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Rectory Farm, Bottesford, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Scope of work.....	1
1.2	Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3	Archaeological and historical background.....	2
2	AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....	4
2.1	Aims	4
2.2	Methodology.....	4
3	RESULTS	5
3.1	Introduction and presentation of results	5
3.2	General soils and ground conditions.....	5
3.3	General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	5
3.4	Area 1.....	5
3.5	Area 2, north-west	8
3.6	Area 2, south-east	9
3.7	Area 3.....	11
3.8	Area 6.....	12
4	FIND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARIES.....	13
4.2	Finds summaries	13
4.3	Environmental summaries.....	15
5	DISCUSSION	17
5.1	Reliability of field investigation.....	17
5.2	Evaluation objectives and results.....	17
5.3	Interpretation.....	17
5.4	Significance	19

APPENDIX A	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY	20
APPENDIX B	FINDS REPORTS.....	41
B.1	Pottery	41
B.2	Worked bone	44
B.3	Coins	44
B.4	Stone.....	45
B.5	Ceramic building material.....	47
B.6	Fired clay.....	49
B.7	Flint.....	50
B.8	Metal finds	51
B.9	Slag	52
APPENDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS.....	53
C.1	Animal bone	53
C.2	Environmental samples	60
APPENDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY	66
APPENDIX E	SITE SUMMARY DETAILS.....	68

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Lidar with trench locations
Fig. 3	Trench locations with geophysics (interpretive plot)
Fig. 4	Plan of Area 1 with geophysics, trenches 1–12
Fig. 5	Area 1 sections, trenches 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11
Fig. 6	Area 2 NW with geophysics, trenches 13, 14 and 19
Fig. 7	Area 2 NW sections, trenches 13, 14 and 19
Fig. 8	Area 2 SE with geophysics, trenches 26–29
Fig. 9	Area 2 SE sections, trenches 26 and 29
Fig. 10	Area 2 SE with geophysics, trenches 30, 31 and 32
Fig. 11	Area 2 SE sections, trenches 30, 31 and 32
Fig. 12	Area 3 with geophysics, trenches 54 and 55
Fig. 13	Area 3 sections, trenches 54 and 55

List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 1 looking east (1m and 2m scales)
Plate 2	Pit 103 looking south (0.5m scale)
Plate 3	Trench 7 looking east (1m and 2m scales)
Plate 4	Section 700, Trench 7 looking north (2m scale)
Plate 5	Trench 8 looking northeast (2m scale)
Plate 6	Ditch 1003, Trench 10 looking south (1m scale)
Plate 7	Trench 13 looking west (1m and 2m scales)
Plate 8	Section 1300, concentration of large stones looking north (2m scale)
Plate 9	Ditch 2603 and 2605 looking west (1m scale)
Plate 10	Trench 28 looking south (1m and 2m scales)
Plate 11	Trench 29 looking south (1m and 2m scales)
Plate 12	Trench 32 looking west (1m and 2m scales)
Plate 13	Ditch complex 5504, 5506, 5508 and 5510 looking west (2m scale)
Plate 14	Ditch 5515 and 5517 looking west (1m scale)

Summary

In September 2018, Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed 13.35ha housing development to the north of Bottesford, Leicestershire (centred at SK 8030 3940). A programme of 30 trenches (later reduced to 28) was undertaken across the site, to ground-truth a previous phase of geophysical survey and target specific areas of archaeological potential.

The evaluation confirmed the presence of significant Iron Age and Roman settlement activity. Alluvial deposits appear to have aided the preservation of the archaeology in some areas. Excavation identified two main foci of late Iron Age and late Roman activity in the western part of the site (Areas 1 and 2), two areas of possible Roman enclosures and field systems in the south-central part of the site (Areas 2 and 3), and an area of late medieval/post-medieval activity to the east (Area 6). These were supported by the results of the geophysical survey.

A significant concentration of mid–late Roman pottery and animal bones was recovered from the site. These were consistent with a moderate status settlement, but with some evidence of continental-style dining practices. Other notable finds included four Roman coins, a bone needle holder, worked bone, a hobnail, Roman tile and a quern stone. The recovery of charred cereal grains indicated a typical crop regime for the area, with weed seeds consistent with the spread of cultivation onto heavier clay soils. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones were recovered, while the presence of wildfowl specimens, including plover and snipe, highlight the exploitation of local wetlands.

The archaeology was deeply buried in places and well-preserved from having been sealed by up to 1m of alluvium. Evidence of possible rural ‘dark-earth’ deposits were also identified across areas of settlement indicating a phase of possible abandonment during the early–middle Saxon period.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Rachael Daniel, who was supported by Katherine Webster, David Pinches, Kelly Green, Jana Smirnova and Adam Rapiejko. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Katherine Webster and Benjamin Brown. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains 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 Heritage to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at Rectory Farm, Bottesford, Leicestershire, on the site of a proposed 13.35ha housing development.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken as part of a pre-planning phase of work to inform the Planning Authority in advance of the submission of a Planning Application. A brief was set by Richard Clark and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Paul Clark, CgMs Heritage, detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented these specified requirements and reports on the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.3 Prior to the evaluation, a desk-based assessment (DBA) and a geophysical survey were undertaken, both of which highlighted the potential for archaeological remains, including Romano-British settlement enclosures, roundhouses and pit clusters. Initially, a total of 61 trenches were proposed for excavation across the site. In this first phase of work, 30 trenches were targeted on features highlighted by the geophysical survey. In the event, 28 trenches were excavated and two were not dug due to the presence of modern services. The remaining 31 trenches are to be later excavated as a condition of any planning permission granted for the site.
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (ClfA 2014) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area covers approximately 13.35ha, centred at SK 8030 3940, and is composed of all or parts of five fields (Fig. 1). Devon Farm is located immediately south of the south-eastern corner of the site.
- 1.2.2 The site lies to the northern edge of Bottesford, at the northern edge of the Vale of Belvoir. The River Devon, a tributary of the Trent, flows along the southern boundary of the site before turning northwards bisecting the eastern part of the site. Residential properties are present to the south of the site and the eastern boundary abuts an industrial estate. A railway line extends along some of the northern boundary, from which a dismantled line (now a trackway) curves southward bounding the western side of the site. Arable fields are located to the north of the site.
- 1.2.3 The site covers a flat area of land approximately 30–31m aOD. The geology of the site is mapped as Granby Member Mudstone and Limestone with seams of Cross Lane Limestone extending north–south through the western part of the site (BGS nd). These bedrocks are overlain by a layer of alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel associated with the River Devon.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is described in detail in the DBA (CgMs 2017), and the following is a summary based on information from the WSI (CgMs 2018).
- 1.3.2 Numerous ridge and furrow was present across the site, many of which are clear on LiDAR imagery of the site, being particularly well preserved in the eastern part of the site (Fig. 2).
- 1.3.3 Geophysical and aerial photogrammetry survey of the site was undertaken in 2017 (Sumo 2017). This identified a series of curvilinear and rectilinear responses in the field to the south-west of the River Devon, which were potentially related to an area of former settlement, comprising small enclosures and other ditches (Fig. 3). The ridge and furrow in this area appears to disturb some of the archaeological responses. Large areas (or spreads) noted in the geophysical survey results were difficult interpret and may be either archaeological remains or natural features.
- 1.3.4 The probable settlement appears to continue into the neighbouring field on the opposite side of the River Devon. In the southernmost part of this field, the remains of a fairly large enclosure can be seen immediately north of the River Devon.
- 1.3.5 Rectilinear anomalies were discovered in the south-eastern corner of the site, possibly part of a former field system. While these may relate to the settlement evidence to the west, the general morphology and alignments of the ditches appear to be different and more closely respect the current field boundaries. This perhaps suggest that they relate to medieval/post-medieval land division. An earthwork identified in this area is also likely to relate to the former field system.

Early prehistoric

- 1.3.6 The HER currently contains no entries in the vicinity of the site relating to the period up to and including the Neolithic. However, it should be noted that a watching brief immediately to the south of the site (ELE8012) recorded '[a] layer of organic material at a depth of 2.2m, which contained animal and vegetable faunal remains from the Ice Age/early post-Ice Age period.' Thick alluvial deposits may therefore mask evidence of very early activity in the area.

Bronze Age

- 1.3.7 A single sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery was found during a 2001 watching brief on Pinfold Lane approximately 180m to the south of the site (MLE9347). This is the only known find of this period near the site.

Iron Age

- 1.3.8 Evidence of nearby Iron Age activity relates to isolated finds. These include a rotary quern (MLE3397) and a probable late Iron Age cremation burial (MLE3398) found separately in St Mary's churchyard, and pottery found to the north-west (MLE9486) and south-east (MLE16158) of the site. Cropmarks interpreted as an Iron Age ring-ditch, rectangular enclosure and field-system were recorded 200m to the south-west of the site (MLE3394).

Roman

1.3.9 In the 1950s, Roman pottery and a bone comb were found by schoolboys within the site on the northern bank of the River Devon (MLE3418). Several other finds in the area attest to Roman activity, including the recovery of pottery found during a watching brief at Pinfold Lane (MLE9346), with further remains found to the south (MLE9487, MLE16159 and MLE17367). The geophysical survey recorded anomalies in the area of the above 1950s find-spot that are broadly consistent with Romano-British settlement or agricultural remains.

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.10 The name Bottesford has its Anglo-Saxon origins meaning ‘ford by the house or building’ and it has been suggested that the building may have been a hall or other important building (MLE9093). The settlement may have originally focused on the ford that lay immediately to the west of St Mary’s church, and hence lies within Bottesford’s historic core.

1.3.11 By Domesday, Bottesford was a relatively substantial settlement comprising 110 households. However, it appears to have been sub-divided as there are two entries, the larger of which had a priest, 12 villagers, five smallholders, six slaves and 60 freemen, and four mills. The smaller had two villagers, 13 smallholders, four slaves and seven freemen and two mills. It has been suggested that the split was between the original settlement of Bottesford, which lay on the southern side of the River Devon, and the ‘daughter’ settlement of Easthorpe (Nichols 1795, 86). Easthorpe, however, does not appear in documentary evidence until the 13th century.

1.3.12 Physical evidence of the Anglo-Saxon settlement near the site is limited to two finds of pottery. One find-spot lies to the south of the church in the presumed heart of the settlement (MLE9485), while two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were found during a watching brief immediately to the south of the site (MLE20169).

Medieval and post-medieval

1.3.13 The site lies in the agricultural hinterland of medieval and post-medieval Bottesford, as shown by the 1771 enclosure map. Traces of ridge and furrow are also very evident across almost the entire site (Fig. 2). Clearly, the site served as agricultural land throughout this period and up to today. The only development near the site during the post-medieval period consists of the construction of Devon Farm, which is first mapped in 1814, and the canalisation of the River Devon at about the same time or slightly later.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- ii. To verify the results of the geophysical and aerial photogrammetry survey
- iii. To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered
- iv. To provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- v. To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- vi. To inform the formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- vii. To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland HER.

2.1.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by 'East Midlands Heritage: A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment' (compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community by D. Knight, B. Vyner and C. Allen) and the earlier Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands 'The Archaeology of the East Midlands' edited by N. Cooper (2006).

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Twenty-eight trenches measuring 30m by 1.6m were dug across the site targeted on features identified within the geophysical survey (Fig. 3).

2.2.2 Topsoil and overburden were removed by JCB using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The spoil generated during the evaluation was mounded 1m away from the edges of each trench, with topsoil and subsoil stored separately. Mechanical excavation ceased at either undisturbed natural deposits or the top of archaeological deposits, or until a safe working depth was reached. Upcast and spoil from mechanical excavation were scanned by eye and by metal detector to aid the recovery of topsoil artefacts.

2.2.3 When the excavation of the trenches reached 1m in depth (or the limit of safe working depth) without natural geology being encountered, a machine-dug sondage was excavated to establish the depth of natural geology. Where archaeological remains were found to survive at a depth which could not be safely hand dug, it was necessary to step the trenches to hand-dig the archaeological features.

2.2.4 All features were investigated by hand, recorded and sampled in line with the WSI (CgMs 2018). Some of the deeper spreads and features were investigate by auger or hand-dug test pits.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation 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 can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 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. The field numbers used in the report reflect those that were assigned in the geophysical survey.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of orange-brown silty/sandy clay was overlain by an alluvial brown-yellow clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in trenches 1–4, 6–11, 13–15, 19–20, 26–32 and 54–55. Area 1 contained a mixture of plough furrows and potential Roman settlement activity. A possible extension to this activity was also found in the north-west part of area 2. The south-east of area 2 and area 3 contained a series of ditches possibly pertaining to a large enclosure or field systems, which may also be Roman. Area 6 contained some potential boundary ditches and earthworks of post-medieval date. These were seen on the LiDAR and geophysics but not encountered in the trenches. Areas 4 and 5 were not evaluated.

3.4 Area 1

- 3.4.1 Trenches in area 1 targeted a series of enclosures identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 4). The trenches revealed a series of organic spreads (possible 'dark-earth' deposits) overlying archaeological features and the natural bedrock. These were sealed by a thick layer of alluvium and ploughsoil/topsoil. Evidence of modern infilling of an old river meander was identified in the northern part of the field.
- 3.4.2 Of the 12 trenches dug in area 1, only trench 12 did not contain archaeological remains. Trenches 3, 4 and 9 produced animal bones from a thin dark spread sealed beneath a layer of alluvium. Trenches 5 and 6 were positioned on a former river meander but this had been backfilled and levelled with modern rubbish (features 503 and 504). Thus, these trenches are not described below. The depths of the trenches varied considerably across the area, being deeper near the stream and relatively shallow closer to the housing estate to the south.

Trench 1

- 3.4.3 Trench 1 contained one pit (103) with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. The feature measured 1.03m across and 0.63m deep. It contained two fills. The basal fill (104) was a firm, dark grey, silty clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This was overlain by 105, a pale yellow-brown silt with infrequent stony inclusions and one sherd of Iron Age pottery.

Trench 2

- 3.4.4 Two large spreads of material (206 and 207) were recorded in trench 2. These may have related to occupation layers or large features. Feature 206 contained Roman pottery (AD 150–400) and animal bones, while 207 contained a sherd of pottery uncertainly dated to either the Iron Age or early–middle Saxon period. These features were difficult to interpret, though a possible cut (205) for feature 206 was found at the interface between it and the underlying bedrock (Fig. 5, section 202). Feature 206 was traced over 16m.
- 3.4.5 Three postholes (203, 208 and 209) were identified between spreads 206 and 207. Posthole 203 measured 0.4m across and 0.22m deep and contained a single grey-brown silty clay fill. Postholes 208 and 209 were slightly smaller but were not excavated.

Trench 3

- 3.4.6 A large spread of clayey silt (303) was identified across the southern half of the trench. This was consistent with a circular geophysical feature (Fig. 4). No dating evidence was identified but animal bone was recovered from its surface.

Trench 4

- 3.4.7 Trench 4 contained two features of uncertain character (402 and 403). They are described here as spreads of grey-brown silt material. No clear evidence for cuts were identified, though from its plan 403 looks likely to have been a ditch. A sondage dug into spread 402 showed that it was 0.52m deep. No finds were recovered from either feature.

Trench 7

- 3.4.8 Trench 7 was targeted on a large rectilinear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. A dark-earth layer, roughly 0.25m thick, was found below the ploughsoil and was an alluvial layer that extended across the trench. Quantities of pottery and animal bones from the topsoil and archaeological features in this trench (see below) suggest that the area was a focus of domestic activity.
- 3.4.9 Two archaeological features were discovered below the dark-earth deposit. In the eastern half of the trench, a layer of material (705) was found spread over 13m. The edge (704) was found in the middle of the trench. It was excavated down to 0.37m but was not bottomed (Fig. 5, section 700). The spread consisted of a firm dark grey-brown silty clay containing late Roman pottery (AD 250–400), animal bones and some large

masonry (706). It is possible that this feature was a ditch relating to the potential enclosure, but it would have been exceptionally large.

- 3.4.10 A similarly large ditch/spread of material (707), measuring 8.8m across, was recorded to the east of 705. This feature was not excavated, through augering showed that it extended down to 0.70m. The fill produced Iron Age pottery.

Trench 8

- 3.4.11 Trench 8 contained a considerable spread of dark earth across the southern three-quarters of its length. Its northern edge was defined (803) and it consisted of three layers/fills (804, 805 and 806), all of which contained Roman pottery and animal bones. The base of the feature was not reached, but a sondage dug in the southern end of the trench showed that it reached at least 1.6m below the surface (Fig. 5, section 800).

- 3.4.12 The dark-earth deposit was cut by a small east–west aligned ditch (807), measuring 0.8m across and 0.29m wide, with gently sloping straight sides and a concave base. The ditch did not contain any finds.

Trench 9

- 3.4.13 Trench 9 found the edge of a spread of material (902) at its eastern end. This is possibly the same as spread 705 (see above).

Trench 10

- 3.4.14 Two ditches were recorded at the eastern end of trench 10. Ditch 1003 measured 1.1m wide and 0.56m deep, and contained two fills (Fig. 5, section 1000). The uppermost fill (1004) comprised a dark grey silty clay, 0.1m deep, and contained Roman pottery. The basal fill (1005) contained Roman pottery and animal bones, and was comprised of a firm, orange-brown silty/sandy clay. The other ditch (1007) measured 0.5m across but was not excavated.

Trench 11

- 3.4.15 Trench 11 contained four ditches and an unidentified feature. Ditch 1103 measured 1.48m wide and 0.4m deep. It was aligned N–S with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its sole fill (1104) contained Roman pottery and animal bones and consisted of a soft grey-brown sandy clay. The other ditches (1112, 1113, 1114 and 1115) were not excavated, but ranged in width between 1.6m and 4m across. An oval posthole, 1105, measuring 0.15m across and 0.2m deep, had gently sloping sides and a concave base, and was filled by a light brown-grey silty clay with no finds. A small circular pit (1107) cut the edge of ditch 1103. It had gently sloping concave sides and a concave base, and measured 0.38m across and 0.09m deep.

- 3.4.16 A large, unclassified feature (1109) was located at the southern end of the trench. It measured 6.7m across and had irregularly sloping sides (Fig. 5, section 1100). The base was reached at a depth of 1.4m and the feature contained two fills. The basal fill (1110) was a compacted grey-brown gravelly clay containing animal bones, while the upper dark brown-grey silty clay fill (1111) contained middle Roman pottery.

3.5 Area 2, north-west

- 3.5.1 Area 2 was a high point of the site, where the geophysical survey identified a series of small square enclosures with parallel ditches possibly representing a trackway extending northwards. It was separated from area 1 by a wide stream to the south-west.
- 3.5.2 Out of the six trenches dug in this area, five produced archaeological features while none were found in trench 18. A significant concentration of features dating to the late Roman period were identified and were consistent with the geophysical survey results. The trenches reached depths of 0.8–1.4m before reaching archaeological features and the natural bedrock. These were overlain by dark finds-rich spreads, possibly rural 'dark-earth' deposits, overlain by a thick deposit of alluvium and ploughsoil/topsoil.

Trench 13

- 3.5.3 Trench 13 was targeted on one of the square enclosures identified by geophysics (Fig. 6). The trench contained a wide ditch (1304) that measured 2.5m across and 0.56m deep with gently sloping sides. This was filled by two deposits, the lowest was 1305, a very compact light brown-yellow silty clay containing mid-late Roman pottery, and the upper fill (1306) consisted of a very compact, dark grey silty clay with frequent late Roman pottery and animal bones recovered. Within 1304, a possible wall foundation/rubble layer (1309) was found, though there was no sign of facing or coursing of the stones (Fig. 7, section 1300). Ditch 1304 was cut by ditch 1307. This north-south aligned feature had gently sloping sides and a flat base and measured 2.3m wide and 0.2m deep.
- 3.5.4 A large ditch or spread of material (1310) measuring 8.5m across and 0.43m deep was located east of 1304. The profile of 1310 was not seen, but it contained two fills, 1316 and 1311, both of which contained Roman pottery, while animal bones were recovered from upper fill 1311.
- 3.5.5 North-south ditch 1314 had shallow concave sides and a broad, flattish base. It contained a single fill (1315) of sterile yellowish grey clay with gravelly sand inclusions.

Trench 14

- 3.5.6 A series of five intercutting features were excavated at the northern end of the trench. These included pits 1406, 1408, 1411, 1413 and 1415, and these were together grouped as feature 1417 (Fig. 6). The full extents of these pits could not be seen in plan. They generally had gently sloping sides and flattish concave bases, and they ranged in depth between 0.1–0.4m. The pits' fills were generally very compacted with dark brown-grey silty clay, and each except for 1406 contained Roman pottery. Pit 1404 may also have been included in this cluster. This feature measured 0.9m across and 0.1m deep.
- 3.5.7 Ditch 1418 was aligned east-west just south of pit cluster 1417, but was not excavated, and another pit or ditch terminus (1419) was partially exposed in the middle of the trench. This feature was investigated but produced not dating material but its fill was of a similar nature to features containing Roman finds.

- 3.5.8 At the southern end of the trench lay an extensive spread of material (1420), which was exposed over nearly 9m. The feature was 0.1m deep, containing a dark greyish brown silty clay with animal bone and mid–late Roman pottery.

Trench 15

- 3.5.9 Trench 15 contained a broad spread of material (1505) in its western half. This feature remained unexcavated but it was cut on its western side by ditch 1502. The ditch was north–south aligned and measured 1.46m across and 0.26m deep. It had near vertical sides and a slightly undulating base. A single fill of moderately compacted brown-grey silty clay contained Roman pottery and worked flint.

Trench 19

- 3.5.10 Two spreads, 1904 and 1906, were identified in trench 19. Spread 1904 measured 5.5m across, though 1906 was only partially exposed. The features reached depths of >0.2m and 0.78m respectively. Spread 1904 was filled by a mid-dark brownish grey silty clay (1905) that contained late Roman pottery, animal bones and CBM. Spread 1906 consisted of a similar deposit (1907) that also contained Roman pottery, animal bones, plus some worked bone.

Trench 20

- 3.5.11 Trench 20 contained two ditches, 2004 and 2005 (not shown in Fig. 6, though see Fig. 2 for location). Ditch 2004 was not excavated but was found to align north–south. It measured 1.5m across. Ditch 2005 was aligned NE–SW and measured 1.2m across by >0.16m deep. It was filled by 2006, a firm, dark brownish grey silty clay with post-medieval CBM and animal bone. These features were represented by only faint lines on the geophysical survey.

3.6 Area 2, south-east

- 3.6.1 The trenches in the south-eastern part of area 2 were targeted on a large enclosure (trenches 29, 31 and 32) and some nearby linear anomalies (trenches 26, 27, 28 and 30). All the trenches, except for 27, contained archaeological features. Trenches 29, 30 and 31 identified a series of intercutting ditches and other features dating to the Roman period. Further ditches were identified within trenches 26, 28 and 30.

Trench 26

- 3.6.2 In the southern part of the trench 26, ditch 2605 was found to cut 2603 and both were filled with grey-brown silty clays. These steeply sided ditches reached 0.34m and 0.35m deep respectively and 2605 measured 0.58m across. Ditch 2605 contained some animal bones and burnt clay fragments.
- 3.6.3 Two possible ditch/gully termini, 2607 and 2612, were identified in the central part of the trench. These features measured 1.1m and 0.6m across respectively. Neither produced any dating evidence. Ditch 2609 was located immediately north of 2607 (Fig. 9, section 2601). This feature extended fully across the trench and measured 0.5m

wide. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, 0.16m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill.

Trench 28

- 3.6.4 Two roughly parallel east–west ditches, 2804 and 2806, were identified in the northern part of the trench. Ditch 2804 was 1.40m wide and 0.42m deep with steep sides, while ditch 2806 was 0.5m wide and 0.18m deep with a gently sloping profile. Both ditches contained single fills with animal bones but were devoid of dating evidence.

Trench 29

- 3.6.5 A series of intercutting ditches were identified in trench 29 that roughly corresponded with the northern corner of the large rectangular enclosure ditch seen on the geophysics (Fig. 8). A series of ditches extended over 15m in the northern half of the trench, and all were sealed by a thick layer of alluvium (Fig. 9, section 2901). The full complexity of the ditch sequence could not be established within the confines of the trench, though ditch 2910 appears to have cut ditches 2908 and 2912.
- 3.6.6 Ditches 2903 and 2905 were located due south of ditches, both having an uncertain relationship with ditch 2908. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from ditch 2905.
- 3.6.7 Ditches 2914, 2916 and 2918 were located in the central part of the trench, mostly aligned east–west, though 2918 appears to have formed the corner of an enclosure. None of these ditches were excavated.

Trench 30

- 3.6.8 Trench 30 contained five ditches and two pits (Fig. 10). Ditch 3009 extended south–west before terminating. It was truncated at its north–eastern end by ditch 3011, which was aligned perpendicular to it and the two may have been associated. Both were filled with the same grey–brown silty clay, though no dating evidence was recovered from either.
- 3.6.9 Pit 3007 was partially exposed in the central part of the trench. It measured 1.1m across and it had a shallow, concave profile, reaching a depth of 0.18m (Fig. 11, section 3001). Some charcoal was recovered from its single fill.
- 3.6.10 Three roughly north–south ditches were found in the eastern half of the trench. Ditch 3005 was the largest at 1.4m across and 0.44m deep, and it cut pit 3003 at its northern end (Fig. 11, section 3000). The single fill of the ditch contained mid–late Roman pottery. Ditch 3013 was encountered close to the eastern end of the trench. It had a similar width to ditch 3005 (1.31m) and had moderate sloping sides with a flat base. Its fill did not contain any dating evidence. Ditch 3015 was located immediately west of ditch 3013, but this feature was not excavated.

Trench 31

- 3.6.11 Four features were discovered in the south–eastern half of the trench (Fig. 10). Ditch 3104 extended north–south close to the centre of the trench. It was steep sided, 1.0m

across, with a flat base, 0.45m deep (Fig. 11, section 3100), and its single fill contained animal bones but no dating evidence.

3.6.12 Sub-circular pit 3106 was located to the south-east. It measured 0.5m across and had steep sides reaching a depth of 0.3m, and its single fill contained charcoal lenses suggesting that it had filled gradually. The pit was truncated on its northern side by gully 3108, which extended from the north-eastern side of the trench for about 2m before terminating.

3.6.13 Ditch 3110 was identified at the south-eastern edge of the trench, though this feature was not excavated.

Trench 32

3.6.14 A large spread of material (3206) was identified in the northern half of the trench, extending over 16m. A test pit dug to investigate the depth of the feature revealed a sequence of organic and charcoal-rich fills down to a depth of 0.65m. Unfortunately, no datable finds were recovered from any of the deposits. A sample was taken from the charcoal-rich deposits (sample 2) to help assess its palaeoenvironmental potential (see below).

3.6.15 Two narrow ditches or gullies, 3203 and 3207, extended across the width of the trench on a NW–SE alignment. Both ditches were quite shallow, between 0.7–0.8m wide, and were filled with grey-brown silty clay that produced animal bones, though no dating evidence was recovered.

3.7 Area 3

3.7.1 Two trenches were excavated at the very southern end of area 3, targeted on faint geophysical anomalies interpreted as enclosures or fields (Fig. 3). Both trenches produced significant archaeological remains that corresponded with the geophysical results (Fig. 12). These features were sealed with a thick subsoil, possibly alluvium, overlain by topsoil (Fig. 13). Dating evidence was sparse but included Iron Age pottery and Roman CBM. Areas of modern disturbance were also identified in trench 55.

Trench 54

3.7.2 Trench 54 contained three parallel NW–SE ditches, 5404, 5406 and 5409, and the edge of a possible pit (5408). Ditches 5404 and 5406 were excavated, which revealed shallow profiles measuring 0.42–0.48m wide and 0.17–0.2m deep (Fig. 13, section 5401). Both ditches produced animal bones, and although no firm dating evidence was recovered, ditch 5406 did contain a fragment of probable Roman CBM. The ditches appeared to correspond well with geophysical anomalies. Pit 5408 was not excavated.

Trench 55

3.7.3 Four intercutting ditches were identified in the centre of trench 55 (5504, 5506, 5508 and 5510). The earliest ditch was 5504, which was truncated on either side by ditches 5506 and 5510 (Fig. 13, section 5500). It is possible that ditch 5506 was a recut of this feature. Ditch 5510 truncated both 5504 and 5506 on their southern sides. This feature measured 1.56m across and 0.54m deep, and had a V-shaped profile. It contained four

fills, mostly of silty or sandy clay. Its second fill (5512) contained Iron Age pottery and animal bones, and the third fill (5513) contained charcoal fragments. Ditch 5508 was located just to the north, truncating ditch 5506, though there was no clear relationship between it and ditch 5510. It had sloping sides and a narrowed concave base. Its single clay fill did not contain any finds.

- 3.7.4 Ditches 5515 and 5517 were located at the southern end of the trench. 5517 was the earlier of the two, and was fairly wide with irregular sides. This ditch was sampled along one edge and was found to contain post-medieval CBM and animal bones. Ditch 5517 was truncated by E–W ditch 5515 at its southern end, and this was presumably also a post-medieval or modern feature.

3.8 Area 6

- 3.8.1 Three trenches were originally proposed within area 6 but only one (trench 60) was completed owing to the presence of unmapped local services. The orientation of trench 60 also had to be modified to avoid services and, therefore, the coverage within this area was less satisfactory than other areas of the site.

Trench 60

- 3.8.2 Trench 60 was targeted on part of a series of low earthworks and platforms that were visible on LiDAR (Fig. 2) and on the geophysical survey results (Fig. 3). These features were aligned with the existing field-system and are presumed to be post-medieval or possibly slightly earlier. Excavation of trench 60, however, did not identify any features or finds associated with these earthworks.

4 FIND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARIES

4.1.1 A rich and diverse range of finds and environmental samples were recovered from the evaluation. This comprised pottery, animal bone, worked bone, worked stone, coins, and environmental samples, which were assessed by the relevant specialists. The results of these assessments are summarised below but the full specialist reports can be found in Appendix B and Appendix C.

4.2 Finds summaries

Pottery by Edward Biddulph

4.2.1 A total of 208 sherds of pottery, weighing 2,888g, were recovered from the evaluation. Overall, the assemblage spans the Iron Age to post-Roman period, with the emphasis on the mid and late Roman periods. Early Roman groups are absent, which suggests a gap in pottery deposition at this time or that deposition of this period occurred elsewhere. Roman-period deposition was concentrated in the western part of the site, particularly around area 1 (trenches 7 and 8) and area 2 (trenches 13 and 14).

4.2.2 There was a clear concentration of pottery in the western part of the site in areas 1 and 2, suggesting that associated settlement, probably with a late Roman emphasis, is likely to be located closest to this area. Iron Age pottery may also attest to activity in the central part of the eastern array of trenches (area 3). One sherd from spread 207 may also be early to middle Saxon, but this is tentative based on only one pot sherd.

4.2.3 Some evidence of pottery use was recorded. A lid and 'cooking-pot'-type jar have carbonised deposits, indicating that the vessels had been placed over the fire, presumably for cooking. A base sherd from a mortarium was blackened and perhaps had also been used as a cooking vessel. A body sherd in a reduced fabric had been incised with a 'X'-type graffito, possibly a mark of ownership.

4.2.4 Status or site-type is difficult to ascertain from the relatively small assemblage, but the presence of samian ware, flagons, dishes and mortaria suggest some knowledge of continental-style dining practices. On the whole, though, the assemblage is utilitarian and appears to be of low to moderate status.

Worked bone by Ian Scott

4.2.5 There are four pieces of worked bone. The most interesting is perhaps the fragment of probable needle case made from sheep metapodial and decorated with ring and dot. The known examples seem to come from late Roman contexts. The other worked bone comprises two pieces of flat bone which are possibly the waste from making bone inlays and which could well be Roman in date, and a fragment from an unfinished bone knife handle plate.

Metal finds by Ian Scott

4.2.6 There is a small collection of seven metal finds, three of which are metal detector finds. Three finds were recovered from soil samples. There are also four Roman coins which have been reported separately.

- 4.2.7 The finds from soil samples comprise an incomplete nail encrusted with corrosion products, a small thin encrusted iron disc and a single hobnail. The latter is certainly Roman.
- 4.2.8 The metal detector finds include a small piece of thin lead sheet, a segment comprising a quarter of short cross silver penny and a very worn George III halfpenny.

Roman coins by Paul Booth

- 4.2.9 Four Roman coins were recovered from the site, all by metal detecting. Two are common 4th-century types, though one is of interest in indicating that activity on the site continued to the very end of the Roman period. The other two coins, of earlier Roman date, are an unusually thick sestertius, perhaps of Marcus Aurelius (AD 161–180) but extremely worn, and an unidentified denarius.

Worked stone by Ruth Shaffrey

- 4.2.10 A fragment of large rotary quern or millstone of flat disc type was found in the ploughsoil in trench 19 (1902). Its profile and the dressing of its grinding surface indicate that it was manufactured during the Roman period. However, it has been reused as a hone and may have been reused, potentially at a date much later than its original use for grinding grain.
- 4.2.11 A quartzite cobble was also found in ditch 704 (705). This is broken but has been used as a smoother on one face and one end.
- 4.2.12 Five fragments of shale from the upper fill of ditch 2005 (2004). These do not bear any traces of having been worked, but as they are not local to the site are presumably indicative of shale working or use here. Nine fragments of lias from possible ditch 1304 (fill 1306) are possible debris from tesserae manufacture. Lias was a commonly used tesserae material because it is hard wearing and fine-grained and because it splits easily into rods that can then be broken down into cubes. These fragments are suggestive of such a use, but not certain.

Ceramic building material by Cynthia Poole

- 4.2.13 A small assemblage of tile amounting to ten fragments weighing 357g was recovered from seven contexts in four trenches. The Roman tile was recovered from contexts 705 and 805 and comprised a piece of plain flat tile and a fragment of flue tile. A third fragment has not been dated or identified to form, but comes from the sieved sample from 705, which is dated to the later Roman period and therefore also likely to be Roman.
- 4.2.14 The Roman tile would originally have been used in the construction of a masonry building with evidence of at least one heated room. However, Roman tile was regularly reused both in building construction and at lower status settlements for use in ovens and hearths.
- 4.2.15 Fragments of 19th century roof tile were recovered from context 5518 comprising a roughly finished ridge tile and the edge from a pantile. A thick flat fragment of tile from context 2006 is also probably a roof tile.

Fired clay by Cynthia Poole

- 4.2.16 Fired clay amounting to 14 fragments (190g) were recovered from six contexts concentrated in trenches 8, 13, 19, 54 and 11. None is distinctively diagnostic and the material cannot be firmly dated.
- 4.2.17 Function cannot be firmly determined in any of the fragments, though several pieces have characteristics suggestive of portable oven or hearth furniture. The most convincing is a small fragment from context 5407, which appeared to form the edge of a disc or oven plate with a smooth flat surface and convex base forming a lenticular cross-section. The fragment is most akin to the circular discs or polygonal plates found in Oxfordshire and neighbouring regions during Roman period and this piece could be from a similar type of object.
- 4.2.18 Other fragments with chaff impressions either as temper or over the surface are also most likely to be scraps of oven furniture. Chaff was more commonly used in this manner during the late Iron Age and Roman period.

Flint by Mike Donnelly

- 4.2.19 A small assemblage of three struck pieces and eight burnt unworked fragments of flint was recovered from this evaluation. The sole piece of interest was a serrated blade from context 2600 that is most probably early Neolithic or late Mesolithic in date. None of the remaining pieces are in any way diagnostic.

4.3 Environmental summaries

Animal bones by Martyn Allen

- 4.3.1 A total of 513 animal bone specimens were recovered by hand and a further 254 from environmental samples. The assemblage was fairly well-preserved and was not excessively fragmented. The majority of remains derived from Roman features dating from the 1st century to the 4th century AD, and a slightly higher proportion were recovered from later Roman features.
- 4.3.2 The evaluation produced a sizable animal bone assemblage and included a relatively wide range of species. Evidence for breeding of cattle, sheep/goats and pigs was found, and some data point to mixed husbandry regimes focused on meat production and consumption. Bone and antler-working evidence provides information on local craft activities. Chickens were probably husbanded at the site, though the analysis of further remains is required to confirm this. The presence of wildfowl specimens is interesting as possibly indicates a site of some status or that these resources were present close-by. Plover and snipe bones highlight the exploitation of local wetlands.

Charred plant remains by Sharon Cooke

- 4.3.3 Eight environmental samples were taken from a range of features from areas 1, 2 and 3. Three samples were taken from area 1, two samples from area 2 northwest, 2 samples from area 2 southeast and one from area 3. No samples were taken from area 6 as no negative features were identified. The samples from each area produced high concentrations of charcoal, charred cereal grains/chaff and charred weed seeds.

Preserved charred material was recovered from areas 1 and 2 west, with significantly less recovered from area 2 east and area 3.

- 4.3.4 The majority of samples were Roman in date. The poor condition of the material makes it difficult to discuss farming regimes, beyond the fact that arable crops were clearly utilized and probably grown locally, with glume wheat (probably spelt) well represented and barley possibly as a secondary crop.
- 4.3.5 Charred plant remains recovered from samples dating to the Romano-British period in the East Midlands are typically dominated by spelt wheat with occasional emmer and bread wheat-type grains. Hulled barley also tends to have been important (Monckton 2003). Wild or cultivated oats are also typically identified, but was probably an arable weed (ibid). Also typical of the Roman period are dumps of burnt wheat chaff from cereal processing. In all these respects, the Bottesford samples fit the general pattern of agriculture in this region.
- 4.3.6 The majority of charred seeds in these samples are from common crop contaminants such as oat/brome, vetches, black bindweed, grass seeds, and stinking chamomile, the last of which is particularly associated with the Roman agricultural expansion into heavier soils. Since the soils at the site are alluvial and typically silt and clay dominated, it seems likely that the arable crops were grown locally.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The trenches provided a targeted sample of the site and were positioned to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological features. The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the evaluation and the machining was carried out cleanly providing good visibility of features.
- 5.1.2 The evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains in several areas. The results of the evaluation generally confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey and highlighted the presence of several areas of significant late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement.
- 5.1.3 The evaluation did not test some of the supposedly blank areas of the site so there is the possibility that some of these activity areas could continue elsewhere. The unusual deep-buried nature of the archaeology and the size of some of the features/deposits means that not all areas could be fully characterised. Some of the spreads extend over 8m or more, and it was not always possible to determine if they represented fills of ditches or other types of features.

5.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 5.2.1 The evaluation identified significant archaeological activity across the site that was identified in the geophysical survey. Archaeological features were confirmed in all the fields investigated, although area 6 produced no clear-cut evidence, However, coverage here was limited there by site constraints and further remains should be expected in this area.
- 5.2.2 Most archaeological features were encountered at an unusually deep depth and were often sealed by thick alluvial deposits as well as possible 'dark-earth' deposits. The latter appear to represent decaying organic remains, perhaps originating from the Roman settlement areas. The possible early–middle Saxon pottery recovered from the spread in trench 2 may suggests the site was not covered by alluvium until after this date, probably before the ridge and furrow had formed across the site.
- 5.2.3 The Roman archaeology identified across the site is well-preserved from being sealed by the alluvial deposits and therefore not disturbed by later ploughing.

5.3 Interpretation

- 5.3.1 The evaluation identified two foci of Iron Age and Roman settlement activity in the western part of the site (areas 1 and 2 NW), and two areas of possible Roman enclosures and/or field-systems (areas 2 SE and 3). The area of late/post-medieval boundaries (area 6) was not identified in the trenches, but was quite clear on the LiDAR and geophysical survey results.

Roman settlement (Area 1)

- 5.3.2 The evaluation indicated the presence of a late Iron Age–Roman settlement across the area that was spanned by trenches 2–4, 7 and 9–11. The main focus of the settlement appeared to be a central enclosure targeted within trench 7, where the largest and

best-preserved pottery and animal bone assemblages were recovered. The recovery of large stones from one trench may be the remains of drystone walling.

- 5.3.3 Evidence of potential bone and antler working from the enclosure ditch found in trench 11, may indicate specific areas within the settlement used for craft activities.
- 5.3.4 The fluvial and modern landscaping deposits identified within trenches 5 and 6 indicate the route of a former infilled river meander. The date of this riverine activity has yet to be established and it is unclear whether the stream was active during the Roman period.

Roman settlement enclosure (Area 2 NW)

- 5.3.5 The pottery evidence suggests a concentration of late Roman activity in area 2 NW, occupying a slightly elevated point at the site. Features were identified in trenches 13, 14 and 19, including a possible wall or stone foundations. Three mid-late Roman coins, along with a worked-bone needle holder and large rotary quern or millstone recovered from trench 9, indicates a settlement focus. The overlying alluvial deposits appear to have preserved the Roman archaeology after the site was abandoned.
- 5.3.6 The recovery of charred cereal grains indicate that farming consisted of a typical arable regime for the area, with weed seeds consistent with the spread of cultivation onto heavier clay soils. Evidence for livestock breeding was found, while the presence of wildfowl, including plover and snipe, indicate exploitation of the local wetland environment.

Roman rectangular enclosure and field system (Area 2 SE)

- 5.3.7 Significantly less pottery and finds were recovered from area 2 SE. However, the trenches produced a concentration of features that, along with the geophysics, appear to confirm the presence of a large enclosure and a possible field-system.
- 5.3.8 The lack of finds may be explained by the fact that the enclosure may not necessarily have been a focus of domestic activity and was instead used for animal husbandry. The presence of charred cereal grains may suggest an area associated with crop processing.

Iron Age / Roman ditches (Area 3)

- 5.3.9 A series of smaller enclosure ditches were identified in trenches 54 and 55, which were tentatively dated to the Iron Age/Romano-British period. Finds were sparse but the geophysical survey suggests an area of enclosure ditches.

Medieval or post-medieval earthworks (Area 6)

- 5.3.10 Although no archaeological features or dating evidence were identified in trench 60, low earthworks and settlement platforms were clearly visible in the field. When considered in the light of the geophysics results, archaeological remains are clearly preserved in the field. These remains are currently undated, but could potentially be medieval/post-medieval in date.

5.4 Significance

- 5.4.1 The evaluation confirmed the presence of Iron Age and Roman settlement, including areas of enclosures and field systems, with some evidence of later agricultural activity. The geophysical survey provided a good indication of the location of this activity. The deeply buried nature of areas of the archaeology, sealed by alluvial deposits over 1m deep, has resulted in much of being well preserved.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained a single pit/posthole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty/sandy clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil – brownish grey slightly clayey silt with occasional mid-small sub rounded stone inclusions.	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil – slightly orange brown clayey silt.	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural – orange brown silty/sandy clay.	-	-
103	Cut	1.03	0.63	Posthole cut, circular in plan with steeply sloping sides, becoming vertical towards base.	-	-
104	Fill	0.36	0.29	Lowermost fill of posthole 103, firm mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.	-	-
105	Fill	1.03	0.34	Uppermost fill of posthole 103, pale yellowish brown silt with infrequent, poorly sorted stony inclusions.	pottery	Iron Age

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench contained three postholes and two spreads of material. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty/sandy clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil – brownish grey firm silty clay.	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Alluvium – firm brown silty clay.	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural – brownish orange sandy/silty clay with lenses of grey/blue clay.	-	-
203	Cut	0.4	0.22	Posthole cut, circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base.	-	-

204	Fill	0.4	0.22	Fill of posthole 203, firm dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone flecks.	Animal Bone	-
205	Cut	>16	0.5	Unclassified spread of material, shape in plan cannot be seen fully. Gently sloping base, deepest at North.	-	-
206	Fill	>16	0.5	Deposit/spread, fill of 205. Firm dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent flecks of sandstone and limestone.	Pottery and Animal Bone	AD 150–400
207	Spread	5.3	-	Spread of material. Not excavated.	Pottery	Iron Age/Early–middle Saxon
208	Cut	0.2	-	Posthole cut, not excavated.	-	-
209	Cut	0.25	-	Posthole cut, not excavated.	-	-

Trench 3

General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clayey silt.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil – brownish grey silty/clayey sand, small stone inclusions.	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil – light-mid greyish brown sandy/clayey silt. Small stone inclusions.	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural – light orangey brown silt.	-	-
303	Layer	-	0.14	Alluvium – mid-greyish brown with orange mottling clayey silt. Small stone inclusions.	Animal Bone	-

Trench 4

General description		Orientation	E–W
Trench contained two large spreads of material, a machine excavated sondage was used to ascertain the depth of spread 402. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.		Length (m)	30
		Width (m)	1.6
		Avg. depth (m)	1

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.42	Topsoil – brownish grey compact silty clay.	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.58	Alluvium – brown, compact silty clay.	-	-
402	Spread	-	0.52	Layer, mid-dark orangey greyish brown silt.	-	-
403	Spread	-	-	Layer, mid-dark orangey greyish brown silt.	-	-
404	Layer	-	-	Natural – orangey brown firm silty clay.	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a potential spread and an area of modern disturbance. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and an alluvial deposit overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.05	Topsoil – greyish brown, loose friable silt, infrequent small stone inclusions.	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil – firm greyish brown pale, fine silt with infrequent small stone inclusions.	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.25	Alluvium – very firm, pale reddish brown silt.	-	-
503	Spread	3.9	-	Modern material deposit.	-	-
504	Spread	1.5	-	Spread – dark greyish brown firm clayey silt.	-	-
505	Layer	-	-	Natural – pale greyish/reddish brown	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and alluvium overlying natural geology of clayey silt.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil – brownish grey clayey/sandy silt. Infrequent stone inclusions.	-	-

601	Layer	-	0.43	Subsoil – light-mid greyish brown with yellow clayey silt, gravel inclusions.	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural – light-mid greyish brown with orange flecks, clayey silt.	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Layer of dumped modern material with modern CBM inclusions.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained two spreads of material which may have formed part of a larger enclosure. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.85
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil – firm, light brown grey silty clay.	Pottery	AD 150–350
701	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil – firm brownish yellow silty clay.	CBM	C19–C20th
702	Layer	-	0.1	Dark-earth deposit – dark grey, firm silty clay.	-	-
703	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm, mid-brownish yellow silty clay.	-	-
704	Cut	>13	0.37	Cut of potential large ditch, full extent in plan not seen.	-	-
705	Fill	>13	0.37	Fill of large ditch 704, firm dark greyish brown silty clay. Frequent large stone inclusions. This may be a spread of material, but it is not fully visible in plan.	Pottery and Animal Bone	AD 150–350
706	Masonry	-	-	Rough alignment of stones, no coursing. Could be a rubble deposit.	-	-
707	Cut	8.8	-	Cut of ditch, full extent not seen in plan.	-	-
708	Fill	8.8	-	Fill of ditch 707, not excavated.	Pottery	Iron Age

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench contained one large ditch/unidentified cut feature. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.77
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

800	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil – brownish grey silty sand.	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil – greyish brown silty/sandy clay with small stone inclusions.	Pottery	AD 150–350
802	Layer	-	-	Natural – greyish/orangey brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions.	-	-
803	Cut	>18.9	>1.6	Possible ditch cut, extent not seen in plan. Side and base profile not reached.	-	-
804	Fill	>18.9	0.33	Uppermost fill of ditch 803, firm, greyish/yellowish brown sandy silt, small stone inclusions.	Pottery, tile and animal bone.	AD 250–400
805	Fill	>18.9	0.3	Middle fill of ditch 803, firm greyish/bluish clayey silt with infrequent gravel inclusions.	Pottery, tile and Animal bone.	AD 250–400
806	Fill	>18.9	>0.3	Lowermost fill of ditch 803, firm light greyish/orangey brown clay, small gravelly inclusions.	Pottery and Animal Bone.	AD 100–410
807	Cut	0.8	0.29	Cut of linear East–west aligned ditch, gently sloping straight sides and a concave base.	-	-
808	Fill	0.8	0.29	Fill of ditch 807, firm light brownish yellow sandy silt, small stone inclusions,	-	-
809	Layer	-	-	Natural underlying 802, a dark greyish blue firm silty clay.	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained a single spread of material. Consists of topsoil and alluvium, the natural layer was not reached.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.48	Topsoil – firm greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
901	Layer	-	>0.42	Alluvium – firm brownish grey silty clay with infrequent white flecks.	-	-
902	Layer	>2	-	Spread of material, same as 705.	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained two ditches, running NW–SE. Consists of topsoil and subsoil/alluvium overlying natural geology of silty/sandy clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil – firm dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil/alluvium – firm dark brownish grey, infrequent stony inclusions.	Pottery	AD 140–170
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm brownish orange silty/sandy clay with frequent stony inclusions.	-	-
1003	Cut	1.1	0.56	Linear ditch cut, NE–SW aligned, with a concave base and steeply sloping sides.	-	-
1004	Fill	1.1	0.1	Uppermost fill of ditch 1003, firm, dark grey silty clay, infrequent stone fleck inclusions.	Pottery	AD 43–410
1005	Fill	1.1	0.43	Lowermost fill of ditch 1003, firm, orangey brown silty/sandy clay, frequent stone and pebble inclusions.	Pottery and animal bone.	AD 43–410
1006	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm blue grey silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	-	-
1007	Cut	0.5	-	Ditch cut, NE–SW aligned, unexcavated.	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench contained four ditches and an unidentified cut feature. Consists of topsoil and subsoil, overlying a natural of silty/sandy clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil – firm dark brown silty clay, rare small stone inclusions.	-	-

1101	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil – firm dark greyish brown silty clay, with rare small stone inclusions.	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm light yellowish brown silty/sandy clay.	-	-
1103	Cut	1.48	0.4	Linear ditch cut NW–SE aligned with gently sloping concave sides, steepening at the base, which is flat.	-	-
1104	Fill	1.48	0.4	Fill of ditch 1103, soft greyish brown sandy clay with occasional medium sized flattish stone inclusions.	Pottery and animal bone.	AD 150–200
1105	Cut	0.15	0.2	Oval pit, gently sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
1106	Fill	0.15	0.2	Fill of pit 1105, soft, light brownish grey silty clay, infrequent charcoal inclusions.	-	-
1107	Cut	0.38	0.09	Pit cut, circular in plan with a concave base and shallow sides.	-	-
1108	Fill	0.38	0.09	Fill of pit 1107, soft greyish brown sandy clay.	-	-
1109	Cut	6.7	0.58	Cut of large unidentified feature, not excavated to full depth. Sloping, irregular sides.	-	-
1110	Fill	0.58	0.5	Basal fill of 1109, compacted greyish brown gravelly/silty clay.	Animal bone	-
1111	Fill	6.7	0.58	Uppermost fill of 1109, soft dark brownish grey silty clay.	Pottery	AD 170–250
1112	Cut	1.6	-	Unexcavated linear, NW–SE aligned, filled with a mid-dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1113	Cut	2	-	Unexcavated linear, NW–SE aligned, filled with a mid-dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1114	Cut	2	-	Possible unexcavated linear, NW–SE aligned, filled with a mid-dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1115	Cut	4	-	Unexcavated linear, NW–SE aligned filled with a	-	-

				mid-dark greyish brown silty clay.		
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Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained no archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil, overlying a natural layer of sandy/silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil – firm greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.24	Alluvium – firm brownish grey silty clay with infrequent white flecks.	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm, yellowish brown sandy/silty clay with frequent stones and pebble inclusions.	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a wide ditch with a possible wall foundation/rubble layer, two pits and a possible ditch terminus, as well as a possible spread of material. Consists of topsoil and subsoil, overlying a natural layer of sandy/silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil – firm greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.28	Alluvium – firm brownish grey silty clay with infrequent white flecks.	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.29	Potential dark-earth deposit? – firm, brownish grey silty clay with infrequent small stones inclusions.	-	-
1303	Layer	-	-	Natural – brownish yellow firm silty clay.	-	-
1304	Cut	2.5	0.56	Potential ditch cut, gently sloping sides, not excavated to base.	-	-
1305	Fill	2.5	0.34	Basal fill of potential ditch 1304, very compact light brownish yellow silty clay.	Pottery	AD 150–410
1306	Fill	1.6	0.3	Fill of potential ditch 1304, very compact dark grey silty clay.	Pottery and Animal bone.	AD 250–400

1307	Cut	2.3	0.2	Linear ditch, north – south aligned with a broad flat base and shallow, moderately sloping sides.	-	-
1308	Fill	2.3	0.2	Fill of ditch 1307, firm greyish brown clayey silt.	-	-
1309	Masonry	0.6	0.12	within ditch cut 1307, possibly a wall foundation. Irregular sized limestone, CBM and sandstone.	-	-
1310	Cut	1.3	0.43	Large spread/potential ditch cut. Base and sides not observed.	-	-
1311	Fill	8.5	0.36	Fill of 1310, firm very dark brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecking.	Pottery and Animal bone.	AD 43–410
1312	-	-	-	Void	-	-
1313	-	-	-	Void	-	-
1314	Cut	0.8	0.15	Linear ditch, north – south aligned, possible furrow. Shallow, concave sides and broad, sub-rounded base.	-	-
1315	Fill	0.8	0.15	Fill of 1314, firm reddish brown clayey silt.	-	-
1316	Fill	1.3	0.05	Lowermost fill of 1310, firm light yellowish grey clay with areas of gravelly sand.	Pottery	AD 43–410

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NE–SW
Trench contained five intercutting pits and a spread of material. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a buried soil horizon; overlying a natural layer of sandy/silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	1.05
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.7	Topsoil – firm brownish grey clayey silt.	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil – firm brownish grey clayey silt.	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.32	Buried Soil – firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with infrequent limestone inclusions.	Pottery	AD 200–300
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural – brownish yellow silty clay.	-	-

1404	Cut	0.9	0.1	Ovoid possible pit, broad flat base, very shallow concave sides.	-	-
1405	Fill	0.9	0.1	Fill of 1404, firm dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal lenses.	Pottery	AD 140–400
1406	Cut	>0.6	0.21	Cut of pit, flattish base and concave sloping sides. Group 1417.	-	-
1407	Fill	>0.6	0.21	Fill of pit 1406, very compact dark brownish grey slightly silty clay.	-	-
1408	Cut	>0.75	0.4	Cut of pit, shape not seen in plan, concave sides and concave regular base. Group 1417.	-	-
1409	Fill	>0.75	0.25	Lowermost fill of pit 1408, very firm dark brownish grey slightly silty clay.	Pottery	AD 43–410
1410	Fill	>0.75	0.15	Uppermost fill of pit 1408, very firm dark greyish brown slightly silty clay.	Pottery	AD 43–410
1411	Cut	0.28	0.3	Cut of pit, shape in plan not seen, flattish base, steeply sloping straight sides. Group 1417.	-	-
1412	Fill	0.28	0.3	Fill of pit 1411, very firm brown slightly silty clay.	Pottery	AD 43–410
1413	Cut	>0.6	0.1	Cut of pit, shape in plan not seen, flat base with shallow sloping sides. Group 1417.	-	-
1414	Fill	>0.6	0.1	Fill of pit 1413, very firm greyish brown slightly silty clay, occasional small sub rounded stones.	Pottery	AD 43–410
1415	Cut	>0.64	0.2	Pit cut, shape in plan not seen, flat base with minor undulations. Group 1417.	-	-
1416	Fill	>0.64	0.2	Fill of pit 1415, very firm greyish brown slightly silty clay, occasional small sub rounded stones.	Pottery and animal bone	AD 43–410
1417	Group	-	-	Intercutting pits: 1406, 1408, 1411, 1413 and 1415.	Pottery and animal bone.	AD 43–410
1418	Feature	-	-	Linear, aligned E–W.	-	-
1419	Feature	-	-	Possible pit or terminus. Partially exposed.	-	-

1420	Cut	8.8	0.1	Cut of spread. Partially exposed in plan. Flat base.	-	-
1421	Fill	8.8	0.1	Spread – dark greyish brown silty clay with red flecks.	Animal bone and pottery.	AD 140–400

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained two ditches and one spread. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of orangey silts and clays.					Length (m)	29.6
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.48	Topsoil – dark brownish grey clayey silt.	-	-
1501	Layer	-	>0.42	Subsoil – brownish grey silty clay.	-	-
1502	Cut	1.46	0.26	Ditch aligned NNW-SSE. Near vertical sides, flat-slightly undulating base.	-	-
1503	Fill	1.46	0.26	Sole fill of ditch 1502. Moderately compact brownish grey slightly silty clay.	Pottery and flint.	AD 43–410
1504	Layer	-	-	Natural – Mixed creamy light orangish grey clay with brownish orange sandy silt.	-	-
1505	Spread	-	-	Diffuse in plan.	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of yellow silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil – Mid-dark brown silty clay.	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil – Firm, brown silty clay.	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural – Firm, brownish yellow silty clay with patches of greyish brown.	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained two probable ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of mottled silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8

					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil – Hard, mid-dark brown, silty clay.	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.44	Subsoil – brown silty clay.	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Possible dark-earth deposit – Firm, brown silty clay.	-	-
1903	Layer	-	-	Natural –firm, dirty orange and yellow silty clay with sand and gravel. Mottled with bluish grey to greyish brown clay.	-	-
1904	Cut	5.5	>0.2	Spread. Moderately sloped sides. Not bottomed. Possibly quite shallow. Base may be flat.	-	-
1905	Fill	5.5	>0.2	Upper/sole fill of spread 1904. Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay with greyish blue mottling. Ditch not bottomed, fill not fully exposed.	Pottery, bone, CBM.	AD 250–350
1906	Cut	5.4	0.78	Spread. Partially exposed. Steeply sloped side, concave base.	-	-
1907	Fill	5.4	0.78	Sole fill of spread 1906. Soft, dark brownish grey silty clay. Charcoal flecks.	Pottery, bone, worked bone.	AD 43–410

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of yellowish brown clay and brown silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	1.0
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil – Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt.	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.68	Subsoil – Friable yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent manganese flecking.	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural – Friable brownish grey silty sand, frequent lenses of manganese and iron.	-	-
2003	Layer	-	-	Change in natural – firm, yellowish brown clay.	-	-

2004	Cut	1.5	-	Ditch aligned N–S. firm, mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt fill. Unexcavated.	-	-
2005	Cut	1.20	>0.16	Ditch aligned NE–SW. Moderately sloped sides. Not bottomed.	-	-
2006	Fill	1.20	>0.16	Upper/sole fill of ditch 2005. Firm, dark brownish grey silty clay with greyish blue lenses. Fill not fully exposed.	Bone, CBM.	AD 1550–1750

Trench 26						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench contained three gullies and one ditch terminus. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of clayey sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.84
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	-	0.49	Topsoil – Friable, greyish brown sandy silt.	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil – Friable, yellowish brown sandy silt.	-	-
2602	Layer	-	-	Redeposited Natural – compacted clayey sand.	-	-
2603	Cut	0.38	0.34	Gully aligned E–W. Steeply sloped sides, concave base. Truncated by 2605.	-	-
2604	Fill	0.38	0.34	Sole fill of gully 2603. brownish grey silty clay. Cut by 2605	-	-
2605	Cut	0.58	0.35	Gully aligned E–W. Moderately sloped sides, concave base. Truncates 2603	-	-
2606	Fill	0.58	0.35	Sole fill of gully 2605. brownish grey silty clay.	Bone, burnt clay.	-
2607	Cut	1.10	>0.26	Ditch terminus aligned NNE–SSW. Relatively steep sides, flat base. Not bottomed.	-	-
2608	Fill	1.10	>0.26	Sole fill of ditch terminus 2607. blueish grey silty clay. Not fully exposed.	-	-
2609	Cut	0.50	0.16	Gully aligned NNE–SSW. Moderately sloped sides, flat base.	-	-

2610	Fill	0.50	0.16	Sole fill of gully 2609. Firm blueish grey silty clay.	-	-
2611	Layer	-	0.45	Possible dark-earth deposit. Dark grey silty clay.	-	-
2612	Cut	0.60	0.45	Ditch terminus	-	-
2613	Fill	-	0.45	Fill of ditch terminus 2612	-	-

Trench 27

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained one tree-throw hole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of blueish grey silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil – Friable greyish brown clayey silt.	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil – Friable yellowish brown clayey silt.	-	-
2702	Layer	-	-	Natural – friable, loose, yellowish brown silty sand.	-	-
2703	Cut	1.40	0.43	Tree-throw hole. Terminus shaped.	-	-
2704	Fill	1.40	0.43	Sole fill of three throw hole 2703. Firm mid-light blueish grey sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 28

General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench contained two ditches, four tree-throw holes or natural features, and one discreet feature. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of brownish yellow silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.67
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil – greyish brown clayey silt.	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil – light-mid greyish brown slightly clayey silt.	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural – brownish yellow gravelly silty clay.	-	-
2803	Fill	1.40	0.42	Sole fill of ditch 2804. Very firm greyish brown silty clay.	Animal bone	-
2804	Cut	1.40	0.42	Ditch aligned NE-SW. Steeply sloped sides, almost flat base.	-	-

2805	Fill	0.50	0.18	Sole fill of ditch 2806. Very firm greyish brown sandy silt.	Animal bone	-
2806	Cut	0.50	0.18	Ditch aligned E–W. Moderately sloped sides, concave base.	-	-

Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a series of at least four intercutting ditches, the full extent of which is not known. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of friable greyish brown clayey/silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.86
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil – very firm, dark-greyish brown clayey silt.	-	-
2901	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil – firm, dark yellowish brown clayey silt with sand.	-	-
2902	Layer	-	-	Natural – friable, yellowish brown clayey/silty sand.	-	-
2903	Cut	0.72	0.26	Possible ditch cut, gently sloping sides and a concave/flattish base		
2904	Fill	0.72	0.26	Sole fill of 2903. Firm greyish brown silt.	-	-
2905	Cut	>1.5	0.38	Possible ditch cut. Steeply sloping concave sides, irregular/flattish base.	-	-
2906	Fill	0.95	0.15	Lowermost fill of 2905. Pale orangey brown gravelly silt.	Pottery	AD 43–410
2907	Fill	>1.5	0.31	Uppermost fill of 2905. greyish brown with orange mottling, gravelly silt.	-	-
2908	Cut	>1.68	0.6	Possible ditch cut, gently sloping concave sides, concave base.	-	-
2909	Fill	>1.68	0.6	Sole fill of 2908. Firm mid-dark greyish brown silty clay, infrequent, poorly sorted stony inclusions.	-	-
2910	Cut	>3.4	0.2	Potential ditch cut. Shallow straight sloping sides, flattish base.	-	-
2911	Fill	>3.4	0.2	Sole fill of 2910. Firm greyish brown silt.	-	-

2912	Cut	0.9	0.41	Possible ditch cut. Gently sloping straight sides and irregular base.	-	-
2913	Fill	0.9	0.41	Sole fill of 2912. Firm greyish brown silt.	-	-
2914	Cut	-	-	Cut of ditch 2914. Not excavated.	-	-
2915	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 2914. Not excavated.	-	-
2916	Cut	-	-	Cut of ditch 2916. Not excavated.	-	-
2917	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 2916. Not excavated.	-	-
2918	Cut	-	-	Cut of ditch 2918. Not excavated.	-	-
2919	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 2918. Not excavated.	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained three furrows, two pits, one linear terminus, a further possible linear, one natural feature, and two further possible, partially exposed features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of yellowish brown silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.73
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil – Mid-dark greyish brown friable clayey silt.	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil – friable yellowish brown clayey silt.	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural – Friable yellowish brown silty sand.	-	-
3003	Cut	0.60	0.21	Pit, rounded. Partially exposed. Truncated by furrow 3005. Shallow. Moderately sloped sides, flat base.	-	-
3004	Fill	0.60	0.21	Sole fill of pit 3003. Light yellowish grey silty clay. Cut by furrow 3005	-	-
3005	Cut	1.40	0.44	Ditch aligned NNE-SSW. Moderately sloped sides, slightly concave base. Truncates pit 3003	-	-
3006	Fill	1.40	0.44	Sole fill of ditch 3005. Compact, dark greyish brown clay. Manganese lenses.	Pottery	AD 140–400

3007	Cut	1.10	0.18	Pit. Partially exposed. Shallow. Gently sloped sides. Flat base.	-	-
3008	Fill	1.10	0.18	Sole fill of pit 3007. Compact, greyish brown silty clay. Charcoal flecks.	-	-
3009	Cut	0.50	0.12	Terminus, rounded aligned NE–SW. Shallow. Gently sloped sides, flat base. Truncated by linear 3011.	-	-
3010	Fill	0.50	0.12	Sole fill of terminus 3009. Firm mid-dark greyish brown silty clay. Cut by linear 2011.	-	-
3011	Cut	0.65	0.40	Linear, aligned NE–SW. Steeply sloped sides, flat base. Truncates terminus 3009.	-	-
3012	Fill	0.65	0.40	Sole fill of linear 3011. Firm mid-brownish grey silty clay.	-	-
3013	Cut	1.31	0.30	Ditch aligned N–S. Moderately sloped sides, flat base.	-	-
3014	Fill	1.31	0.30	Sole fill of ditch 3013. Firm, brownish grey silty clay.	-	-
3015	Cut	-	-	Ditch aligned NE–SW. Not excavated.	-	-

Trench 31						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench contained four ditches and one pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of mottled blueish grey clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	-	0.42	Topsoil – dark greyish brown clay.	-	-
3101	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil – Dark brownish orange silty clay.	-	-
3102	-	-	-	VOID	-	-
3103	Layer	-	-	Natural – Blueish grey clay with bright orange ironstone mottling.	-	-
3104	Cut	1.0	0.45	Ditch aligned NE–SW. Steeply sloped sides, concave base.	-	-
3105	Fill	1.0	0.45	Sole fill of ditch 3104. Compact dark greyish	Animal bones	-

				brown silty clay. Charcoal flecks.		
3106	Cut	0.50	0.30	Pit, sub-circular. Steeply sloped sides, narrow concave base. Truncated by gully 3108	-	-
3107	Fill	0.50	0.30	Sole fill of pit 3106. Firm dark brownish grey silty clay. Charcoal lenses. Cut by gully 3108.	-	-
3108	Cut	0.42	0.17	Gully aligned NE–SW. shallow. Gently sloped sides, slightly concave base. Truncates pit 3106.	-	-
3109	Fill	0.42	0.17	Sole fill of gully 3108. Firm, brownish grey clayey silt.	-	-
3110	Cut	0.90	-	Gully aligned NE–SW.	-	-

Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench contained one gully, one ditch, and one spread. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of yellow silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	-	0.50	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey silty clay.	-	-
3201	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil – brownish grey silty clay. Occasional iron pan.	-	-
3202	Layer	-	-	Natural – Bright orange sandy silt. Frequent iron pan	-	-
3203	Cut	0.78	0.10	Gully aligned NE–SW. Shallow. Gently sloped sides, flat base.	-	-
3204	Fill	0.78	0.10	Sole fill of gully 3203. Compact, dark greyish brown silty clay. Frequent iron pan.	Bone	-
3205	Layer	0.83	0.24	Potential dark-earth deposit. Compact dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
3206	Layer	-	0.65	Spread of organic silty clay	-	-
3207	Cut	0.76	0.25	Ditch aligned NE–SW. Shallow, gently sloped sides, flat base.	-	-

3208	Fill	0.76	0.25	Sole fill of ditch 3207. Firm dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
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Trench 54						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two ditches, one linear, one probable pit, and one tree throw hole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of brown silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5400	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil – Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay.	-	-
5401	Layer	-	0.48	Subsoil – firm brownish orange silty clay.	-	-
5402	Layer	-	0.24	Natural – with patches of greyish brown.	-	-
5403	Void	-	-	-	-	-
5404	Cut	0.42	0.20	Ditch aligned NW–SE. Moderately sloped sides, concave base.	-	-
5405	Fill	0.42	0.20	Sole fill of ditch 5404. Compacted ark greyish brown silty clay. Charcoal flecks.	Animal bones	-
5406	Cut	0.48	0.17	Ditch aligned NW–SE. shallow. Moderately sloped sides, flat base.	-	-
5407	Fill	0.48	0.17	Sole fill of gully 5406. Firm, brown sandy clay.	Animal bones, CBM	Roman?
5408	Cut	-	-	Pit. Not excavated.	-	-
5409	Cut	-	-	Ditch aligned NW–SE. Not excavated.	-	-

Trench 55						
General description					Orientation	NE–SW
Trench contained five ditches, one of which may be a terminus, and one spread. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of yellow silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5500	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil – friable, dark brownish grey sandy silt.	-	-
5501	Layer	-	0.48	Subsoil – Friable, greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional manganese and charcoal flecks.	-	-
5502	Layer	-	-	Natural with patches of greyish brown.	-	-

5503	Layer	-	-	Layer of modern rubble within topsoil.	-	-
5504	Cut	0.60	0.50	Possible ditch terminus. Flat base. Heavily truncated by ditches 5506 and 5510.	-	-
5505	Fill	0.60	0.50	Sole fill of ditch 5504. Firm, yellowish grey sandy silt. Cut by ditches 5506 and 5510.	-	-
5506	Cut	0.92	0.53	Ditch aligned NE–SW. Steep-moderately sloped sides. Not bottomed. Truncated by ditches 5508 and 5510. Truncates possible terminus 5504.	-	-
5507	Fill	0.92	0.53	Sole/lowest exposed fill of ditch 5506. Firm greenish grey silty clay. Cut by ditches 5508 and 5510.	-	-
5508	Cut	1.56	0.49	Ditch aligned NE–SW. moderately sloped sides, narrow concave base. Truncates ditch 5506.	-	-
5509	Fill	1.56	0.49	Sole fill of ditch 5508. Firm, brownish grey silty clay. Manganese flecks.	-	-
5510	Cut	1.56	0.54	Ditch aligned NW–SE. Moderate-steeply sloped sides. Not bottomed. Truncates ditch 5506 and possible terminus 5504	-	-
5511	Fill	1.05	>0.26	Lowest exposed fill of ditch 5510. Firm greyish brown silty clay with yellowish brown sandy mottling.	-	-
5512	Fill	1.56	0.24	Lower fill of ditch 5510. Firm blueish grey sandy clay. Manganese lenses.	Pottery, animal bones	Iron Age
5513	Fill	1.10	0.08	Middle fill of ditch 5510. Firm, dark brownish grey silty clay. Charcoal rich.	-	-
5514	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of ditch 5510. Compact, dark yellowish brown clayey silt.	-	-
5515	Cut	0.60	0.15	Ditch aligned E–W. Steeply sloped sides, concave base. Truncates ditch 5517.	-	-

5516	Fill	0.60	0.15	Sole fill of ditch 5515. Dark greyish brown silty clay. Charcoal and iron pan flecks.	Animal bones	-
5517	Cut	0.62	0.15	Ditch aligned NE–SW. Steeply sloped sides. Not bottomed. Truncated by ditch 5515.	-	-
5518	Fill	0.62	0.15	Sole fill of ditch 5517. brownish yellow silty clay. Cut by ditch 5515.	Animal bones, CBM	C17–C19th

Trench 60						
General description					Orientation	NE–SW
No features were identified in the trench but surface features were identified within the topsoil. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of yellow silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6000	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil – friable, dark brownish grey sandy silt.	-	-
6001	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil – Friable, greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional manganese and charcoal flecks.	-	-
6002	Layer	-	-	Natural – Friable yellowish brown silty sand.	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

- B.1.1 Some 208 sherds of pottery, weighing 2888g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, provide spot-dates, and make recommendations for the treatment of the material. Fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2016). Reference was also made to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).
- B.1.2 Each context-group was quantified by sherd count and weight (grammes), and any rims present were additionally quantified by estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the proportion of rim that survives (thus, 0.3 equals 30%). The total was 2.94 EVEs. Pottery data by context is provided in Table 1.
- B.1.3 The earliest pottery comprised four sherds of pottery in a sandy fabric (E30) from trenches 1, 2 and 55. An Iron Age date is likely.
- B.1.4 No context-groups were dated to the early Roman period (c AD 43–120), but the mid-Roman date (c AD 120–250) was represented, with 12% of the assemblage by sherd count belonging to groups assigned to this phase. These were from trenches 10 and 110. Material characteristic of this period included samian ware (S30) and 'Rhenish' ware (F43) from Central Gaul, and a ring-necked white ware flagon. The date is supported by a dish in fabric B11 and a 'cooking-pot'-type jar in fabric R20.
- B.1.5 A single group of pottery, from trench 14, was dated to the 3rd century on the basis of a wide-mouthed bowl in fabric R47 within it.
- B.1.6 Fifty-three per cent of the assemblage by sherd count was recovered from context-groups spot-dated to the late Roman period (c AD 250–410). The groups came from features exposed in trenches 7, 8, 13 and 19. Pottery diagnostic of the period included dishes or bowls, with dropped flanges, for example in fabric B11, and shelly ware from the Harrold area in Bedfordshire (C11), available here as 'cooking-pots'. Other material from the groups is generally consistent with this date, although the presence of fabrics F52, R211 and M23 may confine the end part of the date range for deposition to the mid/late 4th century, rather than the end of the 4th century or early 5th century. A small proportion of the pottery, as indicated by the presence of S30, was obviously residual.
- B.1.7 Some 31% of pottery by sherd count belonged to groups assigned a broader Roman date. A little under half of this were from groups dated to the mid- or late Roman period (c AD 120/150–350/400) and recovered from trenches 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, 30 and 70. Pottery typical of this broader period included fabrics B30, F52, M23 and R211. The remaining groups, from trenches 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 29, were dated more broadly still within the Roman period and largely comprised undiagnostic reduced wares (R20 and R30).

B.1.8 A single sherd of post-medieval pottery (Z30) was recovered from trench 20.

Discussion

- B.1.9 Overall, the assemblage spans the Iron Age to post-Roman period, with the emphasis on the middle and late Roman periods. Early Roman groups are absent, which suggests a gap in pottery deposition at this time or that deposition of this period occurred elsewhere. Roman-period deposition was concentrated in the western part of the site, particularly around trenches 7, 8, 13 and 14.
- B.1.10 Condition of the pottery was mixed. The overall mean sherd weight (MSW; weight divided by sherd count) is 14g, pointing to the presence of reasonably large sherds, although values per context-group ranged from 4g to 33g. Trenches whose pottery had an above-average MSW were generally those in the northernmost part of the site—trenches 13, 14, 15, and 19—although the difference between northern trenches on the one hand and trenches to the south and east on the other was not especially marked. Relatively high values were recorded, for example, for trenches 7 and 30. Turning to ceramic phasing, pottery of mid/late and late Roman date had the highest MSW values, 19g and 15g respectively. The MSW for the mid-Roman period is 10g. Another measure of condition, ‘completeness’ or average rim percentage (EVE divided by vessel count based on rims), produced a value of 0.09 EVE or 9%.
- B.1.11 Taken together, the pottery is likely to have undergone multiple episodes of disturbance and relocation before final deposition in the excavated features, perhaps away from the focus of settlement. This has resulted in differential fragmentation and the breaking up and dispersal of elements of the vessel, notably the rim. That said, there was a clear concentration of pottery in the western part of the site, suggesting that associated settlement, probably with a late Roman emphasis, is likely to be located closest to this area. Pottery also attests to activity in the central part of the eastern array of trenches.
- B.1.12 Some evidence of pottery use was recorded. A lid and ‘cooking-pot’-type jar have carbonised deposits, indicating that the vessels had been placed over the fire, presumably for cooking. A base sherd from a mortarium in fabric M23 was blackened and perhaps had also been used as a cooking vessel. A body sherd in a reduced fabric had been incised with a ‘X’-type graffito, possibly a mark of ownership.
- B.1.13 Status or site-type is difficult to ascertain from the relatively small assemblage, but the presence of samian ware, flagons, dishes and mortaria suggest some knowledge of continental-style dining practices. On the whole, though, the assemblage is utilitarian and appears to be of low to moderate status.

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
103	1	15	Fabric E30	Iron Age
206	4	50	Jar (CD; EVE 0.09), fabric R30; jar with everted rim (C; EVE 0.05), fabric R20; fabric F52	AD 150–400
207	1	19	Fabric E30	Iron Age / Saxon?
700	8	79	Mortarium (K; EVE 0.09), fabric ?M23; fabrics F52, O10, R20, R211	AD 150–350
705	18	493	Bowl with dropped flange (HB; EVE 0.1), fabric R30; beaker (E; EVE 0.1); fabrics S30, F52 (flanged bowl or dish), M23 (burnt), R30 (thick-walled sherd with post-firing perforation), R30 (body sherd with post-firing ?X graffito)	AD 250–400
708	1	8	Fabric E30	Iron Age
801	1	11	Fabric R211	AD 150–350
804	24	133	Jar (CK; EVE 0.06), fabric C11; jar (C; EVE 0.07), fabric C11; lid (L; EVE 0.07) with carbonised deposits, fabric R70; ?bowl (H; EVE 0.03), fabric O80; fabrics F52, R30, R20	AD 250–400
805	32	210	Jar (C; EVE 0.05), fabric R30; plain-rimmed dish (JB; EVE 0.03), fabric R20; jar (CJ; EVE 0.06), fabric R20; fabrics F52, S, C11	AD 250–400
806	13	56	Jar (CI; EVE 0.05), fabric C10; fabrics R10, R30	AD 100–410
1001	14	169	Jar (CK; EVE 0.14), fabric R20; jar with everted rim (C; EVE 0.10), fabric R20; ring-necked flagon (BB; EVE 0.51), fabric W13; fabric R30	AD 140–170
1004	2	41	Fabrics R30, C10/C11	AD 43–410
1005	4	68	Jar (C; EVE 0.04), fabric R30; fabric R20	AD 43–410
1305	3	76	Fabrics B30, C10, R20	AD 150–410
1306	27	680	Jar (CK; EVE 0.06), with carbonised deposit, fabric C11; jar (CD; EVE 0.07, fabric R30; jar (CN; EVE 0.03), fabric R90; flanged bowl (HC; EVE 0.1), fabric O20; jar (CD; EVE 0.1), fabric R30; ?flagon (BB; EVE 0.08), fabric R20; jar (CM; EVE 0.13), fabric R30; ?bowl (HC; EVE 0.05), fabric F52; overfired sherd, ?second, fabric R20	AD 250–400
1311	3	19	Fabric R30	AD 43–410
1316	2	45	Fabric R20	AD 43–410
1402	5	54	Jar with cordoned neck (CM; EVE 0.11), fabric R47; fabrics W10, R20	AD 200–300
1405	1	20	Fabric M23	AD 140–400
1416	2	45	Bowl (HD; EVE 0.07), fabric R20	AD 43–410
1421	4	132	Fabrics M23, R20	AD 140–400
1503	1	20	Fabric R20	AD 43–410
1905	9	123	Fabrics R211, C11, R20	AD 250–350
1907	5	76	Jar (C; EVE 0.08), fabric R30	AD 43–410
2006	1	10	Fabric Z30	AD 1550–1750
2905	5	18	Fabric R20	AD 43–410
3006	1	21	?Bowl (H; EVE 0.07), fabric ?M23	AD 140–400

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
5512	1	4	Fabric E30	Iron Age
7005	5	133	Bowl (H; EVE 0.07), fabric R30; ?beaker (E; EVE 0.09), fabric F52; large jar (CJ; EVE 0.04), fabric C11; fabric R211	AD 150–350
11004	4	38	Dish with grooved rim (JB; EVE 0.09), fabric B11; bowl (H; EVE 0.06), fabric S30	AD 150–200
11011	6	22	Fabrics F43, R30, R10	AD 170–250
TOTALS	208	2888		

Table 1: Summary and quantification of the pottery by context

B.2 Worked bone

By Ian Scott

- B.2.1 There are four pieces of worked bone. The most interesting is perhaps the fragment of probable needle case made from sheep metapodial and decorated with ring and dot. The known examples seem to come from late Roman contexts.
- B.2.2 The other worked bone comprises two pieces of flat bone, which are possibly the waste from making bone inlays and which could well be Roman in date, and a fragment from an unfinished bone knife handle plate. The latter three finds all come from context 11011.

Context	Sherds
1907	Needle case. Fragment of a case made from a sheep metapodial bone. Usually the distal end is sawn off and the proximal end retained. This object is incomplete and the proximal end is broken off. The cut end survives and the internal void has clearly been widened and cleaned. The bone is polished and decorated with ring and dot. Bone. L extant: 65mm; W: 11mm. Probably late Roman in date.
11011	Bone offcut. Flat piece of bone with one smooth face with open spongy structured cancellous bone on the back. The long edges of the offcut appear to have part cut through then snapped. Bone 16mm x 10mm x 2mm. Sample <5>
	Cut bone. Flat piece of bone with smooth faces, of tapered rather than rectangular section, cut square on three sides and broken on one short side. Possible inlay, but probably unfinished? Bone. 38mm x 18mm x 5.4mm. Sample <5>
	Possible unfinished and broken knife handle plate. The fragment roughed out to a rounded terminal, but broken at the opposite end. Bone, probably tibia. 36mm x 26 x 12mm. Sample <5>

Table 2: Summary of worked bone

B.3 Coins

By Paul Booth

Introduction

B.3.1 Four Roman coins were recovered, all by metal detecting. Two are common 4th-century types, though one is of interest in indicating that activity on the site continued to the very end of the Roman period. The other two coins, of earlier Roman date, are an unusually thick sestertius, perhaps of Marcus Aurelius (AD 161–180) but extremely worn, and an unidentified denarius. This piece is possibly plated, but is currently obscured by an unusual encrustation which will need to be removed to enable identification.

Context	Coord.	Date	Den/Size	Obv	Rev	Mint	Wear	Comment
1900	SK 80160 39539	2C	sestertius ? 25– 27mm	bearded head r	standing figure [S] C		EW/V W	unusually thick, legends lost, perhaps M Aurelius
1900	SK 80182 39492	330– 335	AE3 17mm	CONSTANTI NVSIVN[GLORIA EXER CITVS 2 standards	P[SW/S W	mm mostly lost
1900	SK 80161 39523	338– 402	AE3/4 13mm	head r	VICTORIA AVGGG	?	SW/S W	mm unclear
2800	SK 80392 39277	1– early 3C	denarius	head r	?		?SW/S W	possibly plated, probably quite good but has unusual encrustation not removed at this stage

Table 3: Summary of coins

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Description

B.4.1 A total of 58 pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. Four of these are heat affected (see Table 4).

Context	No	Weight (g)	Notes
206	1	19	Heat cracked and blackened quartzite
11011	2	420	Reddened sandstone
1306	1	4	Blackened

Table 4: Summary of burnt stone

- B.4.2 Items from four contexts are considered to have been worked or used. Five fragments of shale from the upper fill of ditch 2005 (2004). These do not bear any traces of having been worked, but as they are not local to the site are presumably indicative of shale working or use here. Nine fragments of lias from possible ditch 1304 (fill 1306) are possible debris from tesserae manufacture. Lias was a commonly used tesserae material because it is hard wearing and fine-grained and because it splits easily into rods that can then be broken down into cubes. These fragments are suggestive of such a use, but not certain.
- B.4.3 A quartzite cobble was found in ditch 704 (705). This is broken but has been used as a smoother on one face and one end. A fragment of large rotary quern or millstone of flat disc type was found in the ploughsoil in trench 19 (1902). Its profile and the dressing of its grinding surface indicate that it was manufactured during the Roman period. However, it has been reused as a hone and may have been brought onto the site as part of its reuse, potentially at a date much later than its original use for grinding grain.
- B.4.4 Stone listed in Table 5 should be retained; the remaining stone can be discarded.

Context	Function	Notes	Size	Wt (g)	Lithology
705	Smoother	Flat cobble with one smoothed side and some slight wear on the one surviving end.	Measures >54mm long x 70mm wide x 28mm thick	189	grey quartzite
2006	Unworked	Five fragments, possibly debris, but no evidence of working.	Measurements are indeterminate	63	Shale (dry)
1902	Rotary quern or millstone	Edge fragment of large stone. Circumference suggests diameter of approx 70cm but only 5% survives so this is not reliable. Surviving fragment measures 200mm radius + 200mm other radius + approx 50mm eye = 450mm+ but with no evidence of the eye remaining, presumably much larger. Flat disc type with straight vertical edges. Grinding surface has radial grooves on the outer 110mm and has deep spaced pecking on the inner portion. Other face has been reused as a whetstone with some smoothing and with one shallow wide groove. Also burnt/slightly blackened on this face.	Measures 450mm+ diameter (estimated 700mm) x 40–46mm thick	1618	MG (Millstone Grit)
1306	Possible debris	Nine fragments, some of which are square. Could be tesserae making debris	Measures	378	Lias (grey)

Table 5: Details of worked or used stone

B.5 Ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

B.5.1 A small assemblage of tile amounting to ten fragments weighing 357g was recovered from seven contexts in four trenches. It has been recorded in the table below and fabrics described based on macroscopic characteristics supplemented with x20 hand lens at a finer level. A mix of Roman and post-medieval tile was recovered.

Roman tile

B.5.2 The Roman tile was recovered from contexts 705 and 805 and comprised a piece of plain flat tile and a fragment of flue tile. Both were made in a sandy clay fabric. The plain fragment measured 20mm thick and the flue tile 24mm. The flue tile had been keyed on the exterior face with two bands of coarse combing made with a comb 35mm wide with five teeth. The interior had been burnt brown from use as part of the heating system in the walls probably of a bath house.

B.5.3 A third fragment has not been dated or identified to form, but comes from the sieved sample from 705, which is dated to the later Roman period and therefore likely to be Roman. It is an odd piece with one flat surface and a second curving convex surface roughly at right angles, which appears to form a rounded nib or some sort of curving moulded surface. There is no obvious tile form to assign it to and in some respects the surface looks hand moulded suggesting it may in fact be fired clay rather than tile.

B.5.4 The Roman tile would originally have been used in the construction of a masonry building with at least one heated room. However, Roman tile was regularly reused both in building construction and at lower status settlements for use in ovens and hearths.

Post-medieval tile

B.5.5 The post-medieval tile was made in a red or orange clay fabric with fine cream laminations and containing a moderate density of quartz sand and red ferruginous clay pellets <2mm or iron oxide inclusions.

B.5.6 Fragments of roof tile were recovered from context 5518 comprising a roughly finished ridge tile and the edge from a pantile. A thick flat fragment of tile (ctx 2006) is also probably from some sort of roof tile.

B.5.7 Field drain tiles both took the form of cylindrical pipes measuring 80 and 90mm in diameter. The example from context 5519 appears to be hand-made and probably of mid-19th century date. The second from context 701 is machine extruded and would be mid-late 19th century or later in date.

B.5.8 The field drain tiles are indicative of agricultural improvement during the 19th and 20th centuries. The other fragments of tile are also likely to result from agricultural activity such as manuring and maintenance of farm trackways.

Context	No.	Wt (g)	Spot date	Form	Fabric	Comments
701	1	15	L C19–C20	Field drain: pipe	Red with fine cream laminations and pellets; sparse quartz sand; red ferruginous clay pellets <2mm.	Cylindrical pipe fragment with smooth inner and outer surfaces, machine extruded. 12mm th; 90mm dia.
705	1	44	RB	Flat tile	Pinkish brown; moderate evenly dispersed medium-coarse rounded quartz sand.	20mm th. Flat even surfaces, base slightly rougher and sanded.
705 <4>	1	16	U	Indeterminate	Pink, coarse sandy clay with iron oxide	Small fragment with smooth flat surface (?cut) and curving moulded surface at right angles, possibly forming a projecting nib.
705 <4>	1	2	U	Indeterminate	Light red coarse sandy clay with iron oxide	amorphous
804	1	1	Pmed?	Indeterminate	Red, fine sandy with white calc and red ferruginous speckling	Amorphous scrap
805	1	112	RB	Flue tile	Orange sandy clay finely speckled with red iron oxide.	24mm th. Smooth flat surfaces; interior sanded and burnt brown. Exterior is keyed with two bands of coarse combing set at an angle of c. 110°. Comb: 35mm wide with 5 teeth.
2006	1	11	C17–C19?	Tile	Red with fine cream laminations; moderate quartz sand; red ferruginous clay pellets <2mm.	Small scrap with flat smooth upper surface, rough sanded lower surface. 19mm th.
5518	1	115	C17–C19	Roof: ridge	Orange with cream laminations; cream marl pellets up to 10mm; red ferruginous clay pellets <2mm.	Roughly smoothed exterior surface with linear corrugations; flat even sanded edge and underside. 17mm th.
5518	1	13	C19	Roof: pantile	Red with fine cream laminations; sparse quartz sand; red ferruginous clay pellets <2mm.	Edge fragment with curved profile; smooth top, flat sanded base surface. 16mm th.
5518	1	28	C19	Field drain: pipe	Orange; high density coarse quartz sand & moderate red iron oxide pellets <2mm.	Fragment of cylindrical pipe 80mm dia, 17mm thick. Smooth exterior, rough sanded inner surface.
Total	10	357				

Table 6: Summary of ceramic building material

B.6 Fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

- B.6.1 Fired clay amounting to 14 fragments (190g) were recovered from six contexts concentrated in trenches 8, 13, 19, 54 and 110. None is distinctively diagnostic, and as a result cannot be dated. The fired clay has been recorded in table 7.
- B.6.2 Fabrics varied from smooth cream-buff clay free from inclusions to coarser sandy red and pink firing clay containing quartz, iron oxide and more rarely shell inclusions. The only deliberately added tempering material appears to be chaff observed in one piece. On a second fragment, the chaff only appeared to occur on the surface suggesting the chaff had been used as a separator to stop the clay sticking during manufacture, rather than as temper.
- B.6.3 Function cannot be firmly determined in any of the fragments, though several pieces have characteristics suggestive of portable oven or hearth furniture. The most convincing is a small fragment from context 5407, which appeared to form the edge of a disc or oven plate with a smooth flat surface and convex base forming a lenticular cross-section. The fragment is most akin to the circular discs or polygonal plates found in Oxfordshire and neighbouring regions during Roman period and this piece could be from a similar type of object.
- B.6.4 Other fragments with chaff impressions either as temper or over the surface are also most likely to be scraps of oven furniture. Chaff was more commonly used in this manner during the late Iron Age and Roman period.
- B.6.5 Evidence of structural material was sparse, but a fragment with a flat surface in a sandy fabric may be oven lining and a thin flat scrap may be clay bedding used to bed tile or stone slabs in an oven or hearth.
- B.6.6 The overall character of the assemblage would suggest a late Iron Age or Roman date. Associated dateable finds may provide more accurate and precise phasing for the assemblage.

Context	No.	Wt (g)	Form	Fabric	Comments
805	2	7	Indeterminate	Brown. Coarse sandy clay with fine thin shelly inclusions	Irregular amorphous scrap. 25mm L
1305	4	111	Oven furniture?	Cream – buff clay fired pink & blackened at surface	All pieces probably part of a single object: 3 fragments refit. Form unclear probably portable oven furniture. 38–40mm th
1305	1	13	Structural?	Red, pinkish brown, buff coarse sandy clay with quartz & red fe ox.	Smooth slightly dished moulded surface. 15mm th. Probably fragment of oven/hearth structure.

Context	No.	Wt (g)	Form	Fabric	Comments
1306 <1>	2	10	Oven furniture?	Pink with black core; fine smooth clay	Flat fairly even surface; possibly fragments of oven plate. Possible chaff impressions in surface.
1306 <1>	1	1	Indeterminate	pink with bright orange-red surface; fine smooth clay	8mm th. This superficially looks like a rim sherd of a crude vessel, but it could be a scrap of clay bedding with smoothed exposed edge.
1907 <7>	1	3	Indeterminate	Black; chaff tempered clay.	Amorphous scrap from core of object (probably portable oven furniture such as disc from fabric).
5407	1	25	Disc/OP?	Red/pink mottled clay with red speckling from iron oxide; fossil shell 11mm	Fairly smooth flat upper surface; rough curving convex edge and base surface forming lenticular profile with top. Edge ?straight. 22mm thick.
11004	1	10	Unknown	Fired Clay	-
11011	1	10	Unknown	Fired Clay	-
Total	14	190	-	-	-

Table 7: Summary of fired clay

B.7 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.7.1 A small assemblage of three struck pieces and eight burnt unworked fragments of flint was recovered from this evaluation. Two natural pot-lid fractures were also recovered. The sole piece of interest was a serrated blade from context 2600 that is most probably early Neolithic or late Mesolithic in date. None of the remaining pieces are in any way diagnostic.

Methodology

B.7.2 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72–77; Healy 1988, 48–9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially

undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Discussion

B.7.3 This very small assemblage is of little note. One of the pieces is clearly early prehistoric in date and this may add to our understanding of activity in the immediate vicinity during that period. It is probably early Neolithic as these tools tend to have well defined teeth in the earlier Neolithic rather than broader serration in the Mesolithic. The burnt unworked material consists of very small fragments and it is possible that these pieces have been burnt accidentally rather than as pot boilers for cooking/heating water.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
705	Burnt unworked		One fragment weighing 1g	
805	Natural		Pot lid	
1306	Burnt unworked		Seven quite small fragments (9g) and perhaps accidentally burnt	
1306	Flake	Misc trimming	Distal segment of heavily burnt flake	
1503	Irregular waste		Possibly natural	
5516	Natural		Pot lid	
2600	Microdenticulate	Distal trimming blade	Still with visible teeth right side and also heavy use, left edge may have retouched but less corticated so maybe damage	?E Neo/EPH

Table 8: Summary of flints

B.8 Metal finds

By Ian R. Scott

- B.8.1 There is a small collection of seven metal finds, three of which (Nos 5–7) are metal detector finds. Three finds (Nos 1, 3 and 4) were recovered from soil samples. There are also a small number of Roman coins which have been reported separately.
- B.8.2 The finds from soil samples comprise an incomplete nail encrusted with corrosion products (No. 1), a small thin encrusted iron disc (No. 3) and a single hobnail (No. 4). The latter is certainly Roman.
- B.8.3 The metal detector finds include a small piece of thin lead sheet (No. 5), a segment comprising a quarter of short cross silver penny (No. 6) and a very worn George III halfpenny.

Context	No.	Description
206	(1)	Nail with small head, incomplete and encrusted. Fe. Not measured. Sample <3>
805	(2)	Rod fragment. Fe. L: 74mm.

Context	No.	Description
1306	(3)	Small iron disc, thin but encrusted. Fe. D: 17mm. Sample <1>
11011	(4)	Hobnail, encrusted. Fe. Not measured. Sample <5>
13000	(5)	Thin lead sheet fragment, very roughly square with rounded corners. Pb. 32mm x 28mm.
19000	(6)	Short cross penny. Quarter segment cut from a short cross penny of the type issued first by Henry II in 1180 and used until 1247 in the reign of Henry III.
20000	(7)	George III halfpenny, very worn and reduced in diameter. D: 27mm.

Table 9: Summary of metal finds

B.9 Slag

Identified by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
1305	1 piece of slag, 41g
1306	<1> 2 pieces of slag from environmental sample, 14g
11011	2 pieces of fuel ash slag, 9g

Table 10: Summary of slag

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Martyn Allen

- C.1.1 A total of 513 animal bone specimens were recovered by hand and a further 254 from environmental samples. The assemblage was fairly well preserved and was not excessively fragmented. The majority of remains derived from Roman features dating from the 1st century to the 4th century AD, and a slightly higher proportion were recovered from later Roman features. A very small quantity of material was spot dated to the Iron Age and medieval periods.
- C.1.2 Sheep/goat remains were the most common animals represented in the assemblage, in both hand-collected and environmental samples, closely followed by cattle bones. Pig remains were fairly well represented, as were horse bones. Ageing data suggest that domestic animals were generally culled at young ages, and the presence of foetal/neonatal cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones indicates that these species were being bred at the site. A small number of bird bones were identified. Chickens may have been husbanded and wildfowling appears to have been undertaken on occasion. Butchery marks were consistent with animals being slaughtered and processed on-site, and there was some evidence of antler- and bone-working.
- C.1.3 The quantity of bones recovered from the evaluation, and their good level of preservation, suggests that there is good potential for the recovery of a sizable assemblage from open-area excavation.

Methods

- C.1.4 The animal bone assemblage has been analysed and specimens identified to species or genus with the aid of the comparative skeletal assemblage housed at OA South. Undiagnostic skull fragments, vertebrae, ribs and long-bone fragments have been classified as either large mammal (e.g. cattle, horse), medium mammal (e.g. sheep, pig), small mammal (e.g. cat, mustelid) and micro-mammals (e.g. rodents), and are included in the identified sample.
- C.1.5 All fragments, including remains from both hand-collected and sieved samples, have been examined on a fragment-by-fragment basis and have been quantified by taxon (NISP). Refitted fragments were counted as single specimens. Element zones were recorded according to Serjeantson's (1996) criteria.
- C.1.6 Dental wear patterns on cattle and sheep/goat teeth were recorded using the system of Grant (1982). No pig teeth were available for dental-wear analysis. These data were used to estimate age-at-death following the work of Jones (2006) for sheep and Jones and Sadler (2012) for cattle.
- C.1.7 Butchery marks have been recorded using Maltby's (2010) codes. Evidence for burning has been recorded on specimens as either partially burnt, black, grey or calcined. Gnaw marks have been noted, where present, while evidence for pathology has been recorded in detail. No measurements were taken.

C.1.8 All data have been recorded on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and will be held in the project archive.

Taphonomy and preservation

C.1.9 The animal bone assemblage was generally very well preserved. There was little sign of surface degradation and post-depositional fragmentation. A total of 30 specimens (3.9%) exhibited butchered marks, and these were easy to identify on bone surfaces (see below for specific details on carcass-processing).

C.1.10 Gnaw marks were generally infrequent, found on only 16 bones (2.1%) from eight contexts. Gnaw marks were commonest on sheep/goat bones, but were also found on cattle, pig and horse bones. Of the gnawed specimens, 15 had been chewed by dogs or foxes, and one, a cattle tibia from context 1005, showed signs of rodent gnawing. The most likely culprit of the rodent gnawing is the house mouse, as remains of this species were found in several environmental samples (see below). The comparatively low incidence of gnawing suggests that carcass waste was being deposited fairly quickly after butchery and consumption, with little material left lying around for animals to scavenge. It is also possible that some remains were deliberately fed to dogs and then cleared away with the main refuse.

C.1.11 Burnt bones were rare, consisting of only 11 specimens (1.4%), seven of which were recovered from sieved samples. Seven specimens were fully calcined to a white colour, indicating that they had been subjected to a very high temperature for a prolonged period. Because of the extreme heat, most of these specimens were fragmentary and could not be identified to taxon. Two calcined specimens from context 11011 were long-bone fragments from a medium-sized mammal. A sheep/goat astragalus from context 1306 had been burnt to a grey colour indicating that it had been subjected to a temperature greater than that expected from cooking.

Taxa representation

C.1.12 A fairly wide range of animal species were identified in the assemblage, including domestic and wild mammals, domestic and wild birds, and amphibians (Tables 11 and 12). Sheep/goats were the most common species represented in the hand-collected assemblage and the environmental samples, consisting of a combined total of 95 specimens. These were closely followed by cattle remains comprising 61 specimens from the hand-collected assemblage and 13 from environmental samples. Sheep/goat and cattle remains were fairly evenly distributed across numerous contexts and there was no evidence of any concentrations of material.

C.1.13 Pig bones numbered 23 specimens and although this is not a high overall number, it is a comparatively sizable proportion of the total number of identified specimens. A total of 13 horse bones were recovered from six contexts, all of which were recovered by hand. Only three dog bones were recovered, two from context 11011 and one from 805. Red deer remains consisted of three antler fragments from context 11011.

C.1.14 Micro-mammal specimens consisted of house mouse, bank vole, shrew and some unidentified rodent bones. These were all recovered from environmental samples (Table 12). Numerous house mouse bones (26) were recovered from sample 7 (context

1907), representing the remains of more than one individual. The shrew specimen consisted of a single incisor from context 1101.

C.1.15 A total of 11 bird bones comprised remains of chicken, goose, a plover species and a possible snipe bone. Most of the bird bones were recovered from environmental samples.

C.1.16 A total of 12 amphibian bones were recovered, all from three environmental samples. These were all from either frogs or toads, though the two species were not distinguished during the analysis.

Context	Spot date	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Red deer	Chicken	Bird	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Small mammal	Unidentified	Total
103	Iron Age	2												2
5512	Iron Age	3												3
1004	AD 43-410		1							2			3	6
1005	AD 43-410	1	1										1	3
1311	AD 43-410	1	3							1				5
1416	AD 43-410	1			1					13				15
1907	AD 43-410	5	10							13	4		22	54
2905	AD 43-410	1		1									1	3
806	AD 100-410			5							3			8
1001	AD 140-170		2							1			3	6
1405	AD 140-400		1											1
1421	AD 140-400	3	1										1	5
3006	AD 140-400				3									3
11004	AD 150-200		1								4			5
700	AD 150-350	2	3	2						6	2		1	16
801	AD 150-350									1				1
206	AD 150-400			1						1	2			4
11011	AD 170-250	4	6	2	4	2	3	2	1	3	19		34	80
1905	AD 250-350		2										8	10
705	AD 250-400	4	5	1	2					14	2		9	37
804	AD 250-400	9	4	2						8	6		31	60
805	AD 250-400	4	5	1		1				11	7	1	40	70
1306	AD 250-400	10	13	3	1					10	2		12	51
2006	AD 1550-1750	2	2	1						1		1		7
204	–										2		1	3
303	–	3	2							4	1		9	19
1504	–	1								1				2
2605	–	2												2
3105	–	1									1			2
3204	–		1											1
3206	–												6	6
5405	–									1	2		1	4

Context	Spot date	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Red deer	Chicken	Bird	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Small mammal	Unidentified	Total
5407	–				2					1				3
5516	–	1	2	2						2	2	1	2	12
5518	–	1												1
11010	–										1		2	3
Total		61	65	21	13	3	3	2	1	94	60	3	187	513

Table 11: Number of animal bone specimens from each context (hand-collected assemblage)

Context (sample)	206 (3)	705 (4)	1101 (5)	1306 (1)	1907 (7)	2905 (8)	3206 (2)	Total
Spot date	AD 150-400	AD 250-400	–	AD 250-400	AD 43-410	AD 43-410	–	
Cattle	7	3	2		1			13
Sheep/Goat	8	3	11	1	6		1	30
Pig		1		1				2
House mouse		3			26			29
Bank vole	2				1			3
Rodent	3		9	4			4	20
Shrew			1					1
Small mammal		1	6				1	8
Medium mammal	2		12	10	10			34
Large mammal	12		4				1	17
Chicken			1					1
Goose			1					1
cf. Snipe			1					1
Plover			1					1
Bird			4					4
Frog/Toad		1	5		6			12
Unidentified	32	11	15	8	4	3	4	77
Total	66	23	73	24	54	3	11	254

Table 12: Number of animal bone specimens from each context (sieved samples)

Body-part patterns

C.1.17 The assemblage was not large enough for distinctive body-part patterns to be identified, though a wide range of cattle and sheep/goat elements were present (Table 13). Tooth specimens of both species were fairly common. Scapulae, femora and tibiae specimens were the most numerous of the cattle remains, each representing meat-bearing body parts. Sheep/goat remains were perhaps more acutely affected by taphonomic processes (compared to cattle), as these included a higher proportion of loose teeth and were well-represented by mandible, distal tibia and proximal metapodial specimens, all of which are relatively robust and survive comparatively well.

C.1.18 Pig bones were heavily dominated by skull, mandible and tooth specimens. These elements are frequently well represented in pig assemblages, generally as a result of differential survival.

C.1.19 A range of horse elements were identified, including specimens from the skull, fore- and rear-limbs.

Element	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Horse
horncore	3	–	–	–
skull	4	2	4	–
mandible	4	9	5	1
tooth	14	32	6	3
scapula	5	3	1	–
humerus	3	7	1	–
radius	2	2	–	1
ulna	2	3	1	–
metacarpal	2	5	2	3
pelvis	6	2	–	–
femur	5	4	–	–
tibia	6	12	1	–
calcaneus	–	–	–	1
astragalus	3	1	–	1
naviculo-cuboid	1	1	–	–
metatarsal	3	9	–	1
metapodial	1	2	1	–
1st phalanx	4	1	–	–
2nd phalanx	4	–	1	2
3rd phalanx	2	–	–	–
total	74	95	23	13

Table 13: Number of specimens by element of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse (hand-collected and sieved samples)

Age at death

- C.1.20 Ageing data were notably rare. Five sheep/goat and three cattle dental specimens provided age information (Table 14). Perhaps surprisingly, all the sheep/goat remains derived from different age groups, ranging from 3–12 months to 4.5–e.9 years. The cattle remains included one neonatal specimen and two aged about 16 months to 3 years.
- C.1.21 In terms of bone development, most cattle and sheep/goat remains were skeletally mature, as was a horse 2nd phalanx and a pig 5th metacarpal. One pig 2nd phalanx from 705 was almost certainly foetal, while a sheep/goat metatarsal from context 1905 was from a neonate. Bones from neonatal/infant sheep/goats were also recovered from contexts 1907 (tibia and long bone) and 206 (metatarsal).
- C.1.22 The fairly young kill pattern exhibited by the remains of the main domestic mammals suggests that meat production was a priority, while the presence of foetal and neonatal sheep/goat and pig remains suggest that these animals were being bred at the site.

Context	Taxon	dp4	P4	M1	M2	M3	MWS	estimated age
11011	sheep/goat	h		e	a	C		3–12 months
1907	sheep/goat			e	d	V	21	10–24 months
1306	sheep/goat					b		20–36 months
1306	sheep/goat					e		2.5–4.5 years
5516	sheep/goat			j	g	g	38	4.5–e.9 years
1306	cattle	a						0–1 month
804	cattle					a		16–28 months
805	cattle					b		26–36 months

Table 14: Dental wear data for cattle and sheep/goats (tooth wear codes and mandible wear scores (MWS) following Grant (1982) and estimated ages follow Jones (2006) for sheep/goats and Jones and Sadler (2012) for cattle)

Butchery

- C.1.23 Of the 30 butchered bones, 15 were from cattle, five were from sheep/goats, three were worked red deer antler specimens, five were large mammal long bone fragments (probably all cattle), and one was from a horse.
- C.1.24 Of the cattle bones, three metapodials exhibited numerous skinning marks on the shafts. One horncore had been chopped at the base and another had been sawn through near the tip. One skull had been chopped through the eye socket, perhaps to access the brain. Two pelvis bones exhibited superficial chop marks aimed at dismembering the hip. Cut marks around the articulations of long bone were found on humerus and tibia specimens, and several long bones had light, superficial chop marks or cut marks on the shafts of the bone, made during defleshing. A tibia and a femur had been axially split to access the marrow, while one femur had a large chunk (5mm thick) chopped out of the surface of the shaft on the anterior side and was subsequently fractured.

- C.1.25 Butchery on the sheep/goat bones was exclusively of knife cuts on metapodials from skinning and on long bones from defleshing.
- C.1.26 One horse metacarpal from context 3006 had a possible cut on anterior of the shaft near the proximal end.
- C.1.27 All three red deer antler specimens from the site, found in context 11011, were sawn through horizontally and represent fragments of working waste.

Pathologies

- C.1.28 Only one bone showed signs of pathology. The horse metacarpal from context 3006 exhibited a thin but extensive layer of periostitis over the shaft. The causes of periostitis in horse feet are varied, and in this case a diagnosis is uncertain, but it may have signalled the onset of lameness in the horse. It is not known whether this was related to the death of the animal.

Discussion

- C.1.29 The evaluation produced a sizable animal bone assemblage and included a relatively wide range of species. Evidence for breeding of cattle, sheep/goats and pigs was found, and some data point to mixed husbandry regimes focused on meat production and consumption. Bone and antler-working evidence provides information on local craft activities. Chickens were probably husbanded at the site, though the analysis of further remains is required to confirm this. The presence of wildfowl specimens is interesting as possibly indicates a site of some status. Plover and snipe bones highlight the exploitation of local wetlands.

Recommendations

- C.1.30 The animal bone assemblage provides some useful information about animal exploitation at the site in the Roman period. The animal bones are numerous and well preserved, suggesting that there is good potential for further remains being recovered for analysis. Should open-area excavation be undertaken, it is recommended that the bones from the evaluation are incorporated with the resulting assemblage.

C.2 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

- C.2.1 Eight bulk samples were taken during the evaluation at Bottesford, Leicestershire. The samples all consisted of a silty clay which required pre-soaking before flotation and produced large ironstone rich residues. These samples were taken primarily for the retrieval of Charred Plant Remains (CPR) and artefacts.

Method

- C.2.2 The bulk samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in 250µm

meshes and the heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

- C.2.3 Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (Jacomet 2006), identification of wild plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

- C.2.4 Table 15 gives full details of the samples and the charred taxa identified from them. The samples all originated in an area of site that is predominantly Roman in date and it is likely that the undated features are also from the Roman period.

Area 1

- C.2.5 Samples 3 (206), 4 (705) and 5 (1111) came from area 1. All three contain charcoal in generally good condition although some fragments are externally encrusted with mineral precipitate. Despite all three samples containing modern root there is still a reasonable amount of charred material present. Cereal grain is present within all three flots, however sample 5 which was from the upper fill of 1109 an unclassified feature, is the only one containing large quantities. In all three samples the grain is in poor condition with the majority unidentifiable as a result of damage from burning, although the majority of identified grains appears to be glume wheat (*Triticum* sp.) with a smaller quantity of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and some oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*) which is likely to be a crop contaminant.
- C.2.6 The seeds of wild plants present within these samples are largely from weeds of cultivation. Their condition is mixed with observed damage again largely the result of burning rather than conditions on site

Area 2, North West

- C.2.7 Samples 1 (1306) and 7 (1907) originate from features in area 2 NW. Both flots contain small amounts of grain and chaff which is generally small and in poor condition. As these samples both came from ditch fills it is likely that the poor condition and fragmentation derives a combination of damage from burning and secondary deposition. The paucity of the remains in ditch fills is typically due to the fact that ditches are not generally used for the disposal of waste during their period of use. The small fragments of chaff present may be windblown. Non cultivated plant seeds are similar to those observed within area 1 and are generally in poor condition.

Area 2, South East

- C.2.8 Samples 2 (3206) and 8 (2904) originated from area 2SE. Both flots are rich in cereal grain, but again this is typically in poor condition, with the majority in each sample being unidentifiable and wheat being the only cultivated grain to be identified.

Samples 2 and 8 contain fragments of what appear to be legumes >4mm, possibly the remains of peas or beans although the remains are these are very fragmented and impossible to identify conclusively. Wild plant seeds are again typically those found as weeds of cultivation and are similar to those observed elsewhere on the site. Given the amount of material present in these samples, especially sample 8, these features may be close to areas of crop processing and/or disposal of the waste material produced.

Area 3

- C.2.9 Sample 6 (5518) was the only sample taken from this area. Only a small amount of charred material is present within the flot. The charred material is generally small and in poor condition, perhaps reflecting windblown deposition, or material caught up as a result of ploughing. It is unclear if this material originates from the Roman settlement to the North or is related to the Medieval and Post-Medieval activity to the south.

Finds from the sample residues

- C.2.10 Pottery was extracted from the residues of samples 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7. Animal bone from the residues of all samples with the exception of sample 6, slag from sample 1, iron fragments from samples 1, 3 and 5, and fired clay from the residues of samples 1, 4 and 7. In addition burnt stone and/or flint was extracted from samples 1, 3, 4 and 5. A fragment of worked bone was recovered from sample 5. All are considered in the respective Finds reports.

Discussion

- C.2.11 The majority of samples taken from this site are either Roman in date or associated with other features dated to this period. The poor condition of the material makes it difficult to discuss farming regimes, beyond the fact that arable crops were clearly utilized and probably grown locally, with glume wheat, probably spelt (*Triticum spelta*) well represented and the possibility of barley as a secondary crop although this is represented by a few grains in poor condition. Charred plant assemblage recovered from samples dating to the Romano-British period in the east midlands, including Leicestershire, are typically dominated wheat, mainly spelt, with occasional emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) and bread wheat type (*T. aestivum*) grains; and hulled barley, including six-row barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) as a second important cereal (Monckton 2003). Wild or cultivated oat is also typically identified and was probably a common weed of the crops (ibid.). Also typical of the Roman period are dumps of burnt wheat chaff from cereal processing, so in all these respects the samples from Bottesford fit the general pattern for agriculture in this region.
- C.2.12 The majority of charred seeds within these samples are from common crop contaminants such as oat/brome, vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), grass seeds, and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) which is particularly associated with the Roman expansion of agriculture into heavier soils often not exploited during the Iron Age. Since the soils at the Site are alluvial and typically silt and clay dominated, it seems likely that the arable crops were grown locally.

C.2.13 There would appear to be very little difference in overall composition of material between those samples dated to the early period and those from the later period indicating probable continuity over the lifetime of this site.

Recommendations

C.2.14 The flots should be retained until all works on this site are complete when the relationships of these features are better understood, at which point a firm decision on discard and retention will be more easily made. However, at this stage, with the possible exception of sample 8 which might merit further attention if the site proceeds to excavation, it is not expected that further work on this material will be required. These flots should be retained as part of the archive.

Sample no.	Context no.	Trench	Area	Sample vol. (L)	Feature/Deposit	Date	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
1	1306	13	2NW	38	Upper fill of ditch 1304	AD 250–400	25	***	***	**	**			Some heavy external encrustation esp on charcoal. Charc includes knotty fragments and tree buds. Small amount of anthracite and indet clinkered material. Grain in clinkered condition with some vitrification. Grain mostly indet (c25), 4 grains are possibly wheat. Seeds include <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Medicago</i> sp., <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , grass seeds and Cyperaceae – condition generally poor. Glume bases are very fragmented.
2	3206	32	2SE	38	Spread	U/D	10	**	***	**	***		*	Charcoal generally small in size with some external encrustation. Grain is v fragmented, clinkered and vitrified. 40+ indet grain, small amount of wheat. Small quantity of indet chaff fragments with one glume base frag and 1 rachis frag. Seeds include <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , oat/brome, grass seeds, <i>Rumex</i> sp., generally poor condition. 2 fragments are potentially from legumes >4mm but these are in v poor condition.
3	206	2	1	40	Fill of 205	AD 150–400	50	***	***	***	*			Almost entirely modern roots. Charcoal in mixed condition. Grain is v fragmented, clinkered and vitrified. 20 indet grain, small amount of possible wheat. 40+ glume base fragments. 1 <i>Rumex</i> sp., 1 <i>Anthemis/Leucanthemum</i> .
4	705	7	1	40	Single fill of ditch 704	AD 250–400	25	***	***	*	***			Mostly modern roots. Charcoal in mixed condition. Cereal grain in very poor condition but includes possible wheat, and barley as well as oat/brome. 2 small glume bases fragments. Seeds include <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Juncus</i> sp., <i>Rumex</i> sp., Asteraceae and Cyperaceae in poor condition.
5	1111	11	1	40	Upper fill of 1109	U/D	75	****	****	**	**	*		Flot is very rooty. Charcoal includes some small roundwood. 100+ indet cereal present. Wheat (20+) and rare barley (3) and oat (1). Chaff is small and fragmented. Seeds include <i>Juncus</i> sp., <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , <i>Medicago</i> sp., and grass seeds. 1 detached embryo not sprouted.
6	5518	55	3	39	Single fill of ditch 5517	U/D	16	*	**	*	*	*		Very rooty, Charcoal is very small in size. Indet clinker and anthracite fragments. Cereal grains are unidentifiable due to poor condition. Single small glume base fragment. Single <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> and two <i>Anthemis cotula</i> .

Sample no.	Context no.	Trench	Area	Sample vol. (L)	Feature/Deposit	Date	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
7	1907	19	2NW	40	Single fill of ditch [1906]	AD 43–410	14	**	**	**	**			Very rooty. Charcoal is very small in size. Cereal is largely indet with one possible wheat grain. Small fragments of glume base chaff. Seeds inc <i>Rumex</i> sp., and <i>Juncus</i> sp., but are mostly unidentifiable. 2 detached embryos not sprouted.
8	2904	29	2SE	38	Single fill of ditch [2903]	U/D	200	***	****	***	***		**	100ml scanned. Charcoal is very heavily encrusted. Rich in cereal grain with 200+ present in scanned portion. Grain is mostly indet but includes wheat and oat/brome. Glume base fragments are generally small but include occasional frags which are probably spelt. Rachis internode fragments also present. Seeds include <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Rumex</i> , sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosis</i> , grass seeds, <i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> and Cyperaceae. Five legume fragments >4mm.

Table 15: Summary of charred plant material (+ = present (up to 5 items), ++ = frequent (5–25), +++ = common (25–100), ++++ = abundant (>100))

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land at Rectory Farm, Bottesford, Leicestershire
Site code:	X/A98.2018
Grid Reference	SK 803 394
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	September 2018 for 3 weeks
Area of Site	13.35ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums (part of Leicestershire County Council) in due course, under accession code X/A98.2018.
Summary of Results:	OA were commissioned by CgMs in September 2018 to undertake an evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development to the north of Bottesford, Leicestershire (SK 8030 3940). A total of 28 trenches was excavated over 13.35ha to ground-truth geophysical anomalies and to target specific areas of archaeological potential. The evaluation confirmed the presence of significant late Iron Age and Roman settlement activity. The archaeology was deeply buried in places and well-preserved from having been sealed by up to 1m of alluvium. Evidence of possible rural 'dark-earth' deposits were also identified across areas of settlement indicating a phase of possible abandonment during the early–middle Saxon period.

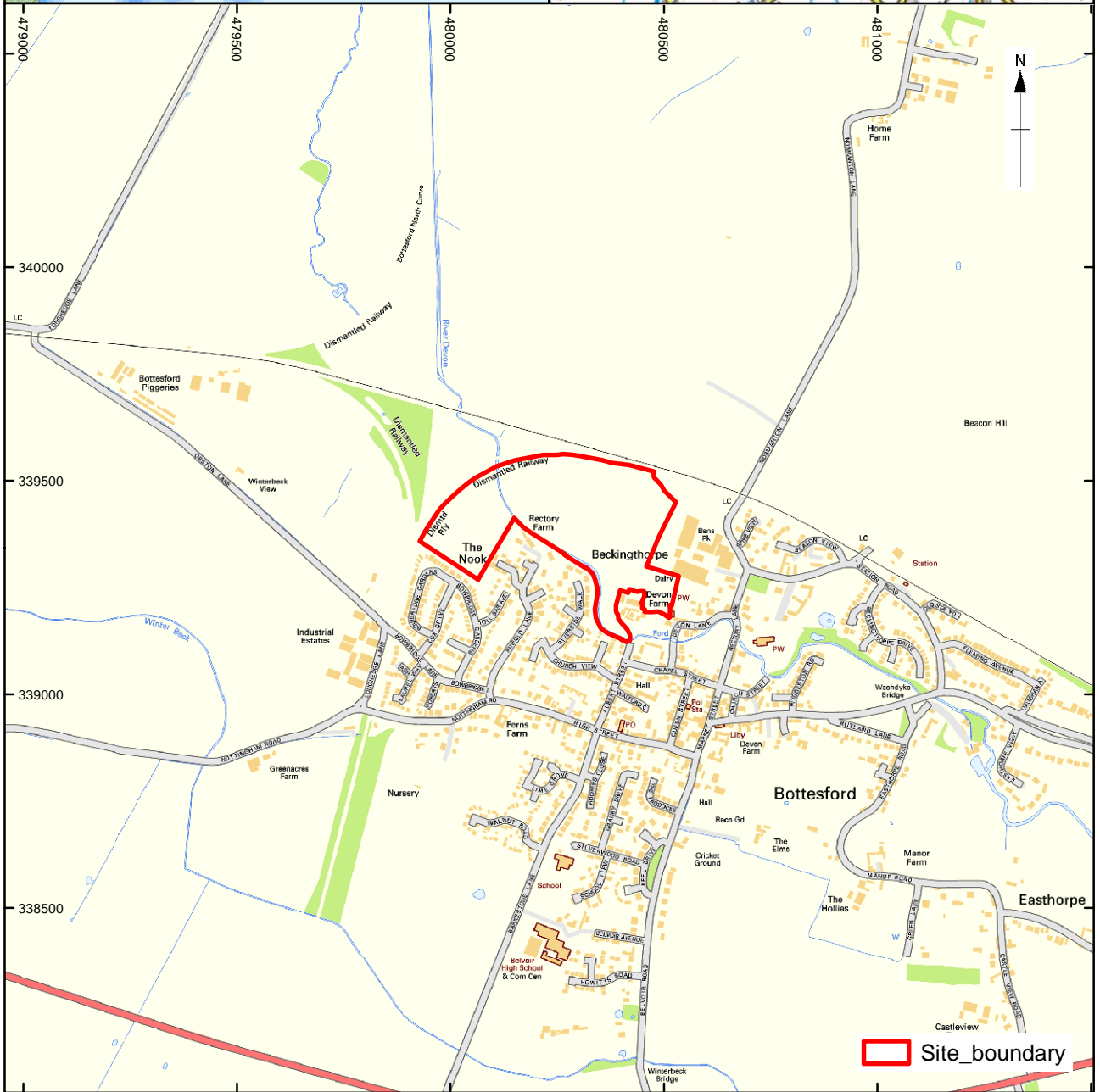
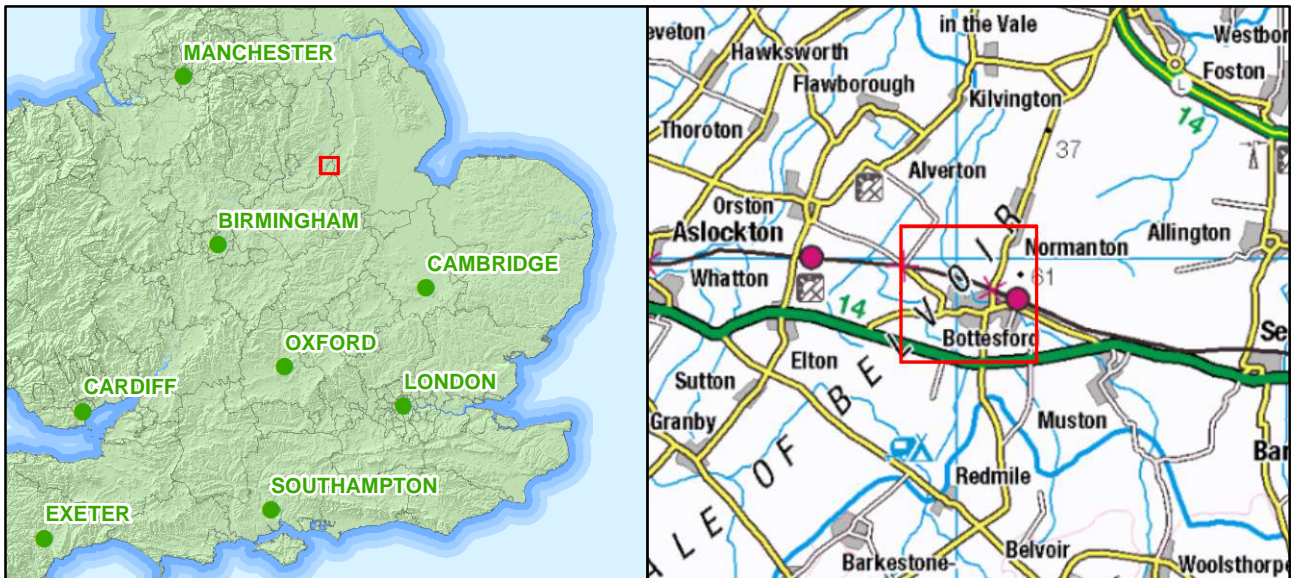


Figure 1: Site location

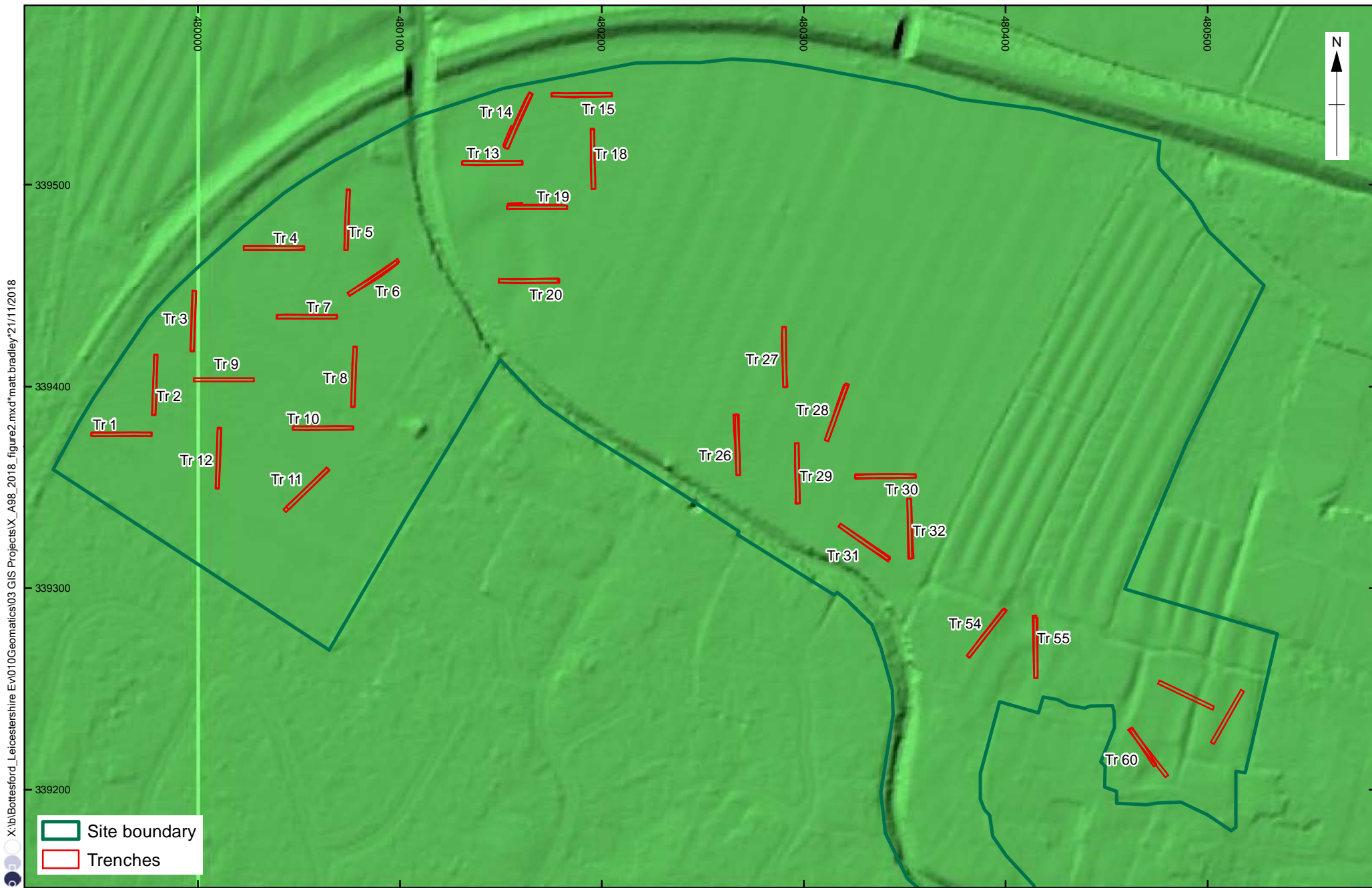
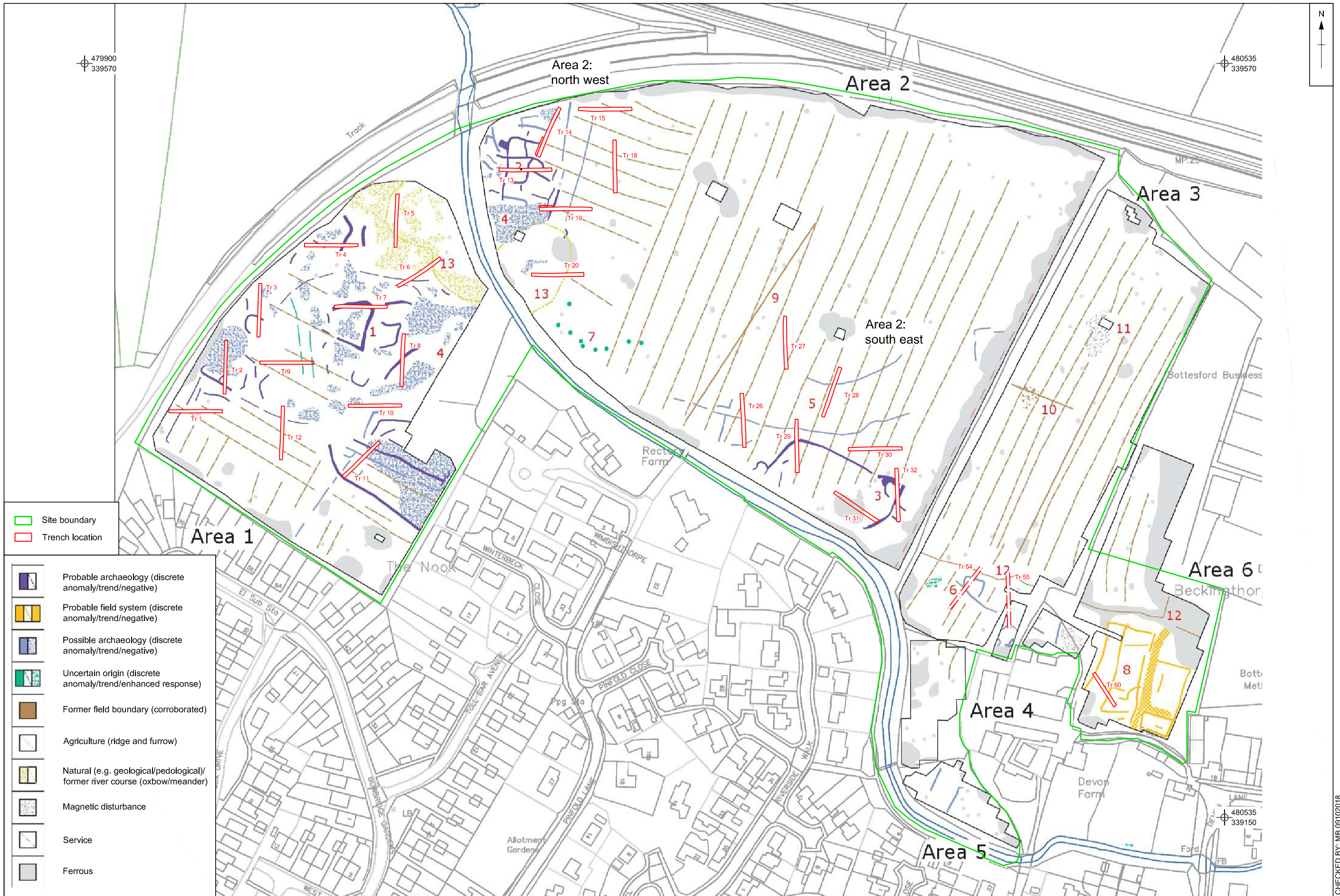


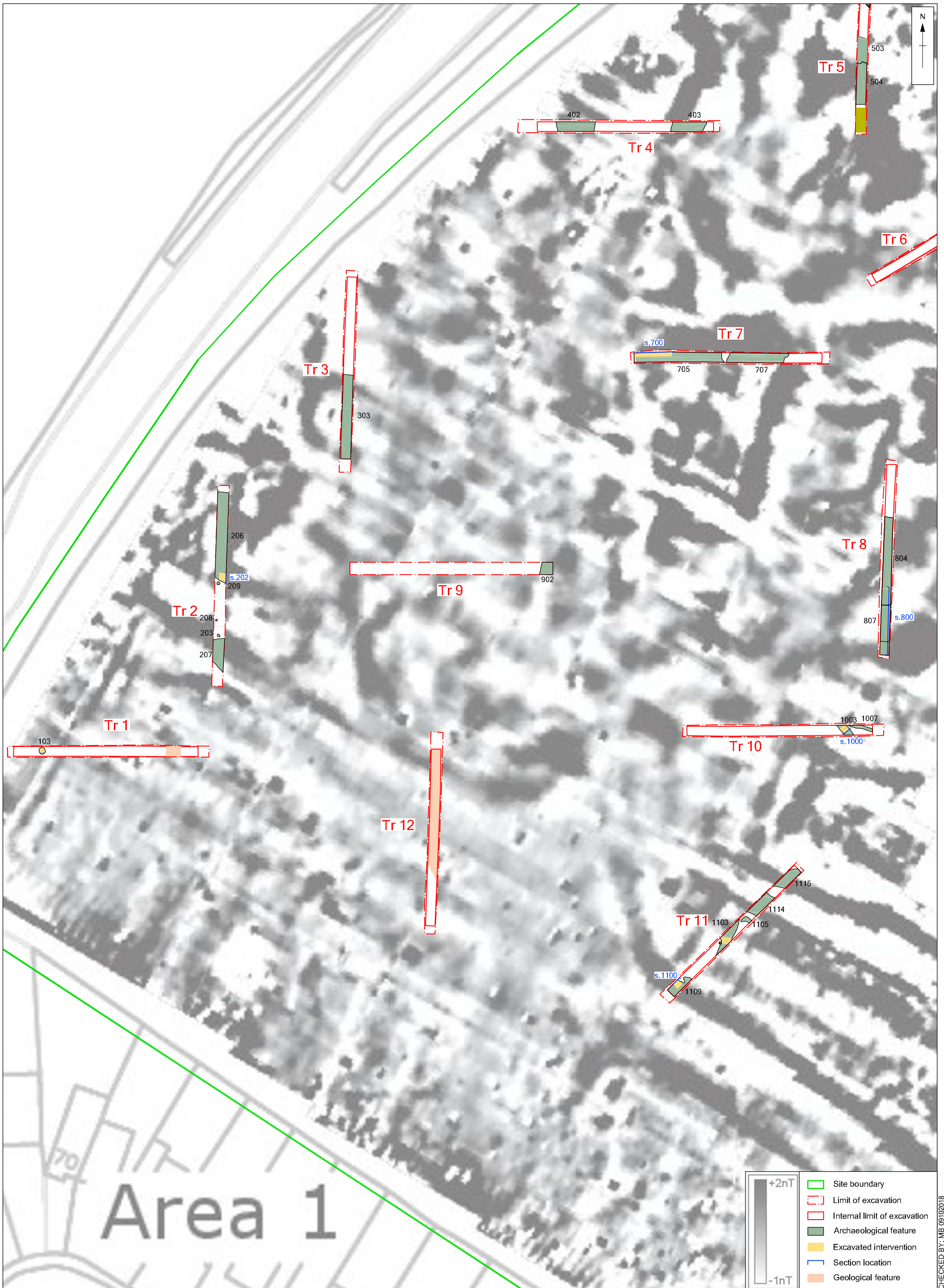
Figure 2: Lidar with trench locations



Survey Data supplied by :
Katie Webster

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Figure 3: trench locations with geophysics (interpretative plot)



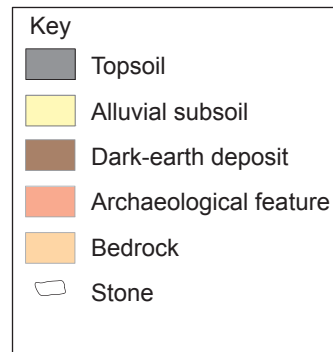
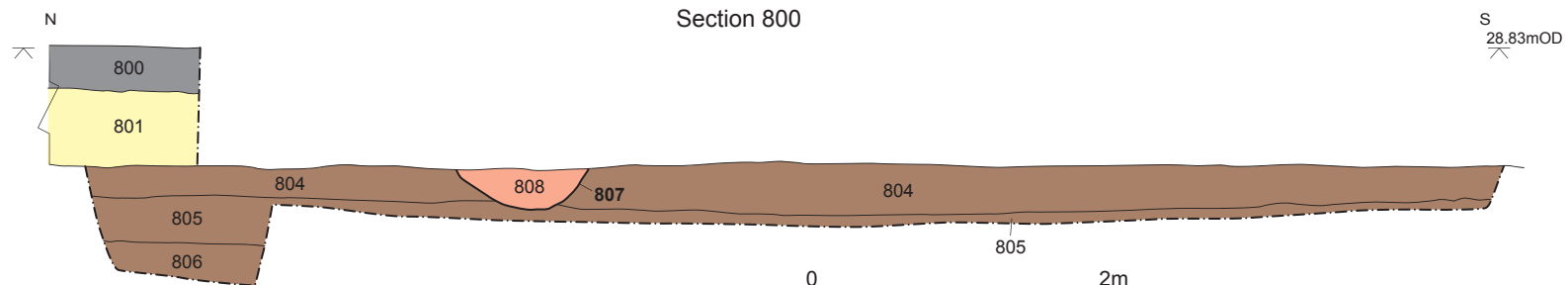
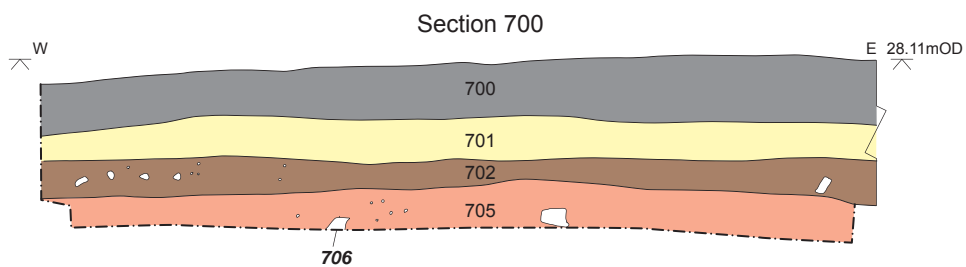
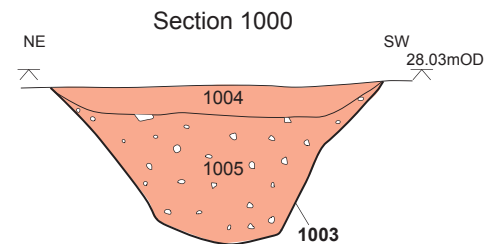
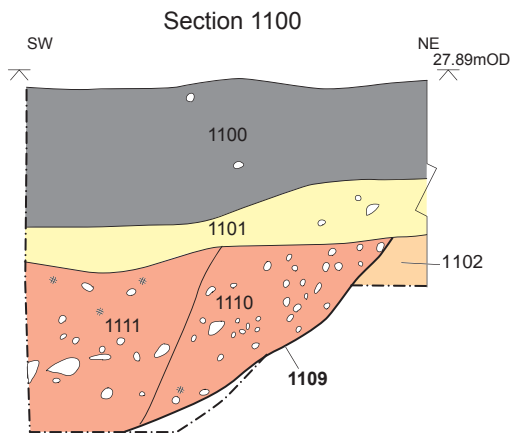
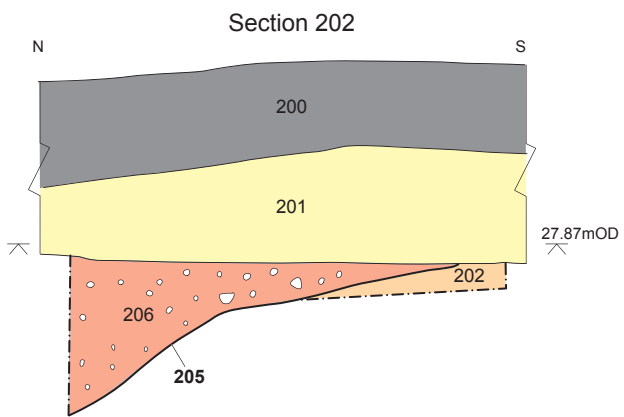
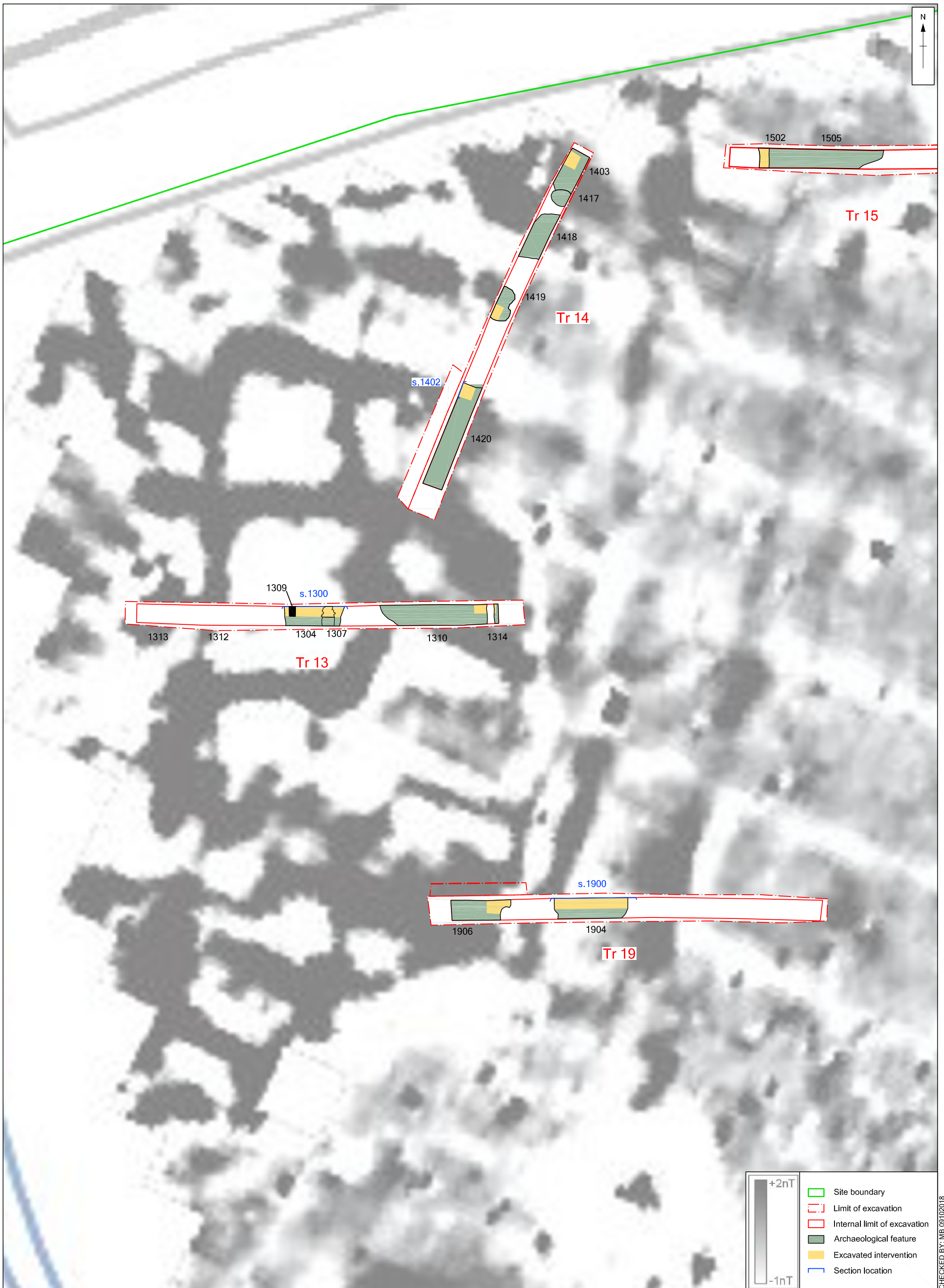
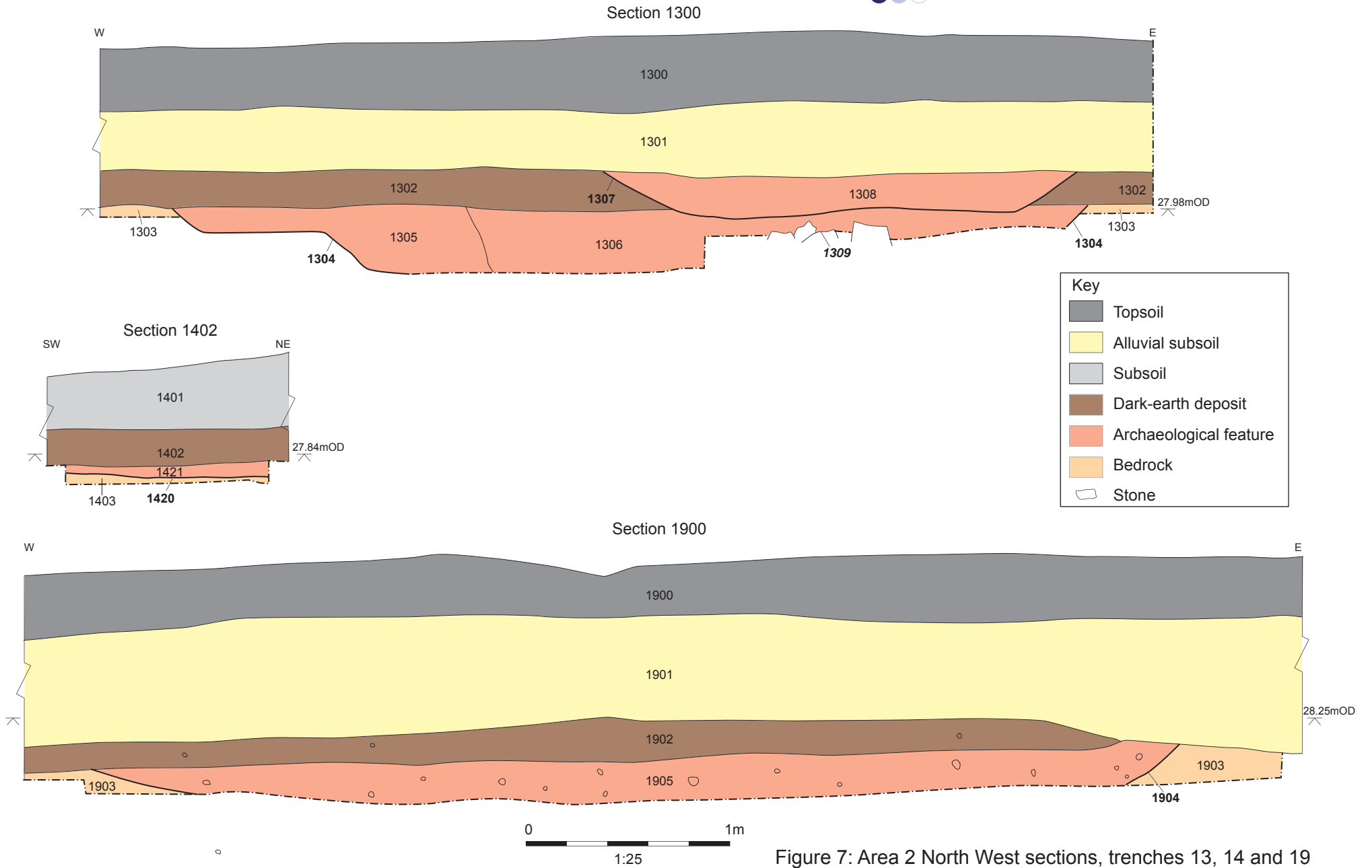
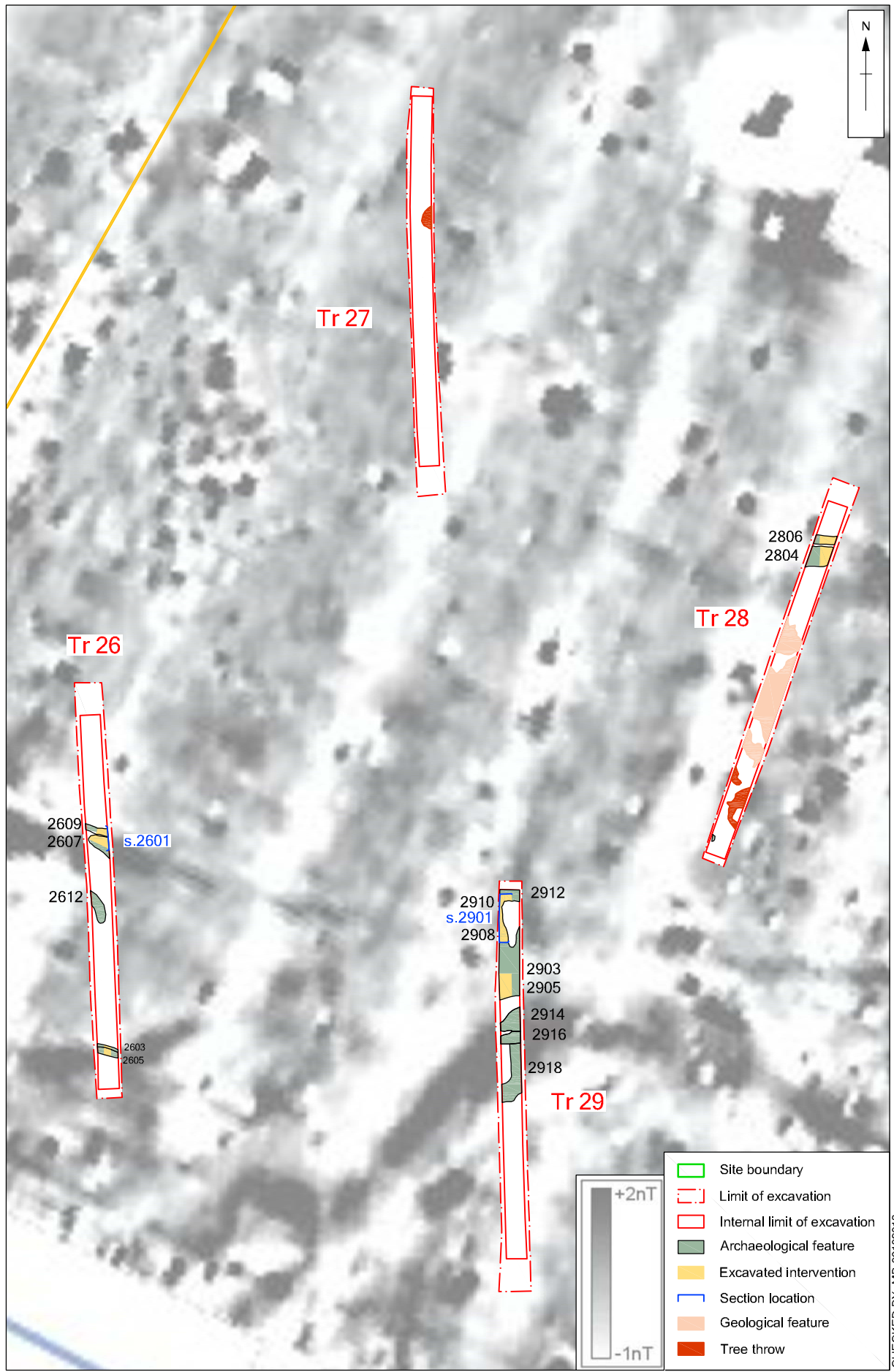


Figure 5: Area 1 sections, trenches 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11





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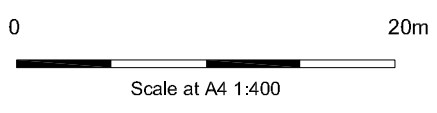


Figure 8: Area 2 SE with geophysics, trenches 26-29

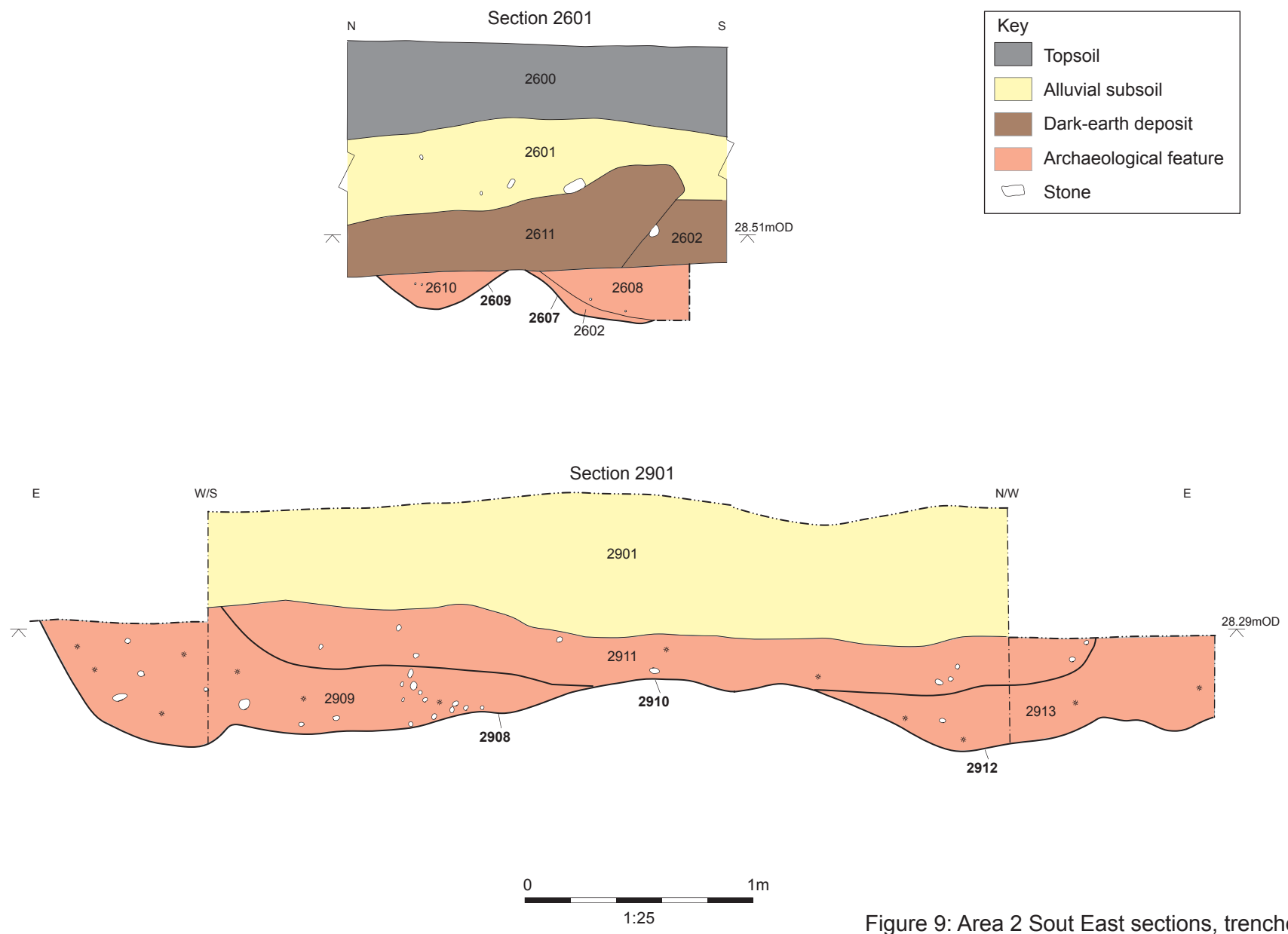
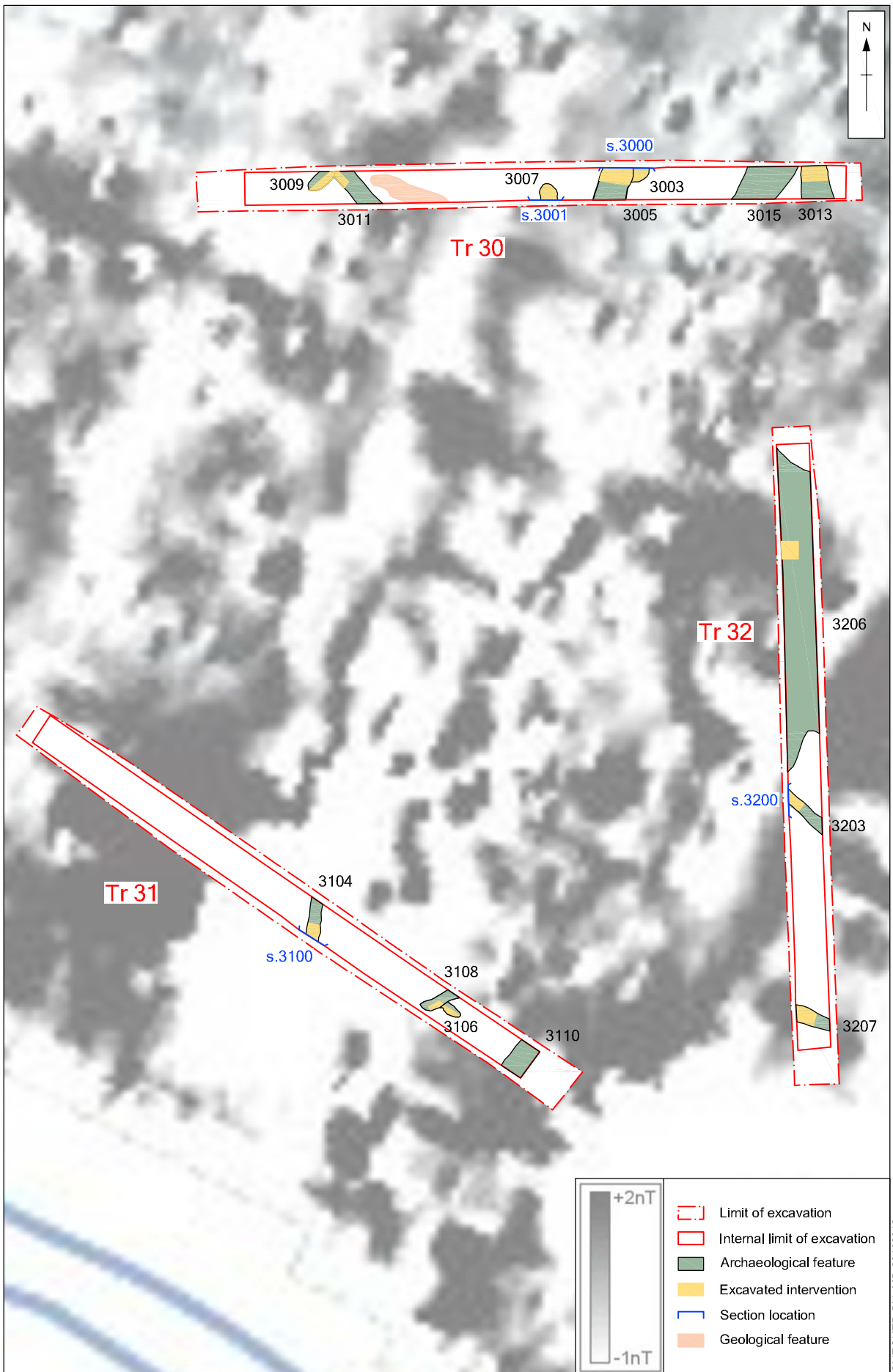


Figure 9: Area 2 Sout East sections, trenches 26 and 29

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Figure 10: Area 2 SE with geophysics, trenches 30, 31, and 32

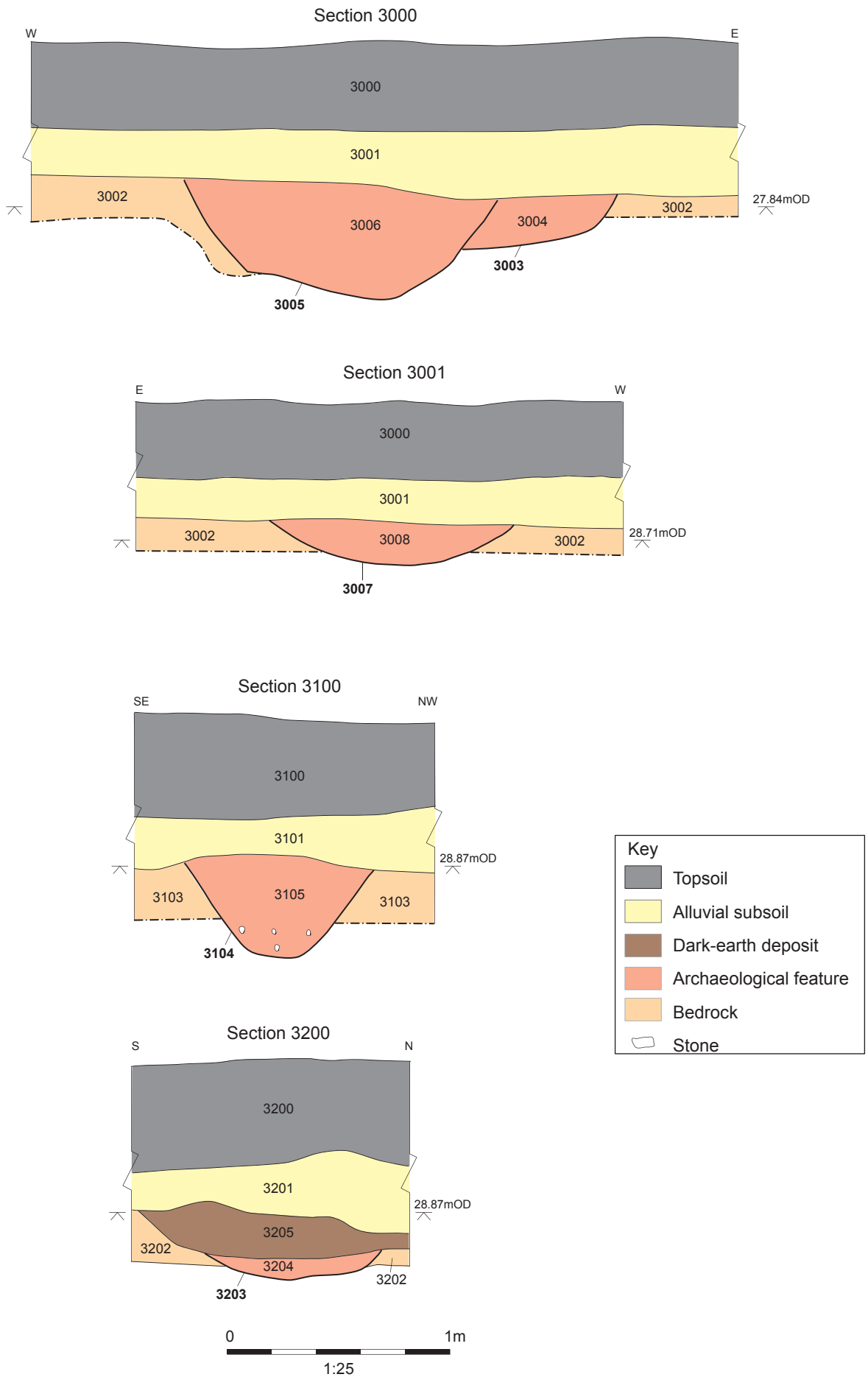
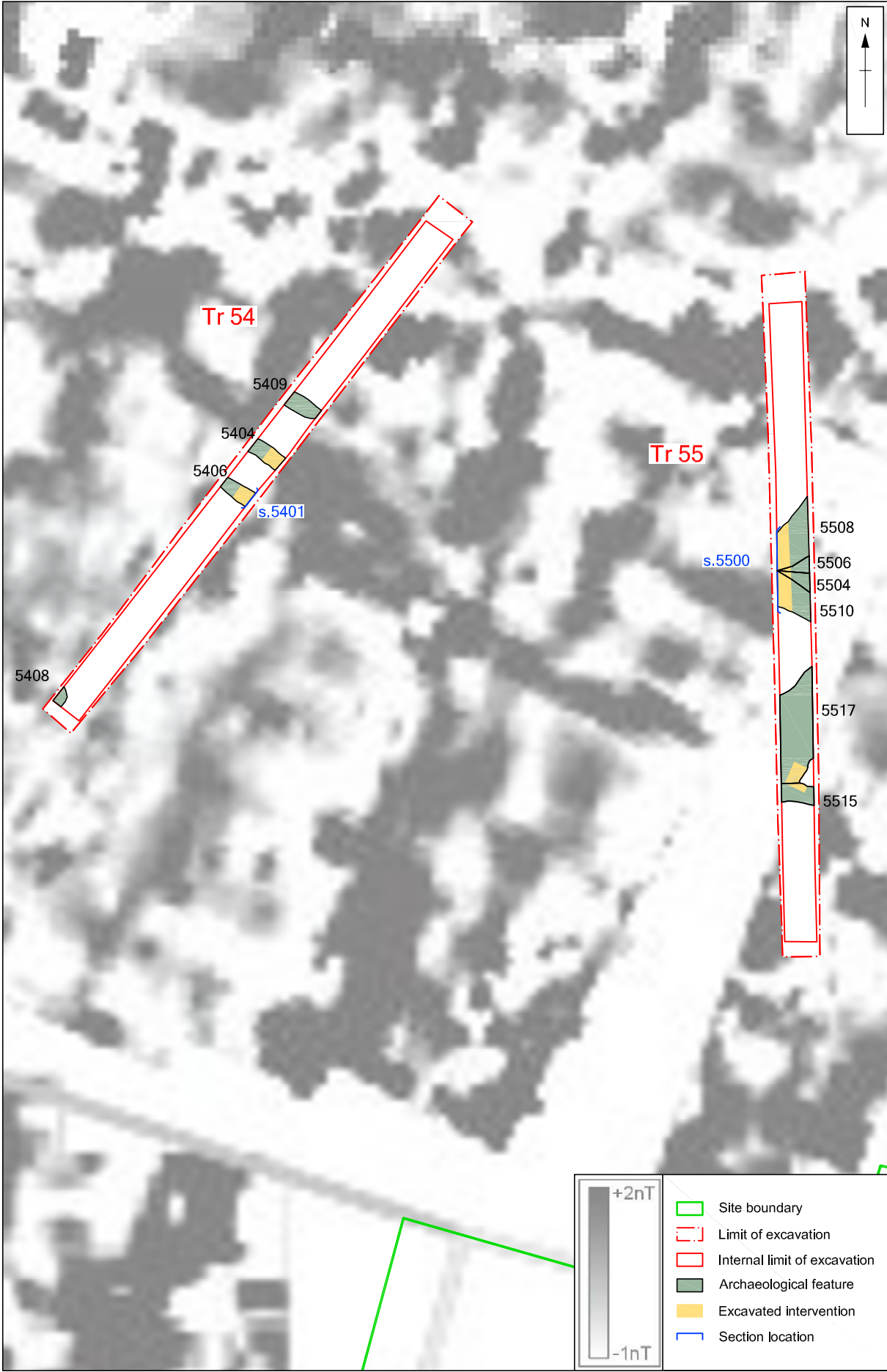


Figure 11: Area 2 South East sections, trenches 30, 31 and 32

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Figure 12: Area 3 with geophysics, trenches 54 and 55

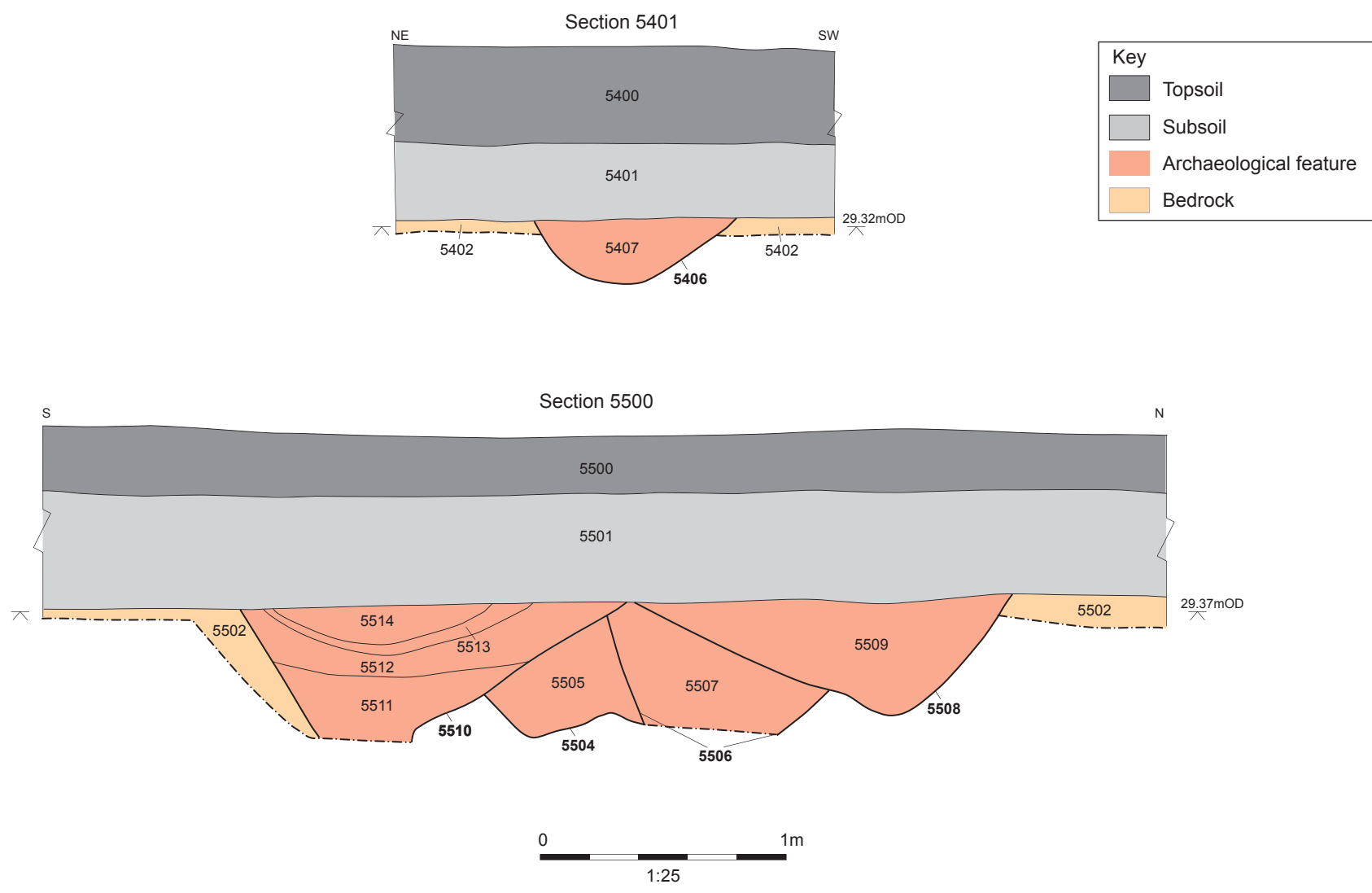


Figure 13: Area 3 sections, trenches 54 and 55



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking east (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 2: Pit 103 looking south (0.5m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 7 looking east (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 4: Section 700, Trench 7 looking north (2m scale)



Plate 5: Trench 8 looking northeast (2m scale)



Plate 6: Ditch 1003, Trench 10 looking south (1m scale)



Plate 7: Trench 13 looking west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 8: Section 1300, concentration of large stones looking north (2m scale)



Plate 9: Ditch 2603 and 2605 looking west (1m scale)



Plate 10: Trench 28 looking south (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 11: Trench 29 looking south (1m and 2m scale)



Plate 12: Trench 32 looking west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 13: Ditch complex 5504, 5506, 5508 and 5510 looking west (2m scale)



Plate 14: Ditch 5515 and 5517 looking west (1m scale)



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