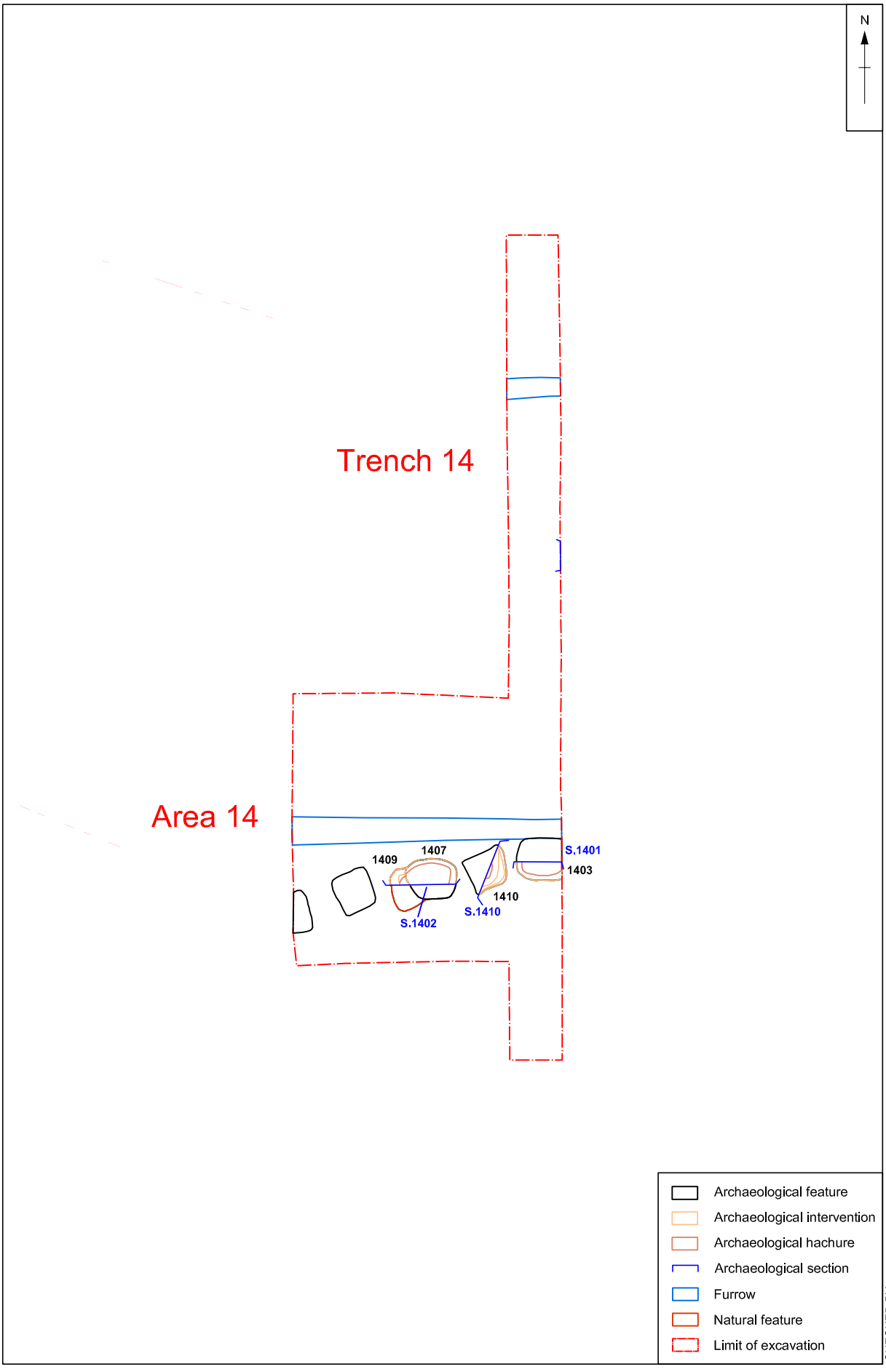



Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches and areas investigated




X:\d\Derby_Boulton Moor_Chellaston\010Geomatics\02 CAD\CHBMEV Chellaston_Derby 2017-02-01.dwg(Figure 3 - Area 14)*CHBM16*CHBMEV*Boulton Moor, Chellaston, Derby*benjamin.brown* 01 Mar 2017

Figure 3: Area 14 plan

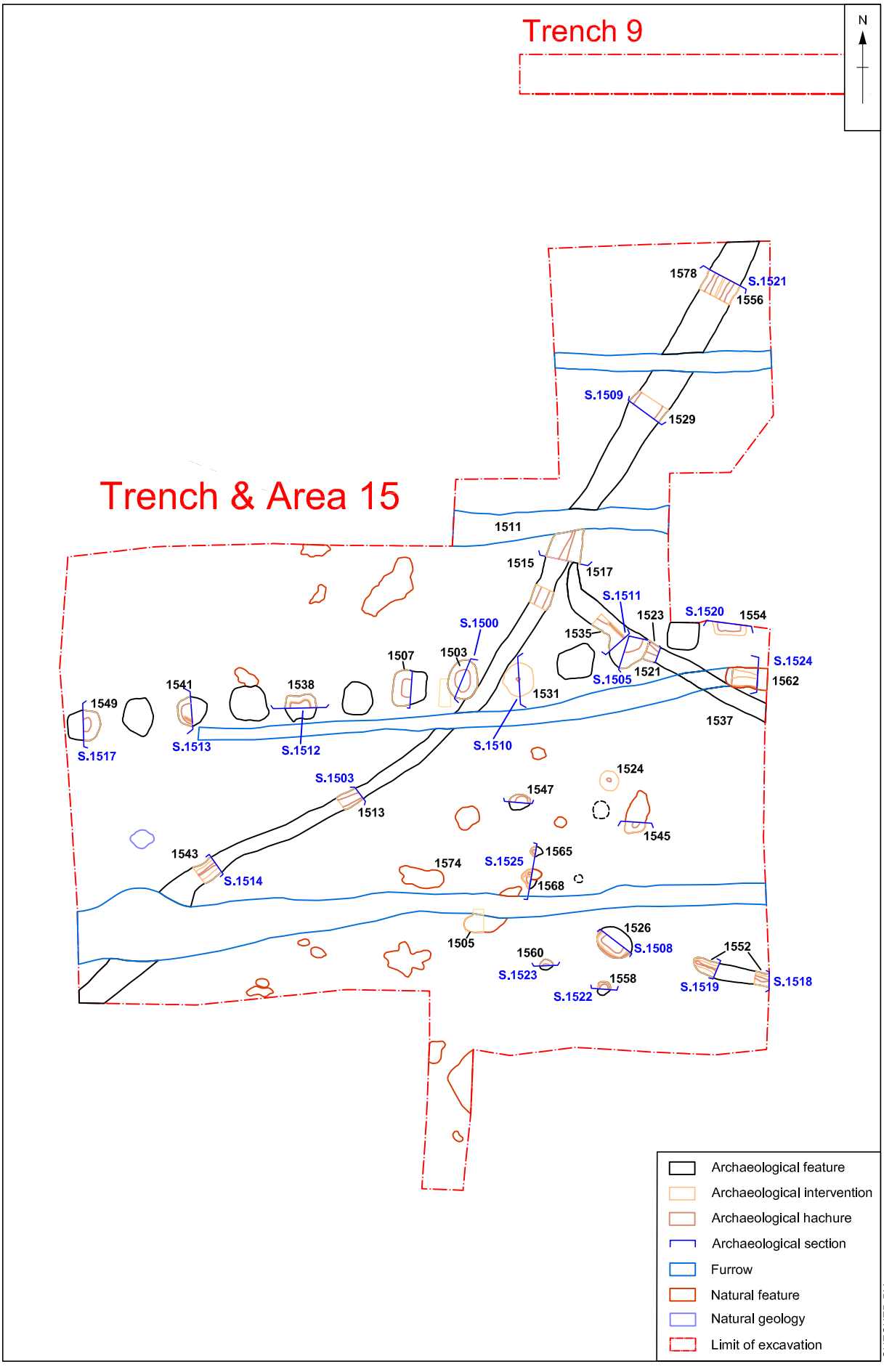



Figure 4: Area 15 plan

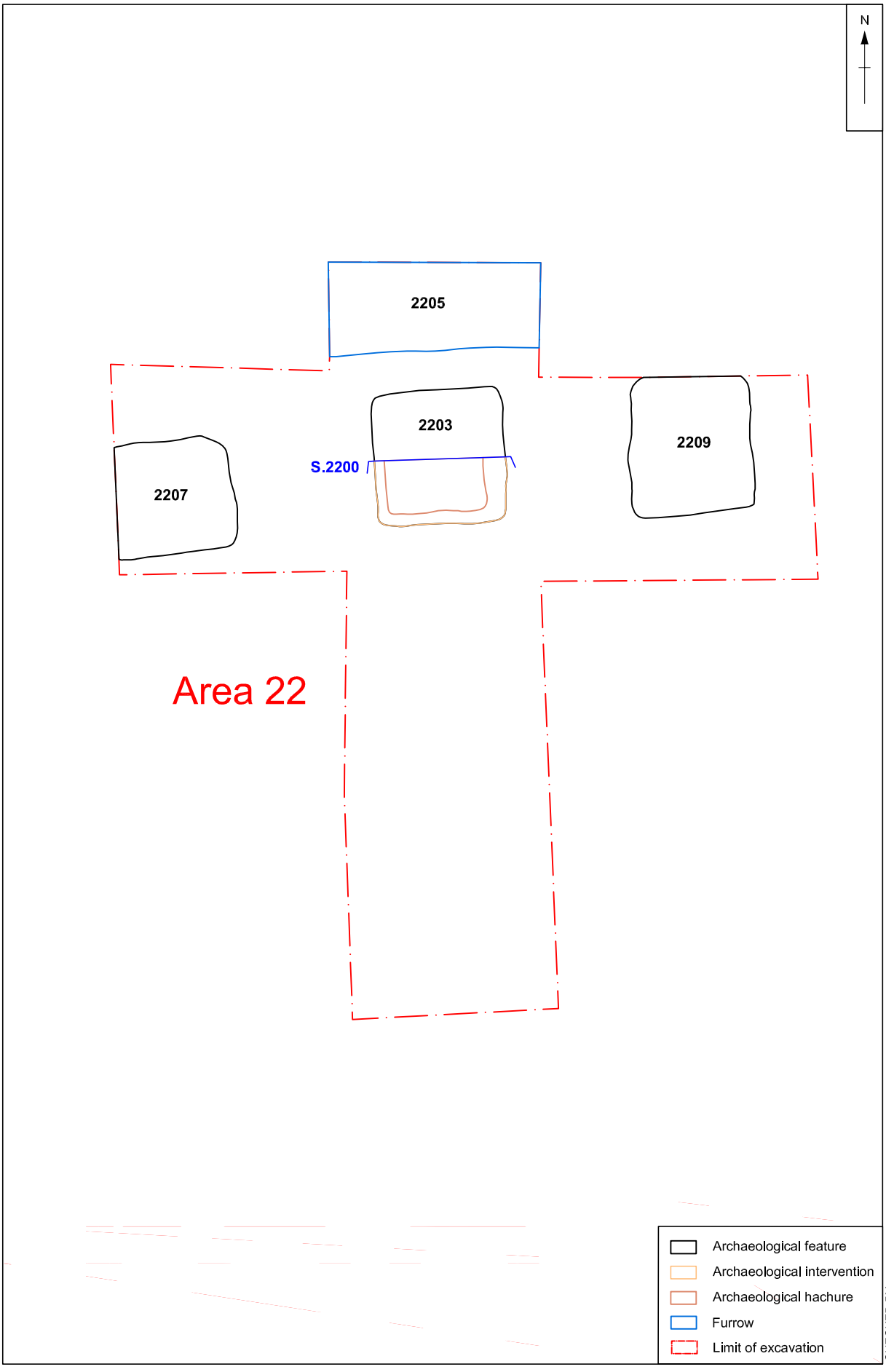



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Figure 5: Area 22 plan

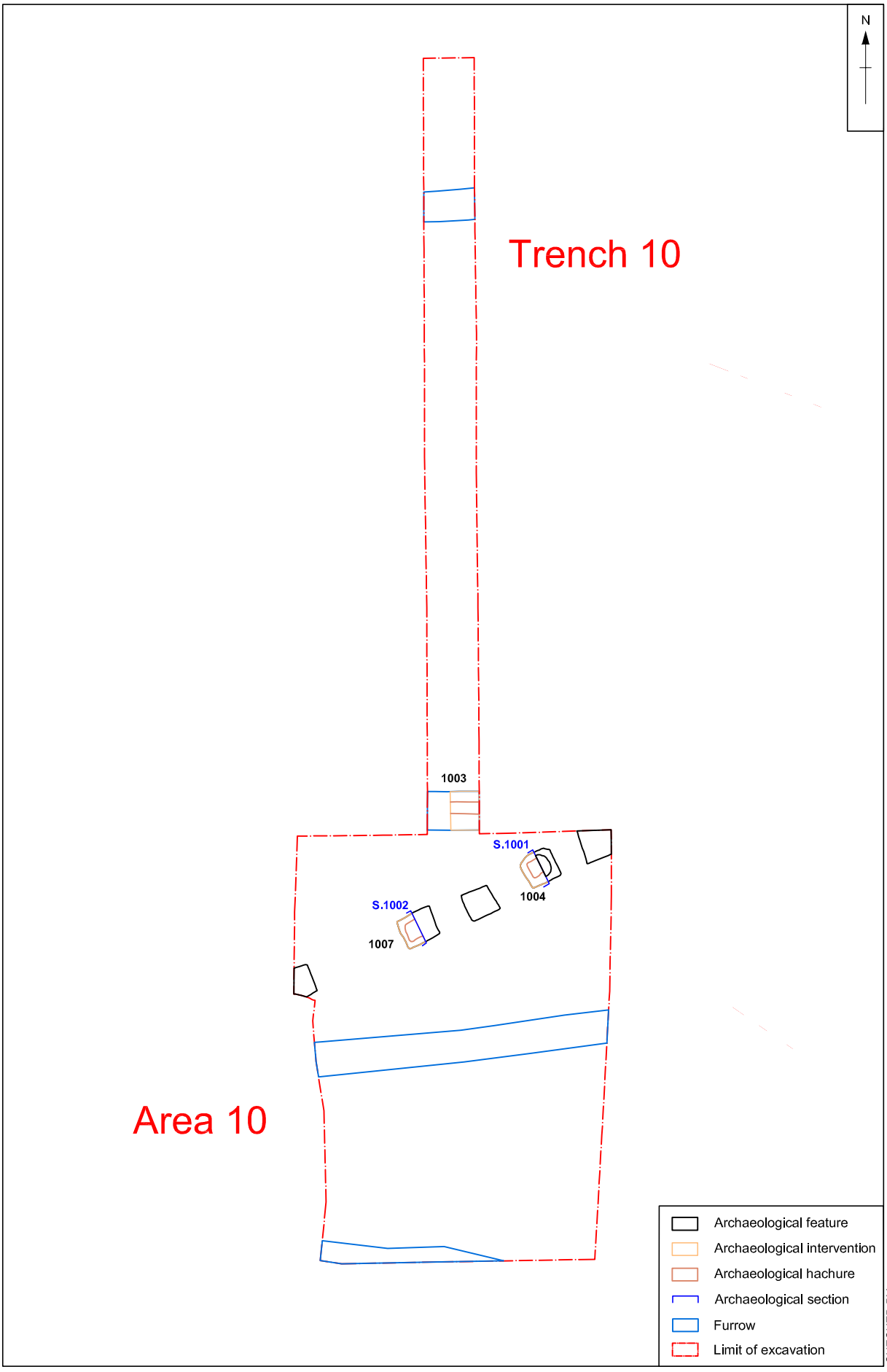


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Figure 6: Area 10 plan

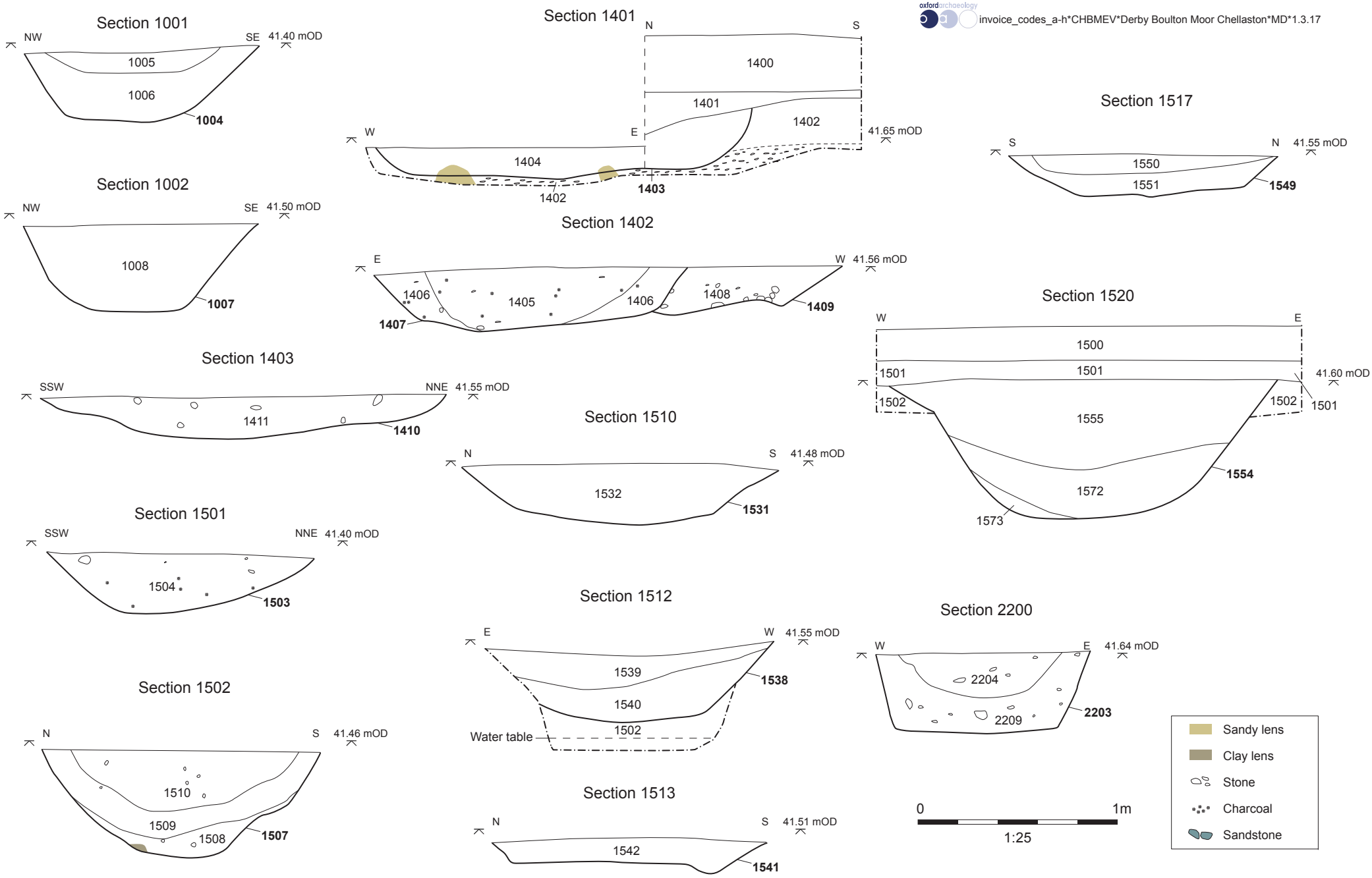


Figure 7: Sections of pits from the alignment

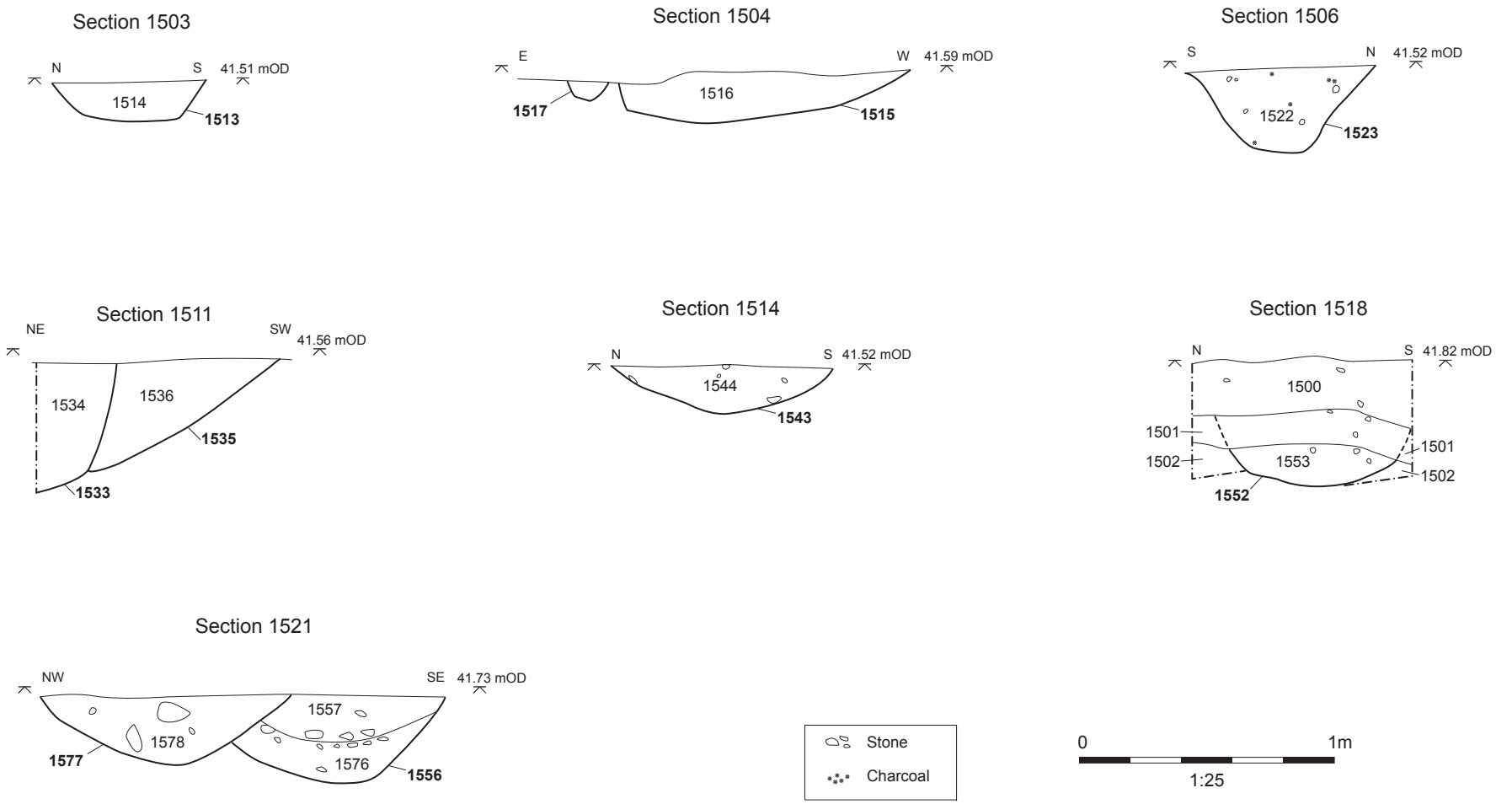


Figure 8: Sections of linear features

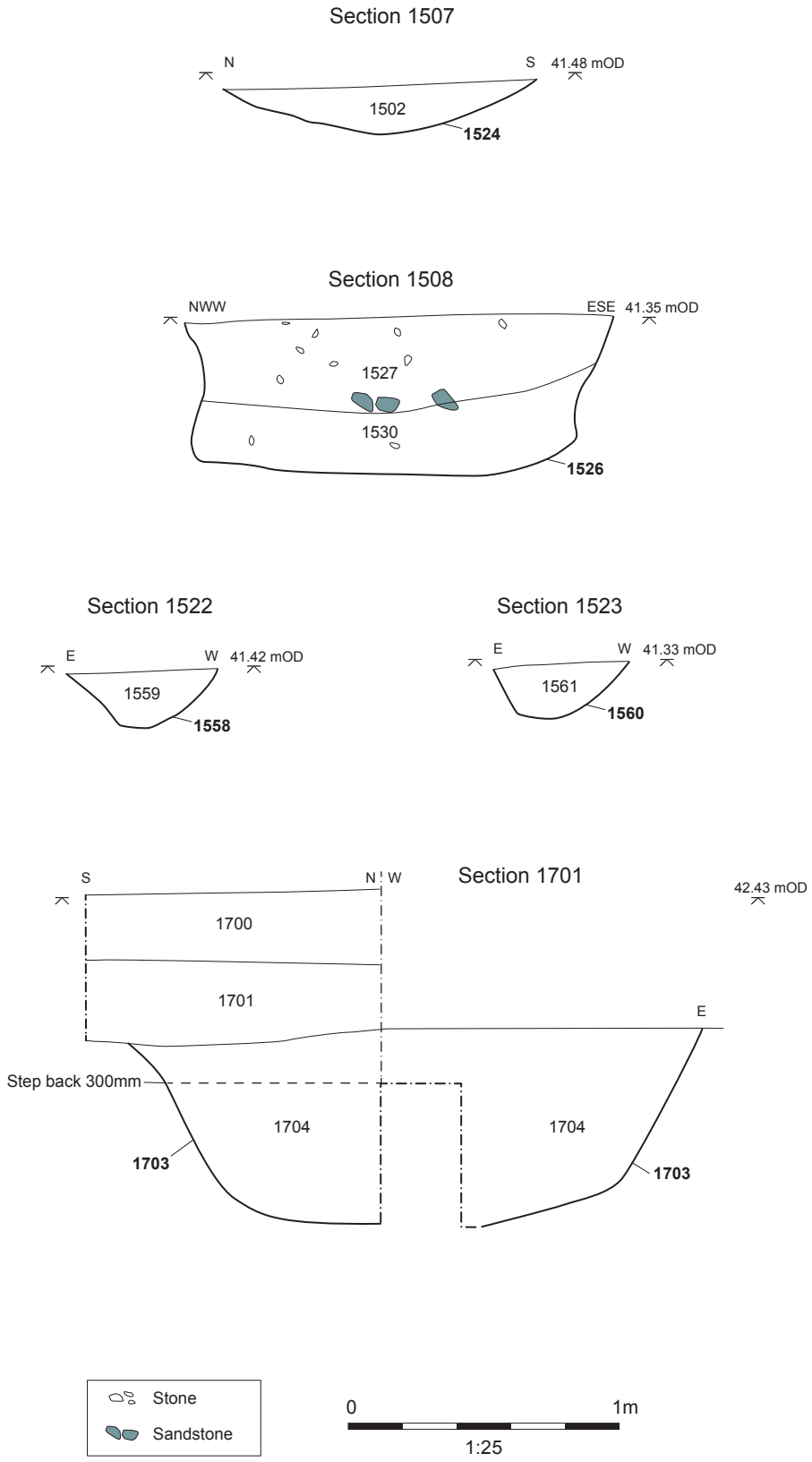


Figure 9: Sections of discrete pits

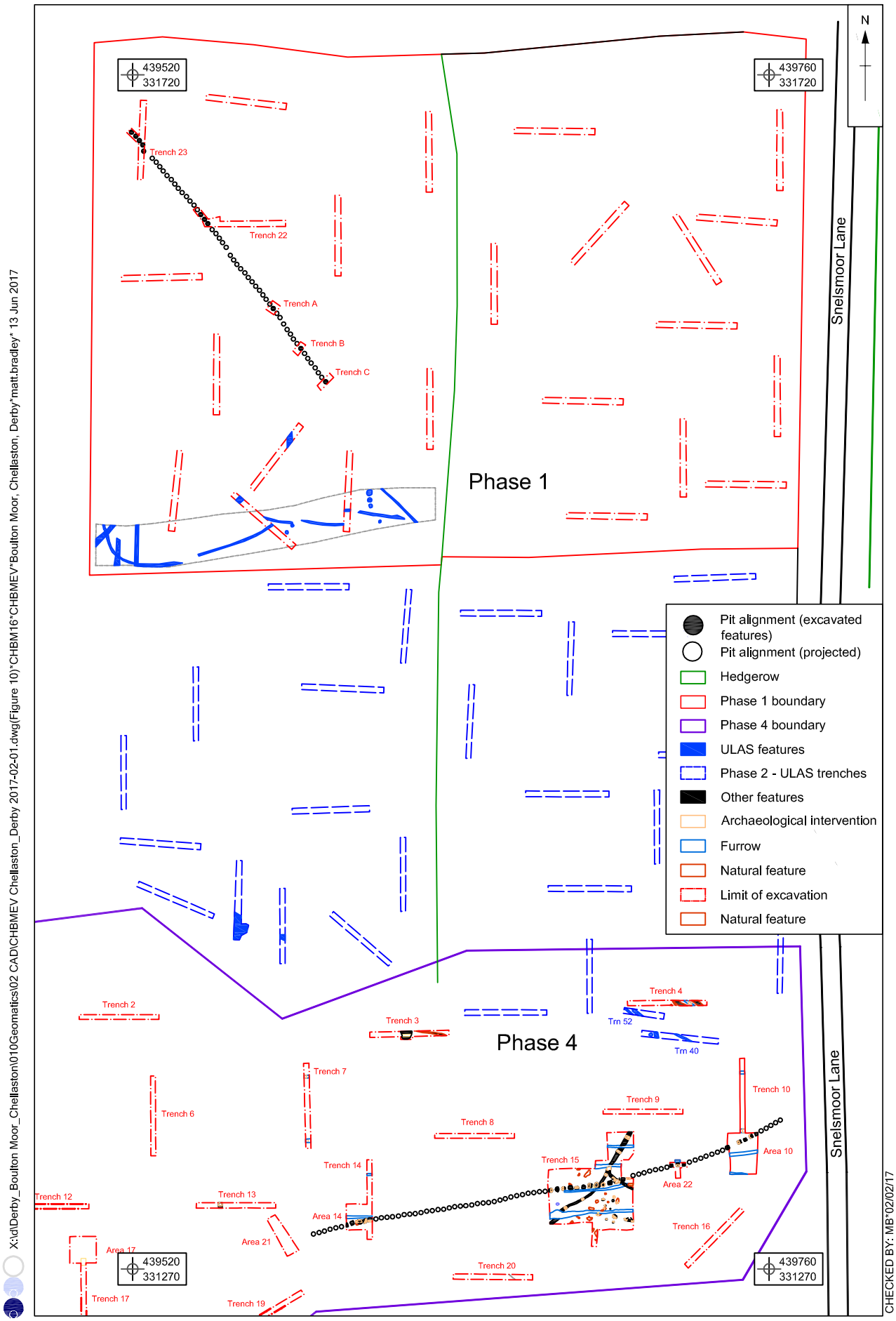


Figure 10: Plan showing Phases 1, 2 and 4 with pit alignments and other features

Plate 1: Trench 4 view west

Plate 2: Trench 8, representative section, view north

Plate 3: Trench 9, representative section, view north

Plate 4: North-east facing section of ditch [1903]

Plate 5: South facing section of pit [303]

Plate 6: South facing section of pit [1703]

Plate 7: Area 11, plan view, looking south

Plate 8: Area 10, view of pit alignment, view north-east

Plate 9: North-west facing section of pit [1004]

Plate 10: East-south-east facing section of pit [1410]

Plate 11: Area 15, northern excavation, site view

Plate 12: Pit 1507 half excavated, looking south

Plate 13: South facing section of pit [1554]

Plate 14: South-east facing section of feature [1529]

Plate 15: South-east facing section of ditches [1556] and [1577]

Plate 16: Area 22, view of pits alignment, looking east

Plate 17: South facing section of pit [2203]



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