

Berry Farm Borrow Area: Evaluation Report



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Berry Farm Borrow Area

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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illustrated by Julia Moxham*

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Summary

In January 2009, Oxford Archaeology undertook an evaluation by trial trenching of the proposed Berry Farm Borrow Area for Balfour Beatty. The site is centred on NGR: 500632, 243638.

A total of ten trenches were excavated. The evaluation revealed two separate areas of archaeology.

The first area was located in the NE corner of the site. It was comprised of pits and ditches, including a number of very wide linear features, potentially forming the boundary to a settlement.

The second area of activity was located along the southern perimeter of the site. In this area the evaluation exposed a series of sub-rectangular enclosures.

The results of the evaluation correspond well with an earlier geophysical survey of the site.

Finds recovered from both of these areas indicate that the archaeological deposits date to the late Iron Age-early Romano-British period, suggesting settlement activity during that period.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In January 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd to carry out an archaeological field evaluation within the site of a proposed borrow area at Berry Farm. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Scott Wilson (Scott Wilson 2009). The site is centred on NGR 500632, 243638 (Fig. 1) and is c 4.9 Hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies mostly on a flat plateau at c 42 m above Ordnance Datum. The ground descends slightly from north to south.

1.2.2 The geology of the site is Oxford Clay.

1.2.3 The site of the proposed borrow area is currently used as arable farmland.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following paragraphs are an overview of the archaeological conditions in the Berry Farm Borrow Area, based on information gathered as part of the *A421 Improvements M1 Junction 13 to Bedford: Archaeological Appraisal of Proposed Borrow Areas* (Scott Wilson 2008).

1.3.2 Approximately 300 m south of the proposed borrow area, ditched enclosures and a line of pits have been identified through geophysical survey on the corner of the A421 and Hoo Lane (Stratascan 2005), although they are currently undated. Their alignment suggest that they pre-date the medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, which was also recorded by the geophysical survey. It is likely that they represent the remains of Iron Age/Romano-British field boundaries.

1.3.3 Located approximately 50 m to the north of the site, a possible moat has also been identified close to Berry Farm, shown on the 1846 and 1891 Ordnance Survey maps.

1.3.4 Extensive evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has been recorded by archaeological excavation along the line of the A421 in the vicinity of the evaluation area. A small agricultural settlement occupied over a prolonged period from the early-middle Iron Age to the late Iron Age was located to the SW of the evaluation area at the southern end of Beancroft Road. In addition limited evidence for prehistoric activity has been discovered in the vicinity of Wooton.

1.3.5 There have been no intrusive archaeological investigations within the proposed borrow area itself.

1.3.6 A geophysical survey has been conducted of the evaluation area (Stratascan 2008), which revealed a number of potential archaeological features (see Fig.2).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to Lesley-Anne Mather of Bedfordshire County Council, Nick Finch of Scott Wilson and to Balfour Beatty. Paul Murray and Hefin Meara ran the fieldwork, assisted by Ian Cook, Brian Dean, Sarah Lane, Vicky Skipper, Jeni Thurstan and Tori Wilkinson. The report was illustrated by Julia Moxham. The project was managed by Ken Welsh.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- (i) To identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed Berry Farm Borrow Area;
- (ii) To determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features encountered;
- (iii) To determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered;
- (iv) To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- (v) To inform the design of archaeological mitigation for the area if appropriate.

2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

2.2.1 A total of 10 trenches measuring 50 m x 2 m were excavated and recorded during the evaluation (Fig. 2).

2.2.2 Seven of the trenches were located to evaluate linear anomalies of possible Iron Age or Romano-British origin noted during the geophysical survey of the site. The remaining three trenches were positioned to test the blank areas noted by the geophysical survey.

2.2.3 Topsoil was removed under constant archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Trenches were then excavated in spits to the natural geology or to the top of the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.4 Where appropriate trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features sampled to determine their extent, nature and to retrieve finds. Given the complex nature of the archaeological deposits in many of the nature, and to avoid unnecessary damage, some features were left unexcavated. In one case, Trench 147, flooding of the trench precluded any excavation. Where possible, finds were retrieved from the surface of such features to aid in dating and characterisation. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

2.3 Finds

2.3.1 Finds recovered by hand during the course of the evaluation were bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

2.4.1 A total of 3 deposits were sampled during the evaluation in order to assess the potential for the preservation of charred plant remains.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results presented in the main text of this report provide a detailed overview of the findings of the evaluation. A comprehensive listing of individual trench descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 All recovered finds and an assessment of the environmental samples are detailed in the specialist reports in Appendices B and C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil profile was generally consistent across the site. The trenches had an average depth of 0.4 m, but the depth of overburden was noticeably shallower towards the south of the site. Overburden consisted of an homogeneous topsoil layer overlying a thin buried ploughsoil. The buried ploughsoil was thinner towards the south of the site, and became patchy and intermittent in the southernmost trenches.
- 3.2.2 Due to heavy rainfall in the week prior to the evaluation, the level of the water table was high throughout the evaluation area, and as such all trenches were flooded to some extent. It was still possible to plan and collect surface finds from the trenches, and a significant number of the features were excavated. One of the ditches in Trench 146 was not fully excavated due to water ingress.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Of the 10 trenches excavated and recorded, nine contained archaeological features or deposits. These consisted primarily of ditches along with a number of small pits and possible postholes. The distribution of features correlated well with the distribution of anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey, although some additional features were revealed by trial trenching.
- 3.3.2 Two separate concentrations of archaeological deposits were noted, one in the northern corner of the site, and a second along the southern perimeter of the site.

3.4 Trench Descriptions

Trench 140 (Fig. 2)

- 3.4.1 The trench contained a single ditch (140004) which was orientated from NW-SE, was approximately 2 m wide and was filled by a dark grey clay-silt with gravel inclusions (140005). The ditch was also recorded within Trenches 144 and 149 and was identified by the geophysical survey of the site. The feature was not excavated. It is likely to be a former field boundary of recent origin -see Trench 149 below. The trench also contained a single modern land drain, on approximately the same orientation as the unexcavated field boundary.

Trench 141 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 3.4.2 The trench contained six ditches, a pit and a modern land drain.
- 3.4.3 Pit 141008 was approximately 1 m in diameter but was not excavated. The fill of the pit (141009) was a dark brown-grey silty clay, with charcoal inclusions, and may have been the result of a deliberate dump of domestic waste. Seventeen sherds of pottery, dating to the Romano-British period, were recovered from its surface.



- 3.4.4 Ditch 141014, at the NW end of the trench, was orientated from NE-SW and was 3.5 m wide. It was not excavated but was recorded by the geophysical survey. The fill was a dark grey-brown silty clay (141015). Pottery of late Iron Age to early Romano-British date was recovered from its surface.
- 3.4.5 Ditch 141012 was also orientated from NE-SW, was 1.4 m wide and 0.54 m deep, and had a 'u'-shaped profile. The fill was a dark grey, charcoal rich, silty clay (141013). A sherd of late Iron Age pottery was recovered from this feature, possibly originating from the same vessel. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.6 Ditch 141010 was orientated from ENE-WSW, was 1 m wide and 0.2 m deep, and was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay (141011). No finds were recovered from feature.
- 3.4.7 Ditch 141018 was orientated from NE-SW, was 0.7 m wide and was filled by a brown silty clay (141019). It was not excavated. No finds were recovered from the feature.
- 3.4.8 Ditch 141006 was orientated from NE-SE and was approximately 4 m wide. Three separate fills, 141007, 141017 and 141016, were visible at its surface. The feature was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site. Pottery of late Iron Age to early Romano-British date was recovered from the surface of fill 141007.
- 3.4.9 Ditch 141004 was orientated from NW-SE, was approximately 1.5 m wide, and appeared to terminate within the trench. Pottery of late Iron Age to early Romano-British date were recovered from the surface of the dark grey silty clay fill (141005). It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.

Trench 142 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 3.4.10 The trench contained 10 ditches, five pits and one amorphous feature.
- 3.4.11 Ditch 142004 was orientated from NW-SE and was 1.02 m wide and 0.27 m deep, with an irregular profile. It contained two distinct fills, a natural silting layer (142005) overlain by a deliberate backfill of blackish-grey charcoal rich clay (142006). This deposit contained animal bone as well as pottery of late Iron Age to early Romano-British date.
- 3.4.12 Ditch 142037 was orientated from E-W, and was 1.5 m wide. Ditch 142037 and 142004 were intercutting, but the relationship was not explored during this phase of work. The feature was not excavated.
- 3.4.13 Ditch terminus 142014 was 0.57 m wide, 0.1 m deep and irregular in profile. The terminus contained two fills, a grey clay layer (142015) overlain by a dark grey-black silty clay (142016). The upper fill contained a single fragment of fired clay, possibly a fragment of oven plate.
- 3.4.14 Feature 142017 was a large amorphous feature or series of intercutting features, approximately 3.6 m wide. It was not excavated. Pottery of late Iron Age to early Romano-British date was recovered its surface, along with a single fragment of fired clay, possibly a fragment of oven furniture. This fragment, along with the piece recovered from feature 142014, suggests that there may have been an oven in the immediate vicinity of the trench.
- 3.4.15 Ditch 142009 was orientated from NW-SE, and was 0.5 m wide, 0.39 m deep, with a 'u'-shaped in profile. The ditch contained two distinct fills, a natural silting layer (142010) overlain by a deliberate dump deposit (142011). A small quantity of undated pottery was recovered from the lowest fill of this ditch.
- 3.4.16 Pit 142007 0.5 m in diameter and 0.07 m deep, suggesting that it had been significantly truncated in the past. No finds were recovered from this feature.



- 3.4.17 Pit 142012 was circular, with a flat base and near vertical sides. It was 0.68 m in diameter and 0.18 m deep. A small quantity of animal bone and Romano-British pot sherds were recovered from the single fill (142013) of the pit. A soil sample from this pit produced a quantity of wheat grains indicating that crop processing/storage was being undertaken in the area. A single free-threshing rachis node was also recovered from the sample, indicating a medieval or later date for the assemblage. However, given the absence of any other material of this date from the area, and the presence of abundant modern seed and grass stems/roots within the sample, the rachis node may well be intrusive.
- 3.4.18 Ditch 142019 was orientated from NE-SW and was 1.9 m wide. It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.19 Ditch 142021 appeared in plan to cut ditch 142023 and had an unclear relationship with pit 142025. Ditch 142021 was 2.5 m wide at its widest point and was filled by a dark grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.20 Ditch 142023 was 0.88 m wide and was filled by a yellow-brown clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.21 Pit 142025 was 0.95 m wide and was filled by a dark grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.22 Ditch 142027 was 2.1 m wide and was filled by a dark grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.23 Ditch 142029 was orientated from NW-SE, and was 3 m wide. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay (142030). Pottery of Romano-British date was recovered from the surface of the feature. It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.24 Ditch 142031 was orientated from NE-SW. It was cut by ditch 142029. The ditch was 2.4 m wide and was filled by an orange-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.25 Pit 142033 was 1.1 m in diameter and contained a dark brown silty clay fill. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.26 Ditch 142036 was 2.3 m wide and contained a grey clay fill (142035). Pottery of Romano-British date was recovered from its surface. It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.

Trench 143 (Figs 2 and 4)

- 3.4.27 The trench contained two ditches and a posthole.
- 3.4.28 Ditch 143004 was orientated from NW-SE. It was approximately 2 m wide, 0.66 m deep and had a 'u'-shaped profile. It was filled by a dark brown-grey silty clay (143005). No finds were recovered. The feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.29 Ditch 143008 was orientated from N-S. It was 1.6 m wide, 0.6 m deep and had a 'u'-shaped profile. It was filled by a dark grey charcoal rich silty clay (143009). Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the fill. The feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.30 Posthole 143006 was 0.4 m in diameter and 0.18 m deep. It was filled by a dark grey charcoal rich silty clay (142007). No finds were recovered from this feature.

**Trench 144 (Fig. 2)**

- 3.4.31 The trench contained a single ditch (144004) which was orientated from NW-SE, and was 2.6 m wide. The feature was not excavated. This is the same feature as was seen in Trenches 140 and 149, believed to be a post-medieval or later field boundary. The trench also contained a single modern land drain.

Trench 145 (Fig. 2)

- 3.4.32 No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.

Trench 146 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 3.4.33 The trench contained two ditches.
- 3.4.34 Ditch 146004, located at the SE end of the trench, was orientated from NE-SW. The ditch was 0.92 m wide and 0.48 m deep and was filled with a dark grey charcoal rich silty clay (146005) which contained pottery of late Iron Age date.
- 3.4.35 Ditch 146006 was orientated from NNE-SSW and was 1.6 m wide and more than 0.52 m deep. It was not fully excavated due to flooding. The feature contained two fills. The first was a layer of dark grey silty clay (146008), the result of natural silting. The second was a deliberate dump of redeposited natural clay (146007). No finds were recovered from either of the fills. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site, and appears to form an enclosure associated with the linear features seen in Trench 147.

Trench 147 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 3.4.36 The trench contained four ditches which were not excavated due to the flooding of the trench, and a tree hole.
- 3.4.37 The tree hole (147003) was 1.7 m wide and 0.54 m deep. No finds were recovered from the fills of the tree hole.
- 3.4.38 Ditch 147011 was orientated from NNW-SSE and 1.25 m wide. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature was not identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.39 Ditch 147010 was orientated from NW-SE and 2.5 m wide. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site and may form part of an enclosure system with ditches 147009 and 147008 in this trench, and ditch 146006 seen in Trench 146.
- 3.4.40 Ditch 147009 was orientated from E-W and 1.1 m wide. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site and may form part of an enclosure system.
- 3.4.41 Ditch 147008 was also orientated from E-W and was 2.4 m wide. No finds were recovered. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site and may form part of an enclosure system.

Trench 148 (Figs 2 and 6)

- 3.4.42 The trench contained eight ditches and three pits.
- 3.4.43 Ditch 148003 was orientated from NE-SW, and was 4 m wide. It was filled by a dark brown-grey silty clay (148004). A sherd of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery



- was recovered from the surface of the fill. It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site. The feature forms part of a rectangular enclosure.
- 3.4.44 Ditch 148005 was also orientated from NE-SW. It was 0.6 m wide, 0.25 m deep and had a 'u'-shaped profile. The fill was a blackish-grey silty clay (148004). Pottery of late Iron Age to early Romano-British date was recovered from the fill.
- 3.4.45 Pit 148007 was 1.6 m in diameter and filled by a dark blue-grey silty clay (148008). The pit had an unclear relationship with ditch 148009.
- 3.4.46 Ditch 148009 was orientated from NE-SW, and was 1 m wide. The fill was a dark brown-grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.47 Ditch 148011 was NW-SE orientated. It was 2 m wide and 0.5 m deep with very irregular sides and a flat base. The ditch contained three fills. The first fill was an orange-brown clay (148025) and appeared to be the result of natural silting. The second fill was a dark grey silty clay (148026), and appeared to be a deliberate infill. Two sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery were recovered from this fill. The third fill was a grey silty clay (148012) and contained sherds of Romano-British pottery. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site and appears to be part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure. A soil sample from deposit 148026 produced two indeterminate wheat grains and one indeterminate cereal/ large grass seed.
- 3.4.48 Pit 148013 was 3.5 m in diameter. The fill was a dark brown grey silty clay. It was not excavated. No finds were recovered from this feature. The pit had an unclear relationship with ditches 148011 and 148015.
- 3.4.49 Ditch 148015 was orientated from NE-SW and was 1.5 m wide. The fill was a dark brown-grey silty clay (148016). A sherd of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the surface of this feature. It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site and appears to be part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure.
- 3.4.50 Ditch 148017 was orientated from NW-SE. It was 1.1 m wide, 0.26 m deep and had a 'u' shaped profile. The fill was a mid orange-brown silty-clay (148018). A sherd of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery was recovered from this fill.
- 3.4.51 Ditch 148019 was also NW-SE orientated and was 0.6 m wide, 0.1 m deep and had a 'u'-shaped profile. The fill was a mid brown-grey silty clay (148020) and contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery.
- 3.4.52 Feature 148021 is a possible pit although it had a very irregular shape in plan and as may be a tree hole. It was approximately 2 m wide and filled by a dark brown-grey clay. No finds were recovered from this fill.
- 3.4.53 Ditch terminus 148023 was orientated from NE-SW. It was 0.6 m wide, 0.13 m deep and had a 'u'-shaped in profile. It was filled by a mid brown-grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.54 Features 148005, 148017, 148019, 148021 and 148023 do not appear to have been identified by the geophysical survey of the site.

**Trench 149 (Figs 2 and 6)**

- 3.4.55 The trench contained ten ditches and three pits.
- 3.4.56 Ditch 149027 was orientated from NW-SE and was 1.15 m wide. It was filled by a mixed deposit of orange-brown and yellow-grey silty clay. It was not excavated but was probably a modern land drain. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.57 Ditch 149004 was also orientated from NW-SE and was 0.65 m wide. A large fragment of brick was recovered from the surface of the fill of this ditch. It was not excavated but is the continuation of the linear feature seen in Trenches 140 and 144 and was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.58 Ditch 149006 was orientated from E-W. It was 5.1 m wide at its western side, but became considerably narrower to the east where it was only 3.2 m wide. The feature was filled by a mid brown clay-silt. No finds were recovered from this feature. It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site and appears to form part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure.
- 3.4.59 Ditch 149029 was orientated from NE-SW, and was slightly irregular in plan and in profile. The ditch was 2 m wide at its widest point and 0.34 m deep. The feature contained two distinct fills. The lowest fill was a dark grey silty clay with a high charcoal content (149030). It produced pottery of Romano-British date along with fragments of animal bone. The second fill was a mid blue-grey silty clay (149031). Sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British were recovered from this deposit. A soil sample taken from fill 149030 contained rare charcoal fragments and a single charred seed of the cabbage family.
- 3.4.60 Ditch 149034 was orientated from NW-SE. This feature had an unclear relationship with ditch 149029. This feature also had an unclear relationship with pit 149025. The ditch was approximately 1 m wide and was filled by a mid grey brown clay silt. No finds were recovered from this feature. It was not excavated but was identified by the geophysical survey of the site.
- 3.4.61 Pit 149025 was 1.5 m wide and was filled by a mid grey-brown clay silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.62 Pit 149022 was sub-circular, 0.8 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep. It was filled by an orange-brown clay silt.
- 3.4.63 Ditch 149020 was orientated approximately E-W. It was 0.92 m wide and 0.12 m deep with a rounded base in profile. The feature was filled by a dark brown clay silt. No finds were recovered from this fill.
- 3.4.64 Ditch 149017 was orientated from NE-SW and terminated within the trench at its SW end. The ditch was 0.6 m wide and 0.12 m deep. It contained two fills. The earliest fill was a dirty orange-yellow-grey mottled silty clay, and the later fill was a grey-brown silty clay. Neither of these deposits contained any finds.
- 3.4.65 Ditch 149014 was orientated from E-W. It was 1.7 m wide and 0.36 m deep with a rounded profile. The feature contained two fills. The first was a mid grey-black silty clay (149015) and the second was a grey-brown silty clay (149016). Fill 149016 contained pottery sherds dating to the late Iron Age to early Romano-British period.
- 3.4.66 Ditch 149012 was NE-SW orientated and was 1.55 m wide. It was filled by a mid brown-grey clay silt. Pottery of Romano-British date was recovered from the surface of this deposit.



- 3.4.67 Pit 149010 was 2.1 m in diameter and was filled by a dark brown-black clay silt (149011). Pottery of early–mid Iron Age date and animal bone was recovered from the surface of this feature.
- 3.4.68 Pit 149008 was 2.5 m in diameter and was filled by a dark grey-black clay silt. No finds were recovered.

3.5 Finds summary

- 3.5.1 The pottery assemblage consisted primarily of late Iron Age to Romano-British material, with one feature containing pottery of the early to middle Iron Age. The general condition of the assemblage is good, with several large sherds with well-preserved surfaces.
- 3.5.2 A small quantity of fired clay was recovered during the course of the evaluation, and may provide evidence for the presence of ovens or other structures on site.
- 3.5.3 Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered, one of which was modern. The other was a fragment of Roman brick or tile.
- 3.5.4 The animal bone assemblage was very small, consisting of only 15 bones. Cattle, sheep/goat and other unidentified large and medium mammal bones were represented. Not enough material was recovered for any interpretation of husbandry strategies.

3.6 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.6.1 Three bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts. Sample 10000 was taken from a pit (142012) lying in an area of Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement. Samples 10001 and 10002 were taken from ditches (149029 and 148011 respectively) in an area also thought to date to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, with some evidence of continuity of occupation into the later Roman period.
- 3.6.2 Charcoal was rare in all samples, and where present consisted of flecks which have no potential for identification. Sample 10000 contained a moderate (100-300) number of highly clinkered wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) and an indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.) free-threshing rachis node, pointing to a Medieval date for the assemblage. Sample 10001 contained one possibly charred seed of the cabbage family (*Brassicaceae*). Sample 10002 contained a low number of indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and one indeterminate cereal/large grass (*Poaceae*) seed. In addition seeds of scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum* L.) and chickweed (*Stellaria media* L.) were observed although it was judged that these are likely to be modern wild seeds.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Overall the results of the evaluation were reliable, particularly in demonstrating the broader layout of archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 The evaluation has shown that the results of the geophysical survey were generally accurate. The zones of archaeology identified during the survey correspond with those found during the evaluation. However, it must be noted that although the general distribution predicted by the geophysical survey was correct, a number of additional features were observed in the evaluation trenches which were not identified by the geophysical survey. There were no obvious differences between the fills of features identified by geophysics and those which were not identified. As such the possibility of further unidentified features surviving outside of the areas of identified archaeology cannot be dismissed.
- 4.1.3 Standing water meant that it was not possible to excavate the features in one of the trenches. The features were recorded in plan, and so an understanding of the distribution of archaeology was still possible.
- 4.1.4 Modern disturbance was limited to a series of land drains across the site. These were not large enough to have had a significant impact on the archaeological remains.
- 4.1.5 The majority of the excavated features contained datable finds, and finds were collected from the surface of many of the unexcavated features.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The results of the evaluation are summarised below in relation to the objectives set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 4.2.2 *To identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed Berry Farm Borrow Area:* The evaluation found there to be two distinct zones of archaeological remains within the proposed borrow area, which corresponds well with the results of the geophysical survey. The first zone was located in the north-east of the site, in the area of Trenches 141 and 142. The second zone of archaeology was located along the southern perimeter of the site, in the area of Trenches 143, 146, 147, 148 and 149.
- 4.2.3 *To determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features encountered:* In the area of Trenches 141 and 142 the evaluation revealed large enclosure ditches, along with a number of smaller ditches and pits. A soil sample from Trench 142 produced quantities of charred wheat grain, indicating that crop processing/storage was taking place in the area. While a single rachis node of free-threshing type from the sample could indicate a medieval or later date for this activity, it is considered likely that it is intrusive within the sample. Artefactual evidence suggests the possibility of a nearby oven structure, although this was not located within the evaluation trench. Along the southern perimeter of the site the evaluation revealed a number of ditches forming part of a series of sub-rectangular enclosures, suggesting the presence of a settlement in this area. The extent of these features has been well-defined by the evaluation and the geophysical survey and can be seen in Figure 2.
- 4.2.4 *To determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered:* While most of the features were truncated due to ploughing,



below this horizon the remains discovered were relatively well-preserved. Modern land drains were not large enough to have had a significant impact on the archaeological remains.

- 4.2.5 *To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present:* The quantity of finds recovered during the course of the evaluation was relatively large given the limited nature of the evaluation. Sufficient material was recovered to accurately date the exposed archaeology, which was mainly of the late Iron Age or early Romano-British periods. The range of finds was limited, being largely pottery, although a small quantity of animal bone and ceramic building material was recovered.
- 4.2.6 The assessment of soil samples from the site demonstrates that conditions are suitable for the preservation of charred plant remains. Although the grain from one sample was clinkered (and therefore poorly-preserved) and the numbers of charred remains from the other two samples was very limited, it is considered that significant potential exists for further charred plant remains to be present.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The evaluation found there to be two distinct zones of archaeology. The presence of archaeological remains outside of these two zones was minimal, and comprised only of a single modern field boundary. This feature was identified by the geophysical survey of the site and appears to bisect the evaluation area from NW to SE.

Zone 1: NE corner of evaluation area (Trenches 141 and 142)

- 4.3.2 The evaluation revealed a large number of ditches and pits in this area. Finds from the features indicate that they date from the late Iron Age to the early Romano-British period. The results of the geophysical survey suggests that they may have belonged to two separate phases of enclosure, but this cannot be proven at this point.
- 4.3.3 Two fragments of fired clay were recovered from features in Trench 142, one of which may be part of an oven plate. These finds, along with the associated ceramic evidence, indicate that this is an area of domestic settlement activity. The presence of charred wheat grain from a soil sample also suggests that crop processing/storage was taking place at the site.

Zone 2: Southern perimeter of the site (Trenches 143, 146, 147, 148 and 149)

- 4.3.4 The results of the geophysical survey indicate a large collection of sub-rectangular enclosures in this area. A number of ditches were recorded in the evaluation trenches in this area, thereby dating the enclosures. It would appear that this area was the focus for a late Iron Age-early Romano-British farming settlement. Occasional finds of slightly later Romano-British material from this area may suggest some continuity of settlement beyond the early Roman period.
- 4.3.5 The earliest feature found within the evaluation area was located in Trench 149, a pit containing early to middle Iron Age pottery. This may indicate that the Iron Age activity located in Zone 2 has its origins earlier in the Iron Age.



4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The results of the evaluation show a rural, agrarian landscape containing features predominantly from the late Iron Age to early Romano-British periods. .
- 4.4.2 Although both areas of activity have been dated late Iron Age to early Romano-British, it is not yet clear whether the two areas of activity were contemporary.
- 4.4.3 The presence of settlement here adds to the evidence for a relatively densely occupied landscape in the region during this period. Other settlement sites of this date have recently been located along the route of the A421 between the M1 and Bedford as part of the ongoing A421 improvement works.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 140 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | N-S |
| The trench consisted of a natural of orange-brown clay-silt with gravel inclusions, overlain by a buried ploughsoil and topsoil. The trench contained a single NW-SE orientated ditch (140004) believed to be a post-medieval field boundary. This feature was also seen in Trenches 144 and 149. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.45 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 50 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 140001 | Layer | - | 0.30 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 140002 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Buried ploughsoil | - | - |
| 140003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 140004 | Cut | 2.0 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 140005 | Fill | 2.0 | - | Fill of ditch 140004 | - | - |

| Trench 141 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NW-SE |
| The trench consisted of a natural of orange-brown gravelly-clay and yellow-grey clay, overlain by a buried ploughsoil and topsoil. The trench contained six ditches and a small pit. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.4 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 50 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 141001 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 141002 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Buried ploughsoil | - | - |
| 141003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 141004 | Cut | 1.5 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 141005 | Fill | 1.5 | - | Fill of ditch 141004 | Pot | LIA-AD70 |
| 141006 | Cut | 4 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 141007 | Fill | 0.9 | - | Fill of ditch 141006 | Pot | LIA-AD70 |
| 141008 | Cut | 1 | - | Cut of pit | - | - |
| 141009 | Fill | 1 | - | Fill of pit 141008 | Pot | AD43-410 |
| 141010 | Cut | 1 | 0.2 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 141011 | Fill | 1 | 0.2 | Fill of ditch 141010 | - | - |
| 141012 | Cut | 1.4 | 0.54 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 141013 | Fill | 1.4 | 0.54 | Fill of ditch | Pot/Bone | LIA |
| 141014 | Cut | 3.5 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 141015 | Fill | 3.5 | - | Fill of ditch | Pot | LIA-AD70 |



| | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-----|---|----------------------|---|---|
| 141016 | Fill | 2 | - | Fill of ditch 141006 | - | - |
| 141017 | Fill | 1 | - | Fill of ditch 141006 | - | - |
| 141018 | Cut | 0.7 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 141019 | Fill | 0.7 | - | Fill of ditch 141018 | - | - |

| Trench 142 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | | N-S |
| The trench consisted of a natural of orange-brown gravelly-clay and yellow-grey clay, overlain by a buried ploughsoil and topsoil. The trench contained 10 ditches, five pits and one amorphous feature. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | | 0.62 |
| | | | | Width (m) | | 2 |
| | | | | Length (m) | | 50 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 142001 | Layer | - | 0.32 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 142002 | Layer | - | 0.30 | Buried ploughsoil | - | - |
| 142003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 142004 | Cut | 1.02 | 0.27 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142005 | Fill | 0.72 | 0.27 | Fill 1/2 of ditch 142004 | - | - |
| 142006 | Fill | 0.58 | 0.14 | Fill 2/2 of ditch 142004 | Pot/Bone/Shell | LIA-AD70 |
| 142007 | Cut | 0.5 | 0.07 | Cut of pit? | - | - |
| 142008 | Fill | 0.5 | 0.07 | Fill of pit? | - | - |
| 142009 | Cut | 0.5 | 0.39 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142010 | Fill | 0.3 | 0.09 | Fill 1/2 of ditch 142009 | Pot | N/A |
| 142011 | Fill | 0.5 | 0.3 | Fill 2/2 of ditch 142009 | Bone | - |
| 142012 | Cut | 0.68 | 0.18 | Cut of pit | - | - |
| 142013 | Fill | 0.68 | 0.18 | Fill of pit | Pot/Bone | AD30-180 |
| 142014 | Cut | 0.57 | 0.1 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142015 | Fill | 0.42 | 0.05 | Fill 1/2 of ditch 142014 | - | - |
| 142016 | Fill | 0.43 | 0.08 | Fill 2/2 of ditch 142014 | Fired clay | - |
| 142017 | Cut | 3.6 | - | Cut of large irregular feature | - | - |
| 142018 | Fill | 3.6 | - | Fill of 142017 | Pot/Fired clay | LIA-AD70 |
| 142019 | Cut | 1.9 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142020 | Fill | 1.9 | - | Fill of ditch 142019 | - | - |
| 142021 | Cut | 2.5 | - | Cut of ditch terminus | - | - |
| 142022 | Fill | 2.5 | - | Fill of terminus 142021 | - | - |
| 142023 | Cut | 0.88 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142024 | Fill | 0.88 | - | Fill of ditch 142023 | - | - |



| | | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|---|------------------------|-----|----------|
| 142025 | Cut | 0.95 | - | Cut of pit or terminus | - | - |
| 142026 | Fill | 0.95 | - | Fill of 142025 | - | - |
| 142027 | Cut | 2.1 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142028 | Fill | 2.1 | - | Fill of ditch 142027 | - | - |
| 142029 | Cut | 3 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142030 | Fill | 3 | - | Fill of ditch 142029 | Pot | AD43-410 |
| 142031 | Cut | 2.4 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142032 | Fill | 2.4 | - | Fill of ditch 142031 | - | - |
| 142033 | Cut | 0.55 | - | Cut of pit or terminus | - | - |
| 142034 | Fill | 0.55 | - | Fill of 142033 | - | - |
| 142035 | Fill | 2.3 | - | Fill of ditch 142036 | Pot | AD43-410 |
| 142036 | Cut | 2.3 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142037 | Cut | 1.5 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 142038 | Fill | 1.5 | - | Fill of ditch 142037 | - | - |

| Trench 143 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | E-W | |
| The trench consisted of a natural of orange-brown gravelly clay, overlain by a buried ploughsoil and topsoil. The trench contained a NW-SE orientated ditch (143004), a N-S orientated ditch (143008), a posthole (143006) and a modern land drain. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.40 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 2 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 50 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 143001 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 143002 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Buried ploughsoil | - | - |
| 143003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 143004 | Cut | 2 | 0.66 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 143005 | Fill | 2 | 0.66 | Fill of ditch 143004 | - | - |
| 143006 | Cut | 0.4 | 0.18 | Cut of posthole | - | - |
| 143007 | Fill | 0.4 | 0.18 | Fill of posthole | - | - |
| 143008 | Cut | 1.6 | 0.6 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 143009 | Fill | 1.6 | 0.6 | Fill of ditch | Pot/Bone | AD43-410 |

| Trench 144 | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----|
| General description | | Orientation | E-W |
| The trench consisted of a natural of orange-brown gravelly clay, overlain by a buried ploughsoil and topsoil. The trench contained a single NW-SE orientated ditch (144004), believed to be a post-medieval field boundary. This feature was also seen in Trenches 140 and 149. The trench also contained a single modern land drain. | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.5 |
| | | Width (m) | 2 |
| | | Length (m) | 50 |



| Contexts | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 144001 | Layer | - | 0.35 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 144002 | Layer | - | 0.2 | Buried ploughsoil | - | - |
| 144003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 144004 | Cut | 2.6 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 144005 | Fill | 2.6 | - | Fill of ditch | - | - |

| Trench 145 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | | E-W |
| The trench consisted of a natural orange-brown gravelly clay, overlain by a buried ploughsoil and topsoil. The trench was devoid of archaeology. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | | 0.4 |
| | | | | Width (m) | | 2 |
| | | | | Length (m) | | 50 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 145001 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 145002 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Buried ploughsoil | - | - |
| 145003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 146 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | | NW-SE |
| The trench consisted of a natural of orange-brown gravelly clay, overlain by a buried ploughsoil and topsoil. The trench contained two ditches. Ditch 146004 was NE-SW orientated and ditch 146006 was approximately N-S orientated. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | | 0.4 |
| | | | | Width (m) | | 2 |
| | | | | Length (m) | | 50 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 146001 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 146002 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 146003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 146004 | Cut | 0.92 | 0.48 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 146005 | Fill | 0.92 | 0.48 | Fill of ditch 146004 | Pot | LIA |
| 146006 | Cut | 1.6 | >0.52 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 146007 | Fill | 1.2 | 0.4 | Fill 2/2 of ditch 146006 | - | - |
| 146008 | Fill | 1.1 | >0.52 | Fill 1/2 of ditch 146006 | - | - |



| Trench 147 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NE-SW | |
| The trench consisted of a natural of yellow-grey clay and orange-brown gravelly clay, overlain by topsoil. The trench contained a tree hole (147003) which was excavated, and 4 linear features which were not excavated due to the flooding of the trench. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.3 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 2 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 50 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 147001 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 147002 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 147003 | Cut | 1.7 | 0.54 | Cut of tree hole | - | - |
| 147004 | Fill | 0.8 | 0.18 | Fill 1/4 of tree hole | - | - |
| 147005 | Fill | 0.58 | 0.36 | Fill 2/4 of tree hole | - | - |
| 147006 | Fill | 1.1 | 0.17 | Fill 3/4 of tree hole | - | - |
| 147007 | Fill | 1.56 | 0.13 | Fill 4/4 of tree hole | - | - |
| 147008 | Cut | 2.4 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 147009 | Cut | 1.1 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 147010 | Cut | 2.5 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 147011 | Cut | 1.25 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 147012 | Fill | 2.4 | - | Fill of ditch 147008 | - | - |
| 147013 | Fill | 1.1 | - | Fill of ditch 147009 | - | - |
| 147014 | Fill | 2.5 | - | Fill of ditch 147010 | - | - |
| 147015 | Fill | 1.25 | - | Fill of ditch 147011 | - | - |

| Trench 148 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NW-SE | |
| The trench consisted of a natural of yellow-grey clay and orange-brown gravelly clay, overlain by topsoil. The trench contained eight linear features and three possible pits. Pottery was recovered from six of the linear features and from one of the possible pits. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.32 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 2 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 50 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 148001 | Layer | - | 0.32 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 148002 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 148003 | Cut | 4 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 148004 | Fill | 4 | - | Fill of ditch 148003 | Pot | LIA-AD70 |
| 148005 | Cut | 0.6 | 0.25 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 148006 | Fill | 0.6 | 0.25 | Fill of ditch 148005 | Pot/Fired clay | LIA-AD70 |
| 148007 | Cut | 1.6 | 0.23 | Cut of pit | - | - |



| | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|------|------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 148008 | Fill | 1.6 | 0.23 | Fill of pit 148007 | Pot/Fired clay | N/A |
| 148009 | Cut | 1 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 148010 | Fill | 1 | - | Fill of ditch 148009 | - | - |
| 148011 | Cut | 2 | 0.5 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 148012 | Fill | 2 | 0.2 | Fill 3/3 of ditch 148011 | Pot | AD70-130? |
| 148013 | Cut | 3.5 | - | Cut of pit | - | - |
| 148014 | Fill | 3.5 | - | Fill of pit | - | - |
| 148015 | Cut | 1.5 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 148016 | Fill | 1.5 | - | Fill of ditch | Pot | LIA-AD70 |
| 148017 | Cut | 1.1 | 0.26 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 148018 | Fill | 1.1 | 0.26 | Fill of ditch | Pot/CBM | LIA-AD70 |
| 148019 | Cut | 0.6 | 0.2 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 148020 | Fill | 0.6 | 0.2 | Fill of ditch 148019 | Pot | AD43-410 |
| 148021 | Cut | 2 | - | Cut of pit | - | - |
| 148022 | Fill | 2 | - | Fill of pit 148021 | - | - |
| 148023 | Cut | 0.6 | 0.13 | Cut of ditch terminus | - | - |
| 148024 | Fill | 0.6 | 0.13 | Fill of terminus 148023 | - | - |
| 148025 | Fill | 0.4 | 0.2 | Fill 1/3 of ditch 148011 | - | - |
| 148026 | Fill | 1.82 | 0.36 | Fill 2/3 of ditch 148011 | Pot/Fired clay | LIA-AD70 |
| 148027 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Buried ploughsoil | - | - |

| Trench 149 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | N-S |
| The trench consisted of a natural of yellow-grey clay and orange-brown gravelly clay, overlain by topsoil. The trench contained ten ditches and three pits. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.22 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 50 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 149001 | Layer | - | 0.22 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 149002 | Void | - | - | - | - | - |
| 149003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 149004 | Cut | 0.65 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 149005 | Fill | 0.65 | - | Fill of ditch 149004 | Bone/CBM | 19-20 th C |
| 149006 | Cut | 5.1 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 149007 | Fill | 5.1 | - | Fill of ditch 149006 | - | - |
| 149008 | Cut | 0.7 | - | Cut of pit | - | - |
| 149009 | Fill | 0.7 | - | Fill of pit 149008 | Fired clay | - |



| | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|------|------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 149010 | Cut | 1 | - | Cut of pit | - | - |
| 149011 | Fill | 1 | - | Fill of pit 149010 | Pot/Bone | EIA-MIA |
| 149012 | Cut | 1.55 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 149013 | Fill | 1.55 | - | Fill of ditch 149012 | Pot | |
| 149014 | Cut | 1.7 | 0.36 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 149015 | Fill | 1.7 | 0.14 | Fill 1/2 of ditch 149014 | Pot/Bone | LIA-AD70 |
| 149016 | Fill | 1.64 | 0.22 | Fill 2/2 of ditch 149014 | Pot | |
| 149017 | Cut | 0.6 | 0.12 | Cut of ditch terminus | - | - |
| 149018 | Fill | 0.6 | 0.06 | Fill 1/2 of ditch terminus 149017 | - | - |
| 149019 | Fill | 0.48 | 0.06 | Fill 2/2 of ditch terminus 149017 | - | - |
| 149020 | Cut | 0.92 | 0.12 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 149021 | Fill | 0.92 | 0.12 | Fill of ditch 149020 | - | - |
| 149022 | Cut | 0.8 | 0.36 | Cut of pit | - | - |
| 149023 | Fill | 0.8 | 0.1 | Fill 1/2 of pit 149022 | Fired clay | - |
| 149024 | Fill | 0.8 | 0.26 | Fill 2/2 of pit 149022 | Pot | |
| 149025 | Cut | 1.5 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 149026 | Fill | 1.5 | - | Fill of ditch 149025 | - | - |
| 149027 | Cut | 1.15 | - | Cut of linear feature | - | - |
| 149028 | Fill | 1.15 | - | Fill of 149027 | - | - |
| 149029 | Cut | 2 | 0.34 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 149030 | Fill | 0.6 | 0.22 | Fill 1/2 of ditch 149029 | Pot/Bone | AD180-410 |
| 149031 | Fill | 1.4 | 0.16 | Fill 2/2 of ditch 149029 | Pot | LIA-AD70 |
| 149032 | Layer | 7.7 | 0.24 | Subsoil? | Pot | LIA-AD70 |
| 149033 | Fill | 1 | - | Fill of ditch 149034 | - | - |
| 149034 | Cut | 1 | - | Cut of ditch | - | - |



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Daniel Stansbie

Introduction and Methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 108 sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing 1734 g, were recovered during the evaluation. This material was rapidly scanned to determine context-group dates and to assess the character of the pottery. Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. The pottery was recorded using the Bedfordshire fabric codes, based on the type series held at Albion Archaeology, ensuring compatibility with other major sites from the county. Reference was also made to the reports on the Iron Age and Roman pottery from the Great Barford Bypass (Webley 2007 and Stansbie 2007).

Condition

- B.1.2 The mean sherd weight of the assemblage is 16 g and the average number of sherds per context-group is 4.3. The general condition of the assemblage is therefore good, with several large well preserved groups, including some large sherds with well preserved surfaces.

Description

- B.1.3 The assemblage consists, almost exclusively, of late Iron Age to early Roman material, although there are several groups comprising body sherds only, which have been assigned a broadly Roman date and single groups dating to the early Roman period and the late Roman period respectively. The late Iron Age to early Roman assemblage is dominated by body and base sherds in medium grog-tempered fabric (F06B), although two jars are also present in this fabric. Supplementing this material are body sherds and a barrel-shaped jar in grog and shell-tempered fabric (F05) and two bead-rimmed jars and a barrel-shaped jar with finger tip impressions on the rim in late Iron Age shelly fabric (F07). In addition, there is a lid-seated jar in late Iron Age shelly fabric (F07) or Roman shelly fabric (R13). The early Roman group, dating to between AD70 and AD130, comprises body sherds of grog and shell-tempered fabric (F05) and part of a plain rimmed carinated bowl in fine grey fabric (R06C). The late Roman group comprises sherds of Roman shelly fabric (R13), including a finger tip decorated rim sherd from a jar, body sherds of sandy grey fabric (R06B), body sherds of medium grog-tempered fabric (F06B) and a flanged dish or bowl in sandy black fabric (R07B) dating to between AD180 and AD410. In addition there is a barrel-shaped jar in a fine sand and shelly fabric (F18). The barrel-shaped jar probably dates to the middle Iron Age and the grog-tempered material dates to the late Iron Age, both must be residual. The groups dated broadly to the Roman period largely comprise body sherds of Roman shelly fabric, but there are also some sherds in sandy grey fabric (R06B)

Discussion

- B.1.4 The material suggests the presence of a settlement in the late Iron Age to early Roman period. Some activity is also indicated in the late Roman period, although the late Roman pottery is in relatively poor condition and is mixed with material of earlier date; it may therefore derive from agricultural activities.



Table B1.1: Iron Age and Roman pottery

| Context | Sherd No. | Weight (g) | Comments | Spot Date |
|---------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 141005 | 1 | 15 | F06B medium-grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 141007 | 1 | 35 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 141009 | 17 | 160 | R13 Roman shelly fabric, R05A orange sandy fabric | AD43-410 |
| 141013 | 32 | 550 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric (1 high-shouldered jar, 1 everted-rimmed jar), F05 grog and shell-tempered fabric (1 barrel-shaped jar) | LIA |
| 141015 | 1 | 62 | F05 grog and shell-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 142006 | 1 | 39 | F05 grog and shell-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 142010 | 3 | 2 | Misc | N/A |
| 142013 | 2 | 16 | F07 late Iron Age shelly fabric or R13 Roman shelly fabric (1 lid-seated jar) | AD30-180 |
| 142018 | 2 | 41 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 142030 | 1 | 22 | R13 Roman shelly fabric, F06B medium grog-tempered fabric, R06B sandy grey fabric | AD43-410 |
| 142035 | 1 | 36 | R13 Roman shelly fabric | AD43-410 |
| 143009 | 2 | 147 | R13 Roman shelly fabric | AD43-410 |
| 146005 | 8 | 152 | F05 grog and shell-tempered fabric (1 jar base), F07 late Iron Age shelly fabric (1 barrel-shaped jar with finger tip impressions on top of the rim) | LIA |



| Context | Sherd No. | Weight (g) | Comments | Spot Date |
|---------|-----------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 148004 | 1 | 12 | F06 medium grog-tempered fabric (1 base sherd with incised vertical lines on the body) | LIA-AD70 |
| 148006 | 2 | 8 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 148012 | 3 | 31 | F05 grog and shell-tempered fabric, R06C fine grey fabric (1 plain-rimmed carinated bowl) | AD70-130? |
| 148016 | 1 | 5 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 148018 | 3 | 8 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 148020 | 1 | 2 | R05A orange sandy fabric | AD43-410 |
| 148026 | 2 | 74 | F07 late Iron Age shelly fabrics (1 bead-rimmed jar) | LIA-AD70 |
| 149011 | 1 | 60 | F Iron Age sandy and shelly fabric | EIA-MIA |
| 149015 | 3 | 22 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 149030 | 12 | 163 | F18 fine sand and shell (1 barrel-shaped jar), R13 Roman shelly fabric (1 jar with finger tip decoration on the rim), F06B medium grog-tempered fabric, R06B sandy grey fabric, R07B sandy black fabric (1 dropped flanged dish) | AD180-410 |
| 149031 | 6 | 61 | F07 late Iron Age shelly fabric (1 bead-rimmed jar), F06B medium grog-tempered fabric, F05 grog and shell-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |
| 149032 | 1 | 11 | F06B medium grog-tempered fabric | LIA-AD70 |



B.2 Fired Clay

By Daniel Stansbie

B.2.1 Seven fragments of fired clay, weighing 164 g were recovered during the evaluation. The material was rapidly scanned and a note made of the fabric and object types. The fired clay was generally sandy with shelly or organic inclusions, although three fragments contained clay pellets and comprises probable oven furniture or structural material. The fragment from context 142016 may derive from an oven plate. The material has no potential for further study and no further work is recommended.

Table B2.1: Fired Clay

| Context | Count | Weight | Comments |
|---------|-------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 142016 | 1 | 35 | Fabric: sandy/shelly/organic (fragment of oven plate) |
| 142018 | 1 | 98 | Fabric: sandy/organic/clay pellets (structural/oven furniture) |
| 148006 | 1 | 5 | Fabric: shelly/sandy (structural/oven furniture) |
| 148008 | 1 | 4 | Fabric: sandy/organic (structural/oven furniture) |
| 148026 | 1 | 2 | Fabric: sandy/shelly/organic (structural/oven furniture) |
| 149009 | 1 | 11 | Fabric: sandy/clay pellets (structural/oven furniture) |
| 149023 | 1 | 9 | Fabric: sandy/clay pellets (structural/oven furniture) |



B.3 Ceramic Building Material

By Daniel Stansbie

- B.3.1 Two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 1137 g were recovered during the evaluation. One is in a sandy fabric with occasional inclusions of shell and is probably a fragment of Roman brick or tile; the other is a 19th-20th Century brick fragment in a sandy fabric, with occasional clay pellets and fragments of shell. The material has no potential for further study and no further work is recommended.

Table B3.1: Ceramic Building Material

| Context | Count | Weight (g) | Comments |
|---------|-------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 148018 | 1 | 90 | Fabric: sandy – occasional shell (brick or tile fragment) |
| 149005 | 1 | 1047 | Fabric: sandy/shelly/clay pellets (brick fragment) |



B.4 Animal bones

By Lena Strid

- B.4.1 A total of 15 animal bones, preliminary dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, were recovered from the evaluation of the proposed Berry Farm Borrow Area.
- B.4.2 The bone preservation varied from good to very poor, but was generally fair (see table 1, where 0 represents excellent preservation and 5 appalling; for further definition see Strid forthcoming). Burned bones were absent.
- B.4.3 The species present include cattle and sheep/goat, as well as indeterminate large and medium mammal (see table 2). Dog is indirectly evidenced by gnaw marks on a cattle metatarsal. Cattle, sheep/goat and dog are commonly found species on Late Iron Age/Early Roman sites. However, the number of fragments per species are insufficient for an interpretation of animal husbandry strategies.
- B.4.4 No further information can be gained from such a small sample of bones. However, the assemblage should be considered alongside material from further excavations at the site, should bone of similar date be retrieved.

Table B4.1: Preservation level for bones from the Berry Farm assemblage.

| | N | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Late Iron Age / Early Roman | 15 | | 26.7% | 46.7% | 13.3% | 13.3% | |

Table B4.2: Bone assemblage from Berry Farm. Number and weight of fragments.

| | Cattle | Sheep/goat | Medium mammal | Large mammal | Indeterminate |
|---------------|--------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Mandible | 1 | | | | |
| Loose teeth | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Vertebra | | | | 1 | |
| Rib | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Scapula | | | 1 | | |
| Sacrum | | | | 2 | |
| Pelvis | 1 | | | | |
| Metatarsal | 1 | | | | |
| Phalanx 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Long bone | | | | 1 | |
| Indeterminate | 1 | | | | 1 |
| TOTAL | 5 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Weight (g) | 121 | 9 | 2 | 98 | 0 |



APPENDIX C. PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

By Laura Strafford and Julia Meen

Introduction

- C.1.1 Three bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts.
- C.1.2 Sample 10000 was taken from a pit lying in an area of Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement and has been given a spot date of AD 30-180. Samples 10001 and 10002 were taken from ditch fills in an area also thought to date to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, with some evidence of continuity of occupation into the later Roman period; the fills have been assigned spot dates of AD 180-410 and late Iron Age-AD 70 respectively.

Methodology

- C.1.3 All the bulk (CPR) samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm. All flots and heavy residues were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Identifications were made with guidance from Dr. Wendy Smith but without reference to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and therefore, should all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

Results

- C.1.4 Table C1 summarises the assessment results for charred plant remains (CPR) from the three samples. All three samples were predominately composed of modern material including abundant modern weed seeds. No charred material was retrieved from the heavy residues.
- C.1.5 Charcoal was rare in all samples, and where present consisted of flecks <2mm which therefore have no potential for identification. Sample <10000> contained a moderate (100-300) number of highly clinkered wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) and has good CPR potential; this sample also contained an indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.) free-threshing rachis node, possibly indicating a medieval or later date for the assemblage. Samples 10001 and 10002 were both rated as poor for CPR potential. Sample 10001 contained one possibly charred seed of the Cabbage family (*Brassicaceae*). Sample 10002 contained a low number of indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and one indeterminate cereal/large grass (*Poaceae*) seed; these quantities will not qualify for useful further analysis following the arguments of Van der Veen and Fieller (1982) that assemblages of less than 100 identifications are unlikely to be of interpretable value. In addition seeds of scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum* L.) and chickweed (*Stellaria media* L.) were observed although it was judged that these are likely to be modern wild seeds. One indeterminate tree bud was also noted from this sample.

Table C1: Assessment of charred plant remains

| Sample No | Context No | Feature Type | Sample Volume (l) | Flot vol (ml) | Grain | Chaff | Weeds | Other CPR | Animal Bone | Charcoal | Molluscs | Comments on CPR | CPR Potential |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 10000 | 141013 | Pit | 16 | 90 | ++ | + | | | | + | | Approx. 25% of flot scanned. One indeterminate wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp.) free-threshing rachis node. Several highly clinkered wheat grains (<i>Triticum</i> sp.) also noted. Abundant modern seed and grass stems/root. Occasional charcoal flecks, mostly <2mm. Assemblage typically Medieval. CPR evaluated as GOOD. | B |
| 10001 | 149030 | Ditch | 11 | 25 | | | + | | | + | | Approx. 50% of flot scanned. Occasional minute charcoal flecks (<2mm) noted. One possibly charred unidentified Cabbage Family (BRASSICACEAE) seed. Abundant modern grass stems/root. Moderate quantity of modern seed. CPR evaluated as POOR. | C |
| 10002 | 148026 | Ditch | 19 | 30 | + | | + | | | + | | Approx. 50% of flot scanned. Scentless mayweed (<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> L.) and chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i> L.) both noted - but unlikely to be ancient. Two indeterminate wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp.) grains and one indeterminate cereal/ large grass (POACEAE) seed noted. One indeterminate tree bud. Moderate quantity of modern seed. Abundant modern grass stems/ roots. Rare charcoal <2mm. Occasional insect. CPR evaluated as POOR | C |

Key: + = < 10 items, ++ = 10 – 50 items, +++ = 50 – 100 items, ++++ > 100 items. CPR Potential scores: A** = extremely rich sample with > 1000 identifications, A* = rich sample with > 500 identifications, A = rich sample with 300 – 500 items, B = sample with between 100 to 300 identifiable items, usually closer to 100 and C = sample with < 50 items.

**Discussion**

- C.1.6 The assessment of soil samples from this site demonstrates that conditions are suitable for the preservation of charred plant material, including charcoal, although the latter was present only rarely in the features sampled.. Although the grain within sample <10000> was clinkered and the numbers of charred items in the other two samples was very limited, the presence of cereal grain in two out of three of the samples suggests that crop processing/storage was being undertaken in the area and there is the potential for significant material within features yet to be excavated. The potential for other palaeoenvironmental indicators (waterlogged plant remains, insects, pollen and molluscs) appears to be low, although the possibility of waterlogging should be considered during excavation.



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Berry Farm Borrow Area: Evaluation Report

Site code: A421BD08

Grid reference: NGR 500632, 243638

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: January 2009

Area of site: c 4.9 Ha

Summary of results: A total of ten trenches were excavated. The evaluation revealed two separate areas of archaeology.

The first area was located in the NE corner of the site. It was comprised of pits and ditches, including a number of very wide linear features.

The second area of activity was located along the southern perimeter of the site. In this area the evaluation exposed a series of sub-rectangular enclosures which had been detected by the geophysical survey of the site. Finds recovered from these features indicate that the enclosures date to the late Iron Age to early Romano-British period, suggesting nearby settlement activity dating to that period.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Bedford Museum in due course, under the following accession number: BEDFM.



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Figure 1: Site location

servergo*A42\BDO8*A42\BDEX*A42\Berry Farm Borrow Area*jm*05.02.09

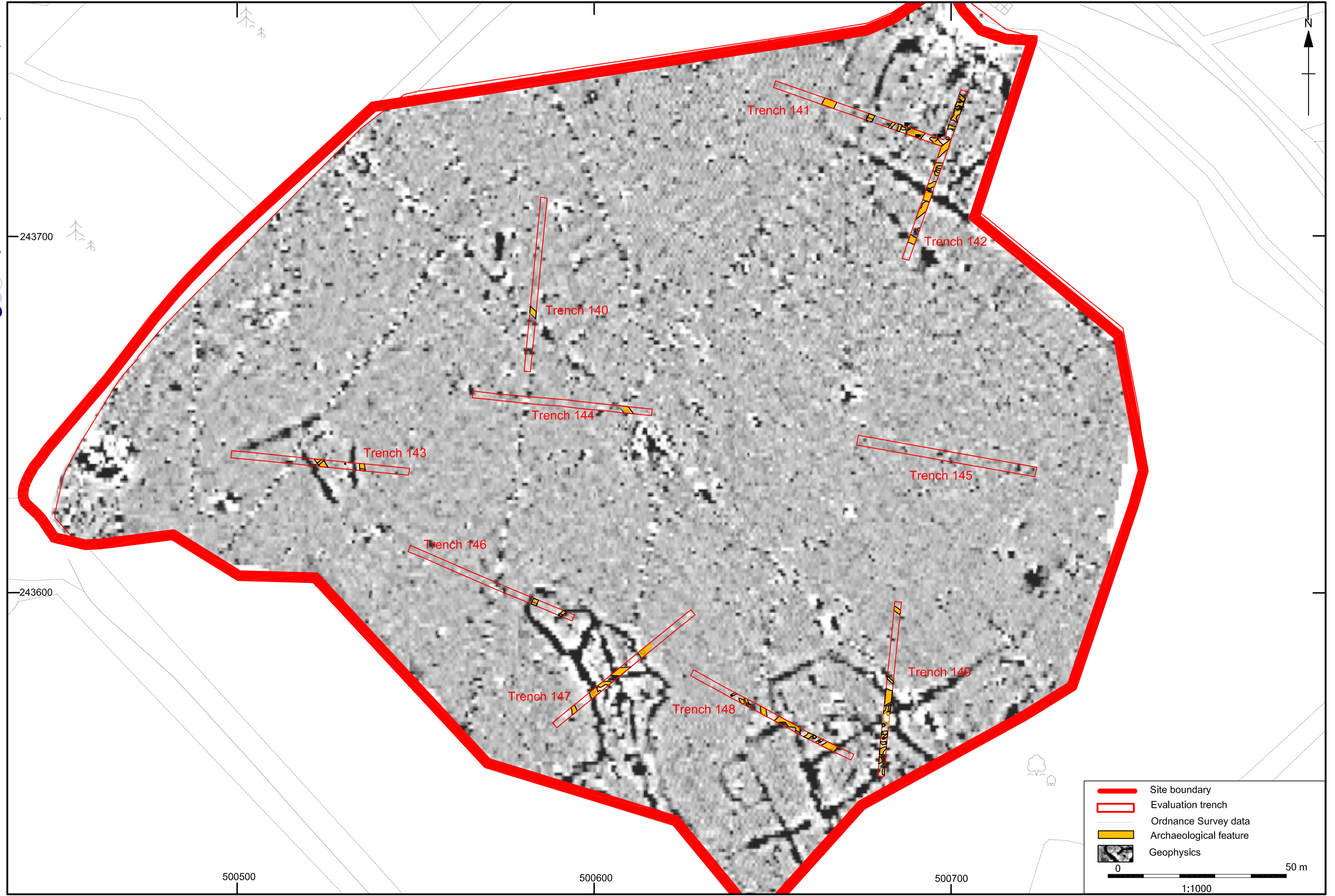


Figure 2: Trench location plan

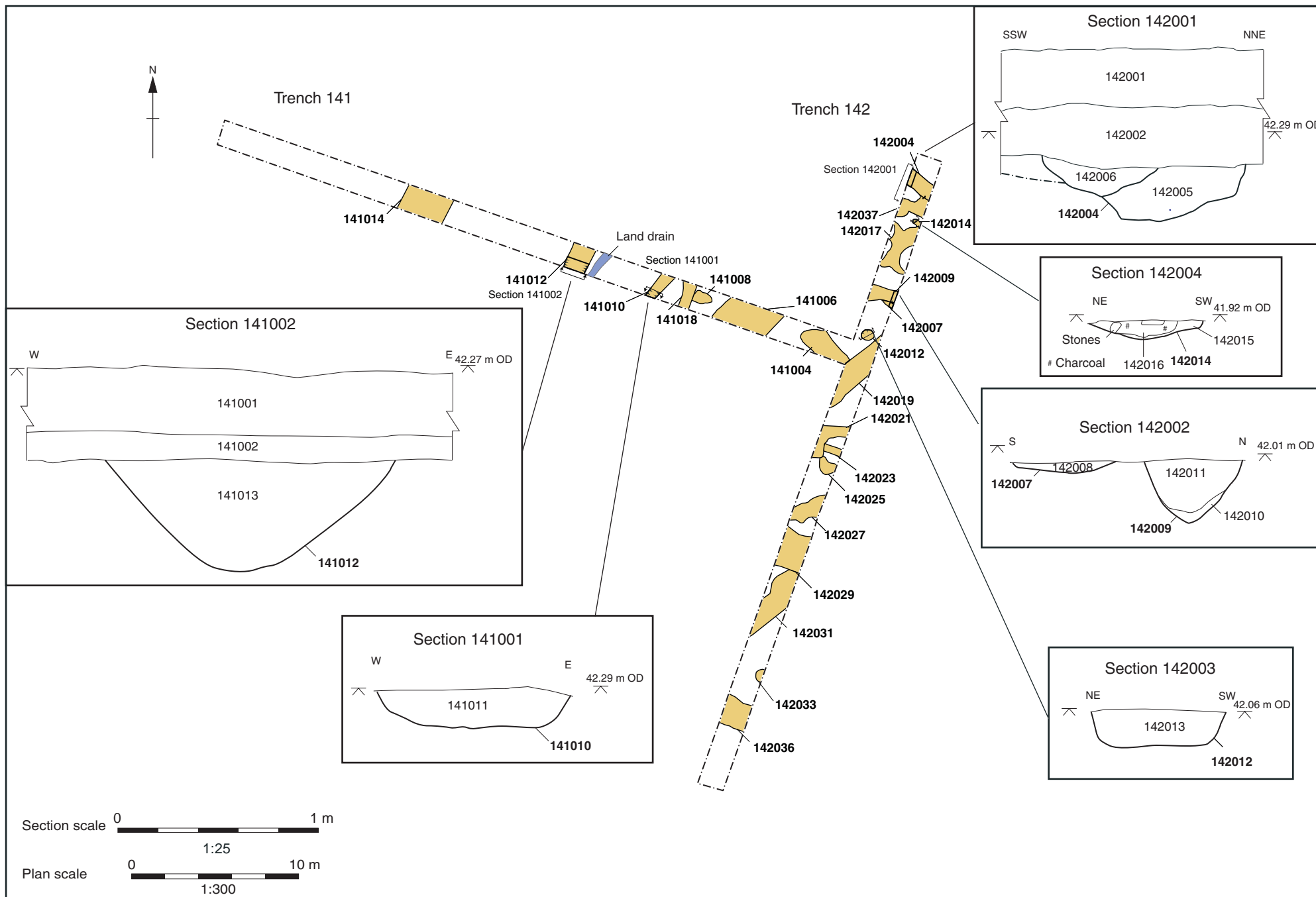


Figure 3: Trenches 141 and 142, plans and sections

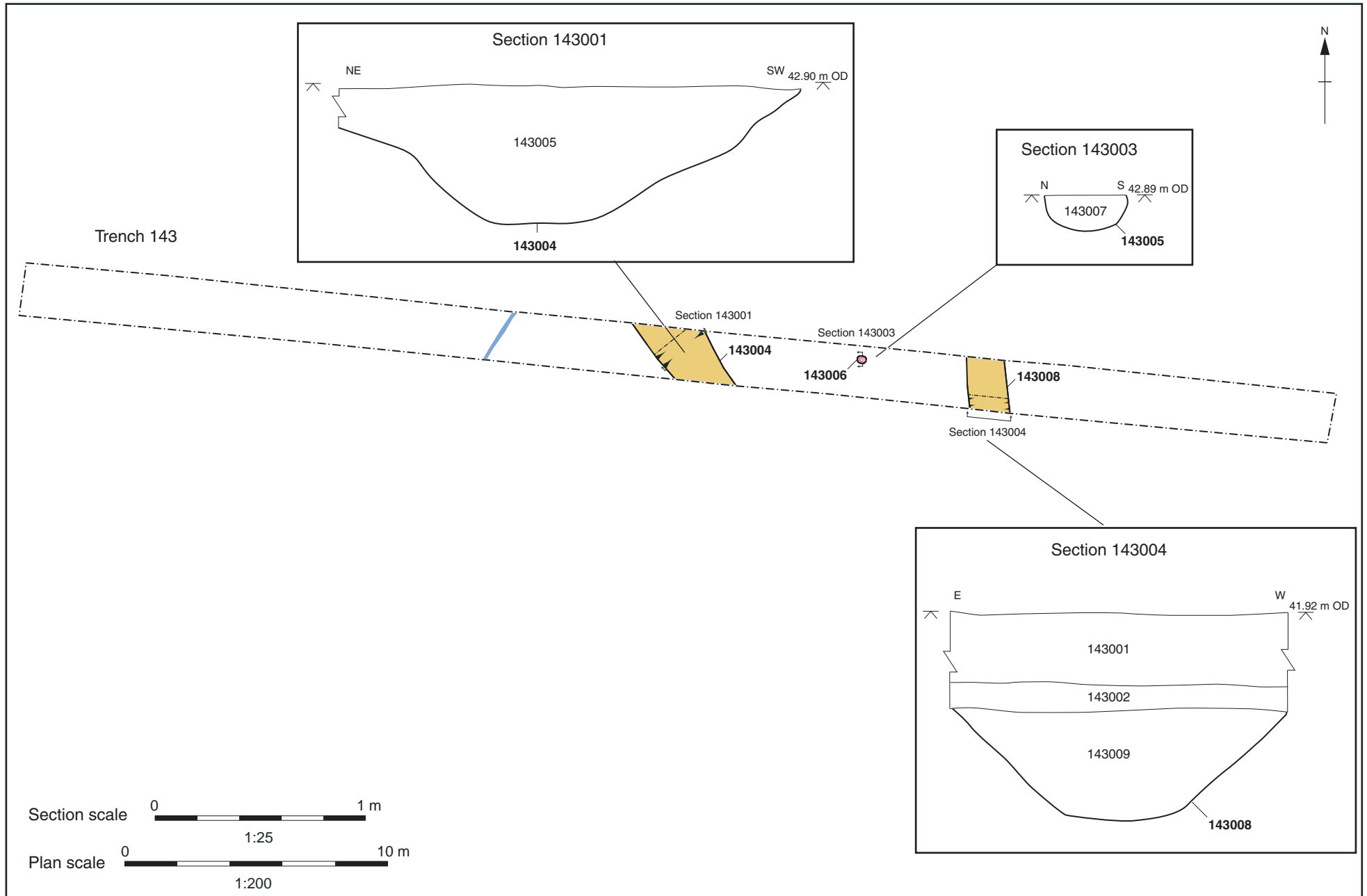


Figure 4: Trench 143, plan and sections

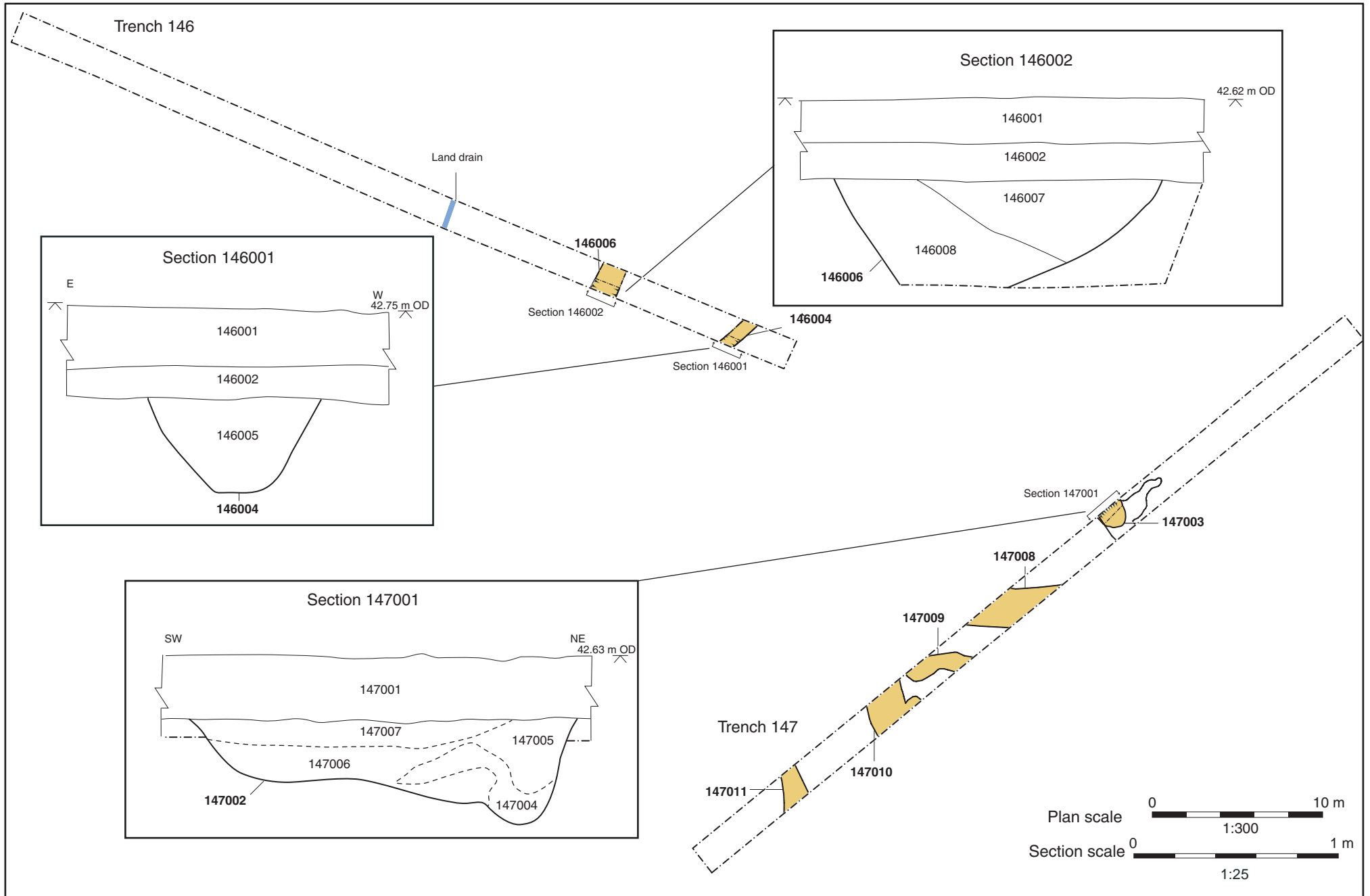


Figure 5: Trenches 146 and 147, plans and sections

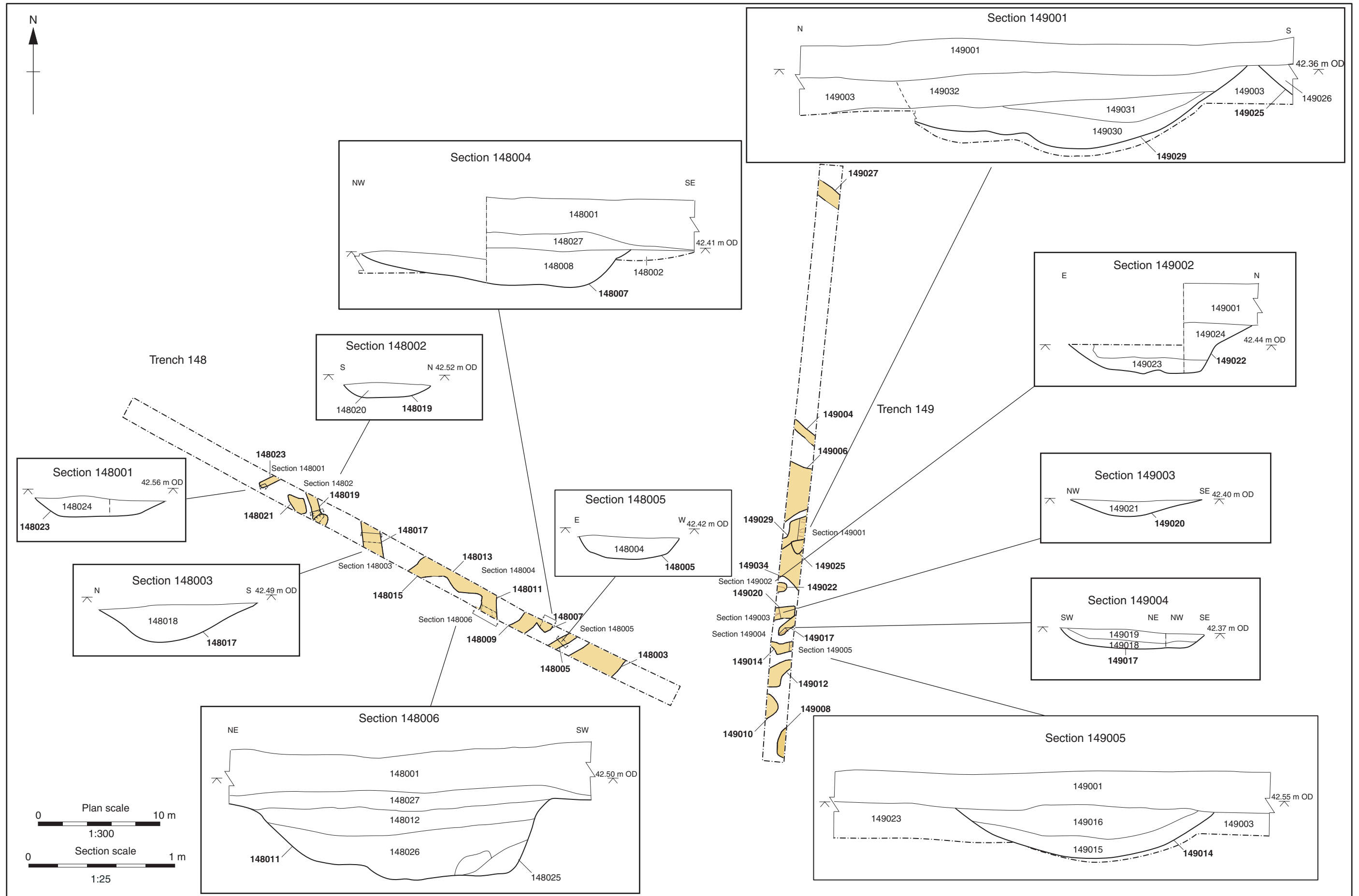


Figure 6: Trenches 148 and 149, plans and sections



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